

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Publications from the Center for Applied Rural
Innovation (CARI)

CARI: Center for Applied Rural Innovation

8-1-2006

Newcomers in Nebraska's Rural Communities

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

Bruce B. Johnson

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, bjohnson2@unl.edu

Alan Tomkins

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, atomkins@nebraska.edu

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



Part of the [Rural Sociology Commons](#)

Vogt, Rebecca J.; Cantrell, Randolph L.; Johnson, Bruce B.; and Tomkins, Alan, "Newcomers in Nebraska's Rural Communities" (2006). *Publications from the Center for Applied Rural Innovation (CARI)*. 50.

<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/caripubs/50>

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*

Newcomers in Nebraska's Rural Communities

2006 Nebraska Rural Poll Results

Rebecca J. Vogt
Randolph L. Cantrell
Bruce B. Johnson
Alan J. Tomkins

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Lincoln

N
IANR

Center Research Report 06-2, August 2006.

© 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/>

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, the University of Nebraska Rural Initiative and the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center. 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
New Residents in Community	2
<i>Figure 1. Aware of New Residents in Community</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Table 1. Opinions About New Residents</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Figure 2. New Residents Are Often Discriminated Against by Community Size</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Figure 3. New People Moving into Community Has Been Bad By Region</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Figure 4. Community Includes New Residents by Length of Residence in Community ..</i>	<i>7</i>
Expected Changes in Community Population Over Next Ten Years	8
<i>Figure 5. Expected Change in Population in Community Over Next Ten Years</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Figure 6. Expected Change in Total Community Population by Community Size</i>	<i>9</i>
Conclusion	10

List of Appendix Tables and Figures

Appendix Figure 1. Regions of Nebraska 12

Appendix Table 1. Demographic Profile of Rural Poll Respondents Compared to 2000
Census 13

Appendix Table 2. Awareness of New Residents in Community by Community Size, Region
and Individual Attributes 14

Appendix Table 3. Opinions Regarding New Residents by Community Size, Region and
Individual Attributes 16

Appendix Table 4. Expected Changes in Community Population Over the Next Ten Years by
Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes 23

Executive Summary

Population loss in rural Nebraska communities has been a concern, but many communities across the state have experienced population gains during the past decade. Are rural Nebraskans aware of new residents living in their community? How do they feel about their community's new residents? What do they think will happen to their community's population during the next ten years?

This report details 2,482 responses to the 2006 Nebraska Rural Poll, the eleventh annual effort to understand rural Nebraskans' perceptions. Respondents were asked a series of questions about new residents in their community and their expectations regarding population growth in their community during the next decade. For all questions, comparisons are made among different respondent subgroups, that is, comparisons by age, occupation, region, etc. Based on these analyses, some key findings emerged:

- ***Almost two-thirds of rural Nebraskans are aware of new residents living in their community.*** Sixty-four percent are aware of new residents (persons who have moved to their community within the past five years) in their community. Twenty percent are not aware of new residents and 16 percent don't know. No variations are found by community size or region of the state for this question.
- ***Rural Nebraskans have mixed opinions on the impact new residents have had on their community.*** Less than one-third (31%) agree with the statement that new residents who move into their community improve the quality of life. One quarter disagree with the statement and 44 percent neither agree nor disagree. Eighteen percent agree with the statement that new people moving into their community has been bad for the community. Just under one-half (46%) disagree and 37 percent neither agree nor disagree.
- ***Just under one-half (49%) of rural Nebraskans say more people should be encouraged to relocate to their community.*** Sixteen percent disagree and 35 percent neither agree nor disagree.
- ***Many rural Nebraskans believe new residents are made to feel welcome in their community.*** Fifty-six percent agree with the statement that new residents to their community are made to feel welcome. Thirty-six percent agree with the statement that their community does a lot to include new residents in the community. One quarter (25%) disagree with that statement. Nineteen percent agree with the statement that new residents are often discriminated against while 45 percent disagree.
- ***Many rural Nebraskans believe new residents tend to become home owners, join a church and attend community events.*** Over one-half of rural Nebraskans agree with the statements that new residents in their community become members of a church (52%) and become home owners (59%). Almost one-half (47%) agree that new residents attend community events.

- ***Residents of the Panhandle are more likely than persons living in other regions of the state to agree that new residents improve the quality of life in their community.*** Thirty-nine percent of Panhandle residents agree with this statement, compared to 26 percent of residents in the Northeast region.
- ***Newcomers to the community are less likely than longer term residents to agree that new residents to their community are made to feel welcome and that the community does a lot to include new residents.*** Forty-seven percent of persons living in their community for five years or less agree with the statement that new residents to their community are made to feel welcome, compared to 57 percent of persons living in the community for more than five years. Similarly, 27 percent of newcomers agree with the statement that the community does a lot to include new residents, compared to 37 percent of long term residents.
- ***Persons living in the Northeast region are more likely than persons living in other regions of the state to say that new people moving into their community has been bad for the community.*** Twenty-four percent of Northeast region residents agree with this statement, compared to 11 percent of North Central region residents.
- ***Over one-half of rural Nebraskans expect the population of retired persons and immigrants in their community to increase over the next ten years.*** Sixty-eight percent expect the population of retired persons to increase and 55 percent believe the number of immigrants will grow during the next decade. Almost one-half (49%) expect the total population of their community to increase over the next ten years. Over one-third (36%) expect the population of young families to *decrease* during the next decade.
- ***Persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to think the population of each of the groups will increase over the next ten years.*** Seventy percent of persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more say their total community population will increase during the next ten years, compared to 30 percent of persons living in or near communities with less than 500 people. Over one-third (35%) of persons living in or near communities with populations under 1,000 expect their community's population to decrease over the next decade.

Introduction

Population loss has been a concern for many rural Nebraska communities over the past few decades. However, when examining recent community level Census data, a more optimistic picture emerges. Over one-half of incorporated communities had population gains between 1990 and 2000. Growth occurred in 68% of communities with populations exceeding 1,000 and 50% of the communities with less than 1,000 people showed population gains (*Rural depopulation: A closer look at Nebraska's counties and communities*, 2005).¹ Given that, how many rural Nebraskans are aware of new residents in their community? How do they feel about their community's new residents? What do they think will happen to their community's population during the next ten years? This paper provides a detailed analysis of these questions.

The 2006 Nebraska Rural Poll is the eleventh annual effort to understand rural Nebraskans' perceptions. Respondents were asked a series of questions about new residents in their community and their expectations regarding population growth in their community during the next decade.

Methodology and Respondent Profile

This study is based on 2,482 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 6,200 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, new residents, immigration, and making a living. This paper reports only results from the new residents portion of the survey.

A 40% 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.

Appendix Table 1 shows demographic data from this year's study and previous rural polls, as well as similar data based on the entire non-metropolitan population of Nebraska (using 2000 U.S. Census data). As can be seen from the table, there are some marked differences between some of the demographic variables in our sample compared to the Census data. Certainly some variance from 2000 Census data is to be expected as a result of changes that have occurred in the intervening six years. Nonetheless, we suggest the reader use caution in generalizing our data to all rural Nebraska. However, given the random sampling frame used for this survey, the acceptable percentage of responses, and the large number of respondents, we feel the data provide useful insights into opinions of rural Nebraskans on the various issues

¹Paper available online at <http://ruralinitiative.nebraska.edu/externalpubs/964>

presented in this report.

The average age of respondents is 56 years. Sixty-nine percent are married (Appendix Table 1) and 71 percent live within the city limits of a town or village. On average, respondents have lived in Nebraska 48 years and have lived in their current community 32 years. Fifty-two percent are living in or near towns or villages with populations less than 5,000. Ninety-two percent have attained at least a high school diploma.

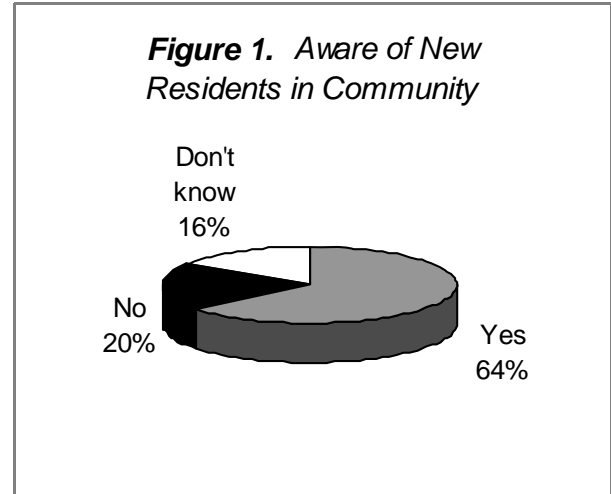
Forty-nine percent of the respondents report their 2005 approximate household income from all sources, before taxes, as below \$40,000. Thirty-six percent report incomes over \$50,000.

