

# New Mover Studies: Dickinson County

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## Findings

This report highlights the findings and experiences of Dickinson County respondents who were included in a survey of nonmetropolitan movers in Iowa.<sup>1</sup> The purpose of the study is to better understand the decisions and thoughts of people who have moved and what they think about the communities and areas where they have lived. With increased understanding about why people move, community leaders may be able to develop actionable strategies for attracting and retaining population.<sup>2</sup>

Ninety-five respondents from Dickinson County participated in the survey, 44 who moved into the county, 35 who moved out, and 16 who moved within the county but changed zipcode (Table 1). In many respects, the Dickinson County

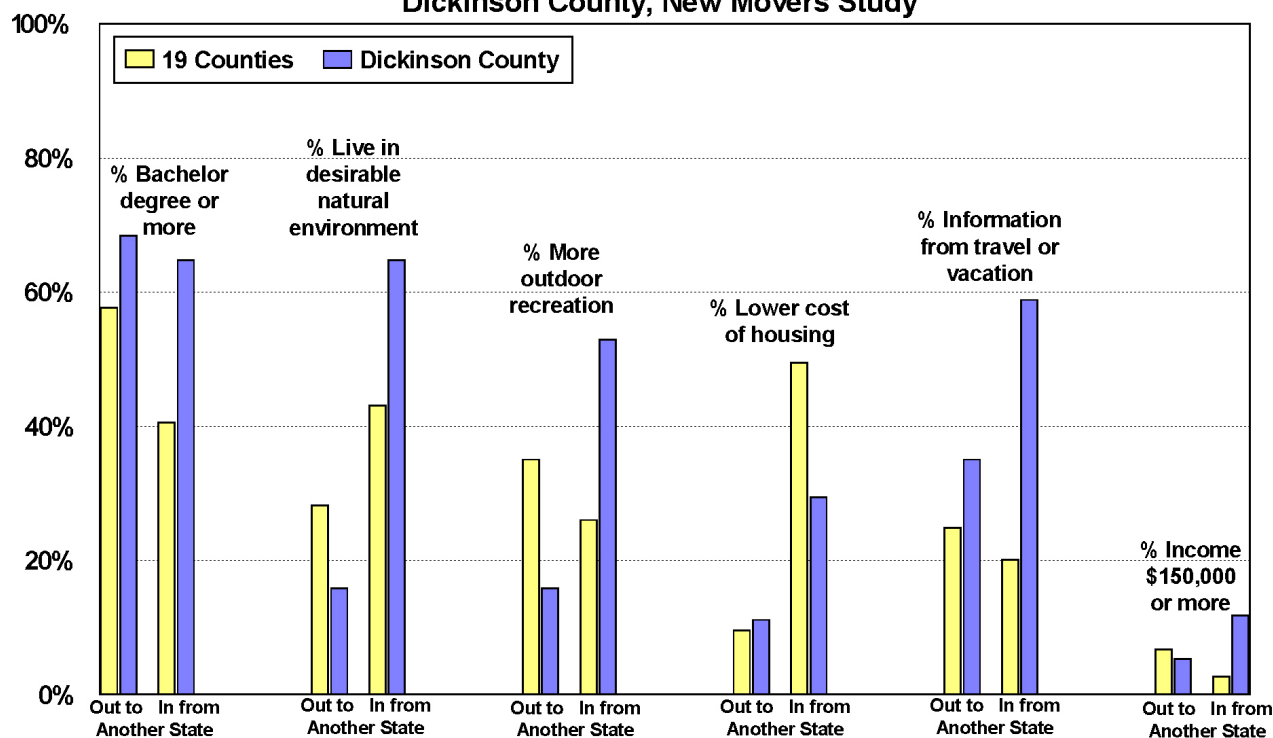
participants shared similar characteristics and responses with the overall set of respondents, but in some aspects there were differences.

The Dickinson movers had an age profile similar to the overall set of movers but differences emerged for the older respondents. For most areas in the study, a higher proportion of movers age 70 or older moved into the counties than moved out, however, the reverse was evident for Dickinson. More than a fourth of those who left Dickinson County for other areas of Iowa were 70 or older and none of the movers coming to Dickinson from other states was of that age (Tables 1, 5). Somewhat more of the Dickinson movers were female than was the case among the total movers and a higher proportion of the participants coming to Dickinson County were married than for

those overall. Seventy-five percent of the respondents moving to Dickinson said they were married including 88 percent of those who came from other states (Tables 1, 5). In contrast, a relatively high proportion (21%) of those leaving Dickinson for other counties in Iowa were widowed. Across most of the mover categories, the Dickinson movers were more likely to have college bachelor degrees than the movers overall. Nearly two-thirds or more of the state to state movers for Dickinson County reported bachelor degrees (Tables 1, 5; Figure 1).

