

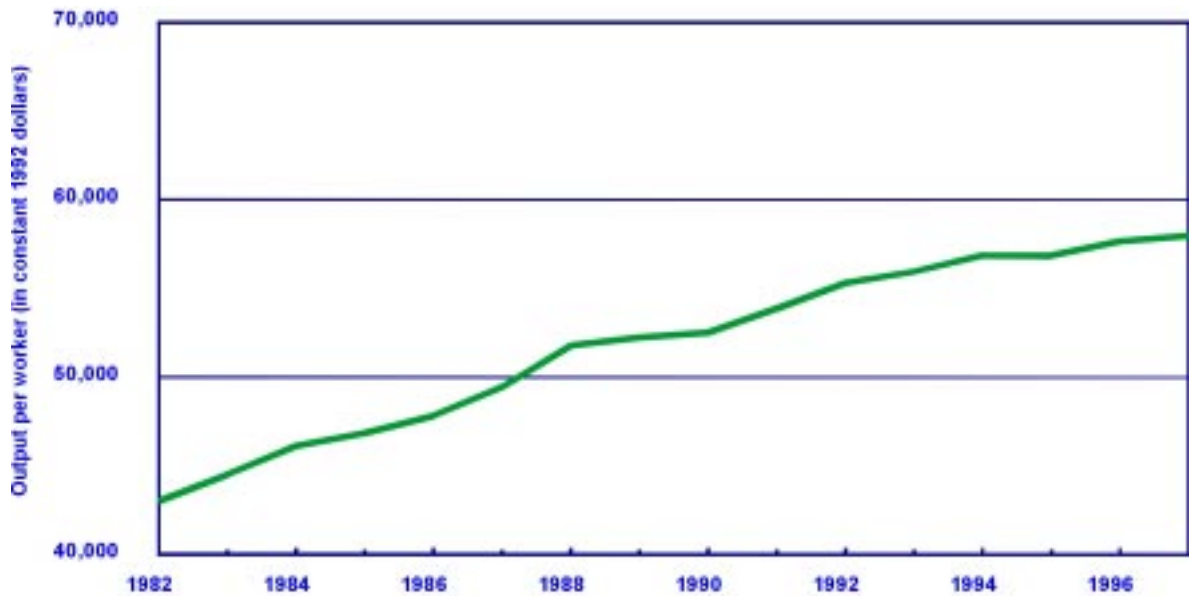
Productivity

INDICATOR

3

Productivity

The amount of Gross State Product produced per worker: Increasing



Importance

Higher productivity means getting more output from the same amount of work. It can let us enjoy more fruits from the same amount of labor, and to live better, with more time to spend with our families and for recreation. Productivity has increased during most of the last 20 years.

Economic

Rising productivity is key to a healthy business sector in New Jersey. It increases profits and keeps companies

competitive in global markets. It can also lead to higher wages and living standards for New Jersey's workers - although many people feel that they still work as long and hard as ever.

Environmental

A measure of productivity that currently is not available would be how much we can produce from the materials that we use. As our "environmental productivity" rises, we can put less of a burden on natural resources while producing just as much. This is one of the most powerful

ways we have to protect nature.

Social

Through higher productivity, we can win the opportunity to live well materially while still having time to spend with our families and communities. Doing so could strengthen the social condition of our state. Not all people get this opportunity or make this choice - but high productivity presents the possibility.

Things to think about

- Increases in productivity can, in some cases, concentrate the jobs of many workers into a single well-paying job.
- The more that we are able to produce, the more important it becomes that we make careful choices about which products we make and about how cleanly and safely we make them. Otherwise, our high productivity can work against our environmental goals.

Knowledge gaps

This measure considers only how much we produce, but not what we produce or whether we cause harm when we produce it. It doesn't consider, for example, increases in pollution that come with increased production or increases in the energy or natural resources consumed. A better measure would adjust for those costs and would account for the fact that not all productivity gains are beneficial.

Note: See the Technical Appendix for information on use of a different data source than the source used in the 1999 Sustainable State Project Report.

Poverty

Percent of New Jerseyans who fall below the official poverty level: Cyclical



Importance

We live in the second wealthiest state in the world's wealthiest nation - but over 9 percent of us live in poverty. During some years, more than one-quarter of us who are black or Latino live below the poverty line. Despite these statistics, we have also made progress in reducing child poverty. Child poverty decreased by 33.3 percent from 1993 to 1998, nearly twice the national rate decrease of 17.1 percent. The percent of New Jerseyans who have too little money to provide for their basic needs is a measure of our economy, our values, and our priorities.

Economic

High poverty rates impose costs on the state welfare system and can slow economic growth, particularly in impoverished communities. Poverty is correlated with poor health, reduced training of workers, decreased opportunity, higher crime rates, and other factors that inhibit economic growth.

Environmental

Understandably, concern for the natural environment is often secondary to basic

survival needs for those of us who live below the poverty threshold. Poverty hinders us from participating in conservation efforts, even though our future depends on healthy surroundings.

