

## 1.1 Quality of Life

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### 1.1.1 Broward County as a place to live

#### 1.1.2 Change in the quality of life

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

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

**Broward data source:** *Quality of Life Assessment: 2000 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida*; Professional Research Consultants, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska.

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

## 1.2 Population

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### 1.2.1 Population

#### 1.2.2 Population growth

**Measurement:** Broward County's population is the number of people who permanently reside in the County. The decennial U.S. Census is the source of this information for 1980 and 1990. Population estimates for the intervening years are prepared through the Consensus Estimating

Conferences, conducted by The Florida Legislature's Office of Economic and Demographic Research, and published by the Bureau of Economic and Business Research at the University of Florida. Annual population growth is calculated as (1) the population in the given year minus the population the previous year, divided by (2) the population the previous year.

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

**Data source:** University of Florida, Bureau of Economic and Business Research, *Florida Estimates of Population* (annual). The data can be obtained online from The Florida Legislature's Office of Economic and Demographic Research, at [www.state.fl.us/edr/populati.htm](http://www.state.fl.us/edr/populati.htm)

## 1.3 People in Poverty

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### 1.3.1 People in poverty

#### 1.3.2 People in poverty by race/ethnicity

#### 1.3.3 People in poverty by gender

**Measurement:** People in poverty are those in households with an income below 100% of the federal poverty level. For calendar year 1999, a family of four was below the poverty level if its household income was \$17,029 per year or less. The most complete information on poverty is available from the decennial U.S. Census and applies only to the non-institutionalized, civilian population. Poverty estimates from the 1990 *Census of Population and Housing*, at all levels of geography down to the census block group (states, counties, cities, census tracts), can be found online through the STF3A link at <http://venus.census.gov/cdrom/lookup>.

Information on people in poverty also is collected annually by the Census Bureau through the Current Population Survey. This data is published for the nation and the states, but not for smaller areas (see [www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty.html](http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty.html)). The Census Bureau also has developed small area income and poverty estimates by age for states and counties in 1993, 1995 and 1997 (see [www.census.gov/hhes/www/saipe.html](http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/saipe.html)). Finally, Broward County is a pilot site for implementation of the Census Bureau's annual American Community Survey (ACS), which is planned to replace the long form of the decennial census. Summary results for the county similar to those from the 1990 census are available online for 1998 and 1999 at [www.census.gov/CMS/www/](http://www.census.gov/CMS/www/). More detailed ACS data can be obtained online at the Census Bureau's American Factfinder site (<http://factfinder.census.gov>), and by cross-tabulating public use microdata samples available on annual CD-ROMs. Information on people with disabilities in poverty is not available on a statewide or county level from Census Bureau publications.

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

**Data sources:** U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990 *Census of Population and Housing* (STF3A online at <http://venus.census.gov/cdrom/lookup>, Table P118 Poverty Status in 1989 by Sex and Age, and Table P119 Poverty Status in 1989 by Race by Age); 1998 *American Community Survey* (online at <http://factfinder.census.gov>, Table P83N Poverty Status in 1998 by Race by Age, and Table P84 Sex by Age by Ratio of Income in the Past 12 Months to Poverty Level); and 1999 *American Community Survey* (online at



<http://factfinder.census.gov>, Table P77 Poverty Status by Age).

## 1.4 Single Parent Families

### 1.4.1 Single parent families

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

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

**Data sources:** U.S. Bureau of the Census, *1990 Census of Population and Housing* (STF3A CD-ROM, Table P13 Age, Table P19 Household Type and Presence and Age of Children, Table P23 Family Type and Age of Children); *1998 American Community Survey* (CD-ROM, Table P13 Household Size and Household Type); and *1999 American Community Survey* (online, Table P13 Household Size, Household Type, and Presence of Own Children).

## 1.5 Children in Disadvantaged Families

### 1.5.1 Births to unwed mothers

**Measurement:** The marital status of a mother is self-reported on the child's birth certificate. Births include only live births to Broward County residents. Although the majority of teenagers bearing children in Florida are unwed

mothers, the majority of unwed mothers in the state are not teenagers.

**Explanation:** Single mothers are more likely than two-parent families or single fathers to live in poverty. Unwed teen mothers are less likely to obtain adequate prenatal care, more likely to receive welfare and more likely to have children with developmental problems, delinquent behavior or poor school achievement.

**Data source:** Florida Department of Health, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Data Analysis, Tallahassee, FL, available online at [www.doh.state.fl.us/Planning\\_eval/phstats/](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Planning_eval/phstats/)

### 1.5.2 Births to undereducated mothers

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

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

**Data source:** Florida Department of Health, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Data Analysis, Tallahassee, FL, available online at [www.doh.state.fl.us/Planning\\_eval/phstats/](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Planning_eval/phstats/)

### 1.5.3 Births to families at risk of poverty and instability

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

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

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

### 1.5.4 Families on welfare

**Measurement:** The AFDC program in Florida was being phased out with the implementation of the Work and Gain Economic Self-sufficiency (WAGES) legislation, passed by the Florida Legislature in 1995. The AFDC program was eliminated at the Federal level by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996 and was replaced by the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) block grant.

**Data source:** Florida Department of Children and Families, 1996 data from GRP report series, and 1998 and 2000 data are from ESS Data Warehouse, Tallahassee, FL.

## 1.6 Children in Poverty

### 1.6.1 Children in poverty

**Measurement:** Children in poverty are defined as children living in families with an income below 100% of the federal poverty level. For calendar year 1999, a family of four was below the poverty level if its household income was \$17,029 per year or less. The U.S. Bureau of the Census defines children as people under the age of 18 who are related to the head of household by birth, marriage or adoption. Specifically, these children would include sons and daughters, stepchildren, adopted children and all other children related to the householder, except a spouse. Foster children are excluded. Information is collected by the decennial



Census (applies only to the non-institutionalized, civilian population), and by the annual American Community Survey (only in Broward County until 2003).

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

**Data sources:** U.S. Bureau of the Census, *1990 Census of Population and Housing* (STF3A online at <http://venus.census.gov/cdrom/lookup>, Table P118 Poverty Status in 1989 by Sex and Age); *1998 American Community Survey* (online at <http://factfinder.census.gov>, Table P83N Poverty Status in 1998 by Race by Age); and *1999 American Community Survey* (online at <http://factfinder.census.gov>, Table P77 Poverty Status by Age).

## 1.7 Child Care

### 1.7.1 Day care for children in poverty

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

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

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

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

### 1.7.2 Day care waiting list

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

### 1.7.3 Children of working parents

**Measurement:** The number of children who actually receive care is the number of children enrolled in day care center or family day care programs in Broward County. This figure excludes children in Pre-K or Head Start programs. Enrollment data are collected by mail survey of local agencies.

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

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

## 1.8 Children Living Away From Their Families

### 1.8.1 Children in foster care

**Measurement:** The total number of children in emergency shelter, independent living, residential group care and foster care placement is an unduplicated count as of June 30 each year for the State Fiscal Years. Foster care is defined as temporary care provided to children who are removed from their families and placed in state custody because of dangerous or harmful home situations. Post-placement supervision is the supervision by foster care workers of a child in the custody of a guardian or who has been returned to their home with the stipulation that they be closely supervised. Emergency shelter

care is short-term temporary care (30 days or less). The most common reasons for foster and shelter care placement are neglect, abuse, or inability to control teenagers. Care is provided in licensed foster families or boarding homes, group homes, agency boarding homes, childcare institutions or any combination of these arrangements (Section 39.01(24), Florida Statutes).

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

**Broward data source:** Florida Department of Children and Families, District 10, Division of Family Safety, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

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

### 1.8.2 Outcome of foster care

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



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

**Broward data source:** Florida Department of Children and Families, District 10, Division of Family Safety, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

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

### 1.8.3 Length of stay in foster care

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

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

**Broward data source:** Florida Department of Children and Families, District 10, Division of Family Safety, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

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

## 1.9 Runaways

### 1.9.1 Runaway children

**Measurement:** Runaways are defined as children who run away from their parents or legal guardians without permission or are banished from home because their parents find them hostile or uncontrollable. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), Uniform Crime Reports, has the number of arrests of runaway children, by county, from 1980 through 1987. FDLE has statewide numbers only of runaway children from 1989 through the present. They have eliminated the

historical database that had this data by county due to errors/inaccuracies. The Department has recently changed their reporting and computing system and no longer has the runaway children data available that has been used in recent years. FDLE's Missing Childrens Clearinghouse is now creating a new system to track the runaway children in each county of Florida. This new reporting system began collecting data as of January 1, 1998. Prior to 1994, runaway data was maintained by the Florida Network for Children and Youth. During 1993/94 they also eliminated their historical database due to errors and inaccuracies.

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

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

## 1.10 Homelessness

### 1.10.1 Homeless people

#### 1.10.2 Newly vs. chronically homeless

#### 1.10.3 Homeless families

**Measurement:** The homeless are people who do not have a fixed regular and nighttime residence. Homeless families are defined as a couple with children, a single parent with children, or a married couple without children. The number of homeless people and families in Florida is estimated by 1,500 local agencies providing shelter, food and other assistance to the homeless. Estimates are based on the number of homeless people served by these agencies and, in some cases, on street counts conducted by agency staff. Information is collected from local agencies by mail survey.

Estimates for homelessness in Florida, as reported in November 1996, were:

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

The demographics of the statewide estimates are included for information only and readers are cautioned about applying these percentages to the Broward data. Homeless people, by their very nature, are hard to find and count. The most recent survey in Broward County was completed February 14-24, 2000. All homeless people that could be found were interviewed, and a multiplier of three was then applied, following standard practice around the country. The survey is repeated every 2 years.

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

**Broward data source:** Broward Coalition on the Homeless.

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





## 1.11 Self-Sufficiency of the Elderly

### 1.11.1 Elders with mobility limitations

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

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

**Broward data sources:** *Community Health Assessment: 1994 Behavioral Risk Factor Study, Broward County, Florida; Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida; and 1999 PRC Quality of Life Assessment: Broward County, Florida, Professional Research Consultants, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska.*

### 1.11.2 Elders with self-care limitations

**Measurement:** The percentage of elderly people with self-care limitations is measured by telephone survey of a statistically valid sample of 2,400 Broward County residents age 18 and older. Specifically, the survey asks respondents age 70 and older, "Because of any impairment or health problem, do you need the help of other persons with your personal care needs, such as eating, bathing, dressing, or getting around the house?" Possible responses are yes and no.

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

**Broward data sources:** *Community Health Assessment: 1994 Behavioral Risk Factor Study, Broward County, Florida; Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida; and 1999 PRC Quality of Life Assessment: Broward County, Florida, Professional Research Consultants, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska.*

### 1.11.3 Elders in poverty

**Measurement:** Elders in poverty are those living in households with an income below 100% of the federal poverty level. Information is collected by the decennial Census (applies only to the non-institutionalized, civilian population), and by the annual American Community Survey (only in Broward County until 2003).

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

**Data sources:** U.S. Bureau of the Census, *1990 Census of Population and Housing (STF3A online at <http://venus.census.gov/cdrom/lookup>, Table P118 Poverty Status in 1989 by Sex and Age); 1998 American Community Survey (online at <http://factfinder.census.gov>, Table P83N Poverty Status in 1998 by Race by Age); and 1999 American Community Survey (online at <http://factfinder.census.gov>, Table P77 Poverty Status by Age).*

## 1.12 People with Disabilities

### 1.12.1 Work limitations

**Measurement:** The percentage of non-elderly adults with mobility limitations is measured by

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

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

**Broward data sources:** *Community Health Assessment: 1994 Behavioral Risk Factor Study, Broward County, Florida; Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida; and 1999 PRC Quality of Life Assessment: Broward County, Florida, Professional Research Consultants, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska.*

### 1.12.2 Housework limitations

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

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



**Broward data sources:** *Community Health Assessment: 1994 Behavioral Risk Factor Study, Broward County, Florida; Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida; and 1999 PRC Quality of Life Assessment: Broward County, Florida, Professional Research Consultants, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska.*

### 1.12.3 Communication disabilities

#### 1.12.4 Physical disabilities

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

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

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

**Broward data sources:** *Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida; and 1999 PRC Quality of Life Assessment: Broward County, Florida, Professional Research Consultants, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska.*

## 1.13 Life in Communities

### 1.13.1 People who are satisfied with their communities

**Measurement:** People's satisfaction with their community is measured by a telephone survey of a statistically valid sample of 2,400 Broward County adults age 18 and older. Specifically, the survey asks, Overall, how satisfied are you

with the community in which you live?

Possible responses are very satisfied, somewhat satisfied or not satisfied. The margin of error for the survey is  $\pm 2.2\%$ .

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

**Broward data sources:** *Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida; and 1999 PRC Quality of Life Assessment: Broward County, Florida, Professional Research Consultants, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska.*

## 1.14 Housing

### 1.14.1 Affordability of housing

**Measurement:** State and federal housing programs define affordable housing as costing no more than 30% of household income for monthly rent or mortgage payments, insurance, and utilities. Special tabulations of the 1990 Census were prepared, using the classifications of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development for family income ranges, to support the elaboration of Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategies (CHAS) by local governments. Information is provided separately for renters and owners, for low-income households (20% or more below the median county household income) and very low-income households (50% or more below the median county household income).

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

**Data source:** U.S. Bureau of the Census, *1990 Census of Population and Housing, Special CHAS Tabulations* (CD-ROM).

### 1.14.2 Quality of housing

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

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

**Data sources:** U.S. Bureau of the Census, *1990 Census of Population and Housing (General Housing Characteristics: Florida, Table 1 for overcrowding, and STF3A online at <http://venus.census.gov/cdrom/lookup>, Table H25 Year Structure Built, Table H42 Kitchen Facilities, Table H64 Plumbing Facilities); American Community Survey (summary data for*



both 1998 and 1999 online at [www.census.gov/CMS/www/index\\_c.htm](http://www.census.gov/CMS/www/index_c.htm)).

## 1.15 Mobility

### 1.15.1 Use of roads

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

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

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

### 1.15.2 Commuting time

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

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

**Data sources:** U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990 *Census of Population, Social and Economic Characteristics: Florida* (Section 1 of 3, Tables 23 and 143); *American Community Survey* (summary data for both 1998 and 1999 online at [www.census.gov/CMS/www/index\\_c.htm](http://www.census.gov/CMS/www/index_c.htm)).

### 1.15.3 Public satisfaction with roads

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

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

**Broward data sources:** *Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida*; and *1999 PRC Quality of Life Assessment: Broward County, Florida*, Professional Research Consultants, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska.

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

### 1.15.4(a) Availability of mass transit

**Measurement:** The number of route miles reflects the geographic area served by mass transit systems. It is calculated as the number of round-trip miles in the routes traveled by buses in Broward County's mass transit system. Only one round-trip is counted per route regardless of the daily frequency of service. The number of service miles reflects the frequency as well as the geographic area of service. It is calculated as revenue service miles, i.e., the total

number of miles traveled by mass transit vehicles while carrying passengers. Service hours reflect the quantity of service provided to users of mass transit. It is calculated as revenue service hours, i.e., the total number of hours drivers spend transporting people in buses. Numbers reported for Broward County exclude the Tri-Rail system.

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

**Broward data source:** Broward County Transit, Pompano Beach

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

### 1.15.4(b) Use of mass transit

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

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

**Broward data source:** Broward County Transit, Pompano Beach.

### 1.15.4(c) Use of bus capacity

**Measurement:** Use of bus capacity is the number of bus passenger miles traveled divided by the number of bus seat miles available multiplied by 100. Passenger miles are total miles ridden by seated or standing bus



passengers during the year. The number of seat miles available is the sum of all miles traveled by each bus during the year multiplied by the number of seats installed in each bus.

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

**Data source:** Broward County Transit, Pompano Beach.

#### 1.15.5 Transportation alternatives

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

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

**Data sources:** U.S. Bureau of the Census, *1990 Census of Population, Social and Economic Characteristics: Florida* (Section 1 of 3, Tables 23 and 143); *American Community Survey* (summary data for both 1998 and 1999 online at [www.census.gov/CMS/www/index\\_c.htm](http://www.census.gov/CMS/www/index_c.htm)).

#### 1.15.6 Bicycling

**Measurement:** This measure includes roads that have been designed to accommodate a bicyclist. These roads typically will have wide outside lanes, paved shoulders, bike lanes, or three-foot undesignated bike lanes.

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

**Broward data source:** Broward County Department of Community Development, Mark Horowitz, Bicycle Coordinator (519-1487).

#### 1.15.7 Transportation of the elderly and people with low incomes or disabilities

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

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

**Data source:** Broward County Transportation Planning Division and Metropolitan Planning Organization.

### 1.16 - 1.18 Racial, Cultural and Religious Harmony

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#### 1.16.1 Race relations

#### 1.17.1 Cultural relations

#### 1.18.1 Religious relations

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

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

**Broward data sources:** *Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida*; and *1999 PRC Quality of Life Assessment: Broward County, Florida*, Professional Research Consultants, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska.

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





## 1.19 Civil Rights

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### 1.19.1 Housing discrimination complaints

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

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

**Broward data source:** Broward County Division of Human Rights.

**Florida data source:** U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington, D.C.

## 1.20 Hate Crimes

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### 1.20.1 Hate crimes

**Measurement:** Hate crimes are "criminal acts that evidence prejudice based on race, religion, ethnicity, color, ancestry, sexual orientation or national origin" (Section 877.19(2), *Florida Statutes*). Numbers include only those hate crimes that are reported to Broward County law enforcement agencies. The hate crime rate is the number of hate crimes reported (in 1999 there were 42), divided by the county population, multiplied by 100,000.

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

**Broward data source:** Bnai Brith Anti-Defamation League, Miami, FL.

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

## 1.21 Equal Opportunity

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### 1.21.1 Opportunities by gender and race

#### 1.21.2 Opportunities for people with disabilities

**Measurement:** A statistically valid sample of 2,400 Broward County residents age 18 and older is surveyed by telephone about their perception of opportunities for people like themselves and for people with disabilities.

