


HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COUNCIL OF MIDLAND

Report

06/09

Card

Established in Midland County in 1998, the Health and Human Services Council was formed to act as the common community interface with State agencies on collaborative efforts in human services. The Council has a strong interest in poverty and housing issues, health trends, family, relational and youth issues.



Its membership includes twenty-five key community leaders focusing on health and social service delivery. With this broad range of representation, we have a shared vision for solving the challenges our community faces. Our members promote collaboration and cooperation among agencies, education, health care, the faith-based community, the courts, law enforcement, city and county government.

In 2008 the Council addressed prioritized community issues by reviewing the programs and services presented by specialized groups. These included: youth alcohol use, homelessness and homeless populations, teen depression and suicide, health concerns (obesity and smoking), and transportation. Additionally the Council reviewed and approved twelve initiatives or grant proposals.

The council then focused on three primary actions:

- Establish a community epidemiological workgroup
- Support the basic needs of the community
- Structure a Youth Master Plan

This report is being presented as a summary of current research and will serve as a base of information to continue programs and planning. The focus is on identified areas of concern and is not intended to be a comprehensive evaluation of the community.

Our Mission

The Health and Human Services Council shall promote the welfare of the community through systems level planning, collaboration, and promotion of health and human services with an emphasis on demonstrated effectiveness and prevention.

MIDLAND COUNTY DEMOGRAPHICS

Total population: **83,017**
Median age: **38.6 years old**
Children under 5: **4,694 (6%)**
18 years and over: **62,916 (76%)**
65 years and over: **11,088 (13%)**

INCOME

Median Household Income:
\$48,911 (2007 inflation adjusted)

UNEMPLOYMENT

Midland County: **9.7%**
Great Lakes Bay Region: **11.8%**
State of Michigan: **13.4%**
United States: **9.4%**

Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth, March 2009

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

1016 Recovery Network
42nd Circuit Court Family Division
City of Midland - Council
Community Mental Health of Central Michigan
Community volunteers
County Commission
Department of Human Services
Family & Children's Services
Memorial Presbyterian Church
Midland Area Community Foundation
Midland County Health Dept.
Midland County ESA
Midland County Sheriff Dept.
Midland Police Department
Midland County public schools
MidMichigan Health
Prosecuting Attorney
Region VII Area Agency on Aging
Senior Services
Shelterhouse CDVSA
The Dow Chemical Company
The Legacy Center for Student Success
United Way of Midland County



Substance Abuse Prevention Plan

This past year the Health & Human Services Council sought to provide our community with a Substance Abuse Prevention Plan. Direction was given to a new workgroup to understand the problem and recommend evidence-based solutions.

To do this the workgroup studied the following questions:

- What are our most important substance abuse problems?
- What are the related causes for substance abuse behavior?
- What gaps do we have in resources and services?
- What plan can we develop that will have the biggest impact?
- What relevant data can we measure now for use in the future?

Next, the group looked for proven programs and services to meet the need. This was done by a core group of qualified agencies. The agencies researched evidence-based policies and programs that supported the workgroup’s plan. As part of the recommendation to the plan, the group incorporated asset-building to help inoculate youth from risk-taking behaviors.

In Midland County, we have four agencies that provide most of the substance abuse prevention services. These agencies were brought together to address the challenges that each face in providing prevention services.

The Council reviewed and approved the prevention plan. Success will be shown by a decrease in the following:

- Underage drinking
- Vehicle accidents related to alcohol
- Illicit drug use
- Smoking

Part of our success depends on the four agencies achieving positive results. To show progress as a community, we will compare data on our four focus areas annually.

What the Data Tells Us...

- Drivers under 21 account for 21% of drinking drivers involved in accidents.
- 12% of the DUI arrests in Midland County were drivers 18-20 years old.
- Midland County averages 85 alcohol-related crashes per year.
- The narcotic offense rate in Midland County increased 36% between 2000 and 2004.
- Midland County represents 28% of the heroin users in our region, and has three times more users than Grand Traverse County. (NMSAS)
- One in four Midland County 12th graders reported using illicit drugs at least three times in the last year.
- Smoking rates among area youth dropped from 26% in 2001, to 17% in 2005.
- Only 12% of those earning A/B grades smoked cigarettes, while 42% of those earning D/F grades in Midland County were smokers.

