

# Community Summary: Project Development for a “State of Caring Index” for Delaware County

prepared for

The United Way of Delaware  
County, Inc.

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## OVERVIEW

The following report was created for the United Way of Delaware County to assist in the development of community-wide programs. The design of this report was based on the United Way of America's (UWA) "State of Caring Index". Although this current report does not culminate into an Index, it does use the six key areas the State of Caring Index uses to provide economic, social and environmental standings. The current report will use these six areas to evaluate the current conditions of Delaware County. The six key areas reviewed were:

- Economy and Financial Well Being
- Education
- Health
- Voluntarism/Charity/Civic Engagement
- Safety
- Natural Environment and Other Factors

The UAW national and state index tracked 32 indicators based on those six areas. Local data (Delaware County) was compiled by the Social Science Research Center at Ball State University for this report. Some county level data was unavailable to include in this analysis for all indicators. In some instances city level (Muncie) data was used. Highlighted in this report is data collected on as many indicators as possible. Data is provided for the most recent time period available.



## ECONOMY AND FINANCIAL WELL BEING

### Median household income

According to the U. S. Bureau of the Census, residents of Delaware County in 1999 had a median household income of \$34,659.00. The breakdown of income can be found in Table 1.

Table 1  
Household Income for Delaware County

<b>Income in 1999</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Households	47,131	100.0
Less than \$10,000	5,689	12.1
\$10,000 to \$14,999	3,660	7.8
\$15,000 to \$24,999	7,475	15.9
\$25,000 to \$34,999	6,935	14.7
\$35,000 to \$49,999	7,462	15.8
\$50,000 to \$74,999	8,559	18.2
\$75,000 to \$99,999	3,890	8.3
\$100,000 to \$ 149,999	2,384	5.1
\$150,000 to \$199,999	390	0.8
\$200,000 or more	687	1.5

*Median household income (dollars)* **\$34,659**

(Source: <http://censtats.census.gov/data>)

### Percentage of population living below the federal poverty level

According to the Census Bureau, the federal poverty level is derived from a set of money income thresholds that vary by family composition and size to determine who is poor. "If a family's total income is less than that family's threshold, then that family, and every individual in it, is considered poor" (<http://www.census.gov/hhes/poverty/povdef.html>). These thresholds are developed following the Office of Management and Budget's Statistical Policy Directive. "They are not geographically based and are updated annually for inflation using the Consumer Price Index" (<http://www.census.gov/hhes/poverty/povdef.html>).

Based on the 2000 Census, families make up 64% of the county's households. The number of families considered to be below the federal poverty level is shown in Table 2. The percentages in Table 2 are derived from the number of all families in Delaware County, not just those below poverty status. Thus, in 1999 nine percent of all families in Delaware County were below poverty status, while nearly eighteen percent of all Delaware County families with children under 5 were living in poverty.

More disturbing is that slightly over half of the families in Delaware County with a female householder (no husband present) and children under five are living in poverty.

Table 2  
Poverty Status for Families in Delaware County

Total families in county in 2000	29,939		
		<b>Number below poverty status</b>	<b>Percent below poverty status<sup>1</sup></b>
Poverty status in 1999			
Families	2,703		9.0
With related children under 18 years	1,953		13.7
With related children under 5 years	974		17.9
Families with female householder, no husband present	1,440		30.3
With related children under 18 years	1,256		37.1
With related children under 5 years	644		53.2

(Source: <http://censtats.census.gov/data>)

### **Unemployment rate**

According to STATS Indiana, a web site supported by Indiana Business Research Center at the Indiana University Kelley School of Business, the rate of unemployment in Delaware County for the year 2001 was 4.6 (Table 3). This rate placed Delaware County in a rank of fiftieth of the 92 counties for unemployment in the state. As of June 2003, that rate has increased to 5.3 according to the US Department of Labor.

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<sup>1</sup> Percent is out of all families within each parameter, not just below poverty level families.

