

United Way of 1000 Lakes



WHAT MATTERS

*An Assessment of
Health and Human Service
Needs in Itasca County*

2008



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Needs Assessment Partners

- United Way of 1000 Lakes
- Itasca County Health & Human Services
- Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation
- Itasca Economic Development Corporation
- Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
- Grand Itasca Hospital and Clinic

The United Way of 1000 Lakes gratefully acknowledges funding from the Blandin Foundation for this project.

How to Use this Report

This document contains a summary of key findings based upon a review of primary and secondary data sources. The information is separated into four topic areas:

- Family Stability
- Health, Wellness and Healing
- Child & Teen Resiliency
- Older Adults

Each section begins with a summary of key findings followed by a summary of data and key indicators for each topic area. Because key indicators in one section (i.e. poverty) may be relevant in multiple topic areas, data has been cross-referenced to avoid duplication.

Summaries of the United Way donor survey, community survey and focus group surveys are included as supplemental data at the end of this publication.

Introduction

This report is the voice of the community to be used by the community for taking action toward improving people's lives. Our struggling economy drives increased demand for health and human services at the same time public and private funding for these services is declining. By initiating an assessment of health and human service issues in the Itasca County area, United Way has taken a leadership role in seeking to insure that limited resources are focused on high impact solutions addressing our most critical needs.

United Way partnered with five key stakeholder organizations (see page ii) and formed a Steering Team which identified three major goals for this project:

- Organize and communicate findings in terms of issues and needs;
- Influence decisions service providers and funding sources must make regarding resource allocations; and
- Increase the networking and resource capacity of service providers and avoid duplication of services.

The Arrowhead Regional Development Commission (ARDC) facilitated the assessment. Their comprehensive approach engaged over 500 persons including health and human service professionals, funding organizations, individual donors, and the community at large.

Key Messages

Common Themes

Some common themes emerged that connected the dots between the broad range of issues and populations studied:

- Transportation, together with lack of awareness and affordability of existing services, were identified as the three most likely access barriers. Accessibility to services, education, healthcare, and employment is key to meeting the needs of our most vulnerable populations. Regularly scheduled, low cost, 24/7 public transportation is not available to Itasca County residents.
- Lack of basic life skills (money and time management, problem solving, nutrition and cooking, parenting) is observed across multiple generations of many Itasca County families.
- Children are a product of their environment and are affected when parents are stressed from financial concerns, chemical dependency, mental health problems, or other issues. To adequately meet the needs of children, the needs of parents must be addressed as well.
- Personal responsibility appears diminished, as evidenced by the number of Itasca County adults and teens who choose to engage in unhealthy behaviors such as drug and alcohol abuse, smoking, and obesity. Over one-third of all births in Itasca County are to unwed mothers.

Family Stability

- The 2005 census estimates indicate 11.8% of Itasca County residents live in poverty, well above the state average. 17% of Itasca County children live in poverty, jeopardizing their prospects for good health and skills to join the workforce as adults.
- The rising cost of living has outpaced wage increases. Approximately 40% of households in poverty in Itasca County have one or more wage earners in the household. The average hourly wage for renters in Itasca County cannot support payments for a market rate 2-bedroom apartment. Food shelf visits increased 40% during the past 4 years.

Health, Wellness & Healing

- Itasca County residents use tobacco at higher rates than other Minnesotans, especially those age 18-34 (52% of this age group in Itasca County smokes cigarettes). 24% of pregnant women in Itasca County smoked during pregnancy, nearly triple the state rate. Tobacco use is the single most preventable cause of disease and death.
- Itasca County ranks 7th in the state for suicides among those age 5-34 and has been designated by the federal government as a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) for mental health providers.

Health, Wellness & Healing (continued)

- Rates of alcohol-related vehicle accidents and impaired driving incidents are significantly higher in Itasca County compared to statewide rates and are increasing. Nearly 25% of Itasca County 12th graders reported that alcohol use by a family member repeatedly caused family problems.

Child and Teen Resiliency

- Approximately 25% of children under age three in Itasca County are considered at risk for developmental delays.
- Research indicates truancy is a significant predictor of tobacco use, substance abuse, violence and suicidal thoughts. Increasing incidence of truancy at all grade levels has been reported in Itasca County.
- Almost two-thirds of children from low income families are not considered proficient to enter kindergarten, including those who have attended school readiness programs.
- Minnesota student survey data indicates that many health risk behaviors (smoking, alcohol and drug consumption, early sexual activity, obesity) have early origins for a significant percentage of Itasca County youth.

Older Adults

- Following national trends, more older adults in Itasca County are enjoying greater prosperity than any previous generation as evidenced by a declining rate of those living below the poverty level (9% in 2000).
- The incidence of grandparents raising grandchildren for extended periods of time is higher in Itasca County than in the region and the state. Nearly 40% of these caregivers provide care for five years or more.

Assessment Methodology

Review of Secondary Data

ARDC staff analyzed the most current county, regional and statewide data available for each key topic area at the time this report was published. The appendices include a listing of the secondary data sources summarized in each section. Key informants and focus group participants were asked to assess the relevance and accuracy of the secondary data in comparison to their direct experiences. Their responses have been summarized in the key findings sections.

Focus Groups and Key Informant Interviews

ARDC staff conducted four focus groups comprised of 57 participants and contacted 10 key informants. Focus group participants and key informants were asked to review the secondary data to identify: 1) inconsistencies based upon their work within the county, 2) the strengths of the human service system in Itasca County, 3) unmet needs, and 4) contributing factors and barriers to the use of available services. Focus group responses are summarized in the key findings sections. Focus group participants were also asked to complete a survey ranking priority needs in the county. A summary of survey responses is included in Section G.

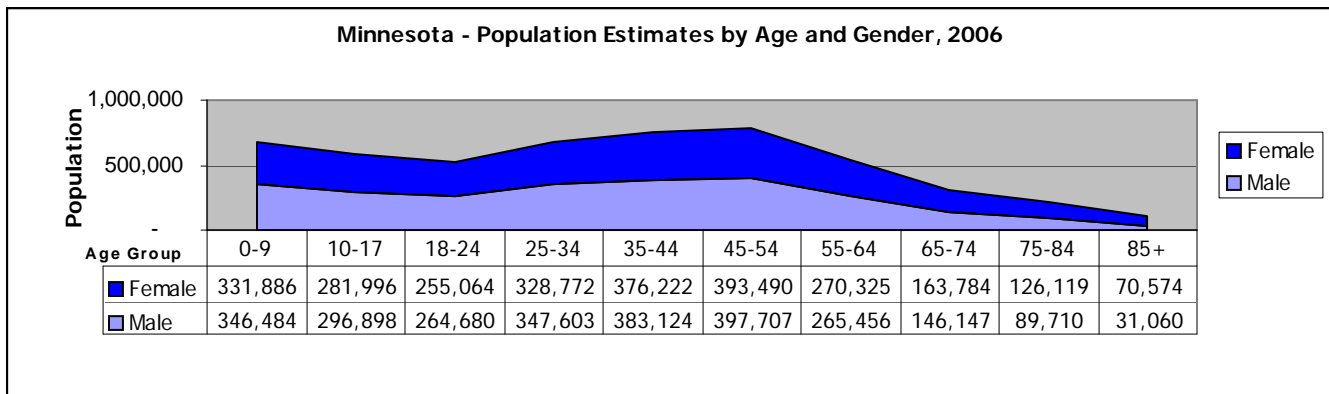
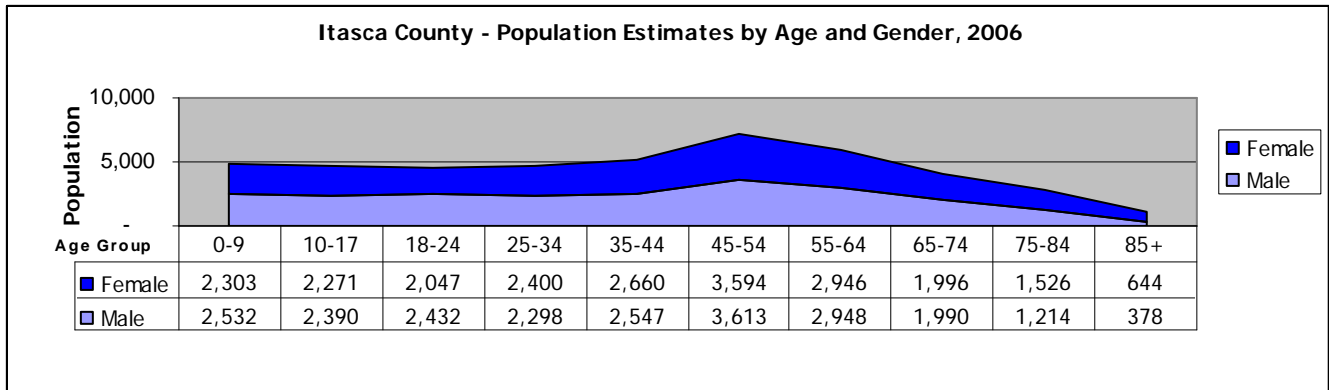
Survey of United Way Donors

ARDC staff worked with Zenith Research Group to design and conduct a randomized on-line survey of United Way donors. 200 donors were provided with a link to an anonymous, on-line survey. 59 donors (29% response rate) completed the on-line survey. A summary of survey responses is included in Section H.

Community Survey

ARDC staff worked with Zenith Research Group to design and conduct a randomized telephone survey to assess local community residents' perceptions and preferences regarding services in Itasca County. 332 respondents participated in the community survey (+/-5.3% margin of error). A summary of survey responses is included in Section I.

Demographics



U.S. Census Bureau 2006 Census Estimates: www.census.gov

Itasca County Population		
	Census 2000	2006 estimate
Bigfork	469	451
Bovey	662	669
Calumet	383	362
Cohasset	2,481	2,533
Coleraine	1,110	1,032
Deer River	903	934
Effie	91	87
Grand Rapids	7,764	8,337
Keewatin	1,164	1,098
La Prairie	605	599
Marble	695	682
Nashwauk	935	922
Squaw Lake	99	96
Taconite	315	291
Warba	183	181
Zemple	75	76
City Totals	17,934	18,350
Township Totals	19,830	19,790
Unorganized Area Totals	6,228	6,589
Total Population	43,992	44,729

U.S. Census Bureau 2006 Census Estimates: www.census.gov

- Individuals age 45-54 comprise the largest segment of the population in Itasca County.
- 95% of Itasca County residents are white. American Indian and Alaska Natives comprise 3.5% of the population and the remaining 1.5% is comprised of a variety of minority populations.
- Based on 2006 population estimates, the population has increased by approximately 1.6% since 2000.

Family Stability

Key Findings

- The rate of unemployment (7.6%) and the percentage of families in Itasca County living below the poverty line (11.8%) have consistently remained higher than the state average.
- In Itasca County, an estimated 1,582 children (17%) live in poverty. This percentage has increased over each of the past five years and is higher than the state average. Research indicates that children living in poverty have more difficulty succeeding in school, are more likely to have out-of-wedlock births as teenagers and are more likely to commit crimes.
- The cost of living has outpaced wage increases and resulted in higher numbers of “working poor”. The average hourly wage for renters in Itasca County in 2006 was insufficient to support payment for a market rate 2-bedroom apartment.
- Home foreclosures in Itasca County are increasing. Foreclosure or risk of foreclosure can cause financial hardship for homeowners and an increased need for assistance with basic needs (food, shelter, clothing).
- The rising cost of housing, energy and food have placed an additional burden on families and significantly increased the use of local resources including food shelves and energy assistance programs. The average increase in energy assistance benefits has not kept pace with the rising cost of fuel.
- Service providers in Itasca County are also impacted by the increased cost of food, energy and housing.
- Lack of reliable, cost-effective transportation is a contributing factor to family instability.

Key Informant and Focus Group Perspectives

- Increased cost of living for basic necessities (food, transportation, housing, healthcare) is causing considerable stress on families as well as service providers in Itasca County. Government funding for programs has diminished, placing financial stress on charitable organizations who may also be experiencing decreased contributions due to economic downturns.
- Families and individuals who are just above income guidelines for public assistance have difficulty meeting their basic needs. Those who are eligible for assistance cite the complexity of the application process as a barrier to accessing financial assistance and services.
- Family stability is impacted by limited basic life skills (money management, cooking, time management, problem solving skills, etc.) and lack of parenting skills. These issues often affect multiple generations.

