

MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT 2007-2008
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Monroe County Community Resources web-site
<http://www.monroecountywestvirginiafamilyresourcenetwork.net> and click on Resource Directory

The Monroe County Community Assessment is a collaboration of the Monroe County Coalition for Children and Families (Family Resource Network) and Monroe County Head Start

GEOGRAPHIC MAKE UP OF MONROE COUNTY

Rural Monroe County consists of 473.80 square miles (304,612 acres) and lies in Southern West Virginia and is bordered by Greenbrier, Summers and Mercer Counties, West Virginia and by the state of Virginia. Peters Mountain, one of the most beautiful and uniform of the Appalachian uplifts separates West Virginia and Virginia in Monroe County running from Covington to Narrows, Virginia. The longest dimension of Monroe is 39 miles and the greatest breadth is 25 miles. The distance around the county is 116 miles. The highest elevation point is 4,070 feet above sea level and the lowest point is 1,460 feet above sea level. The geology of Monroe is very ancient of the later precarboniferous age. The great divide runs through Monroe County and it is the only county in the state to send its waters partly toward the Atlantic and partly toward the Gulf of Mexico.

NATURAL BEAUTY OF MONROE COUNTY

Hanging Rock Raptor Observatory is a simple forest service fire tower on top of Peters Mountain. Its proximity to the Allegheny Trail allows for year-round visitors, but most of the birding activity takes place during the fall migration season. It takes anywhere from 20 to 40 minutes to make the trip up the mountain. The trail is well marked. Visit <http://www.hangingrocktower.org/images/trail.htm>

Moncove Lake State Park was created in 1990 by setting aside 250 acres. The park sits on the shores of 144 acre Moncove Lake. Moncove Lake features an outdoor swimming pool, picnic areas, fishing, boating, hiking and has 48 camp sites (25 with electrical hookup). Visit <http://www.moncovelakestatepark.com/>

There is another world underneath Monroe County. These natural wonders are caves. Mystic River is the main stream passage of Scott Hollow Cave. For almost all of the caves history, no human had ever seen or knew of it's magnificent passage until 1984 when cavers dug into the cave and began exploring. Visit <http://www.wildcaving.com/> and <http://ww.geocities.com/~caves/ed4ag.htm> (photo 33).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A large number of springs offering water that has been judged in worldwide competition as the "Best tasting water in the world" has give Monroe County an industry of bottled water development. Approximately half of Monroe County is considered farm acreage. Of the active farms, about half are managed by farmers who receive their primary wage from another source. In addition to farming, other industries include the manufacturing of aerospace de-icing systems, timber and turkey farming. A beautiful golf course near Peterstown provides Monroe County residents, including our youth, more employment opportunities and a healthy new sport to participate in. Monroe has designated Scenic Byways and Backways that guide the traveler through sites that local residents truly consider "Almost Heaven".

POPULATION

As of 2000, the population of Monroe County is 14,563. A comparison of 1990 census data to 2000 census data shows an overall increase of 17.5% in population. During this same time period, there was a loss in population age birth to age 24 and age 65 to 74. All other age groups showed an increase in population with ages 25 25 to 44 showing the greatest increase in population.

Subject	1990 Census	2000 Census	+ -
Total Population	12,406	14,583	+2,177
Male	6,018	6,470	+452
Female	6,388	8,113	+1,745
Under 5 years	739	723	-16
5 to 24 years	3,419	3,393	-26
25 to 44 years	3,416	4,424	+1,008
45 to 54 years	1,389	2,186	+797
55 to 59 years	653	900	+247
60 to 64 years	690	715	+25
65 to 74 years	1,234	1,222	-12
75 to 74 years	676	791	+115

The following data is taken from the 2000 census, West Virginia Vital Statistics, Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Public Health, Office of Epidemiology and Health Promotion.

