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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FCFC Members</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letter from the Chair</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Community Initiatives</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Promoting School Readiness and Fourth Grade Success</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Promoting Alternative Learning Opportunities</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Preventing Family Violence</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community-Based Projects</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Help Me Grow</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Teenage Pregnancy</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Diversity Awareness</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Resource Mapping</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- AgencyLink</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Calendar Art Contest</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Community Issues for Child Placement Committee</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Child Fatality Review</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Brother Raymond L. Fitz. S.M., Ph.D. Award</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Where can I go to find local data?</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outcomes and Indicators Phase II</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Introduction to Phase II</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Behind the Numbers: &quot;Turning the Curve on School Attendance&quot;</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Behind the Numbers: &quot;Analyzing Unemployment&quot;</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Outcomes and Indicators</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Coming Attractions</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEALTHY PEOPLE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Low Birthweight</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Childhood Immunizations</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Premature Mortality</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YOUNG PEOPLE SUCCEEDING</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Ohio Graduation Test—10th Grade Math and Reading</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Graduation Rate</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Public School Attendance</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Teen Pregnancy</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STABLE FAMILIES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Avoiding Poverty</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Substantiated Child Abuse</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Preventable and Somewhat Preventable Child Deaths</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Domestic Violence Deaths</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Our **VISION** is that Montgomery County is a place where families, children and adults live in safe, supportive neighborhoods, care for and respect one another, value each other, and succeed in school, the workplace and life.

The **MISSION** of the Montgomery County Family and Children First Council is to serve as a catalyst to foster interdependent solutions among public and private community partners to achieve the vision for the health and well-being of families, children and adults.
2004 MONTGOMERY COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL

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Donna Audette* ............................................................ YWCA of Dayton
William H. Bines .................................................. Montgomery County Health Commissioner
Thomas G. Breitenbach ................................................ Premier Health Partners
Joyce Sutton Cameron ........................................................ Parent
Peg Conley ................................................................. Help Me Grow Consortium
Bro. Raymond L. Fitz, S.M., Ph.D.* ............................................. The University of Dayton
Mark Gerhardstein ........................................................ Montgomery County Board of MR/DD
Dannetta Graves ........................................................ Montgomery County Dept. of Job & Family Services
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Donald R. Thompson, Ph.D. ........................................... Montgomery County Educational Service Center
Donald A. Vermillion ........................................................ University of Dayton Fitz Center
Dave Vore .............................................................. Montgomery County Sheriff
Joyce C. Young .......................................................... Community Leader

* Executive Committee members
December 2004

Dear Community Member,

The Montgomery County Family and Children First Council released its first annual report in 1998 with the publication of *Turning the Curve: Report to the Community on Outcomes and Indicators*. That report was the first in a series of reports we called Phase I. These reports were designed to monitor our community’s progress as we strive to improve the health and well-being of the families, children and adults of Montgomery County.

As Chair of the Council, I am excited to present our *2004 Progress Report*, the beginning of Phase II. You won’t notice a drastic change from our previous publications. As in the past, this *Report* contains updates on our Strategic Community Initiatives and Community-Based Projects. We continue to have the same six Outcomes, which describe attributes of a thriving and healthy community. What you will see is a change in the list of Indicators we are using to measure those Outcomes. We found that some of the Indicators we tracked in Phase I, particularly those measuring Young People Succeeding, are no longer available. We have also expanded the list of Indicators for all the Outcomes to provide the community with a broader picture of activities that shape our progress.

As you know, this Report provides historic or trend data for Montgomery County and, whenever possible, we also include data from the nation, the state as a whole, and/or the rest of the ten largest counties in Ohio. We are excited to make you aware that you now have access to data for areas smaller than the whole county via our Web site, www.fcfc.montco.org. Learn more about this on page 15.

The Council continues to sponsor the *Easy Steps to Grow Great Kids* public media campaign. The Family Violence Multi-Jurisdictional Database has grown much more automated and efficient since last year. Programs we’ve supported, such as the Mentoring Collaborative, Help Me Grow, and Parents as Teachers, continue to have a positive impact on the young people in our community.

I hope you find the *2004 Progress Report* useful and informative. We believe it provides an even better look at our community and the many efforts being made to make it a better place for all our citizens.

Sincerely,

Ned J. Sifferlen, Ph.D.
President Emeritus, Sinclair Community College
Chair, Montgomery County Family and Children First Council
With the adoption of the Family and Children First Council’s Six Community Outcomes (see page 22) in late 1996, the FCFC initiated a tool for local organization of community dialogue, information gathering and reporting. The movement to specific action planning by FCFC increased dramatically in early 1999 with the introduction of three Strategic Community Initiatives, each led by a Community Champion.

- Promoting School Readiness and Fourth Grade Success led by Thomas G. Breitenbach, President and CEO of Premier Health Partners
- Promoting Alternative Learning Opportunities led by John E. Moore, Sr., local community leader and organizer
- Preventing Family Violence led by Montgomery County Commissioner Vicki D. Pegg

Each champion recruited and organized a team of community leaders to further identify issues at hand, analyze concerns and research data, identify best practices, and to propose approaches toward improvement through action plans. The implementation of these action plans has occurred since 1999.

**PROMOTING SCHOOL READINESS AND FOURTH GRADE SUCCESS**

This research led to the belief that the early years of a child’s social, physical, emotional and cognitive development are the most critical in developing a foundation for achievement.

The team’s projects have included:

**Easy Steps to Grow Great Kids**

As the Easy Steps to Grow Great Kids public awareness campaign enters its fifth year, the scope and reach of the campaign continues to expand. The campaign, originally launched in November 2000, addresses the issue of school readiness among young children in Montgomery County.

Over half a million educational brochures and other materials have been distributed throughout Montgomery County over the past four years. Easy Steps billboards and bus ads have become a familiar sight for Miami Valley residents, and Easy Steps literature and promotional items are distributed regularly at a wide variety of community events.

Many individuals and organizations have partnered with FCFC to help make the Easy Steps campaign a success. Going beyond traditional advertising, detailed advice and tips for early childhood development have been distributed directly to schools, hospitals, and social service agencies. Through sponsorship and participation in community events such as BabyFair, the CityFolk Festival, Howl O’Ween at the Boonshoft, United Against Violence, and the Children’s Parade, Easy Steps to Grow Great Kids has become a highly recognized campaign throughout Montgomery County.
Parents as Teachers (PAT) is a nationally recognized best practice program for parents and their preschool aged children. In this model, PAT-certified trainers teach parents to be the first teachers of their children. They introduce age-appropriate individualized lesson plans to the parents, who in turn work with their child. Research shows this approach increases parent-child bonding, improves the child’s learning development capabilities, and advances the child’s readiness to begin school and then learn at a faster rate. At the close of 2004, there were approximately 200 children enrolled in Parents as Teachers programs in the Dayton Public Schools and Trotwood-Madison Local Schools, as well as programs administered by the Montgomery County Educational Services Center in the Jefferson, Mad River and Northridge School Districts.

The Urban Literacy Institute provided training at Wright State University for teachers selected from the Dayton Public Schools. Its curriculum is based on alternative reading skills training methods. These training techniques have been integrated into the classroom.

The Alternative Learning Opportunities Team (A.L.O.T.) helped to increase community awareness of Truancy Prevention and had dialogue with local school districts on how alternative learning environments can help all of our children succeed in school and in life. As of October 2004, there were 1,809 students in 13 alternative programs in Montgomery County that were created or enhanced through the Fast Forward Center community partnership. In addition, several suburban school districts have developed their own alternative programs to help address the various needs and learning styles of local youth.

Truancy often is the first indicator of future problems. The A.L.O.T. developed the award-winning “EDUCATION—THINK ABOUT IT” community awareness campaign and distributed several hundred thousand campaign items. With increased local focus on truancy prevention and a new state truancy law, the Montgomery County Juvenile Court also implemented a case conference program in the Intervention Center for habitual truants. It holds parents accountable to be sure their children are attending school regularly. We have seen improvement in school attendance in Montgomery County over the last several years. (See pages 18-19.)

The Youth Council of the Montgomery County Workforce Policy Board continues to implement recommendations from the A.L.O.T.’s Final Report, including supporting the Montgomery County Mentoring Collaborative. The Youth Council has expanded its use of FCFC’s indicators into other meaningful data and worked with its collaborative partners to help them expand services. The Youth Council has worked to advocate at the state level for additional and appropriate funding, waivers and legislation to improve and expand alternative education in Ohio. It continues to try to facilitate better communication and coordination between education and health and social services providers, juvenile justice and the legal and law enforcement community. The Youth Council also recognizes the need to continue to prepare teachers for working in alternative learning environments.

