



# CENTER FOR APPLIED RURAL INNOVATION

A Research Report\*

**Life in Nonmetropolitan Nebraska:  
Perceptions of Well-Being and  
Acts of Care Giving**

*2010 Nebraska Rural Poll Results*

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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/>

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# Executive Summary

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Given the challenges and uncertainties of recent years, how do rural Nebraskans believe they are doing and how do they view their future? Have these views changed over the past fifteen years? How satisfied are they with various items that influence their well-being? The aging population in nonmetropolitan Nebraska faces additional challenges to their quality of life and many rely on nearby social support systems to enable them to remain in rural areas. How many rural Nebraskans provide assistance to aging or ill relatives and neighbors? Do they live near their parents or grown children? This paper provides a detailed analysis of these questions.

This report details 2,797 responses to the 2010 Nebraska Rural Poll, the fifteenth annual effort to understand rural Nebraskans' perceptions. Respondents were asked a series of questions about their individual well-being. Trends for these questions are examined by comparing data from the fourteen previous polls to this year's results. In addition, comparisons are made among different respondent subgroups, that is, comparisons by age, occupation, region, etc. Based on these analyses, some key findings emerged:

- ***Rural Nebraskans are much more positive about their current situation than they were last year.*** This year a marked increase occurred in the proportion believing they are better off than they were five years ago. One-half (50%) of rural Nebraskans believe they are better off than they were five years ago, up from 43 percent last year. This represents the second highest proportion in the study's history of persons believing they are better off compared to five years ago (behind 53% occurring in 2008). Correspondingly, there was a large decrease in the proportion of rural Nebraskans who believe they are worse off than they were five years ago, from 28 percent last year (an all-time high also occurring in 2003) to 21 percent this year.
- ***Rural Nebraskans continue to be generally positive about their future.*** The proportion stating they will be better off ten years from now has generally remained about 42 percent (the proportion reported this year). The proportion of respondents stating they will be worse off ten years from now has been approximately 20 percent each year. The proportion this year is 23 percent (the second highest proportion in the 15 year period, also occurring in 1997 and 2003). Unlike their assessments of their current situation, rural Nebraskans' outlook on their future was relatively unchanged from last year.
- ***Following trends in previous years, rural Nebraskans are most satisfied with their marriage, family, friends, religion/spirituality and the outdoors. They continue to be less satisfied with job opportunities, current income level and financial security during retirement.*** Some of the items in the latter category had large increases in the levels of satisfaction this year as compared to last year. As an example, 42 percent of rural Nebraskans are satisfied with their job opportunities this year, compared to 32 percent last year. And, satisfaction with job security increased from 59 percent last year to 66 percent this year. Approximately one-third (32%) of rural Nebraskans are satisfied with their financial security during retirement this year, compared to 24 percent last year. These increases bring the proportions satisfied with these financial items back in line with where they were in previous years before declining sharply last year.

- ***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, 74 percent of respondents with household incomes of \$60,000 or more think they are much better off or better off than they were five years ago. However, only 26 percent of persons with household incomes under \$20,000 believe they are much better off or better off than they were five years ago. And, 60 percent of persons with household incomes over \$60,000 think they will be much better off or better off ten years from now, compared to 28 percent of persons with household incomes under \$20,000.
- ***Persons with lower education levels are more likely than persons with more education to believe that people are powerless to control their own lives.*** Approximately 47 percent of persons with a high school diploma or less education agree that people are powerless to control their own lives. However, only 22 percent of persons with a four-year college degree share this opinion.
- ***Many rural Nebraskans provide voluntary assistance to aging, ill or special needs (such as a physical, mental or financial problem) relatives.*** Ten percent provide such assistance daily, 15 percent assist relatives weekly and an additional 13 percent do so monthly.
  - ✓ *Persons age 50 to 64 are more likely than both younger and older persons to provide voluntary assistance to relatives at least weekly.* Just over one-third (34%) of persons age 50 to 64 are providing voluntary assistance to aging, ill or special needs relatives at least weekly. In comparison, 18 percent of persons age 19 to 29 provide assistance at least weekly.
- ***Many rural Nebraskans also provide voluntary assistance to aging, ill or special needs (such as a physical, mental or financial problem) neighbors.*** Three percent provide assistance to neighbors daily, eight percent assist their neighbors weekly and 13 percent do so monthly.
  - ✓ *Residents of smaller communities are also more likely than residents of larger communities to provide voluntary assistance to aging, ill or special needs neighbors.* Sixteen percent of persons living in or near communities with less than 500 persons provide assistance to neighbors at least weekly, compared to approximately nine percent of persons living in or near communities with populations of 5,000 or more.
- ***Many rural Nebraskans live near a parent.*** Over one-quarter (29%) of rural Nebraskans live two miles or less from their nearest parent. Two percent of rural Nebraskans live with their parents or their spouse's parents. Three-quarters (75%) of rural Nebraskans live within 60 miles from a living parent.

## Introduction

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Given the challenges and uncertainties of recent years, how do rural Nebraskans believe they are doing and how do they view their future? Have these views changed over the past fifteen years? How satisfied are they with various items that influence their well-being? The aging population in nonmetropolitan Nebraska faces additional challenges to their quality of life and many rely on nearby social support systems to enable them to remain in rural areas. How many rural Nebraskans provide assistance to aging or ill relatives and neighbors? Do they live near their parents or grown children? This paper provides a detailed analysis of these questions.

The 2010 Nebraska Rural Poll is the fifteenth annual effort to understand rural Nebraskans' perceptions. Respondents were asked a series of questions about their well-being. Trends for these questions will be examined by comparing the data from the fourteen previous polls to this year's results. They were also asked some questions about care giving.

### *Methodology and Respondent Profile*

This study is based on 2,797 responses from Nebraskans living in the 84 nonmetropolitan counties in the state. A self-administered questionnaire was mailed in March and April to approximately 6,500 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, agriculture and food, energy, retail shopping, care giving and work. This paper reports only results from the well-being and care giving portions of the survey.

A 43% 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 nonmetropolitan 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 ten 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 presented in this report. The margin of error for this study is plus or minus two percent.

Since younger residents have typically been under-represented by survey respondents and older residents have been over-represented, weights were used to adjust the sample to match the age distribution in the nonmetropolitan counties in Nebraska (using U.S. Census figures).

The average age of respondents is 50 years. Seventy-one percent are married (Appendix

Table 1) and 69 percent live within the city limits of a town or village. On average, respondents have lived in Nebraska 43 years and have lived in their current community 28 years. Fifty-two percent are living in or near towns or villages with populations less than 5,000. Ninety-five percent have attained at least a high school diploma.

Forty-one percent of the respondents report their 2009 approximate household income from all sources, before taxes, as below \$40,000. Forty-seven percent report incomes over \$50,000.

Seventy-six percent were employed in 2009 on a full-time, part-time, or seasonal basis. Eighteen percent are retired. Thirty-five percent of those employed reported working in a management, professional, or education occupation. Twelve percent indicated they were employed in agriculture.

## Trends in Well-Being (1996 - 2010)

Comparisons are made between the well-being data collected this year to the fourteen previous studies. These comparisons show a clearer picture of the trends in the well-being of rural Nebraskans.

### 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?"

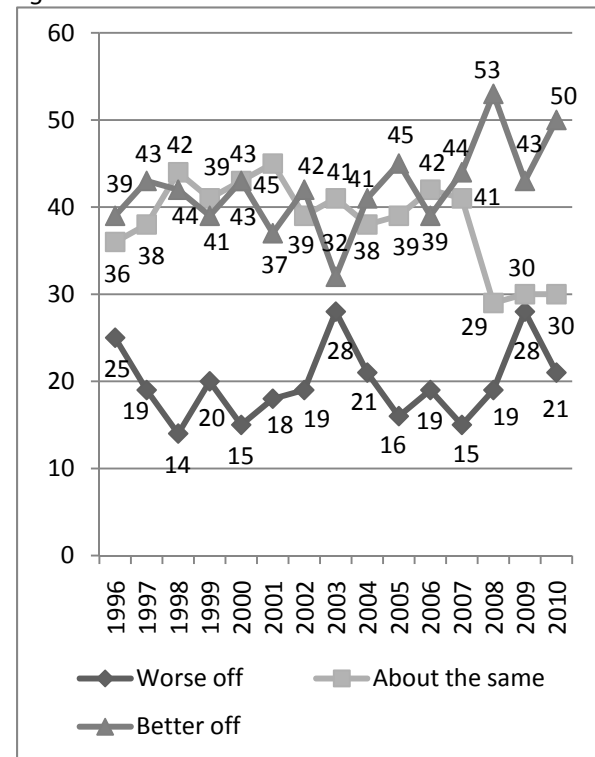
3. "All things considered, do you think you will be better or worse off ten years from now than you are today?"

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."

The responses to the first three questions were expanded in 2009 to a five-point scale, where responses included much worse off, worse off, about the same, better off, and much better off. To compare the data to prior years, the much worse off and worse off categories are combined as well as the better off and much better off categories.

When examining the trends over the past fifteen years, rural Nebraskans have generally given positive reviews about their current situation (Figure 1). Each year the proportion of rural Nebraskans that say they are better off than they were five years ago has been greater than the proportion saying they are worse off than they were five years ago.

Figure 1. Well-Being Compared to Five Years Ago: 1996 - 2010





And, rural Nebraskans are much more positive about their current situation than they were last year. This year a marked increase occurred in the proportion believing they are better off than they were five years ago. One-half (50%) of rural Nebraskans believe they are better off than they were five years ago, up from 43 percent last year. This represents the second highest proportion in the study's history of persons believing they are better off compared to five years ago (behind 53% occurring in 2008). Correspondingly, there was a large decrease in the proportion of rural Nebraskans who believe they are worse off than they were five years ago, from 28 percent last year (an all-time high also occurring in 2003) to 21 percent this year.

