



United Way of Missoula County Social Indicators 2001

Dear Reader:

Recently, the United Way of America released a report called the Caring Index, a set of social indicators comparing all 50 states. United Way of Missoula County (UWMC) felt it might be timely to create a local set of social indicators. That project has led to the report you have before you.

UWMC strategically invests community resources in a number of areas and has an extensive planning and assessment process. United Way of Missoula County's mission is to address basic needs and prevention programs for children and youth. Basic needs means to UWMC the provision of emergency food, shelter, clothing, and medical care.

We decided to compare social indicators in Missoula County with nine peer communities somewhat comparable in size and geography. Those locations are Bozeman, MT; Bellingham, WA; Billings, MT; Grand Junction, CO; Eugene, OR; Great Falls, MT; Rapid City, SD; Eureka, CA; and Flagstaff, AZ. The data that are presented in the peer community comparatives may not have always been collected in the same way. In some cases, there are obvious reasons for our ranking relative to other communities, while in other cases ranking may be puzzling. A "high" rank is not cause for complacency; a "low" one need not occasion panic. Careful reading, we think, will be basis for productive thought.

This report is designed to help us think about the needs of those Missoulians at-risk of not being able to meet their basic needs of income, shelter, food, and health care. The United Way of Missoula County Board of Directors is using this report to raise questions and concerns about human needs for future action. We are serious about investing the valuable contributions of donors in the best way we can to build the quality and effectiveness of the Safety Net.

Missoula health and human service agencies provide many of the services needed by those at-risk. The purpose of this report is not a utilization study, but rather indicators describing people in our community at-risk.

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Section 1

Basic Needs

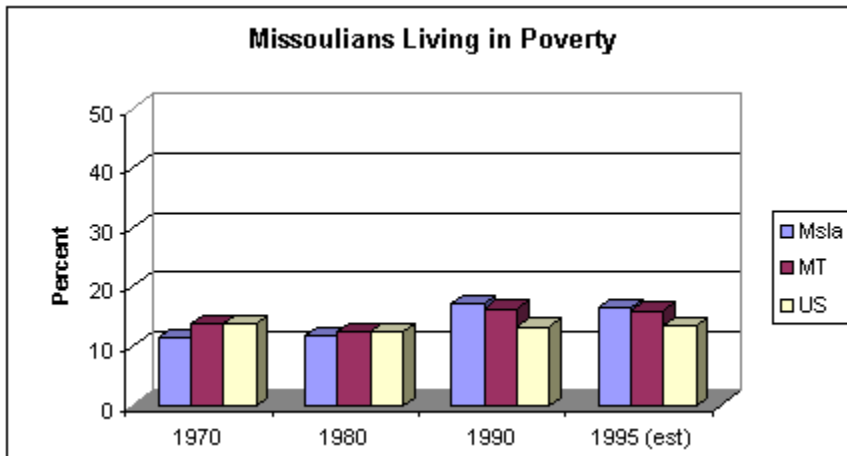
Introduction

A healthy community assures that each resident has an appropriate opportunity to meet his or her basic needs – steady and reliable income, food security, shelter, and affordable healthcare.

A. ~ Sufficient Income ~

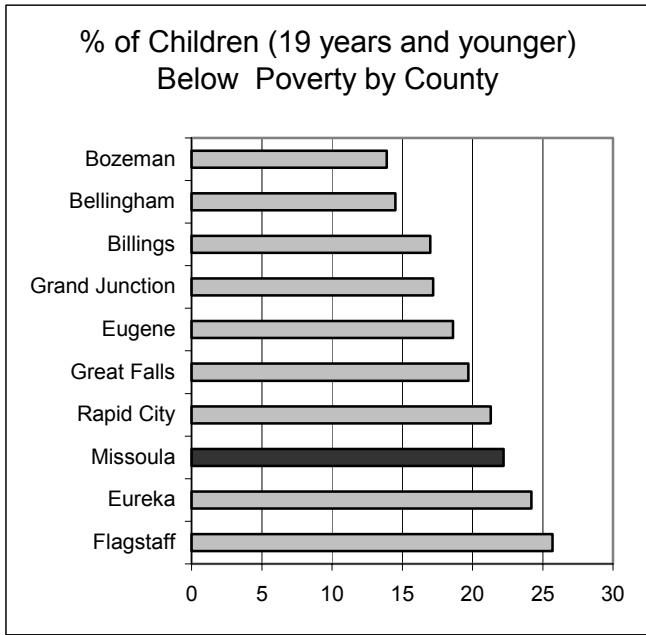
A family of four earning \$17,650 per year (\$8.48 per hour) or less meets the national poverty guidelines for the year 2001.

(Source: <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/figures-fed-reg.htm>)



The percentage of Missoulians living in poverty in the decades of the 1970s and 1980s were lower than state and national levels. But in the 90s, Missoula has a higher percentage of people living in poverty than does the nation or the state.

(Source: US Census)

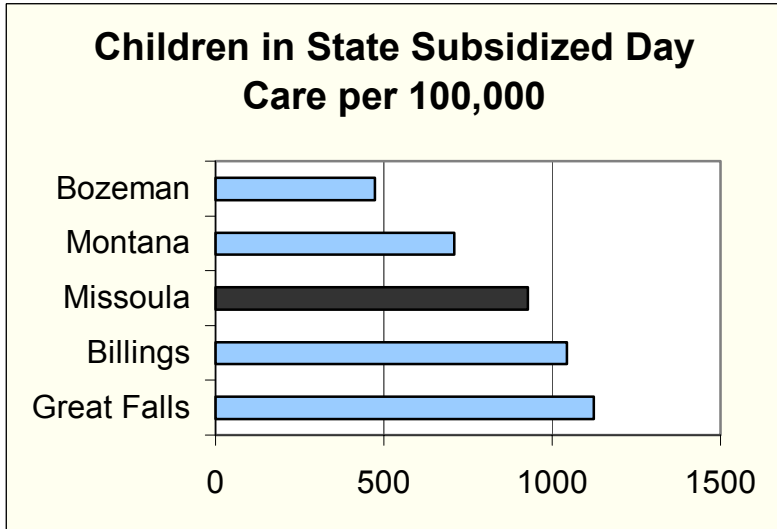


(Source: US Census 1995 estimate)

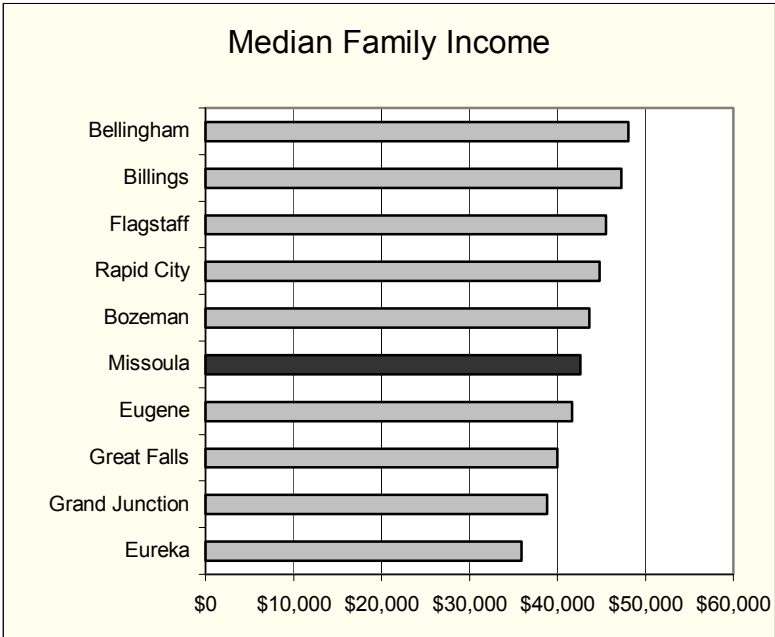
Of the 14,248 children 19 years and younger in Missoula, we have 3,420 children living in poverty.

