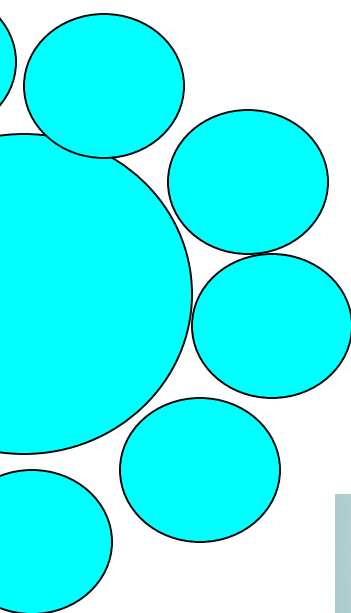
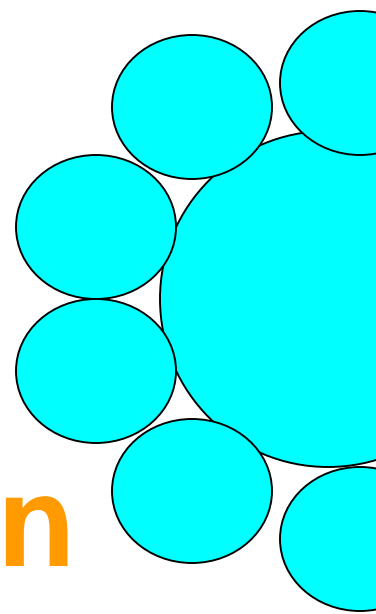


# Adams County Community Needs Assessment and Health Plan



*Alliance For Building Community, 2007*





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## ALLIANCE FOR BUILDING COMMUNITY COMMUNITY HEALTH COMMITTEE

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***THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS FOR YOUR VALUABLE  
TIME AND EXPERTISE IN GUIDING THE ALLIANCE FOR BUILDING  
COMMUNITY INITIATIVE!***

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**ADAMS COUNTY COMMUNITY  
NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND HEALTH PLAN  
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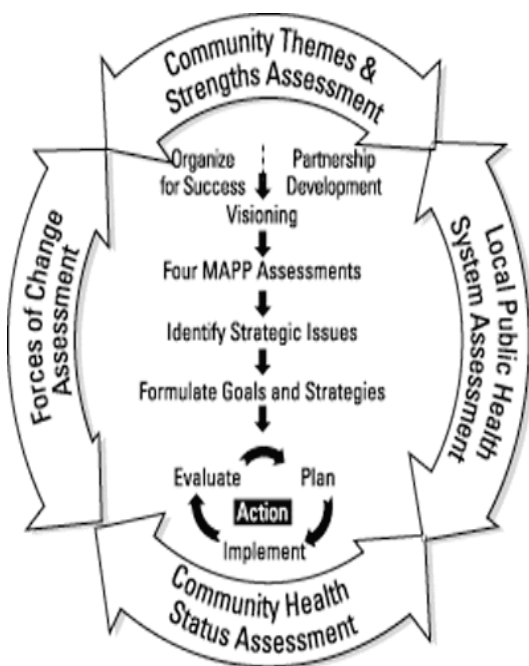
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## INTRODUCTION

The Adams County community has adopted the MAPP (Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships) process developed by the National Association of County and City Health officials to guide community-planning efforts. MAPP derives its value from community participation. This strategic planning tool uses the community's strengths, needs and desires to identify priority health issues and the resources to address them. The MAPP model consists of the following steps: organize for success; partnership development; MAPP assessments; identify strategic issues; formulate goals and strategies; and action including planning, implementation and evaluation.



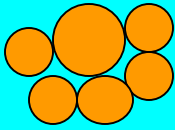
## ORGANIZING FOR SUCCESS/ PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

A desire to enhance a variety of assessment and planning processes that exist in Adams County fostered the birth of the Alliance for Building Community (ABC) in 2003. The vision of ABC is "we are committed to creating cooperative community partnerships in order to build the quality of life for every citizen in Adams County". The mission is "to facilitate an ongoing community forum where participants mobilize community strengths and resources to address community needs".

Communities face greater challenges than ever. Needs are urgent and resources are limited at best. This climate demands a new approach to addressing community issues- one that engages diverse segments of the community and mobilizes strengths and resources in a coordinated effort to solve problems- in other words, builds community capacity. ABC brings together wise, committed and passionate members of our community and helps provide them with the resources and encouragement to make things happen.

Alliance for Building Community partner organizations are University of Illinois Extension- Adams/Brown Unit, United Way of Adams County, Inc. and the Adams County Health Department. Lead staff members from each of these organizations actively contribute time, expertise, and oversee the work of the Alliance for Building Community. The governing body of each organization has endorsed ABC and is actively engaged in the work.

In addition to the three lead partner organizations and the steering committee members, hundreds of organizational resources have contributed to the development and implementation of this initiative. The individuals and organizations



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### INTRODUCTION

have participated in the ABC process at a variety of different levels.

#### ALLIANCE FOR BUILDING COMMUNITY WORKS TO:

- Create a shared vision of issues related to the health of our community;
- Raise awareness about issues that have been identified;
- Improve community assessment and planning efforts through better coordination;
- Foster collaboration and partnerships to help reduce duplication of efforts;
- Help use community resources better; and
- Provide policy-makers and organizations with data on the effectiveness of their efforts.

#### STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The community health needs assessment portion of the plan provides assessment data that is used to identify priority health areas in Adams County and outcomes to measure them. The assessment will provide a foundation of data to help us develop outcome measures to assess the health of the residents of Adams County. The community health plan provides information about the identified priorities and the evidence-based strategies that have been developed through extensive community involvement to address the identified issues.

#### COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The MAPP process consists of four assessments: community themes and strengths assessment, local public health system assessment, community health status assessment, and the forces of change assessment. The four assessments were completed in Adams County beginning in 2001 and ending in 2006. Following is a discussion of the process and conclusions of each.

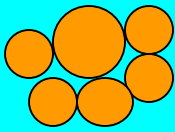
##### Community Themes and Strengths Assessment

*"What is important to our community?"*

*"What assets do we have that can be used to improve community health?"*

The Community Themes and Strengths Assessment provides a deep understanding of the issues residents feel are important. It identifies issues that interest the community, perceptions about quality of life, and community assets.

The United Way and its community partners using the COMPASS II process completed the Community Themes and Strengths Assessment in 2001. The COMPASS II community assessment process was designed by and for local United Ways and works by mobilizing community strengths and assets and by connecting those strengths and assets with strategic opportunities for people to improve their community. The process took two years to complete in Adams County and its purpose was to evaluate and identify current community needs and assets in an effort to create change and build upon existing relationships. A steering committee of volunteers along with United Way staff conducted the study and determined the findings. Members of the committee were



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### INTRODUCTION

recruited from human services, health care, education, local business and government.

To ensure a comprehensive assessment of Adams County, a number of data collection methods were utilized and a variety of information and data were collected and analyzed. Four sources of information were collected and analyzed: 1) An inventory of community assets 2) A collection and assessment of key social, health and economic issues 3) A visioning exercise with 50 community leaders and 4) A community survey consisting of a household telephone survey of more than 400 county residents and a written key informant/community leader survey of more than 600 individuals.

Analysis of the information collected during the study shows that the health and human services issues of greatest concern in Adams County fall into two categories: *Economic* and *Social*. The steering committee chose to group critical issues in these two categories because the issues regarding the affordability of utilities, childcare, and medical care are closely tied to un/under employment and economic opportunity. Further, the steering committee felt that the economic related issues also have significant bearing on the social issues.

Racial Discrimination/Lack of Diversity Awareness/Intolerance was included as a priority issue because of the frequency this topic was indicated during the community visioning process. Domestic violence was included as a priority issue because of its inter-relatedness with other critical issues and the ranking by the steering committee, although it is understood that the cause and effect of the issues are definitely inter-related – no issue stands alone. Either a positive or negative change in any issue would likely create a change in other priority issues and key indicators.

These priority issues were determined by the steering committee based on the following criteria: extent to which the issue relates to the community vision; number of people the issue affects; extent to which the issue affects the most vulnerable people; cost to the affected individuals- for example, loss of income; disability; trends in the issue: is it getting better or worse?; cost to the community, for example, in image, dollars, loss of industry; likely ability of the community to have an impact on the issue; extent to which citizens are concerned about the issue; likely support from constituencies in addressing the issue and the likelihood that the community can reach a consensus on a proposed solution.

#### COMMUNITY THEMES AND STRENGTHS FINDINGS

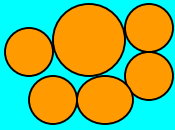
##### Priority Social Issues:

- **Alcohol & Drug Abuse**
- **Teen Pregnancy**
- **Domestic Violence**
- **Racial Discrimination/Lack of Diversity/Awareness/Intolerance**

##### Priority Economic Issues:

- **Un/Under Employment**
- **Affordability of Medical Care**
- **Affordability of Child Care**
- **Affordability of Utilities**

The greatest concern identified in the assessment at the time of the survey was the cost and affordability of medical care in the community. The perception of this issue as a major problem is actually much higher than the actual rate at which residents are encountering inability to access or pay for medical services. The awareness that any major illness or health crisis could cripple a family or a business significantly contributed



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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### INTRODUCTION

to the high level of concern over this issue. Also contributing to the level of concern is the high number of uninsured children and adults in the community.

The greatest challenge for Adams County's health and human services delivery system is addressing working poverty/economic self-sufficiency. Despite general prosperity, many employed county residents earn too little to afford the rising cost of living. A key factor in this dilemma is the below average rate of high school graduation. This combination of low incomes and high costs creates problems for which people need help. Yet, their earnings often make them ineligible for categorically funded support programs.

Defining and understanding poverty and the number of individuals and families living at varying degrees of poverty is critical to addressing important issues in our community. The calculation of the poverty level and other criteria for eligibility to community programs is complicated and unfriendly. Even at 200% of the poverty level a family of four cannot be self-sufficient – this seems illogical. Many supports are available for those living at or under 100% of poverty guidelines; and many benefits are available to families living above 200% of poverty level, however, few supports are adequately available and coordinated to transition families from dependent poverty to sustained self-sufficiency. In other words, income or hourly wages excludes them from certain benefits such as childcare subsidies and medical care that in turn “eat into” the resources on which they are excluded from benefits.

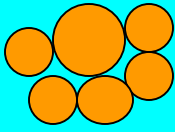
The determination of a household's requirements for self-sufficiency and the availability of and access to the necessary

supports are the most critical factors in improving the rate of self-sufficiency in our community. Success in this area will have a positive effect on other identified critical issues.

Low-income workers are an unrecognized and under-utilized resource. By spending their wages in the county's economy, they already make a large contribution. They are active members of religious and community organizations. Rather than being regarded as a needy and passive service-consuming population, their energies should be harnessed to plan and develop the amenities and services they will use. The resulting increase in quality of life will enable low-income workers to become more productive and involved in community activities, thus benefiting Adams County overall.

By providing education, affordable housing, transportation, child care, health care, and counseling, the community and service providers will help reduce job loss, crime, abuse, and neglect, substance abuse and a variety of physical and mental illnesses. Suggested potential actions focused on education, workforce preparedness and life skills mentoring.