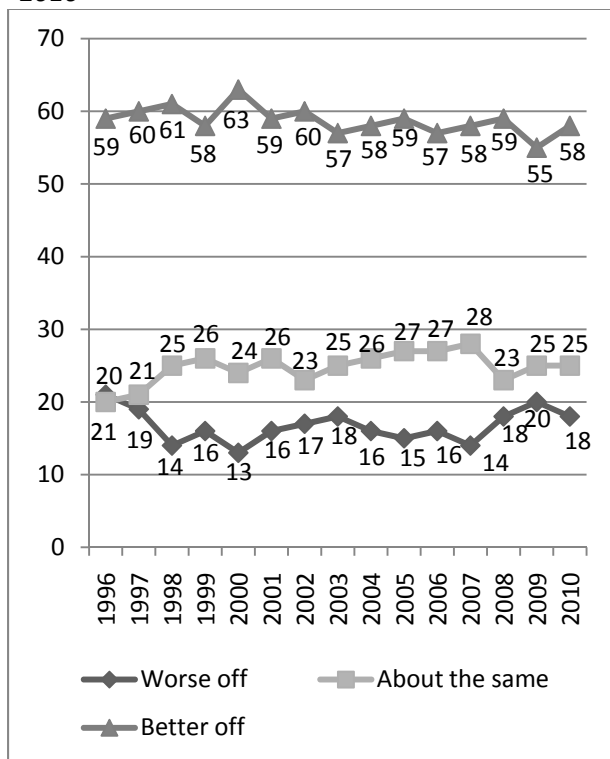
When asked to compare themselves to their parents when they were their age, the responses have been very stable over time (Figure 2). The proportion stating they are better off has averaged approximately 59

percent over the fifteen year period. Similarly, the proportion feeling they are worse off than their parents has remained steady at approximately 17 percent during this period.

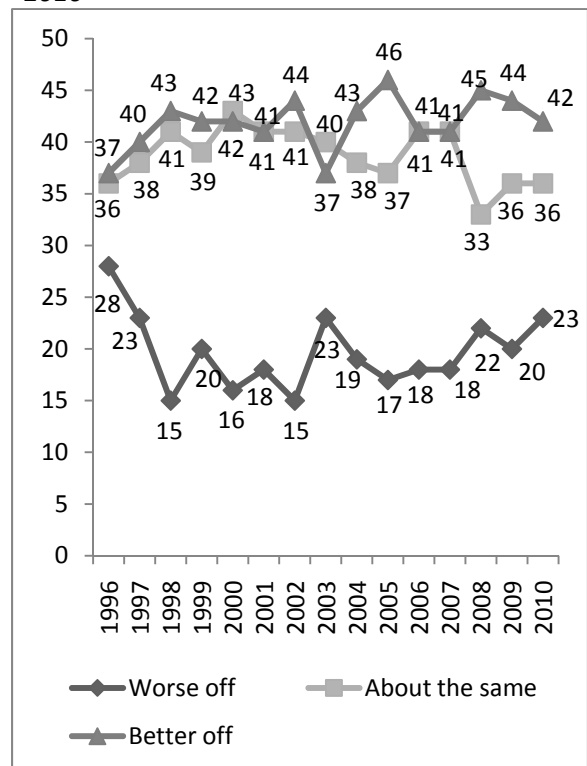
When looking to the future, respondents' views have also been generally positive (Figure 3). The proportion saying they will be better off ten years from now has always been greater than the proportion saying they will be worse off ten years from now. The gap between the two proportions was widest in 1998 and 2005. The gap narrowed somewhat in 2003.

The proportion stating they will be better off ten years from now has generally remained about 42 percent (the proportion reported this year). In 2003, the proportion fell to 37 percent, the lowest of all 15 years. The proportion of respondents stating they will be worse off ten years from now has been approximately 20 percent each year. In 1996 the proportion saying they would be worse off ten years from

**Figure 2. Well-Being Compared to Parents: 1996 - 2010**



**Figure 3. Well-Being Ten Years from Now: 1996 - 2010**



now was 28 percent, the highest of all 15 years. The proportion this year is 23 percent (the second highest proportion in the 15 year period, also occurring in 1997 and 2003). The proportion stating they will be about the same ten years from now had remained fairly steady around 40 percent over the first 12 years of the study, declined to 33 percent in 2008, increased slightly to 36 percent last year and remained at 36 percent this year. Unlike their assessments of their current situation, rural Nebraskans' outlook on their future was relatively unchanged from last 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:

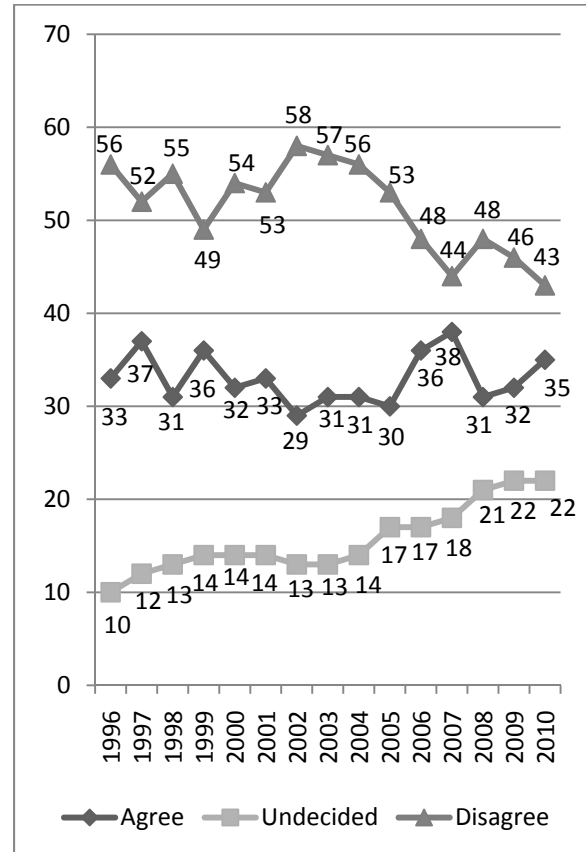
*"Life has changed so much in our modern world that most people are powerless to control their own lives."*

Responses to this question remained fairly consistent over the first ten years (Figure 4). The proportion that either strongly disagree or disagree with the statement has declined since 2002, from 58 percent to 43 percent this year (the lowest in the 15 year period). The proportion that either strongly agree or agree with the statement has remained fairly consistent each year, averaging around 33 percent. The proportion of those who were undecided each year has gradually increased over time, from 10 percent in 1996 to 22 percent this year.

### 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."

**Figure 4.** "...People are Powerless to Control Their Own Lives": 1996 - 2010



The rank ordering of the items has remained relatively stable over the years (Table 1). In addition, the proportion of respondents stating they were very or somewhat satisfied with each item also has been fairly consistent over the years.

Items generally fall into three levels of satisfaction ratings. Family, friends, the outdoors, spirituality, their health and education continue to be items given high satisfaction ratings by respondents. Items in the middle category include job satisfaction, job security, their spare time and their community. On the other hand, respondents continue to be less satisfied with job opportunities, their current income level, and financial security during retirement.

**Table 1. Proportions of Respondents Very or Somewhat Satisfied with Each Factor, 1996 - 2010.\***

Item	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Your marriage	NA	NA	91	92	93	92	93	92	94	92	94	90	92	92	90
Your family	90	93	92	89	93	89	90	90	90	89	91	88	91	85	89
Your general quality of life	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	82	84
Your friends	84	85	87	84	87	86	85	85	86	83	84	82	85	82	84
Greenery and open space	NA	NA	90	87	86	86	87	82	80	83	85	80	82	80	81
Your general standard of living	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	77	79
Clean air	NA	NA	NA	NA	80	81	82	79	78	79	80	74	80	75	79
Your religion/spirituality	79	79	81	78	83	79	79	78	78	75	75	78	79	75	77
Clean water	NA	NA	NA	NA	73	75	76	75	73	73	74	68	76	72	77
Your housing	NA	75	81	80	80	78	78	79	77	78	76	73	77	73	76
Your education	73	73	74	74	76	72	74	74	72	71	74	74	77	67	74
Your health	78	81	78	75	77	74	74	75	73	71	73	74	77	66	73
Your job satisfaction	68	69	69	66	70	69	70	68	72	72	69	68	76	71	70
Your spare time**	54	NA	71	65	71	66	67	67	66	65	68	68	71	66	67
Your job security	63	64	63	59	68	66	65	62	66	65	66	64	73	59	66
Your community	65	64	70	68	70	67	63	62	64	66	62	62	66	63	64
Your current income level	54	58	53	46	51	48	48	47	49	48	50	50	53	47	50
Job opportunities	39	41	38	37	36	38	37	35	34	39	43	40	48	32	42
Financial security during retirement	43	47	43	38	43	37	38	30	34	38	39	39	38	24	32

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.

Some of the items in the latter category had large increases in the levels of satisfaction this year as compared to last year. As an example, 42 percent of rural Nebraskans are satisfied with their job opportunities this year, compared to 32 percent last year. And, satisfaction with job security increased from 59 percent last year to 66 percent this year. Approximately one-third (32%) of rural Nebraskans are satisfied with their financial security during retirement this year, compared to 24 percent last year. These increases bring the proportions satisfied with these financial items back in line

with where they were in previous years before declining sharply last year.

## General Well-Being by Subgroups

In this section, 2010 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-nine percent of persons age 19 to 39 feel they are much better off or better off than they were five years ago. However, less than one-quarter (24%) of persons age 65 and older share this opinion. Similarly, 72 percent of persons age 19 to 29 believe they will be much better off or better off ten years from now, compared to only nine percent of persons age 65 and older.