Specifically, the survey asks two questions: (1)

I want to ask how fair you think things are for people like you in Broward County right now. Do you think a person in Broward County from the same background as you has more opportunities now than in the past, the same kinds of opportunities, or do you think things are more difficult for someone like you? and (2) And do you think a disabled person in Broward County has more opportunities now than in the past, the same kinds of opportunities, or do you think things are more difficult for disabled people? The margin of error for the survey is  $\pm 2.2\%$ .

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

**Broward data sources:** *Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida*; and *1999 PRC Quality of Life Assessment: Broward County, Florida*, Professional Research Consultants, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska.

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

## 1.22 Immigration

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### 1.23.1 Number of immigrants

**Measurement:** Immigrants are people from other countries. The Census Bureau prepares annual estimates of the population for every state and county. The estimated population is the computed number of people living in an area (resident population) as of July 1. The estimated population is calculated from a demographic components of change model that incorporates information on natural change (births and deaths) and net migration (net domestic migration and net movement from abroad) occurring in the area since the reference date of the 1990 Census. Net new residents from abroad (international migration) is the difference between migration to an area from outside the United States (immigration) and migration to an area from outside the United States (emigration) during the period. Net international migration includes: (1) legal immigration to the United States as reported by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, (2) an estimate of net undocumented immigration from abroad, (3) an estimate of emigration from the United States, and (4) net movement between Puerto Rico and the (balance of) the United States.



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

**Data source:** U.S. Bureau of the Census, *County Population Estimates*, available online at [www.census.gov/population/www/estimates/countypop.html](http://www.census.gov/population/www/estimates/countypop.html) (released March 20, 2000).

## 1.23 Outdoor Recreation

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### 1.23.1 Recreational land and water

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

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

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

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

### 1.23.2 Camping

**Measurement:** Camping sites are individual outdoor locations designated for tents or

recreational vehicles/trailers. Primitive camping sites are excluded. Information on camping sites is obtained by a survey by the Broward County Commission, Division of Parks and Recreation.

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

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

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

## 1.24 County Parks

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### 1.24.1 County parks

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

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

**Broward data source:** Broward County Parks and Recreation Division.

### 1.24.2 Access for people with disabilities

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

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

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

## 1.25 Beaches

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### 1.25.1 Lakes and rivers

**Measurement:** Freshwater beaches are defined as sandy areas fronting lakes, rivers and other inland water bodies that are regularly monitored for bacterial contamination by the Department of Health. Information on freshwater and saltwater beaches is provided by the Broward County Department of Health. Excluded from the information are homeowner s associations and hotels that typically do not provide public access. Information on boat ramp lanes is collected by Marine Industries Association of South Florida by survey and is also limited to public access facilities. A lane is defined as adequate ramp



width to accommodate the launching of a single boat. A ramp may accommodate 1-2 lanes each.

**Explanation:** Beaches are an important resource for outdoor recreation. Boat ramps permit access to water bodies for fishing and other water-related recreational activities.

**Broward data source:** Beaches: Broward County Department of Health, Environmental Health Administrator, Ft. Lauderdale, FL; Boat ramps: Marine Industries Association of South Florida, Executive Director, Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

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

#### 1.25.2 Coast

**Measurement:** Saltwater beaches are defined as sandy areas usable for recreation which front the Gulf of Mexico, Straits of Florida and the Atlantic Ocean. Information on saltwater beaches is collected by mail survey of state, federal, county, city and private owners, such as recreational vehicle (RV) parks. Excluded from the survey are homeowners' associations and hotels, which typically do not provide public access.

**Explanation:** Beaches are an important resource for outdoor recreation.

**Broward data source:** Broward County Department of Parks and Recreation.

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



## 2.1 Crime

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### 2.1.1(a) Crime rate

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

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

**Data source:** Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Florida Statistical Analysis Center, *Crime in Florida - Florida Uniform Crime Report* (annual), available online at [www.fdle.state.fl.us/FSAC/data\\_statistics.asp](http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/FSAC/data_statistics.asp)

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

**Measurement:** Broward County is ranked among Florida's 67 counties based upon the index crime rate described in 2.1.1a above. Crime rates are not necessarily comparable among counties for two major reasons. First, crimes involving tourists are counted in reported crimes but tourists are not counted in the county's resident population. As a result, Broward County's crime rate probably is

somewhat inflated compared to other counties not experiencing substantial numbers of visitors. Second, counties may vary in the extent to which people report crimes to the police.

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

**Data source:** Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Florida Statistical Analysis Center, *Crime in Florida - Florida Uniform Crime Report* (annual), available online at [www.fdle.state.fl.us/FSAC/data\\_statistics.asp](http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/FSAC/data_statistics.asp)

### 2.1.2 Violent crime rate

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

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

**Data source:** Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Florida Statistical Analysis Center, *Crime in Florida - Florida Uniform Crime Report* (annual), available online at [www.fdle.state.fl.us/FSAC/data\\_statistics.asp](http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/FSAC/data_statistics.asp)

### 2.1.3 Non-violent crime rate

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

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

**Data source:** Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Florida Statistical Analysis Center, *Crime in Florida - Florida Uniform Crime Report* (annual), available online at [www.fdle.state.fl.us/FSAC/data\\_statistics.asp](http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/FSAC/data_statistics.asp)

## 2.2. Crime Victimization

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### 2.2.1 Violent crime victimization

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

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

**Broward data sources:** *Community Health Assessment: 1994 Behavioral Risk Factor Study, Broward County, Florida; Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida; and 1999 PRC Quality of*





*Life Assessment: Broward County, Florida, Professional Research Consultants, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska.*

## 2.3 Perception of Crime

### 2.3.1 Perception of neighborhood crime

**Measurement:** People age 18 and older are surveyed by telephone about their perception of neighborhood crime. Specifically the survey asks, "Within the past year or two, do you think that the problem of crime in your neighborhood has been getting better, getting worse, or has it stayed about the same?" Possible responses are getting better, getting worse, stayed about the same or don't know. The survey's margin of error is  $\pm 2.2\%$ .

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

**Broward data sources:** *Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida; and 1999 PRC Quality of Life Assessment: Broward County, Florida, Professional Research Consultants, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska.*

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

## 2.4 Alcohol and Drugs

### 2.4.1 Driving under the influence (DUI)

**Measurement:** Drinking and driving and riding with a drinking driver are measured by telephone survey of a statistically valid sample of 2,400 Broward County residents age 18 and older. Specifically the survey asks, "During the

past month, how many times have you driven when you've had perhaps too much to drink?" and "During the past month, how many times have you ridden with a driver who has had perhaps too much to drink?"

**Explanation:** Driving under the influence is a major cause of traffic deaths and injuries, which can be prevented by more responsible consumption of alcohol and by not letting friends drive after having too much to drink.  
**Broward data sources:** *Community Health Assessment: 1994 Behavioral Risk Factor Study, Broward County, Florida; Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida; and 1999 PRC Quality of Life Assessment: Broward County, Florida, Professional Research Consultants, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska.*

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

### 2.4.2 Alcohol-related traffic crashes

**Measurement:** The alcohol-related traffic fatality rate is (1) the number of traffic deaths attributed by the law enforcement at the scene of the accident to alcohol, divided by (2) the population, multiplied by (3) 100,000. The percentage of traffic crashes that were alcohol related is the (1) number of traffic crashes attributed by the law enforcement officer at the scene of the accident to alcohol, divided by (2) the total number of traffic crashes, multiplied by (3) 100. The use of alcohol may be determined by a blood or breath test, observation (e.g., slurred speech, smell of alcohol) or a field sobriety test (e.g., walking heel-to-toe).

**Explanation:** Driving under the influence is a major cause of traffic deaths and injuries, which can be prevented by more responsible

consumption of alcohol and by not letting friends drive after having too much to drink.

**Data source:** Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, *Florida Traffic Crash Facts* (annual), available online at [www.hsmv.state.fl.us/reports/crash\\_facts.html](http://www.hsmv.state.fl.us/reports/crash_facts.html)

### 2.4.3 Drug arrests

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

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

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

## 2.5 Juvenile Arrests

### 2.5.1 Juvenile arrests for violent crimes

### 2.5.2 Juvenile arrests for non-violent crimes

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

Arrests are counted for index crimes only -- the



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

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

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

## 2.6 Juvenile Delinquents

### 2.6.1 Juvenile delinquency

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

cases received are those reported and used by the Department of Juvenile Justice to track offenses/referrals from law enforcement. The number of cases is counted by "unduplicating" the number of referrals reported on the client information system by client identifier and date, however, it can represent more than one offense/referral per client per year. Presented here is the number of youths referred, which is determined by counting only the most serious offense for which a youth is charged during any fiscal year, an accurate unduplicated count. Years refer to the period beginning in October of a given year and ending in September of the year specified. The number presented includes a small number of youths ages 0-9 or 18 or more, as follows:

	<u>0-9</u>	<u>18+</u>
Florida 1999	1,833	1,817
Broward 1997	142	131
Broward 1998	132	117
Broward 1999	125	118

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

**Data source:** Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Bureau of Data and Research, *Profile of Delinquency Cases and Youths Referred* (annual); data available online at [www.djj.state.fl.us/RnD/publications.html](http://www.djj.state.fl.us/RnD/publications.html)

### 2.6.2 Juvenile commitments

**Measurement:** The commitment rate reflects the number of youth younger than age 18, who have committed a delinquent act or violation of law and have been committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice. The purpose of commitment is to give the state active control over delinquent youths and to provide for their custody, care, training, treatment and furlough into the community. A commitment ends when the delinquent youth is released by the

Department or reaches the age of 19. Serious or habitual youth offenders can be held until age 21. Following commitment, placement is made in a proper residential or non-residential program, such as boot camp, training school or day treatment. Increasing juvenile commitment rates may reflect increases in the number of beds available in commitment programs as well as a higher incidence of delinquent behavior. Years refer to the period beginning in October of a given year and ending in September of the year specified. The number presented includes a small number of youths ages 0-9 or 18 or more, as follows:

	<u>0-9</u>	<u>18+</u>
Florida 1999	11	110
Broward 1997	0	18
Broward 1998	0	23
Broward 1999	2	1

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

**Data source:** Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Bureau of Data and Research, *Profile of Delinquency Cases and Youths Referred* (annual); data available online at [www.djj.state.fl.us/RnD/publications.html](http://www.djj.state.fl.us/RnD/publications.html)

### 2.6.3 Serious juvenile offenders

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



The numbers presented here are youth counts for referrals received.

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

**Data source:** Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Bureau of Data and Research, *Profile of Delinquency Cases and Youths Referred* (annual); data available online at [www.djj.state.fl.us/RnD/publications.html](http://www.djj.state.fl.us/RnD/publications.html)

## 2.7 Juveniles in the Adult System

### 2.7.1 Juveniles in the adult correctional

**Measurement:** Generally, youth under age 18 are referred to the adult criminal justice system when charged with very serious crimes or when their criminal behavior has continued despite treatment in the juvenile justice system. The count reflects the number of juveniles who are placed in adult prisons operated by the state. The 2000 numbers are for Broward Juveniles placed in state prisons. Youths placed on probation or under community control after their release from prison are excluded. Also excluded are youth incarcerated in local jails or federal prisons.

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

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

## 2.8 Abuse and Neglect

### 2.8.1 Child abuse and neglect

**Measurement:** Child abuse or neglect is defined as harm or threatened harm to a child's physical

or mental health by the acts or omissions of a parent or other person responsible for the child's welfare (Section 415.503(1), Florida Statutes). A child is any person under the age of 18 years. Numbers of reports data had been categorized as follows: (a) unfounded report - a report in which the investigation determines that no indication of abuse or neglect exists, (b) an indicated report - a report in which the investigation determines that some indication of abuse or neglect exists, or the protective investigator determines that abuse or neglect has occurred but is not able to identify the perpetrator. No perpetrator is named in reports closed with an indicated classification, or (c) confirmed report - a report in which the investigation determines that abuse or neglect has occurred and the perpetrator is identified. A preponderance of credible evidence is required in order to classify a report as confirmed. Currently the Family Services Response System (FSRS), a non-adversarial response to reports of child abuse and neglect, through a process of assessing the risk to the child and family and, when appropriate, delivering services to remove the risk to the child and support the integrity of the family, has become the vehicle for all reports. Prior to October 1, 1995, districts, at their option and under an approved plan, could handle some or all child abuse and neglect reports as FSRS cases. Since October 1, 1995 with the legislative elimination of classification, all reports are closed as FSRS cases. Within the FSRS category reports can be closed as no indication, some indication, or verified. The numbers of maltreatments represent counts of abuse, neglect, or threatened harm. A maltreatment is counted each time it occurs in a category, a victim may have several maltreatments per report and a report may contain several victims. An alleged maltreatment is used in reference to

an unconfirmed statement made by a reporter to the Florida Abuse Hotline of suspected abuse, neglect, or threatened harm to a child. A confirmed report is a proposed confirmed report that has been determined to be valid after a hearing for which the alleged perpetrator had failed to request amendment or expunction within the time allotted for such request. A proposed confirmed report was when a child protective investigation alleged that abuse or neglect occurred and which identified the alleged perpetrator, and some indication was identified when the investigation determined that there were some indicator that abuse, neglect, or threatened harm occurred. Data here represents the fiscal year numbers of victims for alleged reports and for verified or some indication (at least one finding) in a report of abuse, neglect or threatened harm. There may be more than one report per victim per year. The rate is found by dividing the number of victims by the annual population aged 0 to 17 years.

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

**Data source:** Florida Department of Children and Families, Office of Family Safety and Preservation, Child Protective Services, *Children Identified as Victims in Reports Locked*, Tallahassee, FL.

### 2.8.2 Abuse and neglect of adults with disabilities

**Measurement:** An adult with a disability is a person aged 18 to 59 who "suffers from a condition of physical or mental incapacitation due to a developmental disability, organic brain damage, or mental illness, or one who has one or more physical or mental limitations that restrict his ability to perform normal activities



of daily living" (Section 415.102(8), Florida Statutes). The indicators reflect reports of abuse, neglect and exploitation to the Florida Abuse Hotline at the Florida Department of Children and Families. Verified reports are reports that (1) have been investigated by a DCF worker and (2) found to show evidence of abuse, neglect or exploitation, regardless of whether a perpetrator was identified.

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

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

### 2.8.3 Elder abuse and neglect

**Measurement:** Abuse, neglect or exploitation of an aged person occurs when (1) someone inflicts non-accidental physical or psychological injury; (2) fails to provide care and services necessary to maintain the physical and mental health of the aged person; or (3) acts improperly in their management of an aged person's funds, assets or property (Section 415.502(1)(9)(12), Florida Statutes). It can occur in a home or institutional setting. A person 60 years of age or older who is suffering from the infirmities of aging as manifested by organic brain damage, advanced age, or other physical, mental or emotional dysfunctioning to the extent that the person is impaired in his/her ability to adequately provide for his/her own care or protection. The indicators reflect reports of abuse, neglect and exploitation to the Florida Abuse Hotline at the Florida Department of Children and Families. Verified reports are reports that (1) have been investigated by a DCF worker and (2) found to show evidence of

abuse, neglect or exploitation, regardless of whether a perpetrator was identified.

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

**Data source:** Florida Department of Children and Families, *Adult Protective Services Annual Statistical Report* (annual), Table 9, available at [www.state.fl.us/cf\\_web/as/annualstatistical-98-99/](http://www.state.fl.us/cf_web/as/annualstatistical-98-99/)

## 2.9 Domestic Violence

### 2.9.1 Domestic violence incidents

#### 2.9.2 Domestic violence murders

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

household or family member, divided by the county population, multiplied by 100,000.

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

**Data source:** Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Florida Statistical Analysis Center, *Crime in Florida Florida Uniform Crime Report* (annual), available online at [www.fdle.state.fl.us/FSAC/data\\_statistics.asp](http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/FSAC/data_statistics.asp)

## 2.10 Recidivism

### 2.10.1 Repeat offenders

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

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

**Data source:** Florida Department of Corrections, Bureau of Research and Data Analysis, Tallahassee, FL.





### 2.10.2 Juvenile repeat offenders

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

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

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

## 2.11 Education of Offenders

### 2.11.1 Literacy of adult offenders

**Measurement:** The literacy of state prison inmates is measured by the administration of the Tests of Adult Basic Education (TABE). This is a nationally standardized test measuring reading, math computation, applied math, language and spelling. The percentage of prison inmates who are literate is defined as the percentage who score at or above the ninth grade level. The data presented here is for inmates in the prison population who were

convicted in Broward County and were tested on the specified dates. The percentages are results of tests administered on June 30, 1996 and June 30, 1997.

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

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

### 2.11.2 Vocational training of releases

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

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

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

## 2.12 Ex-offender Employment

### 2.12.1 Employment one year after release

**Measurement:** Employment after release from prison is measured by using social security numbers to match released inmates with employees on the Unemployment

Compensation Program database maintained by the Florida Department of Labor and Employment Security. A releasee is considered employed if he or she is working for a public or private employer in Florida during the October-December quarter of the year following the year of release. The data presented here represents the percentage of ex-offenders released to Broward County who were employed or enrolled in school full-time during the October-December quarter of the year following release.

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

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

## 2.13 Disaster Protection

### 2.13.1 Evacuation time

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

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

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



### 2.13.2 Shelter space

**Measurement:** The American Red Cross and the Broward County Department of Human Services are responsible for shelter activities in Broward County. The American Red Cross National Policy is a commitment to shelter 20% of the ordered evacuating population. The coastal high hazard area is divided into three evacuation zones based on the intensity of storms, with higher categories representing more severe storms. Based on these projections the County does not experience a shelter deficit.

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

**Broward data source:** Broward County Department of Human Services.

### 2.13.3 Shelter space for persons with special needs

**Measurement:** Recognizing the need and complexity of the issue of providing hurricane shelter for persons with special needs, Broward County has established a specific emergency support function to deal with the issue.