Fast Forward staff have described the Montgomery County community’s experience in developing alternative learning environments to national audiences such as at the National Dropout Prevention Conference. It is evident that the Montgomery County community’s collaborative efforts to get our youth back on track to a brighter future are being seen as an exemplary national practice.
Linking Youth in Our Community with Mentors

In 2004 the Montgomery County Mentoring Collaborative, administered by the Montgomery County Educational Service Center, continued its work of raising community awareness of the critical need for adult mentors for youth in Montgomery County, facilitating the recruitment and retention of mentors, providing mentor training and background checks, and sponsoring local mentoring events.

Fifty community partner agencies worked with the Mentoring Collaborative in 2004, compared to 10 agencies in 2001. The Mentoring Collaborative provided complementary background checks for 200 new mentors, facilitated partner agencies’ participation in local initiatives such as Strong Kids for Strong Communities, and co-sponsored a regional mentoring conference in Columbus with other mentoring organizations. Targeted mentor recruitment campaigns during 2004 resulted in a 12 percent increase in the number of children that the 50 partner agencies were able to serve, with a total of 20,775 children being mentored in our community. There is more work to be done, as 4,737 children are still in need of qualified, trained mentors.

Super Mentor Saturday

National Mentoring Month was observed locally through the efforts of the Montgomery County Mentoring Collaborative. More than 400 young people and their mentors from 30 local youth-mentoring organizations enjoyed games, activities, and food at the Nutter Center on Saturday, January 24, 2004, to celebrate “Super Mentor Saturday.”

2004 Outstanding Mentor Award Winners. Centerpiece of Super Mentor Saturday was the presentation of the Outstanding Mentor Awards. Community-based agencies nominated individuals who display extraordinary commitment to assist young people in achieving their full potential by guiding them toward making positive life choices.

Susan Jandes, Miamisburg City Schools Mentoring Program. As Principal of Wantz Middle School, Susan not only supports the program as an administrator but also is a mentor to two young people.

Pat Jenkins, Miamisburg City Schools Mentoring Program. Pat’s two-year relationship with her fourth grade mentee changed her mentee’s school performance and attitude from failing to excellent.

Connie Lucas-Melson, Parity, Inc. Connie has devoted a lifetime to working with children in the classroom, small groups and in one-to-one relationships.

Mary and Stephen Schleipfer, Big Brothers/Big Sisters. Mary and Stephen are a two-career couple who have shared their lives over the past two years with a young man who appreciates all the “ordinary” things they do together.

Pamela Wilson, Dayton Urban League. From her initial involvement as the parent of a son participating in Urban League programs, Pam has grown to become a mentor to several young women and an effective recruiter of volunteers for agency activities.

Our www.SchoolIsWorthIt.org Web site was developed as part of the A.L.O.T.’s truancy prevention awareness campaign. The Web site contains parenting and career planning information, homework helpers, and other information of interest to students and parents. To date, the site has received over 12,300 visits and 71,500 hits.
PREVENTING FAMILY VIOLENCE

This focus led to the formation of new partnerships for the purpose of developing tools to improve information and strengthen the collaborative use of data in the fight against domestic violence.

The Family Violence Database was implemented in 2004 with the cooperation of many elected officials, courts, departments and agencies throughout Montgomery County. The database can now warehouse up to 10 years’ worth of data on family violence perpetrators across jurisdictions of the county. Access to online information from the Dayton Municipal, Areas 1 and 2, Kettering, Miamisburg, Oakwood and Vandalia Courts; the Domestic Relations Court; Adult Probation; the Prosecutor’s Office; Sheriff’s Office; the Dayton Police; and the Judges will increase prosecution sentencing.

At the close of 2004, the oversight of the project began to transfer to the Montgomery County Criminal Justice Council. Montgomery County Clerk of Courts, Dan Foley, will assume leadership of the ongoing improvements and system administration of the application. This transfer will also position the database to leverage development of other criminal justice projects including jail management and release planning. Unification of these projects will ensure better planning and coordination of resources throughout the criminal justice network.

As Super Mentor Saturday was winding to a close, one of the adult mentors stopped by to show off her young mentee’s memory book that she had made with the folks from K12 Gallery. Inside, she had written, “Today was my very best day.” That thought undoubtedly will be recorded in many memories of that day.
Help Me Grow provides a system of services for eligible Montgomery County families from pregnancy until a child’s 3rd birthday. Services focus on infant and toddler development to give children the best possible start in life. The program is funded and guided by the Ohio Department of Health and administered locally by the Montgomery County Family and Children First Council through local service providers.

A healthy pregnancy and the first three years of life are most critical to a child’s development. Sometimes as they grow, children have trouble seeing, hearing, talking, walking, or have other special needs. When families or professionals have medical, educational, developmental, or social/emotional concerns about a child, they can call one central number in Montgomery County:

During 2004, 3,119 referrals to Help Me Grow were received, including over 600 from potential clients, family members, or friends and almost 700 from community screenings. Help Me Grow nurses made 1,681 home visits to check on the health and physical status of mothers and their newborns. In addition, Help Me Grow service coordinators developed Individualized Family Service Plans for ongoing services for 1,692 children in our community.

NEWBORN HOME VISITS

April had more to worry about than just being a new mom. April confided to her Help Me Grow nurse that the family’s electricity had been turned off, and she didn’t have the money needed to turn it back on. The nurse got Help Me Grow Central Intake and Referral Service involved, which found emergency housing for the new family while they looked for another place to live.

Monique’s newborn, Tasha, seemed to be feeding and doing well at first. Help Me Grow nurse, Teresa, did Tasha’s newborn assessment and discovered that she had become terribly ill in only a few days. The baby was lethargic and unable to even cry. Monique was home alone with the baby and had no transportation. The Help Me Grow nurse got the family to the emergency room, which may have saved young Tasha’s life.

New parents, Danielle and Ron, were thrilled with the birth of their son, Matthew. This was a long and difficult pregnancy that followed the birth of their daughter, who was stillborn. They were understandably anxious, nervous, and scared. Help Me Grow newborn visit nurse, Jennifer, examined Matthew and determined that he needed to be seen by his pediatrician immediately.

In a thank you note to his wife’s nurse, Ron wrote, “We just wanted to take a moment to thank your staff and the services you offer. During a challenging time, your services were the support we needed, and your staff exceeded.”

ONGOING HOME SERVICES

Jose was referred to Help Me Grow after being born 15 weeks early and weighing exactly 1 lb. He stayed in the hospital for the first nine months of life with multiple medical problems. With
**Children Receiving Ongoing Services in 2004**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Under 12 months</th>
<th>12 - 23 months</th>
<th>24 - 35 months</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AT Risk for Developmental Delay or Disability</td>
<td>805</td>
<td>302</td>
<td>156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suspected/Diagnosed Delay or Disability</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>282</td>
<td>316</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Ohio Department of Health Early Track

**Montgomery County Providers in 2004**

**Central Intake & Referral/Child Find/Outreach Services:**
Starting Point (Montgomery County Educational Service Center)

**Newborn Home Visits:**
Fidelity Health Care and Kettering Memorial Hospital’s Precious Beginnings Home Care Program

**Ongoing Services for Newborns, Infants, and Toddlers and Their Families:**
GDAHA’s Brighter Futures Program (starts prenatally) and Montgomery County Educational Service Center

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**Success Stories***

the help of Help Me Grow Service Coordinator, Susan, the family obtained nursing and rehabilitation services and MR/DD PACE therapy-based services. Jose is now walking, and we anticipate him talking soon. Patience and perseverance have paid off. Jose has a promising future.

Alison picked up a Help Me Grow brochure at Baby Fair 2004. “My husband heard something that day that caught his ear—the fact that our two year old son, Chad, was not talking very much at all.” Alison called the 237-0123 Help Me Grow Central Intake phone number a couple of days later. Chad was assigned to a Help Me Grow Service Coordinator and soon was diagnosed with autism. “We immediately started to find a way to help Chad,” Alison explained. “Thanks to Help Me Grow, I was able to get my son diagnosed earlier than other kids. I thought he was just being stubborn about talking and found out that there was more going on with him than I could ever imagine.” Alison added, “I could call my Service Coordinator if we needed to meet or to let her know if Chad was having a real bad day. She would listen and then reassure me that it was going to be okay.”

Jessica was 16 when she had her daughter, Jasmine. During her hospital stay, Jessica became frustrated with breast-feeding and switched to bottle-feeding. When Help Me Grow nurse, Pam, made the newborn home visit, the baby was fussy and spitting up. The nurse encouraged Jessica to return to breast-feeding and coached her along. After two weeks, Jasmine had gone from 6 lb 4.5 oz to 8 lbs. Jessica felt proud and successful.

