



NEBRASKA RURAL POLL

A Research Report

Life in Nonmetropolitan Nebraskan Communities

2021 Nebraska Rural Poll Results

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All of the research reports detailing Nebraska Rural Poll results are located on its webpage at <http://ruralpoll.unl.edu>

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Executive Summary

The past year continued to be challenging for Nebraska. Ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 epidemic have caused stress and uncertainty throughout the state. However, the state has been recovering economically from the pandemic and the agricultural outlook has improved. Given these challenges and opportunities, how do rural Nebraskans feel about their community? Are they satisfied with the services provided by their community? Have these views changed over the past 26 years? This paper provides a detailed analysis of these questions.

This report details 1,568 responses to the 2021 Nebraska Rural Poll, the 26th annual effort to understand rural Nebraskans' perceptions. Respondents were asked a series of questions about their community. Trends for some of the questions are examined by comparing data from the 25 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:

- ***By many different measures, rural Nebraskans are positive about their community.***
 - ✓ *Most rural Nebraskans rate their community favorably on its social dimensions.* Overall, respondents rate their communities as friendly (74%), trusting (64%) and supportive (68%).
 - ✓ *Most rural Nebraskans say it would be difficult to leave their community.* Almost six in ten rural Nebraskans (58%) say it would be difficult to leave their community. Just under three in ten (28%) indicate it would be easy for their household to leave their community.
 - ✓ *Most rural Nebraskans have a positive attachment to their community.* Most rural Nebraskans agree that they have a good bond with others in their community (60%), they feel like a member of their community (58%), they belong in their community (56%), they feel connected to their community (56%), the community helps them fulfill their needs (51%), and they can get what they need in their community (50%).
 - ✓ *Most rural Nebraskans disagree that their community is powerless to control its future.* Six in ten rural Nebraskans (60%) strongly disagree or disagree that their community is powerless to control its own future.
- ***Rural Nebraskans are less positive about the current change and expected future change in their communities this year.*** The proportion believing their community has changed for the better has typically been greater than the proportion believing it has changed for the worse. However, this year the proportion believing their community changed for the worse was slightly more than the proportion believing it had changed for the better (similar to what occurred in 2003 and 2009). The proportion viewing positive change in their community sharply declined from 34 percent last year to 22 percent this year (the lowest proportion of all 26 years). The proportion believing their community has stayed the same increased sharply to 55 percent this year, compared to 45 percent last year. Similarly, the proportion believing their community will be a better place to live ten years

from now declined from 28 percent last year to 25 percent this year. The proportion believing their community will be a worse place to live increased from 18 percent last year to 22 percent this year.

- **Residents of larger communities are more likely than residents of smaller communities to say their community has changed for the better during the past year and will be a better place to live ten years from now.**
 - ✓ *Persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to say their community has changed for the better during the past year.* One-quarter of persons (25%) living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more believe their community has changed for the better, compared to 18 percent of persons living in or near communities with less than 500 people.
 - ✓ *Persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to say their community will be a better place to live ten years from now.* Just over three in ten persons living in or near communities with populations greater than 10,000 believe their community will be a better place to live ten years from now. In comparison, approximately 18 percent of persons living in or near the smallest communities think their community will improve in ten years.
- **Persons living in or near the smallest communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to rate their community as friendly, trusting and supportive.** As an example, 80 percent of persons living in or near the smallest communities rate them as supportive, compared to just over six in ten residents of communities with populations of 5,000 or more.
- **Persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to get what they need in their community. However, persons living in or near the smallest communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to have an attachment to their community.**
- **Except for some services that are largely unavailable in rural communities, rural Nebraskans are generally satisfied with basic community services and amenities.** The services or amenities respondents are most satisfied with include: fire protection (86%), parks and recreation (73%), library services (68%), law enforcement (67%), religious organizations (65%) and cellular phone service (64%). At least four in ten respondents are either very dissatisfied or somewhat dissatisfied with retail shopping (57%), streets and roads (57%), entertainment (53%), restaurants (45%), cost of housing (43%) and arts/cultural activities (42%).
 - ✓ *The proportion of rural Nebraskans satisfied with many social services and entertainment services has decreased during the past 20 years.* Declines in satisfaction levels across the past 20 years occur with nursing home care, medical care services, senior centers, mental health services and retail shopping.
- **Some rural Nebraskans say that transgender people, gays and lesbians, recent immigrants to the U.S. and liberals are discriminated against in their community.** At least one-quarter say the following groups are discriminated against in their local community: transgender people (35%), gays and lesbians (31%), recent immigrants to the U.S. (27%) and liberals (27%).

Introduction

The past year continued to be challenging for Nebraska. Ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 epidemic have caused stress and uncertainty throughout the state. However, the state has been recovering economically from the pandemic and the agricultural outlook has improved. Given these challenges and opportunities, how do rural Nebraskans feel about their community? Are they satisfied with the services provided by their community? Have these views changed over the past 26 years? This paper provides a detailed analysis of these questions.

This report details 1,568 responses to the 2021 Nebraska Rural Poll, the 26th annual effort to understand rural Nebraskans' perceptions. Respondents were asked a series of questions about their community.

Methodology and Respondent Profile

This study is based on 1,568 responses from Nebraskans living in 86 counties in the state.¹ A self-administered questionnaire was mailed in April and May to 6,040 randomly selected households. Metropolitan counties not included in the sample were Cass, Douglas, Lancaster, Sarpy, Saunders, Seward and Washington. The 14-page questionnaire included questions pertaining to well-being, community, pandemic impacts, and trust in media, institutions and

¹ In the spring of 2013, the Grand Island area (Hall, Hamilton, Howard and Merrick Counties) was designated a metropolitan area. To facilitate comparisons from previous years, these four counties are still included in our sample. In addition, the Sioux City area metropolitan counties of Dixon and Dakota were added in 2014 because of a joint

health information. This paper reports only results from the community section.

A 26% 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 manager approximately ten days later.
3. A reminder postcard was sent to those who had not yet responded approximately ten days after the questionnaire had been sent.
4. Those who had not yet responded within approximately 20 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 the latest available data from the 2015 - 2019 American Community Survey). 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. Thus, 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

Metro Poll being conducted by the University of Nebraska at Omaha to ensure all counties in the state were sampled. Although classified as metro, Dixon County is rural in nature. Dakota County is similar in many respects to other "micropolitan" counties the Rural Poll surveys.

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 from 2010).

The average age of respondents is 50 years. Sixty-nine percent are married (Appendix Table 1) and 67 percent live within the city limits of a town or village. On average, respondents have lived in Nebraska 41 years and have lived in their current community 27 years. Fifty-eight percent are living in or near towns or villages with populations less than 5,000. Ninety-seven percent have attained at least a high school diploma.

Twenty-five percent of the respondents report their 2020 approximate household income from all sources, before taxes, as below \$40,000. Fifty-nine percent report incomes over \$60,000. Seventy-eight percent were employed in 2020 on a full-time, part-time, or seasonal basis. Seventeen percent are retired. Thirty-three percent of those employed reported working in a management, professional, or education occupation. Fifteen percent indicated they were employed in agriculture.

Trends in Community Ratings (1996 - 2021)

Comparisons are made between the community data collected this year to the 25 previous

studies. These were independent samples (the same people were not surveyed each year).

Community Change – 26 Year Trend

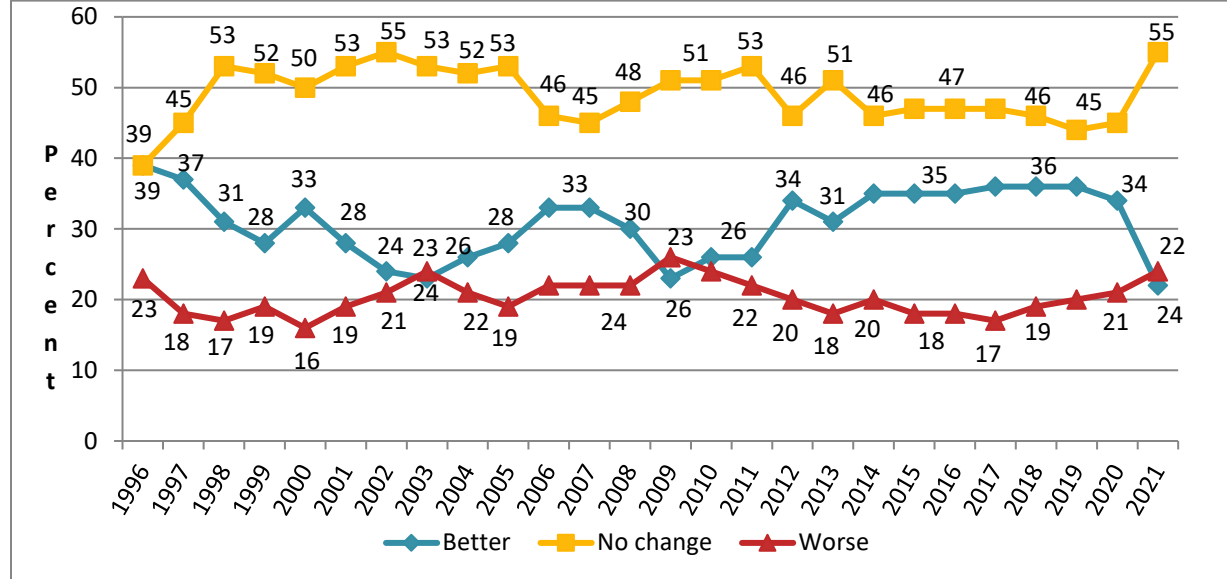
To examine respondents' perceptions of how their community has changed, they were asked the question, "Communities across the nation are undergoing change. When you think about this past year, would you say...My community has changed for the..." Answer categories were better, no change or worse.

One difference in the wording of this question has occurred over the past 26 years. Starting in 1998, the phrase "this past year" was added to the question; no time frame was given to the respondents in the first two studies. Also, in 2007 the middle response "same" was replaced with "no change."

Rural Nebraskans' views about the change in their community have generally been positive. The proportion believing their community has changed for the better has typically been greater than the proportion believing it has changed for the worse, especially between 2012 and 2020 when the gap between the two widened (Figure 1). However, this year the proportion believing their community changed for the worse was slightly more than the proportion believing it had changed for the better (similar to what occurred in 2003 and 2009).

The proportion saying their community has changed for the better has averaged approximately 31 percent. Following a seven-year period of general decline, the proportion saying their community has changed for the better increased from 23 percent in 2003 to 33

Figure 1. Community Change 1996 - 2021



percent in 2007. It then declined to 23 percent in 2009. However, the proportion viewing positive change in their community then generally increased to 34 percent last year, before sharply declining to 22 percent this year (the lowest proportion of all 26 years).

The proportion saying their community has stayed the same first increased from 1996 to 1998. It then remained fairly steady during the following eight years but declined in both 2006 and 2007. Then it steadily increased to 53 percent in 2011. However, the proportion believing their community has stayed the same then generally declined to 45 percent last year before increasing sharply to 55 percent this year.

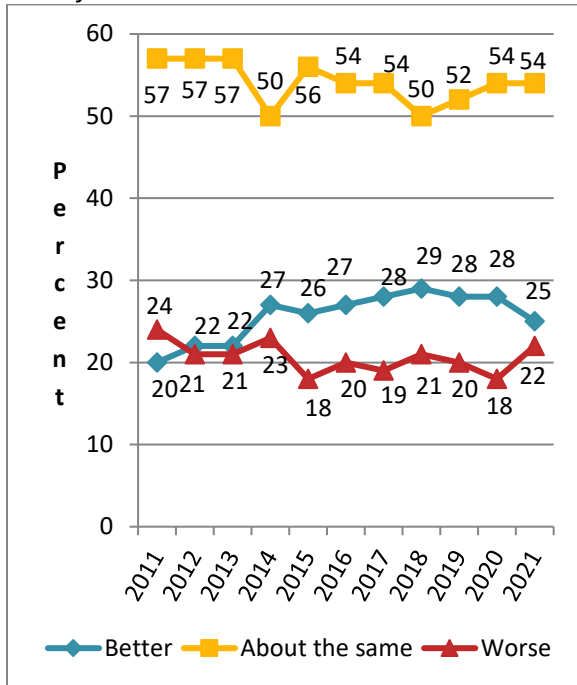
The proportion saying their community has changed for the worse has remained fairly steady across all 26 years, averaging 20 percent. It increased from 22 percent in 2008 to 26 percent in 2009 (the highest proportion in all

years of this study). Since then, it generally decreased to 17 percent in 2017 before steadily increasing to 24 percent last year.

Starting in 2011, respondents were also asked to predict the expected change in their community ten years from now. The exact question wording was, “Based on what you see of the situation today, do you think that, ten years from now, your community will be a worse place to live, a better place or about the same?”

The proportion believing their community will be a better place to live ten years from now generally increased during the first ten years, from 20 percent in 2011 to 28 percent last year (Figure 2). However, it declined to 25 percent this year. The proportion believing their community will be a worse place to live generally declined from 24 percent in 2011 to 18 percent last year, before increasing to 22 percent this year.

Figure 2. Expected Community Change Ten Years from Now: 2011 - 2021



The proportion thinking their community will be about the same ten years from now has remained relatively stable, with the exceptions of 2014 and 2018 when it declined to 50 percent.

Community Social Dimensions and Powerlessness – 26 Year Trend

Respondents were also asked each year if they would describe their communities as friendly or unfriendly, trusting or distrusting, and supportive or hostile. For each of these three dimensions, respondents were asked to rate their community using a seven-point scale between each pair of contrasting views. The proportion of respondents who view their community as friendly has remained fairly steady over the 26-year period, ranging from 69 to 79 percent. The proportion of respondents who view their community as trusting has also remained fairly steady, ranging from 59 to 66 percent.

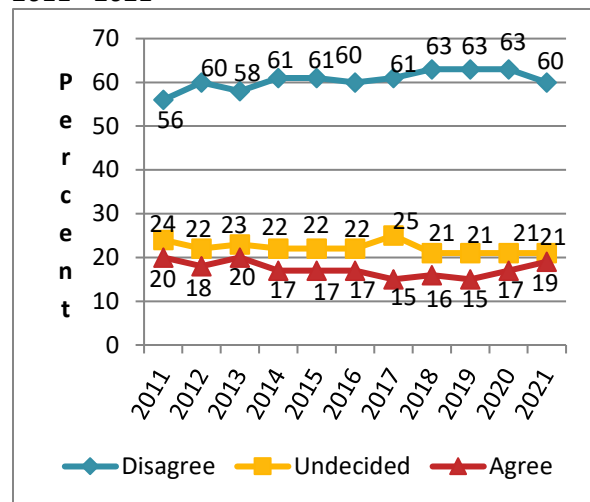
A similar pattern emerged when examining the

proportion of respondents who rated their community as supportive. The proportions rating their community as supportive have ranged from 60 percent to 71 percent over the 26-year period.

Starting in 2001, respondents were also asked a question to determine if they view their community as powerless. They were asked, “Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? My community is powerless to control its own future.” They were given a five-point scale that ranged from strongly disagree to strongly agree.

In general, rural Nebraskans’ perceptions of the powerlessness of their community has remained fairly stable (Figure 3). The proportion disagreeing with the statement generally increased from 56 percent in 2011 to 60 percent this year. However, the proportion has been relatively stable the past seven years.

Figure 3. Feelings of Community Powerlessness: 2011 - 2021



Plans to Leave the Community – 26 Year Trend

Starting in 1998, respondents were asked, “Do you plan to move from your community in the next year?” The proportion planning to leave their community has remained relatively stable

during the past 24 years, ranging from 3 percent to 8 percent.

The expected destination for the persons planning to move has changed over time (Figure 4). Following a brief decrease last year, the proportion of expected movers planning to leave the state sharply increased from 43 percent to 64 percent this year. The proportion expecting to leave the state has averaged approximately 46 percent over the 24-year period. The proportion of expected movers planning to move to either the Omaha or Lincoln area generally declined between 2006 and 2012, from 21 percent to 11 percent.

However, it has been fairly inconsistent year to year since then – showing alternate patterns of increases and declines. The proportion of expected movers planning to move to the Omaha or Lincoln area has averaged approximately 15 percent.

And, the proportion of expected movers planning to move to other areas of rural Nebraska generally increased from 28 percent

in 2011 to 39 in 2014, but then declined to 28 percent in 2016. Since then, it increased to 50 percent in 2018, dropped sharply to 29 percent in 2020, then increased to 44 percent last year before declining again to 26 percent this year. The average proportion expecting to move to other areas of rural Nebraska has been 39 percent.

Satisfaction with Community Services and Amenities – 26 Year Trend

Respondents were also asked how satisfied they are with various community services and amenities each year. They were asked this in all 26 studies; however, in 1996 they were also asked about the availability of these services. Comparisons will only be made between the last 20 studies. The respondents were asked how satisfied they were with a list of 27 services and amenities, taking into consideration availability, cost, and quality.

