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Perspectives on Community Life in Nonmetropolitan Nebraska

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NEBRASKA RURAL POLL

A Research Report

Perspectives on Community Life in Nonmetropolitan Nebraska

2015 Nebraska Rural Poll Results

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Executive Summary

Population losses are an ongoing problem in rural counties. This loss leads to many issues faced by rural communities such as funding public services, business transition and retention, recruiting new residents, an aging population base as well as many others. Given these challenges, how do rural Nebraskans feel about their community? Are they satisfied with the services provided by their community? Are they planning to move from their community in the next year? Have these views changed over the past twenty years? This paper provides a detailed analysis of these questions.

This report details 1,991 responses to the 2015 Nebraska Rural Poll, the twentieth 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 nineteen 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.***
 - ✓ *Many rural Nebraskans rate their community favorably on its social dimensions.* Many rural Nebraskans rate their communities as friendly (76%), trusting (64%) and supportive (67%).
 - ✓ *Over one-half of rural Nebraskans say it would be difficult to leave their community.* Fifty-five percent say it would be difficult for their household to leave their community. Just three in ten (30%) indicate it would be easy for their household to leave their community and 15 percent gave a neutral response.
 - ✓ *Most rural Nebraskans disagree that their community is powerless to control its future.* Over six in ten rural Nebraskans (61%) strongly disagree or disagree that their community is powerless to control its own future.
 - ✓ *Rural Nebraskans' views about the change in their community have generally been positive.* The proportion believing their community has changed for the better during the past year has usually been greater than the proportion believing it has changed for the worse, especially during the past four years when the gap between the two has widened.
 - ✓ *Rural Nebraskans' optimism about the expected change in their community ten years from now has increased during the past five years.* The proportion believing their community will be a better place to live ten years from now has steadily increased during the past five years, from 20 percent in 2011 to 26 percent this year. The proportion believing their community will be a worse place to live has declined from 24 percent in 2011 to 18 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, will be a better place to live ten years from now and disagree that their community is powerless to control its own future.***
 - ✓ *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.* Forty-three percent of persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or

more say their community has changed for the better during the past year, compared to 20 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 under four in ten persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more (37%) believe their community will be a better place to live ten years from now, compared to 13 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 disagree that their community is powerless to control its own future.* Just under two-thirds (64%) of persons living in or near communities with populations of 1,000 or more disagree with that statement, compared to 53 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 500 to 999. Almost one-quarter (23%) of persons living in or near communities with populations less than 500 agree that their community is powerless to control its own future.
- ***Residents of smaller communities are more likely than residents of larger communities to say it would be difficult to leave their community.*** Sixty-three percent of persons living in or near communities with populations under 500 believe it would be difficult to leave their community, compared to 49 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more.
 - ***Except for a few services that are largely unavailable in rural communities, rural Nebraskans are generally satisfied with basic community services and amenities.*** At least two-thirds of rural Nebraskans are satisfied with the following services or amenities: fire protection (87%), parks and recreation (76%), library services (73%), religious organizations (72%), and education (K-12) (69%). On the other hand, at least one-third of rural Nebraskans are dissatisfied with the entertainment, retail shopping, restaurants, streets and roads, arts/cultural activities, quality of housing, cost of housing, public transportation services and local government in their community.
 - ✓ *The proportion of rural Nebraskans satisfied with many social services and entertainment services has decreased across all nineteen years of the study.* Declines in satisfaction levels across all 19 years are seen with nursing home care, medical care services, senior centers, mental health services, entertainment, retail shopping and restaurants.
 - ***Only seven percent indicate they are planning to move from their community in the next year.*** Ten percent are uncertain and 84 percent have no plans to move. Of those who are planning to move, more than one-half (53%) plan to leave Nebraska. Less than one-half plan to remain in the state, with 13 percent planning to move to either the Lincoln or Omaha area and 34 percent plan to move to another part of the state.
 - ✓ *Most expected movers are planning to move to a larger community.* Over six in ten (61%) expected movers are planning to move to a community larger than their current one. Just two in ten expected movers (20%) are planning to move to a community smaller than their current one and 19 percent are planning to move to a community of similar size to their current one.

Introduction

Population losses are an ongoing problem in rural counties. This loss leads to many issues faced by rural communities such as funding public services, business transition and retention, recruiting new residents, an aging population base as well as many others. Given these challenges, how do rural Nebraskans feel about their community? Are they satisfied with the services provided by their community? Are they planning to move from their community in the next year? Have these views changed over the past twenty years? This paper provides a detailed analysis of these questions.

This report details 1,991 responses to the 2015 Nebraska Rural Poll, the twentieth 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 1,991 responses from Nebraskans living in 86 counties in the state.¹ A self-administered questionnaire was mailed in April to 6,228 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, climate and energy, community involvement, 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. 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.

education. This paper reports only results from the community section.

A 32% response rate was achieved using the total design method (Dillman, 1978). The sequence of steps used follow:

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

Appendix Table 1 shows demographic data from this year's study and previous rural polls, as well as similar data based on the entire nonmetropolitan population of Nebraska (using the latest available data from the 2009 - 2013 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 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 51 years. Sixty-eight percent are married (Appendix Table 1) and 72 percent live within the city limits of a town or village. On average, respondents have lived in Nebraska 43 years and have lived in their current community 27 years. Fifty-five percent are living in or near towns or villages with populations less than 5,000. Most have attained at least a high school diploma (97%). Thirty percent of the respondents report their 2014 approximate household income from all sources, before taxes, as below \$40,000. Fifty-eight percent report incomes over \$50,000.

Seventy-six percent were employed in 2014 on a full-time, part-time, or seasonal basis. Seventeen percent are retired. Thirty-five percent of those employed reported working in a management, professional, or education occupation. Fourteen percent indicated they were employed in agriculture.

Trends in Community Ratings (1996 - 2015)

Comparisons are made between the community data collected this year to the nineteen previous studies. These were independent samples (the same people were not surveyed each year).

Community Change

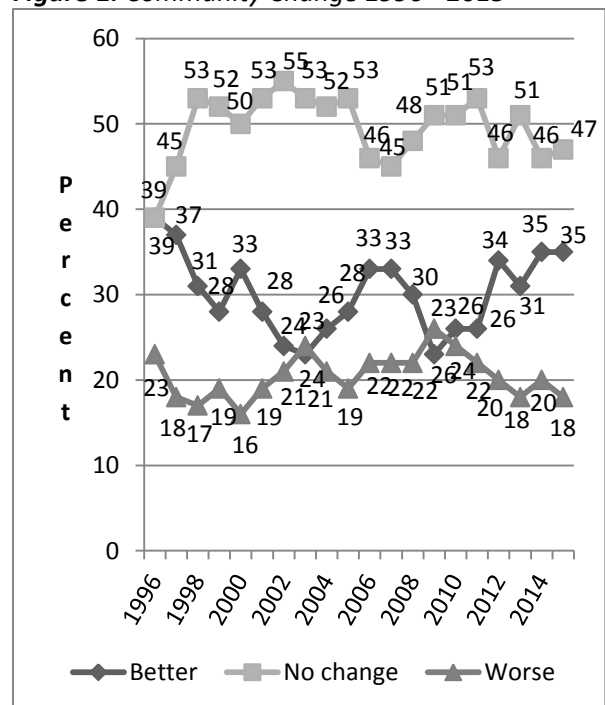
To examine respondents' perceptions of how their community has changed, they were asked the question, "Communities across the nation are undergoing change. When you think about this past year, would you say...My community has changed for the..." Answer categories were better, no change or worse.

One difference in the wording of this question has occurred over the past twenty 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 usually been greater than the proportion believing it has changed for the worse, especially during the past four years when the gap between the two has widened (Figure 1).

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 percent in 2007. It then declined to 23 percent in 2009 (the lowest proportion of all 20 years, also occurring in 2003). However, the proportion viewing

Figure 1. Community Change 1996 - 2015



positive change in their community has since increased to 35 percent this year.

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 dropped to 46 percent in 2012, then increased to 51 percent in 2013 before declining again to 47 percent this year.

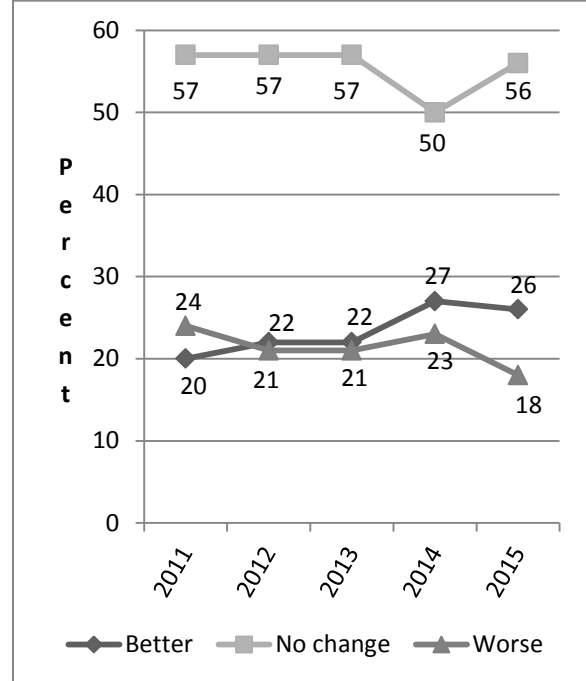
The proportion saying their community has changed for the worse has remained fairly steady across all twenty years, but increased from 22 percent in 2008 to 26 percent in 2009 (the highest proportion in all years of this study). Since then, however, it has generally decreased to 18 percent this year.

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 has steadily increased during the past five years, from 20 percent in 2011 to 26 percent this year (Figure 2). The proportion believing their community will be a worse place to live has declined from 24 percent in 2011 to 18 percent this year.

The proportion thinking their community will be about the same ten years from now has remained relatively stable at approximately 57 percent, with the exception of 2014 when it declined to 50 percent.

