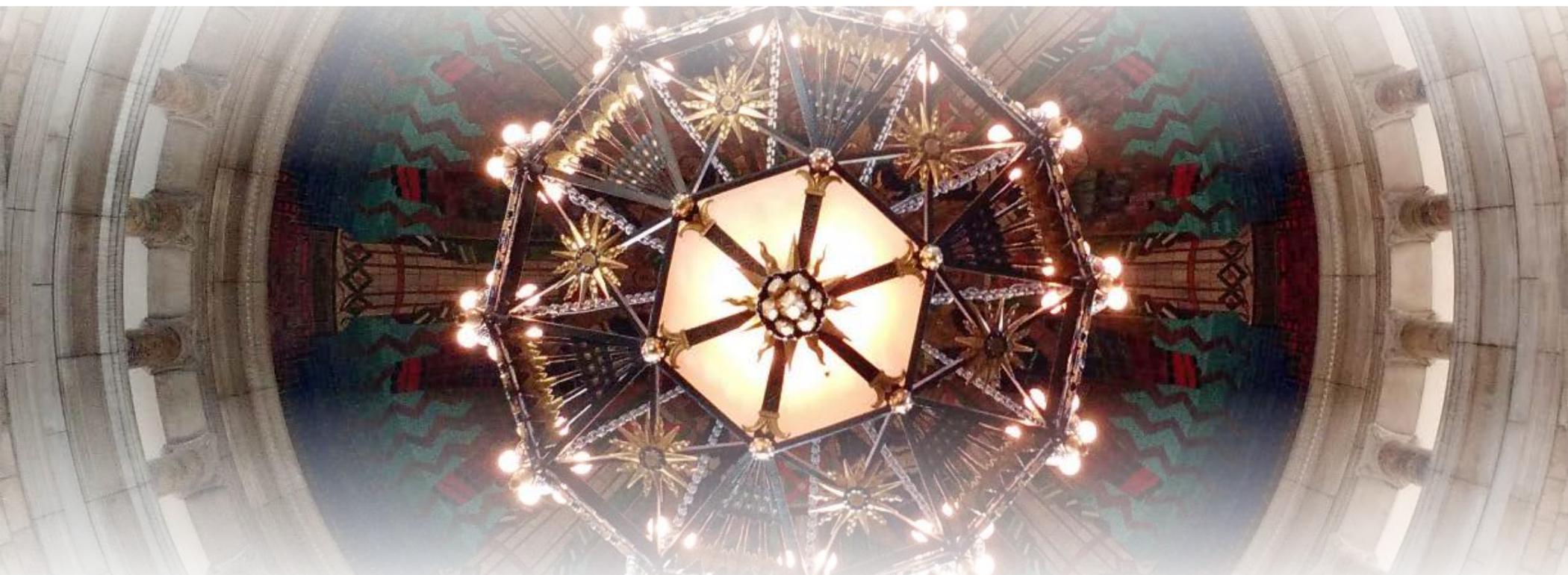




Lincoln Vital Signs 2017



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Executive Summary

In 2014, leaders of Lincoln’s largest public and private charitable organizations commissioned the Lincoln Vital Signs report to help inform decisions, spark connections, and spur collaboration. Since then, Lincoln Vital Signs reports (2014, 2015, and the 2016 Behavioral Health Supplement; all available at lincolnvitalsigns.org) have been used by funders to target resources, agencies for program development, faith community for services planning, business community for recruitment, neighborhood organizations for advocacy and involvement, performing arts as an inspiration for a new musical, and in many other ways. These positive responses to Lincoln Vital Signs led to the creation of Prosper Lincoln (prosperlincoln.org); thousands of people participated in prioritizing Lincoln’s focus on Early Childhood, Employment Skills, and Innovation.

In 2017, Lincoln Vital Signs finds:

- 1. Lincoln is experiencing positive economic recovery.**
- 2. Opportunity gaps persist.**

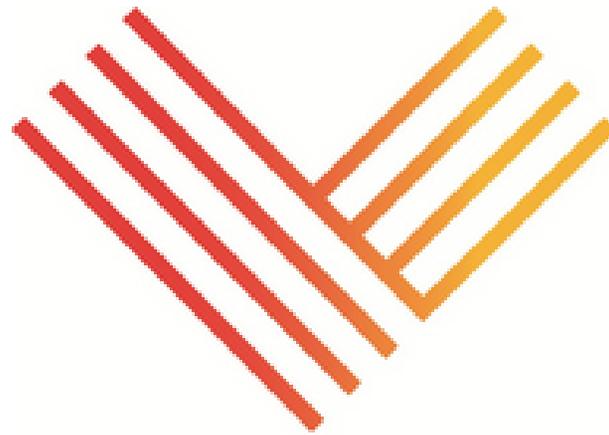
Lincoln Vital Signs 2017 continues the tradition of providing credible, reliable information about Lincoln, compared to its recent past and to other communities in the United States. The report is largely a compilation of existing data that continues to evolve:

- New measures have been added, and ones that were used less removed;
- Community Involvement and Culture measures have been distributed to the other six areas (Community Profile, Economy and Workforce, Basic Needs, Education, Health, and Safety); and
- Prosper Lincoln measures have been added, each denoted by one of these icons:



Be informed.
Get involved.

Lincoln Vital Signs



lincolnvitalsigns.org



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Lincoln Vital Signs and Prosper Lincoln



Lincoln Vital Signs and Prosper Lincoln

Be Informed. Get Involved.

Lincoln Vital Signs 2017

Lincoln Vital Signs 2017 (lincolnvitalsigns.org), commissioned by some of Lincoln's largest public and private charitable organizations, describes how Lincoln has changed over the past 10 years and in comparison to other communities across the United States. This year, the report finds:

- 1. Lincoln is experiencing positive economic recovery.** Lincoln was impacted by the national recession, but like other parts of the country, Lincoln is rebounding with:
 - Lower unemployment
 - Fewer neighborhoods in extreme poverty (i.e., more than 40% of persons living below the poverty threshold)
 - Recovering income earned by the average worker (in the past 5 years)
 - Re-attaining pre-recession average hours that employees worked
 - Fewer children living in poverty
 - Lower crime rates
 - Booming construction of commercial space
 - High workforce participation
- 2. Opportunity gaps persist.** Despite Lincoln's recovery, there are vexing disparities:
 - Number of persons working full-time and in poverty has doubled
 - Over 15% of Lincoln residents live in poverty
 - Persons from racial and ethnic minority groups have higher rates of poverty and unemployment
 - Nearly half of Lincoln Public School students participate in Free and Reduced Lunch
 - Lincoln Public School students in poverty and from racial and ethnic minority groups have lower educational achievement
 - Persons with lower educational attainment are more likely to live in poverty
 - Across Lincoln neighborhoods there is as much as a 20 year difference in life expectancy



Lincoln Vital Signs and Prosper Lincoln (continued)

Be Informed. Get Involved.

Past Vital Signs Reports

The success of Lincoln Vital Signs first report (2014) led to the publication of Lincoln Vital Signs 2015, the Behavioral Health supplement in 2016, and now Lincoln Vital Signs 2017. Lincoln Vital Signs 2014 and 2015 highlighted three findings:

1. Lincoln does many things exceptionally well and these successes should be nurtured.
2. A growing proportion of Lincoln's population faces real need.
3. Lincoln's children fare poorly on many measures.

The findings of these reports were shared with the community through presentations, printed materials, television, radio, email newsletters, and the website (lincolnvitalsigns.org). The impact of the reports has been impressive. Funders are using the data to make investments in community services; community services organizations for strategic planning, needs assessments, and grant proposals; faith community leaders to plan ministries and conferences; business leaders to promote Lincoln on their travels and to create business plans; neighborhoods to target activities; and performing artists were inspired to create a musical focusing on childhood hunger.



Lincoln Vital Signs and Prosper Lincoln (continued)

Be Informed. Get Involved.

Prosper Lincoln

As the community became aware of these findings, there grew an interest to continue to support Lincoln's strengths and to address areas of challenge. This interest grew into the community-wide agenda-setting process called Prosper Lincoln (prosperlincoln.org). The process involved numerous committees, teams, work groups, and the participation of thousands of persons to identify three key areas of focus through 2020:

- Early Childhood
- Employment Skills
- Innovation

Just as individuals and organizations have used Lincoln Vital Signs in a wide variety of ways, the community is embracing the Prosper Lincoln agenda, such as through new collaborations in the faith community, joint planning and implementation among neighborhoods and schools, businesses conceptualizing new ways to support their working families, partnerships between university computer science programs and Lincoln companies that need workers, new linkages between human service agencies and businesses, and in many more ways.

Be Informed. Get Involved

Lincoln Vital Signs and Prosper Lincoln

Lincoln Vital Signs reports continue to be the **Be Informed** foundation, and Prosper Lincoln encourages the community to **Get Involved**. Prosper Lincoln goals in each of the three focus areas, are denoted with the Early Childhood , Employment Skills , or Innovation  icon.



Lincoln Vital Signs Changes for 2017

Lincoln Vital Signs 2017 looks different from those in 2014 and 2015. We strove to create a report that will be understandable, usable, and relevant. Community Involvement and Culture measures have been distributed to the other six areas (Community Profile, Economy and Workforce, Basic Needs, Education, Health, and Safety). Some measures that are no longer available or have been of less interest have been omitted (see Appendix), and others added:

Basic Needs

- Healthcare coverage type by age group (U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey)
- Rate of food Insecurity and percent of food insecure people who are ineligible for federal nutrition programs (Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap)

Economy and Workforce

- Multiple jobholders as a percentage of total employment (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Monthly Labor Review)
- Percentage of adults with post-secondary degree (U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey)
- Percentage of adults with less than a bachelor's degree below poverty threshold (U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey)
- Employer ratings of availability and quality of workforce (Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development)
- Establishment entry rate (U.S. Census Bureau, Business Dynamics Statistics)
- Jobs created by business startups (U.S. Census Bureau, Business Dynamics Statistics)
- Net job creation rate (U.S. Census Bureau, Business Dynamics Statistics)
- Patents filed (U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Patent Technology Monitoring Team)



Lincoln Vital Signs Changes for 2017 (continued)

Education

- Percentage of residents who say early care and education is very important (Buffett Early Childhood Institute)
- Percentage of residents satisfied with quality (Buffett Early Childhood Institute)
- Percentage of families ranking low/poor quality as a barrier to accessing care (Buffett Early Childhood Institute)
- Percentage of families ranking expense as barrier (Buffett Early Childhood Institute)
- Number of programs, and children served in them, meeting Step Up To Quality standards (Nebraska Department of Education, Step Up to Quality Program)

Health

- Total deaths by suicide (Lincoln Police Department)
- Mental health investigations (Lincoln Police Department)
- Incident reports Involving alcohol or drugs (Lincoln Police Department)
- Emergency Protective Custody admissions (Region V Behavioral Health Systems)
- Civil Protective Custody admissions (Region V Behavioral Health Systems)
- Type of mental health disorder at admission (Region V Behavioral Health Systems)
- Change in employment and housing rates from admission to discharge by disorder for those with severe mental illness (Region V Behavioral Health Systems)



Community Profile



Community Profile

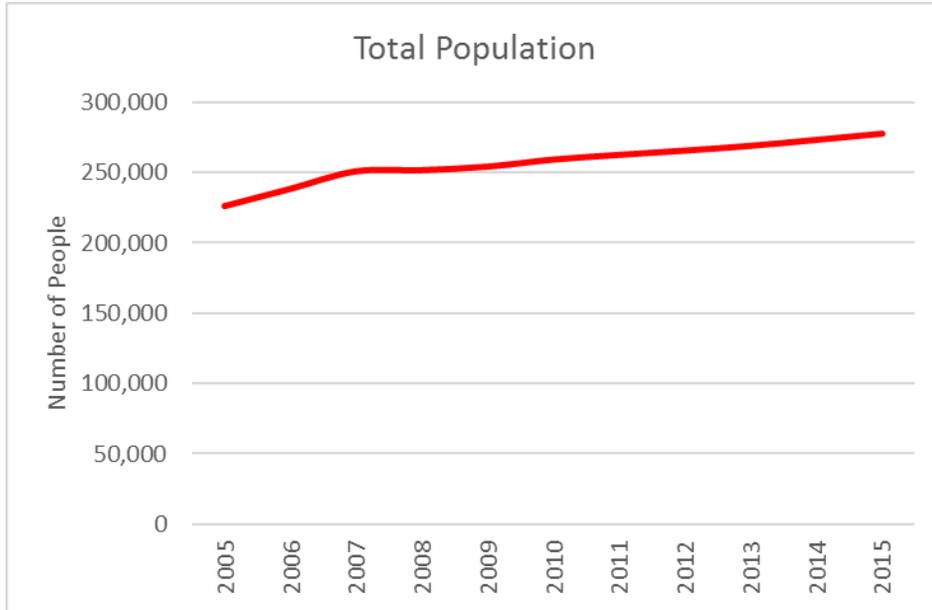
Lincoln is a growing community. In the past decade, **Lincoln's overall population has grown by 51,284 residents, or 23%**. Since 2005, **Lincoln's growth rate of the youngest and oldest populations has outpaced that of the working age population**. Lincoln is **becoming more racially and ethnically diverse**: Lincoln's White non-Hispanic/Latino population has dropped from comprising 87% of Lincoln's overall population in 2005 to now comprising 81%. Compared to other cities across the United States, Lincoln is in the top third for **overall well-being**.





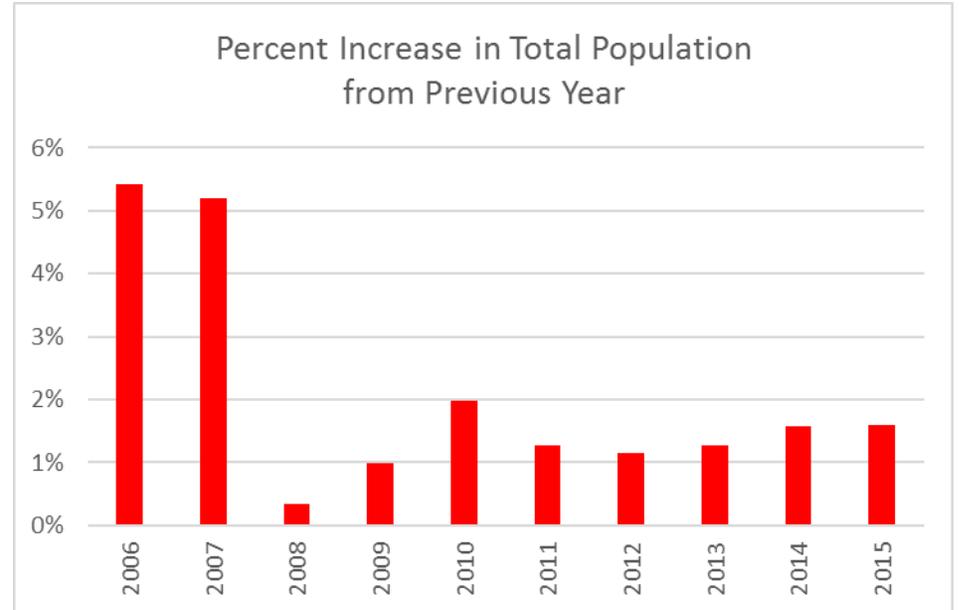
Lincoln has grown 23% since 2005

Figure 1



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, Table DP05.

Figure 2



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, Table DP05.

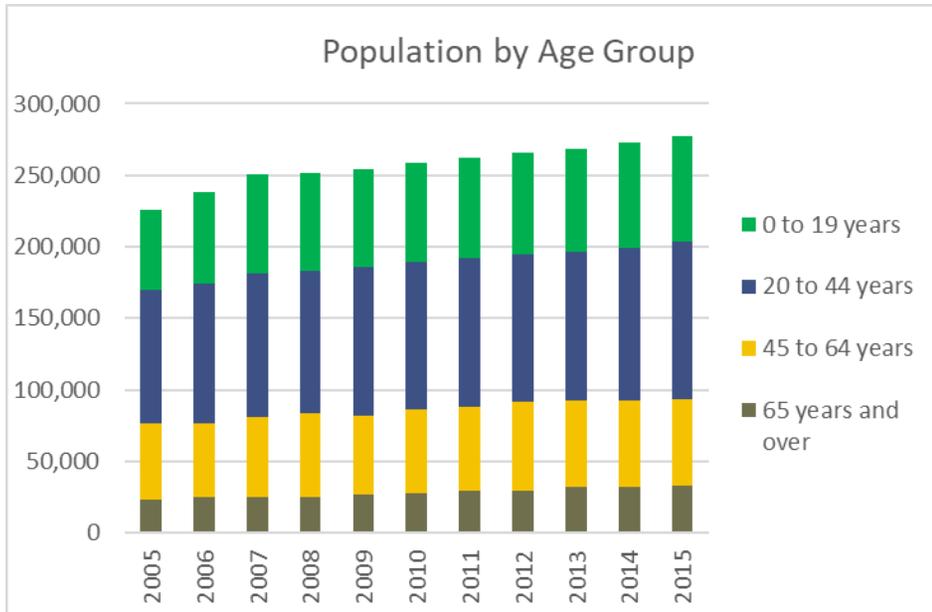
Similar to other urbanized communities in Nebraska, Lincoln has experienced population growth over the past decade.

- Lincoln now has more than 277,000 residents.
- This is an increase of 51,284 persons, or 23%, since 2005.
- Lincoln’s growth has not been steady throughout the past decade.
 - Growth was faster from 2005-2006 and 2006- 2007 (over 5% per year).
 - Since 2009, Lincoln’s population has grown annually about 1% to 2% per year.



Lincoln's oldest and youngest populations have had the highest growth rates

Figure 3



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, Table DP05.

Table 1

Population Growth by Age Group				
Age Group (in years)	2005 Population	2015 Population	Percent Growth	Population Growth
0 to 19	55,939	73,837	32%	17,898
20 to 44	93,242	109,652	18%	16,410
45 to 64	53,269	60,736	14%	7,467
65 and over	23,612	33,121	40%	9,509

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, Table DP05.

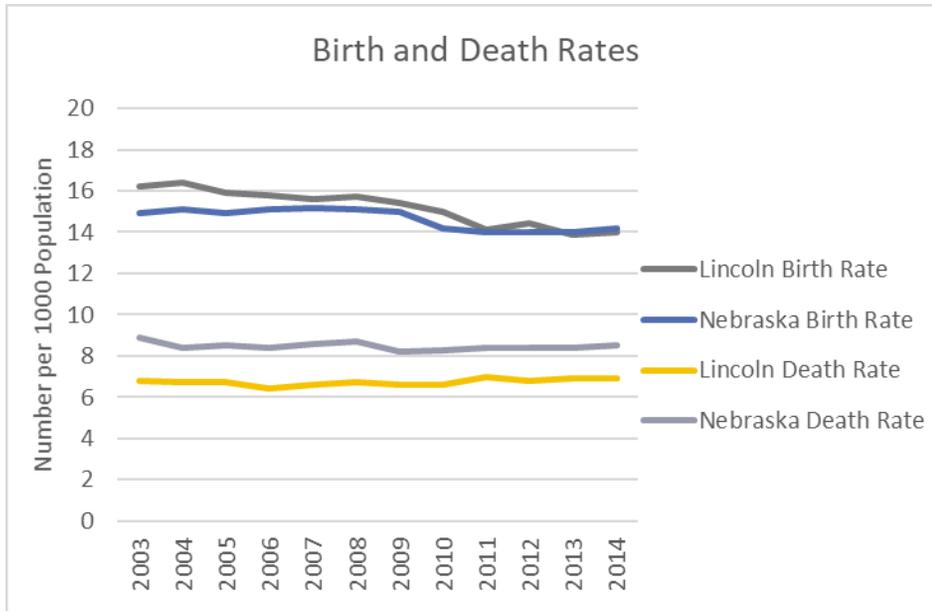
- The children/youth (0 – 19 years) age group has shown larger growth in numbers than other age groups, and the second highest rate of growth (32% growth since 2005).
- Since 2005, the retirement age adult group (65 years or over) has shown the fastest rate of growth among age group (40% growth).





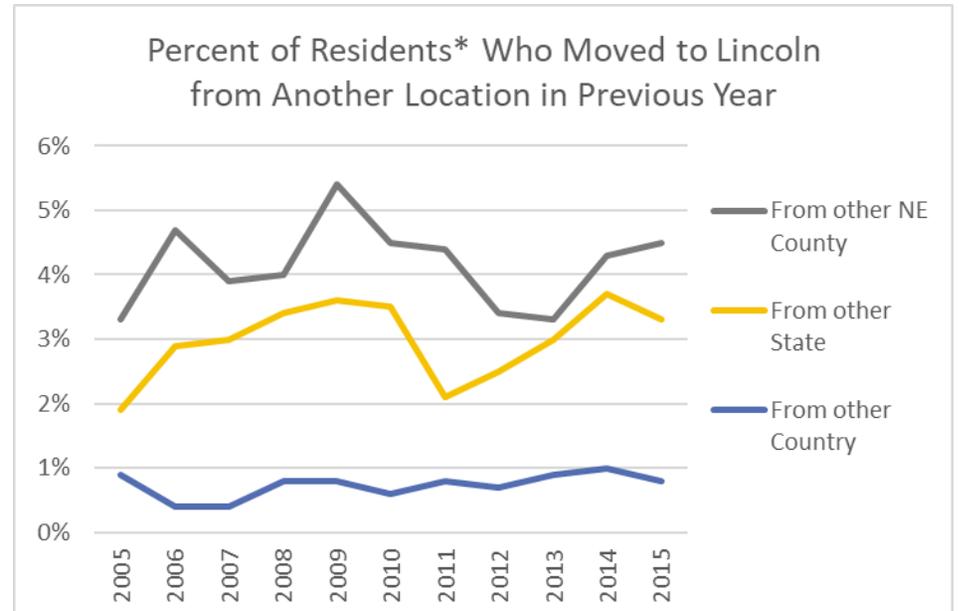
Lincoln's growth is attributable to people moving to Lincoln

Figure 4



Source: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Nebraska Vital Statistics Reports.

Figure 5



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, Table S0701. *Residents one year of age or older.

- Lincoln's natural growth rate (birth rate minus death rate) added less than 1% to Lincoln's population in 2014 (2015 data not yet available).
- Lincoln has a higher growth rate than the U.S. as a whole.
 - Lincoln rate is 7.1 per 1,000 persons.
 - U.S. rate is 4.3 per 1,000 persons.

- Over the last three years, on average, over 8% of Lincoln's population moved to the city in the previous 12 months.
- Since 2005, the population that moved to Lincoln came from, in order of size:
 - Other places in Nebraska
 - Other places in the United States
 - Other places in the world



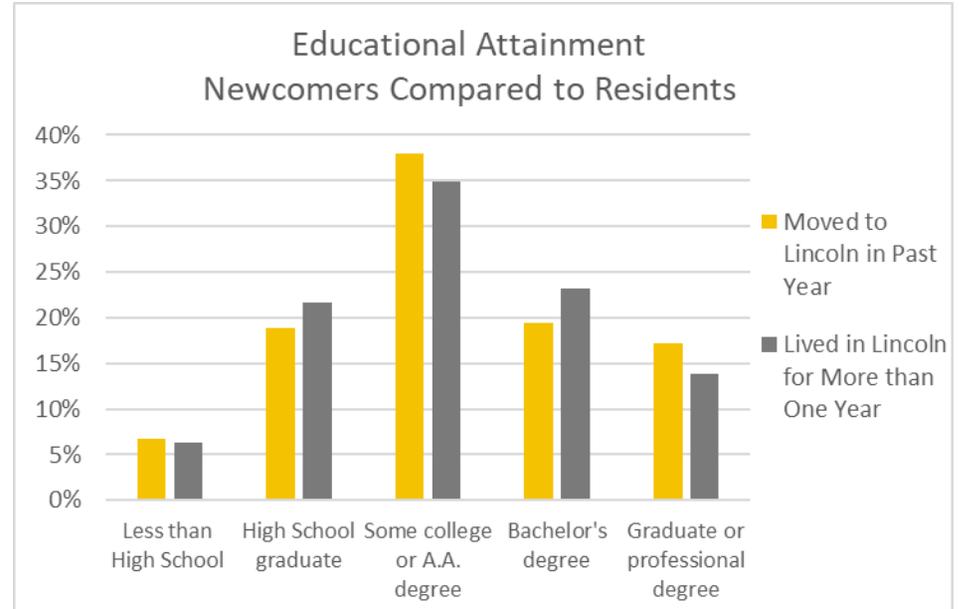
Lincoln newcomers are young, White adults with higher rates of poverty

Table 2

Newcomers to Lincoln by Age Group		
Age Group (in years)	Number of Newcomers	Percent of Newcomers
1 to 17	2,310	11%
18 to 24	9,362	46%
25 to 44	5,070	25%
45 to 64	2,333	12%
65 and over	1,020	5%
Total	20,096	100%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-year estimates, Table S0701.

Figure 6



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, Table S0701.

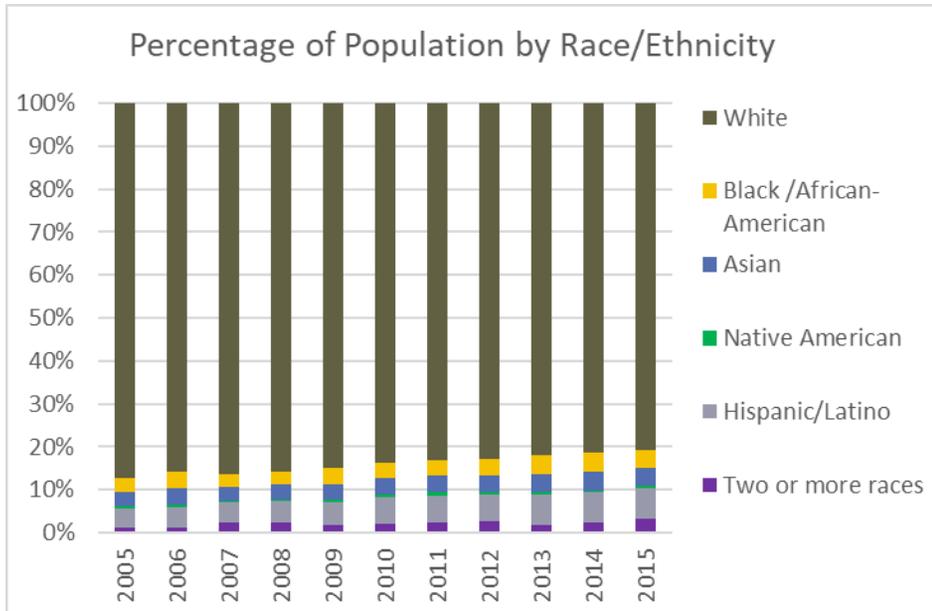
- For the past five years, approximately half of newcomers to Lincoln have been young adults between 18 to 24 years of age.
 - The influx of young people may be due to Lincoln's multiple post-secondary educational institutions.
- Approximately 73% of newcomers to Lincoln were White non-Hispanic/Latino.
 - The proportion of White non-Hispanic/Latino newcomers has declined gradually since 2011.
- Newcomers to Lincoln have double the percentage of people living below the poverty threshold (30%) than those who have lived in Lincoln longer than one year, (15%).¹

- The educational attainment of newcomers to Lincoln is similar to the rest of Lincoln's population.



Lincoln's non-White population has increased 87% since 2005

Figure 7



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, Table DP05.
 Note: Race/ethnic that make up less than a quarter of one percent of the population do not appear on the chart.

- As of 2015, the majority (81%) of Lincoln's population identifies as White non-Hispanic/Latino.
- The past decade have seen Lincoln steadily becoming a more ethnically and racially diverse community.
 - From 2005 to 2015, Lincoln's non-White population has increased 87%, while the White-alone population increased only 13%.
 - Lincoln's Hispanic/Latino population has more than doubled (from 9,672 persons to 20,296 persons).

Table 3

Race/Ethnicity by Age Group		
Race	Younger than 18 Years	18 Years or Older
White	72%	84%
Hispanic/Latino	12%	5%
Black/African American	6%	4%
Asian	4%	4%
Native American	1%	1%
Two or More Races	8%	2%

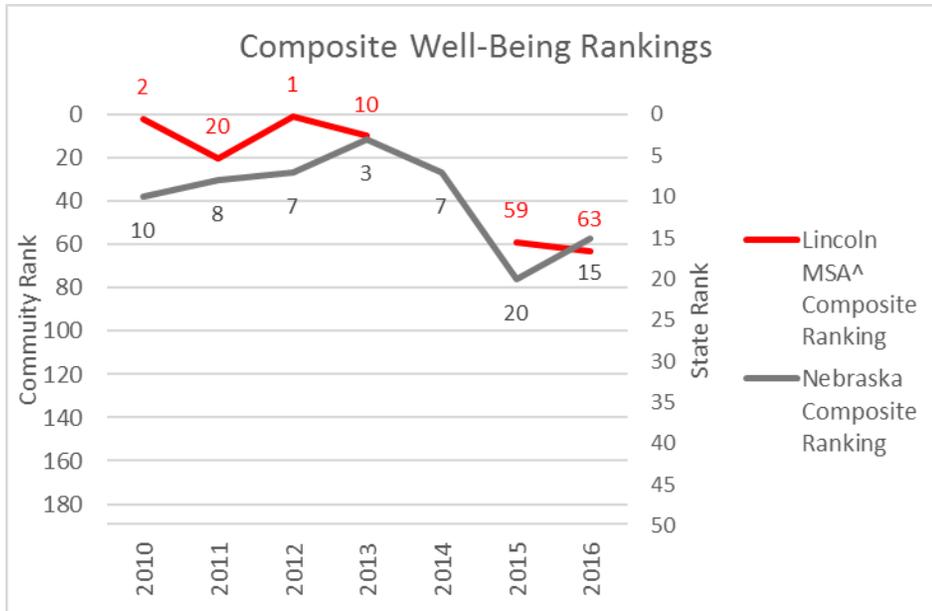
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-year estimates, Table B01001.
 Notes: Hispanic/Latino category has some overlap with other categories. Groups that make up less than a quarter of one percent of the population do not appear on the table.

- Lincoln's diversity will increase as the 18 Years of Age and Under population grows into adulthood.
 - Within the age group of 18 years of age or younger, the White-alone population comprised less than three-quarters of the population in 2015 (72%).



Lincoln ranks in the top third of cities in the U.S. for well-being

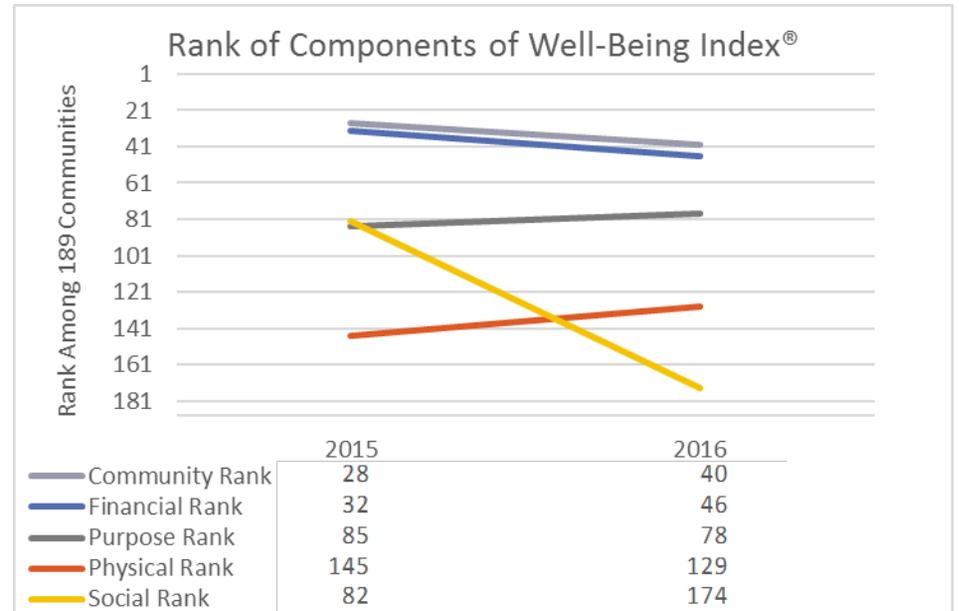
Figure 8



Source: Gallup Healthways Well-Being Index[®]

Note: Dimensions on which communities and states are ranked changed in 2014.

Figure 9



Source: Gallup Healthways Well-Being Index[®]

Note: Data is for Lincoln MSA (consists of Lancaster and Seward Counties).

The Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index[®] is based on phone surveys of 189 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs). As of the 2015-16 survey, individuals are asked questions about five areas that matter to well-being: purpose, social, financial, community and physical.²

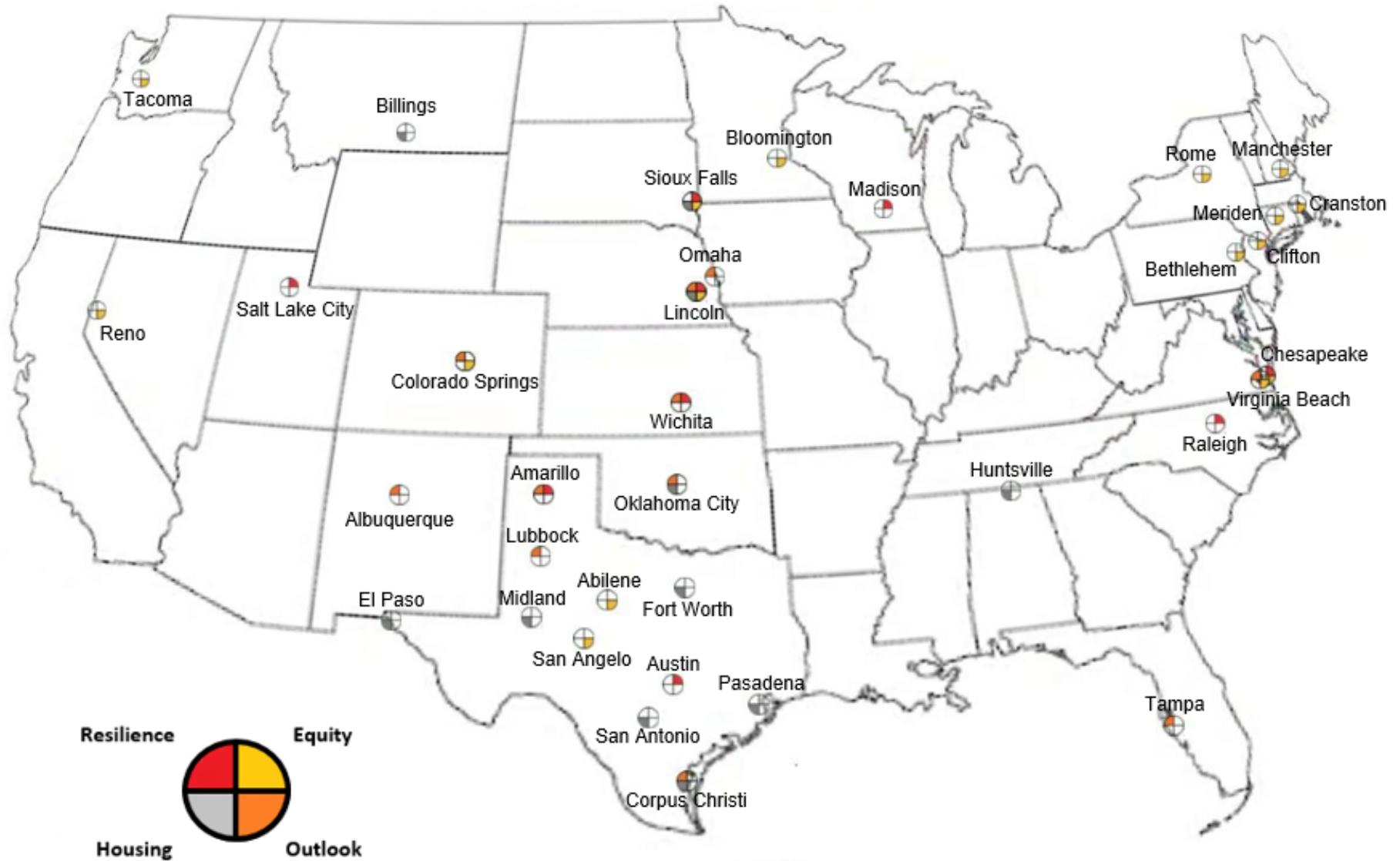
- Of the 189 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) whose residents were surveyed as a part of the 2015-16 Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index[®], the Lincoln MSA (consisting of Lancaster and Seward counties) was ranked 63rd in overall well-being, rounding out the top third of cities.
- In the past two years, Lincoln's rankings were similar to Nebraska's when adjusted for the number of places used in the comparison (50 for states, 189 for communities in 2016).
- Lincoln ranks well on the Community and Financial dimensions of well-being.
- Lincoln also is in the top half of rankings on the Purpose dimension.
- Lincoln ranks poorly on the Physical and Social dimensions.





Lincoln's peer themed cities identified by the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago³

- denotes cities Lincoln is like in four areas



Community Profile Chapter Notes

1. In 2015, the poverty threshold was \$24,036 for a family of four that included two related children less than 18 years of age.
2. The specific dimensions on which communities and states are ranked changed in 2014. There are no community-level data for Lincoln in 2014. For more information about the Gallup Well-Being Index®, go to: <http://www.well-beingindex.com/about>
3. The Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago developed the Peer City Identification Tool (<https://www.chicagofed.org/region/community-development/data/pcit>) to compare 300 U.S. communities on the themes of Equity (inclusion, access, and diversity), Resilience (economic diversification), Outlook (signals of population and economic future), and Housing (affordability, quality, availability).



Economy and Workforce



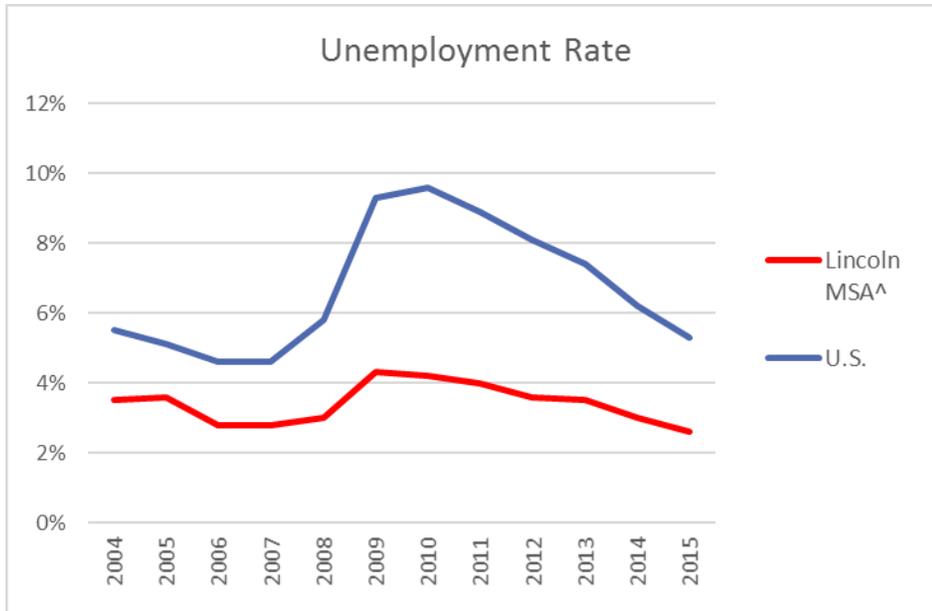
Economy and Workforce

Lincoln has a **strong economy**, an **educated workforce**, **low unemployment**, a **low cost of living**, and **investments** in Lincoln's built infrastructure. Despite these positive trends, Lincoln also has opportunities for improvement. Many economists believe that cities with jobs in science, technology, engineering, math, and creative and innovative industries will continue to grow while cities that lag in those areas will decline. Lincoln is only slightly above **average in the percentage of science, technology, engineering, and math occupations**. Average household income has dropped, when accounting for inflation. The **high percentage of children with all parents in the workforce** signals the need for high quality day care, but child care costs may consume a significant proportion of a household income.



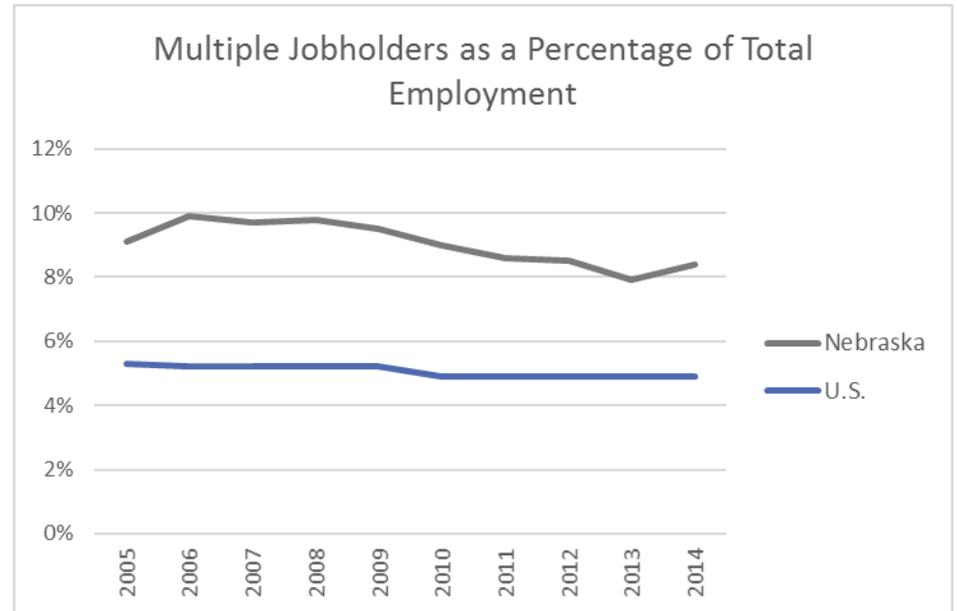
Lincoln's unemployment is lower than nearly anywhere else in the U.S.

Figure 10



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment (LAU) Statistics.
 ^The Lincoln Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) consists of Lancaster and Seward Counties.

Figure 11



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Monthly Labor Review (MLR), Multiple Jobholding in States.

- Over the past decade, Lincoln's unemployment rate has been lower than the national rate.
- During the past 5 years Lincoln's unemployment rate has consistently been among the 5 lowest in the U.S.

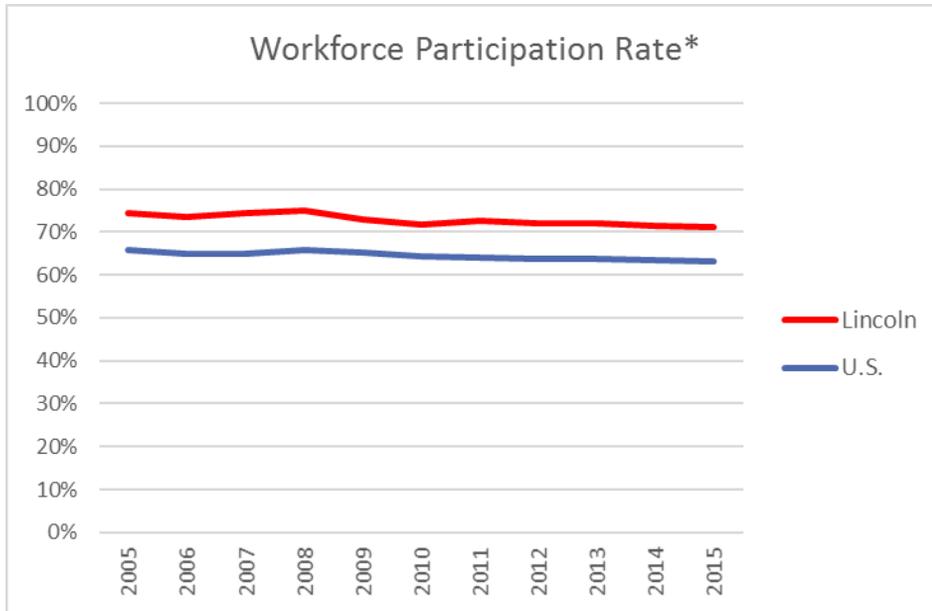
- Multiple jobholders in Nebraska is an indirect indicator of likely multiple jobholders in Lincoln, where the data is not available at the community level.
- The rate of multiple jobholders in Nebraska has averaged 9% over the past decade, and has been significantly higher than the national average of 5% since 2005.
- The rate of multiple jobholders in Nebraska peaked in 2006 at 9.9%, decreasing to 8.4% in 2014.
 - The U.S. multiple jobholder rate has also decreased in the past decade, from 5.3% in 2005 to 4.9% in 2014.





