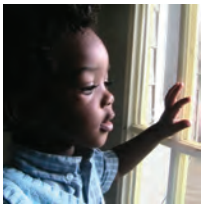


HEART OF ILLINOIS UNITED WAY

# PEORIA AREA COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT



# 2011 PEORIA AREA COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

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Positive, community-wide change begins by helping one person at a time.

Health and human care agencies must continually assess and understand the needs of the people they serve. They must work together with businesses, labor, government and other nonprofit organizations to identify and develop strategies that will improve the quality of life for people in central Illinois.

The Heart of Illinois United Way's Peoria Area Community Assessment illustrates and explains the social service issues and trends impacting the communities we serve. As we continue to establish, and fund, outcomes that make positive, lasting change, the 2011 assessment will be a vital resource to helping the United Way address critical needs in our community.

The numbers, statistics and facts within the assessment create a picture of where we need to focus our efforts. Education is the cornerstone of individual and community success. Hard-working families face income-related obstacles that prevent them from maintaining a stable home life. And, whether it is someone without health insurance or someone struggling with a chronic illness, access to affordable and quality health care is vital to keeping our community healthy.

Through strength and experience, the Heart of Illinois United Way is the shortest distance between community investment and a stronger, healthier region. As the largest non-governmental funder of health and human care programs, it is critical that people in central Illinois trust United Way to provide an exceptional return on their charitable investments.



Michael D. Stephan  
President

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Heart of Illinois United Way

**Our Mission:** To increase the organized capacity of the people in central Illinois to care for one another.

The 2011 Community Assessment of the six-county Peoria region highlights critical community needs. Key issues and trends focus on population, education, income and health.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## EDUCATION TRENDS

Third grade reading performance and eighth grade math performance are essential to analyzing a child's ability to succeed academically. More than 15 percent of schools in the Peoria Region are at or lower than the State of Illinois average for third grade reading and more than 46 percent of the region's schools are at or below the State of Illinois average for eighth grade math. Six high school districts in the Peoria region have graduation rates that are at or below the state average. Male students are graduating at a slightly lower rate than females. There are 18 school districts (40 percent) in the Peoria Region with 33 percent or more of their students in the low-income bracket.

## INCOME TRENDS

The median income in the Peoria Region is approximately \$4,000 less than the state average and there is a disparity related to ethnicity. Black residents have a median income that is 44 percent less than the white population and 28 percent less than the Hispanic population. Poverty continues to affect children at higher rates than adults with an increase of 4.7 percent since 2006. Overall, more than 50,000 people in central Illinois live in poverty which is an increase of 7,700 people between 2006 and 2009. For families living in poverty (with children under the age of 18), families with a single female head of household outnumber families headed by married couples by 8 to 1.

## HEALTH TRENDS

Heart disease and cancer are the leading causes of death in the Peoria Region and could be linked to the percentage of residents with high blood pressure, high cholesterol and obesity. More than 50 percent of births in Peoria County are to unmarried mothers. The percentage of people without health insurance continues to rise and less people are visiting the dentist and doctor due to costs. While the reported cases of sexually transmitted infections (now STIs instead of STDs) is declining, Peoria County STI rate is still higher than the state average. Teenage substance abuse (alcohol, tobacco and marijuana) begins on average at the age of 11 in the Tri-County area. Teens perceive that alcohol use has significantly less risk when compared to tobacco.

### Why Focus on Education, Income and Health?

The 2011 Community Assessment is focused on continuing the Heart of Illinois United Way's effectiveness at identifying, assessing and supporting key areas of social concern integral to strategic planning.

Education, income and health are essential building blocks for a safe and stable life. But for so many individuals and families throughout central Illinois, these essentials are out of reach.

A quality education is essential to obtaining and keeping a job with a livable wage and health benefits.

An income adequate to pay for today's necessities and save for the future will help families become financially stable.

Access to quality health care keeps children on track in school and adults productive at work.

By examining statistics focused on education, income and health we can collaborate with the community to create positive, lasting change which is the cornerstone of the Heart of Illinois United Way's work.

In addition to the statistical review of the Peoria Region, the 2011 Community Assessment also analyzed the community's perceptions of the Heart of Illinois United Way, as well as specific drivers regarding why donors would financially support the organization. Overall, respondents felt the United Way was an efficient and creditable organization that makes a positive impact on the critical health and human care issues throughout central Illinois.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## HOIUW Allocation Process

The primary tool the Heart of Illinois United Way uses to drive community change is our allocation process. It is important to continually demonstrate the effectiveness of the health and social service programs we fund so the community is assured their investment in the United Way is making the greatest impact possible.

Below are the impact areas funded by the Heart of Illinois United Way with how they address statistical data within this assessment.

### Youth Impact Area

Factors addressed include reading and math scores, poverty and homelessness and how students deal with substance abuse.

### Family Impact Area

Factors addressed include income, poverty and employment.

### Self-Reliance Impact Area

Factors addressed include homelessness, income and disabilities.

### Health Impact Area

Factors addressed include trends in mortality rates, asthma cases, dental visits and sexually transmitted infections.

## Community Perceptions of the Heart of Illinois United Way (HOIUW)

An online survey was created to collect the primary data and responses were received from 472 donors and potential-donors. The demographic breakdown of respondents shows that 53 percent were female, 72 percent were married, 70 percent were white and a majority of respondents had an average age of 45. More than 50 percent of the survey respondents had no children living at home. The average household income was \$110,000 and 73 percent of the respondents had a college degree or higher.

### Perceptions of the Heart of Illinois United Way - respondents were asked to rate the United Way relative to other nonprofit organizations

When asked, "If you had an extra dollar to invest in a charitable organization . . ." more than 40 percent of the respondents chose HOIUW over agencies such as the American Red Cross, Easter Seals, Salvation Army, etc. In regards to viewing HOIUW as an "efficient and creditable organization," 79 percent of the respondents agreed or strongly agreed.

### Drivers for Giving - respondents were asked why they do, or do not, financially support the United Way

More than 90 percent of the survey respondents gave to HOIUW within the past year. The breakdown of these donors shows an almost even split of their gifts between the Community Impact Fund (37 percent), designated to a specific agency (35 percent) and both (28 percent). Respondents said the two main motivators for giving to a charitable organization, such as the United Way, were 1) makes a difference (demonstrates positive results) and 2) a feeling of giving back to the community.

### Perceptions of Key Social Issues - respondents were asked how important they feel key social issues are and how effectively these issues are addressed by HOIUW

Respondents felt completing high school, a parent's involvement in their child's education, underage alcohol and drug abuse, and child abuse were the most important health and human care issues in central Illinois.

As for addressing health and human care issues, respondents felt HOIUW is doing its best work for pre-literacy skills for at-risk children, availability of food and shelter for the homeless, adult literacy, support services for the elderly, providing programs for children with special needs, and child abuse.

HOIUW has the opportunity to improve respondents' knowledge of how certain issues are being addressed. Respondents felt the following issues were not being addressed well enough by HOIUW: parental involvement in a child's education, preventative healthcare, affordable dental care for low-income individuals, affordable and available mental healthcare, obesity and understanding the cycle of how poverty affects successive generations.

The population of the six-county Peoria region has experienced a higher population growth compared to the State of Illinois average. This is primarily due to more births and domestic migration. However, our region still lags behind the State of Illinois average when it comes to attracting immigrants from abroad. Immigration is not only important for increasing population, it also creates more ethnically and racially diverse communities and positively affects economic performance so that communities can compete globally.

# POPULATION

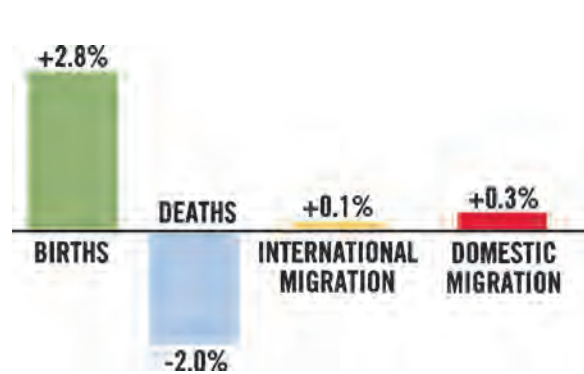
## 2010 Population Breakdown

County	2010 Population	% Change	SEX		RACE			
			Male	Female	White	Black	Hispanic	Other
Peoria	186,494	+1.7%	48.3%	51.7%	74.4%	17.7%	3.8%	6.2%
Tazewell	135,394	+5.4%	49.5%	50.5%	96.2%	1.0%	1.9%	2.3%
Woodford	38,664	+9.0%	49.6%	50.4%	97.4%	0.5%	1.4%	1.9%
Marshall	12,640	-4.1%	49.6%	50.4%	97.1%	0.3%	2.5%	1.5%
Stark	5,994	-5.3%	48.6%	51.4%	97.7%	0.5%	1.0%	1.5%
Putnam	6,006	-1.3%	50.0%	50.0%	96.6%	0.5%	4.2%	1.4%

Population percent change compares 2000 to 2010. 'Other' under race includes persons who reported being two or more races, Native Americans, Asian or Pacific Islanders.

## Causes of Population Change

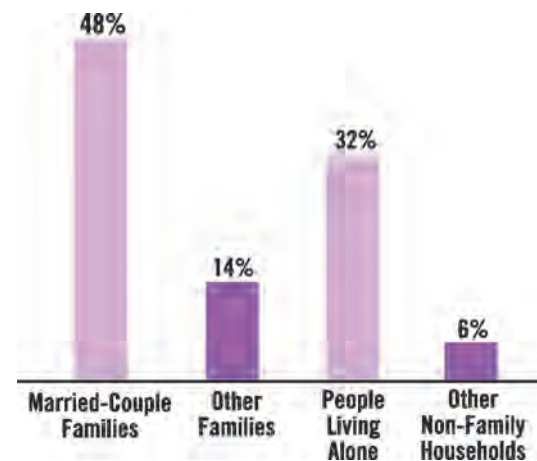
Peoria Region, 2007-2009



Overall, the population of the Peoria region has increased 1.3 percent since 2007. Our region's population change is mainly attributed to the natural causes of births and deaths and to domestic migration. Our region lags behind the State of Illinois in attracting immigrants from abroad.

## Types of Households

Peoria Region, 2009



The majority of our region's households live as married-couple families. Almost one-third of our households are singles and 6 percent of our region's households are unmarried, unrelated persons living together.