Total Population

Monroe County			West Virginia
1980 Census	1990 Census	2000 Census	2000 Census
12,873	12,406	14,583	1,808,344

Population, percent change, 1990 to 2000

Monroe County		West Virginia
+17.5%		+0.8%

Persons per square mile

Monroe County average 30.8 persons per square mile West Virginia average 75 persons per square mile

Racial and Ethnic make-up 2000

Monroe County Caucasian	93%	West Virginia Caucasian	95%
Monroe County African American	6%	West Virginia African American	3%
Monroe County other	1%	West Virginia other	2%

FAMILY/HOUSEHOLD INCOME POVERTY INDICATOR

The following information is from the 2000 census and West Virginia Bureau of Employment Programs Economic Summary now available by website lmi@workforcewv.org Monroe County was listed as second lowest in the state for per capita income in 2001.

<u>Total Households</u>	<u>Per Capita Personal Income</u>	<u>Child Poverty Rate</u>
5447	\$15,036.00 year 2001	27.4%

According to the Economic Summary the per capita personal income for 2002 in Monroe County was \$19,588 and for 2004 was \$20,615. There were 15 counties with lower per capita personal income in 2004.

LOW INCOME HOUSING PROVIDERS

Alderson LTD Apartments
P.O. Box 27
Wayside, West Virginia 24985

Kathlyn Apartments
Race Street
Peterstown, West Virginia 24963

Union Place Apartments
219 & South Street
Union, West Virginia 24983

Mill Village Apartments
Located in Peterstown
RCDI P.O. Box 1078
Parkersburg, West Virginia 26102

Greenbrier Housing Authority (HUD, SARA)
103 W. Randolph Street
Lewisburg, West Virginia 24901

The Final FY 2007 Fair Market Rent Documentation System at <http://www.huduser.org/datasets/fmr/fmrs/2007> indicates a fair market rent of a 2 bedroom home in Monroe County at \$439.99 a month. A family living on minimum wage can easily spend 50% or more of their income on housing. WV University research reported in the Public Affairs Reporter on a "WV Works Case Closure Study" done to determine what happens to families who have exhausted their lifetime limit of 60 months of assistance. This study found that West Virginians who left WV WORKS/TANF were more likely than others to have difficulty finding affordable housing (10.4 percent of the respondents reported that they had moved in with someone to share expenses compared to the national average reported by the Urban Institute of 7.1 percent).

EMPLOYMENT/UNEMPLOYMENT UPDATE

The following are comparisons between the 1990 census and 2000 census. There was a decrease in the number of people carpooling and an increase in the number of people commuting alone.

Census	1990	2000	+-
Employment Status			
Persons 16 and over	9,775	11,978	2,203+
In labor force	5,152	5,571	419+
Civilian labor force	5,143	5,561	418+
Employed	4,586	5,272	686+
Unemployed	557	289	268+
Armed Forces	9	10	1+
Commuting to Work			
Workers 16 and over	4,512	5,189	677+
Car, truck, van-drove alone	3,006	4,120	1,114+
Car, truck, van-carpooled	1,116	696	420-
Walked or worked at home	332	336	4+

The following information is provided by the Economic Summary dated July 20, 2007, a publication of WORKFORCE West Virginia Research, Information and Analysis.

Labor Force Statistics

The civilian labor force was 6,030 in June 2007 compared to 6,010 in June 2006. Total employment increased from 5,650 in June 2006 to 5,780 in June 2007. The unemployment rate decreased from 6.0 in June 2006 to 4.2 in June 2007. Total non-farm payroll was 2,460 in June 2007 compared to 2,470 in June 2006. Goods produced decreased from 610 in June 2006 to 590 in June 2007. Service Providing increased from 1,860 in June 2006 to 1,870 in June 2007.

Unemployment

Monroe County ranks average statewide. The unemployment rate for June 2007 was 4.2% compared to 6.0% in June 2006. The poorest of our population continues to be our families with children and our elderly living on a fixed income. According to KIDS COUNT 2007, statistics for 2004 show 56.8% of Monroe County school aged children were approved for free and reduced meals.