* Names have been changed
TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION

The Family and Children First Council has supported teen pregnancy prevention activities through funding and other resources since 1997. The FCFC’s focus is on teen pregnancy prevention education and services for youth ages 10 to 19 years.

In 2004, FCFC funding was provided to Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley, Dayton Urban League, Girl Scouts of Buckeye Trails Council, YWCA of Dayton, Planned Parenthood of the Greater Miami Valley and the Abstinence Resource Center. These agencies have provided services for girls and boys that included counseling, mentoring, life-skills development, and educational activities. Through the experiences of services like these, youth are able to discuss current issues in their lives and get information or referrals for additional services.

Being a teenager can be a difficult time for some youth, but as Natalie wrote after being a mentor in a summer camp program, “I enjoyed waking up every morning to see and talk to the girls who looked up to me…It’s a good learning experience and it’s fun at the same time.”

The programs supported by the Family and Children First Council encourage youth to build relationships with diverse populations. Stacy, a parent whose child, April, was having some minor issues in school and at home, was surprised by the positive nature of April’s experience in the program. There was some concern because April was the minority (Caucasian) in the group, but that was put to rest as she made many new friends. As a result of April feeling empowered, she was able to transform her actions at home and school to be more positive. There are a variety of data that show that empowered teens are less likely to become teen parents.

DIVERSITY AWARENESS AND CULTURAL COMPETENCY

The Family and Children First Council continues to encourage county-wide support for the Dayton Dialogue on Race Relations. This initiative has engaged many organizations throughout our community, including many FCFC member organizations, to eradicate racism and create a more harmonious Miami Valley community that better understands, appreciates and values the diverse strengths and dreams of its residents.

In addition, the FCFC supports the many other initiatives that are underway throughout our community to improve cultural competency in building better awareness, relationships and service delivery. Examples of this work include the YWCA which has added the elimination of racism to its mission and program planning and Montgomery County Children Services, where mandatory diversity training is now required of all employees. Children Services also held a Hispanic Fair in 2004 to focus attention on this growing culture in our community.
RESOURCES MAPPING

Since 1998, the Family and Children First Council has developed resource maps to help identify community resources that address health and human services issues. The maps include federal, state, and local budget data from many local agencies. The aggregated budget data are analyzed and mapped in graphic form by outcomes, prevention levels and other significant categories.

In 2004, the Family and Children First Council analyzed the 2003 local expenditures of more than $1.2 billion relative to the six Community Outcomes that capture the FCFC’s vision for Montgomery County. In addition, the Council examined how these funds addressed prevention, intervention and treatment levels for the community.

The majority of identified funds contributed to the Positive Living for Special Populations (PLSP) Outcome. Analysis of funds mapped indicated that 83 percent of the PLSP dollars consisted of federal Medicaid funds. This project continues to evolve as other resources are identified and analyzed.

AGENCY LINK

In 2004, the AgencyLink test environment software was upgraded to a Web-based ASP.Net application. This upgrade will allow for increased flexibility while maintaining the security already designed in the network. The goal is to provide improved communication and collaboration among health and human or social services providers throughout the community.

The courts and local law enforcement have already begun to take advantage of these tools as reported in the Preventing Family Violence update (page 7). The improved features have increased their use of automation, efficiencies and reporting.
CALENDAR ART CONTEST

The Ohio Children’s Trust Fund publishes a special calendar for families each year. This calendar emphasizes the importance of regular positive interactions between parents and children and offers monthly suggestions for activities that strengthen family well-being. Artwork featured in the calendar represents the winners of a statewide coloring contest for 5th graders sponsored by Family and Children First Councils.

Because the Montgomery County Family and Children First Council believes that one way of promoting Young People Succeeding is to recognize our young people for their accomplishments, we solicited artwork from schools throughout the county. Fifth-grade students were asked to create artwork depicting things people can do in their everyday lives to prevent child abuse and neglect. The theme of the artwork was “Attention Adults: You are the Key to Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect.” We were thrilled to have 109 pieces of artwork submitted from ten schools! Our panel of judges chose one winner and four runners up.

Winner
Sierra Drees,
Lutheran School of the Miami Valley

Runners Up
Annie Backhaus, Immaculate Conception School
Rebecca Boone, Immaculate Conception School
Sherria Flournoy, Cornell Heights Elementary
Laura Wagner, Lutheran School of the Miami Valley

Sierra’s artwork was entered in the statewide competition where over 200 people attending the Prevention Month Conference had an opportunity to vote for their favorite works of art. We were thrilled that Sierra’s artwork was selected as one of the 12 state winners. Her artwork appears as “January” in the 2005 Calendar and Sierra, along with the Director of OFCF, has been invited to a Luncheon and Awards Ceremony being held at the Statehouse, April 14, 2005.

Congratulations to our winners!!

Sierra Drees’ artwork

Sierra Drees, Annie Backhaus, Rebecca Boone, Sherria Flournoy, Laura Wagner
COMMUNITY ISSUES FOR CHILD PLACEMENT COMMITTEE

The Family and Children First Council Executive Committee established the Community Issues for Child Placement Committee to respond to concerns about Montgomery County children falling through the cracks in the system. These are typically youth that have a variety of serious issues such as acting out physically or sexually, and may have contributing mental health concerns. Local service options are not always sufficient to meet their needs. These children are often placed in foster care outside of the county which does not facilitate an effective reunification plan for their families. Historically, these children were more frequently found to be delinquent and adjudicated to the State Department of Youth Services (DYS). Their offenses include occurrences such as sexual abuse and perpetration, fire-starting, theft, violence and physical and mental aggression toward others.

In 2004, the committee worked very closely with the Agency Service Brokers and other research staff. The combined team developed an Action Plan Matrix with specific recommendations for early identification of at-risk youth, service enhancements and systems change. An implementation plan for these recommendations will be prepared in 2005.

CHILD FATALITY REVIEW

Montgomery County has been reviewing the deaths of children ages 0 – 17 years through a multidisciplinary team since 1996. The mission of the Montgomery County Child Fatality Review Board is to prevent future child deaths by identifying and documenting risk factors and by supporting the development of interventions and services designed to reduce those factors. The Family and Children First Council provides support for the state-mandated Child Fatality Review Board. It was chaired by Montgomery County Health Commissioner William Bines in 2004. Additionally, research and support are provided for the Review Board’s subcommittees: the Child Death Review Committee, the Safe Sleep Committee and the Suicide Prevention Team.

Child deaths are classified in the following categories: natural, accidents, homicides, suicides, and undetermined. The Child Fatality Review Team reviews all the categories except those deaths categorized as natural.

A significant number of the child fatalities reviewed were determined to be preventable and are the focus of prevention strategies undertaken by the community. In the fall of 2004, the Child Fatality Review Board approved the distribution of the “Safe Sleep for Your Baby” brochure. This was one of the many prevention strategies used to raise community awareness to promote safe sleeping for children.

Other prevention efforts focused on educating targeted agencies and community groups about child fatalities and preventing child suicides.
The Brother Raymond L. Fitz, S.M., Ph.D. Award was established by the FCFC in 2001 to honor Brother Raymond L. Fitz, S.M., former president of the University of Dayton, for his years of leadership and service to the community.

Brother Fitz served as the first chair of the FCFC from 1996 to 1999. He also served as Chair of the New Futures/Youth and Family Collaborative for the Greater Dayton Area from 1994 - 1995, and was co-chair of the Child Protection Task Force. The Award is intended to recognize someone who exemplifies Brother Fitz’s extraordinary dedication to the cause of nurturing and protecting children and families by going well beyond the scope of their front line work through grassroots efforts and volunteer leadership in the community.

The recipient of the 2004 Brother Raymond L. Fitz, S.M., Ph.D. Award was Monica Rohr. The Nomination for Monica began… *This is the story of commitment, caring, hard work, persistence and optimism. This is the story of Monica Rohr, who for two decades, has committed her heart, mind, body and soul to helping needy families, children and adolescents in Montgomery County reach their potential. This is the story of a tireless front line advocate/case manager/service broker, who always goes the extra mile. This is the story of an extraordinary person who day by day and year by year in large and small ways has truly made a positive difference in the lives of hundreds of children and families in our community.*

Monica serves as both a Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Coordinator and Service Broker for the Dayton Metropolitan Housing Authority (DMHA). The FSS program works with families receiving Section 8 housing assistance who wish to move from dependency to self sufficiency. As Service Broker, Monica is constantly sought out by DMHA staff and residents for help with accessing other human service programs or organizations. Monica is viewed as a “go to” person by the service brokers of other agencies; a great problem solver; very resilient; someone who always returns their calls; a mentor to new service brokers; someone who loves her work; and someone with a great sense of humor who never takes herself too seriously. The following quote about Monica says it all.