Family Stability

Key Informant and Focus Group Perspectives (continued)

- Limited transportation options were cited as a primary barrier to accessing services and employment opportunities. There is no formal transportation to destinations outside of Itasca County. Formal transportation options end at 9:00 p.m. and do not meet the transportation needs of those working shift work.
- Barriers to utilization of existing transportation services include long and unpredictable wait times for buses (1-2 hours), limited fixed-route service and unreliable access to services outside the city of Grand Rapids. These barriers impede access to employment opportunities and appointments.
- Older adults identified the need for assisted transportation services. Teens may be reluctant to use existing transportation because of perceived stigma (i.e. "not cool").

Family Stability

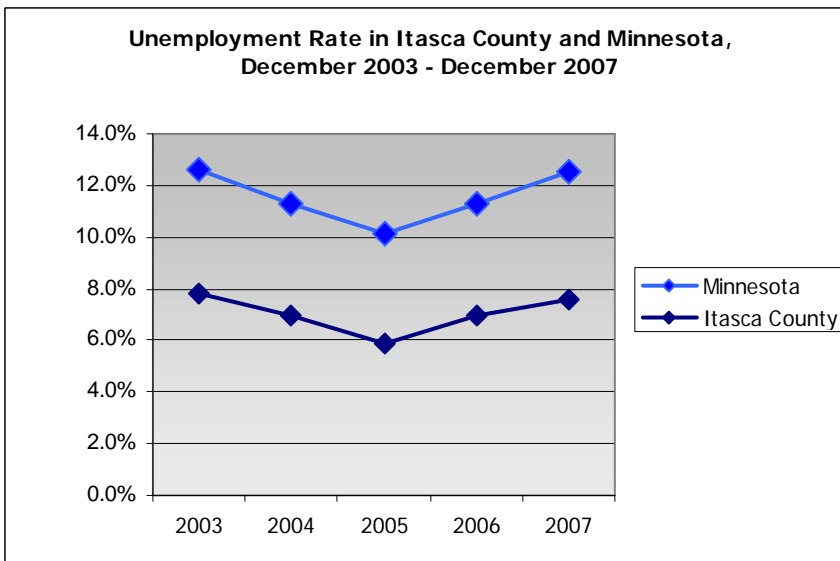
Transportation

Public Transportation Utilization			
	2006	2007	Increase
Itasca County Arrowhead Transit Usage	149,222	150,573	1,351 (.9%)

Arrowhead Transit, January 2008

- Although utilization of existing transit services has increased, access to reliable, cost effective transportation continues to be a need within the county.

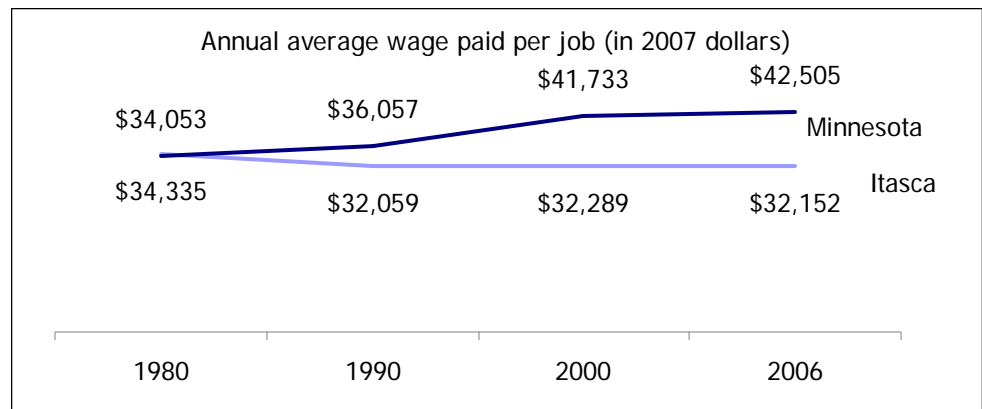
Economics



- During the past five years, the unemployment rate for Itasca County has fluctuated between 5.9% and 7.8% and has consistently remained higher than the state unemployment rate.
- 1,686 individuals seeking work in 2007 remained unemployed.

MN Department of Employment and Economic Development : <http://www.deed.state.mn.us/index.htm>

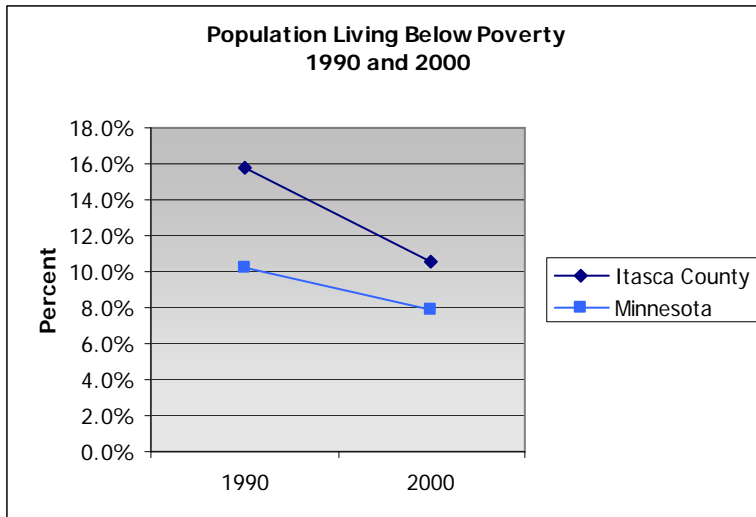
- Average annual wages paid in Itasca County are well below the state average.



MN Office of the State Demographer: <http://www.demography.state.mn.us/>

Family Stability

Economics (continued)



- The percentage of persons in Itasca County living below the poverty line has consistently remained well above the state average during recent years.
- 2005 census estimates indicate that 11.8% (5,148) of Itasca County residents live in poverty, compared to 9.2% of Minnesota residents.
- 2005 census estimates indicate that 17% (1,582) of children in Itasca County live in poverty. This rate has increased during each of the previous five years.

U.S. Census Bureau: www.census.gov

2008 U.S. Poverty Guidelines ¹		
Number of persons in family or household	2008 Income Guideline	Equivalent wages per hour
1	\$10,400	\$5/hour
2	14,000	6.73
3	17,600	8.46
4	21,200	10.19
5	24,800	11.92
6	28,400	13.65
7	32,000	15.38

¹Many programs use 185 -200% of the federal poverty rate to determine program eligibility.
U.S. Health and Human Services Administration: <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/08poverty.shtml>

Housing

Affordability of Housing		
	Itasca County ¹	Minnesota ²
Renters in 2006 unable to afford a 2-bedroom apartment at fair market rent	46%	47%
People paying over 30% of their income in rent	57%	47%
Hours needed to work per week at mean renters wage to afford a market rate 2-bedroom apartment	53 hours/week	52 hours/week
Hourly wage needed to afford a Market rate 2-bedroom apartment	\$10.37/hour	\$14.47/hour
Average hourly wage for renters	\$7.83/hour	\$11.07/hour

- In 2006, the average hourly wage for renters in Itasca County was insufficient to support payment for a market rate 2-bedroom apartment.

¹National Low Income Housing Coalition: <http://www.nlihc.org/oor/oor2006/>

²American Community Survey, 2006: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

Family Stability

Housing (continued)

Estimated Prevalence of Homelessness, 2006		
	Itasca County	Minnesota
Number of homeless persons	117	9,200
Sheltered Adults	28	6,292
Sheltered children with parents	21	2,726
Unsheltered adults	42	1,421
Unsheltered spouse partners	10	n/a
Unsheltered children with parents	16	225
Percentage of homeless persons that were children	32%	35%

Wilder Foundation Homelessness Survey, October 2006: <http://www.wilder.org/homelessness.0.html>

Specific information for GRACE House Emergency Shelter in Grand Rapids

- From May 2006-May 2008 GRACE House served 300 guests (4,000 beds), 79 were turned away (no vacancy).
- 227 guests (76%) were Itasca County residents.
- 51 guests were single women, 113 were single men.
- 29 families were served, including 35 children.
- 48 guests were unaccompanied youth (age 18-22).
- More than 50% of those served obtained jobs, furthered their education or obtained housing while at GRACE House.

Persons at Risk of Homelessness: Summary of Sheriff's Sales for 2005-2008					
Region	2005 Sheriff's	2006 Sheriff's	2007 Sheriff's	2008 Sheriff's	Percent Change
	Sales	Sales	Sales	Sales (Projected) ¹	'05-'08 (Projected)
Itasca County	77	64	73	92	19%
Arrowhead Region	389	506	610	790	103%
Minnesota	6,466	11,207	20,404	28,282	337%

¹ 2008 Sheriff's Sales (Projected) is an estimate based on the number of sheriff's sales for Q1 2008. Actual numbers will vary depending on conditions over the remainder of the year.

Greater Minnesota County Sheriff's Sales, July 2008: <http://www.housinglink.org/Foreclosure.htm>

- Foreclosure data is often an indicator of persons at risk of homelessness.
- Foreclosures in Itasca County increased 15% between 2006 and 2007.

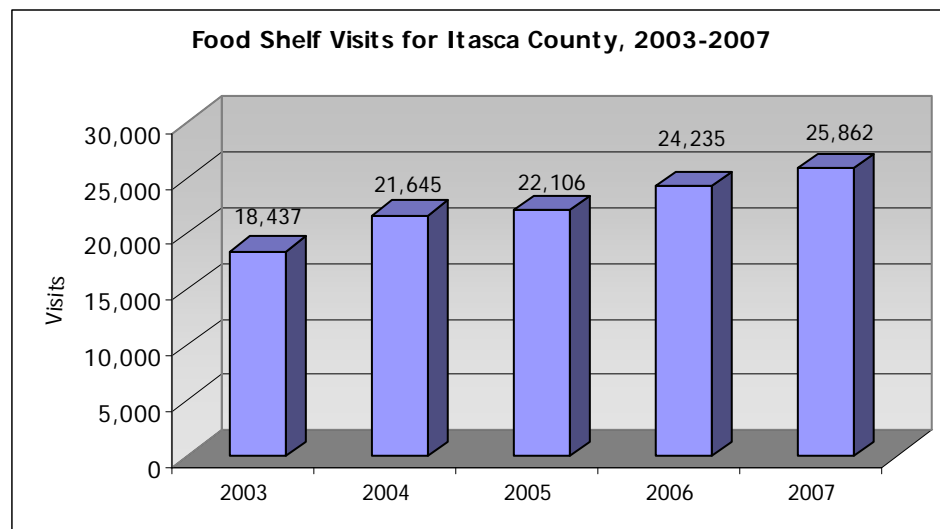
Family Stability

Energy and Food Assistance

Energy and Crisis Assistance Needs in Itasca County					
	10/1/2004-9/30/2005	10/1/2005 - 9/30/2006	10/1/2006-9/30/2007	10/1/2007-9/30/2008	% Increase from 10/1/2004 - 9/30/2008
Energy Assistance applications approved for Itasca County	2,280	2,407	2,267	2,418	6.1%
Average annual Energy Assistance benefit per household	\$482	\$615	\$634	\$659	36.7%
Cost of #1 fuel oil	\$2.15/gal	\$2.74/gal	\$2.49/gal	\$4.10/gal	90.7%
Cost of propane	\$1.60/gal	\$1.76/gal	\$1.77/gal	\$2.39/gal	49.4%
Households served by the Emergency Benefit Grant in Itasca County ¹	837	649	482	968	15.7%
Average Emergency Benefit amount per household	\$295	\$278	\$275	\$282	-4.4%

¹Emergency Benefit Grant is a federally funded program offering assistance with energy costs. KOOTASCA Energy Assistance Program, 2008

- During the past four years the average increase in annual energy assistance benefits per household in Itasca County has not kept pace with the increase in heating fuel costs.
- Data is reported for each federal fiscal year. Available funding is usually depleted prior to the end of the fiscal year.



Itasca County food shelves, January 2008

Food Shelf Utilization by Community 2003-2007	
	% increase
Deer River	2%
Grand Rapids	60%
Bigfork	16%
Nashwauk	20%
Warba	10%
Total	40%

- Food shelf utilization in Itasca County increased by 40% (7,425 visits) between 2003-2007.

