



*Resolution*  
*of the*  
**Board of County Commissioners**  
*St. Louis County, Minnesota*  
*Adopted on: June 10, 2014 Resolution No. 14-365*  
*Offered by Commissioner: Nelson*

---

**Minnesota State Auditor Performance Measurement Program, 2014 Report**

WHEREAS, Benefits to St. Louis County for participation in the Minnesota Council on Local Results and Innovation comprehensive performance measurement program are outlined in Minn. Stat. § 6.91 and include eligibility for a reimbursement as set by state statute; and

WHEREAS, Any city or county participating in the comprehensive performance measurement program is also exempt from levy limits for taxes, if levy limits are in effect; and

WHEREAS, The St. Louis County Board has adopted and implemented ten (10) of the performance measures, as developed by the Council on Local Results and Innovation, and a system to use this information to help plan, budget, manage and evaluate programs and processes for optimal future outcomes;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That St. Louis County will continue to report the results of the performance measures to its citizenry by the end of the year through publication, direct mailing, posting on the county's website, or through a public hearing at which the budget and levy will be discussed and public input allowed;

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the St. Louis County Board approves submission of the 2014 St. Louis County Performance Measures Report found in County Board File No. 59890.

Commissioner Nelson moved the adoption of the Resolution and it was declared adopted upon the following vote:  
Yeas – Commissioners Jewell, Boyle, Dahlberg, Nelson, Raukar and Vice-Chair Stauber - 6  
Nays – None  
Absent – Chair Forsman - 1

---

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
Office of County Auditor, ss.  
County of St. Louis

I, DONALD DICKLICH, Auditor of the County of St. Louis, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing with the original resolution filed in my office on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of June, A.D. 2014, and that this is a true and correct copy.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE at Duluth, Minnesota, this 10<sup>th</sup> day of June, A.D., 2014.

DONALD DICKLICH, COUNTY AUDITOR

By

Deputy Auditor/Clerk of the County Board

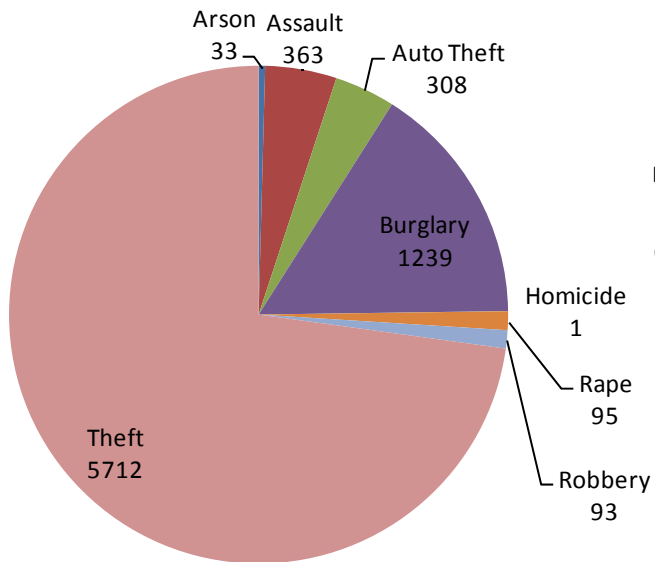


Public Safety – County Sheriff	
<b>Department Goal:</b>	To protect and serve the citizens of the county and region with professionalism and pride.
<b>Commissioner Priority Area:</b>	Enhance Public Safety; Health and Well-Being of County Citizens

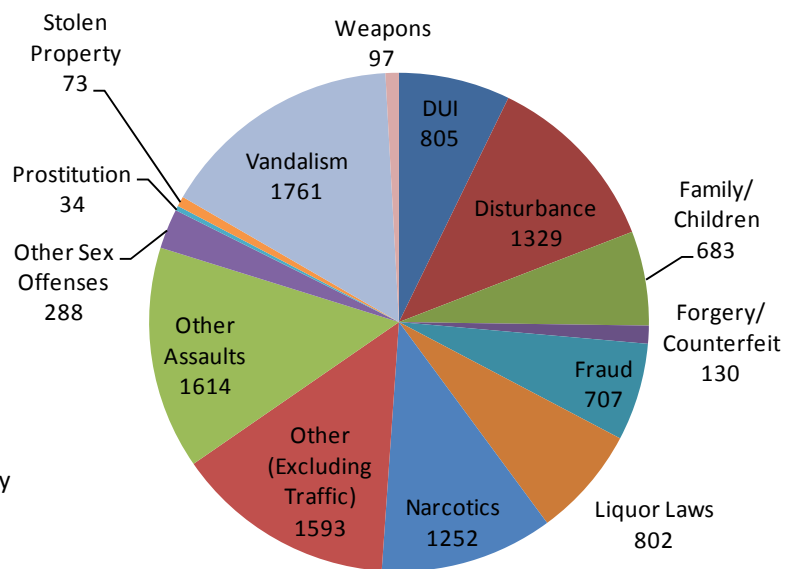
## Measure 1. Public Safety – Crime Rates/Citizen Survey

**Current Performance:** In 2013, St. Louis County (population 200,540, US Census Bureau 2013 population estimate) had the following Part I & II offenses and crime rates:

