

LISTENING AND LEARNING 2004

COMMUNITY INDICATOR PROFILES OF KNIGHT FOUNDATION COMMUNITIES AND THE NATION



ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS BOOK

The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation Community Partners Program focuses its grant making in 26 U.S. communities where the Knight brothers owned newspapers. Our indicator measures describe the cities and counties listed below. Also listed are our primary granting areas and the abbreviations used in the indicator displays.

PRIMARY AREA MEASURED	ABBR.	GRANTING AREA
Allen County, IN	AN	Fort Wayne
Baldwin County, GA	BA	Milledgeville
Bibb County, GA	BB	Macon
Boulder County, CO	BR	Boulder
Brown County, SD	BN	Aberdeen
Centre County, PA	CE	State College
Fayette County, KY	FE	Lexington
City of Gary, IN	GY	Gary
Grand Forks County, ND	GF	Grand Forks
Harrison County, MS	HN	Biloxi
Horry County, SC	HY	Myrtle Beach
Leon County, FL	LN	Tallahassee
City of Long Beach, CA	LB	Long Beach
Manatee County, FL	ME	Bradenton
Mecklenburg County, NC	MG	Charlotte
Miami-Dade County, FL	MD	Miami
Muscogee County, GA	MU	Columbus
Palm Beach County, FL	PB	Palm Beach Co.
Philadelphia County, PA	PA	Philadelphia
Ramsey County, MN	RY	St. Paul
Richland County, SC	RD	Columbia
Santa Clara County, CA	SC	San Jose
Sedgwick County, KS	SK	Wichita
St. Louis County, MN	SL	Duluth
Summit County, OH	ST	Akron
Wayne County, MI	WE	Detroit

On the cover:

LEFT: Victor Fuentes, 33, spends six hours a week brushing up on his English and learning the latest parenting skills at a family literacy class at Sanchez Elementary in Lafayette, Colo., near Boulder. The Knight-funded program gives Latino parents the tools they need to help their children excel in the classroom and in life.

CENTER: An all-girls choir performs for Knight Foundation's board of trustees and staff during a tour of Marshall Middle School in Columbus, Ga.

RIGHT: A future voter in Myrtle Beach, S.C., gets an inside look at election day Nov. 5, 2002. With support from Knight, Kids Voting USA teaches young voters the importance of voting, elections and citizenship.

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Preface

*John Greenman
President and Publisher
Ledger-Enquirer, Columbus, GA
November, 2003*

I remember when Knight Foundation's new approach to grant making took hold in Columbus.

It was early September 2001. Knight had just formed the Community Advisory Committee. This was our second meeting – the “Priority Setting Meeting.” To get ready, we'd plowed through five inches of indicator data, neatly organized in blue, leatherette binders.

Our seven-member committee seemed to fit what Knight was looking for: smart, passionate leaders who, like the majority of our neighbors in Columbus, believe we can exert a positive influence on the town. But we differed, too, in upbringing, work roles and especially in our experience with philanthropy.

Armed with the indicator data, we were ready to start thinking about “outcomes” in a new way: if we're not satisfied with the status quo in Columbus, what must change for us to become satisfied?

Of course, we were not satisfied with the status quo in Columbus. No one is.

Columbus is a 175-year-old west central Georgia city. From here, the Appalachian foothills give way to the coastal plain, and the Chattahoochee River is navigable to the Gulf of Mexico. Culturally, this is the Deep South, where tea comes sweet; this is the Bible Belt, where evangelism is the norm and prayer precedes public meetings; and this is the Black Belt, where the ratio of whites to blacks is unchanged since 1842. Among Knight cities, Columbus is relatively small. Yet its size masks great wealth, and often hides extreme poverty. Indeed, Columbus is among a handful of cities that index for the wealthiest quintile in America, and the poorest.

As the advisory committee discussed how to focus Knight's grant making in this historic river town, two quite modern things struck us. We were struck, first, by how the Columbus story, in recent years, has been full of

positives: more than \$1 billion of industrial investment creating thousands of new jobs; voter-approved sales tax revenue of more than \$300 million for public facilities, schools and a new main library; the Columbus Challenge that produced \$100 million for arts, history and culture. And, now, nearly \$70 million pledged to date for Columbus State University.

But we were also struck that as meaningful as these investments are to Columbus, they mask a variety of social problems – from the mundane to the egregious. These social problems begin with the fact that an increasing number of children are at risk. We knew from the data gathered by Knight that Columbus children show signs of distress on key indicators of child well-being. Pick almost any indicator – child poverty, school test scores, juvenile arrests, dropout rates – and the children in Columbus are among the worst off among the 26 Knight cities and far below national averages.

So we decided to focus Knight's grant making on children. We decided to narrow that focus to middle-school children – the bridge years between child and adult. And we decided to narrow that focus even further to middle-school children in one of the neediest neighborhoods in Columbus.

This focus would be the “true north” of our work in this southern town.

It's what brought us to Marshall Middle School – a school that confronts enormous problems, but is filled with promise. Over the next five years – in partnership with the school district and the United Way – Knight will focus \$2.5 million in grants on Marshall children.

These Knight grants will not create new agencies or programs. Rather, Knight will work with existing agencies to bring their considerable programs to hundreds of Marshall kids not now served. With each investment, Knight hopes to bring caring adults into the lives of these children. Whether it's parenting programs, or mentoring programs, or life skill programs – Knight grants will help provide safe, enriching activities after school or in the summer.

As in other Knight cities, it will be some time before we know the impact of this new approach to grant making. For now, we can share key learnings about the process:

About the role indicators played ...

The Community Indicators were enormously helpful. They provided us with a reason to act beyond our beliefs and anecdotal knowledge. One committee member told me the indicators “helped focus our discussions objectively, and brought about a more informed choice.” Another said that when we reached consensus around a priority, “it felt right and sanctioned.”

About what it’s like to embark on a new approach to philanthropy ...

The new approach to philanthropy was, indeed, new to us. It’s slower and more expensive, requiring research on the front end, disciplined decision-making in the middle and evidence of accountability on the back end. We agreed that focusing limited dollars in a specific way makes sense. But it was hard – and continues to be hard – to exclude other needs. Change is

always difficult, but as one committee member said, “My belief is it’s short-term pain for long-term gain.”

About ways foundations can contribute beyond grant dollars ...

It’s clear to us the new approach to philanthropy is already contributing more to Columbus than grant dollars. The Ledger-Enquirer gave substantial coverage to the 1999 Princeton Survey Research Associates report on public opinion in Columbus, and the findings drew notice from a broad range of decision-makers. A number of large funders, including the United Way and the Community Foundation, have already embraced the Community Indicators as key elements of their “needs assessment.” And, a number of large providers have benefited from the informed, hard-nosed organizing talent of the Knight community liaison officer. Committee members use words like “catalyst,” “leverage” and “incentive” to describe the impact of the new approach.

Martin Luther King Jr. said the most persistent question of our time is “What are you doing for others?” Today, as we look back on two years of work, we know what we are trying to do for these very important others. Soon, all of us will know what we’ve accomplished.

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Introduction



Musician Sue Jones gives students at the Yorkship School in Camden, N.J., tips on playing the marimbas. An education program supported by a Knight grant to the Settlement School of Music brought her to the school.

LISTENING AND LEARNING

Introduction

John Bare

John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

November, 2003

If there is a birthplace for community indicators, you might find it at 800 S. Halsted St., in Chicago's downtown.

It's at this spot where Jane Addams, more than a century ago, founded Hull House, a neighborhood center that provided everything from child care to a job bank to citizenship training to music and art classes – exactly the type of silo-busting, interdisciplinary community-based strategy Knight Foundation and others try to create today.

Blossoming from her enterprise was the famed *Hull House Papers* indicators report in 1895, a set of maps commissioned by the Illinois Bureau of Labor. "Using color-coded maps, the volume breathed life into dry statistics," Ben Wattenberg says in his description of Addams's work for *The First American Century*, a PBS documentary, web and book project (<http://www.pbs.org/fmc/>). Families didn't earn enough for basic subsistence, Addams found, and Italians were at the bottom of the economic ladder, taking home less than \$260 a year.

Here at Knight Foundation, our Community Indicators Project is one way we are listening to and learning from our communities. From the Great Plains to both coasts, from old factory towns to college centers to a new banking capital, Knight communities represent almost every kind of patch in the American quilt, and our indicators are vivid evidence that national averages mask the variations across U.S. communities. Every place is competing against its own standards and, frankly, its own present and past.

For this update, Knight Foundation's second round of indicators, we talked with more than 20,000 people in Knight Foundation's 26 communities, and we sorted through hundreds of thousands of electronic and paper records. Taken together, the conversations with community residents and the 84 administrative measures

reveal individuals' impressions of their hometowns and trace actual changes over time. The indicators describe aspects of public life that are the focus of our grant making: well-being of children and families; vitality of cultural life; civic engagement and positive human relations; housing and community development; education; and economic development. This book provides a sweeping summary of highlights across our communities. From our web site (www.knightfdn.org), users can download or order copies of much more comprehensive reports on individual communities.

Yet the value of our indicators lies not in any analysis or methodological feat. The value manifests itself in the utility of the knowledge, in the role indicators play in helping assemblies of passionate, opinionated individuals agree to marshal their resources in the pursuit of a specific community result.

Confronting a dissatisfaction with the status quo, each Knight Foundation advisory committee has asked of itself: *What must change in order for us to become satisfied? What kind of community do we want to be? Given our assets and our challenges, what kind of community can we become? How can Knight Foundation investments make a difference? How will we mark progress along the way? What is the story we want to tell?*

That much of this work feels new to us is due in part to our authentically American inclination to consider everything as novel, to behave as if history began yesterday and to lock onto the horizon without recognizing lessons derived from those who went before us. In the end, what is remarkable is not Knight Foundation's innovation but the lineage out of which our practice grows.

Back on Halsted Street, Jane Addams used indicators to animate facts in ways that made it impossible for the community to avert its collective eye. This kind of usage of statistics, Walter Lippman said in 1922, made dying infants "visible, as visible as if the babies had elected an alderman to air their grievances." What Addams and her colleagues found, of course,

summed up the suffering that was routine in American life at the time. Babies frequently failed to see their first birthday. Families were starving. Wages were insufficient to cover basic needs.

But Addams did even more than report indicators. Her genius was her ability to integrate measurement into the very mission of her work: delivering programs and shaping policy to help individuals improve their lot in life. Addams relied on women who were children's advocates, not traditional scholars, to collect data door-to-door, making measurement inseparable from her programmatic outreach. By the 1920s, an Addams colleague was running the first federal Children's Bureau, under the Department of Labor, and her network had pushed through federal legislation that changed the way the nation would care for its poorest families. The model, familiar to all today, sent nurses out to deliver prenatal care, check up on new babies and educate new mothers.

Addams would go on to share the 1931 Nobel Peace Prize. Her legacy, as Ben Wattenberg explains, is nothing short of a turnaround in the human condition. Her work and the work of her colleagues revealed that "infant death was often caused by unsanitary conditions, contaminated water and by the lack of adequate health care. In homes without running water, infant deaths were 40 percent higher. And as the father's income fell by half, infant mortality doubled. ... In 1900, for every 1,000 births, 165 babies died. By 1930, that rate had dropped by more than half, and it kept going down. By the end of the century, only seven babies died for every 1,000 born. Over the course of the century, life expectancy at birth increased from 47 years to 76 years. A baby born at the end of the century will typically live 56 percent longer than an infant born in 1900. A similar trend was apparent among new mothers. In 1900, for every 100,000 births, about 850 mothers died from problems related to pregnancy and child birth. Today for every 100,000 births there are eight deaths."

Since then, indicators have fallen in and out of fashion. Some of the work has been quite creative. E.L. Thorndike, applying a set of indicators he called a

"goodness scale" to 239 communities in the 1939 book, *Your City*, suggested that a community's ratio of dentists to lawyers would reveal something about its quality of life. Today, communities regularly track and report indicators such as unemployment rates, arts funding, housing sales and influenza cases. A commitment to transparency – all of our indicators reports and datasets are freely available – honors the caution from Pat Moynihan, the late New York senator, who noted that everyone is entitled to his own opinions but not his own facts. Ready access to a common set of indicators helps balance the power relationship between foundations and communities, between community leaders and ordinary folk. The theory is that this improves the efficiency and effectiveness of public and private decision making.

When stakes get high and individuals get scared, we often see the corruption of indicators. Individuals cook the data to get the results they believe they have to produce. This was the story in Houston in 2003, when news broke that education officials had covered up student dropouts to improve their indicators. Principals, having lost the protection of tenure, believed they had to produce reports showing low or no dropouts or they'd be fired.

For Knight Foundation, community indicators are important for the same reasons that made them irresistible to Jane Addams. Using our indicators as a starting place, our partners are disaggregating the data to extend the reach of program strategies into the lives of individuals. Starting with countywide indicators on teen pregnancy, for instance, our Macon, Ga., advisory committee unrolled the layers of measurement to find 75 or so women who enter the community's Teen Pregnancy Center annually. As proof that everything old is new again, putting our strategic plan into operation led us to rediscover what Jane Addams showed the world so long ago. To serve these young women in Macon, Knight Foundation has invested in a strategy that sends nurses into their homes to improve prenatal care, ensure a healthy infant, improve parenting practices and delay second pregnancies.

How to Use This Book



The third class of fellows from the Knight Program in Community Building at the University of Miami will help envision a new Coatesville, Pa., through a charrette process, helping the town stimulate its economy. Once a working-class town that boomed during World War II, Coatesville has experienced three decades of economic decline and urban decay.

LISTENING AND LEARNING

How to Use This Book

The next seven chapters of *Listening and Learning 2004* contain indicators that describe different aspects of life in the 26 Knight communities. Chapter 1 provides the context for Knight Foundation program work in these communities by highlighting some of the most important demographic, economic and social characteristics that place each community in its own, unique environment. The next six chapters present indicators in each area supported by Knight Foundation's Community Partners Program.

Because the long-term aim of Knight Foundation work in the 26 communities is to improve the condition of community residents, Chapter 7, Well-Being of Children and Families, is the culminating chapter in the report. Each of the preceding chapters describes broader community conditions that could affect the well-being of community residents. We start at the broadest level and work our way toward aspects of community life that are closer to child and family well-being: Chapter 2 – Economic Development, Chapter 3 – Housing and Community Development, Chapter 4 – Civic Engagement/Positive Human Relations, Chapter 5 – Vitality of Cultural Life and Chapter 6 – Education.

Data Sources

The indicators presented in *Listening and Learning 2004* are based on data from two main sources. The first source includes administrative records compiled by federal, state and local government agencies and private organizations. Indicators drawn from administrative records (e.g., infant mortality rates, voter turnout and assets of arts organizations) are intended to reflect actual conditions in the Knight communities. To the extent possible, we have assembled data from common sources (e.g., the Bureau of the Census, the Bureau of Economic Analysis and Election Data Services) to compare Knight communities based on a common metric. However, some indicators – particularly those in the chapter on Education – use data from state and local governments that are not consistent across the communities. In these cases, we have attempted to adjust the data to a common standard to compare the communities fairly on the indicator.

The second source of indicator data is the Knight Community Surveys conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates in the 26 communities and the nation in 1999 and 2002. The surveys reflect residents' perceptions about community strengths, such as the

quality of the community as a place to live, and about problems, such as education, crime and the lack of adequate arts and cultural activities. They also reflect residents' behaviors, such as participation in volunteer activities and attendance at a variety of arts and cultural activities. We begin a discussion of most indicators with the 2002 Surveys and then compare them with the findings from the 1999 Surveys. We only report changes between the two years that are statistically significant.

Presentation of Indicators

Each chapter of the report contains two groups of indicators. The first is based on administrative data; the second on residents' responses to questions on the community surveys. For each indicator, we first present basic descriptive information – Knight community averages, comparisons with U.S. averages and ranges in values across the Knight communities. All Knight community averages are calculated by summing each community's value on the indicator and dividing the sum by the number of communities with available data. Community values are not weighted by the community population because the *community* – rather than the individuals within it – is the main focus of the indicator.

After providing a basic description of the indicator, we present associated indicators, along with associated perceptions or behaviors. Here we use two criteria to determine whether an association should be presented. One is that there is a plausible conceptual link between the primary indicator and the associated indicator or behavior. In our discussion of poverty rates, for example, we present an association with the prevalence of single-parent households because households with only one potential income earner – particularly a female – are more likely to have lower incomes than two-parent households.

The second criterion is the strength of the association – or, more technically, the correlation – between the community's values on the two indicators. We generally present associations where there is at least a moderately strong positive or negative correlation between the two values.* On occasion, we mention the lack of association between two indicators, generally in cases where an association between these indicators would have been expected (e.g., crime rates and community size).

Limitations of the Indicators

As with the descriptive information noted above, all correlations presented in the report are evident at the *community* level, not the *individual* level. When, for example, we report that communities with higher proportions of college-educated residents tend to view their communities as better places to live, we cannot conclude that college-educated individuals in these communities consistently hold this view.

Definition of Knight Communities

In 24 of 26 cases the indicators describe counties where Knight Foundation operates as a local funder. The two exceptions are the cities of Long Beach, Calif. and Gary, Ind. Wherever possible, indicators are presented for the 24 counties and the two cities. However, in cases where data are unavailable for these units, we substitute another geographical unit in the general area (e.g., a metropolitan area) for which data are available.

In presenting indicators on education, we use several geographic units because the “communities,” as defined above, are usually not the providers of education or

library services. Indicators that measure the performance of education systems are presented for the largest public school district in the county, which is usually the central city school district. For example, the San Jose Unified School District substitutes for Santa Clara County in these education indicators. Indicators related to public library usage are presented for the public library district that serves the majority of county residents (e.g., the Middle Georgia Regional Library in Baldwin and Bibb counties).

The table that follows serves as a guide to help readers relate the different geographical units used in the indicators. It presents the area described by most indicators, the foundation’s primary granting area, the public school district and the public library district that are used with selected education indicators.

Appendix to the Report and Further Information

Data used in this report are included in a separate appendix, which is available at Knight Foundation’s Web site at <http://www.knightfdn.org>. The website also contains other community reports and information on the Foundation’s local grant-making.

* The standard used in the report is ± 0.4 , where “0” represents no relationship, “+1.0” represents a one-to-one correspondence between the two values, and “-1.0” represents high values on one measure and low values on the other.

GEOGRAPHICAL UNITS USED IN COMMUNITY INDICATORS

Primary Area Measured	Granting Area	Primary School District	Primary Library District
Allen County, IN	Fort Wayne	Fort Wayne Community Schools	Allen County Public Library
Baldwin County, GA	Milledgeville	Baldwin County Schools	Middle Georgia Regional Library
Bibb County, GA	Macon	Bibb County Schools	Middle Georgia Regional Library
Boulder County, CO	Boulder	Boulder Valley School District	Boulder Public Library
Brown County, SD	Aberdeen	Aberdeen School District	Alexander Mitchell Library
Centre County, PA	State College	State College Area School District	Schlow Memorial Library
Fayette County, KY	Lexington	Fayette County Schools	Lexington Public Library
City of Gary, IN	Gary	Gary Community School Corporation	Gary Public Library
Grand Forks County, ND	Grand Forks	Grand Forks Public School District	Grand Forks Public Library
Harrison County, MS	Biloxi	Biloxi Public Schools	Harrison County Library System
Horry County, SC	Myrtle Beach	Horry County School District	Chapin Memorial Library
Leon County, FL	Tallahassee	Leon County School District	Leroy Collins Leon County Public Library
City of Long Beach, CA	Long Beach	Long Beach Unified School District	Long Beach Public Library
Manatee County, FL	Bradenton	Manatee County School District	Manatee County Public Library System
Mecklenburg County, NC	Charlotte	Charlotte-Mecklenburg School District	Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County
Miami-Dade County, FL	Miami	Miami-Dade County School District	Miami-Dade Public Library
Muscogee County, GA	Columbus	Muscogee County Schools	Chattahoochee Valley Regional Library System
Palm Beach County, FL	Palm Beach County	Palm Beach County School District	Boca Raton Public Library
Philadelphia County, PA	Philadelphia	Philadelphia City School District	Free Library of Philadelphia
Ramsey County, MN	St. Paul	St. Paul Public Schools	St. Paul Public Library
Richland County, SC	Columbia	Richland County School District #1	Richland County Public Library
Santa Clara County, CA	San Jose	San Jose Unified School District	San Jose Public Library
Sedgwick County, KS	Wichita	Wichita Public Schools	Wichita Public Library
St. Louis County, MN	Duluth	Duluth Public Schools	Duluth Public Library
Summit County, OH	Akron	Akron City School District	Akron-Summit County Public Library
Wayne County, MI	Detroit	Detroit Public Schools	Detroit Public Library

CHAPTER 1

Community Context



This mural by Elliott Pinkney, Together We Dance, demonstrates the ethnic blend of the 90806 ZIP code in Long Beach, Calif. A portion of Little Phnom Penh – the largest Cambodian community outside Southeast Asia – falls within its boundaries.

LISTENING AND LEARNING

Introduction and Highlights

Knight communities differ on many of the demographic, economic and social characteristics that affect the quality of life of residents. Some communities are growing; others are declining. Some are relatively homogenous; others are more racially and ethnically diverse. Some are home to relatively well-educated and affluent residents, while others contain large numbers of low-income families or others who may require special services.

The perceptions and behaviors of Knight community residents also differ in a number of areas. Some communities have many residents who view their community as a desirable place to live, while others have relatively few satisfied residents. Some communities have high concentrations of residents who believe they can have an impact in making their community a better place to live, and others have relatively few residents

with a strong sense of efficacy. Some communities have residents who think other people can generally be trusted, and others have residents who are relatively distrusting.

The Community Context section that follows presents selected demographic, economic and social indicators for the 26 Knight communities, along with findings from the Knight Community Indicators Surveys that were conducted in these communities in 1999 and 2002. To describe the core characteristics of the communities, we selected eight indicators from administrative records that fall into four areas.

In addition, we selected four indicators from the community surveys that reflect some of the experiences of residents and their attitudes towards their community. These survey indicators also fall into four areas.

Indicator Area	Administrative Records
Demographics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percent Population Change, 1990 to 2000 • Percent of Population Age 65 and Over, 2000
Community Diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percent Minority Population, 2000 • Community Segregation Index, 2000
Socioeconomic Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Median Household Income, 1999 • Percent of Adults Who Have Attained a Bachelor's Degree or Higher, 2000
Special Needs Populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percent of People and Children Living Below the Poverty Level, 2000 • Percent of Families Headed by a Single Parent, 2000

Indicator Area	Community Surveys
Community Satisfaction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percent of Residents Who Rate Their Community as a "Good" or "Excellent" Place to Live
Sense of Efficacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percent of Residents Who Say They Can Have a "Big Impact" in Making Their Community a Better Place to Live
Social Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percent of Residents Who Say "Most People Can Be Trusted"
Involvement in Community Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percent of Residents Who Say They Have Participated in at Least One Volunteer Activity During the Past 12 Months

The context indicators and survey findings presented in this section underscore the tremendous diversity in the 26 Knight communities. We highlight here a few of the most important areas of difference and selected relationships among the indicators.

- Population grew more rapidly over the 1990s in communities with higher incomes and better-educated populations.
- Residential segregation tends to be relatively high in larger communities and communities with higher proportions of minority residents.
- Communities with smaller minority populations tend to have higher levels of educational attainment than communities with higher concentrations of minority residents.
- Community satisfaction tends to be higher in communities with better-educated and higher-income residents and in communities with lower levels of unemployment.
- Residents who are more satisfied with their communities overall also tend to be more satisfied with their local institutions (e.g., municipal governments and police departments).
- Higher levels of social trust are found in smaller communities, communities with more-educated and affluent populations and communities with smaller minority populations.
- In communities with higher levels of social trust, a smaller proportion say that they can make a “big” impact on their community, and fewer people report knowing all of their neighbors.
- In communities where higher proportions of residents have a strong sense of efficacy, people also tend to participate in volunteer activities at relatively high rates.



Population Change

Gains and losses in population may present communities with issues ranging from managing growth to developing strategies for attracting residents. Viewing population change with other indicators provides a more complete understanding of the relationship between this indicator and other characteristics of the Knight communities.

Population Change

On average, Knight communities grew in population by 10 percent between 1990 and 2000. However, some communities grew very rapidly, others grew more slowly and a number of communities experienced a decrease in population over the period.

Population growth was largest in Horry County and Mecklenburg County – 37 percent and 36 percent, respectively. Other communities with relatively large population growth (above 15 percent) were Boulder, Manatee, Miami-Dade and Palm Beach counties.

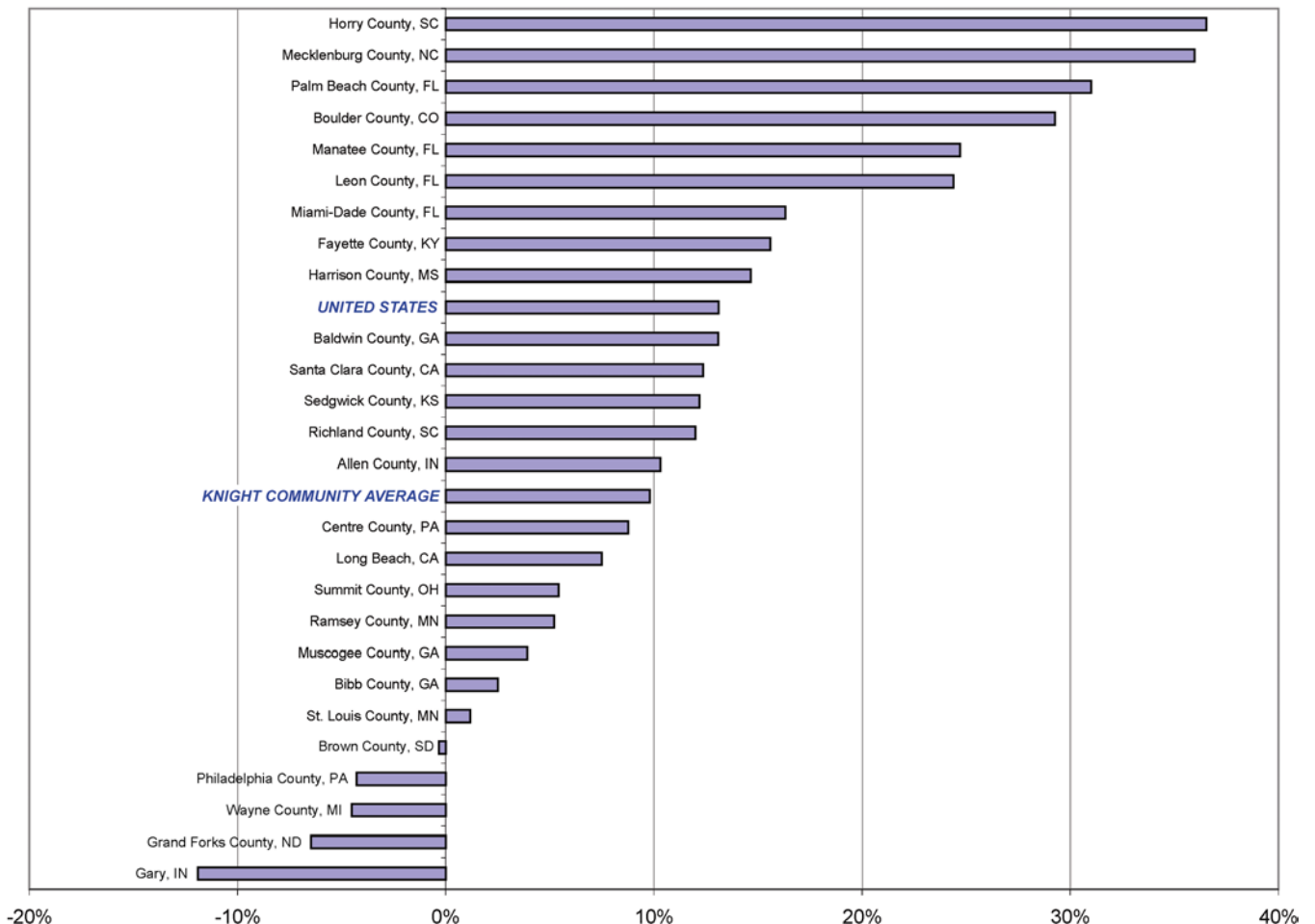
Communities with low population growth (less than 5 percent) included Bibb, Muscogee and St. Louis

counties. Three Knight communities (Brown, Philadelphia and Wayne counties) showed a small population decrease (less than 5 percent) between 1990 and 2000, and another two (Grand Forks County and Gary) had larger population decreases.

Associated Indicators

Knight communities of moderate size experienced the most rapid growth during the 1990s. The 11 communities with populations between 100,000 and 250,000 in 1990 grew by an average of nearly 14 percent over the period; the eight communities with populations between 250,000 and 1,000,000 experienced an average growth of 15 percent.

Population Change (1990–2000)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 1A

The smallest and largest communities had somewhat smaller growth over the period. The three communities with populations of less than 100,000 in 1990 grew by an average of 2 percent, with two of the three communities (Brown and Grand Forks counties) losing population between 1990 and 2000. The four with populations over 1 million had average growth of 5 percent, with two of the four communities (Philadelphia and Wayne counties) losing population over the decade.

Knight communities with higher levels of educational attainment tended to experience somewhat higher population growth between 1990 and 2000. Communities in which at least one-fifth of the population had a bachelor’s degree or higher in 1990 grew by an average of 14 percent during the 1990s while communities in which less than one-fifth of the population had attained that level of education grew by an average of only 8 percent.

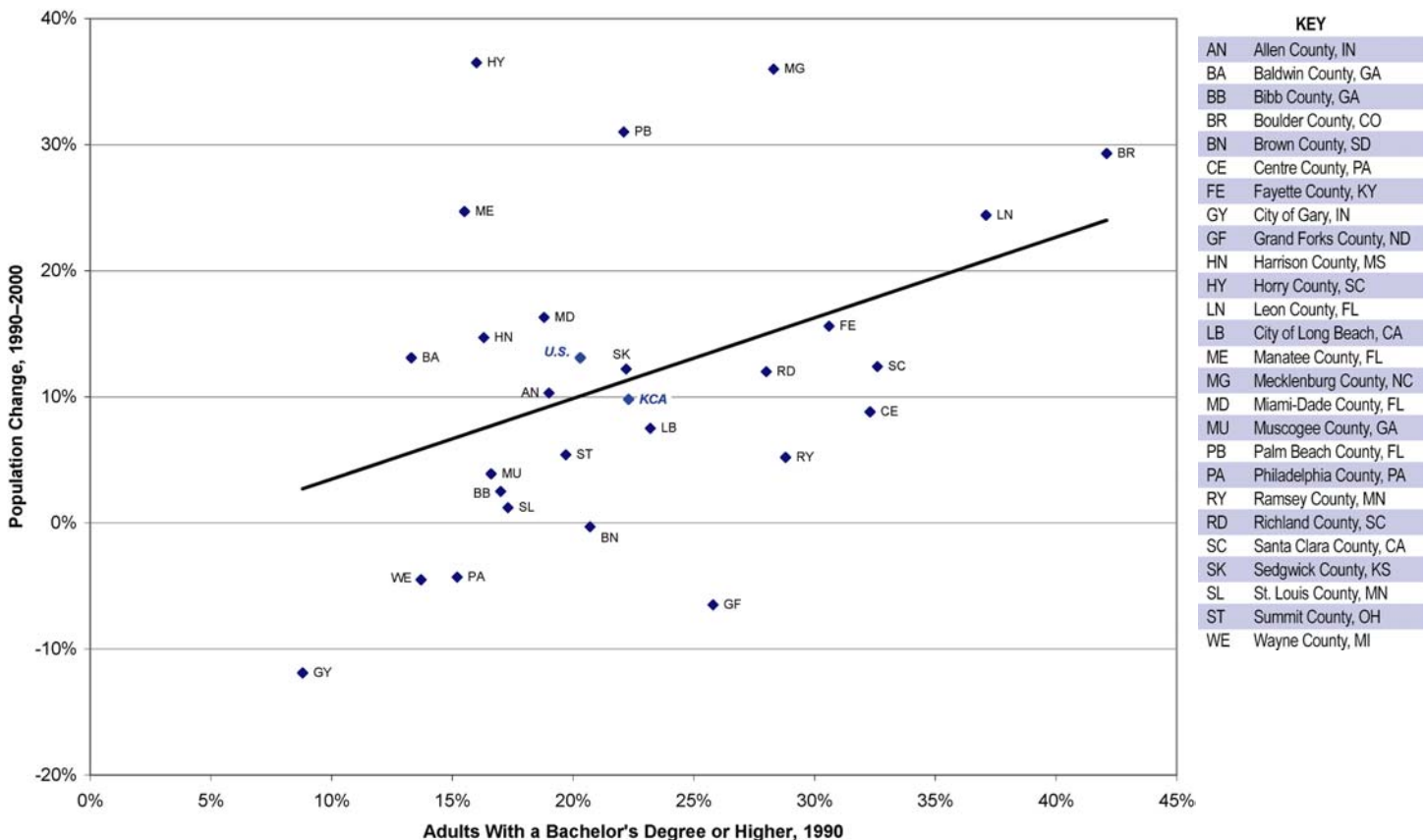
The most notable exceptions to this pattern were Grand Forks and Horry counties. Horry County had a relatively low level of educational attainment (16 percent with a bachelor’s degree or higher) but very large population growth (over 37 percent); by contrast Grand Forks County had a relatively high level of educational

attainment (26 percent with a bachelor’s degree or higher), but its population declined by 7 percent.

There was also a moderate association between median household income and population change in the Knight communities. The five communities with the highest median household incomes in 1989 – Boulder, Mecklenburg, Palm Beach, Ramsey and Santa Clara counties – grew by an average of 23 percent over the 1990s. Over the same period, the five communities with the lowest median household incomes – Brown, Harrison, Muscogee and St. Louis counties, and the city of Gary – averaged population increases of only 2 percent, with two of the five communities (Brown County and the city of Gary) losing population over the decade.

The relationship between income and population change was by no means uniform, however, and there were exceptions on both sides of the trend. Wayne County, for example, had a median household income near the Knight community average, but its population decreased by 5 percent during the decade. In contrast, Horry County, with a relatively low median household income, experienced the highest population growth among the Knight communities (37 percent).

Educational Attainment (1990) and Population Change (1990–2000)



Elderly Population

The segment of the population age 65 and older has been increasing in most areas of the country. Growth in this population sector may create demands for health and social services, which will compete with other public functions for community resources.

Elderly Population

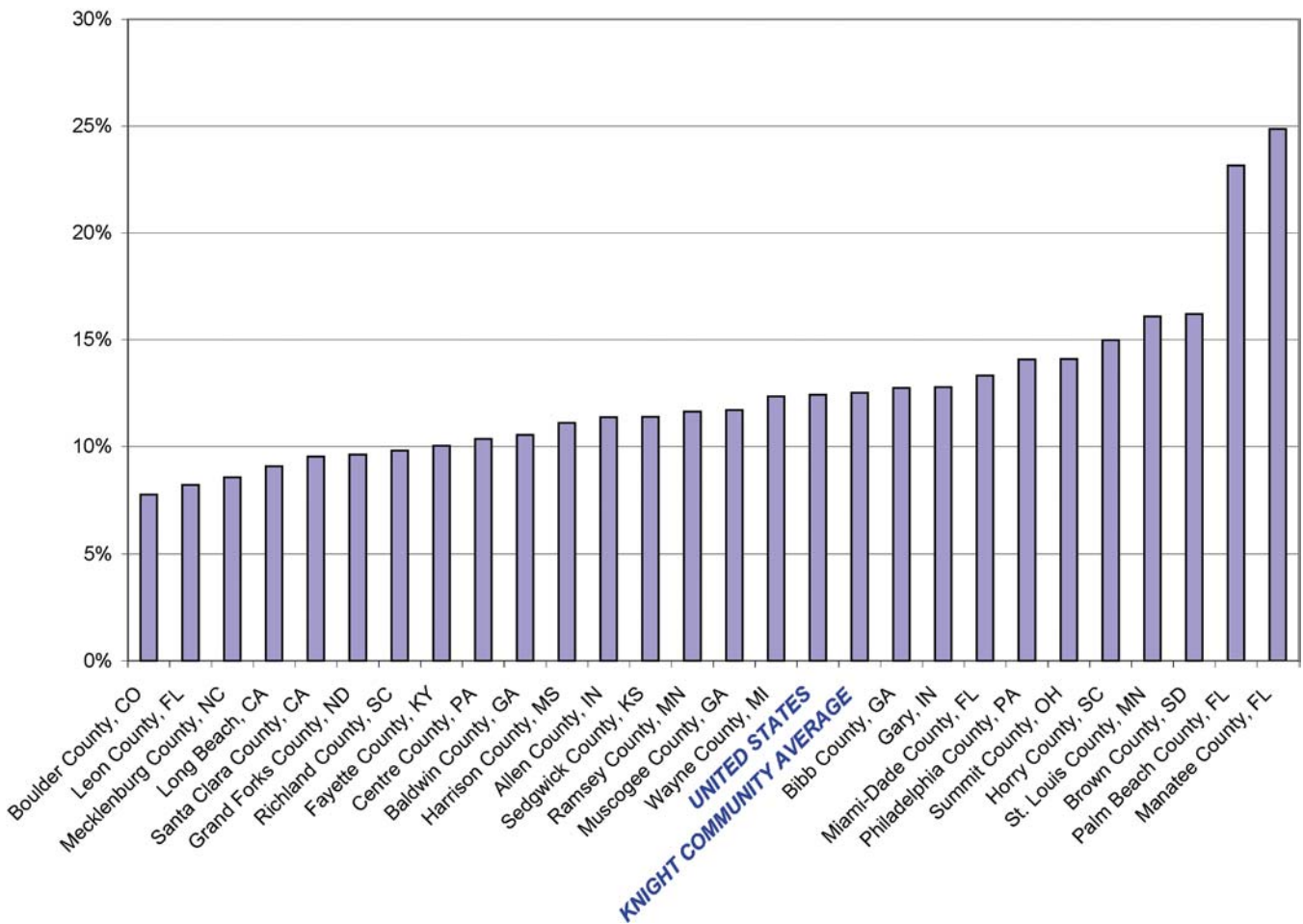
Elderly residents averaged 13 percent of the population in the Knight communities in 2000 – roughly the same as the U.S. average of 12 percent. However, the elderly population varied substantially across the communities.

Manatee and Palm Beach counties had by far the highest proportion of residents who were 65 and older

– 25 percent and 23 percent, respectively. Other communities with large elderly populations included Brown and St. Louis counties, each with about 16 percent of its residents 65 and older.

Seven communities had relatively small elderly populations, with people 65 and over constituting less than 10 percent of the total – Boulder, Grand Forks, Leon, Mecklenburg, Richland and Santa Clara counties and the city of Long Beach.

Population 65 and Older (2000)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 1B

Racial and Ethnic Diversity

The racial and ethnic composition of a community provides some measure of the diversity of the population. It may also have significance for the drawing of political boundaries and the design and administration of municipal and social services.

Percent Minority Population

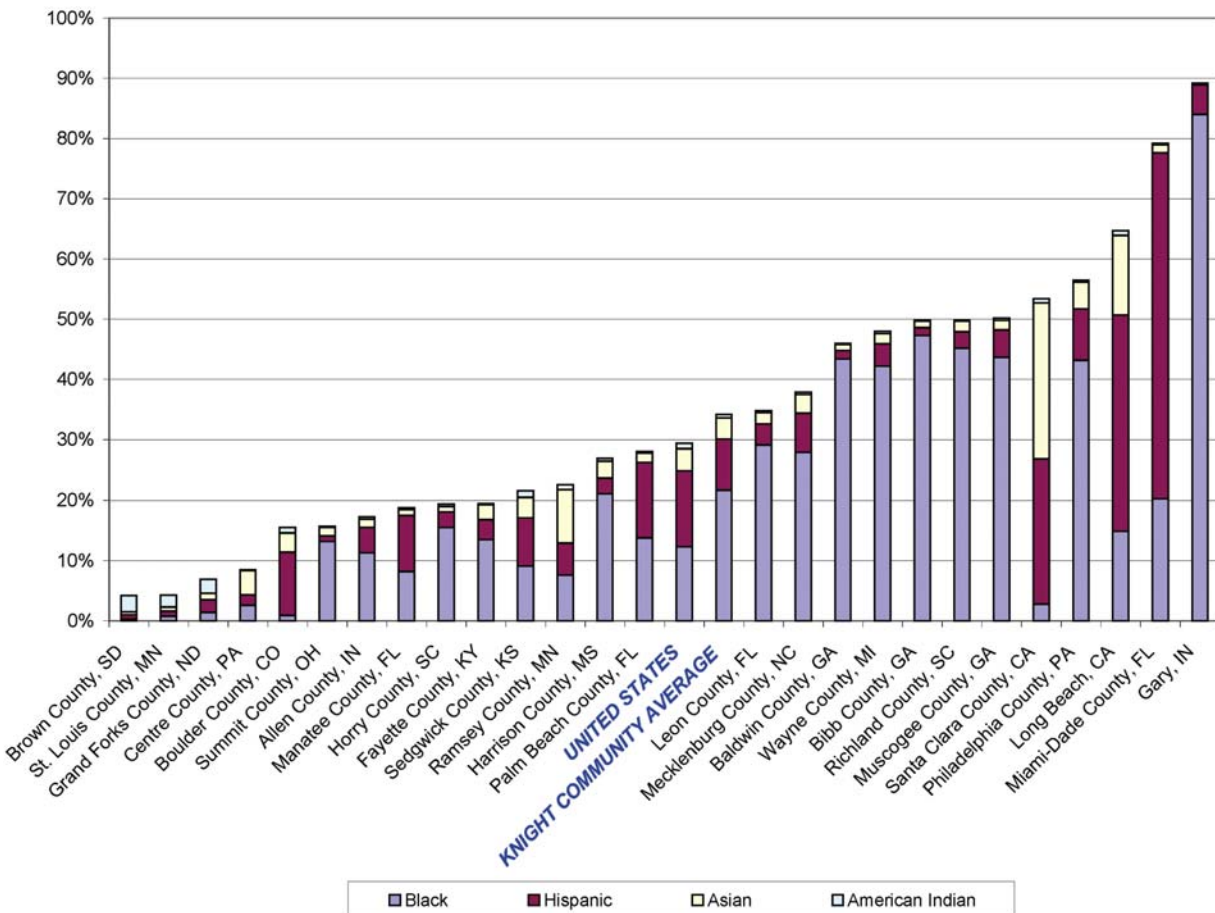
In 2000, racial and ethnic minorities averaged just over 34 percent of the population in Knight communities. The communities differed substantially, however, in their racial and ethnic diversity. The percentage of minority residents ranged from under 5 percent in Brown County to almost 90 percent in the city of Gary.

Miami-Dade County and the cities of Gary and Long Beach contained the largest minority populations. In Miami-Dade County and the city of Long Beach, Hispanics constituted the largest minority group, whereas in the city of Gary, blacks were the largest minority.

Except for Santa Clara County, blacks made up the largest minority group in all other communities with large minority populations (more than 50 percent). In Santa Clara County, just over one-quarter of the population was Asian and nearly one-quarter was Hispanic.

Brown, Centre, Grand Forks and St. Louis counties were the communities with the smallest minority populations (less than 10 percent). In three of the four communities – Brown, Grand Forks and St. Louis counties – American Indians constituted the largest minority group. Asians were the largest minority group in Centre County.

Minority Population (2000)



Note: The minority population represented in the figure is the sum percentage of those who reported themselves as belonging to one of the following racial/ethnic groups: American Indian, Asian, Hispanic or black.

For tables and additional information, see Appendix 1C

Racial and Ethnic Segregation

The degree to which people of different racial/ethnic groups live apart from each other can have strong effects on their perceptions of members of other groups. A high level of segregation in a community could contribute to a decline in interest in civic participation, and integrated neighborhoods could promote a sense of community and a willingness to collaborate to solve community problems.

Indicator Description

The amount of residential segregation between the total populations of two specific racial/ethnic groups in a given area in 2000 was used to measure racial/ethnic segregation. Segregation indices range from 0 to 100, with values of 60 or above indicating very high levels of segregation between two groups and values of 30 or below signifying low levels of segregation. American Indians are not considered in this index.

Segregation

Segregation between the two largest racial/ethnic groups in each Knight community averaged around 53 in

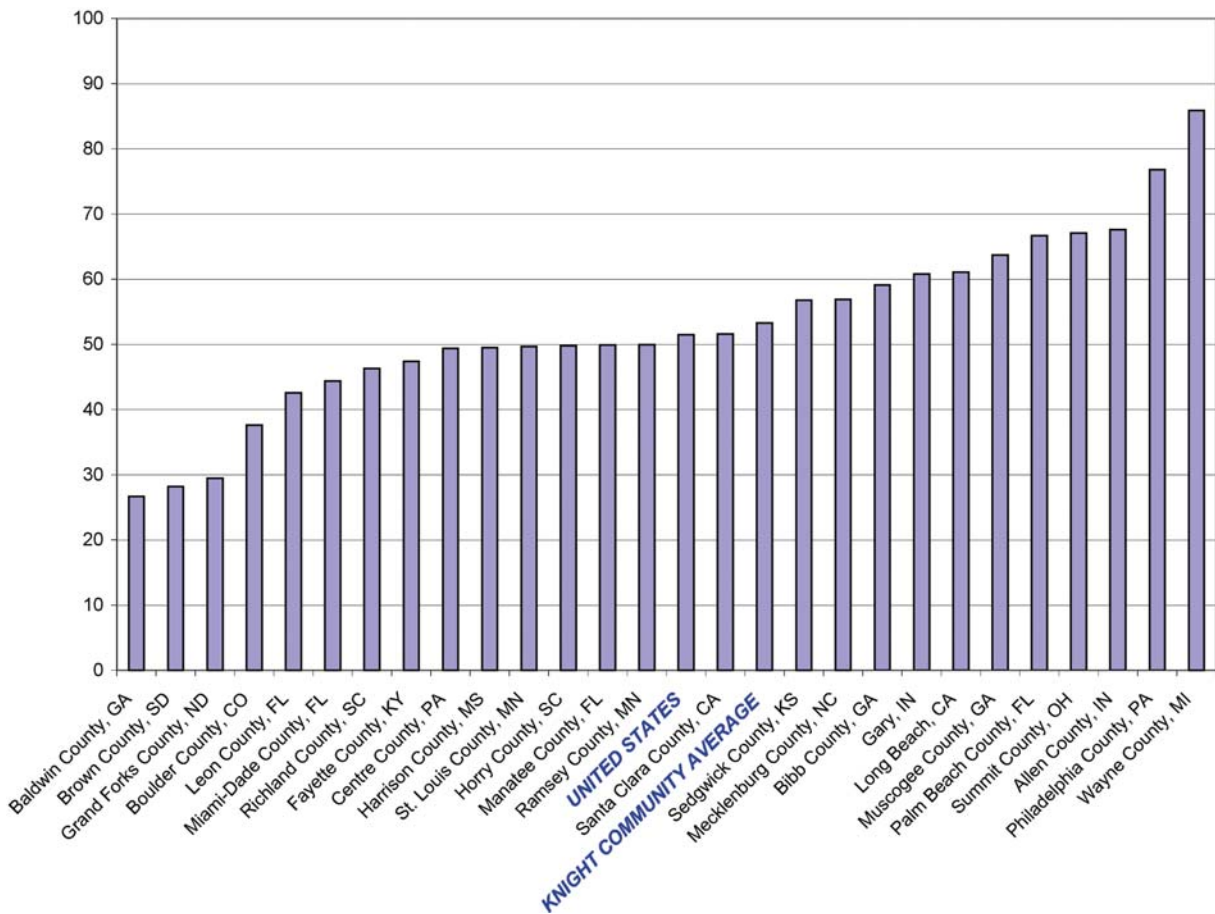
2000. The range of index scores in the Knight communities spanned from 27 in Baldwin County to 86 in Wayne County.

In 2000, whites constituted either the largest or second largest racial/ethnic group in all Knight communities.

In seven of the eight Knight communities with high levels of segregation, whites and blacks were the two largest racial/ethnic groups. The city of Long Beach was the one exception, where whites and Hispanics were the two largest groups.

Three Knight communities had low levels of segregation – Baldwin, Brown and Grand Forks counties. Whites and blacks constituted the largest

Segregation Between the Two Largest Racial/Ethnic Groups (2000)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 1D

racial/ethnic groups in Baldwin County, while whites and Hispanics were the largest groups in Brown and Grand Forks counties.*

Associated Indicators

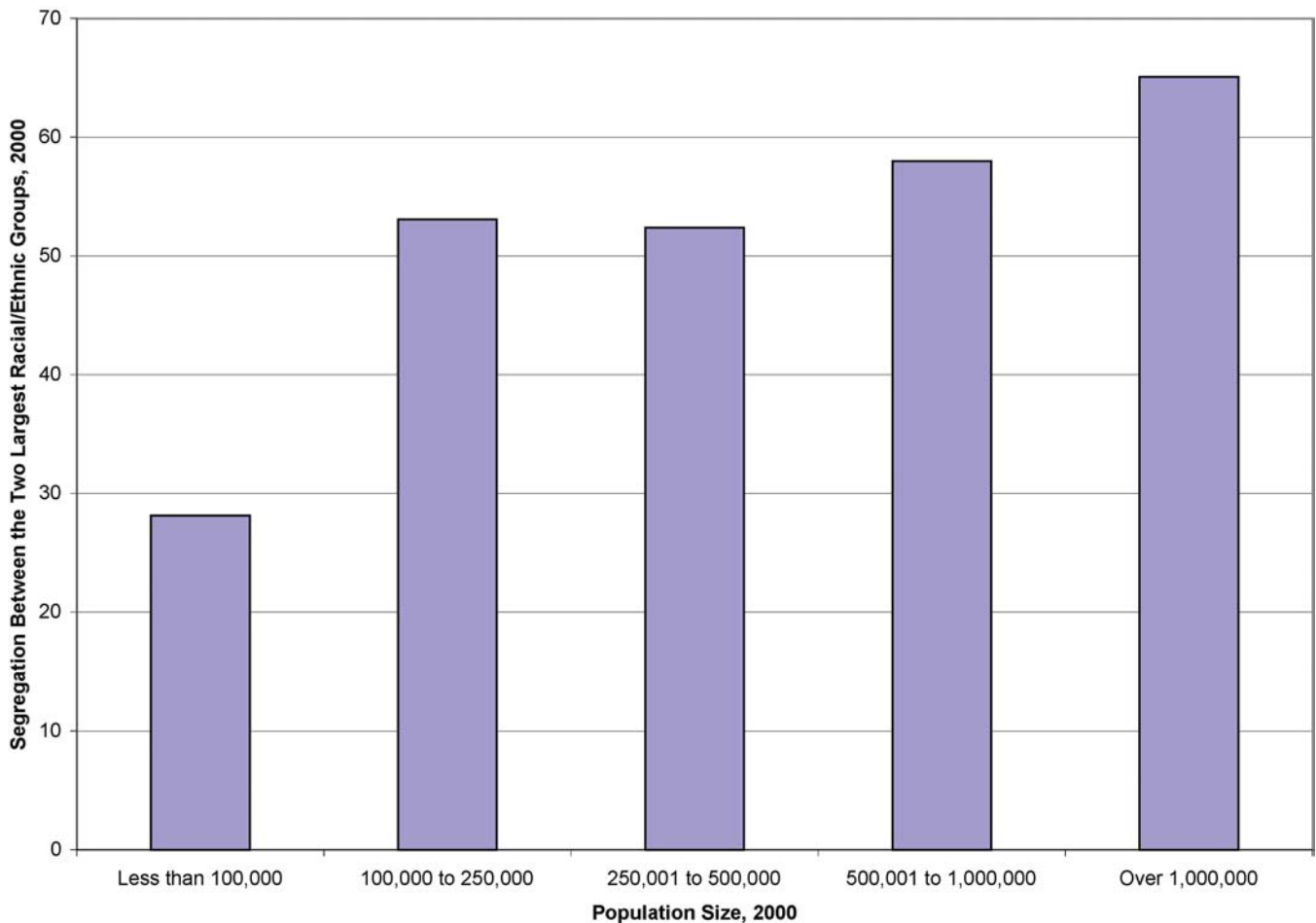
Segregation tended to be more pronounced in Knight communities with larger populations. The average segregation index score of the five communities with populations over 1 million in 2000 was 65, compared with 32 for the three communities with populations under 100,000. The most notable deviation from this pattern was Gary, which had a relatively small population (102,746) and a high level of segregation (61).

Communities with large minority populations also tended to have higher levels of segregation. The five communities with the largest minority populations had an average segregation index score of 59. By contrast, the five communities with the smallest minority populations had a score of 41. Departing from the

pattern, Summit and Allen counties were examples of communities with small minority populations (17 percent and 19 percent) that had extremely high levels of segregation (67 and 68). Baldwin and Miami-Dade counties, in contrast, were communities with relatively large minority populations (47 percent and 79 percent) and low to moderate levels of segregation (27 and 44).

Knight communities with lower levels of educational attainment also tended to be more segregated. In the five communities with the smallest concentrations of residents with a bachelor’s degree or higher, the average segregation index score was 60 while the five communities with the largest concentrations had an average score of 48. Baldwin and Brown counties stood out as communities with less segregation (27 and 28) than peers with relatively low levels of educational attainment. Mecklenburg County, however, was a community with a highly educated population (37 percent with a bachelor’s degree or higher) and a high level of segregation (57).

Population Size and Segregation (2000)



* American Indians were the second-largest racial/ethnic group in Brown and Grand Forks counties, but they were excluded from the segregation index.

Educational Attainment

Educational attainment is a key indicator of a community’s level of work force preparation. A community with a highly educated work force is well positioned to attract and retain the increasingly technical jobs of today’s economy.

Educational Attainment

On average, 27 percent of adults age 25 and over in the Knight communities had a bachelor’s degree or higher in 2000. However, Knight communities varied widely in their education levels. In 2000, 52 percent of adults in Boulder County had completed at least a bachelor’s degree, compared to 10 percent in Gary.

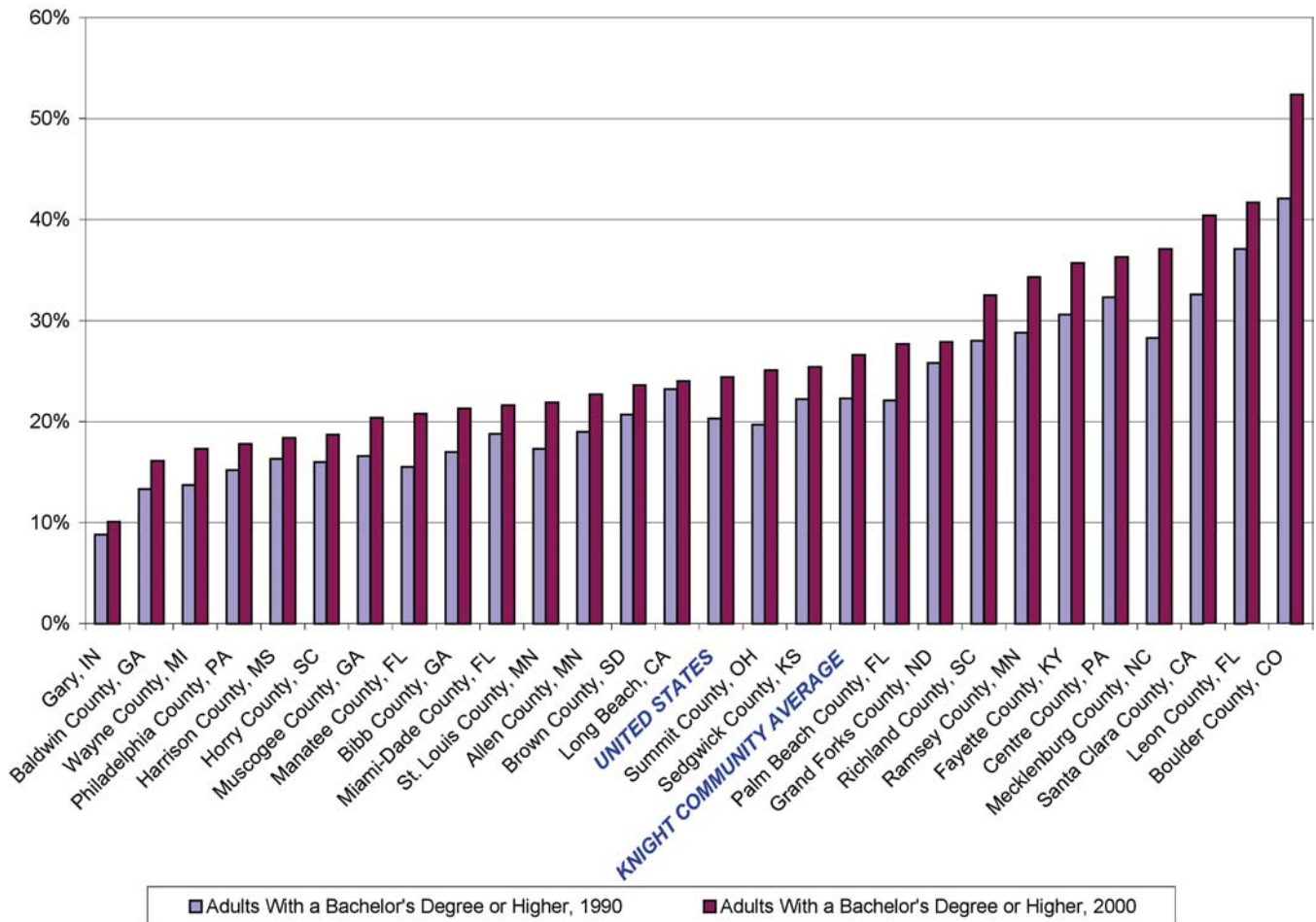
In seven Knight communities (Boulder, Centre, Fayette, Leon, Mecklenburg, Ramsey and Santa Clara counties), more than one-third of adults had completed at least a bachelor’s degree. All of these communities are home to a major state college or university.

Educational attainment levels were lowest in six Knight communities – Baldwin, Harrison, Horry,

Philadelphia and Wayne counties and the city of Gary. In all of these communities, less than 20 percent of the adult population had attained a bachelor’s degree or higher in 2000.

The percentage of Knight community residents who held at least a bachelor’s degree increased by an average of about 4 percentage points between 1990 and 2000 – and no community saw a decrease in this measure over the period. In three communities (Boulder, Mecklenburg and Santa Clara counties) the level of educational attainment increased by at least 7 percentage points over the decade. Two communities (the cities of Gary and Long Beach) experienced only modest gains in educational attainment, with increases of less than 2 percentage points.

Educational Attainment (1990, 2000)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 1E

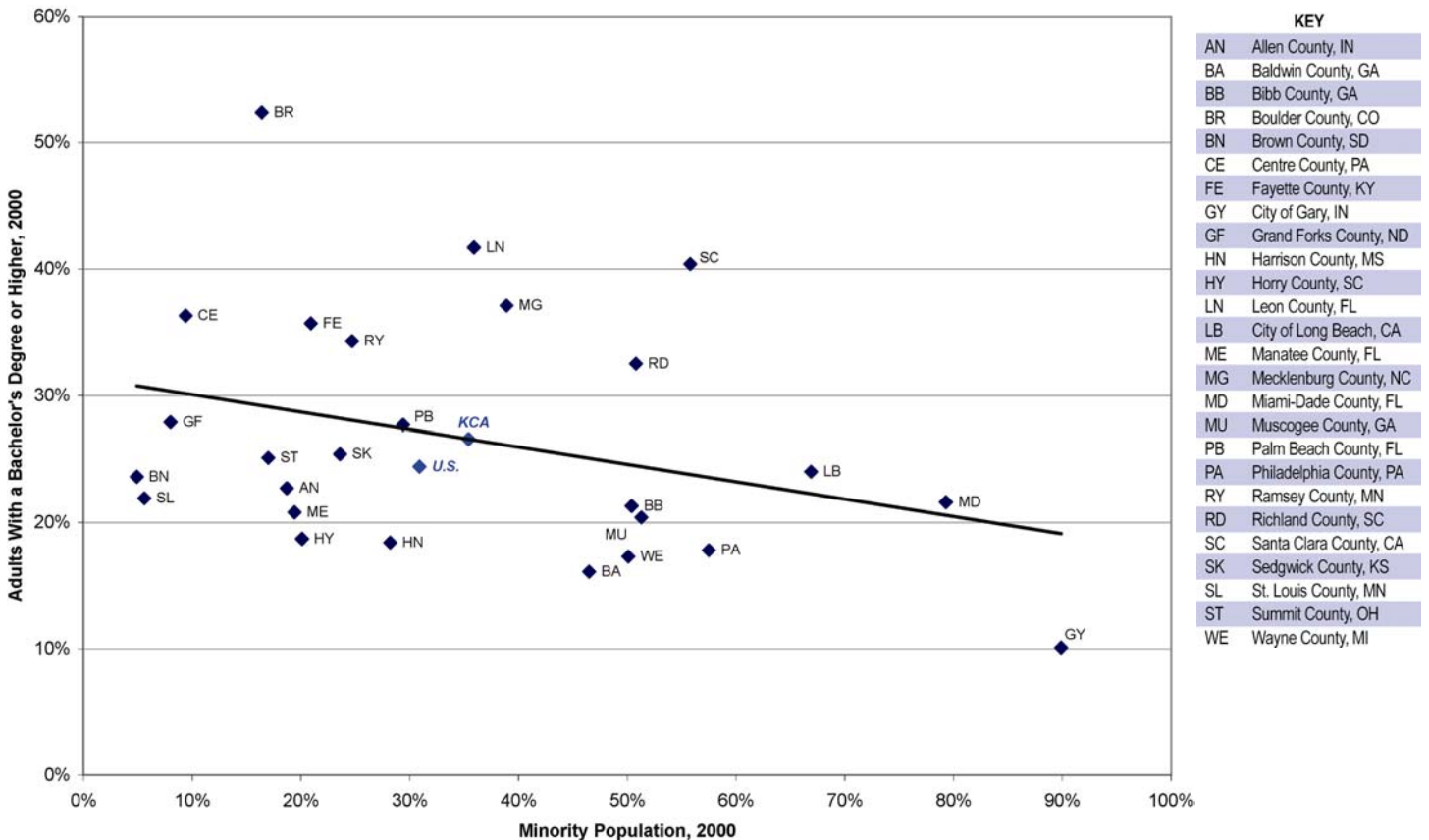
Associated Indicators

Knight communities with smaller minority populations tended to have higher levels of educational attainment than communities with higher concentrations of minorities. In the five Knight communities with the smallest minority populations – Boulder, Brown, Centre, Grand Forks and St. Louis counties – an average of 32 percent of the residents had at least a bachelor’s degree. By contrast, in the five Knight communities with the largest minority populations – Miami-Dade,

Philadelphia and Santa Clara counties and the cities of Gary and Long Beach – an average of only 23 percent of community residents had a bachelor’s degree or higher.

Richland and Santa Clara counties diverge from the pattern: both had relatively large minority populations (over 50 percent) and high levels of educational attainment (over 30 percent with a bachelor’s degree or higher). Harrison and Horry counties, in contrast, had small minority populations (under 30 percent) and low levels of educational attainment (under 20 percent with a bachelor’s degree or higher).

Minority Population and Educational Attainment (2000)



Median Household Income

Median household income is a commonly used measure of the level of income and wealth in a community. Indicators such as median family income and per capita income are often used for the same purpose, but median household income is used here because an individual person is often not the economic unit of interest and because many households are not considered to be families.

Median Household Income

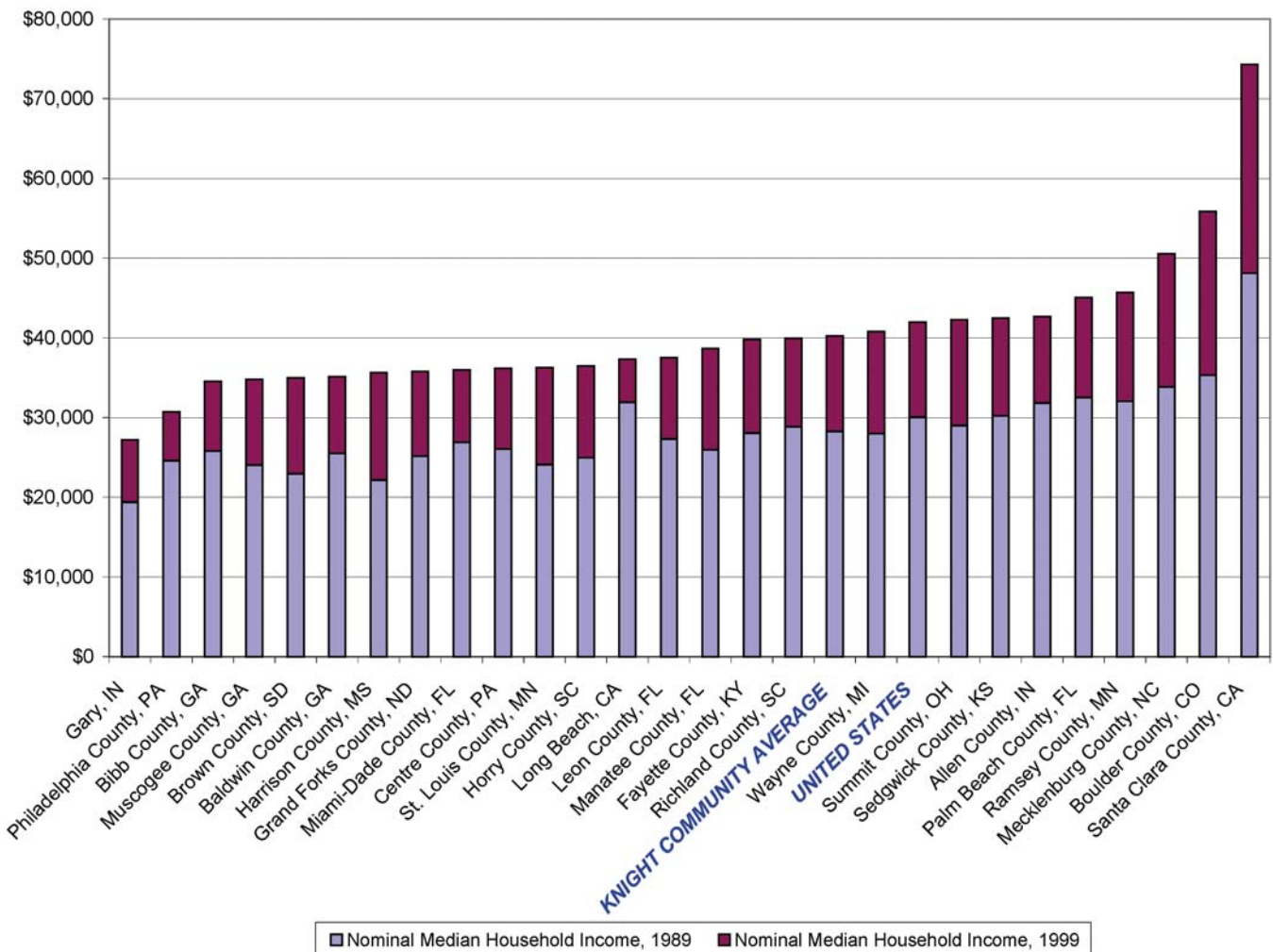
Median household income in the Knight communities averaged \$40,263 in 1999 (about 4 percent below the U.S. average of \$41,994), but the range in household income was substantial. The median household income in Santa Clara County (\$74,335) was almost 2¾ times the household income in the city of Gary (\$27,195).

The highest-income Knight communities (above \$50,000) were Boulder, Mecklenburg and Santa Clara

counties; other high-income communities included Allen, Palm Beach, Ramsey, Sedgwick and Summit counties.

The lowest-income communities were Philadelphia County and the city of Gary, with median household incomes of \$30,746 and \$27,195, respectively; other low-income communities included Baldwin, Bibb, Brown, Grand Forks, Harrison, Miami-Dade and Muscogee counties.

Median Household Income (1989, 1999)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 1F

Associated Indicators

Overall, there was not much of a relationship between a community’s income level at the beginning of the 1990s and its growth in real income over the decade. Some of the highest-income communities in 1989 (Boulder, Mecklenburg and Santa Clara counties) experienced relatively high rates of real income growth between 1989 and 1999, but others (Allen and Palm Beach counties) experienced much lower rates of income growth; one relatively high-income community, the city of Long Beach, experienced a decline in real median household income over the decade.

Similar contrasts were evident among Knight communities with relatively low median household incomes in 1989. Some communities, such as Baldwin and Bibb counties, saw relatively small real gains in median household income, and Philadelphia County experienced a real decline in median household income

over the 1990s. Others, such as Brown, Harrison and St. Louis counties, experienced well-above-average income growth over the decade.

In general, Knight communities with relatively educated populations also tended to have higher levels of income. In the five communities with the largest concentrations of residents with a bachelor’s degree or higher, the average income level was \$50,891 in 1999. By contrast, the five communities with the least educated populations had an average median household income of \$33,900.

A few Knight communities stand out from this pattern. Wayne County, for example, had relatively few adults who completed a bachelor’s degree or higher but was among the top 10 Knight communities in median household income. Leon County, in contrast, had relatively high levels of educational attainment and a relatively low median household income.

Educational Attainment (2000) and Median Household Income (1999)

	Educational Attainment: Lowest Quintile	Educational Attainment: Fourth Quintile	Educational Attainment: Third Quintile	Educational Attainment: Second Quintile	Educational Attainment: Highest Quintile
Income: Highest Quintile				Palm Beach County, FL Ramsey County, MN	Boulder County, CO Mecklenburg County, NC Santa Clara County, CA
Income: Second Quintile	Wayne County, MI		Allen County, IN Sedgwick County, KS Summit County, OH	Richland County, SC	
Income: Third Quintile	Horry County, SC	Manatee County, FL	Long Beach, CA	Fayette County, KY	Leon County, FL
Income: Fourth Quintile	Harrison County, MS	Miami-Dade County, FL St. Louis County, MN		Centre County, PA Grand Forks County, ND	
Income: Lowest Quintile	Baldwin County, GA Gary, IN Philadelphia County, PA	Bibb County, GA Muscogee County, GA	Brown County, SD		

Poverty Rates

Poverty rates are one of the most commonly used indicators of the level of economic need in a community. They are based on national thresholds, which vary annually by the size of a family or household. The child poverty rate considers only those residents who are under 18, whereas the overall rate takes into account the entire population.

Poverty Rates: Child and Overall

In 1999, average child and overall poverty rates were somewhat higher in the Knight communities than in the United States. The average child poverty rate in the Knight communities was 18 percent, compared with 16 percent nationally; the overall poverty rates were 14 percent and 12 percent, respectively.

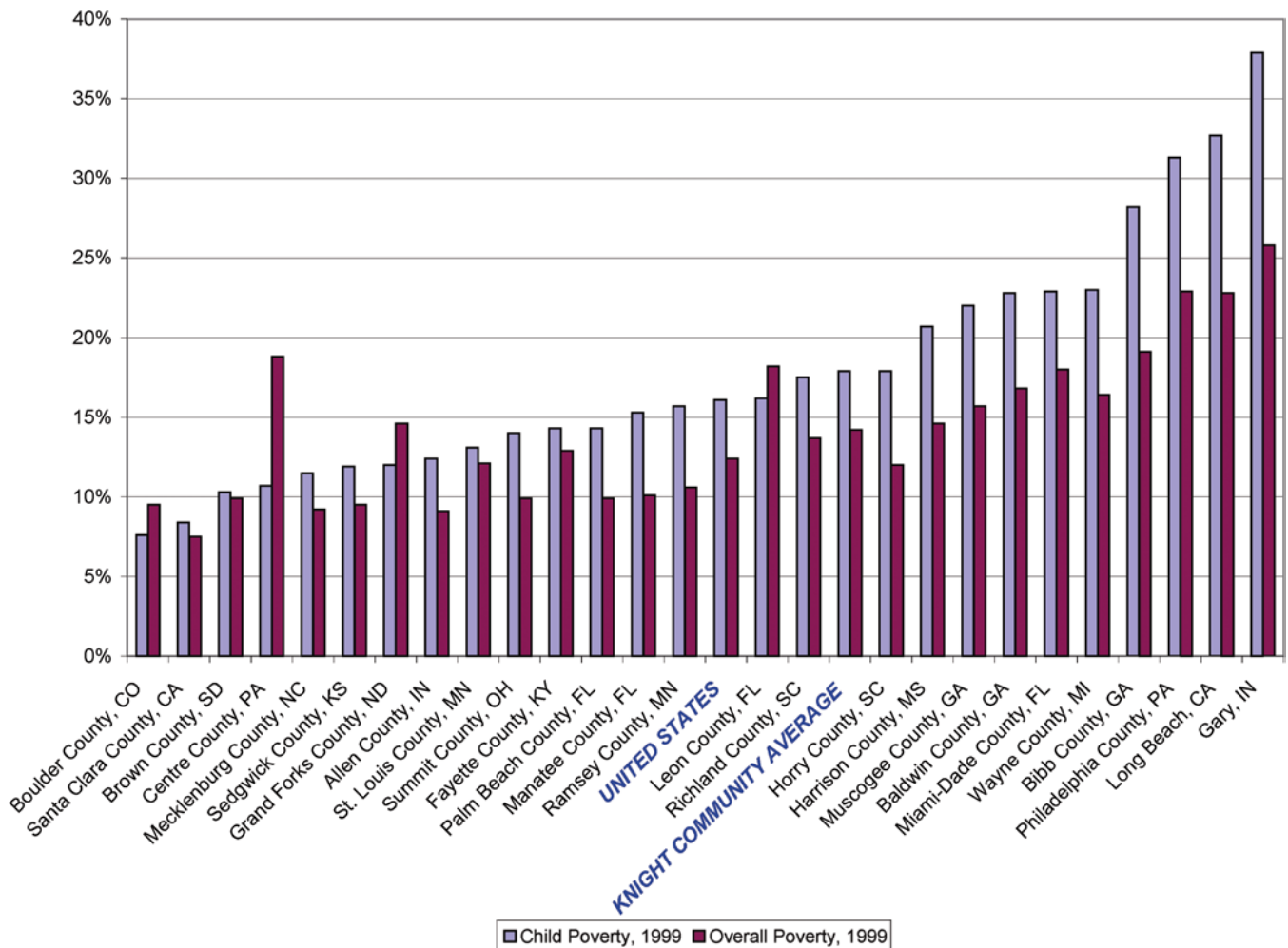
The range in child poverty rates in the Knight communities was substantial – from nearly 38 percent in the city of Gary to less than 8 percent in Boulder County. The highest child poverty rates (over 30 percent) were found in Philadelphia County and the

cities of Gary and Long Beach; the lowest rates (under 10 percent) were in Boulder and Santa Clara counties.

Overall poverty rates also showed substantial variation – from a high of 26 percent in the city of Gary to a low of 8 percent in Santa Clara County. The communities with the lowest poverty rates (under 10 percent) were Allen, Boulder, Brown, Mecklenburg, Palm Beach, Santa Clara, Sedgwick and Summit counties.

As expected, Knight communities with high overall poverty rates also tended to have high child poverty rates. The three communities with the highest overall poverty rates (over 20 percent) had an average child

Poverty Rates (1999)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 1G

poverty rate of 34 percent, compared with an average rate of 11 percent in the eight communities with the lowest overall poverty rates (under 10 percent).

The percentage of children in poverty decreased in 19 of the 26 Knight communities over the 1990s. The decreases were particularly large (5 percentage points or more) in four communities – Harrison, Muscogee and Wayne counties and the city of Gary – all of which had high 1989 child poverty rates (at least 25 percent). However, even with the decreases over the decade, the four communities still had above-average child poverty levels in 1999.

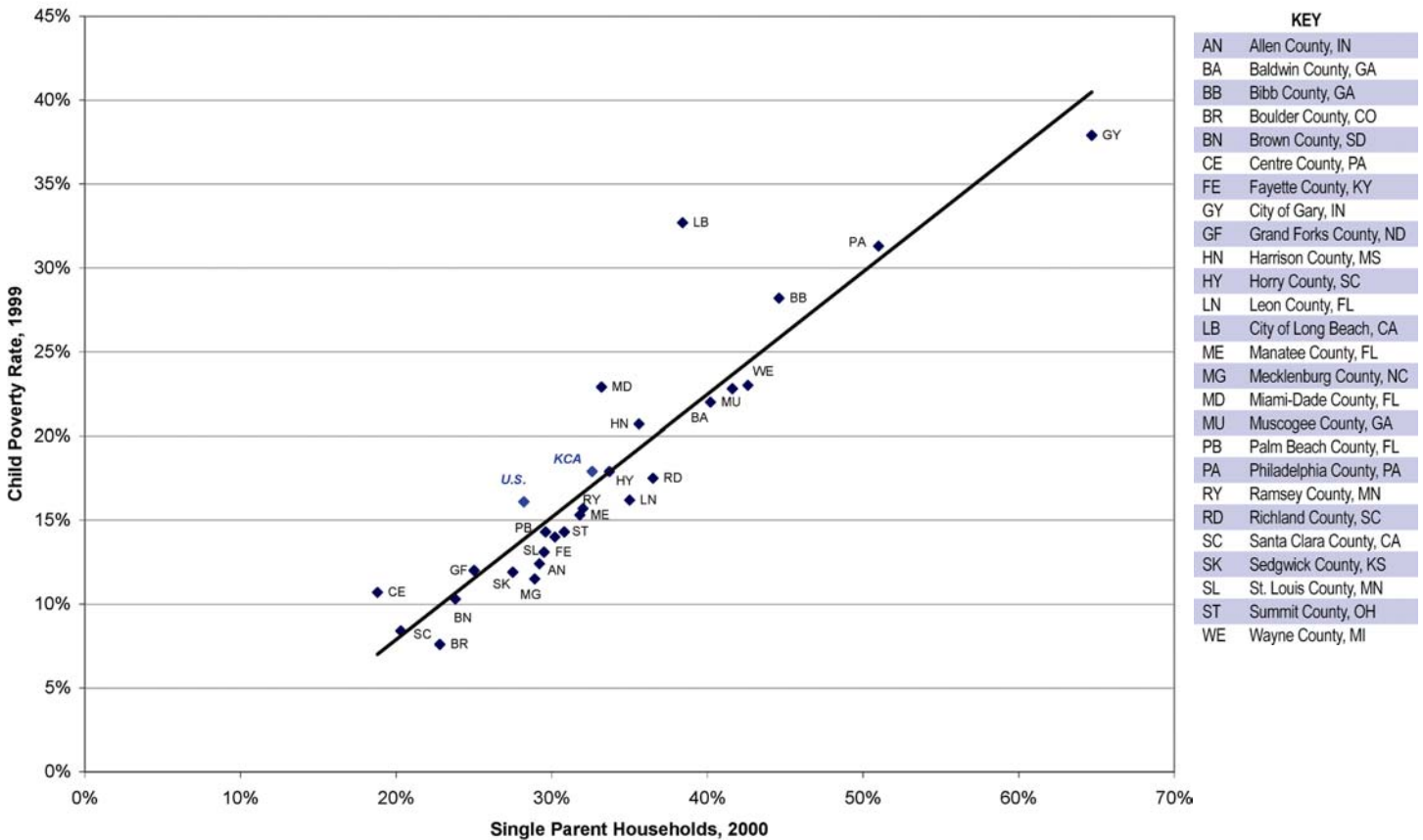
Child poverty rates increased in seven Knight communities between 1989 and 1999, but in most of these communities, the increase was less than 2 percentage points. The city of Long Beach was the

only Knight community in which the child poverty rate increased substantially (6 percentage points) over the period – from 27 percent in 1989 to 33 percent in 1999.

Associated Indicators

There was a strong correspondence between the prevalence of single-parent households and child poverty rates in the Knight communities. In 2000, the five communities with the highest incidence of single-parent households had an average child poverty rate of nearly 29 percent, while the five communities with the lowest percentage of single-parent households had an average child poverty rate of only 10 percent. The average overall poverty rates for these communities were 20 percent and 12 percent, respectively.

Single-Parent Households (2000) and Child Poverty (1999)



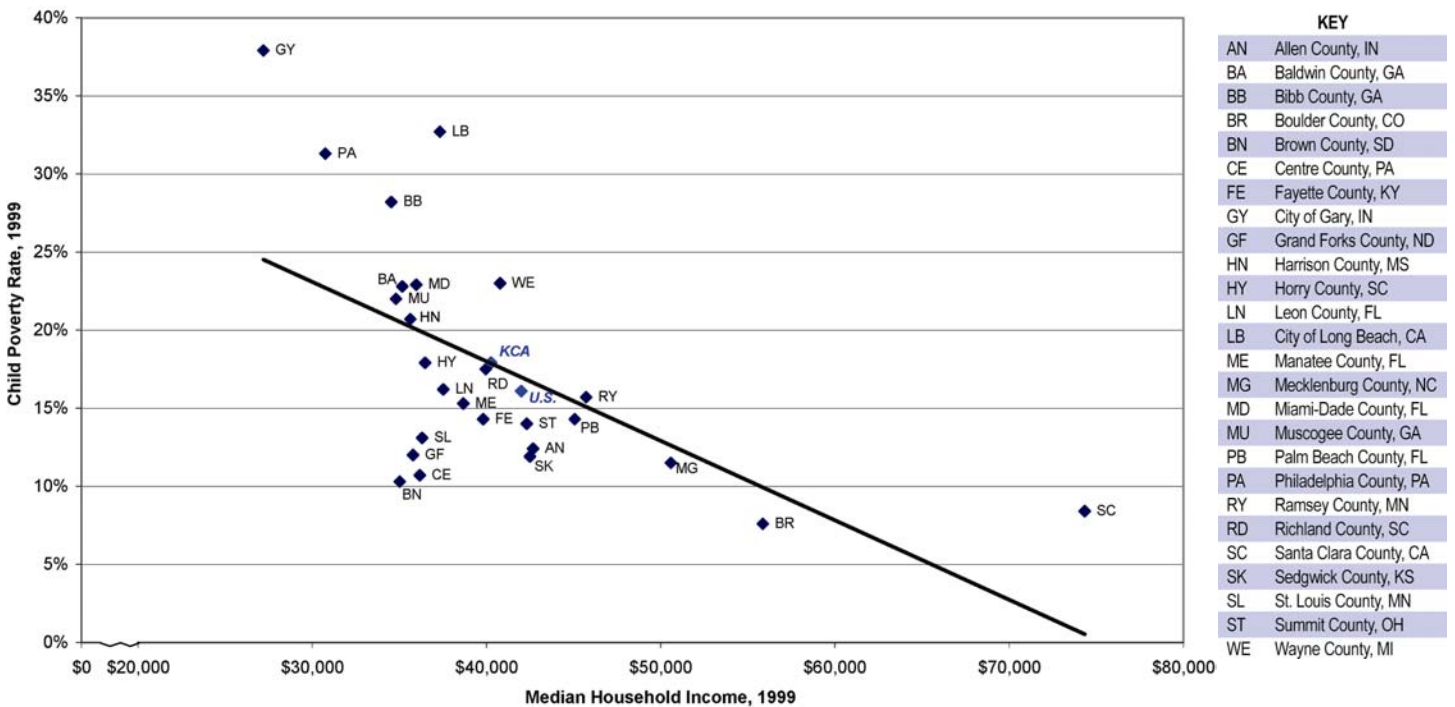
The relationship between the prevalence of single-parent families and child poverty was highly uniform. Indeed, the city of Long Beach was the only outlier with a somewhat higher child poverty rate than would be expected on the basis of its single-parent figure.

