

# Benton-Franklin Trends - Spring 2017 e-Newsletter

## Welcome!

Welcome to the fourth quarterly Benton-Franklin Trends Newsletter! Have you checked out the trends lately? The trends site is continually updated and data as recent as 2015 – 2016 is available for many measures.

Although the [Benton-Franklin Health District](#) utilizes the Health trends most frequently, we also track the conditions, in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age including education attainment, economic vitality, and other environmental factors that affect health outcomes. Understanding these social determinants of health is key to preventing the spread of illness and improving [health equity](#) in our community. This was the lens we used during our 2016 Community Health Needs Assessment process. By analyzing community health data, trends and attitudes, the Benton-Franklin Community Health Alliance and its partners identified three strategic issues as priorities for improvement over the next 3 to 5 years: reduce obesity, improve access to health care and improve the mental/behavioral health system. The Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) originally released in 2013 has been updated to reflect this focus and will be available soon.

**Amy Person** - Health Officer, Benton-Franklin Health District

**Rebecca Sutherland** - Benton-Franklin Health District, Benton-Franklin Community Health Alliance, Healthy Lifestyles Committee

## Indicators in the News

### **CDC 2015 Community Health Status Indicators**



The [Community Health Status Indicators](#) (CHSI), from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is an online web application that produces health status profiles for each of the 3,143 counties in the United States and the District of Columbia. The CHSI has been around since 2000 when it was released in “hard copy format” and was produced in its first interactive website in 2008. The CHSI 2015 redesign provides a completely revamped interactive experience, offers an updated list of “peer counties” for purposes of benchmarking, and a summary comparison sheet. The summary comparison sheets are provided for all 3,143 counties in the U.S.

For example compared to peer counties across the U.S., Benton County residents fared better in motor vehicle deaths but fared worse in Alzheimer’s disease deaths and coronary heart disease deaths. Franklin County residents fared better in stroke deaths and chronic kidney disease deaths but fared worse in Alzheimer’s disease deaths and diabetes deaths.

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## [Data.WA.gov](http://Data.WA.gov) - “The general purpose open data portal for the State of Washington”.

This data hub provides access to data sites in Washington State such as: Fiscal.WA.gov, geography.WA.gov, business.WA.gov, Results.WA.gov, education research, a “new and notable” section, a “general data catalog” for the state, and education research.

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## Child Well-Being Data Portal - Washington State County Reports



Washington County Reports offers information on child welfare from the [Child Well-Being Data Portal](#) for each county in Washington State with populations over 25,000 people. Produced quarterly, the portal reports on “two major parts of the child welfare system: “Investigations & Assessments and Out-of-Home Care”.

Specific to Benton County, as of January 1, 2017, there were a total of 312 open investigations and assessments and as of April 1, 2017, there were a total of and 195 open out-of-home care cases with 47% of these involving children under 5-years of age.

In Franklin County, as of January 1, 2017, there were a total of 153 open investigations and assessments and as of April 1, 2017, there were a total of and 95 open out-of-home care cases with 41% of these involving children under 5-years of age.

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## Indicators in Action

### [Library Card Holders Exceed State Benchmark](#)

by Scott Richter and Dr. Patrick Jones

Author Neil Gaiman once said “Google can bring you back 100,000 answers. A librarian can bring you back the right one.”

Technology has produced modern replacements for formerly essential tools, but many remain useful today. [Abacuses are still used today](#), as they can help children to learn mathematic concepts and concentration skills. Even books, not in the traditional paper format but in digital form, [are just as susceptible to piracy](#) as other forms of digital media such as movies and music. Technology and the ability to digitize

simply cannot replace everything analog. When the power goes out, we can still light a candle and a book to pass the time, which is harder, if not impossible to do with devices that have screens.

The main purpose of libraries are the same as they ever were - providing access to books, information, entertainment, etc. But both the market and consumer have changed. Traditional book stores, whether “mom & pop” or once-megastores like Waldenbooks, B. Dalton, and Borders have also had to deal with a changing market. Unlike bookstores, technology has not eliminated the need for libraries. Instead libraries have adapted and

incorporated technological advances that some once thought could be the end of libraries.

A quick look at the [Library Book Circulation per Capita & Library Card Holders per 1,000 Residents](#) indicator shows library book circulation per capita during 2015 in the two counties was 10.8 books, increasing from 6.9 in 2003. In the state during 2015, library book circulation per capita was 12.0, increasing from 10.2 in 2003. These figures represent the Mid-Columbia Library system.

