

## **Baseline Community Indicators for NAZ**

### **Spring 2011 approximation using best available data**

During 2010, as part of the work to develop the Promise Neighborhoods planning grant proposal, Wilder Research (with much help from Lauren Martin, NAZ internal evaluation lead) compiled available data related to community characteristics of north Minneapolis. This document summarizes the “best available” information to describe conditions for children and families in the Northside Achievement Zone (NAZ). It is intended to provide a starting point for discussions about timely, relevant community indicators that illustrate changes in the Zone over the course of NAZ’s efforts.

Wherever possible, data by racial/ethnic groups inside the Zone is presented. Additionally, each section presents measures according to:

- The level of geography (and how well it matches Zone boundaries)
- Timeliness
- Availability of data in the future

Each section describes the measure’s level of geography and details on how the measure has been defined, and recommends ways in which the measure can be improved or supplemented by additional data sources.

### ***Overview***

The Northside Achievement Zone (NAZ) is an 18 by 13 block square (255 square city blocks total), bounded by 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue on the north, West Broadway on the south, I-94 on the east and Penn Avenue on the west. The NAZ boundaries were based on a variety of indicators, assets and needs on the Northside and do not correspond to any standard geographic boundaries. Due to this highly tailored approach, data throughout this report are presented at a variety of more standard, aggregate geographies including the following:

- There are two Zip Codes within the Zone, 55411 (below Lowry Avenue North) and 55412 (above Lowry Avenue North). However, both Zip Codes include large areas outside NAZ, and data reported at this level must be interpreted with caution.
- “North side” is a term used to describe two of the eleven communities defined by the City of Minneapolis, Near North and Camden. Over two-thirds of the Zone is in the Near North community.
- Four neighborhoods, sub-areas of the communities described above, are part of NAZ: Folwell, McKinley (both in the Camden community area), Jordan, and Hawthorne (in the Near North community). Jordan is the neighborhood with the largest proportion of the Zone, followed by Hawthorne, Folwell and lastly, McKinley.
- Seven census tracts are part of the Zone, including 18 block groups (5 partial), for a total of 210 census blocks.

Although block-level census data and address-level records allow for the most accurate aggregation of the exact area of NAZ, information on key community indicators is rarely available at such low-level geographies due to confidentiality issues. Therefore, information at the Census block group, tract and neighborhood levels serve as the best, most practical geographic proxies for the Zone when available.

Wilder Research aggregated block-level Redistricting Data, recently released by the U.S. Census Bureau (March 2011). This dataset provides the most accurate information on population and race/ethnicity within the Zone. As Table 1 shows, when compared to the City of Minneapolis, the population of the Zone in 2010 had a higher proportion of people of color – namely African Americans and Asians.

---

## 1. Demographics, 2010

	NAZ	City of Minneapolis
Total population	14,798	382,578
Black or African American	47%	18%
White	20%	60%
Asian, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	18%	6%
Hispanic/Latino	8%	11%
Multiracial	5%	3%
American Indian and Alaska Native	1%	2%
Other	<1%	<1%

**Source:** U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census. 2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Tables P1 and P2.

Although the 2010 Redistricting Data is the best possible source for the Zone's population and racial/ethnic background and count of housing units, the American Community Survey 5-year Summary Files provides more detailed demographic, social, economic, commuting and housing statistics. The most recent American Community Survey data (averaged over the years 2005 – 2009) show:<sup>1</sup>

- Ten percent of the population in the Zone were under 5 years old; 38 percent were under 18 years old.
- Twenty-nine percent of the population over 25 years old did not graduate high school or obtain a GED/equivalency, compared to 5 percent in the City of Minneapolis overall.
- Nearly half (49%) of the family households in the Zone were unmarried parents with children – more than twice the citywide rate of 21 percent.

### *Recommendations for future measures*

For demographic reports on the Zone, the best source is Census 2010 aggregated from block-level data to achieve the most accurate representation of the Zone, and the persons therein. The American Community Survey 5-year Summary Files are of value as well because of the in-depth information on social, economic and housing characteristics, which are no longer collected in the decennial census. However, statistics provided by the American Community Survey are survey-based estimates, and therefore subject to margins of error, especially for low-level geographies such as blocks, block groups and census tracts. Additionally the five-year batching of the data may obscure annual trends.

