University of Nebraska - Lincoln
DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Publications from the Center for Applied Rural Innovation (CARI)

CARI: Center for Applied Rural Innovation

7-1-2003

Individual and Community Well-Being: Perceptions of Change in Rural Nebraska

John C. Allen
University of Nebraska - Lincoln, jallen1@unl.edu

Rebecca J. Vogt
Center for Applied Rural Innovation, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, rvogt2@unl.edu

Randolph L. Cantrell
Nebraska Rural Initiative, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, rcantrell1@unl.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/caripubs

Part of the Rural Sociology Commons

Allen, John C.; Vogt, Rebecca J.; and Cantrell, Randolph L., "Individual and Community Well-Being: Perceptions of Change in Rural Nebraska" (2003). *Publications from the Center for Applied Rural Innovation (CARI)*. Paper 7.
http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/caripubs/7

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the CARI: Center for Applied Rural Innovation at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Publications from the Center for Applied Rural Innovation (CARI) by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

CENTER FOR APPLIED RURAL INNOVATION

A Research Report*

Individual and Community Well-Being: Perceptions of Change in Rural Nebraska

2003 Nebraska Rural Poll Results

John C. Allen
Rebecca Vogt
Randolph L. Cantrell

University of Nebraska Lincoln
IANR

Center Research Report 03-2, July 2003.

© graphic used with permission of the designer, Richard Hawkins, Design & Illustration, P.O. Box 21181, Des Moines, IA 50321-0101
Phone: 515.288.4431, FAX: 515.243.1979

*These reports have been peer reviewed by colleagues at the University of Nebraska. Any questions, suggestions, or concerns should be sent directly to the author(s).

All of the Center's research reports detailing Nebraska Rural Poll results are located on the Center's World Wide Web page at http://cari.unl.edu/ruralpoll.htm.

Funding for this project was provided by the Cooperative Extension Division of the Institute for Agriculture and Natural Resources, the Agricultural Research Division of the Institute for Agriculture and Natural Resources, and the Center for Applied Rural Innovation. Additionally, considerable in-kind support and contributions were provided by a number of individuals and organizations associated with the Partnership for Rural Nebraska. A special note of appreciation is extended to the staff at the Pierce County Extension Office for the space needed to conduct this survey and to the Nebraska Library Commission for use of the laptops.

Table of Contents

Executive Summary i

Introduction 1

Trends in Well-Being (1996 - 2003) 2

Figure 1. Well-Being Compared to Five Years Ago: 1996 - 2003 2
Figure 2. Well-Being Compared to Parents: 1996 - 2003 3
Figure 3. Expected Well-Being Ten Years from Now: 1996 - 2003 4
Figure 4. "...People are Powerless to Control Their Lives": 1996 - 2003 4
Table 1. Proportions of Respondents "Very Satisfied" with Each Factor, 1996 - 2003 . 5

General Well-Being by Subgroups 5

Figure 5. Well-Being Compared to Five Years Ago by Occupation 6
Figure 6. "...People are Powerless to Control Their Own Lives" by Education 7

Specific Aspects of Well-Being by Subgroups 7

Figure 7. Satisfaction with Job Opportunities by Occupation 9

Trends in Community Ratings (1996 - 2003) 10

Figure 8. Community Change, 1996 - 2003 10
Figure 9. Expected Destination of Those Planning to Move: 1998 - 2003 12

The Community and Its Attributes in 2003 12

Table 2. Proportions of Respondents "Very Satisfied" with Each Service, 1997 - 2003 13
Figure 10. Dissatisfaction with Law Enforcement by Community Size 16
Figure 11. Dissatisfaction with Community Housing by Marital Status 16

Plans to Leave the Community 17

Figure 12. Plans to Move from Community by Age 17

Conclusion 18

List of Appendix Tables and Figures

Appendix Figure 1. Regions of Nebraska 19

Appendix Table 1. Demographic Profile of Rural Poll Respondents Compared to 2000 Census 20

Appendix Table 2. Measures of Individual Well-Being in Relation to Community Size, Region, and Individual Attributes 21

Appendix Table 3. Life Has Changed So Much in Our Modern World that Most People Are Powerless to Control Their Own Lives 23

Appendix Table 4. Satisfaction with Items Affecting Well-Being, 2003 25

Appendix Table 5. Satisfaction with Items by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes 26

Appendix Table 6. Perceptions of Community Change by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes 31

Appendix Table 7. Measures of Community Attributes in Relation to Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes 33

Appendix Table 8. Level of Satisfaction with Community Services and Amenities 35

Appendix Table 9. Measures of Satisfaction with Ten Services and Amenities in Relation to Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes 36

Appendix Table 10. Plans to Leave Community by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes 39

Executive Summary

Nebraska's economy has continued to struggle during the past year. In addition, many rural communities are experiencing population decline. How have these changes affected rural Nebraskans? How do rural Nebraskans perceive their quality of life? Do their perceptions differ by community size, the region in which they live, or their occupation? How do they feel about their community? Are they planning to move from their community in the next year?

This report details 3,087 responses to the 2003 Nebraska Rural Poll, the eighth annual effort to understand rural Nebraskans' perceptions. Respondents were asked a series of questions regarding their individual well-being as well as their community. Trends for these questions are examined by comparing data from the seven previous polls to this year's results. For all questions, comparisons are made among different respondent subgroups, i.e., comparisons by age, occupation, region, etc. Based on these analyses, some key findings emerged:

- ***Rural Nebraskans are more negative about their current situation than they were last year.*** This year, only 27 percent believe they are better off then they were five years ago, compared to 37 percent in 2002. Also, the percent saying they are worse off then they were five years ago increased from 21 percent to 30 percent. The proportion saying they remained about the same was unchanged at 43 percent.

- ***When looking to the future, rural Nebraskans are not as positive as they were last year.*** The proportion believing they will be better off ten years from now decreased from 36 percent to 31 percent. Conversely, the proportion that think they will be worse off increased from 18 percent to 26 percent. The percent saying they will be about the same decreased from 46 percent to 43 percent.

- ***Rural Nebraskans are slightly more likely to feel powerless as compared to last year.*** This year, 33 percent strongly agree or agree with the statement that people are powerless to control their lives. Last year, 30 percent agreed with the statement.

- ***Farmers and ranchers are less optimistic about their current situation than persons with different occupations.*** Only 19 percent of the farmers and ranchers think they are better off compared to five years ago. In comparison, 44 percent of the persons with professional occupations say they are better off.

- ***Persons with lower educational levels are more likely than persons with more education to believe that people are powerless to control their own lives.*** Fifty-six percent of the persons without a high school diploma agree that people are powerless to control their own lives. However, only 18 percent of the persons with a four-year college degree share this opinion.

- ***Rural Nebraskans report being most satisfied with their family, their***

religion/spirituality and friends. They are most dissatisfied with their financial security during retirement, their current income level and their job opportunities.

- ***Farmers and ranchers are more likely than persons with different occupations to report being dissatisfied with their current income level.*** Fifty-nine percent of the farmers and ranchers are dissatisfied with their current income level, compared to only 30 percent of the persons with professional occupations.

- ***Rural Nebraskans are slightly more negative about the change in their communities than last year.*** This year, only 22 percent believe their community has changed for the better, compared to 24 percent last year. And, in 2003, 25 percent think their community has changed for the worse, compared to only 22 percent last year.

- ***Rural Nebraskans living in or near the largest communities are more likely than the persons living in or near the smaller communities to say their community has changed for the better.*** Twenty-eight percent of the persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more say their community has changed for the better. Only 12 percent of the persons living in or near communities with less than 500 people share this opinion.

- ***The community services and amenities that rural Nebraskans are most dissatisfied with include: entertainment, retail shopping and restaurants.*** They are most satisfied with parks and recreation, library services, basic medical care services, education (K - 12), and highways and bridges.

- ***Smaller community residents are more likely than residents of larger communities to be dissatisfied with their law enforcement.*** Thirty-six percent of the residents living in or near communities with less than 500 people express dissatisfaction with their community's law enforcement. Only 20 percent of the persons living in or near communities with populations of 5,000 or more are dissatisfied with their law enforcement.

- ***Rural Nebraskans who are divorced or separated are more likely than other marital groups to report dissatisfaction with their community's housing.*** Thirty-four percent of these respondents are dissatisfied with the housing in their community, compared to only 14 percent of the widowed respondents.

- ***Younger persons are more likely than older persons to be planning to move from their community next year.*** Eighteen percent of the persons between the ages of 19 and 29 are planning to move next year, compared to only two percent of the persons age 65 and older. An additional 15 percent of the younger persons are uncertain if they plan to move.

- ***The expected movers from the Panhandle are more likely than the expected movers***

from other regions to plan to leave the state. Seventy-seven percent of the Panhandle residents who are planning to move from their community next year say they plan to move some place other than Nebraska. Only 36 percent of the expected movers in both the South Central and Northeast regions plan on leaving the state.

Introduction

Nebraska's economy has continued to struggle this past year. The slowing growth of state revenue has once again prompted the state legislature to make significant cuts to the state budget as well as pass various tax increases. In addition, many communities in rural Nebraska are experiencing population decline. However, many small communities have potential for growth by attracting new residents based on their amenities and services.

Given all these changes, how do rural Nebraskans believe they are doing and how do they view their future? Have these views changed over the past eight years? How do they feel about their community? Are they planning to move from their community in the next year? This paper addresses these questions.

The 2003 Nebraska Rural Poll is the eighth annual effort to understand rural Nebraskans' perceptions. Respondents were asked a series of questions about their general well-being and their satisfaction with specific items that may influence their well-being. They were also asked about their community. Trends for all these questions will be examined by comparing the data from the seven previous polls to this year's results.

Methodology and Respondent Profile

This study is based on 3,087 responses from Nebraskans living in the 87 non-metropolitan counties in the state. A self-administered questionnaire was mailed in February and March to approximately 6,500 randomly selected households. Metropolitan counties not included in the sample were Cass, Dakota, Douglas, Lancaster, Sarpy and Washington. The 14-page questionnaire included questions pertaining to well-being, community, work, taxes, personal safety and regional cooperation. This paper reports only results from the well-being and community portions of the survey.

A 48% response rate was achieved using the total design method (Dillman, 1978). The sequence of steps used follow:

1. A pre-notification letter was sent requesting participation in the study.
2. The questionnaire was mailed with an informal letter signed by the project director approximately seven days later.
3. A reminder postcard was sent to the entire sample approximately seven days after the questionnaire had been sent.
4. Those who had not yet responded within approximately 14 days of the original mailing were sent a replacement questionnaire.

The average respondent is 55 years of age. Seventy-three percent are married (Appendix Table 1[1]) and sixty-nine percent live within the city limits of a town or village. On average, respondents have lived in Nebraska 47 years and have lived in their current community 32 years. Fifty-three percent are living in or near towns or villages with populations less than 5,000.

Fifty-four percent of the respondents reported their approximate household

[1] Appendix Table 1 also includes demographic data from previous rural polls, as well as similar data based on the entire non-metropolitan population of Nebraska (using 1990 U.S. Census data).

income from all sources, before taxes, for 2002 was below $40,000. Thirty-three percent reported incomes over $50,000. Ninety-three percent have attained at least a high school diploma.

Sixty-nine percent were employed in 2002 on a full-time, part-time, or seasonal basis. Twenty-five percent are retired. Thirty-six percent of those employed reported working in a professional, technical or administrative occupation. Twelve percent indicated they were farmers or ranchers. The employed respondents who do not work in their home or their nearest community reported having to drive an average of 29 miles, one way, to their primary job.

Trends in Well-Being (1996 - 2003)

Comparisons are made between the well-being data collected this year to the seven previous studies. These comparisons begin to show a clearer picture of the trends emerging in the well-being of rural Nebraskans. It is important to keep in mind when viewing these comparisons that these were independent samples (the same people were not surveyed each year).

General Well-Being

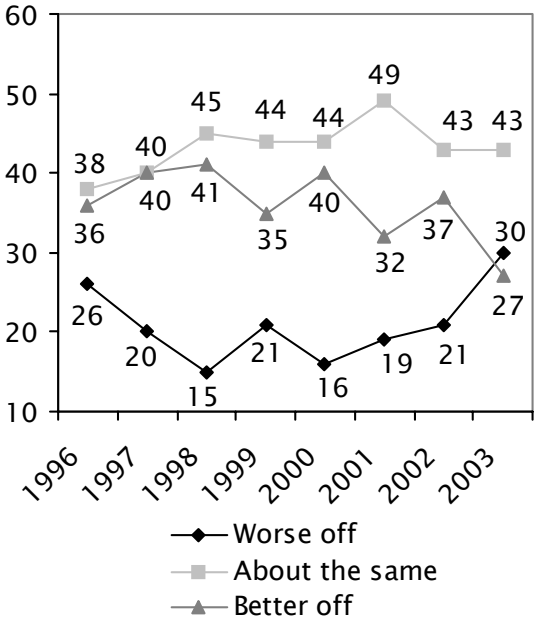
To examine perceptions of general well-being, respondents were asked four questions.

1. "All things considered, do you think you are better or worse off than you were five years ago?" (Answer categories were worse off, about the same, or better off).
2. "All things considered, do you think you are better or worse off than your parents when they were your age?"
3. "All things considered, do you think you will be better or worse off ten years from now than you are today?"
4. "Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Life has changed so much in our modern world that most people are powerless to control their own lives."

Rural Nebraskans are more negative about their current situation than they were last year. This year, only 27 percent believe they are better off than they were five years ago, compared to 37 percent in 2002 (Figure 1). Also, the percent saying they are worse off than they were five years ago increased from 21 percent to 30 percent. The proportion of respondents saying they remained about the same is identical to last year (43% both years).