Family Stability

Domestic Violence

Advocates for Family Peace Total Number of Victim Clients Assisted			
	2002	2007	% Change
Women	657	723	10%
Men	26	51	96%
Children	921	1,176	28%
Total	1,604	1,950	22%

<http://www.stopdomesticabuse.org/statistics.htm> Itasca County Advocates for Family Peace

Health, Wellness & Healing

Key Findings

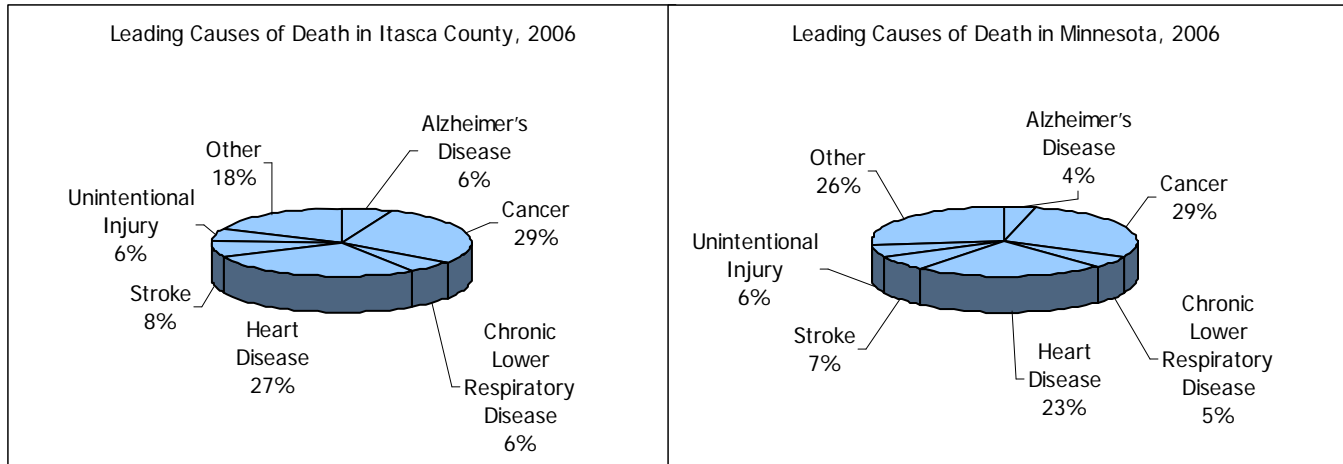
- A high percentage of Itasca County residents report that they delay or avoid seeking medical care due to underinsurance or lack of insurance. Lack of preventative care, screenings and early treatment can result in greater overall healthcare expenditures. Access to dental care services for low income residents is limited due to lack of providers and inadequate transportation options to providers accepting public assistance payment for services.
- Substance abuse has a significant impact on persons in Itasca County. Rates of alcohol-related vehicle accidents and impaired driving incidents are higher than the state average. 20-25% of Itasca County 12th graders reported that alcohol use repeatedly caused family problems. Alcohol consumption can lead to heart disease, the leading cause of death in Itasca County. In 2007, more than 50% of child protection cases involved a parent with an alcohol, drug or mental health issue.
- Itasca County residents, especially those age 18-34, use tobacco at higher rates than other Minnesotans. The use of tobacco by expectant mothers is also higher than the state average. Tobacco use is the single most preventable cause of disease and death.
- Itasca County residents report more depression, anxiety/panic disorders and other mental health issues compared to the Arrowhead region. Itasca County ranks 7th in the state for suicides for those age 5-34. Itasca County is designated by the federal government as a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) for mental health providers.
- Research indicates that healthy children become healthy adults. The Minnesota student survey data indicates that many health risk behaviors (smoking, alcohol consumption, early sexual activity) begin at an early age for a significant percentage of Itasca County youth.

Key Informant and Focus Group Perspectives

- Affordable healthcare was cited as a key issue; uninsured and underinsured residents do not access preventative services and screenings nor care for chronic conditions. Those eligible for assistance are dissuaded by complex application processes.
- The rising cost of living impacts the ability to meet basic needs. People who live on a fixed income or with limited healthcare coverage can't afford the high cost of prescription medications while struggling to afford food, shelter, transportation and heat.
- A depressed economy reduces hope and increases risk behaviors (smoking, alcohol/drug use).
- The focus needs to shift from crisis intervention to prevention. With limited funding, it is difficult to focus on both.
- Healthy behaviors begin during childhood and may not be modeled in the home. Schools have limited capacity to provide health education programs and messages not reinforced in the home may be disregarded.
- While the Crisis Response Team is seen as a strength, additional mental health care providers are needed to adequately meet the demand for mental health services in Itasca County.

Health, Wellness & Healing

Health Status Indicators



Minnesota County Health Tables 2007: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/chs/countytables/profiles2007/index.html>

- More than 50% of deaths in Itasca County are caused by cancer or heart disease.
- The leading causes of death for Itasca County do not differ greatly from causes of death statewide. Heart disease, however, accounts for more deaths in Itasca County than statewide rates.
- "Other" causes of death include AIDS/HIV, diabetes, cirrhosis, congenital anomalies, diabetes, hypertension, influenza, nephritis, pneumonia, SIDS and suicide.

Bridge to Health Survey Findings

- Approximately 9.2% of Itasca County residents are uninsured.
- 69% of survey respondents reported they had delayed or avoided seeking medical care during the past 12 months due to:
 - 1) lack of insurance (37%);
 - 2) cost of care was too expensive (19%);
 - 3) care/service not covered by insurance (14%)
- 82% of survey respondents reported postponing dental work due to lack of insurance (51%) and the cost of dental care (31%).

Bridge to Health Survey, June 2006: http://www.generations-healthcare.org/brdg_main.php#geographic

Prenatal and Maternal Health

	Itasca County	Minnesota
Teen pregnancy rate (2004-2006)	14.8 per 1000	19 per 1000
Prenatal care received in first trimester (2006)	85.6%	86.5%
Births to unmarried mothers (2006)	36%	31.7%
Births with no father on birth certificate (2006)	11.5%	9.4%
Mothers who smoked during pregnancy (2006)	24%	9.3%

Minnesota County Health Tables 2007: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/chs/countytables/profiles2007/index.html>

Health, Wellness & Healing

Other Health Indicators

Mental Health				
Health Status Indicators, 2005	Itasca County	Itasca County	Region	Region
	All ages	Age 18-34	All ages	Age 18-34
Told by a physician, nurse or health professional that they have or had depression	14%	18%	12%	14%
Told by a physician, nurse or health professional that they have anxiety or panic attacks	7%	7%	6%	6%
Told by a physician, nurse or health professional that they have other mental health problems	1.7%	6.4%	1.7%	3.1%

Bridge to Health Survey, June 2006: http://www.generations-healthcare.org/brdg_main.php#geographic

- Bridge to Health respondents reported more depression, anxiety/panic attacks and other mental health issues than respondents in the region.
- Itasca County is designated as a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) for mental health providers.

Suicide Rate			
1990-2005	Itasca County		Minnesota
	Suicide rate per 100,000 – all ages	13.5	
Suicide rate per 100,000 – ages 5 - 34	12.4		8.9
1990-2005	Itasca County		Itasca County in Rank Order
	Number of suicides – all ages		92
Number of suicides – ages 5-34		33	7th

Minnesota Department of Health, 2007: <http://www.leg.state.mn.us/docs/2007/other/070638.pdf>

Adult Health Indicators		
Health Status Indicators, 2005	Itasca County	Itasca County
	All ages	Age 18-34
Considered overweight	33%	25%
Engage in moderate physical activity 3 or more days per week	87%	90%

Bridge to Health Survey, June 2006: http://www.generations-healthcare.org/brdg_main.php#geographic

- Self reported indicators regarding weight and physical activity are consistent with regional and statewide data.

Youth Health Indicators				
6 th , 9 th and 12 th grade students that reported:	Itasca County		Minnesota	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Physical activity of 30 minutes or more 3 or more days per week	77%	70%	76%	73%
	79%	76%	80%	73%
	77%	77%	73%	56%
Being overweight	21%	26%	16%	20%
	17%	32%	17%	29%
	19%	30%	18%	32%

Minnesota Student Survey, 2007: http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/Learning_Support/Safe_and_Healthy_Learners/Minnesota_Student_Survey/index.html

- Itasca County students report comparable rates of physical activity and obesity compared to statewide responses.
- 20-25% of students report 30 minutes of physical activity 2 or fewer days per week.

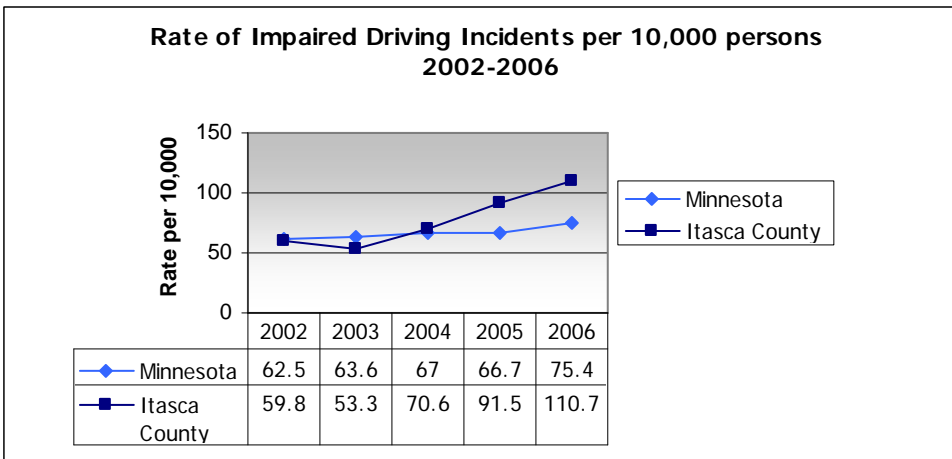
Health, Wellness & Healing

Risk Behaviors

Alcohol-Related Motor Vehicle Injuries and Crashes in 2006		
	Itasca County	Minnesota
Total number of vehicle crashes 2006	581	78,745
Percent of total vehicle crashes, alcohol related	10%	6%
Total number of fatal vehicle crashes	5	456
Percentage of fatal vehicle crashes, alcohol-related	40%	34%
Total number of motor vehicle crashes with injuries	334	35,025
Percentage of motor vehicle crashes with injuries, alcohol-related	17%	10%

- The percentage of vehicle related accidents, fatalities and injuries due to alcohol use is significantly higher in Itasca County than statewide.

Minnesota Department of Public Safety, 2007: http://www.dps.state.mn.us/OTS/crashdataimpaired_driving.asp



- The rate of impaired driving incidents in Itasca County is higher than the state rate and has steadily increased during the past several years.

Minnesota County Health Tables 2007:

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/chs/countytables/profiles2007/index.html>

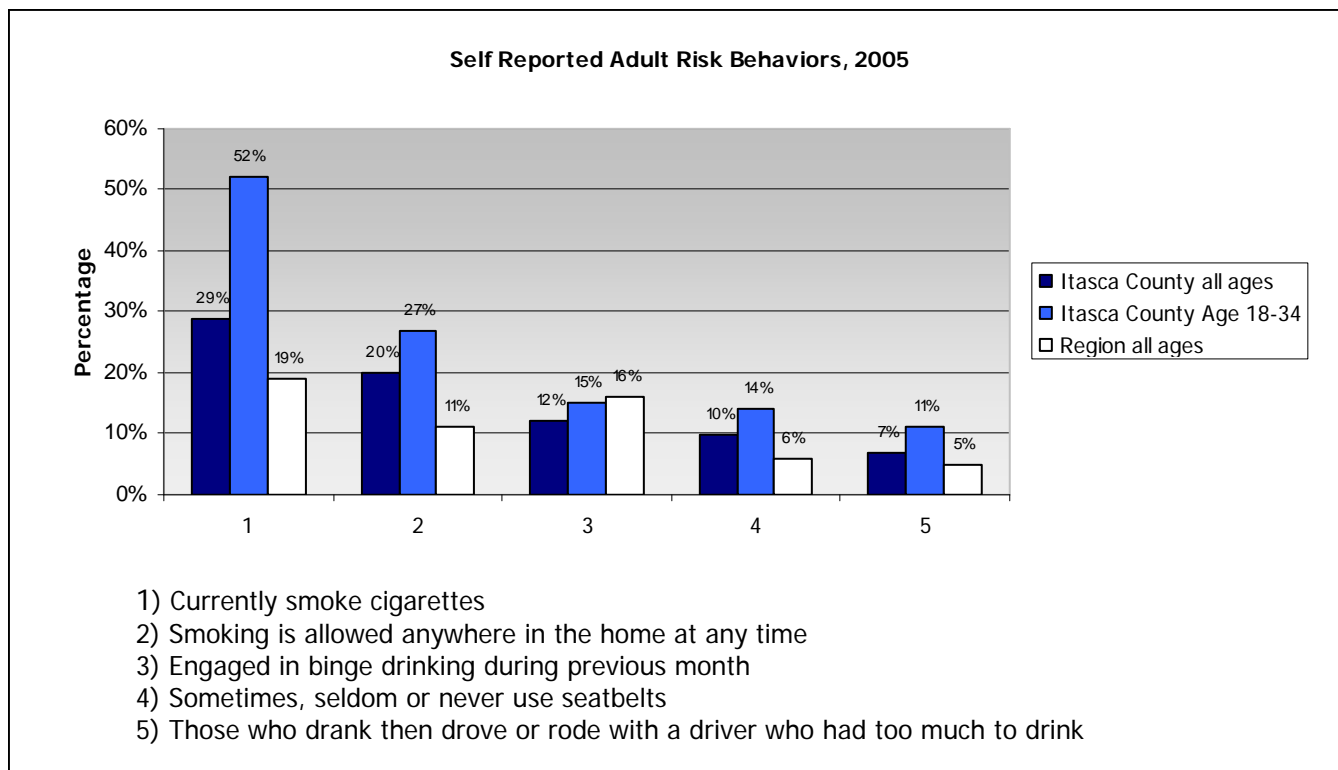
Youth/Family Substance Abuse				
6 th , 9 th and 12 th grade students that reported:	Itasca County		Minnesota	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Alcohol used by a family member repeatedly caused family, health, job or legal problems	13% 13% 19%	10% 29% 28%	11% 12% 14%	13% 19% 20%
Drug use by a family member repeatedly caused family, health, job or legal problems	12% 7% 11%	9% 17% 16%	8% 9% 9%	10% 13% 12%
Drove a motor vehicle after using alcohol or drugs at least once in the past 12 months	* * 26%	* * 20%	* * 28%	* * 22%

*6th and 9th grade surveys did not include this question.