Not only has the supply of books increased, but so have the users. The number of library card holders per 1,000 residents during 2015 in the combined counties was 692, increasing from 491, or by 41% in 2003. In the state during 2015, there were 569 library card holders per 1,000 residents, increasing slightly from 564 in 2003.

Since the beginning of the series in 2003, the main takeaway from this graph is that both library book circulation

per capita and library card holders per 1,000 residents are both moving in a positive, upward trend. 2015 represented the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest number of books in circulation per capita and the highest number of library card holders per 1,000 residents in the series.

In the state, 2015 was tied for the 5<sup>th</sup> highest number of books circulated per capita at 12.0

and had the 6<sup>th</sup> highest number of library card holders per 1,000 residents in the series.

According to Davin Diaz, Communications and Advancement Director of Mid-Columbia Libraries, says “At Mid-Columbia Libraries we recognize that the bulk of our customers are not asking the same reference questions today that they did 20 years ago because of the internet. We understand that the majority of them are looking for quality materials and readers’ advisories.”

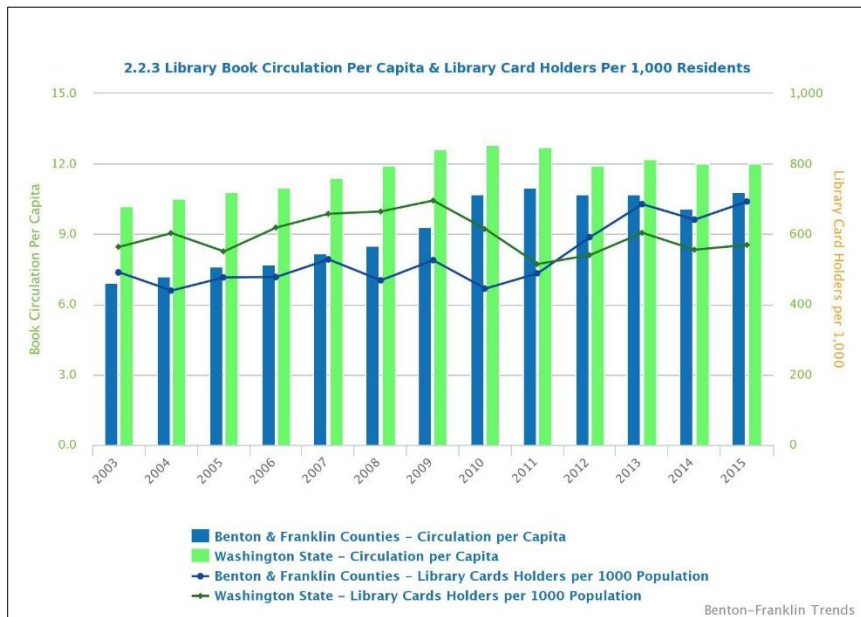
It has been important to understand the changes in both the citizen demand of libraries and the changing consumer market so libraries can stay relevant. Diaz explains “Mid-Columbia Libraries leadership recognized the digital book revolution in 2009 and began invested in our

digital book collection then. This resulted in the biggest eBook and eAudiobook Collection in eastern Washington.”

Additionally, Mid-Columbia Libraries have also prioritized expanding their overall collection. Diaz

says 15% of the annual operating budget “is dedicated to [building] our collection. In 2017 the spending plan is 48% on Print Materials, 21% on eBooks, 27% of Audio and Video (CD, DVD, eAudio) and 4% on Databases.”

Mid-Columbia Libraries have 12 locations, or 13 if you count the Bookmobile, but Diaz says that “If you were to [measure] our website as a



branch, it would be our second most heavily used in the system.”

Look to the [Mid-Columbia Libraries Strategic Plan \(2016-2018\)](#), with 25 specific goals (one example, to have the annual circulation of

fiction books exceed 1,000,000 in 2018) under 4 main goals. One example, is Goal #2: Residents will enjoy a variety of collections & services for their personal enrichment and growth) for an outline as to how to keep the measurements of this indicator on a positive, upward trajectory.

