Attitudinal Survey of Pennsylvanians, 2019

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The Center for Rural Pennsylvania is a bipartisan, bicameral legislative agency that serves as a resource for rural policy within the Pennsylvania General Assembly. It was created in 1987 under Act 16, the Rural Revitalization Act, to promote and sustain the vitality of Pennsylvania's rural and small communities.

Table of Contents

Figures

Tables

Executive Summary

Responsiveness of policymakers to public opinion is crucial in a democracy. To best serve their communities, policymakers must know the current attitudes of the people who live in their communities. In 1999 and 2008, the Center for Rural Pennsylvania sponsored attitudinal surveys of rural and urban Pennsylvanians to learn more about their attitudes on a variety of long-standing and timely issues. Several national surveys of rural Americans also have been conducted in recent years. This research surveyed rural and urban Pennsylvanians in 2019 to provide policymakers with up-to-date information on resident attitudes of current issues, and to compare rural and urban attitudes on these issues. The results indicate several areas of consensus in rural and urban attitudes, but also identify a few rural and urban differences. Based on the information obtained in the survey, the researchers offered several policy considerations for policymakers.

Methodology

In 2019, the research team, including the Penn State Harrisburg Center for Survey Research (CSR), developed a survey questionnaire using questions from a similar survey conducted in 2008 as well as questions addressing new, more recent topics. Marketing Systems Group (MSG) of Horsham, PA, recruited respondents who had previously signed up to participate in web panel surveys in exchange for nominal compensation. Respondents who opted in were sent a link directly to the web survey. To ensure that the survey results were not biased toward any particular location, age, or sex, CSR programmed quotas into the web survey platform to guarantee that the final dataset would be representative of Pennsylvania's rural and urban county populations, and, separately, by age/sex combined categories. The survey was administered from March 19 through April 8, 2019. Data were collected from a total of 2,008 eligible respondents (Pennsylvania residents aged 18 or older). The margin of error for the survey is +/- 2.2 percentage points, with the conventional 95 percent degree of confidence.

The analysis compared rural and urban respondents' views on community issues, statewide issues, and government assessments. Where questions were available and comparable in both years, the researchers examined changes in responses from 2008 to 2019. They also compared differences in responses across sociodemographic groups (i.e. age, race, gender, etc.) as well as those with different personal characteristics (i.e. homeownership status, employment status, financial situation, etc.) for several of the attitudes examined.

Results

Most respondents in both rural and urban communities had similar attitudes about issues in their local communities, communities across Pennsylvania, and the performance of the government. On nearly every question, there were statistically significant differences in rural and urban responses, yet the *most common* response among each group of respondents was the same. The following attitudes were most common among both rural and urban residents:

- Rated their local community as "somewhat desirable."
- Expected their local community to "stay about the same."
- Felt their local community's "cost of living is about average."
- Felt "somewhat safe" in their local community.
- Rated quality of most community attributes as "medium" or "high."
- Felt that most local community infrastructure issues should receive the "same priority" or "higher priority" in the future.
- Felt that most local community family and human services issues should receive the "same priority" or "higher priority" in the future.
- Were "more or less satisfied" with the way things are going in Pennsylvania today.
- Felt that most issues facing the Commonwealth should receive the "same priority" or "higher priority" in the future.
- Felt that most issues concerning protection and effective use of natural resources in the environment should receive the "same priority" or "higher priority" in the future.

- Held the same viewpoint on a wide variety of current policy issues, including meeting energy demands, regulation of the natural gas industry, recreational marijuana, the state income tax rate, the death penalty, arming trained faculty and staff in schools, and the expansion of methadone clinics.
- Had “some” trust and confidence in the state legislature, the courts, the governor, local and municipal officials, and local school district officials.
- Rated their local government as “fair” or “good” on most characteristics.

There were also several differences observed in rural and urban attitudes. One key difference was that rural respondents identified availability of jobs as the most important issue while urban respondents identified maintenance of roads and bridges as the most important issue. Furthermore, rural and urban residents disagreed on how to best address the opioid crisis. Rural respondents supported stricter enforcement of criminal penalties, while urban respondents supported increased funding for programs to treat and prevent addiction. Although urban respondents supported the expanded availability of methadone clinics, rural respondents were split as to whether they supported or opposed expanded availability.

One of the only rural-urban differences observed in trust in government institutions and officials concerned the governor, who rural respondents trusted less.

Finally, while relatively few respondents identified expanding broadband internet access as needing to receive a “higher priority” from state government, the proportion who said this nearly doubled in comparison to the 2008 survey. Meaning, its importance has increased among respondents. This is consistent with other efforts by the Center for Rural Pennsylvania to identify broadband access limitations in the Commonwealth (Center for Rural Pennsylvania, 2018c). Furthermore, access to the internet was significantly related to attitudes on many issues. Those without internet access at home felt that their communities were less desirable, were less satisfied with the way things are going in Pennsylvania today, and had less trust in government officials and institutions.

Policy Considerations

One of the study goals was to provide policymakers and other stakeholders with suggestions as to how they can use the information in this analysis to best serve their communities. Following are considerations for policymakers when addressing the issues examined in the survey:

- **Recognize areas of agreement.** Both rural and urban residents held similar attitudes on a variety of issues. Policymakers should consider these areas of agreement when deciding how to address issues facing both rural and urban Pennsylvania communities. This result does not imply that policymakers should hold these specific positions on these issues without also considering other pertinent information, as attitudes may vary across communities with unique characteristics, and some common goals may be achieved through multiple policy options.
- **Address top rural and urban priorities.** Rural and urban respondents identified different issues as being the most important. Rural respondents said the availability of jobs, local tax structure reform, maintenance of roads and bridges, and drug and alcohol abuse treatment and prevention should be given "higher priority." Urban respondents said maintenance of roads and bridges, availability of jobs, local tax structure reform, and crime and violence prevention should be given "higher priority." Policymakers should consider what is already being done to address these top priorities and weigh the policy options available to respond to what respondents see as the most important issues.

- **Meet Pennsylvania's energy demands.** Rural and urban respondents generally agreed that investment in renewable energy resources, such as solar and wind, is the best option to meet Pennsylvania's energy demands. Policymakers should consider the continuation of current efforts, such as the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act of 2004, along with weighing new policy options to meet these demands. They should also consider the role that natural gas production plays in meeting these demands. Pennsylvania is a top natural gas producer. At the same time, both rural and urban respondents agreed that regulations of this industry should be strengthened, and a severance tax should be adopted, both of which could impact the productivity of this industry.
- **Address the opioid crisis.** Rural Pennsylvania has been disproportionally impacted by opioid overdose deaths. The opioid crisis is also one issue where rural and urban respondents disagreed. Rural respondents supported addressing the crisis through the criminal justice system, while urban respondents supported addressing it through public health efforts. Both rural and urban respondents agreed that action needs to be taken. Furthermore, current efforts to address the crisis incorporate both components. Policymakers should consider continuation of current efforts along with weighing new policy options to further reduce the impact of this crisis, especially in rural areas.
- **Address other current issues.** There were several other current issues where rural and urban respondents agreed on a specific policy direction. These included: legalization of recreational marijuana by adults aged 21 and older; changing the state income tax rate from a flat rate to a graduated rate; keeping the death penalty; and allowing trained faculty and staff to carry firearms in schools. Policymakers should consider the positions

of those in the communities they serve along with other pertinent information in deciding which direction to take on these current issues.

- **Maintain and build trust in government.** Trust and confidence in government institutions and officials was not extremely high or low, with both rural and urban respondents stating they had “some” trust as opposed to “a great deal,” “a little,” or “none.” Trust has remained at similar levels or increased since 2008. To maintain levels of trust or potentially increase them, policymakers can focus their efforts on supporting economic growth, interpersonal trust, and civic engagement, and their own job performance, all factors that impact levels of trust in government.
- **Foster engagement in local communities.** Since 2008, the proportion of respondents participating in their local communities, both rural and urban, has declined, which is a concerning trend. Other than rural respondents reporting “occasional” volunteering, respondents most commonly said they had “never” participated in a variety of avenues for community involvement. Efforts to foster community engagement are numerous but include: support of public education; increasing access to the internet and digital technologies that can connect community members; and building communities that bring their diverse residents together. The decline in community involvement is a national trend and has no simple solutions, but policymakers should consider the impact of their decisions on the education system as well as opportunities for community members to connect to one another in their efforts to foster engagement. This may be especially true for policymakers that serve rural communities, where those most likely to become involved may move away, exacerbating the problem.

- **Respond to changing circumstances.** Policymakers should recognize that, although the results of this analysis focus on the issues of importance today, this does not imply these will remain the issues of tomorrow. When surveyed in 2008, respondents focused on the availability of jobs amidst a recession; however, over the following decade, other issues emerged, such as the opioid crisis and declining quality of infrastructure. Therefore, policymakers may also want to consider how demands may change with the political, economic, and social contexts of rural Pennsylvania.

Introduction

Residents of rural areas have been facing several demographic and economic trends in recent years, which could affect their perspectives and outlooks on a variety of issues relevant to state and local government, policymakers, community leaders, and other stakeholders. What do the individuals experiencing these trends think? Responsiveness of policymakers to public opinion is crucial in a democracy. There are many studies that suggest policymakers are responsive, but for this to be possible, data concerning constituent opinions must be available, a key obstacle in determining responsiveness (Burstein 2006). According to the Center for Rural Pennsylvania, there are nearly 3.4 million residents in Pennsylvania's 48 rural counties. Knowledge of the attitudes of rural Pennsylvania residents is important because policymakers need to respond to this population, and there is evidence that rural resident attitudes differ not only from those of urban residents but among rural areas as well (Scala and Johnson, 2017; Scala, Johnson, and Rogers, 2015). This research provides the data required to inform policymakers of the attitudes of this population concerning several key policy issues.

There are a few examples of studies of rural public opinion published in recent years. These reveal large differences in rural and urban attitudes, with rural Americans having more conservative policy preferences (Scala and Johnson, 2017; Scala, Johnson, and Rogers, 2015). They also reveal that rural Americans often feel as though they are left behind economically, are distrustful of state and federal governments, and value their rural communities and lifestyles (Cramer, 2016; Wuthnow, 2018). However, these studies do not provide enough information to formulate policy recommendations for state and local Pennsylvania policymakers. Some focus on issues of national importance or presidential voting patterns. Those providing more local detail are primarily based on interviews conducted in some cases more than a decade ago in rural communities outside of Pennsylvania. Rural areas vary widely, and the perspectives of rural residents outside Pennsylvania may differ from those within the Commonwealth. Furthermore, attitudes within Pennsylvania may vary depending on how each of these trends have impacted the local area. Finally, these studies do not provide detailed information on the issues specifically affecting rural Pennsylvanians. To best understand how to effectively serve rural communities across Pennsylvania, policymakers and other stakeholders require data concerning the attitudes of the members of these communities on the specific issues facing them.

Penn State (PSU) researchers, with grants provided by the Center for Rural Pennsylvania, conducted several opinion polls of rural Pennsylvanians beginning in 1999. These studies provide information on the trends in rural views over the last two decades. In the 2008 survey, most rural Pennsylvanians were satisfied with the way things were going in the state but were not as satisfied as urban respondents (Center for Rural Pennsylvania, 2010; Willits, Luloff, and Fortunato, 2009). When asked about their local communities, most felt they were desirable and safe, but less so than they had been in the past. Their top concerns for the state included jobs, health care, and energy resources, and they identified a need to strengthen schools and attract health care providers as key local issues. Despite a lack of confidence in state government, they felt that the state had a major responsibility in addressing these issues.

Since the most recent survey in 2008, economic and demographic changes have occurred, which could lead to shifting outlooks or new issues to consider. Rural areas have been recovering from the 2007-2009 recession, managing shifting demands for natural resources, realizing the need for broadband access for daily life, trying to provide access to quality healthcare, and trying to meet the challenge of the opioid crisis, to name only a few trends. The attitudes that rural Pennsylvanians hold on these issues, what issues they consider priorities, and what actions they would prefer policymakers to take may have shifted over the last 10 years as these developments and others have occurred.

There are several emerging trends in rural areas where the attitudes of rural residents may provide useful information to policymakers. The impacts from the Great Recession have been felt widely. Although evidence suggests rural areas were perhaps not affected as deeply as urban areas, this is in part explained by their disadvantaged economic status preceding the recession, and growth in many rural areas has been slow during the recovery (Thiede and Monnat, 2016; Alter et al., 2018; Center for Rural Pennsylvania, 2018b). One area of economic growth has been driven by shale drilling, but, at the same time, this has led to health, environmental, and infrastructure concerns (Hitaj, Weber, and Erickson, 2018; Brasier et al., 2014). Rural areas have also been experiencing a higher rate of overdose deaths than urban areas (U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2019). Additionally, they are struggling to provide access to high quality healthcare as rural hospitals face financial instability and staffing shortages (Murphy, Hughes, and Conway, 2018; Vick, Gagel, and Yerger, 2015). One-quarter of the residents of rural areas also lack access to broadband internet, which can hinder business, healthcare, and education (Tomer, Kneebone, and Shivaram, 2017; Pennsylvania Governor's Office, 2019b).

The state government is working to address several of these issues. The Center for Rural Pennsylvania has held numerous public hearings concerning the opioid crisis and access to broadband internet (Center for Rural Pennsylvania, 2018a, c). In January 2018, Governor Wolf signed a statewide disaster declaration allowing the state to take actions responsive to the opioid crisis (Pennsylvania Governor's Office, 2018). This is one policy area where recent polling data exists, however, at the time there was no clear consensus among respondents concerning what state government should do (Center for Rural Pennsylvania, 2017). The governor has also launched a Broadband Initiative to provide high-speed internet access to every Pennsylvania household (Pennsylvania Governor's Office, 2019b). Efforts have also been taken to address financial stability for hospitals and increase access to quality healthcare for rural Pennsylvanians and to regulate hydraulic fracturing (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2017; Hampton and Rabe, 2016; Murphy, Hughes, and Conway, 2018; Pennsylvania Governor's Office, 2017b). Information on the issues that community members would prioritize and what response their constituents may prefer would provide useful to policymakers as they continue to address new developments and challenges.

This research provides up-to-date data on rural views as well as allows for future opinion polls to continue to assess trends in these views over time.

Goals and Objectives

The data obtained through this research will provide information concerning rural Pennsylvanians’ views on a variety of current issues, as well as how these views compare to those of urban residents, and how views may have changed over time as new challenges and needs emerged. This information will be useful to state and local policymakers as well as other stakeholders who need to know the perspectives of rural individuals in the communities they serve.

This project had five specific goals. The first goal was to identify the current views of rural Pennsylvanians on the following topics: jobs/the economy; natural resources/the environment; education; healthcare; substance abuse; community rating; community involvement; broadband access; and state/local government assessment.[1] This was accomplished with a survey of rural and urban Pennsylvanians during 2019. The second goal was to compare

[1] Except for substance abuse, all the following topics appeared in the 2008 survey.

the views of rural and urban residents of Pennsylvania. This was accomplished by comparing survey results from both rural and urban residents. The third goal was to compare how the views of rural Pennsylvanians vary based on their sociodemographic or other personal characteristics (e.g., gender, age, education, and/or income). The fourth goal was to identify trends in rural Pennsylvanians' views over the last decade. Namely, to compare the current survey results with the *2008 Attitudinal Survey of Pennsylvania Rural Residents* (Willits, Luloff, and Fortunato, 2010). The fifth goal was to provide recommendations as to how state and local policymakers and other stakeholders can use the information obtained through this survey to effectively serve the residents of the rural communities.

Methodology

Survey Instrument

During January and February 2019, the Penn State Harrisburg (PSH) project team, including the Penn State Harrisburg Center for Survey Research (CSR), worked in consultation with the Center for Rural Pennsylvania to develop and refine survey questions for use in data collection. Most questions were derived from a previous survey instrument that was administered in 2008. Some questions were added to explore topics that were deemed to be of greater importance during the current survey administration. The instrument was programmed using Qualtrics web survey software. Qualtrics' online survey platform allows for complex question patterns and automatic skipping, when appropriate, to create a seamless flow from one question to the next for respondents.

Respondent Recruitment

CSR utilized Marketing Systems Group (MSG) of Horsham, Pennsylvania to recruit respondents who had previously signed up to participate in a variety of web survey panels in exchange for nominal compensation ($1). These web survey panels were constructed using a double opt-in recruitment technique, where the potential respondents provide their email address to indicate interest in participating in the panel. An automated email is then sent to the email address provided to ensure that the owner of the email address is aware of the intended use. Once the email owner confirms his/her interest in participating, the individual becomes part of the panel. After providing information on a wide variety of demographic topics to establish a panelist profile, the panelist is eligible to participate in future surveys. A double opt-in system guarantees that all respondents have provided explicit consent to be contacted for marketing and/or research purposes in compliance with all applicable federal laws.

MSG sent emails to potential respondents that included a customized link with a respondent identifier. This link took the potential respondent directly to the web survey programmed in CSR's Qualtrics account. Upon successful completion of the survey, CSR re-directed the respondent to the appropriate panel provider via a customized link that included the unique respondent identifier. As a result of this setup, only members of the CSR project team had access to the survey results and it never had access to any personally identifiable information of any of the survey respondents.

Response Quality

Regular panel maintenance was performed to ensure that high-quality respondents were being used in the survey. First, answers to demographic questions were periodically checked to make sure that they matched with the initial panel profile established by respondents. CSR also asked screening questions in such a way that the potential respondents did not know what characteristics were required for participation. Since panelists were paid for their participation, this decreased the chance of the respondent fabricating answers to gain access to the study. CSR also embedded attention check questions and straight-lining checks into the survey to confirm that the respondent was carefully reading and responding to questions. Straight-lining is when a respondent answers all questions in a series in the same way. To check for this, one item was included in a question series in two different ways: once with positive wording and once with negative wording. If a respondent is carefully reading the questions, they will answer these questions in contrasting ways. If a respondent participated in straight-lining or answered an attention check question incorrectly, their survey was immediately terminated, and their response was removed from the final dataset. In addition, CSR identifies these responses as "low-quality," and panelists are excluded from participation in future surveys after three low-quality responses. Finally, CSR reviewed responses for other quality measures, such as survey duration, to prevent automated (bot) responses from being included in the final dataset. Altogether, 308 responses were terminated early or removed from the final dataset due to response quality measures.

Sample Representation

To ensure that the results of the survey were not biased toward any particular location, age, or sex, CSR used a purposive (non-probability) sampling process known as proportional quota sampling, whereby quotas were programmed into the Qualtrics web survey platform to guarantee that the final dataset would be representative of Pennsylvania's known population by density of county population (rural vs. urban) and, separately, by age/sex combined categories. In a probability-based sampling method, a survey might collect 100 responses randomly, and the first 100 responses obtained would count toward the final dataset. In proportional quota sampling, a survey might collect 55 responses from women and 45 from men if it were determined that the population of interest were 55 percent women.

Potential respondents were invited from the universe of all available panelists based on the Pennsylvania county, age, and gender indicated in their panelist profile. These questions were also asked as screener questions at the beginning of the survey to guarantee that the respondent matched the expected profile. County density quotas were developed by totaling Pennsylvania's population by county and then determining what proportion of the state's residents lived in the counties represented by each designated density, as defined by the Center for Rural Pennsylvania.[2] Although the final dataset was representative by age/sex and by density of county population, it was possible for the age/sex demographic to be distributed unevenly by density of county population because the quotas were filled separately. For example, more women in this survey were sampled from rural counties, while more men were sampled from urban counties.

To facilitate being able to do more robust analysis on Pennsylvania's rural population, an oversample of rural respondents was conducted. This resulted in a final dataset of 2,008 responses, including 1,202 responses from respondents living in Pennsylvania rural counties and 806 from individuals living in urban counties. The larger sample size of 1,202 responses from individuals living in rural counties allowed for more precision in drawing conclusions about rural Pennsylvanians.

[2] Two sets of regions were used in this project. Six regions were used for calculating population proportions for quotas in the oversample: Northern (Bradford, Cameron, Clarion, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, McKean, Mercer, Potter, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Venango, Warren, and Wyoming), Central (Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Columbia, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lycoming, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, Somerset, and Union), Northeast (Berks, Carbon, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Pike, Schuylkill, and Wayne), Southwest (Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, Washington, and Westmoreland), South Central (Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry, and York), and Southeast (Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia). Any regional analyses presented, however, use the three regions defined by the Center for Rural Pennsylvania: East (Berks, Bucks, Carbon, Chester, Delaware, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Pike, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Wayne, and Wyoming), Central (Adams, Bedford, Blair, Bradford, Centre, Clinton, Columbia, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lycoming, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Perry, Potter, Snyder, Sullivan, Tioga, Union, and York), and West (Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Cambria, Cameron, Clarion, Clearfield, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Fayette, Forest, Greene, Indiana, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Somerset, Venango, Warren, Washington, and Westmoreland).

In addition, to allow for analysis on a statewide level, raking was used to develop weights to calibrate the responses to known population totals of adults (age 18+) in Pennsylvania. In raking, changes are made to the dataset by adjusting one variable at a time until the final dataset has the correct proportion of responses for each variable of interest. For example, consider a survey that includes 50 responses from men and 50 responses from women that was drawn from a population in which 45 percent of residents are men and 55 percent are women. To make the final dataset reflect the known proportions in the population, each male response would be multiplied by 0.9 (50 x 0.9 = 45) and each female response would be multiplied by 1.1 (50 x 1.1 = 55) so that the final responses would be proportionally representative. This process would then be repeated for each demographic variable of interest. Ultimately, the weighted dataset ensures that any claim made on the statewide level would be reflective of key Pennsylvania demographics.

Raking was performed by MSG. For this survey, gender, population density, region, employment status, marital status, and race and ethnicity were used in the raking process. Age, education, and household income were not used in raking because they correlated with other variables that were considered more effective geodemographic predictors per recommendation of MSG's statistician. Unless otherwise indicated, statewide results throughout this report reflect the weighted dataset.

Tables 1, 2, and 3 display the weighted and unweighted proportions of respondents in the final dataset by age/sex category and by population density. The data source used to establish quotas for the unweighted gender, age, and population density proportions was the July 1, 2017 State Population Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division. The data source used to determine the final weights was the Census 2017 ACS Summary File. Weights for population density were calculated using the U.S. Census Bureau's official definition of an urban Census block, allowing for a more precise estimate of population density than the county density approach used in developing quotas. Using the smaller unit of aggregation in the raking process helped to ensure more accuracy when developing weights. As noted previously, age was not used in producing the final survey weights due to correlation with other variables of interest. This resulted in minor differences from the expected Census proportions, which should not impact overall results.

Table 1. Final Weighted Responses by Age and Sex

	Unweighted		Weighted	
	Interviewed	**Census %**	**Interviewed**	**Final %**
Male				
18-34 years	289	14.4%	289	14.4%
35-54 years	312	15.5%	311	15.5%
55 years and over	371	18.5%	372	18.5%
Female				
18-34 years	280	13.9%	334	16.6%
35-54 years	318	15.8%	337	16.8%
55 years and over	438	21.8%	365	18.2%

Table 2. Final Unweighted Responses by County Population Density

	Interviewed	County Population Density %
Urban	806	40.1%
Rural	1,202	59.9%

Table 3. Final Weighted Responses by Census Block Population Density

	Interviewed	Census Block Population Density %
Urban	1,591	79.2%
Rural	417	20.8%

It should be noted that respondents were not selected from the general population at random; rather, only respondents who opted to participate in a paid web survey panel were included in the sampling frame. In addition, as with all public opinion surveys, the results are representative only of those who chose to participate. As a result, certain biases exist that might prevent a direct comparison to Pennsylvania's general population. Namely, results may be biased against those who are less likely to participate in web survey panels (sample frame bias) or those panelists who chose not to participate in this survey (non-response bias). In consideration of sample frame bias, the purposive sampling procedure noted previously adjusted for potential demographic bias through using quotas. For example, older individuals are known to be less likely to sign up for web panels, so quotas were developed to ensure that older individuals were proportionally represented. In contrast, other types of unknown bias may still exist, and the degree to which they might impact the results is unknown. Notably, those who join web panels may be less concerned about privacy, more interested in giving opinions, and more technologically savvy (AAPOR Executive Council, 2010). In addition, although respondents who do not have access to the internet at home are less likely to sign up for web survey panels, they were not excluded from participating, and may have done so through the use of public internet access, mobile phones, or internet at their place of employment; however, this information was not collected as part of the survey. We do not know the way our respondents completed the survey (e.g., home internet, public internet, work internet, etc.). Finally, respondents received a small incentive ($1.00) to participate, although this was negligible in terms of overall survey bias.

Data Collection

Surveys were self-administered through Qualtrics Online Survey Platform. As mentioned previously, rigorous strategies were employed to ensure high-quality survey responses from trusted panelists. A ‘soft launch’ was performed where a working draft of the survey instrument was pre-tested with a small sample of respondents before full survey distribution began. The pre-test process ensured that the skipping patterns of the programmed survey instrument were functioning as intended. Pre-testing also increased the likelihood that the questions provided accurate data while decreasing the likelihood of collecting unusable data; therefore, it was an integral component of questionnaire design. The pre-test findings were reviewed, found to be error-free, and incorporated into the final dataset.

Survey responses were collected through CSR’s Qualtrics web survey account between March 19 and April 8, 2019. Waves of survey invitations were sent by MSG to potential survey respondents based on the panelists’ profile characteristics and the remaining county density and age/sex quota needs. Respondents who indicated that they were at least 18 years old and lived in Pennsylvania were deemed eligible to participate. Survey collection ended when CSR received 2,008 responses.

Final Dataset

The final dataset includes responses from 2,008 adult Pennsylvania residents, including 1,202 responses from rural counties and 806 from urban counties. The average length of a completed survey was approximately 17 minutes. A total of 43,141 different panelists were invited to participate in the survey during data collection. The final survey response rate was 6.4

percent.[3] It should be noted that this rate estimates for eligibility based on eligibility screening criteria (i.e., age and geography) and the use of quotas. The rate does not estimate eligibility based on the validity of the respondent's email address; therefore, the functional response rate is much higher than the reported rate. The response rate was largely influenced by the quotas employed to ensure that the final dataset would be representative of Pennsylvanians by age and sex category and, separately, by county density.

The margin of error for this survey was +/- 2.2 percentage points with the conventional 95 percent degree of desired confidence. This means that in a sample of 2,000 respondents, where the distribution of responses is within the vicinity of 50 percent, there is a 95 percent chance that if the survey were repeated, the results would not differ from the survey findings by more than 2.2 percentage points. A more extreme distribution of question responses has a smaller error range. Suppose that 80 percent of respondents answer "Yes" and 20 percent answer "No;" the sampling error in this case is 1.4 percentage points. That is, each percentage has a sampling error of +/- 1.4 percentage points. In other words, if this survey were conducted 100 times with 2,000 respondents, the 95 percent degree of confidence would suggest that 95 out of those 100 times, responses would not differ by more than 1.4 percentages points. So, if 48 percent of respondents said "Yes" to a question and the survey were conducted 100 times with 2,000 respondents each time, then the responses for this question would be expected to be between

[3] The survey's response rate was calculated using the American Association of Public Opinion Research's (AAPOR) Response Rate 3 (RR3) formula. RR3 is obtained by dividing the number of completed interviews by the sum of the numbers of completed interviews, partially completed interviews, refusals, and non-contacts (those who did not respond to the survey invitation). The response rate is then adjusted by estimating the proportion of cases of unknown eligibility based on the known proportion of eligible cases of all cases for which eligibility was determined. For example, if 10% of those who accessed the survey were determined to be ineligible, then the RR3 formula will assume that 10% of non-contacts were also not eligible. This is a conservative estimate that ultimately underestimates the true margin of error. AAPOR sets an industry standard for consistent reporting among survey researchers. For more information, see AAPOR's "Standard Definitions report" at http://www.aapor.org/Standards-Ethics/Standard-Definitions-(1).aspx.

46.4 percent (48 percent - 1.4 percent) and 49.4 percent (48 percent + 1.4 percent) 95 out of those 100 times. For the other five times, the responses might be below 46.4 percent or above 49.4 percent.

Data Analysis Methodology

The analysis first compared rural and urban respondents' views on community issues, statewide issues, and government assessments. Where questions were available in both years and the question wording was similar, the 2019 responses were compared to the 2008 responses. Rural respondents' views were then compared across different sociodemographic groups (i.e. age, race, gender, etc.) and those with different personal characteristics (i.e. homeownership status, employment status, financial situation, etc.) to determine which factors shape the views of the rural and urban Pennsylvanians surveyed. Although these same comparisons were not made for urban respondents, rural-urban differences in these personal and sociodemographic characteristics were analyzed to provide context when examining variation in attitudes. Cross-tabulations with chi-squared tests were used to determine whether differences in responses were statistically significant. Differences were considered statistically significant if there were less than a 10 percent chance that the observed relationship between the variables was due to chance alone (i.e. $p < 0.10$). This means that responses from each group of respondents were compared to determine whether their responses were independent of their characteristics. For example, the responses of men and women were compared to determine whether attitudes vary based on gender. If attitudes are independent of gender, one would expect men and women to have similar attitudes, whereas if attitudes are found to exhibit statistically significant differences between groups, this means that the difference is large enough to imply there is a relationship between a respondent's gender and his/her attitudes. Responses were also compared across the western, central, and eastern regions of Pennsylvania. A complete rural-urban comparison of responses and a comparison of 2008 and 2019 survey responses (where comparable) are provided in Appendix B. Keep in mind that each question may not have 2,008 total responses in these analyses due to some respondents not answering all questions.

Results

The survey asked Pennsylvania residents questions about their local communities and communities across Pennsylvania. These questions concerned their assessments of these communities, specific issues impacting these communities, and involvement in their own communities. The results for each of these sets of questions, as well as questions concerning respondents' assessments of their state and local government institutions and officials, were first compared across residents of rural and urban counties. When possible, these results were also compared to those in the 2008 survey (Center for Rural Pennsylvania, 2010; Willits, Luloff, and Fortunato, 2009). In some instances, this is not possible as new issues emerged or existing issues evolved, requiring new questions or significant changes in question wording. Major differences in overall assessments of their communities and communities across Pennsylvanian were then analyzed further to determine which sociodemographic or personal characteristics were associated with these beyond rural-urban differences. The results section begins by describing rural-urban differences in these sociodemographic and personal characteristics to provide a reference point for the in-depth analyses.

Personal and Sociodemographic Differences

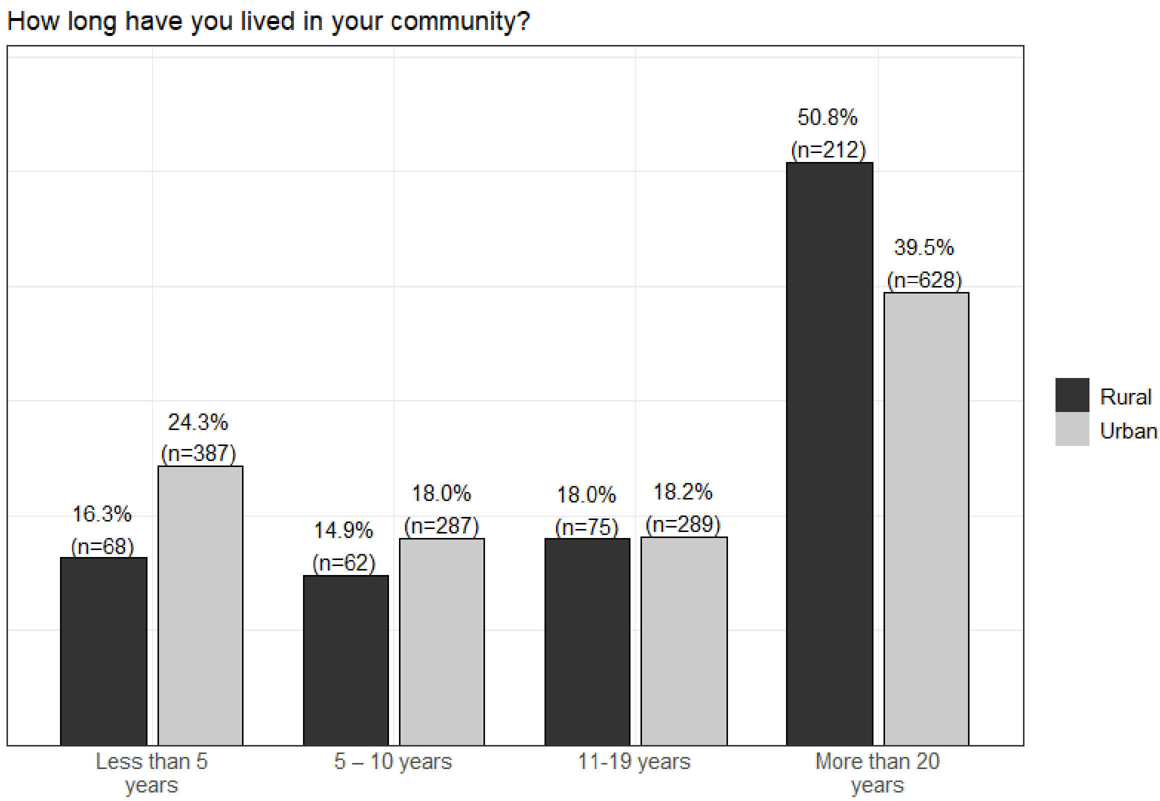
Knowing how residents of rural and urban communities may differ is important to know before detailing their differences in attitudes about issues affecting Pennsylvania. The personal and sociodemographic characteristics of individuals, such as gender, age, education, income, and other traits may explain differences in attitudes observed. Even across rural areas, residents with different circumstances also may have different attitudes (Scala and Johnson, 2017). Therefore, the differences in these characteristics are described first to provide a reference point for further analyses of rural-urban differences in how residents view their communities, the communities across Pennsylvania, and the officials and institutions governing them.

First, consider the characteristics of respondent households and families, which differed across rural and urban respondents. Significant differences include the length of time they lived in their communities; whether they owned or rented their homes; their household incomes; and their assessment of how their family’s financial situation had changed over the past year. There were some characteristics on which they exhibited no significant differences. These included: whether they had internet access at home; their current satisfaction with their family’s financial situation; and their outlook for their family’s financial situation over the next year.

In comparison to urban respondents, rural respondents surveyed were more likely to: have lived in their communities more than 20 years; live in a home that was owned rather than rented; have a lower household income; and feel their family was worse off financially than a year ago, although most commonly they felt that the situation was “about the same.” Most rural respondents had home internet access; were “more or less” satisfied with their family’s financial situation; and felt this situation would remain “about the same.”

There were significant differences in the length of time that rural and urban respondents have lived in their communities (Figure 1). Among both rural and urban respondents, the most common response was that they had lived in their community for over 20 years (50.8 percent rural, 39.5 percent urban). Rural respondents were more likely to have lived there for over 20 years, while urban respondents were more likely to be relative newcomers with less than five years of residence (16.3 percent rural, 24.3 percent urban).

Figure 1. Length of Time Living in Community



Their status as homeowners or renters also differed significantly (Figure 2). Rural respondents were more likely to have said they owned their homes, or lived with the homeowner (70.5 percent rural, 64.4 percent urban). Urban respondents, on the other hand, were more likely to have been renters (26.4 percent rural, 31.6 percent urban). Status as homeowners or renters also significantly differed across age groups (Figure 3), with older respondents being more likely to own their homes (80.2 percent aged 65 and older, 46.0 percent aged 18-24).

Figure 2. Ownership of Primary Residence

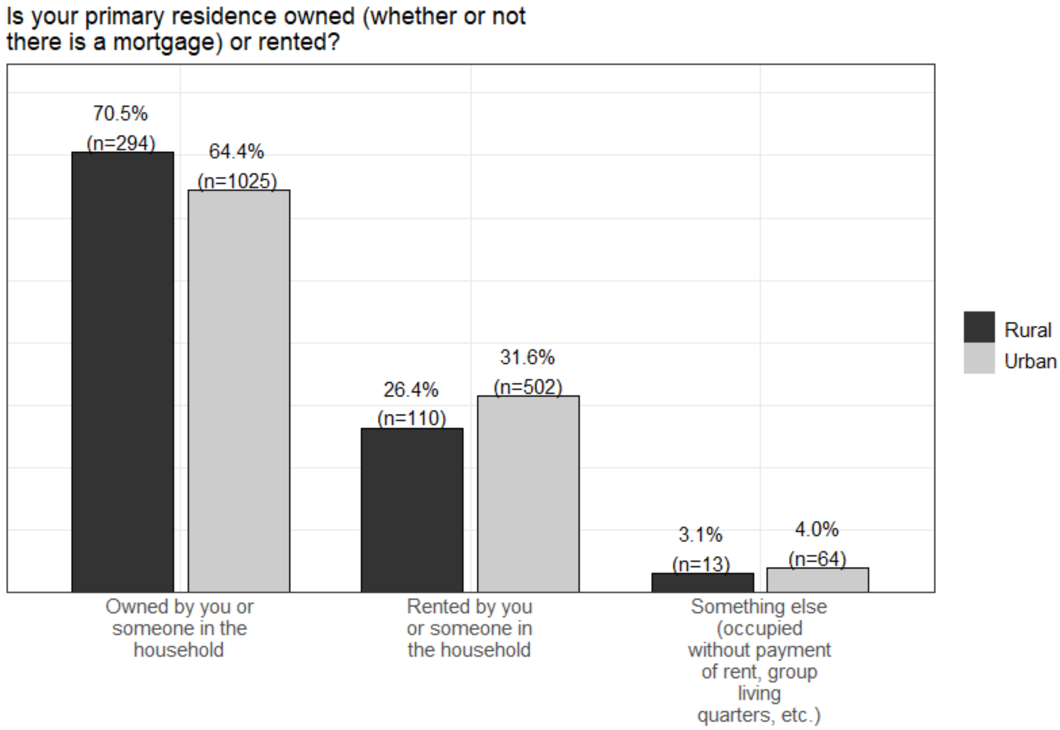
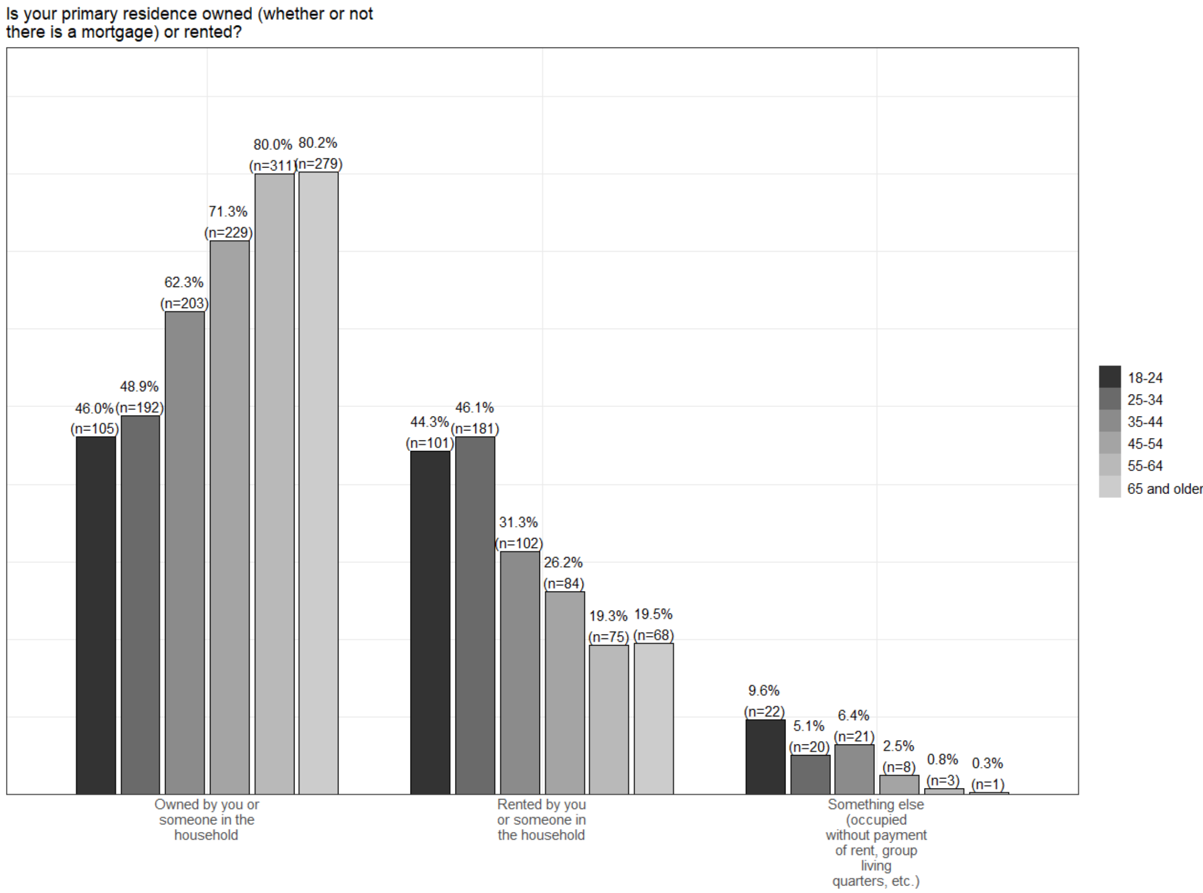
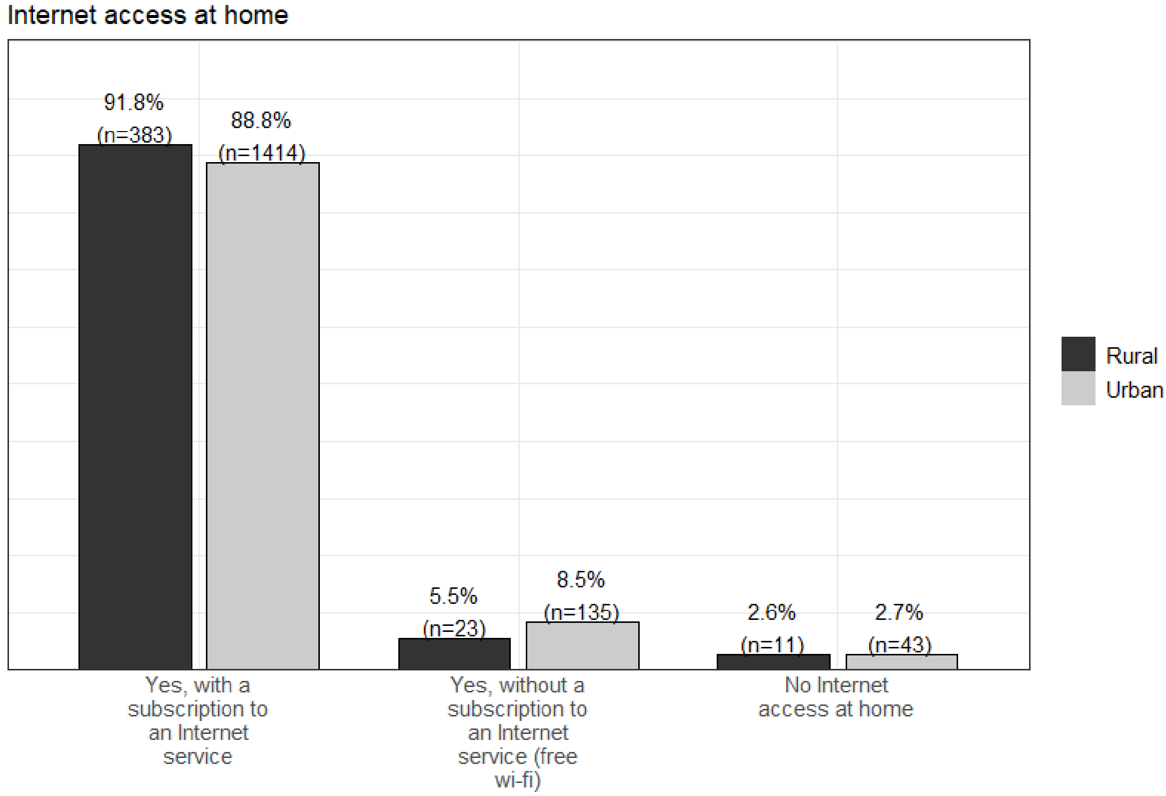


Figure 3. Ownership of Primary Residence by Age



Nearly all respondents had access to the internet at home. There were no significant differences between those who lived in a rural or urban county (Figure 4). Less than 3 percent indicated that they had no access, either through a subscription or freely available Wi-Fi (2.6 percent rural, 2.7 percent urban). This high rate of home internet access may be due to the fact that this is a web-based panel survey. Past research funded by the Center for Rural Pennsylvania demonstrates the low rates of broadband access in rural Pennsylvania (Center for Rural Pennsylvania, 2018c). Even with additional dial-up, satellite, and cellular access, Figure 4 may not accurately reflect rates of internet access at home in rural Pennsylvania.

Figure 4. Internet Access at Home



The annual household income of rural and urban respondents was somewhat different (Table 4). The most common response of both rural and urban respondents was that their household income fell into the $30,000 – $59,999 range (34.3 percent rural, 29.9 percent urban). Urban respondents were more likely to indicate that their household income fell into the highest bracket of $100,000 or more (10.1 percent rural, 17 percent urban). Rural respondents, on the other hand, were more likely to indicate that their household income fell into the lowest bracket of $30,000 or less (30 percent rural, 24.6 percent urban).

Table 4. Annual Household Income

	County density		Total
	Rural	Urban	
$100,000 or more	42 10.1 %	271 17 %	313 15.6 %
$60,000 to $99,999	84 20.1 %	364 22.9 %	448 22.3 %
$30,000 to $59,999	143 34.3 %	475 29.9 %	618 30.8 %
Less than $30,000	125 30 %	391 24.6 %	516 25.7 %
Don't know / Not sure	23 5.5 %	89 5.6 %	112 5.6 %
Total	417 100 %	1590 100 %	2007 100 %

A related characteristic is the financial situation of their families. They did not significantly differ in their satisfaction with their family's financial situation (Figure 5). Most respondents indicated that they were "more or less satisfied" (54 percent rural, 53.3 percent urban). There were significant differences in satisfaction by age group (Figure 6), with the oldest and youngest age groups being most likely to have said they were "very satisfied" (25.1 percent aged 65 and older, 19.9 percent aged 18-24).