KIDS COUNT INDICATORS

The Fall 2002 KIDS COUNT Connection newsletter provided the following tax data. 50 years ago, individuals supplied about 60% of federal income tax revenue and corporations about 40%. In 2001, corporations supplied only 13% of federal income tax revenue and individuals supplied the rest (86.6%). The following information is taken from the KIDS COUNT 2007 publication <http://www.kidscount.org> for Monroe County, WV.

	1990	2000	2004
% Low Birth Weight	7.0%		9.2%
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	5.5	10.5	3.1
Child Death Rate (ages 1-14 per 100,000 children)	16.9	0.0	28.9
% of Eligible Children Served by Head Start (ages 3-4)	46.6%	80.8%	95.2%
% Children approved for free & reduced meals (K-12)	47.4%	52.1%	56.8%
Child Abuse and Neglect Rate (per 1,000 children)	not avail.	not avail.	88
Teen Birth Rate (15-19 per 1,000 Females)	50.8	48.6	37.0
Percent Births to Unmarried Teens (Ages 10-19)	8.7%	8.8%	7.0%
Percent High School Dropouts	16%	8%	11%
Juvenile Delinquency Case Rate (per 1,000 youths)	24	16	22
Teen Injury Death Rate (Ages 15-19 per 100,000 teens)	151.7	69.9	103.9
Percent Births to Mothers with less than 12 grade educ.	25.5%	19.9%	18.6%

KIDS COUNT INDICATORS continued

	1990	2000	2004
Education expenditures per pupil (2005 dollars)	\$8,711.6	not avail.	\$7,742.2
% Families with Related Children receiving cash assist.	8.4%	6.2%	1.6%
% Births with Early Prenatal Care	71.2%	884.8%	81.3%
Unemployment Rate	not avail.	4.1%	4.8%
Population Under Age 18	3,050	2933	2730
% Population Under Age 18	24.6%	20.1%	20.2%
% Minority Population	1.9%	7.3%	1.7%
% of Children under age 18 who are Minority	1.4%	not avail.	2.1%
% Children in Poverty	25.4%	21.2%	22.2%

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE DATA

Monroe County	February 2004	September 2004	September 2005	August 2007
TANF Families	93 cases	60 cases	44 cases	45 cases
Total Individual Active Assistance Groups	614 food stamps 2,114 Medicaid	1,295 food stamps 1,845 Medicaid	1,323 food stamps 1,828 Medicaid	1,398 food stamps 1833 Medicaid
Average # cases monthly receiving CPS (Child Protective Services)	7 a month	10 a month	19 a month	22 a month
Children in DHHR custody	15 children total (1-out of state, 2 out of region, 5 out of county)	23 children total (0-out of region, 8 out of county, 10 in foster care, others with relatives)	7 children total (7-out of county)	22 children total (0-out of state, 0-out of region, 4-out of county in foster care, 12 CPS foster care children in county in foster home from other area)
CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program)	Feb. 2004- 224 children	Sept. 2004- 236 children	Sept. 2005 260 children	June 2006 246 children

Information from WWORKS CASE CLOSURE STUDY as reported in the Public Affairs Reporter shows 43% of West Virginians that participated in the study reported that they did not have enough money to buy food, had to skip meals or decrease the size of their meals after leaving AFDC/TANF. Families no longer eligible for cash benefits can continue to receive food stamps and receive a medical card if they are disabled. Individuals **receiving food stamps in Monroe County went from 614 in February 2004 to 1,295 in September 2004.** This is a time period of only 6 months where the number doubled for individuals receiving food stamps. Since then the numbers have remained constant in all areas.

OTHER ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

There are many individuals in Monroe County working to fill gaps in services for families. Some activities are listed below. Many helpers are volunteers and they donate many hours of work during the year to help others.

