

COUNTY JUVENILE SERVICES COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Furnas and Hitchcock Counties

2007-2010

Furnas and Hitchcock Counties

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I. Cover Page

Furnas and Hitchcock County Three Year Comprehensive Juvenile Services Plan 2007-2010

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Executive Summary

In March 2003 formal planning began when representatives from schools, law enforcement, juvenile justice programs, social services, businesses, private agencies, church leaders, youth and the general public came together to discuss issues facing youth and their families in the Southwest region of Nebraska and to develop this Regional Comprehensive Plan. Five Counties began planning to address Juvenile Justice concerns in 2003 with the development of the first Comprehensive Juvenile Justice Plan. In 2007, after discussion at the county level only two of the previous five counties chose to begin planning for the update of the 2003 plan and developed the priorities for the current 2007-2010 plan. A Planning Team assisted with the development of the plan, while the LB 1184 teams for each county serve as the oversight body and take responsibility for the implementation of the plan.

During adolescence, the need to belong, have a place that is valued, and be bonded to others intensifies. Youth who are not bonded to conventional community institutions such as school, work, religious and recreational organizations are much more likely to engage in criminal behavior.

Early detection of issues facing young people is vital for youth and their families to receive services that will assist youth in developing skills to resist inappropriate risky behavior. Community collaboration is crucial in strengthening youth and their families. The juvenile justice system in Southwest Nebraska works to interrupt the cycle of isolation and disconnectedness among community members, youth, and their parents, while holding youth offenders accountable for their crimes and building trust within their communities.

The Planning Committee identified these two issues as the basis for the following priorities to be critical to reducing the number of youth involved in the juvenile justice system and to be addressed in the 2007-2010 Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Juvenile Services Plan:

Priority Area One:

To reduce the number of youth formally entering the juvenile justice system by maximizing the use of the diversion program and implementing primary prevention and early intervention programming.

Priority Area Two:

Implement community plans to address high risk youth behaviors, led by LB 1184 teams and focused on improving communication and strengthening relationships.

Community Description

The two County Region in Southwest Nebraska comprised of 1429 square miles of wide open spaces with rich agricultural and farmland and includes Furnas (719 sq. miles) and Hitchcock (710 sq. miles) Counties.

The major highways serving the Region are Highways 6/34 that run from east to west connecting the towns of Arapahoe, Holbrook, and Cambridge in Furnas County with Culbertson, Trenton, Stratton in Hitchcock County. Smaller highways include Highway 25 that runs north and south through Hitchcock County; Highway 283 that runs north and south through Furnas and Gosper Counties; Highway 89 that runs east and west through Furnas County.

Population

Juveniles between the ages of 0-18 make up 20.7% of the total population in the two County Region in Southwest Nebraska. The following tables show the breakdown of the total county population by gender and ethnicity. (Source of data: U.S. Census Bureau 2005 State and County Quick Facts)

Gender & Ethnicity	Total Furnas County Population	
Male	2,409.12	47.7%
Female	2609.88	52.3%
Persons under 5 years old	244	5%
Persons under 18 years old	1065	21%
White	4,899	98.8%
African American	7	0.1%
Native American	20	0.4%
Asian	13	0.3%
Hispanic	64	1.3%
Other	16	0.4%
Gender & Ethnicity	Total Hitchcock County Population	
Male	1434.51	48.3%
Female	1535.49	51.7%
Persons under 5 years old	160	6%
Persons under 18 years old	603	20%
White	2942	99.1%
African American	3	0.1%
Native American	8	0.3%
Asian	7	0.2%
Hispanic	53	1.8%
Other	10	0.3%

Community Profile

The Economy

The two County Regions main economic source of income is agriculture, farming, and agriculture production. Furnas County has a prosperous tourism industry. Furnas and Hitchcock Counties employ residents through small industry and manufacturing. Major employers are listed below, by county.

Furnas	Hitchcock
Agriculture	Agriculture
Health Care Services	Banking
Education	Education
Small	Ethanol Plant
Industry/Manufacturing	Food Service
Tourism Related	Health Care Services
Industry	State and County
	Government

The average median household income for families living in the two-county area is \$30,588. The following tables show the comparison of the per capita and median household incomes for the Southwest Nebraska region, including a comparison of the percentage of children living in poverty. Data is from the 2005 U.S. Census.

2005	Per Capita Income	Median Household Income
Furnas	\$25,242	\$31,503
Hitchcock	\$21,734	\$29,672
Nebraska	\$32,341	\$41,984

2005	% of youth ages 5-17 below poverty	% of total population below poverty
Furnas	13.7%	11.1%
Hitchcock	22.3%	13.1%
Nebraska	12%	10%

Recreation

Each of the major communities in the Region offers a wide variety of recreational activities for youth and their families. The Region is served by youth serving organizations that include, school and community sports leagues, 4-H groups, Boy and Girl Scouts, and faith based youth groups. Unfortunately, the Southwest Nebraska area does not have a recreational center focused on youth activities for the ages of 14 and older. If youth are not involved in school or family activities then it is very difficult for them find meaningful entertainment.

Youth and their families have the opportunity to enjoy hunting, fishing, camping, water sports, and many other fun activities in the natural beauty of Nebraska at many different lakes and recreational areas including:

- The Hugh Butler Lake, Red Willow Reservoir and Harry D. Strunk Lake in Frontier County; and
- The Swanson Reservoir in Hitchcock County.

Education

Southwest Nebraska offers quality education for youth and families in all of its communities. Educational services include public school districts, Continuing Education and Distance Learning Centers, Home Schools, and Community Colleges. Public School Districts in the two County Region in Southwest Nebraska includes:

Furnas County

- **Cambridge Public School District** is comprised of Cambridge High School (9-12) that serves 93 students annually and Cambridge Elementary School (K-8) that serves 227 students annually.
- **Arapahoe School District** is comprised of Arapahoe High School (7-12) that serves 138 students annually and Arapahoe Elementary School (K-6) that serves 183 students annually.
- **Southern Valley School District** is comprised of Southern Valley Jr/Sr High School that serves 255 students annually, Southern Valley Elementary School at Oxford (K-6) that serves 113 students annually, Southern Valley Elementary at Beaver City (K-6) that serves 106 students annually, Southern Valley Elementary School at Beaver City that serves 76 students annually, and Phoenix Center West at Holbrook that serves 6 students annually.

Hitchcock County

- **Lakeside Central School District** is comprised of Lakeside Central High School (9-12) that serves 112 students annually and Lakeside Central Elementary School (K-8) that serves 139 students annually, Hitchcock County Schools at Stratton (K-6) that serves 89 students annually and Palisade Attendance Center (K-6) that serves 72 students annually.
- **Culbertson School District** is comprised of Culbertson Elementary School (K-6) that serves 61 students annually.

Agencies and Support Services

Health and Human Services System, the Juvenile Diversion programs in Furnas and Hitchcock Counties, the Office of Juvenile Services, the Nebraska State Juvenile Probation and Intensive Supervision Probation Services work together to ensure that juvenile offenders receive appropriate services to address their needs and the needs of their families.

An array of private agencies that include the Heartland Counseling and Lutheran Family Services Counseling Centers; Maternal Well Child Clinic in Oxford; Kid's Connection; Family Resource Network; County Head Start Programs; Early Intervention Services; and Adult Basic Education (GED, High School Diploma) Program; University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension; Regions II and III Mental Health and Alcohol, Tobacco, and other Drug Prevention Centers provide youth involved in the juvenile justice system with access to quality thorough assessments, substance abuse and mental health treatment services, restorative justice programming and life skills development programs to assist youth in being held accountable for their actions while gaining skills necessary for them to fully participate in society.

II. Community Team and Planning

Accomplishments

Furnas and Hitchcock Counties began planning to address Juvenile Justice concerns in 2003 with the development of the first Comprehensive Juvenile Justice Plan. Priority areas identified in the 2003 plan included the expansion of the LB 1184 Teams, the expansion of the DARE program, and an establishment of an umbrella agency for youth related services. The following is a list of accomplishments related to the 2003 priorities.

1. Since 2003 Furnas and Hitchcock Counties have been utilizing the services of CEDARS Youth Services. They have worked toward **implementing a formal Juvenile Diversion program** to address increasing numbers of juvenile law offenders. Juvenile Diversion Services are provided to the four-county area of Furnas, Hayes, Hitchcock and Red Willow Counties. This program has been in operation in McCook under the management of CEDARS Youth Services since December 1, 2002. Prior to that time, Southwest Nebraska Youth Services operated the program since 1994. The annual referral rate to the diversion program is currently at over 70 youth and we anticipate this number to reach 80 youth in the 07-08 fiscal year.
2. **CEDARS Youth Services is now an established youth serving organization within the Furnas and Hitchcock Communities.** The agency continues to grow and expand its services to address youth related needs. Currently facilitated by CEDARS is the juvenile

diversion program, the responsible decision making group, a substance abuse prevention program, Guiding Good Choices, and the Nurturing Group. CEDARS is committed to addressing youth related concerns in the future and actively participates in the further identification, development and implementation of new programming. CEDARS Southwest Nebraska juvenile diversion works in cooperation with a number of partners to provide early intervention services to first-time offenders. Collaborators include the LB 1184 Teams, county attorneys, probation officers, local and regional law enforcement, the public schools, and Nebraska Health and Human Services System.

3. **Significant changes in the diversion program were implemented to address drug and alcohol concerns of youth referred to diversion.** Diversion Officers ensure that through prevention, intervention and treatment youth receive the support and programming that assists them in achieving abstinence or overcoming their addiction. It is our goal to assist these youth early on so that they receive support as a preventative measure before their needs escalate and admittance into the Juvenile Justice system becomes unavoidable. These efforts include referrals to intensive case management services, referrals for drug and alcohol/mental health evaluations, inclusion of evaluation recommendations in the Diversion Plan, referrals to counseling and mentoring services, and establishing long-term support systems.
4. The implementation of **six new curricula and programs to address an increasing need for research based relevant programming that are prevention based or address early indicators of problem behaviors:** (1) Responsible Decision Making; (2) Toward No Drug Use (a SAMHSA-approved model program for drug/alcohol prevention); (3) Nurturing Parenting Program for parent and youth participants; and (4) Guiding Good Choices, a drug-prevention program for parents of children ages 9-14. Additional new programming includes the (5) Sexual Assault and Domestic Abuse Services, that provide social skills classes and curriculum for the program.
5. **The LB 1184 Teams have new members over the past three years. Membership is currently at eight members for Furnas County and nine members for Hitchcock County.** The teams reviewed 100 new students during the past three years. The teams have transitioned oversight from the Family Advocacy Center in Kearney to Bridges of Hope CAC in North Platte. Both Bridges of Hope and Head Start have identified new staff to serve as team participants.

The Planning Team

In 2007, Furnas and Hitchcock Counties began planning for the update of the 2003 Comprehensive Juvenile Justice plan and developed the priorities for the current 2007-2010 plan. A Planning Team was convened to assist with data and information collection, compiling the comprehensive plan, and a review and feedback process. The community planning team is comprised of representatives from Law Enforcement, Juvenile Justice, and the County LB 1184 Teams. The LB 1184 teams serve as the oversight body for the team and takes responsibility for the implementation of the plan. The planning team and the LB 1184 teams agreed on two priority areas: reducing the number of youth who enter the Juvenile Justice System and addressing high risk youth behaviors.

Planning Process

The Planning Team took the lead for the assessment, the analysis of needs, and the data collection process for the plan. The team further analyzed data presented in the 2005 Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Survey. An analysis of community risk and protective factors as well as substance abuse related concerns is also described within the content of the plan.

A nationally sponsored Town Hall meeting was facilitated on April 28, 2006 in McCook, NE. Through a series of follow-up meetings and conversations, local partners have concluded that prevention, intervention, and treatment are still key services missing in both communities. In the meantime, other concerns were identified by community members. The two communities are going through what seems to be a series of trends. All agreed, no matter what the needs are, it is a goal to assist youth early on so that they receive support as a preventative measure before their needs become escalated and admittance into the Juvenile Justice System becomes unavoidable.

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III. Assessment, Planning Tool and Data Summary

Southwest Nebraska is an area where among other offenses, underage drinking and drug use is especially pervasive. When alcohol consumption and drug usage reach such high levels, other law offenses occur, and problems increase exponentially for families, school administrators, law enforcement, and the criminal justice system. Statistics show the majority of first-time juvenile arrests in this area are for drug or alcohol related offenses, and in 2004-2005, 57% of the youth enrolled in CEDARS Southwest Nebraska Juvenile Diversion program were referred for these offenses.

Community Risk and Protective Factors

The risk and protective factor model is based on the premise that to prevent a problem from happening, we need to identify the factors that increase the risk of that problem developing, and find ways to reduce the risk. Risk factors are characteristics of school, community, and family environments as well as characteristics of students and their peer groups that are known to predict increased likelihood of drug use, delinquency, school drop out, teen pregnancy and violent behavior among youth. Protective factors exert a positive influence or buffer against the negative influence of risk, thus reducing the likelihood that adolescents will engage in problem behaviors.

