

METROPOLITAN PHILADELPHIA INDICATORS PROJECT

Temple University

This project makes available indicators that measure conditions and track changes in 353 communities across the greater Philadelphia region (defined as the central cities of Philadelphia and Camden plus the suburban counties of Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery in Pennsylvania, as well as Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, and Salem in New Jersey). That information is of two types:

- social, environmental, and economic indicators portraying the quality of life in local communities; and
- household surveys conducted by Temple's Institute for Survey Research which asks respondents across the region to evaluate the quality of life in their communities

For the purpose of reporting findings in its annual publication, *Where We Stand*, MPIP has classified the region's 353 municipalities into five community types, reflecting how population and housing characteristics differ among communities. Since the city of Philadelphia itself contains widely differing communities, we have subdivided Philadelphia into the dozen sub-sections used by the Philadelphia City Planning Commission as Planning Analysis Districts. Both maps and underlying data for the indicators may be found and downloaded from our web-site (www.temple.edu/mpip), which also makes available copies of the survey instruments we used to assess household opinions about conditions in communities.

Below we list the main indicators available at our website.

THE REGION'S COMMUNITIES

Population size
Population density per sq mi
Population change
Housing construction permits
Primary land use types

DIVERSITY

African American population in communities
Ratio of median household income: African American-to-White
Latino population in communities
Ratio of median household income: Latino-to-White
Asian population in communities
Ratio of median household income: Asian-to-White
Foreign Born population
Foreign Born persons with college degree
Concentrations of international students

FAMILY WELL BEING

Married couples with children
Family households without children
Single-Parent families with children
Births to teens aged 17 and under
Population aged 5 and under
Elderly population
Group housing for elderly
Perceptions of safety
Crimes per 100,000 population
Available human services

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Household income
Poverty levels
Males not in labor force
Persons receiving food stamps
Distribution of high-income households
Persons receiving TANF
Adults with higher education

HOUSING

Percent of housing owner-occupied
Communities with over 3% of housing stock built after 1990
Housing owned with no mortgage
Communities with over 25% of homes having new mortgages
Average value of mortgage
Average age of housing units
Income needed to buy median house
Home improvement loans for older houses
Sub-prime mortgages

TRANSPORTATION

Road & commuter network
Household access to automobiles
Percent of workers with Philadelphia workplace
Work/residence ratio
Location of retail clusters
Public transit versus auto use
Road miles per square mile

REGIONAL ECONOMY

Jobs by zip code
Manufacturing employment
Education & health care employment
Creative economy employment

Information & technology employment
Bio-tech employment
Travel & tourism employment

GOVERNMENT AND TAXES

Revenues available to local governments
Local government revenue as % of income
Public employees per 1000 population
Citizen satisfaction with public services
State/local taxes paid by “model” household
Taxes as motivation to move

EDUCATION

Spending per pupil
Student/teacher ratio in elementary schools
8th grade standardized test scores in reading, math
Standardized test scores related to family incomes
Student free lunch eligibility
Private school attendance
Average combined SAT scores

CIVIC PARTICIPATION

Voter turn-out in 2000 presidential & 2002 gubernatorial election
Voter registration by party and vote by candidate in 2004 presidential election
Citizen contact with loc officials
Discretionary income to charity
Location of community nonprofit organizations
Attitude survey / sense of community
Attitude survey / engage in community

ENVIRONMENT

Parks & protected land
Hazardous waste generation, storage & transport
Toxic chemical releases
Airborne risk levels -- RSEI
Communities with over 10% of land in floodplains
Percent of land area covered by impervious surface

ARTS AND CULTURE

Location of nonprofit culture & recreation
Location of the region’s theatre companies
Schools with certified art/music instruction (for PA only)
Attendance at art exhibits & performance
Willingness to support arts and culture with higher taxes
Employment in arts and culture organizations
Library circulation

HEALTH

Persons with a disability that limits employment
Persons with a disability that limits leaving home
Percent of babies with low birth weight
Locations of hospitals
Locations of ambulatory surgical centers
Federal health centers
Medically underserved areas
Health insurance
Concentrations of primary care physicians
Concentrations of specialist physicians
Perceptions of health

ATTITUDES ABOUT EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Concern about terrorism
Confidence in being prepared
Storing emergency supplies
Making emergency plans
Confidence in government efforts