Figure 5. Satisfaction with Family Financial Situation

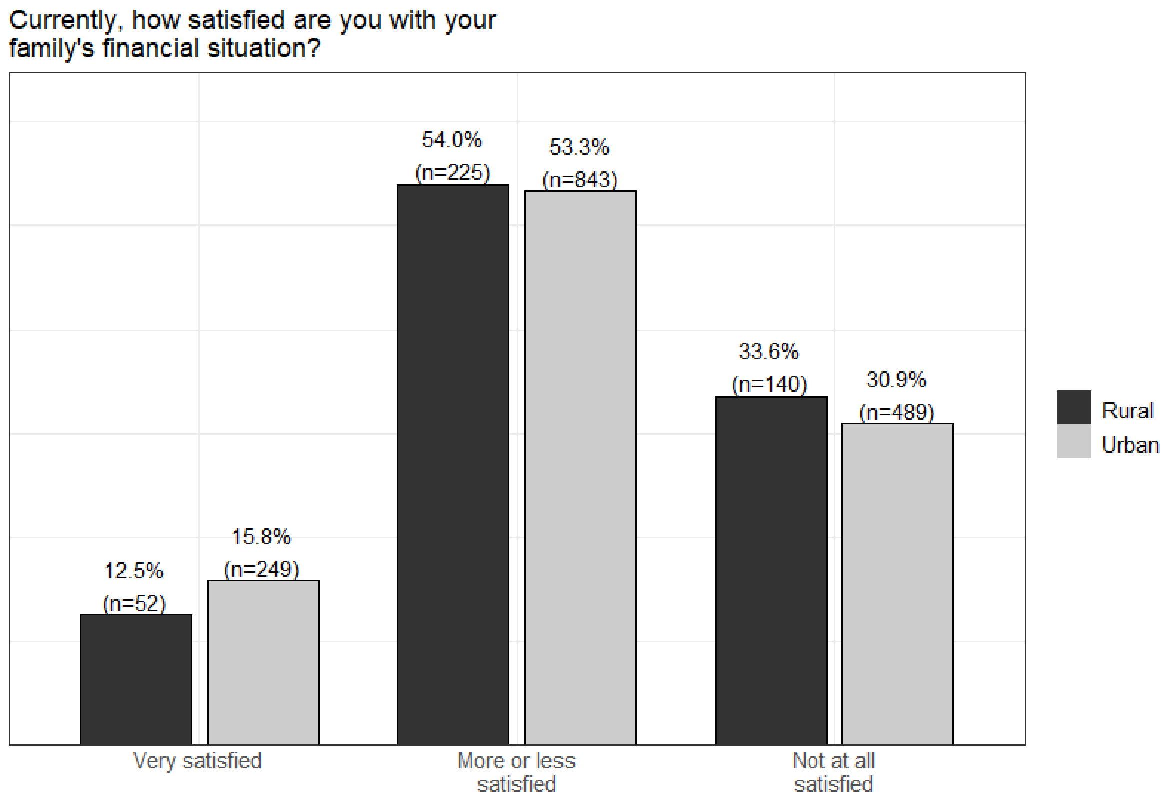
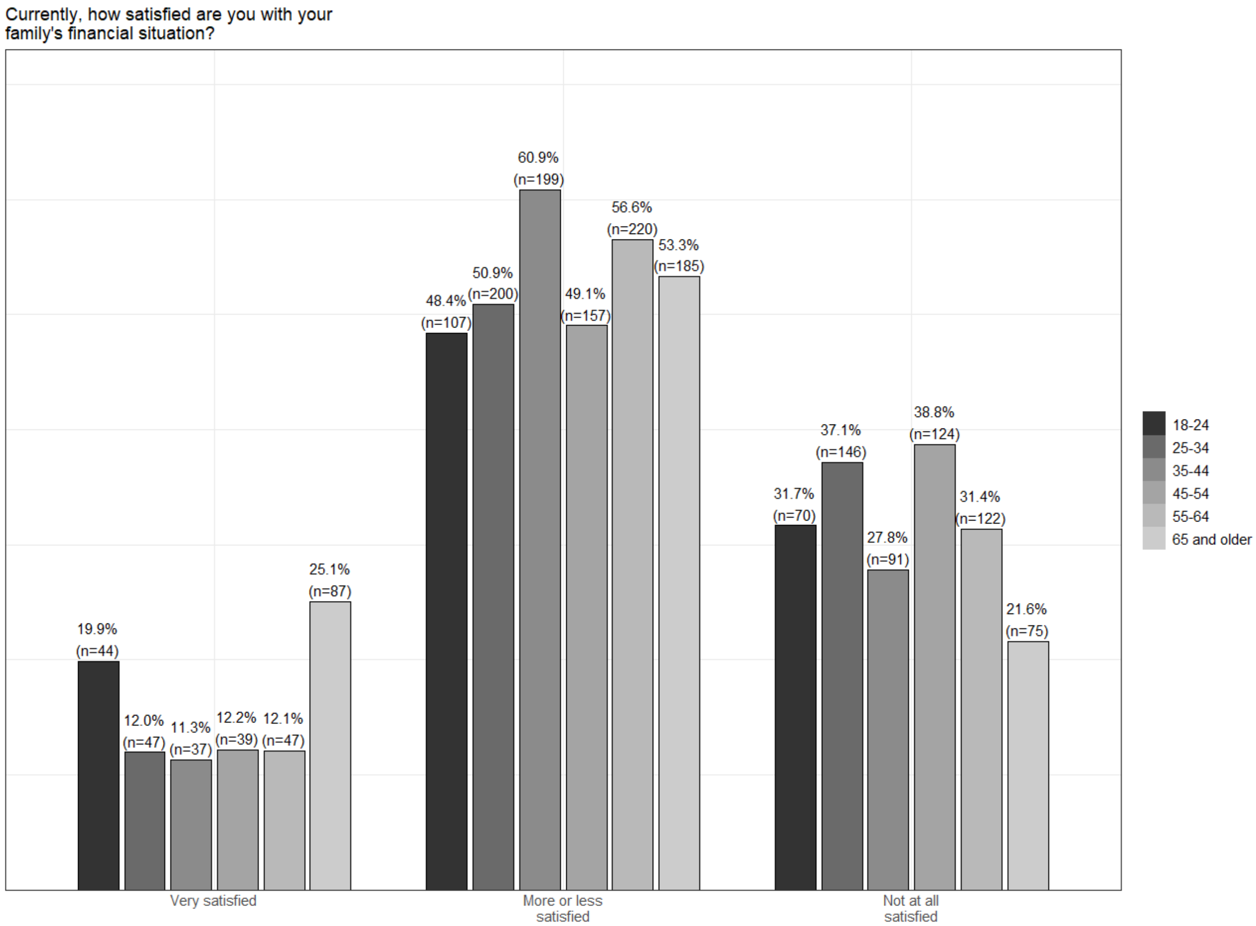
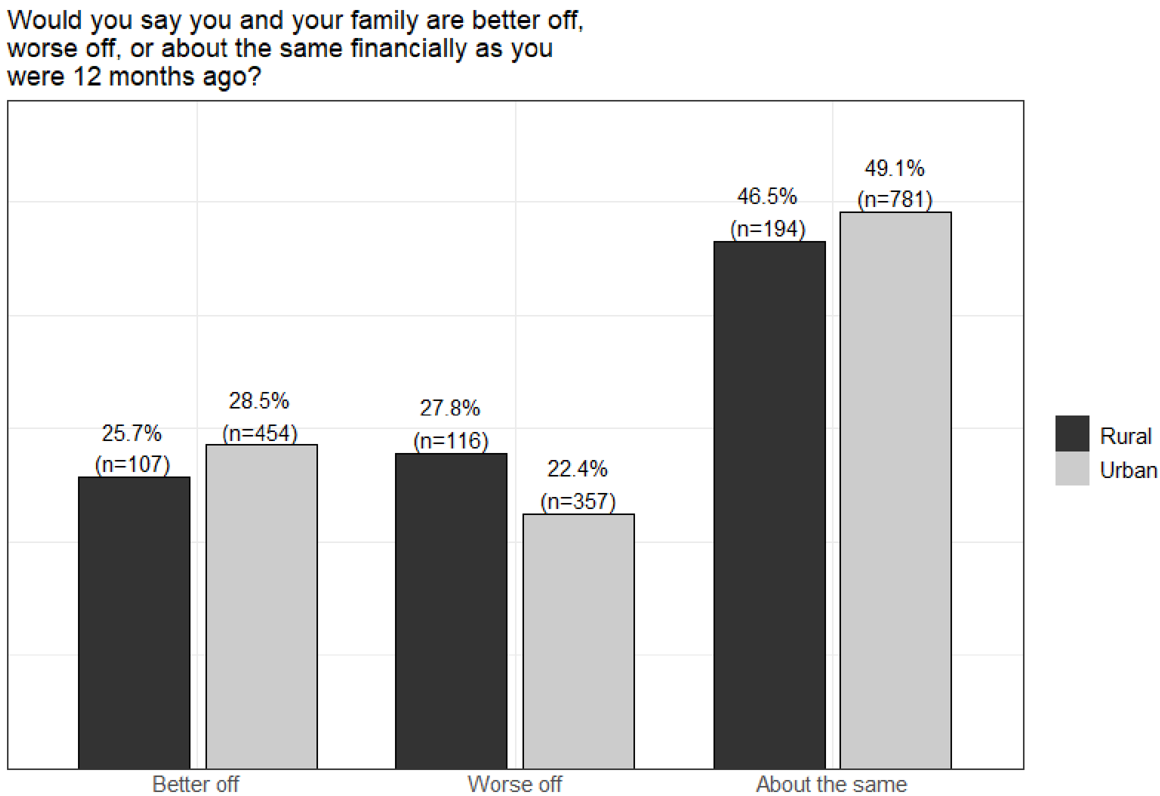


Figure 6. Satisfaction with Family Financial Situation by Age



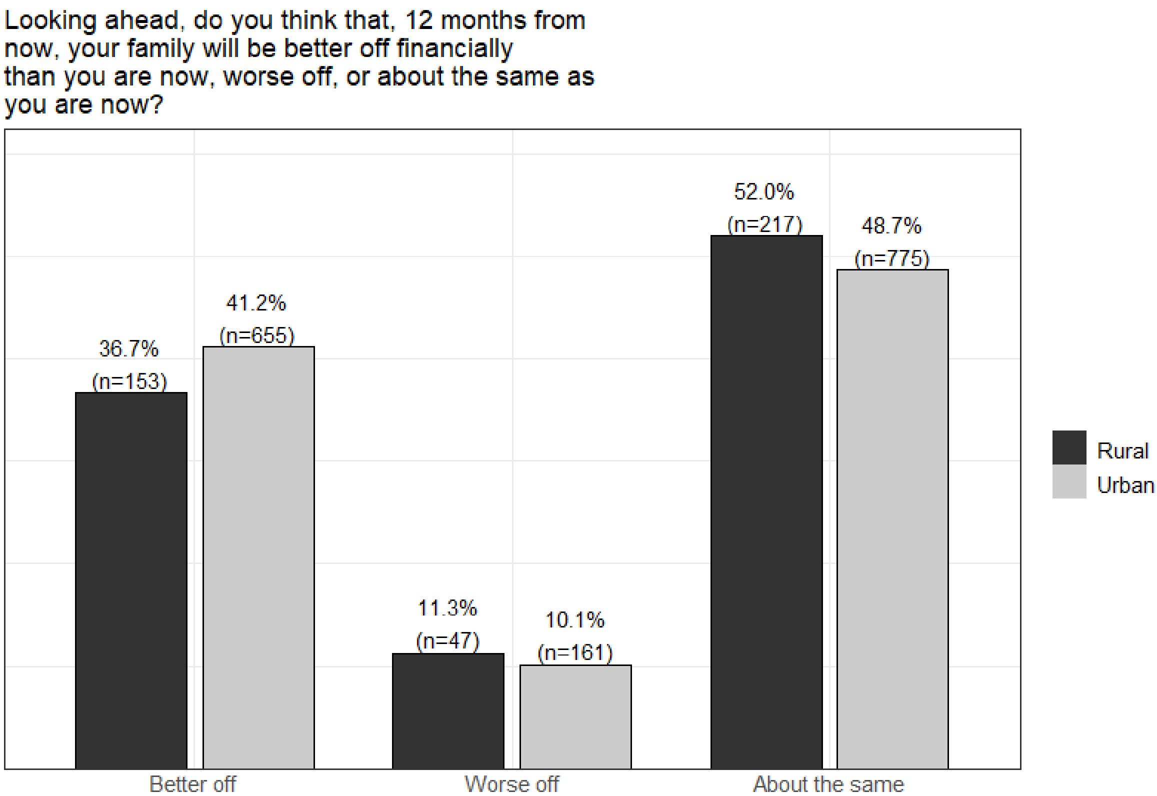
They did exhibit significant differences in their assessment of whether their family was better or worse off financially than they were a year ago, however (Figure 7). The most common response among both rural and urban respondents was that they were "about the same" (46.5 percent rural, 49.1 percent urban). Rural respondents were more likely to say they were "worse off" (27.8 percent rural, 22.4 percent urban) while urban respondents were more likely to indicate they were "better off" (25.7 percent rural, 28.5 percent urban).

Figure 7: Financial Situation Over Past 12 Months



At the same time, there were no significant differences in their outlook for their family's financial situation over the next year (Figure 8). Again, the most common response among both rural and urban respondents was that their situation would remain "about the same" (52 percent rural, 48.7 percent urban). Many also indicated they would be "better off" (36.7 percent rural, 41.2 percent urban).

Figure 8. Anticipated Financial Situation Over Next 12 Months

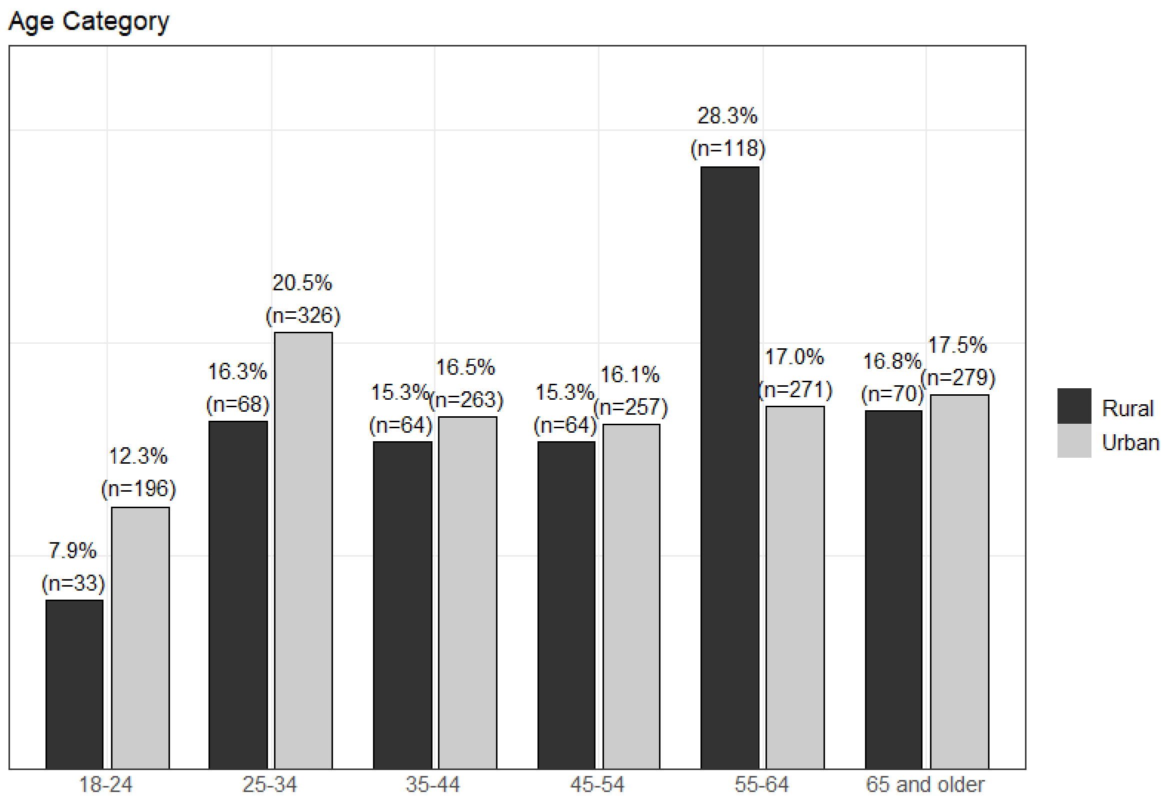


There were also significant differences in the personal characteristics of rural and urban respondents. These included their age; gender; race or ethnicity; marital status; educational attainment; employment status; and voter registration status. In comparison to urban respondents, rural respondents surveyed were typically older; female; non-Hispanic white; married or living with a partner; with some post-high school education (compared to higher educational attainment). They were more likely to be disabled or retired, but a majority were still employed. Similarly, they were less likely to be registered to vote, but most were registered.

First, consider the differing age of rural and urban respondents (Figure 9). Rural respondents were significantly older than urban, with the most common age group being 55-64

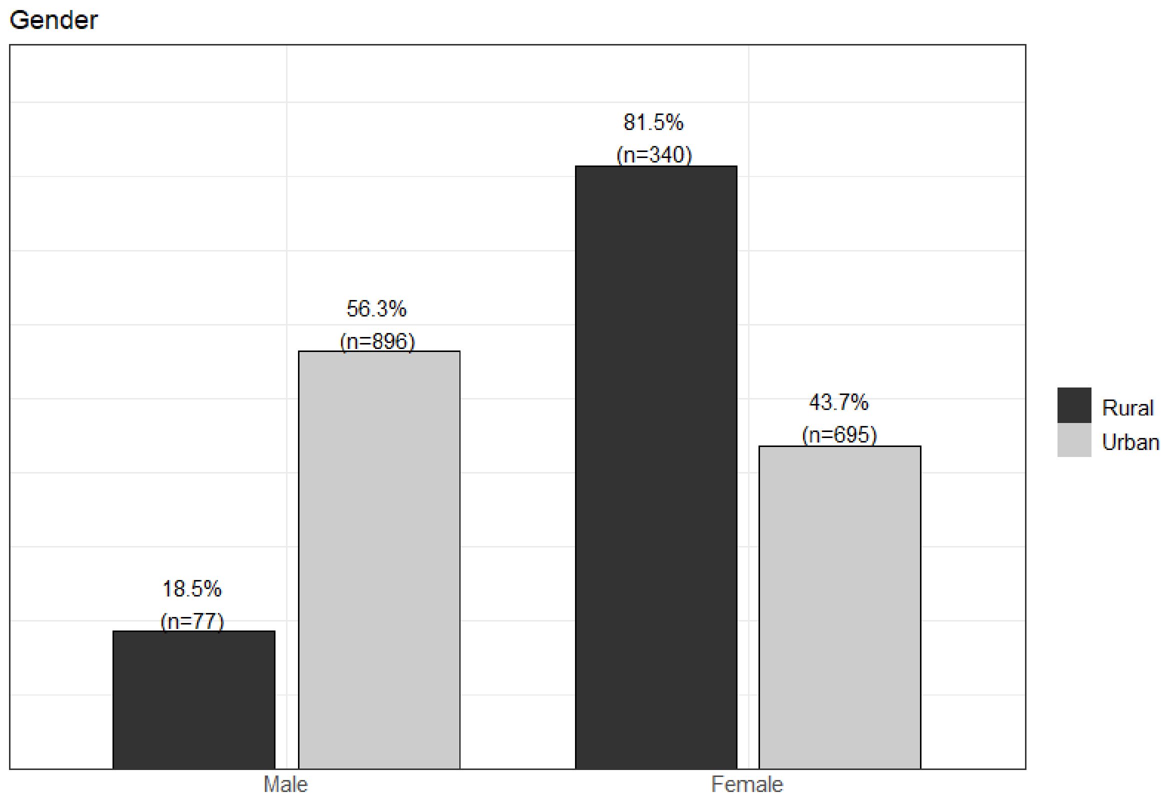
(28.3 percent rural, 17 percent urban). Among urban respondents, the most common age group was 25 – 34 (16.3 percent rural, 20.5 percent urban).

Figure 9. Age of Rural and Urban Respondents



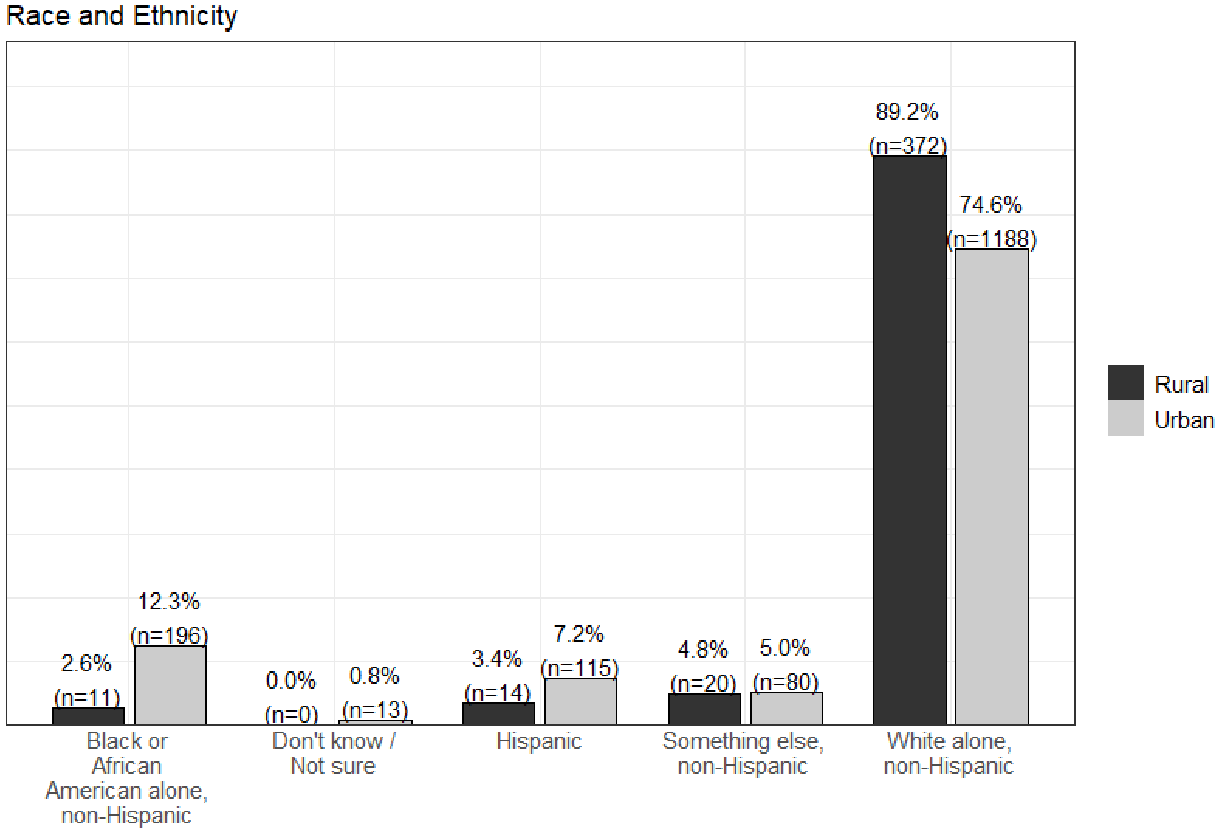
The gender makeup of rural and urban respondents also differed significantly (Figure 10). Most of the rural respondents were female (81.5 percent rural, 43.7 percent urban) while most of the urban respondents were male (18.5 percent rural, 56.3 percent urban).

Figure 10. Gender of Rural and Urban Respondents



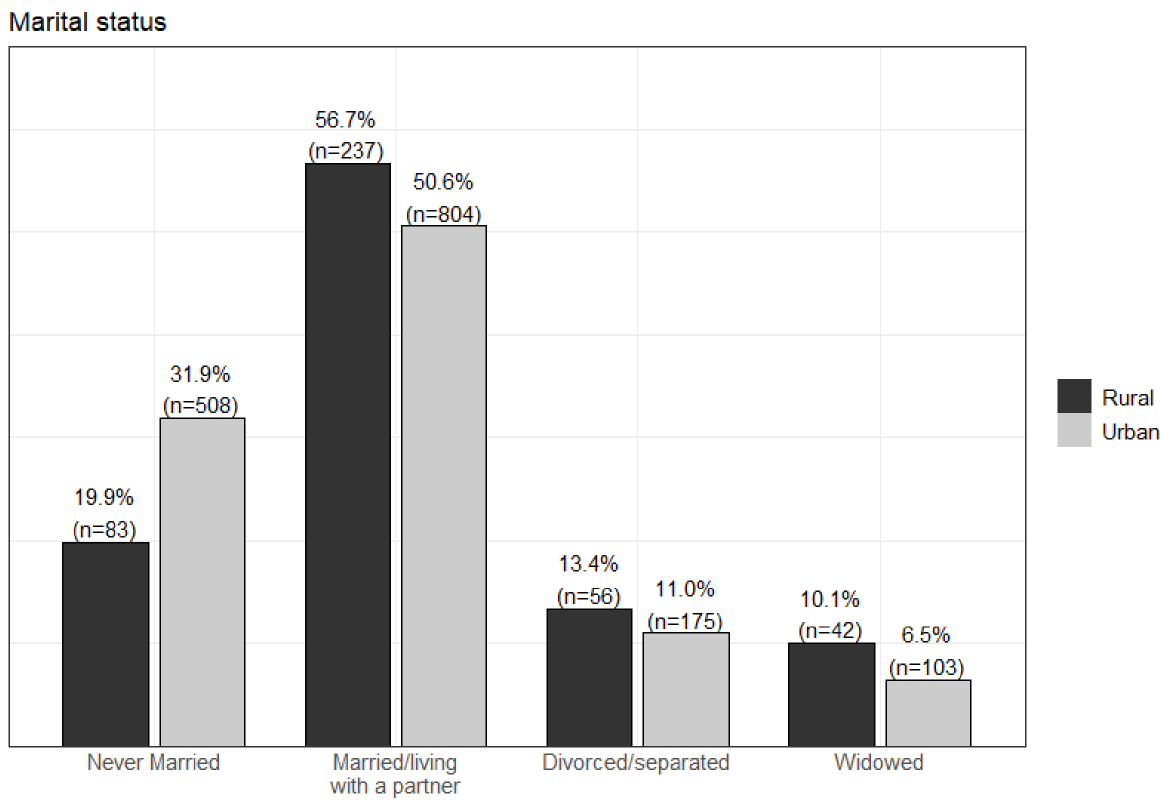
The race and ethnicity of rural and urban respondents also differed significantly (Figure 11). Most respondents in the survey indicated they were non-Hispanic whites (89.2 percent rural, 74.6 percent urban). Urban respondents were more likely to have indicated that they were Black or African American alone (2.6 percent rural, 12.3 percent urban) or Hispanic (3.4 percent rural, 7.2 percent urban).

Figure 11. Race and Ethnicity of Rural and Urban Respondents



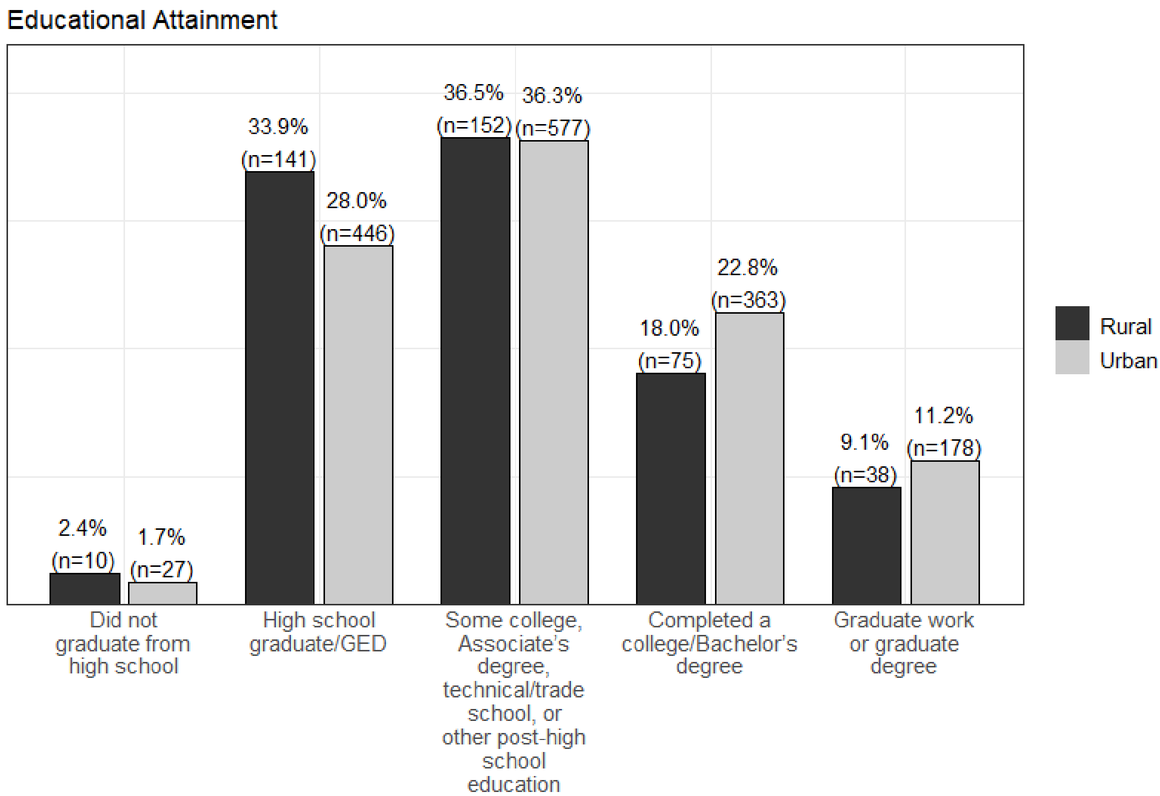
There were also significant differences in the marital status of rural and urban respondents (Figure 12). Most indicated that they were married or living with a partner (56.7 percent rural, 50.6 percent urban), although this was more common among rural respondents. Rural respondents were also more likely to have said they were divorced or separated (13.4 percent rural, 11 percent urban) or widowed (10.1 percent rural, 6.5 percent urban). Urban respondents, on the other hand, were more likely to have said they were never married (19.9 percent rural, 31.9 percent urban).

Figure 12. Marital Status of Rural and Urban Respondents



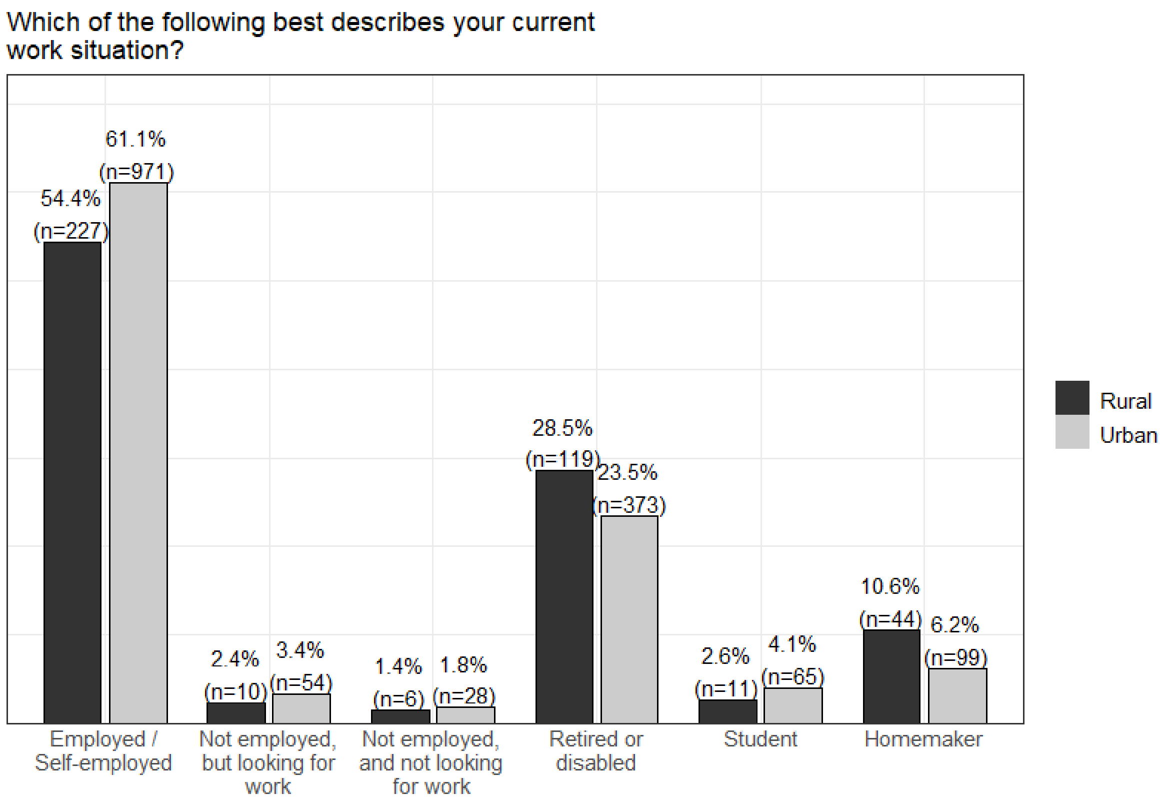
There were also significant differences in educational attainment among rural and urban respondents (Figure 13). Nearly all respondents indicated that they had at least a high school diploma or equivalent. Urban respondents were more likely to have completed a bachelor's degree (18 percent rural, 22.8 percent urban) or have gone to graduate school (9.1 percent rural, 11.2 percent urban) than rural respondents. Most commonly, both rural and urban respondents had completed some form of post-high school education, such as some college or trade school (36.5 percent rural, 36.3 percent urban).

Figure 13. Educational Attainment of Rural and Urban Respondents



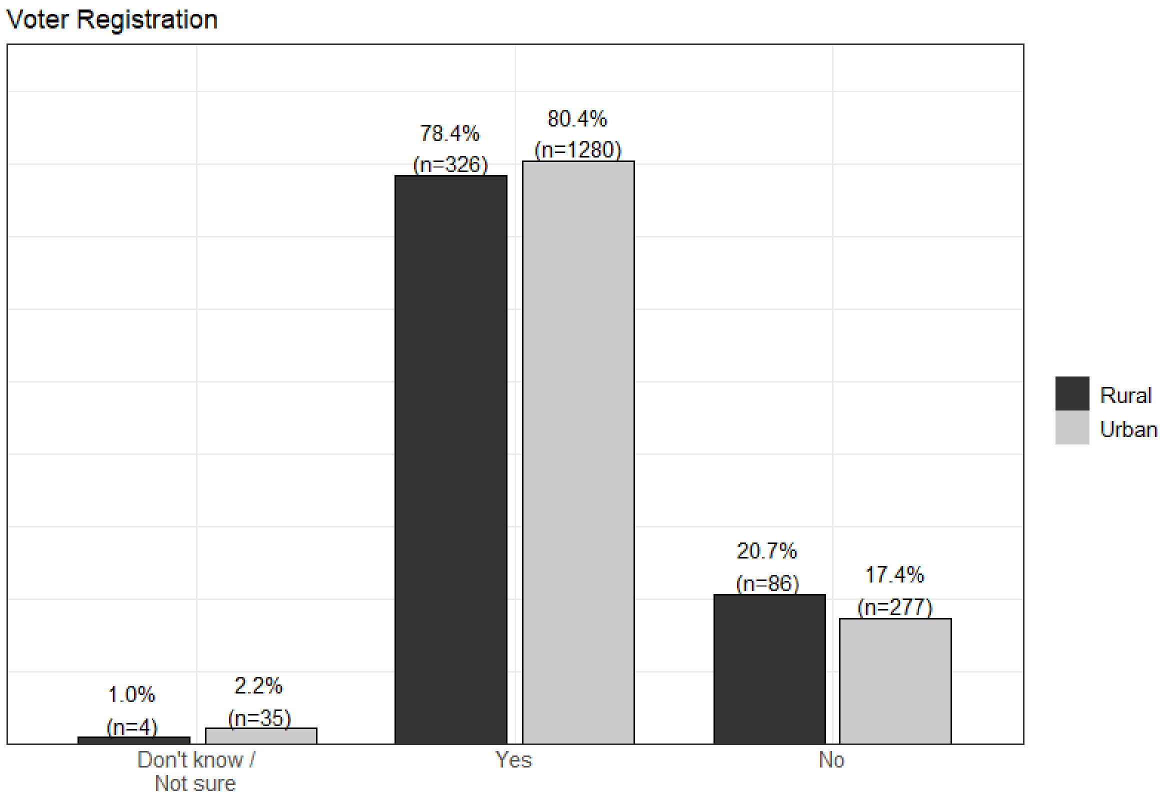
Employment status also differed significantly across rural and urban respondents (Figure 14). Most indicated that they were employed or self-employed, although urban residents were more likely to have provided this response (54.4 percent rural, 61.1 percent urban). Rural residents were more likely to have indicated that they were retired or disabled (28.5 percent rural, 23.5 percent urban) or homemakers (10.6 percent rural, 6.2 percent urban). Small proportions in both areas indicated that they were unemployed (whether looking for work or not) or students.

Figure 14. Work Situation of Rural and Urban Respondents



Finally, there were significant differences in rural and urban voter registration rates as reported by respondents (Figure 15). Most respondents indicated that they were registered to vote, but this was more common among urban respondents (78.4 percent rural; 80.4 percent urban).

Figure 155. Voter Registration Status of Rural and Urban Respondents



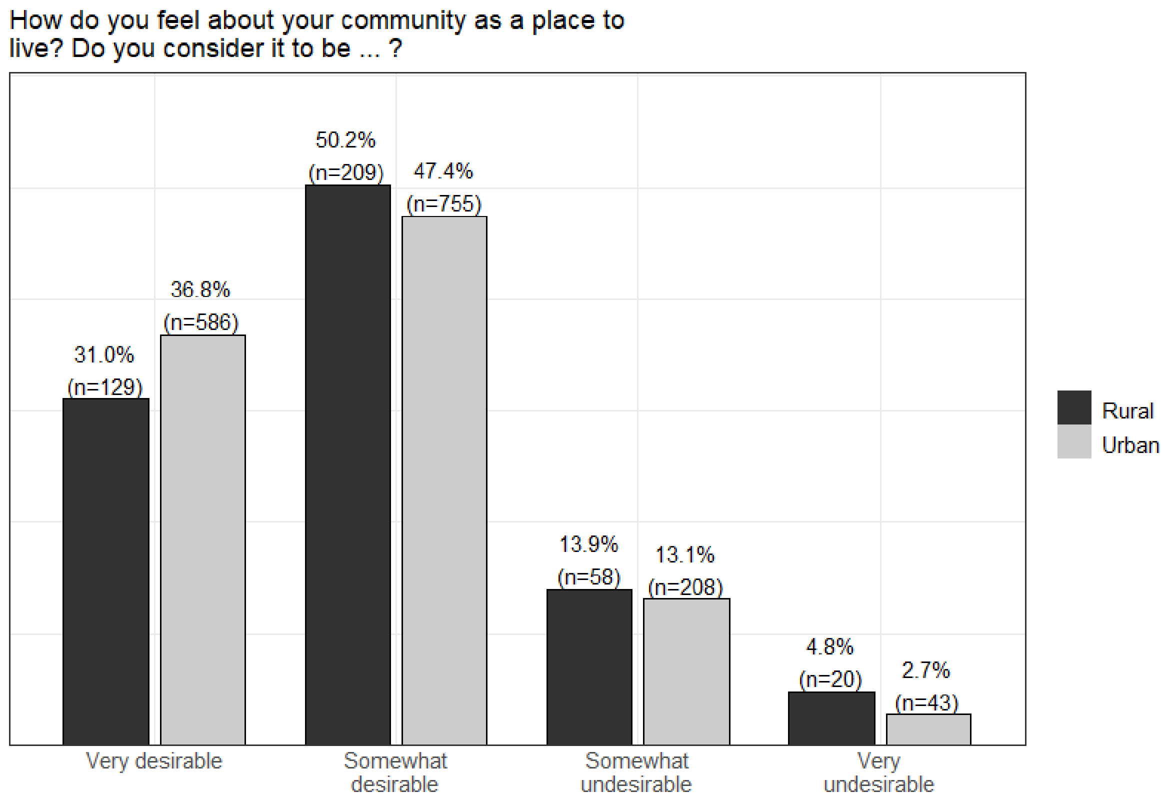
Local Community

Overview & Assessment

The survey began by asking rural and urban Pennsylvania residents questions about their communities. Specifically, they were asked to think of these questions in the context of "the local area where you live, shop, and receive services, such as schools, municipal services, etc." Generally, both rural and urban respondents provided similar assessments of their local communities, although there were some differences in their assessments of each attribute. Overall, they rated their communities as desirable and did not expect changes to this in the future. They rated the cost of living in their communities as average and said that they felt safe. When asked to provide a quality rating for their community's natural environment, as a place to raise children, as a place to retire, its school, its job opportunities, its recreation, its healthcare, its available housing, its freedom from crime, and the involvement of its citizens, respondents generally provided a rating of "medium" or "high," with one notable exception being the "low" quality rating of job opportunities among most rural respondents.

The first question asked how respondents feel about their community as a place to live (Figure 16). Both rural and urban residents generally rated their communities as "somewhat desirable," but responses were significantly different (50.2 percent rural, 47.4 percent urban). Urban residents were slightly more positive than rural residents, being more likely to provide a rating of "very desirable" (31 percent rural, 36.8 percent urban). A smaller proportion in both rural and urban areas rated their communities negatively, with less than 5 percent providing a response of "very undesirable." Compared to 2008, slightly less felt their communities were "very desirable" (34.5 percent rural, 41.4 percent urban in 2008) in 2019.

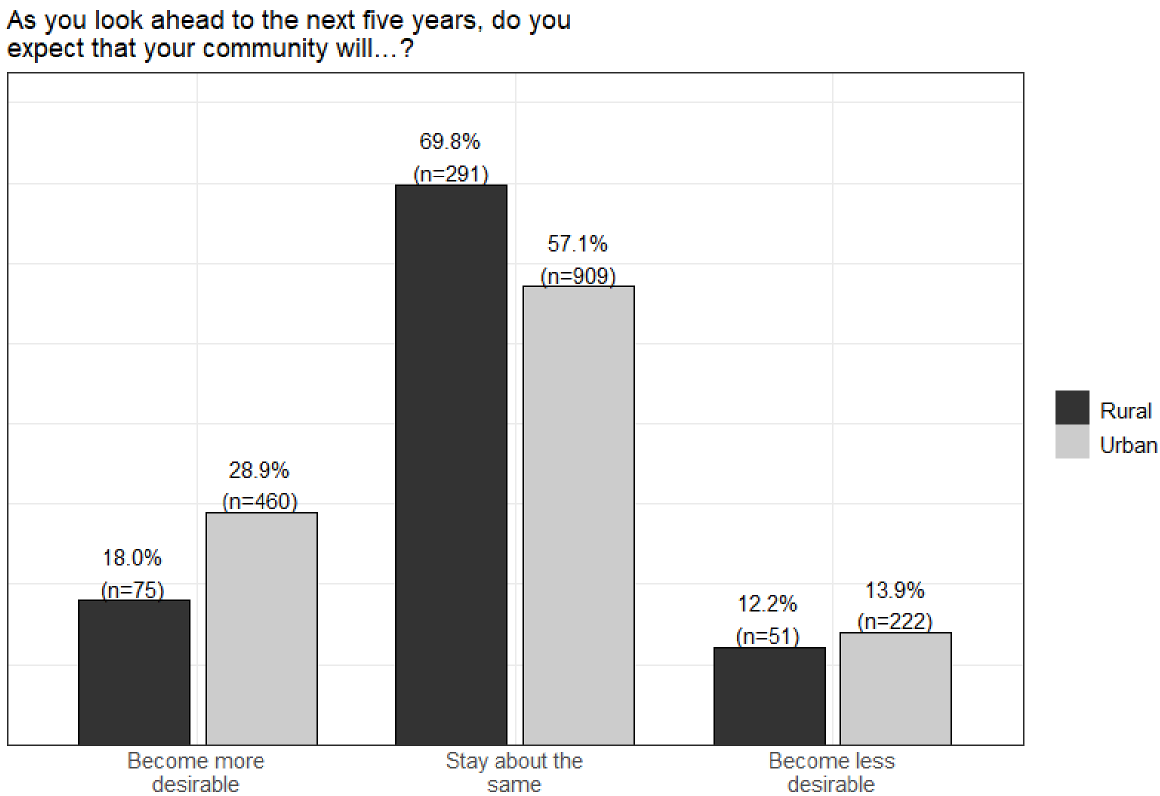
Figure 16. Evaluation of Community as a Place to Live



Respondents were then asked what they expected for their community over the next 5 years (Figure 17). Most respondents did not expect change. There were significant differences, but a majority of both rural and urban residents responded that they expect their community will "stay about the same" (69.8 percent rural, 57.1 percent urban).

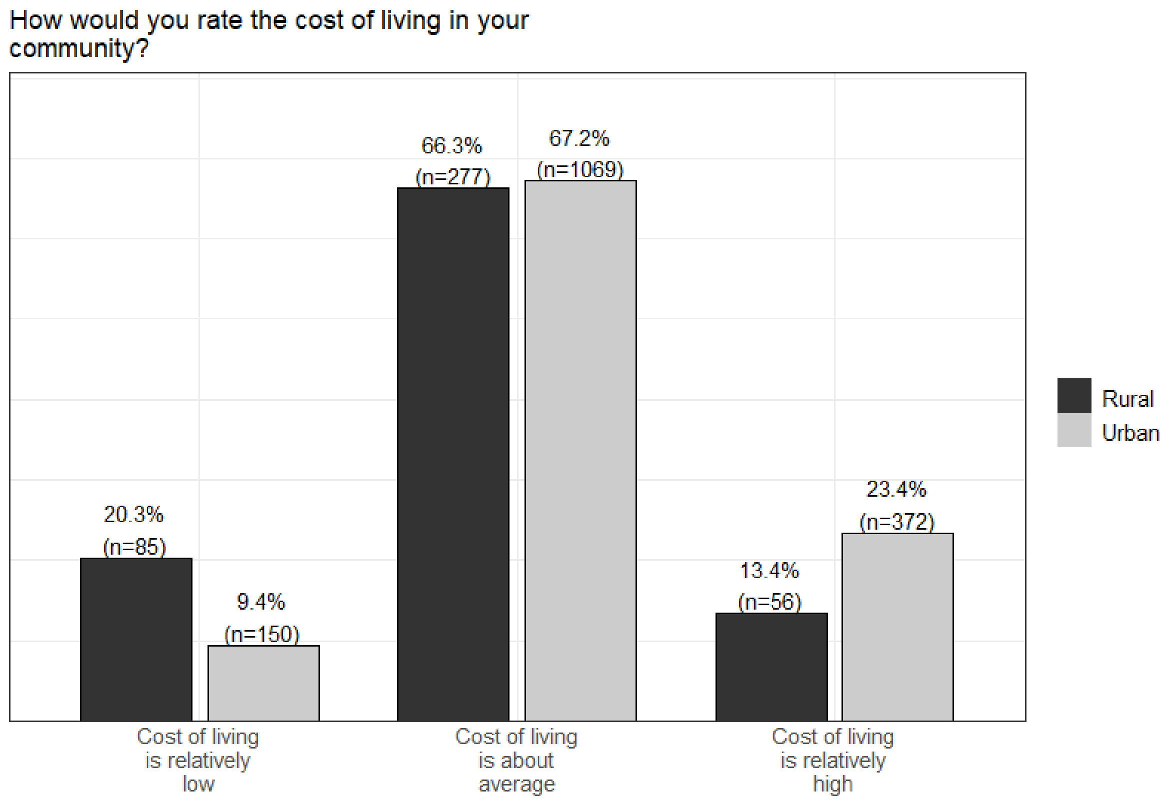
Urban residents were more likely to expect change in comparison to rural residents. They were more likely than rural residents to respond that they expect their communities to either "become more desirable" (18 percent rural, 28.9 percent urban) or "become less desirable" (12.2 percent rural, 13.9 percent urban). In 2008, respondents were instead asked to rate their communities over the next 10 years. In comparison, in 2019, they were more positive, with less having responded their community will "become less desirable" (22.4 percent rural, 21.4 percent urban in 2008).

Figure 17. Expectations of Future Desirability of the Local Community



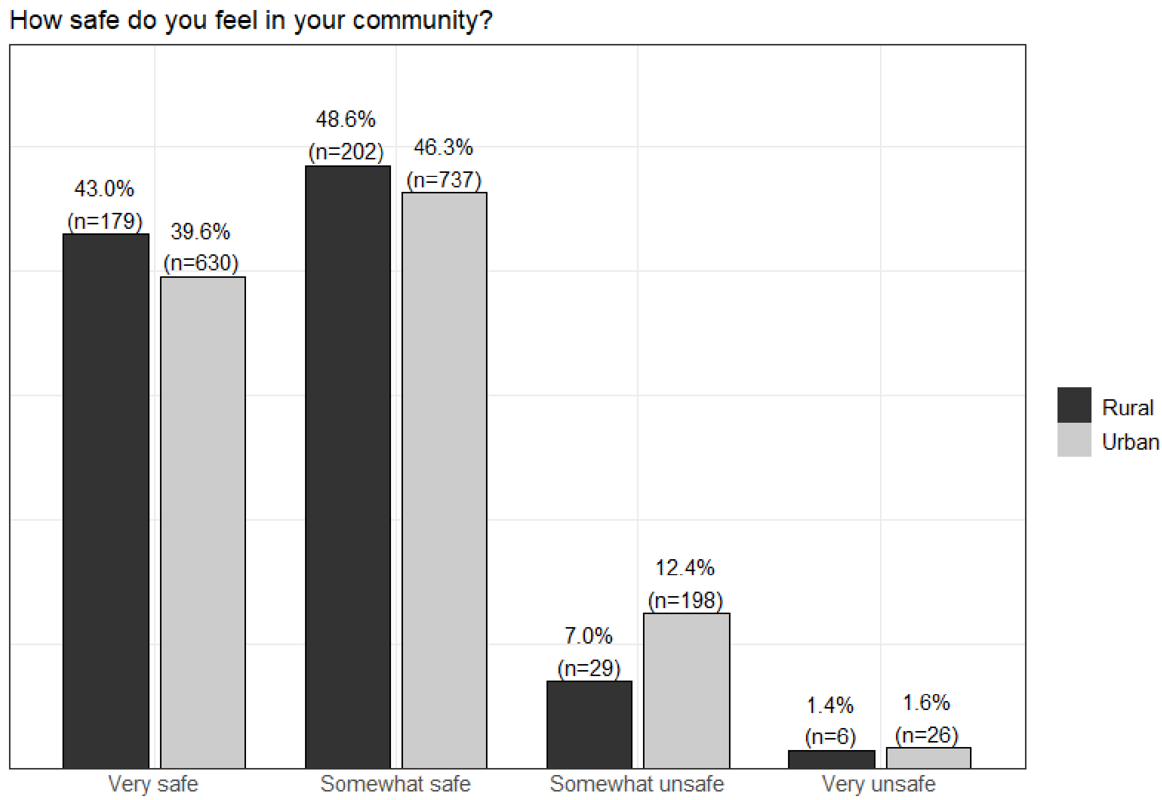
Respondents were then asked to rate several specific aspects of their community, beginning with the cost of living (Figure 18). There were again significant rural-urban differences. More urban residents said that their cost of living is relatively high (13.4 percent rural, 23.4 percent urban), while more rural residents said that their cost of living is "relatively low" (20.3 percent rural, 9.4 percent urban). Whether they lived in a rural or urban area, however, most respondents stated that their cost of living is "about average" (66.3 percent rural, 67.2 percent urban). The pattern of responses in 2008 was similar (65.4 percent rural, 64.5 percent urban in 2008).