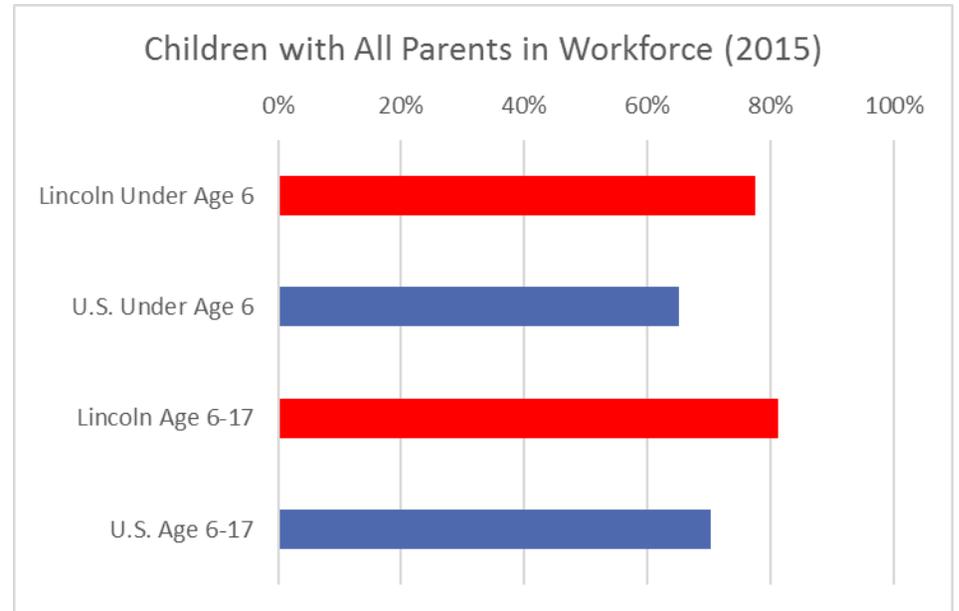
Workforce participation in Lincoln is high

Figure 12



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, Table S2301.
 *Among the population 16 years or older and in the labor force.

Figure 13



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, Table DP03.

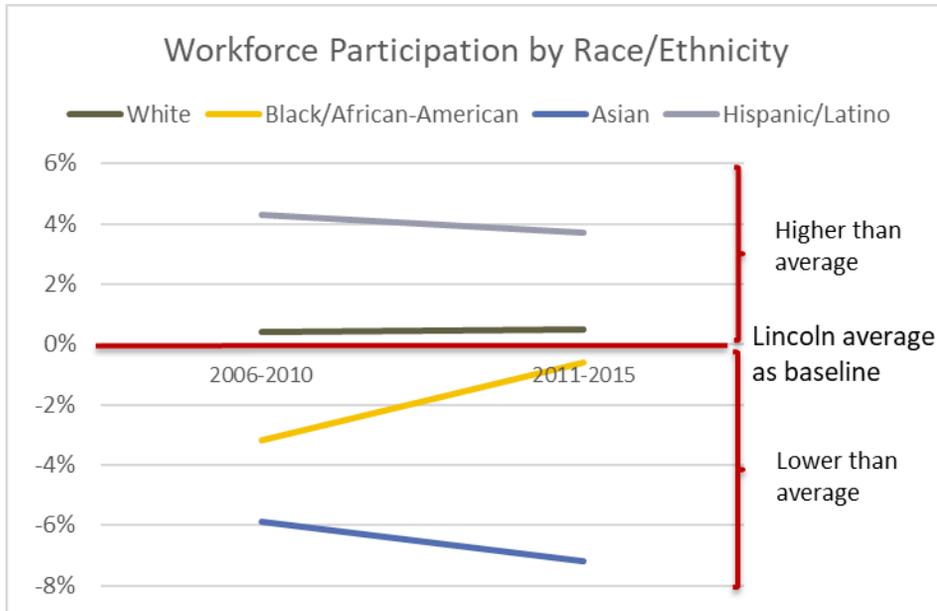
- In Lincoln, a higher percentage of persons over the age of 16 participate in the workforce than is the average nationally.
- Over the past decade, Lincoln has exceeded the national rate of persons 16 or older participating in the workforce by at least 7%.
- In 2015, Lincoln’s workforce participation was 71%, while the national rate was 63%.

- Lincoln has a much higher percentage of families with all parents in the workforce than the national average.
 - All parents in the workforce is defined as two-parent families, both of whom work, and one-parent families with that parent working.
- Nebraska, along with other upper Great Plains states, regularly ranks as one of the top states for percentage of children with all parents in the workforce.



Workforce participation and unemployment vary by race/ethnicity

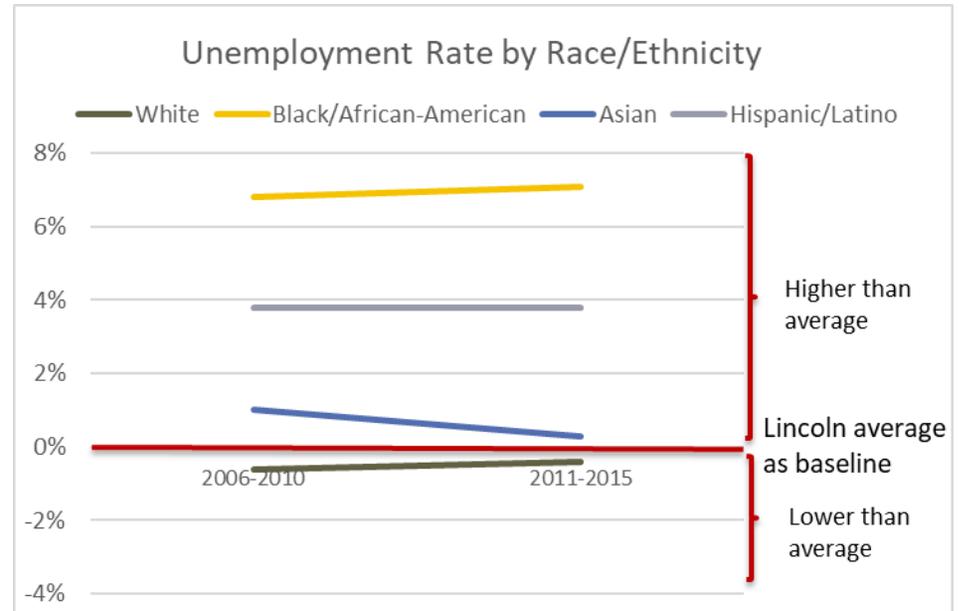
Figure 14



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-year estimates, Table S2301.
 Notes: Chart includes race/ethnic groups that make up 1% or more of Lincoln's population.
 Determined for the population 16 years or older and in the labor force.

- Workforce participation rates vary by race and ethnicity.
- Hispanics/Latinos have had a higher workforce participation rate than Lincoln's overall rate.
- Blacks/African-Americans and Asians have had lower workforce participation compared to Lincoln's overall rate.
 - The participation of Blacks/African-Americans has increased over the past decade.
- Whites have a slightly higher workforce participation rate than Lincoln overall.

Figure 15



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-year estimates, Table S2301.
 Note: Chart includes race/ethnic groups that make up 1% or more of Lincoln's population.

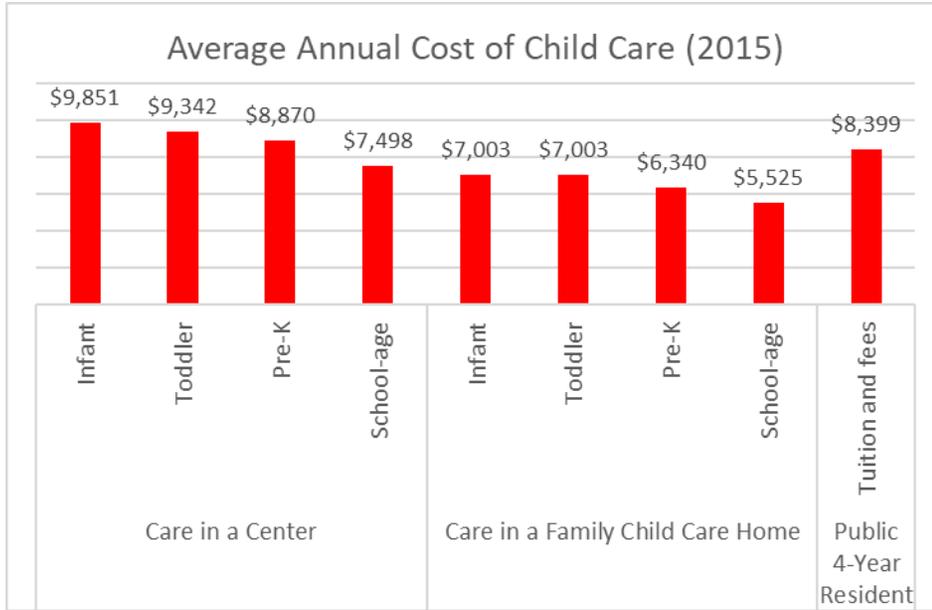
- Unemployment rates vary by race and ethnicity.
- White persons have had about the same unemployment rate as Lincoln's overall population.
- Blacks/African-Americans have experienced the highest rates of unemployment among racial and ethnic groups.
 - This group has averaged 7 percentage points higher unemployment than Lincoln's overall rate in the past decade.
- Unemployment has been unchanged for Hispanics/Latinos over the past decade, averaging nearly 4 percentage points higher than Lincoln's overall rate.
- The unemployment rate has decreased for Asians, and is now about the same as the Lincoln average unemployment rate.





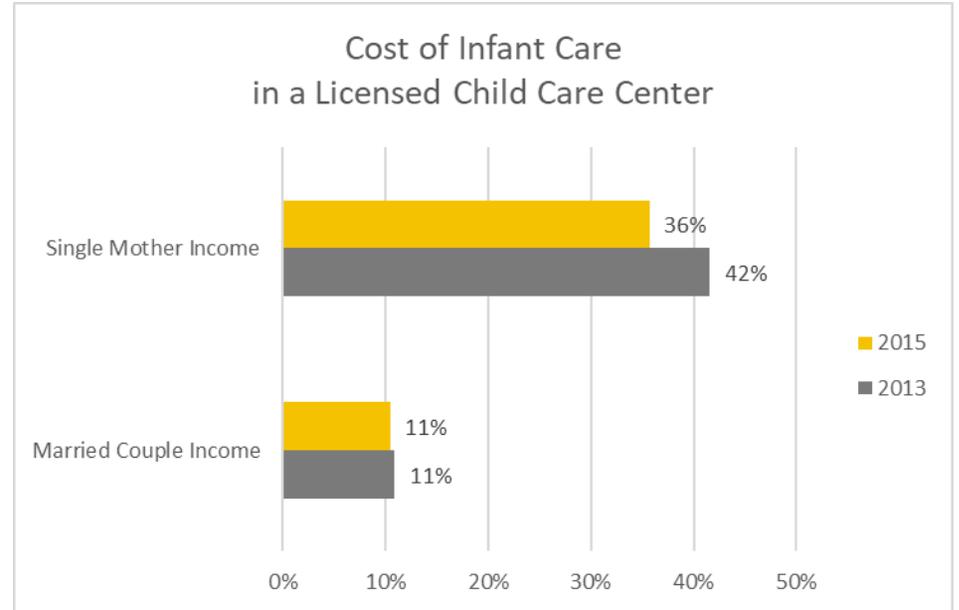
High workforce participation combined with high cost of child care impacts families

Figure 16



Source: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Child Care Market Rate Survey.

Figure 17



Source: Compiled from Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Child Care Market Rate Survey, and U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, Table B19126.

The high proportion of children with all parents in the workforce suggests that Lincoln may have an elevated need for high quality daycare. The cost of child care is often a significant proportion of working parents' income, and, in some cases, may be a barrier to participation in the workforce.

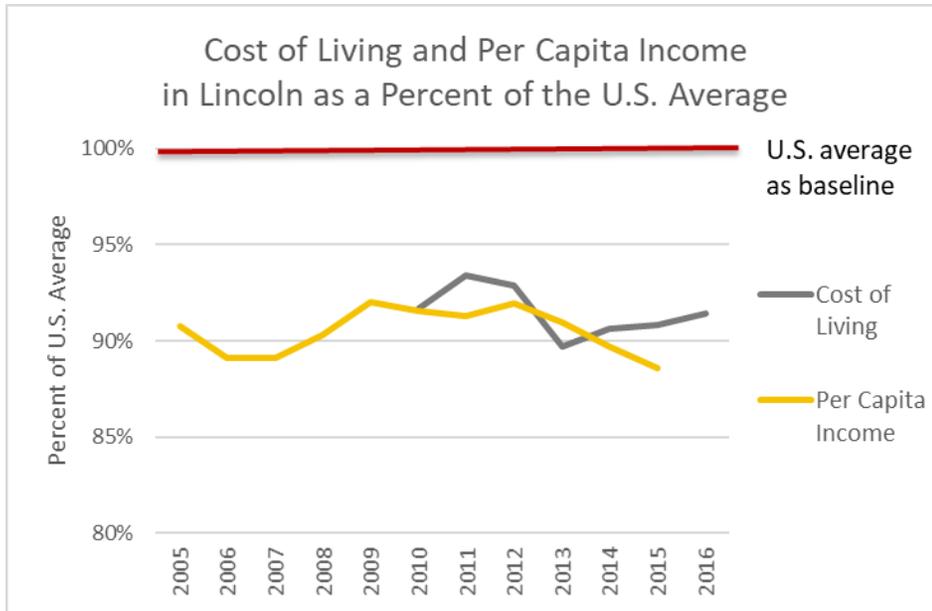
- In the past decade, the average cost of child care increased 29%.
- In 2015 (and prior years), the annual cost of care in a child care center for any child younger than school-age was more than resident tuition and fees at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.
- The annual cost of child care, for a child, is:
 - 11% of the median family income of a typical married couple
 - 36% of the median income of a typical single mother
- Child care workers have fairly low wages, with an average annual income in 2015 of \$20,700.





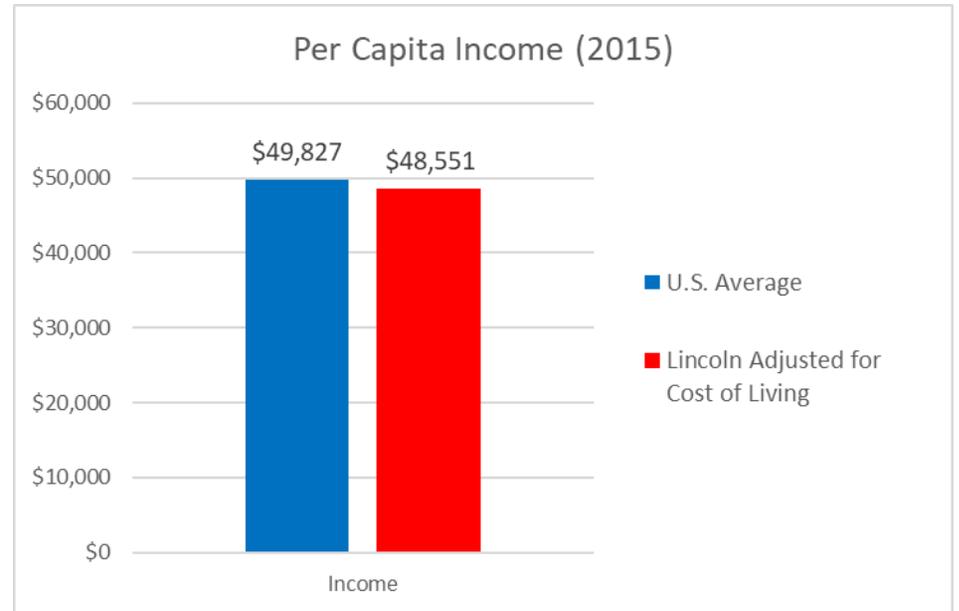
Lincoln's cost of living is low

Figure 18



Source: The Council for Community and Economic Research, Cost of Living Index (COLI). U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Table CA1-3.

Figure 19



Source: The Council for Community and Economic Research, Cost of Living Index (COLI). U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Table CA1-3.

- Living in Lincoln costs less, on average, than does living in other parts of the United States.
- In recent years the overall cost of living in Lincoln has been 90% to 93% of national average.
 - In 2016, cost of living in Lincoln was 91% of the national average.

Adjusting per capita income by cost of living provides an indicator of relative buying power and recognizes that a dollar of income in Lincoln has more buying power than a dollar of income in other areas of the U.S.

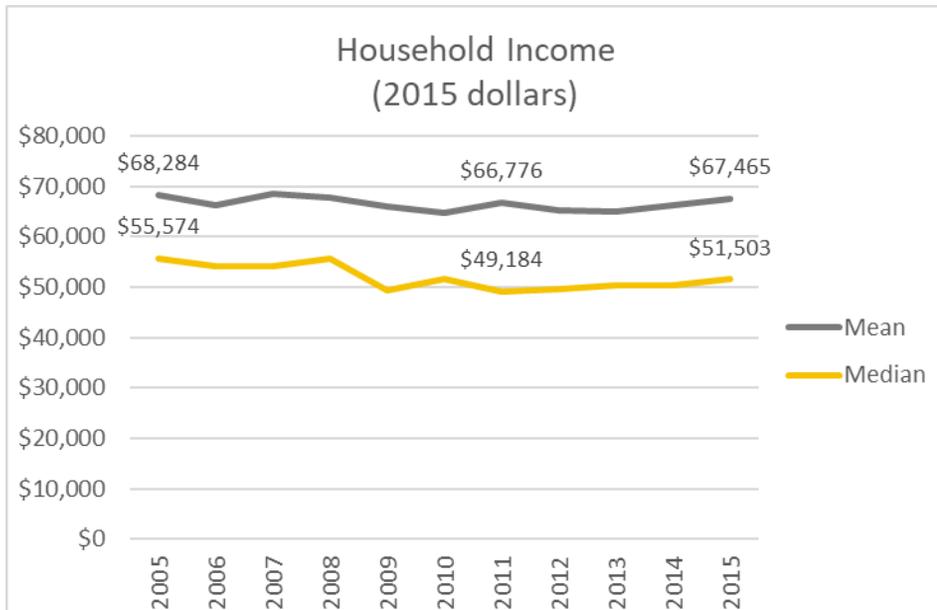
- Lincoln's adjusted per capita income has slightly trailed the national average for several years, and in 2015 is 3% lower than the national average per capita income.





Average household income has remained level since 2011

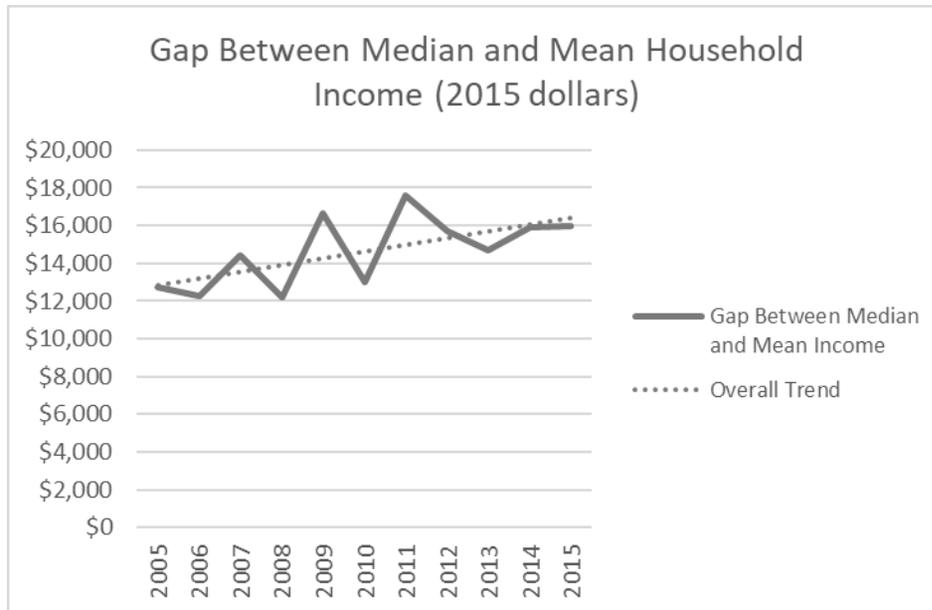
Figure 20



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, Table DP03; Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index Research Series Using Current Methods (CPI-U-RS), U.S. city average, all items, 1978-2016.

- Household income has declined in the past decade years when examining median household income adjusted for inflation.
 - Mean household income also declined slightly in the past decade.¹
- However, this trend has reversed in the past 5 years, with incomes rising somewhat since 2011.

Figure 21



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, Table DP03; Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index Research Series Using Current Methods (CPI-U-RS), U.S. city average, all items, 1978-2016.

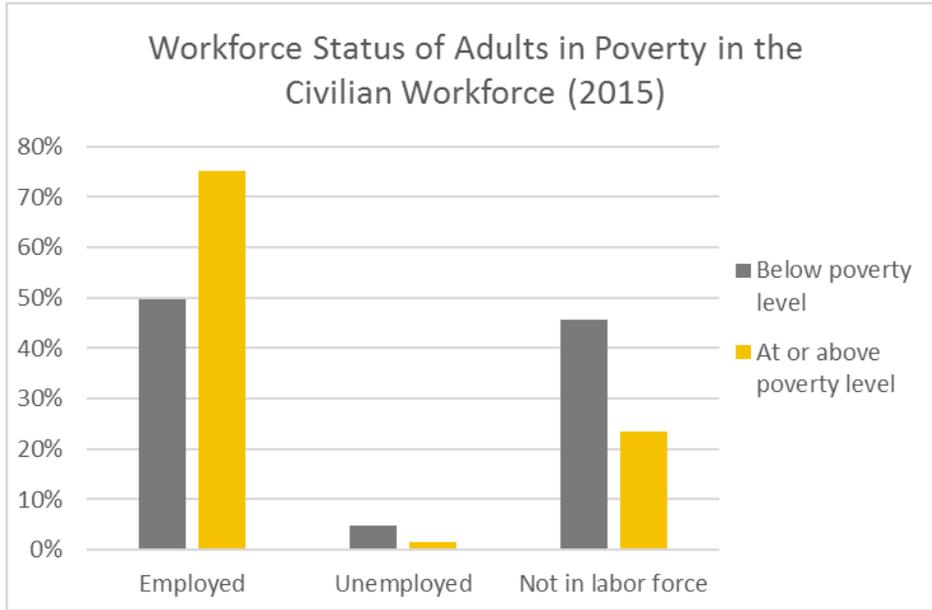
- The gap between the mean and the median income has increased 26% in the past decade, from about \$13,000 in 2005 to \$16,000 in 2015.
 - This means that households with higher incomes have been growing their income faster than households with lower incomes.





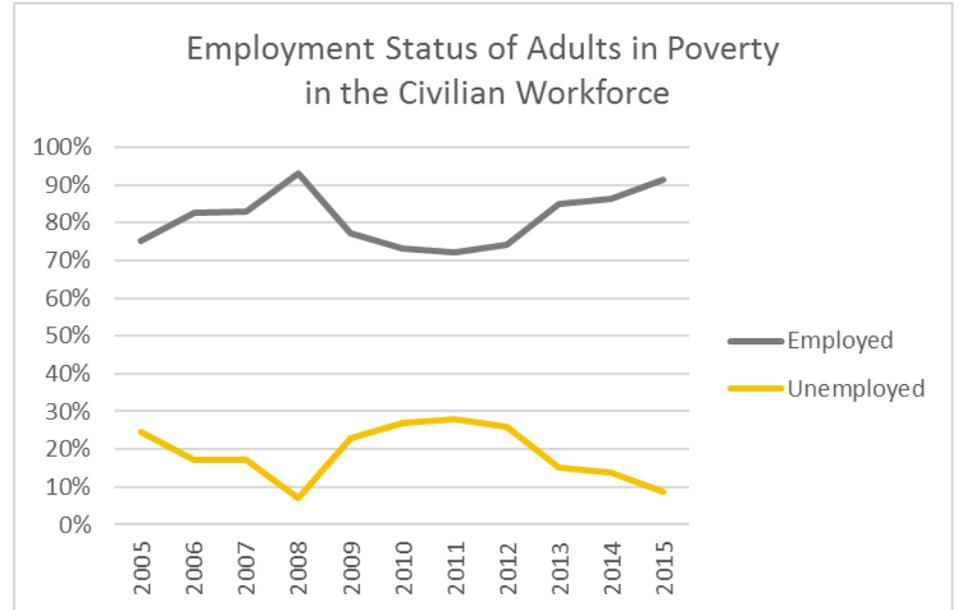
Most adults in poverty are employed

Figure 22



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, Table B17005.

Figure 23



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, Table S1701.

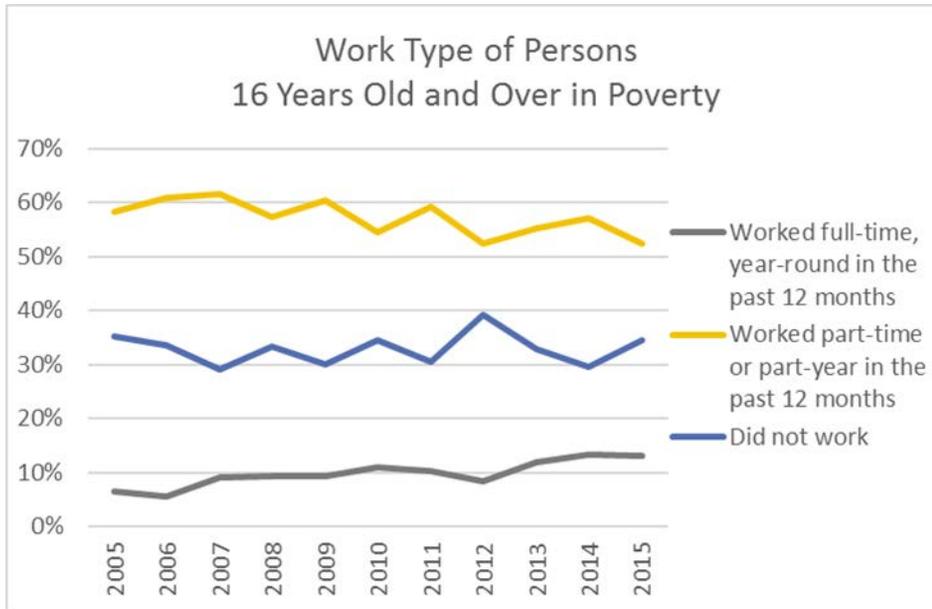
- The majority (54%) of adults in poverty are in the workforce.
 - Of those in the workforce, most are employed.

- The vast majority of persons in poverty in the workforce are employed.



Most employed adults in poverty work part-time or part-year

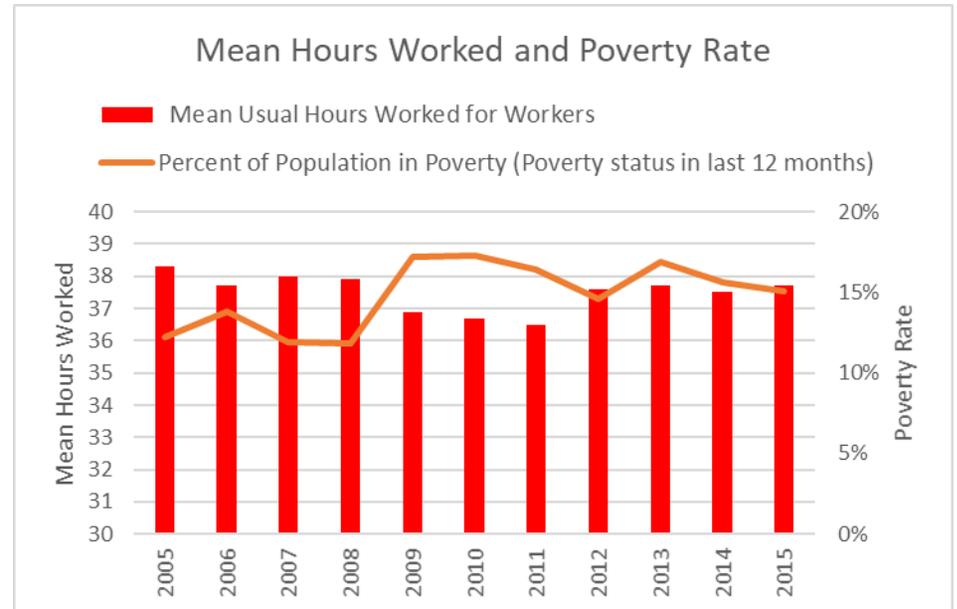
Figure 24



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, Table S1701.

- About one-third of adults in poverty work full-time year-round.
- Over half, (57%) worked part-time or part-year, suggesting that underemployment and/or job losses contribute to poverty.

Figure 25



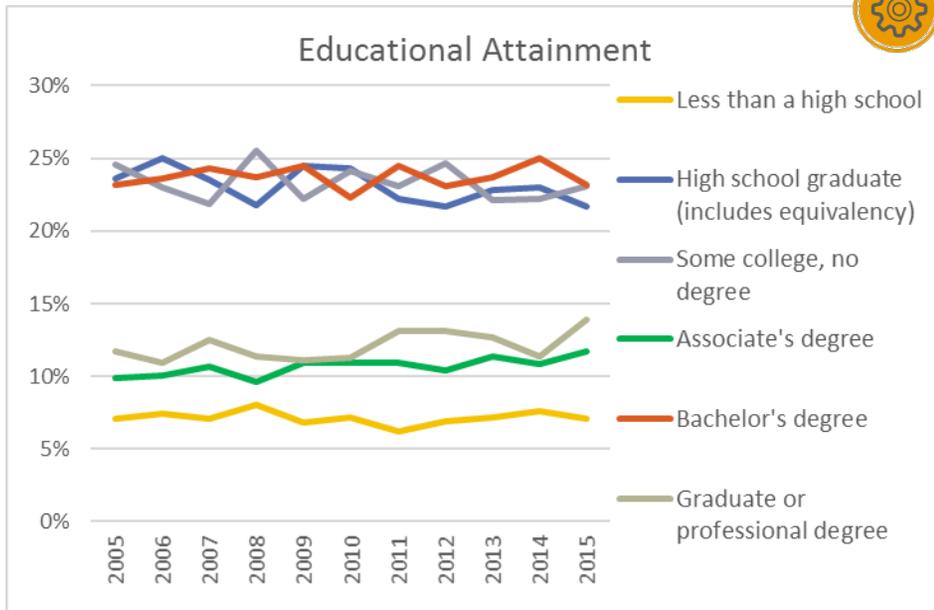
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, Table S2303.

- During the recent recession, average work hours decreased and poverty increased.
- Since the end of the recession, work hours have increased somewhat, and poverty is slowly decreasing, but has not yet returned to pre-recession levels.



Approximately half of Lincoln's workforce has post-secondary degrees

Figure 26



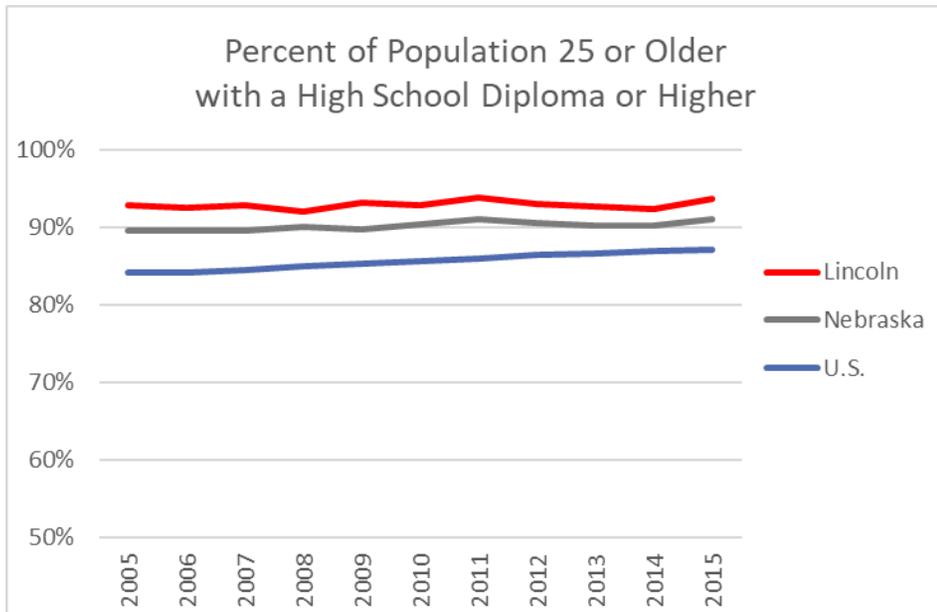
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, Table DP02.
Note: Chart based on population 25 years and older.

- A large percentage of adults in Lincoln (49%) have a post-secondary degree.
 - 12% have an Associate's degree
 - 23% have a Bachelor's degree
 - 14% have a Graduate or professional degree



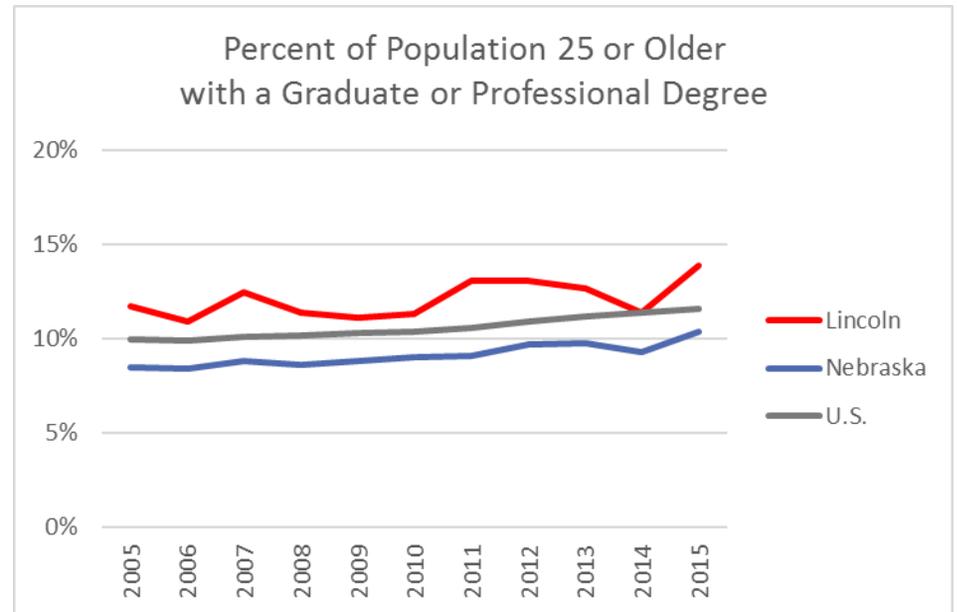
Compared to the U.S., Lincoln has a highly-educated workforce

Figure 27



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, Table DP02.

Figure 28



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, Table DP02.

- Lincoln’s workforce has a higher percentage of people with at least a high school diploma than the U.S. as a whole.
- In the past decade, Lincoln’s workforce with at least a high school diploma has exceeded:
 - The Nebraska rate by 3%
 - The national rate by 7%
- The percent of the workforce with at least a high school diploma has been fairly steady in the past decade, averaging:
 - 93% for Lincoln
 - 90% for Nebraska
 - 86% nationally

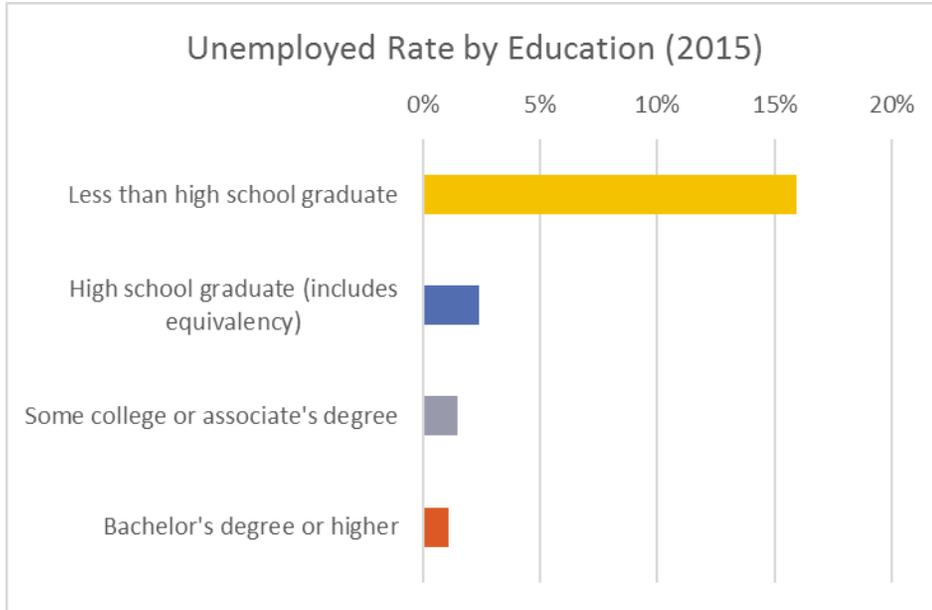
- Lincoln’s workforce has a higher percentage of people with graduate or professional degrees than the U.S. as a whole.
- Since 2005, Lincoln’s workforce with a graduate or professional degree has exceeded:
 - The Nebraska rate by 3%
 - The national rate by 2%
- The percent of the workforce with graduate or professional degrees has been fairly steady in the past decade, averaging:
 - 12% for Lincoln
 - 9% for Nebraska
 - 11% nationally





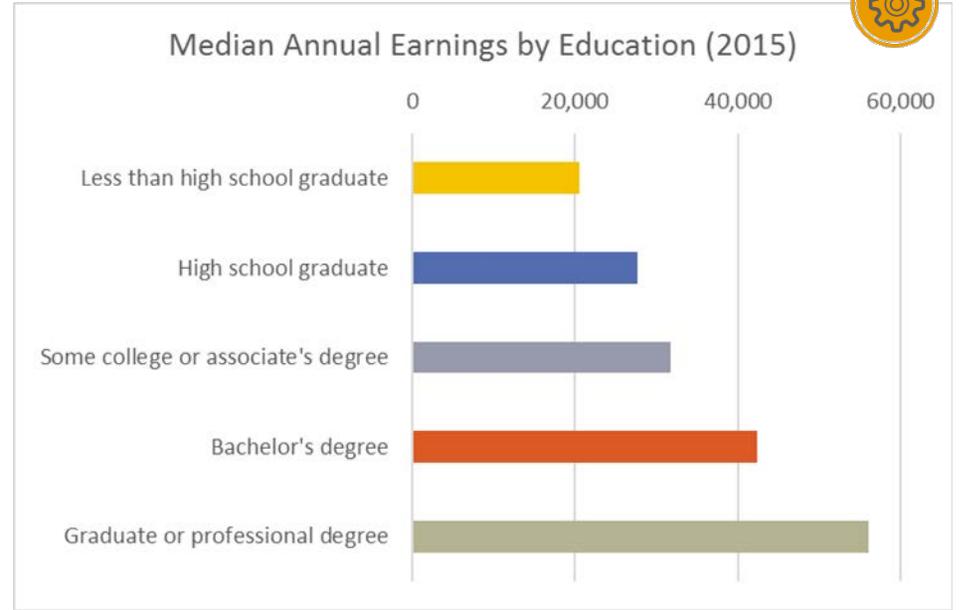
Persons with higher educational attainment have lower unemployment and greater earnings

Figure 29



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, Table B23006.
Note: Chart based on population 25 years and older.

Figure 30



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, Table B20004.
Note: Chart based on population 25 years and older.

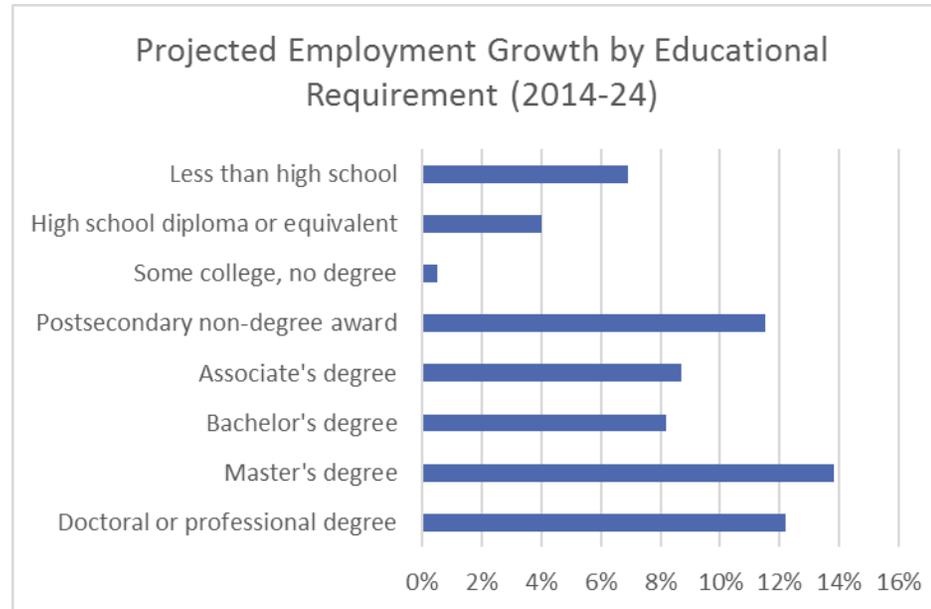
- Adults with higher educational attainment are less likely to be unemployed than adults with lower educational attainment.

- Adults with higher educational attainment have higher incomes/earnings.
 - Adults who did not graduate from high school earn less than half the income of an adult with a Bachelor's degree.



Jobs requiring a Master's degree are expected to grow the fastest in the next decade

Figure 31



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics Program.

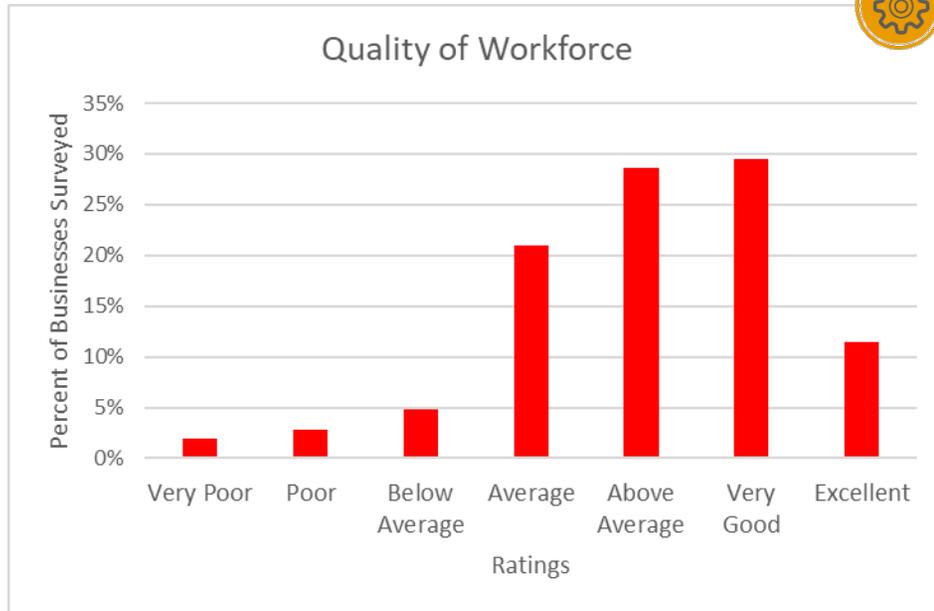
- It is difficult to know exactly what skills Lincoln residents will need to meet the demands of the future.
- Nationally, jobs requiring a Masters degree are expected to grown the fastest.
 - Jobs requiring a high school diploma, or some college but no degree, are expected to have the slowest growth.
- Occupations experiencing the highest growth include those in the fields of healthcare, personal care, computers, social services, and construction.
- Jobs requiring a high school diploma or less will account for the majority (51%) of new jobs between 2014 and 2024.²





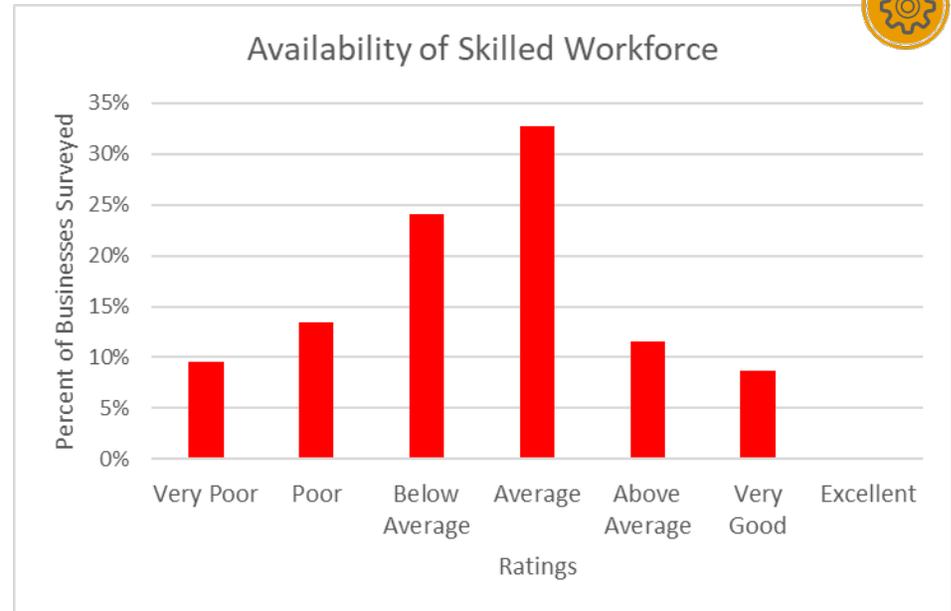
Businesses give high ratings to the quality of Lincoln's workforce, but lower for availability

Figure 32



Source: Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development, Business Conditions and Indicators Report.

