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Quality of Life in Rural Nebraska: Trends and Changes

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CENTER FOR APPLIED RURAL INNOVATION

A Research Report*

Quality of Life in Rural Nebraska: Trends and Changes

2004 Nebraska Rural Poll Results

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UNIVERSITY OF Nebraska Lincoln
IANR

Center Research Report 04-5, August 2004.

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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.

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Executive Summary

Nebraska's economy has begun to improve but the drought has continued to linger in some parts of the state. 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?

This report details 2,915 responses to the 2004 Nebraska Rural Poll, the ninth annual effort to understand rural Nebraskans' perceptions. Respondents were asked a series of questions regarding their individual well-being. Trends for these questions are examined by comparing data from the eight previous polls to this year's results. In addition, 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 positive about their current situation than they were last year.*** This year, 36 percent believe they are better off then they were five years ago, compared to only 27 percent in 2003. Also, the percent saying they are worse off then they were five years ago decreased from 30 percent to 23 percent. The proportion saying they remained about the same declined slightly from 43 percent to 41 percent.

- ***When looking to the future, rural Nebraskans are more positive than they were last year.*** The proportion believing they will be better off ten years from now increased from 31 percent to 37 percent. Conversely, the proportion that think they will be worse off decreased from 26 percent to 23 percent. The percent saying they will be about the same also decreased from 43 percent to 41 percent.

- ***Farmers and ranchers are less optimistic about their future situation than persons with different occupations.*** Only 38 percent of the farmers and ranchers think they will be better off ten years from now. In comparison, 51 percent of the persons with professional occupations say they will be better off. The farmers and ranchers are the occupation group most likely to say they will remain about the same ten years from now.

- ***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-three percent of the persons without a high school diploma agree that people are powerless to control their own lives. However, only 20 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.***

- ***Females are more likely than males to report being dissatisfied with their job***

opportunities. Fifty percent of females are dissatisfied with their job opportunities, compared to only 37 percent of the males.

Introduction

Nebraska's economy has begun to show signs of recovering from the decline experienced during the past two years. The Nebraska Farm Business, Inc. released 2003 farm income numbers that were the third highest since they started in 1976.[1] Other economic indicators have also shown improvements. However, the drought has continued in many parts of the state.

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 nine years? How satisfied are they with various items that influence their well-being? This paper addresses these questions.

The 2004 Nebraska Rural Poll is the ninth 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. Trends for all these questions will be examined by comparing the data from the eight previous polls to this year's results.

Methodology and Respondent Profile

This study is based on 2,915 responses from Nebraskans living in the 84 non-metropolitan counties in the state. A self-administered questionnaire was mailed in February and March to approximately 6,300 randomly selected households. Metropolitan counties not included in the sample were Cass, Dakota, Dixon, Douglas, Lancaster, Sarpy, Saunders, Seward and Washington. The 14-page questionnaire included questions pertaining to well-being, community, work, water issues, and health care. This paper reports only results from the well-being portion of the survey.

A 47% 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. Sixty-nine percent are married (Appendix Table 1[2]) and seventy-one 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 31 years. Fifty-two percent are living in or near towns or villages with populations less than 5,000.

Fifty-six percent of the respondents reported their approximate household income from all sources, before taxes, for 2003 was below

[1] The Nebraska Farm Business, Inc. averages can be viewed at their website: www.nfbi.net.

[2] 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 2000 U.S. Census data).

$40,000. Thirty-one percent reported incomes over $50,000. Ninety-three percent have attained at least a high school diploma.

Seventy percent were employed in 2003 on a full-time, part-time, or seasonal basis. Twenty-five percent are retired. Thirty-two percent of those employed reported working in a professional, technical or administrative occupation. Thirteen 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 32 miles, one way, to their primary job.

Trends in Well-Being (1996 - 2004)

Comparisons are made between the well-being data collected this year to the eight 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

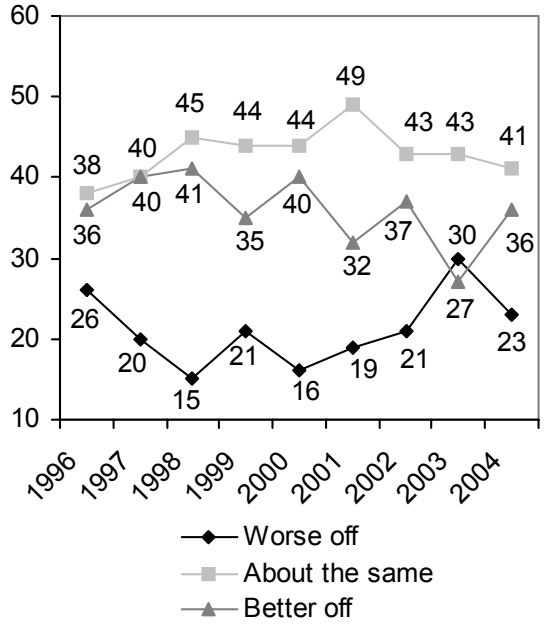
To examine perceptions of general well-being, respondents were asked four questions.

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 positive about their current situation than they were last year. This year, 36 percent believe they are better off than they were five years ago, compared to only 27 percent in 2003 (Figure 1). Also, the percent saying they are worse off than they were five years ago decreased from 30 percent to 23 percent. The proportion of respondents saying they remained about the same declined slightly (from 43% to 41%).

When examining the trends over the past nine years, rural Nebraskans have generally given positive reviews about their current situation.

Figure 1. *Well-Being Compared to Five Years Ago: 1996 - 2004*



Approximately 40 percent each year have reported that they were better off than they were five years ago. However, there were two noticeable declines that occurred in 2001 and 2003. 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, decreased to 16 percent in 2000, steadily increased to 30 percent in 2003 and then declined to 23 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 nine 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 more positive than they were last year. The proportion believing they will be better off ten years from now increased from 31 percent to 37 percent (Figure 3). Conversely, the proportion that think they will be worse off decreased from 26 percent to 23 percent. The proportion stating they will be about the same decreased slightly from 43 percent to 41 percent.