Complete Risk Factors Identified by the Planning Committee

Risk Factors contributing to alcohol, tobacco and other drug use by youth

- Expectation that only the “bad” kids are using
- Availability of drugs and alcohol to minors
- Examples of substance abuse by adults
- Financial resources youth have in procuring
- Community acceptance of ATOD use as a “rite of passage”
- Penalties for adults that procure are not harsh enough
- The current laws are not enforced evenly
- Communities in Southwest Nebraska need stronger laws against ATOD use by youth.
- Mentors and positive role models are needed for youth in their communities
- Positive experiences between law enforcement officials and youth are needed
- Overprotective parents who do not allow youth a chance to engage in healthy decision-making experiences
- Youth and adults who have inconsistent priorities associated with money and possessions
- Communities whose adults wear “blindness” and who “label” youth

Risk Factors contributing to juvenile crime, delinquency and violence

- Peer Pressure
- Boredom
- Parents who lack skills necessary to deal with the chaotic life style of youth involved in the juvenile justice system
- ATOD use by youth and their parents

- Opportunity to commit crime and the money that is made by the offenses
- Non availability of jobs for youth to earn money
- Youth who have no respect for themselves, others, or property
- Youth who feel they deserve “instant gratification”
- Society that values possession
- Families without the resources to provide for their youth
- Youth that don’t see the connection between the crime they commit and the consequences of their actions
- The thrill/rush/excitement youth feel when they commit crimes
- Giving crime a name
- Schools losing funding for positive activities and programs
- Adult role models of criminal behavior
- Intergenerational crime
- Youth depression and low self esteem
- Youth who are unable to talk to their parents about youth violence and delinquency
- Disconnection to the community
- No alternative activities for some youth during “peek risk hours” of the day
- Unstructured/unsupervised time for youth
- Community members needing to step up and “tell” when youth crime occurs
- Parents working and no one watching the kids
- Lack of community involvement in raising the kids (it takes a community to raise children)
- Youth and families isolated from their communities

Risk Factors contributing to peer pressure and unhealthy risk-taking

- Constant pressure/not giving up to the first few “no’s”
- Insufficient adult role models of saying no
- Messages of “everyone is doing it”
- Messages of “it is no big deal”
- Attitudes that “nothing happened to other people who did it so nothing will happen to me”
- Feelings of invincibility/living forever by youth
- Acceptance; a need to have friends, and feeling like “if you don’t participate you won’t be included” from the popular groups
- Youth having a natural need to “fit in”
- Discussions of the “big party” on Monday mornings and feelings of isolation if you were not there
- Athletes’ celebrating/partying
- Class separating/cliques
- Lack of positive peer pressure
- Need for mentors and positive role models for youth
- Need to have positive experience with police
- Overprotective parents who don’t give youth a chance to make healthy decisions
- Youth who have inappropriate priorities about money and possessions
- Communities that label youth and wear blinders

Complete Protective Factors Identified by the Planning Committee

Protective Factors against underage use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs

- **Prevention Programs**
- DARE
- ALLSTARS
- School Assemblies
- Church youth events
- School lock-ins
- After Prom activities for youth
- Mock Incidents
- **Early Intervention Programs**
- Juvenile Diversion programs
- Improve
- Breath tests before school dances and activities
- Fatal Vision Goggle programs
- NA/AA/Al-Anon

Protective Factors against juvenile delinquency and violence

- City/County Curfews
- Video Camera at the schools
- Youth involvement in school and community activities
- Youth role models where youth are given opportunities to build self esteem
- Adults acknowledging youth and being involved in caring for them
- Consistent parenting and involvement
- Sports and other activities offered to youth
- Feeling that “getting caught” would be a bad thing
- 4-H programs for youth
- School community service projects
- Community members watching out for youth
- Strong families that give youth a 2nd chance when they make mistakes/allowing youth to make mistakes and practicing resistance skills early
- Communities providing safe environments for youth
- Police that are seen as positive assets in the lives of youth/not enemies
- Police that have positive interactions with youth and are seen as role models
- Tracking services to check on youth
- Strong judges with strong consistent consequences
- Parents supporting youth serving agencies

Protective Factors against peer pressure and unhealthy risk-taking

- Athletic programs with curfews and coaches that call to check on youth
- Community curfews
- Unity Counsel for 7-12th graders
- Peer to peer mentor programs in school
- Community service between older and younger youth
- Programs and adults that give youth a “second chance” and that build hope in the lives of youth
- Parent teacher organizations/”Student of the Week” programs in school
- Jobs that teach youth responsibility and build skills
- Teaching youth morals and values that show them when they do something wrong and how to overcome the issues
- Strength based programming in schools and communities
- Strong supportive families

(Detailed charts of risk and protective factors are attached as appendix B).

IV. Identified Priority Areas

Priority Area One:

Reduce the number of youth formally entering into the Juvenile Justice System by maximizing use of the diversion program and implementing primary prevention and early intervention programming.

Problem Identification and Data

Juvenile diversion program data and citation data from Furnas and Hitchcock Counties support the need for programming that specifically addresses the problem increasing law offenses. In particular, there has been a spike in referrals (a 50% increase from 24 to 36 youth) to diversion for drug or alcohol related offenses in the last year alone.

Due to these significant substance abuse problems and other associated law offense behavior, the Furnas and Hitchcock communities have experienced an increasing number of youth who get referred to diversion, or who enter the Juvenile Justice System. The two Counties have seen an increase of 20% for petitions filed in court since 2002. Beyond the officially issued citations, youth do not always get identified due to lack of law enforcement resources. This is especially true for substance abuse related problems. The number of citations for MIP have decreased over the past years, yet youth, school officials, and county organizations see an increasing concern with this high risk behavior. Pharming parties, steroid use, meth, marijuana and especially alcohol have been identified as a rising concern. Community members suspect the number of youth who break the law is significantly higher.

In addition, youth who are referred to diversion have increased by 20% over the past year, 47% since 2002, and we anticipate an additional increase of 30% during the next fiscal year. Youth who are placed on probation have decreased by 10% over the past year, which can be accounted for a percentage of increase in diversion referrals. In summary, the county experienced a 41% increase of citations filed in court and youth referred to diversion. The below chart provides a detailed description of law offense data since 2002.

Furnas, Hitchcock and Red Willow County					
	2002	2003	2004	2005	% of Change
Police Department citations for Minor in Possession	87	91	55	42	-51.7%
Number of petitions filed by City and County Attorney's Offices for law violations (includes supplemental petitions).	59	72	75	80	19%

Number of petitions filed by City and County Attorney's Offices for law misdemeanor violations (includes supplemental petitions).	54	70	73	68	+25.9%
Number of petitions filed by County Attorney's Offices for felony law violations (includes supplemental petitions).	5	2	2	12	+140%
Number of petitions filed by County Attorney's Office for Truancy or other 3(b) cases (includes supplemental petitions).	12	25	25	22	+83%
Number of youth placed on probation	N/A	N/A	40	36	-10%
Number of youth referred to Juvenile Diversion	43	61	54	64	+46.5%
Number of youth referred to Diversion for drug or alcohol related offenses	34 (87.1%)	39 (72.2%)	24 (44.4%)	36 (57.1%)	+5.9%
Number of youth who were referred for other offenses but also had drug and alcohol concerns.	N/A	N/A	N/A	20%	N/A

Law enforcement has been successful in identifying more youth with conduct problems over the past year, and this has accounted for some of the increase in numbers. While we are making efforts to assist these youth to the best of our ability, it is equally important to address them before concerns arise. The transition to independence takes a comprehensive approach to encourage young people to focus on their own futures. Education, employment, living situations, and community life are all included as important issues young people need to consider in order to make a successful transition to adulthood.

Risk Factors

- Reduced law enforcement and juvenile justice time allocation for youth issues.
- High substance abuse rates.
- Perceived lack of availability of supportive services by youth.
- A reduction in character building programming in the high school.
- Lack of utilization of programming that is available in the community.

Protective Factors

- Availability of diversion programming
- A community interest in returning programming that was lost due to funding.
- Opportunities for pro-social involvement
- Family attachment.
- High rate of social skills.

Priorities and Strategies

Strategies chosen to address this concern consist of a two-step process. Furnas and Hitchcock Counties want to ensure that all eligible youth who have offended the law are provided with a meaningful opportunity to address their concerns before they enter the Juvenile Justice System, and the counties want to increase efforts to provide best practice coordinated prevention programming for youth who are at risk for law offenses.

Priority Area (1): Reduce the number of youth formally entering into the Juvenile Justice System by maximizing use of the diversion program, and implementing primary prevention and early intervention programming.

Strategy (1) Maximize the utilization of the diversion program to its fullest potential by increasing the number of referrals and increasing the successful graduation rate.

Strategy (2) To increase the availability of primary prevention programming.

Priority Area Two:

Implement community plans to address high risk youth behaviors, led by LB 1184 teams and focused on improving communication and strengthening relationships.

Problem Identification

Many young people in the Juvenile Justice System have serious problems that need affective intervention; and many young people with such problems end up in the system because they lack access to timely and appropriate services in Furnas and Hitchcock Counties. In spite of best efforts, limited attention is given to the developmental of formal collaborative relationships between Juvenile Justice Systems and service providers within and especially outside of the two counties. Many schools, Juvenile Justice and provider agencies are unfamiliar with most service parameters and referral processes. These systems have not been able to establish effective connections, especially with the surrounding providers. Due to this lack of interdisciplinary collaboration, service providers are often unprepared to provide appropriate services. Given the fragmentation of many systems and agencies, it is often impossible to provide continuous, integrated services to juveniles with conduct problems. Understanding the complexities of these systems has been a major challenge both for professionals in Furnas and Hitchcock Counties and for juvenile justice system personnel.

The second priority emphasizes the need for strong communication among agencies, schools, Health & Human Services, and the Juvenile Justice System. The goal is to develop a plan to establish an on-going review, assessment and collaboration process of the counties' priorities related to Juvenile Justice Issues. The plan will focus on identifying comprehensive and coordinated linkages between the courts, the public schools, Juvenile Justice System points, education programs, and aftercare agencies. Improved communication, increased knowledge about system operations, and systemic change among entities is important to meeting the needs of juveniles and the public safety. The diverse systems need to work together to develop a cohesive, consistent delivery system that responds to the needs of court-involved and pre-court-involved youth. The goal of the initiative in this area will be to improve the coordination of and access to services. If efforts are successful, possible outcomes include increased numbers of youth who have access to appropriate and effective services. Improvements in access to services will help keep youth out of delinquency placements in the first instance, and youth will have more and better resources available to them when they do need more restricted Juvenile Justice involvement. The strategies include:

- Collaborations among the agencies responsible for youth with mental health problems in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems
- Creation of interagency teams to expedite placement of youth into appropriate programs
- Adoption of a single multi-system screening and assessment instrument for all young offenders

Risk Factors

- Access to programs offered is often hindered by lack of knowledge about program availability and use of program resources.
- Lack of information about the needs and treatment requirements of youth can result in misinformation or serve as a barrier to successful participation.

Protective Factors

- The Furnas and Hitchcock County LB 1184 Teams are established and respected committees in the each of their communities and can serve as the “hub” for communication and implementation functions.
- Community members and service providers agree that the development of a coordinated system to address Juvenile Justice concerns is not only necessary, but they are willing to play an active part in the implementation of the comprehensive plan.

Priorities and Strategies

Priority Area (2): Implement community plans to address high risk youth behaviors, led by LB 1184 teams and focused on improving communication and strengthening relationships.

Strategy (1) Increase the communication between service providers and juvenile justice systems.

Strategy (2) Increase knowledge among agencies, parents and the community about the availability of services.

Strategy (3) Improve communication among providers and the Juvenile Justice System to ensure timely and appropriate matching of needed services with youth.

Strategy (4) Continue to increase participation on LB 1184 teams and other community youth focused organizations.

V. Strategies:

Priority Area Goal One: Reduce the number of youth formally entering into the Juvenile Justice System by maximizing use of the Diversion program, and implementing primary prevention and early intervention programming.					
Strategies/Objectives	Action Steps	Responsible Party/Team	Time Line	Resources Needed	Expected Results
(1) Maximize the utilization of the Southwesr Nebraska Diversion program to its fullest potential by increasing the number of referrals and increasing the successful graduation rate.	(a) Refer all eligible youth to the diversion program	(a) County Attorneys	On-going	(a) A County Attorney/ Diversion Liaison	(a) The Juvenile Diversion Program will receive an increase in referrals.
	(b) Seek funding to implement best practice resources/curricula accessible to the diversion program.	(b) LB 1184 Teams	On-going	(b) Grant writing resources	(b) The Juvenile Diversion Program will increase the successful diversion graduation rate.
(2) To increase the availability of primary prevention programming.	(a) Ensure access to free asset and skill building and youth development programs.	(a) LB 1184 Teams	On-going	(a) Funding and collaboration among agencies	(a) Barriers to access such as transportation, cost and childcare will be removed.
	(b) Utilize current prevention and early intervention programming to their fullest potential.	(b) LB 1184 Teams, Judges, law enforcement and Cambridge and Lakeside Public Schools	On-going	(b) Collaboration among agencies	(b/c) Current prevention and early intervention programming will be at capacity.
	(c) Publicize and promote existing prevention and early intervention programming.	(c) 1184 Teams	On-going	(c) One referral form that can be utilized for all programs	

Priority Area Goal Two Implement community plans to address high risk youth behaviors, led by LB 1184 teams and focused on improving communication and strengthening relationships.					
Strategies/Objectives	Action Steps	Responsible Party/Team	Time Line	Resources Needed	Expected Results
(1) Increase the communication between service providers and juvenile justice systems.	(a) Host an annual informational meeting/training for providers, justice and law enforcement.	(a) Planning Team	September 2008 September 2009 September 2010	Space	Improved communication, knowledge about services and the juvenile justice system.
(2) Increase knowledge among agencies, parents and the community about the availability of services.	(a) Create a service matrix of service provider information within a 50 mile radius. (b) Update service matrix annually	(a) LB 1184 Teams (b) Planning Team	(a) December 2007 (b) July 2008 (b) July 2009 (b) July 2010	Copy cost	Completed service matrix
(3) Improve communication among providers and the Juvenile Justice System to ensure timely and appropriate matching of needed services with youth.	(a) Creation of interagency teams to expedite placement of youth into appropriate programs (b) Implement a single multi-system screening and assessment instrument	(a) Planning Team (b) Planning Team	(a) December 2008 (b) July 2009		Establishment of interagency teams.
(4) Continue to increase participation on the LB 1184 teams and other community youth focused organizations.	(a) Increase parent participation (b) Increase membership of substance abuse providers	(a) 1184 Teams (b) 1184 Teams	(a) On-going (b) On-going		A 30% increase in membership

