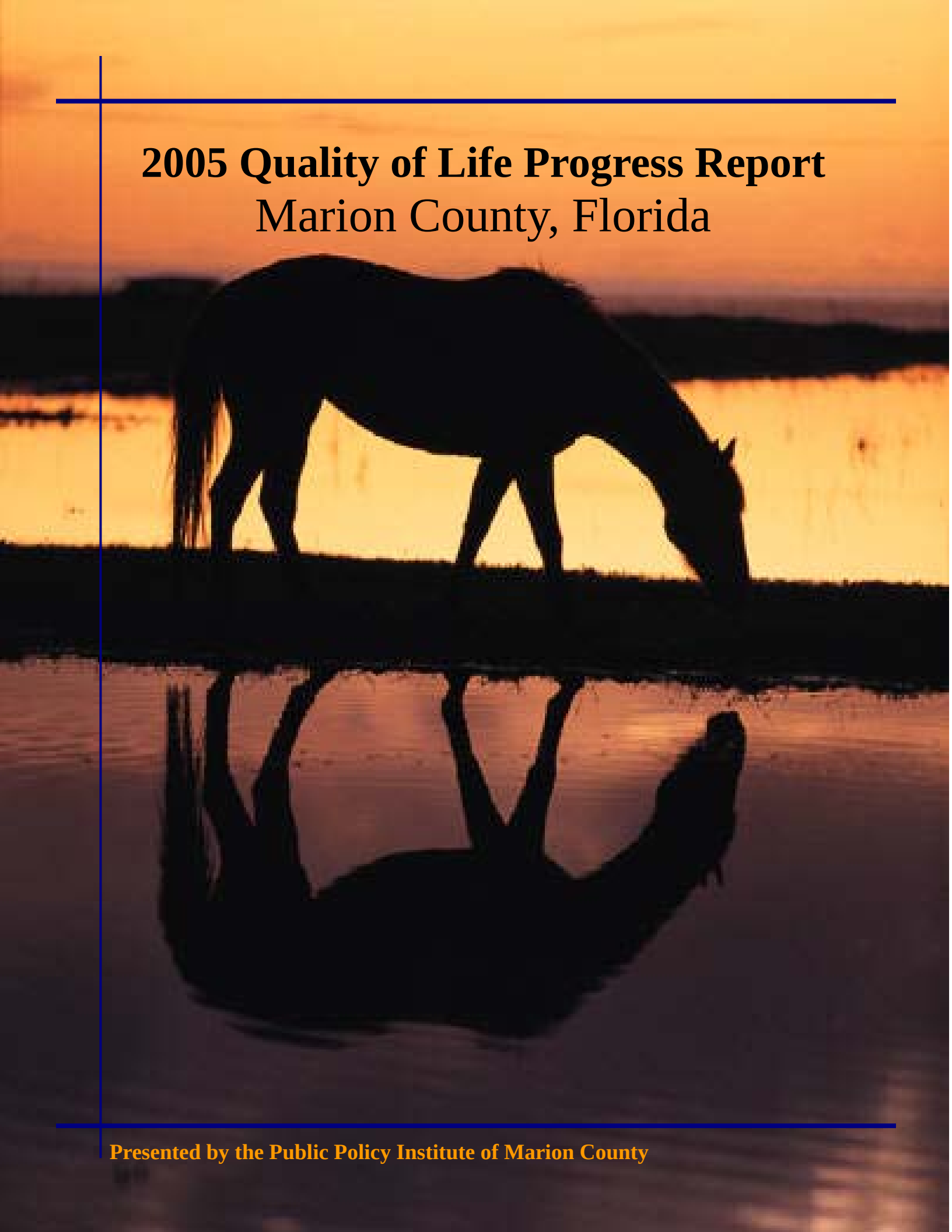
2005 Quality of Life Progress Report

Marion County, Florida



Presented by the Public Policy Institute of Marion County

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Introduction

What are *Quality of Life Indicators*?

Indicators are quantitative measures of the quality of community life. They are numbers that tell a story over time. For the purposes of this report, quality of life refers to a feeling of well-being, fulfillment, or satisfaction resulting from factors in the external environment. The **2005 Quality of Life Progress Report** is an initial effort to measure the quality of life in Marion County, Florida.

To provide leadership in identifying recommendations for an improved community, the Public Policy Institute (PPI) of Marion County initiated a community conversation in the fall of 2003 on quality of life indicators as part of a seminar series entitled **Marion Measures: Quality of Life Milestones.**

The Public Policy Institute of Marion County is a non-partisan citizen-based organization established in 1999. The organization is dedicated to advancing public interest, building democracy, enhancing community, and improving the quality of life by involving citizens in the process. The list of indicators in the study was derived as a result of a community learning collaboration that involved engaging local citizens, community organizations, and leadership boards in responding to and prioritizing key indicators. The indicators were ranked as primary and secondary based upon priority, community impact, and significance. The result of this process reflects a consensus regarding a collective community vision of priority indicators that would measure the quality of life over time.

The initiative to study quality of life in Marion County began with several community organizations coming together as a result of a common need: demographic data that are current, consistent, and easily accessible. The need for a central location to house current data on community indicators for strategic planning and grant writing was also identified. This Community Resources Initiative (CRI) comprised of the United Way of Marion County, the Ocala/Marion County Economic Development Corporation, the Early Learning Coalition of Marion County, Inc., the Marion County Children's Alliance, CLM Workforce Connection, the Ocala/Marion County Chamber of Commerce, and the Marion County Department of Health is now part of the Public Policy Institute. Central Florida Community College (CFCC) will house this data resource within the Public Policy Institute office located on the CFCC campus.

Community indicators have become a widely used tool to measure the quality of community life and to identify progress being made toward improving it. The demographics in this report was derived from the records and documents of various public and private organizations. Trend lines have been indicated when historical data was available. The indicators in this report provide a vehicle to understand and address community issues from a holistic and outcomes-oriented perspective. The intent of this report is to provide information that can be easily accessed and thereby utilized to enhance the community quality of life in Marion County.

About Marion County

Marion County

Marion County is located in North Central Florida. Municipalities in Marion County include Ocala, Belleview, Dunnellon, McIntosh, and Reddick.

Marion County's size, at 1,663 square miles, makes it the fifth largest county in Florida. It is a land of gently rolling hills at an average 104 feet above sea level. Home to a thriving thoroughbred breeding and training community, Marion County is called the Horse Capital of the World©.

In 2004, the population of Marion County was estimated at 293,317, growing at just over three percent per year since 2000. Total population is projected to exceed 300,000 in 2006 and reach nearly 450,000 by 2025.

The 2000 U.S. Census identified the racial and ethnic diversity of Marion County as follows:

American Indian	0.4%
Asian	0.7%
Black/African American	11.5%
Hispanic	6.0%
White, not Hispanic	80.4%

In Marion County, 5.2 percent of the population was born outside of the United States and 8.8 percent of children under the age of five speak a language other than English at home.

With 24.5 percent of residents over age 65, Marion County rates considerably higher than the state average of 17.6 percent of total senior population.

Eighty percent of residents own their homes, 10 percent above the state average. Only 9.4 percent of residents live in multi-family dwellings (such as apartment complexes), compared to 30 percent of people in Florida.

During the 2004-05 school year, 41,103 Marion County students were enrolled in public schools, 5,694 in private schools, and 1,113 were home schooled.

Since 1990, Marion County has achieved considerable progress in educational attainment, as adults over 25 with a high school diploma increased from 69.6 percent to 78.2 percent in 2000, nearing the state average of 79.9 percent. Only 13.7 percent of adults attained bachelor's degrees or higher compared to the state average of 22.3 percent.

Marion County's employment was distributed as follows in 2004:

Trade and transportation	23%
Government	17%
Education and health services	12%
Manufacturing	10%
Natural resources/construction	10%
Professional/business services	9%
Leisure and hospitality services	9%
Financial activities	5%
Other services	4%
Information	1%

Economy

A vibrant economy provides employment opportunities and sufficient income for all residents to participate fully in community quality of life and cultivates essential resources for government and others to meet community needs.

Marion County residents experience a better quality of life when they have increasing personal income and good, well-paying jobs.

Primary Indicators: Page 8—13

Per Capita Personal Income
Net Annual Job Growth (Non Agricultural)
Average Annual Wage
Median Home Sales Price
Taxable Value of Real Estate

Secondary Indicators: Page 14—18

Cost of Living
Labor Force Composition
Poverty Rate
Taxable Parcels
Homestead Exemption

Per Capita Personal Income

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the total personal income of the residents of Marion County and Florida, divided by the total resident population. Per capita personal income reflects net job growth.

Why is it important?

Sufficient personal income is necessary to meet basic needs of life and is related to one's quality of life.

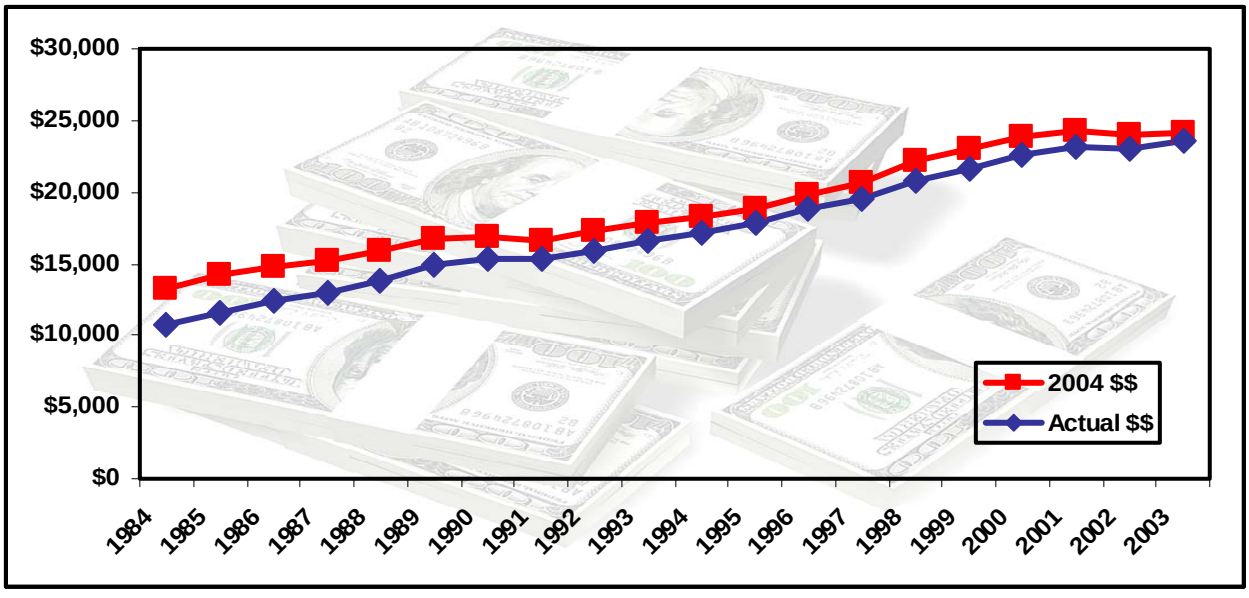
How are we doing?

Adjusted for inflation, per capita income has increased significantly in Marion County over the last twenty years. In 2003, per capita income increased closer to 2001 levels, after having dropped in 2002.

Per Capita Personal Income

	Marion County		Florida	
	Actual $$	2004 $$	Actual $$	2004 $$
1998	$20,724	$23,470	$25,987	$29,430
1999	$21,562	$24,011	$26,894	$29,949
2000	$22,640	$24,449	$28,509	$30,787
2001	$23,229	$24,633	$29,268	$31,037
2002	$22,986	$23,969	$29,549	$30,812
2003	$23,512	$24,115	$30,098	$30,870

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis



Net Job Growth
(Non Agricultural)

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the percentage difference between the average annual nonagricultural employment in the Marion County MSA (Metropolitan Service Area) and the average employment the previous year.

Why is it important?

Employment growth is an essential component of a thriving economy.

How are we doing?

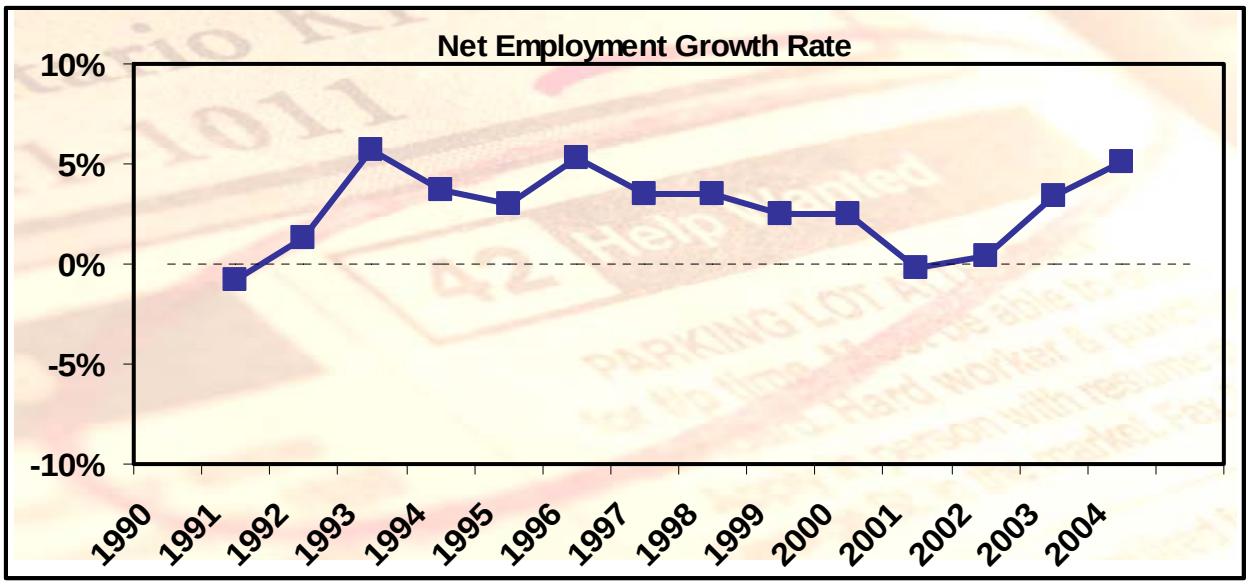
Total nonagricultural employment rose from 62,900 in 1990 to 92,100 in 2004. Job growth in 2004 was 4,500 net new employment, the highest annual increase in the previous 15 years. The rate of growth was 5.1 percent, up from 3.4 percent in 2003. Employment growth was negative in only two of the years covered by this trend line, 1991 and 2001.

Agricultural employment in Marion County increased from 2,029 in 2001 to 2,297 in 2004.

Net Employment Growth, Ocala MSA

Year	Employment	Net Job Growth	Net Growth Rate
1999	82,500	2000	2.5%
2000	84,600	2100	2.5%
2001	84,400	-200	-0.2%
2002	84,700	300	0.4%
2003	87,600	2900	3.4%
2004	92,100	4500	5.1%

Source: Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation, Labor Market Statistics Program



Average Annual Wage Growth

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the percentage difference between the average annual wage in Marion County and the average annual wage the previous year, adjusted for inflation.

Why is it important?

Real growth in wages improves the economic stability and vitality of households and contributes to economic growth in the community.

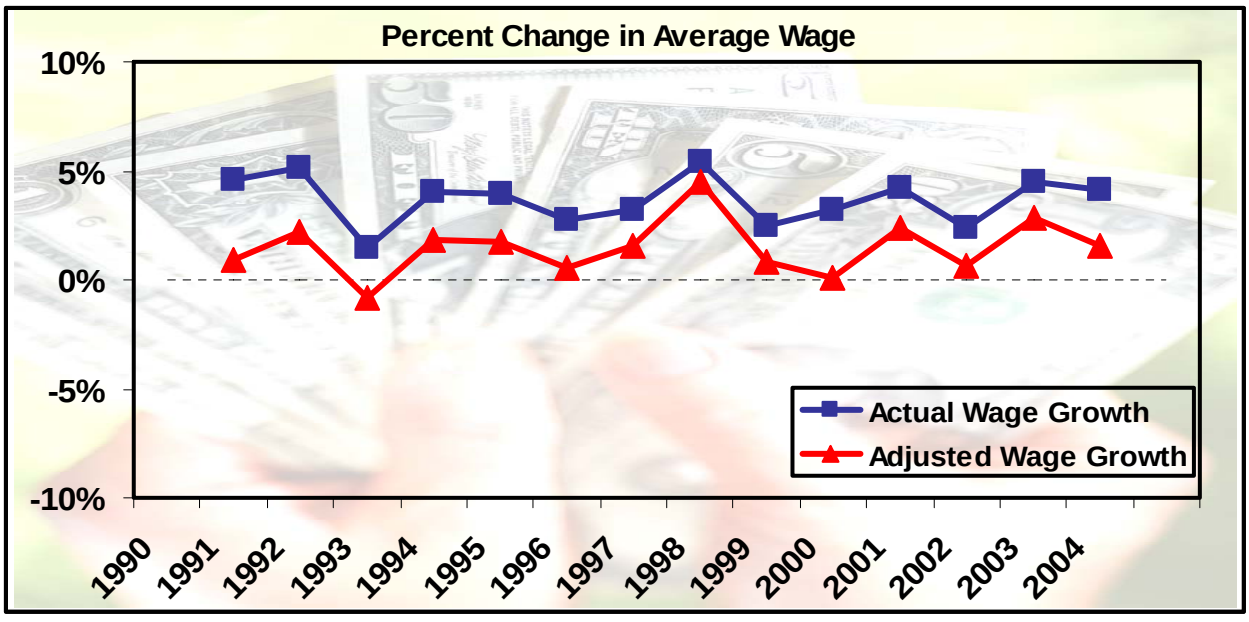
How are we doing?

Wages grew from an adjusted $23,615 in 1990 to $29,001 in 2004, an increase of nearly 23 percent above inflation for the time period. The real growth in wages was 1.6 percent in 2004, down from a real growth rate of 2.8 percent in 2003.

Marion County Wage Growth

Year	Annual Average Wage	Annual Wage Growth	Adjusted Average Wage	Adjusted Wage Growth
1999	$24,177	2.5%	$26,923	0.8%
2000	$24,952	3.2%	$26,946	0.1%
2001	$26,012	4.2%	$27,584	2.4%
2002	$26,635	2.4%	$27,774	0.7%
2003	$27,839	4.5%	$28,553	2.8%
2004	$29,001	4.2%	$29,001	1.6%

Source: Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation, Labor Market Statistics Program



Median Home Sales Price

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the annual median sales price of single-family, existing homes sold through the Multiple Listing Service (MLS) and reported through Florida realtor boards and associations, adjusted for inflation.

Why is it important?

Growth in median home sales prices represents a strong real estate economy and rising property values for existing homeowners; however, it also challenges the community's ability to provide affordable housing.

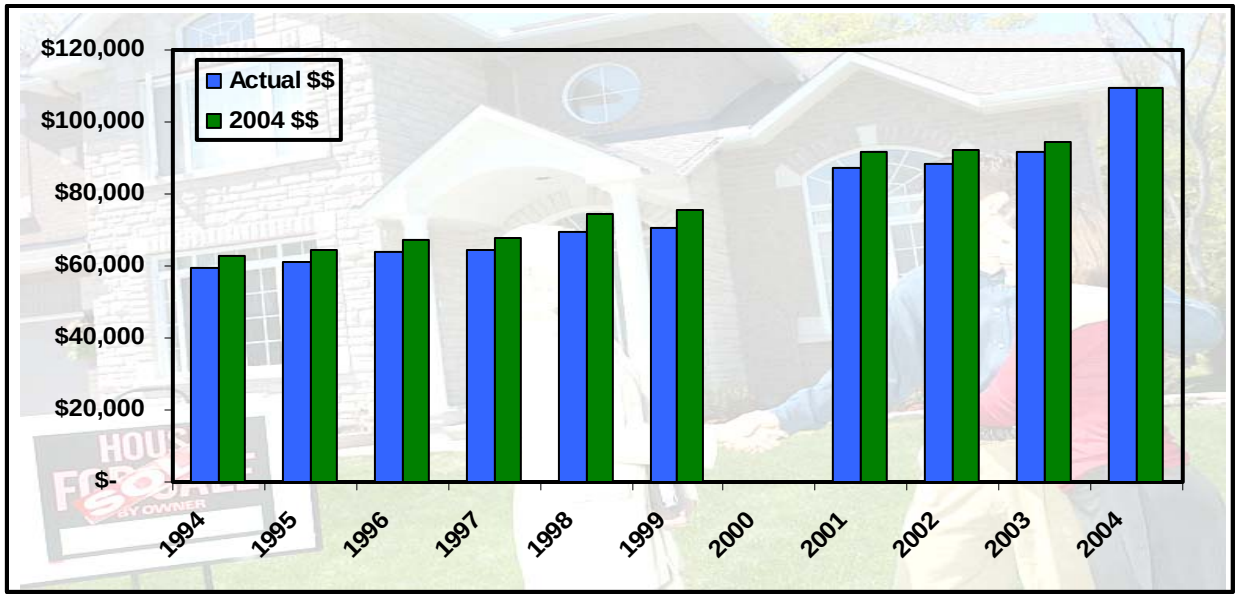
How are we doing?

The median sales price of a single-family home establishes the mid-point in the range of home sales prices. This way of measuring the average price of a home limits the skewing effect of extremely high-priced and/or low-priced homes. The Florida Association of Realtors did not report data for Ocala in 2000.

Median Home Sales Price

Year	Actual $$	2004 $$
2001	$ 87,500	$ 91,432
2002	$ 88,400	$ 92,179
2003	$ 91,900	$ 94,547
2004	$ 109,600	$ 109,600

Source: Florida Association of Realtors and the University of Florida Real Estate Research Center



Median Home Sales Price

Florida Sales Report - 4th Quarter 2005
Single-Family, Existing Homes

	Realtor Sales			Median Sales Price		
Statewide & Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs)	**4th Qrtr. 2005**	**4th Qrtr. 2004**	**% Chge**	**4th Qrtr. 2005**	**4th Qrtr. 2004**	**% Chge**
STATEWIDE	**50,889**	**54,890**	**-7%**	**$246,300**	**$190,700**	**29%**
Daytona Beach	2,877	2,797	3	$222,700	$165,300	35
Fort Lauderdale	2,015	3,115	-35	$377,300	$299,900	26
Fort Myers-Cape Coral	2,158	2,205	-2	$309,300	$206,200	50
Fort Pierce-Port St. Lucie	1,248	1,435	-13	$262,500	$217,800	21
Fort Walton Beach	970	1,209	-20	$238,300	$197,900	20
Gainesville	826	769	7	$197,900	$165,300	20
Jacksonville (1)	4,285	3,541	21	$190,700	$160,500	19
Lakeland-Winter Haven	1,453	2,191	-34	$170,700	$123,500	38
Melbourne-Titusville-Palm Bay	1,512	1,185	28	$234,400	$185,600	26
Miami	1,878	3,007	-38	$375,900	$291,800	29
Naples (2)	853	1,009	-15	$487,900	$354,100	38
Ocala	1,424	1,400	2	$161,700	$113,900	42
Orlando	8,074	8,105	—	$254,800	$117,600	43
Panama City	505	620	-19	$229,500	$181,700	26
Pensacola	1,491	1,551	-4	$171,800	$141,000	22
Punta Gorda	523	660	-21	$230,100	$173,600	33
Sarasota-Bradenton	2,089	3,151	-34	$342,700	$263,700	30
Tallahassee	1,150	1,058	9	$176,500	$156,300	13
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater (3)	11,653	11,215	4	$223,900	$168,500	33
West Palm Beach-Boca Raton	2,325	3,035	-23	$415,800	$339,100	23

(1) Data for Nassau County for December was not available.
(2) Data for Marco Island for November was not available.
(3) Data for Hernando County was not available.

This information is based on a survey of MLS sales levels from Florida's realtor boards/associations. MSAs are defined by the 2000 Census.
Source: Florida Association of Realtors and the University of Florida Real Estate Research Center.

Taxable Value of Real Estate

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the total annual assessed taxable value of real estate in Marion County, adjusted for inflation.

Why is it important?

The strength of the real estate market indicates both vitality in the local economy and economic stability for homeowners, as the home is generally the largest investment people make. Assessed real estate values also show local government's ability to pay for services.

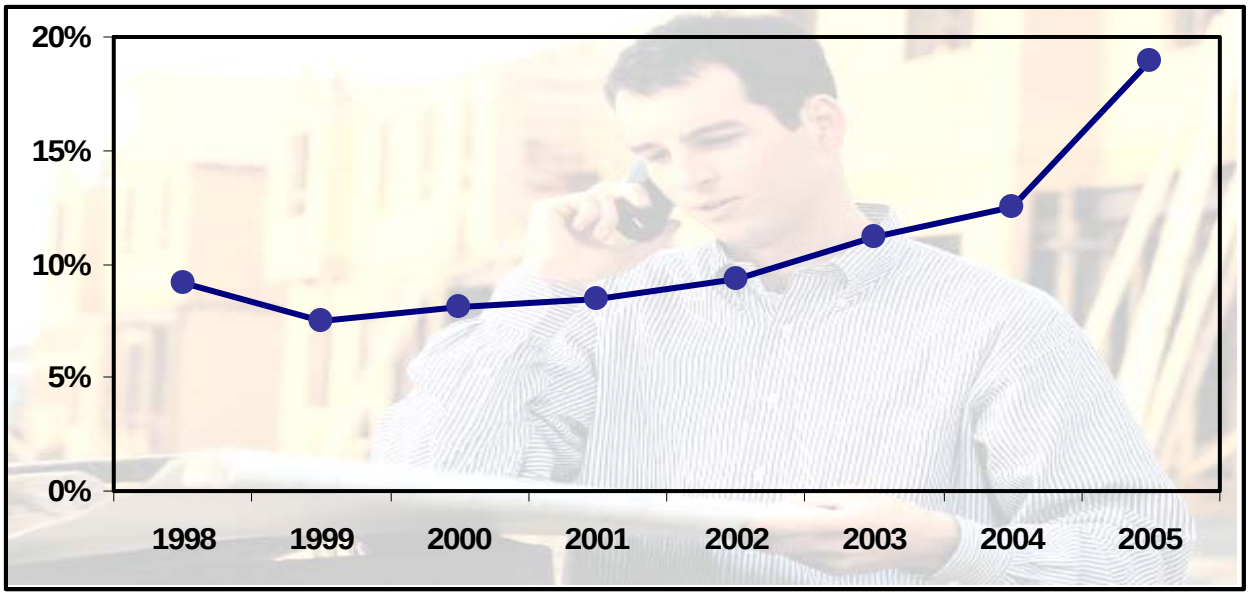
How are we doing?

After adjusting for inflation, real estate values have increased by seven to nine percent per year in the late 1990s, and accelerated in the early 2000s.

Percent Change in Taxable Value

Year	Total Taxable Value, Actual Dollars	Total Taxable Value, 2004 $$	Percent Change
1998	$5,385,346,201	$5,759,728,557	9.2%
1999	$5,782,714,204	$6,191,342,831	7.5%
2000	$6,345,590,349	$6,693,660,706	8.1%
2001	$6,945,940,873	$7,258,036,440	8.4%
2002	$7,608,257,137	$7,933,531,947	9.3%
2003	$8,575,086,992	$8,822,105,959	11.2%
2004	$9,928,215,180	$9,928,215,180	12.5%
2005	$11,805,778,330	$11,805,778,330	18.9%

Source: Marion County Property Appraiser



Cost of Living

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the cost of living and the ranking of Marion County in comparison to the state of Florida. The cost of living data is derived from the annual Florida Price Level Index (FPLI). The FPLI is calculated as a cost of living index for which the population-weighted average cost of living for the state of Florida is set at 100.00 and the cost of living in each county district is measured against it.

Why is it important?

The cost of living measures the affordability of the community.

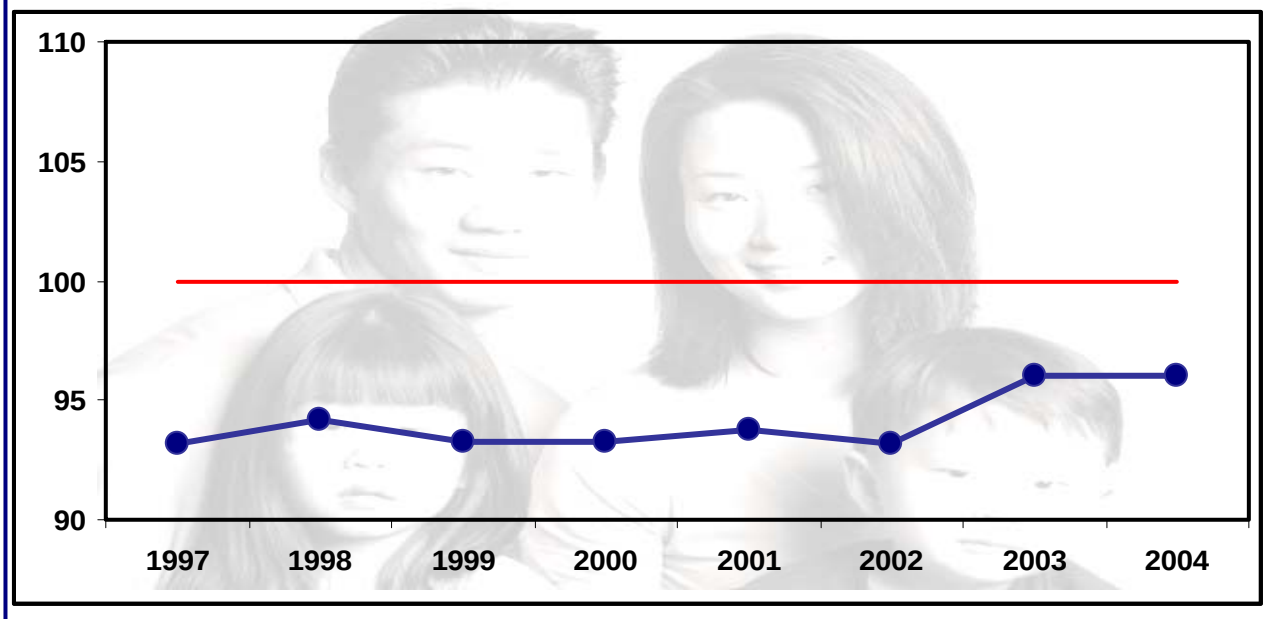
How are we doing?

