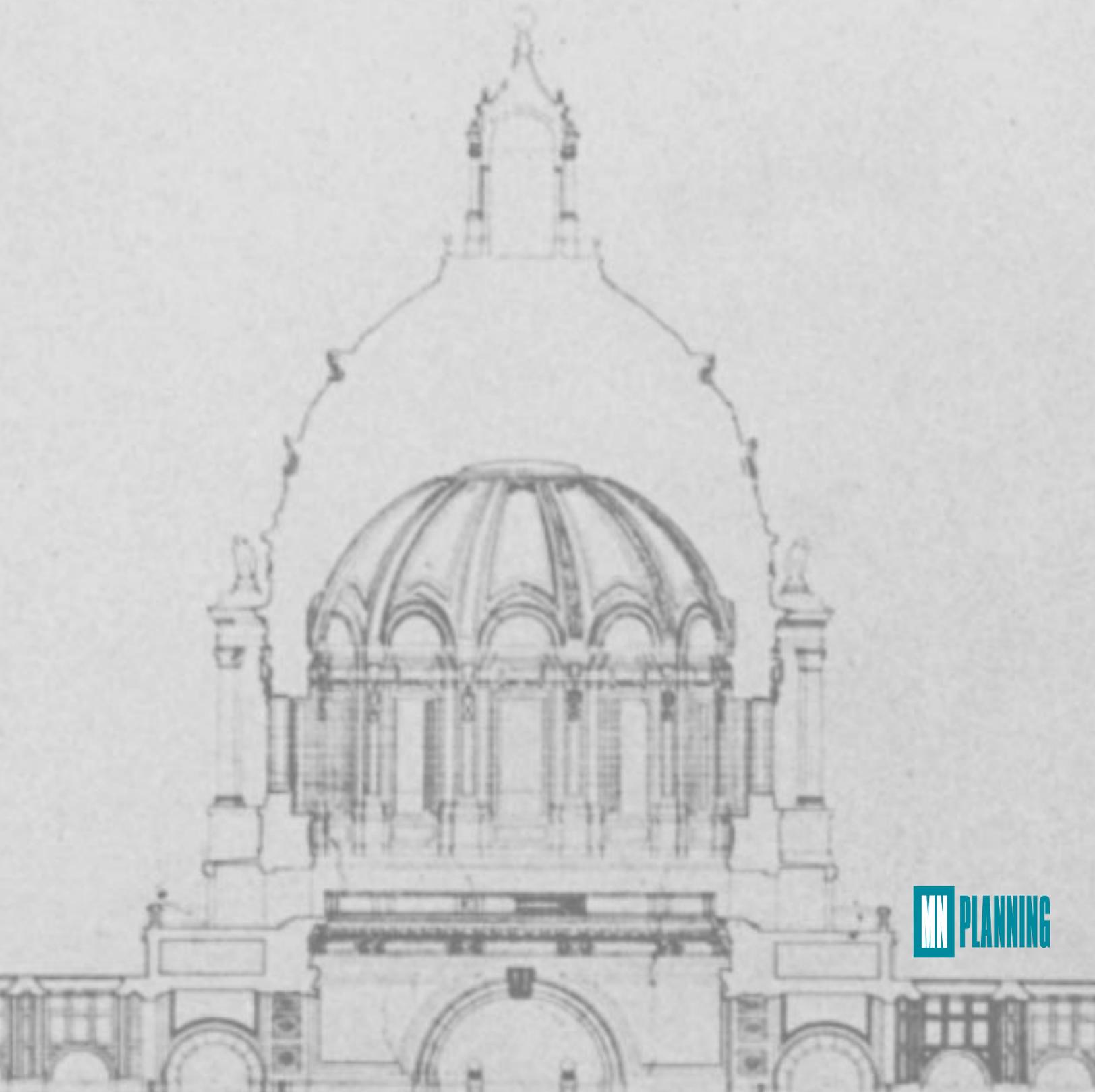


Minnesota Milestones

1996 Progress Report



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.

Minnesota Milestones: 1996 Progress Report was coordinated by Ann Jaede with assistance from Ray Lewis, Jay Fonkert, Deb Pile, David Rademacher, Rolf Nordstrom and Susan Hass, who are staff members of Minnesota Planning.

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An electronic copy of *Minnesota Milestones* reports is available on the Minnesota Planning web site: www.mnplan.state.mn.us.

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Upon request, *Minnesota Milestones: 1996 Progress Report* will be made available in an alternate format, such as Braille, large print or audio tape. For TTY, contact Minnesota Relay Service at (612) 297-5353 or (800) 627-3529 and ask for Minnesota Planning.

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Summary

Minnesota is a little closer to its vision of the future established in 1992 and published in *Minnesota Milestones: A Report Card for the Future*, the state's 30-year plan. Between 1990 and 1995, nine of the 20 *Milestones* goals rated positive results but six turned in the wrong direction. The remaining five goals either had no data or mixed results.

Minnesota Milestones: 1996 Progress Report examines the state's progress toward meeting the vision and goals for its future set by Minnesotans. This is the third report since *Minnesota Milestones* was created by Governor Arne H. Carlson shortly after he took office in 1991.

Thousands of Minnesotans participated in *Minnesota Milestones*, which involved developing a vision for the next 30 years and identifying goals with measures of progress. Citizens recognized that the future they wanted for themselves and their children would require time to develop, but without goals and measures of results, arriving at that future would be unlikely.

The *1996 Progress Report* shows that Minnesotans are becoming healthier citizens, with the infant mortality rate decreasing and the percentage of children who are immunized increasing. The rates of teen pregnancy, juvenile use of alcohol and drugs, and suicide attempts by adolescents have all improved, helping to move Minnesota toward the goal of having families that provide stable environments for their children. At the same time, however, the number of primary-care physicians in rural Minnesota has fallen, and the incidence of violent crimes has increased.

Gains also were registered toward achieving economic goals. Minnesota's median family income once again exceeded the national median, indicating progress toward ensuring that all Minnesotans will have the economic means to maintain a reasonable standard of living. The percentage of long-term unemployed people has fallen below the level set as a target for 1995, a positive trend toward having a state where people who need help providing for themselves will receive the help they need. On the down side, the number of low-income counties increased.

Minnesota's graduation rates from the University of Minnesota and private colleges improved since 1990, though that of state universities dropped slightly. Positive trends also were noted in the number of recent technical college graduates who are employed in a job related to their training and the percentage of high school graduates who are getting advanced education. These indicators showed progress toward Minnesotans having the advanced education and training to compete in the global economy. Casting a shadow, however, is the rise in the number of school districts with a 12th-grade dropout rate of more than 10 percent.

Progress was made on the environmental front, too. The quality of the air, water and earth is improving with reduced air pollutants, fewer days when air quality standards are not met and more Superfund sites identified, cleaned up and monitored. At the same time, Minnesotans are using more energy, rather than less, and they are producing more solid waste, although they are also recycling more. An increase in recreational trails means more opportunities for Minnesotans to enjoy the state's natural resources.

Progress Toward Minnesota's Future

GOALS	1993 TRENDS	1996 TRENDS
Our children will not live in poverty.	Data available in 2000 Census	Data available in 2000 Census
Families will provide a stable environment for their children.	Negative	Positive
All children will come to school ready to learn.	Negative	Negative
Minnesotans will excel in basic academic skills.	No change	Negative
Minnesotans will be healthy.	Positive	Positive
Our communities will be safe, friendly and caring.	Mixed	Negative
People who need help will receive it.	Negative	Mixed
People with disabilities will participate in society.	Not available	Not available
We will value all cultures, races and ethnic backgrounds.	Positive	Positive
Minnesota will sustain above-average economic growth.	Not available	Not available
Minnesota will have the advanced education and training to make it a leader in the global economy.	Positive	Positive
All Minnesotans will have a reasonable standard of living.	Positive	Positive
All Minnesotans will have decent, safe and affordable housing.	Not available	Positive
Small cities, rural and urban areas will be economically viable.	Mixed	Negative
Minnesotans will act to protect and enhance their environment.	Mixed	Negative
We will improve the quality of the air, water and earth.	Positive	Positive
Minnesota's environment will support a rich diversity of plant and animal life.	Not available	Positive
Minnesotans will have the opportunities to enjoy the state's natural resources.	Positive	Positive
People will participate in government.	Not available	Negative
Government in Minnesota will be cost-efficient and services will be designed to meet the needs of the people who use them.	Not available	Not available

Key:

- A positive trend is defined as a goal with half or more of its indicators with data going in a direction toward the target as compared to the base year, 1990.
- A negative trend is defined as a goal with half or more of its indicators with data moving away from the target as compared to the base year.
- Mixed results were recorded for goals with an equal number of positive and negative indicators.
- No change was used to note those goals where data remained the same over time.

While gains were made since 1990 in the percentage of state elected officials who are female, fewer Minnesotans are voting in gubernatorial elections and the share of dollars contributed to campaigns through small donations is shrinking.

Compared to 1993, the *1996 Progress Report* contained three more goals with positive trends and three more with negative trends. Advances toward two goals were uncovered by new data that was not available in the *1993 Progress Report* and an earlier negative finding changed for the better. None of the goals changed from positive to negative between 1993 and 1996.

Largely the result of a new Minnesota Planning survey, three more goals and six more indicators have data than in 1993. The survey, conducted in the fall of 1995 by the University of Minnesota's Center for Survey Research, sampled the opinions of 800 adults throughout the state and had a confidence interval of 95 percent. For the first time, *Minnesota Milestones* has information on the following indicators.

