

Minnesota Milestones

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Economic Blueprint for Minnesota



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To the people of Minnesota

Just over a year ago, I asked you to help us plan the future of Minnesota. Thousands of you took this challenge to heart by contributing your time, your ideas, your concerns and your hopes.

Minnesota Milestones: A Report Card for the Future is your long-range plan for Minnesota. This document reflects the priorities you expressed in the meetings around the state and the hundreds of letters you sent us. Because this report comes from you, it will be an important tool for political and community leaders throughout Minnesota.

This is much more than just another government report. Already, it is being used to guide our course for the future. I have instructed all of our state agencies to use *Minnesota Milestones* in determining our budget priorities for the next two years and beyond.

To all of you who participated in this project, I thank you. Without your help, this document would not have been possible. Now it is up to us to work together to create the future we have chosen for ourselves and our children.

Warmest regards,

ARNE H. CARLSON
Governor

Thank you

The staff of Minnesota Planning would like to thank the thousands of Minnesotans who participated in the community meetings, commented on the draft documents and helped shape the plan for Minnesota's future.

The expertise of many state agencies and commissions was used to develop measures toward progress and to organize the 1991 and 1992 series of community meetings.

Governor's Minnesota Milestones Advisory Committee

The Governor's Minnesota Milestones Advisory Committee made valuable contributions to the state's long-range plan. Citizen members are Kent Eklund, Jane Belau, Peter Bell, John Bryson, John Finnegan, Lois Mack, Ken Morris, Jacqueline Reis, Roman Sigana, Emily Ann Staples and Lyle Wray. Government members are Dana Badgerow, E. Peter Gillette, John Gunyou, Linda Kohl, Marlene Marshall, Rod Sando, Natalie Haas Steffen and John Riley.

Minnesota Planning

Minnesota Planning is charged with developing a long-range plan for the state, stimulating public participation in Minnesota's future and coordinating public policy with state agencies, the Legislature and other units of government.

Authors of this report were Arnie Anderson, Stephen Coleman, J.H. Fonkert, Charles Kenow and Sheldon Mains. Many others at Minnesota Planning contributed to the report. Cécile Millet designed the report.

Upon request, *Minnesota Milestones: A Report Card for the Future* will be made available in an alternative format, such as Braille, large print or audiotape. For TDD, contact Minnesota Relay Service at 612-297-5353 or 1-800-627-3529.

Multiple copies are available from Minnesota's Bookstore, 117 University Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55155, 612-297-3000 or 1-800-657-3757. For more information or single copies of *Minnesota Milestones: A Report Card for the Future*, contact Minnesota Planning.

Choosing our future

Welcome to the future. Welcome to a new way of thinking about government. Welcome to a new way to hold public officials accountable.

Welcome to *Minnesota Milestones*.

This is not a typical government report. It is a report card to measure our progress, a tool to help us create the future we want for ourselves and for our children.

Minnesota Milestones was started by Governor Arne H. Carlson in early 1991. It is based on a simple concept: that defining a shared vision, setting goals and measuring results will lead to a better future for Minnesota's people.

Historically, government has done a poor job of measuring results. It does an excellent job of measuring how much activity occurs: how much money is spent, how many forms are filed, how many reports are prepared, how many permits are issued. But government is less successful at measuring results of those activities — whether they resulted in a safer or cleaner environment or a better life for Minnesota's citizens.

Minnesota will spend at least \$75 billion of taxpayers' money over the next 10 years. Unless we

begin to measure results, we will have no idea whether we have gotten our money's worth when those 10 years are up.

This *Minnesota Milestones* report card is a first step toward measuring results. It is divided into two parts: The first projects a vision for the future of Minnesota, a vision based on the ideas and suggestions of hundreds of Minnesotans. The second offers 20 broad goals based on that vision and 79 milestones, or ways to measure whether we are making progress over time. The milestones aim high, setting targets for the direction Minnesotans want to go in the future.

The people of Minnesota have played an essential role in developing this statewide report card. More than 10,000 Minnesotans ages 8 to 92 have participated in public meetings around the state, provided comments on the vision, goals and milestones, or reviewed early drafts of the report.

Defining a vision and a report card is only the first step toward making our vision a reality. For Minnesota to reach its ambitious goals, strategies need to be developed around the milestones and the results of those strategies monitored on a regular basis. It also is clear that we all must work together to achieve

our goals. Government cannot do it alone; the private sector, communities, nonprofit organizations and individuals must share the responsibility for making Minnesota the kind of state we want it to be in the year 2000, 2010 or 2020.

Measuring results sounds easy. In practice, it is not. Too often, the information we need to judge whether we are achieving our goals is not available. While government collects volumes of data every day, it seldom does so in a way that measures results or outcomes. Even basic questions — How many of our lakes and rivers are clear enough to swim in? How many people contribute time or money to political campaigns? How many children are affected by divorce? — cannot be answered with any accuracy because the information is not now collected.

Minnesota Planning believes that information about results is essential if we are to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of government. Therefore, Minnesota Planning offers the following recommendations:

■ **Minnesota government, at every level, must become more results-oriented.** State and local public agencies should be encouraged to develop clear missions and to incorporate performance measures into their strategic plans and budgets. Communities, school districts and other public entities in Minnesota should develop their own report cards and measurements to gauge progress. These

measures should assess the results, or outcomes, rather than expenditures made or the number of people receiving services. Report card results should be made public periodically.

One state agency that has developed its own performance measures is the Minnesota Department of Trade and Economic Development. Its plan, *Economic Blueprint for Minnesota*, is included in the appendix of this report.

■ **Government spending should be more directly linked to results.** Programs that achieve desired results should be rewarded. Programs that fail to produce results should be rigorously scrutinized and the reasons for failure carefully analyzed. If programs are found not to be working, funding should be redirected to programs that achieve results.

■ **Government agencies should collect data in a way that is useful in assessing results and outcomes.** In many cases, information about the results of public programs is not available to the public. Throughout this report are recommendations for better data collection practices. For those milestones that cannot be measured any other way, a scientific survey of public attitudes is recommended. Such a survey would be particularly valuable in assessing public attitudes toward government and government services and in measuring citizen participation in government and politics.

■ **Equality of opportunity for all cultural, racial and ethnic groups and for people with disabilities should be a goal across all of the milestones.** Compared to other states, Minnesota ranks high on many measures when the state's population is considered as a whole. But statistics for particular groups within the state's population may vary widely. Several milestones in which large disparities exist have been highlighted throughout this report. The goal should be for all Minnesotans to share equally in a better future.

■ **Progress toward statewide goals should be regularly monitored.** A statewide report card has little value if its only purpose is to track our decline on important indicators. A report card should serve as an early warning system to alert us when policies and programs are not working. From time to time, the goals and milestones

should be reviewed to see whether they continue to be relevant. New technology may make current data collection practices obsolete; unforeseen problems may require changes in goals and priorities. *Minnesota Milestones* should be regarded as a living document, constantly improved by the collection of new ideas and new information.

This *Minnesota Milestones* report card has been developed to guide us and keep track of our progress over the next 30 years. The milestones are intended to outlive current leaders and policy-makers. Minnesotans realize that achieving our goals will not be easy; in many cases, tough choices and trade-offs will be required. But Minnesotans also clearly share a sense of opportunity and optimism. By working together toward a common vision, we can choose the kind of future we want.

A vision for Minnesota's future

We Minnesotans like our state. We believe Minnesota is a good place to raise a family, go to school and enjoy life. We appreciate the natural beauty, the friendliness and sense of opportunity, the good government and the diverse economic opportunities. We believe strong values are important — spiritual values, individual responsibility, volunteering, a strong work ethic and sharing with others. We appreciate our cultural diversity. These are the personal values we cherish and want to carry forward into the next century.

We do not want growth and change to overpower our quality of life. We want to plan for the future. Yet we recognize that we will have to make tough choices, as we have in the past. We want to deepen the values that have guided earlier generations and made Minnesota a leader in the nation. We want to begin now to build an even better

A caring and secure community

We will recognize the family, in all its forms, as the building block of our communities. We will be good neighbors, taking our personal and community responsibilities seriously. We will not

place to live, a Minnesota to pass on proudly to our children and grandchildren.

When we talk about our hopes for the future, we share a vision with these common themes:

■ **Minnesota will be a community of people who respect and care for one another.**

■ **Our economic activity will create wealth and provide a good standard of living for all our people.**

■ **Our citizens will be good thinkers, creative, always learning, with the skills to compete internationally.**

■ **We will protect and enjoy the natural world.**

■ **Our government will be responsive, effective and close to the people.**

tolerate violence but will encourage mutual respect. Those who need help will receive it.

We will be proud of our ethnic heritage and celebrate the increas-

A prosperous people

ing diversity in our communities. Our institutions, such as the courts, schools, and governments, will understand our different cultures. People with disabilities will participate fully in society.

Families will thrive, supported by the community, business and government, and children will feel safe, nurtured and highly valued. New community networks will bolster families in raising their children, and social services and schools will work together with the

A highly productive blend of labor and technological know-how will power an expanding economy that provides economic security for Minnesotans and their families. Minnesota will be the preferred place to do business in the Midwest and a strong competitor in world markets.

Opportunity will be color-blind, putting prosperity within the reach of Minnesotans of all ethnic and cultural backgrounds. All people, regardless of race or gender, will find jobs at fair wages. Decent housing will be available for all, regardless of economic means.

Minnesota will have prosperous cities and economically vibrant small towns and rural areas. Depressed areas, be they urban neighborhoods or rural areas, will have employment opportunities and prospects for a better future. Urban

family if it needs help. Extended families will remain vital, and creative housing options will give support and independence to seniors.

Our well-being will be strengthened by health care that everyone can afford. We will adopt healthier lifestyles, prevent more accidental deaths and injuries and use less alcohol and tobacco. With more jobs, less violence, stable families and quality schools, our communities will flourish.

growth will be managed to conserve resources and enhance quality of life, while the scenic beauty and character of rural Minnesota will be preserved.

Farms and resource-based industries will employ rural Minnesotans and keep profits from Minnesota-grown crops and resources in Minnesota. Revitalized small towns and cities will offer jobs close to home for those who wish to stay.

In the year 2020, transportation and communications networks will bind the state together, supporting both urban and rural prosperity. Ideas, information, goods and people will move quickly between small towns, cities and metropolitan areas. State-of-the-art voice, video and data transmissions will link large and small communities with the rest of the world.

Learning

Lifelong learning will be the key to individual and community economic success. Minnesota's schools will be the most flexible and dynamic in the world. From toddlers to senior citizens, we will be using the schools for learning, service and recreation. Schools will be learning hubs, immersed in the activities of community, business and environment. Students will learn at industry sites, scientific labs, environmental centers, arts facilities, farms, language camps and history centers. While learning, youth will spearhead cultural and economic innovation in smaller communities and neighborhoods.

With the support of their families and community, children will come to school ready to learn. Teen pregnancy and alcohol and drug abuse will drop as positive learning experiences motivate young women and men to pursue higher goals in life.