### **Housing**

The Redistricting Data shows there were 5,356 housing units in the Zone in 2010, of which 18 percent were vacant, more than double the city's overall rate (8%).

The American Community Survey 2005 – 2009 breaks down tenure further and shows that of the occupied housing units in the Zone, just over half were owner-occupied (56%) and the other 44 percent were renter-occupied. The majority of both owners (52%) and renters (60%) in the Zone experienced housing cost burden, that is, they spent over 30 percent of their monthly household budget on housing costs. The cost burden for home owners in the Zone was particularly high considering the overall Minneapolis rate of 36 percent burden for owners. The renter cost burden, however, was consistent with the 51 percent citywide rate. According to

---

<sup>1</sup> NAZ approximated by aggregating block group-level ACS 2005 – 2009 Summary File; includes all of block groups that are partially in the Zone (5 of 18 total).

ACS 2005-2009 the median home value in the Zone (\$148,125) was far below the citywide figure (\$261,853), whereas the median monthly rent was slightly higher at \$849 than in Minneapolis overall (\$780).

The Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) provided NAZ-specific aggregations of foreclosure data from the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office and a count of vacant residential parcels from the Hennepin County Assessor's Office. Understanding the nuances of these datasets is of great importance when it comes to using this information as community indicators. Wilder Research did not have access to detailed information contained in the CURA report. For example, it would be helpful to know the type of properties included in the count of foreclosures (single family residential, commercial, mixed use and so forth) or how many of the newly filed foreclosures in fact completed the court process and were sold at auction, or if the lender or owner successfully completed a short sale prior to a foreclosure judgment. However, a few points are worth mentioning:

- The total number of foreclosures (as reported by CURA) in the Zone from January 2007 to May 2010 was 1,592, and the rate was 33 percent. This exceeds the citywide foreclosure rate (8%) for the same time period. (Note: the rate is based on unspecified property types).
- There were 316 vacant residential parcels in the Zone as of April 2010.

### ***Recommendations for future measures***

Housing conditions at a community level can be described in a number of ways including: 1) the physical condition of properties (the number of condemned houses, adequacy measures by the county determined during property assessments, resident-reported housing violations, including landlord-tenant disputes, and building permits issued for improvements) and/or, 2) housing market activity (median home values recorded in county assessments, the number of sales and median sale price reported by the Multiple Listing Service, the count and trend of foreclosures, and lending to home buyers through the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act). The number of units that are city-, state-, or federally-assisted for low-income individuals and families could be obtained and mapped to better understand affordable housing opportunities outside of private markets. In order to make proper comparisons to other communities or citywide rates, it is important to report such data as a ratio using the proper denominator. Rather than simply citing the count of foreclosures or vacancies, they are best reported as a rate, using the number of housing units by type as a denominator, and distinguishing between single family homes, condos/townhomes and multifamily properties. Residential land use data also provide a helpful contextual foundation for exploring these indicators.

### **Income and finance**

According to the most recent American Community Survey (2005 – 2009) the median household income for the Zone was \$33,798, far below the citywide median of \$51,944. Additionally, the Zone shows a higher proportion of population in poverty – 33 percent were at or below the federal poverty threshold<sup>2</sup> compared to the city overall (20%). Using a broader definition of poverty, i.e., 150 percent of the federal poverty threshold, the disparity increases: 52 percent in the Zone are at or below 150 percent of federal poverty level versus 31 percent of the city's population overall.

Another useful source for describing communities in terms of local economic conditions including jobs and worker characteristics is the Local Employment Dynamics (LED) database, a cornerstone program of the U.S. Department of Commerce Open Government Plan. LED integrates information from the U.S. Census Bureau with state-supplied administrative records on workers and employers derived from state censuses, surveys, and other administrative records. The result is a series of datasets that allow quarterly and annual analysis of low-level geographies to better understand where workers work and live, and worker characteristics by race/ethnicity, age, earnings, or industry groups. It might be possible to model such information at the Zone level.

---

<sup>2</sup> In 2009 the Federal Poverty Threshold was \$22,050 for a family of four; \$10,830 for an individual.