When examining the trends over the past eight years, rural Nebraskans have generally

Figure 1. *Well-Being Compared to Five Years Ago: 1996 - 2003*



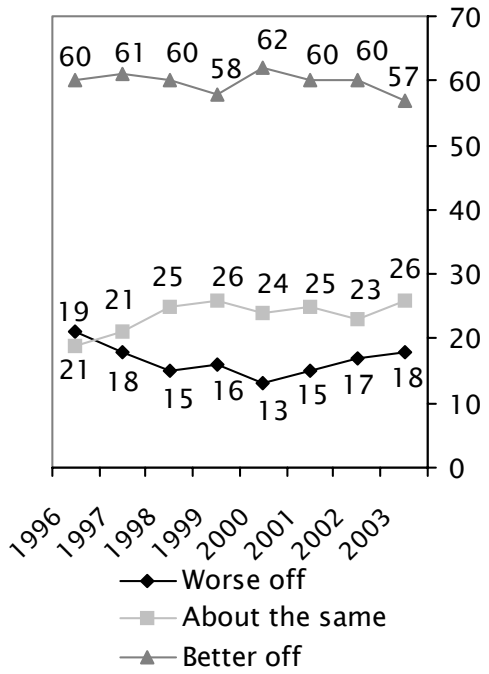
given positive reviews about their current situation. Approximately 40 percent each year have reported that they were better off than they were five years ago. However, that proportion dropped to 27 percent this year, the lowest since the study began. The proportion stating they were worse off than five years ago decreased between 1996 and 1998 (from 26% to 15%), increased to 21 percent in 1999, decreasing to 16 percent in 2000 and has since steadily increased to 30 percent this year. The proportion believing they are about the same has generally remained fairly steady around 44 percent since 1998. It did increase to 49 percent, though, in 2001.

When asked to compare themselves to their parents when they were their age, the proportion stating they are better off has remained fairly constant over the eight year period (Figure 2). Similarly, the proportion feeling they are worse off than their parents has remained steady during this period.

When looking to the future, respondents were not as positive as they were last year. The proportion believing they will be better off ten years from now decreased from 36 percent to 31 percent (Figure 3). Conversely, the proportion that think they will be worse off increased from 18 percent to 26 percent. The proportion stating they will be about the same decreased from 46 percent to 43 percent.

When examining the responses over all eight years, the proportion stating they will be better off ten years from now has generally remained about 35 percent. One exception to this general pattern occurred in 1998 when 42 percent of the respondents felt they would be better off in the future. And, this year the proportion fell to 31 percent, the lowest of all eight years. The proportion of respondents stating they will be worse off ten years from now decreased from 31 percent in 1996 to 16 percent in 1998. It then increased to 22 percent in 1999, declined to 18 percent in 2000, increased to 21 percent in 2001, then decreased to 18 percent in 2002 and increased again to 26 percent this year.

Figure 2. *Well-Being Compared to Parents: 1996 - 2003*



In addition to asking about general well-being, rural Nebraskans were asked about the amount of control they feel they have over their lives. To measure this, respondents were asked the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with the following statement: *"Life has changed so much in our modern world that most people are powerless to control their own lives."*

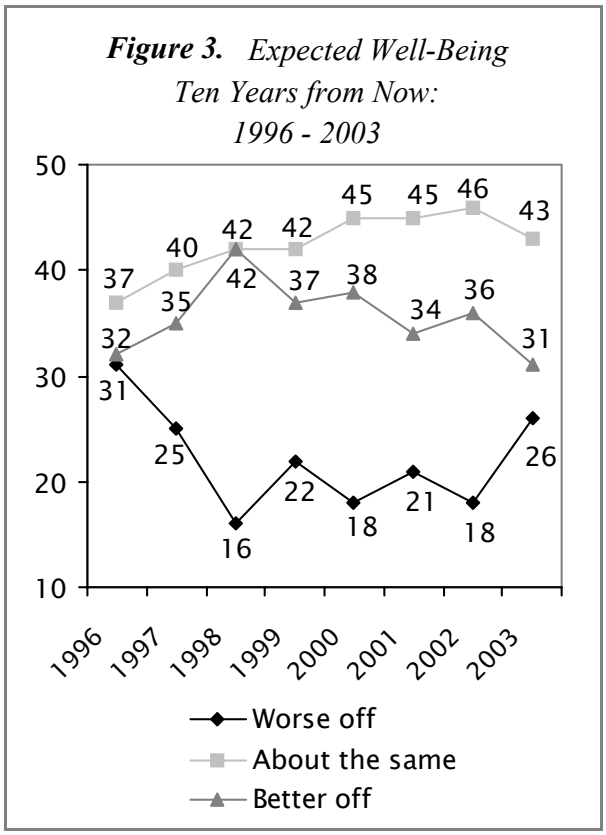


Figure 3. *Expected Well-Being Ten Years from Now: 1996 - 2003*

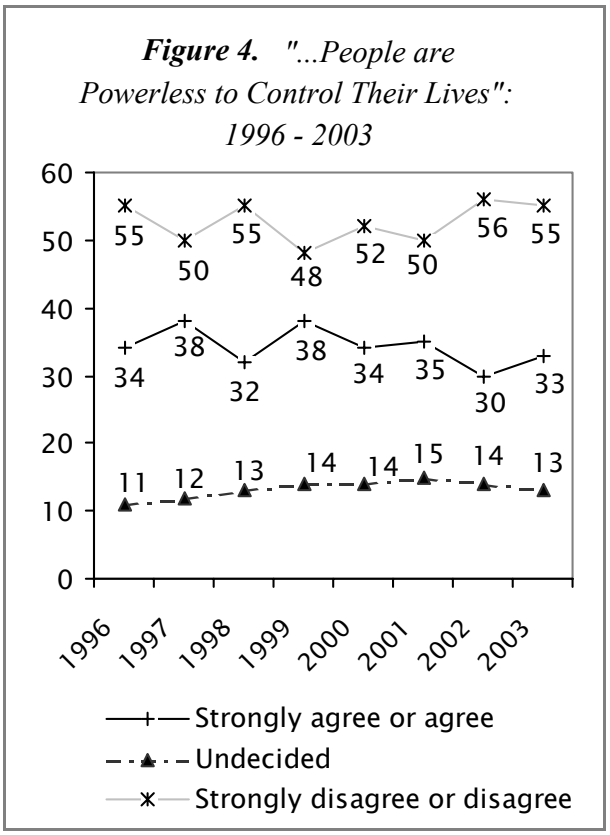


Figure 4. *"...People are Powerless to Control Their Lives": 1996 - 2003*

Respondents were slightly more likely to feel powerless this year as compared to last year. This year, 33 percent strongly agree or agree with the statement that people are powerless to control their lives (Figure 4). Last year, 30 percent agreed with the statement.

When viewing the responses over all eight years, there are no noticeable trends. The proportion of those who either strongly disagree or disagree with the statement decreased between 1996 and 1997, increased between 1997 and 1998, decreased between 1998 and 1999, increased between 1999 and 2000, decreased between 2000 and 2001, then increased between 2001 and 2002 and decreased slightly from 2002 to 2003. The reverse of this pattern occurs when looking at the proportions that either strongly agree or agree with the statement each year. The proportion of those who were undecided each year has remained fairly constant.

Satisfaction with Specific Aspects of Life

Each year, respondents were also given a list of items that can affect their well-being and were asked to indicate how satisfied they were with each using a five-point scale (1 = very dissatisfied, 5 = very satisfied). They were also given the option of checking a box to denote "does not apply."

This same question was asked in the seven previous polls, but the list of items was not identical each year. Table 1 shows the proportions "very satisfied" with each item for each study period.

Table 1. *Proportions of Respondents "Very Satisfied" with Each Factor, 1996 - 2003.**

Item	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
Your marriage	NA	NA	67	71	71	73	72	68
Your family	51	62	62	58	62	56	57	53
Your religion/spirituality	42	48	48	46	51	50	49	46
Your friends	37	47	47	46	48	46	47	44
Greenery and open space	NA	NA	52	52	46	47	50	37
Your housing	NA	34	35	39	38	38	39	34
Clean air	NA	NA	NA	NA	38	41	43	33
Clean water	NA	NA	NA	NA	34	38	40	33
Your spare time**	13	NA	29	30	32	31	32	30
Your education	24	27	28	28	28	28	31	27
Your health	26	34	29	29	28	27	27	25
Your job satisfaction	22	25	24	25	24	24	28	22
Your job security	19	24	25	24	27	26	28	21
Your community	17	20	16	19	17	20	17	16
Job opportunities for you	10	12	11	12	11	11	13	11
Your current income level	12	15	12	12	12	12	12	11
Financial security during retirement	10	14	10	11	10	10	10	7

Note: The list of items was not identical in each study. "NA" means that item was not asked that particular year.
* The proportions were calculated out of those answering the question. The respondents checking "does not apply" were not included in the calculations.
** Worded as "time to relax during the week" in 1996 study.

The rank ordering of the items has remained relatively stable over the years. In addition, the proportion of respondents stating they were "very satisfied" with each item also has been fairly consistent over the years, particularly between 1997 and 2002. All of the 2003 proportions were slightly lower than previous years. A noticeable decline occurs in satisfaction with greenery and open space (from 50 percent in 2002 to 37 percent this year).

Family, spirituality, friends, and the outdoors continue to be items given high satisfaction ratings by respondents. On the other hand, respondents continue to be less satisfied with job opportunities, current income level, and financial security during retirement.

General Well-Being by Subgroups

In this section, 2003 data on the four general measures of well-being are analyzed and reported for the region in which the respondent lives, by the size of their community, and for various individual characteristics (Appendix Table 2).

Younger persons are more likely than older persons to believe they are better off compared to five years ago, are better off compared to their parents when they were their age and will be better off ten years from now. Fifty-eight percent of the persons age 19 to 29 feel they are better off compared to five years ago. However, only 11 percent of the persons age 65 and older share this

opinion.

Persons with the highest household incomes are more likely than persons with lower incomes to feel they are better off compared to five years ago, are better off compared to their parents when they were their age, and will be better off ten years from now. For example, 50 percent of the respondents with household incomes of $60,000 or more think they will be better off ten years from now. However, only 18 percent of the respondents with household incomes under $20,000 believe they will be better off in ten years.

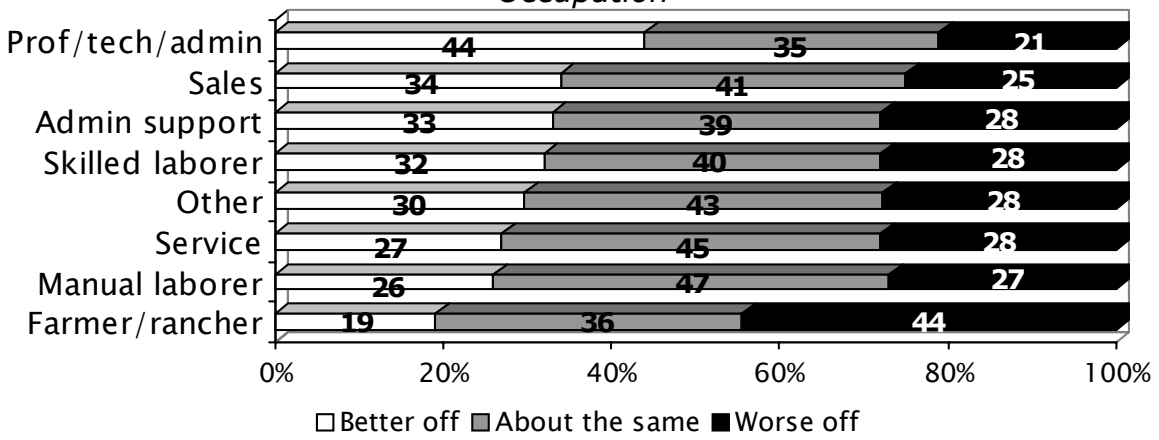
Persons with higher educational levels are more likely than the persons with less education to think they are better off compared to five years ago, are better off compared to their parents when they were their age and will be better off ten years from now. Forty-two percent of the respondents with at least a four-year college degree believe they are better off than they were five years ago. Only 12 percent of the persons without a high school diploma share this optimism.

When comparing the marital groups, the respondents who have never married are the group most likely to believe they are better off than five years ago and will be better off ten years from now. The married respondents are most likely to believe they are better off compared to their parents when they were their age.

The respondents with professional occupations are more likely than the persons with other types of occupations to believe they are better off compared to five years ago, are better off compared to their parents when they were their age, and will be better off ten years from now. Forty-four percent of the persons with professional occupations state they are better off than they were five years ago (Figure 5). Only 19 percent of the farmers and ranchers think they are better off compared to five years ago.

Persons living in or near the larger communities are more likely to believe they are better off compared to five years ago, are better off compared to their parents when they were their age, and will be better off ten

Figure 5. *Well-Being Compared to Five Years Ago by Occupation*



years from now.

The respondents were also asked if they believe people are powerless to control their own lives. Thirty-three percent either strongly agree or agree that people are powerless to control their own lives (see Figure 4). Thirteen percent are undecided and 55 percent either strongly disagree or disagree.