*“Her energy is boundless and her enthusiasm contagious – you find yourself thinking all things are possible.”*
WHERE CAN I GO TO FIND LOCAL DATA?

What is the teen pregnancy rate in my town and what is the school attendance rate in my district? These are typical of some of the questions that the Office of Family and Children First receives. Often the request is from someone who has found the information for the whole county in one of our Reports and now would like to know about a particular area within the county.

Now people can get the answers to these questions at their own computers by visiting www.fcf.montco.org/indicators.

Many of the indicators that the FCFC has tracked over the years can be broken down to the town or school district level. In addition there is a wealth of information from the Census Bureau that is available for individual towns, ZIP codes and census tracts. A user can even type in an address and get information, some of it localized to that particular block.

All of this is now available at a site that is easy to navigate and even provides some maps of the area of interest. The user can find links to a number of related sites plus a helpful glossary. The site will be regularly updated and improved, and we invite ideas from those who use it. Just click on the link provided to send any comments and requests to staff.

The site was developed by a team of students from the University of Dayton as part of a course in the 2003-04 school year. Their efforts earned them Team of the Year honors from their professors. Our thanks and congratulations to (left to right) Russ Hartings, David Ausdenmoore, Beth Kelley and Matt Rolfes.
PHASE II OF WHAT?

In last year’s Report, the Montgomery County Family and Children First Council announced the end of Phase I of its use of results-based accountability, a set of tools and concepts for analyzing and acting upon data in order to achieve better results for children and families. Turning the Curve, published in 1998, named the six community outcomes and associated indicators we had chosen and began a series of annual Reports updating the community on our collective progress in achieving those outcomes. Last year’s Report provided an opportunity to step back and to look at six years of experience in collecting and analyzing our data – in short, to take stock of what we had learned.

SO … WHAT DID WE LEARN FROM THE DATA?

Altogether, 19 different indicators were tracked and reported at some point during Phase I. (Because of changes in data availability, only 16 or 17 were reported in any given year.) Analysis of the data revealed the following:

1. In every year, at least eight indicators had short-term trends in the desired direction.
2. Seven indicators showed a net improvement compared to the data in the first Report.
3. Twelve indicators reached their targets at some point during Phase I, but most of them slipped back and only two indicators were on target at the end of Phase I. (About half of the indicators which slipped back still showed a net improvement when compared to the data in the first Report.)

THE CONCLUSION?

Attaining a target is not necessarily permanent. A more meaningful measure of long-term success might be whether the overall trend – the “net improvement” – is in the desired direction.

WHAT ELSE?

During Phase I, the Council and members of the community incorporated some of the indicator data into their planning. For example, the FCFC’s decision to launch three Strategic Community Initiatives and the Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association’s decision to convene a Low Birthweight Task Force were due, in part, to the indicator data. Using these data to rally collaborative attention is a logical next step following the efforts to track and report the data. But designing and targeting effective interventions will require more.

The data we collect provide fuel for community conversations, just like gasoline for a car. These conversations transfer into power to help the community set direction for advancement.
**WHAT’S NEXT?**

One of the things we will do in Phase II is, in effect, improve our fuel supply. As can be seen elsewhere in this Report, a revised set of indicators is being adopted. Some of the changes are being made to be consistent with data availability from some of our sources. Other changes are being made to promote better overall understanding of a particular outcome. We will continue to revise the indicators during Phase II as different or more useful data become available. Consistent with what we learned in Phase I, we will not be setting targets, but we will continue to identify trends and to determine whether they are in the desired direction for each indicator.

We believe that better data (better fuel) can ignite more powerful conversations. In fact, as we begin Phase II, we include in this Report some examples where a given indicator serves as the starting point (the fuel) for such a larger discussion. (See pages 18-19 for discussion of school attendance and pages 20-21 for discussion of unemployment.)

But channeling those discussions in the right direction – designing and targeting effective interventions – will require truly understanding what the indicator trends and all the related data are telling us. Toward that end, the Council will begin in Phase II to name a Champion for each outcome. Each Champion will help weave the data into a story.

The “story” is a common sense version that folds the data into a set of ideas about the “way things ought to be.” One of the difficult aspects of change, particularly when it is accompanied by complex technology and multiplying data sources, is the ability to give up an old story and develop a new one. The last step in any adaptation process is cultural (visceral) change. It requires a compelling, believable story that is easily understood and linked to our deepest values and beliefs.¹

As we enter Phase II, one of the deepest values of the FCFC is the desire for better and better results for our children, families and community. One of our deepest beliefs is that, working together, we can achieve them.

---

**DESIRED DIRECTION AND TREND**

You will notice something new on the indicators pages in Phase II. In the upper right-hand corner you will find two arrows designated as the desired direction and the historical trend.

The **desired direction** tells you if we want the value of the indicator to go higher or lower.

The **historical trend** tells you, over time, the direction the value of the indicator has actually moved.

**To understand the impact** - If the historical trend arrow is shown moving in the same direction as the desired direction arrow, it means that the value of the indicator (and measured condition in our community) is improving. If the arrows are moving in opposite directions it means the value of the indicator (and measured condition in our community) is getting worse. In a few cases the historical trend arrow is shown level because there has been very little movement or because the value has fluctuated up and down but has had no significant change.

We continue to give you an explanation of the **short-term trend** in the highlighted box on each indicator page. The short-term trend is considered in the “desired direction” if either the value or the rank for the preceding year has moved in the desired direction, or if the value has remained unchanged.

---

Behind the numbers

TURNG THE CURVE ON SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

One of the indicators that the FCFC has been tracking since our first Report is Public School Attendance (K-12), the overall school attendance for the 16 districts within the county. The most recent value, 93.5% for the 2003-04 school year, is over 3 percentage points higher than the low point reached in the 1995-96 school year and marks the fifth straight year that the value has risen.

No such positive momentum was present six years ago when the FCFC published Turning the Curve. The data published in that first Report are summarized in Fig.1. There was a downward trend from 1991-92 to 1993-94, followed by three years of bouncing around the 91% level, two percentage points below the state’s standard, as shown by the two-year moving average indicated by the blue line. The low point, more than 2.2 percentage points below the 1991-92 value, was reached in 1995-96. Montgomery County regularly ranked 9th or 10th lowest among Ohio’s ten largest counties during this time period. Individually, between one and four school districts failed to meet the state’s standard in any given year except the last year (1996-97) when five districts fell below the standard.

So attendance was a problem … and it was getting worse. When the FCFC launched its three Strategic Community Initiatives, the School Attendance Indicator became part of the scope of the Alternative Learning Opportunities Team (A.L.O.T.), championed by John E. Moore, Sr. The Team quickly picked apart these data in an attempt to understand the underlying story. They knew that Dayton, being the largest district in the county and one of the largest in the state, was not immune from attendance problems that generally plague urban school districts. But a key observation for the Team was that attendance was a problem all across the county, not just in Dayton. Fig. 2 shows that between 1991-92 and the low point of 1995-96, attendance at 13 of the county’s 16 school districts fell while only three districts saw an increase in attendance. Not only that, but the average decrease was 1.6 points while the average increase was only 0.2 points.

The A.L.O.T. Team began to meet in 1999. Based on these and other data, the Team designed broad responses (the Mentoring Collaborative and the Education – Think About It! campaign are described on page 5) that would benefit the entire county. Elements of these plans were

Fig.1

The School Attendance data confronting the FCFC in its first Report showed that, after a decline, the two-year moving average (blue line) hovered around 91%.

Fig.2

Thirteen districts had a drop in attendance (solid bars) between 1991-92 and 1995-96. The striped bar represents the change for the whole county during this period.
rolled out over the next couple of years, around the time (Fall of 2000) that the state’s new truancy law and its provisions holding parents and guardians more accountable went into effect. Also emerging at this time were the Easy Steps to Grow Great Kids campaign and the Parents as Teachers program (pages 4-5), both products of the School Readiness/Fourth Grade Success Team championed by Tom Breitenbach. We cannot say which, if any, of these caused the improvement in attendance, but it stands to reason that the combined efforts of parents, schools and the community at-large – with some of that effort channeled through the FCFC – have played a part. We CAN say that 14 districts had better attendance in 2003-04 than they did in 1998-99 (Fig. 3).

Fig. 4 shows all of the attendance data; the yearly improvement since 1998-99 can clearly be seen. While there is still progress to make – for example, two districts are currently below the state standard for attendance, 93.0% – we can say that we have turned the curve on attendance.

Fourteen districts had improved attendance (solid bars) between 1998-99 and 2003-04. The striped bar represents the change for the whole county during this period.

