

2002 Minnesota Milestones, archived version

*Note to users: The content below was featured on a website that is no longer live. All of the data and discussion, however, remains below. This document is organized by a summary of indicators in four sections — People, Community & Democracy, Economy, and Environment. Discussion and trend data for each indicator appears following the indicator list specific to each section.*

## COMMUNITY AND DEMOCRACY

**Our communities will be safe, friendly and caring.**

- 21 [Sense of safety](#)
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**People in need will receive support that helps them live as independently as they can.**

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**All people will be welcomed, respected and able to participate fully in Minnesota's communities and economy.**

- 30 [Bias crimes](#)
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**People will participate in government and politics.**

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## INDICATOR 2 1 : SENSE OF SAFETY

**Goal:** *Our communities will be safe, friendly and caring.* Minnesotans want to be comfortable and safe in their surroundings. When people feel safe, they are more likely to be involved in their

communities. Minnesotans want to live in friendly communities where help is nearby and there is a sense of connectedness.

**Rationale:** This indicator measures people's perceptions about their safety.

**About this indicator:** Survey results on Minnesotans' sense of safety have remained fairly constant since the mid-1990s. The survey asks: "How safe do you feel in the community where you live?" In 2001, 93 percent of respondents felt either "always safe" or "almost always safe." In 1999, 92 percent of respondents said they felt "always safe" or "almost always safe." In similar surveys in 1996 and 1997, 93 and 97 percent, respectively, said they felt "always safe" or "usually safe."

**For comparison:** Actual crime rates, both in Minnesota and nationally, have dropped noticeably since the mid-1990s, for both property and violent crime.

**Things to think about:** People's sense of safety is based on a variety of feelings and experiences. People sometimes feel unsafe even when risks to their safety are relatively small. News coverage of local and national events can strongly influence how people feel about their personal safety. When people feel safe, they are more likely to be outside their homes and involved in community activities. This can work the other way also; people who are actively involved in community life often tend to feel safer.

**Technical notes:** In each of the four years the survey question was asked, the possible responses were worded slightly differently, making it difficult to compare results.

**Sources:**

- Minnesota Planning, Criminal Justice Center, *Keeping Watch: 1999 Minnesota Crime Survey*, [www.mnplan.state.mn.us/press/2000/cj/crime99.html](http://www.mnplan.state.mn.us/press/2000/cj/crime99.html)
- University of Minnesota, Minnesota Center for Survey Research, *1997 Minnesota State Survey* and *2001 Minnesota State Survey*, [www.cura.umn.edu/programs.html](http://www.cura.umn.edu/programs.html)
- National Crime Prevention Council, *Are We Safe? The 2000 National Crime Prevention Survey*, [www.ncpc.org/rwesafe](http://www.ncpc.org/rwesafe)

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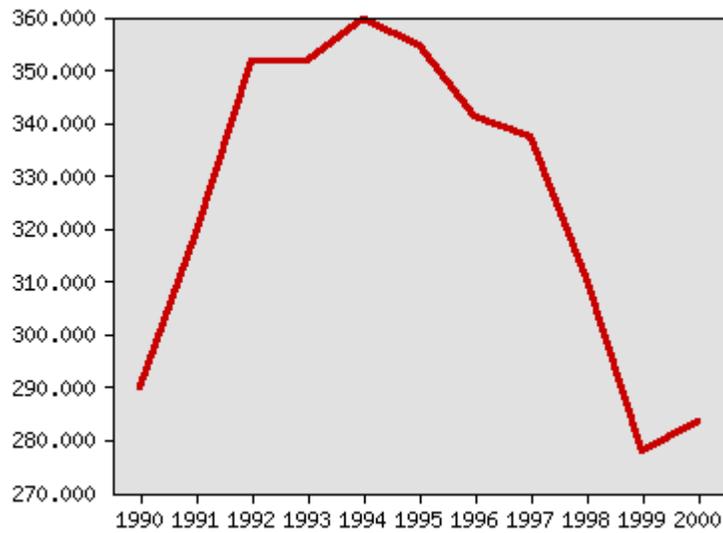
## INDICATOR 2 2 : VIOLENT AND PROPERTY CRIME

**Goal:** *Our communities will be safe, friendly and caring.* Minnesotans want to be comfortable and safe in their surroundings. When people feel safe, they are more likely to be involved in their communities. Minnesotans want to live in friendly communities where help is nearby and there is a sense of connectedness.

**Rationale:** Crime rates are an important aspect of community safety.

**Violent crimes reported, per 100,000 people**

Year	
1990	289.9
1991	318.7
1992	351.7
1993	351.6
1994	359.3
1995	354.5
1996	340.8
1997	337.4
1998	310.3
1999	277.7
2000	283.3

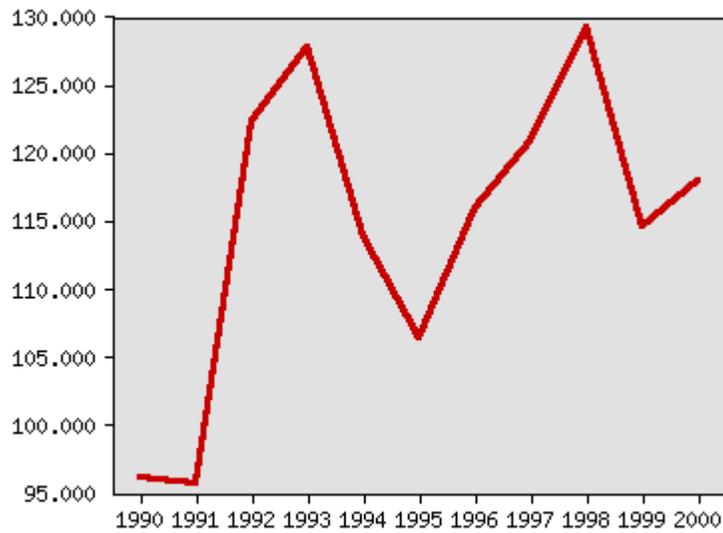


[Local data](#)

**Data source:** Minnesota Department of Public Safety and Minnesota Planning

**Violent crimes reported per 100,000, median county**

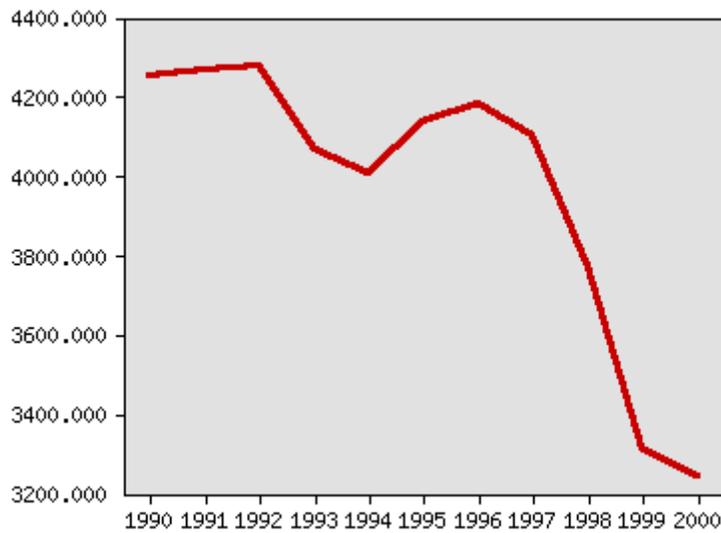
Year	
1990	96.1
1991	95.7
1992	122.3
1993	127.8
1994	113.8
1995	106.3
1996	115.9
1997	120.8
1998	129.2
1999	114.6
2000	117.9



Data source: Minnesota Department of Public Safety and Minnesota Planning

**Serious property crimes reported, per 100,000 people**

Year	
1990	4,253.8
1991	4,268.8
1992	4,278.6
1993	4,065.4
1994	4,006.6
1995	4,137.7



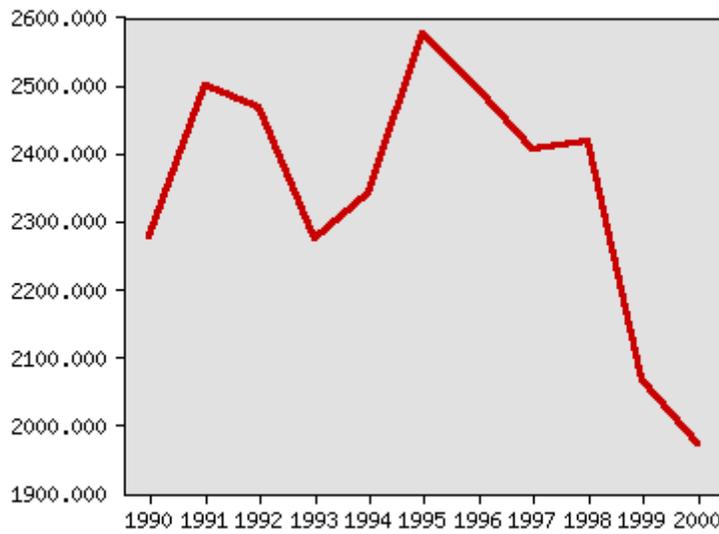
<b>1996</b>	4,182.8
<b>1997</b>	4,099.1
<b>1998</b>	3,767.5
<b>1999</b>	3,313.9
<b>2000</b>	3,243.6

[Local data](#)

**Data source:** Minnesota Department of Public Safety and Minnesota Planning

**Serious property crimes reported per 100,000, median county**

<b>Year</b>	
<b>1990</b>	2,277.0
<b>1991</b>	2,499.0
<b>1992</b>	2,467.0
<b>1993</b>	2,273.3
<b>1994</b>	2,339.6
<b>1995</b>	2,574.1
<b>1996</b>	2,494.3
<b>1997</b>	2,404.9
<b>1998</b>	2,418.2
<b>1999</b>	2,066.5
<b>2000</b>	1,970.7



**Data source:** Minnesota Department of Public Safety and Minnesota Planning

**About this indicator:** Violent and serious property crime in Minnesota rose steadily during the first half of the 1990s, but declined during the last half of the decade. Violent crime reached a high of 359 per 100,000 people in 1994. The sharpest drop occurred between 1997 and 1999, when the rate dropped from 337 to 278 per 100,000. In 2000, the rate rose slightly to 283. Violent crime includes homicide, rape, aggravated assault and robbery.