Appendix

Appendix A Furnas and Hitchcock County Demographics

Furnas County

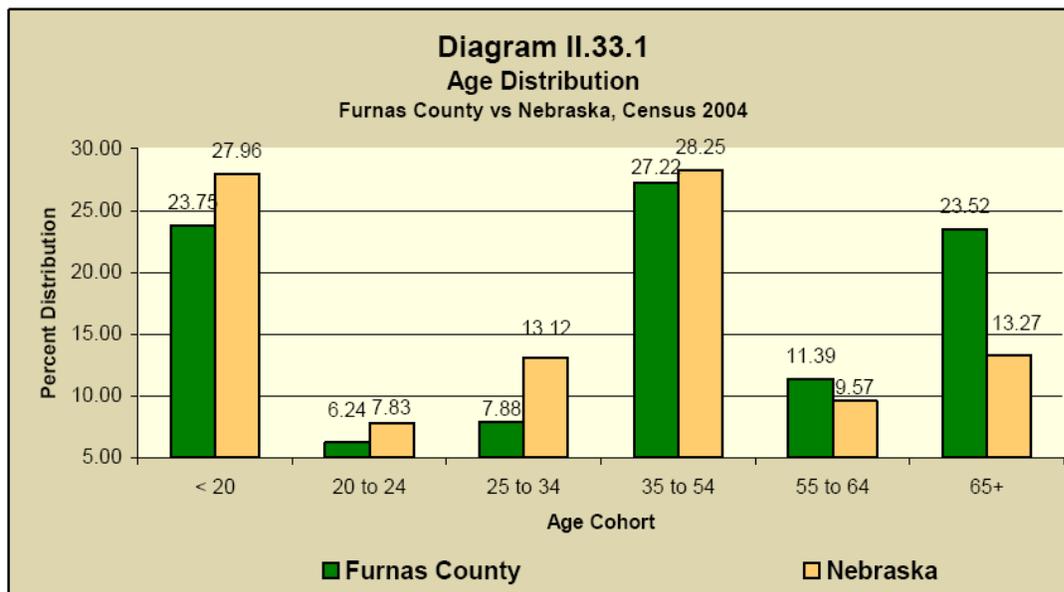
Summary

- Between 2000 and 2004, population declined by 3.68 percent, or by 196 persons
- Between 2000 and 2004, the Hispanic population grew by 9.84 percent
- Between 2002 and 2003, the total number of full-time and part-time jobs decreased by 46
- In 2003, average earnings per job in the County was \$25,404 compared to \$35,865 statewide
- Between 2003 and 2004, the unemployment rate decreased from 3.3 percent to 3.2 percent
- Between 2003 and 2004, total new housing units permitted increased by 1 units
- In 2004, the average real value of new single-family construction was \$111,000
- In 2004, the average price of an existing home was \$48,317
- In a November 2005 Rental Survey, the vacancy rate was 18.52 percent

Demographics

Population Characteristics

The Census Bureau's intercensal estimates indicate that Furnas County's population decreased by 3.68 percent, from 5,324 in 2000 to 5,128 in 2004. This compares to a statewide population growth of 2.1 percent. The number of people from 20 to 24 years of age changed from 172 in 2000 to 320 in 2004, an increase of 86.05 percent, and the number of people from 25 to 34 years of age decreased by 15.30 percent. As seen in Diagram II.33.1, persons younger than 25 comprised 29.99 percent of the population, while persons aged 55 and over comprised 34.91 percent of the population in Furnas County in 2004. This compares to 35.79 percent below the age of 25, and 22.84 percent aged 55 and over statewide.



The white population decreased by 3.79 percent, while the black population remained the same. The Hispanic population shifted from 61 to 67 people between 2000 and 2004, an increase of 9.84 percent. Table II.33.1 presents details of population characteristics.

Subject	Nebraska			Furnas County		
	Census 2000	July 2004	% Change	Census 2000	July 2004	% Change
Population	1,711,263	1,747,214	2.10	5,324	5,128	-3.68
Age						
Under 20 years	504,336	488,597	-3.12	1,397	1,218	-12.81
20 to 24 years	120,331	136,736	13.63	172	320	86.05
25 to 34 years	223,273	229,273	2.69	477	404	-15.30
35 to 54 years	489,588	493,630	0.83	1,463	1,396	-4.58
55 to 64 years	141,540	167,175	18.11	549	584	6.38
65 & over	232,195	231,803	-0.17	1,266	1,206	-4.74
Race						
White	1,585,617	1,609,056	1.48	5,255	5,056	-3.79
Black	70,043	74,815	6.81	4	4	
American Indian & Alaskan Native	15,634	16,562	5.94	22	28	27.27
Asian	22,528	26,746	18.72	12	14	16.67
Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander	993	1,176	18.43	.	.	
Two or more races	16,448	18,859	14.66	31	26	-16.13
Hispanic (of any race)						
Hispanic or Latino	94,425	119,975	27.06	61	67	9.84

Population Migration

Total population change is a combination of births, deaths, and the net migration of those arriving in and leaving the County. The result of births minus deaths is termed the *natural increase*. As calculated from data seen in Table II.33.2, from April 2000 to July 2004 Furnas County’s natural increase was estimated to be -139 people. The total population change for this period is estimated at -196, indicating a net county migration of -54 people.¹⁹³

As per the Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles driver’s license exchange data, net change in Furnas County increased from 12 persons in 2003 to 22 persons in calendar 2004. The driver’s license total exchanges for the last four calendar years are presented in Table II.33.3.

April 1, 2000 Population	5,324
Births	220
Deaths	359
International Migration	-1
Domestic Migration	-53
Net Migration	-54
Residual	-3
July 1, 2004 Population	5,128

¹⁹³ This net migration number does not include a residual of -3, a change the Census Bureau has not attributed to any cause.

Table II.33.3			
Driver's Licenses Exchanged and Surrendered			
Furnas County: Calendar years 2001-2004			
Year	In-Migrants	Out-Migrants	Net Change
Calendar 2001	75	93	-18
Calendar 2002	72	51	21
Calendar 2003	73	61	12
Calendar 2004	89	67	22

Another source of data describing population and migration is from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The IRS measures yearly inflow and outflow from each of the nation's counties by comparing consecutive year mailing addresses listed on income tax returns. In this fashion, the IRS can determine county-to-county migration. While not a precise measure, the number of returns represents an estimate of households and the number of exemptions represents an estimate of population. According to these IRS statistics, net household flows in Furnas County changed from -17 in 1984 to -41 in 2004, as seen in Table II.33.4. Over this period, total returns decreased from 2,306 to 1,810. Total exemptions, again a proxy representing population, decreased from 5,539 to 4,219.

Table II.33.4			
IRS Income Tax Returns			
Furnas County, 1984-2004			
Year	Net Returns	Total Returns	Total Exemptions
1984	-17	2,306	5,539
1985	-71	2,243	5,322
1986	-61	2,271	5,444
1987	-77	2,191	5,244
1988	-46	2,151	5,127
1989	-45	2,172	4,973
1990	-32	2,179	4,933
1991	17	2,092	4,919
1992	21	2,102	4,947
1993	-31	2,023	4,834
1994	-9	2,007	4,812
1995	-14	1,972	4,752
1996	-41	1,946	4,647
1997	-27	1,919	4,476
1998	-35	1,871	4,441
1999	-30	1,867	4,396
2000	-56	1,771	4,163
2001	-37	1,802	4,169
2002	-17	1,833	4,313
2003	-32	1,862	4,335
2004	-41	1,810	4,219

Returns from the Nebraska Department of Revenue (DOR) indicate that total returns decreased from 2,543 in 1997 to 2,483 in 2003, as seen in Table II.33.5.

Table II.33.5	
Nebraska Resident Income Tax Returns	
Furnas County, 1997-2003	
Year	Total Returns
1997	2,543
1998	2,744
1999	2,673
2000	2,651
2001	2,567
2002	2,563
2003	2,483

Together, these income tax data tend to support the Census Bureau's notion that population may be declining in Furnas County.

School Age Children

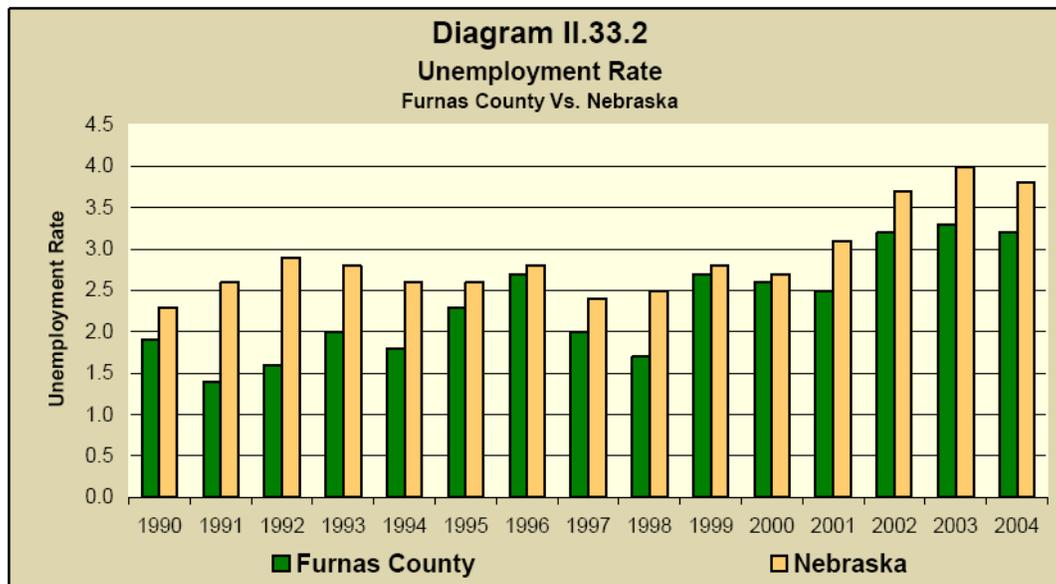
According to the Nebraska Department of Education, the number of school age children in Furnas County decreased by 25.77 percent, from 1,273 in 2004 to 945 in 2005, as seen in Table II.33.6.¹⁹⁴ School age children 5 to 10 years of age decreased from 484 in 2004 to 377 in 2005.

Year	Ages			Total
	5-10	11-14	15-18	
1992	482	346	309	1,137
1993	487	349	327	1,163
1994	459	356	323	1,138
1995	443	368	324	1,135
1996	436	368	342	1,146
1997	423	361	352	1,136
1998	399	333	365	1,097
1999	410	314	369	1,093
2000	421	306	357	1,084
2001	422	310	335	1,067
2002	411	287	321	1,019
2003	481	405	410	1,296
2004	484	397	392	1,273
2005	377	299	269	945

Economics

Labor Force

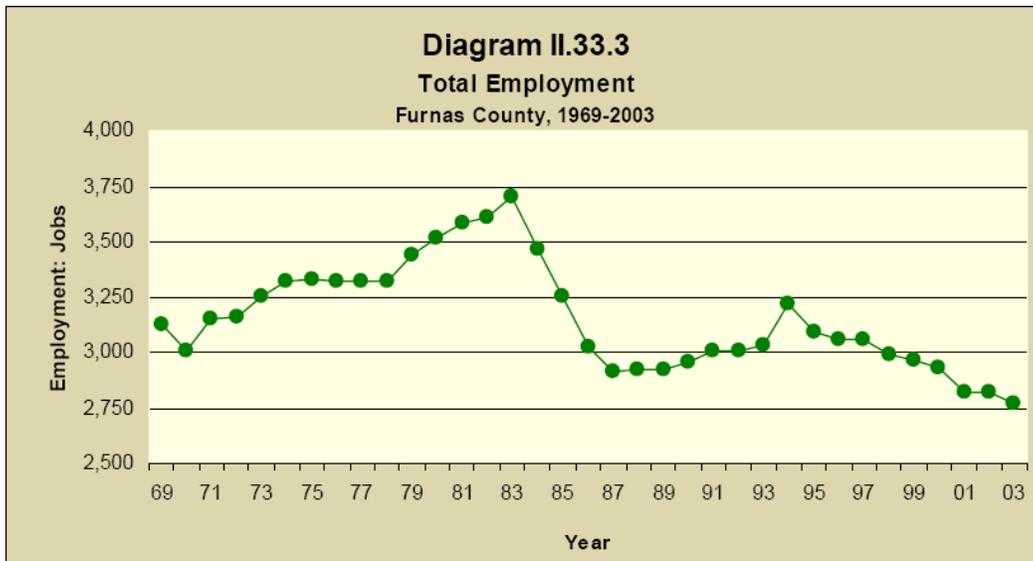
Labor force and employment statistics were derived from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The labor force in Furnas County, defined as the number of people working or actively seeking work, increased from 2,598 in 2003 to 2,603 in 2004. The total number of people employed changed from 2,513 in 2003 to 2,521 in 2004. The unemployment rate for the County, at 3.2 percent, compares to the state unemployment rate of 3.8 percent for 2004. Unemployment in the County experienced a decrease of 0.1 percentage points since 2003. These unemployment rate data are presented in Diagram II.33.2.



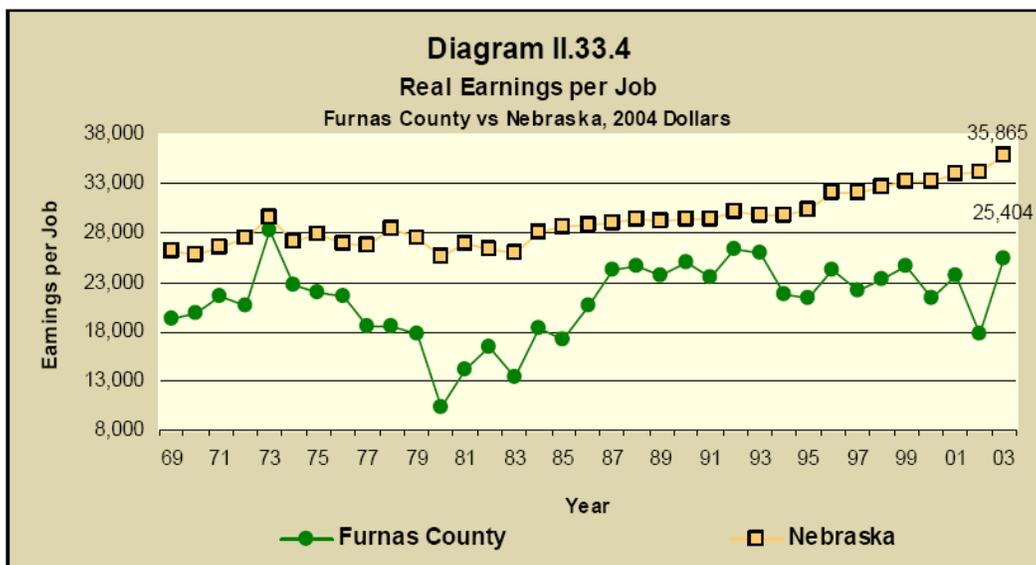
¹⁹⁴ The Department of Education provided the 1992 through 2002 data on October 4, 2002. The 2003 through 2005 counts of school age children do not appear to have the same methodology that was used to count school age children between 1992 and 2002.

