

Appendix F

Hudson County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Performance Measures



**Prepared by the
Hudson County Division of Planning
December 2009**

Forward

As the most densely and diversely populated county in the State of New Jersey, Hudson County is a study of contrasts. It is an urban county in a mostly suburban state. Gleaming office towers of the new economy stand side-by-side with hundred-year-old warehouses and factories of a bygone era. Recently constructed million dollar townhouses and condominiums can be found on the same block as affordable housing, “railroad apartments,” and former “cold water flats.” A twenty-first century light rail system winds its way through a street grid originally laid out by the first Dutch colonists. New parks and open spaces are sprouting up from former industrial sites which sat vacant for years, but are now being cleaned up and reused for public benefit.

Hudson County has a rich history as a “gateway community” for generations of immigrants who passed through Ellis Island on their way to find the “American Dream.” Many others migrated from the Deep South and other parts of the United States seeking freedom and opportunity. Today, immigrants from every corner of the globe are still attracted to Hudson County, along with many young professionals and “empty nesters” that are now migrating from the suburbs. Despite recent economic turbulence many want to take advantage of the area’s finance and technology sectors; others are interested in small business opportunities or semi-skilled jobs. Most are attracted to the strong ethnic networks, vibrant cultural amenities, bustling social scenes, and the county’s close proximity to New York City.

Long before many other cities in the Garden State began benefiting from government strategies and market forces for urban revitalization, local officials, community leaders and developers in Hudson County were well underway to redeveloping the dilapidated waterfronts and rehabilitating blighted neighborhoods. From construction of the “gold coast” and expansion of ferry operations, to the decline of the manufacturing sector and the contraction of community hospitals, Hudson County has experienced a profound “sea change” over the last decade.

Now is a good time to pause and take stock of the trends which have affected Hudson County and its residents over the last decade. The Hudson County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy’s Performance Measures examines measurable benchmarks related to economic, social and environmental factors which affect Hudson County’s quality of life and community well being. The World Commission on Environment and Development (the Brundtland Commission), the U.S. President’s Council on Sustainable Development, and New Jersey’s Sustainable State Institute all encourage communities to examine indicators as benchmarks to affect future outcomes. In this instance, indicators may be used by local officials and residents to make more informed decisions about issues affecting their communities.

This report aggregates measurable data on a regional basis covering all twelve municipalities in Hudson County. The document looks at over two dozen factors which affect the local quality of life, including: housing and development data as well as crime, education, employment, health, parks, recycling, taxes and even voting. This report may be used to educate the general public in its day-to-day decision making as well as inform and guide local leaders in their official deliberations. Perhaps this endeavor may even lead to a more just, healthy, efficient and sustainable community for all of Hudson County. □

What is Sustainable Development?

Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

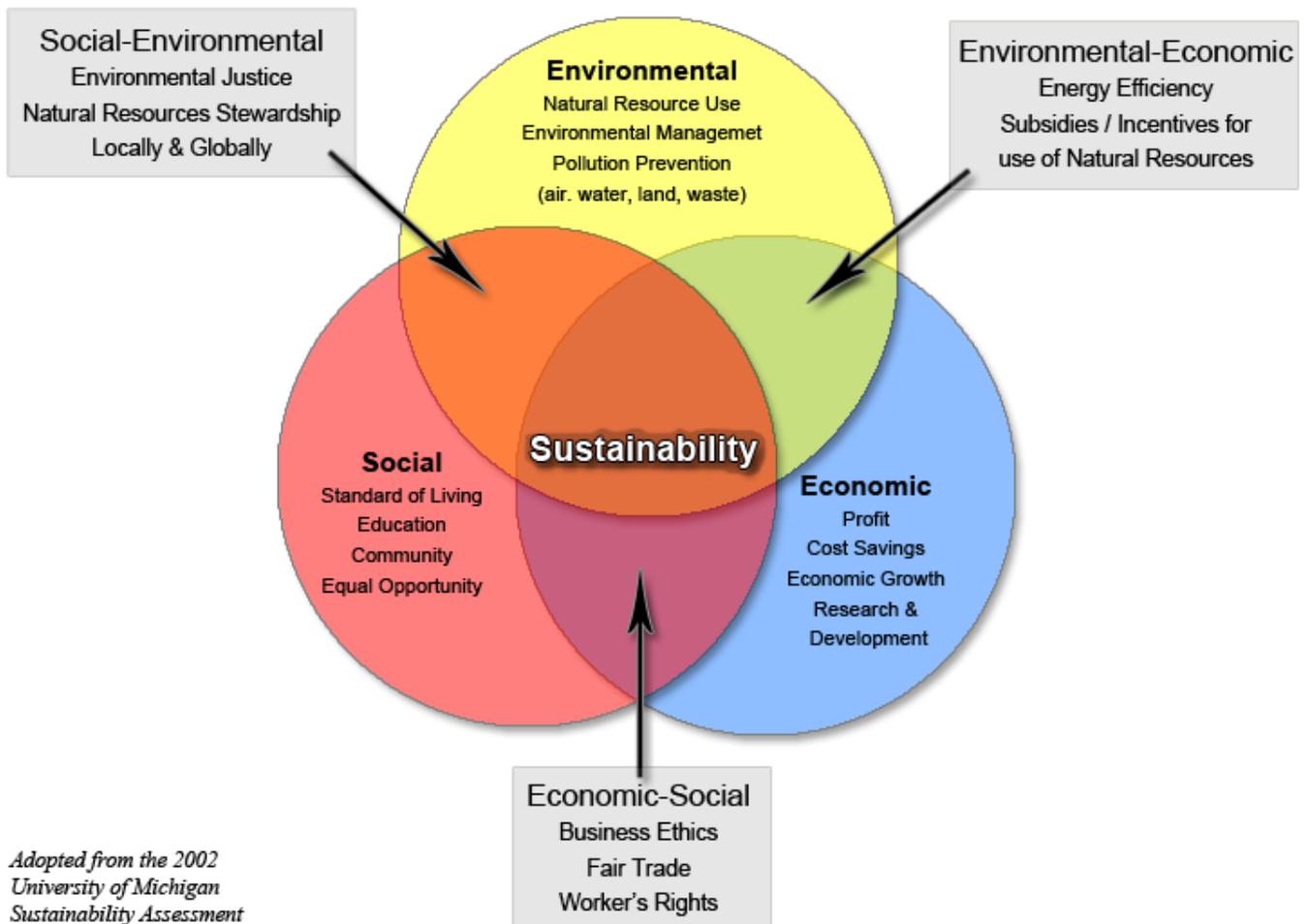
- The United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development

(The Brundtland Commission)



Source: N.J. Department of Environmental Protection (<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/dsr/sustainable-state/what-is.htm>)

The Three Spheres of Sustainability



Adopted from the 2002
University of Michigan
Sustainability Assessment

Source: <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/sustainvu/sustainability.php>

A. Hudson County Planning Board Applications

What is this?

In New Jersey, county planning boards have jurisdiction over development projects which affect county roads or drainage facilities. County planning boards have the right to review site plans and subdivisions for development projects, and approve those applications which comply with County Land Development Regulations.

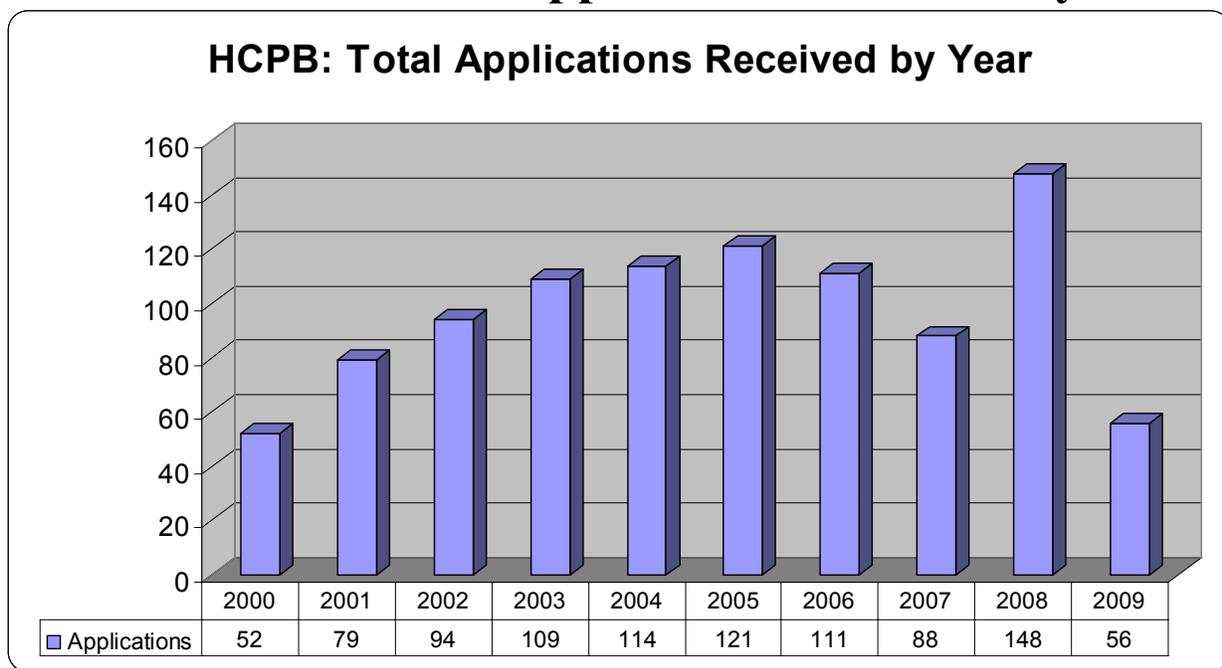
Why is this important?

While not all development projects need the approval of the county planning board, the application data provide a “snapshot” about development trends and the state of the local economy. General goals of the Hudson County CEDS Plan include: “Create a diversified economy;” “Provide a variety of housing types” and “Improve all aspects of the transportation system”.

How are we doing?

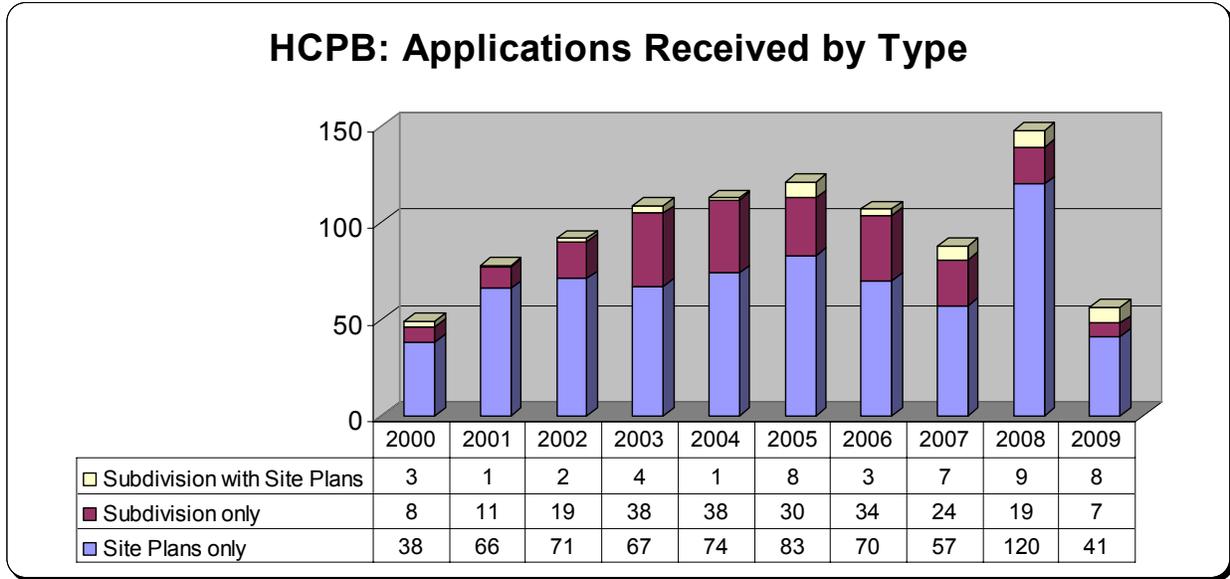
County Planning Board data suggest that Hudson County remains a strong and viable real estate market for housing and commercial development. However, while Hudson County has a relatively robust transit network, it is severely challenged by traffic congestion. In addition, recent development patterns have added significant amounts of impervious coverage. Impervious coverage often contributes to increased flooding, stormwater run-off, degraded water quality, non-point source pollution and the “urban heat island affect.” Hudson County must address future development trends through the implementation of traffic control measures and low-impact development strategies for stormwater run-off.

1. Total Number of Applications Received by HCPB



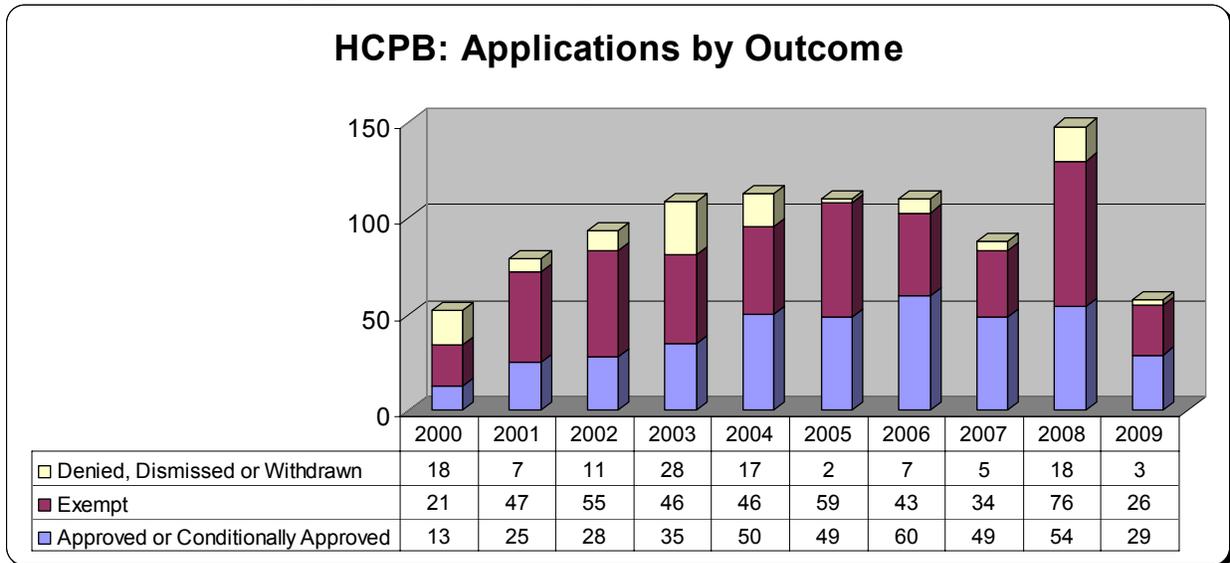
Source: Hudson County Division of Planning

2. HCPB: Applications by type



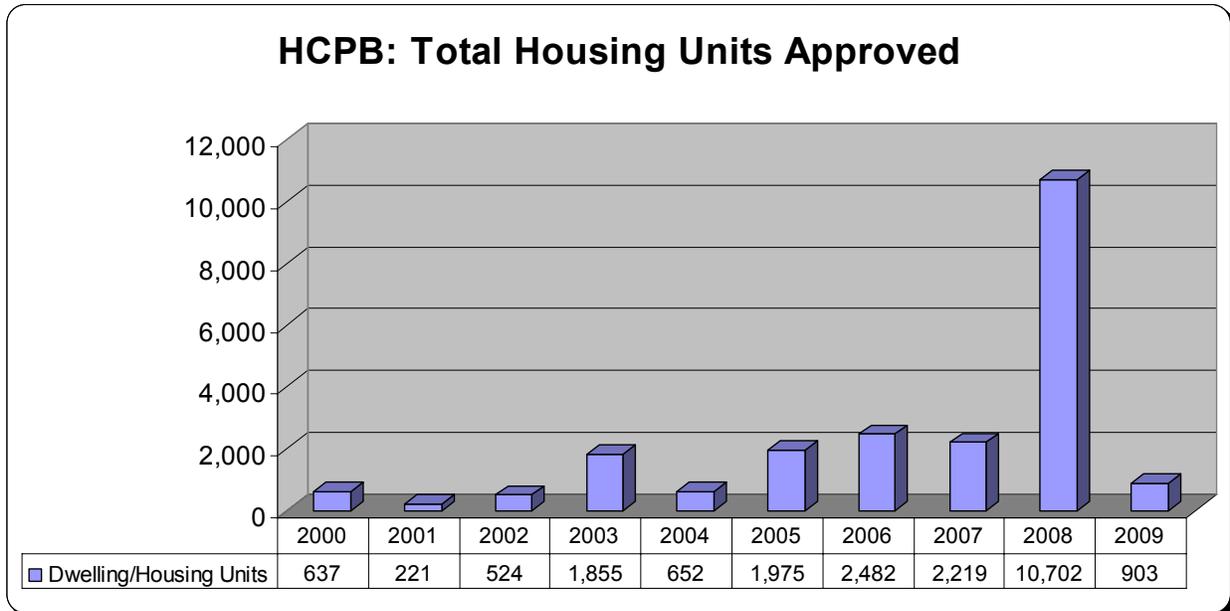
Source: Hudson County Division of Planning

3. HCPB: Applications by Outcome



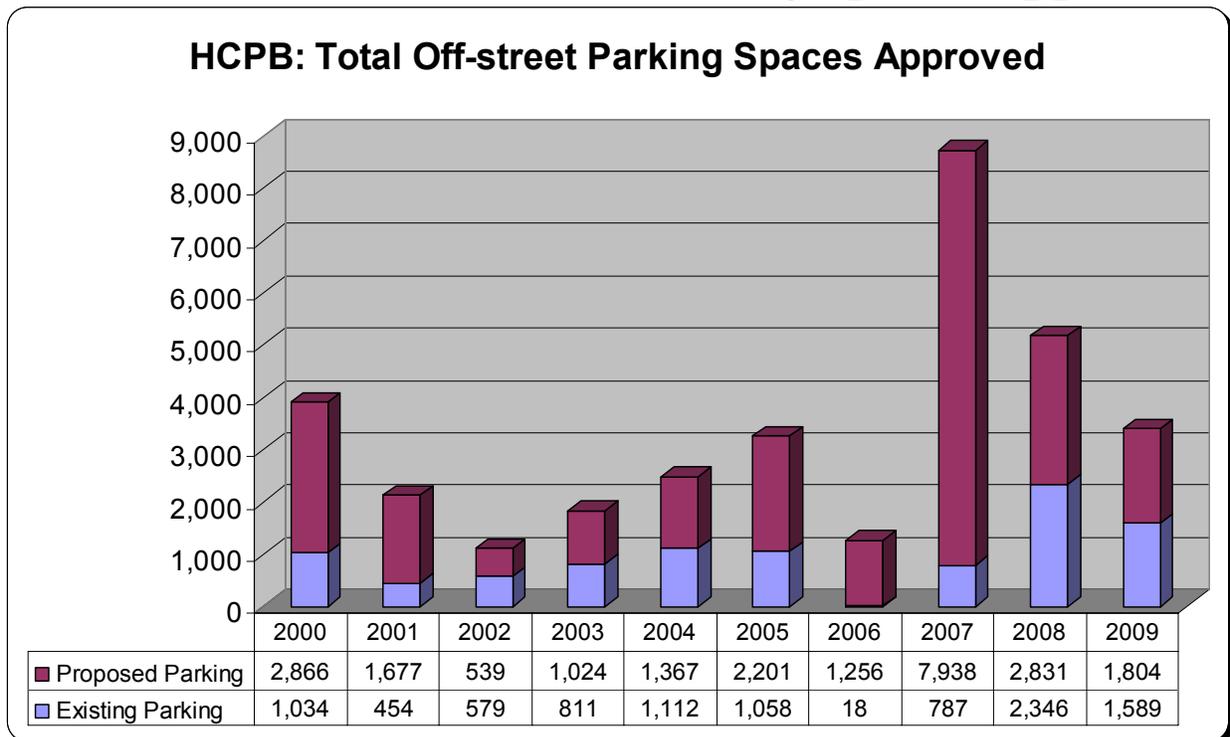
Source: Hudson County Division of Planning

4. HCPB: Total Number of Housing Units Approved



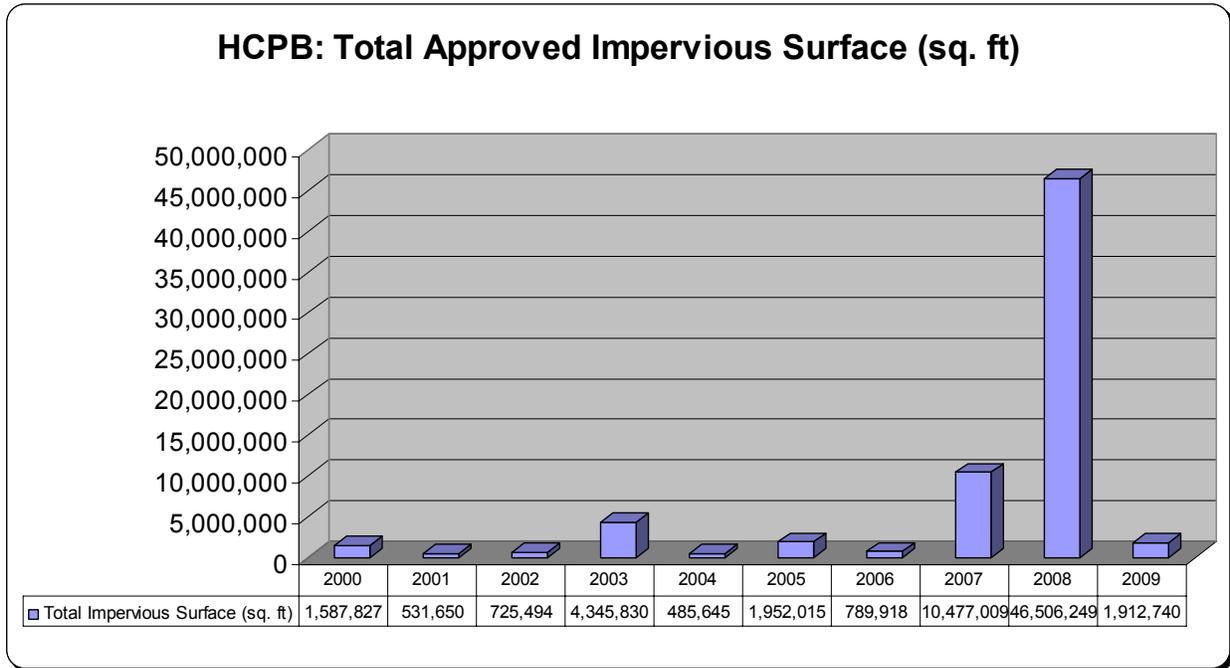
Source: Hudson County Division of Planning

5. HCPB: Total Off-Street Parking Spaces Approved



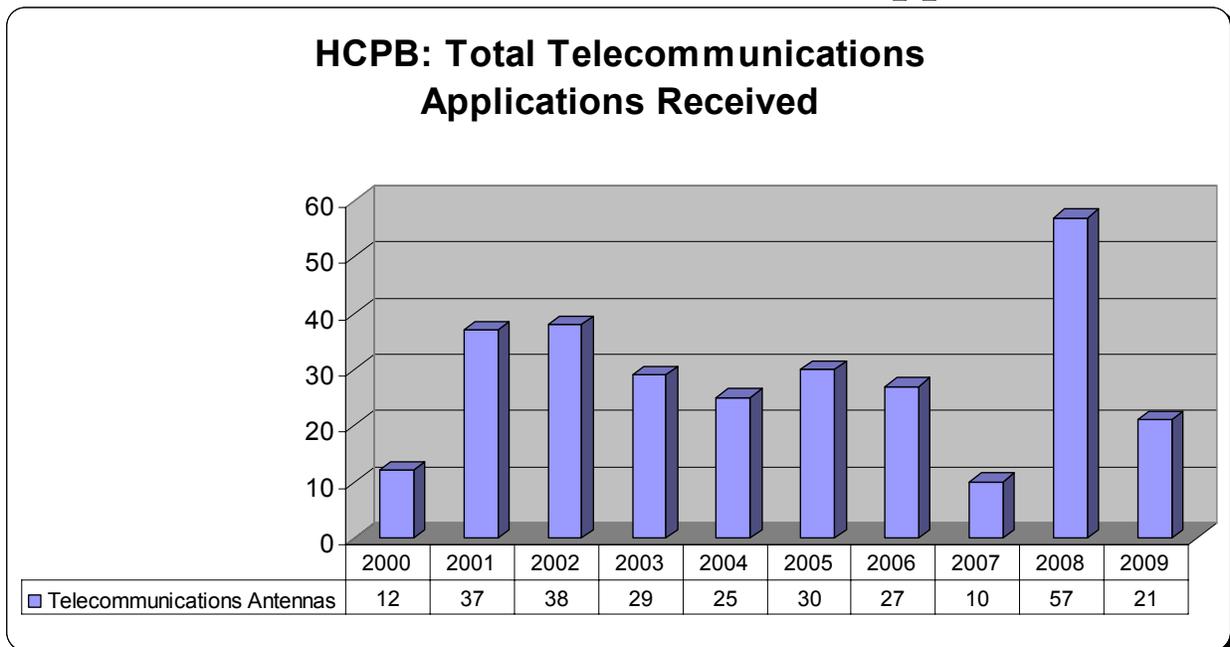
Source: Hudson County Division of Planning

6. HCPB: Total Impervious Coverage Approved



Source: Hudson County Division of Planning

7. HCPB: Total Telecommunication Applications



Source: Hudson County Division of Planning



Photo: Commercial office towers located along downtown Jersey City's waterfront

B. Economic Indicators

Goal: A General Goal of the 2008 Hudson County CEDS Plan is to “Create a diversified economy to maintain full employment and continue economic growth.”

What indicators are included?

8. Employment Figures
9. Unemployment figures
10. Total private payroll figures
11. Building permits for housing
12. Residential Home Values and Sales Prices
13. Equalized valuation figures
14. Foreclosure figures
15. Bankruptcy figures

8. Employment Figures

What is this?

Employment figures include the total number of fulltime workers in the local economy. Perhaps the most important economic indicator in a developed economy is employment. While the notion of full employment is difficult to achieve in economic terms, a specific economic goal of the 2008 Hudson County CEDS Plan is to “develop an equitable distribution of jobs, support services, and facilities consistent with the needs of the population.”