Social

Poverty can be very destructive to our social fabric. Inequities between races and social classes deepen social divisions and create tensions that undermine a healthy society. The success of our state depends on our ability to move forward and react to problems as a unified society. Poverty works against our ability to do that.

Things to think about

- During most years, the percentage of blacks and Latinos living in poverty is at least double the percentage of other New Jerseyans living in poverty.
- Many of us are among the "working poor" who are employed but living below the poverty threshold. The percent of working poor in New Jersey was 3.7 in 1997-1998.
- An increase in the number of part-time and low-skill service industry jobs that do not provide a "living wage" is one reason why some working people are unable to make ends meet.

Knowledge gaps

The poverty rate is considered by many to be based on antiquated calculations of the cost of living. Many people who are above the formal poverty line are struggling economically.

Note: Each year's data point is a two year rolling average value.

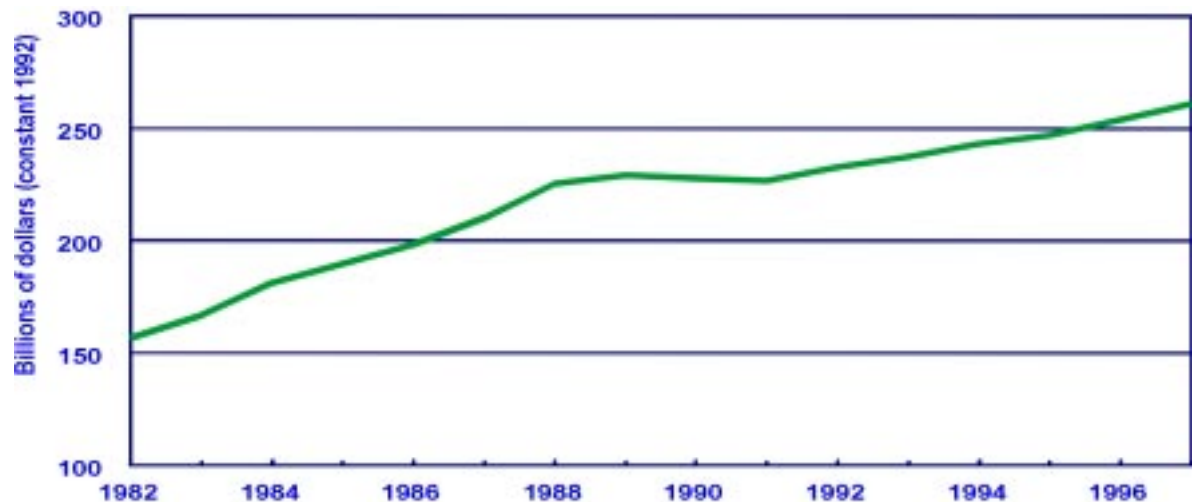
DATA SOURCE: US BUREAU OF THE CENSUS, AND NATIONAL CENTER FOR CHILDREN IN POVERTY

INDICATOR

5

Gross State Product (GSP)

In dollars per year: Increasing



Importance

The Gross State Product (GSP) measures the goods and services that our economy produces. New Jersey's GSP has increased sharply since the mid-1970s, even after adjusting for inflation. GSP has long been considered by many to be the most important measure of the state's well-being. However, GSP is flawed in that it does not differentiate between the desirable and undesirable things we spend our money on. For instance, Florida's GSP for 1992 suggests a state in the middle of a wonderful spending boom. In fact, this boom was caused by the high expense of rebuilding after Hurricane Andrew. Some people have proposed alternative measures of well-being that add the value of economic production, as measured by the GSP, but subtract such costs as natural resource depletion, crime, and accidents. These

alternative measures show less improvement than GSP and often suggest that we are less well off now than we were in past years. In any consideration of state production, it is important to ask careful questions. How has such production been distributed among our population? How much better off has it made us? What have we given up? And most importantly, how long can we sustain it?

Economic

GSP is the traditional measure of basic economic activity. When it grows rapidly, we are considered to be in good times. When the growth slows, we may be in a recession or depression. Although GSP tells us how much is being produced by our economy, it does not tell us how fairly it is distributed or what environmental or social costs we pay for growth.

Environmental

If we look only at the GSP to find out how we are doing, then we miss much of what is happening in New Jersey. We may see the GSP rise, but we may not see the forests and farms that have vanished, the pollution that has entered our rivers and coastal areas, or the animals that have disappeared. Depending on the reason for the change in GSP, the environmental impact could be positive or negative.

Social

GSP shows that our state has become richer, but it does not tell who among us has received that wealth. It is possible for GSP to paint a rosy picture of our state even during times when the crime rate is rising, when poverty is spreading, and when many people have no health insurance.

Things to think about

- New Jerseyans produce more than \$260 billion in goods and services a year. This is usually much more than many countries, including Denmark, Thailand, Turkey, Argentina, South Africa, Greece, Austria, and many others.

