edmonton LIFE - local indicators for excellence

Edmonton LIFE is a collaborative, ongoing project that has established a shared definition of quality of life in Edmonton.

The project provides an accessible and comprehensive report of health, environmental, economic and social indicators. By monitoring results, the project will provide the opportunity to review existing strategies, target priority areas for improvement and demonstrate the city's commitment to excellence.

This edition of Edmonton LIFE continues to identify emerging trends by reporting comparative data for the indicators first introduced and measured in 1997.

Edmonton LIFE welcomes the future and invites all Edmontonians to participate.

edmonton life
local indicators for excellence

2002

Table of Contents

1.0 Introduction 3

2.0 Healthy Economy
Overview 9

2.1 Net Business Creation 11
2.2 Development Activity 12
2.3 Municipal Expenditure on Debt 13
2.4 Emerging Industry Research and Development 14
2.5 Labour Force Participation Rate 15
2.6 Adult Job-Related Education and Training 18
2.7 Level of Education 19
2.8 Households Below the Low Income Cut-Off Level (LICO) 20
2.9 Air Traffic 22

3.0 Healthy People
Overview 25

3.1 Disparity in Annual Family Income 27
3.2 Nutritious Food Basket 28
3.3 Low Birth-Weight Infants 29
3.4 Student Academic Achievement 30
3.5 Life-Long Learning 33
3.6 Physical Activity 35
3.7 Food Bank Demand 36
3.8 Premature Deaths 37
3.9 Crisis Support Calls 39
3.10 Consumption and Use of Addictive Substances 41

4.0 Healthy Environment
Overview 45

4.1 Private Vehicle Usage 47
4.2 Residential Energy Consumption Per Capita 48
4.3 Air Quality 49
4.4 River Water Quality 50
4.5 Solid Waste Per Capita 52
4.6 Urban Green Space 54
4.7 Environmental In-Service Training for Teachers 56
4.8 Environmental Content in the Classroom 57

5.0 Healthy Community
Overview 61

5.1 Enrollment in Post-Secondary Institutions 63
5.2 Charitable Donations Per Capita 64
5.3 Voter Turnout 65
5.4 Public Safety and Security 66
5.5 Physical Urban Infrastructure 68
5.6 Suicide Rate 70
5.7 Access to Medical Services 71
5.8 Number of Hospital Beds 72
5.9 Leisure Activities 74
5.10 Early Intervention to Assist Children 76

6.0 Indicators for the Future
Overview 79

6.1 Corporate Revenue Spent on Training 79
6.2 People With Income to Meet Basic Needs 79
6.3 Pre-School Aged Children With Developmentally Appropriate Behaviour and Skills 80
6.4 Community Design 80
6.5 Total Air Emissions 80
6.6 Public Environmental Awareness and Satisfaction 81
6.7 Volunteer Time 81

7.0 Indicators for Comparison
Overview 83

7.1 Long Term Unemployment 85
7.2 Education and Levels of Literacy 86
7.3 Percentage of Families that are Low Income 87
7.4 Low Birth Weight Babies 88
7.5 Premature Mortality 89
7.6 Crisis Calls 90
7.7 Recycling 91
7.8 Crime Rates 92
7.9 Suicide Rate 93

Appendix - Indicator Selection 95

1.0 Introduction

Emerging global trends will impact quality of life all over the world. Edmonton's ability to anticipate change will determine whether or not the city can benefit from these trends and maintain a high quality of life. It is critical that Edmontonians, individually and collectively, take this opportunity to redefine excellence in the community.

Edmonton LIFE: Local Indicators for Excellence is a collaborative, ongoing project that establishes a shared definition of quality of life in Edmonton. The purpose of the project is to provide accessible, periodic reports measuring the health of the economy, people, environment and community.

A comprehensive set of indicators will assist in:

- demonstrating the city's commitment to excellence;
- assessing the value of existing strategies;
- identifying strengths and weaknesses;
- planning effectively for the future;
- refining existing initiatives and programs;
- identifying and anticipating trends;
- setting organizational, agency and program targets for excellence; and
- comparing Edmonton's progress on a regional, national or global level.

Shared beliefs about quality of life and an ideal vision of what Edmontonians would experience were developed to provide a framework for the project.

Beliefs about Quality of Life

- All aspects of community living are interrelated and contribute to quality of life.

- Each individual has a role in improving quality of life in the community and opportunities to participate in a meaningful way must be encouraged.

- Respect for the inherent dignity of all human beings is fundamental to community life.

- Diversity enriches community life and must be respected and valued. The community must be responsive to the varying contributions and needs of all its members.

- Interaction among people and their surroundings provide opportunities to work together and strengthen community connections to improve quality of life.

Vision of Quality of Life

Edmonton is a caring, safe, attractive community in which all people are valued. Edmonton is socially and environmentally responsible, and has a vibrant, flourishing economy.

Caring...
Individual and community well-being are fostered by meaningful connections to others. Members recognize their responsibility to each other.

Safe...
A safe community respects diversity, provides social supports for people who need it and reasonable security from avoidable hazards. The design of the community encourages interaction and minimizes the potential for avoidable hazards.

Attractive...
An attractive community provides the opportunity to participate in a wide range of arts, leisure, community activities and life-long learning in pleasant surroundings. It is vibrant, its citizens are active and it offers variety, choice and excellence.

Valuing all people...
The contributions made by each member of the community are recognized and appreciated. People are listened to and have an opportunity to participate in decision making.

Socially responsible...
There is a shared commitment to each other. There are easily accessible, responsive services to meet the emotional, physical, mental and spiritual needs of all people.

Environmentally responsible...
Individuals use air, water and land responsibly and protect the natural resources for future generations. There are a variety of opportunities to enjoy the outdoors and attractive areas are kept or created for recreational and spiritual needs.

Vibrant, flourishing economy...
A vibrant, flourishing economy is diversified, resilient, environmentally responsible and globally competitive while meeting the needs of the local community. It provides the opportunity for employment which is meaningfully productive, creative and rewarding.

The purpose of the 1997 Edmonton LIFE report was to introduce the indicators and provide a point of reference for each one. In 1998, Edmonton LIFE took the first step towards identifying emerging trends by reporting comparative data.

Monitoring local trends remains the focus of Edmonton LIFE 2002. Over the project's history, its supporters have been challenged by the community to respond to two issues of interest:

- Is our quality of life improving or declining?
- How are we doing compared to other cities?

Rather than setting goals or providing analysis, Edmonton LIFE is a tool to track variances over time and allows the reader to evaluate the significance of those variances. Therefore, while each report provides information that would assist in answering the first question, the 2002 edition is the first in which selected indicator data from other communities is included. That other communities also track some of the same statistics found in Edmonton LIFE emphasizes and supports the value that Edmontonians place on their importance.

The inclusion of this supplementary data has been made possible by the City of Edmonton's commitment to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' *Quality of Life in Canadian Communities* project. As such, the additional section has been developed cooperatively and with the advice of City of Edmonton staff.

As expected, not all indicators lend themselves to annual updates; information was updated where possible. Likewise, where more specific or reliable information was identified and available for both previous and current reporting periods, the new information was adopted. Where the information provided is based on the Capital Health region rather than the city of Edmonton, caution should be used when comparing results between reporting periods. The region's composition has undergone substantial changes in recent years, affecting the outcomes of statistical measures.

The continued support of the City of Edmonton and the United Way of the Alberta Capital Region has made this updated edition possible.

2.0 Healthy Economy

Overview

A Healthy Economy combines both individual economic well-being and community economic health. It is enhanced by education and skills development and must be supported by factors such as positive labour relations, economic diversification and environmental responsibility. Global developments are a consideration as well, with market fluctuations, international affairs and new technologies all having an influence on the local economy. The extent to which Edmonton's economic well-being is affected by national and international economies can be mitigated by monitoring and strengthening the local economy. The underlying theme is that all aspects of an economy are interconnected, and changes in one will be reflected in another.

The Healthy Economy working committee recognized that traditional methods of measuring economic well-being would not capture changes in relatively new, but no less significant, aspects of the economy. For example, traditional economic measurements might focus on investments, employment levels or downtown office vacancy rates, but these measurements would not reflect the growth in individuals who work from home or changes in training and educational levels. The goal became balancing the two approaches to achieve a more accurate assessment of economic health.

Healthy Economy includes...

- Individual economic well-being and community economic health.
- Employment opportunities.
- Positive labour relations.
- Positive regional, provincial, national and international relations.
- Diversification and innovation.
- Equity — fair opportunities.
- Locally supported and globally competitive.
- Environmental and social responsibility.
- Opportunities for small and large business.
- Good jobs which offer a sense of security.
- Resiliency — ability to cope with change, including recession and depression.
- Infrastructure — physical and social.
- Education as it relates to training, career development.
- Sustainable economy.

2.1 Net Business Creation

The number of new businesses established minus the number of businesses retired per annum.

Rationale

While the nature of the economy is dynamic, stability and steady growth are measures of economic health. Net business creation indicates the overall growth of the business sector in Edmonton.

Directionality: *this indicator should move upward.*

Qualifications

To attain the most accurate information for this indicator, tax account data has been used instead of total number of business licenses issued. Each time business ownership changes in the course of a year a new license is required, therefore using license information would over-represent business creation.

Status

Year	New Businesses	Retired Businesses	Net Business Creation
1996	4,263	2,902	1,361
1997	3,251	2,505	746
1998	3,247	2,356	891
1999	3,121	2,336	785
2000	n/a	n/a	n/a

Source: City of Edmonton, Planning and Development

2.2 Development Activity

The activity in commercial, industrial, institutional, miscellaneous and residential categories, as measured by the number of building permits and housing starts.

Rationale

Development activity indicates the viability of the economy and provides insight into emerging industries, level of infrastructure and disposable income. The level and type of development reflects confidence in various sectors of the local economy.

Directionality: *this indicator should move upward in each category.*

Qualifications

This indicator does not include construction activity that proceeds without a permit. Two permits may be issued for the same building, one for the foundation and one for construction. Housing starts are defined as, "units where construction has advanced to a stage where full . . . footings are in place".

Some minor commercial and home renovation projects are completed without building permits. If future studies reveal a method of obtaining renovation data, the annual level of renovation activity should be included as well.

Status

The following table compares development activity for the period 1996 - 2000:

	Commercial	Industrial	Institutional	Miscellaneous (temporary structures)	Housing Starts
1996	1,155	121	164	944	1,935
1997	1,092	198	142	908	3,015
1998	1,287	168	148	1,045	3,591
1999	1,212	141	154	1,031	3,932
2000	1,255	144	173	1,046	3,765

Source: City of Edmonton, Planning and Development; Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation Edmonton

2.3 Municipal Expenditure on Debt

Debt expressed as a percentage of total municipal expenditures.

Rationale

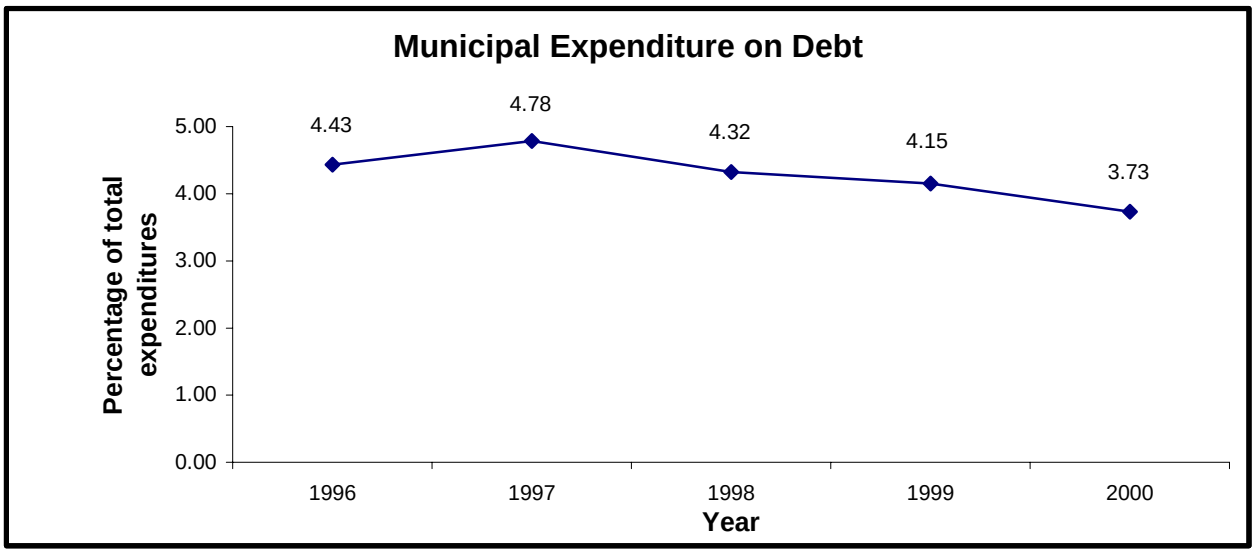
Municipal expenditure on debt demonstrates the ability of a municipality to sustain its debt load and reflects the overall economic condition of the local government. Debt load affects the ability of the municipality to allocate funds to program areas.

Directionality*: this indicator should move generally in a downward direction.*

Qualifications

Expenditure on debt must be examined in the context of revenues, expenditures and priority issues to ensure a sustainable balance.

Status



Source: City of Edmonton, Report to Citizens (annual report)

2.4 Emerging Industry Research and Development

This indicator measures the following: level of investment in emerging industry research, employment created by research and patent and invention information.

Rationale

The transition to a post-industrial society is characterized by innovation and research. Edmonton has a strong tradition of leadership in the areas of pure and applied studies. While research has historically focused on natural resources, biotechnology and medicine have become priorities as well. The University of Alberta provides a foundation for emerging industry research and development activities.

Directionality*: this indicator should move upward.*

Qualifications

Qualifications for consideration:

- Information was obtained from the University of Alberta's Industry Liaison Office. This office does not have information pertaining to independent industry research, or research done by the private sector with partners other than the University.
- Research program funding does not include endowment funds or clinical trials.
- The use of the term "emerging industry" needs to be clarified as to whether it refers only to new industries, or if it includes spin-off industries as well.
- Public and private research (and the related investment) need to be differentiated.
- The number of patents does not necessarily translate into local economic development.

Status

	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01
Research Program Funding (millions)	$130.3	$129.9	$146.7	$170.0	$213.9	$255.5
Employment from sponsored research	5,400	5,900	7,900	9,400	11,230	13,500
Employment from spin-off companies	3,265	3,120 (est.)	3,640	3,440	1,030 (est.)	1,000 (est.)
United States patent applications	44	46	44	53	43	53
United States patents issued	8	13	4	11	8	11
Invention disclosures received	60	82	85	59	64	53

Source: University of Alberta Industry Liaison Office

2.5 Labour Force Participation Rate

The labour force participation rate is the percentage of working aged people (15 years or older) who are in the labour force. This indicator also measures changes in the percentage of people employed full-time and part-time.

Rationale

The labour force consists of working aged people, whether they are employed or unemployed. Those not counted by the participation rate are those who are unwilling or unable to participate in the work force. For this reason, the participation rate provides a more meaningful overview of the labour force than other measures.