When examining the responses over all nine 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

Figure 2. *Well-Being Compared to Parents: 1996 - 2004*

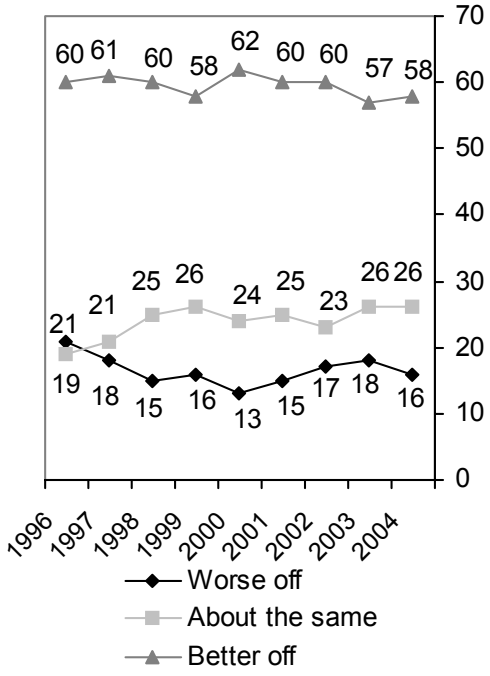
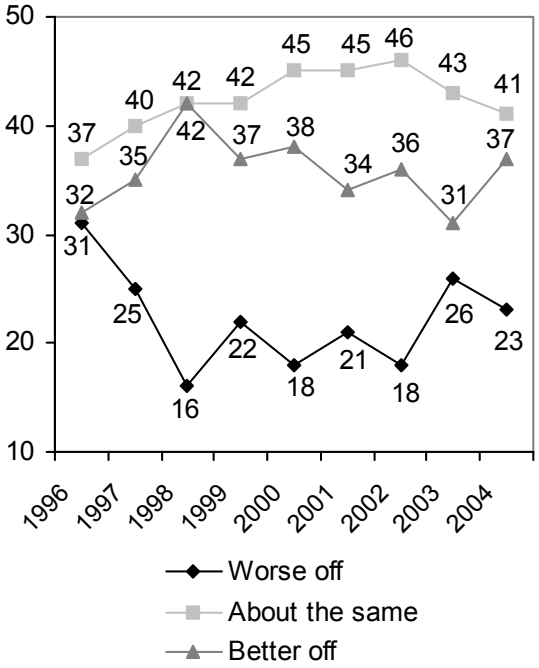


Figure 3. *Expected Well-Being Ten Years from Now: 1996 - 2004*



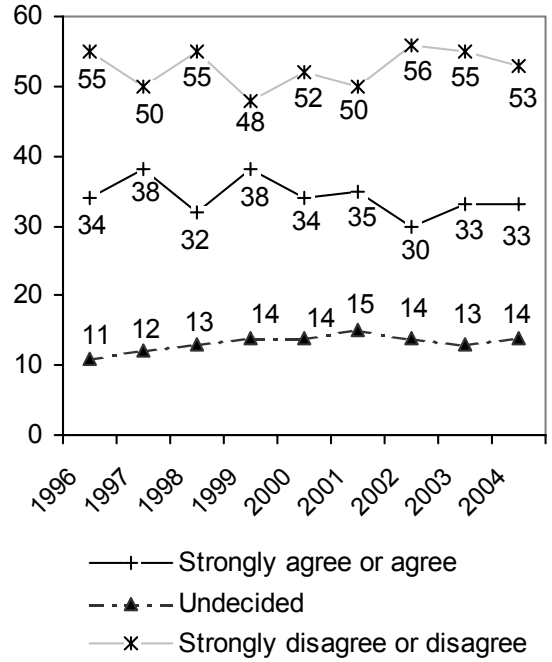
42 percent of the respondents felt they would be better off in the future. And, last year the proportion fell to 31 percent, the lowest of all nine years. The proportion of respondents stating they will be worse off ten years from now decreased from 31 percent in 1996 to 16 percent in 1998. This proportion then remained around 20 percent from 1999 to 2002. It then increased to 26 percent last year and then decreased to 23 percent this year.

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."

Responses to this question were virtually unchanged from last year. This year, 33 percent strongly agree or agree with the statement that people are powerless to control their lives, the same as last year (Figure 4). The proportion strongly disagreeing or disagreeing with the statement declined slightly from 55 percent last year to 53 percent this year.

When viewing the responses over all nine years, there are no noticeable trends. The proportion of those who either strongly disagree or disagree with the statement has remained approximately 53 percent each year, with slight deviations from this average. Similarly, the proportions that either strongly agree or agree with the statement each year has hovered around 35 percent. The proportion of those who were undecided each year has remained fairly constant.

Figure 4. *"...People are Powerless to Control Their Lives": 1996 - 2004*



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 eight 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 - 2004.**

Item	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
Your marriage	NA	NA	67	71	71	73	72	68	71
Your family	51	62	62	58	62	56	57	53	56
Your religion/spirituality	42	48	48	46	51	50	49	46	45
Your friends	37	47	47	46	48	46	47	44	45
Greenery and open space	NA	NA	52	52	46	47	50	37	42
Clean air	NA	NA	NA	NA	38	41	43	33	37
Your housing	NA	34	35	39	38	38	39	34	36
Clean water	NA	NA	NA	NA	34	38	40	33	35
Your spare time**	13	NA	29	30	32	31	32	30	30
Your education	24	27	28	28	28	28	31	27	29
Your job satisfaction	22	25	24	25	24	24	28	22	27
Your job security	19	24	25	24	27	26	28	21	26
Your health	26	34	29	29	28	27	27	25	25
Your community	17	20	16	19	17	20	17	16	17
Job opportunities for you	10	12	11	12	11	11	13	11	12
Your current income level	12	15	12	12	12	12	12	11	12
Financial security during retirement	10	14	10	11	10	10	10	7	9

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 proportions in 2003 were slightly lower than previous years. However, most proportions increased again this year. The larger increases occurred with the following items: greenery and open space, their job, and job security.

