

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Publications from the Center for Applied Rural
Innovation (CARI)

CARI: Center for Applied Rural Innovation

October 2002

Moving Toward the Digital Age: Changes in Rural Nebraskans' Use of Technology

John C. Allen

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, jallen1@unl.edu

Rebecca J. Vogt

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

Sam Cordes

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, scordes1@unl.edu

Randolph L. Cantrell

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

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



Part of the [Rural Sociology Commons](#)

Allen, John C.; Vogt, Rebecca J.; Cordes, Sam; and Cantrell, Randolph L., "Moving Toward the Digital Age: Changes in Rural Nebraskans' Use of Technology" (2002). *Publications from the Center for Applied Rural Innovation (CARI)*. 4.

<https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/caripubs/4>

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*

**Moving Toward the Digital Age: Changes in
Rural Nebraskans' Use of Technology**

2002 Nebraska Rural Poll Results

John C. Allen
Rebecca Vogt
Sam Cordes
Randolph L. Cantrell

Nebraska
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE
& NATURAL RESOURCES

Center Research Report 02-5, October 2002.

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

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

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

Funding for this project was provided by the Partnership for Rural Nebraska, the Cooperative Extension Division of the Institute for Agriculture and Natural Resources, the Agricultural Research Division of the Institute for Agriculture and Natural Resources, and the Center for Applied Rural Innovation. Additionally, considerable in-kind support and contributions were provided by a number of individuals and organizations associated with the Partnership for Rural Nebraska. A special note of appreciation is extended to the staff and student workers in the Center for Applied Rural Innovation for data entry and administrative and staff support.

Table of Contents

Executive Summary **i**

Introduction **1**

Use of Telecommunications Technologies **2**

Figure 1. Use of Telecommunications Technologies **2**

Table 1. Proportions of Respondents Using Technologies or Applications Regularly in 1997 and 2002. **3**

Conclusion **3**

Appendix Figure 1. Regions of Nebraska **4**

Appendix Table 1. Demographic Profile of Rural Poll Respondents Compared to 1990 Census **5**

Appendix Table 2. Use of Telecommunications Technologies by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes **6**

Executive Summary

The use of telecommunications technologies nationwide has increased dramatically during the past five years. New applications are constantly being developed and implemented. How has rural Nebraskans' use of telecommunications changed over the past five years? Does use of technology differ by age, income, and education?

This report details 2,841 responses to the 2002 Nebraska Rural Poll, the seventh annual effort to understand rural Nebraskans' perceptions. Respondents were asked a question regarding their use of some telecommunications technologies or applications. Trends for this question are examined by comparing data from this year to the 1997 study. 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:

- ***The use of telecommunications technologies by rural Nebraskans has increased over the past five years.*** For example, in 1997 only 13 percent of the respondents regularly used e-mail. In 2002, 42 percent regularly use e-mail. Similarly, when asked about the "World Wide Web" in 1997, only eight percent said they use it regularly. However, in 2002, 43 percent say they regularly use "Internet access."
- ***The technologies or applications used most often include: telephone answering machine, cable TV, personal computer and cellular phone.*** The proportions reporting that they regularly use each are as follows: answering machine (65%), cable TV (53%), personal computer (49%) and cellular phone (47%).
- ***The groups most likely to use all of the technologies include: younger persons, those with higher household incomes, males, persons with higher education levels, married respondents and persons with professional occupations.***

Introduction

The use of telecommunications technologies nationwide has increased dramatically during the past five years. New applications are constantly being developed and implemented. Given that, how has rural Nebraskans' use of technologies changed over the past five years? Does use of technology differ by age, income, and education? This paper addresses these questions.

The 2002 Nebraska Rural Poll is the seventh annual effort to understand rural Nebraskans' perceptions. Respondents were asked a question about their use of telecommunications technologies or applications. Trends for this question will be examined by comparing the data from the 1997 Poll to this year's results.

Methodology and Respondent Profile

This study is based on 2,841 responses from Nebraskans living in the 87 non-metropolitan counties in the state. A self-administered questionnaire was mailed in February and March to approximately 6,400 randomly selected households.

Metropolitan counties not included in the sample were Cass, Dakota, Douglas, Lancaster, Sarpy and Washington. The 14-page questionnaire included questions pertaining to well-being, community, work, successful rural communities, and technology use. This paper reports only results from the technology use portion of the survey.