New Data in 1996

Indicator 11 Percentage of parents satisfied with their child-care arrangements	84% (1995)
Indicator 21 Percentage of people who feel they can rely on another person in their community for help	91% (1995)
Indicator 26 Percentage of Minnesotans who volunteer for community activities	62% (1994)
Indicator 34 Percentage of people who say they have been discriminated against in the past year	11% (1995)
Indicator 68 Diversity of songbirds	Steady (1994)
Indicator 79 Percentage of Minnesotans who say they get their money's worth from their local and state taxes	75% (1995)

Minnesota Milestones has sparked discussion in small towns and urban centers throughout the state. It has served as a model for state government and local communities in Minnesota and nationally to identify funding priorities and document needs. From the beginning, *Milestones* was designed to be revised every five years. The indicators will be revised in 1997 as part of a broader review that will be undertaken by experts and citizens. The goal is to gather better data to measure the state's process toward its future.

The *1996 Progress Report* shows that the road to the kind of future Minnesotans envision for themselves is not particularly easy to travel. *Minnesota Milestones* offers a way to mark progress along this road while identifying the barriers to a successful future.

Seeking a Better Future

Minnesota Milestones is based on a simple concept: that defining a shared vision, setting goals and measuring results will lead to a better future.

Created in 1991 by Governor Arne H. Carlson and organized by Minnesota Planning, *Minnesota Milestones* is a report card for measuring the state's progress and a tool for helping Minnesotans create the future they want for themselves and their children.

Minnesota Milestones sets forth a vision of the future developed with the help of thousands of citizens age 8 to 92. It tracks the state's success toward achieving its vision using 20 goals and 79 measures of progress over five, 10, 20 and 30 years.

The *1996 Progress Report* describes changes that occurred since 1990 toward achieving the 20 goals derived from the state's vision for the future and discusses plans for revising the indicators in 1997.

Marking Progress

Minnesota Milestones: A Report Card for the Future, the state's long-range plan, was published by Minnesota Planning in 1992. In addition to the vision, goals and baseline indicators of progress, several recommendations were included to improve the *Minnesota Milestones* process. The report recommended that state government begin collecting more useful information about results so it could improve efficiency and effectiveness. A great deal of data existed that measured processes and inputs, such as how many calls were received or how many people were provided services, but it did not measure results, such as whether programs achieved their intended goals. Since 1992, several major steps have been taken to improve results-oriented data collection.

Over the last four years, progress has been made on the following recommendations from *Minnesota Milestones: A Report Card for the Future*:

- Recommendation: Minnesota government, at every level, must become more results-oriented.

Since 1994, state agencies have been required to prepare biennial performance reports for the Minnesota Legislature. A performance report must include measures of the agency's accomplishments toward its goals and objectives. For example, the Minnesota Department of Trade and Economic Development's *Economic Blueprint for Minnesota* tracks seven goals using 22 indicators of progress and provides periodic updates on their achievement.

- Recommendation: Government spending should be more directly linked to results.

The Minnesota Department of Finance has added a new dimension to state budgets — performance measures. For the 1998 budget, state agencies will be required to report on the performance of individual programs and systems.

- Recommendation: Government agencies should collect data in a way that is useful in assessing results and outcomes.

Minnesota Milestones recommended that scientific surveys should be used to measure public attitude if no other way to measure progress toward a goal exists. Since then, several surveys have been conducted to assess public attitudes, including a state crime survey conducted by Minnesota Planning and a statewide telephone survey conducted for Minnesota Planning by the Minnesota Center for Survey Research at the University of Minnesota. As a result, the *1996 Progress Report* contains new baseline data for six indicators.

■ **Recommendation:** Progress toward statewide goals should be regularly monitored.

Periodic report cards can provide early warning about policies and programs that may not be working. This report is the second to measure progress toward the *Minnesota Milestones* goals. In addition, the *Children's Services Report Card* provides periodic reports by county on the well-being of children using 21 indicators. The *Children's Services Report Card* is available on-line through the Minnesota Planning World Wide Web home page.

In 1997, Minnesota Planning will look for more ways to improve the *Minnesota Milestones* goals and indicators. This process is described in greater detail in the "Next Steps" section on page 42 of this report.

Leading into the Future

The *Milestones* goals cannot be met by government alone: the private sector, communities, nonprofit organizations and individuals must share responsibility for making Minnesota the kind of state its citizens want it to be in 2000, 2010 and 2020. Many groups have embraced *Milestones* and taken action; some of those efforts are described here.

A number of state government agencies have incorporated *Milestones* in their work plans and budgets. For example, the departments of Children, Families and Learning, and Human Services have incorporated the *Milestones* goals as agency goals and regularly monitor their accomplishments. The departments of Natural Resources and Human Services also measure results using *Minnesota Milestones* as a framework.

Choosing Our Future

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; and our government will be responsive, effective and close to the people.

Source: *Minnesota Milestones: A Report Card for the Future*, 1992

On a local level, more than 50 family centers statewide use *Milestones* to gauge their progress toward improving the lives of Minnesota children. Using the *Milestones* goals and 21 children's indicators, Minnesota Planning created an on-line *Children's Services Report Card* with which communities can compare their progress with other counties, regions or the state.

Minnesota Milestones is a national model for how government can measure results. Since 1992, Minnesota Planning has received nearly 500 inquiries about *Milestones* from 48 states and five countries. White House representatives invited Minnesota Planning's director to be a part of a national discussion about accountability in government.

The *1996 Progress Report* is part of a continuing effort to keep Minnesota on course toward its desired future. Readers are encouraged to suggest new and better ways to measure progress toward *Milestones* goals.

Chronology of *Minnesota Milestones*

The Beginning

Winter 1991: Governor Arne H. Carlson asked Minnesota Planning to develop *Minnesota Milestones*, modeled on *Oregon Benchmarks*.

Phase I: Finding the Vision

Summer/Fall 1991: Community meetings were held across the state in 15 locations for citizens to discuss their dreams and hopes for the future of Minnesota.

December 1991/January 1992: Minnesota Planning staff drafted a preliminary vision statement based on the discussions at the community meetings.

Winter/Spring 1992: *Choosing Our Future*, a draft vision document, was distributed for comment and revised based on citizen responses.

Phase II: Measuring Early Progress

Spring 1992: *Minnesota Milestones: Public Review Draft* was published.

Summer/Fall 1992: Civic groups and experts from across the state were asked to review and comment on specific indicators.

Phase III: Moving Forward

Fall/Winter 1992: *Minnesota Milestones: A Report Card for the Future* was published in December. State agencies began to incorporate *Minnesota Milestones* in their budget requests.

1993: Efforts were undertaken to develop strategies to achieve the state's goals in *Minnesota Milestones*.

Phase IV: Measuring Progress Again

1994: The first progress report, *Minnesota Milestones: 1993 Progress Report*, was published.

1996: *Minnesota Milestones: 1996 Progress Report* was published.

1997: *Minnesota Milestones* will undergo extensive review by citizens and experts to improve the state's ability to measure progress toward its 30-year plan.

Making Progress

Minnesota is making gradual progress toward achieving its goals for the future. Nine of the 20 *Minnesota Milestones* goals in 1996 show progress. Of the remaining goals, six show slippage; four have insufficient data to measure change; and one has mixed results.

The 20 *Milestones* goals were designed to bring a sharper focus to the vision. They are intentionally broad and far-reaching. Under each goal are one or more indicators used to measure the state's progress. This progress report includes data from several years: 1990, 1992 and 1995.

Progress toward the *Milestones* goals is determined by measuring change in the indicators between 1990 to 1995. If half or more of the indicators with data for a given goal showed change in a positive direction, then progress was recorded. When half or more of the indicators with data drifted away from a goal, the trend was rated negative. A goal with an equal number of indicators with positive and negative trends had mixed results.

Progress was made toward nine goals:

- Families will provide a stable environment for their children.
- Minnesotans will be healthy.
- Minnesotans will have the advanced education and training to make the state a leader in the global economy.
- All Minnesotans will have the economic means to a reasonable standard of living.
- All Minnesotans will have decent, safe and affordable housing.
- We will respect and value people of all cultures, races and ethnic backgrounds.
- We will improve the quality of air, water and earth.
- Minnesota's environment will support diverse plant and animal life.
- Minnesotan's will have the opportunities to enjoy the state's natural resources.

Negative trends were found for six goals:

- All children will come to school ready to learn.
- Minnesotans will excel in basic academic skills.
- Our communities will be safe, friendly and caring.
- Rural areas, small cities, and urban neighborhoods will be economically viable places for people to live and work.
- Minnesotans will act to protect and enhance their environment.
- People will participate in government and politics.

Sufficient data was not available to measure change for four goals:

- Our children will not live in poverty.
- People with disabilities will participate in society.
- Minnesotans will sustain above-average economic growth.
- Government in Minnesota will be cost-efficient and services will be designed to meet the needs of people who use them.

One goal showed mixed results:

- People who need help providing for themselves will receive the help they need.

The following pages contain a detailed description of progress toward each of the 20 goals and provides data for the 79 indicators used to measure progress. Along with each indicator is a brief narrative that provides the rationale and source of the measurements. Where data is not available, the date it will be available is noted. For some of the indicators, data needs to be developed.

The indicators were selected in 1992 as the best available measures of the goal. Preference was given to indicators that are objective, available, reliable over time and easy to understand. In some cases, no data existed at that time, but other measures have been developed since then. The base year for measurement is 1990; for some indicators, a different year was used because base year data was not available. The year 1992 was chosen as the midpoint for measuring progress by 1995.

The 1995 targets were set as the best estimates of where the state should be in that year in order to achieve its vision for the future by 2020. Actual 1995 data, where available, is presented for comparison. All data is the most current available.

More Data in 1996

Number of Goals With the Following Trends

	1993 Goals	1996 Goals
Positive trend	6	9
Negative trend	3	6
Not available	7	4
Mixed results	3	1
No change	1	0

Compared to 1993, the *1996 Progress Report* contains three more goals with positive results and three more with negative trends. Data that was not available previously was found for three more goals in 1996.

Key:

- A positive trend is defined as a goal with half or more of its indicators going in a direction toward the target as compared to the base year, 1990.
- A negative trend is defined as a goal with half or more of its indicators with data moving away from the target as compared to the base year.
- Mixed results were recorded for goals with an equal number of positive and negative indicators.
- No change was used to note those goals where data remained the same over time.