## SIX-COUNTY PEORIA REGION

The six-county Peoria region encompasses the population of Peoria, Tazewell, Woodford, Marshall, Stark and Putnam counties.

## TRI-COUNTY AREA

The tri-county Peoria area encompasses the population of Peoria, Tazewell and Woodford counties.

## TYPES OF HOUSEHOLDS

Households include both family households (at least two related persons living together) and non-family households which are primarily one-person households.

## DOMESTIC MIGRATION

In the United States, domestic migration generally refers to movement from one state to another.

Children should have the opportunity to enjoy their childhood in a caring community that helps them reach their full potential. The continuing and positive long-term effects of investing in early childhood education shows that for every dollar invested it creates a \$16 return on investment. This is due to 1) children who receive high-quality early education are more likely to be employed at 40 years of age, 2) children, particularly females, are more likely to graduate from high school and 3) children in early education programs are less likely to be arrested, particularly males. For this to happen, children must have equal access to health and human care services.

# EDUCATION

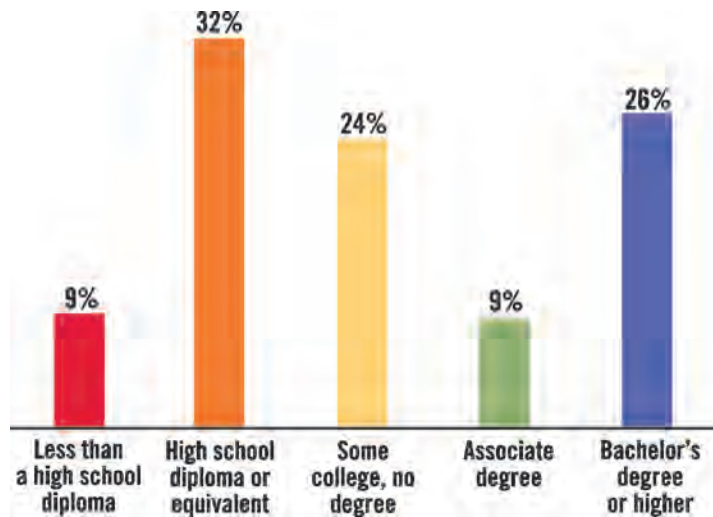
## The Importance of Educational Attainment

Educational attainment is a powerful predictor of a person's well-being.

Young adults who have higher levels of education are more likely to achieve economic success. In addition to qualifying for a broader range of jobs, completing more years of education also protects against future unemployment.

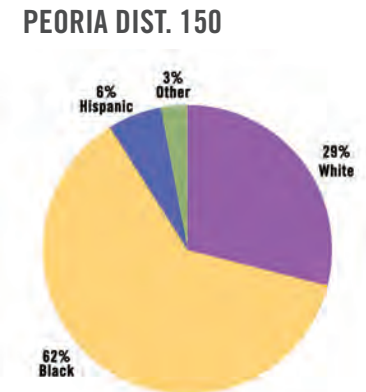
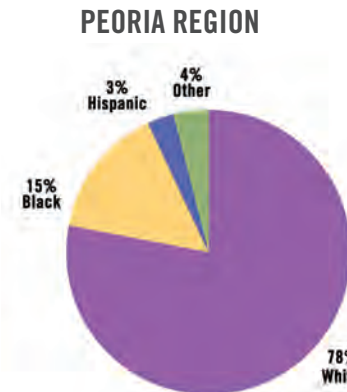
Higher levels of educational attainment also lead to higher wages and income. In 2008, people with a bachelor's degree or higher earned a median income that was 50 percent or higher than their peers with high school diplomas. Adults with higher levels of education also report having better health and higher levels of social and emotional well-being. They are also less likely to divorce or be incarcerated.

**Educational Attainment**  
Peoria Region, 2009



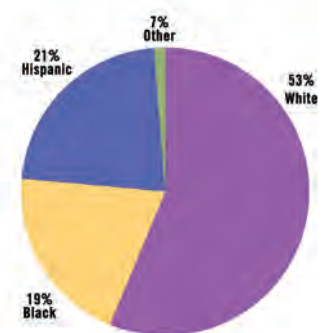
The Peoria Region has a higher percentage of people who have a high school degree when compared to the state average of 27 percent. The number people with Bachelor's degrees or higher is lower than the state average for our region - 26 percent compared to 32 percent.

**Enrollment Diversity**  
Peoria Region, 2009-2010



The student population in the Peoria Region as a whole is disproportionately white. In contrast, Peoria Dist. 150 schools are disproportionately black when compared to state averages. Enrollment diversity has remained at these percentages for the last decade.

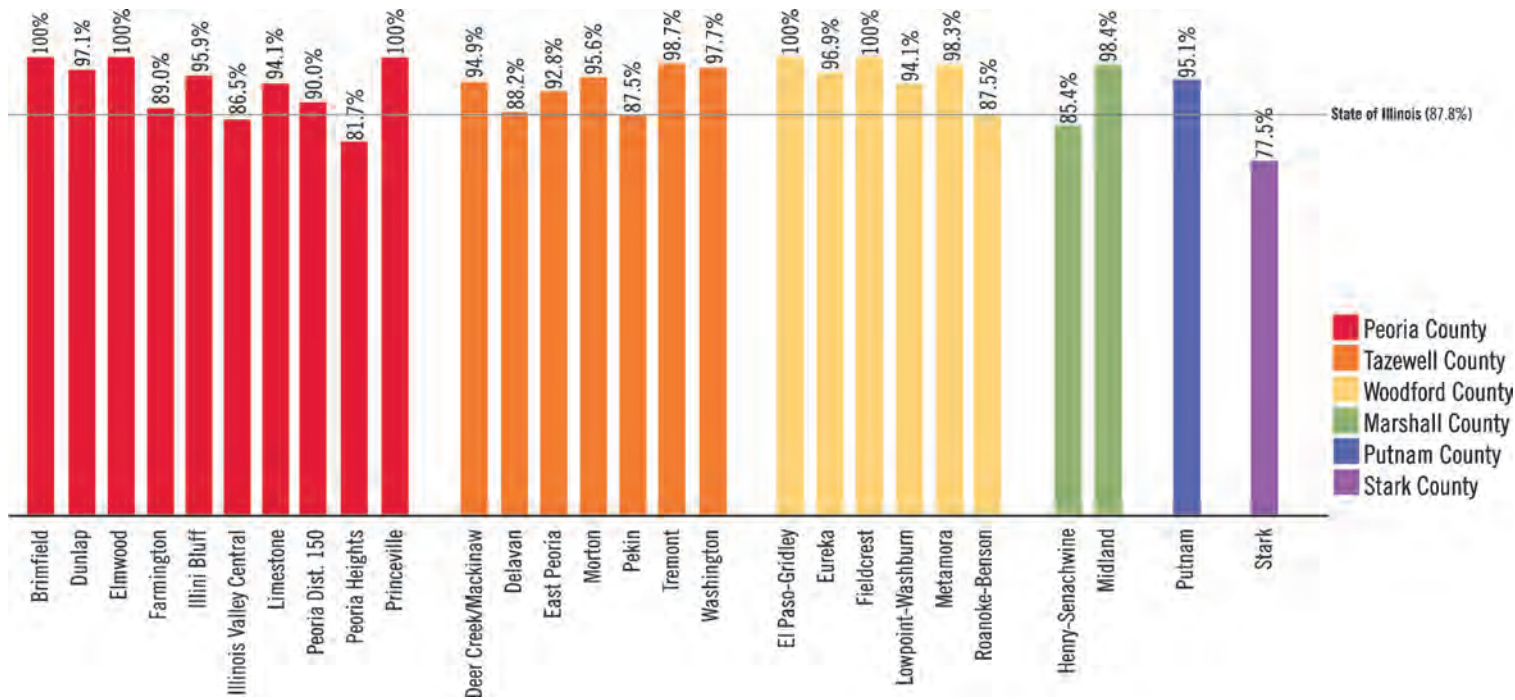
**STATE OF ILLINOIS**



High school graduation rates are a barometer of the community's health and the skill level of its future workforce. Over the last 50 years, each new generation was more likely to graduate from high school than the previous one. This growth increased worker productivity and fueled economic growth. The rising difference in the wages of high school graduates and dropouts provides an incentive for completing high school. Declines in high school graduation rates are a measure of a school's performance.

# EDUCATION

## 2009-2010 High School Graduation Rates by County



There are six high schools in the Peoria region with graduation rates at or below the state average: Illinois Valley Central, Peoria Heights, Pekin, Roanoke-Benson, Henry-Senachwine and Stark County. The percent of low-income students in high school does not have a direct effect on graduation rates, but several of these high schools have more than 30 percent of their students at a low-income level including Peoria Heights (43.9 percent), Pekin (35.4 percent), Henry-Senachwine (33.5 percent) and Stark County (30 percent). Roanoke-Benson only has 8.6 percent of their students in the low-poverty range.

In recent years, the attendance for male college students has slowed down. This is due to declining rates of high school graduation among male students. Statistics for the Peoria region show a trend towards slightly lower graduation rates for male students. In some high schools, there are significantly lower graduation rates for males – 79.3 percent at Henry-Senachwine High School and 73 percent at Stark County High School. With female students graduating at higher rates, this is attributing to the gap between female and male college enrollment.

## ACT Scores

Illinois is one of the few states that test 90 percent or more of their high school students. The ACT test is a benchmark for determining if students are not just ready to enter college, but to succeed. Results and data from ACT scores illustrate the importance of students taking, and succeeding in, core classes.

Overall, ACT scores for Illinois students have improved from a composite score of 20.7 in 2007 to 20.9 in 2011. Overall, students in the Peoria region score the highest in English and the lowest in science.

There is a clear relationship between family income and test scores. This creates a correlation between a high school's composite ACT score and the percent of students at the low income level. If a school has more low income students, their ACT composite score is lower.

Dunlap and Elmwood High Schools scored the highest in Peoria County; Morton and Tremont scored the highest for Tazewell County; and Eureka, Metamora and Roanoke-Benson were the highest amongst the other counties.

Elementary school students must learn to read by third grade and successfully complete algebra by the start of tenth grade in order to ensure success in school. One of the most reliable predictors of educational success is whether or not a child is reading at 3rd grade level by the end of 3rd grade.

