A Profile of Selected Community Outcome Measures for the Monroe County Hispanic Population

Prepared for:
United Way of Greater Rochester

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Project Director

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Summary

The United Way is in the process of conducting a Hispanic Community Assessment: Assets and Opportunities project. As part of the project, CGR was asked to analyze selected community outcomes measures for Monroe County's Hispanic/Latino population.

CGR (Center for Governmental Research) was hired to implement and produce this Hispanic community-wide profile of measures of progress within three broad Impact Areas (Success by Six, Kids on Track, and Strengthening Families). This report is part of a series of reports CGR is producing for the Hispanic Community Assessment Committee; they should be reviewed together to assess the overall profile of the Hispanic Community. The first report in the series (produced in October, 2000) profiled changes in the Hispanic/Latino population from 1970 to 1990, using Census data. That report will be updated in 2001 with data from the 2000 Census.

Decisions as to which measures to include in this profile were based on two primary considerations: (1) measures that best reflect important aspects of the lives of Hispanic individuals and families, and (2) availability of data for which Hispanic/Latino breakdowns were possible.

Major Trends

Healthy birth data (e.g., low birth weight, early prenatal care, teen pregnancy and teen births) are consistently stable or improving among Hispanics, but total community outcomes remain consistently better on each of these measures than for Hispanics, and rates for both Hispanics and the total population fall short of national Healthy People 2000 goals.

Hispanic student performance on the first administration of the Grades 4 and 8 ELA and Math statewide competency tests are well below the total county population results, with the vast majority of all Hispanic students not meeting the minimal standards on any of the four tests.

Hispanic student suspension rates have increased in recent years. Dropout rates for Hispanic students are typically about twice as high as the rates for all students. Of those who graduate, about 2/3 or more go on to post-secondary education.

Foster care out-of-home placements are relatively stable from year to year, although in recent years more Hispanic children have been in placement at any given time, suggesting that they may be in placement for longer periods of time than before.

Substantial proportions (about a third to more than 40%) of Hispanic high school students report using tobacco, alcohol and marijuana within the past 30 days, with around 15% reporting use of cocaine, sniffing glue or aerosols, driving while intoxicated, and using other drugs. These proportions are typically similar to those in the total county high school population.

Hispanic youth arrests have declined somewhat in recent years. About a quarter of Hispanic high school students reported carrying a weapon to school in the past month, including almost 20% reporting carrying a gun. Almost 10% reported missing at least a day of school because of feeling unsafe going to or from school.

Overall Hispanic arrest rates have remained stable or declined in recent years, but are consistently substantially higher for all major groups of crime than in the total population.

Hispanics have much higher unemployment rates, lower home ownership rates, and lower per capita income levels than does the overall population.

Hispanic AIDS and suicide death rates, while typically higher than corresponding rates for the entire population, have been declining consistently since the mid-1990s.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

Background

In recent years there has been a national movement to develop community-wide priority outcomes and to document community progress against a set of defined outcomes and related indicators and measures of success. The Rochester/Monroe County community has been engaged in a number of initiatives to develop such measures and to track how well the community is doing in selected areas.

Believing that the measurement of progress against defined outcomes is a key component in the Monroe County community's ability to develop and monitor appropriate initiatives and strategies to address community priorities, a broad-based coalition of organizations and individuals has created an Hispanic Community Assessment Committee.

CGR (Center for Governmental Research) was hired to implement and produce this Hispanic community-wide profile of measures of progress within three broad Impact Areas (Success by Six, Kids on Track, and Strengthening Families). This report is part of a series of reports CGR is producing for the Hispanic Community Assessment Committee; they should be reviewed together to assess the overall profile of the Hispanic Community. The first report in the series (produced in October, 2000) profiled changes in the Hispanic/Latino population from 1970 to 1990, using Census data. That report will be updated in 2001 with data from the 2000 Census.

Purpose of Hispanic Community Profile

As the community invests its finite resources in specific outcome/impact areas, and defines the outcomes it wishes and expects as a result of those investments, it ultimately needs to be able to determine what impact the investments have. Thus, the community needs to measure progress against the desired outcomes over time, allowing for an assessment of where the community is on track in improving outcomes, and where corrective action may be needed in the future. This profile, which incorporates in one document a number of community-wide

outcomes, indicators, and measures of the Hispanic population, is a tool to help the community periodically assess on a comprehensive basis how it is doing in effecting change across the Hispanic/Latino population.

Project Methodology

CGR has worked with a wide variety of sources to obtain and analyze the necessary data. CGR staff have worked closely with agency heads, planners, and data collection/technical experts at both the local and state levels to access the needed information. We are grateful for their support and cooperation. Sources for all measures are cited as the data are presented, though CGR is solely responsible for the analysis of the data.

This report is based on the July 1999 Greater Rochester/Monroe County Community Profile. It was agreed that selected measures from that larger profile would be identified for inclusion in this Hispanic profile of outcomes. The United Way and CGR selected representative measures of each of the community-wide outcomes within the United Way's Success by Six, Kids on Track, and Strengthening Families Impact Areas.

Decisions as to which measures to include in this profile were based on two primary considerations: (1) measures that best reflect important aspects of the lives of Hispanic individuals and families, and (2) availability of data for which Hispanic/Latino breakdowns were possible. In far too many cases, either important outcome measures are not routinely maintained by racial/ethnic breakdowns, or the quality and reliability of the data are suspect. Thus some important measures are not included because adequate Hispanic breakdowns were not available. Further, as pointed out in the Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency report, *Nuestra Salud*, Hispanic origin is likely under-reported or misreported. While this assumption is unproven, ethnicity linked with many data such as births, deaths, and hospitalizations is based on a data clerk's perception of whether the individual "appears" to be Hispanic, has a Hispanic surname, or is speaking Spanish. If such undercounting of Hispanics occurs systematically, it could have important repercussions for the interpretation of data presented in this report and other reports that focus on the Hispanic population.

Nonetheless, CGR feels that sufficient data were available for each desired outcome within each of the Impact Areas to be able to provide a valuable and extensive assessment of how Monroe County's Hispanic community is currently doing, and of progress made over time, on a number of important dimensions of life affecting Hispanic children, adults, and families.

Relationship to Other "Community Profile" Projects

A number of other important initiatives are underway to gauge community progress around specific issues that are very much related to this project. These include:

The Monroe County Community Profile—CGR released this report in 1999. The countywide community profile provides a "snapshot" of how the community is doing. The analysis of more than 150 measures is intended as a baseline against which subsequent profiles can objectively assess changes in the Monroe County population. This Hispanic Profile report contains a subset of the measures presented in the Monroe County Community Profile.

The Monroe County Health Action Initiative—guided by the County Health Department, in partnership with several community agencies—which periodically produces report cards designed to stimulate community action in the areas of maternal/child health, adolescent health, adult health, older adult health, and environmental health.

Nuestra Salud—This 1999 report from the Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency is a comprehensive assessment of the health status of Hispanics in the Rochester area. The study includes a set of recommendations for action to improve the health status of this growing population.

The Youth Risk Behavior Survey—This survey, validated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has been conducted nationally and in several states and localities since 1990. Survey goals include assessment of health risk behaviors among high school students, and the ability to monitor changes in these behaviors over time.

Each of these efforts plays a significant role in the community, and each has important information to share. However, the Hispanic community profile presented in this document combines coverage of wide areas of impact with comprehensive data about the Hispanic community.

Definitions: Outcomes, Indicators, and Measures

It is important to define terms that will be used throughout the remainder of the report: community-wide outcomes, indicators, and measures.

Outcomes: An outcome has been defined as an "inherently valued state of being" or a "state of optimal well-being for people within a community." Examples include good health, personal safety, and financial security.

Indicators: Indicators are more specific "measurable standards" or "gauges of progress" that "stipulate the appropriate direction of change to achieve outcomes." For example, lower incidence of crime is one indicator of the "personal safety" outcome; better employment opportunities would be a potential indicator of the "financial security" outcome.

Measures: Measures are "specific and concrete sources of data used to operationalize indicators." For example, the annual number of violent crimes per 100,000 population is one measure of the "lower incidence of crime" indicator.

Contents and Format of Community Profile

The community profile that follows is designed to be as concise and user-friendly as possible. The profile presents a graph and brief narrative description for each measure. The profile includes the following:

- For each measure with available data, the information is presented in a consistent format, with a graph and an analytical narrative which includes three brief sections: **Definition** of the measure, **Trends** in the data, and **Caveats** that the reader should be aware of in interpreting the data.

- For each measure for which data are available, data are presented for the Hispanic population of Monroe County, as well as for the population of Monroe County as a whole.

In some cases, data are available for the City of Rochester and for the suburbs.

Few "Perfect" Measures

There are few "perfect" measures. Nearly all have some flaws, imperfections and limitations. Nonetheless, CGR is comfortable that the measures, individually and collectively, have enough positive attributes and value to offset any limitations. In some cases, there are several measures that are adequate, but none that are perfect reflections by themselves of a particular indicator or outcome. In those instances, several measures have been used to cumulatively "capture the essence" of that indicator or outcome.

Context is Important

It is important to keep in mind that no single measure should be reviewed in isolation without putting it into a larger context. Rarely does a single measure—or even a group of measures—in isolation tell a story that sufficiently explains the community's progress or lack of progress around a particular outcome or indicator. Without discussing the interrelationship of different measures, the presentation of the measures is likely to be relatively unhelpful to the community and worse, some data could potentially be misinterpreted or taken out of context, and thereby result in misleading conclusions. Thus this report is not meant to substitute for the experiences and judgments of community leaders, or to prescribe specific solutions for issues facing the community, but rather should be used as an important supplementary tool to help identify areas where the community appears to be doing well along with issues needing further attention.

SUCCESS BY SIX IMPACT AREA

Introduction

This first Impact Area is designed to track how well the community is doing in creating environments in which young children can be born healthy, live in stable family settings, thrive and develop at levels appropriate to their age, and be ready for and able to succeed in school.

Although called Success by 6, this Impact Area might be more accurately described as Success by 9, as those who monitor progress in this area have included early school years within the scope of their area of responsibility.

Several of the indicators and measures used to define progress in this Impact Area overlap to some extent with indicators and measures in the Kids on Track and Strengthening Families Impact Areas. Thus, the report should be reviewed in its entirety, rather than isolating attention on individual Impact Areas.

Outcome I:
Healthy Births

Indicator 1: Low Birth Weight Babies

Measure: Low Birth Weight Babies

Definition: Percentage of live births with birth weight of below 2,500 grams. Babies with higher birth weights are less likely to experience medical and developmental problems than those with lower birth weights.

