

UNITED WAY OF CHAMPAIGN COUNTY



2011 COMMUNITY REPORT



United Way
of Champaign County

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Champaign County is located in central Illinois. At 1,008 square miles, Champaign County is the 11th largest county geographically in Illinois.

Population	190,260
Median Age	26.8
Minority Population	23%
People in Poverty	20.6%
Median Household Income	\$41,198
Speak Language other than English in Home	13.4%
Unemployment Rate	8.3%

**2005-2009 American Community Survey & Heartland Alliance*

A QUICK LOOK AT CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

If you were to select 100 people randomly from Champaign County:

- 10 would be over 65 and 6 would be under 5.
- 74 would be white, 12 would be black, 8 would be Asian, and 4 would be Hispanic.
- 14 would speak a language other than English at home, 3 of them Spanish and 7 of them an Asian language.
- 65 would be born in Illinois, 23 in another state, and 12 in another country.
- 41 would be married and 8 would be divorced.
- 1 would be a farmer, 8 would work in manufacturing, and 36 would work in education and healthcare.
- 6 would work for the University of Illinois, 2 as faculty and 4 as staff.
- 21 would be University of Illinois students, 16 undergraduate and 5 graduate students; 3 of the students would be international.
- 8 would be high school dropouts and 22 would have advanced degrees.
- 10 would have no access to a vehicle.
- 7 would be receiving food stamps.
- 20 would be living below Federal poverty guidelines.



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of Champaign County

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OF CHAMPAIGN COUNTY
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DEAR FRIENDS,

United Way of Champaign County was founded in 1923 as a grass roots effort, initially called the Community Chest. The plight of “widows and orphans, the infirm and the mentally ill” comprised the “less fortunate” who concerned citizens sought to assist. Times have changed dramatically since then but the need to address the challenges faced by children, families, the disabled, and senior citizens continues. The problems of 2011 are more widespread, more complicated and often more difficult to treat. The resources needed to provide human care services have also grown exponentially while government support for such programs has decreased dramatically.

In 1957 the Community Chest became United Fund of Champaign County, Inc. and that early group began asking businesses to help support the “charitable works” in the community. In 1971, the United Fund was renamed to United Way of Champaign County and while our name has not changed since then the organization has continued to evolve. What remains the same is this important question: How do we most effectively identify the needs and gather the resources required to help our neighbors who are struggling?

With the significant challenges being faced both by those in need of human services and those providing services, our board committed itself to taking a leadership role by responding, supporting and advocating for children, families, the disabled and seniors in need of assistance. To maximize the effectiveness of our activities we developed a new strategic plan and mission statement. Late last spring the board, staff and a number of volunteers began to simultaneously collect data and design and conduct a community survey. Our goal was to gather information and opinions from a diverse group of citizens, representing a broad array of professions and affiliations. We talked with educators, health care professionals, law enforcement and first responders, municipal government, local media and our human service partners in the community.

This report highlights the results of our research, interviews and the subsequent goals we have set for our community. We are committed to creating opportunities for everyone and invite you to be a part of inspiring hope and building a better tomorrow for all in Champaign County.

Sincerely,



Curt Anderson
Chair, Board of Directors



United Way
of Champaign County

Executive Summary

The 2011 community report documents critical concerns about the human condition in Champaign County. It also outlines a plan to address those concerns and promote changes that will improve the quality of life to many who struggle in our community. Focusing on issues and trends locally is vital for planning and effective decision-making. As United Way of Champaign County began to interview local leaders and professionals in education, healthcare, business, government, social service and the media we also gathered national, state, and local data. Seven key issues were identified and those issues are the basis for the goals set forth in this report. The areas of concern included basic needs, housing and homelessness, family support and child care, education, access to health care, mental health and employment and the economy.

Data compiled here reveals these fundamental issues affecting Champaign County;

BASIC NEEDS The overall poverty rate has jumped dramatically since 2004 and this upward trend has continued. Requests for assistance from health and human service agencies have grown significantly. Dwindling state and federal funding has placed a strain on the non-profits that provide assistance. Childhood poverty rates rose 12% from 1999 to 2009. 8.8% of Champaign County residents live in extreme poverty. This places Champaign County third in the state behind only Pulaski and Alexander Counties in southern Illinois. Based on the cost of living in most communities a family must earn at least 2.5 times the Federal Poverty level to be considered financially stable.

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS An estimated 418 individuals are homeless at any given time in Champaign County. This number is on the rise. Champaign County currently has no emergency housing for intact families. This often results in families being split up to meet agency restrictions or choosing to remain together on the streets.

FAMILY SUPPORT AND CHILD CARE Champaign County has an estimated 13,194 children under age 5. Child care is very expensive and many families can only afford less expensive and usually unregulated child care options. The first five years are when 90% of brain growth occurs and it is crucial for children to be in safe, stimulating and nurturing environments.

EDUCATION Teachers estimate that over 30% and in some cases up to 50% of children are not ready when they arrive at their first day of kindergarten. Only four school districts out of 14 in Champaign County met the No Child Left Behind guideline for 3rd grade reading. Up to third grade children are learning to read. From third grade on they are reading to learn. According to the most recent data, this county is the most educated in the state of Illinois. And yet, almost 62% attending the local community college for the first time enroll in remedial reading, writing or math courses.

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE Over 20% of Champaign County residents report they do not have a usual place to go to receive medical care for routine wellness or acute illness or injury. Locally the number of those who are uninsured has increased while national statistics show the number of uninsured has decreased. Dental care for the uninsured and those unable to pay for services is a growing problem. Finding a provider willing to accept Medicaid patients needing dental treatment is almost impossible. Conversely, access to prenatal care is available but local experts say that pregnant women are not accessing services early enough in their pregnancies. Consequences for mothers and their babies are serious.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES Almost 50% of adults in Champaign County report that they experience multiple days a month when their mental health is not good. More than 7 million Illinois adults are coping with a diagnosable mental illness. Health care providers voiced concern that the capacity of available mental health services is simply not adequate. A local particular cause for alarm is the lack of mental health services for children. In 2005, 358 children in Champaign County were hospitalized with a psychosis related diagnosis. This was up 190% from previous years.

EMPLOYMENT AND THE ECONOMY With unemployment hovering around 8.3% in Champaign County, we would appear to be faring better than most in this turbulent economic time. When you factor in underemployment, however, that percentage increases to about 15%. The number of adults working in minimum wage jobs, often with limited or no benefits has given rise to above average poverty rates and the increased need for assistance. The working poor continue to lose ground in this economy. Historically the University of Illinois has been the major economic engine in the county and public perception has been that the university will insulate the community from the effects of tough economic times. Given the state of the State of Illinois finances, however, the university now faces its own financial challenges. The impact of budget cuts at the U of I have a substantial effect on the local economy. There is no end in sight to the local employment and economic uncertainty caused by the state budget crisis.

Conclusion:

Examining these issues, the statistics and the implications for those affected, United Way developed a vision for Champaign County. It includes broad community goals, with targeted strategies and measureable results. We know that what gets measured gets done. As UWCC moves ahead to accomplish these goals this report will become a vital instrument in educating our citizens about the needs, building a strong base of support to meet the needs and allocating funds for programs that address the needs.

While reviewing information for this report one of the members of our board of directors commented that Champaign County could best be described as a “community of contrasts”. The data we gathered, the interviews we conducted and the insights shared by our donors and volunteers indicate that this is a most precise description of this community.

- Champaign County is the most highly educated county in Illinois and yet one third of the children entering kindergarten do not have the skills needed to learn.
- The number of individuals with salaries exceeding \$100,000 has grown 90% in the last ten years and yet we have the third highest extreme poverty rate in Illinois.
- The average ACT score in Champaign County is higher than the state average but 61.5% of first year community college students are enrolled in remedial reading and math classes.
- We have world class regional medical providers and a College of Medicine in Champaign County and yet over 20% of Champaign County residents do not have a permanent medical home.
- In Champaign County recent crop cash receipts totaled more than \$194M and yet 19.73% of residents in the county struggle with hunger daily.
- The unemployment rate in Champaign County is lower than the state or national rate and yet we have over 350 school age children who are homeless.

Working with many community partners we will continue to look for the most effective ways to help people gain access to educational, economic and health related opportunities. The goals set forth here show our commitment to help all children and adults achieve the three essential building blocks of a good life: Education, Financial Stability and Health and Wellness. By bringing together community leaders, health, education and human service professionals, business, government and the media we will create a core of partners and stakeholders who will change the human condition in Champaign County. Working together we can minimize the contrasts, we can create systematic change and we can assure a brighter future for all our residents.

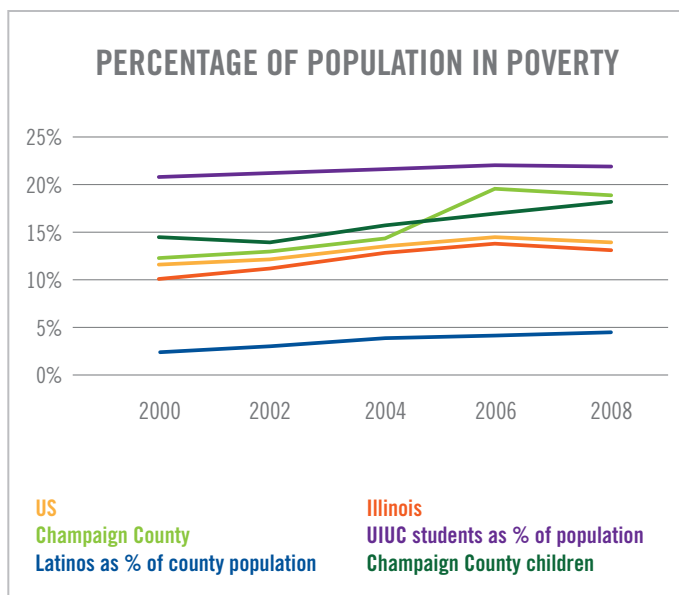
Basic Needs in Champaign County

Poverty

What it is: The percentage of the population in the US, Illinois, and Champaign County whose income is below the federal poverty level, including the percentage of the population that are University of Illinois students and the percentage of the population that are Latino.

What it tells us: The assumption could be made that poverty statistics in Champaign County are inflated because of the significant number of college students living here and because of the growth of the Latino population in the County. The statistics clearly show, however, that the number of both students and Latinos remains stable throughout this time period. The overall poverty rate in Champaign County has jumped dramatically starting in 2004 and continued through 2008 indicating other factors are contributing to increased poverty.

