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# **L.I.F.E. in Winnebago 2002**

## **Local Indicators For Excellence**

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**Charts**

Generally, in reading the charts contained in this report, for those charts with bars, the bars are aligned in the same order as the legends. The legend identifies each point, column or bar in the chart. The x axis depicts time periods such as years or spans of years. The y axis represents the topical data.

Welcome to L.I.F.E. in Winnebagoland! This publication has been produced as the natural continuation of the 1996 Winnebagoland Focus Community Needs Assessment. The needs assessment project evolved as a result of recommendations from a 1994 Community Focus Group called together to investigate the issue of homelessness in Oshkosh.

One of the outcomes of that initial meeting was the formation of the Winnebagoland Focus Executive Steering Committee. This collaborative group was charged with the responsibility of conducting a community-wide needs assessment to identify the most pressing needs in the Greater Oshkosh area and surrounding towns.

Many representatives on the original Winnebagoland Focus Executive Steering Committee are still represented in the present committee, and include:

- City of Oshkosh Health Department
- Oshkosh Public Library/Winnefox Library System
- Affinity Health System
- Oshkosh Area Community Foundation
- Oshkosh Area School District
- Oshkosh Area United Way
- Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce
- Winnebago County Department of Human Services
- Wisconsin Public Service
- UW Oshkosh

The Mission of Winnebagoland FOCUS is: to promote the well being of all Winnebagoland citizens by providing basic needs to each individual.

The Purpose of Winnebagoland FOCUS is: to conduct a needs assessment study to serve as a comprehensive profile of the major health and social issues of Winnebagoland. The principle objective is to identify the most important human service needs of citizens. The needs assessment study serves as a benchmark from which community needs can be measured. It will serve as the basis for a comprehensive community plan that will focus on targeting financial, health and human service resources to meet basic needs in Winnebagoland.

The original 1996 assessment was conducted using the United Way of America survey tool, COMPASS. It included telephone calls to more than 2400 random households with 700 respondents, surveys to 246 community leaders and 19 agency service providers, and focus groups including community volunteers, service providers and service recipients.

As a result of the study, the community identified nine broad issues to focus on:

- ✓ Teen Pregnancy
- ✓ Alcohol & Drug Abuse
- ✓ Health
- ✓ Teen Recreation
- ✓ Poverty
- ✓ Housing
- ✓ Juvenile Delinquency
- ✓ Child Abuse & Neglect
- ✓ Domestic Abuse/Violence

# Introduction

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As a result of the study, Action Teams were formed to address the issues identified. A number of successful outcomes continue to improve the quality of life in the Winnebagoland area:

1. The creation of the Information & Referral Service (<http://iandr.winnefox.org> or call 920-236-5209) that allows residents to receive information about more than 1200 programs and services. This service is a partnership between the Oshkosh Public Library, Oshkosh Area United Way, Oshkosh Area Community Foundation, and Winnebago County.
2. The formation of a Youth Task Force to collaboratively meet the needs of youth, pre-teen, and teens in the Winnebagoland area.
3. A Community Health Clinic for low-income residents and those without insurance. This is a collaboration including the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, Affinity Health System, Mercy Health Foundation, Winnebago County and others.
4. The development of a network of non-profit organizations called the Collaboration Work Group, that meets monthly to provide a forum for communication, informal education and opportunities for cooperative service development.
5. Hunger Task Force and the Housing Task Force have also been formed to undertake addressing the issues of housing and hunger.

One component that was lacking in the original study was a report that contained objective statistical information that could be measured over time. This was the impetus for the FOCUS Executive Committee to develop a comprehensive report that identified Local Indicators For Excellence (L.I.F.E.) to monitor trend data and to provide comparisons with state and national benchmarks. After reviewing a number of existing models, the committee chose to pattern this report after one developed in Marathon County, WI by the Community Planning Council of Marathon County and United Way of Marathon County.

It is the intent of the Executive Committee to update and revise the L.I.F.E. report every two years, with some continuous updating in the web version. That will permit opportunities for more participation by the community and improvements over time. The report is also available online at <http://www.lifeinwinnebagoland.org> and should be checked periodically for more frequent updates and links to more in-depth statistical resources and reports. You may also obtain copies of this report at the Oshkosh Public Library or at the Oshkosh Area United Way office or you may check out a copy from the Oshkosh Public Library.

The report was designed to be thorough yet readable so that all members in the community would find value in the information it contains. We also hope that those interested in improving the quality of life in our community would get involved in the many organizations and agencies that provide the programs and services identified in this report.

Please review the information contained in this document. Thank you for taking an interest in your community.

The geographic focus of coverage for this Winnebagoland FOCUS L.I.F.E. Report is the City of Oshkosh and the Towns of Oshkosh, Algoma, Nekimi and Black Wolf (the immediately adjacent towns). The report does include county level data in places where local data wasn't readily available.