Goal

Our children will not live in poverty.

Data is not yet available for the two indicators that measure progress toward this goal: the percentage of children in poverty and the percentage of parents who receive the full amount of awarded child support. Data for the first indicator is collected only in the decennial census and will be available in the year 2000; data for the second has not been collected.

Poor households have more difficulty than other households to provide decent housing and nutrition, health care and other physical needs of children. The federal poverty line is an estimate of the income necessary for households of various sizes to meet basic living costs. It includes pretax income and excludes 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 1995, the poverty line for a family of four was \$15,150.

1 Percentage of children living in households below the poverty line

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
12.4%	Available in 2000	Available in 2000	8% (2000)

No new data is available for this indicator. Although the U.S. Census Bureau provides annual estimates of the population in poverty, it does not calculate the number of children in poverty. That information is available only through the decennial census.

Other indications of children in poverty exist, such as the use of free or reduced-price for school lunches. In the 1994 school year, 224,860 students enrolled in the free and reduced-price school lunch program, a 7 percent increase since 1991. These measures are incomplete because they do not include all children, but they do indicate that more children use these services now than in the past.

Source: Minnesota Planning and Minnesota Children's Defense Fund

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

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
Not available	Not available	Not available	Not determined

Data for this indicator is not available. The Child Support Division of the Minnesota Department of Human Services collects data only on those people who have some connection with public assistance or who request the assistance of county social services, which is about 50 percent of all those for whom courts order child support. In January 1996, the division began requiring that all child support payments by noncustodial parents meet certain criteria; if they do not, these parents may have their drivers licenses suspended or be unable to renew their licenses.

The Census Bureau has found that the entire award is paid in about 25 percent of child support cases nationally, while 50 percent of the people for whom support has been awarded get some money and 25 percent get nothing. These percentages have held fairly steady over the last 20 years.

Goal

Families will provide a stable environment for their children.

Three of the goal's seven indicators — rates of teen pregnancy, suicide attempts by young people and juvenile use of alcohol or illegal drugs — show improvement. Two indicators — the number of runaways and juvenile apprehensions per 1,000 children — show negative movement. Information for the remaining indicators is not available.

3 Teen pregnancy rate (per 1,000 girls age 15 to 17)

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
33.7	31.4	31.1 (1994)	Not determined

Minnesota's teen pregnancy rate has declined since 1990. The figures in this report differ from previous reports because the data has been corrected. For this reason, the 1995 target needs to be recalculated and therefore is not presented.

Nationally, Minnesota's rate of teen pregnancies and births is among the lowest in the country. The overall trend, however, may obscure some troubling statistics: Minnesota's rate of pregnancy among African American teens was the highest in the nation in 1990, at 213 per 1,000 girls, the most recent year for which national data is available. Pregnancy rates also were high for American Indian girls (135.2 per 1,000) and Asian girls (79.5 per 1,000). There is no comparable national data for American Indian or Asian girls.

Pregnancies include live births, fetal deaths (20 or more weeks gestation) and induced abortions. The teen pregnancy rate is considered an important indicator of family stability because of the correlation between teen pregnancies and the social and economic risks for the mothers and their babies. Nationally, nearly 60 percent of teens who became mothers were living in poverty at the time they gave birth, according to the Alan Guttmacher Institute, a nonprofit policy-research corporation.

Source: Minnesota Department of Health

4 Runaways (per 1,000 children ages 10 through 17)

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
8.6	8.9	11.5 (1994)	8.5

This indicator shows a negative direction. More Minnesota youth ran away from home in 1994 than in 1990. The Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension reports an increase in the rate every year.

Source: Minnesota Department of Public Safety

5 Percentage of 12th-graders who have ever attempted suicide

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
Not available	13%	12%	13%

This indicator, measured by the Minnesota Student Survey, shows a result better than the target anticipated. Suicide attempts by 12th-graders dropped slightly from 1992, falling below the target level.

According to the Minnesota Student Survey, attempted suicide is strongly associated with other measures on the survey indicating emotional distress, low self-esteem, substance abuse, antisocial behavior, and alienation from family members, friends and other people.

Source: Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning

6 Apprehensions of children (per 1,000 children ages 10 through 17)

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
38.3	39.5	53 (1994)	37.5

The trend of this indicator is negative. The apprehension rate of youth is growing and the crimes involved are more serious and violent. Bureau of Criminal Apprehension data shows that the number of juvenile apprehensions for violent offenses, such as murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault, grew to 2,226 in 1994 from 1,353 in 1990. This is a rate in 1994 of 187 per 100,000 Minnesotans less than age 18 compared to 116 four years earlier. This indicator includes apprehensions of juveniles (youths less than age 18 taken into legal custody) for violent crimes, property crimes and juvenile offenses, such as running away from home and curfew violations.

Although children under age 10 cannot be legally apprehended and determined to be delinquent, they are included in the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension statistics. The total number of apprehensions for youth under age 18 increased 42 percent from 1990 to 1994, jumping from 44,720 to 63,499.

Source: Minnesota Department of Public Safety

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

	1990 (1989)	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
Grade 6	4%	3%	4%	3%
Grade 9	28%	21%	24%	19%
Grade 12	55%	43%	39%	39%

While the 1995 Minnesota Student Survey reported a slight increase in the monthly use of alcohol or other drugs by sixth- and ninth-graders, it also found a continual decline since 1989 in use of all but marijuana by 12th-graders. Alcohol and drug use by ninth-graders dropped between 1989 and 1992 but rose again in 1995. The 1995 target for this indicator was met for 12th-graders, with the percentage of children using alcohol or illegal drugs monthly falling steadily since 1990.

Source: Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning

8 Rate of divorces involving children

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
Not available	Not available	Not available	Not determined

No reliable data for this indicator exists. Minnesotans participating in *Minnesota Milestones* meetings in 1991 and 1992 believed that family breakups have a significant impact on the well-being of children and are a valid indicator of family stability. It was felt that the dissolution of a marriage produces both short- and long-term legal, financial and emotional instability for parents and children.

Since 1984, the Minnesota Legislature has required that information about the involvement of children in divorces be reported to the Department of Health. However, parties involved in divorce proceedings often do not submit the required information, making this data source unreliable.

Minnesota's divorce rate has stayed fairly stable, dropping slightly from 3.6 per 1,000 adults in 1989 to 3.4 per 1,000 in 1994. Further research is needed to determine whether other measures are available that would better indicate the impact of divorce on family stability. Such measures will be reviewed when *Minnesota Milestones* is revised in 1997.

Source: Minnesota Department of Health

9 Percentage of students who move more than once a year

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
Not available	Not available	Not available	Not determined

Reliable data does not exist for this indicator. Minnesotans developing the *Milestones* in 1991 and 1992 felt that a stable home is central to the healthy development of children. They believed that moving more than once a year could create academic and social problems.

The best information relating to this indicator is the percentage of children changing schools or districts two or more times within a single year. In 1993, 1.1 percent (9,087) of Minnesota's school children met this criteria, less than 1.2 percent (10,388) in 1994 and 1.3 percent (11,195) in 1995. Although their total number is small, these children are the most likely to have other disruptions and instability in their lives. This indicator will be reviewed along with possible alternative measures of family stability when *Minnesota Milestones* is revised.

Source: Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning

Goal

All children will come to school ready to learn.

School readiness is one of six education goals adopted by both Minnesota and the federal government under Presidents George Bush and Bill Clinton. The indicators selected in 1991 were considered the best for measuring physical and emotional health, nutrition, family support and developmental skills, though no definitive set of indicators of school readiness is widely accepted. There has been

criticism of the way this goal is worded. The recommended wording is “all children will come to school ready for school.” This issue will be discussed during the revision of *Minnesota Milestones* in 1997.

Four indicators are used to measure progress toward this goal: the percentage of sixth-graders watching television or videos more than 40 hours a week, the percentage of parents satisfied with their child-care arrangements, the percentage of children with healthy diets and the rates of abused or neglected children.

The only indicator with comparative data — abused and neglected children — has improved slightly over 1992 but is still worse than 1990 and is far from the 1995 target. The other indicators either do not have data for previous years or data is not available for any of the years.

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

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
Not available	Boys 18% Girls 11%	Not available	Boys 16% Girls 10%

Measuring progress with this indicator is not possible because data collection methods have changed. Sixth-grade students were asked whether they watched more than 40 hours of television or videos a week in the 1992 Minnesota Student Survey. The survey question was changed in 1995 to ask how many watched television or videos for more than 11 hours a week, a level at which survey developers felt adverse effects may set in. Twenty-seven percent of sixth-grade boys and 16 percent of girls said they watch 11 or more hours of television or videos a week.

Source: Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning

11 Percentage of parents satisfied with their child-care arrangements

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
Not available	Not available	84%	Not determined

Using a statewide telephone survey conducted by the University of Minnesota Center for Survey Research, Minnesota Planning collected data in 1995 for the first time about parents satisfaction with their child-care arrangements. A large majority — 84 percent — of surveyed parents said they are satisfied with the quality of care their children are receiving.

Source: Minnesota Planning

12 Percentage of children who have healthy diets

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
Not available	Not available	Not available	Not determined

Data is not available for this indicator. Poorly nourished children are thought to be at greater risk for health problems, slow brain development and growth retardation, which may inhibit school performance. The 1992 *Minnesota Milestones* report suggested that the Minnesota Department of Health develop indicators to track the average quality of children’s diets. No good way, however, appears to exist for doing this. Further research is needed to determine whether

alternative indicators could provide information on the nutritional factors important for children's readiness for school. This indicator and possible alternatives will be considered when *Minnesota Milestones* is revised in 1997.

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

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
7.9	9.6	9.3 (1993)	7.9

This indicator has moved in a slightly positive direction since 1992. After a big jump between 1990 and 1992, the rate of substantiated abuse and neglect decreased in 1993, the latest year for which data is available. However, this is still worse than the 1990 base-year data. The data presented in this report has been adjusted to correct a data problem found in previous *Milestones* publications.

