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Promised Neighborhoods

“From Cradle To Career”

Graduation Rates

“Against all odds, Promise Neighborhoods work to provide families and children with the support they need to help break the cycle of poverty that threatens too many of our nation’s communities” (Promised Neighborhoods, 2012)



Objectives

This study focuses on Ogden City graduation rates, which differs from national graduation rates, as it is much lower.

- Describe the graduation rates in Ogden United Promise Neighborhood and compare children in the 10-census tract area designated as the OUPN to state and national level data.
- Measure the level of concern within the community about graduation rates.
- Explain the concern Ogden City residents have about graduation rates.

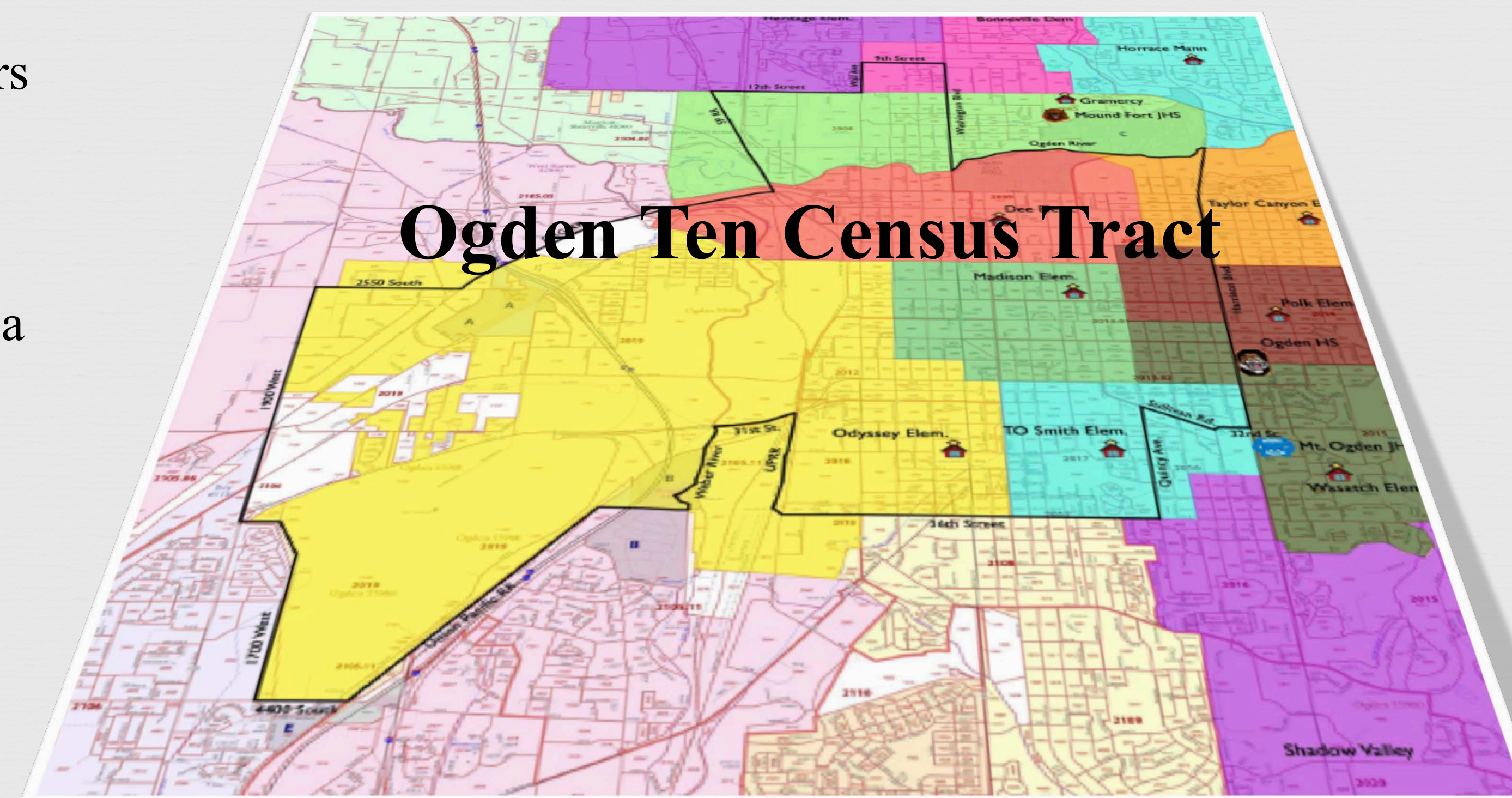
Why It Matters

High school graduation rates are of great concern to communities because of the very real implications and effects a high or low rate can have. Receiving a high school diploma opens up many opportunities for the individual citizen including greater job opportunities, higher pay within those careers, and acceptance into a college/university. The entire community benefits from a high graduation rate as people with more education tend to be more productive and have more economic growth (Promising Practices Network, 2011).

Methodology

Two Data Sources:

- 1- Fifteen focus groups, consisting of employees, residents, students, and leaders in the Ogden community. Participants were asked their opinions on actual vs. ideal conditions regarding what is needed to become successful adults.
- 2- Data for actual graduation rates by year were compiled by the Utah State Office of Education.



Results – Grad Rates in UT

According to the Utah State Office of Education, 4,154 United States high school students dropped out prior to graduation in the 2011 school year. This number has gone up by 21 students from 2010 however, when compared to the 2009 school year, the drop-out rate has decreased by 427 students. Even though progress has been made when it comes to getting students graduated from high school, there is still a great deficit between those who are graduating and those who are not.

Outcomes

Researchers anticipate that the Promise Neighborhoods Grant will have significant impacts on the graduation rate within Ogden School District and surrounding high schools. With the funds dedicated to education, schools will have more resources to help all students, including those who are struggling. With the increased resources, students will have more opportunities within the education system to keep them from falling behind or catch them up if they have already fallen behind.

Results – OUPN Concern about Graduation Rates

Residents and employees within the promised neighborhood are concerned with the education and graduation of the students in this community, as indicated by the discussions in fifteen focus groups directed by researchers.

Ogden residents are concerned about Ogden City graduation rates because they feel that a stable foundation of education is necessary to succeed in future goals.. Concerns were indicated in the focus groups run by researchers.

“In the school system, if you can't pass the curriculum, you probably wouldn't go to the next level. You have to have the skill sets and education to succeed” (Ogden Resident, 2013).

“I think in a perfect system you have good schools that are well funded and well educated, with good opportunities for jobs so they don’t have to go into poverty because they had to drop out of school, or because they didn’t get a good education. School have to be improved in Ogden” (Ogden Resident, 2013).

“We have some of the highest numbers of parents and as I understand it, adults in the area, not just adults in the community, who have not completed high school and did not graduate, and that leads to many other things like poverty...So, I think the biggest thing is education” (Ogden Resident, 2013).