Figure 18. Evaluation of Community Cost of Living



Respondents next rated the safety of their communities (Figure 19) with rural and urban responses again differing significantly. Rural residents were somewhat more likely to rate their communities as being “very safe” (43 percent rural, 39.6 percent urban) or “somewhat safe” (48.6 percent rural, 46.3 percent urban) than urban residents, although most urban residents provided one of these responses as well. Urban residents were more likely to say their communities were somewhat unsafe (7 percent rural, 12.4 percent urban). Less than 2 percent of respondents felt their communities were very unsafe. The pattern of responses in 2008 was similar (41.2 percent rural, 38.7 percent urban responded “very safe”; 50.7 percent among residents of both areas responded “somewhat safe” in 2008).

Figure 199. Evaluation of Community Safety



Respondents rated the quality of several aspects of their communities as well, including its natural environment, as a place to raise children, as a place to retire, its schools, its job opportunities, its recreation, its healthcare, its available housing, its freedom from crime, and the involvement of its citizens (Table 5). The most common rating for each item was "medium" quality. Both rural and urban respondents were most likely to say that their communities were a "high" quality place to raise children (45.6 percent rural, 46.2 percent urban). Generally, rural respondents provided higher ratings than urban respondents on their communities' natural environment, which was one of the only aspects more respondents rated as "high" quality (47 percent rural, 30.7 percent urban). Both rated quality as a place to retire as "medium," but ratings were higher among rural respondents (42.9 percent rural, 41.4 percent urban). However, they provided lower ratings on schools, job opportunities, recreation, health care, and housing. Job opportunities were the only item that most rural respondents rated as “low” quality (52.3 percent rural, 30.6 percent urban). Differences were significant between urban and rural respondents on all items except neighborliness, freedom from crime, and citizen involvement.

Table 5. Present Quality of Community Attributes

Please rate the quality of your present community as it is today:

	Rural			Urban		
	Low	**Medium**	**High**	**Low**	**Medium**	**High**
Neighborliness	72 (17.31 %)	**212 (50.96 %)**	132 (31.73 %)	301 (18.92 %)	**832 (52.29 %)**	458 (28.79 %)
*Natural environment**	50 (11.99 %)	171 (41.01 %)	**196 (47.00 %)**	318 (19.97 %)	**786 (49.37 %)**	488 (30.65 %)
Place to raise children	52 (12.47 %)	175 (41.97 %)	**190 (45.56 %)**	231 (14.51 %)	625 (39.26 %)	**736 (46.23 %)**
*Place to retire**	108 (25.90 %)	**179 (42.93 %)**	130 (31.18 %)	525 (33.00 %)	**658 (41.36 %)**	408 (25.64 %)
*Schools**	63 (15.11 %)	**208 (49.88 %)**	146 (35.01 %)	260 (16.34 %)	**697 (43.81 %)**	634 (39.85 %)
*Job opportunities**	**218 (52.28 %)**	164 (39.33 %)	35 (8.39 %)	487 (30.61 %)	**843 (52.99 %)**	261 (16.40 %)
*Recreation**	150 (36.06 %)	**175 (42.07 %)**	91 (21.88 %)	333 (20.93 %)	**751 (47.20 %)**	507 (31.87 %)
*Health care**	88 (21.10 %)	**240 (57.55 %)**	89 (21.34 %)	209 (13.14 %)	**837 (52.61 %)**	545 (34.26 %)
*Available housing**	83 (19.95 %)	**250 (60.10 %)**	83 (19.95 %)	223 (14.02 %)	**941 (59.15 %)**	427 (26.84 %)
Freedom from crime	67 (16.07 %)	**227 (54.44 %)**	123 (29.50 %)	327 (20.55 %)	**811 (50.97 %)**	453 (28.47 %)
Citizen involvement	110 (26.44 %)	**236 (56.73 %)**	70 (16.83 %)	371 (23.32 %)	**913 (57.39 %)**	307 (19.30 %)

*Most common responses for each question in bold. * = statistically significant rural-urban difference*

Specific Issues

Respondents were also asked which priority they would give to issues relating to local facilitates in their communities (Table 6). The only differences in prioritization between rural and urban residents concerned the addition of retail and service businesses. More rural residents responded that they would like these facilities to be given “higher priority” (44 percent rural, 27 percent urban). Most residents of both rural and urban areas responded that they would like repairs of local streets and roads to receive “higher priority” (60.2 percent rural, 61.5 percent urban). Concerning other facilities, except for additional retail and service business among rural residents, the most common response was that they should be given the “same priority.”

Table 6. Evaluation of Local Community Infrastructure

Compared to what is being done now, what priority do you believe should be given to each of the following issues related to local facilities in your community in the future?

	Rural				Urban			
	Don't Know	**Lower Priority**	**Same Priority**	**Higher Priority**	**Don't Know**	**Lower Priority**	**Same Priority**	**Higher Priority**
Repair local streets and roads	7 (1.68 %)	31 (7.43 %)	128 (30.70 %)	**251 (60.19 %)**	40 (2.51 %)	127 (7.98 %)	446 (28.03 %)	**978 (61.47 %)**
Provide transportation services within the community	15 (3.61 %)	83 (19.95 %)	**197 (47.36 %)**	121 (29.09 %)	61 (3.83 %)	380 (23.88 %)	**734 (46.13 %)**	416 (26.15 %)
Improve the quality and safety of drinking water	24 (5.76 %)	61 (14.63 %)	**207 (49.64 %)**	125 (29.98 %)	87 (5.47 %)	225 (14.14 %)	**756 (47.52 %)**	523 (32.87 %)
Enforce municipal codes (blight, zoning, etc.)	31 (7.43 %)	96 (23.02 %)	**195 (46.76 %)**	95 (22.78 %)	120 (7.54 %)	324 (20.35 %)	**762 (47.86 %)**	386 (24.25 %)
Strengthen protective services (police, fire, neighborhood watch, etc.)	12 (2.88 %)	42 (10.10 %)	**212 (50.96 %)**	150 (36.06 %)	43 (2.70 %)	144 (9.05 %)	**839 (52.70 %)**	566 (35.55 %)
*Add retail and service businesses**	13 (3.12 %)	73 (17.55 %)	147 (35.34 %)	**183 (43.99 %)**	59 (3.71 %)	412 (25.90 %)	**691 (43.43 %)**	429 (26.96 %)
Encourage cultural activities and the arts	21 (5.04 %)	87 (20.86 %)	**185 (44.36 %)**	124 (29.74 %)	67 (4.21 %)	340 (21.37 %)	**744 (46.76 %)**	440 (27.66 %)
Provide more parks, playgrounds, and recreation facilities	13 (3.12 %)	82 (19.66 %)	**194 (46.52 %)**	128 (30.70 %)	56 (3.52 %)	300 (18.86 %)	**732 (46.01 %)**	503 (31.62 %)

*Most common responses for each question in bold. * = statistically significant rural-urban difference*

Compared to 2008, more residents said that repair of local streets and roads should be given “higher priority” (43.5 percent rural, 41.7 percent urban in 2008). This was also the case for the addition of retail and service businesses among rural respondents, although there was no change in the proportion who responded “higher priority” among urban respondents (40.7 percent rural, 27.3 percent rural in 2008). There were two items that could not be compared to 2008 responses: transportation services, as the 2008 survey specified public transit services, and enforcement of municipal codes, as this item was not included in the 2008 survey.

Respondents were then asked what priority they believe should be given to family and human services issues in their communities (Table 7). On most issues, both rural and urban residents agreed they should be given a “higher priority,” or in some cases at least the “same priority,” rather than a “lower priority.” The only issue where a majority of residents in *both* rural and urban areas said it should be given a “higher priority” was strengthening programs to deal with drug and alcohol abuse, with rural residents being more likely to have given this response (60.2 percent rural, 51.8 percent urban). Both rural and urban respondents said combating domestic violence and abuse should be given “higher priority.” Rural respondents were more likely to say that providing shelters for the temporarily homeless (44.4 percent rural, 38.6 percent urban) and attracting additional healthcare providers should be given “higher priority,” (46.9 percent rural, 34.2 percent urban), with urban residents instead saying these issues should be given the “same priority.” Rural residents were also more likely to have responded that increased services for senior citizens should be given “higher priority,” although urban respondents generally agreed (52.2 percent rural, 46.6 percent urban). There were no issues where urban residents were more likely to have said they should be given “higher priority.”

Table 7. Priorities for Family and Human Services Issues

Compared to what is being done now, what priority do you believe should be given to each of the following family and human services issues in your community in the future?

	Rural				Urban			
	Don't Know	Lower Priority	Same Priority	Higher Priority	Don't Know	Lower Priority	Same Priority	Higher Priority
*Increase services for senior citizen (meals, transportation, home health, etc.)**	11 (2.63 %)	20 (4.78 %)	169 (40.43 %)	**218 (52.15 %)**	65 (4.09 %)	105 (6.60 %)	680 (42.74 %)	**741 (46.57 %)**
*Strengthen programs to deal with drug and alcohol abuse**	17 (4.08 %)	28 (6.71 %)	121 (29.02 %)	**251 (60.19 %)**	60 (3.77 %)	158 (9.94 %)	549 (34.53 %)	**823 (51.76 %)**
Combat domestic violence and abuse	21 (5.04 %)	32 (7.67 %)	168 (40.29 %)	**196 (47.00 %)**	94 (5.91 %)	149 (9.37 %)	662 (41.61 %)	**686 (43.12 %)**
Provide emergency food (food banks, food pantry)	10 (2.40 %)	30 (7.21 %)	**207 (49.76 %)**	169 (40.62 %)	56 (3.52 %)	163 (10.24 %)	**787 (49.43 %)**	586 (36.81 %)
*Provide shelters for the temporarily homeless**	22 (5.28 %)	50 (11.99 %)	160 (38.37 %)	**185 (44.36 %)**	86 (5.40 %)	273 (17.15 %)	**618 (38.82 %)**	615 (38.63 %)
Provide affordable day care for children	23 (5.53 %)	39 (9.38 %)	173 (41.59 %)	**181 (43.51 %)**	79 (4.97 %)	192 (12.07 %)	**678 (42.61 %)**	642 (40.35 %)
*Attract additional health care providers (specialists, family doctors, nurses, etc.)**	13 (3.12 %)	42 (10.10 %)	166 (39.90 %)	**195 (46.88 %)**	56 (3.52 %)	201 (12.63 %)	**790 (49.62 %)**	545 (34.23 %)

*Most common responses for each question in bold. * = statistically significant rural-urban difference*

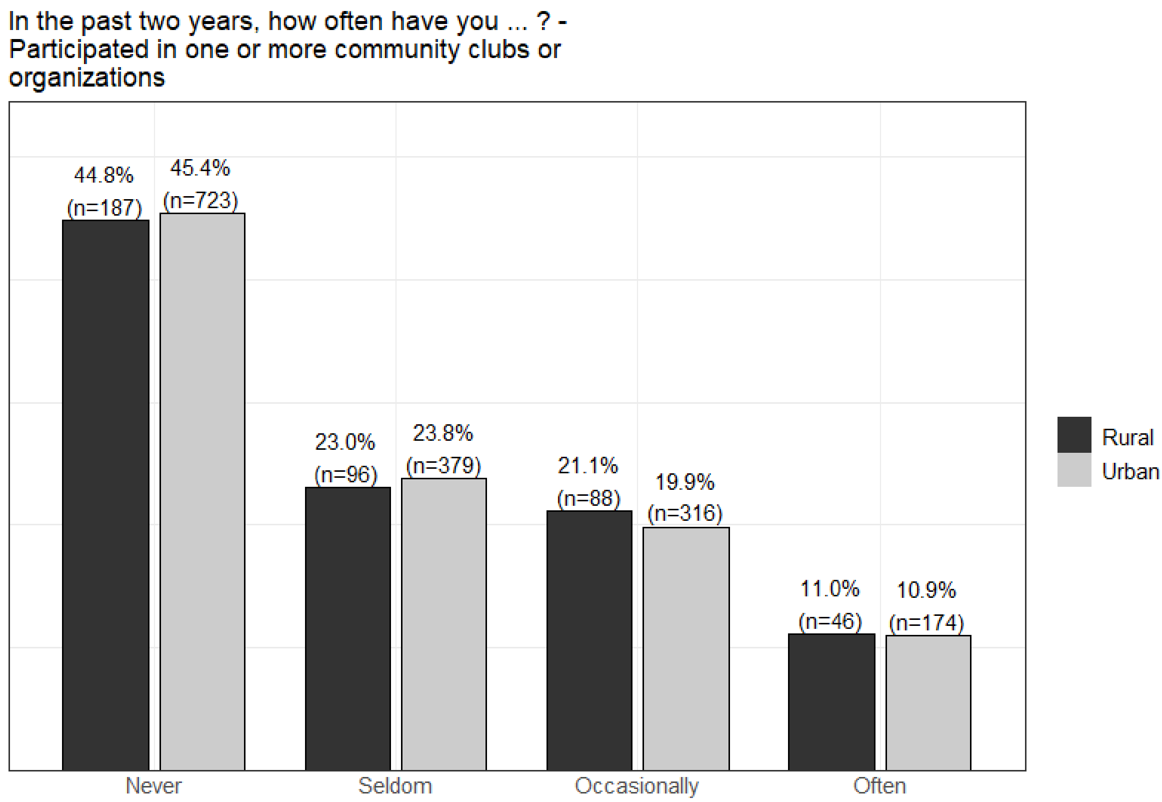
Compared to 2008, more rural and urban respondents indicated that most issues should have “higher priority.” One exception was increasing services for senior citizens, which fewer urban respondents said should have “higher priority” (48.9 percent rural, 50.8 percent urban in 2008). Fewer respondents said the following issues should have “higher priority”: providing affordable day care for children, (43.5 percent rural, 40.4 percent urban in 2019; 46.9 percent rural, 44.9 percent urban in 2008) and attracting additional healthcare providers (46.8 percent rural and 34.2 percent urban in 2019; 53.3 percent rural, 43.3 percent urban in 2008).

Community Involvement

Respondents were then asked about involvement in their communities. They were asked whether in the last 2 years they had: participated in one or more community clubs or organizations; served on a local government commission, committee, or board; or volunteered to help others in their communities. There were no significant differences between rural and urban community involvement. Generally, both had little to no involvement in their communities: the most common response was that they had never participated in these activities in the past 2 years, apart from occasional volunteering among rural residents. They were separately asked whether they planned to leave part of their estate to a community foundation or organization. Again, most indicated that they had not made these plans, with rural residents being less likely to have done so.

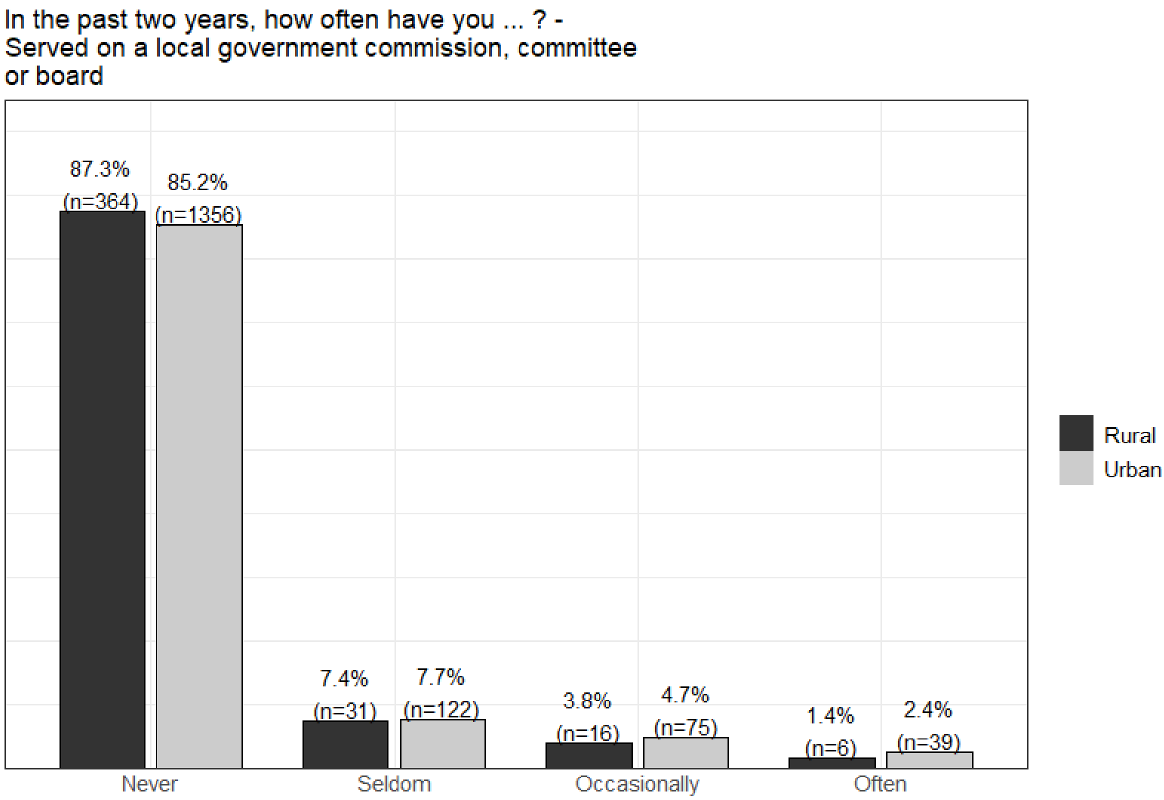
When asked about participation in community clubs or organizations (Figure 20), both rural and urban residents generally responded that they had “never” done this in the past 2 years (44.8 percent rural, 45.4 percent urban). The differences were not statistically significant. Similar proportions in each area responded that they “seldom” (23 percent rural respondents, 23.8 percent urban) or “occasionally” (21.1 percent rural, and 19.9 percent urban) participated. Few residents of rural or urban areas stated that they “often” participated (11 percent rural, 10.9 percent urban). Compared to 2008, participation among respondents was down. In 2008, more residents of both rural and urban areas responded that they “occasionally” (28.3 percent rural, 30 percent urban in 2008) or “often” (20 percent rural, 15.4 percent urban in 2008) participated in community clubs or organizations.

Figure 20. Participation in Community Clubs and Organizations



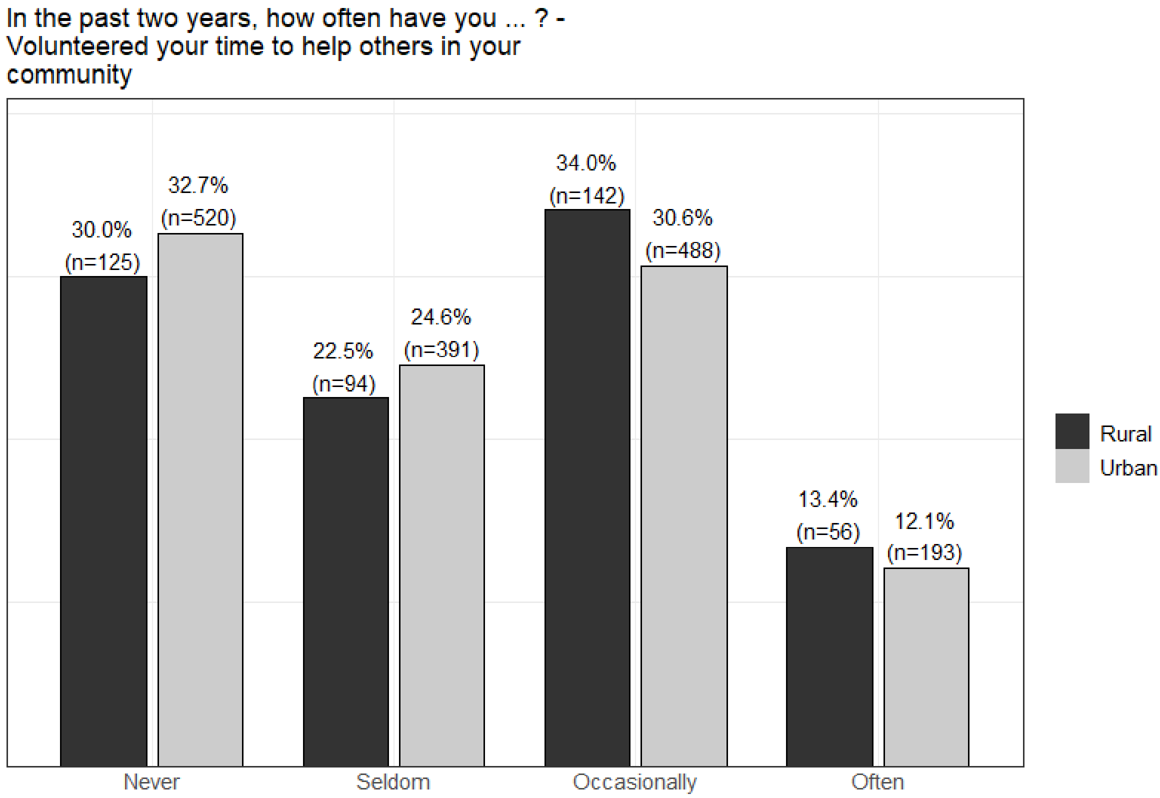
Of all community involvement activities, residents of both rural and urban areas were least likely to have served on a local government commission, committee, or board in the last 2 years (Figure 21). Over 85 percent of both rural and urban residents said that they had “never” done this (87.3 percent rural, 85.2 percent urban). Only a small number responded that they had “often” done this (1.4 percent rural, 2.4 percent urban). The differences were not statistically significant. Compared to 2008, rural residents were slightly less likely to have said they served “occasionally,” while urban residents were slightly more likely to have given this response (5.7 percent rural, 3.4 percent urban in 2008). Rural residents were also slightly less likely to have said they served “often,” while the proportion was similar among urban residents (3.6 percent rural, 2.6 percent urban in 2008).

Figure 21. Service on Local Government Commissions, Committees, or Boards



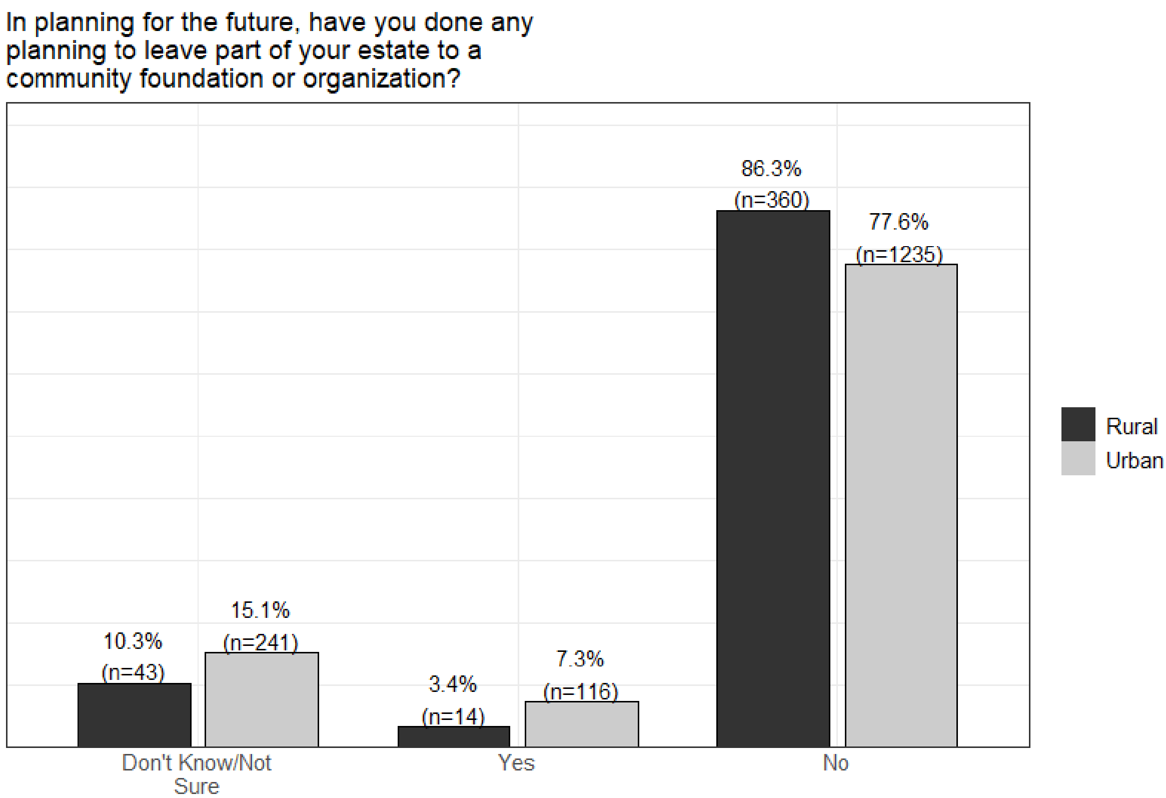
The form of community involvement both rural and urban residents were most likely to have participated in during the past 2 years was volunteering their time to help others in their communities (Figure 22). Many still responded that they had “never” done this (30 percent rural, 32.7 percent urban), and rural-urban differences were not statistically significant. However, this form of involvement was the only one where the most common category for rural residents was “occasionally” (34 percent rural, 30.6 percent urban). “Never” remained the most common category for urban residents. Compared to 2008, both rural and urban respondents were less likely to have said they "often" (25.5 percent rural, 20.4 percent urban in 2008) volunteered, and urban residents were also less likely to have "occasionally" volunteered (33.8 percent rural, 33.5 percent urban in 2008).

Figure 22. Frequency of Volunteering in Community



Finally, the one form of community involvement where rural and urban respondents significantly differed was in whether they had done any planning to leave part of their estate to a community foundation or organization (Figure 23). Like other forms of involvement, most indicated that they had not (86.3 percent rural, 77.6 percent urban). Urban residents were more likely to have said that they had done this form of estate planning, although the proportion was still relatively small (3.4 percent rural, 7.3 percent urban). This specific question was not asked in 2008, so responses could not be compared.

Figure 23. Estate Planning



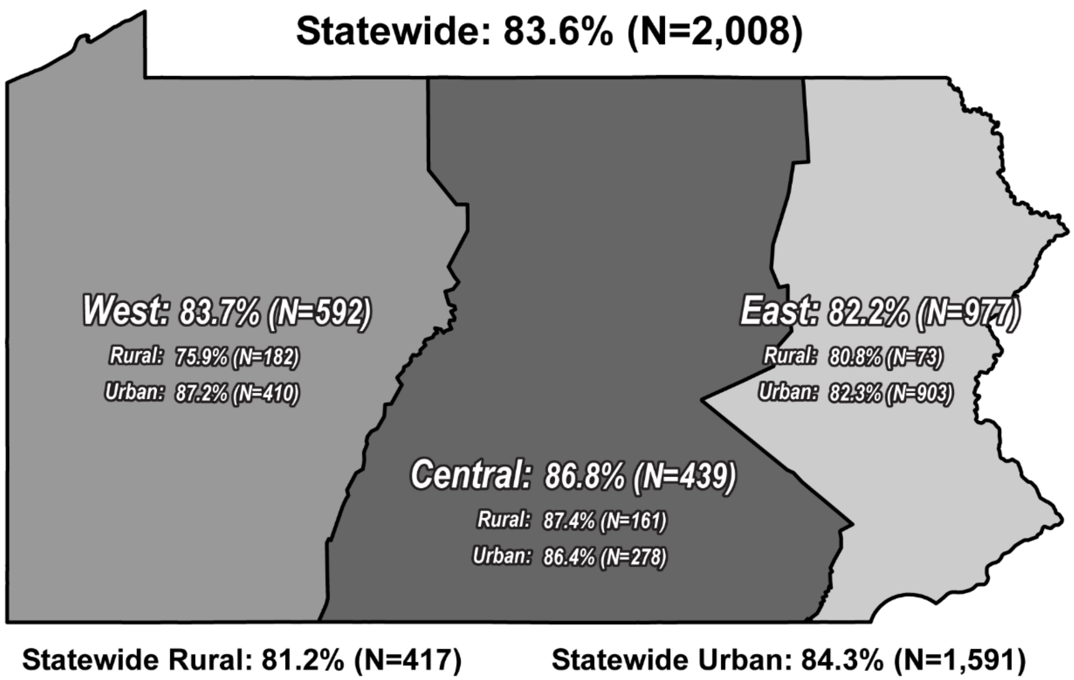
Explaining Pennsylvanians' Views of their Communities

Which personal and sociodemographic factors may explain differences in respondents' basic attitudes concerning their communities? Several of these are related to how survey respondents felt about their communities as a place to live, and how they expected this to change in the future. Recall that rural respondents were less likely to have rated their communities as "very desirable" or to have expected them to change in the future – for better or for worse. Overall, however, respondents felt that their communities were desirable rather than undesirable and that they would remain the same in the future.

For some characteristics, differences in attitudes as explained by these factors are consistent with the rural-urban differences associated with these. Where they are not, the affect may be attenuated by the several other factors associated with a respondent's feelings concerning his/her community. The following analysis examines how rural responses to these basic attitudes vary according to the respondents' demographic characteristics. Because there are very few rural respondents in some categories using the weighted sample, these analyses use data from the unweighted rural oversample. In other words, they focus only on the 1,202 rural respondents without making further adjustments for representativeness of the population. Therefore, comparisons to urban respondents cannot be made in these analyses because they would not be representative of the actual rural-urban differences in attitudes. The one exception to this approach concerns the analysis of regional differences in attitudes, where the weighted sample was used. Refer to Appendix B for a complete inventory of rural and urban responses to all questions using the weighted sample.

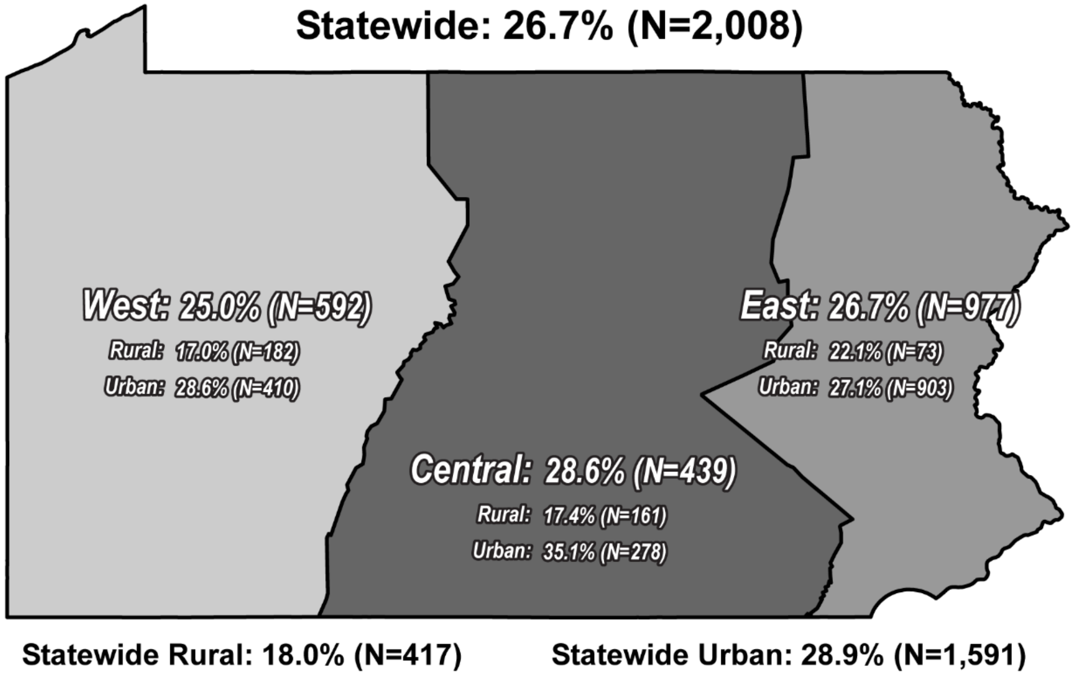
First, consider regional differences in these attitudes in addition to rural-urban differences (Figure 24). In all regions, respondents generally felt that their communities were "very desirable" or "somewhat desirable" as a place to live. Respondents who lived in central Pennsylvania were most likely to have said this, with rural and urban responses being similar there (87.4 percent rural, 86.4 percent urban). Responses of urban and rural respondents in western Pennsylvania differed, with urban respondents being more likely to have said this (75.9 percent rural, 87.2 percent urban). Ratings in eastern Pennsylvania were slightly below the statewide average for rural respondents and about average for urban respondents (80.8 percent rural, 82.3 percent urban).

Figure 24. Regional Ratings of Community as Very/Somewhat Desirable



Similarly, there were regional differences in whether respondents felt their community would “become more desirable” (Figure 25). In all regions across Pennsylvania, urban respondents were more likely to have said this, especially in central Pennsylvania (west – 17 percent rural, 28.6 percent urban; central – 17.4 percent rural, 35.1 percent urban; east – 22.1 percent rural, 27.1 percent urban). The rural-urban differences were largest in western and central Pennsylvania.

Figure 25. Regional Community Outlook of Become More Desirable



The length of time respondents had lived in their communities was not significantly related to how they felt about their communities (Tables 8 and 9). Regardless of the number of years they had lived there, respondents generally felt that their communities were "somewhat desirable" and would "stay about the same."

Table 8. Comparison of Feelings about Community as a Desirable Place to Live and Length of Time Living in the Community

How long have you lived in your community?	*How do you feel about your community as a place to live? Do you consider it to be ...?*				***Total***
	Very desirable	Somewhat desirable	Somewhat undesirable	Very undesirable	
Less than 5 years	71 33 %	**108** **50.2 %**	31 14.4 %	5 2.3 %	215 100 %
5-10 years	46 27.5 %	**81** **48.5 %**	35 21 %	5 3 %	167 100 %
11-19 years	62 28.3 %	**116** **53 %**	32 14.6 %	9 4.1 %	219 100 %
More than 20 years	185 30.8 %	**300** **49.9 %**	79 13.1 %	37 6.2 %	601 100 %
Total	364 30.3 %	605 50.3 %	177 14.7 %	56 4.7 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 9. Comparison of Community Outlook and Length of Time Living in the Community

How long have you lived in your community?	*As you look ahead to the next five years, do you expect that your community will…?*			***Total***
	Become more desirable	Stay about the same	Become less desirable	
Less than 5 years	49 22.8 %	**142** **66 %**	24 11.2 %	215 100 %
5-10 years	39 23.4 %	**109** **65.3 %**	19 11.4 %	167 100 %
11-19 years	41 18.7 %	**158** **72.1 %**	20 9.1 %	219 100 %
More than 20 years	105 17.5 %	**412** **68.6 %**	84 14 %	601 100 %
Total	234 19.5 %	821 68.3 %	147 12.2 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

The nature of the respondent's housing situation was significantly related to how he/she felt about the community (Tables 10 and 11). Homeowners, or those who lived with the homeowner, were most likely to have said that their communities are "very desirable" (33.9 percent). Renters and those in other living arrangements (i.e. group living quarters) were less likely to have provided this response (23.1 percent renters, 10.5 percent other). Those who lived in owned homes or other arrangements were also more likely to have said they expect their communities will "become more desirable" in the future than those who rented (20.3 percent owned, 17.0 percent rented, 23.7 percent other).

Table 10. Comparison of Community Evaluation and Ownership of Primary Residence

Is your primary residence owned (whether there is a mortgage) or rented?	*How do you feel about your community as a place to live? Do you consider it to be ...?*				***Total***
	Very desirable	Somewhat desirable	Somewhat undesirable	Very undesirable	
Owned by you or someone in the household	283 33.9 %	**400** **48 %**	109 13.1 %	42 5 %	834 100 %
Rented by you or someone in the household	76 23.1 %	**182** **55.3 %**	59 17.9 %	12 3.6 %	329 100 %
Something else (occupied without payment of rent, group living quarters, etc.)	4 10.5 %	**23** **60.5 %**	9 23.7 %	2 5.3 %	38 100 %
Total	363 30.2 %	605 50.4 %	177 14.7 %	56 4.7 %	1201 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 11. Comparison of Community Outlook and Ownership of Primary Residence

Is your primary residence owned (whether or not there is a mortgage) or rented?	*As you look ahead to the next five years, do you expect that your community will…?*			***Total***
	Become more desirable	Stay about the same	Become less desirable	
Owned by you or someone in the household	169 20.3 %	**576** **69.1 %**	89 10.7 %	834 100 %
Rented by you or someone in the household	56 17 %	**223** **67.8 %**	50 15.2 %	329 100 %
Something else (occupied without payment of rent, group living quarters, etc.)	9 23.7 %	**21** **55.3 %**	8 21.1 %	38 100 %
Total	234 19.5 %	820 68.3 %	147 12.2 %	1201 100 %

Most common response in bold

Similar to there being no significant differences in rural-urban home internet access, there were no significant differences in how those who had access and those who did not felt about their communities (Tables 12 and 13). Many respondents felt that their communities were “somewhat desirable,” and would “stay about the same” regardless of their internet access.

Table 12. Comparison of Community Evaluation and Internet Access at Home

Internet access at home	*How do you feel about your community as a place to live? Do you consider it to be ...?*				***Total***
	Very desirable	Somewhat desirable	Somewhat undesirable	Very undesirable	
Yes, with a subscription to an internet service	335 30.3 %	**557** **50.3 %**	164 14.8 %	51 4.6 %	1107 100 %
Yes, without a subscription to an internet service (free Wi-Fi)	16 25.8 %	**33** **53.2 %**	9 14.5 %	4 6.5 %	62 100 %
No internet access at home	13 39.4 %	**15** **45.5 %**	4 12.1 %	1 3 %	33 100 %
Total	364 30.3 %	605 50.3 %	177 14.7 %	56 4.7 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 13. Comparison of Community Outlook and Internet Access at Home

Internet access at home	*As you look ahead to the next five years, do you expect that your community will…?*			***Total***
	Become more desirable	Stay about the same	Become less desirable	
Yes, with a subscription to an internet service	209 18.9 %	**762** **68.8 %**	136 12.3 %	1107 100 %
Yes, without a subscription to an internet service (free Wi-Fi)	17 27.4 %	**37** **59.7 %**	8 12.9 %	62 100 %
No internet access at home	8 24.2 %	**22** **66.7 %**	3 9.1 %	33 100 %
Total	234 19.5 %	821 68.3 %	147 12.2 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Household income was not significantly related to differences in how respondents felt about their communities (Tables 14 and 15). Respondents at all household income levels felt that their communities were "somewhat desirable," and would "remain about the same."

Table 14. Comparison of Community Evaluation and Annual Household Income

Annual Household Income	*How do you feel about your community as a place to live? Do you consider it to be ...?*				***Total***
	Very desirable	Somewhat desirable	Somewhat undesirable	Very undesirable	
$100,000 or more	37 31.9 %	**59** **50.9 %**	15 12.9 %	5 4.3 %	116 100 %
$60,000 to $99,999	81 34 %	**113** **47.5 %**	36 15.1 %	8 3.4 %	238 100 %
$30,000 to $59,999	132 32.4 %	**202** **49.6 %**	51 12.5 %	22 5.4 %	407 100 %
Less than $30,000	101 27.1 %	**192** **51.5 %**	61 16.4 %	19 5.1 %	373 100 %
Don't know / Not sure	13 19.1 %	**39** **57.4 %**	14 20.6 %	2 2.9 %	68 100 %
Total	364 30.3 %	605 50.3 %	177 14.7 %	56 4.7 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 15. Comparison of Community Outlook and Annual Household Income

Annual Household Income	*As you look ahead to the next five years, do you expect that your community will…?*			***Total***
	Become more desirable	Stay about the same	Become less desirable	
$100,000 or more	24 20.7 %	**82** **70.7 %**	10 8.6 %	116 100 %
$60,000 to $99,999	50 21 %	**163** **68.5 %**	25 10.5 %	238 100 %
$30,000 to $59,999	88 21.6 %	**276** **67.8 %**	43 10.6 %	407 100 %
Less than $30,000	62 16.6 %	**251** **67.3 %**	60 16.1 %	373 100 %
Don't know / Not sure	10 14.7 %	**49** **72.1 %**	9 13.2 %	68 100 %
Total	234 19.5 %	821 68.3 %	147 12.2 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Respondents satisfaction with their families' financial situations were significantly related to how they felt about their communities, although there were no rural-urban differences in satisfaction with family finances (Tables 16 and 17). Those who were "very satisfied" were more likely to have indicated that their community was "very desirable" (48.7 percent) as compared to those who were "not at all satisfied" (20.7 percent). Those who were "very satisfied" were also more likely to have said that they expect their community will "become more desirable" in the next 5 years (22.7 percent) as compared to those who were "more or less satisfied" (20.6 percent) or "not at all satisfied" (16.6 percent).

Table 16. Comparison of Community Evaluation and Satisfaction with Financial Situation

Currently, how satisfied are you with your family's financial situation?	*How do you feel about your community as a place to live? Do you consider it to be ...?*				***Total***
	Very desirable	Somewhat desirable	Somewhat undesirable	Very undesirable	
Very satisfied	**75** **48.7 %**	60 39 %	14 9.1 %	5 3.2 %	154 100 %
More or less satisfied	203 32.1 %	**335** **53 %**	77 12.2 %	17 2.7 %	632 100 %
Not at all satisfied	86 20.7 %	**210** **50.5 %**	86 20.7 %	34 8.2 %	416 100 %
Total	364 30.3 %	605 50.3 %	177 14.7 %	56 4.7 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 17. Comparison of Community Outlook and Satisfaction with Financial Situation

Currently, how satisfied are you with your family's financial situation?	*As you look ahead to the next five years, do you expect that your community will…?*			***Total***
	Become more desirable	Stay about the same	Become less desirable	
Very satisfied	35 22.7 %	**109** **70.8 %**	10 6.5 %	154 100 %
More or less satisfied	130 20.6 %	**436** **69 %**	66 10.4 %	632 100 %
Not at all satisfied	69 16.6 %	**276** **66.3 %**	71 17.1 %	416 100 %
Total	234 19.5 %	821 68.3 %	147 12.2 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Respondents' assessment of whether their families' finances had improved was not significantly related to how they felt about their communities at the present time (Table 18). Their assessment of their financial situation was significantly related to their community outlook for the next 5 years, however (Table 19). Those who felt that things were "better off" were also more likely to have said they expect their communities will "becomes more desirable" (25.6 percent) as compared to those who felt things were "worse off" (17.3percent) or "about the same" (17.4 percent).

Table 18. Comparison of Community Evaluation and Financial Situation Over Past 12 Months

Would you say you and your family are better off, worse off, or about the same financially as you were 12 months ago?	*How do you feel about your community as a place to live? Do you consider it to be ...?*				***Total***
	Very desirable	Somewhat desirable	Somewhat undesirable	Very undesirable	
Better off	101 32.7 %	**153** **49.5 %**	43 13.9 %	12 3.9 %	309 100 %
Worse off	89 26.5 %	**167** **49.7 %**	58 17.3 %	22 6.5 %	336 100 %
About the same	174 31.2 %	**285** **51.2 %**	76 13.6 %	22 3.9 %	557 100 %
Total	364 30.3 %	605 50.3 %	177 14.7 %	56 4.7 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 19. Comparison of Community Outlook and Financial Situation Over Past 12 Months

Would you say you and your family are better off, worse off, or about the same financially as you were 12 months ago?	*As you look ahead to the next five years, do you expect that your community will…?*			***Total***
	Become more desirable	Stay about the same	Become less desirable	
Better off	79 25.6 %	**206** **66.7 %**	24 7.8 %	309 100 %
Worse off	58 17.3 %	**217** **64.6 %**	61 18.2 %	336 100 %
About the same	97 17.4 %	**398** **71.5 %**	62 11.1 %	557 100 %
Total	234 19.5 %	821 68.3 %	147 12.2 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

There was no significant relationship between family financial outlook and how respondents felt about their communities in the present time (Table 20). There were also no significant rural-urban differences in their economic outlooks. There were, however, significant differences in their expectations for their communities based on their financial outlooks (Table 21). Those who expected that their financial situation would become "better off" were also more likely to have expected their communities to become "more desirable" (25.2 percent), compared to those who felt their situation would be "worse off" (19.0 percent) or "about the same" (15.4 percent). Those who said they would be "worse off" financially were the most likely to have said their communities would "become less desirable" (9.0 percent better off, 26.1 percent worse off, 11.4 percent about the same).

Table 20. Comparison of Community Evaluation and Anticipated Financial Situation

Looking ahead, do you think that, 12 months from now, your family will be better off financially than you are now, worse off, or about the same as you are now?	*How do you feel about your community as a place to live? Do you consider it to be ...?*				***Total***
	Very desirable	Somewhat desirable	Somewhat undesirable	Very undesirable	
Better off	141 31.7 %	**215** **48.3 %**	65 14.6 %	24 5.4 %	445 100 %
Worse off	46 32.4 %	**62** **43.7 %**	24 16.9 %	10 7 %	142 100 %
About the same	177 28.8 %	**328** **53.3 %**	88 14.3 %	22 3.6 %	615 100 %
Total	364 30.3 %	605 50.3 %	177 14.7 %	56 4.7 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 21. Comparison of Community Outlook and Anticipated Financial Situation

Looking ahead, do you think that, 12 months from now, your family will be better off financially than you are now, worse off, or about the same as you are now?	*As you look ahead to the next five years, do you expect that your community will…?*			
	Become more desirable	Stay about the same	Become less desirable	***Total***
Better off	112 25.2 %	**293** **65.8 %**	40 9 %	445 100 %
Worse off	27 19 %	**78** **54.9 %**	37 26.1 %	142 100 %
About the same	95 15.4 %	**450** **73.2 %**	70 11.4 %	615 100 %
Total	234 19.5 %	821 68.3 %	147 12.2 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Age was significantly related to how respondents felt about their communities at the present time (Table 22). Older respondents were more likely to rate their communities as "very desirable," with those 65 and older being most likely to have said this (45.0 percent). In comparison, less than half as many respondents aged 18-24 and 25-34 provided this rating (13.2 percent 18-24, 17.1 percent 25-34). The relationship between age and expectations for the next 5 years was not significant, however.

Table 22. Comparison of Community Evaluation and Respondent Age

Age Category	*How do you feel about your community as a place to live? Do you consider it to be ...?*				***Total***
	Very desirable	Somewhat desirable	Somewhat undesirable	Very undesirable	
18-24	14 13.2 %	**63** **59.4 %**	18 17 %	11 10.4 %	106 100 %
25-34	36 17.1 %	**105** **49.8 %**	55 26.1 %	15 7.1 %	211 100 %
35-44	55 29.9 %	**92** **50 %**	28 15.2 %	9 4.9 %	184 100 %
45-54	54 27.7 %	**108** **55.4 %**	30 15.4 %	3 1.5 %	195 100 %
55-64	114 37.5 %	**148** **48.7 %**	31 10.2 %	11 3.6 %	304 100 %
65 and older	**91** **45 %**	89 44.1 %	15 7.4 %	7 3.5 %	202 100 %
Total	364 30.3 %	605 50.3 %	177 14.7 %	56 4.7 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 23. Comparison of Community Outlook and Respondent Age

Age Category	*As you look ahead to the next five years, do you expect that your community will…?*			***Total***
	Become more desirable	Stay about the same	Become less desirable	
18-24	19 17.9 %	**73** **68.9 %**	14 13.2 %	106 100 %
25-34	49 23.2 %	**136** **64.5 %**	26 12.3 %	211 100 %
35-44	38 20.7 %	**124** **67.4 %**	22 12 %	184 100 %
45-54	38 19.5 %	**127** **65.1 %**	30 15.4 %	195 100 %
55-64	54 17.8 %	**216** **71.1 %**	34 11.2 %	304 100 %
65 and older	36 17.8 %	**145** **71.8 %**	21 10.4 %	202 100 %
Total	234 19.5 %	821 68.3 %	147 12.2 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Gender was not significantly related to differences in how respondents felt about their communities at the present time (Table 24). Gender was significantly related to their expectations (Table 25), however, with men being more likely to have said that they expect their communities will “become more desirable” in the next 5 years (22.8 percent male, 17.8 percent female).