---

## 2. Earnings of workers in the Zone, 2009

	NAZ	City of Minneapolis
<b>Total number of jobs<sup>a</sup></b>	2,699	120,034
Jobs with earnings < \$1,250 per month	30%	21%
Jobs with earnings \$1,250 - \$3,333 per month	47%	36%
Jobs with earnings more than \$3,333 per month	23%	42%

**Source:** *Residence Area Characteristic data file, Local Employment Dynamics released December 13, 2010.*

<sup>a</sup> *Total number of private primary jobs: a count of private-sector primary jobs that meet a user's specification of geography, years, and/or labor market segments. A primary job is the highest paying job (either public or private) for an individual worker for the year.*

The workers who live in the Zone are more likely to earn less than \$40,000 a year (\$3,333 or less per month) from their primary jobs than workers who live in City of Minneapolis more generally.

Another data source that describes personal income is IRS tax information compiled by the IRS Wage and Investment Research Unit. The Brookings Institute provides an interactive web interface that allows users to produce reports on tax returns at various geographic levels, the smallest being Zip Code aggregations. The database was designed to allow researchers to better understand patterns of Earned Income Tax Credit filings, a tax credit for low income workers designed to provide financial assistance to families who would otherwise be living in poverty. The Brookings EITC Interactive website currently has annual information from 1997 to 2007.

Using Zip Codes 55411 and 55412 to approximate the Zone, the 2007 IRS tax data show:

- A total of 20,658 tax returns were filed in 2007 in the Zone; of those, 77 percent received a tax refund and on average that refund was \$2,235.
- 3,655 tax returns (18% of the total returns filed in the Zone) received a Child Tax Credit. Almost all received the refundable portion of this credit (99%), on average \$1,067 per filing. Thirty-two percent of tax returns in the Zone received EITC, averaging \$2,251.
- 378 tax returns were filed with an Individual Tax Identification Number, a tax processing number only available for certain nonresident and resident aliens, their spouses, and dependents who cannot get a Social Security Number (SSN).
- Almost half (48%) of tax returns filed in the Zone had an adjusted gross income of under \$20,000, another 26 percent were between \$20,000 and \$40,000 and the remaining 26 percent were over \$40,000. Of the tax returns filed in the City of Minneapolis overall in 2007 (N=189,703) 37 percent were less than \$20,000 adjusted gross income, 33 percent were between \$20,000 and \$40,000 and the remaining 38 percent was over \$40,000. In fact, 17 percent of city tax returns were over \$70,000; in the Zone only 7 percent had adjusted gross incomes within that bracket.

Overall, the IRS tax return data confirms what the American Community Survey and LED resident area characteristics on workers showed: the Zone is comprised of mostly low and very-low income households.

### *Recommendations for future measures*

Currently, the American Community Survey and other federal data sources such as LED provide the timeliest data available on income and wages. Another crucial community indicator is employment. Although the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development provides a series of reports and tools for accessing employment information, most of this information is available at regional levels, such as the 7-county Metro area, but not for cities or communities. Understanding the size of the civilian labor force, employment rates, new

unemployment claims and the job creation opportunities or who might be at-risk for unemployment (using DEED's projections of growth in specific occupation/industries) for residents in the Zone would be of significant value going forward.

Thinking more broadly about community contexts, however, measures of investment into the physical infrastructure and commercial aspects of the community – such as capital improvement projects, building permits issued for new construction, demolition or improvements on commercial properties and Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) data (number of loans made to small business in the Zone) – could supplement the understanding of capital flow of the community at large, above and beyond the personal earnings of residents.

### Health and nutrition

Infant mortality is considered a key indicator of both health and development and quality of life within communities, states and countries. The racial disparities within the U.S. and Minnesota are well-documented;<sup>3</sup> the same holds true for the City of Minneapolis and its communities, especially the Northside. According to the most recent vital statistics published by the Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support and the Minnesota Department of Health, the three-year infant mortality rate (2007 – 2009) for Minneapolis was 7.1 deaths per 1,000 live births. African Americans had the highest rates (12.9 per 1,000) of any racial group, almost three times the rate for Whites (4.5 per 1,000). Moreover, the Camden community showed an infant mortality rate higher than the citywide rate (8.1 per 1,000) while the Near North community was slightly below the citywide rate (6.2 per 1,000).

Premature delivery, low birth weight, the age and educational status of mothers, and the receipt of prenatal care are factors that influence the health of mothers and infants. These characteristics of live births are reported to and published by the Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support, and summarized in the table below.