Serious property crime fluctuated during the first half of the decade, but fell from 4,183 per 100,000 population in 1996 to 3,244 per 100,000 in 2000, a decline of 22 percent. Serious property crime includes burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft and arson.

Crime rates tend to be higher in more populous counties such as Hennepin and Ramsey, but in most other places are much lower than the statewide rates. In 1999, most of the state's counties had violent crime rates that were less than half the state rate.

**For comparison:** Minnesota's 2000 violent crime rate of 283 was only about half the national rate of 506 per 100,000 population. Minnesota's serious property crime rate, 3244 was also below the national rate of 3618.

**Things to think about:** As violent and serious property crimes have declined both nationally and in Minnesota, surveys show that Minnesotans attitudes toward "feeling safe" have remained consistently high over the past five years. (See Indicator 21, Sense of safety)

**Technical notes:** Summing county-level data will not equal the state total, because State Patrol and Capitol Security data is in the state total, but cannot be identified by a specific county.

**Sources:**

- Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, [www.dps.state.mn.us/bca/CJIS/Documents/Crime2000/Page-14-002.html](http://www.dps.state.mn.us/bca/CJIS/Documents/Crime2000/Page-14-002.html)
- Minnesota Planning, State Demographic Center, [www.mnplan.state.mn.us/demography/index.html](http://www.mnplan.state.mn.us/demography/index.html)
- U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States 1999*, [www.fbi.gov/ucr](http://www.fbi.gov/ucr)

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## INDICATOR 2 3 : JUVENILE APPREHENSIONS

**Goal:** *Our communities will be safe, friendly and caring.* Minnesotans want to be comfortable and safe in their surroundings. When people feel safe, they are more likely to be involved in their communities. Minnesotans want to live in friendly communities where help is nearby and there is a sense of connectedness.

**Rationale:** Youth crime is an important factor in community safety. Youth commit a disproportionate share of violent crimes in Minnesota, especially serious property crimes.

**About this indicator:** Youth apprehensions rose in the early 1990s but have been decreasing since about mid-decade, despite the fact that the youth population has been growing steadily. The rate of apprehensions per 1,000 youth dropped from 35.7 in 1996 to 25.6 in 2000.

Arrests of juveniles are called apprehensions. This rate includes violent crime and property crime (burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft and arson). In 1999, youth age 10-17 committed 43 percent of all violent and serious property crimes in Minnesota, according to the Department of Public Safety.

The apprehension rate is a different measure than the crime rate. The age of the perpetrator is not available for every crime, only for those that result in an apprehension or arrest. Also, a single apprehension may cover several offenses.

**For comparison:** In 2000, the national total (violent and property crimes) apprehension rate was 12.4 apprehensions per 1,000 youth (ages 10 to 17), compared to 22.5 in Minnesota. However, the national data is collected by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), a different source than the Minnesota data reported here, and the two sources collect their data at different times of the year, making comparison difficult.

**Things to think about:** More populous counties tend to have higher youth apprehension rates, but several smaller rural counties also have high rates. For example, Koochiching County had 50.3 apprehensions and Nobles County had 44.1 apprehensions per 1,000 youth in 2000. Youth apprehension rates in Hennepin and Ramsey counties were 38.6 and 40.8 respectively.

**Technical notes:** National juvenile apprehension data is collected by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), a different source than the Minnesota juvenile apprehensions data included in this report. Collection dates for the two sources are at different times of the year, making comparison difficult.

#### **Sources:**

- U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States 1999*, [www.fbi.gov/ucr](http://www.fbi.gov/ucr)
- Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, [www.dps.state.mn.us/bca](http://www.dps.state.mn.us/bca)

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## **INDICATOR 2 4 : VOLUNTEER WORK**

**Goal:** *Our communities will be safe, friendly and caring.* Minnesotans want to be comfortable and safe in their surroundings. When people feel safe, they are more likely to be involved in their communities. Minnesotans want to live in friendly communities where help is nearby and there is a sense of connectedness.

**Rationale:** Volunteerism reflects a sense of commitment to community.

**About this indicator:** The percentage of surveyed adults who volunteer has increased slightly since 1993, from about 62 percent to 66 percent. In a statewide telephone survey, about 800 people were asked: "In the past six months have you volunteered your time to help at a school, for a nonprofit or government program, at your church or temple, in your neighborhood, or for a community group?"

These activities might include being a church usher, helping at a hospital or nursing home, or being a scout leader. Volunteer work, as defined in this survey, also includes people who help others informally, not just through an organization.

**For comparison:** In a 2001 national survey conducted by Independent Sector, 44 percent of adults said they volunteer with a formal organization. In a 1995 Gallup Survey, 49 percent of adults said they volunteered. The Gallup Survey found a marked increase from 1993 to 1995. However, neither national survey is directly comparable with the Minnesota survey, because they asked different questions and defined volunteerism differently.

**Things to think about:** People who are active in civic, religious or other organizations have a tendency to volunteer more often in other activities than people who aren't active, and those who are asked to volunteer are more likely to do so.

**Technical notes:** Both the 2001 and 1999 telephone surveys included about 800 respondents, yielding a 95 percent probability that the survey results were within 3.5 percentage points of the results that would be obtained from surveying the entire Minnesota population.

**Sources:**

- University of Minnesota, Minnesota Center for Survey Research, *Minnesota State Survey*, [www.cura.umn.edu](http://www.cura.umn.edu)
- The Gallup Organization, *National Gallup Survey*, [www.gallup.com](http://www.gallup.com)
- Independent Sector, *Giving & Volunteering in the United States 2001*, [www.IndependentSector.org](http://www.IndependentSector.org)

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## INDICATOR 2 5 : NEARBY SUPPORT

**Goal:** *People in need will receive support that helps them live as independently as they can.* This goal reflects the value Minnesotans place on independence and personal responsibility, but also recognizes that at times people may need to rely on others for assistance. Unlike most other *Minnesota Milestones* goals, this one relies not just on indicators of outcomes but also on indicators of participation in public programs. However, progress in providing help does not necessarily mean progress in independent living.

**Rationale:** This indicator measures informal support – the extent to which people feel they can turn to people they know when they need assistance.

**About this indicator:** This measure has remained very high (91 to 93 percent) since the survey question was first asked in 1995: “Do you have a neighbor, friend or relative close by who you can rely on for help?” People often turn to family, neighbors or friends first when they need help. Those who do not have such support are more likely to turn to their community or government for assistance.

**For comparison:** No available data permits comparisons with other states or countries.

**Things to think about:** In a highly mobile society, people may be less likely to live near family members and relatives. As the Baby Boom population ages, it may become more important to create living arrangements that increase contact between younger and older people.

**Technical notes:** The Minnesota State Survey, conducted by the University of Minnesota, Minnesota Center for Survey Research, included 801 interviews in 2001, yielding a margin of error in

the survey that is plus or minus 3.5 percentage points of the results that would be obtained from surveying the entire Minnesota population.

