

# WACY Status Report: The Big Picture

	Elementary Age (6-10)	Middle School (11-13)	High School (14-18)	Young Adults (19-24)	
1. <b>Learning:</b> <i>All Washtenaw County youth will have an effective education that promotes life-long learning.</i>					
2. <b>Thriving:</b> <i>All Washtenaw County youth will be healthy through access to resources and practice of good health habits.</i>					
3. <b>Working:</b> <i>All Washtenaw County youth will have the knowledge and skills needed for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.</i>					
4. <b>Connecting:</b> <i>All Washtenaw County youth will make positive choices and are safe and supported in their families and communities.</i>					
5. <b>Leading:</b> <i>All Washtenaw County youth will be valued contributors in the community process.</i>					

	No Data/NA		Critical Status		Cautious Status		Satisfactory Status
--	------------	--	-----------------	--	-----------------	--	---------------------

September 29, 2009

WACY Status Report: A Comprehensive Look at the State of Children and Youth in Washtenaw County

# Ready for College: Learning

## Problem-Focused, Prevention, Promotion, Participation

LEARNING	Early Childhood (0-5)	Elementary Age (6-10)	Middle School (11-13)	High School (14-18)	Young Adults (19-24)
<i>All Washtenaw County children and youth will have an effective education that promotes life-long learning.</i>					
<b>Average Daily School Attendance</b> (High school attendance of 95% only includes regular high schools; average for alternative high schools is 80%)		95%	95%	95%	
<b>MEAP Math Scores</b> (3 <sup>rd</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> , and 11 <sup>th</sup> grades)		93%	79%	63%	
<b>MEAP Reading Scores</b> (3 <sup>rd</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> , and 11 <sup>th</sup> grades)		90%	83%	71%	
<b>MEAP Writing Scores</b> (3 <sup>rd</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> , and 11 <sup>th</sup> grades)		65%	75%	56%	
<b>High School Completion</b> (Low of 43% in Willow Run; High of 93% in Dexter)				88%	
<b>Earned 2- or 4-Year Degree within 5 Years</b>					67%

### OVERALL

Learning	0-5	6-10	11-13	14-18	19-24

September 29, 2009

WACY Status Report: A Comprehensive Look at the State of Children and Youth in Washtenaw County

## Ready for Work: Working

### Problem-Focused, Prevention, Participation

<b>WORKING</b>	<b>Early Childhood (0-5)</b>	<b>Elementary Age (6-10)</b>	<b>Middle School (11-13)</b>	<b>High School (14-18)</b>	<b>Young Adults (19-24)</b>
<i>All Washtenaw County children and youth will have the knowledge and skills needed for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.</i>					
<b>No FT/Year-round employed adults at home</b>	<b>30.4%</b>				
<b>Participation in job shadowing/mentoring</b>				<b>22%</b>	
<b>Teens not in school and not employed</b>				<b>4.1%</b>	
<b>Unemployment rate</b>				<b>4.8%?</b>	

<b>Working</b>	<b>0-5</b>	<b>6-10</b>	<b>11-13</b>	<b>14-18</b>	<b>19-24</b>

September 29, 2009

WACY Status Report: A Comprehensive Look at the State of Children and Youth in Washtenaw County

**OVERALL**

*September 29, 2009*

*WACY Status Report: A Comprehensive Look at the State of Children and Youth in Washtenaw County*

# Ready for Life: Thriving

## Problem-Focused, Prevention, Promotion

THRIVING	Early Childhood (0-5)	Elementary Age (6-10)	Middle School (11-13)	High School (14-18)	Young Adults (19-24)
<i>All Washtenaw County children and youth will be healthy through access to resources and practice of good health habits.</i>					
<b>Child Poverty</b> (29% for female-headed households)	8.6%				
<b>Free and reduced lunch</b> (District-wide estimate based on combining reported numbers from all districts is 22%; High of 72% in Willow Run, followed by 63% in Ypsilanti; Low of 6% in Saline. Largest district (Ann Arbor) is 19%).		22%			
<b>Chlamydia Rates</b> (Of 1194 case reported in Washtenaw County in 2008)	1%			37%	39%
<b>Depression/Suicide – Suicide Thoughts</b> (Biracial youth have the highest rate of suicidal thoughts)			20% <sup>+</sup>		
<b>Substance Abuse – Alcohol Use in Last 30 Days</b>			14% <sup>+</sup>		
<b>Physical Activity and Overweight – Percent of Youth at Normal Weight</b>		66%	79%		56%

### OVERALL

Thriving	0-5	6-10	11-13	14-18	19-24

September 29, 2009

WACY Status Report: A Comprehensive Look at the State of Children and Youth in Washtenaw County

## Ready for Life: Connecting

### Problem-Focused, Prevention, Promotion, Participation

CONNECTING	Early Childhood (0-5)	Elementary Age (6-10)	Middle School (11-13)	High School (14-18)	Young Adults (19-24)
<i>All Washtenaw County children and youth will make positive choices and are safe and supported in their families and communities.</i>					
<b>School safety – harassment</b> (I experience a school environment safe from intimidation and harassment: Always – 41%, Sometimes - 42%, Almost Never - 13%)				41%*	
<b>School safety – physical violence</b> (I experience a school environment safe from physical violence: Always – 48%, Sometimes – 39%, Almost Never- 10%)				48%*	
<b>Delinquency</b> (Percentage of youth who successfully or moderately successfully completed probation in 2007 is significantly lower than in 2006 (48% vs. 66%). Two percent of offenders are 6 – 10, 32% - 11 – 14, 66% - 14 – 18)				48%*	
<b>Neglect/Abuse</b> (Confirmed cases of child abuse / neglect: 409 (total): 191 (age 0-5), 218 (age 6-17))	191	218			
<b>Extracurricular participation</b> (Athletics: 56%, Musical groups: 30%, Clubs: 25%)				56%	
<b>Single, supportive adult</b>				92%	