(Source: Kids Count Program, Bureau of Business and Research, University of Montana)

Poverty Indicators



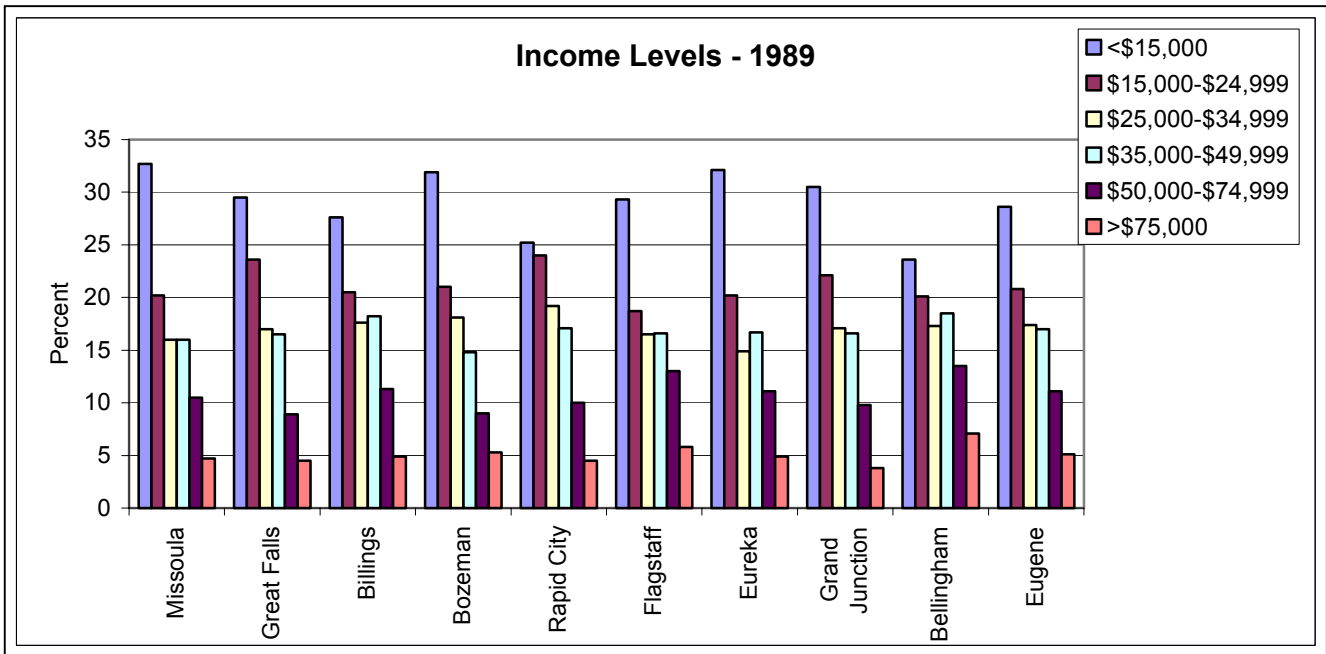
(Source: DPHHS, 2000)



(Source: FY2000-US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development)

17% of Missoula's Seniors age 64 and older live in poverty.

(Source: US Census)



(Source: US Census)

Relationships

- Poverty drives our lack of ability to afford shelter, food, and medical care.
- Poverty is a significant factor in family stress and correlates to substance abuse, family violence, and crime.
- A single parent with one child needs an annual income of \$18,179 (\$8.73 per hour) to meet their basic needs.

Brain Teasers

- The Safety Net is defined as the availability of food, shelter, clothing, and medical care in an emergency. How can we evaluate the strength of the Safety Net?
- Is the Safety Net an appropriate strategy to use when dealing with issues of poverty?

B. ~ Homelessness ~

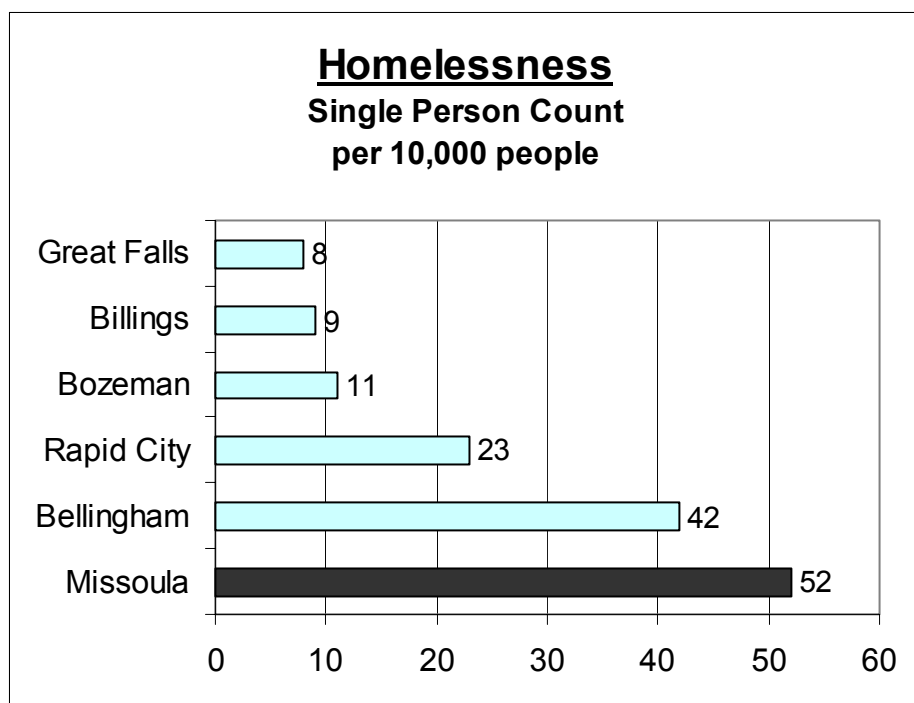
Homeless populations consist of people who sleep at local shelters, in cars or on the street, and of people who seek temporary shelter with family or friends. The homeless population is difficult to count as access to people is varied and unpredictable. The Montana Continuum of Care Coalition conducts an annual survey in April during a three day period of time. The Missoula Housing Authority conducts the homeless survey for the Missoula urban area in cooperation with the MT Continuum of Care Coalition. Significant contributing factors to homelessness include access, affordability, and rental restrictions.