Also, the Adams County health and human service system faces the challenges of maintaining elements of the system that are strong and effective, eliminating elements that have outlived their helpfulness, and incorporating new organizations and approaches to service provision. The assessment steering committee has been most generous with their praise for new and established collaborative projects that have been designed to bring together specific sets of resources from a variety of sources to address a problem.



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### INTRODUCTION

#### Local Public Health System Assessment

*"What are the activities, competencies, and capacities of our local public health system?"*

*"How are the Essential Services being provided in our community?"*

The local Public Health System Assessment (LPHSA) is a comprehensive assessment of all of the organizations and entities that contribute to the public's health. It measures the capacity and performance of the local public health system- all organizations and entities that contribute to the public's health.

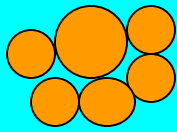
In order to gain a high level of community participation, an orientation meeting led by staff from the Illinois Public Health Institute was held inviting community leaders to become involved in the assessment process. A planning committee met after the orientation meeting to determine the methods for conducting the assessment. The committee decided on a one-day format in which participants would be introduced to the assessment process by working through two Essential Public Health Services in a group of the whole. Subsequently, participants would be divided into two groups each charged with assessing four Essential Public Health Services. Participants were assigned to groups based on the examples they provided in the essential service exercise in the orientation meeting. Facilitators, recorders and scorers were identified for each group. The strategic planning retreat took place in June, 2006. In the morning, the orientation material was reviewed. The IPHI facilitator then led the whole group through Essential Public Health Services 3 and 1. In the afternoon, the two groups completed the their assigned essential services with group 1 completing EPHS 2, 6, 9, and 10 and

group 2 completing EPHS 4, 5, 7, and 8. Initial discussion of the strengths and weaknesses of each EPHS in the community was followed by voting on the indicators for each EPHS. The IPHI facilitator divided time between the two groups to answer questions and provide support.

The average score for all ten EPHS was 62% in Adams County. The highest scoring Essential Service was ESPH 2: Diagnose and investigate at 88.2% followed by EPHS 3: Inform, educate and empower people at 74.0% and Mobilize community partnerships at 71.2%. The lowest scoring Essential Service was EPHS 7: Link people to needed services at 35.2%, followed by EPHS 10: Research for new insights at 47.5%, EPHS 8: Assure a competent workforce 48.1% and EPHS 1: Monitor health status at 58.0%. Overall, 58% of the Adams County scores met the fully or substantially met criterion.

Participants in the orientation meeting and strategic planning retreat along with other community members were invited to a report-out meeting on October 18, 2006. In addition to the invitation letter, invitees also received a form and instructions on how to identify "forces of change" that they see as important in their field of work. The invitation letter asked that individuals complete the forms and come prepared not only to hear about the LPHSA results but also to discuss the forces of change that are affecting the local public health system.

At the report-out meeting, the IPHI facilitator reviewed the LPHSA process and presented the results for all 10 Essential Services at the level of the model standards. Subsequently, a more detailed presentation was provided on the Essential Services which scored lowest in Adams County, EPHS 7, 10, 8 and 1, respectively. A review of the relationship between these lowest



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

scoring areas from the LPHSA results and information from previous assessments completed in Adams County was provided. Finally, a guided discussion of the identified forces of change was facilitated.

The results of the LPHSA in Adams County provide a wealth of information to inform performance improvement processes to impact the local public health system. The process for completing the assessment was broadly inclusive of all the major actors involved in the public health system and should therefore, facilitate coordinated, cross-agency efforts to address the areas identified as needing improvement.

Generally speaking, the issue areas that were identified through the assessment include essential services 7, 8, 10 and 1. However, the results for any of the EPHS could be analyzed to identify opportunities for improvement depending upon the interest and mission of various groups within the local public health system. Finally, the results of the assessment provide a "benchmark" of where the Adams County public health system is in 2006 and can, if supplemented with future renditions of the assessment, stand as the first point in a time-series that will allow monitoring of performance over time.

<b>LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM ASSESSMENT ISSUE AREAS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essential Public Health Services 7: Link People to Needed Personal Health Services</li> <li>• EPHS 8: Assure a Competent Workforce</li> <li>• EPHS 10: Research for New Insight</li> <li>• EPHS 1: Monitor Health Status</li> </ul>

### Community Health Status Assessment

*"How healthy are our residents?"*

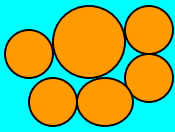
*"What does the health status of our community look like?"*

The Community Health Status Assessment identifies priority issues related to community health and quality of life. It assesses data about health status, quality of life, and risk factors in the community.

The process for completing the assessment report and identifying indicators in Adams County began with the formation of four impact teams focused on Nurturing Children and Youth, Building Self Sufficiency, Strengthening Families and Individuals and Fostering Health and Well-being. The genesis of the areas of focus for the impact teams extends back to the 2001 United Way community survey that gathered information from community members, service providers and key community informants. These impact teams developed mission and vision statements regarding their area of focus, logic models that explicated inputs, outputs and outcomes designed to actualize the vision and brainstormed indicators that would effectively measure the desired outcomes.

In total, over 100 people from more than 60 organizations took part in one or more of 14 meetings. The teams developed four separate sets of indicators totaling over 200 possible measures for the outcomes of their logic models.

The ABC solutions team worked with consultants from The Medical Foundation (TMF) to merge the four sets of indicators, reducing duplication across teams, clarifying the availability of data, the feasibility of collecting the data and the relevance of each indicator. A set of approximately 70 unduplicated indicators emerged from this work.



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### INTRODUCTION

A second review then compared the reduced set of indicators to those included in the United Way of America State of Caring Index (SOI) and the National Association of Planning Councils Core Indicator set. This work resulted in the current version of the indicator set. The indicators clustered into categories for which the ABC Solutions Team and TMF staff developed outcome statements.