**Sources:**

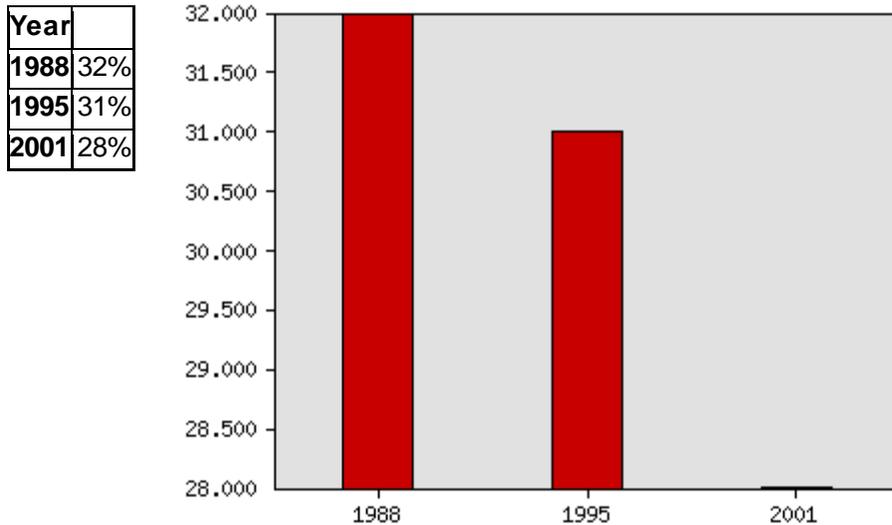
- University of Minnesota, Minnesota Center for Survey Research, *Minnesota State Survey 2001*, www.cura.umn.edu

**INDICATOR 2 6 : IN-HOME HELP FOR OLDER PEOPLE**

**Goal:** *People in need will receive support that helps them live as independently as they can.* This goal reflects the value Minnesotans place on independence and personal responsibility, but also recognizes that at times people may need to rely on others for assistance. Unlike most other *Minnesota Milestones* goals, this one relies not just on indicators of outcomes but also on indicators of participation in public programs. However, progress in providing help does not necessarily mean progress in independent living.

**Rationale:** This indicator measures the extent to which seniors get the help they need to live in their own homes.

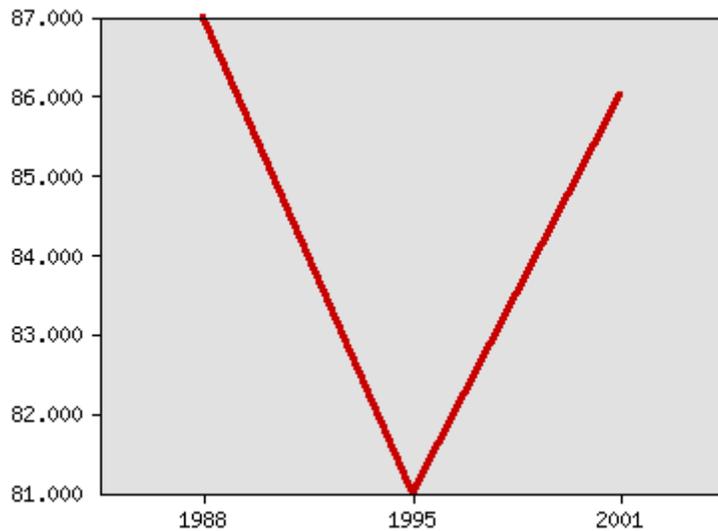
**Percentage of people age 60 and older who need help with heavy housework**



**Data source:** Minnesota Board on Aging

**Percentage of people age 60 and older who need help with heavy housework, who get help**

Year	
1988	87%
1995	81%
2001	86%



**Data source:** Minnesota Board on Aging

**About this indicator:** Since 1995, the percentage of older people who need help with heavy housework appears to have declined slightly, and the percentage getting needed help has improved. Respondents to a statewide survey in 2001 were asked “Do you have any difficulty doing heavy housework, like scrubbing floors, mowing the grass, or washing windows, because of a health or physical problem?” Of the 28 percent who said they needed help, 86 percent said they were getting the help they needed. In 1995, 31 percent said they needed help, and 81 percent said they got the help they needed.

**Things to think about:** The number of older Minnesotans is growing rapidly. Although most people over age 60 don't need help with heavy housework, the number of older adults needing help will continue to increase because of the growth of the elderly population. The number of Minnesotans over age 80 is expected to rise dramatically by 2030 as the Baby Boomers begin to reach that age.

According to the Federal Administration on Aging, families are the mainstay in long-term care of older persons in the United States. More than 7 million people help older persons, including family members, in their communities with daily tasks.

**Technical notes:** The survey of older Minnesotans is a statewide telephone survey of 1200 randomly selected, non-institutionalized Minnesotans over age 55. The survey sample was changed in the 2001 survey, but the question remained the same.

**Sources:**

- Minnesota Board on Aging, *Survey of Older Minnesotans* (1995, 1998 and 2001), [www.mnaging.org](http://www.mnaging.org)
- Administration on Aging, *Family Caregiving – Fact Sheet* [www.aoa.dhhs.gov/may2001/factsheets/family-caregiving.html](http://www.aoa.dhhs.gov/may2001/factsheets/family-caregiving.html)

## INDICATOR 2 7 : WELFARE TO WORK

**Goal:** *People in need will receive support that helps them live as independently as they can.* This goal reflects the value Minnesotans place on independence and personal responsibility, but also recognizes that at times people may need to rely on others for assistance. Unlike most other *Minnesota Milestones* goals, this one relies not just on indicators of outcomes but also on indicators of participation in public programs. However, progress in providing help does not necessarily mean progress in independent living.

**Rationale:** This measure gives an indication of how successful welfare recipients are in moving toward economic self-sufficiency.

**About this indicator:** The percentage of welfare households with an adult working increased dramatically after welfare reform in 1996. The trend was already moving upward in the early 1990s, but after federal welfare reform in 1996 established work requirements and welfare time limits, the percentage increased from 26 percent in 1997 to 43 percent in 2000. However, in 2001, the percentage declined slightly to 39 percent.

Minnesota's Family Investment Program (MFIP) requires welfare recipients to find work or enter training within six months, or sooner if required by the county. Changes in the law made it easier for people to receive assistance even after getting a job, in order to help in the transition to self-sufficiency.

**For comparison:** Nationally and in Minnesota, dramatic declines have occurred in welfare caseloads since the mid 1990s. While all states have welfare programs, data is not comparable between states because of differences in the programs.

**Things to think about:** Progress in moving people from welfare to work in the late 1990s occurred during a period of strong economic growth. It may be more difficult to move welfare recipients into employment in a slower economy. Many welfare advocates are concerned about the fate of people who are not able to achieve self-sufficiency within the federal five-year limit. There are also different circumstances that may result in a welfare household not maintaining self-sufficiency, from the economic conditions in the area to the health of the caregiver or the children.

**Technical notes:** This data reports employment rates for Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) cases (prior to January 1998) and Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) cases (beginning January 1998.) If a person had earned income (regardless of whether they still received MFIP assistance) the individual was counted as working. The increase between 1997 and 1998 reflects the effect of the requirement that welfare recipients find work or enter training within six months (or sooner if required by the county). Data reported here for 1992-96 is different than data reported in *Minnesota Milestones 1998*. Data in *Minnesota Milestones 1998* was based on a Department of Human Services quality control sample of welfare cases. The new data here is based on all MFIP cases. The data are point in time measures from July of each year. The percentages reflect the percent of all MFIP cases with an eligible adult who had any earnings during July of the year in question.

### Sources:

- Minnesota Department of Human Services, [www.dhs.state.mn.us/ecs/welfare](http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/ecs/welfare)
- Acton Institute Policy Forum, October 2001, [www.acton.org](http://www.acton.org)

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## INDICATOR 2 8 : FOOD SHELF USE

**Goal:** *People in need will receive support that helps them live as independently as they can.* This goal reflects the value Minnesotans place on independence and personal responsibility, but also recognizes that at times people may need to rely on others for assistance. Unlike most other *Minnesota Milestones* goals, this one relies not just on indicators of outcomes but also on indicators of participation in public programs. However, progress in providing help does not necessarily mean progress in independent living.

**Rationale:** Food shelf use gives some indication of the number of Minnesotans requiring assistance with this basic need, and the availability of food assistance to help them.

**About this indicator:** From 2000 to 2001, household visits to food shelves increased by twelve percent. This is the largest single year increase in more than a decade. A network of food banks and food shelves serves low-income Minnesotans. The numbers reported here include multiple visits by the same household. According to Hunger Solutions Minnesota (formerly the Minnesota Food Shelf Association), even though the number of household food shelf visits decreased between 1998 and 2000, the number of visits per household increased from 5.3 per year in 1995 to 6.1 in 2000. It is estimated that one in 22 Minnesotans received help from a food shelf in 2001. One-half of the individuals served at food shelves in 2001 were children; 20 percent were seniors.

In addition to local food shelf use, qualified people can participate in the national Commodity Supplemental Food Program, which provides food stamps and other food programs through national grants to states. In 2001, Minnesota agencies distributed over 4 million pounds of U.S. Department of Agriculture commodities worth over \$3 million. The seven regional food banks distributed USDA commodity foods to approximately 300 food shelves and 900 on-site meal programs and shelters throughout the state.

**For comparison:** No national figures are available for comparison.

**Things to think about:** Although 43 percent of households using food shelves in 2000 reported employment as their main source of income, 82 percent of these households had incomes below the poverty line.

**Technical notes:** Minnesota had 310 food shelves in 2001; 258 participated in the survey. One-third are in the Twin Cities metro area. Contributors include Minnesota FoodShare (a program of the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches), the Minnesota Food Bank Network, individuals, congregations and other volunteer groups.

In *Minnesota Milestones 1998*, the source for data was The Urban Coalition, Minnesota Food Shelf Use Statistics. In 1999, the source was Hunger Solutions Minnesota.