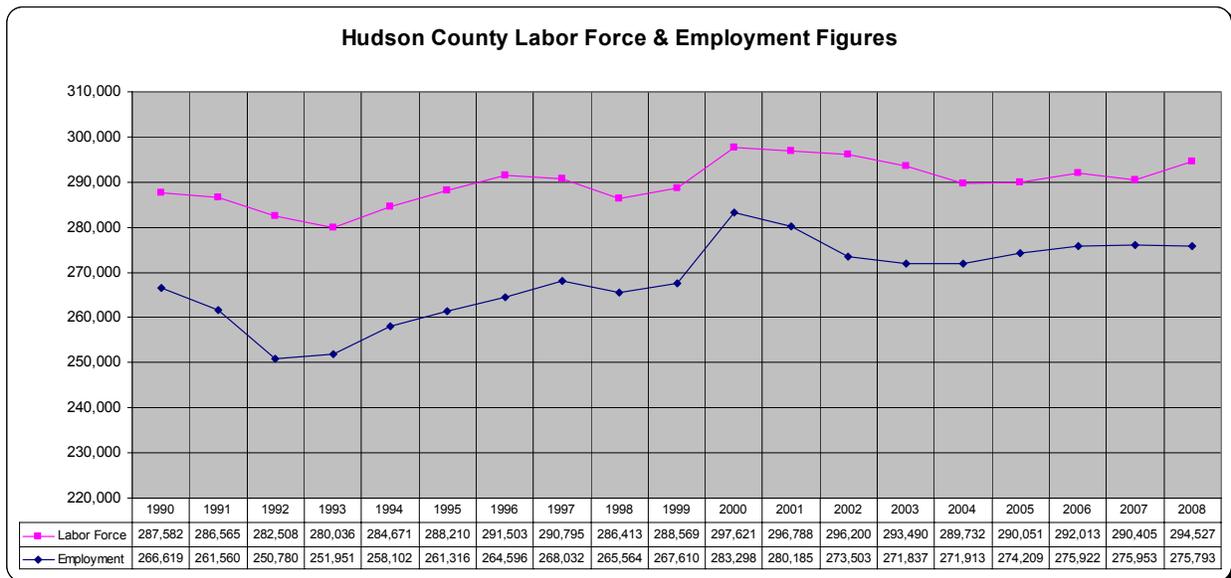
Why is this important?

Employment information is an excellent indicator of a community’s economic well being. It is important to have a large employment base and wide array of jobs locally so individuals and families can meet the basic necessities of food, shelter, clothing and other essentials.

How are we doing?

Improving - While Hudson County’s employment figures have fluctuated over the last decade, the long term trend shows slight improvement. The number of jobs grew from approximately 266,600 in 1990 and to 275,953 in 2007. However, there is concern that residents have the essential skills necessary for new jobs, and that those jobs pay a “living wage.”

Special Note: At the time of this report the United States economy was undergoing an historic and unprecedented adjustment and dislocation. Economic indicators often take many months or several quarters to demonstrate a shift or trend. The following charts and graphs use only data and figures which were available at the time of publication.



Source: The New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development
 (<http://www.nj.gov/labor/index.html>) <http://data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/dsrv>

9. Unemployment Figures

What is this?

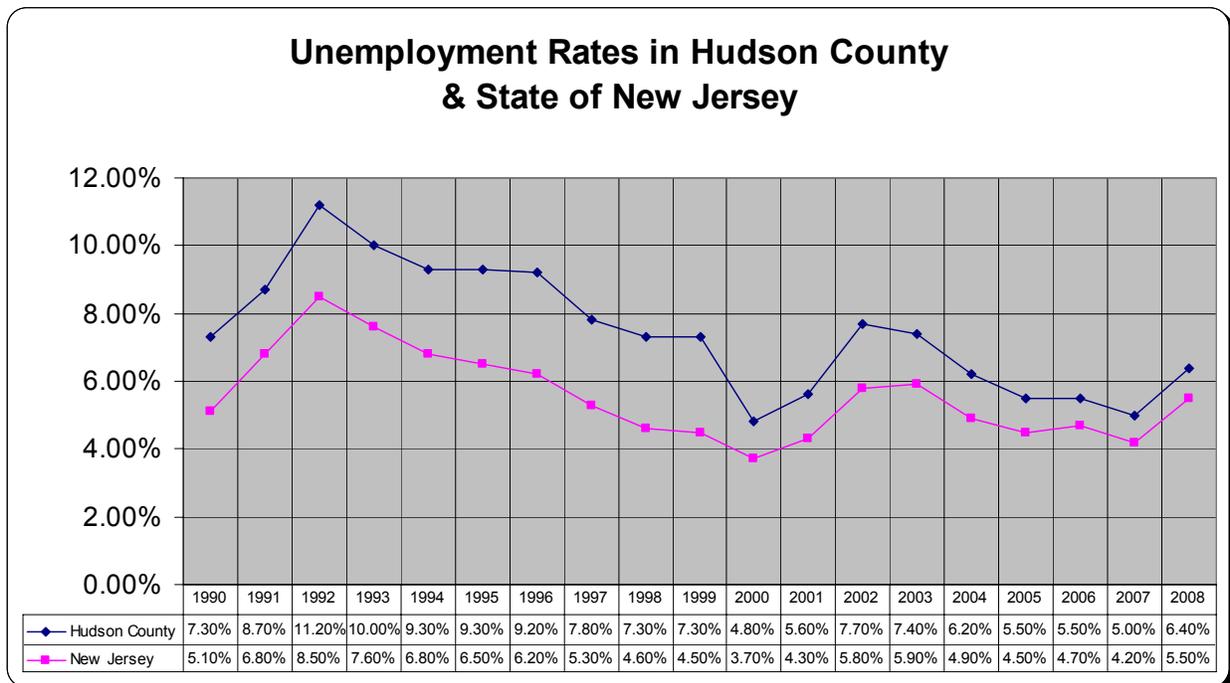
The unemployment rate is comprised of the total number of people actively seeking work in relation to the total civilian labor force. Two major economic goals of the Hudson County CEDS Plan are: “to develop a diversified economy to maintain full employment;” and “to develop an equitable distribution of jobs across the county that includes support services and facilities consistent with the needs of the population.” The Hudson County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy “CEDS” 2009 Annual Update also has a workforce development objective to “promote training opportunities and programs for the unemployed, the under employed and entry level workers.”

Why is this important?

A high unemployment has a negative affect on the local economy and quality of life. Areas with high unemployment may also experience higher rates of poverty, crime and social dysfunction.

How are we doing?

Increased - Hudson County’s average annual adjusted unemployment rate has steadily improved over the past 18 years from 7.3% in 1990 to 6.4% in 2008. However, the rate has increased in 2008 as the state and national economies soured. While Hudson County’s unemployment rate consistently stayed above the state average, the gap narrowed during this time period.



Source: The New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development (<http://www.nj.gov/labor/index.html>)

Annual Averages for 1990-2008

	Hudson County				New Jersey
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate	Unemployment Rate
1990	287,582	266,619	20,963	7.3%	5.1%
1991	286,565	261,560	24,915	8.7%	6.8%
1992	282,508	250,780	31,728	11.2%	8.5%
1993	280,036	251,951	28,085	10.0%	7.6%
1994	284,671	258,102	26,569	9.3%	6.8%
1995	288,210	261,316	26,894	9.3%	6.5%
1996	291,503	264,596	26,907	9.2%	6.2%
1997	290,795	268,032	22,763	7.8%	5.3%
1998	286,413	265,564	20,849	7.3%	4.6%
1999	288,569	267,610	20,959	7.3%	4.5%
2000	297,621	283,298	14,323	4.8%	3.7%
2001	296,788	280,185	16,603	5.6%	4.3%
2002	296,200	273,503	22,697	7.7%	5.8%
2003	293,490	271,837	21,653	7.4%	5.9%
2004	289,732	271,913	17,819	6.2%	4.9%
2005	290,051	274,209	15,842	5.5%	4.5%
2006	292,013	275,922	16,091	5.5%	4.7%
2007	290,405	275,953	14,452	5.0%	4.2%
2008	294,527	275,793	18,734	6.40%	5.50%

Source: The New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development
(http://lwd.dol.state.nj.us/labor/lpa/employ/uirate/lfest_index.html)

10. Private Payroll Data

What is this?

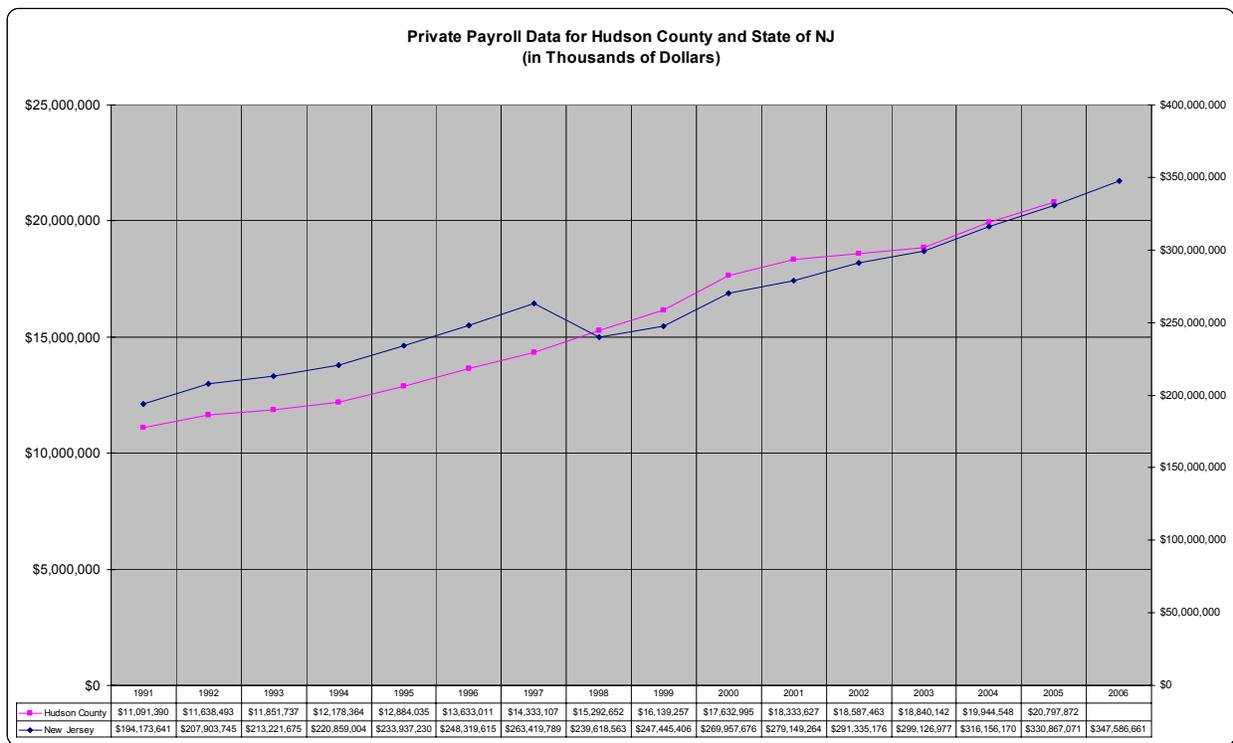
Private payroll figures are the aggregated total earned income for all county residents in private sector jobs.

Why is this important?

This information is important because it is a reflection of the local economy. If the county's personal payroll data were stagnant or declining, it could be a sign of an unhealthy or weakening economy.

How are we doing?

Improving - Hudson County's private payroll data have been steadily increasing over the past 15 years, but has recently begun to level off. There is concern that the private payroll for residents may not be keeping up with housing costs or the rate of inflation. The total amount of privately earned personal income in the county nearly doubled in fifteen years, rising from over \$10 billion in 1990 to nearly \$20 billion in 2005.



Source: The New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development

(<http://www.nj.gov/labor/index.html>)

<http://www.wnjin.net/OneStopCareerCenter/LaborMarketInformation/lmi10/index.html>

11. Building Permits for New Housing Units

What is this?

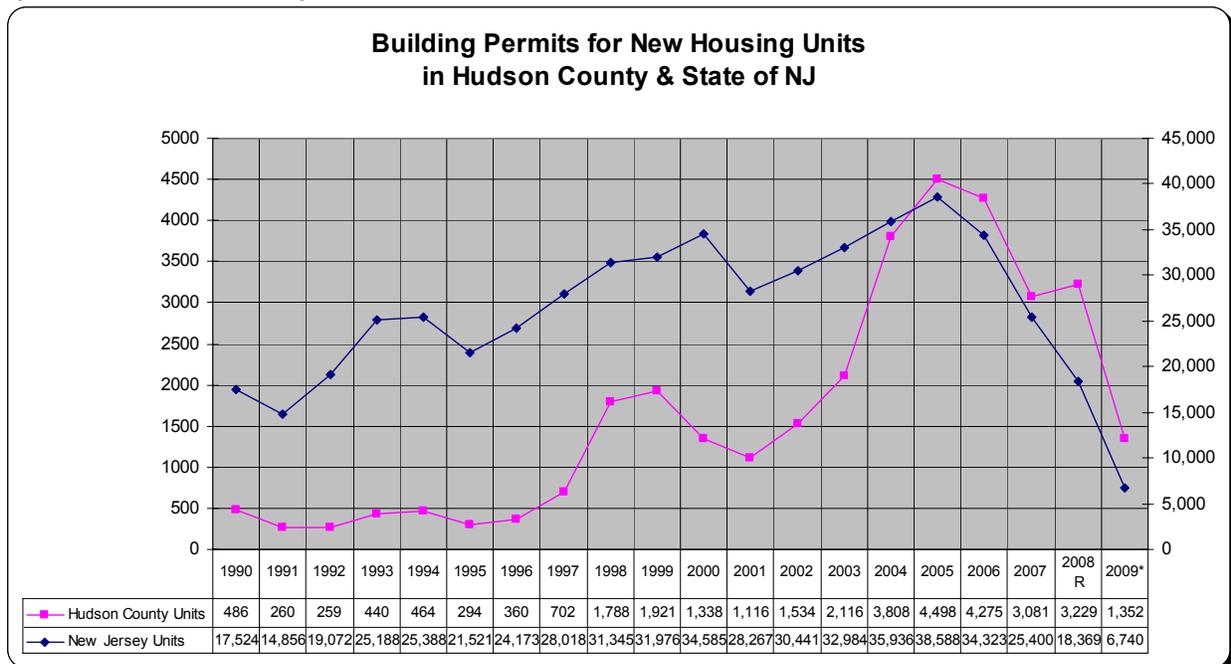
Building permits are issued by local construction code officials after developers receive all necessary approvals and financing. The Hudson County CEDS Plan contains goals and objectives related to residential construction and rehabilitation including: “Foster the cleanup and reuse of contaminated sites as an integral part of both economic and community development;” and “Support efforts to provide a variety of housing types for households of all income levels.”

Why is this important?

The number of building permits is an indicator of the local economy and housing market. It also is related to the attractiveness of a community and is a sign of a healthy construction industry.

How are we doing?

Declining – Incredibly, the smallest county in the State of New Jersey outpaced all other counties in residential construction for four consecutive years from 2005 through 2008. In fact, Hudson County’s housing market remains relatively strong in relation to the state’s overall housing market. However, both the state and local housing markets have been severely impacted by the national economy and credit crisis.



* 2009 numbers through July 2009. R= Revised

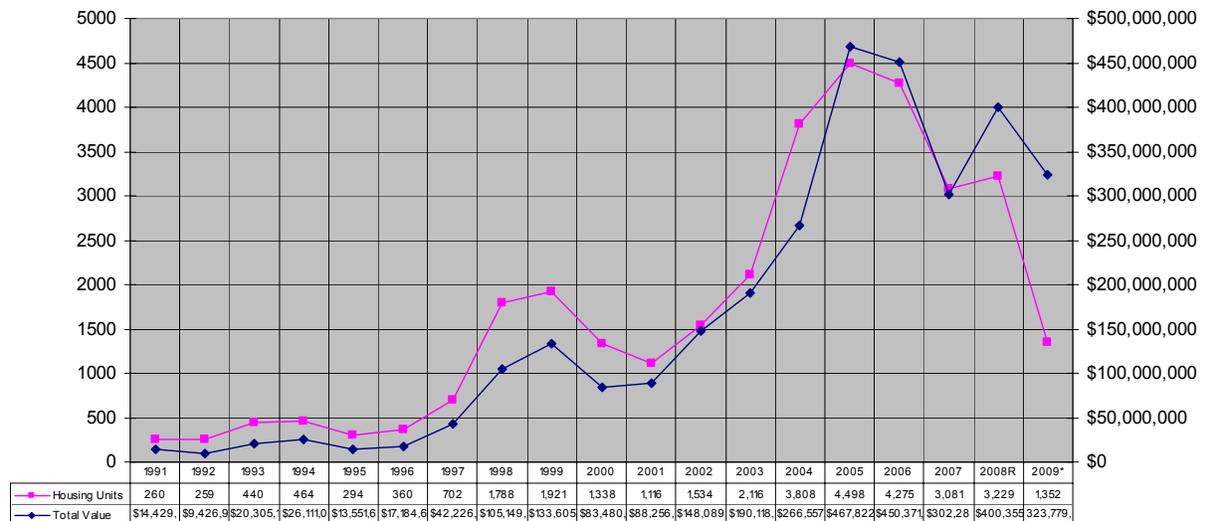
Source: - New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development

<http://www.wnjin.net/OneStopCareerCenter/LaborMarketInformation/lmi18/index.html>



Photo: High rise housing developments along Hoboken's northern waterfront.

Hudson County Approved Housing Units By Number and Value



* 2009 numbers through July 2009. R= Revised

Source: - New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development

<http://www.wnjin.net/OneStopCareerCenter/LaborMarketInformation/lmi18/index.html>



Photo: Mid-rise housing located along West New York's waterfront (foreground). Guttenberg's Galaxy Towers in background.

Residential Housing Units Authorized by Building Permits: 1990 through July 2009

Year	Hudson County Units	Hudson County Total Value	New Jersey Units
1990	486	\$30,070,285	17,524
1991	260	\$14,429,309	14,856
1992	259	\$9,426,976	19,072
1993	440	\$20,305,145	25,188
1994	464	\$26,111,041	25,388
1995	294	\$13,551,677	21,521
1996	360	\$17,184,603	24,173
1997	702	\$42,226,124	28,018
1998	1,788	\$105,149,673	31,345
1999	1,921	\$133,605,080	31,976
2000	1,338	\$83,480,940	34,585
2001	1,116	\$88,256,414	28,267
2002	1,534	\$148,089,645	30,441
2003	2,116	\$190,118,395	32,984
2004	3,808	\$266,557,070	35,936
2005	4,498	\$467,822,421	38,588
2006	4,275	\$450,371,017	34,323
2007	3,081	\$302,280,333	25,400

2008R	3,229	\$400,355,073	18,369
2009*	1,352	\$323,779,660	6,740

** Number through July 2009. R=Revised*

Source: N.J. Department of Labor and Workforce Development

http://lwd.dol.state.nj.us/labor/lpa/industry/bp/bp_index.html

12. Residential Home Values and Sales Prices

What is this?

The New Jersey Department of the Treasury maintains realty transfer tax information for each municipality and county in the State of New Jersey. The Hudson County CEDS Plan contains several goals related to housing including: “Support efforts to provide a variety of housing types for households of all income levels;” “Foster the cleanup and reuse of contaminated sites as an integral part of both economic and community development.”

Why is this important?

The average residential sales price is an important indicator to demonstrate home value as a function of a community’s desirability as well as whether local residents can afford to buy a house and raise a family in a neighborhood where they already live.

How are we doing?

Declining – From 1994 until 2005, Hudson County’s average residential sales price was below that for the State of New Jersey. However, for the last three years (2005-2008), Hudson County’s average home price has surpassed the state average. This creates a challenging paradox. Hudson County’s home values are strong for existing homeowners. However, as the least affluent county in the State of New Jersey, affordability is a serious problem especially for workforce housing.



Source: N.J. Department of Treasury (<http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/lpt/class2avgsales.shtml>)

13. Equalized Valuation Data

What is this?

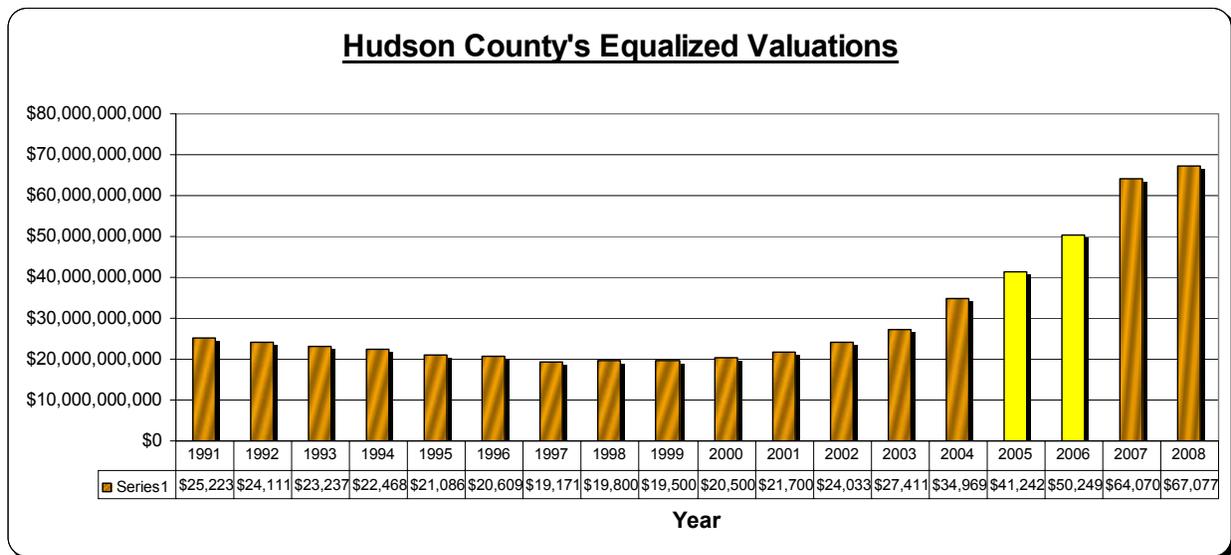
Equalized valuations are estimates of the value of all real property across multiple jurisdictions within a district, county or state. While all municipalities adhere to standard appraisal principles, each community administers its tax roles independently of one another. Equalized valuations are used to apportion taxes among communities for regional school districts, county government, or for state aid. A goal of the Hudson County CEDS Plan is “to strengthen the tax base of the County.” Specific economic goals also include: “Create a diversified economy to maintain full employment and continue economic growth;” “Retain and expand existing businesses and attract new ones;” “Assist in the development of Quality of Life factors that make Hudson County a more attractive place for businesses and people to live and work.”

Why is this important?

Equalized valuations demonstrate the value of real-estate among municipalities. As the ratable base grows, more property owners contribute to local taxes which should positively impact the local tax rate. A growing ratable base may be the sign of increasing property values and a strong local economy.

How are we doing?

Improving – Since 1990, Hudson County’s tax base has more than doubled largely due to new developments and increasing property values.



Source: N.J. Department of Treasury, Division of Taxation
(<http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/lpt/lptvalue.shtml>)

14. Foreclosure Data

What is this?

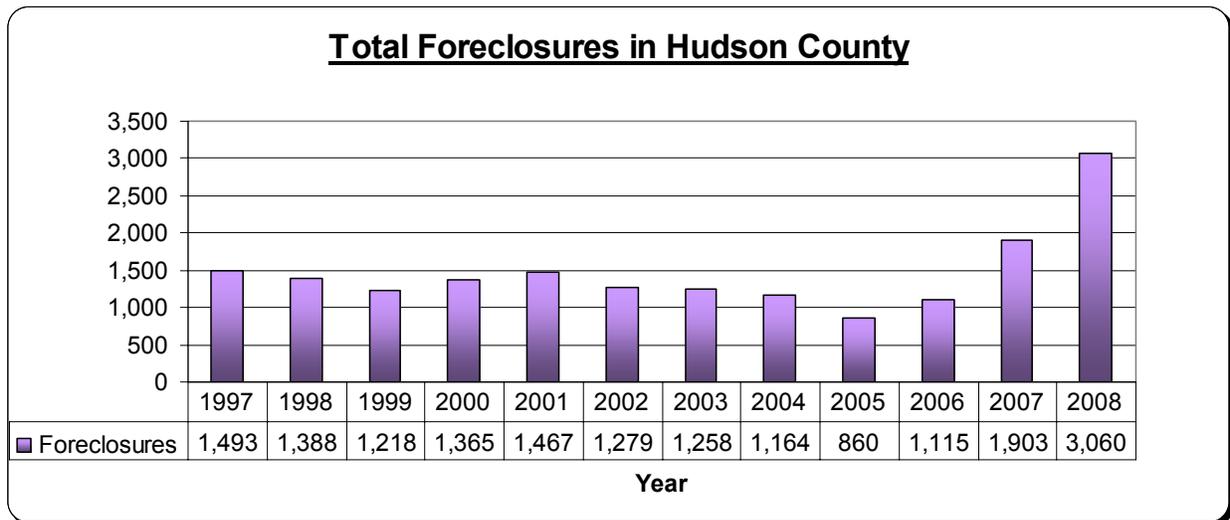
A foreclosure is a legal process by which a mortgagee's right to redeem a mortgage is taken away. This usually occurs when an individual fails to make the specified mortgage payments. The Hudson County CEDS Plan contains goals related to homeownership including: "support efforts to provide a variety of housing types for households of all income levels."

Why is this important?

This is important because residents need to be able to afford housing within a community. If there are a high number of foreclosures, it may demonstrate that the residents' income is not high enough to support the price of housing in a community. Foreclosures may also be an indication of the local economy.

How are we doing?

Increasing - The annual number of foreclosures in Hudson County, while fluctuating, remained relatively constant for a decade before the mortgage crisis occurred in 2008. Hudson County was not immune from the national mortgage crisis with the annual number of foreclosures more than doubling between 1997 and 2008.



Source: New Jersey Administrative Office of the Courts, Civil Practice Division

15. Bankruptcy Data

What is this?

A bankruptcy is a legal process to assure equal opportunity amongst creditors of a company or individual declared in bankruptcy. Many times, unemployment, unexpected medical expenses, or divorce cause people to file for bankruptcy in an attempt to seek protection from their creditors.