Table 24. Comparison of Community Evaluation and Gender

Gender	*How do you feel about your community as a place to live? Do you consider it to be ...?*				***Total***
	Very desirable	Somewhat desirable	Somewhat undesirable	Very undesirable	
Male	119 29.8 %	**197** **49.4 %**	66 16.5 %	17 4.3 %	399 100 %
Female	245 30.5 %	**408** **50.8 %**	111 13.8 %	39 4.9 %	803 100 %
Total	364 30.3 %	605 50.3 %	177 14.7 %	56 4.7 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 25. Comparison of Community Outlook and Gender

Gender	*As you look ahead to the next five years, do you expect that your community will…?*			***Total***
	Become more desirable	Stay about the same	Become less desirable	
Male	91 22.8 %	**265** **66.4 %**	43 10.8 %	399 100 %
Female	143 17.8 %	**556** **69.2 %**	104 13 %	803 100 %
Total	234 19.5 %	821 68.3 %	147 12.2 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Race or ethnicity was not significantly related to differences in how respondents felt about their communities at the present time (Table 26). The respondent's race or ethnicity was significantly related to his/her expectations for the next 5 years, however (Table 27). Those who indicated they were not white, black, or Hispanic were most likely to have said they expect their community to become more desirable (27.3 percent). Blacks or African Americans were least likely to have provided this response, however (14.3 percent). Those who were Hispanic as well as non-Hispanic whites fell somewhere in between with their expectation that their community would "become more desirable" (19.3 percent non-Hispanic white, 18.8 percent Hispanic).

Table 26. Comparison of Community Evaluation and Race/Ethnicity

Race and Ethnicity	*How do you feel about your community as a place to live? Do you consider it to be ...?*				***Total***
	Very desirable	Somewhat desirable	Somewhat undesirable	Very undesirable	
Black or African American alone, non-Hispanic	4 28.6 %	**5** **35.7 %**	4 28.6 %	1 7.1 %	14 100 %
Don't know / Not sure	0 0 %	0 0 %	0 0 %	1 100 %	1 100 %
Hispanic	3 18.8 %	**10** **62.5 %**	2 12.5 %	1 6.2 %	16 100 %
Something else, non-Hispanic	6 18.2 %	**20** **60.6 %**	6 18.2 %	1 3 %	33 100 %
White alone, non-Hispanic	351 30.8 %	**570** **50.1 %**	165 14.5 %	52 4.6 %	1138 100 %
Total	364 30.3 %	605 50.3 %	177 14.7 %	56 4.7 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 27. Comparison of Community Outlook and Race/Ethnicity

Race and Ethnicity	*As you look ahead to the next five years, do you expect that your community will…?*			***Total***
	Become more desirable	Stay about the same	Become less desirable	
Black or African American alone, non- Hispanic	2 14.3 %	**8** **57.1 %**	4 28.6 %	14 100 %
Don't know / Not sure	0 0 %	0 0 %	1 100 %	1 100 %
Hispanic	3 18.8 %	**11** **68.8 %**	2 12.5 %	16 100 %
Something else, non-Hispanic	9 27.3 %	**17** **51.5 %**	7 21.2 %	33 100 %
White alone, non-Hispanic	220 19.3 %	**785** **69 %**	133 11.7 %	1138 100 %
Total	234 19.5 %	821 68.3 %	147 12.2 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Marital status was associated with significant differences in how respondents felt about their communities at the present time (Table 28). Those who were never married were least likely to have rated their communities as "very desirable" (21.5 percent) compared to those who were married or had previously been married, especially widowed respondents (33.5 percent married/living with partner, 427.1 percent divorced, 45.1 percent widowed). Marital status was not significantly related to expectations for the next 5 years, however (Table 29).

Table 28. Comparison of Community Evaluation and Marital Status

Marital status	*How do you feel about your community as a place to live? Do you consider it to be ...?*				***Total***
	Very desirable	Somewhat desirable	Somewhat undesirable	Very undesirable	
Never Married	65 21.5 %	**169** **56 %**	52 17.2 %	16 5.3 %	302 100 %
Married/ living with a partner	221 33.5 %	**315** **47.8 %**	87 13.2 %	36 5.5 %	659 100 %
Divorced/ separated	46 27.1 %	**85** **50 %**	35 20.6 %	4 2.4 %	170 100 %
Widowed	32 45.1 %	**36** **50.7 %**	3 4.2 %	0 0 %	71 100 %
Total	364 30.3 %	605 50.3 %	177 14.7 %	56 4.7 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 29. Comparison of Community Outlook and Marital Status

Marital status	*As you look ahead to the next five years, do you expect that your community will…?*			***Total***
	Become more desirable	Stay about the same	Become less desirable	
Never Married	63 20.9 %	**199** **65.9 %**	40 13.2 %	302 100 %
Married/living with a partner	125 19 %	**454** **68.9 %**	80 12.1 %	659 100 %
Divorced/separated	33 19.4 %	**114** **67.1 %**	23 13.5 %	170 100 %
Widowed	13 18.3 %	**54** **76.1 %**	4 5.6 %	71 100 %
Total	234 19.5 %	821 68.3 %	147 12.2 %	1202 100 %

$\chi^2=4.408 \cdot df=6 \cdot \text{Cramer's } V=0.043 \cdot p=0.622$

Educational attainment was not significantly related to how respondents felt about their communities (Tables 30 and 31). Regardless of the respondents' educational attainment, they generally felt that their communities were "somewhat desirable," and would "stay about the same."

Table 30. Comparison of Community Evaluation and Educational Attainment

Educational Attainment	*How do you feel about your community as a place to live? Do you consider it to be ...?*				***Total***
	Very desirable	Somewhat desirable	Somewhat undesirable	Very undesirable	
Did not graduate from high school	11 25.6 %	**23** **53.5 %**	4 9.3 %	5 11.6 %	43 100 %
High school graduate/GED	135 33.8 %	**185** **46.4 %**	60 15 %	19 4.8 %	399 100 %
Some college, Associate's degree, technical/trade school, or other post-high school education	127 28.7 %	**235** **53 %**	63 14.2 %	18 4.1 %	443 100 %
Completed a college/Bachelor's degree	59 26.7 %	**112** **50.7 %**	39 17.6 %	11 5 %	221 100 %
Graduate work or graduate degree	32 33.3 %	**50** **52.1 %**	11 11.5 %	3 3.1 %	96 100 %
Total	364 30.3 %	605 50.3 %	177 14.7 %	56 4.7 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 31. Comparison of Community Outlook and Educational Attainment

Educational Attainment	*As you look ahead to the next five years, do you expect that your community will…?*			***Total***
	Become more desirable	Stay about the same	Become less desirable	
Did not graduate from high school	12 27.9 %	**27** **62.8 %**	4 9.3 %	43 100 %
High school graduate/GED	69 17.3 %	**276** **69.2 %**	54 13.5 %	399 100 %
Some college, Associate's degree, technical/trade school, or other post-high school education	88 19.9 %	**303** **68.4 %**	52 11.7 %	443 100 %
Completed a college/Bachelor's degree	44 19.9 %	**144** **65.2 %**	33 14.9 %	221 100 %
Graduate work or graduate degree	21 21.9 %	**71** **74 %**	4 4.2 %	96 100 %
Total	234 19.5 %	821 68.3 %	147 12.2 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Employment status was associated with significant differences in how respondents felt about their communities at the present time (Table 32). Respondents who were retired or disabled were most likely to rate their communities as "very desirable" (39.5 percent). In comparison, those who were students were least likely to have said their communities were "very desirable" (16.2 percent). There were no significant differences in their expectations over the next 5 years (Table 33).

Table 32. Comparison of Community Evaluation and Current Work Situation

Which of the following best describes your current work situation?	*How do you feel about your community as a place to live? Do you consider it to be ...?*				***Total***
	Very desirable	Somewhat desirable	Somewhat undesirable	Very undesirable	
Employed / Self-employed	165 27.5 %	**300** **50 %**	106 17.7 %	29 4.8 %	600 100 %
Not employed, but looking for work	16 20.5 %	**50** **64.1 %**	10 12.8 %	2 2.6 %	78 100 %
Not employed, and not looking for work	6 27.3 %	**14** **63.6 %**	2 9.1 %	0 0 %	22 100 %
Retired or disabled	138 39.5 %	**165** **47.3 %**	34 9.7 %	12 3.4 %	349 100 %
Student	6 16.2 %	**20** **54.1 %**	6 16.2 %	5 13.5 %	37 100 %
Homemaker	33 28.4 %	**56** **48.3 %**	19 16.4 %	8 6.9 %	116 100 %
Total	364 30.3 %	605 50.3 %	177 14.7 %	56 4.7 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 33. Comparison of Community Outlook and Current Work Situation

Which of the following best describes your current work situation?	*As you look ahead to the next five years, do you expect that your community will…?*			***Total***
	Become more desirable	Stay about the same	Become less desirable	
Employed/Self-employed	119 19.8 %	**410** **68.3 %**	71 11.8 %	600 100 %
Not employed, but looking for work	20 25.6 %	**47** **60.3 %**	11 14.1 %	78 100 %
Not employed, and not looking for work	6 27.3 %	**15** **68.2 %**	1 4.5 %	22 100 %
Retired or disabled	64 18.3 %	**245** **70.2 %**	40 11.5 %	349 100 %
Student	4 10.8 %	**29** **78.4 %**	4 10.8 %	37 100 %
Homemaker	21 18.1 %	**75** **64.7 %**	20 17.2 %	116 100 %
Total	234 19.5 %	821 68.3 %	147 12.2 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Finally, voter registration status was associated with differences in how respondents felt about their communities at the present time (Table 34). Registered voters were more likely to have said their communities were "very desirable" as compared to those who said they were not registered (31.9 percent registered, 25.7 percent not registered). Voter registration status was not significantly related to their outlook for the next 5 years, however (Table 35).

Table 34. Comparison of Community Evaluation and Voter Registration Status

Voter Registration	*How do you feel about your community as a place to live? Do you consider it to be ...?*				***Total***
	Very desirable	Somewhat desirable	Somewhat undesirable	Very undesirable	
Don't know / Not sure	2 13.3 %	**9** **60 %**	3 20 %	1 6.7 %	15 100 %
Yes	295 31.9 %	**468** **50.5 %**	129 13.9 %	34 3.7 %	926 100 %
No	67 25.7 %	**128** **49 %**	45 17.2 %	21 8 %	261 100 %
Total	364 30.3 %	605 50.3 %	177 14.7 %	56 4.7 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 35. Comparison of Community Outlook and Voter Registration Status

Voter Registration	*As you look ahead to the next five years, do you expect that your community will…?*			***Total***
	Become more desirable	Stay about the same	Become less desirable	
Don't know / Not sure	4 26.7 %	**10** **66.7 %**	1 6.7 %	15 100 %
Yes	187 20.2 %	**634** **68.5 %**	105 11.3 %	926 100 %
No	43 16.5 %	**177** **67.8 %**	41 15.7 %	261 100 %
Total	234 19.5 %	821 68.3 %	147 12.2 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Explaining Pennsylvanians' Involvement in their Communities

What can explain the relatively low rates of community involvement? Recall that community involvement was relatively low and had declined since 2008 among both rural and urban respondents, and that these differences were not statistically significant. Many said they had not participated in community clubs or organizations or in local government, nor had they planned to leave any of their estate to the community. In comparison, they were most likely to volunteer, with rural respondents reporting occasional volunteering. Which sociodemographic factors explain whether respondents are likely to become involved in their communities? Several of these were significantly related to volunteering, which was the most common form of involvement, especially among rural respondents. Like the analyses concerning sociodemographic differences in respondents' views of their communities, these analyses use the unweighted rural oversample and are therefore not compared across rural and urban respondents.

Refer to Appendix B for a complete inventory of rural and urban responses to all questions using the weighted sample.

First, consider the respondent's length of time living in his/her community. This characteristic was significantly related to how often respondents volunteered (Table 36). Those who had lived in their communities fewer than 5 years were most likely to have said that they "never" volunteered (37.2 percent). Those who had live in their communities at least 5 years most commonly reported that they "occasionally" volunteered (35.9 percent 5-10 years, 35.6 percent 11-19 years, 33.1 percent >20 years).

Table 36. Comparison of Volunteering in Community and Length of Time Living in the Community

How long have you lived in your community?	*In the past two years, how often have you volunteered your time to help others in your community?*				***Total***
	Never	Seldom	Occasionally	Often	
Less than 5 years	**80** **37.2 %**	53 24.7 %	58 27 %	24 11.2 %	215 100 %
5-10 years	50 29.9 %	33 19.8 %	**60** **35.9 %**	24 14.4 %	167 100 %
11-19 years	75 34.2 %	39 17.8 %	**78** **35.6 %**	27 12.3 %	219 100 %
More than 20 years	164 27.3 %	152 25.3 %	**199** **33.1 %**	86 14.3 %	601 100 %
Total	369 30.7 %	277 23 %	395 32.9 %	161 13.4 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Homeownership status was also significantly related to how frequently respondents had volunteered (Table 37). Homeowners were most likely to have said that they "occasionally" volunteered (36.6 percent) as compared to renters, who most commonly reported that they "never" volunteered (34.7 percent).

Table 37. Comparison of Volunteering in Community and Ownership of Primary Residence

Is your primary residence owned whether or not there is a mortgage) or rented?	*In the past two years, how often have you volunteered your time to help others in your community?*				***Total***
	Never	Seldom	Occasionally	Often	
Owned by you or someone in the household	245 29.4 %	179 21.5 %	**305** **36.6 %**	105 12.6 %	834 100 %
Rented by you or someone in the household	**114** **34.7 %**	84 25.5 %	81 24.6 %	50 15.2 %	329 100 %
Something else (occupied without payment of rent, group living quarters, etc.)	10 26.3 %	**14** **36.8 %**	8 21.1 %	6 15.8 %	38 100 %
Total	369 30.7 %	277 23.1 %	394 32.8 %	161 13.4 %	1201 100 %

Most common response in bold

Internet access and how often respondents had volunteered were not significantly related. (Table 38). Regardless of whether they had home internet or not, they reported “occasionally” volunteering.

Table 38. Comparison of Volunteering in Community and Internet Access at Home

Internet access at home	*In the past two years, how often have you volunteered your time to help others in your community?*				***Total***
	Never	Seldom	Occasionally	Often	
Yes, with a subscription to an internet service	345 31.2 %	255 23 %	**361** **32.6 %**	146 13.2 %	1107 100 %
Yes, without a subscription to an internet service (free Wi-Fi)	15 24.2 %	14 22.6 %	**24** **38.7 %**	9 14.5 %	62 100 %
No internet access at home	9 27.3 %	8 24.2 %	**10** **30.3 %**	6 18.2 %	33 100 %
Total	369 30.7 %	277 23 %	395 32.9 %	161 13.4 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Annual household income was significantly related to how frequently they had volunteered (Table 39). Respondents with higher income levels were more likely to have said that they “occasionally” volunteered (38.8 percent >$100,000, 38.7 percent $60,000-99,999). In comparison, those who reported the lowest household incomes most commonly said they “never” volunteered (38.3 percent <$30,000).

Table 39. Comparison of Volunteering in Community and Annual Household Income

Annual Household Income	*In the past two years, how often have you volunteered your time to help others in your community?*				***Total***
	Never	Seldom	Occasionally	Often	
$100,000 or more	23 19.8 %	31 26.7 %	**45** **38.8 %**	17 14.7 %	116 100 %
$60,000 to $99,999	55 23.1 %	50 21 %	**92** **38.7 %**	41 17.2 %	238 100 %
$30,000 to $59,999	126 31 %	98 24.1 %	**132** **32.4 %**	51 12.5 %	407 100 %
Less than $30,000	**143** **38.3 %**	86 23.1 %	102 27.3 %	42 11.3 %	373 100 %
Don't know / Not sure	22 32.4 %	12 17.6 %	**24** **35.3 %**	10 14.7 %	68 100 %
Total	369 30.7 %	277 23 %	395 32.9 %	161 13.4 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Similarly, the respondent's current financial situation was significantly related to how often he/she had volunteered (Table 40). Those who were very satisfied with their family's financial situation were most likely to have said that they "occasionally" volunteered (38.3 percent). Those who were more or less satisfied also most commonly provided this response (34.2 percent). In comparison, those who were not at all satisfied generally said that they "never" volunteered (35.3 percent).

Table 40. Comparison of Volunteering in Community and Satisfaction with Financial Situation

Currently, how satisfied are you with your family's financial situation?	*In the past two years, how often have you volunteered your time to help others in your community?*				***Total***
	Never	Seldom	Occasionally	Often	
Very satisfied	38 24.7 %	24 15.6 %	**59** **38.3 %**	33 21.4 %	154 100 %
More or less satisfied	184 29.1 %	153 24.2 %	**216** **34.2 %**	79 12.5 %	632 100 %
Not at all satisfied	**147** **35.3 %**	100 24 %	120 28.8 %	49 11.8 %	416 100 %
Total	369 30.7 %	277 23 %	395 32.9 %	161 13.4 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

The respondent's financial situation over the past 12 months was also significantly related to how often he/she had volunteered (Table 41). Those who were better off were most likely to have said they "occasionally" volunteered (38.2 percent). In comparison, those who were worse off or about the same most commonly said that they "never" volunteered (33.6 percent worse off, 32.9 percent about the same).

Table 41. Comparison of Volunteering in Community and Financial Situation Over Past 12 Months

Would you say you and your family are better off, worse off, or about the same financially as you were 12 months ago?	*In the past two years, how often have you volunteered your time to help others in your community?*				***Total***
	Never	Seldom	Occasionally	Often	
Better off	73 23.6 %	66 21.4 %	**118** **38.2 %**	52 16.8 %	309 100 %
Worse off	**113** **33.6 %**	76 22.6 %	110 32.7 %	37 11 %	336 100 %
About the same	**183** **32.9 %**	135 24.2 %	167 30 %	72 12.9 %	557 100 %
Total	369 30.7 %	277 23 %	395 32.9 %	161 13.4 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

A similar pattern was observed when considering the respondent's anticipated financial situation, which was also significantly related to how frequently he/she had volunteered (Table 42). Again, those who felt they would be better off were most likely to have said they "occasionally" volunteered (36.2 percent), and those who felt they would be worse off or about the same were most likely to have said they "never" volunteered (38 percent worse off, 34.6 percent about the same).

Table 42. Comparison of Volunteering in Community and Anticipated Financial Situation

Looking ahead, do you think that, 12 months from now, your family will be better off financially than you are now, worse off, or about the same as you are now?	*In the past two years, how often have you volunteered your time to help others in your community?*				***Total***
	Never	Seldom	Occasionally	Often	
Better off	102 22.9 %	109 24.5 %	**161** **36.2 %**	73 16.4 %	445 100 %
Worse off	**54** **38 %**	25 17.6 %	48 33.8 %	15 10.6 %	142 100 %
About the same	**213** **34.6 %**	143 23.3 %	186 30.2 %	73 11.9 %	615 100 %
Total	369 30.7 %	277 23 %	395 32.9 %	161 13.4 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Age was also significantly related to how frequently they had volunteered (Table 43). However, the pattern was not necessarily consistent such that older respondents were more likely to have volunteered than younger respondents or vice versa. Those who were 18-24 (39.6 percent) and those who were 55-64 (37.5 percent) were most likely to have said that they “occasionally” volunteered. In comparison, those who were 45-54 (34.4 percent) and over 65 (34.2 percent) generally reported that they “never” volunteered.

Table 43. Comparison of Volunteering in Community and Respondent Age

Age Category	*In the past two years, how often have you volunteered your time to help others in your community?*				***Total***
	Never	Seldom	Occasionally	Often	
18-24	25 23.6 %	30 28.3 %	**42** **39.6 %**	9 8.5 %	106 100 %
25-34	60 28.4 %	63 29.9 %	**64** **30.3 %**	24 11.4 %	211 100 %
35-44	**57** **31 %**	49 26.6 %	55 29.9 %	23 12.5 %	184 100 %
45-54	**67** **34.4 %**	29 14.9 %	62 31.8 %	37 19 %	195 100 %
55-64	91 29.9 %	59 19.4 %	**114** **37.5 %**	40 13.2 %	304 100 %
65 and older	**69** **34.2 %**	47 23.3 %	58 28.7 %	28 13.9 %	202 100 %
Total	369 30.7 %	277 23 %	395 32.9 %	161 13.4 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Gender was not significantly related to how often they had volunteered (Table 44). Both men and women most commonly reported that they "occasionally" volunteered.

Table 44. Comparison of Volunteering in Community and Gender

Gender	*In the past two years, how often have you volunteered your time to help others in your community?*				***Total***
	Never	Seldom	Occasionally	Often	
Male	121 30.3 %	101 25.3 %	**122** **30.6 %**	55 13.8 %	399 100 %
Female	248 30.9 %	176 21.9 %	**273** **34 %**	106 13.2 %	803 100 %
Total	369 30.7 %	277 23 %	395 32.9 %	161 13.4 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Racial or ethnic background was also not significantly related to how frequently they had volunteered (Table 45). Those who were black or African American (50 percent) or who were Hispanic (37.5 percent) most commonly reported that they "never" volunteered. Those who were white (33.2 percent) or something else (33.3 percent) most commonly said that they "occasionally" volunteered.

Table 45. Comparison of Volunteering in Community and Race/Ethnicity

Race and Ethnicity	*In the past two years, how often have you volunteered your time to help others in your community?*				***Total***
	Never	Seldom	Occasionally	Often	
Black or African American alone, non-Hispanic	**7** **50 %**	4 28.6 %	1 7.1 %	2 14.3 %	14 100 %
Don't know / Not sure	1 100 %	0 0 %	0 0 %	0 0 %	1 100 %
Hispanic	**6** **37.5 %**	4 25 %	5 31.2 %	1 6.2 %	16 100 %
Something else, non-Hispanic	6 18.2 %	9 27.3 %	**11** **33.3 %**	7 21.2 %	33 100 %
White alone, non-Hispanic	349 30.7 %	260 22.8 %	**378** **33.2 %**	151 13.3 %	1138 100 %
Total	369 30.7 %	277 23 %	395 32.9 %	161 13.4 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Marital status was also not significantly related to how frequently they had volunteered (Table 46). Those who were never married (33.1 percent) or who were widowed (42.3 percent) generally reported that they "never" volunteered. Those who were married most commonly reported that they "occasionally" volunteered (34.3 percent).

Table 46. Comparison of Volunteering in Community and Marital Status

Marital status	*In the past two years, how often have you volunteered your time to help others in your community?*				***Total***
	Never	Seldom	Occasionally	Often	
Never Married	**100** **33.1 %**	77 25.5 %	94 31.1 %	31 10.3 %	302 100 %
Married/living with a partner	188 28.5 %	149 22.6 %	**226** **34.3 %**	96 14.6 %	659 100 %
Divorced/separated	**51** **30 %**	39 22.9 %	**51** **30 %**	29 17.1 %	170 100 %
Widowed	**30** **42.3 %**	12 16.9 %	24 33.8 %	5 7 %	71 100 %
Total	369 30.7 %	277 23 %	395 32.9 %	161 13.4 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Educational attainment was significantly related to how frequently the respondent had volunteered (Table 47). Those who had completed graduate or professional school were most likely to have said that they “occasionally” volunteered (40.6 percent). Those with some college (37.5 percent) or a bachelor’s degree (35.7 percent) also reported this. In comparison, those who did not graduate from high school (41.9 percent) and those who were high school graduates or the equivalent (39.1 percent) most commonly reported that they “never” volunteered.

Table 47. Comparison of Volunteering in Community and Educational Attainment

Educational Attainment	*In the past two years, how often have you volunteered your time to help others in your community?*				***Total***
	Never	Seldom	Occasionally	Often	
Did not graduate from high school	**18** **41.9 %**	11 25.6 %	8 18.6 %	6 14 %	43 100 %
High school graduate/GED	**156** **39.1 %**	93 23.3 %	103 25.8 %	47 11.8 %	399 100 %
Some college, associate’s degree, technical/trade school, or other post-high school education	115 26 %	107 24.2 %	**166** **37.5 %**	55 12.4 %	443 100 %
Completed a college/bachelor’s degree	62 28.1 %	49 22.2 %	**79** **35.7 %**	31 14 %	221 100 %
Graduate work or graduate degree	18 18.8 %	17 17.7 %	**39** **40.6 %**	22 22.9 %	96 100 %
Total	369 30.7 %	277 23 %	395 32.9 %	161 13.4 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Respondents’ employment situation was also significantly related to how frequently they volunteered (Table 48). Students were most likely to report that they “occasionally” volunteered (48.6 percent), followed by those who were employed or self-employed (37.3 percent). In comparison, those who were not employed but looking for work (42.3 percent), those who were not employed and not looking for work (36.4 percent), those who were retired or disabled (38.1 percent), and homemakers (37.1 percent) most commonly reported that they "never" volunteered.

Table 48. Comparison of Volunteering in Community and Current Work Situation

Which of the following best describes your current work situation?	*In the past two years, how often have you volunteered your time to help others in your community?*				***Total***
	Never	Seldom	Occasionally	Often	
Employed / Self-employed	147 24.5 %	142 23.7 %	**224** **37.3 %**	87 14.5 %	600 100 %
Not employed, but looking for work	**33** **42.3 %**	20 25.6 %	16 20.5 %	9 11.5 %	78 100 %
Not employed, and not looking for work	**8** **36.4 %**	6 27.3 %	5 22.7 %	3 13.6 %	22 100 %
Retired or disabled	**133** **38.1 %**	70 20.1 %	98 28.1 %	48 13.8 %	349 100 %
Student	5 13.5 %	10 27 %	**18** **48.6 %**	4 10.8 %	37 100 %
Homemaker	**43** **37.1 %**	29 25 %	34 29.3 %	10 8.6 %	116 100 %
Total	369 30.7 %	277 23 %	395 32.9 %	161 13.4 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Finally, voter registration status was significantly related to how often the respondent volunteered (Table 49). Registered voters (35.1 percent) were more likely to have said that they "occasionally" volunteered. In comparison, those who were not registered most commonly said that they "never" volunteered (40.2 percent).

Table 49. Comparison of Volunteering in Community and Voter Registration Status

Voter Registration	*In the past two years, how often have you volunteered your time to help others in your community?*				***Total***
	Never	Seldom	Occasionally	Often	
Don't know / Not sure	**6** **40 %**	3 20 %	5 33.3 %	1 6.7 %	15 100 %
Yes	258 27.9 %	208 22.5 %	**325** **35.1 %**	135 14.6 %	926 100 %
No	**105** **40.2 %**	66 25.3 %	65 24.9 %	25 9.6 %	261 100 %
Total	369 30.7 %	277 23 %	395 32.9 %	161 13.4 %	1202 100 %

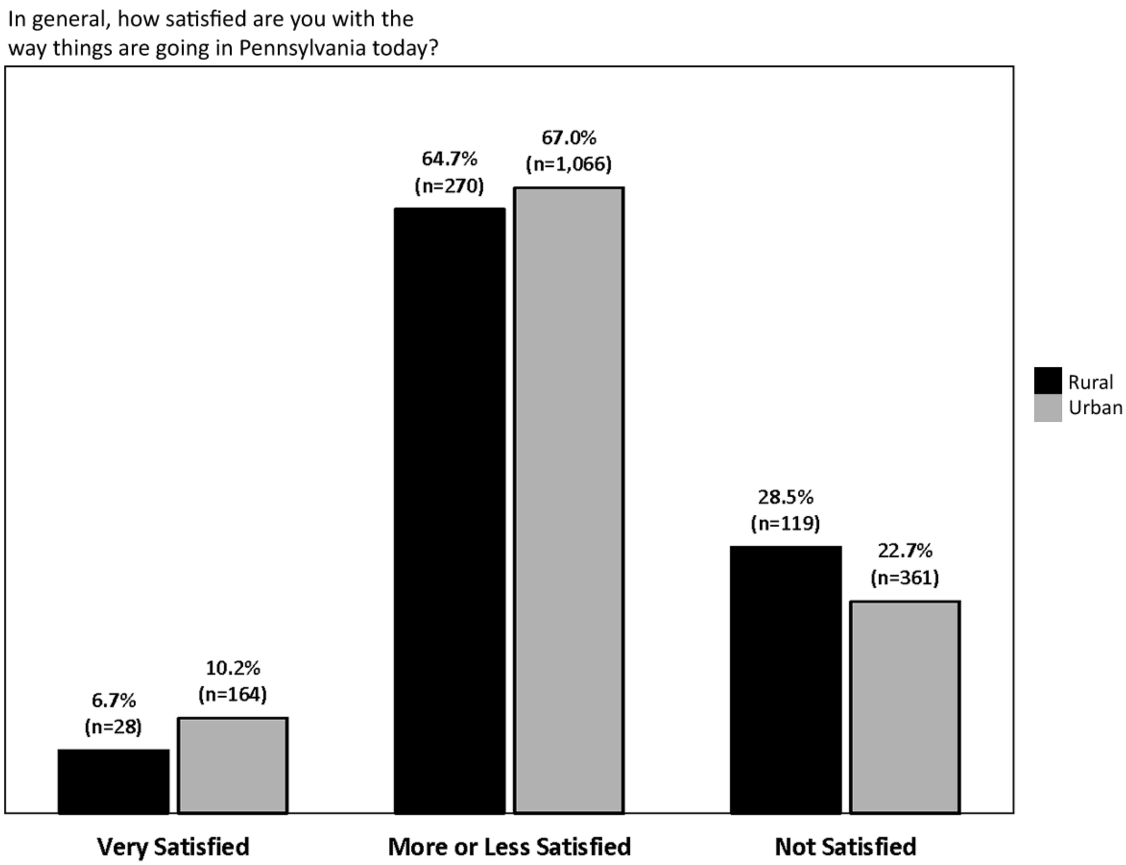
Most common response in bold

Communities Across Pennsylvania

Overview & Assessment

The survey then asked rural and urban residents questions about issues affecting communities across Pennsylvania. It first asked how satisfied, in general, residents are with the way things are going in Pennsylvania today (Figure 26). Most responded that they were "more or less satisfied," with a slightly higher proportion giving this response among urban residents (64.8 percent rural, 67 percent urban). Rural and urban responses were significantly different. Rural residents were more likely to say that they were "not satisfied" (28.5 percent rural, 22.7 percent urban), and urban residents were more likely to say they were "very satisfied" (6.7 percent rural, 10.3 percent urban). The level of satisfaction was higher among both rural and urban residents compared to 2008, when far more residents indicated that they were “not satisfied” (44.2 percent rural, 38.5 percent urban).

Figure 26. Satisfaction with the Way Things are Going in Pennsylvania



Specific Issues

As with their own communities, residents were asked to prioritize specific programs, services, and issues facing the Commonwealth. (Table 50). With few exceptions, the most common response from both rural and urban residents was to give each a “higher priority” in the future. Exceptions included preservation of farmland among urban residents; preservation and conservation of the natural environment among rural residents; access to telecommunications/internet among both; homeland security/public safety among urban residents; and development of alternative energy sources among rural residents. In each case a large proportion still felt these should be given “higher priority,” and the most common response was that they should be given at least the “same priority.” On most issues, very few residents said they should be given “lower priority.”

Despite this general agreement across both rural and urban residents, differences remain in how they prioritized each. Rural respondents were more likely than urban to have said that availability of jobs (68.3 percent rural, 56 percent urban); preservation of farmland (50.8 percent rural, 41.3 percent urban); drug and alcohol abuse and treatment prevention (57.6 percent rural, 51.5 percent urban); and care of the elderly (60.1 percent rural, 52.3 percent urban) should receive “higher priority.”

One of the most distinct results in this series of questions concerned access to telecommunications/internet. This was the only issue where a majority of both rural and urban residents agreed that it should be given the “same priority” (51.6 percent rural, 56.9 percent urban), rather than a “higher priority” (32.6 percent rural, 25.6 percent urban). On other issues, there were no significant differences between rural and urban residents.

Compared to 2008, similar or lower proportions of residents felt that most issues should have “higher priority.” Again, access to telecommunications/internet was an exception: the proportion of both rural and urban residents who rated this as “higher priority” increased, nearly doubling among rural residents (16.8 percent rural, 16.1 percent urban). Another exception was maintenance of roads and bridges, which more residents of both rural and urban areas said should receive “higher priority” (71.9 percent rural, 71.7 percent urban in 2019; 53.9 percent rural, 57.8 percent urban in 2008).

Table 50. Future Priorities for the Commonwealth

Compared to what is being done now, what priority do you want each of the following to have in the future?

	Rural				Urban			
	Don't Know	Lower Priority	Same Priority	Higher Priority	Don't Know	Lower Priority	Same Priority	Higher Priority
*Availability of jobs**	11 (2.64 %)	12 (2.88 %)	109 (26.14 %)	**285 (68.35 %)**	43 (2.70 %)	62 (3.89 %)	596 (37.44 %)	**891 (55.97 %)**
*Preservation of farmland**	15 (3.60 %)	21 (5.04 %)	169 (40.53 %)	**212 (50.84 %)**	83 (5.21 %)	191 (12.00 %)	**660 (41.46 %)**	658 (41.33 %)
Crime and violence prevention	9 (2.15 %)	13 (3.11 %)	162 (38.76 %)	**234 (55.98 %)**	32 (2.01 %)	67 (4.21 %)	566 (35.58 %)	**926 (58.20 %)**
*Drug and alcohol abuse treatment and prevention**	13 (3.12 %)	26 (6.24 %)	138 (33.09 %)	**240 (57.55 %)**	52 (3.27 %)	170 (10.69 %)	549 (34.51 %)	**820 (51.54 %)**
Safe drinking water	12 (2.88 %)	23 (5.52 %)	190 (45.56 %)	**192 (46.04 %)**	49 (3.08 %)	95 (5.97 %)	662 (41.58 %)	**786 (49.37 %)**
Health care access and availability	9 (2.16 %)	12 (2.88 %)	154 (36.93 %)	**242 (58.03 %)**	45 (2.83 %)	87 (5.47 %)	558 (35.09 %)	**900 (56.60 %)**
Education for youth/children	10 (2.40 %)	16 (3.84 %)	141 (33.81 %)	**250 (59.95 %)**	41 (2.58 %)	57 (3.58 %)	552 (34.70 %)	**941 (59.15 %)**
Protection and conservation of the natural environment	13 (3.12 %)	28 (6.71 %)	**192 (46.04 %)**	184 (44.12 %)	47 (2.95 %)	118 (7.42 %)	650 (40.85 %)	**776 (48.77 %)**
*Care of the elderly**	12 (2.88 %)	13 (3.12 %)	141 (33.89 %)	**250 (60.10 %)**	41 (2.58 %)	92 (5.78 %)	626 (39.35 %)	**832 (52.29 %)**
*Access to telecommunications/internet**	14 (3.36 %)	52 (12.47 %)	**215 (51.56 %)**	136 (32.61 %)	36 (2.26 %)	243 (15.26 %)	**905 (56.85 %)**	408 (25.63 %)

*Reform Pennsylvania's local tax structure**	26 (6.24 %)	21 (5.04 %)	146 (35.01 %)	**224 (53.72 %)**	102 (6.41 %)	139 (8.74 %)	576 (36.20 %)	**774 (48.65 %)**
Homeland security/public safety	13 (3.12 %)	27 (6.49 %)	187 (44.95 %)	**189 (45.43 %)**	48 (3.02 %)	151 (9.49 %)	**721 (45.32 %)**	671 (42.17 %)
Maintenance of roads and bridges	8 (1.92 %)	11 (2.64 %)	98 (23.50 %)	**300 (71.94 %)**	41 (2.58 %)	50 (3.14 %)	359 (22.56 %)	**1141 (71.72 %)**
Development of alternative energy sources	16 (3.84 %)	52 (12.47 %)	**179 (42.93 %)**	170 (40.77 %)	44 (2.76 %)	228 (14.32 %)	621 (39.01 %)	**699 (43.91 %)**

*Most common responses for each question in bold. * = statistically significant rural-urban difference*

Which of these issues did respondents feel was the most important or most in need of higher priority in the future? Rural and urban residents provided slightly different responses although the prioritized issues were similar overall (Table 51). The highest priority issue among rural residents was the availability of jobs (14.2 percent rural, 11.3 percent urban). Among urban respondent, this was the issue with the second-highest proportion saying it should be highest priority. Instead, urban respondents prioritized maintenance of roads and bridges (11.5 percent rural, 12.2 percent urban). This issue was tied for third place with drug and alcohol abuse treatment and prevention among rural respondents (11.5 percent rural, 8.4 percent urban). A slightly higher proportion of rural respondents said that local tax structure reform should have a higher priority (12 percent rural, 11.1 percent urban), which was tied for third place with crime and violence prevention among urban respondents (5.5 percent rural, 11.1 percent urban). The issue that received the least responses, saying it was most important among both rural and urban residents, was access to telecommunications/internet (1.2 percent of rural, .4 percent urban).

Compared to 2008, some priorities changed substantially. At that time, less than 2 percent of both rural and urban respondents felt that maintenance of roads and bridges (1.4 percent rural, 1.7 percent urban in 2008) and drug and alcohol abuse (1.6 percent rural, 1.1 percent urban in 2008) should have more importance. Though, availability of jobs was still the issue seen as most important among rural residents (25.3 percent rural, 15.8 percent urban in 2008). Urban residents, on the other hand, gave a higher priority to alternative energy development (20.5 percent rural, 19.2 percent urban in 2008) and health care (14.5 percent rural, 17.8 percent urban in 2008).

Table 51. Most Important Future Priority

From the list of issues, which do you feel is most important or most in need of higher priority in the future?

	Rural	Urban	***Total***
Availability of jobs	59 14.2 %	179 11.3 %	238 11.9 %
Preservation of farmland	11 2.6 %	36 2.3 %	47 2.3 %
Crime and violence prevention	23 5.5 %	177 11.1 %	200 10 %
Drug and alcohol abuse treatment and prevention	48 11.5 %	134 8.4 %	182 9.1 %
Safe drinking water	12 2.9 %	67 4.2 %	79 3.9 %
Health care access and availability	43 10.3 %	160 10.1 %	203 10.1 %
Education for youth/children	39 9.4 %	145 9.1 %	184 9.2 %
Protection and conservation of the natural environment	17 4.1 %	81 5.1 %	98 4.9 %
Care of the elderly	23 5.5 %	95 6 %	118 5.9 %
Access to telecommunications/internet	5 1.2 %	6 0.4 %	11 0.5 %
Reform Pennsylvania's local tax structure	50 12 %	176 11.1 %	226 11.3 %
Homeland security/public safety	19 4.6 %	83 5.2 %	102 5.1 %
Maintenance of roads and bridges	48 11.5 %	194 12.2 %	242 12.1 %
Development of alternative energy sources	19 4.6 %	58 3.6 %	77 3.8 %
Total	416 100 %	1591 100 %	2007 100 %

The survey then asked respondents what priority should be given to issues concerning protection and effective use of natural resources in the environment over the next 5 years (Table 52). On most issues, both rural and urban residents agreed that they should be given the "same priority." However, many still felt on each issue that it should be given a "higher priority." Exceptions to this general pattern included monitoring and regulating public drinking water quality (43.4 percent rural, 49.5 percent urban), and improving the water quality of streams and lakes (45.9 percent rural, 47.9 percent urban), which urban residents instead responded should be given "higher priority." These two issues were the only two in this series of questions where rural and urban residents held differing views. Rural residents were also most likely to say that preserving woodlands/wilderness areas should be given "higher priority" (45.3 percent rural, 42.9 percent urban), but the difference between rural and urban views was not significant.

Compared to 2008, lower or similar proportions of respondents felt that most of these issues should be given "higher priority." The responses for the issue of strengthening regulation of drilling and mining could not be compared to 2008, when the question specified that the regulation would be to reduce drainage and cave-ins.

Table 52. Future Policy Priorities

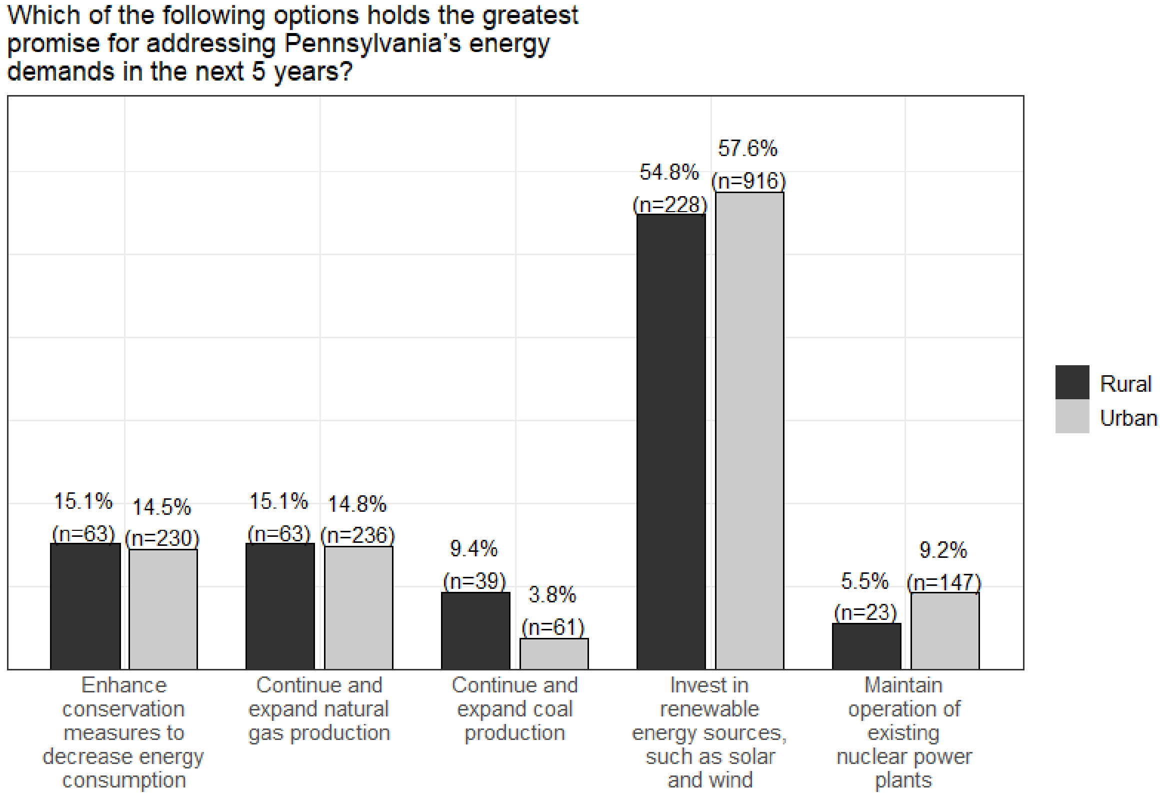
Compared to what is being done now, what priority do you believe should be given to each of the following in the future?

	Rural				**Urban**			
	Don't Know/Not sure	**Lower Priority**	**Same Priority**	**Higher Priority**	**Don't Know/Not sure**	**Lower Priority**	**Same Priority**	**Higher Priority**
Reduce storm water runoff and flooding	24 (5.76 %)	46 (11.03 %)	**206 (49.40 %)**	141 (33.81 %)	87 (5.47 %)	179 (11.25 %)	**779 (48.96 %)**	546 (34.32 %)
*Monitor and regulate public drinking water quality**	19 (4.56 %)	20 (4.80 %)	**197 (47.24 %)**	181 (43.41 %)	49 (3.08 %)	91 (5.72 %)	664 (41.73 %)	**787 (49.47 %)**
Help communities pay for water and sewage treatment facilities	27 (6.49 %)	35 (8.41 %)	**201 (48.32 %)**	153 (36.78 %)	83 (5.21 %)	156 (9.80 %)	**766 (48.12 %)**	587 (36.87 %)
Strengthen regulation of mining and drilling	34 (8.15 %)	69 (16.55 %)	**185 (44.36 %)**	129 (30.94 %)	135 (8.49 %)	273 (17.16 %)	**716 (45.00 %)**	467 (29.35 %)
Preserve woodlands/wilderness areas	17 (4.08 %)	23 (5.52 %)	188 (45.08 %)	**189 (45.32 %)**	68 (4.28 %)	125 (7.86 %)	**715 (44.97 %)**	682 (42.89 %)
Strengthen environmental regulation of agriculture	26 (6.24 %)	51 (12.23 %)	**218 (52.28 %)**	122 (29.26 %)	90 (5.65 %)	188 (11.81 %)	**849 (53.33 %)**	465 (29.21 %)
Monitor and regulate food production and processing to ensure food safety	22 (5.28 %)	20 (4.80 %)	**195 (46.76 %)**	180 (43.17 %)	56 (3.52 %)	105 (6.60 %)	**729 (45.82 %)**	701 (44.06 %)
*Improve the water quality of streams and lakes**	18 (4.33 %)	15 (3.61 %)	**192 (46.15 %)**	191 (45.91 %)	52 (3.27 %)	113 (7.10 %)	664 (41.73 %)	**762 (47.89 %)**

*Most common responses for each question in bold. * = statistically significant rural-urban difference*

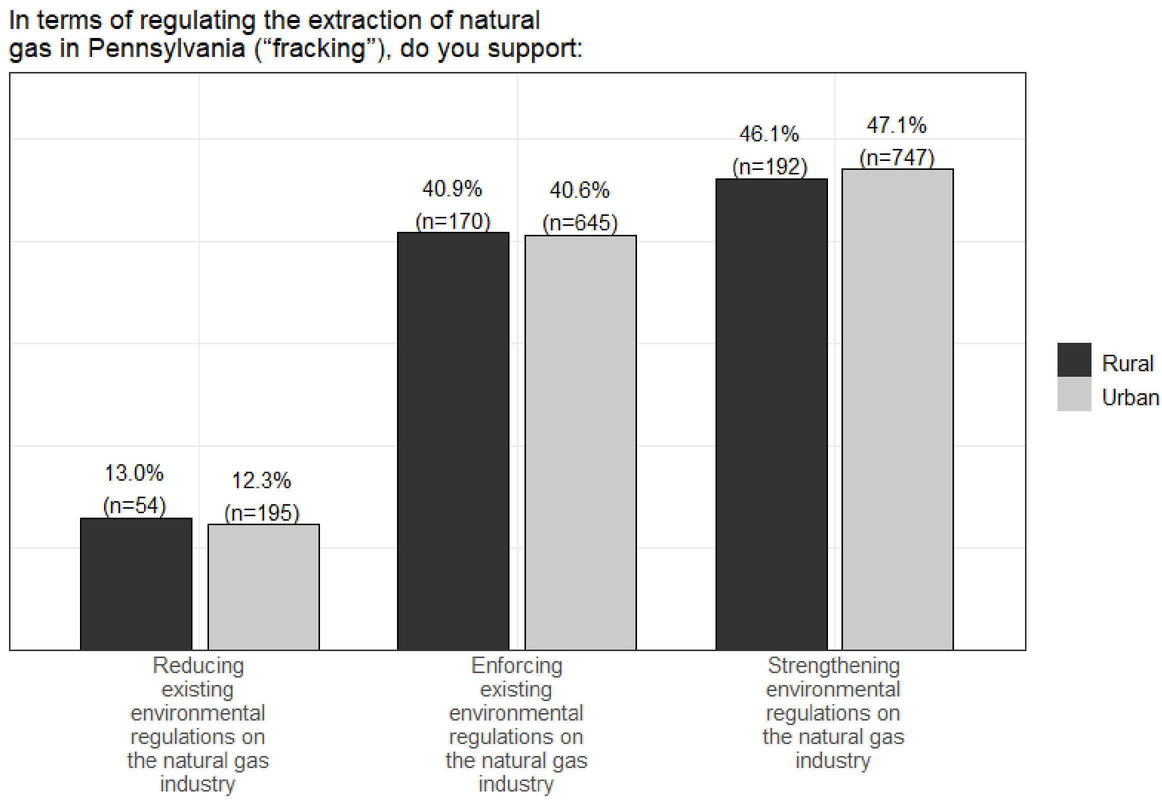
Respondents were next asked which of several options holds the greatest promise for addressing Pennsylvania's energy demands in the next 5 years (Figure 27). A majority of both rural and urban residents responded with the choice "invest in renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind," with urban residents being more likely to have made this selection (54.8 percent rural, 57.6 percent urban). There were significant differences in the rural and urban responses. Rural residents showed less support for "maintain operation of existing nuclear power plants" than urban (5.5 percent rural, 9.2 percent urban). Similarly, urban residents supported "continue and expand coal production" less than rural residents (9.4 percent rural, 3.8 percent urban). These results are not directly comparable to those of 2008, where respondents were given more limited options. However, since that time, the proportion of rural residents who responded specifically to "enhance conservation measures to decrease energy consumption" increased while a similar proportion of urban residents responded with this option (10.9 percent rural, 15 percent urban in 2008).