Employment and Personal Income

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) also measures employment, which is defined as the total number of full and part-time jobs. In 2003, the latest year available for these county data, Furnas County recorded 2,773 jobs, a decrease of 46 jobs since 2002. Diagram II.33.3 presents total employment for the County over the 1969 through 2003 time period.



As seen in Diagram II.33.4, average earnings per job in the County was \$25,404 in 2003, while Nebraska average earnings per job was \$35,865. The national average earnings per job was \$43,619.



Total real personal income in 2003, comprising all wage and salary earnings, proprietorship income, dividends, interest, rents and transfer payments, was \$131,502,000, an increase of 17.52 percent between 2002 and 2003. Real per capita income was \$25,274 that same year; this compares with a statewide average real per capita income of \$31,558. Table II.33.7 provides further annual data for the years 1969 through 2003.

Table II.33.7									
Furnas County Total BEA Employment, and Real Personal Income									
BEA Data 1969 through 2003: 1,000s of Real 2004 Dollars									
Year	Earnings	Social Security Contributions	Residence Adjustment	Dividends, Interest, Rents	Transfer Payments	Personal Income	Per Capita Income	Total BEA Employment	Average Real Earnings per Job
1969	60,343	2,896	-1,506	20,277	13,105	89,323	12,900	3,130	19,279
1970	60,049	2,889	-1,458	20,672	14,233	90,607	13,191	3,012	19,937
1971	68,129	3,109	-1,004	20,517	15,106	99,639	14,702	3,155	21,594
1972	65,157	3,190	-347	22,079	15,707	99,406	14,644	3,159	20,626
1973	91,982	3,905	223	24,633	18,443	131,375	19,200	3,254	28,267
1974	75,391	4,226	1,053	25,936	19,193	117,346	17,060	3,324	22,681
1975	73,216	4,223	1,565	27,296	20,070	117,924	16,915	3,333	21,967
1976	71,445	4,294	2,543	27,636	19,925	117,255	17,287	3,319	21,526
1977	61,871	4,267	3,448	30,258	20,104	111,414	16,615	3,326	18,602
1978	61,294	4,447	4,606	30,314	20,074	111,841	16,750	3,320	18,462
1979	61,221	4,769	5,789	29,829	20,502	112,571	17,267	3,442	17,787
1980	36,345	4,829	7,322	33,249	21,156	93,244	14,359	3,515	10,340
1981	50,293	5,042	6,841	36,755	21,733	110,581	16,978	3,585	14,029
1982	59,216	5,256	6,021	42,397	22,188	124,567	19,331	3,606	16,422
1983	49,170	5,066	5,342	44,528	22,890	116,864	18,038	3,701	13,285
1984	63,284	5,272	4,714	45,457	23,165	131,348	20,270	3,466	18,259
1985	55,771	5,391	3,717	44,566	23,384	122,046	19,348	3,256	17,129
1986	62,178	5,549	2,952	42,805	23,634	126,020	20,606	3,022	20,575
1987	70,426	5,586	2,757	38,482	22,730	128,809	21,799	2,912	24,185
1988	72,325	5,826	2,381	37,745	22,483	129,109	22,222	2,927	24,710
1989	69,386	6,043	1,975	39,639	23,531	128,488	22,685	2,921	23,754
1990	74,095	5,722	1,819	39,421	24,093	133,705	24,179	2,955	25,074
1991	70,570	5,978	1,975	37,468	24,399	128,435	22,854	3,005	23,484
1992	79,488	6,235	1,830	36,496	25,146	136,726	24,080	3,010	26,408
1993	78,936	6,549	1,886	34,653	26,236	135,162	23,804	3,030	26,051
1994	70,318	6,870	2,216	34,710	26,665	127,038	22,501	3,221	21,831
1995	65,950	6,765	2,647	35,927	27,158	124,918	22,235	3,092	21,329
1996	74,435	6,593	3,184	36,234	28,118	135,376	24,467	3,062	24,309
1997	67,950	6,672	3,691	37,635	28,279	130,884	24,020	3,061	22,199
1998	69,481	6,909	3,964	38,597	29,274	134,407	24,721	2,989	23,245
1999	73,262	7,047	4,244	36,062	31,000	137,521	25,534	2,970	24,667
2000	62,624	6,937	4,942	38,265	30,308	129,203	24,364	2,934	21,344
2001	66,605	6,916	4,757	38,047	31,974	134,467	25,647	2,822	23,602
2002	49,912	7,080	4,400	32,630	32,036	111,899	21,326	2,819	17,706
2003	70,446	6,995	4,560	31,272	32,219	131,502	25,274	2,773	25,404

According to the Nebraska Department of Revenue, returns with an adjusted gross income (AGI) of less than \$10,000 decreased by 9.71 percent between 1997 and 2003. Returns with an AGI from \$10,000 to \$24,999 decreased by 13.76 percent over the period. On the other hand, returns with an AGI from \$50,000 to \$99,999 increased by 33.21 percent over the period. Table II.33.8 presents AGI distribution for the years 1997 through 2003.

Income Range	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than \$10,000	855	929	820	808	783	856	772
\$10,000 to \$24,999	712	717	659	628	620	600	614
\$25,000 to \$49,999	659	753	786	779	714	697	672
\$50,000 to \$99,999	277	290	349	367	386	357	369
\$100,000 or more	40	55	59	69	64	53	56
Total	2,543	2,744	2,673	2,651	2,567	2,563	2,483

The U.S. Census Bureau defines poverty as a situation in which total family income is less than a threshold amount based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), family size, number of children, and the age of the householder. According to the Census Bureau’s Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates Program, the number of individuals in poverty decreased from 795 in 1998 to 558 in 2003, with the poverty rate reaching 11.10 percent in 2003. This compares to a state poverty rate of 10.0 percent and a national rate of 12.5 percent in 2003. Table II.33.9 presents poverty data for the County.

Year	Number of Individuals in Poverty	Poverty Rate
1998	795	15.20
1999	630	12.00
2000	591	11.60
2001	608	11.80
2002	621	12.20
2003	558	11.10

Business Establishments

The total number of business establishments¹⁹⁵ in Furnas County remained the same between 1980 and 2003, as presented in Table II.33.10.¹⁹⁶ This compares to an average annual rate of change of 1.26 percent statewide. Furnas County lost 6 establishments between 2002 and 2003, while statewide there was an increase of just 100.

Year	Nebraska	Furnas County
1980	37,727	183
1981	37,582	188
1982	37,500	179
1983	41,889	206
1984	43,151	203
1985	43,115	186
1986	42,538	177
1987	42,691	181
1988	43,134	186
1989	43,302	185
1990	43,749	184
1991	44,405	185
1992	45,269	182
1993	46,059	186
1994	46,640	182
1995	47,128	182
1996	47,607	181
1997	48,588	185
1998	48,655	177
1999	48,968	179
2000	49,623	184
2001	49,710	182
2002	50,259	189
2003	50,359	183

Housing

Housing Development

The Census Bureau estimates that total housing units increased by 0.62 percent in Furnas County between 2000 and 2004, from 2,730 to 2,747. This compares to a 4.85 percent estimated increase statewide, as seen in Table II.33.11.

¹⁹⁵ Source: The Nebraska Dept. of Economic Development, The Nebraska Databook < <http://info.neded.org/databook.php?cont=sf&title=Manufacturing,%20Mining,%20And%20Business> > .

¹⁹⁶ Totals may not add due to rounding off of County totals.

The U.S. Census Bureau reports building permits issued by permit issuing agencies, as well as valuation of building permits by county annually. Single-family

Table II.33.11
Housing Unit Estimates
Nebraska vs Furnas County

Subject	Nebraska	% Growth since 2000	Furnas County	% Growth since 2000
2000 Census	722,668		2,730	
July 2001 Estimate	733,330	1.48	2,740	0.37
July 2002 Estimate	740,563	2.48	2,744	0.51
July 2003 Estimate	748,813	3.62	2,746	0.59
July 2004 Estimate	757,743	4.85	2,747	0.62

unit construction usually represents most residential development in the County. Single-family building permit authorizations in Furnas County increased from 0 in 2003 to 1 in 2004, with the average value of construction reaching \$111,000. The statewide average in 2004 was \$138,650. This value excludes the cost of the lot and infrastructure improvements. Total permitted units increased from 0 in 2003 to 1 in 2004. These changes in residential permit activity compare with a decline in population of 196 persons since 2000. Additional details of permit activity and per unit valuations are given in Table II.33.12.

Table II.33.12
Building Permits and Valuation¹⁹⁷
Furnas County 1980 – 2004

Year	Authorized Construction in Permit Issuing Areas					Per Unit Valuation, 1000s of Real 2004 Dollars			
	Single-Family Units	Duplex Units	Tri and Four Plex Units	Multi-Family Units	Total Units	Single-Family Units(\$)	Duplex Units (\$)	Tri and Four Plex Units (\$)	Multi-Family Units (\$)
1980	2	.	.	.	2	23.81	.	.	.
1981	3	.	.	.	3	84.27	.	.	.
1982	7	.	.	.	7	69.57	.	.	.
1983	2	.	.	.	2	69.27	.	.	.
1984	4	.	.	.	4	67.44	.	.	.
1985	2	.	.	.	2	76.13	.	.	.
1986	1	.	.	.	1	91.87	.	.	.
1987	5	.	.	.	5	72.65	.	.	.
1988	3	.	.	.	3	70.87	.	.	.
1989	3	.	.	.	3	92.59	.	.	.
1990	3	.	.	.	3	53.49	.	.	.
1991	5	.	.	.	5	69.77	.	.	.
1992	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1993	11	.	.	.	11	89.33	.	.	.
1994	7	.	.	.	7	105.25	.	.	.
1995	5	.	.	.	5	117.03	.	.	.
1996	2	.	.	16	18	112.76	.	.	87.18
1997	2	.	.	.	2	81.76	.	.	.
1998	6	.	.	.	6	93.24	.	.	.
1999	4	.	.	.	4	79.51	.	.	.
2000	6	.	.	.	6	175.70	.	.	.
2001	3	.	.	.	3	84.13	.	.	.
2002	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
2003	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
2004	1	.	.	.	1	111.00	.	.	.

¹⁹⁷ Data Source: U.S. Bureau of Census. Note: Permits do not necessarily translate into a precise and full count of housing production. Some dwellings permitted are never constructed. As well, some dwellings may be built in areas that lack a building permitting process, have a lax permitting process, or have insufficient oversight of construction activity.

Housing Characteristics

The Department of Property Assessment and Taxation (PA&T) provided a database of residential property transactions over the last six years. The property transactions are primarily related to existing buildings, with very little new construction statistics. Nevertheless, during fiscal years 1999 through 2004, there were a total of 607 property transactions in Furnas County. Of these, there were 572 single-family transactions during the period, as seen in Table II.33.13.

Table II.33.13							
Total Residential Property Transactions							
Furnas County, Fiscal Years 1999-2004							
Housing Type	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Total
Mobile Home	3	9	7	7	5	4	35
Single-family	79	114	116	91	96	76	572
Townhome	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Duplex	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Missing	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Total	82	123	123	98	101	80	607

The PA&T data also has descriptions of the building. Quality refers to the grade of materials and workmanship used in the original construction of the dwelling. Of the 372 single family home property transactions concerning units built before 1930, 7.80 percent were of low quality and 45.97 percent were of fair quality. Conversely, of the 11 homes built during 1991 through 2004, 9.09 percent were of fair quality. Table II.33.14 provides details on the quality of these single-family residential dwellings by vintage of construction.

Table II.33.14								
Quality of Materials and Workmanship								
Furnas County, Single Family Homes by Vintage								
Quality	Before 1930	1931-1960	1961-1970	1971-1980	1981-1990	1991-2004	Missing	Total
Low	29	5	5	8	2	.	.	49
Fair	171	31	5	6	1	1	1	216
Average	168	54	24	18	4	5	.	273
Good	3	6	7	9	2	4	.	31
Very Good	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	2
Excellent	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Missing	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Total	372	96	41	41	10	11	1	572

In regard to the condition of residential dwellings, of the same 372 single family homes built before 1930, 59.68 percent of the homes were worn out or badly worn, and 39.52 percent were in average condition. Table II.33.15 provides details of the condition of single-family residential dwellings by year built.

Table II.33.15 Condition of Residential Dwellings Furnas County, Single Family Homes by Vintage								
Condition	Before 1930	1931-1960	1961-1970	1971-1980	1981-1990	1991-2004	Missing	Total
Worn Out	8	.	.	.	.	.	1	9
Badly Worn	214	18	2	1	.	.	.	235
Average	147	76	18	11	4	1	.	257
Good	3	2	21	29	6	1	.	62
Very Good	.	.	.	.	.	9	.	9
Excellent	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Missing	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Total	372	96	41	41	10	11	1	572

Housing Costs

Between 1999 and 2004, the average price of an existing single family home changed from \$35,206 to \$48,317, a total increase of 37.24 percent.

Table II.33.16 Average Sales Price in PA&T Database Furnas County, Single Family Homes	
Year	Average Sales Price (\$)
1999	35,206
2000	33,174
2001	33,305
2002	36,436
2003	31,189
2004	48,317
Average	35,679

Single-family home prices from the PA&T database also indicate a general increase in average home prices and average floor area for newer homes. Single-family home prices in Furnas County increased from \$25,848 for homes built before 1930 to \$148,636 for homes built from 1991 to 2004.¹⁹⁸ However, homes built from 1991 through 2004 are also larger, averaging 1,887 square feet per unit. Table II.33.17 provides additional details, by year of construction, for single-family homes.