### 3. Selected characteristics of live births by community, 2007 - 2009

Total number of resident live births	Folwell (N=386)	McKinley (N=214)	Jordan (N=561)	Hawthorne (N=374)	NAZ Approx. <sup>a</sup> (N=1,535)	City of Minneapolis (N=18,767)
Mother's age: Under 18 years	8%	10%	8%	9%	9%	3%
Mother's educational attainment: Less than high school	30%	30%	34%	36%	31%	23%
Prenatal care received after 1 <sup>st</sup> trimester <sup>b</sup>	22%	29%	32%	38%	26%	20%
"Inadequate" prenatal care <sup>b</sup>	7%	8%	11%	14%	7%	5%
Birth before 37 weeks	13%	14%	10%	17%	13%	11%
Birth weight under 2,500 grams ("low birth weight")	11%	10%	9%	15%	11%	8%

**Source:** Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support. Minneapolis Birth Data 2007-2009, January 2011.

<sup>a</sup> "NAZ Approx." is an aggregate of the four communities listed here.

<sup>b</sup> Of mothers who received prenatal care.

<sup>3</sup> See Children's Defense Fund (<http://www.childrensdefense.org>) "Disparities in Children's Health" Factsheet (April 2009) for a complete overview.

Rates of teenage pregnancy are higher in the Zone as indicated by the rates of births to mothers under 18 years old. Women having children in the Zone are less likely to have completed high school (31%) versus those in city overall (23%). Premature deliveries and babies with low birth weight are also more frequent in NAZ.

As newborns grow into childhood, disparities continue: Hennepin County's 2006 SHAPE child survey (Survey of the Health of All the Population and the Environment) report African American children in Hennepin County are more likely than children of other racial groups to suffer from asthma (20% versus 9% for all races) and eat less than 5 servings of fruits or vegetables per day (73% versus 69%). Both of these issues are also more prevalent on the Northside of Minneapolis when compared to the city or county overall.

The latest iteration of SHAPE released in March 2011 does not report child data by race or by geographic areas smaller than the City of Minneapolis; however, the data is summarized by low and not-low income households in Hennepin County.<sup>4</sup> As described in the previous section, the Zone is comprised of mostly low and very-low income households, thus many of the differences shown in the table below may be applicable to NAZ children.

#### 4. Selected health and nutrition indicators of Hennepin County children (0 – 17 years old), 2010

	Low income		Not low income	
	N=	%	N=	%
In general, the child's health is "excellent." <sup>a</sup>	556	45%	1,636	69%
Child currently has a serious physical, behavioral, or developmental conditions. <sup>a</sup>	542	18%	1,631	7%
The child currently has a condition that limits or prevents his/her ability to attend school regularly.	381	5%	931	1%
Child consumed 3 or more servings of vegetables yesterday.	441	20%	1,236	19%
Child consumed 2 or more servings of fruit yesterday.	441	75%	1,236	81%
A health professional has weighed the child in the past 12 months and described their weight as "too much." <sup>a</sup>	428	12%	1,429	3%

**Source:** Hennepin County Human Services and Public Health Department. SHAPE 2010 Child Data Book, Survey of the Health of All the Population and the Environment, Minneapolis, Minnesota, March 2011.

<sup>a</sup> The 95% confidence intervals for the question do not overlap and may therefore be interpreted as statistically significant between groups.

Children in low income households in Hennepin County were more likely to be diagnosed with serious behavioral or developmental conditions requiring professional help, a current diagnosis of asthma, and/or diabetes. Additionally, children in low income households were also more likely to have been uninsured or insured only part of the year, received medical care at a hospital emergency room, and not have met age-specified preventative care visits. Children in low income households were also more likely to be exposed to tobacco use more frequently.

<sup>4</sup> According to the SHAPE 2010 Child Survey Methodology, a low income household was based on any one of these three criteria: the child receives free or reduced priced lunch at school; the child's current health insurance coverage is provided by a publicly funded source serving low-income families; or the Child survey was successfully matched with an Adult survey from the same household for which household income level data could be directly obtained.