Low Birth Weight Babies

Source: NYS Department of Health County Profile
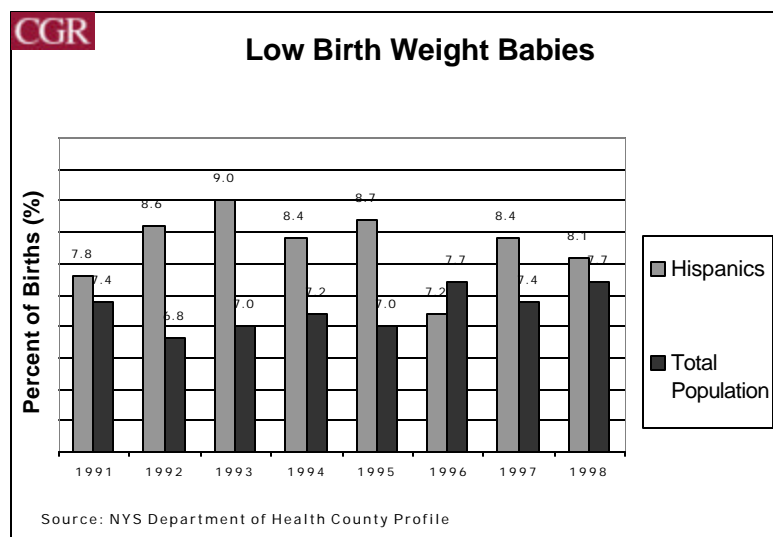
Trends: The percentage of Hispanic babies born who weigh less than 2,500 grams has dropped slightly over the last several years, at approximately 9% in the early part of the decade, but dropping consistently to between 7% and 8.5% in 1996-1998. The rates among the Hispanic population have consistently been higher than among the total population, although that gap narrowed from 1996 to 1998. While the rates have been lower among the Hispanic population in recent years, they still do not approach the Healthy People 2000 goal of no more than 5 per 100 births.

Caveats: None.

Indicator 2: Early and Continuous Prenatal Care

Measure: Births with 1st Trimester Care

Definition: Percent of births in which the mother received 1st trimester care.
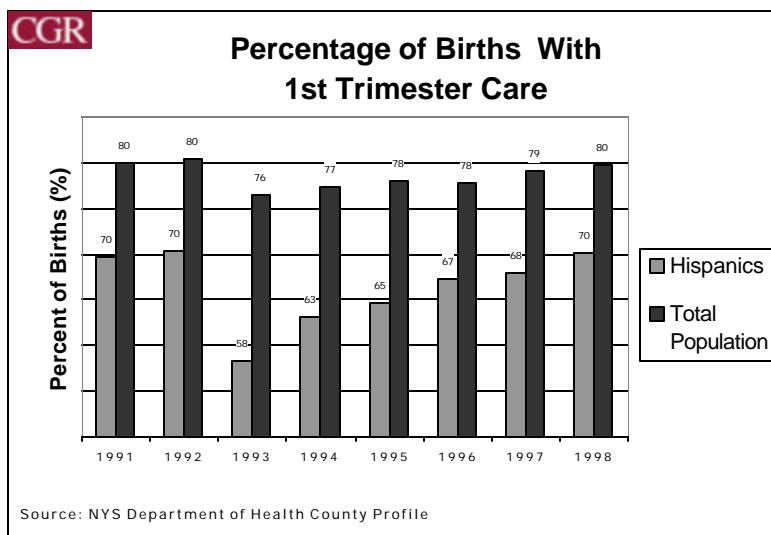
Trends: The percentage of live births of Hispanic infants whose mothers received first trimester care has increased steadily between 1993 (58%) and 1998 (70%). Meanwhile, the percentage of live births of all infants in Monroe County whose mothers received first trimester care has remained steady between 76% and 80% during the same time period. While 1st trimester care among Hispanics lags the general population, the rate of this important care is increasing. The Healthy People 2000 goal for 1st trimester care is 90% of all pregnancies.

Caveats: In 1993 the New York State Health Department changed the method of determining when prenatal care began; hence the shift in percentages starting in 1993.

Indicator 3: Fewer Births to Teen Females

Measure: Live Births to Females Aged 15-19

Definition: Number of live births per 1,000 females ages 15-19.

Monroe County Teen Birth Rates: Females Ages 15-19

Source: NYS Department of Health County Profile; CGR
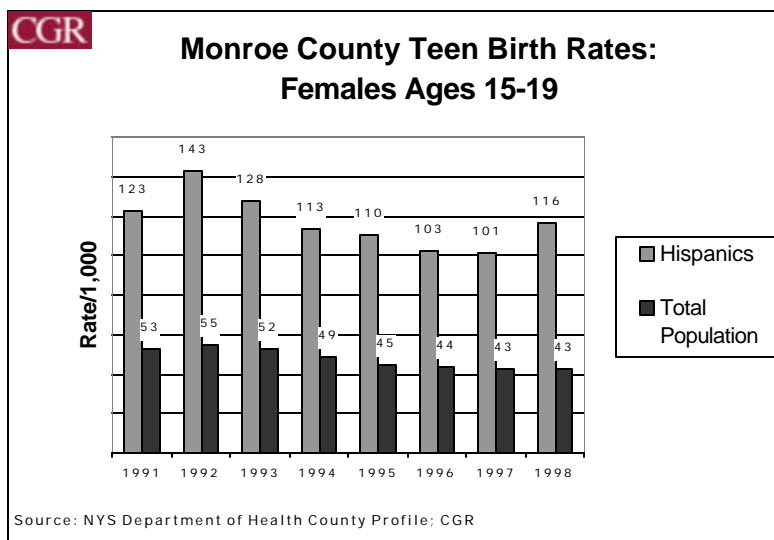
Trends: Rates of live births to teens ages 15-19 are declining countywide among the total population, and declined among the Hispanic population until 1998, when an upturn occurred. Overall, rates of teen births have consistently been more than twice as high in the Hispanic population compared to the total population.

Caveats: None.

Outcome II:
Children Ready for
School

*Indicator 1:
Kindergarten Screening
Tests*

Measure: Percent of students failing Kindergarten screening test.

Definition: Percent of students failing a kindergarten screening test on one of five critical skills.

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Kindergarten Screening Test Failures, 1992-93

% Students Failing

Cognition: 4% Hispanics, 2% Total
Vision: 6% Hispanics, 5% Total
Hearing: 17% Hispanics, 13% Total
Motor Skills: 14% Hispanics, 17% Total
Language: 34% Hispanics, 22% Total

■ Hispanics
■ Total Students Screened

Source: FLHSA, Nuestra Salud, p. 23, September 1999
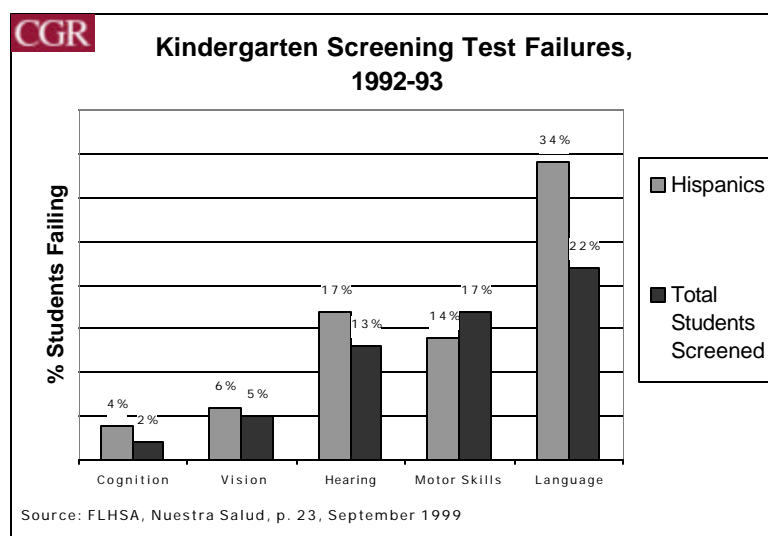
Trends: City Hispanic children fared more poorly than the total City School District population of kindergarten-aged children on cognition, vision, hearing, and language abilities. In particular, 34% of Hispanic children failed the Kindergarten screening test for language, compared to 22% of all screened children. On the other hand, Hispanic children were slightly less likely than the total student population to fail the screen for motor skills abilities.

Caveats: These data are for city school district children only. The data is not available on a county-wide basis. Data are available for only one year, and are eight years old. Further, some research has found that Kindergarten screening by type of skill is an unreliable measure of school performance.

Outcome III: Children Succeeding in School

Indicator 1: Improved Academic Achievement

Measure: Student Performance on Grade 4 ELA test.

Definition: The percent of students scoring at various levels of competency on the Grade 4 ELA test, the new statewide assessment of performance initiated in the 1998-1999 school year.[1]

CGR
Student Performance on Grade 4 ELA Test 1998-1999

Legend: Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, Level 4

Suburbs — Total: 4%, 32%, 57%, 8%; Hispanic: 8%, 55%, 34%, 3%
Rochester — Total: 19%, 57%, 23%, 1%; Hispanic: 18%, 61%, 21%, 1%
Monroe County — Total: 9%, 39%, 46%, 6%; Hispanic: 16%, 60%, 24%, 1%

Percent of Students

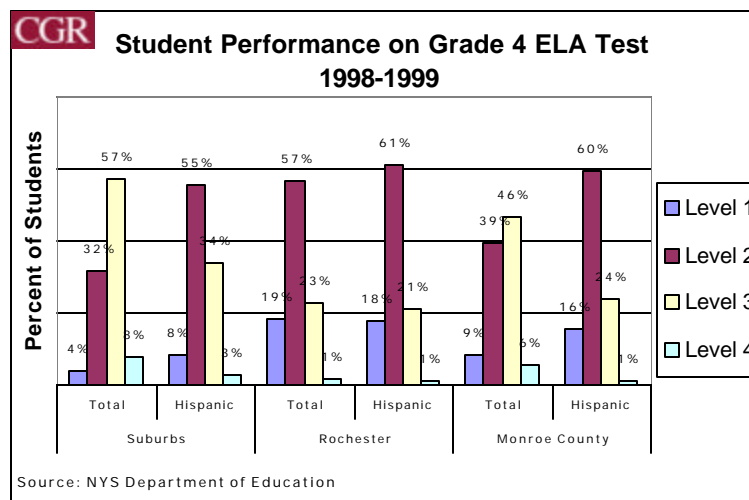Source: NYS Department of Education

Trends: Students can score at four levels, with Level 4 as the highest level of achievement. The majority of Hispanic students scored at Level 2 on the Grade 4 ELA test (60%), with one-quarter (25%) scoring at Level 3 or 4 (compared with 52% of all students county-wide). Hispanic students in the suburbs were more likely than their urban counterparts to score at the higher Levels 3 and 4.

Caveats: These data are for public school districts only. Test scores are not adjusted for poverty. It will be important to monitor trends as data become available for subsequent years.

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[1] Level 4: These students exceed the standards and are moving toward high performance on the Regents examination. Level 3: These students meet the standards and, with continued steady growth, should pass the Regents examination. Level 2: These students need extra help to meet the standards and pass the Regents examination. Level 1: These students have serious academic deficiencies.

