



Indicators of Community Sustainability in the Morice & Lakes Region

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Objectives

1. Enhance set of social indicators developed through IFPA scenario planning that describe socio-economic conditions, and allow for systematic comparisons
2. Develop social indicators connected to the quality of life and the well-being of local residents.



Indicators of community sustainability

- ◉ An integrated set of measures related to the well-being of human populations
- ◉ A set of baseline measures that can be:
 - ◉ Incorporated into decision support systems
 - ◉ Used to track changes in sustainability over time

Two approaches

- ◉ Natural Resource Sector Social Indicators:
 - ◉ (E.g. Employment with the forest sector; complaints against forest industry)
- ◉ Social Science Indicators of Community Wellbeing Indicators:
 - ◉ Starts with the community
 - ◉ Includes forest or natural resource-based measures

Our approach

- ◉ Community sustainability depends on:
 - ◉ **CAPITAL:** Resources or assets (Human, social, natural and economic)
 - ◉ **OUTCOMES:** Desired outcomes for the community (Ecological integrity, economic vitality, civic vitality, health, recreation)
- ◉ Community input
 - ◉ Ensure indicators are relevant at the local level

Methods

Initial identification of model & indicators



Community interviews



Preliminary suite



Workshops



Final suite



Methods:

Measurement and assessment of indicators

- ◉ Secondary data
 - ◉ Census data
 - ◉ Locally available data

- ◉ Primary data: community survey
 - ◉ Random household survey throughout IFPA region
 - ◉ Closed and open-ended questions
 - ◉ 670 surveys returned (58% response rate)
 - ◉ Data weighted by community
 - ◉ Basic descriptive statistics & comparison of means

Key Findings: Overview

- ◉ Population characteristics
- ◉ Capitals
 - ◉ Human Capital
 - ◉ Economic Capital
 - ◉ Natural Capital
 - ◉ Social Capital
- ◉ Outcomes
 - ◉ Ecological integrity
 - ◉ Physical & mental health
 - ◉ Economic vitality
 - ◉ Recreation
 - ◉ Civic vitality

Population characteristics

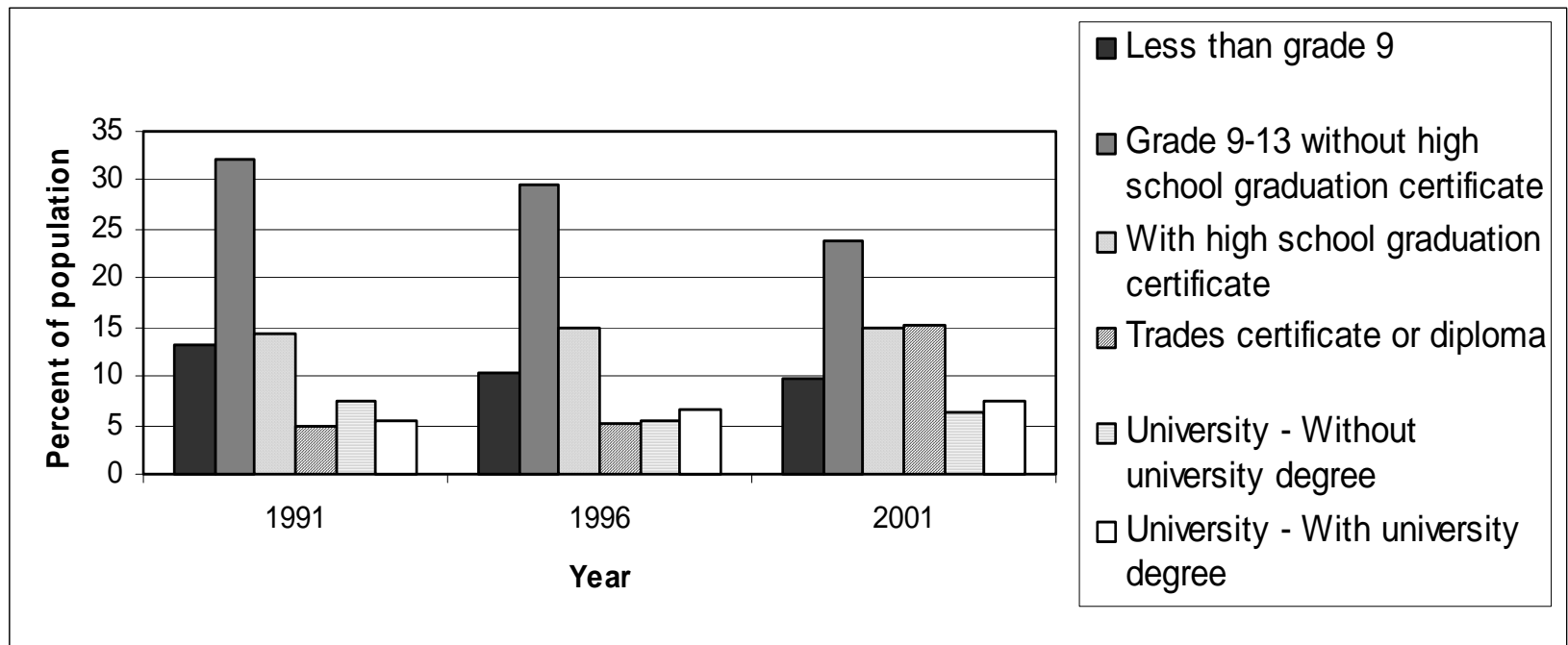
- ◉ Morice and Lakes TSAs make up 0.3% of BC's population
- ◉ Marital status, age distribution, gender distribution similar to provincial characteristics
- ◉ Significant contrast b/t ML IFPA and BC education attainment