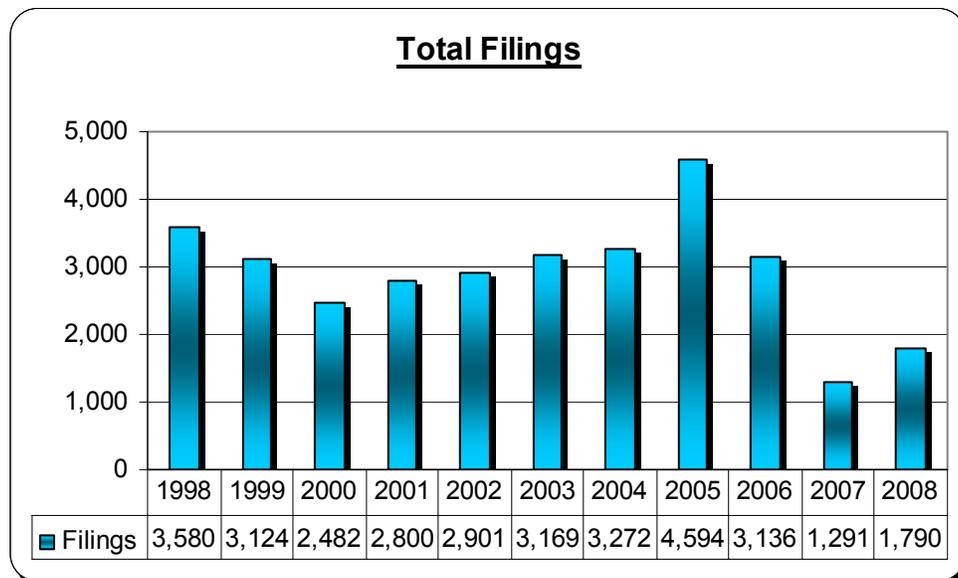
Bankruptcies are divided into two categories: business and non-business. Under each of these categories, one could file for a Chapter 7, Chapter 11, Chapter 12, or Chapter 13 bankruptcy. A Chapter 7 bankruptcy provides for “liquidation,” i.e., the sale of a debtor's nonexempt property and the distribution of the proceeds to creditors” (*United States Bankruptcy Court*). Chapter 11 deals with reorganizing businesses. This category is designed to allow a business to continue operating while paying its debts over time. Individuals and those owning business can also seek protection through chapter 11. Chapter 12 is concerned with “adjustments of debt of a ‘family farmer’” (*United States Bankruptcy Court*). Since Hudson County has no farms, this chapter is not used. Finally, Chapter 13 of the Bankruptcy Code provides for modifications of debts of an individual with normal income and allows an individual to retain possession of property while paying the debts over a period of time.

Why this important?

Bankruptcy data and figures are important because it is an indication of the economic status of the residents and businesses in a community. A large number of bankruptcies in an area could be a sign of a faltering economy or economic downturn.

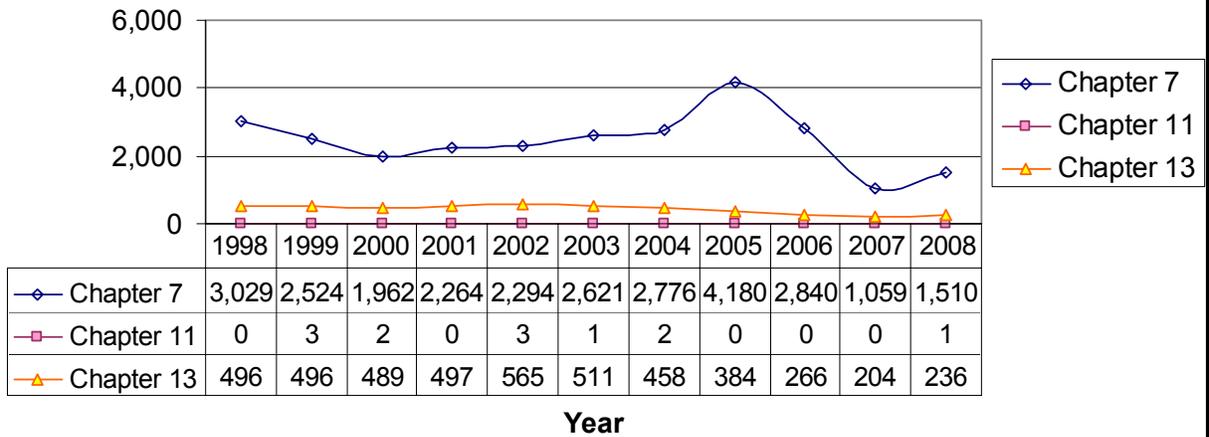
How are we doing?

Increasing – While the year 2000 represented a low point for bankruptcies locally, the total number of filings, while fluctuating, has remained relatively constant.



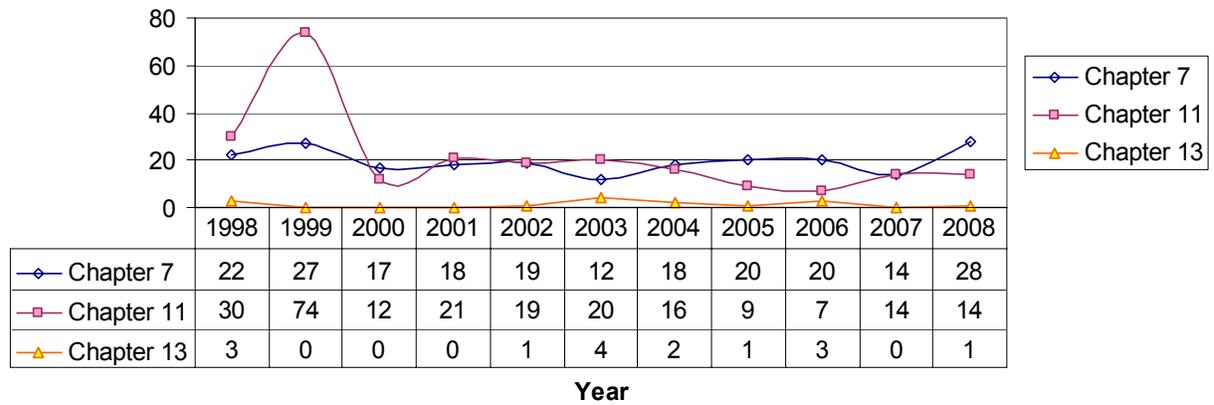
Source: Administrative Office of the US Courts PACER Service Center
(http://pacer.uspci.uscourts.gov/cgi-bin/statistics.pl?puid=01143221161&rpt_type=f5a)

Total Non-Business Filings by Type



Source: Administrative Office of the US Courts PACER Service Center
 (http://pacer.uspci.uscourts.gov/cgi-bin/statistics.pl?puid=01143221161&rpt_type=f5a)

Total Business Filings by Type



Source: Administrative Office of the US Courts PACER Service Center
 (http://pacer.uspci.uscourts.gov/cgi-bin/statistics.pl?puid=01143221161&rpt_type=f5a)

B. Social Indicators

Goal: A general goal of the Hudson County CEDS Plan is to “Assist in the development of Quality of Life factors that make Hudson County a more attractive place for businesses and people to live and work.” This goal may be applied to a variety of social issues affecting the community and its residents.

What indicators are included?

16. Birth and Death Rates
17. Crime Rates
18. High School Graduation and Dropout Rates
19. Homeless Counts
20. Infant Mortality
21. Marriage and Divorce Rates
22. Mortality Rates
23. Public Assistance Participation
24. School Free Lunch & Free Milk Program Data
25. Teenage Pregnancy Data
26. Transportation - Vehicle Miles Travelled
27. Transportation - Motor Vehicle Accidents
28. Transportation - Hudson Bergen Light Rail Ridership
29. Transportation - PATH Ridership
30. Voter Registration and General Election Turnout Data

16. Birth & Death Rates

What is this?

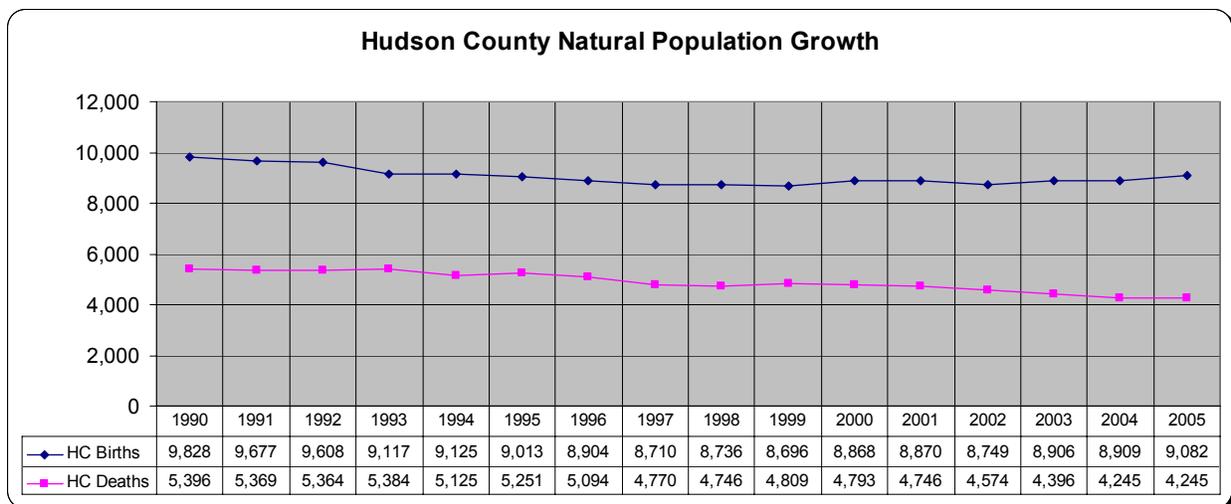
Birth and death records are often administered or maintained by local and county officials. A general goal of the CEDS Plan is to “improve the quality of life” in the community by creating an atmosphere in which residents have hope and can build a better future.

Why is this important?

The number of births in a community is one indicator of a community’s growth and well-being. A growing community is not necessarily in decline. The number of births may also demonstrate a family’s confidence in the community and outlook on the future. Deaths are an integral part of the life cycle, however, in a growing and vibrant community, it is important that the number of births exceed the number of deaths.

How are we doing?

Mixed – The number of births remained significantly higher than the number of deaths during the entire 15 year period. However, the number of births declined since 1990. This trend is similar to birth rates experienced at the state and national levels. Fewer families are having fewer children. The number of deaths has also significantly declined. This is probably due in part to modern medicine and longer life expectancy. It may also be attributable to the migration of retirees from older cities to the suburbs, shore areas and warmer climates.



Source: New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services
<http://www.state.nj.us/health/chs/hlthstat.htm>

17. Crime Rates

What is this?

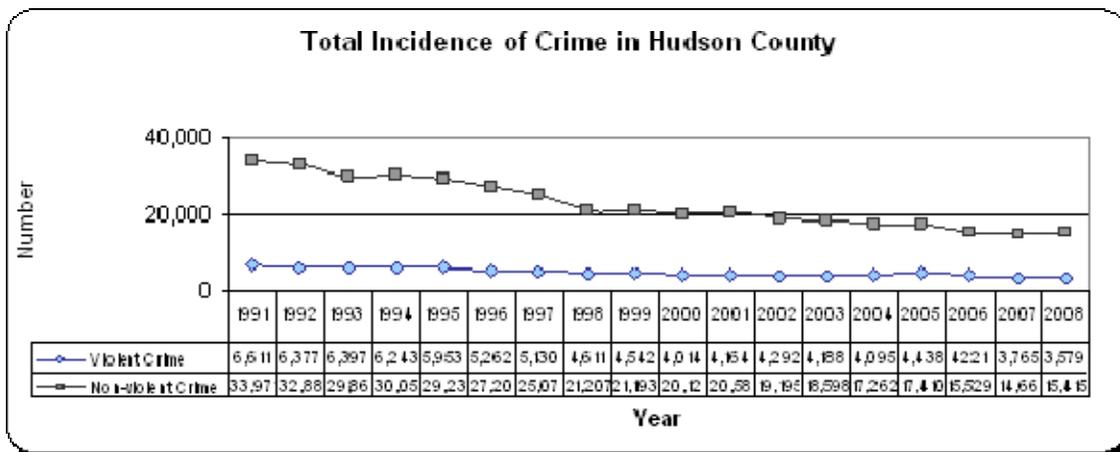
The New Jersey State Police prepares the Uniform Crime Report for the State of New Jersey. The report tracks violent and non-violent crime in all counties and municipalities in the state. Violent crimes include murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Non-violent crimes include burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft.

Why is this important?

The primary goal of all government is to protect the health, safety and welfare of its citizens. Crime is anathema to any civil society. Crime data and statistics are an important quality-of-life indicator to demonstrate a community's physical, social and economic health and well-being.

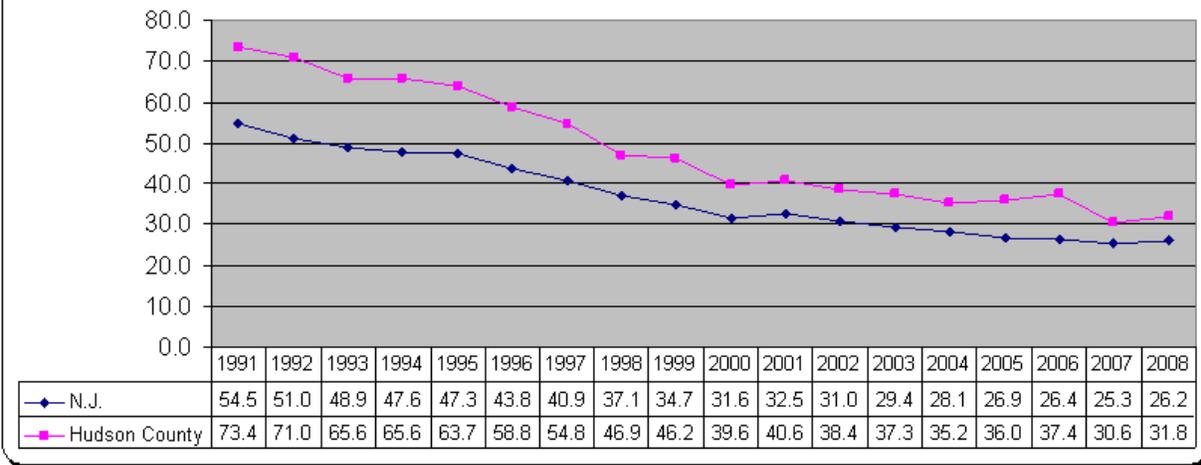
How are we doing?

Improving – While no amount of crime is “acceptable,” the overall incidence of crime as well both the violent and non-violent crime rates have significantly decreased since 1990. This may be attributable to better policing and investigative measures, mandatory minimum sentencing, and a stronger local economy. However, this information is tempered by the fact that Hudson County's violent and non-violent crime rates remain above those for the State of New Jersey.



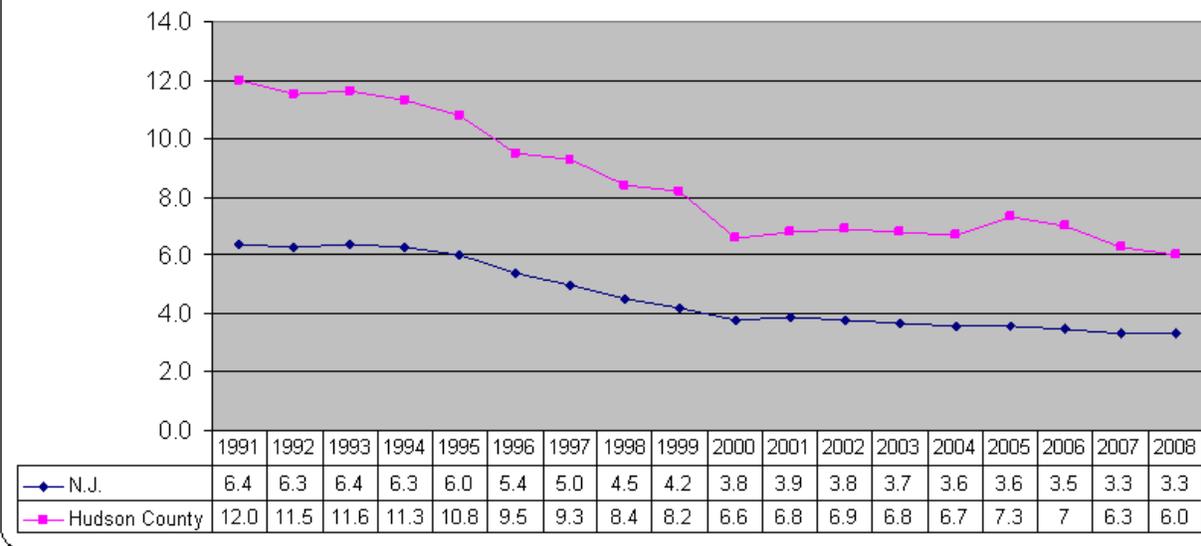
Source: New Jersey State Police (<http://www.state.nj.us/njsp/info/stats.html>)

Overall Crime Rate Per 1,000



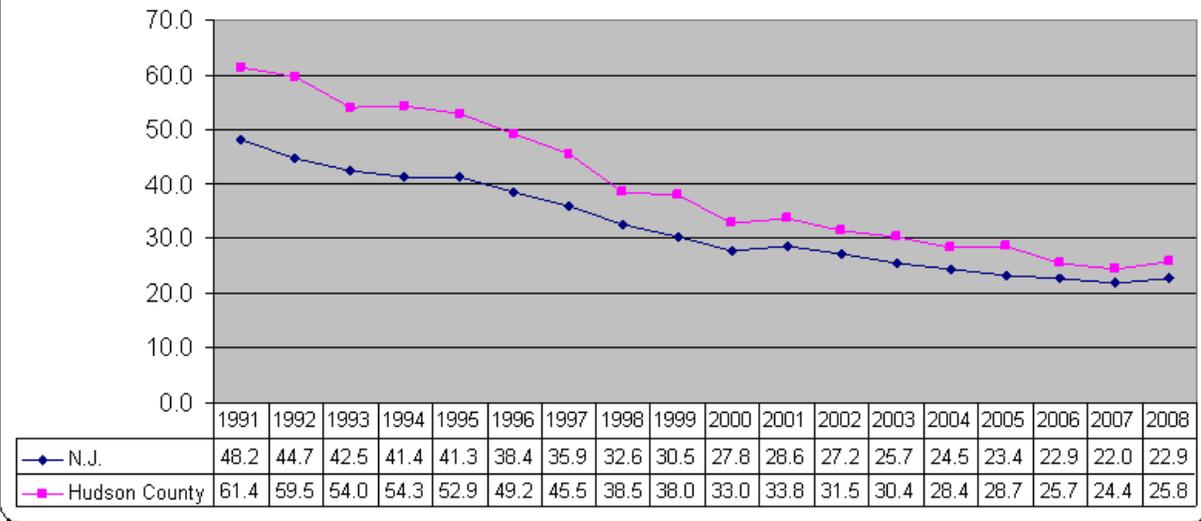
Source: New Jersey State Police (<http://www.state.nj.us/njsp/info/stats.html>)

Violent Crime Rate Per 1,000



Source: New Jersey State Police (<http://www.state.nj.us/njsp/info/stats.html>)

Non-Violent Crime Rate Per 1,000



Source: New Jersey State Police (<http://www.state.nj.us/njsp/info/stats.html>)

18. High School Graduation and Dropout Rates

What is this?

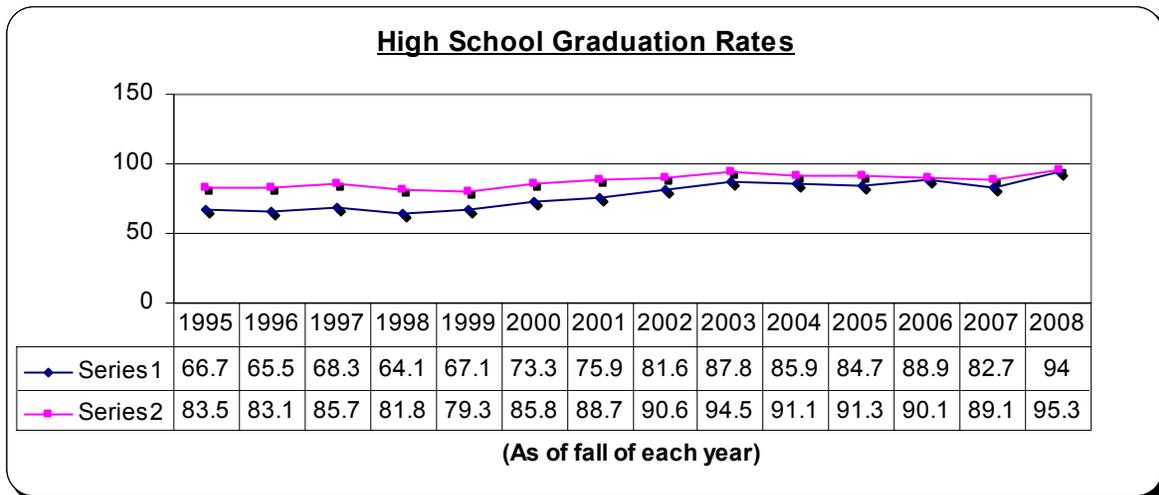
The graduation data and rate measures the total number of high schools students who are graduating from local public high schools in Hudson County on an annual basis. Conversely, the drop-out rate reflects the number of local students in public high schools who stopped attending high school.

Why is this important?

These rates reflect the challenges and difficulties facing urban school systems as well as the socio-economic climate of the community. Students who receive their high school diploma are more likely to attend college or technical training, pursue a military career or find work. A high drop-out rate is likely to have a negative impact on the local economy and community well being because high school drop-outs are less likely to find work which pays a living wage.

How are we doing?

Improving – The graduation rates among Hudson County public high schools have steadily increased over the last decade. In fact, the rate for 2003 appears to be over 90%. The county's drop-out rates are nearly half those of a decade ago. However, Hudson County's graduation rates and drop-out rates still lag behind the rates for the entire State of New Jersey.

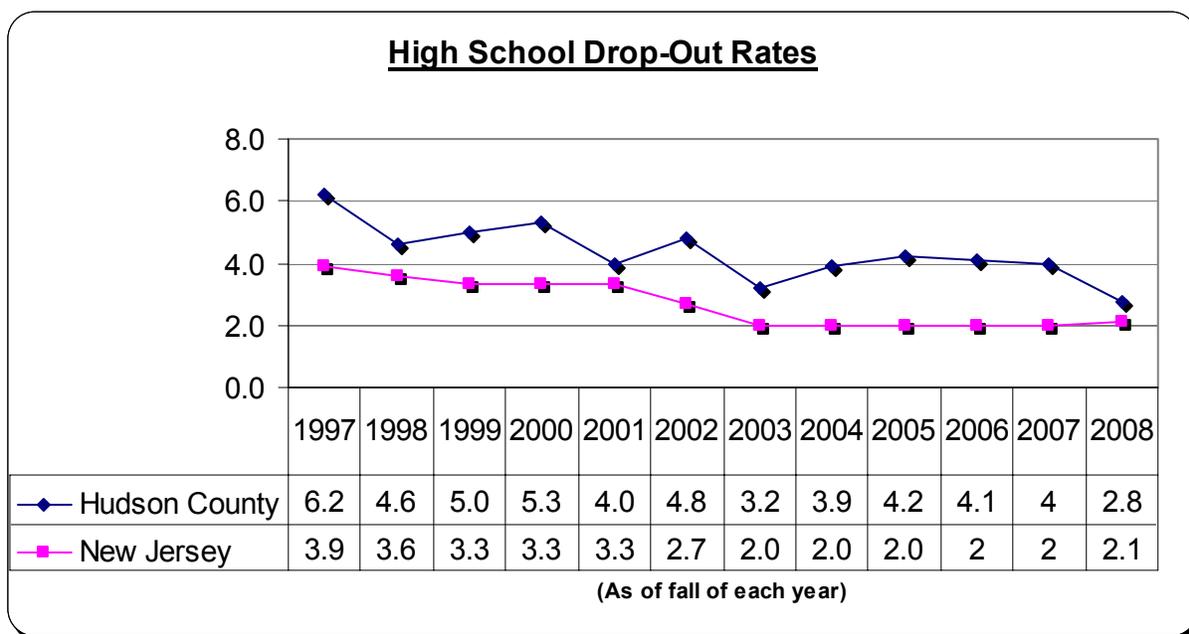


Source: New Jersey Department of Education (<http://www.nj.gov/njded/data/>)

Aggregated Number of High School Graduates and Dropouts for Hudson County and State of New Jersey

School Year	Hudson County H.S. Graduates	Hudson County Dropouts	New Jersey H.S. Graduates	New Jersey Dropouts
1997-1998	3,691	1,144	68,148	14,688
1998-1999	3,717	1,136	67,369	13,150
1999-2000	4,116	1,227	74,419	13,433
2000-2001	4,049	973	76,129	12,639
2001-2002	4,145	903	78,012	11,596
2002-2003	4,459	932	81,389	9,708
2003-2004	4,570	997	83,632	10,112
2004-2005	4,479	958	86,445	8,802
2005-2006	4,757	832	89,858	9,009
2006-2007	4,686	800	92,601	9,054
2007-2008	4,658	568	94,808	8,025

Source: New Jersey Department of Education (<http://www.state.nj.us/education/data/>)



Source: New Jersey Department of Education (<http://www.nj.gov/njded/data/>)

19. Homeless Counts

What is this?

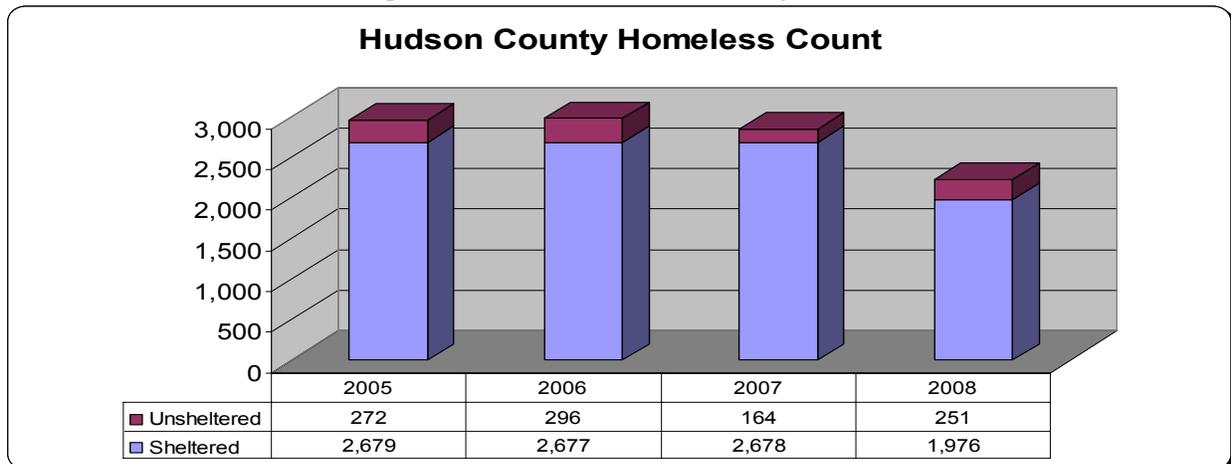
The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) sponsors a "Point in Time" Count on a bi-annual basis. Over the past five years Hudson County has made a commitment to perform the count annually along with many other Counties in the State of New Jersey. Data collection is achieved by asking sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals to complete the 'Point in Time Survey.' This survey contains a number of questions that allow the county to collect detailed information from each person on length of homelessness, race, last permanent residence, and other sub-population determinates.