# EDUCATION

## Total Enrollment

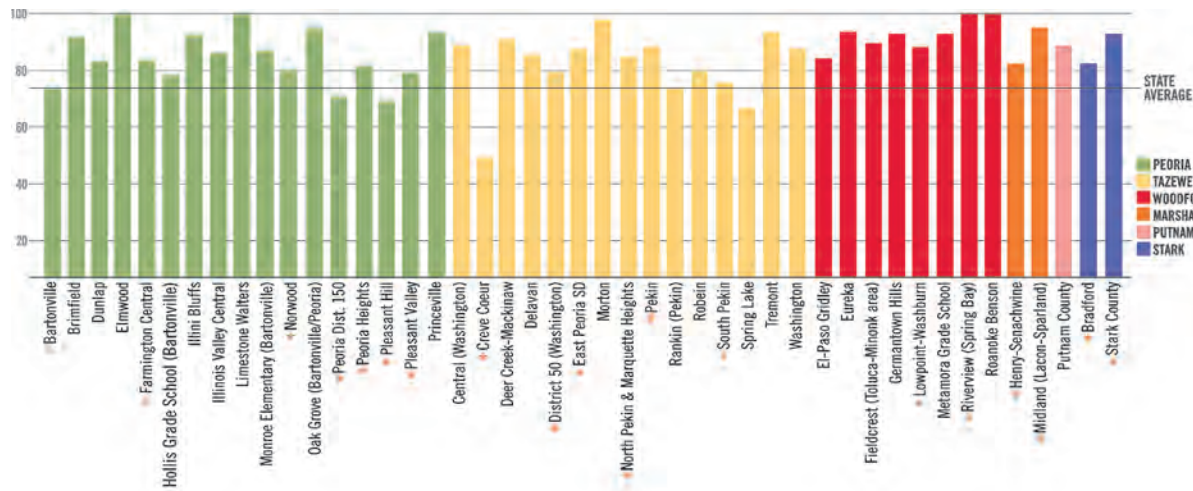
For the school term 2009-2010, more than 59,400 students were enrolled in the Peoria Region's schools.

## Low-Income Definition

The Illinois State Board of Education defines low-income students as children who come from families receiving public aid, living in institutions for neglected or delinquent children, living in foster homes receiving public funds, or are eligible for free or reduced-price lunches.

## 3rd Grade Reading Levels

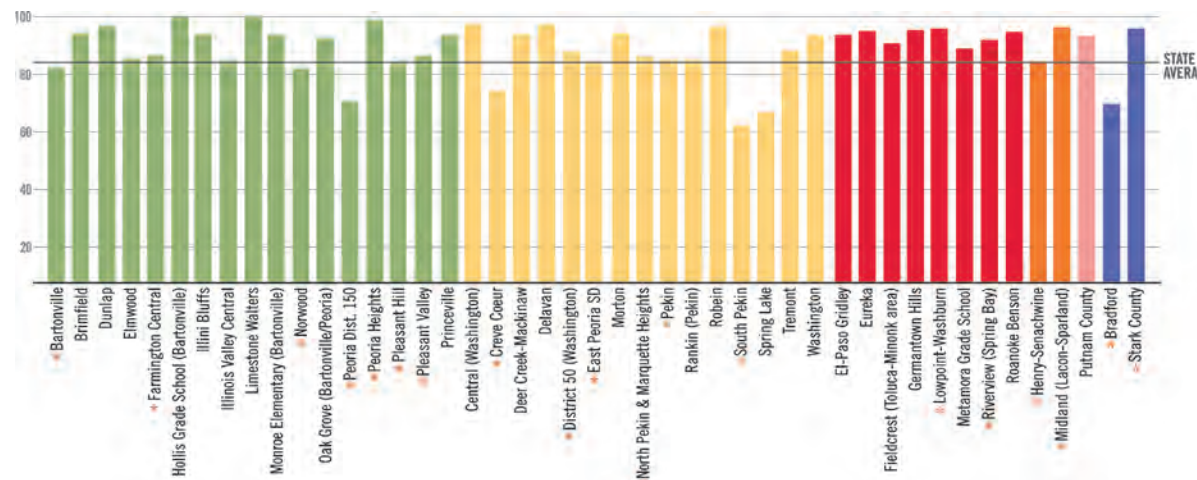
Peoria Region, 2009-2010



15.6 percent of schools in the Peoria Region are at or below the state average for 3rd grade reading scores.

## 8th Grade Reading Levels

Peoria Region, 2009-2010



26.7 percent of schools in the Peoria Region are at or below the state average for 8th grade reading scores.

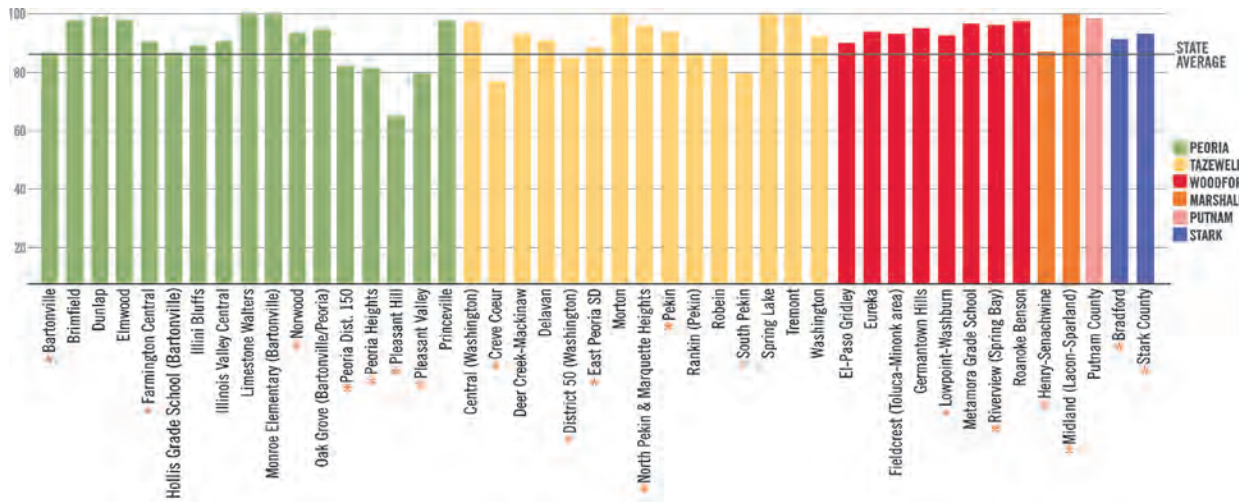
*\* More than 33 percent of students in this district are in the low income bracket*

Students who succeed in mathematics are more likely to go to college. And in the job market, students who have strong mathematic skills are more likely to be employed and can earn at least 30 percent more an hour than students who do not succeed in algebra or geometry. Studying mathematics is not only crucial for academic success, it is vital to succeed in today's increasingly technologically-driven society where individuals have to interpret and use mathematics.

# EDUCATION

## 3rd Grade Math Levels

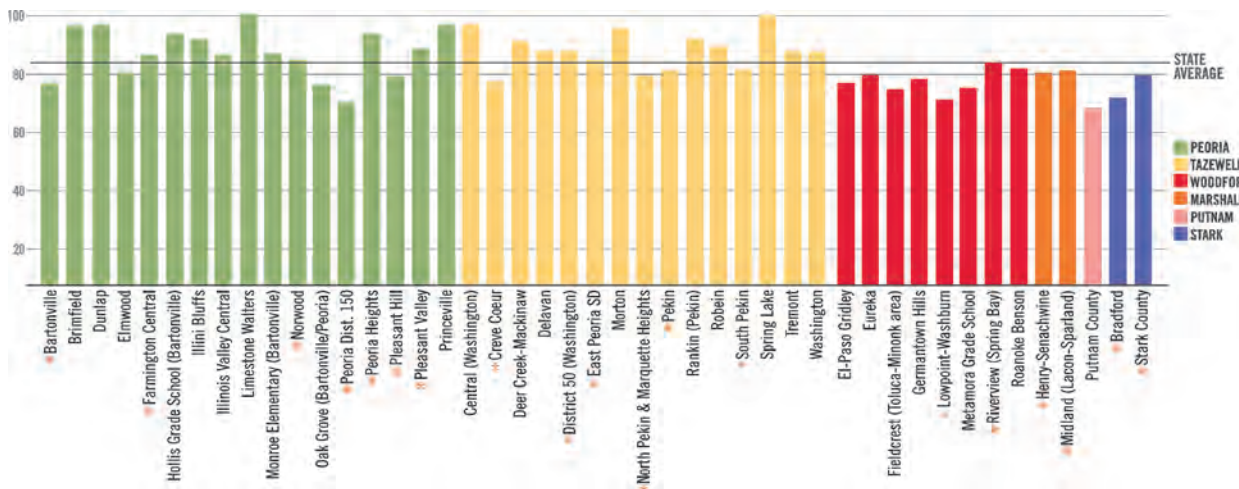
Peoria Region, 2009-2010



26.7 percent of schools in the Peoria Region are at or below the state average for 3rd grade math scores.

## 8th Grade Math Levels

Peoria Region, 2009-2010



46.7 percent of schools in the Peoria Region are at or below the state average for 8th grade math scores.

*\* More than 33 percent of students in this district are in the low income bracket*

### Reading to Children

There is a casual, yet dramatic relationship between reading to small children and academic success. Children who are not read to have a smaller vocabulary, start school behind other children and are ultimately less likely to succeed throughout their school years.

### Math Can Predict College Success

A child from a low-income family who completes algebra has virtually the same chance of going to college as a child from an upper-income family who passes the course.

Truancy is one of the early warning signs that a student is at risk for delinquent activity, social isolation, educational failure, suspension, expulsion or dropping out of school. Chronic truancy is a major inhibitor to the academic progress of children and young adults. The causes of truancy vary depending on the age of children. In middle and high school, students are more likely to be truant as a result of adverse behavior. While truancy in elementary school often results from the decisions and actions of the child's parent or caregiver.