A 44% response rate was achieved using the total design method (Dillman, 1978). The sequence of steps used follow:

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

The average respondent is 55 years of age. Seventy-three percent are married (Appendix Table 1¹) and sixty-eight 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 42 years. Fifty-seven 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 2001 was below \$40,000. Thirty percent reported incomes over \$50,000. Ninety-three percent have attained at least a high school diploma.

Seventy-two percent were employed in 2001 on a full-time, part-time, or seasonal basis. Twenty-four percent are retired. Thirty-four percent of those employed reported working in a professional, technical or administrative occupation. Seventeen percent indicated they were farmers or ranchers. The

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

employed respondents reported having to drive an average of eight miles, one way, to their primary job.

Use of Telecommunications Technologies

As mentioned previously in this paper, telecommunications technologies are becoming more pervasive. This survey asked the following question to determine how frequently rural Nebraskans use ten different telecommunications technologies or applications:

Listed below are some telecommunications technologies or applications now in use by some people. For each of the following, please indicate how often you use each.

The technologies with the largest proportion of respondents using them regularly are: telephone answering machine (65%), cable

TV (53%), personal computer (49%), and cellular phone (47%) (Figure1).

Conversely, the technologies or applications with the lowest proportions of respondents stating that they use them regularly are: telemedicine applications (2%), purchasing online (7%), and fax machine (17%).

The use of telecommunications technologies has changed dramatically during the past five years (Table 1). For example, in 1997 only 13 percent of the respondents said they regularly used e-mail. In 2002, 42 percent say they regularly use e-mail. Similarly, when asked about the “World Wide Web” in 1997, only 8 percent said they used it regularly. In 2002, 43 percent say they regularly use “Internet access.” The proportions regularly using a fax machine and telemedicine applications (electronic medical monitoring) have not changed much over the past five years.