Why is this important?

Homelessness is a significant problem facing many communities across the country. The indicator is influenced by a number of factors from the adequate delivery of health and social service programs to the availability of affordable housing. Numbers counted during the 2007 Point in Time Count were analyzed to determine the goal number of affordable units to be developed as part of *"Keys to Ending Homelessness: Hudson County's Ten Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness."* The subpopulation data is helpful to identifying the types of specialized housing that is needed for the homeless.

How are we doing?

Improving - The 2006 count was the highest with a total of 2,973 persons counted (this includes children in families and heads of household). The number reduced slightly in 2007, with 2,842 total persons counted and in 2008 there was a more significant drop in the number of persons counted 2,227. Please note, that non-profit providers in the community believe that these numbers continue to be an undercount as it is not likely that volunteers were able to find all unsheltered homeless persons on the night of the count. During the 2007-2008 program year the Jersey City/Hudson County Continuum of Care was awarded \$4,081,691.00 in HUD Continuum of Care funds. This allowed ten homeless housing and service providers in Hudson County to continue operating and providing services. Additionally, during the 2007-2008 program year, the Continuum of Care developed 21 new beds for chronically homeless individuals.



Source: Hudson County Division of Housing and Community Development (Point in Time Surveys 2005-2008)

20. Infant Mortality Rate

What is this?

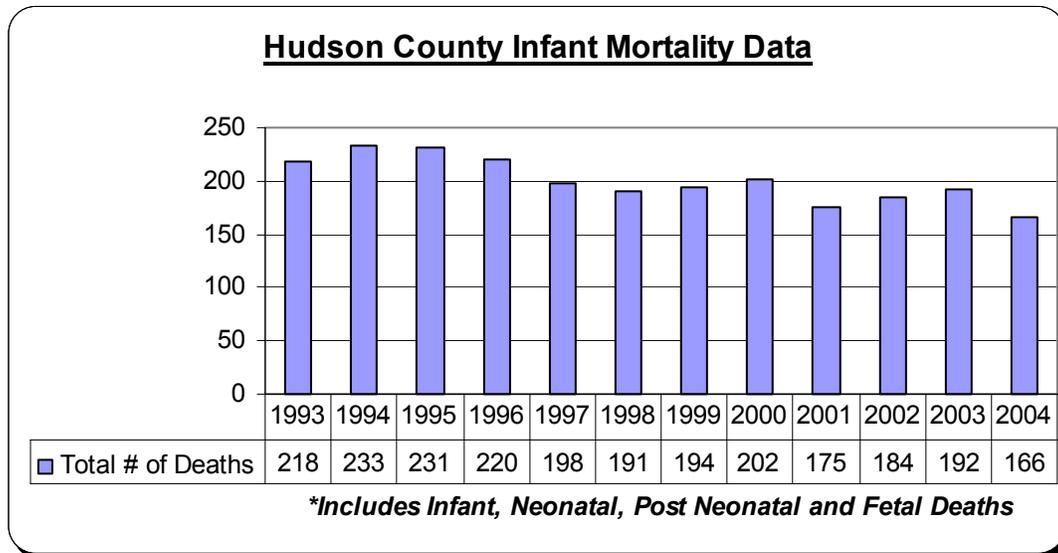
The infant mortality rate is calculated by dividing the number of infants born by the number that expire, and multiplying that number by 100. The term “infant” is divided into four categories based on the age of the individual upon death: infant, neonatal, postnatal, and fetal. A child is considered to be an infant within their first year of life. Neonatal encompasses the first 27 days of life, whereas postnatal consists of children ages 28 days to one year old. Fetal is used in reference to babies that are yet to be born. The three main reasons for infant deaths are birth defects, complications in the perinatal period, and SIDS (sudden infant death syndrome).

Why is this important?

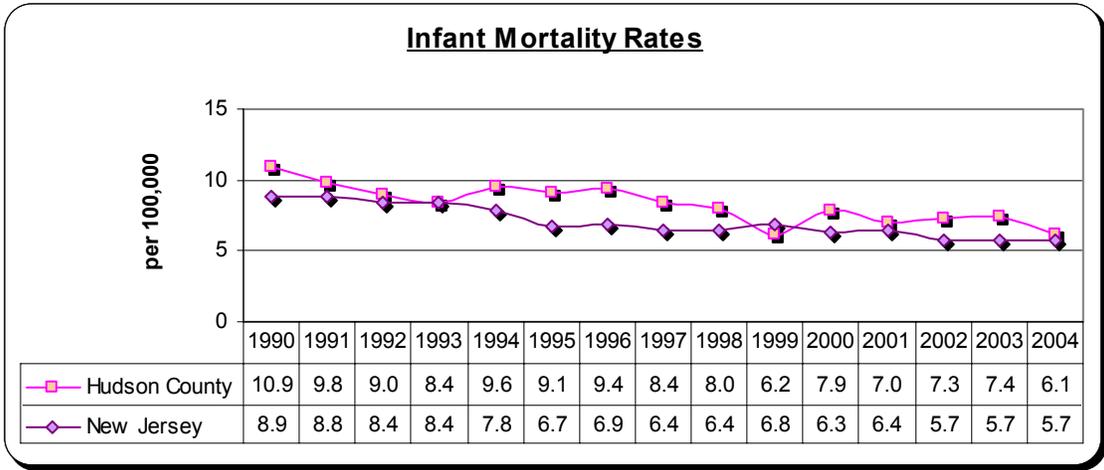
Infant mortality is a basic indicator used to gage the health, well-being and economic status of a developed and developing countries. It also reflects the level of mortality, health status, and health care of a population, and the effectiveness of preventive care and the attention paid to maternal and child health.

How are we doing?

Improving – The infant mortality rate for Hudson County has been decreasing since 1993. However, the rate has still been higher than that of New Jersey for at least the last fifteen years, with the exception of 1999.



Source: New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data Query System (<http://njshad.doh.state.nj.us/welcome.html>)



Source: New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data Query System; (<http://njshad.doh.state.nj.us/welcome.html>)

21. Marriage and Divorce Records

What is this?

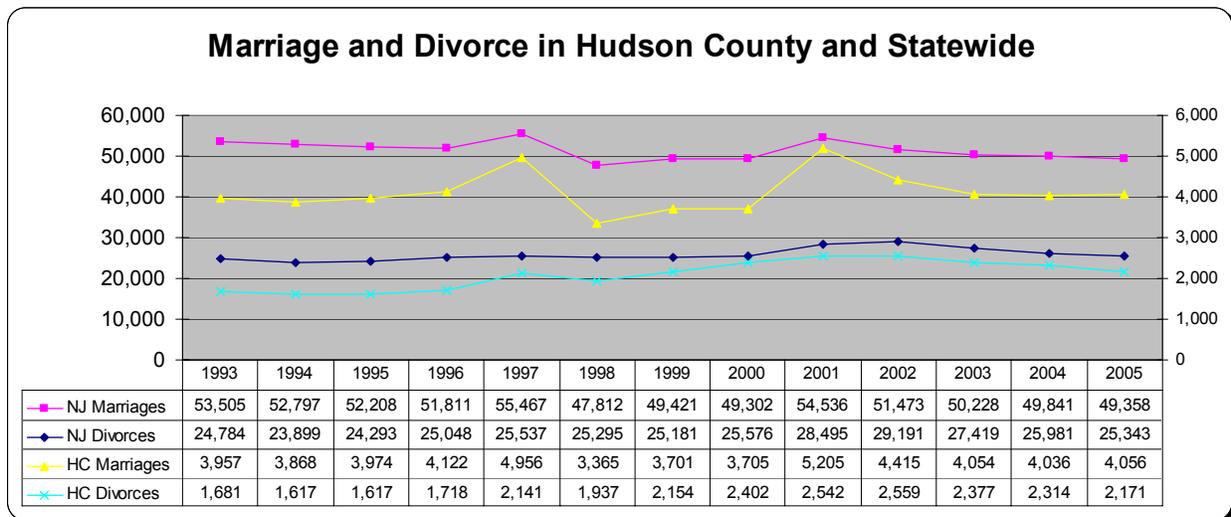
Marriage and divorce records are vital records administered and managed by state, county and local officials on community by community basis.

Why is this important?

Vital statistics for marriage and divorce may be used to demonstrate whether a community is growing or declining. Marriage is most-often a pre-cursor to the creation of a new household or family unit.

How are we doing?

Mixed - The number of marriages in Hudson County has remained relatively constant, with a slight increase since 1993 which may signify a growing population base. Statewide, the number of marriages actually decreased over the same period. The number of divorces in both Hudson County and the State of New Jersey increased between 1993 and 2005. It is important to note that there are nearly twice as many marriages in Hudson County then divorces.



Source: New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services
 (<http://www.state.nj.us/health/chs/hlthstat.htm>)

22. Mortality Rates

What is this?

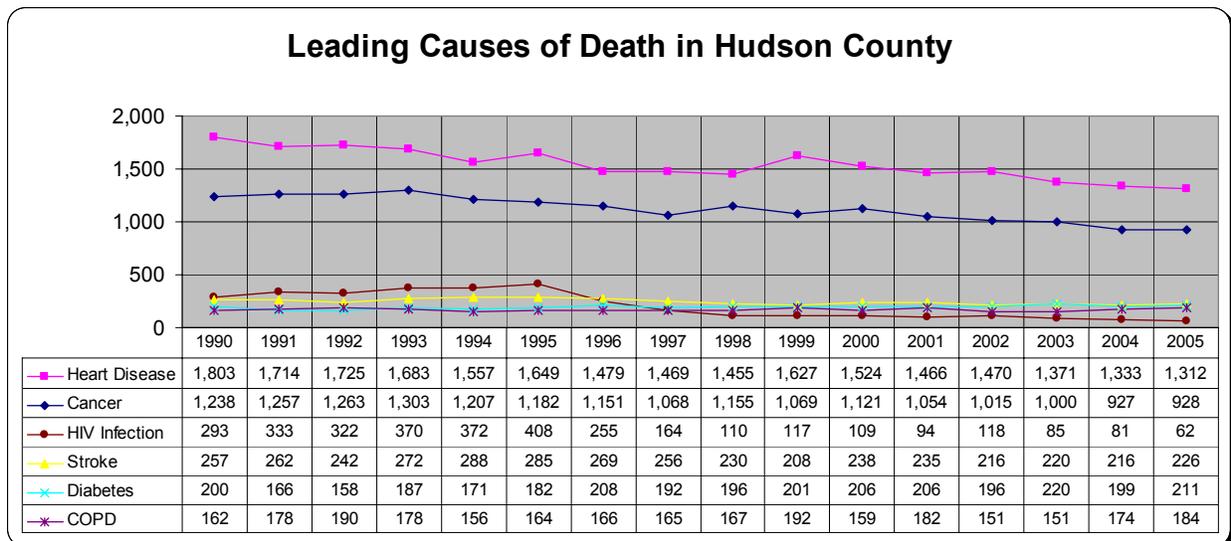
Mortality rates indicate the leading causes of death among county residents or decedents. Mortality figures are aggregated for the six leading causes of death between 1990 and 2005. The mortality rate is an age-adjusted figure based upon the cause of death information and in relation to the overall population size of the county. A mortality rate allows comparisons to be made between jurisdictions of various size populations.

Why is this important?

Examining the leading causes of death in Hudson County over a decade or more can establish whether modern medicine, diet and exercise have contributed to life expectancy for county residents. In addition, by comparing Hudson County’s mortality rates with those of the State of New Jersey, one can surmise whether there is a disparity between the state’s most urbanized and least affluent county and state as a whole. A general goal of the Hudson County CEDS Plan is “to improve the overall quality of life...”

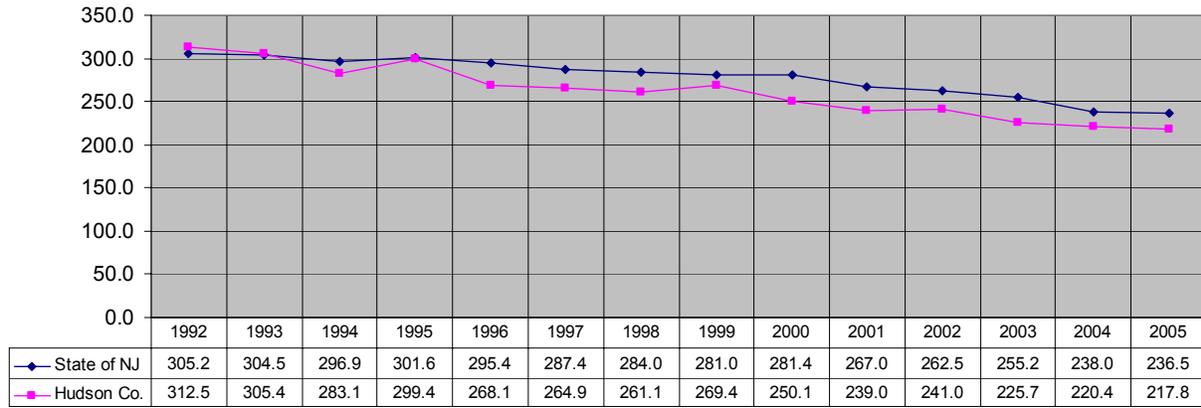
How are we doing?

Improving – The top three leading causes of death in Hudson County in 1990 (heart disease, cancer and HIV) have all experienced a significant decline. In fact, with the exception of diabetes and HIV, Hudson County’s mortality rates are all lower than the rates for the State of New Jersey. One reason may be that many older adults move out of Hudson County to the suburbs, shore or warmer climates for retirement. It is important to note the significant decline in HIV related deaths in both Hudson County and the state between 1990 and 2005. This may be attributable to medicine and education as well as a decline in risky behavior.



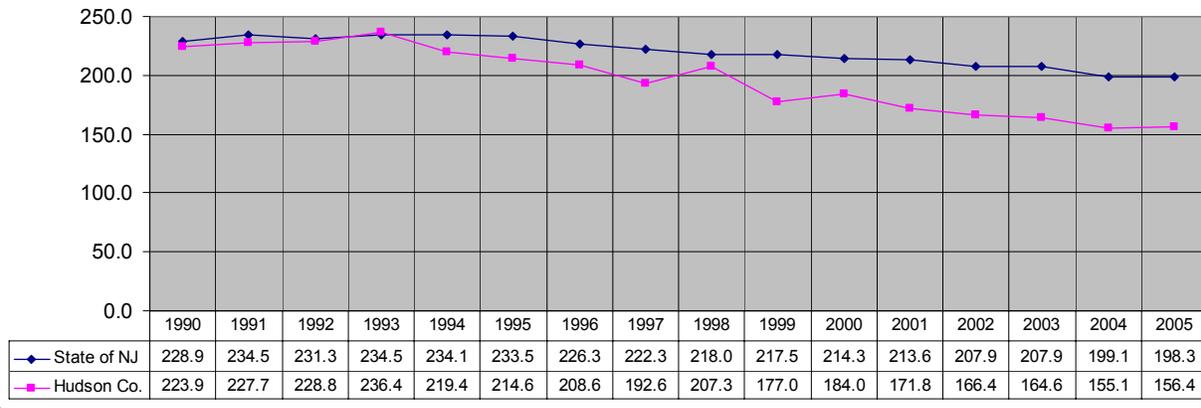
Source: New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services
<http://www.state.nj.us/health/chs/hlthstat.htm>

Heart Disease Mortality Rate



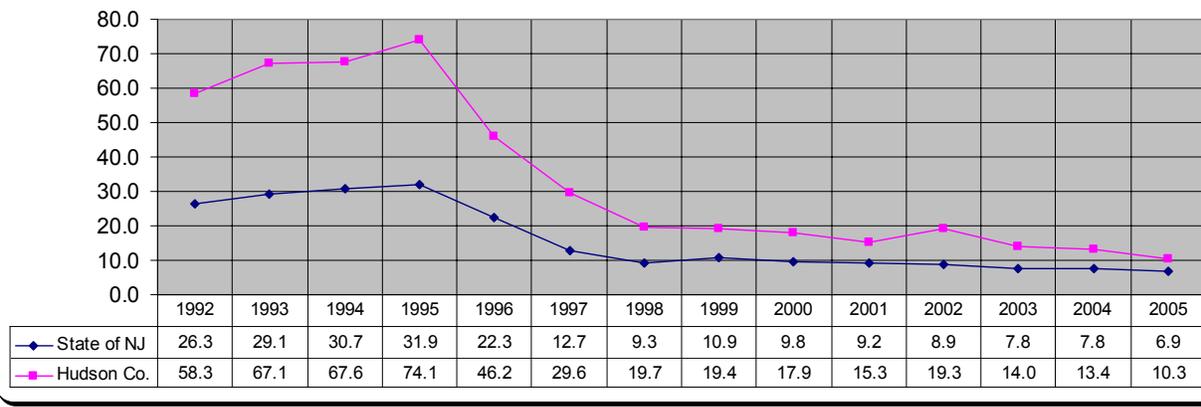
Source: New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services

Cancer Mortality Rate



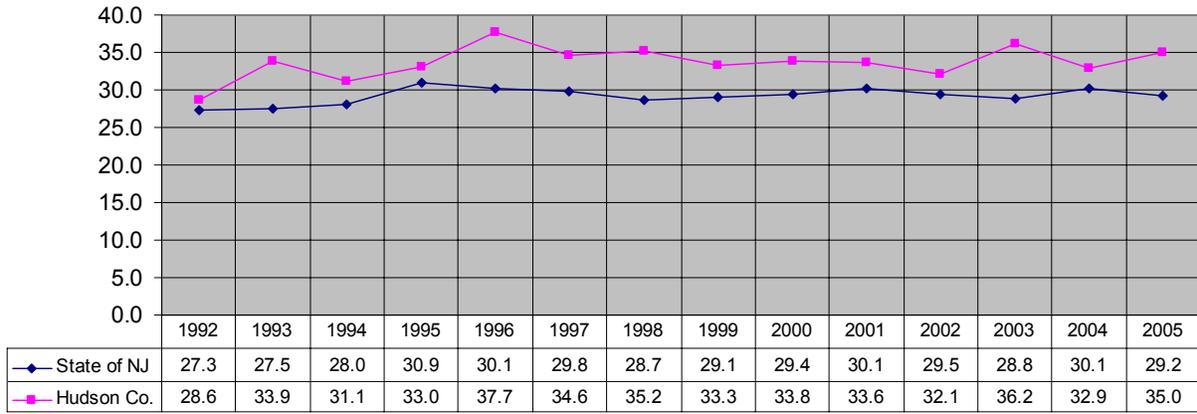
Source: New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services

HIV Mortality Rate



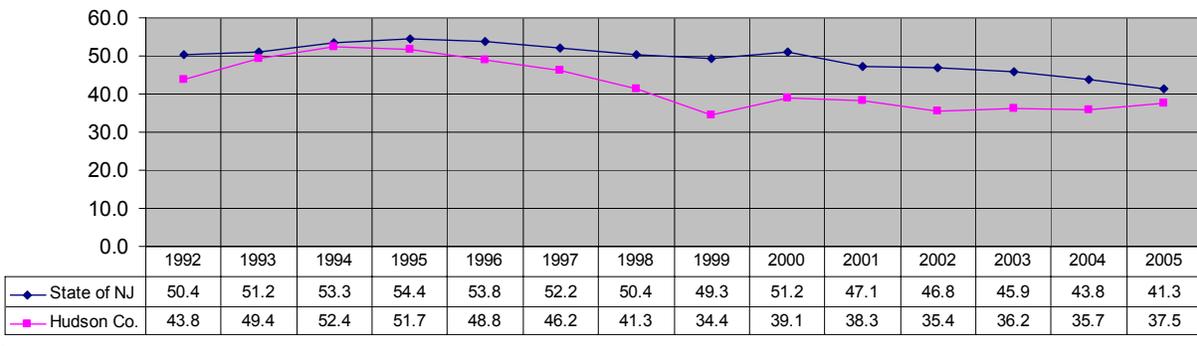
Source: New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services

Diabetes Mortality Rate



Source: New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services

Stroke Mortality Rate



Source: New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services

23. Public Assistance Program Participation

What is this?

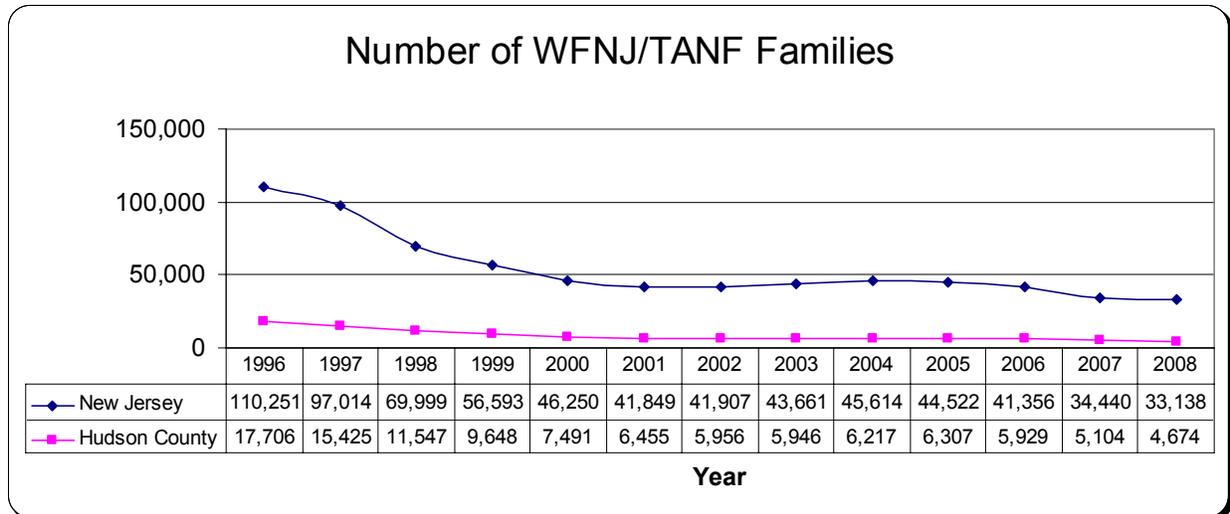
Public assistance programs are funded by the state and federal governments and administered by the Hudson County Division of Family Services. The objective of public assistance programs is to provide temporary assistance to families or individuals in need. Public assistance is divided into three categories: Work First New Jersey “WFNJ” or Temporary Assistance to Needy Families “TANF,” the Food Stamp program, and General Assistance “GA.”

Why is this important?

Public assistance statistics are a useful indicator to measure the economic and social health of a community. This information can be used to help gauge a community’s standard of living. It can also be a major indicator of employment, progress, and family income in a community.

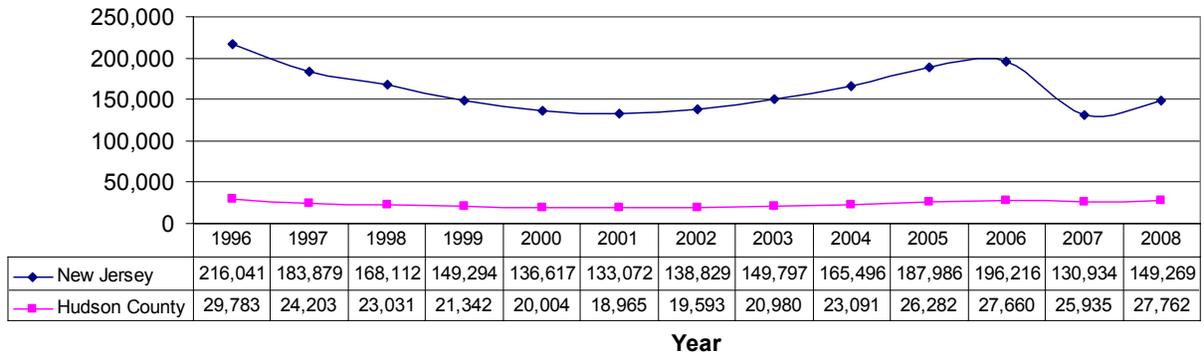
How are we doing?

Mixed – Public assistance statistics show that the number of families that participate in the WFNJ/TANF program in both New Jersey and Hudson County significantly decreased between 1996 and 2006. The number of households authorized to participate in the Food Stamp Program slightly decreased during the same period. However, the number of people collecting General Assistance increased



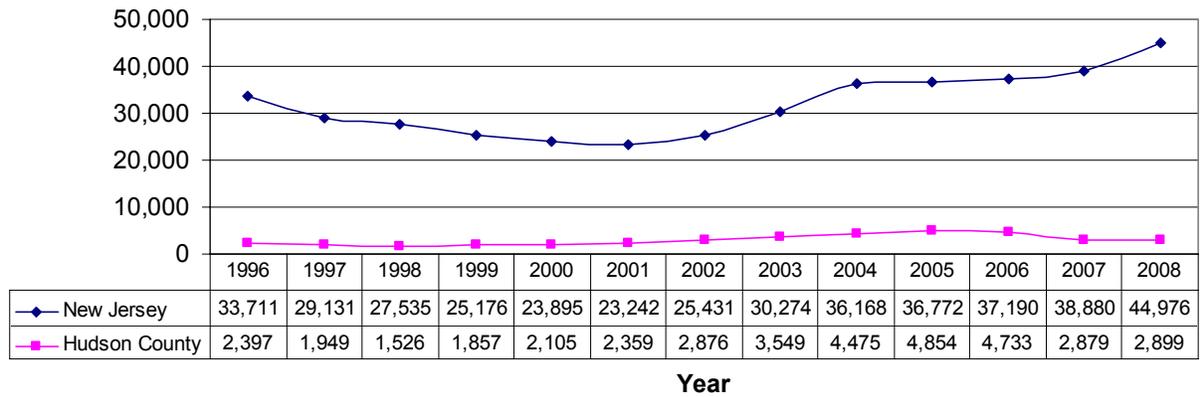
Source: Hudson County Division of Social Services

Number of Households authorized to participate in the Food Stamp Program



Source: Hudson County Division of Social Services

Number of People aided by General Assistance



Source: Hudson County Division of Social Services

24. School Free lunch/Free milk Program Data

What is this?

The United States established the National School Lunch Program under the National School Lunch Act of 1946. It is a federal program that is designed to award funding to school districts according to the amount of students that qualify for the program. In 1998, Congress expanded the National School Lunch Program to include reimbursement for snacks served to children in after-school educational and enrichment programs to include children through 18 years of age.