Why it matters: Because the federal poverty guidelines are extremely low, we know that families living at or below this level will need assistance if they are to provide even the most basic needs for themselves and their children. The requests for assistance from health and human service agencies have grown significantly. And while those in poverty are seeking assistance at peak levels, dwindling state and federal funding has placed a tremendous strain on the non-profits that provide assistance.



Family Size	Extreme Poverty (0-49% FPL)	Poverty (0-99% FPL)	Low Income (100-199% FPL)
1	\$5,445	\$10,890	\$21,780
2	7,355	14,210	29,420
3	9,265	18,530	37,060
4	11,175	22,350	44,700
5	13,085	26,170	52,340
6	14,995	29,990	59,980

What it is: Federal Poverty Guidelines- U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

What it tells us: According to the Federal Poverty Guidelines, a family of four living in Champaign County would be considered living in poverty if they had a household income of \$22,350. A family of four living in extreme poverty would be making \$11,175 or less for their total household income. In Champaign County we have an estimated population of 190,260 residents. 19% of our population lives in poverty or roughly 36,100 people. Nearly 50% of those living in poverty are senior citizens, people with disabilities and children. The childhood poverty rate rose from 16.4% in 2008 to 24% in 2009. In 1999, that rate was only 11.8%. Further, 8.8% or 19,711 people live in extreme poverty. This puts Champaign County third in the state behind only Pulaski and Alexander counties in southern Illinois. In comparison, the Chicago and St. Louis areas have extreme poverty rates of only 5%.

Why it matters: Every day in Champaign County thousands of children are living in poverty. Often they go without food, necessary medical care, and sometimes even a place to call home. Childhood poverty, especially extreme poverty has immediate and long term ramifications. These children are less likely to do well academically, they are more likely to experience abuse and neglect, they are less likely to develop appropriate social skills and more likely to engage in risky behaviors that negatively impact physical and mental health.

Self Sufficiency

What it is: The self sufficiency table for Champaign County published in the Heartland Alliance Poverty Report indicates the monthly expenditures for different size and types of households in order to achieve and maintain self sufficiency.

What it tells us: On an annual basis the income for self sufficiency which is related to household size and also to household make-up, greatly exceeds the federal poverty guidelines. Household income for self sufficiency is relatively close to double the poverty level income. The data indicate the hourly wages for a single individual to support a household at the self-sufficiency level. In most cases, the hourly wage level is quite high, and/or the household earner(s) will need to put in many more than 40 hours. Based on the cost of living in most communities, a family must earn at least 2.5 times the federal poverty level to be considered financially stable.

Why it matters: Individuals and families who can achieve and maintain self sufficiency are more likely to have access to educational, economic and health-related opportunities. When adults must piece together more than one part time or low wage job the need for supportive services like transportation and child care increases. Often weekend and/or evening shifts cause even more difficulty when young children need to be cared for with limited options available. Further, when an individual or family try to reach self sufficiency by holding multiple part time and/or minimum wage jobs it is safe to assume that benefits such as health insurance are not available. Opportunities for education and training as well as provision of supportive services such as child care and medical care are needed if the number of individuals and families who attain self sufficiency is to increase.

Self Sufficiency in Champaign County

MONTHLY COSTS	ADULT	ADULT + INFANT	ADULT + PRESCHOOLER + SCHOOL-AGE	2 ADULTS + PRESCHOOLER + SCHOOL-AGE + TEENAGER
Housing	\$581	\$684	\$684	\$858
Child Care	\$0	\$597	\$1,202	\$1,202
Food	\$218	\$324	\$494	\$828
Transportation	\$222	\$229	\$229	\$436
Health Care	\$139	\$330	\$351	\$454
Miscellaneous	\$116	\$216	\$296	\$378
Taxes	\$233	\$417	\$645	\$715
Earned Income Tax Credit	\$0	-\$69	\$0	\$0
Child Care Tax Credit	\$0	-\$68	-\$100	-\$100
Child Tax Credit	\$0	-\$83	-\$167	-\$250
Making Work Pay Tax Credit	-\$33	-\$33	-\$33	-\$67
TOTAL	\$1,476	\$2,544	\$3,601	\$4,454
SELF-SUFFICIENCY WAGE				
Hourly	\$8.39	\$14.45	\$20.46	\$12.65
Annual	\$17,715	\$30,523	\$43,217	\$53,452

DID YOU KNOW?

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME IN 2009 WAS \$41,198 (HEARTLAND ALLIANCE 2009 REPORT ON ILLINOIS POVERTY). THIS WAS A DECLINE FROM \$48,634 IN 1999.

THE NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS THAT MADE 100K OR MORE INCREASED BY 91% FROM 2005-2009. THE NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS THAT MADE \$30,00-\$50,000 DECREASED BY 14%. THE NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH INCOME OF \$10,000 OR BELOW INCREASED 14%.

Food Insecurity

What it is: The USDA defines food insecurity as “Limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods or limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways.”

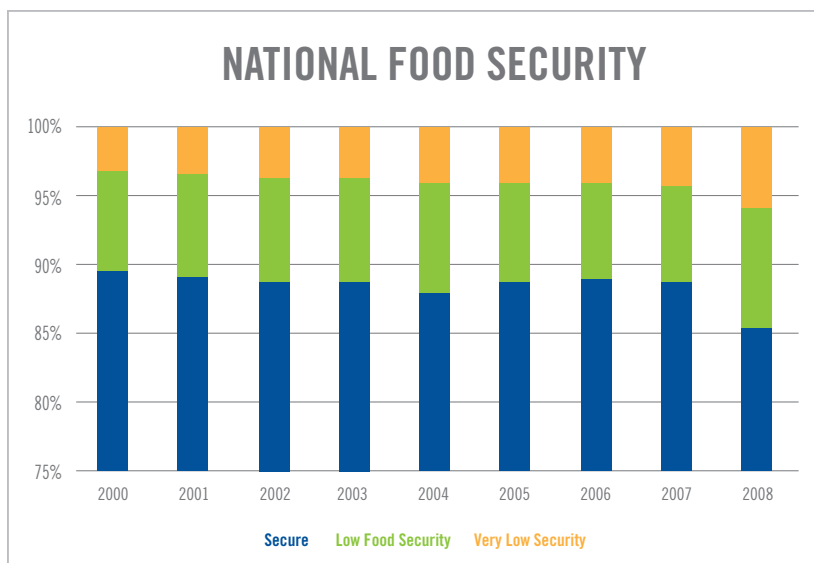
What it tells us: In Champaign County we know

- 43.7% of those accessing emergency food sources belong to a household with children under 18, and 24.4% of households have at least one member over 65.
- 70.8% of adult clients are high school graduates.
- 69.5% of clients are white.
- 40.8% of households have at least one adult member employed.
- 17.3% of clients who are or were employed had managerial or professional jobs.

Median annual household income for those using emergency food programs is \$13,200 which is 71.2% of the federal poverty level.

As of November 2009, 10% of Champaign County residents received food stamps, an increase of 17% from 2007. The US average is 11.5% of the population on food stamps.

Why it matters: Nationally as well as locally food insecurity is increasing at an alarming rate. And while certain types and levels of assistance are available a substantial number of those living in poverty are not getting help. We know that only about 60% of those eligible for the SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, commonly known as food stamps) are receiving that benefit. That means that there are over 12,500 of our neighbors who are living in poverty with significant food insecurity. Whether clear understanding of eligibility, ability to navigate the required paperwork, or perceived shame prevents access there are large numbers of households that struggle to put food on the table for themselves and their children.



Food insecurity may also result in severe social, psychological, and behavioral consequences. Food-insecure individuals may manifest feelings of alienation, powerlessness. Stress, and anxiety, and they may experience reduced productivity, reduced work and school performance, and reduced income earnings. Household dynamics may become disrupted because of a preoccupation with obtaining food, which may lead to anger, pessimism, and irritability. Adverse consequences for children include: higher levels of aggressive or destructive behavior, hyperactivity, anxiety, difficulty with social interactions (e.g. more withdrawn or socially disruptive), increased passivity, poorer overall school performance, increased school absences, and a greater need for mental health care (e.d., for depression or suicidal behaviors).

DID YOU KNOW?

19.73% OF THE CHAMPAIGN COUNTY POPULATION IS CONSIDERED FOOD INSECURE.

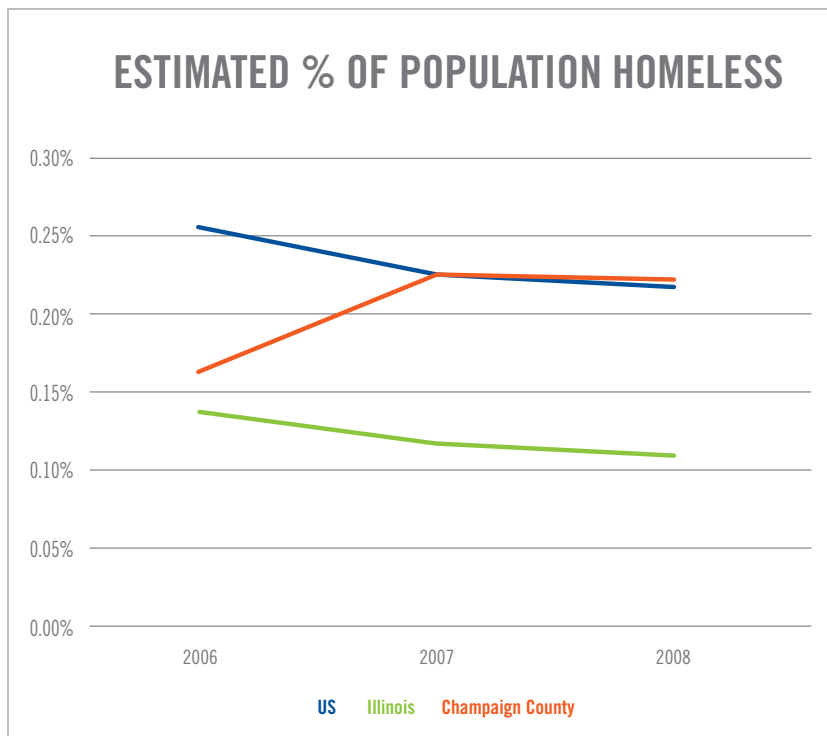
Housing and Homelessness in Champaign County

Homelessness

What it is: How Champaign County compares to state and national homeless populations.