Minnesota Student Survey, 2007: http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/Learning_Support/Safe_and_Healthy_Learners/Minnesota_Student_Survey/index.html

Health, Wellness & Healing

Risk Behaviors (continued)



Bridge to Health Survey, June 2006: http://www.generations-healthcare.org/brdg_main.php#geographic

Teen Risk Behaviors				
6 th , 9 th and 12 th grade students that reported they:	Itasca County		Minnesota	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Drank at least one or more alcoholic beverage in the previous 30 days	9% 20% 51%	4% 42% 48%	4% 23% 49%	4% 25% 46%
Drank five or more drinks in a row at least once in the previous two weeks	* 15% 35%	* 21% 28%	* 13% 35%	* 13% 26%
Smoked cigarettes at least once during the previous 30 days	2% 17% 22%	7% 22% 26%	2% 12% 27%	2% 12% 24%
Sometimes or never wear a seat belt when they ride in a car	14% 21% 30%	10% 20% 12%	15% 20% 26%	10% 15% 15%
Drove a motor vehicle after using alcohol or other drugs at least once in the previous 12 months	* 3% 26%	* 11% 20%	* 6% 28%	* 4% 22%

*6th grade surveys did not include this question.

Minnesota Student Survey, 2007: http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/Learning_Support/Safe_and_Healthy_Learners/Minnesota_Student_Survey/index.html

Child & Teen Resiliency

Key Findings

- Statistics show that 17.2% of Itasca County children live in poverty. When families have limited resources the health and well-being of their children is impacted immediately and decades later. Research provides an abundance of evidence regarding the drastic effect of poverty on children, jeopardizing their prospects for good health, a solid education, and skills to join the workforce (*Children's Defense Fund 2008*).
- Childcare plays a pivotal role in parents' efforts to prepare for and maintain employment. Research indicates that the key to ensuring sustained employment for families is access to childcare that is affordable, reliable, flexible and safe. Due to non-standard hours and rotating schedules, many low-income families must rely on multiple childcare arrangements. Limited childcare options in Itasca County may impact employment, particularly for single parents.
- Almost 25% of children under age three in Itasca County are at risk for developmental delays.
- Research indicates that truancy is a significant predictor of: cigarette use, alcohol/drug use, weapon-related violence, delinquency and suicidal thoughts/attempts. In Itasca County, the Human Resource Officers (HROs) working with truancy prevention and intervention report increasing incidence at all grade levels. Truancy can be the first indicator that a family needs assistance with other issues (poverty, transportation, etc.).
- Although children and teens in Itasca County may be considered typical in comparison to their statewide peers, many of the risk-taking behaviors are still cause for concern, including the degree that they engage in sexual activity, smoking, not wearing seatbelts and alcohol use.
- A significant percentage of students report no participation in extra-curricular activities. Research indicates that the benefits of participation in extra-curricular activities include improved health and self-esteem, reduced delinquent behavior and an enhanced ability to withstand peer pressure that can lead to risky behaviors.
- Research by the Search Institute (www.search-institute.org) has identified key factors that influence developmental assets in youth and promote child and teen resiliency. These assets are fostered through the creation of supportive relationships that make a significant impact in the lives of children and teens. Programs that create opportunities for adults to support youth through mentoring have been shown to enhance positive behaviors and attitudes and promote resiliency.

Key Informant and Focus Group Perspectives

- Transportation is a significant barrier to participation in activities and access to services for children and teens. Barriers may be real (no access, limited fixed-route service) or perceived (stigma of riding the bus). Increased gas prices affect parents' ability to transport children to and from activities. Increasing costs of basic needs limit the financial resources that are available to pay for extra-curricular activities.

Child & Teen Resiliency

Key Findings (continued)

- Access to flexible, affordable, quality childcare is an issue, particularly for parents who work 2nd or 3rd shifts or hold multiple jobs. Childcare choices are limited outside the city of Grand Rapids and anecdotal information suggests that many children are cared for in unlicensed settings.
- Children are a product of their environment and are affected when parents are stressed due to: financial concerns, job-related concerns, chemical dependency and/or mental health issues. To adequately meet the needs of children, the needs of parents must be addressed as well.
- Focus group participants expressed support for expanding opportunities to create volunteer-based mentoring programs for at-risk teens. Anecdotal evidence suggests that many teens believe adults do not care about them nor want them around, and that programs and activities are not accessible to teens with limited financial resources. Similar anecdotal information suggests that teens who have one caring adult actively involved in their lives are better able to overcome barriers to success.

Child & Teen Resiliency

Demographics

Child and Teen Demographics	
Children 0-17	9,496
Children 0-4	2,450
Children 5-13	4,474
Children 14-17	2,572
K-12 Public School Enrollment	6,776

U.S. Census Bureau: <http://www.census.gov>

- Children 0-17 comprise 21% of Itasca County's population.
- 26% of children are between 0-4.
- 47% of children are between 5-13.
- 27% of children are between 14-17.

Public Health Indicators		
	Itasca County	Minnesota
Percentage of children without health insurance ¹	9.7%	6%
Rate of abuse and neglect (ages 10-17) ¹	10 per 1000	6.8 per 1000
Teen pregnancy rate (ages 15-17) ²	14.8 per 1000	19 per 1000
Children born at low birth weight ²	6%	5%
Children Receiving Free/reduced price lunch ¹	50%	38%
Youth and Young Adult Suicide Rate (per 100,000) ³	12.4	8.9

¹Minnesota Kids Count 2008 based on 2006/7 statistics: www.cdf-mn.org

²Minnesota County Health Table, 2006: www.health.state.mn.us/divs/chs/countytables/profiles2007/index.html

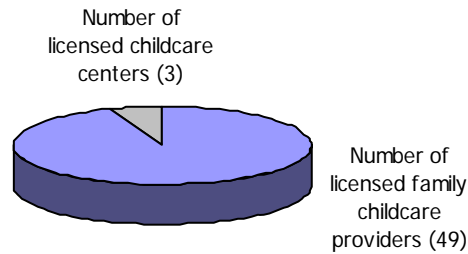
³Minnesota Department of Health (2000-2005): www.health.state.mn.us/injury/pub/index.cfm?Pub=injury&gcCategory=self

- Itasca County Public Health indicators are higher than statewide rates/percentages in several areas.

Child & Teen Resiliency

Childcare

Availability of Childcare Providers in Grand Rapids, 2008

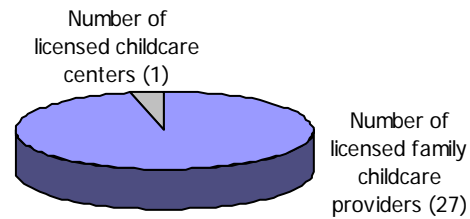


- Licensed family-based care is the primary childcare option throughout Itasca County. Anecdotal reports suggest that unlicensed options are frequently used, especially in rural areas of the county where licensed options may be limited.

Child Care Resource and Referral, February 2008

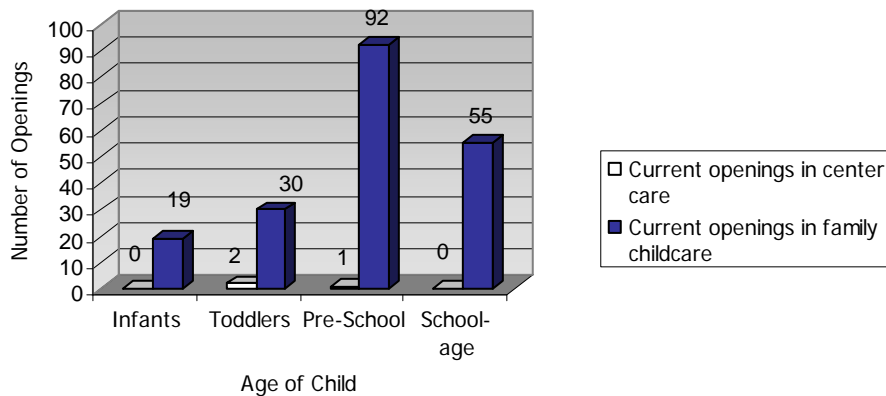
- The average annual cost of full-time family-based infant care is \$7,060; the average annual cost of full-time center based pre-school care is \$6,180. These costs are equivalent to 20-22% of the average annual wage in Itasca County.

Availability of Childcare Providers in Itasca County Outside of Grand Rapids, 2008



Child Care Resource and Referral, February 2008

Current Openings in Childcare for Itasca County, 2008



Child Care Resource and Referral, February 2008

- Current openings for infant and toddler care are limited and comprise only 12% of the available openings; 47% of the available openings are for pre-school care.

Child & Teen Resiliency

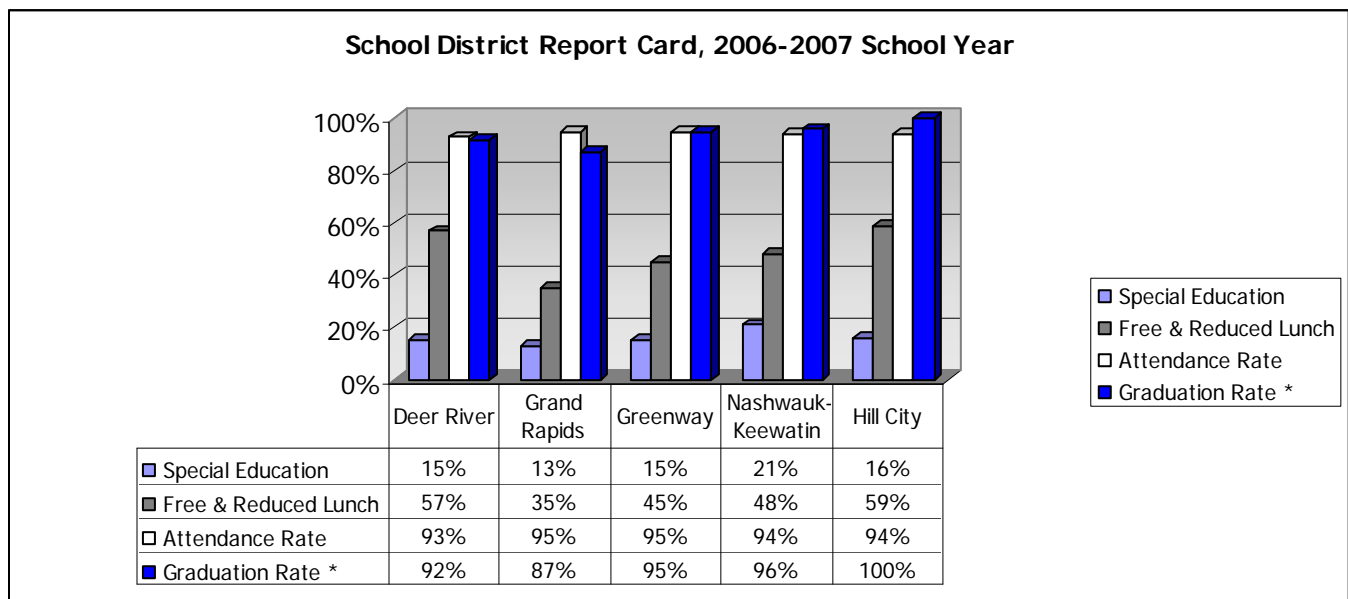
School Readiness

Top Ranked Risk Factors Experienced by Young Children				
Type of Risk Factor	Families in Invest Early with Risk Factors			
	0-2 year olds	3 year olds	4-5 year olds	All
Family stress in the past year (death, divorce, unemployment, incarceration)	66%	49%	46%	54%
Child had no other opportunity for socialization with peers (isolation)	44%	33%	45%	41%
Single parent/family or other primary caregiver	37%	35%	26%	33%
History or evidence of delays reaching development milestones	32%	27%	31%	30%
Medical concerns: premature birth, low birth weight, birth defects, fetal alcohol syndrome/effect, allergies	35%	17%	17%	24%