Figure 2. Expected Community Change Ten Years from Now: 2011 - 2015



Community Social Dimensions

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 twenty year period, ranging from 69 to 77 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

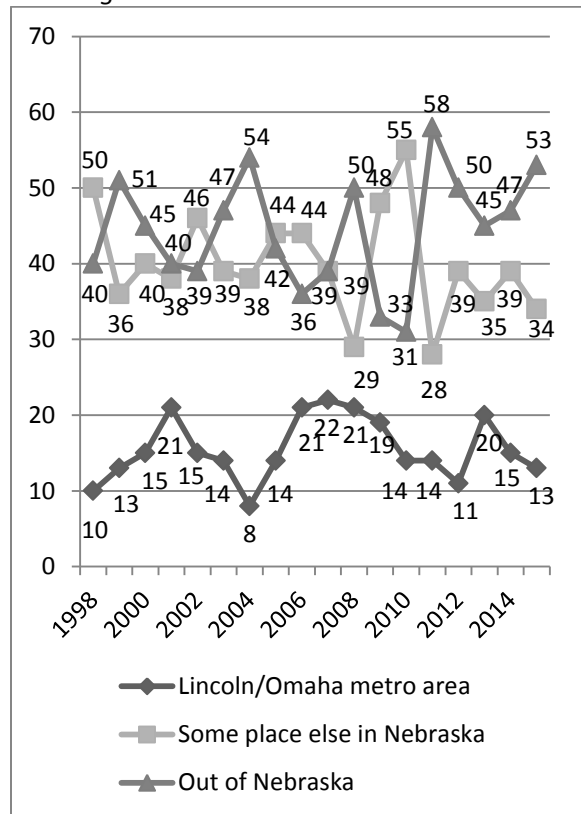
ranged from 60 percent to 69 percent over the twenty year period.

Plans to Leave the Community

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 eighteen years, ranging from 3 percent to 7 percent.

The expected destination for the persons planning to move has changed over time (Figure 3). Following a period of general decline during the previous two years, the proportion of expected movers planning to leave the state has increased from 45 percent in 2013 to 53 percent this year.

Figure 3. Expected Destination of Those Planning to Move: 1998 - 2015



The proportion of expected movers planning to move to either the Omaha or Lincoln area had generally declined between 2006 and 2012, from 21 percent to 11 percent. However, it increased sharply to 20 percent in 2013 before decreasing to 13 percent this year. And, the proportion of expected movers planning to move to other areas of rural Nebraska had generally increased from 28 percent in 2011 to 39 last year, but then declined to 34 percent this year.

Satisfaction with Community Services and Amenities

Respondents were also asked how satisfied they are with various community services and amenities each year. They were asked this in all twenty studies; however, in 1996 they were also asked about the availability of these services. Therefore, comparisons will only be made between the last nineteen studies, when the question wording was identical. The respondents were asked how satisfied they were with a list of 25 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 relatively stable over the nineteen years. However, the proportion of rural Nebraskans satisfied with many social services has declined across all nineteen years of the study. As an example, the proportion of rural Nebraskans satisfied with nursing home care has dropped from 63 percent in 1997 to 47 percent this year. Similar declines are seen with medical care services, senior centers, and mental health services. In addition, satisfaction with entertainment services (entertainment, retail shopping and restaurants) have also generally declined over the past nineteen years. Satisfaction with retail shopping has declined

Table 1. Proportion of Respondents Very or Somewhat Satisfied with Each Service, 1997 - 2015

Service/Amenity	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
Fire protection	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	86	85	86	87	85	86	85	86	86	87	
Parks/recreation	77	77	75	77	73	74	76	75	74	75	74	75	74	74	75	76	76	71	76	
Library services	78	78	72	79	71	74	74	74	72	73	74	75	74	73	73	72	73	72	73	
Religious org.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	72	72	73	71	71	70	72	71	70	72	
Education (K-12)	71	74	72	73	69	69	69	68	68	68	68	70	68	68	68	68	68	68	69	
Sewage/waste disp*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	66	66	67	66	65	65	64	67	64	65	
Sewage disposal	68	63	63	63	61	66	64	67	63	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Water disposal	66	61	60	61	60	64	62	65	62	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Solid waste disp.	61	59	60	60	60	64	63	65	63	64	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Law enforcement	66	64	63	64	61	63	65	63	63	64	63	62	64	65	63	65	64	62	64	
Cell phone services	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	49	54	58	61	60	64	63	65	60	64	
Medical care svcs	73	73	70	72	71	69	71	71	71	71	63	66	67	67	67	68	66	62	62	
Internet service	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	50	51	57	58	56	60	59	59	56	58	
Comm recycling	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	50	48	52	54	54	54	58	53	55	
Senior centers	66	65	62	59	58	62	61	58	59	55	48	47	47	47	48	47	48	47	49	
Nursing home care	63	62	59	56	55	57	57	55	55	53	46	47	45	46	46	45	43	47	47	
Streets and roads*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	55	49	51	47	48	49	53	44	47	
Streets	*	59	62	59	51	61	62	59	60	60	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Highway/bridge	*	66	68	68	65	69	70	69	70	69	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Restaurants	59	57	56	55	53	51	54	56	54	54	50	45	47	47	48	48	46	40	46	
Cost of housing	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	50	45
Quality of housing	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	44	45
Housing	61	63	62	56	57	62	60	61	60	61	59	59	61	59	59	57	52	*	*	
Local government*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	41	40	38	41	40	41	42	40	37	40	
County govt.	48	53	53	49	49	47	51	48	47	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
City/village govt.	46	50	51	45	46	45	48	45	46	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Head start prgrms	44	41	37	40	39	38	40	41	39	37	29	26	28	29	27	27	27	39	39	
Retail shopping	53	48	49	47	47	45	45	49	47	45	41	39	40	41	37	39	38	33	38	
Child day care svcs	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	32	34	35	35	32	34	34	
Day care services	51	50	45	46	43	44	45	47	45	42	31	28	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Entertainment	38	35	34	33	33	32	33	36	32	34	30	26	29	32	30	30	31	26	29	
Arts/cult activities	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	26	25	24	27	27	27	26	24	26	
Mental health svcs	34	32	29	30	29	30	30	31	30	27	23	23	24	23	24	25	23	21	23	
Adult day care svcs	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	22	21	22	21	21	*	*	
Airport	*	*	*	30	29	32	32	32	31	26	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Pub transportation svcs*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	17	17	19	18	19	19	20	17	19	
Airline service	*	*	*	15	15	16	17	18	15	15	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Taxi service	11	9	8	9	10	10	11	12	12	11	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Rail service	14	11	11	10	10	11	11	13	11	9	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Bus service	13	11	10	9	10	9	10	11	7	7	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	

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

from 53 percent in 1997 to 38 percent this year. However, satisfaction with both retail shopping and restaurants increased this year as compared to last year. Satisfaction with retail shopping increased from 33 percent last year (the lowest in all 19 years) to 38 percent this year. Similarly, the proportion satisfied with restaurants increased from 40 percent last year (the lowest of all 19 years) to 46 percent this year.

On the other hand, satisfaction with cellular phone services and Internet services has 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. And, satisfaction with Internet services has increased from 50 percent in 2006 (the first year it was included in the survey) to 58 percent this year. The largest increase in satisfaction with Internet service occurred between 2007 and 2008. Since 2008, the satisfaction levels have been fairly steady.

Two other services had increases in satisfaction levels this year as compared to last year. Satisfaction with parks and recreation increased from 71 percent last year (the lowest level across all 19 years) to 76 percent this year. And, satisfaction with cellular phone services increased from 60 percent last year to 64 percent this year.

One item saw a decline from last year. Satisfaction with cost of housing declined from 50 percent last year to 45 percent this year.

The Community and Its Attributes in 2015

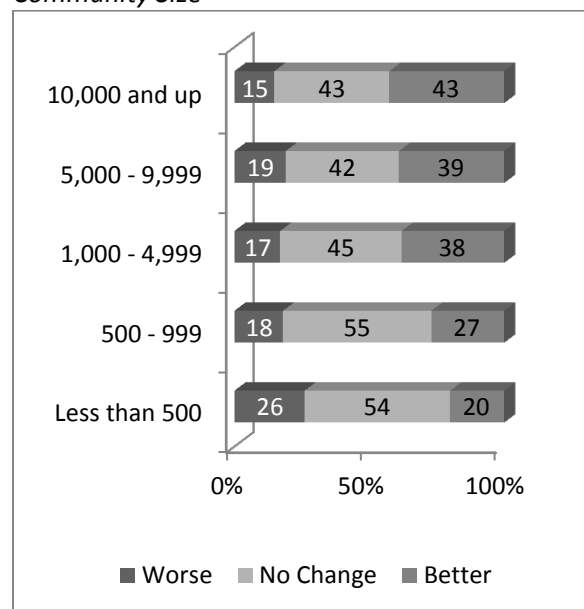
In this section, the 2015 data on respondents' evaluations of their communities and its attributes are examined in terms of any

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

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. Forty-three percent of persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more believe their community has changed for the better, compared to 20 percent of persons living in or near communities with less than 500 people (Figure 4). And, over one-quarter (26%) of persons living in or near communities with populations less than 500 say their community has changed for the worse during the past year.

Figure 4. Perceptions of Community Change by Community Size



Persons living in both the South Central and North Central 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 38 percent of the South Central and North Central residents say their community changed for the better during the past year, compared to 29 percent of persons living in the Panhandle region.

Other groups most likely to say their community has changed for the better during the past year include: persons aged 30 to 39, persons with higher education levels, and persons with occupations classified as other.

When examining perceptions by the length of time in the community, long-term residents are more likely than newcomers to the community to say their community has changed for the worse during the past year. The newcomers are more likely than long-term residents to say the community has not changed during the past year.