Measure: Student Performance on Grade 4 Math Test

Definition: The percent of students scoring at various levels of competency on the Grade 4 Math test, the new statewide assessment of performance initiated in the 1998-1999 school year.[2]
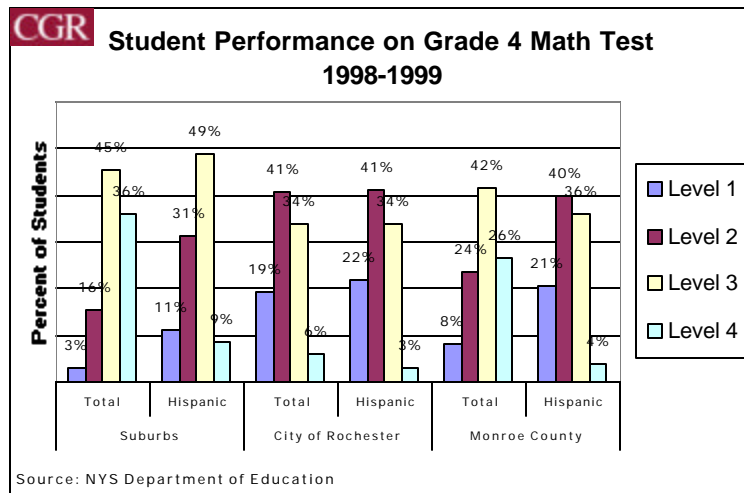

Trends: Students can score at four levels on the test, with Level 4 as the highest level of competency. Many Hispanic students scored at Level 2 on the Grade 4 Math test (40%), with one-third (36%) scoring at Level 3. Overall, 40% of all Hispanic students meet or exceed the state standards (Level 3 or 4), compared with 68% of all students county-wide. Hispanic students in the suburbs were more likely than their urban counterparts to score at levels 3 and 4.

Caveats: These data are for public school districts only. Test scores are not adjusted for poverty. It will be important to monitor trends as data become available for subsequent years.
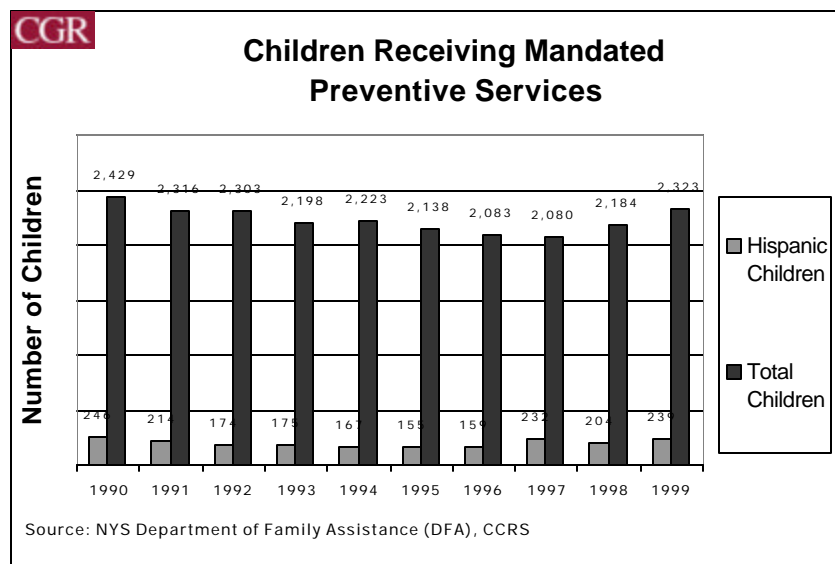
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[2] Level 4: These students exceed the standards and are moving toward high performance on the Regents examination. Level 3: These students meet the standards and, with continued steady growth, should pass the Regents examination. Level 2: These students need extra help to meet the standards and pass the Regents examination. Level 1: These students have serious academic deficiencies.

Outcome IV:
Family Stability

Indicator 1: Safer and More Supportive Living Environment

Measure: Children Receiving Mandated Preventive Services, 1990-1999

Definition: The number of children ages 0–18 receiving mandated preventive services on the last day of the year. This includes children in foster care, as well as those not in foster care.

CGR

Children Receiving Mandated Preventive Services

Number of Children

| | | |
2,429 2,316 2,303 2,198 2,223 2,138 2,083 2,080 2,184 2,323

246 212 174 175 167 155 159 232 204 239

1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999

Hispanic Children

Total Children

Source: NYS Department of Family Assistance (DFA), CCRS

Trends: The trend in the number of children receiving mandated services between 1990 and 1999 is similar for the Hispanic population and the total population. In both populations, the number of cases declined steadily from 1990 through the mid-1990s, then began an upturn. As of 1999, caseloads for both populations approached their 1990 levels. Note: the Hispanic population ages 0-17 in Monroe County was not available; therefore, we could not calculate <u>rates</u> of services received.

Caveats: This measure may not be an accurate reflection of need, as the number of children receiving services may be influenced in part by resource limitations unrelated to actual need for services. Further, increases in the number of children served may result from improved reporting procedures.

Indicator 2: Reduced Child Abuse and Neglect

Measure: Children Admitted to Foster Care

Definition: Foster Care includes all activities and functions provided relative to the care of a child under 18 who is placed in a foster family free home or a duly certified foster family boarding home, group home, agency boarding home, child care institution, health care facility or any combination thereof. Admissions are defined as the number of children admitted for out-of-home residential care during a calendar year.

CGR

Hispanic Children Admitted to Foster Care, Monroe County

- Hispanic Admission
- Total Admissions

Source: NYS Department of Family Assistance
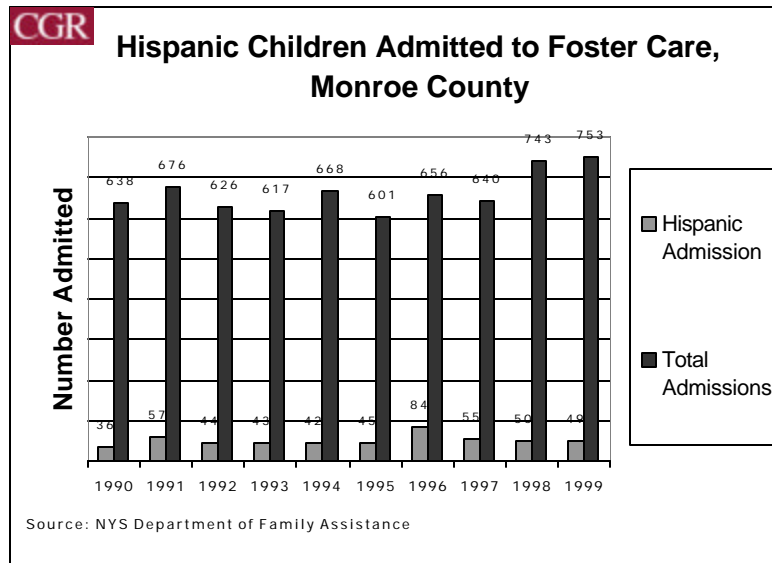
Trends: The number of Hispanic children admitted each year has remained relatively stable between 36 and 57, except for a high outlier in 1996. In the meantime, admissions among the total county population has increased since 1995. Since population data for Hispanic children ages 0-17 is not available, we were unable to calculate admission rates.

Caveats: A reduction in placements may not necessarily mean a reduction in the number of children in need. For example, capacity limits or cost reduction policies may affect placement rates.

Measure: Children in Foster Care

Definition: Foster Care includes all activities and functions provided relative to the care of a child under 18 who is placed in a foster family free home or a duly certified foster family boarding home, group home, agency boarding home, child care institution, health care facility or any combination thereof. In care is defined as the total children in foster care as of the last day of each year.
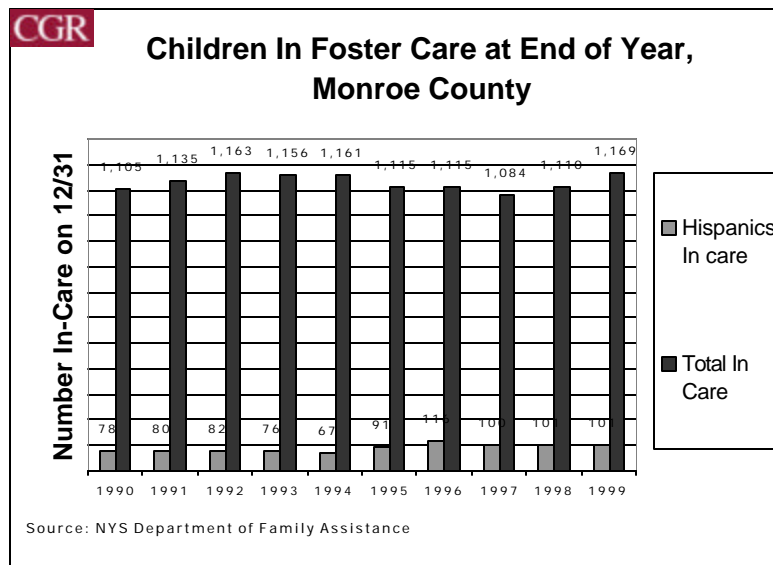
Trends: The number of Hispanic children in care each year has increased since 1994, when 67 children were in care, compared to 101 children in care in both 1998 and 1999. Since population data for Hispanic children ages 0-17 is not available, we were unable to calculate admission rates. These data suggest that even though new admissions have remained relatively stable, placements have lasted longer in recent years.

**Caveats**: None.

KIDS ON TRACK IMPACT AREA

Introduction

This Impact Area includes children and youth from the age of 10 through 21, and is designed to track how well the community is doing with children in the latter years of elementary school through middle and high school, and adolescence in general.

Outcome I: Children Succeeding in School

Indicator 1: Improved Academic Achievement

Measure: Student Performance on the Grade 8 ELA Test

Definition: This measure indicates the percent of students who scored at various levels of competency on the Grade 8 ELA Test, the new statewide assessment of performance initiated in the 1998-1999 school year.[3]

Student Performance on Grade 8 ELA Test, 1998-1999

Source: NYS Department of Education
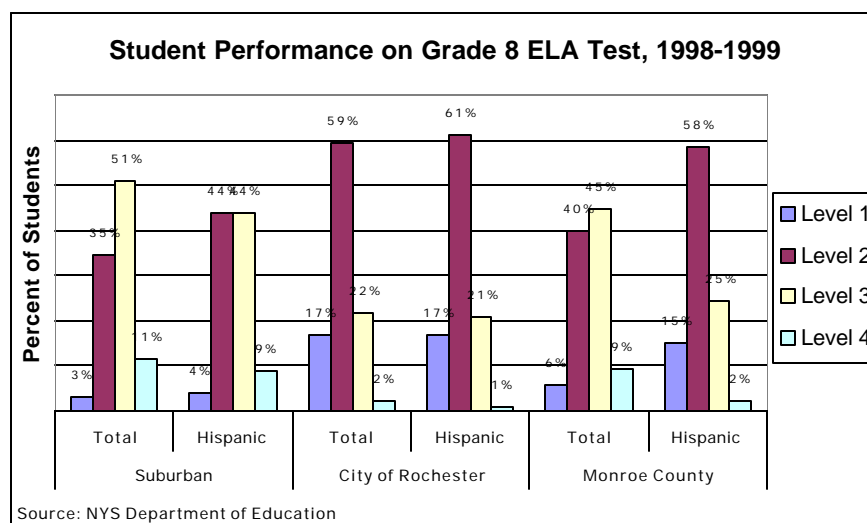
Trends: Fifteen percent of Hispanic students countywide scored on the Grade 8 ELA test at the lowest level, while more than half (58%) scored at Level 2. A quarter scored at Level 3, and only 2% scored at Level 4. This 27% meeting or exceeding statewide standards compares with 54% of all students countywide. Suburban Hispanic students were more likely to score at Levels 3 or 4 (53%) than their urban counterparts.