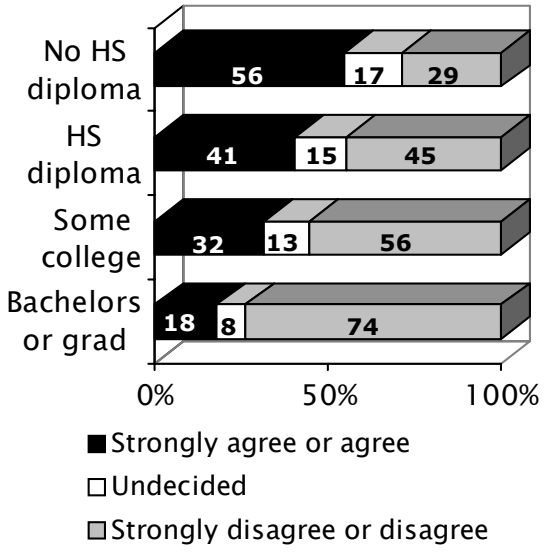
When analyzing the responses by region, community size, and various individual attributes, many differences emerge (Appendix Table 3). Persons with lower educational levels are more likely than persons with more education to believe that people are powerless to control their own lives. Fifty-six percent of the persons without a high school diploma agree that people are powerless to control their own lives (Figure 6). However, only 18 percent of the persons with a four-year college degree share this opinion.

Persons with lower household incomes are more likely than the persons with higher incomes to agree with the statement. Forty-four percent of the persons with household incomes under $20,000 believe people are powerless to control their own lives, compared to 20 percent of the persons with household incomes of $60,000 or more.

The manual laborers are the occupation group most likely to think that people are powerless to control their own lives. Thirty-eight percent of the manual laborers agree or strongly agree with that statement. Only 20 percent of the persons with professional occupations agree.

Other groups most likely to believe people

Figure 6. *"...People are Powerless to Control Their Own Lives" by Education*



are powerless include: persons living in or near the smaller communities, persons age 65 or older, and widowed respondents.

Specific Aspects of Well-Being by Subgroups

The respondents were given a list of items that may influence their well-being and were asked to rate their satisfaction with each. The complete ratings for each item are listed in Appendix Table 4. Over one-third of the respondents are very satisfied with their family (52%), their marriage (49%), their religion/spirituality (45%), their friends (44%), greenery and open space (37%) and their housing (34%). Items receiving the highest proportion of very dissatisfied responses include: financial security during retirement (26%), current income level (17%), and job opportunities for you (11%).

The top ten items people are dissatisfied with

(determined by the largest proportions of "very dissatisfied" and "dissatisfied" responses) will now be examined in more detail by looking at how the different demographic subgroups view each item. These comparisons are shown in Appendix Table 5.

Respondents' satisfaction levels with both their financial security during retirement as well as their current income level differ by most of the characteristics examined. Persons with lower household incomes are more likely than persons with higher incomes to be dissatisfied with both of these items. Sixty percent of the persons with household incomes under $20,000 report being dissatisfied with their current income level, compared to only 21 percent of the persons with household incomes of $60,000 or more.

The respondents who are divorced or separated are the marital group most likely to be dissatisfied with both their financial security during retirement and their current income level. Seventy-two percent of the divorced/separated respondents are dissatisfied with their financial security during retirement, compared to only 40 percent of the widowed respondents.

The manual laborers are more likely than persons with different occupations to be dissatisfied with their financial security during retirement. Seventy percent of the manual laborers report being dissatisfied with their financial security during retirement, compared to only 54 percent of the persons with professional occupations.

The farmers and ranchers, however, are the occupation group most likely to be dissatisfied with their current income level. Fifty-nine percent of the farmers and ranchers report being dissatisfied with their current income level, compared to only 30 percent of the persons with professional occupations.

Persons living in or near the smallest communities were more likely than the persons living in or near the larger communities to be dissatisfied with their current income level. When comparing the age groups, the persons between the ages of 30 and 64 are most likely to be dissatisfied with their financial security during retirement. And, persons under the age of 64 are more likely than the persons age 65 and older to be dissatisfied with their current income level.

The persons with some college education are most likely to be dissatisfied with both their financial security during retirement and their current income level. Females are more likely than males to be dissatisfied with their financial security during retirement.

Persons with lower household incomes are more likely than persons with higher incomes to be dissatisfied with their job, their job security and their job opportunities. Fifty-six percent of the persons with household incomes under $20,000 are dissatisfied with their job opportunities, compared to 35 percent of the persons with household incomes of $60,000 or more.

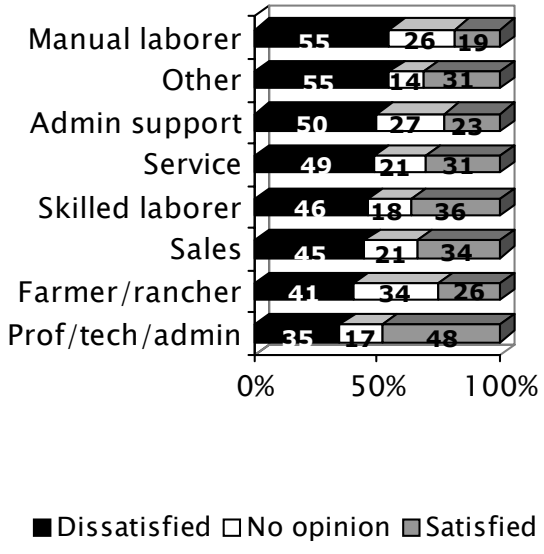
The manual laborers are more likely than respondents with different occupations to express dissatisfaction with these three job-related items. Fifty-five percent of the manual laborers are dissatisfied with their job opportunities, compared to only 35 percent of

the persons with professional occupations (Figure 7).

Persons with only a high school diploma are the education group most likely to be dissatisfied with their job, their job security and their job opportunities. When comparing marital groups, the persons who are divorced or separated are the group most likely to be dissatisfied with these three items.

Persons between the ages of 40 and 49 are more likely than persons of different ages to be dissatisfied with their job security and their job opportunities. But, persons under the age of 30 are most likely to be dissatisfied with their job. Females are more likely than males to report dissatisfaction with their job opportunities.

Figure 7. *Satisfaction with Job Opportunities by Occupation*



Manual laborers are the occupation group most likely to express dissatisfaction with their community. Thirty-one percent of this group are dissatisfied with their community, compared to 16 percent of the persons with administrative support positions and the farmers and ranchers.

The divorced/separated respondents are the marital group most likely to be dissatisfied with their community. Twenty-eight percent of these respondents are dissatisfied with their community, compared to only 11 percent of the widowed respondents.

Other groups most likely to be dissatisfied with their community include: persons living in or near the largest communities, the younger persons and persons with some college education.

Younger persons are more likely than older persons to express dissatisfaction with their spare time. Thirty-three percent of the persons between the ages of 30 and 39 report being dissatisfied with their spare time, compared to only seven percent of the persons age 65 and older.

Other groups most likely to be dissatisfied with their spare time include: persons with higher household incomes, respondents with at least some college education, and the divorced/separated respondents.

Satisfaction with their health differed by five characteristics: income, age, education, marital status and occupation. The groups most likely to report being dissatisfied with their health were: those with the lowest household incomes, the older respondents, the persons without a high school diploma, the divorced/separated and widowed

respondents and persons with administrative support positions.

The manual laborers are more likely than persons with different occupations to express dissatisfaction with clean water. Twenty-two percent of the manual laborers are dissatisfied with clean water, compared to only six percent of the farmers and ranchers.

Other groups most likely to express dissatisfaction with clean water include: persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 5,000 to 9,999; persons living in the Panhandle (see Appendix Figure 1 for the counties included in each region); the younger persons; respondents with some college education; and the divorced/separated respondents.

The groups most likely to be dissatisfied with their education are: persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 1,000 to 9,999; persons with household incomes ranging from $20,000 to $59,999; the younger respondents; persons with lower educational levels; the divorced/separated respondents and the manual laborers.

Trends in Community Ratings (1996 - 2003)

Comparisons are made between the community data collected this year to the seven previous studies. Again, these were independent samples (the same people were not surveyed each year).

Community Change

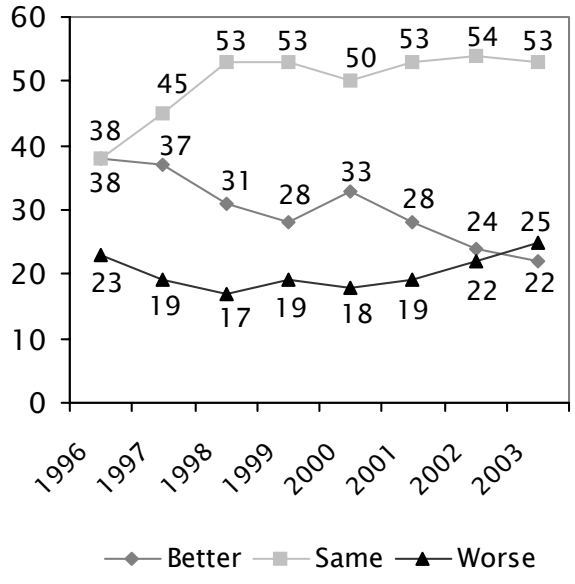
To examine respondents' perceptions of how their community has changed, they were asked the question, "Communities across the nation are undergoing change. When you think about this past year, would you say...My community has changed for the..." Answer categories were better, same or worse.

One difference in the wording of this question has occurred over the past eight years. Starting in 1998, the phrase "this past year" was added to the question; no time frame was given to the respondents in the first two studies.

Rural Nebraskans felt a little more negative about their communities this year than they did last year. This year, only 22 percent believe their community has changed for the better, compared to 24 percent last year (Figure 8). And, in 2003, 25 percent think their community has changed for the worse, compared to only 22 percent last year.

During the eight-year period, there has been a

Figure 8. *Community Change, 1996 - 2003*



general decline in the proportion of respondents indicating their community has changed for the better. Thirty-eight percent of the 1996 respondents stated their community had changed for the better. The proportion decreased to 22 percent this year.

The proportion saying their community has stayed the same first increased from 1996 to 1998. It has since remained fairly steady across the last six years. The proportion saying their community has changed for the worse has remained fairly steady across all eight years.

Community Social Dimensions

Respondents were also asked each year if they would describe their communities as friendly or unfriendly, trusting or distrusting, and supportive or hostile. For each of these three dimensions, respondents were asked to rate their community using a seven-point scale between each pair of contrasting views.

The proportion of respondents who view their community as friendly remained about the same when compared to last year. This year, 74 percent rate their community as friendly, compared to 75 percent last year.[2] Seventy-two percent thought their community was friendly in 2001, up from 68 percent in 2000. In the first four studies, approximately 73 percent felt their community was friendly.

The proportion of respondents who viewed their community as trusting increased from 62 percent in 1996 to 66 percent in 1999. It then decreased to 59 percent in 2000, rose to 65 percent in 2002 and then decreased to 63 percent this year. A similar pattern emerged when examining the proportion of respondents who rated their community as supportive. The proportion stating their community was supportive first increased from 62 percent in 1996 to 65 percent in 1999, then it dropped to 60 percent in 2000. It then increased slightly to 62 percent in 2001, rose to 68 percent in 2002 and decreased slightly to 67 percent this year.

Plans to Leave the Community

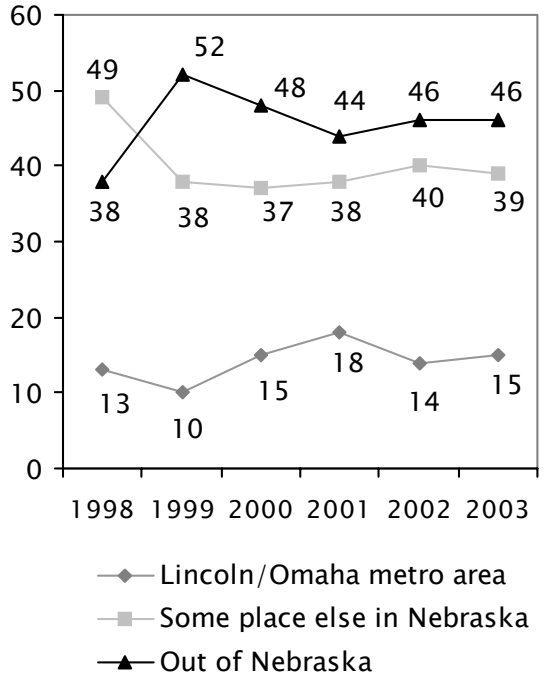
To determine whether or not respondents planned to leave their community, they were asked, "Do you plan to move from your community in the next year?" This question was only included in the studies starting in 1998. The proportion planning to leave their community has remained relatively stable during the past six years. Approximately three percent of the respondents each year indicated they were planning to leave their community in the next year. This year, that proportion was five percent.

The expected destination for the persons planning to move has changed over time (Figure 9). The proportion planning to move to either the Lincoln or Omaha metropolitan areas steadily increased between 1999 and 2001 (from 10 to 18 percent). However, the proportion planning to move to one of those cities declined to 14 percent last year and increased slightly this year to 15 percent.

The proportion of expected movers planning to leave the state has decreased since 1999.

[2] The responses on the 7-point scale are converted to percentages as follows: values of 1, 2, and 3 are categorized as friendly, trusting, and supportive; values of 5, 6, and 7 are categorized as unfriendly, distrusting, and hostile; and a value of 4 is categorized as no opinion.

Figure 9. *Expected Destination of Those Planning to Move: 1998 - 2003*



That year, 52 percent planned to leave the state. However, only 46 percent of this year's respondents that are planning to move expect to leave Nebraska.

Satisfaction with Community Services and Amenities

Respondents were also asked how satisfied they are with various community services and amenities each year. They were asked this in all eight studies; however, in 1996 they were also asked about the availability of these services. Therefore, comparisons will only be made between the last seven studies, when the question wording was identical. The respondents were asked how satisfied they were with a list of 26 services and amenities, taking into consideration availability, cost, and quality.

Table 2 shows the proportions very satisfied with the service each year. The rank ordering of these items has remained relatively stable over the seven years. In addition, many of the proportions remained fairly consistent between the years.