The survey of household characteristics of food shelf users was conducted by Hunger Solutions Minnesota in July 2000. Participants of the confidential survey were clients of 18 on-site meal programs and 152 food shelves. This participation represented approximately 60 percent of all households served by these agencies.

**Sources:**

- Hunger Solutions Minnesota, *Working, But Still Hungry*, February 2001, [www.hungersolutions.com](http://www.hungersolutions.com)
- Minnesota FoodShare, [www.gmcc.org](http://www.gmcc.org)
- Minnesota Department of Children, Families & Learning, <http://www.cfl.state.mn.us>

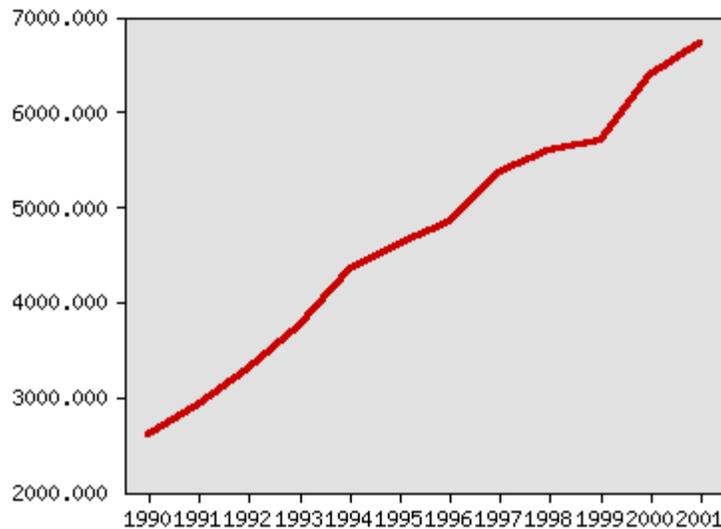
## INDICATOR 2 9 : HOMELESSNESS

**Goal:** *People in need will receive support that helps them live as independently as they can.* This goal reflects the value Minnesotans place on independence and personal responsibility, but also recognizes that at times people may need to rely on others for assistance. Unlike most other *Minnesota Milestones* goals, this one relies not just on indicators of outcomes but also on indicators of participation in public programs. However, progress in providing help does not necessarily mean progress in independent living.

**Rationale:** This indicator deals with one of the most basic human needs – a safe, stable place to live.

### Number of people using a homeless shelter per night, total

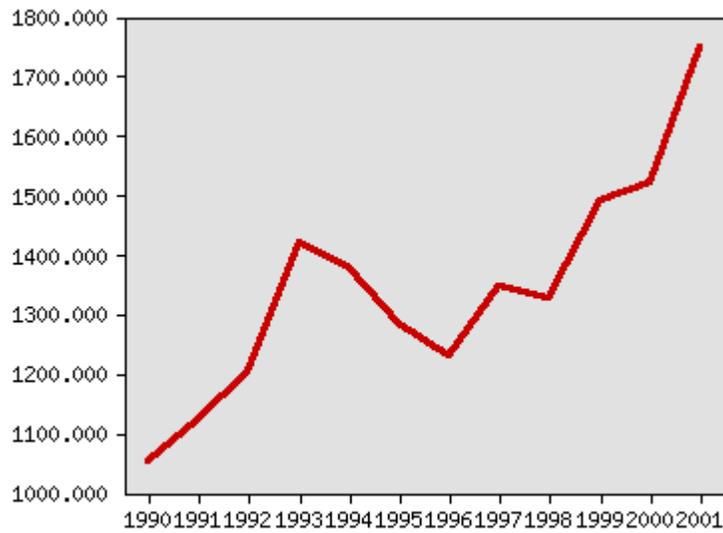
Year	
1990	2,599
1991	2,915
1992	3,280
1993	3,738
1994	4,342
1995	4,614
1996	4,834
1997	5,351
1998	5,597
1999	5,688
2000	6,381
2001	6,724



**Data source:** Minnesota Department of Children, Families & Learning

### Men using a homeless shelter, per night

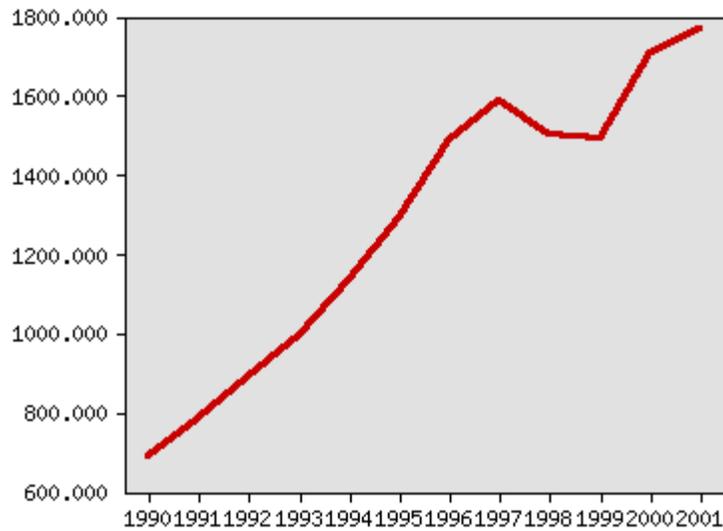
Year	
1990	1,053
1991	1,121
1992	1,201
1993	1,420
1994	1,377
1995	1,283
1996	1,230
1997	1,345
1998	1,327
1999	1,489
2000	1,519
2001	1,748



Data source: Minnesota Department of Children, Families & Learning

#### Women using a homeless shelter, per night

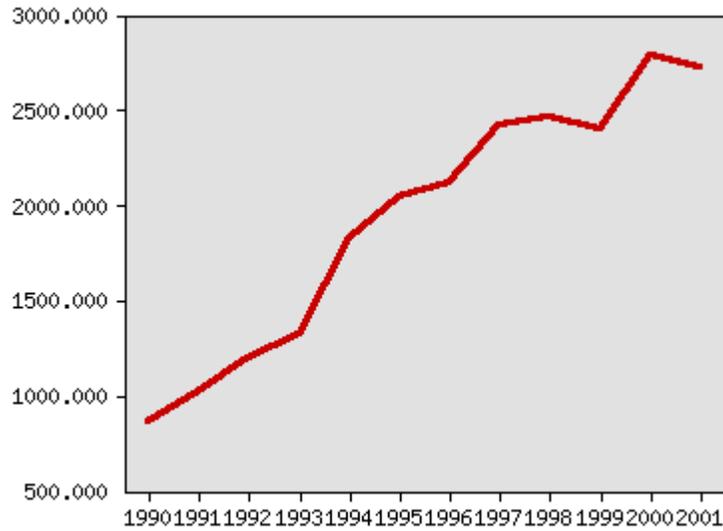
Year	
1990	689
1991	781
1992	887
1993	992
1994	1,137
1995	1,288
1996	1,487
1997	1,589
1998	1,500
1999	1,490
2000	1,706
2001	1,766



Data source: Minnesota Department of Children, Families & Learning

#### Children using a homeless shelter, per night

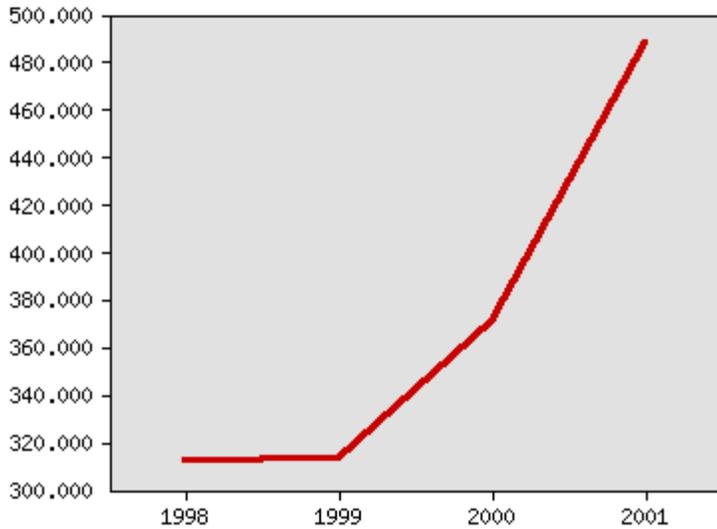
Year	
1990	857
1991	1,013
1992	1,193
1993	1,326
1994	1,828
1995	2,043
1996	2,117
1997	2,417
1998	2,459
1999	2,395
2000	2,785
2001	2,723



**Data source:** Minnesota Department of Children, Families & Learning

**Unaccompanied youth using a homeless shelter, per night**

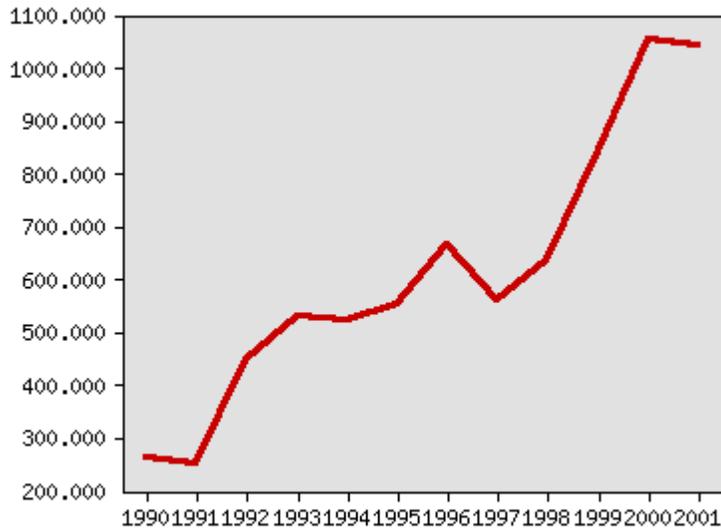
Year	
1998	312
1999	313
2000	371
2001	488