### Part I: 7,887 Total Crimes



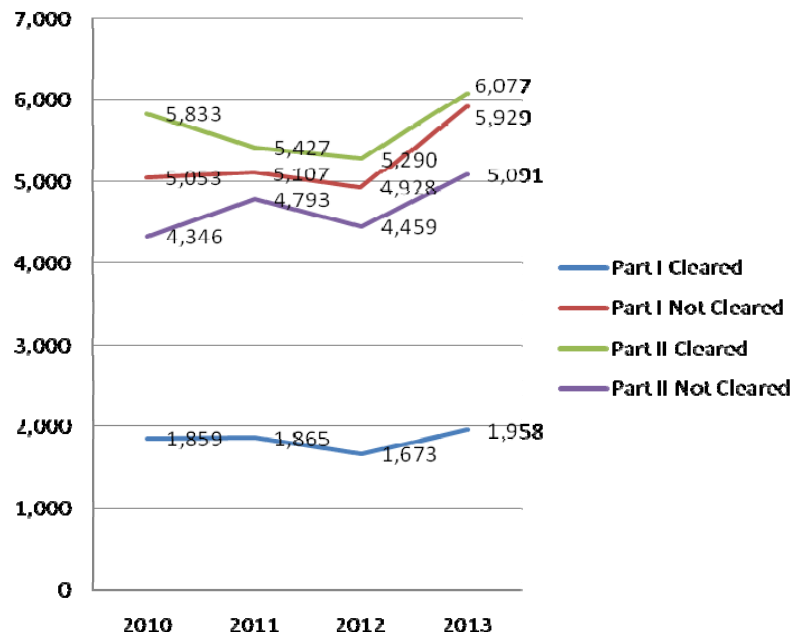
### Part II: 11,168 Total Crimes



Part I:	7,887 total offenses; 1,958 total offenses cleared (25%)
Part II:	11,168 total offenses; 6,077 total offenses cleared (54%)
Crime Rate:	Grand total offenses: 19,055; Total Cleared 8,035; Percentage Cleared 42%

**Data Source:** MN BCA Uniform Crime Reports  
 Note: BCA stats are not final until July 1, 2014

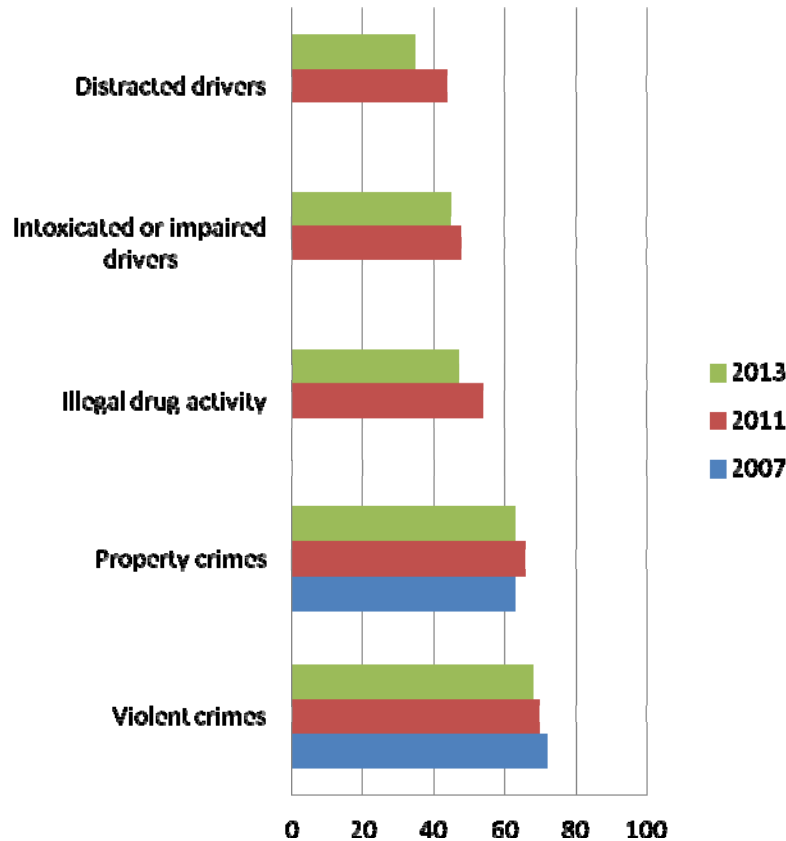
### Part I & II Crime Rates



## Measure 2. Public Safety –Citizen Survey

**Current Performance:** Residents felt the safest from violent (68 points) and property crimes (63). As shown below, ratings were similar to those given in 2011 and 2007.

### Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel from the following in St. Louis County



### More about our survey:

St. Louis County partners with other Minnesota counties to work with the National Research Center on a statistically valid and representative residential survey which is conducted every 2-3 years. This survey was conducted in 2007, 2011 and 2013. That data is summarized here. The 2013 survey response rate was 37% (1975 households received a survey; 732 surveys were completed).

Please note: responses have been converted to a 100 point scale for ease of graphical comparison.

## Measure 3. Public Safety – Deputy Response Time

**Current Performance:** The St. Louis County Sheriff's Office responded to 1,831 Priority One Level Incidents throughout St. Louis County between 1/1/13 and 12/31/13. The average response time from time of dispatch to first unit on scene computes to **16.48 minutes**, the number of calls are up slightly and the average time to respond is down by just over 1 minute from last year. St. Louis County is very unique compared to other Minnesota counties in that it is over 7,000 square miles in size, the type and quality of our roadways varies significantly throughout the county, and great distances between calls often requires extra time to respond thus impacting the efficacy of this measure as a standard in St. Louis County as compared to other counties in the State.