Knowledge gaps

GSP tells us how much has been produced, but it does not tell us what has been produced. Recent research suggests that many people find themselves paying for things that they wish they did not have to pay for, such as security systems and divorce proceedings. It is important to have a measure that distinguishes between the positive and negative contents of the GSP.

Energy Efficiency

Economic output per unit of energy consumed: Increasing



Importance

This indicator measures how many dollars our economy produces for each unit of energy consumed. Energy efficiency is a measure of economic competitiveness. Most of our energy comes from sources outside New Jersey (oil, coal, nuclear, natural gas) and creates large environmental impacts. As our energy efficiency increases, we become less dependent upon our out-of-state sources of energy and better able to reduce the amount of pollution and greenhouse gases that we emit. Getting more out of each unit of energy means paying less when we heat our homes, drive our cars, purchase products, and run our industries. Those savings can become an investment in new businesses, in education, and in new technologies.

Economic

Efficient businesses have a powerful advantage over their inefficient competitors. They pay less when they buy energy and then pay less again when they are spared from expensive cleanup of pollution. Fluctuations in the price of fuel have less effect on efficient companies, and government regulators have less need to focus on them. Energy efficiency is a mark of a well-run company. Lower energy expenses also increase disposable income for individuals.

Environmental

The production of most energy is very harmful to the environment, as evidenced by pollution, strip mining, radioactive waste, and landscapes changed radically by

dams. Massive burning of fossil fuels is the major cause of global warming, which may have disastrous environmental effects. Impressive reductions in the use of polluting fossil fuels are available to us from technologies such as compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFL) and cars that get high gas mileage. For instance, a CFL is four times as efficient as an incandescent bulb, lasts 10 times longer, and saves about \$40 per bulb over its lifetime; yet CFLs are still not widely accepted and used.

Social

Although laws and government regulations play a large part in our energy choices, reducing energy consumption will require small changes and choices in all of our lives that can only come about through social awareness. It means driving less, buying more efficient homes and appliances, and choosing sustainable energy sources.

Things to think about

- Even though we have access to better technologies every year, some aspects of our energy efficiency have actually fallen in recent years, such as driving in bigger cars and living in bigger homes.
- The recently enacted energy restructuring law seeks to promote energy efficiency programs that are economically and environmentally sound. This law allocates over \$100 million annually for energy efficiency and renewable energy programs.
- With deregulation of the electric industry, most New Jersey residents are now able to choose where their electricity comes from and how it is made. Consumers can now choose electricity that is produced from renewable resources rather than by fossil fuel combustion or nuclear energy.

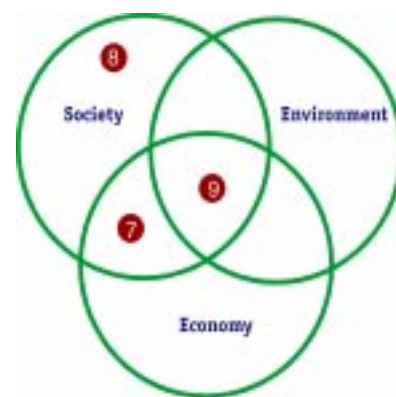
Knowledge gaps

We need measures of economic resource efficiency that include more than just energy, but also cover our use of timber, land, water, metals, and other materials. We do not yet have widely released, assessed, or accepted data on the percentage of our energy that comes from renewable, clean, or sustainable sources. As a result of energy deregulation, new data are becoming available through a new reporting requirement that provides consumers with a standard set of information about the environmental characteristics of energy they purchase.

Equity

GOAL: A more equitable distribution of the positive and negative products of civilization among New Jerseyans, from north to south, urban and rural, men and women, and among all classes and races. This includes fair access to healthy environments, good health care, quality education, governmental decision-making, economic opportunity, and natural and cultural amenities.

The idea of social justice is a high ideal, one on which our nation was founded: all men are created equal. Today we tend to think of equity in relation to discrimination, but equity is not an issue limited to those who are disadvantaged. A community functions best when all its members are included in the economic or social structure. We all share in the economic, political, and social costs of inequity through such manifestations as homelessness and crime. Inequity is also evident in New Jersey's unequal infant mortality rates. Inequity means that those of us who are female or from minority backgrounds earn lower wages. Anecdotal evidence suggests that noisy and polluting facilities may be more likely to be located in poor and minority neighborhoods.