Invest Early Evaluation: Wilder Research, March 2008

School Readiness in Itasca County					
	Low Income Families			Higher Income Families	
	In Invest Early	No Invest Early; attended Head Start or school readiness	No Invest Early, Head Start or school readiness	In Invest Early	No Invest Early
Considered proficient to enter Kindergarten	39%	39%	37%	47%	55%

Invest Early Evaluation: Wilder Research, March 2008



*Grand Rapids graduation rates do not include students (7.4%) continuing their education through the Alternative Learning Center (ALC).
Minnesota Department of Education, School Report Card, 2006-07 School Year: <http://education.state.mn.us/ReportCard2005/index.do>

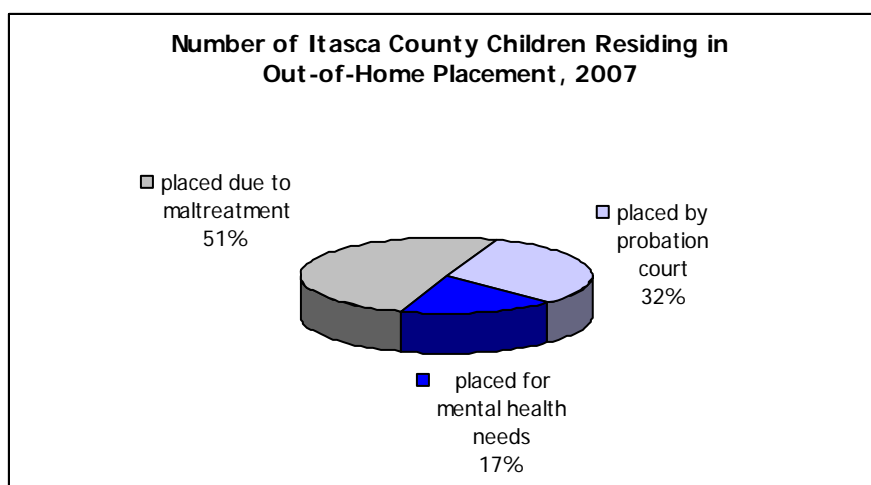
Child & Teen Resiliency

Child Protection

Itasca County Child Protection 2007 ¹	
	Number
Total number of reports out of 2688 intakes in 2007	459
Number of reports that included neglect (non-medical) allegations	275 (60%)
Number of reports that included physical abuse allegations	116 (25%)
Number of reports that included sexual abuse allegations	44 (10%)
Number of reports that included medical neglect allegations	14 (3%)
Number of reports that included mental/emotional harm allegations	10 (2%)

¹Most child protection reports have more than one type of allegation. Approximately half are opened for assessment, and approximately 45% do not meet the state criteria for maltreatment assessment.
Itasca County Human Services, 2007

- More than 50% of children in out-of-home placements in 2007 were placed due to maltreatment.
- The rate per 1,000 children in out-of-home placement in Itasca County was 25 in 2006, compared to a statewide rate of 11.7 (*Minnesota Department of Human Services Child Welfare Report*).



Itasca County Human Services, 2007

Parental Issues in Child Protection Cases—2007	
	Number
Parents with either alcohol/drug or mental health issues	75 (51%)
Parents with alcohol or other drug issue	45 (31%)
Parents with mental health issue	37 (25%)
Parents with no alcohol/drug or mental health issue	34 (23%)
Parents with dual mental health/alcohol/drug issue	34 (23%)

Itasca County Human Services, 2007

- More than 50% of child protection cases in 2007 involved parents with either an alcohol/drug issue or mental health issues. Approximately half of those cases involved a parent with both alcohol/drug and mental health issues

Child & Teen Resiliency

Special Needs

Special Needs of Children of All Ages	
	Itasca County
Estimated number of children birth-to-three with a special health care need	122
Number of children in Early Intervention	28
Birth-to-three population served by Early Intervention	1.80%
Estimated number of children (all ages) with special needs ¹	1,394
Estimated number of children that need medications ²	1,064
Estimated number of children that need services ³	560
Estimated number of children with developmental, behavioral or emotional needs ⁴	418
Number of children/youth in Children's Mental Health Services Day Treatment	230
Number of children/youth in Children's Mental Health Services Case Management	640

¹ Minnesota County Health Tables, 2006:
<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/chs/countytables/profiles2007/index.html>

² Children's Mental Health Services report, Feb. 2008

Prevalence of Special Needs by Age Group	
	Itasca County
Number of children with special care needs birth to age 6	254 (18%)
Number of children with special care needs age 6-12	455 (33%)
Number of youth with special care needs age 12-18	685 (49%)

¹ Minnesota County Health Tables, 2006:
<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/chs/countytables/profiles2007/index.html>

Children At Risk for Development Delays

The Follow-Along Program (FAP) provides a means for counties to track children who may be at risk for development delays.

Total birth-to-three population Itasca County:	1522
Number tracked through FAP	371
Percentage tracked through FAP	24.4%

Almost 1 in 4 children in Itasca County under age three are considered at risk for development delays.

¹ Minnesota County Health Tables, 2006:
<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/chs/countytables/profiles2007/index.html>

Definitions:

- ¹ Children to age 21 with physical, developmental or mental health conditions which are certain to last for at least one year and which cause limitation in function, activity or social role, dependency on medication, diet, assistive device or personal assistance to compensate for limited function or the need for medical care or related services over and above the usual for child's age.
- ² Children who need prescription medications for a health or related condition expected to last for more than one year.
- ³ Children who need assistance for a medical, mental health or behavioral condition that is expected to last for more than one year.
- ⁴ Children who have an emotional, behavioral or development problem for which they need treatment or counseling.

Child & Teen Resiliency

Teen Risk Factors

Self-Inflicted Injury and Suicide Thoughts and Behaviors				
6 th , 9 th and 12 th grade students that reported they:	Itasca County		Minnesota	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Had hurt themselves on purpose ("cutting", burns, bruises) at least once	19% 7% 15%	12% 35% 26%	16% 11% 12%	13% 26% 25%
Thought at least once about killing themselves	13% 12% 30%	22% 32% 30%	16% 18% 22%	16% 32% 32%
Tried to kill themselves at least once	1% 4% 5%	3% 13% 9%	3% 5% 7%	3% 9% 10%
Felt quite a bit or extremely discouraged or hopeless in the previous 30 days	10% 3% 12%	15% 18% 10%	10% 11% 11%	12% 18% 13%

- Suicide data indicates that Itasca County is ranked 7th of Minnesota counties with a rate of 12.4 suicides per 100,000 population.
- The rate of suicide for Native American youth is approximately 2½ times the state average.

Minnesota Student Survey, 2007: http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/Learning_Support/Safe_and_Healthy_Learners/Minnesota_Student_Survey/index.html

Teen Risk Factors				
6 th , 9 th and 12 th grade students that reported they:	Itasca County		Minnesota	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Drank at least one or more alcoholic beverages in the previous 30 days	9% 20% 51%	4% 42% 48%	4% 23% 49%	4% 25% 46%
Drank five or more drinks in a row at least once in the previous 2 weeks	* 15% 35%	* 21% 28%	* 13% 35%	* 13% 26%
Used marijuana or other drugs at least once during the past 30 days	3% 9% 20%	3% 18% 17%	1% 11% 23%	1% 9% 16%
Sometimes or never wear a seat belt when they ride in a car	14% 21% 30%	10% 20% 12%	15% 20% 26%	10% 15% 15%
Drove a motor vehicle after using alcohol or other drugs at least once in the previous 12 months	* 3% 26%	* 11% 20%	* 6% 28%	* 4% 22%
Have engaged in sexual intercourse	* 22% 57%	* 30% 53%	* 21% 49%	* 17% 49%
If sexually active, never, rarely or sometimes using birth control	* 55% 22%	* 46% 21%	* 53% 29%	* 50% 23%

- The degree that teens are engaging in sexual activity, smoking, not wearing seatbelts, and consuming alcohol is of concern. Adults in Itasca County are more likely to be impacted by chronic health issues related to smoking and alcohol use than other adults in Minnesota. Healthy teens are more likely to develop into healthy adults.

*6th grade survey did not include this question.

Minnesota Student Survey, 2007: http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/Learning_Support/Safe_and_Healthy_Learners/Minnesota_Student_Survey/index.html

Child & Teen Resiliency

Teen Risk Factors (continued)

Sexual Violence				
6th, 9 th and 12 th grade students that reported:	Itasca County		Minnesota	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Someone they were going out with hit them, hurt them, threatened them or made them feel afraid	*	*	*	*
	4%	17%	5%	7%
Someone they were going out with forced them to have sex or do something sexual they didn't want to	4%	18%	7%	15%
	*	*	*	*
	3%	14%	4%	8%
	6%	19%	5%	12%

- Itasca County students reported higher incidence of sexual violence compared to their statewide peers.

*6th grade survey did not include this question.

Minnesota Student Survey, 2007: http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/Learning_Support/Safe_and_Healthy_Learners/Minnesota_Student_Survey/index.html

School Retention (2005)		
	Itasca County	Minnesota
Children changing schools (K-12)	20%	15.2%
Children dropping out of school (grades 7-12)	2.8%	2.2%

- The number of children changing schools or dropping out of school is higher than the statewide average. Studies show that students who frequently change schools experience less success at school and have lower graduation rates.
- Annual dropout rates reflect cumulative number of dropouts reported for grades 7-12 divided by enrollment as of Oct 1.

MN Dept of Education <http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/Data/index.html>

Truancy

Truancy, Feelings about School and School Attendance				
6 th , 9 th and 12 th grade students that reported:	Itasca County		Minnesota	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Skipping no school in the last 30 days	79%	75%	78%	80%
	77%	69%	79%	78%
	54%	58%	62%	65%
Skipping school once or twice in the last 30 days	16%	16%	16%	14%
	18%	25%	15%	16%
	36%	33%	25%	24%
Skipping school 3 or more times in the last 30 days	6%	10%	6%	5%
	6%	7%	6%	6%
	11%	10%	13%	10%
School is liked very much or quite a bit	45%	60%	47%	67%
	34%	53%	40%	53%
	49%	25%	40%	49%
They would like to go to college after high school	*	*	*	*
	66%	65%	61%	61%
	59%	49%	55%	56%

- Itasca County Human Resource Officers (HROs) reported over 400 parent contacts regarding truancy during the current school year. The incidence of truancy is increasing at all levels, including elementary school.

*6th grade survey did not include this question.

Minnesota Student Survey, 2007: http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/Learning_Support/Safe_and_Healthy_Learners/Minnesota_Student_Survey/index.html

Child & Teen Resiliency

Activity Participation

Activity Participation				
6 th , 9 th and 12 th grade students that participated in the following at least monthly:	Itasca County		Minnesota	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Fine arts activities	46%	73%	55%	74%
	34%	62%	37%	61%
	26%	48%	30%	48%
Club or community sports teams at least monthly	45%	44%	53%	47%
	39%	41%	44%	41%
	41%	36%	39%	35%
School sports teams at least monthly	52%	52%	33%	29%
	57%	60%	54%	50%
	50%	52%	48%	40%
Religious activities	46%	57%	43%	52%
	49%	48%	47%	56%
	43%	45%	33%	42%

Minnesota Student Survey, 2007: http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/Learning_Support/Safe_and_Healthy_Learners/Minnesota_Student_Survey/index.html

Reasons for Not Participating in Activities				
6 th , 9 th and 12 th grade student reasons for not participating in activities:	Itasca County		Minnesota	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
I'm not interested	56%	48%	57%	51%
	67%	48%	60%	55%
	63%	62%	55%	51%
Too busy with other things	39%	48%	35%	46%
	32%	39%	39%	50%
	46%	62%	48%	64%
Activities cost too much	23%	33%	14%	23%
	22%	21%	15%	23%
	17%	26%	14%	20%
Other reasons	35%	21%	22%	23%
	21%	15%	20%	19%
	17%	15%	15%	13%

Minnesota Student Survey, 2007: http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/Learning_Support/Safe_and_Healthy_Learners/Minnesota_Student_Survey/index.html

- Approximately 50% of 12th grade students do not participate in any extra-curricular activities.
- Participation rates are lowest for 12th graders.
- Lack of interest and too busy with other things were cited most frequently as reasons for not participating in extra curricular or community-based activities.

