



# Allegan County, MI

## Dashboard Summary of Findings

2019



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# Summary

The National Community Survey™ (The NCS™) is a collaborative effort between National Research Center, Inc. (NRC) and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). The survey and its administration are standardized to assure high quality research methods and directly comparable results across The NCS communities. The NCS captures residents’ opinions within the three pillars of a community (Community Characteristics, Governance and Participation) across eight central facets of community (Safety, Mobility, Natural Environment, Built Environment, Economy, Recreation and Wellness, Education and Enrichment and Community Engagement). This report summarizes Allegan County’s performance in the eight facets of community livability with the “General” rating as a summary of results from the overarching questions not shown within any of the eight facets. The “Overall” represents the community pillar in its entirety (the eight facets and general).

By summarizing resident ratings across the eight facets and three pillars of a livable community, a picture of Allegan County’s community livability emerges. Below, the color of each community facet summarizes how residents rated each of the pillars that support it – Community Characteristics, Governance and Participation. When most ratings were higher than the benchmark, the color is the darkest shade; when most ratings were lower than the benchmark, the color is the lightest shade. A mix of ratings (higher and lower than the benchmark) results in a color between the extremes.

Broadly, most facets of community livability received ratings similar to the national benchmark comparisons, with a few exceptions. In Community Characteristics and in Governance, residents’ scores for aspects related to Recreation and Wellness were lower than those given in other communities across the nation. Levels of Participation were lower for Mobility-related aspects than in other jurisdictions, but higher for Built Environment-related aspects. This information can be helpful in identifying the areas of community strength or areas that merit more attention.

Table 1: Dashboard Summary

	Community Characteristics			Governance			Participation		
	Higher	Similar	Lower	Higher	Similar	Lower	Higher	Similar	Lower
Overall	3	35	14	0	34	8	1	29	6
General	0	6	1	0	2	1	0	2	1
Safety	0	3	0	0	6	1	0	3	0
Mobility	3	4	1	0	4	2	0	1	2
Natural Environment	0	3	0	0	5	0	0	3	0
Built Environment	0	4	1	0	6	1	1	1	0
Economy	0	6	2	0	1	0	0	3	0
Recreation and Wellness	0	2	5	0	1	3	0	4	1
Education and Enrichment	0	4	2	0	1	0	0	2	1
Community Engagement	0	3	2	0	8	0	0	10	1

National Benchmark	
	Higher
	Similar
	Lower

# The National Community Survey™

Figure 1: Detailed Dashboard

	Community Characteristics	Benchmark	Percent positive	Governance	Benchmark	Percent positive	Participation	Benchmark	Percent positive
General	Overall appearance	↔	64%	Customer service	↔	70%	Recommend Allegan County	↔	82%
	Overall quality of life	↔	77%	Services provided by Allegan County	↓	59%	Remain in Allegan County	↔	87%
	Place to retire	↔	59%	Services provided by the Federal Government	↔	31%	Contacted Allegan County employees	↓	32%
	Place to raise children	↔	76%						
	Place to live	↔	76%						
	Neighborhood	↔	83%						
	Overall image	↓	44%						
Safety	Overall feeling of safety	↔	79%	Sheriff	↔	76%	Was NOT the victim of a crime	↔	87%
	Safe in neighborhood	↔	93%	Crime prevention	↔	73%	Did NOT report a crime	↔	81%
	Safe downtown/commercial areas	↔	92%	Fire	↔	86%	Stocked supplies for an emergency	↔	33%
				Fire prevention and fire education	↔	72%			
				Ambulance/EMS	↔	84%			
				Emergency preparedness	↓	42%			
Mobility				Animal control	↔	55%			
	Traffic flow	↑	75%	Traffic enforcement	↔	58%	Carpooled instead of driving alone	↔	39%
	Travel by car	↑	83%	Street repair	↓	28%	Walked or biked instead of driving	↓↓	33%
	Travel by bicycle	↔	46%	Street lighting	↓	44%	Used public transportation instead of driving	↓↓	4%
	Ease of walking	↔	56%	Snow removal	↔	50%			
	Travel by public transportation	↔	28%	Traffic signal timing	↔	60%			
	Overall ease of travel	↔	79%	Bus or transit services	↔	35%			
	Public parking	↑	70%						
	Paths and walking trails	↓	47%						
Natural Environment	Overall natural environment	↔	79%	Garbage collection	↔	78%	Recycled at home	↔	80%
	Air quality	↔	77%	Recycling	↔	68%	Conserved water	↔	72%
	Cleanliness	↔	66%	Drinking water	↔	64%	Made home more energy efficient	↔	84%
				Open space	↔	66%			
				Natural areas preservation	↔	58%			
Built Environment	New development in Allegan County	↔	46%	Sewer services	↔	70%	NOT experiencing housing cost stress	↔	77%
	Affordable quality housing	↔	35%	Storm drainage	↔	57%	Did NOT observe a code violation	↑	64%
	Housing options	↔	42%	Power utility	↔	68%			
	Overall built environment	↔	51%	Utility billing	↔	68%			
	Public places	↓	49%	Land use, planning and zoning	↔	49%			
				Code enforcement	↔	36%			
			Cable television	↓	38%				

