

Appendix 9
Indicators:
Benchmarks for Progress
Key Community Trends for Policymakers

BENCHMARKS FOR PROGRESS 2002

*Prepared by Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission in Collaboration with
The Cincinnati Association*

The County Government Panel of the Cincinnati Association began a benchmarking project in late 1994 in order to measure the quality of life in Hamilton County, Ohio and the Cincinnati metropolitan region. The project was developed to provide local policy makers, both elected and appointed public officials, and also, religious and business leaders and other civic-minded groups and individuals significant data to evaluate the quality of life for the community. The intent was to make important decision-makers aware of any harmful trends illuminated by the benchmark data with the expectation that appropriate steps would be taken to set goals and commit adequate resources and programming in order to improve the trends.

The Introduction to the Benchmarks Report stated that the report's benchmarks are presented as "run charts" that show data trends over a number of years, with the objective that they be "unbiased, comprehensive data" which can "reliably identify areas of good and bad performance". Also, the Benchmark Report was not designed to include a critical analysis showing cause and effect, but simply recent trends that may necessitate further review and/or reveal the need for improvement. The expectation is that after "periodic and continuous reporting of key trends", the community leaders would be ready to appropriately choose specific areas for improvement. The Report proposes that a goal setting process should be implemented utilizing heavy citizen input, thereby mobilizing public support for any needed policy changes.

Although initiated by the Cincinnati Association, the Report states that the task of "maintaining and updating the benchmarks" would be transferred to the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission (HCRPC). This is consistent with HCRPC's mission to provide data management and analysis for effective planning and decision-making in Hamilton County.

Indicators of Education

1. Student Enrollment in Public School
 2. Student Enrollment in Non-Public Schools.
 3. Graduation Rates
 4. School Expenditures Per Student
 5. Total Assessed Property Valuation
 6. Assessed Property Valuation Per Student
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Indicators of the Economy

1. Employment
 2. Payroll and Earnings
 3. Personal Income
 4. Housing Permits.
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Indicators of Public Safety

1. Incidents Dispatched by Service
 2. Radio Transmissions and Telephone Calls
 3. Hamilton County Sheriff
 4. Jail Population
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Indicators of the Courts

1. Municipal Court –Number of Case Filings; Total Costs
 2. Common Pleas Court-Number of Case Filings; Total Cost
 3. Court of Appeals-Number of Case Filings: Total Cost
 4. Juvenile Court-Number of Case Filings; Total Cost
 5. Domestic Relations Court-Number of Hearings; Total Cost
 6. Prosecutor-County Population; Total Costs
 7. Public Defender-Total Number of Cases; Total Costs
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Indicators of Government and Politics

1. Voter Registration
 2. Voting Trends
 3. County Elected Office Holder Diversity
 4. County Payroll
 5. Budgeted Revenues and Appropriations
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Indicators of Social Environment

1. Child Abuse / Neglect
2. United Way Contributions
3. Human Services Expenditures
4. Hamilton County Juvenile Court Complaints
5. Kids Under Care

Indicators of Natural Environment

1. Ozone Exceedences
2. Water Quality Index (WQI) Exceedences..
3. Solid Waste

Indicators of Health

1. Infant Mortality Rate

Indicators of Transportation

1. Bus Ridership
2. SORTA Budget
3. Air Travel

Indicators of Culture and Recreation

1. Parks & Recreation Expenditures
2. Parks & Recreation Acreage
3. Fine Arts Fund Giving History