Caveats: These data are for public school districts only. Test score performance is not adjusted for poverty. It will be important to monitor trends as data become available for subsequent years.

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[3] Level 4: These students exceed the standards and are moving toward high performance on the Regents examination. Level 3: These students meet the standards and, with continued steady growth, should pass the Regents examination. Level 2: These students need extra help to meet the standards and pass the Regents examination. Level 1: These students have serious academic deficiencies.

Measure: Student Performance on Grade 8 Math Test

Definition: This measure indicates the percent of students who scored at various levels of competency on the Grade 8 Math Test, the new statewide assessment of performance initiated in the 1998-1999 school year.[4]
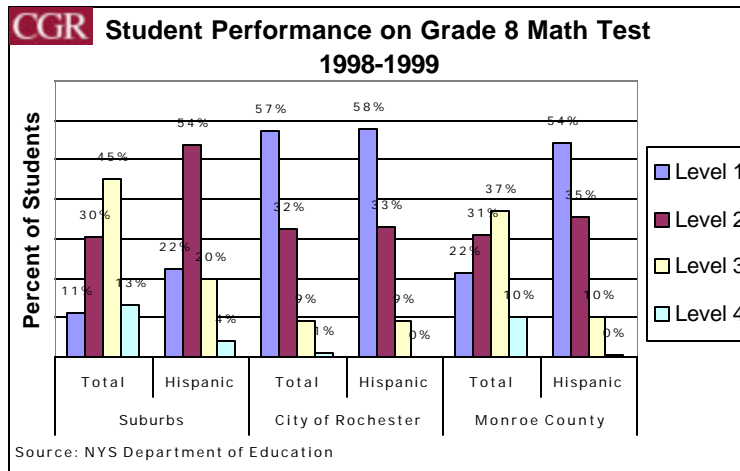

CGR | **Student Performance on Grade 8 Math Test 1998-1999**

Source: NYS Department of Education

Trends: More than half (54%) of Hispanic students scored at the lowest level of competency, Level 1, on the Grade 8 math test. Another third (35%) scored at Level 2, while only 10% scored at Level 3 and none scored at the highest level of competency, Level 4. By comparison, 47% of all students scored at Levels 3 or 4. Hispanic students in the suburbs were more likely to score at higher levels than those in the city, but even in these suburban schools, only 24% met or exceeded state standards.

Caveats: These data are for public school districts only. Test score performance is not adjusted for poverty. It will be important to monitor trends as data become available for subsequent years.

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[4] Level 4: These students exceed the standards and are moving toward high performance on the Regents examination. Level 3: These students meet the standards and, with continued steady growth, should pass the Regents examination. Level 2: These students need extra help to meet the standards and pass the Regents examination. Level 1: These students have serious academic deficiencies.

Indicator 2: Higher Graduation Rates

Measure: High School Drop Out Rates

Definition: Pupils who left school prior to graduation for any reason other than death, and did not transfer to another school. The rate (measured as a percent) is derived from the number of grade 9-12 public school dropouts during the school year, divided by grade 9-12 enrollment.
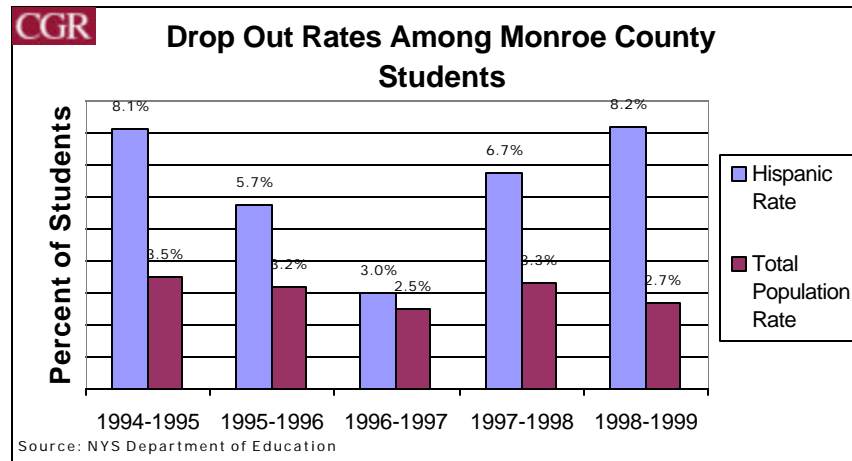
Trends: Drop out rates declined for Hispanic students between 1994-1995 (8%) and 1996 (3%), and then increased back to 1994 levels as of 1998-1999. Suburban Hispanic students were about half as likely in most years to drop out of school as their counterparts in the city of Rochester. Overall, Hispanic students had higher drop out rates than the total student population.

Caveats: These data are for public schools only. The intensity with which districts encourage dropouts to return to school varies among districts and school years. Many students who are encouraged to return, ultimately drop out again. Higher dropout rates, therefore, are not always indicative of worse performance. A better measure of dropout rates would be to determine what percentage of entering 9th grade students graduate. Unfortunately, that information cannot now be obtained consistently from all school districts.

Indicator 3: Graduation to Employment/Higher Education

Measure: Graduation Destination

Definition: Information on graduate destination is reported by school principals in the fall following graduation. This measure represents plans of public school graduates at the time of graduation.

Graduation Destination

Source: NYS Department of Education
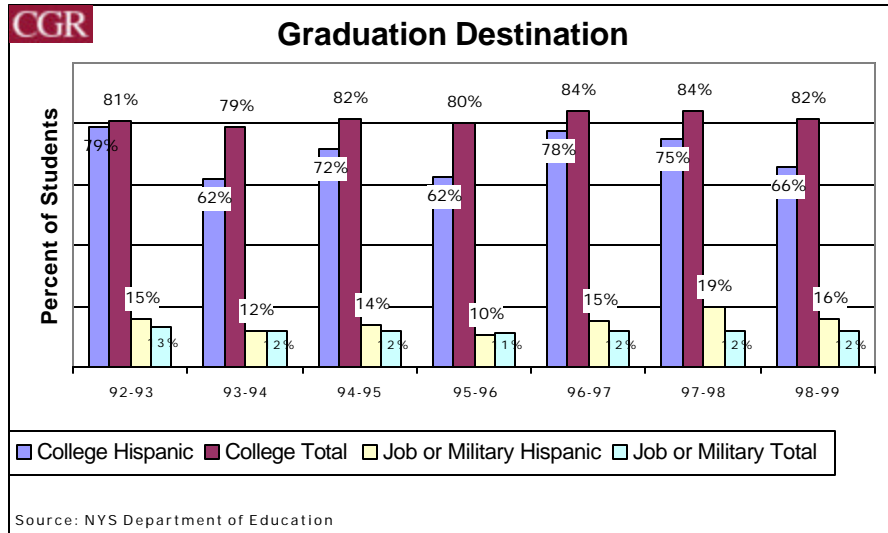
Trends: More than two-thirds of Hispanic graduating seniors have made plans to go on to college during the 1990s. In 1999, 66% of Hispanic graduating seniors planned to go to college (less than the peak of 79% in 1992-1993), while 16% planned to go on to employment or the military. Hispanics are somewhat less likely to have plans to go to college compared to the total graduating population. While 81% of Hispanic graduates and 79% of all graduates planned to go to college in 1993, this two percentage point difference widened to an 16 percentage point difference by 1999.

Caveats: Verification of the extent to which plans are actualized is not conducted by the school districts. Because individual district data are not always consistently collected or reported, these data are best analyzed at the county level.

*Indicator 4: Fewer
Suspensions*

Measure: Middle School Suspension Rates

Definition: The number of middle/junior high school students who were suspended from school for at least one full day, divided by the total middle school enrollment. Data pertain only to out-of-school suspensions and include both short-term and long-term suspensions.

Suspension Rates Among Middle School Students in the City of Rochester

CGR

Percentage of Enrolled Students

	Hispanic	Total Population
1994-95	30%	33%
1995-96	27%	30%
1996-97	26%	33%
1997-98	42%	
1998-99	42%	

Source: NYS Department of Education
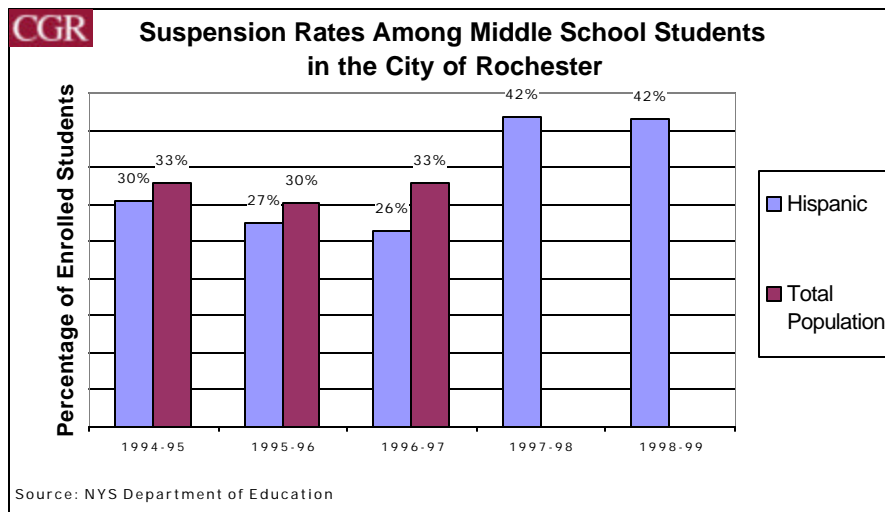
Trends: Suspension rates among Hispanic middle school students in the city of Rochester remained steady in the mid-1990s, but increased in the late 1990s to 42%. In the mid-1990s, where comparison data are available for the total city middle school population, suspension rates for Hispanics were slightly lower than suspension rates for the total middle school population.

Caveats: Higher suspension rates can sometimes reflect a more disciplined/stricter learning environment, i.e., rates may vary by policy and implementation between schools, and so lower rates do not necessarily mean that students are doing better. This measure includes only City public school data for middle and junior high students. Separate information on number of short- and long-term suspensions is not available from the State Education Department. Comparison data for the total population for 1997-1999 will be provided in subsequent updates.

Measure: High School Suspension Rates

Definition: The number of high school students who were suspended from school for at least one full day, divided by the total high school enrollment. Data pertain only to out-of-school suspensions and include both short-term and long-term suspensions.
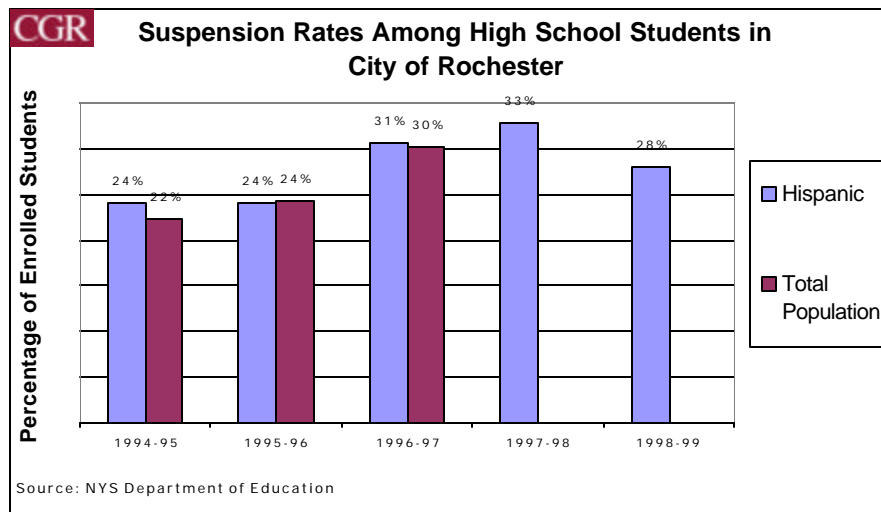

Suspension Rates Among High School Students in City of Rochester

Source: NYS Department of Education

Trends: Suspension rates among Hispanic high school students in the city of Rochester varied somewhat from a low of 24% in 1994-1995 and 1995-1996 to a high of 33% in 1997-1998. Compared to the total high school population in the City of Rochester, Hispanic rates of suspension were equal or slightly higher.