Seventy-two percent were employed in 2005 on a full-time, part-time, or seasonal basis. Twenty-five percent are retired. Thirty-five percent of those employed reported working in a professional, technical or administrative occupation. Fourteen 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 31 miles, one way, to their primary job.

New Residents in Community

Almost two-thirds (64%) of rural Nebraskans are aware of new residents living in their community (Figure 1). New residents are defined as persons who have moved to their community within the past five years. Twenty percent aren't aware of new residents living in their community and 16 percent don't know.

Answers to this question are analyzed by community size, region and various



individual attributes (Appendix Table 2). No variations are found by community size which seems to indicate that communities of all sizes are attracting new residents. Similarly, no differences are found by region of the state. Some differences are found by individual attributes of the respondents, however.

Persons with higher household incomes are more likely than persons with lower incomes to be aware of new residents in their community. Seventy-two percent of persons with household incomes of \$60,000 or more are aware of new residents in their community, compared to 57 percent of persons with incomes under \$20,000. Respondents with the lowest incomes are more likely than persons with the highest incomes to say they don't know if there are new residents living in their community (25 percent compared to 10 percent).

Other groups most likely to be aware of new residents in their community include: persons over the age of 30, males, married persons, persons with the highest education levels and farmers/ranchers.

Respondents were next given a series of

statements about new residents. They were asked to indicate the extent to which they agree or disagree with each. Respondents were given the option to check a box to denote “doesn’t apply.” The proportions for this response ranged from four percent to eight percent for each of the items. Those responses have been excluded from the following proportions.

Many rural Nebraskans believe new residents tend to become home owners, join a church and attend community events. They also believe their community in turn welcomes new residents. Over one-half of rural Nebraskans strongly agree or agree with the statements that new residents in their community become home owners (59%) and members of a church (52%) (Table 1). Fifty-six percent of rural Nebraskans believe that new residents to their community are made to feel welcome. Forty-seven percent agree with the statement that new residents attend community events and the same proportion agree with the statement that new residents are invited to join local organizations.

When asked about the future, many rural Nebraskans would welcome more new residents to their community. Just under one-half (49%) agree with the statement that more people should be encouraged to relocate to their community.

While many rural Nebraskans think new residents are made to feel welcome, a lower proportion believe their community does a lot to include new residents in the community. Thirty-six percent agree with the statement that their community does a lot to include new residents in the community. One quarter (25%) disagree and 39 percent neither agree nor disagree.

Rural Nebraskans have mixed opinions on the impact new residents have on their community. Less than one-third (31%) agree with the statement that new residents who move into their community improve the quality of life. One-quarter (25%) disagree with that statement. Forty-four percent neither agree nor disagree.

Less than one in five rural Nebraskans think new residents have been detrimental to their community. Eighteen percent agree with the statement that new people moving into their community has been bad for the community. However, just under one-half (46%) disagree with the statement and 37 percent neither agree nor disagree.

Many rural Nebraskans think new residents don’t face discrimination. Less than one in five (19%) rural Nebraskans believe new residents are often discriminated against. But, 45 percent disagree with the statement.

Opinions are mixed on the efforts of new residents to serve the community in official or volunteer roles, or with financial contributions. One quarter (25%) agree with the statement that new residents do not make an effort to get involved in their community. Approximately one-third (34%) disagree with this statement and 41 percent neither agree nor disagree. Eighteen percent of rural Nebraskans agree with the statement that new residents seek public office or other similar activities and 25 percent agree with the statement that new residents volunteer or donate money to local faith or community organizations.

The responses to these questions are analyzed by community size, region and various individual attributes (Appendix Table 3). Many differences of opinion are

Table 1. Opinions About New Residents

	<i>Strongly Disagree or Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Strongly Agree or Agree</i>
New residents who move into my community improve the quality of life.	25%	44%	31%
New residents do not make an effort to get involved in my community.	34	41	25
New residents to my community are made to feel welcome.	14	30	56
My community does a lot to include new residents in the community.	25	39	36
New residents in my community volunteer or donate money to local faith or community organizations.	24	52	25
New residents in my community seek public office or other similar activities.	32	50	18
New residents in my community attend community events.	16	37	47
New residents in my community become home owners.	15	26	59
New residents in my community become members of a church.	12	37	52
New people moving into my community has been bad for the community.	46	37	18
More people should be encouraged to relocate to my community.	16	35	49
New residents are often discriminated against.	45	36	19
New residents are often invited to join local organizations.	13	40	47

detected.

Residents living in or near smaller

communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to agree that new residents to their community are

made to feel welcome and are invited to join local organizations. As an example, approximately 55 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations less than 1,000 agree with the statement that new residents are often invited to join local organizations, compared to 39 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations of 5,000 or more.

In addition, persons living in or near the larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to think that new residents are often discriminated against. Twenty-three percent of persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more agree with this statement (Figure 2). In comparison, 13 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations less than 500 agree.

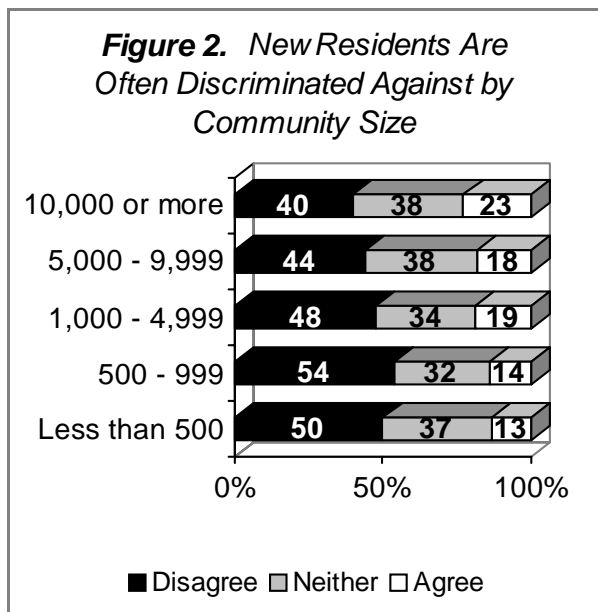
However, residents living in or near smaller communities are less likely than residents of larger communities to think that new residents are getting involved in their community. Persons living in or near

communities with populations less than 500 are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to disagree with the following statements: new residents in my community volunteer or donate money to local faith or community organizations, new residents in my community seek public office or other similar activities, new residents in my community attend community events, new residents in my community become home owners, and new residents in my community become members of a church.

In addition, 36 percent of persons living in or near communities with less than 500 people agree that new residents do not make an effort to get involved in their community, compared to approximately 21 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations of 1,000 or more.

Residents living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near the smallest communities to agree that new residents improve the quality of life in their community. But, persons living in or near both the smallest and largest communities are more likely than persons living in or near mid-size communities to agree that new people moving into their community has been bad for the community.

Persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 500 to 999 are more likely than persons living in communities of different sizes to agree that more people should be encouraged to relocate to their community. Sixty percent of persons living in or near communities with populations between 500 and 999 agree with this statement, compared to 42 percent of persons living in or near communities



with populations of 10,000 or more.

Many regional differences are also detected in the responses to these questions. Regions across the state have had different histories with newcomers. Census data show that the Panhandle area has a higher proportion of new arrivals in its population than can be found in other regions of the state.

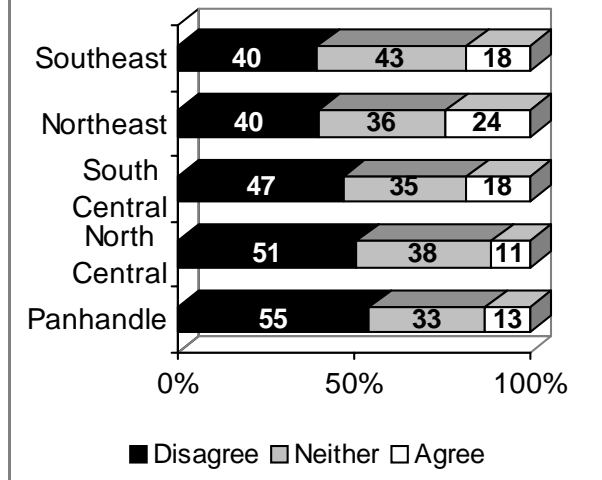
Persons living in the Northeast region of the state are more likely than persons living in other regions of the state to have negative attitudes toward new residents. Persons living in the Northeast region are the regional group *least* likely to agree that new residents improve the quality of life in their community. Twenty-six percent of Northeast region residents agree with this statement, compared to 39 percent of Panhandle residents (see Appendix Figure 1 for the counties included in each region).

And, persons living in the Northeast region are the regional group most likely to agree that new people moving into their community has been bad for the community. Twenty-four percent of Northeast region residents agree with this statement, compared to 11 percent of residents of the North Central region (Figure 3).