Capitals

- ⊙ Human capital
- ⊙ Natural capital
- ⊙ Economic capital
- ⊙ Social capital

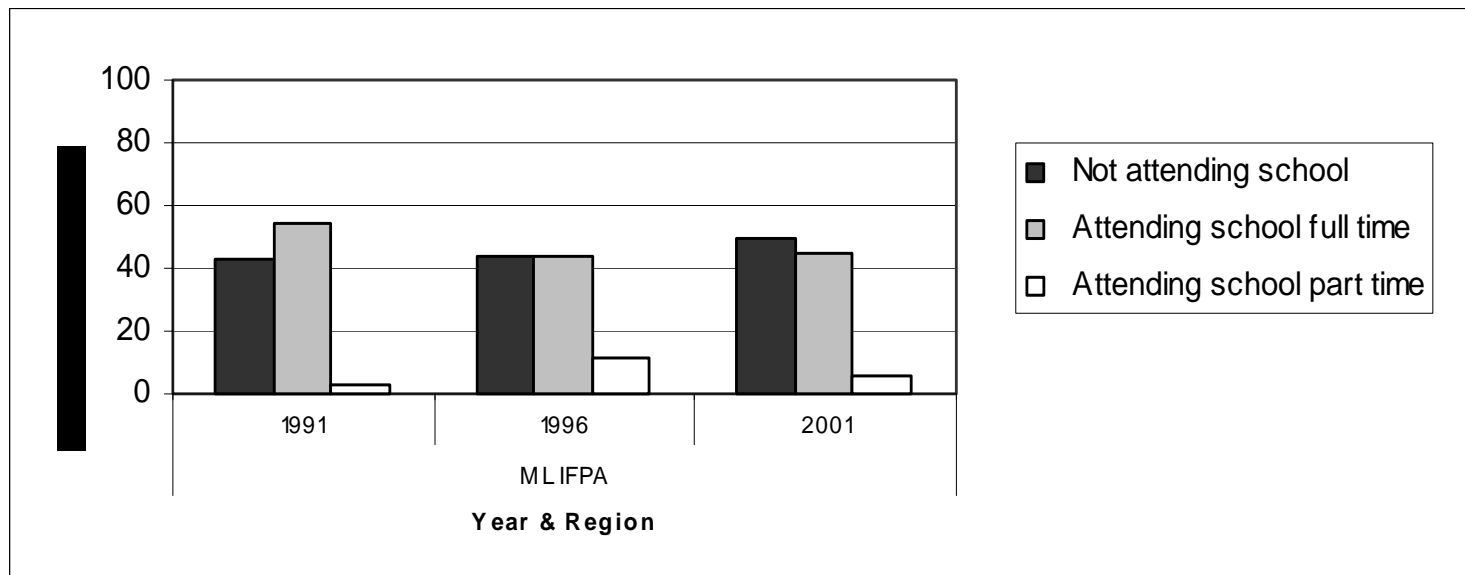
Human Capital

Low education attainment compared to the province, but attainment increasing



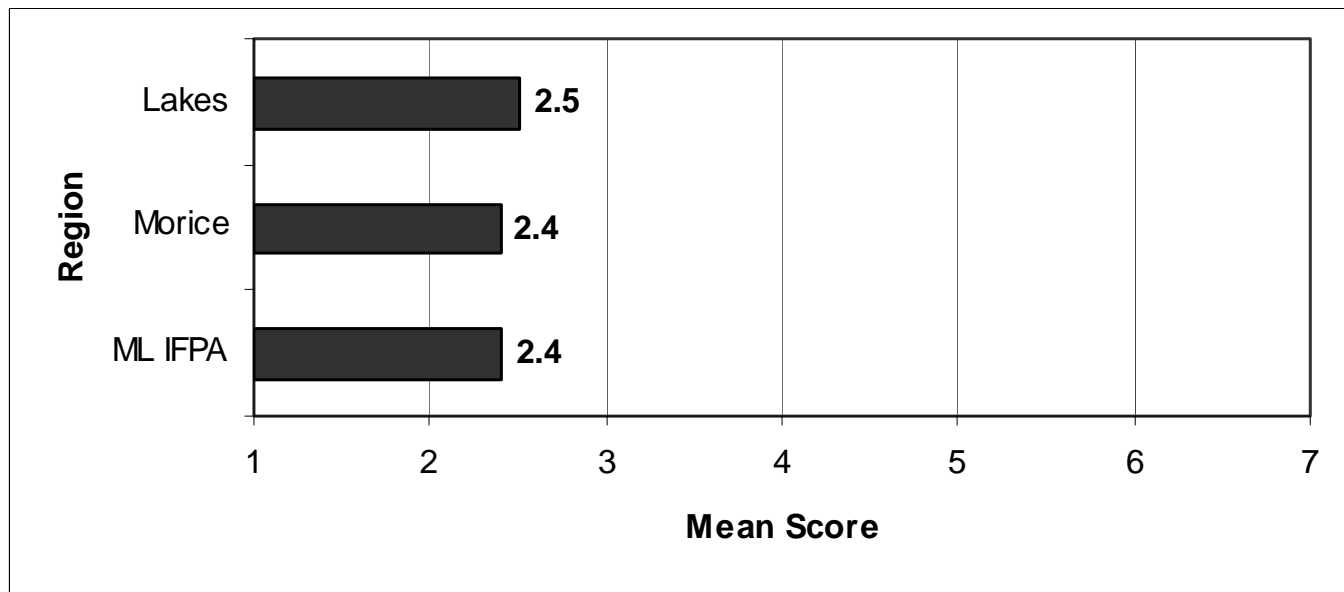
Human Capital

School attendance: full time decreasing, part-time increasing



Human Capital

“In my community, I can choose from among many employment opportunities”



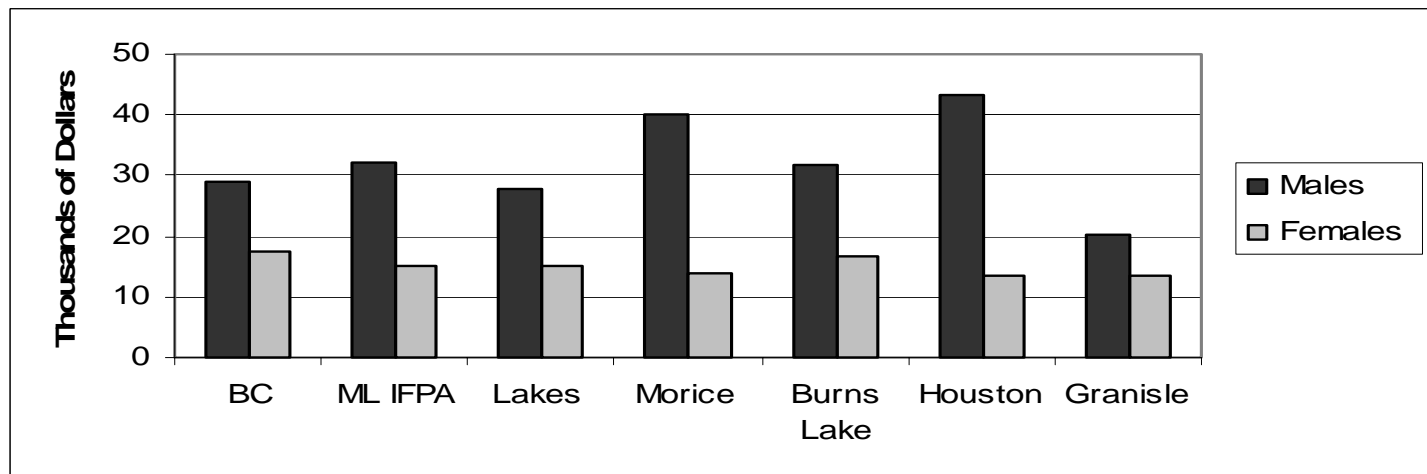
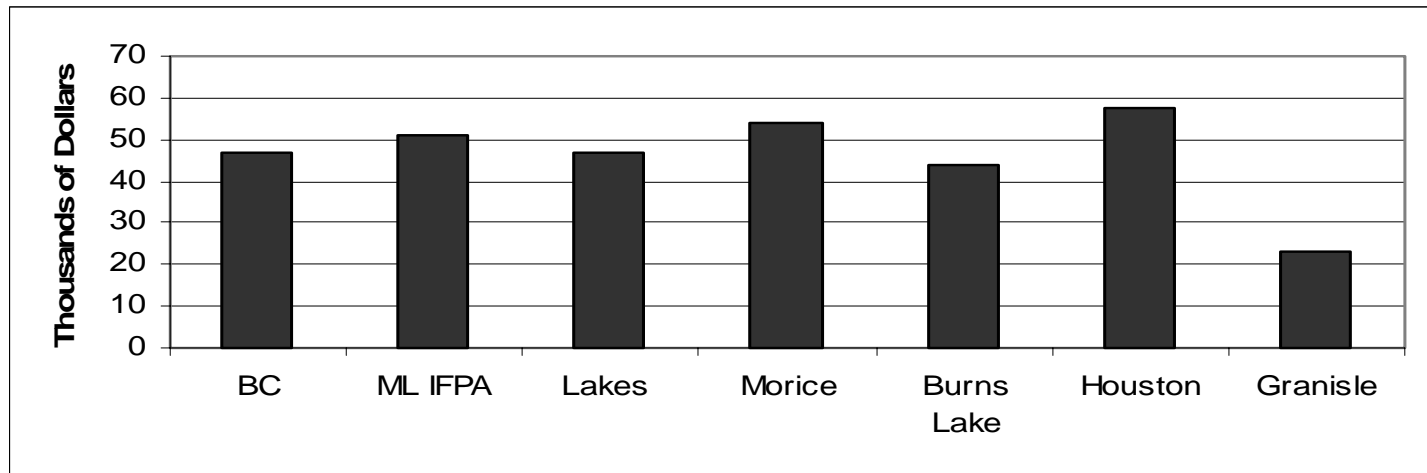


Natural Capital

- ◉ Some indicators already found in current biophysical IFPA suite
- ◉ A number of natural capital related studies in IFPA region, BC
 - ◉ E.g. LRMPs
 - ◉ M of Water Land, and Air Protection