Caveats: Higher suspension rates can sometimes reflect a more disciplined/stricter learning environment, i.e., rates may vary by policy and implementation between schools, and so lower rates do not necessarily mean that students are doing better. This measure includes only City public school data for high school students. Separate information on number of short- and long-term suspensions is not available from the State Education Department. Total population data for 1997-1999 will provided in subsequent updates.

Outcome II: Youth Leading Healthy Lives

Indicator 1: Fewer Teen Pregnancies

Measure: Teen Pregnancy Rates, Females Ages 15-19

Definition: Number of pregnancies per 1,000 females ages 15-19.

Monroe County Teen Pregnancies: Females Ages 15-19

	Hispanics	Total Population
1991	150	84
1992	154	87
1993	153	86
1994	138	85
1995	138	75
1996	140	76
1997	128	73
1998	131	69

Source: NYS Department of Health County Profile; CGR
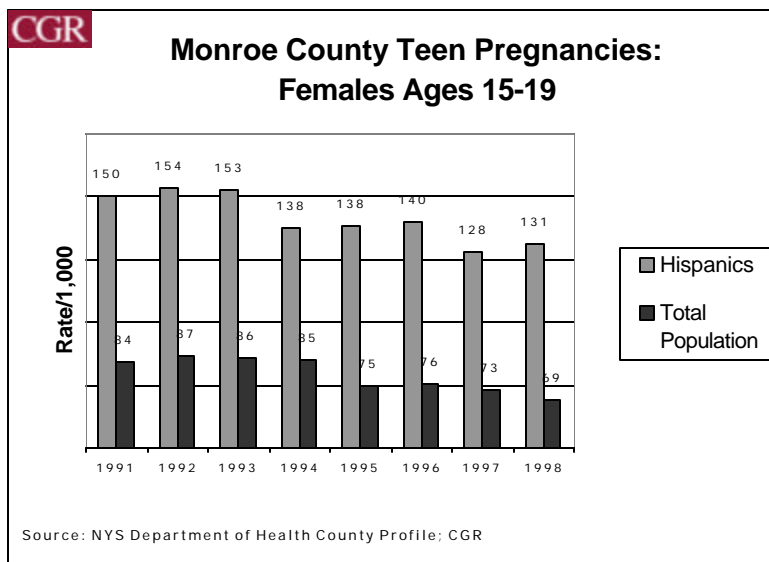
Trends: The rate of teen pregnancies in Monroe county has declined during the 1990s. The high rate of teen pregnancies per 1,00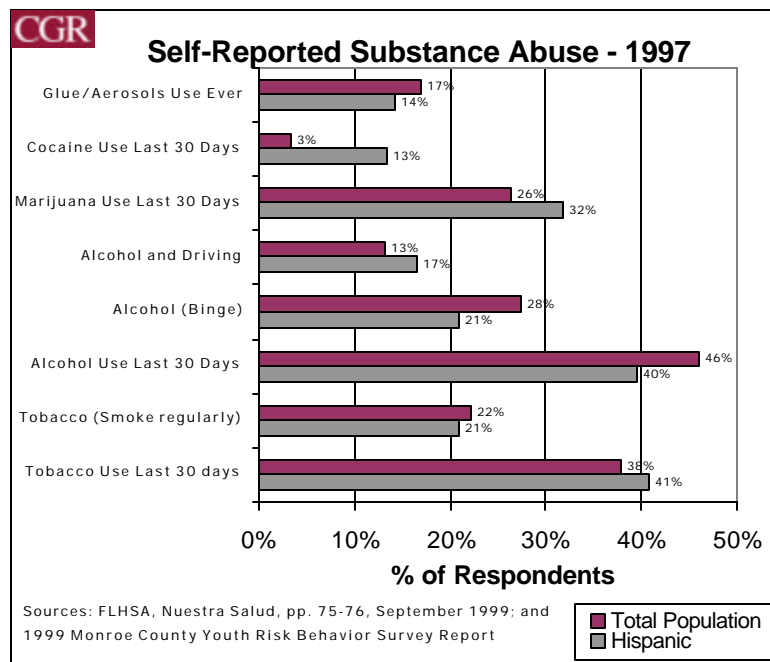0 teens was 87 in 1992, which declined to 69 by 1998 among the total teen population in Monroe County. Teen pregnancy rates among the Hispanic population were much higher, declining from a high of 154 in 1992 to 131 in 1998.

Caveats: None.

Indicator 2: Reduced Substance Abuse Among Minors

Measure: Self-reported substance abuse

Definition: The percentage of Monroe County public high school students (grades 9-12) who reported various types of substance abuse. Data are taken from the Monroe County Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 1997.

Self-Reported Substance Abuse - 1997

Category	Total Population	Hispanic
Glue/Aerosols Use Ever	17%	14%
Cocaine Use Last 30 Days	3%	13%
Marijuana Use Last 30 Days	26%	32%
Alcohol and Driving	13%	17%
Alcohol (Binge)	28%	21%
Alcohol Use Last 30 Days	46%	40%
Tobacco (Smoke regularly)	22%	21%
Tobacco Use Last 30 days	38%	41%

% of Respondents

Sources: FLHSA, Nuestra Salud, pp. 75-76, September 1999; and 1999 Monroe County Youth Risk Behavior Survey Report

Trends: Hispanic Youth reported that in 1997, more than 40% used tobacco products in the past 30 days, 40% used alcohol in the last 30 days, and more than 30% used marijuana in the last 30 days. In addition, substantial numbers had used cocaine (13%), glue or aerosols (14%), or had driven while intoxicated (17%). Percentages for the Hispanic population were similar to those for the total surveyed population in all categories except for reported cocaine use, which was much higher among Hispanics.

Caveats: These data are representative of Hispanic public high school students in grades 9-12 in Monroe County. The sample did not include students in private or parochial schools, students enrolled in special programs, or youth aged 10-19 who are no longer in school.

Indicator 3: Less Juvenile Delinquency

Measure: Youth Arrests for Part I Crimes

Definition: The number of arrests of youth under the age of 18 for Part I crimes. Part I crimes, defined for consistent reporting purposes across jurisdictions by the FBI, include murder, non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft.
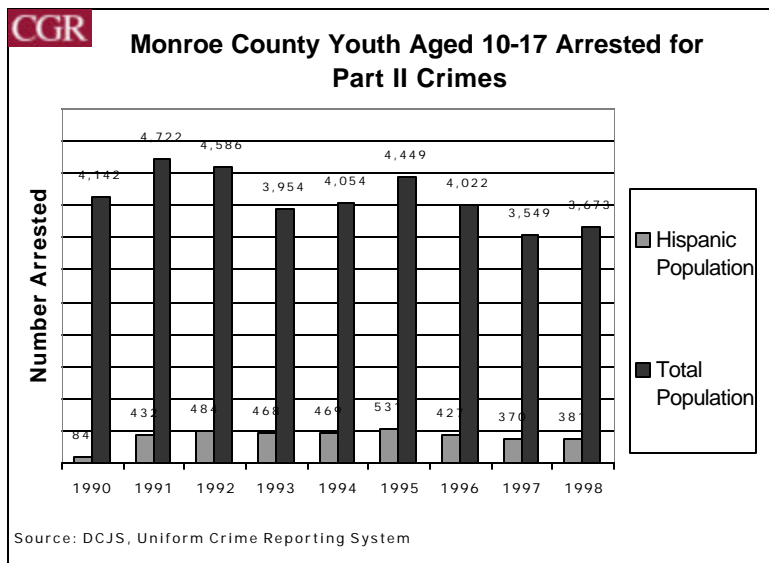

Monroe County Youth Aged 10-17 Arrested for Part I Crimes

Source: DCJS, Uniform Crime Reporting System
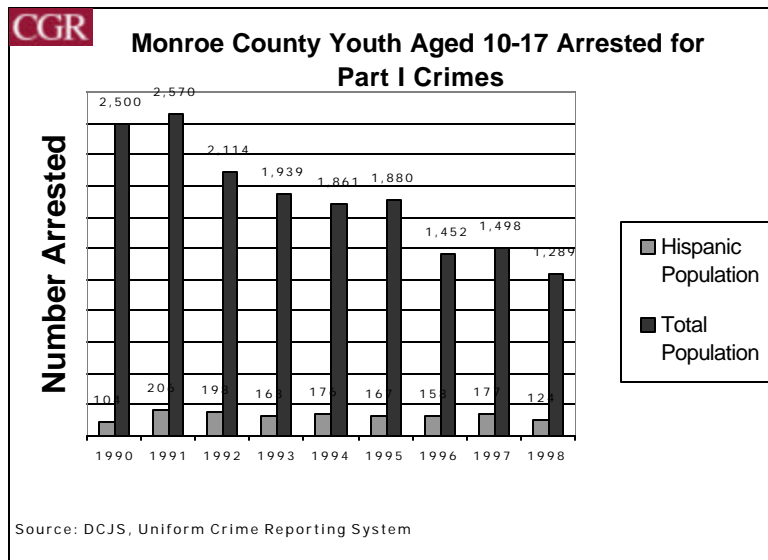
Trends: The number of Hispanic youth arrested for Part I crimes has remained relatively constant during the 1990s, with the number of arrests in recent years somewhat lower than the 1991 peak total of 206. This overall reduction is consistent with the reduction in Part I arrests among all youth countywide, although the reduction has been more pronounced within the total population. The number of Hispanic youth arrested for a Part I crime was 124 in 1998.

Caveats: Many reported crimes do not result in arrests. Arrest rates can be affected by changes in law enforcement policies, staffing patterns, etc. Since the data reflect the number of arrests, and some youth are arrested more than once, these arrests somewhat overstate the actual number of individual youths arrested. Arrests are recorded where they occur, and do not necessarily reflect the youth's residence. Data for the Hispanic population was not available for the 10-17 age group. Therefore, we were unable to calculate arrest rates.