Between 1997 and 2004, the Marion County Price Level Index has fluctuated, ranging from lows of 93.15 and 93.14 in 1997 and 2002 respectively, to highs of 95.99 and 96.02 in 2003 and 2004. The ranking of the Marion County Price Level Index measured against other counties currently places the County as 37th currently.

Cost of Living

Year	Marion County Index	Marion County Rank	Florida
1997	93.15	47	100
1998	94.16	39	100
1999	93.30	37	100
2000	93.25	43	100
2001	93.75	42	100
2002	93.14	36	100
2003	95.99	40	100
2004	96.02	37	100

Source: Bureau of Economic and Business Research, University of Florida



Labor Force Composition

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the annual percentage of non-agricultural employment in Marion County, by sector.

Why is it important?

The composition of the labor force helps define the future job growth and economic vitality for Marion County.

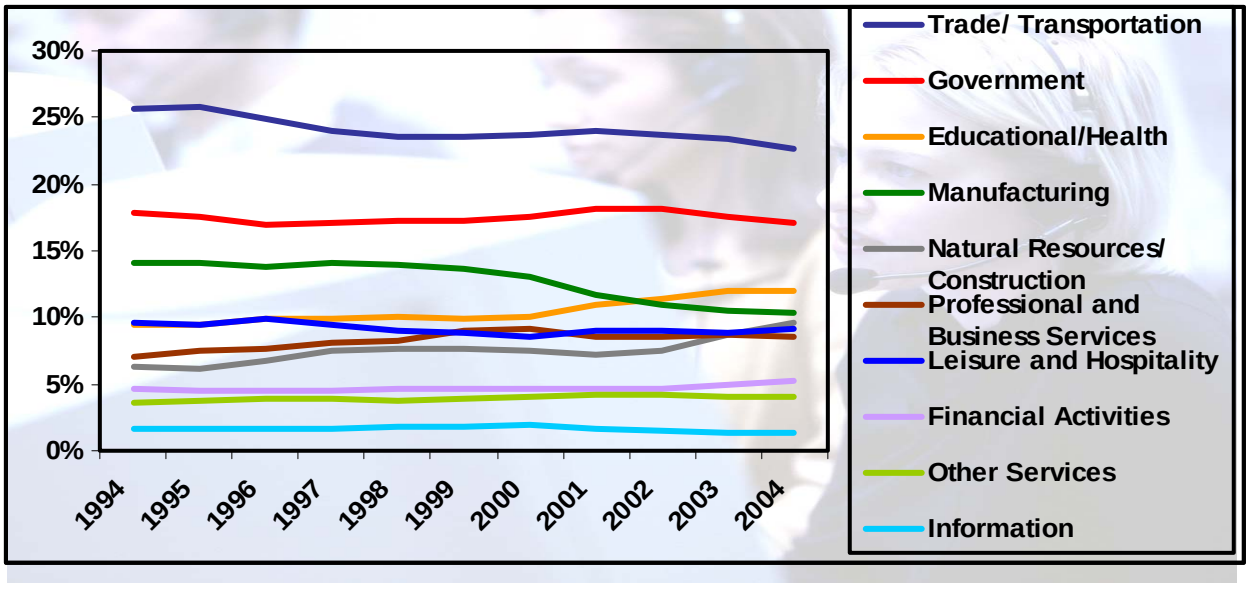
How are we doing?

Over the past ten years, as a percentage of the Marion County economy, trade and transportation and manufacturing have declined while real gains have occurred in education and health services, professional and business services, and in financial activities.

Labor Force Composition, 2004

Trade/ Transportation	22.7%
Government	17.2%
Educational/Health	11.9%
Manufacturing	10.3%
Natural Resources/ Construction	9.7%
Professional/Business Services	8.6%
Leisure and Hospitality	9.1%
Financial Activities	5.2%
Other Services	4.0%
Information	1.3%

Source: Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation, Labor Market Statistics Program labeled in order, top to bottom:



Poverty Rate

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the percentage of families in Marion County and Florida with income estimated to be below national poverty threshold guidelines.

Why is it important?

Family poverty is often an indicator of significant health and human service needs.

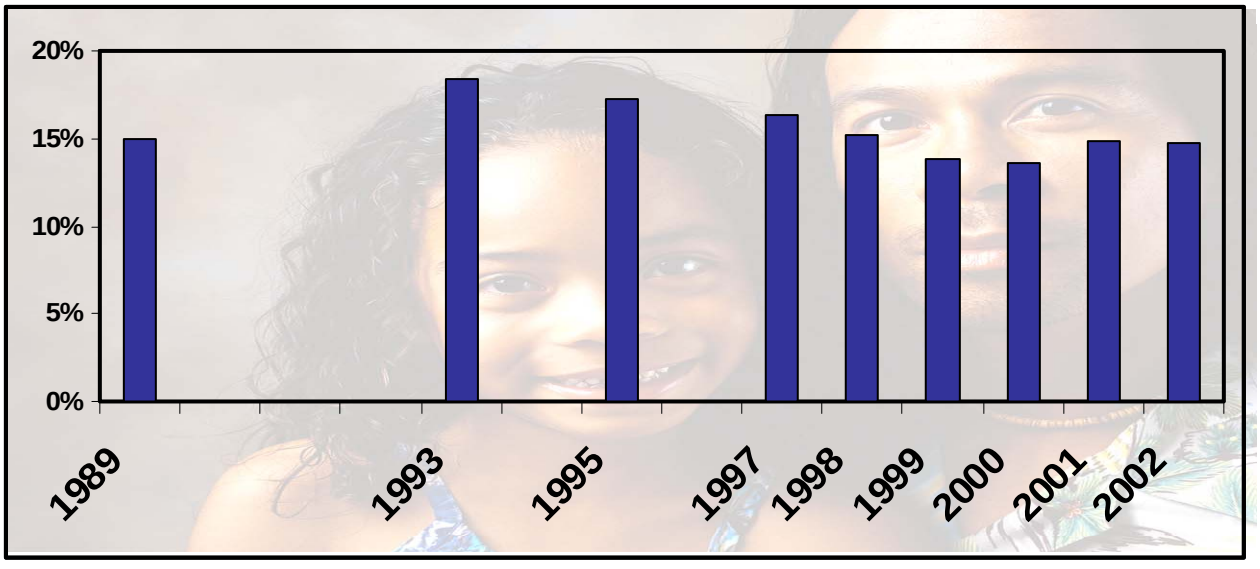
How are we doing?

In 2002, the Poverty Threshold for a family of three persons, including two children, was $14,494, or less than half the 2002 median household income in Marion County. The percent of the population in poverty declined slightly from 2001 to 2002, though the actual number of people estimated to be in poverty increased. Until the passage of the No Child Left Behind Act, the U.S. Census did not provide annual estimates for poverty in Marion County.

Poverty Rate

	Marion County		Florida	
Year	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**
1997	39,399	16.4%	2,129,825	14.4%
1998	37,013	15.2%	2,040,634	13.6%
1999	35,004	13.8%	1,939,545	12.4%
2000	35,148	13.6%	1,877,399	11.7%
2001	39,600	14.9%	2,048,082	12.6%
2002	40,481	14.8%	2,137,435	12.8%

Source: U.S. Census Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates



Taxable Parcels

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the total annual number of taxable real estate parcels in Marion County.

Why is it important?

The number of taxable real estate parcels is an indicator of economic growth in the community.

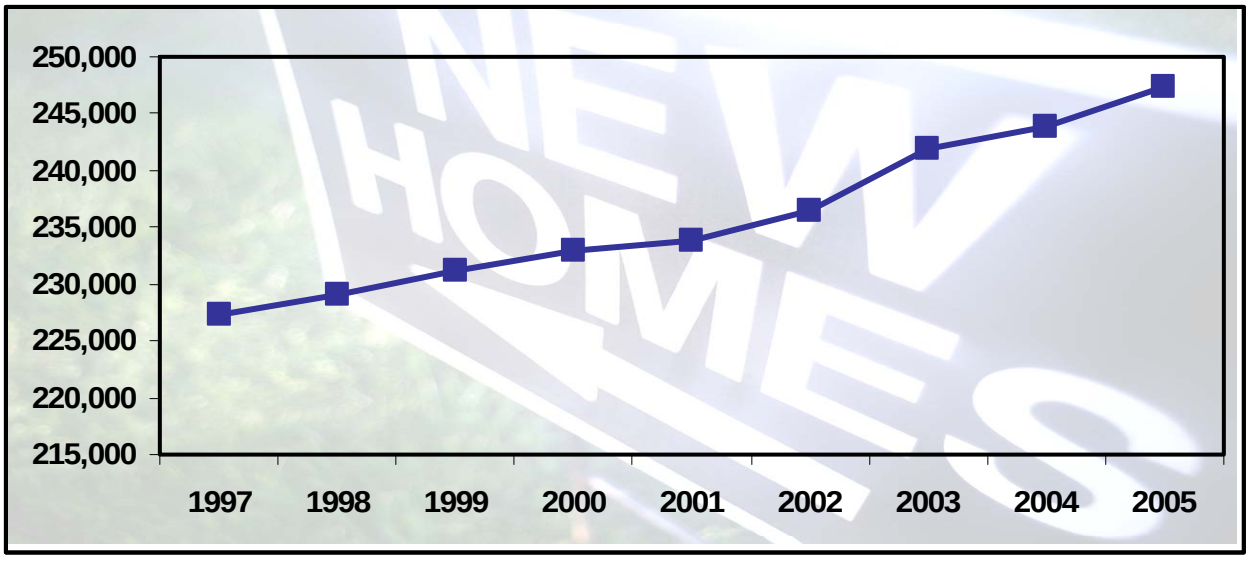
How are we doing?

The number of taxable real estate parcels grew by 8.8 percent between 1997 and 2004.

Total Taxable Real Estate Parcels

Year	Total Real Estate Parcels
1997	227,262
1998	229,069
1999	231,187
2000	232,894
2001	233,827
2002	236,492
2003	241,989
2004	243,780
2005	247,336

Source: Marion County Property Appraiser



Homestead Exemption

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the total annual assessed value of real estate exempted from taxation through the homestead exemption in Marion County, adjusted for inflation.

Why is it important?

The homestead exemption allows a Florida homeowner to exempt from taxation the first $25,000 of value of his or her primary residence, thereby reducing property taxes paid by homeowners.

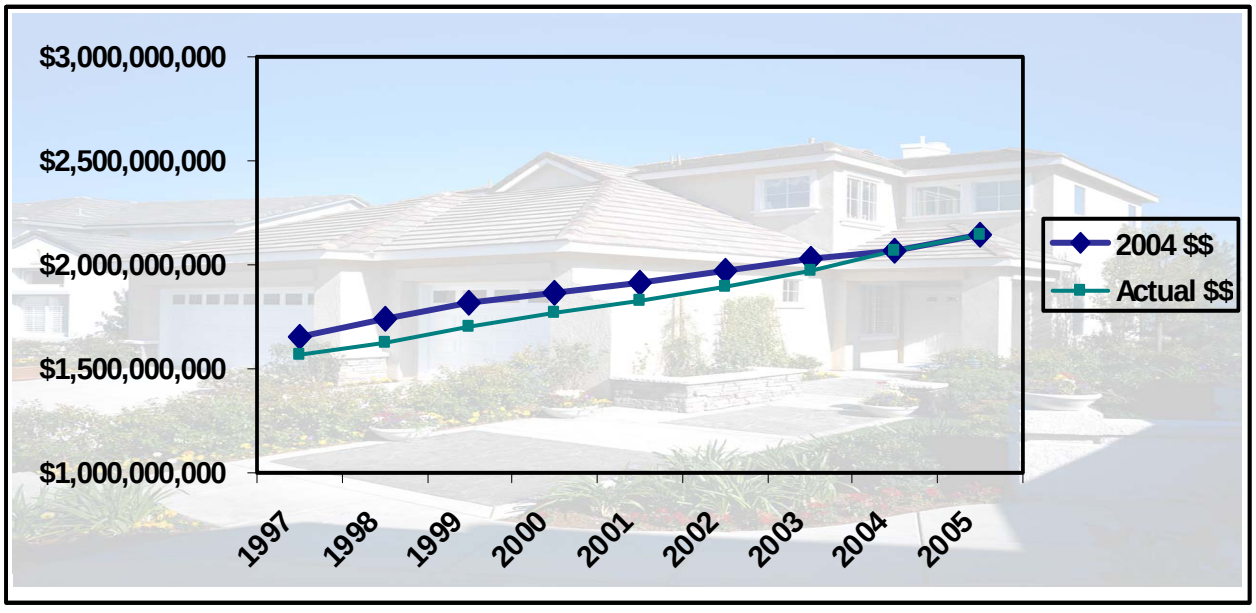
How are we doing?

After adjusting for inflation, homestead values and the number of parcels with homestead exemptions both continue to rise in Marion County, indicating an increase in the number of residents for whom Marion County is a primary residence instead of a vacation destination or summer home. The homestead value is slightly less than the number of homestead parcels multiplied by $25,000, because not all homestead property has an assessed value above $25,000.

Homestead Exemption

Year	Actual $$	2004 $$	Parcels
1997	$1,567,225,295	$1,658,439,466	64,466
1998	$1,628,239,727	$1,741,432,863	67,724
1999	$1,698,374,289	$1,818,387,890	70,368
2000	$1,767,263,344	$1,864,201,840	72,862
2001	$1,831,369,863	$1,913,657,119	75,194
2002	$1,892,148,727	$1,973,043,511	77,482
2003	$1,973,754,567	$2,030,611,694	81,323
2004	$2,069,629,825	$2,069,629,825	86,194
2005	$2,141,267,302	$2,141,267,302	88,776

Source: Marion County Property Appraiser



Education

The future of children, the strength of the economy, the appreciation of culture, the experience of health, and the enjoyment of lifelong learning all rely on a high quality educational system.

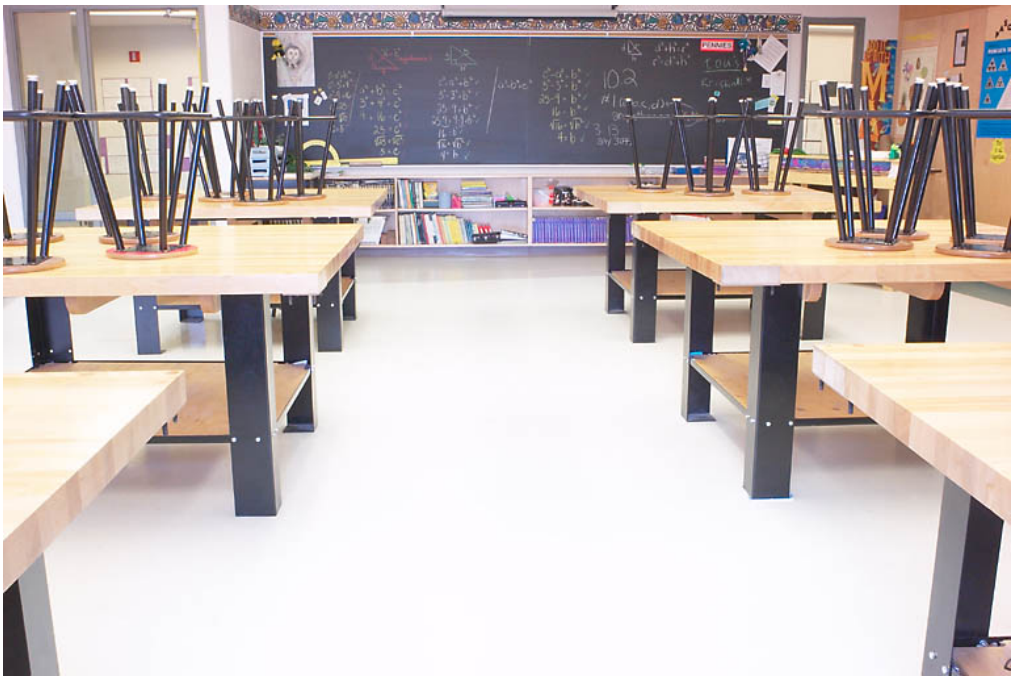
The quality of life in Marion County is enhanced when children prepare to learn, succeed in school, and continue learning throughout their lives.

Primary Indicators: Page 20—28

Students Ready for Kindergarten
Students At or Above Grade Level: Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic
Students Not Promoted to the Next Grade
High School Graduation and Dropout Rates
Public School Expenditures Per Child
Higher Education Degrees and Certificates Awarded
University Center Degrees Awarded

Secondary Indicators: Page 29—32

High School Graduates Ready for College (Not Needing Remediation)
Average SAT Scores
Average Public School Teacher Salary
Public School Teachers with Advanced Degrees



Students Ready for Kindergarten

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the percentage of incoming kindergartners scored as "ready" on the Florida School Readiness Uniform Screening System (SRUSS). The state of Florida began measuring the readiness of children for kindergarten in 2002 with the SRUSS. In 2002, 2003, and 2004 all Florida school districts administered the SRUSS. Beginning in 2004, in addition to the SRUSS, Florida school districts also administered the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Learning Skills (DIBELS) to more closely measure early literacy skills.

Why is it important?

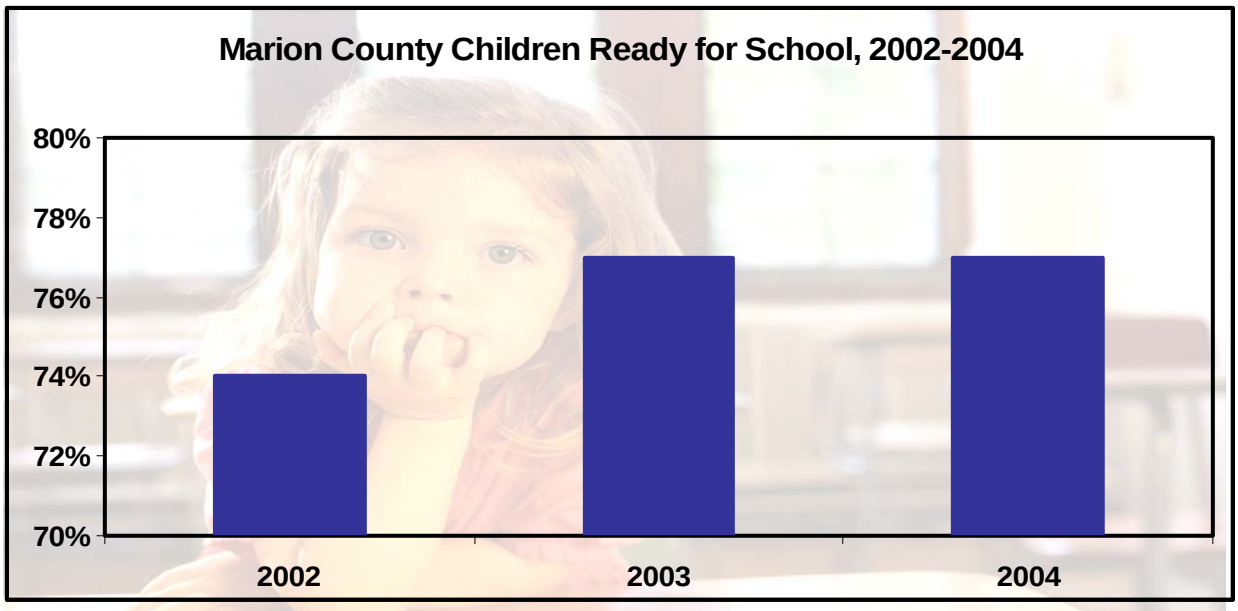
Children prepared for school are more likely to succeed in school. Children who begin school at a deficit may find it difficult to catch up with their peers.

How are we doing?

The percentage of kindergartners ready for school increased from 74 percent in 2002 to 77 percent in 2003 and 2004.

	Ready	
Year	**Marion**	**Florida**
2002	74%	82%
2003	77%	84%
2004	77%	84%
	Getting Ready	
Year	**Marion**	**Florida**
2002	17%	13%
2003	16%	12%
2004	15%	12%
	Not Ready	
Year	**Marion**	**Florida**
2002	9%	5%
2003	7%	4%
2004	8%	5%

Source: Florida Department of Education



Students At or Above Grade Level—Reading

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the percentage of 4th, 8th, and 10th-grade students scoring at Level 3 or above (out of five levels, three and above represent grade level or better performance) on the Florida Comprehensive Achievement Test (FCAT) in Reading.

Why is it important?

Reading is an essential skill for academic success. Through third grade, students learn to read, while after third grade, students read to learn.

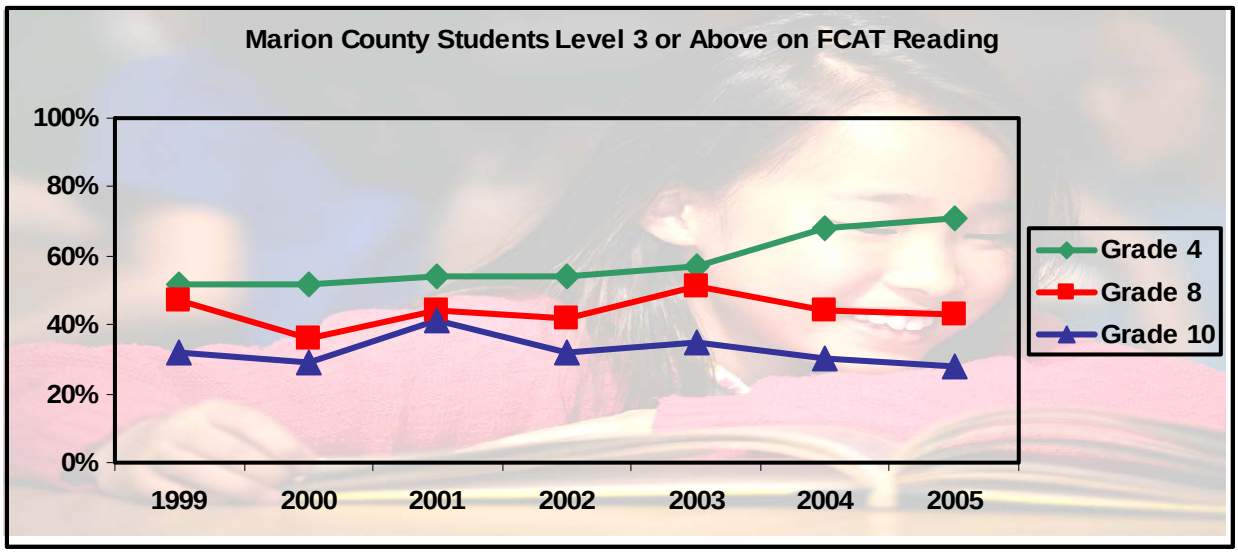
How are we doing?

Reading scores have improved substantially for fourth-grade students, while the trend line for both eighth-grade and tenth-grade students has been negative.

Reading at Level 3 or Above

	Marion County			Florida		
	4th	8th	10th	4th	8th	10th
1999	48%	40%	29%	48%	44%	30%
2000	52%	36%	29%	52%	39%	29%
2001	54%	44%	41%	53%	43%	37%
2002	54%	42%	32%	55%	45%	36%
2003	57%	51%	35%	60%	49%	36%
2004	68%	44%	30%	70%	45%	34%
2005	71%	43%	28%	71%	44%	32%

Source: Florida Department of Education



Students At or Above Grade Level—Writing

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the percentage of 4th, 8th, and 10th-grade students scoring at Level 3 or above (out of five levels, level three and above represent grade level or better performance) on the Florida Comprehensive Achievement Test (FCAT) in Writing.

Why is it important?

Writing, one of the "3 R's" traditionally measured in student achievement, is important for communication and literacy.

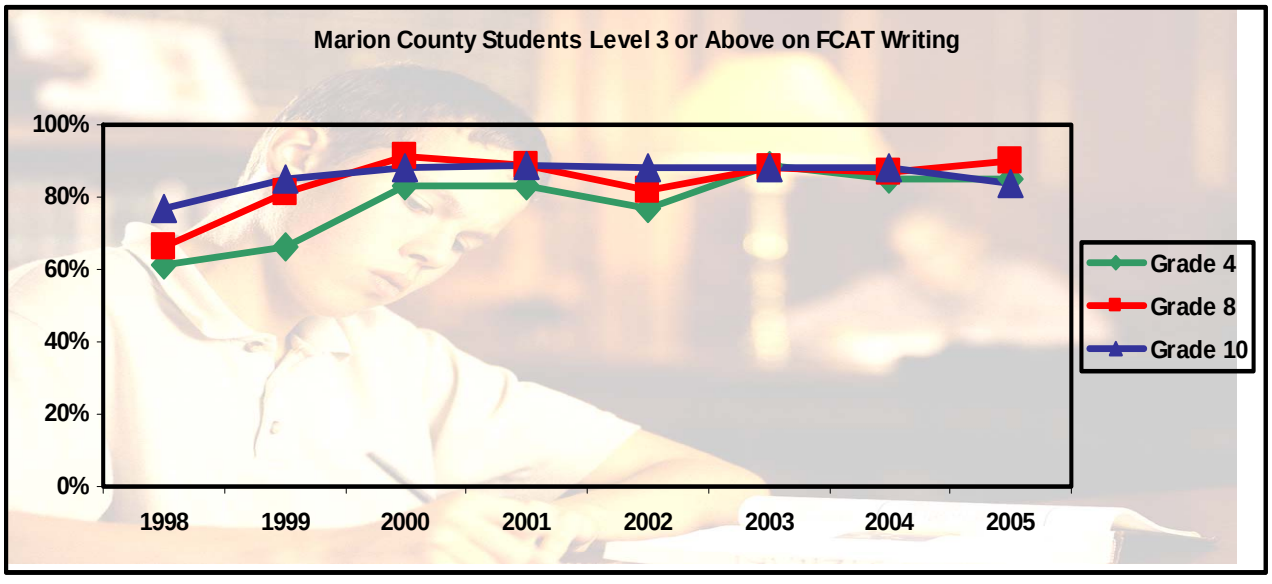
How are we doing?

Writing scores indicate a significant increase during 1998-2000. After a leveling off phase, eighth-graders show an increase in 2005 and tenth-graders a decline.

Writing at Level 3 or Above

	Marion County			Florida		
	4th	8th	10th	4th	8th	10th
1999	60%	72%	80%	66%	82%	85%
2000	75%	83%	85%	77%	90%	85%
2001	75%	82%	85%	83%	87%	88%
2002	77%	82%	88%	81%	90%	91%
2003	89%	88%	88%	90%	91%	88%
2004	85%	87%	88%	90%	89%	90%
2005	85%	90%	84%	90%	92%	90%

Source: Florida Department of Education



Students At or Above Grade Level—Arithmetic

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the percentage of 5th, 8th, and 10th-grade students scoring at Level 3 or above (out of five levels, level three and above represent grade level or better performance) on the Florida Comprehensive Achievement Test (FCAT) in Math.

Why is it important?

Mathematics is essential for graduation from high school and as a critical life skill for self-sufficiency.

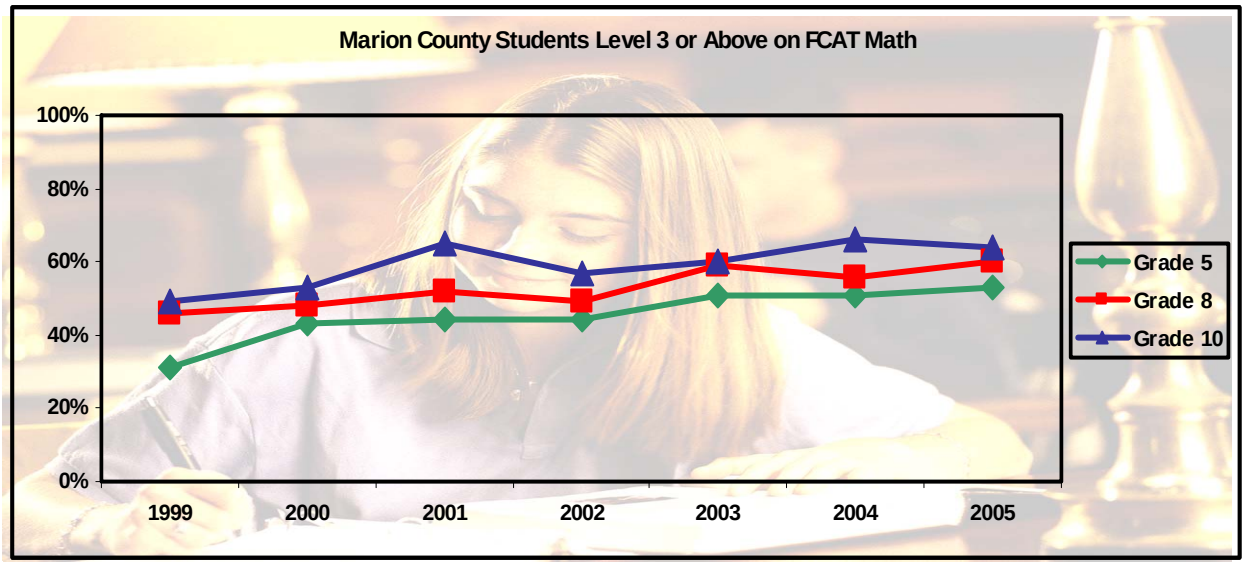
How are we doing?