What we know

- 7 Little change in equal pay page 21
- 8 Legislators increasingly reflecting population page 22
- 9 Disparities in infant mortality show little recent change page 23

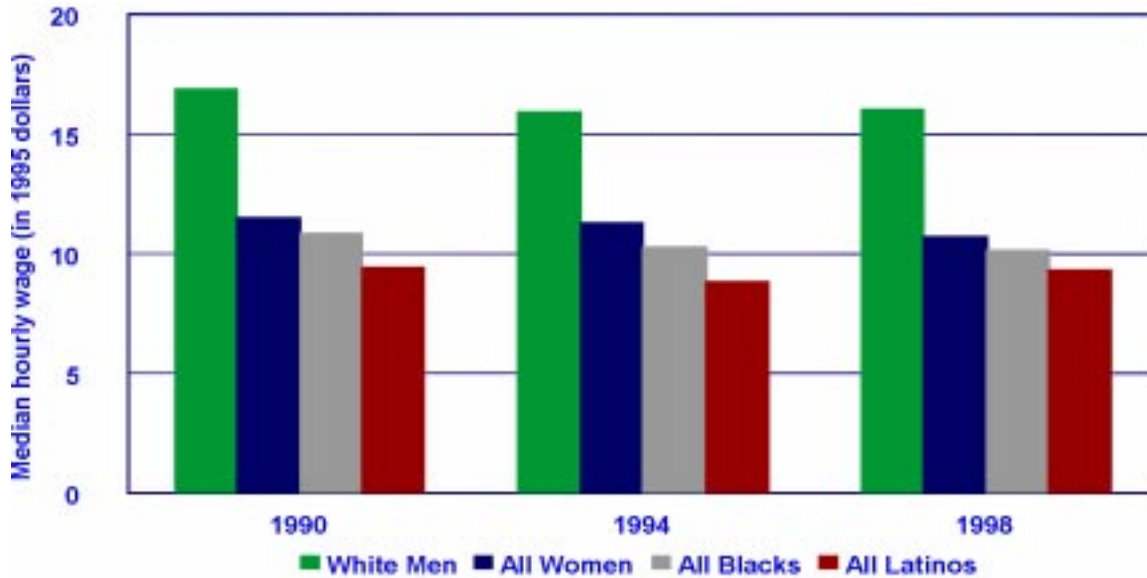
What we don't know

- Data have historically been and in some cases continue to be limited for ethnic groups outside of the overly simplified “black-white” breakdown. New Jersey is much more diverse than this, and measuring equity is more complex than traditional racial comparisons show.
- We do not yet know the full extent of recent and historical data on inequality in education, access to health care, and responsiveness of government, and the usefulness of this information for describing equity in New Jersey.
- We do not know the fairness or full effects of our actions today on the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Equal Pay

Median hourly wages by gender and race: Little change

Equal Pay



Importance

We have worked hard to rid our society of many forms of discrimination. Unfortunately, some discrimination is difficult to identify and hard to prove. Not giving equal pay for equal work is one of the ways in which our society can subtly put women and minorities at a disadvantage. Between 1990 and 1998, wages for women and minorities remained stagnant relative to those of their white male counterparts. Not only are these differences unfair, but they could inhibit our ability to work together as a society to solve our problems and build a unified, cohesive future.

Economic

A free market economy, when working well, should provide the same compensation for the same work. Rewarding people fairly for hard work and initiative is the drive behind the innovative and entrepreneurial spirit that has made our economy and our country great. It is this spirit that creates the desire to work and participate productively in the economy for the betterment of all. Only when a rising tide moves all boats will a majority of people be motivated to participate in the economy.

Environmental

Economic power often translates into political power, which can mean greater environmental protection for some at the expense of others.

Social

Unequal wages divide the state's citizens. In this situation, any sense of unity is difficult to achieve and the development of a cohesive statewide community is hindered. Divisions in society hamper our ability to cooperatively solve some of our most pressing problems.

Things to think about

- Unequal pay builds a vicious circle, where those of us with less income may also receive less education and fewer opportunities and, as a result, be likely to earn lower pay.
- The number of women and minorities working in New Jersey has increased since 1990, and these two groups now account for a greater share of total employment.

Knowledge gaps

Data for more minority groups, collected more consistently, are necessary. Current data are inadequate for explaining the differences in work within a particular job classification.

Note: See the Technical Appendix for information on use of a different data source than the source used in the 1999 Sustainable State Project Report.

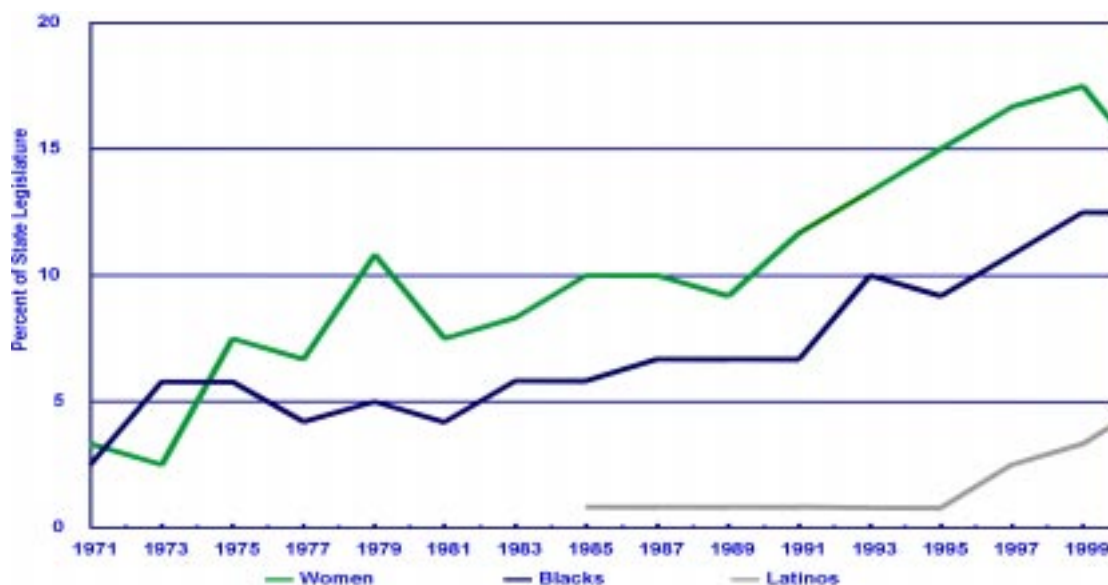
DATA SOURCE: US BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