Education standards will be internationally competitive, yet schools will meet the needs of individual students. Student progress will be rigorously monitored to ensure mastery of basic academic skills, as well as skills for citizenship,

critical thinking and getting along with people. Young people will be able to begin internships or youth apprenticeships while in high school, and high percentages of all racial and ethnic groups will move on to colleges, technical institutes or vocational training.

Minnesota's universities will be centers of excellence in teaching and research, helping to keep the state's economy competitive with any in the world. A streamlined system of universities, colleges and technical institutes will provide diverse levels of advanced training designed to meet the needs of students and employers throughout the state. As higher education becomes more responsive to students, graduation rates will steadily rise and adults of all ages will return to school for advanced education and training. Tuition policies will ensure that the costs of higher education remain within reach of students and their families.

Our native creativity will flourish in a growing mix of cultural organizations and events that will make Minnesota a rich place to live. From quilting to orchestras, from powwows to theater, cultural activities will have a growing impact on our lives.

Our surroundings

The Dakota people named our region Minnesota — the land of sky-blue waters — and pure water will be our great natural re-

source of the next century. Major changes in our habits will give us a state that is not only clean but also green, open and free of con-

gestion. Our cities and suburbs will be visually attractive places to live and work, with clean air and an abundance of plants and trees.

To Minnesotans, quality of life means elbow room. It means pure lakes, rivers and aquifers; scenic vistas of farmland or forests; and easy access to parks, lakes and woods. It means camping and biking, fishing and hiking, family reunions at a lake — activities that depend on a pollution-free outdoors.

A new respect for the environment based on a deeper understanding of our role in the natural world will become a part of our personal and corporate values. We will not deplete our resources but will use them wisely, conserving energy, reducing waste and developing innovative ways to recycle.

Minnesota will be a beautiful state in the year 2020 with the diverse landscapes we enjoy today.

We the people

Minnesota communities will have a strong “can do” spirit in the 21st century. Minnesotans will have confidence in their government and use it to provide for the common good. State and local governments will be customer-driven and efficient stewards of public finances.

State and local governments in Minnesota will use creative strategies, ranging from town meetings to innovative communications technology, to keep in touch with the people they serve. Communities and local governments will join together to deliver services and will tailor them to the wishes and needs of neighborhoods and

communities. Innovative grassroots coalitions will improve education, local economies and the environment.

Minnesotans from all regions will have a shared sense of purpose, resisting the temptation to become polarized between rural and metropolitan, urban and suburban. Government officials will be representative of Minnesota’s diversity. They will be less influenced by special interest groups and partisan politics.

A common vision and agreed-upon goals will keep us working together to shape the best future for all.

Measuring results

The 20 goals and 79 milestones outlined in this chapter will serve as critical measures of Minnesota’s well-being over the next 30 years. The goals are designed to bring sharper focus to the vision; the milestones measure progress toward these goals and ultimately toward the vision.

The goals are intentionally broad and far-reaching. Under each goal are listed one or more specific milestones that will indicate progress toward that goal. Each milestone is a measure of progress at six intervals: 1980 data provides historical perspective, 1990 indicates current baseline performance, and 1995, 2000, 2010 and 2020 indicate the targets we hope to achieve over the next 30 years.

As much as possible, the milestones place a priority on measuring results rather than efforts. Occasionally, however, a milestone measures a process rather than a result (such as the percentage of children adequately immunized) when that information provides a reliable and accepted indicator of how well Minnesota is doing. In choosing the milestones, preference was given to measures that are objective, available, reliable over time and easy to understand. When no adequate information exists to measure progress toward a goal, recommendations are made for collecting the information in the future. Following each milestone is a brief narrative that provides the rationale and the source of the measurements.

Goal: Our children will not live in poverty

10.2%
1980

12.4%
1990

10%
1995

8%
2000

5%
2010

5%
2020

1 – Percentage of children living in households below the poverty line

Explanation: The poverty line is an estimate of the income necessary for households of various sizes to meet basic living costs. It includes pretax income, excluding

capital gains and noncash benefits, such as employer-paid health insurance, food stamps and Medicaid. The U.S. Department of Commerce adjusts the poverty line

annually to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index. In 1990, the poverty line for a family of four was \$13,254.

Discussion: A large percentage of persons living in poverty are children. Children have little control over their immediate economic circumstances. Poor families and households are less able to provide decent housing, nutrition, health care and other physical needs of children.

Source: The U.S. Census Bureau reports annual estimates of the population in poverty. Census data is available every 10 years.

Child Poverty Rates in Minnesota 1990	
Whites	9.6%
African Americans	46.9%
American Indians	51.0%
Asians	36.0%
Hispanics	28.8%
Source: Census Bureau	
1990 Poverty Line by Size of Household	
1 person (under 65)	\$6,800
2 person	\$8,752
3 person	\$10,520
4 person	\$13,254
6 person	\$17,464
Source: U.S. Census Bureau	

2 – Percentage of parents who receive full payment of awarded child support

Discussion: Many children would not be living in poverty and would not need public assistance if they received their awarded child support payments. Child support is not being received in full or on time in many cases. Also, judges in some cases order less child support than called for by state guidelines. In Minnesota, 58 percent of the women with custody of their children were awarded child support in 1989. Half of these women received the full amount awarded, 24 percent received only a portion of the amount due and 25 percent received nothing, according to the Commission on the Economic Status of Women. The children usually live with the parent with the least income, and that compounds the problem.

A barrier to collecting child support often occurs in cases when the identity of the father has not been legally determined. Determining paternity soon after birth also may lead to access to other financial resources, including Social Security benefits, inheritance, benefits from the armed services, health-care coverage and workers' compensation benefits.

Recommendation: Develop a survey method to collect data on actual payment of awarded child support. Hospitals also should be required to seek a declaration of paternity from the father at birth, in cases where the mother is not married.

Goal: Families will provide a stable environment for their children

20 1980	17.4 1990	12 1995	11.2 2000	10 2010	8 2020
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3 – Teen pregnancy rate (younger than 18 years old)

Explanation: The teen pregnancy rate is the number of females per 1,000 younger than 18 years old who become pregnant. Pregnancies include live births, fetal deaths (20 or more weeks’ gestation) and induced abortions.

Discussion: Births among teens through age 17 years result in undesirable consequences for both mother and baby much more often than pregnancies generally. These may include prenatal and birth complications, poor neonatal care and infant mortality. Additionally, teen mothers are more likely to live in poverty. These consequences represent huge preventable personal costs as well as social costs to the community.

There were 2,962 pregnancies in the under-18 age group in 1990. Of these, 2,803 were in females ages 15 to 17, resulting in 1,742 births. While the rates of teen pregnancies and births are higher among minorities, the actual number of preg-

nancies and births to teens is significantly higher among white youth.

The targets through 2000 are based on goals developed by the Minnesota Department of Health’s Maternal and Child Health Task Force.

Source: The Minnesota Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, provides the data annually. The census data is from the state Demographer’s Office.

	Number	Rate
White	6,198	36.5
African Americans	948	159.2
American Indians	473	138.9
Asians	395	62.5
Hispanics	320	84.0

* Race and ethnicity are self-reported. Rate is per 1,000 women under age 20. Source: Minnesota Planning, Teen Pregnancy Prevention Clearinghouse

4 – Runaways (per 1,000 children)

NA 1980	8.6 1990	8.5 1995	7.5 2000	5.5 2010	4.3 2020
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Explanation: This milestone measures the number of missing children recorded as runaways by law enforcement agencies.

Discussion: The number of runaway children is an indicator of the incidence of unstable families. Children who are happy are unlikely to leave home. Children who feel they can get help for their problems within the family also are

unlikely to leave. A significant number of runaways come from families with abuse problems. In 1990, 9,995 children were reported as runaways in Minnesota. The goal for 2020 is to reduce the current rate by 50 percent.

Source: This data is published annually by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension.

5 – Percentage of 12th-grade students who have ever attempted suicide

NA 1980	13% 1990 (1992)	13% 1995	12% 2000	11% 2010	10% 2020
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Explanation: This milestone is based on survey responses of 12th-grade students who report having attempted suicide at any time in their life.

Discussion: Attempted suicide is an indication of emotional distress or depression. Children who attempt suicide are among those at highest risk for alcohol and other drug use. Sexual and physical abuse and serious family problems are also frequently reported by these youths. Teenage girls are twice as likely to report a suicide attempt as are boys, which is consistent with research about teen

self-esteem. The targets assume modest improvements in existing intervention techniques.

Source: This data is obtained from the Minnesota Student Survey, conducted every three years.

	6th-graders	9th-graders	12th-graders
Female	6%	17%	18%
Male	7%	9%	8%

Source: The 1992 Minnesota Student Survey

6 – Apprehensions of children (per 1,000 children)

30.7 1980	38.3 1990	37.5 1995	36.1 2000	33 2010	27 2020
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Explanation: This milestone includes apprehensions of juveniles (persons younger than age 18 taken into legal custody) for violent crimes, property crimes and juvenile offenses, such as running away from home and curfew violations.

Discussion: This indicates children who are having significant problems. It is a conservative measure because many delinquent acts do not result in an apprehension. While juvenile violent crime is on the rise, it still constitutes a small percentage of apprehensions. In 1990, children were apprehended 44,720 times in Minnesota.

The targets reverse a trend that has been rising steadily since 1970. The goal is to be better in 2020 than in 1970, when 27,700 children were apprehended.

Source: This data is published annually by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension.

Percentage of Juvenile Apprehensions for Violent Crime	
1970	1.2%
1980	2.0%
1990	2.6%

Source: Minnesota Department of Safety

7 – Percentage of children who use alcohol or illegal drugs at least monthly

6th	3%	3%	2%	1%	0%
9th	20%	19%	18%	12%	5%
12th	42%	39%	35%	25%	15%
	1990 (1992)	1995	2000	2010	2020

Explanation: Sixth-, ninth- and 12th-grade students are asked on the Minnesota Student Survey how often they use alcohol or illegal drugs. Possible responses are: daily, weekly, monthly, less than monthly, annually or never.

Discussion: Substance abuse, whether it involves alcohol or illegal drugs, presents a serious risk to adolescents. It can lead to lapses of judgment, risks of injury or criminal behavior. Young people using drugs or alcohol also may be more

8 – Rate of divorces involving children

likely to engage in high-risk sexual behavior, which could lead to pregnancies or sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS. It appears that the use of alcohol and illegal

drugs is declining. Targets for the future project a continuing decline.

Source: This data is obtained from the Minnesota Student Survey, conducted every three years.

Explanation: This data is currently reported but is of questionable usefulness due to problems with reporting compliance.

In 1984, the Minnesota Legislature required that information about the involvement of children in divorces be reported to the Department of Health. However, in approximately 20 percent of the cases filed in 1990, this portion of the form was left blank. Thus, in 20 percent of the cases, it is unknown if children are involved. Also, this data does not include children from previous marriages, who may be affected if a subsequent marriage ends in dissolution.