Reasons for moving varied among the respondents, but generally fell into those related to work, family, community, or housing. The respondents who left Dickinson County to go to another state were much more likely than those coming

**Figure 1: Selected Demographic, Moving Decision, and Satisfaction Factors, Dickinson County, New Movers Study**



Source: Community Vitality Center, New Movers Study

	Type and Direction of Move							
	Total	Moved Out Of County	Moved Into County	Within County, Different Zipcode	Out To Different Iowa County	In From Different Iowa County	Out To Another State	In From Another State
Number of respondents	95	35	44	16	15	27	20	17
Median age in years	47.0	44.0	50.0	43.0	55.0	50.0	38.0	53.0
Selected age categories	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
% Age 25 – 34	18.3	22.9	11.9	25.0	6.7	11.1	35.0	13.3
% Age 70 or older	12.9	17.1	7.1	18.8	26.7	11.1	10.0	0.0
Gender	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
% Male	48.4	48.6	50.0	43.8	33.3	48.1	60.0	52.9
% Female	51.6	51.4	50.0	56.3	66.7	51.9	40.0	47.1
Marital status	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
% Never married	11.8	18.2	6.8	12.5	14.3	7.4	21.1	5.9
% Married	67.7	57.6	75.0	68.8	57.1	66.7	57.9	88.2
% Divorced or separated	14.0	12.1	13.7	18.8	7.1	22.2	15.8	0.0
% Widowed	6.5	12.1	4.5	0.0	21.4	3.7	5.3	5.9
Highest level of education completed	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
% Less than high school graduate	1.1	0.0	0.0	6.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
% High school graduate or equivalent	10.8	8.8	9.3	18.8	20.0	3.8	0.0	17.6
% Some college or vocational training	30.1	35.3	30.2	18.8	46.7	42.3	26.3	11.8
% Associate degree	10.8	8.8	9.3	18.8	13.3	11.5	5.3	5.9
% Bachelor degree or more	47.3	47.0	51.2	37.6	20.0	42.3	68.4	64.7
Most important reason for moving								
Number of reasons <sup>1</sup>	128	50	54	24	22	33	28	21
Type of reason	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Work, income, education, retirement	35.2	42.0	37.0	16.7	31.8	36.4	50.0	38.1
Family, friends, health	18.8	18.0	25.9	4.2	27.3	27.3	10.7	23.8
Community, services, amenities	29.7	34.0	27.8	25.0	31.8	30.3	35.7	23.8
Housing	14.1	6.0	5.6	50.0	9.1	0.0	3.6	14.3
Other	2.3	0.0	3.7	4.2	0.0	6.1	0.0	0.0

<sup>1</sup>Number of reasons exceeds number of respondents because some respondents gave more than one reason.

New Mover Studies: Dickinson County

Table 2. Factors in Moving Decision by Type and Direction of Move.