Poverty rates showed a strong negative correspondence with median household income in the Knight communities. In the five communities with the highest incomes, the average child poverty rate was 12 percent, compared with 26 percent in the five

communities with the lowest average incomes. The average overall poverty rates for these communities were 9 percent and 19 percent, respectively.

Most Knight communities that fell outside the pattern had lower child poverty rates than their income levels would predict – for example, Brown, Centre, Grand Forks and St. Louis counties. However, Wayne County and the city of Long Beach had child poverty rates that were somewhat high, given their income levels.

Median Household Income (1999) and Child Poverty (1999)



Single-Parent Families

Single-parent families and children in single-parent households may create the need for certain kinds of services in a community (e.g., preschools and after-school programming). Areas with large concentrations of single-parent families (especially those headed by a female) also tend to experience higher rates of poverty.

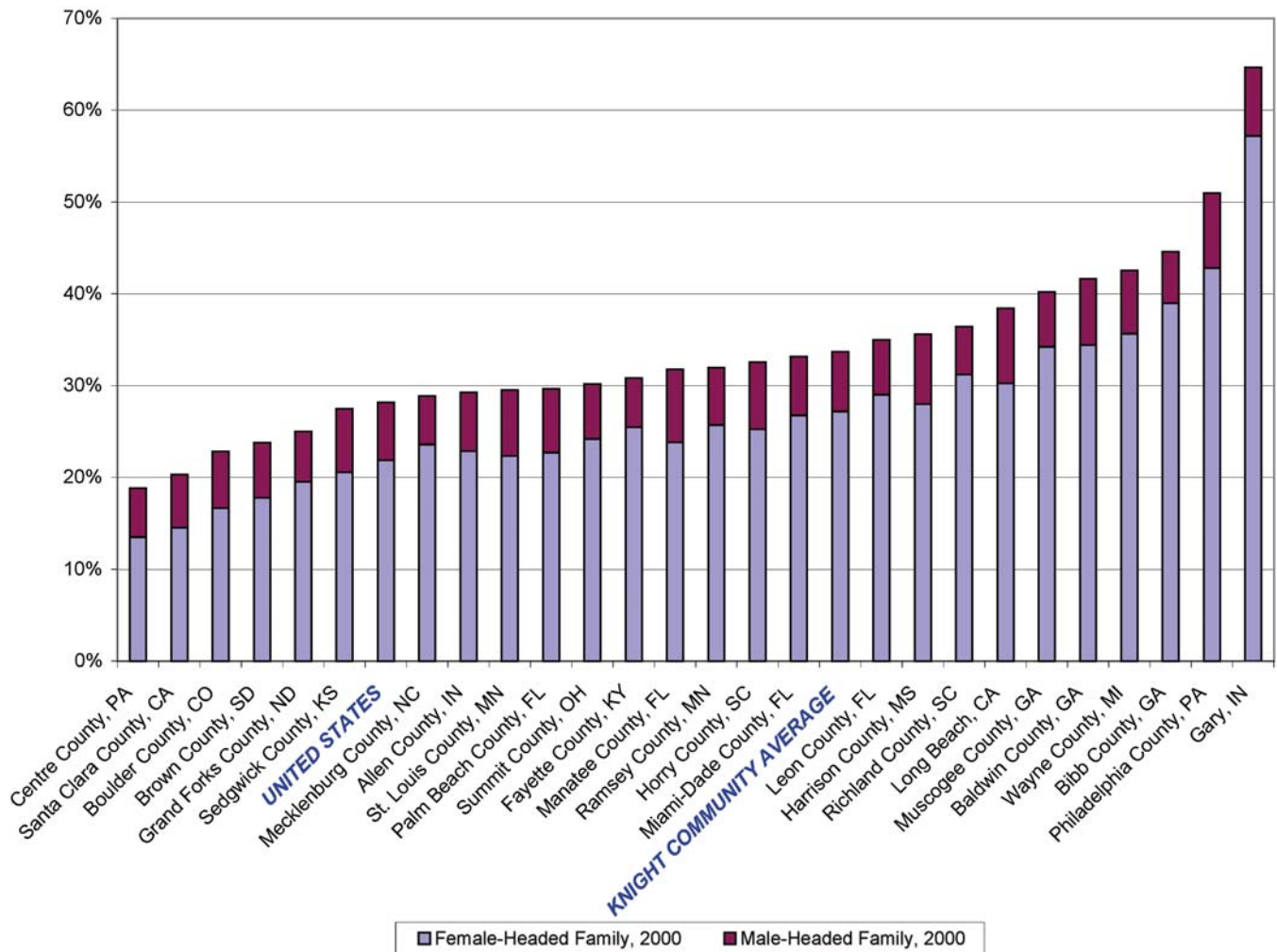
Single-Parent Families

In 2000, an average of 34 percent of family households with children in the Knight communities were headed by a single parent – a figure notably higher than the national average of 28 percent. There was significant variation among the communities, however, with single-parent rates as low as 19 percent in Centre County and as high as 65 percent in Gary.

In 2000, 27 percent of all family households in the Knight communities were headed by a single female, while 7 percent were headed by a single male.

On average, the proportion of family households headed by a single parent increased about 6 percentage points in the Knight communities between 1990 and 2000 – an increase that was 1 percentage point greater than in the United States overall. The city of Gary experienced the largest increase in single-parent families (13 percentage points) and Santa Clara County experienced the smallest increase (less than one percentage point). No community experienced a decline in the proportion of single-parent families over the period.

Single-Parent Families (2000)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 1H

Community Satisfaction I

The percentage of residents who rate their community as a “good” or “excellent” place to live is used as the measure of community satisfaction.

Community Satisfaction

On average, Knight community residents tend to be somewhat less satisfied with their communities than the general U.S. population. Three of four (75 percent) Knight community residents consider their community a good or excellent place to live, compared with 84 percent nationally.

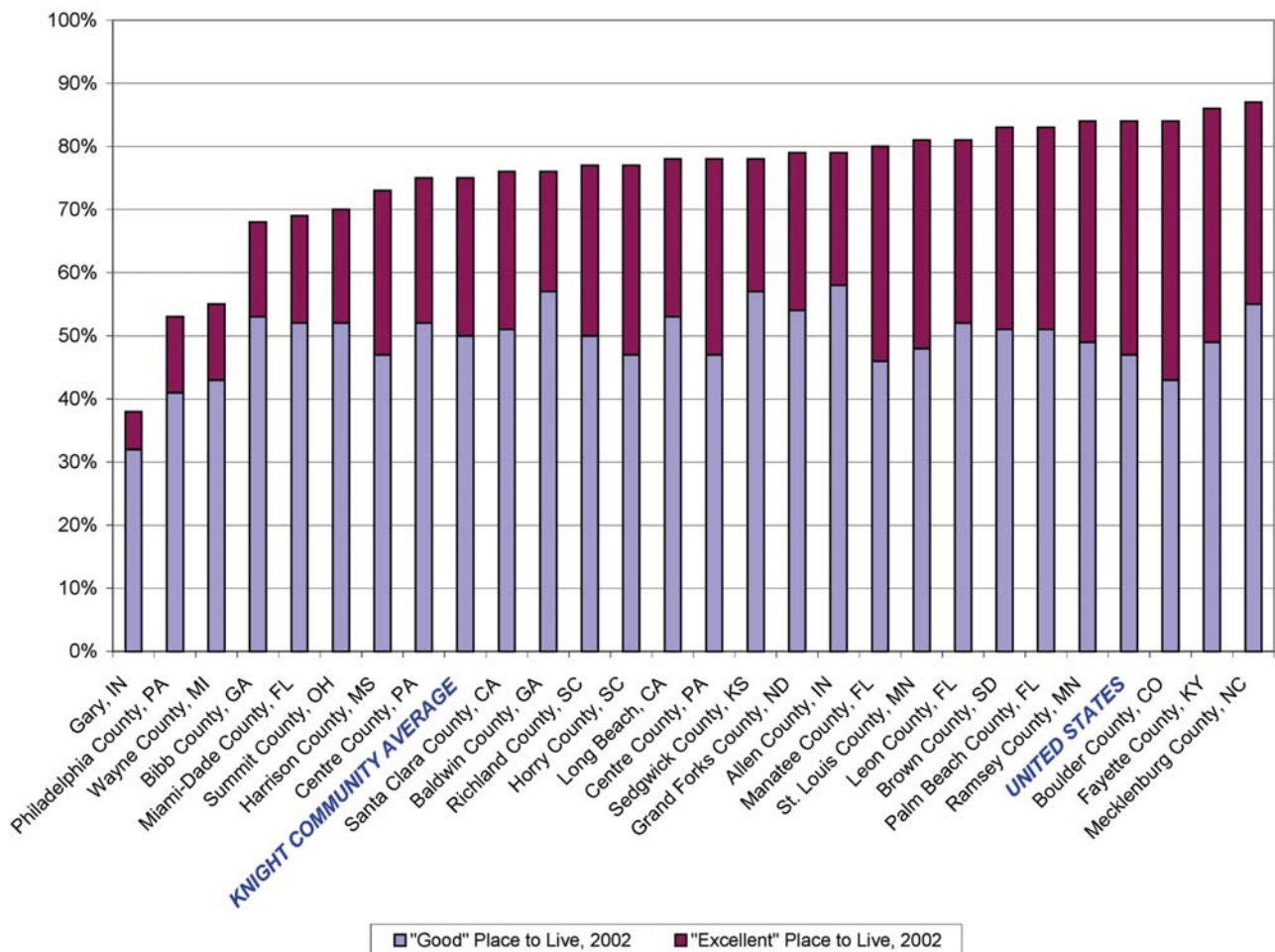
Resident satisfaction varies widely among the Knight communities. Nearly nine of 10 (87 percent) Mecklenburg County residents rate their community as either a good or excellent place to live, whereas only 38 percent of Gary residents give their community such a rating, and nearly one in four (23 percent) say that it is a poor place to live.

In most Knight communities, the level of community satisfaction remained fairly stable between 1999 and 2002. The proportion of residents who consider their community a good or excellent place to live increased significantly in two communities – Miami-Dade County and the city of Long Beach – and decreased significantly in five communities – Centre, Philadelphia, Richland, St. Louis and Wayne counties.

Associated Demographic and Socioeconomic Indicators

Communities with growing populations appear to have high levels of community satisfaction. In Knight communities that experienced high population growth

Community Satisfaction (2002)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 11

during the 1990s (15 percent and over), an average of 81 percent of residents consider their area a good or excellent place to live. By contrast, in communities with a population change of 5 percent or less during the period, only 67 percent of residents rate their communities so highly.

Communities with high proportions of new residents also tend to have higher satisfaction ratings. In communities where over 30 percent of the residents report having lived there for five years or fewer, the satisfaction rating is 82 percent; in communities where less than 15 percent report a five-year tenure or less, the rating drops to 61 percent. A notable exception is Philadelphia, which despite having a relatively large proportion of new residents has a low community satisfaction rating.

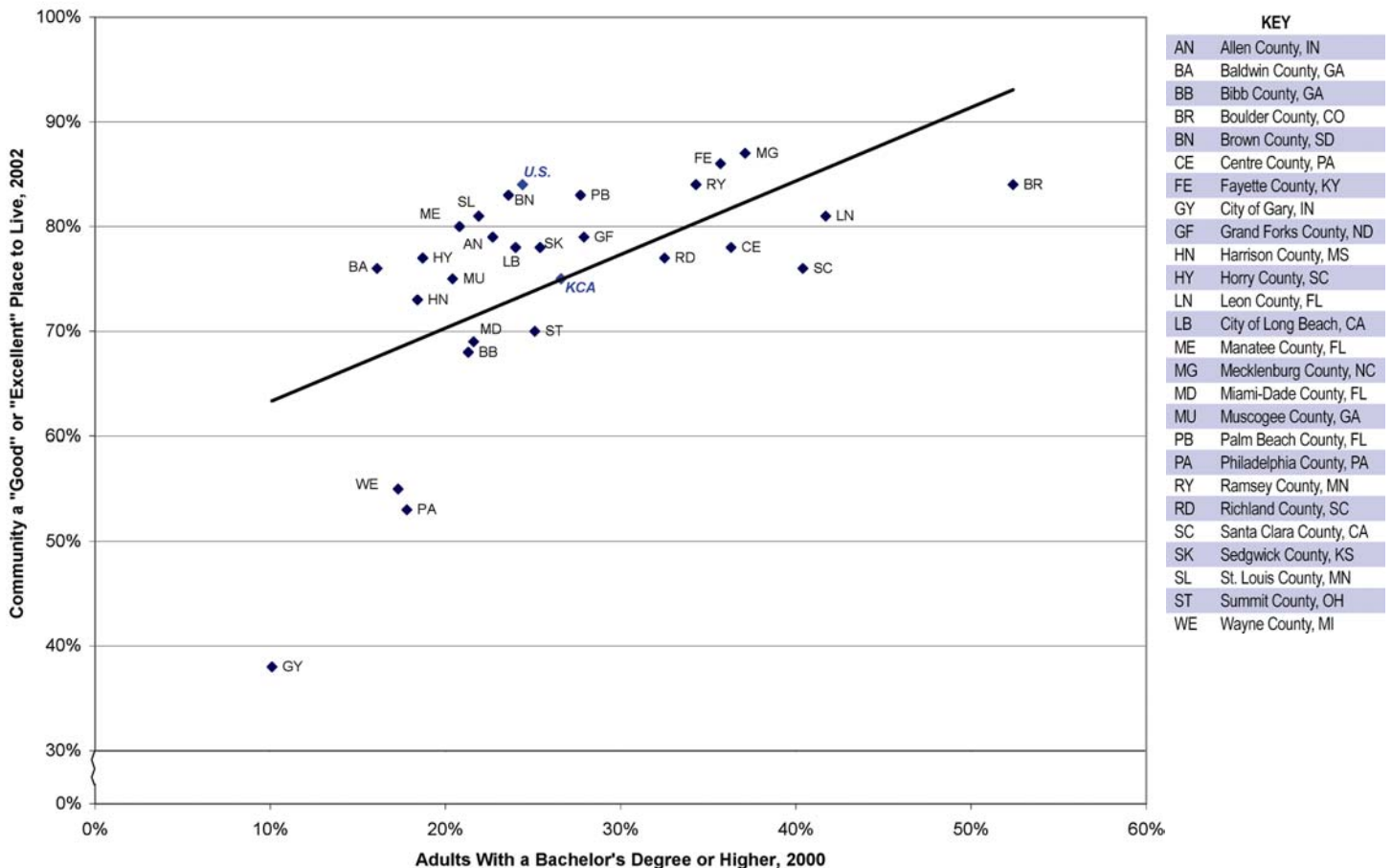
In the five Knight communities with the highest education levels (measured as the proportion of adults who completed a bachelor’s degree or higher), 81 percent of community residents rate their community as a good or excellent place to live. This compares with

59 percent in the five communities with the lowest levels of educational attainment.

Similar relationships are found between community income and community satisfaction levels. In the five Knight communities with the highest median household incomes, 83 percent of community residents rate the community as a good or excellent place to live, compared with 65 percent in the five communities with the lowest household incomes.

Finally, Knight communities with lower levels of unemployment also tend to have higher levels of community satisfaction. In the five communities with the lowest unemployment rates in 2000, 81 percent consider their community a good or excellent place to live. Satisfaction with their community is nearly 20 percentage points higher than in the five communities with the highest unemployment rates (63 percent). The one notable exception is Wayne County, which despite having a lower unemployment rate than the United States, has one of the lowest levels of community satisfaction.

Educational Attainment (2000) and Community Satisfaction (2002)



Community Satisfaction II

The percentage of residents who rate their community as a “good” or “excellent” place to live is used as the measure of community satisfaction.

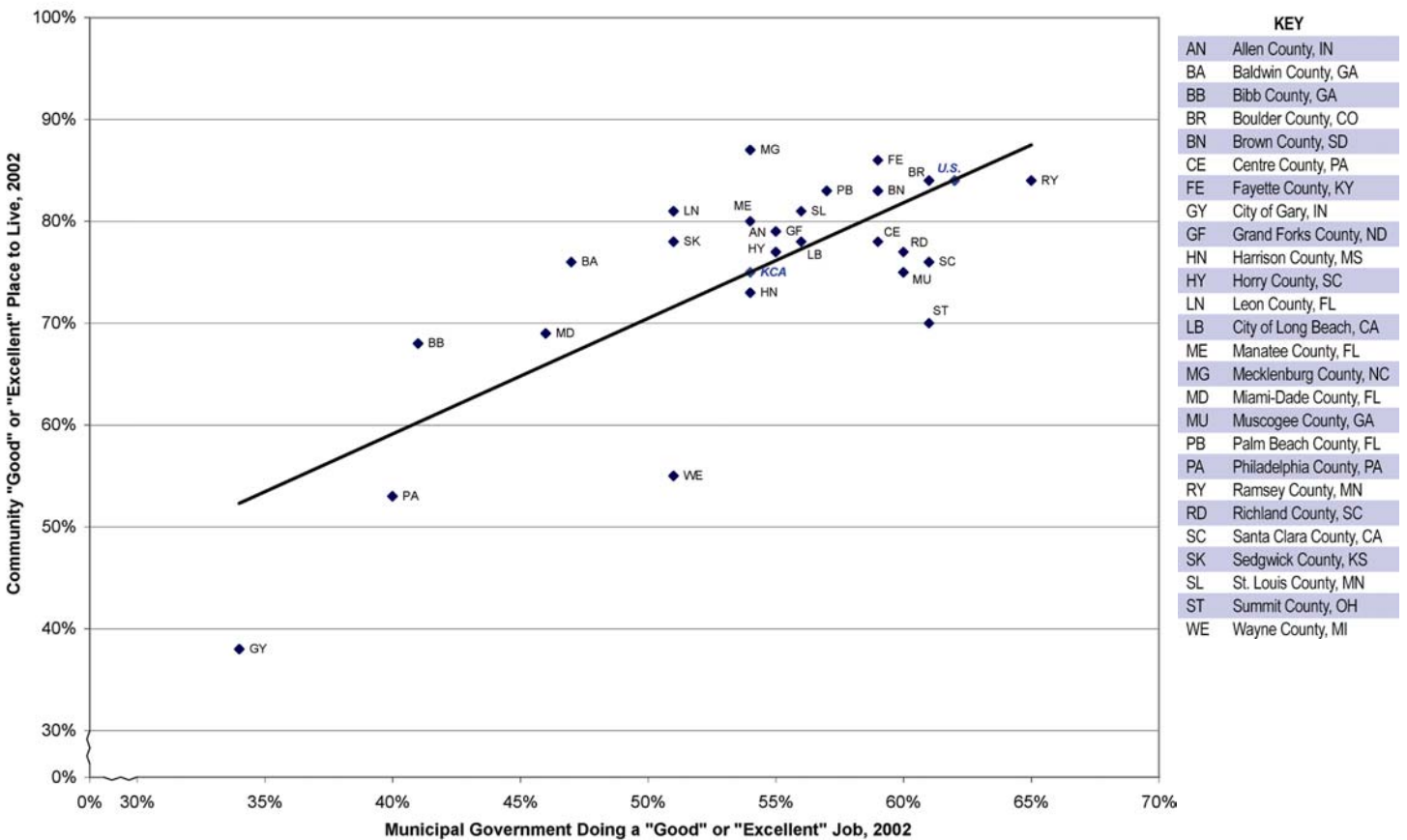
Associated Assessments of Community Institutions

Knight communities in which a high proportion of residents consider their municipal governments to be doing a good or excellent job tend to have high community satisfaction ratings. The six communities with government approval ratings of 60 percent or higher have an average community satisfaction level of 78 percent; the five communities with approval ratings of 50 percent or lower have an average community satisfaction rating of 61 percent. Summit and Wayne counties diverge somewhat from this pattern because they both have lower community satisfaction levels than

would be expected on the basis of their government approval ratings.

Communities with favorable perceptions of their police department’s performance also tend to have high levels of community satisfaction. In the six communities in which at least 80 percent of the residents say that their departments do a good or excellent job, an average of 82 percent rate their community as a good or excellent place to live. In contrast, in the five communities in which less than 70 percent give their police department a good or excellent rating, only 61 percent have this level of community satisfaction.

Municipal Government Performance and Community Satisfaction (2002)



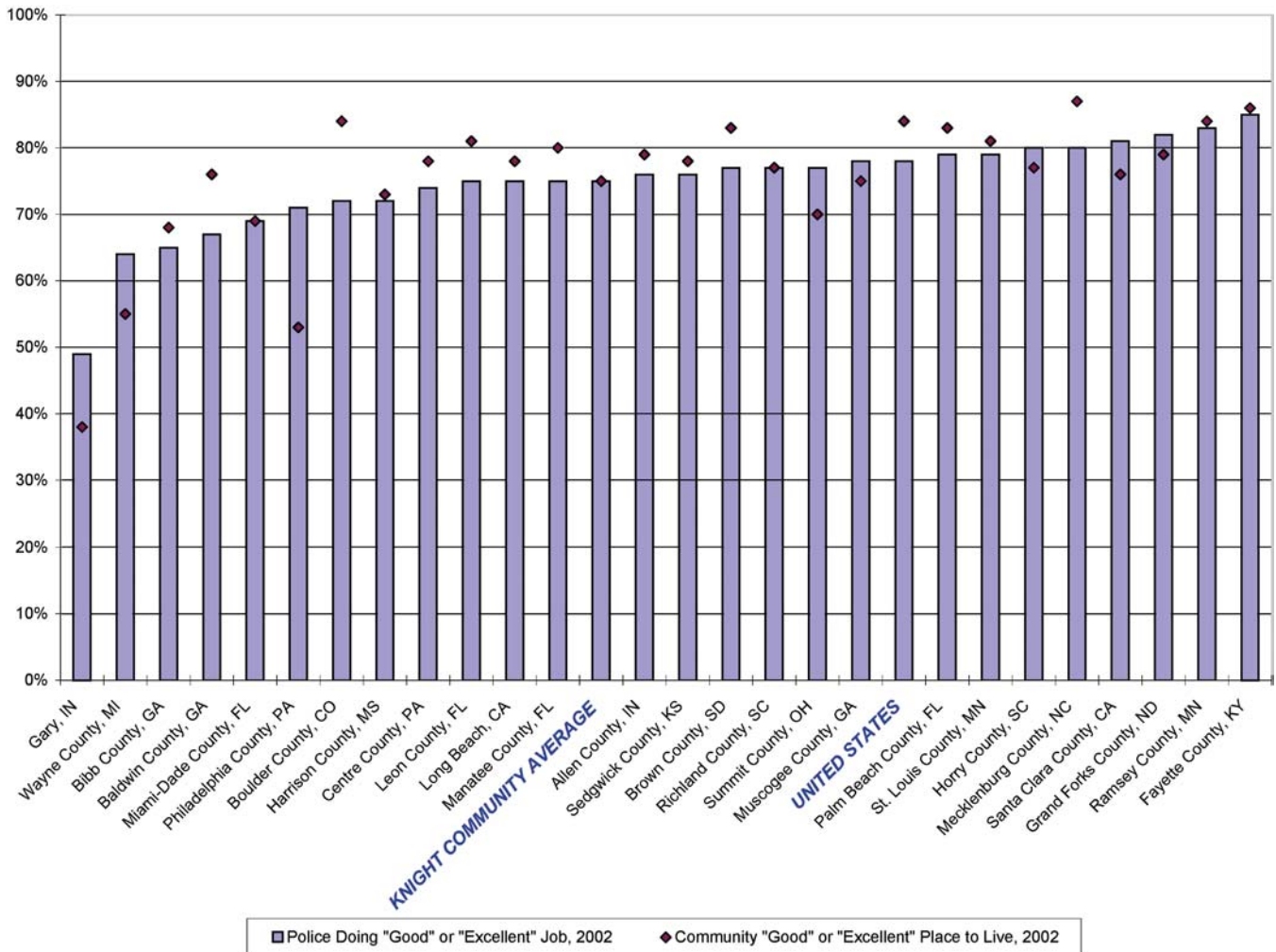
For tables and additional information, see Appendix 1J

In the seven communities in which less than 15 percent of residents consider public transportation to be a big problem, 79 percent rate their community as a good or excellent place to live. In the six communities in which over 25 percent view public transportation as a big problem, only 65 percent hold this view of their communities. Philadelphia and Wayne counties and the city of Gary are communities where satisfaction levels are significantly lower than might be expected on the basis of residents' views on public transportation problems.

Finally, communities with high opinions of their public schools also have high levels of community

satisfaction. In the five Knight communities in which over 65 percent of residents view the public schools as doing a good or excellent job, 80 percent of residents also say that their community is a good or excellent place to live. By contrast, in communities in which less than 45 percent of residents give their schools a good or excellent rating, only 62 percent report being satisfied with their community. Palm Beach stands out as an exception to this pattern, with only 33 percent of residents giving high ratings to the public schools but 83 percent saying their community is a good or excellent place to live.

Police Performance and Community Satisfaction (2002)



A Sense of Efficacy

The percentage of people who say that they can have a “big impact” in making their community a better place to live is used to measure a sense of efficacy.

A Sense of Efficacy

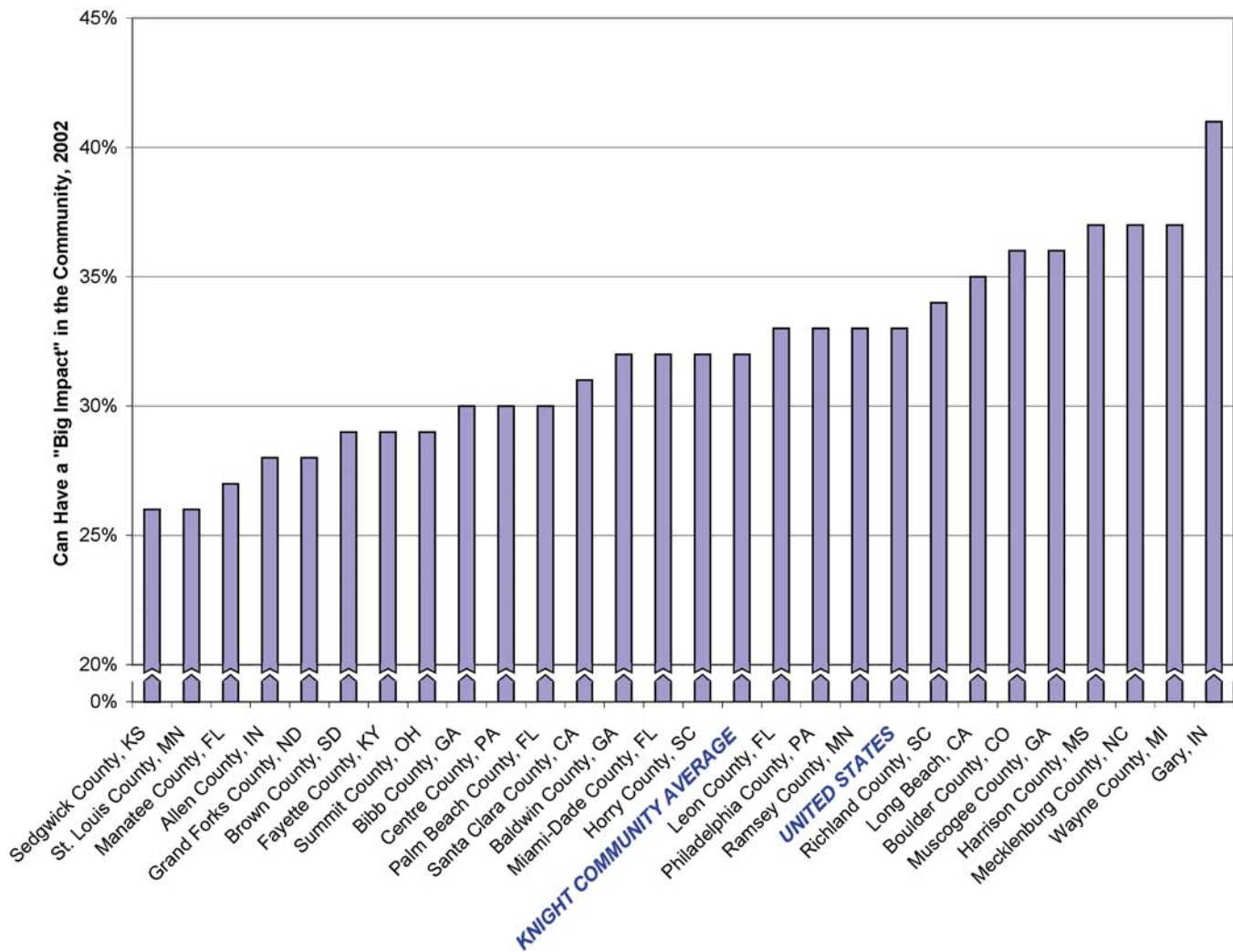
Knight community residents report almost the same level of efficacy as residents across the country, with 32 percent and 33 percent, respectively, reporting that they can have a big impact in making their community a better place to live.

The proportion of residents who say that they can have a big impact on their community does show some variation across the Knight communities, but the range is not as large as on some other survey questions – from 41 percent in the city of Gary to 26 percent in St. Louis and Sedgwick counties.

communities the proportion of residents who feel that they can have a big impact is within +/- five percentage points of the Knight communities average. Only four communities fall outside this range – Manatee, St. Louis and Sedgwick counties on the low end and the city of Gary on the high end of the scale.

In nearly all Knight communities, residents’ sense of efficacy was relatively stable between 1999 and 2002. The proportion of residents who say that they can have a big impact in their community changed significantly in only two communities: in Grand Forks County it increased by 7 percentage points, and in St. Louis County it decreased by 10 percentage points.

A Sense of Efficacy (2002)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 1K

Associated Demographic and Socioeconomic Indicators

Residents’ feelings about efficacy do not appear to be related to the demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of their communities. The proportion of residents who feel they can have a big impact on their community is similar in very small and very large communities – an average of around 30 percent in communities with under 100,000 and with more than 1 million people. The proportions are similar in intermediate-sized communities as well – an average of 33 percent, 31 percent and 33 percent in communities with 100,000 to 250,000, 250,001 to 500,000, and 500,001 to 1 million, respectively.

Similarly, the socioeconomic measures of educational attainment and median household income bear almost no correspondence to the level of perceived efficacy in a community. Both socioeconomic measures have an average perceived efficacy level of around

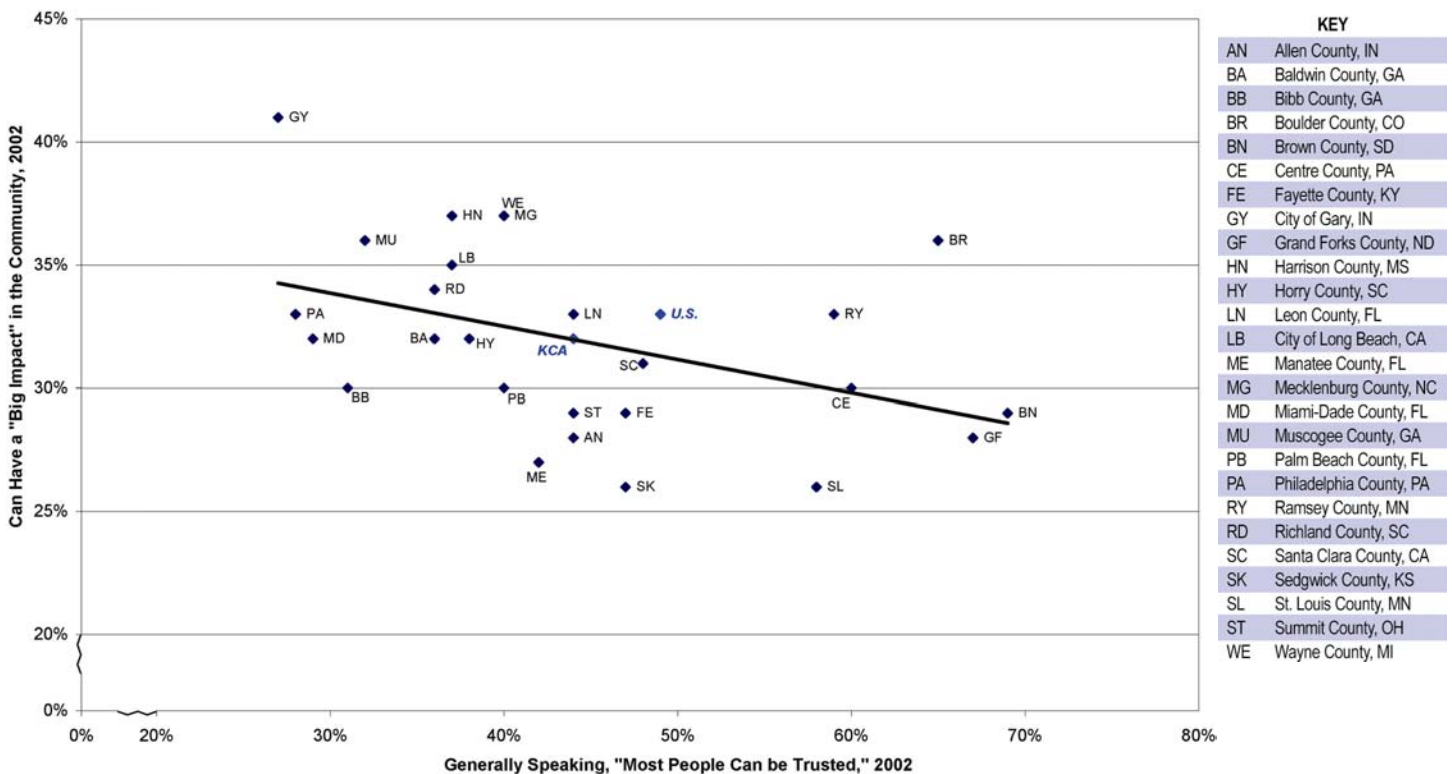
35 percent, in the bottom five communities. By comparison, both measures rate at 33 percent for perceived efficacy in the top five communities.

Associated Local Views

Counter to expectations, in Knight communities with higher levels of social trust, a smaller proportion of residents tend to say that they can make a big impact in their community. In Grand Forks County, for example, 67 percent of residents say that most people can be trusted, and only 28 percent believe they can make a big impact.

Similarly surprising, communities with a high proportion of residents who report knowing all of their neighbors tend to have lower levels of perceived efficacy. For example, in Brown County 40 percent of residents say that they know all their neighbors, and 29 percent believe that they can make a big impact in their community.

Social Trust and a Sense of Efficacy (2002)



Social Trust I

The percentage of people who say that “most people can be trusted” is used as the measure of social trust.

Social Trust

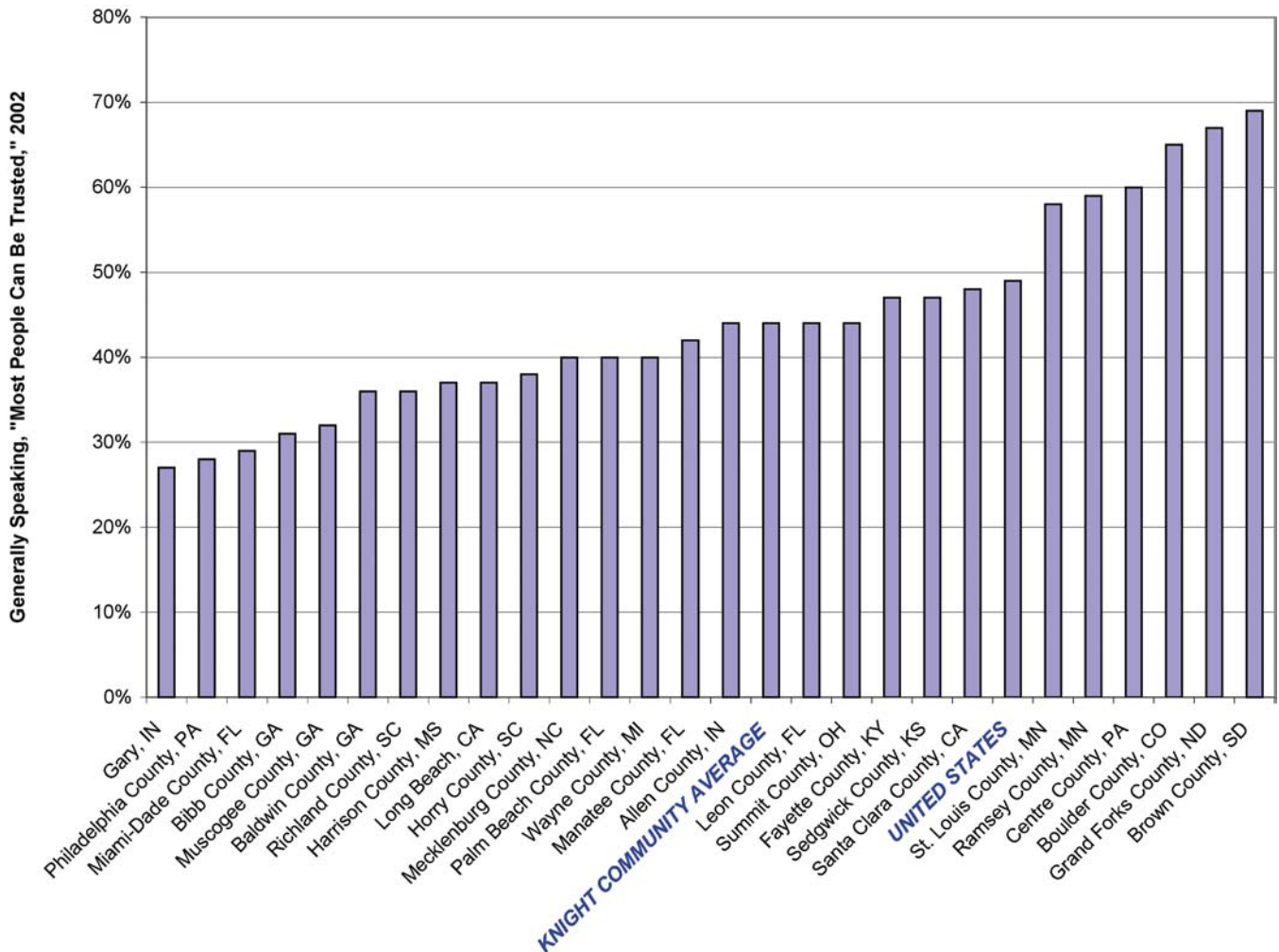
On the whole, Knight community residents are somewhat less trusting than the general U.S. population – 44 percent say that most people can be trusted versus 49 percent nationally.

The level of social trust varies significantly across the Knight communities – from 69 percent in Brown County to 27 percent in the city of Gary. Four communities record very high levels of social trust (60 percent or higher) – Boulder, Brown, Centre and Grand Forks counties – and three communities have very low levels of social trust (less than 30 percent) – Miami-Dade and Philadelphia counties and the city of Gary.

Associated Demographic and Socioeconomic Indicators

The smallest communities have much higher levels of social trust than the largest communities. In the three communities with populations under 100,000, 57 percent of residents say that most people can be trusted, compared with 37 percent in the five communities with populations over 1 million. However, social trust does not consistently decrease with increases in community population. In communities with populations between 100,000 and 250,000, 41 percent of residents say that most people can be trusted, compared with 46 percent in communities with a population size between 250,000 and 1 million.

Social Trust (2002)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 1L

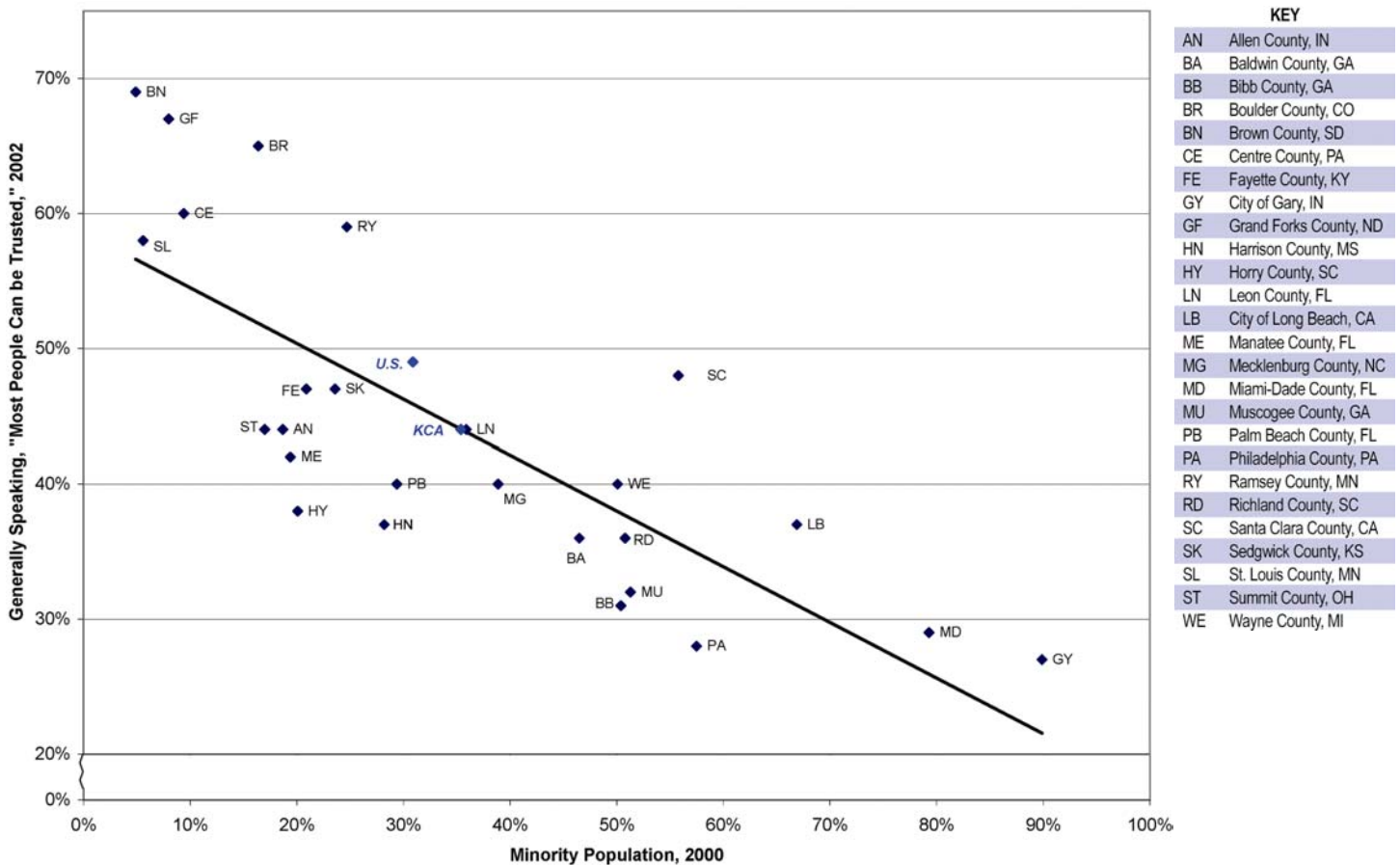
Knight communities with smaller minority populations tend to have higher levels of social trust. In the eight communities with low proportions of minority residents (under 20 percent of the total population) 56 percent report that most people can be trusted, compared with 34 percent in the nine communities with large minority populations (over 50 percent). Although the relationship between minority population and trust is fairly strong, a few communities stand out as exceptions. Santa Clara County, for example, has a high concentration of minority residents (56 percent) as well as a relatively high level of social trust (48 percent); Horry County, which has a small minority population (20 percent), also has a low level of social trust (38 percent).

Communities with higher education levels also tend to have higher levels of social trust. In the five communities with the highest educational attainment levels (adults with a bachelor’s degree or higher), 51 percent of respondents say that most people can be trusted, compared with 34 percent in the five

communities with the lowest levels of educational attainment. The most notable exceptions to this pattern are Brown and Richland counties. Brown County has a relatively low level of educational attainment (24 percent with a bachelor’s degree or higher) but the highest level of social trust of the Knight communities (69 percent). Richland County, in contrast, has a highly educated population (33 percent with a bachelor’s degree or higher) but a relatively low level of social trust (36 percent).

Similarly, in the five communities with the highest median household incomes, 50 percent report that most people can be trusted, compared with 37 percent in the five communities with the lowest median incomes. Brown, Centre and Grand Forks counties, however, are all examples of communities with median household incomes well below the national average (at least \$5,000 lower) and high levels of social trust (over 60 percent). Mecklenburg County, in contrast, is a high-income community with a relatively low level of social trust (40 percent).

Minority Population (2000) and Social Trust (2002)



Social Trust II

The percentage of people who say that “most people can be trusted” is used as the measure of social trust.

Associated Local Concerns and Behaviors

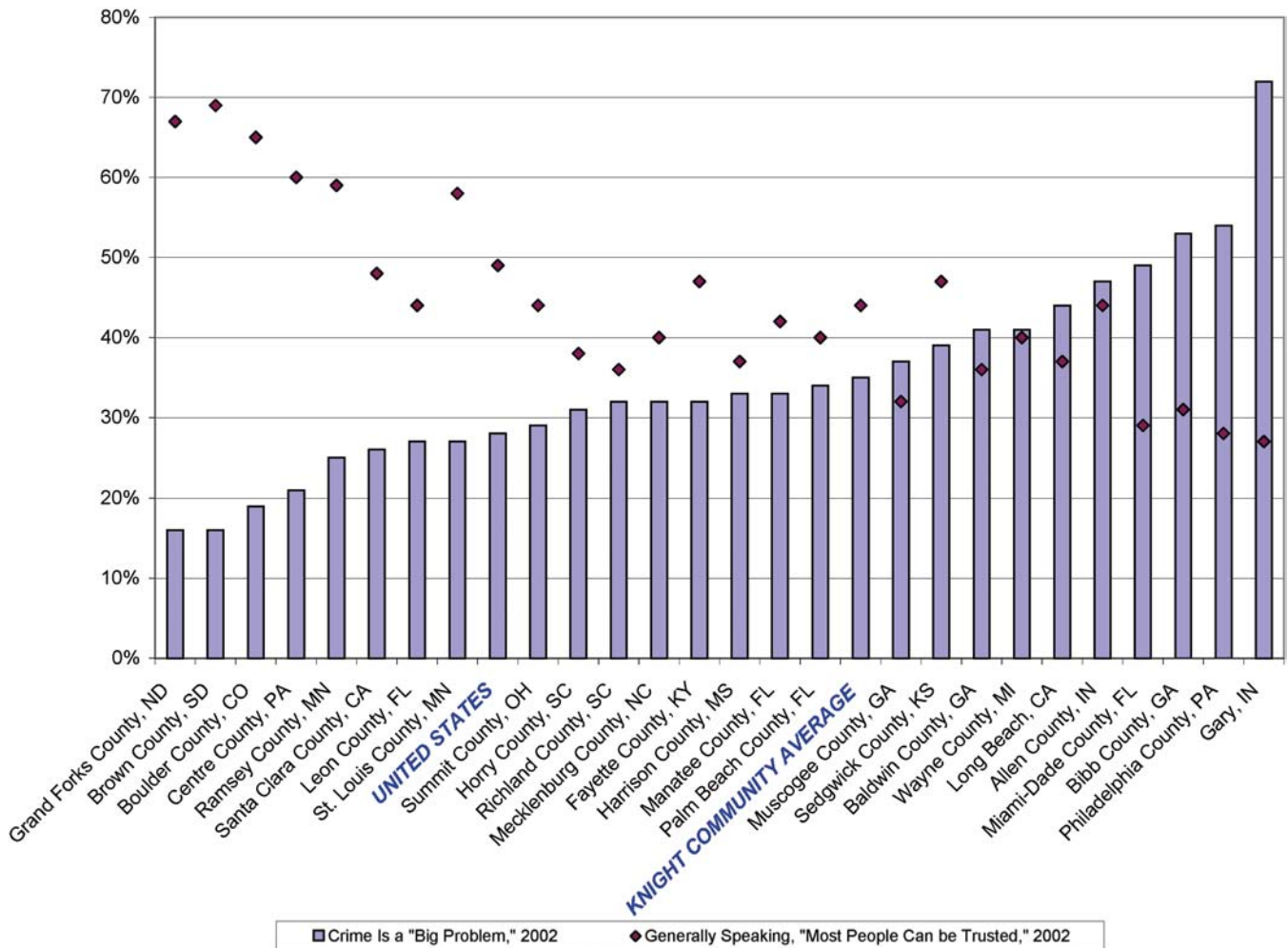
Communities that view crime, drugs or violence as a big problem tend to have lower levels of social trust. In the five communities where the highest proportion of residents consider crime to be a big problem, only 32 percent of community residents say that most people can be trusted – half the percentage of the five communities whose residents are least concerned with crime (64 percent).

Similarly, communities with higher levels of racial tension also tend to have lower levels of social trust. In

the five communities with the largest concentrations of residents who view racial tension as a big problem, only 34 percent say that most people can be trusted – nearly half the percentage of the five communities that are least troubled by racial tension (64 percent).

Contrary to expectations, Knight communities with more engaged populations tend to have lower levels of social trust. Rates of church attendance,* participation in neighborhood organizations and efforts to help the poor** are all negatively related to trust in the community.

Concern About Crime and Social Trust (2002)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 1M

* The survey question refers to attendance at “church, synagogue or some other place of worship.”

** The survey question refers to a program that helps “poor, elderly or homeless people.”

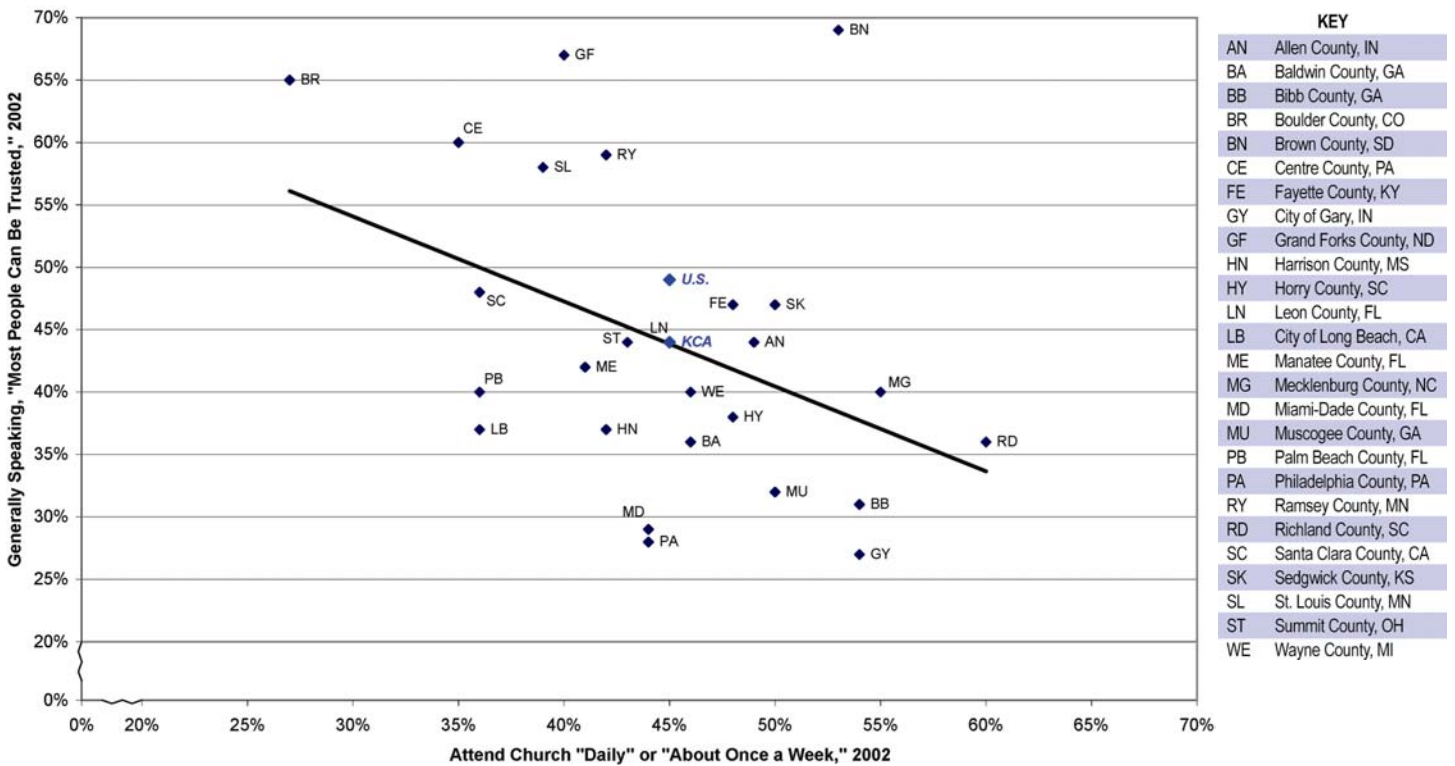
Knight communities in which a relatively high proportion of residents attend church about once a week or more tend to have lower levels of trust. In communities with high rates of church attendance (50 percent or more of residents go to church at least once a week), 40 percent of residents say that most people can be trusted, compared with 54 percent in communities with relatively low rates of church attendance (40 percent or less go to church at least once a week). Brown County is an outlier from the pattern, with high rates of church attendance and the highest level of social trust in the Knight communities. Long Beach, however, has low church-attendance rates and a low level of social trust.

Communities with higher rates of participation in neighborhood organizations, such as block associations or neighborhood watches, also tend to have lower levels of social trust. The proportion of residents who say that

most people can be trusted in the five communities with the lowest rates of participation (60 percent) is almost twice the proportion in the five with the highest rates of participation (33 percent).

Similarly, communities in which a relatively high proportion of residents participate in efforts to help the poor tend to have lower levels of social trust. In the five communities with the highest participation rates (more than 35 percent volunteered in the past 12 months), an average of 33 percent of residents say that most people can be trusted, compared with an average of 46 percent in the four communities with the lowest participation rates (25 percent or less volunteered in the past 12 months). Miami-Dade, Palm Beach and Philadelphia counties and the city of Long Beach, however, stand out as communities with both low participation rates and low levels of social trust.

Church Attendance (2002) and Social Trust (2002)



Volunteerism

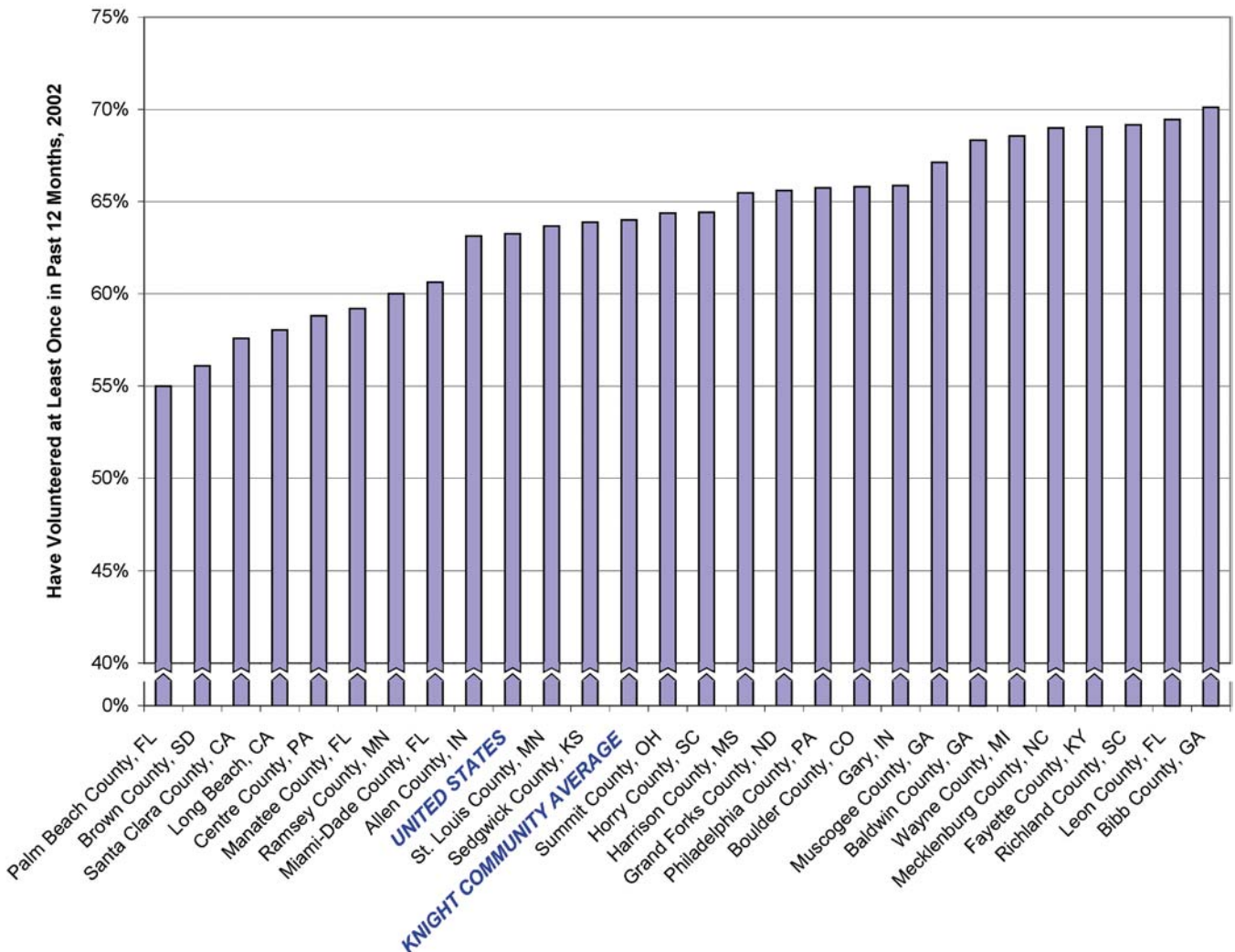
The percentage of people who say that they have participated in at least one volunteer program during the past 12 months is used as the measure of volunteerism. Residents were asked about their participation in tutoring or other educational programs; arts or cultural groups; youth development programs; neighborhood or civic groups; and programs that help poor, elderly or homeless people.

Volunteerism

Knight community residents volunteer at a rate that is about the same as the national average, with 64 percent and 63 percent, respectively, reporting that they have participated in at least one program in the past 12 months.

Rates of volunteerism vary moderately across the Knight communities from a high of 70 percent in Bibb County to a low of 55 percent in Palm Beach County. All but five communities, however, are within +/- 5 percentage points of the Knight community average – Brown, Palm Beach and Santa Clara counties and the city of Long Beach fall outside this range on the low end, and Bibb County falls outside on the high end.

Volunteerism (2002)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 1N

Associated Demographic and Socioeconomic Indicators

Volunteerism does not appear to be linked to most demographic and socioeconomic indicators in the Knight communities. The size of a community’s overall and minority populations has almost no association with the proportion of residents who participate in volunteer programs; communities with less well-educated populations are just as likely to have high levels of volunteerism as are communities with more highly educated populations. High-income communities, however, are slightly less likely to have high volunteer participation rates.

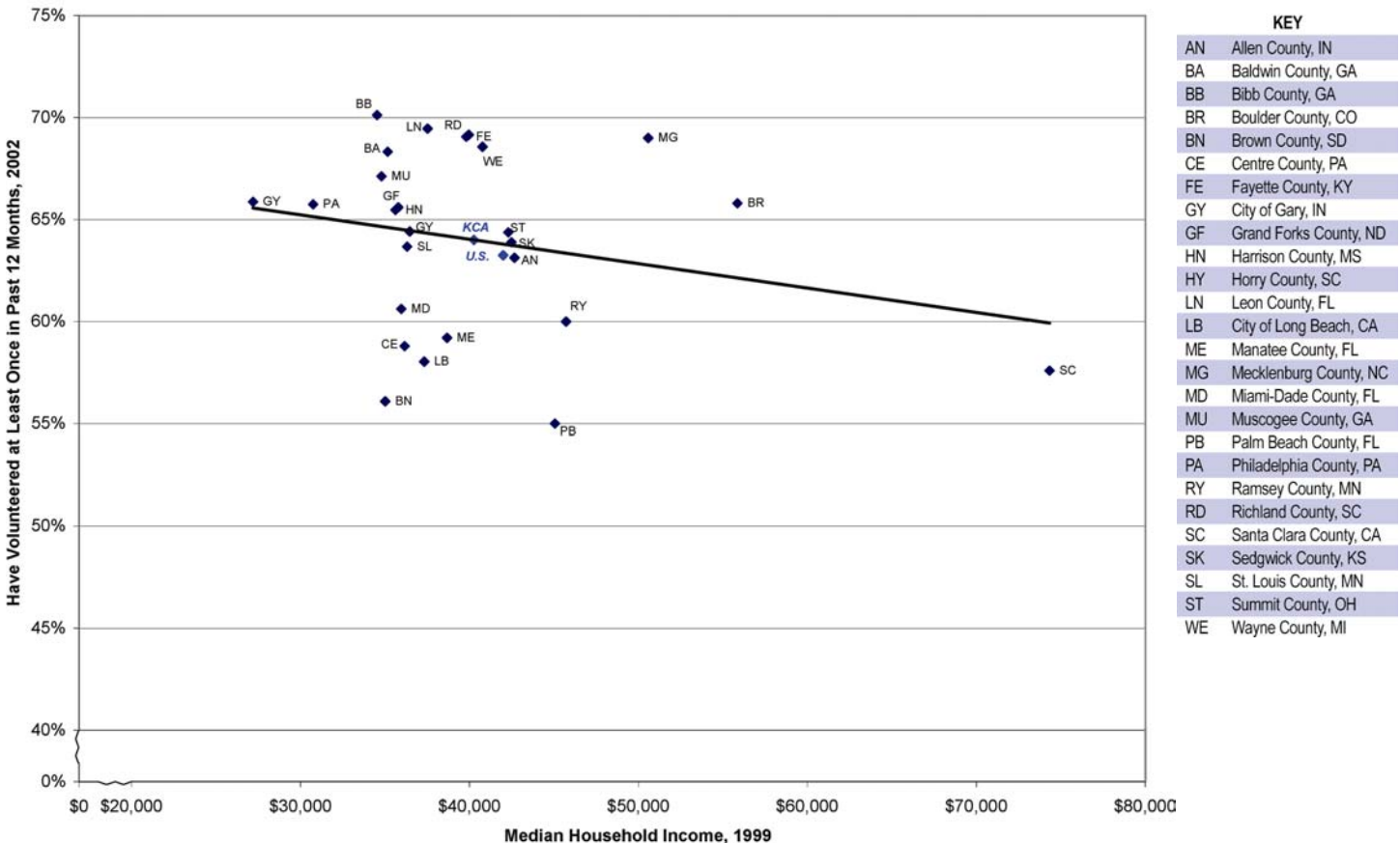
Associated Local Views and Behaviors

Knight communities that have high rates of church attendance tend to have higher rates of volunteerism. In

Richland County, for example, 60 percent of residents say that they worship at least once a week, and 69 percent report volunteering for at least one activity over the past 12 months. Boulder County stands as an exception to this pattern, with a relatively low church attendance rate (27 percent attending at least once a week) and a high rate of volunteerism (66 percent).

Knight communities with large concentrations of residents who report a strong sense of efficacy also tend to have somewhat higher rates of participation in volunteer activities. In Mecklenburg County, for example, almost four in 10 residents (37 percent) say that they can make a big impact in the community, and 69 percent have participated in at least one volunteer activity in the past 12 months.

Median Household Income (1999) and Volunteerism (2002)



CHAPTER 2

Economic Development



Maria Elena Rodriguez, a member of Knight Foundation's Community Advisory Committee in Detroit, is president of the Mexicantown Community Development Corp. Six of Detroit's diverse neighborhoods are the focus of our economic development efforts. The mural is The Cornfield by Vito Valdez.

LISTENING AND LEARNING

Introduction and Highlights

Indicators related to economic development highlight significant differences across the Knight communities. In some communities, the economy is growing rapidly; in others, it is growing more slowly. In some, residents' wages and incomes are also rising substantially; in others, they are rising more slowly. Some communities have experienced very high employment growth; others have experienced smaller growth or even employment decline.

Knight community residents also perceive issues related to economic development differently. In some communities, residents view unemployment and job

opportunities for young people as big problems, whereas residents of other communities are relatively unconcerned about these issues. Some communities are very concerned about inadequate public transportation, whereas others do not view public transportation as a major problem.

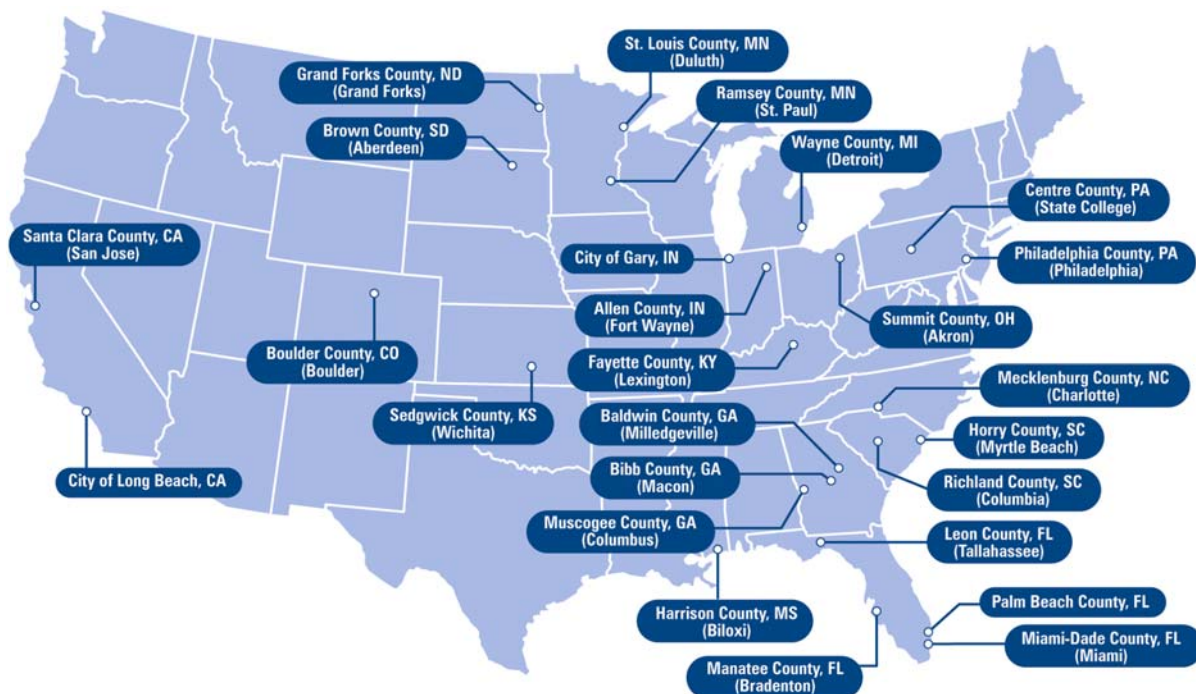
The Economic Development section that follows presents selected indicators for the 26 Knight communities. This section includes eight indicators from administrative records organized around three topics – income, commerce and employment – and responses to three survey questions related to economic development.

Indicator Area	Administrative Records
Income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal Income per Capita, 2000 • Income Distribution, 1999 • Wages and Salaries per Job, 2000
Commerce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gross Product per Capita, 2000 • Retail Sales per Capita, 2001
Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment, 1990 to 2000 • Employment in New Economy Jobs, 2000 • Unemployment Rate, 2000

Indicator Area	Community Surveys
Concern About Unemployment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percent of Residents Who Say Unemployment Is a “Big Problem”
Job Opportunities for Young People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percent of Residents Who Say There Are Excellent or Good Job Opportunities for Young People
Concern About Public Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percent of Residents Who Say Limited or Unreliable Public Transportation Is a “Big Problem”

The economic development indicators and survey findings highlight the great diversity in the 26 Knight communities. Highlighted here are some of the noteworthy differences and relationships among indicators.

- Real personal income per capita grew in all Knight communities between 1990 and 2000, but growth rates were particularly high in the highest-income communities. As a result, community rankings on personal income per capita remained stable over the decade.
- Real gross product per capita grew in all Knight communities between 1990 and 2000, but growth rates tended to be larger in communities with smaller economies. However, despite this growth, community rankings on gross product per capita did not change greatly over the decade.
- Employment grew in most Knight communities between 1990 and 2000, but three communities – Philadelphia and Wayne counties and the city of Long Beach – experienced declines in employment over this period.
- Fewer than 4 percent of workers were employed in technology-related occupations in all Knight communities except Boulder and Santa Clara counties, where about 10 percent of residents were employed in new economy jobs.
- Unemployment rates decreased in all Knight communities except Baldwin County between 1990 and 2000.
- Residents' perceptions about the problem of unemployment vary considerably across the Knight communities, but the proportion that view unemployment as a big problem increased significantly in all but two communities between 1999 and 2002.
- Residents' views about the problem of unemployment correspond very well with actual rates of unemployment in the community: concern about unemployment tends to be greater in communities with higher unemployment rates and smaller in communities with lower unemployment rates.



Personal Income per Capita

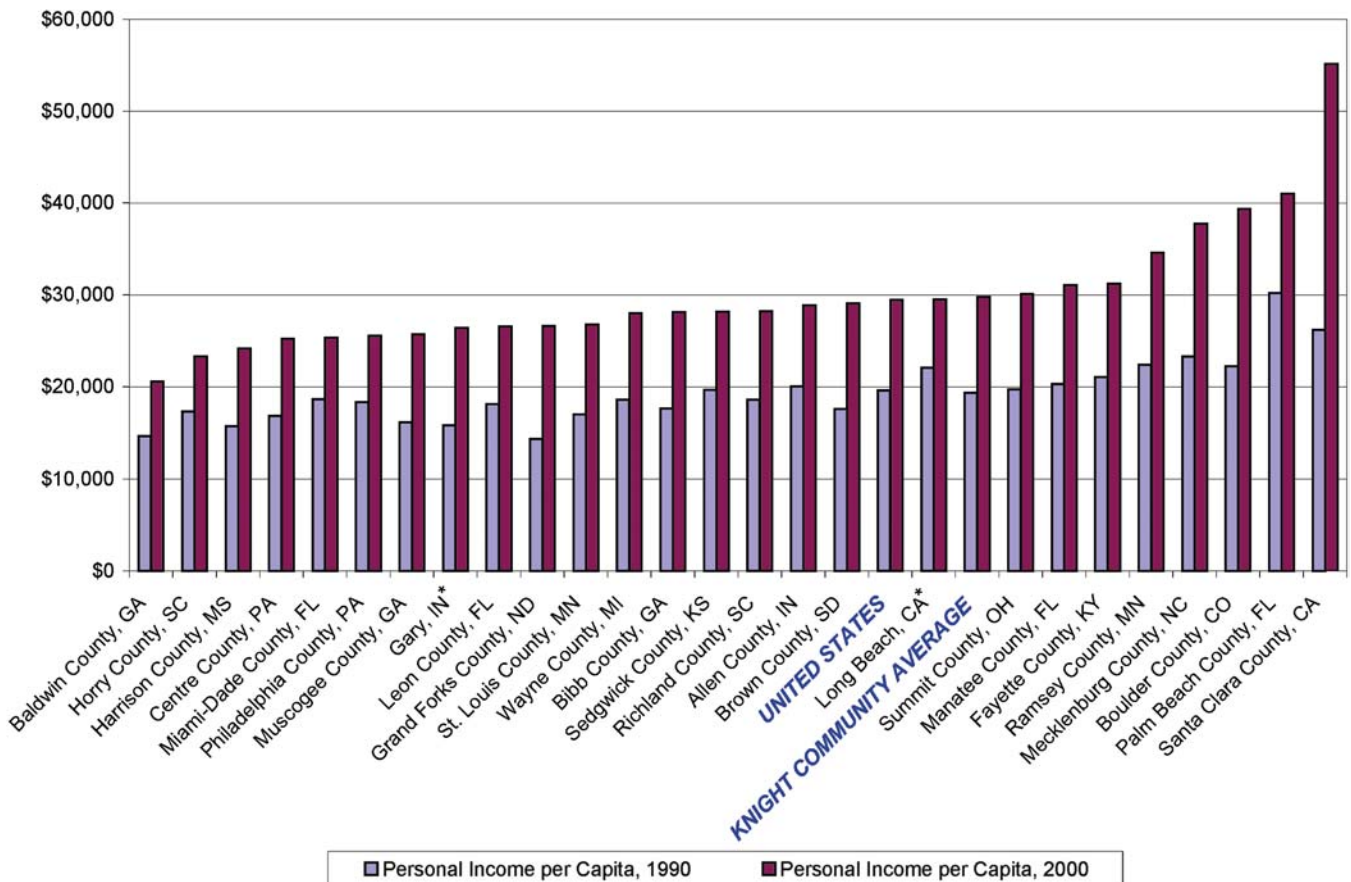
Personal income per capita describes the standard of living as well as the level of economic need of the average community resident. Personal income per capita can also be used to evaluate the impact of government actions and private initiatives on the average community resident. Real personal income per capita is adjusted to 1996 dollars.

Personal Income per Capita

Personal income per capita in the Knight communities averaged \$29,783 in 2000 – about 1 percent higher than the U.S. average of \$29,469. Santa Clara County had the highest personal income per capita at \$55,157. Personal income per capita exceeded \$31,000 in six other Knight communities – Boulder, Fayette, Manatee, Mecklenburg, Palm Beach and Ramsey counties. At the other end, personal income per capita was lowest in Baldwin County (\$20,556) and fell below \$26,000 in six other Knight communities – Centre, Harrison, Horry, Miami-Dade, Muscogee and Philadelphia counties.

Between 1990 and 2000, real personal income per capita in the Knight communities increased by an average of 23 percent – about 3 percentage points higher than the U.S. increase of 20 percent. However, growth in real personal income per capita varied considerably across the communities. Santa Clara County experienced the largest growth (68 percent) and was followed by seven communities with growth rates greater than 25 percent – Bibb, Boulder, Brown, Harrison, Mecklenburg, Muscogee and St. Louis counties. In contrast, real personal income per capita grew by less than 10 percent in three communities – Miami-Dade and Palm Beach counties and the city of Long Beach.

Personal Income per Capita (1990, 2000)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 2A

* Lake County and Los Angeles County were used in place of Gary and Long Beach because data were not available at the city level.

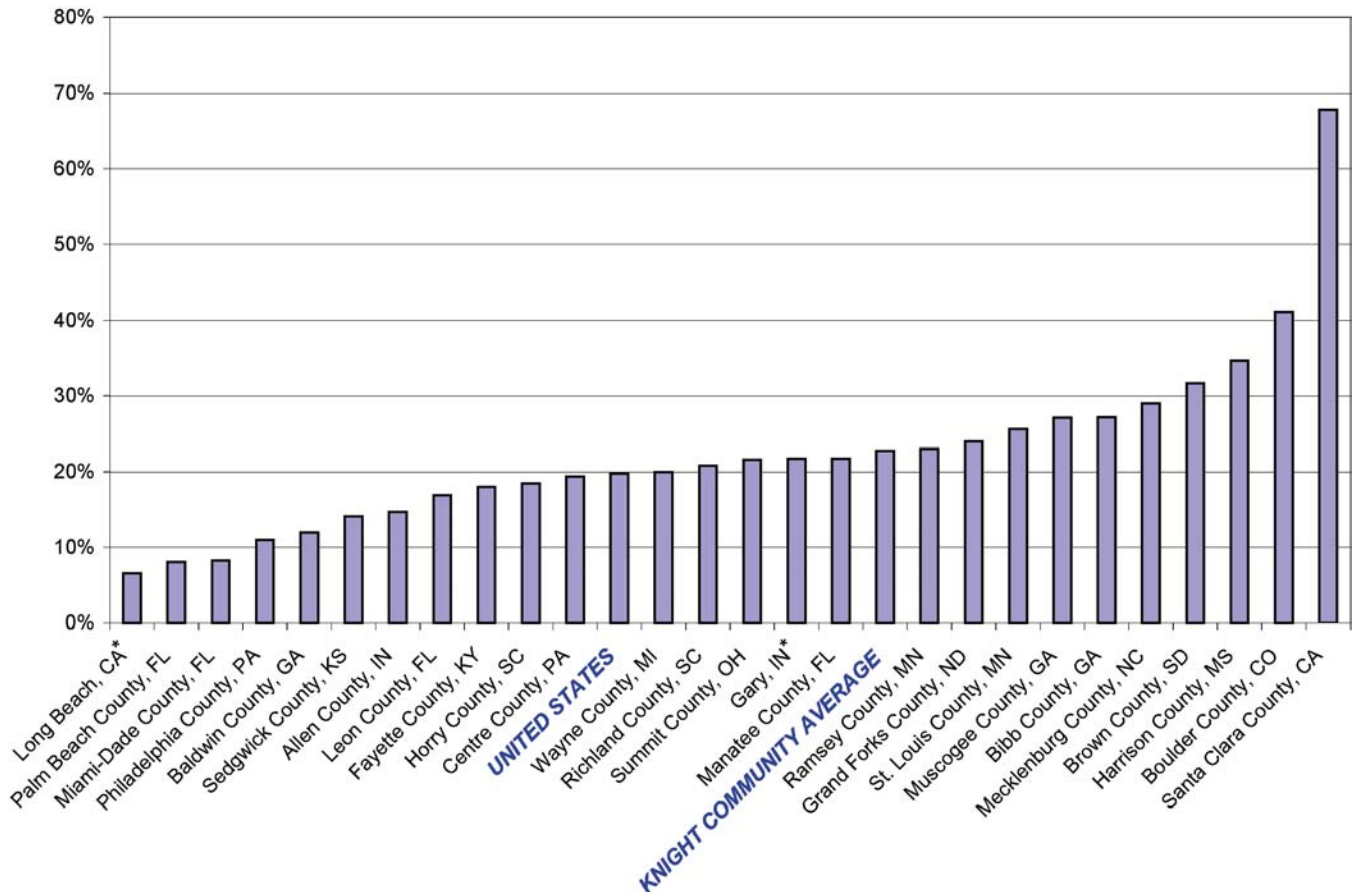
Associated Indicators

Growth in real personal income per capita was not consistently related to the income of the community in 1990. However, the wealthiest communities in 1990 tended to experience relatively high growth in real personal income per capita between 1990 and 2000. In four of these five communities – Boulder, Mecklenburg, Ramsey and Santa Clara counties – real personal income per capita grew, on average, by 40 percent between 1990 and 2000. Palm Beach County, however, stands out from the group: it had the second highest personal

income per capita in 1990 (\$30,201) but the second lowest personal income per capita growth rate (8.1 percent) between 1990 and 2000.

Community rankings on personal income per capita did not change greatly between 1990 and 2000. This is particularly true for the wealthiest communities – Boulder, Mecklenburg, Palm Beach, Ramsey and Santa Clara counties – which had the highest personal income per capita in both 1990 and 2000. At the other end, Baldwin, Centre and Harrison counties were among the six communities with the lowest personal income per capita in both years.

Growth in Real Personal Income per Capita (1990–2000)



* Lake County and Los Angeles County were used in place of Gary and Long Beach because data were not available at the city level.

Income Distribution

Wide gaps in income between the wealthiest and poorest residents of a community could act as a brake on economic development and contribute to social and political instability. A more even distribution of income, in contrast, could facilitate economic development by drawing on a pool of resources from a broader base of community residents.

Indicator Description

Income distribution is measured in two ways. One is with a Gini Index, which considers the share of income received by corresponding shares of the population. The values on the Gini Index range from 0 to 1, with a value of 0 indicating that each individual or household receives the same share of total income and a value of 1 indicating that all income is concentrated in a single individual or household. Lower values on the Gini Index indicate smaller divergence from income equality; larger values indicate greater disparity in income.