Math scores have improved gradually for fifth, eighth, and tenth-grade students, though tenth-grade scores dipped slightly in 2005.

Math at Level 3 or Above

	Marion County			Florida		
	5th	8th	10th	5th	8th	10th
1999	31%	46%	49%	35%	44%	47%
2000	43%	48%	53%	46%	51%	51%
2001	44%	52%	65%	48%	55%	59%
2002	44%	49%	57%	48%	53%	60%
2003	51%	59%	60%	52%	56%	60%
2004	51%	56%	66%	52%	56%	63%
2005	53%	60%	64%	57%	59%	63%

Source: Florida Department of Education



Students Not Promoted to the Next Grade

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the annual number of public school students in grades K-12 who are not promoted to the next grade.

Why is it important?

Timely promotions are necessary to graduate from school on time, and failure to master the skills necessary to advance to the next grade level is an early indication of academic needs.

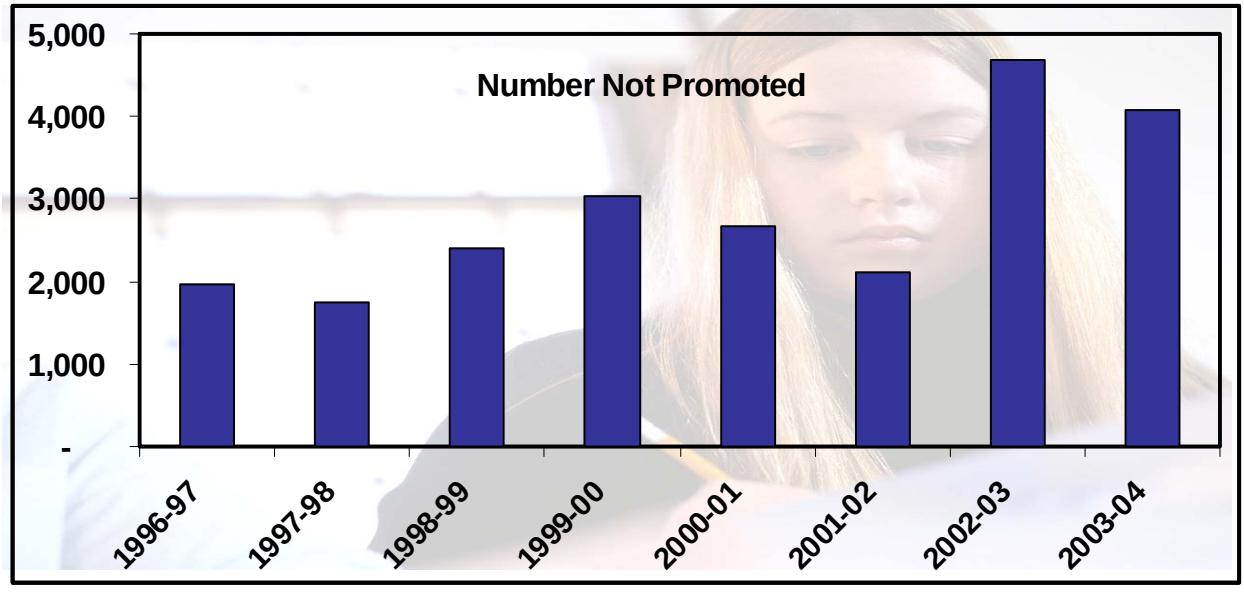
How are we doing?

The number of students not promoted in 2003-04 is lower than in 2002-03, but remains nearly twice as high as 2001-02. Changes in the rate of students not promoted may reflect changes in curriculum or promotion requirements. The largest numbers of students not promoted are in the ninth and tenth grades, where 26.8 and 23.4 percent of students were retained.

Non-Promotions

	Marion County		Florida	
Year	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1996-97	1,968	5.5%	112,948	5.2%
1997-98	1,754	4.8%	139,816	6.2%
1998-99	2,406	6.5%	161,753	7.1%
1999-00	3,022	8.1%	167,806	7.2%
2000-01	2,677	7.1%	173,963	7.3%
2001-02	2,116	5.5%	162,196	6.6%
2002-03	4,680	12.0%	208,103	8.6%
2003-04	4,069	10.3%	201,274	7.9%

Source: Florida Department of Education



High School Graduation and Dropout Rates

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the percentage of public high school students in Marion County and Florida who graduate from high school in four years, as tracked by student I.D. numbers. Dropout rates measure the percentage of students who drop out between 9th and 12th grades.

Why is it important?

A high school diploma is critical for lifelong learning and for obtaining quality employment.

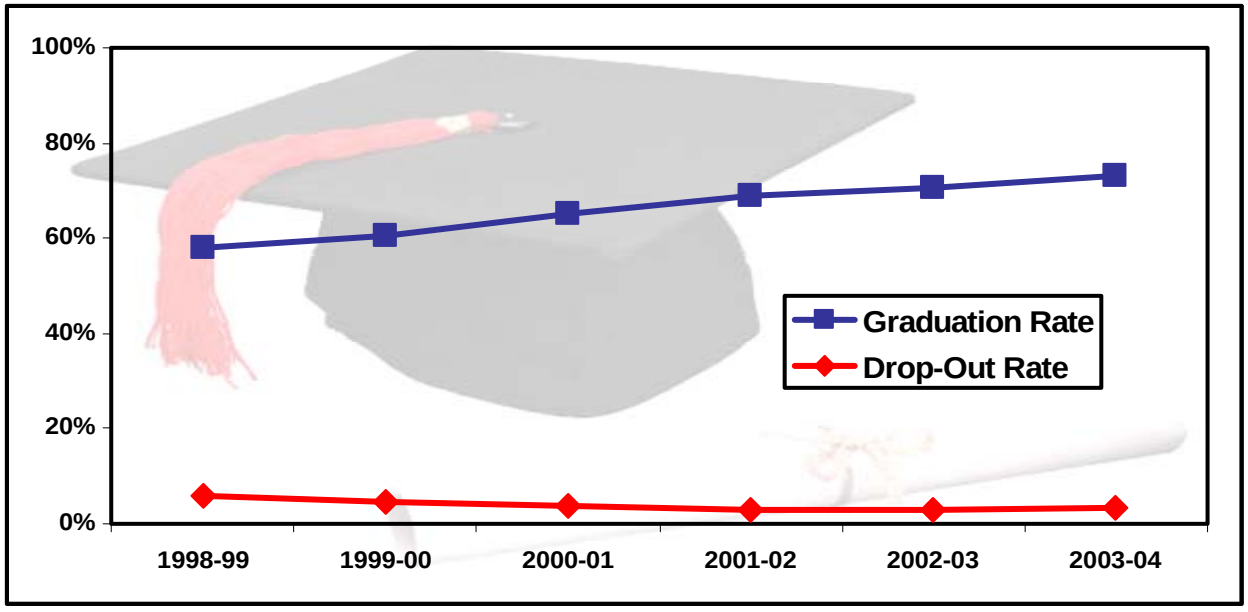
How are we doing?

Graduation rates have been rising since 1998-99, when the state changed the method of calculating high school graduation rates. The dropout rate has been declining. Because some students do not officially drop out and others stay in school and not graduate (or take longer to graduate than four years), the dropout rate is not the inverse of the graduation rate.

Graduation and Dropout Rates

	Marion County		Florida	
	Dropout Rate	Graduation Rate	Dropout Rate	Graduation Rate
1998-1999	5.7%	57.9%	5.4%	60.2%
1999-2000	4.5%	60.3%	4.6%	62.3%
2000-2001	3.6%	65.2%	3.8%	63.8%
2001-2002	2.8%	69.1%	3.2%	67.9%
2002-2003	3.0%	70.6%	3.1%	69.0%
2003-2004	3.3%	73.1%	2.9%	71.6%

Source: Florida Department of Education



Public School Expenditures Per Child

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the total public school expenditures per student in the Marion County school system, in four separate categories: students in exceptional education programs, students in identified at-risk programs, students in vocational programs, and students in traditional educational programs.

Why is it important?

Per-student funding demonstrates the commitment to meeting the educational needs of its students.

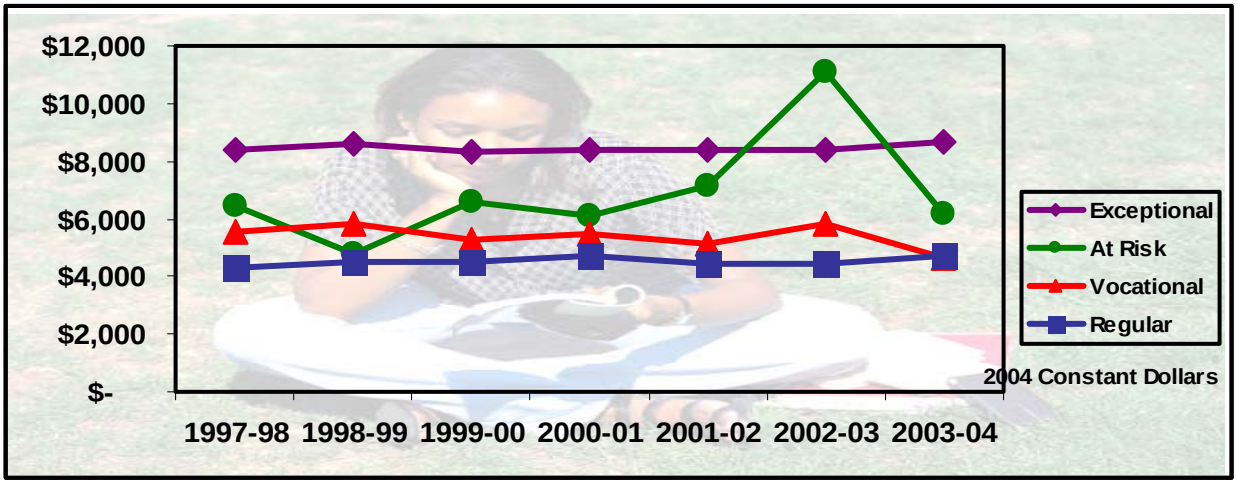
How are we doing?

When adjusted for inflation, per-pupil expenditures for students in regular programs have remained largely flat, while vocational student funding has declined and at-risk funding has fluctuated over time.

Expenditures Per Child

	Marion County				Florida			
	Exceptional	At-Risk	Vocational	Regular	Exceptional	At-Risk	Vocational	Regular
1997-1998	$ 8,389	$ 6,485	$ 5,568	$ 4,294	$ 6,555	$ 4,827	$ 4,422	$ 3,902
1998-1999	$ 8,596	$ 4,757	$ 5,858	$ 4,511	$ 6,880	$ 5,081	$ 4,714	$ 4,024
1999-2000	$ 8,346	$ 6,572	$ 5,301	$ 4,535	$ 7,092	$ 5,383	$ 4,879	$ 4, 247
2000-2001	$ 8,401	$ 6,108	$ 5,487	$ 4,687	$ 7,726	$ 5,424	$ 4,982	$ 4,441
2001-2002	$ 8,396	$ 7,135	$ 5,117	$ 4,436	$ 7,991	$ 5,644	$ 4,979	$ 4,378
2002-2003	$ 8,360	$ 11,099	$ 5,849	$ 4,413	$ 8,500	$ 5,775	$ 5,089	$ 4,488
2003-2004	$ 8,667	$ 6,149	$ 4,662	$ 4,723	$ 8,910	$ 6,144	$ 5,454	$ 4,769

Source: Florida Department of Education



Higher Education Degrees and Certificates Awarded

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the total annual number of Associate in Arts degrees (AA), Associate in Science (AS) degrees, and Workforce Education/Vocational Training certificates awarded by Central Florida Community College.

Why is it important?

Higher education often provides the skills and certifications necessary to achieve in the workforce and continue on a path of lifelong learning.

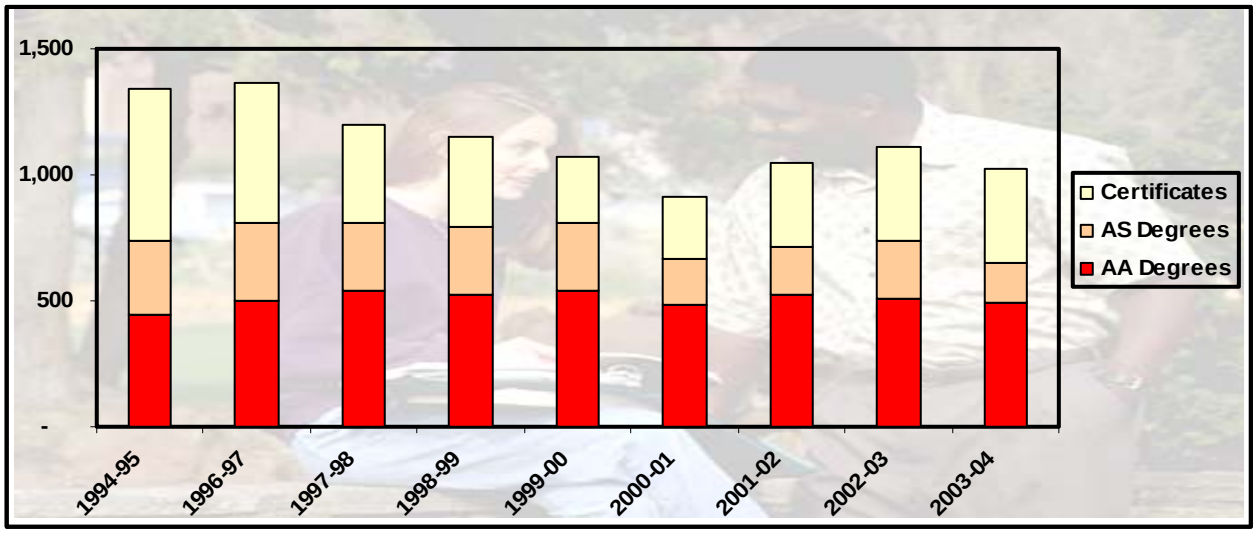
How are we doing?

Associate in Arts degrees have declined slightly, from 510 in 2003-03 to 490 in 2003-04, while Associate in Science degrees have declined more sharply (228 to 162) and vocational certificates continued at 370.

Higher Education Degrees and Certificates

	Central Florida Community College				Florida Vocational & Community Colleges			
Year	AA Degrees	AS Degrees	Vocational Certificates	Total	AA Degrees	AS Degrees	Vocational Certificates	Total
1998-99	521	275	358	1,154	25,720	9,125	10,402	45,247
1999-00	540	266	265	1,071	24,865	9,100	10,492	44,457
2000-01	485	181	246	912	27,103	9,287	12,330	48,720
2001-02	523	213	331	1,046	27,781	9,133	21,304	58,218
2002-03	510	228	370	1,108	29,137	9,831	16,941	55,909
2003-04	490	162	370	1,022	30,809	10,548	20,470	61,827

Source: Florida Department of Education



University Center Degrees Awarded

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the total annual number of degrees awarded at the colleges and universities located at the University Center at Central Florida Community College.

Why is it important?

Educational attainment is an important measure of community quality of life.

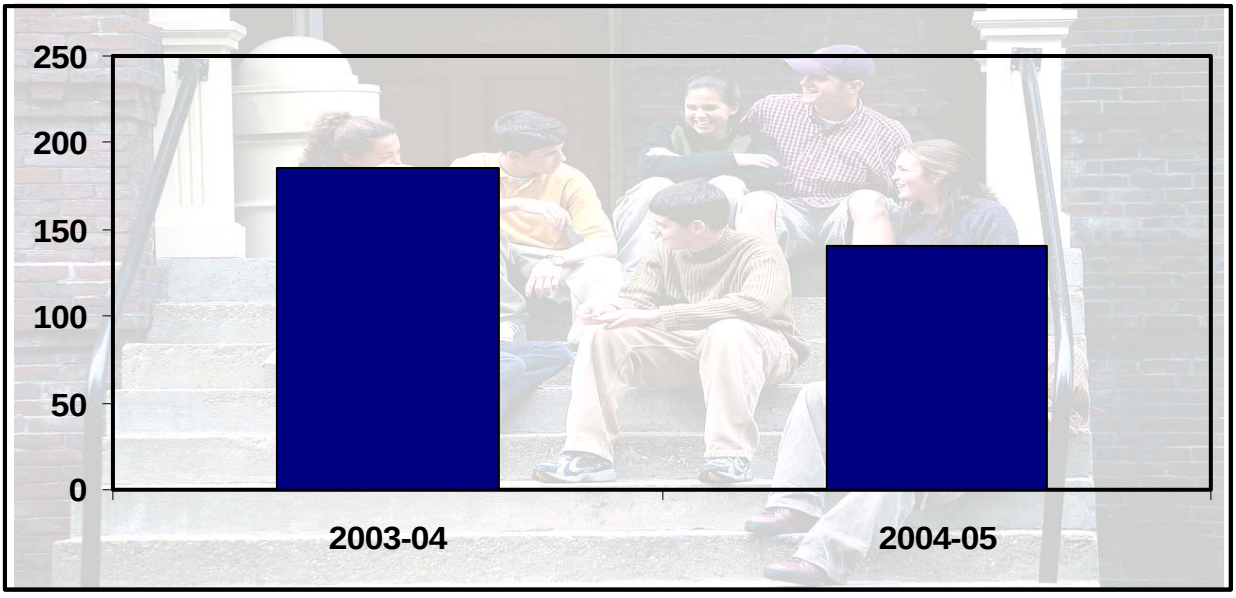
How are we doing?

In 2001, the University Center opened, bringing together seven institutions of higher education in one place. Between 2001 and May 2005, the University Center has awarded 571 degrees.

University Center Graduates

University Center Graduates		
College /University	**2003-04**	**2004-05**
Saint Leo	124	83
Central Florida	10	10
Webster University	45	45
Barry University	0	0
Florida Southern	8	21
University of Florida	2	1
Florida State	0	0
Total	**189**	**160**

Source: University Center



High School Graduates Ready for College

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the annual percentage of college-bound Marion County high school students who pass the Reading, Writing, and Math portions of the Florida College Entry-Level Placement Test (FCELPT) for entrance into any Florida public college or university.

Why is it important?

Effective preparation for higher education is an important measure of high school student success in college.

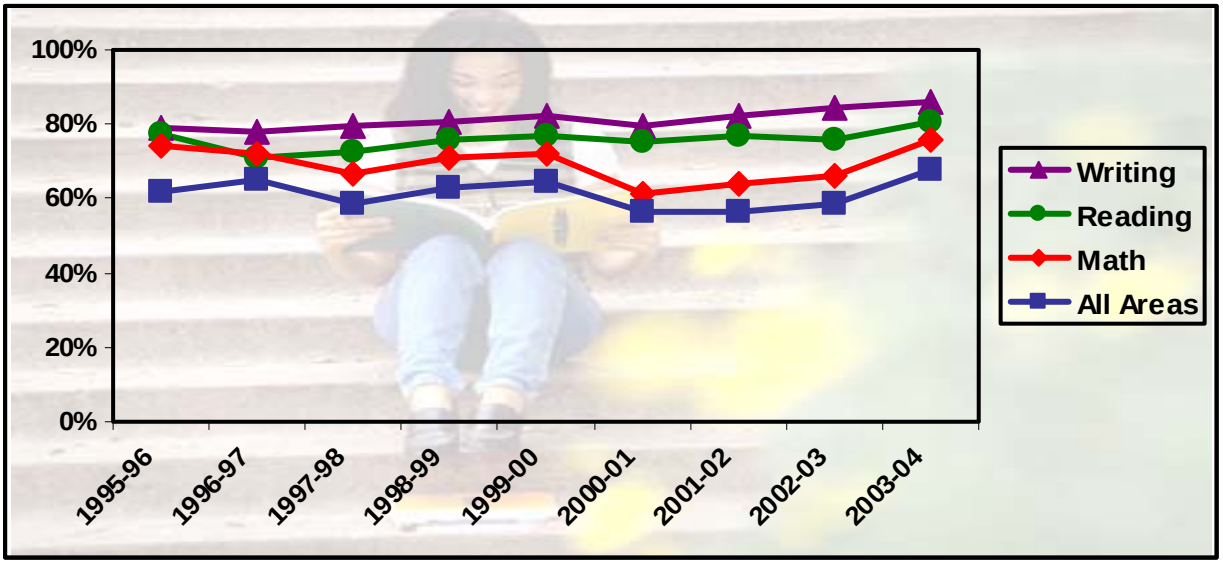
How are we doing?

Student readiness for college improved in 2003-04 after declines in 2000-01 and 2001-02. Overall, student readiness is above the Florida average of 59.6 percent. Because many students take the SAT or ACT before attending a university (which provides the readiness assessment), this indicator primarily measures the readiness of those students entering community colleges.

Students Ready for College

	Marion County				Florida			
Year	**Reading**	**Writing**	**Math**	**All Areas**	**Reading**	**Writing**	**Math**	**All Areas**
1995-96	77.4%	78.9%	74.3%	62.0%	75.8%	72.0%	68.6%	54.1%
1996-97	71.0%	77.7%	71.8%	64.8%	75.7%	77.5%	71.4%	61.4%
1997-98	72.4%	79.7%	66.6%	58.8%	71.4%	76.7%	66.7%	58.8%
1998-99	75.7%	80.8%	70.7%	63.0%	74.3%	80.9%	69.7%	61.5%
1999-00	77.0%	82.4%	71.9%	64.3%	75.7%	80.8%	70.7%	63.0%
2000-01	75.1%	79.6%	61.4%	56.6%	74.4%	80.2%	67.4%	60.5%
2001-02	76.8%	82.4%	64.1%	56.3%	73.3%	79.7%	65.3%	58.2%
2002-03	75.6%	84.3%	66.0%	58.6%	72.8%	80.0%	65.0%	58.2%
2003-04	80.9%	86.0%	75.9%	67.5%	74.8%	81.2%	66.1%	59.6%

Source: Florida Department of Education



Average SAT Scores

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the annual average verbal and math scores of Marion County students taking the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT).

Why is it important?

SAT scores are one measure of preparation for higher education and are often a necessary component in a student's application for university admission.

How are we doing?

Average SAT scores have been declining in the past two years from a total of 1023 to 1008 in 2004-05. Scores in Marion County remain above the state average of 996 (498 verbal, 498 math) and below the national average of 1028 (508 verbal, 520 math).

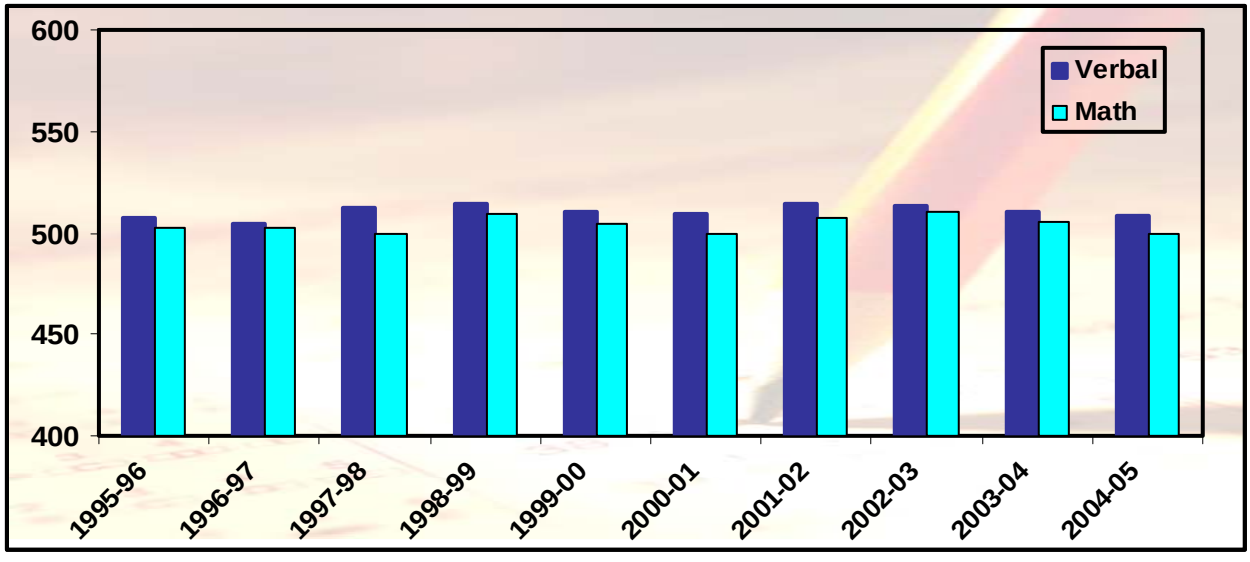
Average SAT Scores: Marion County

Year	Percent Taking SAT	Verbal	Math
1995-96	28.8%	507	502
1996-97	30.5%	504	502
1997-98	30.4%	512	500
1998-99	29.6%	514	509
1999-00	30.2%	510	504
2000-01	31.1%	509	500
2001-02	34.2%	514	507
2002-03	32.0%	513	510
2003-04	35.1%	510	505
2004-05	36.5%	508	500

Average SAT Scores: Florida

Year	Percent Taking SAT	Verbal	Math
1995-96	50.4%	498	496
1996-97	NA	499	499
1997-98	53.9%	500	501
1998-99	NA	499	498
1999-00	57.5%	498	500
2000-01	57.1%	498	499
2001-02	57.5%	496	499
2002-03	60.8%	498	498
2003-04	62.1%	499	499
2004-05	65.3%	498	498

Source: Florida Department of Education



Average Public School Teacher Salary

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the annual average salary of public school teachers in Marion County.

Why is it important?

Salary ranges, including average salaries, affect the ability to attract and retain high-quality teachers in the public school system.

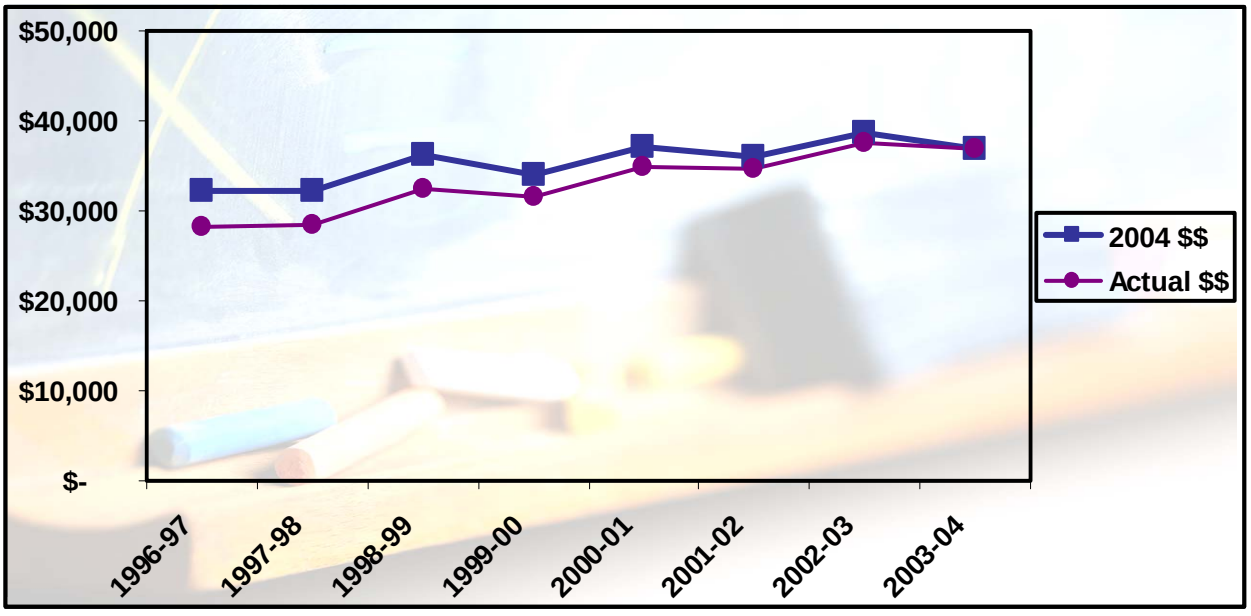
How are we doing?

Adjusted for inflation, average salaries declined in 2003-04. Average salaries in Marion County remain below the state average of $40,159.

Average Teacher Salary

	Marion County		Florida	
Year	Actual $$	2004 $$	Actual $$	2004 $$
1996-97	$28,204	$32,233	$33,887	$38,728
1997-98	$28,542	$32,324	$34,743	$39,347
1998-99	$32,465	$36,153	$35,915	$39,994
1999-00	$31,509	$34,027	$36,722	$39,657
2000-01	$34,939	$37,051	$38,717	$41,057
2001-02	$34,591	$36,070	$38,718	$40,373
2002-03	$37,627	$38,592	$39,896	$40,919
2003-04	$36,825	$36,825	$40,159	$40,159

Source: Florida Department of Education



Public School Teachers with Advanced Degrees

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the annual percentage of Marion County public school teachers holding masters, specialist, or doctoral degrees.

Why is it important?

Quality in teaching is often subjective. One way to measure quality teaching is the percentage of teachers who have continued their education in order to improve their subject knowledge and teaching skills.