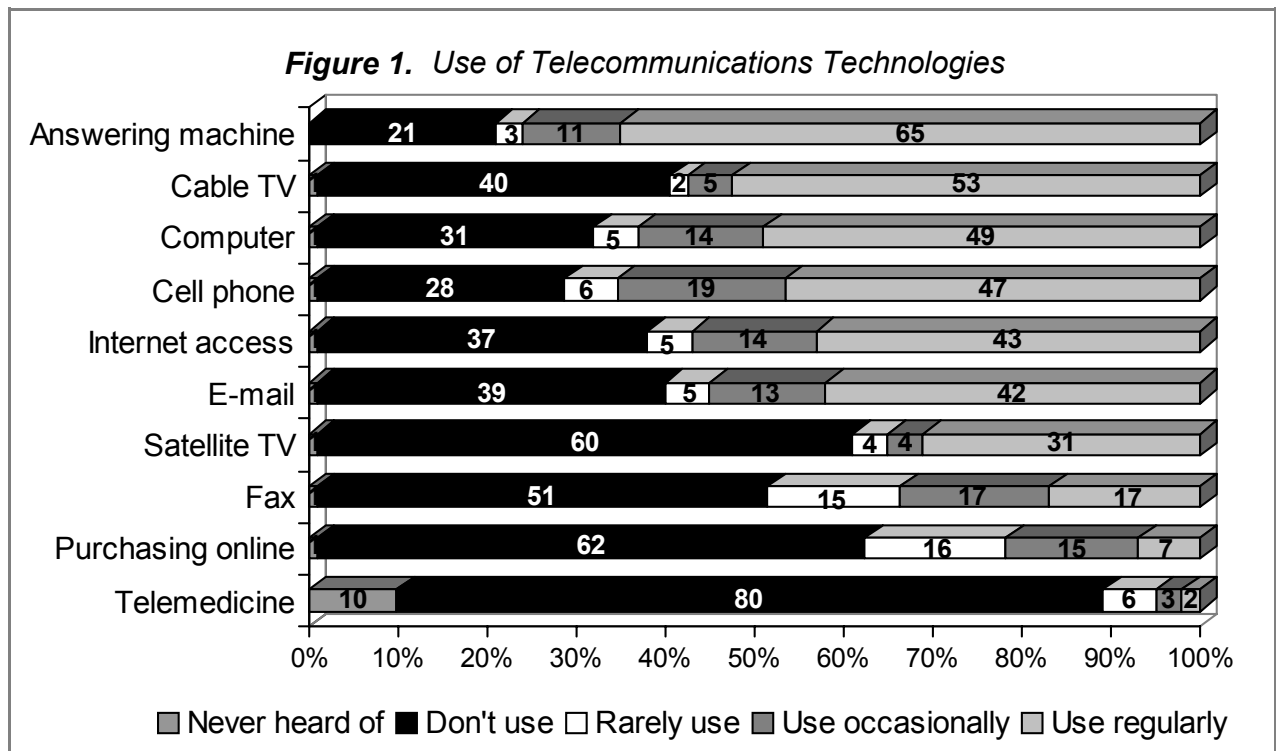


Table 1. Proportions of Respondents Using Technologies or Applications Regularly in 1997 and 2002.

<i>Item</i>	<i>1997</i>	<i>2002</i>
Telephone answering machine	55	65
Cable TV	NA	53
Personal computer	30	49
Cellular phone	30	47
Internet access*	8	43
E-mail	13	42
Satellite TV	21	31
Fax machine	18	17
Purchasing online	NA	7
Telemedicine applications**	1	2

Note: The list of items was not identical in each study. "NA" means that item was not asked that particular year.

* Worded as World Wide Web in 1997 study.

** Worded as Electronic Medical Monitoring in 1997 study.

The responses to this question were also analyzed by community size, region, and various individual characteristics (Appendix Table 2). The use of most of the technologies or applications differ by income, age, gender, education, marital status, and occupation. The younger respondents, those with higher household incomes, males, persons with higher educational levels, the married respondents and persons with professional occupations are the groups most likely to use most of the technologies.

The use of the following technologies also differ by community size: personal computer, Internet access, e-mail, satellite TV, and cable TV. Except for satellite TV, the persons living in larger communities are

more likely than those living in smaller communities to regularly use these technologies. Persons living in smaller communities, though, are more likely to use satellite TV.

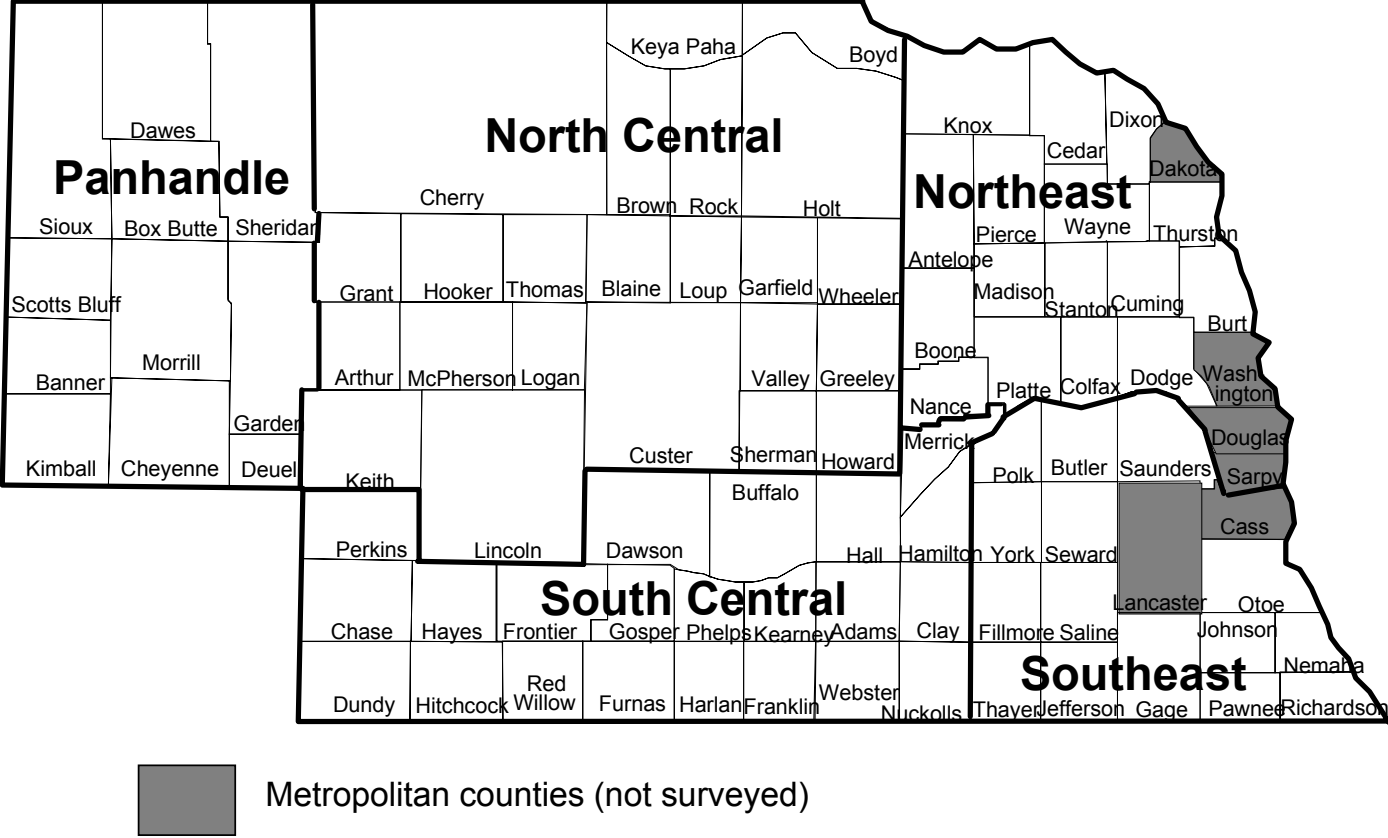
Regional differences occur when examining the use of cable TV and satellite TV. Residents of the Panhandle are more likely than persons living in other regions of the state to regularly use satellite TV (see Appendix Figure 1 for the counties included in each region). Persons living in the South Central region are most likely to use cable TV.