INDICATOR

8

Legislators' Reflection of Population

Percent of women, blacks, and Latinos serving in the 120-member State Legislature: Increasing



Importance

Representation is one of our most basic rights and one of our strongest tools for shaping the future. While an individual of any race or gender may serve the interests of others well, it is both fair and healthy for our democracy when our elected officials reflect the makeup of the population they serve. The number of female state legislators in New Jersey has grown significantly, but still remains extremely low - fewer than 16 percent of our state legislators are female, earning New Jersey 39th place in national standings. The percentage of Latino state legislators also remains proportionately smaller than our Latino population. One

group has made significant progress in the past two decades: the number of African American state legislators today is nearly proportional to the size of our black population.

Economic

Although our economy is based on free market principles, the government plays a role in ensuring that the economy provides equal opportunities for minorities.

Environmental

Many environmental decisions, such as where to locate undesirable waste facilities, are made by government.

Government can also play a role in restoring brownfields, protecting against lead poisoning, and creating parkland. Environmental inequities can result when minorities and those who live in poor areas do not have equal representation. They may receive more than their fair share of undesirable facilities.

Social

A legislature consisting of the full mosaic of cultures and ideas may be better able to incorporate diverse ideas and debate the full array of social problems than a legislature consisting primarily of one group.

Things to think about

- Most of the minority representatives in the State Legislature are in the 80-member General Assembly. The 40-member Senate is still composed overwhelmingly of white males. Because General Assembly members are often elected to the Senate later in their careers, this disparity may lessen in the future.
- Americans fought successfully to remove “Jim Crow” laws instituted after the Civil War, which restricted the right of some citizens to vote and be represented. Despite this progress, we have moved only somewhat closer to representation that reflects our population.
- Confidence in government increases when people see “one of their own” in elected office.

Knowledge gaps

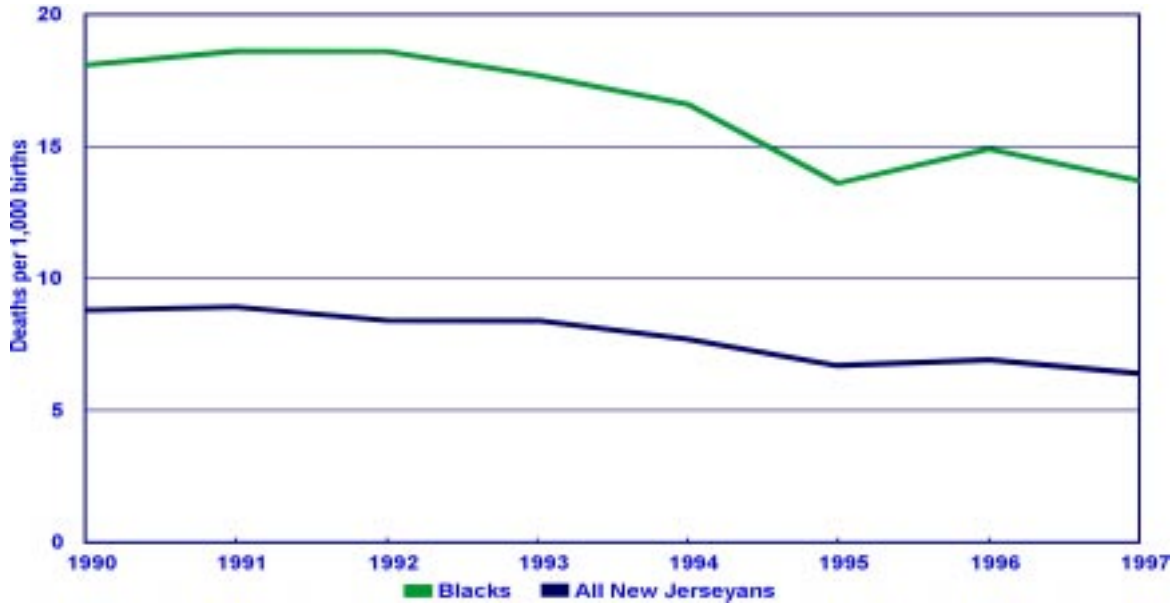
There are many other positions in the State that could also be examined to determine how representative public officials are of the population. However, there is no readily available analysis of these positions. Positions such as those on local school and planning boards can be particularly important for building a fairer future.

