



## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR RELEASE: AUGUST 10, 2017**

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### **10 NEW DATA CHARTS ADDED TO FOX CITIES LIFE STUDY**

A study focusing on key aspects of the Fox Cities' quality of life has been updated to include 10 new data charts incorporating race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and age for some data indicator pages, and two additional themes covering workforce participation, and diversity and inclusion.

The 10 new data charts in the Fox Cities LIFE (Leading Indicators for Excellence) Study, funded by United Way Fox Cities, Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region and the Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce and Industry, are related to community priorities of youth health, student performance and youth safety. These priorities, along with poverty, were chosen by a cross-section of 200 community members who attended a LIFE Study Dive-In Day in June 2016.

"Participants in last year's Dive-In Day said that it would be helpful to see some existing and any new data points presented in ways that more clearly reflect a theme of diversity and inclusion," said Peter Kelly, President and CEO of United Way Fox Cities. "We listened, and have presented the 10 new charts in this way to help people gain a deeper understanding of the data."

"With the start of a new school year upon us, presenting the youth health, safety and student performance data from an additional perspective was a good place to start, and we especially encourage school and community leaders and parents to take note of the data," said Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region President and CEO Curt Detjen.

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The following new charts and key data points have been added to the interactive LIFE Study website, [www.FoxCitiesLifeStudy.org](http://www.FoxCitiesLifeStudy.org).

**Workforce Participation ([data indicator page 2.08 on website](#))**

NEW CHART: *Workforce participation Rates – 2010-2014*

Key data points from chart:

- The workforce participation rate (ages 16 to 64) is higher than the national average in all three counties; Calumet and Outagamie Counties have rates higher than the state average.
- The same pattern is reflected in rates of workforce participation for all adults (ages 16 to 99) working full- or part-time.
- The workforce participation rate for adults age 18 to 64 decreased slightly in Calumet, Outagamie and Winnebago from 2005-2009 to 2010-2014 alongside an increase in the actual number of employees and a drop in the unemployment rate.

**Youth Depression and Suicide-Related Behavior ([data indicator page 4.10 on website](#))**

NEW CHART: *Youth Suicide-Related Behavior of High School Students by Race/Ethnicity*

Key data point from chart:

- Rates for considering and attempting suicide are higher among students who identify as racial and ethnic minorities, especially among American Indians and Hawaiian or Pacific Islanders.

NEW CHART: *Youth Suicide-Related Behavior of High School Students by Sexual Orientation*

Key data point from chart:

- Of students who identified as gay, lesbian, or bisexual, more than 45% have considered suicide compared to 13% heterosexual students. Rates of attempting suicide are significantly higher for these groups as well.

**Grade 3 Reading Proficiency ([data indicator page 5.05 on website](#))**

NEW CHART: *Grade 3 Reading Proficiency by Race/Ethnicity*

Key data points from chart:

- Third grade reading proficiency increased between 2012 and 2015, particularly among Hispanic students, though a significant gap remains between white students and all other racial and ethnic groups.

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**Economically Disadvantaged Students** ([data indicator page 5.08 on website](#))

NEW CHART: *Free and Reduced Price Lunch Eligibility by Race/Ethnicity*

Key conclusion from chart:

- The number of students eligible for free and reduced lunch, correlated with academic performance, is significantly higher for all racial and ethnic groups compared to the white student population.

**Graduation Rate** ([data indicator page 5.12 on website](#))

NEW CHART: *Four-year Graduation Rate by Race/Ethnicity*

Key data point from chart:

- Over a six-year period, graduation rates declined for all groups except the two-or-more races and the Black/African American student groups.

**Online and In-School Bullying** ([data indicator pages 6.01 and 6.02 on website](#))

NEW CHARTS: *Bullying Online and at School by Sexual Orientation*

Key data point from charts:

- In-school and online bullying rates for bisexual and gay or lesbian students at over 40% is nearly double that of their heterosexual peers.

NEW CHARTS: *Bullying Online and at School by Race/Ethnicity*

Key data point from charts:

- Over 1/3 of American Indian and Hawaiian or Pacific Islander students report in-school and online bullying compared to 1/4 of White and Black or African American students.

In addition, the LIFE Study website has been enhanced to include:

- Web links to all data sources and other local research.
- Brief summary of key data and four community priorities for action.
- LIFE in the News section with links to articles, news releases, blog posts, etc.
- Site map to improve users' navigation experience.

The Fox Cities LIFE Study presents more than 200 data indicators about demographic, economic, social and health aspects of community life. Data, which is periodically updated online at

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[www.FoxCitiesLifeStudy.org](http://www.FoxCitiesLifeStudy.org), is benchmarked against select counties, Wisconsin and the nation, with trending information. On June 21, 2016, the data was used to help determine the top community priorities for action: poverty, youth health, student performance, and youth safety.

“A high quality of life is necessary to Fox Cities businesses in the retention and attraction of talent,” said Bob Mundt, President/CEO of the Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce and Industry. “The LIFE Study is a great tool to help us all assess where additional resources are needed.”

Prior Fox Cities LIFE Studies released in 2011, 2006 and 2001 identified issues in the community that led to important improvements in the areas of poverty, dental and mental health care, and more.

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