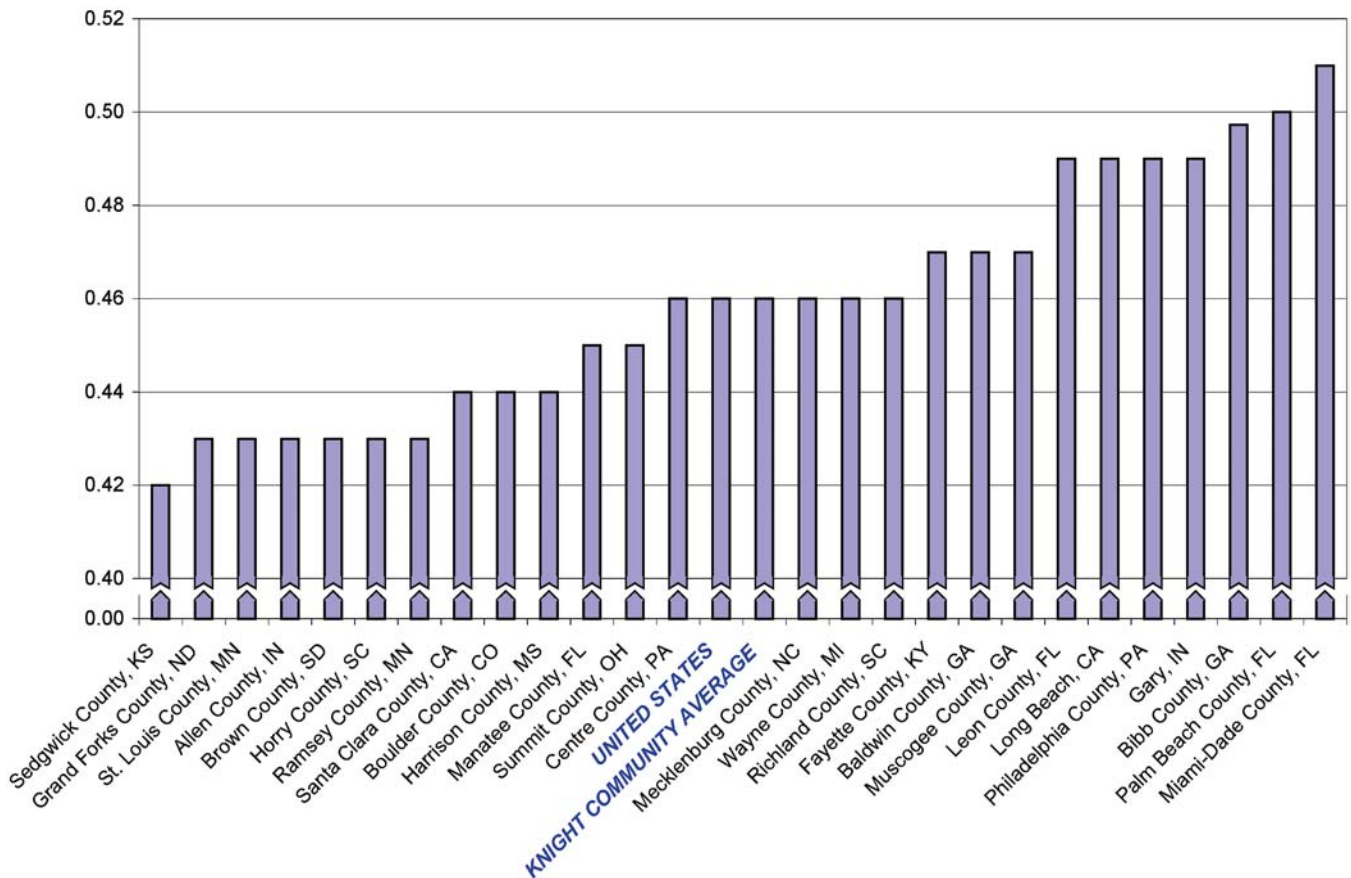
A second measure is the share of total income earned by individuals in the top quintile in personal

income. This measure reflects the concentration of income in the wealthiest 20 percent of community residents.

Income Distribution

In 1999, the Knight communities did not differ greatly from one another in the distribution of personal income of their residents, based on the Gini Index. Income disparity was greatest in Bibb, Miami-Dade and Palm Beach counties, each with a Gini Index at or above 0.50. At the other end of the spectrum, Sedgwick County had the least income disparity, with a Gini Index of 0.42. Income disparity was also relatively small in six

Income Distribution – Gini Index (1999)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 2B

other Knight communities – Allen, Brown, Grand Forks, Horry, Ramsey and St. Louis counties – all with a Gini Index of 0.43.

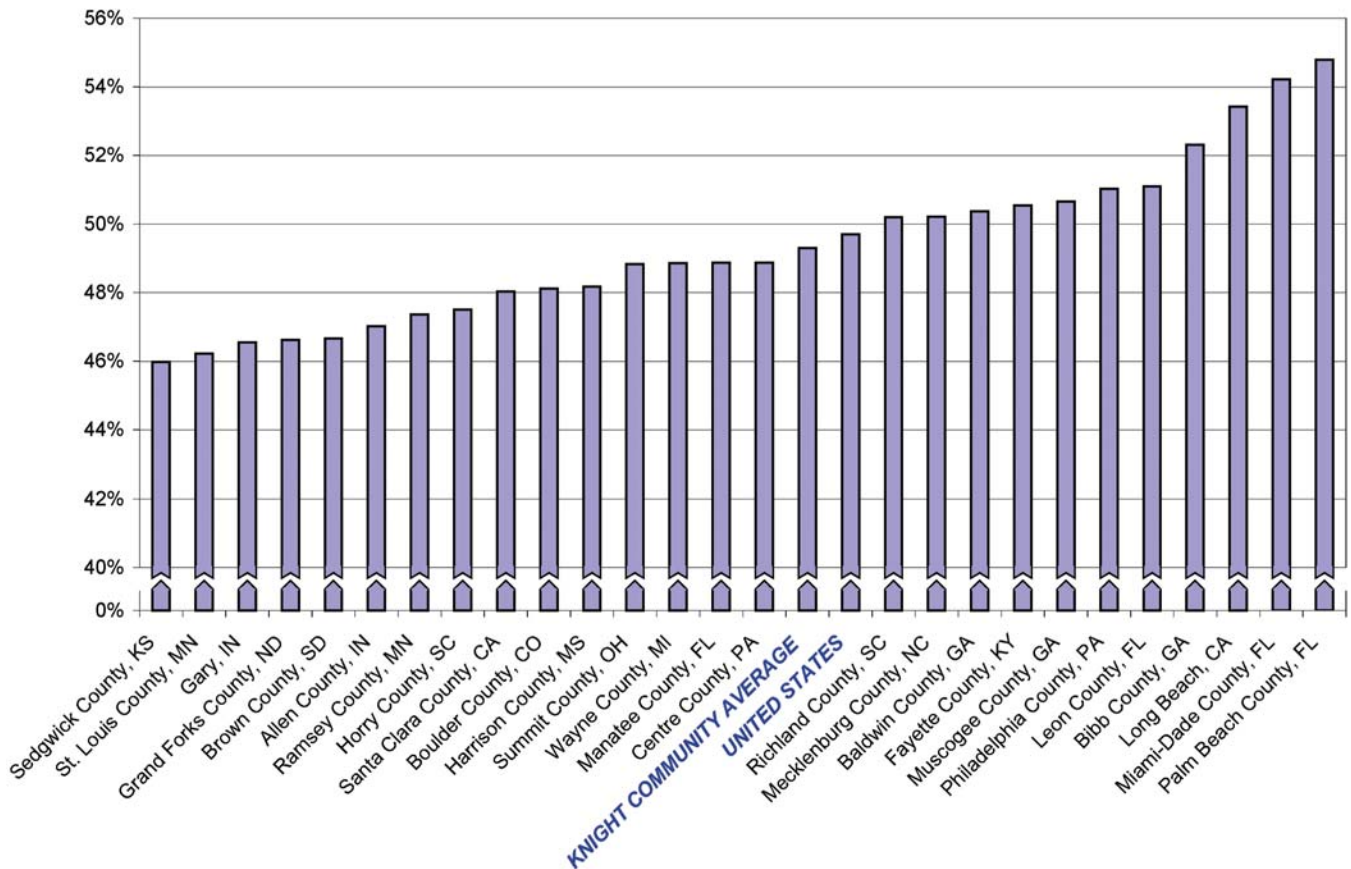
The concentration of personal income in the wealthiest 20 percent of community residents also did not vary significantly across the Knight communities. The proportion of income received by the top fifth of the population ranged from 46 percent in Sedgwick and St. Louis counties to 55 percent in Palm Beach County.

The wealthiest 20 percent of residents received at least 51 percent of personal income in six Knight communities – Bibb, Leon, Miami-Dade, Palm Beach and Philadelphia counties and the city of Long Beach. They received less than 47 percent of personal income in five other communities – Brown, Grand Forks, Sedgwick and St. Louis counties and the city of Gary.

Associated Indicators

The amount of income disparity in a community showed little relationship with a community’s income level. Palm Beach County, with the second-highest personal income per capita in 2000, had the greatest income disparity of all Knight communities, whereas Ramsey County, another high-income community, had a relatively low index of income disparity. At the other end of the spectrum, Miami-Dade County, a relatively low-income community, had a high level of income disparity, whereas Horry County, another relatively low-income community, had a low index of income disparity.

Share of Personal Income Received by Wealthiest Quintile of Residents (1999)



Wages and Salaries per Job

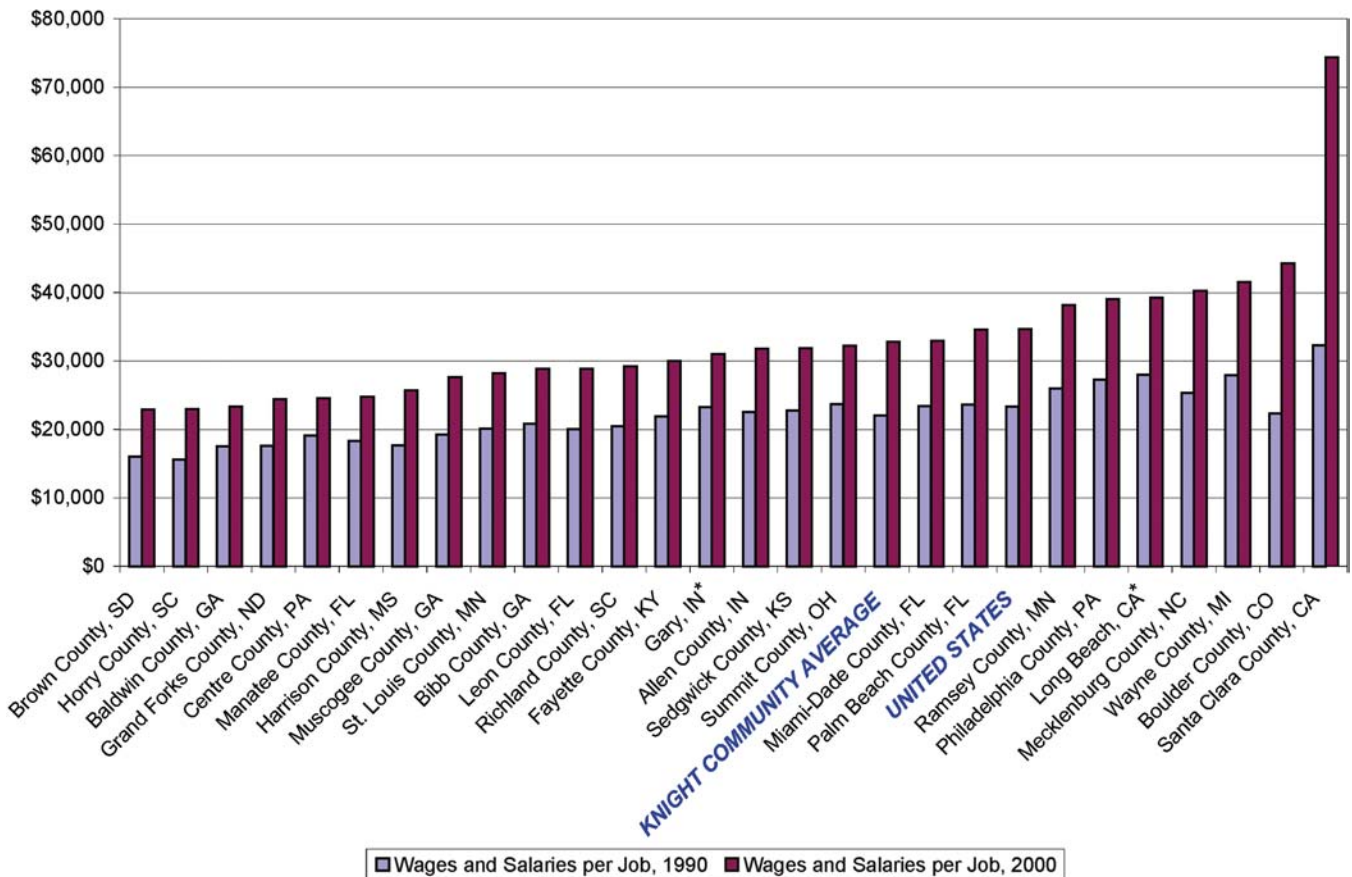
Total wage and salary disbursements are divided by the total number of full- and part-time jobs. Changes in average wages and salaries indicate changes in the standard of living, the level of economic well-being of residents and the relative economic health of the community. Real wages and salaries per job are adjusted to 1996 dollars.

Wages and Salaries per Job

In 2000, wages and salaries in the Knight communities averaged \$32,803 – about 6 percent lower than the U.S. average of \$34,652. Santa Clara County had average wages and salaries of \$74,374, which were the highest among the Knight communities, followed by Boulder County at \$44,237. Wages and salaries per job exceeded \$38,000 in five other Knight communities – Mecklenburg, Philadelphia, Ramsey and Wayne counties and the city of Long Beach. In contrast, average wages and salaries were lowest in Brown County at \$22,876 and fell below \$25,000 in five other Knight communities – Baldwin, Centre, Grand Forks, Horry and Manatee counties.

Between 1990 and 2000, real wages and salaries per job in the Knight communities increased by an average of 19 percent – about the same as the 18 percent increase in the U.S. average. Over this period, growth in real wages and salaries per job varied across the communities. Santa Clara, Boulder and Mecklenburg counties experienced growth that significantly outpaced the other communities – 83 percent, 58 percent and 26 percent, respectively. In contrast, real wages and salaries per job grew by less than 10 percent in six communities – Baldwin, Centre, Fayette, Manatee and Summit counties and the city of Gary – and between 10 and 13 percent in seven other communities.

Wages and Salaries per Job (1990, 2000)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 2C

* Lake County and Los Angeles County were used in place of Gary and Long Beach because data were not available at the city level.

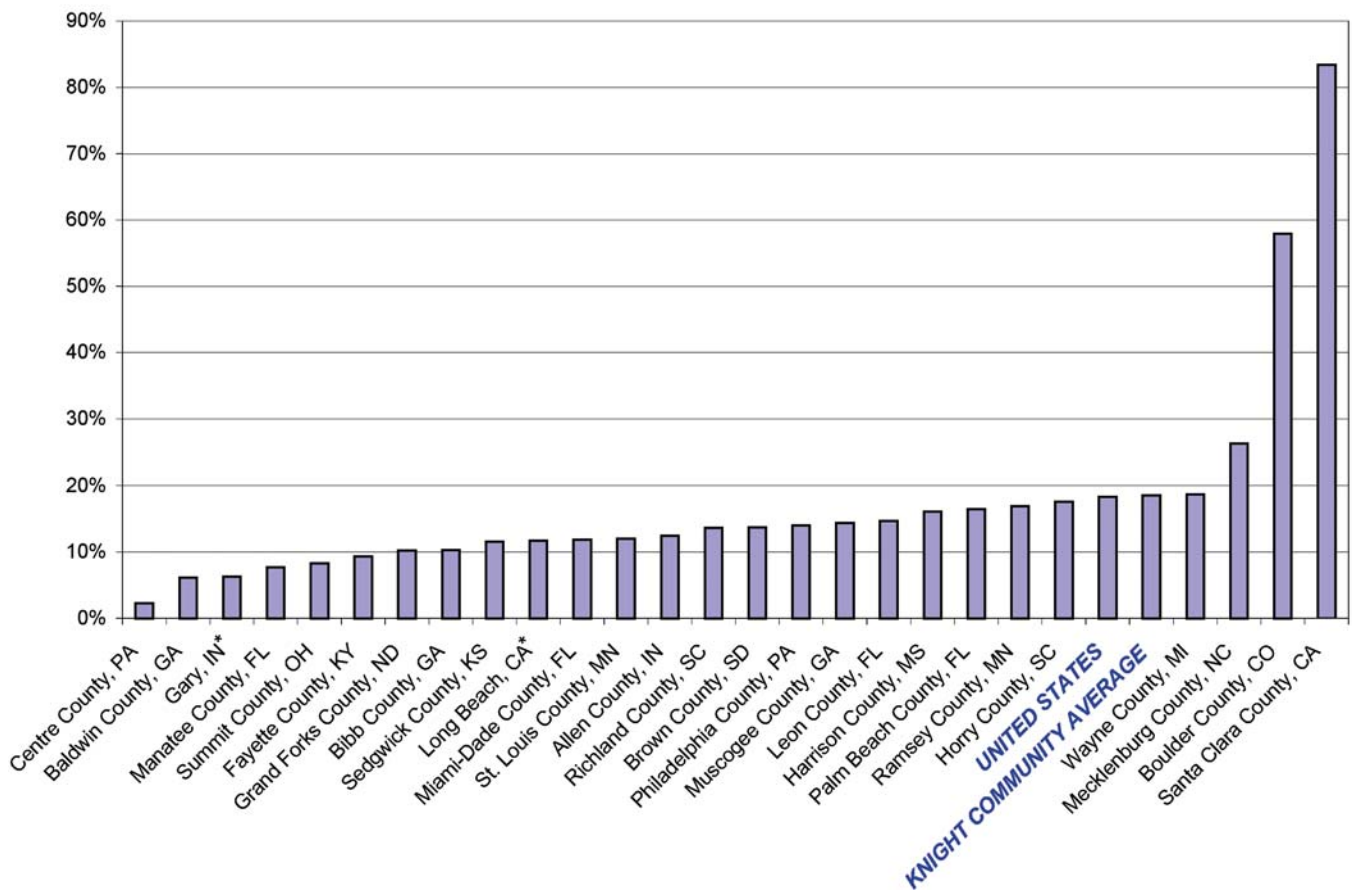
Associated Indicators

Growth in average wages and salaries between 1990 and 2000 tended to relate to the average wages and salaries in a community in 1990. Four of the seven communities with the highest wages and salaries per job in 1990 – Mecklenburg, Ramsey, Santa Clara and Wayne counties – were also among the seven communities with the highest growth in wages and salaries between 1990 and 2000. At the other end, four of the seven communities with the lowest average wages and salaries – Baldwin, Centre, Grand Forks and Manatee counties – were also among the seven with the least growth over this period. Horry County stands out because it had the lowest average wages and salaries in

1990 but was among the seven communities with the highest growth in wages and salaries. Summit County also stands out because it was among the communities with the highest wages and salaries in 1990 but experienced relatively low growth between 1999 and 2000.

Community rankings on average wages and salaries did not change substantially between 1990 and 2000, with five communities – Mecklenburg, Philadelphia, Ramsey, Santa Clara and Wayne counties and the city of Long Beach – having the highest wages and salaries per job in both years. Seven communities – Baldwin, Brown, Centre, Grand Forks, Harrison, Horry and Manatee counties had the lowest average wages and salaries in both years.

Growth in Real Wages and Salaries per Job (1990–2000)



* Lake County and Los Angeles County were used in place of Gary and Long Beach because data were not available at the city level.

Gross Product per Capita

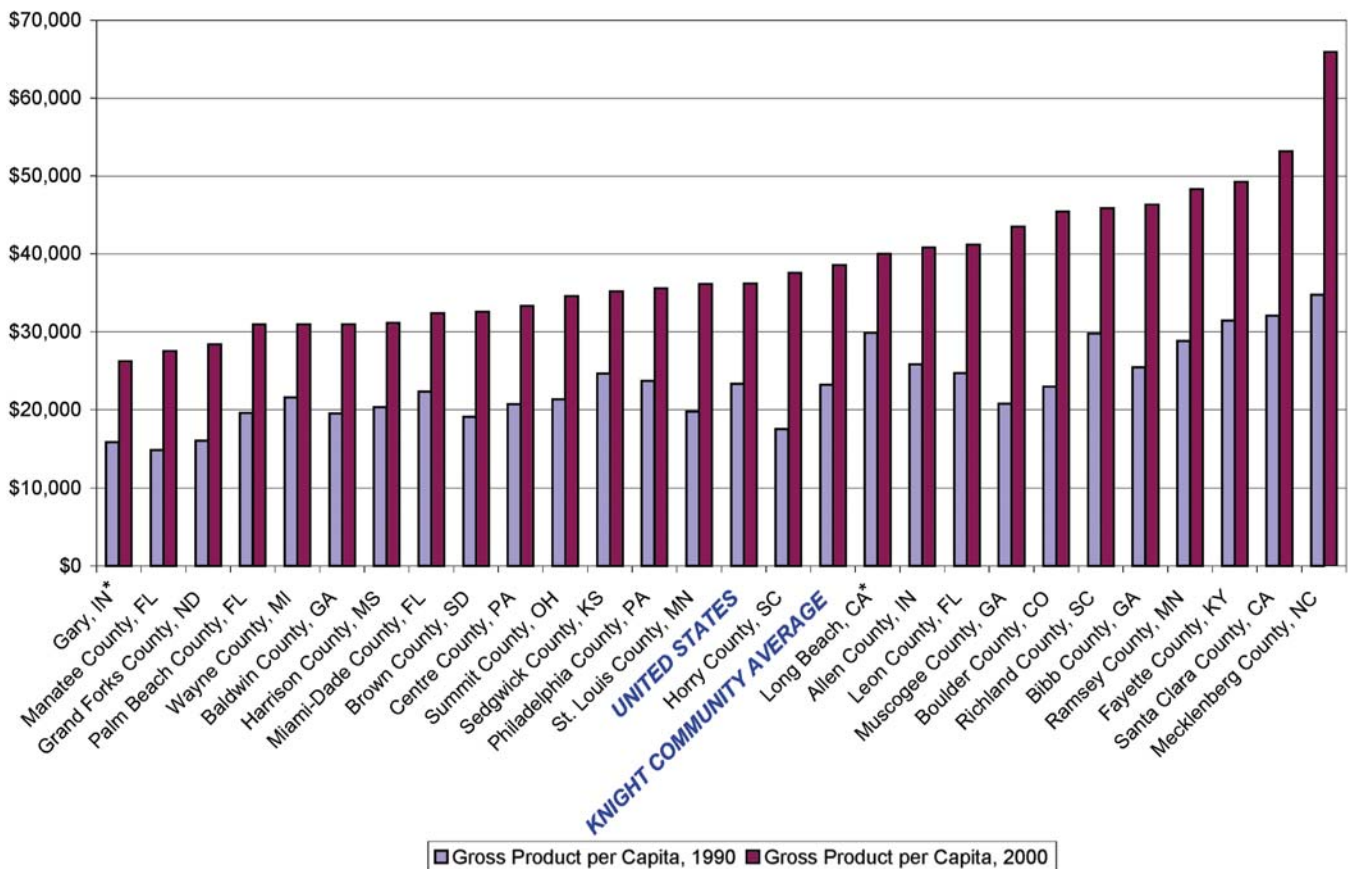
Gross product per capita is the total market value of all goods and services produced in a community divided by its total population. It measures the size of the local economy and the average standard of living of community residents. Real gross product per capita is adjusted to 1996 dollars.

Gross Product per Capita

Gross product per capita in the Knight communities averaged \$38,575 in 2000 – almost 7 percent higher than the U.S. average of \$36,205. Mecklenburg County had the highest gross product per capita (\$65,293); gross product per capita exceeded \$45,000 in six other Knight communities – Bibb, Boulder, Harrison, Horry, Manatee, Mecklenburg, Muscogee and St. Louis counties. In contrast, real gross product per capita fell below \$30,000 in Grand Forks and Manatee counties and the city of Gary.

Between 1990 and 2000, real gross product per capita in the Knight communities increased by an average of 35 percent – about 10 percentage points higher than the U.S. increase of 25 percent. However, growth in real gross product per capita varied across the communities. Real growth rates exceeded 45 percent in Bibb, Boulder, Harrison, Horry, Manatee, Mecklenburg, Muscogee and St. Louis counties. In contrast, real gross product per capita grew by less than 20 percent over the period in four communities – Miami-Dade, Sedgwick and Wayne counties and the city of Long Beach.

Gross Product per Capita (1990, 2000)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 2D

* Lake County and Los Angeles County were used in place of Gary and Long Beach because data were not available at the city level.

Associated Indicators

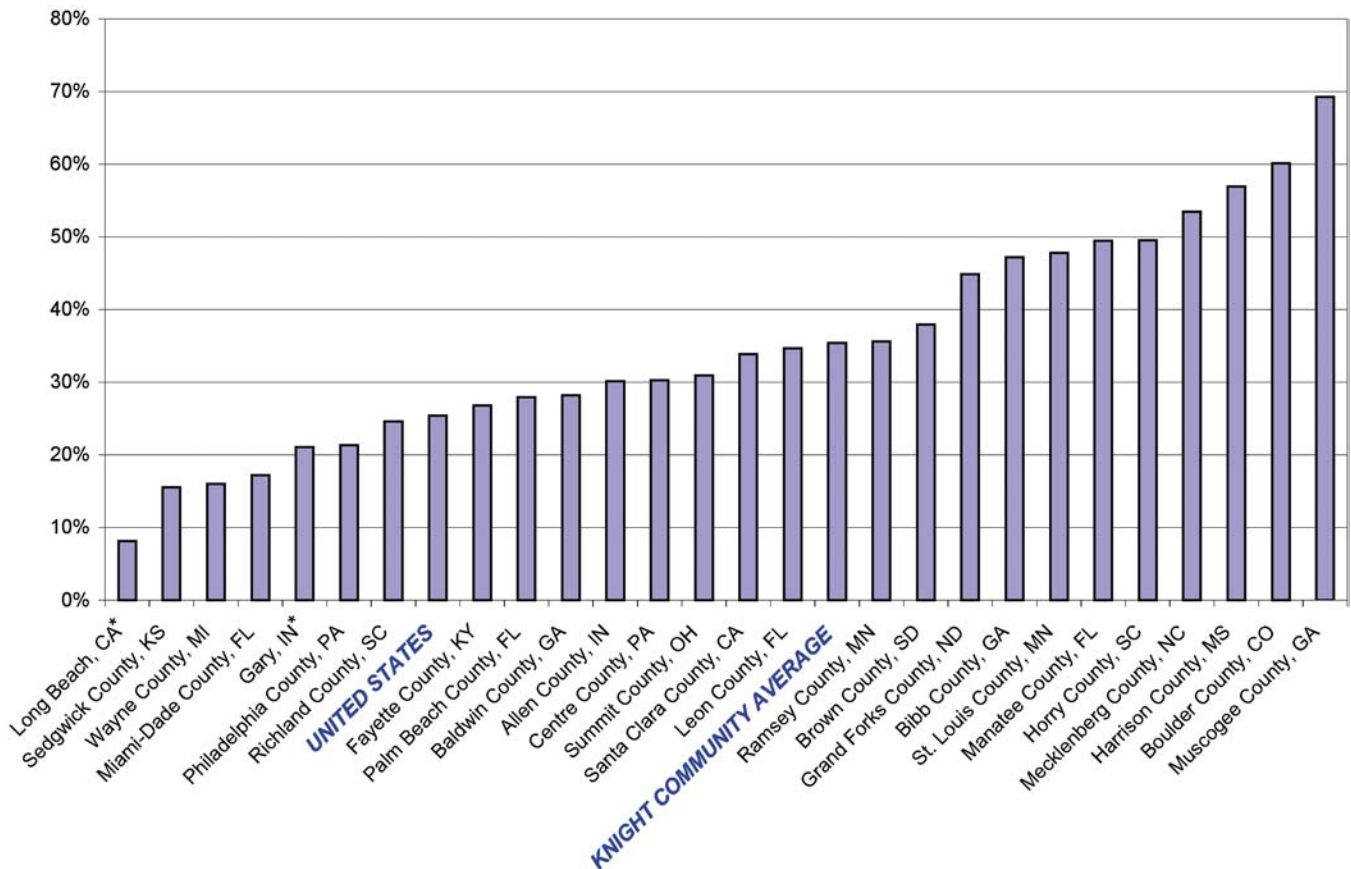
Growth in real gross product per capita was not consistently related to the size of the community’s economy in 1990. However, communities with the lowest gross product per capita in 1990 tended to experience relatively high growth in real gross product per capita between 1990 and 2000, whereas communities with the largest economies tended to have lower growth rates over the decade. In the five communities with the smallest gross product per capita in 1990 – Brown, Grand Forks, Horry and Manatee counties and the city of Gary – real gross product per capita grew, on average, by 41 percent. In contrast, in the five communities with the largest gross product per capita in 1990 – Fayette, Mecklenburg, Santa Clara and Richland counties and the city of Long Beach – real gross product per capita grew, on average, by 29 percent over the decade.

Several Knight communities differed from this pattern. Mecklenburg County, for example, had the

largest economy in 1990, with a gross product per capita of \$34,721, and the fourth largest increase in real gross product per capita between 1990 and 2000 (54 percent). In contrast, the city of Gary, a community with the second lowest gross product per capita in 1990 (\$15,814), experienced relatively small growth in real gross product per capita over the decade (21 percent).

Although communities with the smallest economies in 1990 tended to have higher growth rates than communities with the largest economies, community rankings on gross product per capita did not change greatly between 1990 and 2000. Five communities – Fayette, Mecklenburg, Ramsey, Richland and Santa Clara counties – were among the six with the highest gross product per capita in both 1990 and 2000. Five other communities – Baldwin, Grand Forks, Harrison and Manatee counties and the city of Gary – were among the six with the lowest gross product per capita in both years.

Growth in Real Gross Product per Capita (1990–2000)



* Lake County and Los Angeles County were used in place of Gary and Long Beach because data were not available at the city level.

Retail Sales per Capita

Retail sales per capita measure one aspect of consumer spending, which is the consumption component of gross product per capita. Real retail sales per capita are adjusted to 1996 dollars.

Retail Sales per Capita

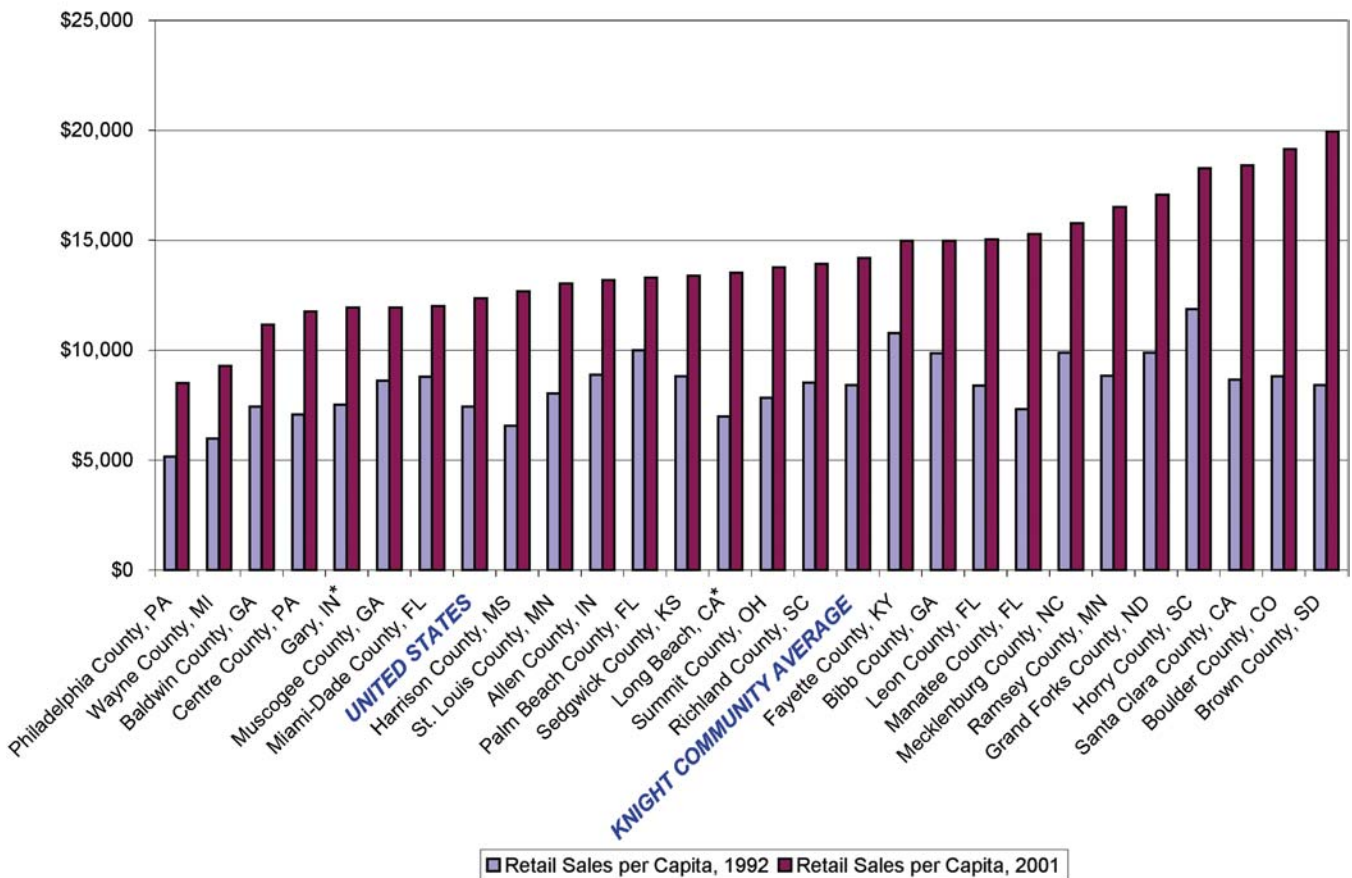
In 2001, retail sales per capita averaged \$14,188 in the Knight communities – about 15 percent higher than the U.S. average of \$12,362. Retail sales per capita in Brown County (\$19,958), the highest among Knight communities, were 2 1/3 times the sales in Philadelphia County (\$8,513), the community with the lowest retail sales per capita.

Retail sales per capita exceeded \$17,000 in 2001 in Boulder, Brown, Grand Forks, Horry and Santa Clara counties; they fell below \$12,000 per capita in Baldwin, Centre, Muscogee, Philadelphia and Wayne counties and the city of Gary.

Between 1992 and 2001, real retail sales per capita increased by an average of 41 percent in the Knight communities – about 2 percentage points higher than the U.S. increase of 39 percent. Although no community experienced a decline over the period, some communities experienced much higher rates of growth than others.

Boulder and Brown counties experienced the largest growth in real retail sales per capita (82 and 98 percent, respectively), and five other communities – Harrison, Manatee, Ramsey, and Santa Clara counties and the city of Long Beach – saw real retail sales per capita increase by more than 50 percent. In contrast, real retail sales per capita increased by less than 20 percent in four Knight

Retail Sales per Capita (1992, 2001)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 2E

* Lake County and Los Angeles County were used in place of Gary and Long Beach because data were not available at the city level.

communities – Palm Beach, Miami-Dade, Muscogee and Fayette counties.

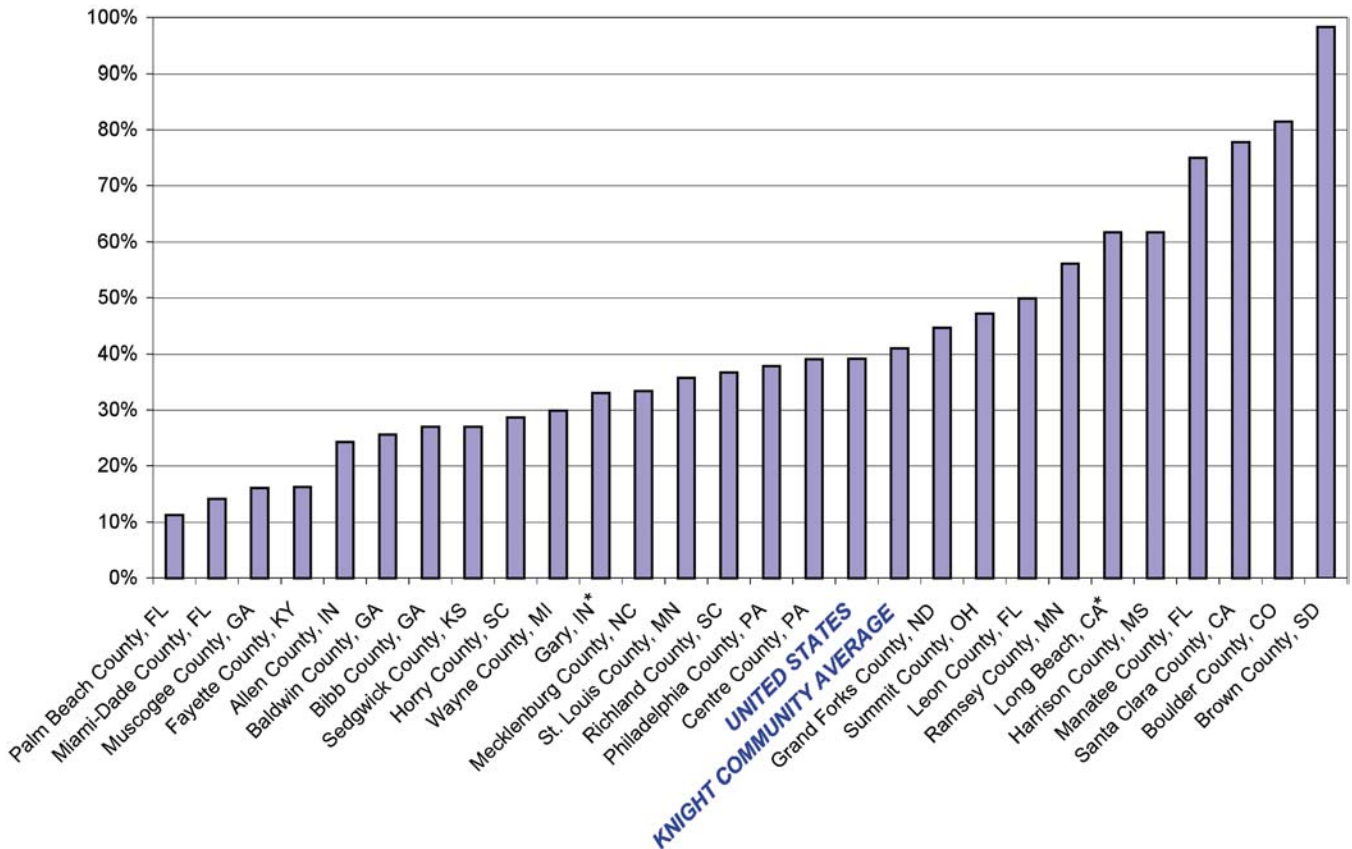
Associated Indicators

Overall, there was no consistent association between a community’s growth in retail sales per capita between 1992 and 2001 and the size of its retail sector in 1992. However, communities with the lowest retail sales per capita in 1992 tended to experience relatively high growth in real retail sales per capita between 1992 and 2001, whereas communities with the largest retail sector tended to have lower growth rates over the decade. In three of the communities with the smallest retail sales per capita in 1992 – Harrison and Manatee counties and

the city of Long Beach – real retail sales per capita grew, on average, by 66 percent between 1992 and 2001. In contrast, in five of the communities with the largest retail sales per capita in 1992 – Bibb, Fayette, Horry, Mecklenburg and Palm Beach counties – real retail sales per capita grew, on average, by only 23 percent over this period.

Community rankings on retail sales per capita differed in 1992 and 2001. However, two communities – Philadelphia and Wayne counties – had the two smallest retail sectors in both 1992 and 2001. At the other end, Grand Forks and Horry counties were among the five communities with the highest retail sales per capita in both years.

Growth in Real Retail Sales per Capita (1992–2001)



* Lake County and Los Angeles County were used in place of Gary and Long Beach because data were not available at the city level.

Employment

Employment indicates a critical part of a community's economic health: the employment prospects for community members. Employment includes full- and part-time jobs. Change in employment is compared with change in population to examine whether the local economy is keeping pace with changes in the local population.

Employment

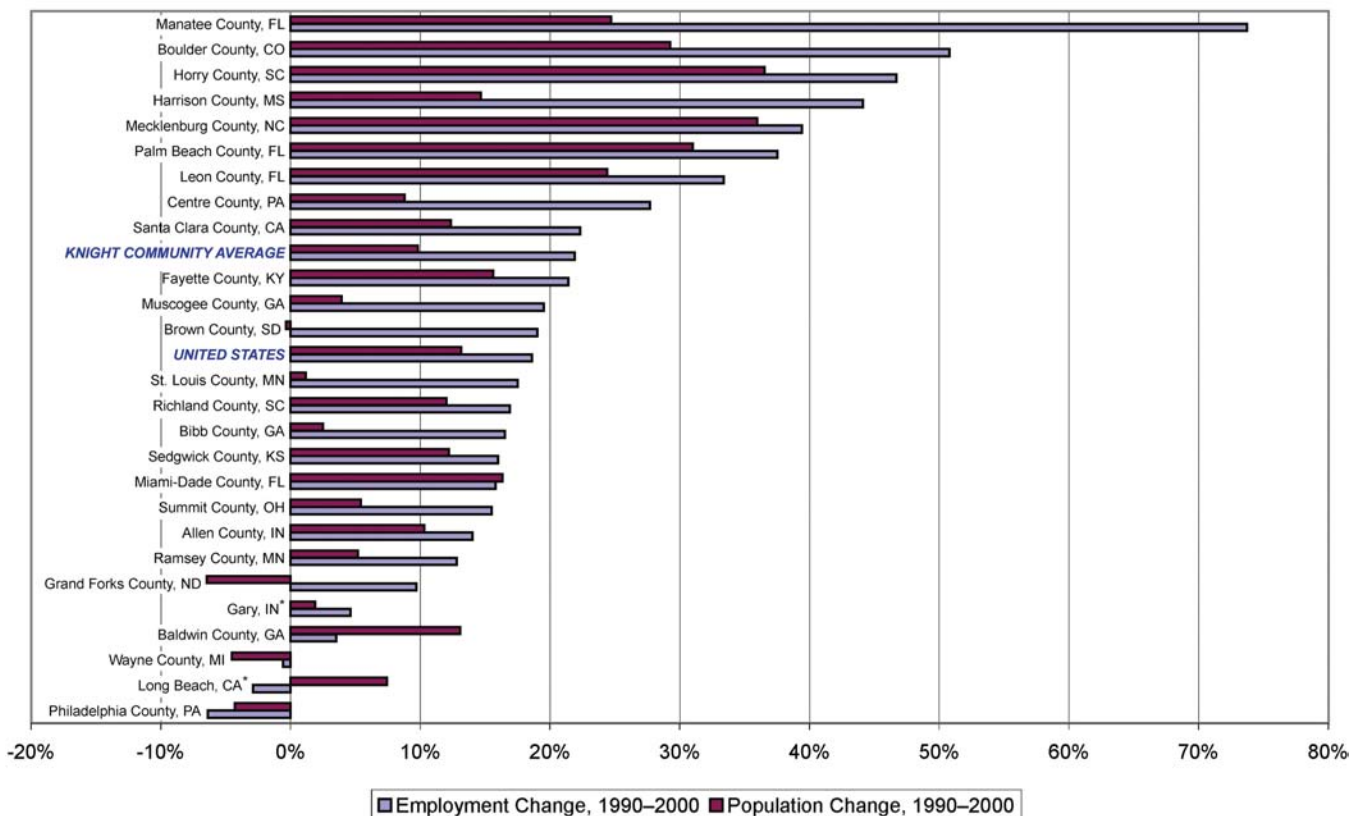
Between 1990 and 2000, employment in the Knight communities increased by an average of 22 percent – about 3 percentage points higher than the U.S. increase of 19 percent. However, employment change was quite varied across the communities. Manatee County experienced the highest employment growth (74 percent), and six other Knight communities – Boulder, Harrison, Horry, Leon, Mecklenburg and Palm Beach counties – had growth rates of over 30 percent. At the other end, five communities – Allen, Baldwin, Grand Forks and Ramsay counties and the city of Gary – had growth rates below 15 percent over the period, and Philadelphia and Wayne counties and the city of Long Beach experienced declines in employment.

Associated Indicators

In most Knight communities, population growth was accompanied by growth in employment during the 1990s; in 21 of the 26 communities, employment growth exceeded population growth over the period. Three Knight communities – Boulder, Harrison and Manatee counties – stand out in this respect: employment growth outpaced population growth in these communities between 1990 and 2000 by 22, 29 and 49 percentage points, respectively.

Employment did not keep pace with population in four Knight communities over the period – Baldwin, Miami-Dade and Philadelphia counties and the city of Long Beach – where population outpaced employment by between 1 and 10 percentage points.

Change in Employment and Population (1990–2000)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 2F

* Lake County and Los Angeles County were used in place of Gary and Long Beach because data were not available at the city level.

Employment in New Economy Jobs

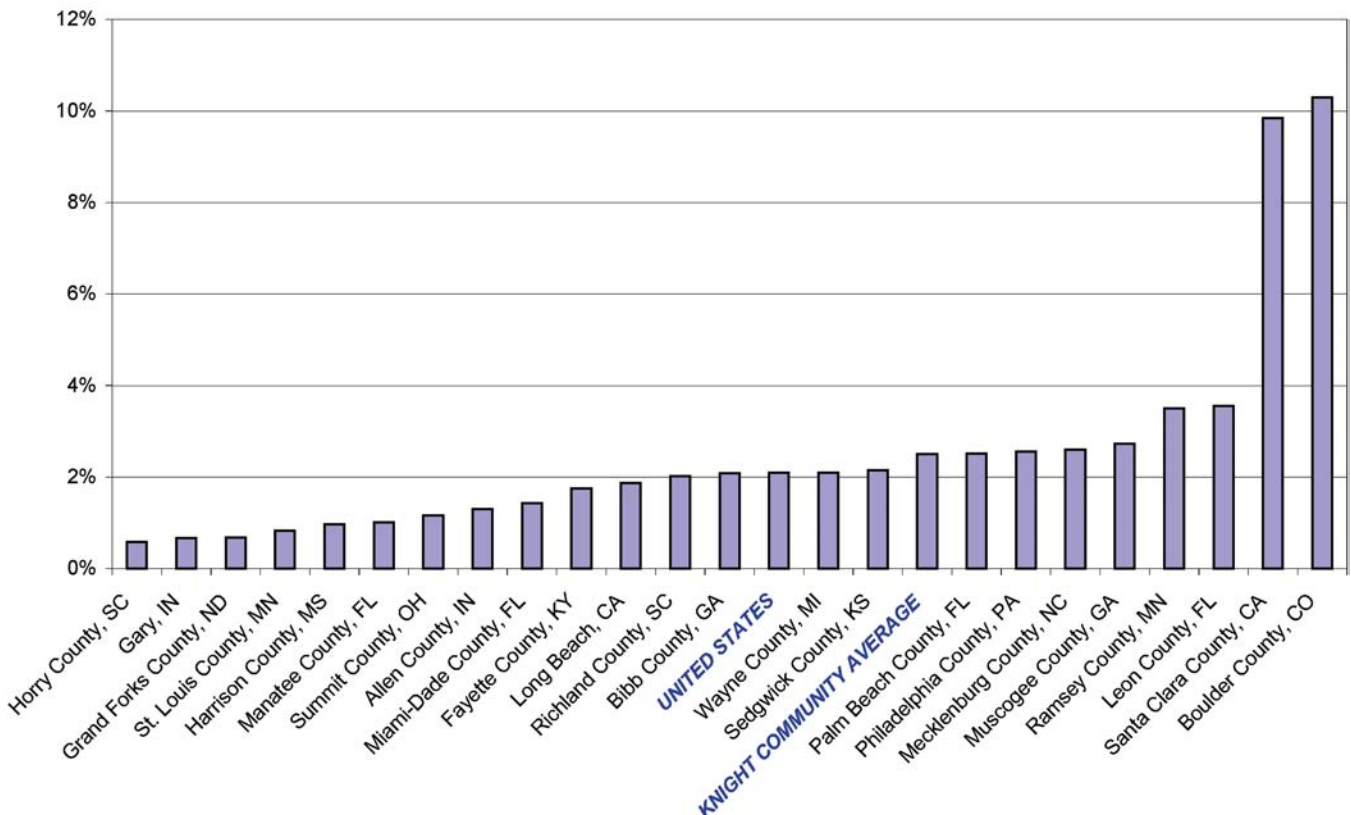
Employment in new economy jobs indicates the percentage of community members who worked at least one hour in technology-related occupations. New economy jobs include computer and mathematics occupations, such as computer programmers, computer systems analysts and computer software engineers. Individuals holding more than one job are counted in this estimate only once.

Employment in New Economy Jobs

In 2000, an average of 2.5 percent of workers in Knight communities were employed in new economy jobs – a figure slightly higher than the 2.1 percent in the United States overall. The highest percentage of workers was employed in new economy jobs in Boulder and Santa Clara counties – 10.3 and 9.8 percent, respectively. In four Knight communities – Grand Forks, Horry and St. Louis counties and the city of Gary – new technology jobs comprised less than 1 percent of all jobs.

Between 1999 and 2000, new economy employment increased at a faster rate in the Knight communities, on average, than in the United States – by 0.4 percentage point in the former compared with 0.1 percentage points in the latter. In terms of jobs, the technology industry grew between 1999 and 2000 in all but four communities – Manatee, Miami-Dade, Richland and Wayne counties – all of which experienced a modest decline. The largest increases were in Boulder and Santa Clara counties – 1.9 and 1.4 percentage points, respectively.

New Economy Employment (2000)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 2G

Baldwin County, GA, Brown County, SD and Centre County, PA were excluded from the graph because data were not available for these communities.

Metropolitan area data were used in place of city and county-level data because occupational data were not available at the city and county levels.

Unemployment Rate

The unemployment rate is the percentage of the civilian labor force (age 16 and older and not in the military) that is unemployed. This includes only those individuals who were actively looking for work and available to accept a job.

Unemployment Rate

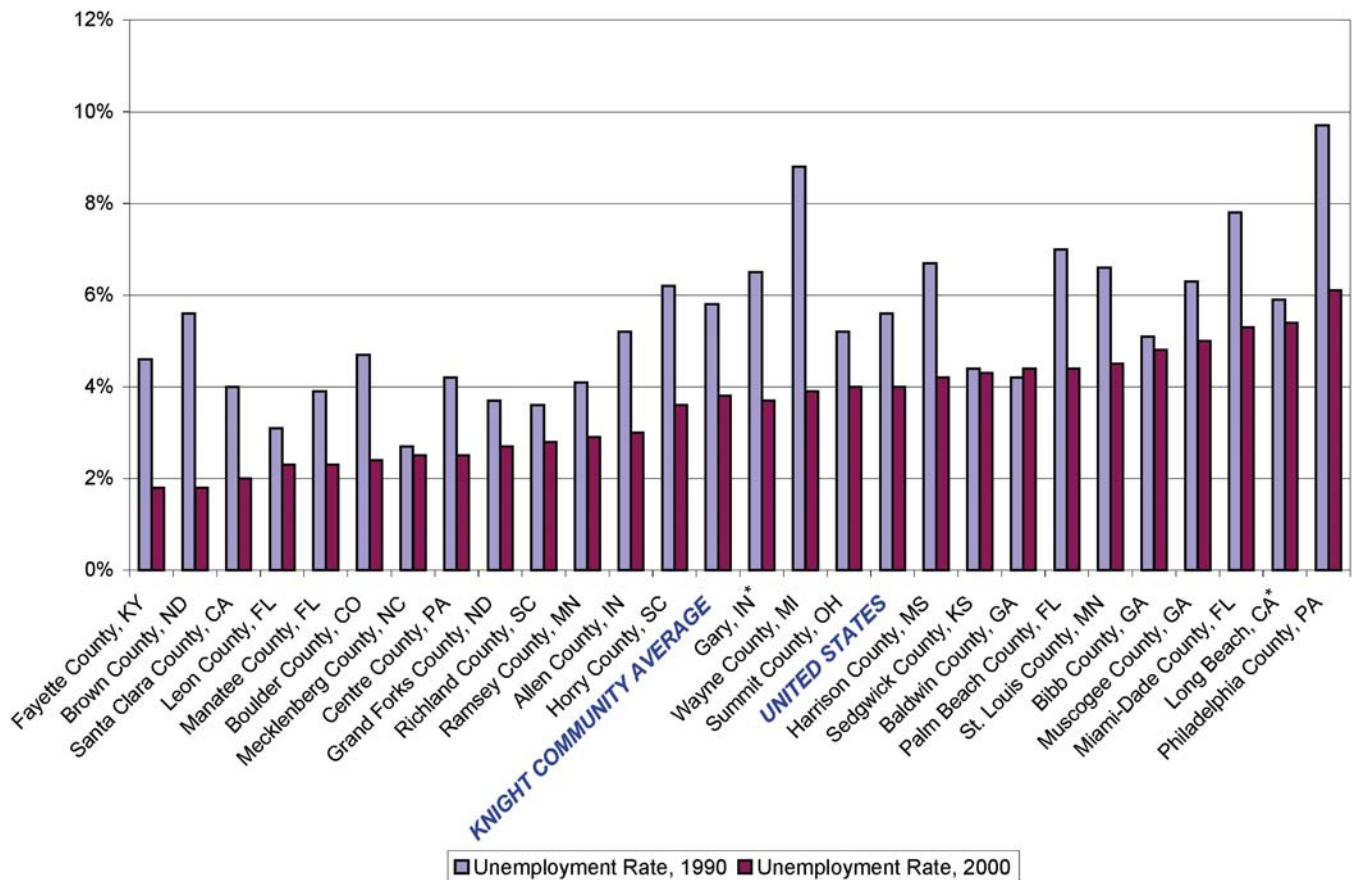
Unemployment in 2000 averaged 3.8 percent in the Knight communities – slightly lower than the U.S. average of 4.0 percent. Philadelphia County had the highest unemployment rate at 6.1 percent; unemployment was equal to or greater than 5 percent of the labor force in three additional communities – Miami-Dade and Muscogee counties and the city of Long Beach. In contrast, the unemployment rate was at or below 2 percent in three Knight communities – Brown, Fayette and Santa Clara counties.

Unemployment in the Knight communities decreased, on average, by 2.0 percentage points between 1990 and 2000 – slightly more than the U.S. decrease of

1.6 percentage points. Unemployment rates decreased in all communities except Baldwin County, where the increase was only 0.2 percentage point.

Although nearly all Knight communities experienced declines in unemployment rates over the decade, the rates of decline showed a considerable range. Wayne County experienced a decline of nearly 5 percentage points and two other communities – Brown and Philadelphia counties – experienced declines of more than 3 percentage points. In contrast, six communities – Bibb, Leon, Mecklenburg, Richland and Sedgwick counties and the city of Long Beach – experienced declines in unemployment rates of less than 1 percentage point over the decade.

Unemployment Rate (1990, 2000)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 2H

* Lake County and Los Angeles County were used in place of Gary and Long Beach because data were not available at the city level.

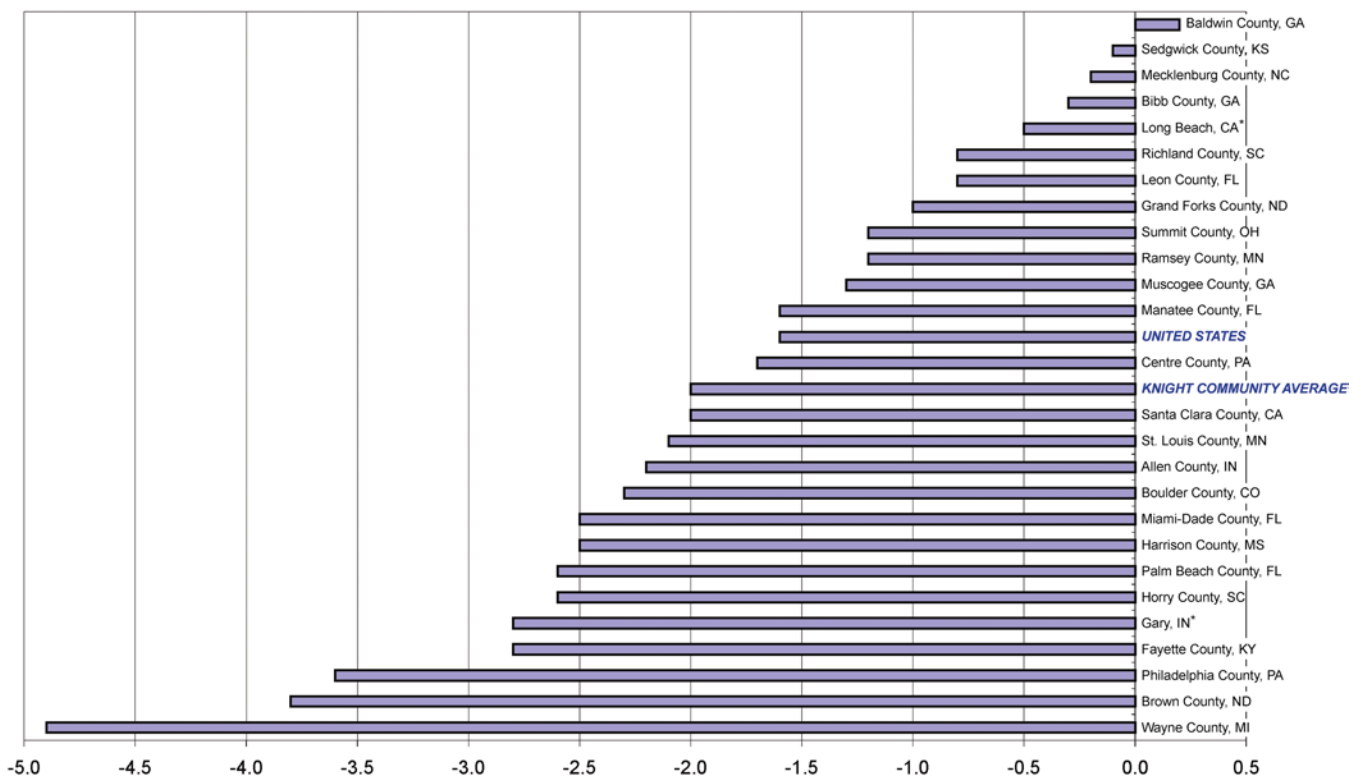
Associated Indicators

Knight communities with higher unemployment rates in 1990 tended to experience larger decreases in unemployment over this period, and vice versa. In the five communities with the highest unemployment rates in 1990 – Harrison, Miami-Dade, Palm Beach, Philadelphia, and Wayne counties – the unemployment rate decreased by more than 3 percentage points, on average, between 1990 and 2000. In the five communities with the lowest unemployment rates in

1990 – Grand Forks, Leon, Manatee, Mecklenburg and Richland counties – unemployment decreased by less than 1 percentage point, on average, over this period.

Despite these changes, community rankings on unemployment did not change significantly between 1990 and 2000. Leon, Manatee, Mecklenburg and Santa Clara counties were among the communities with the lowest unemployment rates in both 1990 and 2000; Miami-Dade, Palm Beach, Philadelphia and St. Louis counties were among the communities with the highest unemployment rates in both years.

Percentage Point Change in Unemployment Rate (1990–2000)



* Lake County and Los Angeles County were used in place of Gary and Long Beach because data were not available at the city level.

Concern About Unemployment

The percentage of residents who say that unemployment is a “big problem” in their community is the measure of concern about this issue.

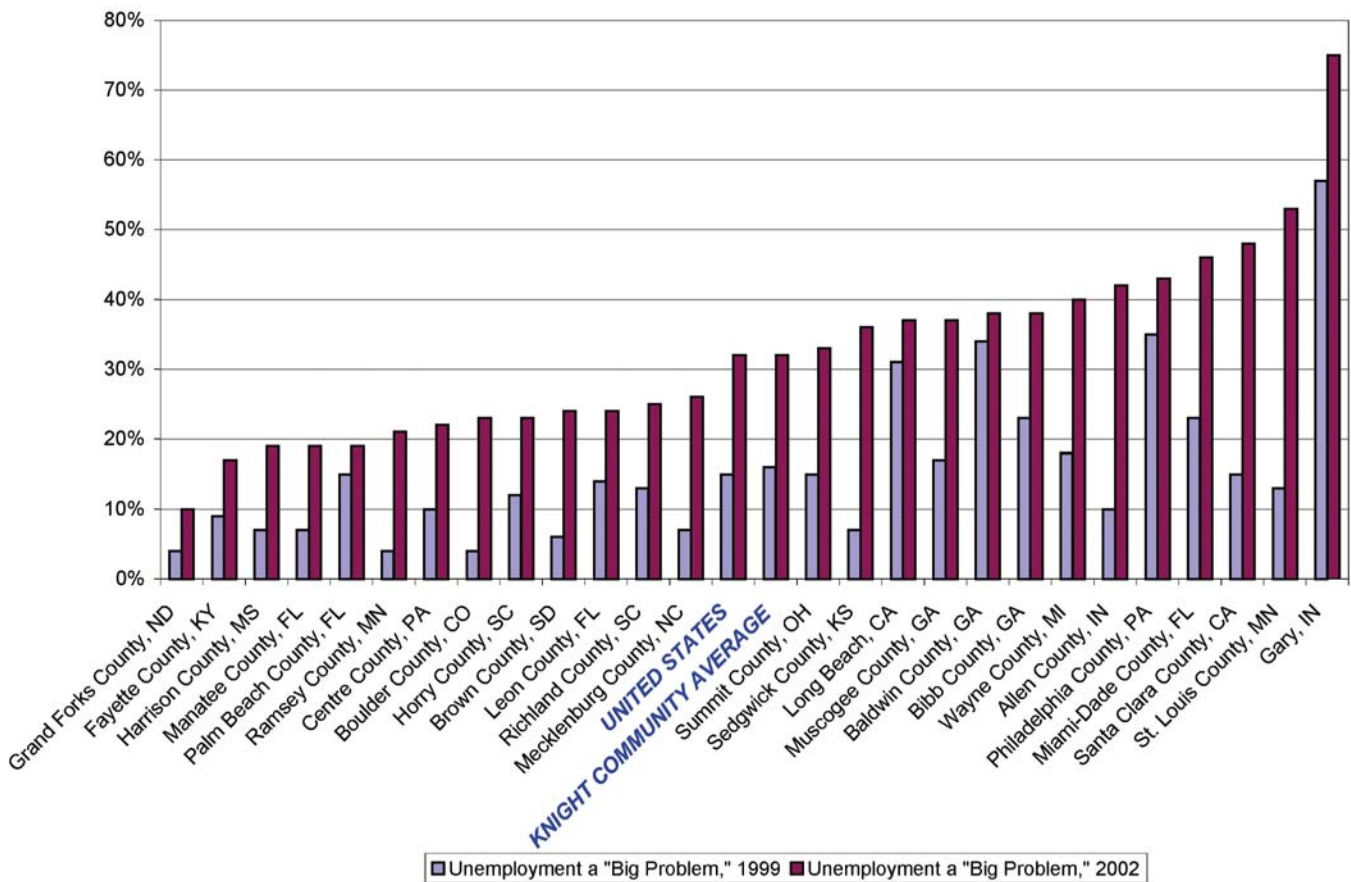
Concern About Unemployment

About one in three residents (32 percent) of the Knight communities view unemployment as a big problem – the same percentage as in the United States overall. Knight residents’ views on unemployment vary considerably, however. In Grand Forks County, only one in 10 residents view unemployment as a big problem; similarly, fewer than two in 10 residents hold this view in Fayette, Harrison, Manatee and Palm Beach counties. In contrast, three of four residents (75 percent) in Gary describe unemployment as a big problem, and more than four in 10 residents hold a similar view in five

other Knight communities – Allen, Miami-Dade, Philadelphia, Santa Clara and St. Louis counties.

In all but two Knight communities – Baldwin and Palm Beach counties – the proportion of residents who view unemployment as a big problem increased significantly between 1999 and 2002. This increase was greater than 20 percentage points in six communities – Allen, Miami-Dade, Santa Clara, Sedgwick, St. Louis and Wayne counties. A similar trend was also evident in the general U.S. population, which was also more likely to view unemployment as a big problem in 2002 than in 1999.

Concern About Unemployment (1999, 2002)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 21

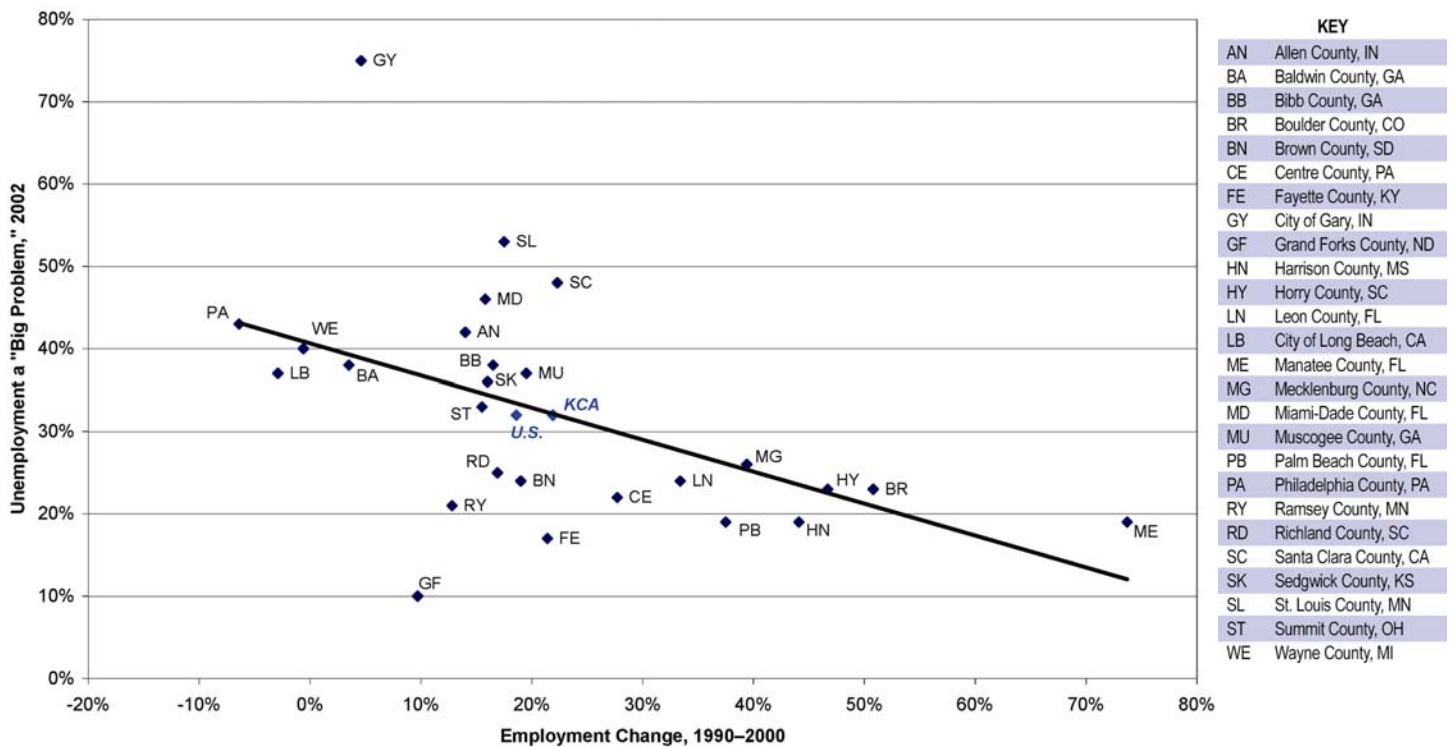
Associated Indicators

Residents’ views about the problem of unemployment generally correspond with actual rates of unemployment in the community. In the five communities with the highest unemployment rates in 2000, an average of 40 percent of residents say that unemployment is a big problem. This compares with an average of 26 percent in the five communities with the lowest unemployment rates. Santa Clara County, however, stands out as an exception: 48 percent of residents say that unemployment is a big problem, but

the unemployment rate was only 2 percent in 2000 – the third lowest in all Knight communities.

Residents’ views on unemployment also tend to correspond with employment change in their communities between 1990 and 2000. In the five communities where the employed population declined or grew by less than 5 percent over this period, an average of 47 percent of residents view unemployment as a big problem in their community. At the other end, on average only 22 percent of residents hold this view in the five communities with the largest growth in employment over the decade.

Employment Change (1990–2000) and Concern About Unemployment (2002)



* Graph shows relationship between concern about unemployment in the city of Long Beach and employment change in Los Angeles County and between concern about unemployment in the city of Gary and employment change in Lake County because employment data were not available at the city level.

Job Opportunities for Young People

The percentage of residents who say that there are “good” or “excellent” job opportunities for young people in their community reflects the community’s perception about the potential for future economic development.

Job Opportunities for Young People

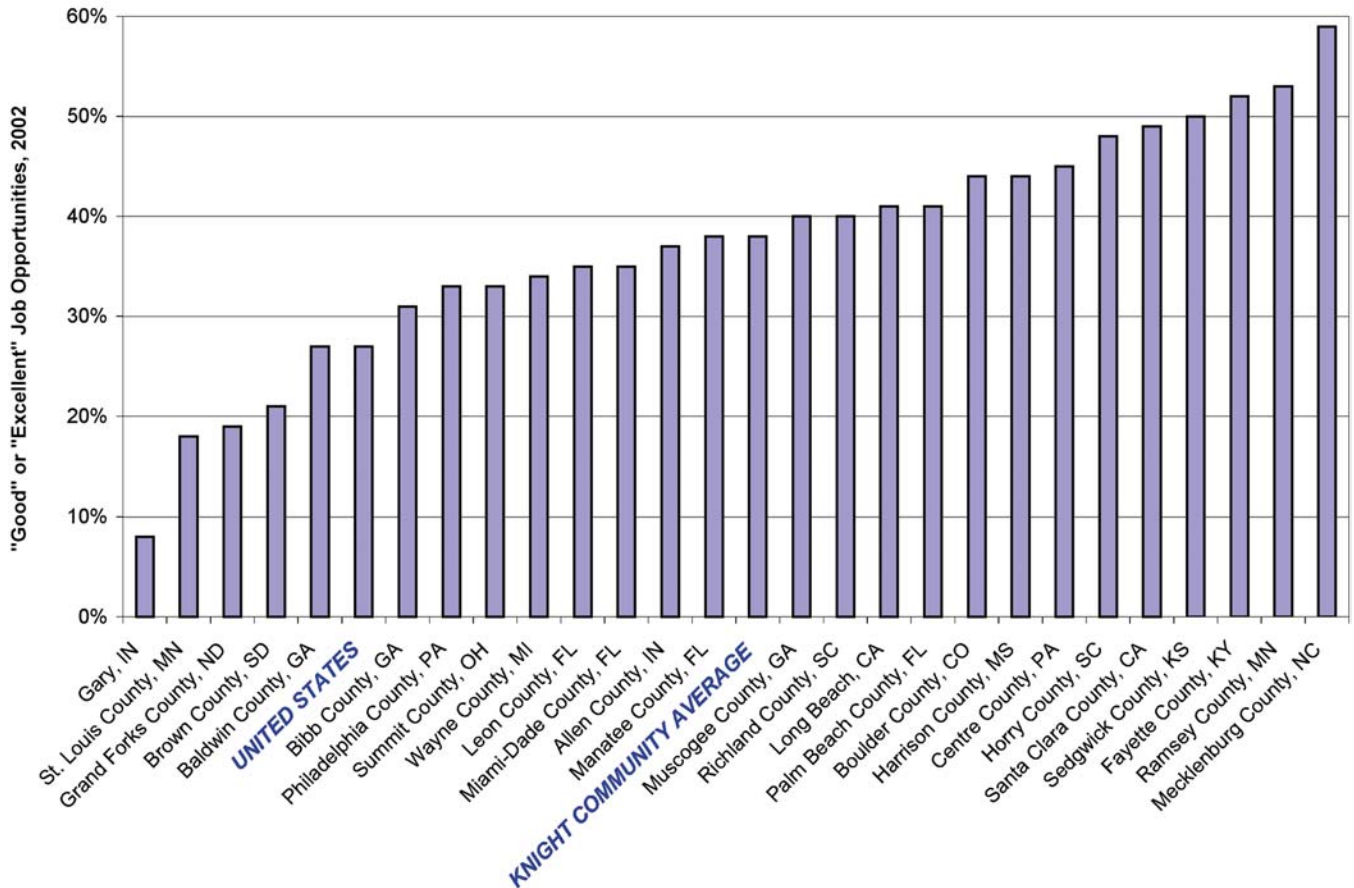
Overall, Knight community residents tend to believe that there are more job opportunities for young people than the general U.S. population does – 38 percent of Knight residents say that there are excellent or good job opportunities, compared to 27 percent of residents nationally. However, Knight residents’ views on this issue vary considerably. Fewer than one in 10 residents (8 percent) in the city of Gary believe there are excellent or good job opportunities for young people, and fewer than three in 10 residents hold this view in Baldwin, Brown, Grand Forks and St. Louis counties. At the other end, about six in 10 residents (59 percent) in Mecklenburg County say that there are excellent or good job opportunities for young people; about five in 10

residents feel this way in three other communities – Fayette, Ramsey and Sedgwick counties.

Associated Indicators

Residents in communities with higher rates of employment growth tend to have more favorable perceptions of the job market for young people than residents in communities with small employment growth or employment decline between 1990 and 2000. On average, about 46 percent of residents hold this view in the six communities with the largest growth in employment over the decade. In contrast, an average of only 27 percent of residents report excellent or good job opportunities for young people in the five communities where the employed population declined or grew by less than 5 percent between 1990 and 2000.

Job Opportunities for Young People (2002)



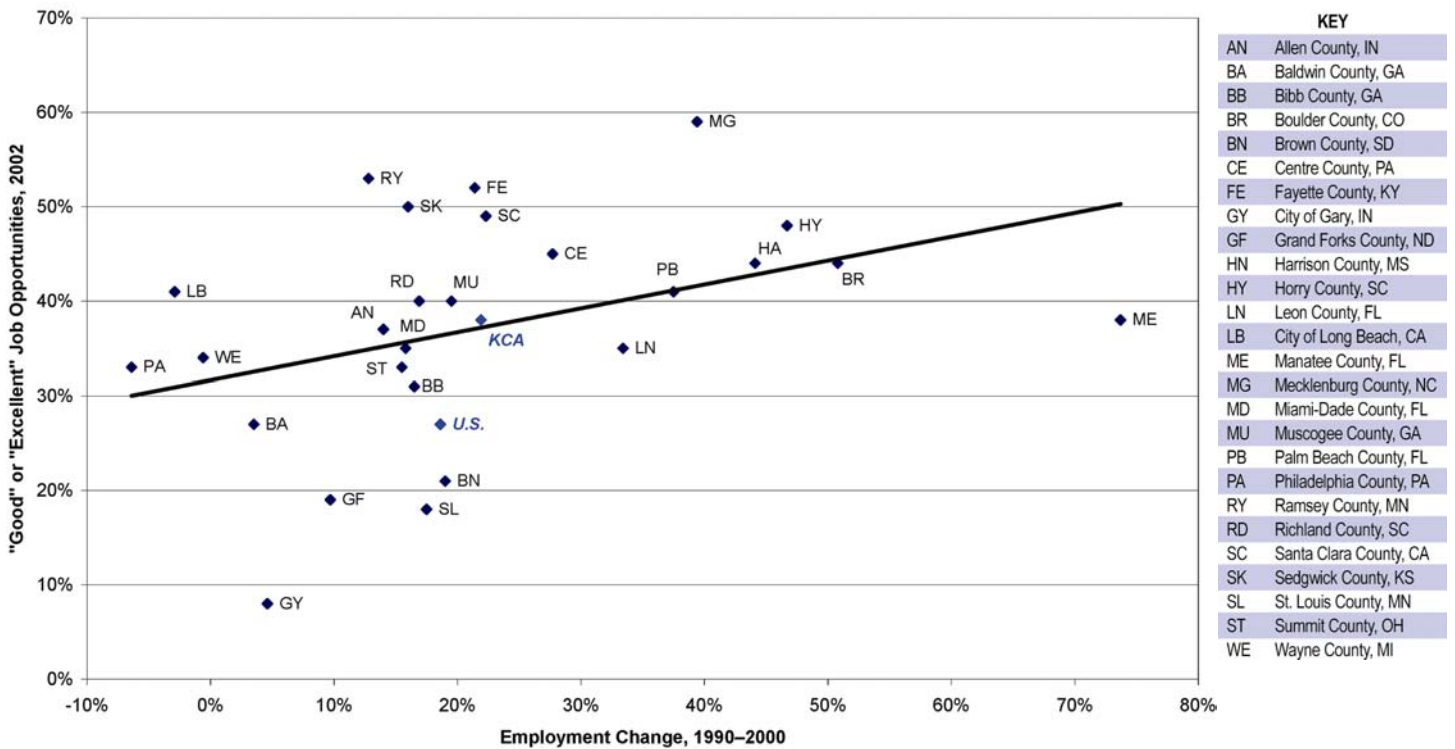
For tables and additional information, see Appendix 2J

Residents’ feelings regarding job prospects for young people are somewhat related to a community’s average salary in 2000. In the five communities with the highest average salaries, 45 percent of residents, on average, believe there are excellent or good job opportunities for young people. In contrast, only about 32 percent of residents hold this view in the five communities with the lowest average salaries.

Although employment growth and average salary per job tend to correspond with residents’ beliefs about

job opportunities for young people, unemployment rates do not consistently correspond with residents’ views about this issue. In Fayette and Santa Clara counties, for example, unemployment rates are quite low, and 51 percent of community residents perceive excellent or good job opportunities for young people. In Brown County, in contrast, the unemployment rate is also very low (under 2 percent), but only 21 percent of community residents consider employment opportunities for young people to be excellent or good.

Employment Change (1990–2000) and Job Opportunities for Young People (2002)



* Graph shows relationship between community perceptions about job opportunities for young people in the city of Long Beach and employment change in Los Angeles County and between community perceptions about job opportunities for young people in the city of Gary and employment change in Lake County because employment data were not available at the city level.

Concern About Public Transportation

Inadequate public transportation in a community may impede economic development. The percentage of residents who say that limited or unreliable public transportation is a “big problem” reflects the community’s concern about this issue.

Concern About Public Transportation

About one in five residents (22 percent) of the Knight communities view inadequate public transportation as a big problem – around the same percentage as nationally (23 percent). The level of concern about transportation varies considerably among the Knight communities, however. In Grand Forks County and the city of Long Beach, fewer than one in 10 residents view inadequate transportation as a big problem. In contrast, more than four in 10 residents hold this view in Baldwin County and the city of Gary.

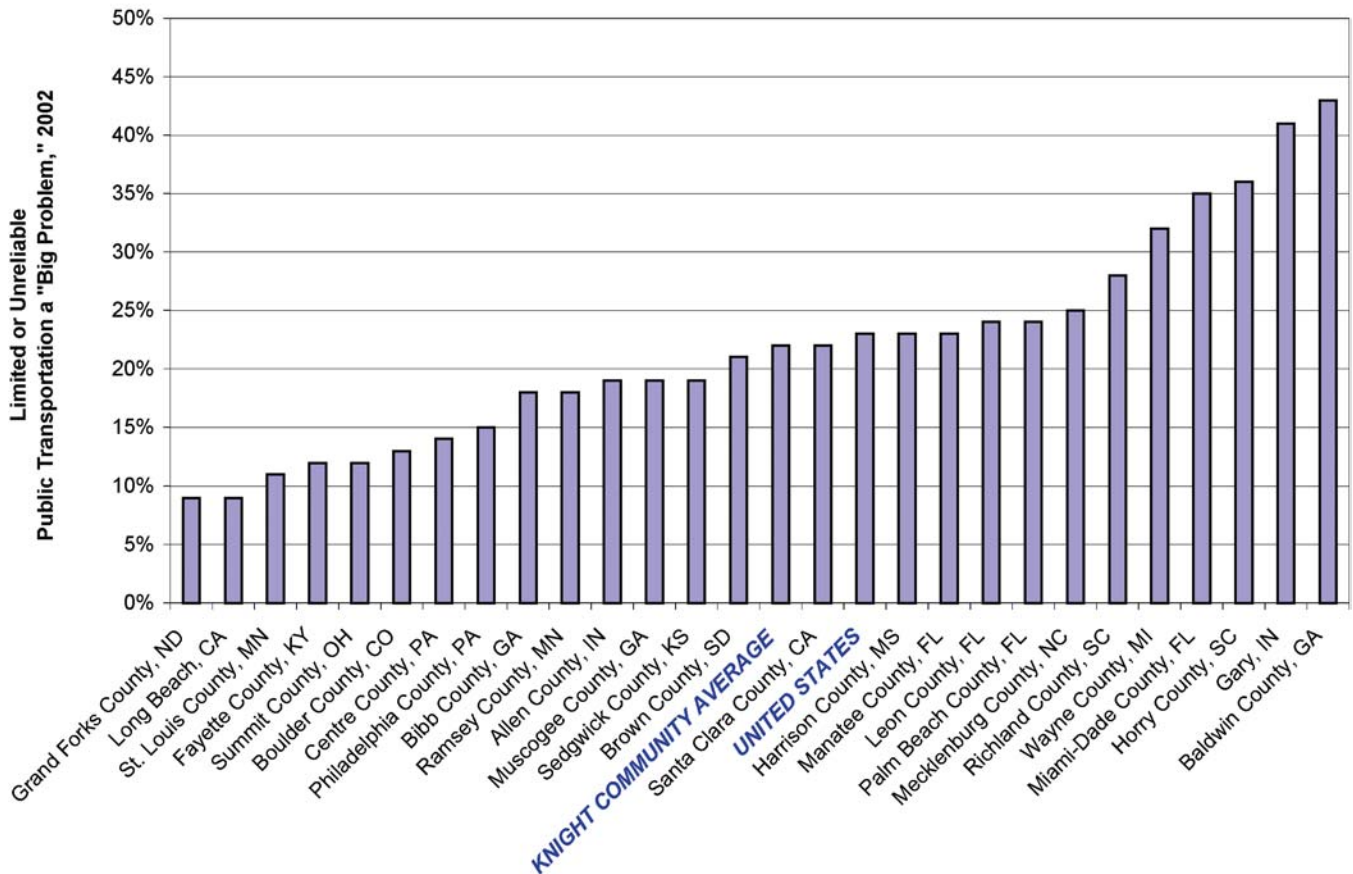
the community, limited transportation is seen as a big problem in several of the largest Knight communities. Around one-third of residents of Miami-Dade and Wayne counties consider inadequate public transportation a big problem. Of the six most populous communities, Philadelphia County stands out as the one where relatively few residents (about 15 percent) hold this view.

Residents of less populous communities are more divided on this issue. Fewer than one in six residents consider public transportation to be a big problem in Centre and Grand Forks counties, whereas more than two in five residents hold this view in Baldwin County and the city of Gary.

Associated Indicators

Although residents’ views about public transportation are not consistently related to the size of

Concern About Public Transportation (2002)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 2K

CHAPTER 3

Housing and Community Development



“This is the worst I’ve ever worked in,” says Bill Mauzy, the president and CEO of BAME Development Corp. of Miami’s Overtown neighborhood. “There are so many obstacles to overcome, so much disruption in the bureaucracy.” With Knight funding, BAME and other CDCs are developing affordable housing for the residents of Overtown, the predominantly black neighborhood in the heart of the poorest city in America.