Residents of both the Northeast and Southeast regions are more likely than persons living in other parts of the state to agree that new residents do not make an effort to get involved in their community. Approximately 29 percent of residents of these two regions agree with this statement, compared to 18 percent of persons living in either the Panhandle or North Central regions.

An interesting finding is that residents of the

Figure 3. New People Moving into Community Has Been Bad by Region



Northeast region are the regional group most likely to agree that new residents are often discriminated against yet are also the group most likely to agree that their community does a lot to include new residents in the community.

Residents of the Panhandle are more likely than residents of other parts of the state to say that new residents in their community are getting involved in the community. They are the regional group most likely to agree that new residents in their community do the following items: seek public office or other similar activities, attend community events, and become home owners. As an example, 71 percent of Panhandle residents agree with the statement that new residents in their community become home owners, compared to 53 percent of residents of the Northeast region.

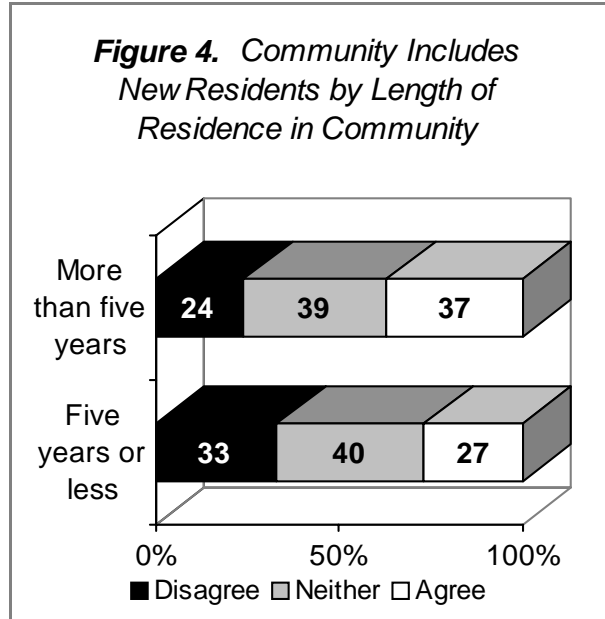
Residents of the South Central region are the regional group most likely to agree with the statement that new residents in their community become members of a church.

When given the statement that more people should be encouraged to relocate to their community, persons living in both the Panhandle and North Central regions are the groups most likely to agree. Approximately 54 percent of residents in these regions agree with this statement, compared to 44 percent of persons living in the Northeast region of the state.

Looking at the responses by length of residence in the community show that newcomers to the community have different opinions about how new residents are viewed by the community as compared to opinions of longer term residents. Newcomers to the community are less likely than longer term residents to agree that new residents to their community are made to feel welcome and that the community does a lot to include new residents. Forty-seven percent of persons living in their community for five years or less agree with the statement that new residents to their community are made to feel welcome, compared to 57 percent of persons living in the community for more than five years. Similarly, 27 percent of newcomers agree with the statement that the community does a lot to include new residents, compared to 37 percent of long term residents (Figure 4).

However, long term residents are more likely than newcomers to agree that new residents do not make an effort to get involved in their community. Twenty-seven percent of long-term residents agree with this statement, compared to 19 percent of newcomers in the community.

Newcomers to the community are more likely than long term residents to agree that new residents are often discriminated against. One quarter (25%) of persons



living in their communities for five years or less agree that new residents are often discriminated against, compared to 18 percent of persons living in their communities for more than five years.

Long term residents are more likely than newcomers to the community to agree that new residents are often invited to join local organizations. Forty-eight percent of long-term residents agree with this statement, compared to 33 percent of newcomers.

Persons with higher household incomes are more likely than persons with lower incomes to agree with the following statements: new residents who move into my community improve the quality of life, new residents in my community become home owners, and new residents in my community become members of a church.

Older persons are more likely than younger persons to agree with the following statements: new residents who move into my community improve the quality of life,

new residents to my community are made to feel welcome, my community does a lot to include new residents in the community, new residents in my community volunteer or donate money to local faith or community organizations, new residents in my community seek public office or other similar activities, new residents in my community become members of a church, new people moving into my community has been bad for the community, more people should be encouraged to relocate to my community, and new residents are often invited to join local organizations.

Persons with higher education levels are more likely than persons with less education to agree with the following statements: new residents who move into my community improve the quality of life, new residents in my community attend community events, new residents in my community become members of a church, and more people should be encouraged to relocate to my community. Persons with less education are more likely than persons with more education to agree with the statement that their community does a lot to include new residents in the community.

Widowed respondents are more likely than the other marital groups to agree with the following statements: new residents to my community are made to feel welcome, my community does a lot to include new residents in the community, new residents in my community volunteer or donate money to local faith or community organizations, new residents in my community seek public office or other similar activities, new residents in my community become home owners, new residents in my community become members of a church, more people should be encouraged to relocate to my

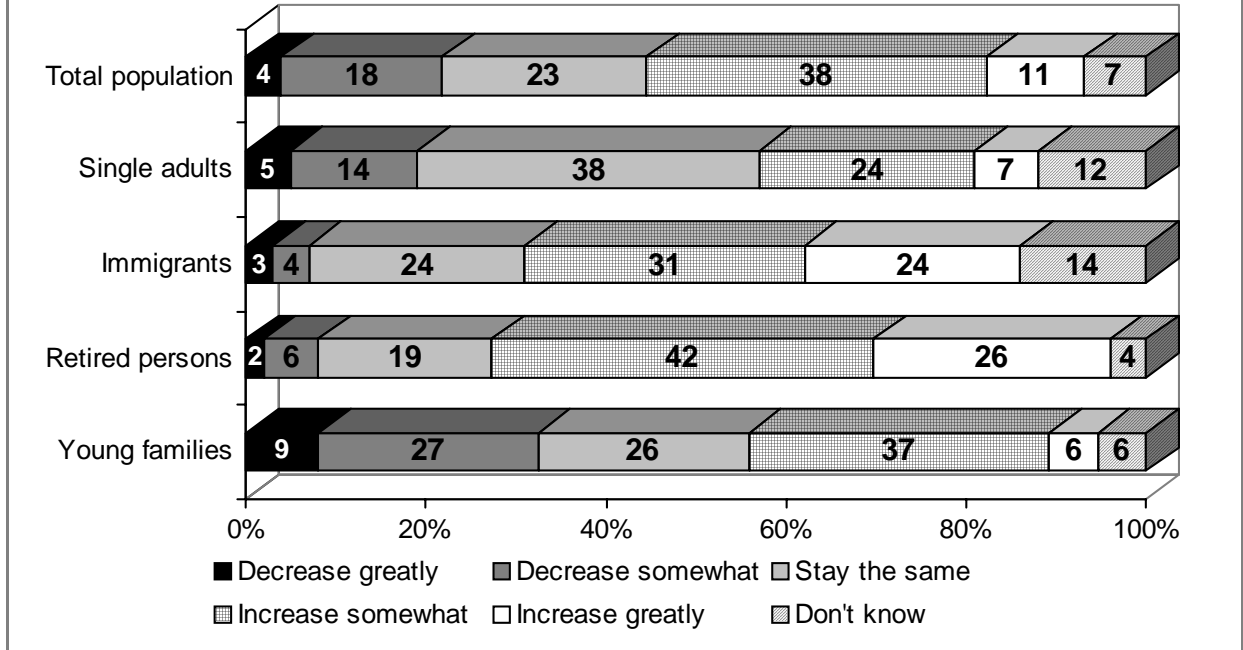
community, and new residents are often invited to join local organizations. Persons who have never married are the marital group most likely to agree with the statement that new residents are often discriminated against.

Farmers and ranchers are the occupation group most likely to agree with the following statements: new residents do not make an effort to get involved in my community, new residents in my community seek public office or other similar activities, and new residents are often invited to join local organizations. They are the occupation group *least* likely to agree with the statement that new residents are often discriminated against. Persons with professional occupations are the group most likely to agree with the statements that new residents in my community become members of a church and more people should be encouraged to relocate to my community. Laborers are the group most likely to agree with the statement that new people moving into my community has been bad for the community.