What it tells us: an estimated 418 individuals are homeless at any given time in Champaign County. Locally, the Urbana-Champaign Continuum of Care comprised of human service agencies and governmental units conducted its annual survey of the areas homeless population during the week of August 1-8, 2009. According to the survey at that point in time, there were 594 homeless persons in Champaign County, compared to the previous count in January 2009 of 495 persons. This was an increase of 20%.

Why it matters: Food and shelter are the two most basic needs. Lack of either almost always makes it impossible for an individual to be a healthy and fully functioning member of society. In Champaign County the system of care to address homelessness is seriously taxed. First, there is a capacity issue. All of the shelters highlighted report a continuing increase in the number of people who are put on a waiting list. In the case of A Woman's Place and the Center for Women in Transition many women seeking shelter are mothers and their children. Capacity is not the only issue, however. Each of the shelters open now have certain restrictions and requirements, the net result being that presently there is no place for an intact family, a single father with children, or a mother with a male child over age 14 to find emergency shelter. Families wishing to stay together are forced to make difficult and dangerous choices. Some try to move from place to place, imposing on friends and relatives for a short time, some inhabit unsafe or condemned properties, and some have been found living in a car or van.



SOURCES OF HOUSING FOR INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES IN CHAMPAIGN COUNTY:

- **TIMES Center for Men** – transitional housing for males 18 and older
- **Center for Women in Transition** – Single women, women with children (no male children over 14 allowed)
- **A Woman's Place** – Single women, women with children fleeing domestic violence (no male children over 14 allowed)
- **Salvation Army** – transitional housing for men over 18
- **Roundhouse** – housing for runaway children 11-17, transitional housing for males and females/females with children 18-21.
- **Crisis Nursery** – emergency shelter for children 0-5.
- **Restoration Urban Ministries** – transitional housing for families and individuals. Program participation and deposit required.
- **Jesus is the Way Prison Ministries** – transitional housing for men who are no longer incarcerated and need housing.

DID YOU KNOW?

THE REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION ALSO SERVES HOMELESS CHILDREN IN THE CHAMPAIGN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS. IN THE 2009-2010 SCHOOL YEARS, THERE WERE OVER 350 HOMELESS CHILDREN IN CHAMPAIGN COUNTY SCHOOLS.

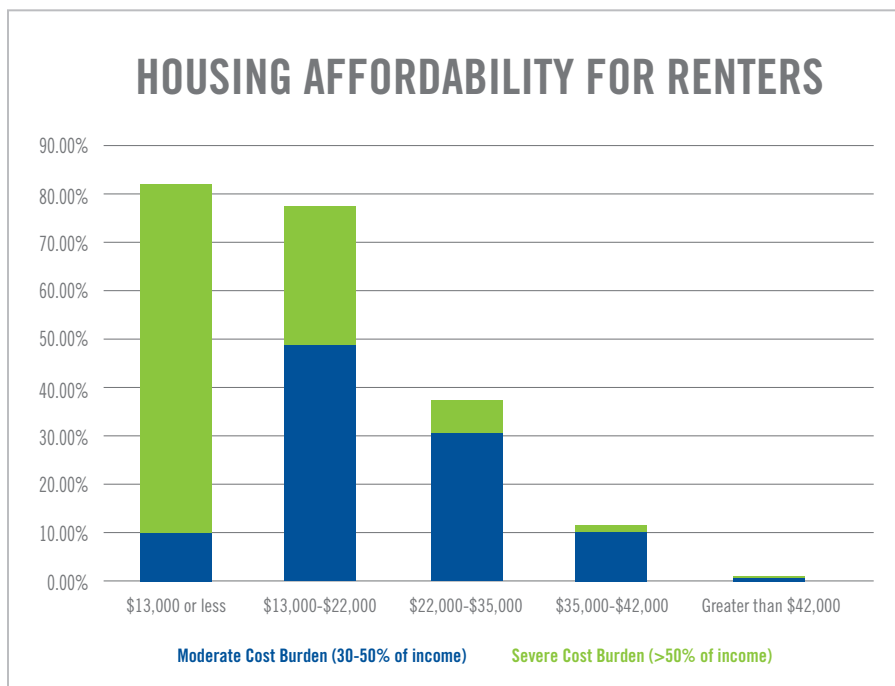
Housing Affordability

What it is: This chart shows the percentage of renters with a housing cost burden, which is 30% of their household income. A moderate burden is between 30-50%, a severe burden is greater than 50% of household income.

What it tells us: If a household's income is less than \$42,000 it is very likely that they will be spending between 30% and 80% of that income on housing.

- People renting housing in Champaign County make an average of \$9.53 an hour, meaning that they could afford to pay \$496 a month and not be under a cost burden.
- 49% of all renters, regardless of income, are unable to afford a 2-bedroom apartment at fair market rent.

Why it matters: When individuals and families are forced to spend a disproportionately high percentage of their income on housing, they find it difficult if not impossible to be able to pay for other necessities such as food, utilities, healthcare, and transportation. It is unlikely that those who must use half of their income for rent will be able to become financially stable or self sufficient. Reliance on social service programs will continue for many.



RENTAL COSTS:

2009 Fair Market Rent

(i.e., the amount a renter can expect to pay in rent and utilities in the current market) in Champaign County:

Studio/efficiency:	\$478
One bedroom:	\$581
Two bedroom:	\$684
Three bedroom:	\$858
Four bedroom:	\$1179

Utilities in Champaign County

A breakdown of utility costs:

- Electricity: Illinois average: \$84.62/month
- Water: Estimated bill based on a four-person household: \$40.82/month
- Natural Gas: Estimated bill on a fixed pricing system for 1500 square feet: \$30.68/month

TOTAL PER MONTH: \$156.12

Many leasing companies require 1st month's rent and a security deposit which could be upwards of \$1,000 for an incoming tenant. In addition utility hook-ups could cost an additional \$100-200.

“

There are families that are in acute crisis that want to stay together.

A place for families is needed.

FIRST RESPONDER

”

DID YOU KNOW?

PUBLIC HOUSING IS A HOUSING DEVELOPMENT THAT IS PUBLICLY FUNDED AND ADMINISTERED FOR LOW- INCOME FAMILIES. LOCALLY, AS OF FEBRUARY 2011, THERE WERE 151 FAMILIES ON THE PUBLIC HOUSING WAITING LIST.

SECTION 8 HOUSING IS A TYPE OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING BASED ON THE USE OF SUBSIDIES THE AMOUNT OF WHICH IS GEARED TO THE TENANT'S ABILITY TO PAY. THE SUBSIDY MAKES UP THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WHAT THE LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLD CAN AFFORD AND THE CONTRACT RENT ESTABLISHED BY HUD FOR AN ADEQUATE HOUSING UNIT. AS OF FEBRUARY 2011, THERE WERE 531 FAMILIES ON THE SECTION 8 WAITING LIST.

Family Support and Child Care in Champaign County Availability

What it is: Childcare type and availability in Champaign County.

	Family Childcare Homes	Family Childcare Homes Capacity	Childcare Centers	Childcare Centers Capacity	Total Capacity
Unlicensed	41	287	69	5588	5875
Licensed	303	2548	41	3820	6368
Total	344	2835	110	9408	12243

What it tells us: Only 48% of children can be accommodated in licensed facilities, 93% in a combination of licensed and unlicensed. In Champaign County, statistics show we have an adequate amount of child care available to meet the needs in terms of available spaces. Many child care providers offer quality programs both in centers and family child care homes. However, there are many providers that do not. According to the Child Care Resource Service Center's annual report for 2009 Child Care Assistance Program subsidy payments were made to: Centers (35%), Family Child Care Homes (35%), and Relative Care (26%). Relative Care is also commonly called family, friend and neighbor care (because those are the groups usually providing this type of care). This means they have fewer requirements to adhere to and less stringent safety and programming requirements than licensed programs. This is of concern when it comes to general safety, knowledge of healthy child development, and kindergarten readiness.

Why it matters: Research shows that brain development occurs rapidly during the first three years of a child's life. As much as 90% of a brain's growth has occurred by age 5. During this crucial developmental period children need to be in safe, secure and stimulating environments. Quality care requires nurturing caregivers who can be responsive and provide opportunities for exploration and learning. If a child's social and emotional needs are met early on the chances of them being developmentally on track greatly increases. Social-emotional development is essential to kindergarten readiness, school success, and lifelong self esteem. The consequences for young children who have not had healthy early development are serious and long lasting. Many children will enter school unprepared, will be unable to progress at grade level in core subjects, will be the victims or perpetrators of bullying in school, and may become teens that lack judgment and critical thinking skills necessary to avoid risky behaviors.

“

Kids need a caring adult at home who is committed to preparing that child for success in our public schools.

REPRESENTATIVE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

”

“

The biggest issue facing youth is that they need to be better prepared for life.

COMMUNITY MEMBER

”

Costs

What it is: In Champaign County we have an estimated 13,194 children age 0-5. 66.3% of mothers with children under age 6 (that's an estimated 5,800 women) work outside the home. An average of 60% of families has a 2 parent working household and 14% are single parents. In addition, there are parents pursuing education and not in the workforce, that also need child care.

What it tells us: Champaign County has many children under age 6 needing quality care. Child care costs average \$5000-12,000 per child each year. Average child care costs for this area:

	Family Child Care	Center
Infant:	\$125	\$218
Preschool age:	\$115	\$163
Before/After School care:	\$65	\$83

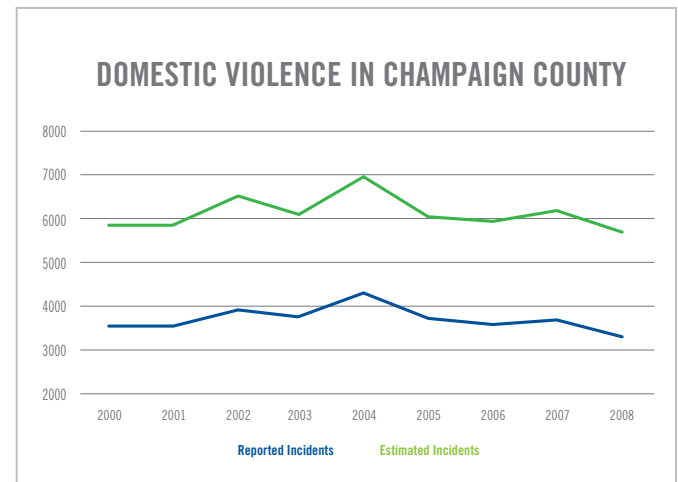
Why it matters: Many low income families cannot afford to access top quality, licensed child care. Some will receive subsidized care but many will be required by the state or by the care center to provide a co-pay. For many families that is not financially feasible. For those families, unlicensed care may be their only choice. Finances are not the only factor limiting choices, however. Availability of transportation between home, work, and child care can be challenging. Further, many low income families work outside the 7:00am to 5:30pm, Monday through Friday time frame that is the standard for most child care centers. Currently there are no centers in Champaign County that provide extended, overnight, or weekend care.