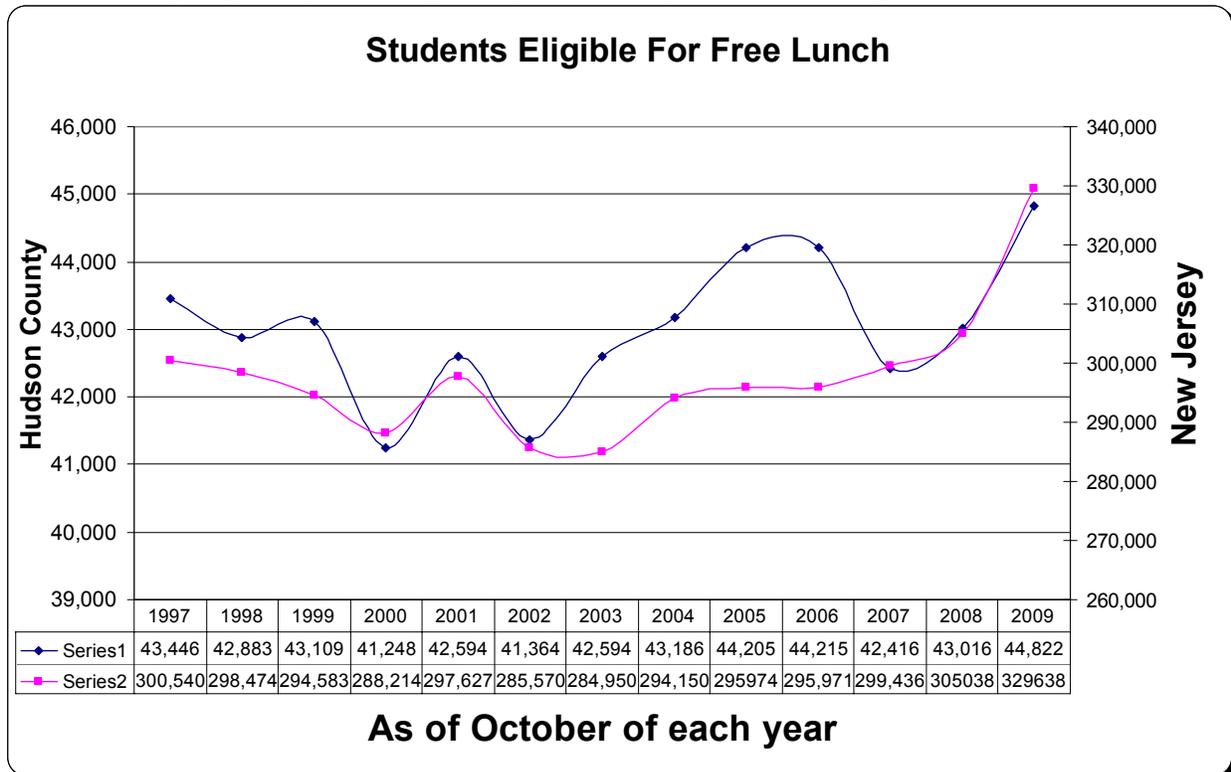
In order to be eligible for free lunch, a child's combined family income must be below 130% of the poverty level. If the income falls between 130% and 185%, then the child is eligible for reduced lunch at a cost of 40 cents per meal.

Why is this important?

The data and figures are important because it demonstrates how many children or families live in poverty or close to the poverty line in a community. In addition, federal free-lunch data are used as one of the main poverty indicators for school districts and are linked to many other local, state, and federal funding streams.

How are we doing?

Improving - The number of students who are eligible for free lunch in Hudson County has been steadily rising since the late 1990's. This data demonstrate that the number of children and families living in poverty or near poverty has steadily been increasing.



Source: New Jersey Department of Education, (<http://www.nj.gov/njded/data/>)

25. Teenage Pregnancy Data

What is this?

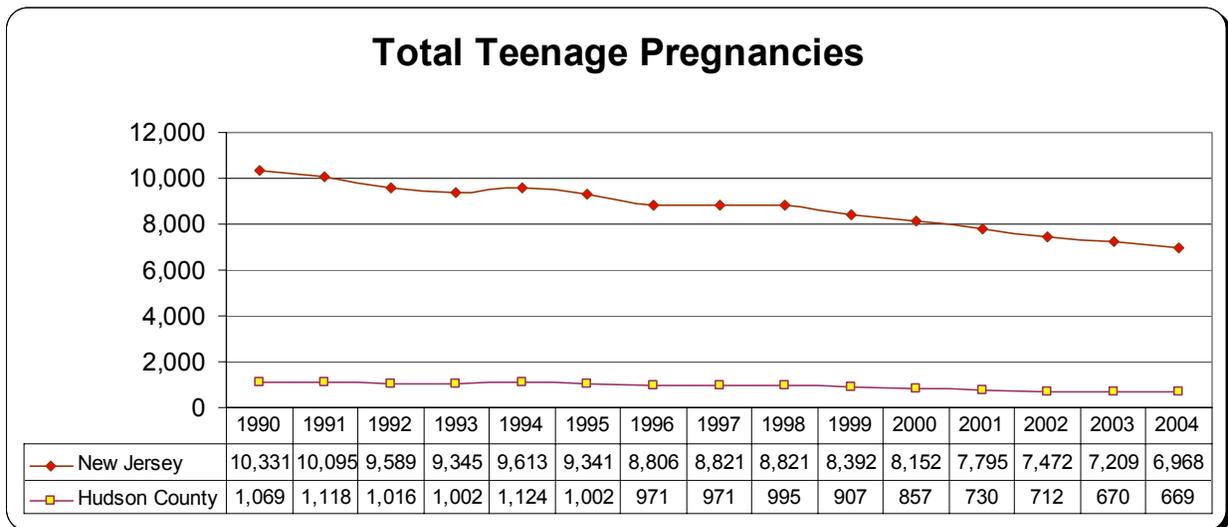
Teenage Pregnancy is a pregnancy that occurs when a female is still an adolescent. Adolescence is defined as the phase in life when an individual has reached puberty and through age 19.

Why is this important?

This is an important issue because “teen pregnancy is closely linked to a host of other critical social issues — welfare dependency and overall child well-being, out-of-wedlock births, responsible fatherhood, and workforce development in particular.”¹ Statistics show that once a teenager has a child, their future prospects may decline. Many don’t graduate from high school and only 1.5% earns a college degree by the age of 30.²

How are we doing?

Improving – The number of teenage pregnancies has declined for both Hudson County and the State of New Jersey. Teenage pregnancy fell from over one thousand per year in the early 1990s to under 670 in 2004. This is probably attributable to better education and methods of prevention.



Source: New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, (<http://www.state.nj.us/health/index.shtml>)

¹ Teenpregnancy.org; <http://www.teenpregnancy.org/resources/data/pdf/notjust.pdf>

² Teenpregnancy.org; <http://www.teenpregnancy.org/whycare/sowhat.asp>

26. Transportation – Traffic

What is this?

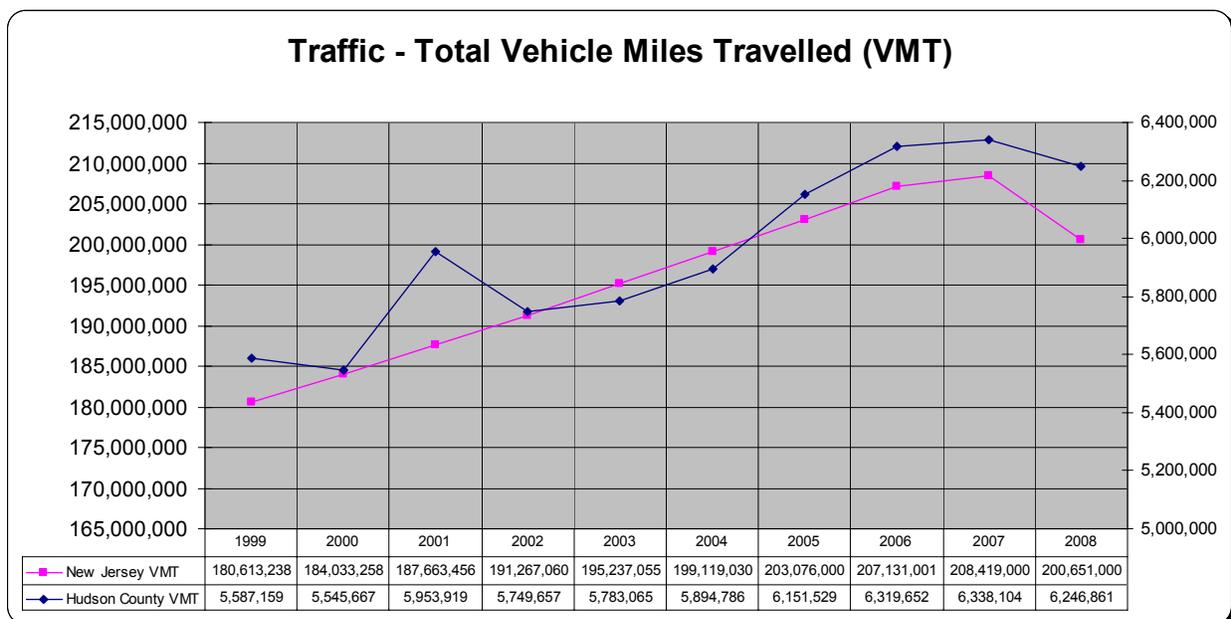
The New Jersey Department of Transportation maintains records and makes estimates about the total amount of daily traffic on New Jersey’s public roadway system down to the county level. New Jersey's official estimate of vehicle miles traveled (VMT) is a product of the Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS) Program. VMT is a measurement of the amount of traffic on a given mile of roadway. The total amount of vehicle miles travelled is essentially an estimate of the daily amount of traffic encountered on all public roadways. It is one aggregated measure of traffic congestion.

Why is this important?

Traffic Congestion has many negative consequences including delays (i.e. the “opportunity cost” for wasted time and productivity of local residents and businesses), wasted fuel spent idling, wear and tear on vehicles, and frustrated motorists and degradation of local air quality (i.e. air pollution). A general goal of the Hudson County CEDS Plan is to “Improve all aspects of the transportation system to facilitate the flow of goods and people;” “Invest in infrastructure systems and technology to continue economic growth, new development, redevelopment, and the quality of life.”

How are we doing?

Declining - Hudson County is following state and national trends in traffic congestion. Between 1990 and 2007 the average vehicle miles travelled in Hudson County increased by more than 750,000 miles per year but a decrease in vehicle miles travelled was seen both County and State wide in 2008.

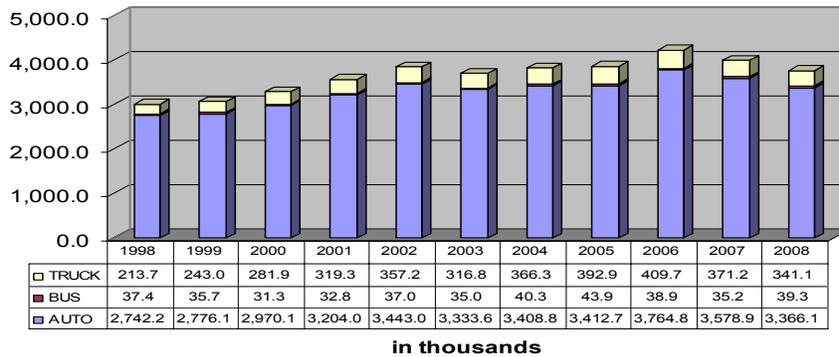


Source: New Jersey Department of Transportation
 (<http://www.state.nj.us/transportation/refdata/roadway/vmt.shtm>)



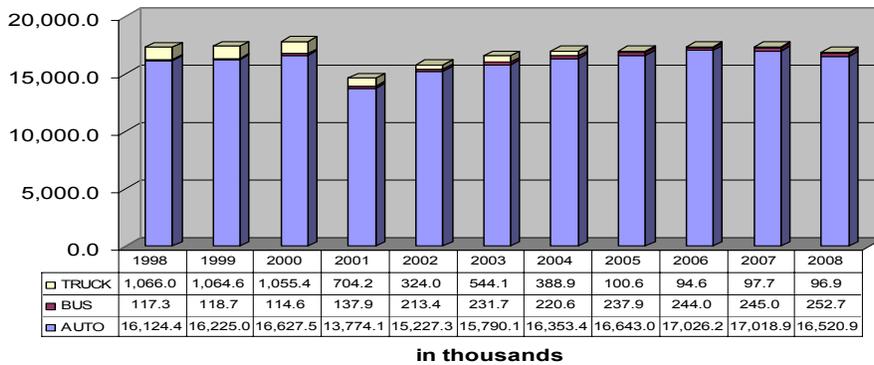
Photo: Traffic entering and exiting the Lincoln Tunnel located in Weehawken.

Bayonne Bridge Total Annual Trips (Southbound only)



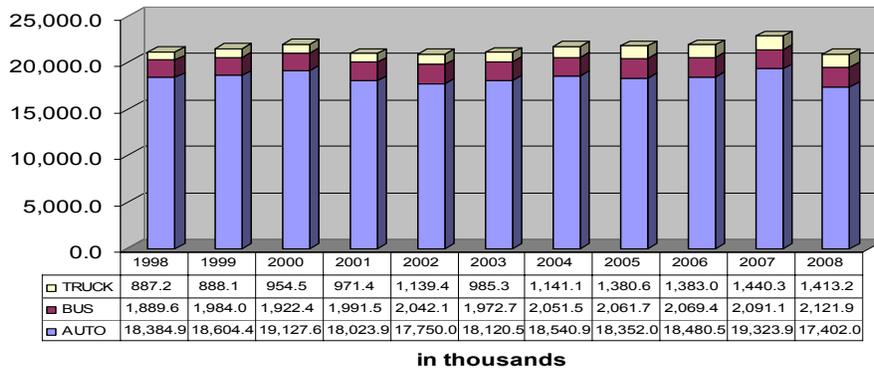
Source: Port Authority of New York & New Jersey

Holland Tunnel Total Annual Trips (Eastbound only)



Source: Port Authority of New York & New Jersey

Lincoln Tunnel Total Annual Trips (Eastbound only)



Source: Port Authority of New York & New Jersey

27. Transportation – Motor Vehicle Accidents

What is this?

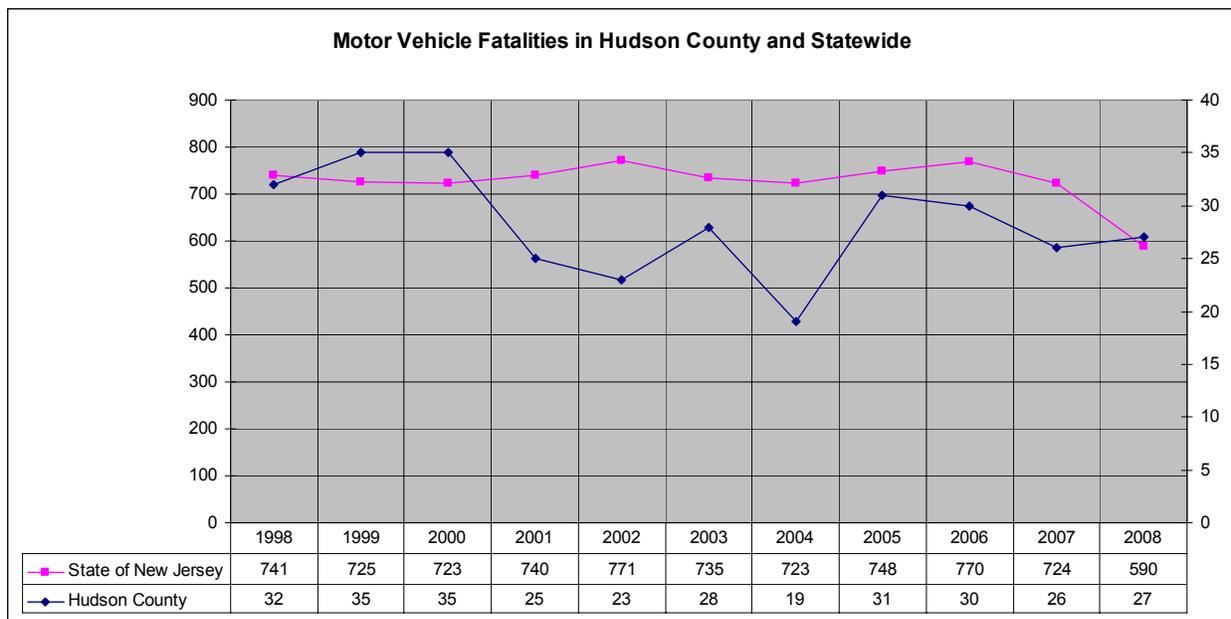
The New Jersey State Police maintains information and statistics on motor vehicle accidents including the location of the crash as well as the number of injuries and/or fatalities. Goals of the Hudson County CEDS Plan include “facilitate the flow of goods and people;” “Invest in infrastructure systems and technology to continue economic growth, new development, redevelopment, and the quality of life.”

Why is this important?

A primary goal of all government is to protect the health, safety and well-being of its citizens. This is achieved by providing a safe and efficient roadway network and transportation system. It is also dependent upon vigorous enforcement of motor vehicle laws by state and local authorities.

How are we doing?

Improving – Using all four measurements below the number of motor vehicle fatalities in Hudson County is generally improving. There may be multiple reasons for improvement including better design and maintenance of local roads and highways, stricter enforcement of motor vehicle laws, and generally safer vehicles. The data below are tempered accidents involving pedestrian fatalities which fluctuated between 1998 and 2008.



Source: New Jersey State Police (<http://www.njsp.org/info/stats.html>)

28. Transportation – Pedestrian Fatalities

What is this?

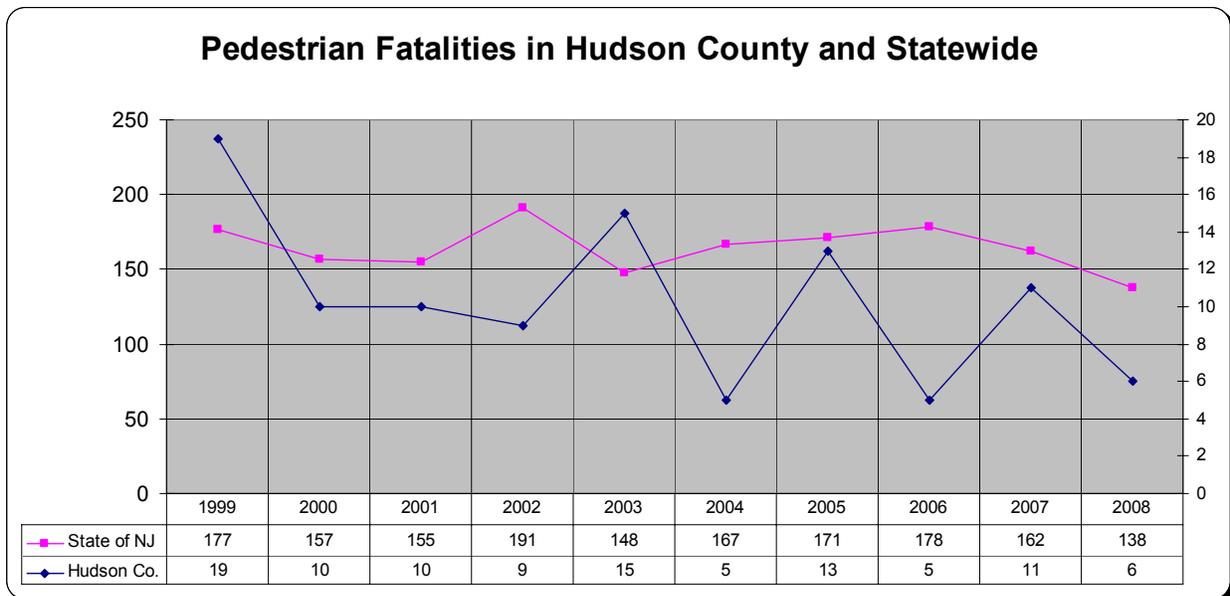
The New Jersey State Police maintains information and statistics on pedestrian fatalities for the state and by county. A general goal of the Hudson County CEDS Plan is to “Improve the quality of life.”

Why is this important?

A primary goal of all government is to protect the health, safety and well-being of its citizens. This is achieved by providing a safe and efficient roadway network and transportation system. It is also dependent upon vigorous enforcement of motor vehicle laws by state and local authorities.

How are we doing?

Declining – While pedestrian fatalities have fluctuated over the past decade, the average number of pedestrian fatalities has increased since 1998. This may be related to more residents walking as a form of commutation or recreation. It may also be related to motorists ignoring traffic laws involving pedestrians (i.e. yielding to pedestrians in crosswalks). Or, it may also demonstrate the need for greater urban design, such as sidewalks, crosswalks, pedestrian signals, etc. Local officials and the general public must work toward to improve awareness of pedestrians, enforcement of traffic laws as well as better design of pedestrian facilities.



Source: New Jersey State Police (<http://www.njsp.org/info/stats.html>)

29. Transportation – Mass Transit Ridership

What is this?

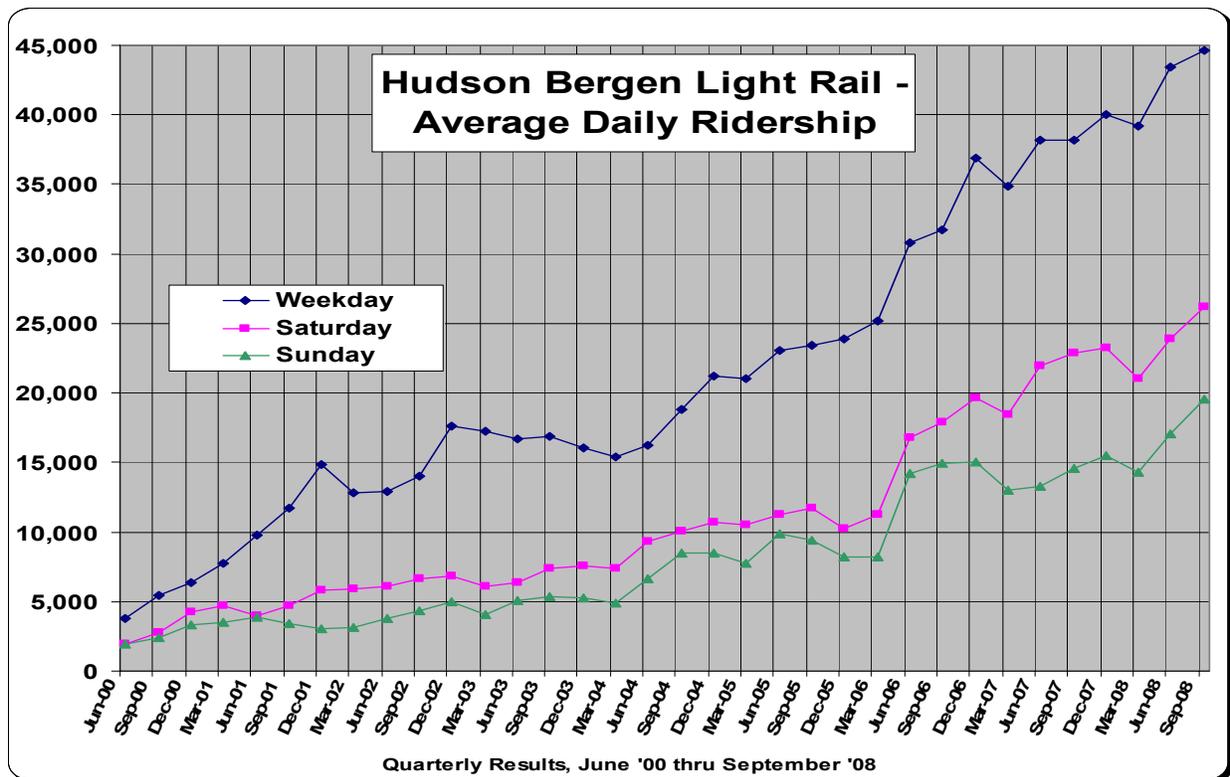
N.J. Transit opened the Hudson Bergen Light Rail system to the general public on April 22, 2000. Since that time, detailed statistics have been kept on ridership. A general goal of the Hudson County CEDS Plan is to “Improve all aspects of the transportation system to facilitate the flow of goods and people.”

Why is this important?

Mass transit provides a safe, reliable and efficient means of transportation which generally reduces traffic congestion and improves air pollution. Mass transit also improves access and mobility in congested urban areas where parking and automobile use may not be feasible.

How are we doing?

Improving – Since the Hudson Bergen Light Rail Transit system began operations in 2000 the ridership has grown exponentially. The system serves tens of thousands of residents and workers on a daily basis, has mitigated traffic congestion along the Hudson River waterfront, and has generally helped spur economic development in Hudson County.

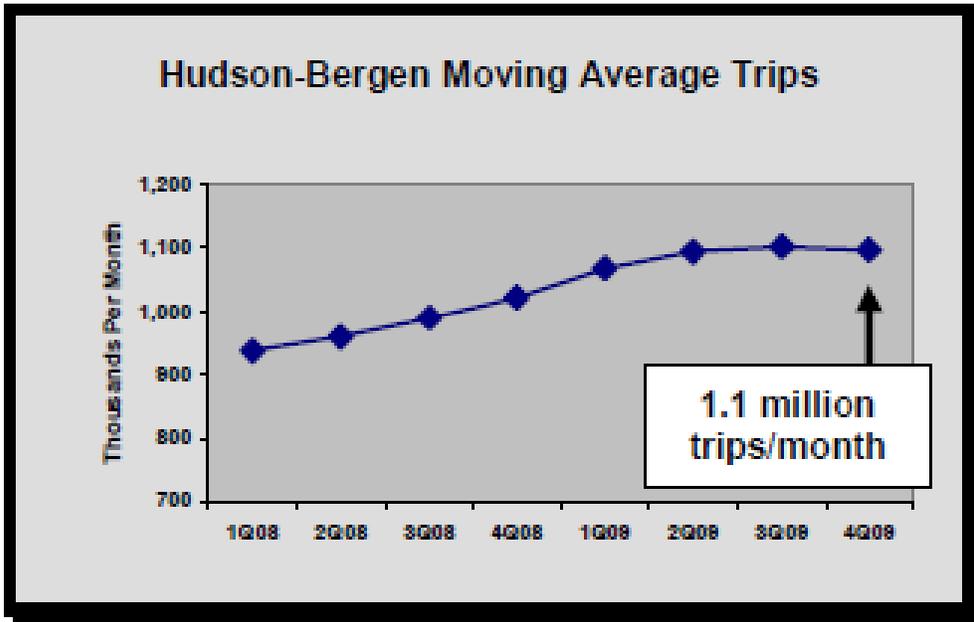


Source: New Jersey Transit Corp.

