



Goal 7: Community and Cultural Engagement

Desired Community Condition: Residents are well informed of current community conditions.



Indicator: Residents Accurately Responding to Survey Questions about Community Conditions

Progress Rating: Local Trend: NONE National Comparison: NOT APPLICABLE

Indicator Description

This indicator compares how accurately Albuquerque residents understand existing community conditions. It compares their responses to a survey conducted by the Indicators Progress Commission of resident perceptions of the state of certain important community conditions associated with the other City goals to actual conditions. The survey asked recipients about their perceptions of trends in a number of important conditions in Albuquerque – air quality, high school drop out rate, population growth, cultural and racial relationships, teenage pregnancy rates, rates of serious crime, and household income.

Why is this indicator important?

Residents who are well informed of current community conditions are more likely to support appropriate policy responses to them. A community knowledgeable about its conditions is more likely to apply community resources in a manner that responds to real needs in the community.

Most Americans believe that, in a democracy, it is the duty of the government to pay heed to public opinion. Democratic government assumes an informed, interested public. Knowledgeable citizens are more likely to participate effectively than are less knowledgeable citizens. In addition, more knowledgeable citizens are more likely to support democratic values. Accordingly, a well-informed and knowledgeable citizenry serves the interests of the individual and of society.

Data Sources

Cultural Attitudes and Behaviors Survey of Albuquerque Households 2003 by the City of Albuquerque Indicators Progress Commission; various national data sources as presented in chart below

What can we tell from the data?

- Residents believe that Albuquerque air quality is worse than it is and high school drop out rates are higher than reality.
- The perception of Albuquerque growth, when compared to other similar cities, is higher than reality.
- The perceptions of teenage pregnancy (birth) rates and of cultural relations are accurate.
- The rate of serious crime in Albuquerque has declined significantly (19.4%) and at a higher rate than the overall US rate (12.9%). However, Albuquerque's 2002 serious crime rate is lower than only 4 similar cities and higher than 14.
- Median household income is lower than the US average, higher than the New Mexico average, and in the middle of other large cities in the Southwest.

CONDITION	2003 Citizen Survey	Data Analysis	CONCLUSIONS
Air Quality	Air Quality in ABQ is 16.8% Getting Better 51.7% Staying the Same 30.3% Getting Worse	See Goal 5, Indicator: Air Quality	In the last 5 years Carbon Monoxide pollution has decreased significantly; Nitrogen Dioxide has remained stable; and Ozone has risen slightly. In the last 3 years the 3 year running averages for coarse and fine particulates have decreased marginally. The negative citizen perception of this condition is exaggerated.
High School Drop Out Rate	Compared to National Average, ABQ is 74.7% higher 19.4% same 4.5% lower	See Goal 1, Indicator: High School Drop Out Rates	There are significant difficulties in defining and measuring drop out rates. The US Dept of Education, Center for Ed. Statistics, surveyed State education agencies and divided responses up by size of school district. The only large district in New Mexico is APS; therefore, the reported NM rate is the APS rate. Other states may have multiple jurisdictions reflected in their numbers. An overall national average was not computed. See discussion in Goal 1 on graduation rates and % of population 25 and over with at least a HS diploma. Citizen perception of this condition does not match recent results reflected above.
Population Growth	Compared to cities of similar size, ABQ growth rate is 56.3% higher 32.8% same 9.5% lower	See Chart in Appendix A.	Albuquerque population increased by 16.6% from 1990 to 2000. This was higher than 14 and lower than 10 similar sized cities. The perception of growth within the City is slightly greater than reality.
Cultural and Racial Relationships	Over the last 10 years in ABQ 29.9% gotten better 49.6% stayed the same 19.4% gotten worse	See Chart in Appendix A.	There has been a modest improvement in the perception of cultural relations in ABQ. Citizens generally perceive that this is true with only 19% indicating that relations have worsened, and 30% indicating improvement. Citizen perception of this condition is accurate.
Teenage Pregnancy Rate	Compared with National Average, ABQ is 72.2% higher 23.9% same 2.2% lower	See Goal 1, Indicator: Births to Females Aged 15-19.	The rate of births to teens in Bernalillo County is above the national average. In 2000, the birth rate to teens per 1,000 was 58.6 in Bernalillo County and 48.7 in the United States. In Bernalillo County, the birth rate for females 15 to 19 years of age decreased 11.4 % from 1990 to 2000. In the same time period the rates decreased 18.7% in the United States. Citizen perception of this condition is accurate.
Rates of Serious Crime	Compared to similar cities, ABQ is 66.8% higher 29.1% the same 3.2% lower	See Chart in Appendix A.	The violent crime rate has steadily been decreasing since 1993. There was an increase from 1995 to 1996 due to the redefinition of aggravated assaults discussed above. Since 1998, there has been a 19.4% decrease in the violent crime rate. See graphs and table. Nationwide, since 1998 the violent crime rate has decreased 12.9%. In 2002 Albuquerque's rate of serious crime was lower than 4 cities of similar size and higher than 14 similarly sized cities. Citizen perception of this condition is accurate.
Household Income	Compared to National average, ABQ is 2.1% higher 7.7% same 89.4 lower	See Chart in Appendix A.	While Albuquerque's median household income is slightly below that of the United States, it ranks 25 th of 69 th among large US cities and is significantly above that of the state of New Mexico. Citizen perception is technically accurate, but Albuquerque's median income seems to be more competitive than many citizens believe.