LISTENING AND LEARNING

Introduction and Highlights

The status of housing and community development varies greatly across the Knight communities. In some communities housing costs are very high; in others homes and apartments are relatively affordable. Some communities have mostly older houses; in others the housing stock is relatively new. Violent crime is a major problem in some communities, but in others it is almost nonexistent.

Similarly, Knight community residents perceive issues of housing and community development differently. In some communities residents almost unanimously view the supply of affordable housing as a big problem, while in others it is of small concern. Some communities are very concerned about abandoned or rundown buildings; in others it is not an issue. Some

communities view crime, drugs or violence as a big problem, while others are relatively unworried about these matters.

The Housing and Community Development section that follows presents selected indicators for the 26 Knight communities, along with findings from the Knight Community Indicators Surveys. To describe the housing and community development status of the communities, we selected six indicators from administrative records that fall into four areas.

In addition, we selected five indicators from the community surveys that reflect some of the experiences of residents and their attitudes towards their community. From the responses to the survey questions, we developed four areas.

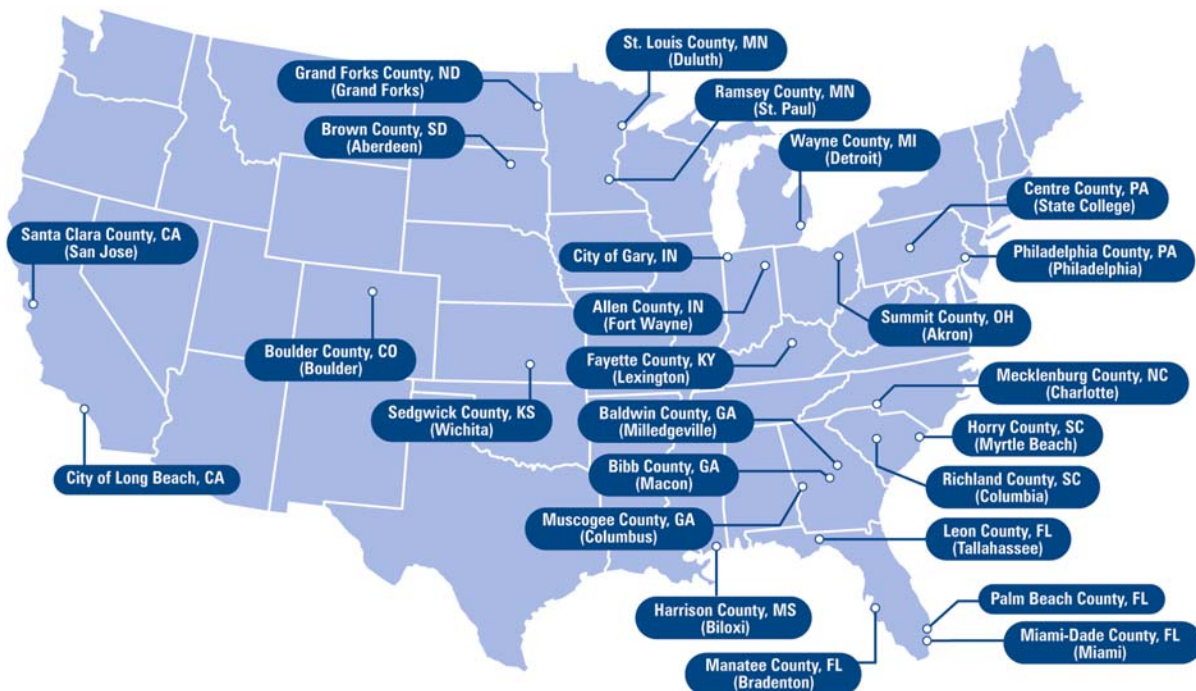
Indicator Area	Administrative Records
Housing Affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Median Housing Value, 2000 • Monthly Income Spent on Housing, 1999
Housing Stock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age of Housing Units, 2000
Housing Stability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owner-Occupied Housing, 2000
Criminal Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violent Crime Rates, 2000 • Total Crimes, 2000

Indicator Area	Community Surveys
Concern About Affordable Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percent of Residents Who Say the Lack of Affordable Housing Is a “Big Problem”
Concern About Abandoned or Rundown Buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percent of Residents Who Say Abandoned or Rundown Buildings Are a “Big Problem”
Concern About Homelessness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percent of Residents Who Say Homelessness Is a “Big Problem”
Concern About Crime and Community Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percent of Residents Who Say Crime, Drugs or Violence Is a “Big Problem” • Percent of Residents Who Say They Feel “Very Safe” From Crime While Walking in Their Neighborhood After Dark

The housing and community development indicators and survey findings presented in this section underscore the tremendous diversity in the 26 Knight communities. We highlight here a few of the most important areas of difference and selected relationships among the indicators.

- Housing costs vary widely across the Knight communities, but in communities such as Boulder and Santa Clara counties, median housing values are more than double the national figure.
- On average, about two in five renters in the Knight communities spend more than 30 percent of their monthly income on rental costs. Renters tend to spend a higher proportion of their monthly income on housing costs than home owners.
- Violent and total crime rates vary widely across the Knight communities, but both tend to be higher in the largest communities.

- Both violent and total crime rates decreased in most Knight communities during the 1990s, but the largest declines were generally in communities that started the decade with the highest crime rates. Philadelphia County was a notable exception, where the violent crime rate increased between 1990 and 2000.
- Concern about affordable housing is well aligned with housing costs in the Knight communities: higher levels of concern are generally found in communities with higher home ownership and rental costs.
- Concern about homelessness tends to be more pronounced in the largest Knight communities and in communities where rental housing is relatively expensive.
- Residents’ perception of crime correspond very well with actual crime rates in the community. Concern about crime, drugs and violence tends to be higher in communities with higher crime rates (particularly violent crime rates), as well as in the largest Knight communities.



Median Housing Value

This indicator provides some sense of the overall value of the housing stock in a given area. High median value of housing generally indicates an affluent community and a high cost of living, which can create barriers to people with lower income levels who seek to become home owners. Additionally, because property taxes often provide revenue to support the school district and other local government, housing values provide one measure of a community’s ability to support the public sector.

Median Housing Value

On average, the median housing value in the Knight communities (\$121,900) was about 2 percent higher than the U.S. median (\$119,600) in 2000. However, the median value of homes varied widely – ranging from a high of \$446,000 in Santa Clara County to a low of \$53,400 in the city of Gary.

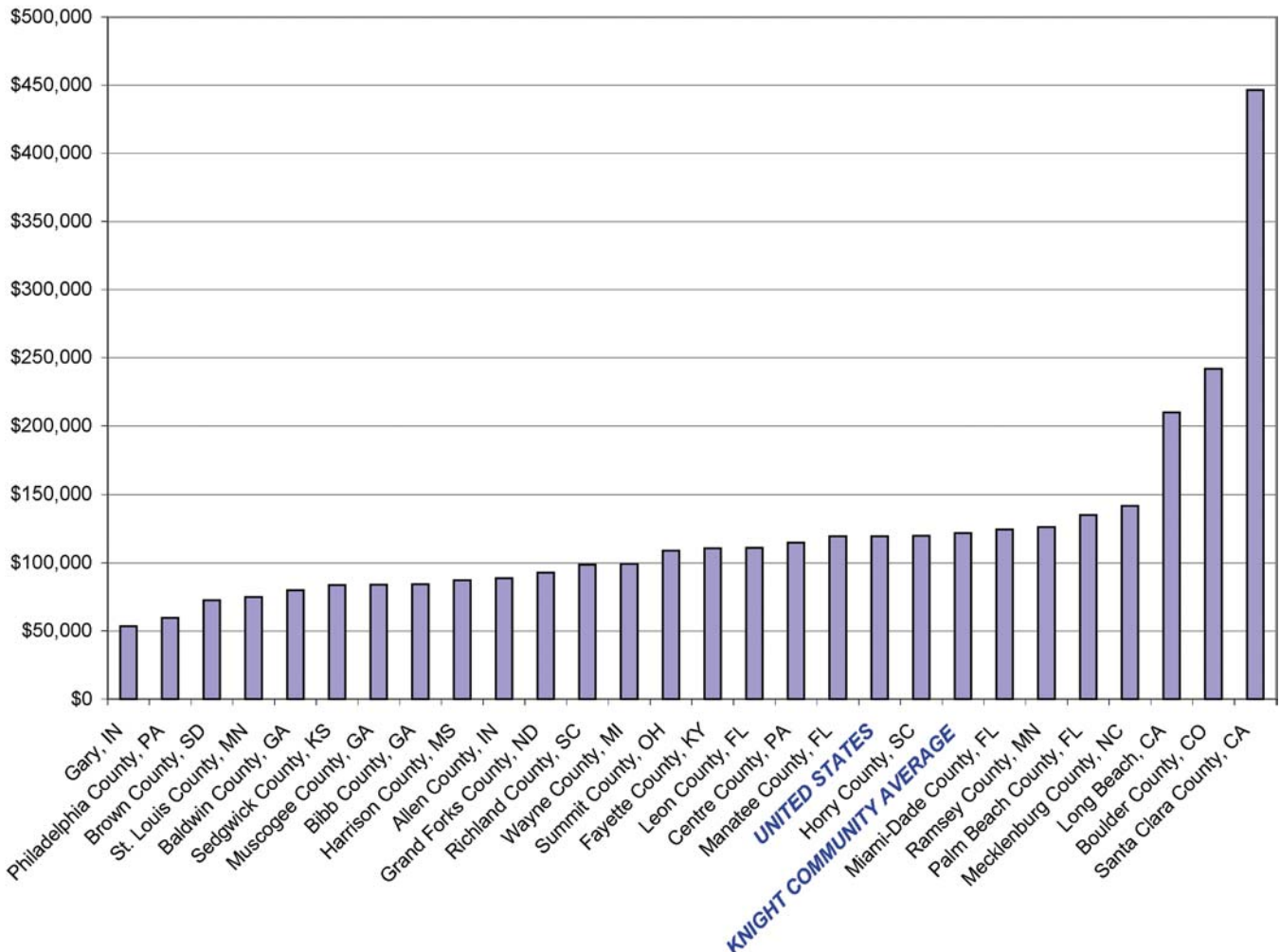
Median housing values were at least \$40,000 below the national median in five communities, and the median values were less than one-half the national figure in

Philadelphia County and the city of Gary. In contrast, five communities had median housing values that were at least \$10,000 higher than the national median; and the values were at least two times the national figure in Boulder and Santa Clara counties.

Associated Indicators

During the 1990s, real housing values grew at the highest rates in communities that started the decade with

Median Housing Value (2000)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 3A

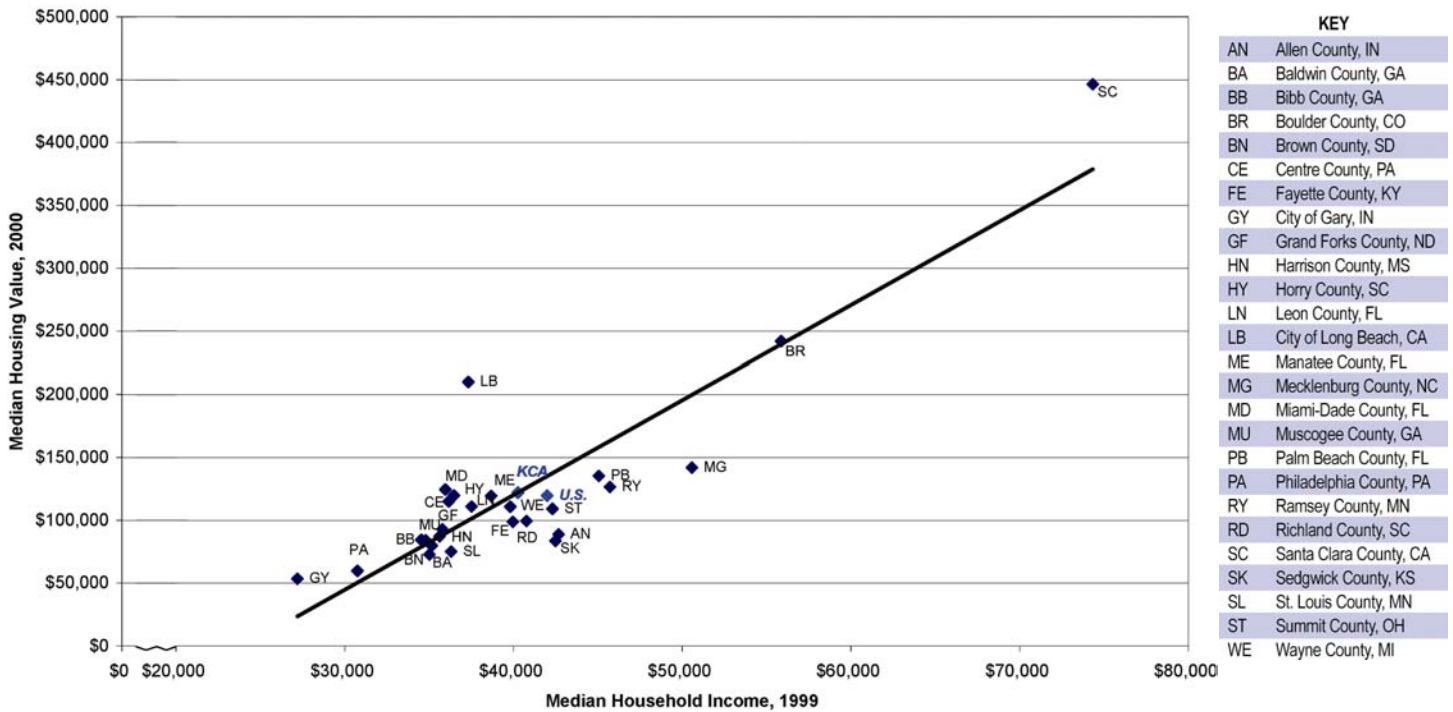
the lowest and highest housing values – an average rate of 44 percent and 35 percent, respectively, in the five communities on each end. Real growth rates were smaller in communities in the middle range.

Several communities experienced very large increases in real housing values during the 1990s. In Boulder County, the median housing value more than doubled in real dollars over the decade; in Wayne County it grew by nearly 80 percent. In Santa Clara County, the growth rate (33 percent) was smaller than in these other two communities, but it was still very large in absolute dollars (\$158,700, in nominal terms).

In one Knight community, the city of Long Beach, real housing values declined over the decade by nearly 19 percent. However, the median value of homes (\$210,000) was still third highest among Knight communities in 2000.

Although household income in Knight communities did not vary as much as housing values, higher income communities also tended to have higher housing values. In 2000, the median housing value in the five highest-income communities (average of \$218,000) was over three times the median value in the five communities with the lowest household incomes (average of \$71,000).

Median Household Income (1999) and Median Housing Value (2000)



Monthly Income Spent on Housing

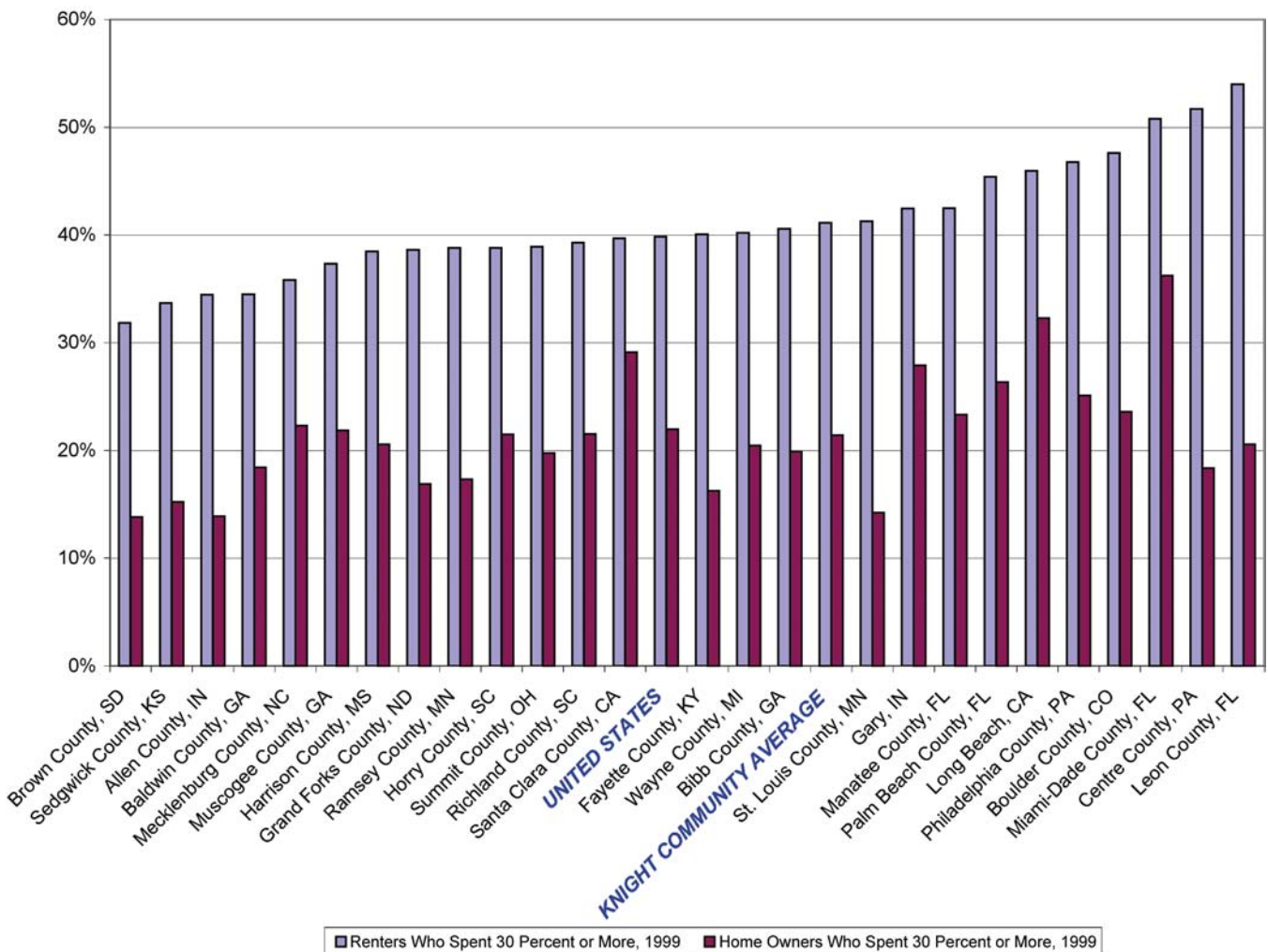
Housing and rental costs are perhaps the largest single expenditure for most people, and can have a significant impact on the economy. In the long term, high costs may either stimulate higher salaries or cause lower-income people to move to less expensive areas.

Monthly Income Spent on Housing

The proportion of renters who spent more than 30 percent of their monthly income on housing was slightly higher in the Knight communities (41 percent) than in the United States (40 percent) in 1999. In three Knight communities – Centre, Leon and Miami-Dade counties – over half the residents spent a high proportion of their income on rental costs, but two of the three (Centre and Leon counties) are home to state universities that have large student populations.

Housing costs consumed a higher proportion of income for renters than home owners in the Knight communities. In 1999, the average proportion of renters who spent over 30 percent of their monthly income on housing costs (41 percent) was nearly twice that of home owners (22 percent). The difference was particularly large in St. Louis County, where 41 percent of renters and only 14 percent of home owners spent over 30 percent of their monthly income on housing costs – a ratio of nearly 3-to-1.

Monthly Income Spent on Housing (1999)



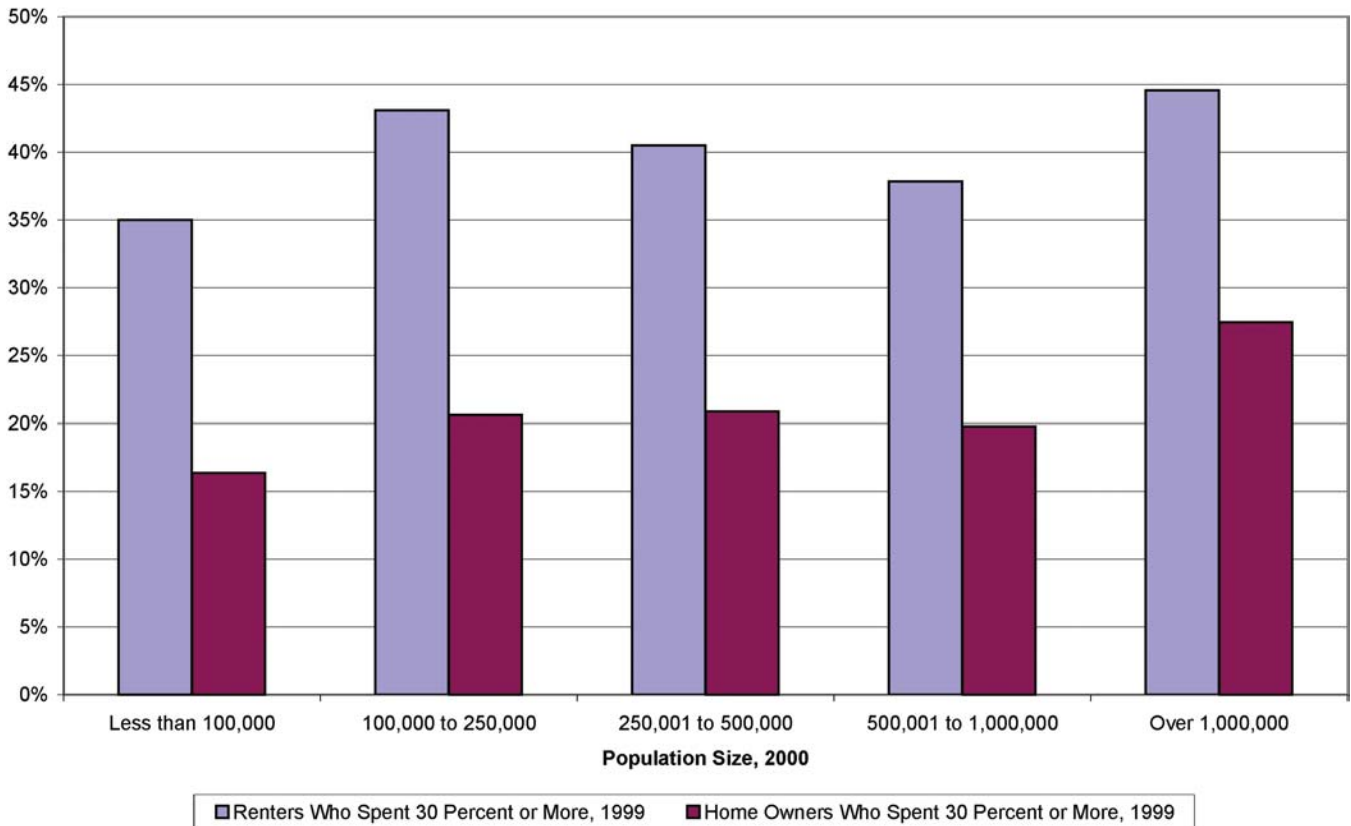
For tables and additional information, see Appendix 3B

Associated Indicators

In the Knight communities with the smallest populations in 2000 (under 100,000) a smaller proportion of residents spent more than 30 percent of their monthly income on housing costs than in the largest communities (over 1,000,000). The averages for renters were 35 percent in the communities with the smallest populations and 45 percent in the largest communities; the respective averages for home owners were 16 percent and 28 percent. In the intermediate population groupings, however, the average proportion of residents who spent a large share of their income on housing costs (for rent or home ownership) did not consistently increase with population size.

Higher housing values tended to be associated with higher burdens of home ownership in the Knight communities. In the five communities with the highest median housing values, 27 percent of residents spent more than 30 percent of their monthly income on home ownership costs, compared to 20 percent in the five communities with the lowest values. Philadelphia County and the city of Gary stood out as exceptions to the pattern: median housing values were the lowest among Knight communities, but more than one in four residents spent over 30 percent of monthly income on home ownership costs.

Population Size (2000) and Monthly Income Spent on Housing (1999)



Owner-Occupied Housing

The rate of home ownership is one of the most useful indicators of the stability of a community. A high percentage of residents who own the homes they live in generally indicates a stable population that is likely to be more “invested” in the well-being of a neighborhood. Home ownership rates can also provide an indication of how affordable the housing in a community is.

Owner-Occupied Housing

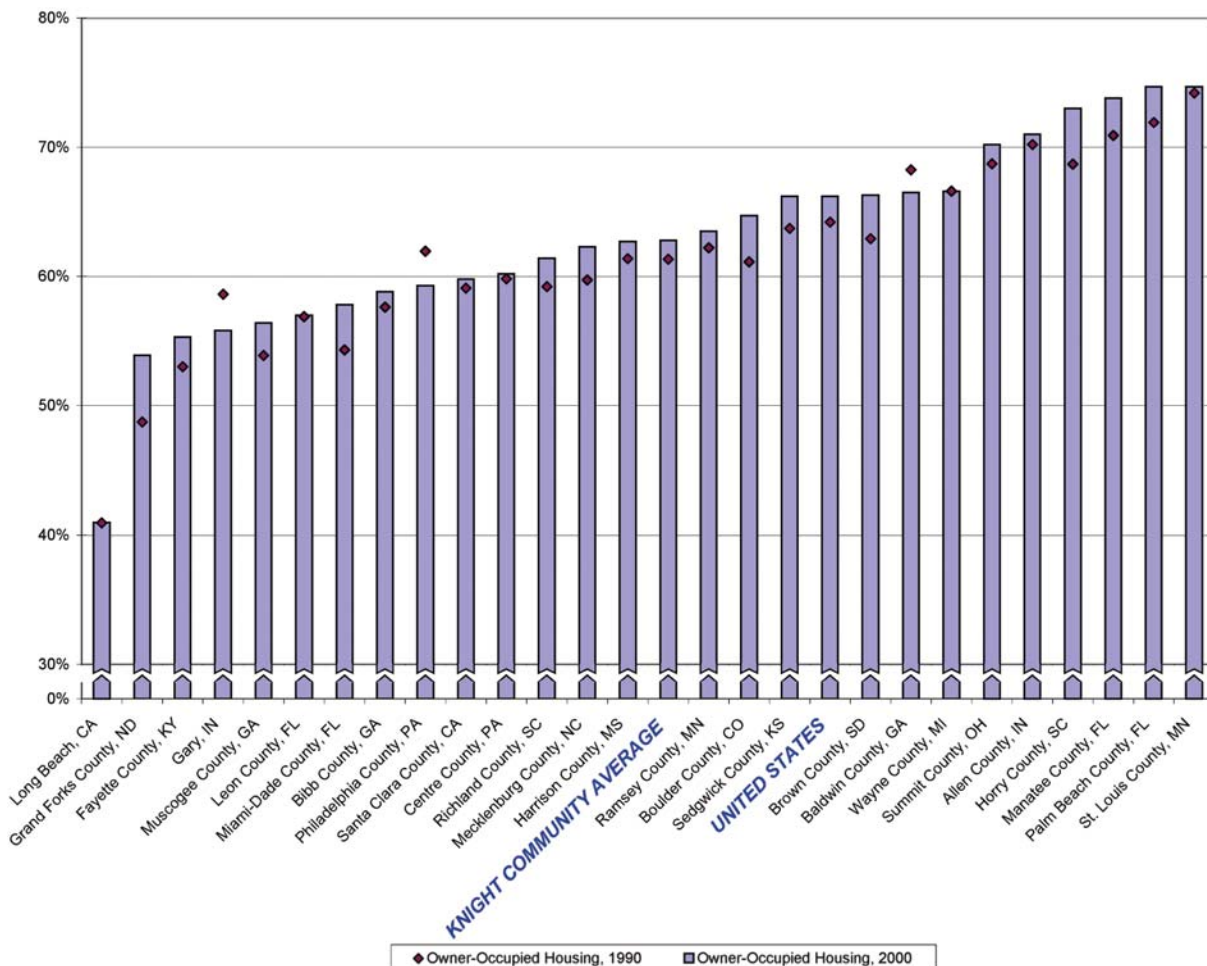
The average percentage of homes that were owner-occupied in 2000 (63 percent) was lower in the Knight communities than in the United States (66 percent). The percentage of owner-occupied homes in the Knight communities ranged from 41 percent in Long Beach to 75 percent in St. Louis and Palm Beach counties.

Owner-occupancy levels were highest in six Knight communities – Allen, Horry, Manatee, Palm Beach, St. Louis and Summit counties – each with at least 70 percent of housing units owner-occupied. At the other end, the five Knight communities with the lowest

percentage of owner-occupied housing units – Fayette, Grand Forks and Muscogee counties and the cities of Gary and Long Beach – each had owner-occupancy rates below 57 percent.

On average, the proportion of owner-occupied homes in the Knight communities increased by 1.5 percentage points over the 1990s – half a percentage point less than the increase in the United States. Owner-occupancy rates increased or remained the same over the decade in all but three Knight communities. Rates decreased in Baldwin and Philadelphia counties and in the city of Gary by 1.8, 2.6 and 2.8 percentage points, respectively.

Owner-Occupied Housing Units (1990, 2000)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 3C

Age of Housing Units

The age of housing stock is a measure of the quality of housing in a community.

Age of Housing Units

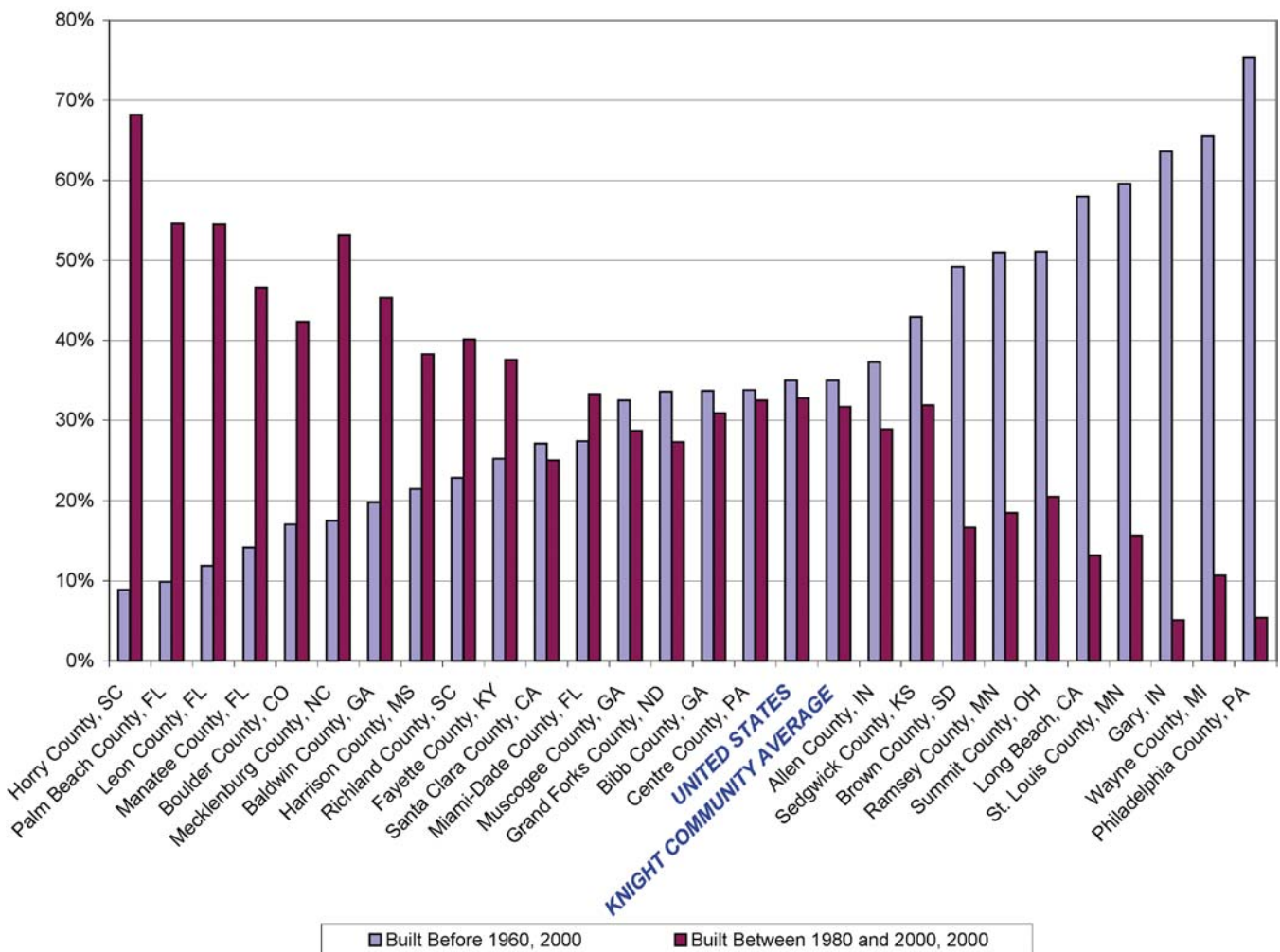
In 2000, about 35 percent of housing units in the Knight communities were built before 1960 – the same percentage as in the United States overall. However, the percentage of older housing units varied substantially – from less than 15 percent in Horry, Leon, Manatee and Palm Beach counties to over 60 percent in Philadelphia and Wayne counties and the city of Gary.

Knight communities with the oldest housing stocks were mostly in the Midwest and included an older central city. In addition to Philadelphia and Wayne counties and the city of Gary, six other communities

had housing stock in which at least 40 percent of the units were built before 1960. These included Brown, Ramsay, St. Louis, Sedgwick and Summit counties and the city of Long Beach.

Communities with relatively new housing stock were concentrated almost exclusively in the Southeast. In Horry, Leon, Mecklenburg and Palm Beach counties, over half the housing units were built since 1980 – well above the national figure of 33 percent. Other communities with a high proportion of relatively new housing units included Baldwin, Boulder and Manatee counties, each with over 4 in 10 housing units built since 1980.

Age of Housing Stock (2000)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 3D

Violent Crime Rate

The level of reported crimes in a community is a strong indicator of economic distress and lack of community cohesion. Residents of communities with high crime rates are also likely to feel unsafe, which may result in population flight and further community destabilization.

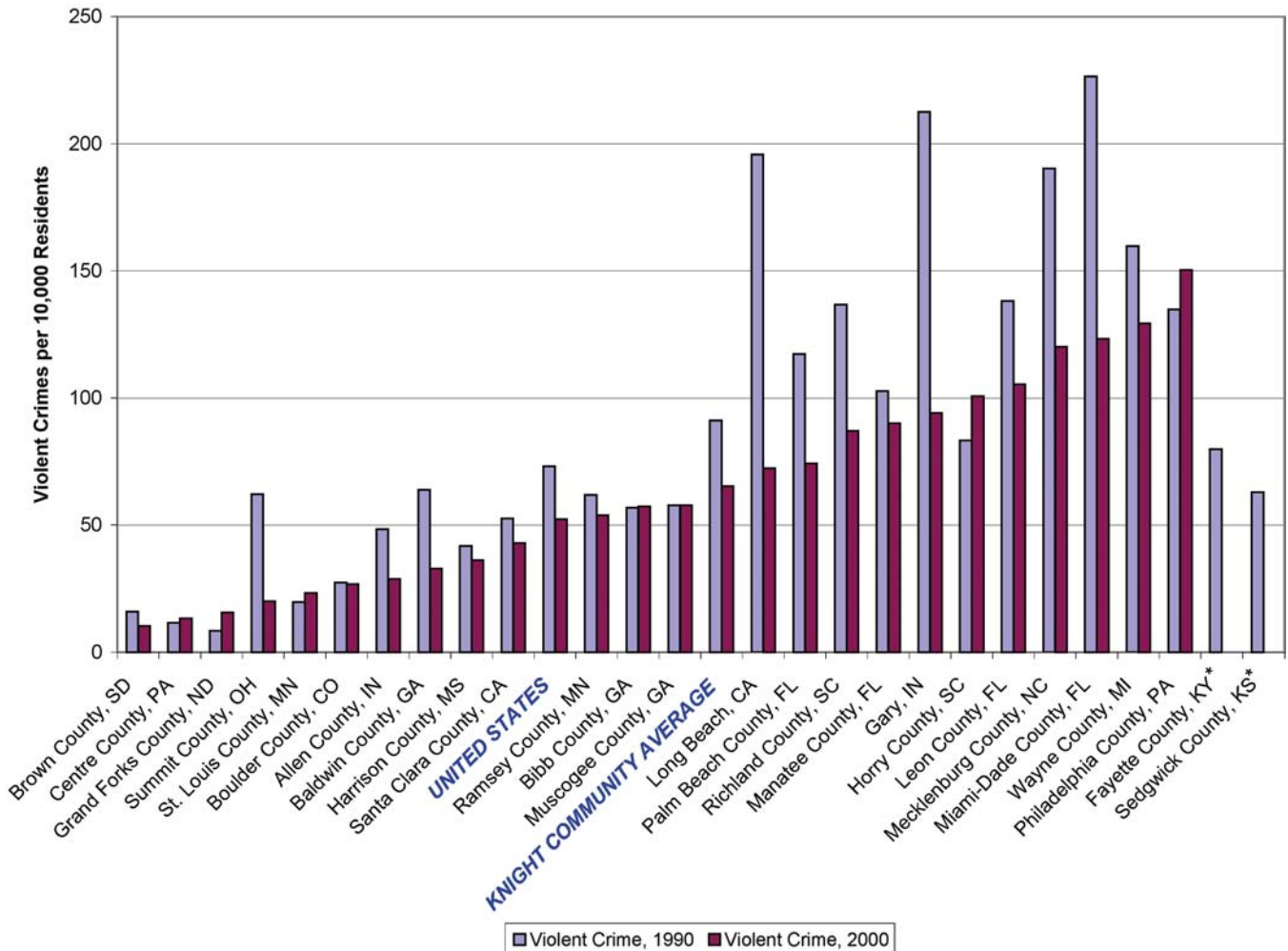
Violent Crime Rate

In 2000, the violent crime rate in the Knight communities (an average of 65 per 10,000 residents) was about 25 percent higher than the rate in the United States (52 per 10,000 residents). However, Knight communities varied widely in their crime rates – from under 20 per 10,000 residents in Brown, Centre and Grand Forks counties to over 120 per 10,000 residents in Mecklenburg, Miami-Dade, Philadelphia and Wayne counties.

Violent crime rates decreased in most Knight communities over the 1990s – 17 out of the 24 with available data. The largest decreases (over 40 percent) were registered in Allen, Baldwin, Miami-Dade and Summit counties, and in the cities of Gary and Long Beach. But violent crime rates remained above the national average in the last three communities.

Five Knight communities reported increases in violent crimes above 1 percent: Centre, Grand Forks, Horry, Philadelphia and St. Louis counties.

Violent Crime Rates (1990, 2000)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 3E

* 2000 data unavailable.

Associated Indicators

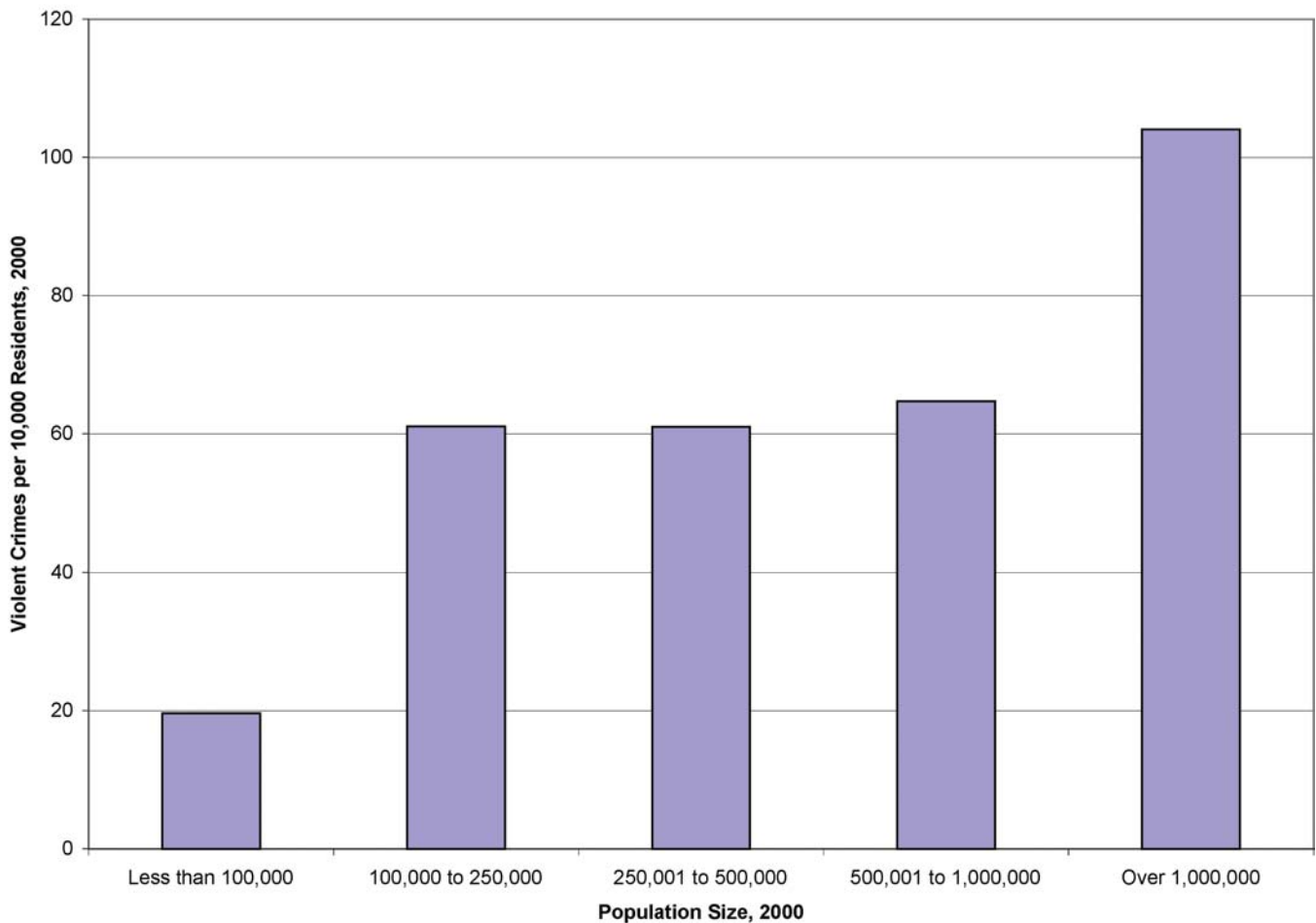
Violent crime rates were generally much higher in the largest Knight communities than in communities with smaller populations. In the five communities with over 1 million people in 2000, the average violent crime rate of 104 per 10,000 residents was over three times the average rate in the five communities with the smallest populations (33 per 10,000 residents).

A few notable exceptions were Santa Clara County, a large community with a relatively low violent crime rate (43 per 10,000 residents), and Manatee County, a

smaller community with a violent crime rate (94 per 10,000 residents) that was 80 percent higher than the national average.

Communities with higher violent crime rates in 1990 tended to have larger decreases in crime rates over the 1990s. The five communities with the highest crime rates in 1990 had an average rate decrease of 44 percent, compared to an average increase of 16 percent in the five communities with the lowest 1990 crime rates. All communities with above-average violent crime rates in 1990 except Philadelphia County had a decrease in violent crime rates over the decade.

Population Size and Violent Crime Rate (2000)



Total Crime Rate

The level of reported crimes in a community is a strong indicator of economic distress and lack of community cohesion. Residents of communities with high crime rates are also likely to feel unsafe, which may result in population flight and further community destabilization.

Total Crime Rate

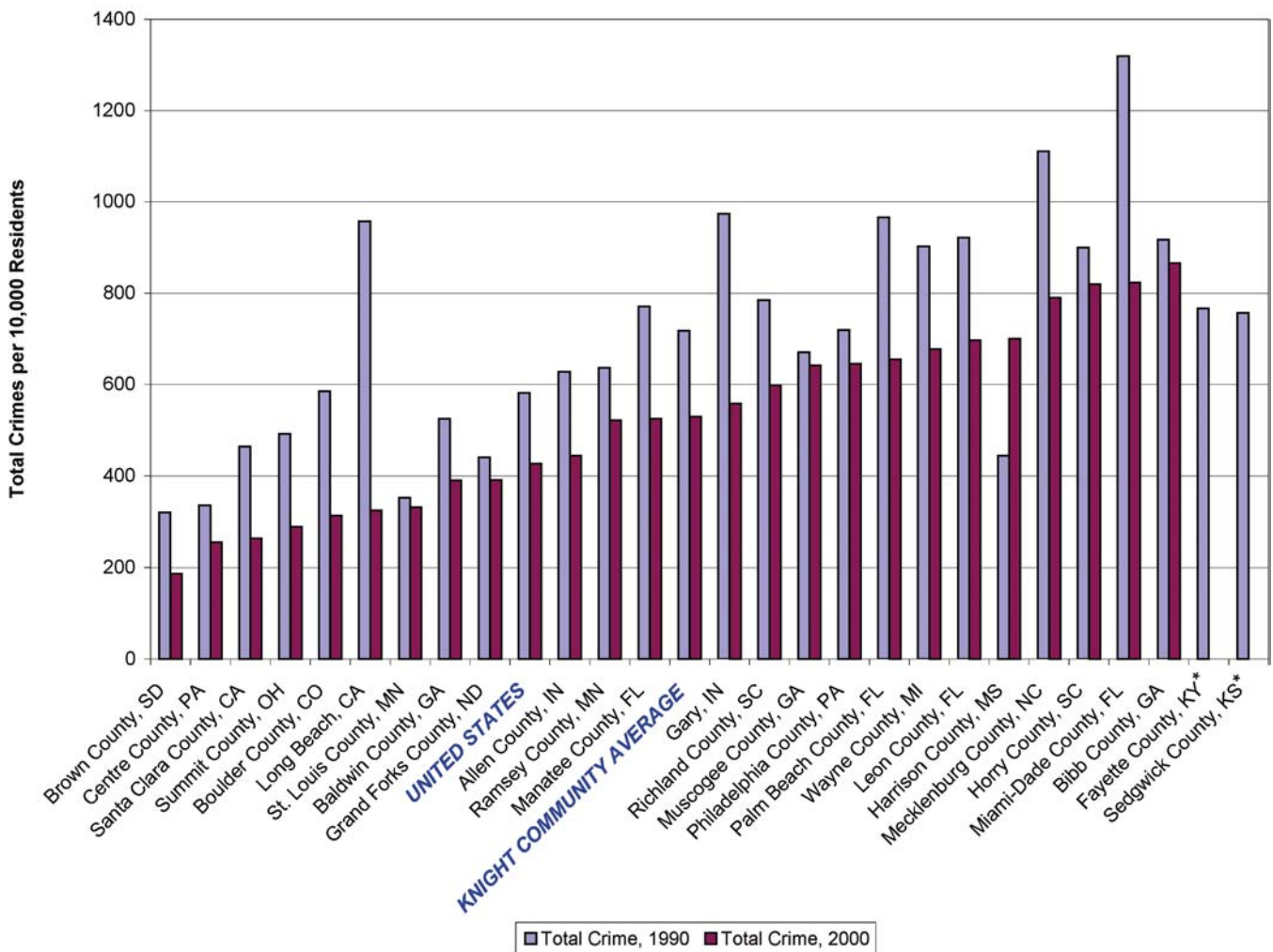
The average total crime rate in the Knight communities (530 per 10,000 residents) exceeded the U.S. average (427 per 10,000 residents) by about 25 percent. However, rates also varied considerably across the communities – from under 300 per 10,000 residents in Brown, Centre, Santa Clara and Summit counties to over 700 per 10,000 residents in Bibb, Harrison, Horry, Mecklenburg and Miami-Dade counties.

Total crime rates decreased in all Knight communities between 1990 and 2000 except Harrison County, where the total crime rate increased by 58 percent.

Associated Indicators

Total crime rates showed a strong correspondence with violent crime rates in the Knight communities in 2000. The five communities with the highest violent crime rates reported an average of 727 total crimes per 10,000 residents – roughly 2½ times the average rate of

Total Crime Rate (1990, 2000)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 3F

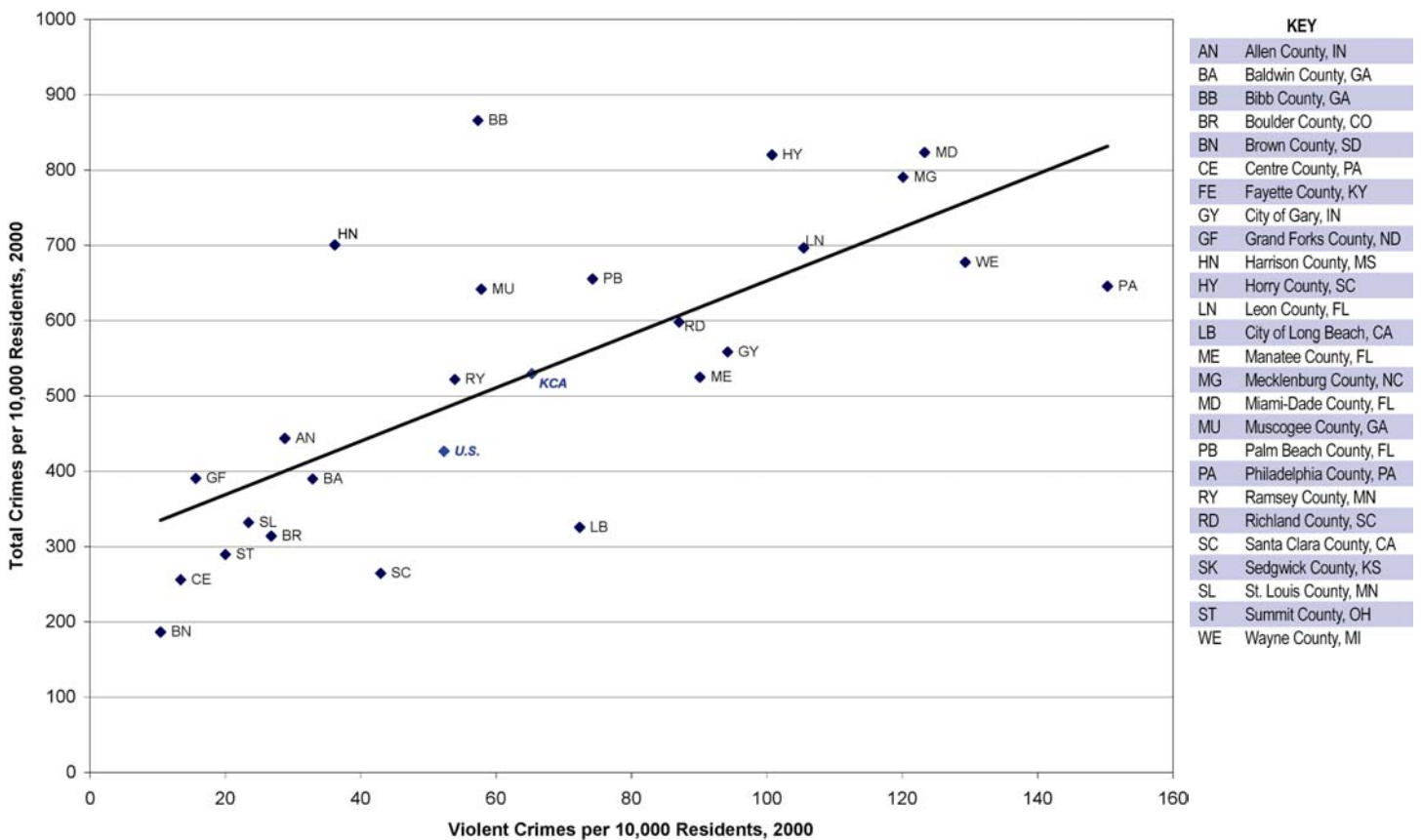
* 2000 data unavailable.

291 per 10,000 residents reported in the five communities with the lowest violent crime rates.

Total crime rates did not show a strong association with community size, but they were substantially higher in the largest Knight communities than in the communities with the smallest populations. In the five communities with over 1 million people in 2000, the average total crime rate of 613 per 10,000 residents was about 72 percent higher than the average rate in the five communities with the smallest populations (356 per 10,000 residents).

Communities with the highest total crime rates in 1990 generally had much larger decreases in their crime rates over the 1990s than communities with the lowest rates. In the five communities with the highest 1990 total crime rates, total crimes decreased by an average of 41 percent, compared to 5 percent in the communities with the lowest rates in 1990. As a result, three of the communities (Palm Beach County and the cities of Gary and Long Beach) dropped out of the top five in total crime rates in 2000. Only Mecklenburg and Miami-Dade counties continued to rank in the top five in total crime rates.

Violent and Total Crime Rates (2000)



Concern About Affordable Housing

The percentage of residents who say that lack of affordable housing is a “big problem” in their community is used to measure the level of concern about this issue.

Concern About Affordable Housing

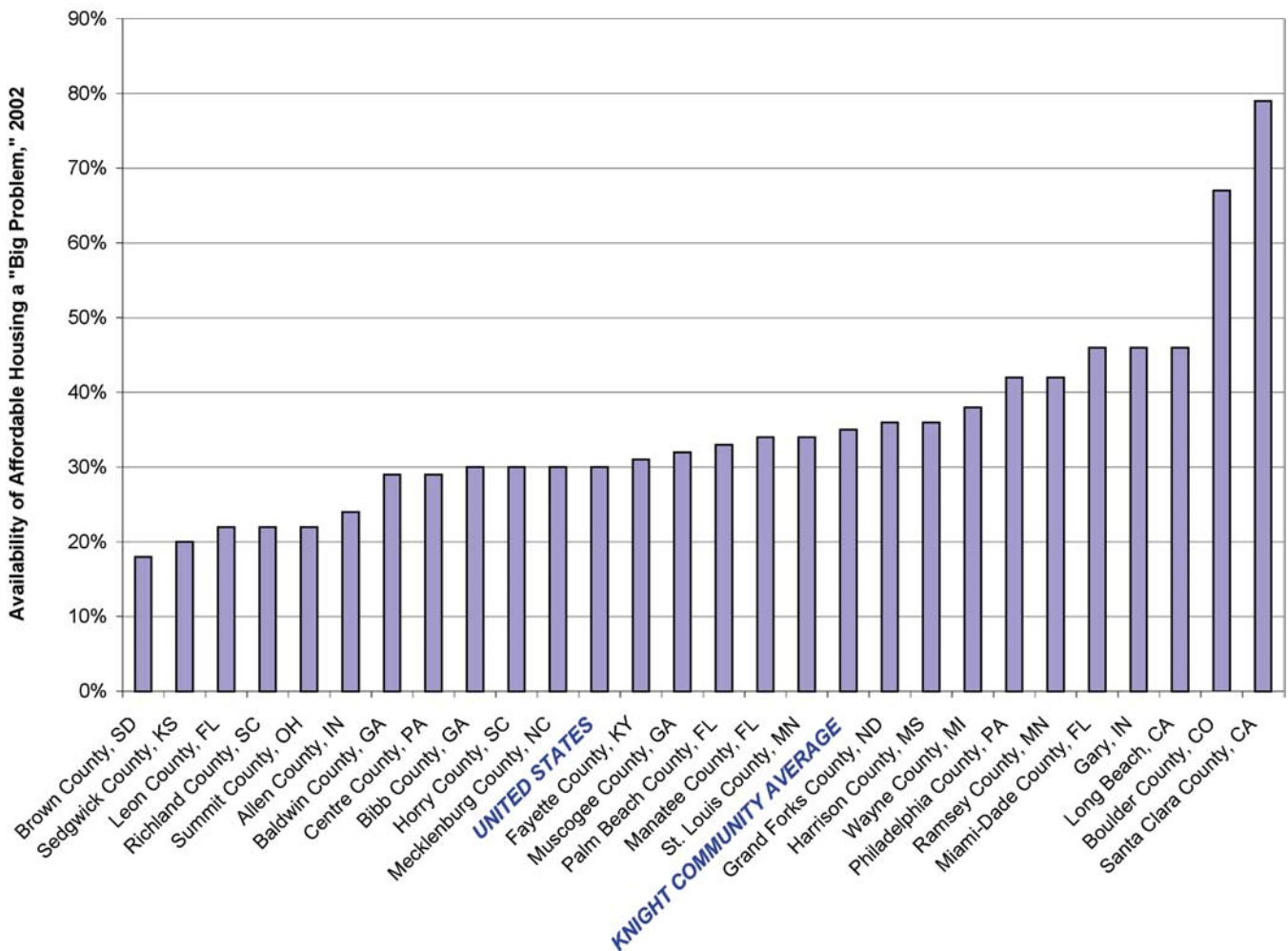
Knight community residents are somewhat more concerned about the availability of affordable housing than the general U.S. population: an average of 35 percent of residents say that lack of affordable housing is a big problem, compared to 30 percent nationally. However, the level of concern over this issue varies widely across the communities, from 18 percent in Brown County to 79 percent in Santa Clara County.

Less than 25 percent of residents cite the availability of affordable housing as a big problem in six Knight communities – Allen, Brown, Leon, Richland and Sedgwick counties.

However, at least 45 percent of residents say that the issue is a big problem in five communities – Boulder, Miami-Dade and Santa Clara counties and the cities of Gary and Long Beach.

The level of concern about affordable housing increased significantly in most Knight communities between 1999 and 2002. In nine of these communities, the proportion of residents who say that affordable housing is a big problem increased by at least 10 percentage points. No community saw a significant decrease in concern about this matter.

Concern About Affordable Housing (2002)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 3G

Associated Indicators

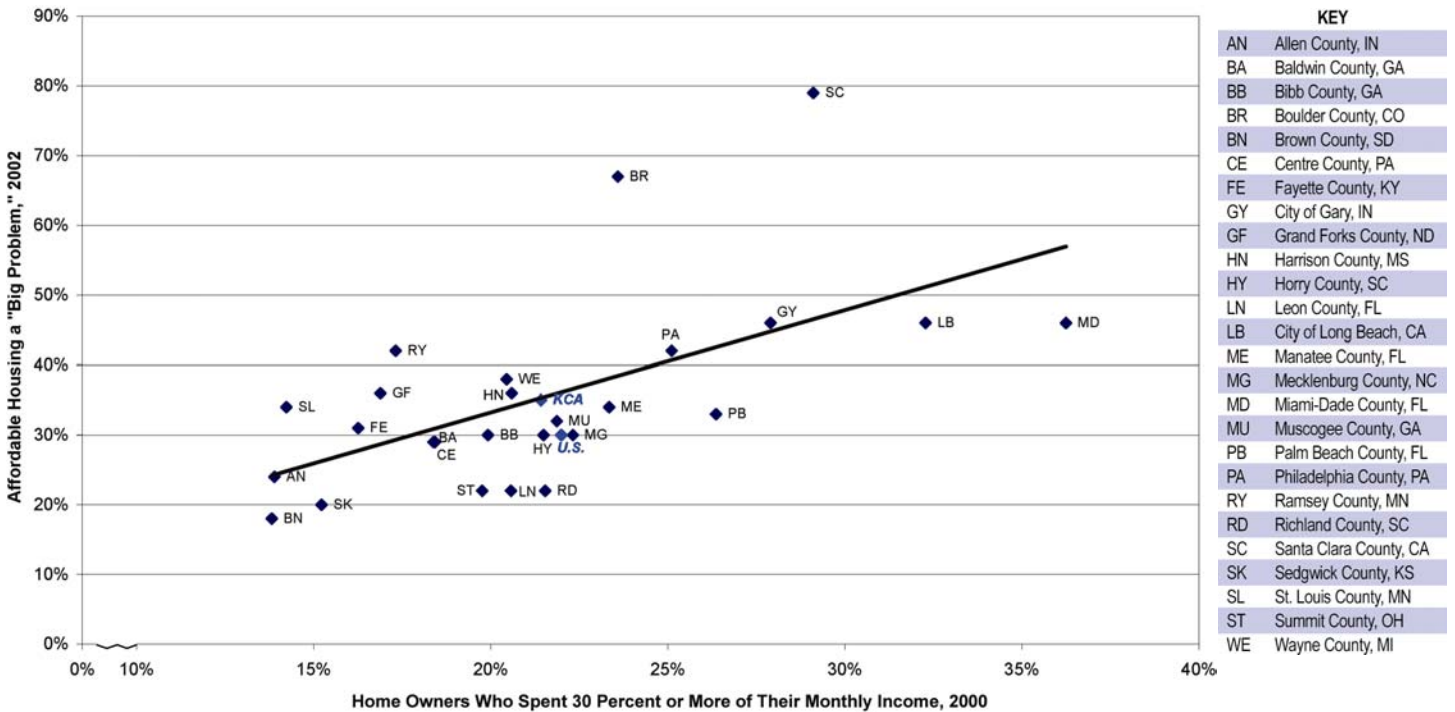
High levels of concern about affordable housing are found in the Knight communities with the highest housing costs. In the five communities with the highest median housing values, the average proportion of residents who cite affordable housing as a big problem (51 percent) is 21 percentage points higher than the United States average of 30 percent. However, affordable housing is also a concern in the two communities with the lowest housing values – Philadelphia County and the city of Gary. In these communities, 42 and 46 percent of residents, respectively, view affordable housing as a big problem.

Residents also tend to report a higher level of concern about affordable housing in communities with a

high proportion of home owners who spend 30 percent or more of their monthly income on home ownership costs. In the five communities with the highest proportion of home owners in this category, an average of 50 percent of residents say that affordable housing is a big problem – twice the figure of 25 percent in the five communities with the lowest proportion of home owners in this category.

There is also a strong correspondence between rental costs and concern about affordable housing. In the five communities with the highest proportions of renters who spend \$500 a month or more, an average of 51 percent say that affordable housing is a big problem. The figure drops to 33 percent in the five communities with the lowest proportions of renters who spend at least \$500 a month on rent.

Home Ownership Costs (2000) and Concern About Affordable Housing (2002)



Concern About Abandoned or Rundown Buildings

The percentage of residents who say that abandoned or rundown buildings are a “big problem” in their community is used to measure the level of concern about this issue.

Concern About Abandoned or Rundown Buildings

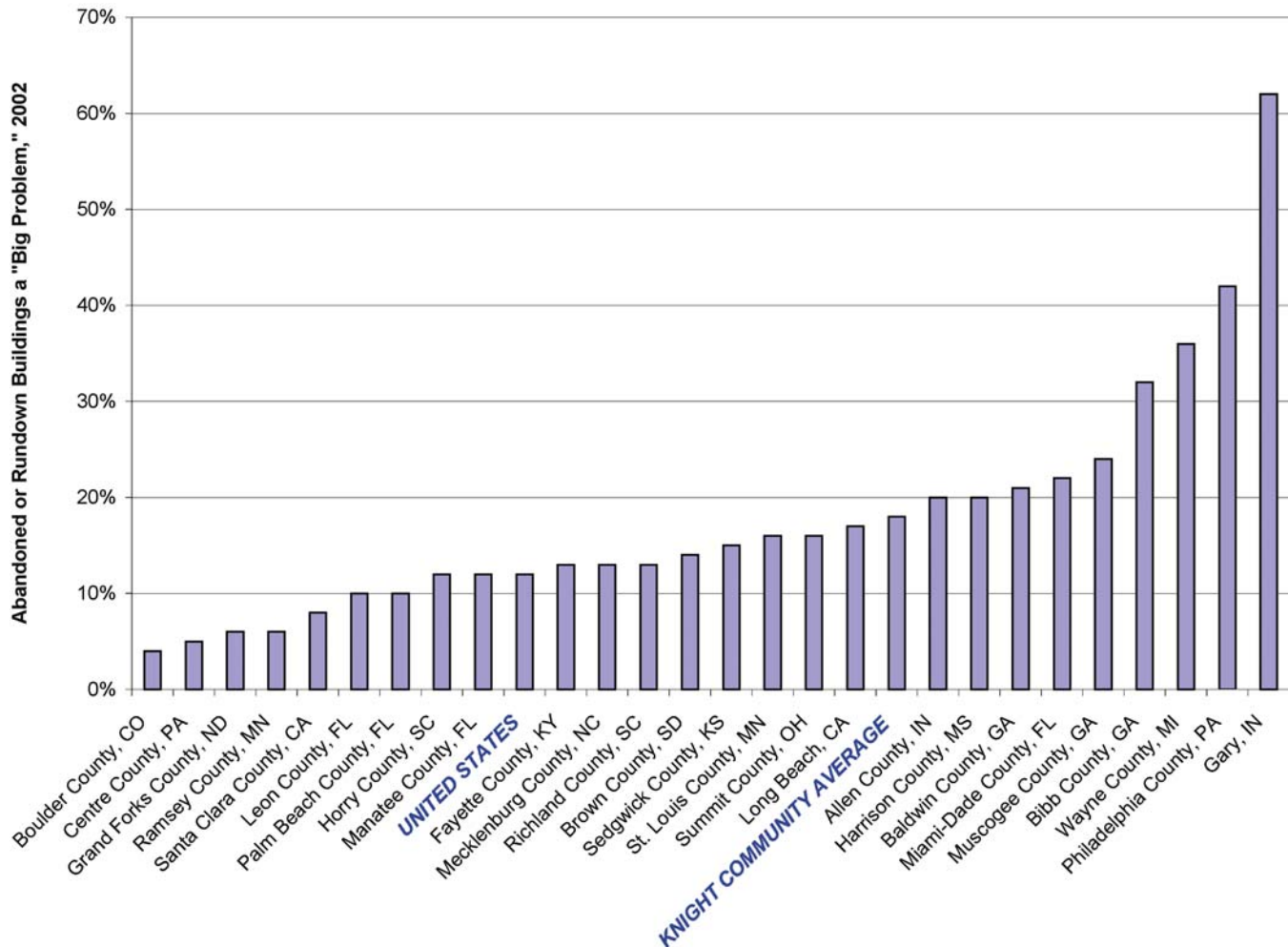
Knight community residents tend to view abandoned or rundown buildings as a larger problem than the U.S. population generally: on average, 18 percent of residents in the Knight communities report abandoned or rundown buildings as a big problem, compared to 12 percent nationally. Concern about abandoned or rundown buildings varies widely across the communities, however, with 4 percent of residents in Boulder County and 62 percent of residents in the city of Gary saying such buildings are a big problem.

Less than 10 percent of residents consider abandoned or rundown buildings a big problem in five

communities – Boulder, Centre, Grand Forks, Ramsey and Santa Clara counties. At the other end of the scale, residents of four communities – Bibb, Philadelphia and Wayne counties and the city of Gary – appear exceptionally concerned about abandoned or rundown buildings, each with over three in 10 residents citing the issue as a big problem.

Concern about abandoned or rundown buildings appears to be greatest in two groups of Knight communities: communities with older central cities, mostly in the Northeast and Midwest (Allen, Philadelphia and Wayne counties and the city of Gary) and smaller communities in the Southeast (Baldwin, Bibb, Harrison and Muscogee counties).

Concern About Abandoned or Rundown Buildings (2002)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 3H

The level of concern about abandoned or rundown buildings increased significantly in nearly half of the Knight communities between 1999 and 2002. In three of these 12 communities – Miami-Dade, Philadelphia and Wayne counties – the proportion of residents who say that abandoned or rundown buildings are a big problem increased by at least 10 percentage points. Grand Forks County was the only community to see a significant decrease in concern about abandoned or rundown buildings over the period.

Associated Indicators

Abandoned or rundown buildings appear to be of less concern in Knight communities with higher property values. In the five communities with the highest median housing values, an average of 10 percent of residents say that abandoned or rundown buildings are a big problem.

By comparison, in the five communities with the lowest median housing values, over three times as many residents (an average of 31 percent) hold this view. Several communities, however, have low median housing values and low levels of concern about abandoned or rundown buildings. In Grand Forks County, for example, the median housing value is under \$100,000, and only 6 percent of residents say that abandoned or rundown buildings are a big problem.

Communities with older housing stocks also tend to be more concerned about abandoned or rundown buildings. In the five communities with the highest percentage of housing units built before 1960, an average of 35 percent of residents view abandoned or rundown buildings as a big problem – over three times the average proportion of residents who hold this view (10 percent) in the five communities with the lowest proportion of housing units built before 1960.

Median Housing Value (2000) and Concern About Abandoned or Rundown Buildings (2002)

	Property Value: Lowest Quintile	Property Value: Fourth Quintile	Property Value: Third Quintile	Property Value: Second Quintile	Property Value: Highest Quintile
Concern about Abandoned Buildings: Highest Quintile	Gary, IN Philadelphia County, PA	Bibb County, GA Muscogee County, GA	Wayne County, MI		
Concern about Abandoned Buildings: Fourth Quintile	Baldwin County, GA	Allen County, IN Harrison County, MS	Summit County, OH	Miami-Dade County, FL	Long Beach, CA
Concern about Abandoned Buildings: Third Quintile	Brown County, SD St. Louis County, MN	Sedgwick County, KS	Richland County, SC		Mecklenburg County, NC
Concern about Abandoned Buildings: Second Quintile			Fayette County, KY Leon County, FL	Horry County, SC Manatee County, FL	Palm Beach County, FL Ramsey County, MN
Concern about Abandoned Buildings: Lowest Quintile			Grand Forks County, ND	Centre County, PA	Boulder County, CO Santa Clara County, CA

Concern About Homelessness

The percentage of residents who say that homelessness is a “big problem” in their community is used to measure the level of concern about this issue.

Concern About Homelessness

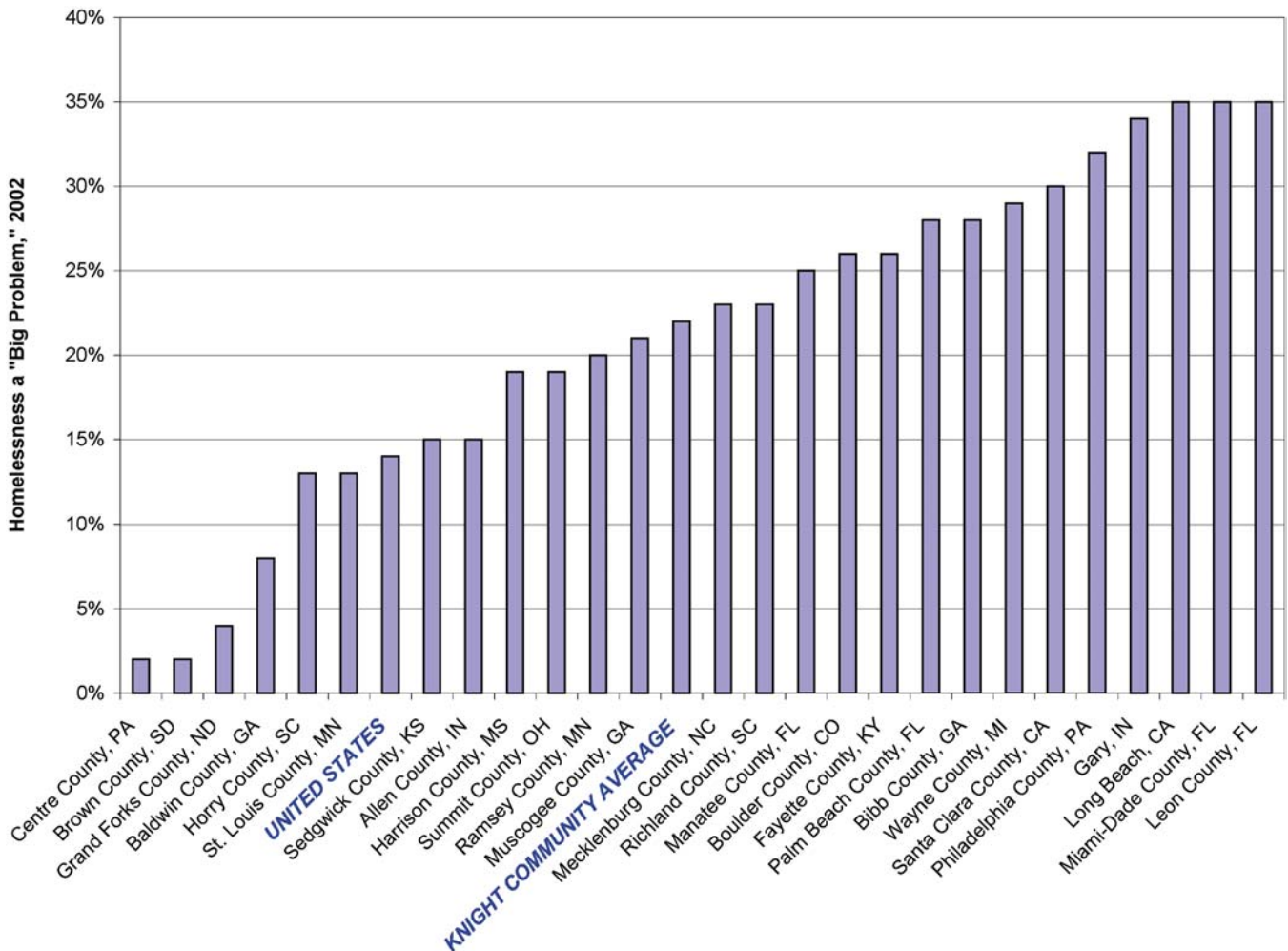
Knight community residents tend to view homelessness as more of a problem than the general U.S. population: 22 percent of Knight community residents, on average, identify homelessness as a big problem, compared to 14 percent nationally. However, the proportion that views homelessness as a big problem varies widely across the Knight communities – from 2 percent in Brown and Centre counties to 35 percent in Leon and Miami-Dade counties and the city of Long Beach.

Homelessness is seen as a big problem by less than 10 percent of residents in four Knight communities –

Baldwin, Brown, Centre and Grand Forks counties. In contrast, over one-third of residents in four communities view homelessness as a big problem – Leon and Miami-Dade counties and the cities of Gary and Long Beach.

In a majority of Knight communities, there was a significant increase in concern about homelessness between 1999 and 2002. In five of these communities – Bibb, Fayette, Manatee, Richland and Wayne counties – the proportion of residents who say that homelessness is a big problem increased by 10 percentage points or more. Long Beach was the only community in which concern about this matter decreased significantly.

Concern About Homelessness (2002)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 31

Associated Indicators

Residents of the Knight communities with the largest populations are far more concerned about homelessness than residents of the smallest Knight communities. While an average of 31 percent of residents in communities with over 1 million say that homelessness is a big problem, an average of 5 percent hold this view in communities with populations under 100,000. The averages for communities in the middle ranges in population are between 21 and 24 percent.

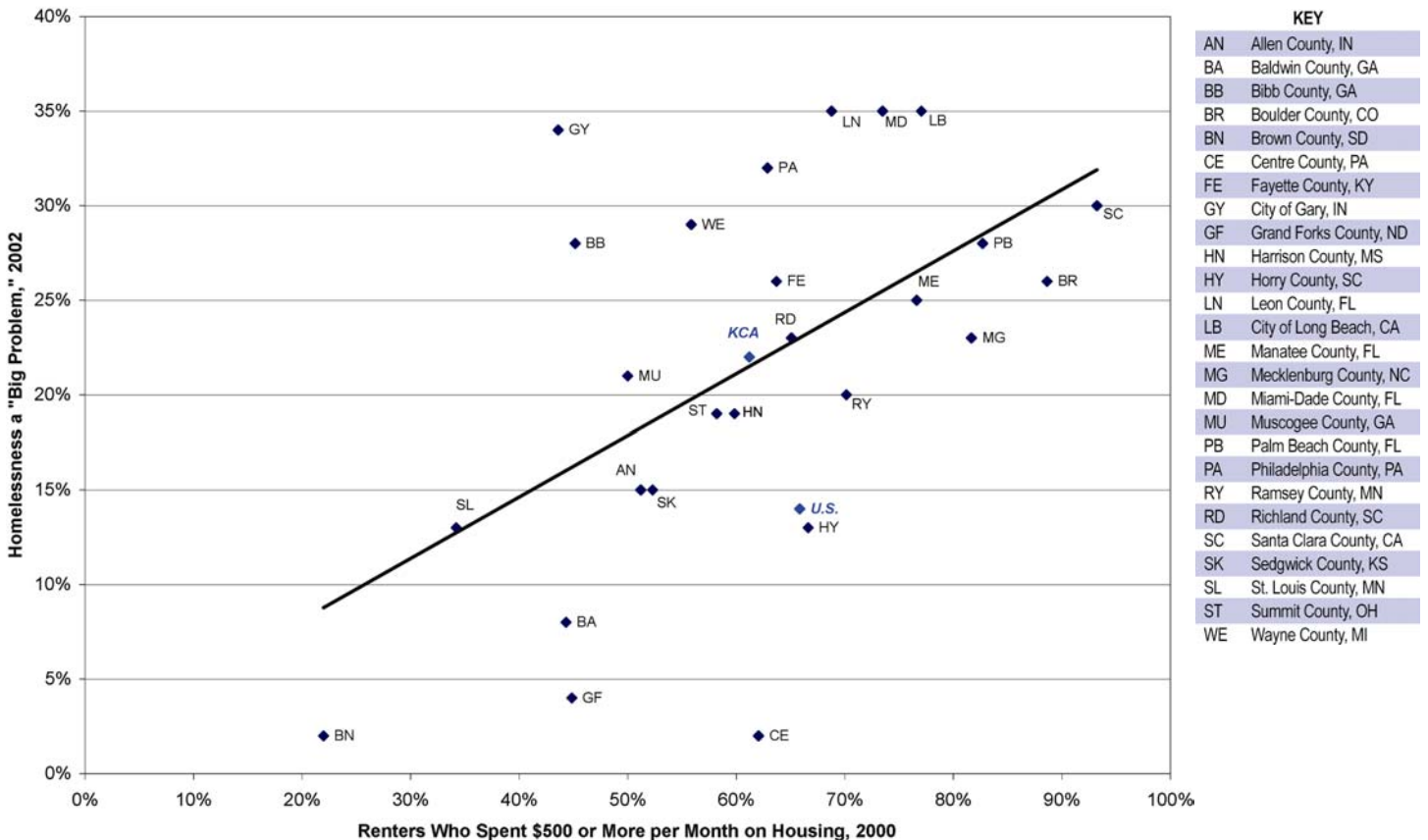
There are strong links between the affordability of rental housing and the proportion of residents who consider homelessness to be a big problem. In the five communities with the highest proportion of renters spending at least 30 percent of their monthly income on housing, 26 percent of the residents view homelessness as a big problem. By contrast, only 13 percent of residents hold this view in the five communities with the lowest proportion of renters spending 30 percent or more of their income on housing.

The most striking exception to this pattern is Centre County, in which over half of renters spend 30 percent or more of their monthly income on housing, but only 2 percent of residents view homelessness as a big problem.

Similarly, communities that have a higher proportion of renters who spend at least \$500 a month on housing also tend to have a higher proportion of residents who view homelessness as a big problem. In the six communities in which over three in four renters spend \$500 or more per month, an average of 28 percent say that homelessness is a big problem. The corresponding figure in the six communities in which less than one-half of renters spend at least \$500 a month is 15 percent.

However, a few communities stand out as exceptions to this pattern. In Bibb County and the city of Gary, just over four in 10 renters spend \$500 or more a month on housing, but the proportion of residents who view homelessness as a big problem is at least twice the national average (28 and 34 percent, respectively).

Rental Rates (2000) and Concern About Homelessness (2002)



Concern About Crime, Drugs or Violence

The percentage of residents who say that crime, drugs or violence is a “big problem” in their community is used to measure the level of concern about these issues.

Concern About Crime, Drugs or Violence

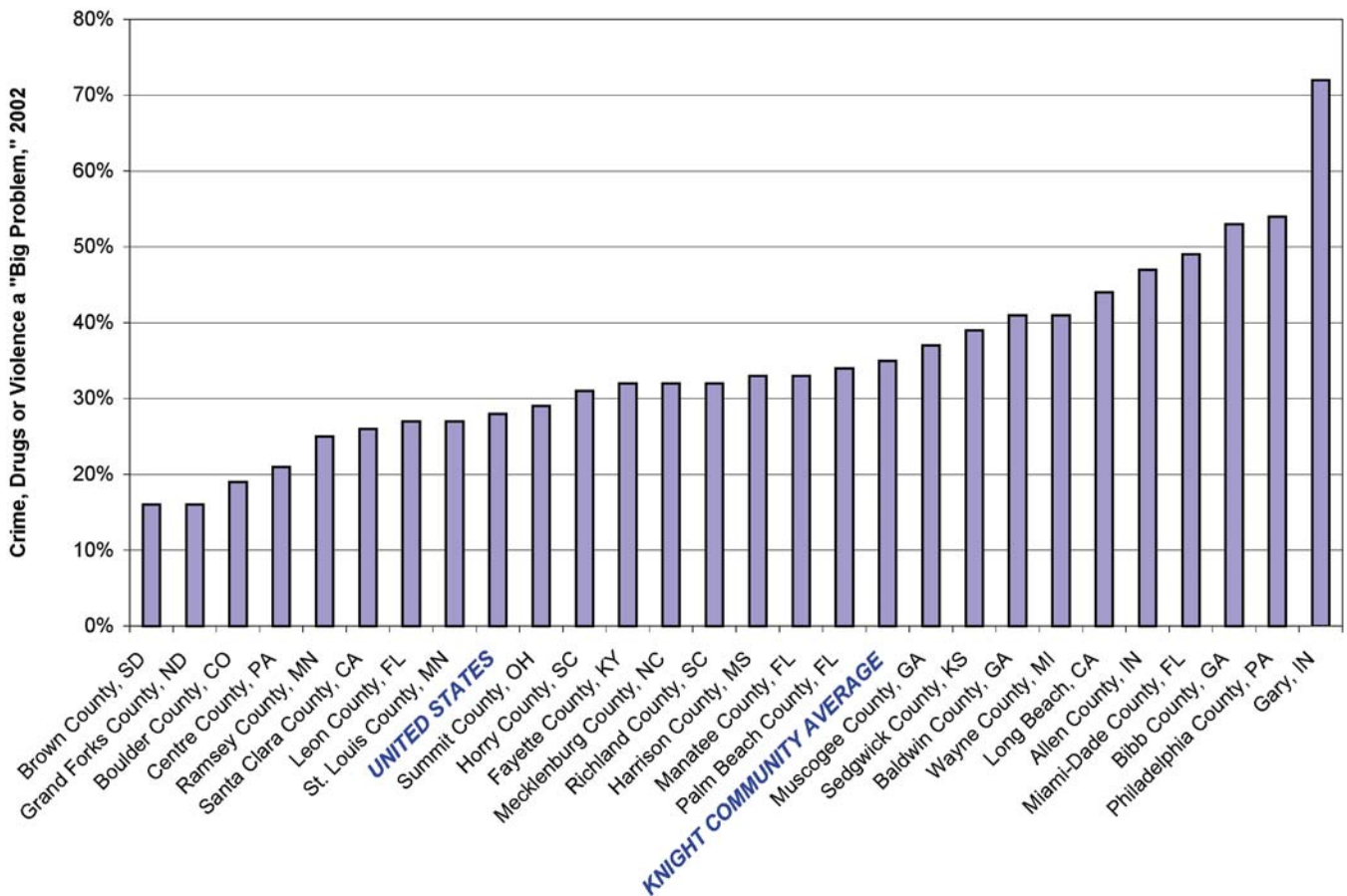
Knight community residents are somewhat more concerned about crime, drugs and violence than the general U.S. population. On average, about 35 percent of Knight residents report crime, drugs or violence to be a big problem, compared to 28 percent of residents nationally. However, the level of concern about crime* varies widely among the Knight communities, with the proportion of residents citing it as a big problem ranging from a low of 16 percent in Brown and Grand Forks counties to a high of 72 percent in the city of Gary.