The Community and Its Attributes in 2003

In this section, the 2003 data on respondents' evaluations of their communities and its attributes are first summarized and then examined in terms of any differences that may exist depending upon the size of the respondent's community, the region in which they live, or various individual attributes such as household income or age.

Community Change

Over one-half (53%) of the respondents state their community has stayed the same during the past year, 22 percent say their community has changed for the better, and 25 percent believe it has changed for the worse (see Figure 8).

When examining the responses by various demographic subgroups, many differences are detected in respondents' perceptions of the change occurring in their community (Appendix Table 6).

Respondents living in or near the largest communities are more likely than respondents living in or near the smallest communities to contend that their community has changed for the better. Twenty-eight percent of the persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more say their community has

Table 2. *Proportions of Respondents "Very Satisfied" with Each Service, 1997 - 2003*

Service/Amenity	*2003*	*2002*	*2001*	*2000*	*1999*	*1998*	*1997*
Library services	41	41	40	43	40	41	44
Education (K - 12)	32	32	31	32	36	33	35
Parks and recreation	31	29	29	31	30	29	34
Basic medical care services	29	30	27	26	27	27	31
Senior centers	27	27	25	25	27	25	31
Sewage disposal	26	28	24	26	28	23	31
Water disposal	24	26	22	24	26	21	29
Solid waste disposal	24	24	22	22	24	19	25
Nursing home care	24	23	21	20	25	24	27
Law enforcement	22	21	19	19	19	17	22
Highways and bridges	20	20	16	16	18	15	NA
Housing	18	17	16	16	19	14	17
Restaurants	14	15	15	14	17	16	19
Streets	14	14	11	12	16	12	NA
Day care services	14	13	13	13	16	15	17
Head start programs	13	13	13	12	13	12	16
Airport	12	12	11	11	NA	NA	NA
Retail shopping	10	11	11	11	12	10	14
City/village government	10	9	10	8	11	7	10
Mental health services	9	9	10	9	9	8	11
County government	9	8	9	7	10	6	9
Entertainment	6	7	7	5	6	6	8
Airline service	5	5	4	4	NA	NA	NA
Rail service	3	3	3	3	3	3	5
Taxi service	3	3	3	3	2	2	3
Bus service	3	3	3	2	3	2	4
Air service	NA	NA	NA	NA	5	5	6
Streets and highways	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1

NA = Not asked that particular year

changed for the better; yet, only 12 percent of the persons living in or near communities with less than 500 people share this opinion.

The other groups most likely to say their community has changed for the better include: persons living in the North Central region, persons with the highest household incomes, younger persons, the widowed respondents, persons with the highest educational levels and the persons with professional occupations.

Community Social Dimensions

In addition to asking respondents about their perceptions of the change occurring in their community, they were also asked to rate its social dimensions. They were asked if they would describe their communities as

friendly or unfriendly, trusting or distrusting, and supportive or hostile. Overall, respondents rate their communities as friendly (74%), trusting (63%) and supportive (67%).

Respondents' ratings of their community on these dimensions differ by some of the demographic and community characteristics (Appendix Table 7). Persons living in or near the smaller communities are more likely than those living in or near larger communities to rate their community as friendly, trusting and supportive. Seventy-two percent of the persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 500 to 999 view their community as trusting, compared to 57 percent of the persons living in or near the communities with populations of 10,000 or more.

The older respondents are more likely than the younger respondents to state their community is friendly, trusting and supportive. Seventy-six percent of the persons age 65 and older view their community as supportive, yet only 60 percent of the persons between the ages of 19 and 29 feel the same way.

The widowed respondents are more likely than the other marital groups to rate their community as friendly, trusting, and supportive. Eighty percent of the widowed respondents rate their community as supportive, compared to only 58 percent of the divorced/separated respondents.

Persons with at least a four-year college degree are more likely than the persons with less education to view their community as both friendly and supportive. Farmers and ranchers are the occupation group most likely to rate their community as both trusting and supportive.

Satisfaction with Community Services and Amenities

To gauge rural residents' satisfaction with their communities' services and amenities, they were asked to rate how satisfied they were with a list of 26 services and amenities, taking into consideration cost, availability, and quality. Residents report high levels of satisfaction with some services, but other services and amenities have higher levels of dissatisfaction.

At least one-third of the respondents are either "very dissatisfied" or "somewhat dissatisfied" with entertainment (45%), retail shopping (43%), and restaurants (36%) (Appendix Table 8). The five services or amenities respondents are the most satisfied with (based on the combined percentage of "very satisfied" or "somewhat satisfied" responses) include: parks and recreation (77%), library services (75%), basic medical care services (72%), education (K - 12) (70%) and highways and bridges (70%).

The ten services and amenities with the greatest dissatisfaction ratings were analyzed by community size, region and various individual attributes (Appendix Table 9). Many differences emerge.

Younger respondents are more likely than older respondents to be dissatisfied with the entertainment, retail shopping and restaurants in their community. As an example, 58 percent of the persons between the ages of 19 and 39 are dissatisfied with entertainment, compared to only 27 percent

of the persons age 65 and older.

Other groups more likely to express dissatisfaction with the entertainment, retail shopping and restaurants in their community include: persons living in or near the larger communities, persons with higher household incomes, persons with higher educational levels, and persons with professional occupations.

Persons living in the North Central region are the regional group most likely to be dissatisfied with the retail shopping in their community. The residents of the Southeast region are the group most likely to express dissatisfaction with their community's restaurants.

Females are more likely than males to be dissatisfied with the retail shopping in their community. When comparing responses by marital groups, the divorced/separated respondents are more likely than the other groups to be dissatisfied with the entertainment and retail shopping in their community. But the married respondents are the group most likely to be dissatisfied with the restaurants.

The laborers are more likely than persons with different occupations to be dissatisfied with their city/village government. Thirty-six percent of the laborers express dissatisfaction with the government in their city/village, compared to only 22 percent of the farmers or ranchers.

The divorced/separated respondents are more likely than the other marital groups to express dissatisfaction with their city/village government. Thirty-seven percent of the divorced/separated respondents are dissatisfied with the government in their city or village, compared to 21 percent of the widowed respondents.

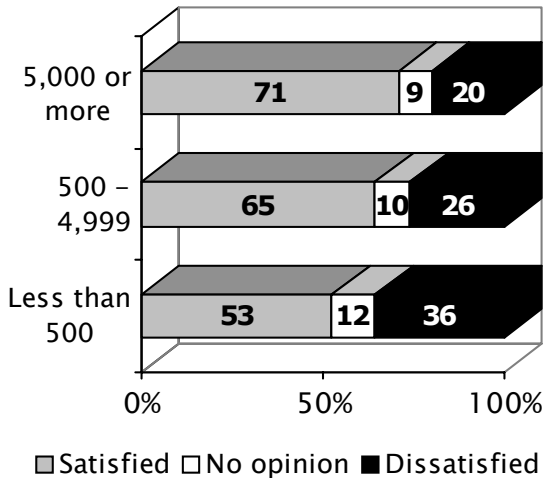
The other groups most likely to express dissatisfaction with their city/village government include: persons living in or near the largest communities, residents of the North Central region of the state, persons with higher household incomes, persons between the ages of 40 and 64, males, and persons with some college education.

Many of these same groups are also the ones most likely to be dissatisfied with their county government. Persons living in or near the smallest communities, residents of the North Central region, respondents between the ages of 40 and 64, males and persons who are divorced/separated are the groups most likely to express dissatisfaction with their county government.

The groups most likely to be dissatisfied with the streets in their community include: persons living in or near both the largest and smallest communities, persons between the ages of 40 and 64, the respondents who are divorced/separated and the laborers.

Persons living in or near the smallest communities are more likely than those living in or near larger communities to be dissatisfied with the law enforcement in their community (Figure 10). Thirty-six percent of the residents living in or near communities with less than 500 people express dissatisfaction with their community's law enforcement. Only 20 percent of the persons living in or near communities with populations of 5,000 or more are dissatisfied with their law

Figure 10. *Dissatisfaction with Law Enforcement by Community Size*



enforcement.

Other groups most likely to express dissatisfaction with law enforcement include: residents of the North Central region, younger respondents, the persons who are divorced/separated, respondents with some college education and the laborers.

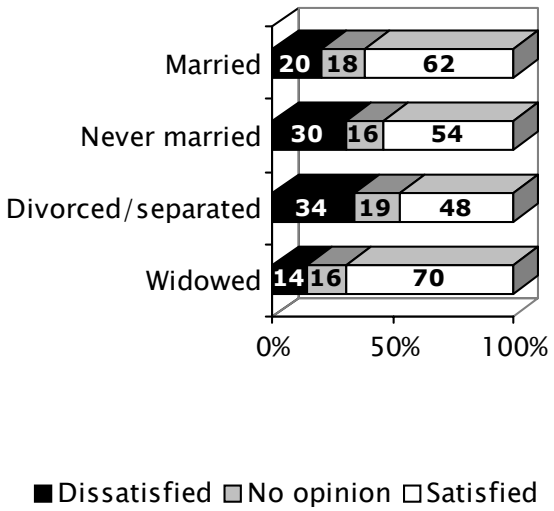
Persons living in the Panhandle are more likely than people living in other regions of the state to express dissatisfaction with their community's airline and bus service. Thirty-two percent of the Panhandle residents are dissatisfied with their airline service, compared to only 11 percent of the Southeast residents.

Persons living in or near the largest communities of the state, the older respondents and the college graduates tend to be more dissatisfied with both of these transportation services, as compared to persons living in or near smaller communities, younger respondents and persons with less education.

Persons with higher income levels are most likely to be dissatisfied with their airline service. However, it is the persons with the lowest incomes that are most likely to be dissatisfied with the bus service in their community. Males and persons with professional occupations are the other groups most likely to express dissatisfaction with their airline service. The divorced/separated respondents are the marital group most likely to be dissatisfied with the bus service.

The persons who are divorced/separated are also the group most likely to be dissatisfied with the housing in their community. Thirty-four percent of these respondents are dissatisfied with their community's housing, compared to only 14 percent of the widowed

Figure 11. *Dissatisfaction with Community Housing by Marital Status*



respondents (Figure 11).

The other groups expressing the most dissatisfaction with the housing in their community include: persons living in or near the largest communities, residents of the North Central region, persons with household incomes ranging from $20,000 to $59,999, the younger respondents, females, persons with higher educational levels and the laborers.

Plans to Leave the Community

To determine rural Nebraskans' migration intentions, respondents were asked, "Do you plan to move from your community in the next year?" Response options included yes, no, or uncertain. A follow-up question (asked only of those who indicated they were planning to move) asked where they planned to move. The answer categories for this question were: Lincoln/Omaha metro areas, some place in Nebraska outside the Lincoln/Omaha metro areas, or some place other than Nebraska.

Only five percent indicate they are planning to move from their community in the next year, eight percent are uncertain, and 87 percent have no plans to move. Of those who are planning to move, 54 percent plan to remain in the state, with 15 percent planning to move to either Lincoln or Omaha and 39 percent plan to move to another part of the state. Forty-six percent are planning to leave the state.

Intentions to move from their community differed by region, age, gender, marital status, and education (Appendix Table 10). Younger respondents are more likely than older respondents to be planning to move

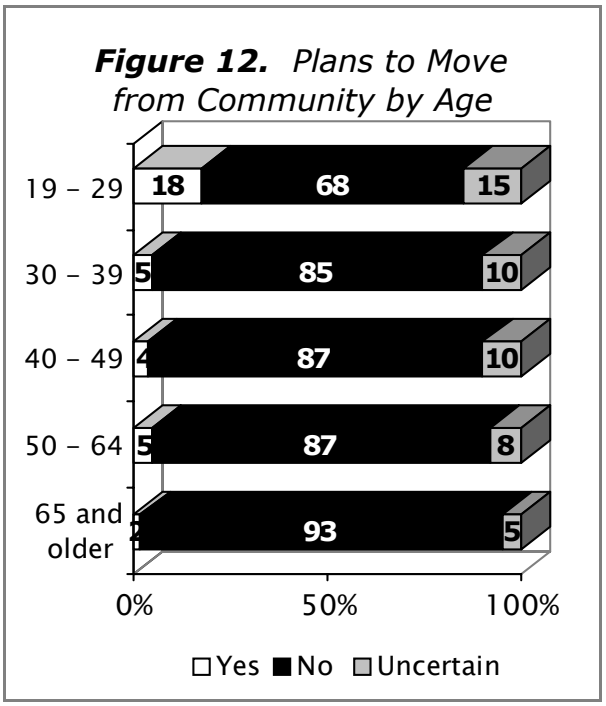


Figure 12. *Plans to Move from Community by Age*

from their community in the next year (Figure 12). Eighteen percent of the persons between the ages of 19 and 29 are planning to move next year, compared to only two percent of the persons age 65 and older. An additional 15 percent of the younger respondents indicate they are uncertain if they plan to move.

The other groups most likely to be planning to move from their community next year include: residents of the Panhandle, males, the persons who have never married and the respondents with higher educational levels.

When comparing the destinations of the expected movers, statistically significant differences only occur by region. The expected movers from the Panhandle are more likely than the expected movers from other regions to plan to leave the state. Seventy-seven percent of the expected movers from the Panhandle say they plan to

move some place other than Nebraska. Only 36 percent of the expected movers in both the South Central and Northeast regions plan on leaving Nebraska.

Conclusion

Rural Nebraskans are more negative about their current situation as well as their future than they were last year. The proportion stating that they are better off than they were five years ago decreased from 37 percent in 2002 to 27 percent this year. Similarly, in 2002, 36 percent believed they would be better off ten years from now. This proportion decreased to 31 percent this year.