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, 2004 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 and will be better off ten years from now. Sixty-two percent of the persons age 19 to 29 feel they are better

off compared to five years ago. However, only 21 percent of the persons age 65 and older share this opinion. The older respondents are the group most likely to believe they are better off compared to their parents when they were their age.

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, 52 percent of the respondents with household incomes of $60,000 or more think they will be better off ten years from now. However, only 23 percent of the respondents with household incomes under $20,000 believe they will be better off in ten years.

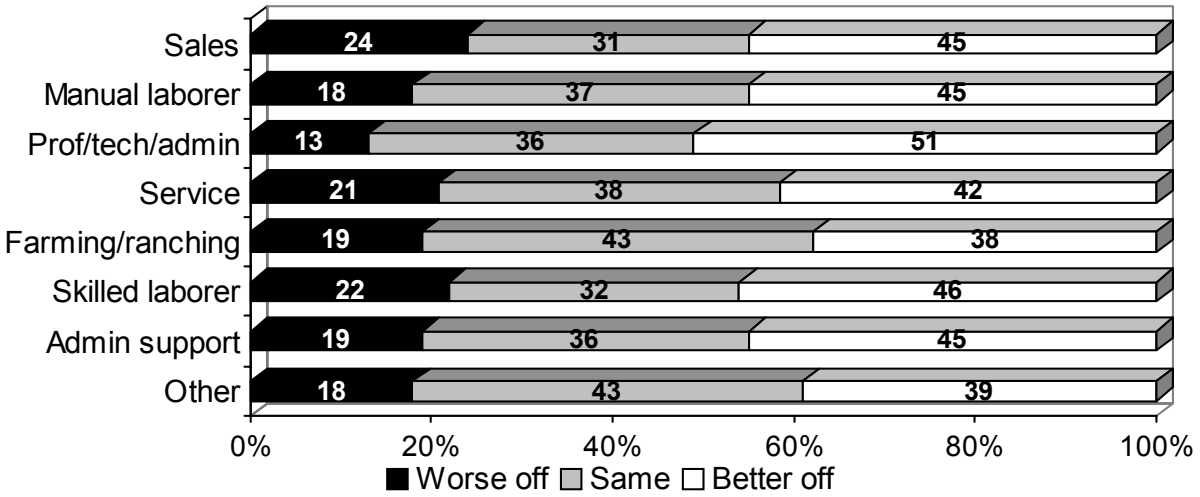
Persons with higher educational levels are more likely than the persons with less education to think they are better off compared to five years ago and will be better off ten years from now. Forty-seven percent of the respondents with at least a four-year college degree believe they are better off than they were five years ago. Only 22 percent of the persons without a high school diploma share this optimism.

Males are more likely than females to think they are better off compared to five years ago, are better off than their parents when they were their age and will be better off ten years from now.

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 widowed 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 and will be better off ten years from now. Fifty-one percent of the persons with

Figure 5. Well-Being Ten Years from Now by Occupation



professional occupations believe they will be better off ten years from now (Figure 5). Only 38 percent of the farmers and ranchers think they will be better off ten years from now.

Persons living in or near the larger communities are more likely than the persons living in or near the smaller communities to believe they will be better off ten years from now. Forty percent of the persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more think they will be better off ten years from now, compared to only 30 percent of the persons living in or near communities with less than 500 people. Persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 500 to 999 join the residents of the largest communities as being the most likely to think they are better off compared to five years ago.

Persons living in the South Central region of the state (see Appendix Figure 1 for the counties included in each region) are more likely than persons living elsewhere to believe they are better off compared to five years ago.

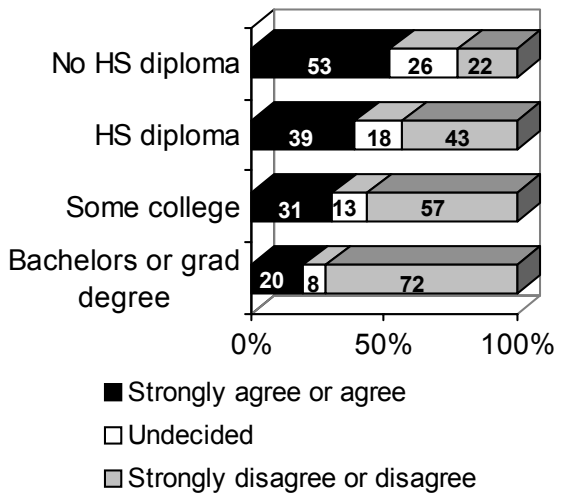
The respondents were also asked if they believe people are powerless to control their own lives. Thirty-three percent either strongly agree or agree that people are powerless to control their own lives (see Figure 4). Fourteen percent are undecided and 53 percent either strongly disagree or disagree.

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-three percent of the persons without a high school diploma agree that people are powerless to control their own lives (Figure 6). However, only 20 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-nine percent of the manual laborers agree or strongly agree with that statement. Only 24

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



percent of the persons with professional or administrative support occupations agree.

Other groups most likely to believe people are powerless include: persons living in the North Central region, 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 (55%), their marriage (49%), their religion/spirituality (45%), their friends (45%), greenery and open space (42%), clean air (37%), their housing (36%) and clean water (35%). Items receiving the highest proportion of very dissatisfied responses include: financial security during retirement (23%), current income level (17%), and job opportunities for you (13%).

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. Fifty-seven percent of the persons with household incomes under $20,000 report being dissatisfied with their current income level, compared to only 20 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. Sixty-four percent of the divorced/separated respondents are dissatisfied with their financial security during retirement, compared to only 37 percent of the widowed respondents.

When comparing the age groups, the persons under the age of 64 are more likely than the persons age 65 and older 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 both items.

The skilled laborers are more likely than persons with different occupations to be dissatisfied with their financial security during retirement. Sixty-one percent of the skilled laborers report being dissatisfied with their financial security during retirement, compared to only 45 percent of the farmers/ranchers or the persons with occupations classified as "other."