## Public Safety – Arrowhead Regional Corrections (ARC)

<b>Department Goal:</b>	To use evidence-based practices to provide community corrections services in a five county area of Northeastern Minnesota (St. Louis, Carlton, Cook, Koochiching and Lake Counties). ARC operates the (1) Northeast Regional Corrections Center (NERCC), a minimum security level institution for adult males, (2) Arrowhead Juvenile Center, a secure detention and treatment facility for juveniles, (3) Court and Field (probation and parole) services and (4) contracted services for adult female offenders.
<b>Commissioner Priority Area:</b>	Enhance Public Safety; Health and Well-Being of County Citizens

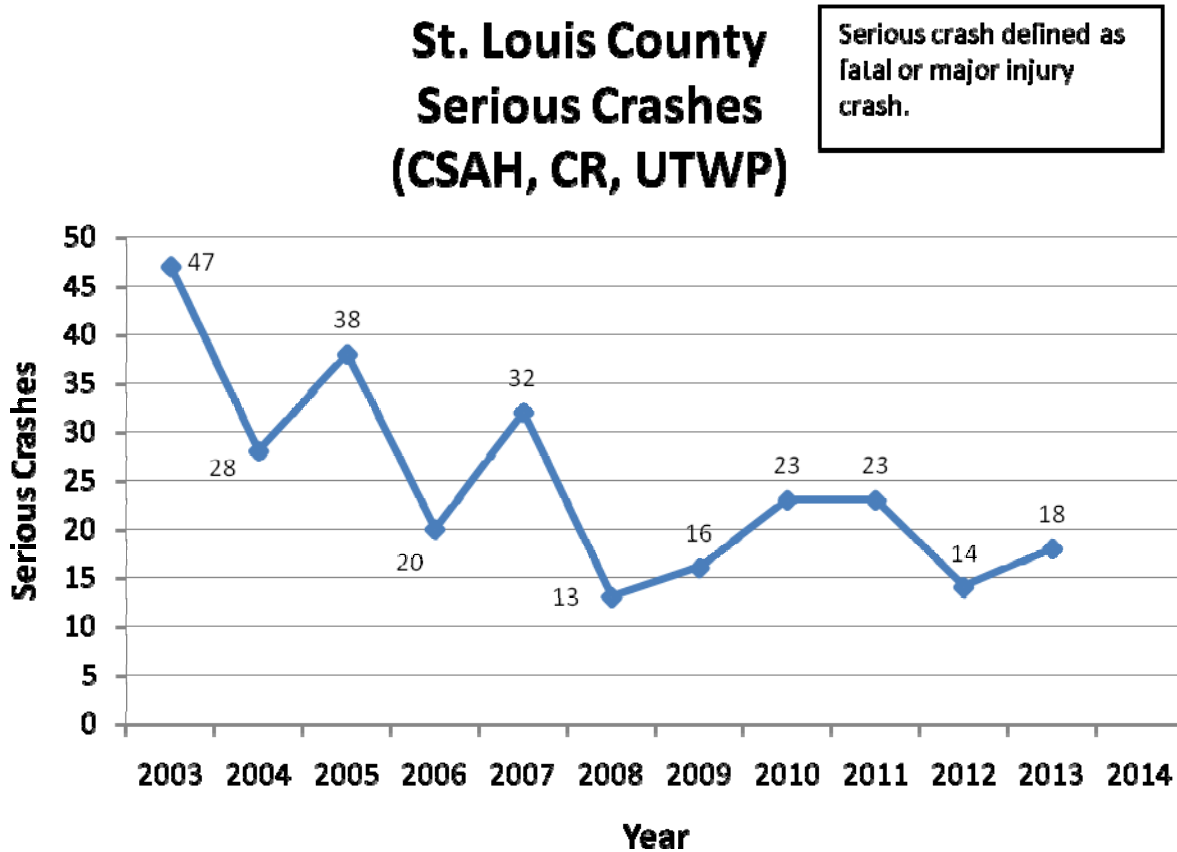
### Measure 4. Public Safety – Recidivism

**Current Performance:** Arrowhead Regional Corrections’ goal is to maintain its client recidivism rate at 30% or lower, as defined by the Minnesota Department of Corrections. The MN DOC defines recidivism as “a felony conviction within three years of discharge.” In 2013, ARC’s adult probation recidivism rate - **15%.**

Public Works	
Department Goal:	To provide a safe, well-maintained road and bridge system.
Commissioner	Strong County Infrastructure; Facilitate Economic Development
Priority Area:	

**Measure 5. Public Works -Total number of fatal/injury accidents**

**Current Performance:** In 2013 St. Louis County experienced **18** fatal and injury crashes on County State Aid Highways (CSAH), County Roads or Unorganized Township roads. The target is less than 10.



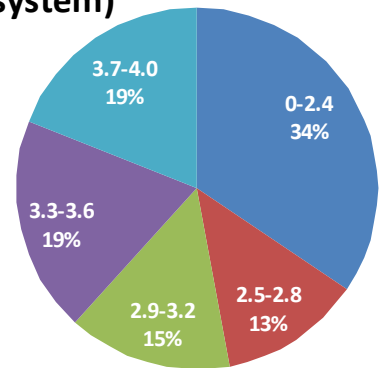
## Measure 6. Public Works –Snow Plowing Time

**Current Performance:** It takes the St. Louis County Public Works Department an average of **6 hours** to plow county roadways during an average snowfall event.

## Measure 7. Public Works –County Pavement Condition Rating (PCI/PQI)

**Current Performance:** To improve the overall pavement quality of the roads of St. Louis County jurisdiction (unorganized townships, county roads, and county state aid highways) to a level acceptable to the public, Public Works strives to maintain 75% of roadway miles with a Pavement Quality Index (PQI) of 2.900 or higher and the weighted average PQI for all mileage at 3.100 or higher. Pavements having a PQI of 2.900 to 3.200 are defined as being in "fair" condition. PQI's range from 0.000 (worst) to 4.200 (best).