The attendance rate for 2003-04 is the highest since the FCFC began tracking this indicator.
ANALYZING UNEMPLOYMENT

Every trendline tells a story ... or, actually, more than one story. A good example is the Unemployment indicator that FCFC has been tracking since the release of Turning the Curve. The unemployment rate is one of the most widely used barometers of the health of an economy. It is regularly reported in the media and most people have a basic understanding of what it means.

In this year’s Report, we can see that the unemployment rate for Montgomery County in 2003 was 6.3 percent, the highest it has ever been in the time period covered by this indicator, going back to 1990. Over the years, the county’s unemployment rate has moved up and down in synchrony with the unemployment rates for Ohio and the USA, as can easily be seen by examining all three trendlines (Fig.1). It can also be seen that 2003 marks the first time in this period that the county’s rate is higher than the rates for Ohio and the USA. So one story the trendline tells us is that, while we have ups and downs in step with the rest of the country, we are experiencing the most recent rise in unemployment a little more sharply than we have in the past.

The unemployment rate is based on the entire working age population. It can actually be broken down into rates for specific segments of the population based, for example, on race or gender. In this way a given trendline can be taken apart to tell additional stories. How, for example, do the unemployment rates for blacks and whites compare?

Fig. 2 shows the black unemployment rate to be higher than the white unemployment rate in the Dayton-Springfield Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). (In fact, for the years shown in the graph, it averaged about 225 percent higher.) It appears from this graph that black unemployment increased during a time (1997 – 99) when the white unemployment rate as well as the total unemployment rate was decreasing. In the following year, 2000, it showed a large decrease while the total rate dropped modestly and the white rate increased slightly.

Since then, all three have risen. What story is the black unemployment trendline trying to tell? Certainly it is a concern that the black rate is consistently higher. But why was the black unemployment rate rising during the time that total unemployment was dropping?

It stands to reason that when unemployment drops, more people have jobs. In fact, the percentage of the black population that is employed (called the employment/population or e/p ratio) rose substantially during the time in question, from 48.1% to 55.8% (Fig. 3). What was going on? How could more people be working and the unemployment rate be going up at the same time?

The answer lies in yet another statistic, the rate of labor force participation (Fig. 4). Only people who are working or looking for work are considered participants in the labor force. Therefore, people who are not working are NOT counted as unemployed IF they are not looking for work.
Table 1 helps tell this story. Between 1997 and 1999, the black unemployment rate in the Dayton-Springfield MSA rose 11.2% despite the fact that the percentage of black people employed rose a whopping 16.0%. The fact that black labor force participation went up even faster, 17.6%, suggests there was also a large increase in the number of people who were unemployed but who now identified themselves as looking for work. Here is a situation where the combination of more people working plus more unemployed people looking for work resulted in an increase in the unemployment rate.

Like any good story, this one raises even more questions. How, for example, do the local trendlines for labor force participation and employment/population ratio compare to those of other counties, of the state of Ohio, and of the USA? If they are different, what does that say about the local economy and workforce? What policy and practice choices exist in order to narrow the chronic gap between black unemployment and white unemployment? These and other questions (How does the structure of the local labor market compare to other localities? How is it projected to change in the future?) are beyond the scope of this Report but are the type that need to be asked – and are being asked – by those interested in achieving the Economic Self-Sufficiency outcome.

So by asking one trendline – in this case, the total unemployment rate for Montgomery County – to tell its story we have heard several stories and piqued our curiosity about several more. That is what a good community indicator does. It starts a discussion about what is happening in efforts to achieve a community outcome. It is up to us to continue that discussion and, more importantly, to act. Our plans for Phase II (page 16) include doing more of this.

When the growth in labor force participation exceeds the growth in the employment/population ratio, the unemployment rate goes UP even though more people are working. Compare “black” to “white” or “total.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% CHANGE, 1997 – 1999</th>
<th>Dayton-Springfield MSA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment Rate</td>
<td>Labor Force Participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHITE</td>
<td>-17.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLACK</td>
<td>+11.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1With a general readership in mind, only the reported values are shown in each graph for clarity. Upper and lower limits for error ranges are known and should be considered as part of a thorough examination of these data.

2Unfortunately, the sampling procedure used to determine the unemployment rate for an area the size of Montgomery County does not produce valid results for just one segment of the population. The smallest area for which the unemployment rate by race is available is a multi-county area known as the Dayton-Springfield Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). At the time of publication the most recent data are for 2002.

3The unemployment rate tells what percentage of the labor force (those working or looking for work) is unemployed so the e/p ratio and the unemployment rate do NOT add up to 100%. More detailed information can be obtained at http://stats.bls.gov/cps/cps_faq.htm

4% change = 100 * (1999 value – 1997 value)/1997 value = 100 * (11.9 – 10.7)/10.7 = 11.2.

The employment/population ratio. The percentage of the population that was employed rose for both blacks and whites between 1997 and 2000. Compare to Fig. 2 which shows black unemployment rising while white unemployment dropped.

Labor force participation rates. The dramatic rise in the rate for blacks occurred while the black unemployment rate was also rising.
## Outcomes and Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OUTCOME</th>
<th>HEALTHY PEOPLE</th>
<th>INDICATORS</th>
<th>Pg</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Everyone makes choices—for themselves or for those entrusted to their care—which promote better health. Everyone gets the information and support they need to avoid preventable health problems. Both physical and mental wellness are valued. Everyone has access to an adequate level of health care, including prenatal care, from birth through death.</td>
<td>LOW BIRTHWEIGHT</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATIONS</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE</td>
<td>see page 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PREMATURE MORTALITY</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(formerly Years of Potential Life Lost)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OUTCOME</th>
<th>YOUNG PEOPLE SUCCEEDING</th>
<th>INDICATORS</th>
<th>Pg</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Children are well prepared for learning when they start school and receive support outside of the classroom for their efforts inside the classroom. Intellectual curiosity, skill development and achievement are valued. Young people receive mentoring, guidance and support as they develop the capacity to differentiate between positive and negative risk behaviors. Positive role models are plentiful, and others in the community talk to teenagers with candor and respect about the difficult choices they face. Students finish high school ready to compete successfully in the labor market and/or in continuing education and skills development.</td>
<td>KINDERGARTEN READINESS</td>
<td>see page 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT – 4TH GRADE</td>
<td>see page 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>OHIO GRADUATION TEST – 10TH GRADE MATH</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>OHIO GRADUATION TEST – 10TH GRADE READING</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>GRADUATION RATE</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PUBLIC SCHOOL ATTENDANCE</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TEEN PREGNANCY</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OUTCOME</th>
<th>STABLE FAMILIES</th>
<th>INDICATORS</th>
<th>Pg</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The community respects and supports families, recognizing that family composition in a diverse society is varied. Family members have healthy relationships with each other. Families nurture their members and provide a sense of well being and safety. Family members work together and feel that they also belong to something larger than themselves.</td>
<td>AVOIDING POVERTY</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SUBSTANTIATED CHILD ABUSE</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PREVENTABLE CHILD DEATHS</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SOMEWHAT PREVENTABLE CHILD DEATHS</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DEATHS</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Positive Living for Special Populations

The frail elderly, and people of any age who are disabled, are supported (when necessary) with services which allow them to live in the most appropriate, least restrictive environment. With support from the community, everyone has the opportunity to participate in every aspect of community living that he or she desires. People with disabilities live, learn, work, and participate in typical accessible community settings. The community respects and protects their rights and includes them as contributing members.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Positive Living for Special Populations</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nursing Home Population</td>
<td></td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People with Developmental Disabilities Competitively Employed</td>
<td></td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People with Developmental Disabilities Working in Enclaves</td>
<td></td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day-to-day Living for Mentally Ill Adults</td>
<td></td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level of Functioning for Mentally Ill Youth</td>
<td></td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Successful Substance Abuse Treatment</td>
<td></td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Safe and Supportive Neighborhoods

People live in safe, affordable housing. They have access to positive educational and cultural experiences. Recreational centers are conveniently located and provide positive role models, especially for the children. All aspects of the environment—e.g., air, water, soil—are safe and healthy. The community values the unique attributes of each neighborhood, whether rural or urban.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Safe and Supportive Neighborhoods</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Violent Crime</td>
<td></td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Crime</td>
<td></td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voter Participation</td>
<td></td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Economic Self-Sufficiency

Residents have access to employment that provides a living wage and benefits. Barriers to employment, including transportation and day care issues, are minimized. Adequate opportunities for lifelong learning help prepare the workforce for the realities of 21st-century jobs. Educational, vocational training, and worker retraining services are readily available to support the needs of residents and employers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Economic Self-Sufficiency</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment</td>
<td></td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People Receiving Public Assistance</td>
<td></td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per Capita Effective Buying Income</td>
<td></td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COMING ATTRACTIONS

We begin Phase II with a revised set of indicators. Some indicators from Phase I have been dropped, while others are being continued. In addition, some new indicators have been added. Some of these changes are being made to promote better analysis and understanding of one of the outcomes. Other changes are being made in response to the availability of the source data.