Broward County Department of Human Services is responsible for the registration and management of the County Special Needs Shelter Program. The Department of Human Services has identified and maintains a list of 1,200 shelter spaces. All shelters are opened for any category of storm.

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

**Broward data source:** Broward County Department of Human Services.

## 2.14 Traffic Crashes

### 2.14.1 Traffic crashes

#### 2.14.2 Deaths in traffic crashes

#### 2.14.3 Injuries in traffic crashes

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

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

**Data source:** Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, *Florida Traffic Crash Facts* (annual), available online at [www.hsmv.state.fl.us/reports/crash\\_facts.html](http://www.hsmv.state.fl.us/reports/crash_facts.html)

## 2.15 Injuries

### 2.15.1 Deaths from injuries

**Measurement:** This indicator presents deaths due to unintentional injuries (i.e., falls, drownings, etc.) This is slightly different from previous data, which combined intentional and unintentional injuries such as suicides and homicides.

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

**Data source:** Florida Department of Health, *Florida Vital Statistics Annual Report*, available online at [www.doh.state.fl.us/Planning\\_eval/vital\\_statistics/statistical\\_report.htm](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Planning_eval/vital_statistics/statistical_report.htm)

### 2.15.2 Deaths from firearms

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

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

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

## 2.16 Boating Accidents

### 2.16.1 Boating accidents

#### 2.16.2 Boating deaths

#### 2.16.3 Boating injuries

**Measurement:** Boating accidents are collisions, fires, sinking, capsizing, falls overboard and similar incidents involving recreational watercraft. Boats are broadly defined as all watercraft including Jet Skis, Wave Runners, Sea Doos, or similar equipment that, in 1994, were involved in 34% of recreational boating accidents in Florida. Commercial boating accidents are excluded. Registered boats include motorized boats only. There were 45,041 boats registered in Broward County in 1999.



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

**Data source:** Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, *Boating Accident Statistics* (annual), available online at [www.state.fl.us/fwc/law/boating/default.htm](http://www.state.fl.us/fwc/law/boating/default.htm)



### 3.1 Demographics

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#### 3.1.1 Broward County Public Schools Student Profile

**Measurement:** PreK-12 (students enrolled on the 20th day of school) and Vocational and Adult enrollment numbers and trends are a basis for many policy and program changes proposed and implemented by the district. The racial/ethnic group to which the student belongs or with which the student identifies:

- *Asian or Pacific Islander:* A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Pacific Islands, or the Indian subcontinent.
- *Black Non-Hispanic:* A person having origins in any of the Black racial groups in Africa.
- *Hispanic:* A person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or South or Central American origin or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race.
- *American Indian or Alaskan Native:* A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North America, and who maintains cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition.
- *White Non-Hispanic:* A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, North Africa, or the Middle East.
- *Multi-racial:* A person having origins from any combination of the above racial/ethnic groups.

*Free or reduced lunch:* A student who is economically needy according to Federal guidelines of household size and income.

*Exceptional Student Education (ESE):* A student who has special learning needs and is given special help in school.

*Limited English Proficient (LEP):* A student whose home language is one other than

English, and who is below the average English proficiency level of English speaking students of the same age and grade.

**Explanation:** Enrollment trends are essential information for capital planning, grant application, staffing and personnel decisions, the annual boundary process, magnets, and many other functions. Trends in diversity indicate the changing mix of the components of diversity as defined in School Board Policy (gender, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, Exceptional Student Education (ESE), Limited English Proficient (LEP), special needs). Strategies can be defined that address the belief that a quality education is enhanced in a diverse, inclusive setting.

**Data source:** Florida Department of Education, Automated Student Data Elements, DOE Information Data Base Requirements, Tallahassee, FL.

#### 3.1.2 Vocational Adult and Community Education Program

**Measurement:** *Vocational Education Programs* are organized educational programs offering a sequence of courses that are directly related to the preparation of individuals in paid or unpaid employment in current or emerging occupations requiring other than a baccalaureate or advanced degree. Such programs shall include competency-based applied learning that contributes to employability skills, and the occupational-specific skills necessary for economic independence as a productive and contributing member of society. Programs also include applied technology education.

*Community Education Programs* are opportunities for local citizens and community schools, agencies, and institutions to become active partners in addressing education and community concerns. Community education

brings community members together to identify and link community needs and resources in a manner that helps people help themselves to improve the quality of life in their communities.

**Explanation:** The enrollment reflected in this report represents duplicated counts. A student may be enrolled in more than one program during the school year and be reported more than once. The district does not have the capacity to disaggregate data for a single headcount.

**Data source:** Broward County Public Schools, Vocational, Adult, and Community Education Department.

### 3.2 Readiness for Kindergarten

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#### 3.2.1 Readiness for Kindergarten

**Measurement:** The percentage of students meeting the expectations of the State of Florida for school readiness as determined by a formal observation of each kindergarten student using a checklist developed by the Department of Education.

**Explanation:** At entrance to Florida public schools, children should be at a developmental level of physical, social, and intellectual readiness necessary to insure success as a learner.

**Data source:** Florida Department of Education, Tallahassee, FL.

#### 3.2.2 Preschool attendance

**Measurement:** Preschool for students from low-income families in Broward County Public Schools is defined as Head Start and the Prekindergarten Early Intervention Program. Children from low-income families are eligible for free lunch. Broward figures include only the children served in school based or contracted





preschool programs funded through Broward County Public Schools.

**Explanation:** Quality preschool programs improve the intellectual and social performance of low-income children as they begin school.

**Data source:** Broward County Public Schools.

### 3.2.3 Kindergartners promoted to first grade:

**Measurement:** Children who have reached the age of five by September 1 of the school year are eligible to enter kindergarten in Florida's public schools (Section 232.04, Florida Statutes). The information presented is the percentage of kindergartners in public schools who were promoted to first grade at the end of the academic school year after having successfully completed the kindergarten curriculum.

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

**Data source:** Broward County Public Schools.

## 3.3 Achievement Test Results

### 3.3.1 FCAT Writing Assessment/Florida Writing Assessment (Florida Writes)

**Measurement:** Administered in grades 4, 8, and 10, the Florida Writes! test required students to write about a randomly assigned topic for 45 minutes. Written responses were scored on a 1.0 to 6.0 scale with 6.0 being the highest score. Locally an expectation was set that an average score of 3.0 represented a fixed standard of performance desired for Broward County Public School students. Changes over time, in part, may reflect changes in the topics, which may not be the same level of difficulty from one year to the next. Students must meet more challenging writing standards in grade 10 than grades 4 or 8. In the year 2000 the test name

was changed from Florida Writing Assessment (Florida Writes!) to FCAT Writing Assessment. National norms are not available.

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

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

### 3.3.2 High School Competency Test (HSCT)

**Measurement:** The High School Competency Test is an untimed, multiple-choice test of a student's ability to apply basic mathematics and communication skills to real-world situations. It is administered to all 11th grade students in public schools as a statewide graduation requirement. Test items are at approximately a ninth or tenth grade level. Data reflect the percentage of 11th grade students passing the communication and mathematics sections of the test on the first attempt. All students must pass both sections of the HSCT to receive a standard Florida high school diploma. Changes to the scoring of the HSCT were made by Department of Education staff in 1996. These changes increased the competencies expected of Florida students. The HSCT will be replaced by the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) as a graduation requirement in 2003.

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

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

### 3.3.3 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT)

**Measurement:** The Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) was designed to measure the first four standards of Goal 3 of Florida's System of School Improvement and Accountability, with an emphasis on reading and mathematics as defined by the Sunshine State Standards. The FCAT was administered for the first time at the following grade levels in January 1998. The total score that students can achieve ranges from 100 to 500.

Grade 4	Reading
Grade 5	Mathematics
Grade 8	Reading and Mathematics
Grade 10	Reading and Mathematics

The FCAT was expanded to other grade levels in the year 2000. Recently, language impaired students' scores have been excluded from the data, and a stability factor has been included. Additionally, a norm-referenced test component was added at grades 3-10 to permit comparison of the performance of Florida students with students throughout the nation. Students entering grade 9 in the 1999-2000 school year will be required to pass the FCAT as a graduation requirement in 2003.

**Explanation:** The FCAT will provide a comprehensive listing of what students know and are able to do as they progress through school.

**Data sources:** Broward County Public Schools, Department of Research and Evaluation; Florida Department of Education, Tallahassee, FL.

### 3.3.4 School Performance Grade Categories

**Measurement:** Beginning with the 1998-99 school year, the performance of every school in each of the 67 school districts in the State of Florida has been evaluated according to accountability standards set by the Florida



Department of Education. The state accountability criteria measure student achievement and school performance. All schools have been identified as being in one of the following School Performance Grade Categories defined according to rules of the state board:

- A schools making excellent progress
  - B schools making above average progress
  - C schools making satisfactory progress
  - D schools making less than satisfactory progress
  - F schools failing to make adequate progress
- Performance grade category designations were based on student achievement levels on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) and on other appropriate performance data, including but not limited to, attendance, dropout rate, school discipline data and student readiness for college.

**Explanation:** Florida's accountability system has changed since the 1998-99 school year. The 1999 Legislature specified that schools be assigned a performance grade of A to F based upon results of the FCAT and other appropriate data. The school-grading component is part of a comprehensive, standards-based system of accountability designed to provide high-quality schools.

**Data sources:** Broward County Public Schools, Department of Research and Evaluation; Florida Department of Education, Tallahassee, FL.

### 3.3.5 F Schools

**Measurement:** The state accountability criteria for school performance grade categories are differentiated by elementary, middle and high school to measure student achievement and school performance. The Florida Department of Education has identified minimum performance criteria for the FCAT Reading, FCAT Math and

FCAT Writing Assessment instruments. Schools classified as performance grade category F have scored below the minimum criteria and are failing to make adequate progress.

**Explanation:** The State of Florida's statewide grading of school performance is used to focus allocation of additional resources, including intensive assistance and intervention, to schools with the greatest need and to continue to deliver effective educational programs that support student achievement and school effectiveness. The school-grading component is part of a comprehensive, standards-based system of accountability designed to provide high-quality schools.

**Data sources:** Broward County Public Schools, Department of Research and Evaluation; Florida Department of Education, Tallahassee, FL.

## 3.4 High School Dropouts and Graduates

### 3.4.1 High school dropout rate

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

exceptional student program" (Section 228.041(29), Florida Statutes). Prior to the 1998-99 school year, the number of dropouts was calculated based upon the number of students during the school year who were 16 or over and withdrew for one of the above mentioned reasons. The rate was calculated based upon the district's population in enrollment for grades 9-12 as of October of the school year being reported. The number of students who dropped out was divided by the number of students enrolled in grades 9-12 and then multiplied by 100. Beginning with the 1998-99 school year, the reported dropout rate is for all dropouts in grades 9-12. Prior years' statistics showed a rate only for dropouts 16 or over.

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

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

### 3.4.2 High school graduation rate

**Measurement:** High school graduates are students who receive a regular diploma, special diploma, regular certificate of completion, special certificate of completion, or general equivalency diploma (GED) awarded to students ages 16-19. Prior to the 1998-99 school year, state law defined the high school graduation rate as the number of students who graduated from public schools divided by the number of first-time ninth graders four years earlier (Section 232.2468, Florida Statutes). This rate did not track the same group of students from start to finish. As a result, it was inflated by the movement of high-school-aged students into Florida, who were counted as graduates but not as entering ninth graders. Beginning with the 1998-99 school year, the method of



calculating the graduation rate for Florida's public high schools was revised to track individuals by student I.D. numbers, beginning with their first-time enrollment in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. The new rate calculation accounts for incoming transfer students, and outgoing transfer students are removed from the tracked population.

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

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

## 3.5 Readiness for College

### 3.5.1 Students taking upper level courses (Level 3)

**Measurement:** High school courses are rated by 3 levels: *Level 1* - the least rigorous courses with no graduation credit (parental permission required); *Level 2* - regular high school courses; *Level 3* - the most rigorous of all academic courses (i.e., Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Honors). Data represents an unduplicated count.

**Explanation:** Broward's Level 3 courses address higher levels of student achievement and demonstration of competency, including optional coursework

**Data source:** Broward County Public Schools.

### 3.5.2 Advanced Placement (AP)

**Measurement:** Broward's Advanced Placement (AP) Program gives students the opportunity to

take college-level courses and examinations while still in high school.

**Explanation:** Participating colleges award credit and/or advanced placement to students based upon the examination scores. Although each college decides which AP examination grade and course it will accept, most higher education institutions grant credit and/or advanced placement for scores of three or better.

**Data sources:** Broward County Public Schools, Department of Research and Evaluation; Florida Department of Education, Tallahassee, FL.

### 3.5.3 International Baccalaureate (IB) diplomas

**Measurement:** The international Baccalaureate (IB) program is an accelerated four year liberal arts curriculum for academically talented and highly motivated students offered at selected schools. Candidates are examined in six subject areas on a scale of 1-7. A minimum score of 24, plus satisfactory completion of the Theory of Knowledge course, CAS (Creativity, Action, Service) activities and an Extended Essay (4,000 words) are required for the awarding of the IB diploma.

**Explanation:** Students who receive the prestigious IB diploma are held in the highest esteem by universities throughout the world. Florida IB diploma recipients are eligible for the Florida Academic Scholars Award and are often admitted as sophomores into the Florida university system as well as other internationally recognized universities.

**Data source:** Broward County Public Schools, Department of Magnet Programs.

### 3.5.4 Algebra Completion

**Measurement:** The percentage of all graduating students who met the District's requirements

for Algebra, including middle school credit by examination and high school Algebra courses.

**Explanation:** Algebra completion is a gateway still known to predict college success.

**Data source:** Broward County Public Schools, Department of Research and Evaluation.

### 3.5.5 SAT scores

### 3.5.6 ACT scores

**Measurement:** The Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) and the American College Test (ACT) are national tests taken by high school students who plan to enter college. The average score is reported for students in the current year's graduating class, regardless of the year that they took the test. Average total scores may range from 400 to 1600 for the SAT and from 1 to 36 for the ACT. The higher the percentage of students taking these tests, the lower the statewide average scores tend to be. This information should be taken into account when comparing average scores over time and when comparing average SAT/ACT scores across states. For example on the SAT, Florida's percentage of students taking the test is relatively high (45% in 1994-95). As a result, the average SAT score in Florida will tend to be lower than the national average. The SAT is sponsored by The College Board in New York and administered by the Educational Testing Service in Princeton, New Jersey. The results presented here, both for the state and Broward County, were recalculated by the College Board on September 2, 1997, to adjust for an error. They therefore differ from previously released results. They also reflect the recentered averages calculated in 1996. The ACT is a product of the American College Testing Company in Iowa City, Iowa.



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

*Data sources:* Broward County Public Schools, Department of Research and Evaluation; Florida Department of Education, Division of Administration, Education and Accountability Services, Tallahassee, FL.

### 3.5.7 Entry Level Placement Tests

*Measurement:* Students entering Florida's community colleges are required to take the Florida College Placement Test (CPT) in reading, writing, and mathematics.

*Explanation:* Entry level placement testing provides uniform minimum standards for the placement of students in college preparatory (remedial) or college level mathematics and English courses in Florida's publicly supported colleges and university.

*Data source:* Florida Department of Education, Readiness for College Report.

## 3.6 Racial Harmony

### 3.6.1 Broward County Public Schools Teacher Survey

*Measurement:* All full-time classroom/subject area teachers are surveyed yearly in Broward County Public Schools. Participation is voluntary and the survey responses remain anonymous. The survey instrument was developed by the Broward County Public Schools to solicit teacher perspectives on teaching processes, instructional programs, support, communication, and safety. A similar survey is administered to students and parents in the district.

*Explanation:* Teacher perspectives are crucial to improving educational quality in the district.

Progress toward districtwide goals can be monitored, and areas of concern can be identified.

*Data source:* Broward County Public Schools, Department of Research and Evaluation.

## 3.7 Community College Graduates

### 3.7.1 Students served

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

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

*Data source:* Florida Department of Education, Division of Community Colleges, Annual Community Research and Information Systems, Tallahassee, FL.

### 3.7.2 Student success rates

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

were retained in good standing, or left in good standing four years after the date of initial enrollment.

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

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

### 3.7.3 Associate in Arts transfer student performance

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

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

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

### 3.7.4 Licensure passing rates

*Measurement:* One of the key measures for the associate in science degree program is the licensure pass rate measure. For certain occupations, the state requires that students must pass a licensing exam. Prior to sitting for





the exam students must complete their educational program. Consequently, the licensure pass rate measure is a direct indicator of how successful the program is in preparing students for the exam. The licensure pass rate measure shows the number of students tested, the number of students passed, and the percentage of students who passed the licensure exam for their respective vocational programs.

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

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

### 3.7.5 Vocational placement rates

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

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

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

## 3.8 University Graduates

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### 3.8.1 University graduation rate

**Measurement:** The university graduation rate is the percentage of first-time-in-college students entering public or private colleges and universities in Florida who graduated from the same institution within six years. This rate is computed by tracking student cohorts - the same group of students from start to finish. It is recorded under each cohort's year of graduation. For example, the graduation rate for the cohort entering in the 1988-89 academic year and graduating by 1994-95 is recorded under the year 1995. The cohort for a given academic year includes all first-time-in-college students who entered the State University System in the fall or entered in the summer and continued in the fall. First-time-in-college is defined as entering with no more than 12 credit hours. Graduates are those students in the cohort who completed their undergraduate degree by the fall, spring or summer of the sixth consecutive academic year. In-state and out-of-state residents are included in the calculation.

Students who take longer than 6 years to complete their degrees are not counted as graduates in this indicator. Nor are students who transfer to and graduate from another institution. A six-year completion time was selected because many students work and go to school part-time. A cohort graduation rate, comparable to the state university graduation rate, is expected to be available in 1997 for member institutions of Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida.

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

**Data sources:** Board of Regents, Academic Programs, Florida Tallahassee, FL. (state universities); Independent Colleges and

Universities of Florida, Tallahassee, FL. (private colleges and universities).