Abuse and neglect are extreme behaviors that often result in physical injury and emotional illness. Substantiated allegations of abuse and neglect of children age 17 or younger are reported by county social service agencies to the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

Source: Minnesota Department of Human Services

Goal

Minnesotans will excel in basic academic skills.

Two indicators are used to determine whether progress is being made toward this goal: achievement test scores and the number of school districts with a 12th-grade dropout rate of more than 10 percent. The trend is negative for the latter indicator, while no data is available for the first one.

Other data indicates that Minnesota students who stay in school are doing well when compared to their peers across the nation, but more of them are dropping out before graduating.

14 Achievement test scores

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
Not available	Not available	Not available	Not determined

Since no single achievement test is given to all students across all grades, no data exists for this indicator. A state law prohibits the use of a standardized statewide test. Limited data is available from state and national tests.

Under Minnesota's new high school graduation standards, students will have to pass basic reading and math tests by the 12th grade in order to graduate in the year 2000. In 1996, for the first time, Minnesota eighth-graders were given basic reading and math tests. The results showed that 37 percent failed the reading test and 24 percent failed the math test.

In another achievement test by the National Assessment of Educational Progress, Minnesota eighth-graders ranked third in the nation on mathematics proficiency in 1992, up from fourth place in 1990. In 1994, the average reading proficiency of Minnesota fourth-grade students based on the NAEP reading

scale was 218, above the national average of 212. The average proficiency of fourth-grade public school students in Minnesota did not change significantly from 1992 to 1994. A representative sample of public and private schools was used.

Further research is needed to determine whether other indicators could better measure basic academic skills. Minnesota also could consider repealing the law against using a standard statewide achievement test; Minnesota is the only state to have such a law.

Source: U.S. Department of Education and Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning

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

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
14	14	21 (1994)	7

The trend revealed by this indicator is negative. The number of school districts with a 12th-grade dropout rate over 10 percent has increased since 1990. The years listed in the table represent the last year of each school session. This indicator is difficult to measure because of the many different definitions of dropout and will be reviewed when *Minnesota Milestones* is revised in 1997.

Source: Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning

Goal

Minnesotans will be healthy.

Of the five indicators measuring progress toward this goal, two — the infant mortality rate and the percentage of children who are adequately immunized — show positive movement. The percentage of babies with low birthweight, however, has increased, a trend away from the goal. A fourth indicator, the percentage of Minnesota adults who do not smoke, has not changed since 1990, and no recent data is available on life expectancy, the fifth indicator.

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

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
7.3	7.1	7 (1994)	6.5

The infant mortality rate has declined slightly since 1990, but the 1994 rate was still higher than the 1995 target of 6.5 deaths per 1,000 live births. The infant mortality rate is the number of children who die during the first year of life per 1,000 live births. It is a widely accepted measure of the adequacy of a community's health.

Minnesota's infant mortality rate has been dropping steadily since 1980, when it was more than 10 deaths per 1,000 live births. Mortality rates are higher among African Americans and American Indians than among whites and most Asian groups. In 1994, the African American rate was 15 and the American Indian rate was 13.3, compared to 6.4 for whites.

Source: Minnesota Department of Health

17 Percentage of low birthweight babies

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
5.1%	5.2%	5.7% (1994)	4.5%

The percentage of Minnesota babies with low birthweights has increased since 1990, a movement away from the *Milestones* goal.

Babies with birthweights below 2,500 grams, or about 5-1/2 pounds, are considered low birthweight babies. Low birthweight babies have much lower survival rates during their first year than other babies and are more likely to suffer from chronic conditions such as neurodevelopment disabilities. Receiving prenatal care early is the single most important way mothers can prevent low birthweight among their babies.

Source: Minnesota Department of Health

18 Percentage of children who are adequately immunized

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
57%	61%	71%	70%

Minnesota's child immunization rate has improved significantly since 1990 and has now surpassed the 1995 target of 70 percent. A 1992 retrospective kindergarten survey revealed that 61 percent of Minnesota children had received their immunizations by age 2. The *Milestones* goal for the year 2000 is a rate of 90 percent.

Immunization rates are a good measure of a disease-free population because of the strong relationship between immunization and disease prevention.

Source: Minnesota Department of Health

19 Percentage of Minnesota adults who do not smoke

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
78%	78%	78%	81%

The percentage of Minnesota adults who do not smoke has remained constant since 1990. The 1995 rate of 78 percent falls short of the *Milestone* target of 81 percent but represents an important gain from the 1980 rate of 70 percent.

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, and they expose others to health risks from secondhand smoke. The data is based on a survey of Minnesotans age 18 and older.

Source: Minnesota Department of Health

20 Life expectancy (in years)

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
77.9	Available in 2000	Available in 2000	80.3 (2000)

Because the life expectancy at the state level is computed from decennial census data, the most recent data available is for 1990. Minnesota's life expectancy in 1990 was 77.9 years, up from 76.2 in 1980.

Life expectancy is a composite measure of a population's health. Improvements in life expectancy reflect access to health care, improvements to medical treatments and healthy lifestyles. Changes in the composition of the population resulting from in- or out-migration can also affect life expectancy.

Source: Minnesota Planning

Goal

Our communities will be safe, friendly and caring.

Of the five indicators with data for this goal, two indicators — violent crime rate and the percentage of youth who volunteer more than one hour per week — showed movement away from the goal. Baseline data is available for the first time for two other indicators — the percentage of people who feel they can rely on another person in their community for help and the percentage of Minnesotans who volunteer for community activities. No change was registered or data was unavailable for the other indicators.

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

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
Not available	Not available	91%	Not determined

Minnesotans want their communities to be places where people care for and help one another. More than 90 percent of the adults surveyed by Minnesota Planning, through a University of Minnesota poll, said they can rely on help from another person — a neighbor, friend or relative — who lives near by.

Watching a neighbor's property, borrowing tools or small food items, sharing a meal, helping with a problem or participating in a block function or other activities are often taken for granted. Yet, such help may be especially important for vulnerable populations, such as at-risk youth, elderly, disabled or mentally ill people. Measured for the first time in 1995, this is a strong indicator of how caring a community is. No target was set for this indicator.

Source: Minnesota Planning

22 Violent crimes reported (per 100,000 Minnesotans)

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
292	354	359 (1994)	292

Crime rates are an indicator of the safety of people and the security of their homes and can significantly influence where people chose to live and whether certain communities thrive or decay.

The violent crime rate — the number of reported murders, rapes, robberies and aggravated assaults per 100,000 population — went from 292 in 1990 to 359 in 1994, a 23 percent increase. Most of this increase occurred between 1990 and 1992. By comparison, the national violent crime rate for 1994 was 716 reported offenses per 100,000 population. Data from the National Crime Victimization Survey indicates that only 42 percent of violent crimes committed were reported to the police. Completed crimes, rather than attempts, and those involving injuries are the most likely to be reported.

While changes in how law enforcement agencies report violent crimes may account for about half of the growth in the violent crime rate between 1990 and 1992, the remaining increase of about 30 violent offenses per 100,000 population is troubling and has serious implications for the future. Other factors involved in the rising crime rate are a growing number of 15- to 24-year-olds (the group most likely to commit crimes), greater willingness to report crimes and increased public attention to domestic abuse.

Source: Minnesota Department of Public Safety

23 Percentage of people who feel safe in their communities

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
Not available	Not available	Available in 1996	Not determined

Crime rates alone do not indicate how safe people feel in their communities or whether they limit their activities for fear of becoming crime victims. If people do not feel safe in their communities, their lives are diminished and the community suffers. This indicator will be measured for the first time by Minnesota Planning's 1996 Minnesota Crime Survey.

In the 1993 crime survey, 5 percent of the 3,927 respondents said fear of crime prevents them from doing things they would like to do, while 45 percent said it rarely prevents them from enjoying activities and 14 percent said it never does. The survey also found that 44 percent said there were areas within a mile of their homes where they would be afraid to walk alone at night.

Source: Minnesota Planning

24 Percentage of people who have been crime victims

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
Not available	31%	Available in 1996	Not determined

While Minnesota collects data on reported crime and victims requesting assistance, no information is available on the actual number of crimes committed, and little is known about crime victims when offenses are not reported to law enforcement officials. National studies have estimated that only 39 percent of all

crimes are reported to law enforcement officials. Twenty-eight percent of the 1993 Minnesota Crime Survey respondents said they had been a victim of a property crime, while 10 percent reported being victims of violent crime. Respondents who were victims of both property and violent crime were counted only once as crime victims to calculate the 31 percent benchmark. No target was set for this indicator.

Source: Minnesota Planning and U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics

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

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
49.8	48.4	49.8 (1994)	45

The violent and injury-related death rate has fluctuated slightly. This indicator measures all deaths of Minnesotans related to violence, such as homicide and suicide, as well as deaths caused by unintentional injuries, such as motor vehicle crashes or falls. The violent and injury-related death rate is calculated annually using data collected by the Minnesota Department of Health. The rates for 1990 and 1994 are based on 2,177 and 2,274 deaths.

Violent deaths are becoming a growing public health concern. From 1990 to 1994 in Minnesota, homicides increased 10 percent to 149 deaths while suicides decreased 10 percent to 488.

Among accidental deaths, traffic accidents remain the largest category for most age groups, rising from 599 in 1993 to 715 in 1994. Between 1990 and 1994, the number of deaths caused by falls increased 32 percent to 456 and more than half occurred to Minnesota residents ages 85 or older.

Source: Minnesota Department of Health and Bureau of Criminal Apprehension

26 Percentage of Minnesotans who volunteer for community activities

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
Not available	Not available	62% (1993)	Not determined

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.

A 1993 statewide telephone survey paid for by the Minnesota Office of Volunteer Services found that 62 percent of the Minnesota respondents reported that they volunteered. More than two-thirds of the respondents who volunteered said they did so for a religious-affiliated organization; the next two most popular recipients of volunteer efforts were neighborhood or informal activities and schools or educational agencies. The primary reasons for volunteering were “like to help” and “need for volunteers;” the major reasons for not volunteering were “not enough time” and “too busy.” Of those who did not volunteer, 91 percent said they had not been asked.

