



Strategic Spartanburg

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FAQs: Community Indicators Project Dashboards

What are community indicator dashboards?

A dashboard is a central location that displays various types of data, typically in a visual format. The data measure/represent predetermined key performance indicators that are linked to important community goals and outcomes. As policy and advocacy determine the allocation of resources in the community, dashboards allow decision-makers to track the effectiveness of their actions. Many dashboards are interactive and allow users to parse data in ways that add value to the overall understanding of community disparities and opportunities. This allows the community to identify service gaps that exist and act accordingly. The indicators included in the Community Indicators Dashboards have been selected through community engagement and careful deliberation among multiple stakeholders. As these data are used for policy development, it is expected that the indicators themselves will evolve over time to better represent the data needs of the community. Ultimately, a community indicator dashboard is a tool that helps decision-makers and concerned citizens stay informed as they engage in actions to improve the community.

Who are the dashboards for?

The dashboards hosted on the Strategic Spartanburg website are for use by all Spartanburg County residents. The dashboards do not require you to set up an account and access to the dashboards is free. If you are a resident of Spartanburg County, or any other community, and are interested in better understanding a wide range of community outcomes, then this is a place you should visit frequently. The primary areas covered by the dashboard include:

- Civic Health
- Cultural Vitality
- Economy
- Education
- Natural Environment
- Public Health
- Social Environment

Each of these dashboards include multiple community indicators that help citizens, nonprofit and for-profit leaders/organizations, public policy makers, and others make better decisions by using objective data.

How can the dashboards help the community?

By providing data across time on key indicators, the Community Indicators Dashboards allows the community to measure and track progress towards important goals and desired outcomes. By



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measuring and presenting these data, decision-makers are better able to understand if initiatives and actions are improving the lives of county residents.

Can the dashboards help me personally?

Regardless of your role in the community, the dashboards will help you be better informed about what is happening in our county and neighborhoods. We believe that being informed on key issues makes for a more engaged, cohesive, and productive citizenry. You may find specific areas of service or advocacy that you are willing to work on. As individuals become more informed, the community can better work together to improve our overall well-being and quality of life.

Why were certain communities chosen?

Where data were available, indicators were provided for two Spartanburg County communities, specifically, the Northside and Highland. These communities were chosen due to the need for impact data to assess the outcomes of investment and baseline data to establish an initial understanding prior to investment. These two neighborhoods will support the development of a methodology that we plan to replicate in other communities around the county.

How do I navigate the dashboards?

Ease of use was one of the guiding principles in the development of the Community Indicators Dashboards. In addition to ease of use, construction of the dashboards also focused on providing sufficient functionality to allow users to dig deep into the data for new and useful insights. To help make using the dashboard easier, a user video was developed. This video was purposefully kept to under 5 minutes, but it highlights the key aspects of making the best use of the dashboards. You may review the Users Guide Video by clicking [HERE](#). (Coming soon)

Are the dashboards updated regularly?

Yes! Every effort is made to keep the dashboards updated. The dashboards depend on a large variety of data sources, many managed by federal, state, and local agencies. These agencies update data on varied schedules, including monthly, quarterly, and annually (or longer periods of time). Sometimes, these agencies suspend the collection of certain data sets due to a variety of reasons. (NOTE: In these cases, attempts will be made to identify other indicators that track goals and outcomes. As a result, actual updates to specific indicators will depend on data availability.

Will more granular data be added to the dashboards?

As additional data become available, the dashboards will allow for more detailed and granular exploration of key indicators. Where possible, we will add data at the individual community, zip code, or census tract level. In the future phases of the dashboard, data may also be collected locally within and by neighborhoods.



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Who runs/maintains the dashboards?

Strategic Spartanburg, in association with key partners, including the Center for Business Analytics and Community Research at the Johnson College of Business and Economics, University of South Carolina Upstate, maintains the dashboards.

If I have additional questions, who can I contact?

Feel free to contact the Strategic Spartanburg team by phone at 864-529-9410 or info@strategicspartanburg.org.