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, 74 percent of respondents with household incomes of \$60,000 or more think they are much better off or better off than they were five years ago. However, only 26 percent of persons with household incomes under \$20,000 believe they are much better off or better off than they were five years ago. And, 60 percent of persons with household incomes over \$60,000 think they will be much better off or better off ten years from now, compared to 28 percent of persons with household incomes under \$20,000.

Persons with higher educational levels are more likely than persons with less education to think they are better off compared to five years ago and will be better off ten years from now. Fifty-three percent of respondents with at least a four-year college degree believe they will be much better off or better off ten years from now than they are today. Only 26 percent of persons with less than a high school education share this optimism.

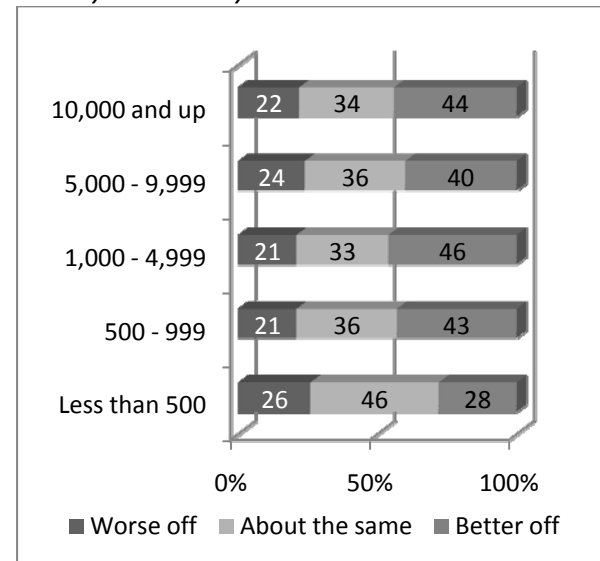
Persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near the

smallest communities to believe they are better off compared to their parents when they were their age and will be better off ten years from now (Figure 5). At least 40 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations of 500 or more believe they will be better off ten years from now, compared to 28 percent of persons living in or near communities with less than 500 persons.

Respondents living in the Panhandle are more likely than persons living in other regions of the state to believe they are better off compared to their parents when they were their age (see Appendix Figure 1 for the counties included in each region). Persons living in the North Central region of the state are the regional group *least* likely to believe they will be better off ten years from now. Just over one-third (35%) of the residents of the North Central region believe they will be better off ten years from now, compared to approximately 43 percent of residents of other regions of the state.

When comparing the marital groups, respondents who have never married are the group most likely to believe they will be better

**Figure 5. Expected Well-Being Ten Years from Now by Community Size**



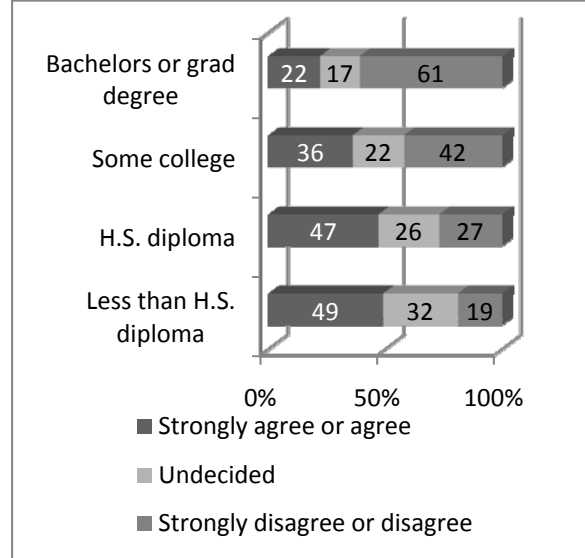
off ten years from now. The married respondents are the group most likely to believe they are better off than they were five years ago. The divorced/separated respondents are the marital group *least* likely to believe they are better off compared to their parents when they were their age.

Persons with management, professional or education occupations are the occupation group most likely to believe they are better off compared to five years ago and better off compared to their parents when they were their age. Sixty-five percent of persons with these types of occupations believe they are better off than they were five years ago, compared to only 44 percent of persons with either construction, installation or maintenance occupations or persons with food service and personal care occupations. Persons with healthcare support or public safety occupations join the persons with management, professional or education occupations as the groups most likely to believe they will be better off ten years from now than they are today.

The respondents were also asked if they believe people are powerless to control their own lives. 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. Approximately 47 percent of persons with a high school diploma or less education agree that people are powerless to control their own lives (Figure 6). However, only 22 percent of persons with a four-year college degree share this opinion.

Persons with lower household incomes are more likely than persons with higher incomes to agree with the statement. Forty-six percent of persons with household incomes under \$20,000

**Figure 6. Belief that People are Powerless to Control Their Own Lives by Education Level**



believe people are powerless to control their own lives, compared to 26 percent of persons with household incomes of \$60,000 or more.

Older persons are more likely than younger persons to agree that people are powerless to control their own lives. Forty-four percent of persons age 65 and older agree with the statement, compared to 26 percent of persons age 19 to 29.

Persons living in or near the smallest communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to believe that people are powerless to control their own lives. Forty percent of persons living in or near communities with less than 500 people agree with this statement, compared to approximately 34 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations of 500 or more.

The widowed respondents and persons who are divorced or separated are the marital status groups most likely to believe people are powerless. When comparing responses by occupation, persons with production,

transportation or warehousing occupations are the group most likely to agree with this statement.

## Specific Aspects of Well-Being by Subgroups

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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. More than one-third of respondents are very satisfied with their family (53%), their marriage (47%), their religion/spirituality (42%), their friends (41%), greenery and open space (39%), their general quality of life (35%), and clean air (34%). Items receiving the highest proportion of very dissatisfied responses include: financial security during retirement (23%), current income level (15%), and job opportunities for you (11%).

The top five 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 level with their financial security during retirement differ by most of the characteristics examined. Persons with lower household incomes are more likely than persons with higher incomes to be dissatisfied with their financial security during retirement. Sixty-two percent of persons with household incomes under \$20,000 report being dissatisfied with their financial security during retirement, compared to 38 percent of persons with household incomes of \$60,000 or more.

Persons age 30 to 49 are the age group most likely to be dissatisfied with their financial security during retirement. Approximately 59

percent of persons age 30 to 49 are dissatisfied with their financial security during retirement, compared to 36 percent of persons age 65 and older.

Other groups most likely to be dissatisfied with their financial security during retirement include: females, persons with some college education (but less than a four year degree), divorced or separated respondents and persons with food service or personal care occupations.

Persons with lower household incomes are more likely than persons with higher incomes to be dissatisfied with their current income level. Over one-half (60%) of persons with household incomes under \$20,000 report being dissatisfied with their current income level, compared to 15 percent of persons with household incomes of \$60,000 or more.

Younger persons are more likely than older persons to report being dissatisfied with their current income level. Almost one-half (47%) of persons age 19 to 29 are dissatisfied with their current income level, compared to 31 percent of persons age 65 and older. Other groups most likely to report being dissatisfied with their current income level include: females, persons with lower education levels, persons who are divorced or separated, and persons with food service and personal care occupations.

Females are more likely than males to be dissatisfied with their job opportunities. Forty-one percent of females are dissatisfied with their job opportunities, compared to 30 percent of males.

Other groups most likely to say they are dissatisfied with their job opportunities include: persons with lower household incomes, persons under the age of 65, persons with lower education levels, divorced/separated

respondents and persons with sales or office support occupations.

Persons with lower household incomes are more likely than persons with higher incomes to be dissatisfied with their job security. Forty percent of persons with household incomes under \$20,000 report being dissatisfied with their job security. In comparison, only nine percent of persons with household incomes of \$60,000 or more are dissatisfied with their job security.

Persons living in the North Central region of the state are more likely than persons living in other regions of the state to express dissatisfaction with their job security. Over one-quarter (26%) of North Central residents are dissatisfied with their job security, compared to 17 percent of persons living in the Northeast region of the state.

One-third (33%) of persons with food service or personal care occupations are dissatisfied with their job security. However, only 10 percent of persons with occupations in agriculture are dissatisfied with their job security. Other groups most likely to express dissatisfaction with their job security include: younger persons, persons with lower education levels, and persons who have divorced or separated.

Persons with production, transportation and warehousing occupations are more likely than persons with different occupations to express dissatisfaction with their spare time. Over one-quarter (28%) of persons with these types of occupations are dissatisfied with their spare time, compared to 14 percent of persons with occupations in agriculture.

Persons who are divorced or separated are the marital group most likely to be dissatisfied with their spare time. Twenty-seven percent of divorced/separated respondents are dissatisfied

with their spare time, compared to seven percent of widowed persons.

Other groups most likely to report dissatisfaction with their spare time include: persons with household incomes ranging from \$20,000 to \$59,999; persons under the age of 50; and persons with higher education levels.

## Care Giving

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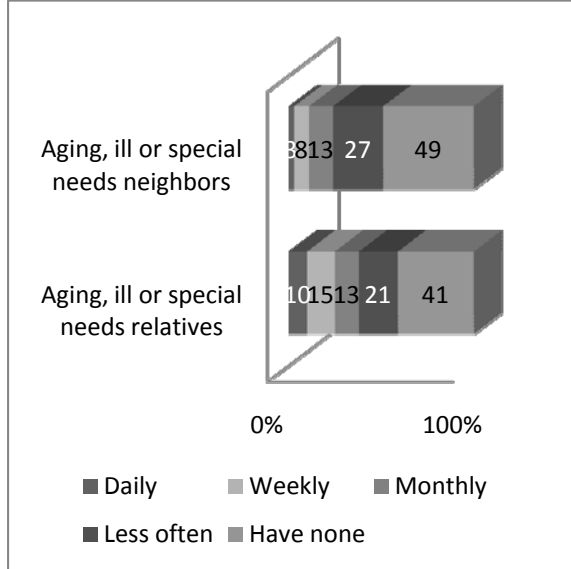
In the 2007 Nebraska Rural Poll, rural Nebraskans were asked where they planned to spend their retirement years. The majority of the persons already retirement-age (65 years of age or older) planned to stay where they were.<sup>1</sup> However, a lack of medical services, transportation services and long-term care facilities in rural areas can make this choice difficult. Having strong social support systems nearby can help the older population remain in the rural areas and maintain a higher quality of life.