Domestic Violence

What it is: Domestic violence in Champaign County.

What it tells us: This means that approximately 3% of the population experiences domestic violence every year. It's important to remember that many domestic violence incidents go unreported. Research indicates only about 60% of incidents are reported.

Why it matters: Overwhelming fear paralyzes most victims of domestic violence. Many do not report the abuse for fear of not being believed or of being ostracized by friends and family. Many women ultimately escape with nothing more than the clothes on their backs, often with young children in tow. These children can suffer long term consequences as a result of what they have seen and heard. Domestic violence affects the entire family especially when it results in permanent injury or disability, homelessness, and job loss.



Sadly, there are many instances where women trade their dependence on an abusive partner for dependence on the social service system.

DID YOU KNOW?

IN 2009, THERE WERE 2204 CHILDREN (1930 UNIQUE CHILDREN) REPORTED NEGLECTED OR ABUSED. THAT IS 4.4% OF ALL CHILDREN. THIS WOULD BE THE SIZE OF ONE LARGE HIGH SCHOOL PLUS ONE MIDDLE SCHOOL HERE IN CHAMPAIGN COUNTY.

Kindergarten readiness

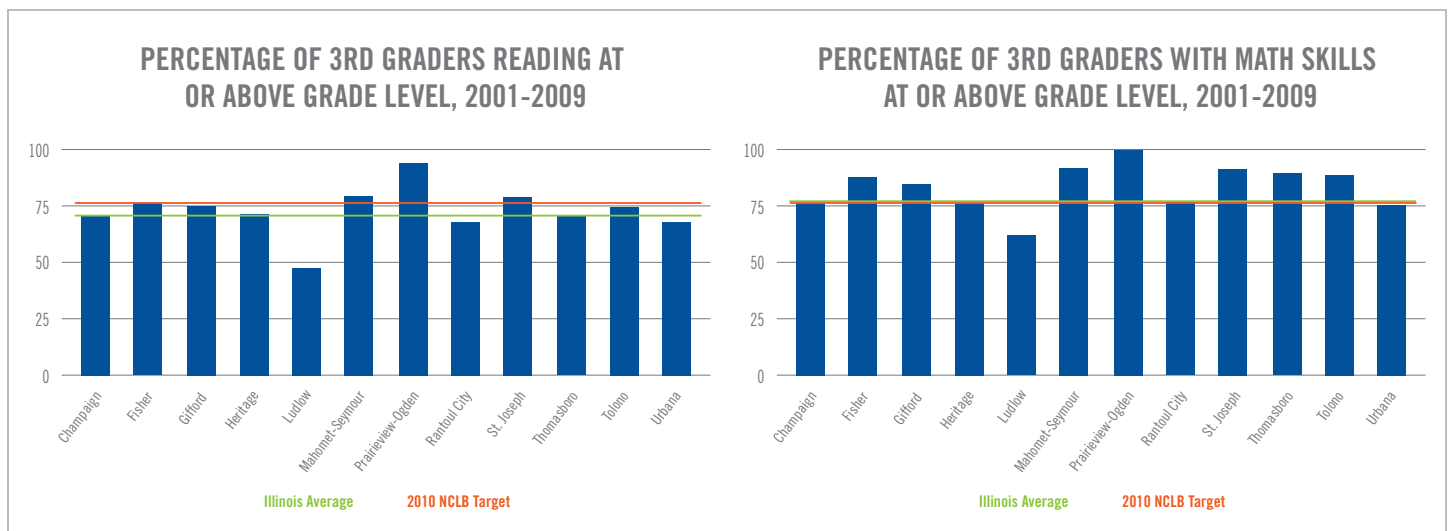
What it is: Teachers assess various indicators to determine whether or not a child is ready to succeed in kindergarten: Attentiveness, fine motor skills, social adaptation, early literacy, gross motor development, physical well being, self care skills, communication, self confidence, number concepts, and memory.

What it tells us: Teachers estimate that over 30% and in some cases up to 50% of children are not ready for kindergarten when they arrive their first day of school in Champaign County.

In a kindergarten readiness survey administered by United Way, teachers were given a list of 10 items that would indicate possible underlying causes of young children's struggles. Three family factors were identified most frequently by respondents: Limited family involvement in the child's education (76.9%), lack of adequate support and training in parenting skills and child development (65.4%) and difficulty in providing a healthy environment due to overwhelming life stresses (38.5%).

Why it matters: From the day a child is born it is imperative that parents and caregivers provide a strong early learning foundation. A child is far less likely to achieve academic success let alone graduate if he or she is unable to progress at grade level. Engaged parents and caregivers are critical in helping children meet required developmental and academic milestones. Creating an environment conducive to meeting the social/emotional needs of young children is particularly challenging when issues like hunger, homelessness, unemployment and abuse are at the forefront of day to day survival.

Grade level achievement

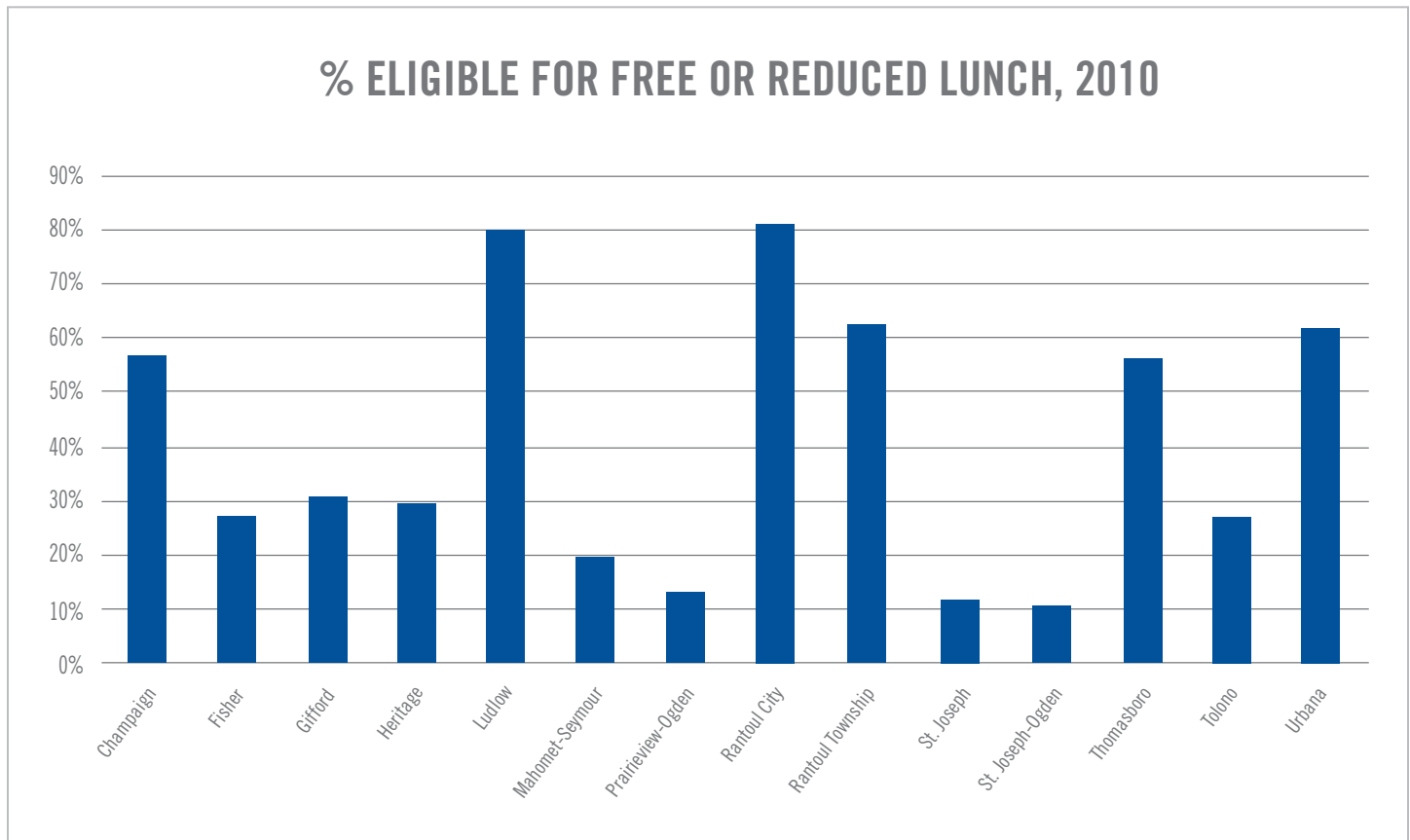


What it is: Percentage of 3rd grade students performing at or above grade level standardized tests in math and reading for all the school districts in Champaign County, as compared to the Illinois average and the 2010 No Child Left Behind target.

What it tells us: Generally, students are stronger in math than reading. Only a few of the smaller, more rural school districts met or exceeded the national NCLB target in reading, while the majority of districts did so in math.

Why it matters: A grasp of basic reading and math skills is critical for children to progress competently through elementary, middle, and high school. Reading skills are especially important predictors of academic success. Until 3rd grade, children learn to read. After 3rd grade children read to learn. At this point if a student is behind he/she will be trying to catch up every day in school. Discipline and self esteem problems plague children who are not able to follow and participate in classroom instruction.

Free or reduced lunch



What it is: Students eligible for free or reduced lunch in the 14 public school districts in Champaign County based on total household income for 2010.

What it tells us: Our children have many obstacles to academic achievement, and one of these is hunger. In individual districts, there are schools that have over 90% of their students who are eligible for free and reduced lunch.

Why it matters: On any given day, 1 in 6 students is food insecure. Challenges such as hunger and homelessness can prevent children from learning, from staying in school and from achieving success as an adult.