Conclusion

The use of telecommunications technologies by rural Nebraskans has dramatically increased over the past five years. The technologies showing the highest increase in use include: Internet access, e-mail, and a personal computer.

However, not all rural Nebraskans are using these technologies. Persons with higher incomes, younger adults, those with higher education levels, males, and persons with professional occupations are the groups most likely to be using these technologies.

Appendix Figure 1. Regions of Nebraska



Appendix Table 1. Demographic Profile of Rural Poll Respondents Compared to 1990 Census

	2002 Poll	2001 Poll	2000 Poll	1999 Poll	1998 Poll	1990 Census
Age : ¹						
20 - 39	16%	17%	20%	21%	25%	38%
40 - 64	51%	49%	54%	52%	55%	36%
65 and over	32%	33%	26%	28%	20%	26%
Gender: ²						
Female	36%	37%	57%	31%	58%	49%
Male	64%	63%	43%	69%	42%	51%
Education: ³						
Less than 9 th grade	3%	4%	2%	3%	2%	10%
9 th to 12 th grade (no diploma)	4%	5%	4%	5%	3%	12%
High school diploma (or equivalent)	32%	35%	34%	36%	33%	38%
Some college, no degree	25%	26%	28%	25%	27%	21%
Associate degree	10%	8%	9%	9%	10%	7%
Bachelors degree	16%	13%	15%	15%	16%	9%
Graduate or professional degree	10%	8%	9%	8%	9%	3%
Household income: ⁴						
Less than \$10,000	8%	9%	3%	8%	3%	19%
\$10,000 - \$19,999	15%	16%	10%	15%	10%	25%
\$20,000 - \$29,999	17%	20%	15%	18%	17%	21%
\$30,000 - \$39,999	17%	16%	19%	18%	20%	15%
\$40,000 - \$49,999	14%	14%	17%	15%	18%	9%
\$50,000 - \$59,999	11%	9%	15%	9%	12%	5%
\$60,000 - \$74,999	9%	8%	11%	8%	10%	3%
\$75,000 or more	10%	8%	11%	10%	10%	3%
Marital Status: ⁵						
Married	73%	70%	95%	76%	95%	64%
Never married	6%	7%	0.2%	7%	0.4%	20%
Divorced/separated	9%	10%	2%	8%	1%	7%
Widowed/widower	12%	14%	4%	10%	3%	10%

¹ 1990 Census universe is non-metro population 20 years of age and over.

² 1990 Census universe is total non-metro population.

³ 1990 Census universe is non-metro population 18 years of age and over.

⁴ 1990 Census universe is all non-metro households.

⁵ 1990 Census universe is non-metro population 15 years of age and over.