School proficiency tests are one example where we are making changes because the tests are changing. Briefly, to be consistent with the federal No Child Left Behind legislation, Ohio is phasing out its proficiency tests and replacing them with a new set of achievement and diagnostic tests.

One of the new tests, the Ohio Graduation Test, forms the basis of one of our new indicators. It will eventually have five components when it is fully implemented for tenth graders to start taking, but for the 2003-04 school year, only two of the five components were administered.

Those results are included in this Report and that indicator will evolve to reflect full implementation of the Test. Similarly, two other indicators – KINDERGARTEN READINESS and FOURTH GRADE ACHIEVEMENT – will be derived from the school tests when they are fully implemented, currently scheduled for the 2005-06 school year.

These developing indicators are part of the Young People Succeeding outcome. Another indicator under development is ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE, under the Healthy People outcome. A statewide survey conducted in 1998 revealed that adults in poor or fair health were about three times more likely than healthier adults to report problems obtaining health care. We want to extend that analysis locally as the basis of this indicator.
BACKGROUND
The term “low birthweight” is used to describe babies born with a weight of less than 2,500 grams, or 5 lbs., 8 oz. Babies with higher birthweights are more likely to begin life with a healthy start and to have mothers who had prenatal care and did not smoke or drink during pregnancy. Strategies to affect birthweight are focused on education and prevention.

NEW DATA
The provisional value for low birthweight for 2003 was 8.8 percent, an increase from the 2002 final value of 8.4 percent, which replaces the provisional value of 8.7 percent. Montgomery County’s comparative county rank for 2003 was fourth. The statewide provisional value for 2003 was 8.4 percent and the final value for 2002 was 8.3 percent. The 2003 U.S. provisional value was 7.7 percent and the final value for 2002 was 7.8 percent.

SHORT-TERM TRENDS
The 2003 value is slightly higher than the final 2002 value, which means that the value did not move in the desired direction; however, Montgomery County’s comparative rank remained at fourth.
NEW DATA
This is the first time that the FCFC is reporting on this indicator. The value for 2004 is 81.7 percent.

SHORT-TERM TRENDS
The trend has generally been in the desired direction. The most notable exception is the rate for 2001. Children who were 24 - 35 months old in that year were infants in 1999, a time when there was a lot of controversy and media coverage regarding thimerosal, a preservative in infant vaccines. Since then, there has been a big increase in education regarding vaccine safety, and thimerosal has been removed from many vaccines. The rate for 2004 probably reflects the fact that there has also been an increased emphasis on educating parents on the need for timely vaccinations.

BACKGROUND
“The benefits of universal immunization have been demonstrated by the eradication of debilitating diseases. Routine immunization has eradicated smallpox from the planet, nearly eliminated the polio virus worldwide, and dramatically reduced the occurrence of other preventable infectious diseases including measles, pertussis and rubella. In fact, vaccines have safely and effectively prevented more disease and death than any other medical intervention or treatment, including antibiotics.

In the absence of widespread vaccination, epidemics of vaccine-preventable diseases would return. Millions of lives would be lost. Children would suffer needlessly, the incidence of infant and childhood deaths would rise dramatically, and we would reverse the tremendous progress already made in protecting children and communities from disabling and deadly diseases.

Vaccines have been shown to be safe and effective in preventing the transmission of serious infectious diseases. Routine immunization is the most effective way to protect children from harmful but preventable diseases and to thwart the reemergence of the deadly disease outbreaks of the past.”

(From a joint statement issued on April 6, 2000 by nine national nonprofit organizations that are deeply involved in immunization education.)

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN UP-TO-DATE WITH IMMUNIZATIONS BY THE AGE OF 35 MONTHS

Note: This Indicator tracks the proportion of 24 - 35 month old children attending Health District clinics who have received at least 4 doses of Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis vaccine, 3 doses of Polio vaccine, 1 dose of Measles, Mumps and Rubella vaccine, 3 doses of Hepatitis B vaccine, and 3 doses of Haemophilus influenzae type b conjugate vaccine. Because not all providers participate in a registry, it is difficult to assess the true up-to-date rate of children in a geographic area.
BACKGROUND
Premature mortality is measured by the Years of Potential Life Lost (YPLL) statistic. This figure is calculated as the sum of the difference between the average age of death for each group and age 75 for each death. The method of calculation gives greater computational weight to deaths among younger persons and does not include deaths after 75 years of age. The Premature Mortality statistic reflects the preventability of early deaths through changes in lifestyle, reduction of substance abuse and behavior modification. Smaller values are desired. (During Phase I, we called this indicator Years of Potential Life Lost.)

NEW DATA
The provisional value for Premature Mortality for 2003 was 79.8 for Montgomery County. The final 2002 value was 84.7, which replaces the provisional value of 84.1 reported in the 2003 Report to the Community.

SHORT-TERM TRENDS
The value for Montgomery County is moving in the desired direction. The comparative ranking among the ten largest counties improved to sixth from seventh.

TOTAL YEARS OF POTENTIAL LIFE LOST FOR DEATHS OF PEOPLE UNDER 75 PER 1,000 PEOPLE UNDER 75

*2003 data are provisional
BACKGROUND
Beginning with the class of 2007, students will be required to pass all five areas of the Ohio Graduation Test (OGT) as well as meet all local and state curricular requirements in order to receive a high school diploma. Students will begin taking the OGT in March of 10th grade; members of the class of 2007 will take the OGT for the first time in March 2005. Students will have five opportunities while school is in session to pass the OGT prior to their high school graduation. Districts will be required to provide intervention to those students who score below proficient on the OGT. This requirement includes students with disabilities.

The other three areas, writing, science, and social studies, will begin to be administered in the 2004-2005 school year.

NEW DATA
This is the first time that the FCFC is reporting on this indicator. Montgomery County students had a passing rate for the math section of the test of 64.4 percent compared to 68.4 percent in the state. Montgomery County students had a passing rate for the reading section of the test of 75.7 percent compared to 78.5 percent in the state.

SHORT-TERM TRENDS
Data for only one year are currently available.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MATH</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stark</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butler</td>
<td>73.1</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Lucas</td>
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<td>Cuyahoga</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>Lucas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lorain</td>
<td>73.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuyahoga</td>
<td>71.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Most desirable ranking is number one.
OUTCOME  YOUNG PEOPLE SUCCEEDING

INDICATOR  GRADUATION RATE

BACKGROUND
The graduation rate of all students receiving instruction in a Montgomery County school district is considered for this indicator.

NEW DATA
The graduation rate for Montgomery County in the 2003-04 school year is 87.4 percent and the state was 84.3 percent. The state requirement is 90 percent.

SHORT-TERM TRENDS
The value for Montgomery County has been steadily moving in the desired direction over the past several years. The comparative ranking among the ten largest counties has improved from seventh in the 1999-2000 school year to third in 2003-2004.
OUTCOME  YOUNG PEOPLE SUCCEEDING

INDICATOR  PUBLIC SCHOOL ATTENDANCE (K – 12)

BACKGROUND
The attendance of all students, kindergarten through twelfth grade, receiving instruction in a Montgomery County school district is considered for this indicator.

NEW DATA
The attendance rate for the 2003-04 school year was 93.5 percent for Montgomery County schools, an increase from 92.9 percent in the 2002-03 school year. The comparative county rank remains at tenth as it was in the 2002-03 and 2001-02 school years. The attendance rate in Ohio schools for the 2003-04 school year was 94.8 percent.

SHORT-TERM TRENDS
The value is moving in the desired direction. However, the comparative ranking among the ten largest counties remained at tenth place. In both Montgomery County and Ohio, the attendance rates improved since the 2002-03 school year.

Note: FY92-98 data were obtained through ODE Vital Statistics. Beginning in 1999 data came from ODE Information Management Services as gathered for the District Report Cards using a slightly different formula. (ODE Vital Statistics data are no longer available.)
**OUTCOME**

**YOUNG PEOPLE SUCCEEDING**

**INDICATOR**

**TEEN PREGNANCY**

**BACKGROUND**

The teen pregnancy value includes the number of teen births, fetal losses and terminations of pregnancy. The child of a teen mother has a greater risk of being premature and experiencing poverty, child abuse and, if female, premature childbearing.

**NEW DATA**

The provisional value for teen pregnancy in Montgomery County in 2003 was 3.3 percent. The value in 2002 was 3.8 percent, which replaces the provisional value of 5.3 percent. The provisional teen pregnancy rate for Ohio was 2.7 percent in 2003.