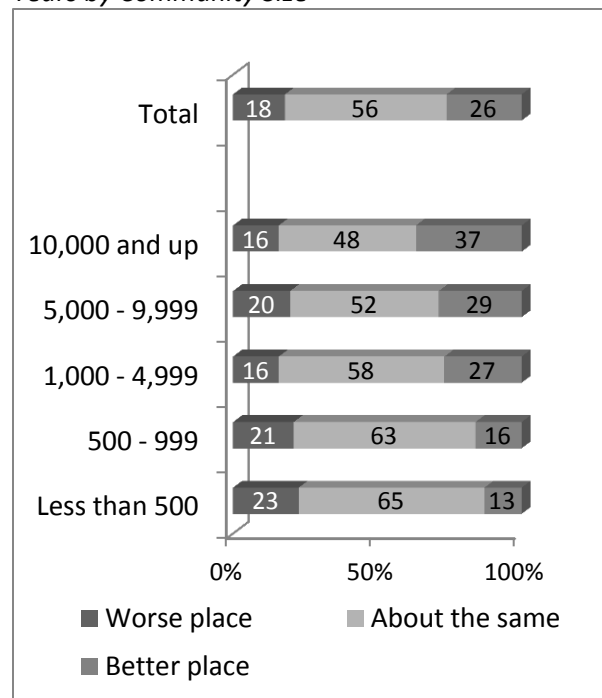
In addition, respondents were asked to predict the expected change in their community ten years from now. The exact question wording was, “Based on what you see of the situation today, do you think that, ten years from now, your community will be a worse place to live, a better place or about the same?” Just over one-quarter (25%) of rural Nebraskans expect their community will be a better place to live ten years from now. Over one-half (56%) expect it to be about the same and less than one in five (18%) 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 smaller communities to say their community will be a better place to live ten years from now (Figure 5). Over one-third (37%) of 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, 13 percent of persons living in or near communities with less than 500 people 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. Approximately one-third (32%) of persons living in the South Central region believe their community will be a better place to live ten years from now, compared to 18 percent of residents of the Panhandle region.

Figure 5. Expected Community Change in Ten Years by Community Size



Newcomers are more likely than long-term residents to say their community will be a better place to live ten years from now. Forty percent of persons who have lived in their community for five years or less believe their community will be a better place to live ten years from now, compared to 25 percent of persons who have lived in the community for more than five years.

Other groups most likely to have an optimistic view about their community's future include: persons with higher household incomes; persons age 30 to 39; married persons; persons with higher education levels; persons with management, professional or education occupations; and persons with healthcare support or public safety occupations.

Community Social Dimensions

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 (76%), trusting (64%) and supportive (67%).

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 the largest communities to rate their community as trusting. Two-thirds (67%) of persons living in or near communities with populations under 1,000 say their community is trusting, compared to 57 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 5,000 to 9,999.

Residents of the North Central region are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to rate their community as both trusting and supportive. As an example, 74 percent of the residents of the North Central region rate their community as supportive, compared to 58 percent of the Panhandle residents.

Persons with higher incomes are more likely than persons with lower incomes to rate their community as friendly, trusting and supportive. Eighty-one percent of persons with household incomes of \$60,000 or more rate their community as friendly, compared to 63 percent of persons with household incomes under \$20,000.

Younger persons are more likely than older persons to rate their community as friendly and trusting. Almost seven in ten persons under the age of 30 (69%) rate their community as trusting, compared to 58 percent of persons age 40 to 49.

Males are more likely than females to rate their community as supportive. When comparing responses by marital status, married persons are most likely to rate their community as friendly. Both widowed persons and married persons are the groups most likely to rate their community as supportive.

Persons with the highest education levels are more likely than persons with less education to rate their community as friendly, trusting and supportive. As an example, 82 percent of persons with at least a four year college degree rate their community as friendly, compared to 68 percent of persons with a high school diploma or less education.

Persons with occupations in agriculture and persons with management, professional or education occupations are more likely than

persons with different occupations to view their community as friendly. And, persons with occupations in agriculture are the group most likely to rate their community as trusting.

Satisfaction with Community Services and Amenities

Next, rural residents were asked to rate how satisfied they are with 25 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 five 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 (87%), parks and recreation (76%), library services (73%), religious organizations (72%), and education (K-12) (69%) (Appendix Table 5). At least one-third of the respondents are either “very dissatisfied” or “somewhat dissatisfied” with entertainment (51%), retail shopping (49%), streets and roads (45%), restaurants (44%), arts/cultural activities (40%), quality of housing (36%), cost of housing (36%), local government (33%) and public transportation services (33%).

The ten services and amenities with the greatest dissatisfaction ratings were analyzed by community size, region and various individual attributes (Appendix Table 6). Many differences emerge.

Middle age persons are more likely than both younger and older persons to be dissatisfied with the entertainment, retail shopping and

restaurants in their community. As an example, approximately 53 percent of persons between the ages of 30 and 64 are dissatisfied with the retail shopping in their community, compared to 41 percent of persons age 65 and older.

Persons living in or near mid-sized communities are more likely than persons living in or near both smaller and larger communities to express dissatisfaction with entertainment, retail shopping and restaurants. For example, 52 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 5,000 to 9,999 are dissatisfied with their restaurants, compared to 35 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more.

Persons with at least some college education are more likely than persons with less education to be dissatisfied with the entertainment, retail shopping and restaurants in their community.

Residents of the Panhandle are the regional group most likely to express dissatisfaction with their community’s entertainment and retail shopping. Almost six in ten Panhandle residents (57%) are dissatisfied with the retail shopping in their community, compared to 44 percent of the residents of the South Central region. Residents of the Southeast region are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to express dissatisfaction with the restaurants in their community. One-half (50%) of Southeast region residents are dissatisfied with restaurants, compared to 38 percent of the residents of the South Central region.

Persons with lower household incomes are more likely than persons with higher incomes to be dissatisfied with the entertainment in their community. However, persons with higher household incomes are more likely than persons with lower incomes to express

dissatisfaction with the restaurants in their community.

Persons with healthcare support or public safety occupations are the occupation group most likely to be dissatisfied with the retail shopping and restaurants in their community. Persons with food service or personal care occupations join this group in being more likely to be dissatisfied with the entertainment in the community.

Panhandle residents are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to be dissatisfied with their streets and roads. Six in ten Panhandle residents (60%) express dissatisfaction with their streets and roads, compared to 36 percent of residents of the Southeast region.

Other groups most likely to express dissatisfaction with their streets and roads include: persons with at least some college education, persons with healthcare support or public safety occupations, and persons with production, transportation or warehousing occupations.

Younger persons are more likely than older persons to express dissatisfaction with the arts/cultural activities in their community. Forty-seven percent of persons age 19 to 29 are dissatisfied with arts/cultural activities, compared to 26 percent of persons age 65 and older.

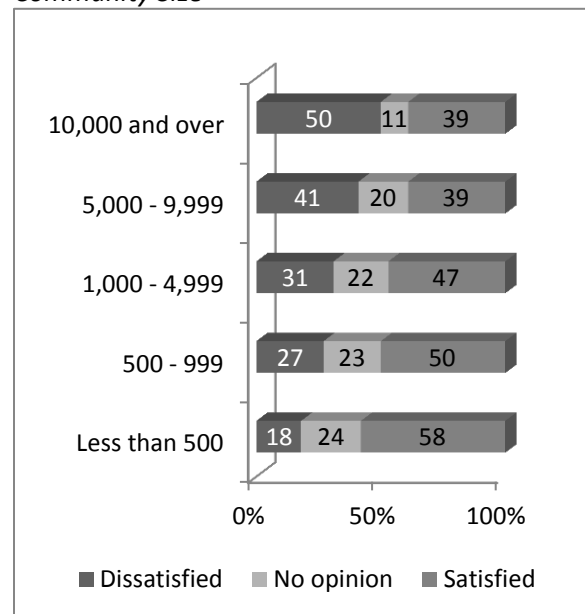
Other groups most likely to be dissatisfied with their arts/cultural activities include: persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 500 to 999, persons with the highest household incomes, persons with the highest education levels and persons with healthcare support or public safety occupations.

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. One-half (50%) of persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more are dissatisfied with their community's cost of housing, compared to 18 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations less than 500 (Figure 6).

Other groups most likely to be dissatisfied with their community's cost of housing include: residents of the South Central region, persons with the lowest household incomes, younger persons, and persons with food service or personal care occupations.

Persons living in or near mid-size communities are more likely than persons living in both smaller and larger communities to be dissatisfied with the quality of housing in their community. Just over four in ten persons (42%)

Figure 6. Satisfaction with Cost of Housing by Community Size



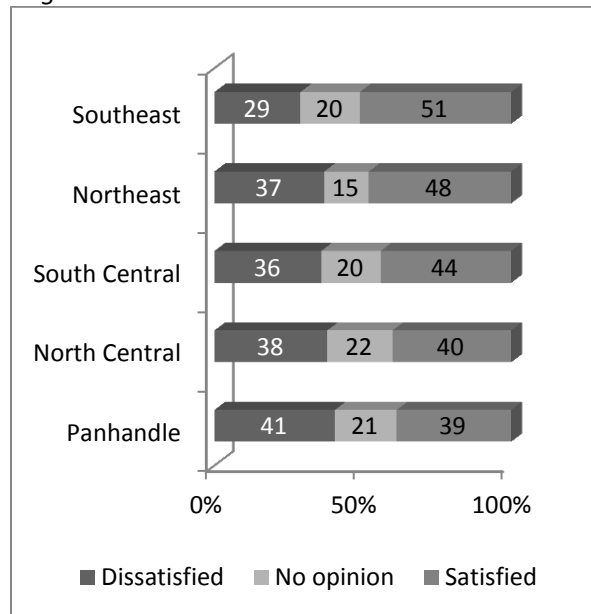
living in or near communities with populations ranging from 500 to 999 are dissatisfied with the quality of housing, compared to 33 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 1,000 to 4,999.

Panhandle residents 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 Panhandle residents (41%) are dissatisfied with the quality of housing, compared to 29 percent of persons living in the Southeast region (Figure 7).

Other groups most likely to be dissatisfied with the quality of housing in their community include: persons with higher household incomes, persons under the age of 65, persons with higher education levels and persons with healthcare support or public safety occupations.

Persons with lower household incomes are

Figure 7. Satisfaction with Quality of Housing by Region



more likely than persons with higher incomes to be dissatisfied with their local government. Forty-three percent of persons with household incomes under \$20,000 are dissatisfied with their local government, compared to 32 percent of persons with household incomes of \$40,000 or more.