Appendix Table 2. Use of Telecommunications Technologies by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes .

	Telephone answering machine					Significance	Personal computer					Significance
	<i>Never heard of</i>	<i>Don't use</i>	<i>Rarely use</i>	<i>Use occasionally</i>	<i>Use regularly</i>		<i>Never heard of</i>	<i>Don't use</i>	<i>Rarely use</i>	<i>Use occasionally</i>	<i>Use regularly</i>	
<i>Percentages</i>												
Community Size	(n = 2691)						(n = 2669)					
Less than 500	1	25	3	11	61		1	37	7	17	40	
500 - 4,999	0*	21	3	11	65	P ² = 14.22	1	32	5	13	49	P ² = 27.75
5,000 and up	0*	18	3	11	68	(.076)	1	27	5	15	53	(.001)
Region	(n = 2763)						(n = 2742)					
Panhandle	0*	20	5	9	65		1	28	4	17	50	
North Central	0*	22	3	9	66		1	34	4	9	52	
South Central	0*	20	3	12	65		1	28	6	15	51	
Northeast	0*	22	2	13	63	P ² = 15.68	1	31	5	15	48	P ² = 23.29
Southeast	0	19	4	10	67	(.476)	0*	34	5	15	45	(.106)
Individual Attributes:												
Income Level	(n = 2517)						(n = 2506)					
Under \$20,000	1	33	4	10	53		2	54	4	12	29	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	0	21	3	12	63		1	34	6	15	45	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	0	13	3	12	72	P ² = 155.10	0*	17	5	16	61	P ² = 367.39
\$60,000 and over	0	9	2	9	80	(.000)	0	8	4	14	74	(.000)
Age	(n = 2785)						(n = 2764)					
19 - 39	0	9	2	11	78		0*	8	4	17	71	
40 - 64	0	14	4	11	72	P ² = 266.67	0*	20	6	17	57	P ² = 594.03
65 and older	1	38	3	11	48	(.000)	2	61	4	10	24	(.000)
Gender	(n = 2747)						(n = 2726)					
Male	0*	18	4	13	65	P ² = 29.50	1	28	5	17	49	P ² = 34.38
Female	0*	24	2	8	66	(.000)	1	36	4	10	49	(.000)
Education	(n = 2747)						(n = 2725)					
High school or less	0*	29	4	12	55		1	51	5	14	30	
Some college	0*	15	4	12	70	P ² = 118.03	0*	22	6	16	56	P ² = 412.50
Bachelors/grad degree	0*	15	2	8	76	(.000)	0*	12	4	14	70	(.000)
Marital Status	(n = 2747)						(n = 2725)					
Married	0*	18	3	11	68		0*	24	5	16	54	
Never married	0	24	4	12	60		1	30	6	12	52	
Divorced/separated	0	13	4	13	71	P ² = 100.87	0*	36	6	12	47	P ² = 273.41
Widowed	1	40	3	9	48	(.000)	2	69	3	6	20	(.000)
Occupation	(n = 1896)						(n = 1896)					
Prof./technical/admin	0	10	2	9	79		0*	7	5	13	75	
Farming/ranching	0	16	2	10	72		1	23	8	22	47	
Laborer	0*	16	4	15	64	P ² = 38.90	1	30	7	19	43	P ² = 157.84
Other	0	16	4	10	70	(.000)	0*	23	4	16	57	(.000)

0* = Less than 1 percent.

Appendix Table 2 continued.