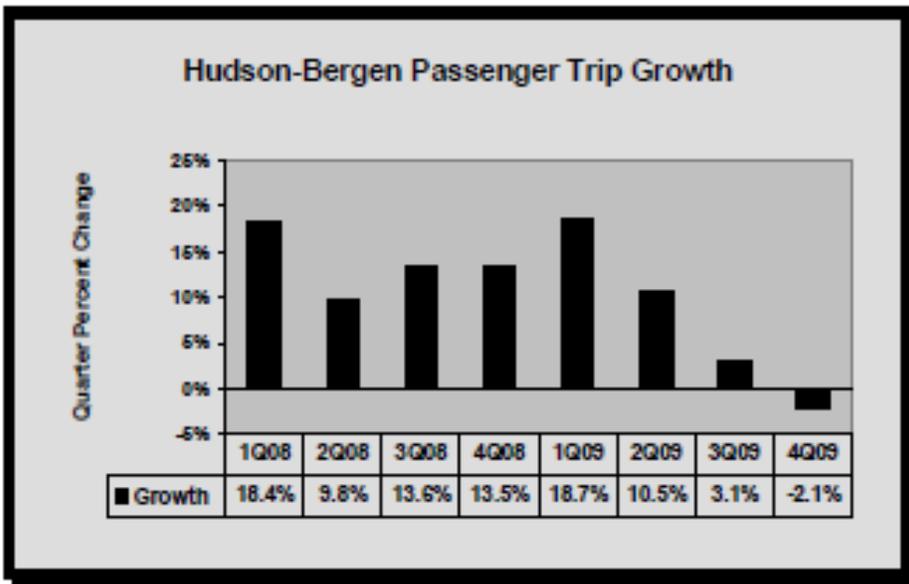
However, with the effects of the recession, the HBLR ridership has declined -2.1% from the fourth quarter report from 2008 to 2009. Weekday ridership declined -2.6% and was seen throughout the HBLR system with a -3.2% decline on the 22nd Street Line with a, -1.0% on the West Side Line and a -2.6%

decline seen at stations between Liberty State Park and Hoboken as well as stations above Hoboken to Tonnelle.³

Weekend ridership on the HBLR experienced a +0.9% growth from last year and set a 4th quarter average weekend ridership at 41,250 trips.



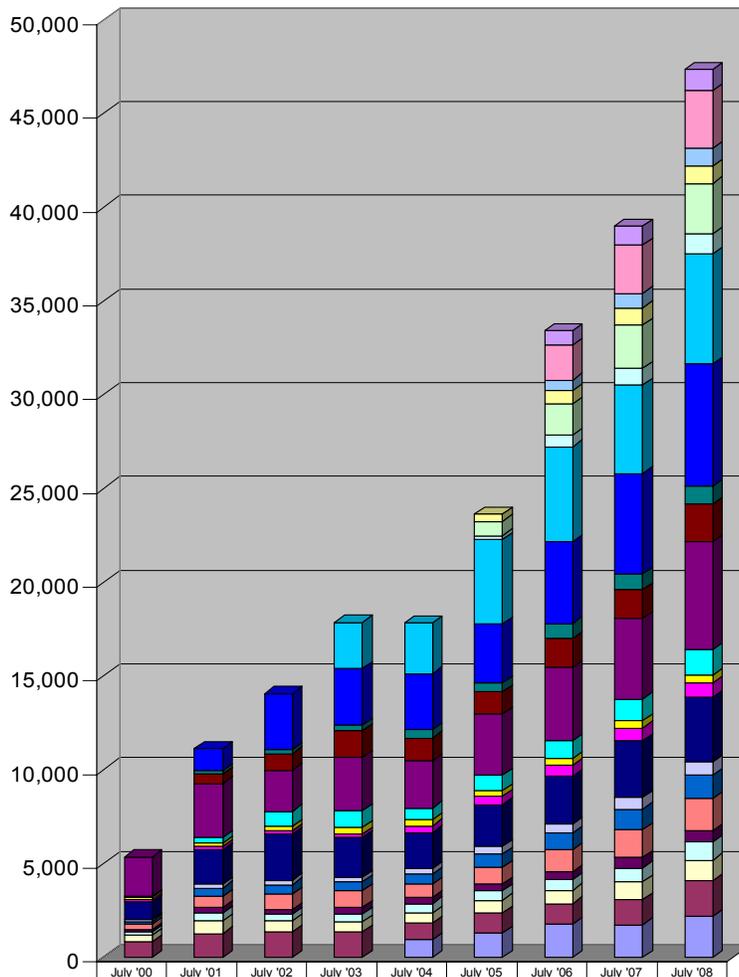
Source: NJ TRANSIT



Source: NJ TRANSIT

³ NJ TRANSIT QUARTERLY RIDERSHIP TRENDS ANALYSIS September, 2009 Fourth Quarter, Fiscal Year 2009 Covering the period April through June, 2009

Hudson Bergen LRT Average Daily Ridership



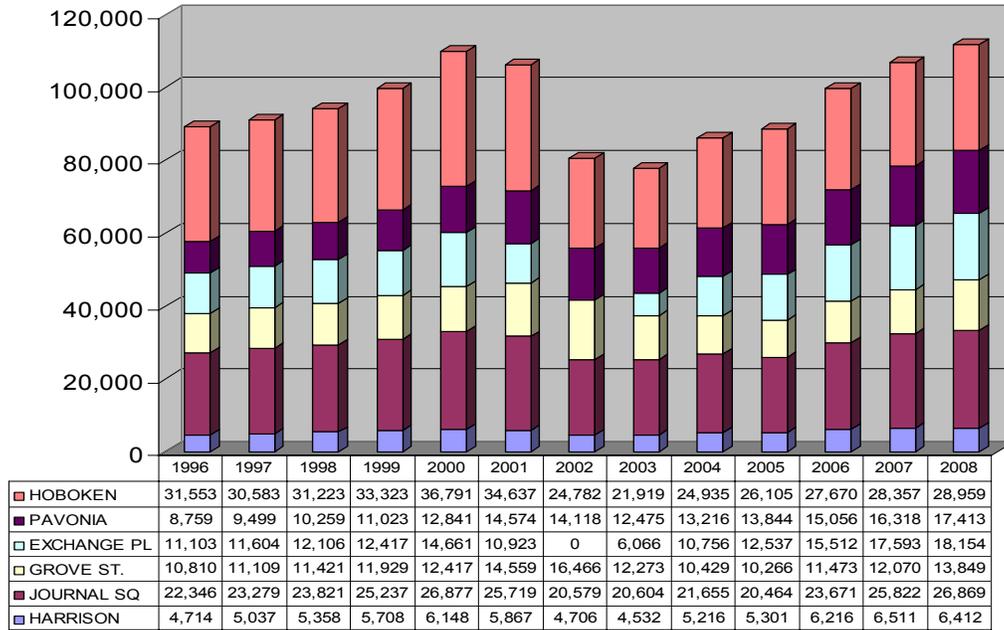
	July '00	July '01	July '02	July '03	July '04	July '05	July '06	July '07	July '08
Tonnelle Ave.							766	981	1,142
Bergenline Ave.							1,885	2,596	3,088
Port Imperial							550	769	956
Lincoln Harbor						386	742	932	911
9th St.						769	1,626	2,286	2,676
2nd St.						225	644	895	1,068
Hoboken				2,444	2,715	4,474	5,077	4,728	5,907
Newport		1,167	2,987	3,033	2,997	3,141	4,336	5,358	6,483
Harsimus		171	212	321	436	493	822	846	968
Harborside		515	879	1,394	1,200	1,207	1,517	1,535	2,007
Exch. Place	2,115	2,879	2,196	2,859	2,544	3,260	3,908	4,292	5,767
Essex St.	40	291	810	899	626	831	981	1,154	1,362
Marin Blvd.	137	172	245	325	326	286	349	393	423
Jersey Ave.	115	176	164	187	354	432	587	676	770
Liberty P/R	936	1,835	2,463	2,127	1,930	2,227	2,541	3,033	3,432
Garfield Ave	105	217	237	233	295	417	480	614	721
MLK Drive	164	445	505	516	538	699	897	1,079	1,210
West Side	272	608	817	885	702	881	1,163	1,518	1,736
Richard St.	106	267	241	328	334	359	448	539	604
Danforth	178	425	378	427	492	520	545	736	966
45th St.	355	690	578	537	554	673	710	966	1,080
34th St.	827	1,259	1,348	1,342	869	1,066	1,096	1,325	1,926
22nd St.					937	1,296	1,759	1,732	2,166

Source: New Jersey Transit Corp.



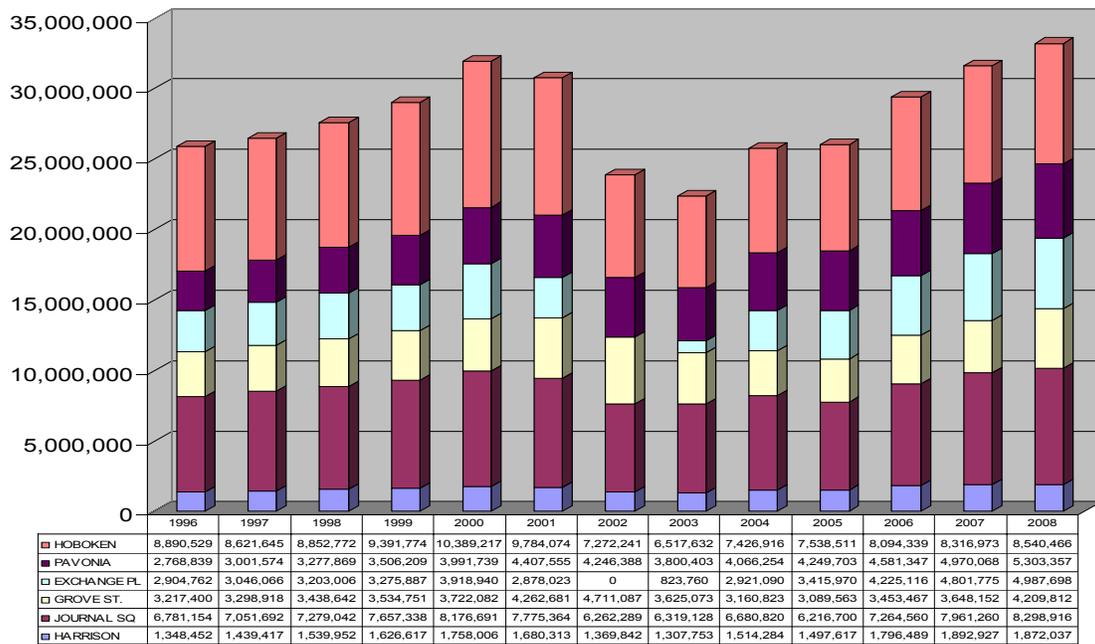
Photo: The Hudson Bergen Light rail near Exchange Place in Jersey City.

PATH Average Weekday Trips by Hudson County Station



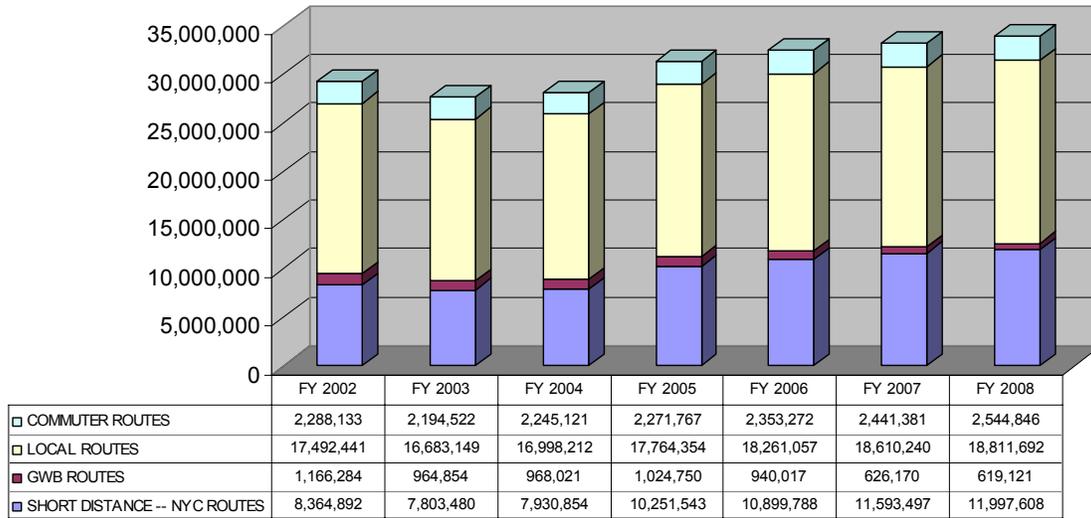
Source: The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, PATH Corp.

PATH Total Annual Trips by Hudson County Station



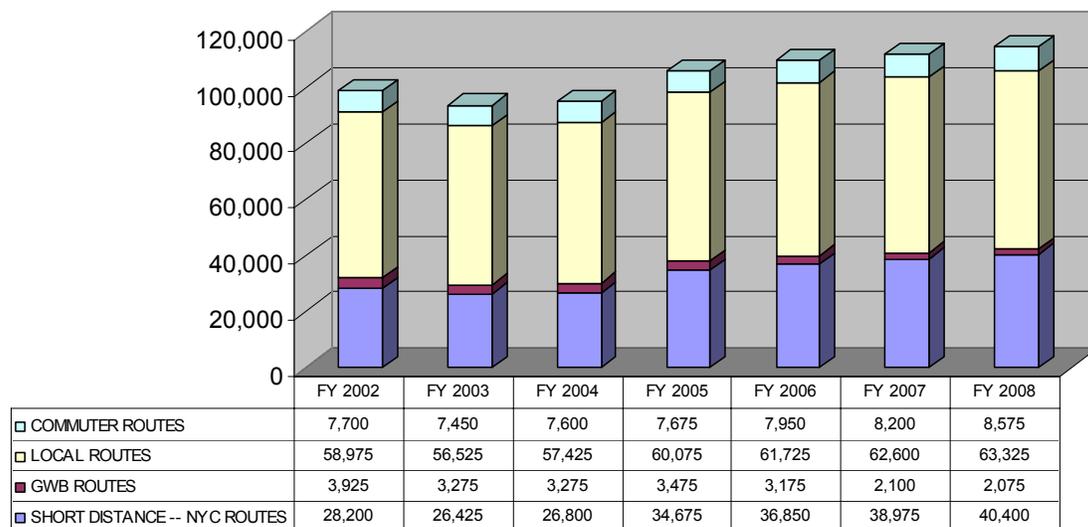
Source: The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, PATH Corp.

NJ Transit Bus - Total Annual Trips in and/or through Hudson County



Source: New Jersey Transit Corp.

NJ Transit Bus - Average Weekday Trips in and/or through Hudson County



Source: New Jersey Transit Corp.

30. Voter Registration & General Election Turnout

What is this?

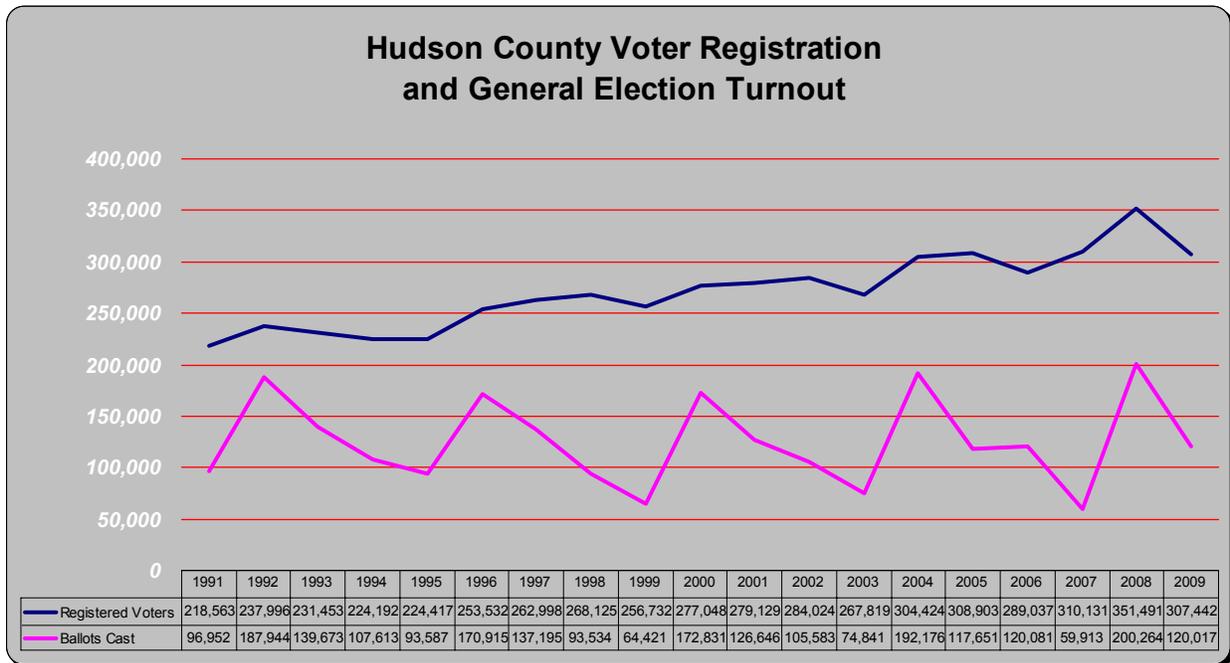
Voter registration is the total number of registered voters within a community. Voter turnout is the total number of ballots cast in a general election.

Why is this important?

Voting is the right of all citizens in a democracy. Voter turnout is one measurement of civic involvement and may be used to gauge local interest and participation in community events.

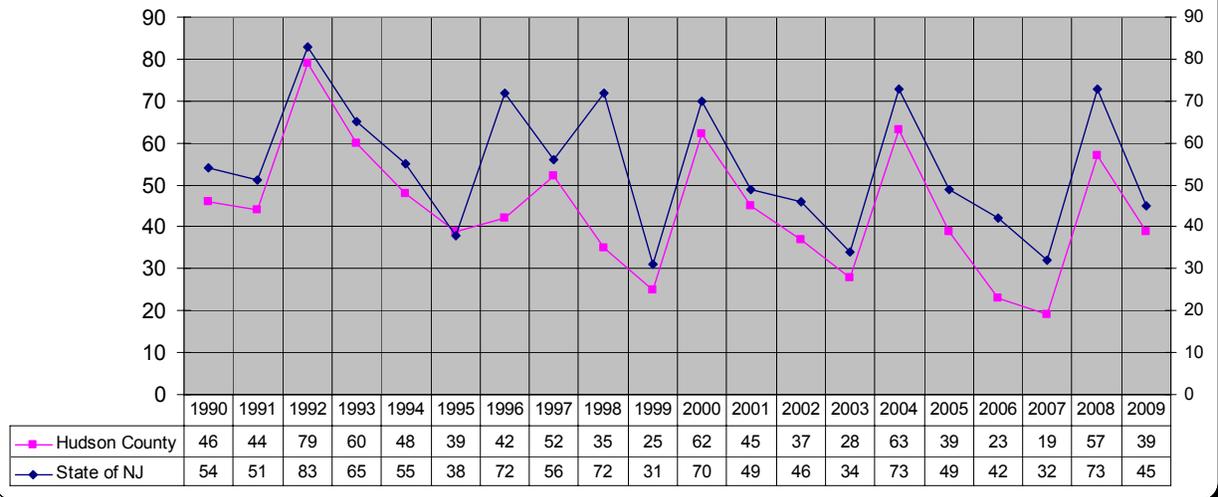
How are we doing?

Mixed – Hudson County’s voter turnout for the 2008 general election was the largest in decades. Over 200,000 citizens in Hudson County cast votes in November 2008. This is probably because it was a Presidential election year which inspired many voters who do not normally participate in elections. However, as the number of registered voters increases (from 226,000 in 1990 to 351,000 in 2008), the percentage of those the casting ballots have decreased.



Source: Hudson County Clerk (Statements of Canvass 1990-2008)
<http://www.hudsoncountyclerk.org/default.htm>

General Election Voter Turnout Rates in Hudson County and Statewide



Source: - New Jersey Division of Elections, (<http://www.state.nj.us/oag/elections/>)

Year	Hudson County Voter Participation			State of New Jersey
	Registered Voters	Ballots Cast	Turnout Percentage	Turnout Percentage
1990	226,074	103,922	46	54
1991	218,563	96,952	44	51
1992	237,996	187,944	79	83
1993	231,453	139,673	60	65
1994	224,192	107,613	48	55
1995	224,417	93,587	39	38
1996	253,532	170,915	42	72
1997	262,998	137,195	52	56
1998	268,125	93,534	35	72
1999	256,732	64,421	25	31
2000	277,048	172,831	62	70
2001	279,129	126,646	45	49
2002	284,024	105,583	37	46
2003	267,819	74,841	28	34
2004	304,424	192,176	63	73
2005	308,903	117,651	39	49
2006	289,037	120,081	23	42
2007	310,131	59,913	19	32
2008	351,491	200,264	57	73
2009	307,442	120,017	39	45

Source: - New Jersey Division of Elections, (<http://www.state.nj.us/oag/elections/>)
<http://www.njvoterinfo.org/>



Photo: The Hackensack River between Jersey City and Kearny.

D. Environmental Indicators

***Goal:** To renovate, safeguard, and make use of our natural resources in a manner that will guarantee enduring benefits for our generation and all those that follow.*

What indicators are included?

31. Air Quality Data
32. Brownfield Data
33. Land Use and Land Cover Data
34. Parks & Open Space Data
35. Recycling Data
36. Solid Waste Data
37. Water Quality Data

31. Air Quality Data

What is this?

The Clean Air Act, which was last amended in 1990, requires the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency “EPA” to set National Ambient Air Quality Standards “NAAQS” for pollutants considered harmful to public health and the environment. The Clean Air Act established two types of national air quality standards. **Primary standards** set limits to protect public health, including the health of “sensitive” populations such as asthmatics, children, and the elderly. **Secondary standards** set limits to protect public welfare, including protection against decreased visibility, damage to animals, crops, vegetation, and buildings. The NAAQS established limitations on major air pollutants including: Ozone (O₃), Particulate Matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}), Carbon Monoxide (CO), Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂), Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x), and Lead (Pb).

Why is this important?

The quality of the air directly impacts the health of our residents. These toxic air pollutants can cause serious health effects such as “damage to the immune system, [...] neurological, reproductive (e.g., reduced fertility), developmental, respiratory and other health problems.”⁴ Each pollutant is different and has different effects on the human body. In reference to ‘ozone,’ what is considered to be harmful is called ground-level ozone, as opposed to the naturally occurring ozone that protects us from ultraviolet rays. While ground-level ozone does not come directly from car exhaust or smokestacks, it does come from the volatile organic compounds that “come from vehicle and industrial exhaust as well as evaporation of gasoline, solvents and paints, and many other sources.”⁵ Ozone tends to affect the lungs and air passages, and can cause burning, coughing, and pain.

How are we doing?

Improving – The following charts and graphs show that air pollution has decreased in Hudson County since the enactment of the Clean Air Act of 1970 and the establishment of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. The number of “good” air quality days has increased and the number of “unhealthy” air quality days has decreased. In addition, the annual averages for ozone, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide have all stayed below acceptable levels.

The challenge facing Hudson County, the State of New Jersey and the nation will be to reduce emissions from carbon dioxide and other green house gases which are emitted through a variety of sources from energy generation to industrial to transportation.

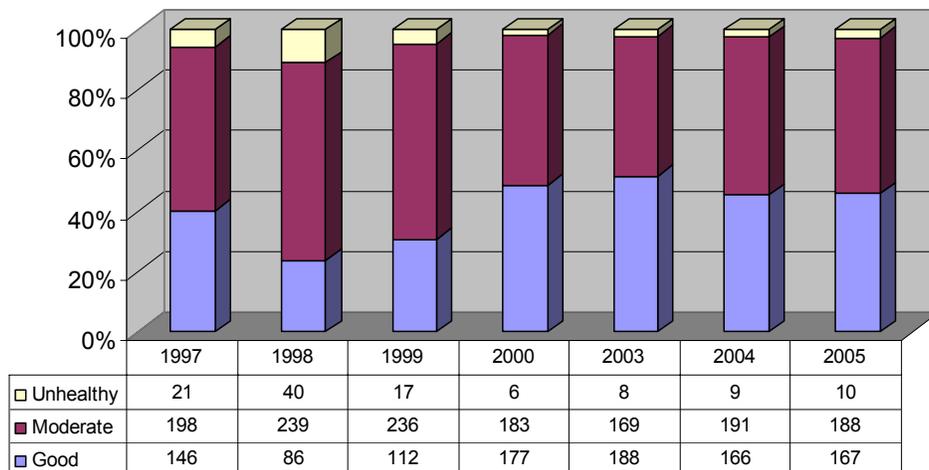
⁴ United States Environmental Protection Agency, “*About Air Toxics, Health and Ecological Effects*”, <http://www.epa.gov/air/toxicair/newtoxics.html>

⁵ New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, “Pollutants and their Health Effects,” <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/airmon/heapage.htm>



Photo: PSEG's Hudson Generating Station, on the banks of the Hackensack River in Jersey City, is a coal fired power plant which provides electricity to Hudson County and the region.