**Pavement Quality Index (PQI) (% of paved system)**

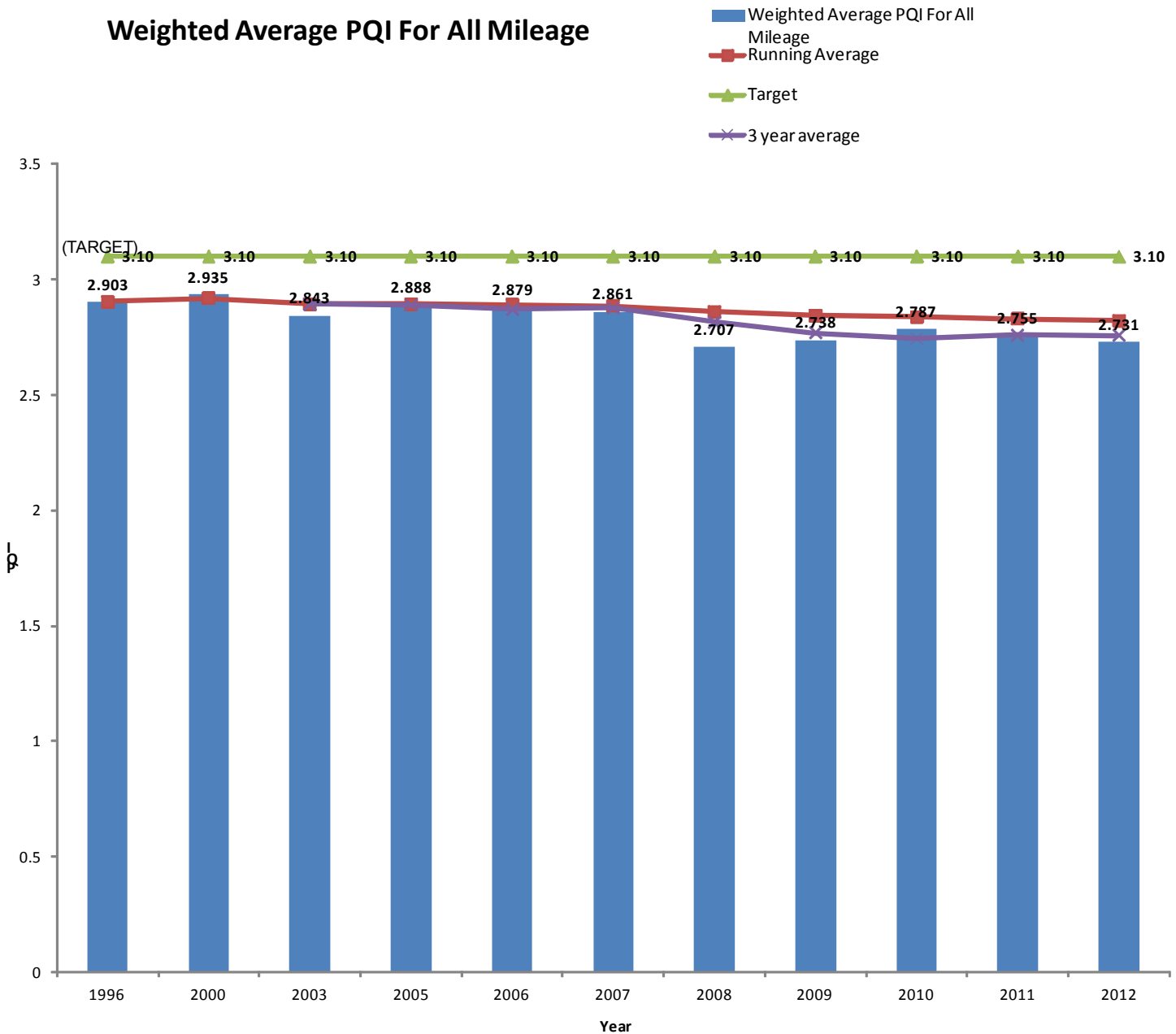


Please note, this data is from 2012 as the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) was not able to rate St. Louis County's roads in 2013 due to workload challenges. They will be rating St. Louis County roads in 2014.

Using PQI data from 2012, the percentage of roadway miles rated with a PQI of 2.900 or higher is 52.9%, which is under the 75% target. The weighted average PQI for all mileage, using the same data, is 2.731, which is under the target of 3.100.

System	2.731 PQI		Slightly down from 2011 (2.755)
County State Aid Highway (CSAH)	2.86 PQI		Slightly down from 2011 (2.87)
County & Unorganized Township Roads	2.31 PQI		Slightly down from 2011 (2.39)

## Weighted Average PQI For All Mileage



**What will be changed to meet this goal:** The Department knew that it would not be able to achieve this goal, but felt it was important to set targets that would reflect where the county's system should be. A review of the current data indicates that the overall condition of the paved highway system is stable for now.

A shift towards doing more preservation projects such as mill and overlays, reclaim and overlays and bituminous overlays, along with more preventative maintenance such as crack sealing, chip seals and micro-surfacing will begin to push the numbers in the right direction.

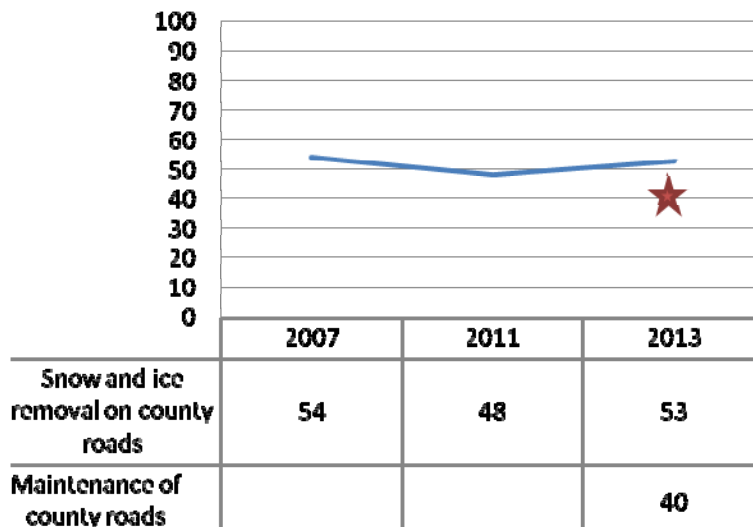
St. Louis County Public Works continues to implement a pavement management system and will further refine its use as well as continue to evaluate all potential sources of revenue.