	<i>Cellular phone</i>						<i>Internet access</i>					
	<i>Never heard of</i>	<i>Don't use</i>	<i>Rarely use</i>	<i>Use occasionally</i>	<i>Use regularly</i>	<i>Significance</i>	<i>Never heard of</i>	<i>Don't use</i>	<i>Rarely use</i>	<i>Use occasionally</i>	<i>Use regularly</i>	<i>Significance</i>
	<i>Percentages</i>											
Community Size	(n = 2682)						(n = 2670)					
Less than 500	0*	30	7	19	43		1	46	5	14	35	
500 - 4,999	0*	25	6	20	49	P ² = 9.24	1	37	6	13	43	P ² = 29.86
5,000 and up	1	28	6	18	47	(.322)	1	33	5	16	46	(.000)
Region	(n = 2757)						(n = 2744)					
Panhandle	1	27	6	21	45		1	34	6	16	43	
North Central	1	27	5	18	49		1	37	5	10	46	
South Central	1	26	7	17	49		1	35	5	15	44	
Northeast	1	30	5	19	47	P ² = 18.13	1	38	6	13	42	P ² = 19.02
Southeast	0	28	7	22	43	(.316)	0*	41	6	15	38	(.268)
Individual Attributes:												
<i>Income Level</i>	(n = 2515)						(n = 2508)					
Under \$20,000	2	48	5	15	32		2	61	4	10	22	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	0*	32	7	20	41		1	42	7	13	38	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	0*	16	7	22	55	P ² = 322.01	0*	23	4	18	55	P ² = 421.54
\$60,000 and over	0	7	4	20	70	(.000)	0	9	6	17	68	(.000)
<i>Age</i>	(n = 2779)						(n = 2766)					
19 - 39	0*	13	5	16	65		0*	12	6	20	62	
40 - 64	0*	19	6	20	55	P ² = 366.65	0*	27	6	16	51	P ² = 571.22
65 and older	1	49	6	20	25	(.000)	2	68	4	8	19	(.000)
<i>Gender</i>	(n = 2740)						(n = 2728)					
Male	1	24	6	20	50	P ² = 27.89	1	34	6	16	43	P ² = 22.66
Female	1	33	6	17	43	(.000)	1	42	4	12	42	(.000)
<i>Education</i>	(n = 2740)						(n = 2727)					
High school or less	1	38	7	19	35		1	58	5	11	24	
Some college	0*	22	6	19	54	P ² = 149.72	0*	28	6	16	50	P ² = 417.08
Bachelors/grad degree	0*	18	5	21	57	(.000)	0*	16	5	16	62	(.000)
<i>Marital Status</i>	(n = 2740)						(n = 2727)					
Married	0*	21	6	20	53		1	31	6	16	48	
Never married	1	44	5	12	38		1	33	8	15	43	
Divorced/separated	1	35	7	18	39	P ² = 207.62	0*	44	5	11	39	P ² = 240.39
Widowed	1	54	6	18	22	(.000)	3	73	2	7	15	(.000)
<i>Occupation</i>	(n = 1897)						(n = 1895)					
Prof./technical/admin	0*	13	6	23	58		0*	11	5	16	68	
Farming/ranching	0*	19	4	19	59		1	34	9	16	40	
Laborer	0*	27	9	20	43	P ² = 57.18	1	38	6	19	37	P ² = 153.94
Other	0*	22	5	16	58	(.000)	0*	30	5	14	51	(.000)

0* = Less than 1 percent.

Appendix Table 2 continued.

	<i>E-mail</i>						<i>Fax machine</i>					
	<i>Never heard of</i>	<i>Don't use</i>	<i>Rarely use</i>	<i>Use occasionally</i>	<i>Use regularly</i>	<i>Significance</i>	<i>Never heard of</i>	<i>Don't use</i>	<i>Rarely use</i>	<i>Use occasionally</i>	<i>Use regularly</i>	<i>Significance</i>
<i>Percentages</i>												
Community Size	(n = 2665)						(n = 2664)					
Less than 500	1	46	7	11	35		1	52	15	18	14	
500 - 4,999	1	39	6	12	42	P ² = 29.47	1	50	14	18	18	P ² = 8.07
5,000 and up	1	34	4	14	47	(.000)	1	49	16	16	19	(.426)
Region	(n = 2739)						(n = 2737)					
Panhandle	1	36	7	15	42		1	47	16	16	21	
North Central	1	38	5	10	46		1	49	11	21	18	
South Central	1	37	5	14	44		1	51	14	16	19	
Northeast	1	40	5	12	41	P ² = 19.58	1	53	15	17	15	P ² = 24.42
Southeast	0*	42	6	14	38	(.240)	1	51	18	15	15	(.081)
Individual Attributes:	(n = 2502)						(n = 2500)					
Income Level	(n = 2502)						(n = 2500)					
Under \$20,000	2	62	4	9	23		2	72	11	10	6	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	1	43	6	12	38		1	57	13	16	14	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	0*	24	5	17	54	P ² = 375.87	1	38	22	19	21	P ² = 375.96
\$60,000 and over	0	12	7	15	66	(.000)	0*	22	15	26	37	(.000)
Age	(n = 2761)						(n = 2759)					
19 - 39	0*	14	7	18	61		0*	31	21	25	22	
40 - 64	0*	29	6	15	49	P ² = 499.20	1	40	16	21	22	P ² = 431.62
65 and older	2	67	3	7	21	(.000)	2	78	8	6	6	(.000)
Gender	(n = 2723)						(n = 2721)					
Male	1	36	6	14	43	P ² = 19.58	1	48	15	18	19	P ² = 12.36
Female	1	42	4	11	42	(.001)	1	55	13	16	15	(.015)
Education	(n = 2722)						(n = 2720)					
High school or less	1	59	5	11	24		2	69	11	10	8	
Some college	0*	30	5	15	49	P ² = 387.92	1	46	17	19	18	P ² = 350.83
Bachelors/grad degree	0*	18	6	14	62	(.000)	0*	28	17	25	30	(.000)
Marital Status	(n = 2722)						(n = 2720)					
Married	1	32	6	14	47		1	46	16	19	20	
Never married	1	36	8	14	42		1	47	21	18	13	
Divorced/separated	0*	45	4	10	41	P ² = 225.69	0*	54	14	17	15	P ² = 156.62
Widowed	3	73	1	7	16	(.000)	3	79	5	3	9	(.000)
Occupation	(n = 1894)						(n = 1895)					
Prof./technical/admin	0*	12	5	16	67		1	19	20	30	31	
Farming/ranching	1	38	8	15	38		1	49	15	18	17	
Laborer	1	41	8	16	35	P ² = 175.12	1	66	18	10	6	P ² = 281.57
Other	0*	32	4	13	51	(.000)	0*	38	14	21	28	(.000)