(Midland County Substance Abuse Prevention Strategy, 2008)

FIGURE 1
Midland County Population by Age Group

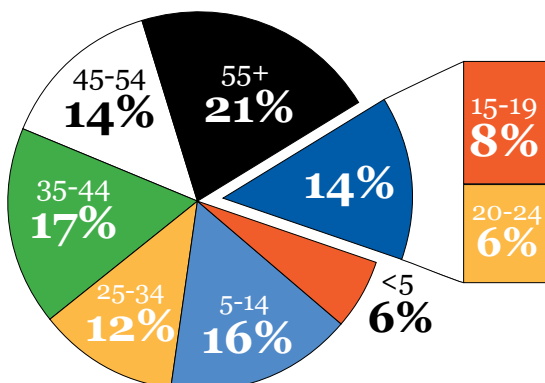


FIGURE 2
Midland County Drinking Drivers Involved in Crashes (by Age Group)

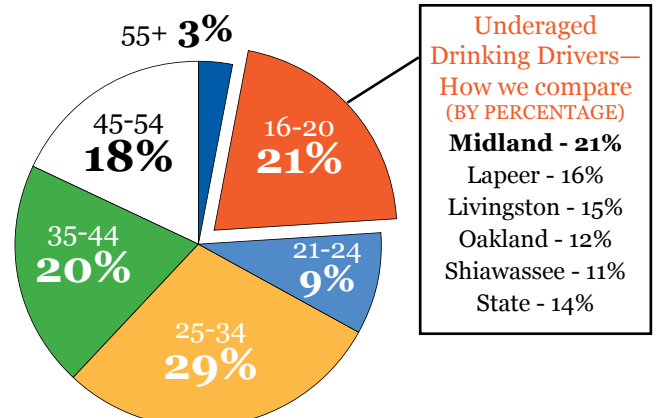


FIGURE 3
Midland vs. Regional Population

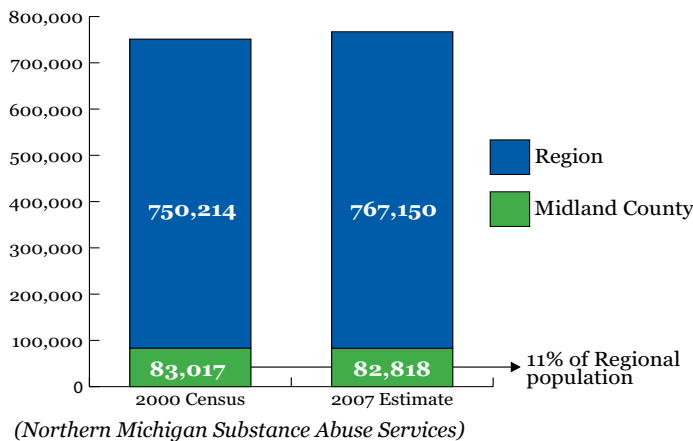
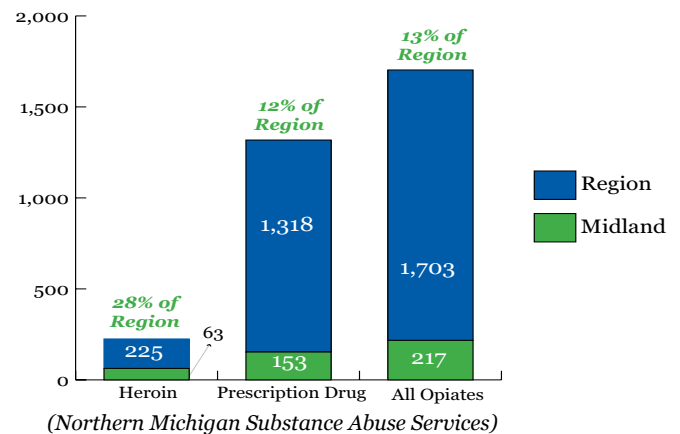


FIGURE 4
2008 Admits to Drug Usage



Key Principles of the Substance Abuse Prevention Plan

- Based on a public health approach
- Focused on outcome-based prevention
- Widens the scope to population-based prevention
- Follows a strategic planning process using epidemiological data to drive decision making

Prevention is a proactive process that empowers individuals, families, communities and systems to meet the challenges of life events and transitions by promoting healthy behaviors and lifestyles, such as:

- Personal skills and strengths
- Family skills and strengths
- Community norms
- Public policy

THE GOAL

The prevention of substance use disorders and the negative consequences as a result of misuse of alcohol and other drugs.