Table II.33.17 Average Sales Price and Area (In Sq. Ft.) of Property Transactions Furnas County, Single Family Homes by Vintage			
Vintage	Average Sales Price (\$)	Average Floor Area Sq. Ft.	Price Per Sq. Ft.* (\$)
Before 1930	25,848	1,216	21.25
1931-1960	35,940	1,209	29.73
1961-1970	55,940	1,259	44.42
1971-1980	59,902	1,435	41.73
1981-1990	95,740	1,651	58.00
1991-2004	148,636	1,887	78.76
Average	35,679	1,254	28.45

* Price per sq. ft. may not compute precisely due to rounding off of sales price and floor area.

¹⁹⁸ When a manufactured home is placed on a permanent foundation, the Assessor considers the property a single-family dwelling. Hence these property transactions are seen even though a single-family new construction permit was probably not issued for the manufactured home.

Survey of Rental Properties

During November of 2005, a telephone survey of rental properties was conducted throughout Nebraska. Table II.33.18 presents some basic statistics about the completed surveys over the last four years in Furnas County. Completed surveys decreased from 2 in 2004 to 3 in 2005. The vacancy rate for all units increased by 18.52 percent between 2002 and 2005. While the vacancy rate for all units was at 18.52 percent in 2005, the respondents indicated that their units are filled up in an average of 15 days, a decrease of 61 since 2002.

Table II.33.18 2005 Survey of Rental Properties Furnas County				
Year	Completed Surveys	Total Units	Vacancy Rate	Absorption Rate
2002	3	150	.	76
2003	3	150	3.33	17
2004	2	82	1.22	30
2005	3	54	18.52	15

Of the 54 units managed in Furnas County during 2005, 52 were apartments. Of these, 9 were vacant, a vacancy rate of 17.31 percent. Table II.33.19 provides the breakdown of units by type and availability.

Table II.33.19 2005 Survey of Rental Properties Furnas County			
Type of Units	Units Managed	Available Units	Vacancy Rate
Single-family Units	2	1	50.00
Apartments	52	9	17.31
Mobile Homes	.	.	.
Not Sure of Type	.	.	.
Total Units	54	10	18.52

Of the 3 completed surveys, 1 had a waiting list at their facilities, with the total waiting list size at 4 persons. Units with rental assistance comprised 61.11 percent of the total number of units managed in the County. These data are presented in Table II.33.20.

Table II.33.20 2005 Survey of Rental Properties Furnas County	
Attributes of Completed Surveys	Number of Responses
Units with Rental Assistance	33
Have Wait List	1
Waitlist Size	4

The survey respondents were asked to rate the need for new rental units and the need for rehabilitation of existing units on a scale from 1 to 5, with 1 indicating no need and 5 indicating extreme need. Of the 3 respondents, 2 indicated moderate need for new construction and rehabilitation of existing units, while 1 respondent indicated there was extreme need for both as seen in Table II.33.21.

Table II.33.21 2005 Survey of Rental Properties Furnas County		
Degree of Need	Need for New Construction	Need for Rehabilitation of Existing Units
1 = no need	.	.
2	1	1
3	1	1
4	.	.
5 = extreme need	1	1

Housing Needs Forecast

The 2005 Nebraska Housing Needs forecast was not updated this year. Nevertheless, it is based on a population prediction purchased last year from Economy.com. As seen in Table II.33.22, the Economy.com forecast expected the population in Furnas County to decrease by 0.70 percent per year, reaching 4,314 by the year 2030.

Year	Economy.com
2000	5,324
2005	5,122
2010	4,948
2015	4,767
2020	4,568
2025	4,424
2030	4,314

The household forecast derived from that population prediction indicates a total decrease of 121 homeowners in Furnas County, from 1,745 in 2000 to 1,624 by 2030. Renters are anticipated to decrease from 533 in 2000 to 377 in 2030. Homeownership between 2000 and 2030 is expected to decrease by 14 households for homeowners having incomes from 31-50 percent of MFI, and to decrease by 25 households for those at 51-80 percent of MFI. Rental demand from the year 2000 to 2030 is expected to decrease by 32 households for renters having incomes from 31-50 percent of MFI, and to decrease by 39 households for those at 51-80 percent of MFI. Table II.33.23 provides further details of the household forecast by tenure and income.

Year	0-30% MFI	31-50% MFI	51-80% MFI	81-95% MFI	96% + MFI	Total
Homeowners						
2000	137	202	356	44	1,006	1,745
2005	135	199	351	43	992	1,720
2010	133	197	347	43	981	1,701
2015	132	194	342	42	967	1,677
2020	129	191	336	41	949	1,645
2025	128	189	332	41	940	1,629
2030	127	188	331	41	936	1,624
Renters						
2000	89	110	133	14	188	533
2005	83	103	125	13	177	501
2010	79	97	118	12	167	474
2015	74	92	111	12	158	446
2020	69	86	104	11	147	417
2025	66	81	98	10	140	395
2030	63	78	94	10	133	377

Hitchcock County

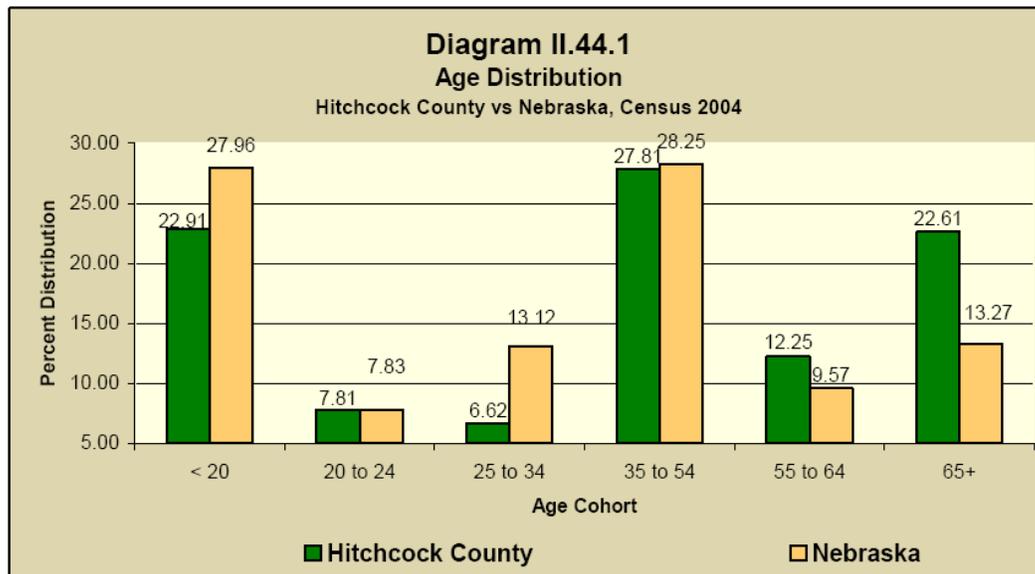
Summary

- Between 2000 and 2004, population declined by 2.89 percent, or by 90 persons
- Between 2000 and 2004, the Hispanic population grew by 9.09 percent
- Between 2002 and 2003, the total number of full-time and part-time jobs decreased by 11
- In 2003, average earnings per job in the County was \$17,810 compared to \$35,865 statewide
- Between 2003 and 2004, the unemployment rate decreased from 3.9 percent to 3.8 percent
- Between 2003 and 2004, total new housing units permitted decreased by 5 units
- In 2004, the average price of an existing home was \$42,789
- In a November 2005 Rental Survey, the vacancy rate was 33.33 percent

Demographics

Population Characteristics

The Census Bureau’s intercensal estimates indicate that Hitchcock County’s population decreased by 2.89 percent, from 3,111 in 2000 to 3,021 in 2004. This compares to a statewide population growth of 2.1 percent. The number of people from 20 to 24 years of age changed from 106 in 2000 to 236 in 2004, an increase of 122.64 percent, and the number of people from 25 to 34 years of age decreased by 15.25 percent. As seen in Diagram II.44.1, persons younger than 25 comprised 30.72 percent of the population, while persons aged 55 and over comprised 34.86 percent of the population in Hitchcock County in 2004. This compares to 35.79 percent below the age of 25, and 22.84 percent aged 55 and over statewide.



The white population decreased by 2.60 percent, while the black population remained the same. The Hispanic population shifted from 44 to 48 people between 2000 and 2004, an increase of 9.09 percent. Table II.44.1 presents details of population characteristics.

Subject	Nebraska			Hitchcock County		
	Census 2000	July 2004	% Change	Census 2000	July 2004	% Change
Population	1,711,263	1,747,214	2.10	3,111	3,021	-2.89
Age						
Under 20 years	504,336	488,597	-3.12	817	692	-15.30
20 to 24 years	120,331	136,736	13.63	106	236	122.64
25 to 34 years	223,273	229,273	2.69	236	200	-15.25
35 to 54 years	489,588	493,630	0.83	899	840	-6.56
55 to 64 years	141,540	167,175	18.11	358	370	3.35
65 & over	232,195	231,803	-0.17	695	683	-1.73
Race						
White	1,585,617	1,609,056	1.48	3,073	2,993	-2.60
Black	70,043	74,815	6.81	3	3	.
American Indian & Alaskan Native	15,634	16,562	5.94	9	8	-11.11
Asian	22,528	26,746	18.72	4	3	-25.00
Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander	993	1,176	18.43	.	.	.
Two or more races	16,448	18,859	14.66	22	14	-36.36
Hispanic (of any race)						
Hispanic or Latino	94,425	119,975	27.06	44	48	9.09

Population Migration

Total population change is a combination of births, deaths, and the net migration of those arriving in and leaving the County. The result of births minus deaths is termed the *natural increase*. As calculated from data seen in Table II.44.2, from April 2000 to July 2004 Hitchcock County's natural increase was estimated to be -60 people. The total population change for this period is estimated at -90, indicating a net county migration of -29 people.²⁵⁹

As per the Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles driver's license exchange data, net change in Hitchcock County increased from 2 persons in 2003 to 15 persons in calendar 2004. The driver's license total exchanges for the last four calendar years are presented in Table II.44.3.

April 1, 2000 Population	3,111
Births	136
Deaths	196
International Migration	0
Domestic Migration	-29
Net Migration	-29
Residual	-1
July 1, 2004 Population	3,021

²⁵⁹ This net migration number does not include a residual of -1, a change the Census Bureau has not attributed to any cause.

Table II.44.3			
Driver's Licenses Exchanged and Surrendered			
Hitchcock County: Calendar years 2001-2004			
Year	In-Migrants	Out-Migrants	Net Change
Calendar 2001	79	65	14
Calendar 2002	69	41	28
Calendar 2003	44	42	2
Calendar 2004	66	51	15

Another source of data describing population and migration is from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The IRS measures yearly inflow and outflow from each of the nation's counties by comparing consecutive year mailing addresses listed on income tax returns. In this fashion, the IRS can determine county-to-county migration. While not a precise measure, the number of returns represents an estimate of households and the number of exemptions represents an estimate of population. According to these IRS statistics, net household flows in Hitchcock County changed from -40 in 1984 to -13 in 2004, as seen in Table II.44.4. Over this period, total returns decreased from 1,356 to 1,011. Total exemptions, again a proxy representing population, decreased from 3,331 to 2,334.

Table II.44.4			
IRS Income Tax Returns			
Hitchcock County, 1984-2004			
Year	Net Returns	Total Returns	Total Exemptions
1984	-40	1,356	3,331
1985	-34	1,364	3,368
1986	-35	1,317	3,246
1987	-8	1,305	3,221
1988	-27	1,287	3,166
1989	-47	1,273	3,059
1990	-10	1,293	3,077
1991	-31	1,188	2,927
1992	-51	1,164	2,855
1993	-14	1,167	2,877
1994	-37	1,107	2,680
1995	-17	1,086	2,686
1996	-26	1,037	2,534
1997	2	1,052	2,539
1998	11	1,064	2,543
1999	-34	1,017	2,377
2000	-14	1,028	2,376
2001	-13	1,042	2,451
2002	-27	1,012	2,343
2003	-2	1,082	2,497
2004	-13	1,011	2,334

Returns from the Nebraska Department of Revenue (DOR) indicate that total returns decreased from 1,383 in 1997 to 1,381 in 2003, as seen in Table II.44.5.

Table II.44.5	
Nebraska Resident Income Tax Returns	
Hitchcock County, 1997-2003	
Year	Total Returns
1997	1,383
1998	1,459
1999	1,450
2000	1,472
2001	1,419
2002	1,435
2003	1,381

Together, these income tax data tend to support the Census Bureau's notion that population may be declining in Hitchcock County.

School Age Children

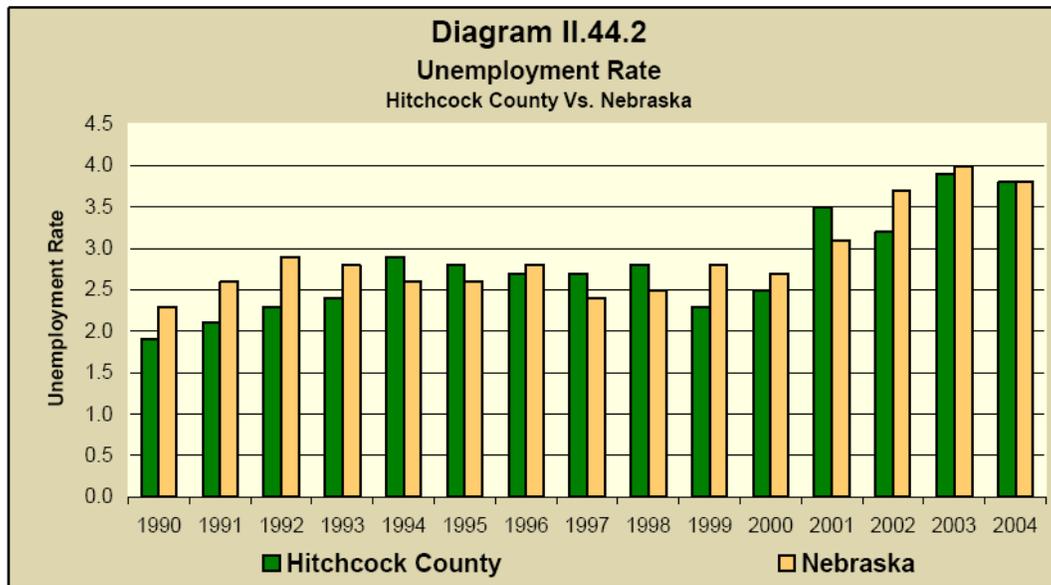
According to the Nebraska Department of Education, the number of school age children in Hitchcock County increased by 25.42 percent, from 417 in 2004 to 523 in 2005, as seen in Table II.44.6.²⁶⁰ School age children 5 to 10 years of age increased from 166 in 2004 to 183 in 2005.