0* = Less than 1 percent.

Appendix Table 2 continued.

	<i>Satellite TV</i>						<i>Cable TV</i>					
	<i>Never heard of</i>	<i>Don't use</i>	<i>Rarely use</i>	<i>Use occasionally</i>	<i>Use regularly</i>	<i>Significance</i>	<i>Never heard of</i>	<i>Don't use</i>	<i>Rarely use</i>	<i>Use occasionally</i>	<i>Use regularly</i>	<i>Significance</i>
	<i>Percentages</i>											
Community Size	(n = 2645)						(n = 2643)					
Less than 500	0*	42	2	9	48		1	64	3	5	29	
500 - 4,999	1	55	3	4	37	P ² = 160.70	1	44	2	4	49	P ² = 202.12
5,000 and up	1	71	4	3	21	(.000)	0*	27	1	6	65	(.000)
Region	(n = 2717)						(n = 2715)					
Panhandle	2	48	3	4	43		1	43	3	7	47	
North Central	1	53	3	5	39		1	44	2	5	48	
South Central	1	64	4	4	28		0*	35	1	6	58	
Northeast	1	64	3	4	29	P ² = 48.85	1	40	2	4	53	P ² = 29.29
Southeast	1	62	4	5	28	(.000)	0*	41	2	6	51	(.022)
Individual Attributes:												
<i>Income Level</i>	(n = 2485)						(n = 2487)					
Under \$20,000	2	66	2	4	26		1	43	2	6	48	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	1	59	3	4	33		0*	45	2	5	48	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	1	59	4	4	32	P ² = 27.63	1	35	2	5	58	P ² = 49.73
\$60,000 and over	0*	56	5	4	34	(.006)	0*	31	2	6	62	(.000)
<i>Age</i>	(n = 2738)						(n = 2737)					
19 - 39	1	52	6	4	38		0*	41	3	6	50	
40 - 64	1	56	3	5	35	P ² = 81.96	0*	42	2	6	51	P ² = 15.89
65 and older	1	71	2	4	22	(.000)	1	36	1	5	58	(.044)
<i>Gender</i>	(n = 2701)						(n = 2702)					
Male	1	57	4	5	34	P ² = 23.42	1	41	2	6	51	P ² = 9.40
Female	1	66	3	3	28	(.000)	0*	37	2	5	56	(.052)
<i>Education</i>	(n = 2700)						(n = 2703)					
High school or less	1	61	3	5	30		1	42	2	6	51	
Some college	1	59	3	4	34	P ² = 16.14	1	39	2	5	53	P ² = 7.13
Bachelors/grad degree	0*	60	5	4	30	(.040)	0*	37	2	5	55	(.522)
<i>Marital Status</i>	(n = 2700)						(n = 2701)					
Married	1	56	4	5	35		1	42	2	5	51	
Never married	2	63	3	4	28		1	44	3	4	48	
Divorced/separated	1	69	4	5	22	P ² = 86.37	1	34	2	6	57	P ² = 22.88
Widowed	2	79	0*	2	17	(.000)	1	30	2	6	62	(.029)
<i>Occupation</i>	(n = 1882)						(n = 1864)					
Prof./technical/admin	1	59	6	3	31		0	33	2	7	58	
Farming/ranching	0*	37	1	5	57		1	72	3	3	22	
Laborer	1	62	3	6	29	P ² = 106.78	0*	40	2	9	50	P ² = 182.70
Other	1	62	4	5	29	(.000)	1	33	2	5	60	(.000)