	Type and Direction of Move							
	Total	Moved Out Of County	Moved Into County	Within County, Different Zipcode	Out To Different Iowa County	In From Different Iowa County	Out To Another State	In From Another State
	% Yes <sup>1</sup>	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes
Number of respondents	95	35	44	16	15	27	20	17
Factors in Moving Decision								
Moved, commuted, same employer	14.9	9.7	14.3	28.6	16.7	16.0	5.3	11.8
Job transfer by employer to location	11.5	12.9	11.9	7.1	0.0	8.0	21.1	17.6
Laid off from previous job	5.7	12.9	2.4	0.0	8.3	0.0	15.8	5.9
New job with new employer	31.4	41.9	34.1	0.0	33.3	44.0	47.4	18.8
Moved to look for new job or work	17.2	25.8	11.9	14.3	16.7	16.0	31.6	5.9
Retired from previous employment	18.0	15.6	19.0	20.0	15.4	16.0	15.8	23.5
To be nearer parents	22.7	18.8	33.3	0.0	23.1	32.0	15.8	35.3
To be nearer children	15.4	23.5	11.6	7.1	35.7	19.2	15.0	0.0
To live with spouse or partner	16.7	3.0	27.9	14.2	7.1	30.8	0.0	23.5
To be nearer siblings, other relatives	30.8	27.3	38.6	14.3	35.7	37.0	21.1	41.2
To be nearer friends, acquaintances	24.2	27.3	25.0	14.3	21.4	25.9	31.6	23.5
Change in marital status	13.3	9.1	16.3	14.3	14.3	19.2	5.3	11.8
Place easier find spouse or partner	8.9	21.2	2.3	0.0	14.3	3.8	26.3	0.0
Decline in health	6.7	15.2	2.3	0.0	21.4	0.0	10.5	5.9
Take care aging parents	6.7	6.1	9.3	0.0	7.1	0.0	5.3	23.5
Find less congested place to live	29.7	29.4	27.9	35.7	53.3	11.5	10.5	52.9
Find safer place to live	22.5	18.2	28.6	14.3	42.9	20.0	0.0	41.2
Live in desirable natural environment	44.4	24.2	65.1	28.6	35.7	65.4	15.8	64.7
More outdoor recreation	43.3	21.2	67.4	21.4	28.6	76.9	15.8	52.9
Find arts, entertainment, cultural	28.6	41.2	25.6	7.1	26.7	30.8	52.6	17.6
Find simpler pace of life	40.2	37.1	48.8	21.4	60.0	38.5	20.0	64.7
Find more exciting lifestyle	25.8	31.3	30.2	0.0	23.1	38.5	36.8	17.6
Live someplace new, have fresh start	38.9	36.4	39.5	42.9	50.0	38.5	26.3	41.2
Lower cost of housing	27.8	31.3	20.9	40.0	57.1	15.4	11.1	29.4
Have lower taxes	27.8	25.0	25.6	40.0	30.8	23.1	21.1	29.4
Have better internet, tv, phone	8.9	15.2	7.0	0.0	28.6	11.5	5.3	0.0
Find better quality local schools	14.6	12.1	19.0	7.1	14.3	16.0	10.5	23.5
Opportunities children to achieve	20.0	15.2	25.6	14.3	21.4	23.1	10.5	29.4
Have more ethnic diversity	12.2	30.3	2.3	0.0	14.3	0.0	42.1	5.9
Have less ethnic diversity	3.4	3.1	4.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.3	11.8

<sup>1</sup> Respondents could respond "Yes" to more than one factor.

New Mover Studies: Dickinson County											
Table 3. Lived in Area Previously, Sources of Information, Ease of Finding Housing, and Household Income by Type and Direction of Move.											
	Type and Direction of Move										
	Total	Moved Out Of County	Moved Into County	Within County, Different Zipcode	Out To Different Iowa County	In From Different Iowa County	Out To Another State	In From Another State			
Number of respondents	95	35	44	16	15	27	20	17			
Previously had lived:	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes			% Yes
In current state	79.3	66.7	81.8	100.0	100.0	100.0	38.9	52.9			
In current county	45.0	44.4	27.5	100.0	53.8	25.9	35.7	30.8			
In or near current city/town	39.2	40.7	25.6	76.9	46.2	23.1	35.7	30.8			
Used source of information for move	% Yes <sup>1</sup>	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes			% Yes
Internet	34.7	31.4	36.4	37.5	13.3	25.9	45.0	52.9			
TV, magazines, newspapers	31.6	34.3	29.5	31.3	26.7	18.5	40.0	47.1			
Current community resident	30.5	34.3	27.3	31.3	20.0	22.2	45.0	35.3			
Employer or co-workers	25.3	25.7	31.8	6.3	6.7	37.0	40.0	23.5			
Friends and acquaintances	42.1	45.7	45.5	25.0	40.0	51.9	50.0	35.3			
Family	36.8	31.4	40.9	37.5	46.7	40.7	20.0	41.2			
Travel or vacation to new location	27.4	25.7	38.6	0.0	13.3	25.9	35.0	58.8			
Attended school or college there	3.2	5.7	2.3	0.0	6.7	3.7	5.0	0.0			
Ease of finding housing at new location	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%			%
Very difficult (1)	8.6	2.9	11.6	12.5	6.7	7.7	0.0	17.6			
Somewhat difficult (2)	24.7	23.5	23.3	31.3	6.7	23.1	36.8	23.5			
Neither difficult or easy (3)	14.0	14.7	16.3	6.3	26.7	11.5	5.3	23.5			
Somewhat easy (4)	21.5	17.6	23.3	25.0	20.0	26.9	15.8	17.6			
Very easy (5)	31.2	41.2	25.6	25.0	40.0	30.8	42.1	17.6			
Average rating finding housing (1 – 5)	3.42	3.71	3.28	3.19	3.80	3.50	3.63	2.94			
Household income for 2004	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%			%
Less than \$20,000 (1)	6.4	5.9	6.8	6.3	13.3	11.1	0.0	0.0			
\$20,000 - \$34,999 (2)	29.8	29.4	22.7	50.0	40.0	29.6	21.1	11.8			
\$35,000 - \$49,999 (3)	14.9	17.6	15.9	6.3	20.0	22.2	15.8	5.9			
\$50,000 - \$69,999 (4)	16.0	17.6	11.4	25.0	13.3	11.1	21.1	11.8			
\$70,000 - \$99,999 (5)	19.1	20.6	22.7	6.3	13.3	18.5	26.3	29.4			
\$100,000 - \$149,999 (6)	8.5	5.9	13.6	0.0	0.0	3.7	10.5	29.4			
\$150,000 or more (7)	5.3	2.9	6.8	6.3	0.0	3.7	5.3	11.8			
Average income category (1 – 7)	3.59	3.47	3.89	3.00	2.73	3.22	4.05	4.94			