Older Adults

Key Findings

- The percentage of older adults (age 60+) continues to increase throughout the county, state and nation. In 2006, persons 60+ represented 23% of Itasca County's population compared to 20% in 1990. Population projections through 2025 predict continued growth among those age 60+.
- Nationwide, there has been an increase in older adults with high incomes and a decrease in the proportion living in poverty. The percentage of older adults in Itasca County with income at or below the poverty level decreased from 16% in 1990 to 9% in 2000. However, older women living alone remain at risk of living in poverty.
- As with other age groups, the percentage of older adults who are overweight or obese has increased from 21% to 31% in the past 20 years. 32% of older adults in Itasca County reported no moderate physical activity during the past 60 days. Lifestyle factors and risk behaviors impact the health status of older adults. Limitations resulting from chronic diseases can affect the ability to age in place/remain safely at home.
- Prescription drugs account for a large percentage of out-of-pocket healthcare costs. During the past 10 years, the percentage of healthcare costs attributed to prescription drugs increased from 8% to 15%. 26% of older adults in Itasca County report difficulty affording the cost of prescription drugs.
- The incidence of grandparents raising grandchildren for extended periods of time is higher in Itasca County compared to the region and the state, particularly those providing care for five years or more.

Key Informant and Focus Group Perspectives

- Older adults are often reluctant to access available services. Complex application forms and program requirements are often a barrier to receiving available assistance (i.e. food stamps). Some older adults are reluctant to accept assistance due to a perceived stigma or fear of losing their independence.
- Transportation is a growing concern for older adults, particularly those who need assisted transportation to access healthcare services both within and outside of Itasca County.

Older Adults

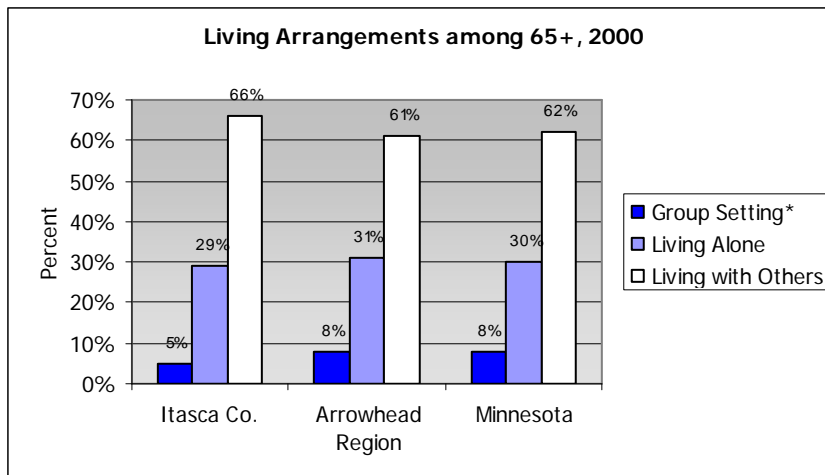
Demographics

Older Adult Demographics, 2006	
Adults Age 60+	10,271
Age 60-69	4,701 (46%)
Age 70-79	3,389 (33%)
Age 80+	2,181 (21%)

U.S. Census Bureau: www.census.gov

- Over one-third of Itasca County households include one or more persons age 60+ (6,458 of 17,789 households).
- Itasca County's 60+ population has grown 6.8% since 2000 (9,614 in 2000, 10,217 in 2006).
- In 2006, adults 60+ comprised 23% of the county's total population, higher than the percentage of adults 60+ in the region (21%), the state (16%) or the nation (16%).

Living Arrangements



*Group setting includes long term care facilities and residential care settings

U.S. Census Bureau: www.census.gov

- The majority of older adults in Itasca County live in a family setting. More than 80% of householders 65+ own their own home.

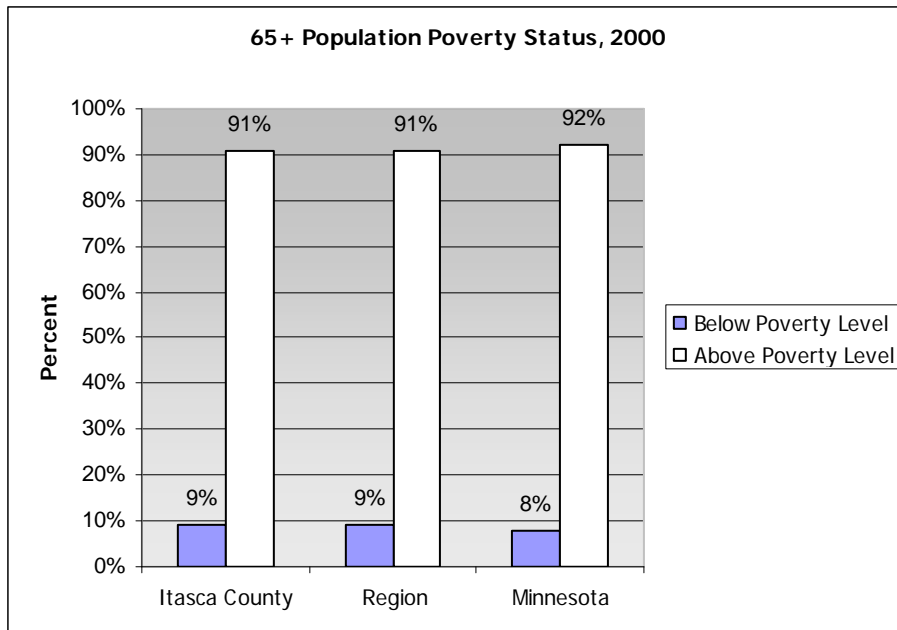
Grandparents Caring for Grandchildren: Prevalence and Duration of Caregiving							
	% living with own grandchildren under age 18	% responsible for grandchildren under age 18	<6 mos	6-11 mos	1-2yrs	3-4yrs	5+yrs
Itasca County	1.5%	47.9%	10.2%	3.1%	38.8%	10.7%	37.2%
Arrowhead Region	1.4%	47.3%	10.8%	13.9%	27.5%	18.3%	29.4%
State of MN	1.6%	39.1%	15.8%	13.0%	26.5%	14.9%	29.9%

U.S. Census Bureau: www.census.gov

- 409 grandparents in Itasca County live with grandchildren who are younger than 18 years old. 48% of these grandparents (196) are responsible for the provision of basic needs for their grandchildren.
- 87% of grandparents raising grandchildren provide care for more than a year. 37% provide care for five years or more.

Older Adults

Economics



*see family stability section page C-4 for poverty guidelines
U.S. Census Bureau: www.census.gov

- The percentage of older adults living in poverty* has decreased from 16% (1,357) in 1980 to 9% (623) in 2000.
- Itasca County is ranked 61st out of 87 counties in MN in regard to older adults living in poverty.
- In the 85+ age group, there are over twice as many women as men. Older women living alone are at a greater risk of living in poverty.

Survey of Older Adults and Caregivers (Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging, 2008)

Key Findings—Itasca County

- 23% of all older adults responding reported caring for someone else due to injury, disability, medical condition or inability to care for themselves. Of those caregivers, 66% care for a spouse, 25% care for a parent or another relative, and 8% care for a neighbor.
- Survey respondents indicated a need to expand the following to assist older adults in Itasca County to remain in their homes: Home modification and repair services (27%), chore services—housework, snow shoveling, etc.—(27%), assisted transportation (17%), home delivered meals (17%) and homemaker services—assistance with meal preparation, shopping, etc. (12%).
- Survey respondents reported difficulties with the following during the previous 12 months: Physical health (68%), performing heavy housework or chores (53%), affording medications (26%), financial problems (29%), feeling depressed (20%), performing activities of daily living (17%).
- 56.2% of respondents ranked the supply of available housing options for older adults as inadequate.
- 32% of survey respondents reported no participation in moderate physical activity during the last 60 days (moderate activity = 20 minutes of brisk walking or similar activity 2-3 times per week).
- 2% of respondents reported they could not afford enough food to eat. 10% of respondents reported they were unable to afford to eat healthier meals.
- 92.7% of respondents rated their quality of life as good (54.5%) or very good (38.2%).

Focus Group Survey Summary

Methodology

ARDC staff conducted four focus groups comprised of 57 participants and contacted 10 key informants. Focus group participants and key informants were asked to review the secondary data to identify: 1) inconsistencies based upon their work within the county, 2) the strengths of the human service system in Itasca County, 3) unmet needs, and 4) contributing factors and barriers to use of available services. Key findings from each focus group have been included in the corresponding data section.

Focus group participants were also asked to complete a written survey ranking priority needs in the county. 47 focus group participants completed the survey. This section includes a summary of the survey responses. The percentages included on the following charts indicate the percentage of respondents selecting each response (n=47). Responses are ordered based upon the issue ranked #1.

Focus Group Survey Summary

Question 1: What do you feel are the five most important health & human service issues facing our community?

Five Most Important Issues						
	Ranked #1	Ranked #2	Ranked #3	Ranked #4	Ranked #5	Total
Families Living in Poverty	26%	23%	11%	9%	9%	78%
Basic Needs (food, clothing)	19%	13%	6%	11%	6%	55%
Transportation	15%	9%	17%	15%	11%	67%
Affordable Housing	6%	11%	17%	9%	11%	54%
Healthcare for Uninsured	6%	13%	11%	11%	11%	52%
Homelessness	4%	11%	6%	2%	2%	25%
Assistance to Older Adults	4%	2%	2%	0%	4%	12%
Drug and Alcohol Abuse	2%	9%	6%	9%	2%	28%
Child Abuse and Neglect	2%	6%	4%	2%	2%	16%
Affordable Quality Childcare	2%	4%	0%	13%	9%	28%
Teen Programs	2%	2%	2%	4%	2%	12%
After School Youth Programs	2%	2%	2%	0%	2%	8%
Mentors for Youth	2%	2%	0%	0%	2%	6%
Mental Health Services	2%	0%	0%	6%	11%	19%
School Readiness	0%	2%	6%	2%	4%	14%
Domestic Violence	0%	2%	4%	4%	6%	16%
Disability Services	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	2%

Question 2: What five issues do you feel are currently best served in our community?

Issues Currently Best Served						
	Ranked #1	Ranked #2	Ranked #3	Ranked #4	Ranked #5	Total
Assistance to Older Adults	21%	4%	6%	13%	15%	59%
Basic Needs (food, clothing)	17%	9%	4%	2%	11%	43%
Mental Health Services	13%	15%	13%	6%	4%	51%
School Readiness	11%	9%	13%	9%	11%	53%
After School Youth Programs	11%	0%	6%	4%	4%	25%
Disability Services	9%	11%	11%	9%	6%	46%
Homelessness	4%	11%	13%	0%	9%	37%
Mentors for Youth	4%	4%	9%	15%	0%	32%
Domestic Violence	2%	9%	9%	15%	9%	44%
Teen Programs	2%	9%	4%	6%	2%	23%
Families Living in Poverty	2%	2%	2%	9%	0%	25%
Child Abuse and Neglect	2%	0%	2%	9%	0%	13%
Drug and Alcohol Abuse	0%	9%	4%	2%	6%	21%
Healthcare for Uninsured	0%	6%	4%	0%	2%	12%
Affordable Housing	0%	2%	2%	0%	0%	4%
Affordable Quality Childcare	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%	4%
Transportation	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	2%

Focus Group Survey Summary

Question 3: What five issues do you feel need additional or improved services?

Issues Requiring Additional/Improved Services						
	Ranked #1	Ranked #2	Ranked #3	Ranked #4	Ranked #5	Total
Families Living in Poverty	21%	15%	13%	4%	13%	66%
Transportation	17%	13%	17%	9%	11%	67%
Basic Needs (food, clothing)	9%	9%	6%	13%	6%	43%
Healthcare for Uninsured	6%	9%	13%	4%	11%	43%
Affordable Quality Childcare	6%	2%	9%	9%	11%	37%
Teen Programs	6%	2%	2%	4%	2%	16%
Affordable Housing	4%	13%	4%	15%	4%	40%
Homelessness	4%	9%	11%	4%	4%	32%
Child Abuse and Neglect	4%	4%	6%	4%	6%	24%
Mental Health Services	4%	2%	4%	2%	4%	16%
Mentors for Youth	4%	2%	2%	0%	0%	8%
Domestic Violence	2%	6%	2%	0%	2%	12%
Drug and Alcohol Abuse	2%	2%	2%	11%	2%	19%
School Readiness	0%	4%	0%	0%	9%	13%
Assistance to Older Adults	0%	2%	0%	4%	2%	8%
After School Youth Programs	0%	0%	2%	6%	2%	10%
Disability Services	0%	0%	0%	2%	2%	4%

Question 4: Considering the issues you contribute to financially or with volunteer support, please rank the top five services you support.