Figure 27. Options for Meeting Pennsylvania's Energy Needs



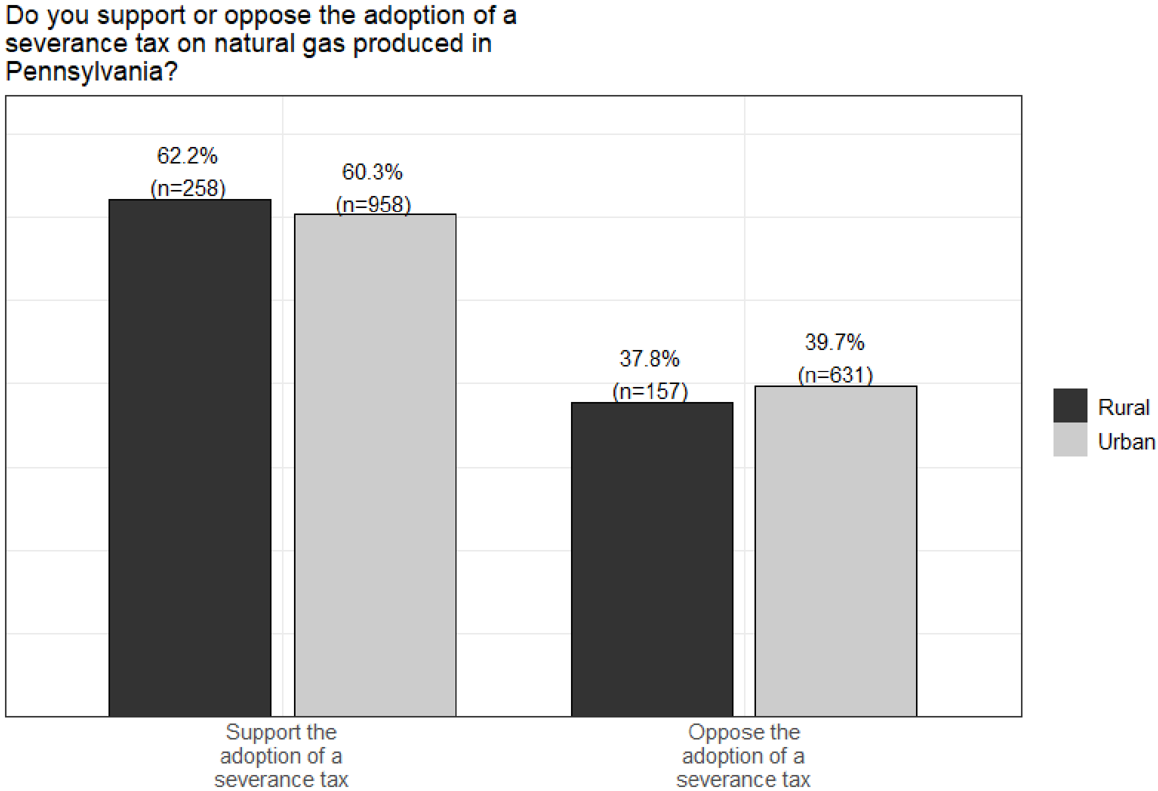
Next, respondents were asked questions concerning the extraction of natural gas ("fracking"). First, they were asked whether they would support strengthening regulations, enforcing existing ones, or reducing regulations (Figure 28). There were no significant differences between rural and urban residents, who were both most likely to have responded "strengthening environmental regulations on the natural gas industry" (46.1 percent rural, 47.1 percent urban). This was closely followed by those who selected "enforcing existing environmental regulations on the natural gas industry" (40.9 percent rural, 40.6 percent urban). This question was not asked in 2008 and therefore responses could not be compared.

Figure 28. Regulation of Natural Gas Extraction (Fracking)



They were next asked specifically whether they would support or oppose the adoption of a severance tax on natural gas produced in Pennsylvania (Figure 29). The question defined severance tax and impact fee, and noted that the current policy imposes an impact fee. Again, rural and urban residents did not significantly differ in their responses, with the majority stating that they would support a severance tax (62.2 percent rural, 60.3 percent urban). This question was not asked in 2008 and therefore responses could not be compared.

Figure 29. Opinion on Natural Gas Severance Tax



The survey then asked respondents their opinions regarding several current policy issues (Table 53). These included: the recreational use of marijuana; a flat state income tax rate; the death penalty; and trained faculty and staff carrying firearms in schools. On these issues, rural and urban residents generally felt the same about each policy, but differences remain in their levels of support for each. On the issue of whether the recreational use of marijuana by adults aged 21 and older should be legalized, urban residents were more likely to have said that they “agree” (56.2 percent rural, 62.6 percent urban). When asked whether the death penalty should be abolished in Pennsylvania, rural residents were more likely to say that they “disagree” (57.1 percent rural, 50.3 percent urban). Rural residents were also more likely to have said that they “agree” that trained faculty and staff should be allowed to carry firearms in schools (54.8 percent rural, 45.7 percent urban). There were no significant differences between rural and urban residents concerning whether the state income tax rate should be changed from a flat rate to graduated rates, with most having said that they “agree” with a change to a graduated rate (62.5 percent rural, 62.1 percent urban). Responses for these issues could not be compared to 2008, as current issues have evolved, leading to several changes in the questions asked. Furthermore, the responses for similar issues were not included in the 2008 study.

Table 53. Specific Policy Opinions

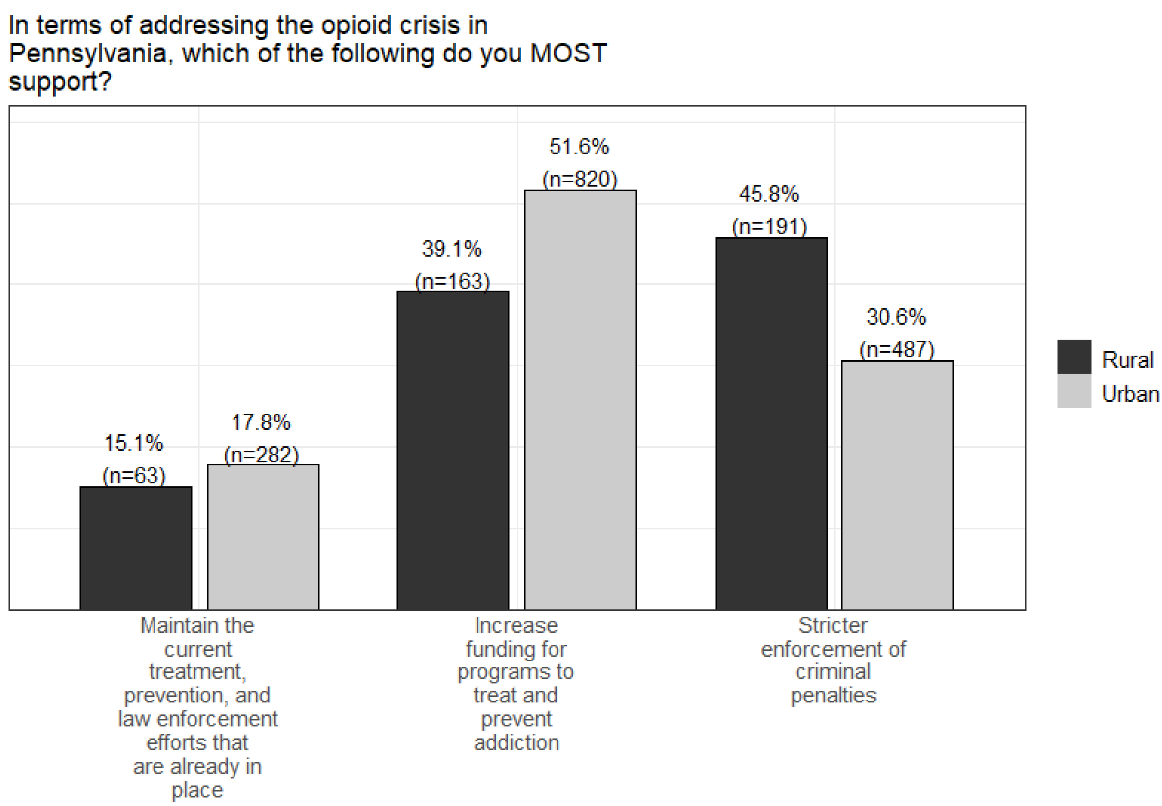
Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements:

	Rural			Urban		
	Somewhat/ Strongly Agree	**No Opinion**	**Somewhat/ Strongly Disagree**	**Somewhat/ Strongly Agree**	**No Opinion**	**Somewhat/ Strongly Disagree**
*The recreational use of marijuana by adults aged 21 and older should be legalized**	**234 (56.25 %)**	51 (12.26 %)	131 (31.49 %)	**997 (62.63 %)**	189 (11.87 %)	406 (25.50 %)
The state income tax should be changed from a flat rate to graduated rates	**260 (62.50 %)**	63 (15.14 %)	93 (22.36 %)	**988 (62.10 %)**	230 (14.46 %)	373 (23.44 %)
*The death penalty be abolished in Pennsylvania**	91 (21.82 %)	88 (21.10 %)	**238 (57.07 %)**	489 (30.74 %)	301 (18.92 %)	**801 (50.35 %)**
*Trained faculty and staff should be allowed to carry firearms in schools**	**228 (54.81 %)**	45 (10.82 %)	143 (34.38 %)	**728 (45.73 %)**	164 (10.30 %)	700 (43.97 %)

*Most common responses for each question in bold. * = statistically significant rural-urban difference*

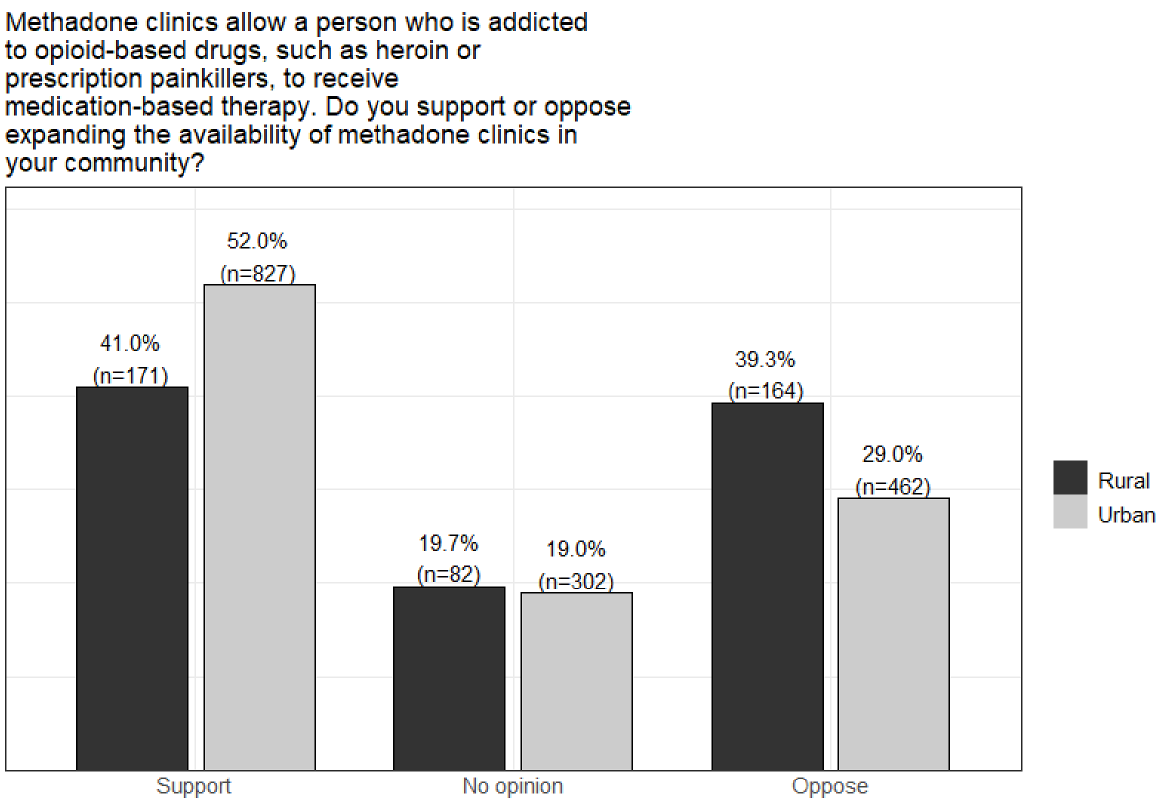
Finally, the survey asked respondents questions about the opioid crisis. They were first asked which of three options for addressing the crisis they most support (Figure 30). Rural and urban views significantly differed on their preferred approach. Rural residents were most likely to respond "stricter enforcement of criminal penalties" (45.8 percent rural, 30.6 percent urban). A majority of urban residents, on the other hand, were most likely to respond "increase funding for programs to treat and prevent addiction" (39.1 percent rural, 51.6 percent urban). Both generally agreed action is required to address the crisis, however, with the lowest proportion of responses among both being "maintain the current treatment, prevention, and law enforcement efforts that are already in place" (15.1 percent rural, 17.8 percent urban). This question was not asked in 2008 and therefore the responses cannot be compared.

Figure 30. Opinions on Addressing the Opioid Crisis



Respondents were specifically asked about whether they support or oppose expanding the availability of methadone clinics in their communities (Figure 31). The survey provided a description of a methadone clinic. Differences between rural and urban responses were significantly different. A majority of urban residents (52 percent) indicated support for expansion of methadone clinics, whereas rural respondents were split between support (41 percent) and oppose (39 percent). This question was not asked in 2008 and therefore the responses cannot be compared.

Figure 31. Opinions on Methadone Clinics



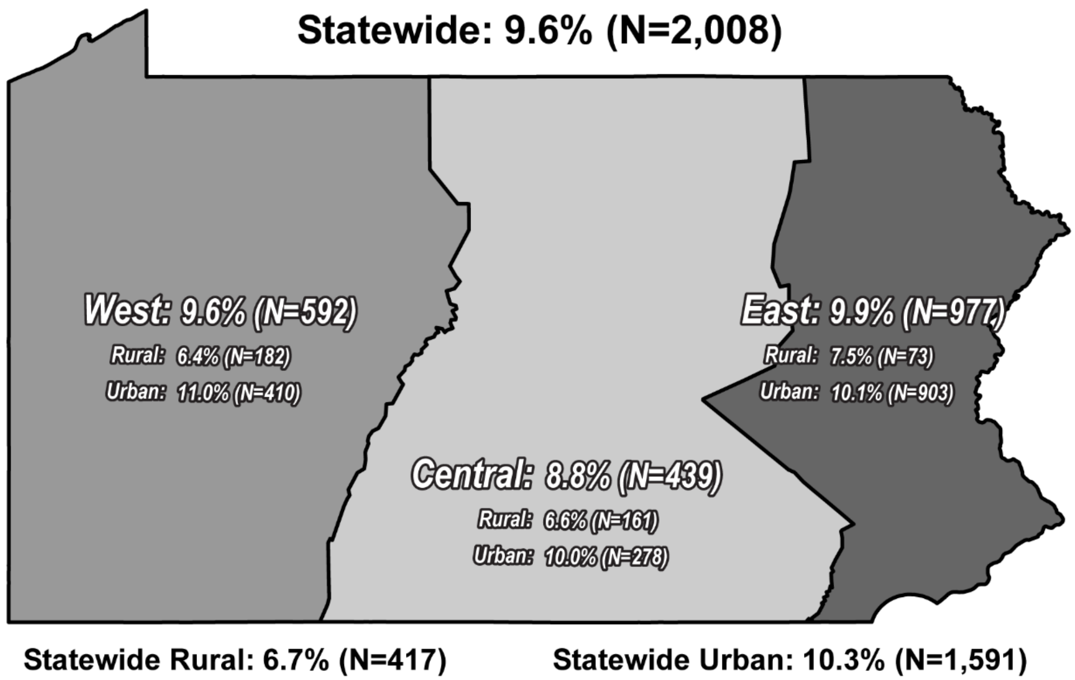
Explaining Pennsylvanians' Views of Statewide Issues

Which personal and sociodemographic factors may explain differences in respondents' satisfaction with the way things are going in Pennsylvania today and their attitudes concerning which issues are most important? Several factors were related to their assessment and attitudes. Recall that rural respondents were less likely to have said that they are "very satisfied" with the way things are going in Pennsylvania today, although most rural and urban respondents agreed they were "more or less satisfied." Among rural respondents, the most important issue was the availability of jobs, while among urban it was maintenance of roads and bridges. For some characteristics, differences in the assessment and attitudes as explained by these factors are consistent with the rural-urban differences associated with these. Where they are not, the affect may be attenuated by the several other factors associated with a respondent's satisfaction with the way things are going or attitudes on issue prioritization. Due to the large number of issue priorities considered, only the issue with the highest proportion stating it was the most important for each respondent characteristic is reported. Additionally, like the analyses concerning sociodemographic differences in respondents' views of and involvement in their local communities, these analyses use the unweighted rural oversample and are therefore not compared across rural and urban respondents, with the exception of regional differences. Refer to Appendix B for a complete inventory of rural and urban responses to all questions using the weighted sample.

First, consider the regional variation in responses among rural and urban respondents concerning their general satisfaction (Figure 32). Across each region of the state, the pattern was similar, with rural respondents being less likely to have said they were "very satisfied" than urban (west – 6.4 percent rural, 11 percent urban; central – 6.6 percent rural, 10 percent urban;

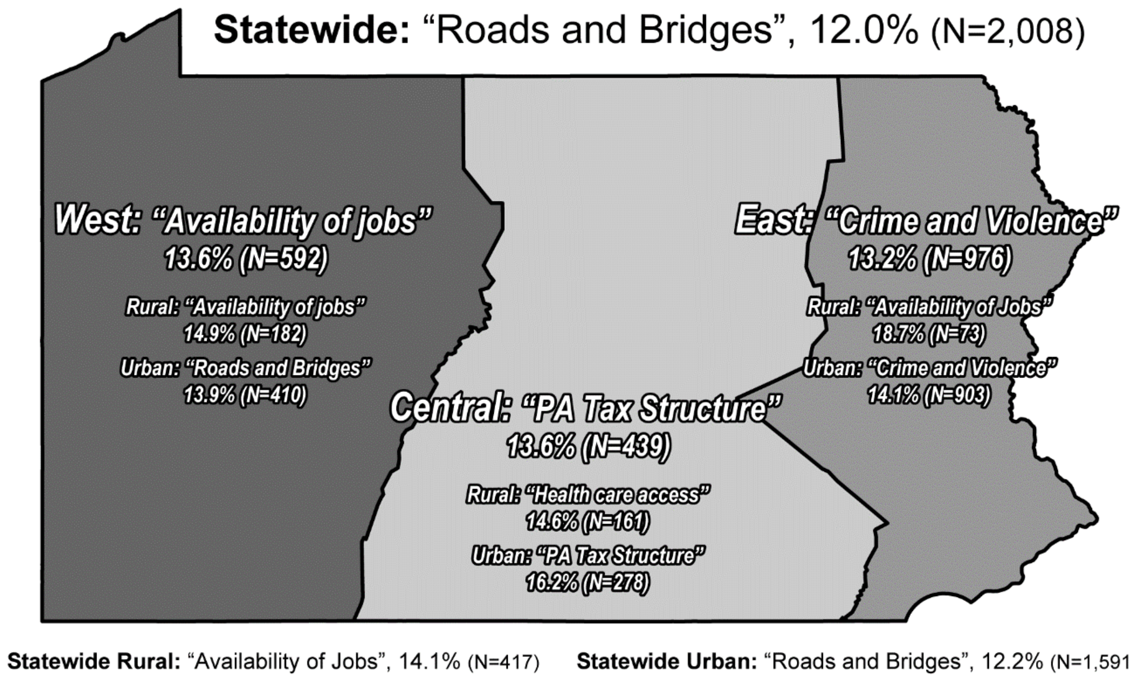
east – 7.5 percent rural, 10.1 percent urban). The gap between rural and urban responses was widest in western Pennsylvania.

Figure 32. Regional Feeling of Very Satisfied with How Things are Going in Pennsylvania



There was also regional variation in the issues that respondents felt were most important (Figure 33). In western Pennsylvania, top urban and rural priorities were the same as those identified statewide: availability of jobs among rural respondents (14.9 percent), and roads and bridges among urban respondents (13.9 percent). In central and eastern Pennsylvania, priorities differed. Rural respondents in central Pennsylvania indicated that health care access was the most important (13.6 percent) while urban respondents identified tax structure reform as a top priority (16.2 percent). In eastern Pennsylvania, rural respondents again stated that availability of jobs was most important (18.7 percent), but urban respondents said crime and violence was most important (14.1 percent).

Figure 33. Most Important Priority by Region



There were no significant differences in how those who had lived in their community for longer periods of time felt about the way things are going in Pennsylvania today as compared to those who had moved there more recently (Table 54). There were significant differences in the issues they said were the most important (Table 55). Despite these significant differences, the number one priority was availability of jobs whether the respondent lived in their community only a few years or for many years (15.8 percent < 5 years, 16.8 percent 5-10 years, 16.4 percent 11-19years, 14.3 percent > 20 years). The differences were observed instead among the other issues that many in each category said were most important.

Table 54. Satisfaction with How Things are Going in Pennsylvania Today by Length of Residence

How long have you lived in your community?	*In general, how satisfied are you with the way things are going in Pennsylvania today?*			***Total***
	Very satisfied	More or less satisfied	Not satisfied	
Less than 5 years	19 8.8 %	**148** **68.8 %**	48 22.3 %	215 100 %
5-10 years	17 10.2 %	**103** **61.7 %**	47 28.1 %	167 100 %
11-19 years	15 6.8 %	**140** **63.9 %**	64 29.2 %	219 100 %
More than 20 years	34 5.7 %	**383** **63.7 %**	184 30.6 %	601 100 %
Total	85 7.1 %	774 64.4 %	343 28.5 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 55. Most Important Priority by Length of Residence

How long have you lived in your community?	*From the list of issues, which do you feel is most important or most in need of higher priority in the future?*	
Less than 5 years	Availability of jobs	34 15.8 %
5-10 years	Availability of jobs	28 16.8 %
11-19 years	Availability of jobs	36 16.4 %
More than 20 years	Availability of jobs	86 14.3 %

The nature of the respondent's living situation was not significantly related to how they felt about the way things are going in Pennsylvania today (Table 56). Renters, owners, and those in other living arrangements generally said that they were "more or less satisfied." The issues they said were most important did differ significantly, however (Table 57). The highest proportion cited reform of the local tax structure among those in owned homes (15.2 percent); availability of jobs among renters (16.7 percent); and among those in other arrangements availability of jobs and maintenance of roads and bridges were tied (18.4 percent).

Table 56. Satisfaction with the Way Things are Going in Pennsylvania by Ownership of Residence

Is your primary residence owned (whether or not there is a mortgage) or rented?	*In general, how satisfied are you with the way things are going in Pennsylvania today?*			***Total***
	Very satisfied	More or less satisfied	Not satisfied	
Owned by you or someone in the household	55 6.6 %	**533** **63.9 %**	246 29.5 %	834 100 %
Rented by you or someone in the household	28 8.5 %	**214** **65 %**	87 26.4 %	329 100 %
Something else (occupied without payment of rent group living quarters, etc.)	2 5.3 %	**26** **68.4 %**	10 26.3 %	38 100 %
Total	85 7.1 %	773 64.4 %	343 28.6 %	1201 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 57. Most Important Priority by Ownership of Residence

Is your primary residence owned (whether or not there is a mortgage) or rented?	*From the list of issues, which do you feel is most important or most in need of higher priority in the future?*	
Owned by you or someone in the household	Reform Pennsylvania's local tax structure	127 15.2 %
Rented by you or someone in the household	Availability of jobs	55 16.7 %
Something else (occupied without payment of rent, group living quarters, etc.)	Availability of jobs/maintenance of roads and bridges	7 18.4 %

There were no significant differences in how those with and without internet access felt about the way things are going in Pennsylvania today (Table 58). Most respondents said that they were “more or less satisfied” regardless of whether they had internet access at home or not. There were significant differences, however, in which issues they prioritized (Table 59). Among those with subscription access, the highest proportion cited availability of jobs (15.5 percent); among those who had access without a subscription, availability of jobs tied with drug and alcohol abuse treatment and prevention (16.1 percent); and among those without access, health care access and availability tied with maintenance of roads and bridges (15.2 percent).

Table 58. Satisfaction with How Things are Going in Pennsylvania by Internet Access at Home

Internet access at home	*In general, how satisfied are you with the way things are going in Pennsylvania today?*			***Total***
	Very satisfied	More or less satisfied	Not satisfied	
Yes, with a subscription to an internet service	80 7.2 %	**717** **64.8 %**	310 28 %	1107 100 %
Yes, without a subscription to an internet service (free Wi-Fi)	5 8.1 %	**33** **53.2 %**	24 38.7 %	62 100 %
No internet access at home	0 0 %	**24** **72.7 %**	9 27.3 %	33 100 %
Total	85 7.1 %	774 64.4 %	343 28.5 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 59. Most Important Priority by Internet Access at Home

Internet access at home	*From the list of issues, which do you feel is most important or most in need of higher priority in the future?*	
Yes, with a subscription to an internet service	Availability of jobs	172 15.5 %
Yes, without a subscription to an internet service (free Wi-Fi)	Availability of jobs/drug and alcohol abuse treatment and prevention	10 16.1 %
No internet access at home	Health care access and availability/maintenance of roads and bridges	5 15.2 %

There were no significant differences in how respondents with different household income levels felt about the way things are going in Pennsylvania today (Table 60). There were differences in the issues they prioritized, however (Table 61). Education for youth and children was the highest priority among those in the $100,000 or more category (14.7 percent);

availability of jobs was the highest priority among those in the $60,000 - $99,999 category (17.2 percent), $30,000 - $59,999 category (15.5 percent), and the less than $30,000 category (14.5 percent); and availability of jobs tied with maintenance of roads and bridges among those who were not sure of their income (16.2 percent).

Table 60. Satisfaction with How Things are Going in Pennsylvania by Annual Household Income

Annual Household Income	*In general, how satisfied are you with the way things are going in Pennsylvania today?*			***Total***
	Very satisfied	More or less satisfied	Not satisfied	
$100,000 or more	10 8.6 %	**80** **69 %**	26 22.4 %	116 100 %
$60,000 to $99,999	19 8 %	**159** **66.8 %**	60 25.2 %	238 100 %
$30,000 to $59,999	25 6.1 %	**255** **62.7 %**	127 31.2 %	407 100 %
Less than $30,000	28 7.5 %	**236** **63.3 %**	109 29.2 %	373 100 %
Don't know / Not sure	3 4.4 %	**44** **64.7 %**	21 30.9 %	68 100 %
Total	85 7.1 %	774 64.4 %	343 28.5 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 61. Most Important Priority Based by Annual Household Income

Annual Household Income	*From the list of issues, which do you feel is most important or most in need of higher priority in the future?*	
$100,000 or more	Education for youth/children	17 14.7 %
$60,000 to $99,999	Availability of jobs	41 17.2 %
$30,000 to $59,999	Availability of jobs	63 15.5 %
Less than $30,000	Availability of jobs	54 14.5 %
Don't know/ Not sure	Availability of jobs/Maintenance of roads and bridges	11 16.2 %

Although there were no rural-urban differences in how respondents felt about their families' financial situations, these were significantly related to how they felt about the way things are going in Pennsylvania today (Table 62). Those who were "very satisfied" with their family's financial situation were also most likely to have indicated they were "very satisfied" with the way things are going in Pennsylvania, while very few who were "not at all satisfied" provided this response (20.8 percent very satisfied, 6.0 percent more or less satisfied, 3.6 percent not at all satisfied). The issues they said were most important also differed significantly (Table 63). The highest proportion cited maintenance of road and bridges among those who were very satisfied (17.5 percent), and availability of jobs was most important among those who said they were satisfied (14.9 percent) or were not at all satisfied (18.0 percent).

Table 62. Satisfaction with How Things are Going in Pennsylvania by Satisfaction with Family Financial Situation

Currently, how satisfied are you with your family's financial situation?	*In general, how satisfied are you with the way things are going in Pennsylvania today?*			***Total***
	Very satisfied	More or less satisfied	Not satisfied	
Very satisfied	32 20.8 %	**94** **61 %**	28 18.2 %	154 100 %
More or less satisfied	38 6 %	**447** **70.7 %**	147 23.3 %	632 100 %
Not at all satisfied	15 3.6 %	**233** **56 %**	168 40.4 %	416 100 %
Total	85 7.1 %	774 64.4 %	343 28.5 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 63. Most Important Priority by Satisfaction with Family Financial Situation

Currently, how satisfied are you with your family's financial situation?	*From the list of issues, which do you feel is most important or most in need of higher priority in the future?*	
Very satisfied	Maintenance of roads and bridges	27 17.5 %
More or less satisfied	Availability of jobs	94 14.9 %
Not at all satisfied	Availability of jobs	75 18.0 %

Similarly, their assessment of whether their families' finances had improved was significantly related to how they felt about the way things are going in Pennsylvania today (Table 64). Those who said they were "better off" were most likely to have said they were "very satisfied" while those who said they were "worse off" were least likely to have provided this response (11.7 percent better off, 6.1 percent about the same, 4.5 percent worse off). The issues they prioritized also differed significantly (Table 65). Among those who said they were better off, the highest proportion cited drug and alcohol abuse treatment and prevention (13.9 percent), and among those who said they were worse off or about the same, the highest proportion cited availability of jobs (20.2 percent and 13.8 percent, respectively).

Table 64. Satisfaction with How Things are Going in Pennsylvania by Personal Financial Evaluation

Would you say you and your family are better off, worse off, or about the same financially as you were 12 months ago?	*In general, how satisfied are you with the way things are going in Pennsylvania today?*			***Total***
	Very satisfied	More or less satisfied	Not satisfied	
Better off	36 11.7 %	**202** **65.4 %**	71 23 %	309 100 %
Worse off	15 4.5 %	**208** **61.9 %**	113 33.6 %	336 100 %
About the same	34 6.1 %	**364** **65.4 %**	159 28.5 %	557 100 %
Total	85 7.1 %	774 64.4 %	343 28.5 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 65. Most Important Priority by Personal Financial Evaluation

Would you say you and your family are better off, worse off, or about the same financially as you were 12 months ago?	*From the list of issues, which do you feel is most important or most in need of higher priority in the future?*	
Better off	Drug and alcohol abuse treatment and prevention	43 13.9 %
Worse off	Availability of jobs	68 20.2 %
About the same	Availability of jobs	77 13.8 %

Their outlook for their families' financial situation was also significantly related to how respondents felt about the way things are going in Pennsylvania, although there had been no rural-urban differences in these outlooks (Table 66). Those who felt they would be "worse off" were more likely to have said they were "not satisfied" compared to those who thought they would be "better off" or that things would remain "about the same" (24.0 percent better off, 30.1 percent about the same, 35.9 percent worse off). The issues they prioritized were not significantly different, however (Table 67). Regardless of their outlook, respondents said that availability of jobs was the top issue. Among those who said they were worse off, availability of jobs was tied with local tax structure reform.

Table 66. Satisfaction with How Things are Going in Pennsylvania by Anticipated Financial Situation

Looking ahead, do you think that, 12 months from now, your family will be better off financially than you are now, worse off, or about the same as you are now?	*In general, how satisfied are you with the way things are going in Pennsylvania today?*			***Total***
	Very satisfied	More or less satisfied	Not satisfied	
Better off	48 10.8 %	**290** **65.2 %**	107 24 %	445 100 %
Worse off	7 4.9 %	**84** **59.2 %**	51 35.9 %	142 100 %
About the same	30 4.9 %	**400** **65 %**	185 30.1 %	615 100 %
Total	85 7.1 %	774 64.4 %	343 28.5 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 67. Most Important Priority by Anticipated Financial Situation

Looking ahead, do you think that, 12 months from now, your family will be better off financially than you are now, worse off, or about the same as you are now?	*From the list of issues, which do you feel is most important or most in need of higher priority in the future?*	
Better off	Availability of jobs	71 16.0 %
Worse off	Availability of jobs/Reform local tax structure	24 16.9 %
About the same	Availability of jobs	89 15.3 %

There were no significant differences between men and women in how they felt about the way things are going in Pennsylvania today (Table 68). There were significant differences in the issues prioritized (Table 69). Both men and women cited availability of jobs as the most important issue, but men were more likely to have provided this response (18.3 percent male, 13.8 percent female).

Table 68. Satisfaction with How Things are Going in Pennsylvania by Gender

Gender	*In general, how satisfied are you with the way things are going in Pennsylvania today?*			***Total***
	Very satisfied	More or less satisfied	Not satisfied	
Male	34 8.5 %	**256 64.2 %**	109 27.3 %	399 100 %
Female	51 6.4 %	**518 64.5 %**	234 29.1 %	803 100 %
Total	85 7.1 %	774 64.4 %	343 28.5 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 69. Most Important Priority by Gender

Gender	*From the list of issues, which do you feel is most important or most in need of higher priority in the future?*	
Male	Availability of jobs	73 18.3 %
Female	Availability of jobs	111 13.8 %

The respondent's age was not significantly related to how they felt about the way things are going in Pennsylvania today (Table 70). Respondents in each age group did differ in the issues they said were most important, however (Table 71). Among 18-24-year-olds, the highest proportion cited maintenance of roads and bridges (22.6 percent); Among 25-34-year-olds, 34-

44-year-olds, and 45-64-year-olds, the highest proportion cited availability of jobs (19.0 percent, 16.3 percent, and 23.1 percent, respectively); and among residents older than 55, the highest proportion cited local tax structure reform (16.4 percent 55-64, 20.3 percent 65 and older).

Table 70. Satisfaction with How Things are Going in Pennsylvania by Age

Age Category	*In general, how satisfied are you with the way things are going in Pennsylvania today?*			***Total***
	Very satisfied	More or less satisfied	Not satisfied	
18-24	8 7.5 %	**74** **69.8 %**	24 22.6 %	106 100 %
25-34	18 8.5 %	**132** **62.6 %**	61 28.9 %	211 100 %
35-44	17 9.2 %	**128** **69.6 %**	39 21.2 %	184 100 %
45-54	14 7.2 %	**116** **59.5 %**	65 33.3 %	195 100 %
55-64	14 4.6 %	**201** **66.1 %**	89 29.3 %	304 100 %
65 and older	14 6.9 %	**123** **60.9 %**	65 32.2 %	202 100 %
Total	85 7.1 %	774 64.4 %	343 28.5 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 71. Most Important Priority by Age

Age Category	*From the list of issues, which do you feel is most important or most in need of higher priority in the future?*	
18-24	Maintenance of roads and bridges	24 22.6 %
25-34	Availability of jobs	40 19.0 %
35-44	Availability of jobs	30 16.3 %
45-54	Availability of jobs	45 23.1 %
55-64	Reform Pennsylvania's local tax structure	50 16.4 %
65 and older	Reform Pennsylvania's local tax structure	41 20.3 %

Race or ethnicity was not significantly related to how satisfied they were with the way things are going in Pennsylvania today or to the issues that they prioritized (Tables 72 and 73). Respondents of all racial and ethnic identities said that they were “more or less satisfied.” Top issues were availability of jobs among Hispanics and non-Hispanic whites, and drug and alcohol abuse treatment and prevention among blacks and African Americans as well as those of other racial or ethnic backgrounds.

Table 72. Satisfaction with How Things are Going in Pennsylvania by Race/Ethnicity

Race and Ethnicity	*In general, how satisfied are you with the way things are going in Pennsylvania today?* Very satisfied	More or less satisfied	Not satisfied	***Total***
Black or African American alone, non-Hispanic	2 14.3 %	**10** **71.4 %**	2 14.3 %	14 100 %
Don't know/Not sure	0 0 %	0 0 %	1 100 %	1 100 %
Hispanic	1 6.2 %	**9** **56.2 %**	6 37.5 %	16 100 %
Something else, non-Hispanic	2 6.1 %	**23** **69.7 %**	8 24.2 %	33 100 %
White alone, non-Hispanic	80 7 %	**732** **64.3 %**	326 28.6 %	1138 100 %
Total	85 7.1 %	774 64.4 %	343 28.5 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 73. Most Important Priority by Race/Ethnicity

Race and Ethnicity	*From the list of issues, which do you feel is most important or most in need of higher priority in the future?*	
Black or African American alone, non-Hispanic	Drug and alcohol abuse treatment and prevention	3 21.4 %
Don't know/Not sure	N/A (1 respondent)	
Hispanic	Availability of jobs	5 31.2 %
Something else, non-Hispanic	Drug and alcohol abuse treatment and prevention	6 18.2 %
White alone, non-Hispanic	Availability of jobs	176 15.5 %

Marital status was significantly related to how satisfied respondents were with the way things are going in Pennsylvania today (Table 74). Those who were married or were living with a partner were most likely to have said they were “not satisfied” (32.3 percent) in comparison to those with other marital statuses (22.8 percent never married, 25.9 percent divorced or separated, 23.9 percent widowed). Issue priorities also differed significantly (Table 75). Among those who were never married or who were divorced or separated, the highest proportion cited availability of jobs (15.2 percent, and 15.3 percent, respectively); among those who were married or living with a partner, the highest proportion cited local tax structure reform (15.2 percent); and among those who were widowed, health care access and availability tied with local tax structure reform (15.5 percent).

Table 74. Satisfaction with How Things are Going in Pennsylvania by Marital Status

Marital status	*In general, how satisfied are you with the way things are going in Pennsylvania today?*			***Total***
	Very satisfied	More or less satisfied	Not satisfied	
Never Married	29 9.6 %	**204** **67.5 %**	69 22.8 %	302 100 %
Married/living with a partner	38 5.8 %	**408** **61.9 %**	213 32.3 %	659 100 %
Divorced/separated	11 6.5 %	**115** **67.6 %**	44 25.9 %	170 100 %
Widowed	7 9.9 %	**47** **66.2 %**	17 23.9 %	71 100 %
Total	85 7.1 %	774 64.4 %	343 28.5 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 75. Most Important Priority by Marital Status

Marital status	*From the list of issues, which do you feel is most important or most in need of higher priority in the future?*	
Never Married	Availability of jobs	52 17.2 %
Married/living with a partner	Reform Pennsylvania's local tax structure	100 15.2 %
Divorced/separated	Availability of jobs	26 15.3 %
Widowed	Health care access and availability/Reform Pennsylvania's local tax structure	11 15.5 %

Educational attainment was not significantly related to how satisfied respondents were with the way things are going in Pennsylvania today (Table 76). Respondents of various education levels did have significant differences in the issues they prioritized, though (Table 77). Among those who had not graduated high school, there was a three-way tie for the issue with the highest proportion between availability of jobs, drug and alcohol abuse treatment and prevention, and maintenance of roads and bridges (14.0 percent). Availability of jobs was cited most frequently among those who had graduated high school or had a GED (15.3 percent), those with some post-high school education (14.7 percent), and those with at least some graduate work (20.8 percent). Among those with a bachelor’s degree, the top issue was local tax structure reform (15.4 percent).

Table 76. Satisfaction with How Things are Going in Pennsylvania by Educational Attainment

Educational Attainment	*In general, how satisfied are you with the way things are going in Pennsylvania today?*			***Total***
	Very satisfied	More or less satisfied	Not satisfied	
Did not graduate from high school	4 9.3 %	**28** **65.1 %**	11 25.6 %	43 100 %
High school graduate/GED	26 6.5 %	**250** **62.7 %**	123 30.8 %	399 100 %
Some college, associate's degree, technical/trade school, or other post-high school education	30 6.8 %	**290** **65.5 %**	123 27.8 %	443 100 %
Completed a college/bachelor's degree	15 6.8 %	**151** **68.3 %**	55 24.9 %	221 100 %
Graduate work or graduate degree	10 10.4 %	**55** **57.3 %**	31 32.3 %	96 100 %
Total	85 7.1 %	774 64.4 %	343 28.5 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 77. Most Important Priority by Educational Attainment

Educational Attainment	*From the list of issues, which do you feel is most important or most in need of higher priority in the future?*	
Did not graduate from high school	Availability of jobs/Maintenance of roads and bridges/Drug and alcohol abuse treatment and prevention	6 14.0 %
High school graduate/GED	Availability of jobs	61 15.3 %
Some college, associate's degree, technical/trade school, or other post-high school education	Availability of jobs	65 14.7 %
Completed a college/bachelor's degree	Reform Pennsylvania's local tax structure	34 15.4 %
Graduate work or graduate degree	Availability of jobs	20 20.8 %

Work status was not significantly related to how they felt things were going in Pennsylvania today (Table 78). The issues they said were most important did differ significantly (Table 79). Among both those who were employed and those who were not but were looking for work, the highest proportion cited availability of jobs (16.5 percent employed, 29.5 percent not employed but looking); among those not employed and not looking, the highest proportion said maintenance of roads and bridges (22.7 percent); among those who were retired or disabled, the highest proportion said local tax structure reform (16.6 percent); among students, the highest proportion said development of alternative energy sources (18.9 percent); and among homemakers, the highest proportion said crime and violence prevention (12.9 percent).

Table 78. Satisfaction with How Things are Going in Pennsylvania by Current Work Situation

Which of the following best describes your current work situation?	*In general, how satisfied are you with the way things are going in Pennsylvania today?*			***Total***
	Very satisfied	More or less satisfied	Not satisfied	
Employed/Self-employed	44 7.3 %	**400** **66.7 %**	156 26 %	600 100 %
Not employed, but looking for work	6 7.7 %	**49** **62.8 %**	23 29.5 %	78 100 %
Not employed, and not looking for work	0 0 %	**15** **68.2 %**	7 31.8 %	22 100 %
Retired or disabled	24 6.9 %	**219** **62.8 %**	106 30.4 %	349 100 %
Student	5 13.5 %	**25** **67.6 %**	7 18.9 %	37 100 %
Homemaker	6 5.2 %	**66** **56.9 %**	44 37.9 %	116 100 %
Total	85 7.1 %	774 64.4 %	343 28.5 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 79. Most Important Priority by Current Work Situation

Which of the following best describes your current work situation	*From the list of issues, which do you feel is most important or most in need of higher priority in the future?*	
Employed/Self-employed	Availability of jobs	99 16.5 %
Not employed, but looking for work	Availability of jobs	23 29.5 %
Not employed, and not looking for work	Maintenance of roads and bridges	5 22.7 %
Retired or disabled	Reform Pennsylvania's local tax structure	58 16.6 %
Student	Development of alternative energy sources	7 18.9 %
Homemaker	Crime and violence prevention	15 12.9 %

Finally, there were no significant differences in how registered voters and those who were not registered felt about the way things are going in Pennsylvania today (Table 80). The differences in issue priorities were significant, however (Table 81). Availability of jobs was the most commonly stated issue across all three groups, but those who were not registered (17.6 percent) or did not know their status (26.7 percent) were more likely to have said this than those who were registered (14.5 percent).

Table 80. Satisfaction with How Things are Going in Pennsylvania by Voter Registration Status

Voter Registration	*In general, how satisfied are you with the way things are going in Pennsylvania today?* Very satisfied	More or less satisfied	Not satisfied	***Total***
Don't know / Not sure	0 0 %	**10** **66.7 %**	5 33.3 %	15 100 %
Yes	59 6.4 %	**592** **63.9 %**	275 29.7 %	926 100 %
No	26 10 %	**172** **65.9 %**	63 24.1 %	261 100 %
Total	85 7.1 %	774 64.4 %	343 28.5 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 81. Most Important Priority by Voter Registration Status

Voter registration	*From the list of issues, which do you feel is most important or most in need of higher priority in the future?*	
Don't know/Not sure	Availability of jobs	4 26.7 %
Yes	Availability of jobs	134 14.5 %
No	Availability of jobs	46 17.6 %

State and Local Government Assessment

Overview & Assessment

Respondents were also asked to rate their trust and confidence in several government institutions or officials in the Commonwealth (Table 82). These included the General Assembly, the courts, the governor, local and municipal officials, and local school district officials.

Generally, there were no differences in how much trust and confidence they placed in these, with both rural and urban respondents being most likely to respond that they had "some" confidence. One exception was when asked about the governor, who rural respondents placed less trust and confidence in than urban respondents, with the proportion who said that they had only "a little" trust being relatively high compared to urban respondents (31.3 percent rural, 23.6 percent urban). Nevertheless, the governor was the state-level official where the highest proportion indicated "a great deal" of trust (13.6 percent rural, 19.4 percent urban).

The proportion indicating "some" trust in each was lower or similar in comparison to responses in 2008. However, for local and municipal officials, more responded with "a great deal" of trust compared to 2008 (11 percent rural, 10.9 percent urban in 2019, 9.6 percent rural, 8.5 percent urban in 2008). As previously noted, there is also the complex relationship between rural residence and trust in the governor – although trust in this official was generally lower, more indicated "a great deal" of trust compared to 2008, and gains were also made among urban residents (9.6 percent rural, 8.5 percent urban in 2008). Trust in local school district officials cannot be compared to 2008, as the survey at that time instead asked about local teachers and schools.

Table 82. Confidence and Trust in State Government

How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following?

	Rural				Urban			
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None
State Legislature	19 (4.56 %)	**173 (41.49 %)**	167 (40.05 %)	58 (13.91 %)	100 (6.29 %)	**725 (45.57 %)**	550 (34.57 %)	216 (13.58 %)
Courts in Pennsylvania	48 (11.51 %)	**195 (46.76 %)**	126 (30.22 %)	48 (11.51 %)	190 (11.93 %)	**759 (47.68 %)**	461 (28.96 %)	182 (11.43 %)
*Governor of Pennsylvania**	57 (13.64 %)	**138 (33.01 %)**	131 (31.34 %)	92 (22.01 %)	309 (19.41 %)	**679 (42.65 %)**	375 (23.56 %)	229 (14.38 %)
Local/municipal officials	46 (11.03 %)	**184 (44.12 %)**	141 (33.81 %)	46 (11.03 %)	173 (10.87 %)	**765 (48.08 %)**	454 (28.54 %)	199 (12.51 %)
Local school district officials	57 (13.64 %)	**138 (33.01 %)**	131 (31.34 %)	92 (22.01 %)	234 (14.71 %)	**716 (45.00 %)**	433 (27.22 %)	208 (13.07 %)

*Most common responses for each question in bold. * = statistically significant rural-urban difference*

Respondents were also asked to rate their own city, borough, or township government on several specific points (Table 83). Rural and urban residents provided similar assessments of local governments attention to citizen concerns and managing public funds and facilities, with most rating local government as “fair” or “good” on these points. Rural respondents were more likely than urban to provide a lower rating for local governments concerning improving and preserving quality of life (38.5 percent rural, 34.9 percent urban) and planning for future change (41.2 percent rural, 37 percent urban), with more rating these points as “fair” in comparison. Only a small proportion of each provided a rating of “excellent” on any of the points. Compared to 2008, ratings on all attributes improved.