“

Many of the kids and families haven't set goals and have no idea about the connection between success in school and success in life.

REPRESENTATIVE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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“

It's hard to focus on education when you are in survival mode.

LOCAL EDUCATOR

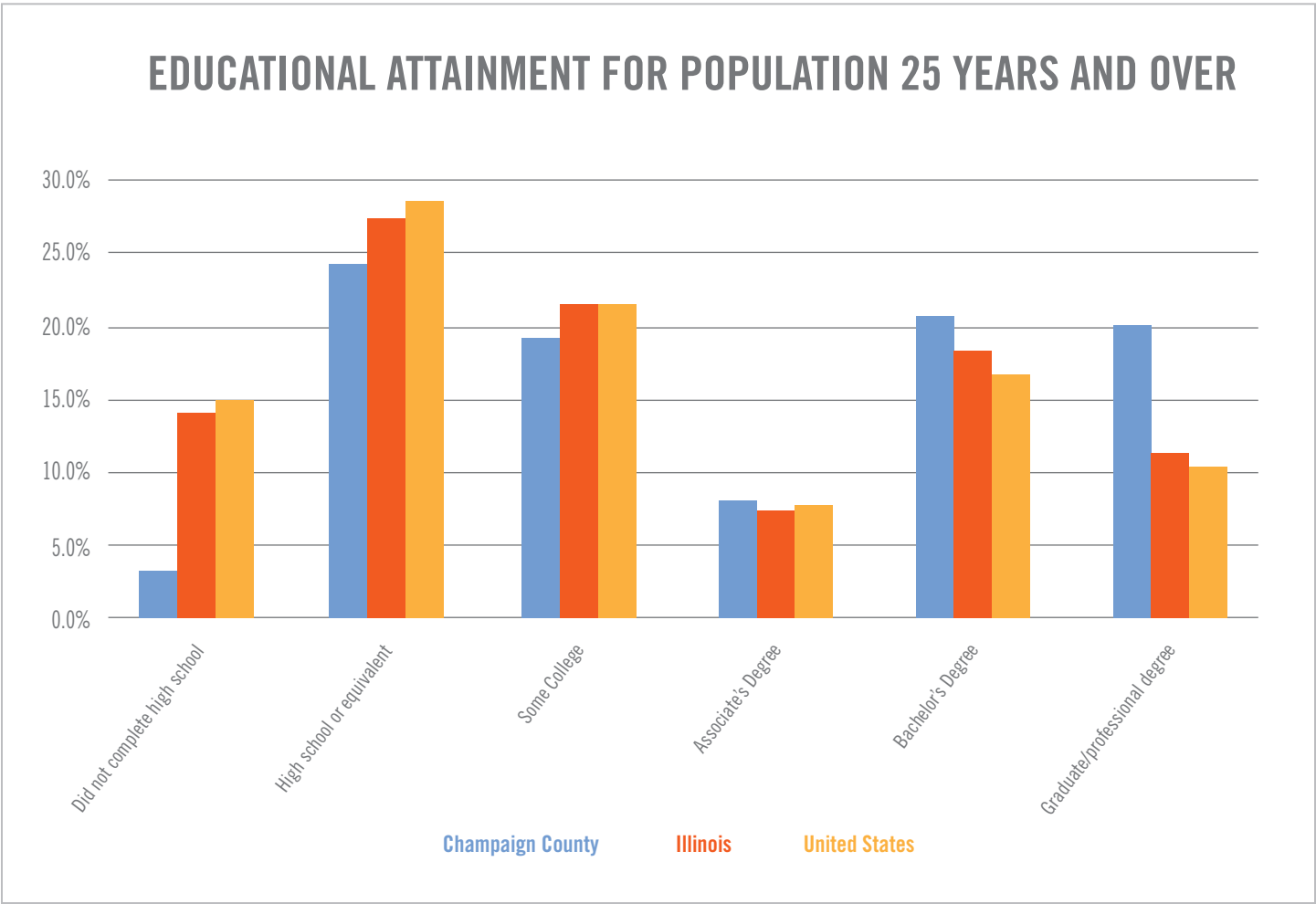
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Educational Attainment

What it is: Educational attainment for population 25 years and over for Champaign County.

What it tells us: According to the most recent American Community Survey, Champaign County is the most educated community in the state of Illinois.

Why it matters: Champaign County is well educated and yet concern about educational achievement for all, especially our children remains high. The United Way survey found interviewees from business, government and health care are troubled by less than acceptable academic achievement of large numbers of school age children. Almost 62% of students attending the local community college for the first time enrolled in a remedial reading, writing or math class. If children do not achieve academic success it affects many aspects of adult life. The opportunity to earn a living wage, the ability to be self sufficient, the attainment of advanced education and training, are just a few of the aspects of quality of life predicated on school success.



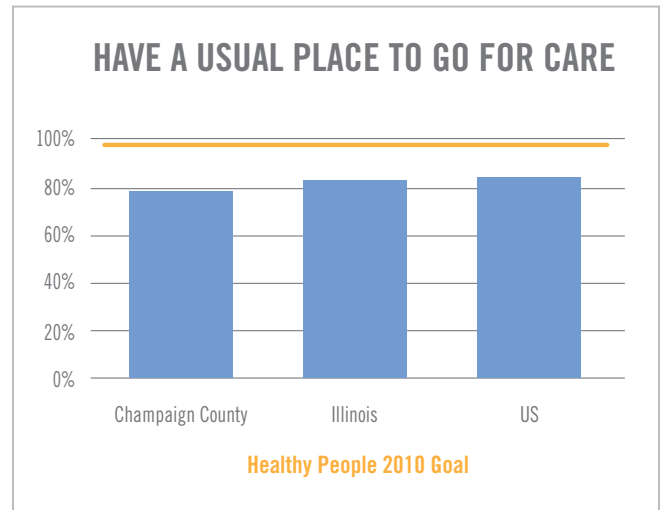
Healthcare in Champaign County

Access

What it is: The percentage of people who report having a usual place to go to receive medical care, whether routine (physicals, etc.) or resulting from injury or illness.

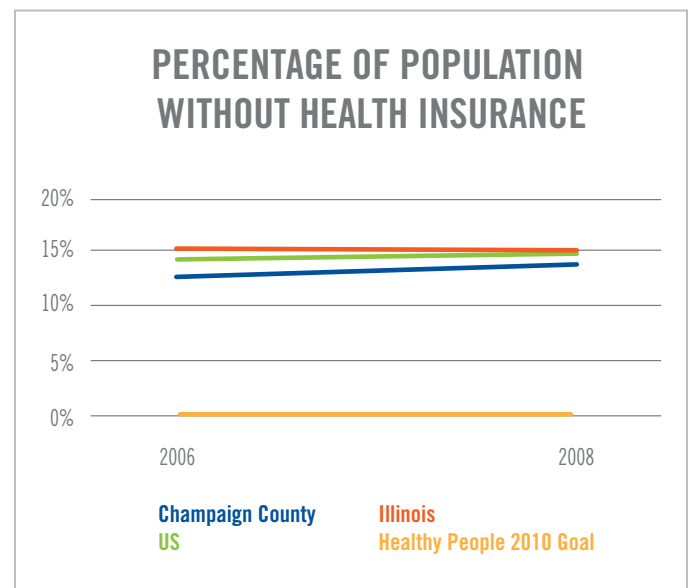
What it tells us: In Champaign County, slightly fewer than 80% of people have a primary source of care, which is less than both Illinois and the US and well under the Healthy People 2010 goal. Local health care providers have continually voiced concern for those who do not have a medical home.

Why it matters: Without a primary care provider people are much more inclined to go without preventative care and to let minor problems develop into serious medical conditions. Reliance on emergency room treatment as the primary care leads to unnecessary health crisis and puts a significant burden on the healthcare system.



What it is: The percentage of the population that reports having no health insurance coverage, either privately or provided through a governmental program.

What it tells us: Champaign County has lower rates of uninsured people than both Illinois and the US, but the percentage is still far higher than the Healthy People 2010 goal of 0%. Also worrying is the fact that the percentage of uninsured increased in Champaign County from 2006 to 2008, while in Illinois and the US, that percentage decreased. 13.5% (25,650) of the population in Champaign County are uninsured. According to Heartland Alliance, over 70% of residents in Champaign County are covered by private insurance and an estimated 5% are covered by public insurance.



Why it matters: Lack of health coverage and no medical home pose serious problems for individuals and families experiencing acute or chronic illness. Identifying options and accessing care is an ongoing dilemma for those who are uninsured and not eligible for government programs. The ability to address routine health concerns before they reach crisis levels is seriously compromised for those lacking coverage.

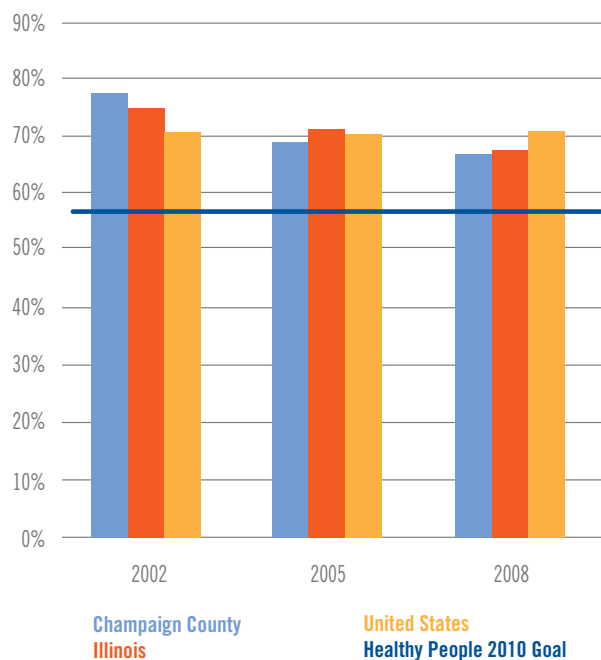
Dental

What it is: The percentage of people who visited (top right) and did not visit (bottom right) the dentist in the past year, divided into two categories: those with household incomes less than \$50,000, and those with household incomes greater than \$50,000.