Less than one in four residents view crime as a big problem in Boulder, Brown, Centre and Grand Forks

counties, and less than three in 10 hold this view in Leon, Ramsey, St. Louis, Santa Clara and Summit counties. On the other hand, over half of community residents report crime to be a big problem in Bibb and Philadelphia counties and the city of Gary.

Between 1999 and 2002, the level of concern about crime remained fairly stable in 15 Knight communities. However, it increased significantly in 10 communities, with increases of more than 10 percentage points in Miami-Dade, St. Louis and Wayne counties. Baldwin County was the only community to see a significant drop in concern about crime over the period.

Concern About Crime, Drugs or Violence (2002)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 3J

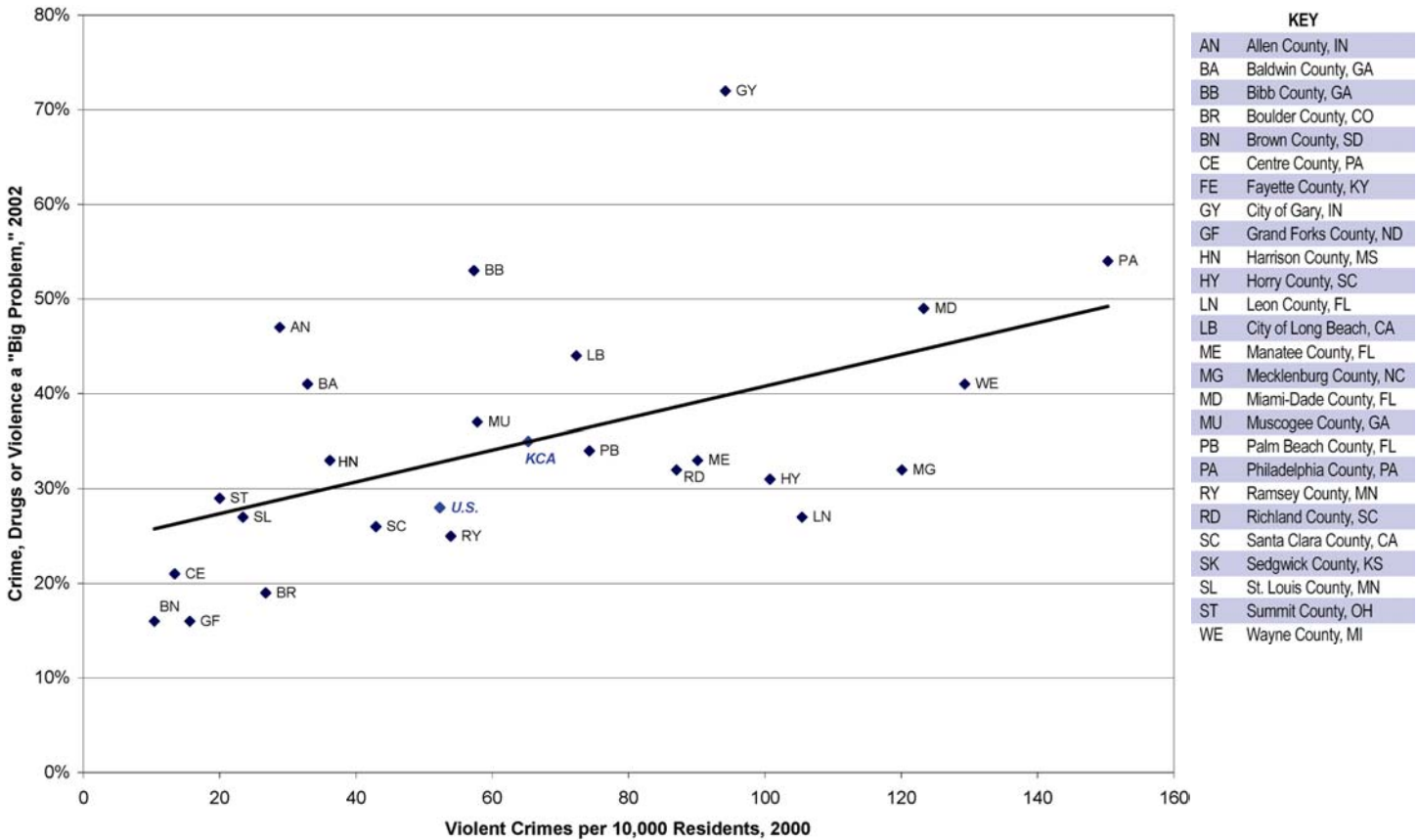
* Concern about crime, drugs or violence is often contracted to concern about crime.

Associated Indicators

A higher proportion of residents (41 percent) report crime to be a big problem in the largest Knight communities (over 1 million) than in communities with smaller populations, but there is not a strong overall relationship between community size and residents’ perceptions about crime. In the city of Gary, for example, one of the smaller Knight communities with just over 100,000 inhabitants, 72 percent of community residents view crime as a big problem.

Residents’ perceptions about crime correspond very well with actual crime rates in the community, particularly rates of violent crime. In the five communities with the lowest violent crime rates, an average of 22 percent of residents view crime as a big problem, just under half the figure of 41 percent in the five communities with the highest violent crime rates. The level of concern about crime is similar in the five communities with the lowest and highest total crime rates, with 22 percent and 40 percent, respectively, viewing crime as a big problem.

Violent Crime Rate (2000) and Concern About Crime, Drugs or Violence (2002)



Fayette County, KY and Sedgwick County, KS were excluded from the graph because violent crime data were unavailable for these communities.

Feel Safe From Crime

The percentage of residents who say that they feel “very safe” from crime while walking in their neighborhood after dark is used to measure how safe people feel in their community.

Feel Safe From Crime

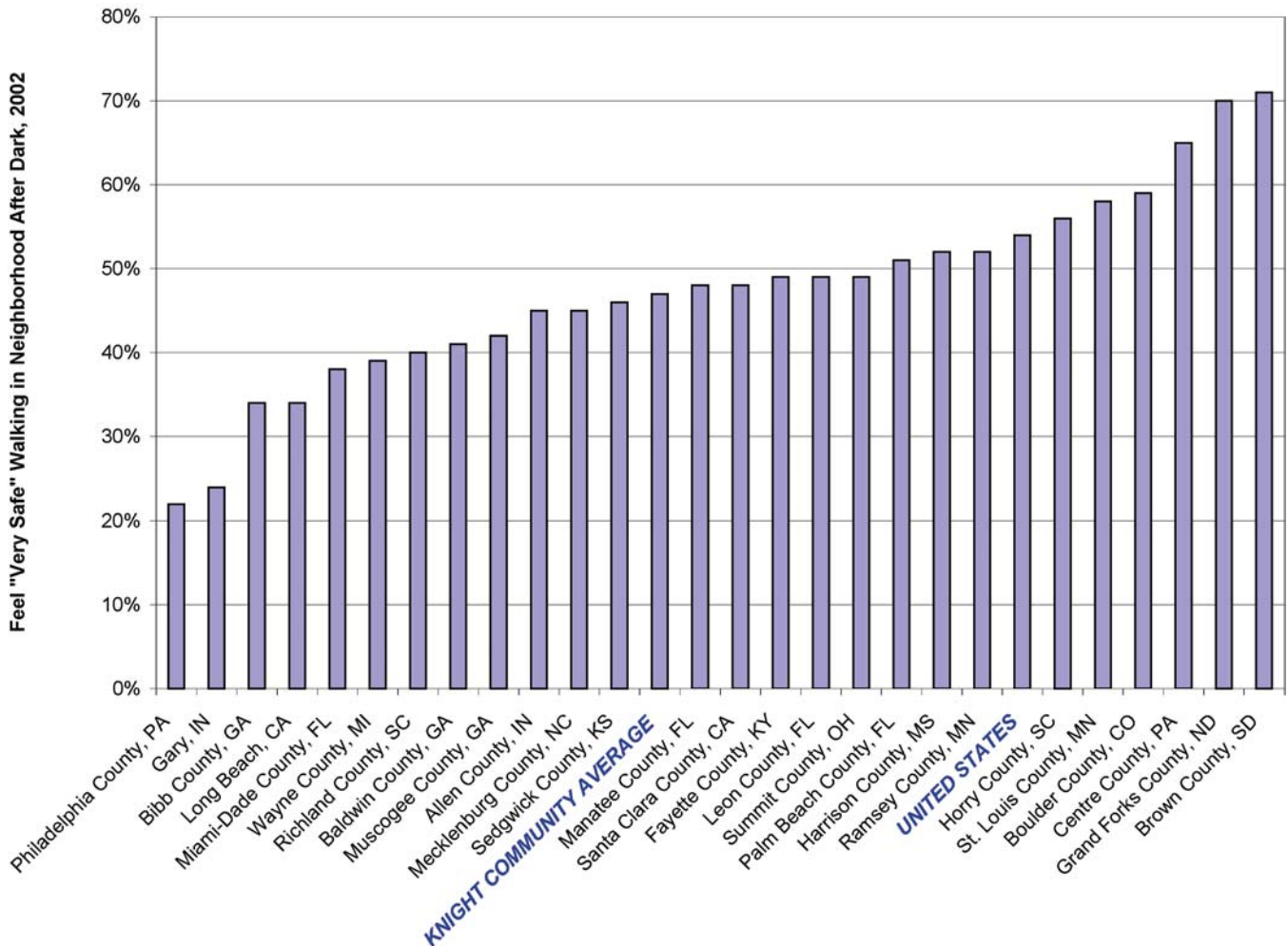
Residents of Knight communities tend to feel less safe from crime in their neighborhood than the general U.S. population: 47 percent of Knight residents, on average, feel very safe walking in their neighborhood after dark, compared to 54 percent nationally. Feelings of safety range from a low of 22 percent in Philadelphia County to a high of 71 percent in Brown County.

Over 60 percent of residents of Brown, Centre and Grand Forks counties report that they feel very safe in their neighborhoods after dark, while less than four in 10 residents hold this view in Bibb, Miami-Dade, Philadelphia and Wayne counties and the cities of Gary and Long Beach.

In every Knight community, a higher proportion of residents report feeling very safe in their neighborhood than they do downtown, while fewer report feeling very safe in their neighborhood than they do at home. However, residents’ views on all three measures of safety are highly consistent across the communities.

In most Knight communities, the proportion of residents who report feeling very safe from crime in their neighborhood remained relatively stable from 1999 to 2002. Four communities – Grand Forks, Horry and Santa Clara counties and the city of Gary – reported a significantly higher proportion of residents who say that they feel very safe; and two communities – Richland and Sedgwick counties – reported a significant drop in

Feelings of Safety From Crime (2002)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 3K

the proportion of residents who say that they feel very safe.

Associated Indicators

Residents’ feelings about safety in their neighborhoods are highly consistent with crime rates in their communities, particularly rates of violent crime. In the five communities with the lowest violent crime rates, an average of 63 percent of residents report feeling very safe in their neighborhood, compared to 39 percent in the five communities with the highest violent crime rates.

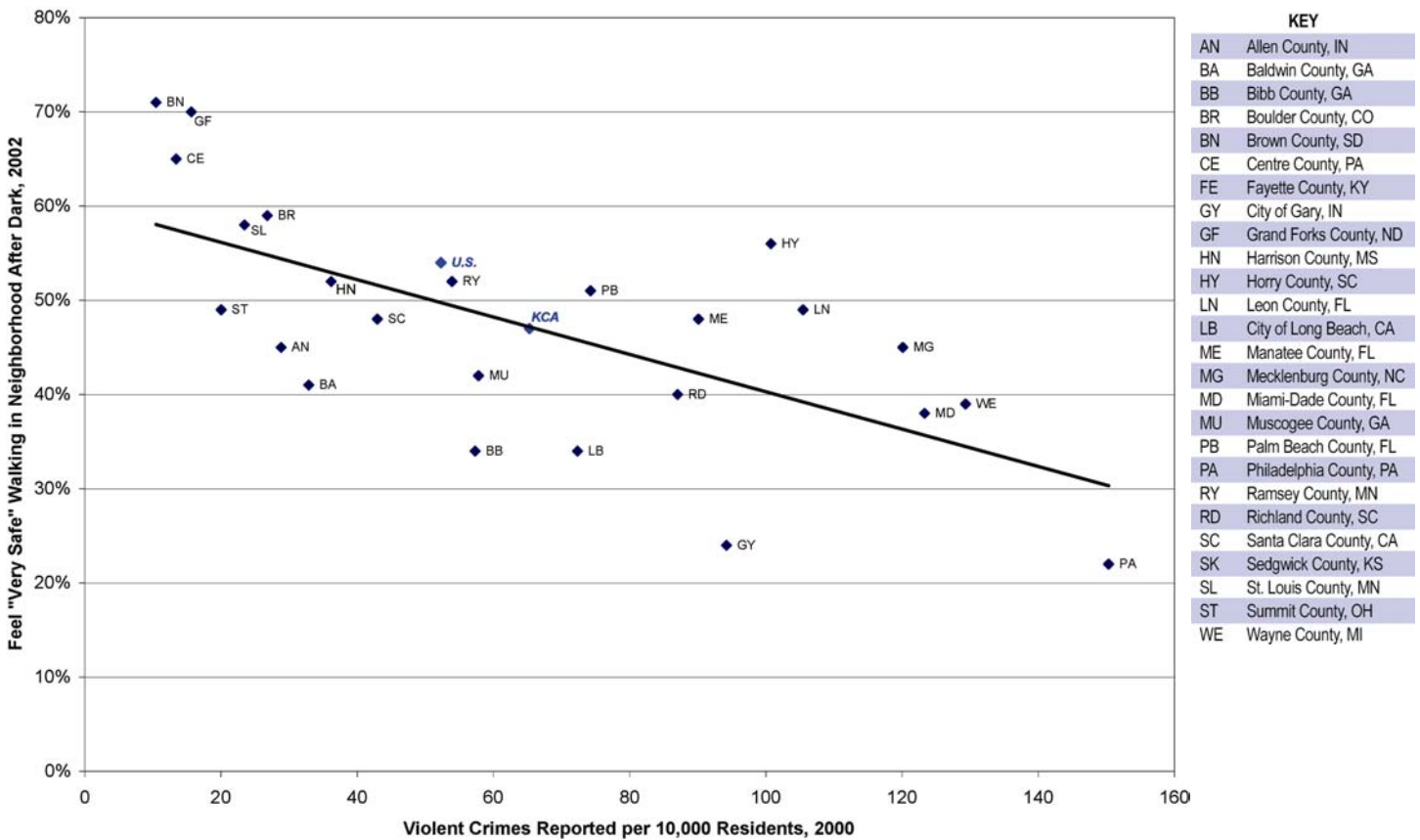
Associated Views About the Local Community

Residents of Knight communities have congruent views about their personal safety and the importance of crime as a problem in their community. In the five

communities in which the highest proportion of residents list crime, drugs or violence as a big problem, only one in three (33 percent) residents say that they feel very safe in their neighborhoods. The figure rises to nearly two in three residents (63 percent) in the five communities that have the lowest levels of concern about crime, drugs and violence.

Communities in which a higher proportion of residents view too many unsupervised children and teenagers as a big problem also tend to have fewer residents who feel very safe from crime in their neighborhoods. In the five communities that report the highest levels of concern about unsupervised children and teenagers, again about one in three residents feels very safe in their neighborhoods, compared to nearly two in three residents (63 percent) in the five communities with the lowest levels of concern about these issues.

Violent Crime Rate (2000) and Feelings of Safety From Crime (2002)



Fayette County, KY and Sedgwick County, KS were excluded from the graph because violent crime data were unavailable for these communities.

CHAPTER 4

Civic Engagement and Positive Human Relations



Carol Abbott volunteered to help Hyman Diego, 7, and his sister Maria, 10, cast Kids Voting USA ballots in the November 2002 elections at Myrtle Beach Elementary School in South Carolina. Getting residents of the Grand Strand more involved in the civic life of the community is the funding priority recommended by Myrtle Beach's advisory committee.

LISTENING AND LEARNING

Introduction and Highlights

The level and nature of civic engagement range greatly across the Knight communities. Voter turnout far exceeds the national average in some communities and falls well below it in others. Residents of some communities think volunteering their own time is the most effective way to have an impact in the community, while others tend to think it is most effective to get others involved. Some communities are highly concerned about a lack of community involvement by other residents; others do not see a great problem with the level of community involvement. The majority of residents in some communities regularly go to a place of worship, whereas residents of other communities tend to go only infrequently.

The general state of human relations also varies from community to community. In some communities, a high proportion of residents knows all their close-by neighbors; in others, relatively few residents know their neighbors. Racial and ethnic tension is considered a major problem by many residents in some communities and by comparatively few residents in other communities.

The civic engagement and human relations section that follows presents findings for the 26 Knight communities. Unlike previous chapters, most of the information in this section is derived from the surveys; voter turnout is the only indicator from administrative records.

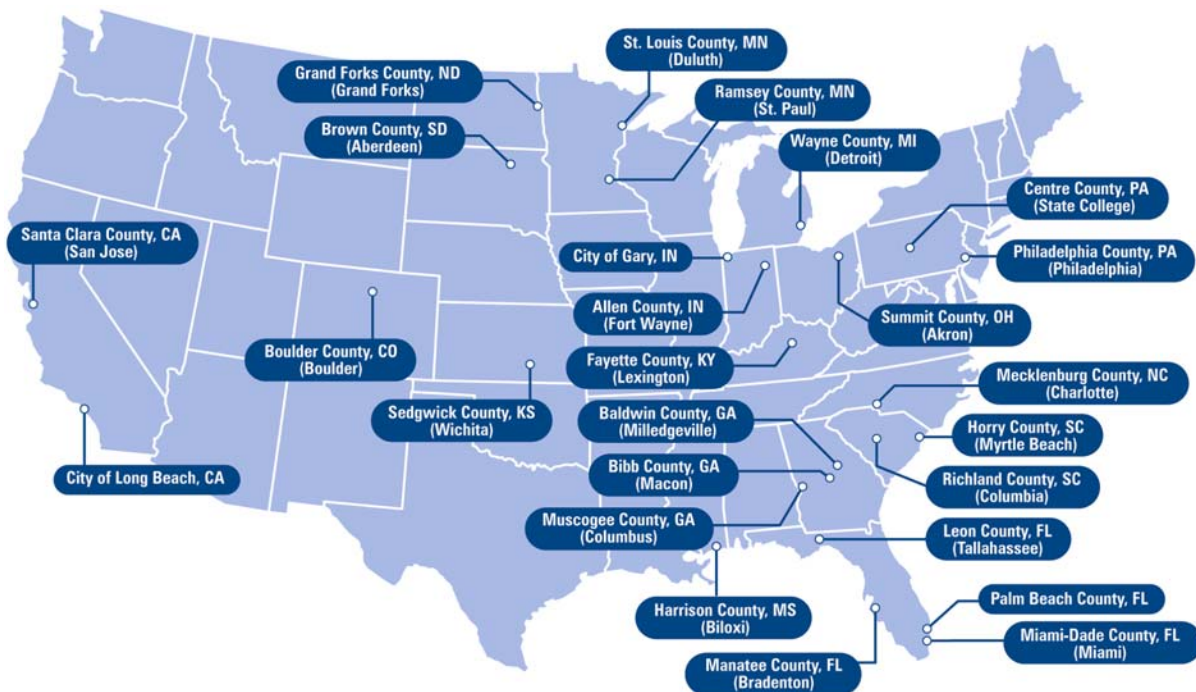
Indicator Area	Administrative Records
Voter Turnout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voter Turnout, 2000

Indicator Area	Community Surveys
General Views About Community Involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percent of Residents Who Think It Is Most Effective to Get Other People Involved, Volunteer Time, Complain to Authorities and Give Money Percent of Residents Who Think the Lack of Involvement in the Community Is a “Big Problem”
Volunteering in Different Community Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percent of Residents Who Have Volunteered for Tutoring or Educational Programs, Arts or Cultural Programs, Youth Development Programs, Neighborhood or Civic Groups and Programs That Help Poor, Elderly or Homeless People
Participation in Religious Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percent of Residents Who Say They Go to a Place of Worship “Daily” or “About Once a Week”
Charitable Giving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percent of Residents Who Say They Contribute Money, Property or Other Items to a Charity or Nonprofit Organization Other Than Their Place of Worship Percent of Residents Who Say They Contribute Money, Property or Other Items to a Place of Worship
Positive Human Relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percent of Residents Who Say They Know All Their Close-by Neighbors Percent of Residents Who Say the Tension Between Racial and Ethnic Groups Is a “Big Problem”

The civic engagement and human relations indicator and survey findings emphasize the diversity of the Knight communities. We highlight here a few of the most important measures and selected relationships among the indicators.

- Voter turnout in 2000 ranged over 30 percentage points across the Knight communities – from 69 percent in St. Louis County to 38 percent in Harrison County; the U.S. average was 52 percent of the voting-age population.
- Getting other people involved and volunteering time are viewed as the two most effective ways to have an impact in the community; Knight residents far less favor complaining to authorities and giving money.
- Communities with more highly educated populations tend to view the lack of community involvement as a less severe problem than communities with lower levels of educational attainment.
- Knight communities with high rates of participation in religious activities tend to have higher rates of volunteerism and lower levels of educational attainment.

- The most popular volunteer activities in the Knight communities involve helping the poor and working with an educational program; working with youth development programs and neighborhood groups is somewhat less popular; and arts and cultural groups attract the fewest volunteers.
- Contributions to nonreligious charitable organizations tend to be higher in communities with higher median household incomes and higher levels of educational attainment.
- Contributions to religious organizations tend to be higher in communities with lower median incomes and lower levels of educational attainment.
- In smaller communities and communities with high rates of home ownership, residents tend to have the most familiarity with their neighbors.
- Communities with large minority populations tend to have more pronounced concern about tension between racial and ethnic groups.



Voter Turnout

Voter turnout represents one aspect of people’s involvement in the political life of their community. This indicator measures the percentage of the voting-age population participating in the 1992 and 2000 presidential elections.

Voter Turnout

Average voter turnout in the Knight communities (50 percent) was slightly lower than turnout nationally (52 percent) in the 2000 elections. However, voter turnout varied widely across the Knight communities – from a high of 69 percent in St. Louis County to a low of 38 percent in Harrison County.

Voter turnout exceeded 60 percent in four Knight communities – Boulder, Brown, Ramsey and St. Louis counties. In contrast, voter turnout fell below 40 percent in three communities – Baldwin, Harrison and Miami-Dade counties.

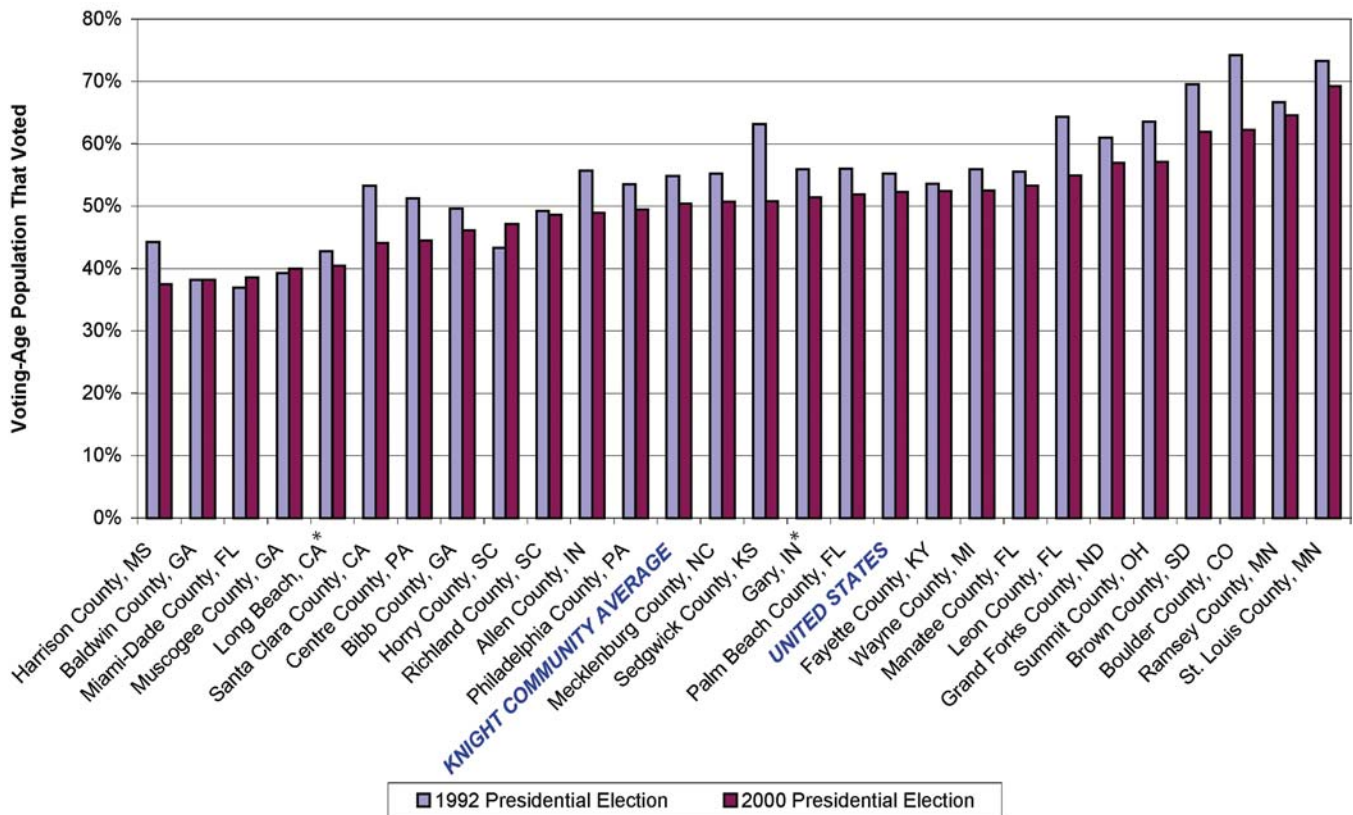
Between 1992 and 2000, voter turnout decreased by 4 percentage points in the Knight communities, roughly 1 percentage point more than in the United States generally. Boulder and Sedgwick counties experienced the sharpest declines in turnout, each dropping by 12 percentage points or more. Horry and Miami-Dade

were the only communities to register increases in turnout of more than 1 percentage point, with rises of 4 and 2 percent, respectively.

Associated Indicators

Knight communities with smaller minority populations tended to have higher voter turnout in 2000. The five communities with the smallest minority populations had an average voter turnout of 59 percent. In contrast, in the five communities with the largest minority populations, the average voter turnout was 45 percent. Centre County, however, diverged from this pattern, with a small minority population (9 percent) and low voter turnout (45 percent). The city of Gary, on the other hand, had voter turnout near the national average (51 percent) and the largest minority population (90 percent) among the Knight communities.

Voter Turnout (1992, 2000)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 4A

* Lake County and Los Angeles County were used in place of Gary and Long Beach because data were not available at the city level.

Having the Most Effective Impact in the Community

The percentage of residents who say that the best way to have an impact in making their community a better place to live is to “get other people involved” or “volunteer time” is a measure of residents’ views on this issue. (The percentages are based on the sample of residents who think that they can have at least a small impact in making their community a better place to live.)

Having the Most Effective Impact

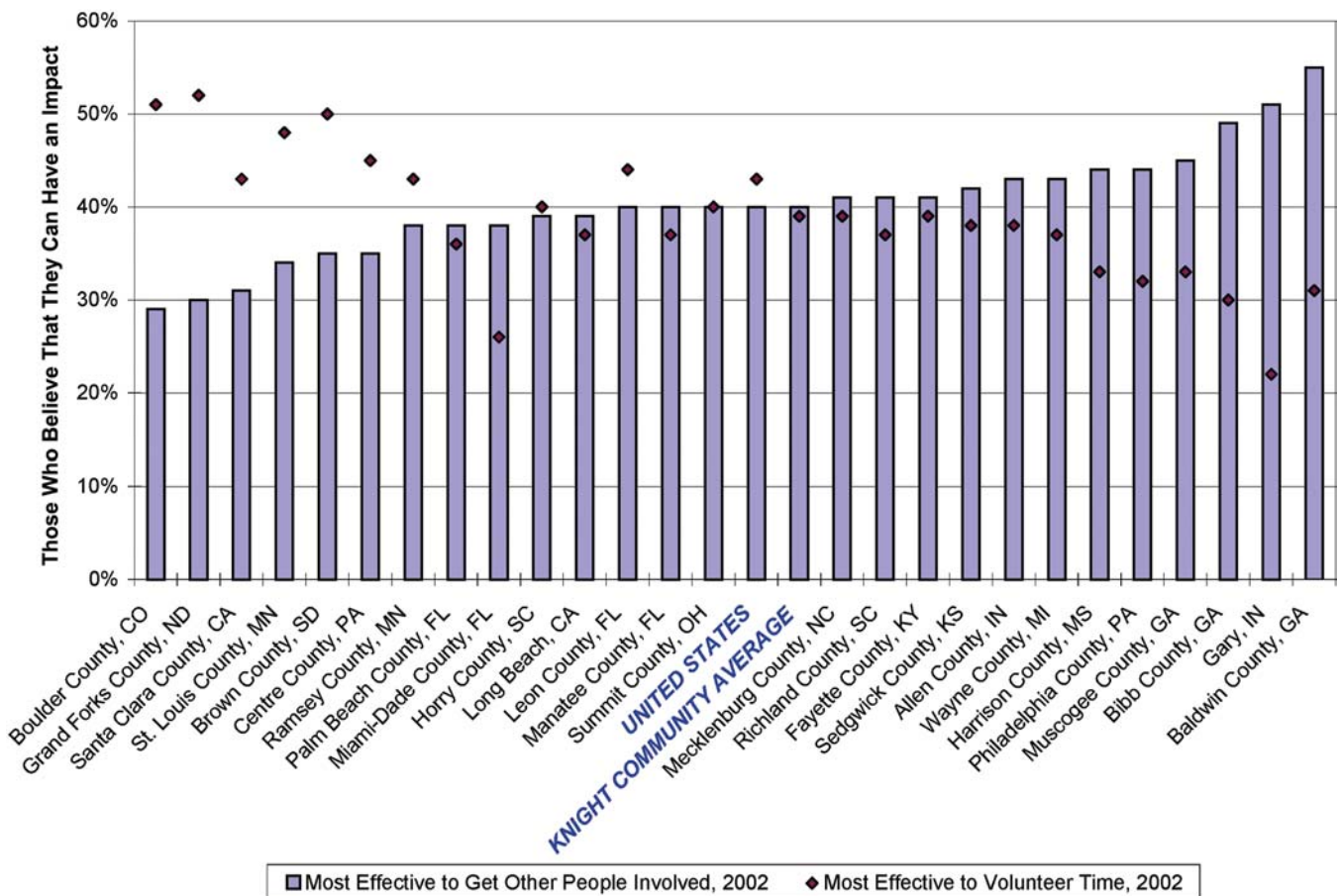
An average of 40 percent of Knight community residents who say that they can have some impact in making their community a better place to live say that the best way to do this is to get other people involved. The proportion ranges from 55 percent in Baldwin County to 29 percent in Boulder County.

Nearly the same proportion of Knight community residents (39 percent) say that they can make a big impact by volunteering their own time. Here the

proportions range from 52 percent in Grand Forks County to 22 percent in the city of Gary.

Knight community residents are much less inclined to view complaining to authorities and giving money as the best ways to make an impact in their communities. On average, 8 percent of Knight residents favor complaining to authorities and 3 percent support giving money. In no community is giving money favored by more than 5 percent of respondents; in only two communities is complaining to the authorities favored by more than 10 percent of respondents.

Having the Most Effective Impact in the Community (2002)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 4B

Concern About Community Involvement

The percentage of residents who say that people not getting involved in efforts to improve the community is a “big problem” is the measure of concern about community involvement.

Concern About Community Involvement

Knight community residents are more concerned about the lack of community involvement than people nationally. An average of 33 percent of Knight community residents view the lack of community involvement as a big problem, compared to 28 percent nationally. However, the range across Knight communities is substantial – from 15 percent in Centre County to 60 percent in the city of Gary.

In six Knight communities – Baldwin, Bibb, Miami-Dade, Philadelphia and Wayne counties and the city of Gary – at least four in 10 residents say that the lack of community involvement is a big problem. In contrast, fewer than one in four residents holds this view in five

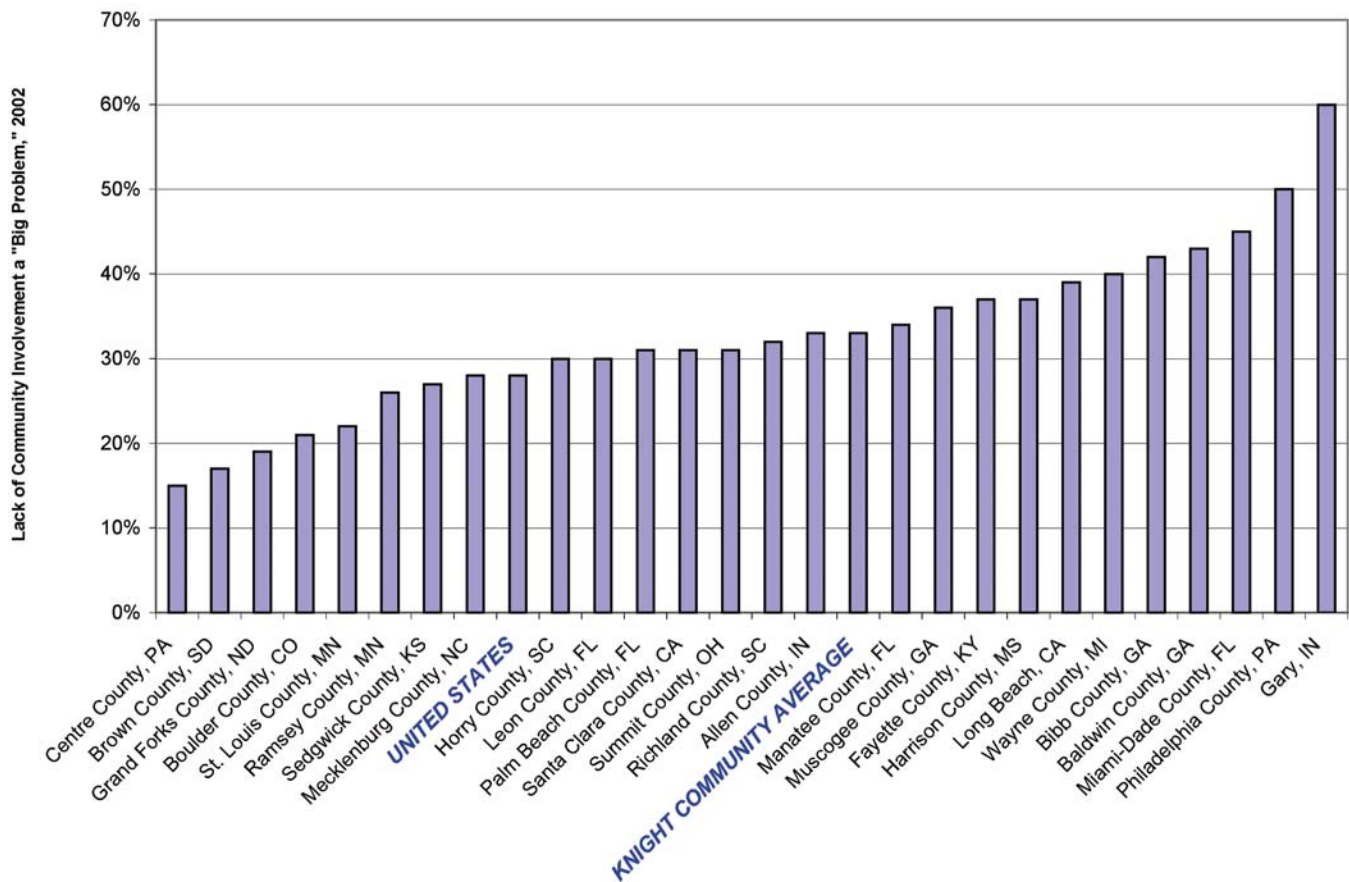
other communities – Boulder, Brown, Centre, Grand Forks and St. Louis counties

The concern about lack of community involvement was relatively stable in most Knight communities between 1999 and 2002. However, the proportion of residents who see lack of community involvement as a big problem increased significantly in 10 communities, including three – Fayette, Miami-Dade and Philadelphia counties – with increases of at least 10 percentage points.

Associated Indicators

Concern about community involvement is not consistently related to community size, but it is very

Concern About Community Involvement (2002)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 4C

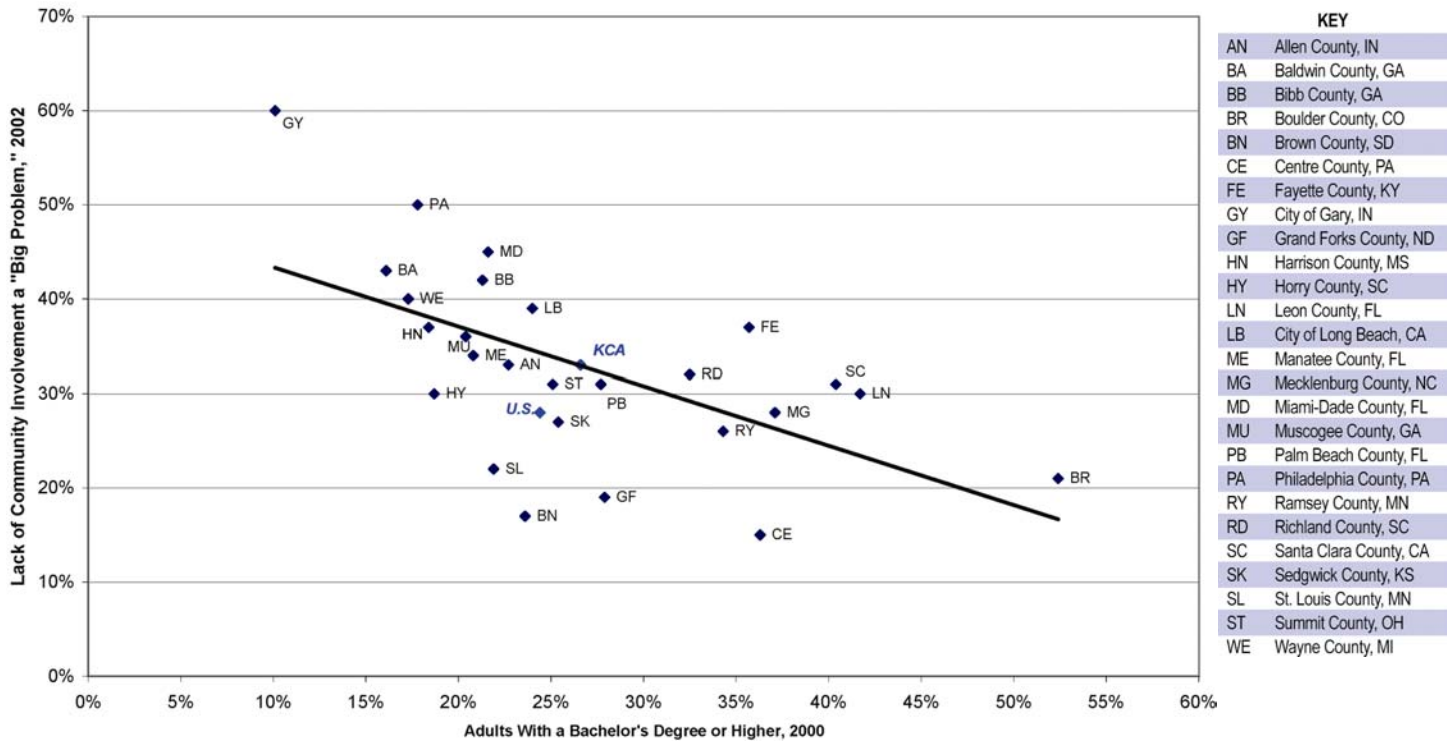
high in the largest communities. In the five communities with populations of more than 1 million, 39 percent of residents, on average, report that the lack of community involvement is a big problem – about 11 percentage points above the national average of 28 percent.

In Knight communities with more highly educated residents, there is less concern about the lack of community involvement than in communities with lower levels of educational attainment. In the six communities where at least 35 percent of the adults have attained at least a bachelor’s degree, an average of 27 percent say

that the lack of involvement is a big problem; in the six communities in which fewer than 20 percent of residents hold at least a bachelor’s degree, 43 percent of residents report a big problem with community involvement.

Fayette County stands out as an exception to the pattern, with a well-above-average percentage of adults holding at least a bachelor’s degree (36 percent) and a relatively high proportion of residents (37 percent) saying the lack of community involvement is a big problem.

Concern About Community Involvement (2002) and Educational Attainment (2000)



Volunteering in Different Community Programs

The percentage of residents who say that they have volunteered for a particular type of community program in the past 12 months is used to assess the level of participation in five types of programs: 1) tutoring or other educational programs, 2) arts or cultural groups, 3) youth development programs, 4) neighborhood or civic groups and 5) programs that help poor, elderly or homeless people.

Volunteering in Different Community Programs

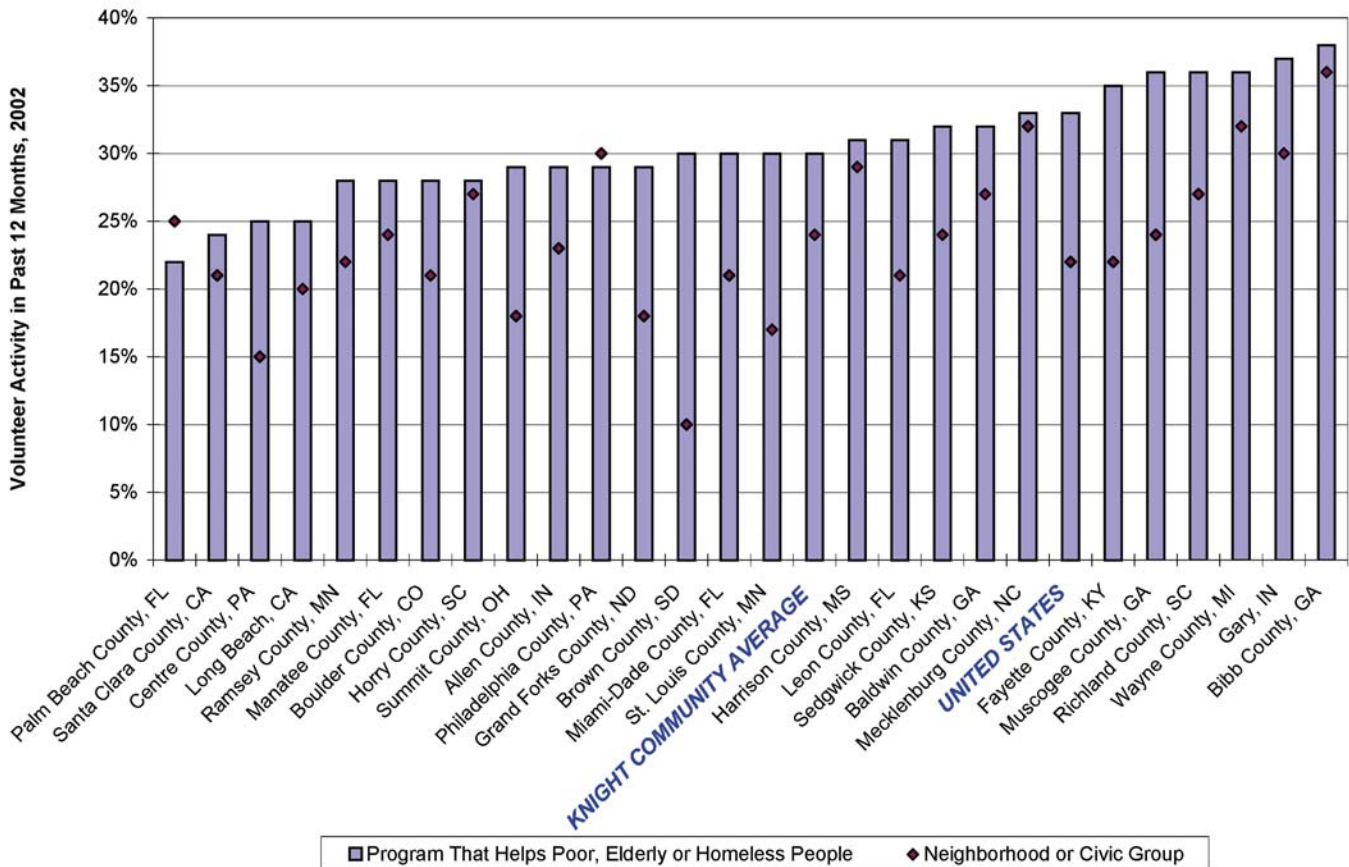
Residents of Knight communities tend to participate more in two types of volunteer activities: programs that help poor, elderly or homeless people, and tutoring or educational programs such as an after-school program or a Sunday school class.

On average, about 30 percent of Knight community residents say that they have spent time volunteering in programs to help the poor, elderly or homeless during the past 12 months. The proportion ranges from a high of 38 percent in Bibb County to a low of 22 percent in Palm Beach County.

Thirty percent of Knight community residents, on average, also say that they have volunteered in tutoring or educational programs. Here the range is slightly wider – from a high of 40 percent in the city of Gary to a low of 21 percent in Palm Beach County.

Youth development programs and programs focused on civic and neighborhood activities draw slightly fewer volunteers. About 26 percent of Knight community residents, on average, say that they have volunteered for a youth development program such as a day care center, scouts or little league; about 24 percent say that they have volunteered for a neighborhood or civic group such as a block association or a neighborhood watch.

Volunteering in Programs That Help the Poor and in Neighborhood Groups (2002)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 4D

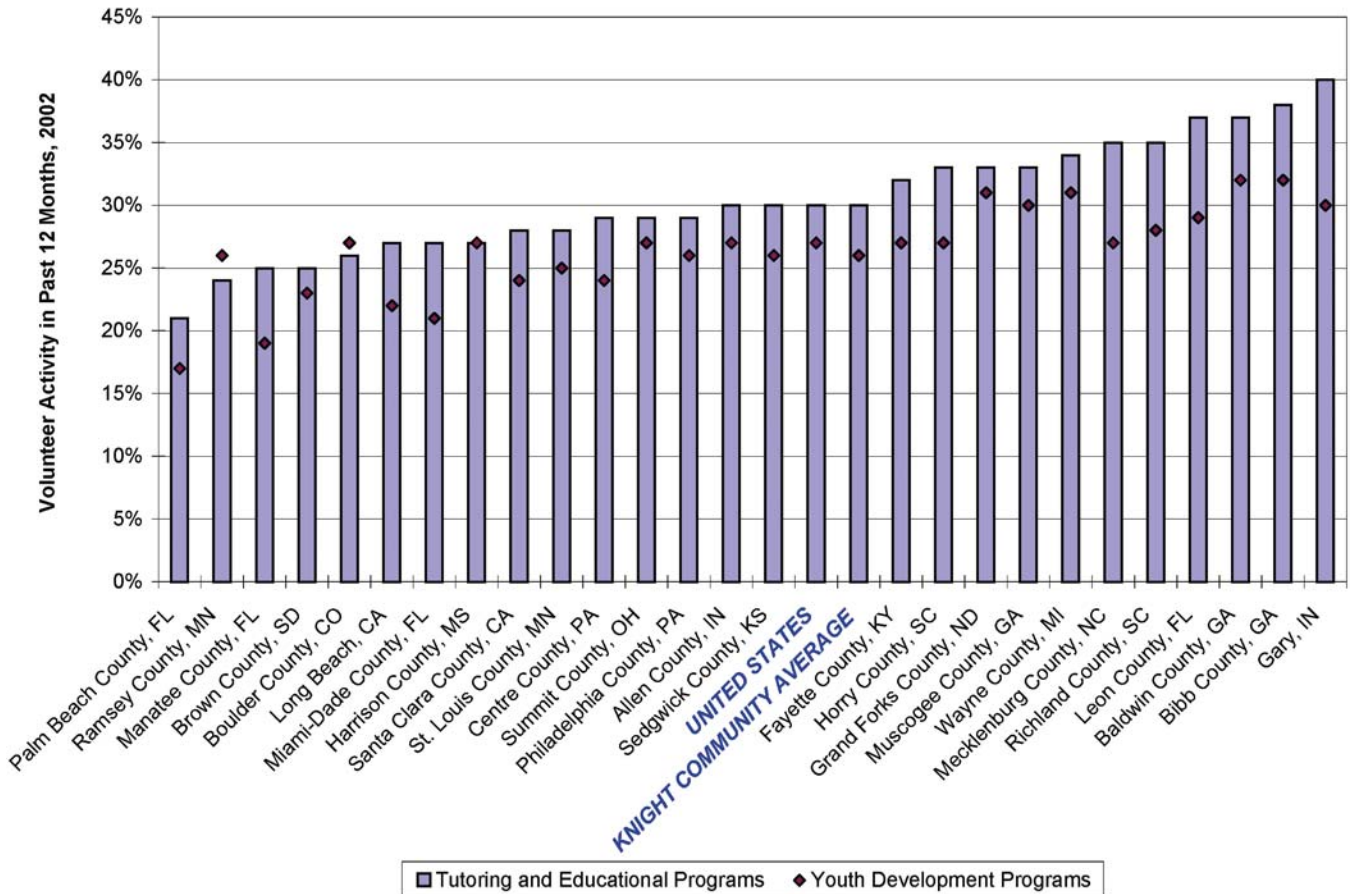
Arts and cultural programs tend to draw much lower rates of volunteerism than other community programs. Only about 14 percent of Knight community residents say that they have volunteered to work for an arts or cultural group, such as a museum, theater or music group.

In most Knight communities, residents tend to favor one or two types of activities. But several communities stand out as having relatively high rates of participation across all five types of programs. Bibb County, for example, has the highest proportion of residents who say

that they volunteer in programs that help the poor, in neighborhood groups and in youth development programs; it ranks second for tutoring programs and eighth for arts programs. Mecklenburg, Richland and Wayne counties also report high levels of volunteerism in several programs.

Other communities tend to have much lower rates of volunteerism in all program areas. These communities include Manatee, Palm Beach, Ramsey and Santa Clara counties.

Volunteering in Educational and Youth Development Programs (2002)



Participation in Religious Activities

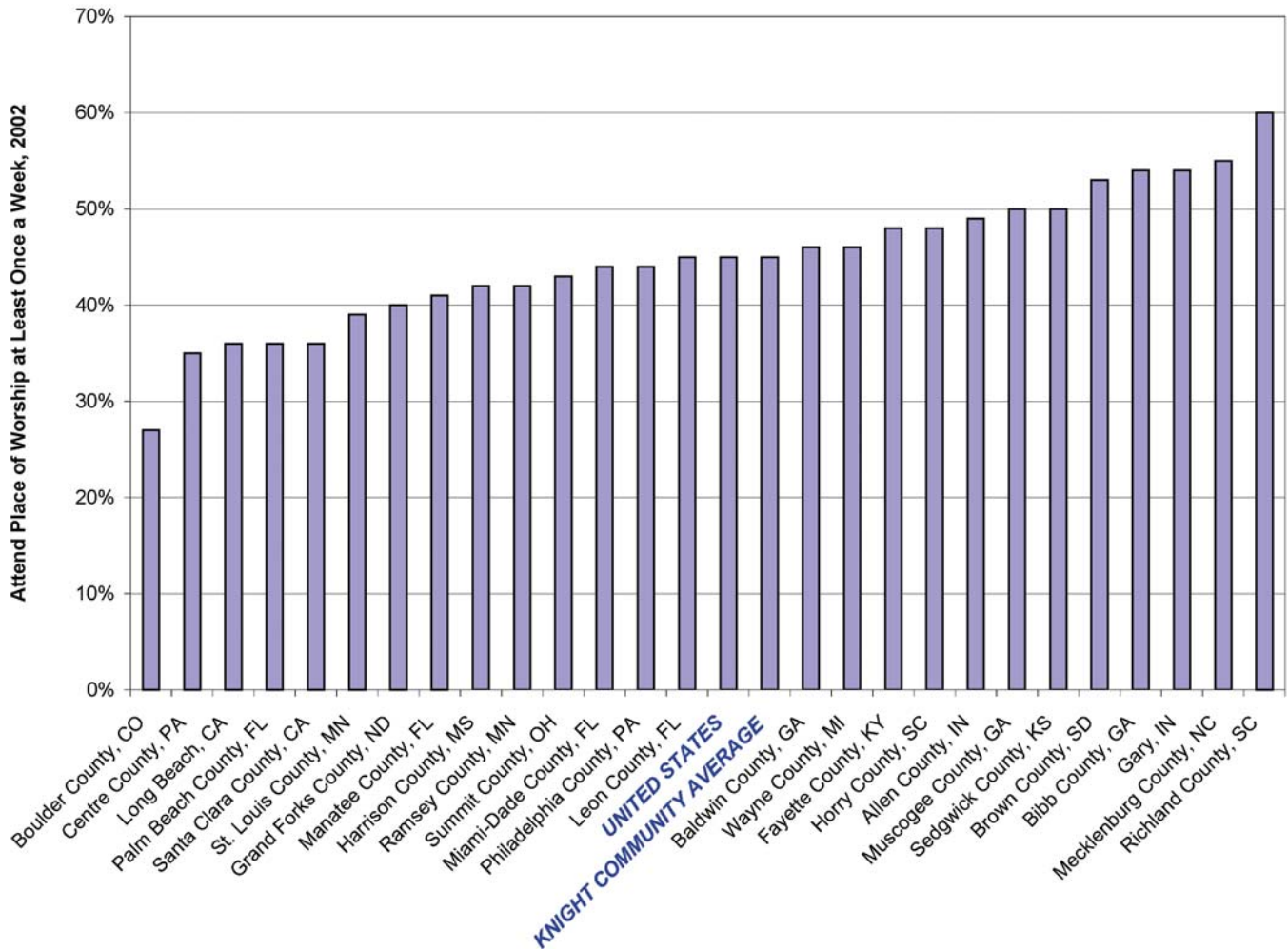
The percentage of residents who say that they go to church, synagogue or some other place of worship “daily” or “about once a week” is used to assess the level of participation in religious activities. These two responses are combined to measure the proportion of residents who attend a place of worship on a regular basis.

Participation in Religious Activities

Knight community residents participate in religious activities at the same rate as the national population – in both populations, an average of 45 percent of residents say that they go to church, synagogue or another place of worship at least once a week. Among the Knight communities, the proportion ranges from a high of 60 percent in Richland County to a low of 27 percent in Boulder County.

Between 1999 and 2002, the proportion of residents who say that they go to a place of worship at least once a week was relatively stable in nearly all Knight communities. Richland County was the only community to change significantly over the period, with the proportion of residents who say that they attend a place of worship at least once a week increasing by 7 percentage points.

Participation in Religious Activities (2002)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 4E

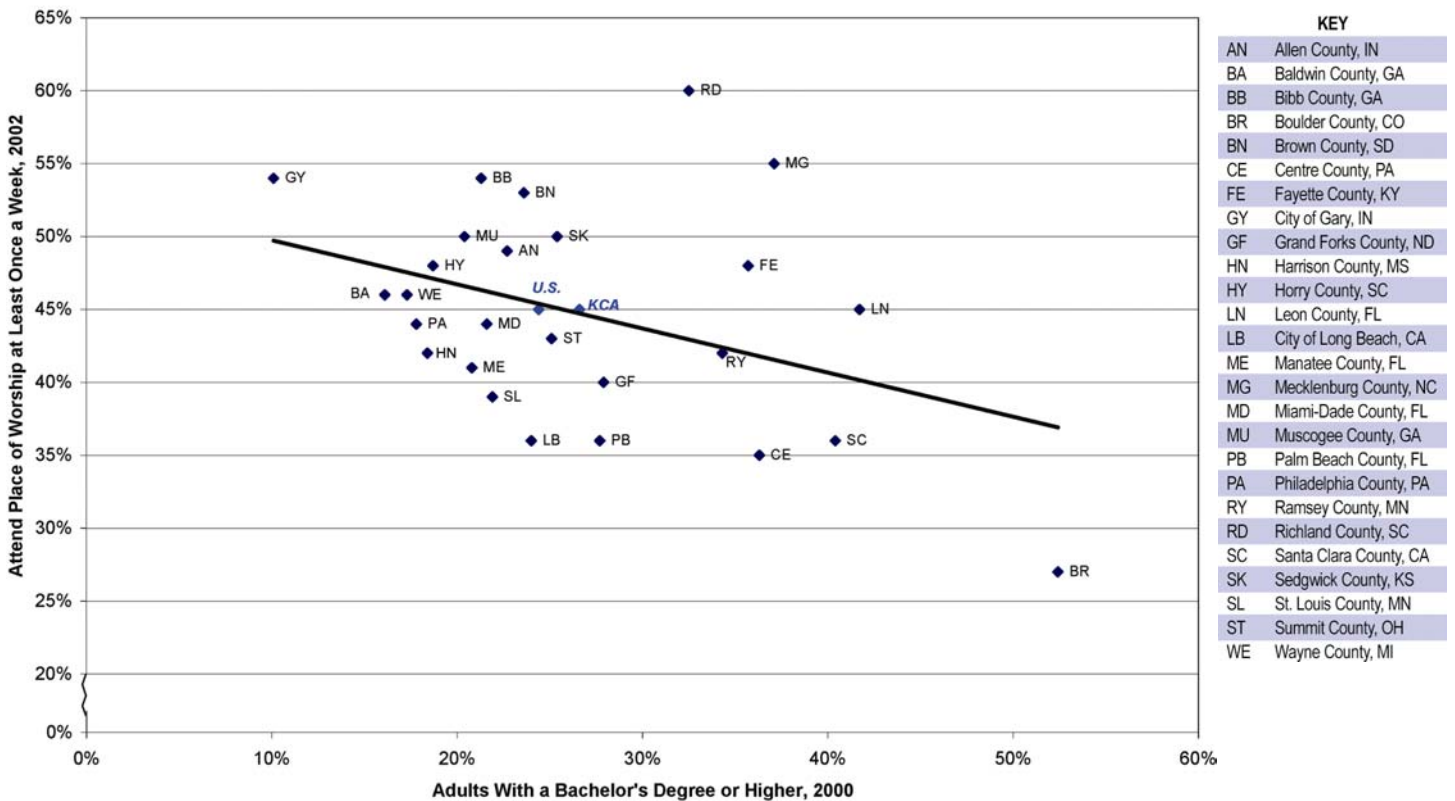
Associated Indicators

The proportion of residents who say that they attend a religious institution at least once a week tends to be lower in communities with higher education and income levels. In the five communities with the highest median incomes, an average of only 39 percent of residents say that they go to a place of worship at least once a week, compared with 51 percent in the five communities with the lowest community incomes. The differences are only slightly smaller in communities with the highest and lowest levels of educational attainment.

Associated Behaviors

Across the Knight communities, there tends to be some association between volunteering in community activities and participating in religious activities. In the six communities with the highest proportion of residents who say that they have participated in at least one volunteer activity, an average of 51 percent also say that they go to a place of religious worship at least once a week. This compares with an average of 39 percent in the six communities with the lowest proportion of residents involved in some type of volunteer activity.

Educational Attainment (2000) and Participation in Religious Activities (2002)



Contributions to Nonreligious Charitable Organizations

The percentage of residents who say that they contribute any money, property or other items to a charity or nonprofit organization other than their church or place of worship is used to assess the level of nonreligious charitable giving.

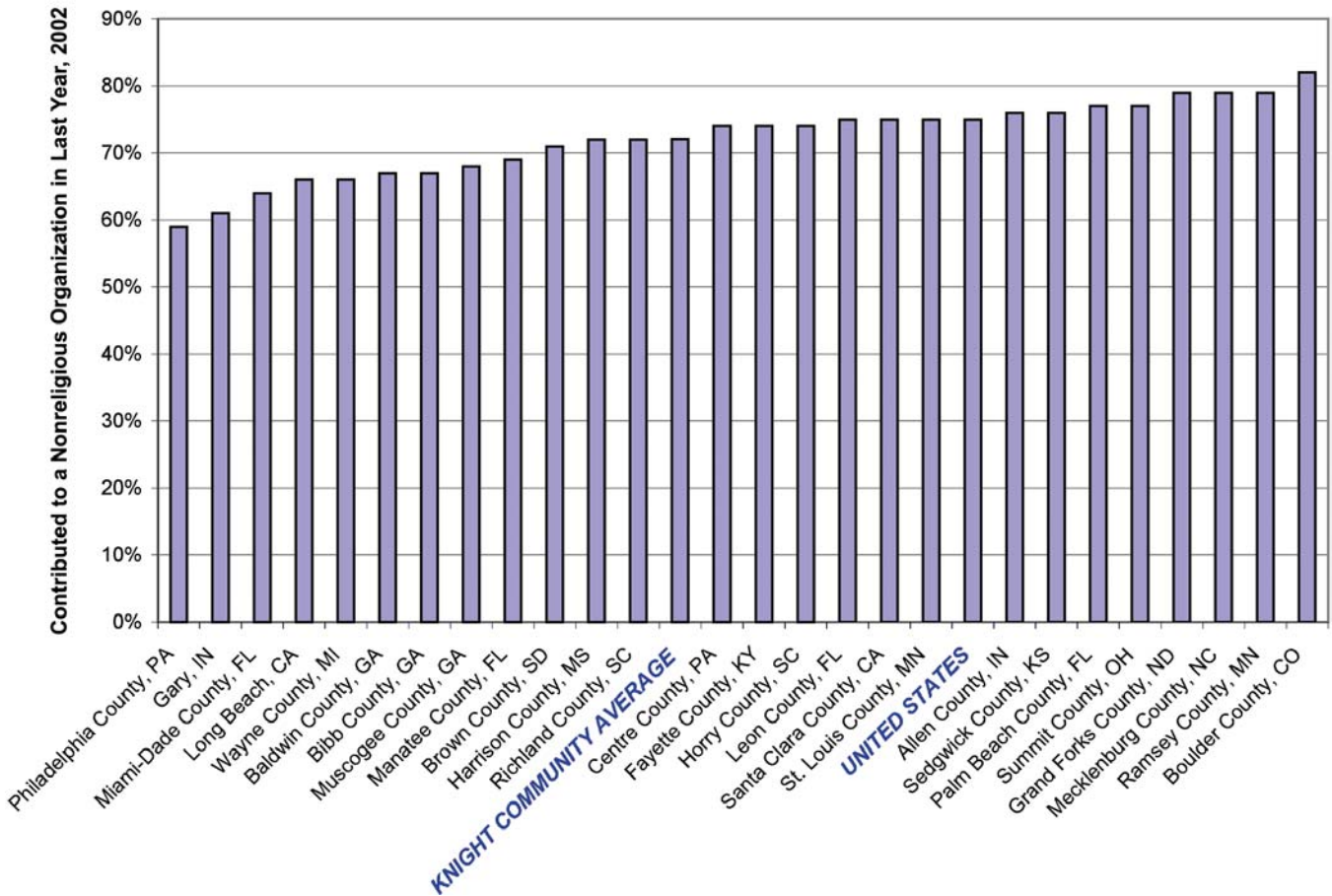
Contributions to Nonreligious Charitable Organizations

A slightly smaller percentage of Knight community residents say they contribute to nonreligious organizations than residents do nationally – 72 percent, on average, in the Knight communities, compared to 75 percent for the United States overall. However, the proportion of residents who say that they contribute ranges from 82 percent in Boulder County to 59 percent in Philadelphia County.

Associated Indicators

A higher percentage of residents say that they contribute to nonreligious charitable organizations in communities with better-educated populations than in communities with lower levels of educational attainment. In the five communities with the highest percentage of adults holding at least a bachelor’s degree, an average of 77 percent of residents say that they contribute to charities or nonprofit organizations; the corresponding average for the five communities with the lowest proportion of adults with this level of education is 65 percent.

Contributions to Nonreligious Charitable Organizations (2002)

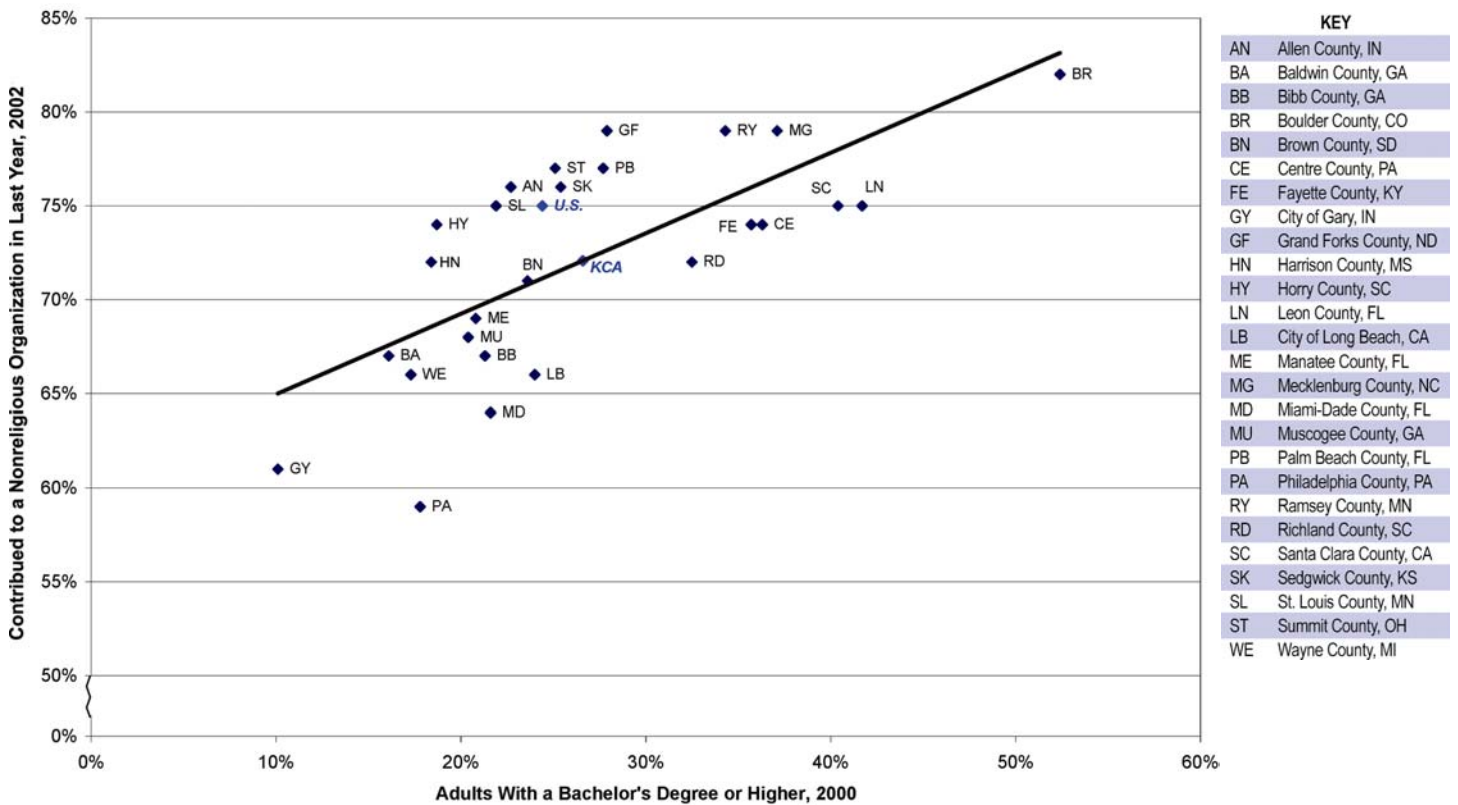


For tables and additional information, see Appendix 4F

Higher community income is also associated with higher rates of contribution to nonreligious charitable organizations. In the five communities with the highest median household income, 78 percent of residents, on

average, say that they contribute to these organizations; an average of only 65 percent of residents in the five lowest-income communities report such behavior.

Educational Attainment (2000) and Contributions to Nonreligious Charitable Organizations (2002)



Contributions to Religious Organizations

The percentage of residents who say that they contribute any money, property or other items to their church, synagogue, mosque or other place of worship is used to assess the level of religious charitable giving.

Contributions to Religious Organizations

About two out of three Knight community residents (68 percent) say that they contribute to a religious organization – about the same as the proportion nationally (67 percent). Across the Knight communities, the range is from a high of 76 percent in Bibb and Mecklenburg counties to a low of 49 percent in Boulder County.

At least three out of four residents of Bibb, Mecklenburg and Brown counties say that they contribute to a religious organization. In contrast, fewer than three in five residents report this activity in Boulder, Centre and Santa Clara counties and the city of Long Beach.

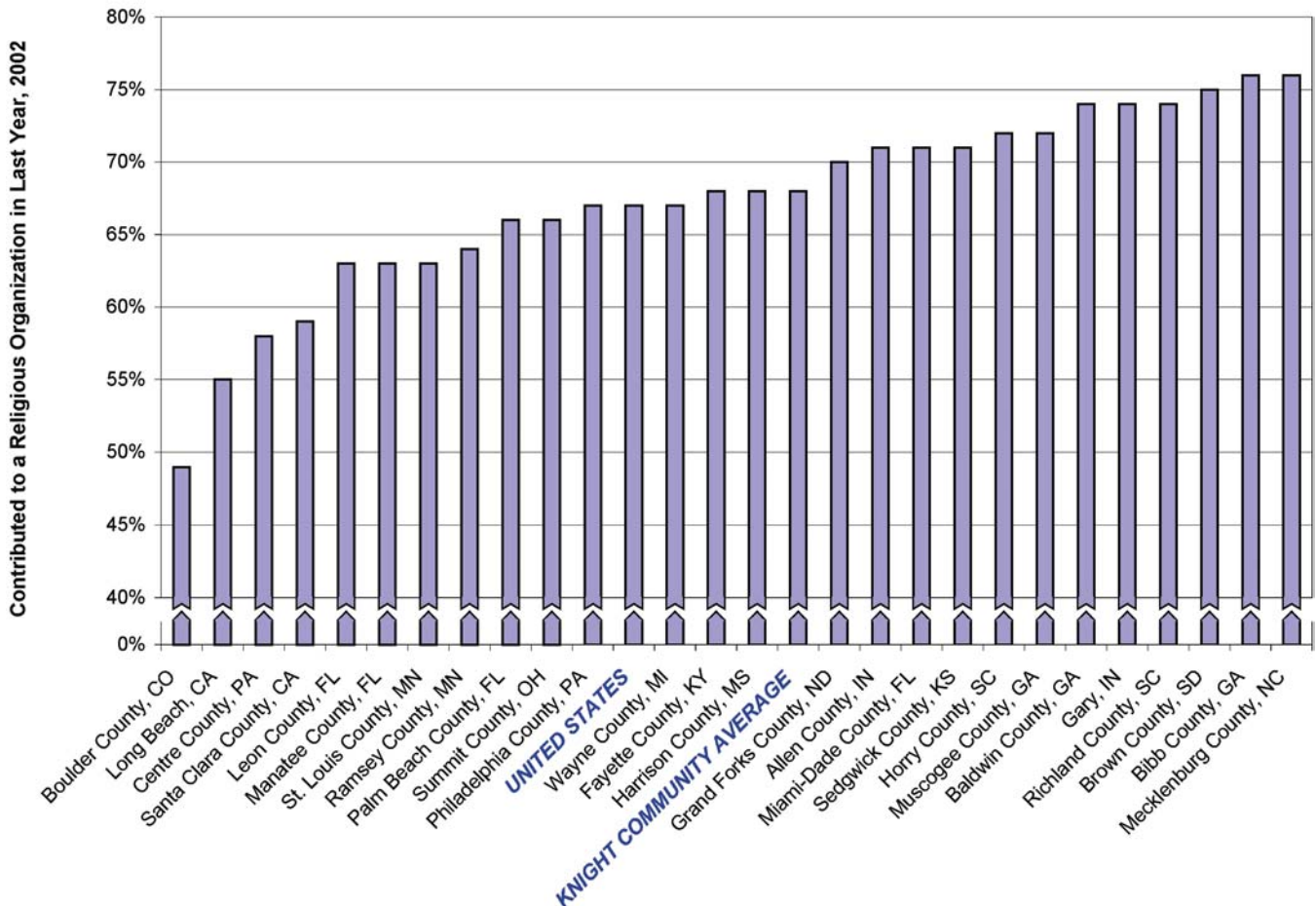
Between 1999 and 2002, 15 of the 26 Knight communities saw a significant decline in the percentage

of residents who say that they contribute to religious organizations. In three of these communities – Centre and Santa Clara counties and the city of Long Beach – the percentage of residents who report contributing dropped by at least 10 percentage points. No community saw a significant increase in the percentage of residents contributing to a religious organization.

Associated Indicators

Contrary to expectations, there is a negative association between a community’s income level and residents’ contributions to religious organizations. In the five Knight communities with the highest median household incomes, an average of 63 percent of residents

Contributions to Religious Organizations (2002)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 4G

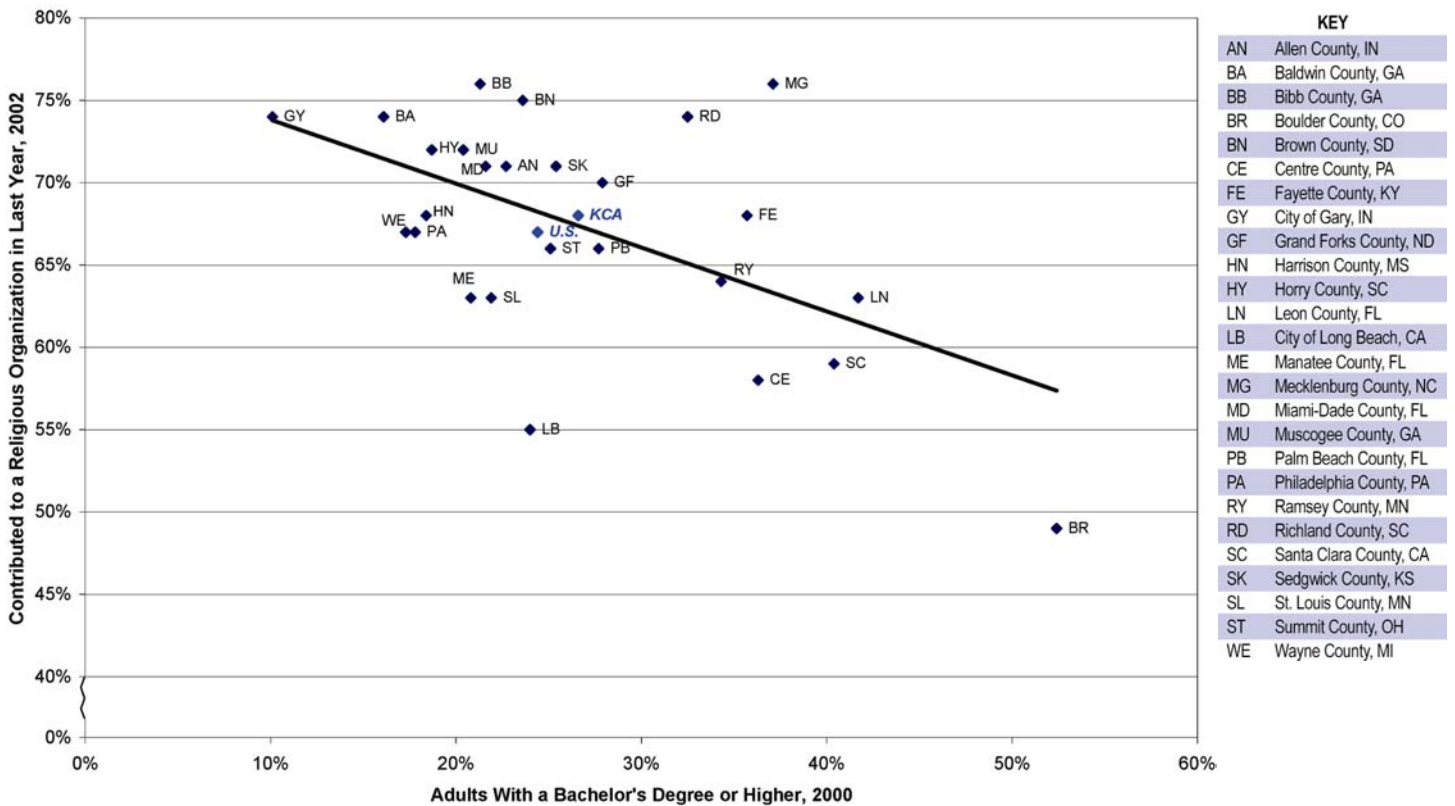
say that they contribute to a religious organization. This figure is about 10 percentage points below the average of 73 percent in the five communities with the lowest median incomes.

Similarly, in the five Knight communities with the highest proportion of adults who have completed at least a bachelor’s degree, 61 percent of residents, on average, say that they have contributed to a religious

organization, compared with 70 percent in the five communities with the fewest adults with this level of educational attainment.

This negative association stands in contrast to the positive association between charitable contributions to nonreligious organizations and communities’ income and education levels.

Educational Attainment (2000) and Contributions to Religious Organizations (2002)



Familiarity With Neighbors

The percentage of residents who say that they know the names of all their close-by neighbors is used to assess residents' sense of connection to their immediate community.

Familiarity With Neighbors

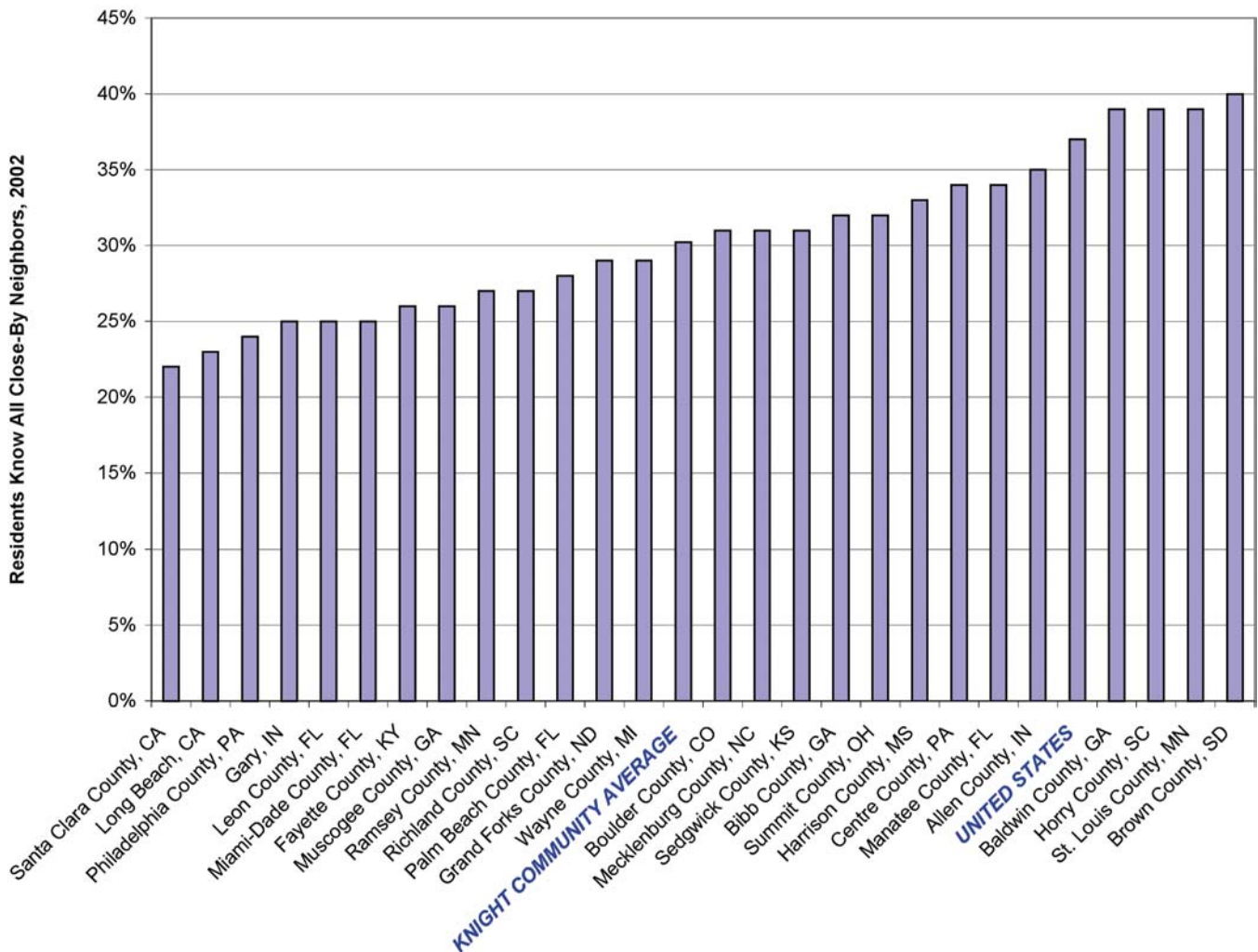
A smaller proportion of Knight community residents say that they know all their close-by neighbors than do U.S. residents generally – an average of 30 percent in the Knight communities compared to 37 percent nationally. The range across the Knight communities is from 40 percent in Brown County to 22 percent in Santa Clara County.