Prevention Principles (SAMHSA) Center for Prevention:

- Alcohol use is acceptable for those of legal age and only when the risk of adverse consequences is minimal
- Prescription and over-the-counter drugs are used only for the purposes for which they are intended
- Other substances (e.g. aerosols) are used only for their intended purposes
- Illegal drugs and tobacco are not used at all

PROBLEMS WITH EARLY USE

- Although consuming alcohol or other drugs at any age can lead to addiction, research shows that the earlier a person begins to use alcohol or other drugs, the more likely they are to progress to more serious abuse. Early use is a strong indicator of problems ahead, among them, substance abuse and addiction.
- Brain development in the area of judgment and decision making is being developed in adolescents. Use of alcohol and other drugs disrupts this development and brain function in critical areas of motivation, memory, learning, judgment and behavior control.
- Teens who begin regular drinking before age 15 or younger are four times likelier to become alcohol dependent than those who start regular drinking at age 21 or older. (CASA analysis of National HSDA-2001)
- Ninety-six percent (96%) of adult pathological drinkers began drinking before age 21.



Prevention is the key!

Meeting the Basic Needs

We define basic needs as resources necessary to be self-sufficient. With poverty levels on the rise and the economy in decline, more and more people in our community are struggling with basic needs. Almost 70% of the calls to First Call for Help are seeking help with basic needs like housing, food, utilities, goods and transportation.

Nearly 90% of low-income households with at least one child under the age of 12 relies on food pantries, soup kitchens or free lunch programs. We have 17 local food pantries in Midland County. One of the ways that these pantries are supported is through Hidden Harvest, who rescue and deliver more than 100,000 pounds of surplus food per month in Midland.

Through the efforts of the Midland County Continuum of Care, along with the Council, over \$1.2 million in new resources have been received in our community to help address area housing needs.

Domestic Violence Housing Initiative

This program offers permanent housing, support and advocacy services to survivors of domestic violence. Through grants received through the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, 9 single- and 1 double-family homes were purchased during 2007-08.

Housing Choice Voucher and HARP Vouchers

Both programs are designed to help those living in poverty maintain housing on their own. Currently, 305 Housing Choice Vouchers have been issued in Midland County. Midland Area Homes processed 73 HARP applications in 2008, with 14 vouchers being issued.

Tenant-Based Rental Assistance

Throughout 2007 and 2008, this program helped 11 homeless families secure and maintain housing through Midland Area Homes. Case management and budgeting support are also provided.

What the Data Tells Us...

- Homeless rates have increased 53% since 2005. *(Point In Time Count, 2005-09)*
- Midland has lost 86 low-income housing units in the last two years, while the need continues to rise.
- Nearly one in three public school students in Midland County receives free or reduced hot lunches.
- 64% of single mother households with children under five live in poverty.
- Requests for propane assistance increased by nearly 50% in January 2009 over the previous January. *(First Call for Help)*
- The percentage of families living in poverty in Midland County increased to 8.5%.
- One in eight Midland County women receive less than adequate pre-natal care. *(Status of Young Children in Midland Co.)*
- One in 10 infants in Midland County are born to mothers without a high school diploma. *(Status of Young Children in Midland Co.)*