The manual laborers, however, are the occupation group most likely to be dissatisfied with their current income level. Forty-nine percent of the manual laborers report being dissatisfied with their current income level, compared to only 32 percent of the persons with professional occupations.

The persons with some college education are most likely to be dissatisfied with their financial security during retirement. But the persons with no high school diploma are the group most likely to be dissatisfied with their current income level.

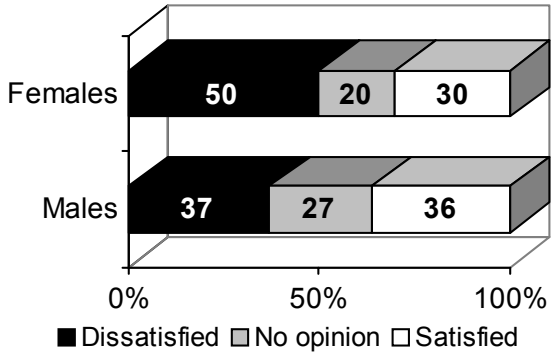
Persons with lower household incomes are more likely than persons with higher incomes to be dissatisfied with their job, their job security and their job opportunities. Fifty percent of the persons with household incomes under $20,000 are dissatisfied with their job opportunities, compared to 30 percent 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 27 percent of the farmers and ranchers.

Persons with no 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 under the age of 64 are more likely than persons age 65 or older to be dissatisfied with these three job-related items.

Females are more likely than males to report dissatisfaction with their job opportunities (Figure 7). Fifty percent of females are dissatisfied with the job opportunities for them, compared to only 37 percent of males.

Figure 7. *Dissatisfaction with Job Opportunities by Gender*



Persons with administrative support positions are the occupation group most likely to express dissatisfaction with their community. Twenty-nine percent of this group are dissatisfied with their community, compared to 13 percent of the farmers and ranchers.

The divorced/separated respondents are the marital group most likely to be dissatisfied with their community. Twenty-five percent of these respondents are dissatisfied with their community, compared to only 10 percent of the widowed respondents.

Other groups most likely to be dissatisfied with their community include: persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 5,000 to 9,999, the younger respondents and persons with some college education.

Younger persons are more likely than older persons to express dissatisfaction with their spare time. Thirty percent of the persons between the ages of 30 and 49 report being dissatisfied with their spare time, compared to only five 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 four characteristics: region, income, age and education. The groups most likely to report being dissatisfied with their health are: persons living in the Southeast region, those with the lowest household incomes, the older respondents and the persons without a high school diploma.

Persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 5,000 to 9,999 are more likely than persons living in communities of different sizes to express dissatisfaction with clean water. Twenty-nine percent of the persons living in or near communities of this size are dissatisfied with clean water. Only 12 percent of the persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 1,000 to 4,999 share this opinion.

Other groups most likely to express dissatisfaction with clean water include: persons living in the South Central region, persons with mid-level household incomes, the younger respondents and persons who are divorced or separated. The occupation groups most likely to express dissatisfaction with clean water include: manual laborers, skilled laborers and persons with service occupations.

The groups most likely to be dissatisfied with their education are: persons with household incomes ranging from $20,000 to $39,999; the younger respondents; persons with lower educational levels; the divorced/separated respondents and the manual laborers.

Conclusion

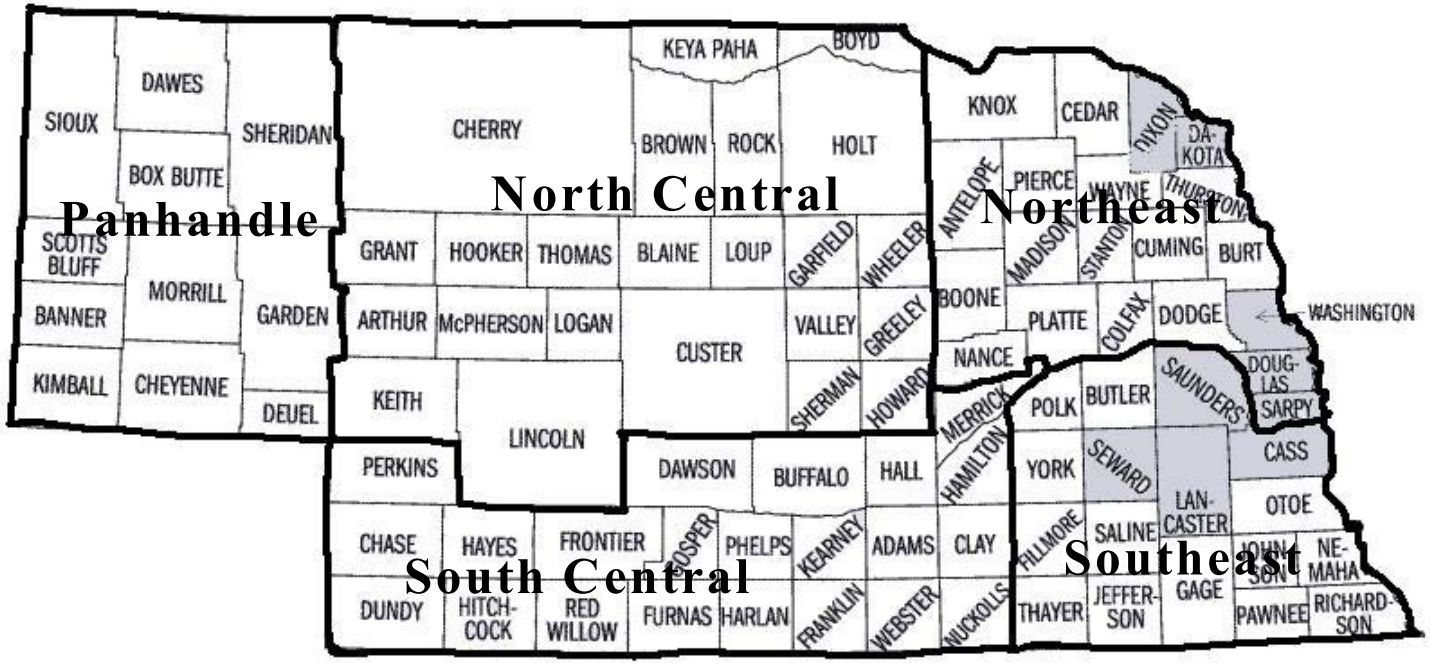
Rural Nebraskans are more positive about their current situation as well as their future than they were last year. The proportion stating that they are better off than they were five years ago increased from 27 percent in 2003 to 36 percent this year. Similarly, in 2003, 31 percent believed they would be better off ten years from now. This proportion increased to 37 percent this year.