Issues Personally Supported						
	Ranked #1	Ranked #2	Ranked #3	Ranked #4	Ranked #5	Total
Basic Needs (food, clothing)	21%	11%	11%	11%	0%	54%
Teen Programs	11%	9%	6%	2%	6%	34%
After School Youth Programs	9%	9%	4%	0%	2%	24%
School Readiness	9%	2%	6%	6%	2%	25%
Families Living in Poverty	6%	6%	13%	9%	2%	36%
Assistance to Older Adults	4%	6%	4%	11%	0%	25%
Child Abuse and Neglect	4%	2%	2%	9%	2%	19%
Drug and Alcohol Abuse	4%	4%	0%	4%	6%	18%
Homelessness	2%	11%	4%	6%	4%	27%
Domestic Violence	2%	6%	4%	0%	9%	21%
Mentors for Youth	2%	4%	9%	6%	4%	25%
Mental Health Services	2%	4%	9%	0%	9%	24%
Affordable Quality Childcare	2%	4%	2%	6%	4%	18%
Transportation	2%	2%	6%	0%	4%	14%
Disability Services	2%	0%	0%	2%	0%	4%
Affordable Housing	0%	2%	2%	2%	2%	8%
Healthcare for Uninsured	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%	4%

Focus Group Survey Summary

Question 5: What do you see as the greatest barriers to accessing services/programs?

Barriers to Accessing Services	
	Total
Transportation	77%
Lack of Awareness	45%
Affordability	36%
Social Stigma	36%
Geographic Location	36%
Process Too Complicated	34%
Organization's Operating Hours	13%
Childcare Availability	11%

Donor Survey Summary

Methodology

ARDC staff worked with Zenith Research Group to design and conduct a randomized on-line survey of United Way donors. 200 donors were provided with a link to an anonymous, on-line survey. 59 donors (29% response rate) completed the survey. This section includes a summary of survey responses. The following charts indicate the percentage of respondents selecting each response (n=59). Responses are ordered based upon the issue ranked #1.

Key Findings

Family Stability

- When asked to rank what they perceive to be the five most important health and human service issues facing Itasca County, families living in poverty was most frequently identified as the highest priority issue (20.34% selected this as their top priority). 63% of donors identified this issue as one of the top five priorities.
- Although fewer donors identified affordable housing as their first priority (8.47%), the percentage of donors identifying affordable housing as a priority area (64%) was almost equal to those identifying families living in poverty as a priority issue (63%).
- Transportation issues were cited frequently by focus group participants, while only 25% of donors identified transportation as a high priority issue

Health, Wellness and Healing

- 49% of donors indicated a need to expand or improve health care services for the uninsured. The same percentage indicated a need to expand or improve services to address drug and alcohol abuse. These two areas of services were ranked as the highest priority services in the area of health and wellness.
- Even though data suggests that domestic violence is a significant issue in Itasca County, less than one quarter (22%) of donors included domestic violence as one of the top five priority areas and none ranked this issue as the top priority.
- The need for expanded mental health services was cited frequently by focus group participants, yet only 19% of donors identified mental health as a priority issue.

Child and Teen Resiliency

- Child abuse and neglect was the most frequently identified child and teen priority issue (13% selected this as their top priority) with 34% of donors citing this issue as one of the top five priorities.

Donor Survey Summary

Child and Teen Resiliency (continued)

- 29% of donors identified affordable, quality childcare as a priority need within the county. 22% identified school readiness as a priority issue, and 20% identified quality after school programs as a priority. Both issues were included in the top five areas donors felt were currently best served.
- While programs for teens and youth mentoring programs were frequently cited as a need by focus group participants, 14% of donors selected teen programming as a priority and 8% identified the need for youth mentoring as a priority need.

Older Adults

- When asked to rank what they perceive to be the five most important health and human service issues facing Itasca County, assistance for older adults was selected as a priority by 27% of donors. 5% of donors selected this as their top priority.
- When asked to rank the five issues currently best served in Itasca County, 54% of donors included services to older adults in the top five issues. More donors ranked services to older adults as their top issue than any of the other 17 issues presented.
- 43% of donors surveyed indicated they provide financial or volunteer support to programs serving older adults.

Donor Survey Summary

Question 1: What do you feel are the five most important health and human service issues facing our community?

Five Most Important Issues						
	Ranked #1	Ranked #2	Ranked #3	Ranked #4	Ranked #5	Total
Families Living in Poverty	20.34%	11.86%	22.03%	3.39%	5.08%	63%
Drug and Alcohol Abuse	13.56%	8.47%	8.47%	10.17%	8.47%	49%
Child Abuse and Neglect	13.56%	5.08%	10.17%	3.39%	1.69%	34%
Basic Needs (food, clothing)	10.17%	18.64%	6.78%	1.69%	8.47%	46%
Healthcare for Uninsured	10.17%	10.17%	8.47%	15.25%	5.08%	49%
Affordable Housing	8.47%	11.86%	15.25%	22.03%	6.78%	64%
Assistance to Older Adults	5.08%	5.08%	3.39%	8.47%	5.08%	27%
School Readiness	5.08%	1.69%	3.39%	5.08%	6.78%	22%
Affordable Quality Childcare	3.39%	5.08%	1.69%	11.86%	6.78%	29%
After School Youth Programs	3.39%	1.69%	0%	3.39%	8.47%	20%
Mental Health Services	1.69%	5.08%	5.08%	0%	6.78%	19%
Transportation	1.69%	3.39%	6.78%	1.69%	11.86%	25%
Homelessness	1.69%	3.39%	0%	3.39%	1.69%	10%
Teen Programs	1.69%	0%	5.08%	3.39%	3.39%	14%
Domestic Violence	0%	5.08%	1.69%	6.78%	8.47%	22%
Mentors for Youth	0%	3.39%	1.69%	0%	3.39%	8%
Disability Services	0%	0%	0%	0%	1.69%	2%

Question 2 : What five issues do feel are currently being best served in our community?

Issues Currently Best Served						
	Ranked #1	Ranked #2	Ranked #3	Ranked #4	Ranked #5	Total
Assistance to Older Adults	16.95%	16.95%	1.69%	10.17%	8.47%	54%
School Readiness	15.25%	11.86%	13.56%	3.39%	16.95%	61%
After School Youth Programs	10.17%	8.47%	8.47%	10.17%	5.08%	42%
Mental Health Services	10.17%	6.78%	10.17%	10.17%	5.08%	42%
Basic Needs (food, clothing)	10.17%	1.69%	10.17%	5.08%	6.78%	37%
Disability Services	8.47%	8.47%	5.08%	8.47%	6.78%	37%
Affordable Housing	6.78%	5.08%	3.39%	0%	6.78%	22%
Affordable Quality Childcare	6.78%	10.17%	3.39%	3.39%	8.47%	32%
Homelessness	3.39%	6.78%	3.39%	3.39%	11.86%	29%
Child Abuse and Neglect	3.39%	3.39%	1.69%	1.69%	0%	10%
Healthcare for Uninsured	3.39%	1.69%	1.69%	3.39%	1.69%	12%
Mentors for Youth	1.69%	8.47%	8.47%	11.86%	8.47%	39%
Drug and Alcohol Abuse	1.69%	1.69%	3.39%	5.08%	1.69%	14%
Teen Programs	1.69%	1.69%	1.69%	5.08%	5.08%	15%
Transportation	0%	3.39%	5.08%	10.17%	5.08%	24%
Domestic Violence	0%	1.69%	13.56%	3.39%	0%	9%
Families Living in Poverty	0%	1.69%	5.08%	5.08%	1.69%	14%

Donor Survey Summary

Question 3 : What five issues do you feel need additional or improved services?

Issues Requiring Additional/Improved Services						
	Ranked #1	Ranked #2	Ranked #3	Ranked #4	Ranked #5	Total
Affordable Housing	27.12%	13.56%	0%	10.17%	1.69%	53%
Families Living in Poverty	11.86%	15.25%	16.95%	5.08%	1.69%	51%
Child Abuse and Neglect	10.17%	5.08%	8.47%	6.78%	1.69%	32%
Drug and Alcohol Abuse	6.78%	11.86%	10.17%	3.39%	11.86%	44%
Basic Needs (food, clothing)	6.78%	10.17%	5.08%	5.08%	8.47%	36%
Assistance to Older Adults	6.78%	3.39%	3.39%	8.47%	8.47%	31%
Transportation	6.78%	1.69%	3.39%	10.17%	10.17%	32%
School Readiness	6.78%	0%	3.39%	3.39%	1.69%	15%
Teen Programs	5.08%	3.39%	1.69%	3.39%	11.86%	25%
Affordable Quality Childcare	3.39%	8.47%	3.39%	6.78%	10.17%	32%
After School Youth Programs	3.39%	1.69%	6.78%	3.39%	3.39%	19%
Healthcare for Uninsured	1.69%	11.86%	16.95%	10.17%	8.47%	49%
Domestic Violence	1.69%	6.78%	11.86%	11.86%	3.39%	36%
Homelessness	1.69%	3.39%	1.69%	5.08%	1.69%	14%
Mental Health Services	0%	1.69%	5.08%	3.39%	6.78%	17%
Mentors for Youth	0%	1.69%	1.69%	0%	5.08%	8%
Disability Services	0%	0%	0%	3.39%	3.39%	7%

Question 4 : Thinking of the issues you contribute to financially or with volunteer support, please rank the top five services you support.

Issues Personally Supported						
	Ranked #1	Ranked #2	Ranked #3	Ranked #4	Ranked #5	Total
Basic Needs (food, clothing)	23.21%	12.50%	12.50%	14.29%	8.93%	71%
Assistance to Older Adults	12.50%	5.36%	5.36%	10.71%	8.93%	43%
Affordable Housing	8.93%	3.57%	0%	3.57%	7.14%	23%
After School Youth Programs	7.14%	16.07%	8.93%	3.57%	3.57%	40%
Families Living in Poverty	7.14%	14.29%	3.57%	1.79%	8.93%	36%
Teen Programs	5.36%	8.93%	7.14%	3.57%	7.14%	32%
Child Abuse and Neglect	5.36%	8.93%	1.79%	3.57%	5.36%	25%
Affordable Quality Childcare	5.36%	5.36%	8.93%	0%	0%	20%
Homelessness	5.36%	5.36%	5.36%	1.79%	1.79%	20%
School Readiness	5.36%	3.57%	1.79%	14.29%	7.17%	32%
Mentors for Youth	5.36%	1.79%	5.36%	7.14%	7.14%	27%
Domestic Violence	3.57%	1.79%	7.14%	1.79%	1.79%	16%
Drug and Alcohol Abuse	1.79%	1.79%	8.93%	1.79%	3.57%	18%
Mental Health Services	1.79%	1.79%	5.36%	10.71%	0%	20%
Disability Services	1.79%	0%	5.36%	1.79%	3.57%	13%
Healthcare for Uninsured	0%	3.57%	1.79%	3.57%	1.79%	11%
Transportation	0%	0%	1.79%	0%	0%	2%

Donor Survey Summary

Question 5: What do you see as the greatest barriers to accessing services or programs?

Barriers to Accessing Services				
	Ranked #1	Ranked #2	Ranked #3	Total
Lack of Awareness	28.21%	22.03%	11.86%	62%
Affordability	28.81%	20.34%	6.78%	56%
Transportation	18.64%	10.17%	22.03%	51%
Process Too Complicated	8.47%	15.25%	16.95%	41%
Social Stigma	8.47%	13.56%	15.25%	38%
Geographic Location	5.08%	6.78%	8.47%	20%
Childcare Availability	1.69%	10.17%	13.56%	25%
Organization's Operating Hours	0%	1.69%	5.08%	7%

Question 6 : How familiar are you with the local services or program available in Itasca County?

Familiarity with Services	%
Very Familiar	44%
Somewhat Familiar	51%
Not At All Familiar	5%

Question 8: How familiar are you with the local services or program available in Itasca County?