### 3.8.2 Graduation rate for community college transfers

**Measurement:** Community college transfers are defined as students who earn Associate of Arts degrees in Florida's community colleges and subsequently enter Florida's state university system. The graduation rate for these students is computed in the same way as the university system graduation rate (see endnote for Indicator 3.7.1), using a three-year, rather than a six-year, completion time. The rate is recorded under each cohort's year of graduation. For example, the graduation rate for AA students entering in 1990-91 and graduating in 1993-94 is recorded under the year 1994.

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

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

## 3.9 Public Satisfaction with Results

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### 3.9.1 Public schools

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

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

**Broward data source:** *Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 and 1999 PRC Community Health Surveys*,



Broward County, Florida, Professional Research Consultants Inc., Omaha, Nebraska

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

### 3.9.2 Higher education

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

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

**Broward data source:** *Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 and 1999 PRC Community Health Surveys*, Broward County, Florida, Professional Research Consultants Inc., Omaha, Nebraska.

### 3.9.3 Broward County Public Schools Parent Survey

**Measurement:** Each year, 33% of the parents of the K-12 students attending Broward County Public Schools are surveyed on issues relating to educational quality and safety. The instrument is administered through the mail and all responses are confidential. A similar survey is administered to students and teachers in the district.

**Explanation:** It is vital to identify parents perspectives on educational quality and safety. School improvement activities address key issues and concerns identified by parents.

**Data source:** Broward County Public Schools, Department of Research and Evaluation.

### 3.9.4 Broward County Public Schools Student Survey

**Measurement:** Each year all students in grades 2-12 are provided with an opportunity to complete a confidential survey on educational quality and safety in Broward County Public Schools. The survey instrument was developed by district personnel. Similar surveys are administered to teachers and parents as well.

**Explanation:** The perspectives of students are crucial for monitoring school improvement activities and identifying areas of concern.

**Data source:** Broward County Public Schools, Department of Research and Evaluation.

### 3.9.5 Broward County Public Schools Parent Survey

**Measurement:** Each year, 33% of the parents of the K-12 students attending Broward County Public Schools are surveyed on issues relating to educational quality and safety. The instrument is administered through the mail and all responses are confidential. A similar survey is administered to students and teachers in the district.

**Explanation:** It is vital to identify parents perspectives on educational quality and safety. As customers of Broward County Public Schools, key issues and concerns identified by parents can be addressed in school improvement activities.

**Data source:** Broward County Public Schools, Department of Research and Evaluation.

### 3.9.6 Broward County Public Schools Student Survey

**Measurement:** Each year all students in grades 2-12 are provided with an opportunity to complete a confidential survey on educational quality and safety in Broward County Public Schools. The survey instrument was developed

by District personnel. Similar surveys are administered to teachers and parents as well.

**Explanation:** As the primary customers of Broward County Public Schools, the perspectives of students are crucial for monitoring school improvement activities and identifying areas of concern.

**Data source:** Broward County Public Schools, Department of Research and Evaluation.

## 3.10 Adult Literacy

### 3.10.1 Literacy of young adults (ages 19-24)

### 3.10.2 Literacy of adults (ages 25-64)

**Measurement:** Statewide, adult literacy is measured by the Adult Literacy Survey, a test which measures actual performance on tasks related to everyday living (e.g., reading a newspaper article, filling out a job application or balancing a checkbook). The test was administered to statistically valid samples of U.S. and Florida residents age 16 and older. Literacy is assessed in three areas: prose, quantitative and document literacy. Performance in each area is scored at a level ranging from 1 to 5. People with middle and high literacy levels are those scoring at levels 3, 4, or 5. Results are reported by the Educational Testing Service to state departments of education. Data are reported for the test administration year, not the reporting year. These tests are norm-referenced and designed to measure achievement in reading, mathematics, language, and spelling the subject areas commonly found in adult basic education curricula. The TABE focuses on basic skills that are required to function in society. Because the tests combine the most useful characteristics of norm-referenced and criterion-referenced tests, they provide information



about the relative ranking of examinees against a norm group as well as specific information about the instructional needs of examinees. The tests enable teachers and administrators to diagnose, evaluate, and successfully place examinees in adult education programs. Students are placed in instructional programs, based upon their performance on the tests. The levels and estimated grade ranges are as follows:

<u>Level</u>	<u>Grade Level</u>
L (Literacy)	0 1.9
E (Easy)	1.6 3.9
M (Medium)	3.6 6.9
D (Difficult)	6.6 8.9
A (Advanced)	8.6 12.9

Functional Level Placement

Beginning Literacy Grade Level 0-1.9

Beginning Adult Basic Education

Grade Level 2.0-5.9

Intermediate Adult Basic Education

Grade Level 6.0-8.9

Adult Secondary Education 9.0-12.9

*Explanation:* People with middle or high literacy levels are more likely to vote, be employed, and avoid dependence on public assistance.

*Data sources:* Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Adult and Community Education and Division of Workforce Development, Tallahassee, FL.

**3.10.3 Adult Basic Education (ABE)**

*Measurement:* This course is designed for the student to obtain a level of education that satisfies his or her educational goal, be it to attain literacy, to continue in secondary education, or to attain any level of achievement in between. Adult Basic Education is offered for adults who need to learn the basic skills of reading and writing and who wish to continue their study toward secondary school. Adult

Basic Education studies include reading, handwriting, mathematics, spelling, social studies, general (elementary) sciences, health, language arts, and consumer education for grade levels 1-8.

*Explanation:* The 1997 Legislature passed new legislation, SB-1688, that significantly impacts the way adult education and adult vocational programs measure performance, e.g. job placement. The new legislation provides for multiple exit points called occupational completion points (vocational education) and literacy completion points (adult education) where adults may exit to employment and/or higher education. Prior methods only counted programs completers (graduates) for the purpose of calculating job placement rates. As a result, 1998-99 data will be the first year using the new legislative methods (counting placements regardless of an adult completing the full program) to calculate job placement rates. Students who complete the 8.9 level of instruction are enrolled in adult secondary programs, referred to a vocational center or assisted in obtaining employment.

*Data source:* Broward County Public Schools, The Vocational, Adult and Community Education Department.

**3.10.4 Adult English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)**

*Measurement:* Adult English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) is designed to provide instruction to adult speakers of other languages that have limited or no proficiency in the English language. The primary goal of this instruction is the acquisition of English communication skills to enable limited English proficient students to more effectively function within the social, commercial and affective domains of the community (equivalent grade levels 0 8.9). The content of instruction should

include, but not limited to, the development of listening, speaking, reading, writing, and cross-cultural communications skills, with emphasis placed on the understanding of American culture. Beginning ESOL should emphasize listening and speaking, with an introduction to literacy skills, reading, and writing. Intermediate ESOL should emphasize reading and writing integrated with the ongoing idioms, language for specific purposes, and grammatical structure with reading and writing instruction integrated with listening and speaking.

*Explanation:* The 1997 Legislature passed new legislation, SB-1688, that significantly impacts the way adult education and vocational programs measure performance, e.g. job placement. The new legislation provides for multiple exit points called occupational completion points (vocational education) where adults and literacy completion points (adult education) where adults may exit to employment and/or higher education. Prior methods only counted program completers (graduates) for the purpose of calculating job placement rates. As a result, 1998-99 data will be the first year using the new legislative methods (counting placements regardless of an adult completing the full program) to calculate job placement rates. Areas of instruction, based upon the students' needs are: primary language support/ESOL literacy, ESOL survival/life coping skills, ESOL pre-GED skills, workplace ESOL, vocational English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), and amnesty/citizenship. *Data source:* Florida Department of Education, Division of Workforce Development, Tallahassee, FL.



### 3.10.5 General Education Development (GED)

**Measurement:** This course is designed for the student to prepare to pass the GED Test by receiving instruction in writing, social studies, science, literature, and mathematics. This course is not designed for earning high school credit. Instruction is offered in general education subjects. This offering is designed to accommodate the needs of students instructed in more than one high school subject area. Students will meet the performance standards of each individual subject taken this course.

**Explanation:** Students attain a level of educational accomplishment that meets their educational goal to successfully complete the course of study for the General Educational Development (GED) Test for a high school diploma.

**Data source:** Florida Department of Education, Division of Workforce Development, Tallahassee, FL.

### 3.10.6 Adults with disabilities

**Measurement:** Adults with Disabilities Workforce Development is a mainstreamed or specialized educational training program, service, or accommodation, designed to move through a progression of courses leading to competitive employment in the workforce for those adult students who, as defined by section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, have a mental or physical impairment which substantially limits one or more of such person's major life activities, has a record of such an impairment. Adults with disability means an individual who has (1) a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more life activities; (2) a record of such impairment; or (3) is regarded as having such an impairment; and who requires modifications to the educational program(s), adaptive

equipment, or specialized instructional methods and services.

**Explanation:** The 1997 Legislature passed new legislation, SB-1688, that significantly impacts the way adult education and adult vocational programs measure performance, e.g. job placement. The new legislation provides for multiple exit points called occupational completion points (vocational education) where adults may exit to employment and/or higher education. Prior methods only counted program completers (graduates) for the purpose of calculating job placement rates. As a result, 1998-99 will be the first year using the new legislative methods (counting placements regardless of an adult completing the full program) to calculate job placement rates. Progress is evidence of improvement consisting of any of the following indicators:

- Movement, through completion of program standards, from one Adults with Disabilities Workforce Development level to a higher level
- Movement from any Workforce Development Level to paid employment
- Promotion/salary raise on the job while enrolled in the Adults with Disabilities program
- Longevity on the job while enrolled in the Adults with Disabilities program
- Movement from any workforce Development level to ABE, GED Prep, Voc./Tech. Program and Post Secondary
- Attainment of GED or Adult High School Diploma, or Voc./Tech Certificate/Diploma/Degree

Increase in standardized test scores or other performance indicators as designated on entrance/exit criteria.

**Employment** means any type of paid work, including:

- Work Activity Training Center

- Supported employment
- Competitive employment

**Work Activity Training Center** is a work oriented rehabilitation agency that uses work experience and related services to assist individuals with disabilities in progressing toward independent living and a productive vocational status.

**Supported Employment** is paid work in a community setting accompanied by support and training from professionals. Employees may be paid according to their productivity. **Competitive Employment** is a job in an integrated work setting that pays at least the prevailing minimum wage.

**Data source:** Florida Department of Education, Division of Workforce Education, Tallahassee, FL.

### 3.10.7 Family Literacy

**Measurement:** Family literacy is an innovative approach to bringing about fundamental changes in families who live in poverty and hopelessness. When undereducated parents learn, along with their children, the result addresses many of the most serious problems presently facing schools and communities:

- Children coming to school unprepared to learn;
- Adults who lack the skills which would prepare them to support their children's learning and/or seek employment;
- Feelings of alienation from schools and learning which often results in students dropping out of school and perhaps society as well.

**Explanation:** The 1997 Legislature passed new legislation, SB-1688, that significantly impacts the way adult education and adult vocational programs measure performance, e.g. job placement. The new legislation provides for multiple exit points called occupational completion points (vocational education) where





adults may exit to employment and/or higher education. Prior methods only counted program completers (graduates) for the purpose of calculating job placement rates. As a result, 1998-99 data will be the first year using these new legislative methods to calculate job placement rates.

The PACE model was developed by the National Center for Family Literacy and has been evaluated by Philliber Research Associates. Although family literacy is a young concept, Philliber Research Associates has found this model to be effective in breaking down the barriers of under-education and the resulting poverty. The *Power of Literacy* is a publication documenting the effectiveness of this model. Locally, program data has been summarized in a report demonstrating success. Benchmarks include:

- Adults learn more in family literacy programs than in adult focused programs;
- Family literacy programs reduce dropouts;
- Participants who stay longer continue to learn;
- Children in family literacy programs learn more than children in child-focused programs learn;
- Parents express greater support for children's education.

*Data source:* Broward County Public Schools, Vocational, Adult and Community Education Department.

### 3.11 Graduates Entering the Workforce

#### 3.11.1 Employment and education after graduation

#### 3.11.2 Placement in jobs related to field of training

**Measurement:** Employment and continuation of education after graduation is measured by matching graduates with student enrollments in postsecondary schools and with quarterly Unemployment Compensation reports submitted by public and private sector employers to the Florida Department of Labor and Employment Security. Graduates are considered working if they are employed in part-time or full-time jobs during the October-December quarter of the year following graduation. Graduates are considered continuing their education if they are enrolled part-time or full-time in a community college or state university in Florida during the fall semester the year after graduation. Post-secondary adult vocational program graduates refer to students who completed vocational training in a local school district's adult education program or in a community college's vocational certificate program. Students earning Associate of Science (AS) or Associate of Arts (AA) degrees at community colleges are in a separate category. Percentages are recorded under the year of graduation. For example, employment and continuation of education for students graduating in 1997-98 are recorded under the year 1998. Percentages reflect only those graduates who could be identified as enrolled at educational institutions in Florida or working for Florida employers, the military or the federal government. Educational institutions in Florida include state universities, community colleges, post-secondary adult education programs and accredited private colleges and universities. The percentage unaccounted for may be unemployed, deceased, working for out-of-state employers, or going to school at an institution outside Florida.

**Explanation:** Employment and the pursuit of further education are both successful outcomes

for graduates of the educational system. Continuation of education is especially important for high school graduates, who otherwise will have difficulty advancing beyond low-wage jobs. For the purpose of this question, graduates are considered those students who complete vocational job preparatory programs and/or students who have attained sufficient competencies to be documented with such marketable skills (leavers). Placement Rate by Statutory definition includes students found in related employment, continuing postsecondary education or in the military.

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

### 3.12 Job Training

#### 3.12.1 Job placement for job training graduates

#### 3.12.2 Completion of job training

#### 3.12.3 Job training and placement

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





excluded (see endnote 3.12.1 below). Percentages are recorded under the year of program completion. This measurement is for all Vocational Job Preparatory graduates not just JTPA students.

**Explanation:** The 1997 Legislature passed new legislation, SB-1688, that significantly impacts the way adult vocational programs measure performance, e.g. job placement. The new legislation provides for multiple exit points called occupational completion points (vocational education) where adults may exit to employment and/or higher education. Prior methods only counted program completers (graduates) for the purpose of calculating job placement rates. As a result, 1998-99 data will be the first year using the new legislative methods (counting placements regardless of an adult completing the full program) to calculate job placement rates.

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

### 3.13 Public Satisfaction

#### 3.13.1 Public satisfaction with workforce preparation

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

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

**Broward data source:** *Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 and 1999 PRC Community Health Surveys, Broward County, Florida*, Professional Research Consultants Inc., Omaha, Nebraska.

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

### 3.14 Wages of Graduates

#### 3.14.1 Recent graduates of the educational system

**Measurement:** The annual average starting wage of graduates is measured using the system described in 3.10.1 above. Because wages are reported on a quarterly basis, the average annual wage is estimated by multiplying the average quarterly wage for October-December by four (4). Wages for part-time workers, identified by their low earnings, are excluded from the calculation. Detailed information is provided for community college graduates because of the variation in starting wages among different certificate and degree programs. Wages are expressed in nominal dollars, which are not adjusted for inflation. Wages are provided for Florida graduates only; similar data for Broward County will be included in a future edition of *The Broward Benchmarks*.

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

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

### 3.15 Parental and Community Involvement

#### 3.15.1 Volunteers in Broward County Public Schools

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

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

**Data source:** Broward County Public Schools.

#### 3.15.2 Partnerships in Broward County Public Schools

**Measurement:** The mission of Partners in Education (PIE) is to create and develop partnerships between Broward County Public Schools and businesses, government agencies, and community organizations to influence the success of teaching and learning for our students and to facilitate business and school communications. Founded in 1983 by the Junior League of Greater Fort Lauderdale, the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce and the School Board of Broward County, PIE is



an independent, community-based charitable organization. The Superintendent of Schools established the Partnerships Department as part of the School System in 1994. The department serves as a liaison to various not-for-profit agencies that interact with the schools.

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

**Data source:** Broward County Public Schools, Partnership Department.

### 3.15.3 Parental involvement (Customer Survey - Parents)

**Measurement:** Each year, 33% of the parents of the K-12 students attending Broward County Public Schools are surveyed on issues relating to educational quality and safety. The instrument is administered through the mail and all responses are confidential.

**Explanation:** It is vital to identify parents perspectives on educational quality and safety. School improvement activities address key issues and concerns identified by parents.

**Data source:** Broward County Public Schools, Department of Research and Evaluation.

### 3.15.4 School perception of parental involvement (Customer Survey - Teachers)

**Measurement:** All full-time classroom/subject teachers are surveyed yearly in Broward schools. Participation is voluntary and the survey responses remain anonymous. The survey instrument was developed by Broward County Public Schools to solicit teacher perspectives on teaching processes, instructional programs, support, communication, and safety. A similar survey is administered to students and parents in the district.

**Explanation:** Teacher perspectives are crucial to improving educational quality in the district. Progress toward district-wide goals can be monitored, and areas of concern can be identified.

**Data source:** Broward County Public Schools, Department of Research and Evaluation.

### 3.15.5 Employer involvement

**Measurement:** *Youth Mentoring Program* - A mentoring program established in 1990 for the purpose of helping at-risk students stay in school. The program matches adult mentors with at-risk students and is funded by the Federal Safe and Drug Free Schools Grant. Services include mentor recruitment and training, staff training, and program monitoring at schools and centers.

*Junior Achievement (JA)* - the oldest economic education program in the world (started in 1919). It is a nonprofit organization that operates in more than 3,300 communities in the United States and over 80 foreign countries. Each year, over 2,000,000 elementary, middle and high school students learn about their economic world through JA programs. Junior Achievement's purpose is to educate and inspire young people to value free enterprise, understand business and economics, and be workforce ready. It facilitates a partnership between business and education; the school district provides the access, the business community provides the financial support and volunteers.

