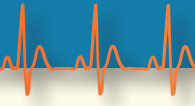


West Michigan's Vital Signs



The 2008 update to the West Michigan Regional Indicators is an interim step as we prepare to refine regional data selections and establish benchmarks with other regions around the U.S.

Details of each indicator can be found at www.wm-alliance.org.

WEST MICHIGAN REGIONAL INDICATORS	REGIONAL TREND OVER TIME	COMPARED TO MICHIGAN	COMPARED TO UNITED STATES	IN THE PAST YEAR
PER CAPITA INCOME	Positive	Worse	Worse	Not keeping pace
EMPLOYMENT RATE	Neutral	Better	Better	Not available*
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT	Not available*	Worse	Worse	Not available*
SELF EMPLOYED PROFESSIONALS	Not available*	Better	Better	Not available*
FREE AND REDUCED PRICE LUNCH	Negative	Worse	Not available	40% receiving FRPL
CLOSED BEACH DAYS	Positive	Not available	Not available	56 fewer closed beach days
TOXIC RELEASE INVENTORY	Positive	Not available	Not available	Down by 167,000 pounds
INCOME BY RACE & ETHNICITY	Negative	Worse	Worse	Widening gap
VOTER PARTICIPATION	Positive	Better	Not available	Voter turnout is increasing
NO HEALTH CARE COVERAGE	Negative	Better	Not available	14% uninsured
CRIME RATE	Positive	Better	Not available	Violent crime is down
TEENS NOT IN SCHOOL	Positive	Better	Better	Down by nearly 2 percentage points
HOUSING COST BURDEN	Negative	Better	Better	Increasing at all levels

* Population samples used by the US Census in the American Community Survey changed in 2006 compared to 2005. New populations such as prisoners, senior center residents and dorm room residents were included. This makes year to year comparisons unavailable.

Visit www.wm-alliance.org for more information and available county-level data.

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