It is estimated that on any given day in Missoula, our homeless population could be as high as 500 to 600 people.

(Source: Missoula Consolidated Plan/Missoula Housing Authority)

Seventy-five percent of Missoula's homeless population consists of full-time residents . . . **not transients.**

(Source: MT Continuum of Care Coalition, 2000)

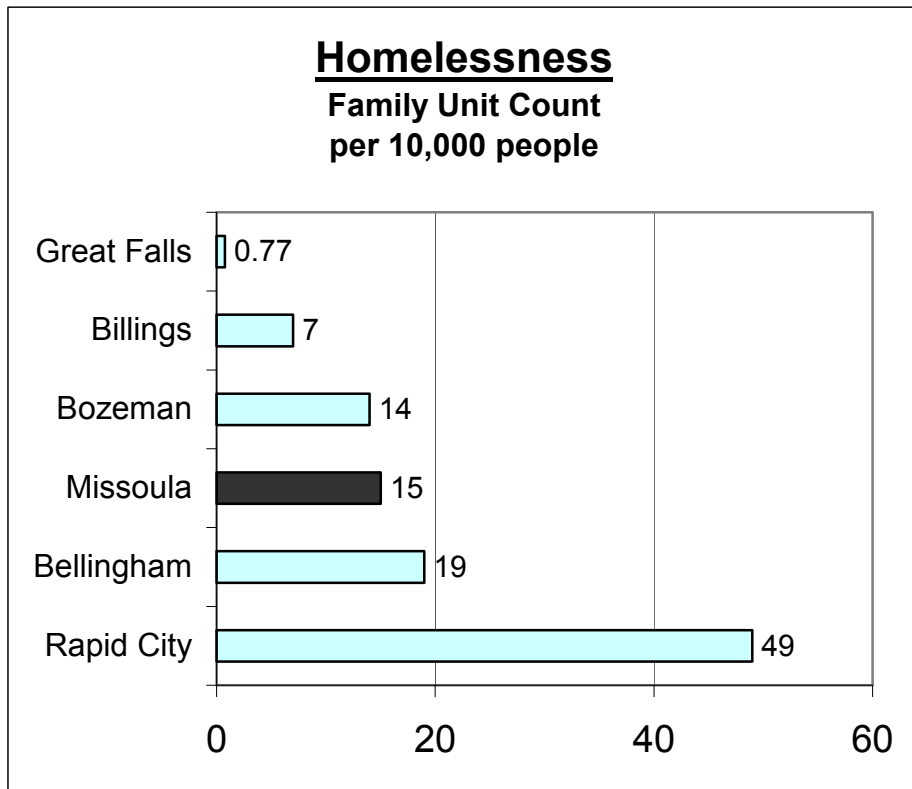


(Source: MT Continuum of Care Coalition, Missoula Housing Authority, Washington State Consolidate Plan, Rapid City Consolidated Plan, 2001)

In Missoula, we are 6.5 times more likely to have homeless people than Great Falls.

Note to the reader:

We are basing this report on a population of 85,000 in Missoula. When looking at a chart using the per 10,000 people, multiply the figures for Missoula by 8.5.



*Rapid City speculates their family population is higher than most communities due to a relatively high number of homeless Native American families.
(Source: MT Continuum of Care Coalition, Missoula Housing Authority, Washington State Consolidate Plan, Rapid City Consolidated Plan, 2001)

Relationships

- Most homeless people cannot afford their own shelter.
- This is a real catch-22 because people who are homeless find it difficult to obtain permanent jobs so that they can afford their own shelter.
- Homeless people have tremendous health care risks.
- Homeless people have inadequate food preparation facilities.

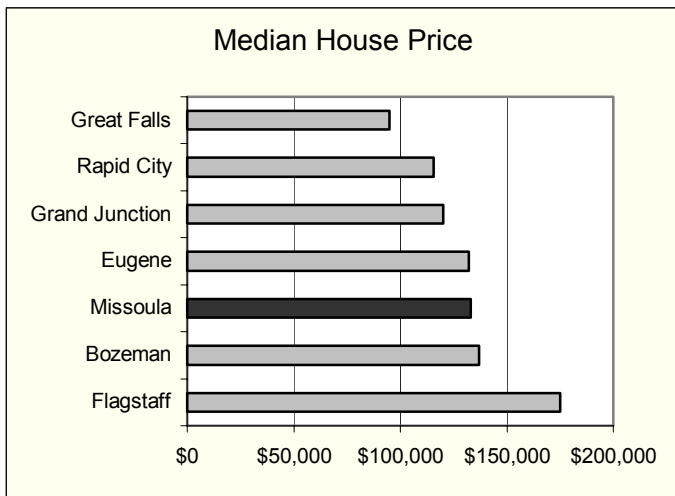
Brain Teasers

- What can we in Missoula do to provide homes for the 75% of our homeless residents who are permanent?
- What is the relationship between homelessness and discrimination?
- What is our responsibility for children who have spent a lifetime in foster care and find themselves at age 19 released from the system?
- How are mental illness and homelessness related?

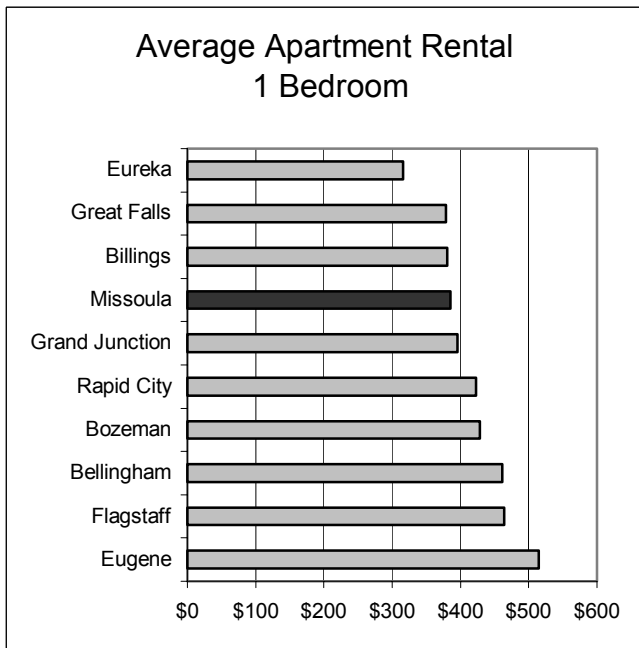
C. ~ Affordable Housing ~

While the median house on the market costs about \$130,000, more than 46% of Missoula households don't make the \$41,000 annual income needed to get bank financing.

Missoula has an average 1% vacancy rate in rentals, well below the industry standard of 5-6%, and most of the housing costs substantially more than financially prudent levels for low and even moderate-income residents.



(Source: Local Real Estate Associations, 2000)



(Source: FY2000-US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development)

(Source: Missoula Housing Authority)

As of September 2001, there are 900 applicants on the waiting list for subsidized housing in Missoula.