## Measure 8. Public Works –Citizen Survey Ratings

**Current Performance:** Continuing the trend in citizen survey ratings from 2007 and 2011 scientifically valid, representative surveys, residents again found road conditions to be a major problem in 2013. 10% of residents selected infrastructure (including sewer, water, roads, bridges, etc.) as the most serious issue facing St. Louis County (down from 13% in 2011). The 2013 survey attempted to separate snow and ice removal from general maintenance, which is reflected in the new baseline established in the following chart. While low, these scores are in line with national trends done by the National Research Center.

### Please rate each of the following services provided by St. Louis County



### More about our survey:

St. Louis County partners with other Minnesota counties to work with the National Research Center on a statistically valid and representative residential survey which is conducted every 2-3 years. This survey was conducted in 2007, 2011 and 2013. That data is summarized here. The 2013 survey response rate was 37% (1975 households received a survey; 732 surveys were completed).

Please note: responses have been converted to a 100 point scale for ease of graphical comparison.

Please note: the “maintenance of county roads” was a new question in 2013.

## Measure 9. Public Works –Average Bridge Sufficiency Rating

**Current Performance:** St. Louis County's average bridge sufficiency rating is **79.5**, down slightly from 83.5 in 2012. As this is a newer measure we are still establishing a baseline.

There are several factors to consider when it comes to using the Sufficiency Rating (SR) and setting an annual goal. It may take some serious thought to determine the best metric to measure our success. Considerations include:

- Establish a clear definition of the Sufficiency Rating (SR).
- Consider using ratings. NBI ratings are the federal portion of the condition ratings of various parts of the bridge (superstructure, substructure, deck, etc.) and are determined by our safety inspectors in the field.
- St. Louis County is responsible for approximately 600 bridges with ever changing condition values. It can be difficult to track and calculate any meaningful information without significant effort. The SR data from the State's SIMS database and found approximately 5% of the structures had incorrect data and their data has proven to be 3-4 years out of date. It is the only source for the current SR's and condition information that changes annually.

Public Health, Social Services	
<b>Department Goal:</b>	Children will be born healthy, live a life free from abuse and neglect, and will have a permanent living arrangement. Parents will be emotionally and financially able to provide for their children. Our community will make healthy life choices; have safe food, water, and air.
<b>Commissioner Priority Area:</b>	Health and Well-Being of County Citizens

## Measure 10. Public Health & Human Services –General Life Expectancy

**Current Performance:** Data from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute provides information on premature death based on a calculated years of potential life lost.

For St. Louis County: \_\_\_\_\_

2013 Years Lost 6,479

**Data source:** <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/#/minnesota/2013/st-louis/county/outcomes/overall/snapshot/by-rank>

#

## Measure 11. Public Health & Human Services –Tobacco & Alcohol Use

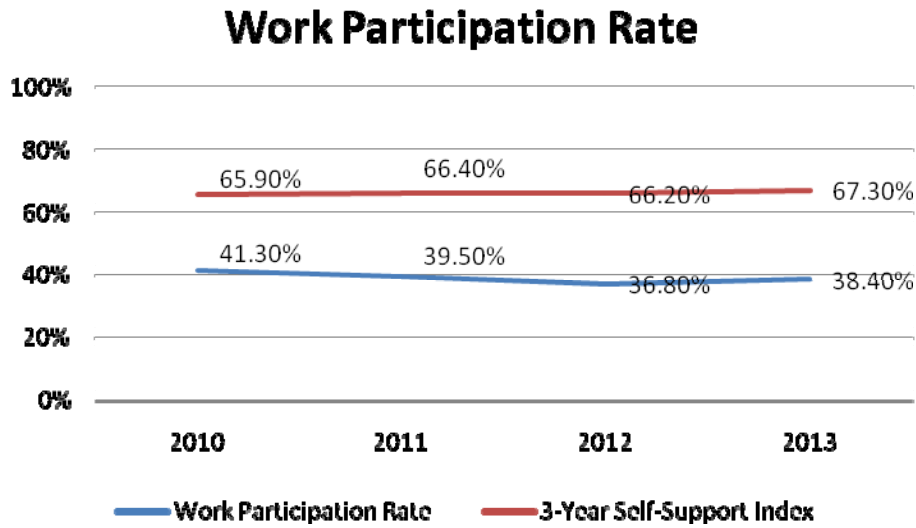
**Current Performance:**

2013 Health Behaviors 53 (Rank out of 87 Counties)  
 2013 Adult Smoking 22% (Compared to MN at 16% and the National Benchmark at 14%)  
 2013 “Excessive Drinking” 19% (Compared to MN at 19% and the National Benchmark at 10%)