Discussion: The dissolution of a marriage produces both short- and long-term legal, financial and emotional instability for parents and children. In the short term, financial stability, living arrangements

and social relationships all must be re-established. The children must learn how to relate to parents who are no longer partners. Important childhood friendships may be disrupted or lost. Research is beginning to show that children are adversely affected by a divorce into their own adult years.

The long-term milestone goal is a reduction in the underlying problems that result in divorce and therefore in the divorce rate when children are involved.

Source: The Minnesota Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, reports this data every year.

Recommendation: Court officials should insist that the statistical report form is fully completed.

9 – Percentage of students who move more than once a year

Discussion: A stable home is central to the healthy development of children, particularly for young children. They need predictability in their lives and activities. Frequent moves require changing schools, which could lead to academic problems and make it more difficult for children to develop socially.

While it is unclear precisely what a healthy moving rate should be,

most people would agree that moving more than once a year creates problems. The 1992 student survey found a small percentage of children changed schools more than three times in the previous three years.

Recommendation: The Minnesota Student Survey, conducted every three years, should collect this data.

Goal: All children will come to school ready to learn

School readiness is one of the six state and national education goals. In Minnesota, school readiness is a goal for students of all ages, not just students entering kindergarten. A student's readiness to learn depends on many factors, including physical and emotional health, nutrition, family support and developmental skills, but there are no widely accepted, definitive indicators of school readiness.

Boys	18%	16%	0%	0%	0%
Girls	11%	10%	0%	0%	0%
	1990 (1992)	1995	2000	2010	2020

10 – Percentage of sixth-graders watching television or videos more than 40 hours per week

Explanation: This data is self-reported by sixth-graders.

Discussion: Although some TV watching may be beneficial, many research studies document a strong association between excessive TV

watching and low achievement in school. Research suggests that five to six hours per day is about the point where adverse effects occur. Violence on television is an additional problem. The percentage of ninth- and 12th-graders watching

television more than 40 hours per week (at about 10 percent and 6 percent, respectively) is lower than for sixth-graders but still a concern.

Source: This data is collected in the Minnesota Student Survey, conducted every three years. Data about watching television was first collected in 1992.

11 – Percentage of parents satisfied with their child-care arrangements

Discussion: Children need a stable environment when their parents are at work, at school or otherwise not available. Parents are concerned about the cost, availability and quality of child care, including latch-key or after-school care. Leave from work to care for a new baby or a sick child also is an important issue for parents. Data for this milestone is not currently col-

lected. The best way to find out if parents are satisfied with their child-care arrangements is to ask them.

Recommendation: Questions about child care should be included in a public survey every three years.

12 – Percentage of children who have healthy diets

Discussion: Poorly nourished children are at increased risk for hunger, health problems, slowed brain development and growth retardation, which may inhibit school performance. Malnourishment can also result if the body is unable to digest or absorb food properly or fails to convert food into energy and body-building chemicals. Among adolescents, dieting and eating disorders are a significant cause of malnutrition. The detection and diagnosis of specific illnesses of malnutrition require medical expertise, which means that children should have regular medical check-ups by doctors who have a record of their past growth. Beyond the treatment

of specific nutritional disorders, however, is the issue of promoting a healthy diet. Although debate continues on what constitutes the best diet for children, important information is lacking on the diets of children in Minnesota that might identify children with potential health problems. Data for this milestone is not currently collected.

Recommendation: The Minnesota Department of Health should develop indicators to assess the percentage of children who receive regular medical check-ups and to track the average quality of children's diets.

13 – Abused or neglected children (per 1,000 children)

3.6 1980	7.9 1990	7.9 1995	7.9 2000	5.0 2010	2.5 2020
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Explanation: Substantiated allegations of abuse or neglect are reported to the Minnesota Department of Human Services by county social service agencies for children 17 years old or younger. These numbers reflect only substantiated reports of maltreatment within the family unit and within facilities licensed by the department.

Discussion: Abuse and neglect are extreme behaviors that frequently result in physical injury, emotional illness or mental retardation. Treatment, even if effective, can be long and costly. If untreated, victims are more likely to exhibit anti-social behaviors that result in other large costs to society, such as criminal activity or chemical dependency. If victims become parents, they are more likely to abuse their children.

It is widely believed that abuse and neglect is underreported. As reporting practices improve, the rate may rise. The long-term goal is for the rate of actual abuse and neglect to decline.

In addition to the underreporting problems, the current reporting system also is limited. For example, it is not possible to determine

how many children are repeat victims of abuse or neglect after an initial report is made. Without that data, it is difficult to determine the effectiveness of child and family protection systems.

Source: This data is reported annually by the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

Recommendation: The Minnesota Department of Human Services should proceed with plans to collect data on the number of victims who are subjected to recurring abuse or neglect after an initial report involving either the victim or the perpetrator.

Percentage of Children Who Have Been Victims of Family Violence

“Has any adult in your household ever hit you so hard or so often that you had marks or were afraid of that person?”

6th grade	11%
9th grade	14%
12th grade	12%

Source: 1992 Minnesota Student Survey

Goal: Minnesotans will excel in basic academic skills

14 – Achievement test scores

Discussion: A high level of proficiency in basic academic skills is essential for Minnesota’s students to reach world-class standards. The state and federal governments have endorsed achievement testing as the primary method to evaluate improvement in the nation’s schools and to assess whether we are meeting the national goal of being the best in the world at mathematics and science. National tests are being developed for science, mathematics, history, English and geography. Only one test, in mathematics, has been completed. Until these national tests are ready, which may take several years, average state scores on currently used standardized achievement tests are proposed as the indicator.

Source: Average scores on the standardized achievements tests for several grades and subjects will be available annually from the State University Testing Center.

	MN	U.S.
Whites	278	269
African Americans	239	236
Asians	266	280
Hispanics	240	243

Source: The Trial State Assessment at Grade Eight. “The State of Mathematics Achievement in Minnesota,” U.S. Department of Education 1991



15 – Number of school districts with a 12th-grade dropout rate over 10 percent

Discussion: Children who drop out of school for a year or more risk diminished success in life. One of the six state and national education goals for the year 2000 is a high-school graduation rate over 90 percent. This indicator extends the goal of a high graduation rate to each school district in Minnesota.

Dropout rates are used here instead of graduation rates because data on graduation rates is not collected. One can project from the state dropout rates, however, that the percentage of current ninth-grade students who will graduate with their class is about 85 percent. The 12th-grade dropout rate is used for

this milestone because it is the grade with the highest rate state-wide.

Dropout and graduation rates are a special concern of minority communities because minority students are overrepresented among drop-

outs. About 23 percent of the dropouts in the 1990-91 school year were minorities.

Source: State and district dropout rates are available annually from the Minnesota Department of Education.

	Dropout Rate	% Minority		Dropout Rate	% Minority
Cloquet	22%	14%	St. Paul	12%	50%
North Branch	18%	0%	Red Lake	12%	100%
Minneapolis	17%	50%	Hill City	12%	12%
Mounds View	15%	2%	Austin	11%	3%
Worthington	15%	45%	Willmar	10%	3%
Cass Lake	14%	33%	St. Cloud	10%	10%
Litchfield	13%	6%	Brainerd	10%	0%

Source: Minnesota Department of Education

Goal: Minnesotans will be healthy



16 – Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 births)

Explanation: Infant mortality is defined as the number of children who die within the first year of life per 1,000 live births.

Discussion: The infant mortality rate is a widely accepted and understood measure of community health. The United States has one of the worst infant mortality rates among industrialized nations,

ranking 23rd in 1988. Minnesota is a national leader but has places of high infant mortality, which are obscured by statewide data. In 1990, 496 Minnesota infants died.

There are a number of ways to break down the state’s infant mortality data to better understand where the state has problems. The African American rate is approxi-

17 – Percentage of low birthweight babies

mately three times the white rate, and the American Indian rate is approximately two times the white rate. Geographic breakdowns reveal serious problems in specific neighborhoods of Hennepin and Ramsey counties and in some rural counties in northwestern Minnesota.

The targets for the years 1995 and 2000 are taken from the Minnesota Department of Health plan, “Charting the Course: Minnesota Health Goals and Objectives for the Year 2000.”

5.1%
1980

5.1%
1990

4.5%
1995

3.5%
2000

3.0%
2010

2.5%
2020

Explanation: Low birthweight babies weigh less than 2,500 grams (about 5.5 pounds) at birth.

Discussion: Low birthweight infants are 40 times more likely to die in their first month of life and five times more likely to die later in the first year than other infants. They are much more likely to suffer from chronic conditions, including neurodevelopment disabilities. While Minnesota is a national leader, some areas of the state have a high percentage of low birthweight babies. In 1990, 3,443 low birthweight babies were born.

Targets for the years 1995 and 2000 are taken from the Minnesota

Source: The Minnesota Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, provides the data annually.

Infant Mortality Rate by Race 1990

Whites	6.7
African Americans	20
American Indians	12
Asians	4.2
Hispanics	9.1

Source: Minnesota Department of Health

Department of Health plan, “Charting the Course: Minnesota Health Goals and Objectives for the Year 2000.”

Source: The Minnesota Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, provides the data annually.

Percentage of Low Birthweight Babies 1990

Whites	4.6%
African Americans	12.0%
American Indians	5.8%
Asians	6.3%
Hispanics	5.9%

Source: Minnesota Department of Health

18 – Percentage of children who are adequately immunized

NA 1980	57% 1990	70% 1995	90% 2000	95% 2010	95% 2020
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Explanation: This milestone measures the percentage of children with up-to-date immunizations at 24 months of age. No historical data is provided because the 1980 and 1990 data are not directly comparable. Survey methods changed, as did immunization criteria.

Discussion: The effectiveness of immunizing the population to prevent the spread of communicable disease is well-documented and widely accepted. The trend toward adequate immunization in recent years has been reversed, and once again, the threat of a communicable disease outbreak is a significant public health issue.

In this case, an input measure, immunizations, is used rather than the outcome measure, communicable disease rate, because the relationship between immunization and disease prevention is clear.

The targets for the years 1995 and 2000 are taken from the Minnesota Department of Health plan, “Charting the Course: Minnesota Health Goals and Objectives for the Year 2000.”

Source: The Minnesota Department of Health, Immunization Unit, provides this data annually.

19 – Percentage of Minnesota adults who do not smoke

70% 1980	78% 1990	81% 1995	85% 2000	89% 2010	93% 2020
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Explanation: Data for this milestone is based on a survey question asking adults if they smoke.

Discussion: Smoking is the leading cause of preventable death in Minnesota, according to the Minnesota Department of Health. Smokers are at risk for heart disease, cancer and stroke. Additionally, they frequently expose others

to health risks from second-hand smoke.

Prevention efforts are focused on young people. Studies of adult smokers have found that their addiction usually started in their teens.

The 1995 and 2000 targets are based on a Minnesota Department

of Health goal to reduce smoking to 15 percent by 2000. The 2010 and 2020 targets project continued decreases at the same rate.