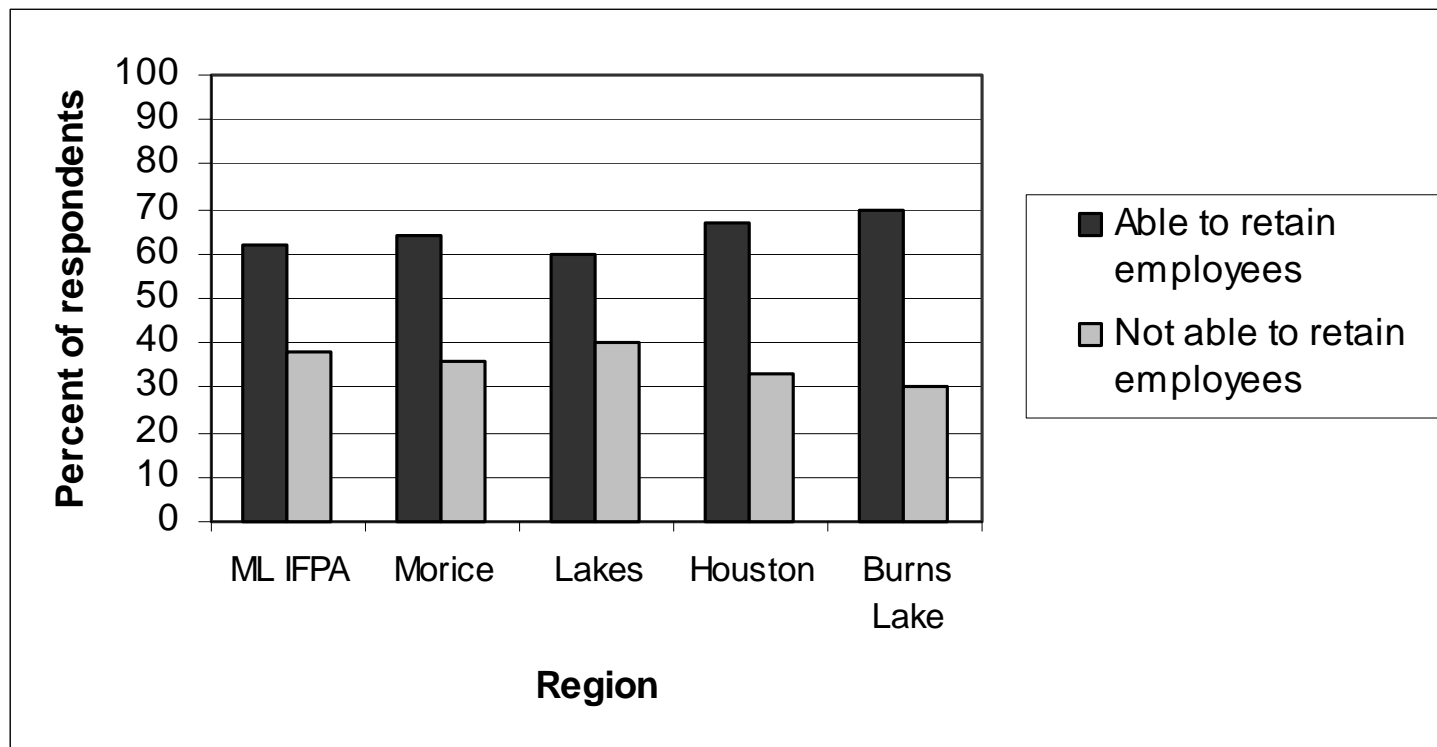
Economic Capital

Median income high, significant male-female difference



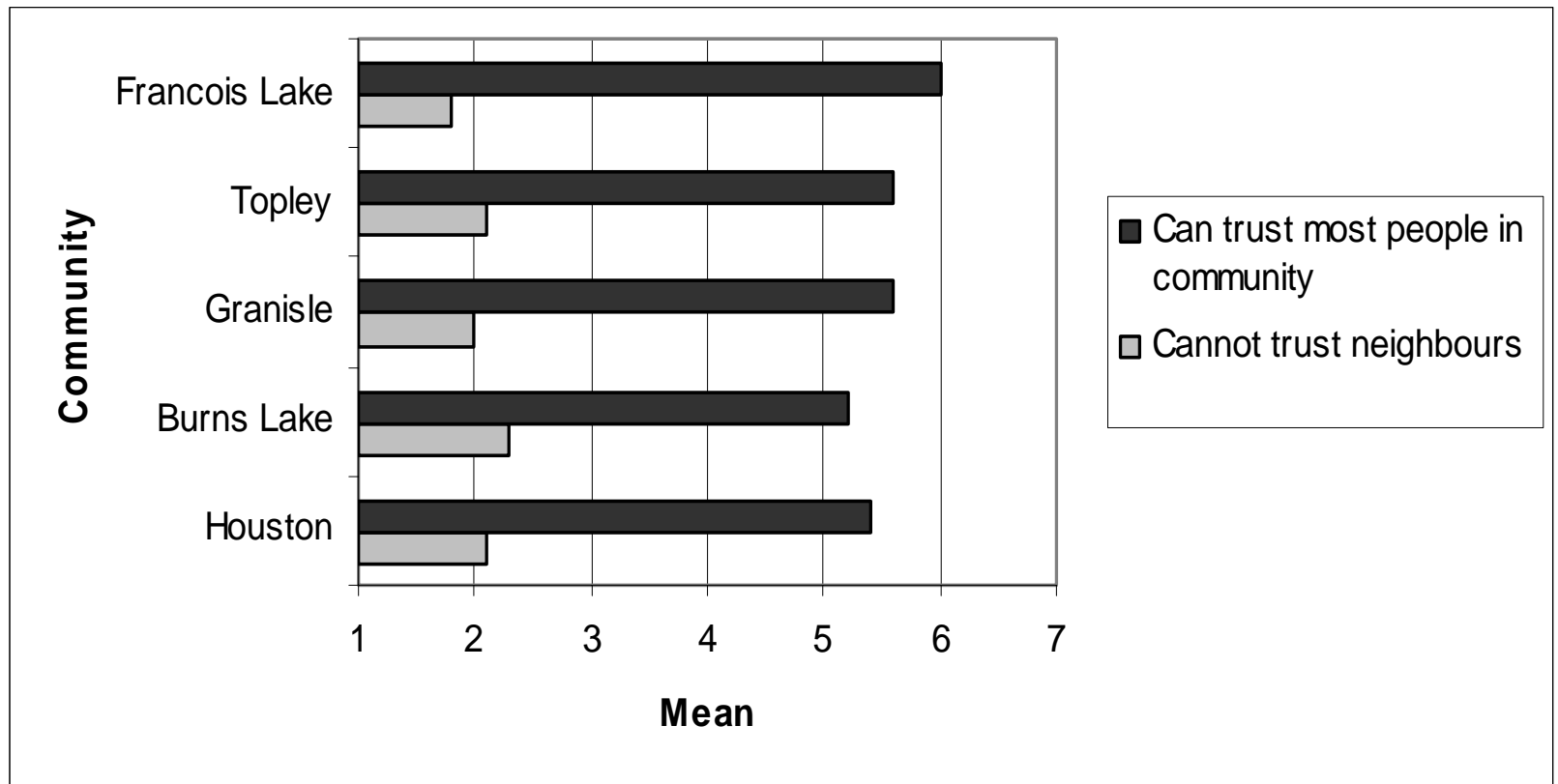
Economic Capital

Perceived labour recruitment and retention: business owners



Social Capital

High levels of perceived trust

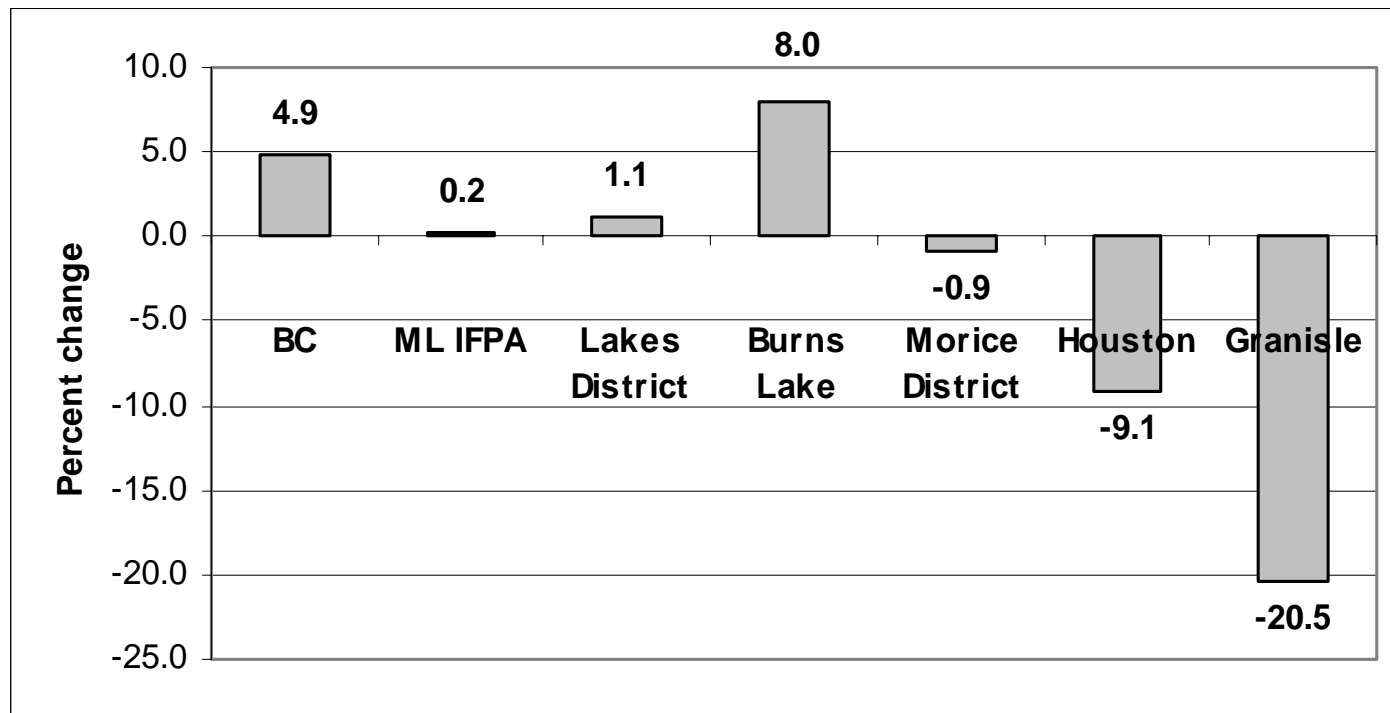


Social Capital

Population change: 1996-2001