<sup>1</sup> Respondents could respond “Yes” to more than one source.

		Type and Direction of Move								
		Moved Out Of County	Moved Into County	Within County, Different Zipcode	Out To Different Iowa County	In From Different Iowa County	Out To Another State	In From Another State		
Total		95	35	44	16	15	27	20	17	
Number of respondents		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Current location income compared with previous location income		9.0	15.2	7.3	0.0	21.4	8.0	10.5	6.3	
Significantly lower income (1)		12.4	0.0	22.0	13.3	0.0	16.0	0.0	31.3	
Somewhat lower income (2)		41.6	30.3	39.0	73.3	28.6	40.0	31.6	37.5	
About same income (3)		27.0	42.4	22.0	6.7	35.7	24.0	47.4	18.8	
Somewhat higher income (4)		10.1	12.1	9.8	6.7	14.3	12.0	10.5	6.3	
Significantly higher income (5)		3.17	3.36	3.05	3.07	3.21	3.16	3.47	2.88	
Average comparison income (1 – 5)		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Satisfaction with previous location		10.5	8.6	15.9	0.0	13.3	18.5	5.0	11.8	
Very dissatisfied (1)		16.8	11.4	25.0	6.3	20.0	25.9	5.0	23.5	
Somewhat dissatisfied (2)		16.8	25.7	9.1	18.8	26.7	11.1	25.0	5.9	
Neither dissatisfied or satisfied (3)		27.4	22.9	22.7	50.0	13.3	14.8	30.0	35.3	
Somewhat satisfied (4)		28.4	31.4	27.3	25.0	26.7	29.6	35.0	23.5	
Very satisfied (5)		3.46	3.57	3.20	3.94	3.20	3.11	3.85	3.35	
Average satisfaction previous (1 – 5)		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Satisfaction with current location		5.4	3.0	6.8	6.3	6.7	7.4	0.0	5.9	
Very dissatisfied (1)		4.3	6.1	2.3	6.3	6.7	3.7	5.6	0.0	
Somewhat dissatisfied (2)		4.3	6.1	2.3	6.3	6.7	0.0	5.6	5.9	
Neither dissatisfied or satisfied (3)		30.1	27.3	31.8	31.3	33.3	25.9	22.2	41.2	
Somewhat satisfied (4)		55.9	57.6	56.8	50.0	46.7	63.0	66.7	47.1	
Very satisfied (5)		4.27	4.30	4.30	4.12	4.07	4.33	4.50	4.24	
Average satisfaction current (1 – 5)		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Would do move over again		2.1	5.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.0	0.0	
Definitely not (1)		5.3	2.9	2.3	18.8	0.0	0.0	5.0	5.9	
Probably not (2)		8.4	8.6	9.1	6.3	6.7	11.1	10.0	5.9	
Undecided (3)		35.8	28.6	34.1	56.3	33.3	37.0	25.0	29.4	
Probably yes (4)		48.4	54.3	54.5	18.8	60.0	51.9	50.0	58.8	
Definitely yes (5)		4.23	4.23	4.41	3.75	4.53	4.41	4.00	4.41	
Average rating do move over (1 – 5)		Community Vitality Center, Iowa State University, Ames, IA								

New Mover Studies: 19 County Overall Findings

Table 5. Age, Gender, Marital Status, Education, and Most Important Reason for Moving by Type and Direction of Move.