# EDUCATION

## Community in Schools

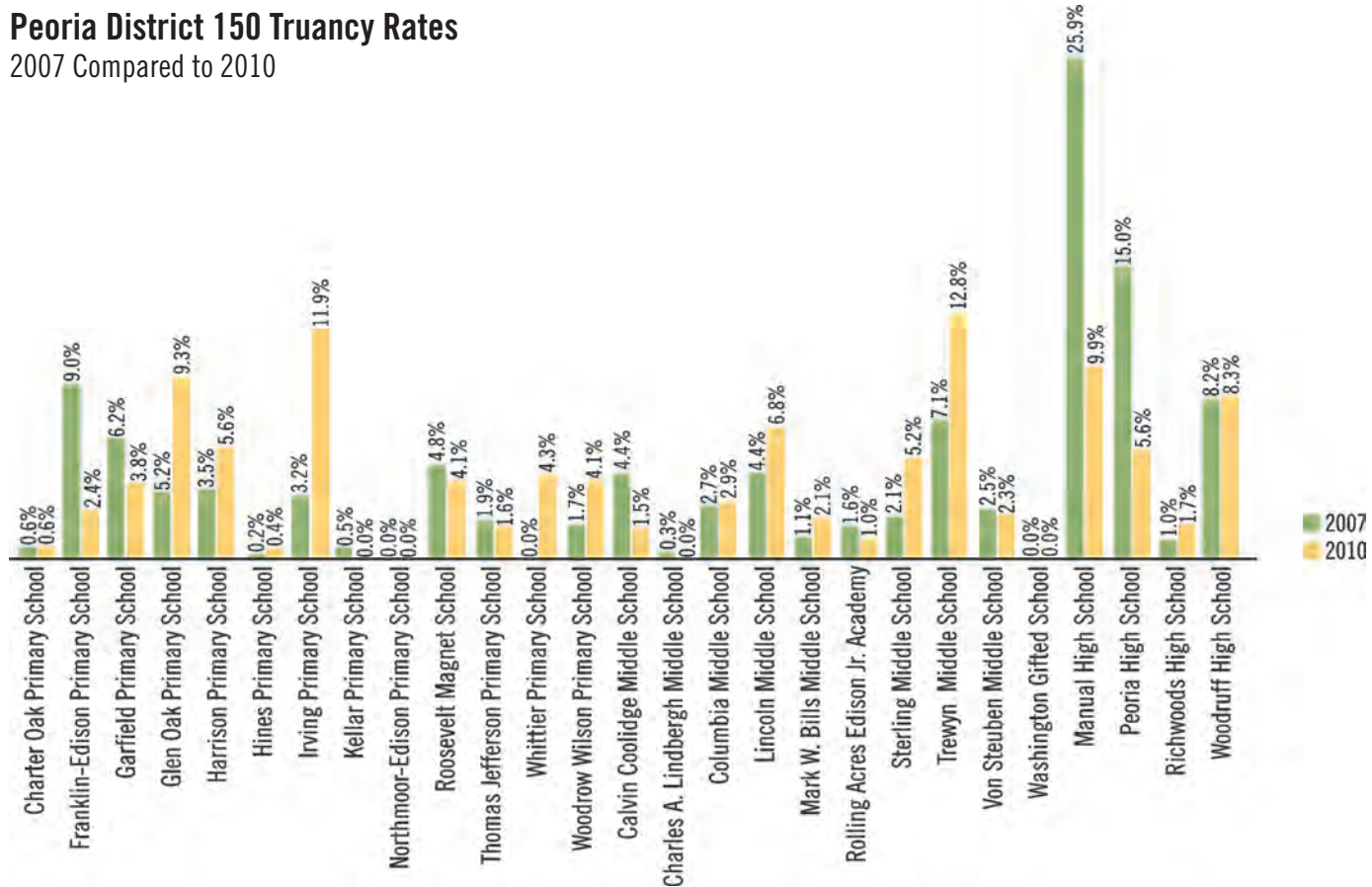
Formed in 2006, Community in Schools (CIS), is a collaborative effort between Peoria Public Schools and Heart of Illinois United Way partner agencies. The effort has established full-service, on-site substance abuse and mental health programs for students in kindergarten through high school.

The program targets: Harrison Primary School, Trewyn Middle School and Manual High School.

Key components of the CIS program include prevention and intervention, mental health screening and counseling, substance abuse prevention, and an abeyance case management program to help reduce truancy rates.

Students' drug and alcohol use and/or abuse results in violence, anger, and mental abuse - interfering with learning and the classroom environment.

**Peoria District 150 Truancy Rates**  
2007 Compared to 2010



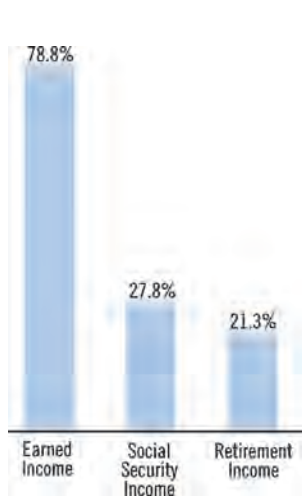
The Illinois State Board of Education defines chronic truancy as students who have been absent without valid cause for 10 percent or more of the previous 180 regular attendance days. The rate is calculated by taking the number of chronic truants, divided by the school's average daily enrollment, multiplied by 100.

Within the Peoria Region, Peoria Dist. 150 schools have the highest chronic truancy rates. The chart illustrates the large deviation among district school's truancy rates and their changes over past three years. Outside of Peoria Dist. 150, East Peoria CHSD 309, Pleasant Valley, and Hollis School Districts also had truancy rates higher than the state average of 3.6 percent.

The middle-class has had four decades of near-stagnant wages, a recession with unprecedented long-term unemployment and growing inflation for health insurance and college tuition. According to Internal Revenue Service data, the income of an average American taxpayer in 1988 was \$33,400 when adjusted for inflation. In 2008, the average income is still at \$33,000.

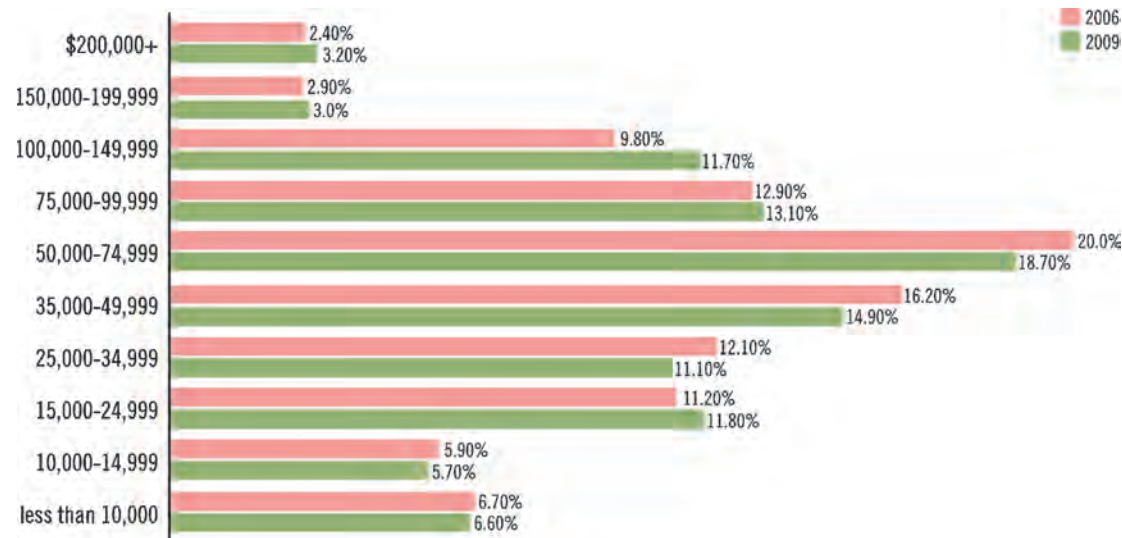
# INCOME

## Sources of Household Income Peoria Region, 2009



More than three-fourths of the Peoria Region's income is earned via employment. Nearly one-third of income is from social security, and about one-fifth is from non-social security retirement income. Since individuals can earn income from more than once source, the percentages add up to more than 100 percent.

## Earned Income Levels Peoria Region, 2006 Compared to 2009



In 2009, more than 24 percent of the Peoria Region earned less than \$25,000 which is up 0.3 percent from 2006. Approximately 18 percent of the population earned more than \$100,000 which is up 2.8 percent from 2006.

The region's middle class experienced a decrease in income between 2006 and 2009. Those earning \$25,000 to \$49,999 decreased 2.3 percent to 26.0 percent; and those earning \$50,000 to \$99,999 decreased 1.1 percent to 31.8 percent.

## Unemployment

Unemployment in the Peoria Region was less than state and most national averages until 2009, when the region surpassed both Illinois and national unemployment percentages.

## Employment Trends for the Peoria Region

Manufacturing employment grew during the 1990's expansion, peaking at 35,000 in 2000. By March 2011, manufacturing employment is at 27,423 jobs.

The expansion of business and professional services is reflected in increased employment- up from 16,000 in 2000 to 22,962 jobs in March 2011.

Expansion of local health care services is reflected in area health care employment, up from 25,000 in 2000 to 29,509 jobs in 2011.

Employment in the hospitality and entertainment category fell from 18,000 in 2000 to 16,595 in March 2011.

Employment in retail trade fell from nearly 28,000 jobs in 2000 to 25,246 jobs in March 2011.

Adjusted for inflation, median income salary is \$5 a week lower than early 1979, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Some of the biggest recent income losses are for young college graduates who are experiencing a double-digit percentage decline in wages. College-educated males, ages 25 to 34, have seen incomes fall 19 percent since 2000, while similar female incomes have dropped 16 percent since 2003.

# INCOME

## Median Income By County 2009

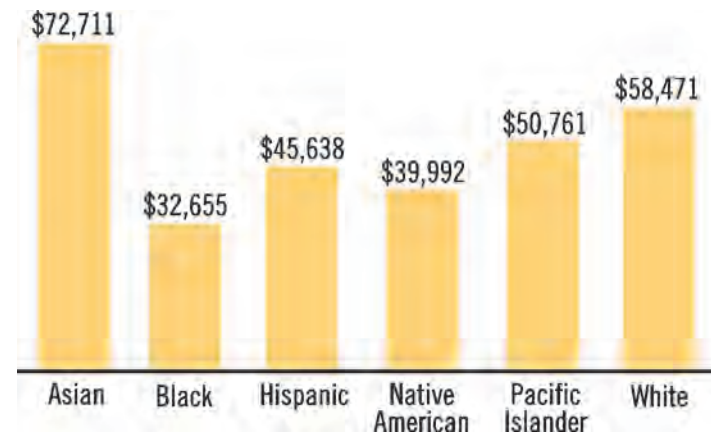
Peoria	\$47,330
Tazewell	\$53,904
Woodford	\$64,748
Marshall	\$46,526
Putnam	\$56,372
Stark	\$46,211

## Median Income Peoria Region 2005, 2007 and 2009



The Peoria Region's median income continues to lag behind the State of Illinois' median income by approximately \$4,000. There is also an obvious impact of the recent recession on median income in both the Peoria Region and the State of Illinois, as median income decreased by 0.3 percent from 2007 for the State of Illinois and by 1.6 percent for the Peoria Region.