Table 1 shows the proportions very or somewhat satisfied with the service each year. The rank ordering of these items has remained

Figure 4. Expected Destination of Those Planning to Move: 1998 - 2021

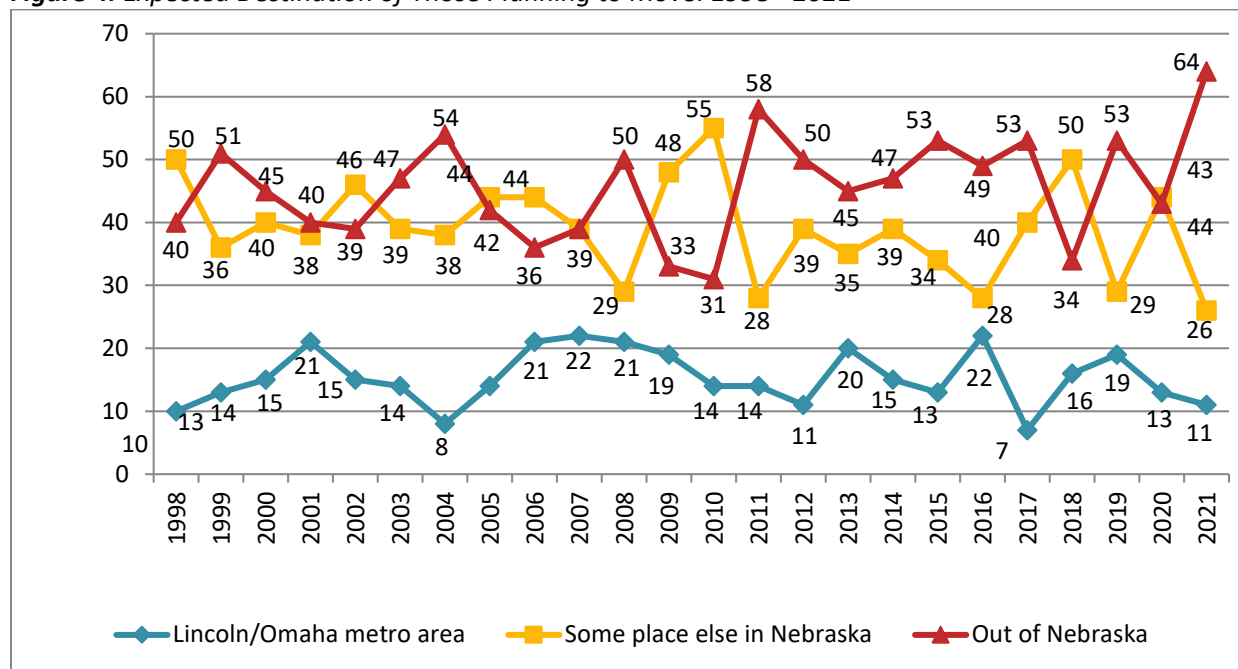


Table 1. Proportion of Respondents Very or Somewhat Satisfied with Each Service, 2002 - 2021

Service/Amenity	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Fire protection	*	*	*	*	86	85	86	87	85	86	85	86	86	87	87	85	89	89	87	86
Parks/recreation	74	76	75	74	75	74	75	74	74	75	76	76	71	76	78	75	74	79	77	73
Library services	74	74	74	72	73	74	75	74	73	73	72	73	72	73	71	73	74	73	72	68
Law enforcement	63	65	63	63	64	63	62	64	65	63	65	64	62	64	69	67	66	69	68	67
Religious org.	*	*	*	*	72	72	73	71	71	70	72	71	70	72	69	68	67	69	70	65
Cell phone services	*	*	*	*	49	54	58	61	60	64	63	65	60	64	63	61	59	66	64	64
Education (K-12)	69	69	68	68	68	68	70	68	68	68	68	68	68	69	68	70	69	70	70	63
Medical care svcs	69	71	71	71	71	63	66	67	67	67	68	66	62	62	64	63	59	64	66	62
Sewage/waste disposal*	*	*	*	*	66	66	67	66	65	65	64	67	64	65	64	66	67	65	63	61
Sewage disposal	66	64	67	63	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Water disposal	64	62	65	62	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Solid waste disp.	64	63	65	63	64	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Access to higher ed	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	63	62	59	58	63	63	61
Internet service	*	*	*	*	50	51	57	58	56	60	59	59	56	58	56	54	53	57	54	53
Civic/nonprofit organizations	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	45	47	48	49	47	46
Restaurants	51	54	56	54	54	50	45	47	47	48	48	46	40	46	43	43	45	43	52	43
Quality of housing	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	44	45	45	44	47	46	48	43
Cost of housing	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	50	45	45	45	46	43	43	38
Housing	62	60	61	60	61	59	59	61	59	59	57	52	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Senior centers	62	61	58	59	55	48	47	47	47	48	47	48	47	49	47	47	45	43	45	40
Local government*	*	*	*	*	41	40	38	41	40	41	42	40	37	40	37	42	39	43	42	40
County govt.	47	51	48	47	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
City/village govt.	45	48	45	46	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Comm recycling	*	*	*	*	*	50	48	52	54	54	54	58	53	55	52	50	51	46	44	39
Streets and roads*	*	*	*	*	*	55	49	51	47	48	49	53	44	47	43	44	45	42	41	37
Streets	61	62	59	60	60	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Highway/bridges	69	70	69	70	69	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Nursing home care	57	57	55	55	53	46	47	45	46	46	45	43	47	47	43	44	38	40	42	36
Head start progrms	38	40	41	39	37	29	26	28	29	27	27	27	39	39	39	40	37	44	42	34
Retail shopping	45	45	49	47	45	41	39	40	41	37	39	38	33	38	34	32	35	28	33	29
Child day care svcs	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	32	34	35	35	32	34	34	33	31	30	34	34	27
Day care services	44	45	47	45	42	31	28	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Mental health svcs	30	30	31	30	27	23	23	24	23	24	25	23	21	23	22	21	19	23	25	24
Entertainment	32	33	36	32	34	30	26	29	32	30	30	31	26	29	26	28	29	29	31	23
Arts/cultural activities	*	*	*	*	*	26	25	24	27	27	27	26	24	26	22	24	26	27	24	20
Pub transp svcs*	*	*	*	*	*	17	17	19	18	19	19	20	17	19	18	17	21	20	21	17
Airline service	16	17	18	15	15	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Taxi service	10	11	12	12	11	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Rail service	11	11	13	11	9	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Bus service	9	10	11	7	7	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

* = Not asked that particular year; * New items added in 2007 that combine previous items (indented below each).

relatively stable over the 20 years. However, the proportion of rural Nebraskans satisfied with many social services has generally declined across all 20 years. As an example, the proportion of rural Nebraskans satisfied with nursing home care has dropped from 57 percent in 2002 to 36 percent this year. Similar declines occur with medical care services, senior centers, and mental health services. In addition, satisfaction with retail shopping has also generally declined over the past 20 years. Satisfaction with retail shopping declined from 45 percent in 2002 to 29 percent this year.

On the other hand, satisfaction with cellular phone service has generally increased over time. The proportion satisfied with cellular phone services has increased from 49 percent in 2006 (the first year it was included in the survey) to 64 percent this year.

A couple items saw a decrease in satisfaction levels compared to last year. Seven in ten rural Nebraskans (70%) were satisfied with education (K – 12) in their community last year. That proportion decreased to 63 percent this year. Similarly, satisfaction with restaurants in the community decreased from 52 to 43 percent. Other services seeing decreases include: Head Start programs (from 42 to 34 percent), child day care services (from 34 to 27 percent) and entertainment (from 31 to 23 percent).

The Community and Its Attributes in 2021

In this section, the 2021 data on respondents' evaluations of their communities and its attributes are examined in terms of any significant differences that may exist depending upon the size of the respondent's community,

the region in which they live, or various individual attributes such as household income or age.

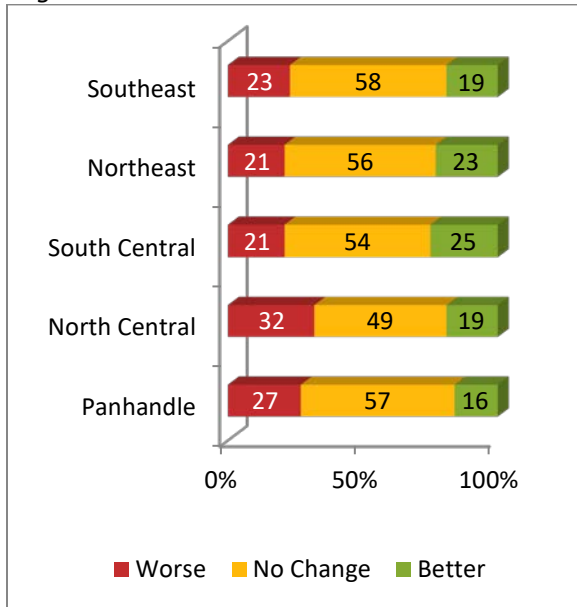
Community Change – 2021 Data

The perceptions of the change occurring in their community by various demographic subgroups are examined (Appendix Table 2). Residents living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to say that their community has changed for the better during the past year. One-quarter of persons (25%) living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more believe their community has changed for the better, compared to 18 percent of persons living in or near communities with less than 500 people.

Persons living in both the South Central and the Northeast regions are more likely than persons living in other regions of the state to say their community has changed for the better during the past year (see Appendix Figure 1 for the counties included in each region). Approximately one-quarter of residents of these two regions say their community changed for the better during the past year, compared to 16 percent of persons living in the Panhandle (Figure 5). Almost one-third of residents of the North Central region say their community has changed for the worse during the past year.

Other groups most likely to say their community has changed for the better during the past year include: persons age 30 and older; females; persons with higher education levels; persons with management, professional or education occupations; and community residents who have lived there more than five years.

Figure 5. Perceptions of Community Change by Region



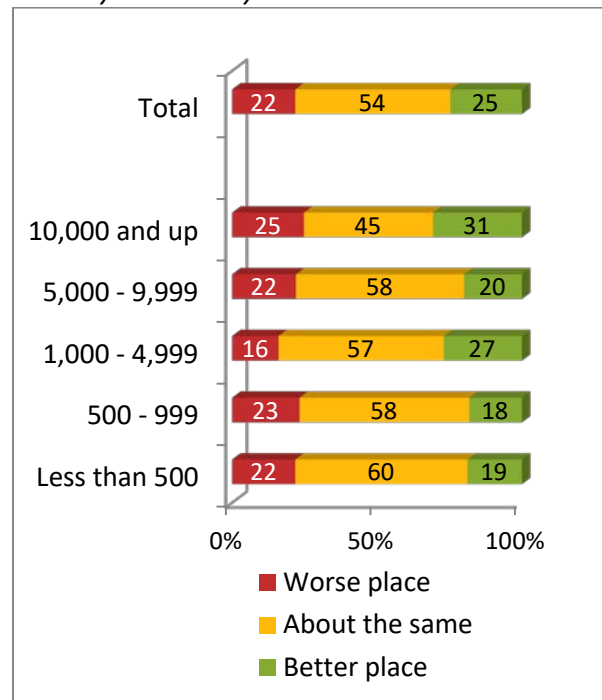
In addition, respondents were asked to predict the expected change in their community ten years from now. The exact question wording was, “Based on what you see of the situation today, do you think that, ten years from now, your community will be a worse place to live, a better place or about the same?” One-quarter of rural Nebraskans (25%) expect their community will be a better place to live ten years from now. Just over one-half (54%) expect it to be about the same and just over two in ten (22%) think their community will be a worse place to live ten years from now.

Respondents’ perceptions differ by the size of their community, the region in which they live and some individual attributes (Appendix Table 3). Persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near the smallest communities to say their community will be a better place to live ten years from now. Just over three in ten persons

living in or near communities with populations greater than 10,000 believe their community will be a better place to live ten years from now (Figure 6). In comparison, approximately 18 percent of persons living in or near the smallest communities think their community will improve in ten years.

Persons living in the South Central region are more likely than persons living in other regions of the state to say their community will be a better place to live ten years from now. Three in ten residents of this region believe their community will be a better place to live ten years from now, compared to 16 percent of Panhandle residents. Just over one-quarter of residents of both the Panhandle and North Central regions (27%) think their community will be a worse place to live ten years from now.

Figure 6. Expected Community Change in Ten Years by Community Size



Other groups most likely to have an optimistic view about their community's future include: persons with the highest household incomes, persons with the highest education levels and persons with food service or personal care occupations. New residents of the community (who have lived there five years or less) are more likely than long-term residents to believe the community will be a worse place to live ten years from now.

Community Social Attributes and Powerlessness – 2021 Data

In addition to asking respondents about their perceptions of the change occurring in their community, they were also asked to rate its social dimensions. They were asked if they would describe their communities as friendly or unfriendly, trusting or distrusting, and supportive or hostile. Overall, respondents rate their communities as friendly (74%), trusting (64%) and supportive (68%).

Respondents' ratings of their community on these dimensions differ by some of the characteristics examined (Appendix Table 4). Persons living in or near the smallest communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to rate their community as friendly, trusting and supportive. As an example, 80 percent of persons living in or near the smallest communities rate them as supportive, compared to just over six in ten residents of communities with populations of 5,000 or more.

Residents of the South Central region are more likely than residents of other regions to rate their community as trusting. Almost seven in ten residents of the South Central region rate their community as trusting, compared to just

under six in ten residents of the Northeast region.

When comparing responses by marital status, both married and widowed persons are the groups most likely to rate their community as trusting and supportive. Persons who are divorced or separated are the group *least* likely to rate their community as friendly.

Persons with the highest education levels are more likely than persons with less education to rate their community as friendly and supportive. Persons with construction, installation or maintenance occupations are the occupation group most likely to rate the community as both friendly and supportive. Long-term community residents are more likely than newcomers to rate their community as friendly.

Respondents were next asked if they view their community as powerless. They were asked, "Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? My community is powerless to control its own future." They were given a five-point scale that ranged from strongly disagree to strongly agree.

Most rural Nebraskans disagree that their community is powerless to control its own future. Six in ten rural Nebraskans (60%) strongly disagree or disagree that their community is powerless to control its own future. Less than two in ten rural Nebraskans (19%) believe their community is powerless to control its future and just over two in ten (21%) are undecided.

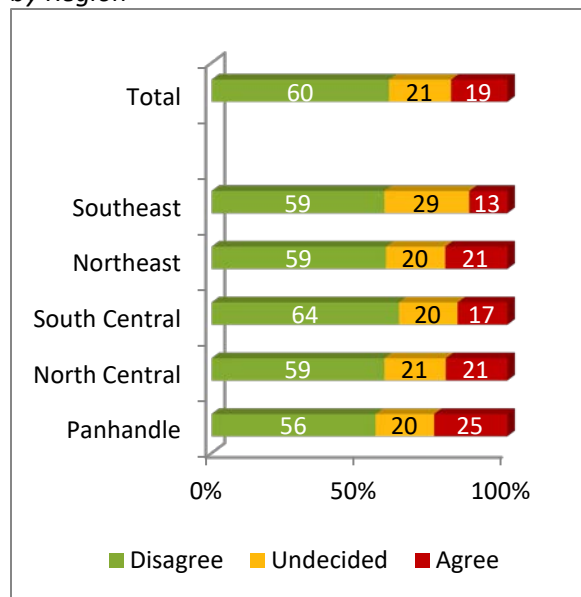
The feelings of community powerlessness are examined by community size, region and

individual attributes (Appendix Table 5). Many differences emerge.

Residents of the South Central region are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to disagree that their community is powerless to control its own future. Just over six in ten residents of the South Central region (64%) disagree with this statement, compared to 56 percent of Panhandle residents (Figure 7). One-quarter of Panhandle residents (25%) agree that their community is powerless to control its own future.

Persons with higher education levels are more likely than persons with less education to disagree that their community is powerless to control its own future. Just under three-quarters of persons with at least a four-year college degree (72%) disagree with this statement, compared to 42 percent of persons with a high school diploma or less education.

Figure 7. Feelings of Community Powerlessness by Region



Other groups most likely to disagree that their community is powerless to control its own future include: persons with higher household incomes; married persons; persons who have never married; persons with management, professional or education occupations; and long-term residents.

Satisfaction with Community Services and Amenities – 2021 Data

Next, rural Nebraskans were asked to rate how satisfied they are with 27 different services and amenities, taking into consideration cost, availability, and quality. Residents report high levels of satisfaction with some services, but other services and amenities have higher levels of dissatisfaction. Only eight services listed have a higher proportion of dissatisfied responses than satisfied responses and those services are largely unavailable in rural communities.