**Data source:** Minnesota Department of Children, Families & Learning

**Number of people turned away from a homeless shelter per night, total**

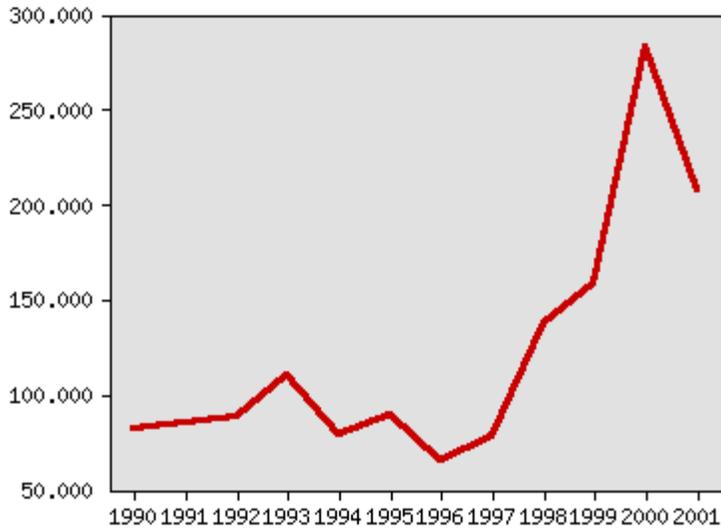
Year	
1990	263
1991	252
1992	446
1993	530
1994	521
1995	551
1996	664
1997	559
1998	635
1999	841
2000	1,052
2001	1,041



Data source: Minnesota Department of Children, Families & Learning

**Men turned away from a homeless shelter, per night**

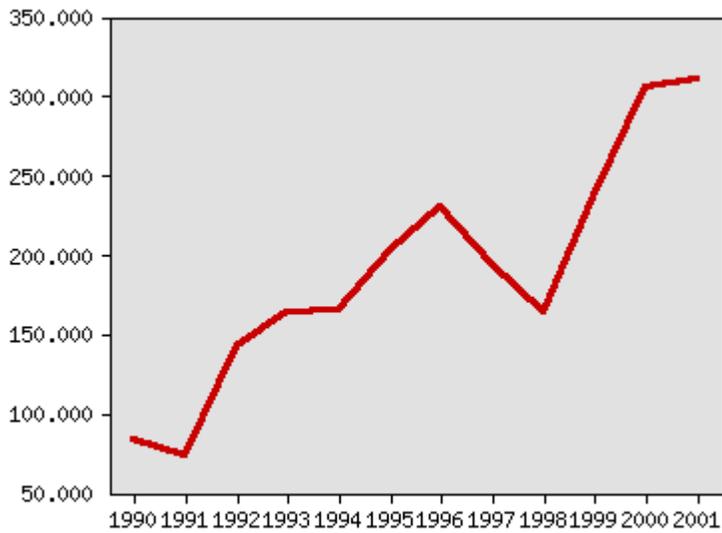
Year	
1990	82
1991	85
1992	88
1993	110
1994	79
1995	89
1996	65
1997	78
1998	137
1999	158
2000	283
2001	207



Data source: Minnesota Department of Children, Families & Learning

**Women turned away from a homeless shelter, per night**

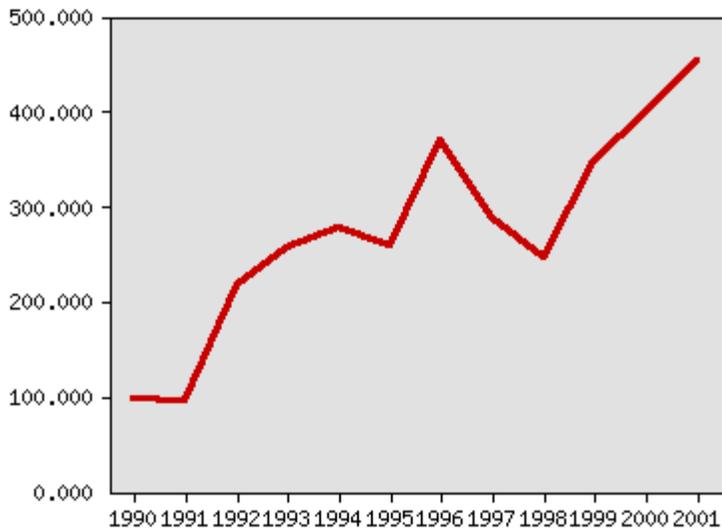
Year	
1990	83
1991	73
1992	142
1993	164
1994	165
1995	203
1996	230
1997	194
1998	163
1999	236
2000	305
2001	310



Data source: Minnesota Department of Children, Families & Learning

**Children turned away from a homeless shelter, per night**

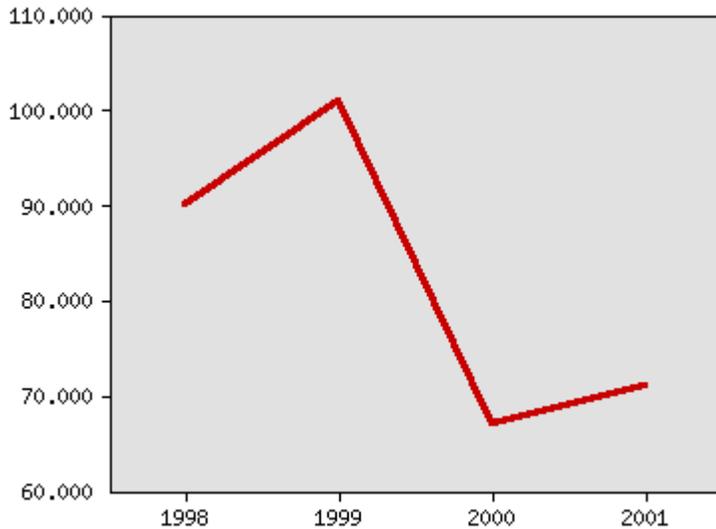
Year	
1990	98
1991	95
1992	216
1993	256
1994	278
1995	259
1996	370
1997	288
1998	245
1999	346
2000	398
2001	453



Data source: Minnesota Department of Children, Families & Learning

**Unaccompanied youth turned away from a homeless shelter, per night**

Year	
1998	90
1999	101
2000	67
2001	71



**Data source:** Minnesota Department of Children, Families & Learning

**About this indicator:** The number of people in Minnesota homeless shelters, and the number turned away for lack of space, has increased significantly since 1990. An estimated 6,700 Minnesotans were in shelters on an average night in 2001, an increase of 158 percent since 1990, when about 2,600 were using homeless shelters. These numbers do not include people who live on the streets or in other “unlivable” areas, such as in cars, under bridges or in abandoned buildings. Of those using shelters in 2001, about 40 percent were children and approximately 7 percent were unaccompanied youth. The number of children in shelters more than tripled between 1990 and 2001. (Unaccompanied youth were not counted before 1999.)

Another 1,041 people were turned away from shelters on an average night in 2001 due to lack of space, a four-fold increase since 1990. Of those, 43 percent were children and about 7 percent were unaccompanied youth. In 1990, approximately 263 people were turned away per night, 37 percent of them children.

Data reported here is based on the average of four one-night surveys, one each season, covering more than 350 shelters, transitional housing programs, and agencies providing motel vouchers.

**Things to think about:** According to a Wilder Research Center survey in October 2000, 38 percent of homeless adults in Minnesota have a serious mental illness such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder or major depression. Forty-one percent of homeless men and 22 percent of women have chemical dependency problems. The survey found that 41 percent of homeless adults are working, and 26 percent work full time. However, many earn less than \$10 per hour, not enough to afford adequate housing. Other reasons for homelessness include eviction from former housing, credit problems, criminal background, relationship problems, violence in the neighborhood or abuse. The Wilder survey also found that 47 percent of homeless adults in Minnesota are African American, compared to 34 percent who are White.

**Technical notes:** Homeless shelter population counts are conducted by the Department of Children, Families & Learning in February, May, August and November, either on the last Tuesday or Thursday of the month. The Wilder Research Center conducted the Minnesota statewide survey of

people without permanent shelter on the night of October 26, 2000. Fifty-three percent of the known homeless adult population participated in the survey.