Preferred Contact Method	%
Any form of contact at work	39%
U.S. Mail at home or business	37%
Electronic Mail	19%
Online Solicitation	3%
In Person	2%

Question 7: Which of the following programs or services have you or someone you know used?

Program or Service	%
After School Youth Programs	64%
Basic Needs (food, clothing)	56%
Affordable Quality Childcare	53%
Mental Health Services	49%
Assistance to Older Adults	47%
Affordable Housing	46%
School Readiness	46%
Mentors for Youth	42%
Drug and Alcohol Abuse	41%
Families Living in Poverty	41%
Teen Programs	37%
Transportation	37%
Healthcare for Uninsured	34%
Disability Services	32%
Domestic Violence	32%
Child Abuse and Neglect	29%
Homelessness	20%
NONE	8%

Donor Survey Summary

Question 9: What are the primary reasons you donate to the United Way of 1000 Lakes?

Program or Service	Ranked #1	Ranked #2	Ranked #3	Total
United Way is local. It funds local organizations/programs	42.37%	25.42%	18.64%	86%
I support the organizations/programs funded by the United Way	18.64%	16.95%	8.47%	44%
I can donate through payroll deduction at work	15.25%	10.17%	25.42%	51%
I know my donation supports credible programs/services	8.47%	16.95%	10.17%	36%
I can make a single donation and support many programs/services	8.47%	13.56%	10.17%	32%
United Way has a good reputation	6.78%	8.47%	13.56%	29%
United Way only asks for my support once a year	0%	8.47%	13.56%	22%

Comments from survey respondents: (*verbatim responses*)

- All of you are doing an excellent job! Thanks Jody for all you do.
- Great job. Congratulations on achieving the recent fundraising goal.
- I like the ability to direct my donation to a particular organization/fund.
- Keep donations local very important!
- Keep trying! You support good programs.
- Keep up the good work. I wish there were sufficient funds to go around for animal-related programs like the Forget-Me-Not Stables.
- Thank you for supporting our local community programs!
- Thank you to all who give of your time and energy to help those in need.
- This area seems to promote laziness to some extent and not encourage young people to get involved. There needs to be a change. I think you need to be more selective about services you support. Support things that will encourage LOCAL people to stick around. Let the LOCAL people know they aren't forgotten.
- United Way is a great community support system providing funding for many different causes.
- Wonderful organization working to improve lives in Itasca County.

Donor Survey Summary

Respondent Demographics

Gender		Housing Status	
Male	34%	Own Home	100%
Female	66%	Combined Income	
Age		Less than \$30,000	3%
25 to 34	15%	\$30,000—\$40,000	3%
35 to 44	19%	\$40,000—\$55,000	8%
45 to 54	34%	\$55,000—\$70,000	19%
55 to 64	32%	\$70,000—\$85,000	14%
Marital Status		\$85,000—\$100,000	8%
Single	2%	More than \$100,000	44%
Single—living with significant other	7%	Zip Code	
Divorced or Separated	5%	55709	2%
Married	86%	55721	5%
Race		55722	2%
Asian	2%	55742	3%
Caucasian or White	96%	55744	83%
Indian or Native American	2%	55786	2%
Children in Household		56636	3%
None	49%		
1	15%		
2	24%		
3	10%		
4 or more	2%		
Highest Education Level			
High School Graduate	7%		
Some College	10%		
Associate or 2 year Degree	10%		
College Degree	44%		
Post-Graduate Study	15%		
Post-Graduate Degree	14%		
Employment Status			
Employed Full-Time	75%		
Employed Part-Time	12%		
Homemaker	2%		
Retired	3%		
Self-Employed—Own Company	8%		

Community Survey Summary

Methodology

ARDC staff worked with Zenith Research Group to design and conduct a randomized telephone survey to assess local community residents' perceptions and preferences regarding services in Itasca County. 332 respondents participated in the community survey (+/-5.3% margin of error). This section includes a summary of survey responses.

Key Findings

Family Stability

- 81% of respondents indicated a need to expand and/or improve the availability of affordable housing in Itasca County. However, respondents indicated that domestic violence was the most important program related to family stability.

Health, Wellness and Healing

- 93% of respondents indicated a need to expand and/or improve access to health insurance and/or healthcare for uninsured.

Child and Teen Resiliency

- 82% of respondents indicated a need to expand and/or improve access to services for victims of child abuse and/or neglect, while 74% indicated a need to expand and/or improve awareness of child abuse and neglect issues.

Older Adults

- 73% of respondents indicated a need to expand and/or improve the availability of services to meet the basic needs of older adults, including food and housing.

Community Survey Summary

Question: Indicate whether each program reaches enough people, needs to expand and/or needs to improve. Select the single most important program in each category.

	Reaches Enough People	Needs to Expand	Needs to Improve	% indicating Need *	Most Important
Childhood					
School Readiness	57%	28%	15%	43%	19%
Affordable Quality Childcare	21%	37%	42%	79%	17%
After School Youth Programs	34%	34%	32%	66%	22%
Child Abuse and Neglect (Awareness)	26%	34%	40%	74%	10%
Child Abuse and Neglect (Services)	18%	40%	42%	82%	32%
Family Stability					
Affordable Housing	19%	36%	45%	81%	35%
Transportation	35%	31%	34%	65%	26%
Domestic Violence Programs	30%	30%	40%	70%	39%
Health and Wellness					
Healthcare for Uninsured	8%	28%	65%	93%	60%
Drug and Alcohol Abuse	37%	28%	35%	63%	21%
Basic Needs (food, clothing)	37%	35%	28%	63%	19%
Older Adults					
Basic Needs (food, clothing)	27%	30%	43%	73%	75%
Disability Services	31%	36%	33%	69%	16%
Social Programs/Senior Centers	53%	26%	21%	46%	8%

* % indicating need column combines both needs to expand and needs to improve responses.

Community Survey Summary

Question: Indicate if you or someone you know has used one of the following programs.

	Personally Used Program	Know Others Who Have Used Program
Childhood		
School Readiness	16%	43%
Affordable Quality Childcare	6%	28%
After School Youth Programs	8%	25%
Child Abuse and Neglect (Services)	2%	11%
Child Abuse and Neglect (Awareness)	1%	11%
Family Stability		
Transportation	8%	28%
Affordable Housing	5%	30%
Domestic Violence Programs	2%	18%
Health and Wellness		
Healthcare for Uninsured	15%	35%
Basic Needs (food, clothing)	4%	33%
Drug and Alcohol Abuse	3%	28%
Older Adults		
Social Programs/Senior Centers	3%	33%
Basic Needs (food, clothing)	3%	25%
Disability Services	3%	24%

Question: Rank barriers that might prevent county residents from accessing and using services. Identify whether the barrier is very important, somewhat important, not very important or not at all important in affecting utilization of services.

Significance of Barriers to Accessing Services				
	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Not at All Important
Transportation	58%	26%	8%	6%
Lack of Awareness	48%	34%	10%	7%
Geographic Location	43%	32%	11%	12%
Social Stigma	30%	38%	17%	11%

Community Survey Summary

Respondent Demographics

Gender	
Male	18%
Female	82%
Age	
18 to 24	1%
25 to 34	6%
35 to 44	8%
45 to 54	24%
55 to 64	23%
65 or older	38%
Refused to answer (older than 18)	0.3%
Marital Status	
Married	68%
Domestic Partner	1.5%
Single	9%
Single—Living with Significant Other	0.3%
Divorced or Separated	6%
Widowed	14.5%
Refused to answer	0.3%
Race	
Caucasian or White	96%
Indian or Native American	2%
Refused to answer	2%
Children in Household	
None	77%
1	7%
2	11%
3	3%
4 or more	2%
Refused to answer	0.3%
Highest Education Level	
Some High School	4%
High School Graduate	23%
Some College	23%
Associate or 2 year Degree	14%
College Degree	21%
Post-Graduate Study	3%
Post-Graduate Degree	11%
Refused to answer	.03%

Housing Status	
Own Residence	97%
Rent Residence	10%
Refused to answer	3%
Combined Income	
Less than \$30,000	25%
\$30,000—\$40,000	12%
\$40,000—\$55,000	13%
\$55,000—\$70,000	10%
\$70,000—\$85,000	8%
\$85,000—\$100,000	4%
More than \$100,000	4%
Refused to answer	24%
Zip Code	
55709	11%
55716	1%
55721	4%
55722	3%
55736	1%
55742	1%
55744	50%
55753	3%
55764	1%
55769	4%
55755	3%
55784	1%
55786	1%
55793	1%
56628	2%
56631	1%
56636	11%
56637	1%
56639	1%
56657	1%
56681	1%

Appendices

- Steering Team Roster, Focus Group Participants, Key Informants
- Data Sources and Citations

Steering Team

<p>United Way of 1000 Lakes</p> <p>Itasca County Health & Human Services Grand Rapids Community Foundation Itasca Economic Development Corp. Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce Grand Itasca Clinic & Hospital Heartland PCA</p>	<p>Jody Hane, Diane Weber, Mike Chandler, Ann Saxhaug, Karen Reed</p> <p>Lester Kachinske, Ruth Pierce Versaw, Brett Skyles Sarah Copeland Lucy Flessner, Peter McDermott Bud Stone Colleen Swanson Christina Anderson</p>
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Focus Group Participants

Family Stability

<p>Loren Anderson Bauer Jean Esler Ellen Christmas</p> <p>Charlotte Zanardi Mike Chandler Member</p> <p>Barbara Anderson Jill Schubert Linda Reed Donna Suari</p> <p>Brandi Worrath Tim Bishop Work Shannon Benolken Laynn Anselm Sandy Schildt Steve Goplikn Karen Reed Jody Hane</p>	<p>Community Café First Call/211 Second Harvest Food Bank/Grand Rapids Food Shelf</p> <p>ISD 318/ECFE UPM Blandin/UW Board</p> <p>KOOTASCA GRACE House KOOTASCA Crisis Nursery KOOTASCA Circles of Support KOOTASCA Project Hope KOOTASCA Diversionary Program Habitat for Humanity Head Start Baby Steps The Salvation Army United Way of 1000 Lakes United Way of 1000 Lakes</p>
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Children

<p>Loren Anderson Bauer Angela Boyd Michelle Wilson Shelia Hart Lynn Cottingham Charlotte Zanardi</p> <p>Robby Radaich Nancy Lucas Toni Wilcox Betsy McBride</p> <p>Karen Reed Jody Hane</p>	<p>Community Café St. Joseph's Pre-K School Invest Early First Call/211 Second Harvest Food Bank ISD 318 Early Childhood Family Education 4-H Girl Scouts Project Read Itasca County Family YMCA United Way of 1000 Lakes United Way of 1000 Lakes</p>
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Teens

<p>Sarah Copeland</p> <p>Sheila Anderson Paula Butler</p> <p>Sandy Antonovich</p> <p>Kari Schultz Karen Walker Scott Patrow Loren Anderson Bauer Pat Medure Lisa Adamich</p> <p>Jim Smokrovich Karen Reed Jody Hane</p>	<p>Grand Rapids Community Foundation GRHS Itasca County Public Health & Human Services Cooperative Solutions Mediation Deer River Hired Hands, Inc. ISD 318 Community Ed Bigfork School/ISD 318 Community Café Sheriff's Office Itasca Alliance Against Sexual Assault ISD 318-GRHS United Way of 1000 Lakes United Way of 1000 Lakes</p>
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Health and Wellness

<p>Loretta Esler Jean Esler Michelle Ingle Linda Morrow Sue Estee Kari Schultz Loren Anderson Bauer Brett Skyles Sue Erzar</p> <p>Betsy McBride Ruth Pierce Versaw</p> <p>Angela Elhard Christine Anderson Karen Reed Jody Hane</p>	<p>Bruce Bauer/YMCA First Call/211 KOOTASCA Head Start ElderCircle Second Harvest Food Bank Deer River Hired Hands Community Café Itasca Medical Care Itasca County Public Health & Human Services Itasca County Family YMCA Itasca County Public Health & Human Services ISD 318 Heartland PCA, LLC United Way of 1000 Lakes United Way of 1000 Lakes</p>
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Key Informants

Pam Smith, Arrowhead Transit
Becky Boelter, KOOTASCA
Pat Medure, Itasca County Sheriff's Department
Thomas Cook, REACH
Jan Rendahl, Invest Early
Jenny Peterson, Generations/Bridge to Health

Marian Barcus, Itasca County Public Health
and Human Services
Kathy Carroll, YMCA
Julie Frederickson, Child Care Resource
and Referral
Ellen Christmas, Second Harvest/Food Shelf

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- <http://www.stopdomesticabuse.org/statistics.htm>/Itasca County Advocates for Family Peace