*Scholarships* - The *Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program* rewards our state's highest achieving and hardest working graduates. The requirements are duplicated and students are eligible for one or more scholarships. The *Broward Advisors for Continuing Education (BRACE) Scholarship* fund awards scholarships to Broward County Public School graduates

each year. There are seven scholarship categories and all are based on financial need. The BRACE Scholarship Fund is supported by the Broward Education Foundation, Inc. Community organizations and businesses make donations during annual fundraising campaigns, and Broward School employees make voluntary contributions through a program entitled Education First.

**Explanation:** Mentoring and scholarships help deserving and financially needy students afford to attend post-secondary schools while providing curricular and emotional help. Junior Achievement provides students the opportunity to learn real life economic lessons in the classroom, while gaining an appreciation for the relationship between school and the real world.

**Data sources:** Broward County Public Schools, Junior Achievement; BRACE.

### 3.15.6 Work-based learning

**Measurement:** Students gain practical experience through work-based activities which include (1) actual work experience (paid or unpaid), (2) structured job training, (3) workplace mentoring, (4) instruction in workplace competencies, and (5) instruction in all aspects of an industry. Teacher internships provide teachers with six weeks of on-the-job training in business/industry.

**Explanation:** Opening the world of work is important to students. It introduces students not only to a certain career, but it presents students the opportunity to make future business contacts, and gives them an idea of what routes are open for them after high school. For a student, being able to have someone in the area of their professional interest mentor and teach him or her is an experience they will never forget.

**Data source:** Broward County Public Schools.



### 3.15.7 School Advisory Councils (SAC)

**Measurement:** Florida Statute requires that each school have a School Advisory Council (SAC) with membership requirements mandated by Florida Statutes and the School Board of Broward County. The membership of each SAC is approved annually by the School Board and the Superintendent must approve any changes during the year. The composition of the SAC consists of the principal, balanced number of teachers, Broward Teachers Union (BTU) building steward, educational support employees, students (middle schools and high schools must have student members), parents, and business and community representatives. A majority of SAC members may not be employees of that school. All meetings of the SAC are open, advertised and subject to the Sunshine Law. Minutes must be kept, maintained, and posted for public review. Copies of the minutes and attendance are sent to the Area Superintendents. An electronic method of recording attendance is being explored and will be piloted in the 2000-2001 school year.

**Explanation:** Parent and community involvement is an integral part of the school improvement process.

**Data source:** Broward County Public Schools.

## 3.16 Cost per Student

### 3.16.1 Total expenditure per student

### 3.16.2 Flow of dollars to the classroom

**Measurement:** The total education expenditure per student is defined as (a) all federal, state and local dollars spent on education costs divided by (b) the number of public school students enrolled in grades preK-12. This number may

differ from other expenditure per student figures because it does not include public education dollars spent on adults for literacy, job preparation and GED programs. Flow of dollars to the classroom is the percentage of dollars allocated to school districts that are spent on direct costs. Direct costs include teacher salaries and benefits, classroom materials and supplies, textbooks, periodicals, audiovisual materials, and capital outlay for desks, furniture and other equipment or services used in the classroom. Excluded are indirect costs for administration, facilities, operations and maintenance and fiscal services. Local school district expenditures are recorded in Financial and Program Cost Accounting and Reporting for Florida Schools; state-level expenditures on education are recorded in the State Automated Management Accounting Subsystem (SAMAS). Expenditure per student is expressed in nominal dollars, which are not adjusted for inflation.

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

**Broward data source:** Broward County Public Schools.

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

## 3.17 Class Size

### 3.17.1 Class size grades K-3

**Measurement:** Class size is the number of students in a classroom for a given grade as of fall of the academic year. The percentage of K-3 classrooms with 20 or fewer students, 21-25 students, 26-29 students and 30 or more students is (1) the number of K-3 classrooms with the number of students in a given range, divided by (2) the total number of K-3 classrooms, multiplied by (3) 100. The Florida Department of Education prepared initial data on class size from information submitted by school districts to the Automated Student Information Data Base. School districts reviewed and refined the data to confirm student counts for individual classes, to establish whether and how teacher aides were assigned to actual classes, and to ensure that the data applied only to regular, self-contained elementary classes.

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

**Data sources:** Florida Department of Education, Education Information and Accountability Services, March 1997; Broward County Public Schools.

### 3.17.2 Average class size

**Measurement:** There is a great deal of confusion and lack of agreement in trying to determine an appropriate class size or even in determining what is really meant by class size. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SAC) is an accrediting body that serves as a guide for Broward County Public Schools standards. School board policy relating to class size was modeled on SAC standards but provided allowable exceptions if they were



based on educational, safety, or budgetary needs. Various scheduling options affect the high school averages.

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

**Data source:** Florida Department of Education, Education Information and Accountability Services, March 1997.

### 3.18 Capacity to Meet Enrollment Needs

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#### 3.18.1 Teachers (Grades K-3)

**Measurement:** The number of teachers needed is the total number of excess students divided by 20, rounded to the nearest whole. The total number of excess students is the total number of students in a given grade who are being taught in K-3 classrooms, over and above 20 per teacher. Data are not available at this time. The average cost of a teacher's salary includes the cost of all benefits.

**Explanation:** Smaller class sizes allow teachers to give students more individual attention.

**Data source:** Broward County Public Schools.

#### 3.18.2 Overenrolled schools

**Measurement:** Overenrolled schools are those with total student enrollment in grades K-12 greater than the building capacity to accommodate students in grades K-12.

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

**Data source:** Broward County Public Schools.

#### 3.18.3 Facilities capacity

**Measurement:** Building capacity is defined as the number of student stations needed for grades K-12. New interpretation of 17A

legislation redefined the use of physical education space and related classrooms contiguous to and designed for vocational labs. These spaces no longer carry capacity resulting in the loss of overall student stations at the middle, high, and vocational levels.

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

**Data source:** Broward County Public Schools.

#### 3.18.4 Capital needs

**Measurement:** Capital needs are defined as the number and cost of additional workstations to meet K-12 enrollment needs.

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

**Data source:** Broward County Public Schools.

### 3.19 Student Attendance

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#### 3.19.1 Student attendance

**Measurement:** The percentage of students absent from school 21 or more school days is (a) the number of enrolled students under age 16 who are absent 21 or more school days divided by (b) the total number of students under age 16 enrolled in public schools. The measure is limited to students of compulsory school age who are legally required to attend school regularly. Excused as well as unexcused absences are counted.

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

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

#### 3.19.2 Average daily attendance

**Measurement:** The sum of days present for all students during the 180 day school year divided by the total number of days present and absent for all students during the 180 day school year multiplied by 100.

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

**Data source:** Broward County Public Schools.

#### 3.19.3 Truancy

**Measurement:** Truancy is defined as 15 or more unexcused absences during a semester. Rates will be reported by grade level.

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

**Data source:** Broward County Public Schools.

### 3.20 Suspensions and Expulsions

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#### 3.20.1 Suspensions

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

Administrators in local school districts report suspensions. For the purposes of this indicator, data are presented for public school students in grades 6-12 only. The percentage of students suspended is calculated as (1) the unduplicated count of students in grades 6-12 who were suspended, divided by (2) the total number of



students in grades 6-12 multiplied by 100. (Note: Florida DOE calculates suspensions on an unduplicated count; Broward County uses a duplicated count.)

**Explanation:** Suspensions indicate behavior that disrupts learning.

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

### 3.20.2 Expulsions

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

**Explanation:** Expulsions indicate behavior that disrupts learning.

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

## 3.21 Crime on School Grounds

### 3.21.1 Critical incidents

**Measurement:** Critical incidents include any incident that results in serious personal injury, property damage, property theft, or any other serious incident that is reported to law

enforcement or other emergency service for the purpose of further investigation and action.

**Explanation:** The School Board of Broward County believes that a safe and secure environment is requisite for teaching and learning.

**Data source:** Broward County Public Schools.

### 3.21.2 Violence

**Measurement:** Violent critical incidents include battery, fighting and threat/intimidation. The Florida Department of Education (DOE) defines battery as an actual and intentional touching or striking of another person against his or her will or intentionally causing bodily harm to an individual. When one individual physically attacks or beats up on another individual. Includes an attack with a weapon that causes serious bodily harm to the victim. This category also includes the actual placement of a bomb or one sent through the mail, regardless of whether the bomb blows up or not. Fighting is defined by the DOE as mutual participation in a fight involving physical violence, where there is not one main offender and no major injury. Does not include verbal confrontation, tussles or other minor confrontations. Threat/intimidation is the act of unlawfully placing another person in fear of bodily harm through verbal threats without displaying a weapon or subjecting the person to actual physical attack.

**Explanation:** The School Board of Broward County believes that a safe and secure environment is requisite for teaching and learning.

**Data source:** Broward County Public Schools.

### 3.21.3 Drugs and alcohol

**Measurement:** The category of drugs and alcohol includes the unlawful use, cultivation, manufacture, distribution, sale, purchase,

possession, transportation or importation of any controlled drug or substance, or equipment and devices used for preparing or taking drugs or narcotics. Includes being under the influence of drugs at school-sponsored events or on school-sponsored transportation or substances represented as drugs. Category includes over-the-counter medications if abused by the student. Category does not include tobacco.

**Explanation:** The School Board of Broward County believes that a safe and secure environment is requisite for teaching and learning.

**Data source:** Broward County Public Schools.

## 3.22 Teacher Profile

### 3.22.1 Diversity of instructional personnel

**Measurement:** The racial/ethnic group to which the teacher belongs or with which the teacher identifies:

- *Asian or Pacific Islander:* A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Pacific Islands, or the Indian subcontinent.
- *Black Non-Hispanic:* A person having origins in any of the Black racial groups in Africa.
- *Hispanic:* A person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or South or Central American origin or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race.
- *American Indian or Alaskan Native:* A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North America, and who maintains cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition.
- *White Non-Hispanic:* A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, North Africa, or the Middle East.





**Explanation:** The school district is committed to providing Broward's diverse, multicultural student population with equal access to a quality education delivered by a staff that is reflective of that diversity.

**Data source:** Broward County Public Schools.

### **3.22.2 Teacher absences**

**Measurement:** Teacher absences are reported by adding the total number of days absent for the school year in each of the leave types divided by the number of teachers to find the average days absent. Whole and half days are counted and include absences accrued during the 180 student contact days only.

**Explanation:** Teacher attendance directly correlates with student achievement.

**Data source:** Broward County Public Schools.

### **3.22.3 Degree level of instructional staff**

**Measurement:** The degree level of instructional staff includes the percentage of teachers with a bachelor's degree, a master's degree, a doctorate's degree or a specialist's degree. Data are compiled by school type.

**Explanation:** Teacher knowledge is critical to school improvement and school reform.

**Data source:** Broward County Public Schools.

### **3.22.4 Professional development**

**Measurement:** Percentage of classroom teachers annually engaged in professional development courses in their area of expertise or teaching discipline.

**Explanation:** Teacher knowledge is critical to school improvement and school reform.

**Data source:** Broward County Public Schools.



## 4.1 Births to Teenagers

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### 4.1.1 Percentage of babies born to teenage mothers

**Measurement:** The percentage of babies born to teenage mothers is (1) the number of births to teenagers ages 15-19, divided by (2) the total number of live births in Broward County, multiplied by (3) 100. Over time, this percentage tells us whether a growing percentage of babies are being born to teenage mothers.

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

**Data source:** Florida Department of Health, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Data Analysis, Tallahassee, FL, available online at [www.doh.state.fl.us/Planning\\_eval/phstats/](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Planning_eval/phstats/)

### 4.1.2 Teen birthrate

**Measurement:** Births to teenagers are counted as babies born to mothers ages 15-19. The mother's age is self-reported on the child's birth certificate. The teen birth rate is the number of births to teenagers ages 15-19 for every 1,000 teenage girls ages 15-19 in Broward County. Over time, this rate indicates whether the number of teenage girls having babies is increasing or decreasing, taking population growth into account.

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

**Data source:** Florida Department of Health, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Data

Analysis, Tallahassee, FL, available online at [www.doh.state.fl.us/Planning\\_eval/phstats/](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Planning_eval/phstats/)

### 4.1.3 Repeat births to teenagers

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

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

**Data source:** Florida Department of Health, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Data Analysis, Tallahassee, FL, available online at [www.doh.state.fl.us/Planning\\_eval/phstats/](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Planning_eval/phstats/)

## 4.2 Low Birth Weight

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### 4.2.1 Low birth weight babies

**Measurement:** Low birth weight babies weigh less than 2,500 grams or 5 lbs. 9 oz. at birth, regardless of whether they are born full-term or prematurely. The baby's weight is recorded by hospital staff on the birth certificate. Births include only live births; still births are excluded. Separate percentages are given for whites, non-whites, and all newborns regardless of race. For example, the percentage of non-white babies

born with a low birth weight is calculated by dividing the number of low birth weight babies born to non-whites, by the total number of non-white births, multiplied by 100. Information on specific racial or ethnic groups is not available.

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

**Data source:** Florida Department of Health, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Data Analysis, Tallahassee, FL, available online at [www.doh.state.fl.us/Planning\\_eval/phstats/](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Planning_eval/phstats/)

## 4.3 Infant Mortality

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### 4.3.1 Infants dying in the first year of life

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

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

**Data source:** Florida Department of Health, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Data



Analysis, Tallahassee, FL, available online at [www.doh.state.fl.us/Planning\\_eval/phstats/](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Planning_eval/phstats/)

#### 4.4 AIDS and drug-afflicted babies

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##### 4.4.1 Babies with HIV Disease

**Measurement:** Babies with HIV Disease is counted as the number of reported cases in children <5 years of age. A baby has Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) if he or she tests positive for the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and has another condition or disease, such as pneumonia. Babies diagnosed with AIDS within the first year of life usually get the disease from an HIV-infected mother during pregnancy, at the time of birth, or by breastfeeding. Babies born to HIV-infected mothers do not necessarily become HIV-infected themselves. However, those that do will die during childhood.

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

**Data source:** Florida Department of Health, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Data Analysis, Tallahassee, FL, available online at [www.doh.state.fl.us/Planning\\_eval/phstats/](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Planning_eval/phstats/)

##### 4.4.2 Drug-afflicted babies

##### 4.4.3 Annualized % of live births

**Measurement:** The term "drug-exposed babies" or "substance-exposed newborns" refers to children who have physical, mental or behavioral abnormalities that may result from the mother's drug use during pregnancy or from conditions in the home (e.g., poor parenting or poor nutrition) that are related to the parents' drug use. Some possible effects of drug exposure are premature births, fetal death, low birth weight, respiratory problems,

hemorrhages, birth defects, and language and learning problems. If exposed to opiates (e.g., heroin) during pregnancy, a baby may experience withdrawal symptoms, such as tremors, vomiting and sweats. In 1993, the following drugs, listed in descending order, accounted for 96% of cases reported in Florida: alcohol, cocaine, marijuana, barbiturates and heroin. The annualized percent of live births is the number of drug-afflicted babies born each year divided by the total number of babies born. **Explanation:** Drug and alcohol use during pregnancy can lead to death, disabilities, learning difficulties and other irreversible conditions in children.

**Data source:** Florida Department of Health, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Data Analysis, Tallahassee, FL, available online at [www.doh.state.fl.us/Planning\\_eval/phstats/](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Planning_eval/phstats/)

#### 4.5 Infant Screening

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##### 4.5.1 Prenatal screening

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

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

**Data source:** Florida Department of Health, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Data Analysis, Tallahassee, FL, available online at [www.doh.state.fl.us/Planning\\_eval/phstats/](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Planning_eval/phstats/)

##### 4.5.2 Infant screening after birth

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

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

**Data source:** Florida Department of Health, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Data Analysis, Tallahassee, FL, available online at [www.doh.state.fl.us/Planning\\_eval/phstats/](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Planning_eval/phstats/)

#### 4.6 Adult Health

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##### 4.6.1 General health

##### 4.6.2 Days of poor physical health

##### 4.6.3 Daily living



**Measurement:** People's perception of their own health status is measured by telephone survey of a statistically valid sample of 2,400 Broward County residents age 18 and older. Specifically, the survey asks, the following three questions: (1) Would you say that in general your health is excellent, very good, good, fair or poor, (2)

Now, thinking about your physical health, which includes physical illness and injury, for how many days during the past 30 days was your physical health not good? and (3)

During the past 30 days, for about how many days did poor physical or mental health keep you from doing your usual activities, such as self-care, work, or recreation?

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

**Broward data sources:** *Community Health Assessment: 1994 Behavioral Risk Factor Study, Broward County, Florida; Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida; and 1999 PRC Quality of Life Assessment: Broward County, Florida, Professional Research Consultants, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska.*

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

## 4.7 Health Insurance

### 4.7.1 Uninsured

### 4.7.2 Race of uninsured

**Measurement:** In Broward County, the percentage of people without health insurance is measured by telephone survey of a statistically valid sample of 2,400 county residents age 18 and older. Specifically, the survey asks Do you have any kind of health

care coverage including health insurance, prepaid plans such as HMO s (Health Maintenance Organizations) or government plans such as Medicaid? Florida data are also collected by telephone survey of a statistically valid sample of Floridians.

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

**Broward data sources:** *Community Health Assessment: 1994 Behavioral Risk Factor Study, Broward County, Florida; Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida; and 1999 PRC Quality of Life Assessment: Broward County, Florida, Professional Research Consultants, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska.*

**Florida data source:** Florida Agency for Health Care Administration, Tallahassee, FL.

### 4.7.3 Affordability of health care

**Measurement:** Affordability of health care is measured by telephone survey of a statistically valid sample of 2,400 Broward County residents age 18 and older. Specifically the survey asks,

In the past year has there ever been a time when you needed to see a doctor but could not because of the cost? Possible responses are yes or no.

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

**Broward data sources:** *Community Health Assessment: 1994 Behavioral Risk Factor Study, Broward County, Florida; Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida; and 1999 PRC Quality of Life Assessment: Broward County, Florida, Professional Research Consultants, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska.*

### 4.7.4 Primary care center service

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

## 4.8 Health Care Satisfaction

### 4.8.1 Consumer satisfaction

**Measurement:** Satisfaction with medical care is measured by telephone survey of a statistically valid sample of 2,400 Broward County residents age 18 and older. Specifically, the survey asks,

Overall, how satisfied are you with the health care you currently receive? The choices are very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, or not at all satisfied?