Table 83. Ratings of Local Government

Please rate your city/borough/township government on each of the following characteristics:

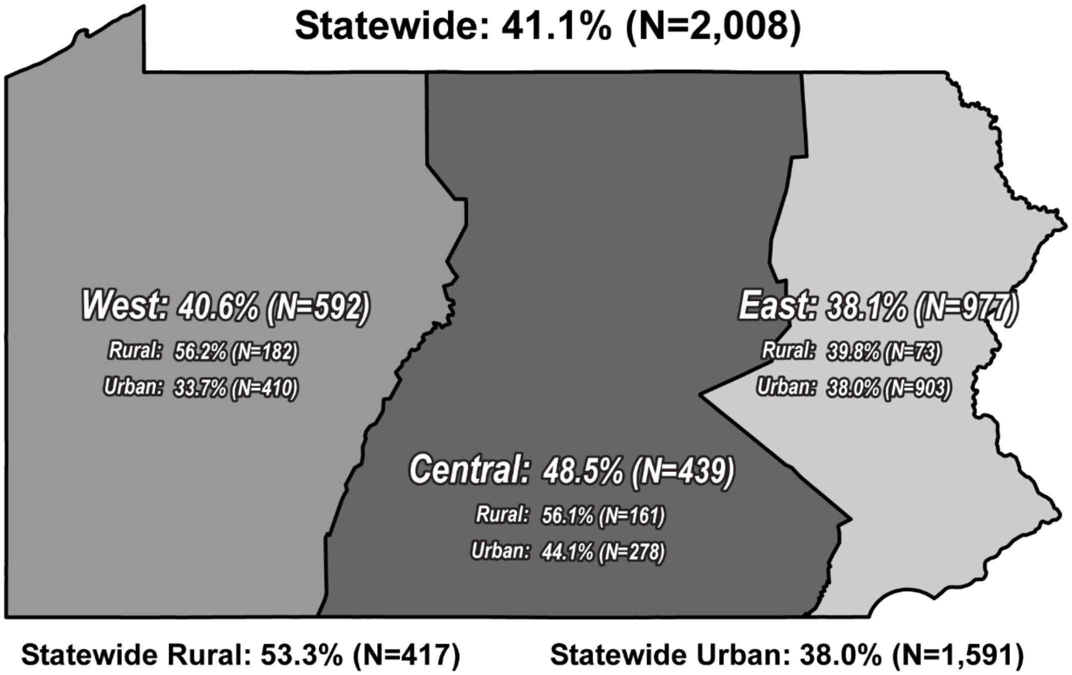
	Rural				Urban			
	Poor	**Fair**	**Good**	**Excellent**	**Poor**	**Fair**	**Good**	**Excellent**
Attention to citizen concerns	79 (18.94 %)	**161 (38.61 %)**	153 (36.69 %)	24 (5.76 %)	239 (15.01 %)	610 (38.32 %)	**617 (38.76 %)**	126 (7.91 %)
*Improving/preserving quality of life**	63 (15.14 %)	160 (38.46 %)	**169 (40.62 %)**	24 (5.77 %)	199 (12.51 %)	555 (34.88 %)	**683 (42.93 %)**	154 (9.68 %)
Managing public funds and facilities	66 (15.83 %)	163 (39.09 %)	**167 (40.05 %)**	21 (5.04 %)	291 (18.29 %)	545 (34.26 %)	**648 (40.73 %)**	107 (6.73 %)
*Planning for future change**	84 (20.14 %)	**172 (41.25 %)**	139 (33.33 %)	22 (5.28 %)	248 (15.61 %)	588 (37.00 %)	**616 (38.77 %)**	137 (8.62 %)

*Most common responses for each question in bold. * = statistically significant rural-urban difference*

Explaining Pennsylvanians' Assessment of Government

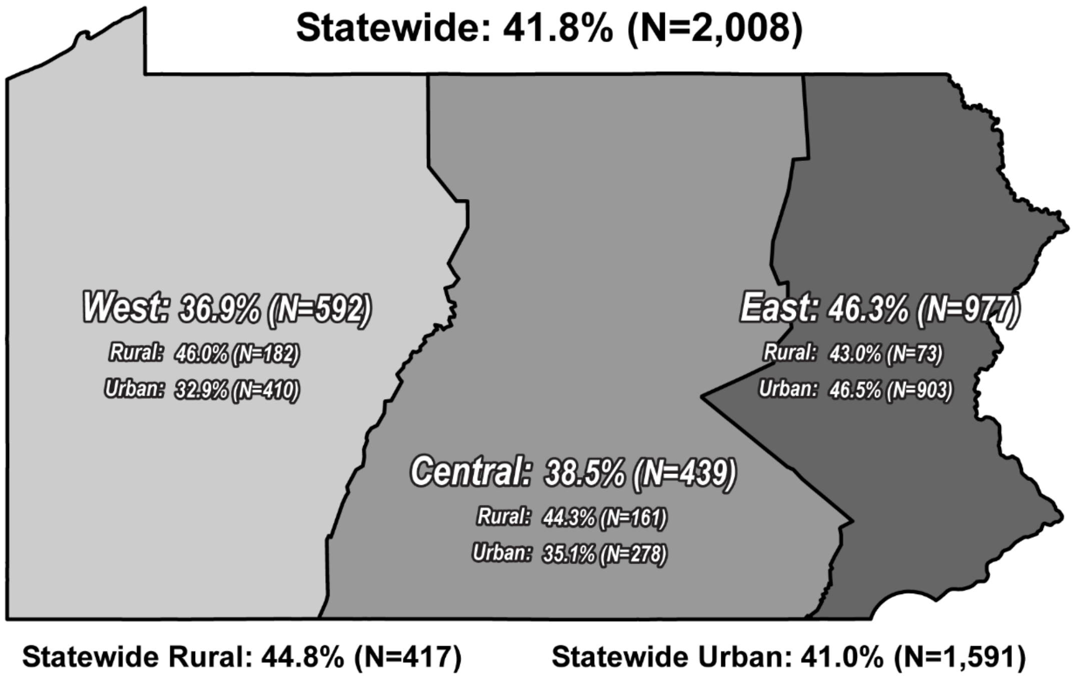
Several personal and sociodemographic factors explain differences in respondents' trust and confidence in government institutions and officials. Keep in mind that, like the analyses concerning sociodemographic differences in respondents' views of and involvement in their communities, these analyses use the unweighted rural oversample and are therefore not compared across rural and urban respondents, with the exception of regional differences. Refer to Appendix B for a complete inventory of rural and urban responses to all questions using the weighted sample. First, trust and confidence in state and local officials varied by region, as exemplified by variation in trust in the governor and in local and municipal officials (Figures 34 and 35). Trust in the governor was highest in eastern Pennsylvania, where there were no rural-urban differences in the proportion who had "a little" or no trust in the governor (39.8 percent rural, 38 percent urban). Central Pennsylvanians surveyed were most likely to have said they had only "a little" or no trust (56.1 percent rural, 44.1 percent urban). In both western and central Pennsylvania, rural respondents had more trust in the governor than urban respondents, with this gap being larger in western Pennsylvania (west – 56.2 percent rural, 33.7 percent urban).

Figure 34. A Little or No Trust in Governor by Region



In comparison, consider the regional variation in trust in local and municipal officials (Figure 35). Eastern Pennsylvania had the lowest trust in local and municipal officials, with the highest proportion of respondents saying they had "a little" or no trust, and urban respondents being more likely to have said this than rural respondents (43 percent rural, 46.5 percent urban). Western Pennsylvania had the most trust in these officials, and in contrast rural respondents were more likely to have said they had "a little" or no trust (46 percent rural, 32.9 percent urban). Central Pennsylvania also exhibited rural-urban differences, with rural respondents being less trusting there as well (44.3 percent rural, 35.1 percent urban).

Figure 35. A Little or No Trust in Local/Municipal Officials by Region



The length of time the respondent had lived in their community was not significantly related to their trust in state government (Tables 84 – 88). Regardless of the time spent in their community, they most commonly indicated that they had “some” or “a little” trust in all positions.

Table 84. Confidence in the State Legislature by Length of Residence

How long have you lived in your community?	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – State legislature*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
Less than 5 years	11 5.1 %	**97** **45.1 %**	69 32.1 %	38 17.7 %	215 100 %
5-10 years	11 6.6 %	**67** **40.1 %**	60 35.9 %	29 17.4 %	167 100 %
11-19 years	7 3.2 %	87 39.7 %	**88** **40.2 %**	37 16.9 %	219 100 %
More than 20 years	28 4.7 %	**248** **41.3 %**	245 40.8 %	80 13.3 %	601 100 %
Total	57 4.7 %	499 41.5 %	462 38.4 %	184 15.3 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 85. Trust in State Courts by Length of Residence

How long have you lived in your community?	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Courts in Pennsylvania*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
Less than 5 years	23 10.7 %	**94** **43.7 %**	65 30.2 %	33 15.3 %	215 100 %
5-10 years	20 12 %	**69** **41.3 %**	55 32.9 %	23 13.8 %	167 100 %
11-19 years	18 8.2 %	**111** **50.7 %**	66 30.1 %	24 11 %	219 100 %
More than 20 years	84 14 %	**294** **48.9 %**	155 25.8 %	68 11.3 %	601 100 %
Total	145 12.1 %	568 47.3 %	341 28.4 %	148 12.3 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 86. Trust in the Governor by Length of Residence

How long have you lived in your community?	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Governor of Pennsylvania*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
Less than 5 years	28 13 %	**87** **40.5 %**	58 27 %	42 19.5 %	215 100 %
5-10 years	27 16.2 %	**58** **34.7 %**	52 31.1 %	30 18 %	167 100 %
11-19 years	26 11.9 %	**72** **32.9 %**	71 32.4 %	50 22.8 %	219 100 %
More than 20 years	91 15.1 %	**191** **31.8 %**	173 28.8 %	146 24.3 %	601 100 %
Total	172 14.3 %	408 33.9 %	354 29.5 %	268 22.3 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 87. Confidence in Local/Municipal Officials by Length of Residence

How long have you lived in your community?	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Local/municipal officials*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
Less than 5 years	20 9.3 %	**101** **47 %**	70 32.6 %	24 11.2 %	215 100 %
5-10 years	19 11.4 %	**79** **47.3 %**	49 29.3 %	20 12 %	167 100 %
11-19 years	15 6.8 %	**104** **47.5 %**	72 32.9 %	28 12.8 %	219 100 %
More than 20 years	73 12.1 %	**257** **42.8 %**	204 33.9 %	67 11.1 %	601 100 %
Total	127 10.6 %	541 45 %	395 32.9 %	139 11.6 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 88. Trust in Local School District Officials by Length of Residence

How long have you lived in your community?	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Local school district officials*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
Less than 5 years	31 14.4 %	**103** **47.9 %**	55 25.6 %	26 12.1 %	215 100 %
5-10 years	20 12 %	**83** **49.7 %**	48 28.7 %	16 9.6 %	167 100 %
11-19 years	26 11.9 %	**90** **41.1 %**	64 29.2 %	39 17.8 %	219 100 %
More than 20 years	79 13.1 %	**266** **44.3 %**	173 28.8 %	83 13.8 %	601 100 %
Total	156 13 %	542 45.1 %	340 28.3 %	164 13.6 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

The nature of the respondent’s housing situation was significantly related to their trust in the state legislature, the courts, and the governor, but not significantly related to their trust in local or municipal officials or local school district officials (Tables 89 – 93). Those who did not live in an owned or rented home, for example group living quarters, were generally less trusting of the state legislature and the courts. They most commonly said that they had “a little” trust in these (42.1 percent state legislature, 31.6 percent the courts). Homeowners, on the other hand, were less trusting of the governor, most commonly saying that they had “a little” trust in him (30.1 percent).

Table 89. Trust in State Legislature by Ownership of Residence

Is your primary residence owned (whether or not there is a mortgage) or rented?	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – State legislature*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
Owned by you or someone in the household	33 4 %	**346** **41.5 %**	339 40.6 %	116 13.9 %	834 100 %
Rented by you or someone in the household	22 6.7 %	**140** **42.6 %**	106 32.2 %	61 18.5 %	329 100 %
Something else (occupied without payment of rent, group living quarters, etc.)	2 5.3 %	13 34.2 %	**16** **42.1 %**	7 18.4 %	38 100 %
Total	57 4.7 %	499 41.5 %	461 38.4 %	184 15.3 %	1201 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 90. Trust in State Courts by Ownership of Residence

Is your primary residence owned (whether or not there is a mortgage) or rented?	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Courts in Pennsylvania*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
Owned by you or someone in the household	103 12.4 %	**417** **50 %**	239 28.7 %	75 9 %	834 100 %
Rented by you or someone in the household	37 11.2 %	**140** **42.6 %**	89 27.1 %	63 19.1 %	329 100 %
Something else (occupied without payment of rent, group living quarters, etc.)	5 13.2 %	11 28.9 %	**12** **31.6 %**	10 26.3 %	38 100 %
Total	145 12.1 %	568 47.3 %	340 28.3 %	148 12.3 %	1201 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 91. Trust in the Governor by Ownership of Residence

Is your primary residence owned (whether or not there is a mortgage) or rented?	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Governor of Pennsylvania*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
Owned by you or someone in the household	130 15.6 %	249 29.9 %	**251** **30.1 %**	204 24.5 %	834 100 %
Rented by you or someone in the household	36 10.9 %	**145** **44.1 %**	91 27.7 %	57 17.3 %	329 100 %
Something else (occupied without payment of rent, group living quarters, etc.)	6 15.8 %	**14** **36.8 %**	11 28.9 %	7 18.4 %	38 100 %
Total	172 14.3 %	408 34 %	353 29.4 %	268 22.3 %	1201 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 92. Trust in Local/Municipal Officials by Ownership of Residence

Is your primary residence owned (whether or not there is a mortgage) or rented?	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Local/municipal officials*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
Owned by you or someone in the household	96 11.5 %	**375** **45 %**	273 32.7 %	90 10.8 %	834 100 %
Rented by you or someone in the household	28 8.5 %	**150** **45.6 %**	108 32.8 %	43 13.1 %	329 100 %
Something else (occupied without payment of rent, group living quarters, etc.)	3 7.9 %	**16** **42.1 %**	13 34.2 %	6 15.8 %	38 100 %
Total	127 10.6 %	541 45 %	394 32.8 %	139 11.6 %	1201 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 93. Trust in Local School District Officials by Ownership of Residence

Is your primary residence owned (whether or not there is a mortgage) or rented?	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Local school district officials*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
Owned by you or someone in the household	108 12.9 %	**374** **44.8 %**	238 28.5 %	114 13.7 %	834 100 %
Rented by you or someone in the household	45 13.7 %	**155** **47.1 %**	89 27.1 %	40 12.2 %	329 100 %
Something else (occupied without payment of rent, group living quarters, etc.)	3 7.9 %	12 31.6 %	**13** **34.2 %**	10 26.3 %	38 100 %
Total	156 13 %	541 45 %	340 28.3 %	164 13.7 %	1201 100 %

Most common response in bold

Whether or not the respondent had home internet access was not significantly related to differences in his/her trust in the state legislature, the courts, local or municipal officials, or local school district officials (Tables 94, 95, 97, and 98). It was, however, significantly related to their trust in the governor (Table 96). Those who had no access were more trusting in the governor, with most saying they had "some" trust in him (51.5 percent).

Table 94. Confidence in the State Legislature by Internet Access

	How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – State legislature				***Total***
Internet access at home	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
Yes, with a subscription to an internet service	53 4.8 %	**459** **41.5 %**	422 38.1 %	173 15.6 %	1107 100 %
Yes, without a subscription to an internet service (free Wi-Fi)	2 3.2 %	**26** **41.9 %**	**26** **41.9 %**	8 12.9 %	62 100 %
No internet access at home	2 6.1 %	**14** **42.4 %**	**14** **42.4 %**	3 9.1 %	33 100 %
Total	57 4.7 %	499 41.5 %	462 38.4 %	184 15.3 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 95. Confidence in State Courts by Internet Access

Internet access at home	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Courts in Pennsylvania* A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	***Total***
Yes, with a subscription to an internet service	135 12.2 %	**528** **47.7 %**	310 28 %	134 12.1 %	1107 100 %
Yes, without a subscription to an internet service (free Wi-Fi)	4 6.5 %	**27** **43.5 %**	20 32.3 %	11 17.7 %	62 100 %
No internet access at home	6 18.2 %	**13** **39.4 %**	11 33.3 %	3 9.1 %	33 100 %
Total	145 12.1 %	568 47.3 %	341 28.4 %	148 12.3 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 96. Trust in the Governor by Internet Access

Internet access at home	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Governor of Pennsylvania* A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	***Total***
Yes, with a subscription to an internet service	167 15.1 %	**368** **33.2 %**	327 29.5 %	245 22.1 %	1107 100 %
Yes, without a subscription to an internet service (free Wi-Fi)	2 3.2 %	**23** **37.1 %**	20 32.3 %	17 27.4 %	62 100 %
No internet access at home	3 9.1 %	**17** **51.5 %**	7 21.2 %	6 18.2 %	33 100 %
Total	172 14.3 %	408 33.9 %	354 29.5 %	268 22.3 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 97. Trust in Local/Municipal Officials by Internet Access

Internet access at home	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Local/municipal officials* A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	***Total***
Yes, with a subscription to an internet service	120 10.8 %	**499** **45.1 %**	362 32.7 %	126 11.4 %	1107 100 %
Yes, without a subscription to an internet service (free Wi-Fi)	4 6.5 %	**28** **45.2 %**	20 32.3 %	10 16.1 %	62 100 %
No internet access at home	3 9.1 %	**14** **42.4 %**	13 39.4 %	3 9.1 %	33 100 %
Total	127 10.6 %	541 45 %	395 32.9 %	139 11.6 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 98. Trust in Local School District Officials by Internet Access

Internet access at home	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Local school district officials* A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	***Total***
Yes, with a subscription to an internet service	145 13.1 %	**498** **45 %**	308 27.8 %	156 14.1 %	1107 100 %
Yes, without a subscription to an internet service (free Wi-Fi)	8 12.9 %	**27** **43.5 %**	20 32.3 %	7 11.3 %	62 100 %
No internet access at home	3 9.1 %	**17** **51.5 %**	12 36.4 %	1 3 %	33 100 %
Total	156 13 %	542 45.1 %	340 28.3 %	164 13.6 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Household income level was significantly related to differences in the respondents level of trust in the state legislature, the courts, and local and municipal officials (Tables 99, 100, and 102). It was not significantly related to their level of trust in the governor or local school district officials (Tables 101 and 103). Other than those who did not report their household income, those who had household incomes in the less than $30,000 or $30,000-$59,999 range were most likely to have said they had no trust in the state legislature (16.0 percent $30,000-59,999, 16.4 percent < $30,000), the courts (14.0 percent $30,000-59,999, 15.8 percent < $30,000), and local and municipal officials (11.5 percent $30,000-59,999, 15.3 percent < $30,000).

Table 99. Trust in State Legislature by Annual Household Income

Annual Household Income	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – State Legislature*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
$100,000 or more	2 1.7 %	50 43.1 %	**54** **46.6 %**	10 8.6 %	116 100 %
$60,000 to $99,999	10 4.2 %	**105** **44.1 %**	94 39.5 %	29 12.2 %	238 100 %
$30,000 to $59,999	22 5.4 %	162 39.8 %	**158** **38.8 %**	65 16 %	407 100 %
Less than $30,000	19 5.1 %	**162** **43.4 %**	131 35.1 %	61 16.4 %	373 100 %
Don't know / Not sure	4 5.9 %	20 29.4 %	**25** **36.8 %**	19 27.9 %	68 100 %
Total	57 4.7 %	499 41.5 %	462 38.4 %	184 15.3 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 100. Trust in State Courts by Annual Household Income

Annual Household Income	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Courts in Pennsylvania*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
$100,000 or more	15 12.9 %	**55** **47.4 %**	38 32.8 %	8 6.9 %	116 100 %
$60,000 to $99,999	29 12.2 %	**132** **55.5 %**	67 28.2 %	10 4.2 %	238 100 %
$30,000 to $59,999	53 13 %	**193** **47.4 %**	104 25.6 %	57 14 %	407 100 %
Less than $30,000	38 10.2 %	**160** **42.9 %**	116 31.1 %	59 15.8 %	373 100 %
Don't know / Not sure	10 14.7 %	**28** **41.2 %**	16 23.5 %	14 20.6 %	68 100 %
Total	145 12.1 %	568 47.3 %	341 28.4 %	148 12.3 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 101. Trust in the Governor by Annual Household Income

Annual Household Income	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Governor of Pennsylvania*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
$100,000 or more	22 19 %	34 29.3 %	**36** **31 %**	24 20.7 %	116 100 %
$60,000 to $99,999	29 12.2 %	**82** **34.5 %**	67 28.2 %	60 25.2 %	238 100 %
$30,000 to $59,999	55 13.5 %	**133** **32.7 %**	124 30.5 %	95 23.3 %	407 100 %
Less than $30,000	58 15.5 %	**140** **37.5 %**	106 28.4 %	69 18.5 %	373 100 %
Don't know / Not sure	8 11.8 %	19 27.9 %	**21** **30.9 %**	20 29.4 %	68 100 %
Total	172 14.3 %	408 33.9 %	354 29.5 %	268 22.3 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 102. Trust in Local/Municipal Officials by Annual Household Income

Annual Household Income	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Local/municipal officials*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
$100,000 or more	12 10.3 %	**59** **50.9 %**	37 31.9 %	8 6.9 %	116 100 %
$60,000 to $99,999	26 10.9 %	**113** **47.5 %**	84 35.3 %	15 6.3 %	238 100 %
$30,000 to $59,999	45 11.1 %	**195** **47.9 %**	120 29.5 %	47 11.5 %	407 100 %
Less than $30,000	38 10.2 %	**144** **38.6 %**	134 35.9 %	57 15.3 %	373 100 %
Don't know / Not sure	6 8.8 %	**30** **44.1 %**	20 29.4 %	12 17.6 %	68 100 %
Total	127 10.6 %	541 45 %	395 32.9 %	139 11.6 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 103. Trust in Local School District Officials by Annual Household Income

Annual Household Income	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Local school district officials*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
$100,000 or more	12 10.3 %	**54** **46.6 %**	35 30.2 %	15 12.9 %	116 100 %
$60,000 to $99,999	30 12.6 %	**120** **50.4 %**	64 26.9 %	24 10.1 %	238 100 %
$30,000 to $59,999	60 14.7 %	**194** **47.7 %**	99 24.3 %	54 13.3 %	407 100 %
Less than $30,000	48 12.9 %	**146** **39.1 %**	120 32.2 %	59 15.8 %	373 100 %
Don't know / Not sure	6 8.8 %	**28** **41.2 %**	22 32.4 %	12 17.6 %	68 100 %
Total	156 13 %	542 45.1 %	340 28.3 %	164 13.6 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Satisfaction with their family's financial situations was significantly related to the respondents' level of trust in all government institutions and officials, although there had not been rural-urban differences in how they felt about their financial situations (Tables 104 – 108). Those who were "not at all satisfied" were most likely to have indicated they had no trust in the state legislature (18.0 percent), the courts (19.5 percent), the governor (23.8 percent), local/municipal officials (15.1 percent), and local school district officials (17.3 percent).

Table 104. Trust in State Legislature by Current Financial Situation

Currently, how satisfied are you with your family's financial situation?	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – State Legislature*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
Very satisfied	12 7.8 %	**75** **48.7 %**	51 33.1 %	16 10.4 %	154 100 %
More or less satisfied	34 5.4 %	**276** **43.7 %**	229 36.2 %	93 14.7 %	632 100 %
Not at all satisfied	11 2.6 %	148 35.6 %	**182** **43.8 %**	75 18 %	416 100 %
Total	57 4.7 %	**499** **41.5 %**	462 38.4 %	184 15.3 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 105. Trust in State Courts by Current Financial Situation

Currently, how satisfied are you with your family's financial situation?	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Courts in Pennsylvania*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
Very satisfied	40 26 %	**75** **48.7 %**	26 16.9 %	13 8.4 %	154 100 %
More or less satisfied	75 11.9 %	**317** **50.2 %**	186 29.4 %	54 8.5 %	632 100 %
Not at all satisfied	30 7.2 %	**176** **42.3 %**	129 31 %	81 19.5 %	416 100 %
Total	145 12.1 %	568 47.3 %	341 28.4 %	148 12.3 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 106. Trust in the Governor by Current Financial Situation

Currently, how satisfied are you with your family's financial situation?	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Governor of Pennsylvania*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
Very satisfied	31 20.1 %	**52** **33.8 %**	36 23.4 %	35 22.7 %	154 100 %
More or less satisfied	98 15.5 %	**219** **34.7 %**	181 28.6 %	134 21.2 %	632 100 %
Not at all satisfied	43 10.3 %	**137** **32.9 %**	**137** **32.9 %**	99 23.8 %	416 100 %
Total	172 14.3 %	408 33.9 %	354 29.5 %	268 22.3 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 107. Trust in Local/Municipal Officials by Current Financial Position

Currently, how satisfied are you with your family's financial situation?	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Local/municipal officials*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
Very satisfied	27 17.5 %	**73** **47.4 %**	42 27.3 %	12 7.8 %	154 100 %
More or less satisfied	67 10.6 %	**310** **49.1 %**	191 30.2 %	64 10.1 %	632 100 %
Not at all satisfied	33 7.9 %	158 38 %	**162** **38.9 %**	63 15.1 %	416 100 %
Total	127 10.6 %	541 45 %	395 32.9 %	139 11.6 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 108. Trust in Local School District Officials by Current Financial Situation

Currently, how satisfied are you with your family's financial situation?	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Local school district officials*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
Very satisfied	35 22.7 %	**72** **46.8 %**	33 21.4 %	14 9.1 %	154 100 %
More or less satisfied	78 12.3 %	**309** **48.9 %**	167 26.4 %	78 12.3 %	632 100 %
Not at all satisfied	43 10.3 %	**161** **38.7 %**	140 33.7 %	72 17.3 %	416 100 %
Total	156 13 %	542 45.1 %	340 28.3 %	164 13.6 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Similarly, their assessment of whether their family’s financial situation had improved over the last year was significantly related to trust in all government officials and institutions (Tables 109 – 113). Those who indicated they were “worse off” were most likely to have said they have no trust in the state legislature (18.5 percent), the courts (16.7 percent), local/municipal officials (15.5 percent), and local school district officials (15.8 percent). Those who indicated they were “about the same” were most likely to have said that they have no trust in the governor (24.2 percent).

Table 109. Confidence in the State Legislature by Financial Evaluation

Would you say you and your family are better off, worse off, or about the same financially as you were 12 months ago?	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – State Legislature*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
Better off	14 4.5 %	**163** **52.8 %**	96 31.1 %	36 11.7 %	309 100 %
Worse off	17 5.1 %	**129** **38.4 %**	128 38.1 %	62 18.5 %	336 100 %
About the same	26 4.7 %	207 37.2 %	**238** **42.7 %**	86 15.4 %	557 100 %
Total	57 4.7 %	499 41.5 %	462 38.4 %	184 15.3 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 110. Confidence in State Courts by Financial Evaluation

Would you say you and your family are better off, worse off, or about the same financially as you were 12 months ago?	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Courts in Pennsylvania*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
Better off	51 16.5 %	**161** **52.1 %**	69 22.3 %	28 9.1 %	309 100 %
Worse off	32 9.5 %	**145** **43.2 %**	103 30.7 %	56 16.7 %	336 100 %
About the same	62 11.1 %	**262** **47 %**	169 30.3 %	64 11.5 %	557 100 %
Total	145 12.1 %	568 47.3 %	341 28.4 %	148 12.3 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 111. Confidence in Governor by Financial Evaluation

Would you say you and your family are better off, worse off, or about the same financially as you were 12 months ago?	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Governor of Pennsylvania*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
Better off	49 15.9 %	**118** **38.2 %**	81 26.2 %	61 19.7 %	309 100 %
Worse off	64 19 %	**105** **31.2 %**	95 28.3 %	72 21.4 %	336 100 %
About the same	59 10.6 %	**185** **33.2 %**	178 32 %	135 24.2 %	557 100 %
Total	172 14.3 %	408 33.9 %	354 29.5 %	268 22.3 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 112. Confidence in Local/Municipal Officials by Financial Evaluation

Would you say you and your family are better off, worse off, or about the same financially as you were 12 months ago?	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Local/municipal officials*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
Better off	36 11.7 %	**166** **53.7 %**	89 28.8 %	18 5.8 %	309 100 %
Worse off	29 8.6 %	**141** **42 %**	114 33.9 %	52 15.5 %	336 100 %
About the same	62 11.1 %	**234** **42 %**	192 34.5 %	69 12.4 %	557 100 %
Total	127 10.6 %	541 45 %	395 32.9 %	139 11.6 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 113. Confidence in Local School District Officials by Financial Evaluation

Would you say you and your family are better off, worse off, or about the same financially as you were 12 months ago?	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Local school district officials*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
Better off	44 14.2 %	**168** **54.4 %**	64 20.7 %	33 10.7 %	309 100 %
Worse off	31 9.2 %	**144** **42.9 %**	108 32.1 %	53 15.8 %	336 100 %
About the same	81 14.5 %	**230** **41.3 %**	168 30.2 %	78 14 %	557 100 %
Total	156 13 %	542 45.1 %	340 28.3 %	164 13.6 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

The outlook for their family's financial situation was also significantly related to their level of trust in each of the government institutions and officials (Tables 114 – 118). Those who felt they would be "worse off" were most likely to have said they have no trust in the state legislature (28.9 percent), the courts (23.9 percent), the governor (25.4 percent), local/municipal officials (23.2 percent), and local school district officials (23.9 percent).

Table 114. Confidence in the State Legislature by Anticipated Financial Situation

Looking ahead, do you think that, 12 months from now, your family will be better off financially than you are now, worse off, or about the same as you are now?	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – State Legislature*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
Better off	24 5.4 %	**218** **49 %**	148 33.3 %	55 12.4 %	445 100 %
Worse off	7 4.9 %	48 33.8 %	**46** **32.4 %**	41 28.9 %	142 100 %
About the same	26 4.2 %	233 37.9 %	**268** **43.6 %**	88 14.3 %	615 100 %
Total	57 4.7 %	499 41.5 %	462 38.4 %	184 15.3 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 115. Confidence in State Courts by Anticipated Financial Situation

Looking ahead, do you think that, 12 months from now, your family will be better off financially than you are now, worse off, or about the same as you are now?	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Courts in Pennsylvania*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
Better off	66 14.8 %	**212** **47.6 %**	118 26.5 %	49 11 %	445 100 %
Worse off	9 6.3 %	56 39.4 %	**43** **30.3 %**	34 23.9 %	142 100 %
About the same	70 11.4 %	**300** **48.8 %**	180 29.3 %	65 10.6 %	615 100 %
Total	145 12.1 %	568 47.3 %	341 28.4 %	148 12.3 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 116. Confidence in Governor by Anticipated Financial Situation

Looking ahead, do you think that, 12 months from now, your family will be better off financially than you are now, worse off, or about the same as you are now?	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Governor of Pennsylvania*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
Better off	65 14.6 %	**159** **35.7 %**	136 30.6 %	85 19.1 %	445 100 %
Worse off	33 23.2 %	33 23.2 %	**40** **28.2 %**	36 25.4 %	142 100 %
About the same	74 12 %	**216** **35.1 %**	178 28.9 %	147 23.9 %	615 100 %
Total	172 14.3 %	408 33.9 %	354 29.5 %	268 22.3 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 117. Confidence in Local/Municipal Officials by Anticipated Financial Situation

Looking ahead, do you think that, 12 months from now, your family will be better off financially than you are now, worse off, or about the same as you are now?	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Local/municipal officials*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
Better off	48 10.8 %	**227** **51 %**	139 31.2 %	31 7 %	445 100 %
Worse off	15 10.6 %	43 30.3 %	**51** **35.9 %**	33 23.2 %	142 100 %
About the same	64 10.4 %	**271** **44.1 %**	205 33.3 %	75 12.2 %	615 100 %
Total	127 10.6 %	541 45 %	395 32.9 %	139 11.6 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 118. Confidence in Local School District Officials by Anticipated Financial Situation

Looking ahead, do you think that, 12 months from now, your family will be better off financially than you are now, worse off, or about the same as you are now?	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Local school district officials*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
Better off	66 14.8 %	**215** **48.3 %**	110 24.7 %	54 12.1 %	445 100 %
Worse off	16 11.3 %	**50** **35.2 %**	42 29.6 %	34 23.9 %	142 100 %
About the same	74 12 %	**277** **45 %**	188 30.6 %	76 12.4 %	615 100 %
Total	156 13 %	542 45.1 %	340 28.3 %	164 13.6 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Age was significantly related to their level of trust of all government institutions and officials, except for local school district officials (Tables 119 – 123). Respondents aged 45-54 were most likely to have said they have no trust in the state legislature (21.5 percent), the courts (16.9 percent), the governor (30.8 percent), and local/municipal officials (13.3 percent). A similar percentage of those aged 35-44 said they had no confidence in the courts (16.8 percent).

Table 119. Confidence in the State Legislature by Age

Age Category	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – State Legislature*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
18-24	7 6.6 %	**58** **54.7 %**	28 26.4 %	13 12.3 %	106 100 %
25-34	9 4.3 %	**90** **42.7 %**	76 36 %	36 17.1 %	211 100 %
35-44	5 2.7 %	**86** **46.7 %**	71 38.6 %	22 12 %	184 100 %
45-54	9 4.6 %	63 32.3 %	**81** **41.5 %**	42 21.5 %	195 100 %
55-64	16 5.3 %	121 39.8 %	**125** **41.1 %**	42 13.8 %	304 100 %
65 and older	11 5.4 %	**81** **40.1 %**	**81** **40.1 %**	29 14.4 %	202 100 %
Total	57 4.7 %	499 41.5 %	462 38.4 %	184 15.3 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 120. Confidence in State Courts by Age

Age Category	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Courts in Pennsylvania*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
18-24	17 16 %	**51** **48.1 %**	27 25.5 %	11 10.4 %	106 100 %
25-34	23 10.9 %	**80** **37.9 %**	69 32.7 %	39 18.5 %	211 100 %
35-44	16 8.7 %	**95** **51.6 %**	42 22.8 %	31 16.8 %	184 100 %
45-54	17 8.7 %	**87** **44.6 %**	58 29.7 %	33 16.9 %	195 100 %
55-64	39 12.8 %	**146** **48 %**	101 33.2 %	18 5.9 %	304 100 %
65 and older	33 16.3 %	**109** **54 %**	44 21.8 %	16 7.9 %	202 100 %
Total	145 12.1 %	568 47.3 %	341 28.4 %	148 12.3 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 121. Confidence in Governor by Age

Age Category	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Governor of Pennsylvania*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
18-24	13 12.3 %	**51** **48.1 %**	34 32.1 %	8 7.5 %	106 100 %
25-34	25 11.8 %	**79** **37.4 %**	66 31.3 %	41 19.4 %	211 100 %
35-44	23 12.5 %	**63** **34.2 %**	**63** **34.2 %**	35 19 %	184 100 %
45-54	18 9.2 %	54 27.7 %	**63** **32.3 %**	60 30.8 %	195 100 %
55-64	46 15.1 %	**103** **33.9 %**	82 27 %	73 24 %	304 100 %
65 and older	47 23.3 %	**58** **28.7 %**	46 22.8 %	51 25.2 %	202 100 %
Total	172 14.3 %	408 33.9 %	354 29.5 %	268 22.3 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 122. Confidence in Local/Municipal Officials by Age

Age category	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Local/municipal officials*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
18-24	11 10.4 %	**47** **44.3 %**	37 34.9 %	11 10.4 %	106 100 %
25-34	19 9 %	**100** **47.4 %**	65 30.8 %	27 12.8 %	211 100 %
35-44	17 9.2 %	**79** **42.9 %**	66 35.9 %	22 12 %	184 100 %
45-54	18 9.2 %	**88** **45.1 %**	63 32.3 %	26 13.3 %	195 100 %
55-64	35 11.5 %	**133** **43.8 %**	104 34.2 %	32 10.5 %	304 100 %
65 and older	27 13.4 %	**94** **46.5 %**	60 29.7 %	21 10.4 %	202 100 %
Total	127 10.6 %	541 45 %	395 32.9 %	139 11.6 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 123. Confidence in Local School District Officials by Age

Age category	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Local school district officials*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
18-24	9 8.5 %	**47** **44.3 %**	31 29.2 %	19 17.9 %	106 100 %
25-34	35 16.6 %	**93** **44.1 %**	51 24.2 %	32 15.2 %	211 100 %
35-44	22 12 %	**90** **48.9 %**	49 26.6 %	23 12.5 %	184 100 %
45-54	28 14.4 %	**79** **40.5 %**	64 32.8 %	24 12.3 %	195 100 %
55-64	36 11.8 %	**130** **42.8 %**	95 31.2 %	43 14.1 %	304 100 %
65 and older	26 12.9 %	**103** **51 %**	50 24.8 %	23 11.4 %	202 100 %
Total	156 13 %	542 45.1 %	340 28.3 %	164 13.6 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Gender was significantly related to their trust in the state legislature, the courts, and the governor (Tables 124 – 126). Men were most likely to have said they have no trust in the state legislature (19.0 percent), the courts (14.5 percent), and the governor (27.1 percent). Gender was not significantly related to trust in local/municipal officials or local school district officials (Tables 127 and 128).

Table 124. Confidence in the State Legislature by Gender

Gender	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – State Legislature*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
Male	22 5.5 %	**160** **40.1 %**	141 35.3 %	76 19 %	399 100 %
Female	35 4.4 %	**339** **42.2 %**	321 40 %	108 13.4 %	803 100 %
Total	57 4.7 %	499 41.5 %	462 38.4 %	184 15.3 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 125. Confidence in State Courts by Gender

Gender	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Courts in Pennsylvania*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
Male	58 14.5 %	**174** **43.6 %**	109 27.3 %	58 14.5 %	399 100 %
Female	87 10.8 %	**394** **49.1 %**	232 28.9 %	90 11.2 %	803 100 %
Total	145 12.1 %	568 47.3 %	341 28.4 %	148 12.3 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 126. Confidence in Governor by Gender

Gender	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Governor of Pennsylvania*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
Male	67 16.8 %	**124** **31.1 %**	100 25.1 %	108 27.1 %	399 100 %
Female	105 13.1 %	**284** **35.4 %**	254 31.6 %	160 19.9 %	803 100 %
Total	172 14.3 %	408 33.9 %	354 29.5 %	268 22.3 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 127. Confidence in Local/Municipal Officials by Gender

Gender	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Local/municipal officials*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
Male	43 10.8 %	**172** **43.1 %**	127 31.8 %	57 14.3 %	399 100 %
Female	84 10.5 %	**369** **46 %**	268 33.4 %	82 10.2 %	803 100 %
Total	127 10.6 %	541 45 %	395 32.9 %	139 11.6 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 128. Confidence in Local School District Officials by Gender

Gender	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Local school district officials*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
Male	59 14.8 %	**177** **44.4 %**	101 25.3 %	62 15.5 %	399 100 %
Female	97 12.1 %	**365** **45.5 %**	239 29.8 %	102 12.7 %	803 100 %
Total	156 13 %	542 45.1 %	340 28.3 %	164 13.6 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Race or ethnicity was significantly related to their level of trust in the courts and local/municipal officials (Tables 130 and 132). Hispanics were most likely to have said they had no trust in the courts (18.8 percent). A similar proportion of non-Hispanic whites also indicated they had no trust in the courts (18.2 percent). Those who were not Hispanic, white, or black or African American were most likely to have said they had no trust in local/municipal officials (15.2 percent). Race or ethnicity was not significantly related to respondents' level of trust in the state legislature, the governor, and local school district officials (Tables 129, 131, and 133).

Table 129. Confidence in the State Legislature by Race/Ethnicity

Race and Ethnicity	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – State Legislature*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
Black or African American alone, non-Hispanic	2 14.3 %	5 35.7 %	**7** **50 %**	0 0 %	14 100 %
Don't know/Not sure	0 0 %	0 0 %	0 0 %	1 100 %	1 100 %
Hispanic	1 6.2 %	**7** **43.8 %**	**7** **43.8 %**	1 6.2 %	16 100 %
Something else, non-Hispanic	1 3 %	**14** **42.4 %**	13 39.4 %	5 15.2 %	33 100 %
White alone, non-Hispanic	53 4.7 %	**473** **41.6 %**	435 38.2 %	177 15.6 %	1138 100 %
Total	57 4.7 %	499 41.5 %	462 38.4 %	184 15.3 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 130. Confidence in State Courts by Race/Ethnicity

Race and Ethnicity	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Courts in Pennsylvania*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
Black or African American alone, non-Hispanic	2 14.3 %	**6** **42.9 %**	5 35.7 %	1 7.1 %	14 100 %
Don't know/Not sure	0 0 %	0 0 %	0 0 %	1 100 %	1 100 %
Hispanic	4 25 %	1 6.2 %	**8** **50 %**	3 18.8 %	16 100 %
Something else, non-Hispanic	2 6.1 %	**14** **42.4 %**	11 33.3 %	6 18.2 %	33 100 %
White alone, non-Hispanic	137 12 %	**547** **48.1 %**	317 27.9 %	137 12 %	1138 100 %
Total	145 12.1 %	568 47.3 %	341 28.4 %	148 12.3 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 131. Confidence in the Governor by Race/Ethnicity

Race and Ethnicity	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Governor of Pennsylvania*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
Black or African American alone, non-Hispanic	1 7.1 %	5 35.7 %	**8** **57.1 %**	0 0 %	14 100 %
Don't know/Not sure	0 0 %	0 0 %	0 0 %	1 100 %	1 100 %
Hispanic	4 25 %	**6** **37.5 %**	5 31.2 %	1 6.2 %	16 100 %
Something else, non-Hispanic	4 12.1 %	**16** **48.5 %**	8 24.2 %	5 15.2 %	33 100 %
White alone, non-Hispanic	163 14.3 %	**381** **33.5 %**	333 29.3 %	261 22.9 %	1138 100 %
Total	172 14.3 %	408 33.9 %	354 29.5 %	268 22.3 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 132. Confidence in Local/Municipal Officials by Race/Ethnicity

	How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Local/municipal officials				***Total***
Race and Ethnicity	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
Black or African American alone, non-Hispanic	1 7.1 %	4 28.6 %	**7** **50 %**	2 14.3 %	14 100 %
Don't know/ Not sure	0 0 %	0 0 %	0 0 %	1 100 %	1 100 %
Hispanic	5 31.2 %	1 6.2 %	**9** **56.2 %**	1 6.2 %	16 100 %
Something else, non-Hispanic	1 3 %	**16** **48.5 %**	11 33.3 %	5 15.2 %	33 100 %
White alone, non-Hispanic	120 10.5 %	**520** **45.7 %**	368 32.3 %	130 11.4 %	1138 100 %
Total	127 10.6 %	541 45 %	395 32.9 %	139 11.6 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 133. Confidence in Local School District Officials by Race/Ethnicity

Race and Ethnicity	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Local school district officials*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
Black or African American alone, non-Hispanic	2 14.3 %	**6** **42.9 %**	5 35.7 %	1 7.1 %	14 100 %
Don't know/ Not sure	0 0 %	0 0 %	0 0 %	1 100 %	1 100 %
Hispanic	3 18.8 %	**5** **31.2 %**	**5** **31.2 %**	3 18.8 %	16 100 %
Something else, non-Hispanic	4 12.1 %	**16** **48.5 %**	9 27.3 %	4 12.1 %	33 100 %
White alone, non-Hispanic	147 12.9 %	**515** **45.3 %**	321 28.2 %	155 13.6 %	1138 100 %
Total	156 13 %	542 45.1 %	340 28.3 %	164 13.6 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

The respondents' marital status was significantly related to their level of trust in the state legislature and the governor (Tables 134 and 136). Those who were married or living with a partner were most likely to have said they have no trust in the state legislature (16.1 percent), or the governor (27.0 percent). There were no significant differences in levels of trust in the courts, local/municipal officials, or local school district officials by marital status (Tables 135, 137, and 138).

Table 134. Confidence in the State Legislature by Marital Status

Marital status	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – State Legislature*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
Never Married	23 7.6 %	**137** **45.4 %**	98 32.5 %	44 14.6 %	302 100 %
Married/living with a partner	21 3.2 %	260 39.5 %	**272** **41.3 %**	106 16.1 %	659 100 %
Divorced/separated	6 3.5 %	**75** **44.1 %**	63 37.1 %	26 15.3 %	170 100 %
Widowed	7 9.9 %	27 38 %	**29** **40.8 %**	8 11.3 %	71 100 %
Total	57 4.7 %	499 41.5 %	462 38.4 %	184 15.3 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 135. Confidence in State Courts by Marital Status

Marital status	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Courts in Pennsylvania*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
Never Married	41 13.6 %	**131** **43.4 %**	86 28.5 %	44 14.6 %	302 100 %
Married/living with a partner	79 12 %	**315** **47.8 %**	190 28.8 %	75 11.4 %	659 100 %
Divorced/separated	15 8.8 %	**90** **52.9 %**	41 24.1 %	24 14.1 %	170 100 %
Widowed	10 14.1 %	**32** **45.1 %**	24 33.8 %	5 7 %	71 100 %
Total	145 12.1 %	568 47.3 %	341 28.4 %	148 12.3 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 136. Confidence in the Governor by Marital Status

Marital status	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Governor of Pennsylvania*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
Never Married	48 15.9 %	**127** **42.1 %**	86 28.5 %	41 13.6 %	302 100 %
Married/living with a partner	94 14.3 %	188 28.5 %	**199** **30.2 %**	178 27 %	659 100 %
Divorced/separated	16 9.4 %	**72** **42.4 %**	48 28.2 %	34 20 %	170 100 %
Widowed	14 19.7 %	**21** **29.6 %**	**21** **29.6 %**	15 21.1 %	71 100 %
Total	172 14.3 %	408 33.9 %	354 29.5 %	268 22.3 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 137. Confidence in Local/Municipal Officials by Marital Status

Marital status	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Local/municipal officials*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
Never Married	37 12.3 %	**132** **43.7 %**	97 32.1 %	36 11.9 %	302 100 %
Married/living with a partner	63 9.6 %	**292** **44.3 %**	233 35.4 %	71 10.8 %	659 100 %
Divorced/separated	17 10 %	**85** **50 %**	42 24.7 %	26 15.3 %	170 100 %
Widowed	10 14.1 %	**32** **45.1 %**	23 32.4 %	6 8.5 %	71 100 %
Total	127 10.6 %	541 45 %	395 32.9 %	139 11.6 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 138. Trust in Local School District Officials by Marital Status

Marital status	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Local school district officials*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
Never Married	42 13.9 %	**129** **42.7 %**	81 26.8 %	50 16.6 %	302 100 %
Married/living with a partner	83 12.6 %	**293** **44.5 %**	193 29.3 %	90 13.7 %	659 100 %
Divorced/separated	18 10.6 %	**83** **48.8 %**	49 28.8 %	20 11.8 %	170 100 %
Widowed	13 18.3 %	**37** **52.1 %**	17 23.9 %	4 5.6 %	71 100 %
Total	156 13 %	542 45.1 %	340 28.3 %	164 13.6 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Educational attainment was significantly related to levels of trust in the state legislature, the courts, the governor, and local/municipal officials (Tables 139 – 143). Generally, those with lower levels of educational attainment were less trusting in the state legislature, with those who did not graduate from high school being most likely to have said they had no trust in this institution (23.3 percent). However, this same group was most likely to have said they have "a great deal" of trust in the legislature (16.3 percent). Those with lower levels of educational attainment were also less likely to trust the courts, with those who did not graduate from high school also being the most likely to have said they had no trust in this institution (18.6 percent). The relationship between educational attainment and trust in the governor was like the one observed for the relationship with trust in the legislature. Those with a high school diploma were most likely to have said they had no trust in the governor (25.1 percent), but those who had not graduated were most likely to have had "a great deal" of trust in him (23.3 percent), meaning it was not simply lower educational attainment that led to distrust. This pattern was also observed with trust in local/municipal officials. Those who had not graduated from high school were both most likely to have said they had no trust in these officials (23.3 percent) and "a great deal" of trust in them (16.3 percent). There were no significant differences in trust in local school district officials across different levels of educational attainment (Table 129).