Expected Changes in Community Population Over Next Ten Years

Next, respondents were asked about changes they expect to see in the population of various groups in their community over the next ten years. Over one-half of rural Nebraskans expect to see an increase in retired persons (68%) and immigrants (55%) in their community over the next ten years (Figure 5). Almost one-half (49%) expect the total population of their community to increase over the next ten years. Over one-third (36%) of rural Nebraskans expect the population of young families in their community to *decrease* over the next ten

Figure 5. Expected Change in Population in Community Over Next Ten Years

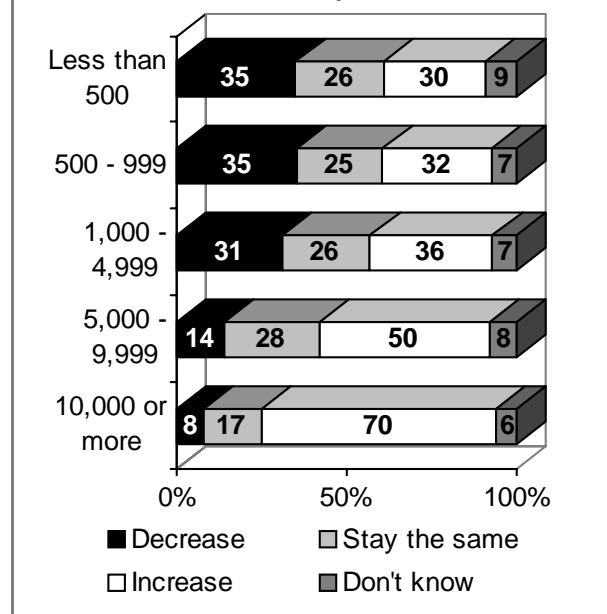


years.

The responses to this question are analyzed by community size, region and various individual attributes (Appendix Table 4). Many differences emerge.

Persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to think the population of each of the groups will increase over the next ten years. Seventy percent of persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more say their total community population will increase during the next ten years, compared to 30 percent of persons living in or near communities with less than 500 people (Figure 6). Over one-third (35%) of persons living in or near communities with populations under 1,000 expect their community's population to decrease over the next decade.

Figure 6. Expected Change in Total Community Population by Community Size



And, 73 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more think the number of immigrants will increase, compared to approximately 33 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations under 1,000.

Regional differences are detected for each item listed, with the exception of retired persons. Persons living in the South Central region are more likely than persons living in other regions of the state to say that the population of young families, immigrants, single adults and total community population will increase over the next ten years. Sixty-five percent of persons living in the South Central region believe the number of immigrants will increase, compared to 41 percent of persons living in the North Central region. And, 59 percent of persons living in the South Central region believe their community's population will grow over the next ten years. Only 38 percent of persons living in the Southeast region share this opinion.

Persons with higher incomes are more likely than persons with lower incomes to believe the populations of young families, retired persons, immigrants and the total community population will increase over the next ten years. Younger persons are more likely than older persons to say that the number of young families, retired persons, immigrants, and the total community population will increase over the next decade.

Persons with higher education levels are more likely than persons with less education to think the number of retired persons, immigrants, and the total community population will grow over the next ten years. Persons with professional occupations are

the occupation group most likely to think the number of immigrants will increase. Farmers and ranchers are the occupation group *least* likely to think the number of young families, single adults and the total community population will grow during the next ten years.

Persons living in their community for more than five years are more likely than persons living in their community for five years or less to say the number of single adults will stay the same over the next decade.

Conclusion

Almost two-thirds of rural Nebraskans are aware of new residents living in their community. No statistical differences for this question are detected by community size or region of the state. Thus, communities of all sizes across the state have experienced new people moving into them.

Many rural Nebraskans have no opinion about the impact new residents have had on their community. Less than one-third agree that new residents improve the quality of life in their community. One quarter disagree with this statement. Just under one-half disagree that new people moving into the community has been bad for the community. Almost one half agree that more people should be encouraged to relocate to their community. While over one-half think that new residents are made to feel welcome, just over one-third say their community does a lot to include new residents in the community.

The opinions about the impact new residents have had differs by many of the characteristics examined. Residents of the

Northeast region appear to have more of a negative attitude toward new residents as compared to residents of other regions. Almost one-quarter of residents of the Northeast region believe that new people moving into their community has been bad for the community.

Also, newcomers to the community (those living in the community for five years or less) are less likely than long-term residents to believe that new residents are made to feel welcome and the community does a lot to include new residents. In addition, one quarter of the newcomers say that new residents are often discriminated against. Thus, it would appear that some communities need to do a better job of welcoming and including new residents.

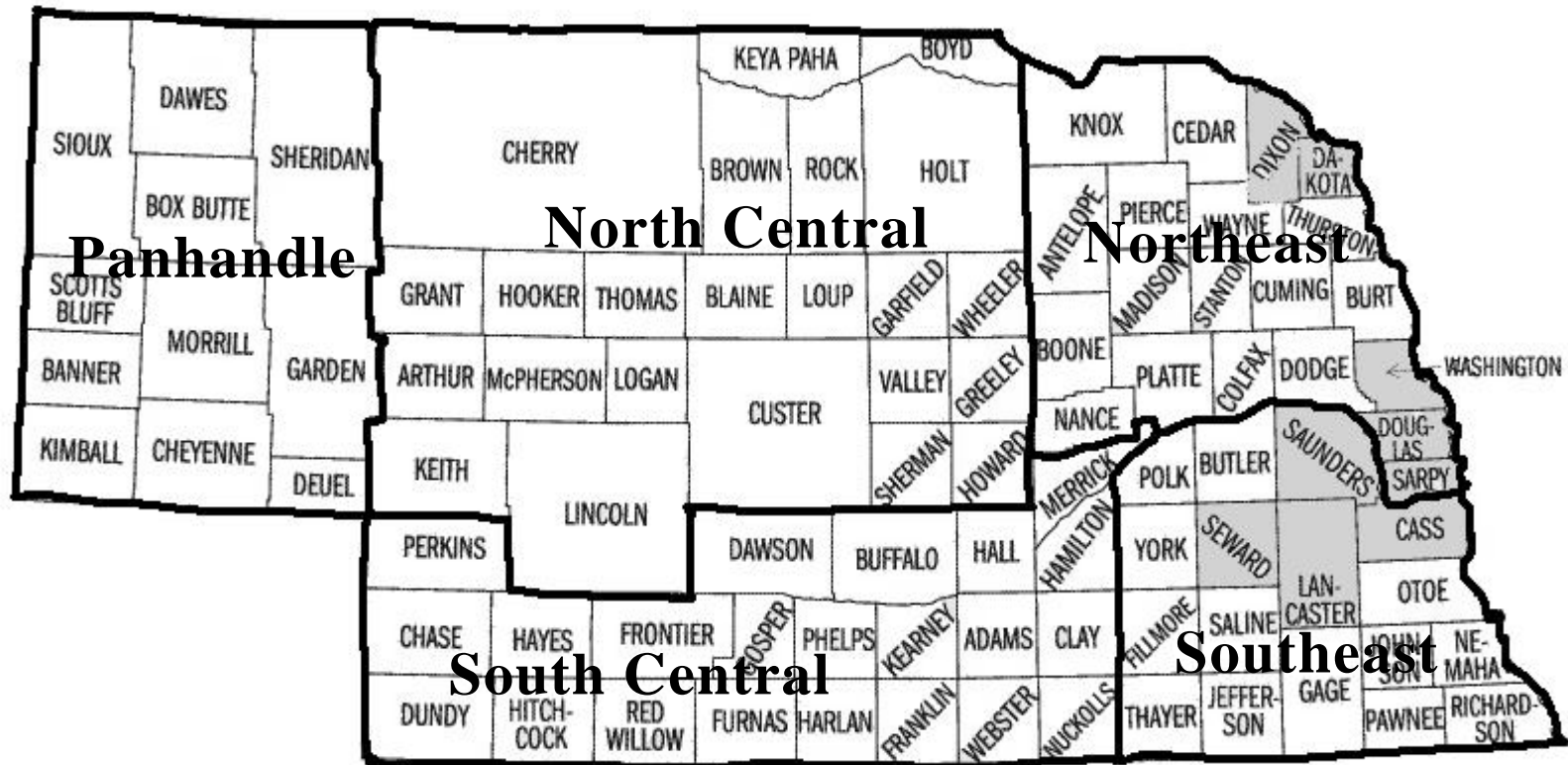
Over one-half of rural Nebraskans say new residents become members of a church and become home owners. Almost one-half say new residents attend community events. So, it appears new residents are doing their part to become assimilated into the community.

When asked about the future of their community, most rural Nebraskans expect to see population increases of retired persons and immigrants. Almost one half expect their community's total population to increase over the next decade. However, over one-third expect to see a decline in young families in their community.

Persons living in or near the largest communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to expect to see population increases of the various groups over the next ten years. In fact, when asked about the total community population, 70 percent of persons living in or near the largest communities expect the population to increase. However, only 30 percent of persons living in or near the smallest communities expect to see their community's population grow. Furthermore, over one-third of the residents

of the smallest communities expect to see a decline in their community's population. These small community residents see a continuing consolidation of population into the largest communities in the state.

