



Harper College Environmental Scan 2017

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Environmental scanning process

- ❖ Purpose of the Harper College Environmental Scan
- ❖ Collection of data on external demographic, economic and societal changes
- ❖ Analysis of the data to determine regional uniqueness and trends
- ❖ Compilation of information to tell a story

Housing Trends

Foreclosures in the Harper district have been on the decline.

Supporting Rationale:

- Only two, out of 23 municipalities, have foreclosure rates greater than 1%.
- The overall rate of all municipalities that overlap the Harper district is 0.54%.
- This slightly higher than the state and national rates, but a strong improvement.





Housing Trends

While real estate sales improve, perceptions of housing values still low.

Supporting Rationale

- Harper residents in municipalities reported having much lower perceived home value than may be reality.
- Median sales prices have steadily increased from 2010 to 2016.
- Owner occupancy rates are still lower in 2015 than in 2010 due to more transitioning into rentals or vacancies.
- Vacancy rates steadily improve except for three municipalities that remain much higher than the statewide average.

Population Trends

The Harper district population is becoming more diverse in race and ethnicity.

Supporting Rationale:

- Minorities represent 33.8% of the Harper population in 2015 compared to 30.7% in 2010.
- The Asian population has grown by an additional 5,000 residents from 2010 to 2015 primarily concentrated in the Schaumburg and Hoffman Estates areas.
- The Hispanic population has also increased by 1,548 residents from 2010 to 2015 primarily concentrating on the district boundary.
- The White Non-Hispanic population decreased by almost 3,500 residents.





Population Trends

The Harper district is attracting those that speak languages other than English and/or born in other countries.

Supporting Rationale

- Township HSD 211 is experiencing a drastic increase in other languages being spoken other than Spanish, from 2,000 to almost 21,000 residents. Slight increases in the other two districts.
- The population 5 years of age and older has increased, but the number of residents that speak English exclusively has decreased.
- Those speaking Asian and Pacific Islander languages have increased from 29,000 to 38,000 since 2010 due to the influx of new residents from those regions.
- Foreign born residents are mostly from Mexico (33.0%), India (14.6%) and Poland (9.5%).



Population Trends

Birth rates have been declining for many years.

Supporting Rationale

- Median age of the district population is increasing due to the lack of younger children to offset the Baby Boomer generation.
- Those between age 10 and 14 were the largest age cohort in the youth population in 2015. The subsequent five-year cohorts have decreased in number.
- Enrollments in 1st grade are at the smallest among all the grades in schools located in Harper's district.



Population Trends

Performance in the three sender K-12 districts to Harper remain high.

Supporting Rationale

- The overall four-year graduation rate was 92.6%, much higher than Illinois' 85.3%.
- Low income eligibility in the Harper district has increased in the last few years, but is still much lower than the statewide average.
- Only three high schools have a mobility rate greater than the statewide average as an indicator of community stability.
- The dropout rates are much lower than the statewide average.
- The four and five-year graduation rates are higher for every district, some significantly, than the statewide average.

Postsecondary Trends

Return on Investment for a Harper education.

Supporting Rationale:

- Increased earnings over time after graduation show, on average, an accumulated total of almost \$500,000 difference between a Harper degree and not having any higher education degree.
- Despite the decrease in grants available for two year programs, the value of a Harper education is strong.





Economic Trends

Economic conditions in the country have shown signs of recovery.

Supporting Rationale:

- The loss of net worth has hit primarily middle class families, their nest egg to pay for their children's higher education.
- The State budget impasse combined with the public pension crisis continues to impede Illinois' recovery.
- The continued decline of credit ratings are increasing the operating costs State and local governments, as well as State colleges and universities.



Workforce Trends

Despite signs of economic recovery and falling unemployment rates, many employers are reluctant to hire new employees or rehire laid-off workers.

Supporting Rationale

- Even though unemployment rates continue to decline, much of this can be attributed to falling labor force participation.
- Because of the slow pace of the recovery, many of the long-term unemployed have dropped out of the labor force.
- Many of those that lost jobs in the last recession have skill-sets that are not readily transferable to growth industries like Healthcare, Education and Professional and Business Services, making it more challenging to get dislocated workers back into gainful employment.

Workforce Trends

Wage and Income growth continues to struggle, threatening economic growth.

Supporting Rationale

- Median household income declined in 16 of the 23 communities in the Harper district between 2010 and 2015. Eight communities experienced a greater decline than the State average of \$3,177.
- Median family income declined in 14 of the 23 communities in the Harper district between 2010 and 2015. Ten communities experienced a greater decline than the State average of \$2,831.





Meeting the Needs of Business and Industry

Post-Recession Job Growth has been slow and some key industry sectors continue to struggle.

Supporting Rationale

- Although local factors can play a significant role in job gains and losses, it appears that changes in the global economy, technology and industry restructuring are having a greater influence.
- Because many of the jobs being created or lost between these industries require vastly different skill-sets, the demand for education and training for dislocated workers should be strong.