Reducing exposure to second-hand smoke is a goal of the recently expanded Minnesota Clean Indoor Air Act.

Source: The data is from the Behavior Risk Factor Survey conducted annually by the Minnesota Department of Health.

Percentage of Students Who Use Tobacco Daily

9th-graders 1992	10%
12-graders 1992	22%

Source: The Minnesota Student Survey

Percentage of Public and Work Places in Compliance with the Minnesota Clean Indoor Air Act

1990	74%
1992	72%

Source: Minnesota Department of Health



20 – Life expectancy

Explanation: This milestone is an actuarial calculation based on current deaths.

Discussion: Life expectancy is a way of expressing how healthy Minnesotans are. Minnesota life expectancy is second only to Hawaii in the United States. Minnesota compares favorably to the U.S. life expectancy of 75.7 and to the international leaders: Japan’s 79.2 and Italy’s 78.1.

Life expectancy rates are affected by many factors, including migration patterns and technological advances in medical care.

These targets are extrapolations based on the trend for the past 20 years. The goal is to keep pace with world leaders.

Source: Minnesota Planning, State Demographer’s Office, reports this data every 10 years.

Percentage of Minnesotans Who Say Their Health Is Good or Excellent Compared to Other People Their Age 1990

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Age 25–44	40.1%	51.3%	7.5%	1.2%
Age 45–64	42.4%	44.3%	10.0%	3.4%
Age 65+	26.0%	53.2%	17.5%	3.2%

Source: Minnesota Department of Health

Goal: Our communities will be safe, friendly and caring

21 – Percentage of people who feel they can rely on another person in their community for help

Discussion: Minnesotans want their communities to be places where people care for and help one another. This would be a strong, positive indicator of a caring community. Data does not now exist for this milestone.

Recommendation: Questions about people’s ability to rely on others in their community for help should be included in a public survey every three years.

228 1980	292 1990	292 1995	240 2000	195 2010	150 2020
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22 – Violent crimes reported (per 100,000 Minnesotans)

Explanation: Violent crime is defined as murder, rape, robbery or aggravated assault.

Discussion: The crime rate is an indicator of the safety of people and the security of their homes. The number of murders, robberies, rapes and assaults in a community can have a major impact on whether people want to live in that community. Many people won’t move into communities with high crime rates. In 1990, 12,217 violent crimes and 39,272 burglaries were reported in Minnesota.

Source: This data was obtained from the *Minnesota Crime Information Book*, published annually by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety.

Burglaries Reported per 100,000 Minnesotans	
1980	1990
1,245	902

Source: Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension

23 – Percentage of people who feel safe in their communities

Discussion: Crime rates do not give a true indication of how safe people feel in their communities or whether they have limited their activities for fear of becoming a crime victim. If people do not feel safe in their communities, their lives are diminished and the com-

munity suffers. This data is not currently collected.

Recommendation: Questions about personal safety should be included in a public survey every three years.

24 – Percentage of people who have been crime victims

Discussion: Currently, Minnesota collects data only on reported crime and victims requesting assistance. There is no information on the actual number of crimes committed and little information about crime victims. Studies have estimated that only half of the crimes committed are reported.

tional Crime Victimization Survey. It would provide additional information about the number of crimes committed and the number of people who are victims of crime.

Recommendation: A survey should be designed and implemented to collect crime and victim information.

This milestone could be measured by a survey modeled after the Na-

59.4
1980

49.8
1990

45
1995

40
2000

35
2010

30
2020

25 – The rate of violent and injury-related deaths (per 100,000 Minnesotans)

Explanation: This milestone measures all deaths of Minnesotans related to violence and injuries, including homicides and suicides.

Discussion: These deaths are preventable. Injury prevention programs, along with improved emergency medical services, have reduced injury-related deaths during the past 20 years. The rate for 1990 is based on 2,721 deaths.

Traffic accidents are the leading cause of accidental death for most age groups. The milestone antici-

Accidental Deaths per 100,000 Children under Age 15

1970	1980	1990
24	17	9

Source: Minnesota Department of Health

pates continual improvements in prevention.

Source: The Minnesota Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, reports the data annually.

**Traffic Deaths
per 100 Million Vehicle
Miles Traveled**

1970	1980	1990
4.41	3.03	1.47

1990 Total Traffic Deaths = 568.
Source: Minnesota Department of Public Safety

**26 – Percentage
of Minnesotans who
volunteer for
community
activities**

Discussion: Data does not exist for this milestone, which should cover youth as well as adults. Minnesotans believe a large number of volunteers is good for a community. Volunteering is a way to help people in need, solve community problems, improve schools and make local government work effectively. Many people believe

youth who volunteer will become more responsible adults.

Recommendation: Questions about who volunteers for community activities and for how much time should be included on a public survey every three years.

NA
1980

34%
1990
(1992)

37%
1995

43%
2000

50%
2010

58%
2020

**27 – Percentage of
youths who volunteer at
least an hour a week**

Explanation: This milestone is based on a question from the Minnesota Student Survey that asks how many hours students volunteer per week. Possible responses to the question include: none, 1-5, 6-10, 10-15, 16-20, 21-40, and 41+. Sixth-, ninth- and 12th-graders are surveyed.

people and prepare them to become involved and responsible citizens. The milestones are based on the increasing popularity of youth volunteer service and establishes a 2020 goal equal to the current estimated rate of adults who volunteer.

Discussion: Volunteer efforts promote the personal, social and intellectual development of young

Source: This data is obtained from the Minnesota Student Survey, conducted every three years.

Goal: People who need help providing for themselves will receive the help they need

NA 1980	2,815 1990	2,500 1995	2,100 2000	1,750 2010	1,400 2020
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28 – Number of people using homeless shelters

Discussion: Many people in homeless shelters often have serious and persistent mental illness or untreated chemical dependency. Others are temporarily out of work and cannot afford housing. Shelters serve as a safety net for these people. The ideal indicator would be the percentage of people needing shelter who are served. Because it is difficult to define and count the population needing shelter, it is not possible to determine the percentage being served. An increase in people in shelters might mean that more people are in need, but it could also mean that a higher per-

centage is being served. In any event, a high or rising number of people in shelters indicates a fundamental failure in efforts to provide decent traditional housing or essential social services. The targets were suggested by the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, based on an analysis of the costs of achieving them.

Source: The Minnesota Department of Jobs and Training has collected data annually on the number of people in homeless shelters since 1987. Supplemental survey data may be useful in the future.

29 – Percentage of recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent Children on assistance more than 24 consecutive months

Discussion: Assistance payments are not a preferred means for supporting families. The preferred goal is for people needing temporary assistance to regain economic independence. Although some families will need long-term assistance, most should not. A high or rising number of long-term recipients is an indication that steps need to be taken to improve the chances of recipients finding and keeping jobs that pay enough to support their families. Accurate data on the

length of time recipients remain on assistance is not now available. The Minnesota Department of Human Services is upgrading its data management system to make generation of such data possible.

Recommendation: Time targets should be developed when data becomes available from the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

9%
1980

11%
1990

10%
1995

7%
2000

5%
2010

5%
2020

30 – Percentage of unemployed people remaining unemployed more than 26 weeks (five-year average)

Discussion: Employment is important both as a source of income and a source of self-esteem. Minnesotans believe that people who want to work should be able to work. A large number of people unemployed for long periods of time is an indication of a mismatch between the labor force and jobs. Unemployment benefits normally cease after 26 weeks.

Annual data for this milestone is an estimate based on a survey sample.

Using a five-year average makes the estimates slightly more reliable and reduces volatility in the percentage due to economic ups and downs. During the early 1980s, the percentage of unemployed people without jobs after 26 weeks peaked at over 20 percent. The rate was below 10 percent in the late 1970s.

Source: The U.S. Census Bureau publishes estimates annually in the *Current Population Survey*.

31 – Quality of life for people with long-term limitations

Discussion: Minnesotans expressed a strong concern for the well-being of people with serious limitations resulting from physical or mental conditions. A large and diverse array of government and private programs is in place to assist people with these conditions. Little is known, however, about how well people's needs are being met. These concerns extend to the well-being of the families of persons with limiting conditions, as it is usually the family who is the primary caretaker in our society. Indicators are needed to show how

well Minnesota is doing in its efforts to help those most in need.

Recommendation: The Minnesota Department of Human Services, in conjunction with private social services agencies, should develop indicators on the effectiveness of social service programs. In addition, questions about the quality of life for people with long-term limitations and their families should be included in a public survey every three years.

Goal: People with disabilities will have the opportunity to participate in society

NA 1980	NA 1990	25% 1995	100% 2000	100% 2010	100% 2020
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32 – Percentage of public facilities that are accessible

Discussion: Access to public facilities is essential to people’s participation in education, society and government. State and federal laws set minimum accessibility standards. Compliance with the new federal Americans with Disabilities Act will improve accessibility over the next several years.

ings have not yet been assessed for compliance. Courthouse data is from a survey by the Minnesota State Council on Disability. State building data is collected by the Minnesota Department of Administration. The Minnesota Department of Education is in the process of collecting data on public school buildings. Transit data is from the Metropolitan Transit Commission.

Source: There is no single source for this data. Many public build-

Current Accessibility of Various Public Facilities

County courthouses 1992: 16% fully accessible; 77% partly accessible
Public schools: assessment in progress
State buildings and parks 1992: 93% surveyed for accessibility problems; 31% of surveys analyzed for construction needs; 4% of identified reconstruction started
Metropolitan Transit Commission buses 1992: 140 of 1,000 (14%) regular buses accessible; 9 routes accessible

People with Limitations					
People 16 to 64			People 65 and over		
		2,752,610			503,654
With a mobility or self-care limitation	234,781	8.5%	With a mobility or self-care limitation	159,893	32%
Limited in employment	203,409	7.4%	With a self-care limitation	47,895	9.5%
Prevented from working	73,059	2.6%			

Source: U.S. Census. Limitations are those resulting from physical or mental conditions that have lasted more than six months. The data does not include people living in institutions.

Goal: We will welcome, respect and value people of all cultures, races and ethnic backgrounds

33 – Number of discrimination complaints filed in Minnesota

Discussion: Complaints are filed with the Minnesota Department of Human Rights or with city or county human rights departments or commissions in Minnesota.

Minnesota Department of Human Rights and local human rights commissions each have their own complaint procedures. Complaints can also be filed in the courts.

If Minnesotans value and respect people of all cultures, races and ethnic backgrounds, the number of complaints of discrimination should go down. Currently, there is no central data collection of discrimination complaints. The Min-

Recommendation: All jurisdictions should report discrimination complaints to the Minnesota Human Rights Department. The department should publish this data periodically.

34 – Percentage of people who say they have been discriminated against in the past year

Discussion: A reduction in the number of discrimination reports would indicate that Minnesotans are becoming more tolerant and appreciative of one another's differences. Although many discrimination complaints are brought to city, state and federal agencies, it is widely believed that the official reporting system does not adequately reflect the true level of discrimination in society. Therefore, a

more meaningful indicator would result from asking Minnesotans whether they have been the victims of discrimination. This data is not currently collected.