Appendix Figure 1. Regions of Nebraska



■ Metropolitan counties (not surveyed)

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

	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
	Poll	Poll	Poll	Poll	Poll	Poll	Census
Age : ¹							
20 - 39	16%	15%	18%	18%	16%	17%	33%
40 - 64	52%	51%	49%	51%	51%	49%	42%
65 and over	32%	34%	32%	32%	32%	33%	24%
Gender: ²							
Female	31%	32%	32%	51%	36%	37%	51%
Male	70%	69%	68%	49%	64%	63%	49%
Education: ³							
Less than 9 th grade	3%	3%	3%	2%	3%	4%	7%
9 th to 12 th grade (no diploma)	5%	5%	5%	5%	4%	5%	10%
High school diploma (or equivalent)	32%	33%	34%	34%	32%	35%	35%
Some college, no degree	25%	24%	24%	23%	25%	26%	25%
Associate degree	12%	13%	12%	11%	10%	8%	7%
Bachelors degree	15%	14%	15%	16%	16%	13%	11%
Graduate or professional degree	9%	10%	8%	9%	10%	8%	4%
Household income: ⁴							
Less than \$10,000	7%	8%	9%	8%	8%	9%	10%
\$10,000 - \$19,999	13%	14%	15%	14%	15%	16%	16%
\$20,000 - \$29,999	14%	16%	16%	16%	17%	20%	17%
\$30,000 - \$39,999	15%	16%	16%	16%	17%	16%	15%
\$40,000 - \$49,999	15%	14%	13%	13%	14%	14%	12%
\$50,000 - \$59,999	11%	10%	11%	11%	11%	9%	10%
\$60,000 - \$74,999	11%	10%	10%	11%	9%	8%	9%
\$75,000 or more	14%	13%	11%	11%	10%	8%	11%
Marital Status: ⁵							
Married	69%	71%	69%	73%	73%	70%	61%
Never married	8%	7%	9%	7%	6%	7%	22%
Divorced/separated	10%	11%	10%	9%	9%	10%	9%
Widowed/widower	13%	11%	12%	11%	12%	14%	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. Awareness of New Residents in Community by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes

<i>Are you aware of new residents (i.e., newcomers) living in your community?</i>				
	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Don't know</i>	<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>
<i>Percentages</i>				
<u>Community Size</u>		(n = 2228)		
Less than 500	68	17	15	
500 - 999	64	21	16	
1,000 - 4,999	65	19	16	
5,000 - 9,999	64	22	14	$\chi^2 = 3.55$
10,000 and up	65	21	15	(.895)
<u>Region</u>		(n = 2322)		
Panhandle	61	24	15	
North Central	66	19	15	
South Central	66	21	13	
Northeast	65	18	17	$\chi^2 = 11.68$
Southeast	61	20	19	(.166)
<u>Income Level</u>		(n = 2084)		
Under \$20,000	57	19	25	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	61	21	18	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	68	21	11	$\chi^2 = 56.56$
\$60,000 and over	72	19	10	(.000)
<u>Age</u>		(n = 2286)		
19 - 29	54	27	19	
30 - 39	62	23	14	
40 - 49	65	23	13	
50 - 64	69	19	11	$\chi^2 = 46.89$
65 and older	62	17	22	(.000)
<u>Gender</u>		(n = 2264)		
Male	67	20	14	$\chi^2 = 12.48$
Female	60	21	19	(.002)
<u>Marital Status</u>		(n = 2275)		
Married	67	20	14	
Never married	58	23	19	
Divorced/separated	64	21	15	$\chi^2 = 21.13$
Widowed	58	19	23	(.002)

Appendix Table 2 continued.

<i>Are you aware of new residents (i.e., newcomers) living in your community?</i>				
	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Don't know</i>	<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>
<u>Education</u>		(n = 2259)		
H.S. diploma or less	60	20	20	$\chi^2 = 29.21$ (.000)
Some college	65	21	14	
Bachelors degree or more	71	19	11	
<u>Occupation</u>		(n = 1542)		
Sales	66	24	10	$\chi^2 = 30.85$ (.006)
Manual laborer	54	24	22	
Prof/tech/admin	69	21	11	
Service	66	21	13	
Farming/ranching	73	14	13	
Skilled laborer	66	23	11	
Admin support	67	22	11	
Other	54	34	11	

Appendix Table 3. Opinions Regarding New Residents by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes

	<i>New residents who move into my community improve the quality of life.</i>				<i>New residents do not make an effort to get involved in my community.</i>			
	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Sig.</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Sig.</i>
	<i>Percentages</i>							
Community Size	(n = 2112)				(n = 2100)			
Less than 500	30	47	23		29	35	36	
500 - 999	22	43	35		34	38	29	
1,000 - 4,999	23	44	34		36	42	23	
5,000 - 9,999	21	48	31	$\chi^2 = 18.54$	34	45	21	$\chi^2 = 28.09$
10,000 and up	28	42	31	(.018)	34	42	23	(.000)
Region	(n = 2197)				(n = 2183)			
Panhandle	15	46	39		38	44	18	
North Central	18	47	35		35	47	18	
South Central	25	43	32		35	39	26	
Northeast	32	42	26	$\chi^2 = 43.52$	33	37	30	$\chi^2 = 32.26$
Southeast	28	45	28	(.000)	27	44	29	(.000)
Income Level	(n = 1983)				(n = 1969)			
Under \$20,000	26	47	27		30	46	24	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	25	46	29		29	43	28	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	25	45	30	$\chi^2 = 19.73$	35	37	28	$\chi^2 = 23.99$
\$60,000 and over	22	39	39	(.003)	40	39	21	(.001)
Age	(n = 2320)				(n = 2309)			
19 - 39	17	50	33		34	45	22	
40 - 64	27	42	31	$\chi^2 = 19.10$	34	41	25	$\chi^2 = 7.71$
65 and older	25	43	33	(.001)	31	40	29	(.103)
Gender	(n = 2142)				(n = 2127)			
Male	26	44	30	$\chi^2 = 2.12$	34	40	27	$\chi^2 = 6.54$
Female	23	44	33	(.346)	34	44	22	(.038)
Education	(n = 2137)				(n = 2120)			
H.S. diploma or less	28	47	25		29	42	29	
Some college	27	43	30	$\chi^2 = 48.58$	33	43	24	$\chi^2 = 26.33$
Bach./grad degree	17	41	42	(.000)	42	37	21	(.000)
Marital Status	(n = 2153)				(n = 2138)			
Married	25	44	32		34	40	26	
Never married	23	51	27		35	39	26	
Divorced/separated	29	44	27	$\chi^2 = 7.28$	33	46	21	$\chi^2 = 6.63$
Widowed	23	43	34	(.296)	31	46	23	(.357)
Occupation	(n = 1627)				(n = 1623)			
Prof./technical/admin	21	41	38		38	38	25	
Laborer	26	47	27		29	45	26	
Farming/ranching	25	49	26	$\chi^2 = 17.82$	29	43	29	$\chi^2 = 15.18$
Other	21	45	34	(.007)	34	45	21	(.019)
Yrs Lived in Comm.	(n = 2077)				(n = 2063)			
Five years or less	19	48	34	$\chi^2 = 6.66$	30	51	19	$\chi^2 = 13.61$
More than five years	26	44	30	(.036)	34	39	27	(.001)

Disagree represents the combined responses of “strongly disagree” and “disagree”. Similarly, agree is the combined responses of “strongly agree” and “agree.” Respondents were also given the option of checking “doesn’t apply,” those responses were excluded from this analysis.

Appendix Table 3 continued.

	<i>New residents to my community are made to feel welcome.</i>				<i>My community does a lot to include new residents in the community.</i>			
	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Sig.</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Sig.</i>
	<i>Percentages</i>							
<u>Community Size</u>	(n = 2132)				(n = 2112)			
Less than 500	13	26	61		28	37	36	
500 - 999	10	28	62		23	37	41	
1,000 - 4,999	20	27	54		29	37	34	
5,000 - 9,999	16	27	57	$\chi^2 = 34.82$	26	41	34	$\chi^2 = 13.33$
10,000 and up	12	35	53	(.000)	22	43	35	(.101)
<u>Region</u>	(n = 2217)				(n = 2194)			
Panhandle	15	28	57		27	41	33	
North Central	13	27	60		26	40	34	
South Central	15	29	56		26	37	37	
Northeast	12	33	55	$\chi^2 = 11.30$	19	41	41	$\chi^2 = 21.87$
Southeast	18	28	55	(.185)	30	40	30	(.005)
<u>Income Level</u>	(n = 1998)				(n = 1979)			
Under \$20,000	15	29	56		25	35	40	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	13	31	56		25	38	37	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	18	29	54	$\chi^2 = 6.14$	29	40	31	$\chi^2 = 14.62$
\$60,000 and over	13	30	56	(.408)	22	42	36	(.023)
<u>Age</u>	(n = 2344)				(n = 2319)			
19 - 39	20	29	52		34	41	26	
40 - 64	15	33	52	$\chi^2 = 43.72$	25	41	34	$\chi^2 = 53.55$
65 and older	10	24	66	(.000)	20	35	45	(.000)
<u>Gender</u>	(n = 2160)				(n = 2137)			
Male	14	30	56	$\chi^2 = 2.76$	24	40	36	$\chi^2 = 4.22$
Female	16	29	54	(.252)	28	37	35	(.121)
<u>Education</u>	(n = 2157)				(n = 2133)			
H.S. diploma or less	12	30	59		21	38	41	
Some college	17	31	53	$\chi^2 = 10.94$	28	40	33	$\chi^2 = 16.14$
Bach./grad degree	16	28	56	(.027)	27	40	33	(.003)
<u>Marital Status</u>	(n = 2171)				(n = 2148)			
Married	14	30	56		25	40	36	
Never married	16	33	51		34	36	30	
Divorced/separated	19	32	49	$\chi^2 = 13.29$	27	39	34	$\chi^2 = 15.81$
Widowed	11	26	63	(.039)	20	37	44	(.015)
<u>Occupation</u>	(n = 1630)				(n = 1628)			
Prof./technical/admin	18	30	53		28	42	30	
Laborer	14	31	55		24	44	32	
Farming/ranching	13	28	60	$\chi^2 = 7.69$	26	43	31	$\chi^2 = 4.79$
Other	14	33	53	(.262)	26	39	35	(.570)
<u>Yrs Lived in Comm.</u>	(n = 2099)				(n = 2082)			
Five years or less	24	29	47	$\chi^2 = 19.51$	33	40	27	$\chi^2 = 13.39$
More than five years	14	30	57	(.000)	24	39	37	(.001)