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

**Broward data sources:** *Community Health Assessment: 1994 Behavioral Risk Factor Study, Broward County, Florida; Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida; and 1999 PRC Quality of Life Assessment: Broward County, Florida, Professional Research Consultants, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska.*

### 4.8.2 Public primary care system

**Measurement:** Satisfaction with medical care is measured by telephone survey of a statistically valid sample of 2,400 Broward County residents age 18 and older. Specifically, the survey asks,

Overall, how satisfied are you with the primary care services you currently receive

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

**Broward data sources:** *Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey,*



*Broward County, Florida; and 1999 PRC Quality of Life Assessment: Broward County, Florida, Professional Research Consultants, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska.*

## 4.9 Deaths

### 4.9.1 Death rate

### 4.9.2 Major causes of death

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

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

**Data source:** Florida Department of Health, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Data Analysis, Tallahassee, FL, available online at [www.doh.state.fl.us/Planning\\_eval/phstats/](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Planning_eval/phstats/)

## 4.10 Communicable Diseases

### 4.10.1 Primary communicable diseases

**Measurement:** Vaccine-preventable, sexually transmitted, intestinal and animal-transmitted disease categories encompass over 50 communicable diseases reported by

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

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

**Data source:** Florida Department of Health, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Data Analysis, Tallahassee, FL, available online at [www.doh.state.fl.us/Planning\\_eval/phstats/](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Planning_eval/phstats/)

## 4.11 Suicide

### 4.11.1 Suicide

### 4.11.2 Suicide by age group

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

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

**Data source:** Florida Department of Health, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Data Analysis, Tallahassee, FL, available online at [www.doh.state.fl.us/Planning\\_eval/phstats/](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Planning_eval/phstats/)

## 4.12 Mental Health

### 4.12.1 Mental health of adults

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

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

**Broward data sources:** *Community Health Assessment: 1994 Behavioral Risk Factor Study, Broward County, Florida; Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida; and 1999 PRC Quality of Life Assessment: Broward County, Florida, Professional Research Consultants, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska.*

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

### 4.12.2 Mental health days

**Measurement:** Average number of days individuals with mental illness spend in the community on an annual basis. Statewide this is measured through the Department of Children and Families for services paid with state funds (Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health





and/or Medicaid). The contracted provider reports this information on admission, every three (3) months, and at discharge. The data is maintained in the state's data warehouse. The measure is an average. The numerator is the sum of average number of days out of thirty each client spends in the community determined at the time of post-admission assessments during the fiscal year. The denominator is an unduplicated count of the total number of clients for whom the average has been recorded. This is converted to an annual average by multiplying by 12.1667.

**Explanation:** This is an indicator of the person's ability to function in the community or in a least restrictive setting. It is an objective count of the number of days spent in the community (not in crisis stabilization unit, short-term residential treatment unit, state treatment facility, inpatient unit, jail, homeless, Department of Juvenile Justice commitment program). The reliability of this measure is dependent on the provider's compliance with data reporting. Providers are required by contract to report performance data including client outcomes. The Department will monitor the extent to which providers comply with these contractual requirements.

**Data source:** Florida Department of Children and Families, Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Data Warehouse (ADMDW).

#### 4.13 Immunizations

##### 4.13.1 Immunizations

**Measurement:** A two-year-old is adequately immunized if he or she has received the required vaccines for the following diseases: diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, polio, Hepatitis B, measles, mumps, rubella and HIB

(a major cause of meningitis). The percentage of children who have completed these immunizations is determined from a statistically valid sample of children's medical records.

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

**Data source:** Bureau of Immunizations, Division of Disease Control.

#### 4.14 Physical Fitness

##### 4.14.1 Physical exercise

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

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

**Broward data sources:** *Community Health Assessment: 1994 Behavioral Risk Factor Study, Broward County, Florida; Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida; and 1999 PRC Quality of Life Assessment: Broward County, Florida,*

Professional Research Consultants, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska.

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

##### 4.14.2 Obesity

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

**Explanation:** Obesity increases the risk of serious and chronic health problems such as heart disease, high blood pressure, knee and low back pain, diabetes, and certain cancers.

**Broward data sources:** *Community Health Assessment: 1994 Behavioral Risk Factor Study, Broward County, Florida; Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida; and 1999 PRC Quality of Life Assessment: Broward County, Florida,* Professional Research Consultants, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska.

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

#### 4.15 Alcohol and Drug Use

##### 4.15.1 Binge drinkers

**Measurement:** Adult alcohol use is measured by telephone survey of a statistically valid sample of 2,400 Broward County residents age 18 and older. Specifically, the survey asks (1) keep in mind that a drink is 1 can or bottle of beer, 1 glass of wine, 1 can or bottle of wine cooler, 1 cocktail, or 1 shot of liquor. During the



past month, on how many days did you drink any alcoholic beverages, such as beer, wine, wine coolers or liquor? (2) On the days when you drank, about how many drinks did you drink? and (3) Considering all types of alcoholic beverages how many times during the past month did you have 5 or more drinks on an occasion? Questions (1) and (2) measure chronic drinking. Question (3) measures binge drinking.

**Explanation:** Alcohol and drug use can lead to health, family, crime, and employment problems.

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

#### 4.15.2 Youth alcohol use

#### 4.15.3 Age of first alcohol use

#### 4.15.4 Youth marijuana use

#### 4.15.5 Age of first marijuana use

**Measurement:** Youth drug use is obtained from biennial Youth Risk Behavioral Surveillance surveys conducted among a sample of Broward high school children in grades 9 through 12. Current drug use is defined as having used alcohol or marijuana on one or more occasions in the 30 days preceding the study. Drug use before the age of 13 is determined by those students who select a response of a) 8 years old or younger; b) 9 or 10 years old; or c) 11 or 12 years old to the question: how old were you when you tried (specific drug) for the first time. Note that the state numbers are unweighted (due to a small sample size) and should not be used for comparison.

**Explanation:** Alcohol and drug use can lead to health, family, crime, and employment problems. The younger a person starts using drugs, the greater the chance of serious drug problems and addiction in later life. In most

instances, drug use among youth begins with either alcohol or marijuana. The prevention or delaying of first use of drugs by youth prevents serious drug problems from occurring in adulthood.

**Data source:** U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance* (1995, 1997, 1999), available online at [www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dash/yrbs/](http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dash/yrbs/)

#### 4.15.6 Use of illegal drugs

**Measurement:** Illegal drug use is assessed through quarterly surveys and drug screens of persons booked into the Broward County Jail for criminal offenses. The testing is conducted under the Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring (ADAM) program of the National Institute of Justice.

**Explanation:** Alcohol and drug use can lead to health, family, crime, and employment problems. The younger a person starts using drugs, the greater the chance of serious drug problems and addiction in later life. In most instances, drug use among youth begins with either alcohol or marijuana. The prevention or delaying of first use of drugs by youth prevents serious drug problems from occurring in adulthood.

**Broward data sources:** *1999 Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring (ADAM) Annual Report*, Broward County, Florida.

### 4.16 Cigarette Smoking

#### 4.16.1(a) Youth smoking

**Measurement:** Information about youth smoking is obtained from the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance, United States. The survey employs a sample of students in grades

9 through 12, in public and private schools in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The 1995 survey included state and local school-based surveys in the states and in 12 cities. One of the cities in the sample was Fort Lauderdale; the CDC reports that the weighted data from most of the cities can be generalized to all public-school students in the jurisdiction. Specifically, the item reported relates to the percentage of students who reported that they were current cigarette smokers, defined as having used cigarettes on one or more of the 30 days preceding the survey. Note that the state numbers are unweighted (due to a small sample size) and should not be used for comparison.

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

**Data source:** U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance* (1995, 1997, 1999), available online at [www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dash/yrbs/](http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dash/yrbs/)

#### 4.16.1(b) Adult smoking

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

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

**Broward data sources:** *Community Health Assessment: 1994 Behavioral Risk Factor Study, Broward County, Florida*; *Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida*; and *1999 PRC Quality of Life Assessment: Broward County, Florida*, Professional Research Consultants, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska.



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

## 4.17 Check-ups / Preventive Health

### 4.17.1 Medical check-ups

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

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

**Broward data sources:** *Community Health Assessment: 1994 Behavioral Risk Factor Study, Broward County, Florida; Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida; and 1999 PRC Quality of Life Assessment: Broward County, Florida, Professional Research Consultants, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska.*

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

### 4.17.2 Mammograms

**Measurement:** Women over age 50 are questioned by telephone survey about how long it has been since their last mammogram and clinical breast exam. Specifically, the survey asks, Have you ever had a mammogram? and, How long has it been since you had your last mammogram? The

survey also asks, A clinical breast is when a doctor, nurse, or other health professional feels the breast for lumps. Have you ever had a clinical breast exam? and How long has it been since you had your last breast exam? Possible responses are within the past year, within the past 2 years, within the past 3 years, within the past 5 years, 5 or more years ago, don't know/not sure, or refused to answer.

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

**Broward data sources:** *Community Health Assessment: 1994 Behavioral Risk Factor Study, Broward County, Florida; Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida; and 1999 PRC Quality of Life Assessment: Broward County, Florida, Professional Research Consultants, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska*

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

### 4.17.3 Dental check-ups

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

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

**Explanation:** Access to dental care is the most reliable indicator of the population's dental

health when information on actual dental health is not available.

**Broward data sources:** *Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida; and 1999 PRC Quality of Life Assessment: Broward County, Florida, Professional Research Consultants, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska.*



## 5.1 New Jobs Created

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### 5.1.1 Net annual job growth rate

### 5.1.2 Broward County's ranking in net job growth rate

**Measurement:** The net annual job growth rate is (1) the average number of jobs this year minus (2) the average number of jobs last year divided by (3) the average number of jobs last year, multiplied by (4) 100. For the ranking in job growth, Broward County's growth rate is compared to six other similar counties in Florida (based on the size of their population). Data for both is drawn from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics, as reported by Florida's Labor Market Information System, and refer to the civilian labor force.

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

**Data source:** Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, available online at <http://lmi.floridajobs.org/laus/laus.htm>.

## 5.2 Unemployment

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### 5.2.1 Unemployment rate

**Measurement:** The unemployment rate is the number of unemployed people age 16 and older divided by the number of people in the civilian labor force. Broward County's unemployment rate as a percentage of the Florida (or U.S.) employment rate is (1) the county's unemployment rate divided by (2) the state (or national) unemployment rate, multiplied by (3) 100. If this percentage is above 100%, Broward County is doing worse than Florida (or the nation). If it is less than 100%, Broward County is doing better than Florida (or the nation). The

number of unemployed people is estimated from the Current Population Survey, a household survey of the civilian, non-institutional population conducted by the U.S. Bureau of the Census for the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. People are counted as unemployed if they (1) have not worked during the survey week, (2) are available for work, and (3) have looked for work during the preceding four weeks.

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

**Data source:** Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, available online at <http://lmi.floridajobs.org/laus/laus.htm>.

## 5.3 Teenage Unemployment

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### 5.3.1 Teenage unemployment rate

**Measurement:** Teenage unemployment data in Broward County is extracted from the sample data collected in the 1998 American Community Survey, a pilot program that is expected to replace the socioeconomic data collected in the decennial census with an annual survey. Florida data is derived from the Current Population Survey and the Local Area Unemployment Statistics program.

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

**Broward data source:** U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1998 American Community Survey CD-ROM (PUMS data tabulations).

**Florida data source:** U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Geographic Profile of Employment and Unemployment* (1997 to 1999). Available at [www.bls.gov/lauhome.htm](http://www.bls.gov/lauhome.htm).

## 5.4 Equal Employment Opportunity

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### 5.4.1 Job discrimination

**Measurement:** Complaints alleging employment discrimination based on race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, disability or marital status are investigated by the Federal Equal Opportunity Employment Commission. Resolved complaints are those substantiated by investigations and settled, either by arbitration or negotiation, referral to another agency for handling, or court action.

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

**Broward data source:** Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Miami, FL District Office, (305) 536-4491.

**Florida data source:** U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, (202) 663-4900.

## 5.5 Personal Income

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### 5.5.1 Average personal income

### 5.5.2 Broward County's ranking in average personal income

**Measurement:** Average personal income is the total personal income of Broward County residents divided by the county population. Broward County's average personal income as a percentage of the Florida (or U.S.) average personal income is (1) the county's average personal income divided by (2) the state (or national) average personal income, multiplied by (3) 100. If this percentage is above 100%, Broward County is doing better than Florida (or the nation). If it is less than 100%, Broward County is doing worse than Florida (or the





nation). Total personal income is estimated annually by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce, from the best available data sources on wages and salaries, interest, dividends, rental income, public pensions, health benefits, transfer payments (e.g., public assistance, Medicare/Medicaid), farm income, and other income sources.

Average personal income excludes private pensions and therefore will be underestimated in areas such as Florida and Broward County where there are a large number of retirees.

Also, income estimates do not correct for regional differences in the cost of living.

Average personal income is expressed in nominal dollars, which are not adjusted for inflation. Broward County's ranking in personal income shows how the county compares in average personal income to the other 66 counties in Florida.

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

**Data source:** U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, *Regional Economic Information System (REIS), 1969-98* (CD-ROM, June, 2000). This data is available online at <http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/reis/county.html>

### 5.5.3 Growth in personal income adjusted for inflation

**Measurement:** Inflation-adjusted means that average personal income for each year is expressed in terms of constant-value dollars, as corrected by the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U). Annual growth in average personal income adjusted for inflation is calculated as (1) the average inflation-adjusted personal income for a given year minus (2) the average inflation-adjusted personal income for the previous year, divided by (3) the average inflation-adjusted personal income for the previous year, multiplied by 100.

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

**Data source:** U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, *Regional Economic Information System (REIS), 1969-98* (CD-ROM, June, 2000). This data is available online at <http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/reis/county.html>

### 5.5.4 Average personal income by race

**Measurement:** Per capita personal income by race/ethnicity is obtained from the decennial Census and from the annual American Community Survey in Broward County.

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

**Broward data sources:** US Bureau of the Census, *1990 Census of Population and Housing* (STF3A Tables P114A, P115A and P116A) and *1998 American Community Survey CD-ROM* (PUMS data tabulations).

**Florida data source:** U.S. Bureau of the Census, *1990 Census of Population and Housing* (STF3A Tables P114A, P115A and P116A).

## 5.6 Perception of Financial Situation

### 5.6.1 How people perceive their financial situation

**Measurement:** People's perception of their financial situation is a self-reported measure of economic well-being obtained by telephone survey of a statistically valid sample of 2,400 Broward County and Florida residents age 18 and older. Specifically, the survey asks, "We are also interested in how people are getting along financially these days. Would you say that you (and your family living in this household) are better off or worse financially

than you were a year ago?" Possible responses are better off, same, worse off, don't know. The margin of error for the Broward County survey is  $\pm 2.2\%$ .

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

**Broward data source:** *Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida*; and *1999 PRC Quality of Life Assessment: Broward County, Florida*, Professional Research Consultants, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska.

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

## 5.7 Wages

### 5.7.1 Average wage

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





County is doing worse than Florida (or the nation).

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

**Data Source:** Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation, Employment and Wage Reports, <http://lmi.floridajobs.org/es202/es202.htm>.

### 5.7.2 Growth in average wage adjusted for inflation

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

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

**Data source:** Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation, Employment and Wage Reports, <http://lmi.floridajobs.org/es202/es202.htm>.

### 5.7.3 Average wage by industry

**Measurement:** Wages are defined as pre-tax income from wages and salaries earned by people in the workforce in full or part-time jobs. Employer-paid benefits, such as health insurance and pension plans, are excluded. The average annual wage by industry is computed as (1) total wages reported to the Florida

Unemployment Compensation Program by Broward County employers in a given industry, divided by (2) the average monthly number of employees working in that industry during the week of the 12th. The industry of employers is identified by their 1987 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code. The average annual wage for each industry is expressed in nominal dollars, which are not adjusted for inflation.

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

**Data source:** Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation, Employment and Wage Reports, <http://lmi.floridajobs.org/es202/es202.htm>.

## 5.8 Wage Distribution

### 5.8.1 Wage distribution

**Measurement:** The wage distribution is a frequency distribution showing the proportion of all full and part-time workers earning annual wages ranging from the lowest to the highest. Data are provided for Florida only; information is currently unavailable by county.

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

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

## 5.9 Output of Goods and Services

### 5.9.1 Growth in output

**Measurement:** Although estimates of the Gross Domestic Product and Gross State Product are prepared annually, no similar estimates of output are available at the county level. As a

result, Total Earnings by Place of Work are used as an alternative measure, based on the Regional Economic Information System at the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

**Explanation:** The value of goods and services produced in each location is a general measure of economic activity. The value of labor and proprietor incomes generated in each location is a significant part of the overall value of economic output.

**Data source:** U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, *Regional Economic Information System, 1969-98* (CD-ROM, June, 2000). This data is available online at <http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/reis/county.html>

## 5.10 Major Industries

### 5.10.1 Jobs by major industry

### 5.10.2 Government jobs

### 5.10.3 Change in jobs by major industry

**Measurement:** The number of jobs in a given industry is calculated by averaging the number of public and private sector jobs reported quarterly by employers to the Unemployment Compensation program. Both full and part-time jobs are counted. Jobs are classified into nine major industries based on the employer's primary line of business, identified by the first digit of the employer's 1987 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code. Public employers include federal, state and local government. For each industry, the percentage change in employment is (1) the number of jobs during the current year minus the number of jobs the previous year, divided by (2) the number of jobs the previous year, and multiplied by (3) 100. A positive number indicates growth in the number of jobs for a particular industry; a negative number indicates a decline.