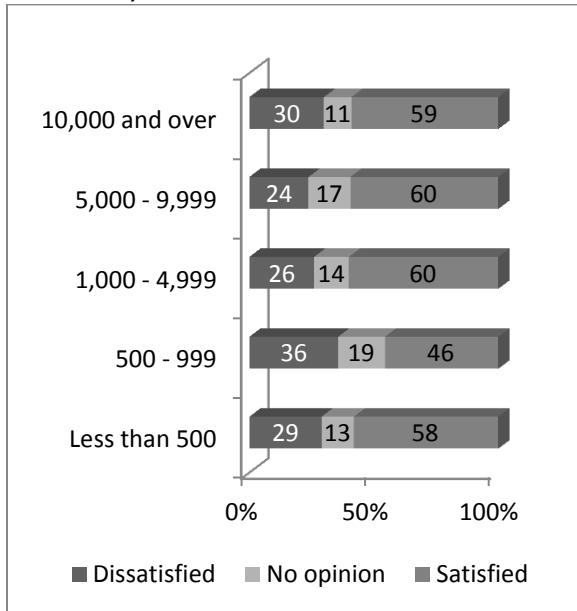
Other groups most likely to express dissatisfaction with their local government include: persons age 40 to 64, persons with lower education levels, persons with food service or personal care occupations, and persons with production, transportation or warehousing occupations.

Residents of the Panhandle are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to be dissatisfied with the public transportation services in their community. Forty-two percent of Panhandle residents are dissatisfied with public transportation services, compared to 21 percent of the residents of the North Central region.

Other groups most likely to be dissatisfied with their public transportation services include: persons living in or near the largest communities, younger persons, persons with the highest education levels, and persons with healthcare support or public safety occupations.

Persons living in or near mid-sized communities are more likely than persons living in or near both smaller and larger communities to express dissatisfaction with the Internet service in their community. Over one-third (36%) of persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 500 to 999 are dissatisfied with the Internet service, compared to 24 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 5,000 to 9,999 (Figure 8).

Figure 8. Satisfaction with Internet Service by Community Size



The other groups most likely to be dissatisfied with the Internet service in their community include: persons with higher household incomes, younger persons, persons with higher education levels, and persons with healthcare support or public safety occupations.

Feelings About 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.

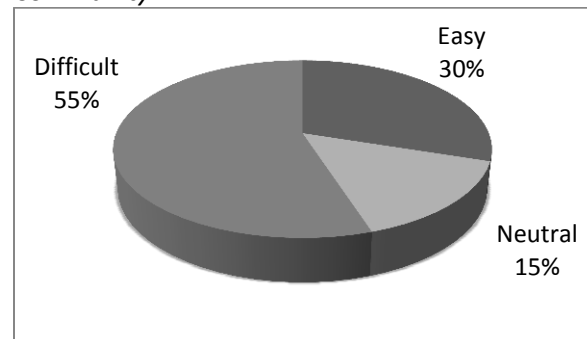
Just over one-half (55%) of rural Nebraskans say it would be difficult to leave their community¹ (Figure 9). Three in ten (30%) indicate it would be easy for their household to leave their community.

Responses to this question are examined by region, community size and various individual attributes (Appendix Table 7). 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. Sixty-three percent of persons living in or near communities with populations under 500 believe it would be difficult to leave their community, compared to 49 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more (Figure 10).

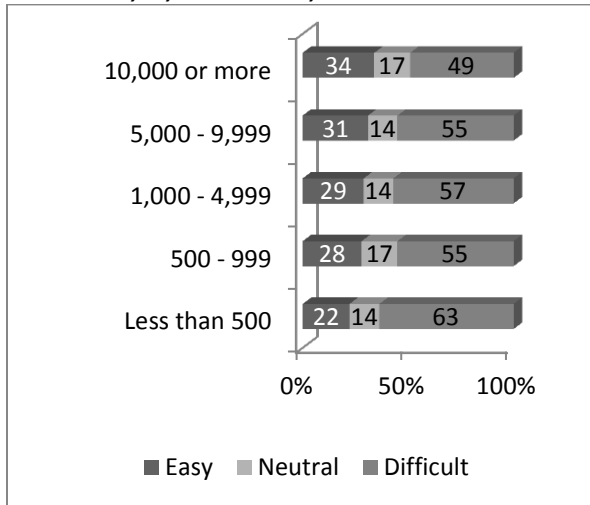
Persons with occupations in agriculture are more likely than persons with different occupations to say it would be difficult to leave their community. Seventy-two percent of

Figure 9. Difficulty or Ease of Leaving Community



¹ The responses on the 7-point scale are converted to percentages as follows: values of 1, 2, and 3 are categorized as easy; values of 5, 6, and 7 are categorized as difficult; and a value of 4 is categorized as neutral.

Figure 10. Ease or Difficulty of Leaving Community by Community Size



persons with agriculture occupations say it would be difficult to leave their community, compared to 44 percent of persons with production, transportation or warehousing occupations.

Other groups most likely to say it would be difficult to leave their community include: persons living in the Southeast region, persons with higher household incomes, widowed persons, persons with the highest education levels, and long-term residents.

Community Powerlessness

Respondents were next 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.

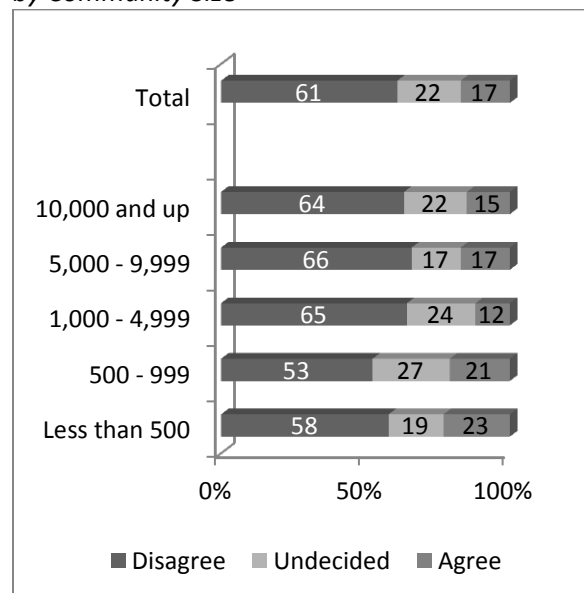
Most rural Nebraskans disagree that their community is powerless to control its own future. Just over six in ten rural Nebraskans (61%) strongly disagree or disagree that their

community is powerless to control its own future. Just under one in five rural Nebraskans (17%) believe their community is powerless to control its future and just under one-quarter (22%) are undecided.

The feelings of community powerlessness are examined by community size, region and 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 disagree that their community is powerless to control its own future (Figure 11). Just under two-thirds (64%) of persons living in or near communities with populations of 1,000 or more disagree with that statement, compared to 53 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 500 to 999. Almost one-quarter (23%) of persons living in or near communities with populations less than 500 agree that their community is powerless to control its own future.

Figure 11. Feelings of Community Powerlessness by Community Size



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 over three-quarters (76%) of persons with at least a four year college degree disagree with this statement, compared to 46 percent of persons with a high school diploma or less education.

Other groups most likely to disagree that their community is powerless to control its own future include: persons with higher household incomes; persons age 30 to 39; married persons; persons who have never married; persons with management, professional or education occupations; persons with occupations in agriculture; and persons with healthcare support or public safety occupations.

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 indicate they are planning to move from their community in the next year, 10 percent are uncertain and 84 percent have no plans to move. Of those who are planning to move, more than one-half (53%) plan to leave Nebraska. Less than one-half plan to remain in the state, with 13 percent planning to move to either the Lincoln or Omaha area and 34 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 9). Persons living in or near

mid-sized communities are *less* likely than persons living in or near the smallest and largest communities to be planning to move from their community in the next year. Only three percent of the persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 5,000 to 9,999 are planning to move from their community next year, compared to nine percent of persons living or near communities with populations of 10,000 or more.

Younger persons are more likely than older persons to be planning to move from their community in the next year. Twelve percent of persons between the ages of 30 and 39 are planning to move next year, compared to only four percent of persons age 65 and older. Furthermore, approximately 10 percent of the persons between the ages of 30 and 64 are uncertain if they plan to move.

Persons who have never married and persons who are divorced or separated are the marital groups most likely to be planning to move from their community. Eleven percent of these two groups are planning to move in the next year, compared to five percent of the widowed respondents and persons who are married. An additional 16 percent of both the persons who have never married and the divorced/separated respondents are uncertain if they plan to move.

Persons with the lowest household incomes are more likely than persons with higher incomes to be planning to move from their community in the next year. Eleven percent of persons with household incomes less than \$20,000 are planning to move from their community, compared to approximately seven percent of persons with household incomes over \$20,000. Additionally, 15 percent of persons with the lowest household incomes are uncertain if they plan to move.

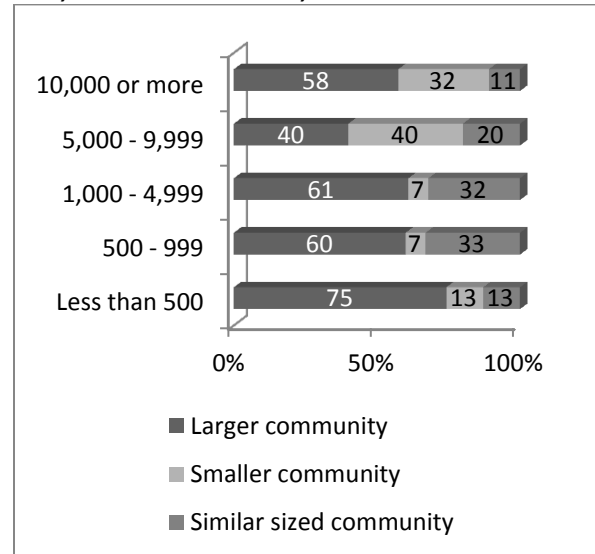
Newcomers to the community are more likely than long-term residents to be planning to leave their community in the next year. Eleven percent of persons who have lived in their community five years or less are planning to move in the next year, compared to five percent of persons who have lived in their community for more than five years. An additional 12 percent of newcomers are uncertain if they plan to move.