#### EIGHT GOAL AREAS

1. Residents live in a state of economic well being
2. Residents possess the skills to be successful in school and work
3. Community infrastructure supports health and economic well-being
4. Appropriate and affordable housing exists for all residents
5. Residents have access to health and social services
6. Individuals and families lead healthy lifestyles
7. All residents live in a safe environment
8. Residents are engaged civic participants

The outcome statements and associated set of indicators represents the culmination of the work described above. The indicators for each goal area are identified in the following sections under the assessment discussion. Obviously the indicators included are only one of an innumerable possible number of sets. The strength of this indicator set is the process through which it was developed. Starting with input from a very broad cross section of the community (the United Way community survey), supplemented by the Key Informant survey, the work of the Impact Teams and

the consultation of the Medical Foundation the resulting indicator set has benefited from the input of community members and professionals alike.

The community wellness report contains information on each indicator. Each indicator includes data for Adams County and, where applicable and available, data for one or more comparison jurisdictions (e.g. Illinois, US). For each indicator a statement about how the Adams County value differs from the comparison is included. Information on the source of the data and temporal availability are included where available. Definitions of the indicators are included. Following most indicators there is additional narrative information about why it is important to measure the indicator and how it has been shown to affect health.

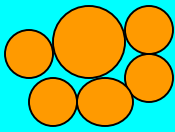
#### Forces of Change Assessment

*"What is occurring or might occur that affects the health of our community or the local public health system"*

*"What specific threats or opportunities are generated by these occurrences?"*

The Forces of Change Assessment focuses on the identification of forces such as legislation, technology, and other issues that affect the context in which the community and its public health system operates. It identifies forces that are or will be affecting the community or the local public health system.

The Forces of Change Assessment was completed in Adams County as a part of the report out meeting for the local public health system assessment that was held in October, 2006. Community leaders were asked to identify forces of change in their area of work and to identify associated opportunities and barriers prior to attending the meeting. During the meeting,



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### INTRODUCTION

participants were given instructions about the forces of change assessment, the purpose of the assessment, and examples of issues that might be identified. Participants then wrote their issues on large pieces of paper. Once they were finished, a discussion was held regarding the issues and why they were noted a threat or opportunity. The results provide the information that will be important considerations in crafting improvement process in the health plan.

#### FORCES OF CHANGE ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

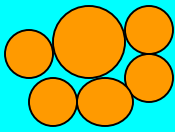
- **Infrastructure for delivery of healthcare**
- **Need for ancillary support for chronic disease**
- **Provider difficulty communicating with patient/community**
- **Aging workforce**
- **Need to share information with other geographic areas and academic institutions**
- **Limited delivery capacity of educational institutions**
- **Lack of county zoning**
- **Funding for mental health services moving to fee for service from grant funding**
- **Psychiatric access limited**
- **Illinois move to case management for Medicaid recipients**
- **Vulnerability of vaccine manufacturing processes**
- **Increase in chronic disease**
- **Community demographic changes- immigrant population, non-English speaking population**
- **Limited access to health care services**
- **Increase in autism**
- **Multi-drug resistant infections-healthcare setting and community**
- **Pandemic flu**
- **Downturn in economy**
- **Continued deterioration of rental housing stock**

#### Identifying Strategic Issues

Community leaders in Adams County realize that we need to focus on factors that produce good health in the first place-economic, geographic, and political-to influence health. In identifying strategic issues, the ABC team recognized that a variety of complex issues affect the health of an individual person and the community they live in. The ABC team recognized that each assessment involved a process of strategic issue identification. In reviewing each of the assessment data sets, it was determined that the eight goal areas identified in the Community Health Status Assessment most fully encompassed the overall community needs. Thus the eight community goal areas follow. Adams County residents:

- Live in a state of economic well-being
- Possess the skills to be successful in school and work
- Are engaged civic participants
- Have community infrastructure that supports health and economic well-being
- Live in appropriate and affordable housing
- Have access to health and social services
- Lead healthy lifestyles
- Live in a safe environment

The remaining portion of the executive summary section of the report contains a discussion of each goal area and relevant data/findings from each of the four assessments related to the goal area. Following that information, the report contains separate sections with detailed information regarding each of the four health-related priority areas: access to health and social services, substance abuse, coronary heart disease and infant mortality. The sections contain an overview of the issue, relevant data from the assessments that were conducted, population groups most affected, targeted population, and intervention strategies.



## ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

### Overview

Although Adams County has experienced significant economic growth and record unemployment rates in the past decade, 7.4% of our community's population lives in poverty – many of these people are working poor and children. At least one elementary school in our community reports 90% of the students in poverty.

Low incomes have several negative consequences on families and communities including economic isolation and social/cultural divisions defined by income, inability to afford medical care and other health services. Numerous studies have shown a relationship between measures of poverty and poor health outcomes (Benzeval and Judge, 2001; Mullahy, Robert and Wolfe, 2001). Poverty in childhood may be particularly detrimental to development, cognitive and health outcomes (Smith, 1999; Marmot and Wilkinson, 1999).

Though there are many jobs available, not enough of these are jobs that provide a living wage and benefits such as health insurance. Many employers who do offer the benefit of health insurance find themselves faced with such huge increases in the cost of providing the insurance that wages must be frozen or other benefits reduced or eliminated just to maintain profitability.

At the same time, as individuals try to move towards self-sufficiency, issues such as lack of job training, transportation, and child care can often prevent them from getting and maintaining employment. The challenge facing Adams County is to train workers with the needs of employees for jobs and supportive services that enable them to support themselves and their families.