The services or amenities respondents are most satisfied with (based on the combined percentage of “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied” responses) include: fire protection (86%), parks and recreation (73%), library services (68%), law enforcement (67%), religious organizations (65%) and cellular phone service (64%) (Appendix Table 6). At least four in ten respondents are either very dissatisfied or somewhat dissatisfied with retail shopping (57%), streets and roads (57%), entertainment (53%), restaurants (45%), cost of housing (43%) and arts/cultural activities (42%).

The ten services and amenities with the greatest dissatisfaction ratings were analyzed by community size, region and various individual attributes (Appendix Table 7). Many differences emerge.

Persons living in or near mid-sized communities (populations ranging from 5,000 to 9,999) are more likely than persons living in or near both smaller and larger communities to express dissatisfaction with their retail shopping, entertainment and restaurants in their community.

Both residents of the Panhandle and the North Central regions are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to express dissatisfaction with the retail shopping in their community. Residents of the North Central region are the regional group most likely to be dissatisfied with the entertainment and restaurants in their community. Over six in ten residents of the North Central region (64%) are dissatisfied with the entertainment in their community, compared to 45 percent of the residents of the South Central region.

Persons with the lowest household incomes are more likely than persons with higher incomes to be dissatisfied with the restaurants in their community. Persons age 40 to 49 are more likely than both younger and older persons to express dissatisfaction with the entertainment in their community.

Persons with some college education (but not a four-year degree) are the education group most likely to be dissatisfied with the entertainment in their community. Persons with production, transportation or warehousing occupations are the occupation group most likely to express dissatisfaction with the entertainment in their community and persons with food service or personal care occupations are the group most likely to be dissatisfied with the restaurants.

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

in or near smaller communities to be dissatisfied with the streets and roads in their community. Just over six in ten persons living in or near the largest communities are dissatisfied with the streets and roads, compared to just over one-half of persons living in smaller communities.

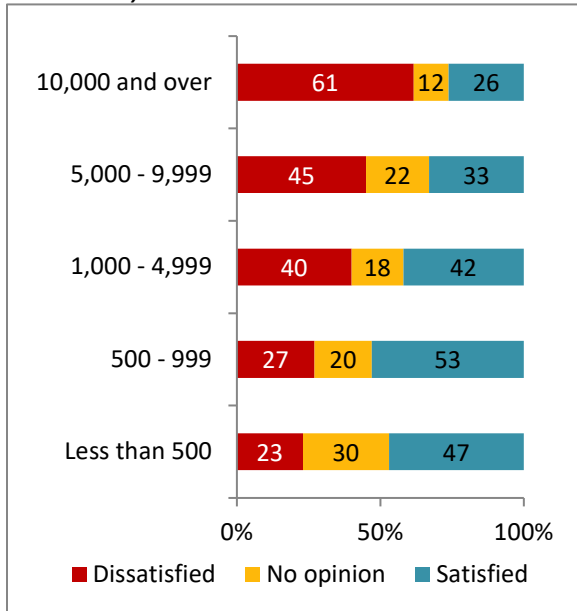
Residents of both the Panhandle and Northeast regions are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to be dissatisfied with their streets and roads. Approximately two-thirds of the residents of these two regions express dissatisfaction with their streets and roads, compared to approximately one-half of the residents of the other three regions.

Other groups most likely to express dissatisfaction with their streets and roads include the youngest persons and persons with some college education (but not a four-year degree).

Persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to express dissatisfaction with the cost of housing in their community. Just over six in ten persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more (61%) are dissatisfied with the cost of housing in their community, compared to 23 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations less than 500 (Figure 8).

Other groups most likely to be dissatisfied with their community's cost of housing include persons age 40 to 49, persons with higher education levels and persons with food service or personal care occupations. Residents of the Southeast region are the regional group *least* likely to be dissatisfied with the cost of housing

Figure 8. Satisfaction with Cost of Housing by Community Size



in their community.

Persons with higher education levels are more likely than persons with less education to express dissatisfaction with the arts/cultural activities in their community. Just over four in ten persons with at least some college education are dissatisfied with the arts/cultural activities, compared to 36 percent of persons with less education.

Other groups most likely to be dissatisfied with their arts/cultural activities include: persons living in or near mid-sized communities (populations ranging from 500 to 999), residents of the Panhandle, persons age 30 to 49, and persons with sales or office support occupations.

Residents of both the Panhandle and North Central regions are more likely than residents of

other regions of the state to express dissatisfaction with the quality of housing in their community. Just over four in ten residents of these regions are dissatisfied with the quality of housing, compared to 33 percent of persons living in the South Central region.

Other groups most likely to be dissatisfied with the quality of housing in their community include persons with mid-level household incomes, the youngest persons, persons with some college education (but not a four-year degree) and persons with food service or personal care occupations.

Residents of both the Northeast and Southeast regions are more likely than persons living in other regions of the state to be dissatisfied with their community recycling. Just over four in ten residents of these regions are dissatisfied with their community recycling, compared to 29 percent of persons living in the South Central region.

Other groups most likely to express dissatisfaction with their community recycling include: persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 5,000 to 9,999; persons with higher household incomes; persons under the age of 50; persons with higher education levels; and persons with healthcare support or personal safety occupations.

Persons with food service or personal care occupations are more likely than persons with different occupations to express dissatisfaction with their Internet service. Just under one-half of persons with these types of occupations are dissatisfied with the Internet service in their community, compared to 34 percent of persons

with production, transportation or warehousing occupations (Figure 9).

The other groups most likely to be dissatisfied with the Internet service in their community include: persons with mid-level household incomes, persons under the age of 40 and persons with at least some college education.

Residents of the Panhandle are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to be dissatisfied with their local government. Just under one-half of residents of the Panhandle are dissatisfied with their local government, compared to just over one-quarter of residents of the South Central region.

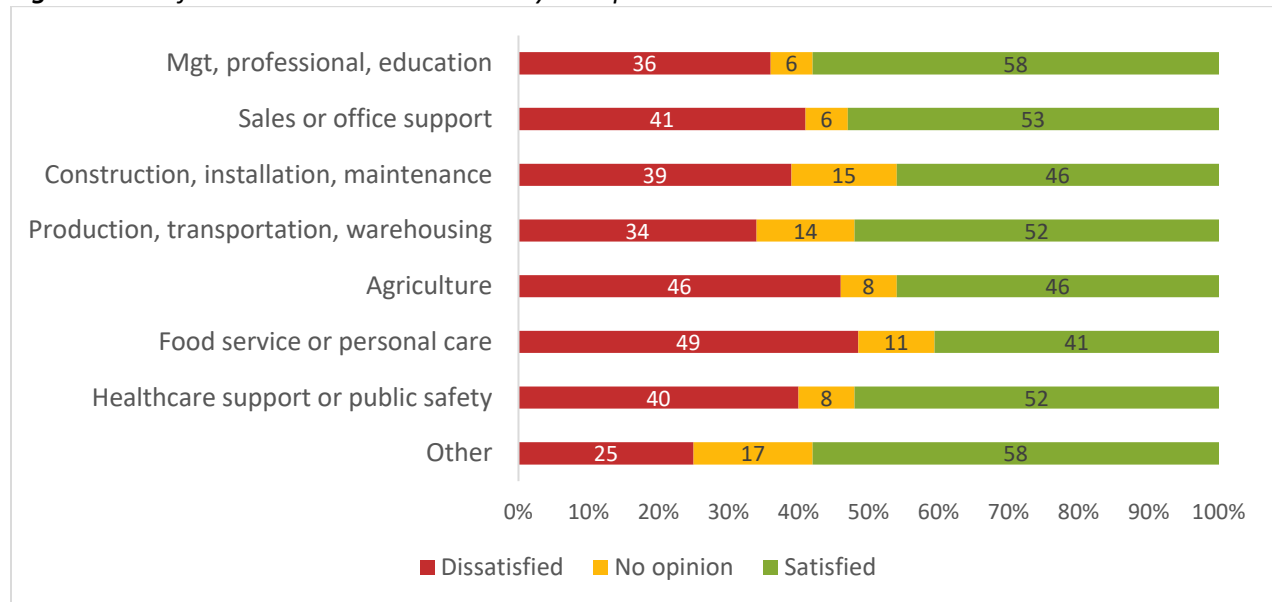
Other groups most likely to be dissatisfied with their local government include: persons living in or near larger communities, persons with the lowest household incomes, persons under the age of 30, persons with some college education

(but less than a four-year degree) and persons with production, transportation or warehousing occupations.

Opinions about the Community

Next, respondents were asked the extent to which they agree or disagree with various statements about their community. Most rural Nebraskans have a positive attachment to their community. Most rural Nebraskans agree that they have a good bond with others in their community (60%), they feel like a member of their community (58%), they belong in their community (56%), they feel connected to their community (56%), the community helps them fulfill their needs (51%), and they can get what they need in their community (50%) (Table 2). Feelings are mixed on whether or not they believe they have a say about what goes on in their community. Almost equal proportions both agree and disagree with that statement.

Figure 9. Satisfaction with Internet Service by Occupation



Respondents' level of attachment to their community is examined by community size, region and various individual attributes (Appendix Table 8). Many differences emerge.

Persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to agree that they can get what they need in their community. Almost six in ten persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more (58%) agree that they can get what they need in their community, compared to just over four in ten persons living in or near communities with populations under 500 (41%).

However, persons living in or near smaller communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to have an attachment to their community. Persons living in or near smaller communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to agree that they belong in their community, that they have a say about what goes on in their community and that they feel connected to their community. Just over six in

ten persons living in or near communities with populations under 500 agree that they belong in their community, compared to 51 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 5,000 to 9,999.

Residents of the South Central region are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to agree that they can get what they need in their community, that their community helps them fulfill their needs, that they feel like a member of their community, and that they belong in their community. Just over six in ten residents of the South Central region (62%) agree that they belong in their community, compared to 47 percent of residents of the Panhandle.

Residents of the Southeast region are the group most likely to agree that they have a good bond with others in their community. Residents of both the Panhandle and the Northeast regions are *less* likely than residents of the other regions to agree that they have a say about what goes on in their community. Approximately one-quarter of the residents of

Table 2. Opinions about Community

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly Agree
I can get what I need in this community.	9%	28%	13%	43%	8%
This community helps me fulfill my needs.	7	19	23	43	8
I feel like a member of this community.	7	14	21	45	14
I belong in this community.	6	10	27	42	14
I have a say about what goes on in my community.	13	22	34	26	5
People in this community are good at influencing each other.	4	11	37	41	8
I feel connected to this community.	8	15	21	44	11
I have a good bond with others in this community.	6	13	21	46	14

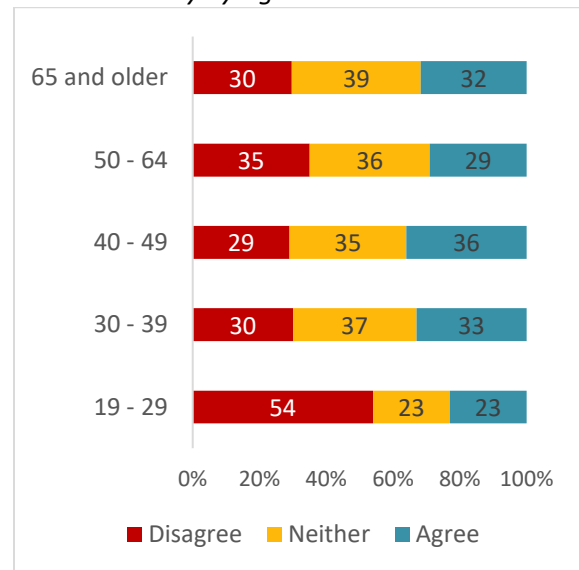
these two regions agree with that statement, compared to approximately one-third of the residents of the other regions in the state.

Persons with higher household incomes are more likely than persons with lower incomes to agree with all of the statements listed, with the exception of “I can get what I need in this community” and “People in this community are good at influencing each other” where there were no statistically significant differences by income. Two-thirds of persons with the highest household incomes (66%) agree that they have a good bond with others in their community, compared to just under one-half of persons with the lowest household incomes (47%).

Younger persons are more likely than older persons to say they can get what they need in their community. Persons age 40 to 49 are the group most likely to agree that their community helps them fulfill their needs and that they have a say about what goes on in the community. Over one-third of persons age 40 to 49 agree that they have a say about what goes on in their community, compared to 23 percent of persons age 19 to 29 (Figure 10). Just over one-half of the youngest persons (54%) *disagree* that they have a say about what goes on in their community.

Persons age 30 to 64 are the group most likely to agree that people in their community are good at influencing each other. Older persons are more likely than younger persons to agree that they feel like a member of their community, that they belong in their community, they feel connected in the community and have a good bond with others in the community. Just under two-thirds of persons age 65 and older agree that they have a good bond with others in the community,

Figure 10. I Have a Say about What Goes On in this Community by Age



compared to 47 percent of persons age 19 to 29.

Males are more likely than females to agree that they can get what they need in the community. Females are more likely than males to agree that people in their community are good at influencing each other and that they have a good bond with others in the community.

Persons with higher education levels are more likely than persons with less education to agree with all of the statements listed. As an example, just under four in ten persons with at least a four-year degree (38%) agree that they have a say about what goes on in their community, compared to just over two in ten persons (21%) with a high school diploma or less education.

Married persons are the marital group most likely to agree that the community helps them

fulfill their needs and that they have a say about what goes on in their community. Widowed persons are the group most likely to agree that they feel like a member of their community, that they belong in the community and have a good bond with others in the community. Persons who have never married are the group *least* likely to agree that people in the community are good at influencing each other. Both married persons and widowed persons are the groups most likely to agree that they feel connected to the community.

Persons with management, professional or education occupations are more likely than persons with different occupations to agree that they can get what they need in the community and that people in the community are good at influencing each other. Persons with healthcare support or public safety occupations join them as the groups most likely to agree that they have a good bond with others in the community. Persons with construction, installation or maintenance occupations are the group most likely to agree that the community helps them fulfill their needs.

Long-term residents have more attachment to their community than do newcomers. Long-term residents are more likely than newcomers to a community to agree that they feel like a member of their community, that they belong in their community, that they have a say about what goes on in their community, that people in the community are good at influencing each other, that they feel connected to the community and that they have a good bond with others in their community. As an example, just over six in ten long-term residents (62%) agree that they feel like a member of their community, compared to just over four in ten

newcomers (41%). Newcomers are more likely than long-term residents to agree that they can get what they need in the community.

Next, respondents were asked a question about how easy or difficult it would be to leave their community. The exact question wording was “Assume you were to have a discussion in your household about leaving your community for a reasonably good opportunity elsewhere. Some people might be happy to live in a new place and meet new people. Others might be very sorry to leave. How easy or difficult would it be for your household to leave your community?” They were given a seven point scale where 1 indicated very easy and 7 denoted very difficult. Almost six in ten rural Nebraskans (58%) say it would be difficult to leave their community (Figure 11). Just under three in ten (28%) indicate it would be easy for their household to leave their community.

Responses to this question are examined by region, community size and various individual attributes (Appendix Table 9). Many differences emerge.

Persons living in or near smaller communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to say it would be difficult to leave their community. Over six in ten persons living in or near communities with populations under 1,000 believe it would be difficult to leave their community, compared to 53 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more.

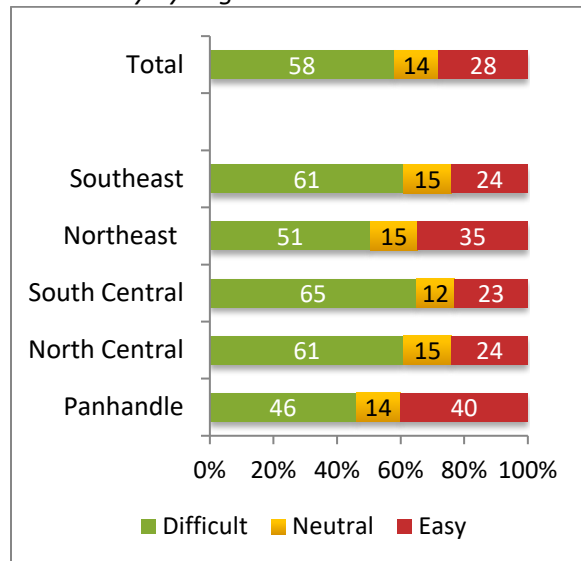
Residents of the South Central region are more likely than persons living in other regions of the state to say it would be difficult to leave their community. Almost two-thirds of residents of

the South Central region say it would be difficult to leave their community, compared to 46 percent of Panhandle residents (Figure 11). Four in ten Panhandle residents say it would be easy to leave their community.

Long-term residents are more likely than newcomers to the community to say it would be difficult to leave their community. Almost two-thirds of long-term residents (64%) say it would be difficult to leave their community, compared to four in ten newcomers (40%).

Other groups most likely to say it would be difficult to leave their community include: females, widowed persons, persons with sales or office support occupations and persons with management, professional or education occupations. The youngest persons are the age group most likely to say it would be *easy* to leave their community. Almost one-half of persons age 19 to 29 (47%) say it would be easy to leave their community.