Recommendation: Questions about perceived experiences of discrimination within the past year should be included on a public survey every three years.

35 – Percentage of state legislators and constitutional officers who are members of an underrepresented racial or ethnic group

0.5% 1980	4% 1990	* 1995 (1994)	* 2000	* 2010	* 2020
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* Target is to be the percentage of Minnesota’s population who are members of an underrepresented racial or ethnic group.

Explanation: Constitutional officers are the governor and lieutenant governor, attorney general, secretary of state, state treasurer and state auditor.

Discussion: Minorities make up 6 percent of Minnesota’s 1990 population. During the 1989-90 legislative session, there was only one minority person in the Legislature. No minority persons were constitutional officers. In the November 1990 election, three more minority

persons were elected to the Legislature, bringing the percentage up to 2 percent for the 1991 session. No additional minorities were elected in 1992. This measure will indicate if the elected leadership in Minnesota government reflects the general makeup of the population of the state. The target is to make the elected leadership of the state more reflective of the racial makeup of Minnesota. An interim target for 2000 is to double the 1992 representation.

Source: This data was compiled by Minnesota Planning from various sources.

36 – Percentage of state legislators and constitutional officers who are female

9% 1980	19% 1990	28% 1995	38% 2000	51% 2010	51% 2020
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Explanation: Constitutional officers are the governor and lieutenant governor, attorney general, secretary of state, state treasurer and state auditor.

Discussion: Historically, females have been underrepresented in elected office. This measure will indicate if the elected leadership in Minnesota government reflects the general makeup of the population

of the state. The long-term goal is to make the elected leadership of the state more reflective of the gender makeup of Minnesota. An interim goal is to double the representation of females in state elected offices by 2000.

Source: The data was compiled by Minnesota Planning from a variety of sources.

Goal: Minnesota will have sustained above-average, strong economic growth that is consistent with environmental protection

102% 1980	103% 1990	103% 1995	105% 2000	105% 2010	105% 2020
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37 – Minnesota per capita gross state product as a percentage of U.S. per capita gross national product

Explanation: Gross national product is the value of goods and services produced by labor and property supplied by U.S. residents. Minnesota gross state product is the value of goods and services produced by labor and property supplied by Minnesotans.

Discussion: Gross state product measures the value of economic production available to support the state’s population. If Minnesota has above-average economic growth, the ratio of gross state product to gross national product will increase.

The United States is converting to gross domestic product as the preferred measure of economic production. Gross domestic product includes only the value of goods and services produced by labor and property located in the United States.

As data becomes available, this indicator should be converted to the ratio of per capita state domestic product to per capita gross domestic product.

For more detailed economic goals and indicators, see the *Economic Blueprint for Minnesota* published by the Minnesota Department of Trade and Economic Development, in the appendix.

Source: The U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, reports annual estimates of gross national and gross state product.

Economic Growth 1986–89	
U.S. GNP	MN GSP
23.4%	18.7%
Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis	

Goal: Minnesotans will have the advanced education and training to make the state a leader in the global economy

38 – College graduation rates of various systems

U of M	29%	30%	43%	50%	60%
State	40%	41%	43%	50%	60%
Private	67%	67%	67%	67%	67%
	1990	1995	2000	2010	2020

Explanation: The rate is the percentage of first-time, full-time freshmen who earned a bachelor’s degree within five years. Figures are for the University of Minnesota, the state universities and Minnesota private colleges. The graduation rate for 1990 refers to freshmen who started in 1985.

college students earn a bachelor’s degree, and those who do graduate are taking more time to finish than students in the 1960s, when it was common to graduate within four years. Delayed graduation results in greater expenses for students, higher state appropriations and fewer college graduates.

Discussion: Postsecondary education is increasingly essential for an internationally competitive work force. Although Minnesota ranks at or near the top of the states in its high-school graduation rate, it ranks only about 20th in college graduates as a percentage of persons over age 25. It is estimated that fewer than half of the state’s

The target for the year 2000 is set at the national average five-year graduation rate for public colleges (43%), a level already attained by one of Minnesota’s state universities, Mankato State University. A long-term goal is to exceed the average “Big Ten” graduation rate of 59 percent.

**U of M (Twin Cities) Graduation Rates
1984 Freshmen and the Percentage Who Graduated by 1990**

	Whites		African Americans		American Indians		Asians		Hispanics	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Men	2,482	35	99	10	36	0	179	29	40	18
Women	2,011	36	91	11	29	10	103	42	27	19

Source: *Chronicle of Higher Education*, July 15, 1992

39 – Cost of college tuition

Source: Data is from *Chronicle of Higher Education*, March 27, 1991, and the state universities. Private college data is from the Minnesota Private College Re-

search Foundation. A new federal law will require all colleges and universities to report graduation rates each year.

9% 1980	9.7% 1990	10% 1995	10% 2000	10% 2010	10% 2020
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Explanation: For this milestone, the cost of college is average public college tuition, less student aid, as a percentage of personal disposable income per capita. Disposable income is personal income after taxes. Income is averaged over the entire population, not just those attending college.

cannot afford to go to college. In 1991, Minnesota was at about the national average, a level of cost that Minnesota should try to keep, if not improve.

Discussion: Minnesota will not be able to meet this goal if students

Source: The data is from *State Profiles: Financing Public Higher Education 1978 to 1990*. Washington, D.C.: Research Associates; and Minnesota Higher Education Coordinating Board.

56% 1980	73% 1990	79% 1995	85% 2000	85% 2010	85% 2020
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40 – Percentage of high-school graduates who are pursuing advanced training, apprenticeship or higher education one year after high school

Discussion: Increasingly, students need vocational training or college education after high school to compete in the work force and to have a good income. This milestone also reflects the cost of advanced training and education and access to these programs throughout the state. The targets are based on a projection and goal that the

strongly increasing trend from 1975 through 1990 should continue through the decade. It is not expected, however, that all high-school graduates will continue their education in the year immediately after high school. Many people return to college or begin their higher education as older adults or “nontraditional” students.

Source: Statewide data is estimated, based on an annual survey of high-school graduates one year after graduation. The survey is car-

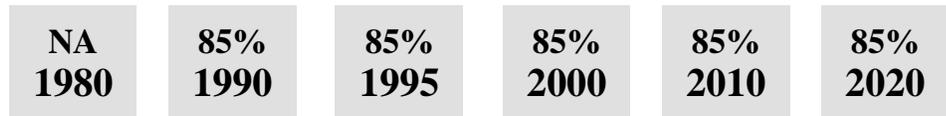
ried out by about 100 high schools, covering about 25 percent of the state's high-school graduates each year.

Enrollment Patterns			
	1975	1980	1990
Community college	10%	9%	14%
Four-year college	27%	32%	47%
Vocational programs	13%	15%	10%
Other training			2%
Total	50%	56%	73%

Source: Minnesota State Board of Technical Colleges

Nontraditional Students		
People over 25 in Postsecondary Education, Fall 1991		
Population over 25	2,771,000	
Students	101,200	3.6%
Men	42,500	42%
Women	58,700	58%

Source: Minnesota Higher Education Coordinating Board



41 – Percentage of recent technical college graduates employed in a job related to their training

Discussion: Employment is the goal of a technical education—specifically, employment appropriate to the training. This milestone is a nationally recognized outcome measure for technical and vocational education programs. The placement rate in Minnesota for

technical graduates is high and should remain at about the same level, if not improve.

Source: This data is compiled annually by the technical colleges through a survey of their graduates.

42 – Percentage of Minnesotans who use public libraries

Discussion: Data for this milestone does not currently exist. Minnesotans believe that learning should be lifelong and not be limited to traditional academic institutions. Library use is an indication of learning activities that span all ages and interests. Data is available on the number of items circulated from libraries and attendance, but this falls

short of measuring actual use of libraries. A measure of library use should include requests for all types of information.

Recommendation: A question on library use should be included in a public survey every three years.

Goal: All Minnesotans will have the economic means to maintain a reasonable standard of living

43 – Minnesota median family income as a percentage of U.S. median family income

106% 1980	105% 1990	105% 1995	105% 2000	108% 2010	110% 2020
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Explanation: The median income is the income level below which half the population falls. Families are related persons living in the same household.

anything about how income is distributed among the population. In 1990, Minnesota median family income was \$36,916, compared to \$35,225 for the United States.

Discussion: The ratio of Minnesota median income to the U.S. median is an indication of how well the typical Minnesota family is faring relative to the typical family nationally. It does not reveal

Source: The U.S. Census Bureau reports median income every 10 years. The U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, estimates median incomes annually.

44 – Percentage of population living in households with incomes at least 200 percent of the poverty line

73% 1980	73% 1990	75% 1995	76% 2000	80% 2010	80% 2020
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Explanation: The poverty line is an estimate of the income necessary for households of various sizes to meet basic living costs. It includes pretax money income, excluding capital gains and noncash benefits, such as employer-paid health insurance, food stamps and Medicaid. The U.S. Department of Commerce adjusts the poverty line annually to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index.

Discussion: Most people consider the poverty line to be a bare minimum for economic well-being. Although any definition of “reasonable” standard of living is arbitrary, most people agree that incomes well above the poverty line are desirable. This measure is an indicator of the portion of the population with sufficient income to maintain a reasonable standard of living without immediate danger

of falling into poverty. In 1990, two times the poverty line was \$13,600 for a single person and \$26,508 for a family of four. The incidence of poverty is much greater for minority populations than for whites.

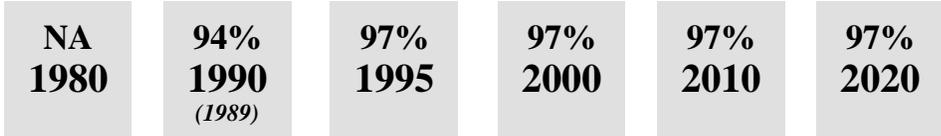
Source: The U.S. Census Bureau reports annual estimates of the population above the poverty line. More detailed census data is available every 10 years.

Percent of Minnesotans at Selected Income Levels 1990	
Below 50% of poverty	3.4%
Below 100% of poverty	10.2%
Below 150% of poverty	17.6%
Below 200% of poverty	26.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Percent Living in Poverty by Race 1990	
Whites	8.5%
African Americans	34.9%
American Indians	50.3%
Asians	24.9%
Hispanics	22.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



45 – Percentage of Minnesotans with health-care insurance

Explanation: Health-care insurance includes traditional third-party insurance, membership in health maintenance organizations, coverage under government-sponsored programs, or other programs that insure people against unmanageable health-care expenses.

Discussion: This milestone is a measure of access to medical services. Ill or injured people without insurance may not be able to afford treatment needed to restore good health. Access to effective medical services is increasingly viewed as

a basic right that should not be compromised by ability to pay. Insurance does not guarantee good health, but it does protect people from undue financial hardship.