Table 139. Confidence in the State Legislature by Educational Attainment

Educational Attainment	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – State Legislature*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
Did not graduate from high school	7 16.3 %	**14** **32.6 %**	12 27.9 %	10 23.3 %	43 100 %
High school graduate/GED	17 4.3 %	**161** **40.4 %**	149 37.3 %	72 18 %	399 100 %
Some college, associate's degree, technical/trade school, or other post-high school education	24 5.4 %	**179** **40.4 %**	173 39.1 %	67 15.1 %	443 100 %
Completed a college/bachelor's degree	8 3.6 %	**107** **48.4 %**	83 37.6 %	23 10.4 %	221 100 %
Graduate work or graduate degree	1 1 %	38 39.6 %	**45** **46.9 %**	12 12.5 %	96 100 %
Total	57 4.7 %	499 41.5 %	462 38.4 %	184 15.3 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 140. Confidence in State Courts by Educational Attainment

Educational Attainment	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Courts in Pennsylvania*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
Did not graduate from high school	6 14 %	**19** **44.2 %**	10 23.3 %	8 18.6 %	43 100 %
High school graduate/GED	47 11.8 %	**171** **42.9 %**	116 29.1 %	65 16.3 %	399 100 %
Some college, associate's degree, technical/trade school, or other post-high school education	43 9.7 %	**216** **48.8 %**	130 29.3 %	54 12.2 %	443 100 %
Completed a college/bachelor's degree	33 14.9 %	**115** **52 %**	60 27.1 %	13 5.9 %	221 100 %
Graduate work or graduate degree	16 16.7 %	**47** **49 %**	25 26 %	8 8.3 %	96 100 %
Total	145 12.1 %	568 47.3 %	341 28.4 %	148 12.3 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 141. Confidence in the Governor by Educational Attainment

Educational Attainment	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Governor of Pennsylvania*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
Did not graduate from high school	10 23.3 %	**15** **34.9 %**	8 18.6 %	10 23.3 %	43 100 %
High school graduate/GED	44 11 %	**142** **35.6 %**	113 28.3 %	100 25.1 %	399 100 %
Some college, associate's degree, technical/trade school, or other post-high school education	60 13.5 %	**153** **34.5 %**	132 29.8 %	98 22.1 %	443 100 %
Completed a college/bachelor's degree	41 18.6 %	62 28.1 %	**76** **34.4 %**	42 19 %	221 100 %
Graduate work or graduate degree	17 17.7 %	**36** **37.5 %**	25 26 %	18 18.8 %	96 100 %
Total	172 14.3 %	408 33.9 %	354 29.5 %	268 22.3 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 142. Confidence in Local/Municipal Officials by Educational Attainment

Educational Attainment	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Local/municipal officials*				
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	***Total***
Did not graduate from high school	7 16.3 %	12 27.9 %	**14** **32.6 %**	10 23.3 %	43 100 %
High school graduate/GED	42 10.5 %	**175** **43.9 %**	118 29.6 %	64 16 %	399 100 %
Some college, associate's degree, technical/trade school, or other post-high school education	48 10.8 %	**200** **45.1 %**	149 33.6 %	46 10.4 %	443 100 %
Completed a college/bachelor's degree	21 9.5 %	**108** **48.9 %**	77 34.8 %	15 6.8 %	221 100 %
Graduate work or graduate degree	9 9.4 %	**46** **47.9 %**	37 38.5 %	4 4.2 %	96 100 %
Total	127 10.6 %	541 45 %	395 32.9 %	139 11.6 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 143. Confidence in Local School District Officials by Educational Attainment

Educational Attainment	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Local school district officials*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
Did not graduate from high school	2 4.7 %	**20** **46.5 %**	11 25.6 %	10 23.3 %	43 100 %
High school graduate/GED	55 13.8 %	**171** **42.9 %**	104 26.1 %	69 17.3 %	399 100 %
Some college, associate's degree, technical/trade school, or other post-high school education	60 13.5 %	**197** **44.5 %**	137 30.9 %	49 11.1 %	443 100 %
Completed a college/bachelor's degree	29 13.1 %	**104** **47.1 %**	60 27.1 %	28 12.7 %	221 100 %
Graduate work or graduate degree	10 10.4 %	**50** **52.1 %**	28 29.2 %	8 8.3 %	96 100 %
Total	156 13 %	542 45.1 %	340 28.3 %	164 13.6 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Employment status was significantly related to the respondents' level of trust in the state legislature, the courts, and the governor (Tables 144 – 146). Those who were not employed, and not looking for work, were most likely to have said they had no trust in the state legislature (22.7 percent) and the governor (27.3 percent). Those who were homemakers were most likely to have said they had no trust in the courts (18.1 percent). There were no significant differences in trust in local/municipal officials or local school district officials based on employment status (Tables 147 and 148).

Table 144. Confidence in the State Legislature by Current Work Situation

Which of the following best describes your current work situation?	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – State Legislature*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
Employed/Self-employed	25 4.2 %	**265** **44.2 %**	230 38.3 %	80 13.3 %	600 100 %
Not employed, but looking for work	7 9 %	26 33.3 %	**30** **38.5 %**	15 19.2 %	78 100 %
Not employed, and not looking for work	0 0 %	**10** **45.5 %**	7 31.8 %	5 22.7 %	22 100 %
Retired or disabled	19 5.4 %	130 37.2 %	**139** **39.8 %**	61 17.5 %	349 100 %
Student	4 10.8 %	**22** **59.5 %**	9 24.3 %	2 5.4 %	37 100 %
Homemaker	2 1.7 %	46 39.7 %	**47** **40.5 %**	21 18.1 %	116 100 %
Total	57 4.7 %	499 41.5 %	462 38.4 %	184 15.3 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 145. Confidence in State Courts by Current Work Situation

Which of the following best describes your current work situation?	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Courts in Pennsylvania* A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	***Total***
Employed/Self-employed	75 12.5 %	**286** **47.7 %**	166 27.7 %	73 12.2 %	600 100 %
Not employed, but looking for work	14 17.9 %	**27** **34.6 %**	26 33.3 %	11 14.1 %	78 100 %
Not employed, and not looking for work	1 4.5 %	**17** **77.3 %**	2 9.1 %	2 9.1 %	22 100 %
Retired or disabled	42 12 %	**172** **49.3 %**	97 27.8 %	38 10.9 %	349 100 %
Student	7 18.9 %	**17** **45.9 %**	10 27 %	3 8.1 %	37 100 %
Homemaker	6 5.2 %	**49** **42.2 %**	40 34.5 %	21 18.1 %	116 100 %
Total	145 12.1 %	568 47.3 %	341 28.4 %	148 12.3 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 146. Confidence in the Governor by Current Work Situation

Which of the following best describes your current work situation?	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Governor of Pennsylvania*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
Employed/Self-employed	76 12.7 %	**201** **33.5 %**	188 31.3 %	135 22.5 %	600 100 %
Not employed, but looking for work	16 20.5 %	**28** **35.9 %**	17 21.8 %	17 21.8 %	78 100 %
Not employed, and not looking for work	1 4.5 %	**11** **50 %**	4 18.2 %	6 27.3 %	22 100 %
Retired or disabled	66 18.9 %	**111** **31.8 %**	86 24.6 %	86 24.6 %	349 100 %
Student	4 10.8 %	**19** **51.4 %**	11 29.7 %	3 8.1 %	37 100 %
Homemaker	9 7.8 %	38 32.8 %	**48** **41.4 %**	21 18.1 %	116 100 %
Total	172 14.3 %	408 33.9 %	354 29.5 %	268 22.3 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 147. Confidence in Local/Municipal Officials by Current Work Situation

Which of the following best describes your current work situation?	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Local/municipal officials*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
Employed/Self-employed	62 10.3 %	**284** **47.3 %**	197 32.8 %	57 9.5 %	600 100 %
Not employed, but looking for work	8 10.3 %	**33** **42.3 %**	24 30.8 %	13 16.7 %	78 100 %
Not employed, and not looking for work	2 9.1 %	**13** **59.1 %**	4 18.2 %	3 13.6 %	22 100 %
Retired or disabled	44 12.6 %	**144** **41.3 %**	114 32.7 %	47 13.5 %	349 100 %
Student	2 5.4 %	**21** **56.8 %**	11 29.7 %	3 8.1 %	37 100 %
Homemaker	9 7.8 %	**46** **39.7 %**	45 38.8 %	16 13.8 %	116 100 %
Total	127 10.6 %	541 45 %	395 32.9 %	139 11.6 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 148. Confidence in Local School District Officials by Current Work Situation

Which of the following best describes your current work situation?	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Local school district officials*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
Employed/Self-employed	84 14 %	**279** **46.5 %**	164 27.3 %	73 12.2 %	600 100 %
Not employed, but looking for work	11 14.1 %	**38** **48.7 %**	17 21.8 %	12 15.4 %	78 100 %
Not employed, and not looking for work	1 4.5 %	**14** **63.6 %**	4 18.2 %	3 13.6 %	22 100 %
Retired or disabled	44 12.6 %	**152** **43.6 %**	107 30.7 %	46 13.2 %	349 100 %
Student	1 2.7 %	**16** **43.2 %**	13 35.1 %	7 18.9 %	37 100 %
Homemaker	15 12.9 %	**43** **37.1 %**	35 30.2 %	23 19.8 %	116 100 %
Total	156 13 %	542 45.1 %	340 28.3 %	164 13.6 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Finally, voter registration status was significantly related to differences in trust in the courts, the governor, local/municipal officials, and local school district officials (Tables 150 – 153). Other than those who did not know their status, those who were not registered were most likely to have said they had no trust in the courts (19.9 percent), local/municipal officials (19.5 percent), and local school district officials (20.3 percent). In contrast, those who were registered were most likely to say they had no confidence in the governor (23.3 percent), although they were also most likely to have said they had "a great deal" of trust in him (15.2 percent). Voter registration status was not significantly related to levels of trust in the state legislature (Table 149).

Table 149. Confidence in the State Legislature by Voter Registration Status

Voter Registration	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following?- State Legislature*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
Don't know / Not sure	1 6.7 %	**7** **46.7 %**	6 40 %	1 6.7 %	15 100 %
Yes	36 3.9 %	**388** **41.9 %**	366 39.5 %	136 14.7 %	926 100 %
No	20 7.7 %	**104** **39.8 %**	90 34.5 %	47 18 %	261 100 %
Total	57 4.7 %	499 41.5 %	462 38.4 %	184 15.3 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 150. Confidence in State Courts by Voter Registration Status

Voter Registration	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Courts in Pennsylvania*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
Don't know / Not sure	1 6.7 %	**7** **46.7 %**	4 26.7 %	3 20 %	15 100 %
Yes	118 12.7 %	**446** **48.2 %**	269 29 %	93 10 %	926 100 %
No	26 10 %	**115** **44.1 %**	68 26.1 %	52 19.9 %	261 100 %
Total	145 12.1 %	568 47.3 %	341 28.4 %	148 12.3 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 151. Confidence in the Governor by Voter Registration Status

Voter Registration	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Governor of Pennsylvania*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
Don't know / Not sure	2 13.3 %	**5** **33.3 %**	4 26.7 %	4 26.7 %	15 100 %
Yes	141 15.2 %	**307** **33.2 %**	262 28.3 %	216 23.3 %	926 100 %
No	29 11.1 %	**96** **36.8 %**	88 33.7 %	48 18.4 %	261 100 %
Total	172 14.3 %	408 33.9 %	354 29.5 %	268 22.3 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 152. Confidence in Local/Municipal Officials by Voter Registration Status

Voter Registration	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Local/municipal officials*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
Don't know / Not sure	3 20 %	**5** **33.3 %**	**5** **33.3 %**	2 13.3 %	15 100 %
Yes	104 11.2 %	**437** **47.2 %**	299 32.3 %	86 9.3 %	926 100 %
No	20 7.7 %	**99** **37.9 %**	91 34.9 %	51 19.5 %	261 100 %
Total	127 10.6 %	541 45 %	395 32.9 %	139 11.6 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Table 153. Confidence in Local School District Officials by Voter Registration Status

Voter Registration	*How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following? – Local school district officials*				***Total***
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	
Don't know / Not sure	1 6.7 %	6 40 %	**7** **46.7 %**	1 6.7 %	15 100 %
Yes	118 12.7 %	**433** **46.8 %**	265 28.6 %	110 11.9 %	926 100 %
No	37 14.2 %	**103** **39.5 %**	68 26.1 %	53 20.3 %	261 100 %
Total	156 13 %	542 45.1 %	340 28.3 %	164 13.6 %	1202 100 %

Most common response in bold

Conclusions

The rural and urban Pennsylvanians surveyed generally exhibited similar attitudes about their communities, communities across Pennsylvania, and the institutions and officials that govern these. There were some important differences in how they felt, however. There were also several factors that impact respondents' basic assessments of communities and government, including: length of time living in the community; status as homeowners or renters; whether they had internet access at home; household income; financial situation and outlook; age; gender; race or ethnicity; marital status; educational attainment; employment status; and voter registration status.

When asked about their local communities, both rural and urban respondents generally rated them as desirable and felt they were unlikely to change. Urban respondents were slightly more positive than rural respondents in their desirability rating but were also more likely to expect future change. Respondents also felt that their cost of living was about average but urban respondents were more likely to see the cost of living as high. Respondents generally felt safe in their communities, but rural respondents were more likely to rate their communities as safe. Both rural and urban respondents rated almost every aspect of their local communities as "medium" or "high" quality. One key rural-urban difference was that most rural respondents rated job opportunities as "low" quality while most urban residents rated them as "medium." Community ratings were often like those provided in 2008. Differences included that respondents today were less likely to see their communities as "very desirable" in comparison, but also less likely to believe that their communities would "become less desirable." They were also less likely to have provided "high" quality ratings concerning their community's neighborliness (among rural respondents); its quality as a place to raise children; and its quality as a place to retire.

Rural and urban respondents also had similar views on the prioritization of several specific issues. Most felt that repairs of local streets and roads should receive "higher priority." Both rural and urban respondents also had similar views concerning family and human services issues, with most agreeing that these issues should be given a "higher priority," or at least the "same priority." A majority of both rural and urban respondents felt that strengthening programs to deal with drug and alcohol abuse should receive "higher priority." Key differences were that rural respondents were more likely to give "higher priority" on strengthening programs to combat drug and alcohol abuse, combating domestic violence and abuse, providing shelters for the temporarily homeless, and increased services for senior citizens. Another important rural-urban difference was that rural respondents said they would like the addition of retail and service businesses to receive "higher priority," while urban respondents rated this and all other issues concerning community facilities as needing the "same priority." In comparison to 2008, the prioritization of repair of local streets and roads and the addition of retail and service businesses (among rural respondents) increased. Prioritization decreased or remained similar for other community facilities issues.

When asked about family and human services issues, both rural and urban respondents generally felt the following should be given "higher priority": increasing services for senior citizens, strengthening programs to deal with drug and alcohol abuse, and combating domestic violence and abuse.

Rural and urban respondents surveyed were both generally uninvolved in their communities. Most indicated they had not: participated in one or more community clubs or organizations; served on a local government commission, committee, or board; or planned to leave part of their estate to a community foundation or organization. One notable rural-urban difference was that more rural respondents indicated they “occasionally” volunteered to help others in their communities. Compared to 2008, respondents were generally less participative.

Moving to their assessment of the Commonwealth as a whole, most rural and urban respondents surveyed were “more or less satisfied” with the way things are going in Pennsylvania today. However, rural respondents were more likely than urban to have said they were “not satisfied.” Satisfaction improved among both rural and urban respondents since 2008, when many said they were “not satisfied.”

When asked to prioritize issues affecting communities across Pennsylvania, rural and urban respondents again provided similar responses. Both rural and urban respondents said that almost every issue should receive a “higher priority.” No issues needed “lower priority.” Rural respondents were more likely than urban to have said that availability of jobs, preservation of farmland, drug and alcohol abuse and prevention, and care of the elderly should receive higher priority. In contrast, there were no issues for which urban respondents reported higher priority than rural. Compared to 2008, either a similar or lower proportion of respondents felt that these issues should have “higher priority.” Exceptions were access to telecommunications/internet and maintenance of roads and bridges, which higher proportions of both rural and urban respondents said should receive “higher priority.”

As a follow-up question, the respondents were asked which of these issues was most important or most in need of higher priority. Responses between rural and urban respondents differed here. Rural respondents were most likely to have said availability of jobs, while urban respondents were most likely to have said maintenance of roads and bridges. These priorities were different than those reported in 2008. At that time, very few respondents, rural or urban, indicated that maintenance of roads and bridges or drug and alcohol abuse were top priorities (the latter was a top rural priority in the current survey). Availability of jobs remained a top issue among rural respondents, while alternative energy development and healthcare fell in priority among urban respondents.

When asked to prioritize issues concerning protection and effective use of natural resources in the environment, rural and urban respondents generally agreed that most issues should be given the "same priority." Exceptions were monitoring and regulating public drinking water quality and improving the water quality of streams and lakes, which urban respondents said should be given "higher priority." In comparison to 2008, a similar or lower proportion of respondents felt these issues should be given "higher priority." The one issue where more urban respondents felt should be given "higher priority" was reducing storm water run-off and flooding.

Rural and urban respondents also generally agreed that investing in renewable energy sources was the best of several options for addressing Pennsylvania's energy demands in the future. Among other options, urban respondents were more likely than rural to prefer maintaining nuclear power plants, and rural respondents were more likely than urban to prefer continued or expanded coal production. These results could not be compared to 2008 as respondents were not given similar options to consider at that time.

When asked questions concerning the extraction of natural gas ("fracking"), rural and urban respondents were also in agreement. Both indicated that they would prefer to strengthen environmental regulations of the industry, rather than reduce or continue to enforce existing regulations (46.1 percent rural and 47.1 percent urban respondents supported strengthening). Most also indicated that they would support the adoption of a severance tax on natural gas produced in Pennsylvania (62.2 percent rural and 60.3 percent urban respondents supported a severance tax). These questions were not asked in 2008, so responses could not be compared.

Residents of the commonwealth were also asked about several current policy issues. Although there were statistically significant differences in how they felt, the general responses from both rural and urban respondents were the same. Most agreed that the recreational use of marijuana by adults aged 21 and older should be legalized, with urban respondents being more likely to have agreed with this. Most also disagreed when asked if the death penalty should be abolished, with rural respondents being more likely to have provided this response. Both rural and urban respondents also agreed that trained faculty and staff should be allowed to carry firearms in schools, with the majority of rural respondents having said this. Finally, most respondents agreed that the state income tax should be changed from a flat to a graduated rate, with no significant difference in rural and urban responses. Responses could not be compared to 2008, when current policy issues differed.

The final questions concerning statewide issues regarded the opioid crisis. Here, rural and urban views differed. Rural respondents most supported stricter enforcement of criminal penalties to address the crisis, while urban respondents most supported increased funding for programs to treat and prevent addiction. Most urban respondents also supported the expansion of methadone clinics in their communities, while rural respondents were split, with similar proportions being in support of and opposition to this. These questions were not asked in 2008, so responses could not be compared.

When asked to rate their confidence in several government institutions and officials in the Commonwealth, rural and urban responses were quite similar. Generally, both indicated that they had “some” confidence in the state legislature, the courts, local and municipal officials, and local school district officials. Rural and urban respondents differed in the trust and confidence they had in the governor, however, with rural residents being less trusting. In comparison to 2008, trust in local and municipal officials increased, with increases being largest among urban respondents. Trust in other institutions and officials was generally lower than or similar to the trust levels indicated in 2008. However, while fewer said they had "some" confidence in the governor, more also indicated that they had "a great deal" of trust, especially among urban respondents. Trust in local school district officials could not be compared to 2008, when a similar question was not asked.

Finally, when asked to rate their local governments on several specific points, rural and urban residents agreed that they did a "fair" or "good" job. Assessments of their attention to citizen concerns and managing public funds and facilities exhibited no significant rural-urban differences. Rural residents provided significantly lower ratings when asked about improving and preserving quality of life and planning for future change. Compared to 2008, ratings for each point improved.

Policy Considerations

One of study goals was to provide policymakers and other stakeholders with recommendations as to how they can use the information in this analysis to best serve the residents of their communities. To best serve their communities, state and local government officials and others involved in the policymaking process need to know what issues the members of these communities prioritize, what attitudes they hold concerning issues facing Pennsylvanians, and how satisfied they are currently with their communities and those governing them. They may be aware of issues facing rural Pennsylvania, such as the slow recovery from the

2008 recession or the opioid crisis, but knowledge of what attitudes Pennsylvanians hold concerning these issues and how they vary is necessary to best serve specific communities.

To make recommendations to policymakers, the researchers first focus on points of agreement between rural and urban respondents to provide a general overview of what the public thinks. They then outlined the nuances in these similar opinions so that policymakers can consider which factors are most relevant to their unique communities and how best to serve them. Next, they discuss the top issue priorities and other specific issue opinions of rural and urban residents, focusing on the similarities and differences in these and the implications for lawmakers. Finally, they address the declining level of community engagement across the Commonwealth. Policymakers may consider how to foster engagement to increase trust in government and satisfaction among constituents. The policy considerations conclude by noting that policymakers should consider that, as circumstances change, the priorities of those who live in their communities may change. Therefore, the results of this report do not imply that issues not viewed as high priorities in the present should be ignored, but rather weighed relative to changing conditions.

Recognizing areas of agreement

Most respondents in both rural and urban communities had very similar attitudes about issues in their local communities, communities across Pennsylvania, and the performance of the government. On nearly every question, there were statistically significant differences in rural and urban responses, yet the *most common* response among each group of respondents was the same. Policymakers should recognize that the residents of the communities they serve share many views. The following attitudes were most common among both rural and urban residents:

- Rated their local community as “somewhat desirable”

- Expected their local community to “stay about the same”
- Felt their local community’s “cost of living is about average”
- Felt “somewhat safe” in their local community
- Rated quality of most community attributes as “medium” or “high”
- Felt that most local community infrastructure issues should receive the “same priority” or “higher priority” in the future
- Felt that most local community family and human services issues should receive the “same priority” or “higher priority” in the future
- Were “more or less satisfied” with the way things are going in Pennsylvania today
- Felt that most issues facing the Commonwealth should receive the “same priority” or “higher priority” in the future
- Felt that most issues concerning the protection and effective use of natural resources in the environment should receive the “same priority” or “higher priority” in the future
- Held the same viewpoint on a wide variety of current policy issues, including meeting energy demands, regulation of the natural gas industry, recreational marijuana, the state income tax rate, the death penalty, arming trained faculty and staff in schools, and the expansion of methadone clinics
- Had “some” trust and confidence in the state legislature, the courts, the governor, local and municipal officials, and local school district officials
- Rated their local government as “fair” or “good” on most characteristics

Of course, the results described in this report do not directly imply specific positions that policymakers should take on these issues. Rather, they provide information as to the prevailing attitudes of the Commonwealth's residents to be considered when making relevant decisions. On many issues, a substantial minority of respondents still did not agree with the most common response, and, in fact, there was not always a clear majority viewpoint. Furthermore, a variety of factors were associated with differences in opinion on general attitudes, meaning that members of specific communities may not agree with the prevailing attitudes. There were also a few issues where rural and urban respondents did not agree, notably on the best way to address the opioid crisis. Finally, some responses indicated that respondents want to achieve similar goals, but not which policy options they prefer for achieving these goals. Policymakers should therefore consider the information detailed in this report alongside other pertinent information when addressing the issues facing Pennsylvanians today.

Addressing top rural and urban priorities

The top three issues cited by rural respondents were availability of jobs, local tax structure reform, and a tie between maintenance of roads and bridges and drug and alcohol abuse treatment and prevention. Among urban respondents, the top priorities were maintenance of roads and bridges, availability of jobs, and local tax structure reform tied with crime and violence prevention. Although there is overlap in rural and urban priorities, the overall top issue differs, and there is at least one unique issue among the top priorities of each. As previously noted, recovery from the recession has been slow in rural areas, which were already at an economic disadvantage (Alter et al., 2018; Center for Rural Pennsylvania, 2018b; Thiede and Monnat 2016). Urban respondents also felt job availability was a top issue, but this may be a greater concern for rural counties, which continue to lag economically. Furthermore, studies of rural "brain drain" – the trend of residents with high levels of human capital migrating out of rural areas – find that rural areas face a dual problem: these members of their workforce are leaving because there are no longer quality jobs, and businesses that want to find quality jobs are not attracted to the areas because they lack a trained workforce (Carr and Kefalas, 2010). State and local policymakers should continue to encourage economic development and provide support for education and training opportunities to build a well-qualified workforce and attract businesses that will provide quality jobs.

Current circumstances can also explain the differing rural and urban priorities concerning drug and alcohol abuse treatment and prevention. As previously noted, rural areas have disproportionally been affected by opioid overdose deaths (U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2019). As there are major differences in how rural and urban respondents would like to address the opioid crisis, policy considerations for this issue will be further discussed in detail. Granted, opioid abuse is not the only form of substance abuse affecting rural residents. Residents of rural areas are more likely to abuse alcohol (including rural teens), tobacco, and methamphetamines (Rural Health Information Hub, 2018). Furthermore, rural communities may be at higher risk if they have limited resources or lack nearby healthcare facilities. State and local governments and other community stakeholders have several options for addressing these issues, some of which are already in practice across the Commonwealth. These may include: engaging the community by holding town halls or training volunteers; collaborating with health care providers and other organizations that provide community services; providing training for law enforcement officers; or providing overdose reversal drugs to first responders (Rural Health Information Hub, 2018). Other policies can address underlying factors that contribute to substance abuse, such as low educational attainment, poverty, unemployment, and isolation.

Urban respondents included crime and violence prevention among their top priorities, while rural respondents did not. This may be due to local circumstances, as urban Pennsylvania counties generally have the most criminal offenses, but, once accounting for population, the offense rate is high in some rural counties as well. For example, the rate of offenses (drug, violent, property, and other) per 1,000 population is nearly as high in Clearfield County as in Philadelphia County (Pennsylvania Statistical Analysis Center, 2019). In fact, while overall violent crime has stabilized or declined in U.S. cities, violent crime has been increasing in rural America. Some attribute this to a lack of jobs and the opioid crisis (Greenblatt, 2018; Dawson, 2017). Policymakers and other stakeholders should therefore pursue efforts to prevent crime and violence in both rural and urban areas, even though crime was expressed as a predominantly urban priority.

Finally, urban respondents identified maintenance of roads and bridges as their top priority. Rural residents also felt this was among the most important issues. Other questions concerning infrastructure also signaled its importance as an issue to both rural and urban respondents. When asked what priority maintenance of roads and bridges should receive among statewide issues in the future, over 70 percent said that it should receive a “higher priority.” Similarly, when asked about the priority that repair of local streets and roads should receive among issues related to local community infrastructure, repair of local streets and roads was the only issue where a majority of both rural and urban respondents said it should receive “higher priority.” Other issues related to infrastructure were important to urban respondents, who also said that monitoring and regulating public drinking water quality and improving the water quality of streams and lakes should receive “higher priority” when asked about protection and use of natural resources and the environment. In fact, these were the only significant differences between rural and urban views in this issue category.

Again, these priorities correspond with current circumstances. In 2018, Pennsylvania's infrastructure received a grade of C- (American Society of Civil Engineers, 2018). For context, a grade of C indicates that the infrastructure is mediocre and requires attention and a D indicates that it is poor and at risk. The American Society of Civil Engineers (2018) recommends that current investments in transportation continue and that policymakers increase their focus on water infrastructure. Additionally, it encourages policymakers and other stakeholders to examine new options for addressing these issues due to the backlog of infrastructure needs. It notes that a one-size-fits-all approach is not appropriate, meaning that local or regional stakeholders should be involved in addition to state government.

Meeting Pennsylvania's energy demands

Rural and urban respondents generally agreed about the options for meeting Pennsylvania's energy demands, with a majority having said that the best option is to invest in renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind. The Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act (AEPS) of 2004 requires that at least 18 percent of the total electricity in Pennsylvania be supplied from alternative energy resources by 2021 (Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, 2017). As of the most recent reporting year, 2017, about 14 percent of electricity sold to retail consumers came from these sources, with most of this generated outside of Pennsylvania. Currently, the Commonwealth lags the nation on renewable energy production but generates an above-average amount of nuclear power (Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, 2017). Act 40 of 2017, however, requires that solar power delivered for compliance with AEPS must be built in Pennsylvania (Pennsylvania Governor's Office, 2017a). This is expected to bolster the solar power industry in Pennsylvania. Though the state is likely to meet its 2021 solar energy production compliance goal, it will continue to lag other states in this area (Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, 2017; Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, 2018).

In January 2019, the Governor issued an executive order stating that the Commonwealth would strive to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 26 percent by 2025 and 80 percent by 2050, as compared to 2005 levels, and directed state agencies to make specific cuts (Pennsylvania Governor's Office, 2019a). Policy options are numerous, with proposals including policies that would increase access to capital, create a carbon pricing program, support policies that deal with land use, provide tax incentives, and more. Continued investment in renewable energy would align with the views of Pennsylvania residents, help the Commonwealth to achieve compliance with alternative energy requirements, and provide relatively well-paying jobs in related industries (Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, 2017; Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, 2018).

Pennsylvania is the nation’s second-largest generator of nuclear power (U.S. Energy Information Administration 2018). Nuclear power generation has faced opposition both from those who support natural gas and those who support other forms of clean energy, such as wind and solar (Legere, 2019). Although it produces carbon-free energy, it is relatively more expensive and less efficient to generate than natural gas and the potential for nuclear disaster causes concern. Few respondents in the present survey chose maintaining operation of existing nuclear power plants as the best option for meeting future energy demands, although urban respondents were more likely to support nuclear. Policymakers should consider the costs and benefits of supporting the nuclear power industry relative to other forms of energy production in their efforts to meet energy demands and comply with alternative energy goals.

Pennsylvania is also the nation's second-largest producer of natural gas (U.S. Energy Information Administration, 2018). This production primarily comes from hydraulic fracturing (fracking) in the Marcellus Shale. A majority of respondents in the present survey stated that regulations on the fracking industry should not be reduced, with both rural and urban respondents being most likely to say they should be strengthened. Most survey respondents also supported the adoption of a severance tax as opposed to the current impact fee. The impact fee is currently yielding its highest revenue in several years, but proposals for the adoption of a severance tax persist (Hurdle, 2019). Most recently, the Governor has proposed a severance tax, which would be used to fund infrastructure initiatives (Mahon and Cusick, 2019). As previously noted, the results of the current survey also indicated that infrastructure improvements are one of the top priorities among both rural and urban residents of the Commonwealth.

Addressing the opioid crisis

One area where rural and urban respondents disagreed concerned how to address the opioid crisis in Pennsylvania. Although the rate of overdose deaths in Pennsylvania has declined, it remains relatively high and disproportionally affects rural residents (OpenDataPA, 2019b; DEA Philadelphia Division and University of Pittsburgh, 2018). Rural respondents most supported stricter enforcement of criminal penalties, while urban respondents most supported increased funding for programs to treat and prevent addiction. The results were like those reported in a 2017 survey by the Center for Rural Pennsylvania.

There are currently several efforts in Pennsylvania that address both components: criminal justice and public health. The number of opioid-related arrests and seizures made by the Pennsylvania State Police have declined since reaching their highest points, but as of 2018, remain higher than in 2013 when data was first reported (OpenDataPA, 2019a). The Attorney

General continues to conduct operations to seize heroin, fentanyl, and other drugs, and has sued the creator of OxyContin over alleged illegal marketing efforts (Pennsylvania Attorney General, 2019). Furthermore, as previously mentioned, the Governor issued a statewide emergency declaration to address this crisis (Pennsylvania Governor's Office, 2018). Another effort concerns the standing prescription for naloxone to treat overdoses; over 22,000 doses have been administered by emergency medical staff since January 1, 2018 (OpenDataPA, 2019b; Pennsylvania Department of Health, 2019). Efforts have also been made to monitor prescriptions for opiates, give patients the option to refuse opioids in treatment, and refer patients to substance abuse specialists (Pennsylvania Department of Health, 2019). Although rural and urban residents disagreed about how to best address this crisis, their responses indicated that they want action. Policymakers should continue current efforts and consider pursuing additional options to remain on the current trajectory and further reduce overdose deaths.

Rural and urban responses also differed when respondents were asked about support for one specific option for addressing this crisis: the expanded availability of methadone clinics in their communities. Although both rural and urban respondents were most likely to have said they support the expansion of clinics, almost as many rural respondents said they oppose the expansion. Although naloxone use has saved many lives, it is only one component of treatment and long-term recovery from opioid use, meaning other treatment options, such as methadone, may be required to fully address the problem (DEA Philadelphia Division and University of Pittsburgh, 2018). There is evidence that early initiation of medication-assisted treatment, for example buprenorphine or methadone, increases the likelihood that patients will engage in and continue treatment. Furthermore, medical professionals believe that high doses will be needed to treat fentanyl dependence. Policymakers should consider the needs of the residents of their community as well as those of stakeholders including medical professionals and emergency responders when deciding whether to support efforts to expand access to medication-assisted treatment in their communities.

Addressing other current issues

Rural and urban respondents also indicated agreement on several other policy issues. Both agreed that the recreational use of marijuana by adults aged 21 and older should be legalized. Medical marijuana was legalized in Pennsylvania in 2016 (Pennsylvania Governor's Office, 2016). Recreational marijuana is currently legal in 11 states and the District of Columbia, and many more have decriminalized small amounts or reduced criminal penalties (National Conference of State Legislatures, 2019).

Most rural and urban respondents also agreed that the state income tax rate should be changed from a flat rate to a graduated rate. Currently, Pennsylvania has a flat income tax rate of 3.07 percent, which is among the lowest top marginal tax rates for states with a personal income tax (Loughead and Wei, 2019). Flat tax rates are simpler but graduated/progressive tax rates reduce after-tax income inequality (Tax Policy Center). If policymakers wanted to reduce income inequality in Pennsylvania, however, changing the tax rate to a graduated rate would not necessarily accomplish this goal. For example, most states with a graduated rate have nearly flat rates, as they have very few tax brackets and the top rate starts at a relatively low income (Tax Policy Center, 2019). Many states and the federal government have reduced the number of tax brackets in recent decades. Furthermore, these are not the only taxes levied on Pennsylvanians, as residents also pay local taxes, property taxes, sales taxes, etc., increasing their tax burden. Some of these forms of taxation, particularly the sales tax, may be regressive, with low-income households paying a larger proportion of their income (Suits, 1977; Davies, 1959). Policymakers should consider revenue needs, goals related to income inequality, and goals related to simplification of taxes in addition to respondent views when deciding whether to change the personal income tax rate.

A majority of rural and urban respondents felt that the death penalty should not be abolished. The Governor announced a moratorium on the death penalty in 2015, to last until a report from the Pennsylvania Task Force and Advisory Commission on Capital Punishment had been received, reviewed, and its recommendations addressed (Pennsylvania Governor's Office, 2015). The report was published in 2018 and contained several recommendations for policymakers to consider concerning issues of bias and unfairness, proportionality, mental retardation, mental illness, juries, appeals and post-conviction proceedings, counsel, and lethal injections (Joint State Government Commission, 2018).

Finally, both rural and urban respondents agreed that trained faculty and staff should be allowed to carry firearms in schools. There have been 52 shooting incidents in K-12 schools in Pennsylvania since 1970 (Center for Homeland Defense and Security, 2019). President Trump is supportive of this policy, and some states and school districts specifically allow staff to carry guns on school grounds or allow concealed carry at schools (Education Week Staff, 2018; Kirk, 2018). The Tamaqua Area School District illustrates recent controversy over this issue in Pennsylvania (Wolfman-Arent, 2019). Supporters argue that this would allow faculty and staff to protect their students in the event of an active shooting. Most Americans, and particularly educators, are opposed to the idea. However, one reason cited for the opposition was lack of training, which the current survey question addresses. There is not much research into the question of how effective this policy would be in stopping active shooters, but research on law enforcement officers reveals that even with their extensive training, they may not shoot accurately in a crisis, implying educators with less training may be less accurate (Kirk, 2018). Furthermore, some experts express concern that this policy would cause excessive worry about school shootings, which are relatively rare, and introduce new risks into schools. In addition to weighing the risk versus the reward, policymakers should also consider factors such as: what the complete set of requirements are to authorize individuals to carry a firearm; where guns should be stored; and expenses for legal liabilities training, equipment, and staff remuneration (Education Week Staff, 2018).

Maintaining and building trust in government

Rural and urban respondents had similar levels of trust and confidence in state and local government institutions and officials. Their levels of trust in the state legislature, the courts, the Governor, local and municipal officials, and local school district officials were not extremely high or extremely low. Respondents generally indicated that they had "some" trust as opposed to "a great deal," "a little," or "none." This is somewhat at odds with Cramer's (2016) finding that rural residents do not trust their state government, but her analysis is of a different state (Wisconsin). Furthermore, the one difference in rural and urban trust in the present survey concerned the Governor, who rural respondents had less trust in than urban respondents, which could reflect a similar pattern.

In the 2008 survey results, the authors provided several recommendations to improve trust in government institutions and officials by increasing the effectiveness of government as well as improving transparency and communication with constituents (Willits, Luloff, and Fortunato, 2009). As noted, trust in some officials and institutions remained at the same level or increased since 2008. In the present survey, both rural and urban respondents rated their local governments as "fair" or "good" on several attributes, which included attention to citizen concerns, improving/preserving quality of life, managing public funds and facilities, and planning for future change. On most attributes, ratings were similar among rural and urban respondents. Rural respondents rated local government significantly lower when it came to planning for future change, but this rating had improved since 2008. This is likely one reason that trust in these officials increased slightly between 2008 and 2019. To maintain levels of trust, and potentially improve them, policymakers should focus on these factors and others that build trust in state and local government.

Fostering engagement in local communities

A final key finding concerned community involvement. Since 2008, the proportion of respondents participating in their local communities, both rural and urban, has declined. In the 2019 survey, respondents most commonly said they had not been involved with: community clubs and organizations; local government commissions, committees, or boards; volunteering; or plans to leave one's estate to community foundations or organizations. The only exception was that the most common rural respondent "occasionally" volunteered.

This is not necessarily unique to Pennsylvanian communities. In fact, this is a well-documented nationwide trend, perhaps most famously described by political scientist Robert Putnam (2000). He finds that social capital, in part measured by these forms of community involvement, is in decline. This is a problem because communities with higher social capital generally have better prospects: people are happier, healthier, and wealthier. Further research by Putnam (2015) and others particularly emphasizes the role that community – specifically, the community where one grows up – plays in shaping future outcomes for children (Chetty et al., 2018). Putnam (2000) also emphasizes social capital's importance to the functioning of democratic government. Although the present analysis does not find that rural respondents are less involved - in fact, they are more involved in volunteering – some research cautions that this may be a concern for rural communities. Often those who would otherwise become involved in the community are the same people who leave rural communities in search of better opportunities, which may lead to further declines in community quality and more people choosing to leave (Carr and Kefalas, 2010). In short, when people are not engaged in their communities, the negative consequences may be widespread.

Tackling the nationwide decline of civic engagement is not a simple task. Putnam (2000) provides several policy recommendations. He first emphasizes the importance of educational institutions, a recommendation which is also supported by others' research (Neundorf, Niemi, and Smets, 2016). Putnam (2000) also envisions new digital technologies encouraging community involvement. Recent research has found that there is a positive relationship between the use of digital media and engagement in civic and political life, particularly due to the rise of social networking sites and other forms of interactive online media (Boulianne, 2018). However, without efforts to educate citizens on the use of these technologies or provide widespread high-speed internet access, this could lead to a "digital divide," where only certain citizens benefit (Sylvester and McGlynn, 2010). Together, these points emphasize the importance of supporting education and increasing internet access for Pennsylvania's residents.

Putnam (2000) also provides recommendations beyond education, some of which can be addressed by policymakers. These recommendations focus on bringing diverse community members together, for example, by designing communities to be more pedestrian-friendly and to include more public space or by supporting cultural activities in the community. In response to demands for affordable housing and research on declining social mobility in the United States, some state and local governments have changed zoning laws to reduce the amount of land devoted to single-family housing (Badger and Bui, 2019). When asked about the prioritization of related policies, such as enforcement of municipal codes (including zoning), support of cultural activities and the arts, or providing recreational facilities, playground and parks, both rural and urban respondents in the present study said that they would like these to receive the "same priority" in the future. As policymakers continue to address these issues, they should consider their potential impact on community involvement.

Responding to changing circumstances

It is important to keep in mind that the key issues of today may not remain the key issues of tomorrow. Although surveys such as this inform policymakers as to what attitudes the members of their communities hold at the present, they cannot predict the future. At the time that the 2008 survey was conducted, rural and urban communities were amid a deep economic recession, and their concerns reflected that accordingly (Willits, Luloff, and Fortunato, 2010). Some of today's top issues were identified as being the most important by very few respondents in 2008. Availability of jobs may remain the most important issue cited by rural respondents due to the continued influence of the Great Recession. However, other highly prioritized issues of today, such as maintenance of roads and bridges, and drug and alcohol abuse, were identified as most important by less than 2 percent of respondents in 2008.

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Appendix A – Survey Instrument

Introduction.

You are invited to participate in a survey that is being conducted by the Center for Survey Research at Penn State Harrisburg on behalf of the Center for Rural Pennsylvania.

Please click ">>" to tell us a bit about yourself.

State. In what state do you live?

- O Connecticut (1)
- O Delaware (2)
- O Maryland (3)
- O New Jersey (4)
- O New York (5)
- O Ohio (6)
- O Pennsylvania (7)
- O Virginia (8)
- O Some other state (9)

County. In what county do you live?

- O I do not live in Pennsylvania (777)
- O I don’t know what county I live in (888)
- O List of Pennsylvania counties (1 → 133, FIPS codes)

Zip. What is your zip code?

____

Gender. Which of the following best describes your gender?

O Male (1)

O Female (2)

Age. What is your age?

____

Programming Note: If the respondent lives in Pennsylvania, provides their county, provides a valid Pennsylvania zip code, and is 18 years of age or older, they proceed to the survey. Otherwise, they are not eligible.

Inform. Thank you for that information. You are eligible to participate in the survey. Please read the following information carefully and indicate whether you agree to participate in the survey below.

Your participation is voluntary, and the survey takes about 10 minutes. All of your answers will remain confidential. No one on the research team has access to your personal information. You have the right to end the survey at any time. If you have any questions about the survey, please feel free to contact the Center for Survey Research at PSUsurveys@psu.edu. Your voluntary participation indicates your consent to participate in this research. Are you willing to participate?

O Yes, I am willing to participate (1) → Continue to survey

O No, I am not willing to participate (2) → End survey

O Don’t know / Not sure (9) → End survey

Agree. Thank you for agreeing to participate!

In the years ahead, Pennsylvania faces many important decisions that can affect you, your family, and your community. This survey seeks information on your opinions about a variety of current issues. Your answers, combined with those of others, can help state and local decision makers better understand and respond to the needs of the Commonwealth's citizens. This survey is being conducted by the Pennsylvania State University, with the support of the Center for Rural Pennsylvania.

Unless otherwise indicated, choose the ONE answer that best expresses your views.

Transition: The following questions ask about your community—the area where you live, shop, and receive services such as schools, municipal services, etc.

Q15. How do you feel about your community as a place to live? Do you consider it to be ... ?

1 Very desirable
2 Somewhat desirable
3 Somewhat undesirable
4 Very undesirable

Q16. As you look ahead to the next **five years**, do you expect that your community will…?

1 Become more desirable
2 Stay about the same
3 Become less desirable

COM_TIME. How long have you lived in your community?

1 Less than 5 years
2 5 – 10 years
3 11-19 years
4. More than 20 years

Q18. How would you rate the **cost of living** in your community?

3 Cost of living is relatively high

2 Cost of living is about average

1 Cost of living is relatively low

Q19. How **safe** do you feel in your community?

1 Very safe

2 Somewhat safe

3 Somewhat unsafe

4 Very unsafe

Q17. For each of the following, please rate the **quality of your present community as it is today**:
Programming note: Rotate questions

		Quality Rating Now		
		High	**Medium**	**Low**
a.	Neighborliness ………………………………………………………………………	3	2	1
b.	Natural environment ………………………………………………………………..	3	2	1
c.	Place to raise children …………………………………………………………..	3	2	1
d.	Place to retire ………………………………………………………………………	3	2	1
e.	Schools ………………………………………………………………………………	3	2	1
f.	Job opportunities …………………………………………………………………	3	2	1
g.	Recreation …………………………………………………………………………..	3	2	1
h.	Health care ………………………………………………………………………….	3	2	1
i.	Available housing …………………………………………………………………..	3	2	1
j.	Freedom from crime ………………………………………………………………..	3	2	1
k.	Citizen involvement ………………………………………………………………	3	2	1

Q20. Here are some choices dealing with development and change your community may face in the **next 5 years**. Compared to what is being done now, what priority do you believe should be given to each of the following issues related to **local facilities in your community** in the future?

		Higher Priority	**Same Priority**	**Lower Priority**	**Don't Know**
a.	Repair local streets and roads…………………………………………………………	3	2	1	0
b.	Provide transportation services within the community………………………	3	2	1	0
c.	Improve the quality and safety of drinking water…………………………………..	3	2	1	0
d.	Enforce municipal codes (blight, zoning, etc.)………………………………………..	3	2	1	0
e.	Strengthen protective services (police, fire, neighborhood watch, etc.)……	3	2	1	0
f.	Add retail and service businesses……………………………………………….……	3	2	1	0
g.	Encourage cultural activities and the arts……………………………………………	3	2	1	0
h.	Provide more parks, playgrounds, and recreation facilities…………………………	3	2	1	0

Q21. Compared to what is being done now, what priority do you believe should be given to each of the following **family and human service issues** in your community in the future?

		Higher Priority	Same Priority	Lower Priority	Don't Know
a.	Increase services for senior citizens (meals, transportation, home health, etc.)	3	2	1	0
b.	Strengthen programs to deal with drug and alcohol abuse…………………………	3	2	1	0
c.	Combat domestic violence and abuse……………………………………………….	3	2	1	0
d.	Provide emergency food (food banks, food pantry)…………………………………	3	2	1	0
e.	Provide shelters for the temporarily homeless………………………………………..	3	2	1	0
f.	Provide affordable day care for children…………………………………………….	3	2	1	0
g.	Attract additional health care providers (specialists, family doctors, nurses, etc.)	3	2	1	0

Q29. In the past two years, how often have you ... ?

		Often	Occasionally	Seldom	Never
a.	Participated in one or more community clubs or organizations…………	4	3	2	1
b.	Served on a local government commission, committee or board………	4	3	2	1
c.	Volunteered your time to help others in your community	4	3	2	1

Q25. Please rate your city/borough/township government on each of the following characteristics:

		Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
a.	Attention to citizen concerns……………………………………………………………	4	3	2	1
b.	Improving/preserving quality of life…………………………………………………..	4	3	2	1
c.	Managing public funds and facilities…………………………………………………..	4	3	2	1
d.	Planning for future change………………………………………………………………	4	3	2	1

Transition: We would now like to ask you questions about issues that affect communities across Pennsylvania.

Q13. In general, how satisfied are you with the way things are going in Pennsylvania today?

1 Very satisfied
2 More or less satisfied
3 Not satisfied

24. How much **confidence and trust** do you have in each of the following?

		A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None
a.	State legislature………………………………………………………………………	1	2	3	4
b.	Courts in Pennsylvania……………………………………………………………….	1	2	3	4
c.	Governor of Pennsylvania…………………………………………………………	1	2	3	4
d.	Local/municipal officials………………………………………….	1	2	3	4
e.	Local school district officials………………………………………….	1	2	3	4

Q1. Below are some **public policy issues facing Pennsylvania** in the **next 5 years**. Compared to what is being done now, what priority do you want each of the following to have in the future*?* Should these programs, services, and issues be given Higher Priority, About the Same Priority, or Lower Priority?

		Higher Priority	Same Priority	Lower Priority	Don't Know
a.	Availability of jobs ……………………………………………………………………	3	2	1	0
b.	Preservation of farmland ……………………………………………………………	3	2	1	0
c.	Crime and violence prevention ……………………………………………….	3	2	1	0
d.	Drug and alcohol abuse treatment and prevention …………….	3	2	1	0
e.	Safe drinking water ……………………………………………………………………	3	2	1	0
f.	Health care access and availability ……………………………………………..	3	2	1	0
g.	Education for youth/children …………………………………………………….	3	2	1	0
h.	Protection and conservation of the natural environment ……………………….	3	2	1	0
i.	Care of the elderly …………………………………………………………………...	3	2	1	0
j.	Access to telecommunications/internet …………………………………………..	3	2	1	0
k.	Reform Pennsylvania's local tax structure ……………………………………….	3	2	1	0
l.	Homeland security/public safety …………………………………………………...	3	2	1	0
m.	Maintenance of roads and bridges ………………………………………………..	3	2	1	0
n.	Development of alternative energy sources …………………………………	3	2	1	0

Q2. From the list of issues, which do you feel is *most important or most in need of higher priority in the future?*

Q7. Issues concerning the **protection and effective use of natural resources and the environment** in Pennsylvania will require decisions in the next 5 years. Compared to what is being done now, what priority do you believe should be given to each of the following in the future?

		Higher Priority	Same Priority	Lower Priority	Don't Know
a.	Reduce storm water runoff and flooding……………………………………….…….	3	2	1	0
b.	Monitor and regulate public drinking water quality…………………………………	3	2	1	0
c.	Help communities pay for water and sewage treatment facilities………………...	3	2	1	0
d.	Strengthen regulation of mining and drilling……	3	2	1	0
e.	Preserve woodlands/wilderness areas………………………………………………	3	2	1	0
f.	Strengthen environmental regulation of agriculture……………………………….....	3	2	1	0
g.	Monitor and regulate food production and processing to ensure food safety....	3	2	1	0
h.	Improve the water quality of streams and lakes……………………………………..	3	2	1	0

Q9. Which of the following options holds the greatest promise for **addressing Pennsylvania's energy demands** in the next 5 years? *Programming note: Rotate responses.*

1 Enhance conservation measures to decrease energy consumption
2 Continue and expand natural gas production
3 Continue and expand coal production
4 Invest in renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind
5 Maintain operation of existing nuclear power plants

GAS_REG. In terms of regulating the extraction of natural gas in Pennsylvania ("fracking"), do you support:

1 Reducing existing environmental regulations on the natural gas industry

2 Enforcing existing environmental regulations on the natural gas industry

3 Strengthening environmental regulations on the natural gas industry

GAS_TAX. A **severance tax** is a tax imposed on the extraction of natural gas based on the amount of gas produced, meaning greater production yields more tax revenue. Currently, Pennsylvania imposes an **annual impact fee** on gas wells, and the fee does not change with production. Do you support or oppose the adoption of a **severance tax** on natural gas produced in Pennsylvania?

1 Support the adoption of a severance tax

2 Oppose the adoption of a severance tax

TRANSITION: The next questions ask about various issues that impact Pennsylvania residents.

Q27. Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements.