Measure: Youth Arrests for Part II Crimes

Definition: The number of arrests of Hispanic youth under the age of 18 for Part II crimes. Part II crimes include simple assault, disorderly conduct, DWI, sale/use of a controlled substance, criminal mischief, fraud, stolen property, unauthorized possession of weapons or burglar tools, forgery, prostitution, sex offenses other than forcible rape, arson, kidnapping, extortion, gambling, embezzlement, family offenses, unauthorized use of motor vehicle, bribery, loitering, disturbing public order, breaking liquor laws, and a variety of other offenses.
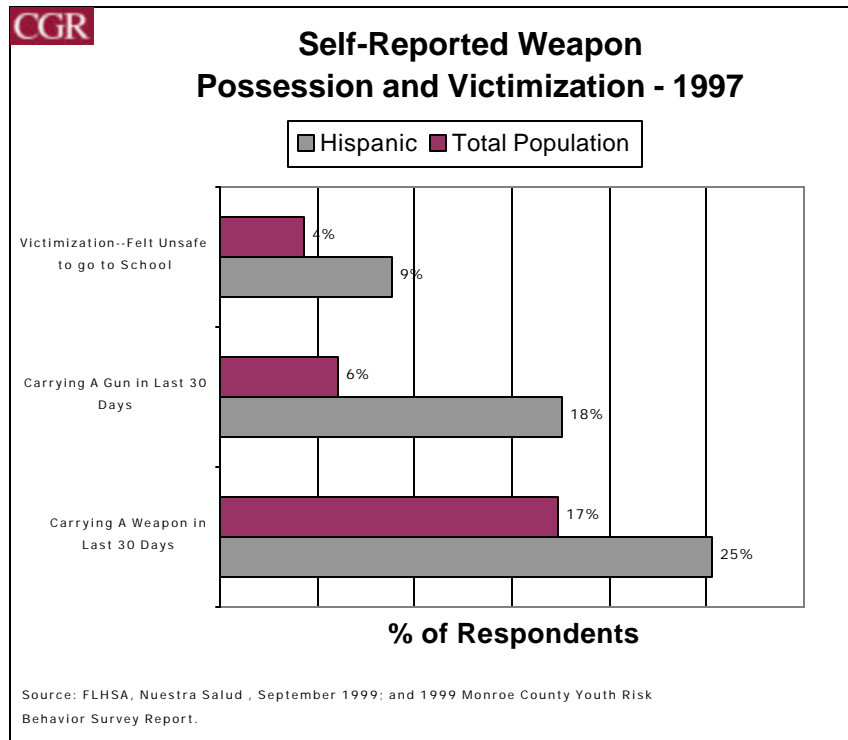

Monroe County Youth Aged 10-17 Arrested for Part II Crimes

Source: DCJS, Uniform Crime Reporting System

Trends: The number of Hispanic youth arrested for Part II crimes has declined since peaking in 1995. In 1997 and 1998, the number of Hispanic youth arrests dropped below 400 (370 and 381, respectively) for the first time since 1990. This overall reduction is consistent with the reduction in Part II arrests among all youth countywide.

Caveats: Many reported crimes do not result in arrests. Arrest rates can be affected by changes in law enforcement policies, staffing patterns, etc. Since the data reflect the number of arrests, and some youth are arrested more than once, these arrests somewhat overstate the actual number of individual youths arrested. Arrests are recorded where they occur, and do not necessarily reflect the youth's residence. Data for the Hispanic population was not available for the 10-17 age group. Therefore, we were unable to calculate arrest rates.

Measure: Self-Reported Weapon Possession and Victimization

Definition: The percentage of Monroe County public high school students (grades 9-12) who reported carrying a weapon in the 30 days preceding the administration of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 1997. Also, the percentage of Monroe County public high school students who reported that they missed school one or more days in the month preceding the survey because they felt unsafe going to or from school.

CGR

Self-Reported Weapon Possession and Victimization - 1997

■ Hispanic ■ Total Population

Victimization--Felt Unsafe to go to School: 4%, 9%

Carrying A Gun in Last 30 Days: 6%, 18%

Carrying A Weapon in Last 30 Days: 17%, 25%

% of Respondents

Source: FLHSA, Nuestra Salud , September 1999; and 1999 Monroe County Youth Risk Behavior Survey Report.

Trends: In 1997, one-quarter of Hispanic public high school students indicated that they had carried a weapon in the last month, 18% had carried a gun, and 9% had missed one or more days of school because they felt unsafe going to or from school. These percentages are higher than those for the total high school population.

Caveats: These data are only representative of public high school students in grades 9-12. The sample did not include students in private or parochial schools, students enrolled in special programs, or youth aged 10-19 who are no longer in school.

Indicator 4: Asthma Hospitalizations

Measure: Asthma Hospitalizations

Definition: Rates of asthma hospitalizations per 100,000 children in the age group 0-14 in Monroe County.
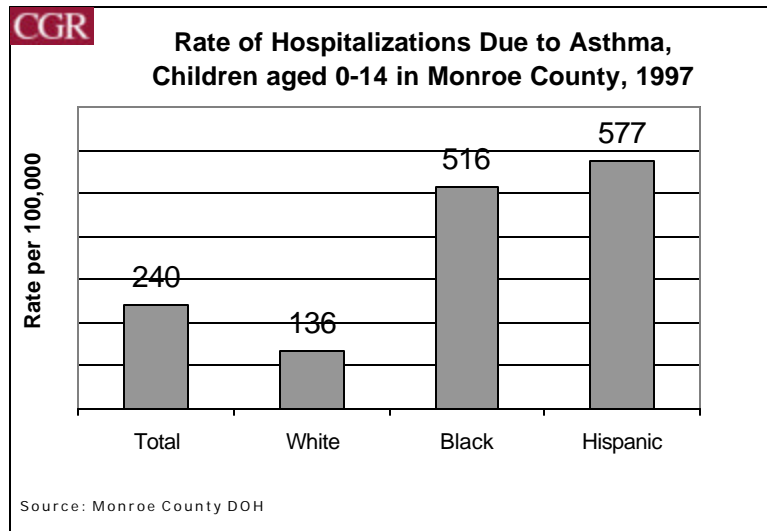
Trends: Hispanic children have the highest rates of asthma hospitalization, with 577 hospitalizations per 100,000 children. This compares to a rate of 516 for black children, and 136 for white children.

Caveats: None.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES IMPACT AREA

Introduction

This Impact Area is designed to track how well the community is doing in developing and maintaining stronger, more stable family units. The focus is on four primary outcomes: Families that are Physically and Mentally Healthy, Personally Safe, Financially Secure, and Appropriately Housed. Several of the indicators and measures used to define progress in the previous Impact Areas also are relevant to this Strengthening Families Impact Area.

This section also includes selected indicators that address the elderly and disabled populations.

Outcome I: Physically and Mentally Healthy Families

Indicator 1: Lower Rates of Preventable and Untreated Physical and Mental Health Problems

Measure: Mortality Rates

Definition: Number of deaths per 100,000 Monroe County residents.

Mortality Rate: All Causes
Monroe County

Source: NYS Department of Health; U.S. Bureau of Census
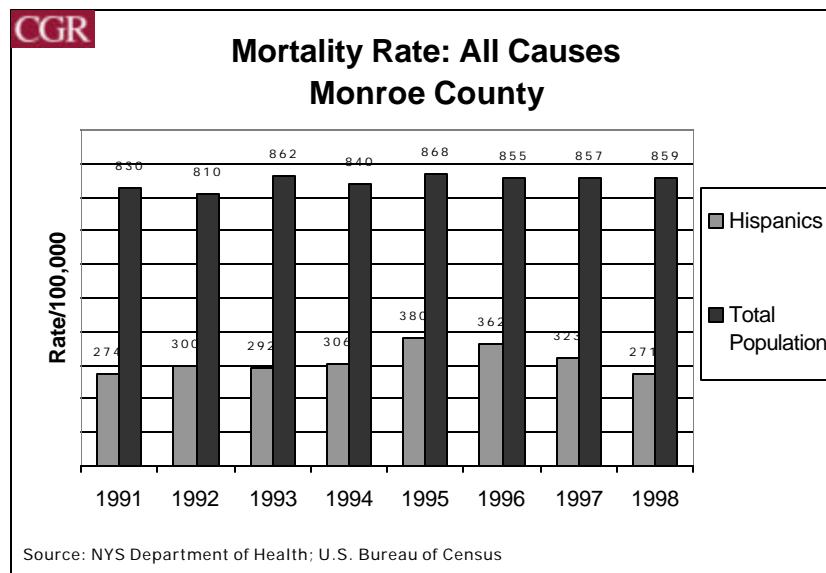
Trends: Mortality rates among the Hispanic population and the total population of Monroe County have been relatively constant throughout the 1990s. While mortality rates for Hispanics increased in the mid-1990s to a high of 380/100,000 in 1995, the rates dropped back in the late 1990s to match the rates from the early 1990s with a rate of 271 in 1998. It is unclear why the rates for Hispanics are so much lower than those for the total population. One contributing factor could be the young age of the Hispanic population in Monroe County compared to the total population.

Caveats: These are crude death rates. Rates would need to be adjusted for age and gender differences in the population in order to determine whether real differences exist between the Hispanic population and the total population in Monroe County. The FLHSA *Nuestra Salud* study includes mortality rates for the Hispanic population and the total population of Monroe County that are adjusted by age and sex. The adjusted rates for the two populations are much closer than the crude death rates, but even after adjustments, the Hispanic mortality rates remain lower than those among the total population.

Measure: AIDS Deaths

Definition: Number of deaths from AIDS per 100,000 Monroe County residents.
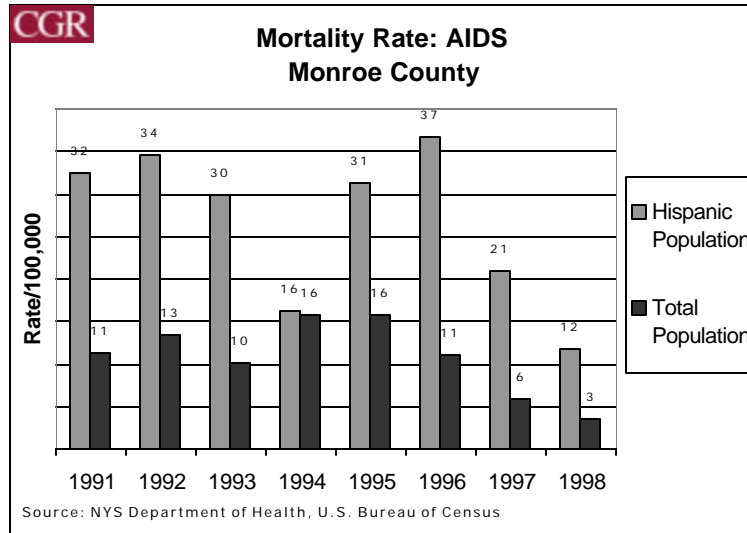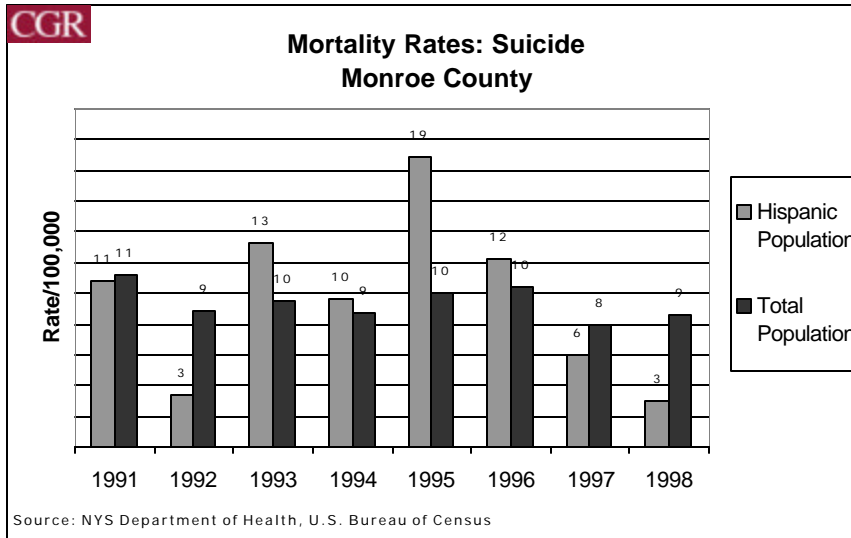

Trends: The rate of Hispanic deaths from AIDS was consistently higher than the rate of deaths from AIDS in the general Monroe County population during the 1990s. In 1998, the rate of Hispanic deaths from AIDS was 12/100,000, down from 37/100,000 in 1996.