9

Disparities in Infant Mortality

Disparities in infant mortality (deaths per 1,000 births) for the total population and the black population in New Jersey: Little recent change

Infant Mortality



Importance

Infant mortality is commonly used as a surrogate for the overall social development of a society. In New Jersey, as in the rest of the country, the odds of survival for a baby depend in part on the baby's color. Infant mortality rates are falling in our state, but the gap between the rate for blacks and the state average shows little change. Among black infants, mortality rates are generally about twice as high as the state average; the same is true nationally.

Economic

Our ability to provide for our children is governed, in part, by our access to economic opportunity. Infant mortality can be used as a proxy for other issues that are harder to measure, such as a lack of job opportunities, lack of upward mobility and education, reduced access to general health care services, and even for the frustration among those of us who receive fewer benefits from the state's economy.

Environmental

Impoverished communities have higher infant mortality rates. Families who live in poorer areas may more often be exposed to adverse environmental conditions, ranging from second-hand smoke to toxins, including conditions that can complicate pregnancies.

Social

Disparities in infant mortality may be a strong indicator that we are a divided society. A divided society will always have more difficulty acting to solve its problems than one that is unified.

Things to think about

- According to the 1996 Blue Ribbon Panel on Black Infant Mortality Reduction, black infant mortality is not caused by any one factor. Even when variables such as income, education, maternal age, and marital status are similar, black women still deliver babies who die before age one twice as often as white women.
- Despite its wealth, the United States has one of the highest infant mortality rates in the industrialized world. After decades of progress in addressing the inequities among ethnic and social groups, many basic disparities remain.

TARGETS:

(from *Healthy New Jersey 2010*)
 By 2010, reduce the number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births to:
 All New Jerseyans 4.3 (Current level: 6.4)
 Blacks 8.0 (Current level: 13.7)

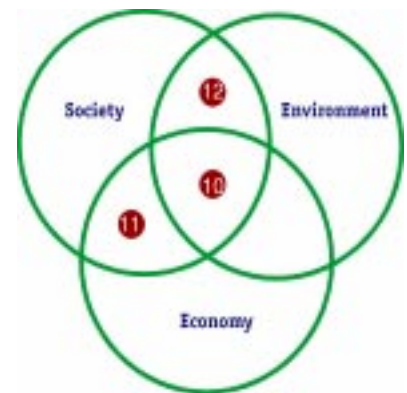
Knowledge gaps

We do not have historic and consistent data for races other than black and white. Our state is more diverse than a simple black-white comparison can illustrate.

Strong Community, Culture & Recreation

GOAL: Create or enhance within New Jersey communities a positive sense of local identity and individual belonging, which promotes respect among neighbors, increases everyone’s feelings of safety and security, and provides abundant cultural and recreational opportunities.

Feeling good about where you live, feeling a connection to your neighbors and local institutions while surrounded by places to play and learn, is an ideal that many people seek. New Jersey offers a vast array of communities and neighborhoods - cities, small towns, old and new suburbs, rural lands - and an equally vast array of recreation and cultural options, from cranberry festivals to opera, from bicycle races to ethnic celebrations. Our community bond is weakened when we don’t participate in community events, when we fear to walk some streets, and when we can’t or don’t visit our cultural and recreational places.



What we know

- ⑩ Newspaper circulation decreasingpage 25
- ⑪ Crime rate recently decreasingpage 26
- ⑫ Open space available for public enjoyment increasing.....page 27

What we don’t know

- How much New Jerseyans give back to their communities in the form of volunteer work with schools, Little League, community organizations, and clubs.
- How much opportunity New Jerseyans have to enjoy the state’s cultural amenities, such as local fairs, theaters, sporting events, and museums.
- The state of our civil society and how well we will be able to work together as a society to solve our collective problems.

INDICATOR

10

Newspaper Circulation

The per capita circulation of New Jersey newspapers:
Decreasing



Newspaper Circulation

Importance

Without knowing the actions and reactions of our neighbors and leaders, we can do little to change them. Armed with knowledge, however, we have the ability to remake our state to suit our goals. Newspapers are particularly important to New Jerseyans for local information. Our major television and radio broadcasts come from New York and Philadelphia and leave discussion of our values to our state newspapers. The number of people reading New Jersey newspapers is an indicator of how engaged we are with New Jersey issues.

Economic

Over the morning paper, we get a glimpse of demographic shifts that call for new products or job relocations. While reading on the bus, we find out about upcoming regulations that may change the way our families save or our businesses operate. Behind the Sunday paper, we learn what our colleagues and competitors are working on. The daily newspaper is an important information tool for economic success.