Figure 33



Source: Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development, Business Conditions and Indicators Report.

- Lincoln's workforce receives high ratings for quality from local area businesses.
 - In 2016, the average rating for workforce quality was 5.1, with most ratings being above average or higher.

- Lincoln businesses report some difficulty finding qualified applicants to fill the jobs they have available: Lincoln's workforce receives fairly average ratings for availability of skilled workers.
 - In 2016, the average rating for skilled workforce availability was 3.5, in the middle of the 1 to 7 scale.





Most workers are employed by private companies

Table 4

Civilian Workforce Employment Class		
Class of Worker	Number	Percent
Private wage and salary workers	114,865	76%
Government workers	29,421	20%
Self-employed in own (not incorporated) business workers	6,049	4%



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, Table DP03.

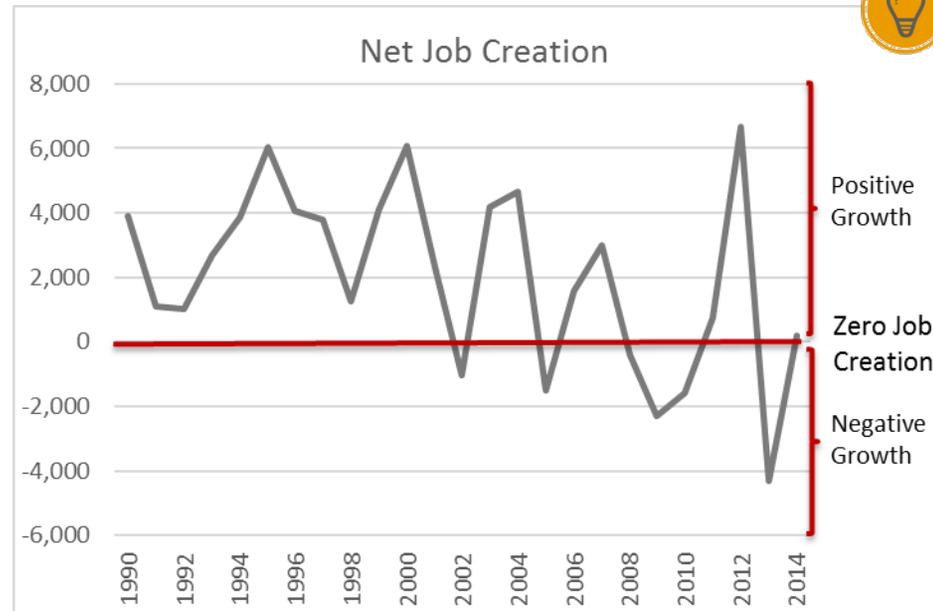
- In Lincoln in 2015, people were employed by the following class of employer:
 - 76% were private wage and salary workers
 - 20% were federal, state, or local government workers
 - 4% were self-employed in their own (not incorporated) business





Net job creation is on a downward trend

Figure 34



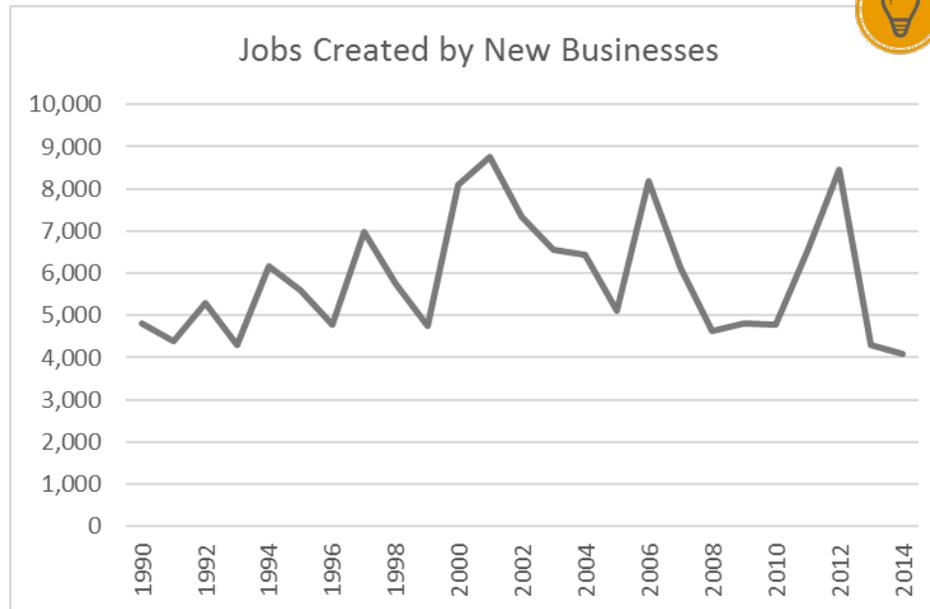
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Business Dynamics Statistics (BDS).

- Net job creation among all businesses has not always been positive, and is on a downward trend over the past couple decades.



New business job growth has fluctuated, but on average, is fairly steady

Figure 35



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Business Dynamics Statistics (BDS).

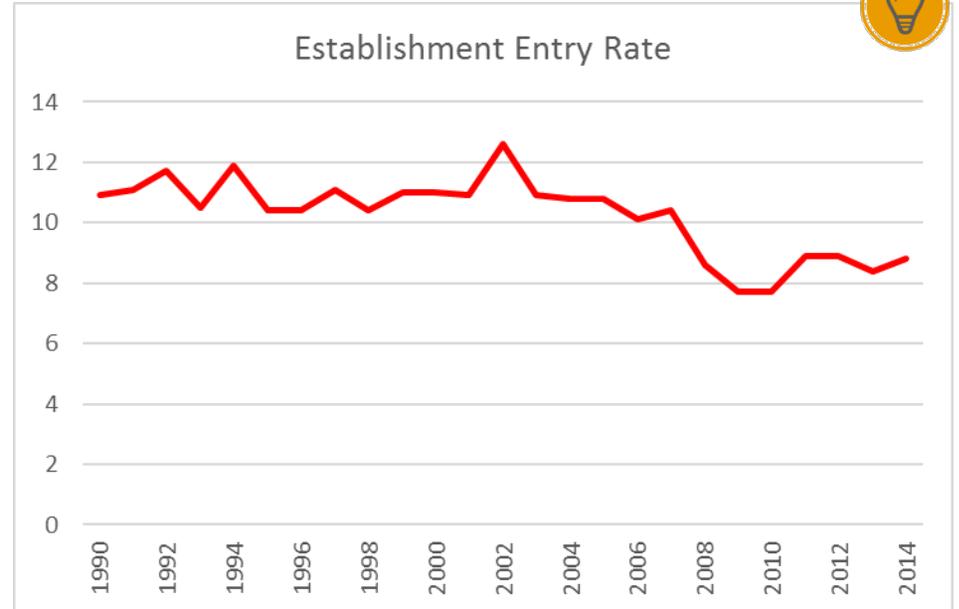
- New businesses, across the U.S., drive job growth.
- In Lincoln, the number of jobs created by new businesses has fluctuated but remaining steady on average.
- New businesses have created an average of 5,882 new jobs per year.



The rate of establishment of new businesses has increased since the Great Recession



Figure 36



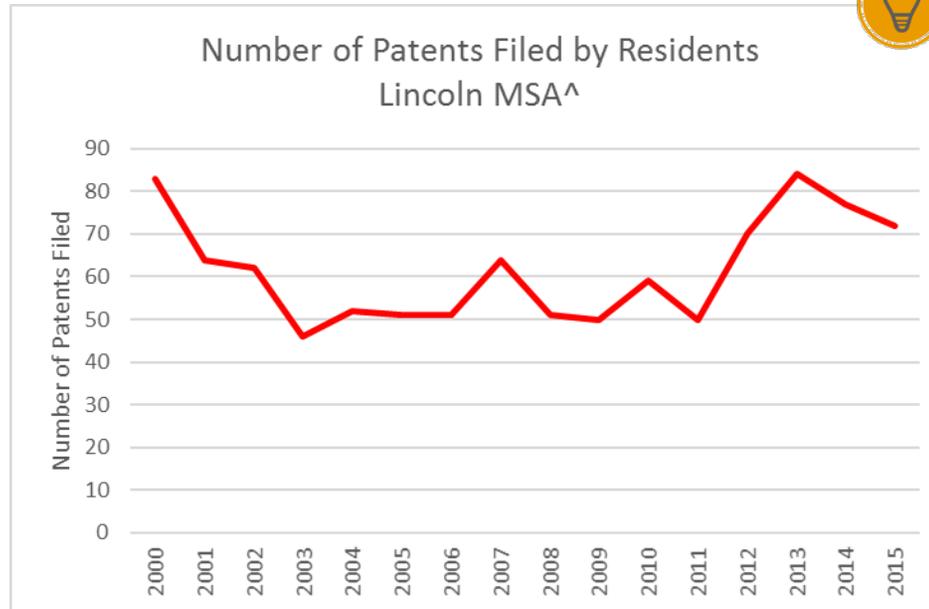
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Business Dynamics Statistics (BDS).

- The establishment of new businesses (as a percentage of existing businesses) is a measure of business growth.
- Business growth declined after 2007, when it was at 10%, but has increased since hitting a low of 8% in 2010.
 - In 2014, the rate was 9%.



Innovation, as measured by patents, has been on an upward trend

Figure 37



Source: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Patent Technology Monitoring Team.

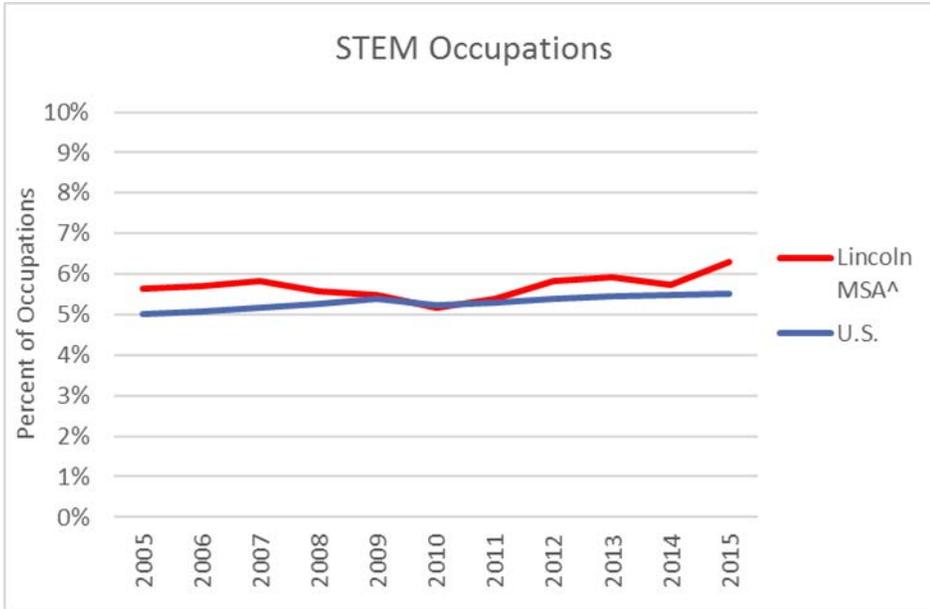
^The Lincoln Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) consists of Lancaster and Seward Counties.

- Patent filing is a reasonable proxy for innovation in a community.³
- The first decade of the 21st century was fairly flat, but the number of patents in the last several years has increased.



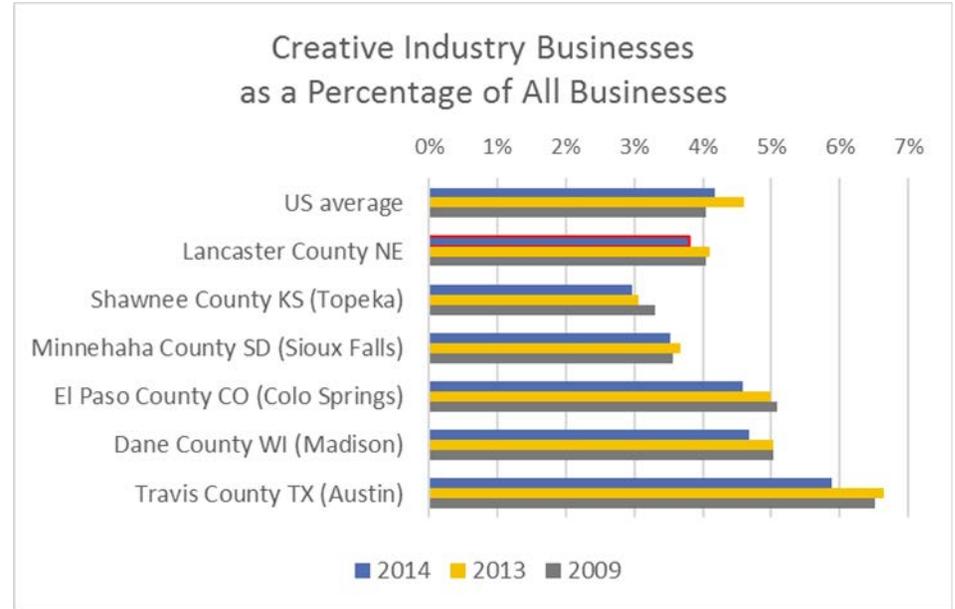
The proportion of Lincoln's STEM workforce and creative industries is average

Figure 38



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates.
[^]The Lincoln Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) consists of Lancaster and Seward Counties.

Figure 39



Source: Americans for the Arts, National Arts Index.

There is a general consensus that the United States' long-term global competitiveness will partially hinge on the supply and quality of workers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.⁴ STEM careers are important to communities because they offer high wage jobs that will result in reinvestments back into local economies.⁵

- In the Lincoln Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA: Lancaster and Seward counties), STEM occupations had decreased during and after the recession, but have rebounded since 2010.
- In Lincoln, 6.3% of all occupations are classified as STEM.
 - This is a slightly higher than the national percentage of 5.5% of all occupations in STEM.

Arts-related businesses are an important component of a community's culture. Creative industries are those with arts-centric Standard Industrial Classification, including those in performing arts, visual arts/photography, film/radio/television, design/publishing, and museums.

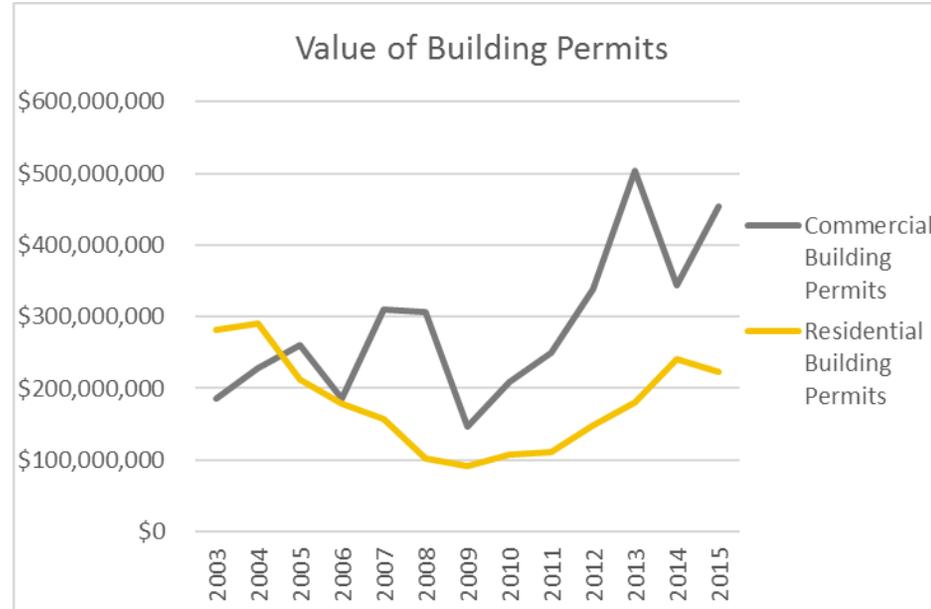
- Lincoln has a smaller proportion of creative industry businesses (3.8%) than is the average nationally (4.2%).
- Lincoln exceeds both Sioux Falls, SD and Topeka, KS, but trails Colorado Springs, CO (4.6%), Madison, WI (4.7%), and Austin, TX (5.9%).⁶





Private investment in Lincoln is growing

Figure 40



Sources: Commercial permit data from City of Lincoln. Residential permit data from U.S. Census Bureau, Building Permits Survey.

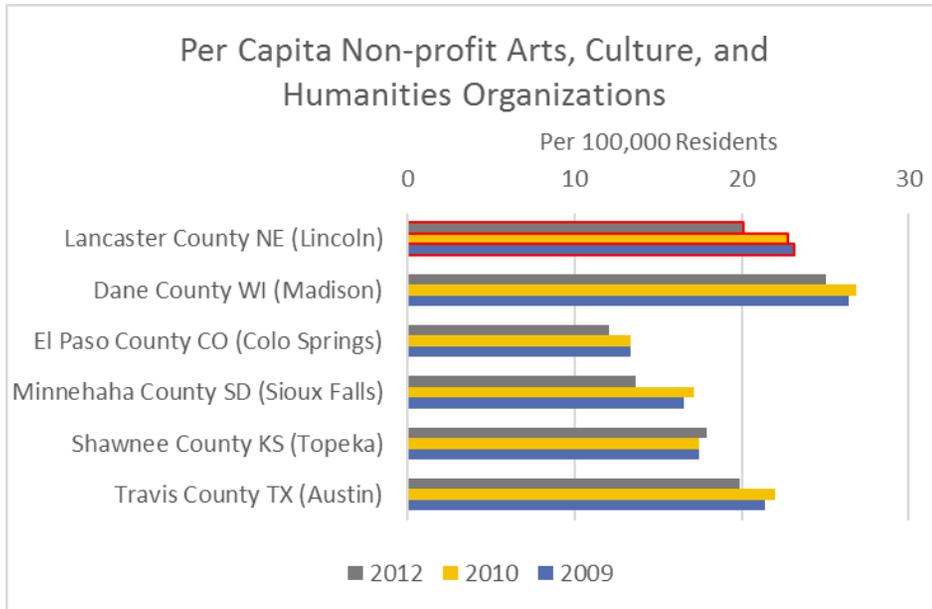
Note: Residential permits are for new privately-owned residential housing units.

- Lincoln continues to invest in new commercial buildings and residences.
- The value of commercial building permits has been on an upward trend since 2009.
- Public/private investments have played a substantial role in commercial building activity.
 - For example, in 2012, commercial building permits for the Pinnacle Bank Arena comprised 43% of the total value of commercial building permits.
- The value of residential building permits began rebounding in 2010, but has grown slower than commercial building permits.
 - The 2015 annual value of new buildings is about the same as it was in 2005.
- The overall pattern of precipitous declines in the middle part of the decade, with recovery slowly starting near the end of the decade, mirrors the residential building pattern for the United States as a whole.



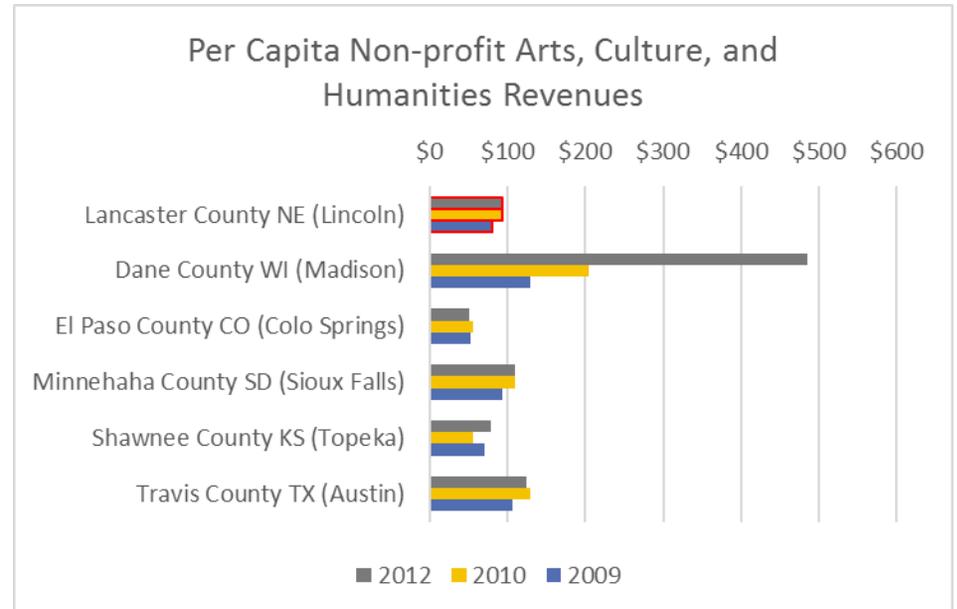
Lincoln has many arts and cultural organizations but lags in supporting them

Figure 41



Source: Americans for the Arts, National Arts Index.

Figure 42



Source: Americans for the Arts, National Arts Index.

Communities where people want to live have flourishing arts and cultural programs.

- At approximately 20 arts organizations per 100,000 population, Lincoln has a relatively large number of non-profit arts organizations when compared to its selected peer and aspirational communities.⁶
- Only Madison, Wisconsin has a greater number than Lincoln.
- The annual revenues generated by arts and cultural organizations are a proxy for community support of these organizations and for the overall cultural life of a community. Lincoln lags in per capita support of these organizations.
- In Lincoln, per capita expenditures toward non-profit arts is \$90 annually, which is surpassed by Austin, Texas (\$113), Sioux Falls, SD (\$116), and Madison, Wisconsin (\$168).



Economy and Workforce Chapter Notes

1. The median is considered a better measure of average household income than is the mean.
2. Employment Projections Program, U.S. Department of Labor, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.
3. Acs, Z. J., Anselin, L., & Varga, A. (2002). Patents and innovation counts as measures of regional production of new knowledge. *Research Policy*, 31, 1069-1085.
4. Committee on Prospering in the Global Economy of the 21st Century. (2007). *Rising above the gathering storm; Energizing and employing America for a brighter economic future*. Washington, D.C.: National Academies Press.
5. Rothwell, J. (2013). The hidden STEM economy. *Metropolitan Policy Program*. Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institute.
6. Peer and aspirational communities used in this report are those identified in the *2013 Lincoln Economic Dashboard* created by the Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development.



Basic Needs



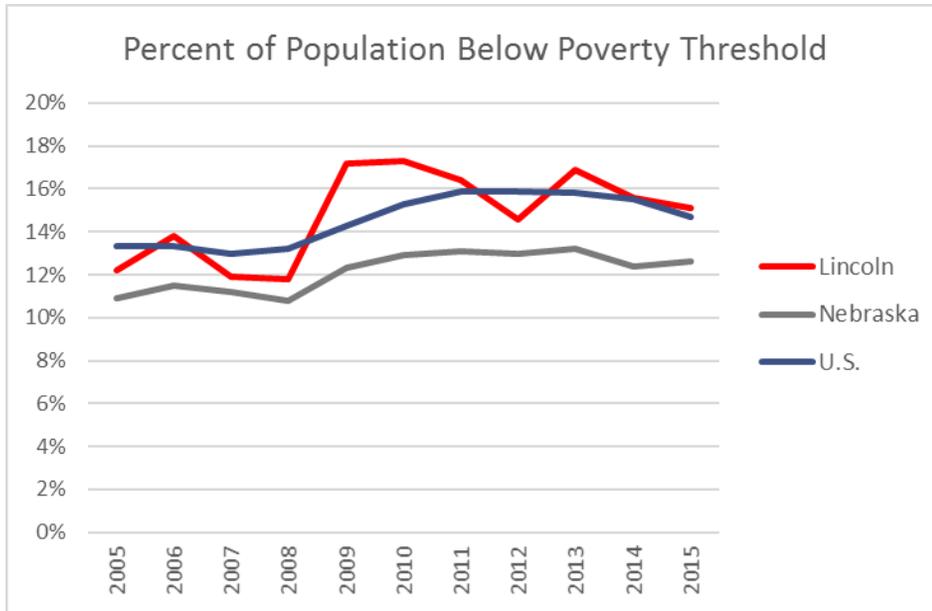
Basic Needs

Basic needs are the fundamental requirements that must be met in order for individuals to live. Although Lincoln did not experience the high unemployment rates seen in other areas of the United States, Lincoln residents experienced a dramatic increase in poverty during the 2007 to 2009 recession. **Lincoln's poverty rate is now 15%**, about the same as the rest of the nation. The number of **students receiving free lunch has doubled since 2005¹**. The number of households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP; formerly known as food stamps) benefits increased between 2008 and 2009 and has remained level since. Lincoln has **five neighborhoods in extreme poverty** (more than 40% of residents in poverty). In other ways, Lincoln appears to provide positive opportunities for people to meet their basic needs: **homeless rates have declined** to pre-recession levels, **housing costs are lower** than the national average, and the **percentage of the population that is uninsured has decreased**.



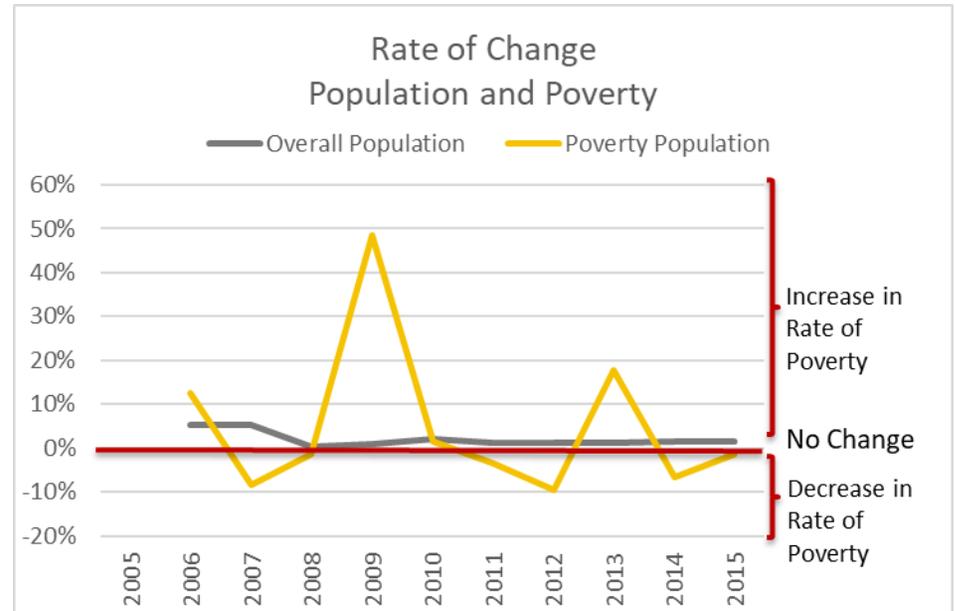
Lincoln's number of persons in poverty has increased 45% in the past decade

Figure 43



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, Table S1701.

Figure 44



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, Table S1701.

The federal poverty level is determined annually based on size of the family, the number of children, and a measure of income needed to purchase food and other essential goods and services.² In 2015, for example, the poverty threshold was \$24,036 for a family of four that included two related children less than 19 years of age.

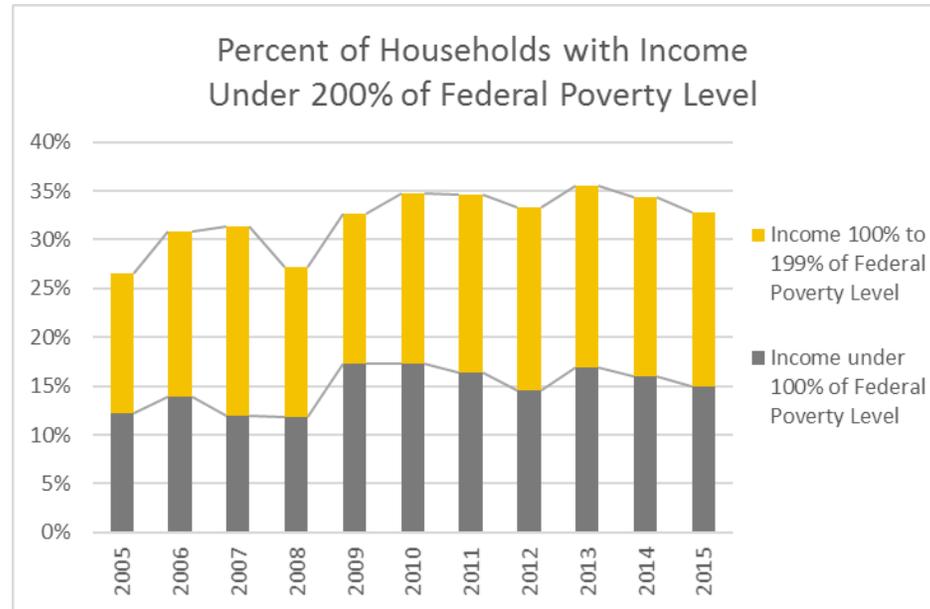
- In Lincoln in 2015, 15% (39,974 persons) lived in households following below the poverty threshold.
- Since 2005, there has been a 45% increase in the number of persons below the poverty threshold. This represents an additional 12,461 persons in poverty.
- This number has declined 4% since 2009, but is still 43% higher than it was in 2008.
- In 2015 there was a 3% decrease in the poverty rate compared to the previous year.
- The increase of the number of persons in poverty in Lincoln exceeds the city's overall growth.
 - This suggests that persons who previously did not fall below the poverty threshold have done so.
- The last year of the recent recession (2009) saw a nearly 50% increase in Lincoln's poverty rate.
 - This increase was from 28,012 persons in 2008 to 41,628 persons in 2009.





Households in or near poverty is 23% higher than in 2005

Figure 45



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, Table C17002.

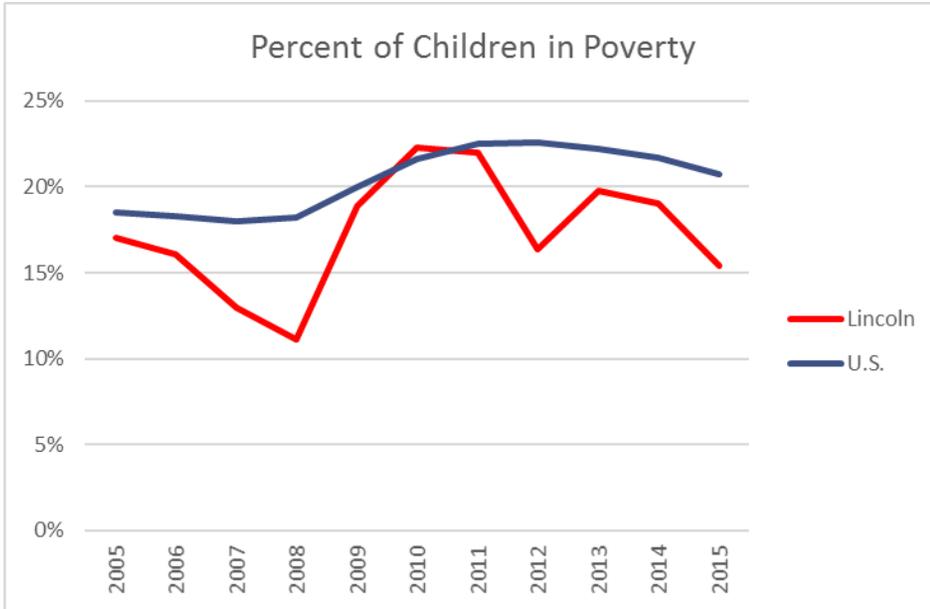
Households with incomes at 200% the federal poverty level or below are sometimes referred to as households “in or near poverty.”

- The percentage of households with incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level now represents approximately one-third of Lincoln’s households and has not fallen to pre-Recession levels.
 - The proportion of households in or near poverty has been decreasing since 2013.



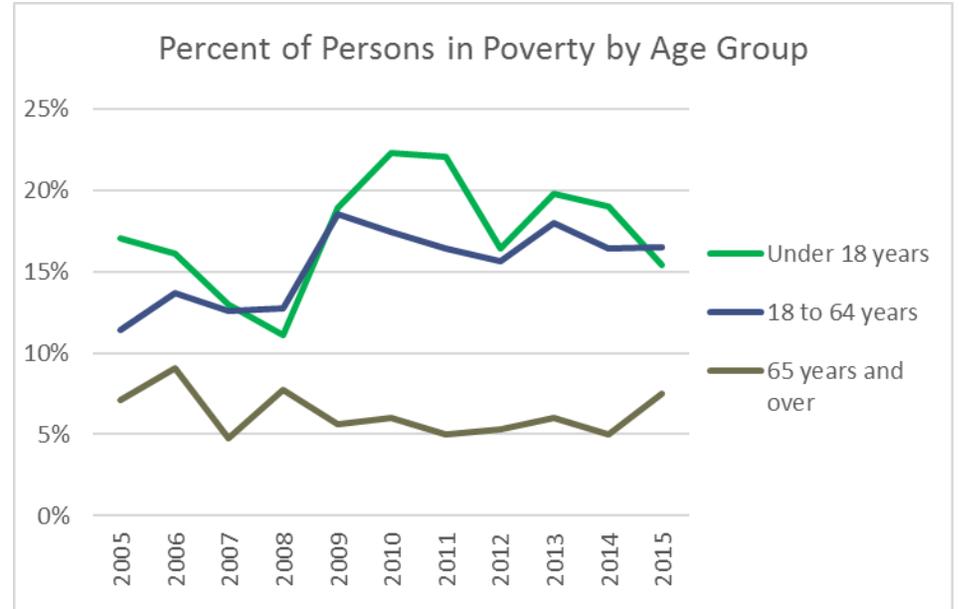
The percentage of children in poverty has fallen below the pre-Recession rate

Figure 46



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, Table S1701.

Figure 47



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, Table S1701.

Children who live in poverty face tougher odds for achievement than do other children. Children who live in poverty for at least half of their childhoods are 90% more likely to leave high school without a diploma and four times more likely to be an unwed teen parent when compared with people who were never poor as children.³

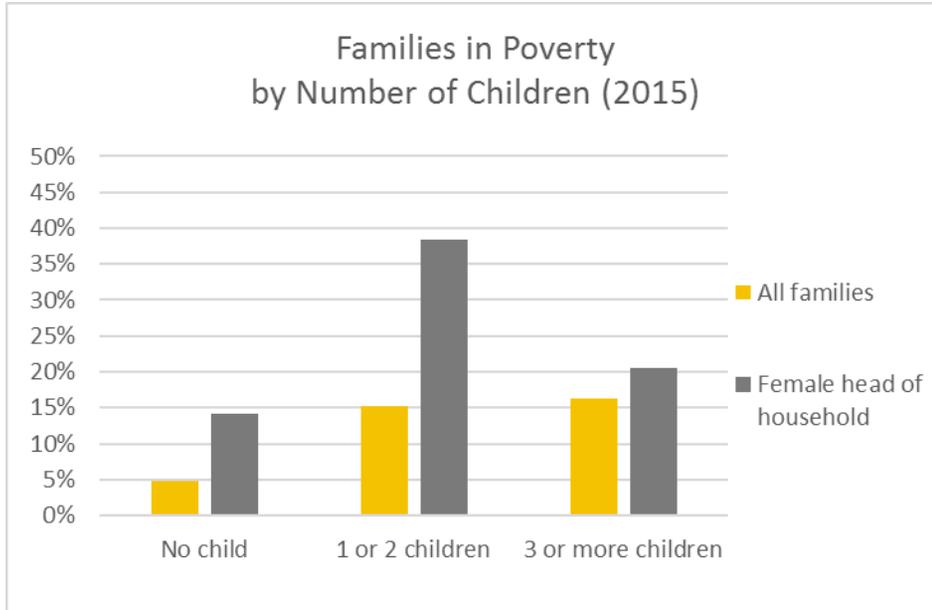
- 9,581 children in Lincoln currently live in poverty.
 - Most children in poverty are White non-Hispanic/Latino, given the composition of the community.
 - However, minority children are more likely to live in poverty than White children.
- Children (15%) and adults (17%) have close to the same rate of poverty.
- Persons 65 years or older have a lower rate of poverty (8%) than other age groups.





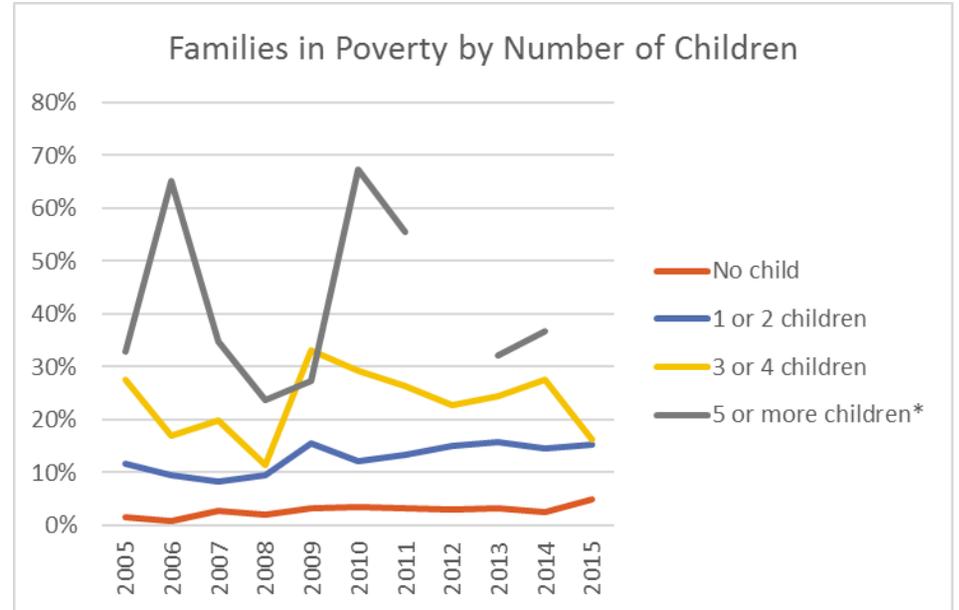
Female headed households and households with multiple children are more likely to be in poverty

Figure 48



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, Table S1702.

Figure 49



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, Table S1702.

*There were no families with five or more children surveyed in 2012 and 2015.

- Single head of household families, particularly those headed by a female, are more likely to have incomes at or below the poverty threshold.
 - Of all female-headed households, 36% have incomes below the poverty threshold, compared to 6% of married-couple families.⁴
 - There are 1,140 married-couple families in poverty and 2,378 female-headed families in poverty.
- Nearly 16% of all families, including those that are married couples or single heads of household, with more than two children have incomes at or below the poverty threshold.
 - For female-headed households with more than two children, 21% are at or below the poverty threshold.

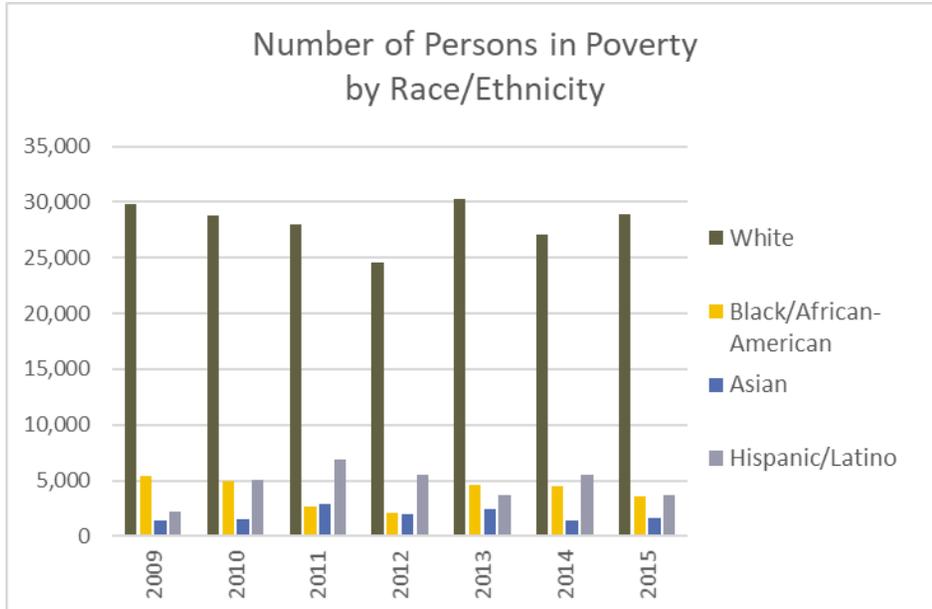
- Poverty rises with increasing numbers of children in a family.





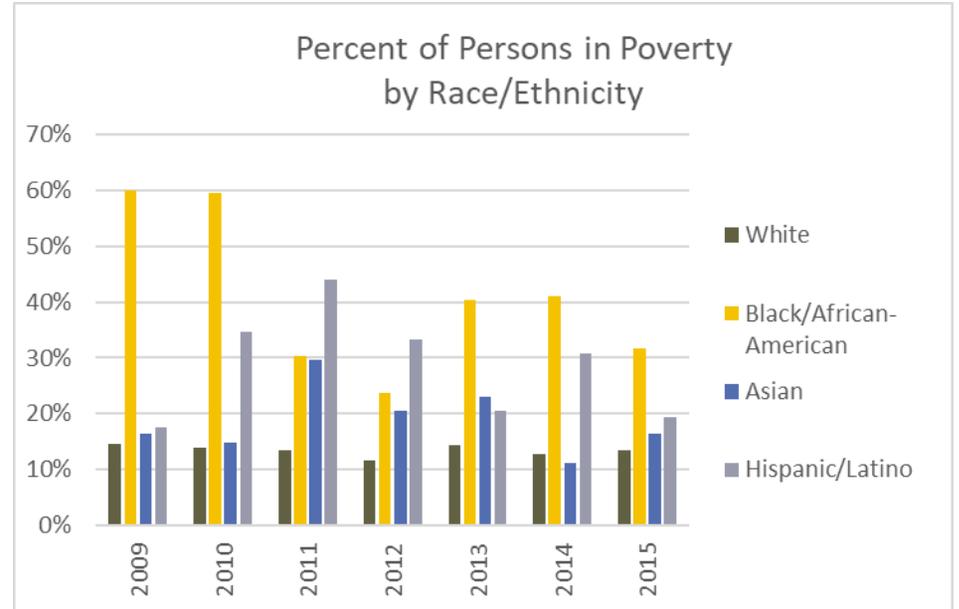
Most persons in poverty are White

Figure 50



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, Table S1701.
 Note: Chart includes race/ethnic groups that make up 1% or more of Lincoln's population.

Figure 51



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, Table S1701.
 Note: Chart includes race/ethnic groups that make up 1% or more of Lincoln's population.

- Most individuals in poverty are White non-Hispanic/Latino (28,889 persons in 2015).