**Legend**

↑↑ Much higher    ↑ Higher    ↔ Similar    ↓ Lower    ↓↓ Much lower    \* Not available

# The National Community Survey™

	Community Characteristics	Benchmark	Percent positive	Governance	Benchmark	Percent positive	Participation	Benchmark	Percent positive
Economy	Overall economic health	↓	41%	Economic development	↔	38%	Economy will have positive impact on income	↔	31%
	Shopping opportunities	↓	35%				Purchased goods or services in Allegan County	↔	93%
	Employment opportunities	↔	35%				Work in Allegan County	↔	43%
	Place to visit	↔	61%						
	Cost of living	↔	49%						
	Vibrant downtown/commercial areas	↔	38%						
	Place to work	↔	50%						
Recreation and Wellness	Business and services	↔	54%						
	Fitness opportunities	↓↓	31%	County parks	↔	74%	In very good to excellent health	↔	55%
	Recreational opportunities	↔	53%	Recreation centers	↓	54%	Used Allegan County recreation centers	↓	43%
	Health care	↓	41%	Recreation programs	↓	54%	Visited a County park	↔	75%
	Food	↔	56%	Health services	↓	45%	Ate 5 portions of fruits and vegetables	↔	74%
	Mental health care	↓	29%				Participated in moderate or vigorous physical activity	↔	76%
	Health and wellness	↓	42%						
Education and Enrichment	Preventive health services	↓	36%						
	K-12 education	↔	65%	Public libraries	↔	82%	Used Allegan County public libraries	↔	55%
	Cultural/arts/music activities	↓	37%				Participated in religious or spiritual activities	↔	44%
	Child care/preschool	↔	43%				Attended a County-sponsored event	↓↓	34%
	Religious or spiritual events and activities	↔	70%						
	Adult education	↔	41%						
Community Engagement	Overall education and enrichment	↓	42%						
	Opportunities to participate in community matters	↓	49%	Public information	↔	53%	Sense of community	↔	59%
	Opportunities to volunteer	↔	56%	Overall direction	↔	51%	Voted in local elections	↔	88%
	Openness and acceptance	↔	51%	Value of services for taxes paid	↔	42%	Talked to or visited with neighbors	↔	89%
	Social events and activities	↓	40%	Welcoming resident involvement	↔	40%	Attended a local public meeting	↔	20%
	Neighborhoodliness	↔	54%	Confidence in County government	↔	46%	Watched a local public meeting	↓	9%
				Acting in the best interest of Allegan County	↔	50%	Volunteered	↔	29%
				Being honest	↔	47%	Participated in a club	↔	24%
				Treating all residents fairly	↔	46%	Campaigned for an issue, cause or candidate	↔	15%
							Contacted Allegan County elected officials	↔	13%
							Read or watched local news	↔	79%
						Done a favor for a neighbor	↔	80%	

**Legend**

↑↑ Much higher    ↑ Higher    ↔ Similar    ↓ Lower    ↓↓ Much lower    \* Not available