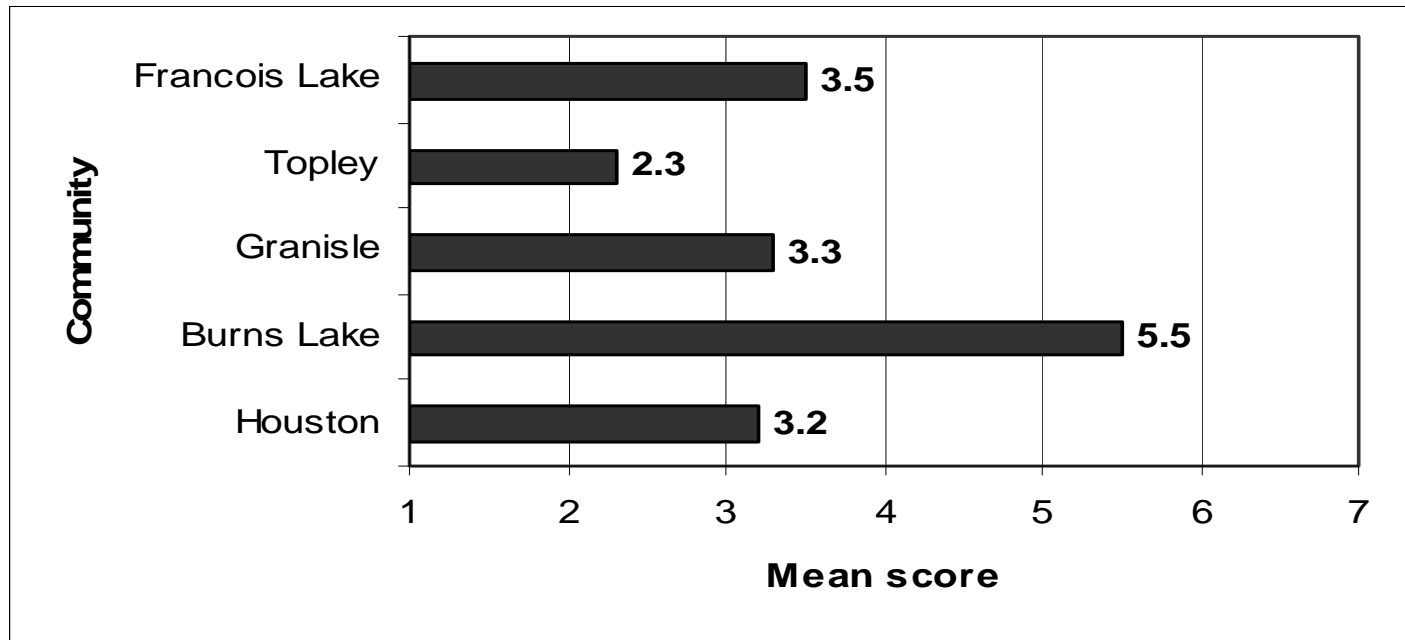
Significant decreases in Granisle, Houston

Significant increases in BL



Social Capital

“Racial discrimination is a problem in this community”



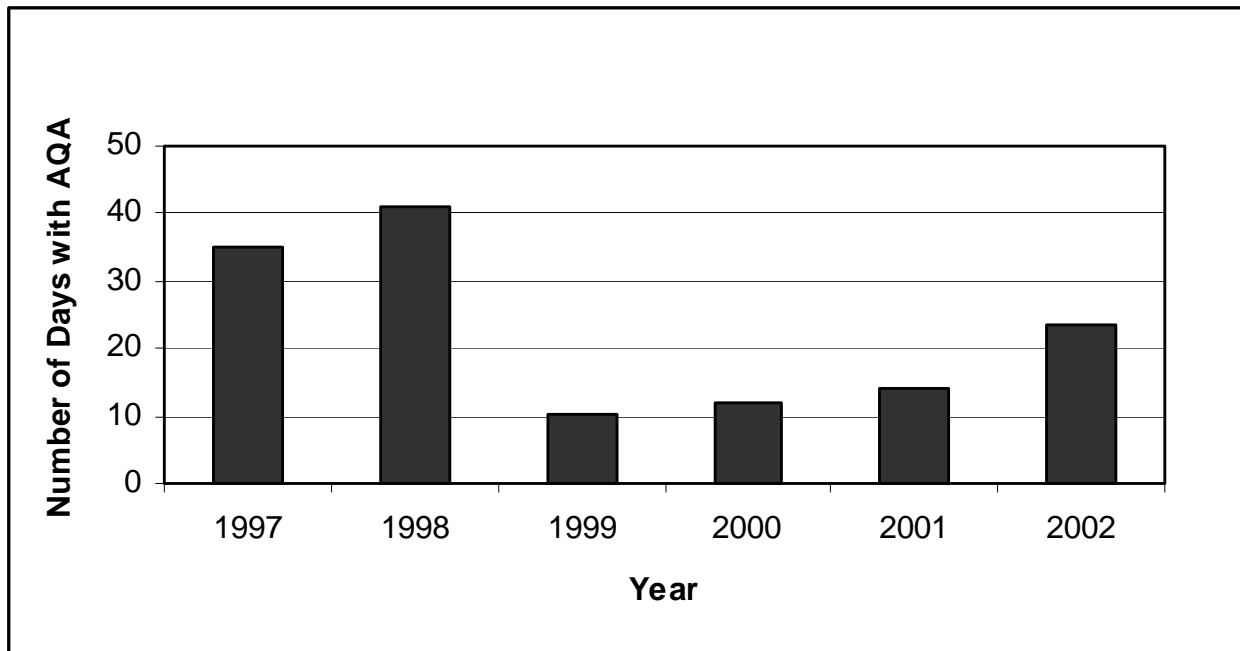


Outcomes

- ◉ Ecological integrity
- ◉ Economic vitality
- ◉ Civic vitality
- ◉ Physical and mental health
- ◉ Recreation