Year	Ages			Total
	5-10	11-14	15-18	
1992	315	273	215	803
1993	304	255	214	773
1994	287	260	218	765
1995	263	221	222	706
1996	265	233	250	748
1997	259	240	242	741
1998	260	232	260	752
1999	271	214	239	724
2000	256	173	233	662
2001	244	182	236	662
2002	233	189	233	655
2003	169	142	129	440
2004	166	125	126	417
2005	183	157	183	523

Economics

Labor Force

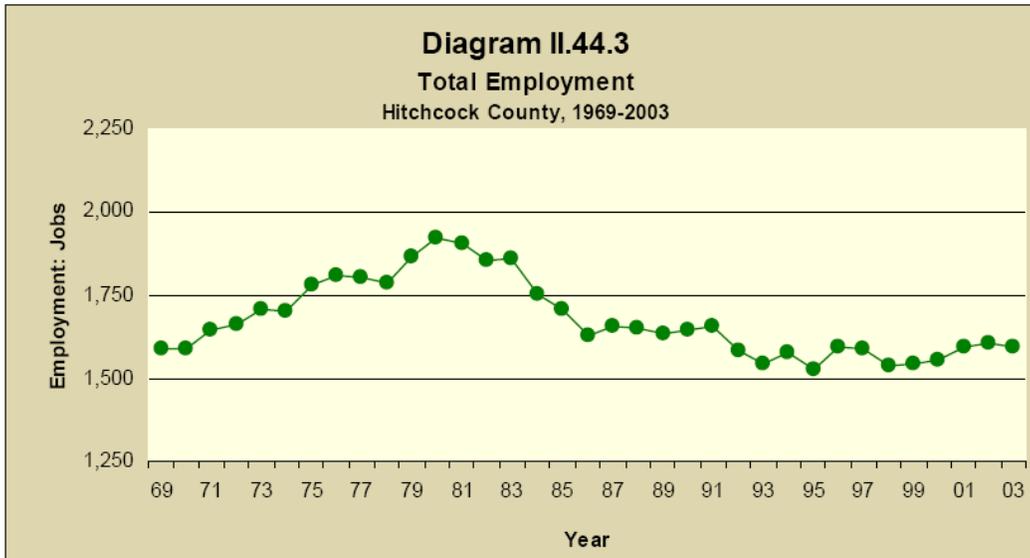
Labor force and employment statistics were derived from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The labor force in Hitchcock County, defined as the number of people working or actively seeking work, increased from 1,535 in 2003 to 1,568 in 2004. The total number of people employed changed from 1,475 in 2003 to 1,509 in 2004. The unemployment rate for the County, at 3.8 percent, compares to the state unemployment rate of 3.8 percent for 2004. Unemployment in the County experienced a decrease of 0.1 percentage points since 2003. These unemployment rate data are presented in Diagram II.44.2.



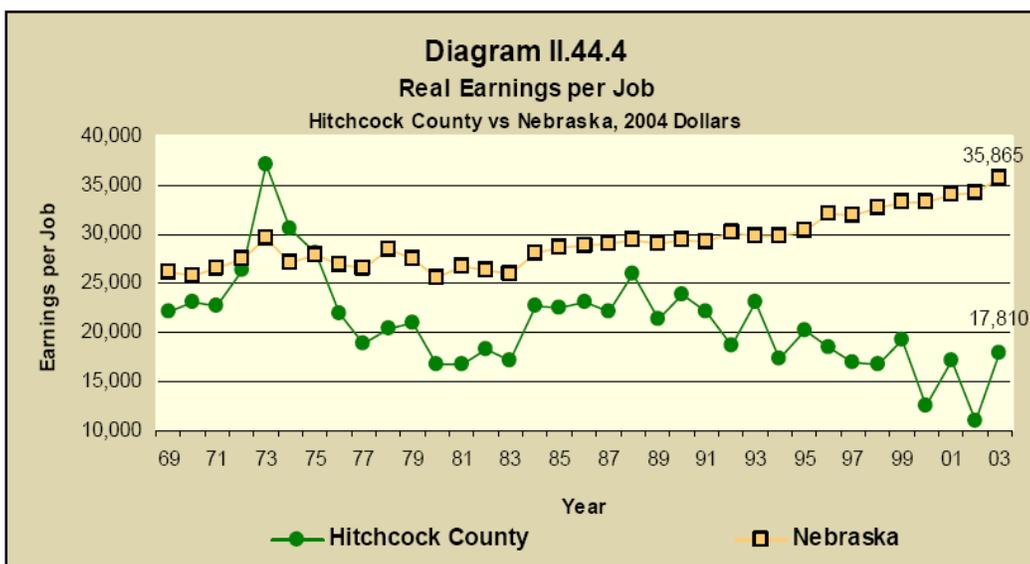
²⁶⁰ The Department of Education provided the 1992 through 2002 data on October 4, 2002. The 2003 through 2005 counts of school age children do not appear to have the same methodology that was used to count school age children between 1992 and 2002.

Employment and Personal Income

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) also measures employment, which is defined as the total number of full and part-time jobs. In 2003, the latest year available for these county data, Hitchcock County recorded 1,593 jobs, a decrease of 11 jobs since 2002. Diagram II.44.3 presents total employment for the County over the 1969 through 2003 time period.



As seen in Diagram II.44.4, average earnings per job in the County was \$17,810 in 2003, while Nebraska average earnings per job was \$35,865. The national average earnings per job was \$43,619.



Total real personal income in 2003, comprising all wage and salary earnings, proprietorship income, dividends, interest, rents and transfer payments, was \$63,524,000, an increase of 19.17 percent between 2002 and 2003. Real per capita income was \$20,909 that same year; this compares with a statewide average real per capita income of \$31,558. Table II.44.7 provides further annual data for the years 1969 through 2003.

Table II.44.7									
Hitchcock County Total BEA Employment, and Real Personal Income									
BEA Data 1969 through 2003: 1,000s of Real 2004 Dollars									
Year	Earnings	Social Security Contributions	Residence Adjustment	Dividends, Interest, Rents	Transfer Payments	Personal Income	Per Capita Income	Total BEA Employment	Average Real Earnings per Job
1969	35,063	1,310	1,439	11,169	5,954	52,315	12,750	1,590	22,052
1970	36,703	1,375	1,743	11,209	6,288	54,569	13,519	1,591	23,069
1971	37,287	1,438	1,838	10,876	7,034	55,597	13,808	1,645	22,667
1972	43,830	1,541	2,011	11,624	7,038	62,962	15,754	1,663	26,356
1973	63,283	1,953	2,261	13,339	7,844	84,774	21,526	1,706	37,094
1974	51,969	2,108	2,953	14,038	8,030	74,882	19,215	1,702	30,534
1975	49,982	2,248	3,264	15,391	8,693	75,082	17,906	1,782	28,048
1976	39,722	2,454	3,097	15,612	9,079	65,056	15,313	1,809	21,958
1977	34,083	2,340	3,223	17,100	9,417	61,483	14,924	1,804	18,893
1978	36,435	2,473	3,274	17,334	9,783	64,353	15,701	1,789	20,366
1979	39,037	2,737	3,290	17,923	10,162	67,675	16,362	1,864	20,943
1980	32,290	2,927	2,338	20,204	10,288	62,191	15,221	1,925	16,774
1981	31,791	3,082	2,489	22,523	10,969	64,691	15,751	1,908	16,662
1982	33,949	2,997	2,764	25,515	11,754	70,986	17,221	1,852	18,331
1983	31,908	2,911	3,087	24,961	12,025	69,070	16,925	1,862	17,136
1984	39,836	2,774	3,802	27,617	12,112	80,593	19,919	1,753	22,724
1985	38,553	2,942	4,042	27,052	12,025	78,731	19,733	1,710	22,546
1986	37,562	2,819	4,946	28,974	12,299	80,961	20,569	1,629	23,058
1987	36,507	2,865	5,561	27,668	12,149	79,021	20,174	1,655	22,059
1988	42,739	3,071	5,907	20,299	11,551	77,425	20,037	1,650	25,903
1989	35,048	3,276	6,330	22,015	11,627	71,744	19,056	1,635	21,436
1990	39,422	3,141	6,315	20,890	11,383	74,870	19,997	1,648	23,921
1991	36,546	3,115	6,220	22,016	11,603	73,270	19,948	1,658	22,042
1992	29,457	2,981	6,486	20,864	12,781	66,607	18,870	1,581	18,632
1993	35,715	3,040	6,494	18,703	13,161	71,033	20,447	1,546	23,102
1994	27,216	3,042	6,452	17,965	13,233	61,824	18,292	1,575	17,280
1995	30,752	2,861	6,794	17,522	13,489	65,697	19,878	1,525	20,165
1996	29,333	2,825	6,839	18,843	14,225	66,416	20,436	1,596	18,379
1997	26,906	2,849	6,735	19,205	14,664	64,661	19,945	1,591	16,911
1998	25,586	2,914	6,729	19,684	15,292	64,377	19,845	1,536	16,658
1999	29,530	2,862	6,903	17,509	15,368	66,448	21,088	1,542	19,150
2000	19,446	2,967	6,992	17,611	15,320	56,401	18,182	1,556	12,497
2001	27,251	2,987	7,125	17,523	16,962	65,872	21,318	1,594	17,096
2002	17,473	3,140	6,724	15,053	17,196	53,305	17,495	1,604	10,893
2003	28,372	3,157	6,870	14,395	17,045	63,524	20,909	1,593	17,810

According to the Nebraska Department of Revenue, returns with an adjusted gross income (AGI) of less than \$10,000 decreased by 15.63 percent between 1997 and 2003. Returns with an AGI from \$10,000 to \$24,999 remained the same over the period. On the other hand, returns with an AGI from \$50,000 to \$99,999 increased by 40.16 percent over the period. Table II.44.8 presents AGI distribution for the years 1997 through 2003.

Income Range	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Less than \$10,000	531	540	505	511	479	500	448
\$10,000 to \$24,999	364	399	365	362	352	386	364
\$25,000 to \$49,999	348	360	383	374	395	368	377
\$50,000 to \$99,999	127	142	180	202	178	168	178
\$100,000 or more	13	18	17	23	15	13	14
Total	1,383	1,459	1,450	1,472	1,419	1,435	1,381

The U.S. Census Bureau defines poverty as a situation in which total family income is less than a threshold amount based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), family size, number of children, and the age of the householder. According to the Census Bureau's Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates Program, the number of individuals in poverty decreased from 508 in 1998 to 389 in 2003, with the poverty rate reaching 13.10 percent in 2003. This compares to a state poverty rate of 10.0 percent and a national rate of 12.5 percent in 2003. Table II.44.9 presents poverty data for the County.

Year	Number of Individuals in Poverty	Poverty Rate
1998	508	15.20
1999	425	13.80
2000	415	13.70
2001	445	14.80
2002	431	14.40
2003	389	13.10

Business Establishments

The total number of business establishments²⁶¹ in Hitchcock County increased by 7 between 1980 and 2003, at an annual rate of change of 0.49 percent, as presented in Table II.44.10.²⁶² This compares to an average annual rate of change of 1.26 percent statewide. Hitchcock County added 6 establishments between 2002 and 2003, while statewide there was an increase of just 100.

Year	Nebraska	Hitchcock County
1980	37,727	59
1981	37,582	64
1982	37,500	55
1983	41,889	73
1984	43,151	77
1985	43,115	74
1986	42,538	72
1987	42,691	75
1988	43,134	72
1989	43,302	71
1990	43,749	72
1991	44,405	68
1992	45,269	66
1993	46,059	66
1994	46,640	62
1995	47,128	59
1996	47,607	61
1997	48,588	58
1998	48,655	62
1999	48,968	64
2000	49,623	63
2001	49,710	68
2002	50,259	60
2003	50,359	66

Housing

Housing Development

The Census Bureau estimates that total housing units increased by 0.90 percent in Hitchcock County between 2000 and 2004, from 1,675 to 1,690. This compares to a 4.85 percent estimated increase statewide, as seen in Table II.44.11.

²⁶¹ Source: The Nebraska Dept. of Economic Development, The Nebraska Databook
< <http://info.neded.org/databook.php?cont=sf&ttle=Manufacturing,%20Mining,%20And%20Business> > .

²⁶² Totals may not add due to rounding off of County totals.

The U.S. Census Bureau reports building permits issued by permit issuing agencies, as well as valuation of building permits by county annually. Single-family

unit construction usually represents most residential development in the County. Single-family building permit authorizations in Hitchcock County decreased from 5 in 2003 to 0 in 2004. The statewide average in 2004 was \$138,650. This value excludes the cost of the lot and infrastructure improvements. Total permitted units decreased from 5 in 2003 to 0 in 2004. These changes in residential permit activity compare with a decline in population of 90 persons since 2000. Additional details of permit activity and per unit valuations are given in Table II.44.12.