**Data source:** [www.countyhealthrankings.org](http://www.countyhealthrankings.org)

## Measure 12. Public Health & Human Services –Work Participation Rate

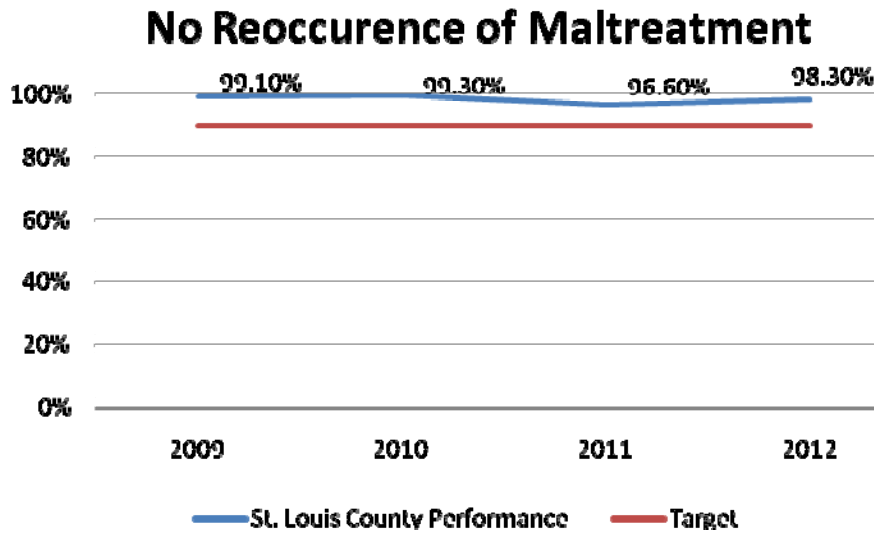
**Current Performance:** The department’s work participation rate measures how effectively people are able to enter the workforce and gain economic self-sufficiency. PHHS’ goal is that Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) and Diversionary Work Program (DWP) participants will meet or exceed the state’s expectation of a work participation rate of 38.9%. The federal work participation rate has been raised to 50% this year.



**Data source:** <http://publicreports.dhs.state.mn.us/Reports.aspx?ReportID=3> [DHS-4651-ENG 7-13]

## Measure 13. Public Health & Human Services –Maltreatment

**Current Performance:** PHHS strives to protect vulnerable children in order to enhance their safety, permanency and well-being. The department has established targets of 90% of children with one incident of substantiated child abuse will not have a reoccurrence within 12 months. *Please note 2013 summary data is not yet available.*



Data source: <http://publicreports.dhs.state.mn.us/Reports.aspx?ReportID=3>

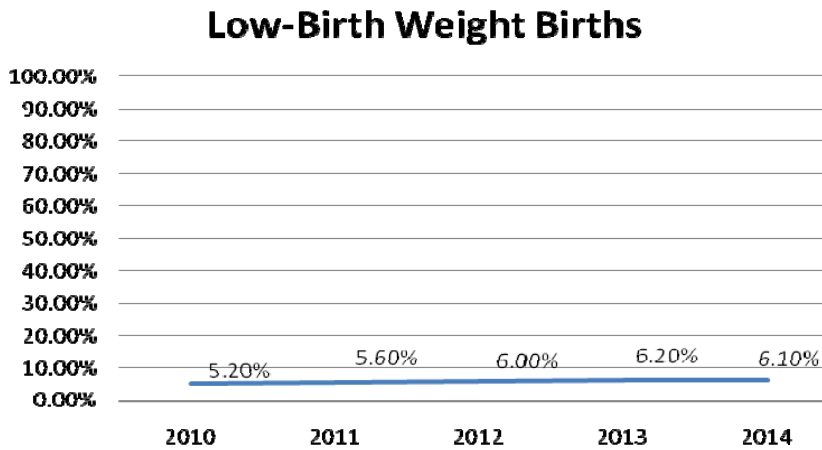
## Measure 14. Public Health & Human Services –Child Support Program Cost Effectiveness

**Current Performance:** Child support is money a parent is court-ordered to pay to their child’s other parent or caregiver for the support of the child. The support may be part of an interim, temporary, permanent, or modified court order. Cost effectiveness is the Return on Investment realized as a result of this activity in our County; it is the total dollars collected during the federal fiscal year divided by the total dollars spent for providing child support services during the same year. It is also called the “CSPIA collections/expense ratio”.

St. Louis County CSPIA Collects/Expense Ratio	
2010	\$5.55
2011	\$4.86
2012	\$5.25
2013	\$5.19
<b>Data source:</b> 2013 Minnesota Child Support Performance Report	

## Measure 15. Public Health & Human Services –Low Birth Weight Children

**Current Performance:** The Council on Local Results and Innovation recommended, as one measure of life expectancy, babies born with a low birth weight as these children have an increased risk of dying. Approximately half of the St. Louis County public health nurses provide home visits to high risk maternal populations, seeing clients prenatally and post-partum, to provide support and education to prevent complications including low birth weight.



Data Source: [www.countyhealthrankings.org](http://www.countyhealthrankings.org)

## Property Records, Valuation, Assessment

<b>Department Goal:</b>	Inspect, value, and classify - for property tax purposes – all taxable parcels with new construction on an annual basis. Assessments meet Department of Revenue standards for level and consistency.
<b>Commissioner Priority Area:</b>	Efficient, Effective Government

### Measure 16. County Assessor–Assessment Ratio

**Current Performance:** The median assessment level for all classes of property based on sales adjusted for local effort falls within the Department of Revenue’s acceptable range of 90% to 105% with a coefficient of dispersion less than 20 percent. This means that assessments should consistently fall within 90 to 105 percent of sales prices.

The following are statistics from the 2012 sales ratio report used for taxes payable in 2013 for St. Louis County provided by the Minnesota Department of Revenue. The current St. Louis County level of assessment ratio, median ratio, falls between 90-105% for 2013.

PROPERTY TYPE	MEDIAN RATIO	DOR Acceptable Range of 90-105%
RESIDENTIAL	95.5%	acceptable
COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL	93.6%	acceptable

**Data Source:** 2012 Assessment Sales Ratio Study for Minnesota Tax Court for taxes payable in 2013

### Measure 17. County Recorder–Turn-around Time

**Current Performance:** MN Statutes 357.182, Subd. 6 require a 10 day turn-around time by the year 2011, 90% of the time. 2013 performance documented a turn-around time of **8.64 days**, surpassing the requirement.