0* = Less than 1 percent.

	<i>Purchasing online</i>					<i>Significance</i>	<i>Telemedicine applications</i>					<i>Significance</i>
	<i>Never heard of</i>	<i>Don't use</i>	<i>Rarely use</i>	<i>Use occasionally</i>	<i>Use regularly</i>		<i>Never heard of</i>	<i>Don't use</i>	<i>Rarely use</i>	<i>Use occasionally</i>	<i>Use regularly</i>	
<i>Percentages</i>												
Community Size	(n = 2654)						(n = 2642)					
Less than 500	1	69	14	11	5		8	84	4	3	2	
500 - 4,999	1	61	15	16	7	P ² = 13.97	11	78	6	3	2	P ² = 8.10
5,000 and up	1	60	17	15	8	(.082)	10	79	6	3	2	(.424)
Region	(n = 2728)						(n = 2716)					
Panhandle	1	63	13	13	9		11	79	6	2	2	
North Central	1	58	18	15	8		11	77	6	3	3	
South Central	1	60	15	16	8		8	80	6	4	2	
Northeast	1	63	15	14	7	P ² = 15.88	12	79	5	3	1	P ² = 22.04
Southeast	1	65	15	14	5	(.462)	10	82	5	2	2	(.142)
Individual Attributes:												
<i>Income Level</i>	(n = 2495)						(n = 2483)					
Under \$20,000	3	80	8	6	4		13	82	3	2	1	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	1	66	13	14	6		9	82	5	3	1	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	1	50	21	20	8	P ² = 259.59	9	79	7	3	2	P ² = 62.22
\$60,000 and over	0	39	25	24	13	(.000)	9	72	10	5	4	(.000)
<i>Age</i>	(n = 2750)						(n = 2737)					
19 - 39	0*	39	23	25	13		22	66	6	4	2	
40 - 64	1	56	18	18	8	P ² = 363.63	9	79	7	3	2	P ² = 133.25
65 and older	2	85	7	4	2	(.000)	6	89	3	2	1	(.000)
<i>Gender</i>	(n = 2713)						(n = 2700)					
Male	1	59	17	15	8	P ² = 12.51	10	80	6	3	2	P ² = 5.06
Female	1	66	13	14	6	(.014)	11	80	4	3	2	(.282)
<i>Education</i>	(n = 2713)						(n = 2700)					
High school or less	2	78	9	8	3		10	83	4	2	1	
Some college	1	57	18	18	7	P ² = 260.54	10	78	6	3	2	P ² = 28.41
Bachelors/grad degree	1	44	23	21	13	(.000)	9	76	7	4	3	(.000)
<i>Marital Status</i>	(n = 2712)						(n = 2699)					
Married	1	58	17	17	8		10	78	7	3	2	
Never married	1	57	18	15	8		18	72	3	5	1	
Divorced/separated	1	68	14	11	6	P ² = 112.79	10	85	3	2	0*	P ² = 40.09
Widowed	3	85	5	5	2	(.000)	7	87	3	1	2	(.000)
<i>Occupation</i>	(n = 1890)						(n = 1884)					
Prof./technical/admin	0*	39	22	27	12		11	72	10	5	2	
Farming/ranching	1	65	14	14	5		11	83	3	2	1	
Laborer	1	66	15	11	7	P ² = 112.63	11	82	4	1	2	P ² = 37.21
Other	1	54	20	18	7	(.000)	12	76	7	3	2	(.000)

0* = Less than 1 percent.

CARI Research Report 02-5, October 2002



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.