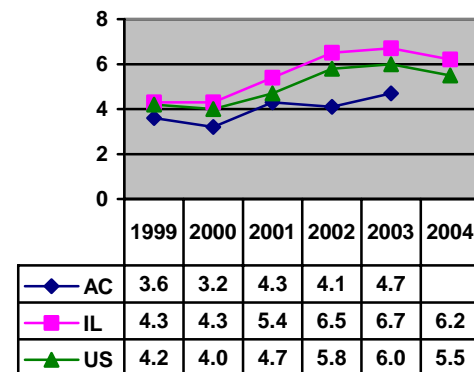
Unemployment results in lost wages for families and the production of fewer goods and services. When the purchasing power of these workers is lost, unemployment for additional workers may follow.

This indicator is useful in measuring the health of our community's economy.

### Statistical Data

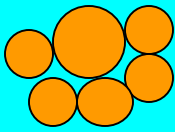
- Adams County had a rate of 4.1% unemployment in 2002.
- Aside from the raw number of individuals who have no employment or inadequate employment, we must consider the impact of this on their families, neighborhoods and the entire community. A relatively small proportion of the population may fall into this category, but the ripple effect of their situations can be felt all through the community.
- More than one-fourth of Illinois families are not self-sufficient.
- Average unemployment rate over the period 1990 to 2002 was 4.7%
- Out of 102 counties in the state, Adams County has ranked as high as 6<sup>th</sup> in 2002 and as low as 35<sup>th</sup> in 1992. The average rank over 12 years is 17.8 in unemployment rates.

**Percentage of residents unemployed**



### Causes

- Loss of better paying employers; replaced with lower-wage, part-time jobs



## ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

- 25% of persons 25 and older do not have a high school diploma
- Adams County population is one of the "oldest" in the state. 22% of population is over the age of 60.

### Assets of associations and organizations

John Wood Community College provides workforce preparedness education. Two Rivers Regional Council of Public Officials, Work Welfare and Families Coalition (focus group) Forum on Poverty (Unitarian Church). Community Workforce Development Foundation and Chamber of Commerce. Illinois Department of Employment Security, and JTPA.



### Community Themes & Strengths Assessment

- Respondents reporting for their own household ranked this problem third in degree of concern.
- Key informants ranked unemployment highest in terms of overall concern – only 5.2% felt it is not a problem.
- 
- 

- Respondents in the visioning session expressed a need to increase career opportunities, more jobs with better pay and benefits, community values, education and a goal toward better jobs.

### Local Public Health System Assessment

There were no findings in this assessment relevant to economic well-being.

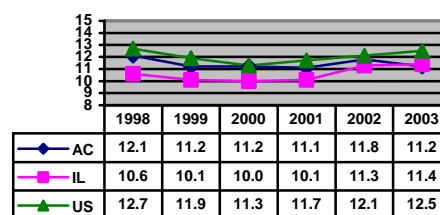
### Community Health Status Assessment

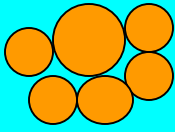
- The rate of children living below the federal poverty level in Adams County was 14.9% which is lower (better) than state (15.6%) and national rates (17.6%). Unemployment is 4.7% which is lower (better) than the state (6.2%) and national (5.5%) rates.
- The median household income for Adams County is \$ 37,097 which is below (worse) than the state (\$ 47,367 and national \$43,318).

### Forces of Change Assessment

The forces of change assessment identified downturn in economy as an issue with the identified threat as the loss of health insurance for residents.

**Percentage of Total Population Living Below the Federal Poverty Level**





## SUCCESS IN SCHOOL

### Success in School and Work Overview

Education shapes the personal growth and life chances of children, as well as the economic and social progress of our nation. Early educational experiences of young children, such as being read to daily, encourage the development of essential skills and prepare children for success in school (Childstat.gov). Later aspects of academic performance, such as mastering mathematics, reading, and other core subjects, as well as completing high school, open opportunities for higher education and future employment (2006 Federal Interagency Forum of Child and Family Statistics).

Some of the factors shown to impact a child's success in school include:

- Truancy refers to students' unexcused absences from school. Truant students are at risk for many negative outcomes including educational failure, social isolation, substance abuse, low self-esteem, unwanted pregnancy, unemployment, violence, and adult criminality/incarceration.

- Mobility- Studies of the effects on mobility on student learning show that mobility is associated with lower student achievement and low test scores

- Public school expenditure per pupil- The research regarding the relationship between funding and academic performance is mixed. Some research suggests that higher levels of funding are associated with better student outcomes while other studies suggest no such relationship.

- Educational attainment- A number of studies have suggested a strong relationship between education, wages, and lifetime earnings and have shown the benefits to society from increased productivity.

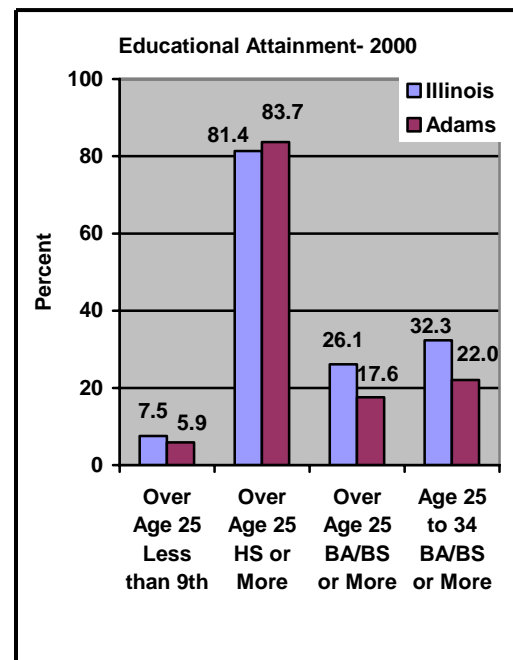
- Standards-based education uses standards to help educators and their communities identify explicitly what students must know and be able to do.