## Median Income by Race Peoria Region, 2009



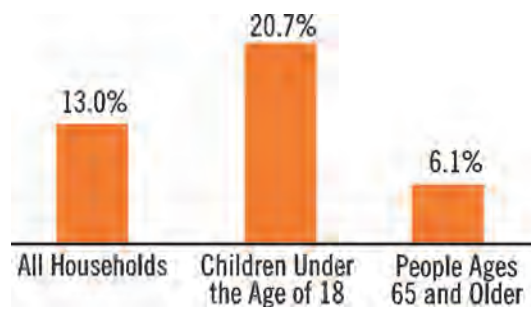
In 2009, significant median income disparity existed between ethnicities in the Peoria Region. Black residents earned significantly less than all other ethnicities and 44 percent less than the white population and 28 percent less than the Hispanic population. Asian households continue to earn at the highest levels.

Self-reliance is critical to reducing poverty and homelessness. Approximately 50,000 people in the Peoria Region live in poverty. While poverty rates have increased throughout the State of Illinois by 1.7 percent due to the recent recession, the rate of increase in the Peoria Region is significantly higher. Poverty disproportionately affects the children and youth in our region and it is difficult for children living in poverty to get a good start in life. In the last three years, children living in poverty in the Peoria Region has increased almost 5 percent.

# INCOME

## Poverty Rates by Age Group

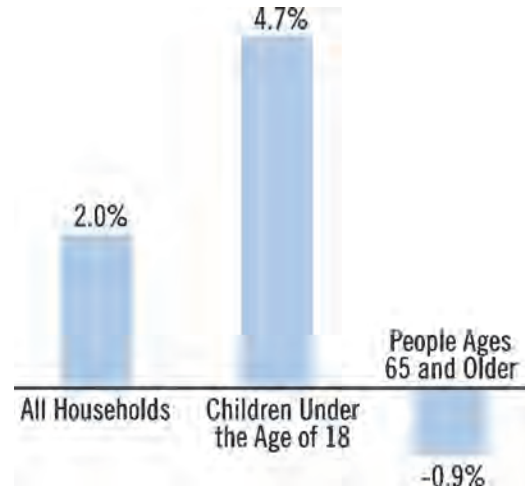
Peoria Region, 2009



Economic self-reliance is the norm throughout the Peoria Region, with 13 percent living in poverty during 2009. This represents a 2 percent increase from 2006. The bottom line, an additional 7,700 area residents moved into poverty between 2006 and 2009.

## Changes in Poverty Rates

Peoria Region, 2009 Compared to 2006



Since 2006, the Peoria Region's poverty rate has risen by 4.7 percent for children under 18 years of age. Poverty has dropped by almost 1 percent for people age 65 years and older.

## Poverty Rate

By County, 2009

Peoria	16.8%
Tazewell	8.3%
Woodford	6.8%
Marshall	10.4%
Putnam	8.5%
Stark	11.5%

## Additional Causes for Increases in the Poverty Rate

Families with heads of household that are single or divorced and teen parents also contribute to increases in poverty rates.

From 2006 to 2009, the number of married-couple families in the Peoria Region decreased 2.6 percent.

While teenage pregnancy has decreased in five of the six counties in the Peoria Region, teen pregnancy rates in Peoria County are at 12.8 percent which is almost 3 percent higher than the state average.

## 2011 Poverty Guidelines

US Dept. of Health and Human Services



When families are able to fulfill their basic needs of food, housing and childcare, the community becomes stronger and more vibrant. In 2009, 16.9 percent of families throughout the Peoria Region were living in poverty. By helping families become self-reliant, they can reach long-term financial independence.

# INCOME

## Food Stamps Peoria Region, 2006 to 2009

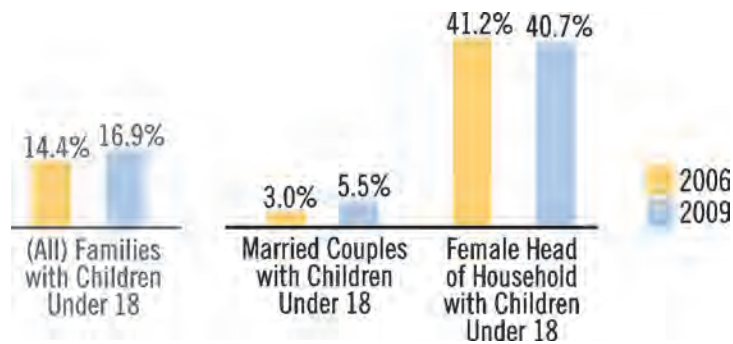
Food Stamps can significantly improve the ability of a family living in poverty to purchase food.

A family of four earning the full-time minimum wage can increase their income to the poverty line by utilizing a combination of salary, food stamps and the earned income tax credit.

Often, without food stamps, a family living in poverty will fall back below the poverty line.

Between 2006 and 2009, the use of food stamps in the Peoria Region increased by 2.5 percent for families with children under the age of 18. This is up from 68.7 percent to 71.1 percent.

## Family Composition and Poverty Peoria Region, 2006 Compared to 2009



Since 2006, there has been a 2.5 percent increase in the number of families, with children under the age of 18, living in poverty. When comparing families with two parents to families with a single mother or female guardian, the two-parent families are significantly less likely to be affected by poverty.



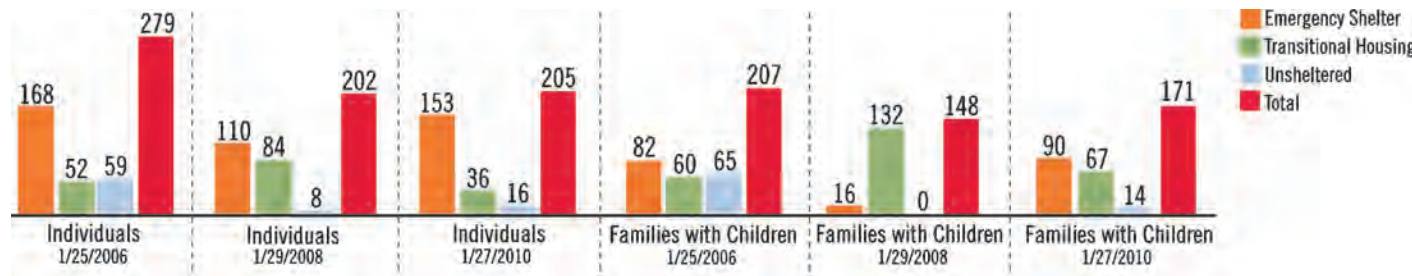
For families with two parents, the poverty rate is at 5.5 percent - a 2.5 percent increase since 2006. But for families headed by a single mother (or female guardian), the percentage rate jumps to 40.7 percent.

Homelessness has a dramatic effect on children resulting in increased health problems, school absenteeism, behavioral problems, and barriers to learning how to read. It's estimated that each time a child changes schools the student loses four to six months of academic development. In Illinois, 50 percent of homeless children attend two schools in a year, 75 percent have below-level reading skills and 50 percent have below-level math skills. Overall, the homeless tend to lose connections with family and friends, resulting in a weaker support system.

# INCOME

## Tri-County Area Homelessness

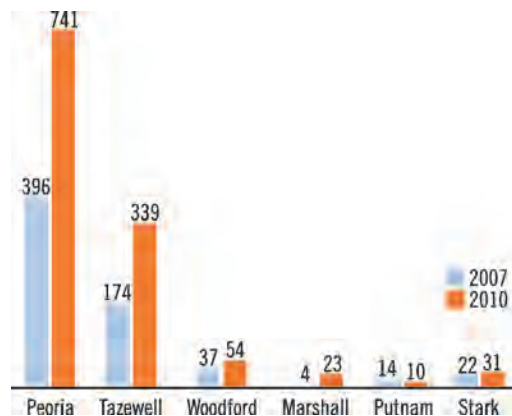
Point-in-Time Comparisons for 2006, 2008 and 2010



On January 25, 2006, there were a total of 486 homeless reported in the Tri-County area; on January 29, 2008 there were 350; and on January 27, 2010 there were 376.

## Student Homelessness

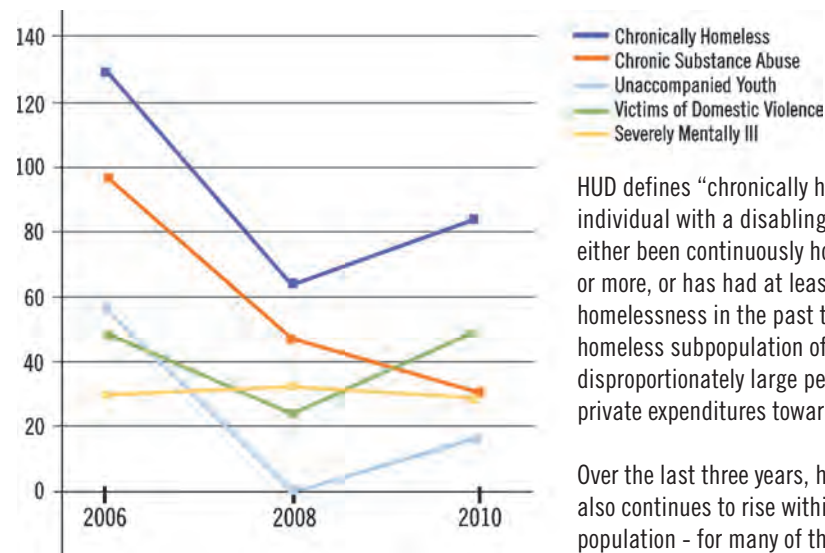
Peoria Region, 2007 Compared to 2010



The Illinois State Board of Education's Regional Offices of Education reports the number of students, by county, that are homeless throughout the school year. Increases over the last three years are due to the economic downturn and increased awareness of homelessness by faculty and staff.

## Tri-County Area Homeless by Causation

Point-in-Time Comparisons for 2006, 2008 and 2010



HUD defines "chronically homeless" as an individual with a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more, or has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years. This homeless subpopulation often accounts for a disproportionately large percent of public and private expenditures towards homelessness.