This pessimism is more likely in some groups than others, however. Residents of the smallest communities, persons with lower household incomes, older respondents, persons with lower educational levels and the farmers and ranchers are the groups most likely to be more pessimistic about the present and the future.

When asked if they believe people are powerless to control their own lives, rural Nebraskans are more likely to agree with that notion as compared to last year. Thirty-three percent of this year's respondents agreed that people are powerless, compared to 30 percent in 2002. The manual laborers, the widowed respondents, persons with lower educational levels, older respondents, persons with lower household incomes and persons living in or near the smallest communities are the groups most likely to agree that people are powerless to control their own lives.

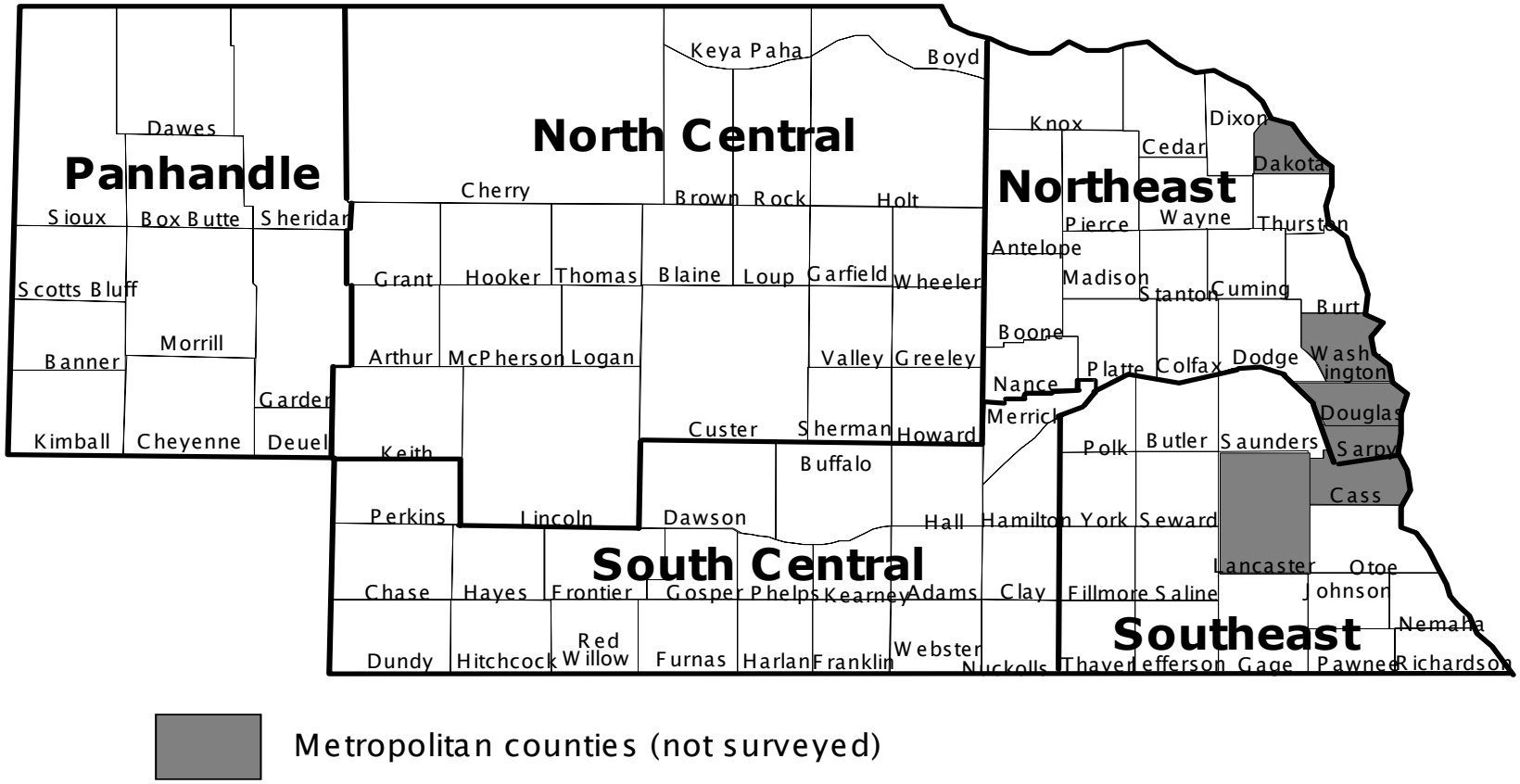
Rural Nebraskans continue to be most satisfied with family, spirituality, friends, and the outdoors. On the other hand, they continue to be less satisfied with job opportunities, current income level, and financial security during retirement.

Rural Nebraskans are slightly more negative about the change occurring in their communities this year than they did last year. Yet, the majority still believe their community has either stayed the same or changed for the better during the past year. In addition, most also characterize their communities as friendly, trusting and supportive.

The community services or amenities that residents are most dissatisfied with include: entertainment, retail shopping and restaurants. The services and amenities with the highest satisfaction ratings include: parks and recreation, library services, basic medical care, education (K - 12), and highways and bridges.

Most rural Nebraskans are planning to stay in their community next year. Only five percent are planning to move and eight percent are uncertain. Forty-six percent of the persons planning to move say they will move out of Nebraska.

Appendix Figure 1. Regions of Nebraska



Appendix Table 1. *Demographic Profile of Rural Poll Respondents Compared to 2000 Census*

	2003 Poll	***2002 Poll***	***2001 Poll***	***2000 Poll***	***1999 Poll***	***2000 Census***
Age : [1]						
20 - 39	18%	16%	17%	20%	21%	33%
40 - 64	51%	51%	49%	54%	52%	42%
65 and over	32%	32%	33%	26%	28%	24%
Gender: [2]						
Female	51%	36%	37%	57%	31%	51%
Male	49%	64%	63%	43%	69%	49%
Education: [3]						
Less than 9th grade	2%	3%	4%	2%	3%	7%
9th to 12th grade (no diploma)	5%	4%	5%	4%	5%	10%
High school diploma (or equivalent)	34%	32%	35%	34%	36%	35%
Some college, no degree	23%	25%	26%	28%	25%	25%
Associate degree	11%	10%	8%	9%	9%	7%
Bachelors degree	16%	16%	13%	15%	15%	11%
Graduate or professional degree	9%	10%	8%	9%	8%	4%
Household income: [4]						
Less than $10,000	8%	8%	9%	3%	8%	10%
$10,000 - $19,999	14%	15%	16%	10%	15%	16%
$20,000 - $29,999	16%	17%	20%	15%	18%	17%
$30,000 - $39,999	16%	17%	16%	19%	18%	15%
$40,000 - $49,999	13%	14%	14%	17%	15%	12%
$50,000 - $59,999	11%	11%	9%	15%	9%	10%
$60,000 - $74,999	11%	9%	8%	11%	8%	9%
$75,000 or more	11%	10%	8%	11%	10%	11%
Marital Status: [5]						
Married	73%	73%	70%	95%	76%	61%
Never married	7%	6%	7%	0.2%	7%	22%
Divorced/separated	9%	9%	10%	2%	8%	9%
Widowed/widower	11%	12%	14%	4%	10%	8%

[1] 2000 Census universe is non-metro population 20 years of age and over.

[2] 2000 Census universe is total non-metro population.

[3] 2000 Census universe is non-metro population 18 years of age and over.

[4] 2000 Census universe is all non-metro households.

[5] 2000 Census universe is non-metro population 15 years of age and over.

Appendix Table 2. *Measures of Individual Well-Being in Relation to Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes.*

	Compared to Five Years Ago				***Compared to Parents***				***Ten Years from Now***			
	Worse Off	*Same*	*Better Off*	*Significance*	*Worse Off*	*Same*	*Better Off*	*Significance*	*Worse Off*	*Same*	*Better Off*	*Significance*
						Percentages						
Community Size		(n = 2969)				(n = 2958)				(n = 2912)		
Less than 500	38	40	23		24	30	46		32	38	30	
500 - 999	28	49	24		18	26	57		27	47	26	
1,000 - 4,999	29	45	26		19	26	55		26	45	29	
5,000 - 9,999	30	42	28	$P^2 = 27.30$	17	27	56	$P^2 = 41.77$	24	40	36	$P^2 = 21.77$
10,000 and up	28	41	31	(.001)	13	24	63	(.000)	25	42	34	(.005)
Region		(n = 3026)				(n = 3016)				(n = 2965)		
Panhandle	32	42	26		19	25	56		26	41	33	
North Central	30	43	27		16	27	57		27	41	33	
South Central	30	41	29		17	23	60		25	43	32	
Northeast	30	44	26	$P^2 = 4.04$	16	27	57	$P^2 = 11.46$	27	44	29	$P^2 = 4.94$
Southeast	28	45	28	(.853)	20	28	52	(.177)	27	43	31	(.764)
Individual Attributes:												
Income Level		(n = 2736)				(n = 2726)				(n = 2693)		
Under $20,000	45	43	12		26	33	41		40	42	18	
$20,000 - $39,999	32	47	21		20	27	53		27	44	28	
$40,000 - $59,999	24	43	33	$P^2 = 242.84$	14	25	61	$P^2 = 131.85$	21	45	35	$P^2 = 186.24$
$60,000 and over	20	33	47	(.000)	10	18	72	(.000)	15	35	50	(.000)
Age		(n = 3041)				(n = 3031)				(n = 2980)		
19 - 29	11	32	58		12	16	72		5	23	72	
30 - 39	20	32	48		18	25	57		9	35	56	
40 - 49	29	36	35		23	25	53		17	38	46	
50 - 64	33	42	25	$P^2 = 319.67$	21	25	54	$P^2 = 68.34$	30	45	25	$P^2 = 569.52$
65 and older	35	55	11	(.000)	11	30	59	(.000)	40	51	9	(.000)
Gender		(n = 2993)				(n = 2982)				(n = 2933)		
Male	32	41	28	$P^2 = 5.74$	18	26	57	$P^2 = 0.06$	26	41	33	$P^2 = 6.09$
Female	28	45	27	(.057)	17	26	57	(.973)	26	45	30	(.048)

Appendix Table 2 Continued.

	Compared to Five Years Ago				***Compared to Parents***				***Ten Years from Now***			
	Worse Off	*Same*	*Better Off*	*Significance*	*Worse Off*	*Same*	*Better Off*	*Significance*	*Worse Off*	*Same*	*Better Off*	*Significance*
Education		(n = 2984)				(n = 2974)				(n = 2925)		
No H.S. diploma	33	55	12		14	29	58		38	47	15	
H. S. diploma	32	48	20		17	29	54		33	46	21	
Some college	31	41	28	$P^2 = 131.93$	20	25	55	$P^2 = 27.64$	23	42	35	$P^2 = 155.57$
Bachelors or graduate degree	24	35	42	(.000)	15	21	64	(.000)	18	37	45	(.000)
Marital Status		(n = 2994)				(n = 2983)				(n = 2935)		
Married	29	41	30		17	24	59		24	43	33	
Never married	22	45	33		21	26	54		21	34	46	
Divorced/separated	37	38	25	$P^2 = 70.35$	27	30	43	$P^2 = 42.69$	28	39	33	$P^2 = 106.14$
Widowed	34	56	10	(.000)	11	32	57	(.000)	43	46	11	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 1970)				(n = 1964)				(n = 1949)		
Sales	25	41	34		21	26	52		21	38	41	
Manual laborer	27	47	26		23	31	46		30	40	31	
Prof/tech/admin	21	35	44		14	21	65		15	37	48	
Service	28	45	27		17	27	55		26	40	35	
Farming/ranching	44	36	19		29	28	43		26	40	34	
Skilled laborer	28	40	32		21	32	47		20	46	34	
Admin. support	28	39	33	$P^2 = 86.92$	20	22	58	$P^2 = 63.92$	29	40	32	$P^2 = 57.99$
Other	28	43	30	(.000)	7	30	63	(.000)	19	55	26	(.000)

Appendix Table 3. *Life Has Changed So Much in Our Modern World that Most People Are Powerless to Control Their Own Lives.*

	Strongly Agree	*Agree*	*Undecided*	*Disagree*	*Strongly Disagree*	*Significance*
			Percentages			
Community Size			(n = 2960)			
Less than 500	12	29	10	38	11	
500 - 999	9	26	12	41	12	
1,000 - 4,999	7	24	15	41	12	
5,000 - 9,999	8	22	12	44	14	$P^2 = 31.23$
10,000 and up	7	24	11	45	14	(.013)
Region			(n = 3018)			
Panhandle	7	25	11	42	15	
North Central	9	27	12	38	14	
South Central	9	24	11	44	13	
Northeast	8	26	13	42	11	$P^2 = 18.01$
Southeast	7	23	15	42	14	(.323)
Individual Attributes:						
Income Level			(n = 2734)			
Under $20,000	13	31	18	32	7	
$20,000 - $39,999	8	29	13	41	10	
$40,000 - $59,999	6	22	10	48	14	$P^2 = 219.03$
$60,000 and over	5	15	6	49	25	(.000)
Age			(n = 3033)			
19 - 29	5	21	13	45	17	
30 - 39	5	16	13	48	18	
40 - 49	6	22	10	46	17	
50 - 64	9	24	10	45	12	$P^2 = 135.82$
65 and older	11	32	17	33	8	(.000)
Gender			(n = 2984)			
Male	8	25	12	41	14	$P^2 = 8.03$
Female	8	24	13	44	11	(.090)
Education			(n = 2975)			
No H.S. diploma	18	38	17	24	5	
H.S. diploma	11	30	15	36	9	
Some college	7	25	13	44	12	$P^2 = 224.34$
Bachelors or grad degree	4	14	8	53	21	(.000)
Marital Status			(n = 2986)			
Married	8	24	11	43	14	
Never married	5	24	15	44	13	
Divorced/separated	11	23	13	44	9	$P^2 = 47.48$
Widowed	11	32	17	32	8	(.000)

Appendix Table 3 Continued.