To determine how often rural Nebraskans currently volunteer to assist others with their household chores, transportation to appointments or shopping, assistance with errands, child care and other types of assistance, respondents were asked, "How often do members of your family *currently* provide *voluntary* assistance to any of the following?" Many rural Nebraskans provide voluntary assistance to aging, ill or special needs (such as a physical, mental or financial problem) relatives. Ten percent provide such assistance daily, 15 percent assist relatives weekly and an additional 13 percent do so monthly (Figure 7). Many also provide voluntary assistance to aging, ill or special needs

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1 "Where Do Rural Nebraskans Plan to Retire?" RB 07-002 located online at: <http://cari.unl.edu/ruralpoll/pdf/07retirementlocation.pdf>

**Figure 7. How Often Provide Voluntary Assistance to Relatives and Neighbors**



neighbors. Three percent provide assistance to neighbors daily, eight percent assist their neighbors weekly and 13 percent do so monthly.

The frequency of this voluntary assistance differs by community size and various individual attributes (Appendix Table 6). Persons living in or near smaller communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to provide voluntary assistance at least weekly to relatives. Thirty percent of persons living in or near communities with less than 1,000 persons provide assistance at least weekly to aging, ill or special needs relatives. In comparison, 22 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more provide assistance at least weekly.

Residents of smaller communities are also more likely than residents of larger communities to provide voluntary assistance to aging, ill or special needs neighbors. Sixteen percent of persons living in or near communities with less than 500 persons provide assistance to neighbors at least weekly, compared to approximately nine percent of persons living in

or near communities with populations of 5,000 or more.

Persons age 50 to 64 are more likely than both younger and older persons to provide voluntary assistance to relatives at least weekly. Just over one-third (34%) of persons age 50 to 64 are providing voluntary assistance to aging, ill or special needs relatives at least weekly. In comparison, 18 percent of persons age 19 to 29 provide assistance at least weekly.

However, the oldest persons are more likely than younger persons to provide assistance to their neighbors. Sixteen percent of persons age 65 and older provide voluntary assistance to aging, ill or special needs neighbors at least weekly, compared to seven percent of persons age 19 to 29.

Persons with occupations in agriculture are more likely than persons with different occupations to provide voluntary assistance to relatives. One-third (33%) of persons with occupations in agriculture provide voluntary assistance to aging, ill or special needs relatives at least weekly. In contrast, 16 percent of persons with production, transportation or warehousing occupations provide assistance to relatives at least weekly. Persons with food service or personal care occupations are the occupation group most likely to provide voluntary assistance to aging, ill or special needs neighbors at least weekly.

Other groups most likely to provide voluntary assistance to aging, ill or special needs relatives at least once a week include widowed respondents and persons with some college education (but less than a four year degree). The groups most likely to provide voluntary assistance to aging, ill or special needs neighbors at least weekly include: persons with the lowest household incomes, widowed



persons and respondents with only a high school diploma.

To examine the potential for parental care giving in rural Nebraska in the future, the respondents were asked, “If you have living parents, how far away does the nearest live?” and “How far away does the most distant live?” Rural Nebraskans live an average of 133 miles from their nearest living parent and an average of 315 miles from their farthest parent. However, over one-quarter (29%) live two miles or less from their nearest parent. Two percent of rural Nebraskans live with their parents or their spouse’s parents. Three-quarters (75%) of rural Nebraskans live within 60 miles from a living parent. When asked the distance from their most distant parent, one-quarter (25%) live 16 miles or less from that parent. In total, over three-quarters (76%) live within 300 miles of their most distant parent.

Appendix Table 7 looks at the distance from parents by community size, region and individual attributes. Persons living in or near smaller communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to live close to a parent. Over one-half (58%) of persons living in or near communities with less than 500 persons live within 12 miles of a parent. Approximately 48 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations of 5,000 or more live within 12 miles of a parent.

Residents of the Panhandle are more likely than persons living in other regions of the state to live close to a parent. Fifty-six percent of Panhandle residents live within 12 miles of a parent, compared to 45 percent of residents of the North Central region.

Younger persons are more likely than older persons to live within 12 miles of a parent. Fifty-six percent of persons age 19 to 29 live

within 12 miles of a parent, compared to 45 percent of persons age 65 and older.

Other groups most likely to live close to a parent include: persons who have never married, persons with some college education (but less than a four year degree) and persons with occupations classified as other.

Finally, respondents were asked how far away they live from both their nearest and most distant grown child (if they have any). On average, rural Nebraskans live 132 miles from their nearest grown child and 566 miles from their most distant. Seven percent of rural Nebraskans report having a grown child living in their household. Just over one-quarter (26%) of the respondents live one mile or less from a grown child. In total, over three-quarters (77%) live within 100 miles of a grown child. Over one-half (52%) live within 280 miles of their most distant grown child and 24 percent live more than 800 miles away from their most distant grown child.

The distance from grown children was examined by community size, region and various individual attributes (Appendix Table 8). Persons living in the Northeast region of the state are more likely than persons living in other regions to live close to a grown child. Over one-half (54%) of persons in the Northeast region live within 15 miles of a grown child, compared to 44 percent of persons living in the North Central region.

Persons with lower education levels are more likely than persons with more education to be living near a grown child. Sixty-two percent of persons without a high school diploma are living within 15 miles of a grown child, compared to 37 percent of persons with at least a four year college degree.

Persons with occupations in agriculture and persons with food service and personal care occupations are more likely than persons with different occupations to be living near a grown child. Approximately 57 percent of these two occupation groups live within 15 miles of a grown child, compared to 42 percent of persons with management, professional or education occupations.

Other groups most likely to be living near a grown child include: persons living in or near larger communities, older persons, and persons who are widowed.

## **Conclusion**

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Rural Nebraskans were much more positive about their current situation than they were last year. And, they continue to be generally positive about their future situation. One-half of rural Nebraskans think they are better off than they were five years ago and just under one-half (42%) think they will be better off ten years from now. Unlike their assessments of their current situation, rural Nebraskans' outlook on their future was relatively unchanged from last year.

Certain groups remain pessimistic about their situation. Persons with lower household incomes, older persons, persons with lower educational levels and persons who are divorced or separated are the groups most likely to be more pessimistic about the present and the future. Residents of the smallest communities are more likely than residents of larger communities to be pessimistic about the future.

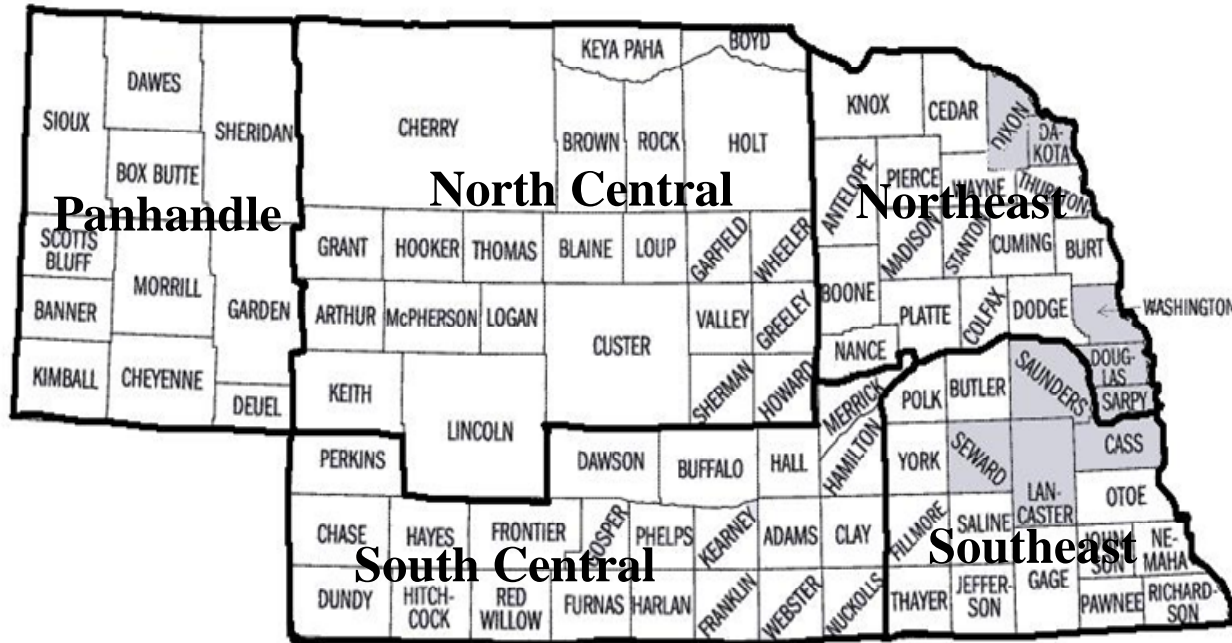
When asked if they believe people are powerless to control their own lives, 35 percent of this year's respondents agreed. Widowed persons, persons with lower educational levels, older persons, persons with lower household

incomes, males, and persons with occupations in production, transportation or warehousing 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, their current income level, and financial security during retirement. However, many of these latter items saw large increases in their satisfaction levels this year as compared to last year.

