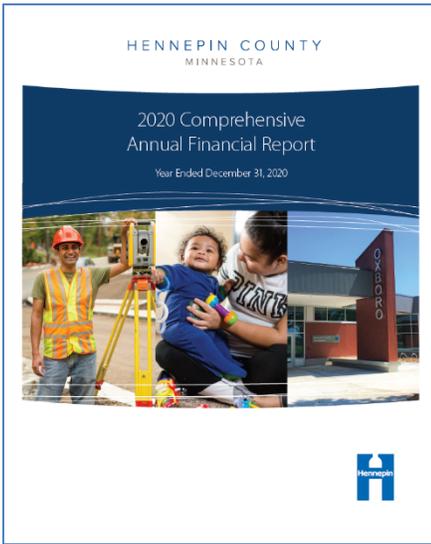
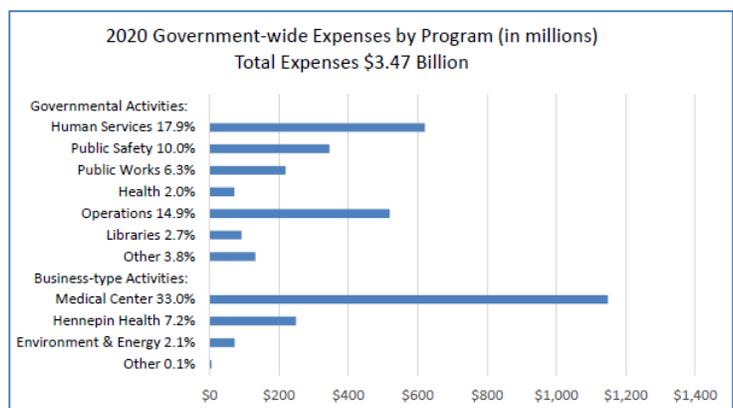
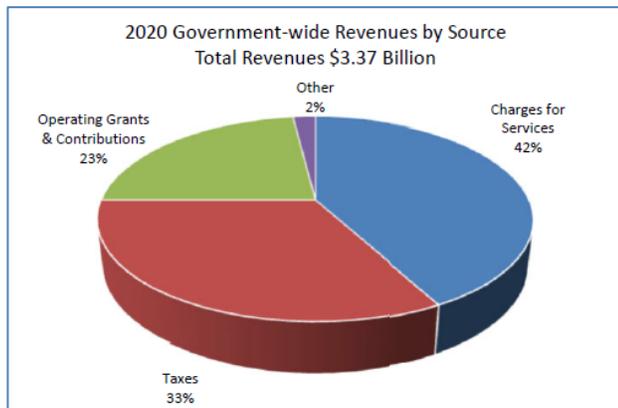


Overview of the 2020 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

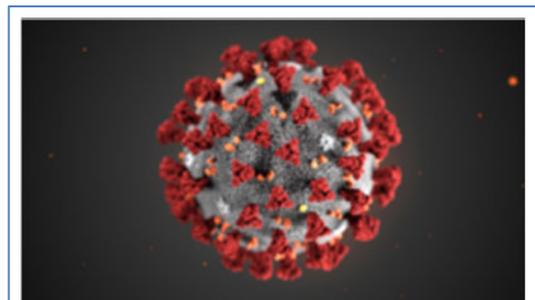


The purpose of this overview is to provide a brief description of how the Annual Financial Report (the Report) is organized and to provide a guide to users of the report. The Report is a thorough, detailed presentation of the County's financial position and activities for the year. The 2020 Report was audited by RSM US LLP, and the County received an unqualified opinion (page 11), the highest obtainable. The County has been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association for the 1974 through 2019 Reports and expects to receive the award for 2020, as well.

The Report is a valuable tool that enables County officials and investors to make financial decisions from sound and timely information. The report provides an independently audited accounting of the financial condition of the County. The Report's inside front cover provides **Financial Highlights** in a one-page format (excerpt shown below), while the **Transmittal Letter** and the **Management's Discussion and Analysis** provide in-depth narrative information relating to the year's financial activities.