Relationships

- Shelter should cost no more than 1/3 of net income. Of 1,200 households seeking help at the Women's Opportunity Resource Development's Family Basics program, more than half of them were spending between 60 to 80 percent of their income on housing.

Brain Teasers

- What is the consequence of people spending more than 1/3 of their net income on shelter?

D. ~ Food ~

Hunger is measured by a lack of food security and food deprivation. Poor families, particularly young families and those headed by single women, are at the greatest risk for hunger. Ten percent of Montanans experience hunger on any given day (Judy Smith, WORD). Problems also arise in the quality of nutrition poor families receive. Many diets are restricted to only a few kinds of foods as well as a consistent pattern of skipping meals. Children who are hungry do not fare well in school (WIC, MCCHD). Inadequate nutrition can cause social withdrawal, delayed motor skills development, and delayed physical growth (Dramatic Increase in Montana's Young Child Poverty Rates, The Prevention Connection, Vol. II, Issue 4, Winter, 1998).

Comparative data are not available.

In Missoula, 1,491 or 23% of our children between the ages of 5 and 14 are eligible for free and reduced meals through the schools.

(Source: Kids Count Program, Bureau of Business and Research, University of Montana)

Relationships

- This issue of food is tied to how much is being spent for shelter and the family income.
- Hunger can lead to quite serious health problems because of very limited diets or contaminated foods.

Brain Teasers

- To what extent does hunger affect increased absenteeism from work or school?

E. ~ Health Care ~

Access to medical care is a vital component of a healthy community. Given the cost of medical services, treatment is often prohibitively expensive for those without health care coverage. While some people may obtain medical treatment through Medicare or other government-sponsored programs, many members of our community — in particular females, young adults, the working poor — have no coverage and do not use medical services because they cannot pay.

In 1998, 17% of Montana adults reported they were uninsured.

(Source: Partnership Health Center)

Missoula County ranks 45th in the nation among large rural counties in the extent of medically underserved.

(Source: Partnership Health Center)

26% of individuals in Missoula County experience significant barriers in accessing health care such as a history of unpaid medical bills.

(Source: Partnership Health Center)

Montana ranks last in the nation for percentages of businesses that offer health insurance for their employees. 40% of all businesses offer health insurance. 26% of employers with 10 or fewer employees offer health insurance.

(Source: Partnership Health Center)

Relationship

- The working poor often have jobs that do not provide health benefits and their income is going for shelter and food and is not available for health care.
- Adults who are not able to provide adequate medical care for their children may be guilty of practicing child physical abuse.
- Regular check-ups and immunizations can prevent many health problems inexpensively. Untreated problems escalate to emergency status at great personal and financial cost. Emergency room costs are necessarily shifted from those who cannot pay to those who can.

Brain Teasers

- How can we increase the number of people who have access to adequate health care?
- What are the significant barriers beyond cost?

Section 2

Child Abuse and Neglect

Introduction

There are legal definitions and remedies for child abuse, sexual abuse, and child neglect. Child abuse and sexual abuse are acts of physical aggression enacted on children and youth. Such physical aggression meets the thresholds of severe and repetitive. Child neglect is defined as the lack of a nurturing environment. Children are to have their basic needs of food, shelter, clothing, and medical care met, and they are required to be in a safe and nurturing environment. The remedies for abuse and neglect include out-of-home placement, TIAs (Temporary Investigative Authorities which are family assessments), respite care, parenting classes, and family strengthening programs.

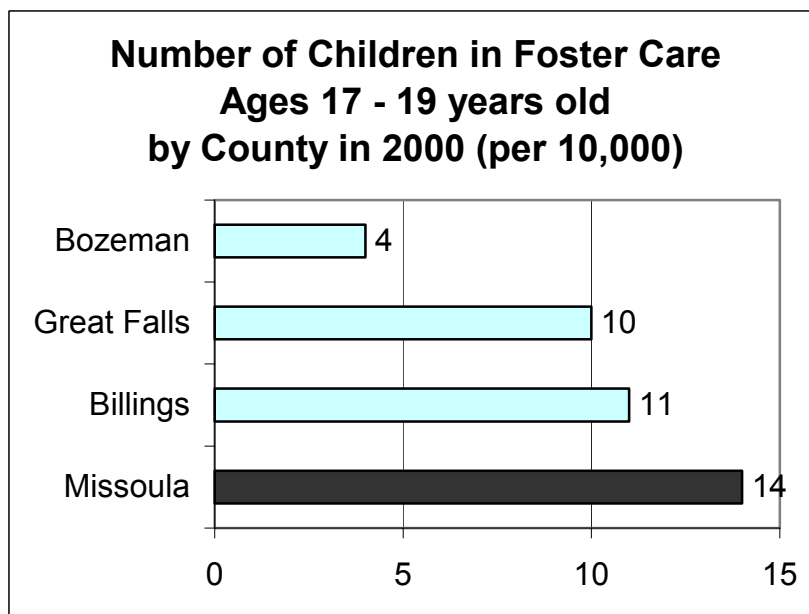
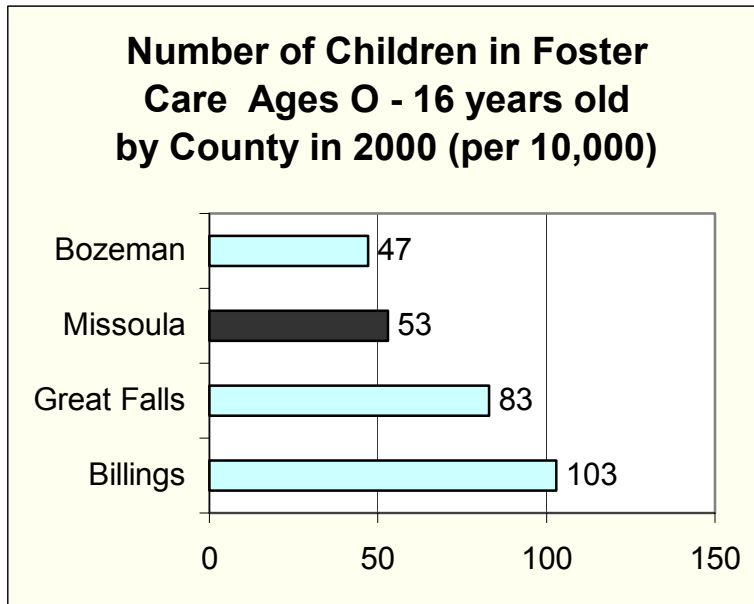
A. ~ Child Abuse and Neglect ~

There were 228 substantiated cases of child physical and sexual abuse and neglect in Missoula County in the year 2000. The numbers of children placed in foster care is greater than the number of cases of abuse and neglect because some children experience repetitive placements in a year and many children placed in foster care are placed by youth court or are private placements. Missoula also serves Western Montana for out-of-home placement requiring intensive treatment.