Community Action of South Eastern West Virginia (CASE) Monroe County office

CASE services include Emergency Support Services, LIEAP, MDT Sessions, MDT I & R, Weatherization, Housing Applications, Used Clothing Closet, Emergency Shelter aid, Information & Referral, Food Pantry/vouchers, Garden Program, Crisis Intervention Services, Special Christmas Projects, CHIP Applications, Micro Loan Program, Building Usage

Ministerial Outreach

July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007 Financial Aid for electric, fuel, water, rent, security deposits, prescriptions, transportation, dentures amounted to \$2,732.43---Ten years ago the balance was \$4,692.27. In the past ten years Ministerial Outreach has raised \$42,606.74 and assisted in an amount of \$45,613.56. Members have contributed between 30 and 50 thousand dollars worth of clothing and other gifts to local students at Christmas time.

Food Pantries

Food distributions and food pantries are located at Peterstown United Methodist Church, CASE (Community Action), New Hope Church in Union, Family Refuge Center (Domestic Violence), Lindside Senior Center

SHARE food co-op

No income guidelines-everyone can participate-there are two sites in Monroe County (Peterstown United Methodist Church and at the Family Resource Network office in Union sponsored by the Greenville Ruritan)

FCOC Flex Fund

A committee called Service Delivery System Committee oversees a flex fund called FCOC (Family Centered Oversight Collaborative) that helps families as a fund of last resort when no other source of help can be found. This team meets monthly and provided help to 80 families.

Free Clothing/Coat Distributions & “Gleaning” project

No income guidelines-everyone can participate-Three free clothing/coat distributions at the Old Greenville School Community Center helps an estimated 500 individuals yearly. Space is also available for storage of appliances/furniture to help needy families. Our public schools in the county have clothing closets that provide clothes to students when a need arises in the school. A “Gleaning” project that was piloted in 2002 through a CBI grant has continued to receive good usable materials from those who have donated and linking them with people in need. Materials have included appliances, clothing, fresh fruit & vegetables, furniture, etc....From May 2006 through June 2007, the Family Resource Network has coordinated 5 free semi-truck load shipments providing over \$100,000 estimated value of items. This was made available through the Christian Appalachian Program and RC & D in Oak Hill. New Hope Tabernacle and the Lindside United Methodist Church donated space for the distributions.

Free Tax Aide

Free tax aid is provided through certified AARP volunteers February 1 to April 15 at the Public Library in Union and at the Lindsie Senior Center. In 2007, 197 individuals received free tax aid totaling \$33,995.00 in returns. Low income families and senior citizens are aided to receive the earned income credit and tax credits.

STOP Community Response Team

Monroe County has two advocates that work with domestic violence victims. They served 232 persons in Monroe County last year. The Family Refuge Center serves three counties, Monroe, Greenbrier and Pocahontas. Stats for all three counties include: Sheltered 30 adults and 21 children; Served 34 pregnant women and 40 persons over the age of 60; total number of persons served was 1144 with 7810 hours of service; presented 93 educational programs with 3626 individuals being reached. West Virginia has the highest per capita murder rate for victims of domestic violence-33 last year or about 45% of all murders in West Virginia.

EDUCATION

The following is a comparison between the 1990 census and 2000 census

Public School Information

Census	1990	2000	+-
School Enrollment			
Persons 3 years & over	2,682	2,971	+289
Enrolled in school			
Preprimary school	225	179	-45
Elementary & High School	2,123	2,310	+187
College	334	482	+148
Educational Attainment			
Persons 25 & over	8,295	10,474	+2,179
Less than 9 th grade	1,851	1,434	-417
9 th to 12 th , no diploma	1,295	1,325	+30
High school graduate	3,458	4,901	+1,443
Some college, no degree	804	1,656	+852
Associate degree	224	299	+75
Bachelor's degree	418	556	+138
Graduate or professional degree	245	303	+58
Percent high school graduate or higher	62.1	73.7	+11.6