Figure 11. Difficulty or Ease of Leaving Community by Region



Discrimination in the Community

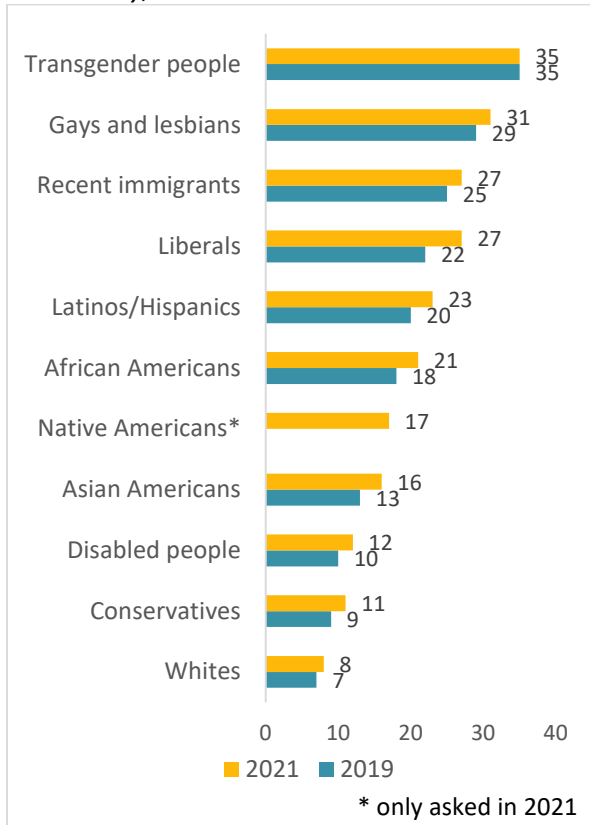
Respondents were next asked about discrimination in their community. Specifically, they were asked, “Generally speaking, do you think individuals in each of the following groups are discriminated against in your local community, or not?”

This same question was asked in 2019. Not many differences occurred between the two years. The biggest change occurred with the proportion saying liberals are discriminated against in the community, increasing from 22 percent in 2019 to 27 percent this year (Figure 12).

This year, some rural Nebraskans say that transgender people, gays and lesbians, recent immigrants to the U.S. and liberals are discriminated against in their community. At least one-quarter say the following groups are discriminated against in their local community: transgender people (35%), gays and lesbians (31%), recent immigrants to the U.S. (27%) and liberals (27%) (Figure 12).

The perceptions of discrimination in the community are examined by community size, region and various individual attributes (Appendix Table 10). Persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to say that African Americans, Asian Americans, Latinos, Native Americans, whites, recent immigrants and conservatives are discriminated against in their local community. Approximately one-third of persons living in or near communities with populations of 5,000 or more say recent immigrants are discriminated against in their community, compared to just over two in ten persons living in or near smaller

Figure 12. Groups Discriminated Against in Community, 2019 and 2021



communities.

Persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 5,000 to 9,999 are the community size group most likely to say liberals, disabled people, gays and lesbians, and transgender people are discriminated against in their local community. Just over one-half of persons living in or near communities of this size say transgender people are discriminated against in their local community, compared to approximately three in ten persons living in or near smaller communities.

Residents of both the North Central and Northeast regions are *less* likely than residents

of other regions of the state to say that African Americans, Asian Americans, Latinos, and recent immigrants are discriminated against in their community. Panhandle residents are the regional group most likely to say Native Americans are discriminated against in their local community. Residents of both the North Central and South Central regions are most likely to believe conservatives are discriminated against in their community while Panhandle residents and residents of the Northeast region are the groups most likely to say transgender people are discriminated against in their community.

Persons with lower household incomes are more likely than persons with higher incomes to say the following groups are discriminated against in their community: African Americans, Asian Americans, Native Americans, whites, recent immigrants, disabled people, and gays and lesbians.

Younger persons are more likely than older persons to say African Americans, Asian Americans, whites, recent immigrants, conservatives, liberals and transgender people are discriminated against in their community. Persons age 30 to 39 are the group most likely to say Latinos and disabled people are discriminated against in their community. Persons under the age of 50 are most likely to say gays and lesbians are discriminated against in their community.

Persons with higher education levels are more likely than persons with less education to say the following groups are discriminated against in their community: African Americans, Asian Americans, Latinos, Native Americans, recent immigrants, liberals, gays and lesbians, and transgender people. Persons with a high school

diploma or less education are more likely than those with more education to say whites are discriminated against in their community.

Persons with management, education or professional occupations are more likely than persons with different occupations to say African Americans, Asian Americans, Latinos, Native Americans, recent immigrants, and transgender people are discriminated against in their community. Persons with food service or personal care occupations are the group most likely to say whites, conservatives and liberals are discriminated against in their community. Both of these occupation groups are most likely to say gays and lesbians face discrimination in their community.

Newcomers to the community are more likely than long-term residents to say African Americans, Asian Americans, whites, recent immigrants, conservatives, liberals, and transgender people are discriminated against in their community.

Plans to Leave the Community

To determine rural Nebraskans' migration intentions, respondents were asked, "Do you plan to move from your community in the next year?" Response options included: yes, to the Lincoln/Omaha metro areas; yes, to someplace in Nebraska outside the Lincoln/Omaha metro areas; yes, to some place other than Nebraska; no; and uncertain.

Only seven percent of rural Nebraskans indicate they are planning to move from their community in the next year, 12 percent are uncertain and 81 percent have no plans to move. Of those who are planning to move, just

over six in ten (64%) plan to leave Nebraska. Almost four in ten (36%) plan to remain in the state, with 11 percent planning to move to either the Lincoln or Omaha area and 26 percent plan to move to another part of the state.

Intentions to move from their community differ by many of the characteristics examined (Appendix Table 11). Persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 5,000 to 9,999 are more likely than persons living in or near both smaller and larger communities to be planning to move from their community in the next year. Twelve percent of persons living in or near communities of this population size are planning to move, compared to four percent of persons living in or near communities with populations under 1,000.

Persons with lower household incomes are more likely than persons with higher incomes to be uncertain if they are planning to move from their community.

Younger persons are more likely than older persons to be planning to move from their community in the next year. Twelve percent of persons under the age of 30 are planning to move from their community in the next year, compared to five percent of persons age 50 and older.

Other groups most likely to be planning to move from their community in the next year include: persons who have never married, persons with the highest education levels and newcomers to the community.

A follow-up question (asked only of those who indicated they were planning to move) asked to

what size of community they were planning to move. The answer categories for this question were: in or near a community larger than your current one, in or near a community smaller than your current one, and in or near a community of the same size as your current one.

Most expected movers are planning to move to a larger community. Almost six in ten expected movers (58%) are planning to move to a community larger than their current one (Figure 13). Three in ten (30%) are planning to move to a community smaller than their current one and 12 percent are planning to move to a community of similar size to their current one.

The expected destinations of those planning to move are examined by community size, region and individual attributes (Appendix Table 12). Potential movers living in or near smaller communities are more likely than potential movers living in or near larger communities to

be planning to move to a community of the same size as the current one.

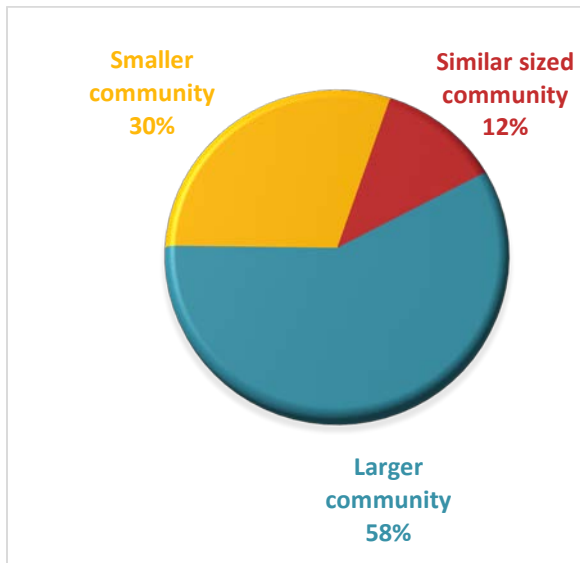
Potential movers with lower household incomes are more likely than those with higher incomes to be planning to move to a larger community. Over eight in ten potential movers with the lowest incomes (83%) plan to move to a larger community.

Potential movers who are long-term residents are more likely than those who are newcomers to be planning to move to a larger community.

Just over two thirds of the potential movers who are planning to leave the state (68%) expect to move to a larger community. Just over one-half of the potential movers planning to move to nonmetropolitan Nebraska (52%) expect to move to a smaller community.

Individual and Community Political Views

Figure 13. Size of Community Planning to Move to



Respondents were also asked to rate the political views they hold as well as the views of their community on social and economic issues. The specific question wording was, “Where would you place yourself and your community on the following scale of political views that people might hold?” They were given an eight-point scale ranging from extremely liberal to extremely conservative along with a don’t know option.

Most rural Nebraskans rate themselves as conservative on both economic and social issues. They also rate their community’s political views on both economic and social views as conservative. In fact, they view their community’s political views on social issues as

more conservative than their own. Fifty-five percent of rural Nebraskans have conservative views on social issues and 66 percent rate their community's political views on social issues as conservative (Figure 14).

The respondents' political views and their perceptions of the political views of their community are examined by community size, region and individual attributes (Appendix Table 13). Persons living in or near the largest communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to have liberal views on both economic and social issues. Over two in ten persons living in or near communities with populations of 5,000 or more have liberal views on social issues, compared to approximately eleven percent of persons living in or near smaller communities (Figure 15). Panhandle residents and residents of the North Central region are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to have conservative views on economic issues. At least two-thirds of

residents of these two regions have conservative views on economic issues, compared to less than six in ten residents of the other three regions. Residents of the North Central region are the regional group most likely to have conservative views on social issues.

Persons with lower household incomes are more likely than persons with higher incomes to have liberal views on economic and social issues. Conversely, persons with higher household incomes are more likely to have conservative views on economic and social issues.

Persons age 30 to 39 are the age group most likely to have liberal views on both economic and social issues. Persons age 40 to 64 are the age groups most likely to have conservative views on economic issues. Persons age 40 and older are the groups most likely to have conservative views on social issues.

Figure 14. Individual and Community Political Views

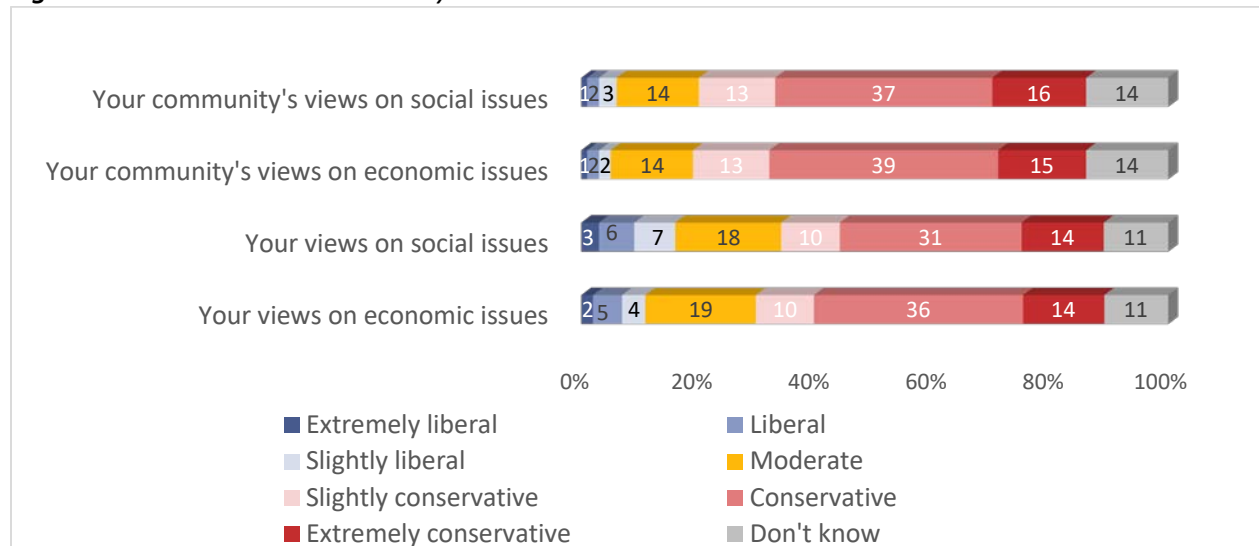
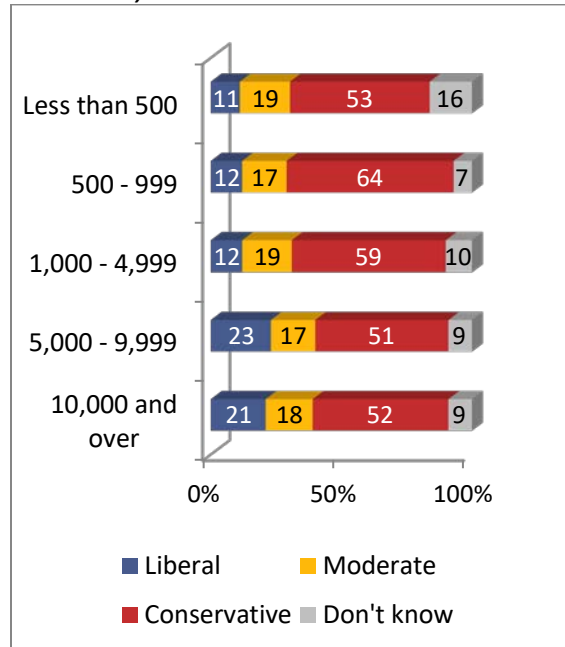


Figure 15. Political Views on Social Issues by Community Size



Males are more likely than females to have conservative issues on both economic and social issues. Both persons who have never married and persons who are divorced or separated are the marital groups most likely to have liberal views on both economic and social issues. Married persons are the marital group most likely to have conservative views on both economic and social issues.

Persons with higher education levels are more likely than persons with less education to have both conservative and liberal political views on economic and social issues. Persons with lower education levels are more likely than persons with more education to say they don't know their political views.

Persons with production, transportation and warehousing occupations are more likely than persons with different occupations to have liberal views on both economic and social issues. Persons with sales or office support

occupations are the group most likely to say they have conservative views on political and social issues.

Panhandle residents are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to say their community has conservative political views on economic and social issues. Just over three-quarters of Panhandle residents (76%) rate their community's views on economic issues as conservative, compared to 61 percent of residents of the Southeast region.

The other groups most likely to rate their community's political views on both economic and social issues as conservative include: persons with higher household incomes, males, married persons and persons with the highest education levels.

Conclusion

Rural Nebraskans are less positive about the current change and expected future change in their communities this year. The proportion believing their community has changed for the better has typically been greater than the proportion believing it has changed for the worse. However, this year the proportion believing their community changed for the worse was slightly more than the proportion believing it had changed for the better (similar to what occurred in 2003 and 2009). The proportion viewing positive change in their community sharply declined from last year. The proportion believing their community has stayed the same increased sharply. Despite that, rural Nebraskans are positive about their community by many different measures. Most rural Nebraskans rate their community favorably on its social dimensions, as friendly, trusting and supportive. Most rural Nebraskans also say it would be difficult to leave their community and have a positive

attachment to their community. Finally, most rural Nebraskans disagree that their community is powerless to control its future.