(Source: Missoula Child & Family Services Division of DPHHS)

Children in Foster Care by County

(Source: State of Montana DPHHS, Child & Adult Protective Services, 2001)

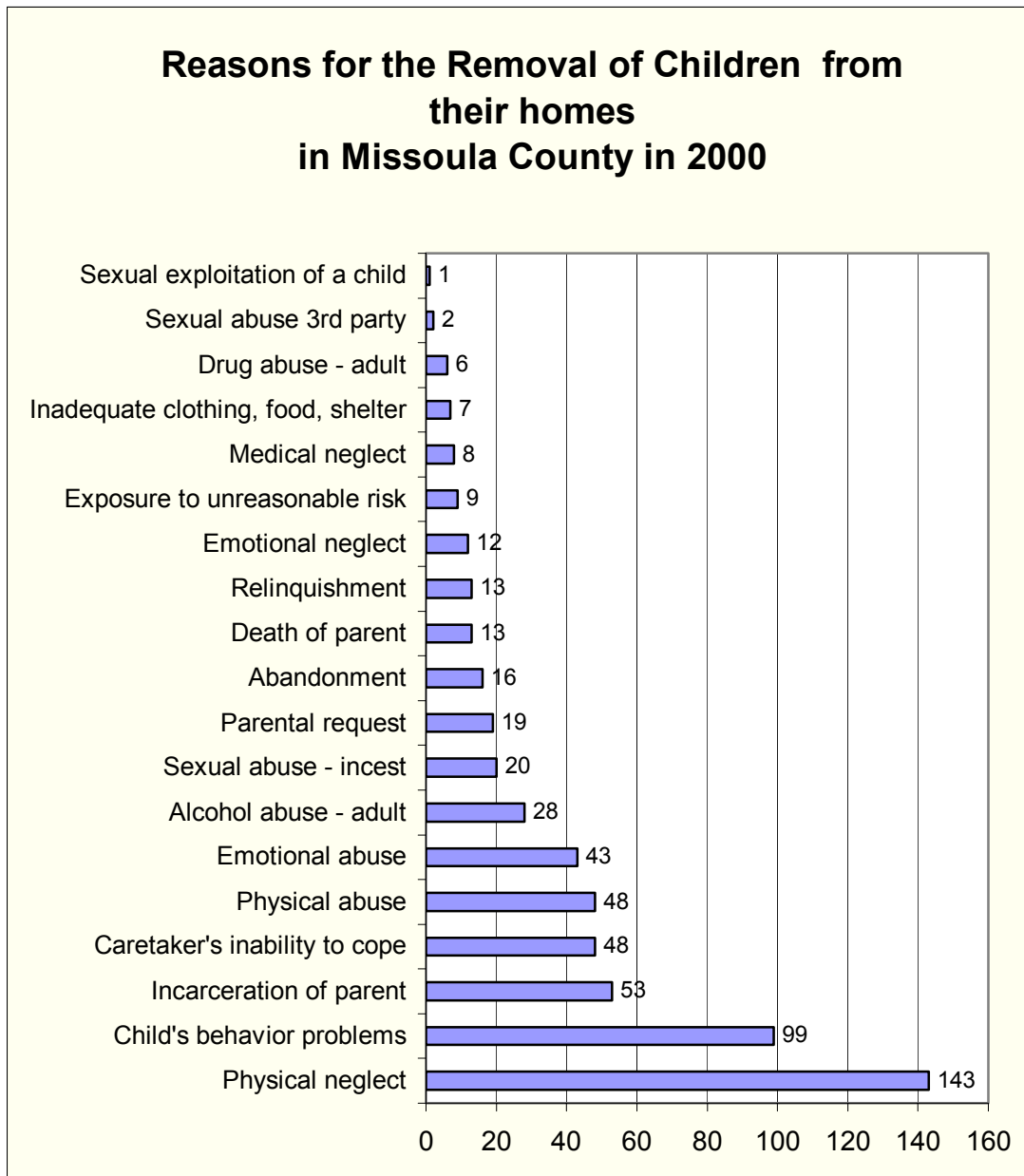


Note to the reader:

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Reasons for removal of a child from a home in 2000, by County.

(Source: State of Montana DPHHS, Child & Adult Protective Services, 2001)



Relationships

- The most significant reason for children being removed from their homes is physical neglect, which ties to a family's inability to provide for the child's physical well being because of poverty or ignorance.
- Poverty is a significant family stressor and is often tied to neglect and substance abuse by the adults.
- Children who have been abused and neglected lose their ability to trust and therefore may lose permanently their ability to have healthy relationships with other children and adults.
- Reflecting on the Safety Net section leads us to question the strength of the children's Safety Net, especially during their preschool and early years when they are more invisible to the community.

Brain Teasers

- How can we identify abuse and neglect early in a child's life?
- How can we support successful early childhood experiences?
- Do parents who neglect their children do so for financial reasons or out of ignorance?

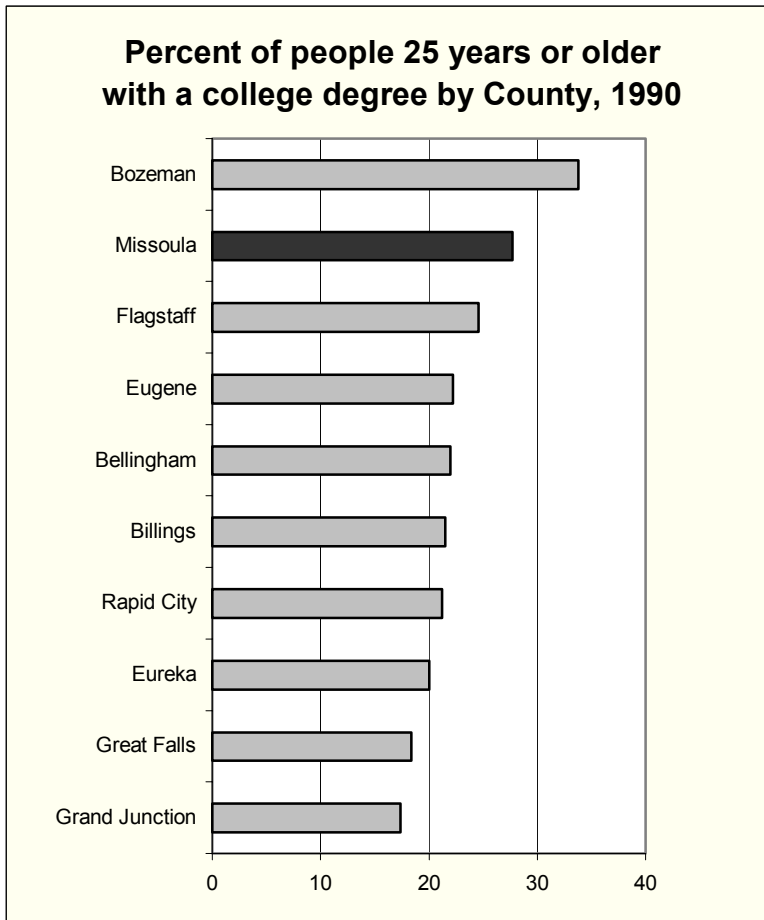
Section 3 Education

Introduction

One of the leading indicators tied to income is education. People completing high school are likely to earn more money than those who do not complete high school. People who complete undergraduate and graduate degrees are likely to earn more money than those with only a high school education. The greater the education level the greater the ability to participate in government and community.