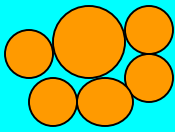
- The ACT assessment is a curriculum-based achievement test made up of four separate exams in English, reading, mathematics and science. Students who reach the college readiness benchmark score are likely ready to handle the reading requirements for typical credit-bearing, first-year college social science courses.



### Community Themes & Strengths Assessment

School and educational improvements for students of all ages was cited as a major community need, along with community awareness of resources and assistance programs.





## SUCCESS IN SCHOOL

### Local Public Health System Assessment

The overall Adams County score for essential service #8: Assure a competent workforce is 48.1%. The subcategory scores for this service were:

- 0%- complete a workforce assessment
- 97.3%- Public Health Workforce Standards
- 61.3%- Continuing education, training and mentoring
- 33.6%- Public Health Leadership Development

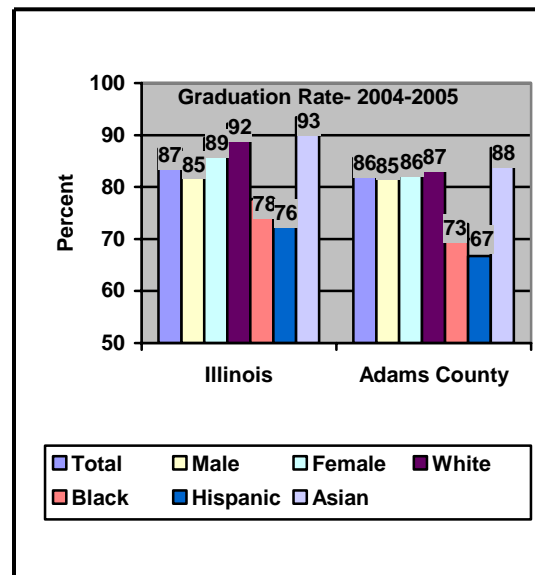
The lowest scoring item in this section of completing a workforce assessment included conducting an assessment within the past three years, identifying gaps within the public and personal health workforce and disseminating results of the assessment.

### Community Health Status Assessment

- Adams County graduation rates by gender, racial and ethnic categories are lower than (worse than) the Illinois rates in all but one category (female)
- The Adams County drop out rate is 2.3 % which is lower (better) than the Illinois rate of 4.0%
- The Adams County chronic truancy rate of 2.0% is virtually identical to the Illinois rate of 2.2%
- The Adams County attendance rate is 94.7% which is very similar to the state average of 93.9%
- The Adams County student mobility rate is 21.7% which is higher (worse) than the Illinois rate of 16.1%. Mobility from school to school is shown to have negative effects on students educational outcomes
  - Expenditures per pupil in Adams County are lower (worse) than the Illinois average for both the instructional and operating categories
  - Adams County percentages in three of four educational attainment categories are below (worse than) the Illinois percentages, the exception being for the category of over

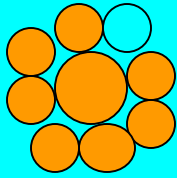
25 years of age with a high school diploma or more

- Percentages of Adams County third graders meeting or exceeding standards for reading and math are higher (better) than the Illinois percentages
- The percentages of Adams County fifth graders meeting or exceeding standards for reading and math are almost identical to the Illinois percentages
- The percentage of Adams County eighth graders meeting or exceeding standards for reading is higher (better) than the state average while the county and state percentages for math are virtually identical



### Forces of Change Assessment

The forces of change assessment findings related to school achievement include the limited capacity of educational institutions. The related opportunity to this threat is a new MS program that is being implemented at the local College of Nursing. A second force related to education is the aging workforce. A related threat is a need for more healthcare workers at all levels- especially in rural areas. An opportunity created by this force is the development of new leaders.



## COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

### Community Infrastructure Overview

The infrastructure of a community can be essential in promoting positive health for individuals and communities. The indicators that are included in this goal area include:

- Total miles of trails /acres of green space per capita- Research has shown that aspects of the built environment (access to green space, sidewalks, bike trails) are important determinants of increased physical activity and better health.
- Percentage of smoke-free restaurants- Secondhand smoke is a known carcinogen associated with a number of poor outcomes including heart disease, cancer, coronary heart disease, ear infections, asthma, and lower respiratory infections. Reducing the number of people who use tobacco or are exposed to environmental tobacco smoke are essential public health objectives for communities.
- Number of licensed day care openings/number of licensed day care slots- Availability of high quality, affordable child care is important for the health and development of children and as a necessity to allow residents to be productive members of the workforce.
- Average number of developmental assets reported by youth (by grade), Percentage of students who report that family life provides high level of love and support, percentage of youth reporting spending 3 or more hours per week in sports, clubs, or organizations at school and/or in the community organizations- the Search Institute suggests that youth who report greater numbers of 40 Developmental Assets are less likely to use alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs and to have higher grade point averages.

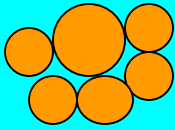


### Community Themes & Strengths Assessment

The community themes and strengths assessment found during the visioning exercise that positive parenting, building assets in youth, more youth involvement in community betterment, and retaining youth in the community was the most frequently identified issue/challenge. The need for funding for services, cooperation between governmental bodies and coordination of community resources were identified as a factor necessary to make the vision a reality.