Non-participation represents potential, but unused, human capital. Individuals who are not employed generally have decreased household incomes and reduced social or community activity levels.

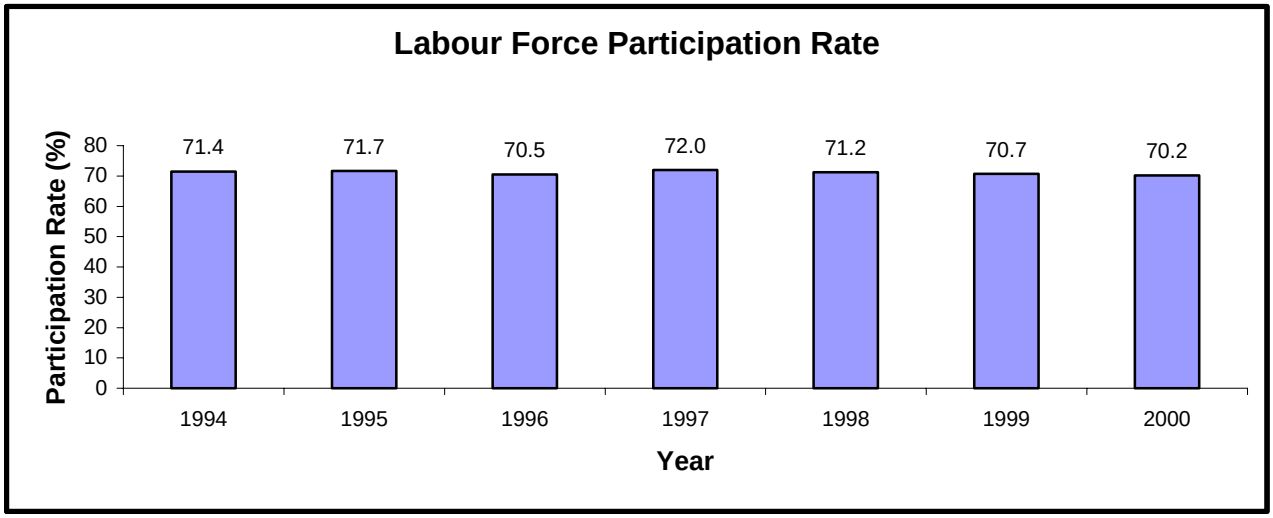
Directionality*: indicator should move upward.*

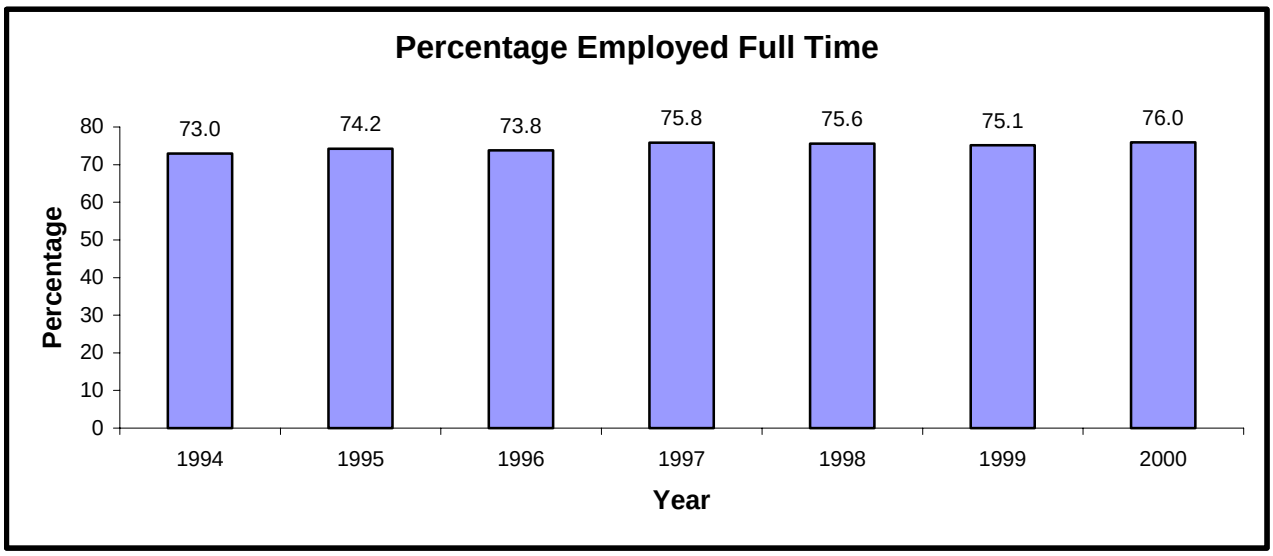
Qualifications

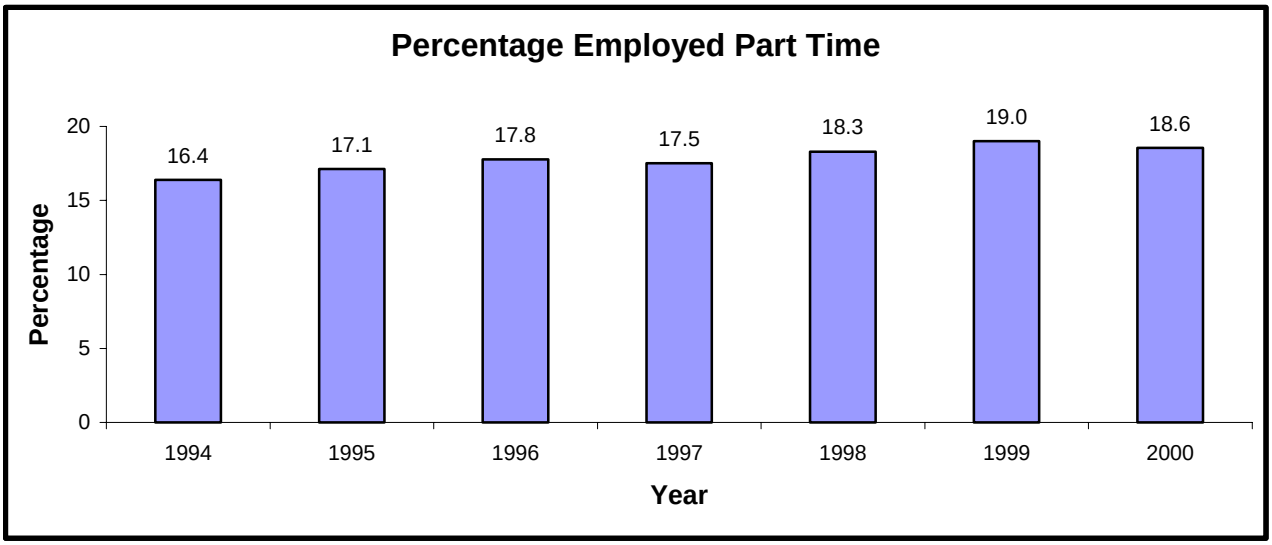
Labour force participation does not measure the importance or the value of an individual's work. People may leave the work force for reasons not related to economics, such as illness or family responsibilities.

Status

The following graphs display the labour force participation rate and the percentage of full-time and part-time employment for the Edmonton Census Metropolitan Area. Percentages were determined by dividing employment figures by labour force figures.


Labour Force Participation Rate
Participation Rate (%)
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
71.4
71.7
70.5
72.0
71.2
70.7
70.2
1994
1995
1996
1997
1998
1999
2000
Year


Percentage Employed Full Time
Percentage
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
73.0
74.2
73.8
75.8
75.6
75.1
76.0
1994
1995
1996
1997
1998
1999
2000
Year



Source: Statistics Canada

2.6 Adult Job-Related Education and Training

There are three components to this indicator: total participation in adult education, proportion of participation in training that was job-related and proportion of training that was supported by an employer.

Rationale

There is a strong correlation between the strength of the economy and participation rates in adult education. With the changing demands of the workplace, adult training and upgrading plays a key role in helping individuals adapt to new demands as well as retraining them for new positions.

Directionality*: each component for this indicator should move upward.*

Qualifications

This indicator does not include information on government financed programs which are primarily designed to lower the visible unemployment rate. The impact of these programs on the overall participation rate is not significant, but it may be more pronounced among some subgroups. Finally, the number of activities is not equivalent to the number of adults in training courses as one person may be enrolled in more than one course.

Status

The following figures are for the Edmonton Census Metropolitan Area, and are approximations:

	1993	1997
Total education and training activities	345,600	368,400
Job-related education and training activities	256,400	260,600
Employer sponsored adult education and training	205,400	243,700

Source: Statistics Canada, Adult Education and Training Survey, 1994 and 1998

2.7 Level of Education

The percentage of the population having achieved specified levels of education, expressed as a percentage of the population aged 15 and older.

Rationale

The level of education achieved has a direct effect on a person's ability to secure employment. Current trends point to an increasing number of new jobs created in Canada requiring more than 16 years of education and training.

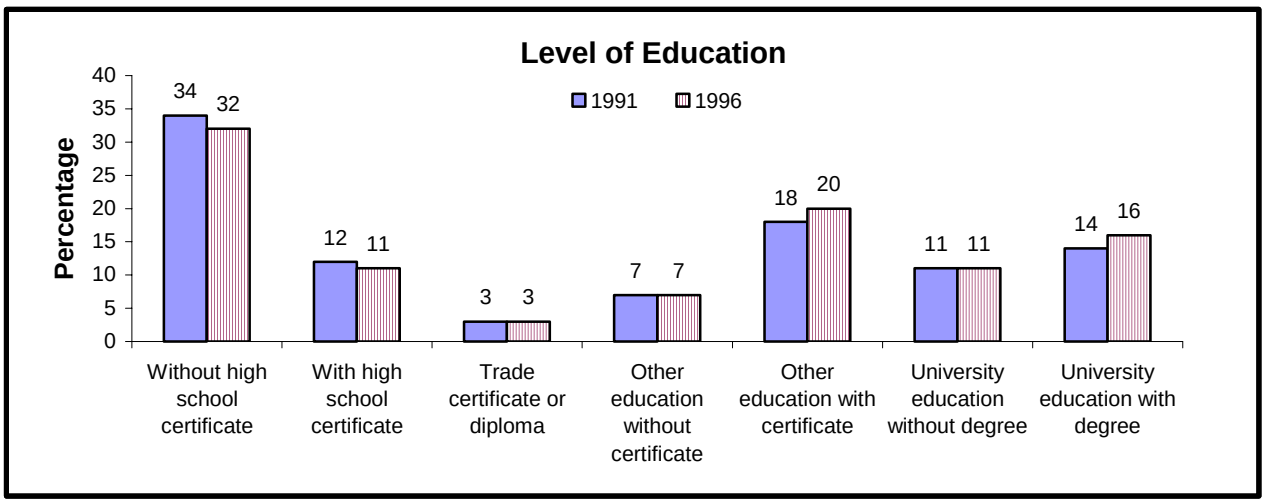
Directionality*: indicator should move upward.*

Qualifications

To reflect current intellectual capital, this indicator should reveal the highest level of education attained by Edmontonians, not the number of certificates, degrees or diplomas granted by local institutions. This would offset accreditation earned locally by students who relocate to other communities after graduation and/or commute to Edmonton to attend local institutions.

Status

The following chart illustrates the results of the 1991 and 1996 census surveys for the census subdivision of Edmonton (figures may not total one hundred due to rounding). Results of the 2001 census for this indicator are expected to be released in 2003.



Source: Statistics Canada

2.8 Households Below the Low Income Cut-Off Level (LICO)

The LICO is determined by adding 20 percent to the average percentage of gross family income spent on the basics of food, shelter and clothing. LICO is adjusted according to size of household and the population of the area of residence.

Rationale

The LICO has been defined by Statistics Canada and is commonly accepted as a threshold marker that measures well-being relative to the average. It may also be viewed as a measure of distribution of wealth.

Directionality*: indicator should move downward.*

Qualifications

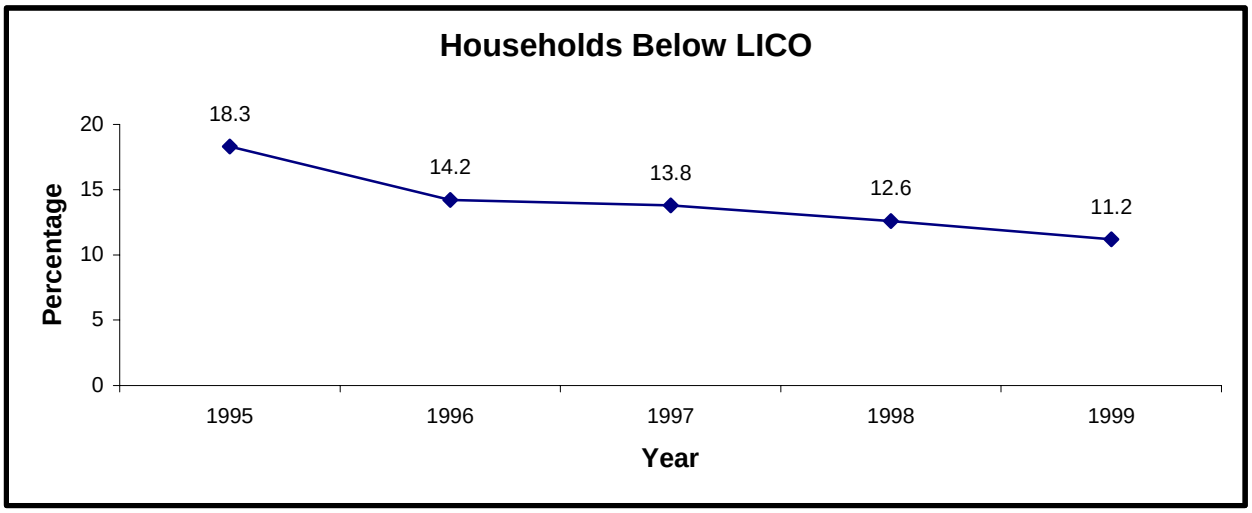
LICO does not directly measure poverty, rather, it defines a set of income cut-offs below which individuals may be living in straightened circumstances. A more expansive definition of poverty may be needed.

An economic family, as defined by Statistics Canada, "Refers to a group of two or more persons who live in the same dwelling and are related to each other by blood, marriage, common-law or adoption."

For the reference year 1998, Statistics Canada modified its data collection, which impacted survey results. Therefore, comparisons between the 1995 – 1997 period and 1998 onward should be made with caution. 1999 is the most current year for which data is available. Data is collected for the Edmonton Census Metropolitan Area.

Status

The percentage of economic families living below LICO has steadily decreased.



Source: Statistics Canada

2.9 Air Traffic

The number of people using registered air service in and out of Edmonton.

Rationale

The level of flight activity indicates economic well-being of both individuals and businesses, as ability to travel is related to economic health.

Directionality*: indicator should move upward.*

Qualifications

This indicator does not distinguish between flights for business or pleasure, or the origin and destination of travelers.

On June 1, 1996, all scheduled air passenger service for Edmonton was consolidated at the Edmonton International Airport.

Status

The total number of passengers through Edmonton has generally maintained an upward trend.