FIGURE 5
Federal Poverty/Income Guidelines for 2009

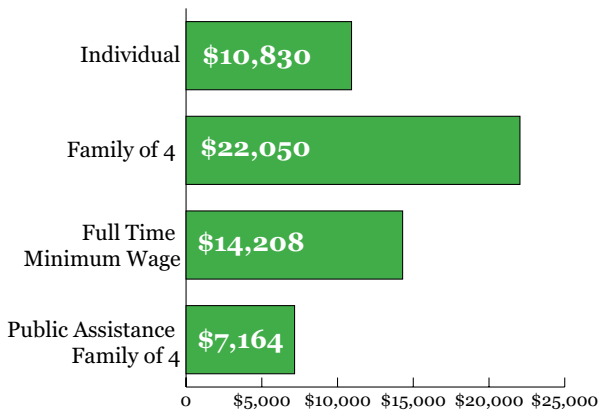


FIGURE 6
Percentage of Population Whose Income is Below Poverty Level 2005-2007

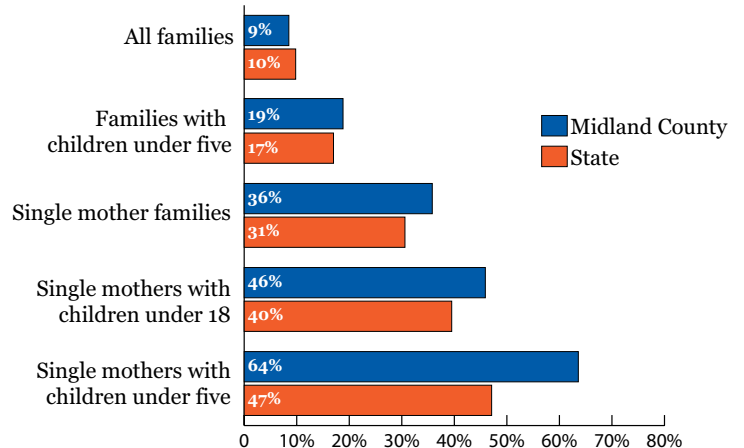


FIGURE 7
Total Housing Units
35,225 UNITS

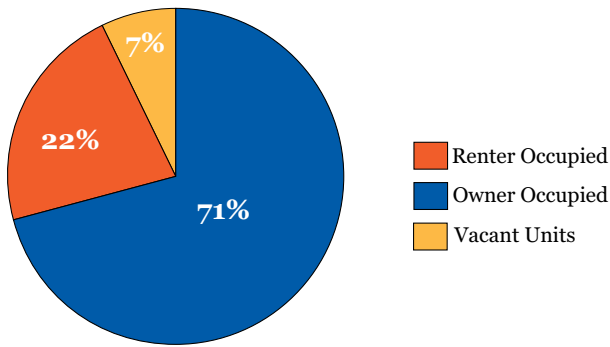


FIGURE 8
House Heating Fuel Sources

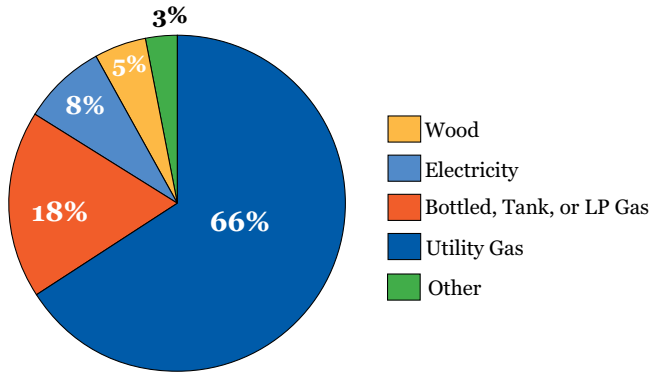


FIGURE 9
Midland County Homeless Counts

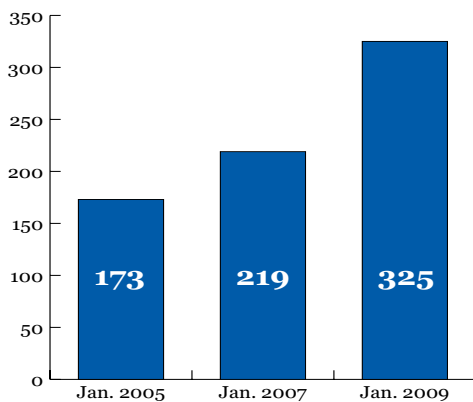


FIGURE 10
Poverty Rates from 2005-2007

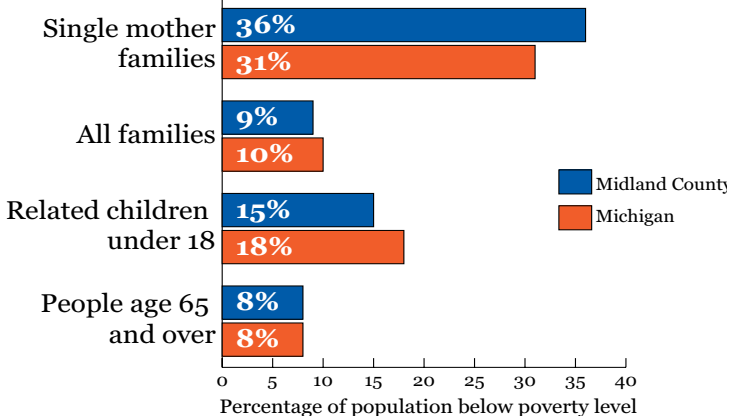


FIGURE 11
Foreclosures
(Unredeemed Sheriff's Deeds)