Disagree represents the combined responses of "strongly disagree" and "disagree". Similarly, agree is the combined responses of "strongly agree" and "agree." Respondents were also given the option of checking "doesn't apply," those responses were excluded from this analysis.

Appendix Table 3 continued.

	<i>New residents in my community volunteer or donate money to local faith or community organizations.</i>				<i>New residents in my community seek public office or other similar activities.</i>			
	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Sig.</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Sig.</i>
	<i>Percentages</i>							
Community Size	(n = 2036)				(n = 2042)			
Less than 500	32	44	24		39	44	17	
500 - 999	27	46	28		30	54	16	
1,000 - 4,999	20	51	29		30	45	25	
5,000 - 9,999	21	55	25	$\chi^2 = 37.00$	26	55	19	$\chi^2 = 47.54$
10,000 and up	23	57	20	(.000)	33	54	13	(.000)
Region	(n = 2110)				(n = 2118)			
Panhandle	17	55	29		26	49	26	
North Central	19	53	28		28	53	20	
South Central	22	52	26		32	51	18	
Northeast	29	49	22	$\chi^2 = 25.10$	37	47	16	$\chi^2 = 22.69$
Southeast	27	52	21	(.001)	33	53	15	(.004)
Income Level	(n = 1907)				(n = 1918)			
Under \$20,000	23	50	27		27	53	21	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	24	51	24		30	51	19	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	24	53	23	$\chi^2 = 2.01$	36	48	16	$\chi^2 = 11.23$
\$60,000 and over	23	53	25	(.919)	35	50	16	(.081)
Age	(n = 2227)				(n = 2237)			
19 - 39	18	58	24		33	55	12	
40 - 64	25	54	22	$\chi^2 = 30.95$	33	50	17	$\chi^2 = 27.87$
65 and older	25	45	31	(.000)	27	49	24	(.000)
Gender	(n = 2055)				(n = 2062)			
Male	25	52	24	$\chi^2 = 2.85$	33	50	17	$\chi^2 = 2.73$
Female	21	53	26	(.240)	30	50	20	(.256)
Education	(n = 2052)				(n = 2060)			
H.S. diploma or less	24	53	23		26	54	20	
Some college	26	51	24	$\chi^2 = 6.36$	36	48	17	$\chi^2 = 18.96$
Bach./grad degree	21	52	28	(.174)	35	48	17	(.001)
Marital Status	(n = 2066)				(n = 2073)			
Married	25	51	24		33	50	17	
Never married	20	54	26		35	48	16	
Divorced/separated	23	58	19	$\chi^2 = 17.44$	28	52	20	$\chi^2 = 21.35$
Widowed	18	49	34	(.008)	22	52	27	(.002)
Occupation	(n = 1581)				(n = 1600)			
Prof./technical/admin	24	54	22		38	48	14	
Laborer	25	56	19		29	55	16	
Farming/ranching	23	52	26	$\chi^2 = 7.43$	24	54	22	$\chi^2 = 18.87$
Other	20	56	25	(.283)	31	51	18	(.004)
Yrs Lived in Comm.	(n = 2000)				(n = 2009)			
Five years or less	19	58	24	$\chi^2 = 3.89$	28	60	12	$\chi^2 = 9.06$
More than five years	24	51	25	(.143)	33	49	18	(.011)

Disagree represents the combined responses of "strongly disagree" and "disagree". Similarly, agree is the combined responses of "strongly agree" and "agree." Respondents were also given the option of checking "doesn't apply," those responses were excluded from this analysis.

Appendix Table 3 continued.

	<i>New residents in my community attend community events.</i>				<i>New residents in my community become home owners.</i>			
	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Sig.</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Sig.</i>
	<i>Percentages</i>							
<u>Community Size</u>	(n = 2082)				(n = 2105)			
Less than 500	23	32	45		24	26	50	
500 - 999	19	35	46		13	31	56	
1,000 - 4,999	13	35	53		12	28	61	
5,000 - 9,999	12	39	49	$\chi^2 = 30.25$	9	22	70	$\chi^2 = 43.89$
10,000 and up	16	41	44	(.000)	15	26	59	(.000)
<u>Region</u>	(n = 2161)				(n = 2188)			
Panhandle	10	36	54		9	21	71	
North Central	12	38	50		11	32	58	
South Central	14	35	51		14	23	63	
Northeast	21	39	41	$\chi^2 = 35.89$	20	27	53	$\chi^2 = 45.48$
Southeast	20	39	41	(.000)	15	30	55	(.000)
<u>Income Level</u>	(n = 1949)				(n = 1979)			
Under \$20,000	17	37	46		15	29	56	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	16	40	44		15	29	57	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	17	36	47	$\chi^2 = 5.79$	16	28	56	$\chi^2 = 13.29$
\$60,000 and over	14	35	51	(.447)	13	22	65	(.039)
<u>Age</u>	(n = 2281)				(n = 2314)			
19 - 39	13	39	48		10	28	62	
40 - 64	16	39	45	$\chi^2 = 9.74$	16	27	57	$\chi^2 = 14.87$
65 and older	17	33	50	(.045)	14	23	63	(.005)
<u>Gender</u>	(n = 2105)				(n = 2132)			
Male	16	38	47	$\chi^2 = 0.21$	16	26	59	$\chi^2 = 7.77$
Female	16	36	47	(.900)	11	28	61	(.021)
<u>Education</u>	(n = 2102)				(n = 2130)			
H.S. diploma or less	17	38	45		16	27	56	
Some college	17	38	45	$\chi^2 = 12.61$	15	27	59	$\chi^2 = 9.83$
Bach./grad degree	12	35	53	(.013)	12	24	64	(.043)
<u>Marital Status</u>	(n = 2115)				(n = 2143)			
Married	16	37	47		15	26	60	
Never married	15	38	47		14	32	55	
Divorced/separated	16	41	43	$\chi^2 = 4.75$	14	32	54	$\chi^2 = 13.84$
Widowed	14	34	52	(.576)	12	21	67	(.031)
<u>Occupation</u>	(n = 1610)				(n = 1630)			
Prof./technical/admin	14	38	48		14	24	62	
Laborer	15	40	45		15	27	58	
Farming/ranching	16	32	52	$\chi^2 = 6.88$	15	26	59	$\chi^2 = 6.30$
Other	15	41	43	(.332)	13	30	57	(.391)
<u>Yrs Lived in Comm.</u>	(n = 2049)				(n = 2076)			
Five years or less	13	45	42	$\chi^2 = 5.94$	8	29	62	$\chi^2 = 8.87$
More than five years	16	37	47	(.051)	16	26	59	(.012)

Disagree represents the combined responses of "strongly disagree" and "disagree". Similarly, agree is the combined responses of "strongly agree" and "agree." Respondents were also given the option of checking "doesn't apply," those responses were excluded from this analysis.

Appendix Table 3 continued.