Year	*Total*
1996	3,522,674
1997	3,720,623
1998	3,791,526
1999	3,654,463
2000	3,843,321

Source: Edmonton Regional Airports Authority

3.0 Healthy People

Overview

In order to approach this element in a comprehensive fashion, the Healthy People working committee began indicator development by examining the concept of a healthy individual. It was determined that Healthy People are the result of all components of a community working well together (economy, environment and community).

Five core concepts for the element were identified, and for each one a description developed. The first concept, *adaptability*, included factors such as an individual's ability to cope with change and crises. Inherent to the concept of *resources* was that individuals needed to have the skills and knowledge to pursue their choices, as well as the means. The concept of *relationships* entailed individuals who were socially connected and concerned for others. The *participation* concept focused on individuals having access to meaningful paid work and the ability to participate in their community. Finally, the concept of *meaning* described healthy people who had optimism and a zest for life.

Healthy People are...

- Educated and informed.
- Capable (have the skills to meet their own needs) — physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually.
- Adaptable — able to cope with change, crisis — physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually.
- Responsible about their physical, emotional, mental and spiritual lives, recognizing the limits of individual capabilities.
- Providing healthy environments for children and are aware of and capable of meeting children's needs.

3.1 Disparity in Annual Family Income

Percentage of families with income in the following quintiles: less than $19,999; $20,000-$39,999; $40,000-$59,999; $60,000-$69,999; and more than $70,000.

Rationale

Income distribution displays the proportion of the population living at, above, or below various economic cut-off points, as well as the magnitude of difference between those with the greatest and lowest income. It can be used to indicate changes in the gap between those with the greatest and lowest incomes. In conjunction with education and occupation, the income variable is often used as a socioeconomic indicator in studies analyzing the links between social condition and health.

Evidence suggests there is a health gradient in which differences are found not only between the groups with the highest and lowest income, but also between all levels on the scale. Individuals living on insufficient income are more likely to be in poor health than individuals in higher income categories. They are also more likely to have harmful behavioral patterns, suffer from a disability or die prematurely.

Directionality*: the percentage of people in the lowest two quintiles should decrease.*

Qualifications

The data for this indicator is based on the census subdivision of the City of Edmonton. It represents gross family income levels for all census families, "income" includes all sources. Figures may not total one hundred due to rounding.

Status

The following table shows mixed results. While the percentage in the lowest quintile decreased, the percentage in the second lowest quintile increased.

Family Income - All Census Families	1991	1996
$0 - 19,999	17%	16%
$20,000 - 39,999	26%	27%
$40,000 - 59,999	26%	24%
$60,000 - 69,000	9%	10%
$70,000 +	21%	24%

Results from the 2001 Census for this indicator are expected to be available in 2003.

Source: Statistics Canada

3.2 Nutritious Food Basket

The cost to purchase an assortment of food that provides a realistic and nutritious dietary balance.

Rationale

Good nutrition is an important factor affecting an individual's ability to learn and work effectively.

Directionality*: indicator should remain steady.*

Qualifications

This indicator measures the cost of an assortment of nutritious food. It does not indicate whether individuals are choosing to buy nutritious foods, nor if individuals have the financial means to purchase the suggested quantities and types of food. It is possible to break the data down into greater detail.

Status

Year	Children 0 - 6	Boys 7 - 18	Girls 7 - 18	Men 19 - 75+	Women 19 - 75+	Pregnant Women
1996	$18.39	$29.98	$25.78	$29.54	$24.59	$28.87
1997	$18.99	$30.97	$26.63	$30.44	$25.39	$29.82
1998	$19.28	$31.58	$27.15	$30.92	$25.78	$30.37
1999	$19.31	$31.66	$27.21	$31.01	$25.81	$31.98
2000	$16.57	$32.03	$26.68	$34.01	$26.45	$30.83

Source: Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development

3.3 Low Birth-Weight Infants

Percentage of total live births that are low birth-weight (less than 2,500 grams).

Rationale

Low birth-weight (LBW) is linked to infant mortality, neurological defects and birth defects. It is associated with slow development during childhood, presenting difficulties in later stages of life. Some of the factors associated with LBW include smoking, low weight prior to pregnancy, poverty and prenatal care.

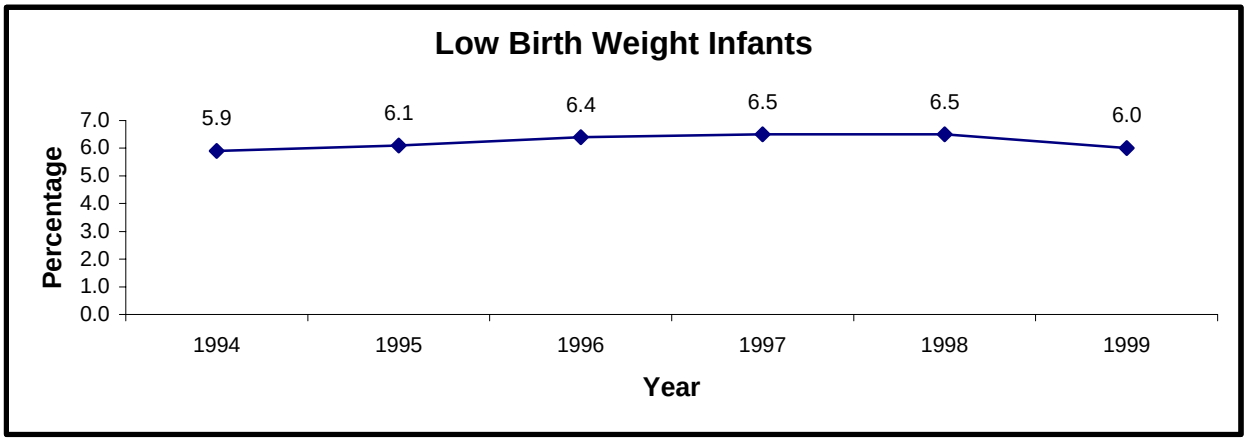
Directionality*: indicator should move downward.*

Qualifications

The percentage of low birth-weight infants varies widely among different areas of the city, possibly reflecting disparities in economic and educational status. Variances may also be indicative of a pregnant woman's ability to access continuous prenatal care and adequate nutrition.

Status

The following chart illustrates moderate fluctuations in the percentage of low-birth weight infants in the City of Edmonton.



Source: Capital Health, Population Health and Research (special data request)

3.4 Student Academic Achievement

Percentage of students achieving the acceptable standard (grades in the 50%-100% range) and the standard of excellence (grades in the 80%-100% range). The goals established by Alberta Learning are that 85 percent of students will achieve the acceptable standard and 15 percent will attain the standard of excellence.

Rationale

Performance on provincial achievement tests and diploma examinations are an indicator of student academic achievement.

Directionality*: the goals set by Alberta Learning be met annually.*

Qualifications

- Students in grades 3, 6, and 9 are tested by the provincial achievement test. Grade 12 students are evaluated by diploma examinations.

- In 1995/96, a new science curriculum was introduced at the grade 6 level. For that year, schools had the choice of which curriculum to use. As a result, two different achievement tests were administered. The science curriculum was standardized in the 1996/97 year.

- In 1998, standards for Grade 3, 6 and 9 mathematic achievement tests were changed and should therefore not be compared to previous years.

- In 2000/01, Pure and Applied Mathematics curricula were introduced. This increased the number of Grade 12 subjects for which diploma exams were required, and had a direct effect on achievement levels in Mathematics 30. Therefore, Alberta Learning cautions making comparisons to previous years.

- Other issues for consideration include: this indicator is only one measure of success in school; this indicator does not reflect the marks of students in private schools, charter schools or home schooling; and this indicator does not reflect the number of students not completing the school year, or those who did not write diploma exams.

Status

The following tables provide a detailed breakdown of the percentage of students meeting the acceptable standard and the standard of excellence. Figures in bold indicate where results met or exceeded the goals set by Alberta Learning.

Edmonton Public Schools							
Grade	Subject	1995/6 50-100	1995/6 80-100	1996/7 50-100	1996/7 80-100	1997/8 50-100	1997/8 80-100
3	Language Arts	81.2	**16.8**	82.3	11.1	82.3	14.2
	Mathematics	**87.6**	**16.6**	**89.8**	**20.4**	78.7	**20.4**
6	Language Arts	80.0	14.6	79.8	13.5	80.2	13.4
	Mathematics	83.4	**24.0**	**87.4**	**25.1**	80.8	**17.2**
	Science A	78.5	**18.9**	-	-	-	-
	Science B	79.8	14.9	-	-	-	-
	Science	-	-	76.8	14.0	79.7	**20.1**
	Social Studies	77.1	**16.4**	78.0	**18.1**	77.9	**18.1**
9	Language Arts	84.7	10.9	84.3	11.7	**85.2**	12.2
	Mathematics	67.9	**15.8**	68.0	14.6	72.4	**18.0**
	Science	78.2	**19.3**	75.9	**16.4**	77.0	14.4
	Social Studies	73.9	14.8	81.9	**17.9**	79.7	**17.5**
12	English 30	**90.6**	**18.8**	**88.4**	**17.7**	**88.1**	**16.4**
	Mathematics 30	78.7	**24.2**	76.3	**21.2**	82.3	**26.6**
	Social Studies 30	84.9	**20.0**	84.3	**16.6**	**86.0**	**19.9**
	Biology 30	77.2	**19.3**	81.3	**26.6**	80.1	**25.6**
	Chemistry 30	80.5	**19.3**	77.1	**17.3**	**85.7**	**20.2**
	Physics 30	78.7	**26.2**	78.9	**23.0**	84.4	**29.2**
	Science 30	74.4	7.7	79.7	6.8	70.7	9.8
	English 33	81.0	6.8	82.2	7.0	83.8	7.8
	Social Studies 33	76.7	5.6	76.6	5.7	82.8	7.9
	Mathematics 33	77.3	**18.6**	78.7	**17.0**	71.8	11.0
Grade	Subject	1998/9 50-100	1998/9 80-100	1999/0 50-100	1999/0 80-100	2000/1 50-100	2000/1 80-100
3	Language Arts	**85.9**	13.7	**88.3**	**17.3**	**86.9**	**17.0**
	Mathematics	83.6	**26.1**	**87.1**	**26.5**	**86.7**	**25.1**
6	Language Arts	81.3	**16.8**	**85.0**	**21.5**	**85.3**	**17.4**
	Mathematics	83.2	**18.4**	**85.0**	**19.8**	**87.8**	**22.1**
	Science	84.0	**27.4**	**86.3**	**30.0**	**89.9**	**30.4**
	Social Studies	81.1	**18.8**	**85.5**	**22.9**	**87.1**	**23.4**
9	Language Arts	**85.0**	12.5	**87.8**	**15.6**	**88.0**	14.8
	Mathematics	71.1	**18.9**	74.4	**19.6**	75.1	**22.0**
	Science	77.3	**17.3**	79.0	**16.4**	80.5	**17.1**
	Social Studies	79.5	**21.8**	81.8	**20.9**	82.8	**21.7**
12	English 30	**85.9**	14.9	**89.6**	**19.5**	**88.0**	**20.5**
	Mathematics 30	84.4	**25.6**	76.6	**21.8**	75.0	11.7
	Social Studies 30	**86.1**	**19.3**	**85.5**	**18.5**	**86.9**	**21.3**
	Biology 30	82.3	**26.6**	82.1	**24.7**	81.3	**29.0**
	Chemistry 30	79.6	**18.3**	80.1	**21.7**	77.0	**21.7**
	Physics 30	**85.4**	**30.4**	80.2	**26.9**	80.8	**25.9**
	Science 30	**85.7**	**22.4**	77.5	6.3	84.2	11.3
	English 33	84.1	9.0	**85.8**	7.9	84.0	7.8
	Social Studies 33	81.3	9.4	80.4	11.1	80.9	13.0
	Mathematics 33	73.0	11.8	78.2	14.6	79.6	**19.6**
	Applied Math 30	-	-	-	**-**	**87.1**	10.8
	Pure Math 30	-	-	-	**-**	82.0	**26.4**

Edmonton Catholic Schools							
Grade	Subject	1995/6 50-100	1995/6 80-100	1996/7 50-100	1996/7 80-100	1997/8 50-100	1997/8 80-100
3	Language Arts	83.4	**18.3**	84.1	11.7	83.0	14.7
	Mathematics	**91.6**	**20.1**	**93.4**	**26.2**	81.6	**23.0**
6	Language Arts	84.9	**15.3**	81.7	14.1	81.9	13.7
	Mathematics	**88.2**	**28.4**	**89.4**	**27.1**	84.2	**18.6**
	Science Old	84.7	**20.7**	-	-	-	-
	Science New	80.7	**18.2**	-	-	-	-
	Science	-	-	74.1	11.0	80.6	**20.3**
	Social Studies	76.8	**16.2**	76.8	**17.0**	78.0	**15.8**
9	Language Arts	**88.1**	9.7	**85.6**	10.3	**86.9**	9.8
	Mathematics	72.2	**15.1**	71.9	13.6	74.1	**17.6**
	Science	79.5	14.3	76.4	14.1	75.9	11.2
	Social Studies	76.9	13.4	79.2	**15.2**	75.1	10.2
12	English 30	**93.9**	**17.9**	**91.0**	**15.3**	**97.4**	**17.1**
	Mathematics 30	75.1	**20.6**	77.2	**21.6**	**93.2**	**25.8**
	Social Studies 30	82.6	**16.3**	84.1	**15.9**	**95.9**	**22.3**
	Biology 30	76.3	**16.6**	83.3	**22.4**	**92.1**	**26.3**
	Chemistry 30	78.7	14.5	76.7	13.1	**92.1**	**18.0**
	Physics 30	73.8	**21.9**	74.6	**19.8**	**95.3**	**29.3**
	Science 30	63.6	0.0	50.0	7.1	**100.0**	0.0
	English 33	79.5	4.5	83.8	9.6	**92.1**	4.0
	Social Studies 33	80.8	8.6	78.2	6.0	**91.4**	4.6
	Mathematics 33	70.7	12.9	79.6	**17.5**	81.4	11.0
Grade	Subject	1998/9 50-100	1998/9 80-100	1999/0 50-100	1999/0 80-100	2000/1 50-100	2000/1 80-100
3	Language Arts	84.3	14.5	**87.4**	**20.7**	**86.7**	**17.4**
	Mathematics	84.6	**27.2**	**87.1**	**29.7**	**86.0**	**27.9**
6	Language Arts	82.5	**16.7**	**85.3**	**19.3**	84.9	**17.3**
	Mathematics	80.3	**17.3**	83.3	**19.2**	84.6	**20.8**
	Science	80.7	**23.9**	82.9	**26.7**	**87.1**	**27.4**
	Social Studies	78.4	**15.8**	83.3	**23.3**	84.8	**20.7**
9	Language Arts	**88.4**	9.2	**90.5**	13.0	**90.9**	13.5
	Mathematics	77.1	**20.0**	78.1	**18.6**	80.3	**23.2**
	Science	77.8	14.0	81.1	11.8	78.3	12.9
	Social Studies	79.2	**17.2**	81.7	14.6	81.9	**18.2**
12	English 30	**91.7**	**16.5**	**94.3**	**20.0**	**91.9**	**23.0**
	Mathematics 30	84.9	**26.6**	76.5	**19.7**	48.9	4.3
	Social Studies 30	**86.3**	**20.3**	**88.0**	**19.4**	**87.2**	**23.9**
	Biology 30	83.8	**26.0**	77.0	**21.4**	79.5	**26.5**
	Chemistry 30	83.4	**16.4**	84.0	**22.2**	77.2	**19.3**
	Physics 30	**86.1**	**30.1**	81.4	**26.7**	73.1	**23.0**
	Science 30	80.6	6.9	60.7	6.0	75.2	7.3
	English 33	**89.1**	11.9	**92.2**	12.7	**90.4**	11.6
	Social Studies 33	**86.4**	11.8	83.3	**17.2**	**87.0**	**15.9**
	Mathematics 33	75.0	13.6	78.4	12.4	80.5	**17.7**
	Applied Math 30	-	-	-	**-**	69.4	1.9
	Pure Math 30	-	-	-	**-**	80.0	**21.5**

Source: Edmonton Public School and Edmonton Catholic Schools (1995/6 – 1997/8)
Alberta Learning Multiyear Reports (1998/99 – 2000/01)

3.5 Life-Long Learning

This indicator is comprised of two components: percentage of the population registered in adult continuing education courses and the number of items borrowed from the public library.