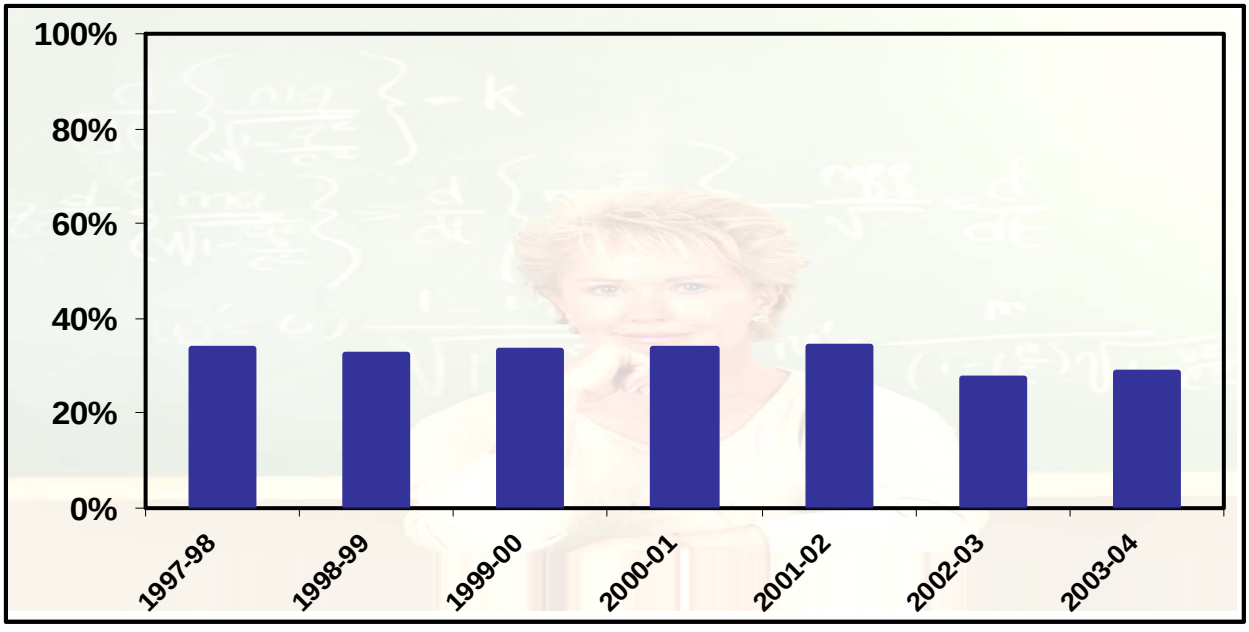
How are we doing?

The percentage of teachers with advanced degrees has been declining in Marion County, although the percentage increased slightly in 2003-04. The percentage of teachers with advanced degrees remains well below the Florida average.

Teachers with Advanced Degrees

Year	Marion County	Florida
1997-98	33.8%	39.8%
1998-99	32.2%	39.7%
1999-00	33.4%	39.5%
2000-01	33.5%	39.7%
2001-02	34.2%	38.0%
2002-03	27.3%	32.7%
2003-04	28.5%	35.1%

Source: Florida Department of Education



Health

The quality of life in the community is directly impacted by the health of its residents and their ability to enjoy life.

Marion County residents enjoy a healthy quality of life when specific health concerns are addressed, youth stay away from harmful substance abuse or risky behaviors, and community health needs are met with sufficient medical care and insurance coverage.

Primary Indicators: Page 34—41

Leading Causes of Death, 0-19
Leading Causes of Death, 20-64
Leading Causes of Death, 65 and over
Youth Substance Use
Cigarette Use
Teen Birth Rate
Health Insurance Coverage
Mental Health Professionals

Secondary Indicators: Page 42—44

Physicians Per 100,000 Population
Hospital Visits
Emergency Room Visits

Leading Causes of Death, Ages 0-19

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the mortality rate for individuals ages 0-19 per 100,000 people in the population of Marion County in comparison to the state.

Why is it important?

The health and safety of children and youth are of critical importance to the community to avoid illness and injury and to prepare the next generation for the future.

How are we doing?

Leading causes of death for young persons ages 0-19 changed between 1984 and 2003. Injury and perinatal conditions remained the two leading causes. However, cancer, heart disease, congenital and chromosomal anomalies, suicide, and homicide changed places as the third through fifth leading causes of death for young people.

Population, Ages 0-19, Marion County, 2004

2004 Marion County Population, All Races, All Sexes, Ages 0-19	66,257

Population, Ages 0-19, Florida, 2004

2004 Florida Population, All Races, All Sexes, Ages 0-19	4,416,896

Leading Causes of Death, Ages 0-19, Marion County, 2004

Leading Causes of Death, 2004, Marion County, Ages 0-19	Number of Deaths	Rate of Death per 100,000
Cancer	5	7.5
Heart Disease	1	1.5
Homicide	1	1.5
Suicide	3	4.5
All Injuries	18	27.2
Unintentional Injuries	14	21.1
Perinatal Period Conditions	15	22.6
Congenital Anomalies	5	7.5

Leading Causes of Death, Ages 0-19, Florida, 2004

Leading Causes of Death, 2004, Florida, Ages 0-19	Number of Deaths	Rate of Death per 100,000
Cancer	114	2.6
Heart Disease	82	1.9
Homicide	141	3.2
Suicide	88	2.0
All Injuries	1,059	24.0
Unintentional Injuries	817	18.5
Perinatal Period Conditions	780	17.7
Congenital Anomalies	336	7.6

Source: Florida Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, Community Health Assessment Resource Tools Set (C.H.A.R.T.S.)

Leading Causes of Death, Ages 20-64

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the mortality rate for individuals ages 20-64 per 100,000 people in the population of Marion County in comparison to the state.

Why is it important?

The health and safety of adults during their working years directly impacts their ability to enjoy the future quality of life and maintain a strong community.

How are we doing?

Leading causes of death for people ages 20-64 changed between 1984 and 2003. Cancer, injury, and heart disease remained the top three causes. However, in various years, deaths attributable to HIV, suicide, stroke, diabetes, homicide, and respiratory illnesses have all changed places as the fourth and fifth leading causes of death for this age group.

Population, Ages 20-64, Marion County, 2004

2004 Marion County Population, All Races, All Sexes, Ages 20-64	158,784

Population, Ages 20-64, Marion County, 2004

2004 Florida Population, All Races, All Sexes, Ages 20-64	10,194,841

Leading Causes of Death, Ages 20-64, Marion County, 2004

Leading Causes of Death, 2004, Marion County, Ages 20-64	Number of Deaths	Rate of Death per 100,000
Cancer	263	165.6
Heart Disease	433	272.7
Homicide	11	6.9
Suicide	36	22.7
All Injuries	141	88.8
Unintentional Injuries	93	58.6
Perinatal Period Conditions	0	0.0
Congenital Anomalies	7	4.4

Leading Causes of Death, Ages 20-64, Florida, 2004

Leading Causes of Death, 2004, Florida, Ages 20-64	Number of Deaths	Rate of Death per 100,000
Cancer	10,782	105.8
Heart Disease	8,871	87.0
Homicide	821	8.1
Suicide	1,774	17.4
All Injuries	7,663	75.2
Unintentional Injuries	4,886	47.9
Perinatal Period Conditions	2	0.0
Congenital Anomalies	139	1.4

Source: Florida Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, Community Health Assessment Resource Tools Set (C.H.A.R.T.S.)

Leading Causes of Death, 65 and over

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the mortality rate for individuals ages 65 and over per 100,000 people in the population of Marion County in comparison to the state.

Why is it important?

Individuals ages 65 and over contribute a wealth of experience and knowledge to the community. Therefore, improving health among the senior population is critical to community quality of life.

How are we doing?

Leading causes of death for seniors over 65 changed between 1984 and 2003. Heart disease and cancer remained the two leading causes. Respiratory illness and stroke alternated in third and fourth places as stroke deaths decreased and respiratory illnesses increased in previous years.

Population, Ages 65+, Marion County, 2004

2004 Marion County Population, All Races, All Sexes, Ages 65+	70,509

Population, Ages 65+, Florida, 2004

2004 Florida Population, All Races, All Sexes, Ages 65+	3,001,631

Leading Causes of Death, Ages 65+, Marion County, 2004

Leading Causes of Death, 2004, Marion County, Ages 65+	Number of Deaths	Rate of Death per 100,000
Cancer	348	493.6
Heart Disease	1,324	1877.8
Homicide	6	8.5
Suicide	16	22.7
All Injuries	86	122.0
Unintentional Injuries	62	87.9
Perinatal Period Condi-tions	0	0.0
Congenital Anomalies	2	2.8

Leading Causes of Death, Ages 65+, Florida, 2004

Leading Causes of Death, 2004, Florida, Ages 65+	Number of Deaths	Rate of Death per 100,000
Cancer	28,614	953.3
Heart Disease	51,662	1721.1
Homicide	69	2.3
Suicide	518	17.3
All Injuries	3,172	105.7
Unintentional Injuries	2,465	82.1
Perinatal Period Conditions	0	0.0
Congenital Anomalies	65	2.2

Source: Florida Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, Community Health Assessment Resource Tools Set (C.H.A.R.T.S.)

Youth Substance Use

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the percentage of surveyed Marion County youth in grades 6 through 12 who report having used alcohol, marijuana, any illicit drug, or cigarettes in the previous 30 days. In 2004, 955 Marion County youth responded to the Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS).

Why is it important?

Use of alcohol, marijuana, and other illicit drugs negatively affects the lives of youth and potentially impacts their health, safety, and success at school and in the community. In addition, binge drinking (defined as consumption of five or more drinks in a row within the Previous two weeks) is more prevalent than previous 30-day use of marijuana and other illicit drug use. According to the Florida Youth Substance Survey, 19.8% of youths in 2000, 17.4% of youths in 2002, and 17.9% of youths in 2004 reported binge drinking.

How are we doing?

With over all prevalence rates of 61% for lifetime use and 33% for past 30-day use, alcohol is the most commonly used drug among Marion County Students. Binge drinking (defined as consumption of five or more drinks in a row within the previous two weeks) is more prevalent than past 30-day use of marijuana and other illicit drug use. The use of marijuana and any illicit drugs has declined significantly since 2000.

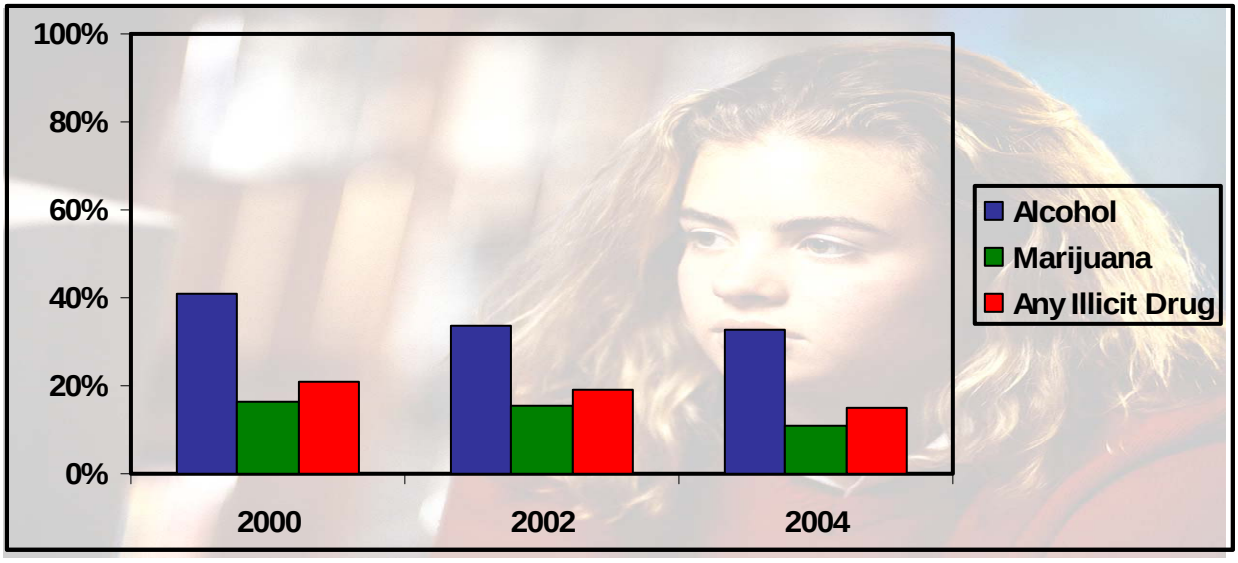
Youth Reported Substance Use
Marion County, 2000-2004

Year	Alcohol	Marijuana	Any Illicit Drug
2000	41.0%	16.2%	21.0%
2002	33.8%	15.4%	19.2%
2004	32.7%	10.9%	15.2%

Youth Reported Substance Use
Florida, 2000-2004

Year	Alcohol	Marijuana	Any Illicit Drug
2000	34.3%	14.4%	18.4%
2002	31.2%	12.1%	15.5%
2004	32.3%	11.5%	15.8%

Source: Florida Department of Children and Families, Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS)



Cigarette Use

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the percentage of surveyed Marion County adults/high school youth/middle school youth who report having smoked cigarettes in the past 30 days. Youth results come from the Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS) and adult results from the Behavioral Risk Factors Surveillance Telephone Survey conducted by the Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Epidemiology.

Why is it important?

Cigarette smoking has significant life-threatening health effects.

How are we doing?

For comparison purposes, 2002 data are shown. Adult smoking rates are 26.6 percent, higher than the state average of 22.2 percent or the national 22.5 average.

Reported Cigarette Use Marion County, 2002 *(past 30 days)*

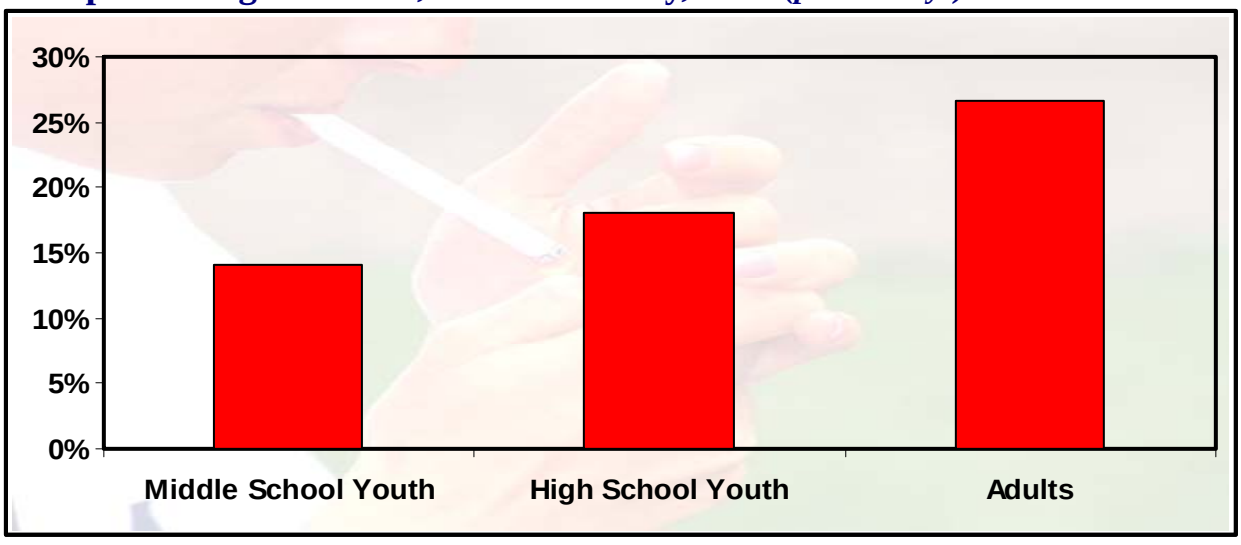
Year	Middle School Youth	High School Youth	Adults
2002	14.1%	18.1%	26.6%

Reported Cigarette Use Florida, 2002 *(past 30 days)*

Year	Middle School Youth	High School Youth	Adults
2002	7.1%	14.9%	22.2%

Source: Florida Behavioral Risk Factors Surveillance Survey, Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey

Reported Cigarette Use, Marion County, 2002 *(past 30 days)*



Teen Birth Rate

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the rate of annual births to resident females ages 10 to 17 in Marion County in comparison to the state.

Why is it important?

Teen pregnancies often result in health problems for mother and baby, and parenting problems can create social and economic hardships. The associated risks are especially high for younger teen mothers.

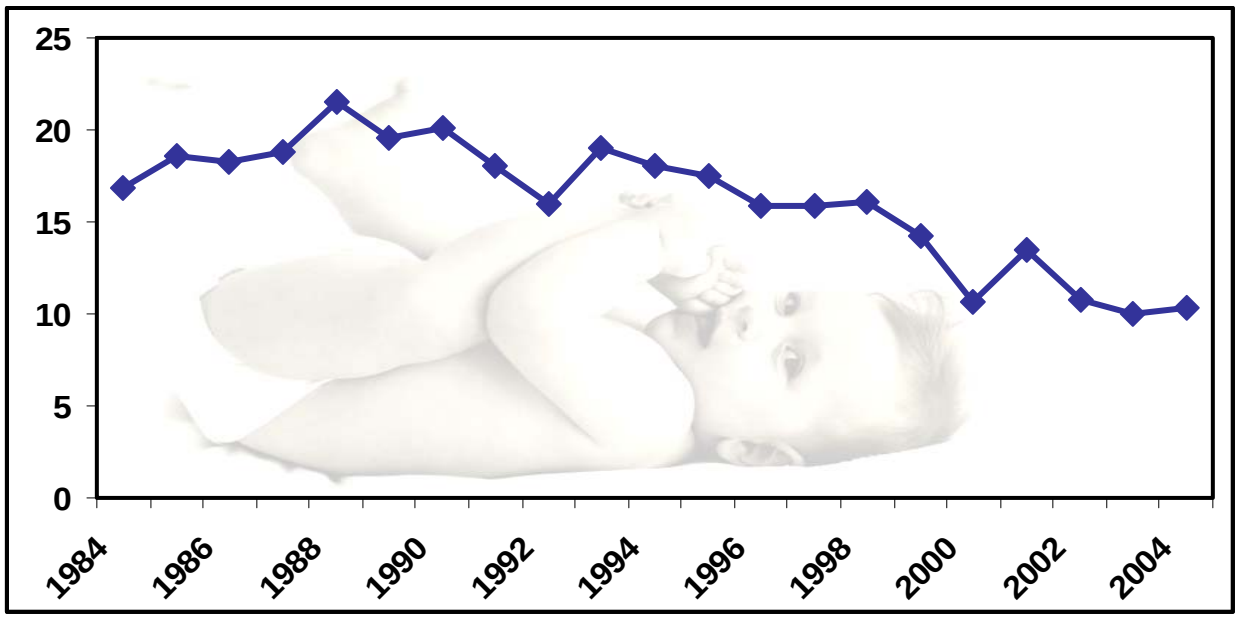
How are we doing?

The rate of teen females giving birth has been in a decline since 1988, when the rate was 21.5 births per 1,000 girls ages 10-17. In 2004, the rate increased slightly from 2003, from 10.0 to 10.3 births per 1,000 girls. In 2004, 143 babies were born to teen girls in Marion County, up from 137 in 2003.

Teen birth rate, Per 1,000, Ages 10-17

Year	Marion County	Florida
1999	14.2	12.0
2000	10.7	11.2
2001	13.5	10.3
2002	10.8	9.3
2003	10.0	8.8
2004	10.3	8.7

Source: Florida Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics



Health Insurance Coverage

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the percentage of the total Marion County population under age 65 with and without health insurance, according to the 2004 Florida Health Insurance Study, which used telephone surveys of county residents to provide direct estimates of health insurance coverage.

Why is it important?

Health insurance coverage provides security and access to care to improve individual quality of life.

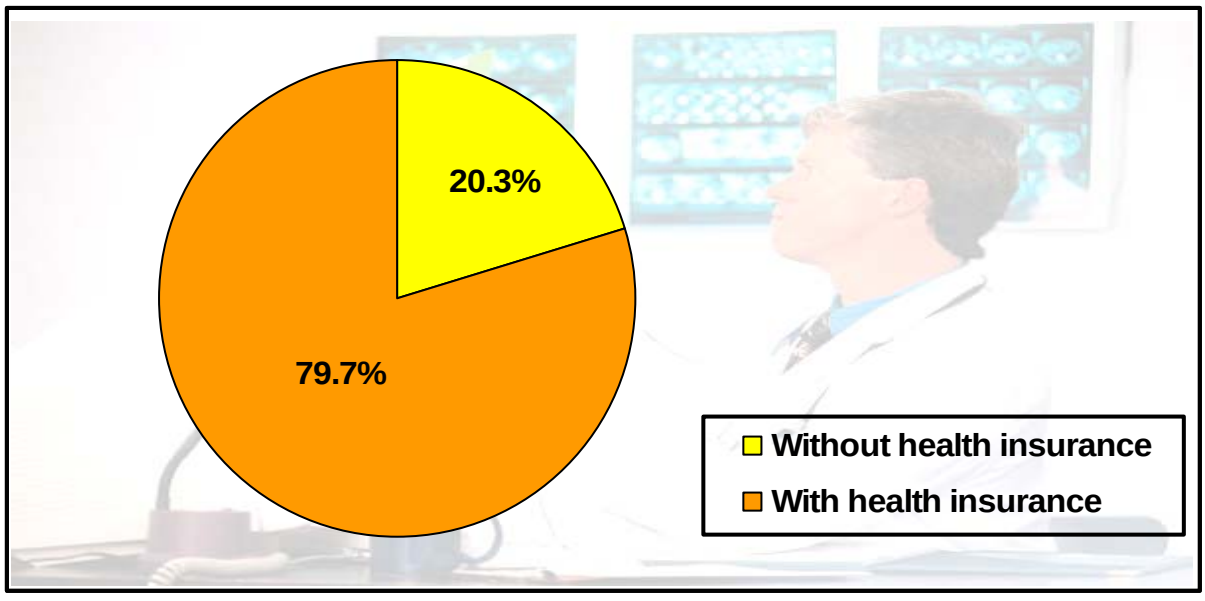
Percent Without Health Insurance

Year	Population	Lack Insurance	Source
2000	All	16.0%	U.S. Census
2000	Under 18	15.3%	U.S. Census
2002	18 and over	19.7%	BRFSS
2004	Under 65	20.3%	FHIS

Health insurance coverage estimates are not provided on a regular basis for Marion County, nor is the methodology for those estimates consistent. In 2000, the U.S. Census conducted experimental small area health insurance estimates and estimated that 16.0 percent of all Marion County residents (not just those under 65) lacked health insurance coverage. Of children under 18, 15.3 percent lacked coverage. In 2002, the Florida Department of Health surveyed about 500 adults in each county as part of a Behavioral Risk Factors Surveillance Survey. Survey estimates indicate that 19.7 percent of adults in Marion County lacked health insurance.

How are we doing?

Source: Florida Agency for Health Care Administration, Florida Health Insurance Study, 2004



Mental Health Professionals

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the total number of state licensed psychologists in Marion County, per 100,000 people in the population.

Why is it important?

Meeting the mental health needs of the community is as critical as meeting the physical health needs of residents.

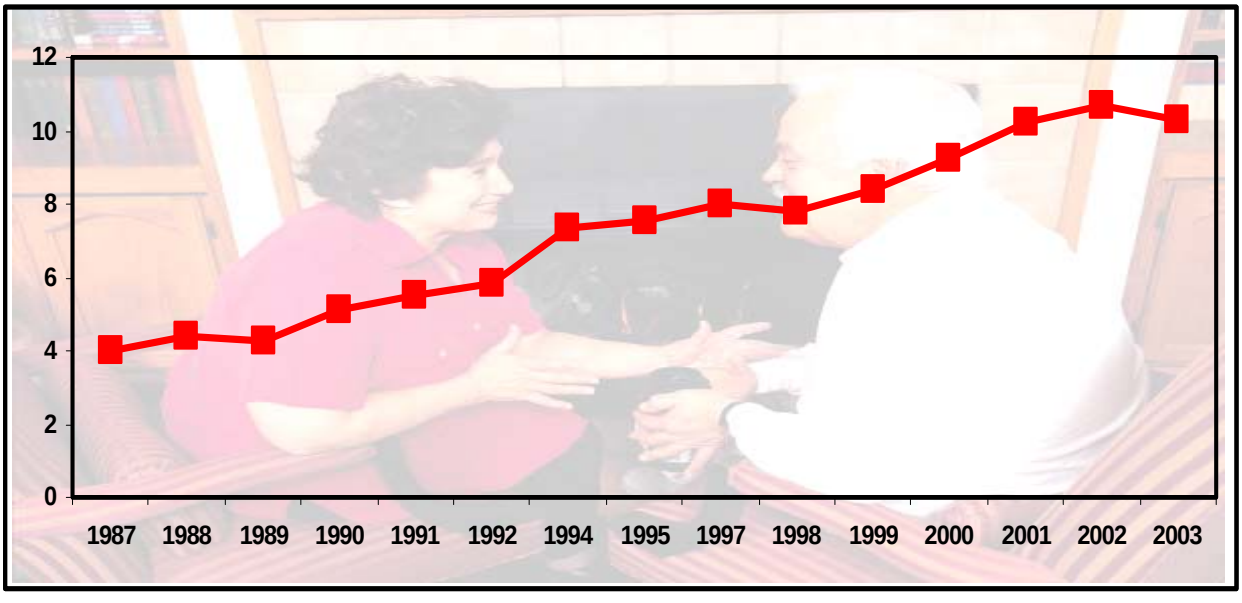
How are we doing?

This indicator measures the number of psychologists as just one of several professionals involved in mental health care services. Psychiatrists are included in the **Physicians Per 100,000 Population** indicator on the following page. The rate of psychologists per population has been increasing in Marion County, but the rate still remains half that of the Florida average 21.3 per 100,000.

Psychologists per 100,000

Year	Psychologists	Population	Psychologists Per 100,000
1998	19	243,140	7.8
1999	21	251,124	8.4
2000	24	258,916	9.3
2001	27	264,277	10.2
2002	29	271,096	10.7
2003	29	281,966	10.3

Source: Bureau of Business & Economic Research (BEBR), Florida Statistical Abstracts



Physicians Per 100,000 Population

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the total number of physicians in Marion County per 100,000 people in the population.

Why is it important?

Quality of life may depend on having adequate health care available in the community, including having physicians to meet the needs of the population.

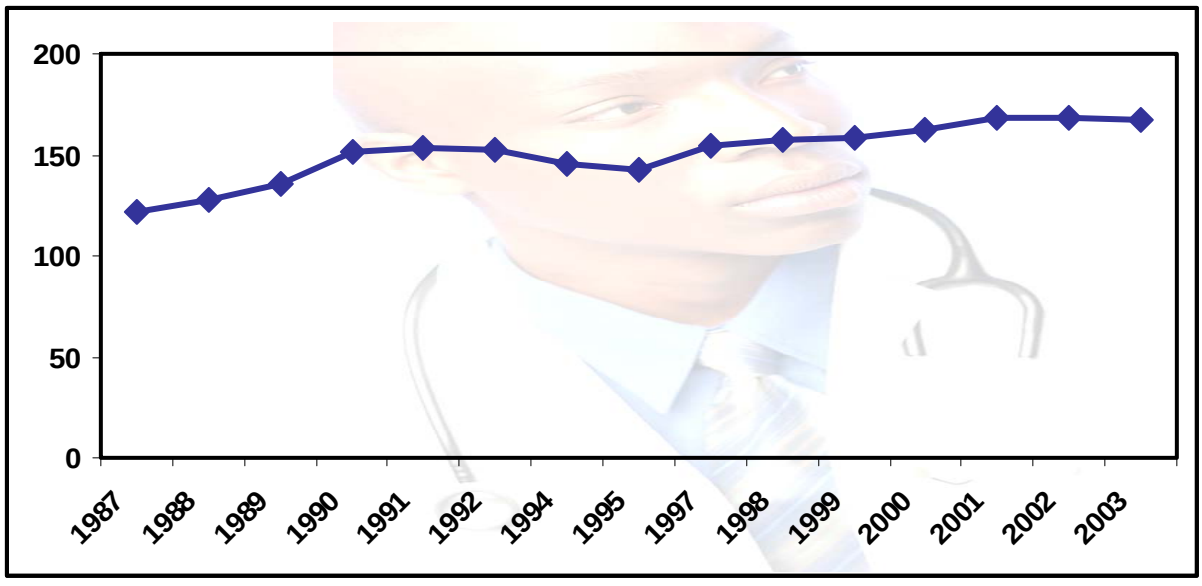
How are we doing?

The rate of physicians per population has been increasing in Marion County, but has leveled off since 2001. The rate is approximately half that of the Florida average 302.4 physicians per 100,000. The indicator represents all physicians, including doctors of medicine and osteopathy.

Physicians per 100,000

Year	Total Physicians	Population	Physicians Per 100,000
1998	382	243,140	157.1
1999	397	251,124	158.1
2000	420	258,916	162.2
2001	446	264,277	168.8
2002	456	271,096	168.2
2003	471	281,966	167.0

Source: Bureau of Business & Economic Research (BEBR), Florida Statistical Abstracts



Hospital Visits

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the total number of visits to hospitals in Marion County.

Why is it important?

Hospital visits are one way of measuring the health of the community.