Disparities noted in children's health and nutrition whether by income, race, or geographic area, is also seen in adults. The SHAPE 2006 adult survey shows African American adults in Hennepin County were more likely to report poor health, a higher number of physically or mentally unhealthy days over a 30-day span, and high blood pressure. Residents on the Northside (defined as the Near North and Camden communities) were diagnosed with diabetes and high blood pressure or hypertension more often than residents in other areas of Minneapolis and the city overall. In addition, the Northside fared worse than all other Minneapolis communities when it came to *Healthy People 2010* benchmarks, including daily servings of fruit and vegetables and exercise.<sup>5</sup>

The SHAPE 2010 adult survey, like the child survey, was unable to report data by race/ethnicity. However, the adult data book does provide information by geographic area and, new to the 2010 survey, household income.<sup>6</sup> By and large, health disparities for Northside residents in 2010 remained consistent with the 2006 report.

## 5. Selected health indicators of Hennepin County adults, 2010

	Northside <sup>a</sup>		City of Minneapolis	
	N=	Avg # Days	N=	Avg # Days
Unhealthy physical health days in the past 30 days	861	4.7	3,167	3.2
Unhealthy mental health days in the past 30 days <sup>b</sup>	865	5.8	3,175	4.4
Days when poor health interfered with usual activities <sup>b</sup>	856	4.1	3,168	2.5

**Source:** Hennepin County Human Services and Public Health Department. *SHAPE 2010 Adult Data Book, Survey of the Health of All the Population and the Environment, Minneapolis, Minnesota, March 2011.*

<sup>a</sup> "Northside" is an aggregate of Near North and Camden communities.

<sup>b</sup> The 95% confidence intervals for the question do not overlap and may therefore be interpreted as statistically significant between groups.

Both residents on the Northside (N=857) compared to the City of Minneapolis overall and lower income Hennepin County households (N=1,574) compared to households with incomes at or above 200 percent of poverty shared statistically significant differences among the following *Healthy People 2010* nutrition and exercise guidelines:

- Adults were more likely to be obese, defined as Body Mass Index calculation that exceeds 30.
- Adults were less likely to have consumed the recommended daily servings of fruit (2 or more servings) or vegetables (3 or more servings).
- Adults were less likely to have had 30 minutes of moderate physical exercise at least 5 days per week or 20 minutes of vigorous physical activity at least 3 days per week.

Northside residents surveyed in SHAPE 2010 reported less access to grocery stores or markets; 40 percent "strongly disagreed" that most residents could walk to these destinations, far more in than any other geography reported in the Hennepin County.

Additionally, adult residents of the Northside were slightly more likely to report being uninsured compared to Minneapolis residents overall (10% versus 8%) or have public health care coverage (37% versus 23%). When asked "During the past 12 months, how difficult has it been for you and your family to pay for health insurance premiums, co-pays and deductibles?" a statistically significant proportion of Northside adults (23%) said

<sup>5</sup> *Healthy People 2010* was a national initiative by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that promoted an increase in quality and years of healthy life and elimination of health disparities.

<sup>6</sup> Results are presented for respondents whose self-reported household income are above and below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.

“very difficult.” Moreover, Northside adults and lower income households in Hennepin County used hospital emergency rooms for medical care more often than others.

### ***Recommendations for future measures***

Due to the sensitive nature of vital statistics and need for confidentiality, it is unlikely that characteristics of live births or mortality rates would be published below the neighborhood level. However, it may be possible to secure a data-sharing agreement with Hennepin County to receive a de-identified dataset for SHAPE survey recipients with addresses in the Zone, to more accurately describe and track health indicators. Another potential partnership might be sought with the City whereby health indicator data would include a geocoded flag to identify Zone-specific cases, from which an annual report on “the health of the Zone,” by race and income categories, could be shared with NAZ.

Additional health data on the prevalence of communicable diseases (by racial groups or ages) and cause-specific mortality rates could help provide a better understanding of residents’ health in the Zone. Additionally, compiling data related to the availability of fresh foods, retail stores that accept WIC vouchers (for food and health care items and services), square mileage of park or recreational spaces and amenities, the number of and participation in sports programs provided for children and youth for free or low-cost through Minneapolis Public Schools and Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board could supplement the health information.

### **Socio-emotional development**

Socio-emotional development is a term used to describe the relationships and mental health of children from birth to age six; specifically, how children feel about themselves, behave, and relate to people close to them. Positive socio-emotional development is linked to long-term outcomes such as school success and well-being in adulthood. Timely, community-level data on established indicators of socio-emotional development are difficult to come by and are generally survey-based. SHAPE 2006 offers the following information on Hennepin County children and youth by race on this dimension (please note however, none of the following are statistically significant differences):

- African American children were slightly more likely to have physical, behavioral or mental health issues that limit their ability to do childhood activities (8% versus 6% for all races).
- African American children were somewhat more frequently diagnosed with ADD/ADHD (11% versus 8% for all races).
- African American children suffered from depression and anxiety problems at somewhat higher rates (9% versus 6% for all races).