Rationale

Life-long learning enhances creativity, assists in maintaining mental activity and enriches lives as individuals develop interests in a variety of areas. It helps to develop skills and abilities, increasing employment potential. In addition, it enables individuals to access information and services which may support family and personal well-being.

Directionality*: indicator should remain steady or increase.*

Qualifications

For the continuing education component:

- the percentage of the population registered in adult education and training activities is determined by dividing the total number of participants by the adult population;
- the number of registrations and the number of people pursuing continuing education are not the same due to multiple registrations by some individuals;
- there is a need to determine to what extent the ability to pay course fees affects participation rates.

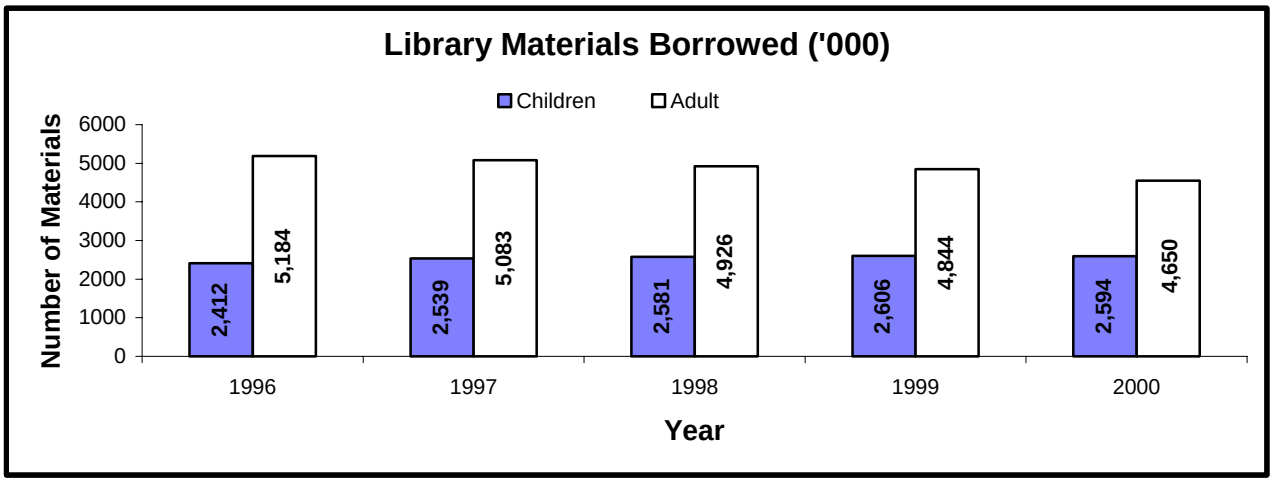
For the library usage component:

- the number of items borrowed is not the same as the number of library users;
- changes in public library use may be the result of changes in the accessibility of other information sources, such as growth in the amount of information available on-line.

Status

The percentage of the adult population registered in continuing education courses in 1993 was 33.9%. According to the subsequent Adult Education and Training Survey, by 1997, the participation rate had increased to 35.6%

Although comparisons of the number of materials borrowed by children and adults shows mixed results, overall, the number of materials borrowed declined in the period 1996 - 2000.



Source: Statistics Canada, Adult Education and Training Survey, 1994 and 1998; Edmonton Public Library Annual Report

3.6 Physical Activity

Number of adults who report engaging in regular physical activity.

Rationale

Studies indicate that regular physical activity is a significant contributor to both physical and mental health.

Directionality*: indicator should move upward.*

Qualifications

The Alberta Centre for Active Living (formerly the Alberta Centre for Well-Being) conducts surveys examining the physical activity of Albertans. Across Alberta, a total of 1,206 individuals (18 years and older) were surveyed from November 1996 to January 1997 for the 1997 survey. A similar number (1,202) were surveyed from December 1998 to February 1999.

This sampling did not survey children, individuals in nursing homes or temporary residents.

Status

- In 1997, within the Edmonton region, 56% of those surveyed reported that they are currently active. That rate decreased slightly to 55% in 1999.
- Of the individuals who reported not being currently active, in 1997, 40% reported being active in the past six months, increasing to 48% in 1999.
- Overall, the percentage of Edmontonians that were sedentary (reporting no physical activity currently or in the past six months) dropped from 26% to 20%.

The *Survey on Physical Activity* will not be updated until 2002.

Source: The Alberta Centre for Active Living, 1997 and 1999 Alberta Survey on Physical Activity

3.7 Food Bank Demand

The number of individuals using Edmonton's Food Bank.

Rationale

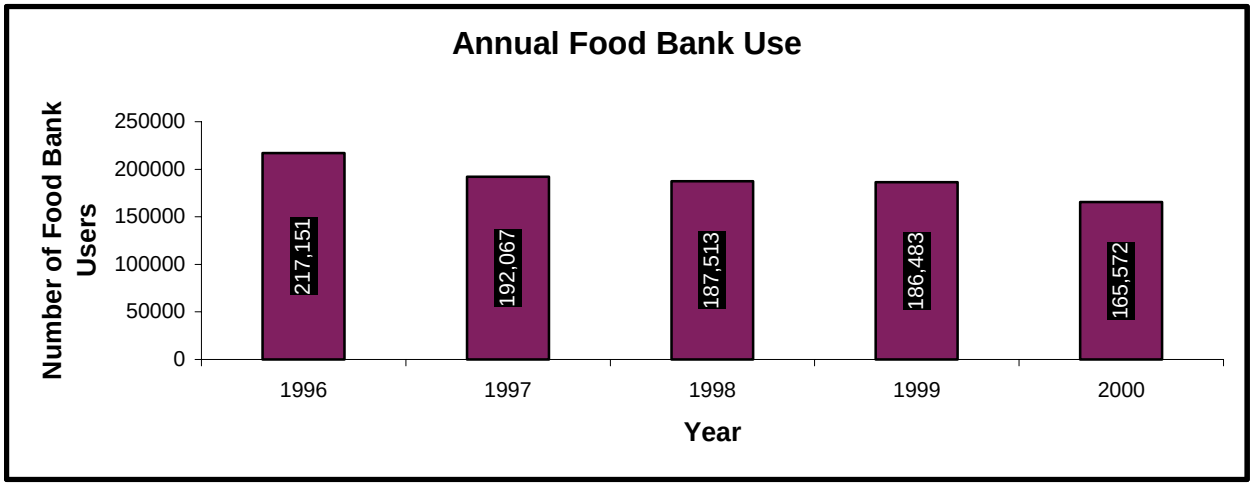
Edmonton's Food Bank provides emergency assistance in the form of food hampers to anyone in need. Recipients include those on income support programs, the working poor and those with no income from any source. Food Bank demand has historically fluctuated in response to changes in government income support programs and the economy. Therefore, it is broadly reflective of the number of Edmontonians living in dire poverty and unable to meet their most basic needs.

Directionality*: indicator should move downward.*

Qualifications

Due to the method of data collection, it is not possible to determine if changes in demand are a result of a change in the number of people requiring support or a change in the frequency of visits by Food Bank users.

Status



Source: Edmonton's Food Bank

3.8 Premature Deaths

Number of individuals who die prematurely (prior to the age of 75).

Rationale

Since death is inevitable, the focus is on minimizing the risk of premature death. The causes of premature death vary greatly with age and include:

- for infants, conditions in the perinatal period and congenital anomalies;
- for those aged 15 - 44 years, injuries and suicide;
- for those aged 45 - 74 years, heart disease, cancer and stroke.

There are many factors that contribute to reducing the number of premature deaths. Some of these factors are:

- level of income and education;
- a health care system efficient in treating and preventing physical and mental illnesses; and
- effective public education regarding healthy lifestyle choices and injury prevention.

Directionality*: indicator should move downward.*

Qualifications

There are a number of ways to measure premature death. The three considered here are:

1. The number of deaths occurring before age 75.

2. The number of potential years of life lost (PYLL). This is calculated by subtracting the age at which a person dies from the age 75. Therefore, a person who dies at 18 has "lost" 57 years of life.

3. The number of lifetimes lost. This is calculated by dividing the number of potential years of life lost by the age 75.

Statistics provided here differ from previous reports as changes in data collection now permit reporting on an annual basis, and distinctly for the City of Edmonton, rather than for the Capital Health Region as a whole. 1999 statistics are the most current available.

Status

Year	Number of Deaths <75	Number of PYLL	Number of Lifetimes Lost
1994	1,979	38,023	507.0
1995	1,865	38,023	478.8
1996	1,932	35,018	466.9
1997	1,832	32,121	428.3
1998	1,933	35,545	473.9
1999	1,990	35,939	479.2

Source: Capital Health, Population Health and Research Branch, special data request

3.9 Crisis Support Calls

Annual number of calls to crisis lines.

Rationale

Calls to crisis lines reveal the number of individuals in the community who are suffering from acute anxiety and despair. The need to seek outside assistance indicates the callers do not have family or friends for support or choose not to use either source for support.

Directionality*: indicator should move in a downward direction.*

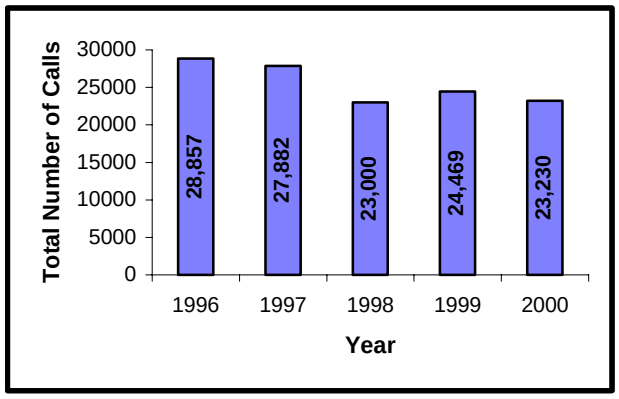
Qualifications

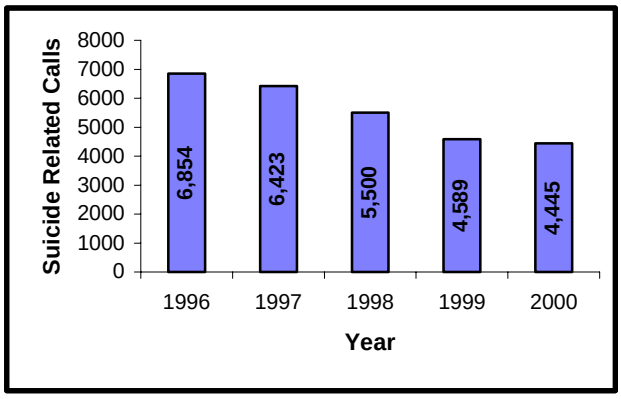
This indicator can only capture the number of calls, not the number of individuals who need help, since a person may call more than once or use more than one line. Also, an increase in calls may indicate greater awareness of a help line. If an organization attributes the increase in calls to a marketing strategy in subsequent years, the indicator would need to include this in the context. Finally, this indicator does not include all available "help lines".

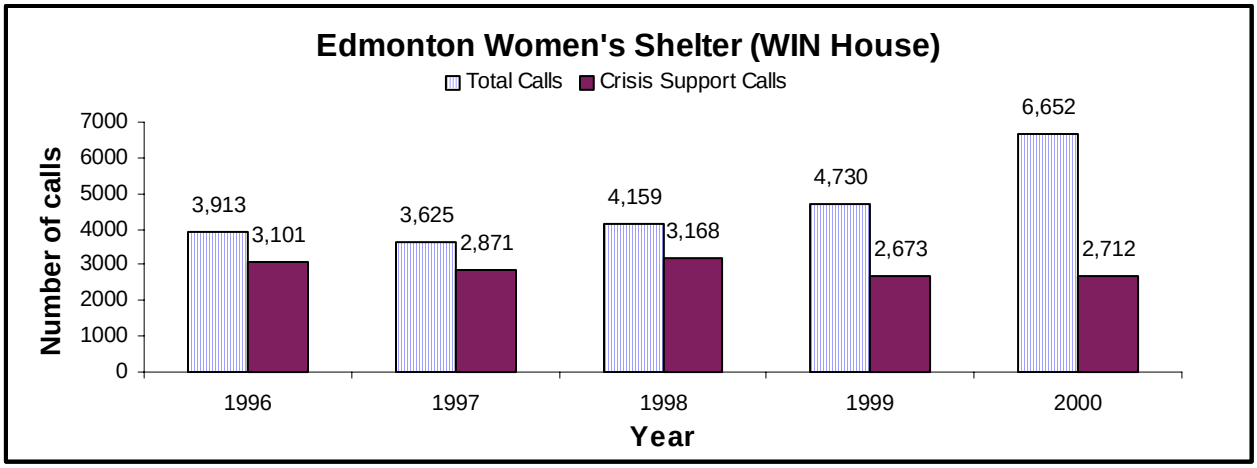
Status

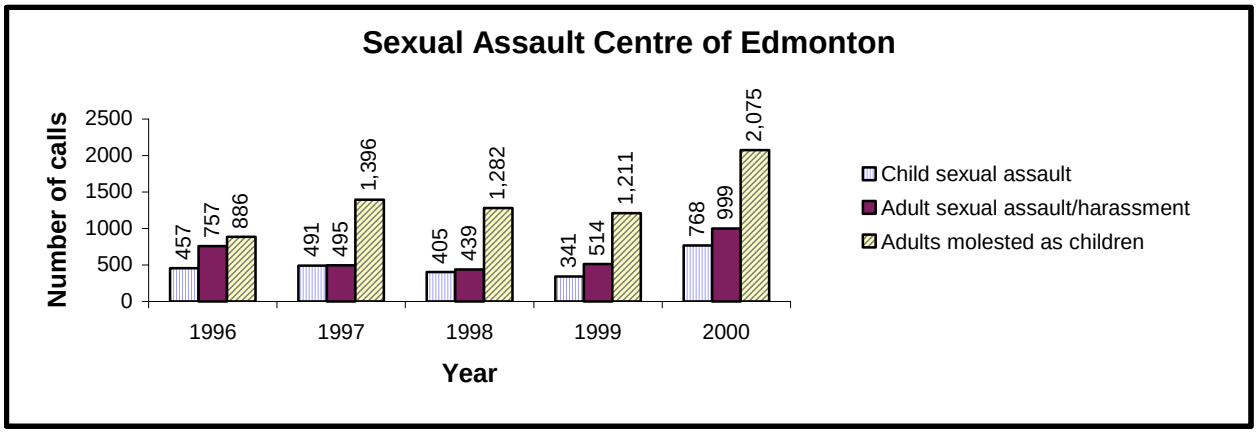
Results from some of the crisis lines that monitor annual number of calls received are shown below.