Differences in perceptions of their community are evident by community size. Residents of larger communities are more likely than residents of smaller communities to say their community has changed for the better during the past year and will be a better place to live ten years from now. However, persons living in or near the smallest communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to rate their community as friendly, trusting and supportive. And, persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to get what they need in their community. However, persons living in or near the smallest communities are more likely than

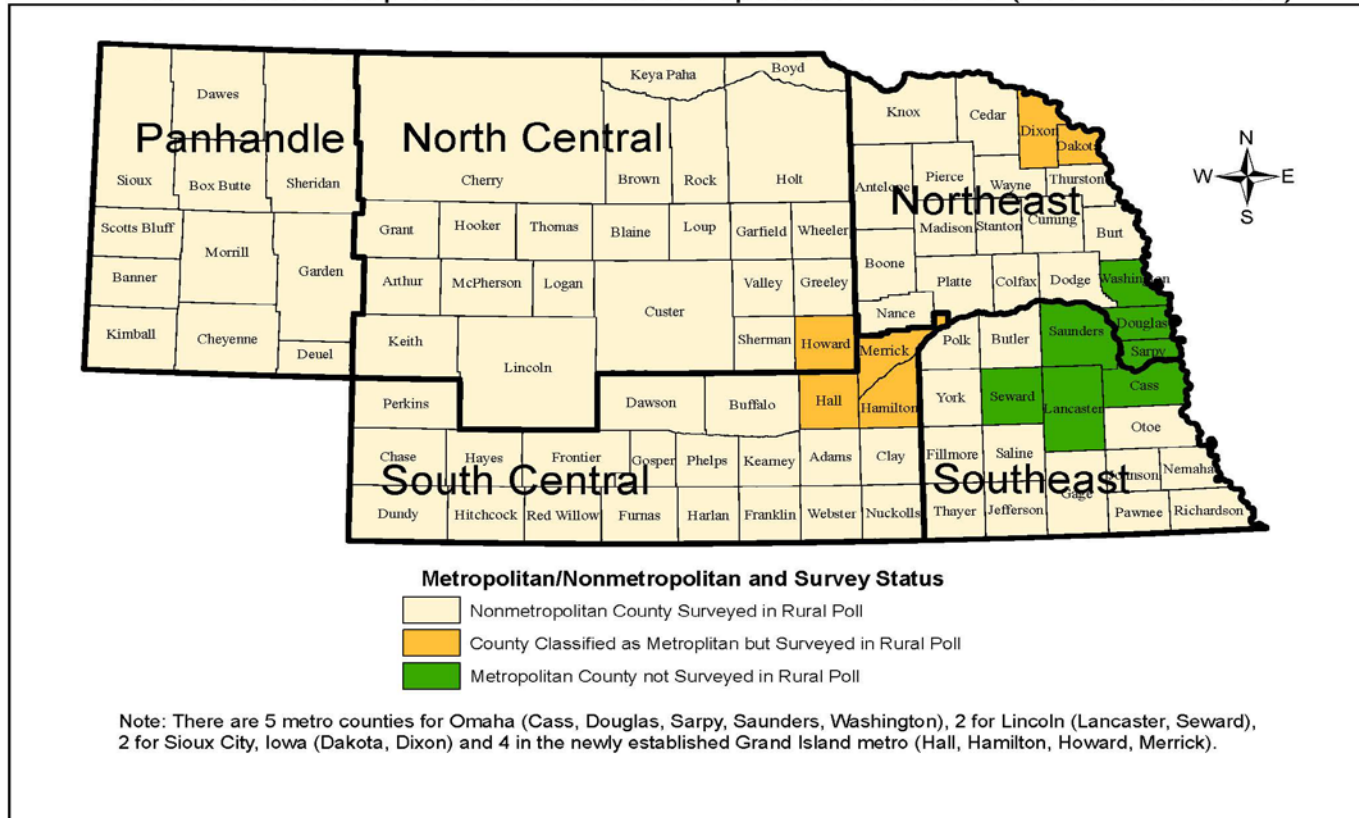
persons living in or near larger communities to have an attachment to their community.

Except for some services that are largely unavailable in rural communities, rural Nebraskans are generally satisfied with basic community services and amenities. However, the proportion of rural Nebraskans satisfied with many social services and entertainment services has decreased during the past 20 years. Declines in satisfaction levels across the past 20 years occur with nursing home care, medical care services, senior centers, mental health services and retail shopping.

Some rural Nebraskans say that transgender people, gays and lesbians, recent immigrants to the U.S. and liberals are discriminated against in their community.

Appendix Figure 1. Regions of Nebraska

Nebraska Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Counties (2013 Definitions)



Source: 2013 Metropolitan and Micropolitan Definitions, Office of Management and Budget, released 2-28-13
 Prepared by: David Drozd, Center for Public Affairs Research, University of Nebraska at Omaha - August 11, 2014

Appendix Table 1. Demographic Profile of Rural Poll Respondents¹ Compared to 2015 – 2019 American Community Survey 5 Year Average for Nebraska*

	2021 Poll	2020 Poll	2019 Poll	2018 Poll	2017 Poll	2016 Poll	2015 - 2019 ACS
Age : ²							
20 - 39	32%	32%	32%	32%	32%	31%	32%
40 - 64	44%	44%	44%	44%	44%	45%	42%
65 and over	24%	24%	24%	24%	24%	24%	26%
Gender: ³							
Female	55%	55%	55%	55%	56%	59%	51%
Male	45%	46%	45%	46%	44%	41%	49%
Education: ⁴							
Less than 9 th grade	1%	1%	0.3%	1%	1%	1%	4%
9 th to 12 th grade (no diploma)	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%	6%
High school diploma (or equiv.)	16%	16%	15%	18%	18%	21%	32%
Some college, no degree	26%	18%	18%	23%	22%	21%	26%
Associate degree	15%	24%	24%	17%	16%	19%	12%
Bachelors degree	28%	26%	29%	25%	25%	23%	15%
Graduate or professional degree	13%	14%	13%	13%	16%	14%	6%
Household Income: ⁵							
Less than \$20,000	8%	7%	7%	9%	10%	11%	15%
\$20,000 - \$39,999	17%	14%	15%	18%	18%	22%	21%
\$40,000 - \$59,999	16%	19%	18%	22%	26%	22%	18%
\$60,000 - \$74,999	14%	16%	16%	17%	12%	14%	11%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	17%	21%	19%	33%	34%	32%	14%
\$100,000 - \$149,999	19%	15%	16%	*** ⁶	***	***	13%
\$150,000 - \$199,999	5%	5%	5%	***	***	***	4%
\$200,000 or more	4%	4%	3%	***	***	***	3%
Marital Status: ⁷							
Married	69%	69%	70%	71%	68%	69%	61%
Never married	13%	12%	12%	10%	13%	11%	19%
Divorced/separated	11%	10%	9%	11%	11%	10%	12%
Widowed/widower	7%	8%	8%	8%	8%	9%	8%

¹ Data from the Rural Polls have been weighted by age.

² 2015-2019 American Community Survey universe is non-metro population 20 years of age and over.

³ 2015-2019 American Community Survey universe is non-metro population 20 years of age and over.

⁴ 2015-2019 American Community Survey universe is non-metro population 18 years of age and over.

⁵ 2015-2019 American Community Survey universe is all non-metro households.

⁶ Income categories for the Rural Polls were expanded in 2019. \$75,000 or more was the largest category before then.

⁷ 2015-2019 American Community Survey universe is non-metro population 20 years of age and over.

*Comparison numbers are estimates taken from the American Community Survey five-year sample and may reflect significant margins of error for areas with relatively small populations.

Appendix Table 2. Perceptions of Community Change by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes

Communities across the nation are undergoing change. When you think about this past year, would you say... My community has changed for the				
	<u>Worse</u>	<u>No Change</u>	<u>Better</u>	<u>Significance</u>
<u>Total</u>	24	55	22	
	<i>Percentages</i>			
<u>Community Size</u>		(n = 1465)		
Less than 500	17	66	18	
500 - 999	20	60	20	
1,000 - 4,999	25	57	19	$\chi^2 = 28.56^*$ (.000)
5,000 - 9,999	23	54	23	
10,000 and up	28	47	25	
<u>Region</u>		(n = 1509)		
Panhandle	27	57	16	
North Central	32	49	19	
South Central	21	54	25	$\chi^2 = 19.54^*$ (.012)
Northeast	21	56	23	
Southeast	23	58	19	
<u>Income Level</u>		(n = 1383)		
Under \$40,000	27	52	21	
\$40,000 - \$74,999	20	57	23	$\chi^2 = 6.82$ (.338)
\$75,000 - \$99,999	24	57	19	
\$100,000 and over	21	56	23	
<u>Age</u>		(n = 1512)		
19 - 29	27	56	18	
30 - 39	12	63	25	
40 - 49	26	53	21	$\chi^2 = 24.24^*$ (.002)
50 - 64	27	51	23	
65 and older	24	54	22	
<u>Gender</u>		(n = 1490)		
Male	26	56	18	$\chi^2 = 11.10^*$ (.004)
Female	21	54	24	
<u>Marital Status</u>		(n = 1460)		
Married	21	57	22	
Never married	28	49	24	
Divorced/separated	24	56	20	$\chi^2 = 5.18$ (.522)
Widowed	24	56	20	
<u>Education</u>		(n = 1465)		
H.S. diploma or less	26	58	16	
Some college	27	55	19	$\chi^2 = 23.85^*$ (.000)
Bachelors or grad degree	19	55	27	
<u>Occupation</u>		(n = 1128)		
Mgt, prof or education	15	54	31	
Sales or office support	19	67	15	
Constrn, inst or maint	30	48	23	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	23	65	12	
Agriculture	30	55	15	
Food serv/pers. care	31	48	22	
Hlthcare supp/safety	26	52	22	$\chi^2 = 50.53^*$ (.000)
Other	29	53	18	
<u>Yrs Lived in Community</u>		(n = 1387)		
Five years or less	23	62	15	$\chi^2 = 9.00^*$ (.011)
More than five years	23	54	23	

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

Appendix Table 3. Expectations of Future Community Change by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes

<i>Based on what you see of the situation today, do you think that, ten years from now, your community will be a worse place to live, a better place or about the same?</i>				
	<u>Worse Place</u>	<u>About the same</u>	<u>Better Place</u>	<u>Significance</u>
Total	22	54	25	
<i>Percentages</i>				
Community Size		(n = 1464)		
Less than 500	22	60	19	
500 - 999	23	58	18	
1,000 - 4,999	16	57	27	$\chi^2 = 33.89^*$ (.000)
5,000 - 9,999	22	58	20	
10,000 and up	25	45	31	
Region		(n = 1507)		
Panhandle	27	57	16	
North Central	27	47	27	
South Central	21	50	30	$\chi^2 = 24.34^*$ (.002)
Northeast	18	58	24	
Southeast	21	59	21	
Income Level		(n = 1381)		
Under \$40,000	20	56	24	
\$40,000 - \$74,999	21	55	24	$\chi^2 = 36.79^*$ (.000)
\$75,000 - \$99,999	17	64	19	
\$100,000 and over	25	41	34	
Age		(n = 1514)		
19 - 29	24	53	24	
30 - 39	20	55	25	
40 - 49	20	53	27	$\chi^2 = 4.36$ (.823)
50 - 64	24	51	25	
65 and older	20	56	24	
Gender		(n = 1491)		
Male	23	53	24	$\chi^2 = 2.54$ (.281)
Female	20	54	26	
Marital Status		(n = 1461)		
Married	22	53	25	
Never married	19	55	26	
Divorced/separated	23	54	24	$\chi^2 = 2.15$ (.906)
Widowed	19	59	22	
Education		(n = 1465)		
H.S. diploma or less	23	63	15	
Some college	23	56	22	$\chi^2 = 39.88^*$ (.000)
Bachelors or grad degree	20	47	33	
Occupation		(n = 1126)		
Mgt, prof or education	20	47	33	
Sales or office support	30	46	24	
Constrn, inst or maint	15	62	24	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	37	46	17	
Agriculture	23	60	18	
Food serv/pers. care	9	41	50	
Hlthcare supp/safety	16	59	26	$\chi^2 = 67.62^*$ (.000)
Other	19	75	6	
Yrs Lived in Community		(n = 1386)		
Five years or less	27	47	25	$\chi^2 = 6.58^*$ (.037)
More than five years	21	55	25	

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

Appendix Table 4. Measures of Community Attributes in Relation to Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes

	<i>My community is...</i>			<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	<i>My community is...</i>			<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	<i>My community is...</i>		<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>
	<i>Unfriendly</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Friendly</i>		<i>Distrusting</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Trusting</i>		<i>Hostile</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	
Total	11	15	74		15	22	64		12	20	68
	(n = 1454)				(n = 1443)				(n = 1443)		
Community Size											
Less than 500	5	10	85		9	17	74		8	12	80
500 - 999	12	13	76		9	21	70		8	22	70
1,000 - 4,999	10	18	72	$\chi^2 =$	18	18	64	$\chi^2 =$	12	20	68
5,000 - 9,999	14	19	67	26.72*	16	20	65	44.29*	16	21	63
10,000 and up	13	16	72	(.001)	16	29	55	(.000)	15	23	62
	(n = 1498)				(n = 1484)				(n = 1486)		
Region											
Panhandle	10	15	75		18	22	60		10	27	63
North Central	12	14	75		16	19	66		12	22	66
South Central	9	14	77	$\chi^2 =$	9	22	69	$\chi^2 =$	12	16	72
Northeast	12	17	71	5.44	17	24	58	20.67*	14	20	67
Southeast	12	15	74	(.710)	17	21	62	(.008)	12	21	67
	(n = 1375)				(n = 1360)				(n = 1362)		
Individual Attributes											
<i>Income Level</i>											
Under \$40,000	14	15	72		18	24	58		15	18	67
\$40,000 - \$74,999	11	14	75	$\chi^2 =$	16	21	63	$\chi^2 =$	13	22	65
\$75,000 - \$99,999	10	20	70	11.87	16	19	65	10.96	8	21	71
\$100,000 and over	8	13	79	(.065)	11	21	69	(.090)	13	17	70
	(n = 1503)				(n = 1490)				(n = 1490)		
Age											
19 - 29	15	18	68		18	18	65		9	24	68
30 - 39	11	15	74		18	28	54		7	22	71
40 - 49	11	13	75	$\chi^2 =$	13	20	67	$\chi^2 =$	16	16	69
50 - 64	10	13	77	12.46	15	21	64	16.81*	15	19	66
65 and older	8	17	75	(.132)	12	23	65	(.032)	13	20	67
	(n = 1480)				(n = 1470)				(n = 1470)		
Gender											
Male	13	13	75	$\chi^2 =$	15	22	62	$\chi^2 =$	13	22	65
Female	9	17	74	8.84*	14	22	64	(.784)	12	18	70

Appendix Table 4 continued.

	<i>My community is...</i>			<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	<i>My community is...</i>			<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	<i>My community is...</i>			<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>
	<i>Unfriendly</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Friendly</i>		<i>Distrusting</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Trusting</i>		<i>Hostile</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Supportive</i>	
<i>Marital Status</i>	(n = 1450)				(n = 1441)				(n = 1441)			
Married	9	15	76		12	20	68		11	18	71	
Never married	10	15	75	$\chi^2 =$	22	28	50	$\chi^2 =$	12	30	58	$\chi^2 =$
Divorced/separated	19	15	67	20.45*	23	26	52	39.72*	22	19	60	30.50*
Widowed	3	20	77	(.002)	9	23	69	(.000)	10	19	71	(.000)
<i>Education</i>	(n = 1459)				(n = 1446)				(n = 1445)			
H.S. diploma or less	11	21	68	$\chi^2 =$	15	25	61	$\chi^2 =$	12	25	63	$\chi^2 =$
Some college	11	17	72	22.83*	16	23	61	6.49	14	21	65	14.01*
Bachelors degree	10	10	80	(.000)	14	19	67	(.166)	11	16	73	(.007)
<i>Occupation</i>	(n = 1125)				(n = 1117)				(n = 1119)			
Mgt, prof or education	8	13	78		15	21	65		13	17	71	
Sales or office support	13	13	74		9	26	65		14	17	70	
Constrn, inst or maint	6	8	86		21	17	63		7	13	80	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	9	9	83		14	25	60		13	28	59	
Agriculture	15	17	69	$\chi^2 =$	15	22	63	$\chi^2 =$	12	29	59	$\chi^2 =$
Food serv/pers. care	9	30	61	46.47*	6	34	60	18.03	8	32	60	38.64*
Hlthcare supp/safety	5	24	71	(.000)	12	20	68	(.205)	7	15	78	(.000)
Other	19	6	75		13	25	63		6	35	59	
<i>Yrs Lived in Comm.</i>	(n = 1376)			$\chi^2 =$	(n = 1371)			$\chi^2 =$	(n = 1370)			$\chi^2 =$
Five years or less	15	14	71	8.35*	15	17	68	3.46	10	22	68	1.87
More than five years	9	16	75	(.015)	15	22	64	(.177)	12	19	68	(.394)

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

Appendix Table 5. Feelings of Community Powerlessness by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes

<i>Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? My community is powerless to control its own future.</i>				
	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Undecided</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>
Total	60	21	19	
	<i>Percentages</i>			
Community Size		(n = 1469)		
Less than 500	57	24	19	
500 - 999	59	21	20	
1,000 - 4,999	61	22	17	
5,000 - 9,999	67	15	18	$\chi^2 = 7.20$
10,000 and up	61	20	20	(.515)
Region		(n = 1515)		
Panhandle	56	20	25	
North Central	59	21	21	
South Central	64	20	17	
Northeast	59	20	21	$\chi^2 = 19.47^*$
Southeast	59	29	13	(.013)
Income Level		(n = 1386)		
Under \$40,000	51	28	21	
\$40,000 - \$74,999	61	19	20	
\$75,000 - \$99,999	65	19	16	$\chi^2 = 24.57^*$
\$100,000 and over	66	15	19	(.000)
Age		(n = 1517)		
19 - 29	53	24	24	
30 - 39	66	17	17	
40 - 49	63	18	18	
50 - 64	60	22	18	$\chi^2 = 13.56$
65 and older	58	24	18	(.094)
Gender		(n = 1496)		
Male	61	20	20	$\chi^2 = 1.84$
Female	60	22	17	(.399)
Marital Status		(n = 1465)		
Married	63	19	19	
Never married	62	20	19	
Divorced/separated	52	25	23	$\chi^2 = 12.65^*$
Widowed	57	29	14	(.049)
Education		(n = 1469)		
H.S. diploma or less	42	37	21	
Some college	57	23	21	$\chi^2 = 88.12^*$
Bachelors degree	72	12	16	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 1131)		
Mgt, prof, education	72	14	13	
Sales/office support	62	14	25	
Const, inst or maint	52	23	25	
Prodn/trans/warehs	47	25	28	
Agriculture	61	21	19	
Food serv/pers. care	61	27	12	
Hlthcare supp/safety	59	23	18	$\chi^2 = 44.54^*$
Other	53	35	12	(.000)
Yrs Lived in Comm.		(n = 1389)		
Five years or less	57	19	24	$\chi^2 = 6.01^*$
More than five years	61	21	17	(.049)