Although SHAPE 2010 does not report this information by racial groups, there is data specific to low income households (see footnote on page 6). In fact, SHAPE 2010 included a wider range of questions related to this dimension than in prior surveys.



## 6. Socio-emotional development indicators of Hennepin County children (0 to 17 years old), 2010

	Low income		Not low income	
	N=	%	N=	%
Child has a serious behavioral condition. <sup>b</sup>	558	12%	1,639	4%
Child has a serious developmental condition. <sup>b</sup>	558	10%	1,639	3%
Diagnosed with ADD or ADHD by a doctor or health professional. <sup>b,c</sup>	426	14%	1,134	8%
Diagnosed with depression or anxiety by a doctor or health professional. <sup>c</sup>	426	9%	1,134	8%
Diagnosed with Autism or ASD by a doctor or health professional.	553	2%	1,638	3%

**Source:** Hennepin County Human Services and Public Health Department. SHAPE 2010 Child Data Book, Survey of the Health of All the Population and the Environment, Minneapolis, Minnesota, March 2011.

<sup>a</sup> "Northside" is an aggregate of Near North and Camden communities.

<sup>b</sup> The 95% confidence intervals for the question do not overlap and may therefore be interpreted as statistically significant between groups.

<sup>c</sup> Among children 4 to 17 years old.

Most disparities present in SHAPE 2006 between racial groups persist in SHAPE 2010 between low income households versus not low income, with the exception of depression or anxiety issues (do not differ statistically by income) and ADD or ADHD diagnosis (no statistically significant difference between racial groups). It is safe to say, children in the Zone who are low income may be at higher risk for behavioral and developmental conditions, which if left untreated could impact their socio-emotional development in later years.

In SHAPE 2010, Hennepin County adults were asked a series of questions about their perceptions of a number of issues related to socio-emotional health in that they describe relationships between members of the community and how they feel about their immediate environments.

## 7. Community perceptions of adults, 2010

	Northside <sup>a</sup>		City of Minneapolis	
	N=	%	N=	%
This is a good community to raise children in. <sup>b</sup>	864	11%	3,198	35%
People in this neighborhood are afraid to go out at night due to violence. <sup>b</sup>	862	29%	3,194	11%
Gangs are a serious issue in this neighborhood. <sup>b</sup>	858	29%	3,183	8%
Children are safe in this neighborhood. <sup>b</sup>	863	9%	3,184	26%

**Source:** Hennepin County Human Services and Public Health Department. SHAPE 2010 Adult Data Book, Survey of the Health of All the Population and the Environment, Minneapolis, Minnesota, March 2011.

<sup>a</sup> "Northside" is an aggregate of Near North and Camden communities.

<sup>b</sup> The 95% confidence intervals for the question do not overlap and may therefore be interpreted as statistically significant between groups.

All of the above responses maintained statistically significant differences between lower income households (less than 200% federal poverty level) versus non-low income households across Hennepin County in the same patterns presented in Table 7. These findings suggest a significant number of NAZ residents are concerned with how their community may impact their children's health and wellbeing. They have good reason, as rates of violent crimes (including homicides) and property crimes in the neighborhoods of the Zone are among the highest in the city.<sup>7</sup>

### ***Recommendations for future measures***

The SHAPE survey conducted by Hennepin County Human Services every three years is likely to be the most comprehensive source of information related to socio-emotional development of children and socio-emotional health of the adults in the Zone. A community-level data source on child protection calls and reports of abuse and neglect could supplement this information, if available.

#### **Education and development**

For in-depth information on education outcomes including achievement gap, school performance, absenteeism and student mobility in the Northside Achievement Zone, please refer to "Baseline school performance data for NAZ" (Wilder Research, 2010).

Families and communities play critical roles in helping prepare children for school. Several facets of school readiness have already been addressed in this report: economic stability, physical wellbeing, and socio-emotional development. Several disparities between racial groups were seen in the SHAPE 2006 survey for Hennepin County children:

- Forty-eight percent of African American families reported reading or telling stories to their children every day, versus 75 percent of White families.
- Forty-five percent of families on the Northside read books or told stories to their children every day, versus 63 percent in the City of Minneapolis overall.