About two in five residents in four Knight communities – Baldwin, Brown, Horry and St. Louis counties – say that they know all their close-by neighbors, whereas fewer than one in four residents

claims this knowledge in three other communities – Santa Clara and Philadelphia counties and the city of Long Beach.

In 16 of the 21 communities for which 1999 and 2002 figures are available, the percentage of residents who say that they know all their neighbors has remained fairly stable. Five communities – Centre, Grand Forks, Leon, Richland and St. Louis counties – saw a significant decrease in the proportion of residents who say that they know all their neighbors. No community saw a significant increase in familiarity with neighbors over the period.

Familiarity With Neighbors (2002)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 4H

Associated Indicators

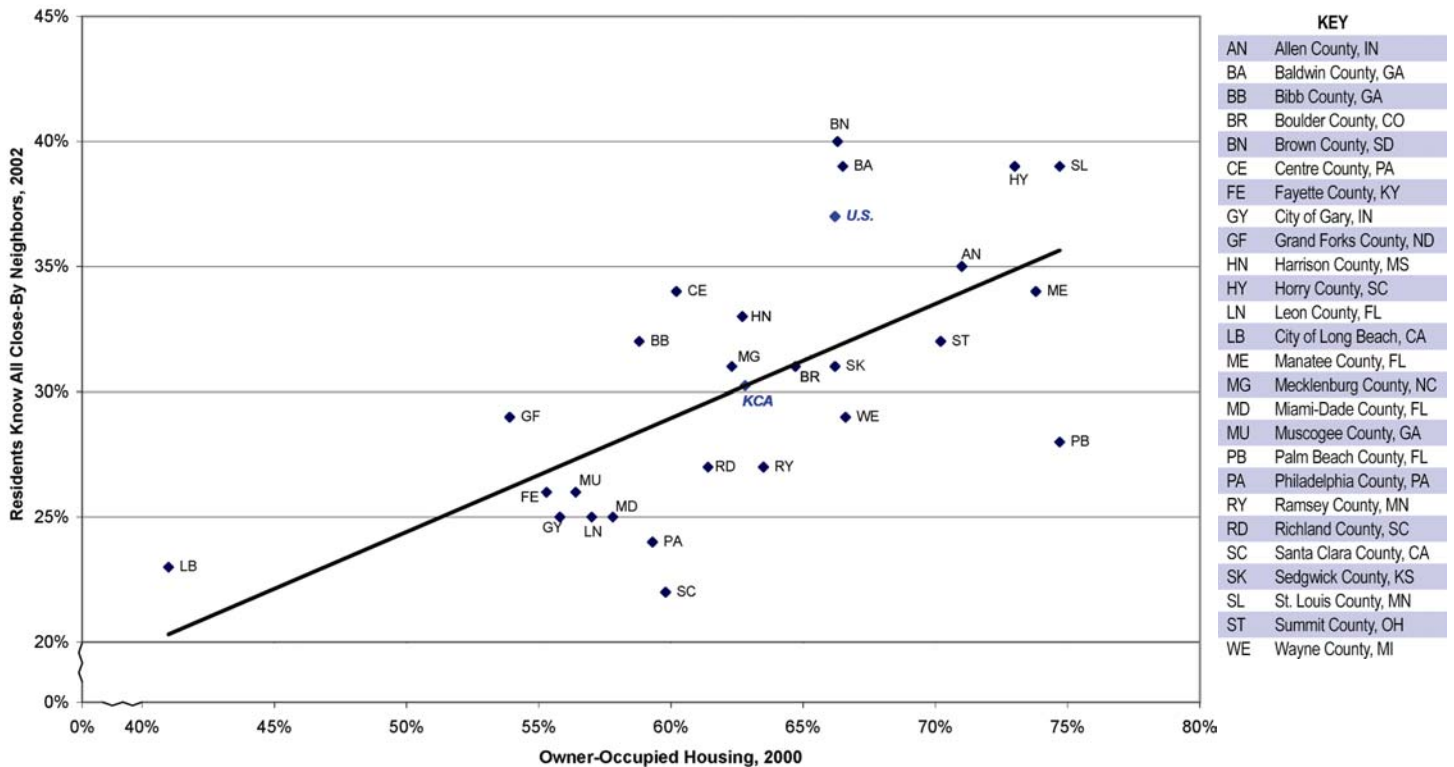
Knowledge of close-by neighbors seems to be more prevalent in smaller Knight communities. In the five communities with the smallest populations, an average of 33 percent of residents say that they know all their close-by neighbors. This compares with an average of 26 percent in the five largest Knight communities.

Communities in which a higher proportion of home owners live in their own homes also tend to be places where neighbors know one another better. In the five communities with the highest percentage of owner-occupied homes, an average of 35 percent of residents say that they know all their neighbors. The average in

the five communities with the lowest proportion of home owners living at home is only 26 percent. An exception to this pattern is Palm Beach County, where three out of four people live in the home that they own, but only 28 percent of residents say that they know all their close-by neighbors.

A smaller proportion of minority residents in a community also tends to be associated with residents' having greater knowledge of neighbors. In the five communities with the smallest percentage of minorities, an average of 35 percent of residents say that they know all their neighbors. This contrasts with an average of 24 percent in the five communities with the highest proportion of minority residents.

Owner-Occupied Housing (2000) and Familiarity With Neighbors (2002)



Concern About Tension Between Racial and Ethnic Groups

The percentage of residents who say that the tension between different racial and ethnic groups in their community is a “big problem” is the measure of concern about this issue.

Concern About Tension Between Racial and Ethnic Groups

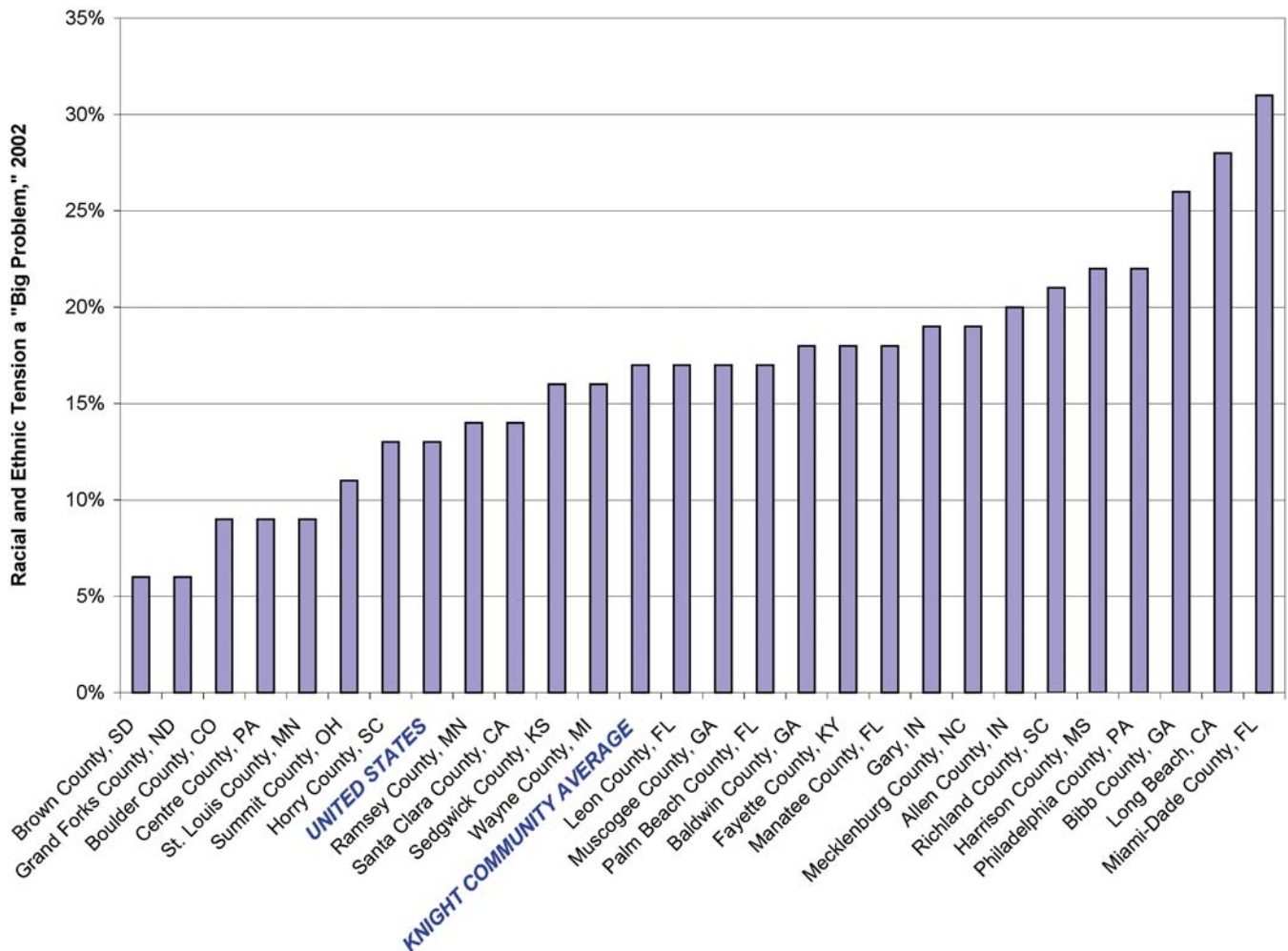
Knight community residents see more of a problem with racial and ethnic tension in their community than do U.S. residents overall. An average of 17 percent of Knight community residents say that tension between racial and ethnic groups is a big problem compared to 13 percent nationally.

More than a quarter of residents of three Knight communities – Bibb and Miami-Dade counties and the city of Long Beach – say that tension between racial and ethnic groups is a big problem. In contrast, fewer

than one in 10 residents holds this view in five communities – Boulder, Brown, Centre, Grand Forks and St. Louis counties.

Concern about tension between racial and ethnic groups showed little change in most Knight communities between 1999 and 2000. However, in seven Knight communities, the proportion of residents who say that racial and ethnic tension is a big problem increased significantly, including two communities – Harrison and Miami-Dade counties – in which it increased by 10 percentage points or more. Concern about racial and ethnic tension did not decline significantly in any Knight community.

Concern About Racial and Ethnic Tension (2002)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 4I

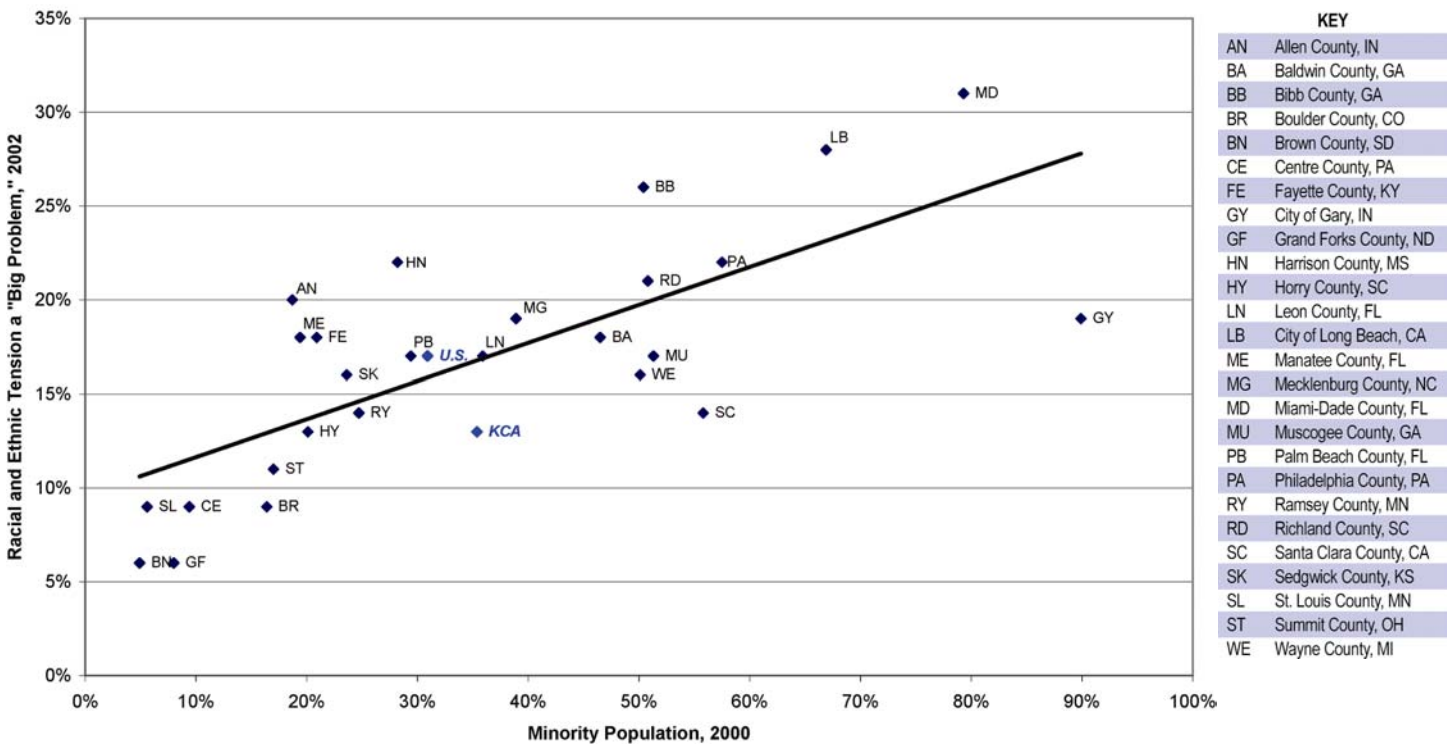
Associated Indicators

Knight communities with smaller minority populations report less concern about racial and ethnic tension than do communities with larger minority populations. In the five communities with the smallest proportion of minority residents, an average of 8 percent of residents say that racial and ethnic tension is a big problem. In contrast, in the five communities with the largest concentration of minorities, 23 percent of

residents report a big problem with tension between racial and ethnic groups.

Concern about racial and ethnic tension is not as great in communities with lower unemployment rates. In the six communities with unemployment rates below 2.5 percent, an average of 14 percent of residents say that tension between racial and ethnic groups is a big problem. In contrast, in the five communities with unemployment rates of at least 5 percent, an average of 23 percent of residents hold this view.

Minority Population (2000) and Concern About Racial and Ethnic Tension (2002)



CHAPTER 5

Vitality of Cultural Life



Concert Companion software running on a Sony Clie PDA displays program notes for a test subject during a performance of Stravinsky's Firebird Sonata. Roland Valiere, formerly of the Kansas City Symphony, developed Concert Companion with a grant from Knight Foundation in an effort to attract new audiences to classical music.

LISTENING AND LEARNING

Introduction and Highlights

The vitality of cultural life varies widely among the Knight communities. Some communities have a large number of arts organizations per capita, and others have relatively few. Some communities have financially well-off arts organizations, and others do not.

Similarly, Knight community residents' attitudes and behaviors toward arts organizations vary widely. Concern about the availability of arts activities is pronounced in some communities and relatively muted

in others. Some communities have high rates of attendance at arts performances, and others have low rates of attendance. And in some communities, many residents contribute money or volunteer time to arts organizations, whereas few do in others.

The Vitality of Cultural Life section that follows presents findings for the 26 Knight communities. There are two indicators from administrative records and four survey indicators.

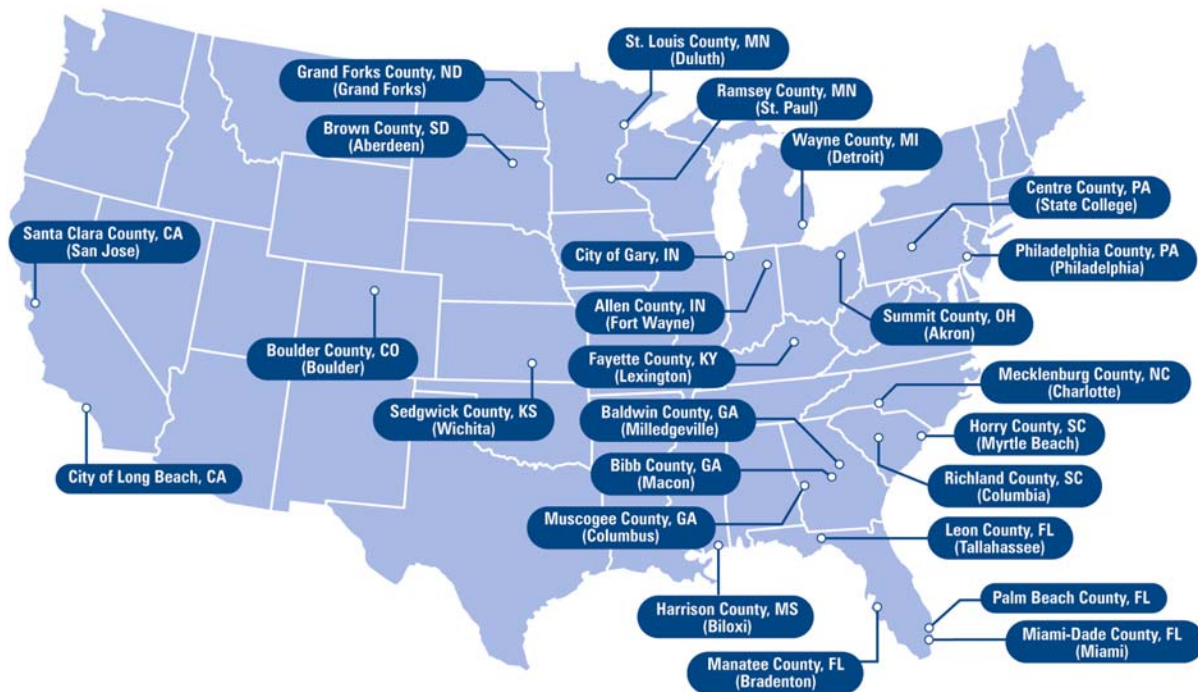
Indicator Area	Administrative Records
Access to Arts Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of Arts Organizations per 10,000 Residents, 2000
Financial Well-Being of Arts Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assets of Arts and Cultural Organizations per Capita, 2000

Indicator Area	Community Surveys
Concern About the Lack of Arts and Cultural Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percent of Residents Who Say the Level of Availability of Arts or Cultural Activities Is a “Big Problem”
Attendance at Arts or Cultural Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percent of Residents Who Say They Attended a Movie, a Live-Music Event, a Play, Dance or Other Theater Performance, an Art Museum or a Symphony in the Past 12 Months
Giving Back to the Arts and Cultural Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percent of Residents Who Say They Contributed Money or Personal Belongings to Arts or Cultural Organizations in the Last Year Percent of Residents Who Say They Volunteered Their Time to an Arts or Cultural Group in the Past 12 Months

The vitality of cultural life indicator and survey findings emphasize the diversity of the Knight communities. We highlight here a few of the most important measures and selected relationships among the indicators.

- Communities with more highly educated residents tend to have more arts and cultural organizations per resident than communities with fewer of these residents.
- Arts organizations in larger communities tend to have higher asset bases than their counterparts in smaller communities.
- Concern about the availability of arts and cultural activities is generally higher in lower-income communities and communities with relatively large minority populations.

- Knight community residents attend a variety of nonprofit arts and cultural activities. The largest proportion say that they have attended a play, dance or other theater performance; the smallest, a performance by a symphony orchestra.
- Attendance at arts or cultural activities is consistently higher in communities with higher education and income levels.
- Communities with higher levels of educational attainment tend to have higher proportions of residents who contribute money or personal belongings to arts or cultural organizations and who volunteer time to support these organizations.
- Communities in which higher proportions of residents contribute financially to an arts or cultural organization also tend to have higher rates of volunteering for arts or cultural groups.



Density of Arts and Cultural Organizations

The number of arts or cultural organizations per 10,000 residents is one measure of the access of community members to arts and cultural activities.

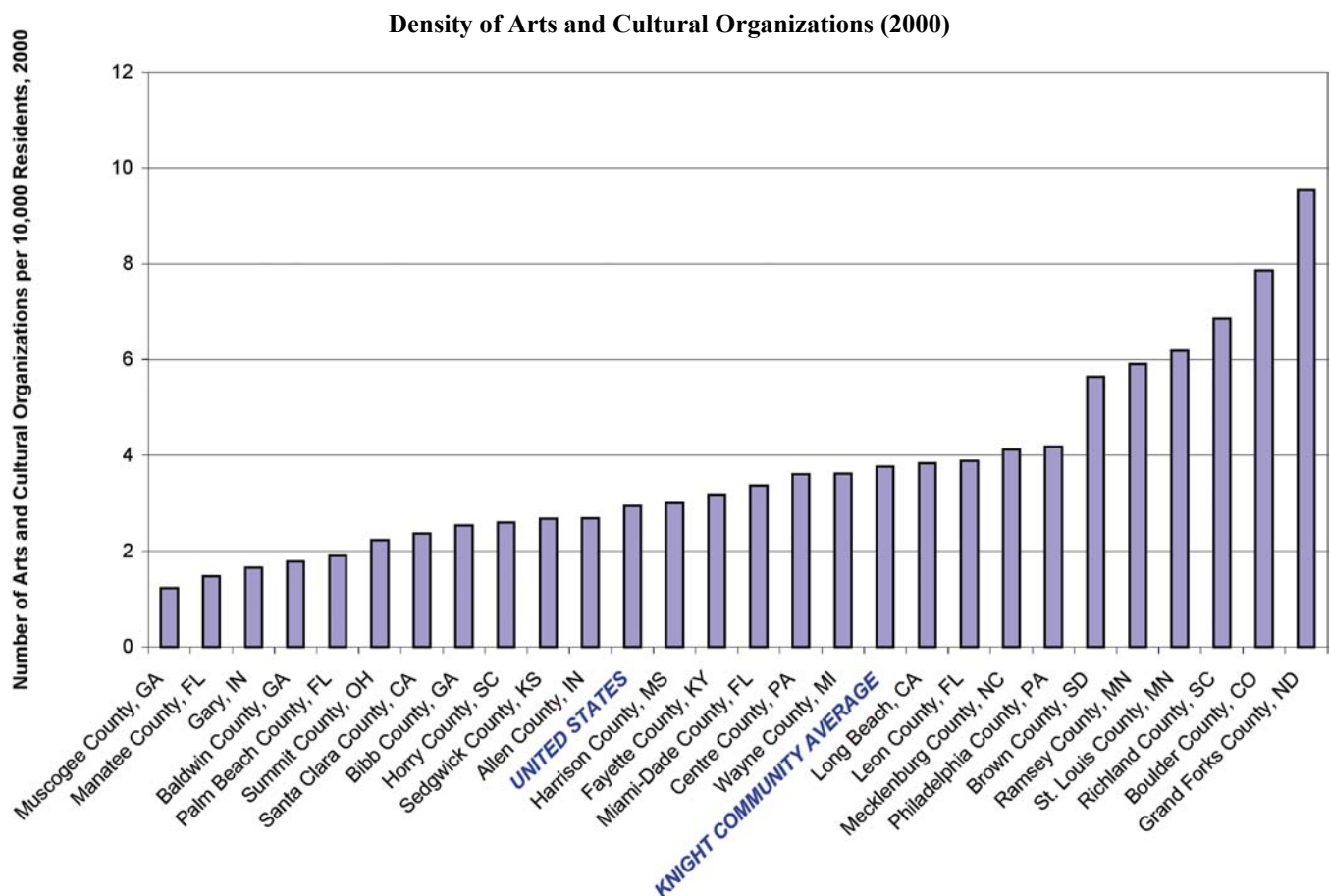
Density of Arts and Cultural Organizations

In 2000, the Knight community average of 3.8 arts organizations per 10,000 residents was about 28 percent higher than the U.S. average of 2.9 per 10,000 residents. However, the range across Knight communities was quite wide – from 9.5 per 10,000 in Grand Forks County to 1.2 in Muscogee County.

Along with Grand Forks County, five other Knight communities – Boulder, Brown, Ramsey, Richland and St. Louis counties – had ratios of arts organizations to population of more than 5 per 10,000. In contrast, five Knight communities – Baldwin, Manatee, Muscogee and Palm Beach counties and the city of Gary – had ratios of fewer than 2 per 10,000 residents.

Associated Indicators

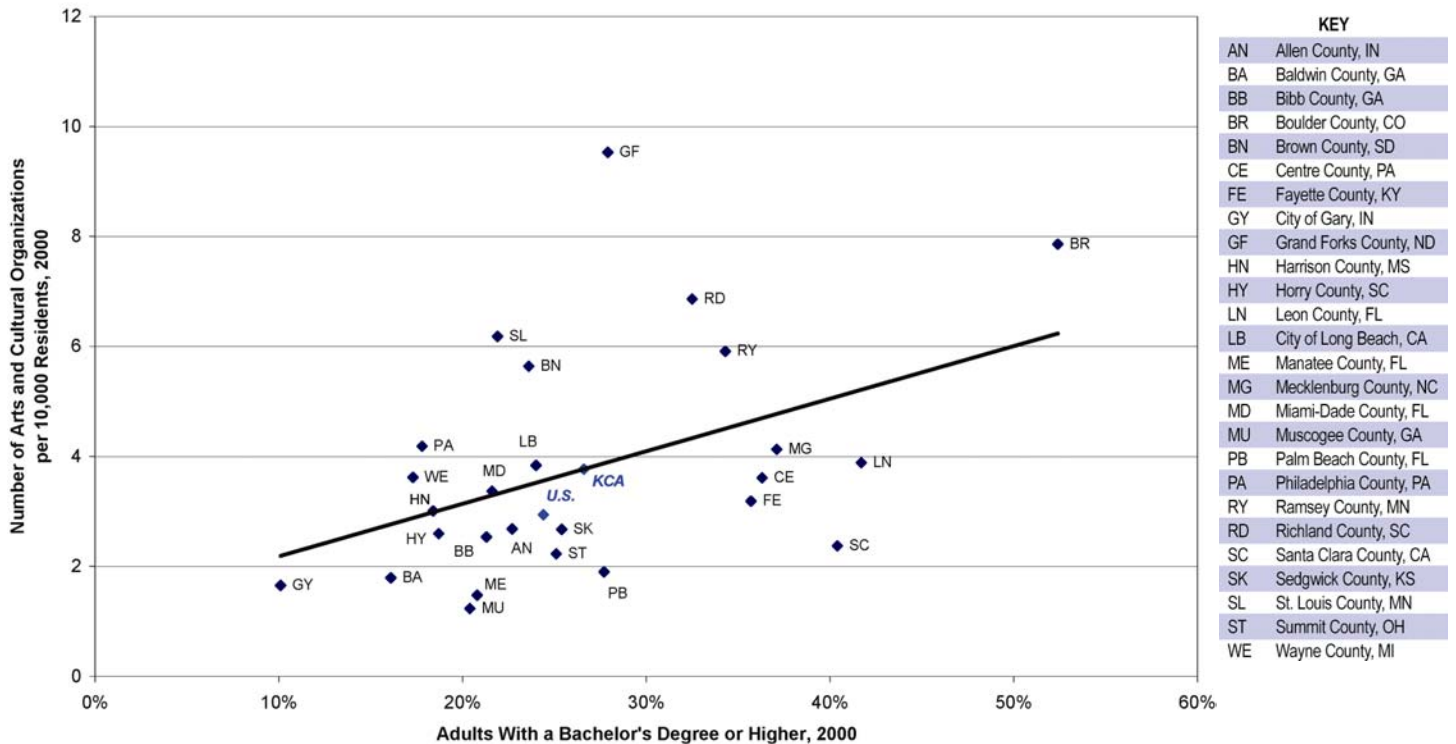
Communities with higher levels of educational attainment tended to have greater access to arts and cultural organizations. The five communities with the highest percentage of residents with at least a bachelor’s degree had an average of 4.4 arts organizations per 10,000 residents – more than 50 percent higher than the 2.9 per 10,000 in the five communities with the lowest levels of educational attainment. However, a few communities stand out from this pattern – Santa Clara County, with a relatively high level of educational attainment and relatively few arts organizations, and Philadelphia County, with the opposite situation.



There was no relationship between the number of arts organizations per resident and the population of the community. Baldwin and Grand Forks counties, for example, were the two Knight communities with the smallest populations. However, Grand Forks County had more than five times as many organizations per capita than Baldwin County – 9.5 per 10,000 residents in

the former and only 1.8 per 10,000 in the latter. Similarly there was no consistent pattern in the largest communities: Philadelphia, with 4.2 per 10,000 residents, had more than twice as many arts and cultural organizations as Palm Beach County, with 1.9 per 10,000 residents.

Educational Attainment and Density of Arts and Cultural Organizations (2000)



Assets of Arts and Cultural Organizations

The total per capita assets of all arts and cultural organizations in a community is one measure of the stability of the arts sector.

Assets of Arts and Cultural Organizations

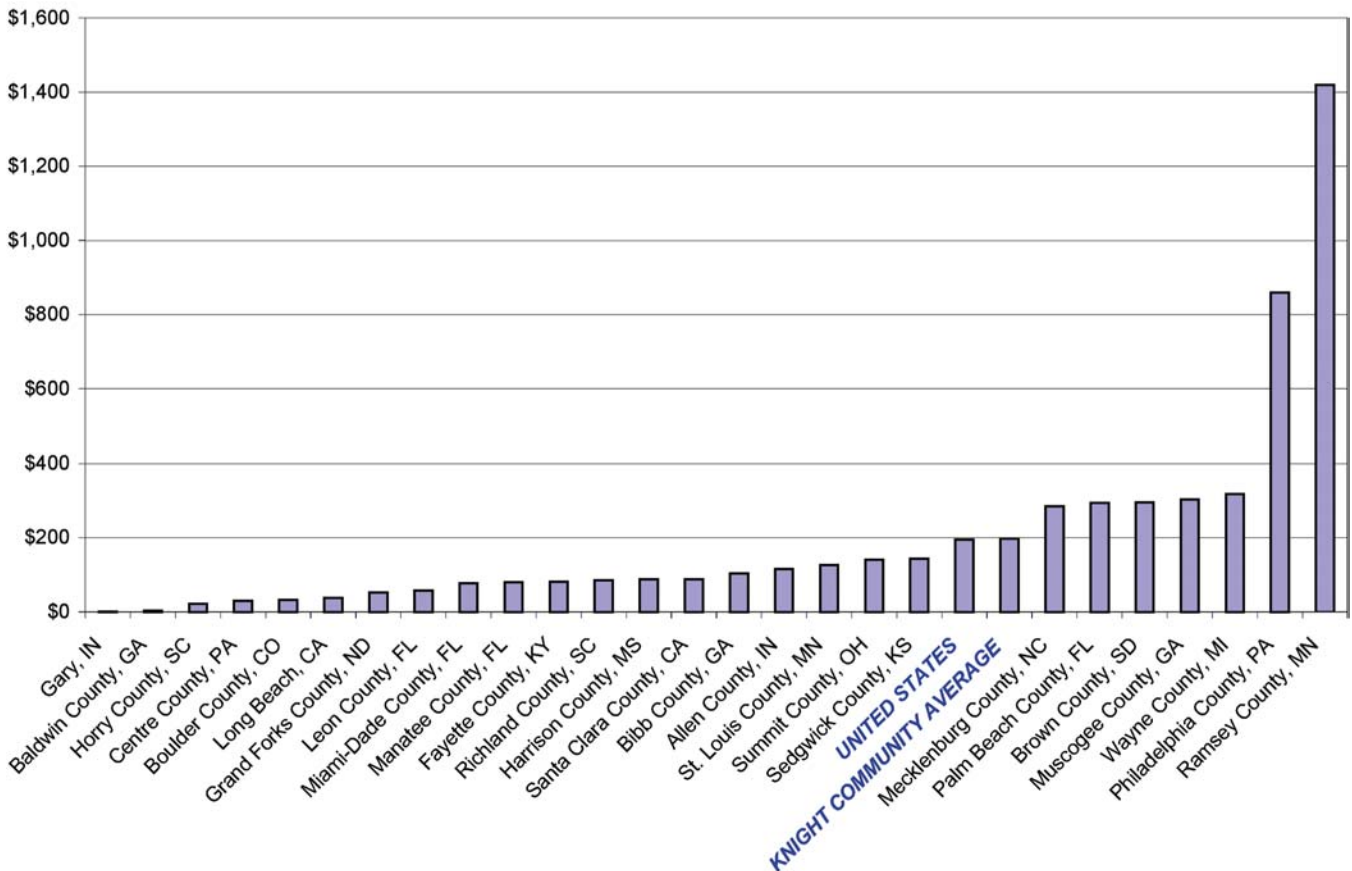
Arts and cultural organizations in the Knight communities had assets worth an average of \$198 per capita – very similar to the national average of \$195 per capita. However, there was an exceptionally large range in per capita assets across the communities. At the top of the scale, assets in Ramsey County of \$1,420 per capita were more than seven times the national average. At the other end was the city of Gary, where assets of only \$0.19 per capita were a small fraction of the national average.

While Ramsey County had an asset base far above those in all other Knight communities, the asset base was

substantial in several other communities, most notably Philadelphia County, where arts and cultural organizations had an asset base of \$860 per capita, and Wayne and Muscogee counties, with asset bases of just over \$300 per capita. Three other Knight communities – Brown, Mecklenburg and Palm Beach counties – also had asset bases that were nearly \$300 per capita.

In addition to the city of Gary, the asset bases of arts organizations were less than \$50 per capita in five other Knight communities – Baldwin, Boulder, Centre and Horry counties and the city of Long Beach. Eight other communities had asset bases of less than \$100 per capita.

Assets of Arts and Cultural Organizations per Capita (2000)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 5B

Associated Indicators

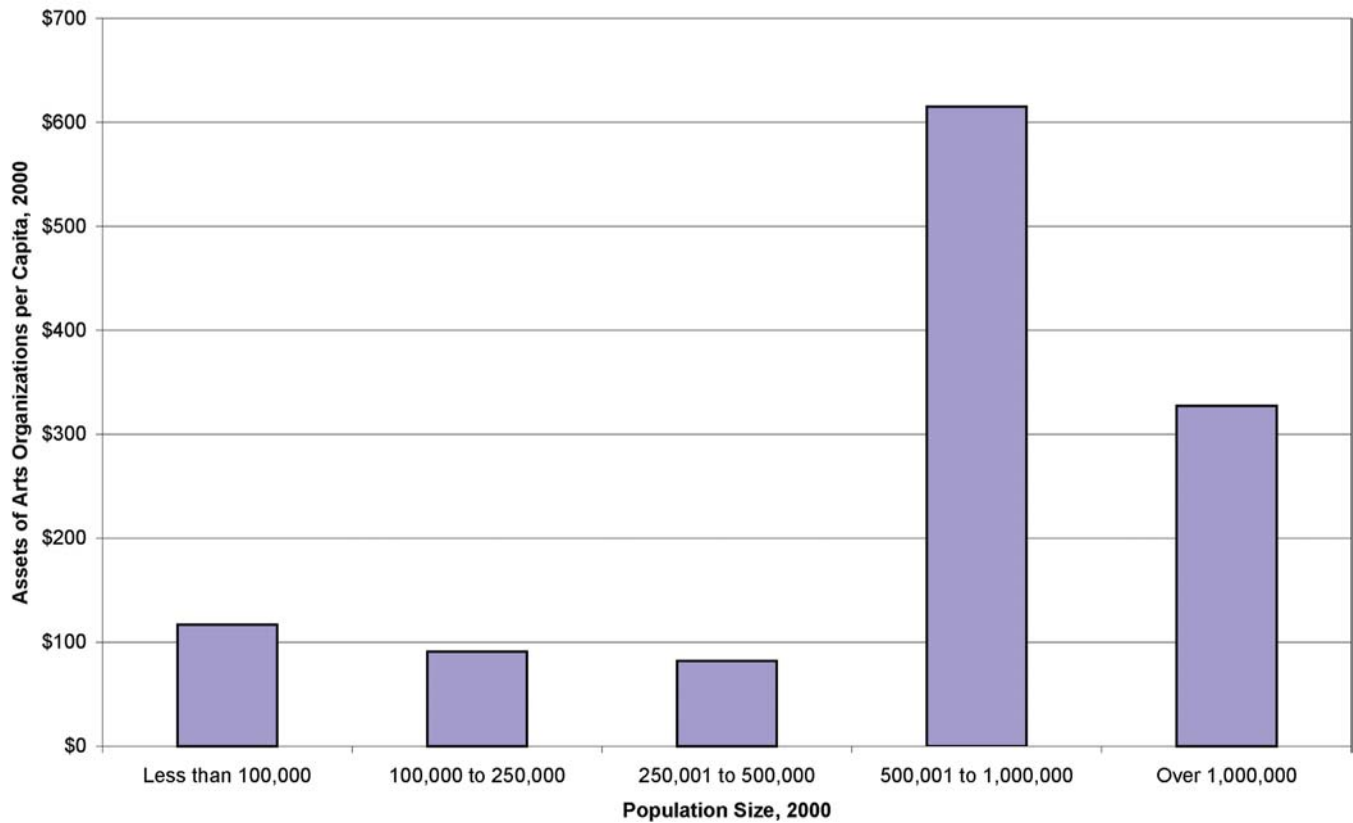
The asset bases of arts and cultural organizations were generally higher in the larger Knight communities. In the eight communities with a population of over 500,000, the asset bases averaged around \$435 per capita – or over four times the average asset base in the 11 communities with populations of 250,000 or less. Brown and Santa Clara counties were notable exceptions to this pattern – Brown County had very small population (35,017) and a high arts asset base (\$295 per capita) – and Santa Clara County had just the opposite (a population of 1,685,585 and an asset base of \$88 per capita).

There was only a weak relationship between access to the arts, as measured by the number of arts and cultural organizations per capita, and the resource base of these organizations. In a few communities, most

notably Ramsey and Philadelphia counties, both access and resource bases were high; in others, such as Boulder County, access was high, but the average resource base of arts organizations was relatively low. Similarly, some communities with low access to arts organizations had high arts asset bases (e.g., Muscogee County) and others had low arts asset bases (e.g., Baldwin County).

The assets of arts and cultural organizations were also unrelated to the education and income levels of the community. Ramsey and Richland counties, for example, had similar proportions of adults over age 25 with at least a bachelor’s degree, but the per capita asset base of arts organizations in Ramsey County was nearly 17 times the asset base in Richland County. Brown and Grand Forks counties had similar median household incomes, but the per capita assets of arts organizations were nearly six times higher in Brown County than in Grand Forks County.

Population Size and Assets of Arts and Cultural Organizations per Capita (2000)



Concern About Lack of Arts or Cultural Activities

The percentage of residents who say that a lack of arts or cultural activities in the community is a “big problem” is the measure of concern about this issue.

Concern About Lack of Arts or Cultural Activities

On average, about 20 percent of Knight Community residents say that a lack of arts or cultural activities is a big problem in their community – slightly below the national figure of 23 percent.

Concern about a lack of arts or cultural activities is, however, very high in several Knight communities. In the city of Gary, for example, nearly three in five residents (58 percent) say that the availability of arts or cultural activities is a big problem. More than three in 10 residents hold this view in Baldwin and Philadelphia counties.

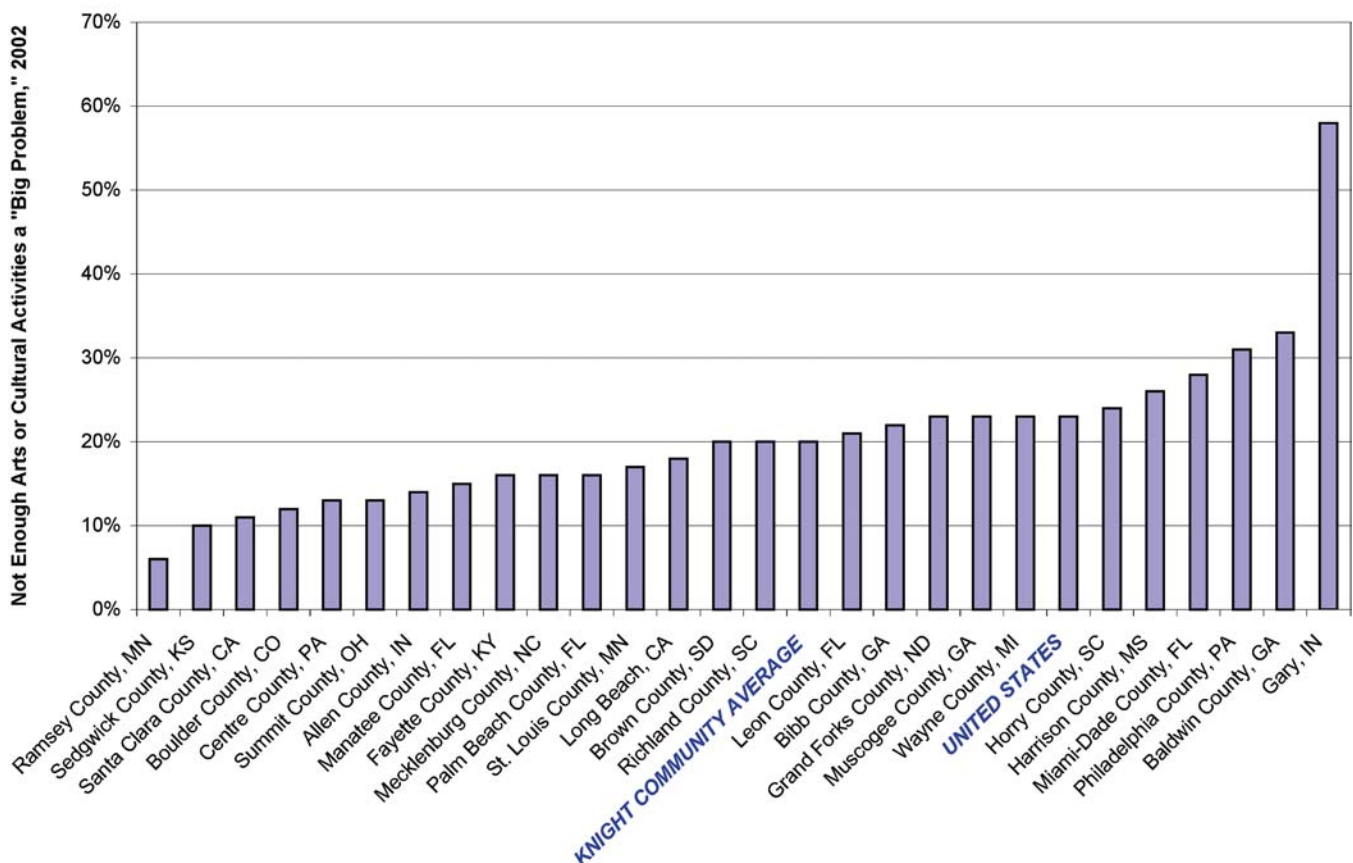
Communities with the least concern about a lack of arts or cultural activities include Ramsey County, where only 6 percent of residents say that this is a big problem, along with Boulder, Santa Clara and Sedgwick counties, where fewer than one in eight residents expresses this concern.

Between 1999 and 2002, residents’ concern about the availability of arts or cultural activities did not change substantially in most Knight communities. However, in four communities – Grand Forks, Horry and Miami-Dade counties and the city of Gary – there was a significant increase in the proportion of residents who say that this is a big problem. No community saw a significant decrease in concern about this issue over the period.

Associated Indicators

Residents’ perceptions about the availability of arts or cultural activities do not correspond very well with the actual provision of arts or cultural activities in the community, as measured by assets of arts or cultural organizations and the density of arts organizations. In Miami-Dade and Santa Clara counties, for example, arts

Concern About Lack of Arts or Cultural Activities (2002)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 5C

or cultural organizations have nearly the same per capita asset level. However, more than 28 percent of people in Miami-Dade County say that a lack of arts or cultural activities is a big problem, while only 11 percent in Santa Clara County hold this view. Similarly, Manatee County and the city of Gary have the same number of arts or cultural organizations per 10,000 people, but 58 percent of the people in the city of Gary say that a lack of cultural activities is a big problem, compared with only 15 percent in Manatee County.

There is, however, a considerable correspondence between the education level of a community and the percent of people who say that a lack of arts or cultural activities is a big problem. In the five communities with the lowest percentage of adults with at least a bachelor’s degree, an average of 34 percent say that the lack of arts activities is a big problem; an average of only 15 percentage hold this view in the five communities with the highest percentage of adults with at least a bachelor’s degree.

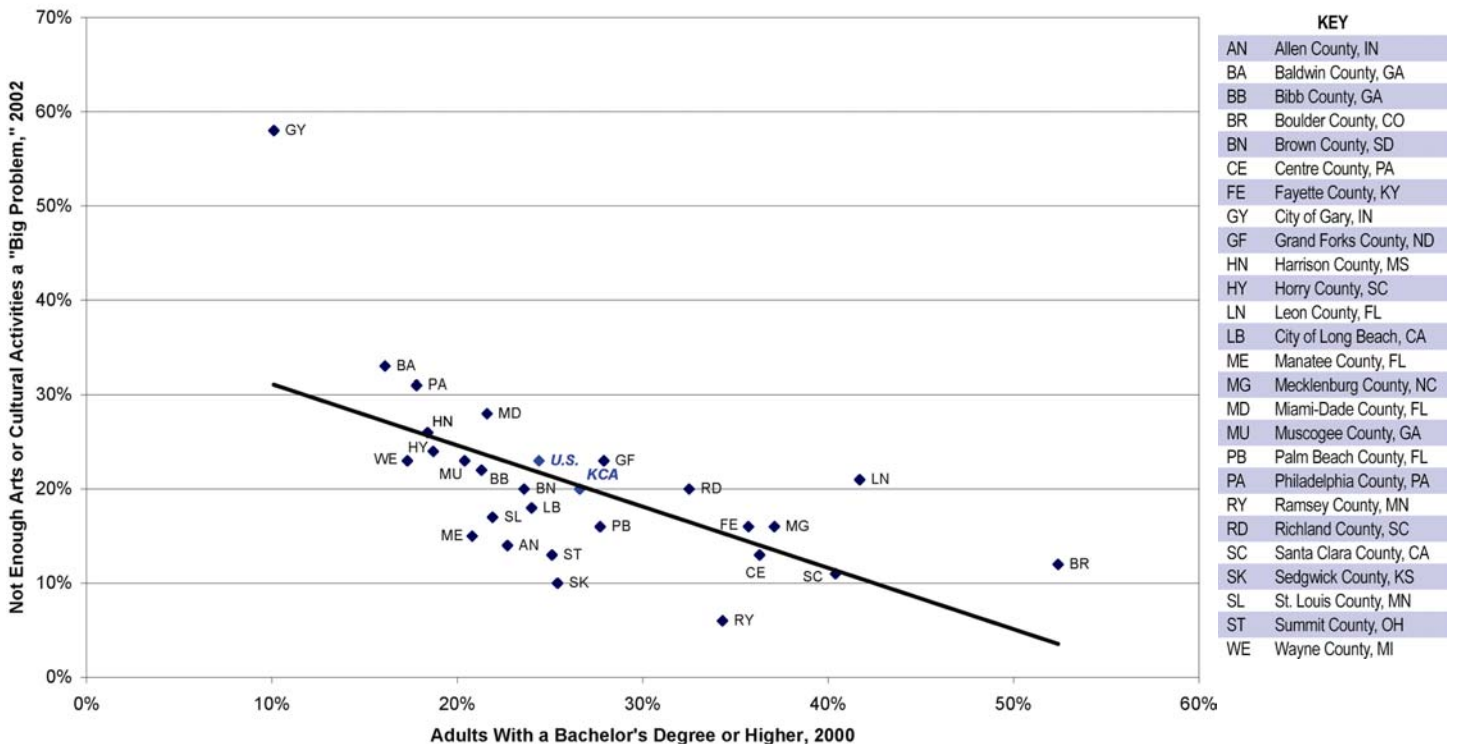
The relationship is similar with median household income: in the five communities with the lowest median household incomes, an average of 31 percent say that the lack of arts or cultural activities is a big problem, whereas only 12 percent, on average, feel this way in the five communities with the highest incomes.

Also of note is the strong positive association between the size of a community’s minority population and the level of concern about the availability of cultural activities. Communities with large minority populations such as Miami-Dade and Philadelphia counties and the city of Gary tend to have a large proportion of the population who see the lack of arts or cultural activities as a big problem. In contrast, communities with small minority populations such as Brown, Centre and St. Louis counties tend to have a much lower proportion of residents who hold this view.

Associated Local Behaviors

Communities with high rates of attendance at nonprofit arts activities tend to have a lower level of concern about the availability of art or cultural activities. In the three communities in which more than 75 percent of residents attended an activity in the past 12 months – Boulder, Palm Beach and Ramsey counties – an average of only 11 percent of residents say that the availability of arts or cultural activities is a big problem. In the three communities in which less than 60 percent of residents attended an arts activity in the past 12 months – Baldwin, Fayette and Muscogee counties – the average percentage of residents who express this view (24 percent) is notably higher.

Educational Attainment (2000) and Concern About Lack of Arts or Cultural Activities (2002)



Attendance at Arts Exhibits and Performances

Rates of attendance at arts exhibits and performances are a strong indicator of the vitality of the cultural life in a community. The primary measure of attendance is the percentage of residents who say that they attended a nonprofit art activity (e.g., a play, dance or other theater performance; an art museum exhibit, a science or history museum exhibit; or a symphony orchestra) in the past year.

Attendance at Arts Exhibits and Performances

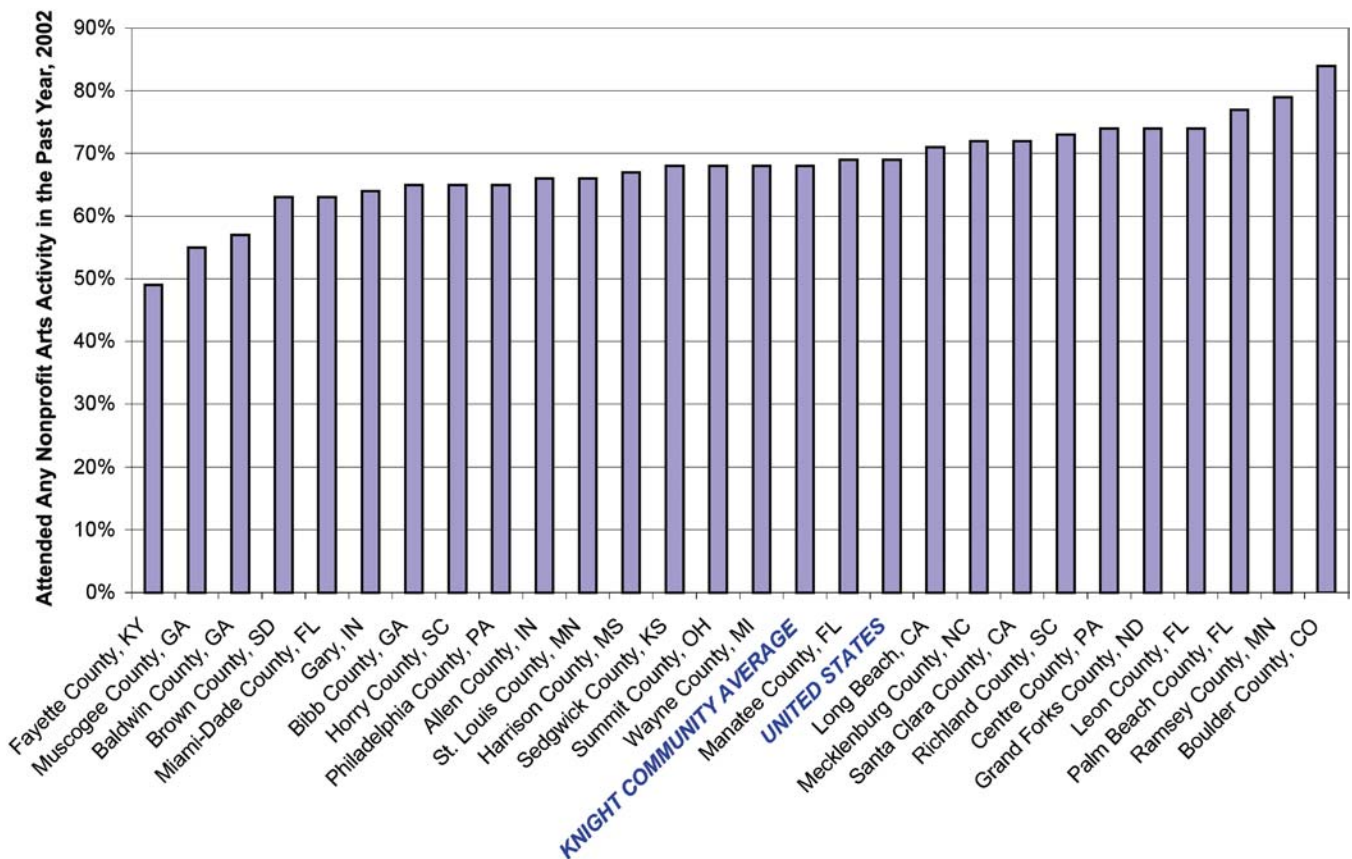
Knight community residents attend nonprofit arts exhibits and performances at about the same rate as the general U.S. population: 68 and 69 percent, respectively, say that they attended at least one nonprofit arts activity in the past year. The range across the Knight communities is large, however, with 84 percent of Boulder County residents and 49 percent of Fayette County residents saying they attended a nonprofit arts activity in the past year.

In three communities, Boulder, Palm Beach and Ramsey counties, at least 75 percent of the population say that they attended a nonprofit arts activity in the past year. At the other end of the scale, another three

communities, Baldwin, Fayette and Muscogee counties, nonprofit arts attendance rates of less than 60 percent.

In terms of individual nonprofit arts activities, Knight community residents appear to favor plays, dances or other theater performances, with an average of 50 percent of residents saying that they attended at least one performance in the past year. On average, a somewhat lower proportion of residents say that they went to an art museum (46 percent) or a science museum (37 percent) in the past year. The least popular nonprofit arts activity is attending a symphony orchestra – only 20 percent of Knight community residents attended a performance in the past year. In all cases, the average attendance rate for the Knight communities was close to the national average.

Attendance at Nonprofit Arts Exhibits and Performances (2002)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 5D

Associated Indicators

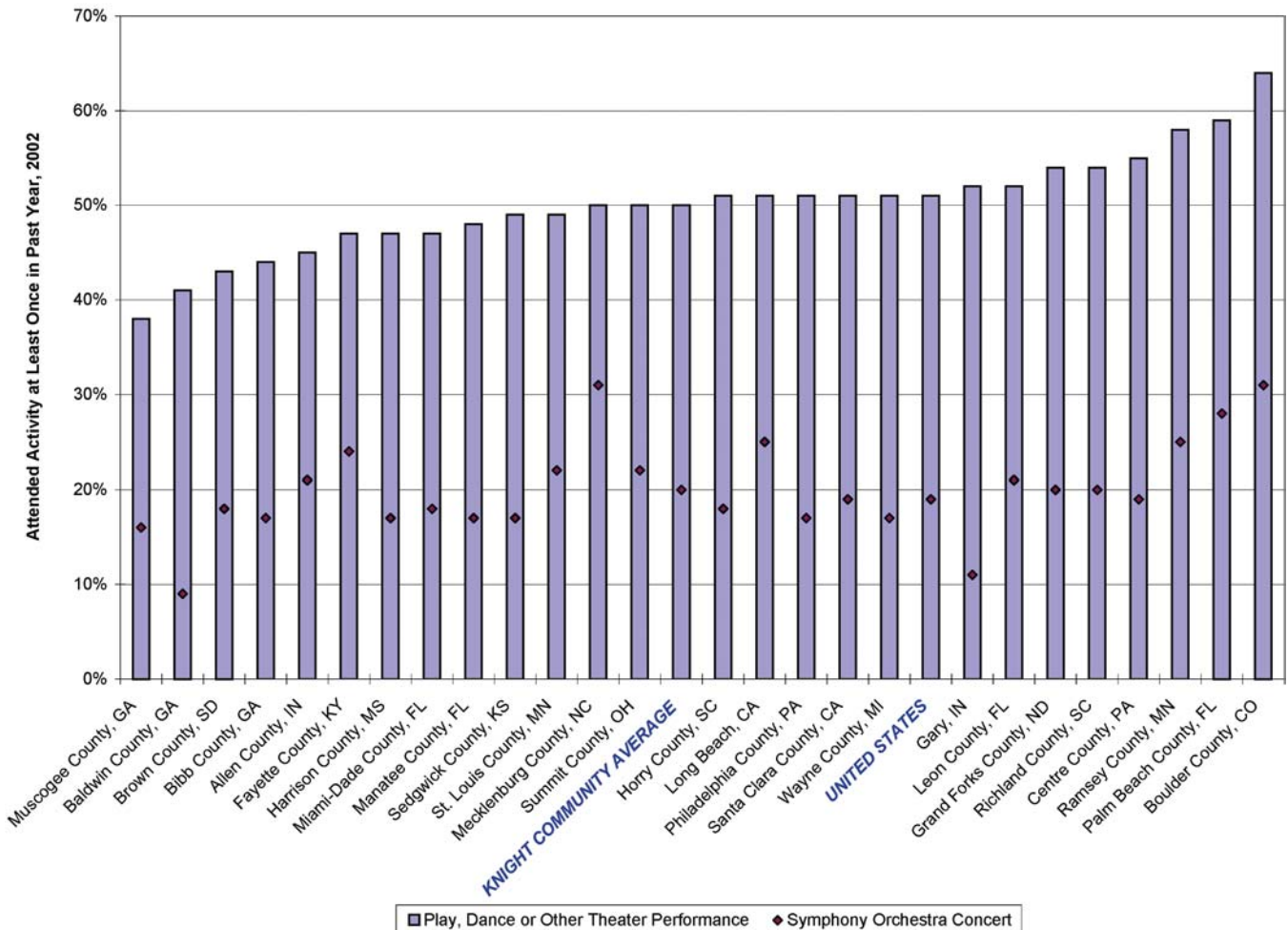
In general, communities with higher levels of educational attainment and median household income tend also to have higher rates of attendance at nonprofit arts activities. In the five communities with the highest proportion of residents with a bachelor’s degree or higher, an average of 75 percent of residents say that they attended a nonprofit arts activity in the past year. In contrast, an average of 64 percent say that they attended a nonprofit arts activity over the period in the five communities with the lowest levels of educational attainment.

The relationship is similar for median household income and attendance at nonprofit arts activities.

Whereas the five highest-income communities reported an average attendance rate of 77 percent, the five lowest-income communities reported an average of only 62 percent.

Communities with a high number of arts organizations per capita tend to report higher rates of attendance at nonprofit arts activities. In the five communities with the highest number of arts organizations per 10,000 residents, an average of 75 percent of residents report that they attended a nonprofit arts activity in the past 12 months. In comparison, an average of 64 percent of residents in the five communities with the lowest number of arts organizations per capita say that they attended an arts activity in the past 12 months.

Attendance at a Play, Dance or Other Theater Performance and Symphony Performance (2002)



Contributions to Arts or Cultural Organizations

The percentage of residents who say that they have contributed money or personal belongings to an arts or cultural organization during the previous year is one measure of community support for the arts.

Contributions to Arts or Cultural Organizations

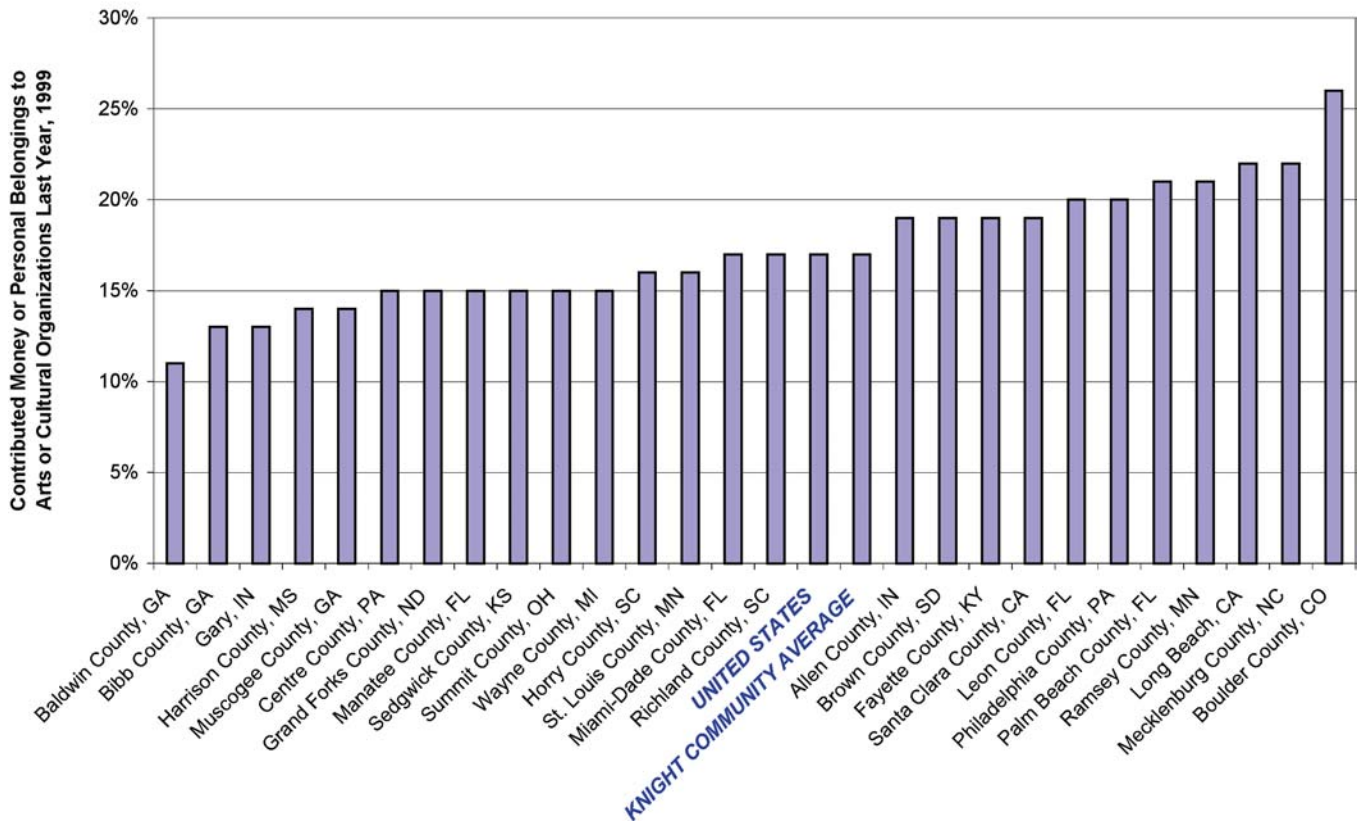
About 17 percent of Knight community residents, on average, say that they contributed money or personal belongings to an arts or cultural organization during the past year – the same percentage as in the United States overall. The proportion of residents who contributed to an arts or cultural organization ranges from 26 percent in Boulder County to 11 percent in Baldwin County. In addition to Boulder County, more than one in five residents say that they contributed to an arts or cultural organization in four other Knight communities – Mecklenburg, Palm Beach and Ramsey counties and the city of Long Beach. Fewer than 15 percent of residents say that they contributed to an arts or cultural organization in five Knight communities – Baldwin, Bibb, Harrison and Muscogee counties and the city of Gary.

Associated Indicators

A higher proportion of Knight community residents say that they contributed to arts or cultural organizations in communities with higher levels of educational attainment. In the five communities with the highest proportion of adults who completed at least a bachelor’s degree, an average of 20 percent of residents say that they contributed to an arts or cultural organization over the past year; the corresponding figure in the five communities with the fewest adults with this level of education is 15 percent.

Communities that report high rates of attendance at nonprofit arts exhibits or performances also tend to report high rates of contributions to arts organizations. Strong correspondences exist between contributions to arts organizations and attendance rates at symphonies, art museums, plays or dance performances and science or history museums.

Contributions to Arts or Cultural Organizations (1999)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 5E

Volunteering in Arts or Cultural Groups

The percentage of residents who say that they spent time volunteering for an arts or cultural group is one measure of community engagement in arts and cultural activities.

Volunteering in Arts or Cultural Groups

An average of 14 percent of Knight community residents say that they volunteered time to support an arts or cultural group over the past 12 months – just above the U.S. average of 12 percent. The range across Knight communities is from 20 percent in Boulder County to 11 percent in Allen and Sedgwick counties.

The proportion of residents who say that they volunteered to work for an arts or cultural group was stable in all Knight communities between 1999 and 2002.

Associated Indicators

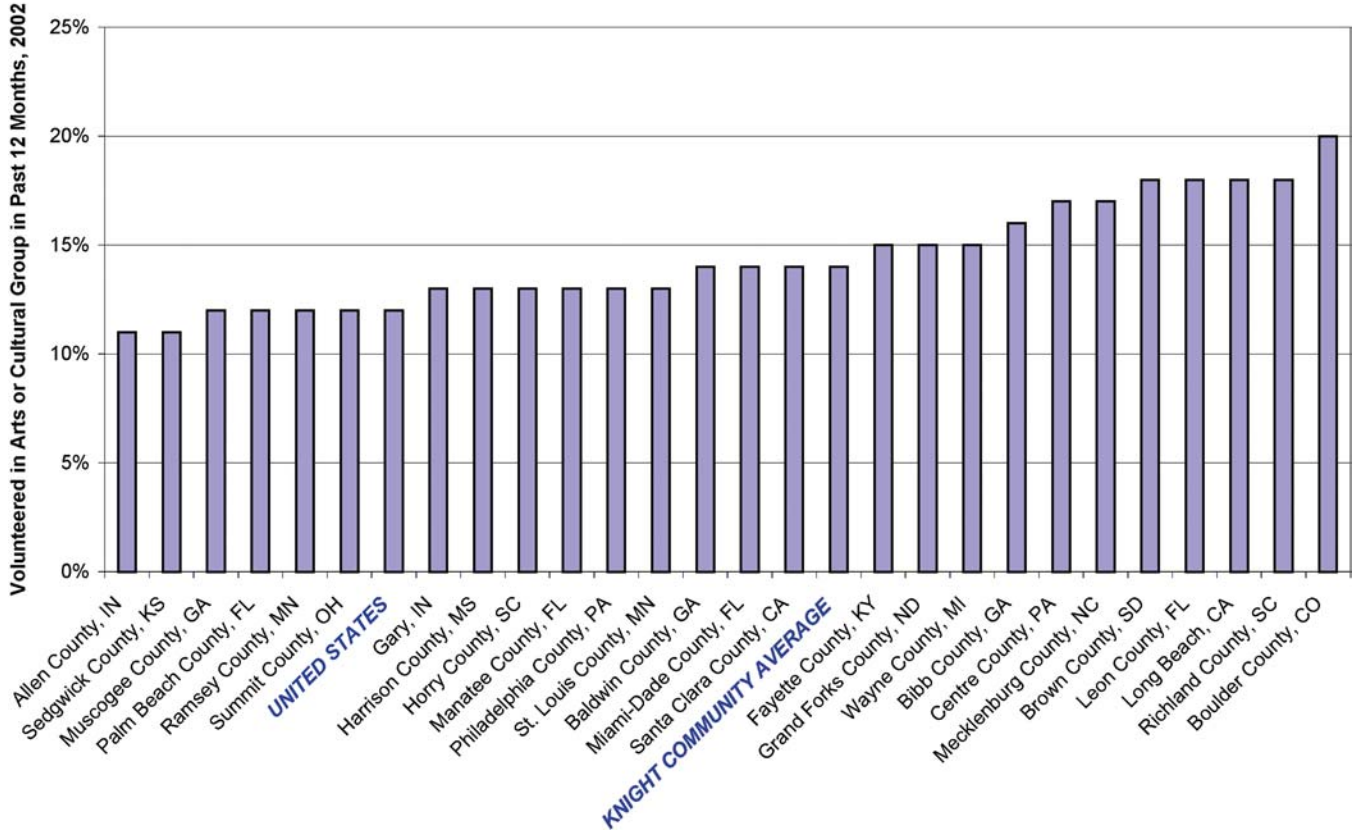
Although rates of volunteering in arts groups vary over a relatively narrow range, they still tend to be a little higher in communities with higher levels of educational attainment – an average of 17 percent in the

five communities with the highest proportion of adults holding a least a bachelor’s degree, compared with 14 percent in the communities with the fewest adults at this level of educational attainment. However, rates of volunteering have little relationship to household income in the community.

Associated Behaviors

Residents who contribute financial support to arts or cultural organizations also tend to volunteer their time to support these organizations. Boulder County best exemplifies this association: 26 percent of residents say that they contributed to an arts or cultural organization over the past year, and 20 percent say that they volunteered time to help support this type of organization. In both cases, Boulder County has the highest proportion of residents who exhibit these behaviors.

Volunteering in Arts or Cultural Groups (2002)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 5F

CHAPTER 6

Education



Martha Henao participated in a College Summit workshop at Florida International University in Miami. College Summit peers and trainers helped her write a college application essay and gave her other college tips, improving her chances for acceptance into college.

LISTENING AND LEARNING

Introduction and Highlights

Education indicators suggest a wide variety of situations across the Knight communities. In comparison with their states, some community school districts have high reading and math achievement scores, high SAT scores and low dropout rates. For other communities, the situation is just the opposite. Some communities tend to use their libraries very frequently, and others only infrequently. Levels of low literacy among adults are very high in some communities and relatively low in others.

Similarly, residents' literacy-related behaviors and perceptions about institutions of public education

vary widely across the Knight communities. In some communities, most residents are satisfied with the public schools; and in others, relatively few are. Some communities have high levels of newspaper readership, and others have low levels of readership. Residents of some communities use the Internet very frequently, whereas residents of others use it on an infrequent basis.

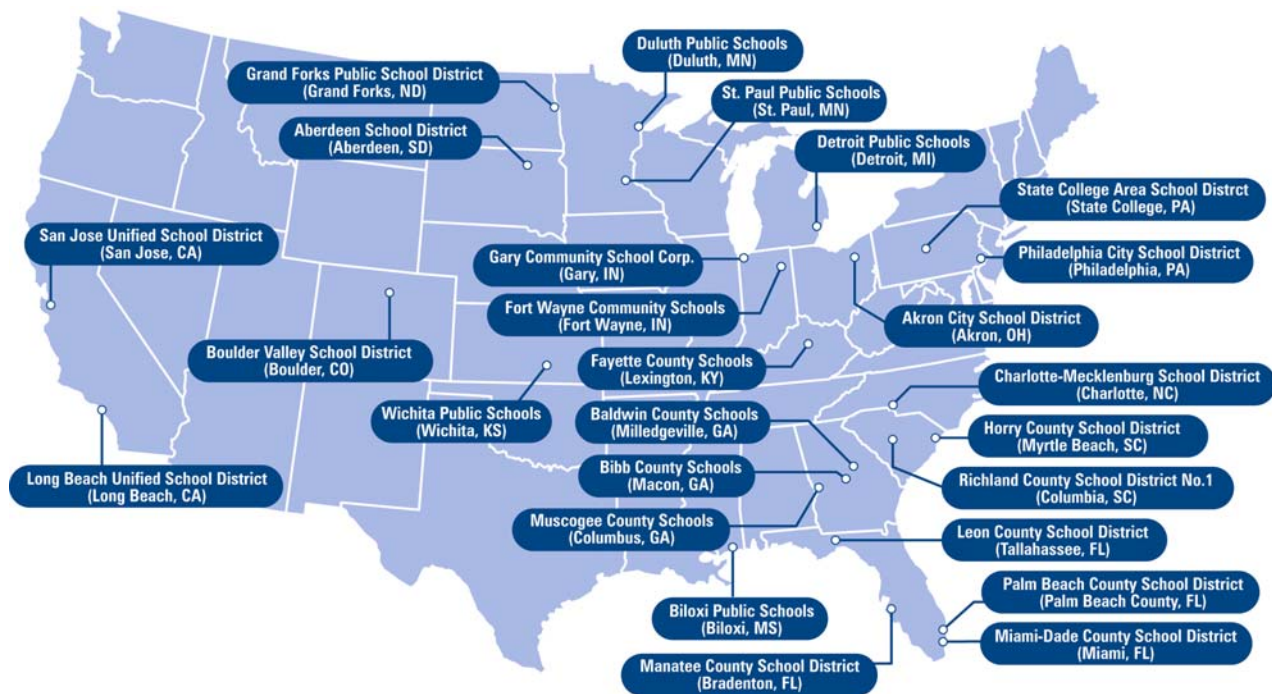
The Education section that follows presents findings for the 26 Knight communities. There are five indicators from administrative records and seven survey indicators.

Indicator Area	Administrative Records
School District Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Third-Grade Achievement in Reading and Mathematics, 1999–2000 • SAT Performance, 1999–2000 • Dropout Rates, 1999–2000
Community Literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Library Circulation Transactions per Capita, 1997 • Adults at Low-Literacy Levels, 1990

Indicator Area	Community Surveys
Views About Public Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percent of Residents Who Say the Quality of Education Provided by Public Schools is a “Big Problem” • Percent of Residents Who Say Their Public Schools Are Doing a “Good” or “Excellent” Job
Literacy-Related Behaviors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percent of Residents Who Say They Read a Local Daily Newspaper “Every Day” • Percent of Residents Who Say They Go Online “Often” to Get News • Percent of Residents Who Say They Go Online “Several Times a Day” or “About Once a Day”
Views About Public Libraries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percent of Residents Who Say Their Public Libraries Are Doing an “Excellent” Job
Concern About Illiteracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percent of Residents Who Say Illiteracy is a “Big Problem” in Their Community

The education indicator and survey findings emphasize the diversity of the Knight communities. We highlight here a few of the most important measures and selected relationships among the indicators.

- Third-grade reading scores are considerably higher in community school districts with low rates of eligibility for the free and reduced-price lunch program.
- Average SAT scores are higher in communities with better-educated adult populations.
- Dropout rates tend to be higher in community school districts with higher rates of eligibility for the free and reduced-price lunch program.
- Communities with better-educated populations tend to have more annual library circulation transactions per capita.
- Communities with high concentrations of residents who have not completed high school also tend to have more adults at the lowest level of literacy.
- Residents' concern about the quality of public education corresponds very well with the performance of the local school district, as measured by third-grade achievement scores, SAT scores and dropout rates.
- Communities with large student populations tend to have higher proportions of residents who say that they use the Internet to get national or international news.
- Better-educated communities tend to report higher rates of general Internet usage.
- Communities that use their libraries more often also tend to be more satisfied with them.
- The level of concern about illiteracy in a community is closely linked with the proportion of residents who have not completed high school.



Third-Grade Achievement in Reading and Mathematics

Third-grade tests in reading and math are generally among the first assessments of a student’s progress in elementary school. A student’s level of performance on these early assessments is considered a pivotal indicator of future academic success.

Because of differences in the content of state tests, scoring procedures and standards of performance, standardized test scores are difficult to compare when school districts are located in different states. To compare Knight communities, test scores were standardized by calculating a district-to-state ratio on third-grade reading and mathematics test scores.

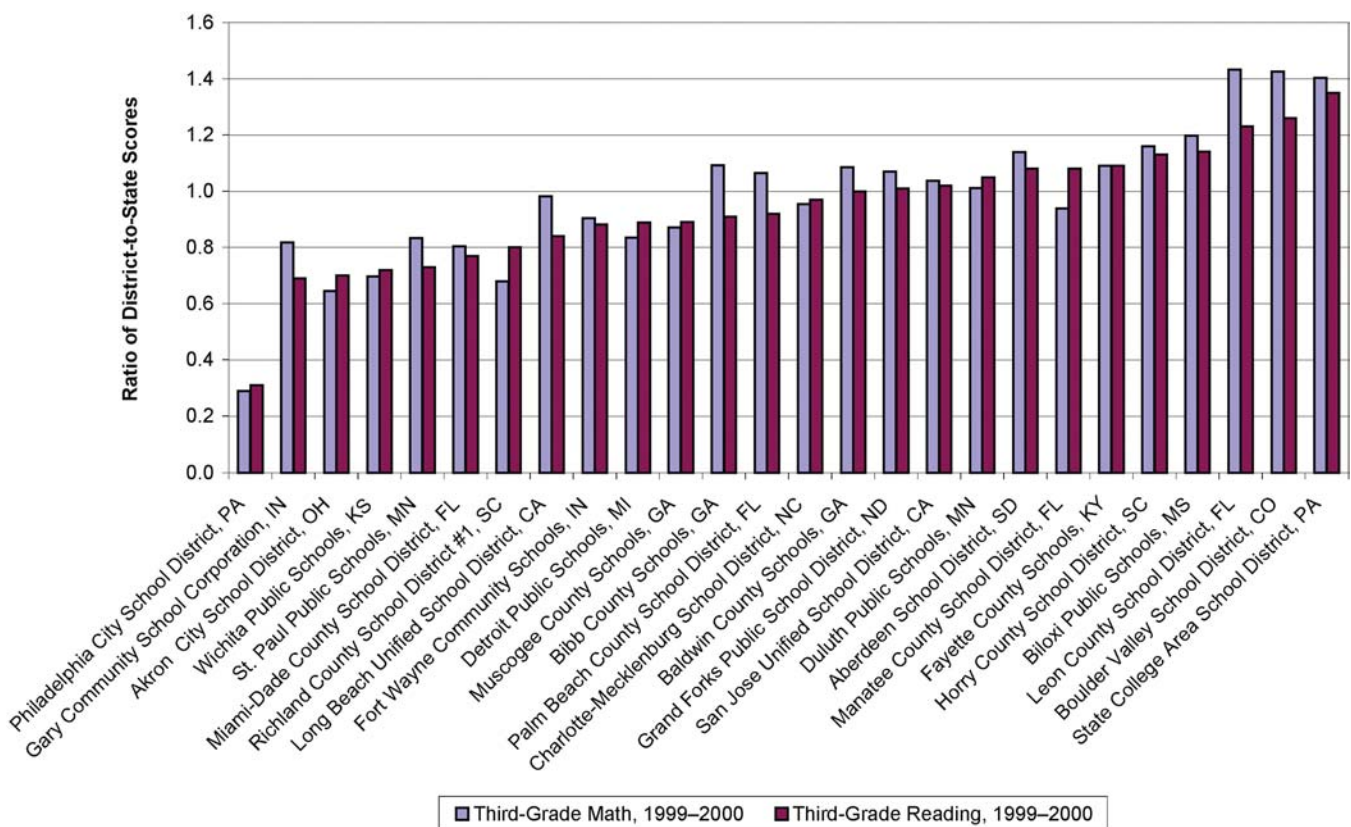
Third-Grade Achievement in Reading and Mathematics

Students’ performance on third-grade reading and mathematics tests showed a substantial range across the Knight school districts in 1999–2000. District performance on third-grade reading tests ranged from 135 percent of the state average in the State College Area School District to 31 percent of the state average in the Philadelphia City School District. The scores in mathematics ranged from 143 percent of the state average in the Boulder Valley School District to

29 percent of the state average in the Philadelphia City School District.

Student performance was at least 110 percent of the state average in both reading and mathematics in five school districts – Biloxi Public Schools, Boulder Valley School District, Horry County School District, Leon County School District and State College Area School District. Students in Boulder Valley and State College school districts performed particularly well, scoring at least 125 percent of the state average in both reading and mathematics. In contrast, student performance fell below 80 percent of the state average in five other school

Third-Grade Achievement: Ratio of District-to-State Scores (1999–2000)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 6A

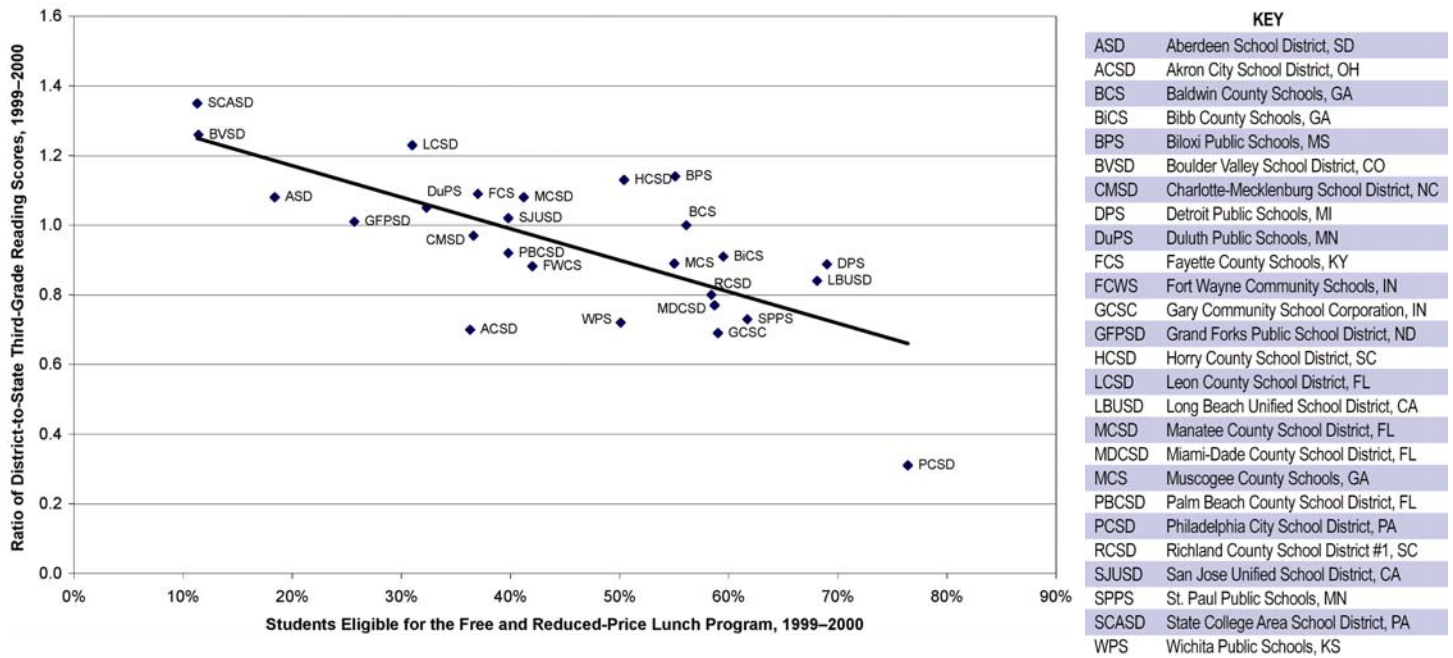
districts – Akron City School District, Miami-Dade County School District, Philadelphia City School District, Richland County School District #1 and Wichita Public Schools.