**SHORT-TERM TRENDS**

Both the value and comparative rank are moving in the desired direction.

---

**NUMBER OF PREGNANCIES IN FEMALES AGES 15 – 17 AS A PERCENT OF ALL FEMALES 15 – 17**

- Montgomery County
- Ohio
- United States

---

Teen Pregnancy = (Births + Abortions + Fetal Losses)

Notes: Calculations made by Combined Health District, Office of Epidemiology.

* 2003 data are provisional
BACKGROUND
Research suggests that American children of parents who have their first child after they reach the age of 20, finish high school and get married have only an eight percent chance of growing up in poverty. However, children of parents who do not meet these three conditions have a 79 percent chance of being raised in poverty.

NEW DATA
For 2003, the provisional percentage of first births which were to parents who were married, had finished high school and had reached age 20 years was 49.5 percent in Montgomery County. This is an improvement over the final percentage for 2002 of 47.0.

SHORT-TERM TRENDS
Both the value and comparative rank for this indicator are moving in the desired direction.
OUTCOME  STABLE FAMILIES

INDICATOR  SUBSTANTIATED CHILD ABUSE

BACKGROUND
These data reflect the number of referrals to children services agencies in which abuse is substantiated. Keep in mind that these reports may include multiple children per report. Note that during the period from 1998 - 2001, many counties used risk assessment-based risk levels instead of traditional (substantiated, indicated, unsubstantiated) dispositions for intra-familial cases.

NEW DATA
This is the first time that the FCFC is reporting on this indicator.

SHORT-TERM TRENDS
Neither the value nor ranking moved in the desired direction.

NUMBER OF SUBSTANTIATED REPORTS OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PER 1,000 CHILDREN AGES 0 - 17

- Montgomery County
- Ohio

Most desirable ranking is number one.
BACKGROUND
Since 2001, the Montgomery County Child Fatality Review Board has been determining whether each death it reviews is “Preventable,” “Somewhat Preventable,” “Not Preventable” or “Not Sure.” The definition of preventability as set forth in the Ohio Administrative Code means “the degree to which an individual or community could have reasonably done something that would have changed the circumstances that led to the child’s death.” According to the Ohio Department of Health, “A child’s death is considered to be preventable if the community (through reasonable education, etc.) or an individual (through reasonable precaution, supervision, or action) could have done that which could have changed the circumstances that led to the death.” We will now report “Preventable” and “Somewhat Preventable” child deaths as determined by the Montgomery County Child Fatality Review Board. These indicators are intended to focus attention on the vulnerability of our children and the effectiveness of our efforts to keep them safe.

NEW DATA
This is the first time that FCFC is reporting on this indicator.

SHORT-TERM TRENDS
The number of Preventable child deaths was 29 in 2003, compared to 31 deaths in 2002. There was only one Somewhat Preventable child death in 2003; however, that is one more than there was in 2002.

*2003 data are provisional
BACKGROUND
The Family and Children First Council has zero tolerance for domestic violence-related homicides. The number of domestic violence deaths is a solid indicator of the prevalence of domestic violence in a community.

NEW DATA
In 2003, there were 11 domestic violence-related deaths in Montgomery County. This is the same number as in 2002.

SHORT-TERM TRENDS
The value remained at the same level as last year.

Note: Data include victims of all ages and genders. Information is not available from other counties.
OUTCOME  POSITIVE LIVING FOR SPECIAL POPULATIONS

INDICATOR  NURSING HOME POPULATION

BACKGROUND
The ability for the frail elderly to live in the least restrictive environment is enhanced when options in addition to nursing homes are available. This indicator, which tracks the nursing home population in proportion to the population aged 60 and over, is an indirect measure of the availability and usage of less restrictive living arrangements.

NEW DATA
This is the first time that the FCFC is reporting on this indicator.

SHORT-TERM TRENDS
Data for only one year are currently available.

AVERAGE DAILY CENSUS (ADC) OF NURSING HOMES PER 1,000 COUNTY RESIDENTS AGES 60 AND OVER
- Montgomery County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADC per 1,000 population</th>
<th>2001</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
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Most desirable ranking is number one.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>ADC 2001</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summit</td>
<td>33.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lorain</td>
<td>38.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cuyahoga</td>
<td>38.4</td>
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<td>Franklin</td>
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<td>Butler</td>
<td>39.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Montgomery</td>
<td>40.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lucas</td>
<td>41.3</td>
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<td>Mahoning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stark</td>
<td>46.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hamilton</td>
<td>47.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BACKGROUND
The results that people with developmental disabilities want in their lives include the opportunity to participate in the life of the community. Going to work is a significant part of that experience in our society. This indicator tracks the number of clients of the Montgomery County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities who are individually employed in typical workplaces.

NEW DATA
This is the first time that the FCFC is reporting on this indicator. The average number of MR/DD clients who were competitively employed in each half of the 2003-04 state fiscal year was 168.

SHORT-TERM TRENDS
The short-term trend from SFY03 to SFY04 is in the desired direction, from 166 to 168.
BACKGROUND
The results that people with developmental disabilities want in their lives include the opportunity to participate in the life of the community. Going to work is a significant part of that experience in our society. This indicator tracks the number of clients of the Montgomery County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities who are employed in enclaves. Enclave employment is competitive employment obtained through MONCO.

NEW DATA
This is the first time that the FCFC is reporting on this indicator. The average number of MR/DD clients who were employed in enclaves in each half of the 2003-04 state fiscal year was 84.

SHORT-TERM TRENDS
The short-term trend from SFY03 to SFY04 is in the desired direction, from 79 to 84.
BACKGROUND
The Ohio Department of Mental Health recently implemented a statewide, standardized outcome measurement system for mental health clients. Currently, all Montgomery County ADAMHS Board-funded mental health treatment providers are participating in the Ohio Mental Health Consumer Outcomes System. Mental health consumers are asked how satisfied they are with various aspects of their lives (such as relationships, financial status, meaningful activity, and safety and health) at intake and then at least once per year while they are receiving services. This indicator tracks the proportion of those clients with Severe and Persistent Mental Illness who, during the report year, reported an overall improvement in their quality of life 12 months after intake.

NEW DATA
This is the first time that the FCFC is reporting on this indicator. The value for SFY04 was 62 percent.

SHORT-TERM TRENDS
This indicator did not move in the desired direction between SFY03 and SFY04, but the change was very slight, from 63 percent to 62 percent.
BACKGROUND
The Ohio Department of Mental Health recently implemented a statewide, standardized outcome measurement system for mental health clients. Currently, all Montgomery County ADAMHS Board-funded mental health treatment providers are participating in the Ohio Mental Health Consumer Outcomes System. Youth who are receiving mental health services are asked a number of questions, including one set of questions that gauges how their “problems might get in the way of your ability to do everyday activities.” (These activities include getting along with friends and family, taking care of personal health and grooming, participating in school and recreational activities, etc.) This indicator tracks the proportion of those youth who, during the report year, reported an overall improvement in their level of functioning after six months of treatment.

NEW DATA
This is the first time that the FCFC is reporting on this indicator. The value for SFY04 was 61 percent.

SHORT-TERM TRENDS
This indicator did move in the desired direction from SFY03 to SFY04, from 59 percent to 61 percent.
BACKGROUND
When a treatment case is closed, the client’s disposition at discharge is recorded by the treatment provider’s staff. In general, there are three main categories of disposition at discharge: goals met (successful completion of treatment); client rejects or fails to return for treatment; and referral to another treatment program. A referral to another treatment program is not seen as a success or failure. Rather, it is seen as a continuation of care. Thus, the measure to determine the percentage of clients that successfully completed treatment uses only those cases that were closed because of “Goals Met” or “Client Rejects or Fails to Return.”

NEW DATA
This is the first time that the FCFC is reporting on this indicator. The value for SFY04 was 36 percent.

SHORT-TERM TRENDS
This indicator is moving in the desired direction from SFY03 to SFY04, from 32 percent to 36 percent.
MENTORING MATTERS

A local businessman who has made a commitment to youth mentoring said of his experience, “The effort is minimal compared to the return. It’s one of the most selfless things you can do.” He added that his own children can learn just as much from the experience as the child he is mentoring. “To see my mentee carry on in a positive way makes all of us positive.”

BACKGROUND

Violent crime is measured by incidents per 1,000 residents. Violent crimes include murders, forcible rapes, robberies and aggravated assaults reported in the Uniform Crime Index published by the FBI.

NEW DATA

The violent crime rate for Montgomery County in 2002 was 5.3 per 1,000 population, ranking Montgomery County fifth among Ohio’s largest counties. In 2002, the value for violent crime was 3.5 for Ohio and 5.0 for the United States.