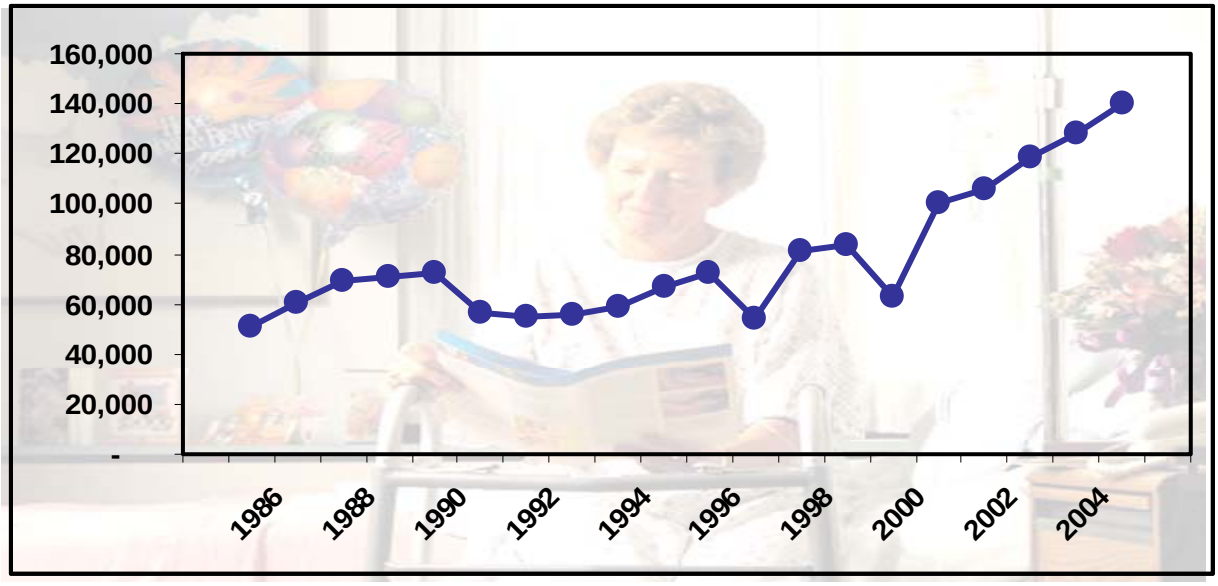
How are we doing?

Hospital visits have increased regularly, with some exceptions, over the past twenty years.

Hospital Visits

Year	Marion County	Florida
1998	83,263	5,624,510
1999	63,159	5,176,877
2000	100,164	6,157,520
2001	106,225	6,395,211
2002	118,213	6,660,799
2003	128,083	7,341,784
2004	139,858	7,081,199

Source: Agency for Health Care Administration, Office of Data Dissemination & Quality Assurance



Emergency Room Visits

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the total number of visits to the Munroe Regional Medical Center emergency rooms at the Main Campus, TimberRidge and Children's Express emergency centers and to Ocala Regional Medical Center and West Community Hospital.

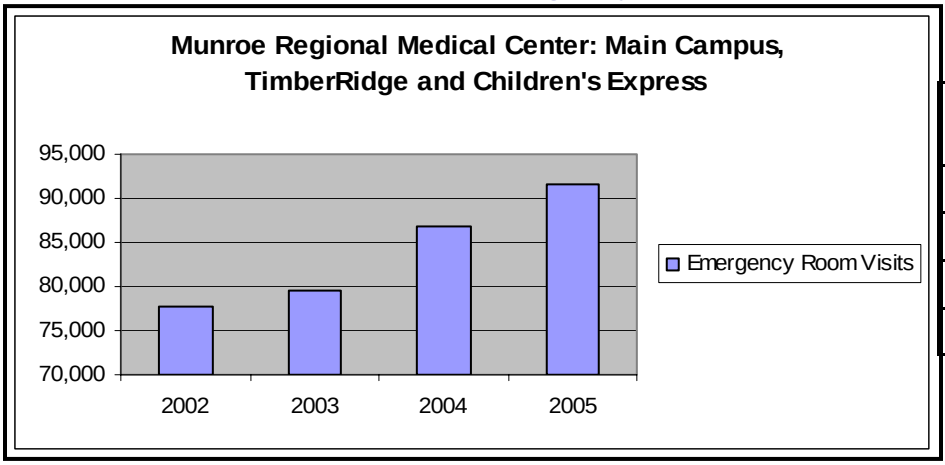
Why is it important?

Emergency room visits are one way of measuring the crisis health needs of the community.

How are we doing?

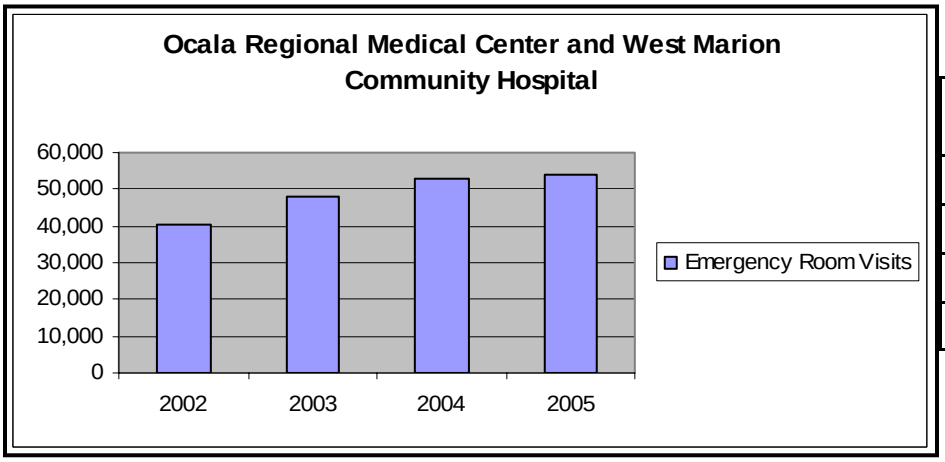
Emergency room visits have increased by nearly 18 percent from 2002 to 2005.

Emergency Room Visits



Year	Emergency Room Visits
2002	77,717
2003	79,446
2004	86,722
2005	91,596

Source: Munroe Regional Medical Center, Administration.



Year	Emergency Room Visits
2002	40,496
2003	48,216
2004	53,136
2005	54,206

Source: Ocala Regional Medical Center, Administration.

Public Safety

The quality of life in a community depends directly on public safety. Without a feeling of safety and security, residents cannot enjoy the other aspects of the quality of life.

To protect the quality of life in Marion County, people must feel safe in the community, in their homes, and on the roads.

Primary Indicators: Page 46—50

Violent Crime Rate
Domestic Violence
Child Abuse
Alcohol-Related Traffic Crashes
Commute Times

Secondary Indicators: Page 51—53

Juvenile Delinquency Cases
Pets Per 1,000 Population Sent to Shelters
Disposition of Pets in Animal Shelters

Violent Crime Rate

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the rate of violent crimes (murder, forcible sex offenses, robbery, and aggravated assault) per 100,000 people in the population of Marion County in comparison to the state.

Why is it important?

Crime is a direct attack on the quality of life in the community. Public Safety is a primary indicator of community quality of life.

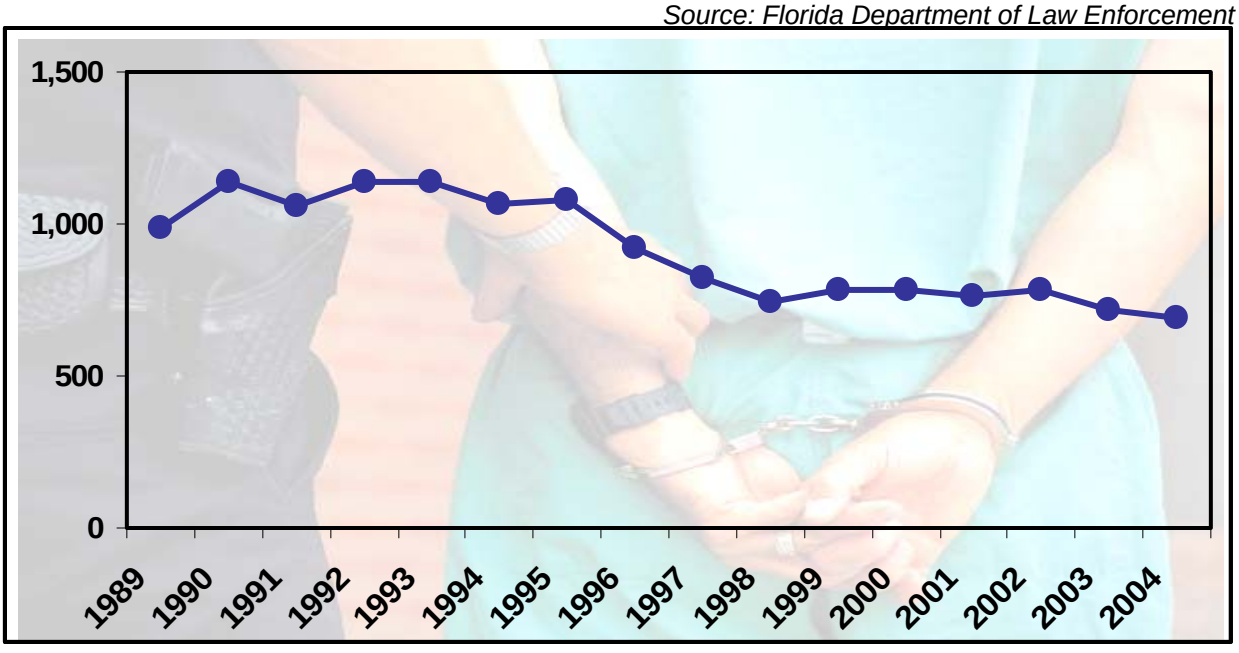
How are we doing?

Violent crime rates in Marion County declined in 2003 and 2004 after an upwards movement in 2002. In 2004, there were 2,018 violent crimes reported, down from 2,023 reported in 2003. The total index crime rate for Marion County was 3,686.1 per 100,000 population, down from 3,810.0 in 2003. The total index crime rate includes the following non-violent offenses: burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft.

Violent Crime Rate

Year	Marion County	Florida
1999	782.6	841.0
2000	780.6	801.1
2001	763.2	798.0
2002	784.2	767.1
2003	717.5	727.7
2004	688.0	706.2

Source: Florida Department of Law Enforcement



Domestic Violence

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the rate of domestic violence crimes reported per 100,000 people in the total population of Marion County in comparison to the state. Domestic violence crimes include murder, manslaughter, forcible rape, forcible sodomy, forcible fondling, aggravated assault, simple assault, aggravated stalking, simple stalking, threat/intimidation and arson.

Why is it important?

Evidence suggests that many domestic violence crimes are not reported. Those who experience domestic violence suffer significant negative impacts on quality of life for years.

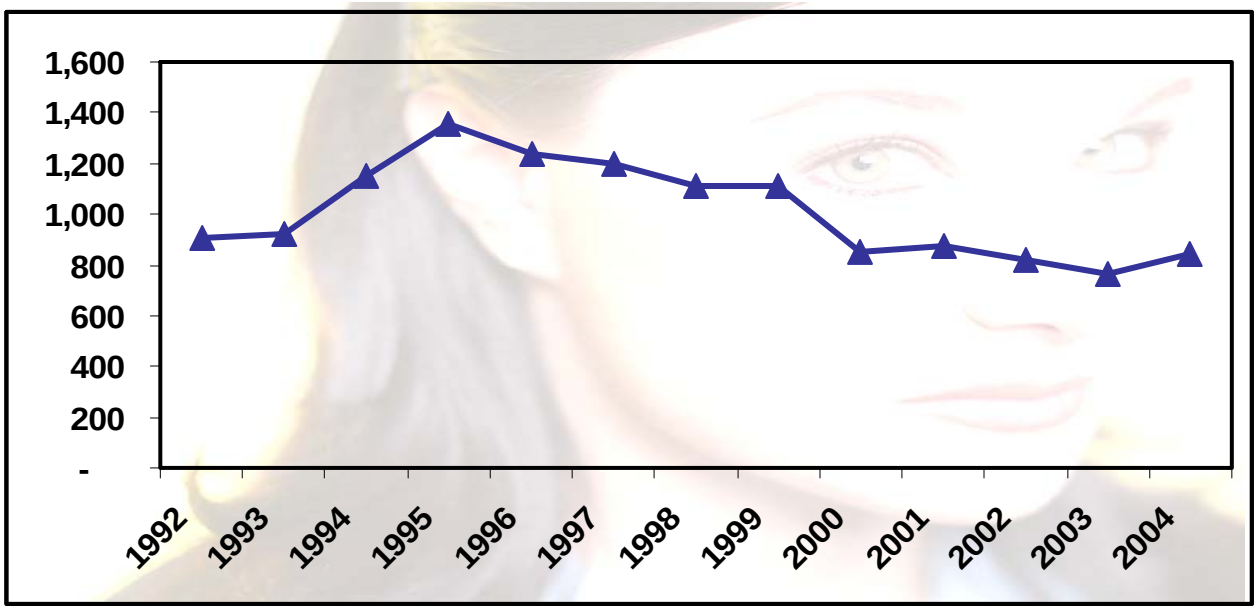
How are we doing?

Rates of reported domestic violence have decreased since the mid-1990s yet increased in 2004. The rates of reported domestic violence in Marion County have consistently remained higher than the statewide rates.

Domestic Violence Crimes Reported
per 100,000 population

	Marion County		Florida	
Year	Number Reported	Rate per 100,000 population	Number Reported	Rate per 100,000 population
1999	2,774	1,112.1	126,044	822.6
2000	2,198	848.9	124,629	779.8
2001	2,305	872.2	124,016	759.4
2002	2,226	821.1	121,834	730.7
2003	2,165	767.8	120,697	707.0
2004	2,474	843.5	119,772	683.8

Source: Florida Department of Law Enforcement



Child Abuse

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the total annual number of reports of child abuse and the total number of reports of abuse that are verified through investigation in Marion County.

Why is it important?

Children who are abused or neglected suffer harms that have significant, long-term negative impacts on their lives.

How are we doing?

Both the number of reports and the number of verified reports of child abuse have risen significantly. The number of verified reports is not available for 2002-03, due to a change in state data management systems. The rate of verified reports of child abuse, at 17.4 per 1,000 children under 18, is more than twice as high as the state average of 8.1 per 1,000 children.

Source: Florida Department of Children and Families

Reports of Child Abuse Marion County, 1990-2004

Fiscal Year	Population, Marion County, Ages 0-17	Verified Abuse*	Rate per 1,000
1990-1991	42,942	112	2.6
1991-1992	44,187	163	3.7
1992-1993	45,241	134	3.0
1993-1994	46,249	179	3.9
1994-1995	17,186	137	2.9
1995-1996	48,432	164	3.4
1996-1997	19,078	273	5.6
1997-1998	50,254	332	6.6
1998-1999	51,061	301	5.9
1999-2000	52,000	443	8.5
2000-2001	55,004	599	10.9
2001-2002	56,067	480	8.6
2003-2004	57,759	1,048	18.1

Reports of Child Abuse Florida, 1990-2004

Fiscal Year	Population, Florida, Ages 0-17	Verified Abuse*	Rate per 1,000
1990-1991	2,864,264	11,924	4.2
1991-1992	2,934,527	12,856	4.4
1992-1993	2,994,152	11,929	4.0
1993-1994	3,042,466	10,165	3.3
1994-1995	3,105,369	8,330	2.7
1995-1996	3,176,546	9,649	3.0
1996-1997	3,231,466	11,856	3.7
1997-1998	3,291,120	15,321	4.7
1998-1999	3,349,132	14,193	4.2
1999-2000	3,413,255	18,089	5.3
2000-2001	3,619,393	27,296	7.5
2001-2002	3,705,564	27,840	7.5
2003-2004	3,829,738	31,083	8.1

** Note: Data for FY2002-2003 are not available due to agency change in data management. Unduplicated data on numbers of victims are not available for years prior to that change. These data reports include case victims with multiple abuse reports and should be considered with caution due to variation in definition.*

Alcohol-Related Traffic Crashes

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the total number of traffic crashes involving a driver and/or pedestrian for whom alcohol use was reported (does not presume intoxication).

Why is it important?

Alcohol-related traffic crashes are preventable tragedies that often severely impact families.

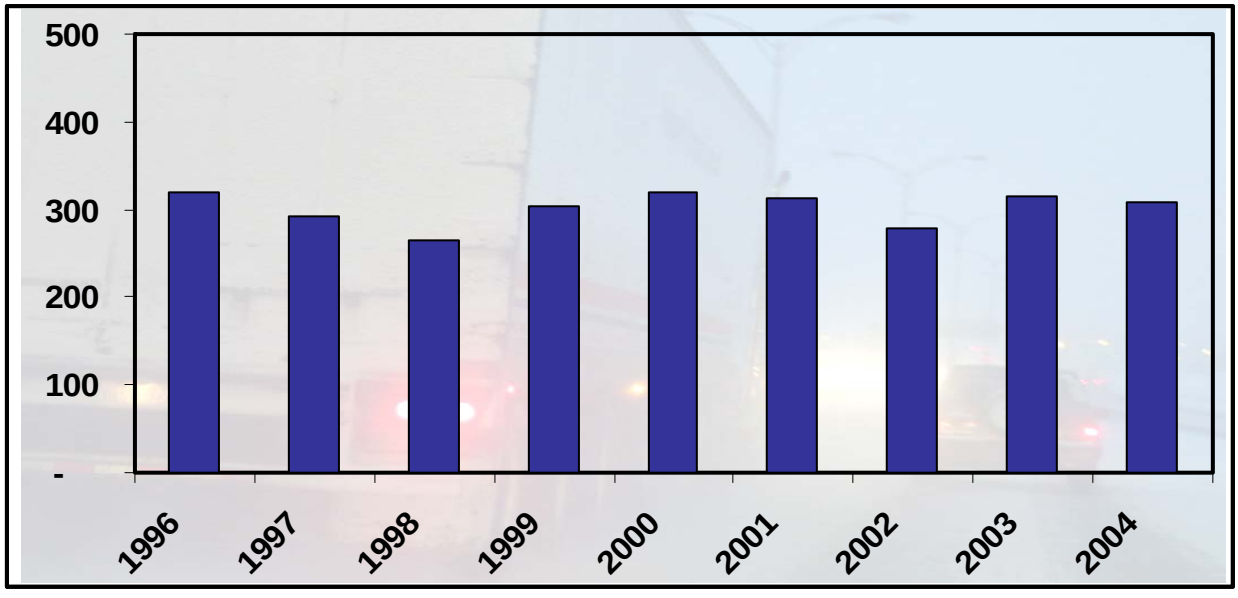
How are we doing?

In 2004, alcohol was involved in less than 10 percent of all traffic crashes in Florida, but was involved in more than a third of all traffic fatalities. In Marion County, alcohol-related traffic crashes were 8.8 percent of the 3,512 traffic crashes in 2004.

Alcohol-Related Traffic Crashes

Year	Marion County	Crashes per 100,000	Florida
1996	319	139	24,875
1997	293	124	24,119
1998	265	109	22,741
1999	304	122	22,252
2000	319	123	23,578
2001	313	118	24,411
2002	278	103	21,533
2003	315	112	27,752
2004	309	105	23,013

Source: Florida Department of Highway Safety & Motor Vehicles



Commute Times

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the total travel time to work of Marion County residents who do not work at home, as reported to the U.S. Census in 2000.

Why is it important?

The length of time spent commuting is time generally not available for enjoying the quality of life in the community. Increased travel times also can have a negative environmental impact. Understanding commute times is critical for future transportation congestion management.

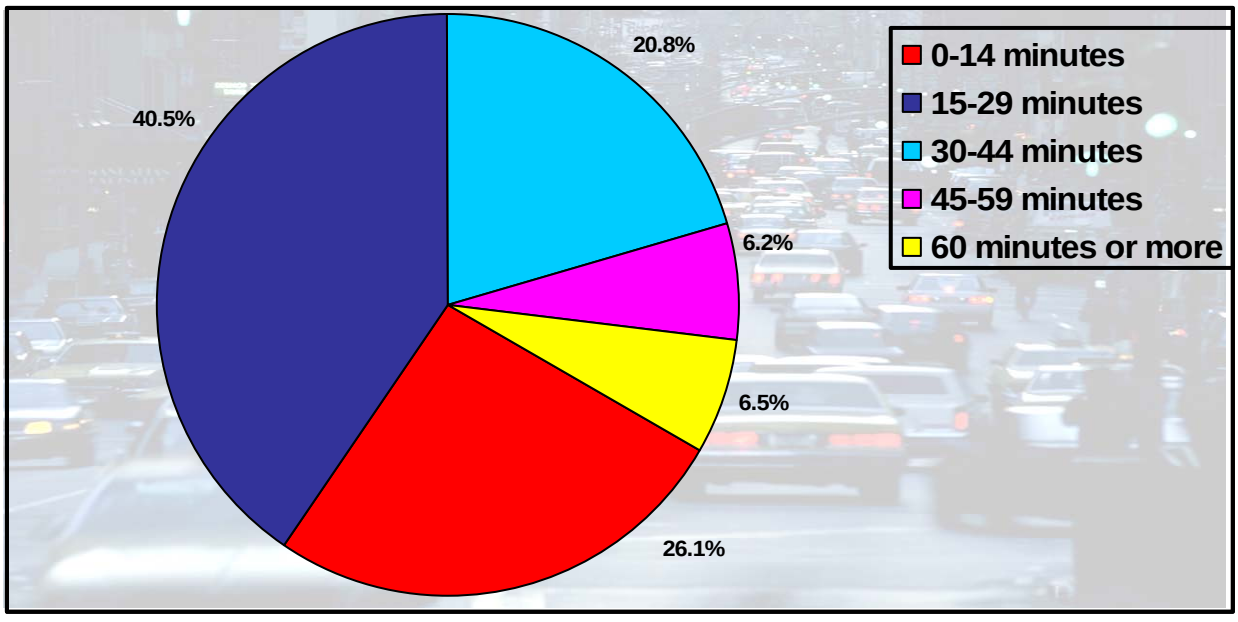
How are we doing?

In 2000, two-thirds of all Marion County workers had a commute time of less than 30 minutes. The average (mean) travel time to work was 25.8 minutes. Those traveling did so primarily by car (93.9 percent.) In 2000, 14 percent of Marion County workers reported working outside of Marion County.

Commute times, 2000

Commute times	2000
0-14 minutes	26.1%
15-29 minutes	40.5%
30-44 minutes	20.8%
45-59 minutes	6.2%
60 minutes or more	6.5%

Source: U.S. Census



Juvenile Delinquency Cases

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the total annual number of Marion County youths referred to the juvenile justice system and adjudicated to have committed a delinquent act. This is the juvenile equivalent of an adult being found guilty of a crime.

Why is it important?

Delinquent behavior on the part of youths can have lifelong negative consequences.

When a youth is adjudicated delinquent, this often can be an opportunity for the community to intervene and assist in turning a life around

How are we doing?

The number of youth referred for delinquency and adjudicated delinquent has remained steady over the past eight years, while the youth population has increased, thus resulting in a lower rate of delinquent youths in the community.

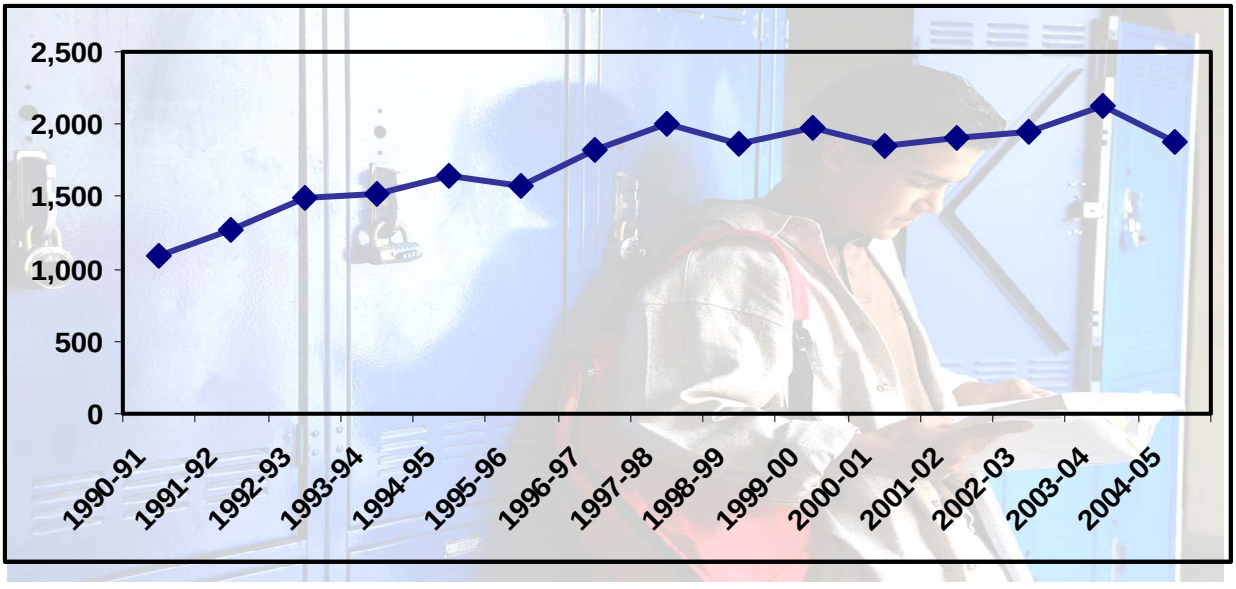
Marion County Youths Adjudicated Delinquent

Year	Number of Youth Referred	Population Age 10-17	Youth Referred Per 10,000
1997-98	1,997	23,908	8.4
1998-99	1,860	24,556	7.6
1999-00	1,971	25,565	7.7
2000-01	1,855	26,624	7.0
2001-02	1,912	26,852	7.1
2002-03	1,941	27,151	7.1
2003-04	2,132	27,772	7.7
2004-05	1,873	29,376	6.4

Florida Youths Adjudicated Delinquent

Year	Number of Youth Referred	Population Age 10-17	Youth Referred Per 10,000
1997-98	107,116	1,518,668	7.1
1998-99	101,466	1,558,446	6.5
1999-00	101,477	1,609,684	6.3
2000-01	99,767	1,668,849	6.0
2001-02	97,408	1,701,534	5.7
2002-03	97,756	1,727,710	5.7
2003-04	99,692	1,787,197	5.6
2004-05	95,263	1,820,330	5.2

Source: Florida Department of Juvenile Justice



Pets per 1,000 Population Sent to Shelters

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the total annual number of animals sent to animal shelters in Marion County, per 1,000 people in the county population.

Why is it important?

The number of animals placed in shelters and the number euthanized are preventable circumstances.

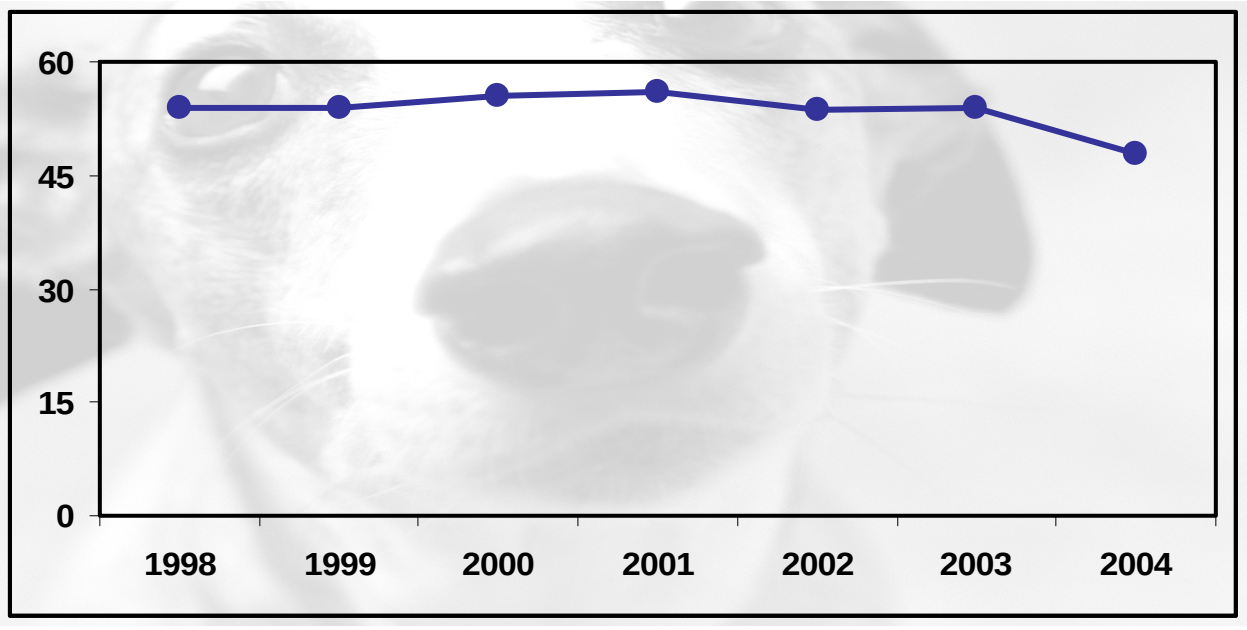
How are we doing?

The number of animals impounded decreased from 2003 to 2004. The rate of animals impounded per 1,000 population has declined to 48 per 1,000 from 56 per 1,000 in 2000 and 2001. The Marion County Animal Shelter estimates that Marion County households have 158,948 dogs and cats as pets.

Animals in Shelters

Year	Animals Impounded	County Population	Impounded per 1,000 Population
1998	13,129	243,140	54
1999	13,572	251,124	54
2000	14,404	258,916	56
2001	14,792	264,277	56
2002	14,563	271,096	54
2003	15,168	281,966	54
2004	14,067	293,317	48

Source: Marion County Animal Center



Disposition of Pets in Animal Shelter

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the number of animals impounded at the animal shelter in Marion County which are adopted, euthanized, or reclaimed.

Why is it important?

Once an animal is impounded at the animal center, it is historically three times more likely to be euthanized than to be adopted.