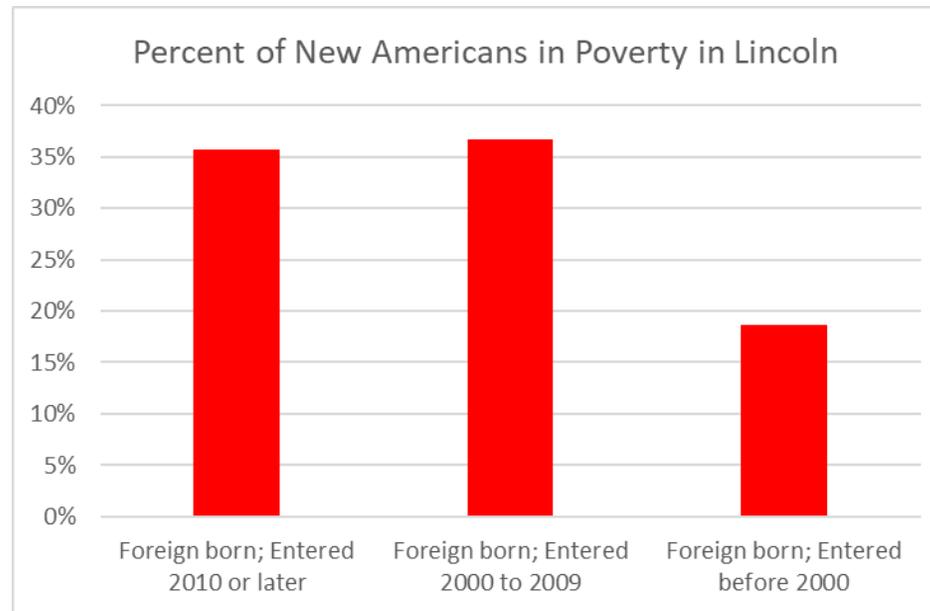
- Poverty rates vary by race and ethnicity.
 - Rates of poverty for Whites have held steady at about 13% since 2009 and have been the lowest of all races/ethnicities.
 - The rate of poverty among Blacks/African-Americans has dropped from 60% to 32%, but is still the highest rate of poverty among major races/ethnicities in Lincoln.
- Given Lincoln's increasingly diverse population, the high poverty rates among racial and ethnic minorities are cause for concern.





Newer New Americans have higher poverty rates

Figure 52



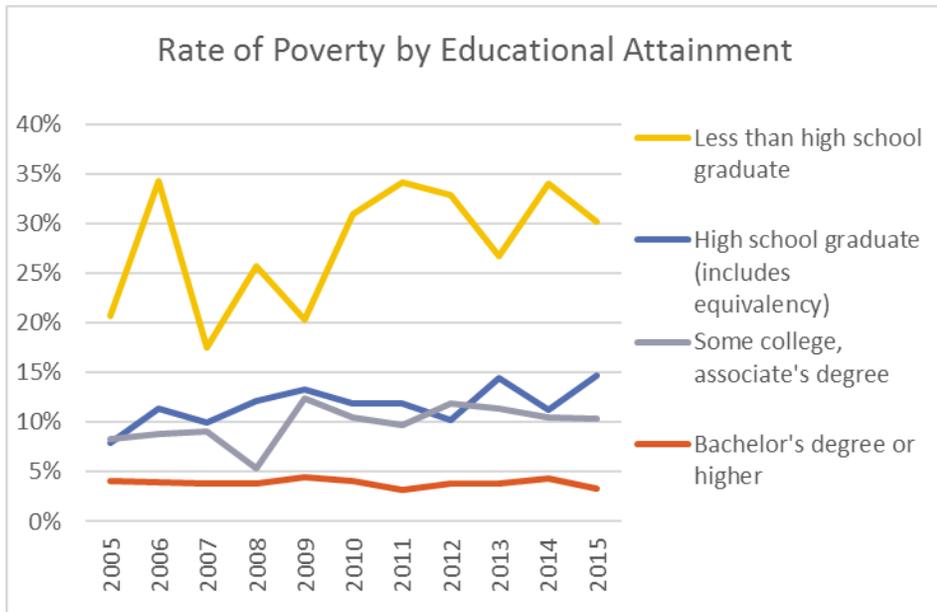
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-year estimates, Table S1701.

- Approximately 21,000 foreign-born persons live in Lincoln.
- Among that group, persons who entered the United States in 2000 or later have greater rates of poverty (36%) than those who entered the United States prior to 2000 (19%).



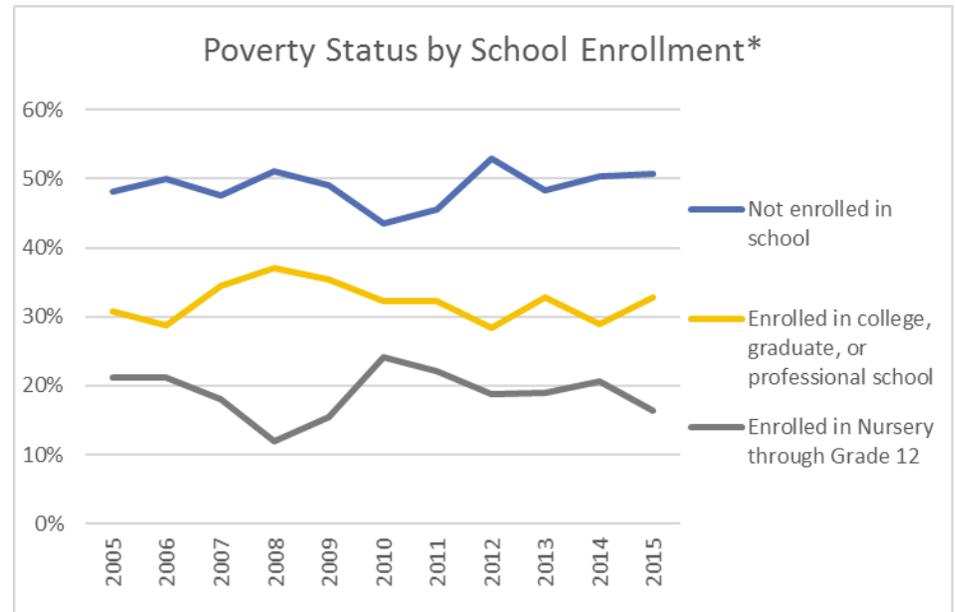
Poverty rates are higher among those with less educational attainment

Figure 53



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, Table S1701.
 Note: Chart based on population 25 years and older.

Figure 54



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, Table S1701.
 *Determined for persons 3 years of age and older.

- Lincoln residents with less than a high school diploma had greater poverty rates than those who achieved greater levels of educational attainment:
 - 30% - Did not complete high school
 - 15% - High school graduate or equivalent
 - 10% - Some college, associate's degree
 - 3% - Bachelor's degree or higher
- The poverty rate for those with less than a high school diploma has not recovered completely from the recession.
- The poverty rate for other educational attainment groups was not greatly impacted by the recession and has remained fairly level for the past decade.

- Of persons in poverty, 51% are not enrolled in school.
- One-third of persons in poverty are enrolled in college or graduate/professional schools.
- Approximately 16% of persons in poverty are children enrolled in nursery school through grade 12.





There are five neighborhoods in extreme poverty

Table 5

Lincoln Census Tracts in Extreme Poverty			
Census Tract	2015	2013	2010
5	46%	47%	60%
18*	43%	33%	26%
20.01	43%	46%	55%
20.02	42%	44%	40%
7	40%	46%	32%
4^	36%	39%	42%
17^	36%	45%	38%
33.01^	35%	44%	41%
31.03^	30%	40%	47%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-year estimates, Table S1701.

*Added since the Lincoln Vital Signs 2015 report. ^No longer in extreme poverty.

Note: Does not include Census Tracts 6, 35, or 36.01.

Neighborhoods in extreme poverty are generally considered to be those with more than 40% of residents in poverty. At this concentrated level of poverty, individuals begin to face cultural and social constraints that isolate them from opportunities for economic advancement.^{5, 6}

- In 2000, Lincoln had no neighborhoods in extreme poverty.⁷
- In 2015, Lincoln had four neighborhoods in extreme poverty.
 - Neighborhoods in extreme poverty fluctuate over time, particularly for neighborhoods with poverty rates hovering close to 40%.
 - Census Tract 18 is a new extreme poverty neighborhood in this report (at 43%).

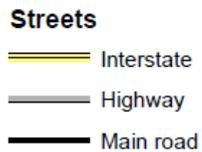
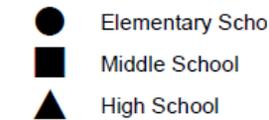
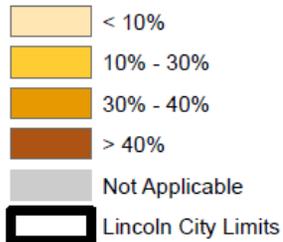
- Although each of the extreme poverty neighborhoods has a unique profile, there are some similarities:
 - All are relatively young communities with a smaller proportion of persons older than 60 living in them.
 - All have fewer family households than Lincoln as a whole.
 - All have high percentages of parents of children under 6 in the labor force, mirroring Lincoln as a whole.
 - All have relatively less educational attainment.
 - Three have a low proportion of college students.
 - Three have at least double the proportion of ethnic minority populations than Lincoln as a whole.
 - Three have a high unemployment rate.



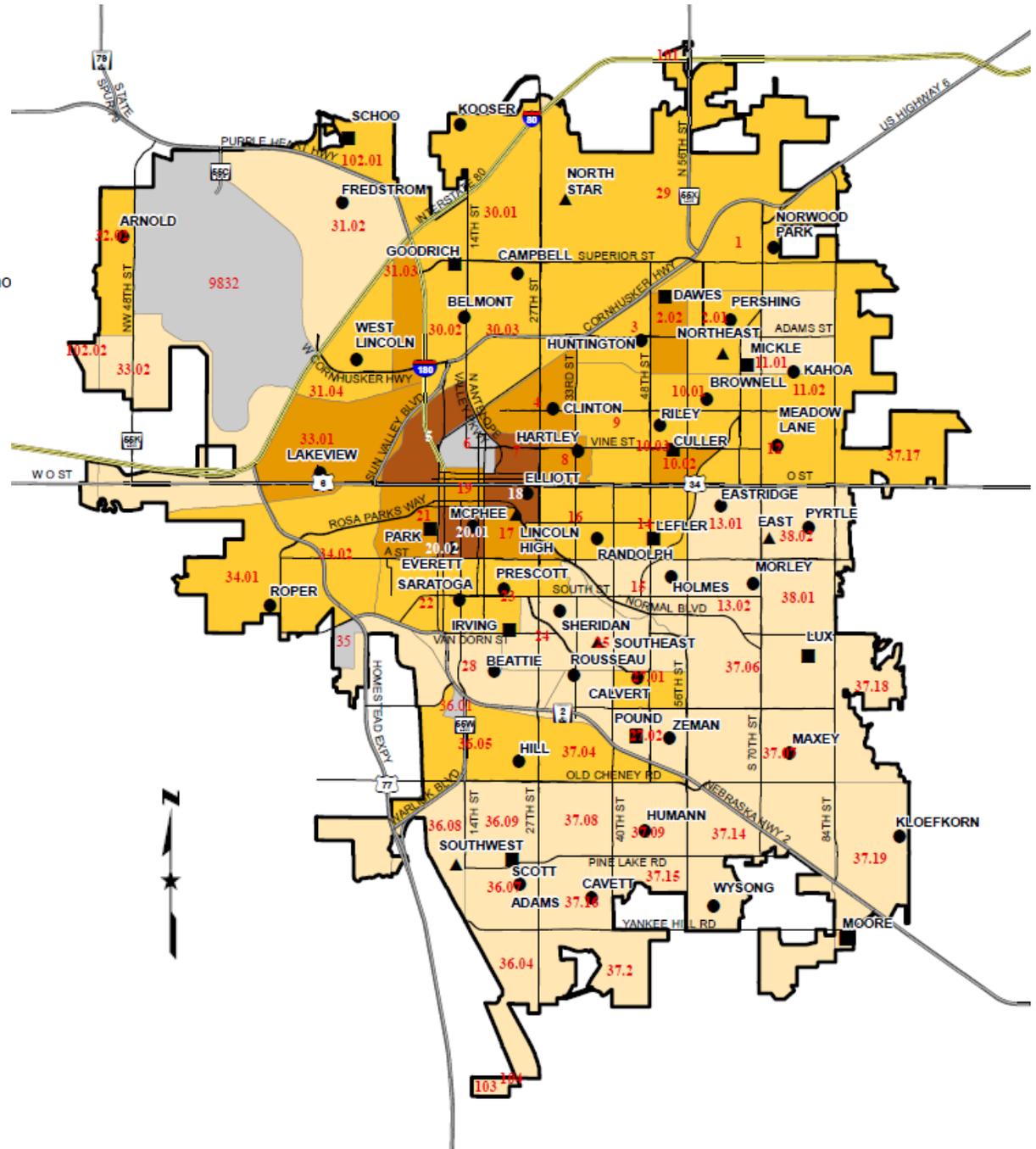
Map of Poverty by Census Tracts

Lincoln NE Poverty Rates

% Below Poverty Level - Last 12 Months LPS Schools

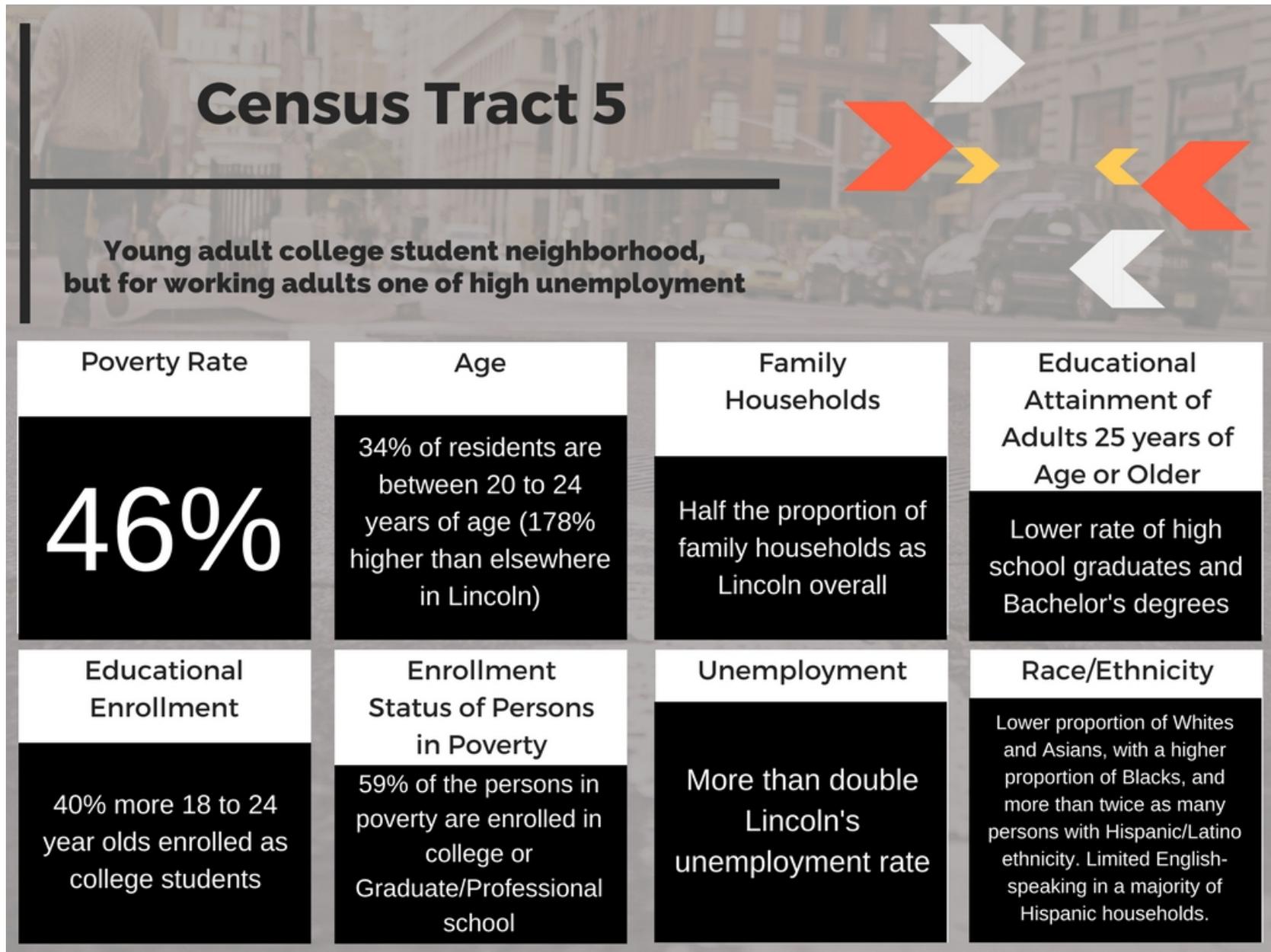


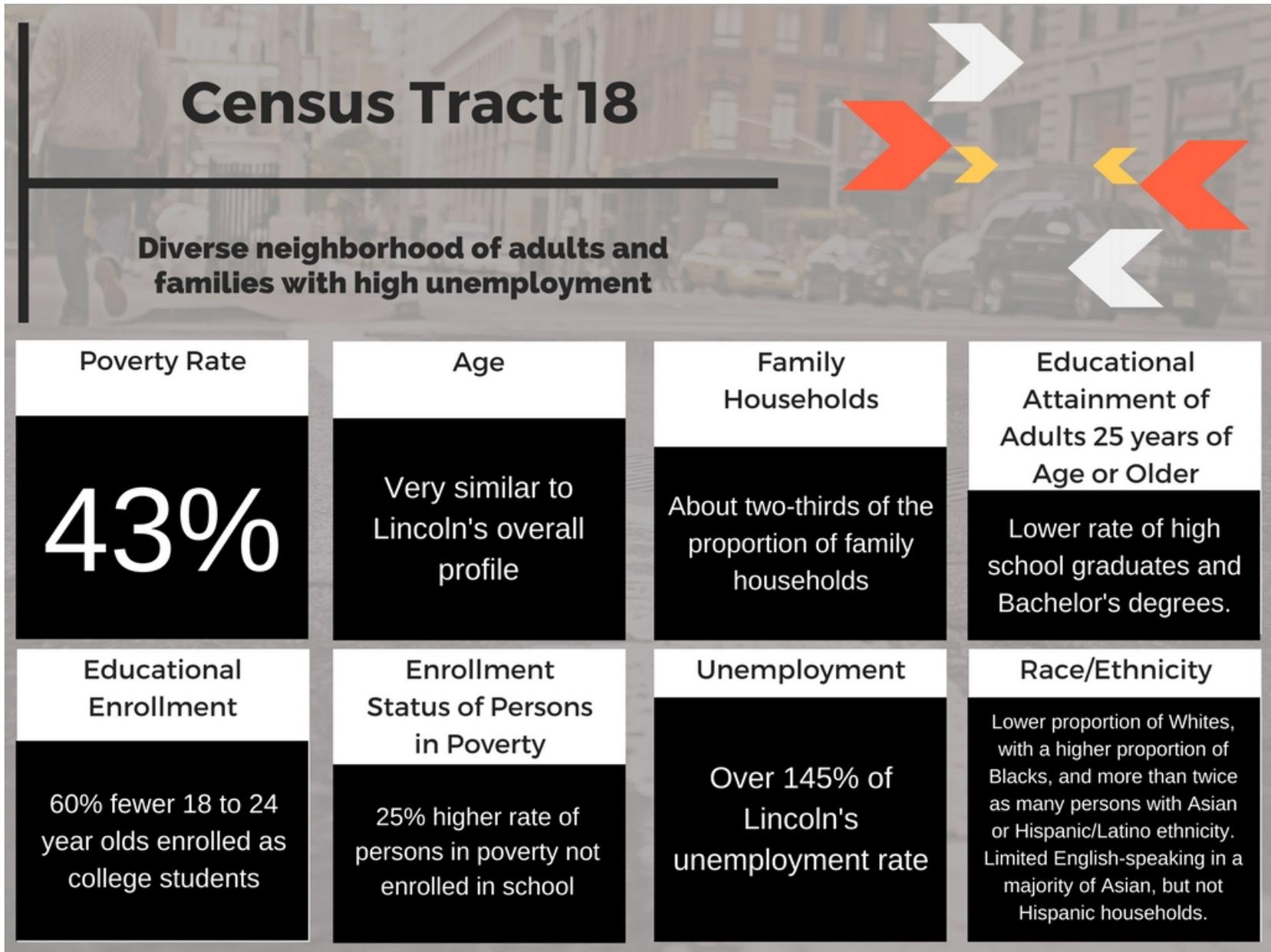
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-year estimates, Table S1701.

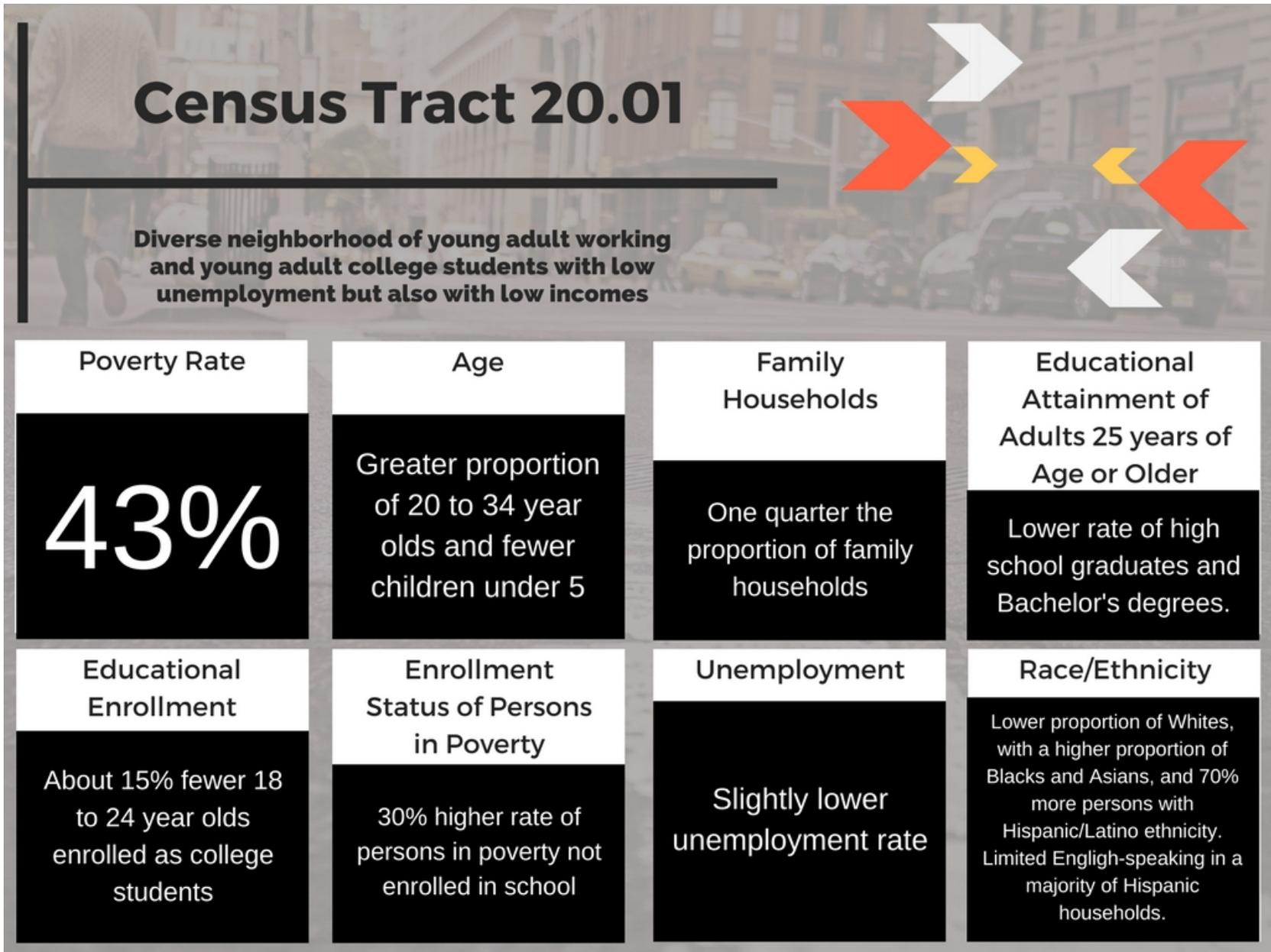


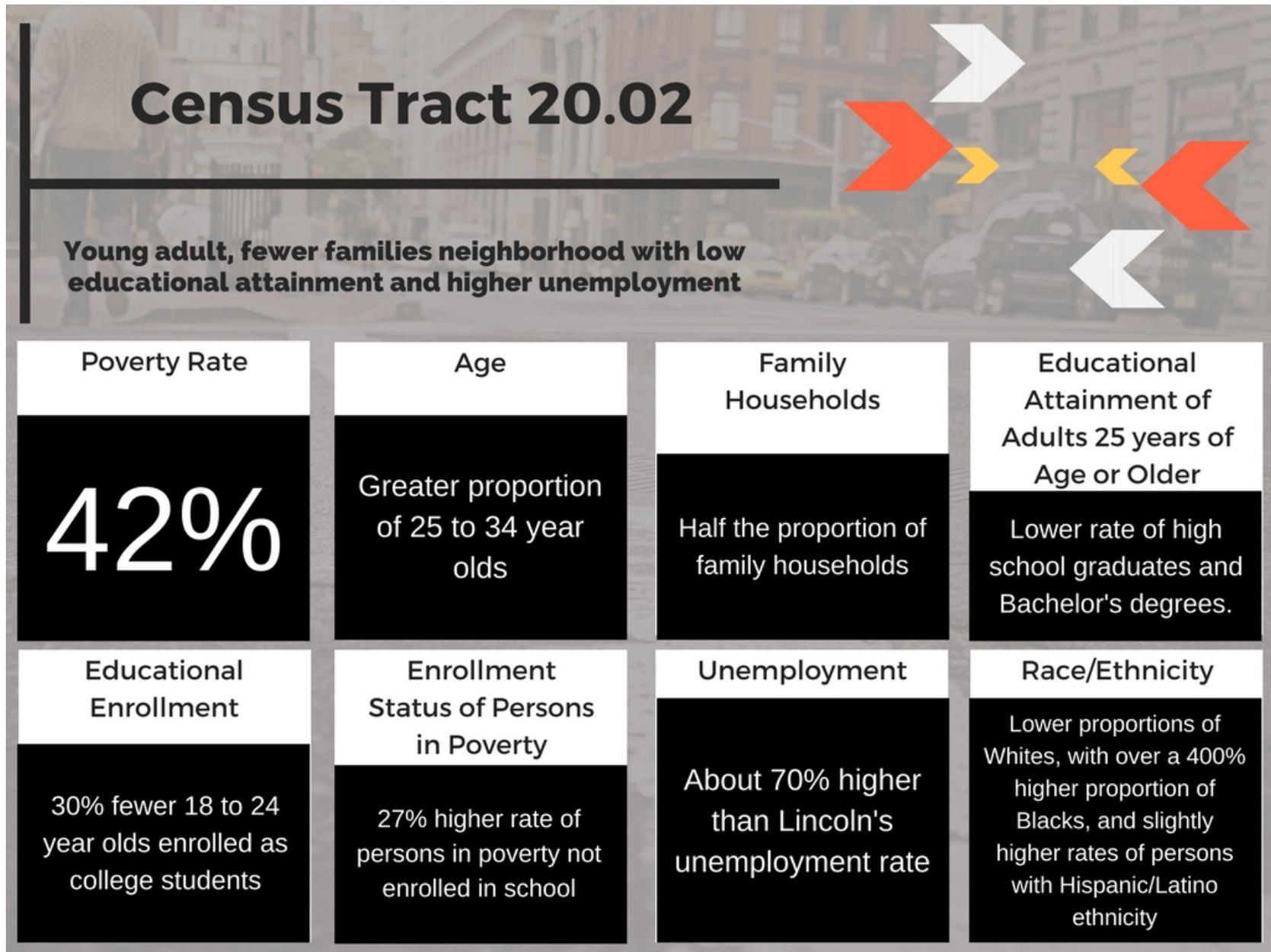
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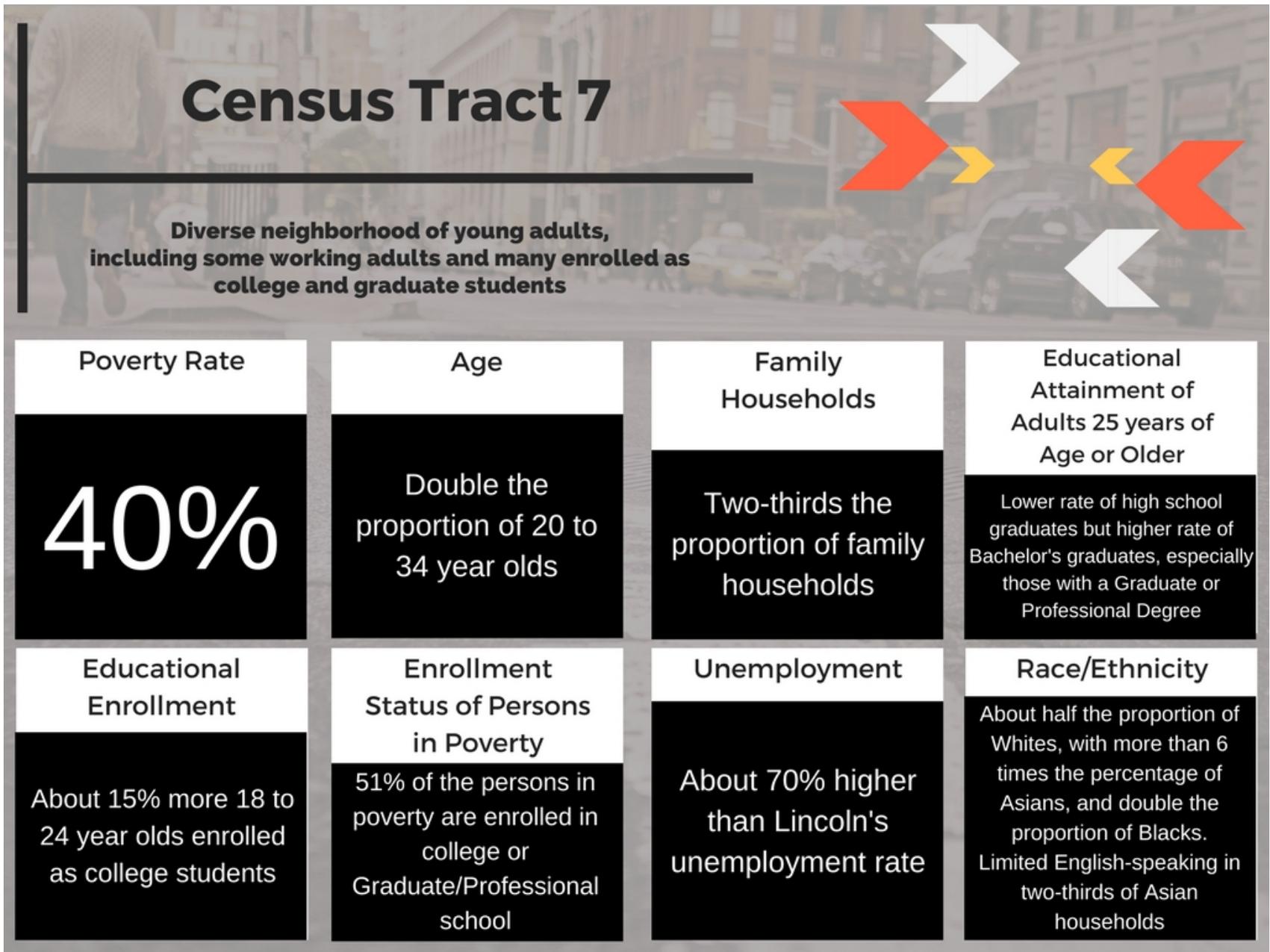






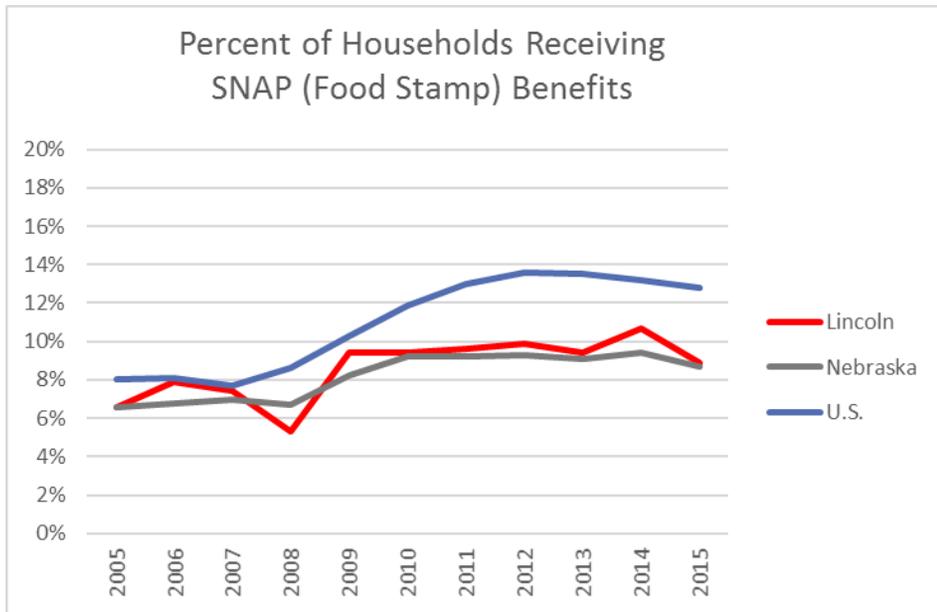






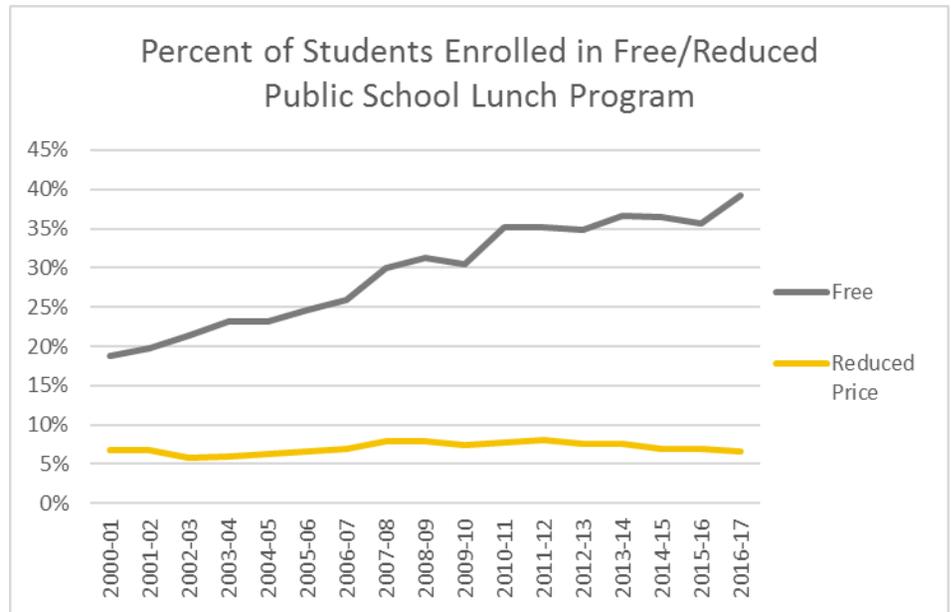
SNAP and free lunch program rates have increased dramatically

Figure 55



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, Table DP03.

Figure 56



Source: Lincoln Public Schools, Lincoln Public Schools Statistical Handbook, Table 1-24.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP; formerly called food stamps) provides financial assistance for food purchases to households with incomes below 130% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.⁸

In Nebraska, the average monthly benefit per household receiving SNAP is \$259.46.

- Participation in SNAP has increased 68% since 2008.
 - Most of this is attributable to a large increase between 2008 and 2009.⁹
- A lower percentage of households in Lincoln receive SNAP benefits (8.9%) than nationally (12.8%).

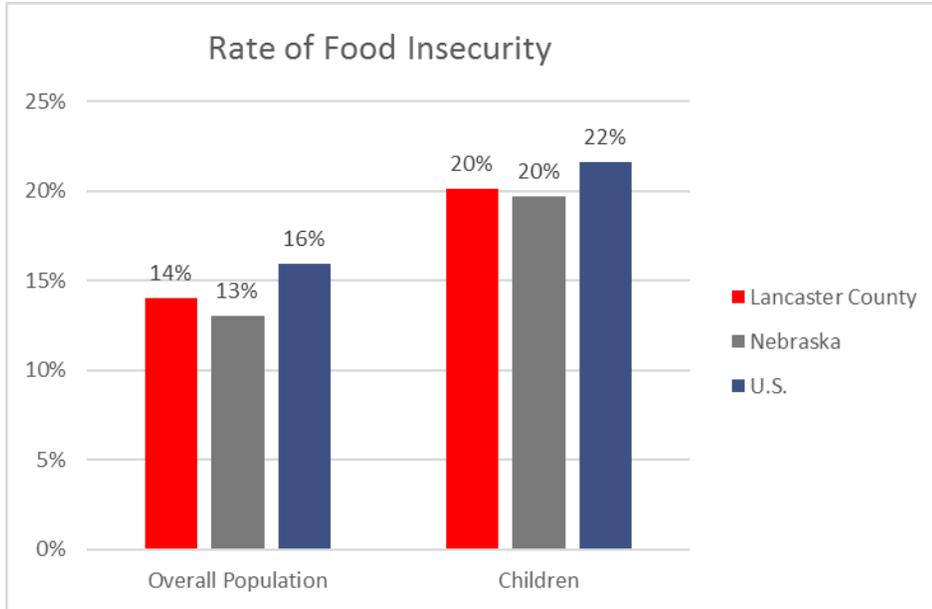
- 46% of Lincoln Public Schools students participate in the Free or Reduced Price Lunch Program (18,014 children).
- The number of Lincoln Public School students receiving free¹⁰ lunch has doubled in the past decade.
 - Students receiving free lunches totaled 15,427 for the 2016-17 school year.
- For more than a decade, students receiving reduced¹¹ price lunch has held steady.
 - In the 2016-17 school year, there were 2,587 students receiving reduced price lunches.
- This suggests that families facing great economic hardship have enrolled, while families facing lesser economic hardship have not enrolled.





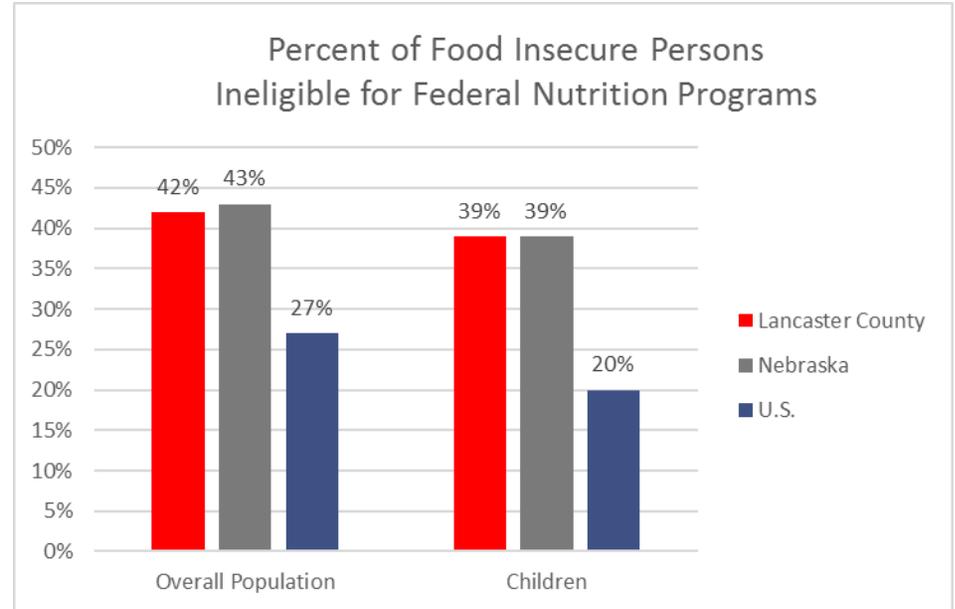
Lincoln has comparable rates of food insecurity, coupled with higher rates of ineligibility for federal nutrition programs

Figure 57



Source: Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap.

Figure 58



Source: Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) defines food insecurity as lack of consistent access to adequate food.¹² Food insecurity negatively impacts health.¹³ For children, it can also impede physical and mental development.¹⁴

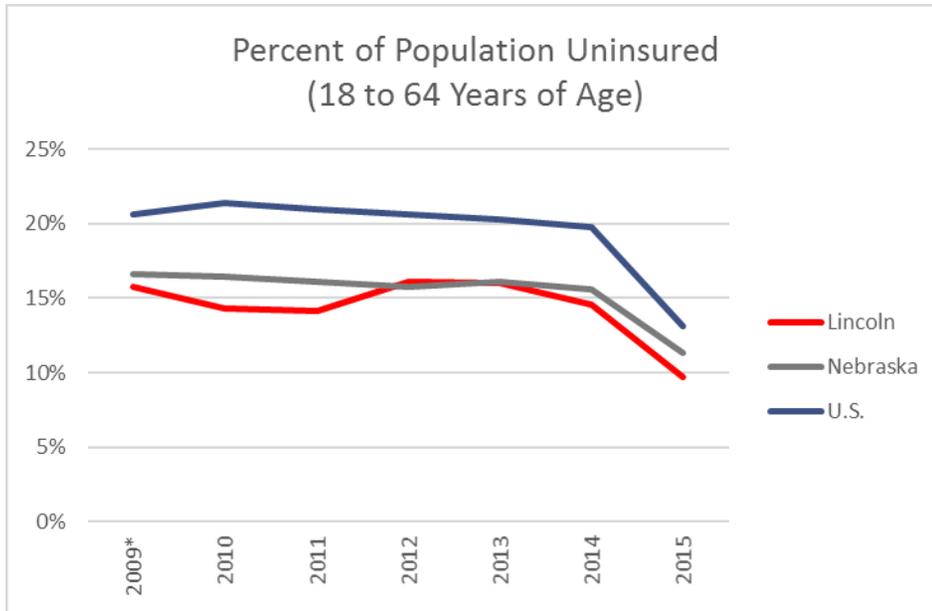
- Lincoln has about the same rate of food insecurity as the rest of the United States.
 - Food insecurity is higher for children than it is for the overall population.
 - 14% of all persons in Lancaster County, and 20% of children, are food insecure.
- Those who are food insecure are the ones who can benefit most from federal nutrition programs.
- Lancaster County has a higher rate of food insecure persons who are ineligible for federal nutrition programs compared to the United States overall.
 - 42% of people, and 39% of children, who are food insecure in Lancaster County are not eligible to receive federal nutrition benefits.





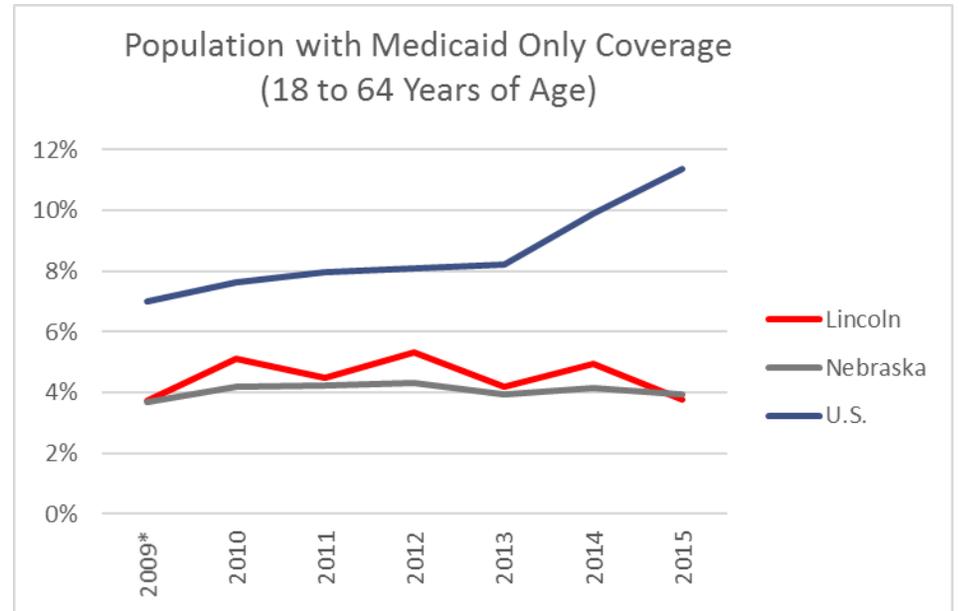
Uninsured population dramatically decreased in 2015

Figure 59



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, Table S2701.
 *2009 is the first year this data was collected.

Figure 60



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, Table B27010.
 *2009 is the first year this data was collected.

To identify the uninsured, it is common practice to focus on the population 18 to 64 years of age, because there are programs that ensure availability of health insurance to children (the Children’s Health Insurance Program, called *Kids Connection* in Nebraska) and elders (Medicare).