Certain groups, however, remain pessimistic about their situation. Residents of the smallest communities, persons with lower household incomes, older respondents, females, persons with lower educational levels, the widowed respondents 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, thirty-three percent of this year's respondents agreed, the same proportion as in 2003. The manual laborers, the widowed respondents, persons with lower educational levels, older respondents, persons with lower household incomes and persons living in the North Central region 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.

Appendix Figure 1. Regions of Nebraska



Metropolitan counties (not surveyed)

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

	2004 Poll	***2003 Poll***	***2002 Poll***	***2001 Poll***	***2000 Poll***	***2000 Census***
Age : [1]						
20 - 39	18%	18%	16%	17%	20%	33%
40 - 64	49%	51%	51%	49%	54%	42%
65 and over	32%	32%	32%	33%	26%	24%
Gender: [2]						
Female	32%	51%	36%	37%	57%	51%
Male	68%	49%	64%	63%	43%	49%
Education: [3]						
Less than 9th grade	3%	2%	3%	4%	2%	7%
9th to 12th grade (no diploma)	5%	5%	4%	5%	4%	10%
High school diploma (or equivalent)	34%	34%	32%	35%	34%	35%
Some college, no degree	24%	23%	25%	26%	28%	25%
Associate degree	12%	11%	10%	8%	9%	7%
Bachelors degree	15%	16%	16%	13%	15%	11%
Graduate or professional degree	8%	9%	10%	8%	9%	4%
Household income: [4]						
Less than $10,000	9%	8%	8%	9%	3%	10%
$10,000 - $19,999	15%	14%	15%	16%	10%	16%
$20,000 - $29,999	16%	16%	17%	20%	15%	17%
$30,000 - $39,999	16%	16%	17%	16%	19%	15%
$40,000 - $49,999	13%	13%	14%	14%	17%	12%
$50,000 - $59,999	11%	11%	11%	9%	15%	10%
$60,000 - $74,999	10%	11%	9%	8%	11%	9%
$75,000 or more	11%	11%	10%	8%	11%	11%
Marital Status: [5]						
Married	69%	73%	73%	70%	95%	61%
Never married	9%	7%	6%	7%	0.2%	22%
Divorced/separated	10%	9%	9%	10%	2%	9%
Widowed/widower	12%	11%	12%	14%	4%	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 = 2801)				(n = 2792)				(n = 2749)		
Less than 500	25	44	31		19	25	57		26	43	30	
500 - 999	21	39	39		17	23	60		20	42	38	
1,000 - 4,999	21	43	36		17	26	58		20	43	38	
5,000 - 9,999	27	43	30	$P^2 = 18.08$	14	30	56	$P^2 = 10.20$	25	40	35	$P^2 = 18.99$
10,000 and up	22	39	39	(.021)	15	25	60	(.251)	23	38	40	(.015)
Region		(n = 2849)				(n = 2838)				(n = 2797)		
Panhandle	27	42	31		19	27	54		26	40	34	
North Central	24	42	34		16	28	56		25	39	36	
South Central	20	40	40		15	25	60		19	40	41	
Northeast	22	40	38	$P^2 = 22.62$	15	25	60	$P^2 = 7.27$	23	41	36	$P^2 = 15.28$
Southeast	25	45	30	(.004)	17	25	58	(.508)	23	44	33	(.054)
Individual Attributes:												
Income Level		(n = 2631)				(n = 2623)				(n = 2589)		
Under $20,000	34	44	23		23	27	50		31	46	23	
$20,000 - $39,999	25	44	31		18	27	56		24	41	36	
$40,000 - $59,999	20	38	42	$P^2 = 196.06$	11	29	59	$P^2 = 74.20$	20	36	44	$P^2 = 130.43$
$60,000 and over	9	34	57	(.000)	11	19	70	(.000)	12	36	52	(.000)
Age		(n = 2865)				(n = 2854)				(n = 2812)		
19 - 29	9	29	62		11	24	65		3	25	72	
30 - 39	16	27	58		17	27	56		9	28	63	
40 - 49	20	38	41		22	27	51		15	34	51	
50 - 64	29	38	33	$P^2 = 248.21$	20	27	52	$P^2 = 84.70$	26	42	33	$P^2 = 479.00$
65 and older	25	54	21	(.000)	9	24	68	(.000)	34	52	14	(.000)
Gender		(n = 2830)				(n = 2818)				(n = 2777)		
Male	22	40	38	$P^2 = 10.58$	15	26	60	$P^2 = 9.29$	22	39	39	$P^2 = 7.07$
Female	24	44	32	(.005)	19	26	55	(.010)	23	43	34	(.029)

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 = 2825)				(n = 2813)				(n = 2773)		
No H.S. diploma	29	49	22		12	27	61		36	46	18	
H. S. diploma	25	48	28		17	27	57		27	46	27	
Some college	23	37	40	$P^2 = 89.00$	16	27	57	$P^2 = 9.77$	20	36	44	$P^2 = 122.02$
Bachelors or graduate degree	18	35	47	(.000)	16	22	62	(.135)	16	38	46	(.000)
Marital Status		(n = 2833)				(n = 2822)				(n = 2782)		
Married	22	40	39		15	26	60		22	39	39	
Never married	18	40	42		17	30	53		16	38	46	
Divorced/separated	25	40	35	$P^2 = 56.01$	33	25	43	$P^2 = 82.23$	21	36	43	$P^2 = 96.69$
Widowed	29	53	19	(.000)	9	23	68	(.000)	31	57	13	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 1903)				(n = 1897)				(n = 1888)		
Sales	23	37	40		19	27	55		24	31	45	
Manual laborer	23	42	35		16	30	54		18	37	45	
Prof/tech/admin	16	33	51		14	24	62		13	36	51	
Service	22	42	37		20	26	54		21	38	42	
Farming/ranching	23	40	37		17	33	50		19	43	38	
Skilled laborer	23	37	40		19	29	52		22	32	46	
Admin. support	21	33	46	$P^2 = 34.45$	21	26	54	$P^2 = 21.26$	19	36	45	$P^2 = 30.22$
Other	26	36	38	(.002)	25	19	56	(.095)	18	43	39	(.007)