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. Over six in ten (61%) expected movers are planning to move to a community larger than their current one. Just two in ten expected movers (20%) are planning to move to a community smaller than their current one and 19 percent are planning to move to a community of similar size to their current one.

The expected destinations of those planning to move are also examined (Appendix Table 10). Most potential movers from smaller communities are planning to move to a larger community. Three-quarters (75%) of potential movers who currently live in or near communities with less than 500 people plan to move to a larger community (Figure 12). The potential movers who currently live in mid-size communities are the group most likely to be planning to move to a community of similar size. And, the potential movers who currently live in communities with populations of 5,000

Figure 12. Size of Community Planning to Move to by Current Community Size



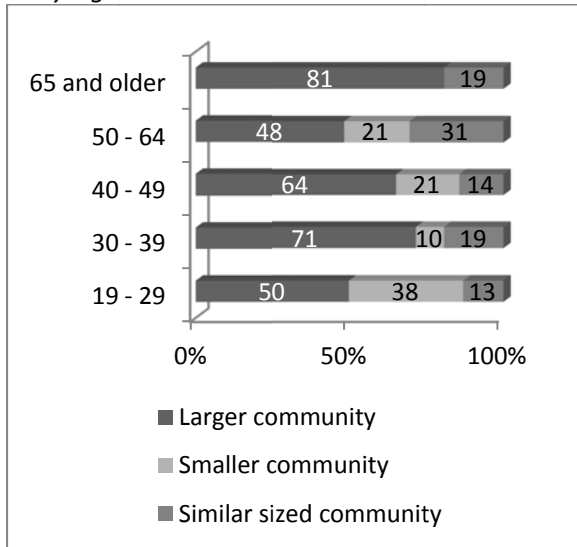
or more are the group most likely to be planning to move to a smaller community.

Most potential movers with the lowest household incomes are planning to move to a larger community. The potential movers with the highest household incomes are more likely than the potential movers with lower incomes to be planning to move to a community of similar size to their current one.

The older potential movers are more likely than the younger potential movers to be planning to move to a larger community. Over eight in ten potential movers age 65 and older (81%) are planning to move to a community larger than their current one (Figure 13). In comparison, only 50 percent of potential movers age 19 to 29 are planning to move to a larger community. The youngest potential movers are more likely than the older potential movers to be planning to move to a smaller community.

Most long-term residents (65%) who are planning to move expect to move to a larger community. However, only 42 percent of

Figure 13. Size of Community Planning to Move to by Age



newcomers who are planning to move expect to move to a larger community. Almost four in ten newcomers who are planning to move (36%) expect to move to a smaller community.

Two-thirds of the potential movers who are planning to leave the state (67%) expect to move to a larger community. Many of the potential movers planning to move to nonmetropolitan Nebraska (41%) expect to move to a smaller community.

Conclusion

By many different measures, rural Nebraskans are positive about their community. Many rural Nebraskans rate their community as friendly, trusting and supportive. Most rural Nebraskans also say it would be difficult to leave their community. In addition, most rural Nebraskans disagree that their community is powerless to control its future.

In addition, rural Nebraskans' views about the change in their community have generally been positive. The proportion believing their

community has changed for the better during the past year has usually been greater than the proportion believing it has changed for the worse, especially during the past four years when the gap between the two has widened. And, rural Nebraskans' optimism about the expected change in their community ten years from now has increased during the past five years.

Differences of opinion exist by the size of their community. Residents of smaller communities are more likely than residents of larger communities to say it would be difficult to leave their community. However, 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, will be a better place to live ten years from now, and to disagree that their community is powerless to control its own future.

Except for a few services that are largely unavailable in rural communities, rural Nebraskans are generally satisfied with basic community services and amenities. They are most satisfied with: fire protection, parks and recreation, library services, religious organizations and education (K – 12). On the other hand, at least one-third of rural Nebraskans are dissatisfied with the retail shopping, entertainment, streets and roads, restaurants, arts/cultural activities, quality of housing, cost of housing, public transportation services and local government in their community.

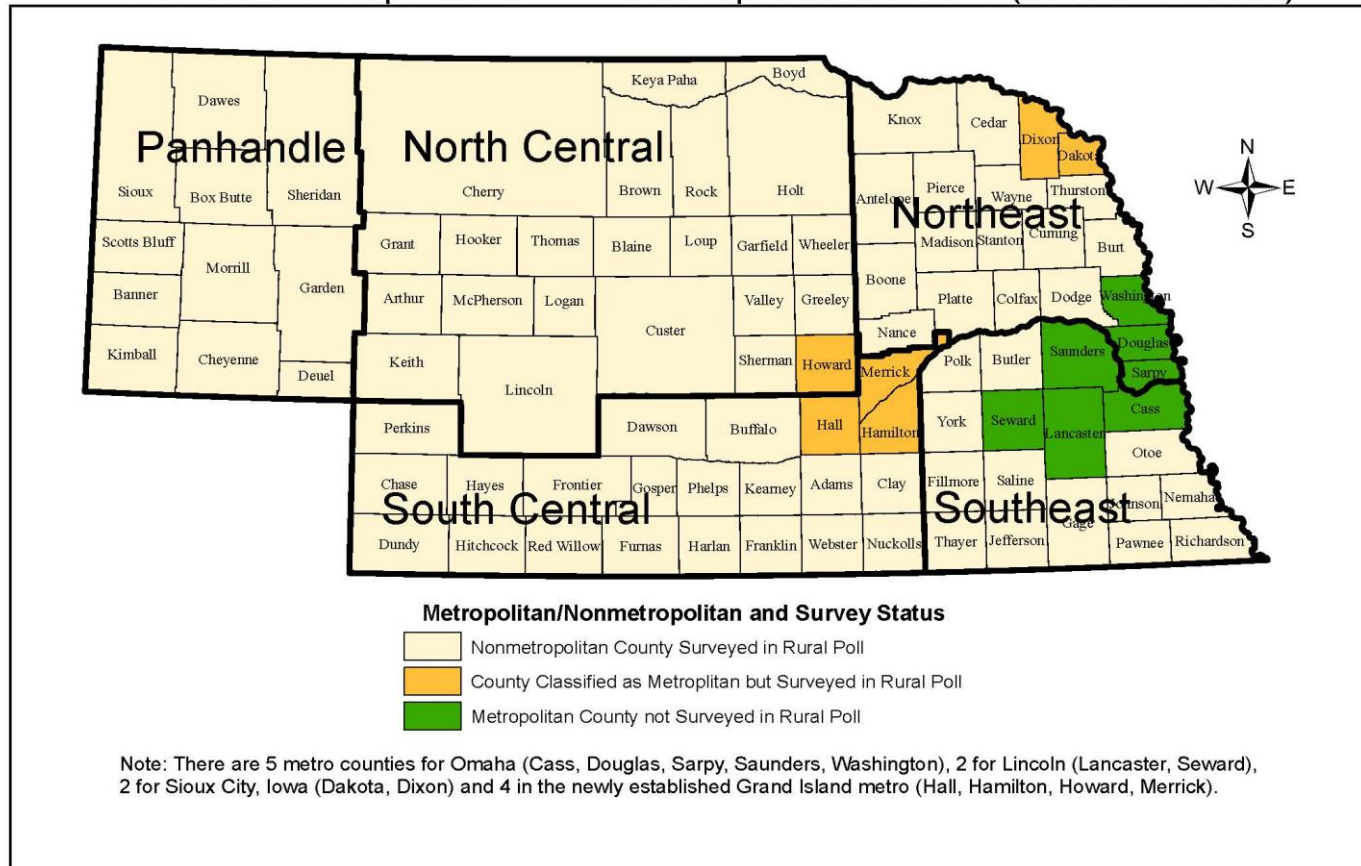
However, the proportion of rural Nebraskans satisfied with many social services and entertainment services has decreased across all nineteen years of the study. Declines in satisfaction levels across all 19 years are seen with nursing home care, medical care services,

senior centers, mental health services, entertainment, retail shopping and restaurants.

Few rural Nebraskans indicate that they are planning to move from their community in the next year. However, most of those who are planning to move expect to leave Nebraska. Most expected movers are planning to move to a larger community than their current one.

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 2009 – 2013 American Community Survey 5 Year Average for Nebraska*

	2015 Poll	2014 Poll	2013 Poll	2012 Poll	2011 Poll	2010 Poll	2009 - 2013 ACS
Age : ²							
20 - 39	31%	32%	31%	31%	31%	32%	31%
40 - 64	45%	46%	44%	44%	44%	44%	45%
65 and over	24%	23%	24%	24%	24%	24%	24%
Gender: ³							
Female	58%	57%	51%	61%	60%	59%	51%
Male	42%	43%	49%	39%	40%	41%	49%
Education: ⁴							
Less than 9 th grade	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	5%
9 th to 12 th grade (no diploma)	2%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	7%
High school diploma (or equiv.)	22%	18%	23%	22%	26%	25%	34%
Some college, no degree	23%	23%	25%	25%	23%	25%	26%
Associate degree	15%	16%	15%	15%	16%	14%	10%
Bachelors degree	24%	24%	22%	24%	19%	20%	13%
Graduate or professional degree	13%	16%	12%	11%	12%	11%	5%
Household Income: ⁵							
Less than \$10,000	5%	5%	5%	6%	6%	6%	6%
\$10,000 - \$19,999	7%	7%	7%	10%	10%	10%	12%
\$20,000 - \$29,999	9%	8%	13%	11%	13%	13%	12%
\$30,000 - \$39,999	9%	14%	10%	10%	14%	12%	12%
\$40,000 - \$49,999	12%	12%	15%	12%	11%	13%	11%
\$50,000 - \$59,999	11%	13%	10%	13%	12%	11%	10%
\$60,000 - \$74,999	15%	13%	11%	14%	12%	13%	11%
\$75,000 or more	32%	29%	29%	25%	22%	23%	26%
Marital Status: ⁶							
Married	68%	68%	70%	70%	66%	71%	62%
Never married	13%	12%	12%	10%	14%	9%	17%
Divorced/separated	10%	12%	9%	11%	11%	11%	12%
Widowed/widower	8%	8%	9%	10%	10%	9%	8%

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

² 2009-2013 American Community Survey universe is non-metro population 20 years of age and over.