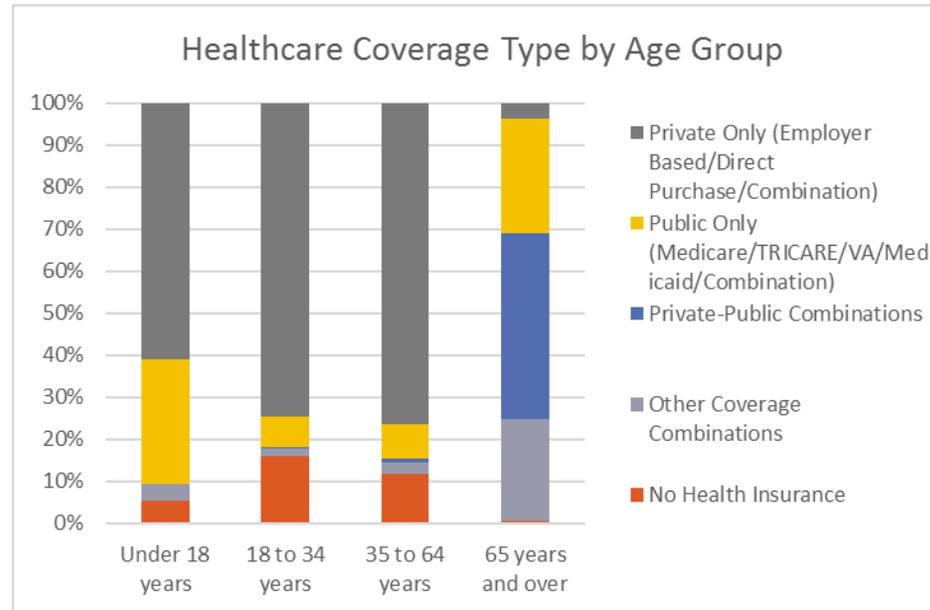
- The percentage of the population 18 to 64 years of age without health insurance in Lincoln is lower than the U.S. average.
 - In 2015, there were 21,991 uninsured people in Lincoln’s 18 to 64 age group.
- In Lincoln, the percentage of persons 18 to 64 years of age with Medicaid only coverage is higher than elsewhere in Nebraska, but lower than across the United States.
 - In 2015, there were 6,670 people in the 18 to 64 age group in Lincoln with Medicaid only health coverage. This is about 2,500 fewer people than in 2012, the largest count on record (9,224 people in 2012).
 - The count is close to the 2009 number on Medicaid (6,289 in 2009), the first year data was collected.





Insurance profile varies by age group

Figure 61



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-year estimates, Table B27010.

- Children and those 65 years and over have higher rates of publicly funded health insurance than do working age adults (18 to 64 years old).
- The working age population has the highest rates of no health insurance.



Housing costs in Lincoln are low

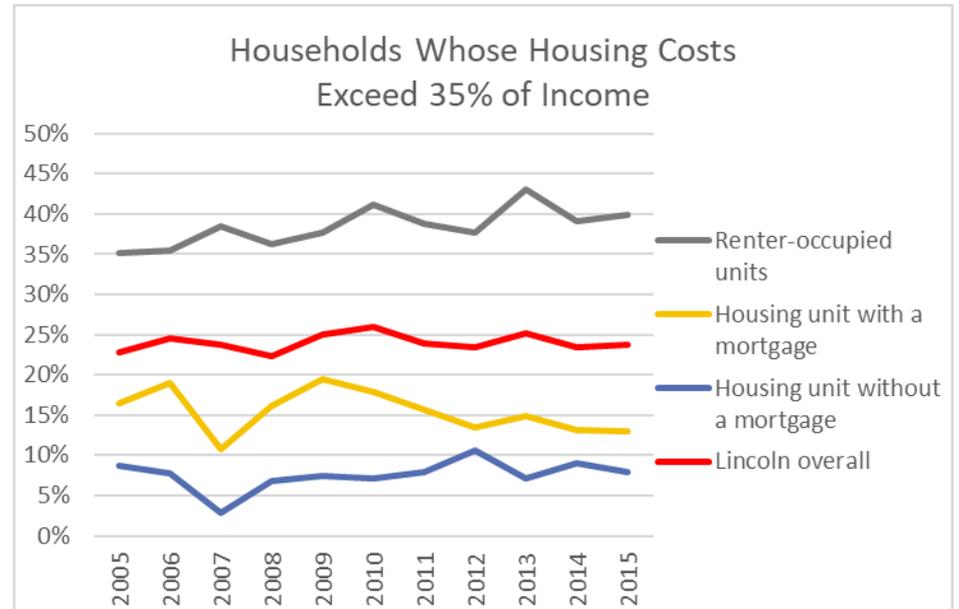
Table 6

Cost of Living Index, Lincoln, NE		
	Overall	Housing
2010	92%	82%
2011	93%	84%
2012	93%	82%
2013	90%	76%
2014	91%	76%
2015	91%	79%
2016	91%	79%

Source: The Council for Community and Economic Research, Cost of Living Index.

- In Lincoln, low housing costs are a significant component of the low cost of living.
 - In 2016, the cost of housing in Lincoln was 79% of the national average.¹⁵
 - Low housing costs do not appear to be caused by oversupply: In Lincoln, homeowner and rental vacancy rates are lower than those in the rest of Nebraska and the nation.¹⁶

Figure 62



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, Table DP04.

A standard measure of housing affordability is the percentage of household income devoted to housing costs. In general, many experts believe that housing costs should not exceed 30% of a household's income, and that the percentage should decrease for lower income households.¹⁷

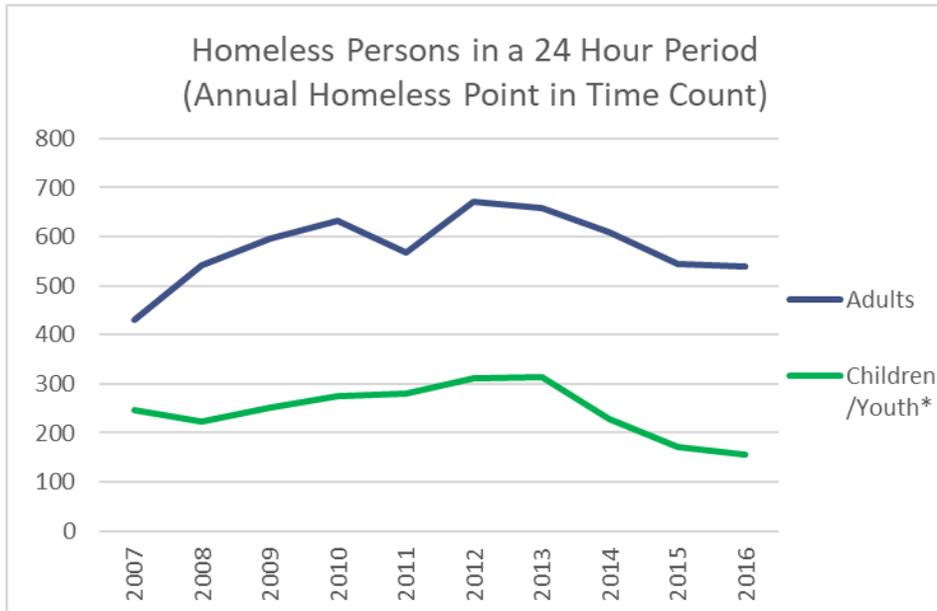
- 38% of all renting households¹⁸ pay 35% or more of their income on housing.
- 15% of households carrying a mortgage pay 35% or more of their income on housing.
- 8% of homeowners with no mortgage¹⁹ pay 35% or more of their income on housing.





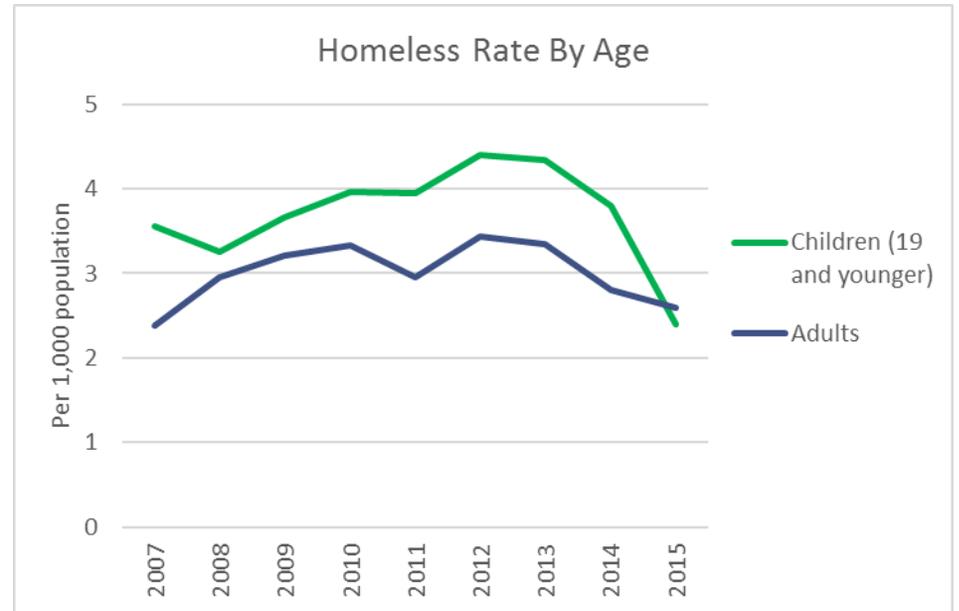
Homelessness in Lincoln is higher than pre-Recession, but has been declining

Figure 63



Source: University of Nebraska Lincoln Center on Children, Families and the Law, Lincoln Homeless Point in Time Report.
 *Children/Youth are 19 and younger through 2014, and under 18 beginning in 2015.

Figure 64



Source: Compiled from University of Nebraska Lincoln Center on Children, Families and the Law, Lincoln Homeless Point in Time Report, and U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, Table DP05.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development mandates that an annual count be conducted of homeless individuals²⁰ on a specified date. The most recent data reported is from the count conducted on January 28, 2016.

- In 2016, 694 persons in Lincoln were counted as homeless in the annual homeless point in time count.
- The homeless count hit a high in 2012 of 981 persons (310 children and 671 adults), and has been declining since.²¹
- In 2016, one quarter of homeless individuals were children under 18 years of age (155 children).
 - The number of homeless children is 37% lower than it was in 2007 (247 in 2007 vs. 155 in 2016).
 - In contrast, the number of homeless adults has increased 25% (from 431 to 539).
- When homelessness is viewed as a proportion of the population, a larger proportion of the 19 and under population has been homeless compared to the 20 and over population.
- In 2015, however, the homeless rate for children and adults is about the same, due to a larger decline in homelessness among children.
- In 2015, 2.4 per thousand children and youth were homeless, compared to 2.6 per thousand adults.



Basic Needs Chapter Notes

1. In general, students are eligible for free lunch if their household income is less than 130% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. In 2015, students in a family of four with a household income less than \$31,247 would be eligible for free lunch.
2. Critics have said that the Federal Poverty Threshold, developed in the early 1960s, should be improved. The measure uses food costs and a multiplier of three to calculate needed income. Needed income is compared to gross income and does not include in-kind benefits, nor does it recognize increased labor participation of women (and related child care costs), variability in health care costs across populations, or variability of expenses across geographies. These and other factors may underestimate poverty for persons in working families and overestimate poverty for persons in families receiving public assistance.
3. Fiester, L.. (2013). *Early warning confirmed: A research update on third-grade reading*. Baltimore, MD: Annie E Casey Foundation.
4. In 2015, the poverty threshold was \$24,036 for a family of four that included two related children less than 18 years of age.
5. Quane, J. M., & Wilson, W. J. (2012). Critical commentary: Making the connection between the socialisation and the social isolation of the inner-city poor. *Urban Studies*, 49(14), 2977-2987. doi: 10.1177/0042098012453857
6. Wilson, W. J. (2010). Why both social structure and culture matter in a holistic analysis of inner-city poverty. *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 629, 200-219. doi: 10.1177/0002716209357403
7. Due to changes in the Census' methodology for sampling populations, caution must be exercised when comparing 2000 decennial data with the newer American Community Survey data. Lincoln has 72 Census Tract neighborhoods. Neighborhoods for which extreme poverty was calculated exclude Census Tract 6, situated directly over the main campus of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Census Tract 35, situated over the Lincoln Regional Center; and Census Tract 36.01, covering the State Penitentiary. Estimates using data samples collected from 2011-2015 American Community Survey (U.S. Census Bureau).
8. Federal Poverty Guidelines are based on size of household and income. In 2015, a four person household with an income less than \$31,247 (the equivalent of 130% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines) would be eligible for SNAP benefits.
9. The increase in participation in SNAP may be partially attributable to an expansion in eligibility for benefits under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (2009). However, a report by the Congressional Budget Office reports that the increase has been primarily driven by the weak economy (Congressional Budget Office. (2012, April). *The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program*. Washington, DC: Congressional Budget Office. Retrieved from: <http://www.cbo.gov/sites/degault/files/cbofiles/attachments/04-19-SNAP.pdf>
10. In general, students are eligible for free lunch if their household income is less than 130% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. In 2015, students in a family of four with a household income less than \$31,247 would be eligible for free lunch.



Basic Needs Chapter Notes (continued)

11. In general, students are eligible for reduced price lunch if their household income is less than 185% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. In 2015, students in a family of four with a household income less than \$44,467 would be eligible for reduced lunch.
12. United States Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service.(Last Updated October 4, 2016). *Definitions of Food Security*. Retrieved May 5, 2017 from: <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us/definitions-of-food-security.aspx>
13. Healthy People 2020. (n.d.) *Social Determinants of Health*. Retrieved May 5, 2017 from: <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/social-determinants-of-health>
14. Feeding America (n.d.) *Child Hunger in America*. Retrieved May 5, 2017 from: <http://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/impact-of-hunger/child-hunger/>
15. The Council for Community and Economic Research, Cost of Living Index.
16. U.S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey. American Community Survey 2015 1-year estimates. Table DP05.
17. Schwartz, M., & Wilson, E., (n.d.) *Who can afford to live in a home?: A look at data from the 2006 American Community Survey*. Washington, DC: United States Census Bureau.
18. Data are limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters.
19. Costs for households without a mortgage may include home equity loans, real estate taxes, homeowner’s insurance, association fees, and utilities.
20. The HUD definition of homelessness for the purpose of a point in time homeless count includes only people who are living unsheltered on the streets, in a vehicle or another place not fit for human habitation, or in an emergency shelter or transitional housing program. Many people and families considered homeless, or at risk of homelessness, including those in prison/jail, living in hotels/motels, or “couch surfing” are NOT included in the count.
21. The decrease in homelessness is believed to be attributable to increased support of homeless persons through the Rapid Rehousing, Permanent Supportive Housing, and domestic violence housing programs.



Education



Education

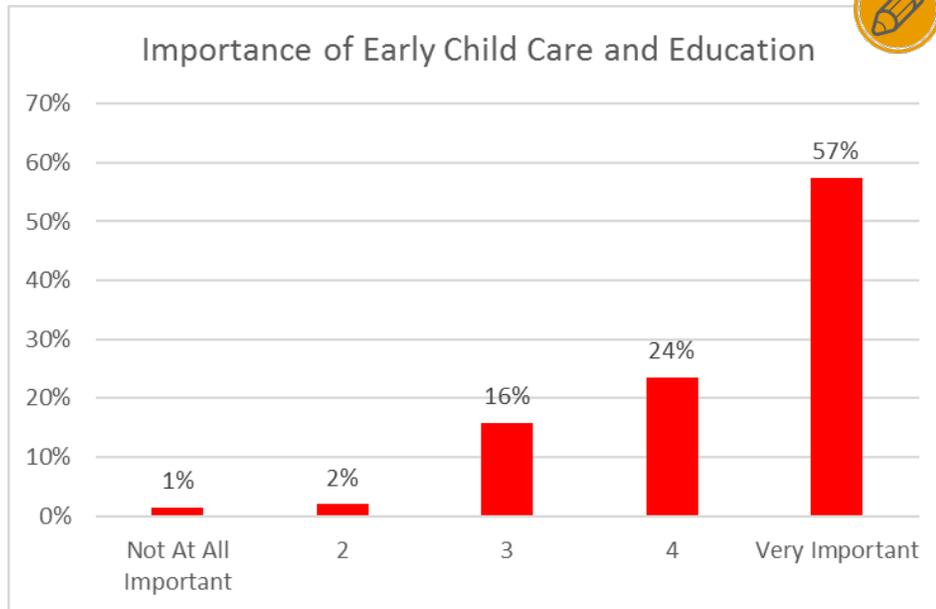
Educational achievement impacts individuals and communities. Individuals with at least a high school diploma earn, on average, \$9,000 more per year than do individuals who do not have a diploma.¹ Communities with educated populations are more productive, more innovative, and earn higher salaries.² This section of the report focuses on educating children, from pre-school through high school.

So far, 3% of child care providers in Lincoln have completed the first three steps in the new Step Up to Quality program established by Nebraska's Step Up to Quality Child Care Act in 2013. Lincoln's school age population and Lincoln Public Schools' enrollment is growing. Lincoln Public School students **score higher than the state averages for third grade reading, fourth grade writing, and eighth grade math proficiencies.** Additionally, Lincoln Public Schools' **graduation rate is high** compared to national averages. Children who are **racial and ethnic minorities and those who are in poverty fare worse educationally than other children.** This gap in achievement appears from the first standardized test in third grade and carries through to lower rates of high school graduation. Three of five public high school graduates enroll in postsecondary institutions (primarily four-year schools). In the Lincoln population overall, rates of college enrollment do not differ by race or ethnicity.



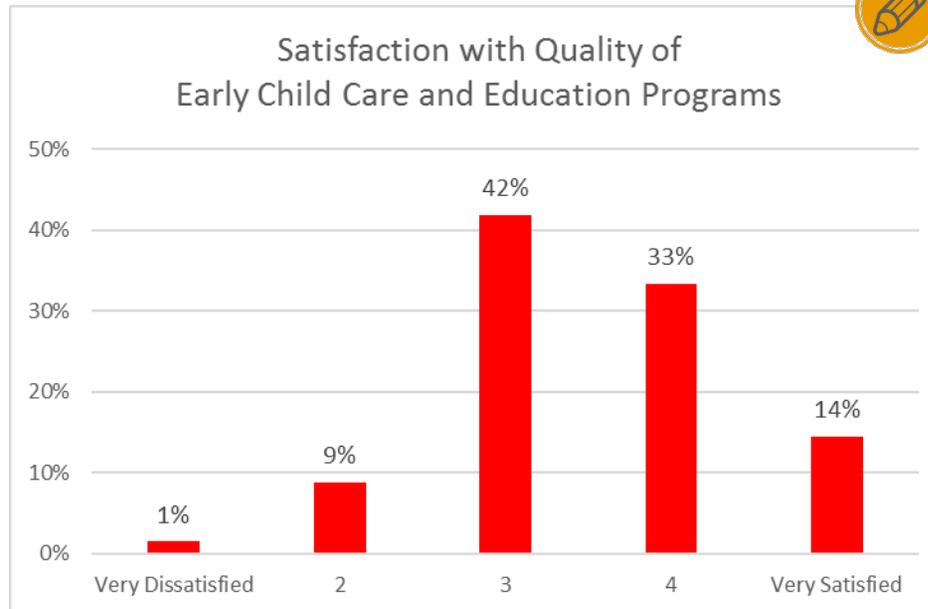
Early child care and education are considered very important

Figure 65



Source: Buffett Early Childhood Institute - University of Nebraska.

Figure 66



Source: Buffett Early Childhood Institute - University of Nebraska.

The time of infancy through early childhood is a period of profound learning and growth. High quality early childhood investments benefit children's readiness for school and are related to eventual higher earnings, better health, and lower involvement in the criminal justice system. High quality early childhood programs also improve parental attachment to the workforce.³

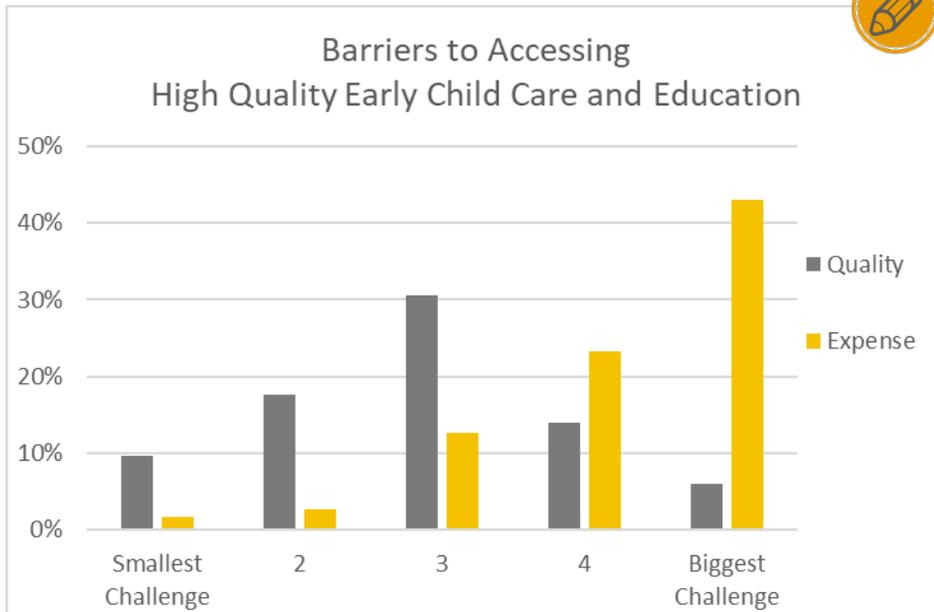
- Lincoln residents believe early child care and education is very important to a child's success in life.
 - More than half of residents consider it very important.
 - Importance of early child care and education received an average rating of 4.3 on the scale of 1 to 5.
- Lincoln residents are somewhat satisfied with the quality of early child care and education programs.
 - 47% provided ratings of 4 or 5 on the scale of 1 to 5.
 - Another 42% provided ratings of 3, the mid-point on the scale of 1 to 5.
 - Satisfaction received an average rating of 3.5 on the scale of 1 to 5.





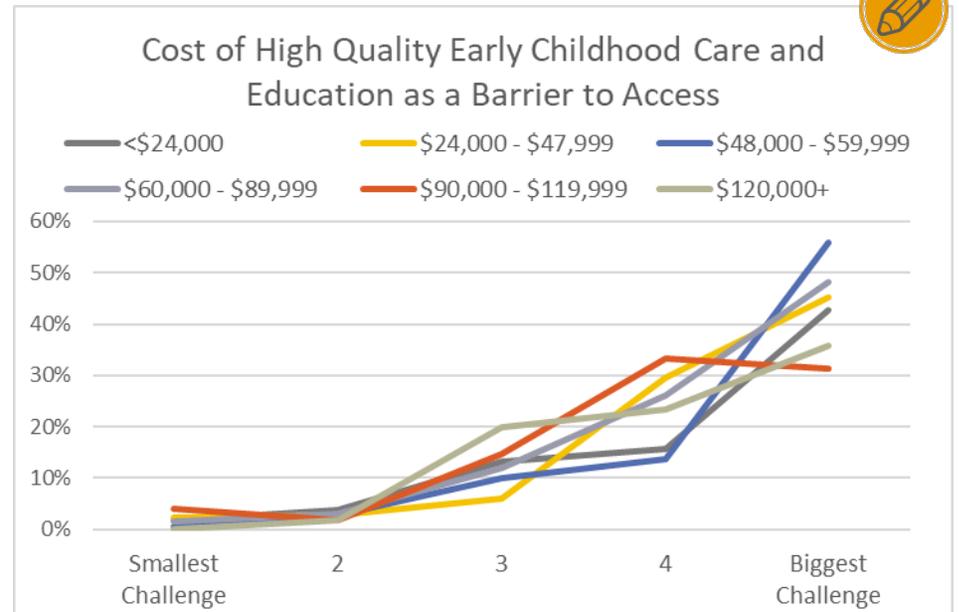
Expense is a barrier to accessing high-quality early child care and education

Figure 67



Source: Buffett Early Childhood Institute - University of Nebraska.

Figure 68



Source: Buffett Early Childhood Institute - University of Nebraska.

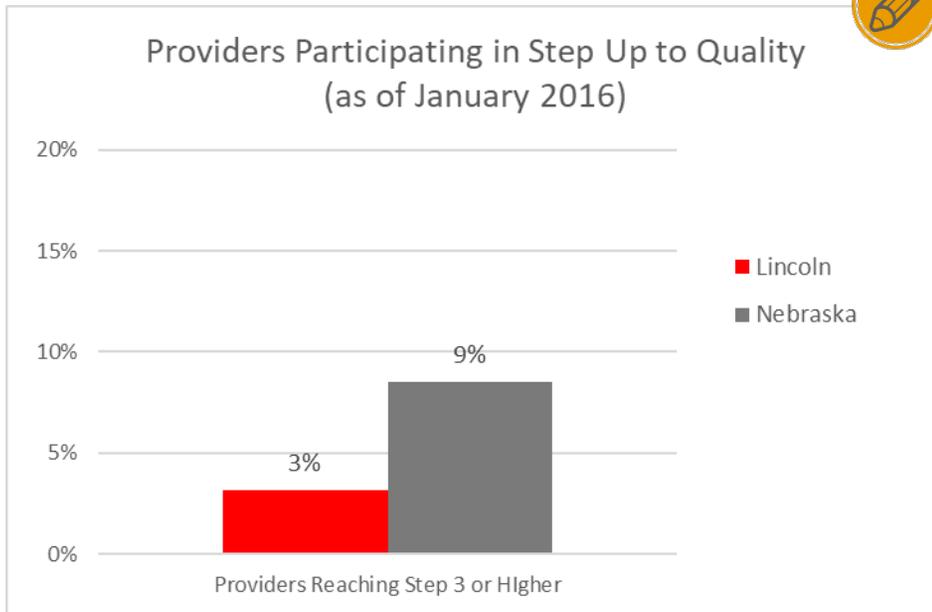
- Residents consider expense to be a large barrier in accessing high quality early child care and education programs, while quality of these programs was not as much of a barrier.
 - Expense received an average rating of 4.2 on the 1 to 5 scale.
 - Quality received an average rating of 2.9, slightly below the scale midpoint of 3.0.

- Expense of child care was considered a barrier to high quality care regardless of household income.



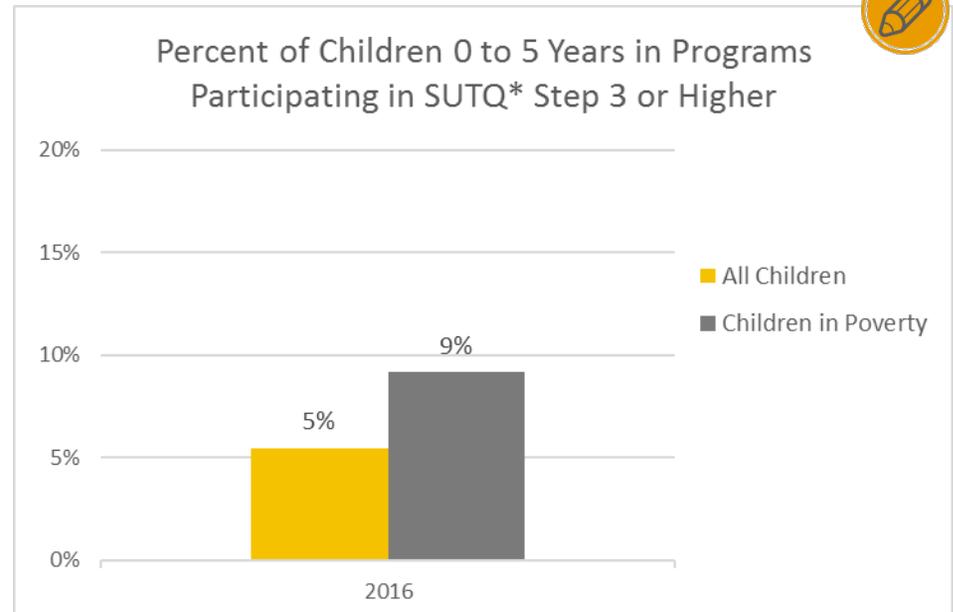
Early childcare programs are beginning to implement Step Up to Quality

Figure 69



Source: Nebraska Department of Education, Step Up to Quality Program.

Figure 70



Source: Nebraska Department of Education, Step Up to Quality Program.

*SUTQ = Step Up to Quality

In 2013, Nebraska passed the Step Up to Quality Child Care Act.⁴ This act ties public subsidies to families for child care, and incentive payments to child care providers, to a quality rating system. It also established a program to provide professional development and training to child care providers, and implement the quality rating system. Larger child care providers are likely to be the first providers to meet minimum program requirements.

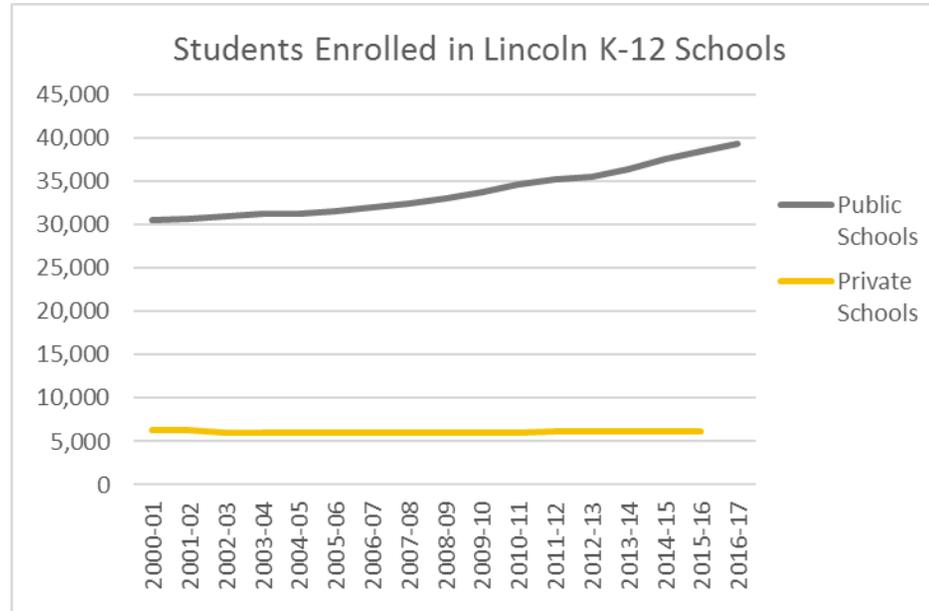
- So far, only a 3% of Lincoln child care providers have completed the initial two steps of the Step Up to Quality program.
 - The program's first year of operation was 2015.
 - So far, about 9% of Nebraska providers participating in the program have completed the initial two application and training steps.
- In Lincoln, 5% of all children are enrolled in child care programs that have completed the first two steps and are participating in Step 3 or higher of the Step Up to Quality program.
- A larger proportion of children in poverty (9%) are participating in these programs.
 - This is as intended program since state child care subsidies are tied to the Step Up to Quality child care quality ratings.





K-12 enrollment in Lincoln Public Schools has grown 22% since 2005

Figure 71



Source: Lincoln Public Schools, Lincoln Public Schools Statistical Handbook. Nebraska Department of Education, Statistics & Facts about Nebraska Schools Reports.

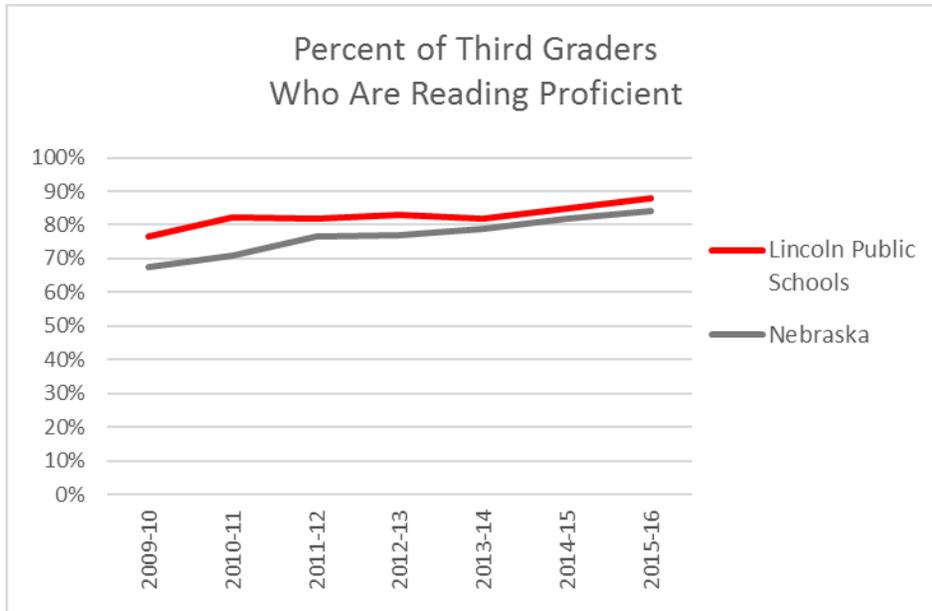
- In Lincoln, a majority of children attend public schools.
- In 2015 (the most recent year that data about private school enrollment is available), 86% of Lincoln students were enrolled in public schools.
- Public school enrollment has increased 22% in the past decade.
 - Private school enrollment has increased 3% in the past decade.
- Lincoln public schools also provides services, such as special education, to eligible private school students.

Even though the percentage of children attending private schools is relatively small, the number is large enough that without private schools, Lincoln Public Schools’ infrastructure would have to expand if required to serve the same children. There are, on average, approximately 500 students in one public elementary school, equivalent to about 8% of all private school students. If a large number of children stopped attending private school, or one of the schools closes, this could have a large impact on the public school system.



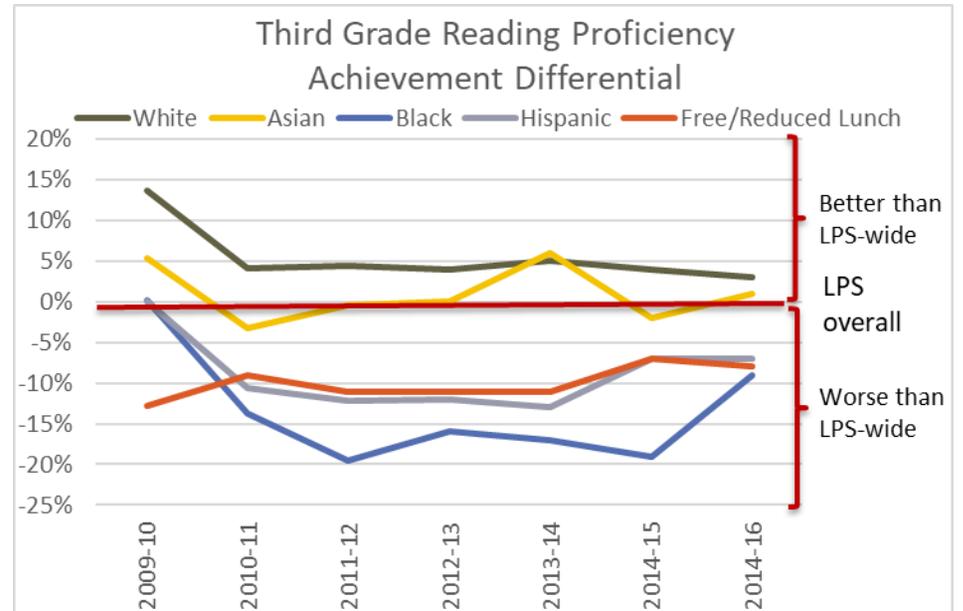
Third grade reading proficiency is strong, but varies by student characteristics

Figure 72



Source: Nebraska Department of Education, Nebraska Education Profile (formerly Nebraska State of Schools Reports), Nebraska State Accountability Tests.

Figure 73



Source: Nebraska Department of Education, Nebraska Education Profile (formerly Nebraska State of Schools Reports), Nebraska State Accountability Tests.

Third grade reading proficiency is the earliest standardized reading test given to all Lincoln Public School students. Third grade reading proficiency measures student achievement at a critical transition point in their educational careers: “Until the end of third grade, most students are learning to read. Beginning in fourth grade, however, students begin reading to learn.”⁵ Students who do not read proficiently at third grade are four times more likely to leave school without a diploma,⁶ while third graders who read at or above their level are more likely to graduate and attend college.⁷

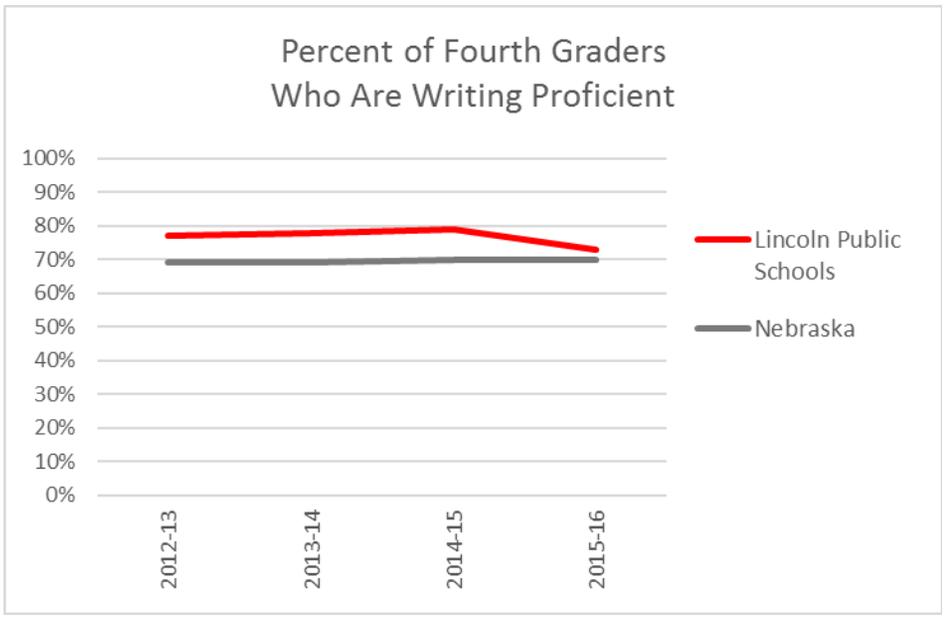
- Over the past 7 years, a higher proportion of Lincoln third graders were reading proficient than for Nebraska as a whole.
- In the 2015-16 school year, 85% of Lincoln third graders were reading proficient, compared to 82% of Nebraska third graders statewide.

- Students who receive free/reduced lunch (a proxy for low income⁸) have a third grade reading proficiency rate 10 percentage points lower than the overall rate.
- White and Asian students consistently have a higher third grade reading proficiency rate than other major racial and ethnic groups.
- These other racial and ethnic minorities do less well than the overall student population. Since 2009:
 - Black/African-American students trail the overall rate by 13%.
 - Hispanic/Latino students trail the overall rate by 9%.
- Research suggests that the source of variation in educational achievement is mainly linked to family economic status and not race/ethnicity alone.^{9,10}



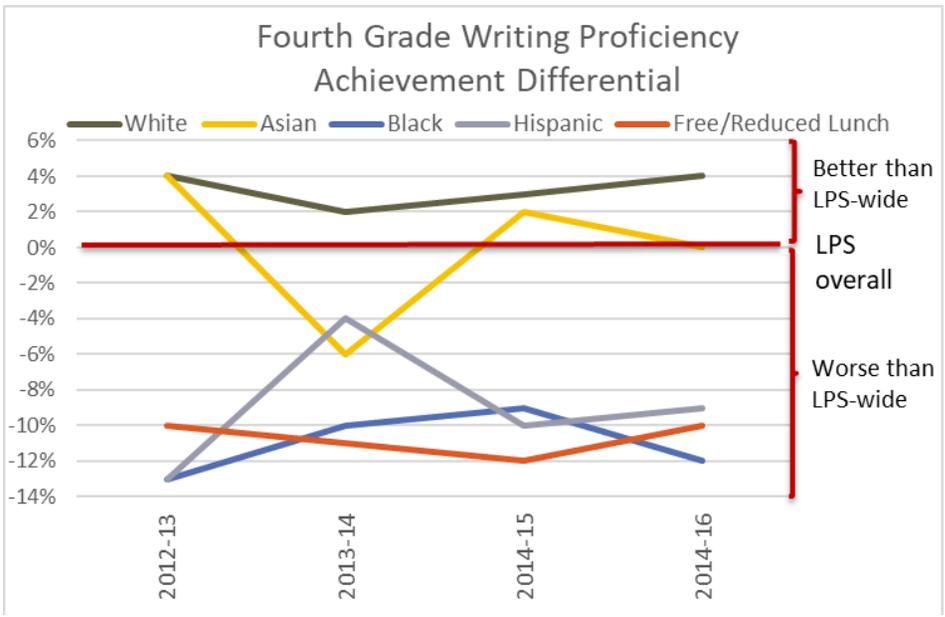
Fourth grade writing proficiency is strong, but varies by student characteristics

Figure 74



Source: Nebraska Department of Education, Nebraska Education Profile (formerly Nebraska State of Schools Reports), Nebraska State Accountability Tests.
 Note: The NeSA writing test from 2012-13 and later is not comparable to earlier years.

Figure 75



Source: Nebraska Department of Education, Nebraska Education Profile (formerly Nebraska State of Schools Reports), Nebraska State Accountability Tests.
 Note: The NeSA writing test from 2012-13 and later is not comparable to earlier years.

Along with reading, writing is an important component of literacy. In fourth grade, Nebraska students take a writing proficiency test.

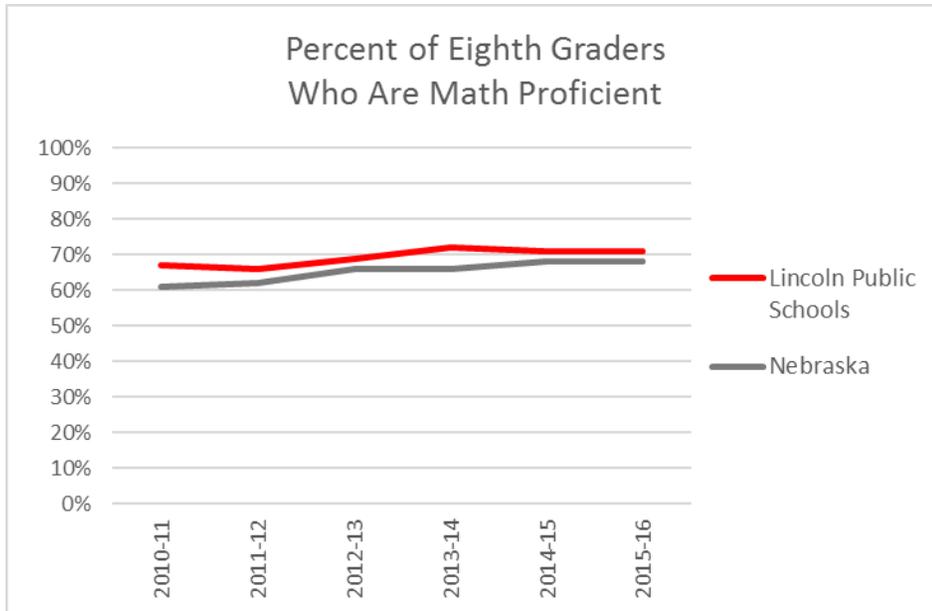
- Over the past three years, a greater proportion of Lincoln fourth graders are proficient writers than for Nebraska as a whole.
- In the 2015-16 school year, 73% of Lincoln students were proficient writers, compared to 70% of fourth graders statewide.

- Students who receive free/reduced lunch (a proxy for low income⁸) have a fourth grade writing proficiency rate 10 percentage points lower than the overall rate.
- There is no consistent pattern in fourth grade writing proficiency among major racial and ethnic groups, except that Whites consistently outperform students of other racial/ethnic groups.
- Since 2012:
 - Black/African-American students trail the overall rate by 11%.
 - Hispanic/Latino students trail the overall rate by 9%.
- As noted earlier, research suggests variation in educational achievement is primarily linked to family economic status.^{9,10}



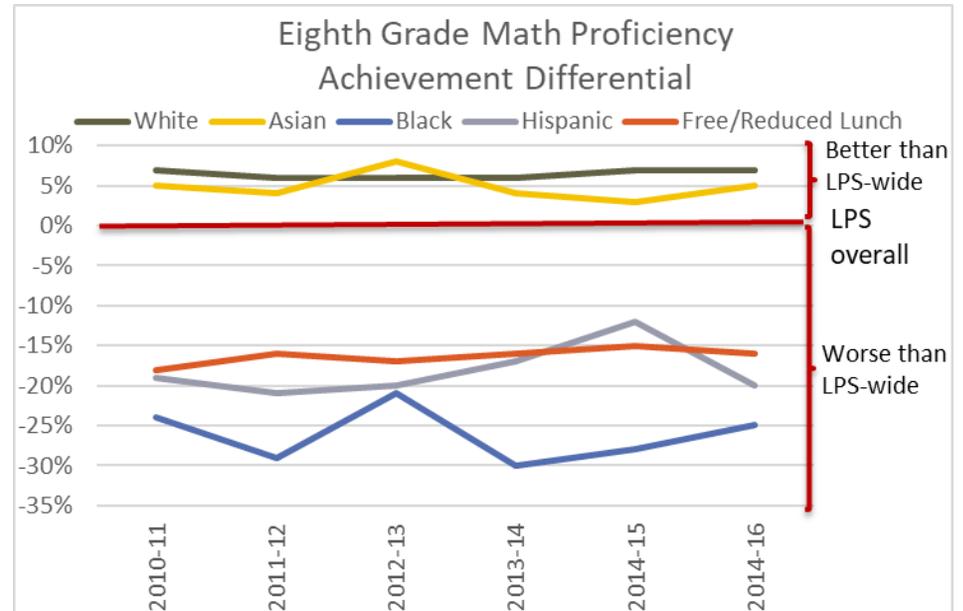
Eighth grade math proficiency is strong, but varies by student characteristics

Figure 76



Source: Nebraska Department of Education, Nebraska Education Profile (formerly Nebraska State of Schools Reports), Nebraska State Accountability Tests.