**Sources:**

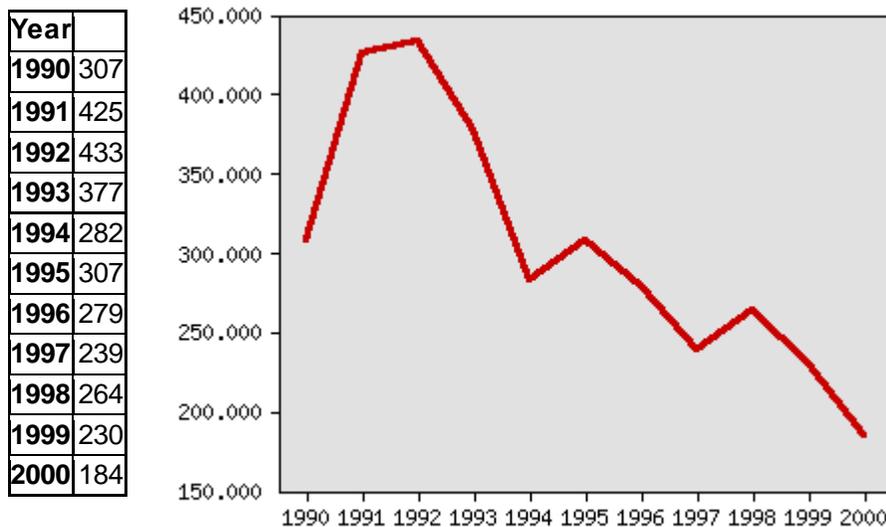
- Department of Children, Families & Learning, Office of Economic Opportunity, *Quarterly Shelter Survey*, [cfl.state.mn.us/OEO/qss.htm](http://cfl.state.mn.us/OEO/qss.htm)
- Wilder Research Center, *Minnesota Statewide Survey of People Without Permanent Shelter*, [www.wilder.org/research](http://www.wilder.org/research)
- U.S. Bureau of the Census, [www.census.gov/prod/2001pubs/censr\\_01-2.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/2001pubs/censr_01-2.pdf)

**INDICATOR 3 0 : BIAS CRIMES**

**Goal:** *All people will be welcomed, respected and able to participate fully in Minnesota's communities and economy.* The promise of inclusion of all people is embedded in Minnesota's heritage as well as in federal and state law. The goal encourages pride in ethnic heritage and endorses opportunity for all without consideration of race, sex or ability. This is increasingly important as Minnesota's workplaces, schools, and communities grow in diversity.

**Rationale:** Incidents of bias or hate crimes are harmful not only to the individual victims, but also to Minnesota communities and neighborhoods. They indicate a lack of acceptance of the increasing diversity of Minnesota's communities.

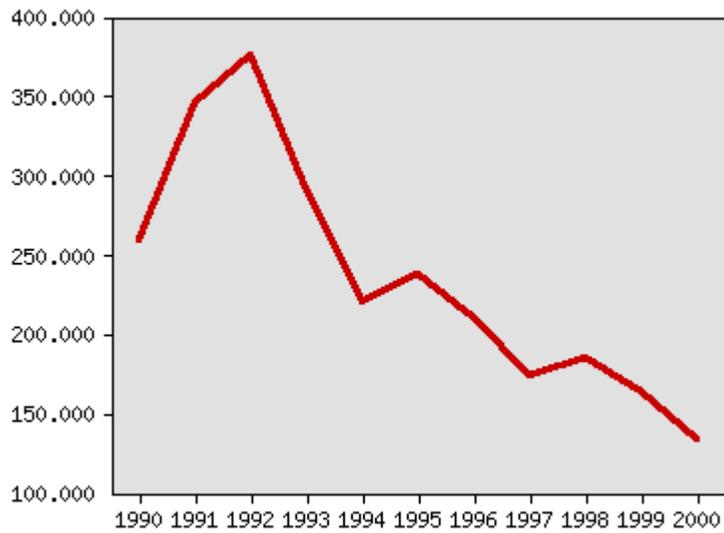
**Reported bias crimes, total**



**Data source:** Minnesota Department of Public Safety

**Reported bias crimes, based on race or national origin**

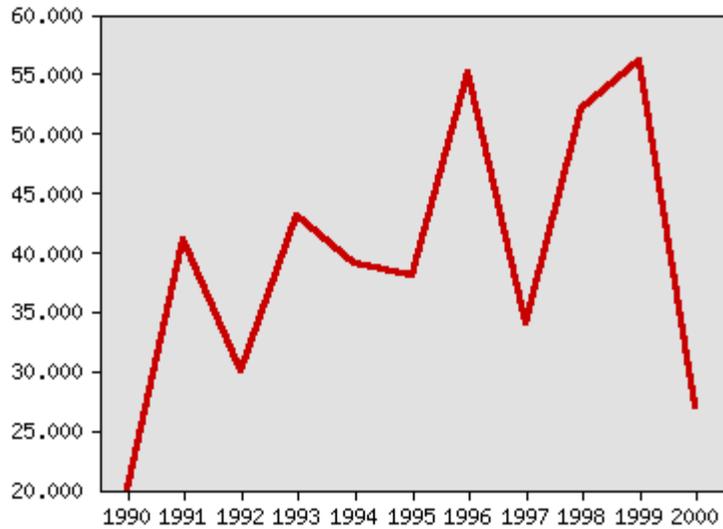
Year	
1990	259
1991	345
1992	376
1993	290
1994	220
1995	238
1996	210
1997	174
1998	185
1999	163
2000	133



Data source: Minnesota Department of Public Safety

**Reported bias crimes, based on sexual orientation**

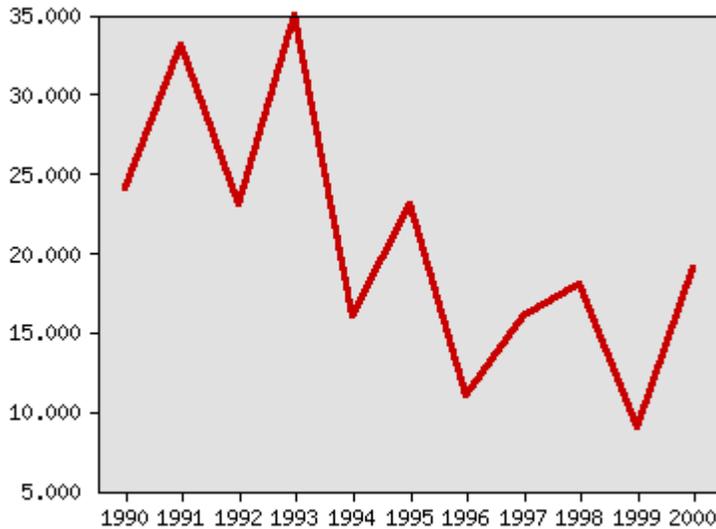
Year	
1990	20
1991	41
1992	30
1993	43
1994	39
1995	38
1996	55
1997	34
1998	52
1999	56
2000	27



Data source: Minnesota Department of Public Safety

**Reported bias crimes, based on religion**

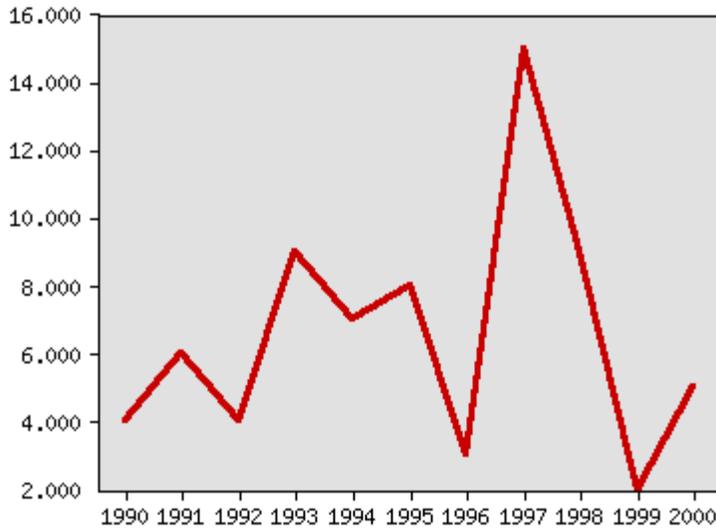
Year	
1990	24
1991	33
1992	23
1993	35
1994	16
1995	23
1996	11
1997	16
1998	18
1999	9
2000	19



**Data source:** Minnesota Department of Public Safety

**Reported bias crimes, based on age, sex or disability**

Year	
1990	4
1991	6
1992	4
1993	9
1994	7
1995	8
1996	3
1997	15
1998	9
1999	2
2000	5



**Data source:** Minnesota Department of Public Safety

**About this indicator:** The number of reported bias crimes has fluctuated in the last decade. State law requires all law enforcement agencies to report any bias crime when the officer believes the crime was motivated by the victim's religion, race, country of origin, sex, disability, age or sexual orientation. Approximately 70 percent of all bias crimes reported in Minnesota are based on race or national origin. Another 20 to 25 percent are based on sexual orientation. Reports of bias crimes based on sex, religion, age or disability are relatively rare in Minnesota.

Changes in reported bias crimes may reflect a change in reporting practices and procedures. Many bias crimes may go unreported or unlabeled as bias related. Some undocumented immigrants may not report being a victim of crime for fear of being reported to immigration officials. Other reasons may include a fear of reprisal by their attackers, a personal mistrust of law enforcement officers or a sense that redress is not attainable.