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

Appendix Table 6. Level of Satisfaction with Community Services and Amenities

<i>Service/Amenity</i>	<i>Dissatisfied*</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Satisfied*</i>
		<i>Percentages</i>	
Retail shopping	57	14	29
Streets and roads	57	7	37
Entertainment	53	24	23
Restaurants	45	12	43
Cost of housing	43	20	38
Arts/cultural activities	42	38	20
Quality of housing	38	19	43
Community recycling	37	24	39
Internet service	37	11	53
Local government	33	28	40
Public transportation services	32	51	17
Mental health services	31	46	24
Cellular phone service	25	11	64
Child day care services	25	49	27
Nursing home care	22	42	36
Medical care services	21	17	62
Senior centers	15	45	40
Education (K - 12)	15	22	63
Law enforcement	14	19	67
Head Start or early childhood education programs	13	52	34
Access to higher education (college, technical, etc.)	12	27	61
Sewage/waste disposal	11	29	61
Parks and recreation	11	16	73
Civic/nonprofit organizations	8	46	46
Library services	7	25	68
Religious organizations	6	29	65
Fire protection	3	11	86

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

Appendix Table 7. Measures of Satisfaction with Ten Services and Amenities in Relation to Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes

	<i>Retail shopping</i>			<i>Streets and roads</i>			<i>Entertainment</i>			<i>Restaurants</i>		
	<i>Dissatisfied</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Satisfied</i>	<i>Dissatisfied</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Satisfied</i>	<i>Dissatisfied</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Satisfied</i>	<i>Dissatisfied</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Satisfied</i>
	<i>Percentages</i>											
Community Size	(n = 1487)			(n = 1490)			(n = 1482)			(n = 1492)		
Less than 500	48	25	27	56	6	39	43	35	22	39	16	45
500 - 999	48	15	38	53	7	39	45	29	26	47	12	42
1,000 - 4,999	59	14	28	53	6	41	57	23	20	49	12	39
5,000 - 9,999	67	13	19	55	13	32	65	21	14	55	15	30
10,000 and over	61	8	31	61	5	34	55	16	29	42	9	49
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	$\chi^2 = 56.81^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 21.15^* (.007)$			$\chi^2 = 56.15^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 30.59^* (.000)$		
Region	(n = 1533)			(n = 1534)			(n = 1526)			(n = 1535)		
Panhandle	72	9	18	65	8	28	60	17	23	44	12	44
North Central	70	14	16	52	4	44	64	19	17	53	7	40
South Central	51	12	37	50	8	42	45	22	33	40	12	48
Northeast	58	16	26	67	5	28	52	28	20	48	11	41
Southeast	46	21	34	50	10	40	55	29	16	44	19	38
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	$\chi^2 = 67.13^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 45.21^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 55.48^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 26.67^* (.001)$		
Income Level	(n = 1407)			(n = 1406)			(n = 1403)			(n = 1409)		
Under \$40,000	58	16	26	57	6	37	56	25	19	51	14	36
\$40,000 - \$74,999	55	15	30	55	5	40	51	26	23	42	12	47
\$75,000 - \$99,999	66	12	22	59	9	32	58	23	19	45	15	41
\$100,000 and over	52	13	35	53	7	40	48	19	33	44	8	48
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	$\chi^2 = 16.98^* (.009)$			$\chi^2 = 7.05 (.316)$			$\chi^2 = 28.18^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 20.26^* (.002)$		
Age	(n = 1538)			(n = 1538)			(n = 1531)			(n = 1539)		
19 - 29	57	17	26	66	3	32	54	17	29	46	9	46
30 - 39	52	22	26	50	10	41	51	22	27	46	15	38
40 - 49	58	10	32	62	5	34	60	19	21	50	11	39
50 - 64	58	12	30	56	7	38	54	24	22	45	12	44
65 and over	59	13	27	51	8	41	46	34	21	40	13	47
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	$\chi^2 = 20.53^* (.009)$			$\chi^2 = 25.67^* (.001)$			$\chi^2 = 37.68^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 13.34 (.101)$		
Education	(n = 1489)			(n = 1492)			(n = 1485)			(n = 1494)		
H.S. diploma or less	54	16	30	52	11	37	51	30	19	40	17	44
Some college	61	13	25	62	5	32	57	23	21	47	11	42
College grad	54	14	32	52	6	42	50	22	28	44	11	45
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	$\chi^2 = 8.37 (.079)$			$\chi^2 = 25.50^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 16.06^* (.003)$			$\chi^2 = 8.61 (.072)$		
Occupation	(n = 1148)			(n = 1146)			(n = 1144)			(n = 1146)		
Mgt, prof, education	59	14	28	56	6	38	51	22	27	41	12	47
Sales/office support	65	8	26	57	5	38	61	20	19	42	11	47
Const, inst or maint	37	18	45	62	4	34	37	42	21	39	18	43
Prodn/trans/warehs	51	15	34	60	3	37	67	14	19	51	9	40
Agriculture	47	24	29	61	10	30	57	19	24	47	11	42
Food serv/pers. care	61	18	21	50	12	38	52	26	23	57	9	34
Hlthcare supp/safety	67	8	25	52	6	41	63	13	24	48	10	42
Other	42	17	42	35	9	57	67	17	17	83	9	9
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	$\chi^2 = 52.83^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 19.16 (.159)$			$\chi^2 = 48.17^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 27.55^* (.016)$		

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level. Only the ten services with the highest combined percentage of very or somewhat dissatisfied are included in this table.

Appendix Table 7 continued.

	<i>Cost of housing</i>			<i>Arts/cultural activities</i>			<i>Quality of housing</i>			<i>Community recycling</i>		
	<i>Dissatisfied</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Satisfied</i>	<i>Dissatisfied</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Satisfied</i>	<i>Dissatisfied</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Satisfied</i>	<i>Dissatisfied</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Satisfied</i>
	<i>Percentages</i>											
Community Size	(n = 1486)			(n = 1481)			(n = 1487)			(n = 1485)		
Less than 500	23	30	47	39	49	12	35	23	42	35	34	32
500 - 999	27	20	53	52	35	13	44	19	37	36	27	37
1,000 - 4,999	40	18	42	44	41	14	34	21	45	38	19	43
5,000 - 9,999	45	22	33	46	31	23	44	16	40	44	20	36
10,000 and over	61	12	26	36	34	31	38	16	46	38	22	40
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	$\chi^2 = 141.76^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 70.03^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 14.09 (.079)$			$\chi^2 = 26.59^* (.001)$		
Region	(n = 1531)			(n = 1526)			(n = 1528)			(n = 1524)		
Panhandle	42	19	39	52	28	20	44	20	36	38	20	42
North Central	43	28	30	49	36	15	43	23	34	34	32	34
South Central	47	17	35	34	35	31	33	18	50	29	23	49
Northeast	47	16	37	41	45	14	39	19	43	44	23	33
Southeast	26	24	50	45	42	14	35	19	46	46	22	32
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	$\chi^2 = 47.19^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 70.72^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 21.46^* (.006)$			$\chi^2 = 47.88^* (.000)$		
Income Level	(n = 1404)			(n = 1401)			(n = 1401)			(n = 1404)		
Under \$40,000	41	25	34	41	40	19	36	23	41	29	29	42
\$40,000 - \$74,999	49	16	35	44	35	21	41	18	41	40	24	37
\$75,000 - \$99,999	42	16	42	46	37	17	42	18	40	45	20	35
\$100,000 and over	40	17	43	40	39	22	31	17	51	39	22	40
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	$\chi^2 = 21.68^* (.001)$			$\chi^2 = 5.01 (.543)$			$\chi^2 = 19.70^* (.003)$			$\chi^2 = 18.51^* (.005)$		
Age	(n = 1536)			(n = 1529)			(n = 1534)			(n = 1530)		
19 - 29	46	14	40	43	46	12	46	20	34	43	37	20
30 - 39	46	16	38	46	30	24	36	17	47	41	19	40
40 - 49	50	14	36	47	35	18	42	14	44	40	23	37
50 - 64	44	21	35	41	39	20	37	21	42	35	23	42
65 and over	30	29	41	33	42	25	28	24	47	31	21	49
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	$\chi^2 = 47.25^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 34.12^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 32.56^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 61.12^* (.000)$		
Education	(n = 1489)			(n = 1484)			(n = 1489)			(n = 1488)		
H.S. diploma or less	39	29	32	36	45	19	34	23	42	30	26	44
Some college	46	21	33	44	42	14	40	21	39	37	29	34
College grad	42	13	45	42	32	27	36	15	48	42	17	41
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	$\chi^2 = 43.12^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 40.49^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 15.84^* (.003)$			$\chi^2 = 33.02^* (.000)$		
Occupation	(n = 1143)			(n = 1139)			(n = 1145)			(n = 1141)		
Mgt, prof, education	46	15	40	49	27	24	41	8	51	37	22	41
Sales/office support	44	14	42	52	33	15	37	16	48	43	21	36
Const, inst or maint	45	14	42	28	57	16	30	22	48	35	25	40
Prodn/trans/warehs	51	17	32	42	39	19	38	15	47	40	22	37
Agriculture	28	29	44	40	48	12	39	27	34	31	36	33
Food serv/pers. care	63	11	26	43	34	23	60	17	23	44	27	29
Hlthcare supp/safety	52	14	35	46	37	17	47	20	33	53	12	36
Other	61	26	13	26	57	17	21	25	54	21	50	29
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	$\chi^2 = 49.95^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 53.75^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 64.54^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 48.59^* (.000)$		

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level. Only the ten services with the highest combined percentage of very or somewhat dissatisfied are included in this table.

Appendix Table 7 continued.

	<i>Internet service</i>			<i>Local government</i>		
	<i>Dissatisfied</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Satisfied</i>	<i>Dissatisfied</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Satisfied</i>
	<i>Percentages</i>					
Community Size		(n = 1486)			(n = 1488)	
Less than 500	38	11	51	26	36	38
500 - 999	36	11	53	31	27	43
1,000 - 4,999	36	11	54	35	28	38
5,000 - 9,999	48	13	39	38	24	38
10,000 and over	34	10	56	35	23	43
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>		$\chi^2 = 13.35 (.100)$			$\chi^2 = 19.74* (.011)$	
Region		(n = 1528)			(n = 1529)	
Panhandle	35	14	52	45	16	38
North Central	34	13	54	41	23	36
South Central	34	8	58	27	33	41
Northeast	41	11	48	31	27	43
Southeast	38	12	51	33	30	37
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>		$\chi^2 = 13.53 (.095)$			$\chi^2 = 34.08* (.000)$	
Income Level		(n = 1404)			(n = 1406)	
Under \$40,000	35	16	50	41	29	31
\$40,000 - \$74,999	39	11	50	31	29	40
\$75,000 - \$99,999	42	6	52	34	27	39
\$100,000 and over	35	9	56	27	23	50
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>		$\chi^2 = 17.85* (.007)$			$\chi^2 = 31.02* (.000)$	
Age		(n = 1533)			(n = 1535)	
19 - 29	43	12	46	40	34	26
30 - 39	44	9	47	30	31	39
40 - 49	38	7	55	32	26	42
50 - 64	38	9	54	36	23	41
65 and over	25	18	57	29	26	45
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>		$\chi^2 = 48.61* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 30.64* (.000)$	
Education		(n = 1487)			(n = 1490)	
H.S. diploma or less	32	20	48	31	34	35
Some college	39	12	48	38	27	35
College grad	36	5	59	29	25	47
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>		$\chi^2 = 48.87* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 26.60* (.000)$	
Occupation		(n = 1143)			(n = 1146)	
Mgt, prof, education	36	6	58	30	26	44
Sales/office support	41	6	53	34	33	34
Const, inst or maint	39	15	46	26	27	47
Prodn/trans/warehs	34	14	52	40	20	39
Agriculture	46	8	46	36	26	38
Food serv/pers. care	49	11	41	37	28	35
Hlthcare supp/safety	40	8	52	28	35	37
Other	25	17	58	61	26	13
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>		$\chi^2 = 24.88* (.036)$			$\chi^2 = 27.79* (.015)$	

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

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

Appendix Table 8. Feelings about Community By Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes.

	<i>I can get what I need in this community.</i>			<i>Significance</i>	<i>This community helps me fulfill my needs.</i>			<i>Significance</i>
	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>		<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>	
Total	37	13	50		26	23	51	
Community Size	(n = 1481)				(n = 1474)			
Less than 500	47	12	41		29	27	44	
500 - 999	31	17	52		20	24	56	
1,000 - 4,999	36	14	50		29	19	52	
5,000 - 9,999	42	17	42	$\chi^2 = 31.58^*$	30	21	49	$\chi^2 = 17.54^*$
10,000 and up	31	11	58	(.000)	22	25	53	(.025)
Region	(n = 1523)				(n = 1516)			
Panhandle	39	19	43		28	25	47	
North Central	50	13	37		26	27	48	
South Central	26	13	60		21	23	57	
Northeast	43	8	49	$\chi^2 = 67.51^*$	30	19	52	$\chi^2 = 27.36^*$
Southeast	34	18	49	(.000)	31	29	41	(.001)
Household Income Level	(n = 1398)				(n = 1394)			
Under \$40,000	38	17	45		31	26	43	
\$40,000 - \$74,999	38	12	51		28	23	50	
\$75,000 - \$99,999	35	12	54	$\chi^2 = 10.87$	24	21	55	$\chi^2 = 21.53^*$
\$100,000 and over	32	13	55	(.093)	20	22	59	(.001)
Age	(n = 1525)				(n = 1523)			
19 - 29	40	9	51		26	29	46	
30 - 39	24	17	59		23	24	53	
40 - 49	38	10	52		26	17	57	
50 - 64	38	14	48	$\chi^2 = 28.85^*$	28	26	47	$\chi^2 = 17.97^*$
65 and older	41	15	44	(.000)	28	23	49	(.021)
Gender	(n = 1505)				(n = 1499)			
Male	33	15	52	$\chi^2 = 12.17^*$	27	25	48	$\chi^2 = 2.84$
Female	40	11	49	(.002)	26	22	53	(.242)
Education	(n = 1482)				(n = 1476)			
High school diploma or less	42	19	39		33	28	39	
Some college	43	14	43	$\chi^2 = 67.14^*$	29	26	45	$\chi^2 = 46.04^*$
Bachelors or grad degree	28	9	63	(.000)	20	19	61	(.000)
Marital Status	(n = 1474)				(n = 1471)			
Married	35	12	53		23	22	55	
Never married	47	12	41		32	31	38	
Divorced/separated	37	13	50	$\chi^2 = 11.47$	34	22	44	$\chi^2 = 27.79^*$
Widowed	41	14	45	(.075)	33	22	46	(.000)
Occupation	(n = 1142)				(n = 1139)			
Mgt, prof or education	31	9	61		22	19	59	
Sales or office support	45	9	46		28	22	50	
Constrn, inst or maint	33	14	53		22	16	63	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	33	19	48		25	32	43	
Agriculture	31	20	49		27	32	41	
Food serv/pers. care	42	14	44		27	18	55	
Hlthcare supp/safety	35	14	50	$\chi^2 = 33.92^*$	20	26	54	$\chi^2 = 47.33^*$
Other	19	14	67	(.002)	14	62	24	(.000)
Yrs Lived in Comm.	(n = 1400)				(n = 1397)			
Five years or less	30	13	57	$\chi^2 = 6.56^*$	25	22	53	$\chi^2 = 0.71$
More than five years	38	14	49	(.038)	26	25	50	(.701)

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

Appendix Table 8 continued.