	<i>New residents in my community become members of a church.</i>				<i>New people moving into my community has been bad for the community.</i>			
	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Sig.</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Sig.</i>
	<i>Percentages</i>							
Community Size	(n = 2068)				(n = 2099)			
Less than 500	24	41	36		42	37	20	
500 - 999	17	41	43		47	40	14	
1,000 - 4,999	10	33	57		50	37	14	
5,000 - 9,999	9	36	55	$\chi^2 = 79.79$	46	39	14	$\chi^2 = 22.20$
10,000 and up	9	37	55	(.000)	43	35	22	(.005)
Region	(n = 2153)				(n = 2182)			
Panhandle	11	40	49		55	33	13	
North Central	9	38	53		51	38	11	
South Central	10	34	56		47	35	18	
Northeast	14	34	52	$\chi^2 = 21.17$	40	36	24	$\chi^2 = 42.36$
Southeast	14	42	44	(.007)	40	43	18	(.000)
Income Level	(n = 1941)				(n = 1969)			
Under \$20,000	15	38	47		39	41	20	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	13	38	50		41	41	18	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	12	39	49	$\chi^2 = 15.72$	49	34	17	$\chi^2 = 24.95$
\$60,000 and over	9	33	58	(.015)	53	31	16	(.000)
Age	(n = 2276)				(n = 2306)			
19 - 39	9	41	50		48	41	12	
40 - 64	12	39	49	$\chi^2 = 17.94$	44	37	19	$\chi^2 = 15.96$
65 and older	12	31	57	(.001)	48	34	19	(.003)
Gender	(n = 2096)				(n = 2126)			
Male	11	37	52	$\chi^2 = 2.50$	46	36	18	$\chi^2 = 0.53$
Female	14	36	51	(.286)	45	38	17	(.769)
Education	(n = 2094)				(n = 2124)			
H.S. diploma or less	14	38	48		39	41	20	
Some college	12	36	52	$\chi^2 = 10.36$	44	38	18	$\chi^2 = 40.62$
Bach./grad degree	9	36	55	(.035)	57	29	14	(.000)
Marital Status	(n = 2107)				(n = 2137)			
Married	11	36	53		46	36	17	
Never married	10	44	45		45	40	16	
Divorced/separated	10	46	44	$\chi^2 = 20.33$	39	37	24	$\chi^2 = 8.36$
Widowed	16	29	55	(.002)	46	37	17	(.213)
Occupation	(n = 1604)				(n = 1613)			
Prof./technical/admin	9	35	55		52	33	15	
Laborer	12	39	48		37	43	21	
Farming/ranching	15	38	47	$\chi^2 = 12.97$	48	41	12	$\chi^2 = 27.08$
Other	10	42	48	(.043)	44	40	16	(.000)
Yrs Lived in Comm.	(n = 2039)				(n = 2068)			
Five years or less	9	39	53	$\chi^2 = 2.53$	46	41	13	$\chi^2 = 5.12$
More than five years	12	36	51	(.282)	45	36	19	(.077)

Disagree represents the combined responses of “strongly disagree” and “disagree”. Similarly, agree is the combined responses of “strongly agree” and “agree.” Respondents were also given the option of checking “doesn’t apply,” those responses were excluded from this analysis.

Appendix Table 3 continued.

	<i>More people should be encouraged to relocate to my community.</i>				<i>New residents are often discriminated against.</i>			
	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Sig.</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Sig.</i>
	<i>Percentages</i>							
<u>Community Size</u>	(n = 2113)				(n = 2111)			
Less than 500	18	33	49		50	37	13	
500 - 999	7	33	60		54	32	14	
1,000 - 4,999	17	30	54		48	34	19	
5,000 - 9,999	14	39	47	$\chi^2 = 39.79$	44	38	18	$\chi^2 = 28.28$
10,000 and up	19	39	42	(.000)	40	38	23	(.000)
<u>Region</u>	(n = 2198)				(n = 2195)			
Panhandle	15	31	55		48	36	16	
North Central	12	34	54		49	35	16	
South Central	18	32	50		46	36	17	
Northeast	16	40	44	$\chi^2 = 20.23$	40	36	24	$\chi^2 = 19.47$
Southeast	18	36	46	(.010)	47	37	16	(.013)
<u>Income Level</u>	(n = 1984)				(n = 1981)			
Under \$20,000	17	37	47		40	37	23	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	14	38	47		43	40	18	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	17	36	47	$\chi^2 = 10.47$	47	33	20	$\chi^2 = 14.75$
\$60,000 and over	16	30	54	(.106)	49	35	16	(.022)
<u>Age</u>	(n = 2319)				(n = 2321)			
19 - 39	15	42	43		42	35	23	
40 - 64	16	35	49	$\chi^2 = 13.67$	45	36	19	$\chi^2 = 2.87$
65 and older	16	31	53	(.008)	44	36	20	(.580)
<u>Gender</u>	(n = 2140)				(n = 2140)			
Male	17	34	49	$\chi^2 = 4.54$	46	36	18	$\chi^2 = 3.90$
Female	14	38	48	(.103)	42	37	21	(.142)
<u>Education</u>	(n = 2136)				(n = 2137)			
H.S. diploma or less	17	40	43		44	38	18	
Some college	18	34	48	$\chi^2 = 37.42$	44	36	21	$\chi^2 = 5.50$
Bach./grad degree	12	29	59	(.000)	48	34	18	(.239)
<u>Marital Status</u>	(n = 2151)				(n = 2151)			
Married	16	34	50		47	35	18	
Never married	11	47	43		36	37	27	
Divorced/separated	18	37	44	$\chi^2 = 16.64$	38	41	21	$\chi^2 = 16.57$
Widowed	16	30	54	(.011)	44	38	18	(.011)
<u>Occupation</u>	(n = 1629)				(n = 1626)			
Prof./technical/admin	14	31	56		44	36	21	
Laborer	19	45	36		39	39	22	
Farming/ranching	14	35	51	$\chi^2 = 37.15$	52	36	12	$\chi^2 = 13.12$
Other	16	38	47	(.000)	43	37	20	(.041)
<u>Yrs Lived in Comm.</u>	(n = 2083)				(n = 2084)			
Five years or less	18	35	47	$\chi^2 = 0.53$	41	33	25	$\chi^2 = 8.14$
More than five years	16	35	49	(.766)	46	37	18	(.017)

Disagree represents the combined responses of “strongly disagree” and “disagree”. Similarly, agree is the combined responses of “strongly agree” and “agree.” Respondents were also given the option of checking “doesn’t apply,” those responses were excluded from this analysis.

Appendix Table 3 continued.

<i>New residents are often invited to join local organizations.</i>				
	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Sig.</i>
	<i>Percentages</i>			
<u>Community Size</u>	(n = 2106)			
Less than 500	13	33	55	
500 - 999	11	31	58	
1,000 - 4,999	14	35	51	
5,000 - 9,999	15	46	39	$\chi^2 = 49.99$
10,000 and up	13	47	39	(.000)
<u>Region</u>	(n = 2191)			
Panhandle	13	37	49	
North Central	12	34	54	
South Central	14	40	46	
Northeast	13	43	44	$\chi^2 = 10.95$
Southeast	14	42	44	(.205)
<u>Income Level</u>	(n = 1978)			
Under \$20,000	16	37	47	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	12	45	44	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	15	40	45	$\chi^2 = 8.75$
\$60,000 and over	13	40	48	(.188)
<u>Age</u>	(n = 2316)			
19 - 39	16	44	40	
40 - 64	14	43	43	$\chi^2 = 32.85$
65 and older	12	34	55	(.000)
<u>Gender</u>	(n = 2134)			
Male	14	40	46	$\chi^2 = 0.21$
Female	13	40	47	(.900)
<u>Education</u>	(n = 2131)			
H.S. diploma or less	12	41	47	
Some college	15	42	43	$\chi^2 = 5.60$
Bach./grad degree	13	38	49	(.231)
<u>Marital Status</u>	(n = 2145)			
Married	14	39	47	
Never married	13	47	41	
Divorced/separated	15	46	40	$\chi^2 = 13.83$
Widowed	10	37	53	(.032)
<u>Occupation</u>	(n = 1619)			
Prof./technical/admin	15	42	44	
Laborer	14	48	38	
Farming/ranching	12	34	54	$\chi^2 = 14.98$
Other	14	44	42	(.020)
<u>Yrs Lived in Comm.</u>	(n = 2075)			
Five years or less	25	43	33	$\chi^2 = 38.12$
More than five years	12	40	48	(.000)

Disagree represents the combined responses of "strongly disagree" and "disagree". Similarly, agree is the combined responses of "strongly agree" and "agree." Respondents were also given the option of checking "doesn't apply," those responses were excluded from this analysis.

