

### MEASURE

The number and percentage of Montcalm County population with income at or below the poverty level. The U.S. Census Bureau uses a set of income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine the poor. If a family's total income is less than the threshold for that family size, then that family and every individual in it is considered poor. In 2006, the threshold for a family of four was \$20,444.

### WHY IS THIS INDICATOR IMPORTANT?

Poverty is associated with many negative outcomes such as substance abuse, violent behavior, teen pregnancy, juvenile delinquency, low academic achievement, and lack of access to health care. Poverty places a strain on individuals, families, and community resources.

### HOW WELL IS THE MONTCALM COMMUNITY DOING?

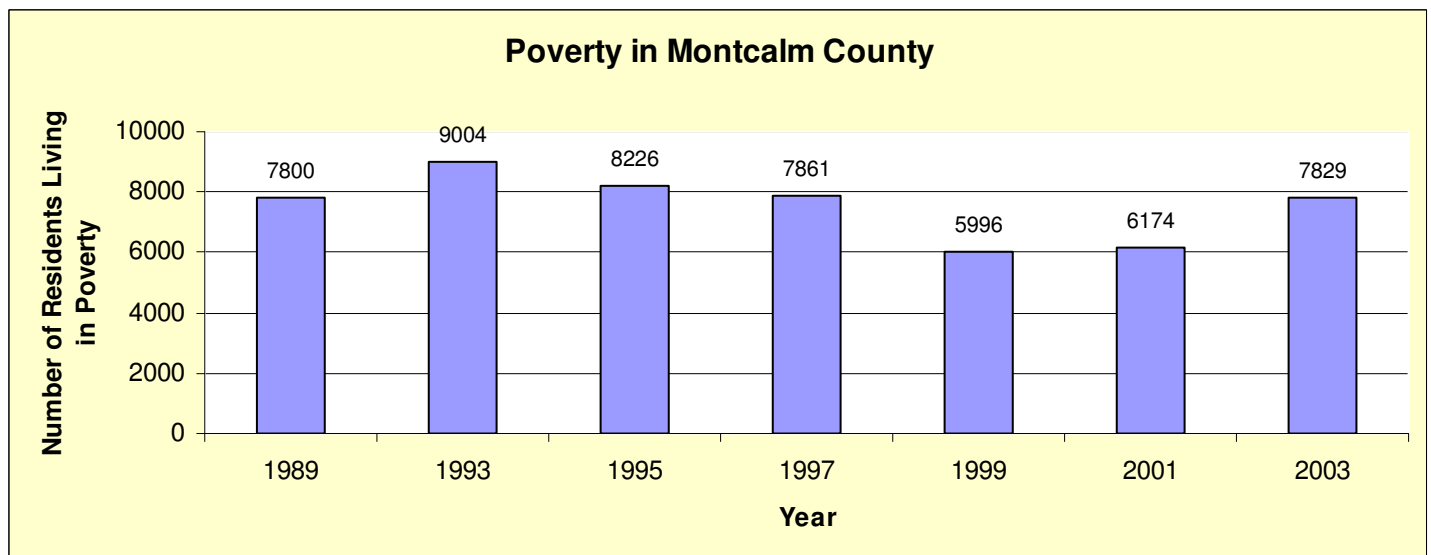
The number of people with income at or below the poverty level in Montcalm County decreased by 1,804 between the years 1989 and 1999. However, the number increased by 1,833 between the years 1999 and 2003. Currently, (2003), 12.8% of the population in Montcalm County is at or below the poverty level. This is above the state average of 10.9%. It is anticipated that with the significant increase in dislocated workers due to the closing of Electrolux, Hitachi, and others in 2005-2006, that in the short term this number will increase significantly as new data becomes available.

### GOALS FOR MONTCALM COUNTY

**Goal One)** To provide a wide range of support to those newly at the poverty level in order to move them back into the employed workforce as rapidly as possible.

**Goal Two)** To reduce the total number of those living in poverty in Montcalm County to under 4,000 by 2010.

**Goal Three)** To reduce poverty percentage in Montcalm County to under 5% by 2015.



*NOTE: The number of Montcalm residents with income at or below the poverty level. SOURCE: United States Census Bureau, Housing and Household Statistics Division, Small Area Estimate Branch. Last updated April, 2007.*