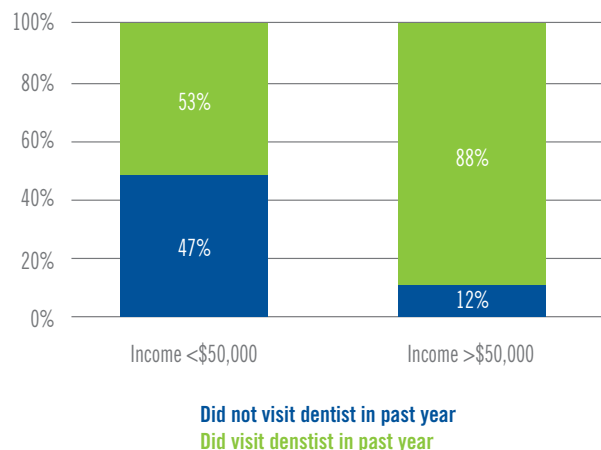
What it tells us: A dramatic difference exists in dental visits between the two income groups: while nearly 90% of those in households making more than \$50,000 made it to the dentist, less than half of those making less did so. This indicates a significant need for affordable dental care in Champaign County. As of May 2010 the Department of Human Services report 27,737 people in Champaign County are on Medicaid. 16,713 of those are children. As of May 1, 2010 there was a waiting list of 470 Frances Nelson Health Center patients in need of dental care. Now there are over 700 patients waiting for dental care. Smile Healthy operates another program that provides dental care for county children for the County Board of Health. That program has over 200 additional children waiting for care. All are 200% of the poverty level or below. Most are on Medicaid.

Why it matters: Individuals who are unable to pay or who are Medicaid or Medicare recipients find it almost impossible to access dental care services in Champaign County. A large number of the United Way survey respondents cited dental services for adults and seniors to be a significant concern. While services for children are more accessible there are still gaps. A recent mobile dental clinic treating students at an elementary school found 14 students out of 33 to have active tooth decay. Both Carle Foundation Hospital and Provena Covenant Medical Center report record numbers of emergency room visits due to dental problems. This past year they saw 2,059 and 1,032 patients respectively. Sadly there is little beyond administering antibiotics and painkillers that can be done for a patient's oral health in the ER. With over 60 people a week visiting an emergency room the need for service is overwhelming. Untreated problems can lead to more serious physical problems like sepsis and heart disease. These issues and the chronic pain they cause can have tremendous impact on an adult's ability to work and care for a family.

VISITED DENTIST IN THE PAST YEAR



DENTAL VISITS BY INCOME IN CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, 2008

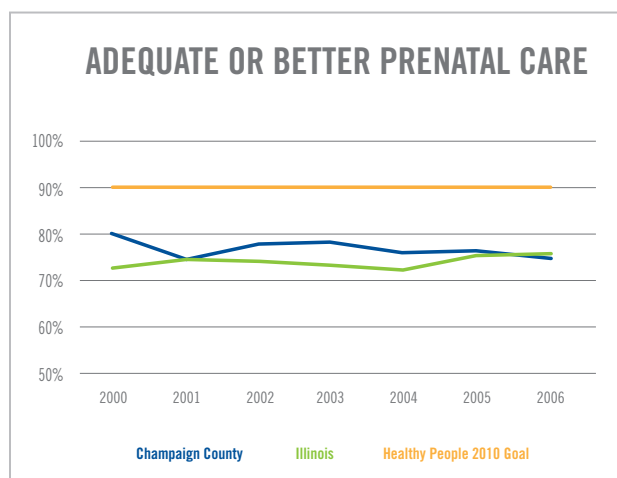
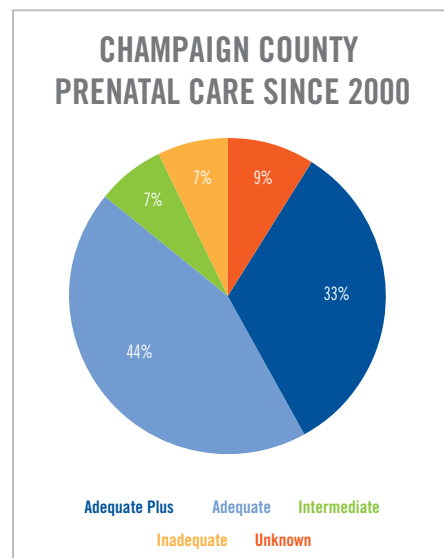


Prenatal

What it is: The percentage of mothers receiving various qualities of prenatal care in Champaign County, according to the Kotelchuk Index. The Kotelchuk Index uses two elements obtained from birth certificate data: when prenatal care began and the number of prenatal visits from when care began until delivery. Inadequate care is when mother and child have attended less than 50% of their expected visits. Adequate prenatal care is when mother attends more than 80% of expected prenatal care visits.

What it tells us: Champaign County does slightly better than Illinois at providing prenatal care, but the percentage of women who receive adequate or better prenatal care is still significantly below the Healthy People 2010 goal of 90%. Adequate or better prenatal care has been above average in the State of Illinois for most of the last decade. In 2006, however, it dipped and has been on a level or slightly lower trajectory. According to the Illinois Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System, 77% of Champaign County prenatal care is adequate or better, 14% is intermediate or inadequate and 9% is unknown.

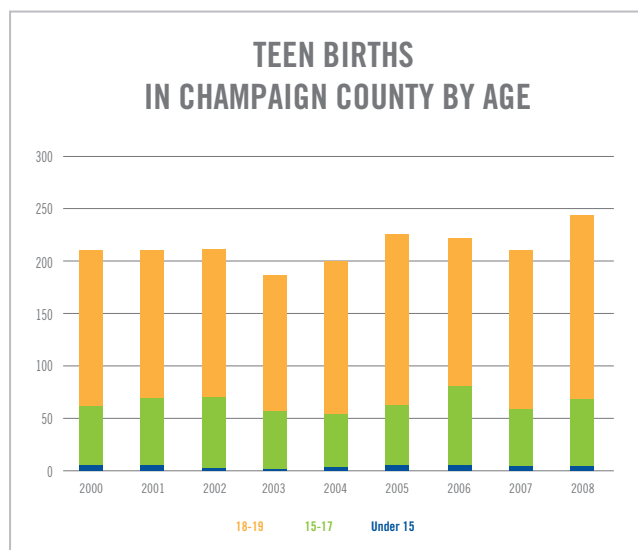
Why it matters: Prenatal care is critical in promoting healthy children and mothers. The earlier the prenatal care begins the better for both the mother and her child. It is critical to monitor the mother's health and well being, to support healthy nutrition for both, and to identify genetic or developmental concerns for the baby. In addition prenatal care helps prepare mothers for perinatal expectations and provides parent education. According to local health care providers there is an abundance of prenatal care available in Champaign County. The challenge is identifying factors that prevent mothers from accessing prenatal services.



What it is: Teen birth rates in Champaign County over the past decade.

What it tells us: 18-19 year olds represent the largest teen age group having babies but those in the 15-17 year old range have shown periods of growth.

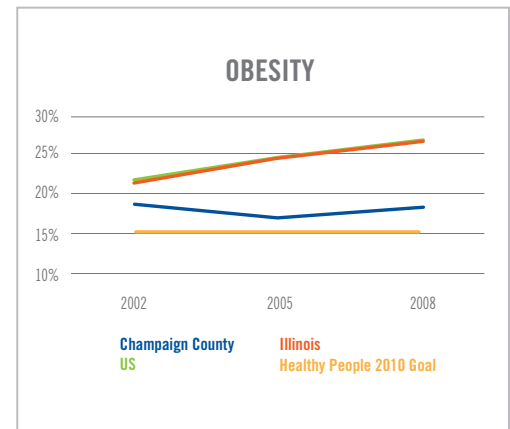
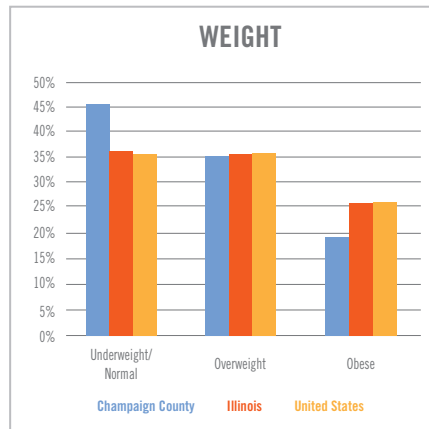
Why it matters: The challenge of being a parent can be demanding for anyone but the difficulty is increased when a mother and father are barely past childhood themselves. Often these young people lack the maturity and support to provide a baby with the kind of nurturing and secure environment essential to a young child's development. Teen parents are less likely to finish school, pursue higher education, or obtain employment that allows for self sufficiency.



Risky behaviors

What it is: The percentage of people in Champaign County considered underweight/normal, overweight, and obese, based on their Body Mass Index.

What it tells us: Champaign County is doing better than both the US and Illinois, both in terms of percentage and in terms of trends – while the percentage of overweight and obese people in the US and Illinois is increasing rapidly, it's staying fairly level or decreasing in Champaign County. But it is still above the Healthy People 2010 goal. The number of overweight people is roughly equivalent to the US and Illinois, but the number of obese people is significantly lower.



Why it matters: Obesity is a growing issue in the country, related to coronary disease, diabetes, cancer, stroke, and many others. The financial implications of obesity are also alarming—statewide and nationwide millions and millions of dollars are spent each year on the care of those who are overweight and obese. A direct link exists between those in poverty and obesity. The high cost of “healthy food” or nutritionally dense food prevents those with low incomes from being able to purchase those food items.

What it is: The number of AIDS cases in Champaign by five year intervals.

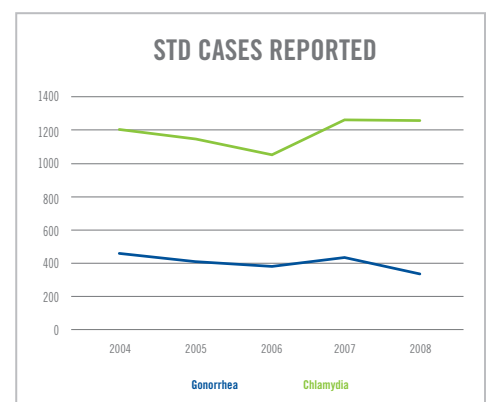
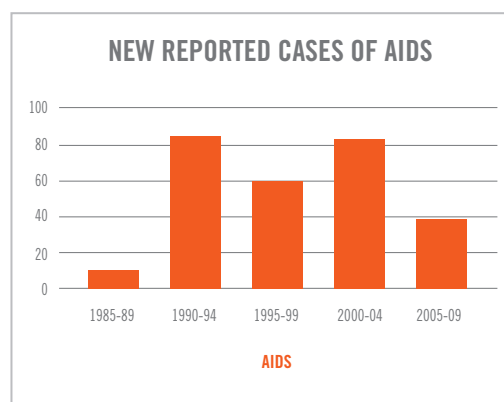
What it tells us: Individuals affected with AIDS have been a significant presence in Champaign County over the last 25 years. Also, between 2005 and 2009, 39 cases of AIDS were reported. Twice as many (76 HIV) non-AIDS infections were reported.