Student performance in third-grade tended to be strongly related to performance in mathematics, but some districts stood out as having particularly high scores in one or the other subject. For example, the ratio of district-to-state mathematics scores in Bibb County, Boulder Valley and Leon County school districts exceeded the ratio of reading scores by over 15 percentage points. Ratios of reading scores were over 10 percentage points higher than ratios in mathematics in Manatee County School District and Richland County School District #1.

Associated Indicators

Test scores in third-grade reading and mathematics showed a strong correspondence with student background characteristics in Knight school districts. In the five school districts with the highest rates of eligibility for the free and reduced-price lunch program, third-grade reading scores were only 74 percent of state average performance and mathematics scores were only 81 percent of the state average. In contrast, in the five school districts with the lowest rates of eligibility, scores were 119 percent and 129 percent of the state average scores, respectively.

Eligibility for the Free and Reduced-Price Lunch Program and Third-Grade Reading Achievement (1999–2000)



SAT Performance

SAT scores are one of the more important measures used to assess school and student performance and provide an indication of the level of student preparation for college.

SAT Performance

During the 1999–2000 school year, the average combined SAT score in the Knight school districts was 40 points lower than the national average (979 versus 1019). However, the range in average scores among the Knight districts was over 330 points – from 1121 in the Boulder Valley School District to 785 in the Gary Community Schools Corporation.

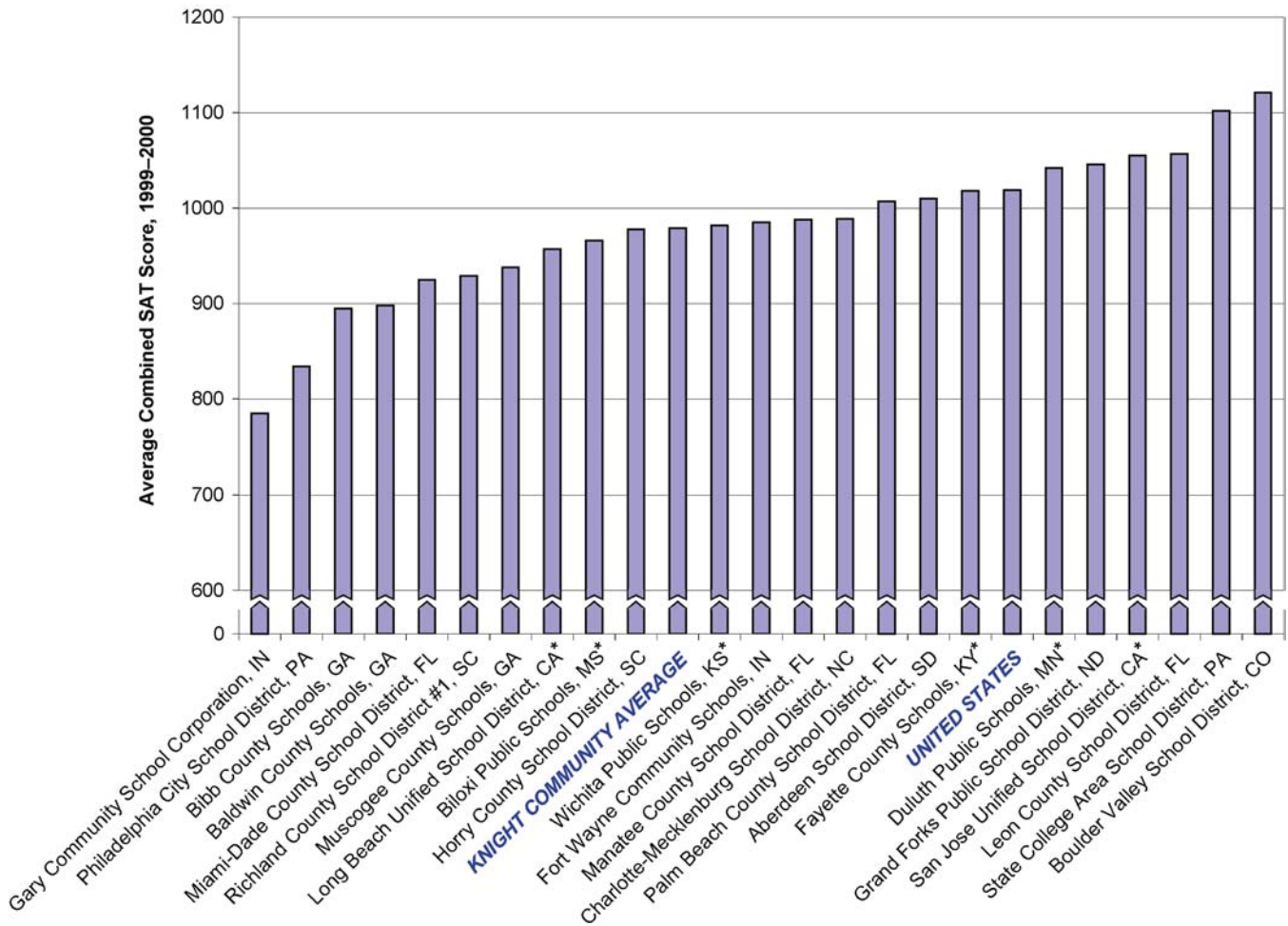
Four of the 23 Knight school districts with available data – Boulder Valley School District, Leon County School District, San Jose Unified School District and

State College Area School District – had average SAT scores above 1050. In contrast, another four communities – Baldwin County Schools, Bibb County Schools, Gary Community Schools Corporation and Philadelphia City School District – had average scores below 900.

Associated Indicators

Students’ performance on the SATs had a strong correspondence with the education and income levels of the community. In the six communities in which at least

SAT Scores (1999–2000)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 6B

St. Paul Public Schools, MN, Akron City School District, OH and Detroit Public Schools, MI were excluded from the graph because SAT data were unavailable.

* 1998–1999 data.

35 percent of adults held at least a bachelor’s degree, the average SAT score was 1057. In the five communities in which fewer than 20 percent of adults had attained this level of education, the average SAT score was 892.

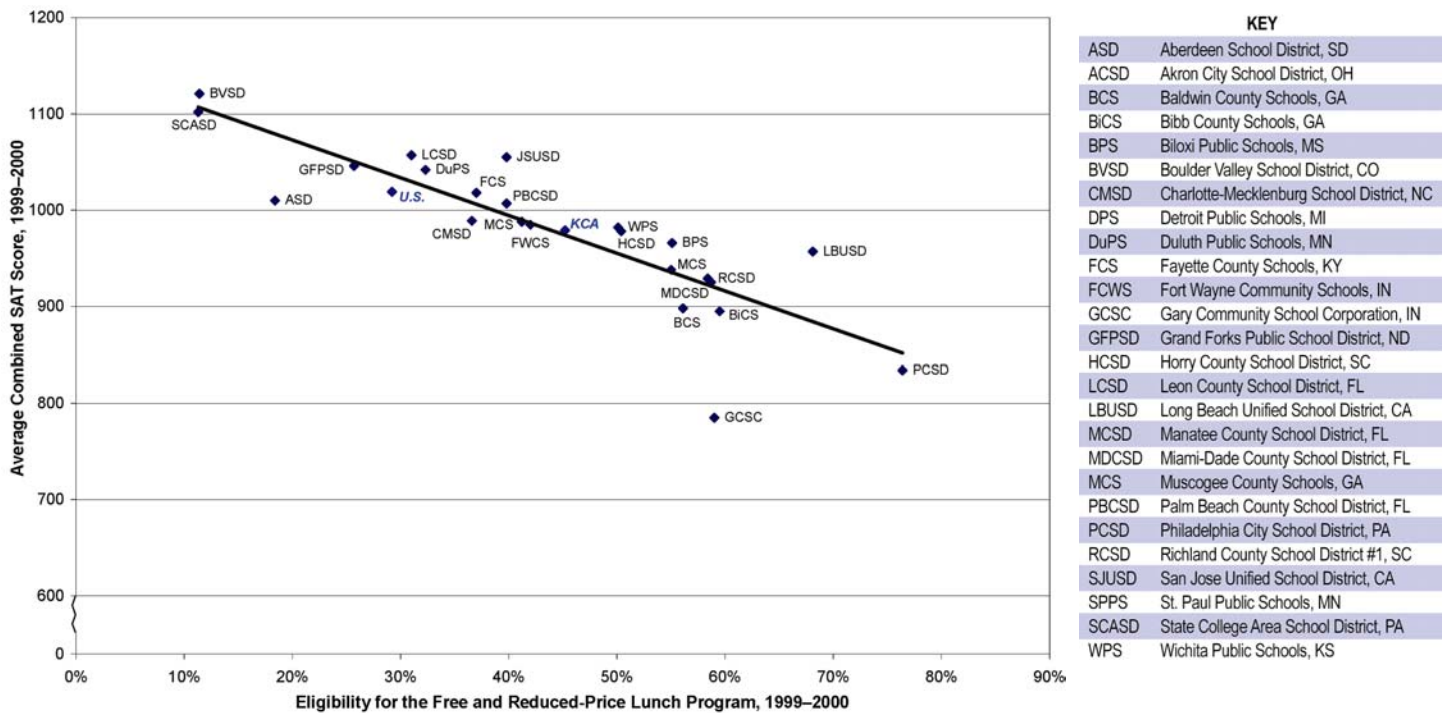
Similarly, communities with a median household income of over \$45,000 in 1999 had an average SAT score of 1043, while communities with a median income of under \$35,000 had an average score of 863. There were a number of exceptions to this pattern, however. The State College Area School District, for example, had a relatively low level of income (\$36,165) and among the highest average SAT scores (1102).

School districts with fewer children from low-income families also had higher SAT scores than

districts with higher concentrations of these children. In the five districts with the lowest rates of eligibility for the free and reduced-price lunch program, the combined SAT scores averaged 1067, compared to 879 in the five districts with the highest rates of lunch-program eligibility.

Knight communities in which a large proportion of families were headed by a single parent also tended to have lower SAT scores. Whereas the five communities in which single-parent families constituted 25 percent or less of all families had an average SAT score of 1067, the five with a single-parent rate of over 40 percent scored an average of 870.

Eligibility for the Free and Reduced-Price Lunch Program and SAT Scores (1999–2000)



Dropout Rate

Dropping out of high school limits the opportunity for young adults to enroll in postsecondary education and participate productively in the work force. Dropout rates also measure the success of school districts in guiding students to successfully complete their secondary education.

As states use different methods to define and measure school dropouts, it is difficult to compare dropout rates in different states. To compare Knight communities, dropout figures were standardized by calculating a ratio of district-to-state dropout rates.

Dropout Rate

Just over half of Knight school districts – 13 of the 25 with available data – had higher dropout rates than their respective states in the 1999–2000 school year. However, the range among the districts was substantial, with dropout rates about one-third of the state average (32 percent) in the San Jose Unified School District and over four times the state average in the Detroit Public Schools.

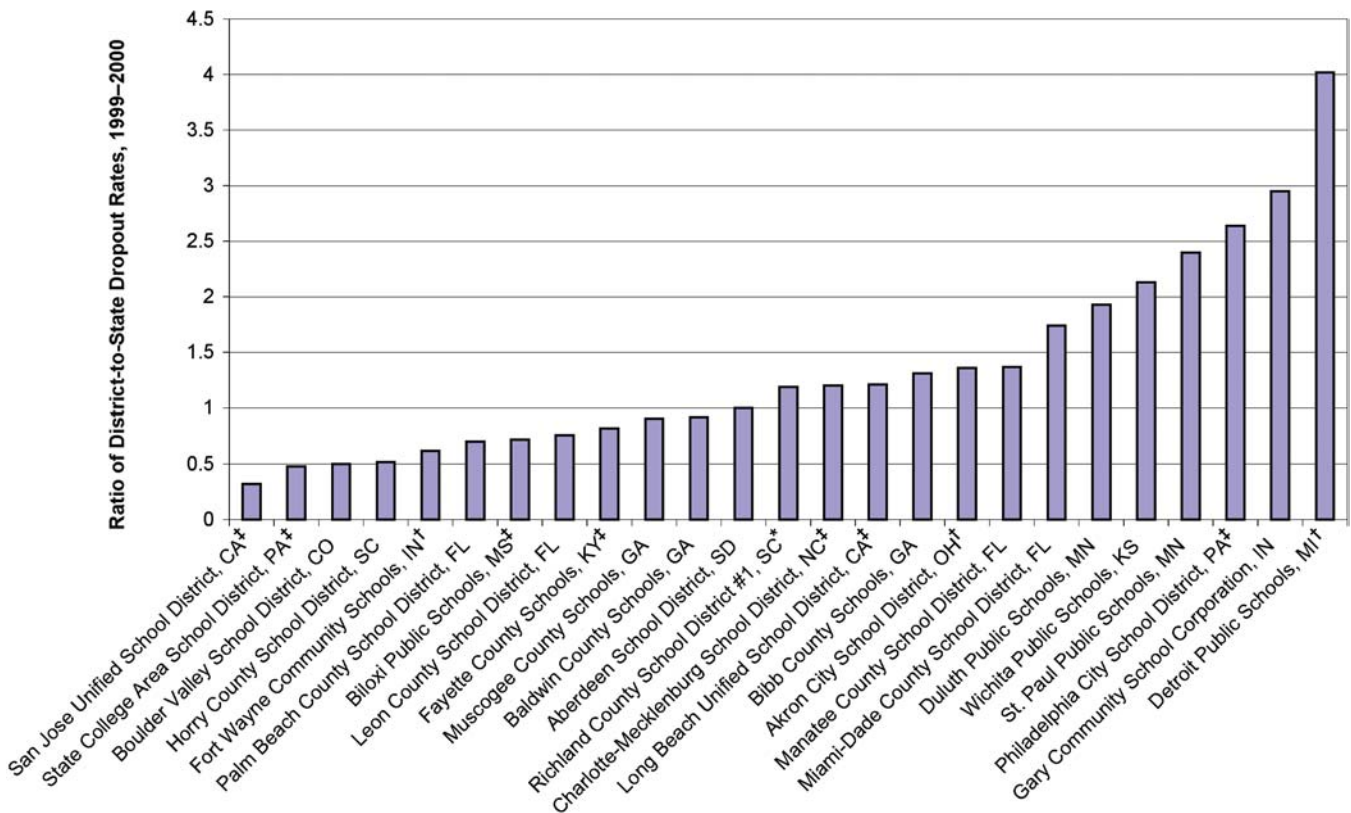
Dropout rates fell below 60 percent of the state average rate in four Knight school districts – Boulder

Valley School District, Horry County School District, San Jose Unified School District and State College Area School District. Dropout rates were more than twice the state average in five districts – Detroit Public Schools, Gary Community School Corporation, Philadelphia City School District, St. Paul Public Schools and Wichita Public Schools.

Associated Indicators

School district poverty showed a strong correspondence with dropout rates. The five school

Dropout Rate (1999–2000)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 6C

Grand Forks Public School District, ND was excluded from the graph because dropout data were unavailable.

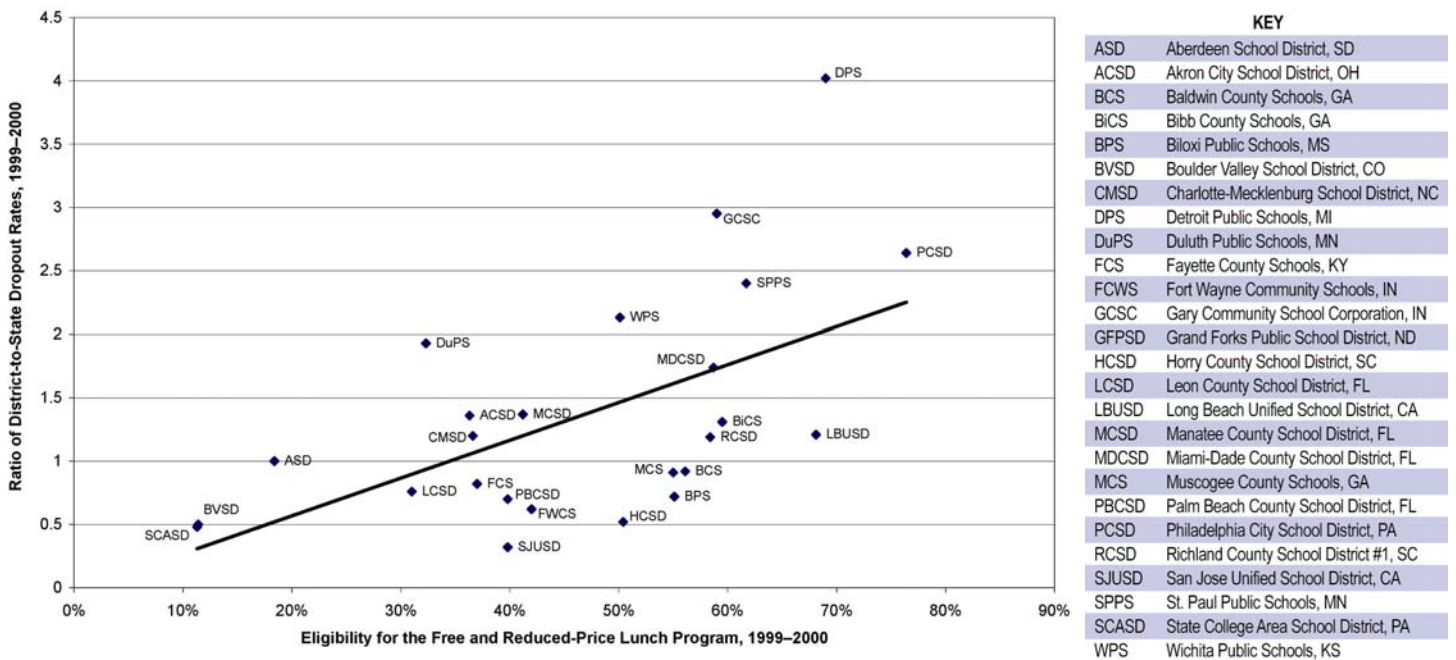
* 1996–1997 data. † 1997–1998 data. ‡ 1998–1999 data.

districts with the highest eligibility rates for the free and reduced-price lunch program had dropout rates that averaged 2.3 times their respective state averages. This contrasts with an average dropout rate that was about two-thirds (69 percent) of the state average in the five districts with the lowest rates of program eligibility. The Duluth Public Schools and the Long Beach Unified School District diverged from this pattern: the Duluth Public Schools had a relatively low rate of eligibility and a high rate dropout ratio, while Long Beach Unified School District was just the opposite.

The overall level of education in a community was also related to dropout rates. In the five communities

with the highest concentration of residents with at least a bachelor’s degree, the district dropout rate was, on average, 35 percent below the state rate. In contrast, in the five communities with the fewest college-educated residents the districts averaged 225 percent of the state rate. Baldwin County Schools stood out, with the second-lowest level of educational attainment and a relatively low district-to-state dropout ratio (0.92). St. Paul Public Schools, on the other hand, had a comparatively well-educated population and a dropout rate that was nearly 2½ times the state rate.

Eligibility for the Free and Reduced-Price Lunch Program and Dropout Rate (1999–2000)



Library Circulation

The total annual circulation transactions per resident are the measure for this indicator. In addition to serving as one measure of community literacy, the use of public library facilities and materials provides an indication of a community’s access to and use of information resources.

Library Circulation

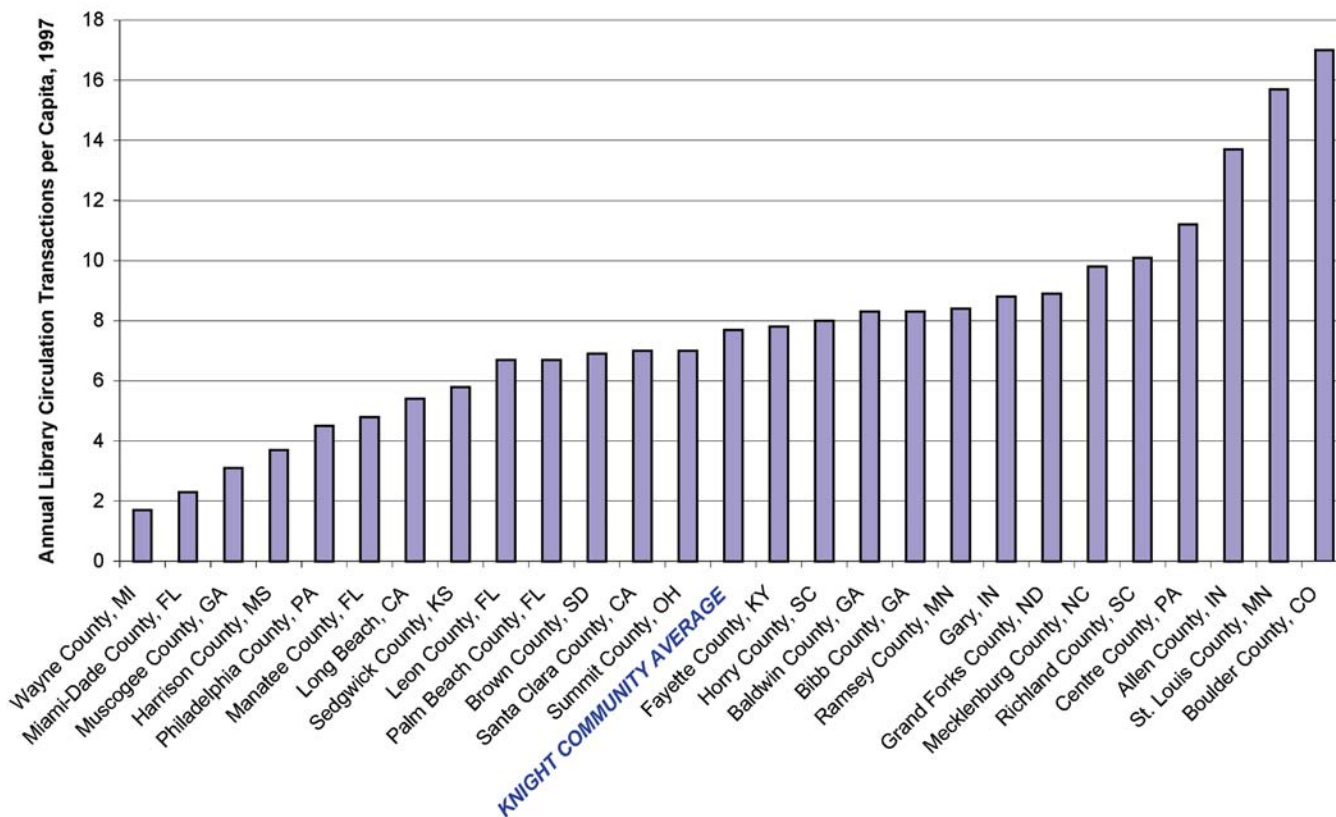
In 1997, an average of eight library circulation transactions per capita were recorded in the Knight communities. However, some communities had far higher circulation rates than others: Boulder County’s annual library circulation rate (17 per capita), for example, was 10 times the rate of Wayne County’s (under two per capita).

In five communities – Allen, Boulder, Centre, Richland and St. Louis counties – more than 10 library transactions per capita were recorded in 1997. In contrast, in six communities – Harrison, Manatee, Miami-Dade, Muscogee, Philadelphia and Wayne counties – there were fewer than five transactions per capita.

Associated Indicators

Communities with higher levels of educational attainment tended to have higher library circulation rates. The five communities with the highest proportion of residents who attained a bachelor’s degree or higher had a library circulation rate that was almost two times the circulation rate of the five communities with the lowest proportion of residents with at least a bachelor’s degree. St. Louis County is the most notable exception to this pattern: it had a relatively low proportion of residents with at least a bachelor’s degree (22 percent) and the second-highest library circulation rate (16 per capita).

Library Circulation (1997)



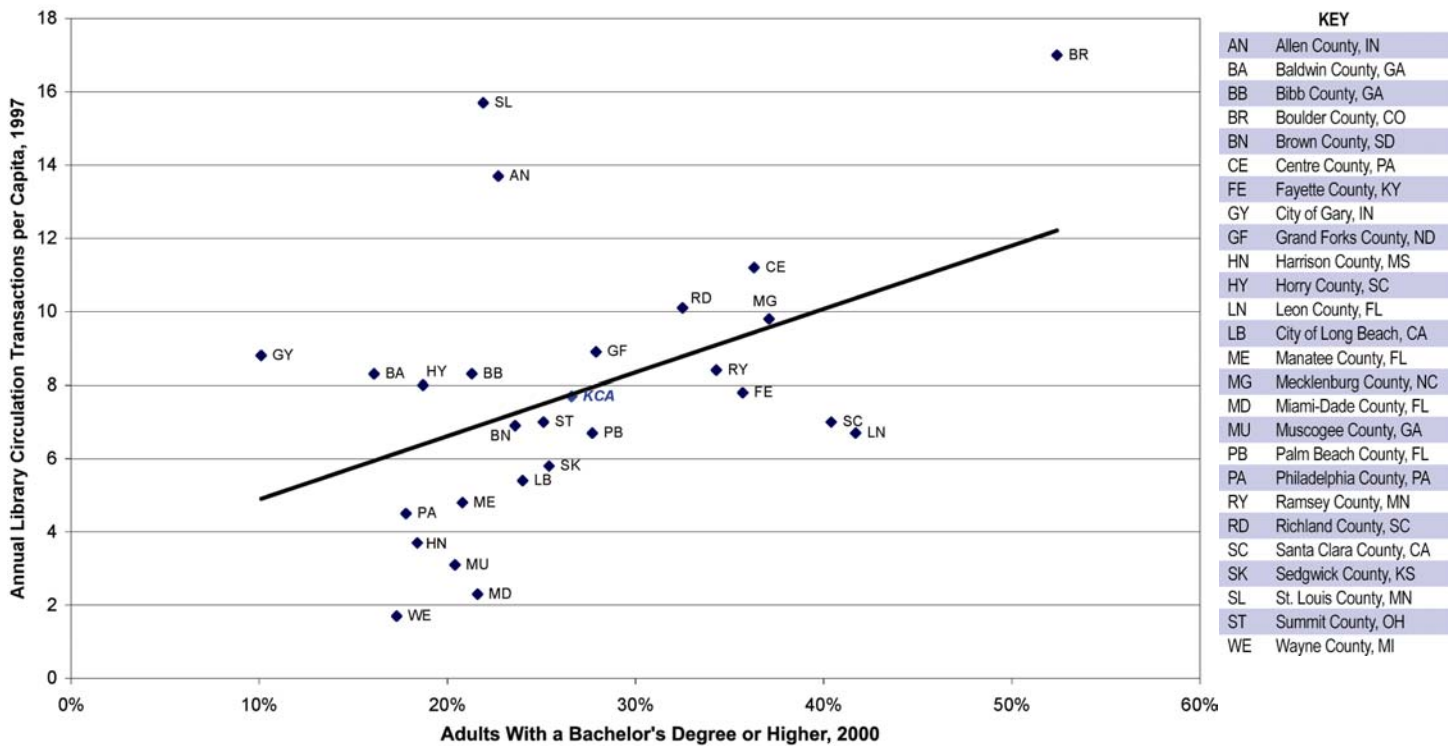
For tables and additional information, see Appendix 6D

Note: Library circulation figures presented are for the main library district in each Knight community. See Appendix 6D for more information.

Community population was generally unrelated to library circulation rates, although the largest communities recorded significantly lower rates than other communities. The average circulation rate of

about four transactions per capita in communities with populations over 1,000,000 was well below the average of just under nine per capita in the other Knight communities.

Educational Attainment (2000) and Library Circulation (1997)



Note: Library circulation figures presented are for the main library district in each Knight community. See Appendix 6D for more information.

Adult Literacy

Estimates of adult literacy provide an indication of the ability of a community’s adult population to perform important functions in their lives, such as reading to their children, being discriminating consumers and participating in an increasingly technical work force.

This indicator is defined as the percentage of adults (ages 16 and over) at the lowest English language literacy level on the National Adult Literacy Survey (NALS), and is based on estimates developed by Portland State University using the NALS and the 1990 U.S. Census. Adults at the lowest literacy level can perform many tasks involving simple texts and documents, but display difficulty using reading, writing and certain computational skills considered necessary for functioning in everyday life.

Adult Literacy

In 1990, an average of 22 percent of adults in the Knight communities were estimated to read at the lowest literacy level – the same proportion as nationally. The range among the Knight communities was significant, however, from 9 percent in Boulder County to 46 percent in the city of Gary.

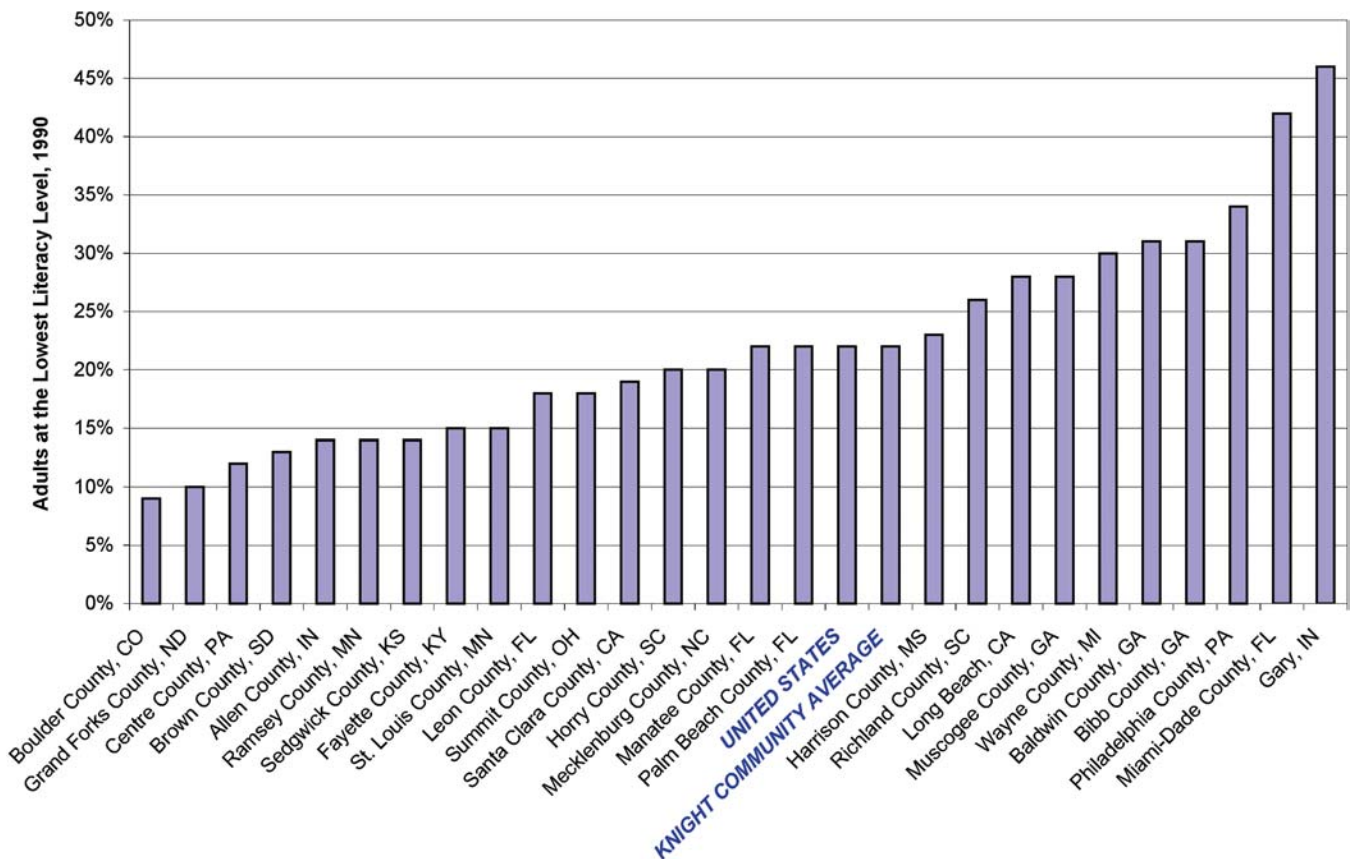
In seven Knight communities – Allen, Boulder, Brown, Centre, Grand Forks, Ramsey and Sedgwick counties – less than 15 percent of adults were at the

lowest literacy level. In contrast, at least 30 percent of adults were at this level in six Knight communities – Baldwin, Bibb, Miami-Dade, Philadelphia and Wayne counties and the city of Gary.

Associated Indicators

Communities with a high proportion of adults who have not completed high school also tended to have a high proportion of adults with the lowest literacy skills. In the five communities with the highest proportion of

Low Levels of Adult Literacy (1990)



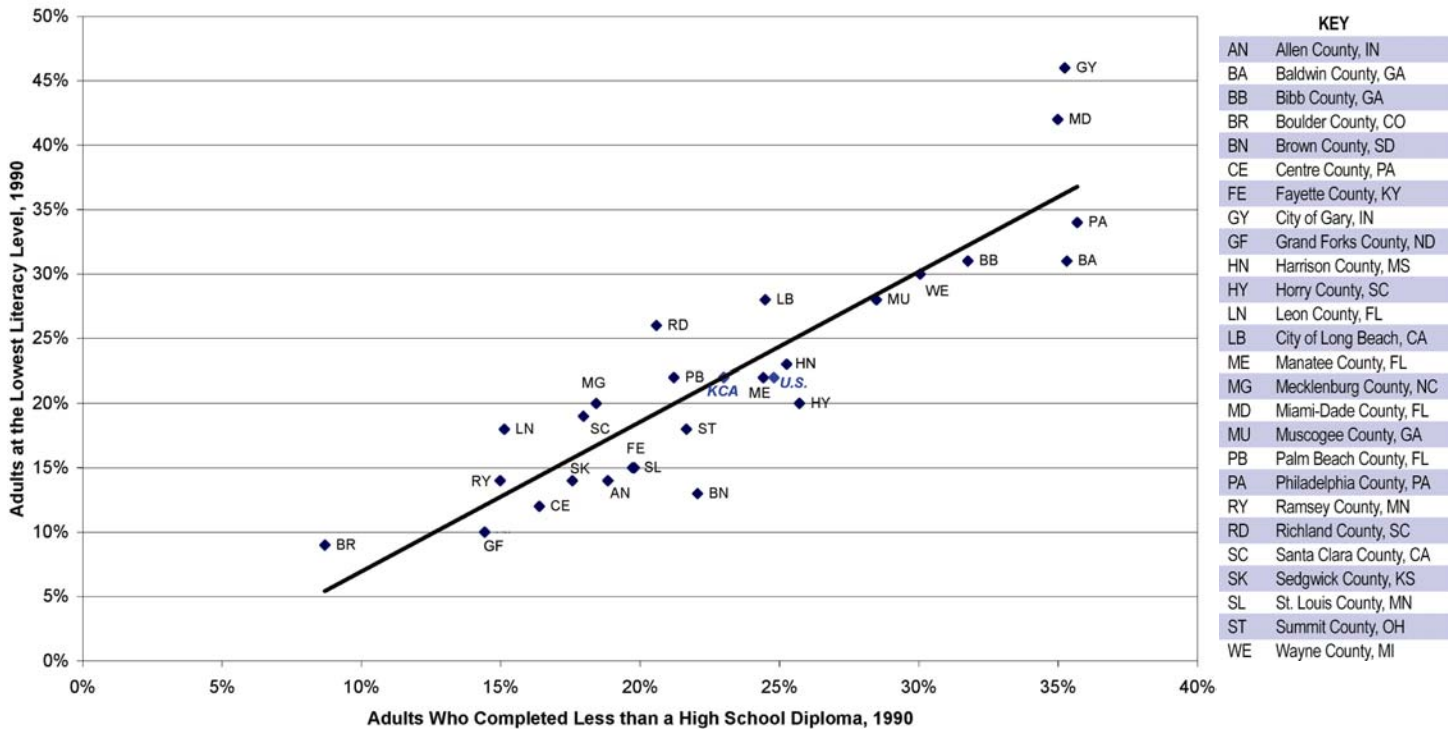
For tables and additional information, see Appendix 6E

adults without a high school diploma, an average of 37 percent of adults performed at the lowest literacy level. In the five communities with the fewest adults without a diploma, only 13 percent performed at this level.

Communities with higher poverty rates also tended to have higher concentrations of adults at the lowest

literacy level. In the five communities with the highest poverty rates in 1989, an average of 33 percent were at the lowest level. In contrast, only 19 percent performed at this level in the five communities with the lowest poverty rates.

Adults With Less Than a High School Diploma and Low Literacy Levels (1990)



Concern About the Quality of Public Schools

The percentage of residents who say that the quality of education provided by their public schools is a “big problem” is used to measure the level of concern about this issue.

Concern About the Quality of the Public Schools

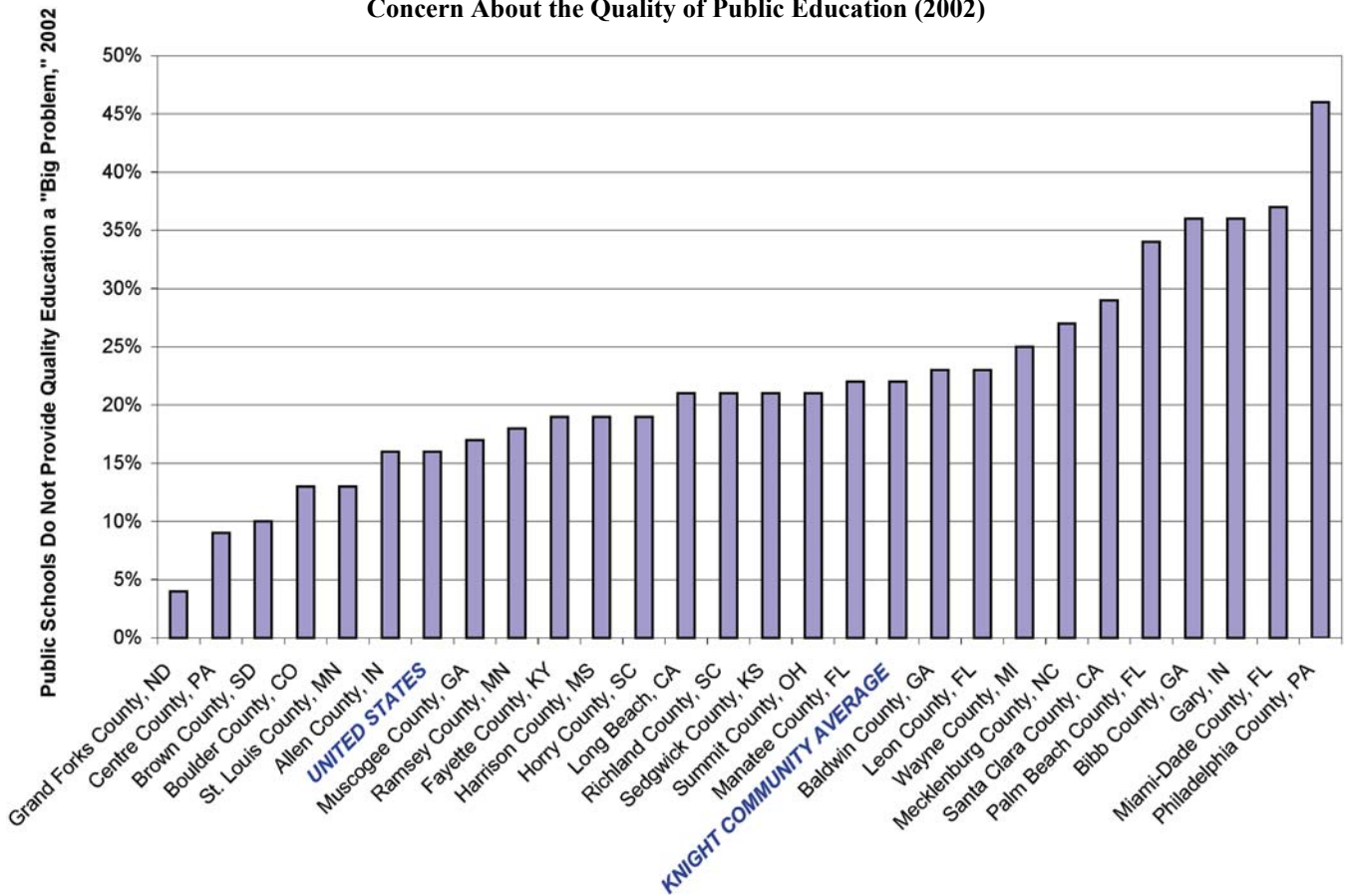
Knight community residents are more concerned about the quality of education provided in their public schools than the general U.S. population: 22 percent of Knight community residents say that quality is a big problem, compared to 16 percent nationally. Nearly half (46 percent) of Philadelphia County residents say that lack of quality education is a big problem, compared to 4 percent in Grand Forks County.

The communities that are least concerned about the quality of public education are Boulder, Brown, Centre, Grand Forks and St. Louis counties: in each of these communities less than 15 percent of residents say that

the quality of education is a big problem. In contrast, more than 30 percent of residents say that quality is a big problem in five other communities – Bibb, Miami-Dade, Palm Beach and Philadelphia counties and the city of Gary.

Concern about the quality of public education remained stable between 1999 and 2002 in most Knight communities. However, five communities saw a significant increase in concern about the issue – Bibb, Miami-Dade, Palm Beach, Philadelphia and St. Louis counties. The city of Long Beach was the only community to see a significant decrease in concern about the quality of public education.

Concern About the Quality of Public Education (2002)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 6F

Associated Indicators

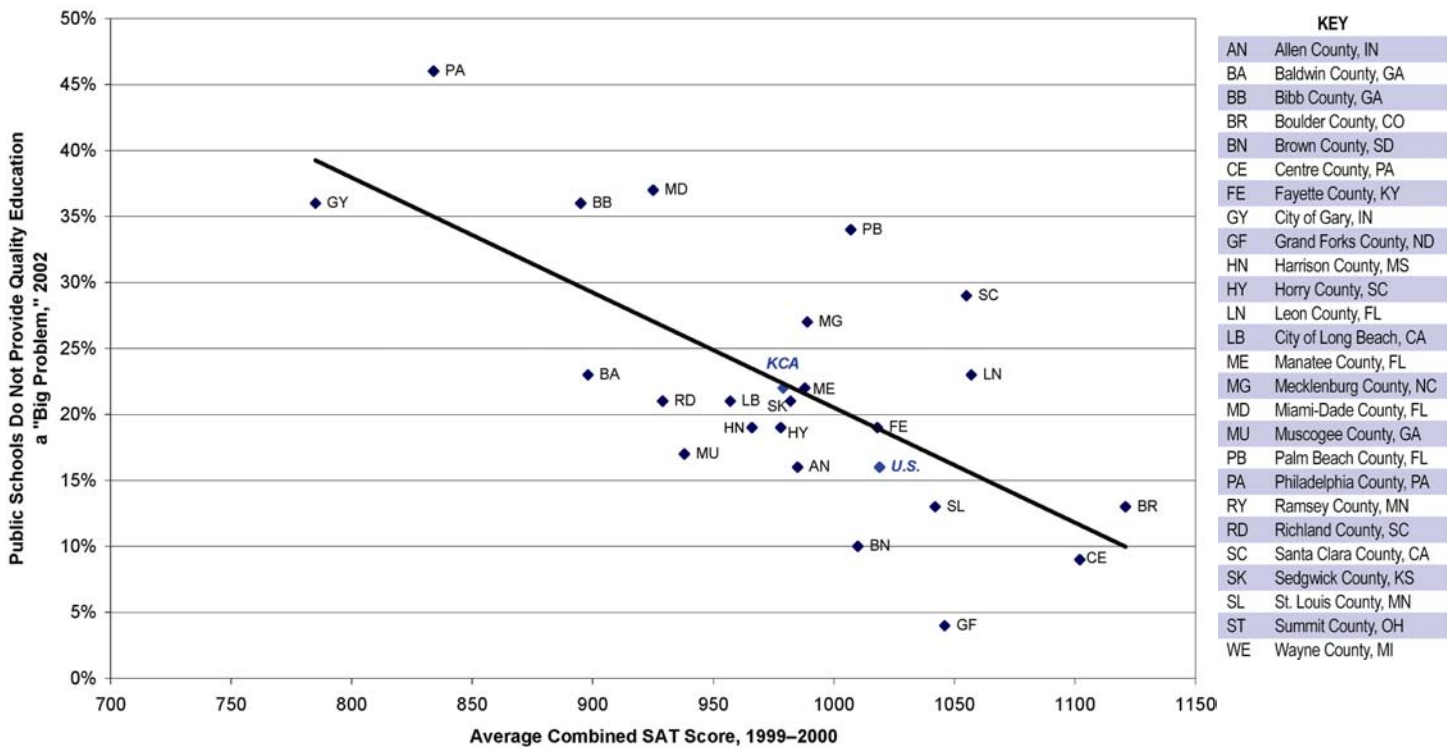
Residents’ concerns about the quality of public education correspond very well with the performance of the public schools in the communities, as measured by test scores, SAT scores and dropout rates. In the five communities whose school districts have the highest third-grade reading scores relative to their respective states, only 17 percent of residents say that the quality of education in the public schools is a big problem. This compares to 28 percent in the five communities that contain the school districts with the lowest third-grade reading scores relative to their states.

Similarly, concern about the quality of public education is higher in communities where school districts have lower SAT scores. The average proportion of residents who consider the quality of the public

schools a big problem is more than twice as high in the five communities whose school districts have the lowest SAT scores (36 percent) as it is in the five communities that contain the districts with the highest SAT scores (16 percent).

Communities with higher dropout rates also tend to be more concerned about quality education. In the five communities with school districts whose dropout rates are relatively high compared to state averages, 29 percent of residents say that lack of quality education is a big problem, compared to 17 percent in the five communities whose school districts have relatively low dropout rates. One notable exception is Santa Clara County where, despite a relatively low dropout rate in the San Jose Unified School District, 29 percent of County residents view the lack of quality education as a big problem in the community.

SAT Performance (1999–2000) and Concern About the Quality of Public Education (2002)



Ramsey County, MN, Summit County, OH and Wayne County, MI were excluded from the graph because SAT data were unavailable for these communities.

Satisfaction With the Public Schools

The percentage of residents who say that their public schools are doing a “good” or “excellent” job is used to assess the level of satisfaction with these public institutions.

Satisfaction With the Public Schools

Knight community residents rate their local public schools less favorably than residents nationwide. On average, only 52 percent of Knight community residents say that their public schools are doing a good or excellent job, compared to 67 percent nationally.

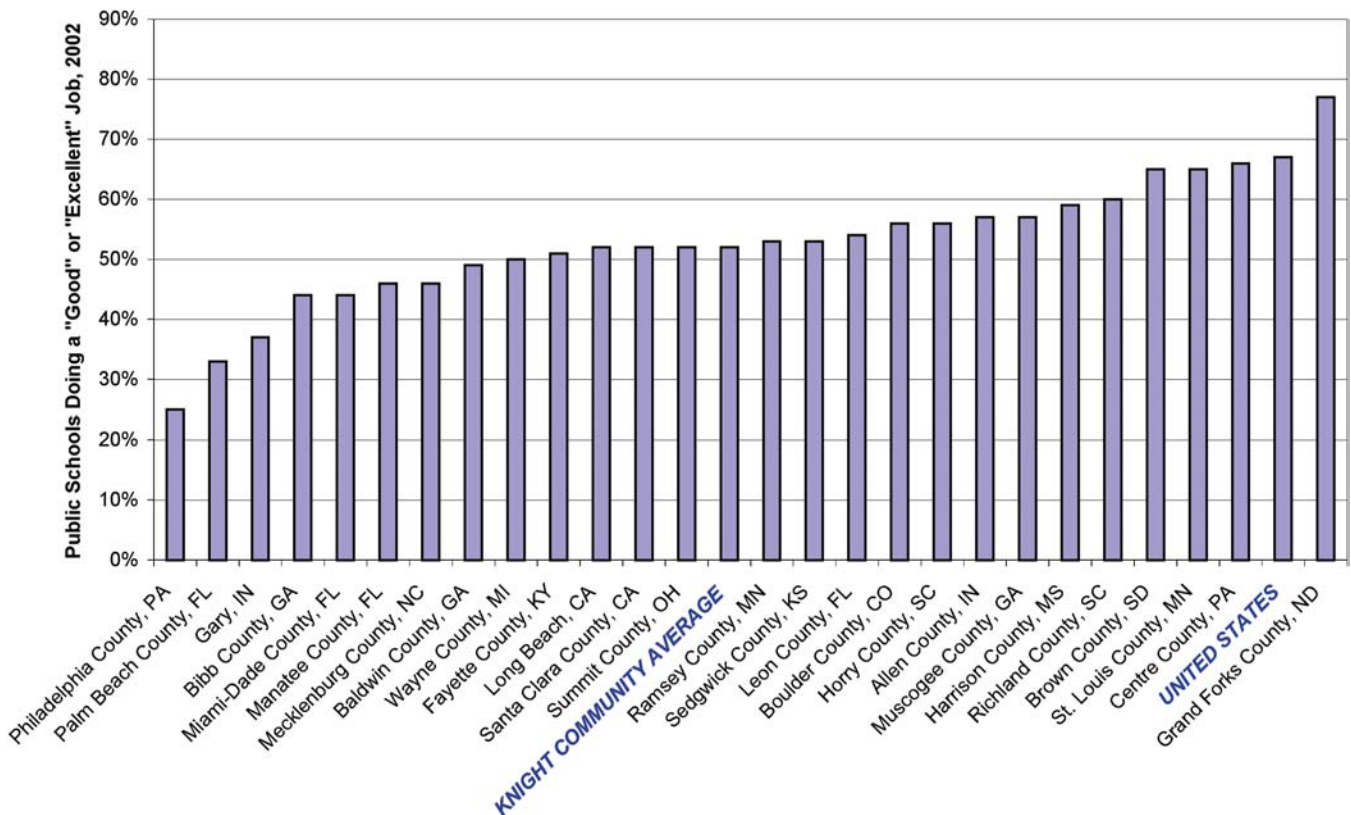
Residents’ ratings of their local public schools show considerable range. Over three in four residents (77 percent) in Grand Forks County rate their schools as good or excellent, compared to one in four residents (23 percent) in Philadelphia County. But Grand Forks County is the only community with a higher level of satisfaction than the United States overall.

At least 60 percent of residents say that their public schools are doing a good or excellent job in five

communities – Brown, Centre, Grand Forks, Richland and St. Louis counties. The level of satisfaction falls below 45 percent in five other communities – Bibb, Miami-Dade, Palm Beach and Philadelphia counties and the city of Gary.

Between 1999 and 2002, the level of satisfaction with the public schools remained fairly stable in a majority of Knight communities, while satisfaction nationally showed a significant increase. However, nine Knight communities saw a significant decrease in satisfaction. These include Boulder, Harrison and St. Louis counties, each of which saw a decrease of nine percentage points. No Knight community had significantly higher ratings for its public schools in 2002 than in 1999.

Satisfaction With the Public Schools (2002)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 6G

Associated Indicators

Residents’ ratings of their local public schools match up well with most indicators of student performance. In the five communities that contain the school districts with the highest district-to-state ratios on third-grade reading tests, an average of 58 percent of residents rate their public schools as good or excellent. The level of satisfaction with the public schools drops to 44 percent in the five communities whose school districts have the lowest district-to-state ratios.

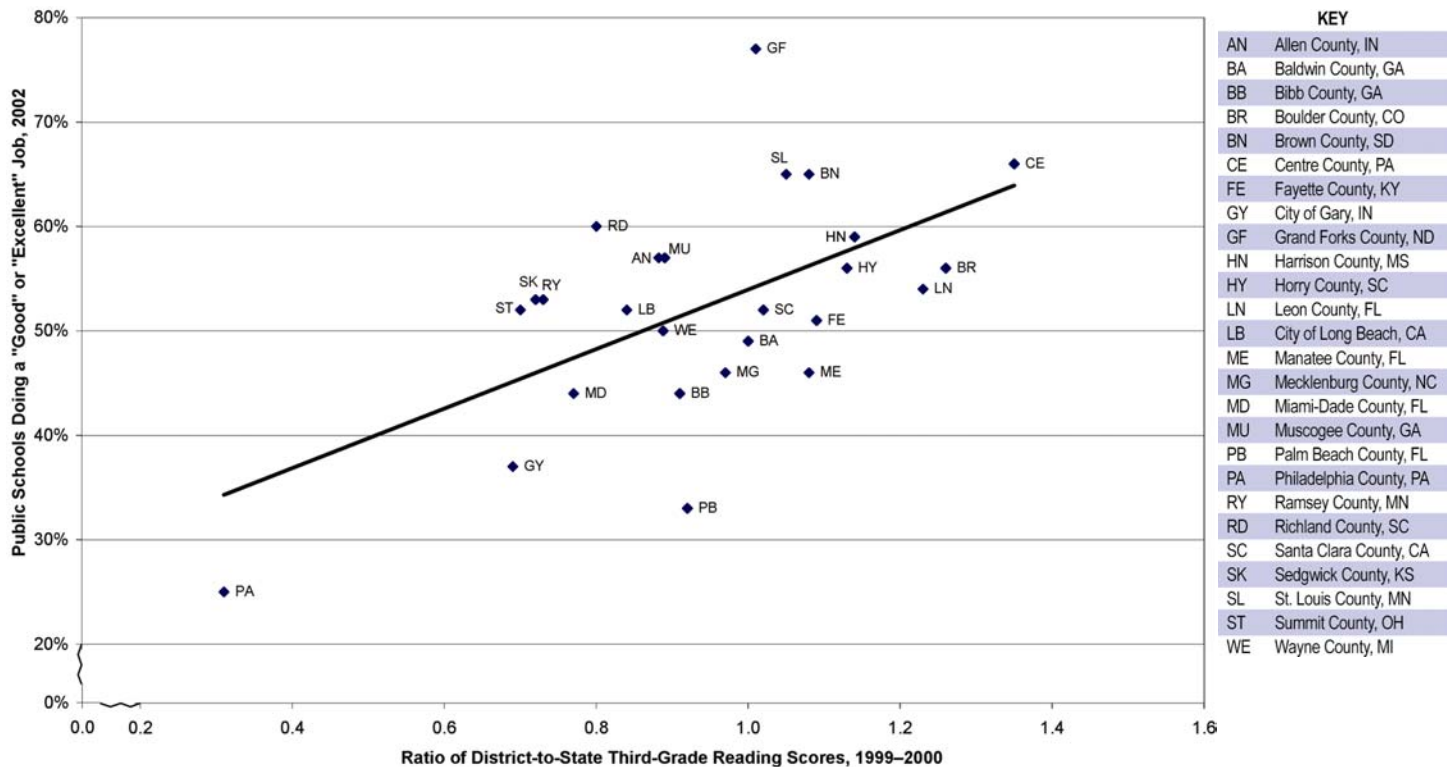
The relationship between SAT scores and satisfaction with the public schools is similar. Fully 61 percent of residents consider their public schools as good or excellent in the five communities whose school

districts have the highest average SAT scores, whereas only 40 percent rate their schools so highly in the five communities whose school districts have the lowest average SAT scores.

Associated Community Views

In communities where residents tend not to view the quality of education as a big problem, people also tend to rate their public schools more favorably. In the five communities with the least concern about public schools, fully two-thirds of residents (66 percent) say that their schools are good or excellent. In contrast, only 37 percent hold this view in the five communities with the most concern about public education.

Third-Grade Reading Scores (1999–2000) and Satisfaction With the Public Schools (2002)



Reading a Local Newspaper

The percentage of residents who say that they read a local daily newspaper “every day” is the measure for this indicator.

Reading a Local Newspaper

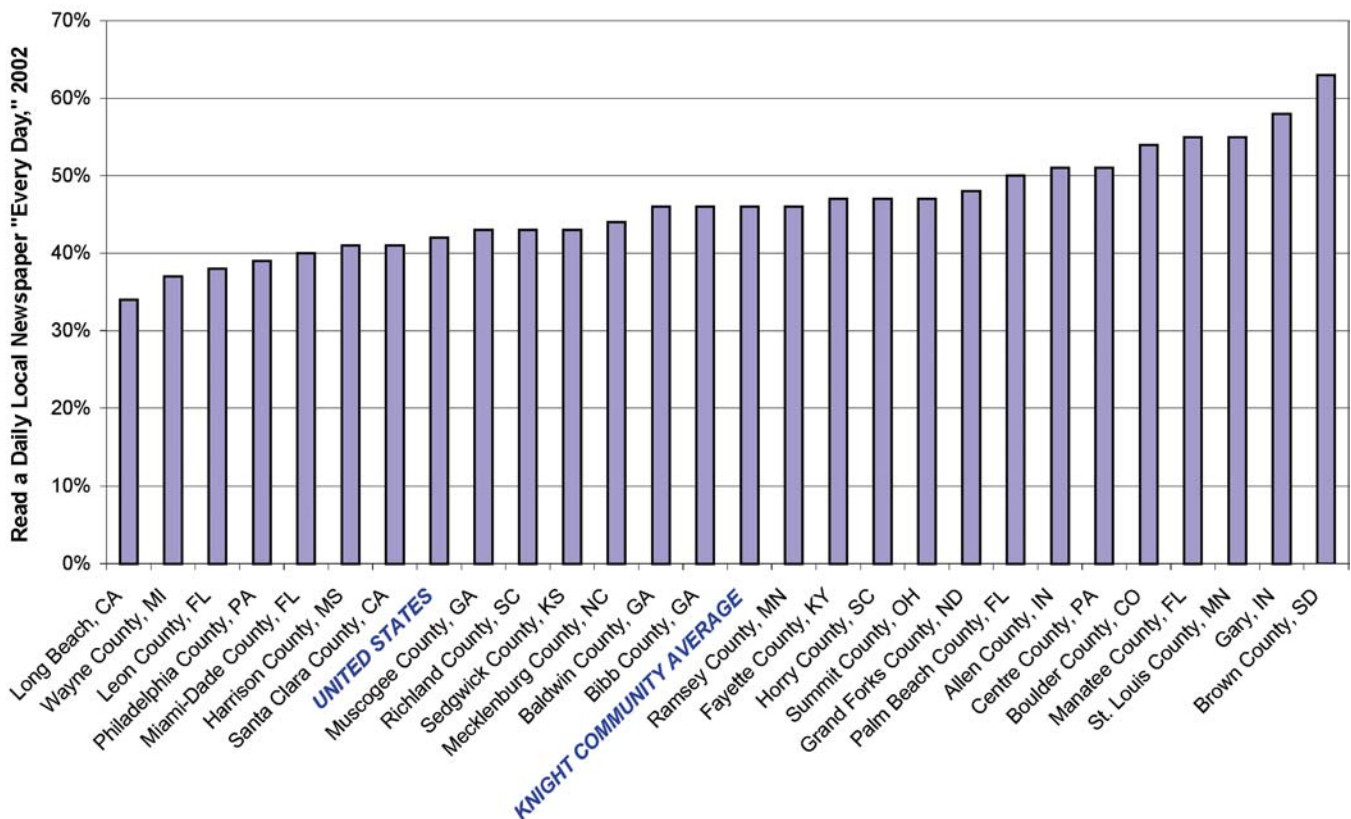
On average, 46 percent of Knight community residents say that they read a local daily newspaper every day – a somewhat higher percentage than the national figure of 42 percent. Brown County reports the highest level of local paper readership, with 63 percent reading a paper every day; Long Beach posts the lowest level of readership, with 34 percent saying they read a local paper every day.

In five communities, the percentage of residents who reported reading a local paper every day was 40 percent or fewer – Leon, Miami-Dade, Philadelphia and Wayne

counties and the city of Long Beach. In another four communities the reported level of every-day readership was higher than 55 percent – Brown, Manatee and St. Louis counties and the city of Gary.

Although the level of local paper readership remained stable in most Knight communities between 1999 and 2002, it declined significantly in a large fraction of them: 10 communities reported a significant decline in readership, including Harrison and Palm Beach counties, where the proportion of daily readers dropped by at least 10 percentage points. No community saw a significant increase in local paper readership over the period.

Reading a Local Newspaper (2002)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 6H

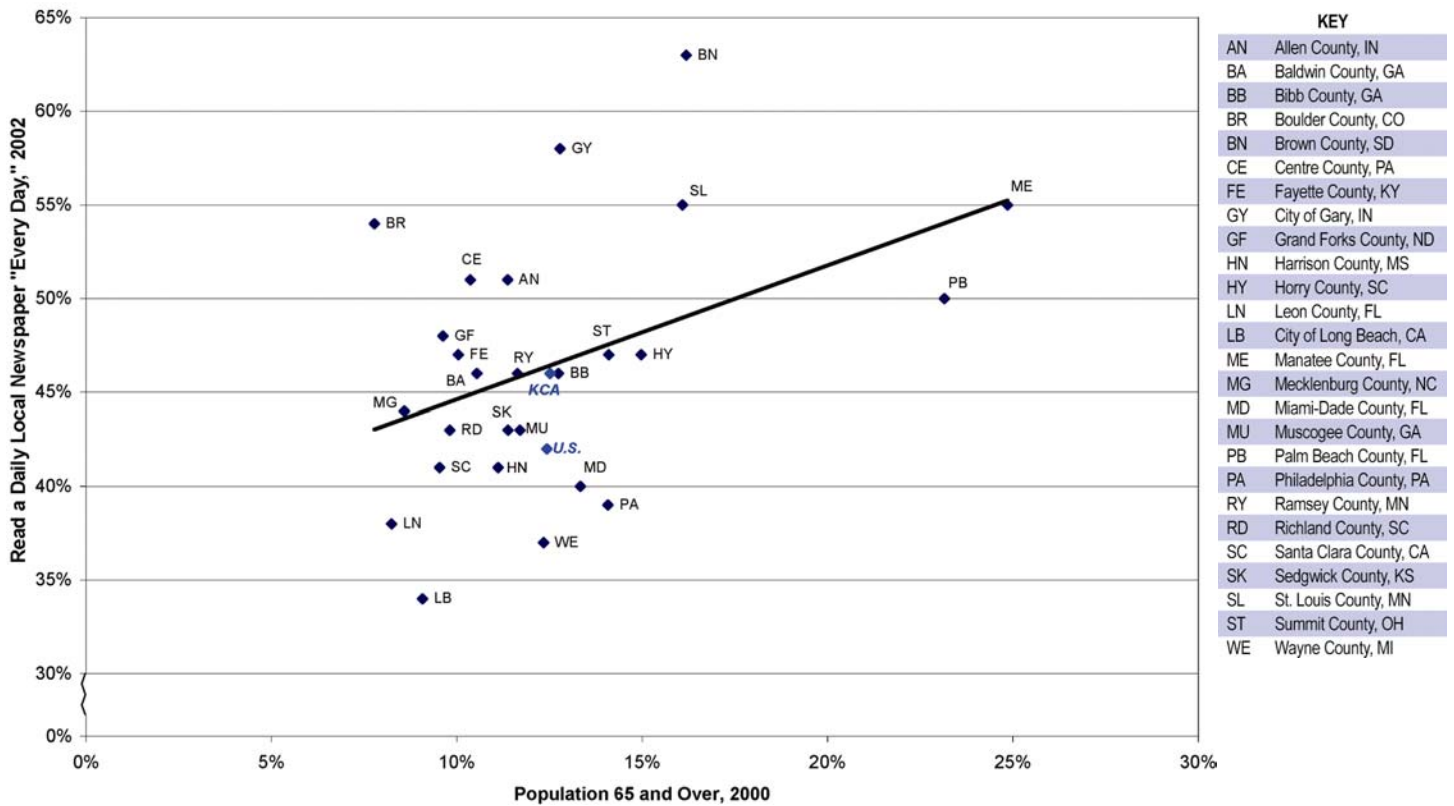
Associated Indicators

Communities with large elderly populations (age 65 and over) tend to have higher levels of local paper readership. The five communities with the highest proportion of elderly residents have an average local paper daily readership of 54 percent. This compares with an average of 42 percent in the five communities with the smallest elderly populations. Departing somewhat from the pattern, Boulder County has the smallest elderly population among the Knight

communities (7 percent of the population) and among the higher levels of local paper readership (54 percent reading daily).

In contrast, communities with larger student populations tend to have somewhat lower levels of local paper readership. Whereas an average of 53 percent report reading a local paper daily in the five communities with the smallest student populations, an average of 47 percent report reading a local paper with this same frequency in the seven communities with the largest student populations.

Elderly Population (2000) and Reading a Local Paper (2002)



Use the Internet to Get News

The percentage of residents who say that they “often” go online to get either local or national and international news reflects community interest in local or national and international affairs.

Use the Internet to Get News

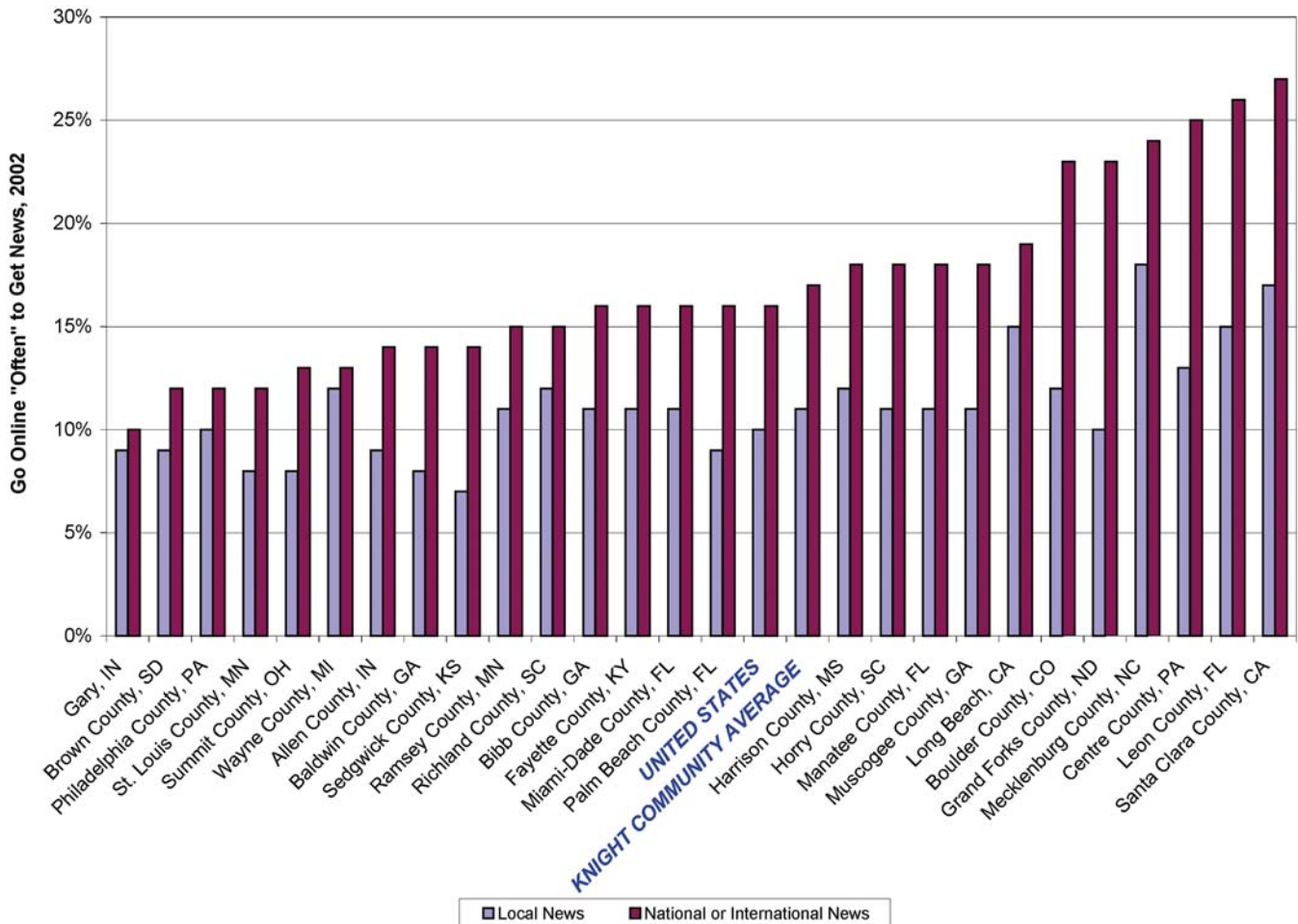
Knight community residents say that they use the Internet to get national or international news at about the same rate as the general U.S. population: 17 percent and 16 percent, respectively, report often using the Internet for this purpose. However, the percentage of residents who say that they often use the Internet to get national or international news ranges a fair amount: from 27 percent in Santa Clara County to 10 percent in the city of Gary.

Three communities – Centre, Leon and Santa Clara counties – stand out with at least 25 percent of their residents reporting frequent use of the Internet to get

national or international news. In four communities – Brown, Philadelphia and St. Louis counties and the city of Gary – 12 percent or fewer of residents say that they often get national or international news from the Internet.

Knight community residents tend to report less frequent use of the Internet to get local news – on average, 11 percent of residents say that they use the Internet for this purpose. The range across the communities is also not as great as with national or international news, spanning from 18 percent in Mecklenburg County to 7 percent in Sedgwick County.

Use the Internet to Get News (2002)



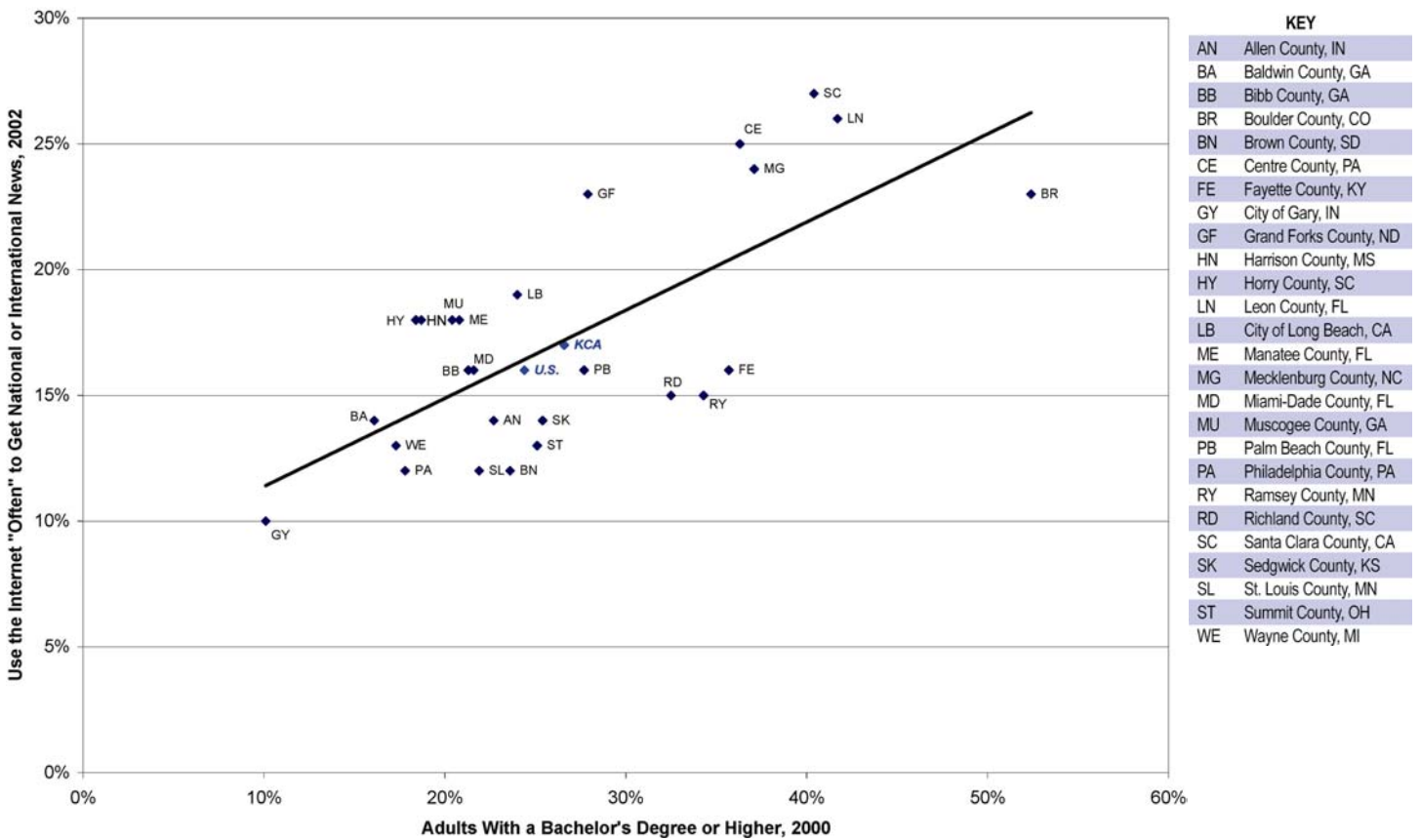
For tables and additional information, see Appendix 61

Associated Indicators

High levels of community education tend to be positively related to residents’ use of the Internet to get national or international news. The average proportion of residents who say that they often use the Internet for this purpose is over 10 percentage points higher in the five communities with the highest proportions of residents with at least a bachelor’s degree than in the five communities with the lowest proportion of such adults (25 percent versus 13 percent). The relationship between educational attainment and use of the Internet to get local news is also positive but somewhat weaker (averages of 15 and 10 percent for the corresponding communities).

Similarly, communities with higher proportions of full-time students tend to have higher proportions of residents who say that they use the Internet to get national or international news. In the three communities with student populations of more than 15 percent, an average of 21 percent of residents say that they often use the Internet to get national or international news. This compares to an average figure of 16 percent in the three communities with student populations of 5 percent or less. Santa Clara County stands out as the most notable exception to this pattern – its student population is 7 percent of the total, yet 27 percent of its residents report often using the Internet to get news. There is not a notable relationship between reported use of the Internet to get local news and the reported full-time student population.

Educational Attainment (2000) and Use the Internet to Get National or International News (2002)



Frequency of Online Activity

The percentage of residents who say that they go online “several times a day” or “about once a day” is used to measure how frequently people go online in a community. Online activity is one measure of residents’ computer literacy and efforts to connect with the wider community.

Frequency of Online Activity

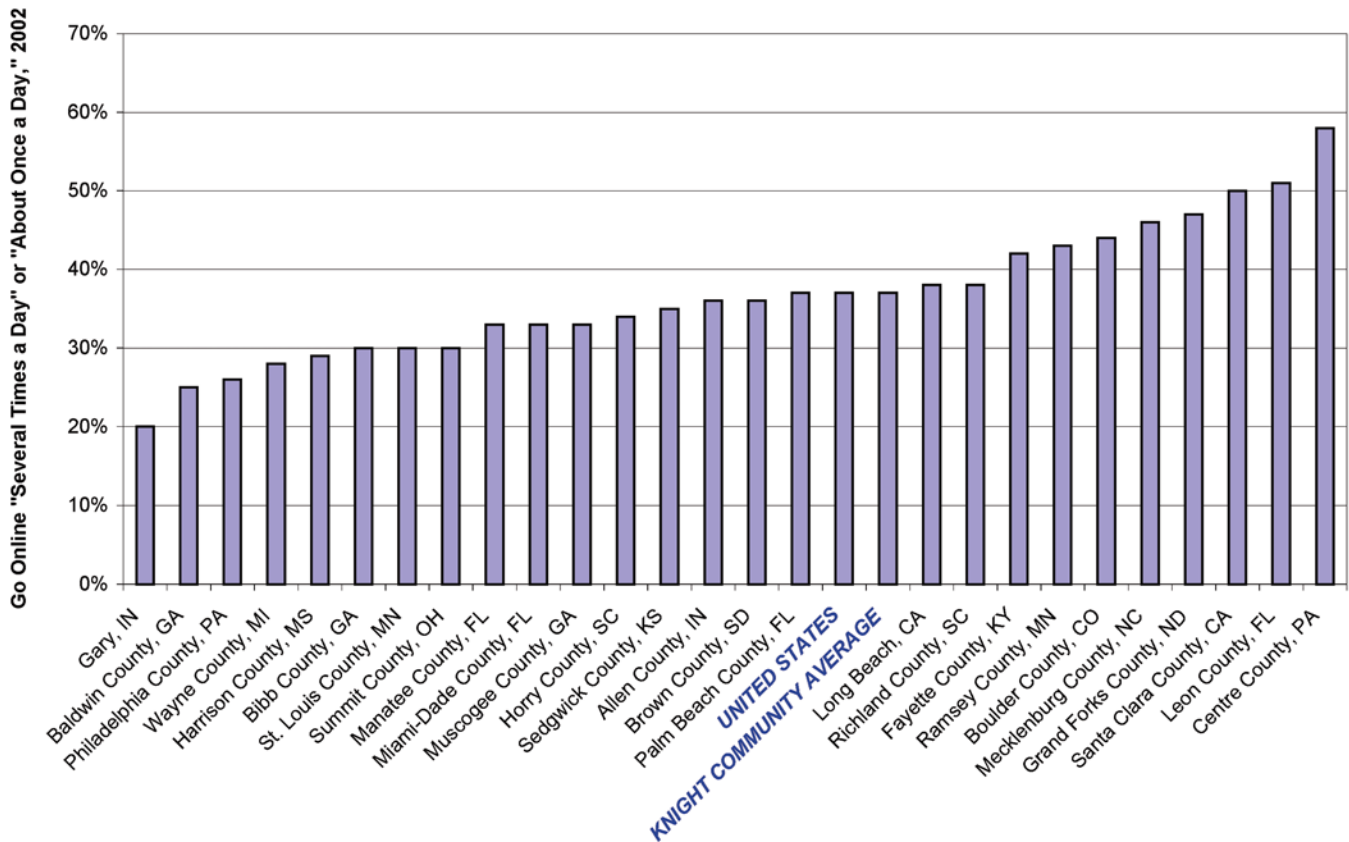
Knight community residents tend to go online as frequently as the general U.S. population – with 37 percent in each who report going online at least once a day. However, some Knight communities use the Internet far more frequently than others. For example, 58 percent of Centre County residents say that they go online at least once a day, whereas only 20 percent of Gary residents say that they use the Internet this often.

In five communities – Centre, Grand Forks, Leon, Mecklenburg and Santa Clara counties – the percentage of residents who report using the Internet at least once a

day exceeds 45 percent. In another five communities – Baldwin, Harrison, Philadelphia and Wayne counties and the city of Gary – fewer than 30 percent of residents say that they use the Internet at least once a day.

Although the survey questions asked in 1999 and 2002 differ slightly, the frequency of Internet use appears to have increased over the period. The most dramatic increases in use were in Brown, Grand Forks, Mecklenburg and Muscogee counties: in each community the proportion of residents who said they used the Internet on a daily basis increased by more than 15 percentage points.

Frequency of Going Online (2002)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 6J

Associated Indicators

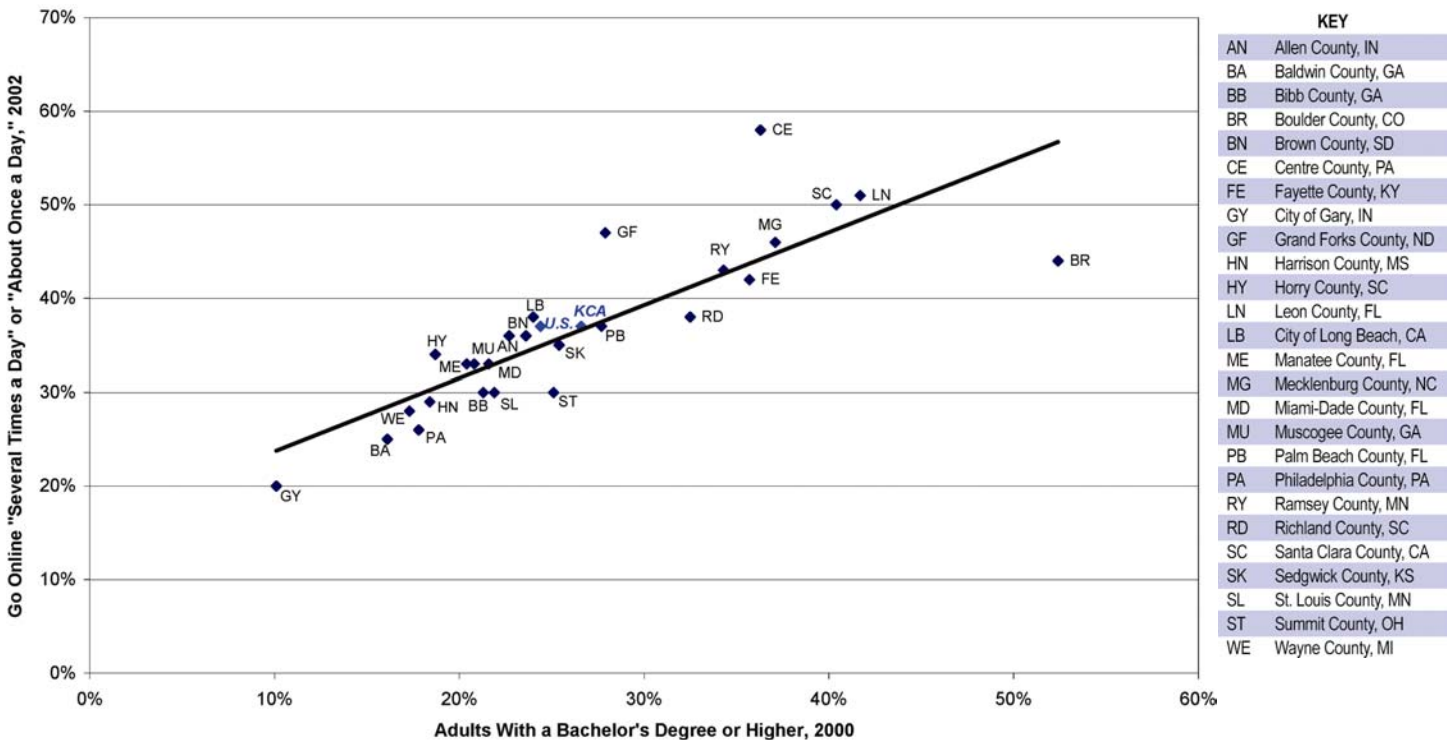
More highly educated communities tend to report higher rates of Internet use. The proportion of residents who say that they go online on a daily basis is almost twice as high in the five communities with the highest proportion of residents with at least a bachelor’s degree than in the five communities with the lowest proportion of college-educated adults (50 percent versus 26 percent).