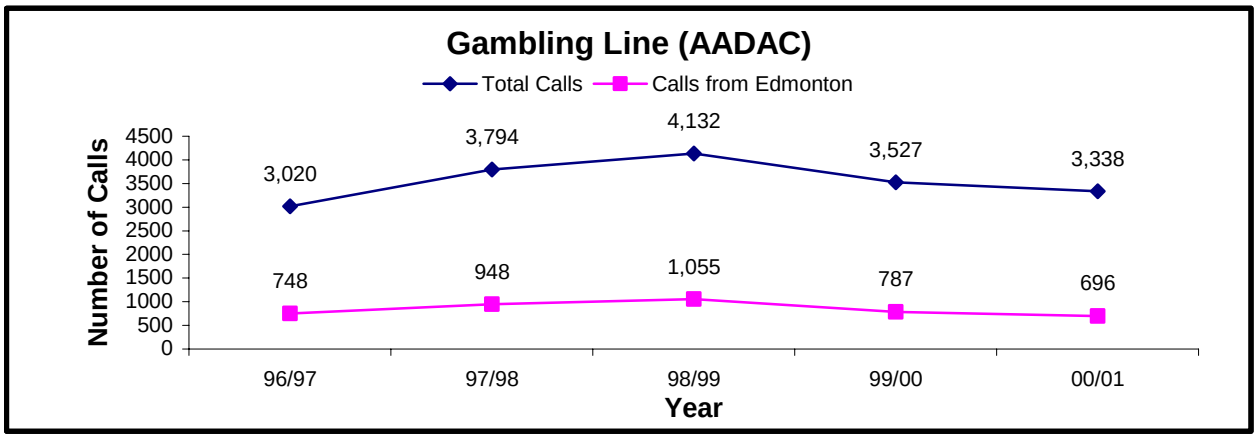
Distress Line (Support Network)






Edmonton Women's Shelter (WIN House)
Total Calls
Crisis Support Calls
Number of calls
7000
6000
5000
4000
3000
2000
1000
0
3,913
3,101
3,625
2,871
4,159
3,168
4,730
2,673
6,652
2,712
1996
1997
1998
1999
2000
Year


Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton
Number of calls
2500
2000
1500
1000
500
0
457
757
886
491
495
1,396
405
439
1,282
341
514
1,211
768
999
2,075
1996
1997
1998
1999
2000
Year
Child sexual assault
Adult sexual assault/harassment
Adults molested as children


Gambling Line (AADAC)
Total Calls
Calls from Edmonton
Number of Calls
4500
4000
3500
3000
2500
2000
1500
1000
500
0
3,020
3,794
4,132
3,527
3,338
748
948
1,055
787
696
96/97
97/98
98/99
99/00
00/01
Year

3.10 Consumption and Use of Addictive Substances

The total dollar sales of alcoholic beverages per person, the rate for drug possession, the separation rate for alcohol related primary and secondary diagnosis and the separation rate for tobacco-related diseases.

Rationale

Addictive substances affect an individual's ability to function effectively. The resultant costs to society as a whole, whether through family instability or the need for publicly funded programs and services, is significant.

Directionality*: indicator should move downward.*

Qualifications

The information obtained for this indicator was produced from unrelated secondary data sources and compiled by the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission (AADAC). The data systems were established for differing purposes and with different systems, therefore each indicator has limitations.

For example, illicit drug possession statistics are based on the actual number of charges laid as reported by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and municipal police. This figure does not represent variations in law enforcement practices or differences in human resources, nor does it reflect convictions.

In addition, "separations" are defined as the discharge or death of an inpatient. The same patient may be admitted and discharged with the same diagnosis more than once within the same year.

Separation rates were calculated based on the population aged 20 years and older for the first reporting period, and based on the population aged 15 years and older for the second reporting period. It is also expected that Capital Health Region boundary changes would influence reported rates/incidence for all components of this indicator.

Status

In 1993, the total dollar sales of alcoholic beverages from retail liquor stores per person aged 15 years and older was $553.41. For the 1997/98 reporting period, it dropped significantly to $445.65.

Information regarding the separation rate (discharge or death of a patient) for alcohol-related primary and secondary diagnosis was obtained through admissions to Alberta acute care and psychiatric care hospitals. In 1993/94 the total separation rate was 1.58 per thousand population (20 years and older). In 1996/97, the rate was 1.09 (population aged 15 and older).

The 1994/95 and 1996/97 separation rate for tobacco-related diseases as primary and secondary diagnosis was 0.74 per thousand (aged 20 years and older) and 1.09 (aged 15 years and older) respectively.

In 1993, the police charge rate for cannabis and other illicit drug possession and trafficking was 2.67 per thousand, aged 15 years and older. For the same population, the 1997 charge rate was much lower at 1.93.

Source: AADAC: Social and Health Indicators of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, April 1996 and June 1999

Current information was not available for this indicator as the above figures were obtained by special data runs on AADAC's behalf.

4.0 Healthy Environment

Overview

Air quality, water purity and natural surroundings are essential to individual health and community viability. Individual actions have an impact on the local, regional and global environment. Community initiatives play a key role in protecting and restoring the health of natural resources.

Edmonton has a variety of natural treasures which are essential and irreplaceable. Decisions concerning development have a profound impact on air quality, water quality, use of natural areas and demand for fossil fuels. Natural spaces that meet the needs of the whole community are a reflection of the city's commitment to preserving natural areas in sufficient quantities. The success of Edmontonians protecting and improving the natural environment for the future is dependent on current choices.

Monitoring indicators with regard to environmental changes will enhance informed decision making. There is a local, regional and global readiness to deal with environmental issues in a meaningful manner. If environmental change is not monitored, the opportunity to prevent irrevocable and unknown losses may be missed.

Healthy Environment includes...

- Environmentally sound use of air, water and land to safeguard these essential, life sustaining systems. There should be continuous improvement in practices affecting their quality.
- Protection of bio-geographical areas, habitat and wildlife.
- Attractive areas for recreational, cultural and spiritual needs.
- Using the natural resources in a sustainable manner.
- Protecting the environment for future generations.
- Ensuring the built environment (transportation, housing, land use change, urban structure, design and visual aesthetics) meets the needs of the community.
- Environmentally responsible utilities.
- A public which is informed about environmental issues.

4.1 Private Vehicle Usage

Kilometers travelled by private vehicle and litres of gasoline purchased.

Rationale

Travel by private vehicle consumes large amounts of fossil fuels and produces significant levels of emissions and noise. In addition to carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide, vehicles also release toxic air pollutants (such as volatile organic compounds). In Alberta, the transportation sector (all vehicles and fueling stations) releases twice the volume of toxic air pollution as industry. Reducing the distance travelled by private vehicles would reduce harmful environmental impacts.

Directionality*: indicator should move downward.*

Qualifications

The City of Edmonton *1994 Travel Survey* measured the number of kilometers driven by city residents. To obtain this figure, information was taken during a "typical" fall weekday. It is important to consider that this figure is a sample and that the number of kilometers travelled may vary seasonally and the point in the week that the sample was collected (a weekday versus a weekend).

The Transportation Association of Canada released a report measuring transportation indicators in eight urban cities. In the report, the Association measured gasoline sales in Edmonton to determine consumption per person on an annual basis. City gasoline sales figures do not necessarily equal the number of residents purchasing gasoline as visitors purchase gasoline as they travel through the city. Also, other fuels, such as diesel and propane, are used for private vehicles, and are not included in the following figures.

Status

- The *1994 Travel Survey* reported that the total kilometers driven by all City of Edmonton residents was **9,860,123 km**.
- Dividing this number by the 1994 population figure of 628,383 indicates that **15.69 vehicle-kilometers were travelled per person each day**.
- The Transportation Association of Canada measured gasoline sales for Edmonton for the period 1991 to 1994. The Association determined that **1,178 litres of gasoline per person were purchased on annual basis**.

Updated studies pertaining to this indicator have not become available.

4.2 Residential Energy Consumption Per Capita

Average amount of energy consumed annually by residential customers.

Rationale

The majority of energy used in Alberta is derived from non-renewable fossil fuels. Effects range from reducing air quality to environmental impacts associated with the extraction, refining and transportation of fossil fuels. Ideally, the monitoring of this indicator will make energy users more aware of their individual contributions to overall energy consumption levels and depletion of resources, thereby encouraging responsible energy use.

Directionality*: indicator should move downward.*

Qualifications

Although greater efficiencies should be realized whenever possible (for example, building new homes that require less energy), the benefits may be seen only in the long term. Therefore, while changes should be monitored annually to capture emerging trends, they should not be expected to vary more than slightly in the short term.

It should be kept in mind that residential customers account for only a portion of energy consumers.

Status

- The average level of natural gas consumption per residential customer in 1996 was 150 Gigajoules per year (based on a 1,200 - 1,500) square foot home. According to 1997 and 2001 figures, average residential consumption levels have remained the same. *(ATCO Gas/Northwestern Utilities*)

- In 1997, the average consumption of electricity per residential customer was 529 kW-h (kilowatt hour) per month or 6,348 kW-h per year. This represents a decrease in consumption levels compared to 1996 when annual consumption averaged 6,456 kW-h. (*EPCOR, formerly Edmonton Power)*

Comparable statistics for this component are no longer collected.

4.3 Air Quality

Percentage of time that air quality is rated good.

Rationale

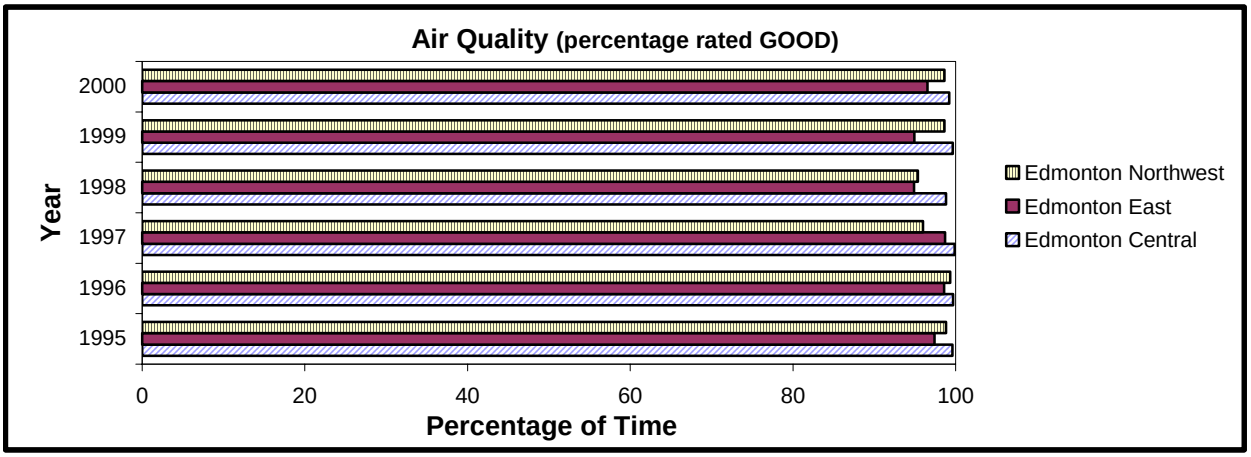
Air quality can affect personal health, particularly for those suffering from allergies, asthma and other respiratory conditions. Dust, smoke and haze decrease visibility and certain pollutants can accelerate the weathering and deterioration of buildings, roads and other structures. Emissions from automobiles, factories, homes and other buildings contribute to air pollution affecting both the local environment, as well as the air quality of surrounding communities.

Directionality*: the percentage of time that air quality readings are good should move upward.*

Qualifications

Air quality is a standard index of readings based on selected pollutants at a specified location and period of time. Alberta Environmental Protection monitors air quality through three continuous (hourly) reading stations in the city. The monitored parameters are carbon monoxide, dust and smoke, nitrogen dioxide, ozone and sulphur dioxide. Results can be influenced by factors such as wind direction and temperature. The results are reported annually as a single Index of the Quality of the Air (IQUA).

Status



Source: Clean Air Strategic Alliance, Alberta Ambient Air Data Management System: IQUA Summary Reports

4.4 River Water Quality

This indicator reflects water quality of the North Saskatchewan River upstream and downstream of Edmonton.

Rationale

The North Saskatchewan River is an important environmental feature of the Edmonton area. The river is a source of drinking water, used for recreation and enjoyed for its aesthetic qualities. Water quality changes as the river flows through the city as treated effluent is discharged into the river and run-off from city streets enters the river from storm sewers.

Directionality*: indicator should move upward. Furthermore, the difference between the upstream and downstream values should decrease, illustrating a diminishing adverse impact by the city on river water quality.*

Qualifications

Alberta Environmental Protection measures water quality at monthly intervals. Twenty water quality variables from each sample are compared with the Alberta Ambient Water Quality Interim Guidelines (AWQG). These variables are divided into three categories (water recreation, aquatic life and agriculture) to assess how they affect river use. The three categories are part of the Water Quality Index (WQI). The Index rates the water as being either *good* (100-96% compliance), *fair* (95-86% compliance), *poor* (85-71% compliance) or *not acceptable* (70% compliance or lower) for the three different categories.

By the time the river reaches the city, water quality has been affected by factors such as upstream agricultural practices and activity in other communities. Consequently, an upstream water sample does not necessarily represent pristine river water quality.

Status

The table below compares WQI results for 1995 - 1998:

	1995	1996	1997	1998
Upstream				
Recreation	Good	Fair	Fair	Fair
Aquatic Life	Good	Good	Good	Good
Agriculture	Good	Good	Good	Good
Downstream				
Recreation	Not Acceptable	Not Acceptable	Not Acceptable	Not Acceptable
Aquatic Life	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair
Agriculture	Good	Good	Good	Good
Overall Upstream Compliance	98.5%	98.6%	98.1%	98.6%
Overall Downstream Compliance	89.5%	88.9%	91.1%	92.6%
Difference	9.0%	9.7%	7.0%	6.0%

Source: Alberta Environmental Protection, Water Management Division

Note: The Water Quality Index has undergone significant revision. Therefore, 1998 will be the last year for which this data is available.

4.5 Solid Waste Per Capita

This indicator has two components: the annual volume of residential waste per capita that goes to landfills and the annual volume of material contributed to the Blue Box program per capita.

Rationale

Decreased landfill and increased recycling reflect successful public education regarding waste management. It shows a willingness on the part of households to be more efficient in their use of materials, to participate in programs designed to reduce the potentially harmful impact a community has on the environment, and to consider the importance of long term environmental sustainability.