³ 2009-2013 American Community Survey universe is non-metro population 20 years of age and over.

⁴ 2009-2013 American Community Survey universe is non-metro population 18 years of age and over.

⁵ 2009-2013 American Community Survey universe is all non-metro households.

⁶ 2009-2013 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

<i>Communities across the nation are undergoing change. When you think about this past year, would you say...</i>				
<i>My community has changed for the</i>				
	<i>Worse</i>	<i>No Change</i>	<i>Better</i>	<i>Significance</i>
Total	18	47	35	
<i>Percentages</i>				
Community Size		(n = 1840)		
Less than 500	26	54	20	
500 - 999	18	55	27	
1,000 - 4,999	17	45	38	$\chi^2 = 62.07^*$ (.000)
5,000 - 9,999	19	42	39	
10,000 and up	15	43	43	
Region		(n = 1880)		
Panhandle	26	46	29	
North Central	15	47	38	
South Central	16	45	40	$\chi^2 = 21.46^*$ (.006)
Northeast	18	50	32	
Southeast	21	47	32	
Income Level		(n = 1721)		
Under \$20,000	23	47	31	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	21	46	33	$\chi^2 = 12.55$ (.051)
\$40,000 - \$59,999	17	43	40	
\$60,000 and over	16	48	37	
Age		(n = 1886)		
19 - 29	13	56	32	
30 - 39	12	45	44	
40 - 49	21	45	34	$\chi^2 = 31.25^*$ (.000)
50 - 64	22	46	32	
65 and older	20	44	36	
Gender		(n = 1851)		
Male	20	45	35	$\chi^2 = 3.94$ (.139)
Female	17	48	35	
Marital Status		(n = 1841)		
Married	18	46	36	
Never married	15	51	35	
Divorced/separated	19	48	33	$\chi^2 = 3.54$ (.738)
Widowed	20	44	36	
Education		(n = 1849)		
H.S. diploma or less	22	49	29	
Some college	19	50	31	$\chi^2 = 33.82^*$ (.000)
Bachelors or grad degree	14	43	43	

<i>Communities across the nation are undergoing change. When you think about this past year, would you say...</i>				
<i>My community has changed for the</i>				
	<u>Worse</u>	<u>No Change</u>	<u>Better</u>	<u>Significance</u>
<u>Occupation</u>		(n = 1355)		
Mgt, prof or education	16	42	42	
Sales or office support	15	53	31	
Constrn, inst or maint	23	38	39	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	22	48	30	
Agriculture	22	49	29	
Food serv/pers. care	24	45	31	
Hlthcare supp/safety	10	50	40	$\chi^2 = 33.10^*$
Other	16	40	44	(.003)
<u>Yrs Lived in Community</u>		(n = 1653)		
Five years or less	9	54	37	$\chi^2 = 18.26^*$
More than five years	19	45	36	(.000)

* 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

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?				
	<u>Worse Place</u>	<u>About the same</u>	<u>Better Place</u>	<u>Significance</u>
	<i>Percentages</i>			
<u>Total</u>	18	56	26	
<u>Community Size</u>		(n = 1841)		
Less than 500	23	65	13	
500 - 999	21	63	16	
1,000 - 4,999	16	58	27	$\chi^2 = 80.98^*$
5,000 - 9,999	20	52	29	(.000)
10,000 and up	16	48	37	
<u>Region</u>		(n = 1877)		
Panhandle	22	60	18	
North Central	15	62	23	
South Central	17	52	32	$\chi^2 = 23.72^*$
Northeast	19	55	26	(.003)
Southeast	18	58	23	
<u>Income Level</u>		(n = 1722)		
Under \$20,000	23	62	15	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	19	59	22	$\chi^2 = 27.50^*$
\$40,000 - \$59,999	16	55	29	(.000)
\$60,000 and over	17	52	31	
<u>Age</u>		(n = 1885)		
19 - 29	8	63	29	
30 - 39	18	45	36	
40 - 49	20	51	29	$\chi^2 = 55.59^*$
50 - 64	21	58	20	(.000)
65 and older	19	58	23	
<u>Gender</u>		(n = 1850)		
Male	17	58	25	$\chi^2 = 3.72$
Female	19	54	27	(.155)
<u>Marital Status</u>		(n = 1842)		
Married	17	55	28	
Never married	13	62	25	
Divorced/separated	23	56	21	$\chi^2 = 14.38^*$
Widowed	19	61	20	(.026)
<u>Education</u>		(n = 1851)		
H.S. diploma or less	20	61	20	
Some college	18	61	22	$\chi^2 = 52.36^*$
Bachelors or grad degree	17	48	36	(.000)

Appendix Table 3 continued.

<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>
<u>Occupation</u>		(n = 1358)		
Mgt, prof or education	17	49	35	
Sales or office support	15	60	25	
Constrn, inst or maint	19	51	30	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	17	70	13	
Agriculture	16	63	21	
Food serv/pers. care	24	55	21	
Hlthcare supp/safety	14	51	35	$\chi^2 = 48.10^*$
Other	31	51	18	(.000)
<u>Yrs Lived in Community</u>		(n = 1653)		
Five years or less	14	46	40	$\chi^2 = 25.21^*$
More than five years	19	57	25	(.000)

* 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>My community is...</i>				<i>My community is...</i>			
	<i>Unfriendly</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Friendly</i>	<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	<i>Distrusting</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Trusting</i>	<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	<i>Hostile</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Supportive</i>	<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>
Total	9	15	76		16	20	64		14	19	67	
	<i>Percentages</i>											
Community Size	(n = 1816)				(n = 1792)				(n = 1789)			
Less than 500	10	10	80		18	15	67		12	16	72	
500 - 999	8	14	78		14	19	67		15	16	70	
1,000 - 4,999	8	16	76	$\chi^2 =$	14	22	64	$\chi^2 =$	14	20	67	$\chi^2 =$
5,000 - 9,999	9	19	72	11.52	15	28	57	18.39*	12	20	68	11.25
10,000 and up	9	16	76	(.174)	18	20	62	(.018)	15	22	63	(.188)
Region	(n = 1852)				(n = 1823)				(n = 1823)			
Panhandle	12	20	68		23	26	52		12	29	58	
North Central	8	11	82		17	14	69		13	13	74	
South Central	10	15	76	$\chi^2 =$	17	18	65	$\chi^2 =$	15	19	67	$\chi^2 =$
Northeast	8	15	77	12.15	14	23	63	23.95*	15	18	68	22.46*
Southeast	10	15	75	(.145)	13	21	65	(.002)	13	21	66	(.004)
Individual Attributes	(n = 1702)				(n = 1679)				(n = 1677)			
<i>Income Level</i>	(n = 1702)				(n = 1679)				(n = 1677)			
Under \$20,000	15	22	63		19	26	55		17	20	63	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	9	19	72	$\chi^2 =$	20	20	60	$\chi^2 =$	16	23	61	$\chi^2 =$
\$40,000 - \$59,999	10	12	78	33.49*	16	19	65	15.47*	15	20	66	16.09*
\$60,000 and over	7	13	81	(.000)	13	20	67	(.017)	12	16	72	(.013)
<i>Age</i>	(n = 1859)				(n = 1829)				(n = 1827)			
19 - 29	6	11	82		17	14	69		10	18	72	
30 - 39	9	14	77		17	18	65		15	20	65	
40 - 49	13	14	73	$\chi^2 =$	18	24	58	$\chi^2 =$	17	18	65	$\chi^2 =$
50 - 64	10	17	73	17.58*	17	23	61	17.05*	15	21	65	10.81
65 and older	7	16	77	(.025)	13	21	66	(.030)	12	19	69	(.213)
<i>Gender</i>	(n = 1826)				(n = 1797)				(n = 1797)			
Male	10	13	77	$\chi^2 =$	15	18	67	$\chi^2 =$	15	16	69	$\chi^2 =$
Female	8	16	76	(.139)	17	22	61	(.065)	14	22	65	(.016)

Appendix Table 4 continued.

	<i>My community is...</i>				<i>My community is...</i>				<i>My community is...</i>			
	<i>Unfriendly</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Friendly</i>	<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	<i>Distrusting</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Trusting</i>	<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	<i>Hostile</i>	<i>No opinion</i>	<i>Supportive</i>	<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>
<i>Marital Status</i>	(n = 1818)				(n = 1786)				(n = 1787)			
Married	9	13	79		15	20	66		14	17	69	
Never married	11	23	66	$\chi^2 =$	19	26	55	$\chi^2 =$	16	28	56	$\chi^2 =$
Divorced/separated	9	19	73	23.35*	18	20	62	11.04	17	20	63	21.92*
Widowed	6	19	75	(.001)	14	21	65	(.087)	9	20	71	(.001)
<i>Education</i>	(n = 1827)				(n = 1799)				(n = 1797)			
H.S. diploma or less	11	21	68	$\chi^2 =$	17	29	55	$\chi^2 =$	16	22	62	$\chi^2 =$
Some college	10	15	75	34.28*	15	21	64	30.31*	11	21	68	15.70*
Bachelors degree	6	12	82	(.000)	16	16	68	(.000)	16	16	69	(.003)
<i>Occupation</i>	(n = 1351)				(n = 1340)				(n = 1343)			
Mgt, prof or education	7	12	81		17	18	66		13	18	69	
Sales or office support	11	14	76		21	22	58		12	23	64	
Constrn, inst or maint	5	22	74		10	23	67		12	18	70	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	15	19	66		21	22	58		12	24	64	
Agriculture	8	10	82	$\chi^2 =$	12	13	75	$\chi^2 =$	9	14	77	$\chi^2 =$
Food serv/pers. care	15	13	72	31.77*	23	23	54	29.89*	15	20	66	22.11
Hlthcare supp/safety	6	17	76	(.004)	16	23	61	(.008)	18	19	63	(.076)
Other	11	21	68		14	33	52		14	33	52	
<i>Yrs Lived in Comm.</i>	(n = 1635)				(n = 1616)				(n = 1614)			
Five years or less	7	12	81	$\chi^2 =$	14	18	69	$\chi^2 =$	15	15	70	$\chi^2 =$
More than five years	9	15	77	2.81	16	21	63	2.96	14	19	67	2.46
				(.246)				(.228)				(.293)