Table 3  
Unemployment Rate

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Rank in State</b>
2001	4.6	50
December 2002	4.9	40

(Source: <http://www.stats.indiana.edu>)<sup>2</sup>

### **Apartment rental affordability**

According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, an apartment home is considered to be affordable if it costs no more than 30% of a renter's income. Fair market rent for a two bedroom apartment in Delaware County is \$566.00. The hourly wage in a full-time position a worker must earn in Delaware County in 2002 to afford this apartment would be \$10.88, which is 211% of the minimum wage (\$5.15). ([www.NLIHC.org](http://www.NLIHC.org))

### **Home affordability**

At the time of this report, the indicator for home affordability was not available for Delaware County but for the city of Muncie. Housing affordability in Muncie for 2002 has been calculated from information compiled by the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB). "The Housing Opportunity Index (HOI) for a given area is defined as the share of homes sold in that area that would have been affordable to a family earning the median income" (<http://www.nahb.org/generic.aspx?genericContentID=533>). According to the NAHB, the median family income for 2002 is \$48,900.00, with the median sales price of a home being \$99,000.00 (Table 4). Shares of homes in Muncie that can be afforded at the median income is 89.1%. As a result, Muncie ranks ninth nationally (out of 191) in home affordability and eighth in the Midwest region.

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<sup>2</sup> Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development as reported by Indiana Business Research Center

Table 4  
2002 Muncie Housing Affordability Ranking<sup>3</sup>

Share of Homes Affordable for Median Income	Median Family Income <sup>4</sup>	Median Sales Price	National Affordability Ranking	Regional Affordability Ranking
89.1	\$48,900	\$99,000	9	8

(Source: <http://www.nahb.org>)



## EDUCATION

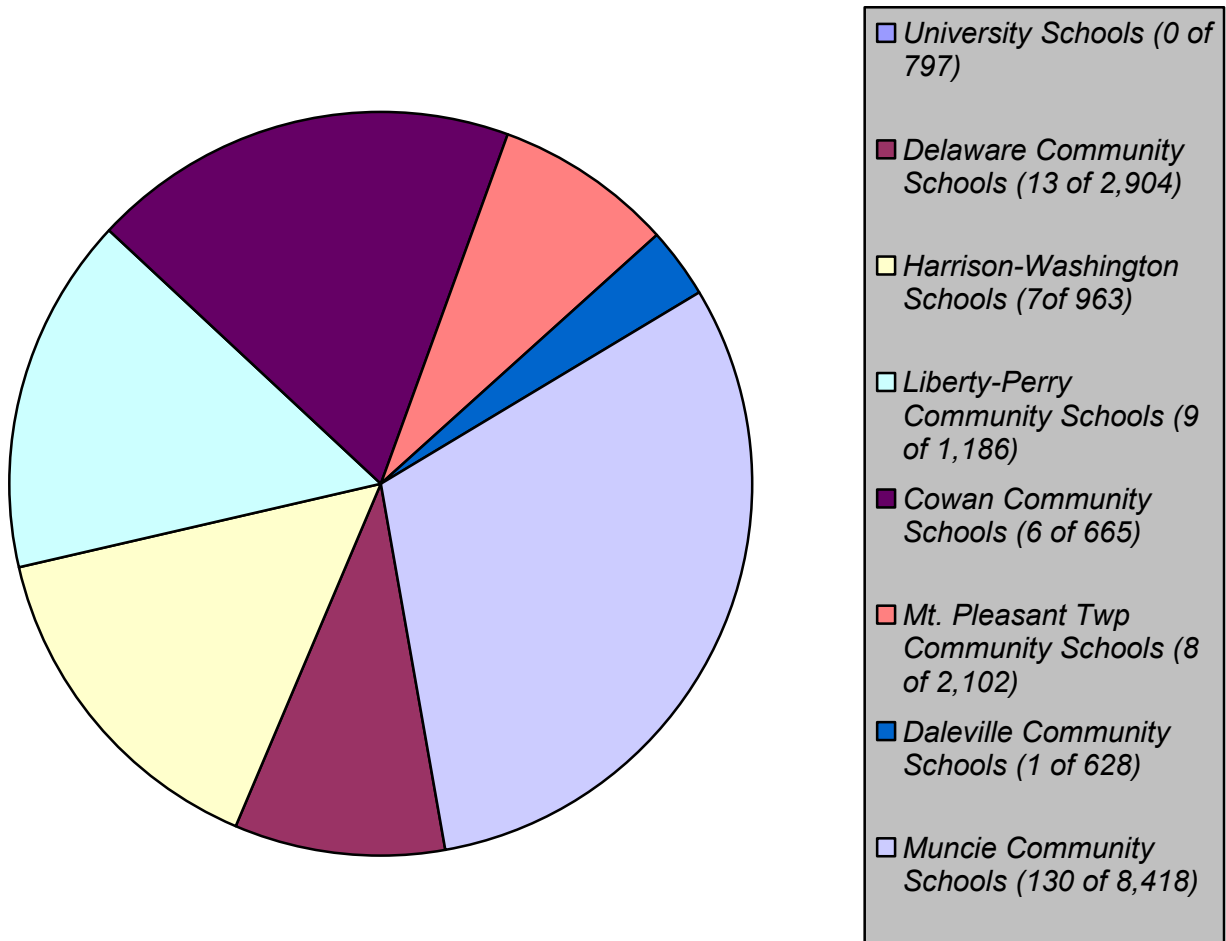
### **Percent of teens who are high school dropouts**