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### 2015 Metro GDP 4<sup>th</sup> Highest On Record

by Scott Richter and Dr. Patrick Jones

Metropolitan Gross Domestic Product (Metro GDP) measures the economic output of both goods and services produced in a region. According to the [U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of Economic Analysis](#), Metro GDP “statistics are based on the same definitional

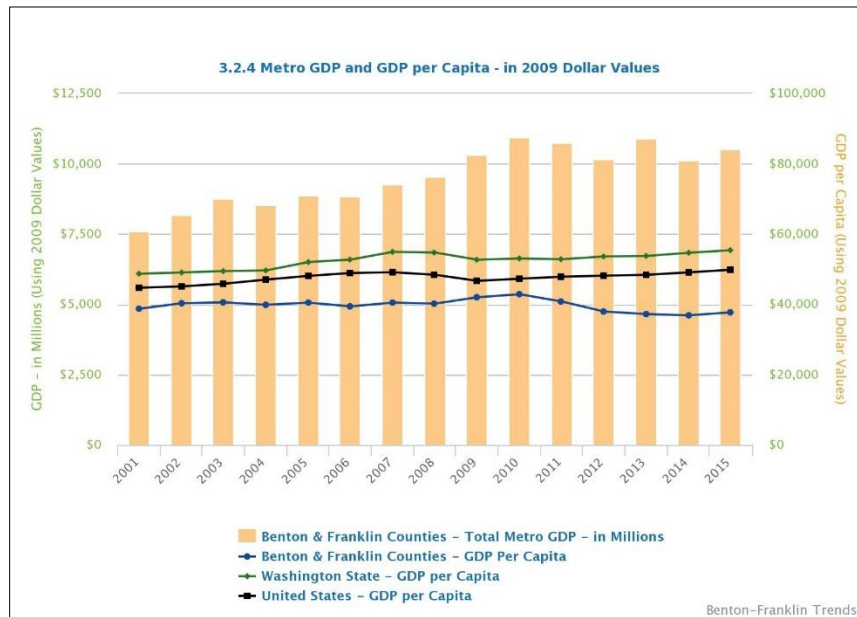
concept as their state and national counterparts, facilitating comparisons across geographic areas...[and] providing information related to industrial composition of economic activity in each metropolitan area.”

GDP by industry statistics are provided for 61 separate industries in each metropolitan area from 2001 through the second to most recent calendar year. For the most recent calendar year, consistent with the annual GDP by state statistics, GDP by metropolitan area statistics are provided for 21 separate industry sectors.

Metro GDP figures also include federal, state, and local government operations, which cover military and K-12 teachers.

Examining the first indicator, [Total Metro GDP and GDP per Capita](#), during 2015 the combined counties had the fourth highest total GDP in the series at \$10.5 billion, behind 2010 (\$11.0 billion), 2011 (\$10.8 billion) and 2013 (\$10.9

billion). This has increased from \$7.6 billion, or by 27.7%, since 2001 when the total GDP in the combined counties was \$7.6 billion. Dollar values represented in both of these indicators are set at 2009



dollar values and are inflation-adjusted.

An examination of the second indicator, [Metro GDP of the Top-5 Major Sectors](#), shows that during 2015 the combined counties had the third highest total in the series at \$6.7 billion, behind 2010 (\$7.2 billion). The sum of the top five sectors has increased by just over 20% since 2001 when the total GDP in the top-5 sectors totaled \$5.4 billion. But from the peak year in

the series of \$7.2 billion in 2010, the total GDP of the top-5 sectors has decreased by 6.0%.

Considering the specific top-5 sectors, one can see that the largest during 2015 was Professional & Business Services, at \$2.7 billion (matching the total in 2003). Government was next, at \$1.6 billion (increasing from \$1.3 billion in 2003); Manufacturing was third at \$834 million (increasing from \$520 million in 2003); Retail Trade was fourth at \$827 million (increasing from \$584 million in 2003), and Health Care & Social Assistance was fifth, at \$784 million (increasing from \$468 million in 2003).

Diahann Howard, Director of Economic Development & Gov. Affairs with the Port of Benton, says "From 2011-2013 our regional community lost approximately 4,300 jobs. When thirty percent (30%) of your total wages are dependent upon federal jobs, in our case Hanford, that type of decline is felt across our economy. Yes, we have diversified but not fully and definitely not at the wage levels that professional services and engineering bring to our region." Howard also noted that jobs in the professional services industry pay higher than jobs in other sectors, on average \$75,000 annually.

The largest challenge lies with the largest sector: Professional & Business Services sector.