Directionality*: the volume of waste going to landfills should move downward. The volume of material going to the blue box program should move upward in the short term, then downward as individuals learn to reduce the amount of materials that require disposal. In addition, the ratio between the two components should decrease.*

Qualifications

This indicator does not:

- reflect the nature of the waste in terms of its damage to the environment;
- account for separated composted materials;
- track materials to private recyclers or private landfills;
- measure changes in total volumes of waste as affected by changes in total population.

The population figures provided for 1997, 1998 and 2000 are estimates. The only measures available for waste and recyclables are estimates due to the use of private contractors.

Status

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
WASTE					
Total residential population (single and multi-family)	616,305	626,477	633,415	648,284	657,509
Single and multi-family waste (tonnes)	235,950	194,000	190,259	187,771	260,000
Tonnes per capita	0.382	0.309	0.300	0.289	0.395
RECYCLABLES					
Blue box recyclables (tonnes)	20,000	20,578	21,505	26,359	27,666
Recycling depot recyclables (tonnes)	4,000	4,709	5,451	5,730	6,148
Total Recyclable (tonnes)	24,000	25,287	26,956	32,089	33,814
Tonnes per capita	0.038	0.040	0.042	0.049	0.051

Source: City of Edmonton, Asset Management and Public Works, Waste Management Branch; City of Edmonton, Planning and Development

4.6 Urban Green Space

This indicator measures green space by total green space area, the number of parks and hectares of park per 1,000 people.

Rationale

Urban green spaces are used for spiritual renewal and aesthetic purposes as well as recognition and protection of Edmonton's heritage. Therefore, visual and physical accessibility to outdoor leisure space and natural areas is an important aspect of urban living. These spaces also provide a connection to nature and support a diversity of flora and fauna. The River Valley Parks System is one of the most significant features of the City of Edmonton.

Directionality*: all components of this indicator should remain steady or move upward.*

Qualifications

It will not be possible to preserve all natural areas as the city grows. Such growth may either encroach on surrounding rural land, or decrease green space within current city boundaries.

The majority of the data collected will not change substantially on an annual basis. For example, changes in the number of hectares of park per 1,000 people are more likely to result from changes in the population rather than changes in park space.

The categories of green space are:

1. Naturalized/native areas: an alternative to conventional high maintenance landscaping which encourages natural growth of native plants, and includes forested and natural areas.

2. Park land/open space: includes parks, playgrounds, fields and recreation areas.

Status

According to 1995 statistics:

- The total hectares of land owned by Edmonton Community Services is approximately 4,300, while privately owned hectares are roughly *6,786, for total green space of approximately 11,086 hectares.

- Of that, the total hectares in the Edmonton area which are natural/native or private ("private" includes land not owned by Community Services) is approximately 7,343.

- The total number of parks city wide is 896 sites.

**Accuracy of this figure is dependent on the accuracy of estimates in the supporting data.*

- In 1995, there were 6.81ha/1,000 (hectares of park per 1,000 people).

- In 1996, that number decreased slightly to 6.80.

- By 1997, in relation to an increase in population, the number of hectares of park per 1,000 dropped again to 6.69.

More current statistics have not been made available.

Source: City of Edmonton, Community Services; Population figures provided by City of Edmonton, Planning and Development (1997 estimated population)

4.7 Environmental In-Service Training for Teachers

Total number of teacher in-services per year on environmental education.

Rationale

Current and formal training for teachers is vital to providing quality education to students. This is particularly true for environmental education where concepts, standards and course content are changing rapidly.

Directionality*: indicator should move upward.*

Qualifications

Environmental in-service programs, which could include courses, seminars, workshops or other professional development activities, are offered by FEESA and Destination Conservation. FEESA promotes, communicates, coordinates and initiates the development and support of environmental education in Alberta. Destination Conservation (DC) is an activity-based program which combines environmental education with resource conservation.

Status

Although overall results are mixed, one element that stands out is the considerably high activity level of FEESA in the 1996/97 school year.

	1995/6	1996/7	1997/8	1998/9	1999/0	2000/1
FEESA:						
Number of Edmonton teachers participating in full day in-services	65	260	80	95	90	n/a
Number of teachers conventions	-	8	8	7	7	n/a
Number of EcoLab/EcoTour programs available	-	-	11	13	11	n/a
Destination Conservation:						
Schools participating in Student Conferences	-	11	25	24	24	19
Schools attending Initial In-service	-	21	9	3	25	n/a
Schools attending Fall In-service	-	20	12	12	12	4
Schools attending Spring (Professional Development) In-service	-	15	13	4	19	5

Source: FEESA, An Environmental Education Society; Destination Conservation

4.8 Environmental Content in the Classroom

The number of units in the school curriculum focused on environmental education.

Rationale

Education is a fundamental mechanism to impart awareness and understanding of key concepts and principles. Education can also contribute to behaviour change. Therefore, the frequency of formal teaching of environmental topics is crucial to the environment.

Directionality: *indicator should move in an upward direction and be maintained at a high level.*

Qualifications

A survey of the school curriculum was performed for Alberta Learning (formerly Alberta Education) to identify where teachers could introduce environmental and sustainable development concepts.

FEESA, An Environmental Education Society, examined the science, social studies, environmental and outdoor education, and career and technology studies areas. Other subject areas, such as language arts, art, music and physical education, were not reviewed.

The number of program units determined for each grade reflect the areas which could accommodate environmental topics, not the actual number of environmental units which are taught. This is due to the selection of specific content being left, to some degree, to each teacher's discretion.

Status

There are **approximately 50** units/topics areas that could accommodate environmental or sustainable development studies.

There have been few changes in this number in the last several years as it will vary only in response to changes in the curriculum.

Grade/Subject	Number of Topic Areas	Number of Units
Grade 1	1 topic area	-
Grade 2	3 topic areas	-
Grade 3	4 topic areas	-
Grade 4	3 topic areas	-
Grade 5	4 topic areas	-
Grade 6	2 topic areas	-
Grade 7	2 topic areas	2 units
Grade 8	2 topic areas	2 units
Grade 9	1 topic area	2 units
Grade 10	4 topic areas	1 unit
Grade 11	-	5 units
Grade 12	-	3 units
Career and Technology Studies	6 topic areas	-
Environment and Outdoor Education	4 topic areas	-

Source: FEESA, An Environmental Education Society

5.0 Healthy Community

Overview

In order to assess Edmonton's community health, the Healthy Community working committee needed to identify those factors that enhance and foster community well-being. The committee members began with several concepts that describe a healthy community. Some of the concepts are:

- access to quality education;
- commitment to helping others and improving the community;
- reliable physical and social infrastructures;
- participation in decision making processes;
- public safety and security;
- support for the vulnerable;
- appreciation for diversity and social justice; and
- access to activities.

Indicators to assess community health were then developed. It needs to be recognized that even when all elements for a healthy community are in place, participation in a community continues to be influenced by individual issues, resources and choices.

Healthy Community includes...

- A sense of community built on local connections.
- Opportunities to enjoy and participate in a rich variety of leisure activities, performing and visual arts, sports and special events.
- Opportunities to participate in decision-making.
- Fostering ways for people to contribute to community life.
- A sense of safety and security.
- Promoting commitment to community and responsibility to each other.
- Structures, facilities, services, processes and institutions that meet the needs of the community.
- Avenues of expression for personal talents or interests.
- Treating all people with respect, valuing diversity.
- Philanthropy and volunteerism.
- Education as it relates to range of opportunities, in and outside of school settings; literacy; school enrollment; and school achievement. Educational opportunities for the development of both critical thinking and practical knowledge.

5.1 Enrollment in Post-Secondary Institutions

The number of individuals enrolled in post-secondary institutions in the city.

Rationale

Enrollment in post-secondary institutions reflects a motivation to pursue higher or additional levels of education. The health of the community is improved by such pursuits, whether they are to attain goals of an occupational, personal or community-oriented nature.

Directionality*: indicator should move upward.*

Qualifications

Students come to Edmonton to study from other communities. Likewise, students may not stay upon completion of their programs. Some part-time figures may include multiple registrations. Enrollment figures at Norquest (formerly Alberta Vocational College) for the 1997/98 academic year are estimates. The following figures do not reflect non-credit course enrollment.

Status

The following figures were reported for fall enrollment:

	1995/96		1996/97		1997/98		1998/99		1999/00	
	F/T	P/T	F/T	P/T	F/T	P/T	F/T	P/T	F/T	P/T
Public Institutions										
University of Alberta	25,502	3,552	26,130	3,728	25,842	3,994	25,589	4,703	25,998	4,789
Grant MacEwan	4,728	4,194	5,169	3,998	5,517	1,718	5,819	4,326	6,590	4,211
NAIT	6,523	3,122	6,232	3,061	6,823	2,612	9,004	3,932	9,623	3,626
Norquest	3,142	4,138	3,107	2,965	2,097	2,001	2,179	2,477	2,339	2,673
Private Colleges										
Concordia	1,119	244	975	309	997	269	976	288	1,049	286
King's College	442	49	436	45	458	45	463	48	461	59

Source: Alberta Learning

5.2 Charitable Donations Per Capita

The average amount of money donated to charity per year.

Rationale

The act of giving personal financial resources is a demonstration of an individual's commitment to, and interest in, the quality of life in the community.

Directionality*: indicator should move upward.*

Qualifications

Charities are defined as those organizations which are able to provide a tax receipt and include places of worship, foundations and non-profit organizations. Some non-profit organizations do not have charitable status, therefore donations to these groups would not be measured by the data source used for this indicator.

Status

Based on tax filer data for the Edmonton Census Metropolitan Area:

Taxation Year	Total Donations	Number of Donors	Average Donation (rounded to nearest $)
1994	$115,821,000	164,570	$704
1995	$119,956,000	163,700	$733
1996	$131,326,000	164,160	$800
1997	$142,875,000	162,070	$882
1998	$154,685,000	167,290	$925
1999	$162,712,000	164,050	$992

Source: Statistics Canada

5.3 Voter Turnout

Percentage of eligible voters who cast ballots in municipal, provincial and federal elections.

Rationale

Voter turnout is a measure of the value voters place on participating in the democratic process, the level of interest in public life and the willingness to support the declared candidates.

Directionality*: indicator should move upward.*

Qualifications

Likely the primary reason people vote is that voting is seen as a means of affecting future decisions made by government. It is impossible to know what compels an individual to vote; the only measurable action is voting.

The number of ballots cast include those which are not considered valid. Voter turnout is being measured for general elections, which typically have higher turnout rates than referenda, by-elections or plebiscites. A minor portion of any variance may be due to changes in the electoral boundaries between elections.

Although the St. Albert and Sherwood Park ridings are considered by the provincial Chief Electoral Officer to be part of the Edmonton area, election results for these communities are not used in calculating voter turnout.

Status

- The 1993 federal election had a voter turnout rate of 62.3% Voter turnout in the 1997 election was five percent lower, at 57.3%, with a small increase for the 2000 election, at 59.3%
- A comparison of the 1993, 1997 and 2001 provincial elections shows a small, but steady decrease in voter turnout results, with rates of 59.2%, 56.4% and 54.0% respectively.
- Municipal elections have also seen a decline in voter turnout. In the 1995 municipal election, half (50.3%) of the eligible voters cast ballots. By comparison, 1998 voter turnout was approximately 15% lower, with a rate of 35.7%, followed by similar results in 2001, with turnout rate of 35.2%.

Source: Federal Election - Elections Canada; Provincial Election - Office of the Chief Electoral Officer; Municipal Election - City Clerk's Office

5.4 Public Safety and Security

This indicator measures how safe individuals feel and the crime rate for person related and property crimes.

Rationale

High levels of fear of crime can be devastating to a community, even if that fear is out of proportion to the actual probability of falling victim to criminal activity. It may have a negative influence on other aspects of the community such as lowered property values or decreased interaction among community members.

The crime rate is the generally accepted measure of the amount of crime occurring within a community. Converting the number of crimes to a rate per one thousand balances the effect a change in population size or demographics may have on the number of crimes.

Directionality*: indicator should move downward.*

Qualifications

The *Fear of Crime Index* draws its information from three questions included in the Citizen Survey. The *Index* is a composite of the responses, with scores ranging from 0 (least fearful) to 19 (most fearful). As the *Index* uses a consistent method of data collection, longitudinal comparisons are meaningful. The three questions used each time are:

- How safe do you feel walking alone in your neighbourhood the dark?
- Is there a place in your neighbourhood where you feel unsafe alone during the day or after dark?
- In general, how often do you avoid going out after dark because of crime?

There are aspects of the *Index* that are subjective. For example, respondents answer the second question based on their perception or definition of “neighbourhood”. When "Edmonton" was substituted for "your neighbourhood", the answers indicated higher levels of fear.

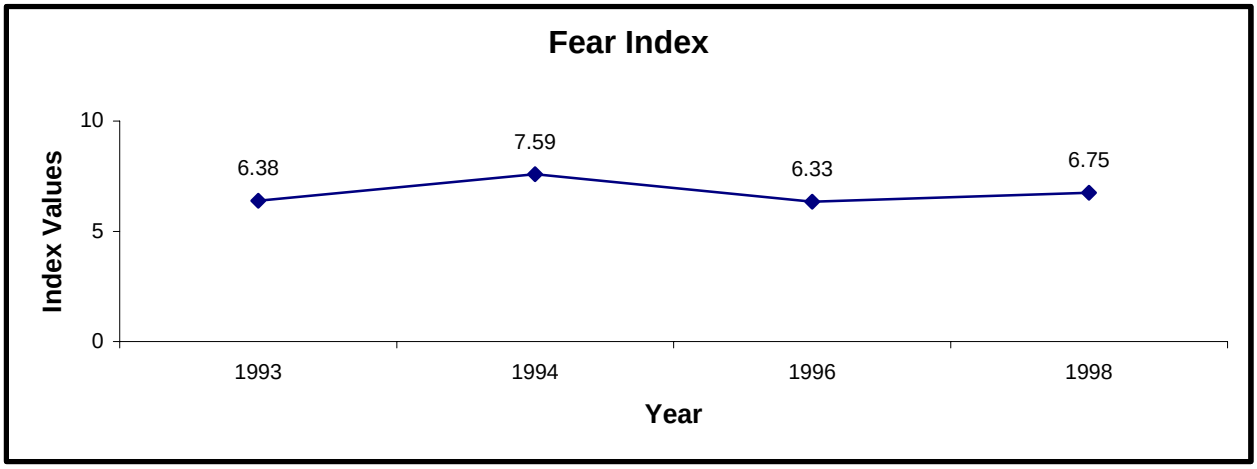
At what level fear is healthy or unhealthy is not clear. A natural assumption is to target 0 (least fearful), but this may be illogical as a certain level of fear compels people to avoid potentially dangerous situations.

It should be noted that previous reports presented *Fear Index* data calculated on the basis of 10. 1993 - 1998 results were derived by a different formula. However, as the questions remained standardized, comparisons over time remain valid. 1998 will be the last year for which the *Index* is calculated.

The crime rate is affected by the reporting rate for criminal occurrences. Reporting rates for different types of criminal activities are thought to differ significantly. For example, it is believed that the number of incidents of abuse and sexual assault are much higher than actually reported.