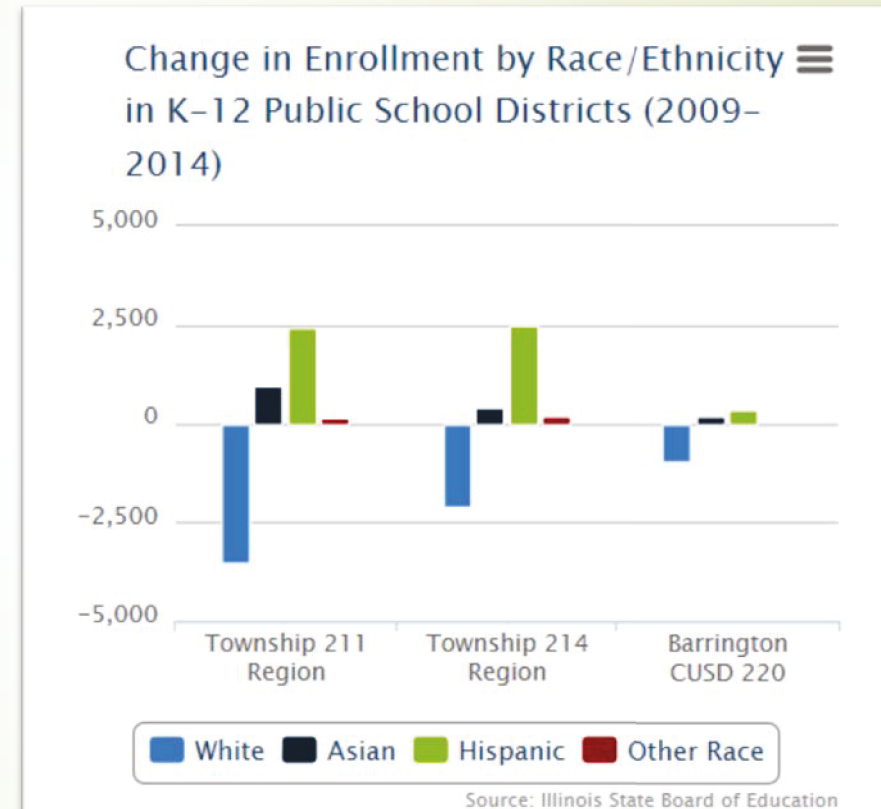
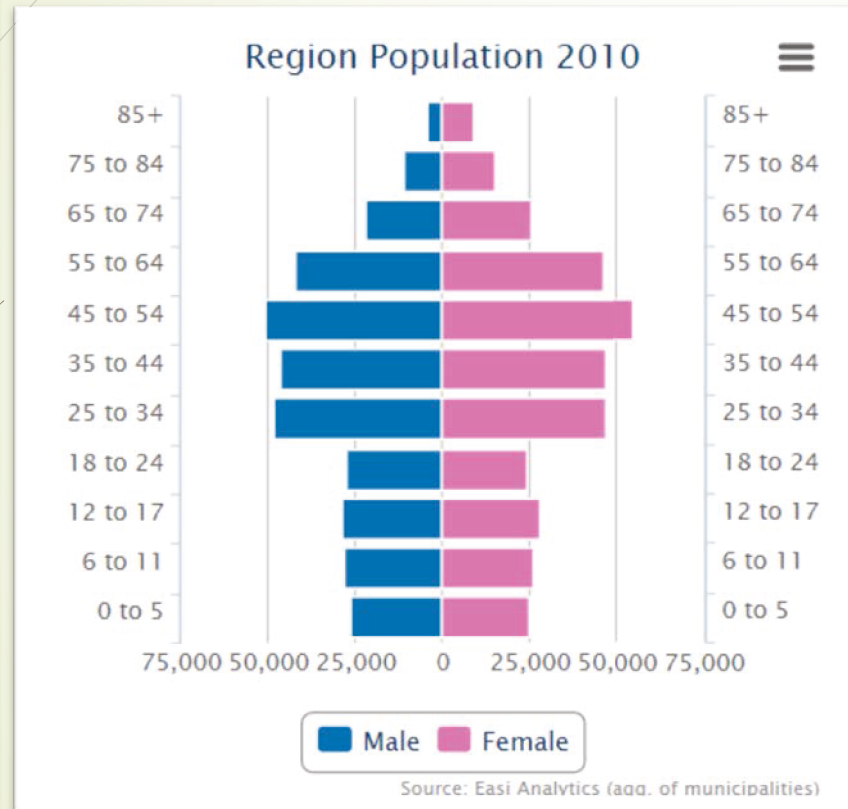
Meeting the Needs of Business and Industry

Most of the demand for workers over the next decade will stem from the need to fill existing positions rather than from new jobs.

Supporting Rationale

- With two-thirds of projected jobs requiring only a high school degree or GED, Harper can play a role in helping students plan careers that begin with an entry-level job but grow into careers with expanded earnings potential.
- Manufacturing remains an industry sector of great strategic importance despite its loss of jobs over the last five years.
- Health care and social assistance, educational services, management of companies and enterprises, and accommodation and food services also offer significant employment opportunities.

Digital Dashboard





Any Questions?

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