Source: Minnesota Office of Volunteer Services

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

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
Not available	34%	29%	37%

Many people believe that volunteering promotes the personal, social and intellectual development of young people and prepares them to become involved and effective citizens. In turn, communities, workplaces and other people are enriched because youth provide needed services. This indicator is based on the increasing popularity of youth volunteer services and establishes a 2020 target equal to the 1990 estimated rate of adults who volunteer.

The 1995 Minnesota Student Survey found that the percentage of students who volunteer for different amounts of time per week dropped from 34 percent in 1992, the first year this question was used in the survey, to 29 percent in 1995. Student volunteerism can be supported by school policies adopting a “community service” program or requirement for graduation. It is unknown how many schools give academic credit for organizing or participating in a volunteer project.

Source: Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning

Goal

People who need help providing for themselves will receive the help they need.

A much smaller percentage of unemployed people stayed unemployed for more than 26 weeks in 1994 than in previous years. This positive trend was countered by increases in the number of people using homeless shelters. No data is available for the other two indicators for this goal: the percentage of AFDC recipients on assistance for more than 24 months and the quality of life for people with long-term limitations.

28 Number of people using homeless shelters

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
2,661	3,313	4,492	2,500

Surveys conducted by the Minnesota Department of Economic Security of temporary shelters show the numbers of homeless people rising. 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 safety nets for these people. A high or rising number of people in shelters could indicate that efforts to provide traditional housing or essential social services are failing. Also, such increases may be related to the added beds at homeless shelters.

The target was suggested by the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency based on an analysis of the cost of achieving it.

Source: Minnesota Department of Economic Security

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

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
Not available	Not available	Not available	Not determined

Data is not collected for this indicator. The Department of Human Services last collected data in December 1994 about the number of recipients on AFDC during the previous 60 months. It is not possible to know how many recipients got assistance for more than 24 consecutive months because recipients may have been removed from the rolls for a month or two for administrative reasons and then reinstated.

Minnesotans do not consider assistance payments to be a preferred means for supporting families. Their stated goal is that people needing temporary assistance will regain economic independence.

The Department of Human Services plans to review how best to measure the length of time recipients are on AFDC. This indicator will be considered during the *Milestones* revision.

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

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
9.5%	15.2%	8.7% (1994)	10%

The percentage of people unemployed more than 26 weeks has fallen dramatically from 1992. The data from the State Demographer’s Office indicates that the percentage of people unemployed for a long time grew steadily from 1990 to 1993, then dropped by almost half by 1994. The unemployment rate was 2.9 percent in September 1995, which reflects current trends in the economy. The data for this indicator is corrected from previous reports.

Large numbers of people unemployed for a long time can indicate a mismatch between the labor force and available jobs. Employment is important as a source of both income and self-esteem. Minnesotans believe that people who want to, should be able to work. Unemployment benefits usually cease after 26 weeks.

Source: Minnesota Planning

31 Quality of life for people with long-term limitations

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
Not available	Not available	Not available	Not determined

A single source of data does not exist for this indicator. Minnesotans expressed a strong concern for the well-being of people with serious limitations resulting from physical or mental conditions. Although many government and private programs try to help these people, little is known about how well their needs are being met.

When *Minnesota Milestones* is revised, this indicator will be reviewed and other indicators will be considered for measuring the needs of persons who must live with long-term limitations.

Goal

People with disabilities will participate in society.

This goal has only one indicator: the percentage of public facilities that are accessible. A single source of data does not exist for this indicator.

The federal Americans with Disabilities Act requires governments and businesses to provide public facilities accessible to persons with disabilities, follow fair employment practices and make sure that everyone is able to fully participate in all services, activities and programs. The Minnesota Department of Administration has worked with state agencies to remove barriers.

32 Percentage of public facilities that are accessible

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
Not available	Not available	Not available	25%

Data does not exist for this indicator. Access to public facilities is essential for disabled people so they can participate in education, society and government. State and federal laws set minimum accessibility standards. The Department of Administration is responsible for improving access to state-owned buildings for individuals with disabilities.

During the revision of *Milestones*, research will be conducted to determine if better ways exist to measure how people with disabilities participate in society.

Goal

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

The percentage of state legislators and constitutional officers who are female has increased, giving this goal a positive rating. One of the four indicators has not changed: the percentage of state legislators and constitutional officers who are members of an underrepresented racial or ethnic group. A single source of data is not available for tracking the number of discrimination complaints, the third indicator. New Minnesota Planning data for the remaining indicator found that 11 percent of the survey respondents said they had been discriminated against in the past year. Since 1995 was the first year the data was collected, previous comparisons are not available for this indicator.

Minorities are expected to account for nearly 50 percent of the state's population growth from 1990 to 2000 and are estimated to account for the majority of the state's population growth after the year 2000. The minority proportion of the state's total population is expected to rise from 6.3 percent in 1990 to about 15 percent in the year 2020, which is lower than the current national average of 24 percent. Therefore the proportion of minority representation among elected officials will be targeted at 15 percent by 2020.

33 Number of discrimination complaints filed in Minnesota

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
Not available	Not available	Not available	Not determined

A single source of data does not exist for this indicator. Complaints of racial discrimination can be filed with several state, federal and local agencies and the courts. The 1992 *Minnesota Milestones* report recommended that all jurisdictions report discrimination complaints to the Minnesota Human Rights Department to publish periodically. This recommendation has not been implemented.

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

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
Not available	Not available	11%	Not determined

Although many discrimination complaints are filed with 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. A more meaningful indication may be in the responses Minnesotans give when asked if they have been victims of discrimination. A 1995 Minnesota Planning statewide telephone survey revealed that 11 percent of respondents said they were discriminated against in the past year because of their race, sex, ethnic or cultural background. Four percent of the 803 survey respondents identified themselves as members of minority communities.

Source: Minnesota Planning

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

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
2%	2%	2%	7.6%

This indicator measures how well the state's elected officials reflect the racial makeup of Minnesota's population. So far, no progress has been made. None of the state's six constitutional officers — governor and lieutenant governor, attorney general, secretary of state, state treasurer or state auditor — is a member of an underrepresented racial or ethnic group. Elections for constitutional offices are held every four years; the next one will be in 1998. Four of the 207 members of the 1995-96 Minnesota Legislature were minorities: two Hispanics and one African American in the House, and one American Indian in the Senate. The Senate is elected every four years, the House every two years. Both will be up for election in 1996.

The population projections from the State Demographer for 1995 were used to estimate the number of nonwhites and whites of Hispanic origin (343,523) from a total population of 4,527,580 in 1995.

Source: Minnesota House Information, Minnesota Senate Information, Secretary of State, U.S. Census Bureau and Minnesota Planning

36 Percentage of state legislators and constitutional officers who are female

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
19%	22%	26%	28%

Historically, women have been underrepresented in elected office. As with the previous indicator, the long-term goal is to make the elected leadership in the state more reflective of the population of Minnesota. An interim goal is to double the representation of women in state elected offices by the year 2000 from the 1990 base of 19 percent.

Twenty-two percent of the legislators and constitutional officers were women in the 1991-92 legislative session and increased to 28 percent during the 1993-1994 session. The percentage fell backward slightly to 26 percent in the 1995-96 session. In 1996 half of the six constitutional officers — the lieutenant governor, secretary of state and state auditor — and one-quarter of the legislators are females. In the Legislature, 18 of 67 Senate members and 32 of 134 House members are female. The next election for constitutional offices will be in 1998 and the Senate and the House will be in 1996.

Source: Minnesota House Information, Minnesota Senate Information and Secretary of State

Goal

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

Data is not available to assess progress toward this goal as measured by one indicator: Minnesota's per capita gross state product as a percentage of the per capita gross national product. A more complete set of indicators of economic performance are found in the Minnesota Department of Trade and Economic Development's 1992 *Economic Blueprint for Minnesota*.

37 Minnesota's per capita gross state product as a percentage of U.S. per capita gross national product

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
103%	105%	Not available	103%

From 1990 to 1992, Minnesota's per capita gross state product increased relative to the U.S. per capita gross national product and exceeded the *Milestones* 1995 target. The *Milestones* target for 2000 is to maintain the 105 percent level.

Gross state and national products measure the value of goods and services produced by labor and property. An increase in per capita gross state product as a percentage of per capita gross national product means that the state economy is growing faster than the national economy.

Although more recent gross national product data is available, the U.S. Department of Commerce does not calculate state-level data any more. The most recent state data is for 1992. Another indicator for this goal will be sought during the 1997 revision to *Minnesota Milestones*.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce

Goal

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

Of the five indicators measuring progress toward this goal, positive trends are shown by three: the percentage of high school graduates who are pursuing advanced training; the percentage of technical college students employed in a job related to their training; and college graduation rates. A negative direction is found in one indicator: increases in the cost of college tuition as a percent of disposable income. No data is available about the percentage of Minnesotans who use public libraries.

38 College graduation rates of various systems

	1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
University of Minnesota	29%	33%	32% (1993)	30%
State universities	35%	35%	33% (1993)	36%
Private colleges	67%	69%	68% (1993)	67%

The five-year graduation rate at the University of Minnesota and private colleges have exceeded the *Milestones* target, but the graduation rate of state university students has slipped slightly. This report corrects data from the 1992 report for the graduation rate for state universities.

Completion rates continue to be much higher for private colleges than for public institutions. Low rates for public institutions reflect both the length of time it takes students to earn a degree and the high percentage of students who leave school before getting a degree.

Data used for the indicator is the cumulative percentage of first-time students entering five years earlier who have graduated. For example, 1993 data reflects first-time students from the fall of 1988 who graduated by the end of the 1992-93 school year.