Over the last three years, homelessness also continues to rise within the veteran population - for many of the causations listed above.

## Homeless Youth

The McKinney-Vento Act defines student homelessness as school-aged children who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence. This includes children who share housing with other people due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason; children who live in motels, hotels, camp grounds, or shelters; children who are waiting for foster care; and children who have a nighttime residence that is a public place not meant for sleeping.

The term unaccompanied youth includes youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian. This would include runaways living in shelters, abandoned buildings, cars, on the streets, or in other inadequate housing; children and youth denied housing by their families; and school-age unwed mothers living in homes for unwed mothers.

Research shows that supporting the homeless costs more than just providing housing. But ironically, the path to self-reliance begins in one place - the home. The burden of obtaining housing affects all ages. Without a home, it is difficult for parents and individuals to obtain and keep consistent employment. Having a home is also important to seniors who are living longer because they want to be able to remain in their homes.

# INCOME

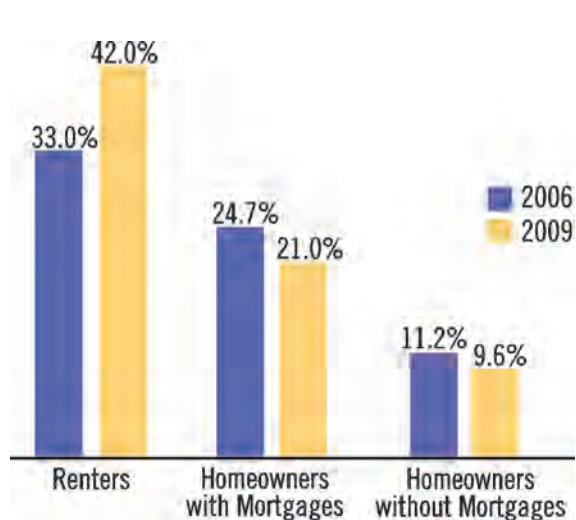
## Homeownership Rate

By County, 2009

Peoria	68.5%
Tazewell	77.9%
Woodford	82.9%
Marshall	80.0%
Putnam	79.2%
Stark	78.5%

## Housing Cost Burden

Peoria Region, 2006 Compared to 2009

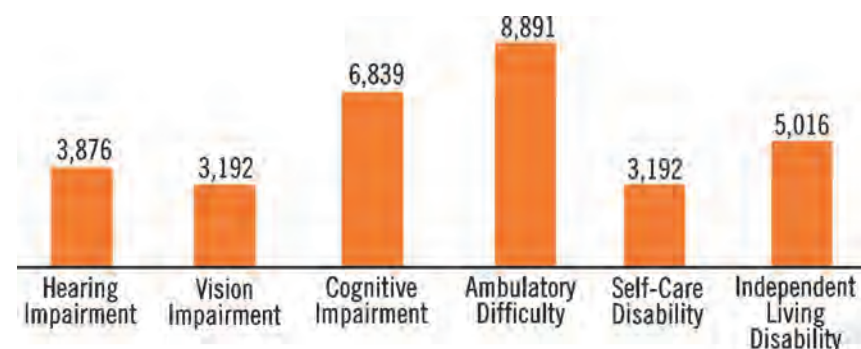


Housing cost burden is defined as having to pay 30 percent or more of a family's income for housing. Overall, the housing cost burden in the Peoria Region is most frequent among renters and least frequent among homeowners who do not need to pay a mortgage.

Comparing 2006 to 2009, the economic climate has resulted in a decrease in housing cost burden for homeowners and an increase for renters. This may be attributed to foreclosures and a decrease in the total number of individuals owning a home.

## Number of Persons with Disabilities

Peoria Region, Ages 18 to 64, 2009



Cognitive, ambulatory and independent living difficulties are the most limiting disabilities for individuals within the working ages of 18-64 in the Peoria Region. These disabilities are most likely to limit financial independence and employment.

People with disabilities have lower incomes, higher unemployment and fewer housing options. They can also encounter structural and financial barriers that limit their access to healthcare including transportation and affordable insurance.

Disabilities also affect a wide variety of healthcare issues. Most often people with disabilities have their health affected by excess weight, reduced physical activity and increased stress.

In addition, those with mobility impairments experience health concerns associated with aging much earlier in life - such as pain, fatigue, loss of function and loss of independence.

A healthy community impacts every other area. Healthier children miss fewer days of school and it is difficult to hold a job when a person is not healthy. All people in the Peoria Region should have access to health care, dental care and medications. It is imperative to provide opportunities for all residents to achieve optimal physical and mental health while promoting healthy lifestyles and healthy communities.

# HEALTH

## Mortality Rates

Selected Causes of Death by County, 2008

	Total Deaths	Causes by Percent										
		Heart Disease	Cancer	Stroke	Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	Accidents	Alzheimer's	Diabetes	Flu	Kidney	Sepsis	Other
Peoria County	1754	25%	24%	6%	5%	4%	3%	3%	3%	3%	2%	21%
Tazewell County	1353	21%	23%	6%	6%	4%	6%	2%	3%	3%	2%	17%
Woodford County	344	25%	17%	7%	6%	4%	6%	2%	3%	1%	0%	28%
All Other Counties	285	23%	24%	7%	7%	7%	4%	1%	3%	4%	1%	17.5%

Heart disease continues to be the leading cause of death in the Peoria Region accounting for approximately one-fourth of deaths. Cancer follows in second place attributing to almost one-fifth of deaths. Deaths from chronic lower respiratory disease (CLRD) increased six years ago, but have remained steady since. The percent of individuals who have died due to influenza has increased since 2002.

## Births Rates

Selected Birth Data by County, 2009

	Total Births	Below Birth Weight	Unwed Mothers	Mothers without High School Degree (20 or older)
Peoria County	2,806	12.3%	50.9%	12.1%
Tazewell County	1,584	8.5%	33.2%	7.1%
Woodford County	510	7.6%	25.7%	3.8%
All Other Counties	247	6.5%	31.6%	8.9%

There are several causes for low birth weight including birth defects, chronic health problems in the mother, smoking, alcohol and drug abuse, infections, placental problems, inadequate maternal weight gain and socioeconomic factors. Pregnant women who smoke cigarettes are nearly twice as likely to have a low-birthweight baby as women who do not smoke. In Peoria County, 15.5 percent of mothers reported smoking during pregnancy. Tazewell and Woodford County mothers reported smoking at 19.6 percent and 12.8 percent respectively. In Peoria County, more than 50 percent of births were to unmarried mothers, and more than 12 percent of mothers had less than a high school degree.

## Top ten leading causes of death in the US:

- 1) Heart Disease
- 2) Cancer
- 3) Stroke
- 4) Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease
- 5) Accidents
- 6) Alzheimer's
- 7) Diabetes
- 8) Flu
- 9) Kidney Disease
- 10) Sepsis

Chronic lower respiratory disease (CLRD) comprises three major diseases of the lower lungs - chronic bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma.

Sepsis (septicemia) is bacteria in the blood that occurs with severe infections. It is a life-threatening infection that can arise from infections throughout the body such as the lungs, abdomen and urinary tract. Sepsis causes a drop in blood pressure, resulting in shock and organ failure.

The average life expectancy is 78.5 years in the United States.

Routine medical exams and tests can identify health problems early when the opportunity for treatment is better. Health services and screenings help individuals take the right steps to living a longer, healthier life. With the economic downturn and increasing unemployment, the lack of health insurance coverage is affecting families and individuals. People with health insurance are experiencing increased medical costs since many employers are not be able to contribute as much to health insurance or may reduce coverage. Increases in the number of uninsured also has implications for state and local budgets. Local hospitals and clinics are faced with more uninsured people needing their services. Since state and local tax revenues have fallen, helping hospitals and clinics finance these additional services becomes much more difficult. Plus, increasing Medicaid enrollment affects state budgets since the program requires states to pay a share of overall spending.

# HEALTH

## Immunizations

### People who did not have a flu shot, 2009

Peoria County	59.6%
Tazewell County	65.0%
Woodford County	63.9%

### People who have not had a pneumonia shot, 2009

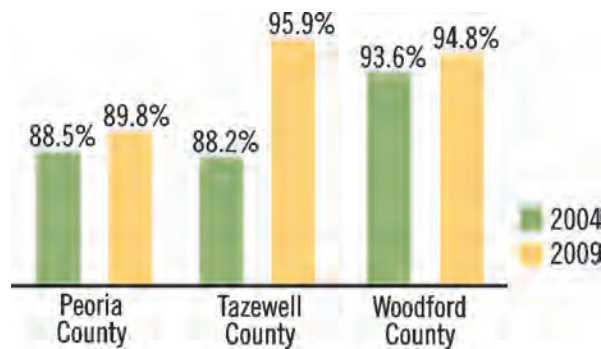
Peoria County	70.6%
Tazewell County	80.5%
Woodford County	80.4%

## Depression

### People who reported feeling sad or depressed for more than 2 days, 2009 compared to 2004

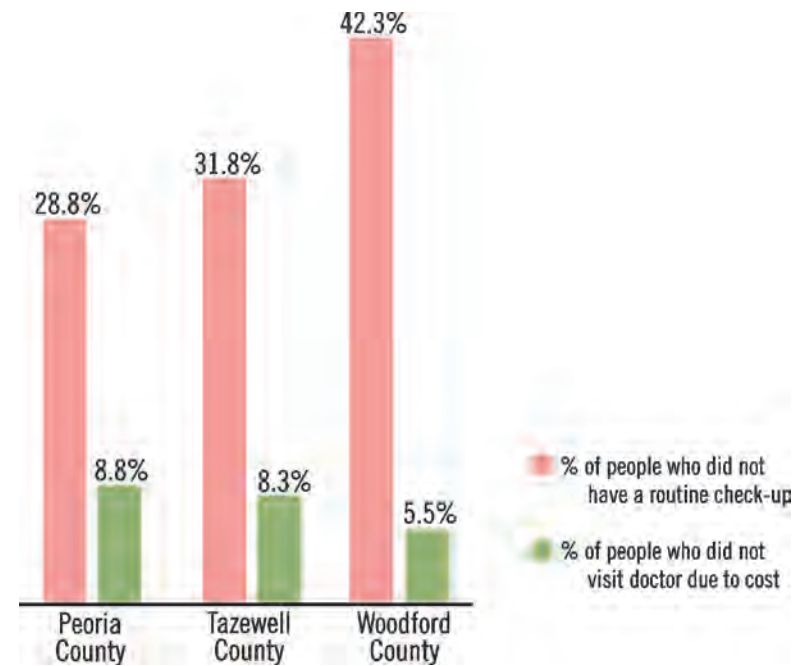
Peoria County	29.1%	% change from 2004	+7.6%
Tazewell County	30.5%	% change from 2004	+10.8%
Woodford County	18.9%	% change from 2004	-2.9%

## Percentage of People with Health Insurance Tri-County Area, 2004 Compared to 2009



The percentage of people with health-care coverage in the Tri-County Area is improving at a modest rate. However, there is still room for improvement as only 89.8 percent of the Peoria County population is covered by health insurance. In the State of Illinois, 14 percent of the population does not have health insurance.