The target of 97 percent coverage reflects Minnesotans' desire that all Minnesotans have access to adequate health-care insurance. The Minnesota Department of Health estimates that up to 3 percent of the population would choose not to participate in a state or national universal health insurance program. The department also believes universal

health-care coverage would be unaffordable without first bringing health-care costs under control.

Source: A one-time study for the Minnesota Health Care Access Commission estimated the number of Minnesotans who were uninsured on any given day in 1989.

Recommendation: The Minnesota Department of Health should periodically measure the prevalence of health-care insurance coverage. A question about health insurance should be included in a survey to be conducted every three years.

Goal: All Minnesotans will have decent, safe and affordable housing

46 – Percentage of low-income housing units with severe physical problems

NA 1980	22% 1990	20% 1995	18% 2000	15% 2010	10% 2020
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Explanation: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development considers a housing unit to have severe physical problems if any of five conditions exists: (1) no hot or cold water, no flush toilet, or no bathtub or shower, (2) more than three winter-time heating system breakdowns, (3) no electricity or substandard wiring, (4) no hallway or stairway lighting or stairs and railings in disrepair, or (5) five basic maintenance breakdowns over a 90-day period. This indicator applies to housing units occupied by low-income households.

Discussion: The definition of decent housing is subjective. Some people have higher expectations than others. Ideally, all people should have housing that meets minimum standards of acceptability.

The federal government publishes standards for housing but collects no comprehensive data on the numbers of structures meeting those standards. Similarly, local governments have housing codes and code enforcement programs, but comprehensive data on compliance is not available.

Source: The U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development report data on housing quality based on the American Housing Survey. In Minnesota, the survey covers only the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Area.

Recommendation: The Minnesota Housing Finance Agency should explore the feasibility of extending selected parts of the American Housing Survey to the entire state.

47 – Percentage of low-income renters paying more than 30 percent of their income for housing

NA 1980	67% 1990	65% 1995	50% 2000	40% 2010	30% 2020
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Explanation: For 1990, low income is defined as household income below \$20,000, an amount approximating the median income for renters. For future years, the threshold for low income needs to be adjusted to reflect changes in median income.

tection from rising monthly rents and build no equity in their homes. A large number of low-income renters paying more than 30 percent of their income for housing indicates a serious housing affordability problem.

Discussion: Low-income renters are especially vulnerable to high housing costs. They have no pro-

Source: The U.S. Census Bureau reports renter housing costs by income.

48 – Home-ownership rate

72% 1980	72% 1990	72% 1995	75% 2000	78% 2010	80% 2020
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Discussion: Because of the high up-front costs of home ownership, a high home-ownership rate is an indicator of housing affordability. Homeowners can lose their homes to foreclosure, but they generally are less easily displaced than rent-

ers. Minnesota has higher home-ownership rates than the United States as a whole. In 1990, 72 percent of Minnesota housing units were owner-occupied, compared to 64 percent nationally. However, ownership rates are lower for mi-

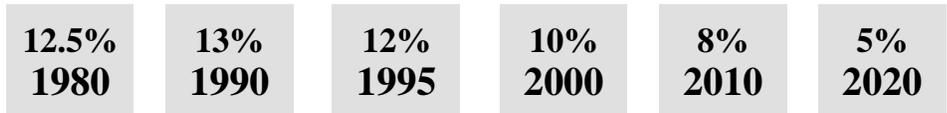
minority populations than the white population. Minority ownership rates are all below 50 percent. Ownership rates for every minority group except American Indians fell between 1980 and 1990.

Source: The U.S. Census Bureau reports data on home ownership.

Home-Ownership Rates		
	1980	1990
Whites	73%	73%
African Americans	37%	31%
American Indians	43%	43%
Asians	51%	41%
Hispanics	49%	47%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Goal: Rural areas, small cities and urban neighborhoods throughout the state will be economically viable places for people to live and work



49 – Percentage of Twin Cities population living in census tracts with poverty rates 1.5 times the state average

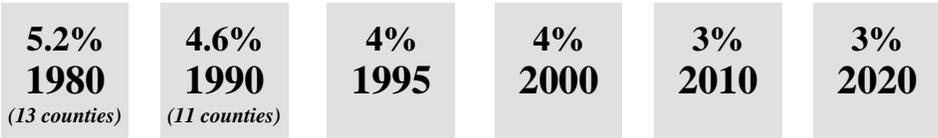
Explanation: Census tracts are neighborhood-sized areas used for compiling census information.

Discussion: This measure reflects both the frequency and geographic concentration of poverty in the Twin Cities area. Census tracts that qualify for this milestone represent neighborhoods that have unusually

large percentages of poor people. This milestone is an indication of how much of the population in the state’s largest urban area live in economically lagging neighborhoods.

Source: The U.S. Census Bureau reports poverty data by census tracts.

50 – Percentage of population living in counties with per capita incomes less than 70 percent of U.S. per capita income



Explanation: Per capita incomes of each county are compared to the U.S. per capita income. Income includes both earned and unearned income.

Discussion: This milestone is an indication of the incidence and geographic concentration of people with low income. The milestone deals with the proportion of the state's population living in counties with enough low-income people to hold the county significantly below the national per capita income. In a sense, this is an indication of how much of the state's population lives in economically lagging areas. In 1990, 11 of the state's 87 counties had per capita incomes less than 70 percent of the national per capita income (70 percent = \$13,087), but they accounted for only 4.6 percent of the state's population. An additional

16 counties with nearly 12 percent of the state's population had per capita incomes less than 80 percent of the national figure. Lower living costs may offset some of the economic disadvantages in these low-income areas.

Source: The U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, estimates per capita income annually for states and counties.

Counties Below 70% of U.S. Per Capita Income 1990
 U.S. per capita income = \$18,696
 70% = \$13,087

Aitkin	Hubbard	Pine
Beltrami	Kanabec	Todd
Cass	Lake	Wadena
Clearwater	Morrison	

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

51 – Minnesota nonmetropolitan per capita income as percent of U.S. nonmetropolitan per capita income

84% 1980	82% 1990	84% 1995	90% 2000	95% 2010	100% 2020
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Explanation: Nonmetropolitan areas include all counties outside metropolitan statistical areas.

Discussion: Per capita incomes are generally lower in rural than in urban areas. The difference may be partly offset by differences in living costs. While most Minnesotans do not want the income disparity between the state’s urban and rural areas to become too large, it is

even more important for Minnesota’s rural areas to keep up with other rural areas nationally. This milestone is an indication of how well Minnesota’s rural areas are doing compared to similar areas in other states.

Source: The U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, reports annual county estimates.

52 – Primary-care physicians per 10,000 people in nonmetropolitan Minnesota

NA 1980	5.5 1990 <i>(1988)</i>	5.7 1995	6.0 2000	6.5 2010	7.0 2020
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Explanation: Primary-care physicians include family and general practice physicians. Nonmetropolitan Minnesota includes 71 counties outside federally designated Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

Discussion: Many people in rural areas must travel long distances for health-care services. Some people must move to larger regional centers to be near needed services. The number of primary-care physicians per 10,000 people is an indirect

measure of the availability of basic medical services in nonmetropolitan areas. Minnesota ranked 24th in the number of primary-care physicians per capita in 1988. The goal of seven physicians per 10,000 people by 2020 would place Minnesota on par with higher-ranking states.

Source: The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Health Professions, reports this data annually.

53 – Minnesota’s rank in telecommunications technology

Discussion: Communications networks are important because they connect households and communities to the larger world. Households and communities without access to state-of-the-art voice and data communications networks will be disadvantaged in economic and cultural development.

An ideal indicator for any particular communications technology would measure the extent to which households, businesses and communities across the state have access to the communications network. To develop such an indicator requires first determining what counts as access. Standards for universal access change with improvements in technology. Today, 97 percent of Min-

nesota households have a telephone. Multiparty lines were once common; private lines will be universally available by 1994. By the mid-1990s, most telephone offices will have digital switches, better suited to data transmission than older electromechanical switches. The Citizens League has recommended that a statewide broadband telecommunications network be completed by 2005.

Recommendation: The Public Utilities Commission should periodically assess Minnesota’s leadership position in the deployment of new and emerging telecommunications technology.

NA 1980	37% 1990	37% 1995	40% 2000	40% 2010	40% 2020
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54 – Percentage of nonmetropolitan population in communities served by two or more options for shipping freight

Explanation: Options include a) year-round surfaced roads with unrestricted access, b) airports qualifying as part of the key airport system or c) a class I railroad. Nonmetropolitan areas include the 80 counties outside the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area.

Discussion: This milestone is an indirect measure of how well the transportation system meets freight transportation needs. Seventy of 74 significant centers outside the seven Twin Cities metropolitan counties are served by a year-

round surfaced road and at least one other kind of transportation. The percent of nonmetropolitan population meeting this standard could rise either because transportation services are extended to more communities or because the population becomes more concentrated in centers that are served. The targets reflect a goal of maintaining or slightly improving the existing degree of transportation coverage.

The ideal milestone would measure the speed and cost at which

freight can be shipped between points in Minnesota and between Minnesota and destinations outside Minnesota.

Source: The Minnesota Department of Transportation can identify communities satisfying the conditions of this indicator.

Goal: Minnesotans will act to protect and enhance their environment

55 – Average annual energy use per person

BTUs per person	300	285	268	241	234
% Reduction	—	5%	12%	20%	22%
	1990	1995	2000	2010	2020

Explanation: Total energy use includes all energy consumed in Minnesota for any purpose, including transportation, agriculture, industry, and residential and commercial use. Figures are million BTUs per person and the percentage reduced from 1990.

Discussion: This is a measure of the collective attitude of Minnesotans toward the environment and preserving natural resources. The use of energy, particularly the use of fossil and nuclear fuels, has a significant adverse impact on the environment. Acid rain, global warming, smog and nuclear waste are but a few of the damaging outcomes of energy consumption. Energy use per person has increased dramatically over the past several decades.

The goal of a 22 percent reduction in per capita energy consumption by 2020 is considered a very aggressive goal. The Minnesota Department of Public Service, in its draft *1992 Energy Policy and Conservation Report*, has projected a leveling of the per capita consumption at the 1990 figure. Other studies have shown that by steadily and aggressively replacing older inefficient devices and appliances with new efficient ones that are on the market today, the *Minnesota Milestones* goal can be achieved.

Source: The Minnesota Department of Public Service collects energy use data annually. Minnesota Planning, Office of the State Demographer, provides population data.

56 – Highway litter (bags collected per mile)

NA 1980	10–20 1990	15 1995	10 2000	5 2010	0 2020
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Discussion: Highway litter left on state roadways is an indication of lack of environmental awareness and concern. Litter is currently being collected by 4,300 groups statewide through the Minnesota Department of Transportation’s “Adopt-A-Highway” program. However, no specific monitoring is being done to assess changes in the amount of litter over time. Average pickup is now 10 to 20 33-gallon bags of litter per mile of roadway. A reasonable goal might be to reduce that to five to 10 bags per

mile by the year 2000 and to zero by 2020.