Figure 77



Source: Nebraska Department of Education, Nebraska Education Profile (formerly Nebraska State of Schools Reports), Nebraska State Accountability Tests.

In eighth grade, students take a math proficiency test. Students who have fallen behind in math by eighth grade are most likely to continue to fall behind.¹¹ Basic math proficiency is required for day-to-day adult decisions. Higher-level mathematic and science courses are needed to attend and complete college.

- Over the past five years, a greater proportion of Lincoln eighth graders are proficient in mathematics than are eighth graders in Nebraska as a whole.
- In the 2015-16 school year, 71% of eighth graders were proficient in math, compared to 68% of eighth graders statewide.

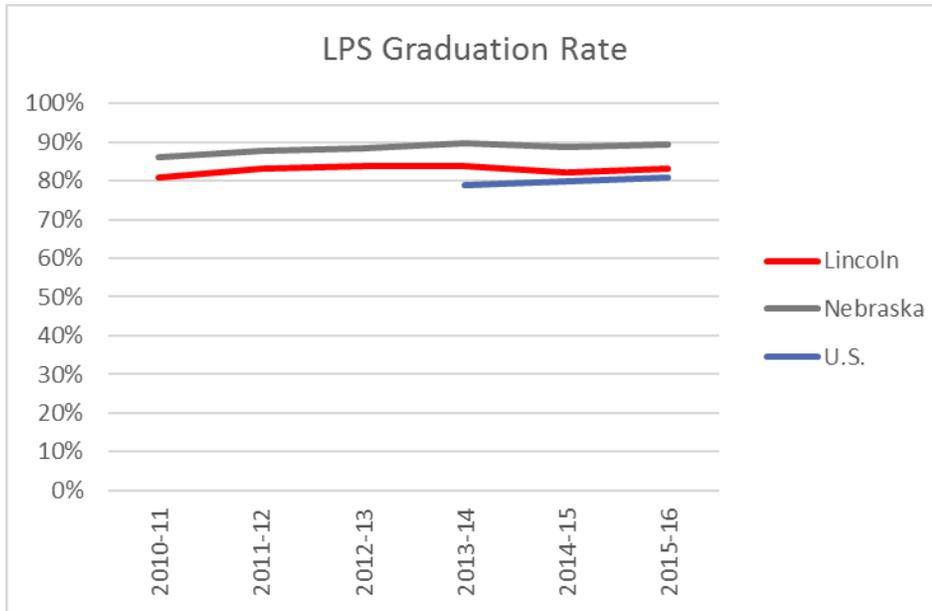
- Students who receive free/reduced lunch (a proxy for low income⁸) have an eighth grade math proficiency rate 16 percentage points lower than the overall rate.
- Whites and Asians consistently perform better than students of other racial/ethnic categories.
- Since 2010:
 - White and Asian students have outperformed the overall rate by an average of 7% and 5%, respectively.
 - Black/African-American students trail the overall rate by 26%.
 - Hispanic/Latino students trail the overall rate by 18%.





High school graduation and drop-out rates are improving

Figure 78



Source: Nebraska Department of Education, Nebraska Education Profile.
 Note: in Fall 2010 Nebraska started tracking graduation as the 4-year graduation rate (graduating within 4 years of starting 9th grade).

- Lincoln and Nebraska have higher graduation rates and lower dropout rates when compared with the rest of the nation.^{12, 13}
- Nationally, 80% of public high school students receive their high school diploma within four years of starting high school (2012-13 9th grade cohort, graduating in 2015-16 school year).^{14, 15}
 - Lincoln's rate was 82%
 - Nebraska's rate was 89%
- Similar to the rest of the nation, Lincoln's and Nebraska's graduation rates are on an upward trend.

Figure 79

Lincoln and Nebraska Graduation and Dropout Rates

Year	Graduation Rate		Dropout Rate	
	Lincoln	Nebraska	Lincoln	Nebraska
2001-02	73%	85%	4%	3%
2002-03	72%	86%	4%	2%
2003-04	77%	87%	4%	2%
2004-05	79%	88%	3%	2%
2005-06	80%	89%	3%	2%
2006-07	79%	89%	3%	2%
2007-08	81%	90%	3%	2%
2008-09	82%	90%	3%	2%
2009-10	82%	90%	3%	1%
2010-11*	81%	86%	2%	1%
2011-12	83%	88%	2%	1%
2012-13	84%	88%	1%	1%
2013-14	84%	90%	2%	1%
2014-15	82%	89%	2%	1%
2015-16	83%	89%	2%	1%

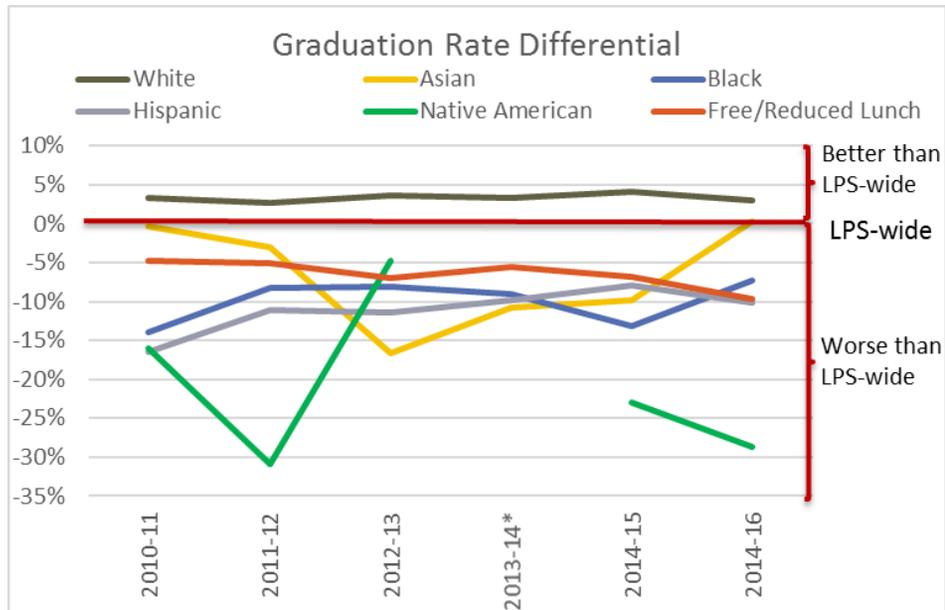
Source: Nebraska Department of Education, Nebraska Education Profile.
 *in Fall 2010 Nebraska started tracking graduation as the 4-year graduation rate (graduating within 4 years of starting 9th grade).

- Lincoln and Nebraska have lower dropout¹⁶ rates than the national rate (4.7% in the 2012-13 school year¹⁷).
 - Lincoln's dropout rate was 1.4%
 - Nebraska's dropout rate was 1.1%
- Similar to national trends, Lincoln's and Nebraska's dropout rates have been declining.
- Research has suggested that halving the non-graduation rate in the Lincoln Metropolitan Statistical Area would mean a collective \$1.4 million in increased earnings in an average year, and a \$1.8 million increase in the Gross Regional Product by mid-career.¹⁸



High school graduation and dropout rates vary by student characteristics

Figure 80

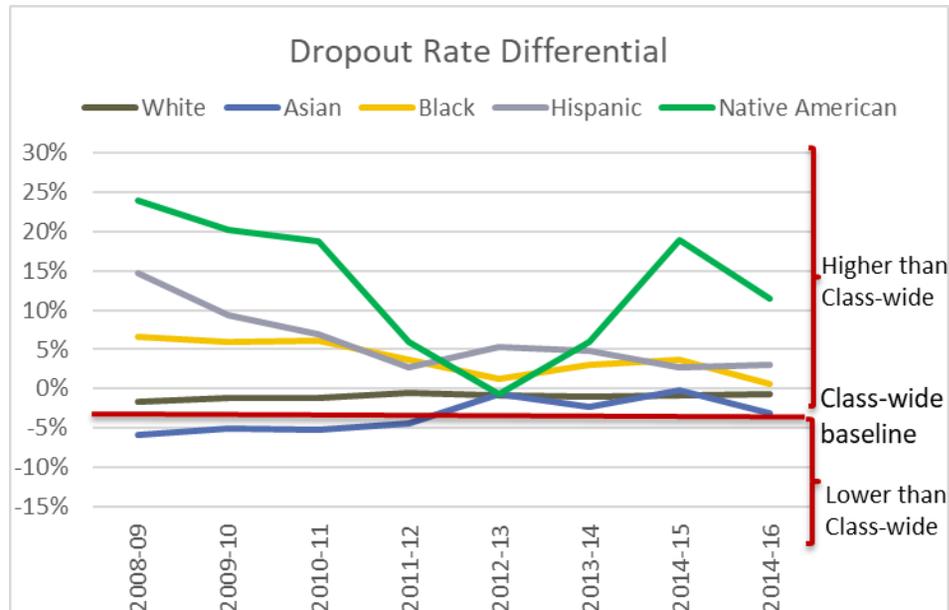


Source: Nebraska Department of Education, Nebraska Education Profile (formerly Nebraska State of Schools Reports).

*Data suppressed due to too few data points.

- High school graduation rates vary based on certain student characteristics, such as income and race/ethnicity.
- Low income students (students receiving free/reduced lunch is the proxy) trail the district rate by 6%.
- Since 2010, White students have exceeded the district rate by an average of 3%.
- Students of other racial and ethnic groups trail the overall graduation rate:
 - Black/African-American students trail by an average of 10%.
 - Asian students trail by an average of 7%.
 - Hispanic/Latino students trail by an average of 11%.
 - Native American students trail by an average of 21%.

Figure 81



Source: Lincoln Public Schools, District Longitudinal Graduation Rate Reports.

Note: Lincoln Public Schools calculates dropout rate slightly differently than does the Nebraska Department of Education.

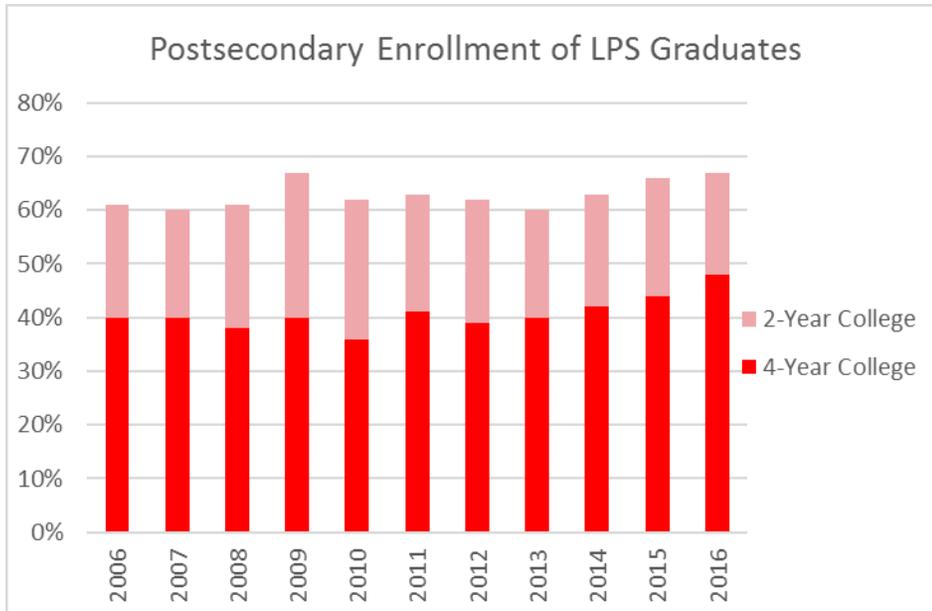
- Like graduation rates, high school dropout rates vary by student race/ethnicity. Data about dropout rates for low income students, was not available.
- Over the past several years, White and Asian students have a dropout rate lower than the district average:
 - White students have a rate 1% lower.
 - Asian students have a rate 3% lower.
- Other racial/ethnic groups have dropout rates higher than the district average:
 - Black/African-American students have a rate 4% higher.
 - Hispanic/Latino students have a rate 6% higher.
 - Native American students have rate 13% higher.





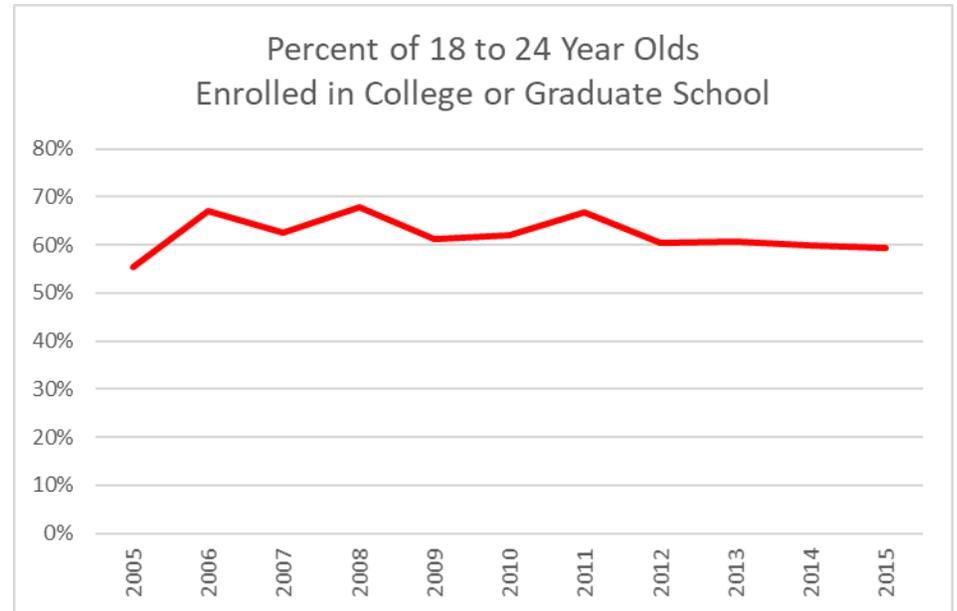
Three of five of Lincoln Public Schools graduates enter postsecondary institutions

Figure 82



Source: Lincoln Public Schools, National Student Clearinghouse Reports.

Figure 83



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, Table S1401.

- Over the past decade, 63% of public high school graduates have enrolled in postsecondary institutions immediately after high school.
- Most students attend public, in-state institutions.

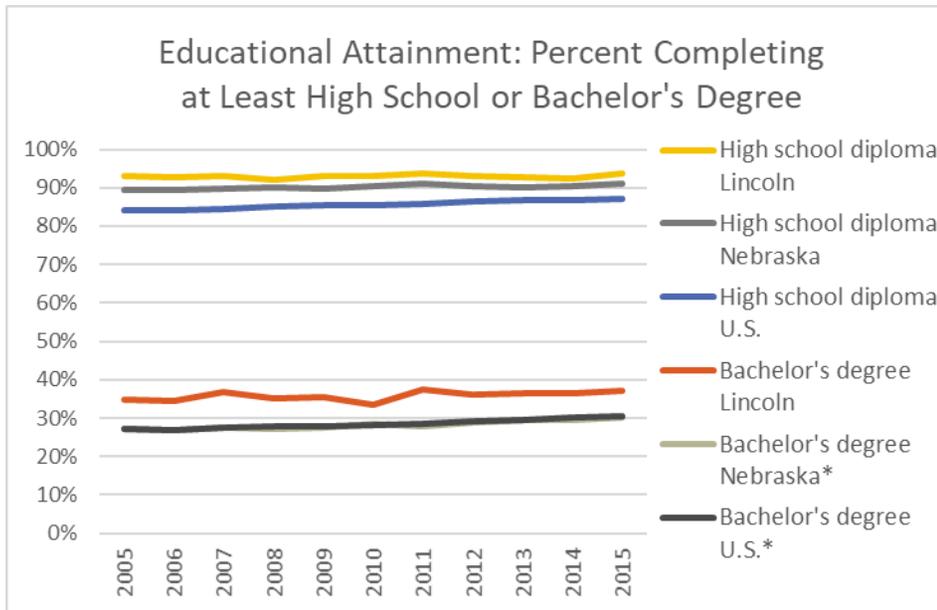
Lincoln is home to several postsecondary educational institutions, including the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Nebraska Wesleyan University, Union College, Southeast Community College, and several private schools.

- Of persons 18 to 24 years of age, 59% are enrolled in college or graduate school.
- Among this age group, women have higher participation in postsecondary enrollment (63%, compared to 55% for men).
- Enrollment rates are fairly steady across race and ethnicity, with the Asian population having a higher participation rate in graduate or professional school.



Educational attainment varies by race for those 25 years of age and older

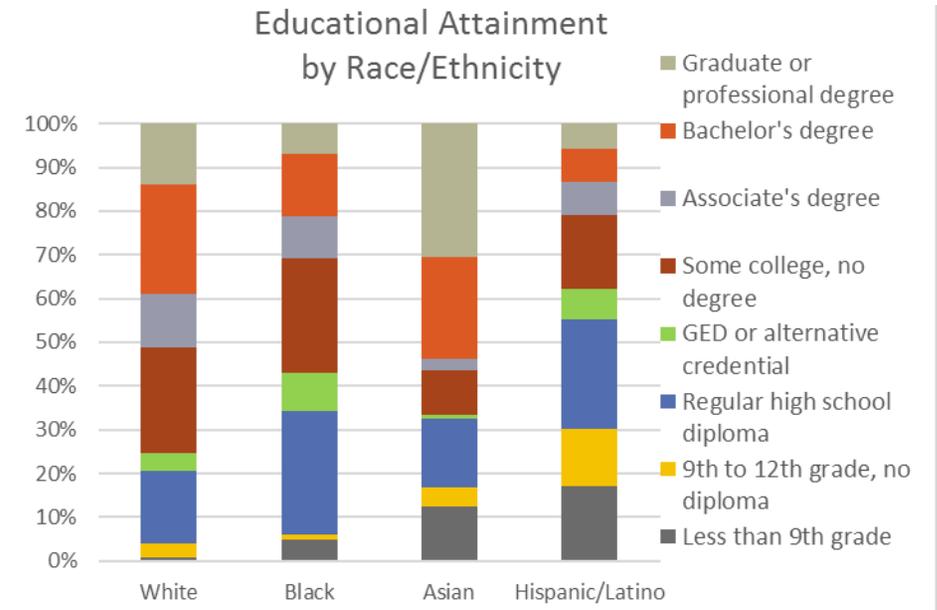
Figure 84



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, Table DP02.
 *The Nebraska rate of Bachelor's degrees aligns almost perfectly with the U.S. rate, and these lines overlap almost completely on the chart.

- In 2015 in Lincoln, 94% of the population 25 years of age or older has a high school diploma. This compares favorably to:
 - 91% for Nebraska
 - 87% nationally
- Likewise, in 2015 Lincoln has a higher rate (37%) of residents who have a Bachelor's degree or higher, compared to:
 - 30% for Nebraska
 - 31% nationally

Figure 85



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, Table B15002.
 Note: Chart includes only racial/ethnic groups that make up more than 1% of the population.

- Educational attainment varies by race/ethnicity.
- Whites have the lowest proportion of those achieving, at most, a high school diploma or equivalency.
- Blacks/African-Americans and Whites have the highest proportion of individuals who have some college, but no degree.
- Asians have both a high proportion of individuals with less than a 9th grade education, and the highest proportion of individuals with graduate/professional degrees.¹⁹
- The Hispanic/Latino population has the highest proportion of individuals with less than a 9th grade education, and also the smallest proportion of those having received a Bachelor's or graduate/professional degree.



Education Chapter Notes

1. Carnevale, A.P., Rose, S. J., & Cheah, B. (n.d.). The college payoff: Education, occupations, lifetime earnings. *Education Occupations*. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce.
2. Glaeser, E. (2011). *Triumph of the city*. New York, NY: Penguin Books.
3. Office of the President. (2014). The economics of early childhood investments.
4. Step Up to Quality Child Care Act, Nebraska Revised Statute 71-1961.
5. Lesnick, J., Goerge, R. M., Smithgall, C., & Gwynne, J. (2010). *Reading on grade level in third grade: How is it related to high school performance and college enrollment?* Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.
6. Fiester, L. (2013). *Early warning confirmed: A research update on third-grade reading*. Baltimore, MD: Annie E. Casey Foundation.
7. Lesnick, et al., 2010.
8. In general, students are eligible for free lunch if their household income is less than 130% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. In 2015, students in a family of four with a household income less than \$31,247 would be eligible for free lunch. Students are eligible for reduced price lunch if their household income is less than 185% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. In 2015, students in a family of four with a household income less than \$44,467 would be eligible for reduced lunch. The vast majority of children enrolled in the free/reduced price lunch program are eligible for free lunch.
9. Entwistle, D. R., & Alexander, K. L. (1992). Summer setback: Race, poverty, school composition, and mathematics achievement in the first two years of school. *American Sociological Review*, 57(1), 72-84. doi: 10.2307/2096145
10. Hernandez, D. J. (2011). *Double jeopardy: How third-grade reading skills and poverty influence high school graduation*. Baltimore, MD: Annie E. Casey Foundation.
11. Rock, D., Owings, J., & Lee, R. (1994). Changes in math proficiency between 8th and 10th grades. *Statistics in Brief* (Vol. NCES 93-455). Washington, DC: National Center for Education Statistics.
12. In 2005, the U.S. Department of Education began publishing an official estimate of graduation rates, and all 50 states agreed to adopt a standard method of calculating those rates by 2013. In 2010, Nebraska started tracking graduating using a 4-year cohort rather than all current year seniors.
13. Lincoln Public Schools uses a slightly different method of identifying the cohort of students for graduation than the method used by state and federal agencies. For the purposes of comparability, this report uses the stat/national methodology. This methodology results in a lightly different rate. For example, the state/national methodology resulted in a graduation rate of 83% for school year 2011-12, while the Lincoln Public Schools methodology resulted in a rate of 85%.



Education Chapter Notes (continued)

14. McFarland, J., Stark, P., & Cui, J. (2016). *Trends in High School Dropout and Completion Rates in the United States: 2013* (NCES 2016-117). Washington, D.C.: National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education. Retrieved 2017-03-15 from <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch>
15. A 100% graduation rate is unlikely, in part because some special education students continue to receive educational services beyond four years of high school, some students graduate but in more than four years, and due to student mobility out of districts and state.
16. Dropout rates do not combine with graduation rates to total 100 percent because they do not include students who take longer than four years to graduate or those who earn GED certificates.
17. U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics (2016). Trends in high school dropout and completion rates in the United States: 2013.
18. Alliance for Excellent Education (http://www.all4ed.org/publication_material/EconMSAcal). Calculated based on 2010 data for the Lincoln Metropolitan Statistical Area (Lancaster and Seward Counties).
19. Upon examining age data, the combination of the high proportion of Asian individuals with less than a 9th grade education, along with the high proportion of individuals with graduate/professional degrees reflects a generational divide of older persons having achieved less education and younger persons achieving higher education.



Health



Health

It is widely known that **American's health status has declined**. Measures of declining health status include: potential shorter life expectancy for today's youth,¹ behavioral risk factors as the leading cause of mortality (e.g., smoking, poor diet, physical inactivity),² increasing rates of chronic disease,³ near epidemic rates of obesity,⁴ and rising health care costs.⁵ Lincoln has been somewhat healthier than other communities in the United States, but rates of **chronic health risk factors, such as obesity and diabetes, and sexually transmitted diseases are rapidly increasing**. In Lincoln, there are **large geographic disparities in a number of health measures**, such as prenatal care, primary care, childhood obesity, tobacco use, and overall life expectancy.

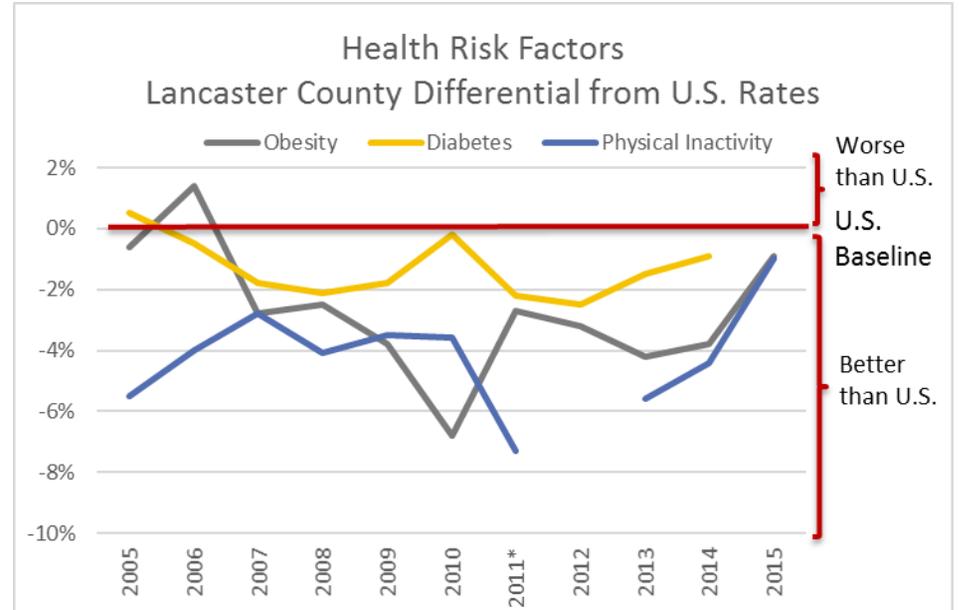
Both Lincoln and the United States have much ground to regain in reversing current poor health trends.



Adult chronic health factors have worsened and are close to the U.S. baseline



Figure 86



Sources: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System; national data from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; local data from Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department.
 *Sampling changes occurred in 2011, data from 2011 on may not be comparable to earlier.

Of the ten leading causes of death in the United States, seven are chronic diseases,⁶ and almost half of all Americans live with at least one chronic illness.⁷ Underlying many chronic health conditions are risk factors such as tobacco use and exposure, physical inactivity, and poor nutrition. Engaging in healthy behaviors greatly reduces the risk for illness and death due to chronic diseases.

- Since 2007, Lancaster County’s obesity rate⁸ had been lower than the national rate, but in 2015 is now close to the national rate.
- Lancaster County’s diabetes rate⁹ has fluctuated, and has generally been lower than the national rate, but recent data indicates it is again close to the national rate.
- Lancaster County’s physical inactivity¹⁰ rate has also been lower than the national rate in the past several years, but is now close to the national rate.





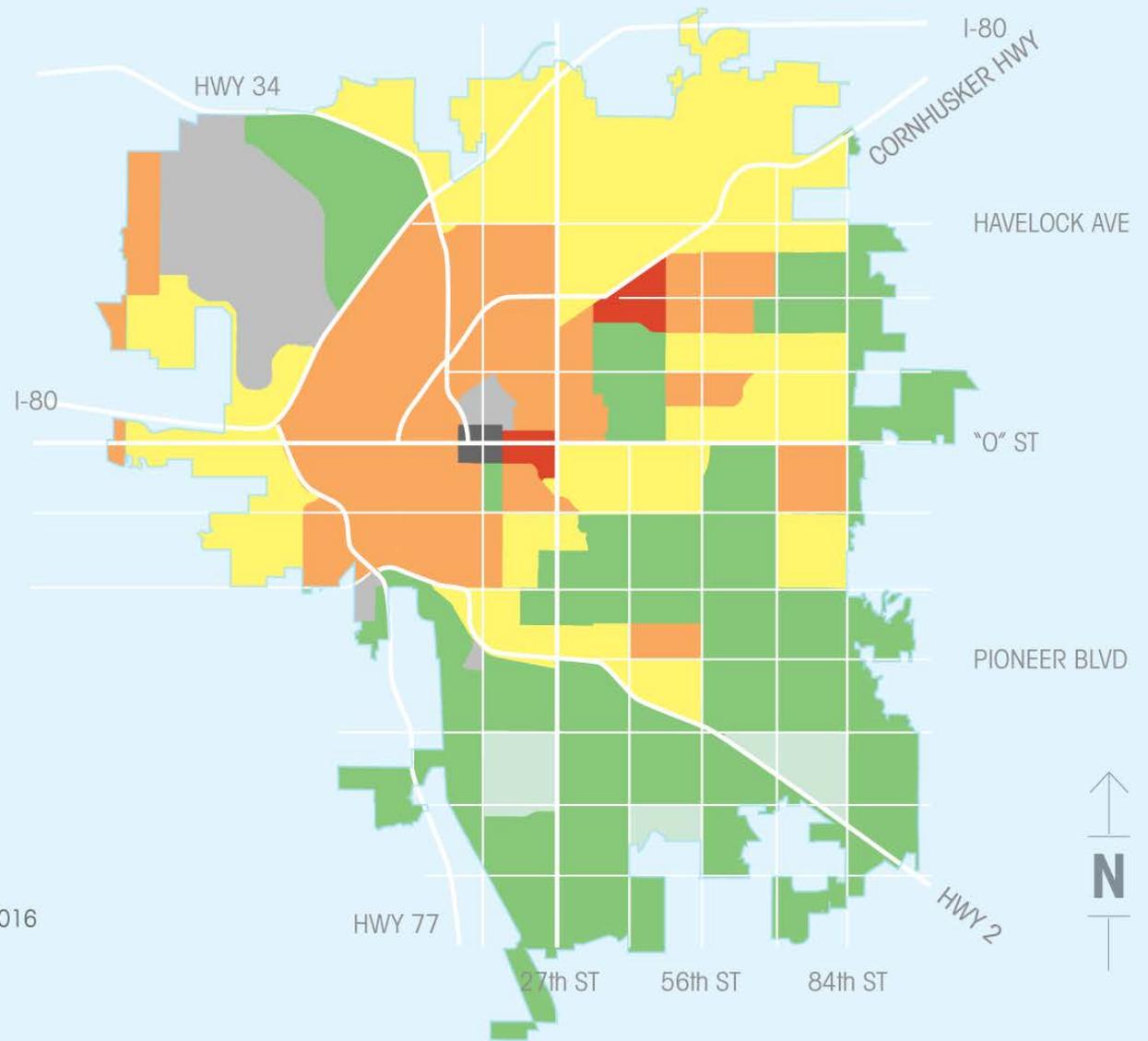
Rate of child obesity in Kindergarten through 4th varies throughout Lincoln neighborhoods

Children K - 4 Considered Obese



SOURCE: LINCOLN-LANCASTER COUNTY HEALTH DEPT., 2016

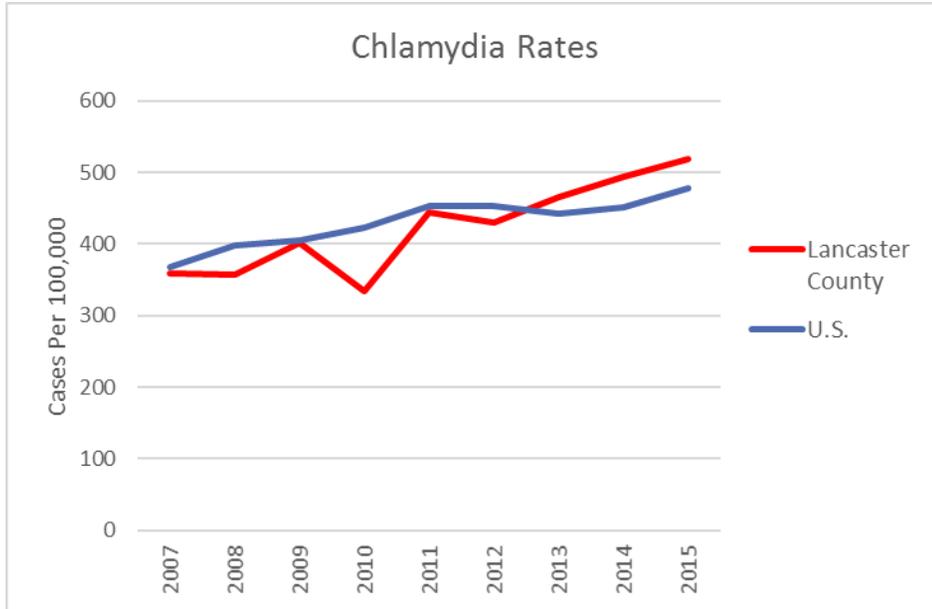
 COMMUNITY HEALTH ENDOWMENT OF LINCOLN
PLACE MATTERS COMMUNITY MAPPING PROJECT 2017





Lincoln's rate of sexually-transmitted diseases is increasing

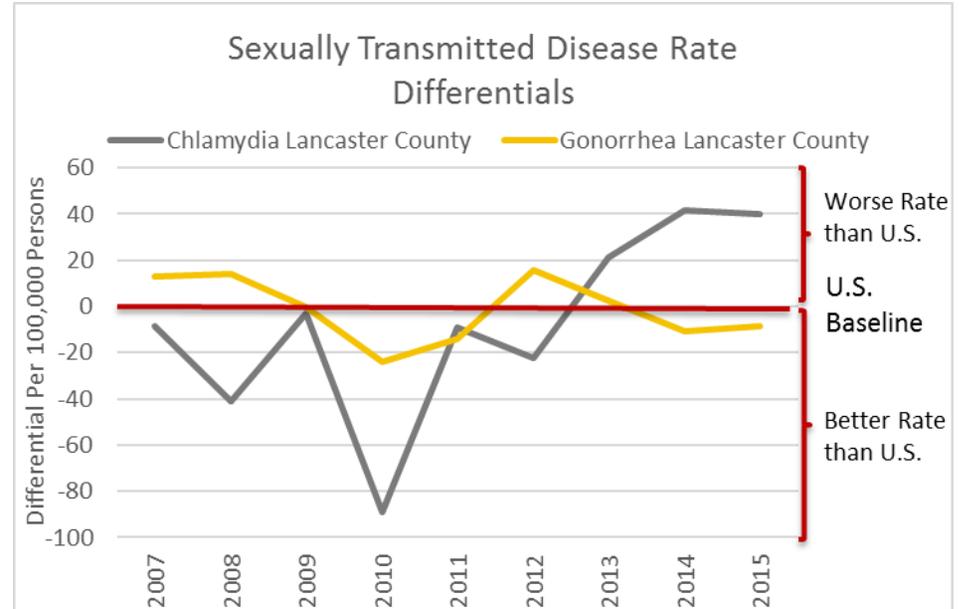
Figure 87



Source: Sexually Transmitted Diseases Surveillance System; national data from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; local data from Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department.

- The rate of chlamydia has been increasing nationally and locally.
- The Lancaster County rate is now higher than the national rate.

Figure 88



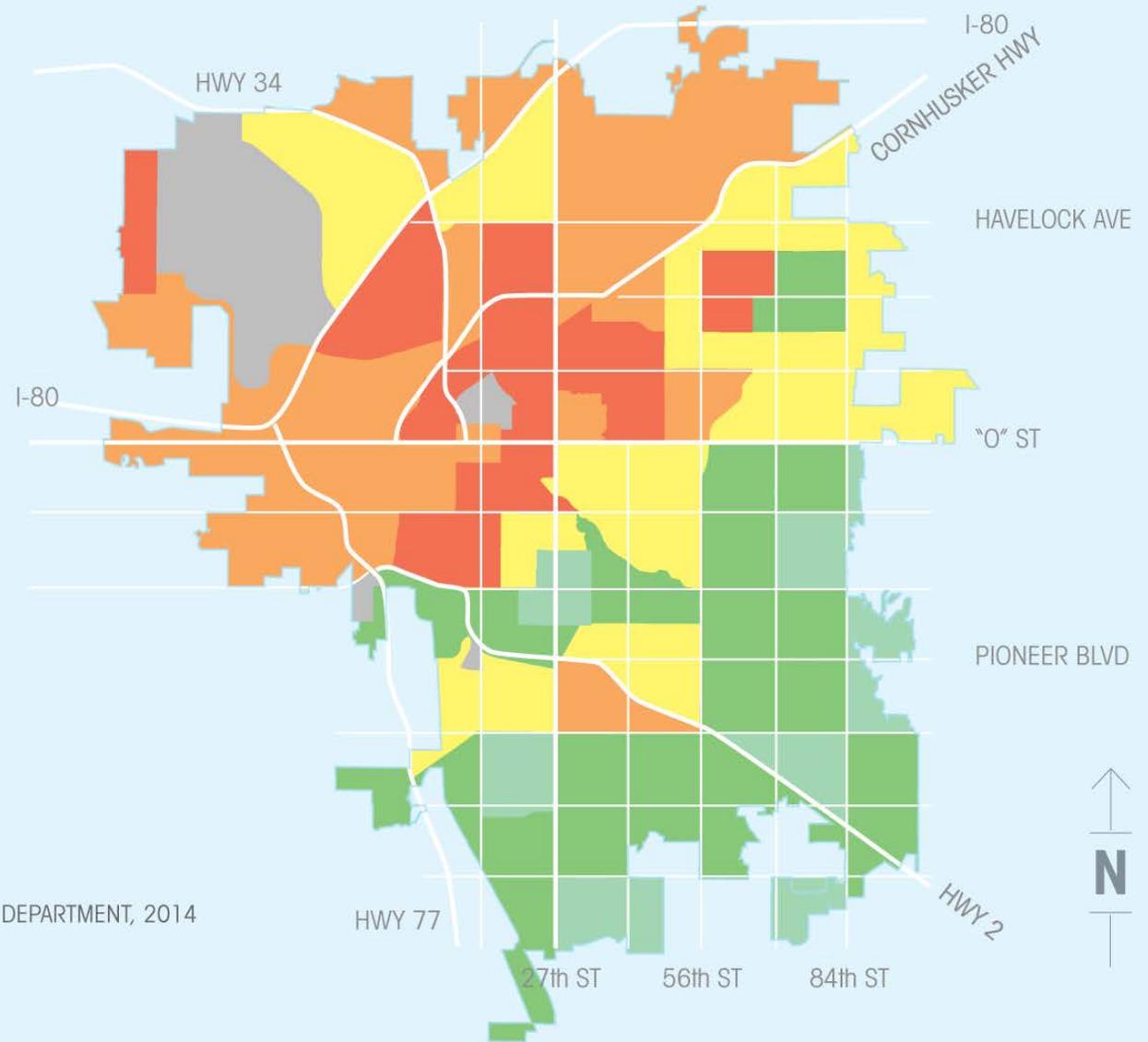
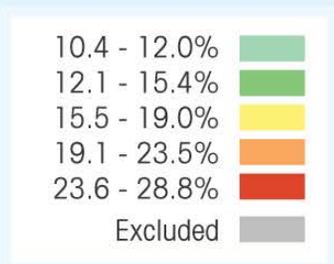
Source: Sexually Transmitted Diseases Surveillance System; national data from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; local data from Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department.

- The rate of gonorrhea has fluctuated national and locally, but have not increased or decreased considerably in the past decade.
- The Lancaster County rate averages about the same as the national rate in the past decade.



Rate of adults who smoke tobacco varies throughout Lincoln neighborhoods

People 18+ Who Smoke Tobacco



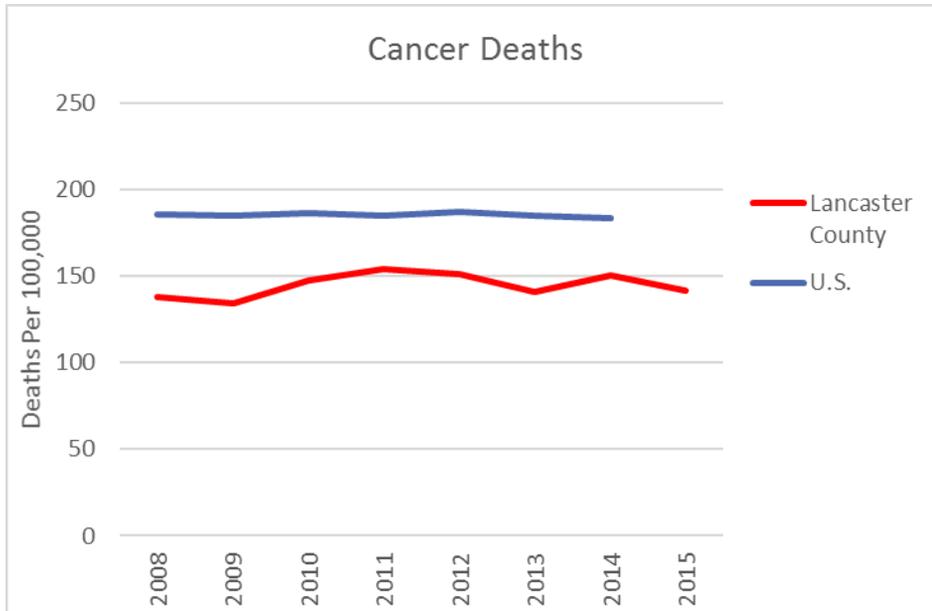
SOURCE: BRFFSS, LINCOLN-LANCASTER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT, 2014

COMMUNITY HEALTH ENDOWMENT OF LINCOLN
PLACE MATTERS COMMUNITY MAPPING PROJECT 2017



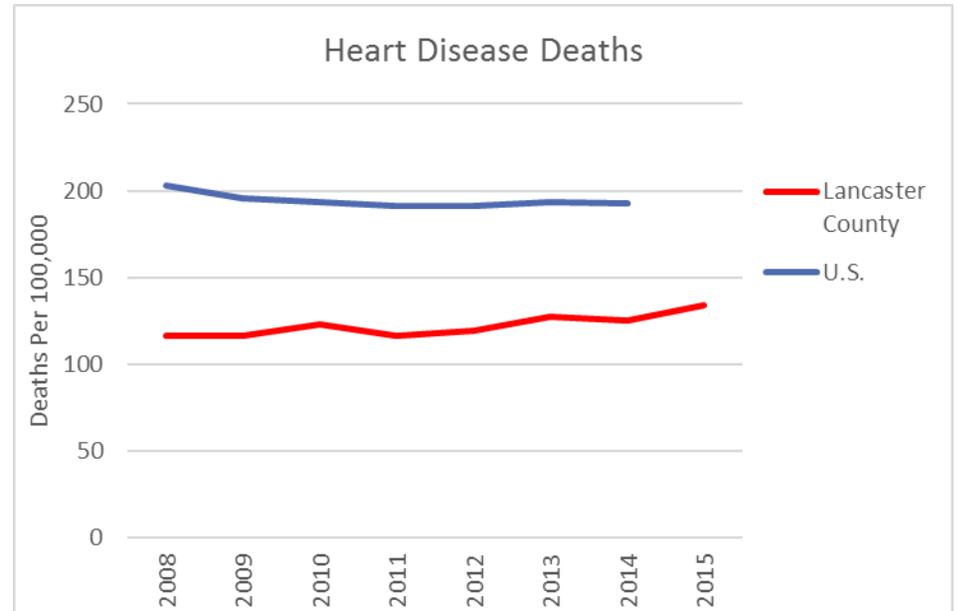
Lincoln's chronic disease mortality is lower than the U.S. overall

Figure 89



Source: National data from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System. Local data from Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department, Online Vital Statistics Reporting System.

Figure 90



Source: National data from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System. Local data from Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department, Online Vital Statistics Reporting System.

Another indicator of health in a community is the number of individuals who die due to chronic diseases.