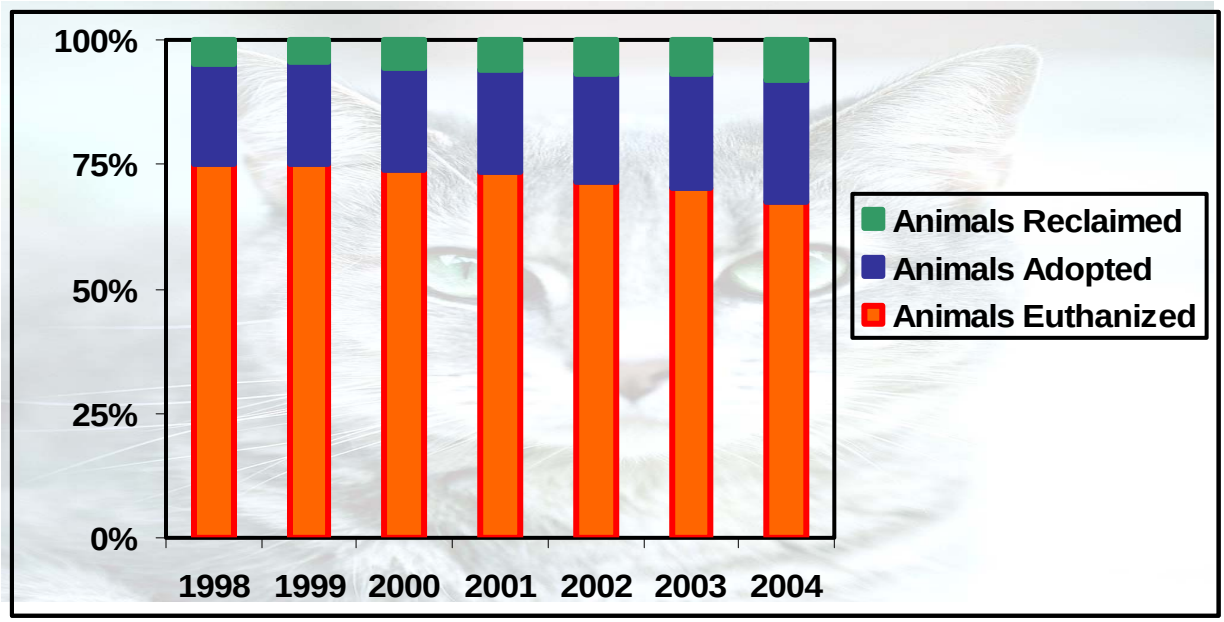
How are we doing?

The rate of animals being adopted has risen from 20 to 24 percent from 1998 to 2004, while euthanasia rates have declined from 75 to 67 percent.

Disposition of Animals at Shelter

	Animals Adopted	Animals Euthanized	Animals Reclaimed
1998	2,441	9,016	562
1999	2,760	10,032	567
2000	2,904	10,480	786
2001	3,039	10,747	870
2002	3,087	10,282	987
2003	3,387	10,353	979
2004	3,379	9,226	1,103

Source: Marion County Animal Center



Social Well-Being

The community's quality of life is an inclusive quality — for the quality of life to be good, all must be able to experience it. How residents treat each other and care for the most vulnerable populations is an important facet of the quality of life.

The quality of life in Marion County improves as the community addresses homelessness, racial disparities, and care for the elderly.

Primary Indicators: Page 55—58

Homeless Survey Count
Affordable Housing Units
Racial Disparities in Education and Income
Nursing Home Beds
Frail Elderly
Alzheimer's Disease Cases and Deaths

Secondary Indicators: Page 59—62

Elderly with Self Care Limitations
SunTran Ridership
Single Parents Raising Children
Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Homeless Survey Count

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the total number of homeless persons on a given day, as estimated by a point-in-time survey count conducted in February.

Why is it important?

Lacking housing can be a serious impediment to obtaining employment and stabilizing a person's life.

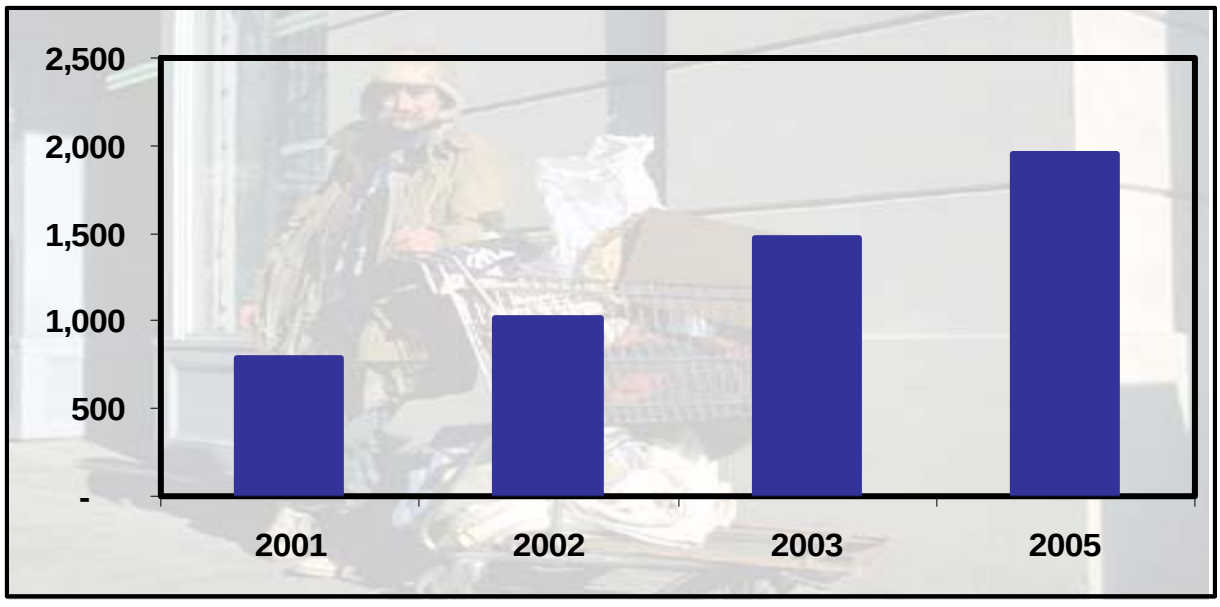
How are we doing?

The number of people estimated as being homeless on a given day in Ocala is increasing, from 785 in 2001 to 1,954 in 2005. Because the state set a standard day for homeless survey counts in Florida, no survey was conducted in 2004. In 2005, 22 percent of Marion County homeless had been homeless for one month or less, while 26 percent had been homeless for longer than a year.

Homelessness in Marion County

Year	Homeless Population	Total Population	Percent of Population
2001	785	265,097	0.3%
2002	1,017	272,518	0.4%
2003	1,478	281,152	0.5%
2005	1,954	291,322	0.7%

Source: Florida Department of Children and Families, Marion County Homeless Council



Affordable Housing Units

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the total number of units of affordable housing in Marion County receiving funding from the Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC), the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Housing Service (RHS), and/or through the Ocala/Marion County housing finance authority.

Why is it important?

Being able to afford housing is essential for someone in the community to enjoy the quality of life. Community social and economic factors affect housing affordability and availability.

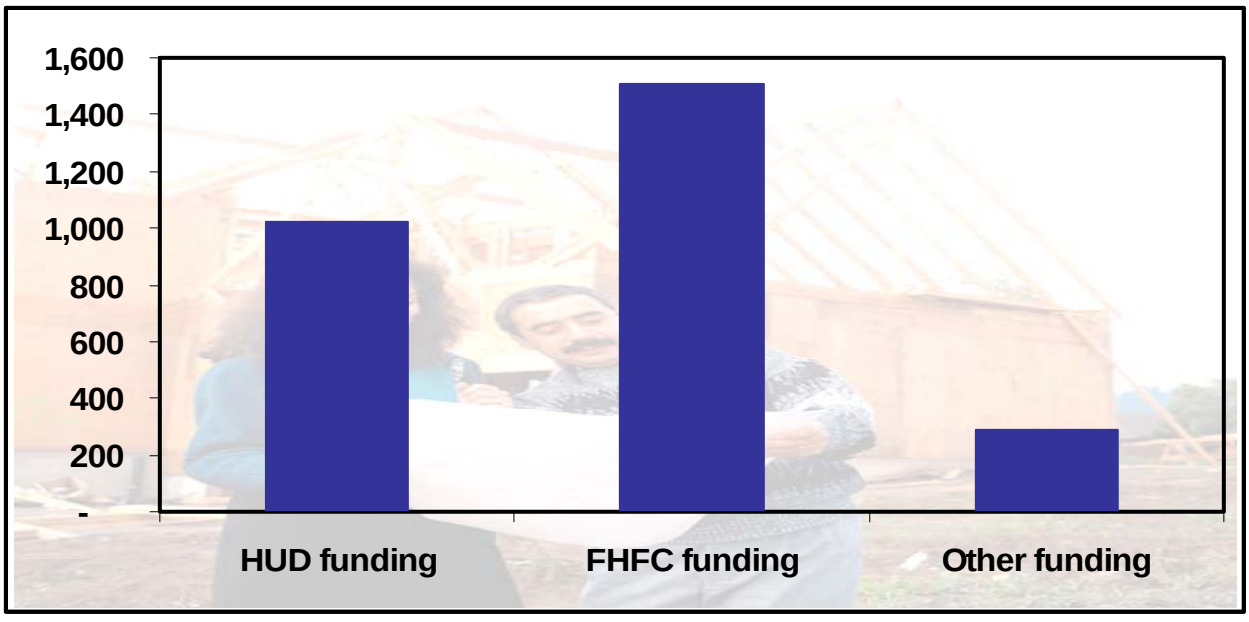
How are we doing?

In 2005, Marion County had 2,815 affordable housing units. Local funding was used to support 376 units (261 in partnership with the Florida Housing Finance Corporation).

Affordable Housing Units

Year	HUD funding	FHFC funding	Other funding	Total
2005	1,019	1,507	289	2,815

Source: Florida Housing Data Clearinghouse



Racial Disparities in Education and Income

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the Marion County public high school graduation rate and per capita income in Marion County by race and ethnicity.

Why is it important?

Racial harmony is enhanced when racial disparities in areas such as education and income are eliminated.

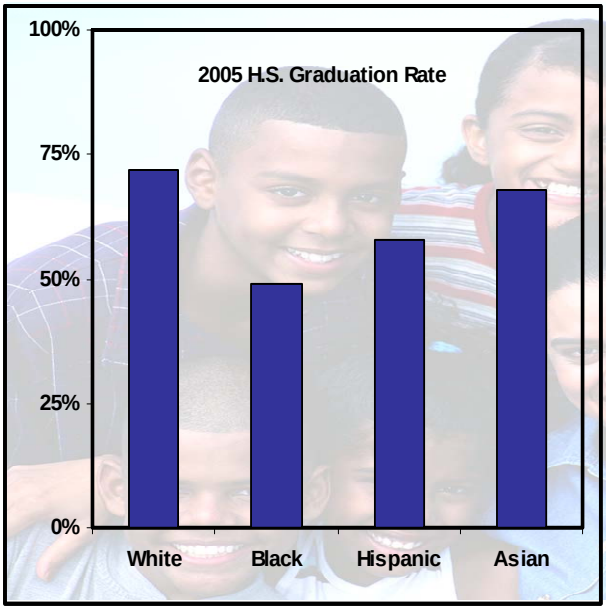
How are we doing?

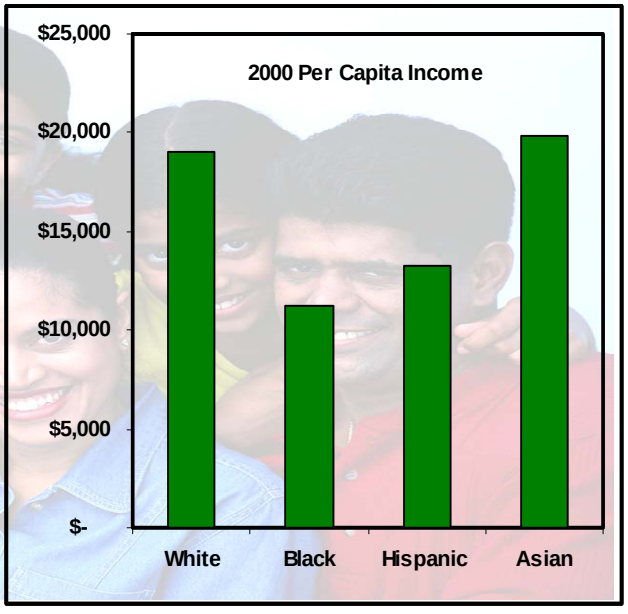
In 2005, the achievement gap in high school graduation rates between white and black students was 23 points, 72 percent and 49 percent, respectively. In Marion County, as for the state as a whole, the largest gains in per capita income were among Blacks (79%). Per capita income increased 51% for Whites in the County, 45% for Asians, and 33% for Other racial groups, but only 4% for American Indians between 1990-2000. The 2000 per capita income of Hispanics (of any race) was in the middle range, however, 1990 per capita income figures were not available.

Racial Disparities

	Graduation Rates, 2005	Per Capita Income, 2000
White	72%	$ 19,029
Black	49%	$ 11,202
Hispanic	58%	$ 13,246
Asian	68%	$ 19,852

Source: Florida Department of Education, U.S. Census





Nursing Home Beds

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the total number nursing home beds licensed in Marion County.

Why is it important?

To care for people with certain needs, sufficient nursing home beds must be provided.

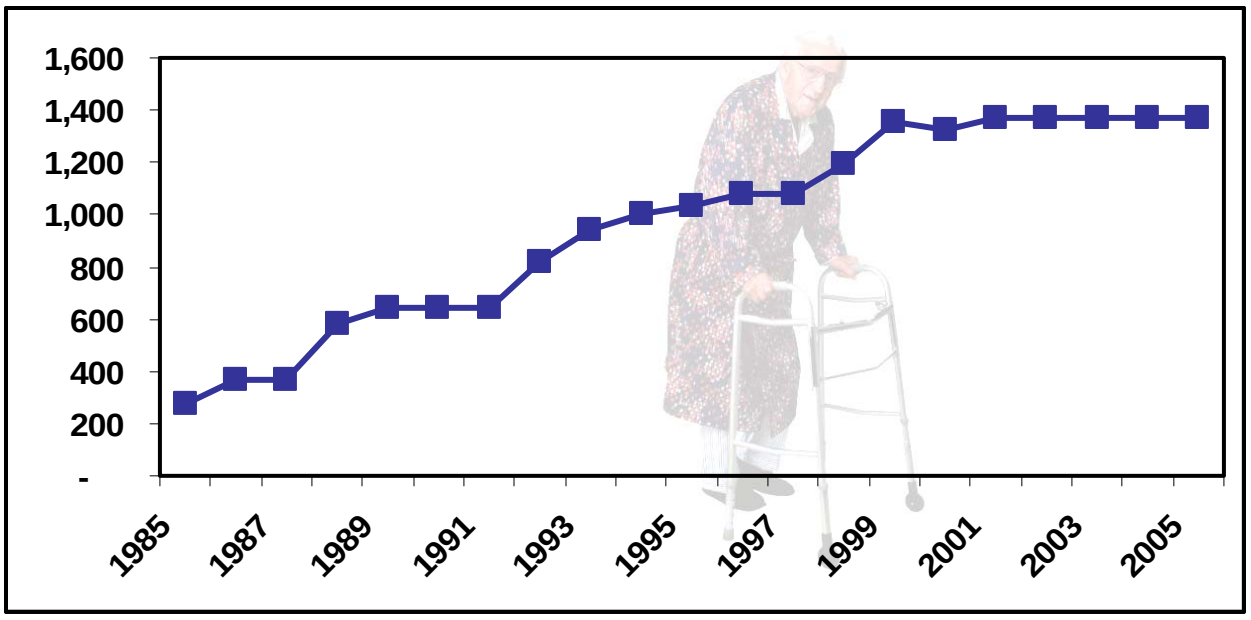
How are we doing?

The number of nursing home beds increased steadily, from 275 in 1985 to 1,372 in 2001. The State of Florida put a moratorium on new nursing home beds between 2001 and 2006.

Nursing Home Beds

Year	Beds
1999	1,353
2000	1,326
2001	1,372
2002	1,372
2003	1,372
2004	1,372
2005	1,372

Source: Florida Agency for Health Care Administration



Frail Elderly

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the total number and percentage of the population of Marion County over 80 years of age.

Why is it important?

The population of seniors over the age of 80 is the fastest-growing population in Marion County and may require targeted services to maintain their health and quality of life.

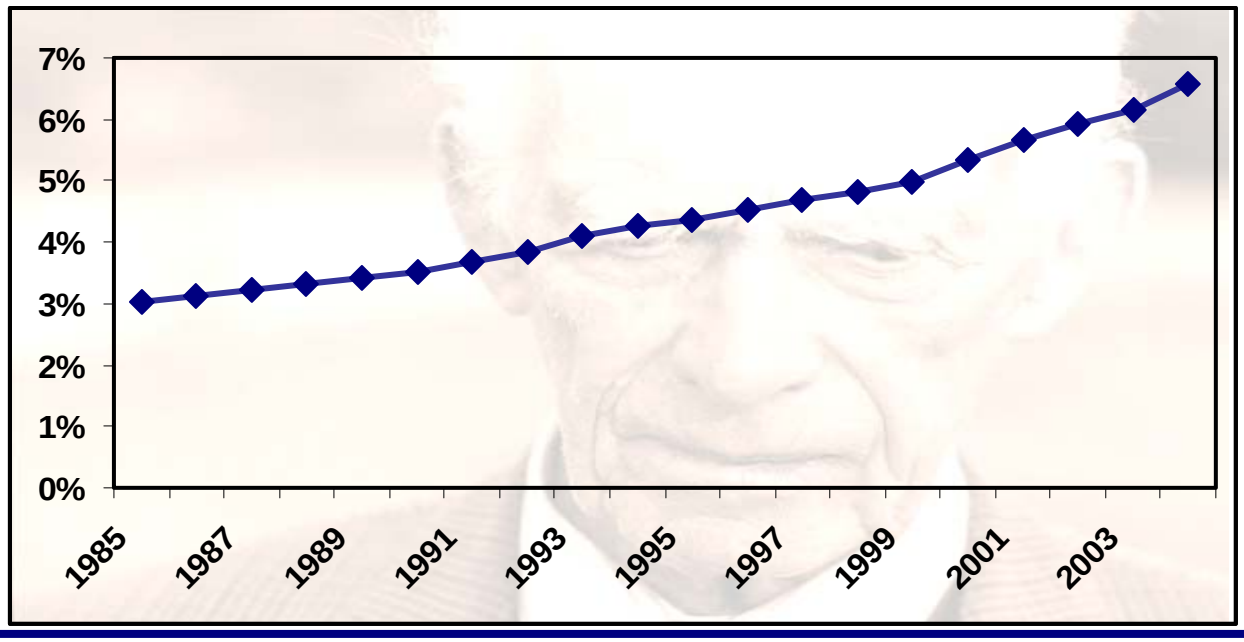
How are we doing?

The percent of those over 80 years of age has more than doubled, from about three percent in 1985 to 6.6 percent in 2004.

Population Over 80

Year	Population over 80	Total Population	Percent of Population Over 80
1998	11,654	241,269	4.8%
1999	12,291	245,975	5.0%
2000	13,799	258,916	5.3%
2001	14,975	265,097	5.6%
2002	16,151	272,518	5.9%
2003	17,329	281,152	6.2%
2004	19,185	293,317	6.6%

Source: U.S. Census, University of Florida Bureau of Economic and Business Research



Alzheimer's Disease Cases and Deaths

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the total number of deaths to Marion County residents to Alzheimer's Disease per 100,000 people in the population. The death rate has been age-adjusted to account for differences in population demographics.

Why is it important?

Alzheimer's Disease is often a tragic way to spend one's last years of life.

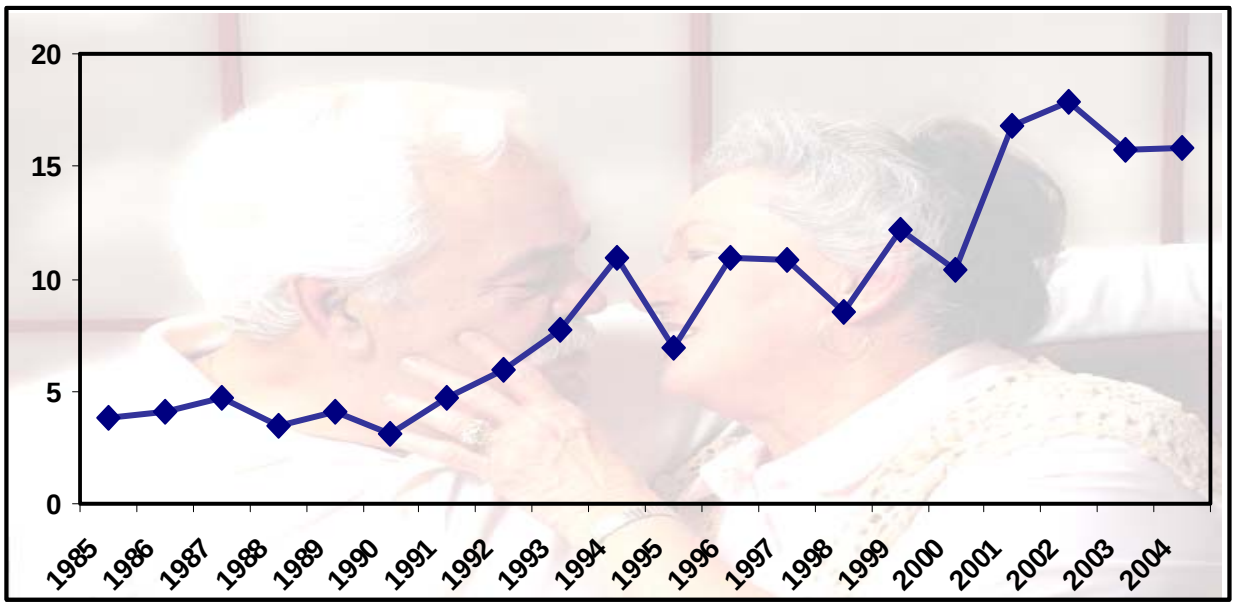
How are we doing?

The rates of deaths due to Alzheimer's disease have been increasing steadily during the past twenty years, but have leveled off in the last two years. The Florida Department of Elder Affairs has begun estimating the number of Alzheimer's Disease by county. According to their estimates, the number of cases continues to rise in Marion County. This may be a result of improved diagnosis or increased incidence of the disease.

Deaths Due to Alzheimer's Disease
Per 100,000 Population

Year	Death Rate	Estimated Cases
1999	12.2	7,269
2000	10.4	7,508
2001	16.8	8,607
2002	17.9	NA
2003	15.7	8,916
2004	15.8	9,102

Source: Florida Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics; Florida Department of Elder Affairs



Elderly with Self-Care Limitations

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the total number of people over 65 in Marion County estimated to have two or more disabilities and those with two or more disabilities that also have self-care limitations, meaning disabilities that impair the ability to live independently.

Why is it important?

To enjoy the quality of life in the community, elderly residents with disabilities and/or self-care limitations may need additional services and support.

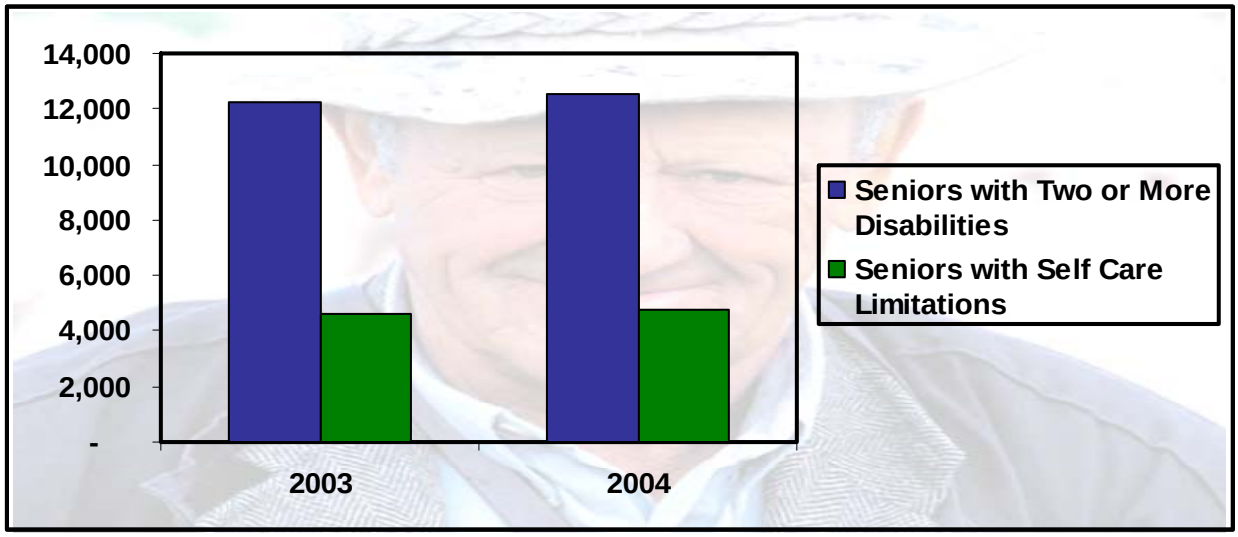
How are we doing?

The number of residents over 65 with two or more disabilities and those who have self-care limitations continues to grow.

Elderly with Self Care Limitations

Year	Two or more disabilities	Two or more disabilities and self-care limitations
2003	12,257	4,650
2004	12,513	4,747

Source: Florida Department of Elder Affairs



SunTran Ridership

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the total annual number of riders on SunTran public transportation and the average revenue collected per hour.

Why is it important?

Public transportation can be a choice for those who choose not to drive a personal vehicle, and a necessity for those who cannot drive or do not have a personal vehicle.

How are we doing?

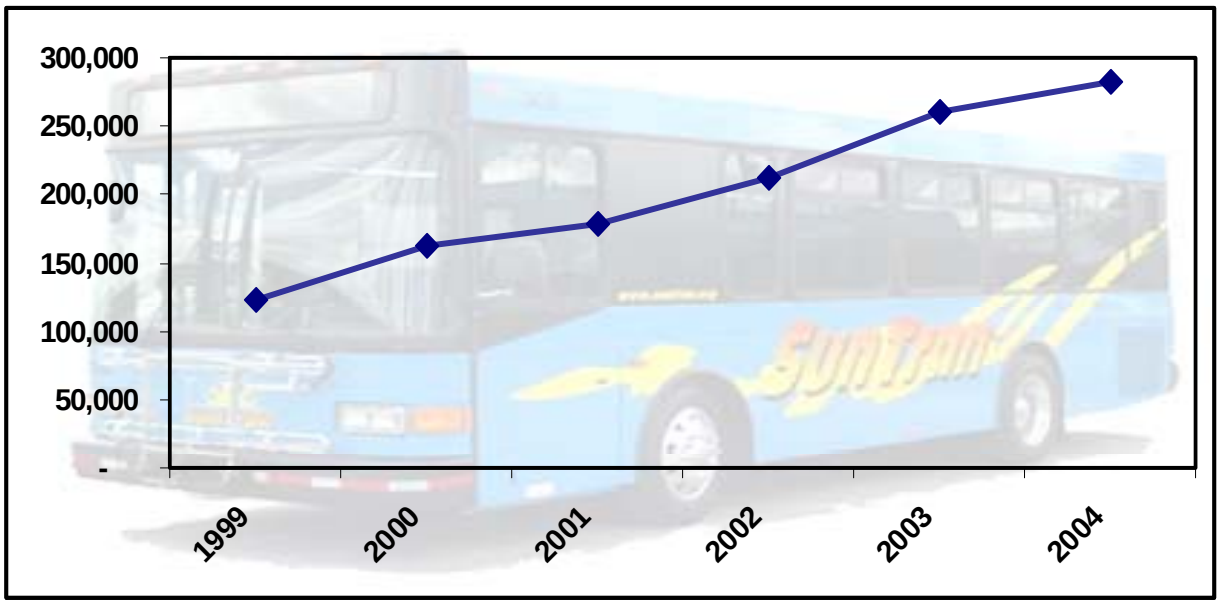
SunTran is a cooperative effort of the Ocala/Marion County Metropolitan Planning Organization, Marion County, the City of Ocala, the Florida Department of Transportation & Federal Transportation Administration. Ridership on SunTran has been steadily increasing and has more than doubled in the past six years.

Revenue Per Revenue Hour is the average revenue collected per hour.

SunTran Ridership
and revenue hour calculations

Year	Total Passengers	Revenue Per Revenue Hour
1999	123,200	$4.67
2000	162,433	$5.38
2001	178,182	$6.25
2002	211,546	$5.97
2003	259,819	$6.55
2004	282,849	$6.26

Source: SunTran



Single Parents Raising Children

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the total number of Marion County households raising children led by a single adult.

Why is it important?

Single-parent households often have a greater challenge in managing household and child raising needs on their own.