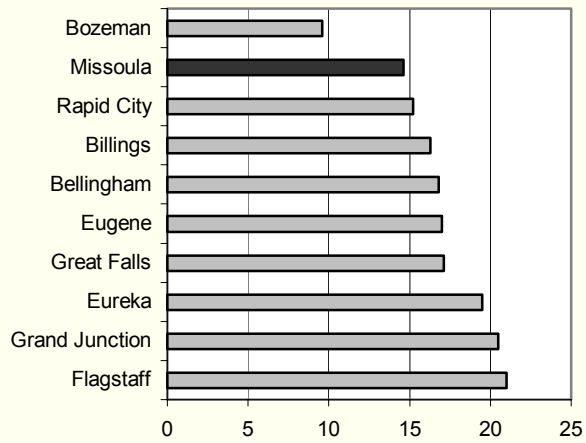
Missoula has a high percentage of people 25 years or older with a college degree.

A. ~ Education



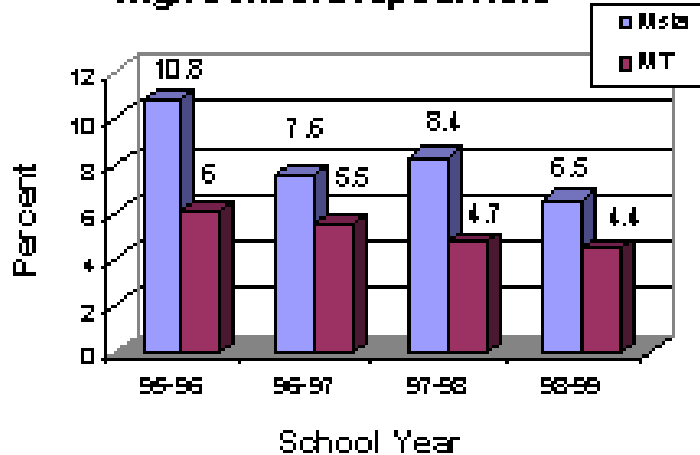
(Source: US Census)

Percent of People 25 Years and Older With No High School Diploma, 1990



(Source: U.S. Census 1990)

High School Dropout Rate



(Source: Montana Office of Public Instruction)

Relationships

- There are relationships between education, income, and civic involvement.
- High school dropouts are more likely to remain in low wage jobs in Missoula and high school and college graduates are likely to leave Missoula for employment opportunities. It has been stated that one of Missoula's greatest exports is our youth.
- An indicator for an economically successful community is an educated workforce.

Brain Teasers

- Should we continue to monitor the success of Flagship to reduce high school dropouts?
- What can our community do to retain an educated workforce when jobs requiring an educated workforce are stagnant?

Section 4 Employment

Introduction

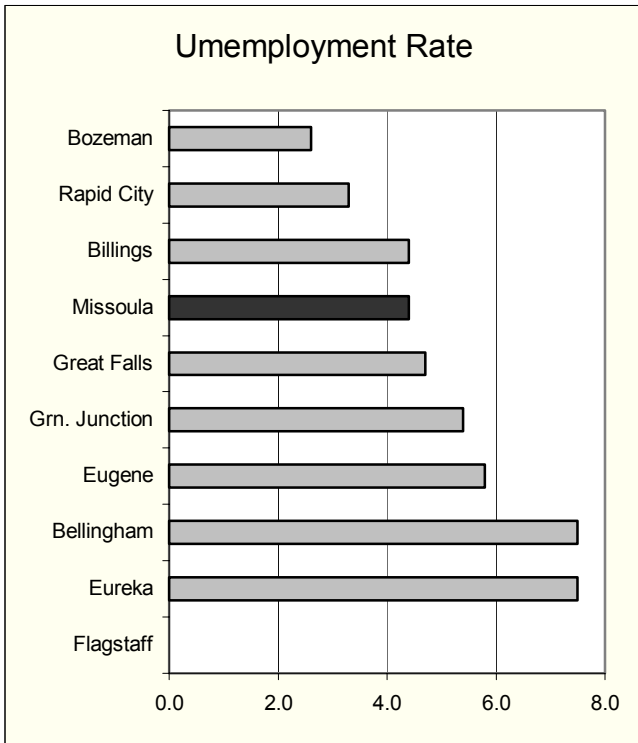
Employment issues typically focus on job creation and job development. We are looking to improve employment in our existing organizations and businesses and in creating or attracting new employment opportunities. Nationally, we are aware of a trend from an industrial economy to a communication and service driven economy. The high paying jobs of industry are experiencing cutbacks and jobs in communication have experienced and are now experiencing downturns. Jobs in the service sector are often low paying.

Some workers experience more barriers than others. This is based on ethnicity and race, age, gender, educational attainment, and single parenthood. Native Americans, people with disabilities, mental health challenges, addictions, and people with major dental problems do not experience an equal opportunity.

A. ~ Employment ~

Missoula County			
Summary of Major Occupational Categories by Sex			
Civilian Labor Force-All Persons			
<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Total	40,011	21,511	18,500
Managerial and Professional Specialty Occupations	10,417	5,226	5,191
Technical, Sales, and Administrative Support Occupations	12,205	4,765	7,440
Service Occupations	6,794	2,677	4,117
Farming, Forestry, Fishing	1,171	896	275
Precision Production, Craft & Repair Occupations	3,594	3,248	346
Operators, Fabricators and Laborers	5,637	4,604	1,033
Unemployment, No Recent Civilian Work Experience	193	95	98

(Source: 1990 Census – Equal Employment Opportunity Data)



(Source: US Census 1996)

Missoula County Employment by Industry

Industry	Average Annual Employment	Annual Wages Paid
Total All Industries	47,020	\$1,134,537,280
Private Business	38,902	\$893,528,635
Agriculture, Forestry, Fish	244	\$4,617,643
Mining	48	\$2,158,839
Construction	2,340	\$67,296,676
Manufacturing	3,331	\$114,960,107
Transportation and Utilities	2,204	\$69,669,320
Communications	626	\$20,944,388
Wholesale Trade	2,180	\$61,009,771
Retail Trade	11,028	\$160,210,865
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	2,194	\$65,990,437
Services	14,693	\$326,275,031
Government	8,117	\$241,008,645

(Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Research & Analysis Bureau.)

Private business, agriculture & forestry, and the service industry are the top three industry employers. Private business, services, retail, and manufacturing are the top four annual wage payers.

Relationships

- Educational level and the lack of job availability and affordable, accessible, available childcare make it difficult for people to maintain high quality jobs.

Brain Teasers

- What community elements attract economic development?
- How can Missoula bolster workforce development?

Section 5

Social Indicators Challenging Our Community

A. ~ Mental Illness ~

Mental illness is known to be a physical brain disorder. Four of the ten leading causes of disability in the U.S. and other developed countries are mental illnesses such as, major depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and anxiety disorder. Those mentally ill individuals who are required to stay on meds need support and supervision in this regard.