	Type and Direction of Move							
	Total	Moved Out Of County	Moved Into County	Within County, Different Zipcode	Out To Different Iowa County	In From Different Iowa County	Out To Another State	In From Another State
Number of respondents	737	327	366	85	206	207	121	159
Median age in years	46.0	42.0	48.0	45.0	43.0	44.0	41.0	53.5
Selected age categories	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
% Age 25 – 34	21.3	22.0	18.9	24.7	20.9	21.7	24.0	15.1
% Age 70 or older	13.2	9.8	14.5	20.0	10.2	12.6	9.1	17.0
Gender	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
% Male	54.5	57.7	50.4	54.8	54.6	46.1	63.0	56.1
% Female	45.5	42.3	49.6	45.2	45.4	53.9	37.0	43.9
Marital status	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
% Never married	12.0	15.8	8.6	10.7	13.8	10.8	19.3	5.7
% Married	62.4	61.8	61.9	64.3	60.1	57.4	64.7	67.7
% Divorced or separated	16.3	13.3	20.5	14.3	16.8	25.0	7.6	14.5
% Widowed	9.4	9.0	9.1	10.7	9.4	6.9	8.4	12.0
Highest level of education completed	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
% Less than high school graduate	5.1	5.8	4.1	7.2	6.8	3.5	4.2	5.0
% High school graduate or equivalent	17.3	16.7	16.3	25.0	20.0	17.6	11.0	14.6
% Some college or vocational training	28.3	26.0	30.3	28.6	31.2	29.3	16.9	31.6
% Associate degree	10.6	11.8	10.7	9.5	12.7	12.7	10.2	8.2
% Bachelor degree or more	38.8	39.7	38.5	29.8	29.3	37.0	57.6	40.5
Most important reason for moving								
Number of reasons <sup>1</sup>	1,011	458	498	115	289	288	169	210
Type of reason	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Work, income, retirement, education	38.4	47.2	36.5	15.7	45.0	36.1	50.9	37.1
Family, friends, health	22.3	18.1	27.5	13.9	20.8	23.3	13.6	33.3
Community, services, amenities	22.0	22.0	21.9	19.1	18.0	21.2	29.0	22.9
Housing	15.7	10.5	12.4	50.4	13.8	17.0	4.7	6.2
Other	1.6	2.2	1.6	0.9	2.3	2.3	1.8	0.5

<sup>1</sup>Number of reasons exceeds number of respondents because some respondents gave more than one reason.

New Mover Studies: 19 County Overall Findings  
 Table 6. Factors in Moving Decision by Type and Direction of Move.