	Strongly Agree	*Agree*	*Undecided*	*Disagree*	*Strongly Disagree*	*Significance*
Occupation			(n = 1968)			
Sales	4	25	10	43	18	
Manual laborer	11	27	18	37	8	
Prof/technical/admin.	5	15	8	51	22	
Service	8	23	14	46	10	
Farming/ranching	8	27	13	40	12	
Skilled laborer	6	28	12	43	11	
Admin. support	6	24	6	51	13	$P^2 = 109.43$
Other	0	33	13	44	9	(.000)

Appendix Table 4. *Satisfaction with Items Affecting Well-Being, 2003.*

Item	*Does Not Apply*	*Very Dissatisfied*	*Dissatisfied*	*No Opinion*	*Satisfied*	*Very Satisfied*
Your family	2	1	2	7	35	52
Your marriage	28	1	2	3	17	49
Your religion/spirituality	2	1	4	15	32	45
Your friends	1	1	3	11	40	44
Greenery and open space	0	2	4	11	47	37
Your housing	0	2	7	10	47	34
Clean air	0	3	7	10	47	33
Clean water	0	4	11	9	44	33
Your spare time	0	5	14	11	40	30
Your education	0	2	10	14	47	27
Your health	0	5	10	11	48	25
Your community	0	4	16	16	47	16
Your job satisfaction	33	4	9	9	31	15
Your job security	33	5	11	10	28	14
Current income level	0	17	24	12	36	11
Job opportunities for you	30	11	19	15	17	8
Financial security during retirement	0	26	29	14	25	7

Appendix Table 5. *Satisfaction with Items By Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes.**

	Financial security during retirement				***Current income level***			
	Dissatisfied	*No opinion*	*Satisfied*	*Significance*	*Dissatisfied*	*No opinion*	*Satisfied*	*Significance*
				Percentages				
Community Size		(n = 2750)				(n = 2795)		
Less than 500	60	14	27		48	14	38	
500 - 999	56	14	30		45	14	41	
1,000 - 4,999	56	13	31		41	12	47	
5,000 - 9,999	56	12	33	$P^2 = 8.33$	40	11	49	$P^2 = 25.21$
10,000 and up	53	14	33	(.402)	38	10	52	(.001)
Region		(n = 2790)				(n = 2832)		
Panhandle	50	13	37		39	10	51	
North Central	59	12	29		48	12	41	
South Central	55	14	31		39	13	49	
Northeast	55	16	30	$P^2 = 9.70$	41	13	47	$P^2 = 12.68$
Southeast	56	13	32	(.287)	42	12	47	(.123)
Individual Attributes:								
Income Level		(n = 2559)				(n = 2595)		
Under $20,000	64	16	19		60	17	23	
$20,000 - $39,999	59	13	28		50	13	37	
$40,000 - $59,999	56	11	33	$P^2 = 86.47$	37	6	56	$P^2 = 329.39$
$60,000 and over	46	10	44	(.000)	21	7	72	(.000)
Age		(n = 2803)				(n = 2846)		
19 - 29	51	19	30		45	10	46	
30 - 39	64	10	25		44	7	49	
40 - 49	63	13	23		45	7	48	
50 - 64	61	10	29	$P^2 = 124.28$	42	10	48	$P^2 = 87.69$
65 and older	41	18	42	(.000)	35	21	45	(.000)
Gender		(n = 2765)				(n = 2809)		
Male	53	15	32	$P^2 = 9.89$	40	12	48	$P^2 = 1.58$
Female	58	12	31	(.007)	42	12	46	(.455)
Education		(n = 2758)				(n = 2802)		
No H.S. diploma	42	27	32		41	29	30	
High school diploma	55	16	29		45	14	41	
Some college	60	12	28	$P^2 = 62.98$	46	10	45	$P^2 = 135.83$
Bachelors or grad degree	53	9	38	(.000)	31	7	61	(.000)
Marital Status		(n = 2766)				(n = 2810)		
Married	56	12	33		40	10	50	
Never married	54	21	25		46	14	40	
Divorced/separated	72	12	16	$P^2 = 80.12$	56	11	33	$P^2 = 74.75$
Widowed	40	20	39	(.000)	38	23	39	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 1845)				(n = 1930)		
Sales	64	11	26		43	10	47	
Manual laborer	70	13	17		51	10	39	
Prof./technical/admin	54	9	37		30	6	64	
Service	65	16	19		46	13	41	
Farming/ranching	63	17	20		59	13	29	
Skilled laborer	63	14	24		44	9	47	
Admin. support	69	7	24	$P^2 = 69.87$	50	4	46	$P^2 = 131.10$
Other	68	12	20	(.000)	53	11	36	(.000)

* Only the ten items with the highest combined proportion of "very dissatisfied" and "dissatisfied" responses are included in this table.

Appendix Table 5 Continued.

	Job opportunities for you				***Your community***			
	Dissatisfied	*No opinion*	*Satisfied*	*Significance*	*Dissatisfied*	*No opinion*	*Satisfied*	*Significance*
				Percentages				
Community Size		(n = 2059)				(n = 2886)		
Less than 500	45	21	33		18	19	63	
500 - 999	46	21	33		15	13	72	
1,000 - 4,999	44	23	32		19	17	64	
5,000 - 9,999	47	17	37	$P^2 = 8.40$	23	17	60	$P^2 = 21.59$
10,000 and up	41	22	36	(.396)	23	16	61	(.006)
Region		(n = 2083)				(n = 2928)		
Panhandle	46	19	35		20	14	65	
North Central	48	21	32		22	15	63	
South Central	43	23	34		21	16	63	
Northeast	42	25	33	$P^2 = 13.38$	19	17	64	$P^2 = 5.28$
Southeast	43	18	40	(.099)	19	18	63	(.728)
Individual Attributes:								
Income Level		(n = 1951)				(n = 2675)		
Under $20,000	56	25	20		20	19	61	
$20,000 - $39,999	49	23	28		22	16	62	
$40,000 - $59,999	42	22	37	$P^2 = 84.43$	22	14	64	$P^2 = 9.42$
$60,000 and over	35	16	49	(.000)	20	14	67	(.152)
Age		(n = 2093)				(n = 2943)		
19 - 29	44	14	42		28	18	55	
30 - 39	45	19	36		23	18	59	
40 - 49	48	19	34		26	15	59	
50 - 64	43	23	34	$P^2 = 43.43$	22	17	62	$P^2 = 68.04$
65 and older	31	37	32	(.000)	12	17	72	(.000)
Gender		(n = 2067)				(n = 2902)		
Male	41	23	37	$P^2 = 7.28$	22	17	62	$P^2 = 5.18$
Female	47	21	33	(.026)	19	16	65	(.075)
Education		(n = 2066)				(n = 2893)		
No H.S. diploma	40	34	26		14	20	66	
High school diploma	49	25	26		20	17	63	
Some college	45	22	32	$P^2 = 71.97$	23	18	60	$P^2 = 24.42$
Bachelors or grad degree	37	16	47	(.000)	20	12	68	(.000)
Marital Status		(n = 2070)				(n = 2902)		
Married	42	22	36		20	15	65	
Never married	47	19	34		25	18	57	
Divorced/separated	56	18	26	$P^2 = 20.69$	28	20	52	$P^2 = 40.24$
Widowed	32	30	38	(.002)	11	18	72	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 1856)				(n = 1948)		
Sales	45	21	34		25	14	62	
Manual laborer	55	26	19		31	19	51	
Prof./technical/admin	35	17	48		21	13	66	
Service	49	21	31		24	15	62	
Farming/ranching	41	34	26		16	21	63	
Skilled laborer	46	18	36		24	20	55	
Admin. support	50	27	23	$P^2 = 101.42$	16	15	69	$P^2 = 32.11$
Other	55	14	31	(.000)	23	15	62	(.004)

* Only the ten items with the highest combined proportion of "very dissatisfied" and "dissatisfied" responses are included in this table.

Appendix Table 5 Continued.

	Your spare time				***Your job security***			
	Dissatisfied	*No opinion*	*Satisfied*	*Significance*	*Dissatisfied*	*No opinion*	*Satisfied*	*Significance*
				Percentages				
Community Size		(n = 2825)				(n = 1999)		
Less than 500	19	10	71		28	12	60	
500 - 999	19	10	71		20	19	61	
1,000 - 4,999	20	13	68		24	16	60	
5,000 - 9,999	19	9	72	$P^2 = 5.35$	22	10	68	$P^2 = 14.49$
10,000 and up	19	11	70	(.719)	23	14	63	(.070)
Region		(n = 2868)				(n = 2020)		
Panhandle	18	10	72		25	11	64	
North Central	19	12	69		25	14	62	
South Central	19	11	70		23	16	62	
Northeast	19	11	70	$P^2 = 1.47$	24	15	61	$P^2 = 3.71$
Southeast	19	12	69	(.993)	23	14	64	(.882)
Individual Attributes:								
Income Level		(n = 2625)				(n = 1898)		
Under $20,000	17	14	69		38	19	43	
$20,000 - $39,999	19	12	70		28	17	55	
$40,000 - $59,999	22	10	68	$P^2 = 13.93$	21	13	66	$P^2 = 93.36$
$60,000 and over	21	8	71	(.030)	16	8	76	(.000)
Age		(n = 2882)				(n = 2030)		
19 - 29	29	7	64		21	10	69	
30 - 39	33	13	54		25	14	61	
40 - 49	28	12	60		27	12	61	
50 - 64	16	11	73	$P^2 = 193.51$	24	14	62	$P^2 = 38.53$
65 and older	7	11	83	(.000)	11	25	64	(.000)
Gender		(n = 2842)				(n = 2006)		
Male	19	12	69	$P^2 = 6.04$	23	14	63	$P^2 = 0.49$
Female	19	10	72	(.049)	24	14	62	(.781)
Education		(n = 2833)				(n = 2005)		
No H.S. diploma	10	17	73		20	17	64	
High school diploma	17	13	70		28	17	55	
Some college	22	9	69	$P^2 = 34.03$	25	16	60	$P^2 = 40.82$
Bachelors or grad degree	21	9	70	(.000)	18	10	72	(.000)
Marital Status		(n = 2843)				(n = 2010)		
Married	18	9	73		22	14	64	
Never married	25	19	56		31	13	57	
Divorced/separated	30	15	56	$P^2 = 74.28$	31	17	52	$P^2 = 21.84$
Widowed	9	14	76	(.000)	20	23	58	(.001)
Occupation		(n = 1933)				(n = 1892)		
Sales	22	13	65		23	14	62	
Manual laborer	24	15	62		33	23	45	
Prof./technical/admin	26	9	65		18	8	74	
Service	23	16	61		24	17	58	
Farming/ranching	23	11	66		29	24	47	
Skilled laborer	24	12	65		25	14	62	
Admin. support	23	7	70	$P^2 = 16.15$	27	15	58	$P^2 = 99.56$
Other	27	12	62	(.304)	33	12	55	(.000)

* Only the ten items with the highest combined proportion of "very dissatisfied" and "dissatisfied" responses are included in this table.

Appendix Table 5 Continued.

	Your health				***Clean water***			
	Dissatisfied	*No opinion*	*Satisfied*	*Significance*	*Dissatisfied*	*No opinion*	*Satisfied*	*Significance*
				Percentages				
Community Size		(n = 2879)				(n = 2885)		
Less than 500	18	14	69		12	6	82	
500 - 999	16	12	73		11	10	79	
1,000 - 4,999	15	13	72		13	10	77	
5,000 - 9,999	15	8	77	$P^2 = 14.90$	23	8	69	$P^2 = 37.18$
10,000 and up	14	10	76	(.061)	14	10	76	(.000)
Region		(n = 2926)				(n = 2929)		
Panhandle	17	7	76		16	8	76	
North Central	18	11	71		10	7	83	
South Central	14	11	74		15	10	75	
Northeast	15	12	73	$P^2 = 8.71$	15	11	74	$P^2 = 19.48$
Southeast	16	11	73	(.368)	15	7	78	(.012)
Individual Attributes:								
Income Level		(n = 2670)				(n = 2677)		
Under $20,000	23	14	63		16	10	75	
$20,000 - $39,999	17	12	71		14	9	77	
$40,000 - $59,999	12	9	79	$P^2 = 75.54$	15	7	78	$P^2 = 7.00$
$60,000 and over	11	7	83	(.000)	14	7	79	(.321)
Age		(n = 2940)				(n = 2943)		
19 - 29	10	9	81		23	10	67	
30 - 39	12	9	79		20	8	72	
40 - 49	13	12	76		15	10	75	
50 - 64	17	11	72	$P^2 = 26.37$	15	7	78	$P^2 = 44.42$
65 and older	19	12	69	(.001)	9	10	81	(.000)
Gender		(n = 2899)				(n = 2902)		
Male	15	11	74	$P^2 = 1.59$	14	9	77	$P^2 = 0.83$
Female	16	11	73	(.451)	15	9	76	(.660)
Education		(n = 2889)				(n = 2894)		
No H.S. diploma	23	18	59		15	11	74	
High school diploma	16	14	70		13	11	75	
Some college	14	10	76	$P^2 = 57.03$	16	8	76	$P^2 = 16.72$
Bachelors or grad degree	14	6	80	(.000)	13	7	80	(.010)
Marital Status		(n = 2900)				(n = 2903)		
Married	14	10	76		14	7	79	
Never married	17	14	69		19	13	68	
Divorced/separated	19	17	64	$P^2 = 29.43$	21	12	66	$P^2 = 49.14$
Widowed	19	13	68	(.000)	8	13	79	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 1951)				(n = 1953)		
Sales	14	10	76		15	10	76	
Manual laborer	15	18	68		22	14	64	
Prof./technical/admin	11	7	83		16	7	76	
Service	11	10	79		15	9	76	
Farming/ranching	15	12	74		6	6	88	
Skilled laborer	8	15	77		17	9	74	
Admin. support	16	7	77	$P^2 = 38.53$	17	8	75	$P^2 = 38.91$
Other	15	15	69	(.000)	19	9	72	(.000)

* Only the ten items with the highest combined proportion of "very dissatisfied" and "dissatisfied" responses are included in this table.