Number of Children enrolled in school

	2005-2006	2006-2007
James Monroe High School	606	610
And Vo-Technical School		
Peterstown Elementary & Middle School	787	810
Mountain View Elementary & Middle School	612	624
Totals	2,005	2,054

Monroe County School Drop-Out Rates

1997	2.7%	2000	2.9%	2002	1.9%
1998	3.0%	2001	2.5%	2003	1.5%
1999	3.4%			2004	3.6%

In the years 2002 and 2003, the Middle Schools were included in the dropout rates, which caused those years to appear dramatically different.

SEARCH Institute Profile of our Youth

828 youth, grades 6 through 12, were surveyed in 2003 and results were compiled by the SEARCH Institute. *External assets* included Family Support (74%), Constructive use of time at home (67%), Constructive use of time/Religious Community (57%), Positive Peer Influence (63%), Feeling safe at home, school, neighborhood (57%), Scores lower than 30% included Positive Family Communication (27%), Youth as resources (27%), Adult role models (29%), Creative activities (16%), *Internal assets* Positive values, (73%) Honesty, (70%) Responsibility, (69%) Positive view of future, (68%) Integrity. Scores lower than 30% included (23%) Reading for pleasure, (25%) Planning and decision-making. 452 James Monroe youth high risk behavior pattern scored highest in the use of alcohol and/or tobacco in last 30 days and behavior once or more in the last 12 months scored highest in sexual intercourse, hit someone, threatened physical harm to someone, rode with a driver who had been drinking and gambled. Positive behaviors included 83% helped friends or neighbors one or more hours a week and 74% overcomes adversity (does not give up when things get difficult). Although scoring low, we have youth with eating disorders and youth that have attempted suicide. The school system has received grants to employ people to deal partly with the results of the SEARCH Institute Profile. They have employed VISTA workers and AMERICORP workers. They have also developed a Mentoring Program for both Mt. View and Peterstown Middle and Elementary schools. The mentors meet with their chosen student at the school setting once a week.

CAUSES OF DEATH BY NUMBER FOR MONROE COUNTY RESIDENTS 2004

As reported at http://www.wvdhhr.org/bph/oehp/vital04/vs_44_32.htm

Causes of Death	Number
Total Deaths, all causes	162
Malignant Neoplasms	38
Of Digestive Organs	8
Of Respiratory & Intrathoracic Organs	11
Of Breast	3
Of Genitourinary Organs	5
All other malignant neoplasms	11
Diabetes Mellitus	6
Alzheimer's Disease	2
Major Cardiovascular Disease	57
Diseases of Heart	46
Cerebrovascular Disease	8
Atherosclerosis	1
Other Diseases of Arteries	2
Influenza and Pneumonia	3
Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	8
Lung Disease due to External Agents	8
Chronic Liver Disease & Cirrhosis	4
Nephritis, Nephrosis	7
Congenital Anomalies	2
Accidents	9
Intentional Self-Harm	3
All other causes	15

The Department of Health and Human Resources researched and provided an overview of Monroe County compared to the rest of the United States. WV County Health Profiles 2000 indicated that Monroe County is worse in Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, Unintentional Injuries, Motor Vehicle Accidents, Physical Inactivity, Seatbelt Nonuse, Smokeless Tobacco Use, Difficulty seeing a doctor due to cost.

TOBACCO USE IN WEST VIRGINIA

The following information is from a progress report dated April 2004 by the W.V. Division of Tobacco Prevention.

- One in 5 deaths in West Virginia are due to smoking.
- In West Virginia in 1999, smoking accounted for 1,262 (80%) of all deaths due to cancers of the trachea, lung or bronchus. It was also estimated that smoking accounted for 827 (17%) of all deaths from heart disease, and 945 (80%) of all deaths due to chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases (COPD).
- In 2001, the total costs for West Virginia from smoking were estimated to be \$1.8 billion.
- In 2001, 197 million packs of cigarettes were sold in West Virginia
- Youth smoking rates in West Virginia have declined, from 42% in 1999 to 28% in 2003.