Many rural Nebraskans are providing assistance to their elderly or ill relatives and neighbors. This type of assistance is occurring more often in the smallest communities where it is likely needed the most, given the scarcity of medical and transportation services in these smaller places. In addition, many rural Nebraskans are living near a parent. So, it might be expected that the frequency of care giving would continue to increase in the future.

# Appendix Figure 1. Regions of Nebraska



■ Metropolitan counties (not surveyed)

**Appendix Table 1. Demographic Profile of Rural Poll Respondents<sup>1</sup> Compared to 2000 Census**

	<b>2000 Census</b>	<b>2005 Poll</b>	<b>2006 Poll</b>	<b>2007 Poll</b>	<b>2008 Poll</b>	<b>2009 Poll</b>	<b>2010 Poll</b>
<b>Age : <sup>2</sup></b>							
20 - 39	33%	34%	33%	31%	32%	32%	32%
40 - 64	42%	42%	43%	44%	44%	44%	44%
65 and over	24%	24%	24%	25%	24%	24%	24%
<b>Gender: <sup>3</sup></b>							
Female	51%	32%	30%	59%	56%	57%	59%
Male	49%	68%	70%	41%	44%	43%	41%
<b>Education: <sup>4</sup></b>							
Less than 9 <sup>th</sup> grade	7%	2%	2%	4%	2%	2%	1%
9 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> grade (no diploma)	10%	4%	4%	6%	3%	3%	3%
High school diploma (or equiv.)	35%	28%	28%	26%	26%	26%	25%
Some college, no degree	25%	24%	25%	23%	25%	25%	25%
Associate degree	7%	15%	13%	14%	12%	15%	14%
Bachelors degree	11%	17%	18%	18%	21%	20%	20%
Graduate or professional degree	4%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	11%
<b>Household Income: <sup>5</sup></b>							
Less than \$10,000	10%	7%	6%	7%	7%	6%	6%
\$10,000 - \$19,999	16%	12%	12%	13%	10%	9%	10%
\$20,000 - \$29,999	17%	15%	14%	15%	14%	13%	13%
\$30,000 - \$39,999	15%	16%	15%	14%	14%	13%	12%
\$40,000 - \$49,999	12%	15%	16%	13%	13%	12%	13%
\$50,000 - \$59,999	10%	12%	12%	12%	11%	13%	11%
\$60,000 - \$74,999	9%	10%	12%	11%	13%	14%	13%
\$75,000 or more	11%	14%	13%	16%	18%	21%	23%
<b>Marital Status: <sup>6</sup></b>							
Married	61%	72%	70%	70%	70%	68%	71%
Never married	22%	10%	11%	10%	10%	10%	9%
Divorced/separated	9%	10%	9%	10%	11%	11%	11%
Widowed/widower	8%	8%	10%	10%	9%	11%	9%

<sup>1</sup> Data from the Rural Polls have been weighted by age.

<sup>2</sup> 2000 Census universe is non-metro population 20 years of age and over.

<sup>3</sup> 2000 Census universe is total non-metro population.

<sup>4</sup> 2000 Census universe is non-metro population 18 years of age and over.

<sup>5</sup> 2000 Census universe is all non-metro households.

<sup>6</sup> 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**

<i>Compared to Five Years Ago</i>						
	<i>Much Worse Off</i>	<i>Worse Off</i>	<i>About the Same</i>	<i>Better Off</i>	<i>Much Better Off</i>	<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>
	<i>Percentages</i>					
<b>Total</b>	4	17	30	35	15	
<b><u>Community Size</u></b>			(n = 2583)			
Less than 500	6	22	26	33	13	
500 - 999	3	14	31	34	18	
1,000 - 4,999	3	18	31	36	13	
5,000 - 9,999	5	17	30	35	14	$\chi^2 = 24.21$
10,000 and up	5	16	28	36	16	(.085)
<b><u>Region</u></b>			(n = 2627)			
Panhandle	4	18	28	34	16	
North Central	4	21	29	35	11	
South Central	5	16	28	36	16	
Northeast	4	17	32	33	15	$\chi^2 = 19.96$
Southeast	4	14	32	37	14	(.222)
<b><u>Income Level</u></b>			(n = 2408)			
Under \$20,000	9	24	41	20	6	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	5	22	36	28	10	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	3	16	24	41	16	$\chi^2 = 290.82^*$
\$60,000 and over	2	8	17	47	27	(.000)
<b><u>Age</u></b>			(n = 2640)			
19 - 29	2	10	20	42	27	
30 - 39	1	15	16	40	29	
40 - 49	6	17	24	40	13	
50 - 64	7	17	31	38	8	$\chi^2 = 402.46^*$
65 and older	4	23	49	19	5	(.000)
<b><u>Gender</u></b>			(n = 2630)			
Male	5	18	28	34	16	$\chi^2 = 7.00$
Female	4	16	31	36	14	(.136)
<b><u>Marital Status</u></b>			(n = 2633)			
Married	3	16	26	38	17	
Never married	7	9	34	35	14	
Divorced/separated	8	24	23	33	12	$\chi^2 = 171.13^*$
Widowed	5	22	56	15	3	(.000)
<b><u>Education</u></b>			(n = 2559)			
Less than H.S. diploma	5	22	42	21	10	
H.S. diploma	7	19	38	27	9	
Some college	5	19	26	36	14	$\chi^2 = 148.46^*$
Bachelors degree	2	11	23	43	21	(.000)
<b><u>Occupation</u></b>			(n = 1861)			
Mgt, prof or education	2	12	22	45	20	
Sales or office support	7	17	23	40	14	
Constrn, inst or maint	5	28	23	29	15	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	9	19	22	43	7	
Agriculture	3	14	26	33	25	
Food serv/pers. care	6	19	30	31	13	
Hlthcare supp/safety	2	12	27	44	16	$\chi^2 = 101.65^*$
Other	3	16	24	39	18	(.000)

\* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 2 continued

<i>Compared to Parents When They Were Your Age</i>						
	<i>Much Worse Off</i>	<i>Worse Off</i>	<i>About the Same</i>	<i>Better Off</i>	<i>Much Better Off</i>	<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>
<b>Total</b>	4	13	25	41	16	
<b>Community Size</b>			(n = 2589)			
Less than 500	5	14	33	37	12	
500 - 999	3	14	24	44	16	
1,000 - 4,999	4	14	24	45	14	
5,000 - 9,999	5	12	22	44	17	$\chi^2 = 37.69^*$
10,000 and up	5	14	24	38	20	(.002)
<b>Region</b>			(n = 2633)			
Panhandle	3	14	22	39	23	
North Central	8	13	27	38	14	
South Central	4	14	25	39	18	
Northeast	3	13	24	46	14	$\chi^2 = 39.73^*$
Southeast	4	14	27	42	14	(.001)
<b>Income Level</b>			(n = 2413)			
Under \$20,000	8	21	25	35	10	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	5	17	28	40	11	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	3	12	27	42	16	$\chi^2 = 173.47^*$
\$60,000 and over	2	6	18	46	29	(.000)
<b>Age</b>			(n = 2647)			
19 - 29	4	7	25	43	21	
30 - 39	3	12	26	39	21	
40 - 49	8	17	25	37	14	
50 - 64	4	19	26	39	12	$\chi^2 = 94.98^*$
65 and older	3	10	22	48	17	(.000)
<b>Gender</b>			(n = 2633)			
Male	4	14	22	43	17	$\chi^2 = 8.20$
Female	5	13	27	40	16	(.085)
<b>Marital Status</b>			(n = 2635)			
Married	3	12	23	43	19	
Never married	7	13	31	39	11	
Divorced/separated	7	28	28	27	11	$\chi^2 = 110.07^*$
Widowed	5	10	27	47	12	(.000)
<b>Education</b>			(n = 2561)			
Less than H.S. diploma	3	12	22	48	16	
H.S. diploma	6	13	25	42	14	
Some college	5	14	28	40	14	$\chi^2 = 55.77^*$
Bachelors degree	1	13	22	43	22	(.000)
<b>Occupation</b>			(n = 1866)			
Mgt, prof or education	3	11	22	42	22	
Sales or office support	5	15	27	40	12	
Constrn, inst or maint	10	18	15	44	14	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	10	17	26	38	9	
Agriculture	2	13	24	44	17	
Food serv/pers. care	6	19	35	31	10	
Hlthcare supp/safety	1	13	28	41	16	$\chi^2 = 92.07^*$
Other	6	14	30	29	21	(.000)

\* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 2 continued

	<i>Ten Years From Now</i>					<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	
	<i>Much Worse Off</i>	<i>Worse Off</i>	<i>About the Same</i>	<i>Better Off</i>	<i>Much Better Off</i>		
<b>Total</b>	5	18	<i>Percentages</i>		33	9	
<b>Community Size</b>			(n = 2553)				
Less than 500	7	19	46	21	7		
500 - 999	3	18	36	31	12		
1,000 - 4,999	3	18	33	37	9		
5,000 - 9,999	4	20	36	28	12	$\chi^2 = 49.39^*$	
10,000 and up	5	17	34	35	9	(.000)	
<b>Region</b>			(n = 2588)				
Panhandle	6	22	30	34	9		
North Central	5	20	40	31	4		
South Central	5	18	35	32	11		
Northeast	3	17	37	35	8	$\chi^2 = 34.37^*$	
Southeast	4	17	36	31	13	(.005)	
<b>Income Level</b>			(n = 2385)				
Under \$20,000	7	25	41	22	6		
\$20,000 - \$39,999	5	21	41	25	8		
\$40,000 - \$59,999	4	15	34	39	9	$\chi^2 = 157.47^*$	
\$60,000 and over	3	11	26	43	17	(.000)	
<b>Age</b>			(n = 2605)				
19 - 29	1	6	22	52	20		
30 - 39	1	7	27	49	16		
40 - 49	5	14	32	40	10		
50 - 64	6	27	39	25	3	$\chi^2 = 613.67^*$	
65 and older	9	30	52	7	2	(.000)	
<b>Gender</b>			(n = 2595)				
Male	5	21	34	31	9	$\chi^2 = 13.11^*$	
Female	4	16	37	34	10	(.011)	
<b>Marital Status</b>			(n = 2597)				
Married	4	17	35	34	10		
Never married	3	16	30	41	11		
Divorced/separated	5	19	29	35	11	$\chi^2 = 107.89^*$	
Widowed	9	26	54	8	4	(.000)	
<b>Education</b>			(n = 2526)				
Less than H.S. diploma	5	22	48	20	6		
H.S. diploma	7	25	39	24	5		
Some college	4	16	36	33	10	$\chi^2 = 113.28^*$	
Bachelors degree	3	14	31	40	13	(.000)	
<b>Occupation</b>			(n = 1858)				
Mgt, prof or education	3	12	30	41	14		
Sales or office support	3	18	34	36	9		
Constrn, inst or maint	7	21	27	35	10		
Prodn/trans/warehsing	8	20	31	34	7		
Agriculture	4	17	34	35	11		
Food serv/pers. care	5	20	34	35	6		
Hlthcare supp/safety	1	10	35	42	13	$\chi^2 = 62.54^*$	
Other	0	13	38	34	15	(.000)	

\* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

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

	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Undecided</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Significance</i>
<b>Total</b>	43	22	35	
<b>Community Size</b>		(n = 2591)		
Less than 500	36	25	40	
500 - 999	48	19	33	
1,000 - 4,999	41	23	36	
5,000 - 9,999	45	20	36	$\chi^2 = 15.58^*$
10,000 and up	46	21	34	(.049)
<b>Region</b>		(n = 2635)		
Panhandle	48	18	34	
North Central	44	20	37	
South Central	42	23	35	
Northeast	42	23	35	$\chi^2 = 7.69$
Southeast	41	23	36	(.464)
<b>Household Income</b>		(n = 2418)		
Under \$20,000	27	27	46	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	36	25	39	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	46	21	33	$\chi^2 = 119.52^*$
\$60,000 and over	60	14	26	(.000)
<b>Age</b>		(n = 2649)		
19 - 29	49	25	26	
30 - 39	53	18	29	
40 - 49	49	18	32	
50 - 64	38	22	40	$\chi^2 = 94.82^*$
65 and older	30	26	44	(.000)
<b>Gender</b>		(n = 2638)		
Male	42	21	37	$\chi^2 = 3.01$
Female	44	23	34	(.222)
<b>Education</b>		(n = 2565)		
Less than H.S. diploma	19	32	49	
H.S. diploma	27	26	47	
Some college	42	22	36	$\chi^2 = 204.63^*$
Bachelors or grad degree	61	17	22	(.000)
<b>Marital Status</b>		(n = 2639)		
Married	46	21	34	
Never married	43	25	32	
Divorced/separated	39	20	42	$\chi^2 = 42.22^*$
Widowed	26	31	43	(.000)
<b>Occupation</b>		(n = 1872)		
Mgt, prof or education	58	18	24	
Sales or office support	39	21	40	
Constrn, inst or maint	36	25	39	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	28	29	43	
Agriculture	54	14	31	
Food serv/pers. care	39	26	35	
Hlthcare supp/safety	50	16	35	$\chi^2 = 88.32^*$
Other	53	16	31	(.000)

\* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.



*Appendix Table 4. Satisfaction with Items Affecting Well-Being, 2010*

Item	<i>Does Not Apply</i>	<i>Very Dissatisfied</i>	<i>Somewhat Dissatisfied</i>	<i>No Opinion</i>	<i>Somewhat Satisfied</i>	<i>Very Satisfied</i>
Your family	2	1	3	8	35	53
Your marriage	28	1	1	5	18	47
Your religion/spirituality	3	1	3	18	32	42
Your friends	2	1	3	12	41	41
Greenery and open space	0	1	5	13	42	39
Your general quality of life	0	1	5	10	49	35
Clean air	0	2	6	13	45	34
Clean water	0	3	9	11	44	33
Your housing	0	2	9	13	44	32
Your general standard of living	0	2	8	11	49	31
Your education	0	2	9	15	45	29
Your spare time	3	4	14	15	40	25
Your health	0	4	11	13	49	23
Your job satisfaction	22	4	9	11	35	20
Your job security	22	6	9	11	33	19
Your community	0	4	13	19	46	18
Current income level	0	15	22	13	39	11
Job opportunities for you	21	11	18	18	23	10
Financial security during retirement	0	23	29	16	25	7

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

	<i>Financial security during retirement</i>				<i>Your current income level</i>			
	<i>Dissatisfied</i>	<i>opinion</i>	<i>Satisfied</i>	<i>Significance</i>	<i>Dissatisfied</i>	<i>opinion</i>	<i>Satisfied</i>	<i>Significance</i>
	<i>No</i>				<i>No</i>			
	<i>Percentages</i>							
<b>Total</b>	52	16	32		37	13	50	
<b>Community Size</b>	(n = 2401)				(n = 2451)			
Less than 500	54	17	29		39	16	46	
500 - 999	58	12	31		34	13	53	
1,000 - 4,999	52	16	32		37	11	52	
5,000 - 9,999	42	21	36	$\chi^2 = 18.95^*$	32	13	55	$\chi^2 = 10.44$
10,000 and up	53	15	32	(.015)	37	13	49	(.235)
<b>Region</b>	(n = 2435)				(n = 2486)			
Panhandle	50	16	34		35	11	55	
North Central	54	19	27		37	12	51	
South Central	54	13	33		36	13	51	
Northeast	51	16	33	$\chi^2 = 13.09$	39	13	48	$\chi^2 = 5.18$
Southeast	49	19	32	(.109)	38	13	49	(.738)
<b>Individual Attributes:</b>								
<i>Household Income Level</i>	(n = 2249)				(n = 2301)			
Under \$20,000	62	19	20		60	18	22	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	59	14	27		51	14	36	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	54	15	31	$\chi^2 = 86.26^*$	35	12	53	$\chi^2 = 333.01^*$
\$60,000 and over	38	16	46	(.000)	15	7	78	(.000)
<i>Age</i>	(n = 2444)				(n = 2502)			
19 - 29	56	27	18		47	17	36	
30 - 39	60	14	26		37	9	54	
40 - 49	59	13	28		35	10	55	
50 - 64	53	15	33	$\chi^2 = 155.40^*$	37	11	52	$\chi^2 = 61.57^*$
65 and older	36	14	50	(.000)	31	18	52	(.000)
<i>Gender</i>	(n = 2435)				(n = 2490)			
Male	44	17	39	$\chi^2 = 41.01^*$	32	12	56	$\chi^2 = 19.88^*$
Female	57	15	28	(.000)	40	13	47	(.000)
<i>Education</i>	(n = 2372)				(n = 2424)			
Less than H.S. diploma	42	24	34		36	28	37	
High school diploma	52	20	28		43	17	40	
Some college	61	14	25	$\chi^2 = 88.81^*$	42	12	46	$\chi^2 = 122.07^*$
Bachelors or grad degree	43	14	43	(.000)	27	9	65	(.000)
<i>Marital Status</i>	(n = 2436)				(n = 2493)			
Married	51	16	33		34	12	54	
Never married	56	18	26		44	17	40	
Divorced/separated	67	12	21	$\chi^2 = 47.89^*$	50	11	39	$\chi^2 = 58.53^*$
Widowed	38	18	44	(.000)	36	22	42	(.000)
<i>Occupation</i>	(n = 1747)				(n = 1833)			
Mgt, prof or education	54	10	36		29	9	63	
Sales or office support	62	15	24		47	10	43	
Constrn, inst or maint	62	20	18		48	12	40	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	59	14	27		40	12	48	
Agriculture	39	22	39		27	13	60	
Food serv/pers. care	64	18	19		57	12	32	
Hlthcare supp/safety	60	18	22	$\chi^2 = 69.52^*$	40	11	49	$\chi^2 = 85.72^*$
Other	59	10	31	(.000)	42	10	48	(.000)

\* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

\*\* Only the five items with the highest combined proportion of very and somewhat dissatisfied responses are included.