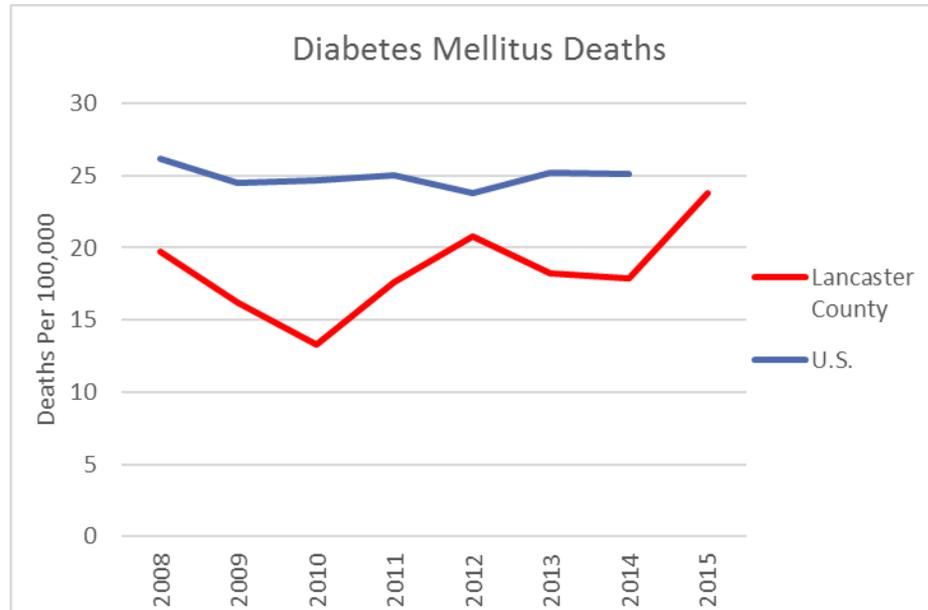
- Lancaster County trails the U.S. in deaths due to cancer.
- Likewise, Lancaster County trails the U.S. in deaths due to heart disease.
- However, deaths from heart disease are increasing in Lancaster County.





Deaths due to diabetes have increased to close to the U.S. rate

Figure 91



Source: National data from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System. Local data from Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department, Online Vital Statistics Reporting System.

- Lancaster County has trailed the U.S. in deaths due to diabetes since 2008.
- However, there has been a recent increase in diabetes deaths in Lancaster County, such that the local rate is now close to the national rate.





Life expectancy varies throughout Lincoln neighborhoods

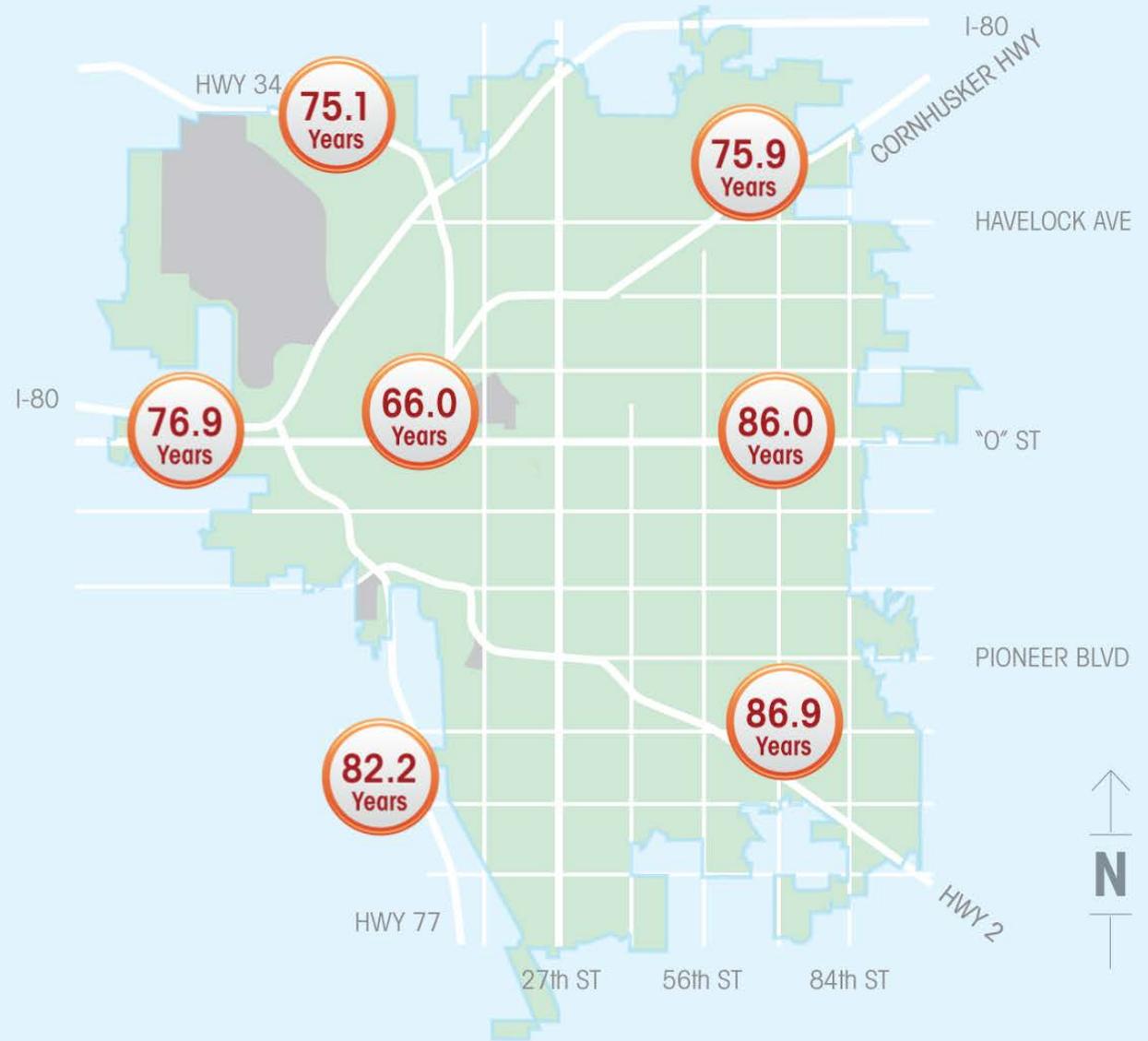
Life Expectancy 2011 - 2015

80.1 Life Expectancy
in Lancaster County

Excluded 

SOURCE: LINCOLN LANCASTER HEALTH DEPARTMENT

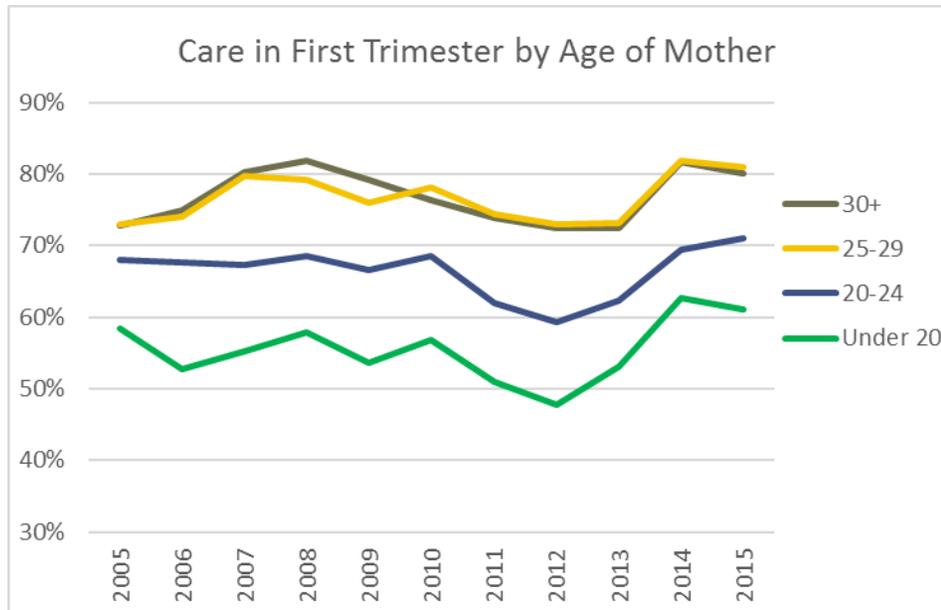
 COMMUNITY HEALTH ENDOWMENT OF LINCOLN
PLACE MATTERS COMMUNITY MAPPING PROJECT 2017





Younger expectant mothers are less likely to receive prenatal care Lincoln has a lower rate of low birth weight infants

Figure 92



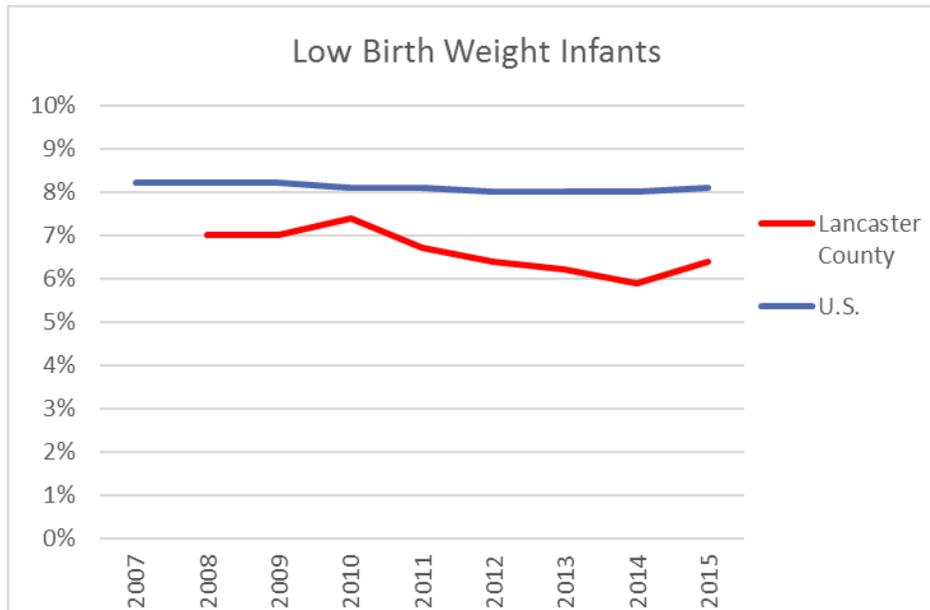
Source: Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department, Online Vital Statistics Reporting System.

Note: Data is for Lancaster County.

Adequate prenatal care is an important component of healthy pregnancy. Mothers who do not receive prenatal care, or who do not receive it until the third trimester of pregnancy, are more likely to have babies with health problems. Women under 20 and their babies have a higher risk for health problems; therefore, prenatal care for them in the first trimester is especially important.

- In Lincoln, as across the U.S., women younger than 20 years of age are less likely to receive prenatal care in the first trimester of their pregnancies than are older women.
- The percentage of women of any age receiving care in the first trimester has increased from lows in 2011-2012.

Figure 93



Source: National data from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System. Local data from Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department, Online Vital Statistics Reporting System.

Children who are born at a low birth weight (less than 5 pounds, 8 ounces) have an increased risk of long-term disability and impaired development. Low birth weight may indicate inadequate prenatal care.

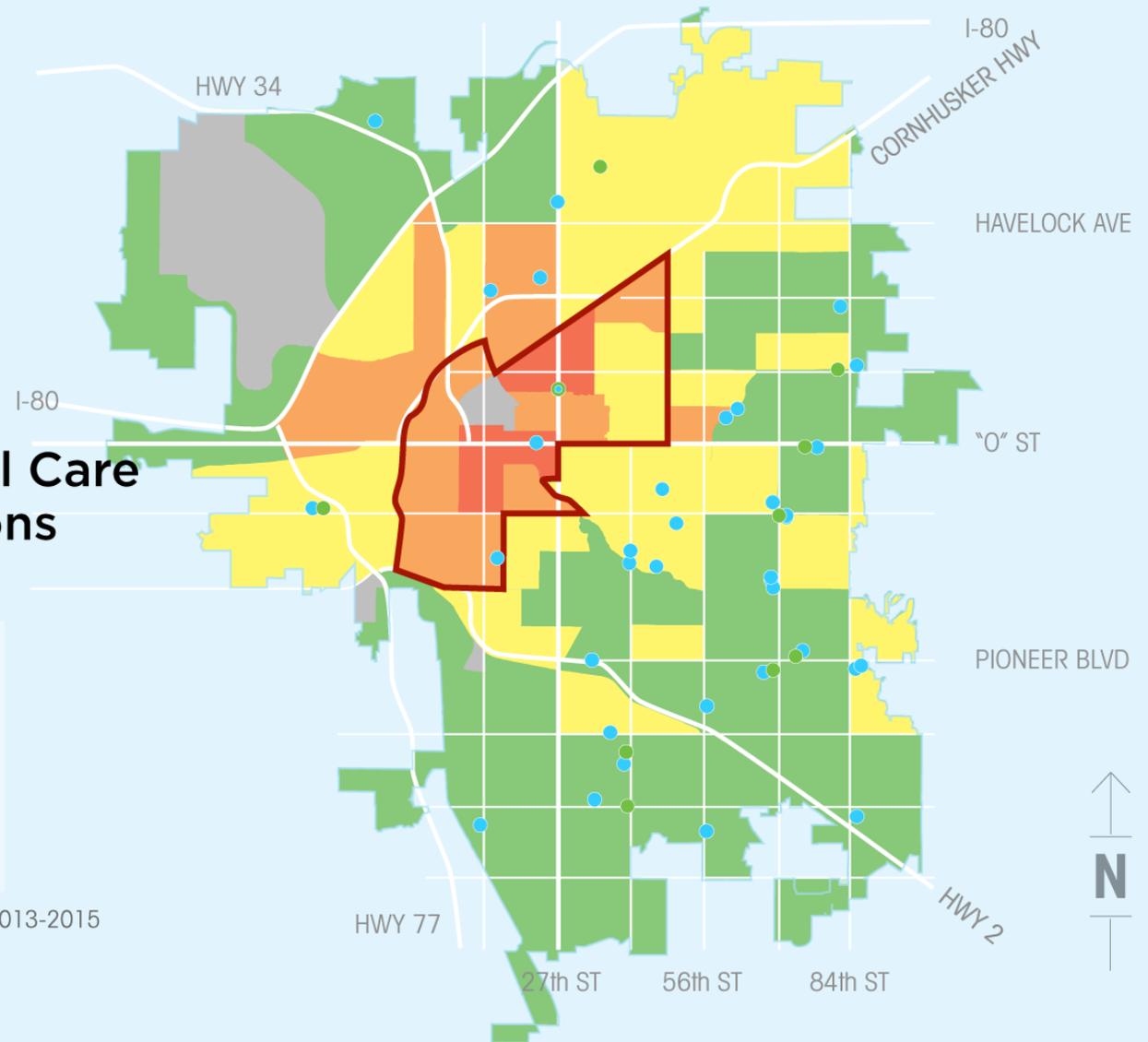
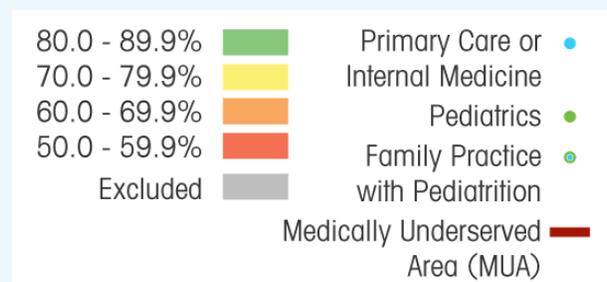
- Lincoln has a lower percentage of low birth weight infancies than does the U.S. overall.





Some of the lowest rates of first trimester prenatal care are in a federal designated Medically Underserved Area (MUA)

First Trimester Prenatal Care + Primary Care Locations



SOURCE: LINCOLN-LANCASTER COUNTY HEALTH DEPT., 2013-2015

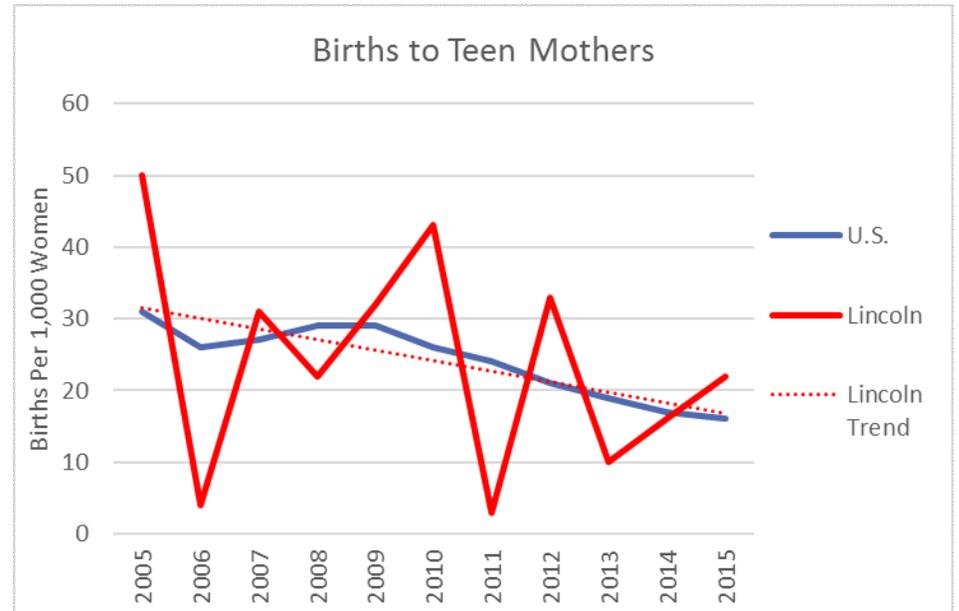




Births to Lincoln teen mothers is the same as the national rate



Figure 94



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, Table DP02.

Teenage girls who give birth are more likely to drop out of high school and more likely to be in poverty. Research suggests that children born to teen mothers are more likely to be low birth weight, have long-term health problems, and have worse educational outcomes; these issues are likely the result of associated socio-economic (e.g. poverty) and cultural issues rather than the actual fact of young motherhood.¹¹

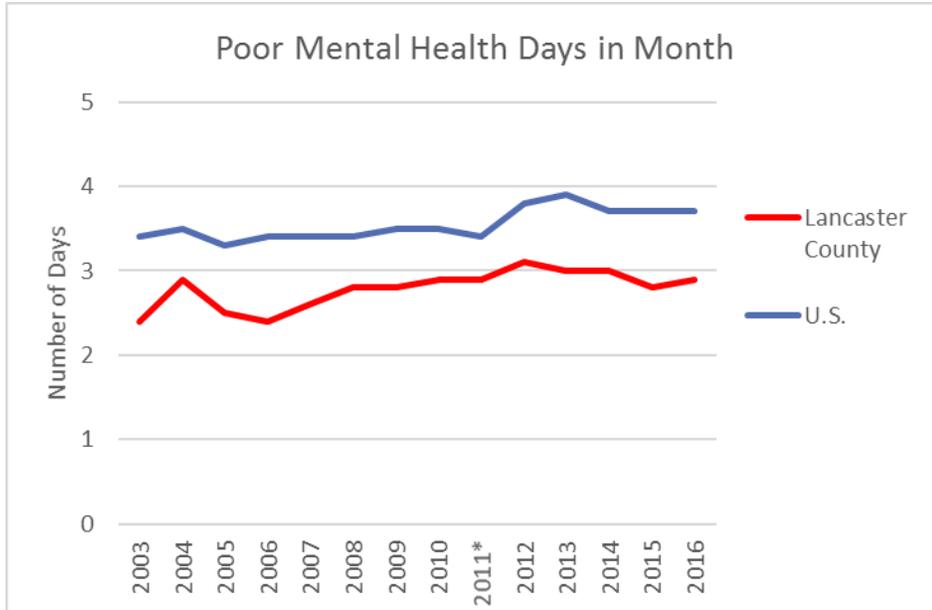
- In Lincoln, the rate of births to teen mothers (aged 15 to 19 years of age) has fluctuated, some years much higher than the national rate and other years much lower.
- Lincoln’s average rate over the past is the same as national rate (24 births per 100 women 15 to 19 years of age).
- Both Lincoln and national rates of births to teen mothers have declined in the past decade.





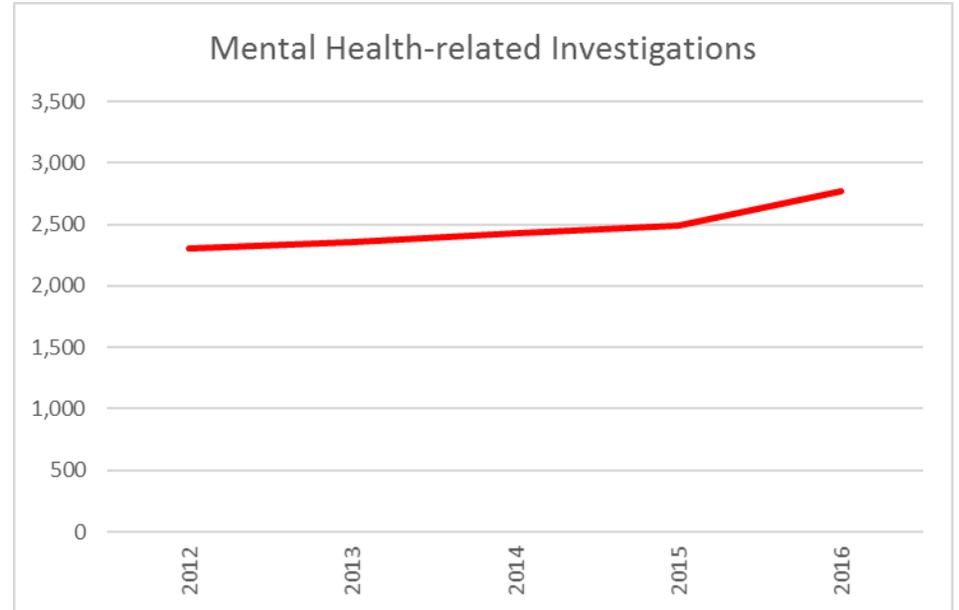
Poor mental health days are increasing

Figure 95



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System.
 *Sampling changes occurred in 2011, data from 2011 on may not be comparable to earlier.

Figure 96



Source: Lincoln Police Department.

Mental health is a key component of overall well-being. Mental illness is the leading cause of disability in the United States. Nationally, between 5% to 7% of adults experience a serious mental illness (e.g., schizophrenia, manic-depressive disorder, and severe depressive disorders).¹²

- In Lancaster County, residents report experiencing fewer poor mental health days in a month than U.S. residents overall.

The Lincoln Police Department has two full-time officers trained to respond to calls involving mental health issues. When a person is located who may need mental health services, and they are not dangerous, they are provided information about available services. Their contact information is also provided to a peer support program that follows up on all contacts.

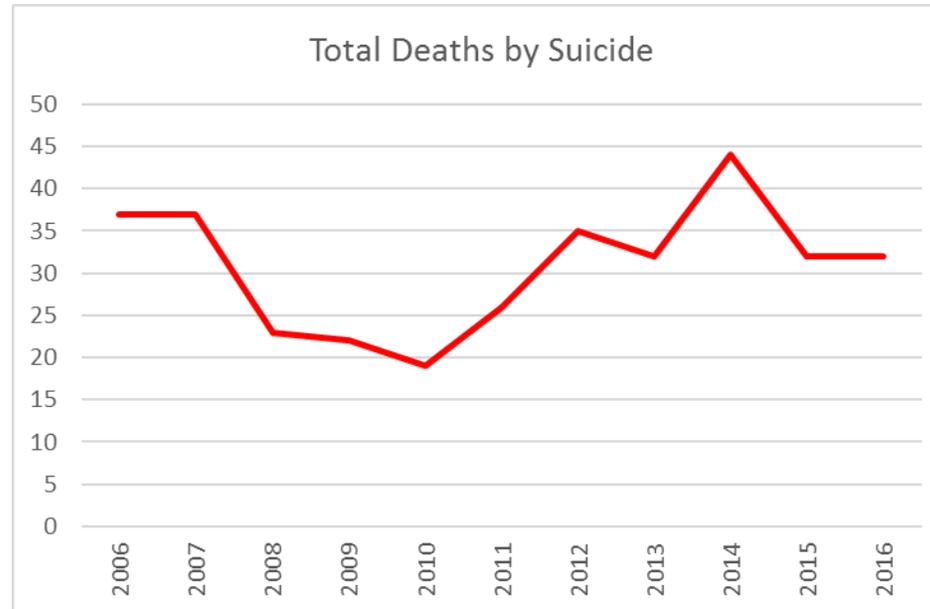
- The total number of investigations has been slightly increasing since 2012, as has Lincoln’s population.
- 13% of mental health investigations result in Emergency Protective Custody.





Lincoln Police respond to one call per day related to suicide; most persons committing suicide have no previous law enforcement contact

Figure 97



Sources: 2011 and earlier data from Lancaster County Vital Statistics Reports; 2012 and later data from Lincoln Police Department.

Note: Data is for Lancaster County.

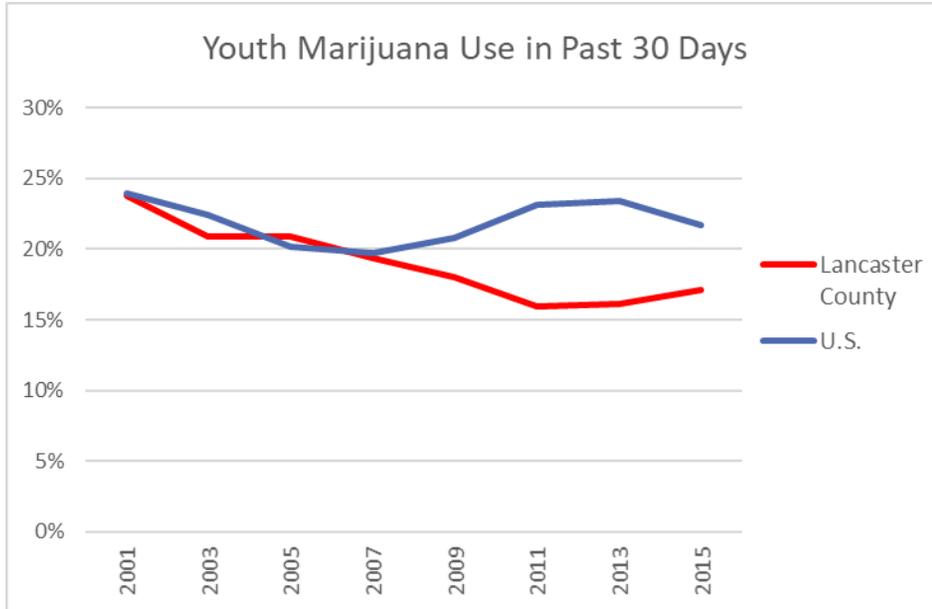
- Lincoln police respond to about one call per day related to suicide.
- In the past decade, suicides in Lincoln have averaged 30 per year.
 - Suicides hit a recent high of 44 in 2014.
- Most suicides (84%) over the past five years have been among working age adults (age 19 to 64).
- As of 2014, suicide is no longer in the top 10 overall leading causes of death in Lancaster County.¹³
 - However, suicide is still a top 10 leading cause of death for men in Lancaster County, ranking 6th in 2014.
- Most people who committed suicide in Lincoln (77%) had no prior law enforcement contact.
 - 7% had a prior suicide attempt on record.





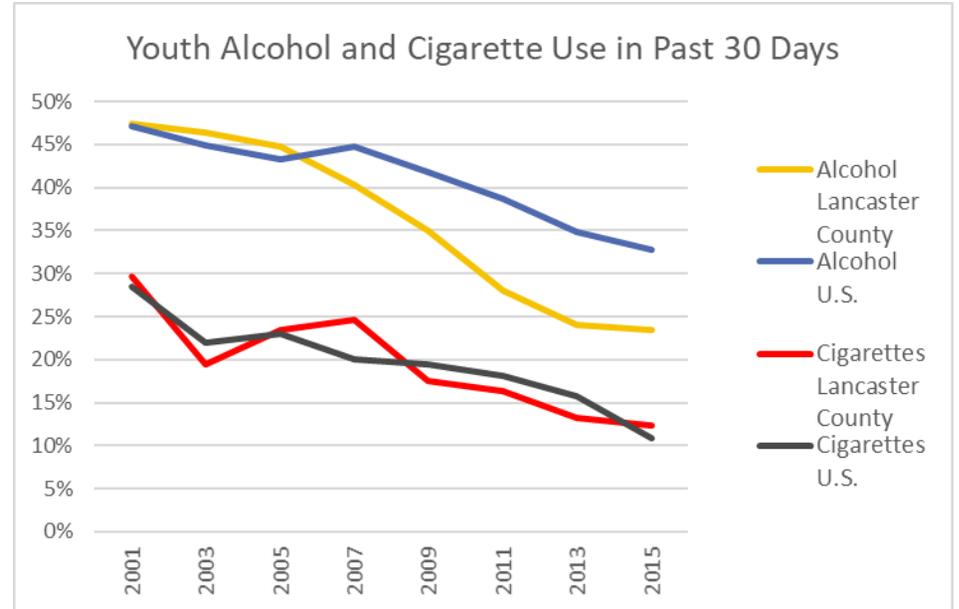
Youth drug and alcohol use rates are lower than U.S. rates

Figure 98



Sources: Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System; national data from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; local data from Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department.

Figure 99



Sources: Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System; national data from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; local data from Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department.

Illicit drug and alcohol use by youth increase their risk for injury, violence, HIV infection, and other diseases,¹⁴ and is related to lower academic achievement.¹⁵

- In the past decade, Lancaster County has seen an 18% decline in marijuana use among teens. 21% of students reported 30-day marijuana use in 2005, dropping to 17% in 2015.
- Marijuana use is lower among teens in Lancaster County than nationally.

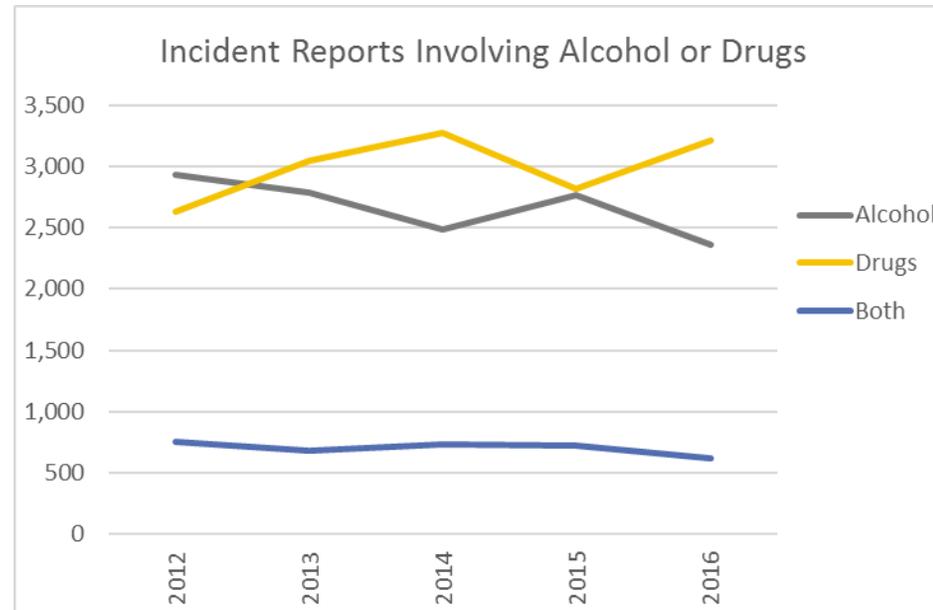
- Alcohol use among teens in Lancaster County has declined 48% in the past decade.
 - 45% of students reported 30-day alcohol use in 2005, dropping to 23% in 2015.
- Alcohol use is lower among Lancaster County teens than nationally.
- Also in the past decade, cigarette use among teens has declined 47%.
 - 24% of students reported 30-day cigarette use in 2005, dropping to 12% in 2015.
- Teen cigarette use in Lincoln is about the same as the national rate.





One-fifth of police responses involve alcohol and/or drugs

Figure 100



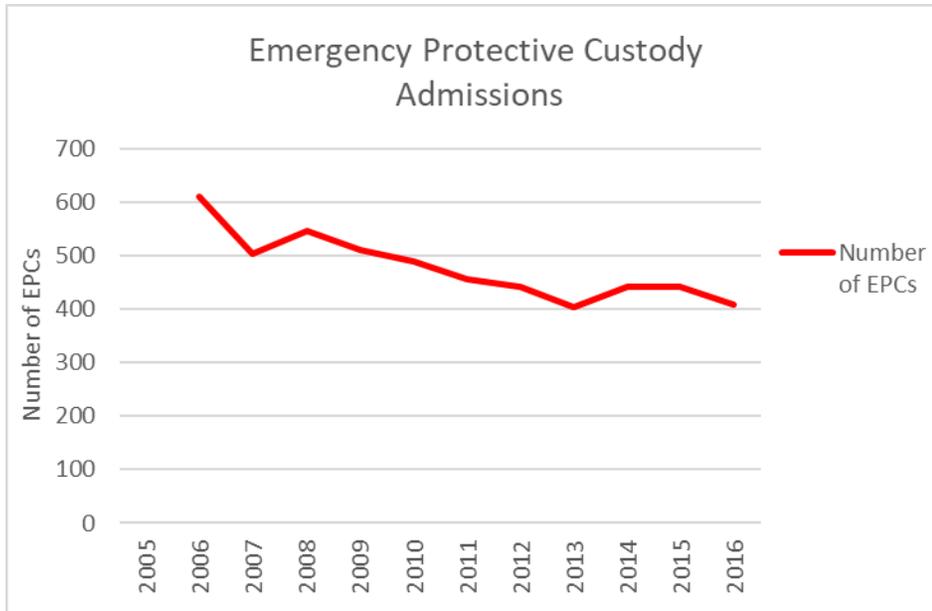
Source: Lincoln Police Department.

- 18% of all police responses are for incidents involving alcohol and/or drugs (6,198 calls in 2016).
- In the past five years, incidents involving:
 - Drugs only are 8% of all calls
 - Alcohol only are 7% of all calls
 - Alcohol and drugs are 2% of all calls



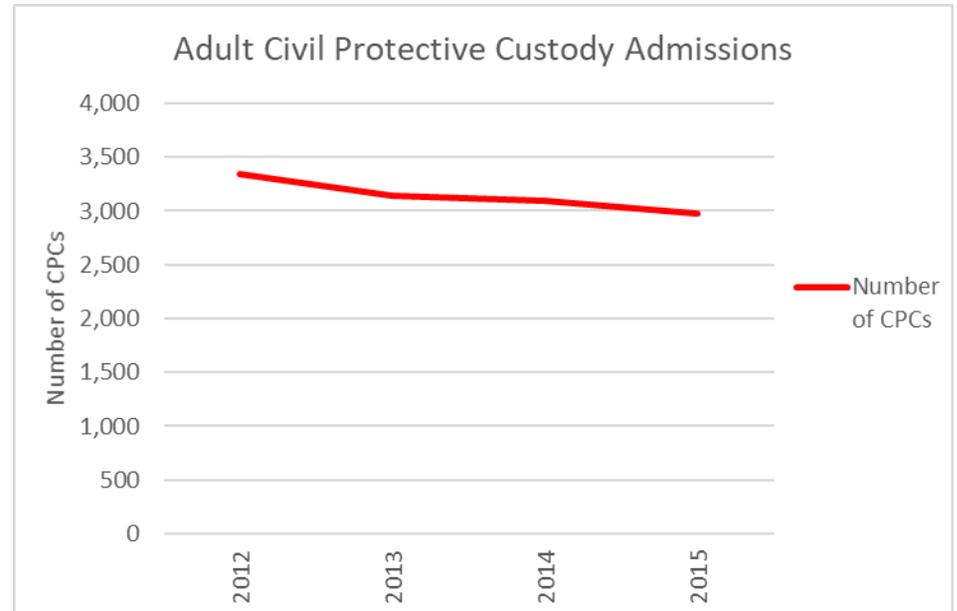
Mental health and substance abuse crisis services utilization is declining

Figure 101



Source: Region V Behavioral Health Systems, Emergency Monitoring Annual Reports.
Note: Data is for Lancaster County.

Figure 102



Source: Region V Behavioral Health Systems.

Through Emergency Protective Custody (EPC), law enforcement may take a person into involuntary custody who is mentally ill and dangerous to themselves or others, and who does not seek voluntary treatment when encouraged to do so by officers. Civil Protective Custody (CPC) is used by law enforcement to detain a person who appears intoxicated and dangerous to himself, others, or is incapacitated on public property.

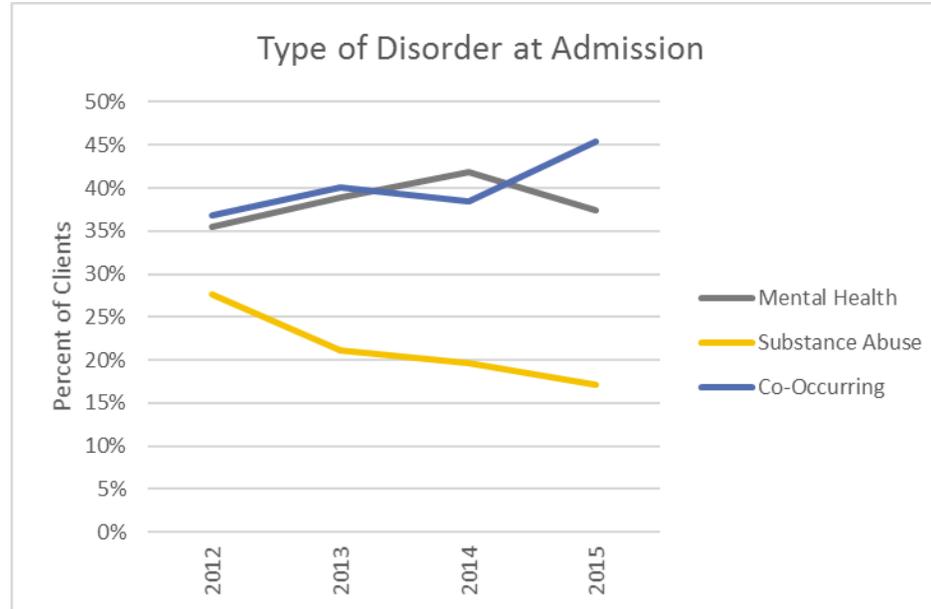
- The number of EPC admissions has declined 28% over the past decade.
 - In 2005, police awareness training taught how to refer to services and offer the opportunity to go voluntarily.
- Only 10% to 15% of those admitted have previously been EPC'd.
 - For those with repeat admissions, the majority (86%) return within 13 months.
- Recently, the number of adult CPC admissions per year has decreased somewhat as the population of Lincoln has grown.





Co-occurring disorders are the most common diagnosis for persons entering behavioral health services

Figure 103



Source: Region V Behavioral Health Systems.

The state of Nebraska and local communities are responsible for delivering services to persons with severe and persistent behavioral health needs who are unable to pay for them. In Lincoln, Nebraska-funded services are paid for by the State of Nebraska, Lancaster County, behavioral health providers' charitable donations or other underwriting, and donors. Persons receiving Nebraska-funded care are only a subset of all individuals receiving services. For example, some persons pay for services through other public programs, such as Medicaid. Others may pay for services through other public or private insurance programs, or may self-fund care. In Lincoln, many persons with severe and persistent behavioral health needs cycle between Nebraska-funded and Medicaid-funded care.

When persons enter into any type of service, they are *admitted*. People may be admitted to multiple services simultaneously. Persons admitted may be diagnosed with a mental health disorder, a substance abuse disorder, or a *co-occurring disorder*. A co-occurring disorder is one that involves both mental health and substance abuse. When individuals have a co-occurring disorder, treatments that address both are associated with lower costs and better outcomes.¹⁶

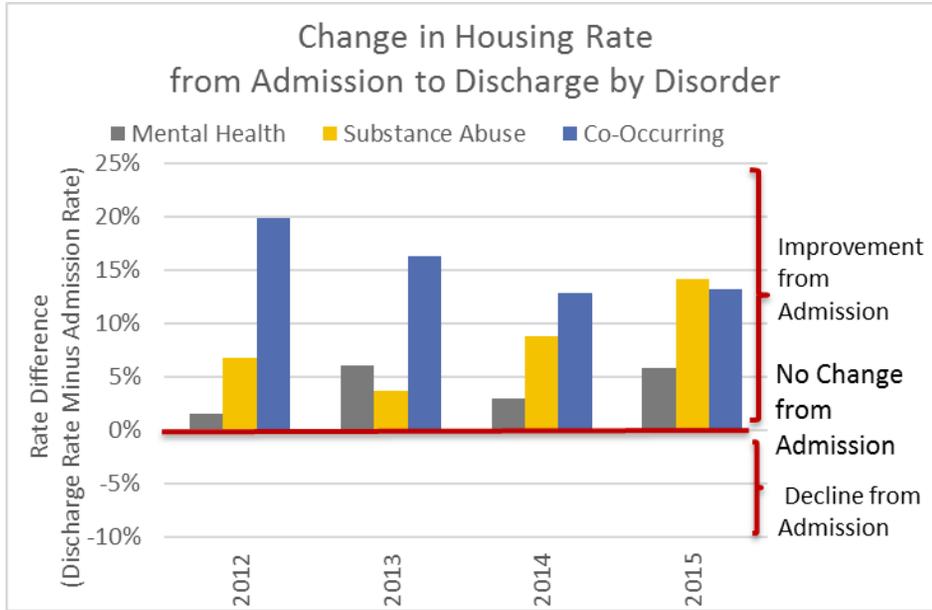
- Among persons receiving Nebraska-funded services in 2015:
 - 45% had a co-occurring disorder
 - 37% had a mental health disorder
 - 17% had a substance abuse disorder





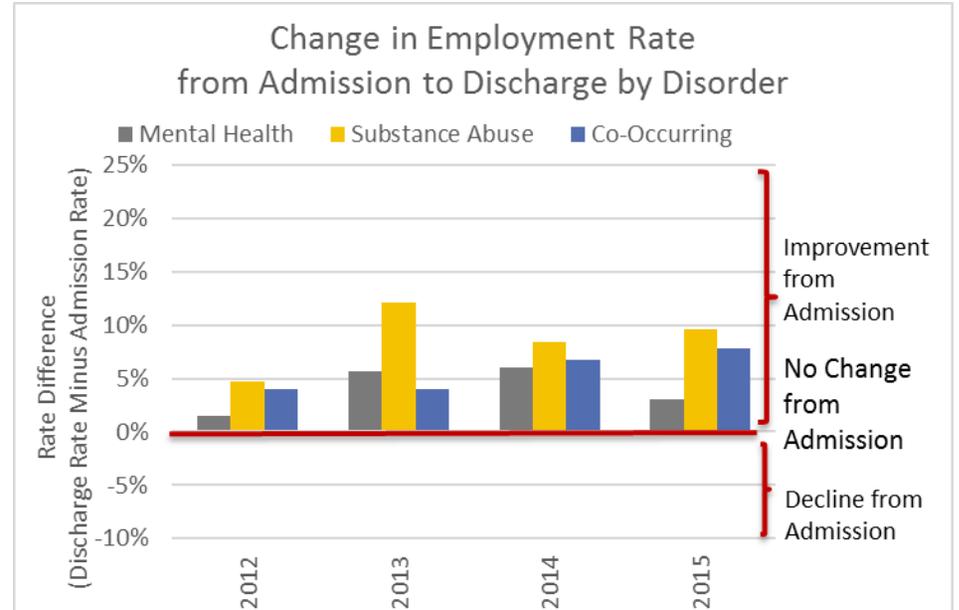
Both housing and employment rates increase among those with mental health disorders when they receive services

Figure 104



Source: Region V Behavioral Health Systems.

Figure 105



Source: Region V Behavioral Health Systems.

Persons with severe mental illness comprise a significant percentage of the homeless,¹⁷ incarcerated,¹⁸ and unemployed¹⁹ populations. In addition to treatment services, a wide array of agencies provide other supportive community services to aid those with severe and persistent behavioral health needs in Lincoln.

- Most homeless persons in Lincoln have behavioral disorders (58% of homeless individuals in 2015²⁰).
- Persons who receive behavioral health services are more likely to be housed after receiving services.
- For behavioral health clients who received public services in 2015:
 - 71% were housed when admitted to services while 83% at discharge.
- Greater housing rates at discharge occur for persons in each of the three major categories of disorders.
- A greater percentage of persons are employed when discharged from behavioral health services than when they were admitted to services.
- For behavioral health clients who received public services in 2015:
 - 16% were employed when admitted to services while 23% were at discharge.
- Higher employment at discharge occurs for persons in each of the three major categories of disorders.