There are eight public school corporations in Delaware County. Figure 1 represents the dropout rate for those corporations for the academic year of 2000-01, as reported by the Indiana Department of Education website. This rate was only collected for grades seven through twelve. The school corporation with the smallest dropout rate (0 out of 797 students) was the University School Corporation, which consists of Burriss and the Indiana Academy. The school corporation with the largest dropout figure (130 out of 8,166 students) was for Muncie Community Schools, which consists of all Muncie city schools.

<sup>3</sup> Ranking based on first Quarter 2002.

<sup>4</sup> As reported by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Figure 1  
7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Dropout Rates 2000-01

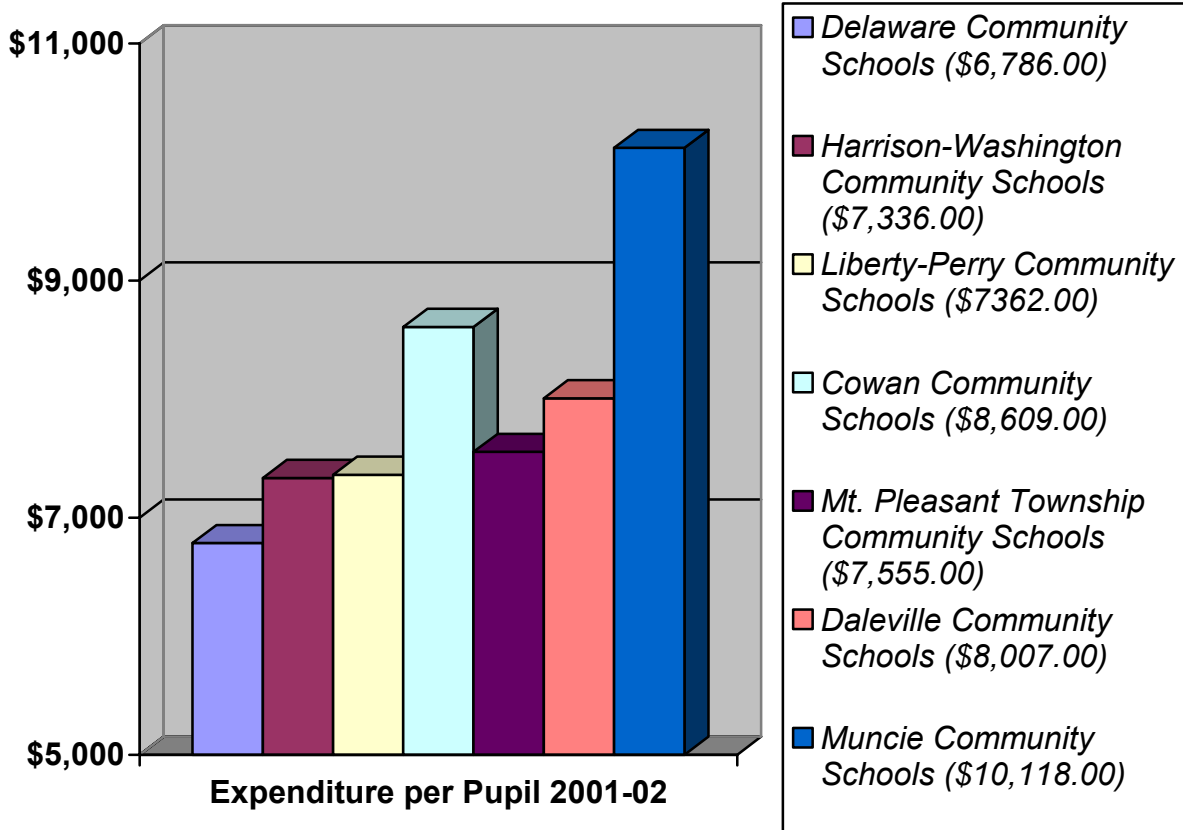


(Source: <http://www.doe.state.in.us>)

**Public school expenditure per pupil**

According to the Indiana State Department of Education, the school corporation that spent the most money per pupil in the academic year of 2001-02 was Muncie Community Schools (\$10,118.00), while the corporation that spent the least was Delaware Community Schools (\$6,786.00). Figure 2 displays all school corporations' per pupil expenditure except that of University Schools, whose information was unavailable at the time of this report.