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 = 2802)			
Less than 500	9	27	16	39	10	
500 - 999	8	23	12	44	13	
1,000 - 4,999	10	24	15	37	14	
5,000 - 9,999	8	23	16	40	13	$P^2 = 23.23$
10,000 and up	9	22	12	43	14	(.108)
Region			(n = 2851)			
Panhandle	8	23	14	38	17	
North Central	12	28	12	38	11	
South Central	8	20	13	45	14	
Northeast	10	25	16	37	12	$P^2 = 36.29$
Southeast	9	25	15	38	13	(.003)
Individual Attributes:						
Income Level			(n = 2632)			
Under $20,000	15	29	18	30	8	
$20,000 - $39,999	9	26	15	40	10	
$40,000 - $59,999	8	21	13	44	15	$P^2 = 167.72$
$60,000 and over	4	16	9	49	23	(.000)
Age			(n = 2867)			
19 - 29	5	14	15	47	19	
30 - 39	7	16	12	45	20	
40 - 49	7	21	13	42	16	
50 - 64	9	24	11	44	13	$P^2 = 137.99$
65 and older	12	30	19	32	7	(.000)
Gender			(n = 2831)			
Male	9	24	14	39	14	$P^2 = 12.62$
Female	9	23	16	42	10	(.013)
Education			(n = 2826)			
No H.S. diploma	20	33	26	17	5	
H.S. diploma	12	27	18	33	10	
Some college	8	23	13	42	15	$P^2 = 236.31$
Bachelors or grad degree	4	16	8	55	17	(.000)
Marital Status			(n = 2834)			
Married	8	23	14	41	15	
Never married	9	25	17	40	10	
Divorced/separated	12	24	10	40	14	$P^2 = 43.95$
Widowed	11	28	20	35	5	(.000)

Appendix Table 3 Continued.

	Strongly Agree	*Agree*	*Undecided*	*Disagree*	*Strongly Disagree*	*Significance*
Occupation			(n = 1904)			
Sales	8	21	10	42	18	
Manual laborer	13	26	16	38	8	
Prof/technical/admin.	5	19	8	48	20	
Service	9	20	13	47	11	
Farming/ranching	8	25	10	41	16	
Skilled laborer	7	22	17	37	17	
Admin. support	8	16	10	52	14	$P^2 = 64.64$
Other	7	19	19	43	12	(.000)

Appendix Table 4. *Satisfaction with Items Affecting Well-Being, 2004.*

Item	*Does Not Apply*	*Very Dissatisfied*	*Dissatisfied*	*No Opinion*	*Satisfied*	*Very Satisfied*
Your family	1	1	2	7	33	55
Your marriage	31	1	1	3	15	49
Your religion/spirituality	2	1	3	17	32	45
Your friends	1	1	3	10	40	45
Greenery and open space	0	2	5	12	40	42
Clean air	0	3	7	12	41	37
Your housing	0	3	8	10	43	36
Clean water	0	5	12	10	39	35
Your spare time	1	5	13	14	38	30
Your education	0	2	9	16	44	29
Your health	0	6	12	11	46	25
Your job satisfaction	32	4	8	8	30	19
Your job security	33	5	9	10	27	18
Your community	0	4	15	17	47	17
Current income level	0	17	22	12	37	12
Job opportunities for you	23	13	18	19	17	9
Financial security during retirement	0	23	25	15	28	9