Why it matters: While the numbers may not be large, the financial and societal costs of HIV/AIDS are enormous to the patients, their families, and our community. Education to support those affected by and opportunities to prevent the further spread of HIV/AIDS in Champaign County are necessities.

What it is: The annually reported cases of Gonorrhea and Chlamydia from 2004-2009 in Champaign County.

What it tells us: The incidence of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs), especially Chlamydia is quite high in Champaign County.

Why it matters: The short term and potential long term impacts of STDs are significant to individuals and the community. Many actions can be taken to prevent the transmission of STDs and to treat the disease when detected. Efforts to reduce the spread of STDs through education and treatment are a continuing need.



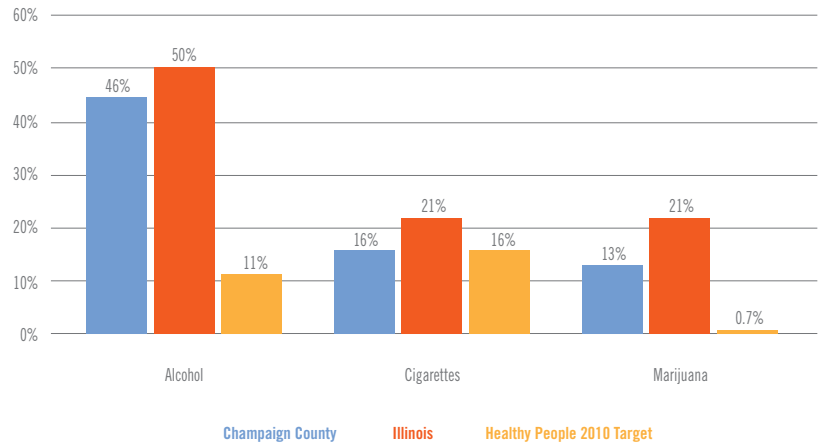
Risky behaviors

What it is: Alcohol, cigarettes and marijuana use by teens in Champaign County.

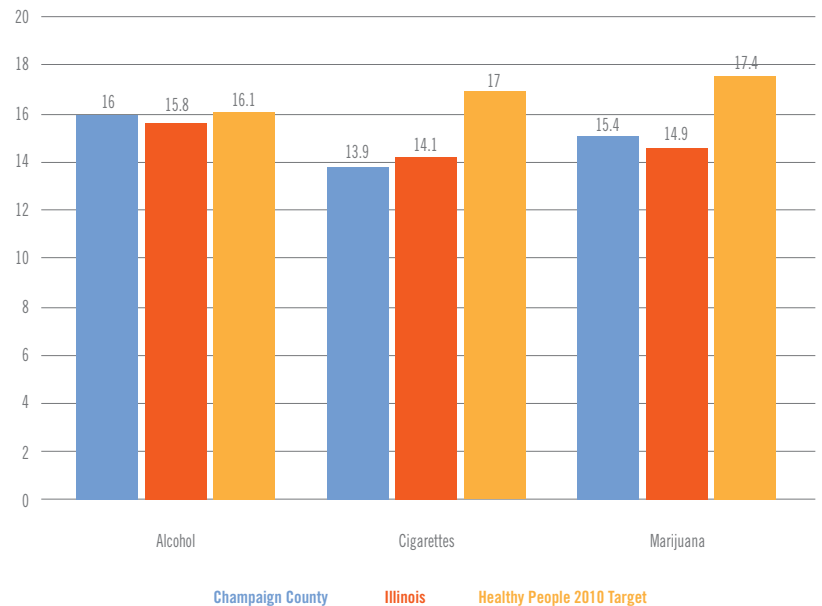
What it tells us: Teens in Champaign County are using alcohol, cigarettes, and marijuana at ages younger than the Healthy People 2010 Target for a healthy community. Overall 12th graders are using these substances far more frequently and at younger ages than the Healthy People 2010 Target.

Why it matters: 46% of high school seniors in Champaign County reported using alcohol in the past 30 days. This is comparable to an entire graduating class at one of the county's largest high schools. Engaging in risky behaviors lowers defenses and impairs judgment which can lead to additional risk factors such as unprotected sex, drunk driving, additional drug and alcohol may mask other issues related to behavioral and mental health concerns.

PERCENTAGE OF 12TH GRADERS REPORTING USE IN THE PAST 30 DAYS



AVERAGE AGE AT FIRST USE



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The concerns are shifting; crime is on a downward trend but alcohol and substance abuse are way up as is juvenile delinquency issues. There is a definite lack of stable home environments for a lot of local kids.

FIRST RESPONDER

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Mental Health in Champaign County

Access and capacity

What it is: Among adults in Champaign County 5.1% of men, 17.7% of women reported their mental health was not good for more than 8 days out of the last 30. About 50% of adults under age 45 reported having days when their mental health was not good. Nationally, over 2% of the population lives with a mental health problem.

What it tells us: Mental illness can affect anyone, anywhere, anytime. In order to go about the tasks of life including work, parenting, school and just growing up in a productive way, one needs a healthy foundation. At any one time, more than seven Illinois adults are coping with a diagnosable mental illness. While 70-90% of mental health diagnoses are treatable, data show that fewer than half of those who experience mental health challenges actually seek treatment.

Why it matters: The consequences of untreated mental health issues are staggering: unnecessary disability, unemployment, substance abuse, homelessness, incarceration, and suicide are the most prevalent indicators of broken lives. The economic cost of untreated mental illness is more than \$100 billion a year in the United States.

What it is: In a survey conducted this summer by the United Way of Champaign County 75% of healthcare providers interviewed said there were not enough mental health services available in the county. In particular, children's mental health services are lacking. In another survey of local pediatricians and family practitioner's conducted in 2009 by the United Way's Success by 6® initiative, 100% of those interviewed report seeing between 1 to a few children each week where they were concerned about the child's mental health but did not know where to refer them.

What it tells us: The local healthcare community is seeing mental health deficiencies in our youth— from birth through age 18. When they identify a child needs mental health resources there is a gap in services available and in understanding where to send them.

Why it matters: Poor mental health is not limited to just those in foster care or children living in poverty. School suspension records involve children from all backgrounds and all socio-economic levels where students from Kindergarten through 12th grade are acting out behaviorally by attacking teachers, hurting classmates, bullying, fighting, drug use and self inflicted injury. In fact, Voices for Illinois' Children found that 358 children were hospitalized with a psychosis related diagnosis (up 190% from 2000-2005). Additionally, one in five adolescents has a mental health disorder and one in six of those identified has a disorder so severe it limits their ability to function. Only one in five that need mental health services actually receive them which correlates to the observation from local healthcare professionals above.

Also alarming, is that the child abuse and neglect rate in Champaign County is among the very highest in the state, as is the rate of placement in substitute care. A large majority of children involved with the child welfare system have moderate to severe mental health needs. Crosspoint Human Services, the local mental health crisis program for children, reports the highest number of calls for assistance outside the Chicago area (out of 55 providers statewide).

Kindergarten teachers surveyed in 2002, 2005 and again in 2008 have consistently stated that incoming kindergartners are unprepared socially and emotionally. Parents need support and guidance to learn effective parenting skills and stages of child development.

Addressing mental health services is a very tough issue. Champaign County is better off than many areas, but it is getting more difficult as there are fewer providers and (residents with) more need.

LOCAL HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL

Employment and the Economy in Champaign County

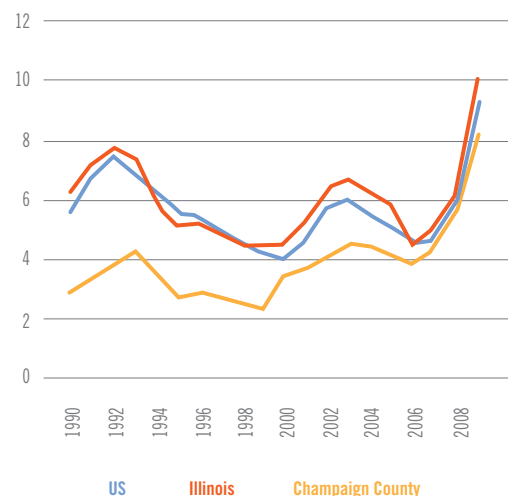
Unemployment

What it is: The percentage of people considered “unemployed” by the Illinois Department of Labor Security and the US Bureau of Labor Statistics over the past two decades.

What it tells us: Over the past two decades, Champaign County’s unemployment rate has consistently been lower than that of Illinois or the US as a whole. However, that gap has shrunk in the past few years, and now Champaign County unemployment rates are nearly on par with Illinois and the US.

Why it matters: Employment is essential to be self sufficient. Those who are unemployed or underemployed are most likely to find themselves and their families living in poverty with all the issues and challenges to meet basic needs. The dependence on government assistance and aid from social service agencies to make it day to day grows with the increased unemployment.

AVERAGE ANNUAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATES, 1990-2009

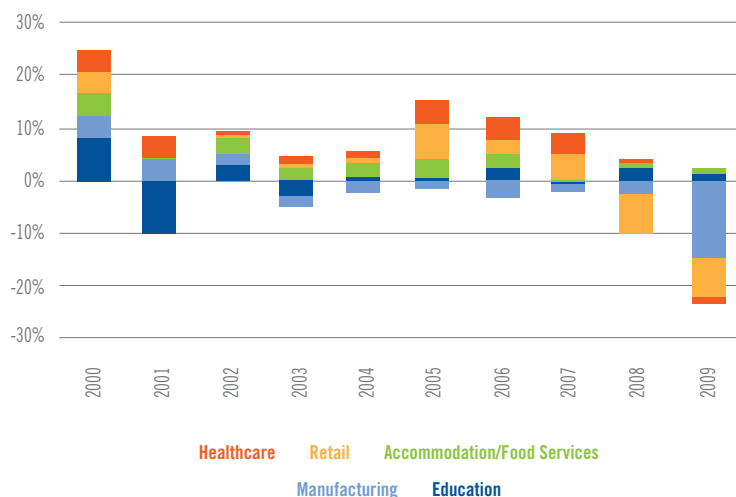


What it is: A breakdown of job gain and loss as a percentage of total employment for the top five largest industries in Champaign County over the past ten years.