SHORT-TERM TRENDS

The value is moving in the desired direction. The comparative ranking for counties remained at fifth.
As Super Mentor

Saturday was winding to a close,
one of the adult mentors

2004 PROGRESS REPORT

BACKGROUND
The property crime rate is measured by incidents per 1,000 residents. Property crimes include burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft and are reported by the Uniform Crime Index published by the FBI.

NEW DATA
The property crime rate for Montgomery County was 50.3 per 1,000 persons in 2002. The property crime rate in 2002 was 37.6 in Ohio and 36.2 for the United States.

SHORT-TERM TRENDS
The value is moving in the desired direction, and the comparative ranking for counties moved from seventh in 2001 to sixth in 2002.

PROPERTY CRIME

2000
1. Lorain 19.8
2. Summit 26.9
3. Stark 33.9
4. Cuyahoga 38.6
5. Hamilton 41.8
6. Butler 42.6
7. Montgomery 56.5
8. Lucas 59.3
9. Franklin 67.3
10. Mahoning Ins. data

2001
1. Lorain 20.1
2. Cuyahoga 35.7
3. Stark 35.9
4. Summit 43.0
5. Butler 48.0
6. Hamilton 50.3
7. Montgomery 56.4
8. Lucas 64.7
9. Franklin 71.6
10. Mahoning Ins. data

2002
1. Lorain 25.0
2. Cuyahoga 29.5
3. Stark 36.9
4. Summit 40.0
5. Butler 47.3
6. Montgomery 50.3
7. Hamilton 50.4
8. Lucas 64.4
9. Franklin 71.3
10. Mahoning Ins. data

Most desirable ranking is number one.
Ins. data = Insufficient data.
OUTCOME  SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE NEIGHBORHOODS

INDICATOR  VOTER PARTICIPATION

BACKGROUND
The level of civic engagement within a neighborhood is often cited as a barometer of neighborhood strength. One measure of civic engagement is the voting rate.

NEW DATA
This is the first time that the FCFC is reporting on this indicator. The Montgomery County value for 2004 was 73.4 percent and the value for Ohio was 71.8 percent.

SHORT-TERM TRENDS
The value is moving in the desired direction when the rate for 2004 is compared to the rate for 2000, the previous Presidential election. The county comparative rank also moved in the desired direction from 2003 to 2004.

PERCENTAGE OF REGISTERED VOTERS WHO VOTE IN THE NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION

Most desirable ranking is number one.
OUTCOME  ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY

INDICATOR  UNEMPLOYMENT

BACKGROUND
The unemployment rate is a measure of the percentage of the labor force that is unemployed. The unemployment rate reflects the match between the number of people seeking employment and the number of available jobs. Factors that influence unemployment are transportation, child care and work skills.

NEW DATA
The value for unemployment in Montgomery County in 2003 was 6.3 percent. The unemployment rate for the state of Ohio in 2003 was 6.1 percent and the United States unemployment rate in 2003 was 6.0 percent. The national rate for 2004 has been released and shows it falling to 5.5 percent. State and county data for 2004 were not available in time to be included in this publication.

SHORT-TERM TRENDS
The trend is moving in the desired direction. Although the value did not move in the desired direction, the comparative rank among counties moved from sixth to fifth.

Behind the numbers

Go to page 20
for more in-depth analysis

Most desirable ranking is number one.
BACKGROUND
Ohio Works First (OWF) is part of Ohio’s Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program and provides time-limited cash assistance to eligible needy families for up to 36 months. During that time, county departments of job and family services provide support to adult participants to become job-ready, obtain necessary job skills and find employment. The emphasis of OWF is self-sufficiency, personal responsibility and employment. Eligibility for OWF is governed by federal and state law. Each recipient is part of an “Assistance Group,” which, for practical purposes, can be considered a household. (On average, each Assistance Group has about 2.25 people.) Assistance Groups that are “Child Only” are excluded from this indicator. As a result, this indicator tracks the proportion of people in the county who have work activity participation requirements in order to receive OWF.

NEW DATA
This is the first time that the FCFC is reporting on this indicator.

SHORT-TERM TRENDS
Both the value and the county comparative ranking moved in the desired direction from 2003 to 2004.

ASSISTANCE GROUPS WITH WORK ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS*

* Average number of Assistance Groups per month, excluding child-only Assistance Groups. A child-only Assistance Group is an Assistance Group containing a minor child residing with a parent(s), legal guardian, legal custodian, or other specified relative whose needs are not included in the assistance group. An OWF custodial parent or caretaker is required to participate in “work activities” that are defined by law and that include employment, on-the-job training, a job search and readiness program, certain educational activities, and/or certain other specified activities.

** Population data for 2000-2003 are from the 2000 Census and Census Bureau projections; 2004 population data are derived from regression analysis of the 2000-2003 data.
BACKGROUND
Per Capita Effective Buying Income represents disposable income after taxes.

NEW DATA
The value for Per Capita Effective Buying Income in 2003 for Montgomery County was $18,396, and the rank in comparison to Ohio’s other large counties was sixth. In 2003, the value for Ohio was $18,098, and the value for the United States was $18,662. The value for the Consumer Price Index in 2003 was 184.0 (Base period: 1982-1984 = 100).

SHORT-TERM TRENDS
The comparative county rank for Montgomery County is the same as last year although the value has moved in the desired direction.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Hamilton</th>
<th>Franklin</th>
<th>Cuyahoga</th>
<th>Montgomery</th>
<th>Summit</th>
<th>Butler</th>
<th>Lucas</th>
<th>Stark</th>
<th>Lorain</th>
<th>Stark</th>
<th>Mahoning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>20,800</td>
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<td>19,090</td>
<td>18,396</td>
<td>18,289</td>
<td>18,823</td>
<td>17,324</td>
<td>17,479</td>
<td>16,733</td>
<td>16,331</td>
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<td>18,289</td>
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<td>17,797</td>
<td>16,733</td>
<td>16,331</td>
<td>15,193</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>20,950</td>
<td>20,778</td>
<td>19,421</td>
<td>19,112</td>
<td>19,112</td>
<td>19,031</td>
<td>17,765</td>
<td>16,821</td>
<td>16,642</td>
<td></td>
<td>15,264</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Most desirable ranking is number one.
Join us in congratulating several FCFC members who received honors and achieved milestones in 2004.

**DONNA AUDETTE**
- Elected President of the YWCA Great Lakes Alliance in November 2004.
- President of the American Humanics Community Council at WSU.
- President of the Board for Miami Valley Fair Housing Center in 2004.

**FRANZ HOGE**
- Received the 2003 Citizen of the Year Award from the Montgomery County Board of County Commissioners in March 2004.
- Selected for “Who’s Who in America.”

**HELEN JONES-KELLEY**
- Received the Catholic Social Services Outstanding Community Leadership Award.

**MARC LEVY**
- Recognized by the Dayton Business Journal as one of the top three most influential people in the area of Philanthropy.
- Elected to three-year term for the United Way of America National Professional Council.
- Keynote speaker for the Martin Luther King Jr. March in 2004.

**CONNIE LUCAS-MELSON**
- Received Montgomery County Mentoring Collaborative’s Outstanding Mentor Award for 2004.
- Appointed as the Chairperson of the Parity, Inc. Education Committee.

**MARY PRYOR, M.D.**
- Received the fourth annual Smith-Moore Human Services Award.
- Honored by the Levin Family Foundation, which dedicated the First Floor Lobby of Planned Parenthood’s Downtown Dayton building in her name in the Spring of 2004.
NED SIFFERLEN

- Received National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ) Annual Friendship Award in October 2004.

JOE SZOKE

- Received an award from the Dayton Municipal Court on Law Day in recognition of his service to the court and setting up the mental health court.

- ADAMHS Board received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Ohio Dept. of Mental Health in recognition of their exceptional commitment to the SOQIC Standardized Documentation Initiative and in appreciation for the outstanding contributions of their staff to this effort.

DATA SOURCES

- ADAMHS Board for Montgomery County
- Demographics U.S.A. – County Edition
- Federal Election Commission
- Montgomery County Board of Elections
- Montgomery County Board of MR/DD
- Montgomery County Child Fatality Review Board
- Montgomery County Combined Health District
- Montgomery County Office of Family and Children First
- Montgomery County Prosecutor’s Office
- National Center for Health Statistics
- Ohio Department of Education
- Ohio Department of Health
- Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
- Ohio Secretary of State
- Scripps Gerontology Center, Miami University
- U.S. Census Bureau
- U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation

The Ohio Department of Health specifically disclaims responsibility for any analyses, interpretations or conclusions from the data provided for the charts.