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 = 2565)				(n = 2649)		
Less than 500	50	16	34		42	13	45	
500 - 999	49	14	37		41	9	50	
1,000 - 4,999	46	16	38		37	15	49	
5,000 - 9,999	50	15	34	$P^2 = 5.15$	41	11	48	$P^2 = 12.57$
10,000 and up	49	14	37	(.741)	39	11	51	(.128)
Region		(n = 2604)				(n = 2691)		
Panhandle	49	16	36		41	11	48	
North Central	49	16	36		39	14	47	
South Central	48	14	39		39	9	51	
Northeast	47	17	36	$P^2 = 4.86$	37	14	49	$P^2 = 12.10$
Southeast	50	14	36	(.772)	40	14	46	(.147)
Individual Attributes:								
Income Level		(n = 2414)				(n = 2509)		
Under $20,000	56	20	24		57	18	25	
$20,000 - $39,999	53	13	34		47	10	43	
$40,000 - $59,999	47	14	40	$P^2 = 103.04$	33	8	60	$P^2 = 304.38$
$60,000 and over	38	10	52	(.000)	20	7	73	(.000)
Age		(n = 2619)				(n = 2706)		
19 - 29	53	25	22		47	8	45	
30 - 39	55	18	27		41	6	54	
40 - 49	58	12	29		46	8	46	
50 - 64	54	12	34	$P^2 = 147.02$	41	11	48	$P^2 = 95.54$
65 and older	33	17	50	(.000)	30	20	50	(.000)
Gender		(n = 2585)				(n = 2671)		
Male	47	15	38	$P^2 = 9.50$	37	12	51	$P^2 = 14.07$
Female	53	14	33	(.009)	44	11	44	(.001)
Education		(n = 2582)				(n = 2668)		
No H.S. diploma	46	29	25		47	28	25	
High school diploma	48	17	35		42	15	43	
Some college	55	12	33	$P^2 = 87.86$	42	9	49	$P^2 = 135.62$
Bachelors or grad degree	41	10	49	(.000)	30	7	63	(.000)
Marital Status		(n = 2587)				(n = 2673)		
Married	48	13	38		37	11	51	
Never married	48	24	28		47	14	40	
Divorced/separated	64	15	21	$P^2 = 67.01$	52	8	40	$P^2 = 43.28$
Widowed	37	17	46	(.000)	33	18	49	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 1734)				(n = 1871)		
Sales	56	13	31		41	6	53	
Manual laborer	58	18	24		49	13	39	
Prof./technical/admin	52	7	40		32	6	62	
Service	52	16	32		44	11	44	
Farming/ranching	45	21	34		44	15	40	
Skilled laborer	61	14	26		47	8	45	
Admin. support	55	12	33	$P^2 = 55.22$	45	6	50	$P^2 = 72.69$
Other	45	21	34	(.000)	42	11	47	(.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 = 2100)				(n = 2745)		
Less than 500	42	26	32		18	18	65	
500 - 999	39	25	37		16	16	68	
1,000 - 4,999	38	27	35		17	16	67	
5,000 - 9,999	41	25	34	$P^2 = 5.62$	26	18	56	$P^2 = 19.78$
10,000 and up	43	24	33	(.690)	19	16	65	(.011)
Region		(n = 2130)				(n = 2787)		
Panhandle	43	21	36		22	18	61	
North Central	44	28	28		21	18	61	
South Central	41	24	35		17	15	68	
Northeast	39	25	36	$P^2 = 8.79$	19	17	65	$P^2 = 9.02$
Southeast	39	27	34	(.360)	19	17	64	(.340)
Individual Attributes:								
Income Level		(n = 2004)				(n = 2590)		
Under $20,000	50	24	26		20	21	59	
$20,000 - $39,999	47	26	27		18	17	65	
$40,000 - $59,999	41	22	38	$P^2 = 62.24$	22	15	64	$P^2 = 22.30$
$60,000 and over	30	26	44	(.000)	18	12	70	(.001)
Age		(n = 2142)				(n = 2802)		
19 - 29	46	18	36		23	15	63	
30 - 39	47	20	34		21	15	63	
40 - 49	42	23	35		24	18	58	
50 - 64	43	25	32	$P^2 = 61.43$	22	16	62	$P^2 = 60.86$
65 and older	26	40	35	(.000)	11	17	72	(.000)
Gender		(n = 2118)				(n = 2770)		
Male	37	27	36	$P^2 = 28.07$	19	17	64	$P^2 = 0.77$
Female	50	20	30	(.000)	19	16	65	(.680)
Education		(n = 2114)				(n = 2765)		
No H.S. diploma	50	29	21		17	27	55	
High school diploma	41	29	31		18	17	65	
Some college	44	23	33	$P^2 = 34.99$	21	18	62	$P^2 = 42.75$
Bachelors or grad degree	35	22	43	(.000)	18	10	72	(.000)
Marital Status		(n = 2119)				(n = 2772)		
Married	38	26	36		19	16	65	
Never married	51	22	27		23	20	57	
Divorced/separated	53	17	30	$P^2 = 40.48$	25	18	57	$P^2 = 34.01$
Widowed	30	38	32	(.000)	10	19	72	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 1787)				(n = 1887)		
Sales	39	26	35		21	16	63	
Manual laborer	55	21	25		24	21	56	
Prof./technical/admin	36	22	42		20	12	67	
Service	43	22	35		23	22	55	
Farming/ranching	27	36	37		13	15	72	
Skilled laborer	46	23	31		23	17	60	
Admin. support	54	16	31	$P^2 = 61.64$	29	10	61	$P^2 = 37.92$
Other	44	30	26	(.000)	24	16	60	(.001)