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

**Data source:** Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation, Employment and Wage Reports, <http://lmi.floridajobs.org/es202/es202.htm>.

## 5.11 Tourism

### 5.11.1 Tourist arrivals and expenditures

**Measurement:** The number of yearly tourist arrivals to and expenditures in Greater Fort Lauderdale.

**Explanation:** Due to South Florida's weather, beaches, and other attractions, tourists are an important source of revenue for Broward County.

**Broward data source:** Broward County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Fort Lauderdale, FL (Kelly Tortarello, 765-4661).

**Florida data source:** Visit Florida, Tallahassee, FL (Robin Phillips, (850) 488-5607).

## 5.12 Defense Industry

### 5.12.1 Defense spending

**Measurement:** The dollars spent by the Department of Defense (DOD) in Florida include payroll outlays to active duty military, civilians working for the military, reservists and members of the National Guard and retired military living in Florida. Prime defense contract dollars are for those that are \$25,000 or more and include supply, research and development, service, construction and civil function contracts. Subcontractor information is not available. Military is defined as U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force.

Defense spending is expressed in nominal dollars, which are not adjusted for inflation.

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

**Data source:** U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Consolidated Federal Funds Report* (annual). Both detailed data and publications are available at [www.census.gov/govs/www/cffr.html](http://www.census.gov/govs/www/cffr.html)

## 5.13 Business Starts

### 5.13.1 Business starts

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

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

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

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

## 5.14 Business Failures

### 5.14.1 Business failures

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



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

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

## 5.15 Business Ownership

### 5.15.1 Minority-owned businesses

#### 5.15.2 Women-owned businesses

**Measurement:** Nationally, business ownership is measured by the Survey of Minority and Women-Owned Businesses conducted every 5 years as part of the U.S. Economic Census. Included in the survey are all sole proprietorships, partnerships, and corporations with fewer than 35 shareholders filing tax returns with the Internal Revenue Service. Race and gender are measured based on survey responses and information obtained from Social Security Administration records. Information is available separately for women and for minority racial/ethnic groupings, including Black; Hispanic; and Asian and Pacific Islander, American Indian and Alaskan Native.

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

**Data source:** U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1992 *Economic Censuses: Women-Owned Business Enterprises and Minority-Owned Business Enterprises*. Data and publications are available at <http://www.census.gov/csd/mwb/>. Data from the 1997 Economic Censuses is expected in early 2001.

## 5.16 Construction Activity

### 5.16.1 Housing starts

#### 5.16.2 Dollar value of new construction

**Measurement:** A housing start is defined as the start-up of construction of single or multi-family housing units, excluding mobile homes. The dollar value of residential construction is the total value of winning contract bids for the construction of new single-family and multi-family housing permitted in a given year.

Construction value is expressed in nominal dollars, which are not adjusted for inflation.

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

**Data source:** University of Florida, Bureau of Economic and Business Research, *Florida Statistical Abstract* (annual, Tables 11.05 and 11.15).

## 5.17 International Trade

### 5.17.1 Imports and exports shipped through Broward

**Measurement:** The dollar value of U.S. exports and imports shipped through Broward County.

**Explanation:** A comparison of this data versus other ports can determine performance and revenue of services.

**Data source:** Vice President of the Florida Ports Council, Tallahassee, Florida, (850) 222-8028.

### 5.17.2 Merchandise exports

**Measurement:** State and metropolitan area export values are taken from the US Bureau of the Census's Exporter Location (EL) series, which allocates exports to states and localities based on the location of the exporter of record. The exporter of record is the party principally responsible for effecting export from the United

States, and is not necessarily the entity that produced the merchandise.

**Explanation:** Considering Broward County's growing connection to the global economy, growth in the volume and dollar value of exports is a strong indicator of economic performance for the local economy.

**Data source:** U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration, *Metropolitan Area Exports*, available at [www.ita.doc.gov/TSFrameset.html](http://www.ita.doc.gov/TSFrameset.html).

## 5.18 Private Capital Investment

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

## 5.19 Public Capital Investment

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

## 5.20 Retirement

### 5.20.1 Pension coverage

**Measurement:** For statewide information on the number of employees participating and vested in employer-sponsored pension plans, the GAP Commission requested a special analysis of data from the Employee Benefits Supplement to the April 1993 Current Population Survey, conducted by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. This survey is administered to a national sample of wage and salary workers, excluding the self-employed and enlisted military personnel. An employer pension plan is a 401(k), annuity, profit sharing or other type of retirement plan



sponsored by an employer. Social Security and personal retirement plans, such as Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs), are excluded. Employees are participating in an employer pension plan if they and/or their employer are making contributions to a retirement plan sponsored by their employer. Employees are vested in an employer pension plan if they have had sufficient time with a current or previous employer to receive benefits upon retirement. Results are statistically valid for Florida's wage and salary employees. Similar information may be provided for Broward County in the next edition of *The Broward Benchmarks*.

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

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

#### 5.20.2 Retirement income and assets

**Measurement:** For statewide information on retiree income and net worth, the GAP Commission requested a special analysis of Florida data from *Asset and Health Dynamics Among the Oldest Old (AHEAD)*, a survey sponsored by the National Institute on Aging. Statistically valid data on Florida residents age 70 and older was possible because of the oversample of Florida households. This survey provides up-to-date information on changes in the health and financial status of older-age households. Household income and net worth are calculated based on answers to multiple questions related to the household's financial situation. A median household income of \$16,010 means that 50% of households with residents age 70 and older have an annual income below \$16,010. Likewise, a median net worth of \$71,325 means that 50% of these households have a net worth below \$71,325.

The survey excludes people living in institutions. Income and net worth are expressed in nominal dollars, which are not adjusted for inflation.

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

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



## 6.1 Air Quality

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### 6.1.1 State of the Air Quality

**Measurement:** This benchmark indicates the percentage of monitored days when the air quality is rated "good" based on the highest pollutant concentration of that day. *Effective in 1999, the measurement of the ozone concentration has changed. As a result, the Air Quality Index reported for 1999 is not comparable to the AQI reported for the previous years.*

**Explanation:** Poor air quality affects public health, especially children and the elderly. The EPA has established National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone, particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide and lead to ensure adequate public health and environmental protection. A national Air Quality Index was also developed to reflect air quality on any given day. Broward County provides the Air Quality Index information to the public daily.

**Data source:** Broward County Department of Planning and Environmental Protection (DPEP), Air Quality Division (available on an annual basis), Daniel Banu.

### 6.1.2 Fleet of Alternative Fuel Vehicles

**Measurement:** The number of vehicles used by federal, municipal and local government that operate on alternative fuels including compressed and liquefied natural gas, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), electricity and others.

**Explanation:** Vehicular traffic is a major source of air pollution in general. The incomplete combustion of gasoline in motor vehicles results in the emissions of hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides, which react in the presence of sunlight to produce ozone, the pollutant of main concern in the area. Ozone can cause respiratory distress to individuals with impaired

respiratory functions. The Energy Policy Act of 1992, established goals to reduce dependence on imported oil by requiring federal and state fleets to increase the percentage of their vehicles operating on alternative fuels. Energy diversification protects our energy security, enhances environmental protection, and promotes economic development.

**Data sources:** Broward County Public Works, Energy Management Section, Don Steigerwald; South Florida Regional Planning Council, Larry Merritt.

## 6.2 Groundwater Quality

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### 6.2.1 Quality of groundwater

**Measurement:** The cumulative percentage of petroleum-contaminated sites that had been cleaned up to state standards.

**Explanation:** One of the greatest threats to our drinking water supply is contamination from leaking underground petroleum storage tanks, especially where these sources are located within drinking water well field zones. The Biscayne Aquifer, Broward County's sole source of drinking water supplies, lies very close to the surface, making it extremely vulnerable to contamination from surface and near-surface pollution sources. Underground petroleum storage tanks are the most numerous of these sources.

**Data source:** Broward County DPEP, Pollution Prevention and Remediation Division, Lorenzo Fernandez.

## 6.3 Surface Water Quality

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### 6.3.1 Surface Water Quality, Fresh Water Streams

**Measurement:** This benchmark is calculated based on the data obtained from DPEP's surface water quality monitoring network along the fresh water portion of the C-13 canal (Middle River Canal, from 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue to Hiatus Road). This segment is presently represented by DPEP stations #12, 13 and 14. Improvements are measured against the 1995 baseline water quality index. The index is calculated using the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Florida Stream Water Quality Index (WQI) to rate the quality of fresh water systems. The WQI is based on the measurement of six water quality categories: water clarity, dissolved oxygen, oxygen demanding substances, bacteria, nutrients and biological diversity with each category potentially having more than one parameter. Raw data for the six categories are converted to index values from 0-99 and a percentile value is assigned based on Florida stream water quality data as reported in the *SE and South Florida District Water Quality Assessment 1996 305(b) Report*. The WQI is based on the five water chemistry parameters as biological diversity measurements are not available for Broward County surface waters.

**Explanation:** County and federal regulations and programs that are intended to positively impact surface water quality have been developed and improved since 1995. These regulations and programs include the redevelopment of areas constructed before the implementation of surface water management regulations, the 5-year renewal of surface water management licenses issued prior to 1989, and the Broward County National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Municipal





Separate Storm Sewer System Permit. The C-13 Canal basin was selected because the majority of the basin is located outside of independent drainage districts and is subject to DPEP regulations.

**Data source:** Broward County DPEP, Environmental Monitoring Division, George Riley.

### 6.3.2 Surface Water Quality, Marine Waters

**Measurement:** This benchmark is calculated based on the data obtained from DPEP's surface water quality monitoring network within the tidal portion of the C-13 and C-14 Canals (Pompano and Middle River Canals, east of Dixie Highway). This segment is currently represented by DPEP sites #5 and #10. Improvements are measured against the 1995 baseline water quality index. The index is calculated using the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Trophic State Index, to rate the quality of estuarine systems and based upon regression parameters in effect for the SE and South Florida District Water Quality Assessment 1996 305(b) Report. The Trophic State Index is based on measurements of chlorophyll and nutrients. Calculating an overall index value requires both nitrogen and phosphorus measurements.

**Explanation:** County and federal regulations and programs that are intended to positively impact surface water quality have been developed and improved since 1995. These regulations and programs include the redevelopment of areas constructed before the implementation of surface water management regulations, the 5-year renewal of surface water management and licenses issued prior to 1989, and the Broward County NPDES Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permit. The C-13 and C-14 Canal Basins were selected because the majority of the basin areas is located outside

of independent drainage districts and is subject to DPEP regulations.

**Data source:** Broward County DPEP, Environmental Monitoring Division, George Riley.

### 6.3.3 Quality of marine bathing water, from a bacteriological standpoint

**Measurement:** This benchmark tracks the percentage of beach water quality measurements rated as good, based upon weekly enterococci testing at 8 public beaches in Broward County.

**Explanation:** The Broward County Health Department, in conjunction with the Department of Community Affairs (Coastal Management Program) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has initiated (1998) a program to provide scientific information on the quality of coastal beach water to the public. Based on a statistically-sufficient number of samples, the geometric mean of the enterococci densities should not exceed 35 colonies/100ml. Monitoring of enterococci species bacteria is performed at eight locations along Broward's Atlantic coast. The density of enterococci species bacteria as an indicator group in seawater shows the best relationship to swimming-associated gastroenteritis.

**Data sources:** Broward County Health Department and Florida Department of Health, Howard Rosen.

## 6.4 Water Use

### 6.4.1 Water consumption

**Measurement:** The conservation and efficient use of water resources by the citizens of Broward County.

**Explanation:** Per capita usage, the average amount of potable water each person in Broward County uses on a given day, is calculated based on the amount of water provided by the utilities and owner-operated potable water wells divided by the population of the County. Uses of that water include public water supply, irrigation, domestic and commercial self-supply, recreational use, and agriculture. The per capita use value in 1990 is relatively high compared to the 1995 value because a greater amount of Broward County land was used for agriculture with greater irrigation needs.

**Data sources:** <sup>1</sup>South Florida Water Management District-wide Water Supply Assessment, July 1998; <sup>2</sup>South Florida Water Management District-wide Water Management Plan, Volume II, April 1995.

### 6.4.2 Water use restrictions

**Measurement:** Water-use restrictions are imposed by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) during drought conditions when water levels in the regional system or groundwater levels monitored locally fall below a target level. The measure is calculated by dividing the number of months when water restrictions were imposed (even for a single day) by 60 months (5 year period). SFWMD predicts that without enhancements in our current water management system, Service Area 1 (North Broward and Lower Palm Beach County) and Service Area 2 (Central and Southern Broward County) will experience increasing shortages from 15% and 16% of the



time in 1990 to 37% and 29% in 2010 respectively<sup>1</sup>. Three major water resources planning efforts are currently underway to reduce water use restrictions by increasing storage capabilities and improving the efficiency of water management. The three plans are: Everglades Restoration (Restudy) - a state and federal partnership; the Lower East Coast Regional Water Supply Plan (LEC); and the SFWMD and Broward Countywide Integrated Water Resources Plan (IWRP). As these planning efforts move forward, the number of days in water shortage should be maintained or reduced despite increasing demands on water resources with increasing population. The Restudy and LEC components alone are expected to reduce these shortages to 9% and 14%. The IWRP should further enhance these improvements. The number is based on the number of months over a 26-year model simulation resulting in water shortages of any type.

**Explanation:** This benchmark measures the ability of water managers in Broward County and South Florida's ability to effectively deal with drought conditions.

**Data source:** South Florida Water Management District; <sup>1</sup>South Florida Water Management District Lower East Coast Regional Water Supply Plan (Draft), March 1997.

## 6.5 Wildlife Habitat

### 6.5.1 Natural resource land in managed areas east of conservation area levees

**Measurement:** The number of acres of land in public ownership/protection where some degree of protection and management is offered to native plants and animals pursuant to an

approved and funded management plan for their natural resource values.

**Explanation:** Natural resource lands are important to the community as examples of Broward's ecological history and provide important habitat for local and migratory wildlife and indigenous plants. To maintain or regain their function and values these lands must be protected from development and the effects of invasive plants, over drainage and other deleterious effects.

**Data source:** Broward County DPEP, collection of data from management agencies, Heather Carman.

### 6.5.2 Total tree canopy coverage in Broward County, east of Conservation Areas

**Measurement:** To be defined.

**Explanation:** As part of the Broward County Commission's New Vision goal to protect the environment, the DPEP has embarked on a project to map the tree canopy in Broward into their Geographical Information Management System. This is being done to give local jurisdictions a tool for managing their urban forest. Trees reduce our energy bills, clean our air, keep pollution out of our waterways, save tax dollars for storm water drainage, recharge our drinking water supply, reduce noise pollution, support our multi-billion dollar tourist industry, support birds and wildlife and make our community more attractive, cohesive and livable.

**Data source:** Broward County DPEP, Sean McSweeney.

### 6.5.3 Conservation and recreation areas

**Measurement:** These measures track the conservation and recreational lands system in Broward County. Land tracked includes: Existing Protected Lands

Conservation and Passive Recreation Lands this category includes environmentally sensitive lands and predominantly passive recreational parks.

Active Recreational Lands includes predominantly active recreational facilities and parks.

Other Protected Lands include mitigation sites and other public or private lands predominantly managed for conservation.

East Coast Buffer lands acquired by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) within the East Coast Buffer program.

Unprotected (developable) Lands

Proposed Fee-Simple conservation lands and green space proposed for acquisition within the DPEP Land Acquisition Program.

Potential Open Space this category includes lands without any ecological value identified, with the sole purpose of providing open space in those areas of the County that lack an adequate amount of conservation lands and green space, with a potential for acquisition.

Potential Property Development Rights Agreement lands that appear to be characterized by a predominant agricultural use on aerial photographs, which could be considered for less than fee-simple acquisition. Potential Management Agreements include lands that already are owned by Broward County or by a city, are characterized by high ecological value and currently are not managed for conservation.

Listed East Coast Buffer lands listed in the SFWMD East Coast Buffer Acquisition Program.

**Explanation:** Natural resource lands are important to the community as examples of Broward's ecological history and provide important habitat for local and migratory wildlife and indigenous plants. To maintain or regain their function and values, these lands



must be protected from development and the effects of invasive plants, over-drainage and other deleterious effects.

*Data source:* Broward County DPEP, Biological Resources Division, Valaria Volin.

## 6.6 Threatened and Endangered Species

### 6.6.1 Manatee population

*Measurement:* Manatees are counted statewide in a synchronized or synoptic manner to get the most accurate population count possible. This is done following a major cold front, which concentrates the animals in warm water refuges.

<sup>1</sup>Through July 1999

<sup>2</sup>Highest Total from synoptic survey

*Explanation:* Manatees are an endangered species whose existence is threatened by a number of anthropomorphic activities including injuries or death from boat and ship impacts, water control structures, water pollution and habitat reduction as well as toxic algal blooms and other problems. Some of these problems are addressed through various means with the goal of increasing the manatee population to a point where it can be reclassified as threatened and eventually delisted in the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service "Multi-Species Recovery Plan for South Florida." The annual statewide count is important in identifying population trends. Likewise, County mortality data may be indicative of the population's health or the effectiveness of local manatee protection measures.

*Data sources:* Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Bureau of Protected Species and Florida Marine Research Institute.

### 6.6.2 Sea Turtle survey

*Measurement:* Broward County's 24 miles of beaches are surveyed daily during the sea turtle nesting season, March through October. The number of nests deposited and the location of each are recorded. Those nests that are in sites that are not amenable to successful emergence and entry of hatchling sea turtles into the surf are relocated to hatcheries.

*Explanation:* The Broward County Sea Turtle Conservation Program was originally instituted through specific requirements of dredge and fill permits issued to DPEP for beach renourishment projects. The goal of the program is to minimize the number of sea turtle nests that need to be relocated and maximize the survivability of nests that are left on the beach. The Conservation Program is conducted during non-renourishment years to allow for continuity of data collection and analysis. It is expected that the number of sea turtle nests that will be relocated in the year 2000 will be reduced as per the above table due to the enactment of a sea turtle lighting ordinance in the City of Pompano Beach. The ordinance will require beach lighting to be shaded from the beach or turned off during the nesting and hatching season. Compliance will allow additional nests to be left *in-situ*. The DPEP Biological Resources Division contracts with qualified firms to conduct the Sea Turtle Conservation Program. Part of the contractors scope of work requires that they provide DPEP Biological Resources Division with sea turtle nesting survey results which includes, but is not limited to the data in the above table.