For 2015, the only decrease from the beginning of the series among the top five sectors occurred in this category. In 2010, Professional & Business Services totaled \$3.5 billion, and decreased to \$2.7 billion, or by 24.2%, in 2015. In reality, the losses in this sector occurred back in 2011, 2012, and 2013 and have remained flat since.

More recently, that is from 2013-2015, Metro GDP taken by the top-5 sectors has increased from \$6.5 billion in 2013 to \$6.73 billion, or by 3.4%. During this time, Professional and Business Services increased by \$15 million. The only decrease in the top-5 sectors of the Metro GDP occurred in Government, decreasing by \$17 million.

Although the challenges are real, Howard points out many positive things in motion, such as the Port of Benton and City of Richland efforts in acquiring 1,641 acres of property for large scale (150 acres plus) industrial and manufacturing sites that are almost at the stage to start marketing to potential tenants.

Looking ahead, Howard says it is important to keep the "focus where economic development truly is created and that is by creation and expansion of industrial, manufacturing and entrepreneurial jobs."

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## **Per Capita Expenditures on Road M & O**

**Increasing** by Scott Richter and Dr. Patrick Jones

In a young America, if a trail didn't exist, a new one was blazed. These trails, such as the Oregon Trail and the Sante Fe Trail, didn't require maintenance - the more they were used, the

more they were beaten into the landscape making the route easier for future travelers.

Our modern "trails" obviously need maintenance. Bridge collapses in Washington State since 1900 include the Division Street Bridge in Spokane, the Tacoma Narrows Bridge in Tacoma, the Floating Bridge in Hood Canal,



the Lacey V. Murrow Memorial Bridge connecting Seattle and Mercer Island, the Harp Road Bridge in Oakville, and most recently, a bridge on Interstate-5 in Mount Vernon.

According to the Washington State Department of Licensing, motor vehicle fuel tax [currently supports](#): “constructing and maintaining state, city, and county roads, bridges, and ferries; purchasing of right of ways, installing maintaining, and operating traffic and signal lights; policing state highways, [and] operating moveable span bridges”.

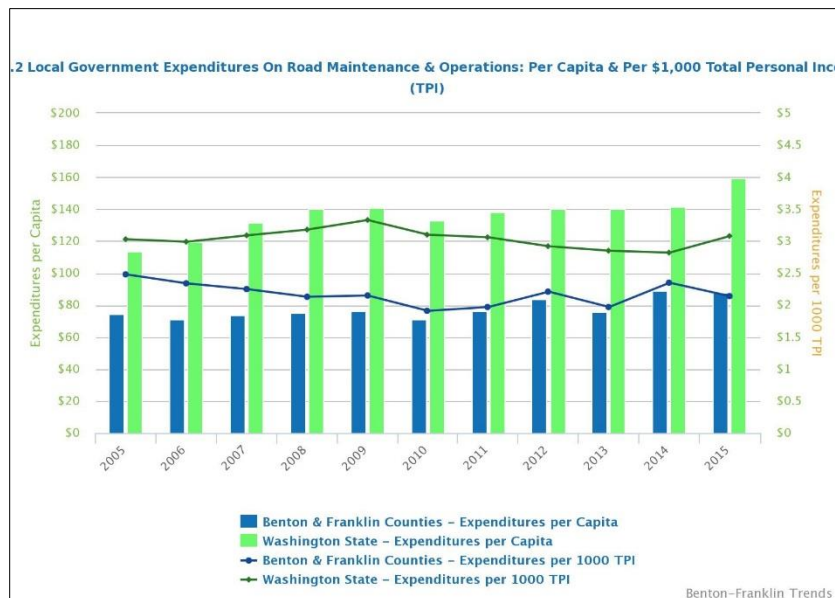
The Revised Code of Washington (RCW) [46.68.090](#) requires portions of the state fuel tax to be redistributed to local governments. Specifically, fuel tax redistributions from the state

to local municipal governments “from the motor vehicle fund [will] amount equal to 10.6961 percent” and redistributions to county governments “from the motor vehicle fund [will] amount equal to 19.2287 percent”. As of July 1, 2016, [drivers in Washington State](#) were paying \$0.68 per gallon of gas on taxes (\$0.494 for state taxes and \$0.184 federal) which was [the second highest](#) state fuel tax in the nation (second only to Pennsylvania).