## Doctor Visit Rates Tri-County Area, 2009



A significant percentage of the population in the Tri-County Area does not visit a doctor when needed due to cost. Although these numbers may indicate concern, the Tri-County Area is considerably better than the State of Illinois average, where 13.5 percent of the population doesn't visit a doctor due to cost.

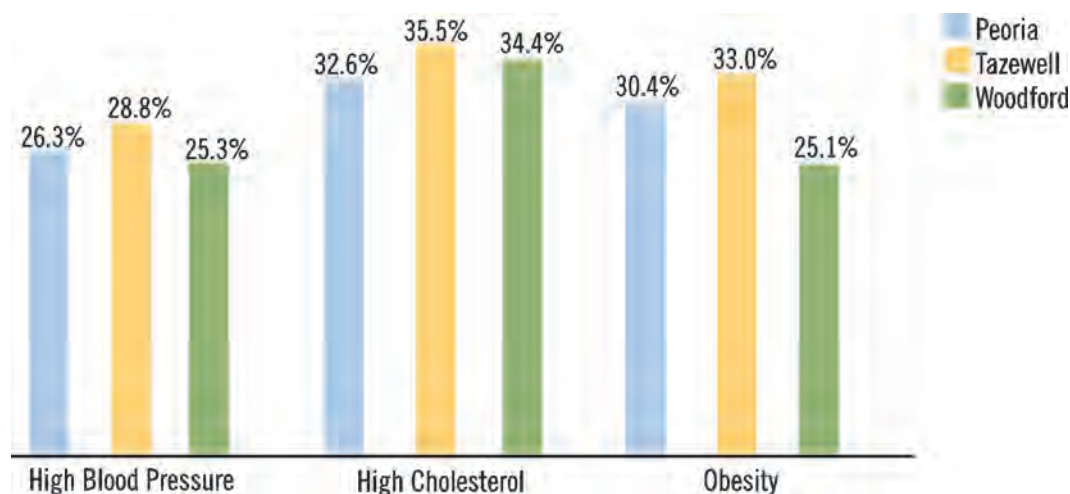
Numerous health problems can be minimized when detected early by routine checkups. The percent of people in Peoria and Tazewell counties who did not have a routine checkup is lower than the state average, but Woodford County is higher by 6.6 percent.

Heart disease, stroke, and other cardiovascular diseases are among the leading causes of death and are some the leading causes of health disparities. Treatment of these diseases accounts for 1 in every 6 health dollars spent. Two main reasons people have heart disease or stroke are high blood pressure and cholesterol, which are common, deadly, and preventable. More than 80 percent of the people who don't have their blood pressure or cholesterol under control have health insurance. Not only do individuals need to be continually checked for these conditions, they also need good, affordable treatment along and regular care. Many people don't have regular access to medical care, prescription medications, or lifestyle counseling - making it difficult to control their blood pressure and cholesterol.

# HEALTH

## Health Risk Indicators

Tri-County Area, 2009



In the Tri-County Area, more than 25 percent of the population has high blood pressure and more than 32 percent have high cholesterol. High blood pressure makes the heart work too hard, increasing the risk for heart disease, stroke and other problems, such as heart failure, kidney disease and blindness. High levels of cholesterol damage arteries and are linked to heart disease.

Obesity is a medical condition in which excess body fat has accumulated to the extent that it reduces life expectancy and leads to increased health problems. The body mass index (BMI), a measurement which compares weight and height, defines people as obese when their BMI is greater than 30. Obesity increases the likelihood of various diseases, particularly heart disease, diabetes, cancer and osteoarthritis.

Since 2005, the percent of obesity has increased significantly in the Tri-County Area. Peoria County increased from 21.7 percent to 30.4 percent; Tazewell County obesity rate increased from 22.3 percent to 33.0 percent; and Woodford County increased from 20.3 to 25.1 percent.

## Peoria County Community Health Needs Assessment

The Peoria Health Department's 2010-2015 needs assessment identified four priority health issues that could improve health in Peoria County:

**Obesity** is preventable and leads to a wide variety of acute and chronic health conditions which reduce the quantity and quality of life.

**Oral health** was selected because healthy teeth and gums are important to overall well-being. Poor oral health contributes to other health problems such as premature birth and infant mortality. Citizens who lack access to, or don't make effective use of, preventive dental care and treatment, is a critical issue in Peoria County.

**Reproductive health** was selected because of premature births, infant deaths, sexually transmitted infections (STI) rates and teen births. Within our community, there are significant disparities in the groups affected by these reproductive health issues. Persons with STIs are ten times more likely to be black, depending on age group and disease. This also leads to a disproportionate rate of premature births among black women.

**Community health system integration** is necessary for collaboration among medical providers, hospital systems, social service agencies, elected officials, the business community and public health organizations.

Prevalence rates for asthma, particularly in children younger than 5 years of age, have been increasing rapidly during the last decade. Asthma is not preventable or curable, but it is controllable. Asthma is also one of the leading causes of school absenteeism, and children with asthma miss an average of twice as many school days as other children. Oral health is much more than healthy teeth - it is integral to overall health. Untreated dental pain is the number one reason children miss school, but teachers do not recognize that chronic dental pain can make a child appear anxious, depressed or tired.

# HEALTH

## Asthma in Illinois

For the past 20 years, Illinois has had one of the highest asthma mortality rates in the nation and increasing prevalence, morbidity and mortality rates.

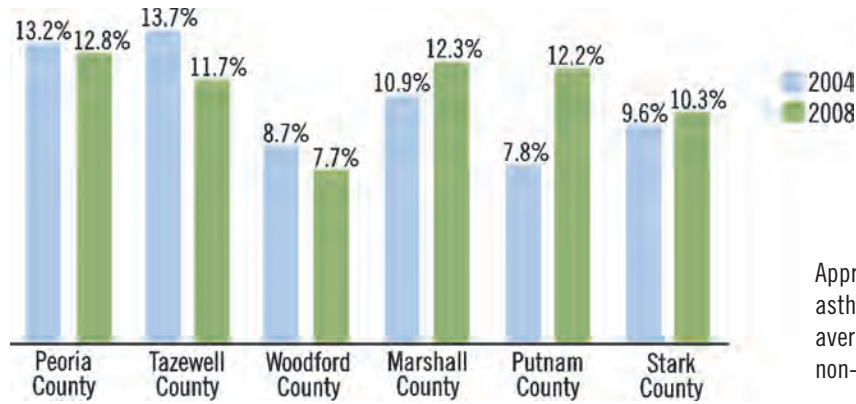
Approximately 12.8 percent of adults in Illinois have suffered or currently suffer from asthma. In 2007, asthma accounted for approximately 111,618 hospitalizations either as a primary or secondary diagnosis and accounted for more than \$280 million in direct charges for asthma-related hospitalizations. In 2006, there were 169 deaths caused by asthma in Illinois.

## Dental Pain and Children

The Illinois Department of Public Health screens selected third-graders about dental pain and health. Their findings show that on average, 30 percent of the students have untreated cavities and many require urgent treatment for pain, abscess or severe decay. The numbers are higher among lower income, rural and minority populations.

## Asthma Prevalence

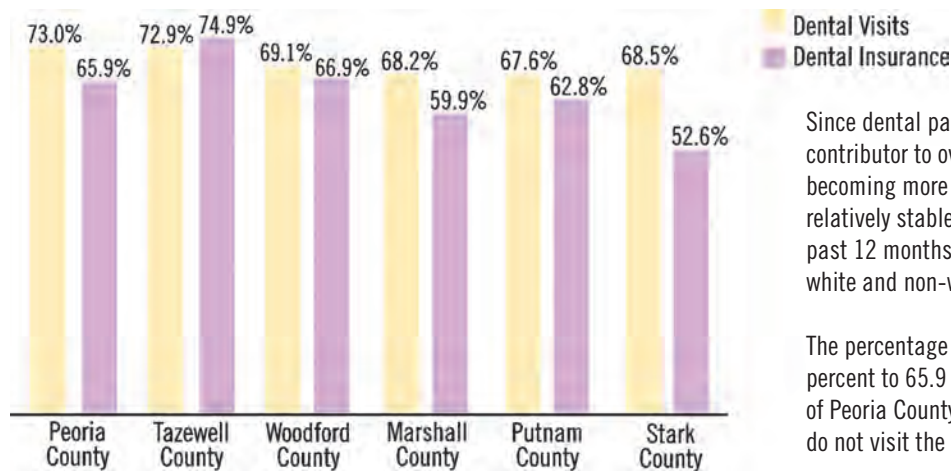
Peoria Region, 2004 Compared to 2008



Approximately 13 percent of the State of Illinois population has asthma. Within the Peoria Region, asthma rates are below this average, but rates are typically 8 to 10 percent higher among the non-white population in Peoria County.

## Oral Health by County

Peoria Region, percent who have visited dentist within past year and percent who have dental insurance, 2008



Since dental pain is one of the top reasons children miss school and a silent contributor to overall health in adults, focusing on improving dental health is becoming more important. Between 2004 and 2008, the Peoria Region has remained relatively stable regarding the percentage of residents who visited a dentist in the past 12 months. However, there is a steady 10 to 15 percent difference between the white and non-white population in the number of dental visits.

The percentage of people with dental insurance in Peoria County increased from 62.3 percent to 65.9 percent from 2004 to 2008. However, this still means that 34.1 percent of Peoria County residents are without dental coverage and either have to pay cash or do not visit the dentist at all.

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) such as chlamydia and gonorrhea can lead to more serious diseases. Peoria County has some of the highest rates for both of these diseases in the state. If left untreated, both can cause pelvic inflammatory disease which leads to infertility and tubal pregnancies. In addition, chlamydia increases a person's risk for becoming infected with HIV.