Appendix Table 5 continued

	<i>Your job opportunities</i>				<i>Your job security</i>			
	<i>Dissatisfied</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Satisfied</i>	<i>Significance</i>	<i>Dissatisfied</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Satisfied</i>	<i>Significance</i>
	<i>Percentages</i>							
<b>Total</b>	36	22	42		19	15	66	
<b>Community Size</b>	(n = 2069)				(n = 2046)			
Less than 500	33	24	43		18	17	66	
500 - 999	35	26	39		18	15	67	
1,000 - 4,999	36	24	39		19	14	67	
5,000 - 9,999	37	21	42	$\chi^2 = 9.80$	20	14	66	$\chi^2 = 2.07$
10,000 and up	37	19	44	(.279)	20	15	65	(.979)
<b>Region</b>	(n = 2094)				(n = 2069)			
Panhandle	39	22	40		23	14	63	
North Central	39	23	38		26	17	57	
South Central	34	24	42		18	14	68	
Northeast	36	22	42	$\chi^2 = 6.74$	17	14	69	$\chi^2 = 17.63^*$
Southeast	39	19	42	(.565)	18	14	68	(.024)
<b>Individual Attributes:</b>								
<i>Household Income Level</i>	(n = 1967)				(n = 1948)			
Under \$20,000	51	27	22		40	24	36	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	43	24	33		26	18	57	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	38	21	42	$\chi^2 = 91.35^*$	18	12	70	$\chi^2 = 166.86^*$
\$60,000 and over	26	19	56	(.000)	9	10	81	(.000)
<i>Age</i>	(n = 2106)				(n = 2082)			
19 - 29	39	18	43		24	11	66	
30 - 39	38	20	43		16	16	68	
40 - 49	38	21	41		20	10	69	
50 - 64	36	25	40	$\chi^2 = 36.36^*$	20	15	65	$\chi^2 = 58.24^*$
65 and older	22	36	43	(.000)	12	30	58	(.000)
<i>Gender</i>	(n = 2099)				(n = 2076)			
Male	30	26	44	$\chi^2 = 27.14^*$	18	15	67	$\chi^2 = 2.17$
Female	41	20	40	(.000)	20	15	65	(.338)
<i>Education</i>	(n = 2050)				(n = 2030)			
Less than H.S. diploma	44	27	29		22	32	46	
High school diploma	36	30	34		21	21	58	
Some college	42	21	37	$\chi^2 = 65.85^*$	22	15	64	$\chi^2 = 65.01^*$
Bachelors or grad degree	29	19	52	(.000)	15	9	76	(.000)
<i>Marital Status</i>	(n = 2099)				(n = 2077)			
Married	35	22	43		16	14	70	
Never married	32	26	42		22	19	60	
Divorced/separated	51	18	31	$\chi^2 = 28.83^*$	40	12	48	$\chi^2 = 87.30^*$
Widowed	39	27	34	(.000)	18	27	55	(.000)
<i>Occupation</i>	(n = 1791)				(n = 1810)			
Mgt, prof or education	35	20	46		16	9	75	
Sales or office support	46	19	35		22	18	60	
Constrn, inst or maint	38	23	39		21	12	67	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	43	24	34		28	15	58	
Agriculture	22	26	52		10	13	77	
Food serv/pers. care	41	26	34		33	16	51	
Hlthcare supp/safety	36	15	49	$\chi^2 = 51.94^*$	15	14	71	$\chi^2 = 71.37^*$
Other	31	32	37	(.000)	27	15	58	(.000)

\* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

\*\* Only the five items with the highest combined proportion of very and somewhat dissatisfied responses are included.

Appendix Table 5 continued

	<i>Your spare time</i>			<i>Significance</i>
	<i>Dissatisfied</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Satisfied</i>	
	<i>Percentages</i>			
<b>Total</b>	18	15	67	
<b>Community Size</b>	(n = 2477)			
Less than 500	17	16	67	
500 - 999	13	13	74	
1,000 - 4,999	20	16	65	
5,000 - 9,999	16	16	68	$\chi^2 = 9.87$
10,000 and up	19	15	66	(.274)
<b>Region</b>	(n = 2505)			
Panhandle	17	16	67	
North Central	19	15	66	
South Central	18	13	69	
Northeast	18	16	67	$\chi^2 = 5.41$
Southeast	19	17	64	(.713)
<b>Individual Attributes:</b>				
<i>Household Income Level</i>	(n = 2320)			
Under \$20,000	15	21	64	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	20	17	63	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	21	13	66	$\chi^2 = 28.30^*$
\$60,000 and over	17	11	72	(.000)
<i>Age</i>	(n = 2522)			
19 - 29	26	19	56	
30 - 39	22	15	63	
40 - 49	24	13	63	
50 - 64	16	16	68	$\chi^2 = 113.50^*$
65 and older	5	14	81	(.000)
<i>Gender</i>	(n = 2513)			
Male	17	17	67	$\chi^2 = 5.81$
Female	19	14	67	(.055)
<i>Education</i>	(n = 2449)			
Less than H.S. diploma	5	23	72	
High school diploma	16	19	65	
Some college	19	16	66	$\chi^2 = 39.98^*$
Bachelors or grad degree	21	10	69	(.000)
<i>Marital Status</i>	(n = 2513)			
Married	18	13	70	
Never married	22	22	56	
Divorced/separated	27	21	52	$\chi^2 = 72.37^*$
Widowed	7	22	71	(.000)
<i>Occupation</i>	(n = 1827)			
Mgt, prof or education	26	15	60	
Sales or office support	25	10	66	
Constn, inst or maint	19	14	67	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	28	17	55	
Agriculture	14	19	67	
Food serv/pers. care	23	18	59	
Hlthcare supp/safety	19	12	69	$\chi^2 = 33.20^*$
Other	15	18	67	(.003)

\* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

\*\* Only the five items with the highest combined proportion of very and somewhat dissatisfied responses are included.

**Appendix Table 6. How Often Provide Voluntary Assistance to Relatives and Neighbors by Community Size, Region and Various Individual Attributes**

<i>How often do members of your family currently provide voluntary assistance to aging, ill or special needs relatives?</i>						
	<i>Daily</i>	<i>Weekly</i>	<i>Monthly</i>	<i>Less often</i>	<i>Have none</i>	<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>
	<i>Percentages</i>					
<b>Total</b>	10	15	13	21	41	
<b>Community Size</b>			(n = 2550)			
Less than 500	12	18	13	19	39	
500 - 999	11	19	11	22	36	
1,000 - 4,999	11	16	15	21	38	
5,000 - 9,999	12	13	12	16	47	$\chi^2 = 26.53^*$
10,000 and up	9	13	14	22	42	(.047)
<b>Region</b>			(n = 2584)			
Panhandle	12	16	13	17	43	
North Central	10	16	13	18	43	
South Central	12	13	12	23	40	
Northeast	7	17	14	22	40	$\chi^2 = 25.70$
Southeast	12	15	15	19	39	(.058)
<b>Income Level</b>			(n = 2388)			
Under \$20,000	14	10	13	14	49	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	8	16	13	20	44	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	11	17	12	22	38	$\chi^2 = 44.22^*$
\$60,000 and over	10	15	15	25	36	(.000)
<b>Age</b>			(n = 2601)			
19 - 29	9	9	12	24	45	
30 - 39	9	11	14	22	44	
40 - 49	11	16	13	23	38	
50 - 64	13	21	15	20	32	$\chi^2 = 64.71^*$
65 and older	10	17	12	16	46	(.000)
<b>Marital Status</b>			(n = 2593)			
Married	11	16	14	22	38	
Never married	11	12	11	20	46	
Divorced/separated	11	10	12	19	49	$\chi^2 = 32.85^*$
Widowed	9	21	10	14	45	(.001)
<b>Education</b>			(n = 2521)			
Less than H.S. diploma	8	10	10	17	56	
H.S. diploma	9	16	14	19	43	
Some college	13	15	12	21	39	$\chi^2 = 28.83^*$
Bachelors degree	8	15	15	22	40	(.004)
<b>Occupation</b>			(n = 1858)			
Mgt, prof or education	10	16	12	24	39	
Sales or office support	7	15	16	28	34	
Constrn, inst or maint	13	16	15	22	35	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	7	9	9	18	57	
Agriculture	12	21	16	19	32	
Food serv/pers. care	14	15	10	16	45	
Hlthcare supp/safety	13	9	14	24	41	$\chi^2 = 65.02^*$
Other	10	21	12	16	41	(.000)

\* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

<i>How often do members of your family currently provide voluntary assistance to aging, ill or special needs neighbors?</i>						
	<i>Daily</i>	<i>Weekly</i>	<i>Monthly</i>	<i>Less often</i>	<i>Have none</i>	<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>
<b>Total</b>	3	8	13	27	49	
<b>Community Size</b>			(n = 2539)			
Less than 500	3	13	13	28	44	
500 - 999	4	7	15	34	41	
1,000 - 4,999	4	7	16	29	45	
5,000 - 9,999	2	7	13	22	56	$\chi^2 = 58.19^*$
10,000 and up	2	8	10	27	53	(.000)
<b>Region</b>			(n = 2574)			
Panhandle	3	7	13	29	47	
North Central	2	8	15	26	49	
South Central	3	10	10	29	48	
Northeast	3	7	13	28	50	$\chi^2 = 16.06$
Southeast	2	8	15	25	50	(.449)
<b>Income Level</b>			(n = 2377)			
Under \$20,000	5	9	8	22	57	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	4	8	12	27	49	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	3	8	15	28	47	$\chi^2 = 29.97^*$
\$60,000 and over	2	7	14	30	48	(.003)
<b>Age</b>			(n = 2590)			
19 - 29	2	5	9	23	61	
30 - 39	3	5	14	25	53	
40 - 49	2	7	14	33	45	
50 - 64	4	10	14	29	44	$\chi^2 = 63.52^*$
65 and older	4	12	12	26	47	(.000)
<b>Marital Status</b>			(n = 2581)			
Married	3	8	14	29	47	
Never married	2	8	11	27	52	
Divorced/separated	2	9	8	24	57	$\chi^2 = 22.22^*$
Widowed	4	11	14	22	50	(.035)
<b>Education</b>			(n = 2511)			
Less than H.S. diploma	3	4	11	17	66	
H.S. diploma	3	10	13	26	48	
Some college	3	8	13	27	49	$\chi^2 = 19.87$
Bachelors degree	3	7	13	30	48	(.070)
<b>Occupation</b>			(n = 1853)			
Mgt, prof or education	3	8	15	30	46	
Sales or office support	2	3	11	29	55	
Constrn, inst or maint	3	10	14	34	39	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	2	3	6	24	65	
Agriculture	3	8	24	31	35	
Food serv/pers. care	3	13	6	25	54	
Hlthcare supp/safety	4	6	7	28	54	$\chi^2 = 97.63^*$
Other	0	13	8	32	47	(.000)

\* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

**Appendix Table 7. Distance from Parents by Community Size, Region and Various Individual Attributes**

<i>If you have living parents, how far away does the nearest live?</i>					<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	
		<i>2 miles or less</i>	<i>3 to 12 miles</i>	<i>13 to 60 miles</i>		<i>More than 60 miles</i>
<b>Total</b>		29	22	25	25	
<b>Community Size</b>		(n = 1861)				
Less than 500		34	24	24	18	
500 - 999		29	19	29	24	
1,000 - 4,999		31	21	25	23	
5,000 - 9,999		31	17	31	22	$\chi^2 = 34.42^*$ (.001)
10,000 and up		25	24	21	30	
<b>Region</b>		(n = 1885)				
Panhandle		32	24	17	27	
North Central		24	21	23	32	
South Central		30	20	22	28	
Northeast		29	22	27	22	$\chi^2 = 44.41^*$ (.000)
Southeast		28	24	33	15	
<b>Income Level</b>		(n = 1789)				
Under \$20,000		32	19	27	23	
\$20,000 - \$39,999		31	18	25	26	
\$40,000 - \$59,999		28	26	24	21	$\chi^2 = 29.93^*$ (.000)
\$60,000 and over		25	19	25	32	
<b>Age</b>		(n = 1894)				
19 - 29		32	24	26	18	
30 - 39		26	21	29	24	
40 - 49		30	22	21	27	
50 - 64		28	21	25	27	$\chi^2 = 29.48^*$ (.003)
65 and older		27	18	20	36	
<b>Gender</b>		(n = 1892)				
Male		29	22	25	24	$\chi^2 = 0.12$ (.989)
Female		29	22	25	25	
<b>Marital Status</b>		(n = 1887)				
Married		28	23	25	24	
Never married		38	17	28	17	
Divorced/separated		28	17	23	32	$\chi^2 = 33.01^*$ (.000)
Widowed		29	17	9	46	
<b>Education</b>		(n = 1851)				
Less than H.S. diploma		29	11	26	34	
H.S. diploma		30	24	27	19	
Some college		35	25	22	19	$\chi^2 = 84.47^*$ (.000)
Bachelors degree		21	18	26	35	
<b>Occupation</b>		(n = 1587)				
Mgt, prof or education		24	20	25	30	
Sales or office support		27	25	27	22	
Constrn, inst or maint		25	25	25	26	
Prodn/trans/warehsing		34	22	28	16	
Agriculture		39	22	22	17	
Food serv/pers. care		45	13	22	20	
Hlthcare supp/safety		21	27	27	25	$\chi^2 = 63.44^*$ (.000)
Other		45	21	15	19	

\* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 7 continued.

<i>If you have living parents, how far away does the most distant live?</i>					
	16 miles or less	17 to 75 miles	76 to 300 miles	More than 300 miles	<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>
<b>Total</b>	25	25	27	24	
<b><u>Community Size</u></b>			(n = 1530)		
Less than 500	21	34	27	19	
500 - 999	21	30	35	15	
1,000 - 4,999	26	28	27	19	
5,000 - 9,999	22	22	25	31	$\chi^2 = 50.06^*$
10,000 and up	27	18	26	29	(.000)
<b><u>Region</u></b>			(n = 1543)		
Panhandle	26	13	25	36	
North Central	12	27	34	27	
South Central	28	22	28	22	
Northeast	28	28	22	22	$\chi^2 = 61.58^*$
Southeast	25	30	28	17	(.000)
<b><u>Income Level</u></b>			(n = 1477)		
Under \$20,000	26	25	24	25	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	27	27	25	22	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	26	25	27	21	$\chi^2 = 10.35$
\$60,000 and over	21	24	30	26	(.323)
<b><u>Age</u></b>			(n = 1551)		
19 - 29	30	31	24	15	
30 - 39	19	26	31	24	
40 - 49	26	20	27	27	
50 - 64	23	24	27	27	$\chi^2 = 37.04^*$
65 and older	27	23	21	29	(.000)
<b><u>Gender</u></b>			(n = 1553)		
Male	29	23	23	25	$\chi^2 = 14.62^*$
Female	22	26	30	23	(.002)
<b><u>Marital Status</u></b>			(n = 1548)		
Married	22	26	29	23	
Never married	40	28	14	18	
Divorced/separated	31	15	23	31	$\chi^2 = 50.15^*$
Widowed	30	17	39	13	(.000)
<b><u>Education</u></b>			(n = 1522)		
Less than H.S. diploma	23	10	19	48	
H.S. diploma	29	29	20	21	
Some college	29	28	22	21	$\chi^2 = 67.11^*$
Bachelors degree	18	21	36	26	(.000)
<b><u>Occupation</u></b>			(n = 1325)		
Mgt, prof or education	18	21	34	27	
Sales or office support	30	27	26	17	
Constrn, inst or maint	30	30	18	23	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	38	16	19	27	
Agriculture	36	26	21	17	
Food serv/pers. care	30	31	16	24	
Hlthcare supp/safety	17	31	29	25	$\chi^2 = 73.37^*$
Other	27	14	34	25	(.000)

\* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.



**Appendix Table 8. Distance from Grown Children by Community Size, Region and Various Individual Attributes**

<i>If you have grown children, how far away does the nearest live?</i>					
	<i>1 mile or less</i>	<i>2 to 15 miles</i>	<i>16 to 100 miles</i>	<i>More than 100 miles</i>	<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>
<b>Total</b>	26	23	27	23	
<b>Community Size</b>			(n = 1401)		
Less than 500	25	24	34	17	
500 - 999	28	23	28	23	
1,000 - 4,999	28	22	28	22	
5,000 - 9,999	23	19	33	26	$\chi^2 = 22.45^*$
10,000 and up	26	27	21	26	(.033)
<b>Region</b>			(n = 1427)		
Panhandle	24	22	19	35	
North Central	23	21	21	35	
South Central	26	25	26	23	
Northeast	30	24	28	18	$\chi^2 = 75.20^*$
Southeast	26	23	41	10	(.000)
<b>Income Level</b>			(n = 1265)		
Under \$20,000	27	25	29	18	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	27	27	24	22	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	26	22	29	23	$\chi^2 = 16.13$
\$60,000 and over	23	18	29	30	(.064)
<b>Age</b>			(n = 1434)		
19 - 29	0	0	0	0	
30 - 39	22	24	24	30	
40 - 49	29	18	28	25	
50 - 64	25	20	28	26	$\chi^2 = 29.89^*$
65 and older	26	29	26	19	(.003)
<b>Gender</b>			(n = 1432)		
Male	26	22	25	27	$\chi^2 = 9.71^*$
Female	27	24	29	20	(.021)
<b>Marital Status</b>			(n = 1436)		
Married	26	23	28	23	
Never married	39	15	23	23	
Divorced/separated	20	22	25	32	$\chi^2 = 23.38^*$
Widowed	33	28	23	16	(.005)
<b>Education</b>			(n = 1374)		
Less than H.S. diploma	33	29	24	15	
H.S. diploma	30	27	28	15	
Some college	26	23	25	26	$\chi^2 = 49.02^*$
Bachelors degree	20	17	32	31	(.000)
<b>Occupation</b>			(n = 850)		
Mgt, prof or education	25	17	31	27	
Sales or office support	29	18	26	28	
Constrn, inst or maint	34	13	30	23	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	36	17	23	24	
Agriculture	25	33	23	18	
Food serv/pers. care	26	31	26	16	
Hlthcare supp/safety	20	33	21	26	$\chi^2 = 36.57^*$
Other	28	19	25	28	(.019)

\* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 8 continued.

<i>If you have grown children, how far away does the most distant live?</i>					
	75 miles or less	76 to 280 miles	281 to 800 miles	More than 800 miles	Chi-square (sig.)
<b>Total</b>	25	27	25	24	
<b>Community Size</b>			(n = 1257)		
Less than 500	29	30	21	20	
500 - 999	25	29	22	24	
1,000 - 4,999	23	27	28	23	
5,000 - 9,999	20	24	30	27	$\chi^2 = 11.67$
10,000 and up	25	26	24	25	(.473)
<b>Region</b>			(n = 1280)		
Panhandle	14	19	36	31	
North Central	13	33	28	26	
South Central	23	27	28	22	
Northeast	28	28	20	24	$\chi^2 = 70.33^*$
Southeast	40	25	17	20	(.000)
<b>Income Level</b>			(n = 1134)		
Under \$20,000	29	20	25	27	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	24	27	25	24	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	24	30	21	25	$\chi^2 = 13.81$
\$60,000 and over	24	27	29	20	(.129)
<b>Age</b>			(n = 1286)		
19 - 29	0	0	0	0	
30 - 39	54	29	18	0	
40 - 49	33	31	21	16	
50 - 64	23	29	25	23	$\chi^2 = 58.28^*$
65 and older	21	23	27	30	(.000)
<b>Gender</b>			(n = 1284)		
Male	22	27	25	27	$\chi^2 = 8.87^*$
Female	27	27	25	21	(.031)
<b>Marital Status</b>			(n = 1286)		
Married	24	27	25	23	
Never married	43	14	29	14	
Divorced/separated	31	22	20	27	$\chi^2 = 7.83$
Widowed	22	28	26	25	(.552)
<b>Education</b>			(n = 1229)		
Less than H.S. diploma	25	29	17	29	
H.S. diploma	29	28	24	20	
Some college	24	26	25	26	$\chi^2 = 12.79$
Bachelors degree	20	27	27	26	(.173)
<b>Occupation</b>			(n = 757)		
Mgt, prof or education	22	28	29	20	
Sales or office support	28	28	17	28	
Constrn, inst or maint	23	30	29	18	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	27	22	19	32	
Agriculture	34	29	20	17	
Food serv/pers. care	33	28	22	17	
Hlthcare supp/safety	27	35	23	15	$\chi^2 = 31.36$
Other	30	20	10	40	(.068)

\* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

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