An examination of the graph for the [Local Government Expenditures on Road Maintenance & Operations: Per Capita & Per \\$1,000 Total Personal Income \(TPI\)](#) indicator shows that during 2015 in Benton & Franklin

Counties, \$87.70 was spent on road maintenance and operations on a per capita basis. Based on \$1,000 of total personal income (TPI), expenditures in the two counties amounted to \$2.10, Compared to 2005, expenditures per capita are up from \$74.30 and down from \$2.50 per TPI.

During 2015 in Washington State, local governments spent \$159.30 per capita on road maintenance and operations and \$3.10 per total personal income (TPI), increasing from \$113.70 per capita and \$3.00 per TPI since 2005.



Tanna Dole, Transportation Programs Manager, Benton-Franklin Council of Governments, explains that projects occurring in cities and urban areas typically consist of

“street construction, reconstruction, preservation or maintenance that involves amenities specific to community living [which may be] shorter in length but more costly because of utility work, curb, gutter, sidewalk, street illumination etc.”

Dole also explains projects in counties and rural areas as “construction, reconstruction, preservation or maintenance” that usually include longer stretches of road without the details involved in city and urban projects, such as sidewalks, curbs, and gutters. Dole points out that these rural road networks, once known as ‘farm to market’ roads “still play a huge role in the economic vitality of agriculture.”

With the improved gas mileage of newer cars and more hybrid and electric cars on the road, people are purchasing less gas. Some argue owners of electric and hybrid cars are using the same roads, but are paying fewer taxes to use them.

Consumer [demand for electric and hybrid cars in America](#) ebb and flow with price of gasoline, and other economic factors, such as the declining number of buyer incentives. Dole points out that as of June, 2016, there were 241 electric vehicles registered in Benton and Franklin Counties combined, increasing by 54% from December, 2014 when there were a total of 130 electric vehicles registered. Compared to the 241 electric vehicles, there were a total of

196,057 passenger vehicles registered in 2016. Electric vehicles composed approximately .001% of all vehicles in Benton and Franklin Counties combined.

During the fall of 2017, [Washington State will begin testing a pilot program](#) that will charge a tax based on the number of miles driven instead of number of gallons of gas purchased.

With so many aspects surrounding funding for road operations and maintenance, it will be important to keep an eye on both current trends lines - most recently the slight declines in both the expenditures per TPI and per capita figures from 2014 to 2015.

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## 5-Questions with: Carol Moser, Executive Director Greater Columbia Accountable Community Health



*1. As the executive director of one of the state's nine Accountable Communities of Health (ACH), what are the key tasks facing your organization in 2017?*

The key tasks facing the Greater Columbia Accountable Community of Health are numerous and daunting for all Executive Directors. All ACHs have to complete two phases of certification, determine a short-list of evidenced-based approaches and strategies that together meet the Triple Aim (better health, better care, lower costs), bring the right people together who can make it happen, and develop a project plan that can transform the local health care system in five years! The project applications are due October 23rd, 2017!! There is a lot going on right now!

*2. What kind of data will do the most to inform the Greater Columbia ACH's decisions this year?*

Data is the foundation of our work. Health policies are driven by information highlighting disparities between groups of people. Trying to make sense of it all requires looking at a lot of data. We use Robert Woods Johnson's County Health Rankings, Community Commons, the Washington Health Alliance, BRFSS, DSHS, RDA, DOH, OFM, HCA, Employment Security Department, the Health Care Authority, and of course, Benton-Franklin Trends, to name a few!

*3. To what degree does the information on Benton Franklin Trends assist this effort?*

Benton Franklin Trends is very helpful for looking at local health trends. The community did a good job in selecting indicators that tell the story about our populations' health, and is a good confirmation of the other data we know about our bi-county region.

*4. Among the Health category indicators on the Trends site, do any jump out at you?*

There aren't any indicators on the Trends site that jump out at me now, because I got to help select the health indicators when I was the Director of the Benton-Franklin Community Health Alliance. But when we were going through that process, we made sure that the indicators that SHOULD jump out at the community were on the site! And they are, even though Eastern WA University had to do a little digging to find them. Thanks guys!

*5. You've been involved in public policy in the area for many years. Are you able to observe a rising awareness of and ability to incorporate quantitative information into local decision-making?*

I have been involved in public policy for a while, and I do see more decision-making based on data. I have been at several forums in the community where someone pulled up a graph and cited Benton-Franklin Trends for the source of information! I was glad they did, and it gave me more confidence in their presentation.