Air Quality Days in Hudson County



Source: New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Reports
<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/airmon/reports.htm>

Table 1. Hudson County Days with Unhealthy Air Quality

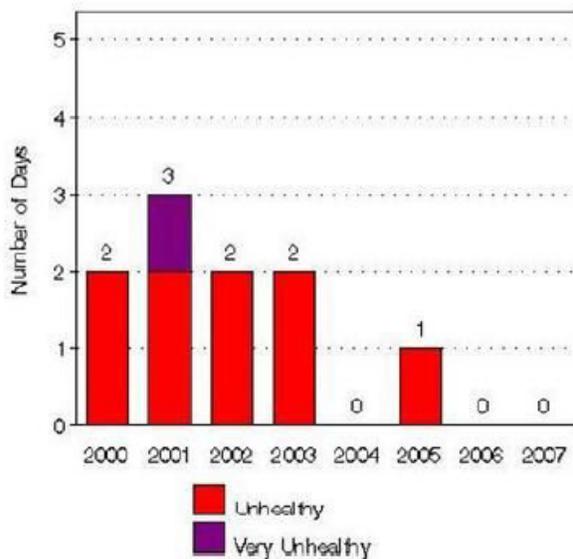
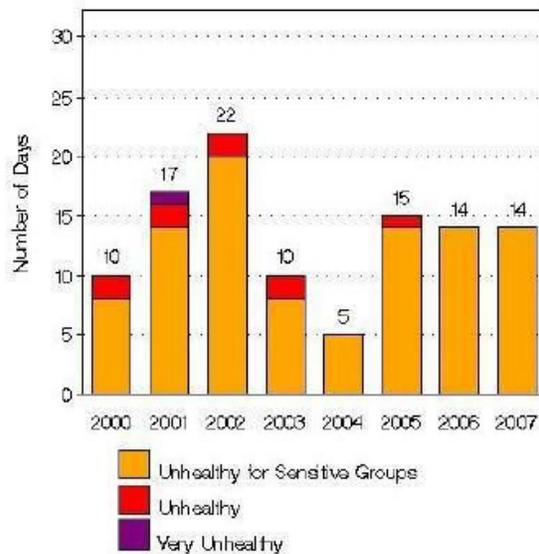
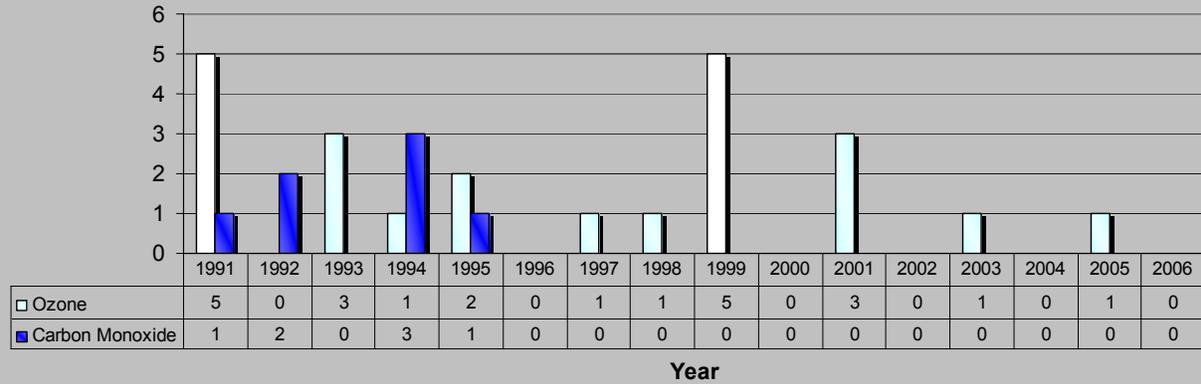


Table 2. Hudson County Days with Air Quality Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups



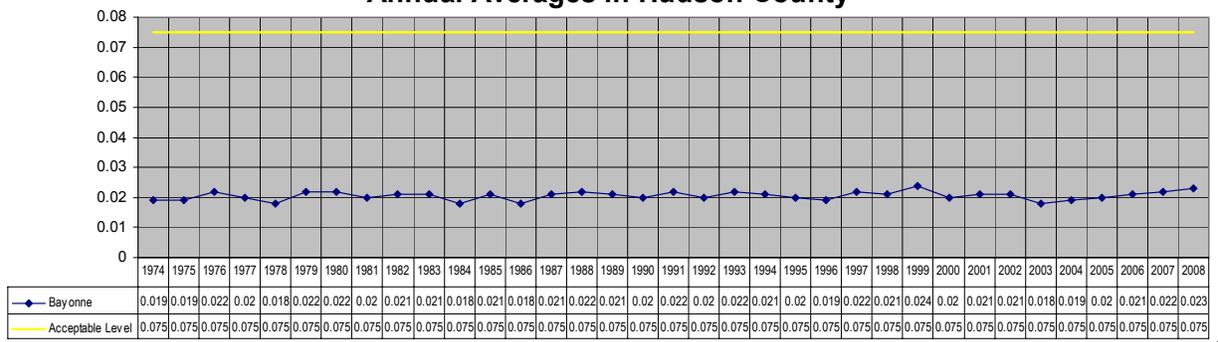
Source: Environmental Health Assessment and Improvement Plan-2009 Hudson County, New Jersey.
 Prepared by the Hudson Regional Health Commission, October 2008, P.5

NAAQS Exceedences in Hudson County

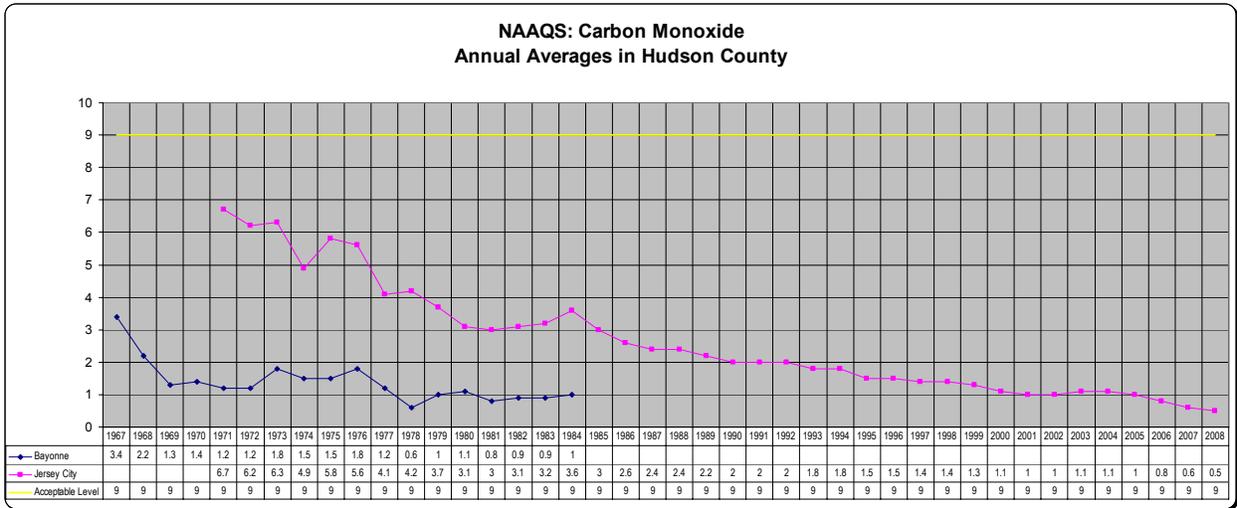


Source: New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Historical Data
<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/airmon/histdata.htm>

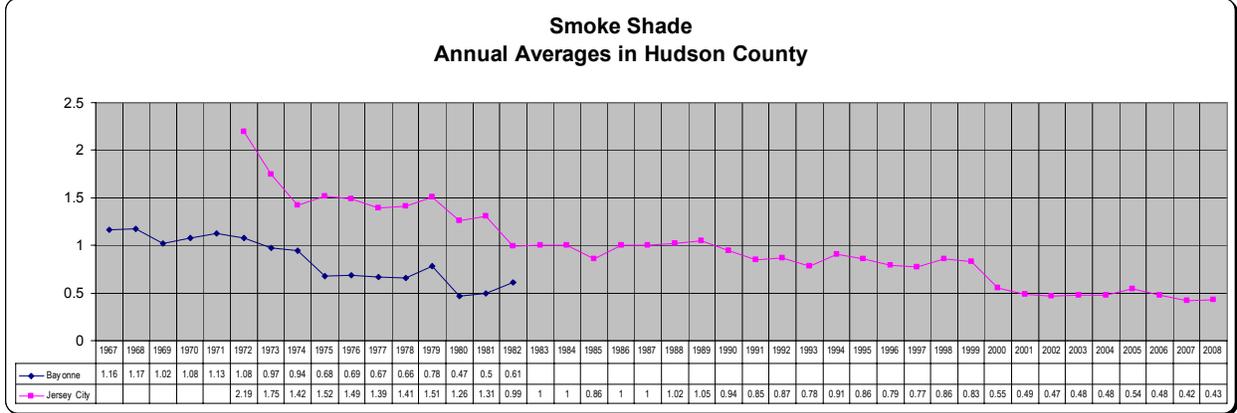
NAAQS: Ozone Annual Averages in Hudson County



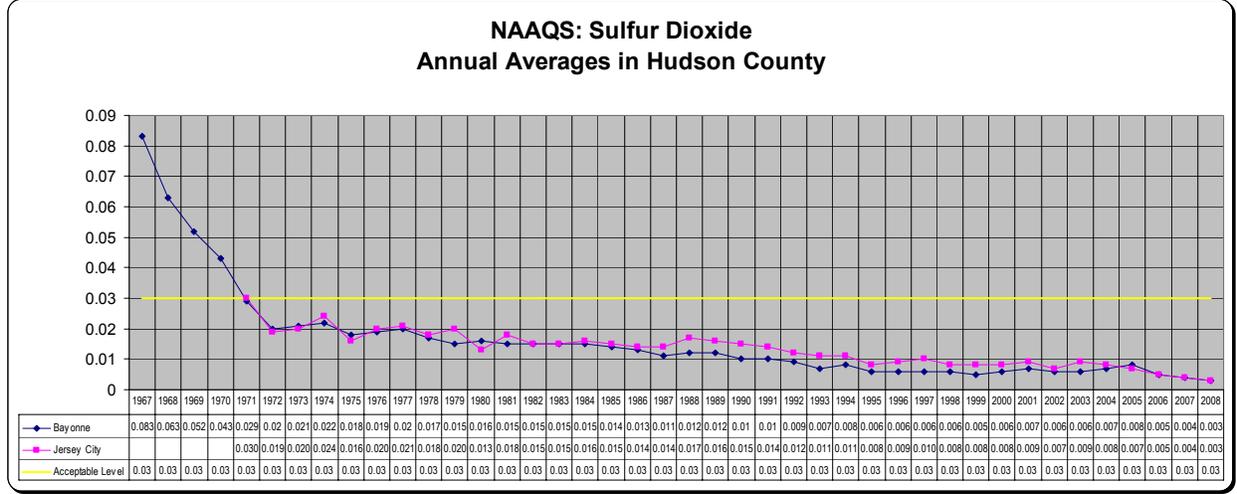
Source: N.J. Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Air Monitoring



Source: N.J. Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Air Monitoring

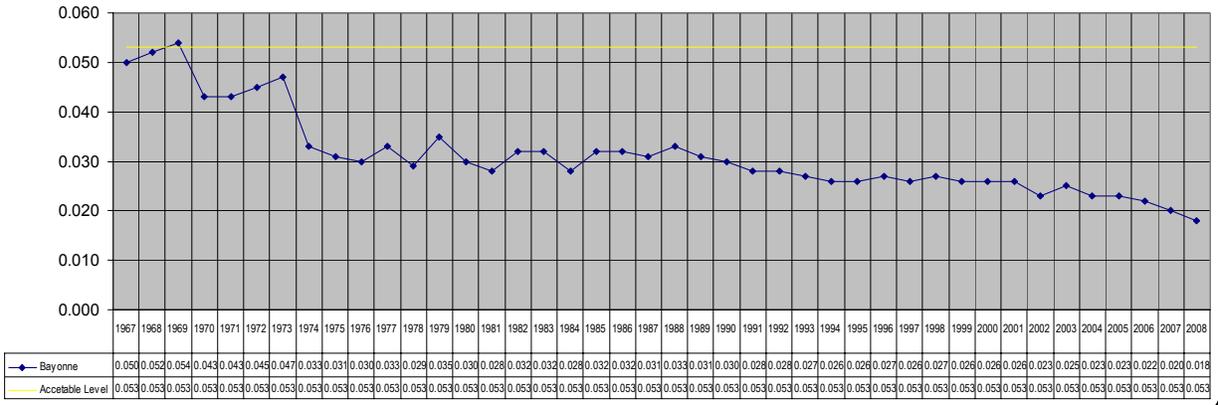


Source: N.J. Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Air Monitoring



Source: N.J. Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Air Monitoring

**NAAQS: Nitrogen Dioxide
Annual Averages in Hudson County**



Source: N.J. Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Air Monitoring

32. Brownfield Remediation

What is this?

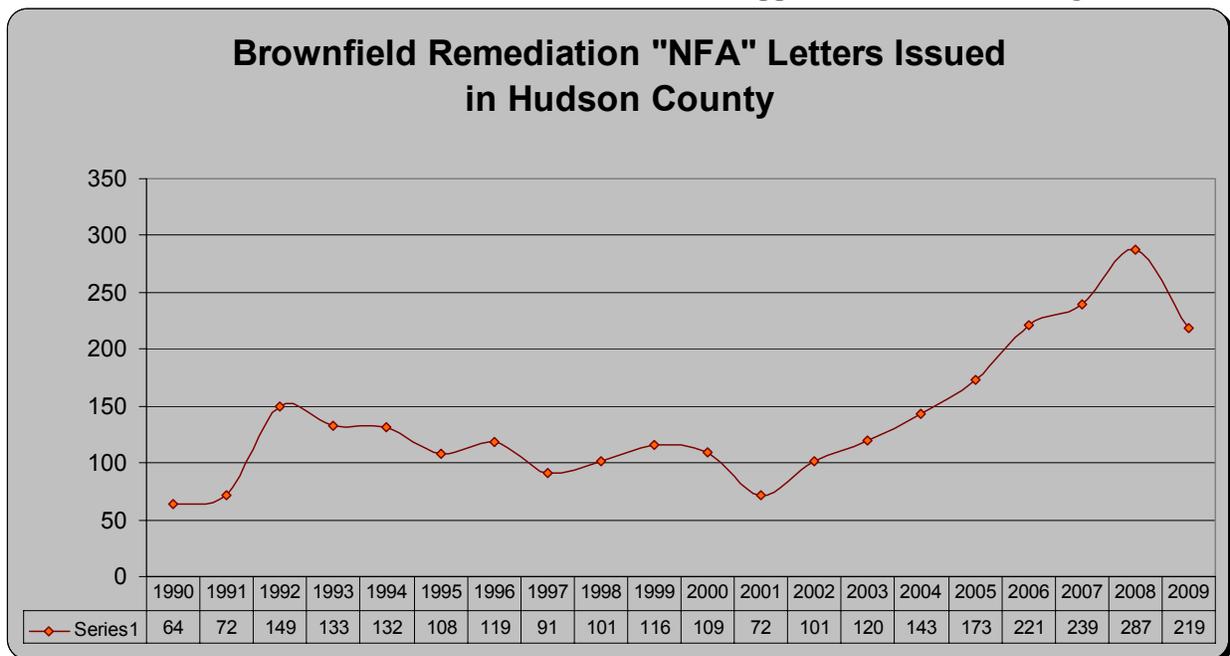
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency “EPA” defines a Brownfield site as a “real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.”⁶ “Generally, brownfields are properties that are abandoned or underutilized because of either *real or perceived* contamination.”⁷

Why is this important?

Brownfield clean-up and remediation is instrumental to the redevelopment and revitalization of urban communities. A general goal of the Hudson County CEDS Plan is to “Foster the cleanup and reuse of contaminated sites as an integral part of both economic and community development.”

How are we doing?

Improving – Despite the fact that Hudson County had the third largest number of “Known Contaminated Sites” in the state, data show the number of brownfields receiving a “No Further Action” letter almost tripled since the early 1990. A “No Further Action” letter states that the site has been cleared of contaminants “in accordance with applicable remediation regulations.”¹⁰



Source: New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, ‘DEP Data Miner,’
(http://datamine.state.nj.us/DEP_OPRA/OpraMain/report_by_keyword)

⁶ NJ EPA, <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/glossary.htm>

⁷ http://www.nj.gov/dep/srp/brownfields/faq/#whatis_bf

¹⁰ New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, http://www.nj.gov/dep/srp/regs/techrule/def_nfa.htm



Photo: The former Honeywell site along Newark Bay in Jersey City is being remediated to become a mixed-use redevelopment project with residential units and commercial space.



Photo: Harrison's 275 acre redevelopment area along the Passaic River features former brownfields sites which are being remediated and turned into a mixed-use development including residential housing, commercial and even a 25,000 seat professional soccer stadium.

33. Land Use/Land Cover Data

What is this?

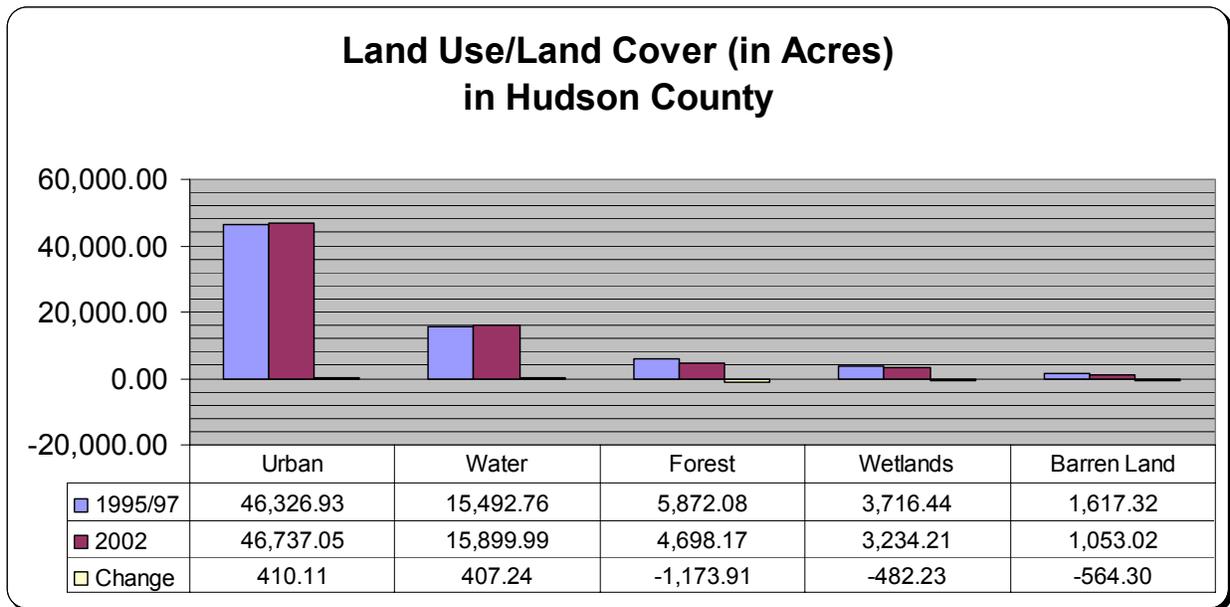
The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection maintains land use and land cover calculations for the state. The land use and land cover are calculated using aerial orthographic photos which are analyzed using a sophisticated geographic information system “GIS” computer program. The Department determines several types of land cover for the entire state and tracks change as the state becomes more developed and urbanized.

Why is this important?

It is important to track land use and land cover to determine trends in real estate development as well as open space preservation and environmental conservation. Land use and land cover is an important environmental indicator to demonstrate how much land is urbanized and developed.

How are we doing?

Mixed - The data confirm that Hudson County is the most developed and urbanized county in the State of New Jersey. In fact, commercial and residential development is making Hudson County even more urbanized claiming over 400 acres of developed space since 1995. Conversely, Hudson County has lost over 2,000 acres of forested areas, wetlands and vacant land.



Source: N.J. Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Information Resources Management (OIRM), Bureau of Geographic Information Systems (BGIS)



Photo: Development along the Penhorn Creek has turned wetlands into trucking terminals.



Photo: Development has eliminated swaths of wetlands in the Hackensack River watershed.

34. Parks & Open Space Data

What is this?

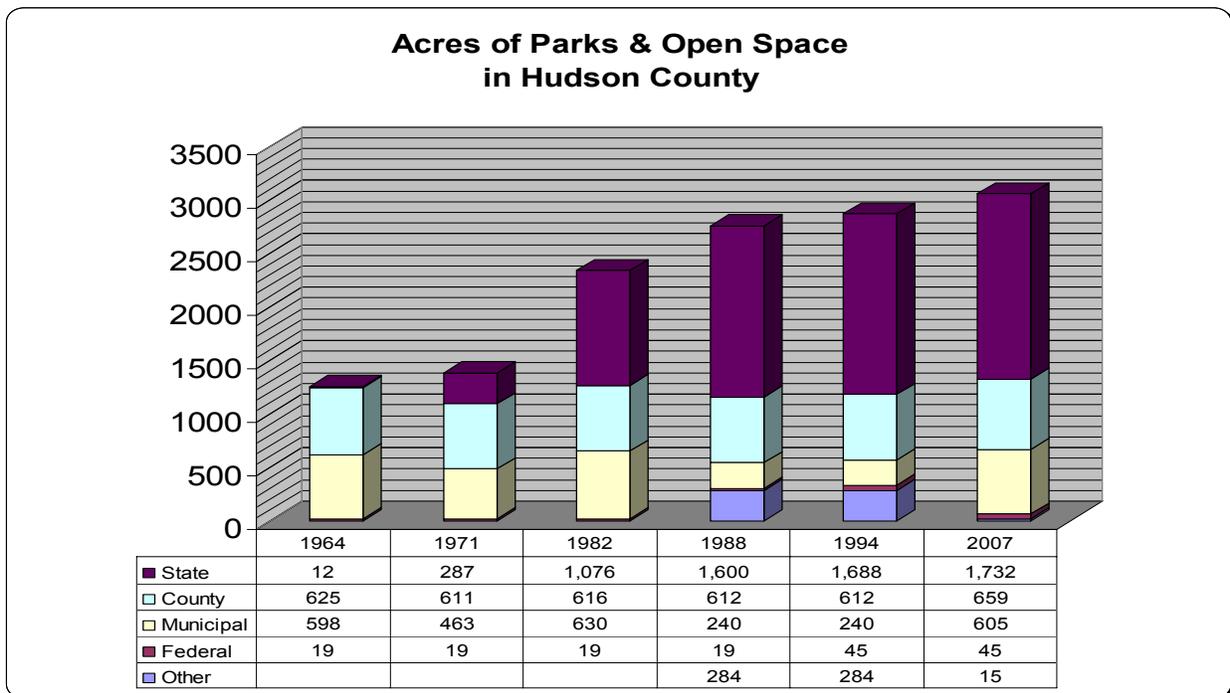
The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Green Acres program maintains a list preserved parks, playgrounds, forests, and conservation areas which are deed-restricted and held in public trust for the benefit and enjoyment of the residents of the State of New Jersey.

Why is this important?

Open Space is important because it helps create a balance between the urban environment and nature. Parks and playgrounds provide need recreational opportunities for inner city residents. Open Space also improves the air and water quality. Land that is left in its natural state acts as a filter for pollutants in rain and flood waters. Plants and animals that may be native to an area will be able to continue their way of life in areas designated as Open Space.

How are we doing?

Mixed - The number of acres of parks and open space in Hudson County has significantly increased since the creation of the Green Acres program in 1962. In addition, the county along with one municipality had approved an “Open Space Trust Fund” for the expansion of parks and open space, rehabilitation of existing parks and playgrounds and the preservation of historic sites. However, neither the county nor its constituent municipalities meet state or national guidelines for parks and open space.



Source: New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, “Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan” (1965, 1973, 1984, 1988, 1994, 2007).



Photo: The 13 acre former Reservoir No. 3 in Jersey City's Heights neighborhood has been preserved for future park space.



Photo: Bayonne's 32 acre Richard Rutkowski Park on Newark Bay has been preserved as a municipal park.

35. Recycling Data

What is this?

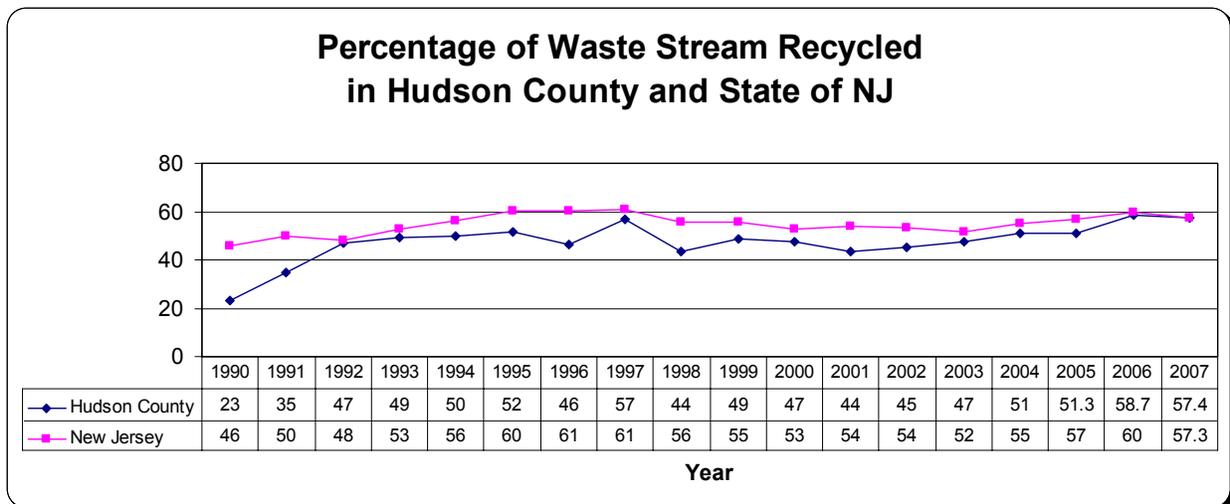
New Jersey State law requires that all counties and municipalities recycle at least 50% of municipal household garbage (type 10) and 60% of all solid waste including (type 13) “bulky waste” and (type 27) non-hazardous manufacturing and industrial waste.

Why is this important?

The amount of natural resources is finite, while America’s appetite for both durable and disposable goods has been increasing exponentially. Recycling is important because it is a safe way to decrease the amount of solid waste that accumulates in landfills or gets burned in incinerators.

How are we doing?

Improving – The percentage of Hudson County’s solid waste stream which was recycled more than doubled between 1990 and 2007.



Sources: Hudson County Improvement Authority and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (<http://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/recycle/stats.htm>)

36. Solid Waste Data

What is this?

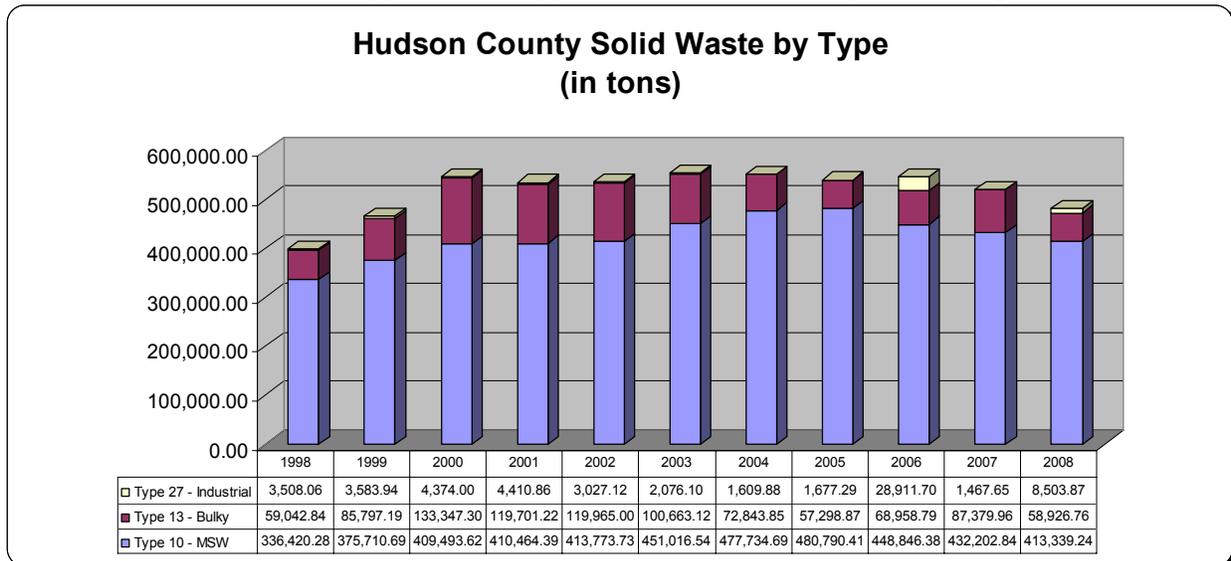
Solid waste is any material that is abandoned by being disposed of, burned or incinerated, recycled or considered “waste-like.” Solid waste does not necessarily have to be in a “solid” form; it can be semi-solid, liquid, or a container holding gaseous material. Solid waste is divided into many different categories. The categories include Type 10, Type 13, and Type 27. Type 10 consists of municipal or household waste. This includes residential waste, commercial waste, and waste from institutions such as schools, hospitals, or other public buildings. Type 13 waste is made up of bulky waste; this includes tires, automobiles, furniture, appliances, etc. Construction and demolition debris is also included in this category. Type 27 waste is comprised of dry industrial waste. This includes manufacturing, industrial, and research/development wastes. Non-hazardous oil spill cleanup waste, dry non-hazardous pesticides, dry non-hazardous chemical waste, and residue from the operations of a scrap metal shredding facility are also included.¹¹

Why is this important?