Environmental

Newspapers are the only medium that regularly covers local environmental decisions, especially regarding land use and the location

of waste and energy production facilities. Newspapers tie the environmental problems that we feel locally to those happening nationally and globally, so that we can solve them together. These issues are covered in greater depth in newspapers than in other media.

Social

Without newspaper exposure and in-depth coverage of social issues, we would live in the dark. We would not know where crimes are committed, where politicians are meeting, where schools are excelling or failing to meet their potential. Newspapers do not offer us a full two-way dialog, but they do help foster responsibility and build communities.

Things to think about

- The existence of newspapers does not guarantee that we will learn all that we need. We also depend on many kinds of personal experiences that are not reflected in an indicator about newspaper readership.
- Newspapers report on the events of the moment, but they do not always cover incremental change - even though crucial issues, such as population growth and accumulation of pollutants, can sneak up on us slowly.
- We are increasingly obtaining from the Internet information that was previously obtained from newspapers.

Knowledge gaps

This indicator does not consider the quality of the news stories reported, only their quantity. It also does not account for the growth of electronic news media, including the Internet. We have yet to assess fully the impact of New York and Philadelphia newspapers on New Jersey issues and readers. Additional data are needed for this indicator, as this survey has not been conducted since 1998.

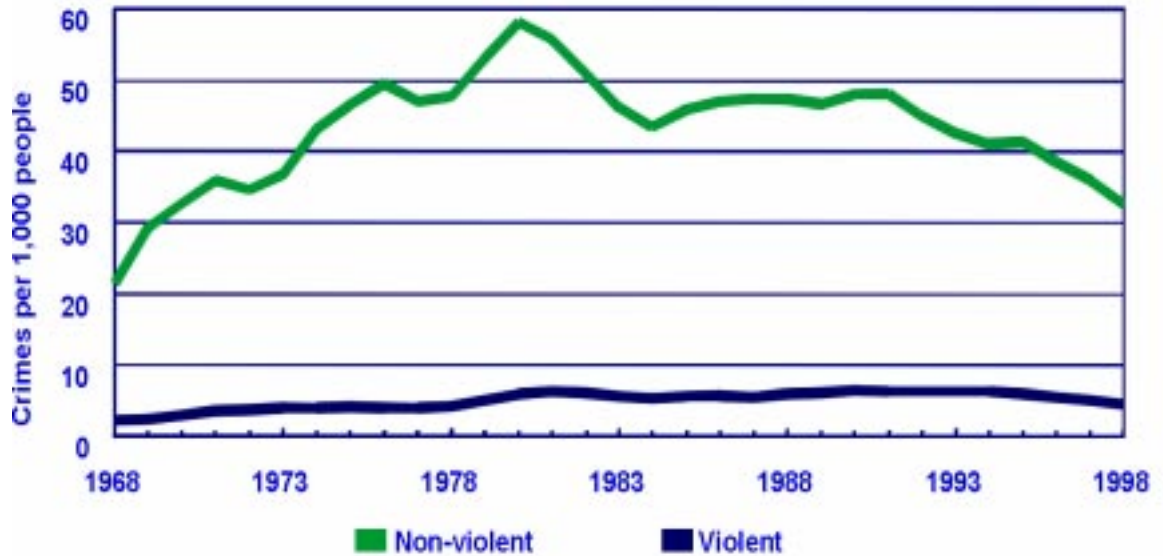
Crime Rate

INDICATOR

11

Crime Rate

Number of reported violent and non-violent crimes per 1,000 people in New Jersey: Recently decreasing



Importance

What could be a more striking measure of a healthy society than the rate at which its citizens commit crimes against each other? Crime's impact does not stop with stolen property, lost health, or fear – it encompasses the host of social issues that feed it, such as unemployment and poverty. Fortunately, our crime rate has been falling. It is now at its lowest level since the mid-1970s.

Economic

Economic stagnation and desperation contribute to high crime rates that

chase people from inner city neighborhoods that might otherwise be home to productive businesses and families. It is a vicious cycle that fights back against the people who try to break it. Meanwhile, people are forced to spend their money on alarm systems, law enforcement, and prisons.

Environmental

When people abandon city centers, they cause new sprawl in suburban and rural areas. "In-fill," or redevelopment of existing cities, would spare environmental resources, but crime discourages

people from undertaking this kind of renovation. Money and resources spent fighting crime divert resources away from other priorities such as protecting our environment.

Social

Crime is an indicator of other deep social and economic problems. It can reflect lack of opportunities, inadequate education, and feelings of hopelessness. It is a strong, leading indicator of economic stagnation, a shortage of well-trained workers, and other problems that may await us in the future.