Figure 2  
Delaware County Schools Expenditure per Pupil

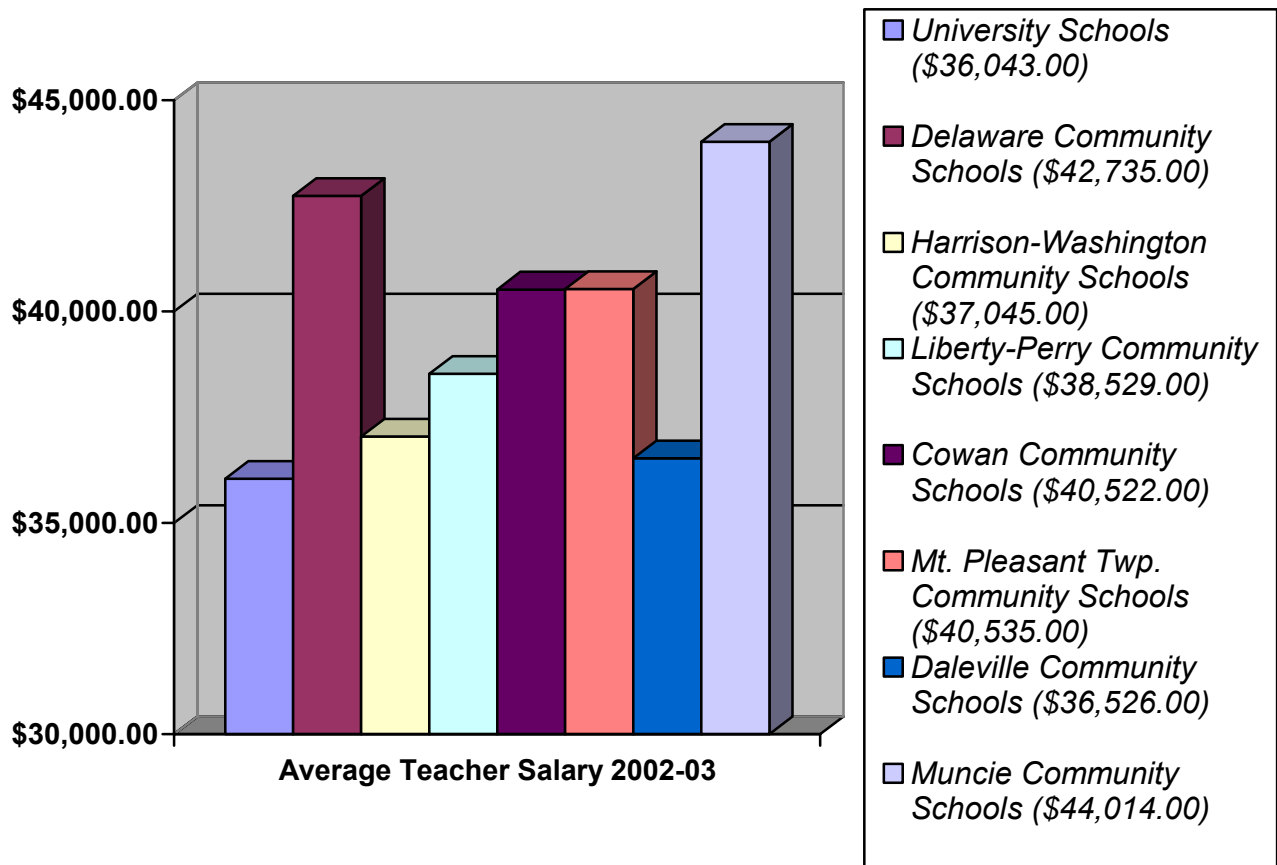


(Source: <http://www.doe.state.in.us/asap>)

**Teacher salaries in public elementary and secondary schools**

The average teacher salary in Delaware County is also presented by School Corporation (Figure 3). According to the Indiana Department of Education, the school corporation with the highest average teacher salary (\$44,014.00) in academic year 2002-03 was Muncie Community Schools, while the lowest average teacher salary (\$36,043.00) was in University Schools.

Figure 3  
Delaware County Teacher Salaries



(Source: <http://www.doe.state.in.us/asap>)



## HEALTH

### Teen birth rate

According to STATS Indiana, a web site supported by Indiana Business Research Center at the Indiana University Kelley School of Business, there were 177 births to teens age 10 to 19 in Delaware County in 2001. Teen births made up 12.9% of the total births (1,371) in Delaware County in 2001.

### Percent of families with children headed by a single parent

Presented in Table 5, is a breakdown of household types in Delaware County. Out of the 47,131 households in Delaware County, there were 4,047 that were headed by a single parent in 2000 ([www.stats.indiana.edu](http://www.stats.indiana.edu)).

Table 5  
Household Types in Delaware County 2000

	Number	Percent
<b>TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS IN DELAWARE CO</b>	<b>47,131</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>One person households</b>	<b>13,247</b>	<b>28.0</b>
<b>Two-or-more person households</b>	<b>33,884</b>	<b>72.0</b>
<i>Family households</i>	29,939	100.0
<i>Married with own children</i>	9,438	31.5
