

Join the CIM Community

What is CIM?

Community Issues Management (CIM) is a web-based Collaborative Management System designed for local and regional organizations to frame, manage and take action on complex issues.

CIM is used as a tool to make data-driven decisions within organizations and for our community. Nonprofits and their volunteer leadership can access CIM free of charge.

Already, it is being used for a variety of partnerships including grant writing collaborations and groups that are identifying gaps in service in our community.

Why Use CIM?

CIM houses over 700 national source data sets along with reports, documents, maps and links to resources developed by local, regional, federal and state entities. It is designed to support community decision making, wise use of resources and strategic collaborations to benefit all sections of the community.

CIM is a great place to find:

- Statistical data for reports and grant writing
- Locations of community assets (e.g., schools, libraries, etc.)
- Areas of greatest community need
- Information that can help build a better understanding of community problems and solutions
- Ideas about how organizations can take action to make a difference in the community. On the CIM website, users can also create geo-coded maps and comparative statistical reports.



CIM home page

Accessing CIM

To access CIM, type the following URL into your web browser: cim-network.org/qc (Bookmark this site or add it to your favorites)

To set up an account in CIM, please click on the 'register' button and follow the directions. It only takes a few minutes and it is free.

Learn more and sign up at cim-network.org/qc or visit unitedwayqc.org and click on the CIM icon.



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HOW DATA CAN 
IMPROVE THE VITALITY
OF THE QUAD CITIES

Special thanks to Bi-State Regional Commission for its continued support

Snapshot Introduction: Using Data to Create Leadership Everywhere

Creating a healthy Quad Cities begins with developing a clear understanding of what is good and what needs to be improved about our community. Since 2007, the Community Vitality Task Force (CVTF) has strived to increase access to data and create a shared understanding of our community's health and vitality. The CVTF has sponsored a series of studies, reports and community meetings to engage community members in discussions about critical community issues.

Along the way, we've developed a greater understanding about the elements of data-informed decision making and the challenges of creating partnerships to address community issues. Two big lessons stand out: 1) understanding community data requires time and effort--we must be willing to "dig" in the data, seek common definitions and investigate meaningful trends; and 2) cross-sector community partnerships need committed leadership from the community in order to succeed--sustaining positive efforts for the long term is work for us all.

Thus, we invite all of you to begin your own adventures in data-informed decision making. The CVTF seeks to encourage you to start asking questions about issues you care about and then provide you with coaching and support as you start to explore the issues in more depth. Our vision is to cultivate a community of leaders who can help bring work that they most care about to fruition.

We believe that a shared data platform is an important foundation for effective cross-partnership work. Thanks to an investment made by United Way of the Quad Cities Area, the Quad Cities now has access to a unique web-based data analysis and mapping tool called

Community Issues Management (CIM). Much of the data we have reported in past Snapshots is now available "at the click of a button" through CIM. However, the real power of CIM is tapped when we add local data and information about our community to the CIM system. CIM then becomes a dynamic resource for analyzing what we know about the Quad Cities and for capturing the important themes and organizing the progress of our community coalitions.