Things to think about

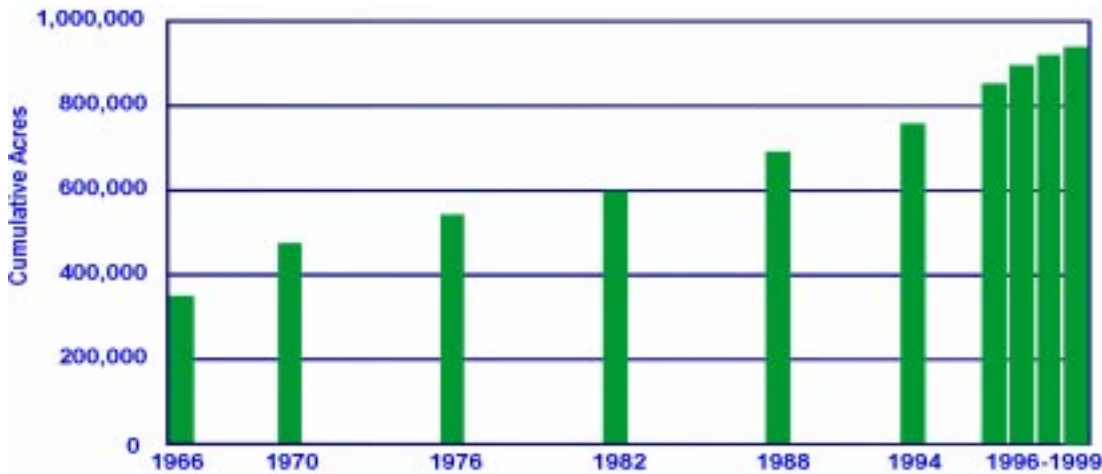
- New Jersey crime rates vary greatly between communities.
- Crime, or a perceived lack of safety, is among the reasons cited by New Jerseyans for not wanting to live or do business in inner city areas.

Knowledge gaps

Data from the Uniform Crime Statistics capture only crimes that have been reported. If minor crimes become commonplace, or if people are scared or embarrassed to report crimes such as rape, the reported crime rate could be misleading. It would be desirable to have information, perhaps survey data, on the percent of crimes that are reported.

Open Space Available for Public Enjoyment

Acres of open space preserved for public enjoyment:
Increasing



Importance

Both children and adults need places to congregate and play. These simple pleasures are fundamental to the quality of life in New Jersey. As of 1999, more than 938,000 acres of open space had been permanently preserved, much of which is available for public recreation. Unfortunately, the remaining unpreserved land is being rapidly consumed by development. We benefit from public land in many ways. Homes and businesses near parks are worth more than those in other places. We strengthen our communities when we socialize in these places; plants and animals have places to thrive; and green spaces promote tourism and clean our air and water.

Things to think about

- Despite the fact that the amount of open space available for public use has increased, the view from the road - seemingly endless strip malls and subdivisions - continues to show that we are losing our forests and farms at an alarming rate.
- Most of the acres preserved since 1970 have been acquired through the Department of Environmental Protection's Green Acres program. In 1998, New Jersey voters voted to establish the Garden State Preservation Trust, which builds on the efforts of the Green Acres Program. In particular, it provides a stable source of funding for the next ten years to preserve one million acres of the state's remaining open space and farmland.

Economic

New Jersey's second largest industry is tourism - a measure, in part, of the state's natural charm and attraction. Other industries understand the importance of open space and recreational opportunities to the quality of life enjoyed by their employees and consider this when deciding where to locate or expand. One Colorado study found that the market value of properties adjacent to greenways was 32 percent higher than the value of those only half a mile away.

Environmental

We think of parks and open spaces as places to play, relax, and enjoy the beauty of nature. But to the state's flora

and fauna they are home. This double utility of parks allows us to have fun while protecting species. Natural areas also absorb some of the pollution from our cars and factories, and filter our water. Parks and open spaces are a triple play.

Social

Green spaces are part of our identity. When we think of our nicest neighborhoods, we see tree-lined streets, baseball diamonds, and benches in the grass. When we think of our nicest vacations, we see ocean beaches, the Appalachian Mountains, the Pine Barrens, and the outdoors. We can gather in green spaces and socialize. They are part of who we are.

Knowledge gaps

We still do not have consistent data on the total amount of open space lost annually in New Jersey. The data we have do not tell us whether our open lands have been logged recently, whether they suffer from pollution or other degradation, or about the general quality of nature there. These data also do not say how accessible these places are to our people, especially to those without cars.

Note: See the Technical Appendix for information about the adjustment in the data and a change in the description of this indicator since the 1999 Sustainable State Project Report.

TARGET

(based on Governor Whitman's 2nd Inaugural Address, January 1998):

By 2002, preserve an additional 150,000 acres of open space (for a total of 1,004,000 acres) and by 2010* an additional 500,000 acres (for a total of 1,354,000 acres).
Baseline = 854,000 acres in 1997.
Current level: 992,630 acres

* While all open space funding will be allocated by 2009, given the lag time between appropriation of funds and actual closings, acquisitions and easement purchases are not expected to be finalized until 2010. See the Technical Appendix for a more detailed explanation.