Source: University of Minnesota and Minnesota Private College Council

39 Cost of college tuition (net cost as percent of disposable income)

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
9.9%	11.6%	11.5% (1993)	10%

Net tuition increased relative to disposable personal income between 1990 and 1993, contrary to the *Milestones* target of holding the relationship between income and the cost of college constant.

This indicator reflects the net tuition cost after financial aid is deducted. Increased financial aid or a tuition growth rate slower than growth in income can cause favorable downward movement in this indicator. Data for 1993 is for the 1993-94 school year. The 1990 figure in the 1992 *Minnesota Milestones* report has been corrected from the information in previous reports.

Source: Research Associates of Washington

40 Percentage of high school graduates who are pursuing advanced training, apprenticeships or higher education one year after high school

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
65%	70%	68% (1994)	79%

The estimated percentage of high school graduates pursuing some kind of education one year after high school rose between 1990 and 1992 and then slipped backward in 1994, but it is still above the base year of 1990. In 1994, 68 percent of 1991 graduates were in educational or training programs; most of the remainder were employed.

The 1994 data represents 1993 graduates surveyed one year after graduation. Comparisons between years cannot be made with great confidence because different high schools are included in each annual survey. The 1990 and 1992 data reported here is different from previous *Milestones* reports and has been revised to reflect changes in 1994 data collection methods. The 1995 *Milestones* target was based on the earlier data and may be too high for use with the most recent data.

Source: Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning

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

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
85%	Not available	86%	85%

The percentage of technical college graduates finding work related to their field of study was slightly higher in 1995 than in 1990, exceeding the *Milestone* goal, which was to maintain the 1990 rate of 85 percent. In both 1994 and 1995, the rate reached 86 percent. Data for 1995 represents the graduating class of 1994, surveyed one year later.

Source: Minnesota State Colleges and Universities

42 Percentage of Minnesotans who use public libraries

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
Not available	Not available	Not available	Not determined

Library use was intended as an indicator of learning activities that span all ages and interests. *Minnesota Milestones* recommended that a question about library use be included in a public survey every three years. No such data has been collected, but a University of Minnesota 1994 state survey asked a related question about adults taking advantage of learning opportunities. Twenty percent of the respondents said they had taken a class at a local higher education campus; of these, two-thirds took classes for credit. About one-fourth said they had received instruction in the workplace, and 18 percent reported taking an independent study course at home or some other noncampus location.

Goal

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

Median Minnesota family income as a percentage of U.S. median family income, one of three indicators for this goal, has steadily improved and has surpassed the 1995 *Milestones* target. A second indicator, the percentage of Minnesotans with health-care insurance, has essentially held steady since 1990 but remains below the target level. No recent data is available on the other indicator.

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

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
104%	105%	108% (1993)	105%

Minnesota's median family income improved from 104 percent of the national level in 1990 to 108 percent of the national median family income in 1993 (the latest year for which data is available), exceeding the 1995 *Milestones* target of 105 percent.

The original *Milestones* report cited a 1990 figure of 105 percent, based on decennial census data. The 1990 figure has been revised in this publication to make it comparable to the annual estimates used for 1992 and 1993.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

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

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
73%	Available in 2000	Available in 2000	76% (2000)

This is a measure of the portion of the population that has sufficient income to maintain a reasonable standard of living without immediate danger of falling into poverty. In 1995, 200 percent of the federal poverty line was \$14,940 for a single person and \$30,300 for a family of four. The figures for 1990 are \$13,600 for a single person and \$26,500 for a family of four. More than one-fourth of Minnesota households had incomes below this standard in 1990. State-level data for this indicator is available only in the decennial census. The Census Bureau prepares annual state-level estimates of the percentage of the population in poverty, but the margin of error for these estimates is large because of the small sample size.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

45 Percentage of Minnesotans with health-care insurance

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
91%	92%	91% (1994)	97%

The percentage of Minnesotans with health-care insurance held constant between 1990 and 1994 at 91 percent, falling short of the 1995 *Milestones* target of 97 percent. Even so, Minnesota compares favorably with the nation on this indicator. Minnesota's year-round insured rate has held steady at about 91 percent, while the national rate has slipped from 87 percent in 1990 to 85 percent in 1995.

This indicator measures the percent of the population with insurance coverage during the entire year. The estimate is based on data from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey.

Source: Minnesota Department of Health

Goal

All Minnesotans will have decent, safe and affordable housing.

No change was indicated in the physical condition of low-income housing units, one of three measures of this goal, while the home ownership rate rose, indicating a trend toward the goal. No recent data is available on the percentage of low-income renters paying more than 30 percent of their income for housing.

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

1990 2% (1989)	1992 Not available	Actual 1995 2% (1993)	Targeted 1995 Not determined
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The percentage of low-income housing units with severe physical problems has not changed since 1990. The 1990 data presented here has been corrected and therefore is different from previous *Milestones* reports; as a result, the targets for 1995 and subsequent years are not valid.

This indicator will be reviewed during the revision of *Milestones*. The original intent was to measure the condition of housing stock available to low-income people, but the definition of "severe physical problems" may be too restrictive. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development considers a housing unit to have severe physical problems if any of five conditions exist. It has: 1) no hot or cold water, flush toilet, or 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 or railings in disrepair or 5) five basic maintenance breakdowns over a 90-day period.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

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

1990 67%	1992 Available in 2000	Actual 1995 Available in 2000	Targeted 1995 50% (2000)
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This indicator deals with the relationship between the cost of housing and income. Housing costs above 30 percent of personal income are considered especially burdensome for low-income people because they have less income available for other necessities. For 1990, low-income households were defined as households with incomes below \$20,000, which approximated the median income for renters.

Because the data necessary for this indicator is available at the state level only in the U.S. decennial census, no recent data is reported here.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

48 Home ownership rate

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
72%	66.7%	73.3%	72%

Minnesota’s home ownership rate increased since 1990, when it was 72 percent. Minnesota has historically had higher home ownership rates than the nation as a whole; rates, however, are lower for minorities than for whites.

The data for 1992 and 1995 is based on a sample survey, making comparison to the 1990 census figure uncertain. The home ownership rate is defined as the percentage of housing units that are owner-occupied. Although only 72 percent of units were owner-occupied in 1990, 77 percent of Minnesotans lived in owner-occupied housing.

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.

Three of the six indicators for this goal — the percentage of population living in low-income counties, the relationship of Minnesota’s nonmetropolitan per capita income to U.S. nonmetropolitan income and the number of primary-care physicians per 10,000 people in nonmetropolitan areas — show movement away from the goal. No recent data is available for the other three indicators.

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

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
13%	Available in 2000	Available in 2000	10% (2000)

This indicator reflects an unhealthy concentration of poverty. No recent data is available because this indicator requires population and income data by census tract, which only is available every 10 years through the U.S. census.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

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

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
4.6% 11 counties	4.2% 10 counties	5.6% (1993) 17 counties	4%

In 1993, 17 Minnesota counties with 5.6 percent of the state’s population had per capita income levels below 70 percent of the U.S. figure. Eleven counties fell below this threshold in 1990, as did 10 in 1992.

Swings in agricultural income affect Minnesota’s performance on this indicator. Most of the low-income counties are rural. The high number of low-income counties in 1993 reflects, in part, the effect of flooding on farm incomes.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce

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

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
105.3%	104.3%	104.1% (1993)	107%

The data in this report corrects data from previous *Minnesota Milestones* reports. Per capita income in nonmetropolitan Minnesota slipped a bit compared to U.S. nonmetropolitan per capita income between 1990 and 1993, a trend away from the goal. Per capita income in nonmetropolitan areas of Minnesota is lower than in metropolitan areas, but Minnesota’s nonmetropolitan areas compare favorably with nonmetropolitan areas in other states. Minnesota’s nonmetropolitan per capita income was a little more than 105 percent of the national figure in 1990. The state’s edge slipped slightly in 1993, the latest year for which this data is available; a dip in farm income may have contributed to this decline. A disadvantage of this indicator is that personal income can be quite erratic in states like Minnesota that have large agricultural sectors.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce

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

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
5.5 (1988)	Not available	5.3 (1993)	5.7

The number of primary-care physicians per 10,000 people in nonmetropolitan Minnesota fell slightly between 1988 and 1993, slipping away from the 1995 target.

The 1993 figure ranged from 11.4 in Olmsted County down to 1.4 in LeSueur and Roseau counties. Counties close to urban centers have some of the lowest numbers. The seven-county Twin Cities area had 6.5 primary-care physicians per 10,000 people.

Source: Minnesota Department of Health

53 Minnesota's rank in telecommunications technology

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
Not available	Not available	Not available	Not determined

To be economically viable, schools, businesses and households need widespread access to telecommunications networks. However, no good measure of access exists. *Milestones* has recommended that the Public Utilities Commission periodically assess Minnesota's leadership position in the deployment of new and emerging telecommunications technology. This indicator will be considered when *Milestones* is revised.

54 Percentage of nonmetropolitan population in communities served by two or more options for shipping freight

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
37%	Not available	Not available	37%

Transportation systems are important connections to the rest of the world. To adequately measure this indicator, communities must be identified that are served by two or more of the following: a year-round surfaced road without weight restrictions, an airport that is part of the state's key airport system or a class I railroad. The indicator then calls for calculating the population of these communities as a percent of the state's total nonmetropolitan population. The Minnesota Department of Transportation computed the indicator for 1990, but more recent data is not available.

Source: Minnesota Department of Transportation

Goal

Minnesotans will act to protect and enhance their environment.

Of the five indicators used to track progress toward this goal, energy use has increased giving a negative result and recycling trends are mixed. Information is not available for the three other indicators.

55 Average annual energy use per person (million BTUs per person)

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
300	315	315 (Estimated)	285

With yearly variations, overall energy use has risen since 1990, moving the state away from the target. The estimated 1995 data suggests Minnesotans are using 5 percent *more* energy per person than they did in 1990.

The figures are in millions of BTUs (British thermal units) per person. Total energy use includes all energy consumed for any purpose, including transportation, agriculture, residential, industrial and commercial use.