*Data source:* Broward County DPEP Biological Resources Division, Louis Fisher.

## 6.7 Coastline

### 6.7.1 Beach adequacy

*Measurement:* These criteria provide a measure of the ability of Broward County's beaches to provide storm protection and recreational opportunities. Beach width, from which average width is derived, is measured from the shorefront reference monument (established by the State of Florida) to the zero foot elevation contour (NGVD), except where monuments are located landward of roads. Acreage is based on 24 miles of beachfront in Broward County. Critically-eroded beaches are those the width of which at high tide is deemed inadequate to provide storm wave damage protection and/or recreational opportunities. For the purposes of this survey, the threshold width is assumed to be 75 feet from road, seawall, or toe of critically-eroded beaches. Distances scaled from Countywide Survey profile plots.

*Explanation:* Broward's beaches serve two critical functions: storm wave protection for upland property, structures, infrastructure, and our recreational economic engine. Vital to the beaches' storm protective function is their width. Adequate beach width allows storm waves to break and dissipate energy harmlessly; however, in so protecting the upland, storm waves cause some net erosion of beach sand. Inasmuch as Broward County's beaches protect almost \$4 billion in upland structures and property, it is of vital importance to maintain a beach width adequate to protect against a moderate frequency storm event. Beach acreage is a useful measure because it indicates the amount of recreational space available to beach users. As a \$600 million annual contributor to Broward County's economy, the beaches are on the foundations of our tourist economy. Our beaches also provide critical nesting habitat for



several threatened and endangered species of sea turtles and adequate acreage is necessary for this purpose.

*Data source:* Broward County DPEP, Biological Resources Division, Steve Higgins.

## 6.8 Coral Reefs

### 6.8.1 Coral reef health

*Measurement:* Broward County initiated a coral reef community monitoring program involving the measurement of the relative abundance and diversity of stony corals and the abundance of octocorals and sponges at eighteen reef sites located throughout Broward's coastal waters.

*Explanation:* Coral reef communities and associated sea life of those communities are an important natural resource for recreation and the fishing and diving industries in Broward. The sound ecological condition of this resource community is a key indicator of the general condition of all the marine resources adjacent to the Broward coast. Stony coral abundance, diversity, and evenness are calculated values commonly used to characterize the relative health of coral reef communities. In general, a diversity index value ( $H'$ ) for stony corals is a way of comparing the relative abundance of each species of coral among different populations of corals or different reef sites. Evenness ( $J'$ ) is the calculated ratio value of  $H'$  divided by  $H'$  max and it increases value as the number of species increases and reaches its maximum value of one when the number of individuals of each species at a given site are the same. We don't expect to see substantial increases or decreases in index values over time and would hope for maintenance of existing values. Data collection on a yearly basis will continue beyond the year 2000. As yearly data

becomes available, comparison to previous years will allow detailed evaluation of trends in the ecological condition of the reef community

$C$  = stony coral live polyp coverage (%)

$N$  = numbers of individuals

$H'$  = diversity index

$J'$  = evenness ( $H'/H'$  max)

$H'$  max =  $1N/(\# \text{ of species})$

- 1)  $H'C$  = diversity of live coral polyp coverage
- 2)  $H'N$  = Diversity of numbers of individuals per species
- 3)  $J'C$  = Evenness in distribution of live coral polyp coverage
- 4)  $J'N$  = Evenness in distribution of numbers of individuals per species

*Data source:* Broward County DPEP, Biological Resources Division, Louis Fisher.

## 6.9 Energy Use

### 6.9.1 Energy consumption

#### a) Kilowatt-hours of total electricity consumption

*Measurement:* The total electric power consumed in Broward County annually, including residential and non-residential (kilowatt-hours)

*Explanation:* The production and consumption of electric energy is a significant source of air pollution. Generating electricity by burning oil and natural gas generates emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), nitrogen oxides ( $\text{NO}_x$ ) carbon monoxide (CO), sulfur dioxide ( $\text{SO}_2$ ) and carbon dioxide ( $\text{CO}_2$ ). VOC and  $\text{NO}_x$  are precursors for ozone, while  $\text{CO}_2$  is a greenhouse gas that increases the risk of climate change.  $\text{NO}_x$  and  $\text{SO}_2$  are also precursors for acid rain, which in turn contribute to poor air and water quality. Poor air quality affects

public health, especially children and the elderly.

*Data source:* Florida Power and Light Company, Lynn Shatas.

#### b) Kilowatt-hours of per capita power consumption

*Measurement:* The average annual energy usage per residential customer in kilowatt-hours per year.

*Explanation:* The production and consumption of electric energy is a significant source of air pollution. Generating electricity by burning oil and natural gas generates emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), nitrogen oxides ( $\text{NO}_x$ ) carbon monoxide (CO), sulfur dioxide ( $\text{SO}_2$ ) and carbon dioxide ( $\text{CO}_2$ ). VOC and  $\text{NO}_x$  are precursors for ozone, while  $\text{CO}_2$  is a greenhouse gas that increases the risk of climate change.  $\text{NO}_x$  and  $\text{SO}_2$  are also precursors for acid rain, which in turn contribute to poor air and water quality. Poor air quality affects public health, especially children and the elderly.

*Data source:* Florida Power and Light Company, Lynn Shatas.

## 6.10 Waste Management

### 6.10.1 Waste production

*Measurement:* Data provided to FDEP by Broward County Office of Integrated Waste Management (OIWM) and published by FDEP, Bureau of Solid and Hazardous Waste, Division of Waste Management, Table 5A of the Solid Waste Management in Florida Annual Report. The total tons per year reported in the table above is the gross tons per year including recycling tonnage, but less the tons per year of



combuster ash and recovered metal from the waste-to-energy plants.

**Explanation:** Largely because of Broward County's continued rapid population growth and the solid economy, the total amount of municipal solid waste (MSW) produced has increased, offsetting the gains made by recycling and limiting waste reduction efforts. The amount of MSW generated in calendar year 1998 was 8% more than that generated in 1995.

**Data sources:** Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Solid and Hazardous Waste, Division of Waste Management; Table 5A of the *Solid Waste Management in Florida Annual Report*; Broward County Office of Integrated Waste Management, Peter Foye.

#### **6.10.2 Waste disposal**

**Measurement:** The Broward County Office of Integrated Waste Management tracks the production and disposal of solid waste in Broward County and provides annual reports to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

**Explanation:** Tracking of the handling, management and disposal of solid waste helps measure waste reduction/pollution prevention programs and highlights efforts to maintain sufficient disposal options for future generations.

**Data sources:** Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Solid and Hazardous Waste, Division of Waste Management; Table 5A of the *Solid Waste Management in Florida Annual Report*; Broward County Office of Integrated Waste Management, Peter Foye.





## 7.1 Citizen Trust in Government

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### 7.1.1 Public trust in government

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

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

**Broward data sources:** *Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida;* and *1999 PRC Quality of Life Assessment: Broward County, Florida,* Professional Research Consultants, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska.

**Florida data source:** Florida State University, Survey Research Laboratory, *Florida Annual Policy Survey*, available online at [www.fsu.edu/~survey/FAPS/index.htm](http://www.fsu.edu/~survey/FAPS/index.htm)

### 7.1.2 Public rating of local government

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

**Explanation:** Higher ratings of government performance reflect public confidence that tax dollars are spent wisely with the intended results. As the public perception of government improves, people will be more likely to participate in representative government and to support government-funded services such as public education and transportation improvements.

**Broward data sources:** *Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida;* and *1999 PRC Quality of Life Assessment: Broward County, Florida,* Professional Research Consultants, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska.

**Florida data source:** Florida State University, Survey Research Laboratory, *Florida Annual Policy Survey*, available online at [www.fsu.edu/~survey/FAPS/index.htm](http://www.fsu.edu/~survey/FAPS/index.htm)

## 7.2 Public Satisfaction

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### 7.2.1 Public satisfaction with government services

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

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

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

## 7.3 Government Spending

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### 7.3.1 Taxes

### 7.3.2 Taxes relative to personal income

### 7.3.3 Ranking in local taxes

**Measurement:** State taxes include sales, excise, corporate income, intangible property, license and documentary stamp taxes. Lottery proceeds are excluded. Local taxes include ad valorem (property) taxes and local option taxes. Impact fees and charges for municipal services are excluded. Federal taxes include personal income, social insurance, corporate income, excise and estate taxes. Totals include all tax collections by each level of government. There are two accepted measures of tax burden, per capita taxes (7.3.1) and taxes as a percentage of personal income (7.3.2). Per capita taxes are calculated in each year by dividing tax collections by the population.

**Explanation:** Taxation and government spending are major concerns of the public. Floridians voiced that concern in 1994, when they voted in favor of a state constitutional amendment that limits the growth in state revenue to the growth in Floridians' personal income. These indicators show the growth in the tax burden in actual dollars as well as the growth relative to their personal income and the growth in other areas.

**Florida data source:** Florida Tax Watch, Inc., Tallahassee, FL, as reported in the Florida Commission of Government Accountability to the People's *Florida Benchmarks* (February 1998).



## 7.4 Waste In Government

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### 7.4.1 Public perception of government waste

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

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

**Broward data sources:** *Quality of Life Assessment: 1997 PRC Community Health Survey, Broward County, Florida;* and *1999 PRC Quality of Life Assessment: Broward County, Florida,* Professional Research Consultants, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska.

**Florida data source:** Florida State University, Survey Research Laboratory, *Florida Annual Policy Survey*, available online at [www.fsu.edu/~survey/FAPS/index.htm](http://www.fsu.edu/~survey/FAPS/index.htm)

## 7.5 Government Employment

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### 7.5.1 Size of government relative to size of the population

**Measurement:** The number of local government employees per 100 county residents is the (1) average number of full-time and part-time jobs reported by local government to the Florida Unemployment Compensation program (ES-202), divided by (2) the county population, multiplied by (3) 100. The number of government employees per 100 county residents is (1) the average number of full-time

and part-time jobs reported by federal, state and local government to the Florida Unemployment Compensation Program, divided by (2) the county population, multiplied by (3) 100.

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

**Data source:** Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation, Employment and Wage Reports, <http://lmi.floridajobs.org/es202/es202.htm>

### 7.5.2 Broward County's rank in size of local government

**Measurement:** Broward County's ranking among the 67 counties in the number of state government employees per 100 county residents (1st=highest number of local government employees per 100 county residents).

**Explanation:** Increasing government efficiency should enable Broward County to lower its rank among Florida's counties.

**Data source:** Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation, Employment and Wage Reports, <http://lmi.floridajobs.org/es202/es202.htm>.

## 7.6 Financial Management

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### 7.6.1 National ranking

**Measurement:** Since 1990, *Financial World* magazine has ranked the 50 states based on three major criteria: (1) Managing for Results, which assesses state efforts in evaluating the efficiency and effectiveness of its service delivery; (2) Financial Management, which assesses the state's ability to forecast revenues and expenditures, to wisely spend and invest and to practice generally accepted accounting procedures; and (3) Infrastructure Maintenance,

which assesses the quality of the state's long term capital planning and maintenance practices. Information is gathered from state budget offices, the National Governors Association, the National Association of State Budget Officers, the Council of State Governments, and other organizations.

**Explanation:** Well-managed organizations in the public or private sector use practices that ensure financial stability, efficiency and effectiveness.

**Florida data source:** *Financial World*, New York, NY.

### 7.6.2 Debt

**Measurement:** Debt is a measure of long-term liabilities. For Florida, it is the total amount of money, including principal and interest, owed by state government over the next five years. For Broward County it is the net general obligation bonded debt per capita. Expressing the debt as a per capita measure controls for growth in the population or tax base.

**Explanation:** Debt reflects government's continuing ability to meet its financial obligations. Debt also influences the cost of government through its indirect effect on borrowing costs.

**Broward data source:** Broward County Finance and Administrative Services Department, Accounting Division, *Comprehensive Annual Financial Report*, Fort Lauderdale, FL. This report is available at [www.broward.org/accounting.htm](http://www.broward.org/accounting.htm).

**Florida data source:** Florida Office of the Comptroller, *Schedule of Outstanding Bonds and Future Debt Service*.



### 7.6.3 Credit rating

**Measurement:** Bond ratings for all 50 states are determined annually by Standard & Poor's Corporation based on each state's economic base, financial management and long-term debt.

**Explanation:** The bond rating indicates the creditworthiness to individuals or institutions purchasing bonds and influences borrowing costs.

**Broward data source:** Broward County Office of Management and Budget, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

**Florida data source:** Standard & Poor's Ratings Group, Public Finance Department, New York, NY.

### 7.6.4 Rainy day funds

**Measurement:** By constitution and statute, the state is required to set aside revenue to respond to emergencies, such as hurricanes or tornadoes, and to continue the operation of state government in the event of a revenue shortfall.

**Explanation:** Rainy day funds are a financial cushion against events or situations that threaten the ability to meet financial obligations.

**Broward data source:** Broward County Office of Management and Budget, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

**Florida data source:** Executive Office of the Governor, Office of Planning and Budgeting, Revenue and Economic Analysis Unit, *General Revenue Fund Retrospect Statement*.

## 7.7 Use of Outcome Measures

### 7.7.1 Outcomes in strategic plans

**Measurement:** Outcomes are measures that indicate how people benefit from government programs and services. Agency strategic plans, updated annually, state how each agency expects to carry out its mission over the next five years. Objectives are reviewed and scored as an outcome or not an outcome.

**Explanation:** Government should be judged by the benefits it produces. If government is held accountable for outcomes, it can be motivated to respond with improved levels of service to citizens.

**Broward data source:** Broward County Office of Management and Budget, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

**Florida data source:** Executive Office of the Governor, Office of Planning and Budgeting.

### 7.7.2 Budget tied to performance measures

**Measurement:** Under the Government Performance and Accountability Act of 1994, state agencies are to be held accountable for achieving results with the dollars they receive for their services and programs.

**Explanation:** Holding agencies accountable for outcomes ensures that tax dollars are spent on services and programs that produce results.

**Broward data source:** Broward County Office of Management and Budget, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

**Florida data source:** Executive Office of the Governor, Office of Planning and Budgeting.

## 7.8 Achievement of Results

### 7.8.1 Achievement of results by local agencies

**Measurement:** Achievement of outcomes is determined by whether agencies meet or exceed the performance standards for major programs specified in their agency budgets.

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

**Broward data source:** Broward County Department of Human Services, *Partnerships 99: Contracted Services Report* (tabulated by Juliette Love).

**Florida data source:** Executive Office of the Governor, Office of Planning and Budgeting.

## 7.9 Presidential Elections

### 7.9.1 Voter registration in presidential election years

### 7.9.2 Registered voter turnout in presidential election years

### 7.9.3 Overall voter turnout in presidential election years

**Measurement:** The voting age population, as estimated by the Florida Consensus Estimating Conference, consists of all people age 18 and older regardless of whether they meet Florida voter registration requirements. Estimates are based on the April 1 population in each election year. Registered voters are people who (1) meet age, residency and citizenship requirements, (2) do not have a criminal history, and (3) do not claim the right to vote in another state. In Florida, citizens may register to vote by mail, at county election offices, during official voter registration drives, or at drivers license offices. Counts for each year are taken at the close of registration, just prior to each election. Voter



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

**Explanation:** Those who register to vote are likely to have a greater interest in their governance than those who do not. The turnout on election day indicates the level of interest citizens have in their governance.

**Data sources:** Florida Department of State, Division of Elections, *Official General Election Returns* (election years), as published in University of Florida, Bureau of Economic and Business Research, *Florida Statistical Abstract* (annual, Tables 21.25 Voting Age Population, 21.30 Registered Voters, and 21.31 Voter Turnout); some data is available online at <http://election.dos.state.fl.us/voterreg/>; some data was provided through personal communications from the Florida Department of State, Division of Elections and the Office of the Broward County Supervisor of Elections.

## 7.10 Non-Presidential Elections

### 7.10.1 Voter registration in non-presidential election years

### 7.10.2 Registered voter turnout in non-presidential election years

### 7.10.3 Overall voter turnout in non-presidential election years

**Measurement:** The voting age population, as estimated by the Florida Consensus Estimating

Conference, consists of all people age 18 and older regardless of whether they meet Florida voter registration requirements. Estimates are based on the April 1 population in each election year. Registered voters are people who (1) meet age, residency and citizenship requirements, (2) do not have a criminal history, and (3) do not claim the right to vote in another state. In Florida, citizens may register to vote by mail or at county elections offices, official voter registration drives, or drivers license offices. Counts for each year are taken at the close of registration, just prior to each election. In these indicators, turnout is reported only for non-presidential election years, which include the election of the governor and lieutenant governor, Florida cabinet members, one-half of the Florida Senate, all members of the Florida House of Representatives, U.S. House of Representatives, and a portion of the state's constitutional county officials. U.S. Senators are elected every six years.

**Explanation:** Those who register to vote are likely to have a greater interest in their governance than those who do not. The turnout on election day indicates the level of interest citizens have in their governance.

**Data sources:** Florida Department of State, Division of Elections, *Official General Election Returns* (election years), as published in University of Florida, Bureau of Economic and Business Research, *Florida Statistical Abstract* (annual, Tables 21.25 Voting Age Population, 21.30 Registered Voters, and 21.31 Voter Turnout); some data is available online at <http://election.dos.state.fl.us/voterreg/>; some data was provided through personal communications from the Florida Department of State, Division of Elections and the Office of the Broward County Supervisor of Elections.

## 7.11 Representation

### 7.11.1 Racial representation

### 7.11.2 Gender representation

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

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

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