### Community Health Status Assessment

- A 2006 survey conducted in Adams County schools showed that overall 6th, 8th, and 10th grade students reported an average of 19 of a possible 40 developmental assets. The Adams County averages are very similar to the averages reported by Search Institute.
- The 2006 survey conducted in Adams County schools showed that overall 67% of 6th, 8th, and 10th grade students reported that their family life provides a high level of love and support. The Adams County percentage is very similar to the percentage reported by Search Institute for all students that they have surveyed.
- A 2006 survey conducted in Adams County schools showed that overall 59% of 6th, 8th, and 10th grade

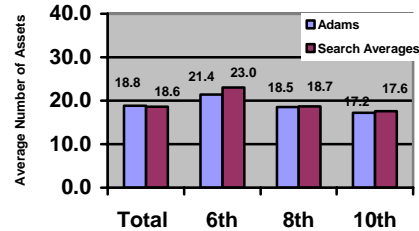


## COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

students reported spending 3 or more hours per week in sports, clubs, or organizations at school and/or in the community organizations. The Adams County percentage is very close to the percentage reported by the Search Institute for all the students they have surveyed.

- A 2006 survey conducted in Adams County schools showed that overall 64% of 6th, 8th, and 10th grade students reported spending 1 or more hours per week in activities in a religious institution. The Adams County percentage is higher (better) than the percentage reported by the Search Institute for all the students they have surveyed.
- The proposed trail system in and around Quincy consists of 37 miles of trail. In 2003, 6.9 miles of the trail had been completed; by 2006, 10.4 miles had been completed. The city of Quincy has 883 acres of green space and a population of approximately 42,000 for a total of 22 acres per 1,000 population. Adams County has 2,690 acres of space and a population of approximately 67,000 for a total of 40 acres per 1,000 population which is much higher than the recommended amount of green space.
- Approximately 60% of the restaurants in Adams County are completely smoke-free.
- The number of licensed child care openings has held relatively steady in Adams County when considering family child care openings. The number of child care centers diminished over the past six years from 13 to 9 centers and from a high of 1,203 openings in 2002 to 927 in 2005.

**Assets in Adams County Youth**



### Local Public Health System Assessment

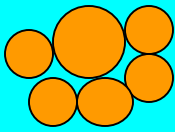
Three essential public health services are related to community infrastructure in the local public health system assessment including enforce laws and regulations which received a total overall score of 69.9%. The subcategories related to this service include: Review and evaluate laws (80.2%), Involvement in improvement of laws (66.7%), and Enforce laws, regulations and ordinances (62.8%).

The second area is develop policies and plans which received a total overall score of 64.9%. The subcategories related to this service include: Governmental presence at local level (94.8%), Public health policy development (38.2%), Community health improvement process (84.6%), and Strategic planning and alignment (41.9%).

The third area is mobilize community partnerships which received a score of 71.2%. The subcategories related to this service include: Constituency development (42.4%) and Community partnerships (100%).

### Forces of Change Assessment

The forces of change assessment identified infrastructure for the delivery of healthcare as a force that must be addressed.



## APPROPRIATE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

### Appropriate and Affordable Housing Overview

Housing is an integral component to creating economic opportunities and healthy communities. Neighborhoods without a stable and vibrant housing stock cannot attract economic development and investment. Children in precarious housing situations suffer from health problems that include asthma and lead poisoning. In many instances, families without stable housing are unable to access quality healthcare, educational and employment opportunities.

The Fair Market Rent (FMR) is HUD's best estimate of what a household seeking a modest rental unit can expect to pay in the private market for rent and utilities in the current economy. Thus, Fair Market Rents differ from other measures of rent levels in two important ways: they include expected utility costs, and they reflect what a family moving into an apartment today can expect to pay, not what those already settled are currently paying. The general standard for affordability established by Congress and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is housing costs at 30 percent of income (Out of Reach 2005, Introduction p. 1)



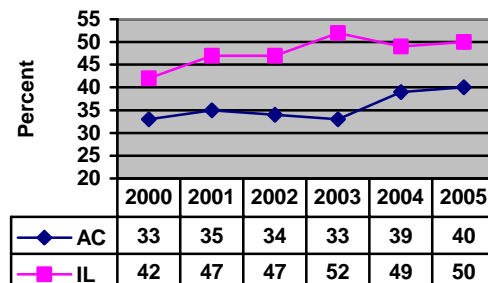
### Community Health Status Assessment

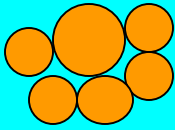
- Approximately one in four (26%) households in Adams County is a renter household. In 2005 the hourly wage needed to afford a 2-bedroom apartment at FMR in Adams County was \$9.46. The estimated hourly wage for renters in Adams County was \$8.35. A person working at the renter wage in Adams County would need to work 45 hours per week to afford a two bedroom apartment at the FMR. A person working at the Illinois minimum wage (\$6.50) would need to work 58 hours per week to afford a two bedroom apartment at the FMR in Adams County. (Source: National Low Income Housing Coalition, Out of Reach 2005).
- The percentage of family median income needed to afford a two bedroom apartment at FMR in Adams County was 40% in 2005 which is higher (worse) than the Illinois percentage but still above the recommended 30%.

### Local Public Health System Assessment

There are no indicators related to housing in the local public health system assessment.