The use of energy, particularly fossil and nuclear fuels, has a significantly adverse impact on the environment. Acid rain, global warming, smog and nuclear waste are but a few of the damaging outcomes of energy production and consumption.

Source: Minnesota Department of Public Service

56 Highway litter (bags collected per mile)

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
Not available	Not available	Not available	Not determined

No data exists for this indicator. Litter left on state roadways was originally thought to be a reasonable indication of environmental awareness and concern. *Minnesota Milestones* recommended that the Department of Transportation and the Office of Waste Management (now the Office of Environmental Assistance) select pilot highway segments to monitor changes in litter collection annually. A better indicator might be the number of citizens involved in organizations dedicated to protecting and enhancing the environment. When *Milestones* is revised, alternative indicators will be assessed for measuring how Minnesotans act to protect and enhance their environment.

57 Total water use (billion gallons per day)

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
3.1	3.1	Not available	3.1

Data collection methods for this indicator have changed, so comparable data for 1995 is unavailable. The 1995 target for this indicator will need to be revised to reflect the state's new method of calculating water use.

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. Some kinds of water use, such as for agriculture, can vary depending on such factors as precipitation and accumulated soil moisture.

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 1995 target for water use was developed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources based on estimates of savings achievable by all water users. New data does not include the U.S. Geological Society data. This new method of calculating water use will be considered when *Milestones* is revised.

Source: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

58 Solid waste produced and recycled

	1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
Waste produced (millions tons)	4.4	4.4	4.8 (1994)	4.6
Percent recycled	22%	34%	42%	31%

In 1994, Minnesotans recycled almost twice as much as they did in 1990, exceeding the *Milestones* target for the year 2000. At the same time, however, Minnesotans are creating more garbage than in 1990, moving the state away from its 1995 solid waste target of 4.6 million tons.

Nationally, Minnesota has one of the highest recycling rates in the country. A growing population and the increasing amount of solid waste it produces underscore the importance of the “reduce” part of the familiar “reduce, reuse, recycle” slogan.

The Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance recommends setting a new target for recycling rates; this change will be considered when *Milestones* is revised.

Source: Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance

59 Percentage of students passing an environmental education test

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
Not available	Not available	Not available	Not determined

No data is available for this indicator, but the 1990 Minnesota Environmental Education Act requires schools to integrate environmental education into their curricula.

In 1991, *Minnesota Milestones* recommended that the Department of Education (now the Department of Children, Families and Learning) develop methods to measure environmental awareness, including a statewide achievement test. Although a range of environmental knowledge has been embedded in the state’s revised graduation rules, no such stand-alone “environmental education test” has been developed.

The need to measure students overall understanding of how natural systems function and how human activities depend on and affect those functions still exists. To address this need, the former Environmental Education Board suggested that instead of an environmental literacy test, the state should track the percent of teachers certified to provide environmental education; data for doing this is already available. This and other suggestions for measuring this indicator will be considered when *Milestones* is revised.

Goal

We will improve the quality of the air, water and earth.

Eight indicators are used to paint a picture of how well Minnesota is preserving and restoring the quality of its air, water and earth. The data reveals positive progress toward the goal in four indicators — Minnesota’s air quality, some air pollutant emissions, toxic chemical releases and Superfund site cleanups. Minnesota lacks sufficient information to measure change in the remaining four indicators.

60 Air pollutants emitted from stationary sources (tons)

	1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
Sulfur dioxide	121,844	110,189	121,047 (1994)	Not determined
Nitrogen oxide	148,323	146,651	153,584 (1994)	Not determined
Volatile organic compounds	52,113	41,844	43,936 (1994)	Not determined
Carbon monoxide	81,477	73,851	65,977 (1994)	Not determined
Lead	97	78	41 (1994)	Not determined
Particulate matter (10 microns and smaller in diameter)	55,616	39,707	47,462 (1994)	Not determined

Minnesota's air quality appears to be moving in a positive direction toward this goal. Each year facilities report to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency their emissions of six key air pollutants: sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, volatile organic compounds, carbon monoxide, lead, and particulate matter (air particles that are 10 and 30 microns or smaller in diameter). Simple generalizations about trends in air pollutant emissions are difficult to make because the data reflects a combination of several variables. For example, more facilities are added to the data collection system each year, and methods of emissions reporting are changed over time to become more accurate. However, although more and more facilities have been permitted and expanded their operations, there does not appear to be an increase in emissions. Also, emissions of volatile organic compounds and lead have dropped considerably over the past few years.

Most of the emissions come from a few very large facilities across the state, primarily coke and oil refineries, coal-fired power plants, taconite facilities and chemical plants. Smelters and sand and gravel producers also contribute to total emissions.

Source: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

61 Number of days per year that air-quality standards are not met

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
35	5 (1993)	4 (1994)	0

Data for six key air pollutants from air quality monitoring stations around the state indicate that Minnesota's air quality has improved dramatically since 1990, although it is still just shy of the target. In 1993 and 1994, air pollutant concentrations rose above national standards only in the Twin Cities region, where people and industrial activity are the most densely concentrated.

The main problem pollutants in the Twin Cities are carbon monoxide, emitted largely from cars, particulate matter coming mostly from sand, gravel and grain-handling operations, and "fugitive emissions," such as dust from dirt roads. High concentrations of sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide and particulate in other regions of the state have been greatly reduced.

Source: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

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

	1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
River miles	Not available	22%	Not available	25%
Lake acres	Not available	11%	Not available	14%

The Pollution Control Agency evaluates how water quality in Minnesota's rivers and lakes compares to standards for supporting aquatic life and recreation, such as swimming. The data in this indicator combines both standards. Although the percentage of monitored river miles and lake acres that meet these standards partially indicates the health of the state's waters, only 4 percent of Minnesota's river miles and 15 percent of its lakes are monitored. Also, the indicator does not describe statewide water quality because monitoring sites are chosen with specific purposes in mind, often in areas where pollution is known or likely. Producing accurate statewide estimates would require statistically monitoring a set of lakes and streams. The Legislature has appropriated funds to develop such a set of sites and to monitor them in one river basin.

However, Minnesota does have some success to report, such as the sewer separation project, which improved the Mississippi River. By stopping sewer overflows, about 70 percent of fecal coliform bacteria was reduced. This means cleaner water, a more diverse fish population and a renewed interest in the river front.

The Pollution Control Agency began collecting new data in 1994, but it is not comparable to the data used in this indicator. The new data shows 41 percent of river miles and 80 percent of lake acres met water quality standards for swimming. The PCA has set targets for the year 2000 of 44 percent of river miles and 83 percent of lake acres meeting standards for swimming. Use of the new data will be considered when *Milestones* is revised.

Source: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

63 Percentage of monitored wells showing ground water contamination

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
Not available	Not available	Not available	Not determined

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture has tracked pesticide concentrations in 13 aquifers since 1985. Such contaminants as alachlor, atrazine, cyanazine, metolachlor, and metribuzin have been detected in multiple wells over several years. Concentrations are usually below one part per billion, although peaks have been observed in a small number of wells. Some concentrations of atrazine or other pesticides above one part per billion are likely caused by unknown sources such as spills and back wash into wells.

The Pollution Control Agency is developing a database that will identify where and how ground water quality is changing. Water quality sampling for multiple contaminants will begin in spring 1996. The assessments will focus on areas where ground water is at greatest risk of pollution. This indicator will be revised in 1997 to reflect the new measurements.

64 Soil erosion per acre of cropland (tons per year)

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
7 (1987)	Not available	Not available	Not determined

In 1992, the USDA introduced new methods for data calculation and reporting that distinguish wind and water erosion. However, the new data is not comparable with the *Minnesota Milestones* data. These changes will be taken into account when *Milestones* is revised.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture states that between 1985 and 1992, 1.8 million acres of cropland were taken out of production under the federal Cropland Reserve Program designed to remove highly erodible land from production, and soil loss significantly dropped as a result. However, the effect of the program has been partially counteracted, as some marginal pasture land has been converted to cropland. These changes in Minnesota's cropland in production make it difficult to compare the data and discern trends.

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture

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

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
44 (1991)	41	32 (1994)	24

Data for this indicator has been corrected from previous *Minnesota Milestones* reports because reporting requirements for the Toxic Release Inventory change over time. The federally mandated Toxic Release Inventory lists the amount of toxic chemicals that industrial facilities emit into land, air, soil and water, or ship off-site for treatment, storage and disposal.

TRI data is only somewhat comparable year to year, as U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reporting requirements for different chemicals change. However the data presented here has been adjusted to account for these changes.

Reduction in toxic chemical pollution has moved Minnesota closer to its 1995 target. The Office of Environmental Assistance says that reductions in emissions and transfers of toxic chemicals have resulted from chemical recycling, pollutant capturing mechanisms and other measures.

Source: Minnesota Emergency Response Commission

66 Quantity of hazardous waste generated (millions of pounds)

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
99	111	Not available	116

No new information is available for this indicator of hazardous wastes, which are toxins, flammable substances, oxidizers, poisons, irritants and corrosives. Data for this indicator is not regularly compiled but originates from estimates of wastes generated by facilities over the previous year.

Another data source that can be used to measure hazardous waste comes from records of off-site shipments of the waste. Even though it excludes some wastes, data for off-site shipments are viewed as more reliable by the Pollution Control

Agency because they measure actual shipments instead of estimates. This indicator will be reviewed when *Minnesota Milestones* is revised in 1997.

Source: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

67 Number of Superfund sites identified and cleaned up

	1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
Sites identified	178	184 (1993)	181	219
Sites cleaned up	13	26 (1993)	34	112 sites cleaned and in long-term monitoring
Sites in long-term monitoring	32	34 (1993)	35	

Identified by the Pollution Control Agency, Superfund sites are priority polluted areas that need to be cleaned up. Because these sites continue to be cleaned up, this indicator is rated positive. This list changes each year as new sites are discovered and others are cleaned up. Since 1992, eight sites have been cleaned up, resulting in a total of 34 sites that were cleaned by 1995; one was placed under long-term monitoring, totaling 35 in 1995, and five were added to the list that need to be cleaned up.