<i>Married without own children</i>	14,251	47.6
<i>Single householders with own children</i>	4,047	13.5
<i>Single householders without own children</i>	2,203	7.4
<i>Nonfamily households</i>	3,945	100.0
<i>Male householder</i>	2,003	50.8
<i>Female householder</i>	1,942	49.2

(Source: <http://www.stats.indiana.edu>)<sup>5</sup>

### **Percentage of low birth-weight babies**

According to the Indiana State Department of Health, low birth-weight statistics are based on a birth weight of less than 2,500 grams. In Delaware County for 1991-2000 the percentage of low birth-weight babies was 7.7% (Table 6). This puts Delaware County at a rank of 9<sup>th</sup> of the 92 counties (indicating that Delaware County has more of a problem with this issue than most other Indiana counties). This was slightly higher than the State average of 7.3%.

### **Infant mortality rate**

The infant mortality rate for Delaware County for the years 1991-2000, per 1,000 live births, was 9.3 (Table 6). This was higher than the State's average for the same time frame (8.5).

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<sup>5</sup> Source: US Census Bureau as reported by Indiana Business Research Center

Table 6  
Infant Statistics

	<b>Infant Mortality Rate</b>	<b>Percent of Low Birth-weight Babies</b>
Delaware County 1991-2000	9.3	7.7
Indiana 1991-2000	8.5	7.3

(Source: <http://www.in.gov/isdh>)



## **VOLUNTARISM/CHARITY/CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**

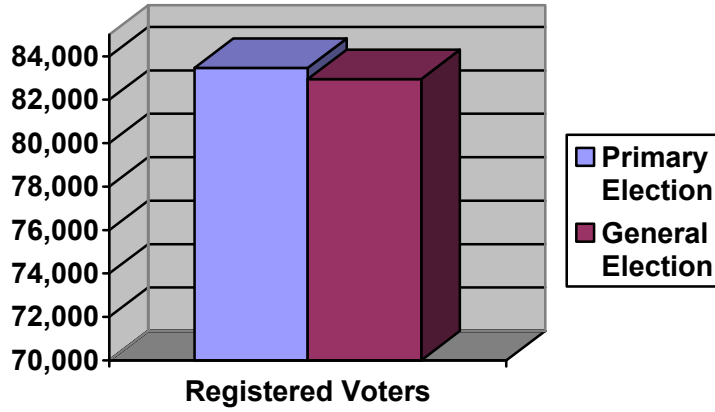
### **Amount raised by United Way per capita**

The 2002 United Way of Delaware County campaign raised \$22.85 per capita for Delaware County.