Elections	
<b>Department Goal:</b>	Maintain high election standards and public confidence in the election process in compliance with state and federal election laws (including the Help America Vote Act, HAVA).
<b>Commissioner Priority Area:</b>	Efficient, Effective Government

## Measure 18. County Auditor – Accuracy

**Current Performance:** During the 2013 general election, according to the post-election audit, **100%** of ballots were counted accurately.

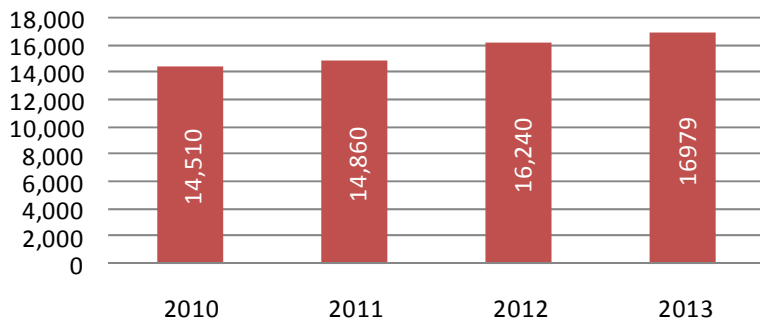


Veterans Services	
<b>Department Goal:</b>	To annually increase the number of veterans we work with and to serve them in a timely and customer-oriented manner.
<b>Commissioner Priority Area:</b>	Health and Well-Being of County Citizens

### Measure 19. Veterans Service Office - Customer Service

**Current Performance:** Customer satisfaction surveys are used by this office to assure customer satisfaction. There were a total of 144 customer comment cards collected, **100% were rated excellent.** All questions were answered. This is significant as the St. Louis County Veterans Service Office continues to see an increased number of veterans each year.

#### Number of Veterans Seen by County Veterans Service Office



### Measure 20. Veterans Service Office - Dollars for Veterans' Benefits

**Current Performance:** For 2013, Federal benefits totaled \$94,094,000 (up from last year) and State benefits totaled \$224,611 (down from last year), for a grand total of **\$94,318,611** of Veterans' benefits brought into St. Louis County (up \$12,411,368 from 2012).

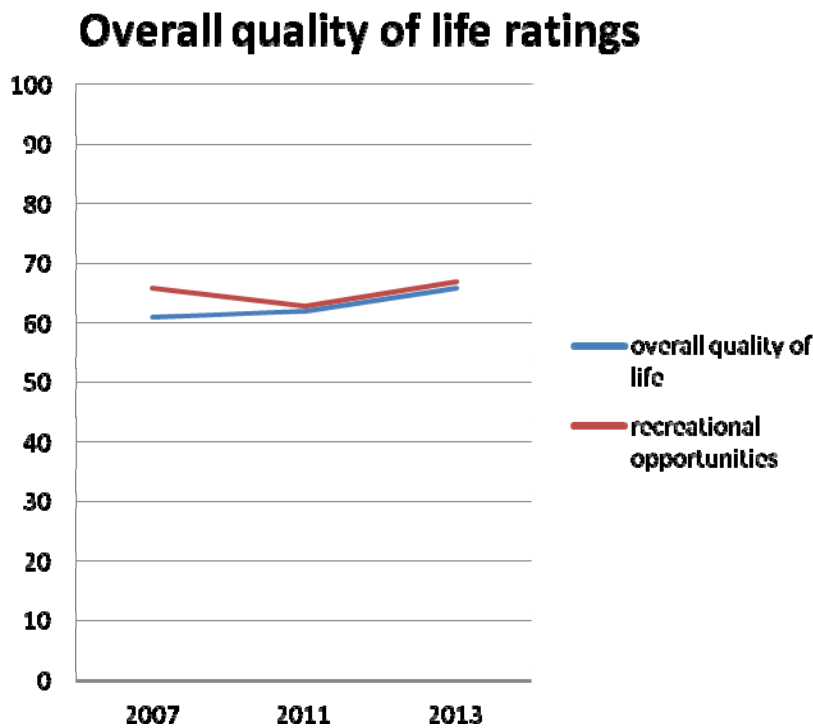
### Measure 21. Veterans Service Office - Percentage of Veterans Receiving Benefits

This measure was recommended by 2008 OLA report. There is currently no reliable data source for this measure.

Parks, Libraries	
<b>Department Goal:</b>	N/A – St. Louis County does not provide parks or libraries.
<b>Commissioner</b> <b>Priority Area:</b>	Health and Well-Being of County Citizens; Healthy Local Economy; Healthy Ecosystem

## Measure 22. Parks/Libraries – (N/A No County Parks, Recreational Programs or County Facilities)

**Current Performance:** Although St. Louis County does not operate county parks some of the 2013 Residential Survey Data speaks to general ratings in this area. The overall quality of life in St. Louis County is high, with 82% of residents rating overall quality of life “good” or “excellent.” Quality of life was further analyzed by various contributing factors. St. Louis County residents’ ratings of recreational opportunities are *much higher* than national averages.



### More about our survey:

St. Louis County partners with other Minnesota counties to work with the National Research Center on a statistically valid and representative residential survey which is conducted every 2-3 years. This survey was conducted in 2007, 2011 and 2013. That data is summarized here. The 2013 survey response rate was 37% (1975 households received a survey; 732 surveys were completed).

Please note: responses have been converted to a 100 point scale for ease of graphical comparison, 0 = poor and 100 = excellent.