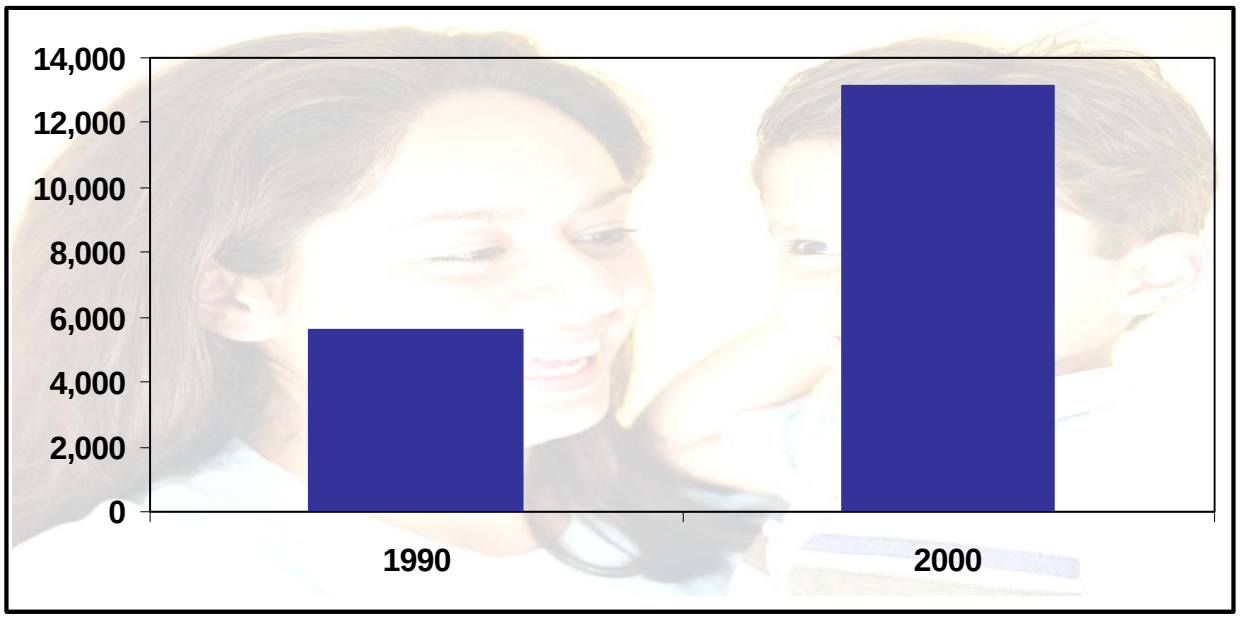
How are we doing?

The number of single-parent households has increased from 5,640 in 1990 to 13,120 in 2000. Another way of understanding the needs is that 27.5 percent of all children in Marion County in 2000 were being raised in a single-parent household, up from 22.6 percent in 1990.

Single Parents Raising Children

Year	Single Householders with Children	Number of Children in Single-Parent Households	Percent of All Children in Single-Parent Households
1990	5,640	9,755	22.6%
2000	13,120	15,241	27.5%

Source: U.S. Census



Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the total number of grandparents in Marion County who are responsible for raising their grandchildren.

Why is it important?

Parenting can take a great deal of energy and resources. Grandparents may need additional support in order to fill the challenging roles of raising children.

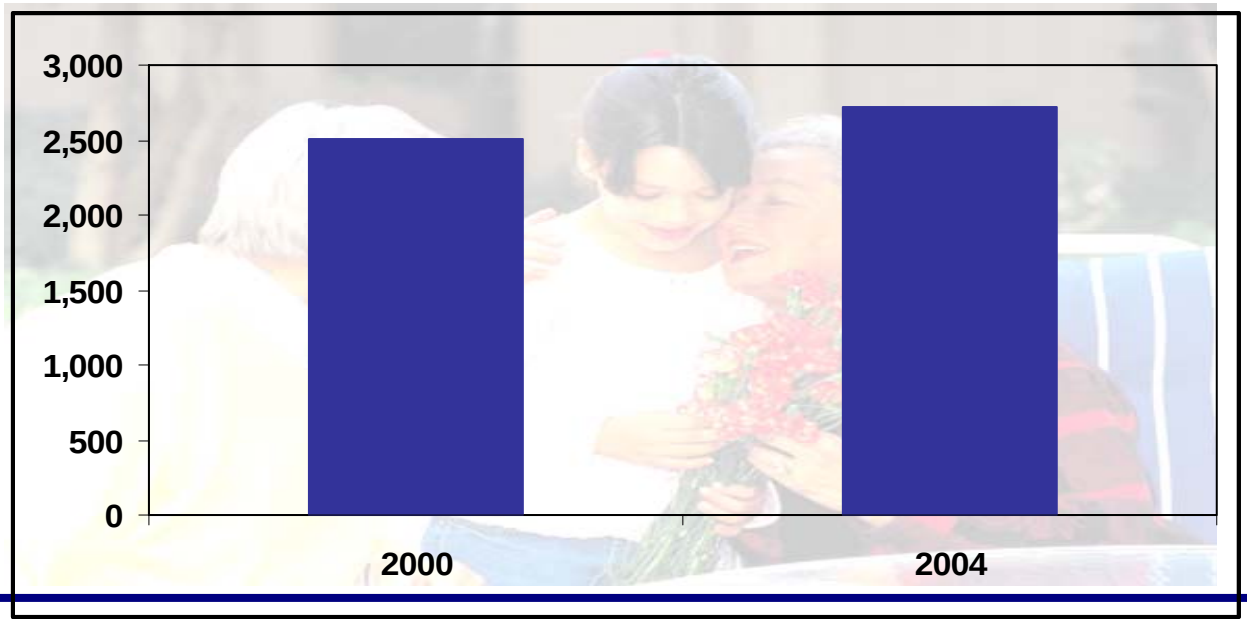
How are we doing?

The number of grandparents raising grandchildren continues to increase in Marion County, rising by over 200 from 2000 to 2004. Data are derived from U.S. Census estimates in 2000 and the Florida Department of Elder Affairs estimates for 2004.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Year	Grandparents Responsible for Grandchildren
2000	2,511
2004	2,717

Source: U.S. Census; Florida Department of Elder Affairs



Environment

The natural environment is often a primary reason people choose to live in Florida. Caring for and protecting the environment is necessary to maintain the quality of life in the community.

The quality of life in Marion County is preserved when water supply and quality needs are addressed and when residents make individual choices to conserve or recycle. The natural environment is also enhanced when the rural qualities of the County are preserved.

Primary Indicators: Page 66—71

Hydrology of Marion County
Hydrology– Key Points
Surfacewater Quality: Rivers, Lakes, and Springs
Groundwater Quality: Surface and Floridan Aquifer
Percent of Acreage Dedicated to Farmland
Economic Impact of the Equine Industry

Secondary Indicators: Page 72—73

Percent of Solid Waste Recycled
New Septic-Tank Permits Issued

Hydrology of Marion County

What does this measure?

In 2004, as a response to Marion County experiencing a significant growth rate that began in the late 1990's and the present witnessing of the adverse signs of growth impacts on the water resources in the County, the Board of County Commissioners initiated the Water Resource Assessment and Management Study (WRAMS). The objective of this study was to provide the County with a better understanding of the current state of the water resources and provide a plan to manage the County's growth while providing adequate protection to the water resources and related ecology.

Why is it important?

The specific purpose of this Water Resource Inventory and Analysis Report (Report) is to provide a comprehensive overview of Marion County's water resources and related issues so as to provide a factual basis to assist in formulating and making informed decisions about the best ways and means to effectively manage the County's future growth while concurrently protecting the County's precious water resources. The report also describes the relationship(s) between land use and water quality and quantity, with specific consideration to water resources and land use found within the County. This report was prepared by compiling numerous information and data sources in an effort to provide a wide range of opinions and analyses that help to gain a better understanding of the obstacles and opportunities that lie ahead for Marion County citizens as they manage the future growth of the County.

Essentially, the County encompasses three major drainage basins: the Withlacoochee, Ocklawaha and St. John's Rivers. The surficial and Floridan aquifers are the principal sources of groundwater within Marion County. In general, the Floridan aquifer is unconfined throughout most of Marion County, allowing significant recharge to occur. Moreover, the geology of Marion County is generally characterized as karst, meaning a landscape containing numerous sinkholes, lack of surface drainage, and undulating topography. Furthermore, recharge throughout most of the County is high, defined as greater than 10 inches per year. Discharge from the Floridan aquifer takes place at springs within the County ranging from a high of 525 million gallons per day (MGD) at Silver Springs to a few MGD at smaller spring systems including Juniper and Fern Hammock.

How are we doing?

Given the County's projected growth and development, it is reasonable to conclude that impairment of both water quality and quantity will only increase if such growth is not managed with diligence. Groundwater and surface water systems, including springs, are especially vulnerable to water quality impacts associated with land use activities. The karst geology and associated springs that characterize Marion County cause the area to be particularly susceptible to contamination and degradation of the water resources.

Source: 2005 Marion County Water Resource Assessment and Management Study: Water Resource and Inventory Analysis, Water Resources Associates, Inc.

Hydrology: Key Points

- The surficial and Floridan aquifers are the two sources of groundwater within Marion County, with the Floridan being Marion County's primary source of water.
- Approximately 25 percent of rainfall (approximately 13 inches per year) in Marion County discharges to rivers, lakes and ponds within the County. The balance (approximately 39 inches per year) either recharges the aquifer or is lost to evapotranspiration.
- In general, the Floridan aquifer is unconfined throughout most of Marion County, resulting in "high" recharge (greater than 10 inches per year).
- There are approximately 97 watersheds that are located entirely or partially within the County. The surface flow and aquifer recharge from these watersheds are mostly internally drained and are significant contributors to the groundwater and springs water quality within the County.
- The geology of Marion County is generally characterized as karst, meaning a landscape containing numerous sinkholes, lack of surface drainage, and undulating topography. Erosion of the limestone in the aquifer leads to voids beneath the surface and allows large amounts of water to be funneled into the underground drainage system.
- Discharge from the Floridan aquifer takes place at springs within the County. Total spring discharge exceeds 1 billion gallons per day, and ranges from a high of 525 million gallons per day (MGD) at Silver Springs to a few MGD at smaller spring systems including Camp Seminole and Orange.
- Lakes in the County encompass approximately 45 square miles of surface area. The County's largest two lakes, Kerr and Weir, cover approximately four square miles and eight square miles, respectively.
- County wetlands are predominantly found in the riverine sections of the County along the Withlacoochee and Ocklawaha Rivers. Wetland types in the County encompass 153,000 acres (240 sq. miles) being evenly distributed between forested wetlands (40%), lakes and streams (35%) and herbaceous wetlands (25%).

Source: 2005 Marion County Water Resource Assessment and Management Study: Water Resource and Inventory Analysis, Water Resources Associates, Inc.

Surfacewater Quality: Rivers, Lakes, and Springs

What does this measure?

Water quality standards for surfacewater are intended to maintain the designated and beneficial uses of waters of the state. All surface and groundwater in this inventory has been classified according to the designated uses established by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP).

Why is it important?

Surfacewater features in Marion County encompass approximately 214 square miles. Three major rivers flow through or along the boundaries of Marion County. These include the Withlacoochee, Ocklawaha, and St. John's Rivers and portions of their associated watersheds. Within these larger watersheds are two smaller, yet equally important surfacewater features: the Silver and Rainbow Rivers. Both of these rivers are large spring runs that discharge to the larger drainage-basin features.

An estimated 7,800 lakes in Florida are greater than 1 acre in surface area. The County's largest two lakes, Kerr and Weir, cover approximately four square miles and eight square miles, respectively. Lakes add to the aesthetic and commercial value of the area, and the bodies of water are used by many residents and visitors for various types of outdoor recreation. In addition to aesthetic value and recreational uses, lakes in central Florida are extremely important as ecological habitats. Lakes are also used for other purposes such as irrigation, flood control, water supply, and navigation.

Natural springs play a significant role in the overall water resource base of Marion County. They act as regional discharge points for ground water in the Floridan aquifer and serve as important ecological habitats. Springs are important socio-economic factors for the County, providing recreational opportunities for local residents and visitors, as well as jobs and revenues from tourist attractions and state parks at the springs. The St. John's River Water Management District (SJRWMD) (Bonn, 2004) has evaluated the economic impact of Silver and Silver Glen Springs and provided the following facts to characterize the magnitude of economic impact these springs have on Marion County: 1) These two springs draw approximately three-quarters of a million visitors from outside the County annually and residents of Marion County comprise an estimated 30% of attendance at these springs. 2) Silver Springs had a direct annual spending impact in Marion County of $61.45 million from visitors outside the County. 3) Silver Glen Springs had a direct annual spending impact in Marion County of $348,770 from visitors from outside the County.

How are we doing?

Surfacewater quality in Marion County ranges from poor to good in terms of meeting minimum government standards. Of the 87 watersheds in Marion County rated by the FDEP for water quality, 8 were deemed to be of poor quality. Three lakes were rated as having poor water quality. These overall "good" ratings for the County's water resources reflect the current state of the water resources but does not reflect the worsening of the water quality from accumulating pollutant influences. The primary sources of non-point pollution are fertilizers and organic wastes from domestic and animal waste disposal activities. It is evident that as development continues and accelerates across the central and western portions of Marion County, a variety of anthropogenic pollution sources could lead to localized groundwater contamination and degradation.

Source: 2005 Marion County Water Resource Assessment and Management Study: Water Resource and Inventory Analysis, Water Resources Associates, Inc.

Groundwater Quality: Surficial and Floridan Aquifers

What does this measure?

Water quality standards for groundwater are intended to maintain the designated and beneficial uses of waters of the state. All surface and groundwater in this inventory has been classified according to the designated uses established by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP).

Why is it important?

The surficial and Floridan aquifers are the two sources of groundwater within Marion County, with the Floridan being Marion County's primary source of water. The groundwater quality in Marion County is a direct reflection of the land use activities and the relative vulnerability of the aquifer.

How are we doing?

Groundwater quality in eastern Marion County is characterized as good in the Ocala National Forest since water quality data shows groundwater meeting primary and secondary drinking standards, but the data show signs of degradation in the central and western parts of the County. Groundwater quality in central and western regions of Marion County area rates as good since it meets primary and secondary drinking water standards. However, nitrate levels in these regions have escalated dramatically over natural background levels and are continuing to increase each year. The degradation in groundwater quality in central and western Marion County is directly related to a combination of land-use activities, the type of contamination, the geological structure, soils, and hydrologic characteristics.

The Floridan aquifer is poorly confined or unconfined in most of the County, allowing point and non-point sources of pollution to easily enter the groundwater system. While groundwater quality within Marion County generally ranges from fair to good, there is ample scientific evidence that quality in widespread areas is in a declining trend.

A note regarding consumption:

Unequivocally, water demands come from a variety of water use categories within the County. These include domestic potable water needs, irrigation and other outdoor uses, agricultural supplies, industrial demands, recreation, natural systems, spring flows and other needs. According to the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) and the St. John's River Water Management District (SJRWMD), groundwater was withdrawn through wells in Marion County for these uses at a rate of approximately 55 million gallons per day (MGD) in 2002. Based on estimates being conducted as part of the Marion County Water Resource Assessment Management Study (WRAMS), by the year 2055 potable water demand could rise to as high as 131 MGD. Given the County's projected growth and development, it is reasonable to conclude that impairment of both water quality and quantity will only increase if such growth is not managed with diligence.

Source: 2005 Marion County Water Resource Assessment and Management Study: Water Resource and Inventory Analysis, Water Resources Associates, Inc.

Acreage Dedicated to Farmland

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the total acreage in farmland, as measured by the five-year national census of agriculture, as a percentage of the total land area in Marion County.

Why is it important?

Agriculture is an important part of the economy, scenic vista and rural character of Marion County.

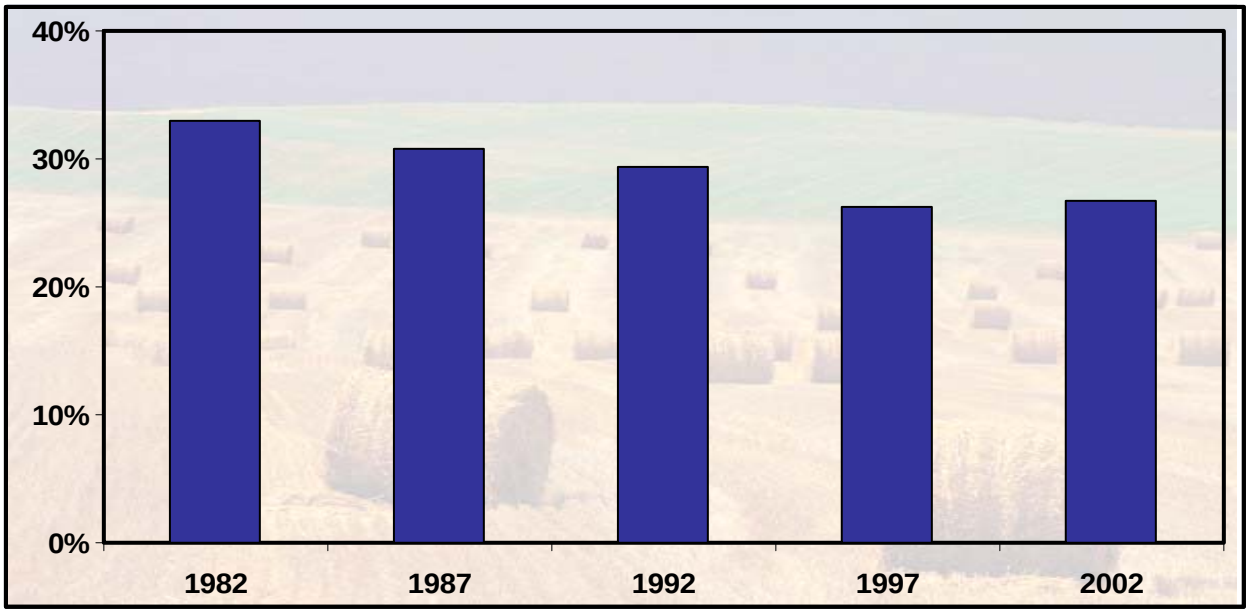
How are we doing?

Farmland acreage decreased from 1982 through 1997, but increased by 2002. In 2002, the average farm size was 159 acres. The number of agricultural land parcels has been increasing as well, from 10,001 in 1997 to 11,414 in 2005.

Percent of Acreage in Farmland

Year	Total acreage in farmland	Total land acreage	Percent of acreage in farmland
1982	332,694	1,010,496	32.9%
1987	311,074	1,010,496	30.8%
1992	296,242	1,010,496	29.3%
1997	265,572	1,010,496	26.3%
2002	270,562	1,010,496	26.8%

Source: U.S. Census, U.S. Department of Agriculture



Economic Impact of the Equine Industry

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the estimated direct economic impact and total economic impact of the equine industry in Marion County and Florida.

Why is it important?

Ocala/Marion County houses more than 75 percent of the 600 thoroughbred breeding farms and training centers in Florida, which is why Ocala/Marion County is called the Horse Capital of the World©.

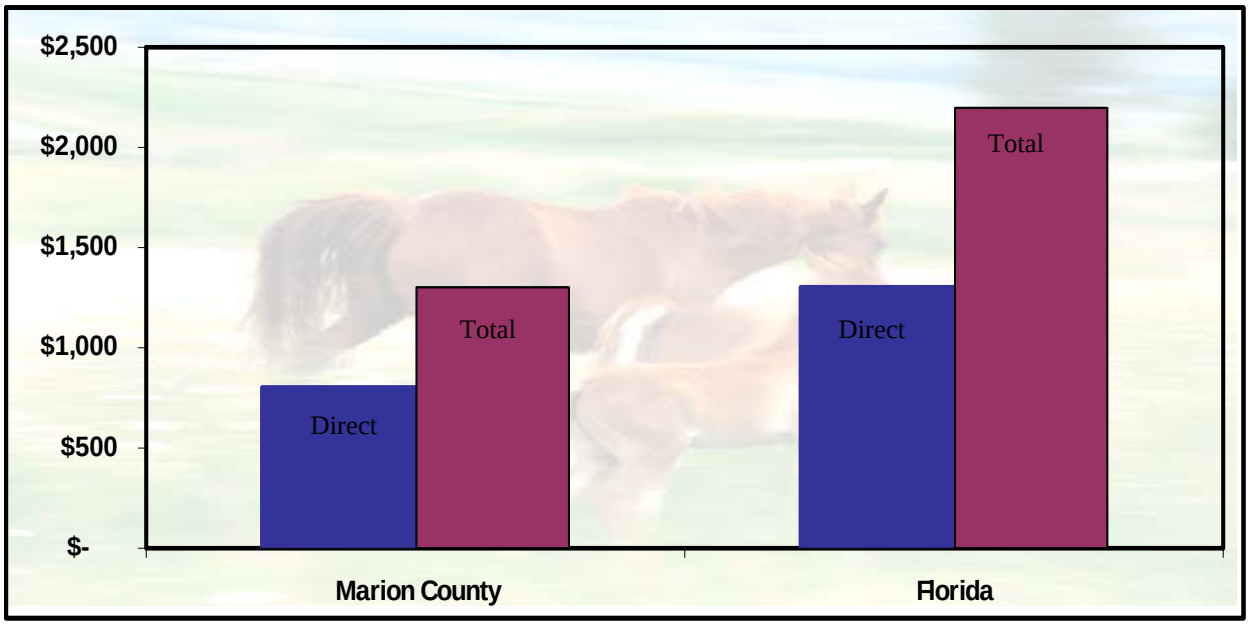
How are we doing?

After a 2004 study of the economic impact of the equine industry, the Florida Thoroughbred Breeders' and Owners' Association estimated that Ocala created $1.3 billion of the statewide $2.2 billion economic impact from the equine industry.

Economic Impact of the Equine Industry
(in $ millions)

Marion County		Florida	
Direct	Total	Direct	Total
$ 800	$ 1,300	$1,300	$2,200

Source: Florida Thoroughbred Breeders' & Owners' Association



Solid Waste Recycled

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the annual percentage of municipal solid waste processed for recycling in Marion County and Florida.

Why is it important?

Managing and reducing solid waste is important in protecting the natural environment and reusing renewable resources.

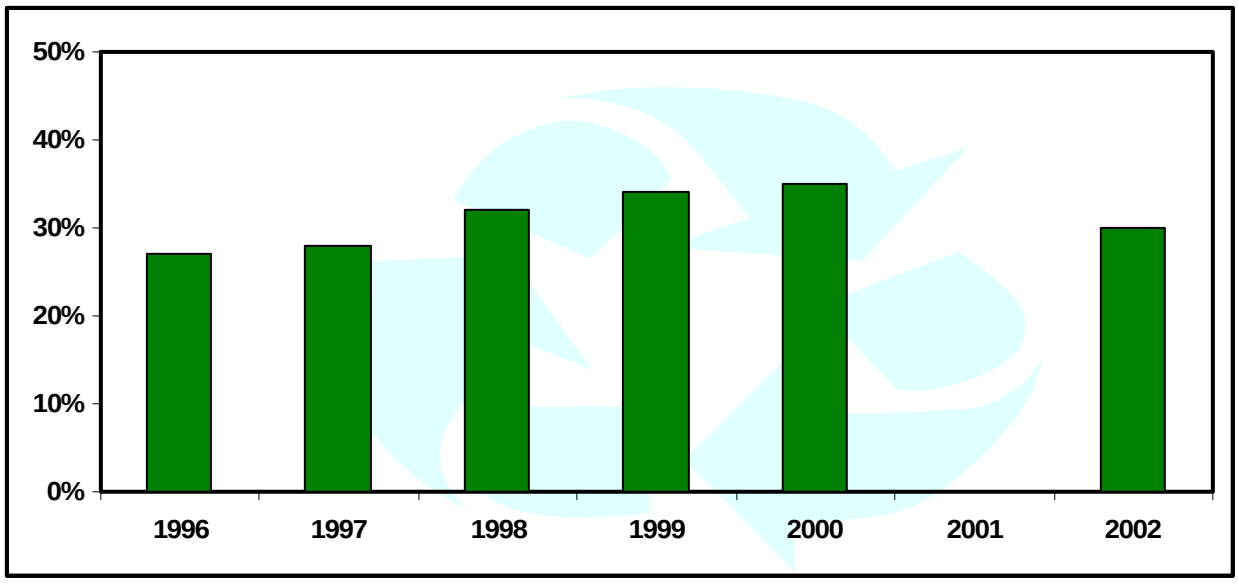
How are we doing?

The recycling rate has declined from a high of 35 percent in 2000. However, the recycling rate in Marion County remains higher than the state average rate of 28 percent in 2002. In 2002, 92,874 tons of solid waste was recycled in Marion County, while 219,547 tons were placed in landfills. Data were not available for 2001.

Percent of Solid Waste Recycled

Year	Marion County	Florida
1996	27%	40%
1997	28%	38%
1998	32%	28%
1999	34%	27%
2000	35%	27%
2001	NA	NA
2002	30%	28%

Source: Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Solid Waste Management Program



New Septic-Tank Permits Issued

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the annual number of new septic-tank permits issued in Marion County.

Why is it important?

Septic-tank failures may cause serious environmental concerns such as ground water contamination, degraded surface water, and public health and well problems.

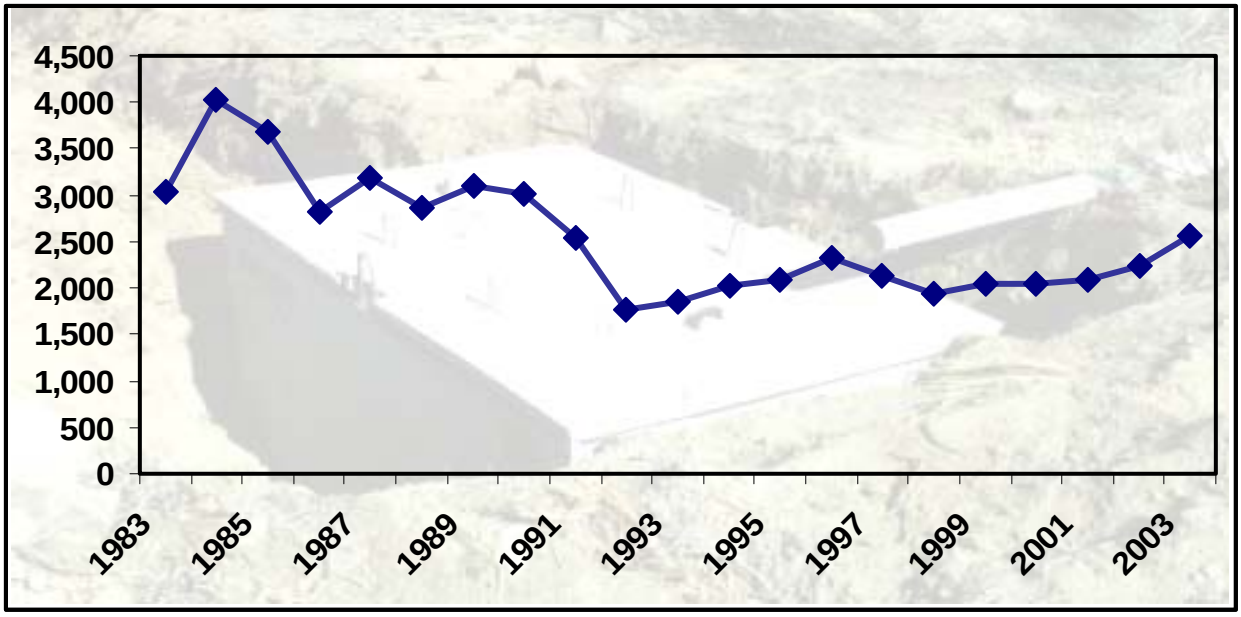
How are we doing?

The Florida Department of Health reports a total of 105,129 septic tanks in Marion County, based on a 1970 census of septic tanks and the cumulative permits issued since then.

New Septic-Tank Permits Issued

Year	Permits Issued
1998	1,928
1999	2,054
2000	2,055
2001	2,090
2002	2,243
2003	2,558

Source: Florida Department of Health



Civic Engagement

Informed and involved citizens are the backbone of democracy.

Civic participation is an essential part of a well-functioning government and adds to the quality of life in the community. Registering to vote is one of the first steps in civic participation. Exercising that vote is often the next.

Primary Indicators: Page 75—76

Population Registered to Vote
Voter Turnout: State and Presidential Elections

Secondary Indicators: Page 77

Local Election Voter Turnout

Population Registered to Vote

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the annual percentage of Marion County residents 18 and over who are registered to vote.

Why is it important?

Registering to vote is a necessary step to ensure that one's voice is heard through the political process.

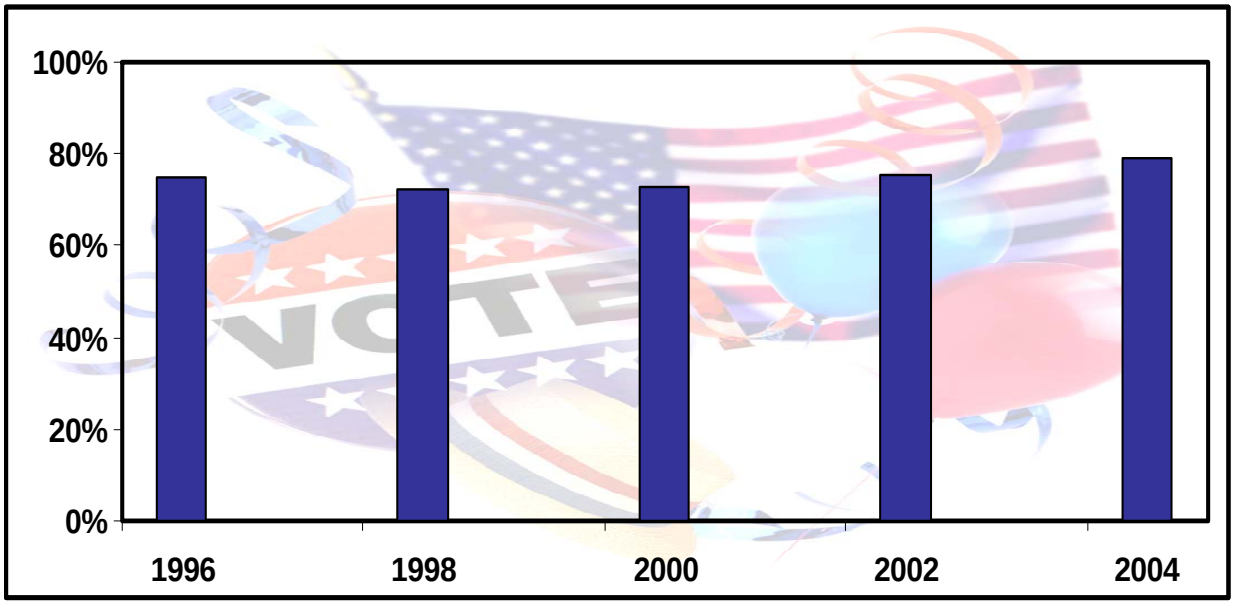
How are we doing?