* 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 = 2706)				(n = 1895)		
Less than 500	17	14	69		21	18	61	
500 - 999	21	14	65		22	14	63	
1,000 - 4,999	18	13	68		19	12	69	
5,000 - 9,999	17	14	69	$P^2 = 2.20$	20	15	65	$P^2 = 8.05$
10,000 and up	19	13	68	(.974)	20	14	66	(.429)
Region		(n = 2748)				(n = 1919)		
Panhandle	18	17	66		22	17	62	
North Central	19	13	69		22	17	62	
South Central	18	14	69		20	13	68	
Northeast	19	12	69	$P^2 = 4.99$	20	14	66	$P^2 = 5.24$
Southeast	19	15	66	(.759)	20	13	67	(.732)
Individual Attributes:								
Income Level		(n = 2555)				(n = 1811)		
Under $20,000	14	18	69		30	22	48	
$20,000 - $39,999	20	12	68		24	14	61	
$40,000 - $59,999	21	11	68	$P^2 = 29.71$	19	13	68	$P^2 = 69.78$
$60,000 and over	23	11	67	(.000)	13	10	77	(.000)
Age		(n = 2762)				(n = 1931)		
19 - 29	28	10	61		21	12	68	
30 - 39	30	14	55		22	12	66	
40 - 49	30	13	57		22	14	65	
50 - 64	16	14	70	$P^2 = 209.01$	20	13	67	$P^2 = 21.88$
65 and older	5	14	81	(.000)	15	24	61	(.005)
Gender		(n = 2727)				(n = 1910)		
Male	19	13	69	$P^2 = 1.62$	21	14	66	$P^2 = 0.78$
Female	18	15	67	(.445)	20	15	65	(.677)
Education		(n = 2724)				(n = 1909)		
No H.S. diploma	11	23	66		30	20	51	
High school diploma	17	13	70		22	17	61	
Some college	20	13	67	$P^2 = 26.39$	22	12	66	$P^2 = 27.73$
Bachelors or grad degree	20	11	69	(.000)	15	12	73	(.000)
Marital Status		(n = 2731)				(n = 1912)		
Married	19	11	70		20	13	68	
Never married	17	21	62		24	18	58	
Divorced/separated	30	18	53	$P^2 = 83.48$	27	11	62	$P^2 = 29.87$
Widowed	7	20	74	(.000)	11	29	60	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 1877)				(n = 1826)		
Sales	25	11	64		21	13	66	
Manual laborer	27	15	58		32	19	49	
Prof./technical/admin	22	12	66		15	13	73	
Service	24	16	61		26	12	62	
Farming/ranching	22	10	68		18	15	67	
Skilled laborer	24	10	67		22	16	63	
Admin. support	24	13	63	$P^2 = 10.96$	17	17	65	$P^2 = 47.13$
Other	21	16	63	(.689)	23	8	70	(.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 = 2728)				(n = 2750)		
Less than 500	21	12	68		16	6	78	
500 - 999	19	9	72		14	8	78	
1,000 - 4,999	16	11	74		12	9	79	
5,000 - 9,999	19	11	70	$P^2 = 8.75$	29	10	61	$P^2 = 67.64$
10,000 and up	19	9	71	(.363)	15	12	73	(.000)
Region		(n = 2766)				(n = 2798)		
Panhandle	18	14	69		18	10	73	
North Central	20	10	70		12	9	79	
South Central	18	10	73		20	9	72	
Northeast	15	12	74	$P^2 = 16.24$	15	12	73	$P^2 = 17.96$
Southeast	23	9	68	(.039)	16	10	75	(.022)
Individual Attributes:								
Income Level		(n = 2569)				(n = 2592)		
Under $20,000	26	15	59		16	13	72	
$20,000 - $39,999	19	10	71		18	9	73	
$40,000 - $59,999	15	8	77	$P^2 = 79.34$	18	8	74	$P^2 = 14.42$
$60,000 and over	13	7	80	(.000)	15	8	78	(.025)
Age		(n = 2781)				(n = 2811)		
19 - 29	12	4	85		19	12	69	
30 - 39	15	6	79		18	13	69	
40 - 49	18	11	71		19	9	72	
50 - 64	21	10	69	$P^2 = 42.26$	20	9	71	$P^2 = 45.06$
65 and older	19	14	67	(.000)	10	9	80	(.000)
Gender		(n = 2749)				(n = 2775)		
Male	18	11	72	$P^2 = 3.13$	16	9	75	$P^2 = 10.27$
Female	20	9	71	(.209)	17	12	71	(.006)
Education		(n = 2746)				(n = 2772)		
No H.S. diploma	27	19	53		17	18	65	
High school diploma	19	12	69		15	11	75	
Some college	18	10	72	$P^2 = 57.11$	18	9	73	$P^2 = 26.60$
Bachelors or grad degree	16	6	79	(.000)	16	7	77	(.000)
Marital Status		(n = 2752)				(n = 2779)		
Married	18	9	73		16	8	76	
Never married	21	13	67		19	19	62	
Divorced/separated	21	13	66	$P^2 = 12.09$	23	15	62	$P^2 = 61.26$
Widowed	19	13	68	(.060)	12	11	78	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 1885)				(n = 1887)		
Sales	18	10	73		17	12	71	
Manual laborer	15	13	72		23	16	61	
Prof./technical/admin	13	8	79		17	8	75	
Service	15	7	78		23	10	67	
Farming/ranching	14	10	76		3	7	90	
Skilled laborer	15	10	75		23	9	69	
Admin. support	25	5	70	$P^2 = 22.12$	17	14	69	$P^2 = 69.19$
Other	16	14	70	(.076)	21	11	68	(.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 = 1902)				(n = 2669)		
Less than 500	15	13	73		11	18	72	
500 - 999	18	8	75		7	14	79	
1,000 - 4,999	15	10	75		10	14	75	
5,000 - 9,999	18	14	68	$P^2 = 12.27$	13	17	70	$P^2 = 11.69$
10,000 and up	20	11	70	(.140)	12	16	72	(.166)
Region		(n = 1926)				(n = 2710)		
Panhandle	18	14	68		13	16	71	
North Central	18	12	70		11	16	73	
South Central	17	9	74		12	16	72	
Northeast	17	11	72	$P^2 = 4.96$	10	15	75	$P^2 = 3.96$
Southeast	18	11	71	(.761)	10	17	73	(.861)
Individual Attributes:								
Income Level		(n = 1817)				(n = 2524)		
Under $20,000	23	16	62		11	20	69	
$20,000 - $39,999	21	11	68		14	16	70	
$40,000 - $59,999	18	9	72	$P^2 = 39.59$	12	16	73	$P^2 = 42.59$
$60,000 and over	11	9	80	(.000)	7	10	83	(.000)
Age		(n = 1938)				(n = 2724)		
19 - 29	20	12	68		15	14	71	
30 - 39	18	9	73		15	16	69	
40 - 49	20	11	69		15	14	71	
50 - 64	17	10	74	$P^2 = 29.21$	10	15	75	$P^2 = 36.99$
65 and older	9	20	71	(.000)	7	18	75	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1917)				(n = 2692)		
Male	17	11	72	$P^2 = 0.48$	11	17	72	$P^2 = 3.83$
Female	18	11	71	(.788)	12	14	75	(.147)
Education		(n = 1915)				(n = 2687)		
No H.S. diploma	28	16	56		21	39	40	
High school diploma	18	13	69		13	19	68	
Some college	19	11	70	$P^2 = 29.42$	14	17	69	$P^2 = 276.23$
Bachelors or grad degree	12	8	80	(.000)	2	3	95	(.000)
Marital Status		(n = 1919)				(n = 2694)		
Married	16	10	74		11	16	73	
Never married	22	19	59		13	19	68	
Divorced/separated	24	11	65	$P^2 = 31.07$	16	14	71	$P^2 = 16.05$
Widowed	11	16	73	(.000)	7	16	77	(.013)
Occupation		(n = 1831)				(n = 1871)		
Sales	13	14	73		17	18	65	
Manual laborer	33	13	55		20	23	57	
Prof./technical/admin	12	8	80		9	9	83	
Service	19	11	70		12	19	69	
Farming/ranching	12	11	78		7	15	78	
Skilled laborer	25	13	62		14	18	68	
Admin. support	19	11	70	$P^2 = 78.24$	14	15	71	$P^2 = 73.19$
Other	24	16	61	(.000)	13	16	71	(.000)

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