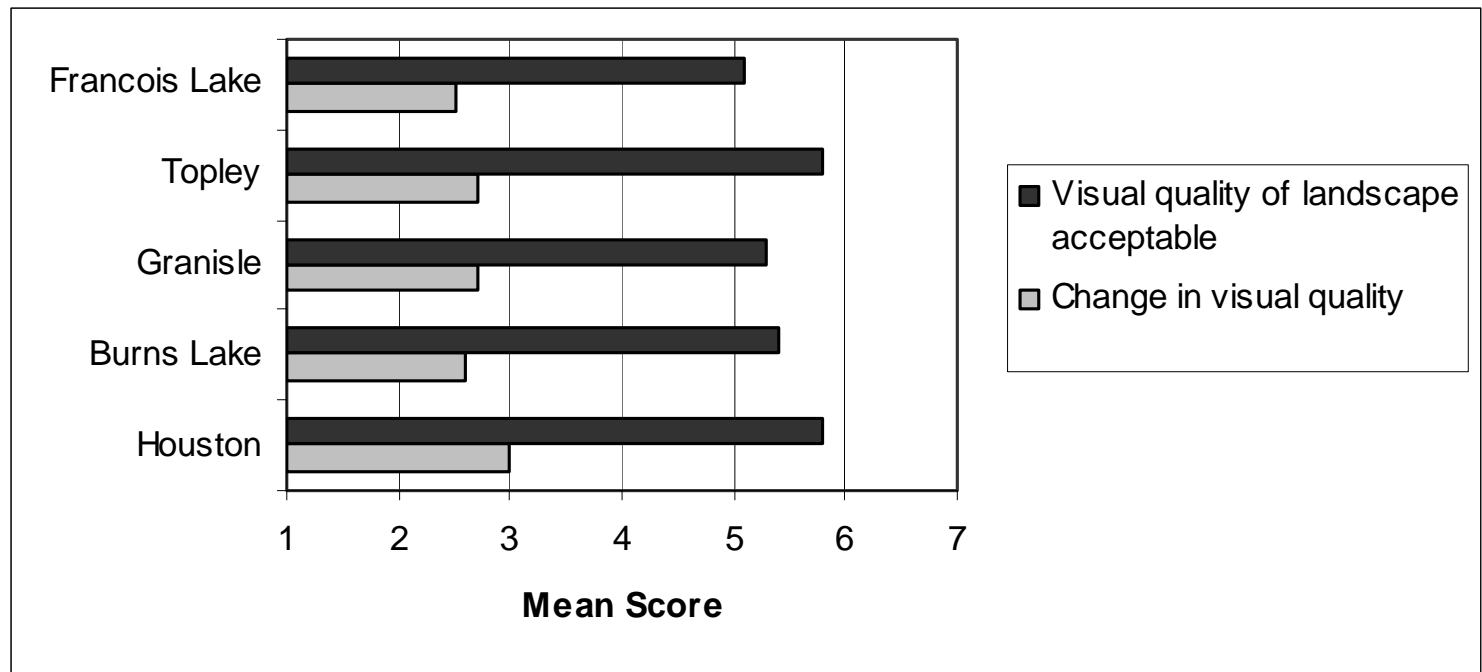
Ecological Integrity

Days with AQA



Ecological Integrity

Satisfaction with visual quality of the landscape



Sources of change: forestry practices, MPB

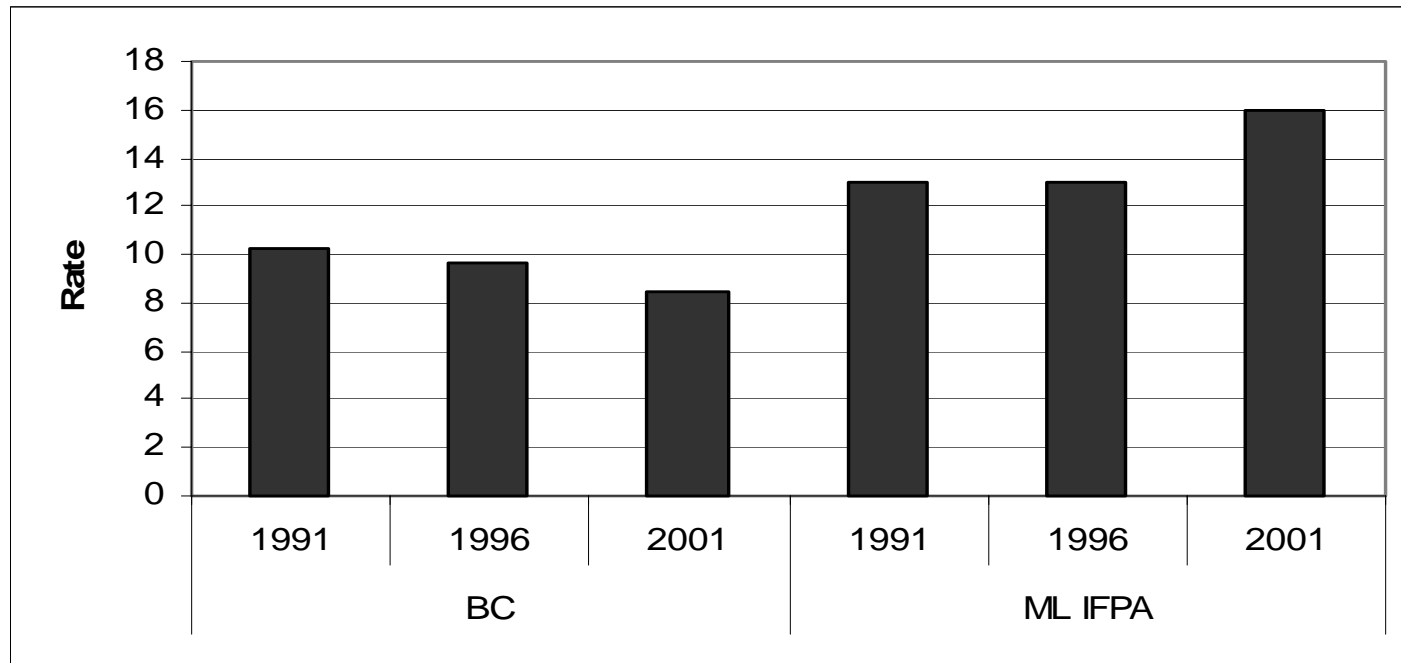
Economic Vitality

- Economic diversity: forestry sector dominant sector

Sector	Percent of Total			
	Gross Revenue	Net Regional Product	Gross Wages	Employment Positions
Agriculture	0.5	0.4	0.3	1.9
Forestry	47.6	59.5	49	24.5
Service	1.3	2.4	3.3	8
Visitor services	12.5	8.4	10.8	22.2
Public	5.7	9.1	10.4	8.5
<i>Rest of the economy</i>	<i>32.4</i>	<i>20.3</i>	<i>26.2</i>	<i>34.9</i>
Total	100	100	100	100

Economic Vitality

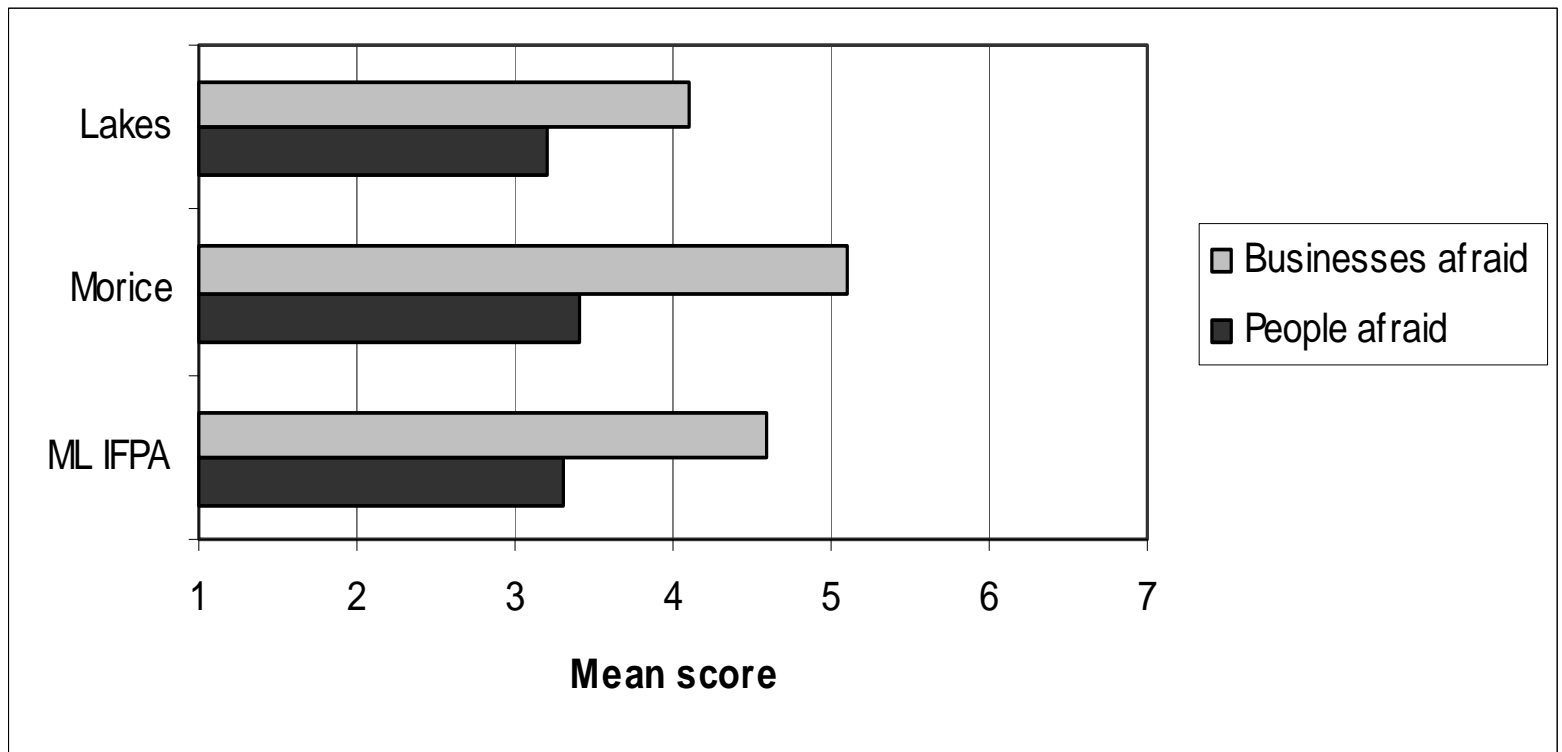
Increase in unemployment & incidence of low income



Unemployment Rate

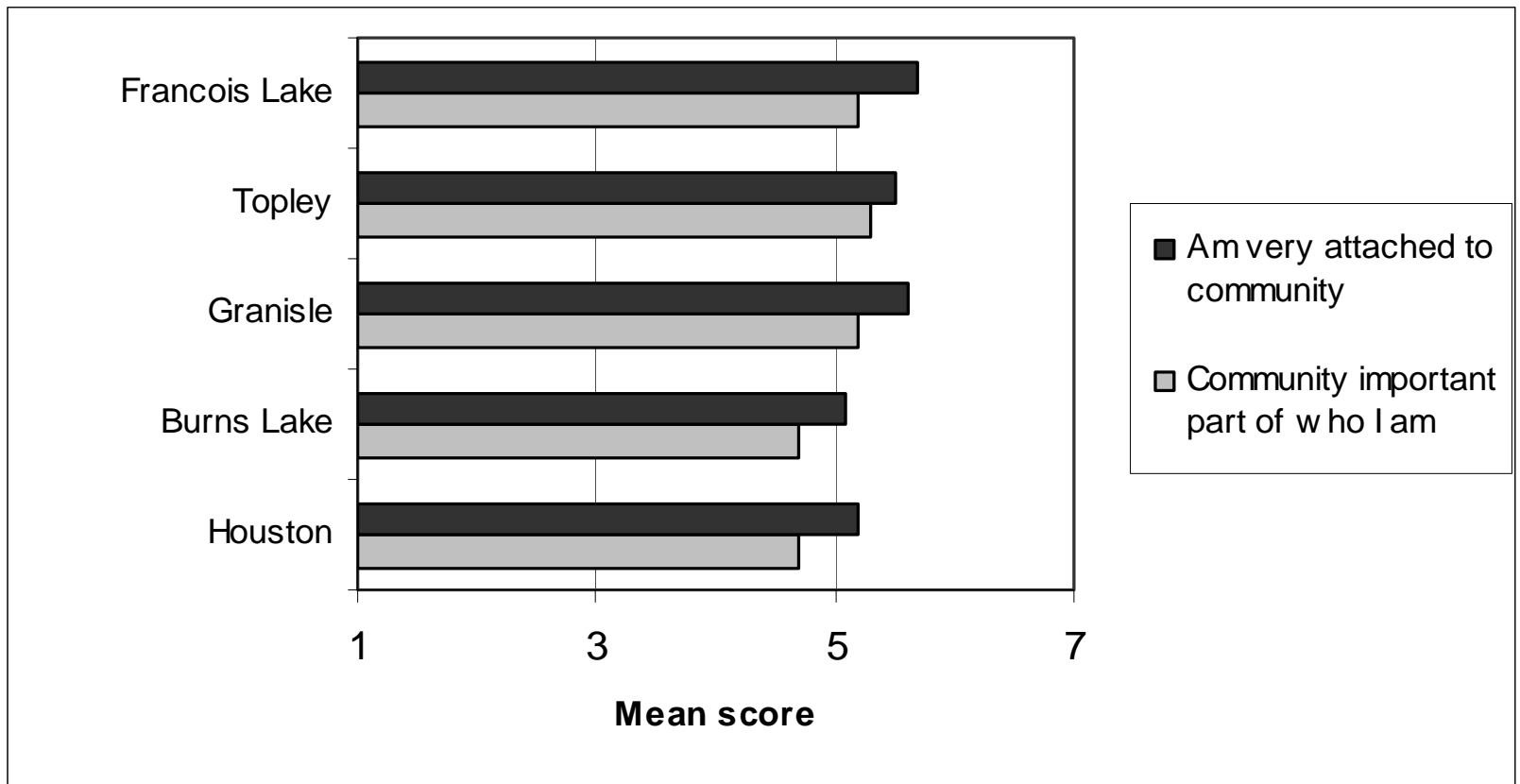
Economic Vitality

“Business owners/ people are afraid to see new businesses move in”