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

Appendix Table 5. 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>			
Entertainment	51	20	29
Retail shopping	49	13	38
Streets and roads	45	8	47
Restaurants	44	11	46
Arts/cultural activities	40	35	26
Quality of housing	36	19	45
Cost of housing	36	19	45
Local government	33	27	40
Public transportation services	33	47	19
Internet service	28	14	58
Community recycling	25	20	55
Cellular phone service	25	12	64
Mental health services	25	52	23
Medical care services	23	15	62
Law enforcement	20	15	64
Nursing home care	18	36	47
Child day care services	15	51	34
Access to higher education (college, technical, etc.)	14	23	63
Education (K - 12)	14	18	69
Parks and recreation	13	11	76
Senior centers	12	39	49
Sewage/waste disposal	12	23	65
Head Start or early childhood education programs	11	50	39
Library services	9	19	73
Religious organizations	5	24	72
Fire protection	4	9	87

* 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 6. Measures of Satisfaction with Ten Services and Amenities in Relation to Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes

	Entertainment			Retail shopping			Streets and roads			Restaurants		
	<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 = 1850)			(n = 1859)			(n = 1846)			(n = 1859)		
Less than 500	48	28	24	49	26	25	44	7	49	45	17	38
500 - 999	55	24	21	50	19	31	47	9	45	49	13	38
1,000 - 4,999	55	22	24	50	15	35	44	6	51	48	11	41
5,000 - 9,999	54	20	26	62	5	33	46	9	45	52	7	40
10,000 and over	48	13	38	44	6	50	46	8	46	35	7	58
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	$\chi^2 = 62.70^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 136.28^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 6.44 (.598)$			$\chi^2 = 71.30^* (.000)$		
Region	(n = 1888)			(n = 1895)			(n = 1885)			(n = 1898)		
Panhandle	59	20	21	57	9	34	60	6	34	43	14	43
North Central	51	22	27	52	11	38	49	6	45	45	11	44
South Central	45	19	36	44	13	44	41	7	52	38	10	52
Northeast	53	19	28	51	12	37	47	8	45	45	9	46
Southeast	53	24	22	48	20	32	36	11	53	50	14	36
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	$\chi^2 = 30.78^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 29.64^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 36.91^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 24.44^* (.002)$		
Income Level	(n = 1735)			(n = 1744)			(n = 1731)			(n = 1744)		
Under \$20,000	57	24	20	49	15	36	45	14	41	44	16	40
\$20,000 - \$39,999	45	23	33	46	14	40	46	9	46	36	18	47
\$40,000 - \$59,999	52	21	27	46	14	40	43	6	51	43	10	48
\$60,000 and over	53	16	31	52	11	37	46	6	47	47	6	47
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	$\chi^2 = 20.54^* (.002)$			$\chi^2 = 8.54 (.201)$			$\chi^2 = 19.27^* (.004)$			$\chi^2 = 47.86^* (.000)$		
Age	(n = 1892)			(n = 1902)			(n = 1889)			(n = 1904)		
19 - 29	54	14	32	43	15	42	45	9	46	37	13	51
30 - 39	53	13	34	53	11	36	45	6	49	46	9	46
40 - 49	61	16	23	53	13	34	49	10	41	48	8	44
50 - 64	53	21	26	54	12	35	46	9	46	48	10	42
65 and over	37	32	31	41	15	44	41	6	53	38	14	48
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	$\chi^2 = 80.91^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 24.90^* (.002)$			$\chi^2 = 14.97 (.060)$			$\chi^2 = 24.26^* (.002)$		
Education	(n = 1861)			(n = 1869)			(n = 1857)			(n = 1870)		
H.S. diploma or less	48	28	25	43	19	38	46	10	44	38	14	48
Some college	55	20	25	53	13	35	51	8	42	47	12	41
College grad	50	16	35	49	10	41	39	6	55	45	7	48
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	$\chi^2 = 36.88^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 27.60^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 30.92^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 24.34^* (.000)$		
Occupation	(n = 1370)			(n = 1379)			(n = 1374)			(n = 1375)		
Mgt, prof, education	52	14	34	51	11	37	41	5	54	47	6	47
Sales/office support	46	18	35	47	13	40	46	8	46	42	9	49
Const, inst or maint	52	25	23	49	17	35	44	5	51	43	16	41
Prodn/trans/warehs	53	18	30	45	14	41	57	10	33	46	11	44
Agriculture	40	27	33	37	21	42	41	8	51	34	17	49
Food serv/pers. care	69	22	10	58	14	28	48	9	42	38	23	39
Hlthcare supp/safety	67	8	25	61	8	31	58	4	38	51	8	41
Other	57	27	16	52	14	34	44	11	44	42	9	49
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	$\chi^2 = 72.17^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 34.68^* (.002)$			$\chi^2 = 36.07^* (.001)$			$\chi^2 = 44.25^* (.000)$		

* 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 6 continued.

	<i>Arts/cultural activities</i>			<i>Cost of housing</i>			<i>Quality of housing</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>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 = 1853)			(n = 1854)			(n = 1847)			(n = 1856)		
Less than 500	39	45	17	18	24	58	35	22	44	31	27	42
500 - 999	49	39	13	27	23	50	42	21	37	37	22	40
1,000 - 4,999	43	35	22	31	22	47	33	21	45	30	30	40
5,000 - 9,999	40	27	33	41	20	39	35	20	45	38	28	34
10,000 and over	36	30	35	50	11	39	37	14	49	33	25	42
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	$\chi^2 = 78.43^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 126.72^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 19.73^* (.011)$			$\chi^2 = 12.59 (.127)$		
Region	(n = 1892)			(n = 1895)			(n = 1884)			(n = 1893)		
Panhandle	39	35	26	37	21	42	41	21	39	36	33	31
North Central	41	35	24	37	19	43	38	22	40	30	23	47
South Central	38	30	31	42	17	41	36	20	44	33	24	43
Northeast	40	37	22	37	17	46	37	15	48	35	27	38
Southeast	42	37	21	21	22	57	29	20	51	32	28	40
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	$\chi^2 = 18.97^* (.015)$			$\chi^2 = 40.15^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 18.64^* (.017)$			$\chi^2 = 18.39^* (.018)$		
Income Level	(n = 1742)			(n = 1739)			(n = 1734)			(n = 1739)		
Under \$20,000	39	39	22	41	34	25	29	35	35	43	30	28
\$20,000 - \$39,999	33	43	25	40	19	41	38	19	43	33	30	37
\$40,000 - \$59,999	43	33	25	34	18	48	34	18	48	32	29	40
\$60,000 and over	43	29	28	36	12	52	38	14	48	32	23	46
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	$\chi^2 = 23.39^* (.001)$			$\chi^2 = 74.17^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 50.93^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 27.11^* (.000)$		
Age	(n = 1897)			(n = 1898)			(n = 1890)			(n = 1900)		
19 - 29	47	34	19	39	18	43	39	20	41	32	37	32
30 - 39	44	31	26	42	10	48	38	15	47	32	29	39
40 - 49	47	31	22	40	14	46	41	16	43	38	26	37
50 - 64	41	33	26	37	19	44	39	18	42	36	24	40
65 and over	26	41	32	26	28	46	24	24	53	28	22	50
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	$\chi^2 = 51.60^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 54.95^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 42.94^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 41.02^* (.000)$		
Education	(n = 1865)			(n = 1867)			(n = 1858)			(n = 1864)		
H.S. diploma or less	31	50	19	35	27	38	31	26	43	36	30	35
Some college	43	34	23	35	20	45	35	20	45	40	26	34
College grad	43	25	31	37	13	51	41	13	47	25	25	51
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	$\chi^2 = 79.71^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 40.62^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 36.49^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 57.24^* (.000)$		
Occupation	(n = 1376)			(n = 1372)			(n = 1366)			(n = 1371)		
Mgt, prof, education	41	26	33	38	10	52	41	11	47	29	25	47
Sales/office support	35	39	26	37	16	47	38	19	43	35	25	40
Const, inst or maint	36	41	23	32	20	48	32	15	53	33	31	36
Prodn/trans/warehs	40	43	17	51	14	35	40	19	41	46	30	25
Agriculture	30	48	23	19	29	52	28	32	40	24	26	50
Food serv/pers. care	51	37	12	54	21	25	36	28	36	45	35	21
Hlthcare supp/safety	69	17	14	44	12	44	46	11	43	43	29	29
Other	48	39	14	32	23	46	41	23	36	29	42	29
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>	$\chi^2 = 122.47^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 87.07^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 59.83^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 61.83^* (.000)$		

* 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 6 continued.