Status

The following graph illustrates *Fear Index* scores over time:



The following table provides information on person and property related crime. Rates are provided to remove the influence of changes in the city's population size.

Year	Number of Person Related Crimes	Rate per 1,000	Number of Property Related Crimes	Rate per 1,000
1996	8,389	13.61	49,545	80.39
1997	8,640	13.79	51,366	81.99
1998	9,323	14.71	49,488	78.12
1999	8,844	13.64	51,071	78.77
2000	9,169	13.94	53,126	80.79

Source: Edmonton Police Service, Planning and Evaluation Services (formerly Community and Organizational Support Section)

5.5 Physical Urban Infrastructure

This indicator measures the condition of infrastructure and annual capital budgets.

Rationale

Physical infrastructure maintained at an adequate level enables the city and its residents to function effectively and efficiently.

Directionality*: indicator should be maintained at current levels or move upward.*

Qualifications

In most cases, the condition of city infrastructure is not measured in a standardized method, nor is it evaluated annually. It is assumed that the standards set for infrastructure are adequate. This indicator does not include the infrastructure maintained by utilities such as EPCOR, ATCO and Telus.

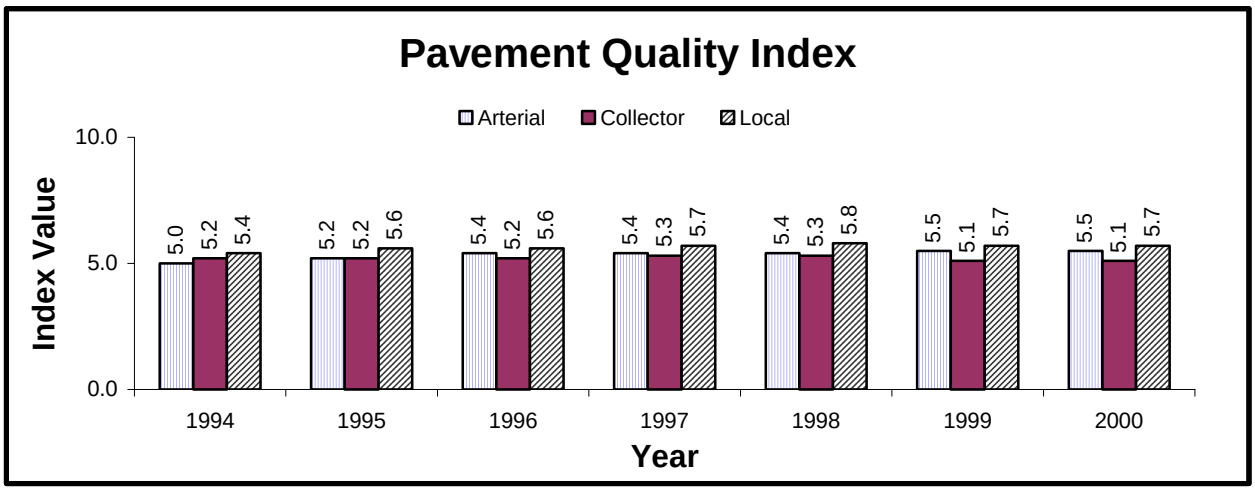
Status

The most recent rating of infrastructure related to leisure and recreation was done in 1996. The results are displayed below. Assessment was performed by city departments.

	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
ENTERPRISE FACILITIES			
Muttart	60%	30%	10%
Golf Courses	25%	40%	35%
Heritage Facilities	59%	30%	11%
Sports/Fitness	90%	6%	4%
Fort Edmonton/Zoo	86%	10%	4%
CITY FACILITIES			
Park Amenities	60%	20%	20%
Buildings/Structures	85%	13%	2%
Arenas	63%	21%	16%
Pools	70%	25%	5%
Sports fields	60%	29%	11%
Playgrounds	55%	37%	8%

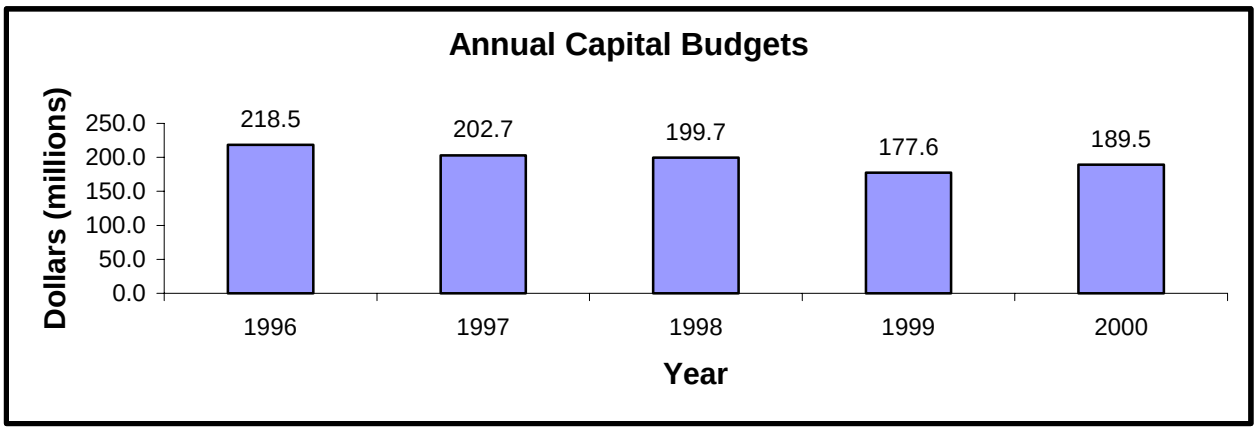
Source: City of Edmonton, Community Services

The assessment for city roads is based on the *Pavement Quality Index* (PQI) which rates the roads on a scale of 0 - 10, 0 being the poorest rating. The optimal rating is between 6 and 6.5. This is believed to be the most effective and cost efficient road rating to maintain. The ratings for the arterial, collector and local roads for 1994 - 2000 are displayed on the graph below.



Source: City of Edmonton, Transportation and Streets

The following graph compares annual capital budgets from 1996 to 2000. Total approved budget requests are compared as figures are not available for all departments and all years due to restructuring. For example, subsequent to 1996, the Municipal Airport was no longer considered part of the city's infrastructure.



Source: City of Edmonton, Finance Department

5.6 Suicide Rate

Suicide rate per 100,000 population.

Rationale

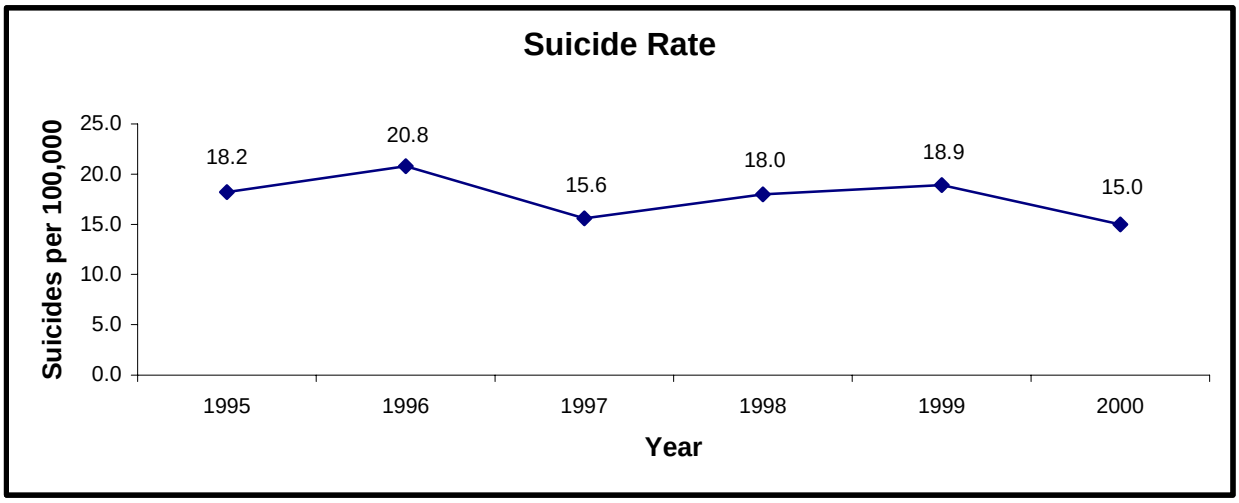
Suicide could be viewed as a final expression of poor mental health, although suicide itself is an act, not an illness.

Directionality*: indicator should move downward.*

Qualifications

The suicide rate does not reflect the number of people who attempt suicide; it is also lower than the actual number of deaths by suicide, as some suicides are classified as accidental deaths. The rate is calculated based on the place of death, which may be different from the location of the suicide attempt. The 2000 rate is based on a population estimate.

Status



Source: Office of the Chief Medical Examiner; City of Edmonton, Planning and Development

5.7 Access to Medical Services

This indicator measures access to cardiovascular surgery, joint replacement surgery, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and continuing care.

Rationale

Community health is often assessed by the number of patients waiting for care and the length of their wait before receiving care. Health and well-being is supported by receiving medical care in a timely manner.

Directionality*: waiting lists and times for this indicator should move downward.*

Qualifications

Additional services need to be considered to develop a comprehensive measure of access to medical services (e.g. walk-in care, specialized service, emergency response, etc.).

What constitutes a "reasonable" waiting list or waiting time will vary between health care providers, patients and policy makers.

Status

	1996	1997	1999	2000
Joint replacement	938	517	931	837
MRI	1,188	1,220	2,178	1,885
Cardiovascular Surgery (waiting list)	332	226	192	293
Cardiovascular Surgery (waiting time/weeks)	(average)	(average)	(median)	(median)
Urgent Outpatient	27.34	19.02	9.97	15.50
Urgent Inpatient	1.2	1.25	0.99	1.14
Continuing Care Admission (waiting list)	303	481	413	494

Source: Capital Health Annual Report 1995/96 and 1999/2000; Capital Health Performance Indicators and Measures, August 1997 and January 1998

5.8 Number of Hospital Beds

The number of hospital beds available for continuing care, acute care, psychiatric care and new options such as Assisted Living Centres and Family Day Homes.

Rationale

This indicator is one measure of the accessibility of health care resources in the community.

Directionality*: indicator levels should match community need.*

Qualifications

Community need is difficult to assess as approximately 30% of in-patient acute care beds are occupied by out of region patients.

All beds at the Glenrose Hospital are rehabilitation beds; the Edmonton General Hospital is now dedicated to long term care.

1995/96 acute care statistics were provided by Alberta Health; 1997/98 statistics were provided by the Capital Health Authority and cover the period September 1997 - March 1998 (statistics for the intervening period were not collected).

Status

More recent statistics for these two components are not available.

The following continuing care information is taken from Capital Health's Annual Reports (1995/96 and 1996/97):

	1995/96	1996/97
Conventional Beds	3,575	3,647
New Option Beds	174	174
TOTAL	**3,749**	**3,821**
Number of beds per 1,000 CHA residents aged 65 and older	**52.4**	**49.4**

The number of acute care beds in the Edmonton area is as follows:

	1995/96	1997/98
Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital	147	-
Misericordia Hospital	160	157
Edmonton General Hospital	160	-
Royal Alexandra Hospital	540	517
University of Alberta Hospital	550	573
TOTAL	**1,557**	**1,247**
Acute care beds per 1,000 Edmontonians	**2.53**	**1.99**

For this report, the number of psychiatric care beds are those located at the Alberta Hospital Edmonton and managed by the Provincial Mental Health Board. It should be noted that psychiatric care is also provided at Edmonton hospitals managed by the Capital Health Authority, and is reflected in the acute care statistics.

The number of psychiatric care beds at Alberta Hospital Edmonton has held steady at 404 beds from 1995 to 2001.

Source: Alberta Health; Capital Health Authority, Clinical Quality Utilization; Alberta Hospital Edmonton; Provincial Mental Health Advisory Board Annual Report, 1996 - 1997

5.9 Leisure Activities

This indicator measures participation in leisure activities by counting the number of visits to recreational facilities and attendance at sports events, arts events and festivals.

Rationale

Participation in leisure activities is critical to healthy people and healthy communities. The pursuit of leisure activities illustrates that people have resources to devote to an activity not essential to their economic well-being. Participation levels are in part a measure of the quality of the arts, cultural and sporting events available locally.

Directionality*: indicator should move upward.*

Qualifications

For a more comprehensive indicator, it may need to be expanded to include participation related to concerts, theatre and dance. There are many leisure activities that are not captured by attendance or use levels (e.g. reading, walking). It should be noted that local events often attract attendees from outside the city. Figures for leisure centres include attendance at the recreation and aquatic components of the leisure centres.

Status

	1995 or 1995/96 Season	***1996 or 1996/97 Season***	***1997 or 1997/98 Season***	***1998 or 1998/99 Season***	***1999 or 1999/00 Season***	***2000 or 2000/01 Season***
Arenas	1,900,604	2,085,664	2,123,819	n/a	n/a	n/a
City Arts Centre	29,038	25,191	26,194	32,941	26,011	29,678
Kinsmen Sports Centre	800,390	769,889	772,849	755,694	745,679	789,265
Valley Zoo	209,644	223,915	195,418	206,465	202,574	191,319
Commonwealth Stadium	430,723	470,907	618,343	NA	147,370	167,990
Fort Edmonton Park	211,340	202,817	195,731	193,265	198,777	200,301
Golf Courses	200,000	163,000	181,376	181,760	205,603	198,893
Leisure Centres	2,013,068	2,068,358	1,963,268	2,028,222	2,114,725	2,088,113
Muttart Conservatory	119,455	130,894	127,838	113,581	123,726	124,742
John Janzen Nature Centre	83,741	72,702	67,035	50,569	43,900	43,893

	1995 or 1995/96 Season	***1996 or 1996/97 Season***	***1997 or 1997/98 Season***	***1998 or 1998/99 Season***	***1999 or 1999/00 Season***	***2000 or 2000/01 Season***
Edmonton Symphony Orchestra	105,334	115,200	147,414	n/a	n/a	n/a
Edmonton Opera	34,000	24,000	22,000	26,195	25,538	31,993
Number of Arts Events and Festivals	55	56	59	n/a	n/a	n/a
Number of Festival Attendees (approx.)	2,500,000	2,400,000	2,350,000	n/a	n/a	n/a

Source: City of Edmonton, Community Services; Edmonton Symphony Orchestra; Edmonton Opera

5.10 Early Intervention to Assist Children

There are a number of initiatives which focus on early intervention to assist children, including Success by Six, Health for Two and Healthy Start.

Rationale

The care and support of children is a very important element of quality of life in a healthy community. This indicator is designed to measure how well the community supports child development and responds to the needs of its children. Nutritious food, pre-natal care and good educational beginnings are cornerstones for healthy development.

Directionality*: indicator does not have a specific direction.*

Qualifications

These three programs provide an indication of the community response to children's needs, but these programs are not a comprehensive measure of this indicator. For example, Health for Two does not capture the number of new mothers who live in isolation and do not participate in the program. It can only educate, assist and survey the mothers in the program.

The Success by Six and Health for Two programs are relatively new initiatives which are currently developing a standardized method for annual assessment. It should be noted that Head Start programs are offered by a number of agencies, only one of which is measured in this report.