Source: The Minnesota Department of Transportation.

Recommendation: The Minnesota Department of Transportation and the Office of Waste Management should select pilot highway segments to monitor changes in litter collection annually.

57 – Total water use (billion gallons per day)

3.1 1980	3.1 1990	3.1 1995	3.1 2000	3.1 2010	3.1 2020
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Explanation: Water use includes water provided by municipalities through public water systems and by private rural systems, as well as water used in agricultural irrigation, industry and power production.

based on estimates of savings achievable by all water users.

Source: The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Geological Survey report this data.

Discussion: Minnesota has abundant water resources but will not have enough to meet all needs (fish, wildlife, recreation, domestic consumption, agricultural irrigation and industrial production) unless the resource is used wisely. The targets for this milestone were developed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Water Use (billion gallons per day)		
	1980	1990
Public, rural	.63	.72
Irrigation	.16	.18
Industry/power	2.3	2.2

Source: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Produced	4.4	4.6	4.9	5.4	6.0
Recycled	.96	1.4	2.0	2.4	2.7
% Recycled	22%	31%	42%	45%	45%
	1990	1995	2000	2010	2020

58 – Solid waste produced and recycled (in million tons)

Explanation: Solid waste includes most refuse and debris that is not classified as hazardous. Waste recycled does not include solid waste removed through composting or incineration.

Source: The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Office of Waste Management report this data.

Discussion: Projections of future waste production are based on predicted population growth.

59 – Percentage of students passing an environmental education test

Discussion: The 1990 Minnesota Environmental Education Act requires schools to integrate environmental education into their curriculums. This process has not yet been completed.

Recommendation: The Minnesota Department of Education should develop methods to measure environmental awareness, including a statewide achievement test.

Goal: We will improve the quality of the air, water and earth

60 – Air pollutants emitted from stationary sources (thousands of tons)

Discussion: Complete data for this proposed milestone is not currently collected. This is a measure of air pollution generated within Minnesota. The focus of this milestone is

lead, sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide and ozone. It is estimated that 40 percent or 735 sources are reporting to the Minnesota Pollution Control

Agency. Reporting is now being standardized. By 1993, the data should be more consistent, and additional pollutants will be monitored. It is expected that 100 percent of the emission sources will be providing data by 2010.

Recommendation: The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency should continue improving its program to collect complete data on air pollutants from stationary sources.

120 1980	35 1990	0 1995	0 2000	0 2010	0 2020
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61 – Number of days per year that air-quality standards are not met

Explanation: The state has air-quality standards for selected pollutants harmful to plant, animal and human health. These include carbon monoxide, lead, nitrogen oxides, ozone, particulate matter and sulfur dioxide. Air-quality standards are violated whenever the standard for any one pollutant is not met.

eral government both monitor air quality. Unusual weather conditions can intensify air pollution data from any single year. Therefore, data for this milestone should be averaged over three or more years. The targets are based on Minnesota Pollution Control Agency goals.

Discussion: The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the fed-

Source: The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency collects this information annually.

Rivers	22% 1990	25% 1995	30% 2000	40% 2010	50% 2020
Lakes	11% 1990 <i>(1992)</i>	14% 1995	19% 2000	29% 2010	39% 2020

62 – Percentage of river miles and lake acres that meet fishable and swimmable standards

Explanation: The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency sets standards for fishable and swimmable water. Fishable means water with no fish-consumption advisories. A lake that fully supports the swimmable rating generally is clear to six feet and has restrictions on swimming less than 10 percent of

the time. Figures are the percentage of river miles and lake acres that meet standards.

Discussion: The percentage of lakes and streams qualifying as fishable and swimmable is an indication of the health of the state's waters. However, only 5 percent of

the total river miles and 17 percent of lakes are monitored, and the number of chemicals monitored is limited. The targets were suggested by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Source: The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency reports this data.

Recommendation: The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency should increase its monitoring of lakes and rivers to increase the number being rated on fishable and swimmable standards.

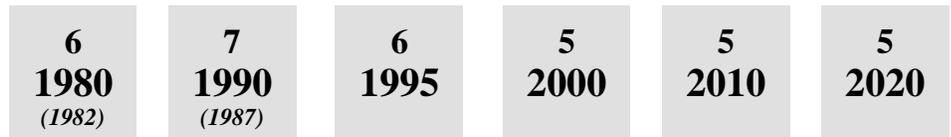
63 – Percentage of monitored wells showing ground-water contamination

Discussion: Reliable data is not currently available to estimate the contamination of aquifers. Sampling water from wells throughout Minnesota provides evidence of ground-water quality. Volatile organic compounds, pesticides and nitrates, all of which indicate pollution problems, have been detected in some of Minnesota’s ground water.

wells sampled in the sand plain region of central Minnesota show signs of nitrate contamination.

Recommendation: The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture should coordinate efforts to test for pesticides through the newly structured network of sample wells. In addition, the monitoring project should be accelerated, since current estimates indicate a 10-year delay for statewide results.

A monitoring network of private and public water supply wells has been established to provide information about the quality of Minnesota’s aquifers. Forty percent of



64 – Soil erosion per acre of cropland (in tons)

Explanation: Soil erosion is measured in tons per acre per year. Wind and water erosion estimates are based on soil type, land use, topography and climate.

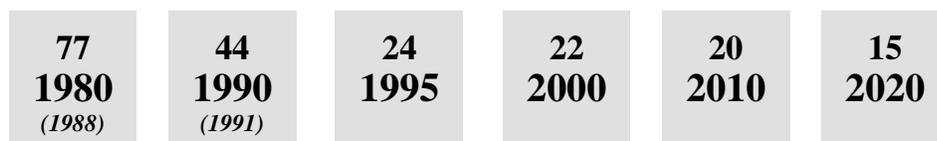
Discussion: Soil erosion causes both on-site and off-site damage. Removal of topsoil by erosion reduces productivity and deposits sediment in wetlands, streams and

65 – Toxic chemicals released or transferred (millions of pounds per year)

lakes and causes environmental damage, including pollution from pesticides and fertilizers. Farmers can control erosion by reducing tillage, keeping crop residue on fields or planting cover crops. Soil scientists have established a tolerance, or T-value, for each kind of soil. The T-value is the maximum amount of soil, expressed in tons per acre, that a soil can lose per year while retaining long-term productivity. Most of Minnesota's

best agricultural soils have T-values of five. The targets suggested by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources call for reducing the statewide average soil loss to five tons per acre per year.

Source: The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, estimates soil erosion based on a statistical sample of farmland every five years as part of the National Resources Inventory.



Explanation: This milestone measures the amount of the toxic chemicals released directly into the air, land and water and those shipped off-site for management at other locations. The 1988 data is reported from 439 facilities, and the 1991 data is from 532 facilities.

Discussion: The Office of Waste Management has a program aimed at eliminating or reducing the use, generation, or release of toxic pollutants, hazardous substances and hazardous and industrial wastes. More than 500 manufacturers must prepare pollution-prevention plans for their facilities and submit annual progress reports. In addition, the state and the business community are undertaking a voluntary effort to achieve 50 percent

reduction in certain high-priority chemical releases by 1995.

The inventory covers only a portion of toxic releases and transfers. Some industries, such as mining and small manufacturing firms, are not required to report. In addition, many chemicals regulated as hazardous under other laws are not inventoried. The 1995 target suggested by the Office of Waste Management is based on the assumption that Minnesota will meet its goal of a 50 percent reduction in 17 chemicals and a 10 percent drop in other chemical releases.

Source: The Minnesota Emergency Response Commission annually publishes information about releases or transferred wastes.

Quantity
Generated
(millions of
pounds)

104
1990
(1992)

116
1995

115
2000

113
2010

110
2020

66 – Quantity of hazardous waste generated

Explanation: Hazardous wastes are defined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Minnesota laws. Included in the official list are wastes that are toxic, flammable, oxidizers, poisons, irritants and corrosives.

Discussion: This milestone projects the quantity of hazardous waste generated. Hazardous wastes include petroleum products, paints, solvents and some cleaning products. The objective

is to reduce production of hazardous wastes.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency projects 95 percent of the hazardous waste generated will be properly managed by 2020. The target is based on expected improvements in management of hazardous wastes.

Source: The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency reports this data annually.

Superfund Sites Identified
Number Cleaned Up

123
3
1980

178
71
1990

219
112
1995

294
162
2000

444
262
2010

460
362
2020

67 – Number of Superfund sites identified and cleaned up

Explanation: Superfund sites are pollution areas on the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's priority list for clean-up. This list changes as new sites are discovered and others are taken off the list through clean-up or reclassification.

Discussion: If not cleaned up, Superfund sites pose serious threats to soil and water resources. This indicator measures progress toward cleaning up the sites. The targets are based on Minnesota Pollution Control Agency estimates.

An additional environmental concern is leaking petroleum storage tanks. While these are not included in the Superfund designation, there are 40,000 registered tanks. In 1990, 2,275 petroleum spills from tanks and lines were reported.

Source: The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency collects this information.

Petroleum Spill Sites 1990

Number 2,300

Cleaned up 700

Source: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Goal: Minnesota’s environment will support a rich diversity of plant and animal life

68 – Diversity of song birds (+,0,-)

NA 1980	NA 1990	+	+	+	+
		1995	2000	2010	2020

Explanation: The song-bird diversity index measures the health and diversity of habitat-specialist song birds. The milestone is positive (+) when more than half of the species are increasing in population. It is negative (-) when more than half of the species are declining.

Discussion: Many song birds, such as robins and sparrows, are habitat-generalists. They are highly adaptable to changes in habitat. Others are habitat-specialists that require unique habitats to nest and reproduce. They are very sensitive to environmental degradation. A decline in the health of these specialist spe-

cies is a leading indication of declines in habitat diversity. The song-bird diversity index reflects both the health of individual species and the number of healthy species.

Source: Data sources include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Federal Breeding Bird Survey, the Minnesota Ornithological Union and the Minnesota Forest Bird Diversity Initiative by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the University of Minnesota Natural Resources Research Institute in Duluth.

NA 1980	287 1990	287 1995	287 2000	287 2010	287 2020
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69 – Number of threatened, endangered or special-concern native wildlife and plant species

Explanation: The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources maintains a list of species that are in varying degrees of danger of disappearing from the state. These species are designated “endangered” (risk of extermination), “threatened” (likely to become endangered within the foreseeable fu-

ture) and “special concern” (extremely uncommon in Minnesota but not yet threatened or endangered). These species have been selected through the combined efforts of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources biologists and a citizen advisory board of experts.

Discussion: The change in Minnesota's endangered plant and animal species is a critical indicator of the state's natural environment. It is likely that this indicator could change, based on discovery of additional species from the Minnesota County Biological Survey, which has not completed its inventory of all counties. Some additional species will also be added through future federal and state classification. The goal of no further decline of these species was suggested by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Source: The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Natural Heritage and Scientific and Natural Areas Program, maintains the permanent data base.