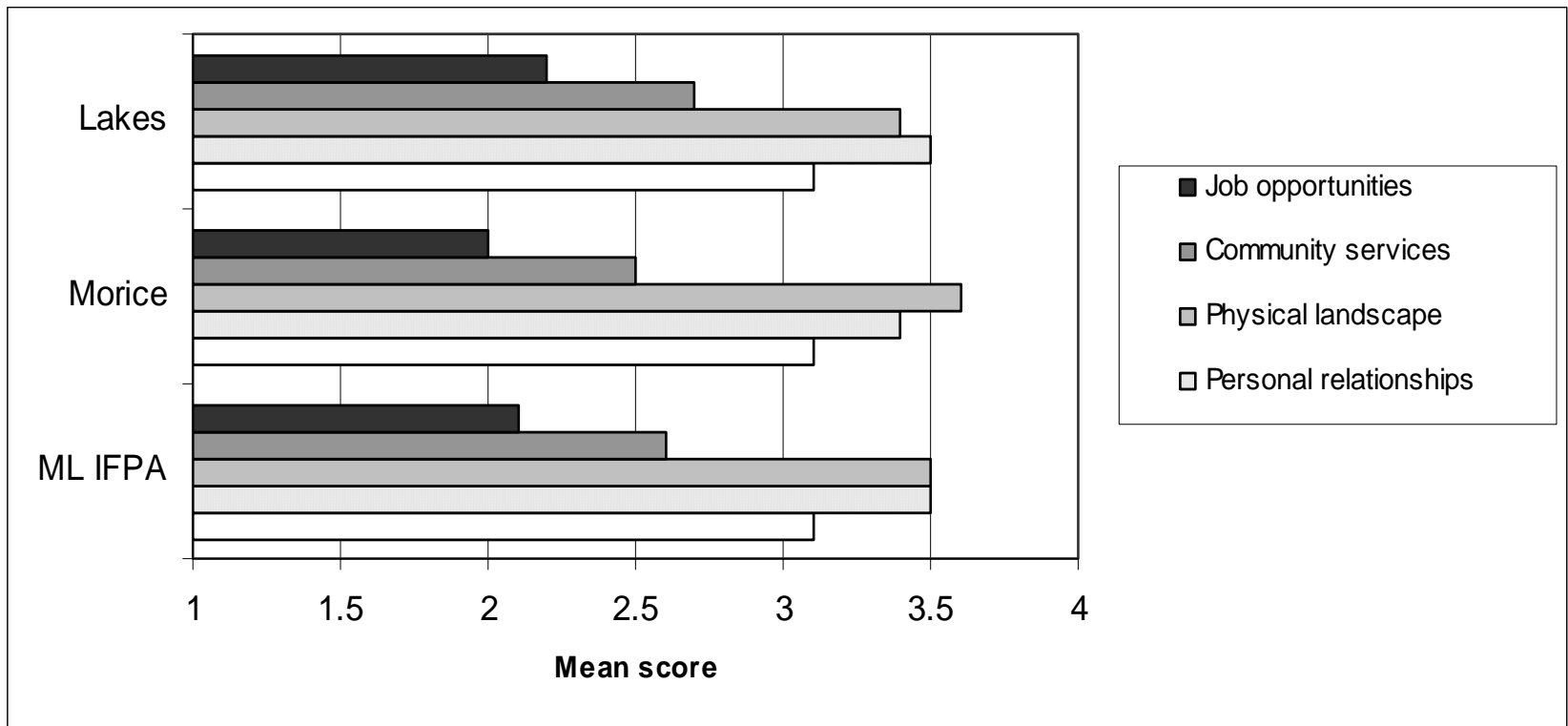
Civic Vitality

Sense of place measures



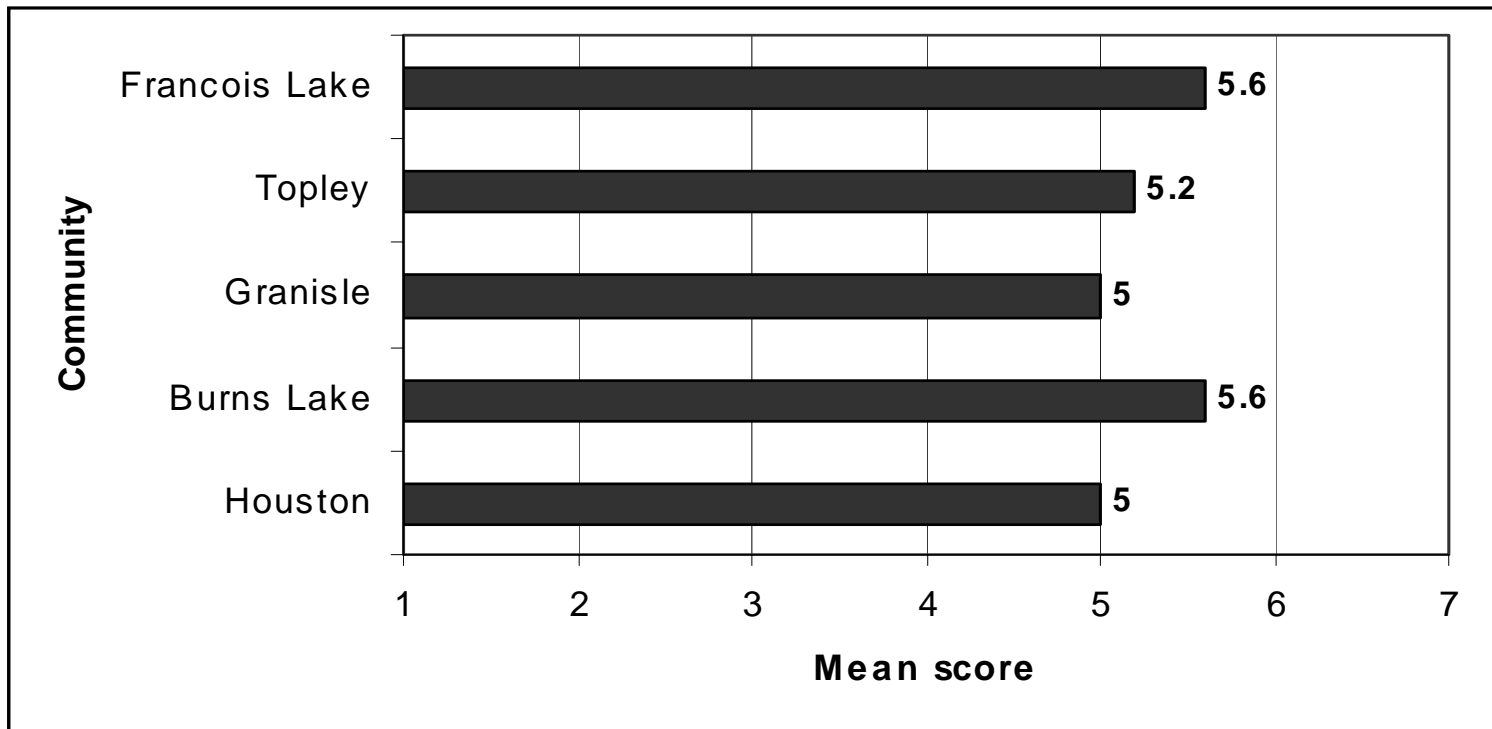
Civic Vitality

Satisfaction with community



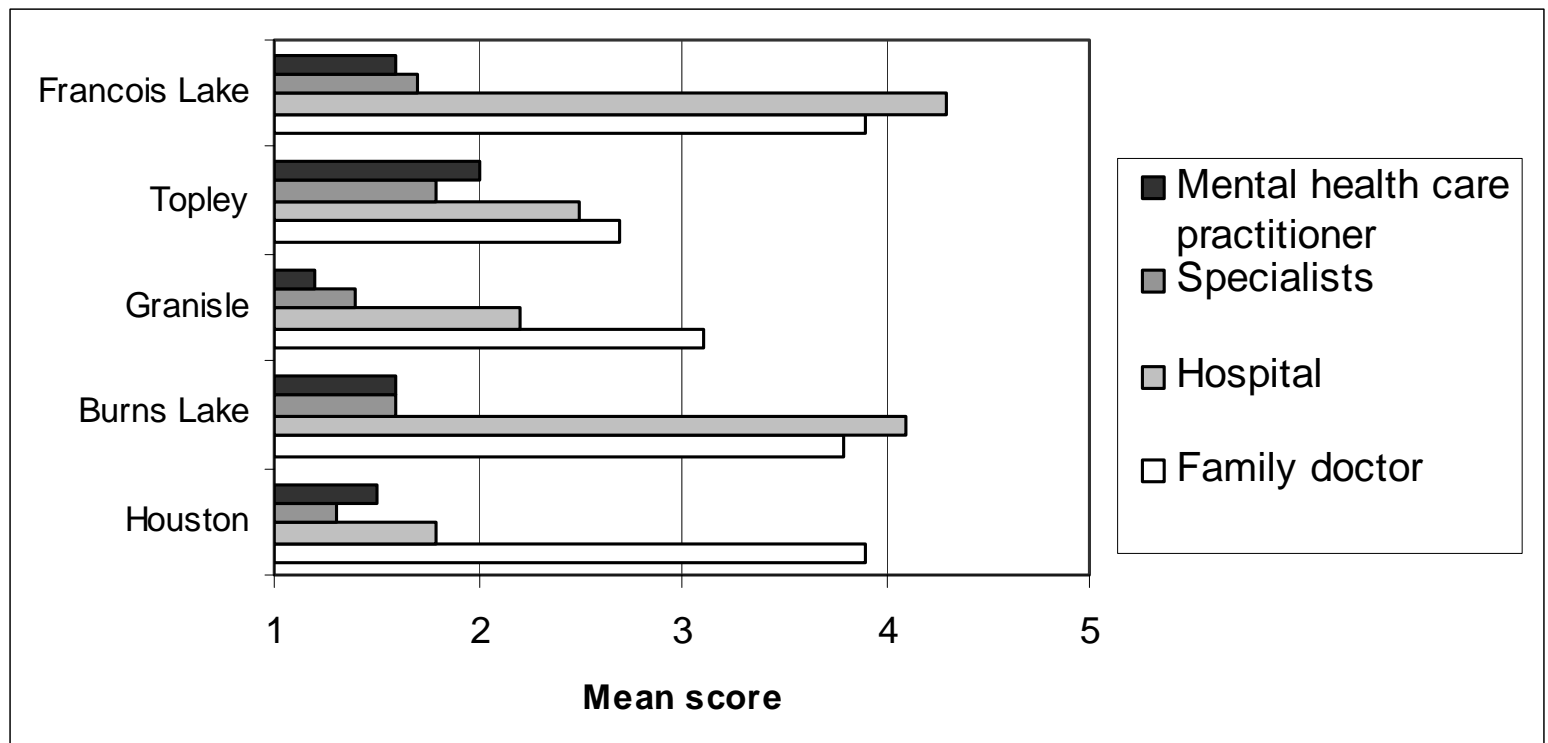
Civic Vitality