Another significant development not captured by this indicator is the recent establishment of an Early Head Start Program in partnership with the Capital Health Authority and Edmonton Public Schools. The program is now serving over 60 low-income families with children from birth to three and half years of age.

Status

ABC Head Start has been in operation since 1985 as a preschool and family support program for low-income families. Its goal is to prepare children and their families for successful educational experiences. Its increased number of participants, based on selected school years, is outlined below:

	1995/6	1996/7	1997/8	1998/9	1999/0	2000/1
Number of programs offered	9	12	16	16	17	17
Number of schools offering the programs	5	6	10	10	10	10
Number of volunteers	45	50	53	60	65	62
Number of children and their families served	144	192	256	256	272	272

Other important elements of the demand for ABC Head Start's programs include:

- Continued waiting lists for all programs and increased waiting lists for some programs throughout the school year;
- Health screening increased from screening for vision and dental to include hearing and psychological assessments;
- Increased role for ABC Head Start in connecting children and their families to integrated psychiatric, diagnostic treatment and support services.
- Access to specialized therapies (speech, language, occupational therapy).
- Access to community interpreters and family resource (e.g. technology) for attending families.

Source: ABC Head Start

6.0 Indicators for the Future

Overview

Seven indicators for the future were identified by the working committees. They were not included as indicators in Edmonton LIFE as they are not currently monitored in a quantifiable way. Despite the lack of available measures, these concepts were retained within the project as each one was deemed an important contributor to quality of life. The goal is to incorporate them as indicators at such time as the appropriate data becomes available.

Indicators for the future are...

- Corporate Revenue Spent on Training
- People With Income to Meet Basic Needs
- Pre-School Aged Children with Developmentally-Appropriate Behaviour and Skills
- Community Design
- Total Air Emissions
- Public Environmental Awareness and Satisfaction
- Volunteer Time

6.1 Corporate Revenue Spent on Training (Healthy Economy)

Percentage of total corporate profits spent on employee training.

Rationale

This indicator would reflect the commitment of business to human capital.

6.2 People With Income to Meet Basic Needs (Healthy Economy)

Percentage of the total population with adequate disposable income to meet basic needs.

Rationale

Without an income source secure enough to reliably provide the basic needs of life (food, clothing, shelter), enhanced quality of life is not possible.

6.3 Pre-School Aged Children With Developmentally Appropriate Behaviour and Skills (Healthy People)

Percentage of pre-school aged children with developmentally appropriate behaviour and skills.

Rationale

This indicator would determine the number of very young children who are considered to be developmentally "ready to learn." Children's social and intellectual skills reflect many aspects of their quality of life to that point: relationships, nutrition, sense of security, exposure to learning opportunities, resiliency, and so on.

6.4 Community Design (Healthy Environment)

There are two components to this indicator: the percentage of new and existing communities where density meets or exceeds the city average and the percentage of new and existing communities where occupants are within 400 metres of a mix of stores and services, transit, parks and open spaces.

Rationale

Higher density communities consume less land and can support infrastructure costs. By providing a mix of facilities within walking distance, dependence on private vehicles would be reduced. An increase in the number of communities meeting this standard would reduce the impact of the built environment on the natural environment.

6.5 Total Air Emissions (Healthy Environment)

Levels of atmospheric emissions from all reported sources.

Rationale

The volumes and toxicity of emissions affect the respiratory health of individuals, aesthetic surroundings and the ability to support a diverse wildlife population. Nearly 3,000 different chemicals have been identified in the atmosphere. Unlike the Index of the Quality of Air, which measures five air pollution parameters (see Indicator 4.3), this indicator would monitor all chemicals released into the air.

6.6 Public Environmental Awareness and Satisfaction (Healthy Environment)

Individual awareness and satisfaction levels regarding the environment in Edmonton as reflected in surveys on environmental issues.

Rationale

Most of the environmental indicators measure physical changes in the environment. This indicator would measure Edmontonians' perceptions, levels of awareness of change and effectiveness of public information campaigns.

6.7 Volunteer Time (Healthy Community)

The percentage of the adult population volunteering and the hours of volunteer time contributed.

Rationale

This indicator would show the extent to which individuals are involved in activities that are meaningful to them and enhance the personal, social, educational, recreational, cultural, environmental and economic structures in the city.

7.0 Indicators for Comparison

Overview

The purpose of indicators is to allow for comparisons. Comparisons may be for different periods of time within a community, comparison of performance to other communities, or both. Indicator projects are a tool for citizens and their governments to evaluate their present, learn from their past and plan wisely for their future.

As expected, priority quality of life indicators are not the same for all communities; measures are selected on the basis of what is important to that unique locality, and within the broader context of provincial, national and international circumstances that prevail at the time of indicator development. While there is not a universal definition of quality of life, many communities agree upon those elements that contribute to quality of life. Safe families, economic prosperity and protected natural resources are common themes.

The Federation of Canadian Muncipalities (FCM), through its Quality of Life Reporting System, provides a means for participating municipalities to compare themselves to other participants. The results can be found in *The FCM Quality of Life Reporting System, Second Report, Quality of Life in Canadian Communities (March 2001)*.

A sample of FCM indicators, selected for their similarity to those found in Edmonton LIFE, are introduced here. The full FCM report should be consulted for complete definitions and explanations of each indicator, any qualifications of data and data for years other than those reported here.

FCM data is presented in this section in a manner that provides a cross-sectional, snapshot view of Edmonton's quality of life ranking from a national perspective, while Edmonton LIFE's indicators continue to provide locally-focused, longitudinal data.

Municipalities participating in the FCM project are:

- Halifax Regional Municipality
- City of Ottawa
- City of Toronto
- York Regional Municipality
- Peel Regional Municipality
- New City of Hamilton
- Waterloo Regional Municipality
- City of London
- Halton Regional Municipality
- City of Greater Sudbury
- City of Windsor
- City of Winnipeg
- City of Regina
- City of Saskatoon
- City of Calgary
- City of Edmonton
- City of Burnaby
- City of Vancouver

Indicators for comparison are...

- Long Term Unemployment
- Education and Levels of Literacy
- Percentage of Families that are Low Income
- Low Birth Weight Babies
- Premature Mortality
- Crisis Calls
- Recycling
- Crime Rates
- Suicide Rate

7.1 Long Term Unemployment (Healthy Economy)

Percentage of unemployment which is long term (six months or more; 1998).

	Percentage Long Term Unemployment		
	15 – 24 years	15 – 39 years	40+ years
Canada	11.0	17.3	31.5
Edmonton	**2.1**	**8.4**	**13.5**
Halifax	13.7	21.3	18.6
Ottawa	9.5	14.2	23.9
Toronto	9.5	19.4	32.7
York	9.9	11.9	25.6
Peel	13.4	18.9	43.4
Hamilton	13.0	13.7	26.4
Waterloo	12.2	17.1	28.9
London	16.8	18.7	39.5
Halton	0.0	9.5	0.0
Greater Sudbury	9.9	13.8	23.9
Windsor	19.1	24.0	38.9
Winnipeg	5.9	8.6	27.5
Regina	1.8	8.7	27.0
Saskatoon	3.9	9.8	21.8
Calgary	0.9	4.4	16.3
Burnaby	17.3	17.3	24.6
Vancouver	12.5	21.6	37.5

Source: FCM, Quality of Life in Canadian Communities, March 2001

7.2 Education (and Levels of Literacy) (Healthy Economy)

Percentage of the total population having achieved specified level of education (1996).

	Less than Gr. 9	Gr.9 – 13 No Certificate	Secondary Certificate	Trades Certificate	Other non-University	University, no degree	University, degree
Canada	12.1	22.7	14.3	3.7	24.2	9.7	13.3
Edmonton	**7.9**	**23.9**	**11.3**	**3.2**	**27.0**	**11.0**	**15.6**
Halifax	6.7	22.6	9.8	3.2	24.7	14.2	18.7
Ottawa	6.1	16.7	13.4	2.4	22.8	12.8	25.8
Toronto	12.2	20.1	12.8	2.6	20.5	11.3	20.5
York	8.8	19.6	13.6	3.2	24.0	11.1	19.7
Peel	8.0	21.4	15.5	3.3	25.6	10.7	15.4
Hamilton	11.5	25.0	14.3	2.6	25.6	8.0	11.6
Waterloo	10.7	24.4	14.6	3.4	24.9	8.7	13.4
London	6.9	21.7	15.1	3.4	25.8	10.1	17.0
Halton	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Greater Sudbury	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Windsor	10.7	23.7	16.0	3.0	23.5	10.6	12.5
Winnipeg	9.1	26.0	11.6	3.1	21.6	13.5	15.1
Regina	7.8	25.6	12.0	2.8	20.6	16.3	14.8
Saskatoon	7.9	23.8	10.5	2.7	23.1	15.5	16.6
Calgary	5.5	21.5	11.4	2.9	27.2	12.8	18.7
Burnaby	7.7	20.8	12.9	2.8	26.2	13.2	16.3
Vancouver	10.4	17.4	10.5	1.9	22.3	13.9	23.6

Source: FCM, Quality of Life in Canadian Communities, March 2001

7.3 Percentage of Families that are Low-Income (Healthy Economy)

Percentage of families living below Statistics Canada's Low-Income Cut Off (1996).

	Percentage of Low Income Families
Canada	16.3
Edmonton	**17.4**
Halifax CMA	14.6
Ottawa-Hull CMA	14.4
Toronto CMA	18.6
York	-
Peel	-
Hamilton CMA	15.9
London CMA	13.6
Kitchener CMA	12.1
Waterloo R.M.	-
Halton	-
Sudbury CMA	13.8
Windsor CMA	12.9
Winnipeg CMA	18.4
Regina CMA	14.1
Saskatoon CMA	16.6
Calgary CMA	15.7
Burnaby	(included in Vancouver CMA)
Vancouver CMA	18.7

Source: FCM, Quality of Life in Canadian Communities, March 2001

7.4 Low Birth-Weight Babies (Healthy People)

Percentage of single births less than 2,500 grams (1998).

	Percentage of Low Birth-Weight Babies
Canada	4.6
Edmonton	**4.4**
Halifax	5.0
Ottawa	4.4
Toronto	5.5
York	4.2
Peel	4.8
Hamilton	4.7
Waterloo	4.4
London	4.8
Halton	3.4
Greater Sudbury	4.5
Windsor	5.3
Winnipeg	5.0
Regina	4.7
Saskatoon	5.3
Calgary	5.3
Burnaby	4.5
Vancouver	4.5

Source: FCM, Quality of Life in Canadian Communities, March 2001

7.5 Premature Mortality (Healthy People)

Crude premature mortality rates (before age 75) per 100,000 (1997).

	Premature Mortality per 100,000
Canada	315.16
Edmonton	**419.00**
Halifax	437.87
Ottawa	409.34
Toronto	493.38
York	290.24
Peel	278.32
Hamilton	576.18
Waterloo	422.32
London	473.21
Halton	367.31
Greater Sudbury	555.00
Windsor	568.90
Winnipeg	529.10
Regina	485.00
Saskatoon	475.70
Calgary	327.70
Burnaby	265.09
Vancouver	469.50

Source: FCM, Quality of Life in Canadian Communities, March 2001

7.6 Crisis Calls (Healthy People)

Number of 911 calls per year (1999).

	Number of Crisis Calls
Canada	n/a
Edmonton	**234,949**
Halifax	n/a
Ottawa	200,432
Toronto	749,579
York	52,678
Peel	253,705
Hamilton	86,000 (est.)
Waterloo	n/a
London	121,853
Halton	64,071
Greater Sudbury	11,123
Windsor	74,874
Winnipeg	169,366
Regina	60,273
Saskatoon	54,459
Calgary	250,355
Burnaby	51,522
Vancouver	n/a

Source: FCM, Quality of Life in Canadian Communities, March 2001

7.7 Recycling (Healthy Environment)

Weight of collected recyclable goods per resident (1999).

	Number of Kilos Recyclables/Resident
Canada	n/a
Edmonton	**124.7**
Halifax	47.60
Ottawa	73.9
Toronto	102.0
York	56.2
Peel	95.7
Hamilton	54.9
Waterloo	58.5
London	51.9
Halton	81.6
Greater Sudbury	57.7
Windsor	50.4
Winnipeg	42.2
Regina	n/a
Saskatoon	95.9
Calgary	60.5
Burnaby	112.3
Vancouver	n/a

Source: FCM, Quality of Life in Canadian Communities, March 2001

7.8 Crime Rates (Healthy Community)

Crime rates per 100,000 population (1998).

	Violent Crimes/100,000	Property Crimes/100,000
Canada	979	4,556
Edmonton	**1,148**	**5,912**
Halifax	1,294	8,129
Ottawa	952	4,969
Toronto	1,085	3,957
York	489	2,629
Peel	581	2,751
Hamilton	1,240	4,590
Waterloo	80	4,311
London	853	4,974
Halton	456	2,443
Greater Sudbury	872	4,222
Windsor	1,055	4,887
Winnipeg	1,373	6,009
Regina	1,784	9,175
Saskatoon	1,505	6,697
Calgary	876	5,249
Burnaby	1,153	9,182
Vancouver	1,396	12,369

Source: FCM, Quality of Life in Canadian Communities, March 2001

7.9 Suicide Rates (Healthy Community)

Death rate, all suicides per 100,000 (1997).

	Suicides/100,000
Canada	12.2
Edmonton	**14.4**
Halifax	9.4
Ottawa	7.7
Toronto	8.5
York	3.3
Peel	5.4
Hamilton	5.5
Waterloo	8.1
London	11.2
Halton	6.2
Greater Sudbury	16.1
Windsor	11.1
Winnipeg	12.0
Regina	16.1
Saskatoon	11.3
Calgary	13.9
Burnaby	6.7
Vancouver	8.0

Source: FCM, Quality of Life in Canadian Communities, March 2001

Appendix - Indicator Selection

In order to assess quality of life, the concept itself had to be defined, and the factors in the local context that support the city's well-being needed to be determined.

Guided by the framework of the *Beliefs* and *Vision*, the project identified four elements contributing to quality of life: healthy economy, healthy people, healthy environment and healthy community.

A steering committee and four working committees (one for each element) were involved in the initial phase of the project. The steering committee developed a reporting format for the working committees. It also established principles and criteria for the selection of indicators, and reviewed and approved working committee documents.

The working committees were responsible for defining the elements and identifying a set of indicators that would provide a comprehensive view of that element. The committees consisted of individuals with expertise in a particular area and a familiarity with indicators. The working committees ensured that each measure met all the criteria established by the steering committee.

Focus groups were also used to pinpoint key aspects of quality of life in Edmonton. Approximately 147 people from a cross section of the community provided a broad perspective on quality of life issues. At the same time as the focus groups were being held, over 2,000 questionnaires were distributed to individuals from various sectors of the community. In addition to these groups, a number of focus groups were held in collaboration with the Muttart Foundation project *Edmonton 2005: A Place for All.*

Although the focus groups and questionnaires surveyed a broad spectrum of individuals, the responses supported the concepts emerging from the working committees. These common responses created confidence that the project's focus and direction would be representative of the priorities of Edmontonians.

Periodic reports will provide an ongoing assessment of quality of life in Edmonton.