What it tells us: Over the past decade, manufacturing has seen the most dramatic job losses, while healthcare has experienced consistent gains. Other industries, particularly retail, have been more susceptible to broader economic trends: it is not surprising, given the current economic climate, that retail jobs have contracted dramatically in the past couple of years.

Why it matters: Examining the growth or contraction of specific industries can tell us a great deal about the changing makeup of our county and helps provide insight into the groups of people that may be suffering more from job loss than others. For those who want to work and for those who can, finding a job that will provide you with an income to support a family isn’t always an easy thing to do. Not all jobs are created equal. The ability to earn a wage that will provide for a family is based on many factors; educational achievement, skill set and work experience and availability of appropriate jobs are just a few factors that determine employability.

JOB GAIN/LOSS BY INDUSTRY AS % OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT



Occupations and employers

What it is: The occupational wages for labor 2009 in Champaign County.

What it tells us: Good jobs are available in Champaign County that provide a living wage. However, they require a certain level of education, training or specialized skill. This limits the pool of eligible candidates for these employment opportunities.

Why it matters: With the recent economic downturn many employers have had to scale back. Residents that once found themselves working at a livable wage are now finding work at lower pay therefore now being considered underemployed. Local experts estimate the underemployment rate to be around 15%. For the first time many workers are feeling the difficulty of making ends meet. There are more first time users at food pantries, people seeking unemployment benefits, help paying rent and utilities, and requests for assistance from local human service providers.

STANDARD OCCUPATIONAL CLASSIFICATION	HOURLY	ANNUAL
Food Preparation and Service	\$7.98	\$16,603
Personal Care and Service	\$9.67	\$20,101
Sales and Related	\$9.86	\$19,223
Transportation and Material Moving	\$10.81	\$22,707
Building and Grounds Cleaning	\$11.37	\$23,647
Healthcare Support	\$12.18	\$25,332
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	\$12.45	\$25,905
Production Occupations	\$12.72	\$26,457
Office and Administrative Support	\$12.95	\$26,946
Protective Service	\$14.27	\$29,686
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports and Media	\$15.65	\$32,556
Community and Social Services	\$17.30	\$35,979
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	\$17.39	\$36,181
Education, Training, and Library	\$21.88	\$45,507
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	\$22.81	\$47,451
Life, Physical, and Social Science	\$23.22	\$48,303
Business and Financial Operations	\$23.58	\$49,040
Construction and Extraction	\$23.75	\$49,404
Computer and Mathematical	\$24.56	\$51,091
Architecture and Engineering	\$29.24	\$60,815
Management	\$31.96	\$66,485
Legal	\$35.03	\$72,849

The most prominent primary employers Champaign County's top employing industries include Higher Education, Manufacturing and Distribution, Professional Service and Back Office, Health Care, Advanced Technology and Agribusiness. (excludes retail)

The 2010 Top Twenty-Five Employers in the County are:

University of Illinois	11,676*	Hobbico	700	Solo Cup	460
Carle Physicians Group	5,668	Christie Clinic Association	700	Flex-n-Gate	460
Champaign Schools Unit 4	1,351	Hobbico	700	Easton/Bell Sports	450
Kraft Foods	1,300	Jeld-Wen	675	Amdocs	450
Parkland College	1,200	Horizon Hobby, Inc.	550	US Postal Service	425
Provena Covenant Medical	938	Busey Bank	510	Guardian West	425
Urbana Schools District 116	900	Supervalu	500	Wolfram Research	416
Plastipak Packaging	810	City of Champaign	500	Mahomet-Seymour	
Champaign County Government	800	Health Alliance Medical Plans	480	Community School District #3	406

*The 2010 number includes full time faculty and staff only, it does not include student employees

Positive change and lasting impact

GOALS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

World class educational institutions, a robust business community, top rated health care, the arts, athletics, parks and recreation and the family farm are all unique elements of this place we call home. Champaign County has become “a micro urban community” that offers great opportunity for the good life for the majority of our citizens. As outlined here, however, we see a growing number of residents severely challenged to provide for themselves and their children. Circumstances and obstacles have put even the most basic quality of life out of reach without assistance and support.

Based on our history and the new information in this community report, UWCC is committed to advancing the common good. While we continue to direct time and resources to community basics we will also focus our efforts on the building blocks for a good life- Education, Health and Wellness and Financial Stability. Education is essential to getting 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 provides families a sense of financial stability. Access to quality health care keeps children on track in school, adults productive at work and seniors living independently. Remove any of these building blocks and the other two topple.

Our board, staff and volunteers asked our neighbors, colleagues and professionals to meet, give us insight and advice and help us set goals for Champaign County. With broad input and support, these goals will drive our mission to “create positive change and lasting impact in our community.”

COMMUNITY BASICS

GOAL Individuals and families will benefit from an improved human condition in Champaign County.

TARGET ISSUE People in our community will have access to resources, information and volunteer opportunities.

Strategy: Advocate for expanded resources to strengthen the human service sector’s continuum of care in Champaign County.

Strategy: Collaborate with existing systems and explore comprehensive options to offer information and referral to community agencies that provide human care services.

Strategy: Connect individuals, groups and businesses with volunteer opportunities with human care organizations.

EDUCATION

GOAL Children and youth develop to their full potential and are equipped to become positive, contributing members of the community.

TARGET ISSUE Kindergarten Readiness-Children enter school developmentally on track in terms of literacy and social, emotional and intellectual skills.

Strategy: Educate parents on the developmental milestones and educational benchmarks for their children and their role in helping their children achieve them.

Strategy: Lead or support the collaboration of service providers and community leaders to ensure resources are available to support investment in early childhood development and parental involvement.

TARGET ISSUE Increase high school graduation rates.

Strategy: Connect youth with caring adults who can support achievement of educational goals.

Strategy: Connect youth with quality extra -curricular programming to develop healthy life skills.

Strategy: Connect youth with supportive services and educational enrichment opportunities that promote school attendance.

HEALTH & WELL-BEING

GOAL People have the resources, knowledge and support necessary to meet their physical and mental health needs.

TARGET ISSUE People have improved physical and mental health.

Strategy: Improve access to mental health services to support children, adults and families.

Strategy: Promote health and wellness through education and prevention programs.

Strategy: Expand the scope, capacity and access to health care services for low-income children and adults.

Strategy: Support active and independent living for older adults and adults with developmental disabilities.

FINANCIAL STABILITY

GOAL Families and individuals will be financially secure and stable so they can meet their basic needs with hope and confidence for their future.

TARGET ISSUE Adults develop the financial literacy skills necessary to better meet basic needs requirements themselves and their families.

Strategy: Expand financial education to promote better money management.

Strategy: Increase awareness and access to income supplement programs such as SNAP and EITC, (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Earned Income Tax Credit) through greater community collaboration.

TARGET ISSUE Adults and children will have access to safe and secure housing.

Strategy: Expand temporary shelter options for children, adults and families.

Strategy: Advocate for programs that provide affordable, permanent housing options for low income residents.

Special Acknowledgments

We are pleased to present this report to the community and thank the board of directors, staff, volunteers and agency directors who assisted in gathering the information we have compiled. We are especially grateful to over 125 members of the community who shared their observations, opinions and expertise as we put together this snapshot of life in Champaign County. Each of those interviewed expanded our awareness and understanding of our “community of contrasts.”

We committed to completing a community report that could be produced internally with minimum expenditures. We were most fortunate to have exceptionally gifted volunteers assisting us. Kate Peisker, a PhD candidate at Yale and Champaign native collected data; John Van Es, retired University of Illinois administrator, designed the questionnaire and assisted us in compiling the report; and Jan Simon, Parkland College shared in editing the report.

Our board of directors, community impact committee and vision council members identified key individuals to be interviewed and conducted most of the interviews themselves.

Our community impact staff, Sue Grey and Beverley Baker coordinated all of these efforts, and Cindy Warren diligently inventoried every survey and monitored follow-up. Ellen Schmidt collaborated with Shelley Friedrich of Upclose Marketing and Printing to design and produce the report.

Darrell Hoemann of Champaign and the Mahomet Citizen contributed cover photos.

Finally we are most grateful to Curt Anderson, Busey Wealth Management and 2010 United Way Board Chair, for his leadership this year as we collaborated with the community to prepare and present our report.



Lyn Jones, President and CEO
February 24, 2011

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Right now, as a result of the economic conditions, the biggest challenge facing residents is a sense of fear and pessimism that seems to be reigning. Champaign County needs to believe and act like the County has a bright future, which it does, because the pessimism is affecting people's decision-making.

HEALTH CARE PROVIDER

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Pride makes it hard for people in crisis to admit they are in crisis. CU is one of the most “look like you have it together when you don’t” kind of communities.

CLERGY MEMBER

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Our Mission

United Way of Champaign County brings people and resources together to create positive change and lasting impact in our community.

Our Values

Leadership

We participate in solving problems facing our community based on a solid understanding of needs, resources, and best practices. We position ourselves as initiators of change and provide leadership to protect our community's safety net of human services.

Partnership

We search for ways to create a true sense of community by bringing together diverse groups of stakeholders and volunteers to address serious community issues and provide opportunities for individuals and organizations to collectively make a difference and create change in Champaign County.

Responsiveness

Recognizing that our community and the needs of our residents are ever-changing we continually look for ways to identify and respond to those needs. We are driven by a commitment to address our community's most vital human needs and to create long lasting change that is relevant to the people of our community.

Integrity

We promote public confidence as an organization that is a highly responsible trustee of community resources. We set high standards for our conduct and strive to be trusted in all regards as an effective partner that works for the common good with honesty and integrity.

Good Governance

We focus on achieving the highest standards of organizational excellence. Our policies and practices reflect prudent use of resources, transparency in our finances, and diligent stewardship of stakeholder investments.

JOIN HANDS.
OPEN YOUR HEART.
LEND YOUR MUSCLE.
FIND YOUR VOICE.
GIVE 10%. GIVE 100%.
GIVE 110%
GIVE AN HOUR. GIVE A SATURDAY.
THINK OF *WE* BEFORE *ME*.
REACH OUT A HAND TO ONE AND
INFLUENCE
THE CONDITION OF ALL.



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