	Type and Direction of Move							
	Total	Moved Out Of County	Moved Into County	Within County, Different Zipcode	Out To Different Iowa County	In From Different Iowa County	Out To Another State	In From Another State
Number of respondents	737	327	366	85	206	207	121	159
Factors in Moving Decision	% Yes <sup>1</sup>	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes
Moved, commuted, same employer	14.2	12.6	13.3	28.8	16.7	18.8	5.5	6.4
Job transfer by employer to location	7.6	9.8	7.1	1.3	7.8	4.0	13.4	11.0
Laid off from previous job	4.9	7.9	3.4	0.0	8.3	3.1	7.1	3.9
New job with new employer	26.7	34.3	24.7	3.8	29.7	25.6	42.1	23.5
Moved to look for new job or work	16.5	19.4	15.9	5.0	15.0	13.6	27.0	18.8
Retired from previous employment	14.4	11.1	16.9	12.2	10.8	14.6	11.7	19.9
To be nearer parents	23.7	21.0	30.5	7.5	19.7	30.2	23.1	30.9
To be nearer children	20.1	21.3	22.3	7.4	24.4	19.7	16.0	25.6
To live with spouse or partner	15.0	15.5	14.3	16.5	17.6	19.0	12.0	8.0
To be nearer siblings, other relatives	30.5	26.6	38.4	11.1	24.7	34.3	29.7	43.6
To be nearer friends, acquaintances	29.6	29.3	32.6	21.5	30.7	34.8	27.0	29.6
Change in marital status	13.2	12.1	13.3	16.0	12.6	16.0	11.1	9.8
Place easier find spouse or partner	7.9	12.7	4.2	3.7	9.6	5.5	17.9	2.6
Decline in health	10.4	7.6	11.5	12.3	8.6	7.0	6.0	17.4
Take care aging parents	5.9	5.1	7.6	1.2	4.5	5.5	6.0	10.4
Find less congested place to live	28.2	15.2	39.2	27.2	20.6	32.3	6.0	48.1
Find safer place to live	26.1	15.9	35.9	18.5	21.3	30.0	6.8	43.5
Live in desirable natural environment	35.8	29.9	43.5	25.9	31.0	43.8	28.2	43.1
More outdoor recreation	29.3	28.3	31.7	22.2	24.2	36.1	35.0	26.0
Find arts, entertainment, cultural	23.7	36.1	15.8	6.2	28.1	16.9	49.6	14.3
Find simpler pace of life	36.8	25.2	49.6	24.7	30.0	44.8	16.9	55.8
Find more exciting lifestyle	22.4	31.3	17.7	8.6	25.0	21.4	41.9	13.0
Live someplace new, have fresh start	41.4	39.5	43.2	37.0	38.2	43.8	41.7	42.5
Lower cost of housing	31.7	20.1	41.5	32.9	26.3	35.3	9.5	49.4
Have lower taxes	25.5	18.6	34.0	15.9	18.5	30.3	19.0	38.8
Have better internet, tv, phone	8.3	12.4	6.2	1.2	11.6	8.5	13.8	3.3
Find better quality local schools	14.0	12.1	17.3	8.6	13.7	16.6	9.4	18.2
Opportunities children to achieve	19.3	20.7	19.2	14.8	20.8	19.0	20.5	19.5
Have more ethnic diversity	10.3	16.9	5.9	1.2	9.6	7.0	29.3	4.6
Have less ethnic diversity	4.4	2.6	6.3	3.7	3.1	4.0	1.7	9.2

<sup>1</sup> Respondents could respond "Yes" to more than one factor.

		Type and Direction of Move							
		Moved Out Of County	Moved Into County	Within County, Different Zipcode	Out To Different Iowa County	In From Different Iowa County	Out To Another State	In From Another State	Total
Number of respondents	737	327	366	85	206	207	121	159	
Previously had lived:	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes
In current state	77.2	73.9	77.6	97.5	95.5	96.9	36.8	53.5	
In current county	38.6	28.3	34.3	100.0	33.9	36.5	31.5	33.9	
In or near current city/town	34.2	28.5	32.3	69.9	34.0	35.6	18.7	27.9	
Used source of information for move	% Yes <sup>1</sup>	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes
Internet	31.2	35.2	30.3	14.1	26.7	24.6	49.6	37.7	
TV, magazines, newspapers	22.3	24.8	20.5	20.0	22.8	22.7	28.1	17.6	
Current community resident	22.0	21.4	23.0	18.8	19.4	20.8	24.8	25.8	
Employer or co-workers	23.6	26.3	23.5	16.5	25.2	24.2	28.1	22.6	
Friends and acquaintances	36.6	39.4	35.0	34.1	36.4	38.6	44.6	30.2	
Family	41.2	37.0	44.0	42.4	37.4	41.5	36.4	47.2	
Travel or vacation to new location	14.2	15.6	15.8	2.4	10.2	12.6	24.8	20.1	
Attended school or college there	6.9	7.0	6.3	7.1	7.3	3.9	6.6	9.4	
Ease of finding housing at new location	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Very difficult (1)	8.8	5.9	12.2	9.4	7.8	9.3	2.5	16.0	
Somewhat difficult (2)	20.6	24.2	18.1	18.8	23.0	18.6	26.3	17.3	
Neither difficult or easy (3)	16.5	15.2	15.3	21.2	14.7	17.2	16.1	12.8	
Somewhat easy (4)	22.4	22.7	23.1	20.0	23.5	23.5	21.2	22.4	
Very easy (5)	31.6	32.0	31.4	30.6	30.9	31.4	33.9	31.4	
Average rating finding housing (1 – 5)	3.47	3.51	3.43	3.44	3.47	3.49	3.58	3.36	
Household income for 2004	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Less than \$20,000 (1)	17.3	16.0	18.8	19.0	18.0	18.4	12.6	19.4	
\$20,000 - \$34,999 (2)	23.0	21.6	23.3	26.6	25.0	24.3	16.0	21.9	
\$35,000 - \$49,999 (3)	18.2	18.2	17.7	22.8	18.0	20.4	18.5	14.2	
\$50,000 - \$69,999 (4)	18.5	18.2	19.1	15.2	18.0	21.4	18.5	16.1	
\$70,000 - \$99,999 (5)	12.4	13.8	11.9	8.9	12.5	12.6	16.0	11.0	
\$100,000 - \$149,999 (6)	7.7	8.5	7.2	3.8	6.5	1.5	11.8	14.8	
\$150,000 or more (7)	2.9	3.8	1.9	3.8	2.0	1.5	6.7	2.6	
Average income category (1 – 7)	3.20	3.33	3.11	2.95	3.10	2.96	3.71	3.32	