Appendix Table 5 Continued.

	Your job				***Your education***			
	Dissatisfied	*No opinion*	*Satisfied*	*Significance*	*Dissatisfied*	*No opinion*	*Satisfied*	*Significance*
				Percentages				
Community Size		(n = 2007)				(n = 2810)		
Less than 500	20	13	67		11	16	73	
500 - 999	17	14	69		10	15	76	
1,000 - 4,999	21	12	67		14	14	73	
5,000 - 9,999	16	11	73	$P^2 = 5.16$	14	9	77	$P^2 = 16.01$
10,000 and up	19	14	68	(.741)	12	15	74	(.042)
Region		(n = 2029)				(n = 2848)		
Panhandle	22	11	68		15	11	75	
North Central	20	13	67		12	13	75	
South Central	18	14	68		10	15	75	
Northeast	17	14	69	$P^2 = 4.13$	12	15	72	$P^2 = 11.00$
Southeast	19	12	70	(.846)	13	13	74	(.201)
Individual Attributes:								
Income Level		(n = 1903)				(n = 2611)		
Under $20,000	25	18	58		13	20	67	
$20,000 - $39,999	25	13	62		14	16	70	
$40,000 - $59,999	17	13	70	$P^2 = 54.41$	14	10	76	$P^2 = 61.69$
$60,000 and over	13	9	78	(.000)	8	8	84	(.000)
Age		(n = 2039)				(n = 2861)		
19 - 29	22	13	65		17	12	71	
30 - 39	20	14	67		17	10	73	
40 - 49	21	12	67		17	11	73	
50 - 64	19	12	69	$P^2 = 20.77$	11	15	75	$P^2 = 69.81$
65 and older	9	18	73	(.008)	6	19	75	(.000)
Gender		(n = 2014)				(n = 2823)		
Male	17	14	69	$P^2 = 5.41$	12	15	73	$P^2 = 4.13$
Female	21	12	67	(.067)	13	13	75	(.127)
Education		(n = 2013)				(n = 2815)		
No H.S. diploma	21	15	64		18	30	52	
High school diploma	22	17	61		15	20	65	
Some college	20	14	66	$P^2 = 51.51$	15	14	71	$P^2 = 246.21$
Bachelors or grad degree	14	7	79	(.000)	3	3	94	(.000)
Marital Status		(n = 2018)				(n = 2825)		
Married	17	13	70		12	13	75	
Never married	24	16	60		13	14	73	
Divorced/separated	31	12	57	$P^2 = 33.70$	18	19	64	$P^2 = 29.02$
Widowed	9	16	76	(.000)	6	19	76	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 1900)				(n = 1938)		
Sales	19	15	66		17	14	69	
Manual laborer	32	21	47		24	24	53	
Prof./technical/admin	14	7	79		7	5	88	
Service	20	17	62		18	15	68	
Farming/ranching	18	17	65		11	16	73	
Skilled laborer	16	15	69		15	17	67	
Admin. support	22	9	69	$P^2 = 91.64$	19	12	69	$P^2 = 135.66$
Other	29	12	59	(.000)	20	18	63	(.000)

* Only the ten items with the highest combined proportion of "very dissatisfied" and "dissatisfied" responses are included in this table.

Appendix Table 6. *Perceptions of Community Change by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes*

	Communities across the nation are undergoing change. When you think about this past year, would you say... My community has changed for the			
	Worse	*Same*	*Better*	*Significance*
		Percentages		
Community Size		(n = 2837)		
Less than 500	27	61	12	
500 - 999	20	59	21	
1,000 - 4,999	23	56	21	$P^2 = 64.12$
5,000 - 9,999	29	50	21	(.000)
10,000 and up	27	45	28	
Region		(n = 2888)		
Panhandle	25	57	18	
North Central	27	49	24	
South Central	29	49	23	$P^2 = 21.12$
Northeast	23	54	23	(.007)
Southeast	21	58	22	
Individual Attributes:				
Income Level		(n = 2612)		
Under $20,000	28	53	19	
$20,000 - $39,999	24	54	22	$P^2 = 14.01$
$40,000 - $59,999	25	52	23	(.029)
$60,000 and over	26	47	27	
Age		(n = 2901)		
19 - 29	15	60	25	
30 - 39	21	54	25	
40 - 49	28	52	20	$P^2 = 25.75$
50 - 64	29	48	22	(.001)
65 and older	23	55	22	
Gender		(n = 2857)		
Male	26	51	23	$P^2 = 4.86$
Female	24	55	21	(.088)
Marital Status		(n = 2858)		
Married	25	53	22	
Never married	17	59	24	
Divorced/separated	33	47	20	$P^2 = 19.35$
Widowed	27	48	26	(.004)

Appendix Table 6 Continued.

	Communities across the nation are undergoing change. When you think about this past year, would you say... My community has changed for the			
	Worse	*Same*	*Better*	*Significance*
Education		(n = 2848)		
No H.S. diploma	24	54	22	
H.S. diploma	25	56	19	
Some college	27	52	21	$P^2 = 25.18$
Bachelors or grad degree	23	48	28	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 1894)		
Sales	29	51	20	
Manual laborer	28	54	18	
Professional/tech/admin	24	46	30	
Service	21	54	25	
Farming/ranching	26	60	14	
Skilled laborer	30	56	14	$P^2 = 53.70$
Administrative support	26	59	15	(.000)
Other	20	60	20	

Appendix Table 7. *Measures of Community Attributes in Relation to Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes*

	My community is...				***My community is...***				***My community is...***			
	Unfriendly	*No opinion*	*Friendly*	*Chi-square (sig.)*	*Distrusting*	*No opinion*	*Trusting*	*Chi-square (sig.)*	*Hostile*	*No opinion*	*Supportive*	*Chi-square (sig.)*
						Percentages						
Community Size		(n = 2803)				(n = 2699)				(n = 2689)		
Less than 500	8	14	77		12	19	69		10	16	74	
500 - 999	8	11	81		14	14	72		10	14	76	
1,000 - 4,999	8	17	75	P^2 =	13	22	65	P^2 =	12	22	67	P^2 =
5,000 - 9,999	11	19	70	23.39	17	22	61	34.86	14	21	64	29.90
10,000 and up	12	19	70	(.003)	17	26	57	(.000)	13	25	63	(.000)
Region		(n = 2849)				(n = 2741)				(n = 2730)		
Panhandle	8	16	76		14	22	64		13	19	68	
North Central	10	13	77		14	21	66		11	21	69	
South Central	11	18	71	P^2 =	16	22	62	P^2 =	14	22	64	P^2 =
Northeast	9	16	75	11.40	14	23	63	4.57	11	20	70	8.95
Southeast	9	19	72	(.180)	13	24	63	(.802)	11	23	67	(.346)
Individual Attributes:												
Income Level		(n = 2584)				(n = 2506)				(n = 2500)		
Under $20,000	11	18	72		14	24	62		13	21	66	
$20,000 - $39,999	9	16	75	P^2 =	14	23	63	P^2 =	13	20	67	P^2 =
$40,000 - $59,999	11	17	72	3.76	16	24	61	4.04	14	23	63	6.86
$60,000 and over	9	15	75	(.709)	15	20	65	(.672)	11	20	69	(.334)
Age		(n = 2862)				(n = 2753)				(n = 2741)		
19 - 29	15	19	67		17	24	59		14	26	60	
30 - 39	10	15	76		14	24	61		14	21	65	
40 - 49	10	20	70	P^2 =	17	26	57	P^2 =	14	24	61	P^2 =
50 - 64	11	17	72	27.44	17	21	62	40.00	12	22	65	46.16
65 and older	7	15	79	(.001)	10	19	71	(.000)	8	16	76	(.000)
Gender		(n = 2821)		P^2 =		(n = 2715)		P^2 =		(n = 2704)		P^2 =
Male	9	17	74	0.99	15	21	64	0.85	13	21	67	0.50
Female	10	17	73	(.609)	15	23	63	(.653)	12	21	68	(.777)

Appendix Table 7 continued.

	My community is...				***My community is...***				***My community is...***			
	Unfriendly	*No opinion*	*Friendly*	*Chi-square (sig.)*	*Distrusting*	*No opinion*	*Trusting*	*Chi-square (sig.)*	*Hostile*	*No opinion*	*Supportive*	*Chi-square (sig.)*
Marital Status		(n = 2821)				(n = 2714)				(n = 2704)		
Married	9	16	75		14	22	63		12	21	67	
Never married	10	20	70	P^2 =	14	25	62	P^2 =	13	27	60	P^2 =
Divorced/separated	17	20	64	25.45	22	23	54	23.79	18	24	58	35.37
Widowed	7	14	79	(.000)	10	17	73	(.001)	6	15	80	(.00)
Education		(n = 2813)				(n = 2708)				(n = 2698)		
No H.S. diploma	7	20	73		11	21	68		11	15	75	
H.S. diploma	8	18	74	P^2 =	14	24	62	P^2 =	12	22	66	P^2 =
Some college	10	18	72	14.03	16	23	62	7.90	12	24	64	20.14
Bachelors degree	11	13	76	(.029)	15	20	66	(.245)	12	16	71	(.003)
Occupation		(n = 1896)				(n = 1868)				(n = 1865)		
Sales	10	20	70		17	21	62		11	23	66	
Manual laborer	16	19	66		24	30	46		21	26	53	
Prof/tech/admin	9	15	76		14	21	65		10	21	69	
Service	10	20	70		13	26	62		13	20	67	
Farming/ranching	7	13	80		12	17	71		11	16	74	
Skilled laborer	9	23	68	P^2 =	20	26	53	P^2 =	14	27	59	P^2 =
Admin support	10	17	73	21.77	15	28	57	40.81	14	31	56	37.95
Other	8	18	74	(.083)	11	21	68	(.000)	19	17	65	(.001)

Appendix Table 8. *Level of Satisfaction with Community Services and Amenities*

Service/Amenity	***Dissatisfied****	***No opinion***	***Satisfied****
		Percentages	
Entertainment	45	20	34
Retail shopping	43	10	46
Restaurants	36	9	55
City/village government	30	21	49
Streets	29	9	62
County government	27	20	53
Law enforcement	24	10	66
Airline service	22	61	17
Bus service	22	67	11
Housing	21	18	61
Rail service	20	68	12
Highways and bridges	18	12	70
Basic medical care services	17	11	72
Taxi service	17	72	12
Airport	15	52	34
Mental health services	15	54	31
Education (K - 12)	14	16	70
Parks and recreation	13	11	77
Solid waste disposal	13	24	64
Nursing home care	13	27	61
Day care services	9	45	46
Sewage disposal	9	26	65
Water disposal	9	28	63
Library services	8	17	75
Head start programs	7	53	41
Senior centers	6	29	65

* Dissatisfied represents the combined percentage of "very dissatisfied" or "somewhat dissatisfied" responses. Similarly, satisfied is the combination of "very satisfied" and "somewhat satisfied" responses.

Appendix Table 9. *Measures of Satisfaction with Ten Services and Amenities in Relation to Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes*