Subject	Nebraska	% Growth since 2000	Hitchcock County	% Growth since 2000
2000 Census	722,668	.	1,675	.
July 2001 Estimate	733,330	1.48	1,684	0.54
July 2002 Estimate	740,563	2.48	1,689	0.84
July 2003 Estimate	748,813	3.62	1,690	0.90
July 2004 Estimate	757,743	4.85	1,690	0.90

Year	Authorized Construction in Permit Issuing Areas					Per Unit Valuation, 1000s of Real 2004 Dollars			
	Single-Family Units	Duplex Units	Tri and Four Plex Units	Multi-Family Units	Total Units	Single-Family Units(\$)	Duplex Units (\$)	Tri and Four Plex Units (\$)	Multi-Family Units (\$)
1980	2	.	.	.	2	116.08	.	.	.
1981	1	.	.	.	1	73.82	.	.	.
1982	1	.	.	.	1	27.83	.	.	.
1983	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1984	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1985	2	.	.	.	2	82.94	.	.	.
1986	1	.	.	.	1	53.59	.	.	.
1987	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1988	1	.	.	.	1	64.86	.	.	.
1989	1	.	.	.	1	120.40	.	.	.
1990	1	.	.	.	1	115.93	.	.	.
1991	2	.	.	.	2	71.06	.	.	.
1992	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1993	1	.	.	.	1	123.44	.	.	.
1994	2	.	.	.	2	67.51	.	.	.
1995	3	.	.	.	3	67.12	.	.	.
1996	4	.	.	.	4	45.52	.	.	.
1997	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1998	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1999	1	.	.	.	1	104.23	.	.	.
2000	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
2001	2	.	.	.	2	111.87	.	.	.
2002	3	.	.	.	3	97.73	.	.	.
2003	5	.	.	.	5	28.94	.	.	.
2004	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

²⁶³ Data Source: U.S. Bureau of Census. Note: Permits do not necessarily translate into a precise and full count of housing production. Some dwellings permitted are never constructed. As well, some dwellings may be built in areas that lack a building permitting process, have a lax permitting process, or have insufficient oversight of construction activity.

Housing Characteristics

The Department of Property Assessment and Taxation (PA&T) provided a database of residential property transactions over the last six years. The property transactions are primarily related to existing buildings, with very little new construction statistics. Nevertheless, during fiscal years 1999 through 2004, there were a total of 276 property transactions in Hitchcock County. Of these, there were 255 single-family transactions during the period, as seen in Table II.44.13.

Housing Type	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Total
Mobile Home	3	6	2	2	3	4	20
Single-family	43	44	48	42	40	38	255
Townhome
Duplex
Missing	.	1	1
Total	46	51	50	44	43	42	276

The PA&T data also has descriptions of the building. Quality refers to the grade of materials and workmanship used in the original construction of the dwelling. Of the 162 single family home property transactions concerning units built before 1930, 7.41 percent were of low quality and 56.17 percent were of fair quality. Conversely, of the 6 homes built during 1991 through 2004, 16.67 percent were of fair quality. Table II.44.14 provides details on the quality of these single-family residential dwellings by vintage of construction.

Quality	Before 1930	1931-1960	1961-1970	1971-1980	1981-1990	1991-2004	Missing	Total
Low	12	5	.	1	1	.	.	19
Fair	91	26	4	5	1	1	2	130
Average	59	19	9	4	4	3	.	98
Good	.	1	1	3	.	2	.	7
Very Good
Excellent
Missing	.	1	1
Total	162	52	14	13	6	6	2	255

In regard to the condition of residential dwellings, of the same 162 single family homes built before 1930, 43.21 percent of the homes were worn out or badly worn, and 48.15 percent were in average condition. Table II.44.15 provides details of the condition of single-family residential dwellings by year built.

Condition	Before 1930	1931-1960	1961-1970	1971-1980	1981-1990	1991-2004	Missing	Total
Worn Out	8	3	.	1	.	.	.	12
Badly Worn	62	9	2	2	1	.	1	77
Average	78	31	8	6	2	2	1	128
Good	14	9	4	4	3	4	.	38
Very Good
Excellent
Missing
Total	162	52	14	13	6	6	2	255

Housing Costs

Between 1999 and 2004, the average price of an existing single family home changed from \$37,167 to \$42,789, a total increase of 15.12 percent.

Year	Average Sales Price (\$)
1999	37,167
2000	32,404
2001	30,058
2002	40,039
2003	29,545
2004	42,789
Average	35,122

Single-family home prices from the PA&T database also indicate a general increase in average home prices and average floor area for newer homes. Single-family home prices in Hitchcock County increased from \$26,444 for homes built before 1930 to \$89,917 for homes built from 1991 to 2004.²⁶⁴ However, homes built from 1991 through 2004 are also larger, averaging 1,611 square feet per unit. Table II.44.17 provides additional details, by year of construction, for single-family homes.

Vintage	Average Sales Price (\$)	Average Floor Area Sq. Ft.	Price Per Sq. Ft.* (\$)
Before 1930	26,444	1,115	23.71
1931-1960	37,973	1,127	33.68
1961-1970	68,018	1,695	40.13
1971-1980	59,566	1,602	37.17
1981-1990	61,583	1,670	36.89
1991-2004	89,917	1,611	55.81
Average	35,122	1,200	29.28

* Price per sq. ft. may not compute precisely due to rounding off of sales price and floor area.

²⁶⁴ When a manufactured home is placed on a permanent foundation, the Assessor considers the property a single-family dwelling. Hence these property transactions are seen even though a single-family new construction permit was probably not issued for the manufactured home.

Survey of Rental Properties

During November of 2005, a telephone survey of rental properties was conducted throughout Nebraska. Table II.44.18 presents some basic statistics about the completed surveys over the last four years in Hitchcock County. Completed surveys remained at 2 between 2004 and 2005. The vacancy rate for all units increased by 8.33 percent between 2002 and 2005. While the vacancy rate for all units was at 33.33 percent in 2005, the respondents indicated that their units are filled up in an average of 298 days, an increase of 292 since 2002.

Table II.44.18				
2005 Survey of Rental Properties				
Hitchcock County				
Year	Completed Surveys	Total Units	Vacancy Rate	Absorption Rate
2002	1	8	25.00	6
2003	2	28	35.71	35
2004	2	21	42.86	45
2005	2	21	33.33	298

Of the 21 units managed in Hitchcock County during 2005, 17 were apartments. Of these, 5 were vacant, a vacancy rate of 29.41 percent. Table II.44.19 provides the breakdown of units by type and availability.

Table II.44.19			
2005 Survey of Rental Properties			
Hitchcock County			
Type of Units	Units Managed	Available Units	Vacancy Rate
Single-family Units	4	2	50.00
Apartments	17	5	29.41
Mobile Homes	.	.	.
Not Sure of Type	.	.	.
Total Units	21	7	33.33

Of the 2 completed surveys, none had a waiting list at their facilities. Units with rental assistance comprised 80.95 percent of the total number of units managed in the County. These data are presented in Table II.44.20.

Table II.44.20	
2005 Survey of Rental Properties	
Hitchcock County	
Attributes of Completed Surveys	Number of Responses
Units with Rental Assistance	17
Have Wait List	.
Waitlist Size	.

The survey respondents were asked to rate the need for new rental units and the need for rehabilitation of existing units on a scale from 1 to 5, with 1 indicating no need and 5 indicating extreme need. While some respondents said they didn't know, some 50.00 percent of the respondents indicated that there was no need for new construction. The ranking of need for rehabilitation of existing units is moderate, as seen in Table II.44.21.

Table II.44.21		
2005 Survey of Rental Properties		
Hitchcock County		
Degree of Need	Need for New Construction	Need for Rehabilitation of Existing Units
1 = no need	1	.
2	.	.
3	.	1
4	.	1
5 = extreme need	1	.

Housing Needs Forecast

The 2005 Nebraska Housing Needs forecast was not updated this year. Nevertheless, it is based on a population prediction purchased last year from Economy.com. As seen in Table II.44.22, the Economy.com forecast expected the population in Hitchcock County to decrease by 0.95 percent per year, reaching 2,338 by the year 2030.

Table II.44.22 Population Forecast Hitchcock County 2000 through 2030	
Year	Economy.com
2000	3,111
2005	2,925
2010	2,729
2015	2,597
2020	2,475
2025	2,391
2030	2,338

The household forecast derived from that population prediction indicates a total decrease of 136 homeowners in Hitchcock County, from 1,006 in 2000 to 870 by 2030. Renters are anticipated to decrease from 281 in 2000 to 181 in 2030. Homeownership between 2000 and 2030 is expected to decrease by 18 households for homeowners having incomes from 31-50 percent of MFI, and to decrease by 28 households for those at 51-80 percent of MFI. Rental demand from the year 2000 to 2030 is expected to decrease by 22 households for renters having incomes from 31-50 percent of MFI, and to decrease by 27 households for those at 51-80 percent of MFI. Table II.44.23 provides further details of the household forecast by tenure and income.

Table II.44.23 Household Forecast by Tenure and Income Hitchcock County 2000 through 2030						
Year	0-30% MFI	31-50% MFI	51-80% MFI	81-95% MFI	96% + MFI	Total
Homeowners						
2000	112	129	211	.	554	1,006
2005	108	124	204	.	534	970
2010	103	119	195	.	510	927
2015	101	116	190	.	497	904
2020	98	113	185	.	485	881
2025	97	112	183	.	479	870
2030	97	111	183	.	479	870
Renters						
2000	44	62	77	.	98	281
2005	40	57	71	.	90	257
2010	36	52	64	.	81	233
2015	33	48	59	.	75	216
2020	31	44	55	.	70	200
2025	29	42	52	.	66	189
2030	28	40	50	.	63	181

Appendix B Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Survey

Table 3. Number of Students Who Completed the Survey

Number of Youth	Grade 6			Grade 8			Grade 10			Grade 12		
	Region		State	Region		State	Region		State	Region		State
	2003	2005	2005	2003	2005	2005	2003	2005	2005	2003	2005	2005
	784	400	5906	805	438	7044	814	590	8009	666	324	6666

Table 4. Percentage of Students Who Used ATODs During Their Lifetime

Drug Used	Grade 6			Grade 8			Grade 10			Grade 12		
	Region		State	Region		State	Region		State	Region		State
	2003	2005	2005	2003	2005	2005	2003	2005	2005	2003	2005	2005
Alcohol	18.7	19.9	21.5	42.2	44.6	43.1	64.4	59.3	63.0	75.6	79.4	79.1
Cigarettes	11.0	6.8	8.1	27.4	18.4	21.8	44.9	33.4	35.4	58.3	54.8	50.6
Chewing Tobacco	3.1	5.0	3.8	11.8	9.7	7.9	22.3	24.2	17.7	28.7	40.7	27.3
Marijuana	1.6	0.6	1.2	9.6	7.6	7.7	26.6	18.7	20.6	39.0	27.7	33.3
Inhalants	7.0	8.9	9.1	12.1	16.3	14.1	11.4	11.1	13.6	10.9	9.9	10.3
Hallucinogens	0.5	0.0	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.8	3.4	2.6	2.1	5.7	1.3	3.8
Methamphetamines	0.4	0.0	0.3	0.8	0.7	0.7	4.3	1.4	2.3	5.3	2.6	3.6
Cocaine	0.4	0.0	0.3	1.5	1.0	1.0	4.1	2.2	2.7	7.2	2.2	5.0
Steroids	n/a	0.5	0.7	n/a	1.0	0.9	n/a	0.4	1.3	n/a	0.6	1.6
Performance Enhancers	n/a	0.3	0.3	n/a	2.5	1.5	n/a	8.1	6.0	n/a	13.7	12.4
Prescription Drugs	n/a	1.9	3.5	n/a	13.0	8.3	n/a	15.3	12.9	n/a	14.4	15.7
Other Drugs	1.1	0.8	1.3	5.5	3.7	3.8	13.0	6.8	7.7	15.7	4.2	8.6
Any Drug	9.0	12.9	14.4	20.6	30.1	26.0	34.2	38.0	37.6	43.8	44.4	47.6

Table 5. Percentage of Students Who Used ATODs During the Past 30 Days

Drug Used	Grade 6			Grade 8			Grade 10			Grade 12		
	Region		State	Region		State	Region		State	Region		State
	2003	2005	2005	2003	2005	2005	2003	2005	2005	2003	2005	2005
Alcohol	4.2	2.7	3.5	19.1	13.6	13.9	34.3	29.7	31.6	46.7	46.9	47.2
Cigarettes	1.8	1.4	1.9	6.9	5.8	6.9	21.6	14.1	15.3	27.8	21.9	26.1
Chewing Tobacco	0.9	1.1	1.1	4.8	2.4	3.1	10.1	14.2	9.1	12.5	21.6	12.9
Marijuana	0.7	0.3	0.5	4.7	2.6	3.2	11.1	8.9	9.4	18.3	6.9	13.6
Inhalants	3.9	5.4	4.0	5.4	5.8	5.7	4.2	2.5	3.9	2.4	1.3	2.2
Hallucinogens	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.4	1.2	0.7	0.9	1.1	0.0	1.2
Methamphetamines	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.4	1.3	0.4	0.9	1.1	1.0	1.1
Cocaine	0.3	0.0	0.2	1.0	0.5	0.4	1.2	0.7	1.0	1.7	0.0	1.5
Steroids	n/a	0.3	0.3	n/a	0.0	0.4	n/a	0.4	0.7	n/a	0.6	0.7
Performance Enhancers	n/a	0.0	0.1	n/a	1.2	0.8	n/a	5.0	3.4	n/a	5.2	5.8
Prescription Drugs	n/a	0.6	1.3	n/a	6.3	3.8	n/a	7.2	6.2	n/a	5.6	7.4
Other Drugs	0.1	0.0	0.3	2.8	1.5	1.6	6.0	3.9	3.1	6.6	1.3	3.3
Any Drug	5.0	7.1	6.6	10.9	13.8	12.6	16.1	20.7	19.6	21.5	16.3	24.3

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Table 6. Percentage of Students With Heavy Use of Alcohol and Cigarettes

Drug Used	Grade 6			Grade 8			Grade 10			Grade 12		
	Region		State	Region		State	Region		State	Region		State
	2003	2005	2005	2003	2005	2005	2003	2005	2005	2003	2005	2005
Binge Drinking	1.8	0.8	1.5	7.6	6.2	6.0	21.4	17.5	18.7	30.1	29.9	31.6
Pack of Cigarettes per Day	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.6	2.4	1.6	1.5	3.3	1.3	3.2