The relationship between median household income and Internet usage is similar. In the five communities

with the highest income levels, an average of 44 percent of residents say that they use the Internet at least on a daily basis. The figure for the five lowest-income communities is 29 percent.

Finally, there is also a strong relationship between the size of the student population and the frequency of Internet usage in a community. In the four communities with the highest proportion of residents who say that they are students, an average of 49 percent say they go online at least once a day. This compares with 35 percent in the five communities with the lowest proportion of students.

Educational Attainment (2000) and Frequency of Going Online (2002)



Satisfaction With Local Public Libraries

The percentage of residents who say that their local public libraries are doing an “excellent” job is used to assess the level of satisfaction with these public institutions.

Satisfaction With Local Public Libraries

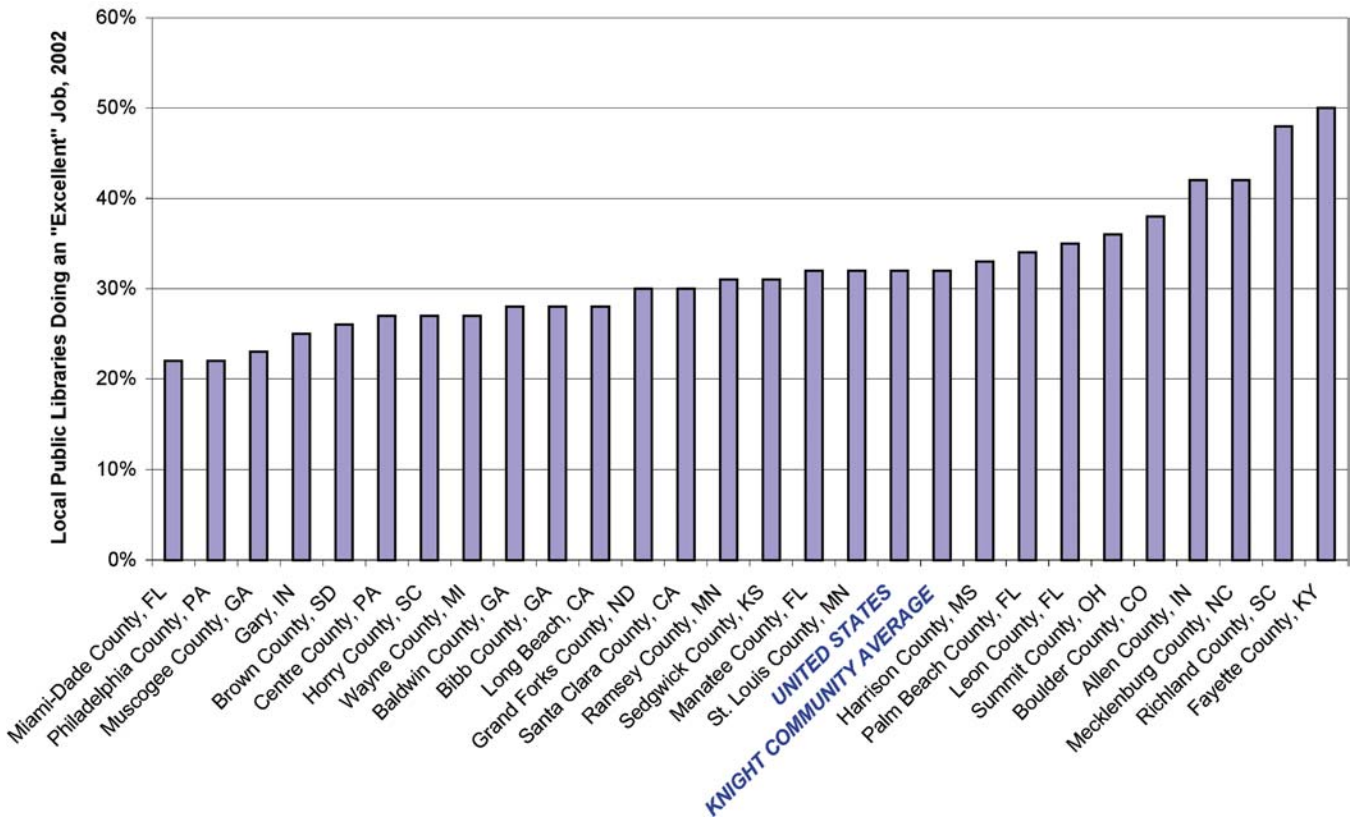
On average, roughly one-third of residents in both the Knight communities and the United States say that their public libraries are doing an excellent job. Fayette County is the Knight community with the most-satisfied residents: one in two (50 percent) residents give their public libraries this rating. Residents of Miami-Dade and Philadelphia counties give their libraries the lowest ratings among the Knight communities, with only 22 percent in each saying public libraries are doing an excellent job.

In four communities – Allen, Fayette, Mecklenburg and Richland counties – more than 40 percent of

residents rate their public libraries as excellent. In another four communities – Miami-Dade, Muscogee and Philadelphia counties and the city of Gary – 25 percent or fewer of residents give their public libraries this rating.

Ratings of public libraries did not change significantly between 1999 and 2002 in most Knight communities. However, in eight of the 21 communities with survey data from both years, the ratings did decline significantly. The most notable declines were in Allen and Ramsey counties, where the proportion of residents rating their public libraries as excellent dropped by more than 10 percentage points over the period.

Satisfaction With Local Public Libraries (2002)



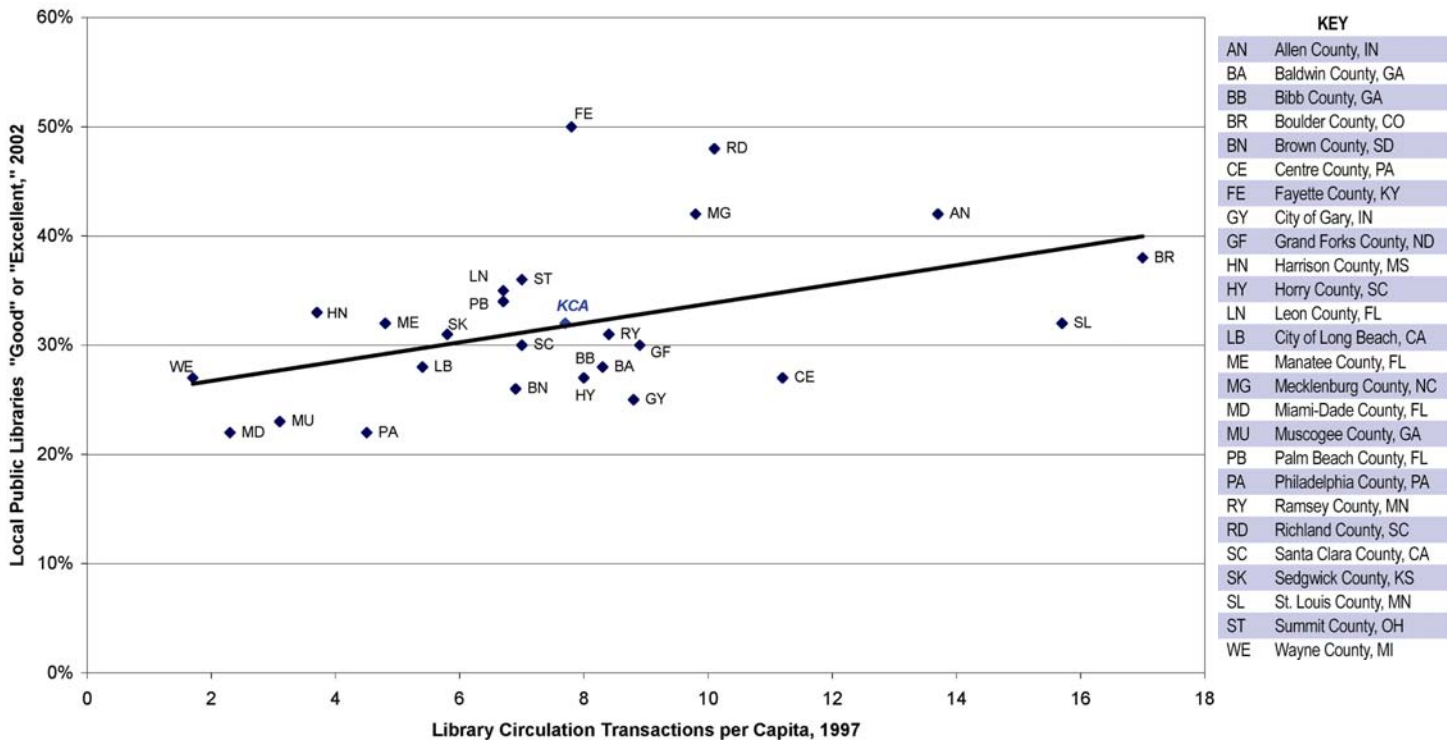
For tables and additional information, see Appendix 6K

Associated Indicators

Communities with higher levels of educational attainment tend to have higher levels of satisfaction with their public libraries. In the five communities with the highest proportion of residents with a bachelor’s degree or higher, an average of 34 percent rate their libraries as excellent. The average figure in the five communities with the lowest levels of educational attainment is 27 percent.

Communities with higher library use per capita also tend to have higher ratings of their libraries. In the five communities with the most library circulation transactions per capita, 37 percent say that their libraries are doing an excellent job. This compares to an average of 25 percent in the five communities with the fewest transactions per capita.

Library Circulation (2000) and Satisfaction With Local Public Libraries (2002)



Concern About Illiteracy

The percentage of residents who say that illiteracy is a “big problem” reflects community concern about this issue.

Concern About Illiteracy

Knight community residents express roughly the same degree of concern about illiteracy as the general U.S. population: 19 and 22 percent, respectively, cite the issue as a big problem. The proportion of residents who are concerned about illiteracy varies widely across the Knight communities. Whereas less than one in 20 Brown County residents say that illiteracy is a big problem, more than one in three residents in Bibb County and the city of Gary report that illiteracy is a big problem in their communities.

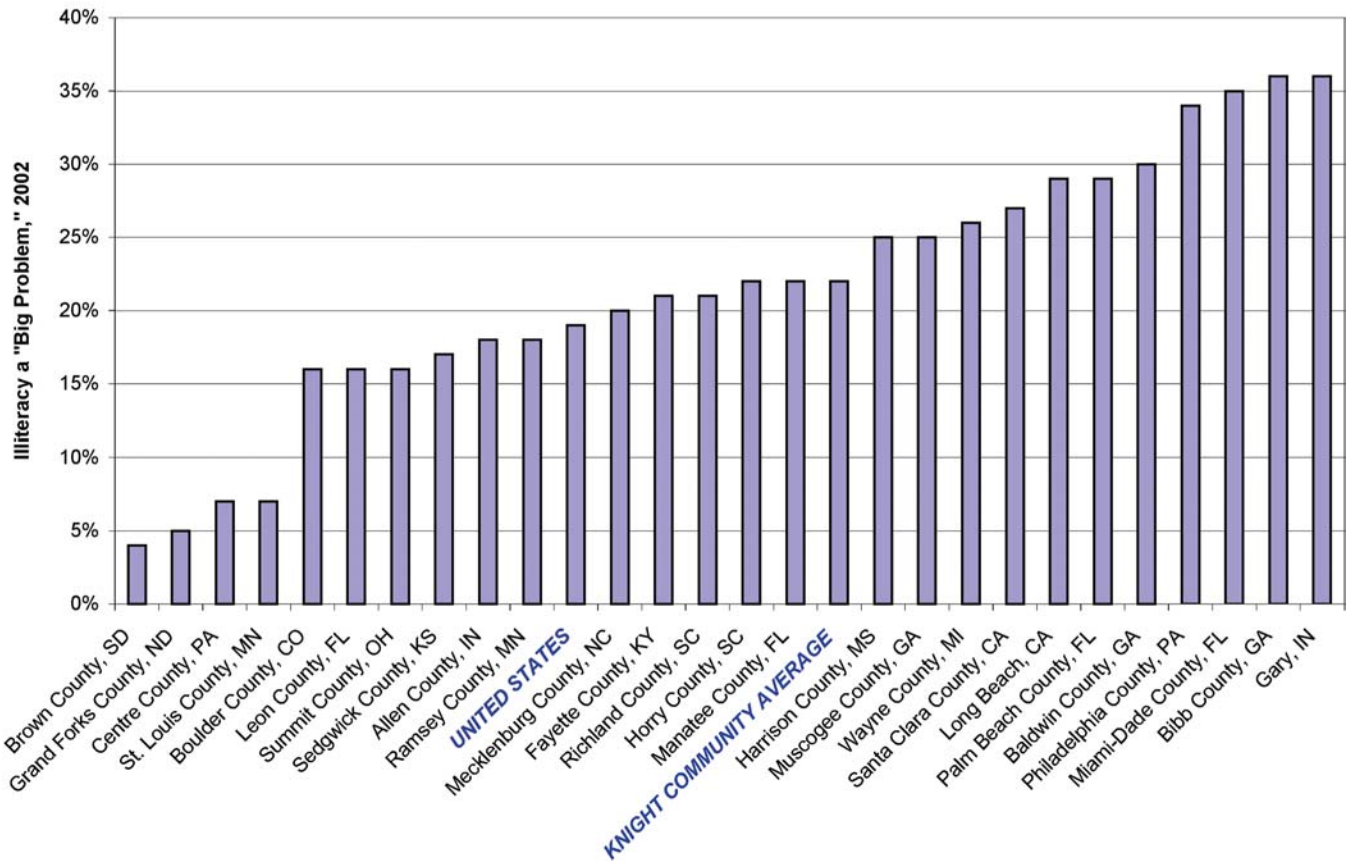
In four communities – Brown, Centre, Grand Forks and St. Louis counties – less than 10 percent of residents say that illiteracy is a big problem. In five other communities – Baldwin, Bibb, Miami-Dade and

Philadelphia counties and the city of Gary – at least 30 percent of residents say that illiteracy is a big problem in their community.

Associated Indicators

Levels of educational attainment are closely linked with the level of concern about illiteracy in the Knight communities. In the five communities with the highest proportion of residents without a high school diploma, an average of 33 percent of residents say that illiteracy is a big problem. In contrast, in the five communities with the lowest proportion of residents without a high school diploma, only 12 percent of residents report illiteracy as a big problem.

Concern About Illiteracy (2002)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 6L

CHAPTER 7

Well-being of Children and Families



For hard-working Latino families like Olivia Conde, her son Enrique and daughters Andrea and Angelica, we're working on developing local strategies to improve the cognitive development, physical health and socialization of preschool children.

LISTENING AND LEARNING

Introduction and Highlights

The well-being of children and families varies greatly across the Knight communities. Although infant mortality rates have declined in most Knight communities, these rates remain very high by national standards in several communities. In some communities, many infants are born with low birth weight; in others relatively few are. Adolescent birth rates and juvenile arrest rates are also very high in some communities but relatively low in others. And some children live in highly segregated communities, while others live in more integrated environments.

Residents' perceptions about issues of child and family well-being also differ from community to community. Some communities are deeply concerned about access to quality, affordable child care; others are relatively unconcerned about this issue. In some communities, unsupervised youth are viewed as a major problem; in others, the issue barely registers on the radar screen.

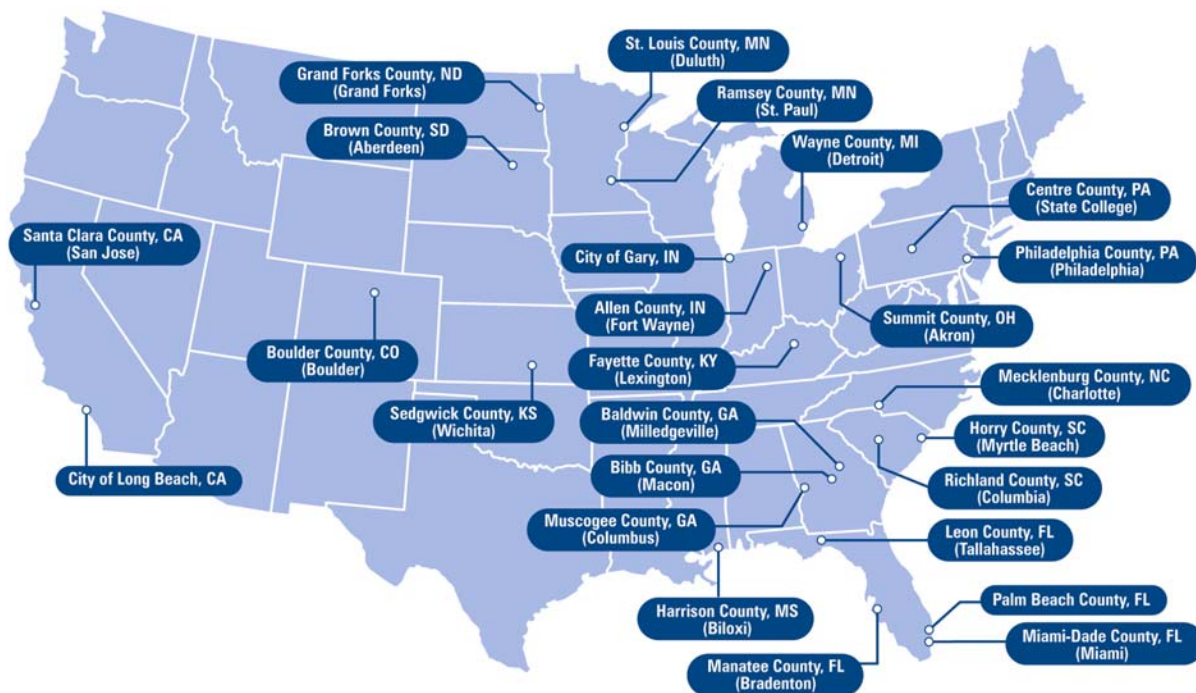
The Well-Being of Children and Families section that follows presents findings for the 26 Knight communities. We have selected five indicators for administrative records and two survey indicators to describe the conditions in the Knight communities.

Indicator Area	Administrative Records
Infant Health and Well-Being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infant Mortality Rate, 1998 • Infants Born With Low Birth Weight, 1998
Segregation of Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Racial and Ethnic Segregation of Children
Risky Adolescent Behavior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adolescent Birth Rate • Juvenile Arrests for Serious Crime

Indicator Area	Community Surveys
Concern About Affordable, Quality Child Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percent of Residents Who Say That Not Enough Affordable, Quality Child Care Is a “Big Problem”
Concern About Unsupervised Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percent of Residents Who Say Unsupervised Youth Are a “Big Problem”

The well-being of children and families indicator and survey findings emphasize the diversity of the Knight communities. We highlight here a few of the most important measures and selected relationships among the indicators.

- Infant mortality rates tend to be higher in poorer communities and in communities with a high proportion of households headed by a single adult.
- Communities with lower rates of first-trimester prenatal care also tend to have higher infant mortality rates.
- The incidence of infants born with low birth weight tends to be higher in communities with higher proportions of female-headed, single-parent households.
- Adolescent birth rates also tend to be higher in poorer communities and in communities with higher proportions of households headed by a single female.
- The segregation of children decreased in most Knight communities between 1990 and 2000, but child segregation remains very high in Wayne and Philadelphia counties and the city of Gary.
- Juvenile arrest rates for serious crime declined in most Knight communities between 1991 and 1998, but arrest rates are more than twice the national average in Leon and Manatee counties.
- Concern about unsupervised children and teenagers tends to be higher in communities with lower income and educational attainment levels and higher proportions of youth under 18.
- Residents' perceptions about the problem of unsupervised youth show little correspondence with juvenile arrest rates in the community.



Infant Mortality Rate

The infant mortality rate measures the number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births and is a commonly used indicator of health and well-being in a community.

Infant Mortality Rate

Infant mortality rates in the Knight communities averaged 8.7 per 1,000 births in 1998 – about 20 percent above the U.S. average of 7.2 per 1,000. However, the rates varied substantially across the communities, from 18.1 in Baldwin County 3.5 in Boulder County – a ratio of more than 5 to 1.

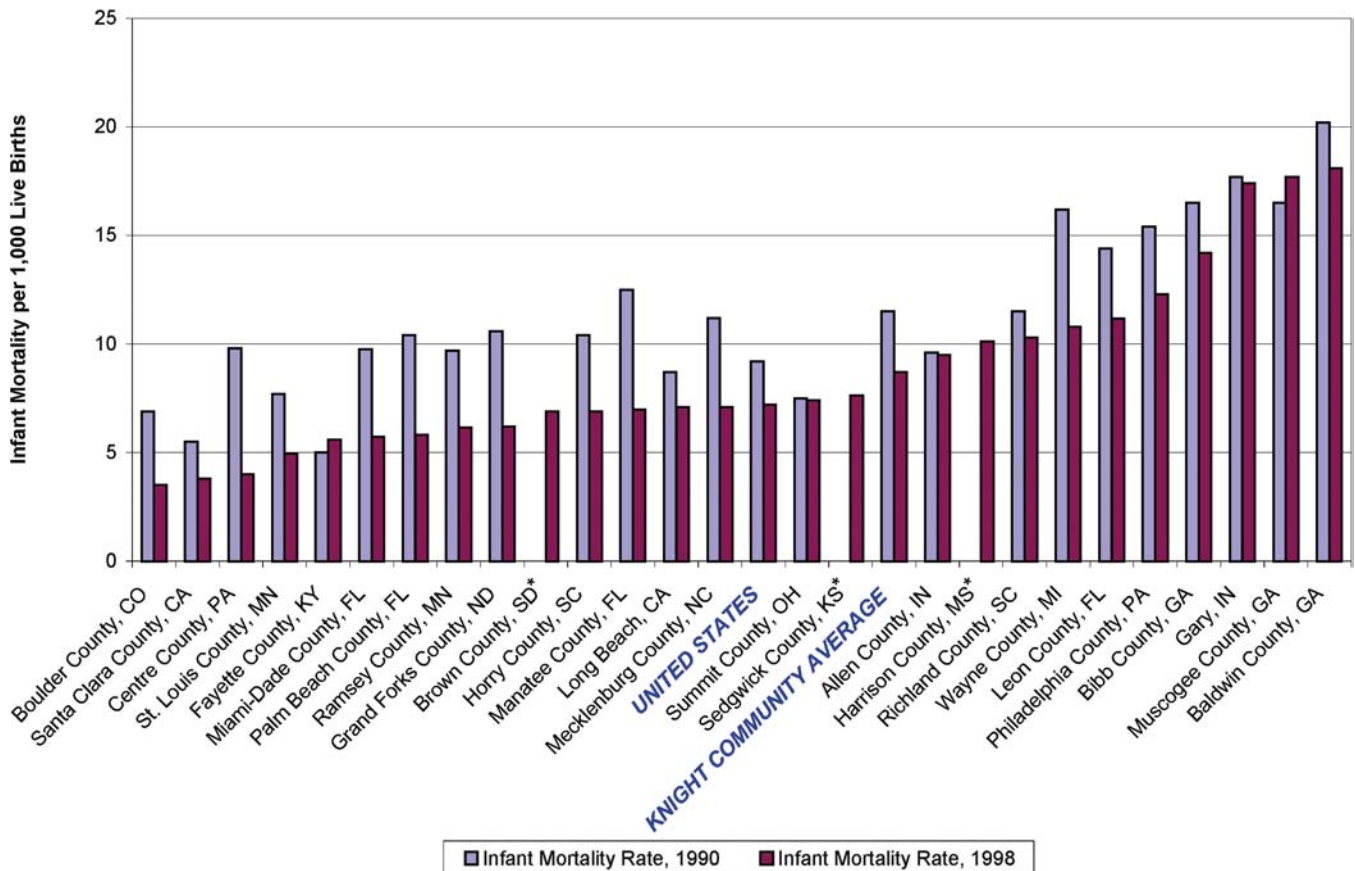
Three of the five Knight communities with the highest infant mortality rates – Baldwin, Bibb and Muscogee counties – were in Georgia. The average infant mortality rate of 16.7 in these three communities was more than double the national average. The two other communities with the highest infant mortality

rates – Philadelphia County and the city of Gary – were older central cities.

At the other end of the scale, four communities – Boulder, Centre, Santa Clara and St. Louis counties – had infant mortality rates of fewer than 5 per 1,000 births.

Between 1990 and 1998, the infant mortality rate declined in all the Knight communities for which data are available except Fayette and Muscogee counties. Centre, Manatee and Wayne counties experienced the largest declines – all by more than 5 per 1,000. However, communities with high infant mortality rates at the beginning of the decade still tended to have relatively high rates at the end of the decade.

Infant Mortality Rate (1990, 1998)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 7A

* 1990 data unavailable.

Associated Indicators

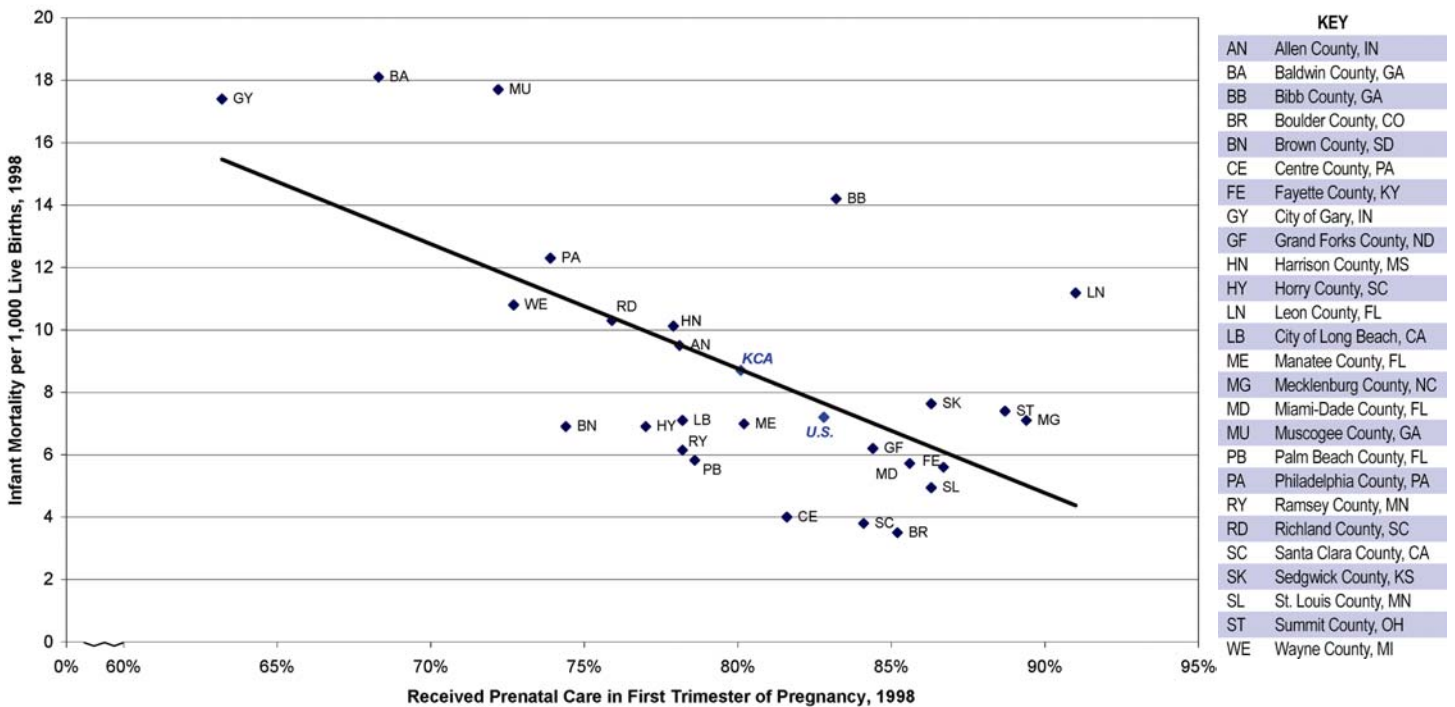
Infant mortality rates in the Knight communities were strongly related to the proportion of households headed by a single parent. In the five communities with the highest percentage of single-parent households, the average infant mortality rate was 14.6 per 1,000 births. This rate was about three times the average rate of 4.9 in the five communities with the lowest percentage of single-parent households.

There was also a strong association between poverty and infant mortality rates – and between the size of the minority population and infant mortality rates. In the five communities with the highest poverty rates the infant mortality rate averaged 11.0, compared with an average rate of 6.3 in the five communities with the lowest poverty rates. However, some Knight communities did not fit this pattern. For example,

Centre and Miami-Dade counties and the city of Long Beach had among the highest poverty rates, but relatively low infant mortality rates. Allen County, in contrast, had one of the lowest poverty rates, but an infant mortality rate that was 32 percent higher than the national average.

Communities with higher rates of first-trimester prenatal care tended to have lower infant mortality rates. The five communities with the highest prenatal care rates had an average infant mortality rate of 7.2, compared with 15.3 in the five communities with the lowest prenatal care rates. A number of communities, however, did not fit this profile. Leon County, for example, had a high infant mortality rate (11.2) despite having the highest rate of prenatal care in the Knight communities (91 percent). Conversely, Brown County had a low level of prenatal care (74 percent) as well as a low infant mortality rate (6.9).

First-Trimester Prenatal Care and Infant Mortality Rate (1998)



Infants Born With Low Birth Weight

The percentage of infants born with low birth weight (less than 5 pounds 8 ounces) is a predictor of children’s future health and development.

Infants Born With Low Birth Weight

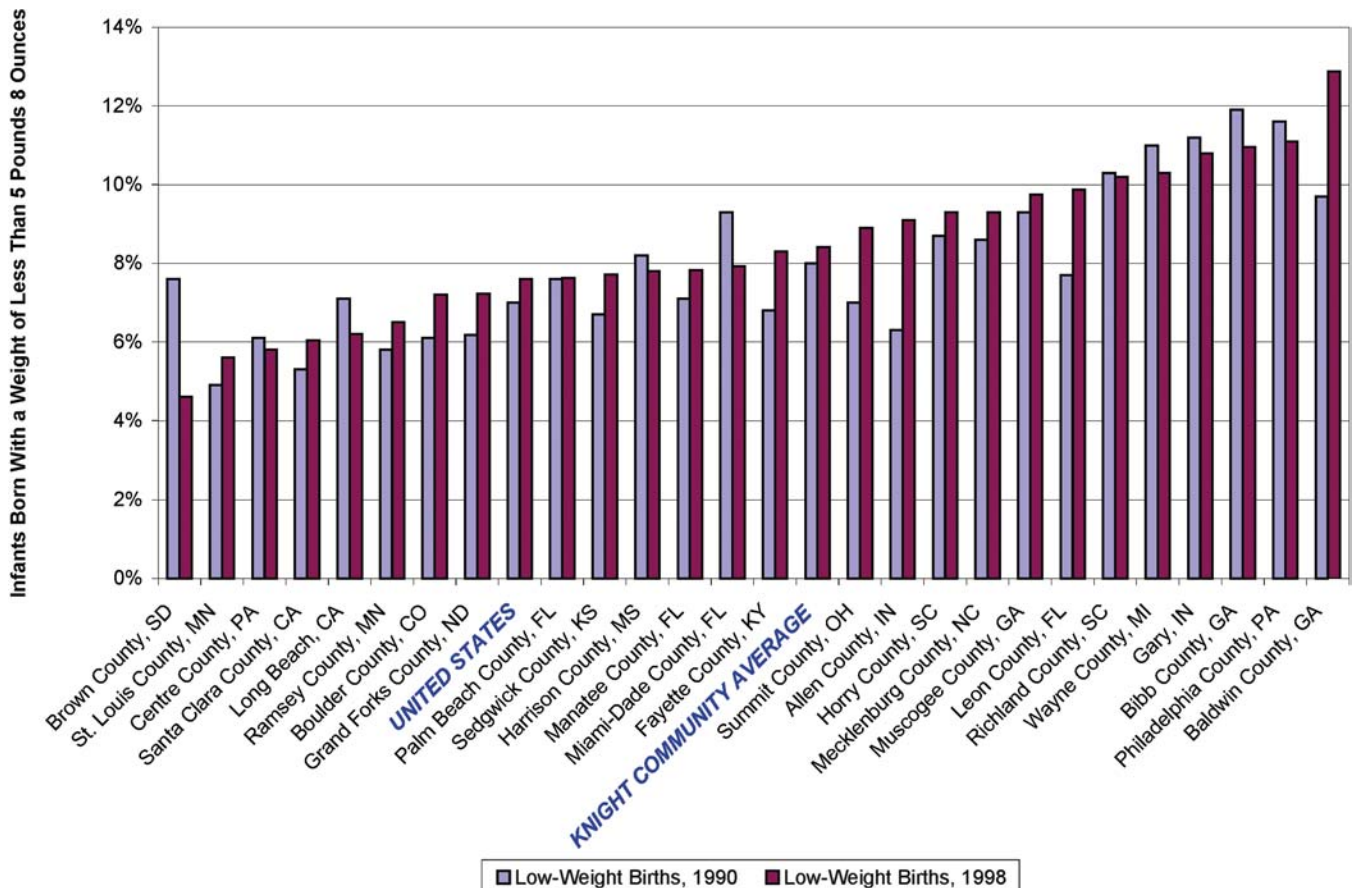
The percentage of infants born with low birth weight in 1998 averaged 8.4 percent in the Knight communities, about 1 percentage point higher than the national average of 7.6 percent. However, there was substantial variation across the communities – from a high of 13 percent in Baldwin County to a low of 5 percent in Brown County.

The percentage of infants born with low birth weight was at least 10 percent in six Knight communities – Baldwin, Bibb, Philadelphia, Richland and Wayne counties and the city of Gary. The percentage of low-weight births was lowest in Brown, Centre and St. Louis counties, each with rates below 6 percent. Other

communities with a relatively low percentage of low birth-weight infants (under 7 percent) were Ramsey and Santa Clara counties and the city of Long Beach.

Between 1990 and 1998, the percentage of infants born with low birth weight increased in both the Knight communities (8.0 percent to 8.4 percent) and the United States generally (7.0 to 7.6 percent). The largest increases occurred in three communities – Allen, Baldwin and Leon counties – each of which saw an increase of more than 2 percentage points over the period. A few Knight communities saw substantial decreases in low birth-weight infants, most notably Brown County, where the proportion declined by 3 percentage points – from 7.6 percent in 1990 to 4.6 percent in 1998.

Infants Born With Low Birth Weight (1990, 1998)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 7B

Associated Indicators

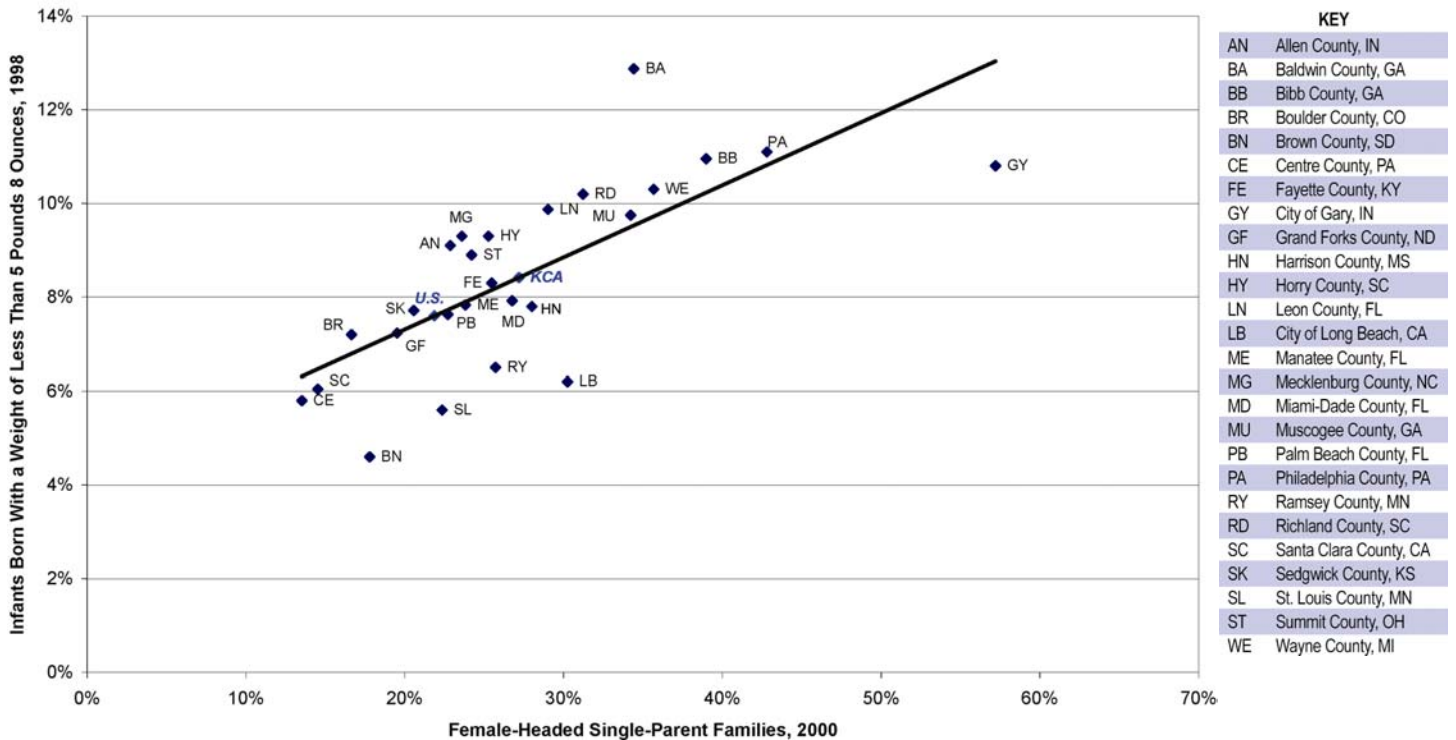
There was a strong association in the Knight communities between the proportion of families headed by a female single parent and the rate of low-weight births. In the five communities with the fewest female-headed, single-parent families, an average of 6 percent of births were classified as low weight. This contrasts with an average low-weight-birth rate of 11 percent in the five communities with the most female-headed, single-parent families.

Communities with high poverty rates also tended to have high proportions of infants born at a low weight, and vice versa. Bibb and Philadelphia counties and the city of Gary had high poverty rates and high percentages

of infants born with low birth weight, but other communities diverged from this pattern. The city of Long Beach, for example, had a poverty rate of almost 23 percent, but a relatively low percentage of infants born at a low weight (6 percent). In contrast, Allen and Mecklenburg counties had among the lowest poverty rates (around 9 percent) but low-weight-birth rates that were considerably higher than the national average.

There was a modest negative association between the percentage of women who received first-trimester prenatal care and the percentage of infants born with low birth weight. In the five communities with the highest rates of prenatal care, the low-weight-birth rate was approximately 2.5 percentage points lower than in the five communities with the lowest rates of prenatal care.

Female-Headed Single-Parent Families (2000) and Low-Weight Births (1998)



Racial and Ethnic Segregation of Children

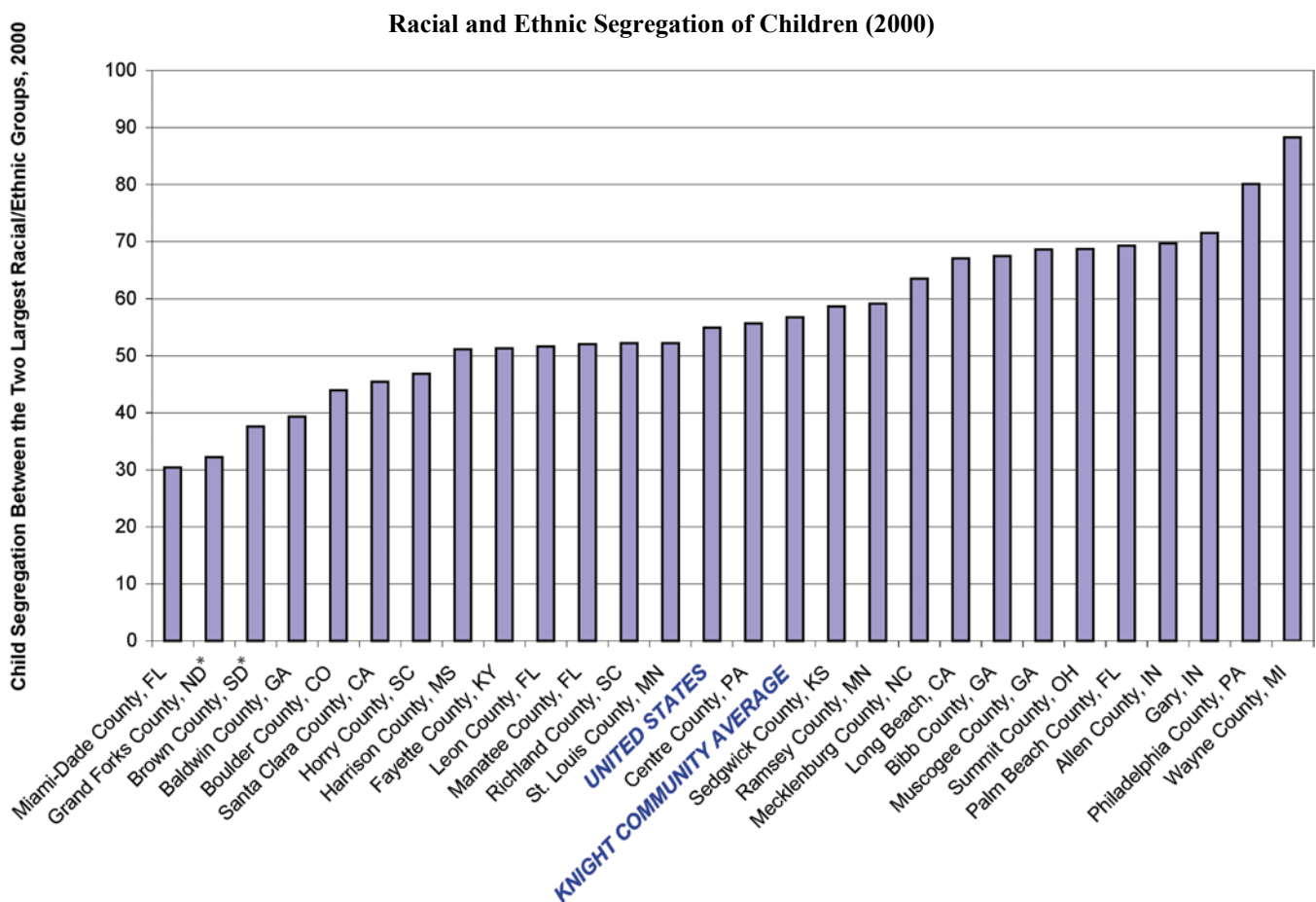
Segregated neighborhoods may have insufficient financial resources to provide their children with adequate schooling, protection from crime and other social services that lead to a high quality of life. In addition to the material advantages of integrated communities, growing up with friends and neighbors of varying racial/ethnic backgrounds may help combat prejudice and stereotyping and instill in children important values including tolerance, respect for difference and openness to diverse viewpoints.

Indicator Description

This indicator measures the amount of residential segregation between children under 18 of the two largest racial/ethnic groups in a given community. The index ranges from 0 to 100, with values of 60 or above indicating very high levels of segregation and values of 30 or below signifying low levels of segregation. American Indians are not considered in this index.

Racial and Ethnic Segregation of Children

In 2000, the segregation index for children in the Knight communities averaged 58, which was about 10 points below the U.S. white-black segregation index of 68. There was, however, a wide range in these indices across the communities, with the highest index of 88 in Wayne County nearly three times the index of 30 in Miami-Dade County, the community with the lowest child segregation index.



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 7C

* American Indians were the second-largest racial/ethnic group in Brown and Grand Forks counties, but they were excluded from the segregation index.

Eleven Knight communities had child segregation indices above 60, indicating relatively high levels of segregation. Of these 11, Philadelphia and Wayne counties had the highest segregation indices (both above 80) and the city of Gary had a segregation index above 70.

No Knight community had a segregation index below 30, which indicates a relatively low level of segregation, although Miami-Dade County came closest with a white-Hispanic index of 30.4. Three other Knight communities – Boulder, Brown and Grand Forks counties – had child segregation indices below 40, suggesting moderate levels of child segregation.*

Over the past decade, the segregation index decreased in most Knight communities, with the largest decreases in Centre, Grand Forks and Miami-Dade counties. Boulder County was the only community whose index increased by more than 10 points. Despite these changes, most communities with high segregation indices at the beginning of the decade also had relatively high indices at the end of the decade, and vice versa.

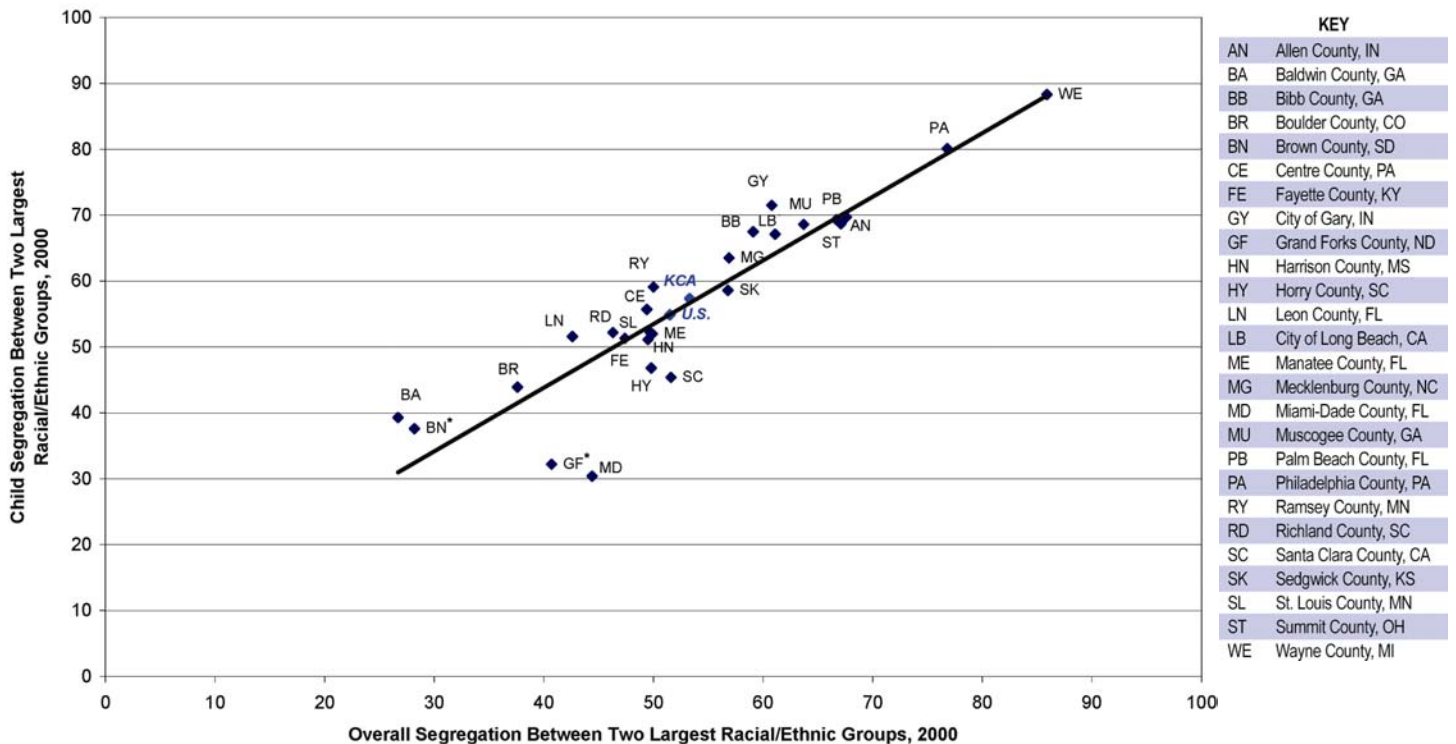
Associated Indicators

Knight communities with high levels of overall segregation also tended to have high levels of child segregation. In the five communities with the highest overall segregation levels, the average child segregation index was 75. This compares with an average child segregation index of 41 in the five communities with the lowest overall segregation.

Although child and overall segregation levels tended to be closely linked, the two indicators diverged in some communities. In Miami-Dade County, for example, child segregation was 14 points lower than the overall level of segregation. And in Baldwin County and the city of Gary, child segregation was more than 10 points higher than the overall level of segregation.

There was no significant relationship between the size of a community’s minority population and its index of child segregation. Some communities, such as Allen and Summit counties, had relatively small minority populations but high levels of child segregation. Others, including Miami-Dade and Santa Clara counties, had relatively large minority populations but relatively low segregation indices.

Racial and Ethnic Segregation of Children and the Overall Population (2000)



* American Indians were the second-largest racial/ethnic group in Brown and Grand Forks counties, but they were excluded from the segregation index.

Adolescent Birth Rate

The adolescent birth rate measures the number of live births per one thousand adolescent females ages 15–19.

Adolescent Birth Rate

In 1999, the average adolescent birth rate in the Knight communities was 51 per 1,000 – 2 points above the U.S. average of 49 per 1,000. Birth rates ranged widely across the communities: the rate in Muscogee County (92 per 1,000) was more than seven times the rate in Centre County (12 per 1,000).

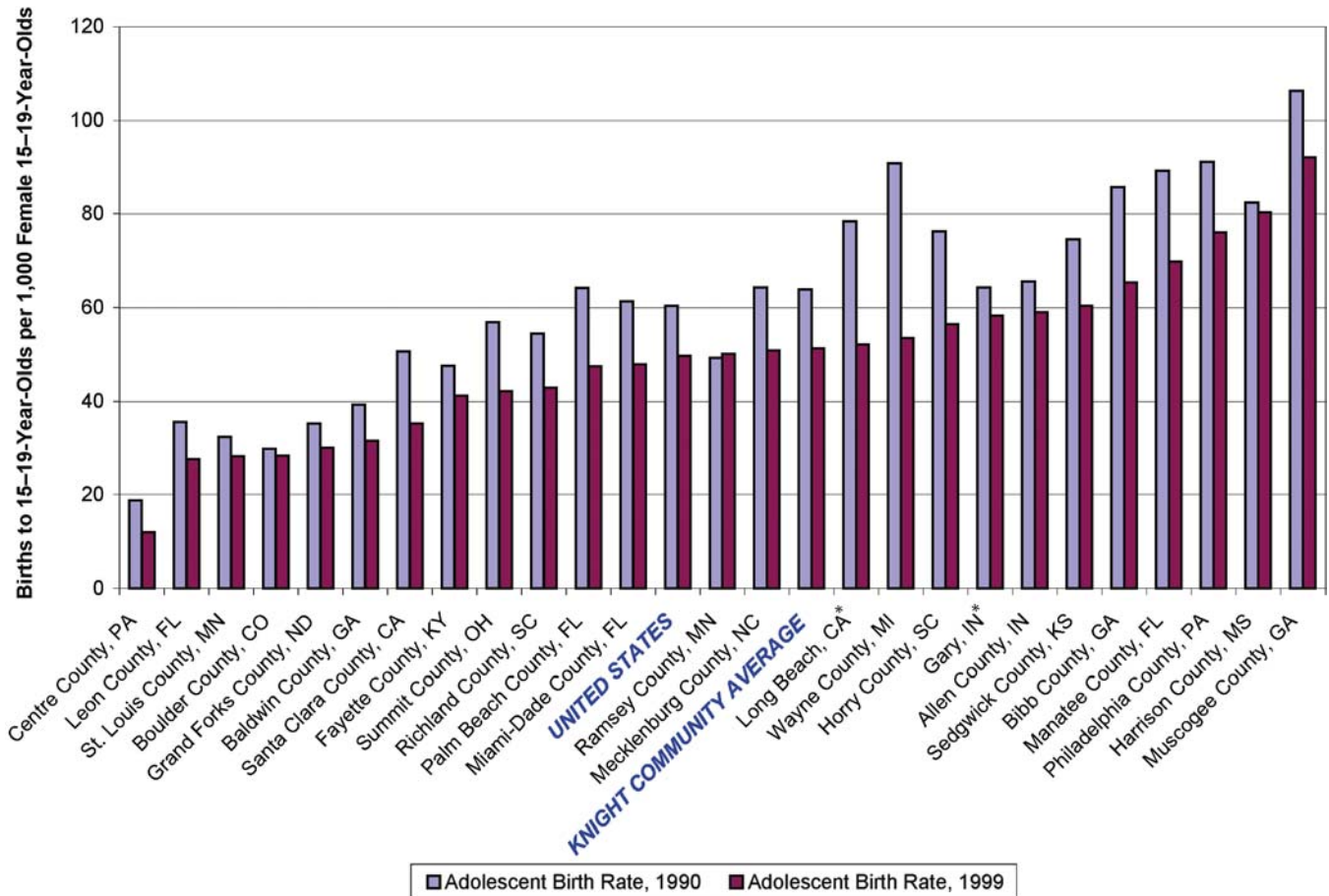
Harrison, Muscogee and Philadelphia counties had the highest adolescent birth rates – more than 75 births per 1,000 female adolescents in all three communities. Two other communities – Bibb and Manatee counties – had rates higher than 65 per 1,000.

Centre County had the lowest adolescent birth rate, with only 12 births per 1,000 female adolescents. Leon

County, the community with the second-lowest adolescent birth rate (28 per 1,000), had a birth rate that was more than twice the rate in Centre County. Two other communities – Boulder and St. Louis counties – had birth rates below 30 per 1,000.

Between 1990 and 1999, the average adolescent birth rate decreased by more than 20 percent in the Knight communities – from 64 to 51 per 1,000. Wayne County registered the largest decline, with a decrease of 37 per 1,000. Bibb and Horry counties and the city of Long Beach all saw declines of more than 20 per 1,000. Ramsey County was the only Knight community where adolescent birth rates increased over the decade, but the increase was less than one birth per 1,000 females.

Adolescent Birth Rate (1990, 1999)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 7D

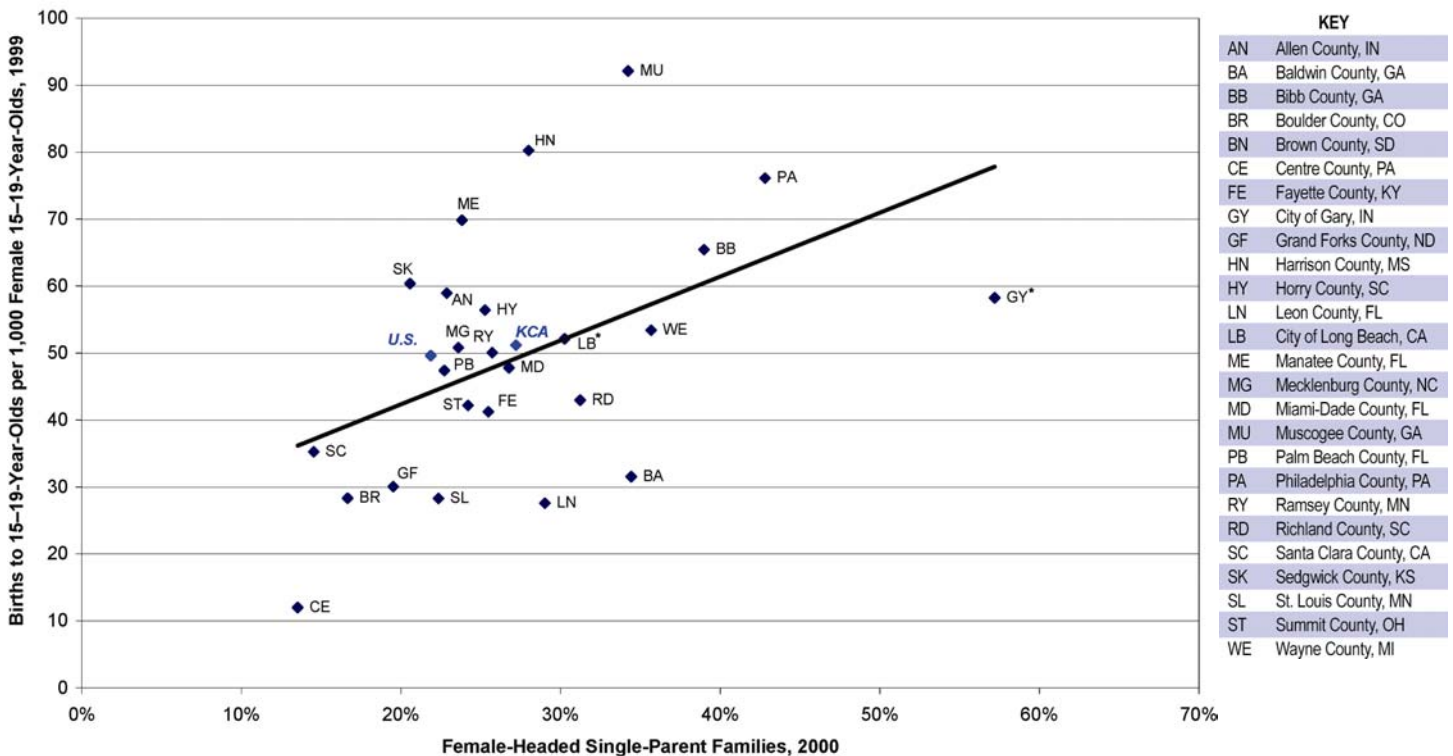
* Lake County and Los Angeles County were used in place of Gary and Long Beach because data were not available at the city level. Brown County was excluded from the graph because adolescent birth rate data were unavailable for this community.

Associated Indicators

Knight communities with higher child poverty rates also tended to have higher adolescent birth rates. The five communities with the highest child poverty rates had an average adolescent birth rate of 61 per 1,000, while the five communities with the lowest had an average adolescent birth rate of 37 per 1,000. A number of communities stand out from the pattern, however. Manatee County, for example, had a relatively low child poverty rate but an adolescent birth rate that was about 20 points higher than the national average.

The proportion of single-parent, female-headed households in a community was also associated with its adolescent birth rate. In the five communities with the highest percentage of these households, the average birth rate was almost twice the birth rate in the five communities with the lowest share of these households (57 per 1,000 versus 33 per 1,000). There were, however, exceptions to this pattern. Sedgwick County had one of the lowest percentages of single-parent, female-headed households, but its adolescent birth rate of 60 per 1,000 was higher than the U.S. average of 49 per 1,000 births.

Female-Headed Single-Parent Families (2000) and Adolescent Birth Rate (1999)



* Lake County and Los Angeles County were used in place of Gary and Long Beach because data were not available at the city level.

Juvenile Arrests for Serious Crime

Juvenile arrests for serious crime represents the number of juveniles ages 10–17 arrested for serious crimes per 10,000 youths ages 10–17.

Juvenile Arrests for Serious Crime

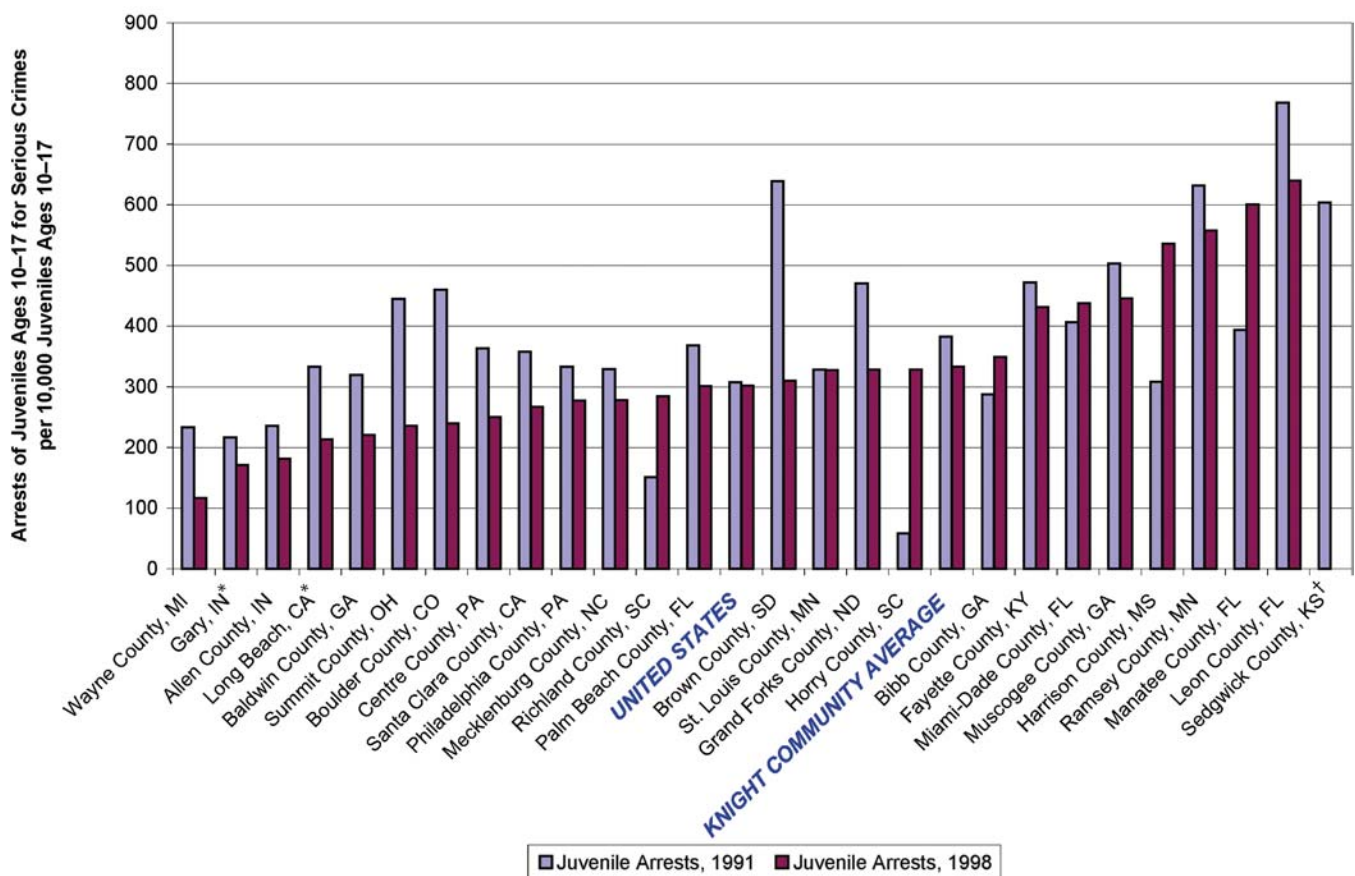
In 1998, the average number of juveniles arrested for serious crime in the Knight communities was 333 per 10,000 youths – about 10 percent higher than the national average of 302 per 10,000. There was a wide range in arrest rates across the communities: the rate in Leon County (640 per 10,000 youths) was over five times the rate in Wayne County (117 per 10,000 youths).

Juvenile arrests for serious crime exceeded 500 per 10,000 in four Knight communities: Leon and Manatee counties had rates over 600 per 10,000, and Harrison and Ramsey counties had rates over 535 per 10,000. At the other end of the scale, Allen and Wayne counties and the

city of Gary were the three communities with juvenile arrest rates of less than 200 per 10,000 youths.

Over the past decade, the average juvenile arrest rate in the Knight communities declined by 13 percent, compared to a national decline of less than 2 percent. Juvenile arrest rates declined in 21 of the 26 communities, with the largest declines (more than 40 percent) in Boulder, Brown, Summit and Wayne counties. However, three Knight communities – Harrison, Manatee and Richland counties – saw increases in their juvenile arrest rates of more than 50 percent. Despite these developments, the relative rankings of Knight communities in terms of juvenile arrest rates did not change a great deal between 1991 and 1998.

Juvenile Arrest Rate (1991, 1998)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 7E

* Lake County and Los Angeles County were used in place of Gary and Long Beach because data were not available at the city level.

† 1998 data unavailable.

Concern About Affordable, Quality Child Care

The percentage of community residents who say that not enough affordable, quality child care is a “big” problem is the measure of concern about this issue.

Concern About Affordable, Quality Child Care

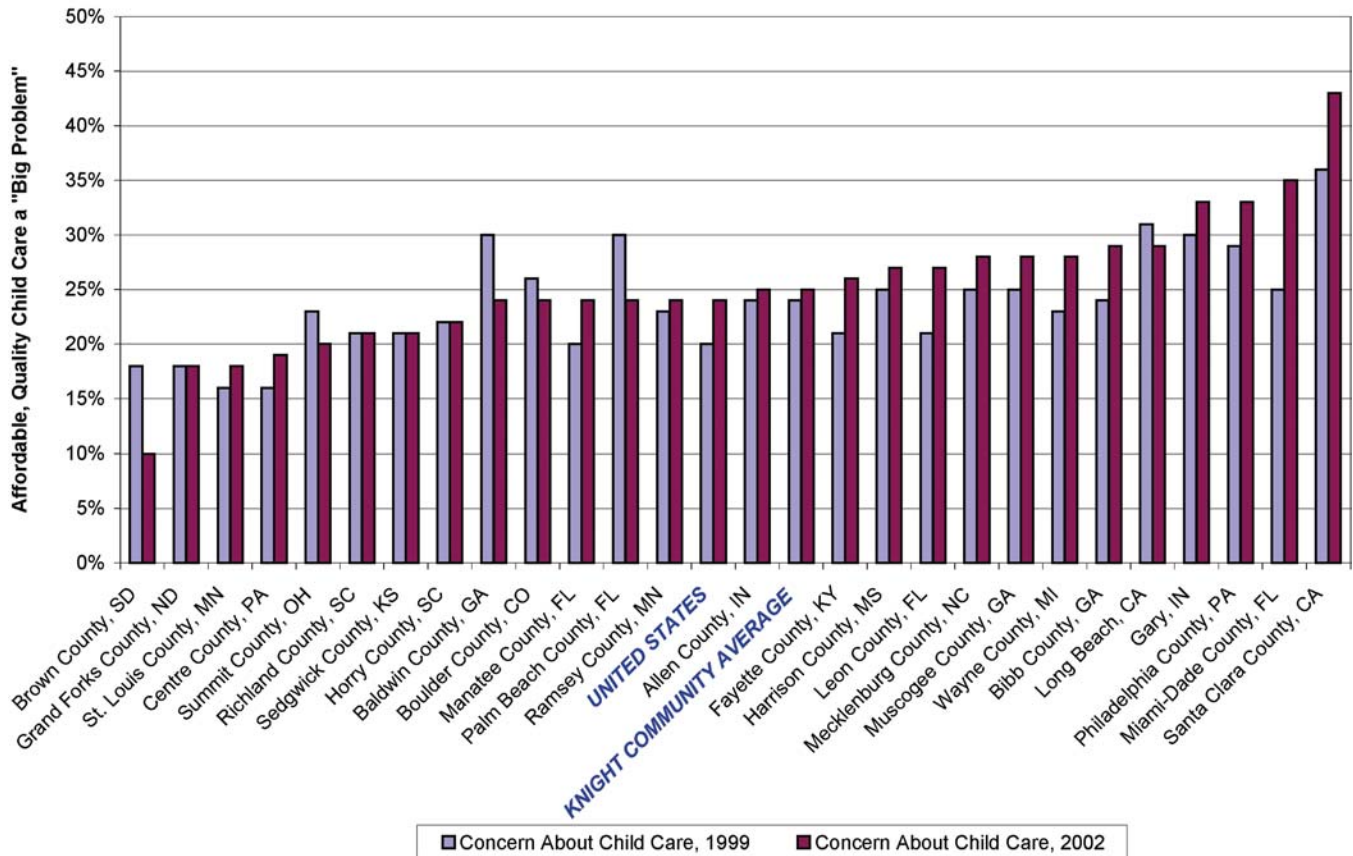
On average, one-quarter (25 percent) of Knight community residents say that access to affordable, quality child care is a big problem – about the same proportion as residents nationally (24 percent). Some communities are far more concerned about this issue than others, however. The proportion of concerned residents in Santa Clara County (43 percent), for example, is more than four times the proportion in Brown County (10 percent).

Along with Santa Clara County, the three other most-concerned communities are Miami-Dade and Philadelphia counties and the city of Gary: in each community at least three of 10 residents think access to affordable, quality child care is a big problem.

In four Knight communities, fewer than 20 percent of residents cite access to child care as a big problem. Following Brown County, Centre, Grand Forks and St. Louis counties also had relatively low levels of concern about the issue.

Concern about the lack of affordable, quality child care did not change significantly in a majority of Knight communities between 1999 and 2002. However, the proportion of residents who view this as big problem increased significantly in five Knight communities – Bibb, Leon, Miami-Dade, Santa Clara and Wayne counties. Concern about the issue declined significantly in Baldwin, Brown and Palm Beach counties.

Concern About Affordable, Quality Child Care (1999, 2002)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 7F

Concern About Unsupervised Youth

The percentage of residents who say that unsupervised children and teenagers are a “big problem” is used as a measure of community security.

Concern About Unsupervised Youth

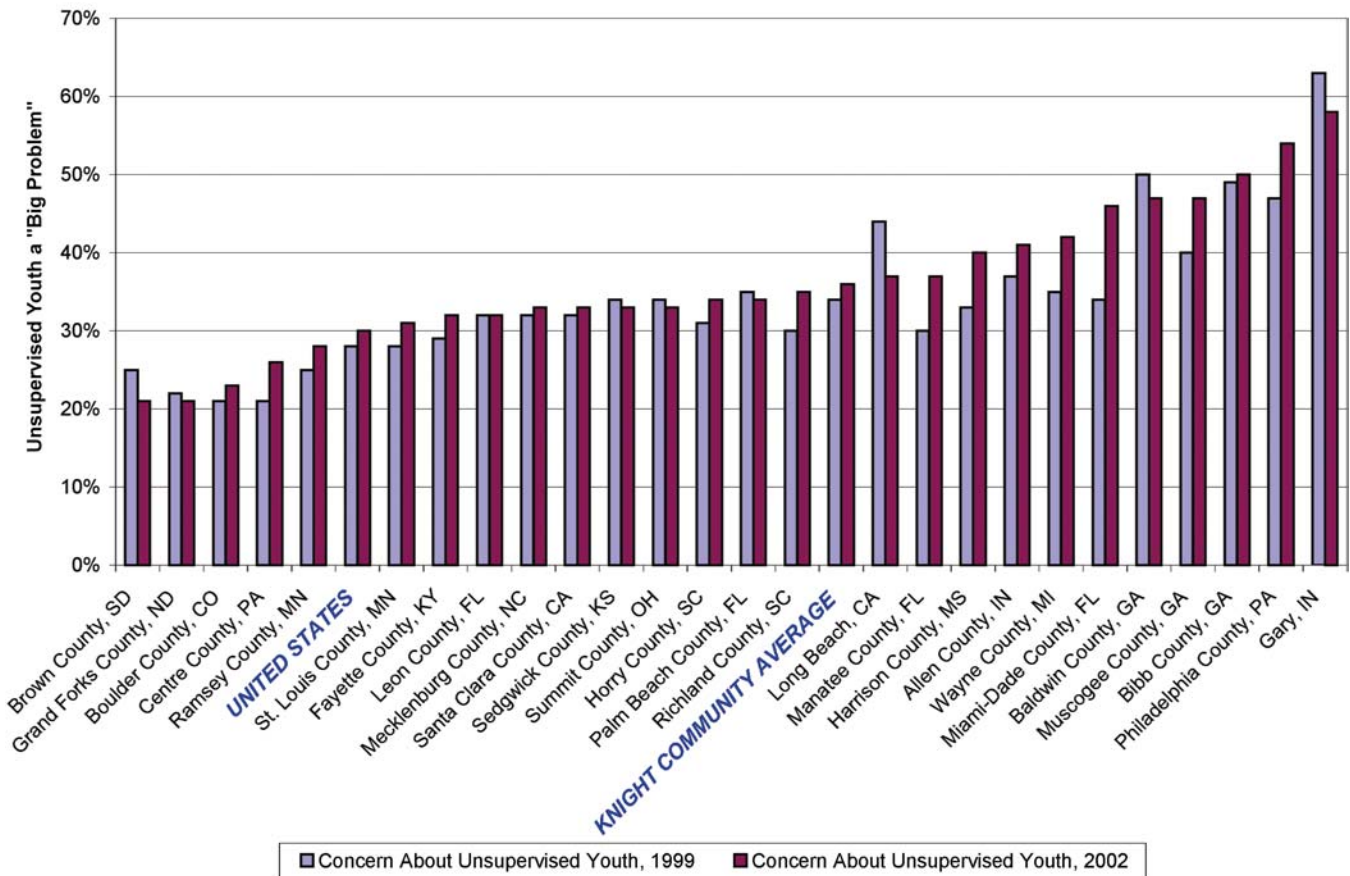
Residents of the Knight communities are generally concerned about unsupervised youth in their communities – on average, more than one-third of residents (36 percent) say that these youth are a big problem. However, the differences among the communities are substantial: 58 percent of residents in the city of Gary say that this is a big problem, compared with 21 percent in Brown and Grand Forks counties.

Concern about unsupervised youth is greatest in Bibb and Philadelphia counties and in the city of Gary, where at least one-half of residents say that it is a big problem. Other communities with substantial concerns about unsupervised youth include Baldwin, Miami-Dade and Muscogee counties.

Fewer than three in 10 residents consider unsupervised youth a big problem in five Knight communities – Boulder, Brown, Centre, Grand Forks and Ramsey counties.

Concern about the problem of unsupervised youth remained stable in a majority of Knight communities between 1999 and 2002. However, the proportion of residents who say that it is a big problem increased significantly in seven communities – Harrison, Manatee, Miami-Dade, Muscogee, Philadelphia, Richland and Wayne counties. The city of Long Beach was the only community to see a significant decline in concern about unsupervised youth over this period.

Concern About Unsupervised Youth (1999, 2002)



For tables and additional information, see Appendix 7G

Associated Indicators

Knight communities with larger minority populations tend to have more concern about unsupervised youth. The proportion of residents who cite unsupervised youth as a big problem is almost twice as high in the five communities with the largest minority populations (46 percent) as it is in the five communities with the smallest minority populations (24 percent).

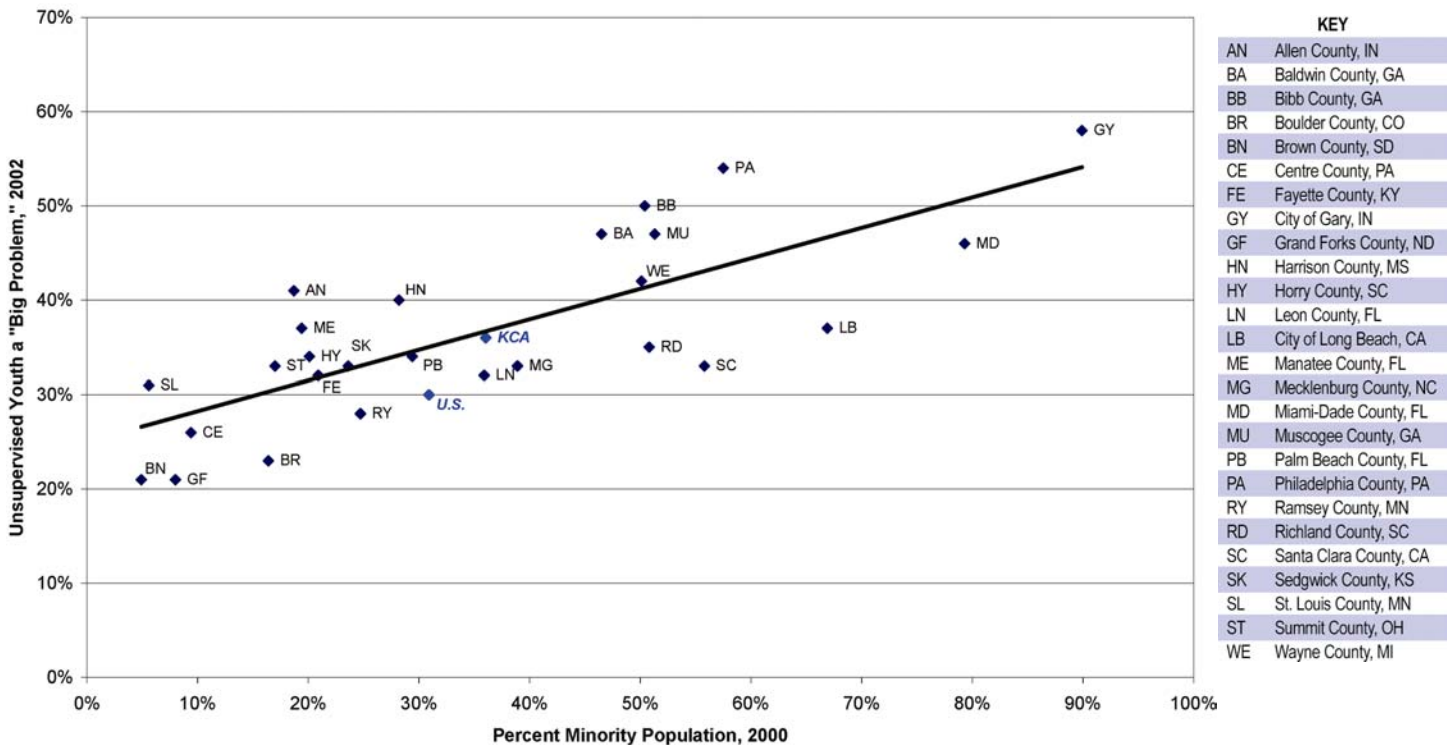
Communities with larger youth populations (ages 0–17) also tend to have higher levels of concern about unsupervised youth. In the five communities with the largest concentrations of youth, an average of 43 percent of residents say that unsupervised youth are a big problem. This compares with 33 percent in the five communities with the smallest youth populations.

Concern about unsupervised youth is also greater in communities with lower levels of education attainment. In the five communities with the smallest proportion of

adults who hold a bachelor’s degree or higher, an average of 48 percent say that unsupervised youth is a big problem. The average drops to 29 percent in the five communities with the highest levels of educational attainment.

Residents’ perceptions of the problem of unsupervised youth show little correspondence with juvenile arrest rates in the community. Boulder County and the city of Gary are both communities with relatively low juvenile arrest rates. While residents of the city of Gary are very concerned about unsupervised youth, residents of Boulder County express relatively little concern about the issue. At the other end of the spectrum, Muscogee and Ramsey counties both have relatively high juvenile arrest rates, but residents differ in their views about the problem of unsupervised youth. In Muscogee County, concern runs very high, while in Ramsey County, it is relatively low.

Minority Population (2000) and Concern About Unsupervised Youth (2002)



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Knight Community Priorities and Liaisons

The Knight Community Partners Program has worked with Community Advisory Committees in the foundation's 26 cities and towns to develop funding priorities for each. At Knight, these priorities are the starting point in each community for developing a strategic investment plan and forming partnerships with nonprofits.

COMMUNITY	PRIORITIES	COMMUNITY LIAISON PROGRAM OFFICER
CALIFORNIA		
Long Beach	To improve school readiness	John R. Williams II (williams@knightfdn.org)
San Jose	To improve school readiness	John R. Williams II (williams@knightfdn.org)
COLORADO		
Boulder	To improve school readiness	John R. Williams II (williams@knightfdn.org)
FLORIDA		
Bradenton	To increase positive outcomes for middle-school-age youth	Suzette Prude (prude@knightfdn.org)
Miami-Dade/Broward	To improve community development To increase civic engagement	Suzette Prude (prude@knightfdn.org)
Palm Beach County	To increase positive outcomes for middle-school-age youth	Suzette Prude (prude@knightfdn.org)
Tallahassee	To improve school readiness	Alfredo A. Cruz (cruz@knightfdn.org)
GEORGIA		
Columbus	To improve positive outcomes for at-risk adolescents	Susan Patterson (patterson@knightfdn.org)
Macon	To reduce teen pregnancy	Susan Patterson (patterson@knightfdn.org)
Milledgeville	To increase positive outcomes for middle-school-age youth	Susan Patterson (patterson@knightfdn.org)
INDIANA		
Fort Wayne	To improve school readiness To sustain and build diverse audiences for local arts and cultural programming	Vivian Celeste Neal (neal@knightfdn.org)
Gary	To increase economic development with emphasis on minority business To support families in the care of their children	Lizabeth Sklaroff (sklaroff@knightfdn.org)*
KANSAS		
Wichita	To improve school readiness	Julie E. Tarr (tarr@knightfdn.org)
KENTUCKY		
Lexington	To reduce equity gaps in public schools while improving academic achievement	Vivian Celeste Neal (neal@knightfdn.org)
MICHIGAN		
Detroit	To increase community development in six selected Detroit neighborhoods To increase access and diversity among the arts and cultural organizations serving Southeast Michigan	Lizabeth Sklaroff (sklaroff@knightfdn.org)*
MINNESOTA		
Duluth	To increase the community's capacity for regional economic development	Polly M. Talen (talen@knightfdn.org)
St. Paul	To improve the health and development of young children To improve access to affordable housing	Polly M. Talen (talen@knightfdn.org)
MISSISSIPPI		
Biloxi	To improve family economic well-being	Alfredo A. Cruz (cruz@knightfdn.org)
NORTH CAROLINA		
Charlotte	To improve school readiness To improve race relations To preserve and maintain open space	Susan Patterson (patterson@knightfdn.org)
NORTH DAKOTA		
Grand Forks	To increase the community's capacity for economic growth To increase the organizational strength and stability of arts and culture nonprofits To increase positive outcomes for middle-school-age-youth	Polly M. Talen (talen@knightfdn.org)
OHIO		
Akron	To increase growth and retention of jobs To increase positive outcomes for middle-school-age youth	Vivian Celeste Neal (neal@knightfdn.org)
PENNSYLVANIA		
Philadelphia	To improve literacy for young children To increase cultural arts participation	Julie E. Tarr (tarr@knightfdn.org)
State College	To improve the health and development outcomes for young children	Julie E. Tarr (tarr@knightfdn.org)
SOUTH CAROLINA		
Columbia	To equip middle-school-age youth to become productive citizens	Alfredo A. Cruz (cruz@knightfdn.org)
Myrtle Beach	To improve community engagement	Alfredo A. Cruz (cruz@knightfdn.org)
SOUTH DAKOTA		
Aberdeen	To improve the health of children To mobilize the community towards a common strategic vision for economic growth	Polly M. Talen (talen@knightfdn.org)

* *Interim Assignment*



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