	Entertainment			***Retail shopping***			***Restaurants***			***City/village government***		
	Dissatisfied	*No opinion*	*Satisfied*	*Dissatisfied*	*No opinion*	*Satisfied*	*Dissatisfied*	*No opinion*	*Satisfied*	*Dissatisfied*	*No opinion*	*Satisfied*
						Percentages						
Community Size		(n = 2816)			(n = 2843)			(n = 2874)			(n = 2877)	
Less than 500	40	29	31	38	21	41	30	16	54	25	27	49
500 - 4,999	46	24	30	44	12	44	38	11	51	28	21	51
5,000 and over	46	15	39	45	6	50	37	6	57	34	18	48
Chi-square (sig.)		P^2 = 55.56 (.000)			P^2 = 88.40 (.000)			P^2 = 46.61 (.000)			P^2 = 26.54 (.000)	
Region		(n = 2866)			(n = 2893)			(n = 2926)			(n = 2928)	
Panhandle	47	18	35	46	8	47	39	7	55	26	26	48
North Central	48	21	31	50	12	39	37	11	53	36	21	43
South Central	44	19	38	39	9	53	34	8	58	31	18	51
Northeast	44	21	35	44	11	45	33	10	57	29	20	51
Southeast	46	23	31	43	12	45	40	12	49	26	24	50
Chi-square (sig.)		P^2 = 12.04 (.149)			P^2 = 29.38 (.000)			P^2 = 20.95 (.007)			P^2 = 26.44 (.001)	
Income Level		(n = 2614)			(n = 2637)			(n = 2660)			(n = 2663)	
Under $20,000	35	29	36	38	13	49	29	13	57	26	23	51
$20,000 - $39,999	44	22	34	43	10	48	33	10	57	30	22	48
$40,000 - $59,999	53	14	33	49	9	42	41	8	51	33	16	51
$60,000 and over	53	15	33	45	9	46	42	6	52	33	17	50
Chi-square (sig.)		P^2 = 74.27 (.000)			P^2 = 20.40 (.002)			P^2 = 42.95 (.000)			P^2 = 17.31 (.008)	
Age		(n = 2879)			(n = 2906)			(n = 2940)			(n = 2942)	
19 - 39	58	13	29	48	10	42	43	9	48	29	28	43
40 - 64	51	18	31	47	10	43	39	8	53	34	19	47
65 and over	27	30	43	34	11	55	27	12	62	24	20	56
Chi-square (sig.)		P^2 = 177.41 (.000)			P^2 = 45.46 (.000)			P^2 = 50.04 (.000)			P^2 = 49.36 (.000)	
Gender		(n = 2838)			(n = 2864)			(n = 2897)			(n = 2901)	
Male	44	21	35	39	11	50	35	11	55	32	20	47
Female	47	20	34	48	10	43	37	8	55	28	21	51
Chi-square (sig.)		P^2 = 2.65 (.266)			P^2 = 23.79 (.000)			P^2 = 6.07 (.048)			P^2 = 6.87 (.032)	
Marital Status		(n = 2839)			(n = 2865)			(n = 2899)			(n = 2901)	
Married	47	19	34	45	10	46	38	9	54	31	20	50
Never married	49	15	36	40	12	48	33	12	55	26	26	47
Divorced/separate	50	22	27	47	13	41	34	14	52	37	26	37
Widowed	25	30	45	35	10	55	28	9	63	21	20	60
Chi-square (sig.)		P^2 = 65.74 (.000)			P^2 = 15.80 (.015)			P^2 = 21.13 (.002)			P^2 = 39.01 (.000)	
Education		(n = 2829)			(n = 2856)			(n = 2887)			(n = 2890)	
High school or less	39	25	36	38	12	50	30	11	59	28	22	50
Some college	47	19	34	45	10	45	37	10	53	34	22	45
College grad	52	15	33	50	9	41	42	6	52	28	17	55
Chi-square (sig.)		P^2 = 43.68 (.000)			P^2 = 29.14 (.000)			P^2 = 35.68 (.000)			P^2 = 23.18 (.000)	
Occupation		(n = 1903)			(n = 1914)			(n = 1927)			(n = 1928)	
Prof/tech/admin.	54	14	32	49	10	41	43	7	50	30	17	53
Farming/ranching	39	23	38	37	15	48	27	13	60	22	35	43
Laborer	51	17	32	42	9	49	35	10	55	36	22	42
Other	54	16	30	48	8	44	40	8	53	33	19	48
Chi-square (sig.)		P^2 = 21.43 (.002)			P^2 = 19.40 (.004)			P^2 = 24.16 (.000)			P^2 = 44.14 (.000)	

* Only the ten services with the highest combined percentage of very or somewhat dissatisfied are included in this table.

Appendix Table 9 Continued.

	Streets			County Government			Law Enforcement			Airline Service		
	Dissatisfied	*No opinion*	*Satisfied*	*Dissatisfied*	*No opinion*	*Satisfied*	*Dissatisfied*	*No opinion*	*Satisfied*	*Dissatisfied*	*No opinion*	*Satisfied*
						Percentages						
Community Size		(n = 2889)			(n = 2874)			(n = 2876)			(n = 2693)	
Less than 500	31	13	57	33	18	49	36	12	53	17	70	14
500 - 4,999	26	9	65	24	21	56	26	10	65	15	74	11
5,000 and over	31	8	62	28	20	52	20	9	71	29	49	23
Chi-square (sig.)		P^2 = 16.99 (.002)			P^2 = 14.41 (.006)			P^2 = 49.94 (.000)			P^2 = 172.32 (.000)	
Region		(n = 2942)			(n = 2923)			(n = 2928)			(n = 2741)	
Panhandle	30	10	61	27	21	53	24	14	63	32	47	21
North Central	33	8	59	35	19	46	31	8	60	25	59	16
South Central	30	9	61	25	21	54	23	9	68	29	51	20
Northeast	27	9	64	23	21	56	21	11	68	15	70	16
Southeast	25	10	65	28	20	52	25	10	64	11	75	14
Chi-square (sig.)		P^2 = 12.17 (.144)			P^2 = 22.20 (.005)			P^2 = 23.54 (.003)			P^2 = 147.73 (.000)	
Income Level		(n = 2667)			(n = 2661)			(n = 2656)			(n = 2514)	
Under $20,000	29	11	61	23	24	53	25	10	65	16	65	19
$20,000 - $39,999	28	9	63	28	20	52	26	10	64	19	65	16
$40,000 - $59,999	32	8	60	27	18	55	25	10	65	22	62	16
$60,000 and over	27	7	66	28	20	53	22	10	68	32	51	17
Chi-square (sig.)		P^2 = 11.38 (.077)			P^2 = 8.99 (.174)			P^2 = 3.93 (.686)			P^2 = 49.57 (.000)	
Age		(n = 2956)			(n = 2937)			(n = 2942)			(n = 2754)	
19 - 39	28	11	61	24	30	46	29	11	61	17	69	13
40 - 64	32	8	60	30	19	51	27	10	63	23	60	16
65 and over	23	10	67	22	18	60	18	9	73	21	57	22
Chi-square (sig.)		P^2 = 25.62 (.000)			P^2 = 60.37 (.000)			P^2 = 38.22 (.000)			P^2 = 29.73 (.000)	
Gender		(n = 2914)			(n = 2895)			(n = 2899)			(n = 2713)	
Male	30	10	61	30	17	53	24	11	65	25	58	17
Female	28	9	63	23	24	53	24	9	66	19	64	18
Chi-square (sig.)		P^2 = 2.11 (.348)			P^2 = 25.75 (.000)			P^2 = 1.79 (.409)			P^2 = 13.28 (.001)	
Marital Status		(n = 2913)			(n = 2897)			(n = 2900)			(n = 2716)	
Married	29	9	62	27	19	54	24	10	66	23	60	17
Never married	30	12	58	25	29	47	29	14	58	18	66	17
Divorced/separate	34	12	54	35	23	42	30	10	60	21	64	15
Widowed	22	7	71	18	20	62	18	7	75	19	60	21
Chi-square (sig.)		P^2 = 20.76 (.002)			P^2 = 37.73 (.000)			P^2 = 22.76 (.001)			P^2 = 7.04 (.318)	
Education		(n = 2903)			(n = 2885)			(n = 2890)			(n = 2706)	
High school or less	28	9	62	26	21	53	24	10	66	18	63	19
Some college	31	10	59	28	22	50	27	11	62	20	63	17
College grad	27	8	65	25	18	57	23	8	69	29	55	16
Chi-square (sig.)		P^2 = 6.76 (.149)			P^2 = 9.01 (.061)			P^2 = 11.00 (.027)			P^2 = 30.32 (.000)	
Occupation		(n = 1924)			(n = 1925)			(n = 1924)			(n = 1843)	
Prof/tech/admin.	31	7	62	25	20	55	24	11	65	25	59	16
Farming/ranching	24	17	60	32	19	50	28	13	60	16	67	17
Laborer	34	10	57	30	22	48	30	12	58	19	68	14
Other	29	8	63	29	21	50	26	8	66	20	64	16
Chi-square (sig.)		P^2 = 27.49 (.000)			P^2 = 7.21 (.302)			P^2 = 14.32 (.026)			P^2 = 13.37 (.038)	

* Only the ten services with the highest combined percentage of very or somewhat dissatisfied are included in this table.

Appendix Table 9 continued.

	Bus Service			Housing		
	Dissatisfied	*No opinion*	*Satisfied*	*Dissatisfied*	*No opinion*	*Satisfied*
			Percentages			
Community Size		(n = 2675)			(n = 2876)	
Less than 500	16	73	11	21	26	53
500 - 4,999	19	73	7	20	20	60
5,000 and over	26	61	14	23	14	64
Chi-square (sig.)		P^2 = 51.20 (.000)			P^2 = 38.29 (.000)	
Region		(n = 2723)			(n = 2929)	
Panhandle	34	56	11	23	20	57
North Central	24	67	9	27	20	53
South Central	25	64	12	23	15	62
Northeast	17	72	11	19	19	62
Southeast	17	72	11	18	17	65
Chi-square (sig.)		P^2 = 51.86 (.000)			P^2 = 26.91 (.001)	
Income Level		(n = 2496)			(n = 2658)	
Under $20,000	24	61	14	21	21	58
$20,000 - $39,999	21	68	11	23	20	58
$40,000 - $59,999	22	69	9	24	15	61
$60,000 and over	22	69	10	19	13	68
Chi-square (sig.)		P^2 = 14.03 (.029)			P^2 = 27.20 (.000)	
Age		(n = 2736)			(n = 2943)	
19 - 39	14	79	7	29	15	56
40 - 64	23	68	9	23	19	58
65 and over	26	58	17	14	18	68
Chi-square (sig.)		P^2 = 74.89 (.000)			P^2 = 54.18 (.000)	
Gender		(n = 2696)			(n = 2901)	
Male	23	66	11	20	19	61
Female	21	68	11	23	17	60
Chi-square (sig.)		P^2 = 1.53 (.466)			P^2 = 6.74 (.034)	
Marital Status		(n = 2699)			(n = 2900)	
Married	21	69	11	20	18	62
Never married	23	67	10	30	16	54
Divorced/separated	28	64	8	34	19	48
Widowed	24	58	18	14	16	70
Chi-square (sig.)		P^2 = 22.86 (.001)			P^2 = 49.99 (.000)	
Education		(n = 2688)			(n = 2890)	
High school or less	20	67	13	18	22	60
Some college	22	68	11	23	19	58
College grad	26	67	8	24	11	65
Chi-square (sig.)		P^2 = 18.80 (.001)			P^2 = 46.35 (.000)	
Occupation		(n = 1827)			(n = 1924)	
Prof/tech/admin.	23	69	8	24	13	63
Farming/ranching	17	74	10	20	34	46
Laborer	18	70	12	26	20	54
Other	21	71	9	23	16	61
Chi-square (sig.)		P^2 = 7.35 (.290)			P^2 = 58.63 (.000)	

* Only the ten services with the highest combined percentage of very or somewhat dissatisfied are included in this table.

Appendix Table 10. *Plans to Leave Community by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes*

	Do you plan to leave your community in the next year?				***If yes, where do you plan to move?***			
	Yes	*No*	*Uncertain*	*Chi-square (sig.)*	*Lincoln/Omaha metro areas*	*Some other place in NE*	*Some place other than Nebraska*	*Chi-square (sig.)*
					Percentages			
Community Size		(n = 2872)				(n = 126)		
Less than 500	4	89	6		19	31	50	
500 - 999	3	88	10		14*	71*	14*	
1,000 - 4,999	4	88	8		10	52	39	
5,000 - 9,999	5	85	10	$P^2 = 12.35$	21	21	58	$P^2 = 8.95$
10,000 and up	6	86	8	(.136)	15	36	49	(.347)
Region		(n = 2926)				(n = 125)		
Panhandle	6	84	10		6	18	77	
North Central	4	86	10		6	31	63	
South Central	5	86	9		7	57	36	
Northeast	3	91	6	$P^2 = 15.64$	27	36	36	$P^2 = 22.76$
Southeast	5	88	7	(.048)	31	27	42	(.004)
Individual Attributes:								
Income Level		(n = 2650)				(n = 121)		
Under $20,000	5	87	8		14	36	50	
$20,000 - $39,999	5	86	9		9	51	40	
$40,000 - $59,999	5	87	8	$P^2 = 5.16$	22	41	37	$P^2 = 6.64$
$60,000 and over	6	88	6	(.523)	16	26	58	(.355)
Age		(n = 2939)				(n = 126)		
19 - 29	18	68	15		4	44	52	
30 - 39	5	85	10		27	33	40	
40 - 49	4	87	10		14	36	50	
50 - 64	5	87	8	$P^2 = 107.96$	23	35	42	$P^2 = 8.26$
65 and older	2	93	5	(.000)	5	47	47	(.408)
Gender		(n = 2896)				(n = 125)		
Male	6	86	8	$P^2 = 15.04$	16	35	49	$P^2 = 1.65$
Female	3	89	8	(.001)	13	47	40	(.439)
Marital Status		(n = 2896)				(n = 125)		
Married	4	90	7		16	38	47	
Never married	11	77	12		14	33	52	
Divorced/separated	8	74	19	$P^2 = 85.41$	21	37	42	$P^2 = 3.00$
Widowed	5	91	5	(.000)	7	57	36	(.809)

	Do you plan to leave your community in the next year?				***If yes, where do you plan to move?***			
	Yes	*No*	*Uncertain*	*Chi-square (sig.)*	*Lincoln/Omaha metro areas*	*Some other place in NE*	*Some place other than Nebraska*	*Chi-square (sig.)*
Education		(n = 2888)				(n = 124)		
No H.S. diploma	2	89	9		0*	67*	33*	
H.S. diploma	3	90	7		7	52	41	
Some college	5	86	9	$P^2 = 15.01$	10	38	52	$P^2 = 11.26$
Bachelors degree	6	86	8	(.020)	29	29	43	(.081)
Occupation		(n = 1912)				(n = 89)		
Sales	6	87	7		27	27	46	
Manual laborer	6	83	12		13*	75*	13*	
Prof/tech/admin	6	86	8		24	35	41	
Service	5	88	8		0	62	39	
Farming/ranching	4	91	5		0*	40*	60*	
Skilled laborer	4	86	10	$P^2 = 14.04$	0*	13*	88*	$P^2 = 20.77$
Admin support	2	91	7	(.447)	0*	67*	33*	(.108)

* Note: Row percentages are calculated using a row total that contains less than 10 respondents.

CARI Research Report 03-2, July 2003

It is the policy of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln not to discriminate on the basis of sex, age, disability, race, color, religion, marital status, veteran's status, national or ethnic origin, or sexual orientation.