This indicator originally included only two categories for sites: identified and cleaned up. "Sites cleaned up" has been broken into "sites cleaned up" and "sites in long-term monitoring."

Source: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Goal

Minnesota's environment will support a rich diversity of plant and animal life.

Because their levels remained stable, all five indicators for this goal were rated positive. A no-net-loss was recorded for the number of songbirds threatened, endangered or special-concern plants and animals; acres of wetlands; acres of forests; and land area in parks and wildlife refuges.

68 Diversity of songbirds

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
Steady	Steady (1993)	Steady (1994)	Not determined

Songbirds are very sensitive to environmental degradation. A decline in the diversity of this species is a leading indication of declines in overall habitat diversity. Minnesota's songbirds have shown no significant changes over the years. The 1990 figure reflects long-term trends from 1966 to 1990, and the 1993 data reflects trends from 1966 to 1993. Comparable data for 1994 covers forest songbirds only; information about wetland and grassland songbirds was not yet available. The indicator is positive (+) when more than half of the species are increasing, negative (-) when more than half of the species are decreasing and "steady" when there is no significant change.

69 Number of endangered, threatened or special-concern native wildlife and plant species

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
287	287	287 (Estimated)	287

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources reports that the number of threatened, endangered or special-concern plants and animals has not risen or fallen, suggesting that the state is meeting its no-net-loss target for 1995.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources maintains a list of species that are in varying degrees of danger of disappearing from the state. These are designated as endangered (risk of extinction), threatened (likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future) and special concern (extremely uncommon in Minnesota but not yet threatened or endangered). The list is updated every year by DNR biologists and a citizen advisory board of experts.

Any change in Minnesota's endangered plant and animal species is a critical indicator of the state's long-term health. Just as a diverse range of businesses and industries makes Minnesota's economy strong and resilient, so too a diversity of plant and animal life makes the state's natural systems productive and adaptable. The existence of so many different organisms with different needs allows nature to be extraordinarily efficient in using energy and resources.

Source: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

70 Acres of natural and restored wetlands (in millions)

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
7.9	Not available	7.9 (Estimated)	7.9

In keeping with the target, the amount of Minnesota's wetlands is remaining stable. Wetlands are valuable as wildlife habitats and as recreational resources. Wetlands are important for bait harvest, commercial rice production, flood control and storm water storage, nutrient entrapment and ground water recharge. Most of Minnesota's wetlands already have been lost, so it is crucial to preserve what remains.

The Department of Natural Resource's previous data source for this indicator has changed. New data will be available in two years from the National Wetlands Inventory. In the meantime, the previously reported number of acres and restored wetlands is considered valid.

Source: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

71 Acres of forest land (in millions)

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
16.7	16.7	16.7 (Estimated)	16.7

The 1995 data for this indicator is on target. Forest land is defined as land with at least 10 percent forest cover. Forest land counted toward this target does not include wilderness land, such as the Boundary Waters Canoe Area or state parks.

Forests are an important part of Minnesota’s natural assets. A reduction in forested land is a loss in “natural capital” and a loss to local and state economies, recreational users and other species that make their homes in forests. Minnesota’s forest ecosystems harbor a wide range of animal and plant species, including 48 native trees, 176 different birds, 60 mammals and 28 reptiles. Forests also help prevent soil erosion and conserve energy when used to shelter homes.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Forest Service collaborate on tracking forested lands. Their statewide Forest Inventory and Analysis Survey traditionally collects data every 10 to 15 years. However, the Department of Natural Resources is developing an annual forest inventory system that should be in place by the end of 1996.

Source: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Forest Service

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

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
11.6 (1991)	Not available	11.7	12

The state is moving closer to the *Milestones* 1995 target for land area in parks and refuges. The number of acres Minnesota devotes to parks and wildlife refuges rose slightly from 11.6 million in 1991 to 11.7 million in 1995. These percentages reflect a slight change from previous reports.

A great part of Minnesota’s identity lies in its natural surroundings. These, in turn, depend significantly on the presence of public lands devoted to preserving and managing the state’s natural resources. The largest of these lands is the Boundary Waters Canoe Area.

Source: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and Superior National Forest

Goal

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

This goal is measured by changes in two indicators: miles of recreational trails and the number of public access sites on the state’s rivers and lakes. The miles of trails now exceeds the 1995 target, but no change occurred for the second indicator.

73 Miles of recreational trails (in thousands)

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
19	20	21	20

Minnesota recorded more trails in 1995 compared to 1990, surpassing the target. About 855 more trail miles have been added for walking, hiking, biking, skiing and nature observation than the 20,000 miles it had in 1992. A trail is defined as any continuous pathway intended for recreational use for all or part of the year.

Surveys conducted for the state suggest that trail-related recreational activities are among the most popular outdoor activities among adult Minnesotans.

Source: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

74 Number of public access sites on lakes and rivers

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
2,200	Not available	2,200	2,300

The number of public access sites on lakes and rivers has remained constant since 1990, leaving Minnesota short of the target for 1995. Public access sites include boat access, shore access and fishing piers.

With more than 12,000 lakes and 90,000 miles of streams and rivers, Minnesota offers a wealth of water-based recreation opportunities. Providing public access to these resources helps meet outdoor recreation demands and improve the quality of life.

Source: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Goal

People will participate in government and politics.

The two indicators for this goal — the percentage of eligible voters who vote in gubernatorial elections and the percentage of dollars contributed to campaigns coming from small contributions — failed to meet their targets.

75 Percentage of eligible voters who vote in gubernatorial elections

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
57%	Not available	53% (1994)	62% (1994)

Voter turnout fell from 57 percent of eligible voters in 1990 to 53 percent in 1994, counter to the *Milestones* target of 62 percent. Data is limited to 1990 and 1994 because gubernatorial elections only occur every four years.

Voter turnout fluctuates depending on issues and candidate personalities making it difficult to say if the 1994 results indicate a trend or are a one-time aberration.

The turnout percentage is based on the estimated number of citizens of voting age, as estimated by the Federal Election Commission. Not all eligible voters are registered to vote.

Source: Minnesota Secretary of State

76 Percentage of dollars contributed to campaigns coming from small contributions

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
64%	Not available	63% (1994)	65% (1994)

The percentage of dollars contributed to campaigns that come from small donations slipped slightly in 1994, compared to 1990, and stayed slightly under the target.

This indicator measures the extent to which candidates rely on small contributions, as opposed to large contributions from wealthy individuals or special interest groups. For campaigns for governor and other constitutional offices, “small contributions” are defined as donations of less than \$200; for elections for state senator and representative, “small” is defined as less than \$100.

Source: Minnesota Ethical Practices Board

Goal

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

Three indicators chart progress toward this goal: percentage of the state budget for which goals and outcome measures have been established, percentage of the local government budgets for which goals and outcome measures have been established and percentage of Minnesotans who say they get their money’s worth from their local and state taxes.

All state agencies developed goals and outcome measures in the fiscal year 1994-1995 biennial budget. However, no information is available on local governments' use of goals and outcome measures. A 1995 poll partially funded by Minnesota Planning established that Minnesotans are generally satisfied with state and local government services.

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

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
Not available	Not available	100%	Not determined

All state agencies took steps to develop goals and outcome measures for the 1994-1995 biennial budget — the state’s first budget based on outcomes and results.

In addition to the budget reports, 22 state agencies prepared performance reports for the first time. Another eight agencies submitted performance reports with their biennial budget documents.

The performance reports must be updated annually and must contain mission statements, goals and objectives, along with selected performance measures, so legislators and the public can monitor the agencies’ progress.

Source: Minnesota Department of Finance

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

1990	1992	Actual 1995	Targeted 1995
Not available	Not available	Not available	Not determined

The percentage of local government budgets based on goals and outcome measures is unknown. Such measures could be useful tools for assessing whether local governments are achieving desired results. *Minnesota Milestones* recom-

mended in 1991 that local governments report their budgets' performance goals and measures to the state auditor. While local governments submit annual reports of revenues and expenditures to the state auditor, the reports do not indicate if expenditures are tied to goals and outcomes measures.

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

1990 Not available	1992 Not available	Actual 1995 75%	Targeted 1995 Not determined
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Based on a 1995 survey by Minnesota Planning, 75 percent of Minnesotans are satisfied with the amount and quality of services they get from state and local governments. Of these, nearly 15 percent are very satisfied. However, 60 percent of Minnesotans believe that there has been no change in efficiency of service delivery, while 25 percent believe that government has become less efficient compared to three years ago.

Source: Minnesota Planning survey conducted by the Minnesota Center for Social Research

Next Steps

From its beginning, *Minnesota Milestones* was intended to be revised every five years to include newer and better data for measuring the state's progress toward its long-term goals.

When *Milestones* was first developed, among the criteria used to select the 79 indicators were: annual data existed and was generally available, and the indicator measured outcomes, not processes. For those indicators without data, strategies were recommended for gathering it.

Since 1992, new data has become available, some data is still not available, and changes have occurred for some indicators in data definitions, time frames and data-gathering tools. These developments require altering indicators to make year-to-year comparisons possible.

Revising indicators will be part of a much broader review of *Minnesota Milestones* in 1997. This process will seek the help of experts and citizens and may include public meetings around the state as well as a survey. The goal is to gather better data to measure the state's progress toward its future.

Minnesota Milestones describes Minnesota's priorities and will help its citizens keep track of its progress over the next 30 years. It has sparked discussion in small towns and urban centers throughout the state and at national gatherings of policy-makers. *Milestones* has helped the state and local communities identify funding priorities and document needs. It has fostered recognition that achieving outcomes defined by the state's long-term vision requires the help of all members of Minnesota's communities. *Minnesota Milestones* reflects the values that guide us — working individually and together — in trying to achieve a better future for our neighbors, our families, our children and ourselves.