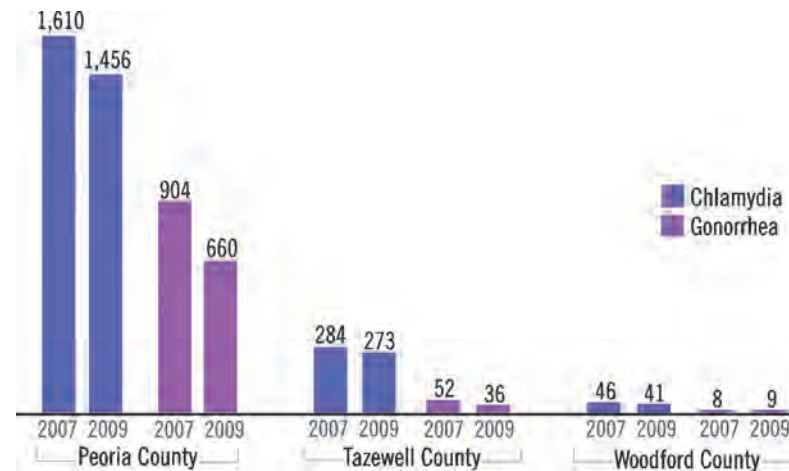
Statistically, two out of three teen mothers drop out of school. With her education cut short, a teen mother lacks job skills and her income is typically half of mothers who give birth in their 20's. This causes many teen mothers to depend on families and the government for support.

## Reported Sexually Transmitted Infections

Tri-County Area Totals, 2007 and 2009

The number of reported STI cases for chlamydia and gonorrhea show a declining trend.

Chlamydia is still predominant as it is reported 2.2 times higher than gonorrhea.

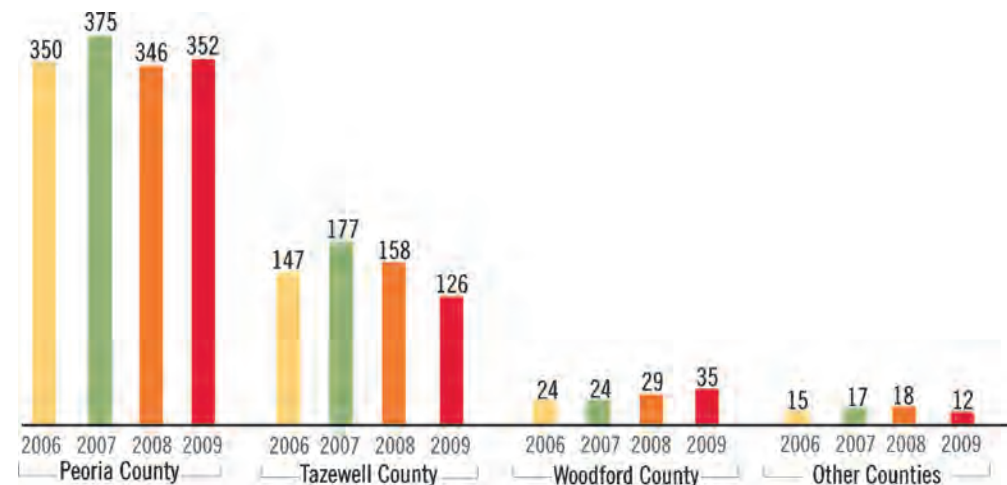


## Teen Births

Peoria Region Totals, 2006-2009

The number of teen births in Peoria County increased slightly in 2009, but is still below the highest level in 2007. Despite this decrease, Peoria County teen births are still almost 3 percent higher than the state average.

Teen births in Tazewell County have steadily dropped since 2007. However, teen births have increased in Woodford, Marshall and Putnam counties.



## STI Rates

STIs are a real problem in the Tri-County Area, especially in Peoria County.

While the number of reported cases for both chlamydia and gonorrhea have somewhat declined, their rates per 100,000 population are still almost two to three times higher than the State of Illinois average.

## Adolescents at Risk

Many teens think STIs and unintended pregnancy are health concerns that only other people need to worry about. Teens, ages 15 to 19 years, have some of the highest reported rates of gonorrhea and chlamydia among sexually active people. In Illinois, more than 35 percent of reported chlamydia and gonorrhea cases are adolescents.

Preventing teen pregnancy is a priority because of the costs to teen parents and their families. Non-white teen girls are two to three times more likely to give birth because their use of birth control is lower. Girls who are born to teen parents are one-third more likely to become teen parents themselves, continuing the cycle of teen pregnancy.

Consequences of youth substance abuse include declining grades, school absenteeism and an increased risk of death through suicide, homicide, accident or illness. It can also lead to mental health problems such as depression, apathy, withdrawal, personality disorders and loss of short-term memory. Teens using alcohol and other drugs often disengage from school and community activities and jeopardize many aspects of family life.

# HEALTH

## Tri-County Area Youth Substance Abuse

Alcohol, tobacco and marijuana are the gateways to further substance abuse.

According to the 2008 Illinois Youth Survey, the average age 8th grade student in Peoria, Tazewell and Woodford counties begins regular alcohol use at age 13, tobacco for the first time between the ages of 11 and 12, and had their first experience with marijuana between the ages of 12 and 13.

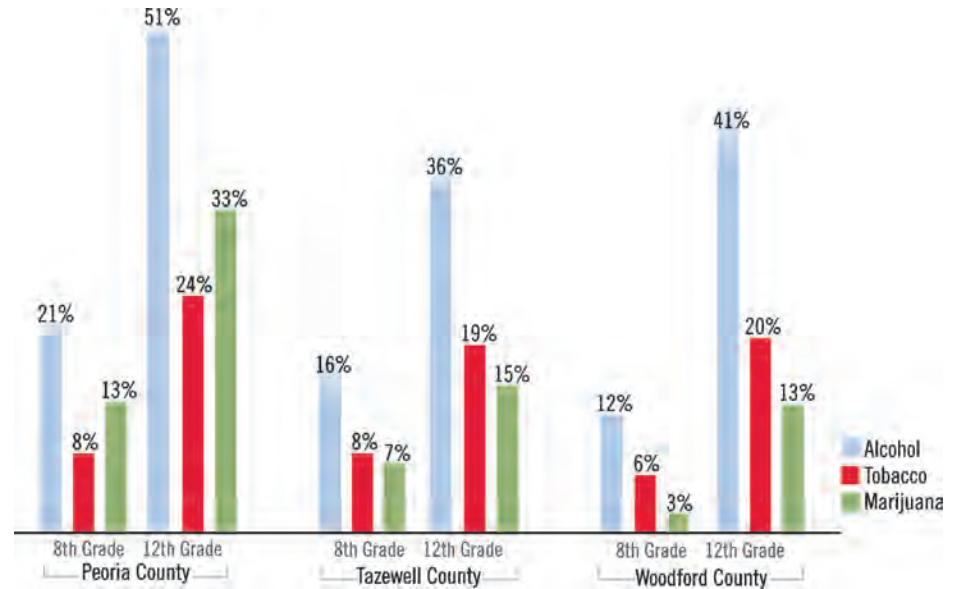
Among alcohol, tobacco and marijuana use, alcohol use is the highest amongst local 12th grade students. These rates are comparable to those statewide. Alcohol use is also perceived more lightly in terms of risk and parental disapproval when compared to tobacco and marijuana.

## Teen Substance Usage

Tri-County Area 8th and 12th Grade Students, 2008

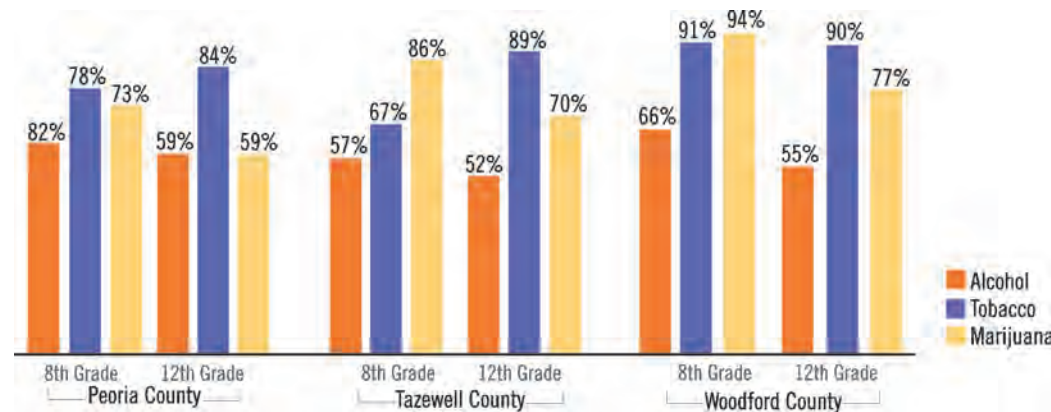
In Peoria County, substance usage is approximately the same as the state level for alcohol and tobacco use but is much higher for marijuana use, especially among 12th graders (33 percent versus 21 percent). Alcohol use by Peoria County teens increases from 21 percent in 8th grade to 51 percent in 12th grade which is higher than Tazewell and Woodford County.

Tazewell County has rates similar to state averages for substance use. For alcohol use, Tazewell County demonstrates even lower usage rates when compared to state levels - 16 percent versus 22 percent for the 8th graders and 36 percent versus 50 percent for the 12th graders.



## Teen Substance Abuse, Perceived Risk of Harm

Tri-County Area 8th and 12th Grade Students, 2008



Alcohol continues to be perceived with a lesser risk of causing harm than tobacco and marijuana use. When compared to 2006 data, the percentage of Peoria County 8th graders who perceived a risk for alcohol use has increased from 55 percent while tobacco and marijuana use risk has decreased from 81 and 77 percents, respectively.

The perceived risk by 8th grade students in Tazewell and Woodford counties has remained steady between 2006 and 2008 with the exception of more teens in Woodford County perceiving alcohol as a greater risk, which is up from 61 percent.

Every three years the Heart of Illinois United Way (HOIUW) collaborates with the Center for Business and Economic Research at Bradley University to conduct an assessment of the Peoria region. The assessment is designed to provide critical information to HOIUW enabling our organization in strategic decision making. The 2011 Peoria Area Community Assessment not only assessed vital health and human care issues through secondary data, but it also assessed donors' perceptions and key drivers influencing their financial support of HOIUW. The primary focus of the assessment is to improve HOIUW's effectiveness at identifying, assessing and supporting key areas of social concern, as well as providing the basis for strategies that will improve HOIUW's development efforts.

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