Recommendation: The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources should continue efforts to complete the Minnesota County Biological Surveys from the current 20 counties to a target of 30 by 1995.

7.9 1980	7.9 1990	7.9 1995	7.9 2000	7.9 2010	7.9 2020
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70 – Acres of natural and restored wetlands (in millions)

Discussion: Wetlands are valuable as wildlife habitats and as recreational resources. Wetlands also are important for bait harvest, commercial rice production, flood and storm water storage, nutrient entrapment and ground water recharge. Most of Minnesota's

original wetlands have been lost. The situation is sufficiently critical for the state to have adopted a no net loss policy.

Source: The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources collects this data.

NA 1980	16.7 1990	16.7 1995	16.7 2000	16.7 2010	16.7 2020
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71 – Acres of forest land (in millions)

Explanation: Forest land is defined as land with at least 10 percent forest cover. Forest land counted toward this milestone does not include wilderness land, such

as the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, or state parks.

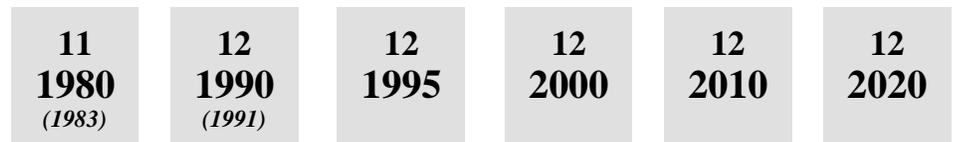
Discussion: Significant decreases in forest area are indicative of ma-

for land-use changes. From 1962 to 1977, forest lands decreased from 18.4 million to 16.7 million acres. Minnesota forest ecosystems harbor 48 native tree, 176 bird, 60 mammal and 28 reptile species. Forests also add to the diversity of the state's landscape and provide opportunities for recreation and support for the state's economy.

In urban communities, tree cover reduces noise and air pollution and provides shading. A statewide community tree planting goal of 1 million trees by the year 2000 has been established for the Minnesota RELEAF community tree planting

and care program. This effort would increase the urban tree cover from 30 percent to 50 percent by 2000. The total forest land target of no net loss of forest land was suggested by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Source: The statewide Forest Inventory and Analysis Survey collects data every 10 to 15 years. The 1977 and 1990 data were collected cooperatively by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Forest Service. The DNR's Forestry Division is responsible for community forestry planting information.



72 – Land area in parks and wildlife refuges (millions of acres)

Explanation: This milestone includes federal land administered by the resource-related agencies (Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management and Army Corps of Engineers), state-owned land administered by the Department of Natural Resources, including state parks, and county-owned land. State and federal land within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA) are included in the public ownership data.

Discussion: Minnesota is noted for its natural settings, which depend,

to a significant extent on the presence of public lands devoted to the preservation and management of natural resources. The most natural of these is the 1.1 million acres of BWCA wilderness. State parks comprise 200,600 acres.

Source: The General Services Administration provides federal ownership data annually. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources provides state and county land data, and the Superior National Forest provides data on the Boundary Waters Canoe Area.

Goal: Minnesotans will have opportunities to enjoy the state’s natural resources

73 – Miles of recreational trail (in thousands)

NA 1980	19 1990	20 1995	20 2000	21 2010	21 2020
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Explanation: A trail is defined as any continuous pathway intended for recreational use for all or part of the year.

Discussion: Surveys conducted for the state suggest that trail-related recreational activities, such as walking, hiking, biking and nature observation, are among the most popular and fastest growing outdoor activities among adult Minnesotans. Over 90 percent of trail miles are public. Although total private trail miles have been included in the Minnesota Department

of Natural Resources Trail Registry, the data needs to be updated because much of it was collected in the mid-1970s. The targets are provided by the Department of Natural Resources and are based on long-range capital improvement plans and trends in railroad abandonments. Private trail mileage is estimated.

Source: Data is from the 1991 Minnesota Registry of Public Recreational Trail Mileage by the Department of Natural Resources, Office of Planning.

NA 1980	2,200 1990	2,300 1995	2,500 2000	2,800 2010	3,100 2020
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74 – Number of public access sites on lakes and rivers

Explanation: Public access sites include boat access, shore access and fishing piers.

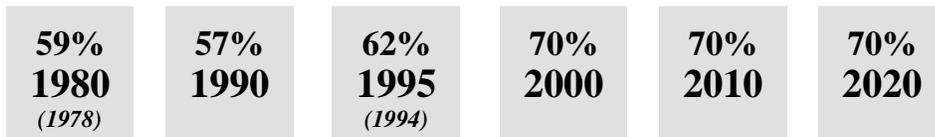
Discussion: With more than 12,000 lakes and 90,000 miles of streams and rivers, Minnesota offers a wealth of water-based recreation opportunities. Providing access to these waters for public use helps meet outdoor recreation demands. Public water access tar-

gets are based on long-range capital improvement plans and funding expectations. They reflect projected boat license increases, fishing interest and the need and capacity for fishing piers and shore access opportunities.

Source: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Trails and Waterways Unit, reports this data annually.

Goal: People will participate in government and politics

75 – Percentage of eligible voters who vote in gubernatorial elections



Explanation: Gubernatorial elections occur every four years. For election years between gubernatorial elections, such as 1980, the turnout in the previous gubernatorial election, 1978, is used.

Discussion: The percentage of eligible people voting in a general election is a measure of participation in the political process. The gubernatorial election is a better measure of participation in state politics than a presidential election.

Using a similar measure (the number voting for the highest office in an election as a percentage of voting age population), the Federal Election Commission ranked Minnesota second in 1990. Since 1980, Minnesota’s ranking has varied between first (1980 and 1984) and 12th (1986). Other states ranked first in the last decade include Maine, North Dakota and Alaska.

Since 1950, participation in the gubernatorial elections has ranged from a low of 47 percent in 1986 to a high of 62.8 percent in 1954.

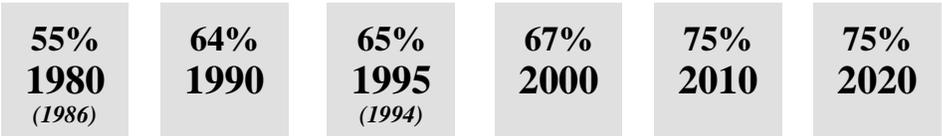
In presidential election years, participation has ranged from a low of 67 percent in 1988 to a high of 84 percent in 1956. Based on this history, the target for voter participation is to increase participation in gubernatorial elections to 70 percent.

Source: The Minnesota Secretary of State compiles this information for all statewide elections. The number of people who voted is from actual voting records. The number of people in the voting age population is an estimate from the Federal Election Commission.

Voter Turnout			
Gubernatorial elections		Presidential elections	
1970	61%	1972	70%
1974	50%	1976	75%
1978	59%	1980	72%
1982	61%	1984	69%
1986	47%	1988	67%
1990	57%	1992	72%

Source: Minnesota Secretary of State

76 – Percentage of dollars contributed to campaigns coming from small contributions



Explanation: State election campaigns include the governor and lieutenant governor, attorney general, secretary of state, state treasurer, state auditor, state senators and state representatives. Because of the law establishing the reporting system, the term “small” has two meanings. For campaigns for governor and lieutenant governor, secretary of state, auditor, and treasurer, it is contributions of less than \$200. For state senator and state representative races, a small contribution is less than \$100.

Discussion: Minnesotans are concerned about the influence of special interests on government decision-makers. People wanted more grass-roots participation in government. Numerous small contributions to political campaigns can dilute the influence of large contributions from special interest

groups. Since the definition of small contribution changed for the 1986 campaign, data prior to 1986 is not comparable and is not included.

This indicator captures only monetary contributions to state elections. It does not include the time people volunteer to political campaigns. Attendance at precinct caucuses can also be used as an indicator of volunteer involvement in the political process.

The target is that more than two-thirds of the campaign contributions should come from small contributions in the year 2000, increasing to three-fourths by 2010.

Source: This data is collected every year by the Minnesota Ethical Practices Board.

Precinct Caucuses Attendance (in thousands)						
	1970	1974	1978	1982	1986	1990
IR	20	25	40	60	10	25
DFL	40	54	60	50	40	60
Total	60	79	100	110	50	85
% of Eligible Voters	2.6	3.0	3.6	3.7	1.6	2.6

Source: *The Party Caucus: An Inquiry*, Citizens League, April 1991

Goal: Government in Minnesota will be cost-efficient and services will be designed to meet the needs of the people who use them

77 – Percentage of the state budget for which goals and outcome measures have been established

Discussion: Minnesota citizens want their government to be cost-efficient and accountable. Many Minnesotans say they are willing to pay taxes if they believe government is spending their money wisely and on needed services.

on whether programs achieve desired results.

Without historic or current data, specific targets cannot be proposed. Total compliance will take a number of years.

Beginning in 1992, the Minnesota Department of Finance required state departments to tie their budget request to specific goals and performance measures. Having goals and performance measures for each part of the state budget makes it possible to focus debate

Recommendation: The Minnesota Department of Finance should report the percentage of the budget tied to outcome measures for the proposed 1994-1995 biennium.

78 – Percentage of local government budgets for which goals and outcome measures have been established

Discussion: This data is not collected now from the 1,801 township governments, 856 city governments, about 411 school districts, and 87 county governments in Minnesota.

makes it possible to focus debate on whether programs achieve desired results.

Without historic or current data, specific targets cannot be proposed.

Minnesotans have the same expectations for local government as for state government. They want their local government to be cost-efficient and accountable. Having goals and performance measures for local government budgets

Recommendation: Local governments should develop performance goals and measures for their budgets. This information should be reported to the state auditor.

79 – Percentage of Minnesotans who say they get their money's worth from their local and state taxes

Explanation: This milestone could be measured by a series of survey questions comparing the value Minnesotans believe they receive for each dollar of state and local taxes to the value Minnesotans believe they receive for each dollar they spend for services such as insurance, medical care or repairs, or for retail goods.

Discussion: While other measures have been proposed, the best way to discover if Minnesotans believe their government is efficient and effective is to ask them. Minnesota state and local governments collect more state revenues per capita than 44 other states.

The target would be for satisfaction with government services to be at least equal to satisfaction with services or goods from the private sector.

Recommendation: Questions regarding public attitudes toward government should be included in a public opinion survey every three years.

Per Capita Government Revenues 1989–90

General Revenue per Capita*

Rank	State	Total per capita
1	Alaska	10,020
2	Washington, DC	4,622
3	New York	4,216
4	Wyoming	4,161
5	Hawaii	3,913
6	Delaware	3,392
7	Minnesota	3,389
8	Connecticut	2,866
	U.S. Average	2,866

*excluding federal funds

Debt Outstanding per Capita

Rank	State	Total per capita
1	Alaska	18,852
2	Washington, DC	7,282
...		
16	Hawaii	3,997
17	Minnesota	3,966
18	Nebraska	3,922
	U.S. Average	3,460

Source: *Government Finances: 1989–90*, U.S. Census Bureau (data for 1990)