Caveats: None.

Measure: Suicide Deaths

Definition: Number of deaths from suicide per 100,000 Monroe County residents.

**Mortality Rates: Suicide
Monroe County**

Source: NYS Department of Health, U.S. Bureau of Census

Trends: Hispanic death rates from suicide in most years have been slightly higher than the rate of deaths from suicide for the general Monroe County population. However, in 1998, the rate for Hispanics was 3/100,000, compared with 9/100,000 in the total population. The Hispanic suicide rate has declined from a rate of 19/100,000 in 1995 to 3 in 1998.

Caveats: None.

Outcome II: Personally Safe Families

Indicator 1: Decreased Crime & Violence in Schools and Neighborhoods

Measure: Murder Arrest Rates

Definition: The murder arrest rate is the number of arrests for murder per 100,000 population. Excluded from this category are deaths caused by negligence, suicide or accidents; justifiable homicides; and attempts to murder. Murders are those reported on Uniform Crime Reports to the FBI.


Arrest Rates for Murder, Monroe County

Source: DCJS, Uniform Crime Reporting System
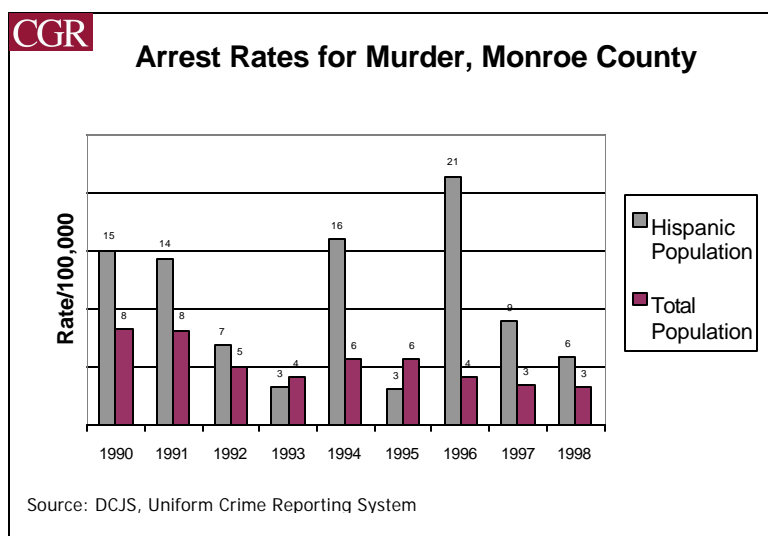
Trends: The rate of arrests of Hispanic persons for murder varied from year to year during the 1990s. Rates varied from a high of 21/100,000 in 1996 to a low of 3/100,000 in both 1993 and 1995. Rates among Hispanics were consistently higher than those among the total population. In 1998, the rate of arrest for murder among the Hispanic population was twice the rate among the total population.

Caveats: These rates represent arrests for reported murders, and not necessarily the charges reflected in the ultimate disposition of the cases.

Measure: Arrest Rates for Violent Crimes (Part I)

Definition: Arrests for Part I Violent crimes per 100,000 population, including murder, non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.   Part I violent crimes are defined for consistent reporting purposes across jurisdictions and reported by law enforcement agencies on Uniform Crime Reports to New York State and the FBI.
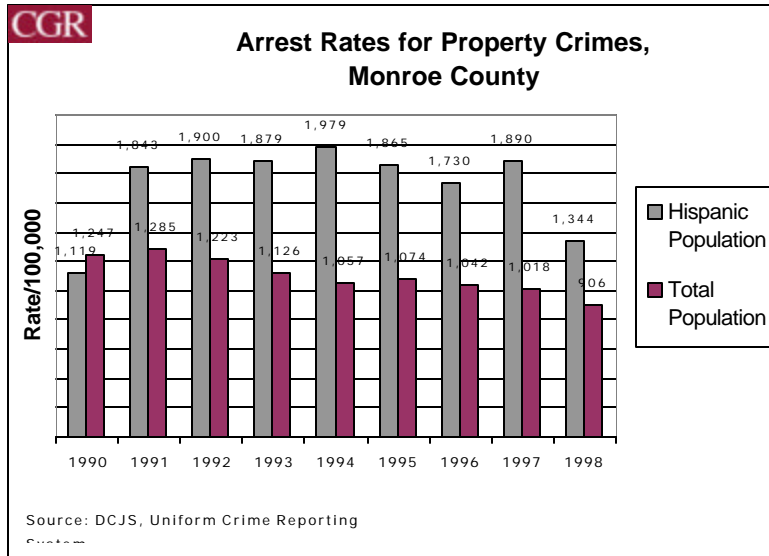

Arrest Rates for Violent Crimes (Part I), Monroe County

Source: DCJS, Uniform Crime Reporting System
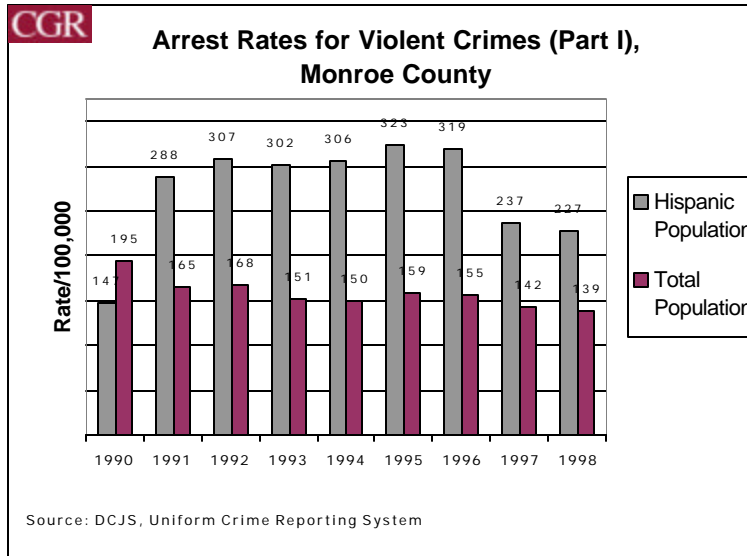
Trends: The rate of arrests for Part I crimes among the Monroe County Hispanic population remained relatively constant at about 300/100,000 from 1991 through 1996. The rate then dropped to below 250 in 1997, and dropped further in 1998.   Rates among the total population were consistently lower, ranging from a high of 195 in 1990 to a low of 139 in 1998.

Caveats: Not all Part I crimes are reported to police, and not all reports result in arrests. Rape, for example, is often under-reported. Although kidnapping and arson are considered violent felony offenses in NYS, they are not included here because they are considered Part II crimes for reporting purposes by the FBI.   Also, arrest rates can be affected by changes in law enforcement policies, staffing patterns, etc. Since the data reflect the number of arrests, and some persons are arrested more than once, these arrest rates somewhat overstate the actual number of individuals arrested. Arrests are recorded where they occur and do not necessarily reflect the individual's residence.

Measure: Arrest Rates for Property Crimes

Definition: Arrests for Part I property crimes per 100,000 population, including burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft. Part I property crimes are defined for consistent reporting purposes across jurisdictions and reported by law enforcement agencies on Uniform Crime Reports to New York State and the FBI.
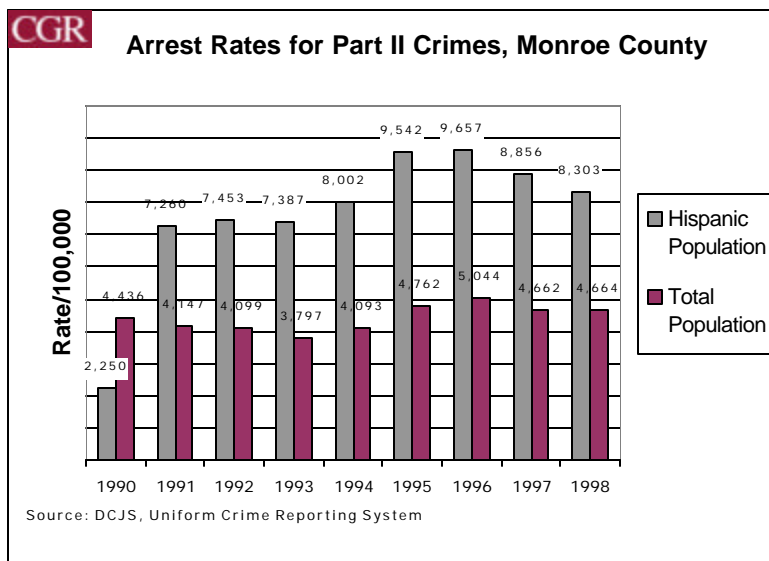

Trends: The rate of arrests for Part I property crimes among the Monroe County Hispanic population remained relatively constant between 1,800 and 2,000/100,000 from 1991 through 1997. The rate then dropped to 1,344 in 1998. Without additional years of data, it is not possible to determine if this recent decline represents a one-year aberration or the beginning of a downward trend. Total population arrest rates for property crimes were consistently substantially lower than rates among the Hispanic population. In 1998, the rate of property crime arrests among Hispanics was 1,344 compared to 906 among the total population.

Caveats: Not all Part I property crimes are reported to police. For example, property crimes such as burglary and motor vehicle theft tend to be reported more frequently because of insurance issues. Also, arrest rates can be affected by changes in law enforcement policies, staffing patterns, etc. Since the data reflect the number of arrests, and some persons are arrested more than once, these arrest rates somewhat overstate the actual number of individuals arrested. Arrests are recorded where they occur and do not necessarily reflect the individual's residence.

Measure: Arrest Rates for Part II Crimes

Definition: Arrests for Part II crimes per 100,000 population, including simple assault, disorderly conduct, DWI, sale/use of a controlled substance, criminal mischief, fraud, forgery, stolen property, unauthorized possession of weapons or burglar tools, prostitution, sex offenses other than forcible rape, arson, kidnapping, extortion, gambling, embezzlement, family offenses, unauthorized use of motor vehicle, bribery, loitering, disturbing public order, breaking liquor laws, and various other offenses. Part II crimes are defined for consistent reporting purposes across jurisdictions and reported by law enforcement agencies on Uniform Crime Reports to New York State and the FBI.