	<i>I feel like a member of this community.</i>				<i>I belong in this community.</i>			
	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Significance</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Significance</i>
	<i>Percentages</i>							
Total	21	21	58		17	27	56	
Community Size	(n = 1479)				(n = 1458)			
Less than 500	16	18	66		7	32	61	
500 - 999	18	23	59		16	30	55	
1,000 - 4,999	23	20	57		20	24	56	
5,000 - 9,999	25	18	58	$\chi^2 = 13.49$	20	29	51	$\chi^2 = 26.71^*$
10,000 and up	22	24	55	(.096)	19	26	55	(.001)
Region	(n = 1521)				(n = 1502)			
Panhandle	20	29	52		18	35	47	
North Central	20	26	54		20	23	56	
South Central	20	15	65		14	23	62	
Northeast	22	24	54	$\chi^2 = 27.10^*$	19	31	50	$\chi^2 = 25.80^*$
Southeast	22	17	61	(.001)	12	30	58	(.001)
Household Income Level	(n = 1397)				(n = 1379)			
Under \$40,000	28	26	46		20	30	50	
\$40,000 - \$74,999	22	21	57		17	33	50	
\$75,000 - \$99,999	18	22	60	$\chi^2 = 35.44^*$	15	27	59	$\chi^2 = 31.44^*$
\$100,000 and over	16	16	67	(.000)	15	19	66	(.000)
Age	(n = 1527)				(n = 1508)			
19 - 29	40	26	34		30	41	30	
30 - 39	19	24	58		15	28	58	
40 - 49	19	17	65		18	22	61	
50 - 64	19	19	62	$\chi^2 = 90.36^*$	16	24	61	$\chi^2 = 88.53^*$
65 and older	14	21	65	(.000)	11	27	62	(.000)
Gender	(n = 1503)				(n = 1485)			
Male	23	20	57	$\chi^2 = 1.77$	19	26	55	$\chi^2 = 3.84$
Female	20	21	59	(.413)	15	28	57	(.147)
Education	(n = 1482)				(n = 1462)			
High school diploma or less	27	23	50		10	38	51	
Some college	21	25	54	$\chi^2 = 25.30^*$	19	28	54	$\chi^2 = 27.08^*$
Bachelors or grad degree	19	16	65	(.000)	18	23	59	(.000)
Marital Status	(n = 1476)				(n = 1455)			
Married	17	21	63		14	27	59	
Never married	36	19	45		29	25	46	
Divorced/separated	34	24	42	$\chi^2 = 62.64^*$	22	30	48	$\chi^2 = 34.03^*$
Widowed	15	19	66	(.000)	11	26	64	(.000)
Occupation	(n = 1136)				(n = 1127)			
Mgt, prof or education	19	17	64		16	23	62	
Sales or office support	21	15	65		18	22	61	
Constrn, inst or maint	18	20	63		19	22	59	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	20	29	51		19	28	53	
Agriculture	17	23	60		19	27	53	
Food serv/pers. care	23	29	49		6	49	46	
Hlthcare supp/safety	23	25	52	$\chi^2 = 38.98^*$	13	38	48	$\chi^2 = 54.88^*$
Other	57	19	24	(.000)	48	29	24	(.000)
Yrs Lived in Comm.	(n = 1402)				(n = 1383)			
Five years or less	32	27	41	$\chi^2 = 38.21^*$	25	45	31	$\chi^2 = 76.23^*$
More than five years	19	20	62	(.000)	15	24	61	(.000)

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

Appendix Table 8 continued.

	<i>I have a say about what goes on in my community.</i>				<i>People in this community are good at influencing each other.</i>			
	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Significance</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Significance</i>
	<i>Percentages</i>							
Total	35	34	31		15	37	49	
Community Size	(n = 1472)				(n = 1474)			
Less than 500	28	36	36		10	35	55	
500 - 999	28	35	37		12	37	50	
1,000 - 4,999	34	33	33		16	34	50	
5,000 - 9,999	39	37	24	$\chi^2 = 21.07^*$	15	41	44	$\chi^2 = 10.65$
10,000 and up	40	33	27	(.007)	16	37	46	(.222)
Region	(n = 1514)				(n = 1518)			
Panhandle	36	38	26		17	34	49	
North Central	39	27	34		12	34	54	
South Central	29	36	35		13	38	49	
Northeast	42	33	25	$\chi^2 = 28.35^*$	16	38	47	$\chi^2 = 5.58$
Southeast	30	39	32	(.000)	16	37	47	(.695)
Household Income Level	(n = 1395)				(n = 1394)			
Under \$40,000	39	36	26		16	39	45	
\$40,000 - \$74,999	40	30	30		17	31	51	
\$75,000 - \$99,999	32	38	30	$\chi^2 = 21.33^*$	14	39	46	$\chi^2 = 11.85$
\$100,000 and over	28	36	37	(.002)	12	37	52	(.065)
Age	(n = 1520)				(n = 1521)			
19 - 29	54	23	23		20	40	40	
30 - 39	30	37	33		15	34	51	
40 - 49	29	35	36		13	33	54	
50 - 64	35	36	29	$\chi^2 = 53.51^*$	14	35	52	$\chi^2 = 18.82^*$
65 and older	30	39	32	(.000)	13	42	46	(.016)
Gender	(n = 1497)				(n = 1501)			
Male	36	35	30	$\chi^2 = 0.52$	17	40	44	$\chi^2 = 12.87^*$
Female	35	34	32	(.773)	13	34	53	(.002)
Education	(n = 1475)				(n = 1476)			
High school diploma or less	40	39	21		19	40	41	
Some college	38	34	28	$\chi^2 = 32.88^*$	14	37	49	$\chi^2 = 12.95^*$
Bachelors or grad degree	29	33	38	(.000)	13	34	53	(.012)
Marital Status	(n = 1468)				(n = 1471)			
Married	31	36	34		13	36	51	
Never married	49	26	25		26	34	40	
Divorced/separated	42	31	27	$\chi^2 = 27.53^*$	18	34	48	$\chi^2 = 24.54^*$
Widowed	34	37	29	(.000)	13	38	49	(.000)
Occupation	(n = 1141)				(n = 1139)			
Mgt, prof or education	27	35	38		12	32	56	
Sales or office support	42	38	20		8	42	50	
Constrn, inst or maint	38	40	21		7	49	44	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	46	31	23		22	36	42	
Agriculture	26	35	38		22	33	45	
Food serv/pers. care	39	24	37		30	31	39	
Hlthcare supp/safety	41	30	30	$\chi^2 = 50.30^*$	14	33	53	$\chi^2 = 57.77^*$
Other	24	62	14	(.000)	43	29	29	(.000)
Yrs Lived in Comm.	(n = 1398)				(n = 1398)			
Five years or less	47	37	16	$\chi^2 = 37.20^*$	13	48	40	$\chi^2 = 17.00^*$
More than five years	32	33	35	(.000)	15	34	51	(.000)

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

Appendix Table 8 continued.

	<i>I feel connected to this community.</i>				<i>I have a good bond with others in this community.</i>			
	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Significance</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Significance</i>
	<i>Percentages</i>							
Total	23	21	56		19	21	60	
Community Size	(n = 1475)				(n = 1477)			
Less than 500	16	19	65		15	19	66	
500 - 999	22	28	50		19	22	59	
1,000 - 4,999	24	22	54		21	20	59	
5,000 - 9,999	24	19	57	$\chi^2 = 22.97^*$	20	20	60	$\chi^2 = 7.87$
10,000 and up	28	20	52	(.003)	20	23	57	(.447)
Region	(n = 1516)				(n = 1519)			
Panhandle	19	29	52		15	27	58	
North Central	24	23	53		22	20	58	
South Central	20	20	60		17	23	61	
Northeast	27	22	52	$\chi^2 = 15.43$	20	23	57	$\chi^2 = 16.82^*$
Southeast	24	17	59	(.051)	22	14	64	(.032)
Household Income Level	(n = 1393)				(n = 1393)			
Under \$40,000	27	25	48		22	31	47	
\$40,000 - \$74,999	27	20	53		20	17	63	
\$75,000 - \$99,999	18	30	52	$\chi^2 = 41.43^*$	16	23	61	$\chi^2 = 42.71^*$
\$100,000 and over	22	13	65	(.000)	20	14	66	(.000)
Age	(n = 1524)				(n = 1523)			
19 - 29	43	23	34		35	18	47	
30 - 39	21	19	61		18	24	59	
40 - 49	23	16	61		20	20	60	
50 - 64	20	23	57	$\chi^2 = 83.29^*$	16	21	63	$\chi^2 = 58.97^*$
65 and older	15	24	61	(.000)	12	23	65	(.000)
Gender	(n = 1502)				(n = 1502)			
Male	26	22	52	$\chi^2 = 5.18$	19	25	56	$\chi^2 = 10.64^*$
Female	22	21	58	(.075)	19	18	63	(.005)
Education	(n = 1477)				(n = 1477)			
High school diploma or less	22	31	47		15	27	58	
Some college	26	23	52	$\chi^2 = 35.68^*$	21	22	57	$\chi^2 = 14.05^*$
Bachelors or grad degree	22	15	63	(.000)	19	18	63	(.007)
Marital Status	(n = 1472)				(n = 1479)			
Married	20	21	58		18	20	62	
Never married	36	18	47		20	25	55	
Divorced/separated	30	24	47	$\chi^2 = 29.35^*$	29	23	48	$\chi^2 = 20.01^*$
Widowed	18	22	60	(.000)	14	19	67	(.003)
Occupation	(n = 1140)				(n = 1134)			
Mgt, prof or education	21	17	62		17	18	65	
Sales or office support	23	22	56		22	17	61	
Constrn, inst or maint	21	22	57		19	32	49	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	32	22	46		25	26	50	
Agriculture	20	23	57		18	22	60	
Food serv/pers. care	23	21	56		11	28	61	
Hlthcare supp/safety	24	23	52	$\chi^2 = 23.57$	20	16	64	$\chi^2 = 43.17^*$
Other	52	19	29	(.052)	15	60	25	(.000)
Yrs Lived in Comm.	(n = 1396)				(n = 1395)			
Five years or less	36	29	35	$\chi^2 = 51.84^*$	30	27	43	$\chi^2 = 40.33^*$
More than five years	21	20	60	(.000)	16	20	64	(.000)

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

Appendix Table 9. Opinions about Leaving Community by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes

Assume you were to have a discussion in your household about leaving your community for a reasonably good opportunity elsewhere. How easy or difficult would it be for your household to leave your community?

	Easy	Neutral	Difficult	Chi-square (sig.)
	<i>Percentages</i>			
Total	28	14	58	
Community Size		(n = 1466)		
Less than 500	22	14	64	
500 - 999	22	12	67	
1,000 - 4,999	26	16	57	
5,000 - 9,999	38	6	56	$\chi^2 = 29.24^*$
10,000 and up	32	14	53	(.000)
Region		(n = 1508)		
Panhandle	40	14	46	
North Central	24	15	61	
South Central	23	12	65	
Northeast	35	15	51	$\chi^2 = 35.38^*$
Southeast	24	15	61	(.000)
Income Level		(n = 1384)		
Under \$40,000	28	14	58	
\$40,000 - \$74,999	29	14	57	
\$75,000 - \$99,999	30	15	55	$\chi^2 = 3.62$
\$100,000 and over	28	11	61	(.728)
Age		(n = 1511)		
19 - 29	47	9	44	
30 - 39	21	13	66	
40 - 49	29	15	57	
50 - 64	28	16	56	$\chi^2 = 62.82^*$
65 and older	20	15	65	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1489)		
Male	35	13	52	$\chi^2 = 29.64^*$
Female	22	15	63	(.000)
Marital Status		(n = 1461)		
Married	24	14	62	
Never married	44	13	43	
Divorced/separated	36	16	49	$\chi^2 = 42.43^*$
Widowed	17	16	67	(.000)
Education		(n = 1467)		
H.S. diploma or less	29	16	56	
Some college	30	13	58	$\chi^2 = 2.76$
Bachelors degree	27	14	60	(.599)
Occupation		(n = 1132)		
Mgt, prof, education	26	12	63	
Sales/office support	26	11	63	
Const, inst or maint	36	8	56	
Prodn/trans/warehs	40	15	45	
Agriculture	27	15	59	
Food serv/pers. care	38	19	44	
Hlthcare supp/safety	21	21	57	$\chi^2 = 41.18^*$
Other	57	10	33	(.000)
Yrs Lived in Comm.		(n = 1387)		
Five years or less	49	11	40	$\chi^2 = 72.92^*$
More than five years	23	13	64	(.000)

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

Appendix Table 10. Groups Discriminated Against in Local Community by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes

Generally speaking, do you think individuals in each of the following groups are discriminated against in your local community, or not?

	<i>African Americans/Blacks</i>	<i>Asian Americans</i>	<i>Latinos/ Hispanics</i>	<i>Native Americans</i>	<i>Whites</i>	<i>Recent immigrants to the U.S.</i>
<i>Percentage answering "yes" for each</i>						
Total	21	16	23	17	8	27
<u>Community Size</u>	(n = 1381)	(n = 1374)	(n = 1383)	(n = 1367)	(n = 1383)	(n = 1367)
Less than 500	11	9	13	5	5	23
500 - 999	19	10	16	11	2	21
1,000 - 4,999	15	12	18	13	5	21
5,000 - 9,999	30	24	31	26	7	34
10,000 and up	30	23	33	26	14	33
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	(.000)*	(.000)*	(.000)*	(.000)*	(.000)*	(.000)*
<u>Region</u>	(n = 1414)	(n = 1404)	(n = 1412)	(n = 1399)	(n = 1416)	(n = 1395)
Panhandle	22	17	25	31	6	29
North Central	16	13	16	13	11	22
South Central	25	17	25	18	9	30
Northeast	21	19	27	19	7	28
Southeast	17	10	14	9	5	19
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	(.029)*	(.033)*	(.000)*	(.000)*	(.106)	(.014)*
<u>Income Level</u>	(n = 1311)	(n = 1304)	(n = 1309)	(n = 1298)	(n = 1312)	(n = 1298)
Under \$40,000	25	20	27	24	11	35
\$40,000 - \$74,999	24	21	25	19	11	31
\$75,000 - \$99,999	19	13	20	13	4	25
\$100,000 and over	17	10	20	12	6	19
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	(.030)*	(.000)*	(.062)	(.000)*	(.002)*	(.000)*
<u>Age</u>	(n = 1417)	(n = 1409)	(n = 1420)	(n = 1403)	(n = 1422)	(n = 1402)
19 - 29	26	23	26	17	16	36
30 - 39	28	21	34	21	6	36
40 - 49	22	15	24	18	4	27
50 - 64	16	14	18	16	10	22
65 and older	15	10	17	14	6	18
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	(.000)*	(.000)*	(.000)*	(.189)	(.000)*	(.000)*
<u>Education</u>	(n = 1381)	(n = 1373)	(n = 1382)	(n = 1367)	(n = 1382)	(n = 1366)
HS diploma or less	15	11	15	12	14	18
Some college	20	12	19	14	7	24
Bachelors or grad degree	25	21	30	22	7	33
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	(.004)*	(.000)*	(.000)*	(.001)*	(.001)*	(.000)*
<u>Occupation</u>	(n = 1091)	(n = 1088)	(n = 1090)	(n = 1082)	(n = 1082)	(n = 1083)
Mgt, prof or education	29	23	36	24	6	37
Sales or office support	18	16	19	16	2	31
Constrn, inst or maint	20	10	15	16	5	18
Prodn/trans/warehsing	21	20	21	18	8	27
Agriculture	22	15	18	13	11	24
Food serv/pers. care	19	15	25	17	16	27
Hlthcare supp/safety	17	14	18	13	9	20
Other	4	0	4	6	35	9
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	(.005)*	(.005)*	(.000)*	(.029)*	(.000)*	(.000)*
<u>Yrs Lived in Comm.</u>	(n = 1310)	(n = 1302)	(n = 1309)	(n = 1296)	(n = 1309)	(n = 1295)
Five years or less	27	22	27	18	15	33
More than five years	20	15	22	17	6	26
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	(.010)*	(.007)*	(.122)	(.698)	(.000)*	(.034)*

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

Generally speaking, do you think individuals in each of the following groups are discriminated against in your local community, or not?