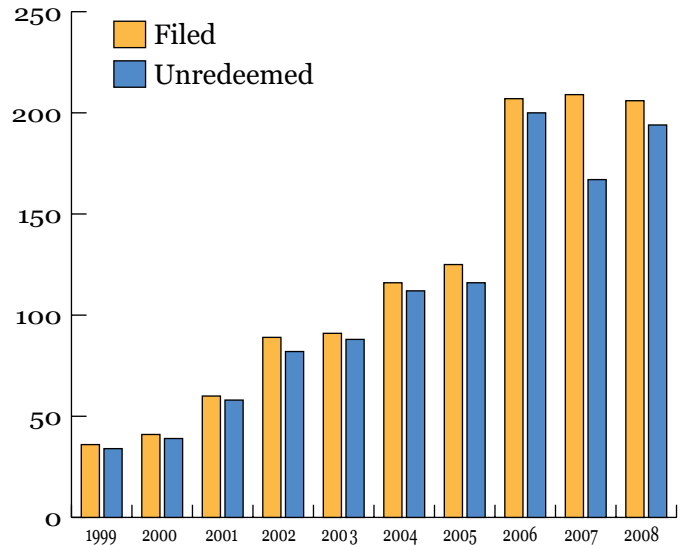
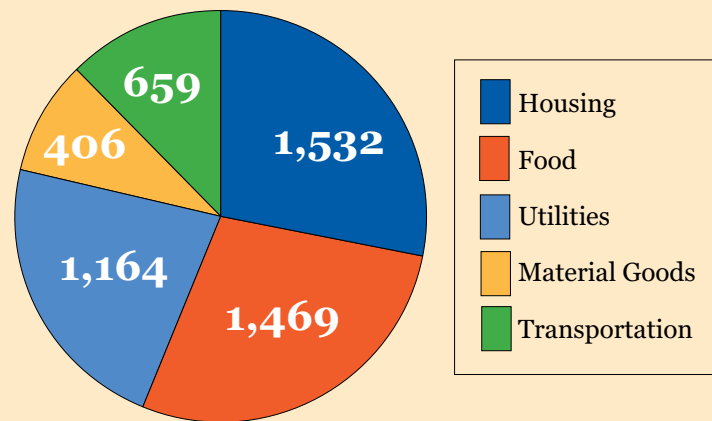


FIGURE 12
First Call for Help
Requests for Basic Needs



- In 2008, First Call for Help answered 8,066 calls, an increase of 4% over 2007.
- Over 68% of calls were for basic needs (housing, food, utilities, transportation and material goods).
- September 2008 had the largest number of requests for assistance with food in the last two years.
- 33% of all calls were for items that are associated with housing (rent, mortgage, shelter, housing lists and utility assistance)
- The top *unmet needs* (not met through FCFH) for 2008 and the first quarter of 2009 were related to medical bill payment and health insurance and transportation.

Improving life for our youth

Our community has a tradition of improving the conditions for our children and youth. Success-By-Six (SB6) was established in 2000 by United Way of Midland County as an initiative focused on early childhood development for all children in Midland County. With the leadership and support of the Council, the SB6 partnership quickly became an essential tool for coordinated and collaborative service delivery.

At the time, community leaders recognized that Midland had a wide range of existing services and programs for children under the age of six. What was missing was a comprehensive strategy or coordinated system to maximize resources to their fullest potential and address gaps in service. SB6 provided this by focusing on measurable results.

The SB6 partnership received a boost this year with the establishment of the Great Start Collaborative to further the investment in our youth. The Council has created a strategy for the rest of our area youth, through a comprehensive Youth Master Plan.

This long-range “blueprint” supports positive opportunities for our youth to flourish and thrive, including:

- Improve the quality of life for area youth
- Align information and programs to achieve community goals
- Leverage expertise to minimize duplication of programs and services
- Reduce administrative costs through streamlining

A “dashboard” (below) has been developed to both measure and track outcomes for our most valuable asset—our children.



COMMUNITY DATA AFFECTING AREA YOUTH

Students in Special Education:

17.1% or 2,395

High School Graduation Rate (up to 25 years old): **90.7%**

Bachelor’s degree or higher: **31.9%**

Disabled (age five and above): **14.1%**

Health Insurance in Midland County (Children 0-18 years old)

Insured by Medicaid: **28%**

Insured by MI Child: **1.2%**

Uninsured (2000 Census): **7.1%**

Total (State or no insurance): **36.3%**

What the Data Tells Us...

- There has been a 42% increase in the number of confirmed cases of child abuse and neglect in Midland County since 2000. *(Status of Young Children in Midland Co.)*
- The number of young children in foster care has increased 19% since 2003. *(Status of Young Children in Midland Co.)*
- 60% of parents with children under six are in the labor force. *(Status of Young Children in Midland Co.)*
- 29% of Midland youth report being victims of violence.
- Only 26% of youth feel that adults value them, and only 31% feel they have an adult role model.
- One in four teenage girls were frequently depressed or have attempted suicide.
- When children have more positive experiences and qualities that influence choices (assets) they are less likely to engage in risky behaviors.

(Remaining data: Profiles of Student Life: Attitudes and Behaviors)

FIGURE 13

Youth Master Plan Development Process