**For comparison:** Nationally, bias crimes reported to the FBI in 2000 rose two percent from the previous year. Of the 9,430 hate crime victims reported in 2000 in the United States, 55 percent were targeted because of race. In Minnesota, there was a 20 percent decrease in reported bias offenses from 1999 to 2000.

**Things to think about:** Leaders of some immigrant and ethnic communities in Minnesota have publicly expressed concerns about the increased potential for bias crime since the terrorist events of September 11, 2001.

**Technical notes:** Law enforcement agencies file monthly reports of bias crimes with the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, which reports data annually to the state legislature and the Minnesota Department of Human Rights.

**Sources:**

- Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, *Minnesota Crime Information – 2000*, [www.dps.state.mn.us/bca/CJIS/Documents/Crime2000/Page-14.html](http://www.dps.state.mn.us/bca/CJIS/Documents/Crime2000/Page-14.html)
- Federal Bureau of Investigation, [www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm](http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm)

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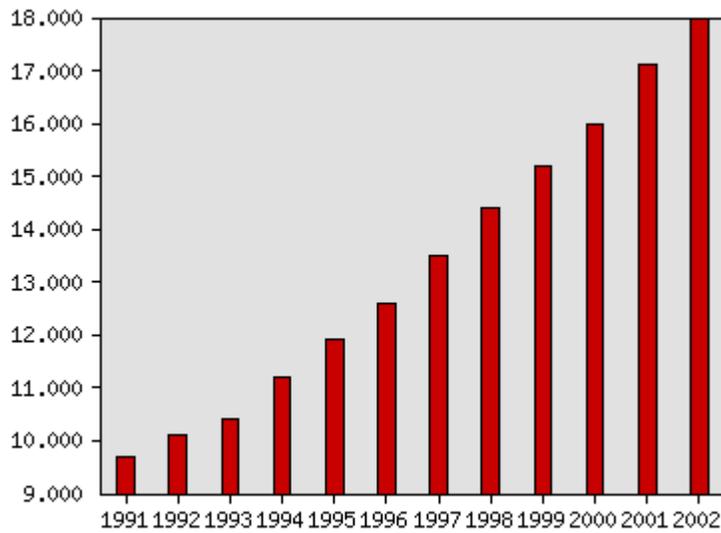
## **INDICATOR 3 1 : MINORITY TEACHERS**

**Goal:** *All people will be welcomed, respected and able to participate fully in Minnesota's communities and economy.* The promise of inclusion of all people is embedded in Minnesota's heritage as well as in federal and state law. The goal encourages pride in ethnic heritage and endorses opportunity for all without consideration of race, sex or ability. This is increasingly important as Minnesota's workplaces, schools, and communities grow in diversity.

**Rationale:** Trends in the racial and ethnic diversity of school teachers is an indication of both professional employment opportunity and the extent to which teaching staff share the diversity of the students and families served by the school.

**Percentage of public school students who are minorities, Black/ African American, American Indian, Asian or Pacific Islander and Hispanic**

Year	
1991	9.7%
1992	10.1%
1993	10.4%
1994	11.2%
1995	11.9%
1996	12.6%
1997	13.5%
1998	14.4%
1999	15.2%
2000	16.0%
2001	17.1%
2002	18.0%

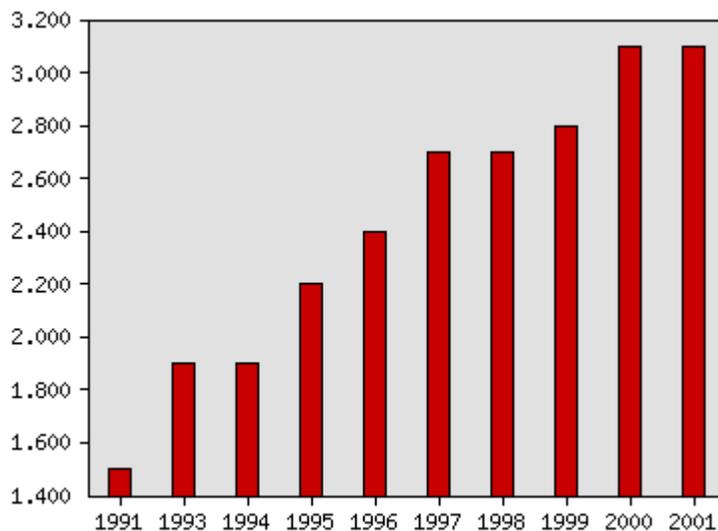


[Local data](#)

**Data source:** Minnesota Department of Children, Families & Learning

**Percentage of public school teachers who are minorities, Black/ African American, American Indian, Asian or Pacific Islander and Hispanic**

Year	
1991	1.5%
1993	1.9%
1994	1.9%
1995	2.2%
1996	2.4%
1997	2.7%
1998	2.7%
1999	2.8%
2000	3.1%
2001	3.1%



**Data source:** Minnesota Department of Children, Families & Learning

**About this indicator:** The diversity of public school teachers has increased slightly but not kept pace with the diversity of students. In the 2000-01 school year, 3.1 percent of Minnesota teachers and 17.1 percent of students were Black/African American, Asian/Pacific Islander, American Indian, or Hispanic.

Teachers are influential role models for children. Many educators believe that students do better in school when some of their teachers share their ethnic or racial identity. In addition, the teaching profession is one of the largest occupations in the state; more than 54,000 people teach in Minnesota public schools.

Thus the representation of racial and ethnic diversity in teaching is also an indicator of the roles the state's racial and ethnic minorities play in their communities.

**For comparison:** As of 1998, minority students made up 33 percent of enrollment in the nation's public schools, while 13.5 percent of teachers were minorities.

**Things to think about:** Minorities are a much larger percentage of the school-age population in Minnesota than of the adult population, making it difficult to recruit enough minority teachers to come close to reflecting the makeup of the student population. There have not been enough minority college students majoring in education to keep pace with the growing demand for minority teachers. Some post-secondary schools are now promoting programs designed to encourage minority students to consider a teaching career.

**Technical notes:** Data includes full-time equivalent public school elementary and secondary teachers who are Black/African-American, Asian/Pacific Islander, American Indian or Hispanic. Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE), community education and preschool teachers are excluded. Data is reported for the most recently completed school year. Student enrollment data is for PK-12.

**Sources:**

- Minnesota Department of Children Families & Learning, Data Management Unit, Minority teachers and students, 1990-2001, <http://cfl.state.mn.us>
- National Center for Education Statistics, *Digest of Education Statistics, 1998*, [www.nces.ed.gov](http://www.nces.ed.gov)
- Minnesota State Demographic Center, *2000 Census Shows a More Racially and Ethnically Diverse Minnesota* (May 2001), [www.mnplan.state.mn.us/demography/index.html](http://www.mnplan.state.mn.us/demography/index.html)

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## INDICATOR 3 2 : EMPLOYMENT OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

**Goal:** *All people will be welcomed, respected and able to participate fully in Minnesota's communities and economy.* The promise of inclusion of all people is embedded in Minnesota's heritage as well as in federal and state law. The goal encourages pride in ethnic heritage and endorses opportunity for all without consideration of race, sex or ability. This is increasingly important as Minnesota's workplaces, schools, and communities grow in diversity.

**Rationale:** Employment is a key indicator of the extent to which people with disabilities participate fully in society.

**About this indicator:** The employment rate of people who have disabilities rose from 48 percent in 1990 to 65 percent in 2000. However, the 1990 rate was based on the 16 to 64 age group, while the the 2000 rate was for the 21 to 64 age group. The passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990 required government to monitor the status of people with disabilities. Employment of people with disabilities was first measured in the 1990 Census.

People with disabilities are far less likely to be employed than able-bodied people. A work disability is defined as a health condition that lasts six or more months and limits the type or amount of work a person can do. According to federal employment data, 83 percent of all Minnesotans age 16 to 64 were employed in 2000 (see indicator #39, Employment of working-age population).

**For comparison:** The national rate in 2000 was 56.6 percent, almost 9 percentage points lower than Minnesota's rate.

**Things to think about:** Employment of people with disabilities sometimes requires employers to make workplace accommodations, and often necessitates an array of support services ranging from job training to transportation.

**Sources:**

- U.S. Bureau of the Census, [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)

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### INDICATOR 3 3 : TRANSPORTATION FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

**Goal:** *All people will be welcomed, respected and able to participate fully in Minnesota's communities and economy.* The promise of inclusion of all people is embedded in Minnesota's heritage as well as in federal and state law. The goal encourages pride in ethnic heritage and endorses opportunity for all without consideration of race, sex or ability. This is increasingly important as Minnesota's workplaces, schools, and communities grow in diversity.

**Rationale:** Transportation is a basic service that allows people with disabilities to participate more fully in community life.

**About this indicator:** In 2001, 71 of Minnesota's 87 counties offered countywide public transportation serving those with disabilities, up from 43 in 1990.