Appendix Table 4. Expected Changes in Community Population Over the Next Ten Years by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes

	Young families					Retired persons				
	Stay		Don't		Sig.	Stay		Don't		Sig.
	Decrease	Same	Increase	know		Decrease	Same	Increase	know	
<i>Percentages</i>										
Community Size	(n = 2254)					(n = 2258)				
Less than 500	46	25	23	5		11	26	59	4	
500 - 999	42	27	24	7		7	20	67	6	
1,000 - 4,999	48	21	25	6	$\chi^2 =$	7	17	72	4	$\chi^2 =$
5,000 - 9,999	29	32	34	5	150.5	9	19	69	4	26.65
10,000 and up	23	27	45	5	(.000)	8	17	72	3	(.009)
Region	(n = 2333)					(n = 2338)				
Panhandle	38	25	32	5		7	20	70	3	
North Central	44	23	26	7		9	16	69	5	
South Central	31	23	40	5	$\chi^2 =$	7	17	72	3	$\chi^2 =$
Northeast	33	29	32	6	47.3	9	22	65	4	16.7
Southeast	39	29	26	6	(.000)	9	19	67	5	(.162)
Income Level	(n = 2098)					(n = 2098)				
Under \$20,000	32	24	34	10		10	20	63	7	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	39	25	31	6	$\chi^2 =$	9	19	68	4	$\chi^2 =$
\$40,000 - \$59,999	39	27	30	4	40.7	8	19	71	2	28.1
\$60,000 and over	31	28	38	3	(.000)	8	16	74	2	(.001)
Age	(n = 2300)					(n = 2305)				
19 - 39	27	25	44	4	$\chi^2 =$	8	18	71	4	$\chi^2 =$
40 - 64	40	26	30	4	66.7	9	18	71	3	26.5
65 and older	34	27	30	10	(.000)	8	23	63	6	(.000)
Gender	(n = 2278)					(n = 2283)				
Male	37	26	32	5	$\chi^2 =$	8	19	70	4	$\chi^2 =$
Female	33	25	34	9	19.7	9	19	66	6	6.5
					(.000)					(.088)
Education	(n = 2270)					(n = 2275)				
H.S. diploma or less	34	27	31	9	$\chi^2 =$	11	22	61	7	$\chi^2 =$
Some college	39	24	32	5	27.7	9	18	70	3	74.4
Bach./grad degree	34	28	36	3	(.000)	4	15	79	2	(.000)
Marital Status	(n = 2289)					(n = 2294)				
Married	37	26	33	5		8	19	69	3	
Never married	29	30	35	6	$\chi^2 =$	5	18	73	5	$\chi^2 =$
Divorced/separated	37	27	29	7	23.2	9	19	65	6	16.2
Widowed	37	21	32	11	(.006)	9	19	65	7	(.064)
Occupation	(n = 1552)					(n = 1555)				
Prof./technical/admin	37	23	38	3		8	16	75	2	
Laborer	33	29	34	5	$\chi^2 =$	9	20	67	4	$\chi^2 =$
Farming/ranching	56	21	16	6	58.5	11	20	66	4	13.2
Other	33	28	36	4	(.000)	8	16	74	3	(.154)
Yrs Lived in Comm.	(n = 2203)					(n = 2207)				
Five years or less	32	22	39	7	$\chi^2 =$	6	18	68	7	$\chi^2 =$
More than five years	36	26	32	6	7.8	9	19	69	3	9.8
					(.050)					(.020)

Decrease represents the combined responses of "decrease greatly" and "decrease somewhat". Similarly, increase is the combined responses of "increase greatly" and "increase somewhat."

Appendix Table 4 continued.

	<i>Immigrants</i>					<i>Single adults</i>				
	<i>Stay</i>	<i>Don't</i>			<i>Sig.</i>	<i>Stay</i>	<i>Don't</i>			<i>Sig.</i>
	<i>Decrease</i>	<i>Same</i>	<i>Increase</i>	<i>know</i>		<i>Decrease</i>	<i>Same</i>	<i>Increase</i>	<i>know</i>	
	<i>Percentages</i>									
<u>Community Size</u>	(n = 2237)					(n = 2251)				
Less than 500	6	37	34	23		17	45	24	14	
500 - 999	9	40	33	19		19	48	19	15	
1,000 - 4,999	7	28	46	19	$\chi^2 =$	25	37	26	13	$\chi^2 =$
5,000 - 9,999	7	17	65	12	280.2	20	34	35	11	75.4
10,000 and up	7	13	73	6	(.000)	15	36	39	10	(.000)
<u>Region</u>	(n = 2318)					(n = 2327)				
Panhandle	7	26	54	13		22	40	27	12	
North Central	5	31	41	22		23	35	28	15	
South Central	6	20	65	9	$\chi^2 =$	18	34	35	13	$\chi^2 =$
Northeast	10	21	56	13	93.9	16	42	31	11	29.0
Southeast	8	25	48	20	(.000)	16	43	28	13	(.004)
<u>Income Level</u>	(n = 2088)					(n = 2088)				
Under \$20,000	9	20	47	24		18	30	34	18	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	8	28	50	13	$\chi^2 =$	17	40	31	12	$\chi^2 =$
\$40,000 - \$59,999	6	23	61	10	78.4	19	41	31	9	38.8
\$60,000 and over	5	22	64	8	(.000)	21	41	31	7	(.000)
<u>Age</u>	(n = 2287)					(n = 2293)				
19 - 39	7	27	57	9	$\chi^2 =$	21	40	30	9	$\chi^2 =$
40 - 64	6	23	60	11	71.8	20	39	31	10	38.0
65 and older	10	23	46	22	(.000)	15	36	31	18	(.000)
<u>Gender</u>	(n = 2265)					(n = 2271)				
Male	6	25	57	12	$\chi^2 =$	17	42	31	11	$\chi^2 =$
Female	9	20	52	19	30.1	22	30	30	17	36.8
					(.000)					(.000)
<u>Education</u>	(n = 2262)					(n = 2263)				
H.S. diploma or less	8	23	53	17	$\chi^2 =$	15	39	30	17	$\chi^2 =$
Some college	7	25	54	15	22.2	21	37	32	11	36.1
Bach./grad degree	7	23	61	9	(.001)	23	40	30	8	(.000)
<u>Marital Status</u>	(n = 2275)					(n = 2282)				
Married	6	25	56	12		19	41	28	12	
Never married	6	27	56	10	$\chi^2 =$	22	34	34	10	$\chi^2 =$
Divorced/separated	5	18	62	15	71.1	16	32	41	11	46.4
Widowed	14	17	44	26	(.000)	17	29	34	21	(.000)
<u>Occupation</u>	(n = 1549)					(n = 1554)				
Prof./technical/admin	7	21	64	8		23	40	30	7	
Laborer	6	27	55	12	$\chi^2 =$	18	40	31	10	$\chi^2 =$
Farming/ranching	3	31	50	16	24.9	15	49	21	15	36.6
Other	5	23	60	11	(.003)	20	33	35	12	(.000)
<u>Yrs Lived in Comm.</u>	(n = 2191)					(n = 2199)				
Five years or less	6	22	57	15	$\chi^2 =$	22	28	33	17	$\chi^2 =$
More than five years	7	24	55	14	1.2	18	40	31	11	16.0
					(.757)					(.001)

Decrease represents the combined responses of "decrease greatly" and "decrease somewhat". Similarly, increase is the combined responses of "increase greatly" and "increase somewhat."

Appendix Table 4 continued.

Total population					
	<i>Decrease</i>	<i>Stay Same</i>	<i>Increase</i>	<i>Don't know</i>	<i>Sig.</i>
<i>Percentages</i>					
Community Size (n = 2252)					
Less than 500	35	26	30	9	
500 - 999	35	25	32	7	
1,000 - 4,999	31	26	36	7	$\chi^2 =$
5,000 - 9,999	14	28	50	8	305.7
10,000 and up	8	17	70	6	(.000)
Region (n = 2332)					
Panhandle	20	25	48	7	
North Central	32	20	39	9	
South Central	17	18	59	6	$\chi^2 =$
Northeast	19	25	49	7	81.1
Southeast	25	29	38	9	(.000)
Income Level (n = 2094)					
Under \$20,000	23	20	44	13	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	23	23	47	7	$\chi^2 =$
\$40,000 - \$59,999	22	24	50	4	56.5
\$60,000 and over	19	21	57	3	(.000)
Age (n = 2298)					
19 - 39	20	20	56	4	$\chi^2 =$
40 - 64	23	22	50	5	64.7
65 and older	20	25	43	13	(.000)
Gender (n = 2276)					
Male	22	23	50	6	$\chi^2 =$
Female	21	22	46	11	19.3
Education (n = 2268)					
H.S. diploma or less	19	23	46	11	$\chi^2 =$
Some college	24	23	48	5	43.4
Bach./grad degree	21	21	54	4	(.000)
Marital Status (n = 2287)					
Married	22	23	50	5	
Never married	24	18	51	6	$\chi^2 =$
Divorced/separated	20	19	52	9	68.0
Widowed	17	26	38	18	(.000)
Occupation (n = 1551)					
Prof./technical/admin	22	19	56	3	
Laborer	18	25	52	6	$\chi^2 =$
Farming/ranching	40	23	32	6	59.6
Other	19	22	53	5	(.000)
Yrs Lived in Comm. (n = 2202)					
Five years or less	19	19	54	8	$\chi^2 =$
More than five years	22	23	48	7	5.0
					(.173)

Decrease represents the combined responses of "decrease greatly" and "decrease somewhat". Similarly, increase is the combined responses of "increase greatly" and "increase somewhat".

CARI Research Report 06-2, August 2006

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.