#### OVERALL

Connecting	0-5	6-10	11-13	14-18	19-24

September 29, 2009

WACY Status Report: A Comprehensive Look at the State of Children and Youth in Washtenaw County

# Ready for Life: Leading

## Problem-focused, Prevention, Promotion, Participation

LEADING	Early Childhood (0-5)	Elementary Age (6-10)	Middle School (11-13)	High School (14-18)	Young Adults (19-24)
<i>All Washtenaw County children and youth will be valued contributors in the community process.</i>					
Community Service participation during school year				47%	
Community service participation in the summer				35%	
Participated in political action groups				7%	
Participated in student government				8%	

### OVERALL

Leading	0-5	6-10	11-13	14-18	19-24

September 29, 2009

WACY Status Report: A Comprehensive Look at the State of Children and Youth in Washtenaw County

## OVERVIEW OF RATIONAL FOR COLOR CHOICES (for more detail see individual dashboards)

### Learning

- **Elementary:** With noted exceptions, the snapshot suggests that young children are more often than not, receiving a decent start and an effective education in Washtenaw.
- **Middle and High School:** Here is where the data suggests that the “divide” between those receiving an effective education and those not becomes clearer and more entrenched in terms of probable outcomes.
- **Young Adult:** As a high-educational attainment county, the experiences of those who graduate from high school and go on to receive degrees vs those who do not likely diverge significantly. There is not, generally speaking, coherent policy and supports for non-college attending youth.

### Thriving

- **Elementary:** Because we do not present risk behavior data (or the risk behaviors data is reported as relatively low) on elementary kids coupled with the lower-than-average poverty/low-income rates, I assigned this a yellow/ “cautious” status.
- **Middle/High School:** This was assigned a red status primarily due to the risk behavior rates seen in such wide-ranging areas as Chlamydia and suicide thought rates. This suggests that sizable populations in these age groups seem to be displaying signs that we could be doing much better on the “thriving” index than we are. Much of this may be emerging in elementary already, but we do not (in this data set) have direct evidence of that. We do, however, seem to have clearer evidence that young people could use more supports in the middle and high school years.
- **Young Adult:** Evidence is mostly indirect – but the high school data suggest that young adults may continue to experience and show outcomes that track with what has happened earlier in the developmental lifespan. In other words, young adults likely have no better access to support than they might have in middle and high school, and given the nature of the initiation into the adult world, it is likely that they do not. Again, it is important to note that there is wide variation among individual youth.

### Connecting

- Our only direct evidence (where we have enough data) is in the high school category. There seems to be a group of young people that are very connected to school, community and family, and a group that has much weaker connections to these three institutions and/or less formal connections that make it hard to determine exactly what access they have to developmentally supportive connections.
- The fact that over 90% of all young people report having a supportive adult in their lives suggests a base level support system for youth. What is unclear is how connected those adults are into a full range of resources that support youths’ positive development given some of what we see in other parts of the dashboard. For instance, compare two sources of data, one embedded in a suicide report indicating the percentage of middle school youth who had someone to help them

September 29, 2009

WACY Status Report: A Comprehensive Look at the State of Children and Youth in Washtenaw County

with homework and who went to their parents for moral support (less than 50%, in both cases). How should the community square that data with the 92% reporting a supportive adult (there are lots of things we could chalk it up to including the nature of the two data sets, methods, quality of data collection, etcetera)? But it may be worth considering – given what we see in other cells – that “supportive adult” may not mean connected and/or effective adults in every child’s life across all of the outcome areas.

- There is interesting research that I’ve just been made aware of coming out of the Search Institute that profiles three elements that 15 year olds need for successful developmental transitions. I’ve not had the opportunity to integrate yet, but it seems compelling for future consideration, particularly if the community wants to profile Washtenaw County 15-year-olds for these three elements: [http://www.search-institute.org/system/files/TeenVoiceReport\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.search-institute.org/system/files/TeenVoiceReport_FINAL.pdf)

## Working

- This is probably the area in which we have the weakest (least robust and wide-ranging) data overall (not surprisingly), and we only have it directly in one area (save the data on “no adults with F-T/year-round” work - which cuts very broadly across the age range without much nuance at this point). The basic overall take away is that only a minority of youth seem to be receiving substantive, intentional supports to engage them in the world of work. This doesn’t mean that youth are not gaining positive experiences to connect them to the world of work in other ways (informal apprenticeships, summer jobs, etc), but several studies suggest that young people (and entry-level workers of all ages), on the whole, are not coming into the workforce fully prepared and that, generally speaking the supports and opportunities that are available are not enough. There is more digging to do behind the meager data we do have. See brand-new report on *The Ill-prepared U.S. Workforce*: <http://corporatevoices.org/node/247>

## Leading

- All of the data we have in this snapshot is focused on high school aged youth. We don’t have direct information about other groups. We do have research to suggest that the most engaged youth in high school had earlier opportunities to be engage and that they continue to engage later in life. The overall picture suggests that a sizable group of young people are not getting plugged into leading experiences.