Lack of transportation bars people with disabilities from many aspects of community life, including employment. Despite federal laws that require equal access to public facilities and services, public transportation is not consistently available statewide. All public transit providers obtain their funding from the state, which requires that access to transit be provided to the public, including seniors and those with disabilities. However, service is not guaranteed to every resident. Nine counties that do not provide countywide service do offer limited service in one or more communities. Seven of the state's 87 counties provided no service in 2001.

**Things to think about:** As the state's population grows older, transportation needs for people with disabilities will likely increase. An expected relocation of the population into rural communities in the future may place additional demands on transportation systems in those areas, as people choose to rely less on their own skills and abilities if alternative transportation exists.

**Technical notes:** Indicator data is based on the number of counties in which the Minnesota Department of Transportation provides grants to support countywide transit services.

#### Sources:

- Minnesota Department of Transportation, Office of Transit, *2001 Minnesota Transit Report*, [www.dot.state.mn.us/transit/treport/](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/transit/treport/)
- Minnesota Planning, *Perspectives Report: Implications of rural Minnesota's changing demographics* [http://www.mnplan.state.mn.us/pdf/2000/rural\\_01.pdf](http://www.mnplan.state.mn.us/pdf/2000/rural_01.pdf)

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### INDICATOR 3 4 : VOTER TURNOUT

**Goal:** *People will participate in government and politics.* This goal reflects Minnesotans' desire for open and representative government, as well as the belief that broad-based and energetic citizen participation in the political process and civic affairs is a sign of a healthy democracy.

**Rationale:** High voter turnout is an indicator that people are interested and believe they can make a difference in government.

**About this indicator:** Minnesota's voter turnout is the highest in the nation, and remained fairly consistent in presidential and congressional elections during the past decade. Turnout is typically

highest during presidential election years. Sixty-nine percent of the eligible voting-age population cast ballots in the 2000 presidential election, a higher percentage than in 1996. Grant County had the highest turnout in the November 2000 election, at 80 percent.

Gubernatorial elections take place in even-numbered years between presidential elections. Turnout was 60 percent in the 1998 gubernatorial election, an increase of 7 percentage points from 1994.

**For comparison:** Voter turnout in Minnesota typically runs at least 15 percentage points above the national average. National voter turnout in the 2000 presidential election was 51 percent, compared to 69 percent in Minnesota.

**Things to think about:** Voter turnout is typically lowest among young adults age 18 to 24. Encouraging this group to vote and participate in politics is a challenge facing state and local governments. Voting is only one form of political participation. Other important kinds of involvement include calling or writing elected officials, serving on task forces or committees, volunteering in campaigns and making financial contributions to candidates or political parties.

**Technical notes:** Voter turnout is expressed as a percentage of the population age 18 and older, using estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census. This slightly overestimates the number of eligible voters because it includes people who are not U.S. citizens and convicted felons who are not eligible to vote. Voter turnout appears higher when expressed as a percentage of registered voters. Approximately 92 percent of Minnesota's voting-age population was registered to vote in the 2000 presidential election, resulting in a turnout rate of 75 percent of registered voters.

**Sources:**

- Minnesota Secretary of State, [www.sos.state.mn.us](http://www.sos.state.mn.us)
- Federal Election Commission, Voter Registration and Turnout 2000, [www.fec.gov/pages/2000turnout/reg&to00.htm](http://www.fec.gov/pages/2000turnout/reg&to00.htm)
- Minnesota Legislative Manual, 2000-2001 (available by ordering through the Secretary of State's office, or online), [www.sos.state.mn.us](http://www.sos.state.mn.us)

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## **INDICATOR 3 5 : CHECKOFF CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS**

**Goal:** *People will participate in government and politics.* This goal reflects Minnesotans' desire for open and representative government, as well as the belief that broad-based and energetic citizen participation in the political process and civic affairs is a sign of a healthy democracy.

**Rationale:** Participation in Minnesota's income tax checkoff for contributions to the State Election Campaign Fund is one measure of interest in public financing of campaigns.

**About this indicator:** Use of the tax form checkoff has decreased by more than half in the last 10 years. Minnesotans may use a checkoff to designate \$5 of their state income tax for the State Election Campaign Fund. The checkoff does not affect the taxpayer's tax liability. The fund provides campaign assistance to candidates for legislative and state constitutional offices who voluntarily agree to limit their campaign spending. In 2001, 9.2 percent of income tax filers used the checkoff, compared to 19.3 percent in 1991.

Taxpayers may designate their contribution for a particular political party, but most do not. In the 2000 elections, 98 percent of legislative candidates agreed to spending limits and together received more than \$3.2 million from the fund.

**For comparison:** Only 14 states provide for a state election campaign fund contribution on their state income tax form. Comparative data on participation is not available.

**Things to think about:** The checkoff is easy and convenient, yet slipping in popularity. At the same time, there has been increased use of the state's political contribution refund program, which provides state-paid refunds to individuals making contributions up to \$50 to eligible political parties and state-level candidates who agree to spending limits. This may suggest that citizens prefer to dedicate their political campaign dollars to specific candidates or platforms rather than a general public campaign fund.

Another checkoff option available to Minnesotans is the Nongame Wildlife Fund. The number of taxpayers making contributions through the checkoff has also decreased, but the average donation has increased slightly. A check-off to the Wildlife Fund does increase the filer's tax bill.

**Technical notes:** Each individual filing an income tax or property tax return may make one \$5 checkoff. The data reports the number of checkoffs divided by the number of tax returns for the tax filing year.. Two married taxpayers filing a joint return may each make a checkoff, so the number of individuals filing returns is somewhat larger than the number of returns. As a result, the data somewhat overestimates the percentage of persons choosing to contribute to the fund.

**Sources:**

- Minnesota Department of Revenue, Tax Research Division, [www.taxes.state.mn.us](http://www.taxes.state.mn.us)
- Minnesota Campaign Finance and Disclosure Board, [www.cfboard.state.mn.us/summary00/entities.html](http://www.cfboard.state.mn.us/summary00/entities.html)

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## **INDICATOR 3 6 : SATISFACTION WITH GOVERNMENT SERVICES**

**Goal:** *Government in Minnesota will be cost-efficient, and services will be designed to meet the needs of the people who use them.* Minnesotans expect their state and local governments to spend money carefully and effectively.

**Rationale:** This indicator measures progress toward this goal by tracking citizens' satisfaction with government services.

**About this indicator:** Satisfaction with state and local government services has increased over the last six years. Since the survey question was first asked in 1995, a majority of Minnesota adults have been either "very satisfied" or "somewhat satisfied" with the government services. In 2001, 87 percent said they were satisfied. The survey does not ask about specific services or distinguish between state and local governments.

**Things to think about:** It is just as important to measure the effectiveness of specific government programs and services as to ask about satisfaction with government in its entirety. In 2001, the Governor asked state agencies to develop key indicators to measure progress toward agency goals. To view state agency results see [www.mnplan.state.mn.us/indicators/departments](http://www.mnplan.state.mn.us/indicators/departments)

**Technical notes:** In a statewide telephone survey, respondents were asked: "How satisfied are you with the amount and quality of services you get from state and local government: very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?" The survey has a 3.5 percent confidence interval – there is a 95 percent probability that, if all Minnesota households were surveyed, the results would not differ from this sample survey by more than 3.5 percentage points.

**Sources:**

- University of Minnesota, Minnesota Center for Survey Research, Minnesota State Survey, [www.cura.umn.edu/programs/mcsr.html](http://www.cura.umn.edu/programs/mcsr.html)

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## **INDICATOR 3 7 : PRICE OF GOVERNMENT**

**Goal:** *Government in Minnesota will be cost-efficient, and services will be designed to meet the needs of the people who use them.* Minnesotans expect their state and local governments to spend money carefully and effectively.

**Rationale:** This indicator indirectly measures progress toward this goal by tracking how much the government spends compared to how much people earn.

**About this indicator:** By this measure, the price of government rose in the early 1990s, but declined again after 1998. During the budgeting process, the Governor and Legislature are required to establish a target for the price of government: total local and state taxes and fees as a percentage of Minnesota personal income. The state has adopted a target of 16.3 percent for fiscal years 2001-02 and 2002-03.

This indicator reports the price of government based on actual revenues collected. During good economic times, revenues sometimes exceed expectations and push the actual price of government above the target set by the Governor and Legislature. In fiscal year 2001, the percentage was 15.9, well below the price of government during most of the 1990s.

**For comparison:** Using similar data collected by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, Minnesota state and local governments collected general revenues equaling 17.5 percent of personal income in 1998-99, compared to a national rate of 15.8 percent.

**Things to think about:** Most state and local taxes are deductible on federal income tax returns, softening the impact of state and local taxes.

**Technical notes:** Most local governments begin their fiscal year in January, while state government and school districts have fiscal years that begin in July. The price of government is computed for the fiscal years ending between July 1 and June 30. For example, the 2001 price of government is based on local government revenue for the fiscal year ending December 2000 and school district and state revenue for the fiscal year ending June 2001.

**Sources:**

- Minnesota Department of Finance, Financial Forecasts and Updates: [www.finance.state.mn.us](http://www.finance.state.mn.us)

- U.S. Bureau of the Census, Government Finances series:  
<http://www.census.gov/govs/www/estimate.html>
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