## Measure 23. Arrowhead Library System (of which St. Louis County is a member) – Annual Visits

**Current Performance:** St. Louis County is a member of the Arrowhead Library System. As such, we do not have direct authority for their services nor do we know their goals. However, the Arrowhead Library System provided the following statistics for consideration:

Public Library	2010 Population	2013 Library Visits	Visits Per Thousand
Aurora	1,709	17,550	10.27
Babbitt	1,475	18,798	12.74
Buhl	1,000	7,250	7.25
Chisholm	4,976	12,281	2.47
Cook	574	12,833	22.36
Duluth	86,265	484,917	5.62
Ely	3,460	79,864	23.08
Eveleth	3,718	16,272	4.38
Gilbert	1,799	15,392	8.56
Hibbing	16,361	92,476	5.65
Hoyt Lakes	2,017	16,450	8.16
Kinney	169	1,721	10.18
McKinley	128	NOT FILED	0.00
Mountain Iron	2,869	25,002	8.71
Virginia	8,712	93,652	10.75
ALS Bookmobile	64,994	2,893	0.04
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>200,226</b>	<b>897,351</b>	<b>4.48</b>

## Budget, Financial Performance

<b>Department Goal:</b>	Provide professional finance and accounting services in keeping with best practices, ensuring that public dollars are used exclusively for authorized public purposes.
<b>Commissioner Priority Area:</b>	Health and Well-Being of County Citizens; Healthy Local Economy; Healthy Ecosystem

### Measure 24. County Auditor – Bond Rating

**Current Performance:** AA+ rating achieved in rating review as part of 2013 bond issuances. This is the third time the county's credit rating has improved since 2004. S & P's analysts ranked as very strong the County's budget flexibility, liquidity, and debt and contingent liability profile thanks to good reserves, available cash on hand and low debt service. Analysts also listed as strong the County's management with good financial policies, and the broad and diverse local economy.

**Data source:** Standard & Poor's Ratings Services

### Measure 25. County Auditor – Debt Service per capita

**Current Performance:** \$266 per capita; St. Louis County's debt levels are well below all established limits.

**Data source:** St. Louis County 2013 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

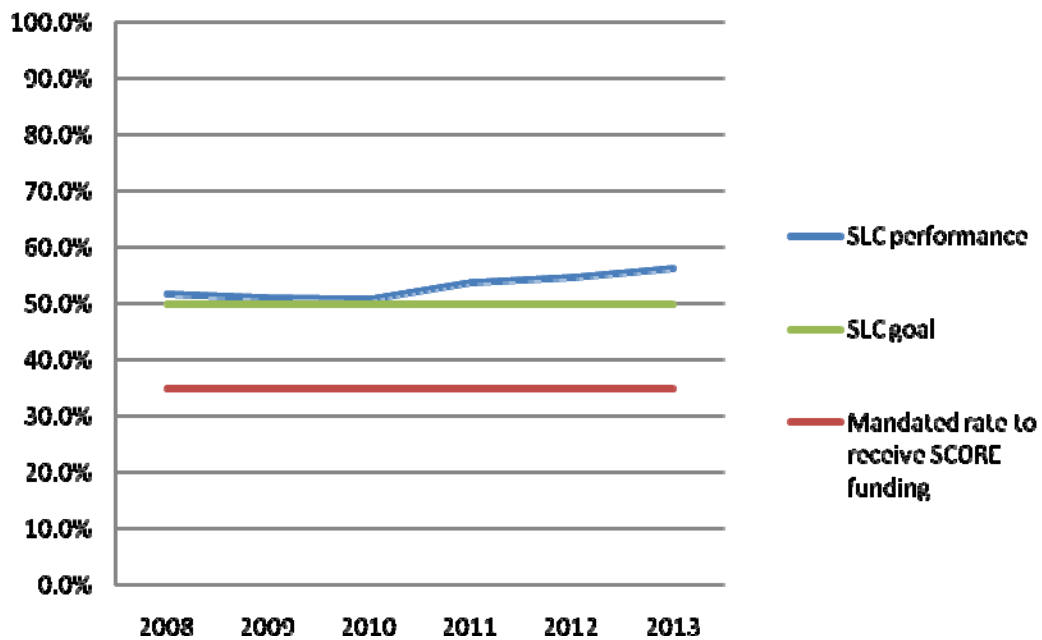
Environment	
<b>Department Goal:</b>	To act in a leadership capacity to ensure a sustainable integrated waste system. Further, to lead by developing public and private partnerships to focus resources on areas of greatest impact to the environment and economy of the County.
<b>Commissioner Priority Area:</b>	Health and Well-Being of County Citizens; Healthy Local Economy; Healthy Ecosystem; Strong County Infrastructure

## Measure 26. Environmental Services – Recycling Percentage

St. Louis County Environmental Services works to maintain State of Minnesota Select Committee on Recycling and the Environment (SCORE) recycling levels at or above 50% of the total waste stream. The Environmental Services Department has received funding from the State of Minnesota for recycling programs through this fund. SCORE funds are generated through the State Solid Waste Management tax on garbage disposal. SCORE recycling tonnages are calculated annually. The mandated rate to receive SCORE funding for non-metro counties is 35%; the Department goal is 50% or higher.

**Current Performance: 61.80%**

### SCORE Recycling Percentages



## Measure 27. Environmental Services – HHW

**Current Performance:** 76.36 tons of Household Hazardous Waste were recycled in 2013. This includes HHW going to Western Lake Superior Sanitary District, Ni-Cad Batteries, Fluor Tubes, Sealed Lead Acid batteries and Product Exchange volumes, collected at the St. Louis County HHW facility and remote collection sites. The St. Louis County Environmental Services Department provides a comprehensive solid waste management system management for all of St. Louis County outside of Duluth and surrounding townships. The Environmental Services Department works to increase the number of customers using the free household hazardous waste (HHW) disposal mobile collections and two year-round sites.