<sup>1</sup> Respondents could respond “Yes” to more than one factor.



New Mover Studies: 19 County Overall Findings

Table 8. Income Comparison Between Locations, Satisfaction with Previous and Current Locations, and Doing Move Over Again by Type and Direction of Move.

	Type and Direction of Move							
	Total	Moved Out Of County	Moved Into County	Within County, Different Zipcode	Out To Different Iowa County	In From Different Iowa County	Out To Another State	In From Another State
Number of respondents	737	327	366	85	206	207	121	159
Current location income compared with previous location income	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Significantly lower income (1)	11.0	6.9	16.1	3.8	7.0	11.8	6.8	21.8
Somewhat lower income (2)	12.1	10.7	13.3	7.5	11.9	9.8	8.5	17.9
About same income (3)	41.9	38.2	41.7	63.8	46.8	46.6	23.7	35.3
Somewhat higher income (4)	23.1	29.2	19.2	17.5	26.9	20.1	33.1	17.9
Significantly higher income (5)	11.8	15.0	9.7	7.5	7.5	11.8	28.0	7.1
Average comparison income (1 – 5)	3.13	3.35	2.93	3.18	3.16	3.10	3.67	2.71
Satisfaction with previous location	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Very dissatisfied (1)	11.2	11.4	11.5	9.4	12.7	12.1	9.2	10.7
Somewhat dissatisfied (2)	14.7	14.8	15.9	11.8	16.1	16.0	12.5	15.7
Neither dissatisfied or satisfied (3)	12.7	16.9	9.0	15.3	17.6	11.7	15.8	5.7
Somewhat satisfied (4)	29.0	26.5	29.0	29.4	27.3	26.2	25.0	32.7
Very satisfied (5)	32.5	30.5	34.5	34.1	26.3	34.0	37.5	35.2
Average satisfaction previous (1 – 5)	3.57	3.50	3.59	3.67	3.38	3.54	3.69	3.66
Satisfaction with current location	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Very dissatisfied (1)	7.6	8.7	7.8	4.7	9.3	6.9	7.7	9.0
Somewhat dissatisfied (2)	8.1	7.8	9.5	5.9	9.8	7.4	4.3	12.2
Neither dissatisfied or satisfied (3)	6.6	5.9	8.4	3.5	7.3	6.9	3.4	10.3
Somewhat satisfied (4)	29.4	27.6	29.5	28.2	24.9	27.1	32.5	32.7
Very satisfied (5)	48.3	50.0	44.8	57.6	48.8	51.7	52.1	35.9
Average satisfaction current (1 – 5)	4.03	4.03	3.94	4.28	3.94	4.09	4.17	3.74
Would do move over again	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Definitely not (1)	3.2	3.1	3.6	1.2	2.0	2.9	5.1	4.4
Probably not (2)	5.1	4.3	4.7	9.4	4.9	4.9	3.4	4.4
Undecided (3)	9.7	8.7	10.4	7.1	8.3	6.8	9.3	15.2
Probably yes (4)	33.2	35.1	33.0	29.4	38.2	35.4	29.7	29.7
Definitely yes (5)	48.9	48.8	48.4	52.9	46.6	50.0	52.5	46.2
Average rating do move over (1 – 5)	4.20	4.22	4.18	4.24	4.23	4.25	4.21	4.09

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## New Mover Studies: Dickinson County

from other states to say that they had been laid off from a previous job, they moved to look for a new job or work, or they had taken a new job with a new employer (Table 2). Thirty-five percent of those coming from other states said that moving to be nearer parents was a factor in their decision but none in that group cited moving to be nearer children (Table 2). The respondents leaving Dickinson, either to go to other states or other Iowa counties were more likely than the overall participants to say they wanted to be in a place where it would be easier to find a spouse or partner (Tables 2, 6).