**Percent of Medium Income Needed to Afford Two Bedroom Rental**





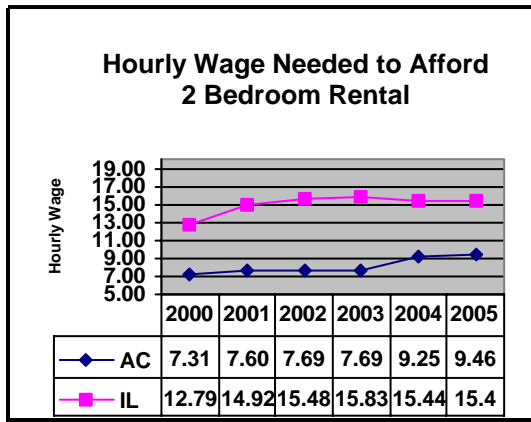
## APPROPRIATE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

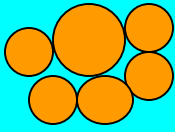
### Forces of Change Assessment

Two issues related to housing were identified by community leaders in the forces of change assessment. The first was lack of county zoning. The threats associated with this force include policy development- new environmental issues that arise and existing issues with land use management. The second force of change included continued deterioration of rental housing stock. The threats posed as a result of this issue include increased health risks and increased incidents of preventable disease. The opportunities created by this issue include the ability to lobby for rental regulation through inspection (minimum housing standards must be met for continued use).

### Community Themes & Strengths Assessment

A community survey was included in the community themes and strengths assessment. The summary of preliminary content analysis of open-ended items asking for "other" items not mentioned on the survey found that neighborhood problems were identified as an issue. These included: street or road concerns (repairs, traffic, speeding, lighting); lack of maintenance of neighborhood (houses in disrepair, trash); safety and security concerns (crime, drug dealing, violence), and unsupervised children and teens.





## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

### Civic Engagement Overview

Civic engagement is described as adding one's voice to community conversations, advocacy on behalf of others participation in public life, and encouraging other people to participate in public life. It is also defined by Pew Charitable Trust as individual and collective actions designed to identify and address issues of public concern. Civic engagement can take many forms, from individual volunteerism to organizational involvement to electoral participation. It can include efforts to directly address an issue, work with others in a community to solve a problem or interact with the institutions of representative democracy. Civic engagement encompasses a range of activities such as working in a soup kitchen, serving on a neighborhood association, writing a letter to an elected official or voting.

Civic engagement is important to a community's well-being by influencing decision makers and opinion leaders to leverage financial, media, and policy resources in support of this positive transformation of communities and society.

### Community Themes & Strengths Assessment

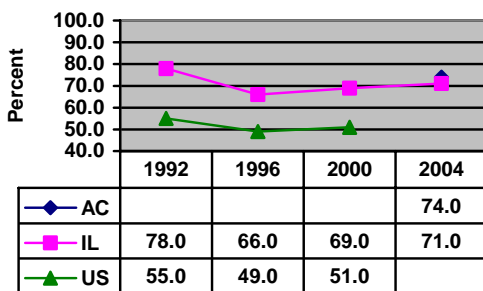
This assessment did not have results pertaining to civic engagement.

### Community Health Status Assessment

Systems to collect data for some of the indicators in this area need to be developed. The indicators that were chosen include:

- Percentage of youth who report volunteering in the last 12 months: This can be seen as a measure of civic engagement or involvement, In addition, participation in community groups has been linked to lower likelihood of alcohol, tobacco and other drug use and higher grade point average (Search Institute)
- Percentage of adults who report volunteering in the last 12 months.
- Percentage of eligible population who vote- Adams County has a turnout of 74.0 % of the population which is similar to state levels (71%) and higher than national percentages.
- Amount raised by United Way per capita- The amount of giving per capita to the Adams County United Way has been similar to or higher (better) than state and national averages.

**Percentage of Eligible Population Who Vote**

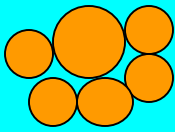


### Local Public Health System Assessment

This assessment focused on the ten essential public health functions and did not contain information related to civic engagement.

### Forces of Change Assessment

This assessment did not contain information related to civic engagement.



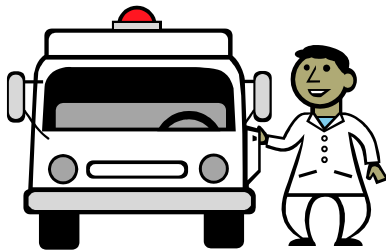
## SAFE ENVIRONMENT

### Safe Environment Overview

In today's post 9/11 environment, safety is a primary concern for residents in various settings within their community. Community leaders must be prepared to respond to a variety of potential incidents in order to provide a safe environment for residents.

### Community Themes & Strengths Assessment

The community survey responses indicated that neighborhood problems including safety and security concerns (crime, drug dealing and violence) were identified by respondents as an issue of concern.



### Community Health Status Assessment

The following indicators were identified to measure this goal area:

- Percentage of youth who report feeling safe at home, school, and in the neighborhood- A 2006 survey conducted in Adams County Schools showed that overall 50% of the students reported they feel safe. This percentage is similar to the percentage reported by the Search Institute for all the students they have surveyed.
- Total crime arrest rate- The total crime index rate per 100,000 in Adams County has been similar to the rate in the state for the past six years.
- Aggravated assault/battery arrest Rate- The rate of arrests for aggravated assault/battery has been higher (worse) in Adams County at 180.8 per 100,000

for the past six years.

- Child abuse rate- the rate of indicated reports of child abuse per 1,000 population has been higher (worse) at 14.0 per 1,000 population in Adams County than the Illinois rate of 7.9 per 1,000 population over the period 1997-2002.
- Average response time for emergency services- The local ambulance service suggests that a benchmark for response times in rural areas is **13 minutes**. The Adams County ambulance response times have been below (better than) the benchmark at 7.4 in 2006.

### Local Public Health System Assessment

**Essential service 2:** Diagnose and investigate health problems and subcategories related to plan for public health emergencies. Adams County scored the highest in this service area at 88.2%. Overall, the community scored high in the subcategories related to this area. The lowest scoring category was evaluate public health emergency response incidents with a score of 33.3%.

### Forces of Change Assessment

Infrastructure for delivery of healthcare was identified as a threat to address in the Adams County community. An integral part of the healthcare infrastructure is emergency response care.