Voter registration increased for the 2004 Presidential election, maintaining a consistent trend since 2000. In 2004, 79,572 were registered as Republicans; 73,168 as Democrats; 23,399 with no party affiliation; and 8,118 registered as part of 18 other political parties represented in Marion County.

Voter Registration

Year	Registered to vote	Population 18+	Percent registered to vote
1994	103,661	167,783	61.8%
1996	134,765	179,968	74.9%
1998	137,657	191,164	72.0%
2000	147,707	203,491	72.6%
2002	162,018	214,430	75.6%
2004	184,257	232,708	79.2%

Source: Marion County Supervisor of Elections



Voter Turnout: State and Presidential Elections

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the percentage of those registered to vote who cast votes in state and Presidential elections in Marion County.

Why is it important?

Voting is an important opportunity and responsibility that comes with citizenship. It is critical for active civic participation.

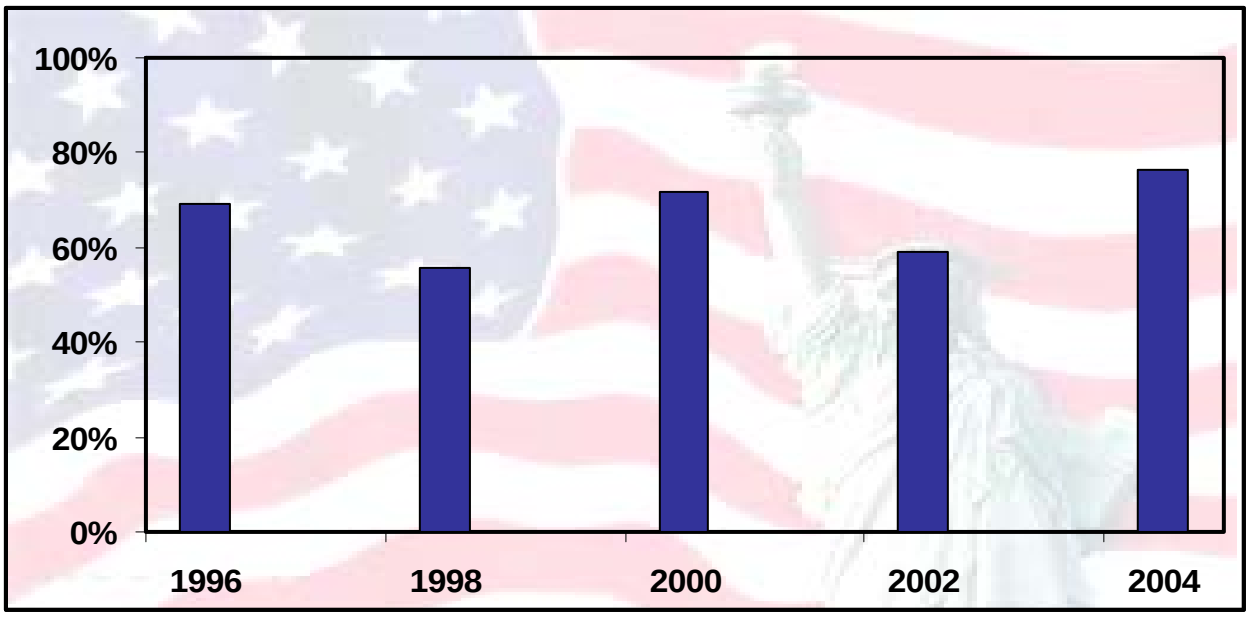
How are we doing?

Voter turnout increased in 2004 for the Presidential election, representing a trend of increased voter turnout in Presidential election years. The 2002 state election showed improvement in turnout over the 1998 election.

Voter Turnout

Year	Registered to vote	Voted	Voter Turnout
1996	134,765	93,181	69.1%
1998	137,657	76,947	55.9%
2000	147,707	106,001	71.8%
2002	162,018	95,688	59.1%
2004	184,257	140,354	76.2%

Source: Marion County Supervisor of Elections



Local Election Voter Turnout

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the percentage of those registered to vote in the municipalities of Belleview, Dunnellon, and Ocala who cast votes in local elections in those municipalities.

Why is it important?

Voting is an important opportunity and responsibility that comes with citizenship. It is critical for active civic engagement.

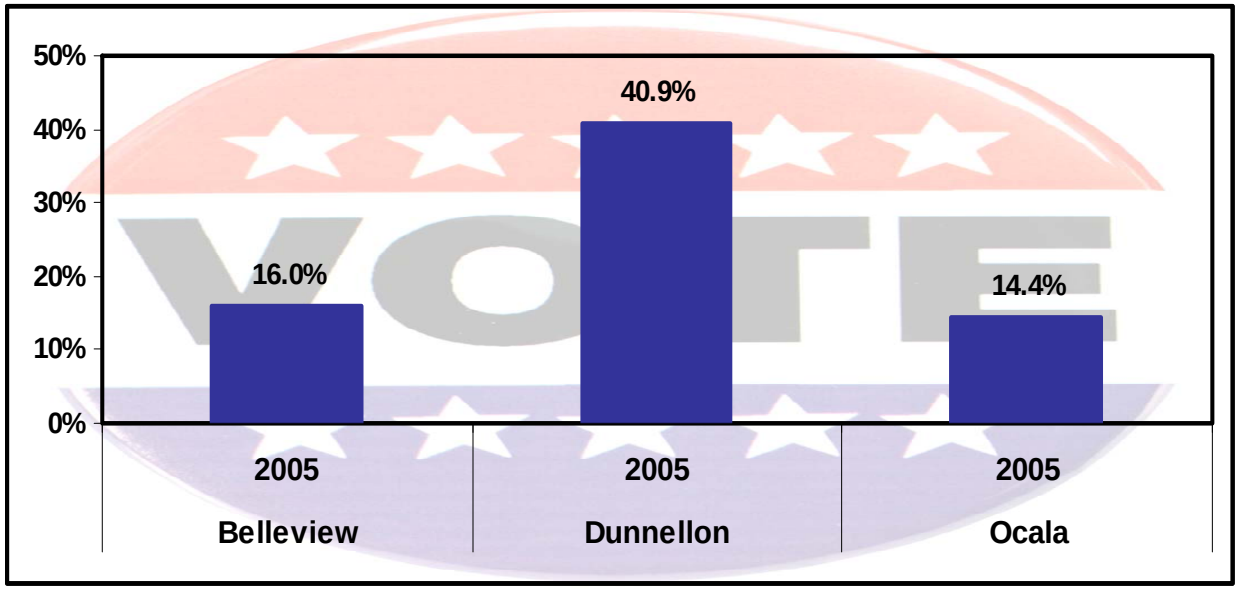
How are we doing?

On November 8, 2005, turnout for the mayoral race in Belleview was 16 percent of registered voters, up from 15 percent who voted in the commission race the year before. In Dunnellon, 41 percent of the voters cast ballots in the November 8, 2005 mayoral race, a high number for a local election. In Ocala, the October 19, 2005 mayoral race had a 14 percent turnout, down from 15 percent four years earlier.

Local Election Voter Turnout

		Registered Voters	Votes cast	Percent Turnout
Belleview	2005	2,389	383	16.0%
Dunnellon	2005	1,309	535	40.9%
Ocala	2005	28,488	4,096	14.4%

Source: Marion County Supervisor of Elections



Culture and Leisure

Arts, culture, and recreation all add dimensions to the quality of life of a community.

The quality of life in Marion County is enhanced when arts and culture organizations are supported, residents take advantage of the offerings of the public library system, and the community takes full advantage of the national, state, and community parks and recreational areas.

Primary Indicators: Page 79—81

Tourist Tax
Support for the Arts
Library Circulation

Secondary Indicators: Page 82—84

County Park Visitor Traffic Count
State Park Visitors
Ocala National Forest Acreage

Tourist Tax

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the dollar amount of revenues collected through the two percent tax on short-term hotel and motel stays in Marion County, and leases of less than 6 months, by month in 2005, compared to the amount of revenue projected to be collected.

Why is it important?

Tourist tax revenue, sometimes referred to as a "bed tax", is a measure of tourist activity and generates funds for promotion of Marion County's quality of life.

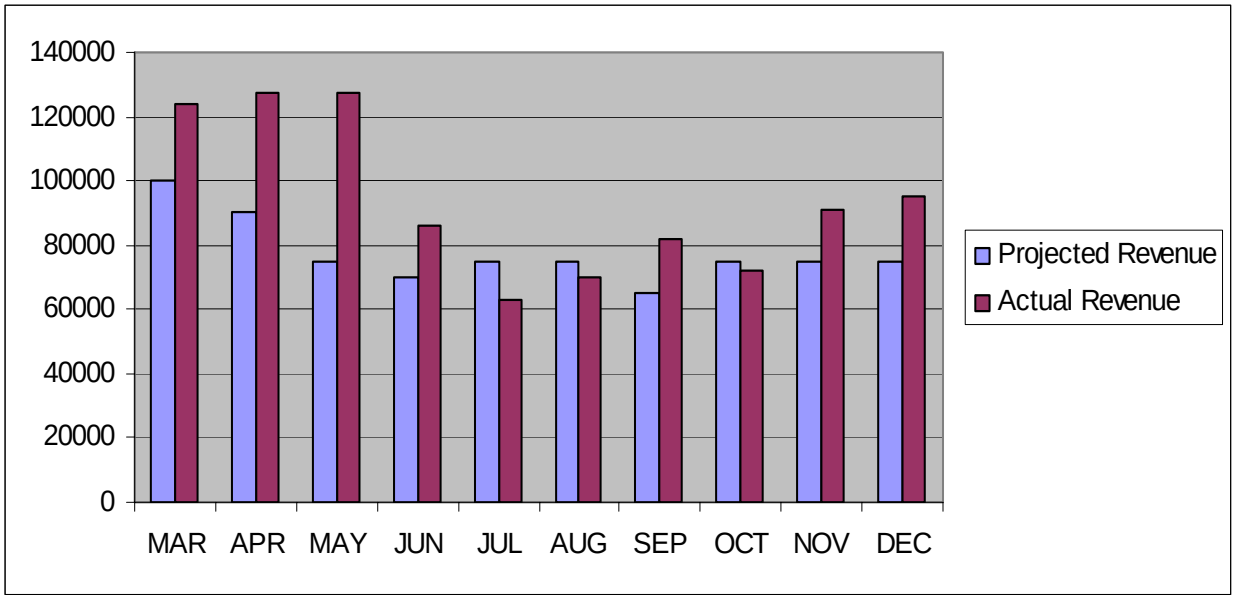
How are we doing?

The tourist tax was instituted in 2005, a two-cent sales tax on short-term hotel and motel stays. Actual tax revenues reported to the state exceeded the monthly tax revenues that were projected four of the first six months it was collected.

Tourist Tax Revenues, 2005

	Projected Revenue	Actual Revenue
MAR	$ 100,000	$ 123,815
APR	$ 90,000	$ 127,725
MAY	$ 75,000	$ 127,665
JUN	$ 70,000	$ 86,179
JUL	$ 75,000	$ 62,855
AUG	$ 75,000	$ 70,322
SEP	$ 65,000	$ 81,701
OCT	$ 75,000	$ 72,087
NOV	$ 75,000	$ 91,238
DEC	$ 75,000	$ 95,264

Source: Marion County Department of Tourism



Support for the Arts

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the total annual contributions, memberships, grants, and other public financial support for representative arts organizations in Marion County, as reported on IRS Form 990 and adjusted for inflation. The organizations are: Appleton Museum of Art, Central Florida Symphony, Marion Performing Ballet, Ocala Civic Theatre, and Marion Cultural Alliance.

Why is it important?

Support for the arts adds to the cultural richness of the community and enhances the overall quality of life.

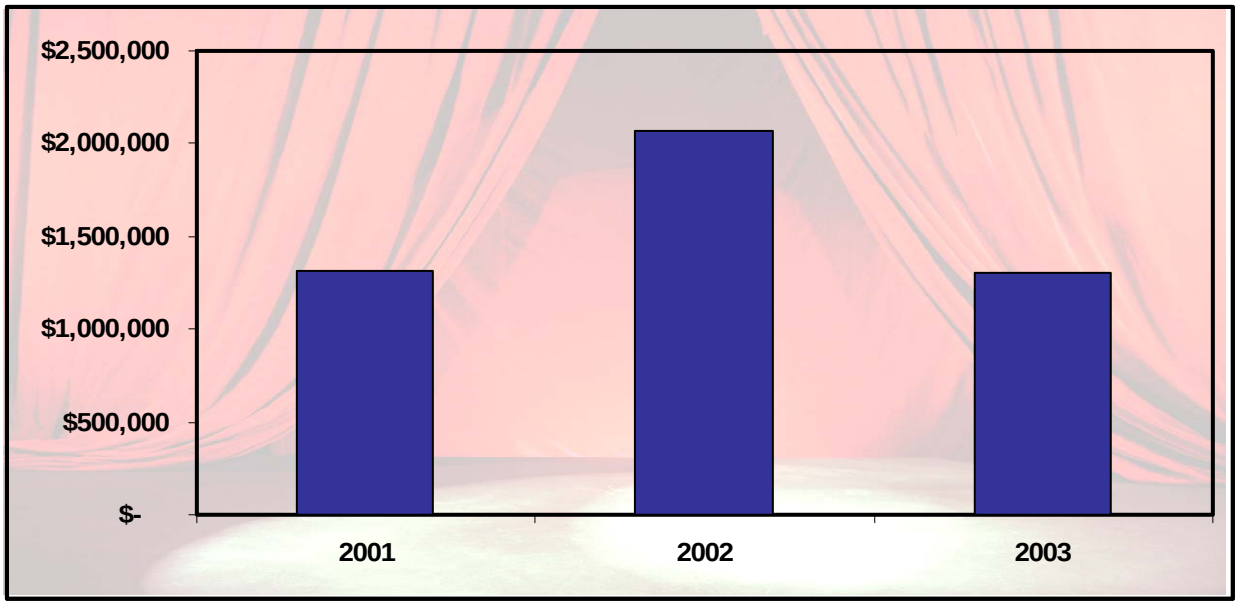
How are we doing?

The increase in 2002 was largely due to special event fundraising by the Marion Cultural Alliance. These arts organizations represent visual, musical, and performing arts, but are only part of the many arts and culture organizations in Marion County.

Support for the Arts

Year	Actual $$	2004 $$
2001	$1,257,690	$ 1,314,201
2002	$1,982,549	$ 2,067,309
2003	$1,265,716	$ 1,302,177

Source: Guidestar and IRS Form 990s



Library Circulation

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the total annual circulation of books and other materials at the Marion County Public Library, divided by the total population.

Why is it important?

Lifelong learning and the opportunity to explore new worlds through reading all are made possible through the public library system.

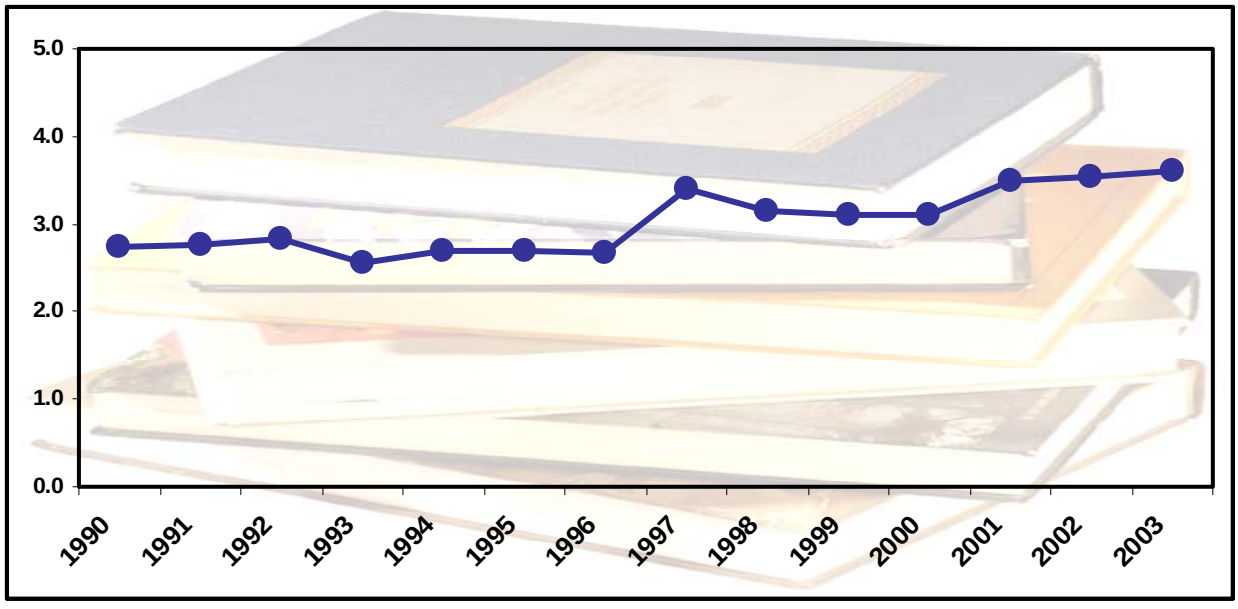
How are we doing?

In 2003, adult circulation was 706,062, and juvenile circulation was 310,989. The number of borrowers in 2003 was 128,417, including 125,321 resident borrowers and 3,096 non-resident borrowers. Circulation per borrower was 7.9. The percent of the total population with library cards was 45.5 percent in 2003.

Library Circulation

Year	Total Circulation	Population	Circulation Per Capita
1998	762,062	242,357	3.1
1999	777,155	249,433	3.1
2000	801,625	258,916	3.1
2001	922,912	264,277	3.5
2002	961,918	271,096	3.5
2003	1,017,051	281,966	3.6

Source: Marion County Public Library



County Park Visitor Traffic Count

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the total annual vehicle traffic count at Marion County parks.

Why is it important?

The county park system provides an opportunity for recreational enjoyment for children and adults.

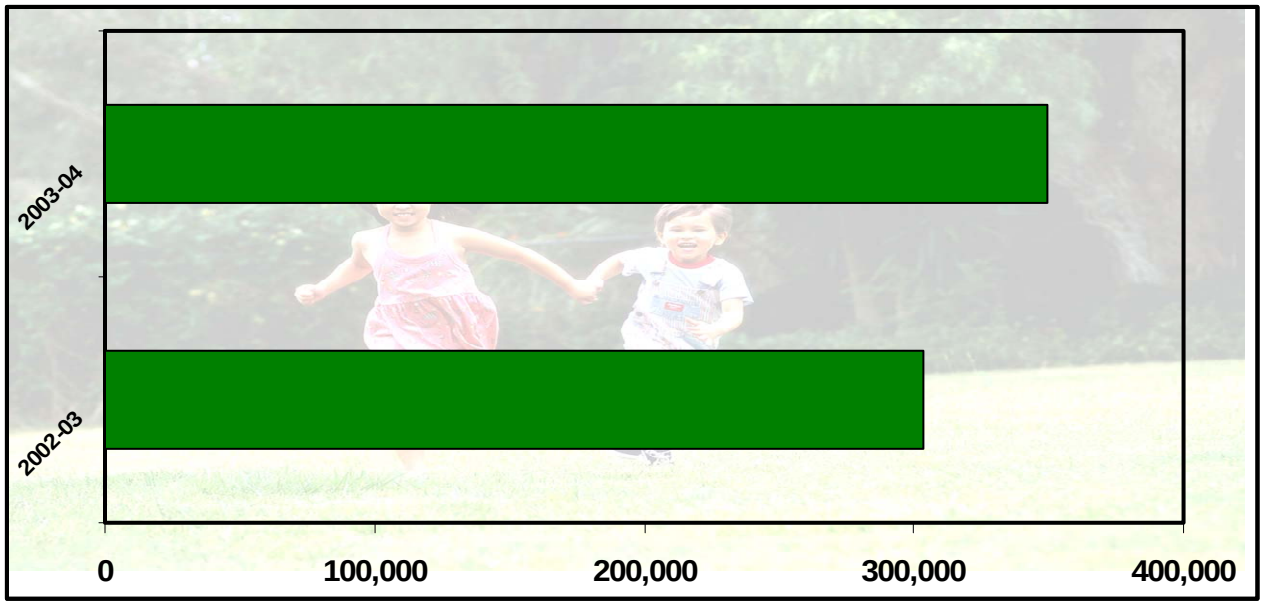
How are we doing?

Total acreage of county parks was 2,252.46 acres in 2003, or nearly eight acres per 1,000 county residents. The total acreage was down from 3,011.3 acres in 1998. Traffic counts increased 15 percent from 2003 to 2004.

Park Visitor Traffic Count

Year	Count
2002-03	303,610
2003-04	349,263

Source: Marion County Parks and Recreation



State Park Visitors

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the total annual visitors to Rainbow Springs State Park and Silver River State Park.

Why is it important?

Enjoyment of the state parks available in Marion County adds to the quality of life of the community.

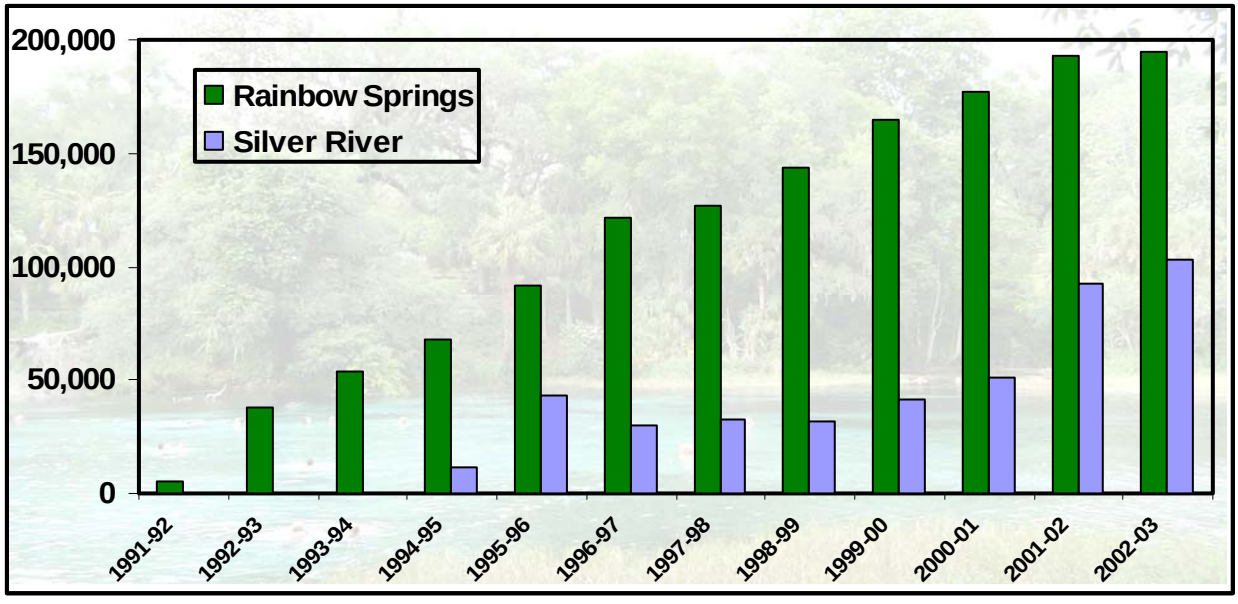
How are we doing?

Attendance at each park has risen significantly, to a combined 298,203 visits in 2002-03. For Silver River State Park, this represents a doubling of visits from 2000-01; for Rainbow Springs, attendance in 2002-03 is 35 times what it was in 1991-92.

Park Visit Counts

Year	Rainbow Springs	Silver River	Florida State Parks
1991-92	5,628	NA	12,231,089
1992-93	38,125	NA	11,298,529
1993-94	53,500	NA	11,904,298
1994-95	67,899	11,388	11,790,366
1995-96	91,907	42,865	12,664,205
1996-97	121,763	29,597	13,740,846
1997-98	126,698	32,990	14,138,481
1998-99	143,918	31,839	14,645,202
1999-00	164,589	41,326	16,451,587
2000-01	177,270	50,970	18,146,525
2001-02	192,794	92,703	17,734,774
2002-03	195,059	103,144	18,245,773

Source: Bureau of Economic and Business Research, Florida Statistical Abstracts



Ocala National Forest Acreage

What does this measure?

This indicator measures the total acreage of the Ocala National Forest.

Why is it important?

The National Forest is a significant natural resource and provides opportunities for recreation and leisure for the community.

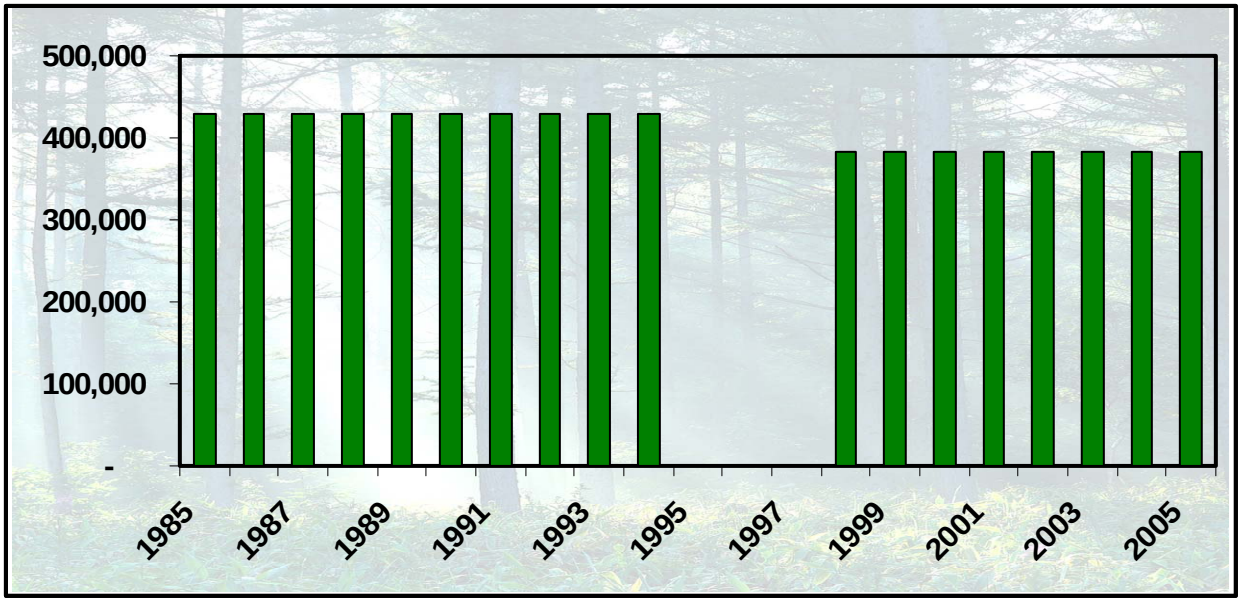
How are we doing?

Between 1985 and 2005, acreage in the Ocala National Forest decreased by 46,977 acres. Decreases in acreage were due to selling off scattered, more remote, less manageable parcels south of Route 42 in order to consolidate acreage in more concentrated, manageable areas north of Route 42. Some of the sales were to the state park system. Data were not available for acreage from 1995-1997.

Acreage of Ocala National Forest

Year	Acreage
1985	430,446
1990	430,446
1994	430,446
2000	383,573
2005	383,469

Source: National Forest Service



About The Public Policy Institute

The Public Policy Institute of Marion County is dedicated to advancing public interest, building democracy, enhancing community, and improving the quality of life by involving citizens in the process.

Vision:

To provide leadership in developing and implementing short-term and long-term goals and solutions for an improved community.

Mission:

To give the community a sense of hope and optimism by creating a broad base of community involvement in identifying, researching, and establishing dialogue on community-wide issues, and then in recommending and helping to implement timely solutions.

Objectives:

To provide formal and informal networks for individuals to come together to share their knowledge, resources and experiences.

To periodically identify a short-term community project that can be accomplished in a 12-18 month period with meaningful results.

To provide a process where community leaders can work through problems and participate in open discussions, conferences and seminars.

To involve a broad range of individuals in the process, to generate dynamic, creative and catalytic leadership in addressing each critical issue and to provide enduring solutions.

To create a shared sense of community, in that any issue must be addressed, discussed, and debated in an atmosphere of mutual fairness, respect, civility and sincerity to all others-where the highest aspiration is to serve the common good.

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Public Policy Institute of Marion County
P.O. Box 1388, Ocala, FL 34478-1388
Phone: (352) 854-2322 ext. 1457
Fax: (352) 873-5864

http://ppiofmarioncounty.cf.edu

Karen Jernigan, Executive Director
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Research assistance provided by Jacksonville Community Council, Inc.

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