### **Percentage of registered voters who voted in national elections**

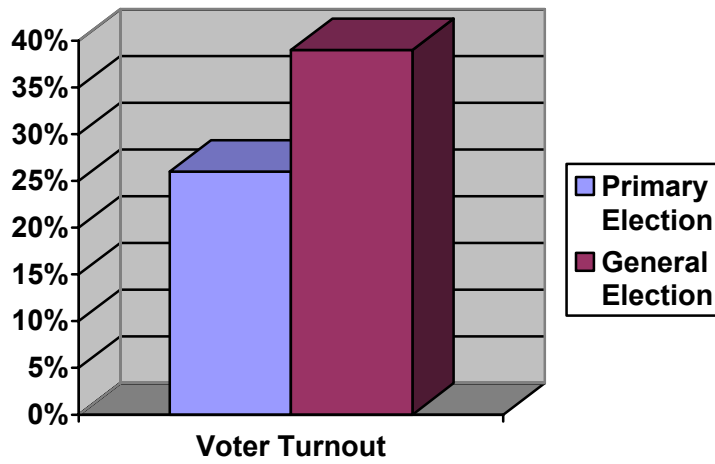
The most recent national elections were held in Spring and Fall of 2002. The number of those Delaware County individuals who were registered and those who voted in those elections can be seen in Figure 4 & 5. There were 83,472 individuals registered in the Spring (primary election) with a voting turnout of 26%. While registered voters in the Fall (general election) was only 82,951, there was a 39% voter turnout.

Figure 4  
Registered Voters in Delaware County 2002



(Source: <http://www.in.gov/sos/elections/voter/electronicIndex.html>)

Figure 5  
Voters in Delaware County Who Voted in 2002 National Election



(Source: <http://www.in.gov/sos/elections/voter/electronicIndex.html>)



## SAFETY

### Violent and property crimes reported

In reporting crime statistics for Delaware County, the U. S. Bureau of Justice (BJS) used a population of 51,620 and a separate population for Muncie City, 67,810. A breakdown of crime trends for Delaware County and Muncie City for 2001 based on the BJS website can be found in Table 7. The number of total property crimes reported for Delaware County in 2001 was 488, while the total number of violent crimes reported was 38. Whereas the number of total property crimes reported for the city of Muncie in 2001 was 2,632, while the total number of violent crimes reported was 289.

Table 7  
Crimes Reported in Delaware County 2001<sup>6</sup>

			<i>Property Crime</i>				<i>Violent Crime</i>				
Agency	Months Reporting	Population Coverage	Property Crime Total	Burglary	Larceny-Theft	Motor Vehicle Theft	Violent Crime Total	Murder and Non-negligent Manslaughter	Forcible Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault
Delaware County	12	51,620	488	114	340	34	38	0	13	5	20
Muncie Police Dept.	12	67,810	2,632	531	1,928	173	289	1	24	80	184

(Source: [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/))

<sup>6</sup> Table pulled directly from BJS website. According to BJS, population coverage includes the population covered by reports submitted by a particular agency and may vary from the agency's parent government's population.



## NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND OTHER FACTORS

### **Percentage of population who live in counties that meet standards for air pollutants**

“Areas of the country where air pollution levels persistently exceed the national ambient air quality standards may be designated ‘nonattainment’” (<http://www.epa.gov/oar/oaqps/greenbk/>). According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which has tracked Indiana counties’ nonattainment status since 1992, Delaware county is not an Indiana County with that status. Thus, 100% of Delaware County’s population lives in a county that meets the federal standards for air pollutants.