	<i>Public transportation services</i>			<i>Internet service</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 = 1851)			(n = 1848)	
Less than 500	33	58	9	29	13	58
500 - 999	34	54	12	36	19	46
1,000 - 4,999	28	55	17	26	14	60
5,000 - 9,999	30	44	27	24	17	60
10,000 and over	39	37	24	30	11	59
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>		$\chi^2 = 83.44^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 23.90^* (.002)$	
Region		(n = 1889)			(n = 1886)	
Panhandle	42	36	22	30	13	57
North Central	21	49	30	24	11	66
South Central	34	48	19	28	15	56
Northeast	35	50	15	32	14	54
Southeast	35	48	17	25	16	59
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>		$\chi^2 = 49.03^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 14.27 (.075)$	
Income Level		(n = 1740)			(n = 1734)	
Under \$20,000	36	41	23	23	30	47
\$20,000 - \$39,999	34	45	21	30	18	53
\$40,000 - \$59,999	34	46	20	31	11	58
\$60,000 and over	34	49	17	30	9	61
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>		$\chi^2 = 6.94 (.326)$			$\chi^2 = 68.97^* (.000)$	
Age		(n = 1893)			(n = 1892)	
19 - 29	39	49	11	33	8	59
30 - 39	35	48	17	34	9	57
40 - 49	33	52	15	33	10	57
50 - 64	34	47	19	29	14	57
65 and over	27	43	30	17	25	58
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>		$\chi^2 = 53.91^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 86.00^* (.000)$	
Education		(n = 1861)			(n = 1858)	
H.S. diploma or less	25	50	25	23	25	52
Some college	36	45	19	30	12	57
College grad	36	49	15	31	9	61
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>		$\chi^2 = 31.14^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 65.51^* (.000)$	
Occupation		(n = 1371)			(n = 1370)	
Mgt, prof, education	33	52	16	35	8	58
Sales/office support	39	43	18	22	14	64
Const, inst or maint	30	54	16	32	10	58
Prodn/trans/warehs	39	45	16	26	16	58
Agriculture	20	66	14	25	14	61
Food serv/pers. care	28	49	22	23	19	58
Hlthcare supp/safety	51	30	19	38	6	56
Other	48	36	16	36	7	57
<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>		$\chi^2 = 65.74^* (.000)$			$\chi^2 = 36.78^* (.001)$	

* 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. 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.)
Total	30	15	55	
	<i>Percentages</i>			
Community Size		(n = 1853)		
Less than 500	22	14	63	
500 - 999	28	17	55	
1,000 - 4,999	29	14	57	
5,000 - 9,999	31	14	55	$\chi^2 = 21.20^*$
10,000 and up	34	17	49	(.007)
Region		(n = 1891)		
Panhandle	34	13	53	
North Central	24	21	55	
South Central	31	16	53	
Northeast	31	14	55	$\chi^2 = 16.58^*$
Southeast	27	12	61	(.035)
Income Level		(n = 1734)		
Under \$20,000	34	14	52	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	31	22	46	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	29	16	55	$\chi^2 = 20.36^*$
\$60,000 and over	30	13	57	(.002)
Age		(n = 1898)		
19 - 29	26	17	58	
30 - 39	35	16	50	
40 - 49	32	11	58	
50 - 64	36	15	49	$\chi^2 = 34.43^*$
65 and older	22	17	61	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1862)		
Male	32	14	54	$\chi^2 = 2.53$
Female	29	16	56	(.282)
Marital Status		(n = 1851)		
Married	28	15	58	
Never married	36	19	45	
Divorced/separated	44	15	41	$\chi^2 = 38.43^*$
Widowed	21	16	63	(.000)
Education		(n = 1863)		
H.S. diploma or less	27	18	55	
Some college	31	17	52	$\chi^2 = 15.43^*$
Bachelors degree	31	11	58	(.004)
Occupation		(n = 1367)		
Mgt, prof, education	33	12	56	
Sales/office support	26	15	59	
Const, inst or maint	31	20	50	
Prodn/trans/warehs	36	20	44	
Agriculture	17	12	72	
Food serv/pers. care	25	17	58	
Hlthcare supp/safety	38	15	47	$\chi^2 = 48.65^*$
Other	46	7	48	(.000)
Yrs Lived in Comm.		(n = 1664)		
Five years or less	35	16	49	$\chi^2 = 6.04^*$
More than five years	28	16	56	(.049)

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

Appendix Table 8. 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	61	22	17	
Community Size		(n = 1836)		
Less than 500	58	19	23	
500 - 999	53	27	21	
1,000 - 4,999	65	24	12	
5,000 - 9,999	66	17	17	$\chi^2 = 31.29^*$
10,000 and up	64	22	15	(.000)
Region		(n = 1875)		
Panhandle	60	22	18	
North Central	64	20	16	
South Central	61	21	18	
Northeast	62	23	15	$\chi^2 = 4.21$
Southeast	60	25	15	(.837)
Income Level		(n = 1719)		
Under \$20,000	49	31	20	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	57	21	22	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	65	18	17	$\chi^2 = 33.75^*$
\$60,000 and over	67	21	13	(.000)
Age		(n = 1879)		
19 - 29	60	27	14	
30 - 39	67	16	17	
40 - 49	61	25	14	
50 - 64	63	19	18	$\chi^2 = 21.69^*$
65 and older	56	25	19	(.006)
Gender		(n = 1847)		
Male	63	18	20	$\chi^2 = 18.82^*$
Female	61	25	14	(.000)
Marital Status		(n = 1838)		
Married	62	21	17	
Never married	64	23	13	
Divorced/separated	59	25	16	$\chi^2 = 7.46$
Widowed	55	28	16	(.280)
Education		(n = 1846)		
H.S. diploma or less	46	30	24	
Some college	58	24	19	$\chi^2 = 111.12^*$
Bachelors degree	76	15	10	(.000)
Occupation		(n = 1353)		
Mgt, prof, education	70	19	11	
Sales/office support	58	22	20	
Const, inst or maint	57	23	20	
Prodn/trans/warehs	53	24	23	
Agriculture	70	13	17	
Food serv/pers. care	45	35	20	
Hlthcare supp/safety	69	23	7	$\chi^2 = 58.45^*$
Other	52	21	27	(.000)
Yrs Lived in Comm.		(n = 1649)		
Five years or less	66	21	13	$\chi^2 = 1.96$
More than five years	63	22	16	(.375)

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

Appendix Table 9. Plans to Leave Community by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes

	<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>
Do you plan to move from your community in the next year?						
Total	1	2	4	84	10	
Community Size		(n = 1846)				
Less than 500	1	2	3	85	10	
500 - 999	1	3	2	81	13	
1,000 - 4,999	1	2	4	87	7	
5,000 - 9,999	1	0	2	89	9	$\chi^2 = 26.68^*$
10,000 and up	1	3	5	81	10	(.045)
Region		(n = 1883)				
Panhandle	0	1	7	80	12	
North Central	1	2	3	88	7	
South Central	1	3	3	83	10	
Northeast	1	2	3	84	9	$\chi^2 = 20.10$
Southeast	1	1	3	86	9	(.216)
Income Level		(n = 1728)				
Under \$20,000	1	2	8	74	15	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	2	3	2	83	11	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	1	3	4	83	10	$\chi^2 = 28.90^*$
\$60,000 and over	1	2	4	86	8	(.004)
Age		(n = 1888)				
19 - 29	1	6	3	82	8	
30 - 39	2	4	6	79	10	
40 - 49	0	1	4	84	11	
50 - 64	1	1	3	84	11	$\chi^2 = 55.76^*$
65 and older	1	1	2	89	7	(.000)
Gender		(n = 1853)				
Male	1	2	4	83	10	$\chi^2 = 4.98$
Female	1	2	3	84	10	(.290)
Marital Status		(n = 1843)				
Married	0.4	3	2	88	7	
Never married	3	2	6	73	16	
Divorced/separated	1	2	8	73	16	$\chi^2 = 75.69^*$
Widowed	1	1	3	85	11	(.000)
Education		(n = 1853)				
H.S. diploma or less	1	1	3	84	12	
Some college	1	2	4	84	10	$\chi^2 = 15.35$
Bachelors degree	1	4	4	84	8	(.053)
Occupation		(n = 1367)				
Mgt, prof, education	1	3	3	83	9	
Sales/office support	1	1	2	89	7	
Const, inst or maint	0	4	6	77	13	
Prodn/trans/warehs	1	0	6	86	8	
Agriculture	2	3	2	88	6	
Food serv/pers. care	0	1	7	83	8	
Hlthcare supp/safety	1	3	5	80	11	$\chi^2 = 28.61$
Other	0	4	4	80	11	(.432)
Yrs Lived in Comm.		(n = 1658)				
Five years or less	2	6	3	77	12	$\chi^2 = 35.43^*$
More than five years	0.4	2	3	86	9	(.000)

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

Appendix Table 10. 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	61	20	19	
Community Size		(n = 121)		
Less than 500	75	13	13	
500 - 999	60	7	33	
1,000 - 4,999	61	7	32	
5,000 - 9,999	40**	40**	20**	$\chi^2 = 16.26^*$
10,000 and up	58	32	11	(.039)
Region		(n = 122)		
Panhandle	73	13	13	
North Central	47	13	40	
South Central	64	13	22	
Northeast	49	36	15	$\chi^2 = 14.01$
Southeast	79	14	7	(.081)
Income Level		(n = 119)		
Under \$20,000	84	5	11	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	86	0	14	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	50	37	13	$\chi^2 = 20.60^*$
\$60,000 and over	47	25	29	(.002)
Age		(n = 122)		
19 - 29	50	38	13	
30 - 39	71	10	19	
40 - 49	64	21	14	
50 - 64	48	21	31	$\chi^2 = 15.91^*$
65 and older	81	0	19	(.044)
Gender		(n = 121)		
Male	50	21	29	$\chi^2 = 5.99$
Female	69	19	12	(.050)
Education		(n = 120)		
H.S. diploma or less	68	27	5	
Some college	59	13	28	$\chi^2 = 5.80$
Bachelors degree	59	20	20	(.215)
Occupation		(n = 101)		
Mgt, prof, education	69	14	17	
Sales/office support	67**	17**	17**	
Const, inst or maint	36	36	27	
Prodn/trans/warehs	63**	25**	13**	
Agriculture	33	17	50	
Food serv/pers. care	71**	0**	29**	
Hlthcare supp/safety	56	33	11	$\chi^2 = 14.68$
Other	50	25	25	(.401)
Yrs Lived in Comm.		(n = 100)		
Five years or less	42	36	23	$\chi^2 = 6.54^*$
More than five years	65	15	20	(.038)
Where Plan to Move		(n = 121)		
Lincoln/Omaha area	100	0	0	
Someplace else in NE	38	41	21	$\chi^2 = 26.04^*$
Someplace outside NE	67	11	22	(.000)

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

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