The Letter of Transmittal shown on pages 1 through 7 is an annual communication from County management to the readers of the Report. It begins with a brief profile of the government. The major initiatives & achievements section provides an overview of the County's activities relating to responding to the COVID-19 pandemic during 2020. To address many of the economic disruptions caused by the pandemic, the County used a culturally-inclusive approach and invested in the community utilizing funding provided by the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (the CARES Act) and other revenue sources. The transmittal letter concludes with a discussion of economic and financial condition, and an acknowledgements section. Unlike the Management's Discussion and Analysis, the transmittal letter may include subjective information, such as a discussion of long-term financial planning.



The Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is a respiratory illness. The World Health Organization declared the coronavirus outbreak a pandemic and named the disease caused by the virus COVID-19.

Management's Discussion and Analysis (pages 15 to 27) serves as an executive summary of the CAFR. The first section discusses financial highlights, and it is followed by the overview of the financial statements, the government-wide financial analysis, and the financial analysis of the County's funds. Management's Discussion and Analysis ends with capital asset and debt administration information, an overview of economic factors, and information relating to next year's operating and capital budgets.

There are many financial statements, explanatory notes and schedules shown on pages 30 to 150 of the Report. **The Government-wide Financial Statements**, titled Statement of Net Position and Statement of Activities, (pages 30 to 33) provide readers with a broad overview of the County from an accounting perspective that is not the same as governmental fund accounting. As required, these statements also report:

- Capital assets (e.g., roads and bridges) as assets, with depreciation expensed over time.
- Long-term debt and related deferred outflows.
- Liabilities, deferred outflows, deferred inflows, and expenses that relate to certain postemployment healthcare and pension benefits. The reported amounts are estimated using prescribed methods, and the resulting reported liabilities are not necessarily the amounts that the County will be required to pay in the future. For example, historically, pension contribution rate increases have been for both employers and employees, and the legislature has at times required special funding from the State. However, accounting requirements result in estimation of the net pension liability as if only employers would bear the burden of a potential future funding shortfall.

The Basic Fund Financial Statements (pages 34 to 45) reflect information by fund or fund type. Unlike the government-wide financial statements, *governmental fund financial statements* focus on near-term inflows and outflows of spendable resources, as well as on balances of spendable resources available at the end of the fiscal year and the liabilities expected to be paid from those resources. Pages 34-40 report all of the governmental funds' balance sheet categories, as well as their revenues by type and expenditures by function. *Proprietary fund financial statements* provide the same type of information as the business-type activities in the government-wide financial statements, only in more detail. They are divided into two different types of funds: enterprise funds and internal service funds. The County also reports *Fiduciary Funds*, which account for resources held for parties outside the County that are not available to support the County's own programs.

The Notes to the Basic Financial Statements (pages 47 to 93) provide various disclosures to ensure that a complete picture is presented in the financial statements. For example, page 67 shows changes in long-term obligations, and pages 77 to 84 contain information on the County's postemployment healthcare benefit programs.

The statements, schedules, and note disclosures that are shown on pages 95 to 150 as **Supplementary Information** provide additional information for the County's funds, including budgetary information for use in judging compliance with approved budgets. Pages 98-101 show budgetary comparisons for each of the General Fund departments. For example, under the Health program, the medical examiner's expenditure comparisons are shown. A drawing of the future regional medical examiner's facility is pictured below.



The Statistical Section that starts on page 154 provides mostly trend data and nonfinancial information that may be useful in assessing the County's financial condition. For example, Table 27 can be used to review the number of County employees by function/program over the past ten years.

The Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports for 2020 and prior years are available online at hennepin.us/financial-reports. For more information, please contact Cindy Twistol, County Controller, at 612-348-3949.