This is important because all of this solid waste has to go somewhere. Even though there are no landfills in Hudson County, we must still be mindful that the negative effects of large amounts of waste affect us all. Solid waste can affect the soil and the water under it. That is why it is important that we as a community try to reduce the amount of solid waste that we produce, because reduction “prevents emissions of many greenhouse gases, reduces pollutants, saves energy, conserves resources, and reduces the need for new landfills and combustors.”¹²

How are we doing?

Mixed - Data show that the total amount of tonnage of solid waste tonnage in Hudson County increased between 1998 and 2005. The amount of Type 10 solid waste has been increasing since 1998 while the amounts of Type 13 and Type 27 have been steadily decreasing.



Sources: Hudson County Improvement Authority and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (<http://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/recycle/stats.htm>)

¹¹ New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (<http://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/lrm/type.htm>)

¹² United States Environmental protection Agency (<http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/muncpl/facts.htm>)

37. Water Quality Data

What is this?

Water quality is a term used to describe the biological, chemical and physical characteristics of water and its general composition. The Federal Clean Water Act establishes water quality standards and a basic structure to regulate discharges of pollutants into the water. The legislation signaled a new way of dealing with the nation's water pollution by prohibiting the discharge of pollutants unless the discharger first obtains a valid permit from the government.¹³

The Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission is one of ten sewerage agencies that make up the New Jersey Harbor Dischargers Group (NJHDG). In 1992, the ten agencies collaborated and jointly funded and performed various water quality studies in the region. In 2000, the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission initiated a long-term monitoring program of the Passaic River and Newark Bay. The NJHDG decided to expand upon PVSC's monitoring programs to cover all of the NJ Harbor Waters.¹⁴

The NJHDG has gathered five years of high quality data by sampling the waters of the Passaic River, Hackensack River, Newark Bay, Arthur Kill and the New Jersey side of the Hudson River. The NJHDG monitors eleven locations that border Hudson County. Below are three water quality parameters that are tested at each station weekly from May through September, and twice per month from October through April.

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) classifies state waterbodies in terms of Surface Water Quality Standards. The waterbodies that surround Hudson County are classified by the NJHDG Long-Term Water Quality Monitoring Program as FW2-NT (non-trout fresh water), SE1, SE2 and SE3 (saline estuary water Classes).¹⁵

Why is this important?

During the 1970's and 1980's it became clear that over 50 percent of the nation's pollution was coming from nonpoint sources of stormwater run-off. Under Section 319 of the 1987 Amendments to the Clean Water Act, Congress directed states to create measures to implement programs targeting these nonpoint sources. New Jersey was granted funds through section 319(h) from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for its approved Nonpoint Source Assessment Report and Nonpoint Source Management Program. These funds are used to implement programs and projects designed to reduce nonpoint source pollution and manage water quality.¹⁷

¹³Clean Water Act- effects, important, system, source, marine

<http://www.waterencyclopedia.com/Ce-Cr/Clean-Water-Act.html#ixzz0n5HyX05Z>

¹⁴ "The New Jersey Harbor Dischargers Group 2006 Water Quality Report" Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners <http://pvsc.com/>

¹⁵ ibid

¹⁷ NJDEP. Division of Watershed Management- NonPoint Source Pollution

http://www.state.nj.us/dep/watershedmgt/nps_program.htm

How are we doing?

Mixed- Local surface water quality in the Hackensack River, Hudson River, Kill Van Kull, Newark Bay and Passaic River has been historically poor in Hudson County due to anthropogenic and natural factors. Urban runoff and continued construction along the waterfronts also contributes to the poor water quality.¹⁸ The waterways have improved in quality over recent years through upgrades made in sewage treatment facilities, increased conservation efforts and recreational uses along the rivers as well as the remediation of superfund sites.



Source: *The New Jersey Harbor Dischargers Group 2006 Water Quality Report*

¹⁸ Hudson County Master Plan 2002. Heyer, Gruel & Associates PA, New Brunswick, NJ p. X-5

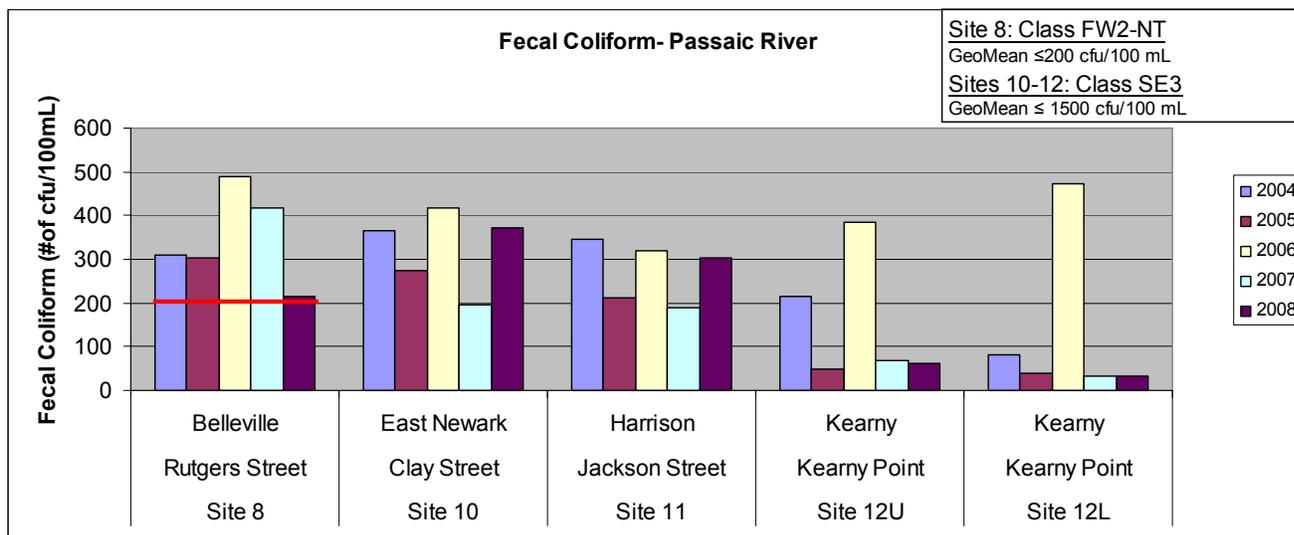
Fecal Coliform Bacteria

Fecal coliform bacteria are a group of micro-organisms that live in the large intestines of warm blooded animals to aid in the digestion of food. High presence of fecal coliform bacteria in surface waters is a sign of contamination and of poor water quality.¹⁹

Fecal coliform standards are based on monthly geometric mean values for a minimum of five samples in thirty days. The NJHDG Long-Term Water Quality Monitoring Program calculated the summer seasonal geometric means (from May 15-September 15). This timeframe was used to coincide with the beach bathing season, when it is mandatory to ensure the protection of human health.²⁰

The highest fecal coliform numbers were seen at the Rutgers Street Station (Belleville, NJ) in the Passaic River. Discharges of stormwater runoff may account for the high fecal coliform concentrations at this site.

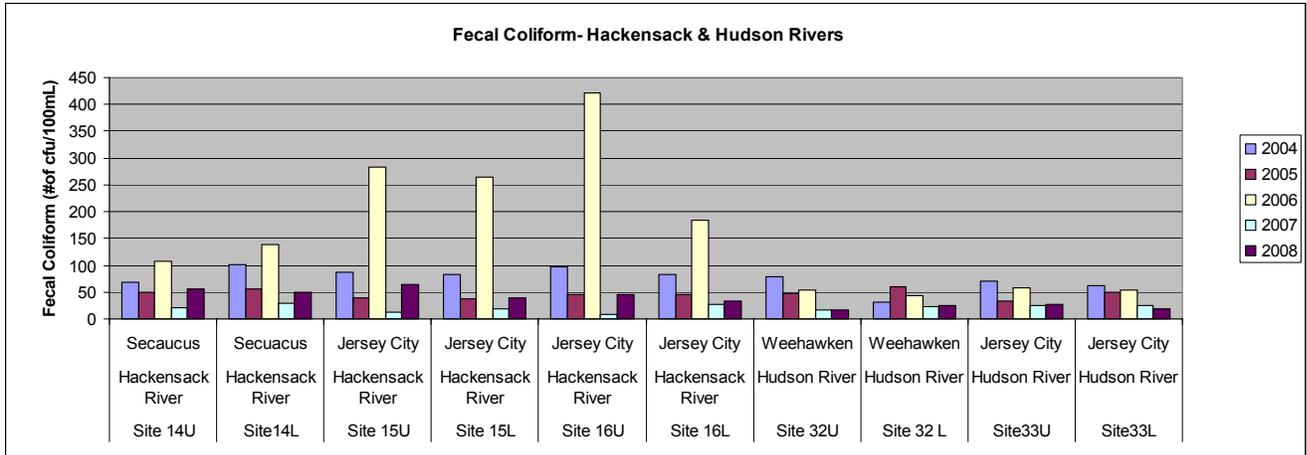
The fecal coliform patterns were generally consistent except in the Hackensack River in 2006 when they spiked. The fecal coliform levels have decreased from the 2006 numbers observed in all the waterbodies surrounding Hudson County.



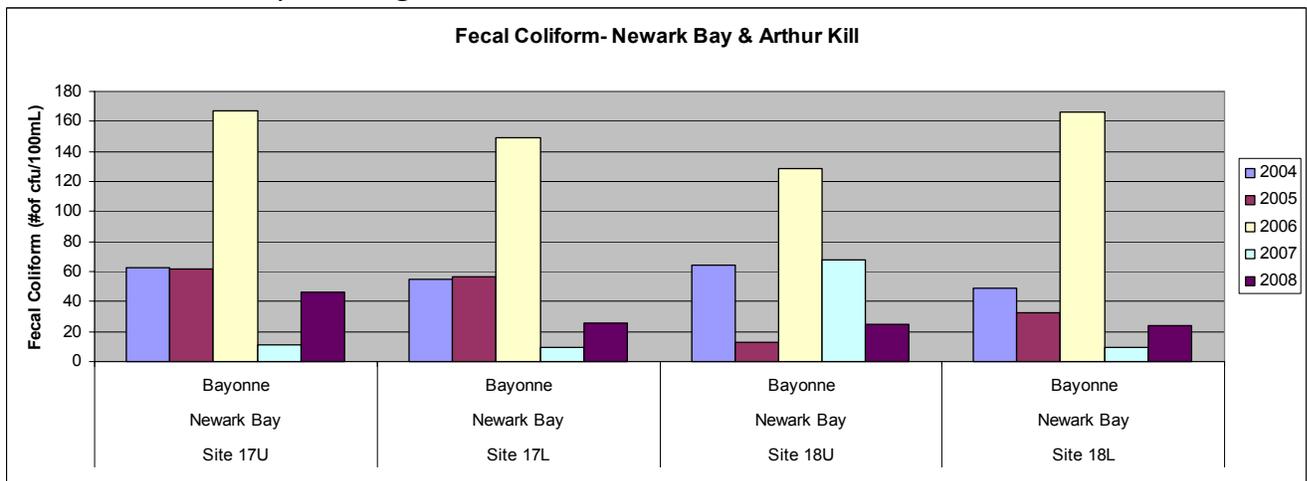
Source: Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners

¹⁹ “ The New Jersey Harbor Dischargers Group 2006 Water Quality Report” Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners <http://pvsc.com/>

²⁰ ibid



Source: Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners



Source: Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners

Dissolved Oxygen

Sufficient levels of oxygen in the water are necessary for the survival of aerobic aquatic species. Aquatic life generally requires concentrations above 3.0 mg/L to survive, and some species become stressed when “DO” levels drop below 5.0 mg/L.²¹

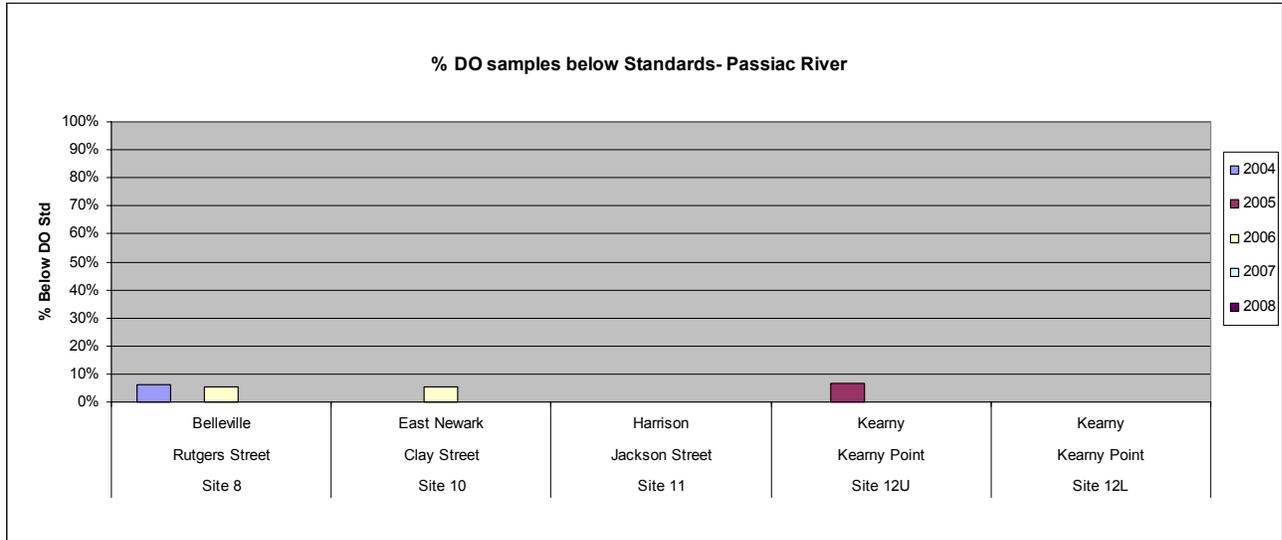
All “DO” measurements were taken during daylight hours, when “DO” levels are expected to be highest as a result of photosynthesis in algae and other aquatic plants. Calculations were averaged from May 15th to September 15th since “DO” levels are expected to be lowest in the warm summer months.²²

The tables below illustrate the “never less than” percentage of Dissolved Oxygen for each waterbody class. SE1 Shellfish Waters were compared to the “never <5.0 mg/L” standard, FW2-

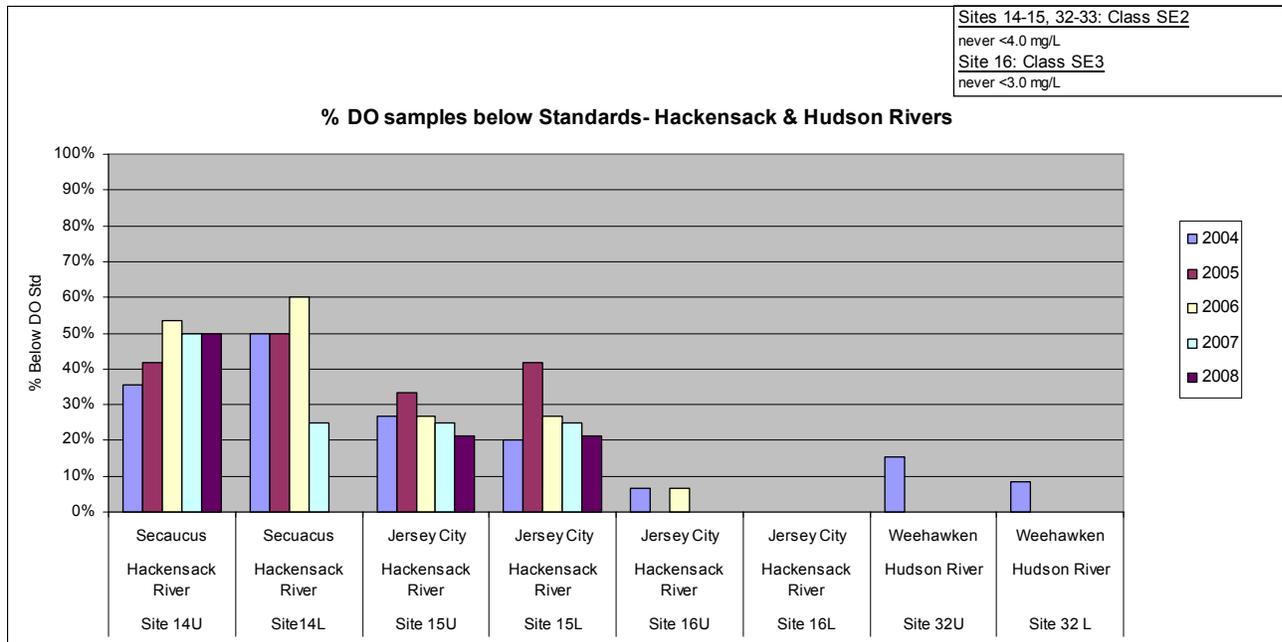
²¹ “The New Jersey Harbor Dischargers Group 2006 Water Quality Report” Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners <http://pvsc.com/>

²² *ibid*

NT, SE2 waterbodies were compared to the “never <4.0 mg/L” standard, and SE3 waterbodies were compared to the “never <3.0 mg/L” standard. The “DO” measurements that violated the “never less than” standards were calculated on an annual basis.²³ The Hackensack River was found to have the highest percentages of values lower than their corresponding “never less than” standards. The Newark Bay site did not have any samples that were below the standard.



Source: Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners



Source: Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners

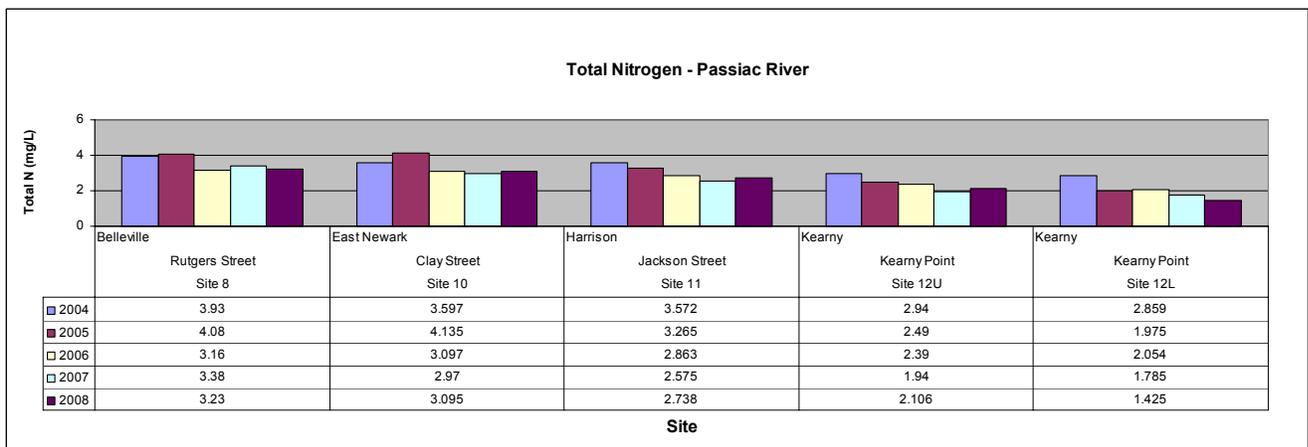
²³ ibid

Nitrogen

Nitrogen is a nutrient found in surface waters. Nitrates (NO₃) stimulate plant growth and are essential to the health of an aquatic system. However, excessive concentrations of nitrogen compounds will lead to excessive algae and plant growth which will consume much of the available dissolved oxygen leading to eutrophication and a decline in water quality. The susceptibility of estuaries and coastal waters to eutrophication depends on temperature, availability of phosphorus and silica for algae production, and the rate of water exchange with the open ocean.²⁴ “The symptoms of eutrophication include blooms of algae (both toxic and non-toxic), declines in the health of fish and shellfish, loss of seagrass beds and coral reefs, and ecological changes in food webs.”²⁵ Nitrogen plays a significant role in the adverse impact of water quality. Scientists estimate that 10 to 45 percent of the nitrogen produced by various human activities is transported via the atmosphere to the estuaries coastal ecosystems.²⁶

“Nitrogen contamination may come from a variety of sources: municipal sewage, animal manure, atmospheric deposition, biological N fixation, soil organic N, and/or nitrogen fertilizers²⁷. The level of contamination in specific waters will depend upon the amount of contamination from all sources and characteristics of the receiving waters.

There are no surface water quality standards for total nitrogen at this time. Samples were taken between May 15th and September 15th for total nitrogen. The nitrogen levels have decreased over the past five years in all of the waterbodies. Since there are no surface water qualities standards for total nitrogen it is impossible to conclude whether reduced levels of total nitrogen will negatively impact the waterbodies.



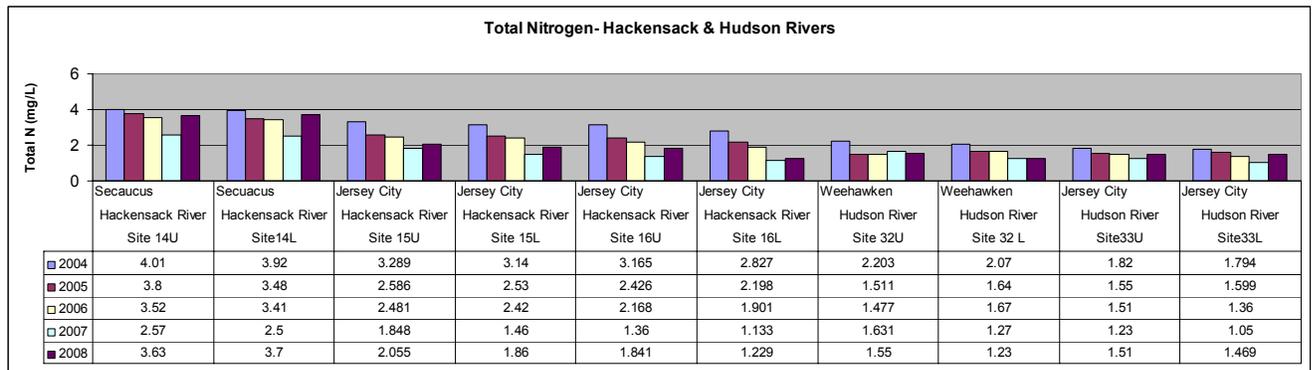
Source: Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners

²⁴ “The New Jersey Harbor Dischargers Group 2006 Water Quality Report” Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners <http://pvsc.com/>

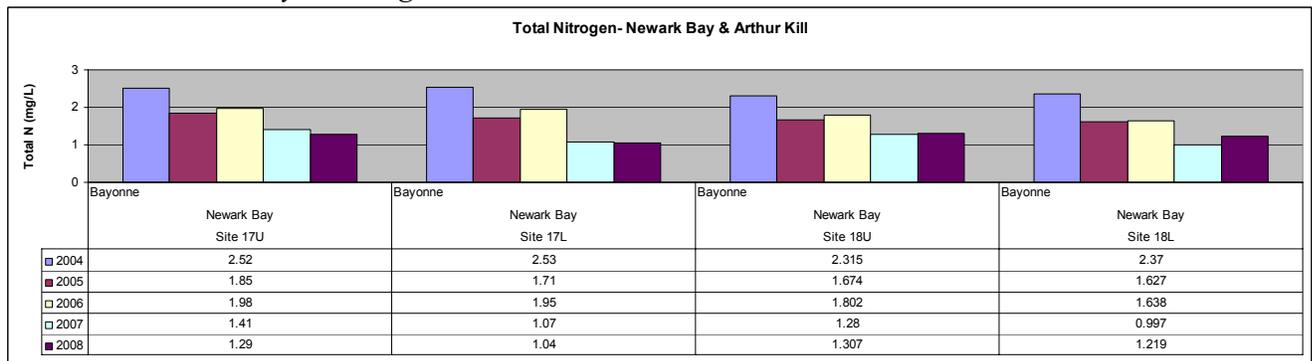
²⁵ “Effects of Acid Rain - Surface Waters and Aquatic Animals” U.S. Environmental Protection Agency http://www.epa.gov/acidrain/effects/surface_water.html

²⁶ ibid

²⁷ MsIaac, Gregory. “Surface Water Pollution by Nitrogen Fertilizers” University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign http://www.idswater.com/Common/Paper/Paper_101/Surface%20Water%20Pollution%20by%20Nitrogen%20Fertilizers1.htm



Source: Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners



Source: Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners

Hudson County's Community Indicators

Sector	Indicator	Trend
	8. Employment.....	.....Improving
	9. Unemployment.....	.....Increasing
	10. Private Payroll.....	.....Improving
	11. Building Permits.....	.....Declining
	12. Residential Home Value and Sales Prices .....	.....Declining
	13. Equalized Valuations.....	.....Improving
	14. Foreclosures.....	.....Increasing
	15. Bankruptcies.....	.....Increasing
	16. Birth & Death Rates.....	.....Mixed
	17. Crime Rates.....	.....Improving
	18. High School Graduation & Dropout Rates.....	.....Improving
	19. Homeless Counts.....	.....Improving
	20. Infant Mortality Rate.....	.....Improving
	21. Marriage & Divorce Records.....	.....Mixed
	22. Mortality Rates.....	.....Improving
	23. Public Assistance Program Participation.....	.....Mixed
	24. School Free Lunch/Free Milk Program Data.....	.....Improving
	25. Teenage Pregnancy Data .....	.....Improving
	26. Traffic (Vehicle Miles Travelled).....	.....Declining
	27. Motor Vehicle Accidents.....	.....Improving
	28. Pedestrian Fatalities.....	.....Declining
	29. Mass Transit Ridership.....	.....Improving
	30. Voter Registration and Turnout.....	.....Mixed
	31. Air Quality Data.....	.....Improving
	32. Brownfield Remediation Data.....	.....Improving
	33. Land Use & Land Cover Data.....	.....Mixed
	34. Parks & Open Space Data.....	.....Mixed
	35. Recycling Data .....	.....Improving
	36. Solid Waste Data.....	.....Mixed
	37. Water Quality Data.....	.....Mixed

*"Not everything that counts can be counted,
and not everything that can be counted counts."
– Albert Einstein*