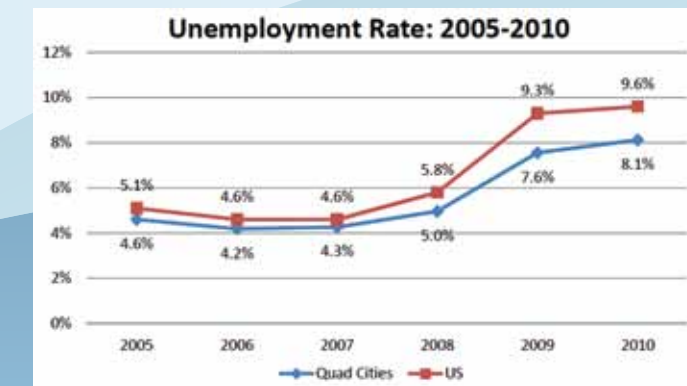
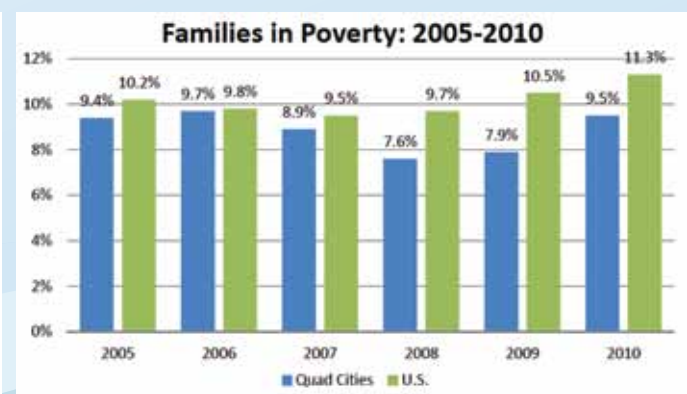
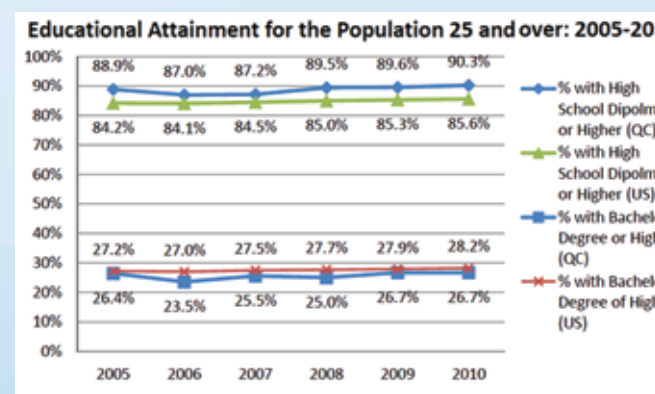
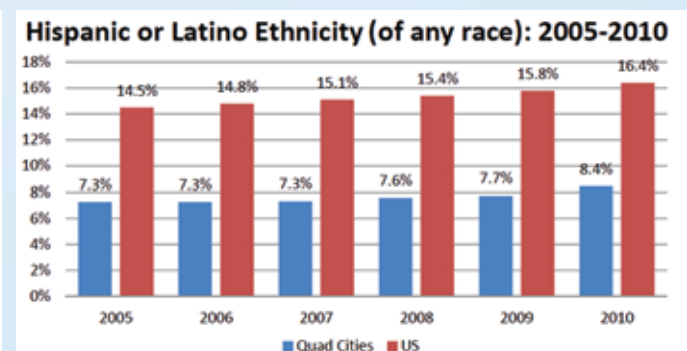
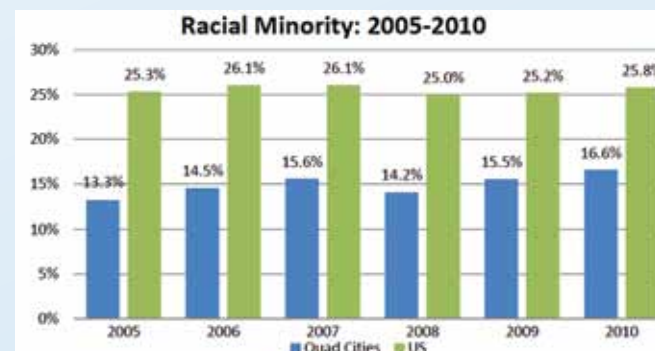
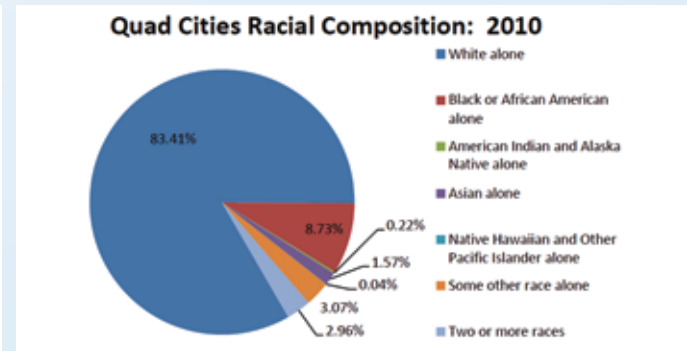
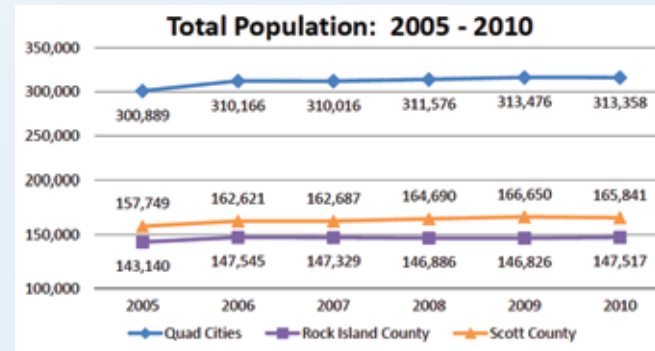
All of the members of the CVTF have begun using CIM to support community work and we invite you to become a CIM user, too.

This year is also an exciting one for those of us who love data since the decennial census data is now available. These data, along with the Census Bureau's new, annual American Community Survey, provide the most comprehensive and accurate demographic information available on our community. With the support of our partners at Bi-State Regional Commission, we've provided a Snapshot of this data for your review. We anticipate this data* will spark a few questions, which we hope will lead you to more exploration of an issue through CIM and ultimately to more data-informed decision-making. We're eager to help you discover what you want to know and to see what your leadership creates! After all, to create a vibrant community....

*Knowing is not enough, we must apply.
Willing is not enough, we must do.
— von Goethe*

* Beginning with the 2010 Census, the Census Bureau redesigned how the decennial census will be conducted. New for the 2010 decennial census was the additional use of the annual American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS was created to replace the former long form survey data found in previous decennial censuses. The 2010 Census used only a short form for data collection (10 basic questions). The ACS is an annual survey that collects more in-depth census statistics (e.g., housing, employment, education, income) from approximately 1 in 6 households a year. The Census Bureau began collecting ACS data in 2005 with the first data released in 2006. The Census Bureau releases ACS surveys for three different time periods: 1-year estimates (for geographies over 65,000); 3-year estimates (for geographies over 20,000); and 5-year estimates (for all geographies).

A Snapshot of the Quad Cities Area



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates, 2005-2010.
Note: Quad Cities is defined as Scott and Rock Island Counties.