16% of all inmates in state and federal jails and prisons have schizophrenia, manic depressive disorder (bipolar disorder), clinical depression, or another severe mental illness. (US Department of Justice, 1999)

Relationships

- We have de-institutionalized mentally ill people and placed them in the community. Adequate housing is a difficult problem for the mentally ill.
- What is the correlation between mental illness and homelessness?
- Mental illness is linked to crime.

Brain Teaser

- What is the strength of services for the chronically mentally ill?
- What services are missing? How can we help strengthen existing services?

B. ~ Domestic Violence ~

Domestic violence is generally not just one isolated physical event. It is a pattern of behavior used against a partner or other person that can consist of different kinds of abusive actions – intimidation, name calling, attacks against property, isolation, threats, sexual attacks, physical assault (Prevention Connection, MDPHHS, and Missoula Measures)

In National crime data from 1987 through 1991, females experienced more than 10 times as many incidents of violence by intimates (husbands or boyfriends) than men did.

72% of abused women who use shelter services bring children.

Nationwide, 85% of felons grew up in homes with domestic violence. (US Dept. of Justice/Missoula Measures)

Relationships

- There is a relationship between crime and domestic violence.
- Children from abusive households are likely to abuse their partners as adults.

Brain Teaser

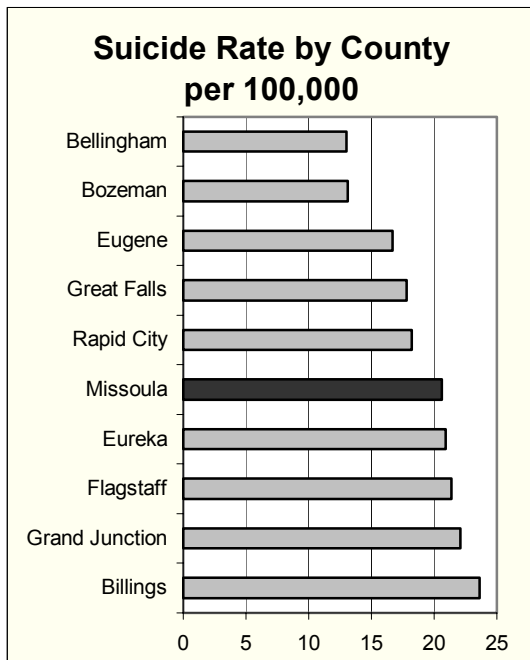
- What strategies decrease domestic violence?

C. ~ Suicide ~

The particular age groups that appear to be more vulnerable to suicide are

- Post-retirement white males, with rates increasing rapidly with advancing age.
- Young males between the ages of 20 to 29.
- Native Americans, especially young males.
- Females in mid-life, especially 45 to 49 years of age.

These patterns hold true for Missoula County, the state of Montana, and the US.



(Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Average of 1995-1997)

In the past 5 years, Missoula County's suicide rate is greater than that of the state or nation.

Relationship

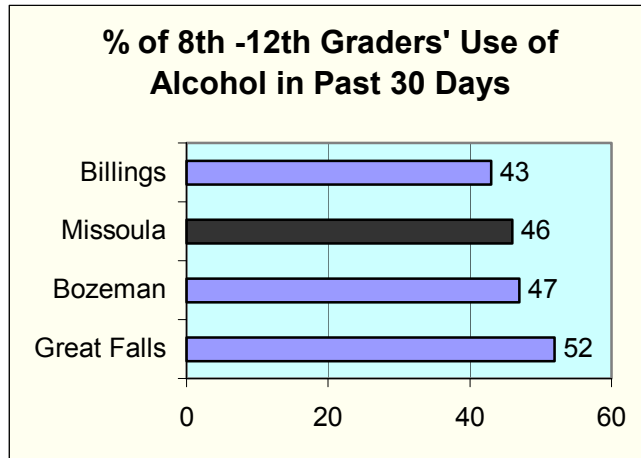
- Suicide rates are inversely related to levels of education.
- Unemployment is associated with suicidal behavior.

Brain Teaser

- What services are available for people who have unsuccessfully attempted suicide?
- What services or educational programs are available on the topic of suicide?
- Why is our rate higher?

D. ~ Alcohol Abuse~

Alcohol abuse is defined as drinking 5 or more drinks in a row. The longer youths delay using alcohol the less likely they will have long-term alcohol related problems.



(Source: MT Prevention Needs Assessment for Missoula County Public Schools, 2000)

Students' response to

How many times have you had 5+ drinks?

Occasion	8 th Grade	8 th Grade	10 th Grade	10 th Grade	12 th Grade	12 th Grade
	Missoula	Montana	Missoula	Montana	Missoula	Montana
0	84%	82%	63%	68%	57%	62%
1-2	9%	10%	22%	19%	23%	21%
3-5	4%	4%	10%	7%	12%	10%
6-9	0.4%	1%	3%	2%	4%	3%
10--more	2%	2%	4%	3%	4%	4%

(Source: October 1998, Missoula County Public Schools Prevention Needs Assessment)

% Ever had 5+ drinks

	Grade 8	Grade 8	Grade 10	Grade 10	Grade 12	Grade 12
Year	1998	2000	1998	2000	1998	2000

Alcohol	16	13	36	36	43	41
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(Source: October 1998, Missoula County Public Schools Prevention Needs Assessment)

Relationships

- Alcohol abuse is linked to crime, poverty, domestic violence, and unemployment.

Brain Teasers

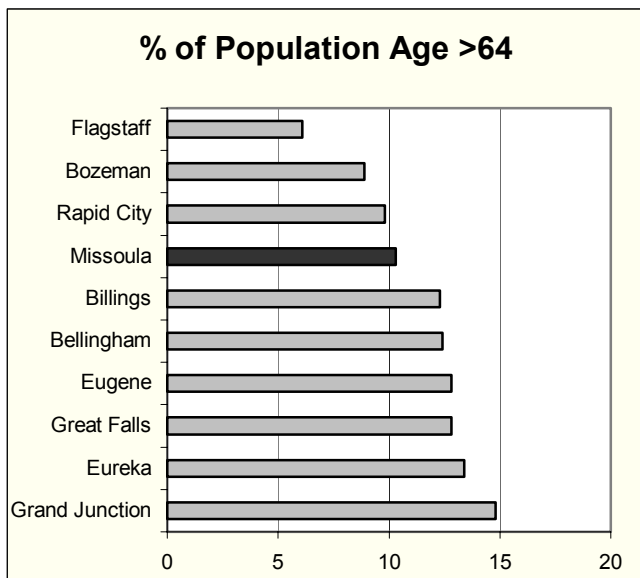
- What are the schools and law enforcement doing to prevent binge drinking?
- What strategies do we have to deter children from drinking at an early age?
- What does the community want its children taught about drinking?

E. ~ Aging Population Indicators~

Introduction

Missoula's aging population will continue to grow and represent a larger and larger piece of the demographic pie. This will bring new challenges to the community.

Retirement households are made up of two very distinct groups: those with adequate retirement income and those living on little more than Social Security. Those in the first group generally have adequate housing. Members of the second group are generally ill-housed or have to sacrifice other needs in order to have adequate housing.