MONROE COUNTY PREVENTION TEAMS

Monroe and Summers Counties formed a Monroe/Summers Counties Tobacco Prevention Coalition in 1998 and have provided a Wellness Topics Newsletter quarterly that is 90% dedicated to Tobacco Prevention. This newsletter reaches 5,000 households as inserts in the Monroe Watchman and Hinton News. Monroe County has a Breast Cancer Awareness Committee that meets regularly and plans a yearly cancer walk and they distribute information at local events. In 2006, they raised \$2,300 that will be used to provide cancer screenings to women without health insurance coverage. Two other groups that meet with this committee are the Monroe Health Center's COPC team and Head Start's TLC Wellness Committee. These teams combined with the Tobacco Prevention team work together to educate the public about health risks and prevention.

MONROE COUNTY HEAD START

The Monroe County Head Start has 73 children enrolled. Mountain View enrollment for four year olds is 22. Mountain View enrolled in combination programs is 42. Mountain View enrolled in home based option 9. We have 8 who are special needs, two in speech and six in other delays. Twenty-one children receive Medicaid or have CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program). The Head Start program works in collaboration with the Preschool/Special Needs Program as well as the Title I Intervention Program and the Monroe Day Care. We work under Policy 2525 to ensure that four year olds and their families receive the best quality services in the areas of Education, Health and Nutrition and Social Services. Head Start works closely with the Birth Three program to transition three year olds and their families into the Home Base option.

TITLE I

At the present, we have 1- ½ Title I reading teachers, 1 ½ Title I math teachers and 1 Title I writing coach. The Title I reading and math will co-teach with the regular education teachers and the special education teachers K-8, as well as provide some pull outs for high risk students. The Title I math teachers will co-teach with 3rd, 4th, 5th, 7th and 8th grade classroom teachers and special education. In the first 2 periods in the morning, one Title I math teacher will meet with 7th and 8th grade high risk students previewing and preparing them for daily instruction. The Title I Writing/Literacy coach will be supporting the classroom teacher by observation, modeling, co-teaching, providing graphic organizers, and assisting with development of lesson plans. The coach will research effective writing/language arts practices and guide the classroom teacher in implementation of these new strategies and will provide staff development through workshops, presentations and book studies. Peterstown Elementary School has two teachers serving in reading.

Mountain View and Peterstown schools continue to operate in-class and pullout programs. Title I also instituted two added programs at each school as outlined. The first program was the firm establishment of a FOUR YEAR OLD PROGRAM. This cost-free service has been provided to identified children three full days per week. The other two days have been used in part for planning, staff meetings and teacher prep while most of the time is absorbed by home visitations. Title I teamed up with Head Start and Preschool Special Needs on collaborative planning, staff development, and shared resources.

The second program instituted at both schools has been the PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS PROGRAM. Each Title I school took part in this research-based project from the West Virginia Department of Education. We had a team of four teachers from each, Peterstown Elementary and Mountain View, who agreed to take training. Upon completion of the training they began an intensive phonemic awareness program at each school in one kindergarten and one first grade classroom. The children in these designated four rooms were assessed to determine who were most at risk for weaknesses in phonological awareness. The selected six kindergarten and six first grade students were then given intensive one-to-one instruction for a full six weeks to remedy the deficiencies.

MONROE COUNTY SPECIAL EDUCATION
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Monroe County Special Education Department of the Board of Education provides services to children with handicapping conditions and gifted. The purpose is to individualize to the needs of the student to help each student perform to their highest potential and provide related services to lessen the handicapping condition. As of December 1, 2006, there were 352 special education students. This includes 31 Preschool students.