“People here are willing to contribute time and money to community projects”

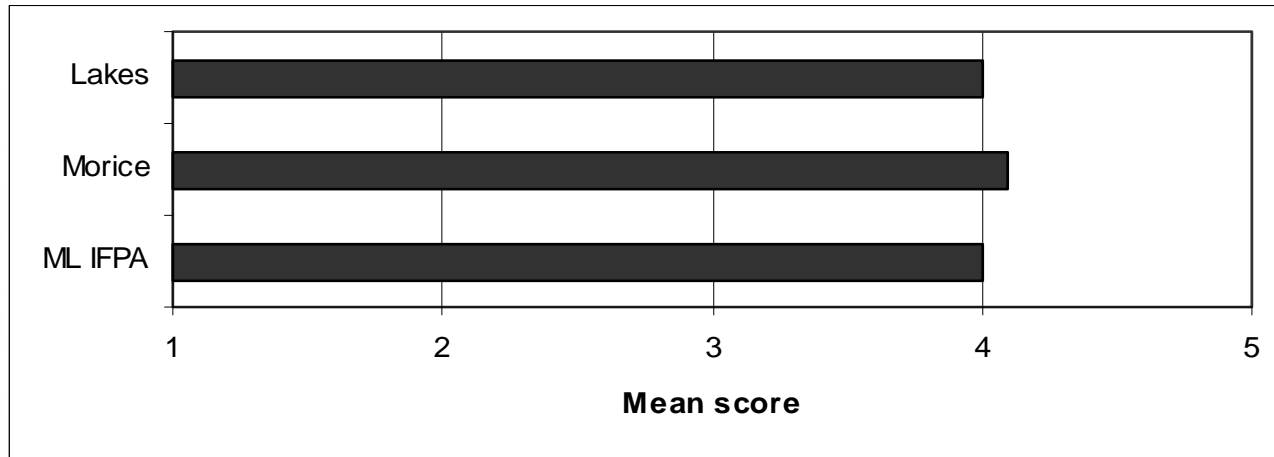


Physical and Mental Health

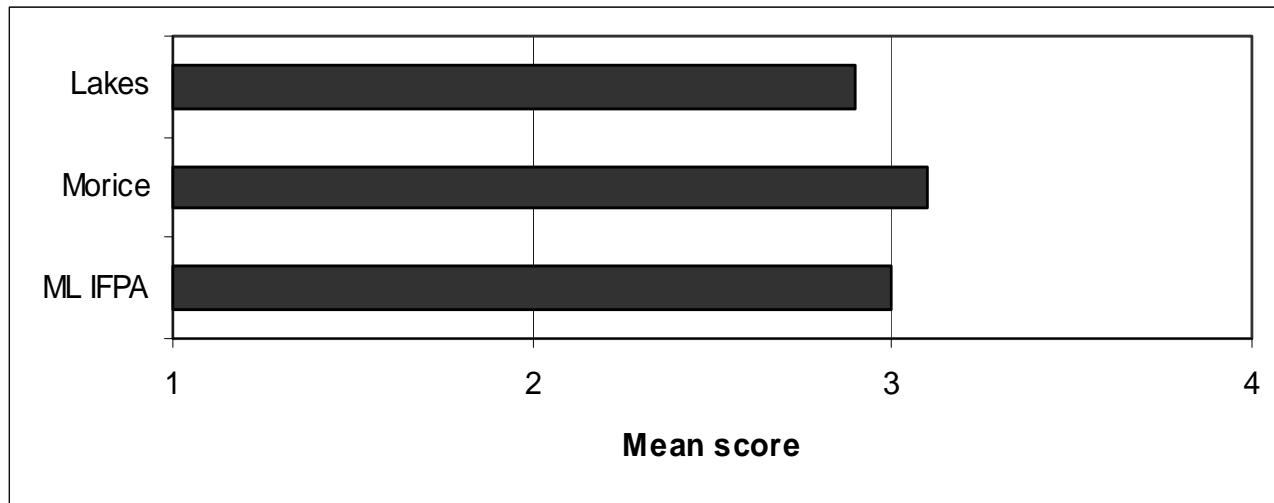
Perceived access to health care services