Table 7. Percentage of Students With Antisocial Behavior in the Past Year

Behavior	Grade 6			Grade 8			Grade 10			Grade 12		
	Region		State	Region		State	Region		State	Region		State
	2003	2005	2005	2003	2005	2005	2003	2005	2005	2003	2005	2005
Suspended from School	6.5	4.7	5.0	6.8	8.7	7.6	7.4	5.1	7.3	5.5	6.6	6.2
Drunk or High at School	0.7	0.5	1.1	4.6	4.4	4.5	13.4	9.2	10.7	18.8	15.6	16.6
Sold Illegal Drugs	0.3	0.3	0.3	2.3	1.4	1.5	5.0	3.0	4.3	7.5	2.9	6.7
Stolen a Vehicle	1.2	0.8	1.0	2.5	2.6	2.3	2.0	2.6	3.4	1.8	0.8	2.0
Been Arrested	2.0	0.5	1.2	3.4	3.5	3.0	5.0	4.2	4.7	5.8	3.2	5.2
Attacked to Harm	6.1	7.2	7.2	9.8	9.1	9.4	10.2	8.9	9.6	6.3	5.4	8.6
Carried a Handgun	6.5	4.0	4.9	8.0	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.7	6.6	5.2	9.1	6.3
Handgun to School	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.7	0.3	0.6	0.2	0.6	0.3	1.3	0.7
Drinking and Driving	1.2	2.5	2.0	5.3	7.5	5.1	16.8	12.4	13.0	43.7	49.4	39.5
Passenger with Drinking Driver	22.4	27.1	25.3	30.9	38.2	33.4	44.5	40.2	43.1	53.4	63.5	52.3

Table 8. Percentage of Students Reporting Risk

Risk Factor	Grade 6			Grade 8			Grade 10			Grade 12		
	Region		State	Region		State	Region		State	Region		State
	2003	2005	2005	2003	2005	2005	2003	2005	2005	2003	2005	2005
Community Domain												
Community Disorganization	29.1	27.3	31.8	30.5	29.8	29.1	42.6	38.1	42.1	37.1	41.4	41.0
Laws & Norms Favor Drug Use	33.8	37.7	34.4	27.0	25.4	23.2	34.4	30.7	28.7	27.6	25.5	25.5
Perceived Availability of Drugs	23.5	19.1	21.1	25.1	23.9	23.7	40.9	34.2	35.7	48.4	28.0	40.0
Perceived Availability of Handguns	26.0	23.2	21.0	38.5	41.8	33.7	27.1	28.9	23.7	31.3	37.6	27.2
Family Domain												
Poor Family Management	26.1	34.2	34.8	27.2	32.1	31.4	32.0	34.1	36.2	22.4	30.1	28.7
Parent Attitudes Favor Drug Use	14.5	15.2	15.8	25.2	29.3	28.1	40.1	45.4	44.0	41.6	46.3	46.2
School Domain												
Low Commitment to School	42.1	42.5	40.4	45.6	42.0	39.5	53.3	43.0	47.4	40.3	40.9	40.8
Peer-Individual Domain												
Early Initiation of ASB	17.0	15.1	16.3	23.9	22.6	23.6	27.6	25.1	26.9	26.6	34.9	28.4
Early Initiation of Drug Use	23.5	23.4	28.0	25.4	23.0	23.5	34.0	27.1	27.2	35.2	32.0	31.5
Attitudes Favorable to ASB	37.6	30.2	35.4	31.3	30.2	27.6	46.6	39.7	42.2	41.3	41.8	42.0
Attitudes Favorable to Drug Use	19.4	16.3	18.5	21.7	21.0	17.8	35.4	25.9	30.0	34.3	27.1	34.1
Low Perceived Risk of Drug Use	23.1	22.8	29.1	28.4	31.6	32.9	34.9	33.0	32.6	36.6	33.7	40.7
Gang Involvement	7.9	7.2	8.4	9.0	12.1	9.7	9.1	8.6	9.7	5.7	6.5	9.5

Table 9. Percentage of Students Reporting Protection

Protective Factor	Grade 6			Grade 8			Grade 10			Grade 12		
	Region		State	Region		State	Region		State	Region		State
	2003	2005	2005	2003	2005	2005	2003	2005	2005	2003	2005	2005
Community Domain												
Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	79.8	78.2	76.9	79.0	88.4	83.8	77.4	86.3	81.2	76.4	82.9	81.7
Family Domain												
Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	70.0	69.2	69.9	69.1	71.4	71.6	61.2	63.3	60.7	63.2	58.9	59.3
Family Attachment	75.0	70.2	70.4	73.2	78.2	74.5	68.4	70.7	67.4	69.6	73.2	69.3
School Domain												
Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	66.1	63.7	65.6	80.3	73.2	80.4	75.9	77.5	75.9	78.0	77.6	74.7
Peer-Individual Domain												
Social Skills	81.7	76.2	77.8	76.9	77.5	74.3	62.4	64.2	61.5	68.7	71.3	67.0
Belief in the Moral Order	71.9	72.7	74.5	67.2	71.0	73.0	64.4	70.4	70.2	52.9	53.6	52.2

Table 10. Percentage of Students Reporting Alcohol Use

Risk Factor	Grade 6			Grade 8			Grade 10			Grade 12		
	Region		State	Region		State	Region		State	Region		State
	2003	2005	2005	2003	2005	2005	2003	2005	2005	2003	2005	2005
The last time I drank alcohol I...												
Bought It WITH a Fake ID	3.2	5.3	1.4	2.8	1.7	1.8	0.5	1.1	1.1	0.7	0.9	1.3
Bought It WITHOUT a Fake ID	1.6	10.5	4.9	2.3	1.7	2.8	1.4	3.4	2.9	5.7	4.4	5.2
Got It From Someone 21 OR OLDER	31.7	52.6	45.9	52.6	60.5	55.2	66.4	66.5	64.1	75.8	76.9	77.2
Got It From Someone UNDER 21	12.7	15.8	15.9	36.2	31.1	30.3	40.5	42.6	43.2	35.2	41.8	41.3
Got It From a Brother/Sister	6.3	18.4	15.0	22.1	15.1	15.9	15.1	16.3	17.3	14.4	17.3	17.2
From Home WITH Parent's Permission	23.8	42.1	42.1	21.1	35.3	32.8	18.0	16.3	20.0	16.2	9.3	15.3
From Home WITHOUT Parent's Permission	17.5	28.9	19.9	32.9	31.1	32.3	23.0	23.2	30.2	17.8	23.1	21.2
Got It From Another Relative	33.3	18.4	26.7	28.6	32.8	30.8	22.8	20.2	22.9	12.8	16.0	16.4
A Stranger Bought It For Me	0.0	5.3	3.0	5.6	1.7	3.8	12.7	7.2	8.2	14.4	17.3	12.6
Took It From a Store	0.0	7.9	3.3	5.6	2.5	3.7	2.6	1.9	2.5	2.1	1.8	2.9
Other	23.8	26.3	21.3	32.4	24.4	25.2	23.3	27.6	24.3	13.5	19.1	18.1
On the last day I had alcohol, I drank at...												
Home	50.8	55.3	59.8	45.3	56.9	51.6	33.2	34.7	38.4	33.2	25.7	30.0
Someone Else's Home	40.7	31.6	37.7	61.0	53.1	56.3	70.4	73.4	71.5	78.3	73.9	77.2
Open Area	5.1	18.4	12.5	19.3	20.8	16.1	23.2	23.6	24.0	25.6	32.7	27.5
Sporting Event or Concert	5.1	2.6	5.5	5.4	1.5	5.7	8.8	5.9	7.9	11.8	12.8	10.6
Restaurant or Bar	5.1	5.3	5.6	5.8	6.2	5.8	5.5	4.8	5.6	8.3	6.6	7.7
Empty Building or Site	5.1	5.3	4.7	4.0	5.4	4.8	6.4	5.2	5.0	5.8	11.5	6.0
Hotel / Motel	6.8	0.0	7.1	11.2	9.2	8.2	9.5	9.6	9.7	15.4	10.6	12.4
In a Car	11.9	10.5	14.0	25.1	22.3	18.8	34.4	34.3	31.7	41.5	47.3	37.9
One or more Adults Present	64.4	60.5	57.6	39.9	47.7	45.2	37.0	40.2	34.1	37.8	34.1	33.6

Table 11. Percentage of Students Reporting Cigarette Use

Risk Factor	Grade 6			Grade 8			Grade 10			Grade 12		
	Region		State	Region		State	Region		State	Region		State
	2003	2005	2005	2003	2005	2005	2003	2005	2005	2003	2005	2005
The last time I smoked a cigarette I...												
Bought It WITH a Fake ID	2.7	0.0	2.0	3.3	0.0	1.6	1.6	0.8	1.9	1.7	0.9	1.5
Bought It WITHOUT a Fake ID	0.0	13.3	4.1	6.7	1.9	3.4	7.3	3.9	6.1	38.3	23.9	28.2
Got It From Someone 18 OR OLDER	21.6	20.0	33.8	48.3	36.5	48.7	69.1	66.9	63.8	53.8	67.3	65.4
Got It From Someone UNDER 18	32.4	46.7	40.2	49.2	67.3	45.7	43.1	52.0	52.1	24.2	31.9	31.6
Got It From a Brother/Sister	8.1	26.7	15.5	15.8	15.4	17.8	16.3	18.1	17.8	13.8	14.2	11.9
From Home WITH Parent's Permission	8.1	6.7	8.4	10.0	3.8	6.9	10.2	8.7	8.1	9.2	6.2	7.7
From Home WITHOUT Parent's Permission	29.7	53.3	31.1	30.0	42.3	36.0	16.7	21.3	23.3	11.3	8.8	11.6
Got It From Another Relative	16.2	13.3	22.3	18.3	23.1	20.1	11.0	15.7	17.6	9.6	13.3	10.4
A Stranger Bought It For Me	2.7	0.0	3.7	5.0	3.8	5.5	5.7	7.1	8.6	3.8	6.2	6.5
Took It From a Store	2.7	0.0	6.1	5.8	3.8	5.3	5.7	3.1	3.6	1.3	1.8	3.1
Got It From a Vending Machine	32.4	0.0	3.0	21.7	1.9	2.9	14.6	3.1	2.8	10.8	2.7	2.4
On the last day I smoked, I smoked at...												
Home	26.2	58.8	39.1	41.6	37.3	42.9	39.6	45.6	41.5	32.1	30.7	33.0
Someone Else's Home	54.8	58.8	49.0	52.0	54.2	54.9	53.5	56.0	58.7	48.2	49.1	52.7
Open Area	23.8	35.3	27.5	40.8	39.0	38.8	42.9	38.4	47.9	42.6	50.0	46.3
Sporting Event or Concert	2.4	0.0	5.3	6.4	5.1	8.5	14.7	9.6	15.1	15.3	10.5	15.3
Restaurant or Bar	0.0	0.0	4.3	10.4	3.4	4.5	8.2	6.4	9.7	19.7	18.4	17.1
Empty Building or Site	7.1	17.6	13.2	10.4	8.5	13.8	11.4	12.8	12.3	8.0	10.5	9.9
Hotel / Motel	2.4	5.9	6.6	8.8	3.4	6.4	10.6	11.2	11.3	17.3	10.5	12.2
In a Car	19.0	17.6	19.9	32.8	23.7	32.1	62.0	62.4	57.0	70.3	71.1	68.6
One or more Adults Present	16.7	11.8	19.9	19.2	16.6	20.2	23.7	24.0	22.3	31.3	27.2	24.4

Table 12. Percentage of Students Engaging in Gambling Behavior

Risk Factor	Grade 6		Grade 8		Grade 10		Grade 12	
	Region	State	Region	State	Region	State	Region	State
	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005
Gambling Past Year								
Any Gambling	25.7	28.0	42.3	37.9	37.6	43.4	41.7	45.7
Gambled at a Casino	0.8	0.7	1.0	0.8	1.2	0.9	0.0	1.2
Played the Lottery	18.1	16.7	25.0	19.8	19.3	18.6	25.6	21.1
Bet on Sports	17.3	20.4	35.2	25.7	28.0	28.0	25.9	26.1
Bet on Cards	16.2	14.7	31.8	26.7	35.4	36.4	34.4	37.9
Bet on Horses	2.7	3.1	3.6	4.1	4.0	4.8	1.0	4.8
Played Bingo for Money	37.0	29.7	47.8	30.9	34.1	27.8	28.4	21.6
Gambled on the Internet	3.9	3.6	6.4	5.8	7.7	7.8	5.8	7.0
Bet on Dice	2.7	5.1	8.1	6.4	6.8	8.1	4.9	7.6
Bet on Games of Skill	13.7	15.8	30.1	21.1	24.3	26.0	21.8	24.8
Gambled at a Community Event	6.8	7.1	19.9	11.9	11.4	15.6	12.7	14.2
Gambling Past 30 Days								
Any Gambling	11.5	12.0	19.1	15.9	14.5	20.0	19.2	22.5
Gambled at a Casino	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.4
Played the Lottery	6.9	5.2	8.7	6.1	6.6	5.0	6.4	5.5
Bet on Sports	7.1	9.0	14.4	10.8	9.6	10.9	8.9	10.3
Bet on Cards	5.6	6.1	13.6	10.7	11.5	16.1	9.6	16.5
Bet on Horses	0.8	1.4	1.4	1.3	0.5	1.6	0.3	1.7
Played Bingo for Money	5.7	7.2	12.8	6.9	5.8	5.9	4.2	3.7
Gambled on the Internet	1.8	2.4	4.9	3.3	4.5	4.3	3.9	3.7
Bet on Dice	1.1	2.4	2.7	3.1	2.7	3.7	1.6	3.1
Bet on Games of Skill	4.4	6.9	12.8	8.9	9.4	10.9	7.8	10.1
Gambled at a Community Event	3.0	2.3	6.5	4.2	3.7	5.6	5.0	5.2