The SHAPE 2010 child survey added a series of questions related to school- and community-based educational and enrichment activities and family connectedness and communication across early childhood, preschool and school aged children. Again, the information is grouped by low or not low income households across Hennepin County.

Low income households were slightly less likely to engage in activities such as telling stories or reading to their child (age 0 to 5 years old), singing songs, practicing counting or playing number games with their child or engaging in physical activities during a typical week (87% versus 91% in not low income households engaged in all four activities listed). Within a few years, however, disparities become more apparent, for children age 3 to 5 years old, as seen in Table 8.

---

<sup>7</sup> For example, the Monthly Neighborhood Statistics produced by the Minneapolis Police Department for January 2011 shows 9 percent of all crimes occurring in the city took place in the four neighborhoods in the Zone.

## 8. Selected pre-school school readiness indicators of Hennepin County children (3 to 5 years old), 2010

	Low income		Not low income	
	N=	%	N=	%
Child can count higher than 20. <sup>a</sup>	69	21%	319	45%
Child can recognize all letters of the alphabet. <sup>a</sup>	69	30%	319	62%
Child can write his/her name.	69	56%	319	68%

**Source:** Hennepin County Human Services and Public Health Department. SHAPE 2010 Child Data Book, Survey of the Health of All the Population and the Environment, Minneapolis, Minnesota, March 2011.

<sup>a</sup> The 95% confidence intervals for the question do not overlap and may therefore be interpreted as statistically significant between groups.

Another set of questions were asked about school-aged children (6 to 17 years old) including their engagement in school- or community-based educational, enrichment and recreational activities, parental involvement and pre-teen and teen involvement in community and interacting with other adults.

## 9. Selected indicators of school-aged children in Hennepin County (6 to 17 years old), 2010

	Low income		Not low income	
	N=	%	N=	%
Child meets suggested daily guidelines for the amount of time spent doing homework, studying or reading.	348	65%	861	72%
Child meets suggested daily guidelines for the amount of time spent being physically active or playing sports.	348	42%	861	45%
Child meets suggested daily guidelines for the amount of time spent engaged in fine arts activities.	348	24%	861	22%
Child <i>does not</i> spend time with an adult role-model such as a tutor, coach or mentor. <sup>a,b</sup>	240	34%	569	22%

**Source:** Hennepin County Human Services and Public Health Department. SHAPE 2010 Child Data Book, Survey of the Health of All the Population and the Environment, Minneapolis, Minnesota, March 2011.

<sup>a</sup> The 95% confidence intervals for the question do not overlap and may therefore be interpreted as statistically significant between groups.

<sup>b</sup> Among children 10 to 17 years old.

Although few statistically significant differences are seen between low and not low income households in Hennepin County for the early childhood and school-aged indicators presented in Tables 8 and 9, respectively, the proportion of children at or above readiness guidelines still calls for improvement.

In addition to the school-aged indicators presented in Table 9, there were several other data points from the SHAPE 2010 child data book related to development and family connectedness worth mention (statistically significant differences are denoted with an asterisk):

- Low income households were less likely to eat one meal with all family members present over the course of a week versus other households or households in Hennepin County overall.
- Twenty percent of parents with a child 6 to 17 years old who are low income had never discussed being cruel or mean to others with their child\* (compared to 8% of not low income households or 12% of Hennepin County parents overall). However, most parents had talked to their school-aged children about doing well in school at least once.
- Sixty-four percent of low income households said during the past school year, their child was picked on, teased or bullied at school (versus 58% in not low income households); 27 percent were bullied to the point of being afraid to go to school at least once during the past school year.
- Low income households with children 0 to 5 years old reported having to change work hours, quit a job, or not take a job because of problems with child care at much high rates than other households\* (31% versus 12%).

### ***Recommendations for future measures***

To better understand school readiness and child development within the Zone, data on the uptake of early childhood services, such as Head Start or Early Childhood Family Education, could be requested from the Minnesota Department of Education. As with City and County data, geocoded Zone-specific data, categorized by race and income, will be most important for planning actions and tracking outcomes.

#### **For more information**

For more information about this report, contact Krysten Lynn Ryba at Wilder Research, 651-280-2483 or Ellen Shelton at Wilder Research, 651-280-2689.

APRIL 2011