(Source: U.S. Census)

The projected numbers for 2010 indicate Missoula will have 8 times more females than males over 85 years of age.

Relationships

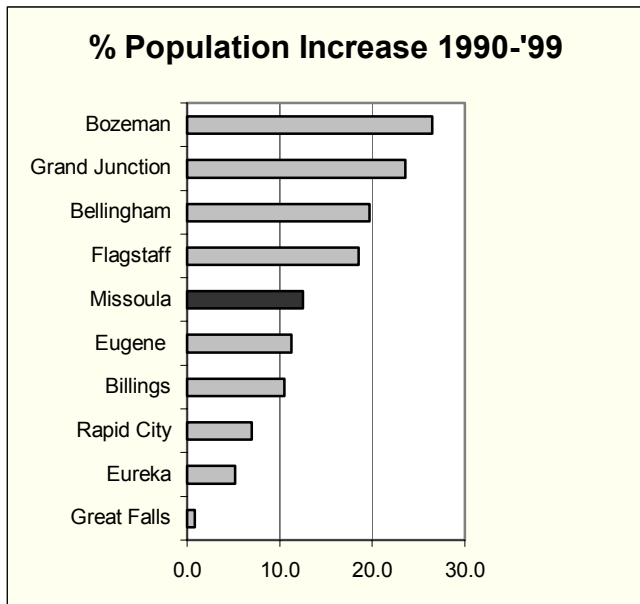
- As Missoula's aging population increases, the demand for senior services will bring increased competition for community resources.
- Elderly people frequently face social isolation and depression.

Brain Teasers

- Will there be affordable, adequate housing for the elderly in the year 2010?

F. ~ Growing Population Indicators ~

Whatever comprehension of population growth is possible will aid in the planning for the future.



(Source: US Census)

Relationships

- Increases in population create competition for jobs.
- Increases in population create a higher demand for human and social services.

Brain Teasers

- What economic strategies do we have in place to support increases in population?

Caring Index

A. Nonprofit Organizations

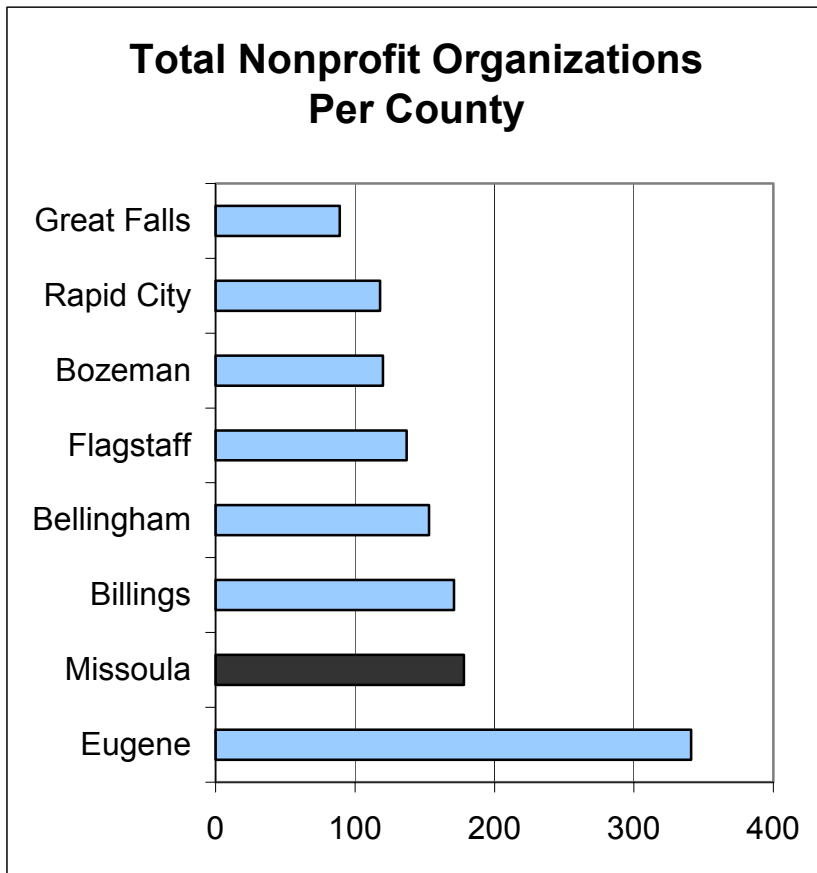
Nonprofit growth in Montana 1992-1998

The IRS requires 501(c) (3) tax-exempt, tax-deductible nonprofit organizations (NPOs) with annual revenues of \$25,000 or more to file a Form 990 Annual Report. The number of reporting organizations in Montana grew from 886 in 1992 to 1,228 in 1998. 501 (c) (3) organizations not required to file this report include religious congregations and organizations with less than \$25,000 in gross receipts.

Type of Nonprofit Activity in Montana

- Human Services-Multipurpose
- Health Care/Mental Health
- Arts, Culture, Humanities
- Recreation, Sports, Youth Development
- Educational Institutions
- Supporting Public Charities
- Food, Employment, Housing
- Environmental/Animal Related
- Community Improvement, Public/Social Benefit
- Crime, Legal Related, Public Safety, Disaster Relief
- Religion Related, Spiritual Development
- Research: Science, Technology, Social Science

(Source: Big Sky Institute for the Advancement of Nonprofits)



(Source: National Center for Charitable Statistics, 1999)

Montana 501 (c) (3) Revenues, by Activity Area (1998)

<u>Type of Nonprofit Activity</u>	<u>Revenues (in Millions)</u>	<u>% of Total Revenues</u>
Statewide Totals	\$2034.37	100%
Health Care/Mental Health	\$1395.73	68.61%
Educational Institutions	\$161.32	7.93%
Human Services – Multipurpose	\$134.04	6.59%
Supporting Public Charities	\$106.88	5.25%
Food, Employment, Housing	\$64.56	3.17%
Environment/Animal Related	\$43.22	2.12%
Recreation, Sports, Youth Development	\$28.38	1.40%
Arts, Culture, Humanities	\$26.74	1.31%
Religion Related, Spiritual Development	\$17.15	0.84%
Community Improvement	\$14.71	0.72%
Crime, Legal Related, Public Safety, Disaster Relief	\$14.55	0.72%
Research: Science, Technology, Social Science	\$4.71	0.23%
All Others	\$22.39	1.10%

(Source: Big Sky Institute for the Advancement of Nonprofits)

Revenue per Capita of United Way Giving

Location	United Way	United Way
	Giving Per Capita	
Eureka	1.92	6.19
Flagstaff		6.19
Grand Junction	6.54	
Bozeman		7.29
Great Falls		8.21
Billings	10.20	
Bellingham		10.70
Eugene	11.79	
Missoula		12.24
Rapid City		17.30

Per capita is the total number of dollars raised in the United Way annual campaign divided by the total population of each location.

(Source: 1998-1999 Amount Raised Card Survey)

The reader can define Missoula as a giving community based upon the amount of money raised in the annual campaign by the United Way of Missoula County.