Health Chapter Notes

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8. Obesity is defined as having a Body Mass Index of 30 to 99.8 and is calculated based on responses to questions about height and weight. Lancaster County data comes from Lincoln-Lancaster Health Department and is from a geographic over-sample of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention national sample for the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS). Over-sampled data is weighted in the same manner as the national data. National data come from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention national sample.
9. Diabetes rates are based in individual report that they have been diagnosed with diabetes. Lancaster County data comes from Lincoln-Lancaster Health Department and is from a geographic over-sample of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention national sample for the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS). Over-sampled data is weighted in the same manner as the national data. National data come from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention national sample.
10. Physical inactivity is based on persons responding *No* to the question: “During the past month, other than your regular job, did you participate in any physical activities or exercises such as running, calisthenics, golf, gardening, or walking for exercise?” . Lancaster County and national data are from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS). Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department does not over-sample this question.



Health Chapter Notes (continued)

11. Geronimus, A. T., & Korenman, S. (1993). Maternal youth or family background? On the health disadvantages of infants with teenage mothers. *American Journal of Epidemiology*, 137(2), 213-225.
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Safety and Security



Safety and Security

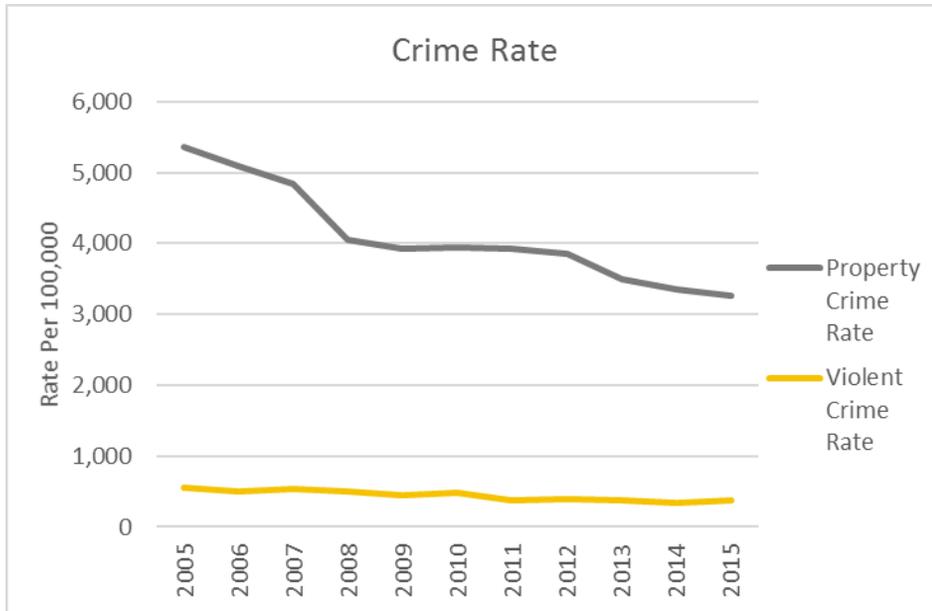
People decide where to live based on opportunities to satisfy basic needs: safety (93%), jobs (83%), and housing (83%).¹ People want to live in communities where they feel physically free from harm. Harm may occur through intentional victimization, as well as through accidents and health crises. In the United States, victimization rates since the early 1990s have declined.² Urbanized areas now have lower overall injury-related mortality rates among all age groups than do more rural areas.³

Although people in Lincoln do come to harm, on the whole, Lincoln is a safe place to live. **Lincoln has less crime than other similarly-sized communities.** Persons living in Lincoln report feeling safe most or all of the time, traffic crash injuries are decreasing, and medical and fire services are effective. There has been a **substantial decline in children who have been removed from their homes for their safety,** for reasons such as neglect, parental drug use, and substandard/unsafe housing. However, **Lincoln has seen an increase in the juvenile arrest rate for drug violations,** when compared to the national rate.



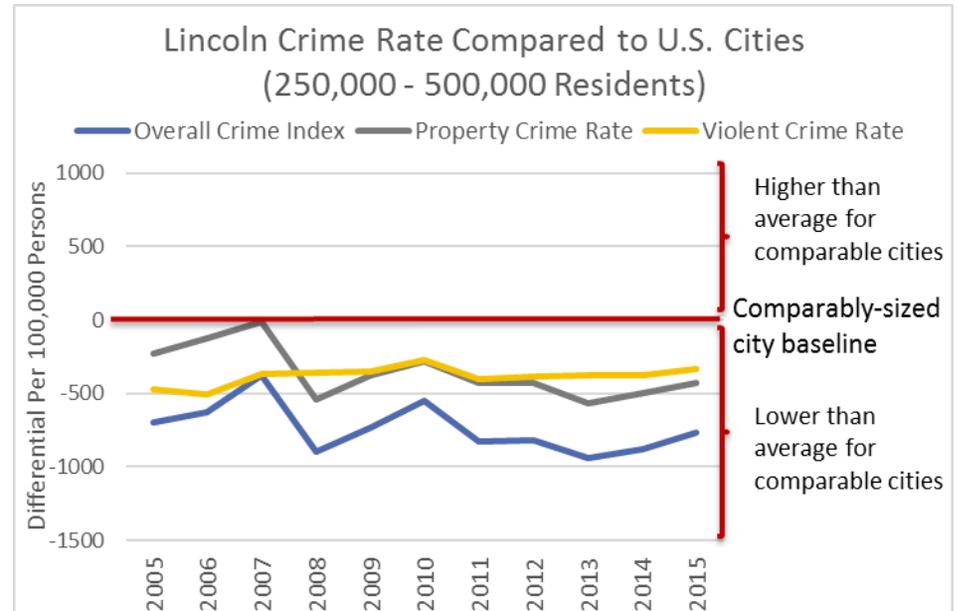
Lincoln's crime rate remains low

Figure 106



Source: U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reports.

Figure 107



Source: U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reports.

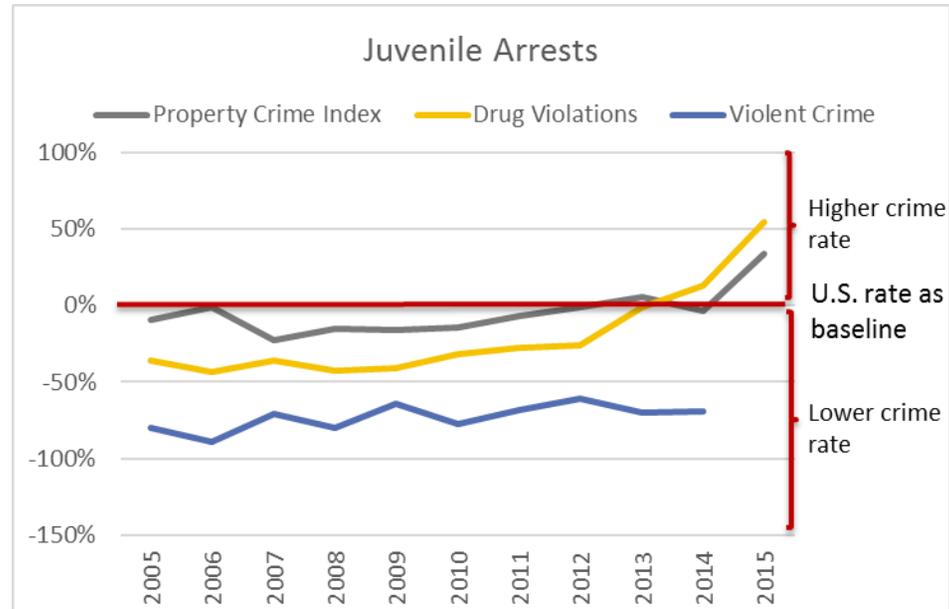
- In Lincoln, property crimes comprise most reported offenses, and have declined 39% since 2005.
 - Burglary comprises only a small portion of property crime, but is a good proxy for property crime. The City of Lincoln has maintained its goal of having fewer than 755 burglaries per 100,000 persons.⁴
- The lowest rate of crime in Lincoln is for violent crime and it has declined 32% since 2005 (from 547 offenses per 100,000 persons in 2005 to 371 offenses per 100,000 persons in 2015).
 - The City of Lincoln has maintained its goal of having fewer than 555 violent crimes per 100,000 persons.
- Lincoln's property and violent crime rates have consistently trailed the rates of other cities across the United States with populations between 250,000 to 500,000 persons.
 - From 2005 to 2015, Lincoln's property crime rate dropped from 96% of other comparably-sized cities to 88%.
 - Since 2005, Lincoln's violent crime rate has averaged 54% of the violent crime rate of other comparably-sized cities.





Lincoln's juvenile arrest rate for drug violations is increasing

Figure 108



Source: *Juvenile Arrest Rates (JAR)*; national data from U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; local data from Nebraska Crime Commission.
Note: Local data is for Lancaster County.

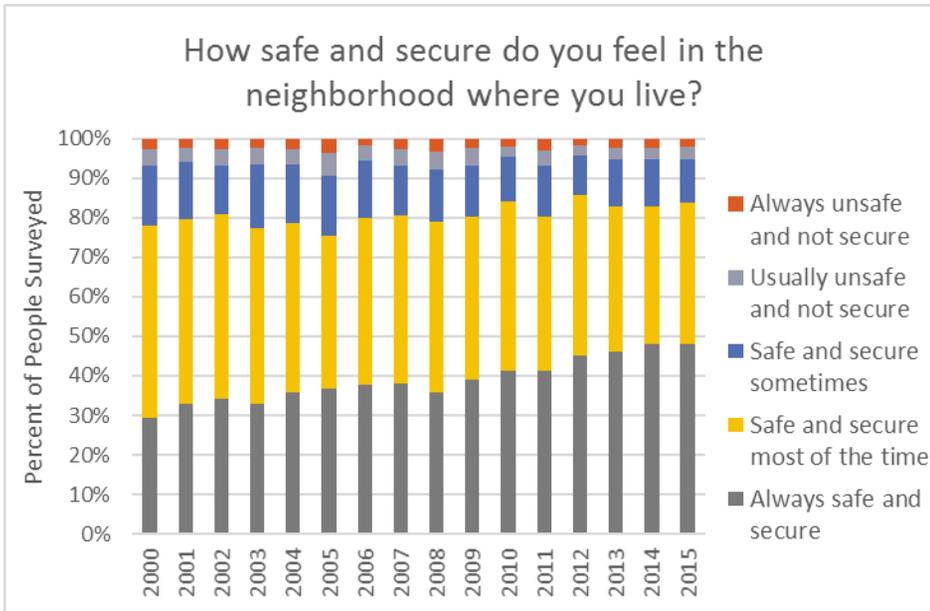
- Lincoln's juvenile drug arrest rate has typically been lower than the national rate, but has been increasing since 2012 and is now 55% higher than the national rate.
- Although property crimes committed by juveniles have been decreasing nationally in recent years⁵, in 2015 Lincoln experienced an increase in the property arrest rate.⁶
- Lincoln's juvenile violent crime arrest rates have been an average of 73% lower than the national rate over the past decade.





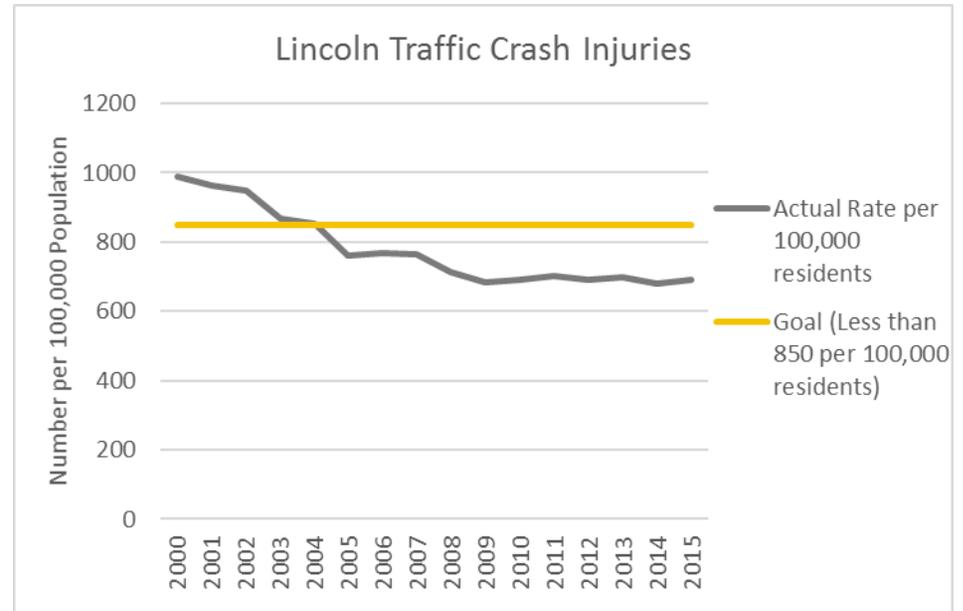
People in Lincoln report feeling safe

Figure 109



Source: Lincoln Police Department, Annual Reports, Quality Service Audit.

Figure 110



Source: City of Lincoln, Taking Charge Reports.

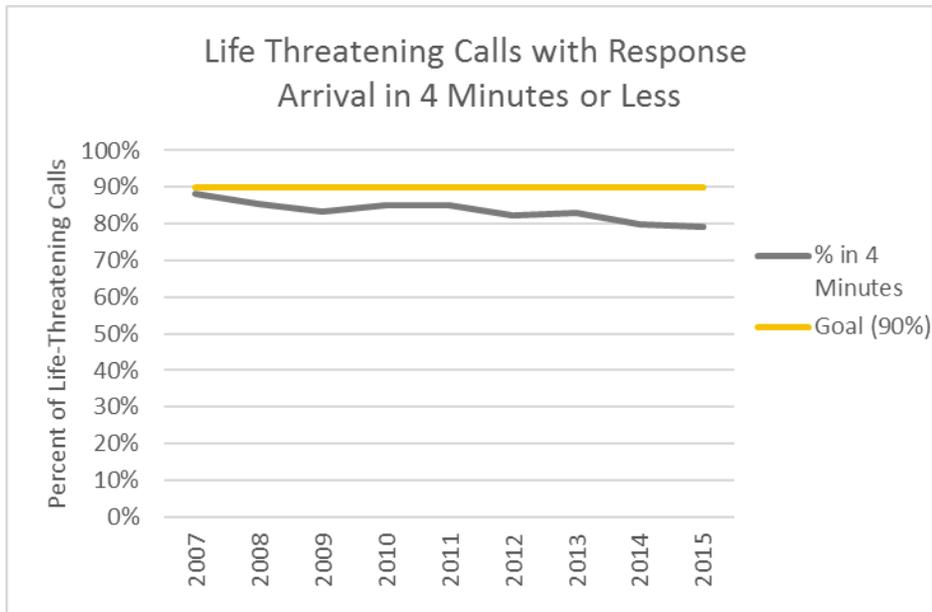
- The Lincoln Police Department, through a contract with Gallup, surveys all individuals who have contact with city police officers.
 - Since 2000, approximately 75-85% of respondents have indicated that they feel safe and secure either *always* or *most of the time*.
 - Of that group, there has been a steady increase in the percentage of individuals who say they *always* feel safe and secure (from 29% in 2000 to 48% in 2015).
- The high percentage of feelings of safety and security among this population are particularly interesting since the group includes individuals who have had contact with the police department as the result of victimization.

- The rate of traffic crash-related injuries has steadily declined from 998 in 2000, to 689 injuries per 100,000 persons in 2015.
- Since 2004, the rate has not exceeded the City of Lincoln’s goal of fewer than 850 injuries per 100,000 persons.



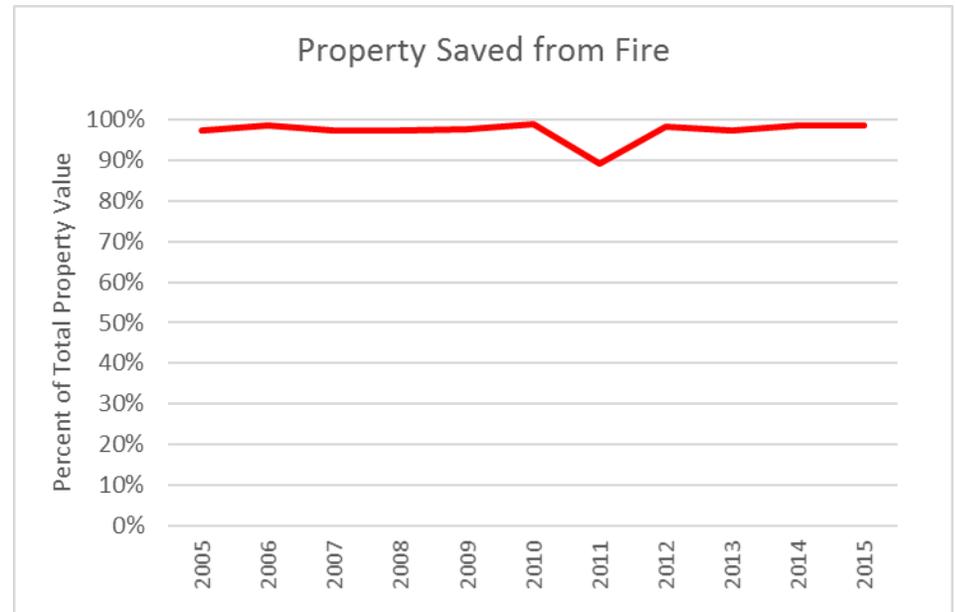
Medical emergency response trails city goals, but property value saved is high

Figure 111



Source: City of Lincoln, Taking Charge Reports.

Figure 112



Source: City of Lincoln, Taking Charge Reports.

- Lincoln Fire and Rescue responds to medical emergencies with Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs).
- The City of Lincoln’s goal is to achieve on-scene presence of an EMT in less than 4 minutes for 90% of life threatening medical calls.
- For the past nine years, the goal has not been reached. According to city officials, the city has been lagging in reaching its goal because city annexation has resulted in housing developments that are not near existing fire stations.

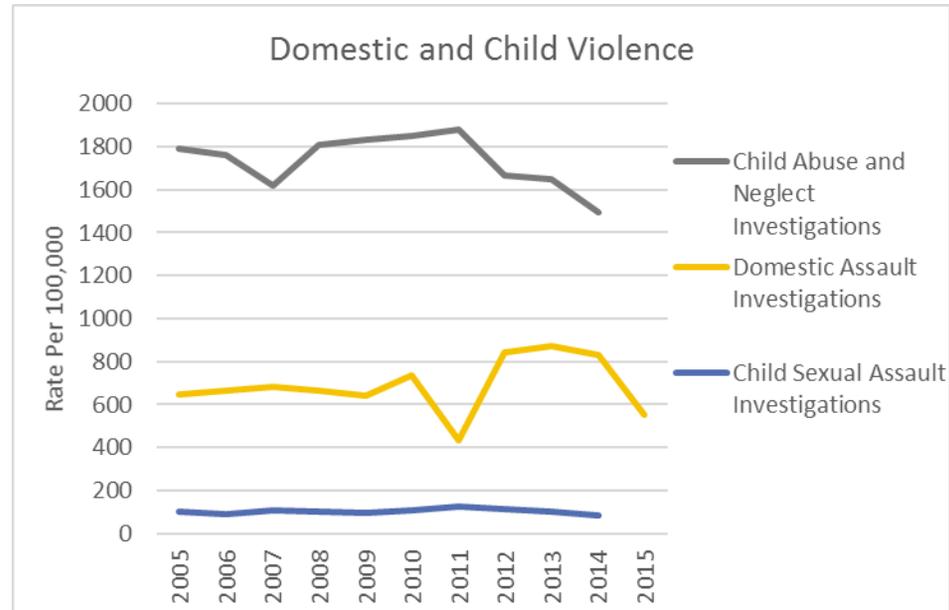
- Lincoln Fire and Rescue track the percentage of total property value they save.
- Over the past eleven years, Lincoln Fire and Rescue saved 97% of property value.
 - The only single year this percentage dropped below 97% was in 2011, the year the Lincoln Public Schools’ district office was destroyed by fire.





Domestic and child violence rates have been fairly steady

Figure 113



Source: Compiled from Nebraska Crime Commission, Domestic Assault Reports. Lincoln Police Department. Lancaster County Sheriffs Office.

Note: Data is for Lancaster County.

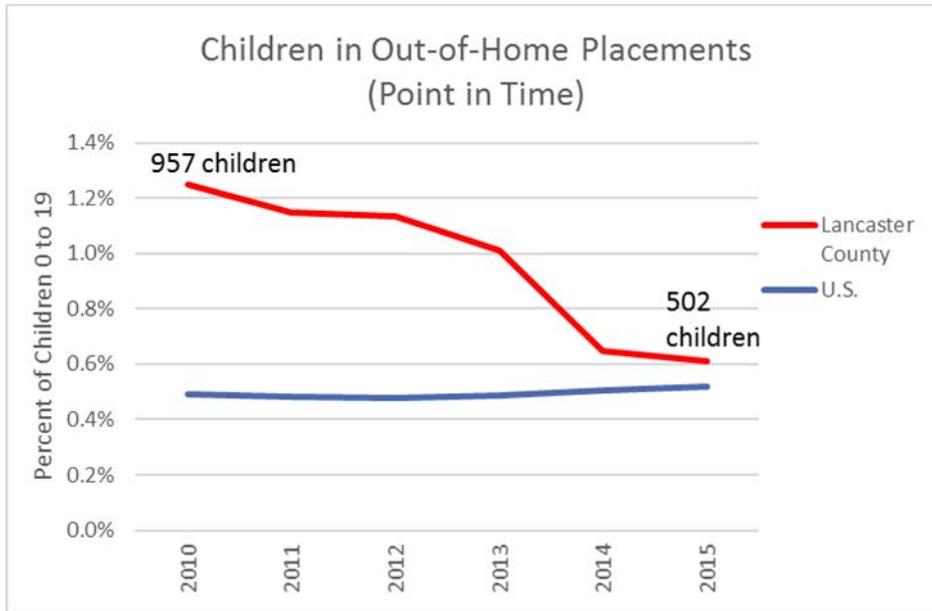
- Lancaster County's rate of child abuse and neglect investigations varies from year to year, and has decreased 17% from a high in 2011 (from 5445 investigations per 100,000 persons in 2011 to 4506 investigations per 100,000 persons in 2014).⁷
- The rate of domestic assault investigations also varies from year to year, but overall have trended higher on average in the past decade.
 - Recently, rates of domestic assault investigations have decreased 35% from a 2013 high (from 2597 investigations per 100,000 persons in 2013 to 1697 investigations per 100,000 persons in 2015).
- The rate of child sexual assault investigations has remained steady since 2005.





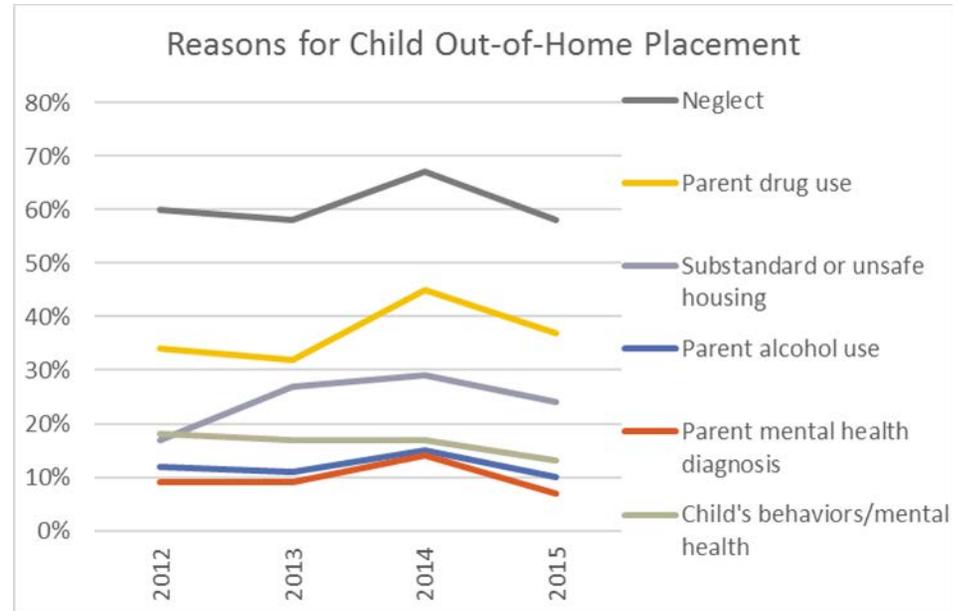
The percentage of children in out-of-home placements has declined substantially, and is nearly the same as the national average

Figure 114



Source: National data from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) Reports. Local data from The Nebraska Foster Care Review Office, Annual Reports.

Figure 115



Source: The Nebraska Foster Care Review Office, Annual Reports.

“Even after considering background characteristics, poverty level, prior achievement and school effects, students who ever spent time in foster care—regardless of timing of entry, duration in care, or any other specification of that experience—have lower educational outcomes than their peers.”⁸ Nebraska’s child protective custody system has been widely criticized for the high percentages of children that are placed in out-of-home care (such as foster care).

- In Lancaster County, the percentage of children in foster care has declined substantially, but continues to be higher than the national percentage.^{9,10}
- Although the percentage of children in out-of-home placement (on a given day through a point in time count) is a relatively small percentage of the population of children in Lincoln, the percentage does represent almost 500 children on a given day (in 2015, 502 Lincoln children were in out-of-home placements).

- In 2013, the most common reasons children were placed in out-of-home care were:¹¹
 - Neglect (failure to provide for a child's basic physical, medical, educational, and/or emotional needs): 58%
 - Parent drug use: 37%
 - Substandard or unsafe housing: 24%
 - Domestic violence: 15%
 - Physical abuse: 13%
 - Parent alcohol use: 10%



Safety Chapter Notes

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10. These figures exclude children who are removed from homes due to juvenile justice interventions.
11. Figures do not total to 100% since children may be removed from the parental home for multiple reasons.



Appendices

- Acknowledgements
- A Note about Lincoln Vital Signs 2017 Data Indicators and Sources
- Measures Omitted from Lincoln Vital Signs 2017
- Data Sources
- Publication Notes



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A Note About Lincoln Vital Signs 2017 Data Indicators and Sources

As was the case for the 2014 and 2015 Lincoln Vital Signs reports, indicators for this study are measures of the strength and health of our community as well as the challenges. The indicators are meant to:

- Reflect fundamental interests and concerns of the community, families, and individuals
- Be reliable sources using valid sampling and measurement approaches
- Be available for multiple, recent past years, and repeatable for future years
- Measure outcomes, rather than inputs or outputs

For a number of indicators, national, state, peer, or aspirational community data are provided. The authors have noted in various sections of the report where data are lacking for important aspects in our community's life. The only original data collected as a part of this study were those regarding high quality preschool enrollment of at risk children. Otherwise, data already available from public sources were used. The Appendix provides information about the data sources. Data were selected, where possible, that represents the City of Lincoln. The authors have noted when other geographic units were used (Lancaster County, of which Lincoln comprises 90% of the population; the Lincoln Metropolitan Statistical Area, which is Lancaster and Seward Counties; or Nebraska as a whole). Peer and aspirational communities used for some comparisons are those identified in the 2013 *Lincoln Economic Dashboard* created by the Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development.

There is some variation in reporting of racial and ethnic categories within the study based on availability from the data source. For most data used in the study, categorization is based on self-identification. At a minimum, the Census Bureau reports five racial categories: White, Black/African-American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. Persons may choose more than one race. When population sizes of racial groups are small, access to specific data about these populations may be suppressed by the Census Bureau. The Census Bureau also collects Hispanic/Latino origin (popularly called "ethnicity"). Ethnicity is a separate and distinct concept from race. That is, an individual may claim any race along with Hispanic/Latino origin (<http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-02.pdf>). For purposes of presentation, race and ethnicity are often reported in a single graphic figure. Further, we have shortened titles of racial/ethnicity categories, in most cases.

Over the years, the U.S. Census Bureau has varied its approach to reporting about persons living in group quarters (including data from populations living in college dormitories, correctional facilities, nursing homes). For example, beginning in 2006, race and educational attainment data include persons in group quarters. Calculations for persons in poverty EXCLUDE institutionalized people, people in military group quarters, people in college dormitories, and unrelated individuals under 15 years old.



Measures Omitted from Lincoln Vital Signs 2017

Some indicators that were in previous reports have been removed from this year's report. Reasons for removal include data for the indicator no longer being updated for recent years or no longer being available, and data showing trends that are no likely to change (such as higher voting in presidential election years than in other years). Additionally, the previous category Community involvement and Culture was reorganized in this year's report for this same reason. Several indicators are no longer included, and the remaining data was moved to the Economy and Workforce category near related data.

This report has removed indicators from four categories:

Community Profile

- Perceptions of Community, Personal Well-Being, and Outlook on the Future (Nebraska Metro Poll)

Economy and Workforce

- Federal funds expended (U.S. Census Bureau, Consolidated Federal Funds Reports)

Health

- Rate of accidental death (Nebraska Department of Human Health, Vital Statistics Reports)
- Admissions to the Lancaster County Mental Health Crisis Center (Region V Behavioral Health Systems)
- Post-commitment days (Region V Behavioral Health Systems)
- Elementary and middle school physical fitness (Lincoln Public Schools Fitness Report)

Community Involvement and Culture (reorganized for the 2017 report)

- Voter turnout (Nebraska Secretary of State, and George Mason University)
- Volunteering Rate (Corporation for National and Community Service)
- Individual charitable giving (National Center for Charitable Statistics)
- Charitable foundation giving (FoundationSearch, and Chronicle of Philanthropy)



Data Sources

Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) Annual Reports

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/research-data-technology/statistics-research/afcars>

The Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) collects case-level information from state and tribal title IV-E agencies on all children in foster care and those who have been adopted with title IV-E agency involvement. Title IV-E agencies are required to submit AFCARS data twice a year.

American Chamber of Commerce Research Association (ACCRA) Cost of Living Index (COLI)

Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER)

<http://www.coli.org/>

Since 1968, the Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER) has collected and published cost of living data comparing city-to-city key consumer costs. However, the voluntary nature of the index means that not every area is covered. The Cost of Living Index is referenced in the U.S. Census Bureau's Statistical Abstract of the U.S. The index is cross-sectional in nature; the overall U.S. average is indexed to 100, and the individual area prices are expressed relative to the U.S. average. The data are reported quarterly.

American Community Survey

United States Census Bureau

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/>

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a relatively new survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. It uses a series of monthly samples to produce annually updated data for the same small areas (census tracts and block groups) formerly surveyed via the decennial census long-form sample. Initially, 5 years of samples will be required to produce these small-area data. Once the Census Bureau has collected 5 years of data, new small-area data will be produced annually. The Census Bureau also will produce 3-year and 1-year data products for larger geographic areas. The ACS includes people living in both housing units (HUs) and group quarters (GQs). The ACS is conducted throughout the United States and in Puerto Rico.



Appendix – Data Sources (continued)

Annual Domestic Violence Reports

Nebraska Crime Commission

https://ncc.nebraska.gov/stat-reports#Domestic_Assault_Series

Data is reported by all local jurisdictions and compiled by the Nebraska Crime Commission on an annual basis. Data collection began in 1999.

Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<https://www.cdc.gov/brfss/about/index.htm>

The BRFSS is an ongoing, monthly, state-based telephone survey of the adult population. The survey provides state-specific information on behavioral risk factors and preventive health practices. Major changes to BRFSS survey methods began in 2011, meaning that comparison of data prior to 2011 to that after 2011 is not recommended.

Buffett Early Childhood Institute – University of Nebraska

<http://buffettinstitute.nebraska.edu/>

The Buffett Early Childhood Institute has partnered with Gallup on a statewide survey to learn about the public's attitudes, beliefs, and knowledge concerning early care and education across Nebraska. The main report from the survey, *Nebraskans Speak About Early Childhood Care and Education*, was released on March 29, 2016. Data specific to Lincoln was provided by The Buffett Early Childhood Institute.

Business Dynamics Statistics

United States Census Bureau

<https://www.census.gov/ces/dataproducts/bds/>

The Business Dynamics Statistics (BDS) provides annual measures of business dynamics (such as job creation and destruction, establishment births and deaths, and firm startups and shutdowns) for the economy and aggregated by establishment and firm characteristics.



Appendix – Data Sources (continued)

Crime in the United States

FBI Uniform Crime Reports

<http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/ucr-publications#Crime>

Crime in the United States is an annual publication in which the FBI compiles the volume and rate of violent and property crime offenses for the nation and by state. Individual law enforcement agency data are also provided for those contributors supplying 12 months complete offense data. This report also includes arrest, clearance, and law enforcement employee data. Use the new online UCR Data Tool to research crime statistics for the nation, by state, and by individual law enforcement agency.

Decennial Survey

United States Census Bureau

<http://www.census.gov/2010census/>

The U.S. Census counts every resident in the United States. It is mandated by Article I, Section 2 of the Constitution and takes place every 10 years. The data collected by the decennial census determine the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives and is also used to distribute billions in federal funds to local communities. The 2010 Census represented the most massive participation movement ever witnessed in our country. Approximately 74 percent of the households returned their census forms by mail; the remaining households were counted by census workers walking neighborhoods throughout the United States. National and state population totals from the 2010 Census were released on December 21, 2010.

Gallup-Sharecare Well-Being Index® (formerly Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index®, prior to Sharecare's acquisition of Healthways in 2016)

Gallup

<http://www.well-beingindex.com/methodology.asp>

The specific dimensions on which communities and states are ranked changed in 2014. The Well-Being Index now measures Americans' perceptions of their lives and their daily experiences through five interrelated elements that make up well-being: sense of purpose, social relationships, financial security, relationship to community, and physical health.



Appendix – Data Sources (continued)

Lincoln/Lancaster County Youth Risk Behavioral Survey (Lincoln/Lancaster YRBS)

Lincoln/Lancaster County Health Department

<https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/health/pde/yrbss/index.htm>

The Youth Risk Behavior Survey measures the prevalence of health-risk behaviors among adolescents through representative national, state, and local surveys conducted biennially. Data is available from surveys conducted in 1999, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2009, 2011, 2013, and 2015. The national and state surveys use multi-stage cluster sampling to obtain samples of students in grades 9-12 reflecting the geographic, urban-rural, racial, gender, and grade makeup of the population in those grade levels. In Lancaster County, the survey is conducted in all high schools, in randomly selected classrooms of a required period (second or English period). Parental consent was required beginning in 1997.

Lincoln Economic Dashboard

Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development

https://cms.proteus.co/_resources/dyn/files/75764720zfe5457b/_fn/LPED+Dashboard+2017-pages+for+web.pdf

The Lincoln Economic Dashboard is a joint effort of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Bureau of Business Research, the Board of Directors of the Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development, and the Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development Steering Committee. The Dashboard collects and presents data to measure Lincoln's economic performance in comparison to other communities.

Lincoln Homeless Point in Time Report

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Center on Children, Families and the Law

<http://www.lincolnhomelesscoalition.org/homelessness-awareness/reports/>

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development requires each Continuum of Care to conduct an unduplicated point-in-time count of all persons who are homeless. Since 2006 the Lincoln Homeless Coalition has conducted the unduplicated count through the Community Services Management Information System (CS-MIS) at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln Center on Children, Families, and the Law. CS-MIS counts the number of homeless persons sheltered in emergency shelters and transitional housing programs, and domestic violence shelters provide aggregate counts of unduplicated persons in their shelters. These persons represent the sheltered homeless counts. A street count (unsheltered persons) is conducted by the Lincoln Police Department, Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach, Cedars Street Outreach and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Street count information is then cross referenced with CS-MIS sheltered information to remove duplicates identified in the street count from those identified as sheltered in the CS-MIS count.



Appendix – Data Sources (continued)

Lincoln Police Department Quality Service Audit

City of Lincoln Police Department

Phone survey conducted by Gallup with people who had contact with a police officer (such as crime victims and people who received traffic tickets), but not arrested for a crime.

Lincoln Public Schools Special Education Statistical Handbook

Lincoln Public Schools

<http://www.lps.org/post/index.cfm?collection=77>

Lincoln Public Schools Special Education Student Information System (SEIS) data is collected from students' Individual Education Program forms. Lincoln Public Schools reports data to the Nebraska Department of Education annually.

Lincoln Public Schools Statistical Handbooks

Lincoln Public Schools

<http://www.lps.org/post/index.cfm?collection=77>

The Annual Statistical Handbook contains basic statistical information about Lincoln Public Schools. It is intended to provide the user with current information about public education in the community of Lincoln, Nebraska.

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Bureau of Labor Statistics

<http://www.bls.gov/lau/>

The Local Area Unemployment Statistics program is a Federal-State cooperative effort that produces monthly estimates of total employment and unemployment. These estimates are key indicators of local economic conditions. The concepts and definitions underlying LAUS data come from the Current Population Survey (CPS), the household survey that is the official measure of the labor force for the nation. State monthly model estimates are controlled in "real time" to sum to national monthly labor force estimates from the CPS. These models combine current and historical data from the CPS, the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program, and State unemployment insurance (UI) systems. Estimates for seven large areas and their respective balances of State are also model-based. Estimates for the remainder of the substate labor market areas are produced through a building-block approach known as the "Handbook method." This procedure also uses data from several sources, including the CPS, the CES program, State UI systems, and the decennial census, to create estimates that are adjusted to the statewide measures of employment and unemployment. Below the labor market area level, estimates are prepared using disaggregation techniques based on inputs from the decennial census, annual population estimates, and current UI data.



Appendix – Data Sources (continued)

Map the Meal Gap

Feeding America

<http://map.feedingamerica.org/>

The primary goal of the Map the Meal Gap analysis is to more accurately assess food insecurity at the community level. Map the Meal Gap generates two types of community-level data: county-level food insecurity and child food insecurity estimates by income categories, and an estimate of the food budget shortfall that food insecure individuals report they experience.

Monthly Labor Review (MLR)

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

<https://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/about.htm>

Monthly Labor Review (MLR) is the principal journal of fact, analysis, and research from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Each month, economists, statisticians, and experts from the Bureau join with private sector professionals and state and local government specialists to provide a wealth of research in a wide variety of fields—the labor force, the economy, employment, inflation, productivity, occupational injuries and illnesses, wages, prices, and more.

National Arts Index

Americans for the Arts

http://www.artsusa.org/information_services/arts_index/001.asp

The National Arts Index, created by Americans for the Arts, distills the health and vitality of arts in the U.S. It is composed of 83 equal-weighted, national-level indicators of arts and culture activity that covers a 13-year period, from 1998 to 2010. Each indicator is updated annually and a new report is produced.

National Center for Juvenile Justice

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

<http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/crime>

Collects and presents information about juvenile participation in the justice system.



Appendix – Data Sources (continued)

Nebraska Education Profile (NEP) (formerly Nebraska State of the Schools Reports)

<http://nep.education.ne.gov/>

The Nebraska Education Profile is the online portal that provides information and data about Nebraska public schools and student performance. The NEP highlights the performance of students by district and school building in reading, mathematics, writing, and science as well as performance by groups of students, including race and ethnicity, poverty, special education, and English Language Learners.

Nebraska Foster Care Review Office Annual Reports

<http://www.fcro.nebraska.gov/publications.html>

These are annual reports by the Nebraska Foster Care Review Office that summarize data about Nebraska children who are in out of home placement in Nebraska.

National Vital Statistics System (NVSS)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/index.htm>

The National Vital Statistics System is the oldest system of inter-governmental data sharing in Public Health. These data are provided through contracts between NCHS and vital registration systems operated in the various jurisdictions legally responsible for the registration of vital events – births, deaths, marriages, divorces, and fetal deaths. Mortality data from the National Vital Statistics System (NVSS) are a fundamental source of demographic, geographic, and cause-of-death information.

Nebraska Youth Risk Behavioral Survey (Nebraska YRBS)

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

<http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/DataCenter/Pages/YRBS.aspx>

The survey administered in Nebraska was designed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and matches surveys used in other states. The CDC selects a sample for Nebraska using a two-stage cluster sampling design. In the first stage, a random sample of public high schools was selected with probability proportionate to school enrollment. Schools were then recruited to participate. In the second stage, within each of the participating schools, a random sample of classrooms was selected and all students in those classes were targeted for participation. Upon agreeing to participate, schools are supported by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Bureau of Sociological Research (BOSR). BOSR assists the school in selecting an administration date, sends the school the surveys and instructions for administration, receives surveys back from the schools, and sends them to the CDC. The CDC weights the surveys to represent all public high school students in Nebraska.



Appendix – Data Sources (continued)

Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates

Bureau of Labor Statistics

<https://www.bls.gov/oes/>

The Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) program produces employment and wage estimates annually for over 800 occupations. These estimates are available for the nation as a whole, for individual States, and for metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas; national occupational estimates for specific industries are also available.

Online Vital Statistics Reporting System

Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department

<https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/health/pde/vitalstats/index.htm>

Vital records data include information on births and deaths occurring to Lancaster County residents. Birth and death records remain an excellent, and usually the best available, source of population data to determine rates of birth, pregnancy, prenatal care, birth weight, infant mortality and numerous other birth outcomes and causes of death. Birth certificate data are collected from various sources; including the mother, clinic, and hospital with most of the information coming from the hospital and other medical records. As for the source of data from death certificates, the cause of death is reported by the attending physician or coroner/medical examiners. Funeral directors and the families often are the sources of information about the person's demographic characteristics.

Patent Technology Monitoring Team (PTMT)

United States Patent and Trademark Office

<https://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/ac/ido/oeip/taf/reports.htm>

The PTMT annually updates and periodically issues general statistics and miscellaneous reports that profile patenting activity at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). The PTMT annually updates the yearly number of applications and grants for utility, design, plant, and reissue patents granted since 1963 in their U.S. Patent Statistics Report.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases Surveillance

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<https://www.cdc.gov/std/>

Annual reports present surveillance information derived from the official statistics for the reported occurrence of nationally notifiable sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) in the United States, test positivity and prevalence data from numerous prevalence monitoring initiatives, sentinel surveillance, and national health care services surveys.



Appendix – Data Sources (continued)

Statistical Briefing Book

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)

<http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/>

The OJJDP Statistical Briefing Book (SBB) is an online information source via OJJDP's Website. Developed for OJJDP by the National Center for Juvenile Justice, the SBB presents information about juvenile crime and victimization and about youth involved in the juvenile justice system.

Statistics & Facts About Nebraska Schools Reports

Nebraska Department of Education

<http://drs.education.ne.gov/quickfacts/Pages/DistrictandSchoolInformation.aspx>

This is a series of reports that were included in a publication called Statistics and Facts About Nebraska Schools. The reports include state-level reports, district and school level reports for public districts, nonpublic systems and State Operated systems (Special Purpose Schools). Most of the reports relate to the Fall Membership (student counts as of the last Friday in September, Nebraska's official counting day). Other reports include School District Census by County, and Full-Time Equivalency (F.T.E) of Certificated Personnel by Assignment and Gender.

Survey of Lincoln Area Businesses about Skill and Training Requirements

Bureau of Business Research, College of Business Administration

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

https://networks.nebraska.gov/admin/gsipub/htmlarea/uploads/UNL_Final_Report_120314.pdf

This report discusses the results from a survey of employers in the Lincoln Metropolitan Area, including the types of occupations Lincoln area employers are searching for and hiring, and the types of difficulties employers face when hiring. The survey also asks about the types of training which employers provide.

Taking Charge Reports

City of Lincoln

<http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/mayor/takingcharge/>

The City of Lincoln partnered with the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center on the Taking Charge public engagement process since 2008 to make their voices heard on a variety of budget topics. Their input has helped shape the budgets released by the Mayor's office. Reports presenting the results of online surveys combined with face-to-face Community Conversation have been released annually since 2013.



Appendix – Data Sources (continued)

Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbs/index.htm>

The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS), established in 1991, monitors six categories of priority health-risk behaviors among youths and young adults: 1) behaviors that contribute to unintentional injuries and violence; 2) sexual behaviors that contribute to human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection, other sexually transmitted diseases, and unintended pregnancy; 3) tobacco use; 4) alcohol and other drug use; 5) unhealthy dietary behaviors; and 6) physical inactivity. In addition, YRBSS monitors the prevalence of obesity and asthma among this population. YRBSS data are obtained from multiple sources including a national school-based survey conducted by CDC as well as school based state, territorial, tribal, and large urban school district surveys conducted by education and health agencies. These surveys have been conducted biennially since 1991 and include representative samples of students in grades 9–12.



Publication Notes

About the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center...

The University of Nebraska Public Policy Center is a university-wide, multidisciplinary research and outreach policy unit of the University of Nebraska committed to connecting local, state, and federal policymakers to expertise at the University of Nebraska and beyond. Center researchers team with policymakers and other stakeholders to actively inform public policy by bringing expertise in strategic consulting and planning, communication, data collection and analysis, evaluation, events and seminars, facilitation, grant writing, project management, research, and surveys. The Center provides a unique opportunity for decision-makers of all kinds to work together to address the challenges of local, state, and federal policy. Center researchers combine professional expertise with rigorous academic methods and stakeholder involvement.

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