	<i>Conservatives</i>	<i>Liberals</i>	<i>Disabled people</i>	<i>Gays and lesbians</i>	<i>Transgender people</i>
	<i>Percentage answering "yes" for each</i>				
Total	11	27	12	31	35
Community Size	(n = 1374)	(n = 1371)	(n = 1379)	(n = 1361)	(n = 1354)
Less than 500	7	27	7	24	32
500 - 999	10	32	7	33	33
1,000 - 4,999	5	22	7	24	28
5,000 - 9,999	5	39	25	47	53
10,000 and up	19	28	17	36	40
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	(.000)*	(.002)*	(.000)*	(.000)*	(.000)*
Region	(n = 1406)	(n = 1402)	(n = 1414)	(n = 1391)	(n = 1386)
Panhandle	5	23	12	33	42
North Central	13	24	9	32	36
South Central	14	28	14	31	35
Northeast	10	31	13	34	40
Southeast	7	24	11	24	26
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	(.009)*	(.144)	(.454)	(.094)	(.005)*
Income Level	(n = 1307)	(n = 1304)	(n = 1310)	(n = 1296)	(n = 1291)
Under \$40,000	13	27	17	38	40
\$40,000 - \$74,999	12	33	15	35	38
\$75,000 - \$99,999	11	22	9	29	32
\$100,000 and over	9	28	6	24	33
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	(.379)	(.031)*	(.000)*	(.000)*	(.156)
Age	(n = 1411)	(n = 1406)	(n = 1417)	(n = 1397)	(n = 1389)
19 - 29	19	45	13	32	42
30 - 39	7	31	18	36	40
40 - 49	9	28	11	35	38
50 - 64	10	21	10	26	30
65 and older	11	18	11	28	30
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	(.000)*	(.000)*	(.036)*	(.036)*	(.006)*
Education	(n = 1374)	(n = 1371)	(n = 1380)	(n = 1362)	(n = 1354)
HS diploma or less	13	17	11	24	25
Some college	10	25	11	28	32
Bachelors or grad degree	11	35	13	37	43
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	(.384)	(.000)*	(.525)	(.000)*	(.000)*
Occupation	(n = 1084)	(n = 1087)	(n = 1090)	(n = 1081)	(n = 1079)
Mgt, prof or education	10	35	13	41	45
Sales or office support	4	27	7	23	33
Constrn, inst or maint	6	38	10	23	35
Prodn/trans/warehsing	6	23	14	27	30
Agriculture	16	21	10	29	33
Food serv/pers. care	19	42	14	40	42
Hlthcare supp/safety	11	22	14	26	27
Other	39	9	0	9	9
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	(.000)*	(.000)*	(.341)	(.000)*	(.000)*
Yrs Lived in Comm.	(n = 1305)	(n = 1301)	(n = 1309)	(n = 1290)	(n = 1285)
Five years or less	18	47	15	37	46
More than five years	9	24	11	30	33
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	(.000)*	(.000)*	(.054)	(.051)	(.000)*

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

Appendix Table 11. Plans to Leave Community by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes

Do you plan to move from your community in the next year?

	<i>Yes, to the Lincoln/Omaha metro areas</i>	<i>Yes, to someplace in Nebraska outside metro areas</i>	<i>Yes, to someplace other than Nebraska</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Uncertain</i>	<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>
Total	1	2	4	81	12	
Community Size		(n = 1472)				
Less than 500	2	0.4	2	86	10	
500 - 999	0	2	2	84	12	
1,000 - 4,999	0.2	3	2	82	13	
5,000 - 9,999	1	2	9	77	12	$\chi^2 = 37.99^*$
10,000 and up	1	1	6	78	14	(.002)
Region		(n = 1511)				
Panhandle	1	1	5	78	15	
North Central	1	0.4	6	81	11	
South Central	0.4	2	4	83	12	
Northeast	1	1	4	82	12	$\chi^2 = 26.89^*$
Southeast	0	4	2	80	14	(.043)
Income Level		(n = 1386)				
Under \$40,000	0	1	6	77	17	
\$40,000 - \$74,999	1	1	4	78	16	
\$75,000 - \$99,999	0.4	3	2	87	8	$\chi^2 = 35.84^*$
\$100,000 and over	1	2	5	84	8	(.000)
Age		(n = 1518)				
19 - 29	0	3	9	71	17	
30 - 39	0	2	4	86	8	
40 - 49	2	2	3	80	14	
50 - 64	1	1	3	83	13	$\chi^2 = 41.49^*$
65 and older	1	1	3	85	10	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1495)				
Male	1	2	5	80	12	$\chi^2 = 6.43$
Female	1	1	3	82	13	(.169)
Marital Status		(n = 1464)				
Married	1	2	4	84	10	
Never married	0	1	8	73	18	
Divorced/separated	3	1	2	77	17	$\chi^2 = 41.42^*$
Widowed	1	1	1	85	12	(.000)
Education		(n = 1474)				
H.S. diploma or less	1	0.4	2	80	17	
Some college	1	1	4	80	15	$\chi^2 = 31.14^*$
Bachelors degree	1	3	6	83	8	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 1139)				
Mgt, prof, education	1	1	7	81	11	
Sales/office support	0	1	6	84	10	
Const, inst or maint	0	2	0	87	11	
Prodn/trans/warehs	1	2	4	80	13	
Agriculture	2	5	0	81	12	
Food serv/pers. care	0	0	4	91	4	
Hlthcare supp/safety	0	1	0	86	14	$\chi^2 = 84.86^*$
Other	0	0	0	52	48	(.000)
Yrs Lived in Comm.		(n = 1393)				
Five years or less	0	4	5	78	13	$\chi^2 = 21.51^*$
More than five years	1	1	3	83	12	(.000)

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

Appendix Table 12. Size of Community Planning to Move to by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes

<i>If yes, to what size of community do you plan to move?</i>				
	<i>In or near a community larger than your current one</i>	<i>In or near a community smaller than your current one</i>	<i>In or near a community of the same size as your current one</i>	<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>
Total	58	30	12	
Community Size		(n = 90)		
Less than 500	71**	0**	29**	
500 - 999	67**	0**	33**	
1,000 - 4,999	45	35	20	
5,000 - 9,999	88	12	0	$\chi^2 = 20.80^*$
10,000 and up	48	45	8	(.008)
Region		(n = 91)		
Panhandle	100	0	0	
North Central	50	39	11	
South Central	68	28	4	
Northeast	63	25	13	$\chi^2 = 15.10$
Southeast	29	50	21	(.057)
Income Level		(n = 89)		
Under \$40,000	83	9	9	
\$40,000 - \$74,999	76	20	4	
\$75,000 - \$99,999	36	57	7	$\chi^2 = 24.35^*$
\$100,000 and over	30	44	26	(.000)
Age		(n = 92)		
19 - 29	50	50	0	
30 - 39	71	0	29	
40 - 49	56	31	13	
50 - 64	50	38	13	$\chi^2 = 17.26^*$
65 and older	67	17	17	(.028)
Gender		(n = 91)		
Male	52	35	14	$\chi^2 = 2.39$
Female	67	21	13	(.303)
Education		(n = 88)		
H.S. diploma or less	83**	0**	17**	
Some college	53	38	9	$\chi^2 = 3.41$
Bachelors degree	58	30	12	(.492)
Occupation		(n = 62)		
Mgt, prof, education	73	10	17	
Sales/office support	89**	11**	0**	
Const, inst or maint	0**	100**	0**	
Prodn/trans/warehs	100**	0**	0**	
Agriculture	27	73	0	
Food serv/pers. care	100**	0**	0**	
Hlthcare supp/safety	0**	100**	0**	$\chi^2 = 35.29^*$
Other	**	**	**	(.000)
Yrs Lived in Comm.		(n = 75)		
Five years or less	25	58	17	$\chi^2 = 12.22^*$
More than five years	67	22	12	(.002)
Where Plan to Move		(n = 92)		
Lincoln/Omaha area	100**	0**	0**	
Someplace else in NE	24	52	24	$\chi^2 = 19.81^*$
Someplace outside NE	68	23	8	(.001)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level ** Row percentages are calculated using row total with less than 10 respondents.

Appendix Table 13. Individual and Community Political Views by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes

<i>Where would you place yourself and your community on the following scale of political views that people might hold?</i>					
<i>Your political views on economic issues</i>					
	<i>Liberal</i>	<i>Moderate, middle of road</i>	<i>Conservative</i>	<i>Don't know</i>	<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>
Total	10	19	60	11	
Community Size		(n = 1472)			
Less than 500	6	19	59	16	
500 - 999	9	17	66	8	
1,000 - 4,999	6	22	63	10	
5,000 - 9,999	13	23	56	9	$\chi^2 = 43.85^*$
10,000 and up	16	16	58	10	(.000)
Region		(n = 1476)			
Panhandle	12	17	66	5	
North Central	6	18	68	9	
South Central	10	18	58	14	
Northeast	11	20	59	10	$\chi^2 = 23.80^*$
Southeast	12	22	53	13	(.022)
Income Level		(n = 1404)			
Under \$40,000	15	24	44	17	
\$40,000 - \$74,999	9	25	54	11	
\$75,000 - \$99,999	9	15	63	13	$\chi^2 = 101.51^*$
\$100,000 and over	9	11	76	4	(.000)
Age		(n = 1483)			
19 - 29	3	20	57	20	
30 - 39	17	21	54	8	
40 - 49	12	14	64	11	
50 - 64	8	20	64	8	$\chi^2 = 58.58^*$
65 and older	11	20	58	11	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1466)			
Male	9	16	65	10	$\chi^2 = 15.05^*$
Female	12	21	55	12	(.002)
Marital Status		(n = 1438)			
Married	8	17	68	8	
Never married	16	24	44	17	
Divorced/separated	16	23	46	15	$\chi^2 = 69.71^*$
Widowed	12	24	50	15	(.000)
Education		(n = 1476)			
H.S. diploma or less	6	22	45	27	
Some college	11	19	59	11	$\chi^2 = 105.60^*$
Bachelors degree	11	18	67	5	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 1129)			
Mgt, prof, education	14	19	61	6	
Sales/office support	6	12	72	10	
Const, inst or maint	9	15	68	8	
Prodn/trans/warehs	18	12	66	4	
Agriculture	4	20	64	11	
Food serv/pers. care	9	45	35	12	
Hlthcare supp/safety	7	21	57	15	$\chi^2 = 83.46^*$
Other	0	27	68	5	(.000)
Yrs Lived in Comm.		(n = 1397)			
Five years or less	11	18	59	12	$\chi^2 = 0.50$
More than five years	10	20	59	11	(.920)

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

Appendix Table 13 continued.

Where would you place yourself and your community on the following scale of political views that people might hold?

Your political views on social issues

	<i>Liberal</i>	<i>Moderate, middle of road</i>	<i>Conservative</i>	<i>Don't know</i>	<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>
Total	16	18	55	11	
Community Size		(n = 1475)			
Less than 500	11	19	53	16	
500 - 999	12	17	64	7	
1,000 - 4,999	12	19	59	10	
5,000 - 9,999	23	17	51	9	$\chi^2 = 38.10^*$
10,000 and up	21	18	52	9	(.000)
Region		(n = 1480)			
Panhandle	20	21	54	5	
North Central	9	18	65	8	
South Central	19	14	55	13	
Northeast	16	20	54	10	$\chi^2 = 34.85^*$
Southeast	14	24	50	12	(.000)
Income Level		(n = 1407)			
Under \$40,000	20	20	43	17	
\$40,000 - \$74,999	15	27	48	11	
\$75,000 - \$99,999	13	15	62	11	$\chi^2 = 95.07^*$
\$100,000 and over	17	11	68	4	(.000)
Age		(n = 1487)			
19 - 29	9	20	51	20	
30 - 39	24	21	49	6	
40 - 49	20	13	58	10	
50 - 64	13	21	59	7	$\chi^2 = 65.72^*$
65 and older	14	19	56	11	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1471)			
Male	16	16	59	10	$\chi^2 = 7.95^*$
Female	16	20	53	11	(.047)
Marital Status		(n = 1443)			
Married	12	16	64	7	
Never married	26	27	32	15	
Divorced/separated	24	21	41	15	$\chi^2 = 94.46^*$
Widowed	14	20	51	15	(.000)
Education		(n = 1479)			
H.S. diploma or less	7	24	42	28	
Some college	14	18	58	11	$\chi^2 = 140.49^*$
Bachelors degree	21	17	58	3	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 1130)			
Mgt, prof, education	23	19	52	6	
Sales/office support	7	14	70	9	
Const, inst or maint	11	17	65	8	
Prodn/trans/warehs	26	9	63	2	
Agriculture	13	14	63	11	
Food serv/pers. care	23	41	25	12	
Hlthcare supp/safety	11	19	55	15	$\chi^2 = 104.52^*$
Other	0	27	68	5	(.000)
Yrs Lived in Comm.		(n = 1400)			
Five years or less	17	20	51	12	$\chi^2 = 1.32$
More than five years	16	19	55	11	(.725)

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

*Where would you place yourself and your community on the following scale of political views
that people might hold?*

Your community's political views on economic issues

	<i>Liberal</i>	<i>Moderate, middle of road</i>	<i>Conservative</i>	<i>Don't know</i>	<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>
Total	5	14	67	14	
Community Size		(n = 1478)			
Less than 500	6	15	61	18	
500 - 999	5	12	72	11	
1,000 - 4,999	4	15	68	13	
5,000 - 9,999	3	12	72	12	$\chi^2 = 17.57$
10,000 and up	7	12	67	14	(.129)
Region		(n = 1483)			
Panhandle	6	11	76	7	
North Central	1	16	69	14	
South Central	7	14	64	15	
Northeast	7	10	70	13	$\chi^2 = 30.90^*$
Southeast	4	19	61	16	(.002)
Income Level		(n = 1406)			
Under \$40,000	6	18	57	20	
\$40,000 - \$74,999	6	15	65	14	
\$75,000 - \$99,999	3	14	68	15	$\chi^2 = 61.47^*$
\$100,000 and over	6	8	80	6	(.000)
Age		(n = 1487)			
19 - 29	3	6	68	23	
30 - 39	2	12	77	9	
40 - 49	5	10	73	12	
50 - 64	7	20	63	11	$\chi^2 = 78.25^*$
65 and older	8	18	57	17	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1471)			
Male	6	13	70	12	$\chi^2 = 9.05^*$
Female	5	14	65	16	(.029)
Marital Status		(n = 1443)			
Married	5	13	72	10	
Never married	7	12	63	17	
Divorced/separated	6	16	58	20	$\chi^2 = 54.98^*$
Widowed	7	20	44	29	(.000)
Education		(n = 1480)			
H.S. diploma or less	7	18	43	32	
Some college	6	16	63	15	$\chi^2 = 151.32^*$
Bachelors degree	4	10	81	5	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 1132)			
Mgt, prof, education	5	11	76	8	
Sales/office support	1	13	73	14	
Const, inst or maint	5	13	74	9	
Prodn/trans/warehs	7	10	75	9	
Agriculture	4	15	67	14	
Food serv/pers. care	13	19	51	17	
Hlthcare supp/safety	4	11	69	17	$\chi^2 = 39.69^*$
Other	4	17	70	9	(.008)
Yrs Lived in Comm.		(n = 1403)			
Five years or less	5	6	73	16	$\chi^2 = 16.92^*$
More than five years	5	16	66	14	(.001)

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

Appendix Table 13 continued.

Where would you place yourself and your community on the following scale of political views that people might hold?

Your community's political views on social issues

	<i>Liberal</i>	<i>Moderate, middle of road</i>	<i>Conservative</i>	<i>Don't know</i>	<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>
Total	6	14	66	14	
Community Size		(n = 1479)			
Less than 500	7	13	62	18	
500 - 999	5	11	73	11	
1,000 - 4,999	4	16	67	13	
5,000 - 9,999	4	15	69	13	$\chi^2 = 17.87$
10,000 and up	8	14	64	14	(.120)
Region		(n = 1484)			
Panhandle	5	15	73	7	
North Central	3	13	70	14	
South Central	7	15	62	15	
Northeast	7	11	69	13	$\chi^2 = 21.80^*$
Southeast	5	19	60	16	(.040)
Income Level		(n = 1407)			
Under \$40,000	6	18	56	21	
\$40,000 - \$74,999	6	17	63	15	
\$75,000 - \$99,999	4	13	70	14	$\chi^2 = 59.35^*$
\$100,000 and over	8	10	77	6	(.000)
Age		(n = 1486)			
19 - 29	3	9	66	23	
30 - 39	3	14	74	9	
40 - 49	6	8	74	12	
50 - 64	8	21	61	11	$\chi^2 = 75.48^*$
65 and older	8	18	57	18	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1472)			
Male	7	13	69	12	$\chi^2 = 9.71^*$
Female	5	15	64	16	(.021)
Marital Status		(n = 1442)			
Married	6	14	71	10	
Never married	7	13	63	17	
Divorced/separated	7	17	58	18	$\chi^2 = 44.75^*$
Widowed	7	20	44	29	(.000)
Education		(n = 1480)			
H.S. diploma or less	7	18	43	31	
Some college	6	16	62	15	$\chi^2 = 136.36^*$
Bachelors degree	5	11	79	5	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 1129)			
Mgt, prof, education	6	13	73	8	
Sales/office support	1	14	70	14	
Const, inst or maint	5	11	76	9	
Prodn/trans/warehs	6	10	76	9	
Agriculture	3	14	69	14	
Food serv/pers. care	15	19	50	16	
Hlthcare supp/safety	5	12	66	17	$\chi^2 = 40.18^*$
Other	4	17	70	9	(.007)
Yrs Lived in Comm.		(n = 1403)			
Five years or less	6	7	71	16	$\chi^2 = 16.10^*$
More than five years	5	16	64	14	(.001)

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

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