CGR

Arrest Rates for Part II Crimes, Monroe County

Year	Hispanic Population	Total Population
1990	2,250	4,436
1991	7,260	4,147
1992	7,453	4,099
1993	7,387	3,797
1994	8,002	4,093
1995	9,542	4,762
1996	9,657	5,044
1997	8,856	4,662
1998	8,303	4,664

Rate/100,000

Source: DCJS, Uniform Crime Reporting System

Trends: The rate of arrests for Part II crimes among the Monroe County Hispanic population increased steadily between 1991 and 1996 from 7,260/100,000 to 9,657/100,000. The rate then dropped in 1997 and 1998 to 8,303/100,000. Total population arrest rates for Part II crimes are consistently about half the rates for the Hispanic population. In 1998, the rate for Hispanics was 8,303 compared to 4,664 among the total population.

Caveats: As with Part I crimes, not all Part II incidents are reported to police. Also, arrest rates can be affected by changes in law enforcement policies, staffing patterns, etc. Since the data reflect the number of arrests, and some persons are arrested more than once, these arrest rates somewhat overstate the actual number of individuals arrested. Arrests are recorded where they occur and do not necessarily reflect the individual's residence.

Indicator 2: Decreased Physical and Emotional Abuse and Neglect

Measure: Adults Referred to Department of Social Services Adult Protective Services

Definition: The number of adults in Monroe County referred for services to the Department of Social Services Adult Protective Services unit.
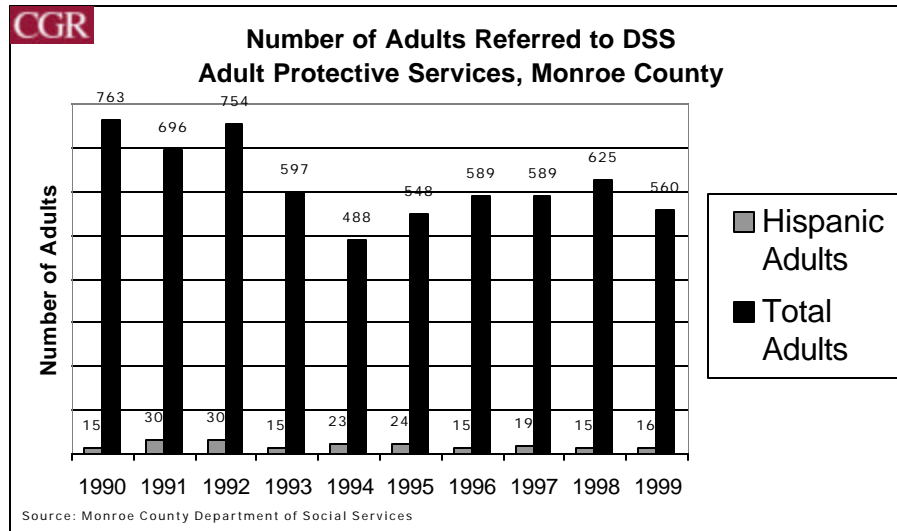
Trends: The number of Hispanic adults referred to DSS APS fluctuated in the 1990s from a low of 15 in 1990, 1993, 1996, and 1998 to a high of 30 in both 1991 and 1992. In recent years, the number referred remained in the mid to high-teens. Within the total population, the total number of referrals has increased during the latter half of the 1990s from a decade low of 488 in 1994.

Caveats: Many of the adults referred to DSS APS are elderly. Because there is no mandatory reporting of elder abuse, the incidence of elder abuse may be understated.

Outcome III: Financially Secure Families

Indicator 1: Increased Adquacy of Income

Measure: Average Per Capita Income

Definition: Total per capita income is derived from net earnings, dividends, interest, rent, and transfer payments (income maintenance, unemployment, insurance, retirement, and other), divided by the total population for various ethnic/racial sectors within the county.

CGR **Average Per Capita Income, Monroe County, 1989 (1990 Census)**

Source: FLHSA, Nuestra Salud , September 1999
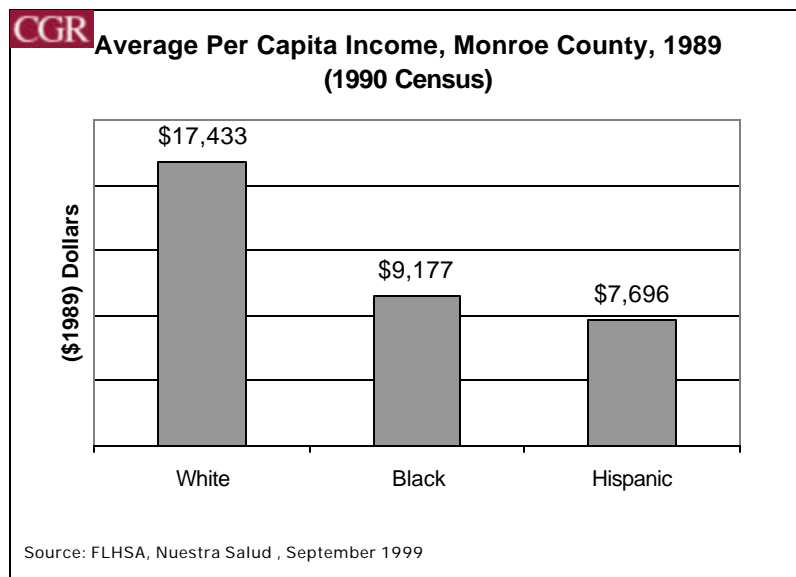
Trends: Based on 1990 Census data, Hispanic per capita income ($7,696) was lower than that for the black ($9,177) or white ($17,433) population.

Caveats: These data are now more than 10 years old. They will be updated with the release of the 2000 Census data.

Indicator 2: Increased Rate of Job Placement for Unemployed and Underemployed Youth and Adults

Measure: Unemployment rate

Definition: This index measures the percent of the labor force that is without work and actively seeking employment.
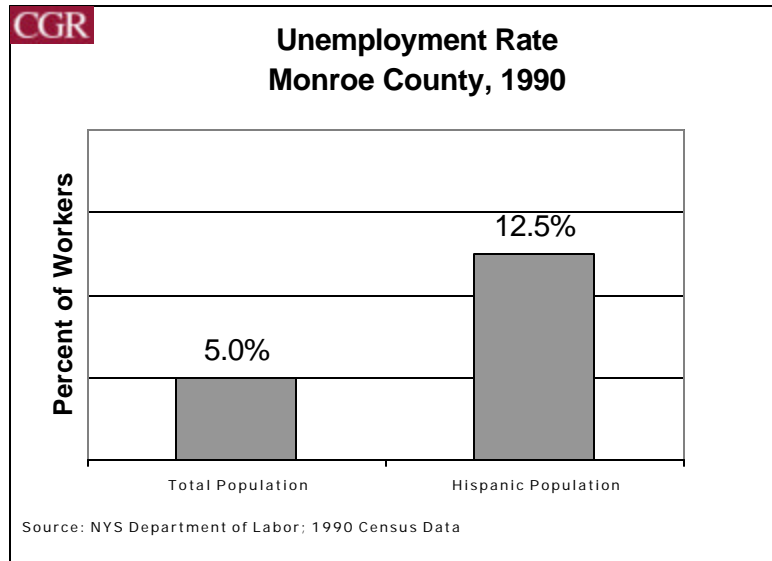
Trends: The unemployment rate among the Hispanic population was much higher in 1990 (12.5%) than that among the general population (5.0%).
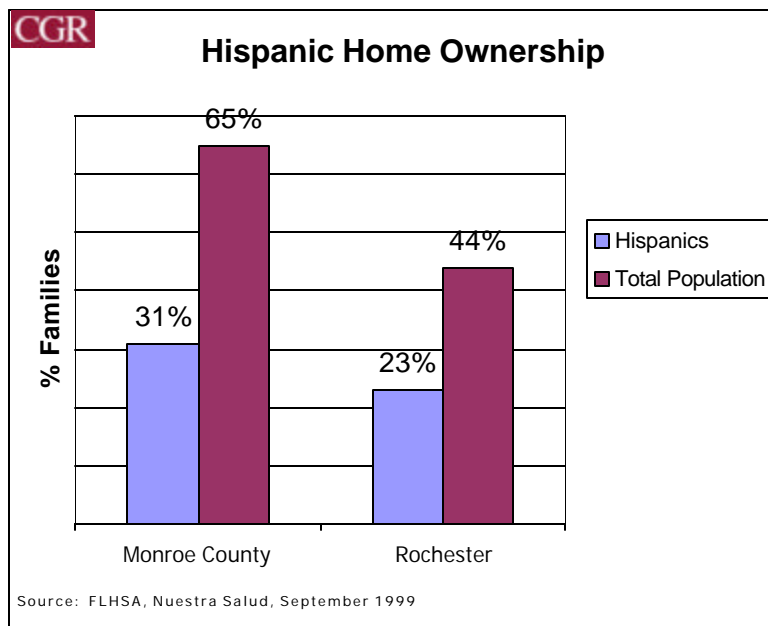
Caveats: This rate only represents those who are actively seeking employment and does not account for under-employment or discouraged workers who have stopped looking for work. County numbers are based upon NYS survey data. Although city estimates exist, they are regarded as unreliable among experts interviewed, as they are extrapolated from county figures based on the 1990 Census. These rates will be updated with the release of Census 2000 data.

Outcome IV: Appropriately Housed Families

Indicator 1: Increased Home Ownership

Measure: Home Ownership

Definition: The percentage of families that own their home.

CGR

Hispanic Home Ownership

65%

44%

31%

23%

% Families

■ Hispanics
■ Total Population

Monroe County   Rochester

Source: FLHSA, Nuestra Salud, September 1999

Trends: Based on 1990 Census data, 31% of Hispanic families owned their home in Monroe County, compared to 65% of the total Monroe County population. In the city of Rochester, 23% of Hispanic families owned their home, compared to 44% of the total population.

Caveats: These data will be updated with the release of the 2000 Census data.

Outcome V: People With Disabilities Enjoying Mental and Physical Well-Being

Indicator 1: Increased or Maintained Levels of Mental and Emotional Wellness for Persons with Disabilities

Measure: Rates of Mental Health Service Utilization

Definition: Number of mental health visits per 1,000 population, except Supportive Living and Work Programs categories, which indicate the number of clients per 1,000 population.

Trends: The Hispanic population in 1997 overall received fewer services compared to the white or black population (see table on following page). For example, the rate of service utilization for Intensive Supportive Living was 19 for Hispanics, compared to 34 for whites and 73 for blacks. Conversely, in some service areas Hispanics received higher rates of service compared to whites, although they still received lower rates of service than the black population. For example, the rate of intensive case management among Hispanics was 38/1,000 compared to 22 for whites and 76 for blacks. The *Nuestra Salud* report indicates that Hispanic individuals who do use the public mental health system are heavy users of the system, but overall a smaller proportion of the Hispanic population use mental health services compared to the white or black population.

Caveats: Rates of service utilization can be misleading. Lower rates might indicate that the population in question is receiving fewer services than they need, or could indicate that the population has a lower need for such services. The interpretation of such figures should therefore be used with caution. Also, data only include service utilization of publicly-supported, community-based mental health providers; utilization of private mental hygiene providers, or of Rochester Psychiatric Center, is not included.