Physical and Mental Health



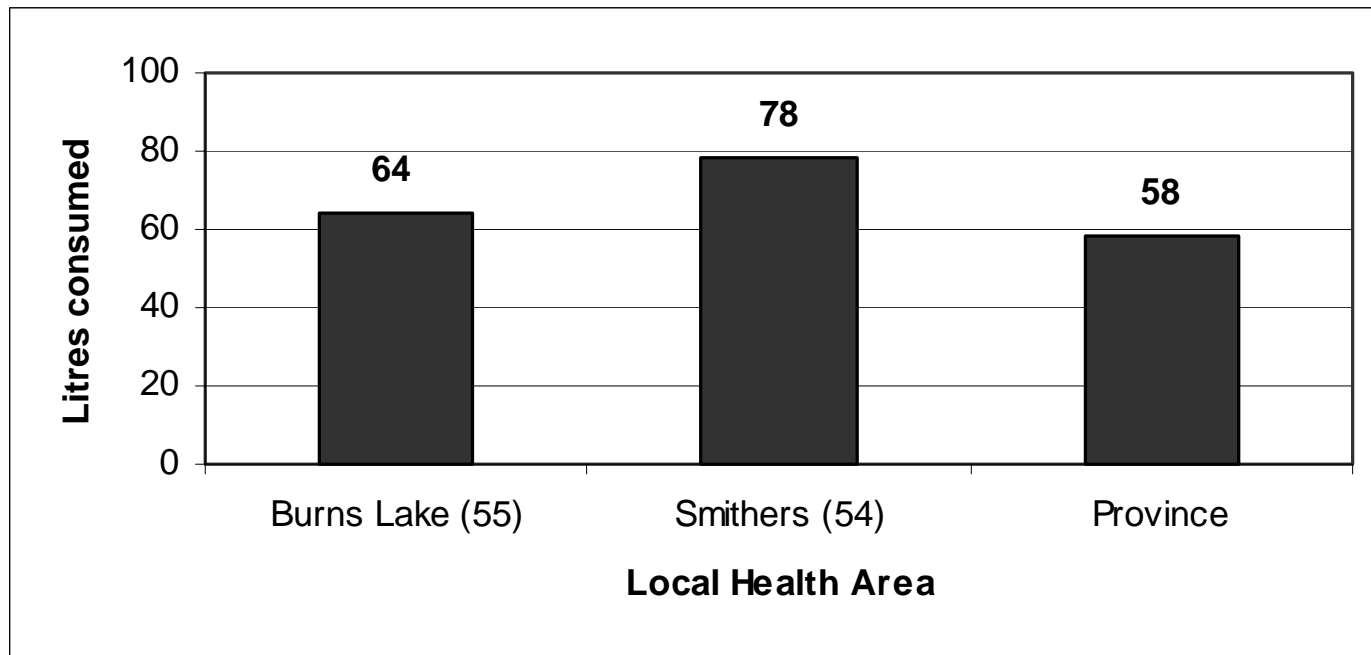
Health



Stress

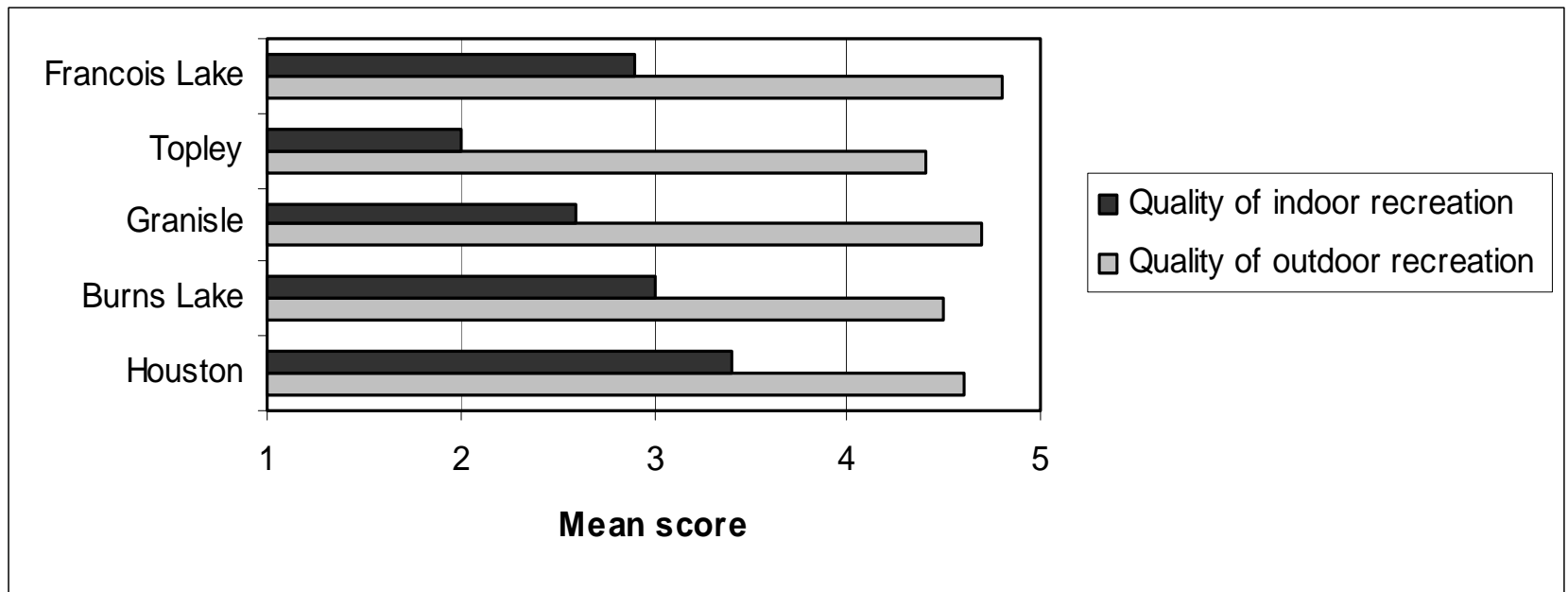
Physical and Mental Health

Per capita alcohol sales for Smithers and Burns Lake Local Health Areas, April 1/01-March 31/02

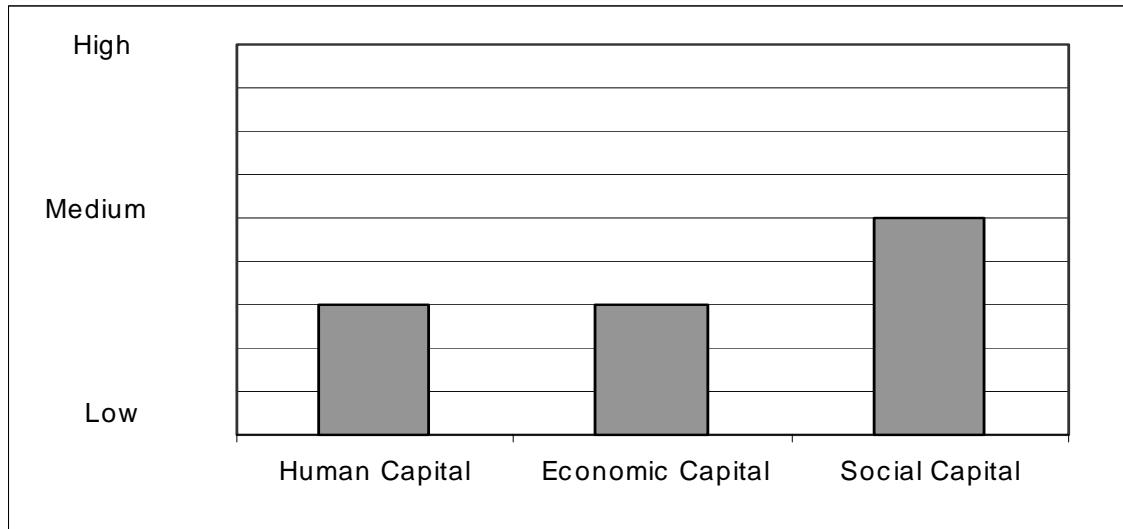


Recreation

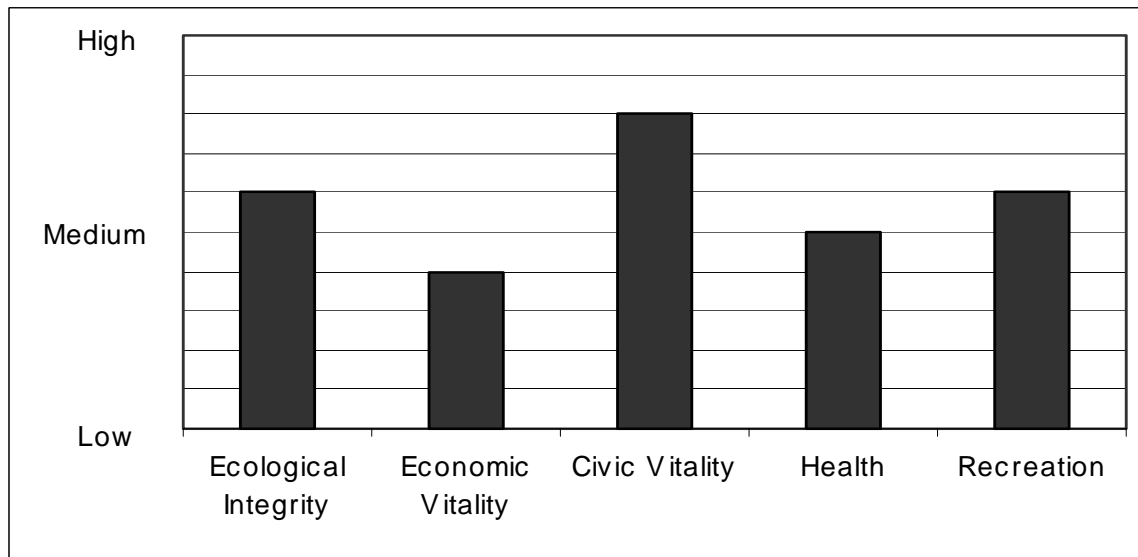
Evaluation of indoor and outdoor recreation



Summary



Capitals



Outcomes

Observation for Community Leaders

Areas to monitor closely & address in community planning:

- ◉ School enrolment decreasing
- ◉ Racial discrimination: Burns Lake
- ◉ Unemployment & incidence of low income increasing
- ◉ Access to health care
- ◉ Positive findings in social support, trust



Forest Sector Perspectives

Areas for forest sector investment in community sustainability:

- ◉ Support human capital development: under-investment in human capital
- ◉ Programs for healthy population: substance abuse
- ◉ Encourage entrepreneurship: training, education, business training

Acknowledgements

- ◉ This project was supported through a collaborative research agreement between the Morice & Lakes IFPA and the Canadian Forest Service.
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 - ◉ Local agencies & organizations
 - ◉ Individuals who participated in interviews and workshops

Questions?

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