The Dickinson respondents who moved between states were similar to the total set of movers in that the those who came into Dickinson County from other states were more likely than those who left for other states to say that wanting a less congested or safer place to live or a simpler pace of life was a factor in their moving decision. Those moving out to other states were more likely to say they wanted arts, entertainment, or cultural activities or a more exciting lifestyle than those who came from other states (Table 2). Unlike the movers in most other counties, however, those moving between Dickinson and other counties in Iowa showed a reverse of this pattern. It was those moving out of Dickinson County to other areas of Iowa who were most likely to say that moving to find a less congested place to live (53%), a safer place to live (43%), or a simpler pace of life (60%) was a factor in their moving decision (Table 2).

The environment and recreation played a role in the decision for many Dickinson movers. Nearly two-thirds of respondents coming in noted wanting a desirable natural environment while three-fourths moving from other areas in Iowa mentioned more outdoor recreation

Category	Type and Direction of Move
A: <i>Within County, Zipcode change</i>	Moved within one of the 19 study counties but changed zip code.
B: <i>Out To Another Iowa County</i>	Moved out of one of the study counties to another county in Iowa.
C: <i>In From Another Iowa County</i>	Moved from another county in Iowa into one of the study counties.
D: <i>Out To Another State</i>	Moved out of one of the study counties to another state.
E: <i>In From Another State</i>	Moved from another state into one of the study counties.

(Table 2; Figure 1). For most counties in the study, it was the movers coming in who most often said that lowering the cost of housing or lowering taxes was a factor in their move. For Dickinson movers, however, it was those leaving for other Iowa counties who most often noted these issues in their moving decision (Table 2; Figure 1). Dickinson County was unlike most others in the study in that a high proportion (58.8%) of those coming from other states said that travel or vacation was a way they had learned about the location (Tables 3, 7; Figure 1).

Household income was generally higher for the participants coming to Dickinson County from outside of Iowa than for those overall. Nearly 12 percent of those coming from other states had income of at least \$150,000 and 40 percent of that group said their income was at least \$100,000 (Tables 3, 7; Figure 1). The Dickinson movers tended to be satisfied with the new location. Sixty-three percent of those coming from other counties along with 47 percent coming from other states said they were very satisfied with Dickinson County. In addition, more than half of those coming to Dickinson County said they would definitely do their move over again (Tables 4, 8).

The goal of this study is to better understand the experiences of people who have moved. This report focuses on the findings for Dickinson County and highlights some of the similarities and differences with the findings for the entire set of 19 counties. Because the number of respondents in any one county is small, the overall findings and trends are

likely the best guidelines as community residents and leaders think about possible next steps. The overall objective is to help community leaders better understand household moving trends so they can develop actionable strategies to address the reasons why people come, why people leave, enhance the qualities that cause people to stay, and thus stabilize or increase their populations.<sup>2</sup>

### The Study

These research results are from a survey of nonmetropolitan movers in 19 selected counties in Iowa that included Dickinson County.<sup>1</sup> People who had moved either into or out of these 19 counties were identified through a purchased database and were mailed a survey in the fall of 2005. The survey asked questions about the respondent's previous location as well as their current location, reasons for moving, satisfaction with multiple factors in their communities, as well as their demographic, social, and economic situation. Five categories of movers are used to examine the results (Table 9). Most respondents had moved during 2003 through 2005 and 737 respondents who met the study criteria replied for an overall response rate of 35 percent. The estimated response rate for Dickinson County was 38.9 percent.

### Notes

1. Previous reports, a description of the study, the counties included, and the survey questionnaire are available on the Community Vitality Center web site at: [www.cvcia.org](http://www.cvcia.org).
2. Previous reports contain examples of possible next steps and strategies that community leaders might consider.

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