	Strongly Agree	**Somewhat Agree**	**No Opinion**	**Somewhat Disagree**	**Strongly Disagree**
The recreational use of marijuana by adults aged 21 and older should be legalized	5	4	3	2	1
The state income tax should be changed from a flat rate (same rate for everyone) to graduated rates (higher rates for higher income)	5	4	3	2	1
The death penalty be abolished in Pennsylvania	5	4	3	2	1
Trained faculty and staff should be allowed to carry firearms in schools	5	4	3	2	1

TRANSITION: The next questions ask about Pennsylvania's opioid crisis. Opioids include various addictive substances, such as heroin, morphine, OxyContin, and fentanyl.

OP_FIX. In terms of addressing the opioid crisis in Pennsylvania, which of the following do you MOST support?

1 Maintain the current treatment, prevention, and law enforcement efforts that are already in place

2 Increase funding for programs to treat and prevent addiction

3 Stricter enforcement of criminal penalties

CLINIC. Methadone clinics allow a person who is addicted to opioid-based drugs, such as heroin or prescription painkillers, to receive medication-based therapy. Do you support or oppose expanding the availability of methadone clinics in your community?

1 Strongly support

2 Somewhat support

3 No opinion

4 Somewhat oppose

5 Strongly oppose

These last questions are for classification purposes only. All responses will remain confidential.

Q39. What is the highest level of education you completed?

1 Did not graduate from high school

2 High school graduate/GED

3 Some college, Associate’s degree, technical/trade school, or other post-high school education

4 Completed a college/Bachelor’s degree

5 Graduate work or graduate degree

INT_ACC. Do you or does any member of your household access the internet **at home**?

1 Yes, with a subscription to an internet service
2 Yes, without a subscription to an internet service (free Wi-Fi)
3 No internet access at home

Q42. Which of the following best describes your current work situation?
Programming note: Select one

1 Employed / Self-employed
2 Not employed, but looking for work
3 Not employed, and not looking for work
4 Retired or disabled
5 Student
6 Homemaker

Q38. What is your current marital status?

1 Never Married

2 Married/living with a partner

3 Divorced/separated

4 Widowed

RES. Is your primary residence owned (whether or not there is a mortgage) or rented?

1 Owned by you or someone in the household

2 Rented by you or someone in the household

3 Something else (occupied without payment of rent, group living quarters, etc.)

Q50. Currently, how satisfied are you with your family's financial situation?

1 Very satisfied

2 More or less satisfied

3 Not at all satisfied

Q51. Would you say you and your family are better off, worse off, or about the same financially as you were 12 months ago?

1 Better off

2 Worse off

3 About the same

Q52. Looking ahead, do you think that, 12 months from now, your family will be better off financially than you are now, worse off, or about the same as you are now?

1 Better off

2 Worse off

3 About the same

ESTATE. In planning for the future, have you done any planning to leave part of your estate to a community foundation or organization?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't Know/Not Sure

ETHNICITY. Do you consider yourself to be Hispanic or Latino?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know/Not sure

RACE. Which of the following best describes your race? You can select all that apply.

1. White
2. Black or African American
3. American Indian or Alaska Native
4. Asian
5. Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
6. Something else: _________
7. Don't know/not sure

Q54. What was the total income of your household (before taxes) last year?

Under $10,000	(0)
$10,000 to $19,999	(1)
$20,000 to $29,999	(2)
$30,000 to $39,999	(3)
$40,000 to $49,999	(4)
$50,000 to $59,999	(5)
$60,000 to $69,999	(6)
$70,000 to $79,999	(7)
$80,000 to $89,999	(8)
$90,000 to $99,999	(9)
$100,000 to $109,999	(10)
$110,000 to $119,999	(11)
$120,000 to $129,999	(12)
$130,000 to $139,999	(13)
$140,000 to $149,999	(14)
$150,000 or more	(15)
Don't know / Not sure	(99)

VOTE. Are you currently registered to vote?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don’t know / Not sure

(If yes to VOTE, ask POL_PARTY.)

POL_PARTY. What is your current registered party affiliation?

1. Republican
2. Democrat
3. Independent/No affiliation
4. Constitution
5. Green
6. Libertarian
7. Other
8. Don’t know/Not sure

POL_IDEOL. How would you describe your political views?

1. Very conservative
2. Somewhat conservative
3. Moderate
4. Somewhat liberal
5. Very liberal
6. Don’t know/Not sure

COMMENT. Thank you for taking the time to make your views known. If you have additional comments, please type them in the box below:

Appendix B – Rural-Urban and 2008-2019 Response Comparison

The following tables provide the responses for each survey question, in questionnaire order, for rural and urban respondents. Where applicable, comparison tables to the 2008 survey are included as well. Please note that not all questions or response options were identical in 2008.

Table B1. Gender of Rural and Urban Respondents

Gender	*County density*		***Total***
	Rural	Urban	
Male	77 18.5 %	896 56.3 %	973 48.5 %
Female	340 81.5 %	695 43.7 %	1035 51.5 %
Total	417 100 %	1591 100 %	2008 100 %

Table B2. Age of Rural and Urban Respondents

Age Category	*County density*		***Total***
	Rural	Urban	
18-24	33 7.9 %	196 12.3 %	229 11.4 %
25-34	68 16.3 %	326 20.5 %	394 19.6 %
35-44	64 15.3 %	263 16.5 %	327 16.3 %
45-54	64 15.3 %	257 16.1 %	321 16 %
55-64	118 28.3 %	271 17 %	389 19.4 %
65 and older	70 16.8 %	279 17.5 %	349 17.4 %
Total	417 100 %	1592 100 %	2009 100 %

Table B3. Community Evaluation of Rural and Urban Respondents

How do you feel about your community as a place to live? Do you consider it to be ... ?	*County density*		***Total***
	Rural	Urban	
Very desirable	129 31 %	586 36.8 %	715 35.6 %
Somewhat desirable	209 50.2 %	755 47.4 %	964 48 %
Somewhat undesirable	58 13.9 %	208 13.1 %	266 13.2 %
Very undesirable	20 4.8 %	43 2.7 %	63 3.1 %
Total	416 100 %	1592 100 %	2008 100 %

Table B4. Community Evaluation of Rural and Urban Respondents, 2008 - 2019

How do you feel about your community as a place to live? Do you consider it to be ... ?	*County density*	
	Rural	Urban
Very desirable: 2019	31 %	36.8 %
Very desirable: 2008	34.5 %	41.4 %

Table B5. Community Outlook of Rural and Urban Respondents

As you look ahead to the next five years, do you expect that your community will…?	*County density*		***Total***
	Rural	Urban	
Become more desirable	75 18 %	460 28.9 %	535 26.6 %
Stay about the same	291 69.8 %	909 57.1 %	1200 59.8 %
Become less desirable	51 12.2 %	222 14 %	273 13.6 %
Total	417 100 %	1591 100 %	2008 100 %

Table B6. Community Outlook of Rural and Urban Respondents, 2008 - 2019

As you look ahead to the next five years, do you expect that your community will…?	*County density*	
	Rural	Urban
Become less desirable: 2019	12.2 %	14 %
Become less desirable (over next 10 years): 2008	22.4 %	21.4 %

Table B7. Length of Time in Community for Rural and Urban Respondents

How long have you lived in your community?	*County density*		***Total***
	Rural	Urban	
Less than 5 years	68 16.3 %	387 24.3 %	455 22.7 %
5 - 10 years	62 14.9 %	287 18 %	349 17.4 %
11-19 years	75 18 %	289 18.2 %	364 18.1 %
More than 20 years	212 50.8 %	628 39.5 %	840 41.8 %
Total	417 100 %	1591 100 %	2008 100 %

Table B8. Cost of Living in Community for Rural and Urban Respondents

How would you rate the cost of living in your community?	*County density*		***Total***
	Rural	Urban	
Cost of living is relatively low	85 20.3 %	150 9.4 %	235 11.7 %
Cost of living is about average	277 66.3 %	1069 67.2 %	1346 67 %
Cost of living is relatively high	56 13.4 %	372 23.4 %	428 21.3 %
Total	418 100 %	1591 100 %	2009 100 %

Table B9. Cost of Living in Community for Rural and Urban Respondents, 2008 - 2019

How would you rate the cost of living in your community?	*County density*	
	Rural	Urban
Cost of living is about average: 2019	66.3 %	67.2 %
Cost of living is about average: 2008	65.4 %	64.5 %

Table B10. Safety of Community for Rural and Urban Residents

How safe do you feel in your community?	*County density*		***Total***
	Rural	Urban	
Very safe	179 43 %	630 39.6 %	809 40.3 %
Somewhat safe	202 48.6 %	737 46.3 %	939 46.8 %
Somewhat unsafe	29 7 %	198 12.4 %	227 11.3 %
Very unsafe	6 1.4 %	26 1.6 %	32 1.6 %
Total	416 100 %	1591 100 %	2007 100 %

Table B11. Safety of Community for Rural and Urban Residents, 2008-2019

How safe do you feel in your community?	*County density*	
	Rural	Urban
Very safe: 2019	43 %	39.6 %
Somewhat safe: 2019	48.6 %	46.3 %
Very safe: 2008	41.2 %	38.7 %
Somewhat safe: 2008	50.7 %	50.7 %

Table B12. Quality of Community Attributes for Rural and Urban Respondents

Please rate the quality of your present community as it is today:						
	Rural			Urban		
	Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High
Neighborliness	72 (17.31 %)	212 (50.96 %)	132 (31.73 %)	301 (18.92 %)	832 (52.29 %)	458 (28.79 %)
Natural environment	50 (11.99 %)	171 (41.01 %)	196 (47.00 %)	318 (19.97 %)	786 (49.37 %)	488 (30.65 %)
Place to raise children	52 (12.47 %)	175 (41.97 %)	190 (45.56 %)	231 (14.51 %)	625 (39.26 %)	736 (46.23 %)
Place to retire	108 (25.90 %)	179 (42.93 %)	130 (31.18 %)	525 (33.00 %)	658 (41.36 %)	408 (25.64 %)
Schools	63 (15.11 %)	208 (49.88 %)	146 (35.01 %)	260 (16.34 %)	697 (43.81 %)	634 (39.85 %)
Job opportunities	218 (52.28 %)	164 (39.33 %)	35 (8.39 %)	487 (30.61 %)	843 (52.99 %)	261 (16.40 %)
Recreation	150 (36.06 %)	175 (42.07 %)	91 (21.88 %)	333 (20.93 %)	751 (47.20 %)	507 (31.87 %)
Health care	88 (21.10 %)	240 (57.55 %)	89 (21.34 %)	209 (13.14 %)	837 (52.61 %)	545 (34.26 %)
Available housing	83 (19.95 %)	250 (60.10 %)	83 (19.95 %)	223 (14.02 %)	941 (59.15 %)	427 (26.84 %)
Freedom from crime	67 (16.07 %)	227 (54.44 %)	123 (29.50 %)	327 (20.55 %)	811 (50.97 %)	453 (28.47 %)
Citizen involvement	110 (26.44 %)	236 (56.73 %)	70 (16.83 %)	371 (23.32 %)	913 (57.39 %)	307 (19.30 %)

Table B13. Quality of Community Attributes for Rural and Urban Respondents, 2008-2019

Please rate the quality of your present community as it is today:	*County density*	
	Rural	Urban
Neighborliness, High: 2019	31.73 %	28.79 %
Neighborliness, High: 2008	35.0 %	35.3 %
Natural environment, High: 2019	47.00 %	30.65 %
Natural environment, High: 2008	44.0 %	31.3 %
Place to raise children, High: 2019	45.56 %	46.23 %
Place to raise children, High: 2008	55.3 %	51.3 %
Place to retire, High: 2019	31.18 %	25.64 %
Place to retire, High: 2008	47.0 %	31.2 %
Schools, High: 2019	35.01 %	39.85 %
Schools, High: 2008	31.7 %	40.7 %
Job opportunities, High: 2019	8.39 %	16.40 %
Job opportunities, High: 2008	3.2 %	10.1 %
Recreation, High: 2019	21.88 %	31.87 %
Recreation, High: 2008	21.9 %	25.2 %
Health care, High: 2019	21.34 %	34.26 %
Health care, High: 2008	13.9 %	27.0 %
Available housing, High: 2019	19.95 %	26.84 %
Available housing, High: 2008	22.8 %	28.3 %
Freedom from crime, High: 2019	29.50 %	28.47 %
Freedom from crime, High: 2008	28.6 %	29.8 %
Citizen involvement, High: 2019	16.83 %	19.30 %
Citizen involvement, High: 2008	16.3 %	16.2 %

Table B14. Priority of Community Facilities for Rural and Urban Respondents

Compared to what is being done now, what priority do you believe should be given to each of the following issues related to local facilities in your community in the future?

	Rural				Urban			
	Don't Know	Lower Priority	Same Priority	Higher Priority	Don't Know	Lower Priority	Same Priority	Higher Priority
Repair local streets and roads	7 (1.68 %)	31 (7.43 %)	128 (30.70 %)	251 (60.19 %)	40 (2.51 %)	127 (7.98 %)	446 (28.03 %)	978 (61.47 %)
Provide transportation services within the community	15 (3.61 %)	83 (19.95 %)	197 (47.36 %)	121 (29.09 %)	61 (3.83 %)	380 (23.88 %)	734 (46.13 %)	416 (26.15 %)
Improve the quality and safety of drinking water	24 (5.76 %)	61 (14.63 %)	207 (49.64 %)	125 (29.98 %)	87 (5.47 %)	225 (14.14 %)	756 (47.52 %)	523 (32.87 %)
Enforce municipal codes (blight, zoning, etc.)	31 (7.43 %)	96 (23.02 %)	195 (46.76 %)	95 (22.78 %)	120 (7.54 %)	324 (20.35 %)	762 (47.86 %)	386 (24.25 %)
Strengthen protective services (police, fire, neighborhood watch, etc.)	12 (2.88 %)	42 (10.10 %)	212 (50.96 %)	150 (36.06 %)	43 (2.70 %)	144 (9.05 %)	839 (52.70 %)	566 (35.55 %)
Add retail and service businesses	13 (3.12 %)	73 (17.55 %)	147 (35.34 %)	183 (43.99 %)	59 (3.71 %)	412 (25.90 %)	691 (43.43 %)	429 (26.96 %)
Encourage cultural activities and the arts	21 (5.04 %)	87 (20.86 %)	185 (44.36 %)	124 (29.74 %)	67 (4.21 %)	340 (21.37 %)	744 (46.76 %)	440 (27.66 %)
Provide more parks, playgrounds, and recreation facilities	13 (3.12 %)	82 (19.66 %)	194 (46.52 %)	128 (30.70 %)	56 (3.52 %)	300 (18.86 %)	732 (46.01 %)	503 (31.62 %)

Table B15. Priority of Community Facilities for Rural and Urban Respondents, 2008-2019

Compared to what is being done now, what priority do you believe should be given to each of the following issues related to local facilities in your community in the future?	*County density*	
	Rural	Urban
Repair local streets and roads, Higher: 2019	60.19 %	61.47 %
Repair local streets and roads, High: 2008	43.5 %	41.7 %
Improve the quality and safety of drinking water, Higher: 2019	29.98 %	32.87 %
Improve the quality and safety of drinking water, High: 2008	40.4 %	44.4 %
Strengthen protective services (police, fire, neighborhood watch, etc.), Higher: 2019	36.06 %	35.55 %
Strengthen protective services (police, fire, neighborhood watch, etc.), High: 2008	41.0 %	46.1 %
Add retail and service businesses, Higher: 2019	43.99 %	26.96 %
Add retail and service businesses, High: 2008	40.7 %	27.3 %
Encourage cultural activities and the arts, Higher: 2019	29.74 %	27.66 %
Encourage cultural activities and the arts, High: 2008	27.2 %	29.7 %
Provide more parks, playgrounds, and recreation facilities, Higher: 2019	30.70 %	31.62 %
Provide more parks, playgrounds, and recreation facilities, High: 2008	28.2 %	28.5 %

Table B16. Priority of Family and Human Services Issues for Rural and Urban Respondents

Compared to what is being done now, what priority do you believe should be given to each of the following family and human services issues in your community in the future?

	Rural				Urban			
	Don't Know	Lower Priority	Same Priority	Higher Priority	Don't Know	Lower Priority	Same Priority	Higher Priority
Increase services for senior citizen (meals, transportation, home health, etc.)	11 (2.63 %)	20 (4.78 %)	169 (40.43 %)	218 (52.15 %)	65 (4.09 %)	105 (6.60 %)	680 (42.74 %)	741 (46.57 %)
Strengthen programs to deal with drug and alcohol abuse	17 (4.08 %)	28 (6.71 %)	121 (29.02 %)	251 (60.19 %)	60 (3.77 %)	158 (9.94 %)	549 (34.53 %)	823 (51.76 %)
Combat domestic violence and abuse	21 (5.04 %)	32 (7.67 %)	168 (40.29 %)	196 (47.00 %)	94 (5.91 %)	149 (9.37 %)	662 (41.61 %)	686 (43.12 %)
Provide emergency food (food banks, food pantry)	10 (2.40 %)	30 (7.21 %)	207 (49.76 %)	169 (40.62 %)	56 (3.52 %)	163 (10.24 %)	787 (49.43 %)	586 (36.81 %)
Provide shelters for the temporarily homeless	22 (5.28 %)	50 (11.99 %)	160 (38.37 %)	185 (44.36 %)	86 (5.40 %)	273 (17.15 %)	618 (38.82 %)	615 (38.63 %)
Provide affordable day care for children	23 (5.53 %)	39 (9.38 %)	173 (41.59 %)	181 (43.51 %)	79 (4.97 %)	192 (12.07 %)	678 (42.61 %)	642 (40.35 %)
Attract additional health care providers (specialists, family doctors, nurses, etc.)	13 (3.12 %)	42 (10.10 %)	166 (39.90 %)	195 (46.88 %)	56 (3.52 %)	201 (12.63 %)	790 (49.62 %)	545 (34.23 %)

Table B17. Priority of Family and Human Services Issues for Rural and Urban Respondents, 2008-2019

Compared to what is being done now, what priority do you believe should be given to each of the following family and human services issues in your community in the future?	*County density*	
	Rural	Urban
Increase services for senior citizen (meals, transportation, home health, etc.), Higher: 2019	52.15 %	46.57 %
Increase services for senior citizen (meals, transportation, home health, etc.), High: 2008	48.9 %	50.8 %
Strengthen programs to deal with drug and alcohol abuse, Higher: 2019	60.19 %	51.76 %
Strengthen programs to deal with drug and alcohol abuse, High: 2008	46.6 %	41.2 %
Combat domestic violence and abuse, Higher: 2019	47.00 %	43.12 %
Combat domestic violence and abuse, High: 2008	40.6 %	39.5 %
Provide emergency food (food banks, food pantry), Higher: 2019	40.62 %	36.81 %
Provide emergency food (food banks, food pantry), High: 2008	36.4 %	34.4 %
Provide shelters for the temporarily homeless, Higher: 2019	44.36 %	38.63 %
Provide shelters for the temporarily homeless, High: 2008	28.2 %	30.7 %
Provide affordable day care for children, Higher: 2019	43.51 %	40.35 %
Provide affordable day care for children, High: 2008	46.9 %	44.9 %
Attract additional health care providers (specialists, family doctors, nurses, etc.), Higher: 2019	46.88 %	34.23 %
Attract additional health care providers (specialists, family doctors, nurses, etc.), High: 2008	53.3 %	43.3 %

Table B18. Participation in Community Clubs and Organizations for Rural and Urban Respondents

In the past two years, how often have you ... ? *Participated in one or more community clubs or organizations*	*County density*		***Total***
	Rural	Urban	
Never	187 44.8 %	723 45.4 %	910 45.3 %
Seldom	96 23 %	379 23.8 %	475 23.6 %
Occasionally	88 21.1 %	316 19.8 %	404 20.1 %
Often	46 11 %	174 10.9 %	220 11 %
Total	417 100 %	1592 100 %	2009 100 %

Table B19. Participation in Community Clubs and Organizations for Rural and Urban Respondents, 2008-2019

In the past two years, how often have you ... ? *Participated in one or more community clubs or organizations*	*County density*	
	Rural	Urban
Occasionally: 2019	21.1 %	19.8 %
Occasionally: 2008	28.3 %	30 %
Often: 2019	11 %	10.9 %
Often: 2008	20 %	15.4 %

Table B20. Participation in Local Government for Rural and Urban Respondents

In the past two years, how often have you ... ? Served on a local government commission, committee or board	*County density*		***Total***
	Rural	Urban	
Never	364 87.3 %	1356 85.2 %	1720 85.6 %
Seldom	31 7.4 %	122 7.7 %	153 7.6 %
Occasionally	16 3.8 %	75 4.7 %	91 4.5 %
Often	6 1.4 %	39 2.4 %	45 2.2 %
Total	417 100 %	1592 100 %	2009 100 %

Table B21. Participation in Local Government for Rural and Urban Respondents, 2008-2019

In the past two years, how often have you ... ? Served on a local government commission, committee or board	*County density*	
	Rural	Urban
Occasionally: 2019	3.8 %	4.7 %
Occasionally: 2008	5.7 %	3.4 %
Often: 2019	1.4 %	2.4 %
Often: 2008	3.6 %	2.6 %

Table B22. Volunteering for Rural and Urban Respondents

In the past two years, how often have you ... ? Volunteered your time to help others in your community	*County density*		***Total***
	Rural	Urban	
Never	125 30 %	520 32.7 %	645 32.1 %
Seldom	94 22.5 %	391 24.6 %	485 24.1 %
Occasionally	142 34.1 %	488 30.7 %	630 31.4 %
Often	56 13.4 %	193 12.1 %	249 12.4 %
Total	417 100 %	1592 100 %	2009 100 %

Table B23. Volunteering for Rural and Urban Respondents, 2008-2019

In the past two years, how often have you ... ? Served on a local government commission, committee or board	*County density*	
	Rural	Urban
Occasionally: 2019	34.1 %	30.7 %
Occasionally: 2008	33.8 %	33.5 %
Often: 2019	13.4 %	12.1 %
Often: 2008	25.5 %	20.4 %

Table B24. Rating of Local Government by Rural and Urban Respondents

Please rate your city/borough/township government on each of the following characteristics:

	Rural				Urban			
	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Attention to citizen concerns	79 (18.94 %)	161 (38.61 %)	153 (36.69 %)	24 (5.76 %)	239 (15.01 %)	610 (38.32 %)	617 (38.76 %)	126 (7.91 %)
Improving/preserving quality of life	63 (15.14 %)	160 (38.46 %)	169 (40.62 %)	24 (5.77 %)	199 (12.51 %)	555 (34.88 %)	683 (42.93 %)	154 (9.68 %)
Managing public funds and facilities	66 (15.83 %)	163 (39.09 %)	167 (40.05 %)	21 (5.04 %)	291 (18.29 %)	545 (34.26 %)	648 (40.73 %)	107 (6.73 %)
Planning for future change	84 (20.14 %)	172 (41.25 %)	139 (33.33 %)	22 (5.28 %)	248 (15.61 %)	588 (37.00 %)	616 (38.77 %)	137 (8.62 %)

Table B25. Rating of Local Government by Rural and Urban Respondents, 2008-2019

Please rate your city/borough/township government on each of the following characteristics:	*County density*	
	Rural	Urban
Attention to citizen concerns, Good: 2019	36.69 %	38.76 %
Attention to citizen concerns, Good: 2008	27.7 %	34.2 %
Improving/preserving quality of life, Good: 2019	40.62 %	42.93 %
Improving/preserving quality of life, Good: 2008	28.7 %	34.4 %
Managing public funds and facilities, Good: 2019	40.05 %	40.73 %
Managing public funds and facilities, Good: 2008	25.4 %	31.5 %
Planning for future change, Good: 2019	33.33 %	38.77 %
Planning for future change, Good: 2008	21.5 %	25.1 %
Attention to citizen concerns, Excellent: 2019	5.76 %	7.91 %
Attention to citizen concerns, Excellent: 2008	4.0 %	4.8 %
Improving/preserving quality of life, Excellent: 2019	5.77 %	9.68 %
Improving/preserving quality of life, Excellent: 2008	4.0 %	4.5 %
Managing public funds and facilities, Excellent: 2019	5.04 %	6.73 %
Managing public funds and facilities, Excellent: 2008	4.8 %	3.9 %
Planning for future change, Excellent: 2019	5.28 %	8.62 %
Planning for future change, Excellent: 2008	2.9 %	4.9 %

Table B26. Satisfaction with Way Things are Going in Pennsylvania for Rural and Urban Respondents

In general, how satisfied are you with the way things are going in Pennsylvania today?	*County density*		***Total***
	Rural	Urban	
Very satisfied	28 6.7 %	164 10.3 %	192 9.6 %
More or less satisfied	270 64.7 %	1066 67 %	1336 66.5 %
Not satisfied	119 28.5 %	361 22.7 %	480 23.9 %
Total	417 100 %	1591 100 %	2008 100 %

Table B27. Satisfaction with Way Things are Going in Pennsylvania for Rural and Urban Respondents, 2008-2019

In general, how satisfied are you with the way things are going in Pennsylvania today?	*County density*	
	Rural	Urban
Not satisfied: 2019	28.5 %	22.7 %
Not satisfied: 2008	44.2 %	38.5 %

Table B28. Confidence in Government Institutions and Officials for Rural and Urban Respondents

How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following?

	Rural				Urban			
	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None	A Great Deal	Some	A Little	None
State legislature	19 (4.56 %)	173 (41.49 %)	167 (40.05 %)	58 (13.91 %)	100 (6.29 %)	725 (45.57 %)	550 (34.57 %)	216 (13.58 %)
Courts in Pennsylvania	48 (11.51 %)	195 (46.76 %)	126 (30.22 %)	48 (11.51 %)	190 (11.93 %)	759 (47.68 %)	461 (28.96 %)	182 (11.43 %)
Governor of Pennsylvania	57 (13.64 %)	138 (33.01 %)	131 (31.34 %)	92 (22.01 %)	309 (19.41 %)	679 (42.65 %)	375 (23.56 %)	229 (14.38 %)
Local/municipal officials	46 (11.03 %)	184 (44.12 %)	141 (33.81 %)	46 (11.03 %)	173 (10.87 %)	765 (48.08 %)	454 (28.54 %)	199 (12.51 %)
Local school district officials	57 (13.64 %)	138 (33.01 %)	131 (31.34 %)	92 (22.01 %)	234 (14.71 %)	716 (45.00 %)	433 (27.22 %)	208 (13.07 %)

Table B29. Confidence in Government Institutions and Officials for Rural and Urban Respondents, 2008-2019

How much confidence and trust do you have in each of the following?	*County density*	
	Rural	Urban
State legislature, A Great Deal: 2019	4.56 %	6.29 %
State legislature, A Great Deal: 2008	4.7 %	4.8 %
Courts in Pennsylvania, A Great Deal: 2019	11.51 %	11.93 %
Courts in Pennsylvania, A Great Deal: 2008	10.7 %	11.3 %
Governor of Pennsylvania, A Great Deal: 2019	13.64 %	19.41 %
Governor of Pennsylvania, A Great Deal: 2008	8.8 %	18.7 %
Local/municipal officials, A Great Deal: 2019	11.03 %	10.87 %
Local/municipal officials, A Great Deal: 2008	9..6 %	8.5 %

Table B30. Issue Priorities of Rural and Urban Respondents

Compared to what is being done now, what priority do you want each of the following to have in the future?

	Rural				Urban			
	Don't Know	Lower Priority	Same Priority	Higher Priority	Don't Know	Lower Priority	Same Priority	Higher Priority
Availability of jobs	11 (2.64 %)	12 (2.88 %)	109 (26.14 %)	285 (68.35 %)	43 (2.70 %)	62 (3.89 %)	596 (37.44 %)	891 (55.97 %)
Preservation of farmland	15 (3.60 %)	21 (5.04 %)	169 (40.53 %)	212 (50.84 %)	83 (5.21 %)	191 (12.00 %)	660 (41.46 %)	658 (41.33 %)
Crime and violence prevention	9 (2.15 %)	13 (3.11 %)	162 (38.76 %)	234 (55.98 %)	32 (2.01 %)	67 (4.21 %)	566 (35.58 %)	926 (58.20 %)
Drug and alcohol abuse treatment and prevention	13 (3.12 %)	26 (6.24 %)	138 (33.09 %)	240 (57.55 %)	52 (3.27 %)	170 (10.69 %)	549 (34.51 %)	820 (51.54 %)
Safe drinking water	12 (2.88 %)	23 (5.52 %)	190 (45.56 %)	192 (46.04 %)	49 (3.08 %)	95 (5.97 %)	662 (41.58 %)	786 (49.37 %)
Health care access and availability	9 (2.16 %)	12 (2.88 %)	154 (36.93 %)	242 (58.03 %)	45 (2.83 %)	87 (5.47 %)	558 (35.09 %)	900 (56.60 %)
Education for youth/children	10 (2.40 %)	16 (3.84 %)	141 (33.81 %)	250 (59.95 %)	41 (2.58 %)	57 (3.58 %)	552 (34.70 %)	941 (59.15 %)
Protection and conservation of the natural environment	13 (3.12 %)	28 (6.71 %)	192 (46.04 %)	184 (44.12 %)	47 (2.95 %)	118 (7.42 %)	650 (40.85 %)	776 (48.77 %)
Care of the elderly	12 (2.88 %)	13 (3.12 %)	141 (33.89 %)	250 (60.10 %)	41 (2.58 %)	92 (5.78 %)	626 (39.35 %)	832 (52.29 %)

Access to telecommunications/internet	14 (3.36 %)	52 (12.47 %)	215 (51.56 %)	136 (32.61 %)	36 (2.26 %)	243 (15.26 %)	905 (56.85 %)	408 (25.63 %)
Reform Pennsylvania's local tax structure	26 (6.24 %)	21 (5.04 %)	146 (35.01 %)	224 (53.72 %)	102 (6.41 %)	139 (8.74 %)	576 (36.20 %)	774 (48.65 %)
Homeland security/public safety	13 (3.12 %)	27 (6.49 %)	187 (44.95 %)	189 (45.43 %)	48 (3.02 %)	151 (9.49 %)	721 (45.32 %)	671 (42.17 %)
Maintenance of roads and bridges	8 (1.92 %)	11 (2.64 %)	98 (23.50 %)	300 (71.94 %)	41 (2.58 %)	50 (3.14 %)	359 (22.56 %)	1141 (71.72 %)
Development of alternative energy sources	16 (3.84 %)	52 (12.47 %)	179 (42.93 %)	170 (40.77 %)	44 (2.76 %)	228 (14.32 %)	621 (39.01 %)	699 (43.91 %)

Table B31. Issue Priorities of Rural and Urban Respondents, 2008-2019

Compared to what is being done now, what priority do you want each of the following to have in the future?	*County density*	
	Rural	Urban
Availability of jobs, Higher: 2019	68.35 %	55.97 %
Availability of jobs, Higher: 2008	81.7 %	72.1 %
Preservation of farmland, Higher: 2019	50.84 %	41.33 %
Preservation of farmland, Higher: 2008	52.4 %	50.7 %
Crime and violence prevention, Higher: 2019	55.98 %	58.20 %
Crime and violence prevention, Higher: 2008	68.7 %	76.1 %
Drug and alcohol abuse treatment and prevention, Higher: 2019	57.55 %	51.54 %
Drug and alcohol abuse treatment and prevention, Higher: 2008	56.6 %	52.9 %
Safe drinking water, Higher: 2019	46.04 %	49.37 %
Safe drinking water, Higher: 2008	62.3 %	63.1 %
Health care access and availability, Higher: 2019	58.03 %	56.60 %
Health care access and availability, Higher: 2008	78.7 %	77.9 %
Education for youth/children, Higher: 2019	59.95 %	59.15 %
Education for youth/children, Higher: 2008	61.5 %	64.6 %
Protection and conservation of the natural environment, Higher: 2019	44.12 %	48.77 %
Protection and conservation of the natural environment, Higher: 2008	44.8 %	51.7 %
Care of the elderly, Higher: 2019	60.10 %	52.29 %
Care of the elderly, Higher: 2008	60.1 %	59.2 %
Access to telecommunications/internet, Higher: 2019	32.61 %	25.63 %
Access to telecommunications/internet, Higher: 2008	16.8 %	16.1 %
Reform Pennsylvania's local tax structure, Higher: 2019	53.72 %	48.65 %
Reform Pennsylvania's local tax structure, Higher: 2008	56.2 %	57.6 %
Homeland security/public safety, Higher: 2019	45.43 %	42.17 %

Homeland security/public safety, Higher: 2008	41.6 %	44.5 %
Maintenance of roads and bridges, Higher: 2019	71.94 %	71.72 %
Maintenance of roads and bridges, Higher: 2008	53.9 %	57.8 %
Development of alternative energy sources, Higher: 2019	40.77 %	43.91 %
Development of alternative energy sources, Higher: 2008	81.4 %	81.8 %

Table B32. Most Important Future Priorities of Rural and Urban Respondents

From the list of issues, which do you feel is most important or most in need of higher priority in the future?

	Rural	Urban	***Total***
Availability of jobs	59 14.2 %	179 11.3 %	238 11.9 %
Preservation of farmland	11 2.6 %	36 2.3 %	47 2.3 %
Crime and violence prevention	23 5.5 %	177 11.1 %	200 10 %
Drug and alcohol abuse treatment and prevention	48 11.5 %	134 8.4 %	182 9.1 %
Safe drinking water	12 2.9 %	67 4.2 %	79 3.9 %
Health care access and availability	43 10.3 %	160 10.1 %	203 10.1 %
Education for youth/children	39 9.4 %	145 9.1 %	184 9.2 %
Protection and conservation of the natural environment	17 4.1 %	81 5.1 %	98 4.9 %
Care of the elderly	23 5.5 %	95 6 %	118 5.9 %
Access to telecommunications/internet	5 1.2 %	6 0.4 %	11 0.5 %
Reform Pennsylvania's local tax structure	50 12 %	176 11.1 %	226 11.3 %
Homeland security/public safety	19 4.6 %	83 5.2 %	102 5.1 %
Maintenance of roads and bridges	48 11.5 %	194 12.2 %	242 12.1 %
Development of alternative energy sources	19 4.6 %	58 3.6 %	77 3.8 %
Total	416 100 %	1591 100 %	2007 100 %

Table B33. **Most Important Future Priorities of Rural and Urban Respondents, 2008-2019**

From the list of issues, which do you feel is most important or most in need of higher priority in the future?	*County density*	
	Rural	Urban
Availability of jobs: 2019	14.2 %	11.3 %
Availability of jobs: 2008	25.3 %	15.8 %
Preservation of farmland: 2019	2.6 %	2.3 %
Preservation of farmland: 2008	3 %	1.9 %
Crime and violence prevention: 2019	5.5 %	11.1 %
Crime and violence prevention: 2008	3.4 %	7.5 %
Drug and alcohol abuse treatment and prevention: 2019	11.5 %	8.4 %
Drug and alcohol abuse treatment and prevention: 2008	1.6 %	1.1 %
Safe drinking water: 2019	2.9 %	4.2 %
Safe drinking water: 2008	2 %	1.1 %
Health care access and availability: 2019	10.3 %	10.1 %
Health care access and availability: 2008	14.5 %	17.8 %
Education for youth/children: 2019	9.4 %	9.1 %
Education for youth/children: 2008	5.8 %	8.2 %
Protection and conservation of the natural environment: 2019	4.1 %	5.1 %
Protection and conservation of the natural environment: 2008	1.9 %	3.3 %
Care of the elderly: 2019	5.5 %	6 %
Care of the elderly: 2008	2.9 %	2.9 %
Access to telecommunications/internet: 2019	1.2 %	.4 %
Access to telecommunications/internet: 2008	.2 %	0 %
Reform Pennsylvania's local tax structure: 2019	12 %	11.1 %
Reform Pennsylvania's local tax structure: 2008	6 %	8.1 %

Homeland security/public safety: 2019	4.6 %	5.2 %
Homeland security/public safety: 2008	2.8 %	3.5 %
Maintenance of roads and bridges: 2019	11.5 %	12.2 %
Maintenance of roads and bridges: 2008	1.4 %	1.7 %
Development of alternative energy sources: 2019	4.6 %	3.6 %
Development of alternative energy sources: 2008	20.5 %	19.2 %

Table B34. Issue Priorities of Rural and Urban Respondents

Compared to what is being done now, what priority do you believe should be given to each of the following in the future?								
	Rural				Urban			
	Don't Know/ Not sure	Lower Priority	Same Priority	Higher Priority	Don't Know/ Not sure	Lower Priority	Same Priority	Higher Priority
Reduce storm water runoff and flooding	24 (5.76 %)	46 (11.03 %)	206 (49.40 %)	141 (33.81 %)	87 (5.47 %)	179 (11.25 %)	779 (48.96 %)	546 (34.32 %)
Monitor and regulate public drinking water quality	19 (4.56 %)	20 (4.80 %)	197 (47.24 %)	181 (43.41 %)	49 (3.08 %)	91 (5.72 %)	664 (41.73 %)	787 (49.47 %)
Help communities pay for water and sewage treatment facilities	27 (6.49 %)	35 (8.41 %)	201 (48.32 %)	153 (36.78 %)	83 (5.21 %)	156 (9.80 %)	766 (48.12 %)	587 (36.87 %)
Strengthen regulation of mining and drilling	34 (8.15 %)	69 (16.55 %)	185 (44.36 %)	129 (30.94 %)	135 (8.49 %)	273 (17.16 %)	716 (45.00 %)	467 (29.35 %)
Preserve woodlands/wilderness areas	17 (4.08 %)	23 (5.52 %)	188 (45.08 %)	189 (45.32 %)	68 (4.28 %)	125 (7.86 %)	715 (44.97 %)	682 (42.89 %)
Strengthen environmental regulation of agriculture	26 (6.24 %)	51 (12.23 %)	218 (52.28 %)	122 (29.26 %)	90 (5.65 %)	188 (11.81 %)	849 (53.33 %)	465 (29.21 %)
Monitor and regulate food production and processing to ensure food safety	22 (5.28 %)	20 (4.80 %)	195 (46.76 %)	180 (43.17 %)	56 (3.52 %)	105 (6.60 %)	729 (45.82 %)	701 (44.06 %)
Improve the water quality of streams and lakes	18 (4.33 %)	15 (3.61 %)	192 (46.15 %)	191 (45.91 %)	52 (3.27 %)	113 (7.10 %)	664 (41.73 %)	762 (47.89 %)

Table B35. Issue Priorities of Rural and Urban Respondents, 2008-2019

Compared to what is being done now, what priority do you believe should be given to each of the following in the future?	*County density*	
	Rural	Urban
Reduce storm water runoff and flooding, Higher: 2019	33.81 %	34.32 %
Reduce storm water runoff and flooding, High: 2008	36.3 %	40.5 %
Monitor and regulate public drinking water quality, Higher: 2019	43.41 %	49.47 %
Monitor and regulate public drinking water quality, High: 2008	65.2 %	71.2 %
Help communities pay for water and sewage treatment facilities, Higher: 2019	36.78 %	36.87 %
Help communities pay for water and sewage treatment facilities, High: 2008	44.7 %	41.8 %
Preserve woodlands/wilderness areas, Higher: 2019	45.32 %	42.89 %
Preserve woodlands/wilderness areas, High: 2008	42.8 %	44.9 %
Strengthen environmental regulation of agriculture, Higher: 2019	29.26 %	29.21 %
Strengthen environmental regulation of agriculture, High: 2008	29.6 %	37.5 %
Monitor and regulate food production and processing to ensure food safety, Higher: 2019	43.17 %	44.06 %
Monitor and regulate food production and processing to ensure food safety, High: 2008	61.7 %	64.5 %
Improve the water quality of streams and lakes, Higher: 2019	45.91 %	47.89 %
Improve the water quality of streams and lakes, High: 2008	59 %	60.2 %

Table B36. Options for Addressing Energy Demands for Rural and Urban Respondents

Which of the following options holds the greatest promise for addressing Pennsylvania's energy demands in the next 5 years?	*County density*		***Total***
	Rural	Urban	
Enhance conservation measures to decrease energy consumption	63 15.1 %	230 14.5 %	293 14.6 %
Continue and expand natural gas production	63 15.1 %	236 14.8 %	299 14.9 %
Continue and expand coal production	39 9.4 %	61 3.8 %	100 5 %
Invest in renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind	228 54.8 %	916 57.6 %	1144 57 %
Maintain operation of existing nuclear power plants	23 5.5 %	147 9.2 %	170 8.5 %
Total	416 100 %	1590 100 %	2006 100 %

Table B37. Regulation of Natural Gas Extraction for Rural and Urban Respondents

In terms of regulating the extraction of natural gas in Pennsylvania ("fracking"), do you support:	*County density*		***Total***
	Rural	Urban	
Reducing existing environmental regulations on the natural gas industry	54 13 %	195 12.3 %	249 12.4 %
Enforcing existing environmental regulations on the natural gas industry	170 40.9 %	645 40.6 %	815 40.7 %
Strengthening environmental regulations on the natural gas industry	192 46.2 %	747 47.1 %	939 46.9 %
Total	416 100 %	1587 100 %	2003 100 %

Table B38. Severance Tax for Rural and Urban Respondents

Do you support or oppose the adoption of a severance tax on natural gas produced in Pennsylvania?	*County density*		***Total***
	Rural	Urban	
Support the adoption of a severance tax	258 62.2 %	958 60.3 %	1216 60.7 %
Oppose the adoption of a severance tax	157 37.8 %	631 39.7 %	788 39.3 %
Total	415 100 %	1589 100 %	2004 100 %

Table B39. Current Issues for Rural and Urban Respondents

Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements:	Rural			Urban		
	Somewhat/ Strongly Agree	No Opinion	Somewhat/ Strongly Disagree	Somewhat/ Strongly Agree	No Opinion	Somewhat/ Strongly Disagree
The recreational use of marijuana by adults aged 21 and older should be legalized	234 (56.25 %)	51 (12.26 %)	131 (31.49 %)	997 (62.63 %)	189 (11.87 %)	406 (25.50 %)
The state income tax should be changed from a flat rate to graduated rates	260 (62.50 %)	63 (15.14 %)	93 (22.36 %)	988 (62.10 %)	230 (14.46 %)	373 (23.44 %)
The death penalty be abolished in Pennsylvania	91 (21.82 %)	88 (21.10 %)	238 (57.07 %)	489 (30.74 %)	301 (18.92 %)	801 (50.35 %)
Trained faculty and staff should be allowed to carry firearms in schools	228 (54.81 %)	45 (10.82 %)	143 (34.38 %)	728 (45.73 %)	164 (10.30 %)	700 (43.97 %)

Table B40. Addressing the Opioid Crisis for Rural and Urban Respondents

In terms of addressing the opioid crisis in Pennsylvania, which of the following do you MOST support?	*County density*		***Total***
	Rural	Urban	
Maintain the current treatment, prevention, and law enforcement efforts that are already in place	63 15.1 %	282 17.7 %	345 17.2 %
Increase funding for programs to treat and prevent addiction	163 39.1 %	820 51.6 %	983 49 %
Stricter enforcement of criminal penalties	191 45.8 %	487 30.6 %	678 33.8 %
Total	417 100 %	1589 100 %	2006 100 %

Table B41. Methadone Clinic Support for Rural and Urban Respondents

Do you support or oppose expanding the availability of methadone clinics in your community?	*County density*		***Total***
	Rural	Urban	
Strongly support	61 14.7 %	322 20.2 %	383 19.1 %
Somewhat support	109 26.2 %	505 31.7 %	614 30.6 %
No opinion	82 19.7 %	302 19 %	384 19.1 %
Somewhat oppose	85 20.4 %	239 15 %	324 16.1 %
Strongly oppose	79 19 %	223 14 %	302 15 %
Total	416 100 %	1591 100 %	2007 100 %

Table B42. Educational Attainment of Rural and Urban Respondents

Educational Attainment	*County density* Rural	*County density* Urban	***Total***
Did not graduate from high school	10 2.4 %	27 1.7 %	37 1.8 %
High school graduate/GED	141 33.9 %	446 28 %	587 29.2 %
Some college, Associate's degree, technical/trade school, or other post-high school education	152 36.5 %	577 36.3 %	729 36.3 %
Completed a college/Bachelor's degree	75 18 %	363 22.8 %	438 21.8 %
Graduate work or graduate degree	38 9.1 %	178 11.2 %	216 10.8 %
Total	416 100 %	1591 100 %	2007 100 %

Table B43. Internet Access of Rural and Urban Respondents

Internet access at home	*County density* Rural	*County density* Urban	***Total***
Yes, with a subscription to an internet service	383 91.8 %	1414 88.8 %	1797 89.4 %
Yes, without a subscription to an internet service (free Wi-Fi)	23 5.5 %	135 8.5 %	158 7.9 %
No internet access at home	11 2.6 %	43 2.7 %	54 2.7 %
Total	417 100 %	1592 100 %	2009 100 %

Table B44. Work Situation of Rural and Urban Respondents

Which of the following best describes your current work situation?	*County density*		***Total***
	Rural	Urban	
Employed/Self-employed	227 54.4 %	971 61.1 %	1198 59.7 %
Not employed, but looking for work	10 2.4 %	54 3.4 %	64 3.2 %
Not employed, and not looking for work	6 1.4 %	28 1.8 %	34 1.7 %
Retired or disabled	119 28.5 %	373 23.5 %	492 24.5 %
Student	11 2.6 %	65 4.1 %	76 3.8 %
Homemaker	44 10.6 %	99 6.2 %	143 7.1 %
Total	417 100 %	1590 100 %	2007 100 %

Table B45. Marital Status of Rural and Urban Respondents

Marital status	*County density*		***Total***
	Rural	Urban	
Never Married	83 19.9 %	508 31.9 %	591 29.4 %
Married/living with a partner	237 56.7 %	804 50.6 %	1041 51.8 %
Divorced/separated	56 13.4 %	175 11 %	231 11.5 %
Widowed	42 10 %	103 6.5 %	145 7.2 %
Total	418 100 %	1590 100 %	2008 100 %

Table B46. Home Ownership of Rural and Urban Respondents

Is your primary residence owned (whether or not there is a mortgage) or rented?	*County density*		***Total***
	Rural	Urban	
Owned by you or someone in the household	294 70.5 %	1025 64.4 %	1319 65.7 %
Rented by you or someone in the household	110 26.4 %	502 31.6 %	612 30.5 %
Something else (occupied without payment of rent, group living quarters, etc.)	13 3.1 %	64 4 %	77 3.8 %
Total	417 100 %	1591 100 %	2008 100 %

Table B47. Family Financial Situation of Rural and Urban Respondents

Currently, how satisfied are you with your family's financial situation?	*County density*		***Total***
	Rural	Urban	
Very satisfied	52 12.5 %	249 15.7 %	301 15.1 %
More or less satisfied	225 54 %	843 53.3 %	1068 53.5 %
Not at all satisfied	140 33.6 %	489 30.9 %	629 31.5 %
Total	417 100 %	1581 100 %	1998 100 %

Table B48. Financial Situation over Past 12 Months for Rural and Urban Respondents

Would you say you and your family are better off, worse off, or about the same financially as you were 12 months ago?	*County density*		***Total***
	Rural	Urban	
Better off	107 25.7 %	454 28.5 %	561 27.9 %
Worse off	116 27.8 %	357 22.4 %	473 23.5 %
About the same	194 46.5 %	781 49.1 %	975 48.5 %
Total	417 100 %	1592 100 %	2009 100 %

Table B49. Financial Outlook of Rural and Urban Respondents

Looking ahead, do you think that, 12 months from now, your family will be better off financially than you are now, worse off, or about the same as you are now?	*County density*		***Total***
	Rural	Urban	
Better off	153 36.7 %	655 41.2 %	808 40.2 %
Worse off	47 11.3 %	161 10.1 %	208 10.4 %
About the same	217 52 %	775 48.7 %	992 49.4 %
Total	417 100 %	1591 100 %	2008 100 %

Table B50. Estate Planning of Rural and Urban Respondents

In planning for the future, have you done any planning to leave part of your estate to a community foundation or organization?	*County density*		***Total***
	Rural	Urban	
Don't Know/Not Sure	43 10.3 %	241 15.1 %	284 14.1 %
Yes	14 3.4 %	116 7.3 %	130 6.5 %
No	360 86.3 %	1235 77.6 %	1595 79.4 %
Total	417 100 %	1592 100 %	2009 100 %

Table B51. Race and Ethnicity of Rural and Urban Respondents

Race and Ethnicity	*County density*		**Total**
	Rural	Urban	
Black or African American alone, non-Hispanic	11 2.6 %	196 12.3 %	207 10.3 %
Don't know / Not sure	0 0 %	13 0.8 %	13 0.6 %
Hispanic	14 3.4 %	115 7.2 %	129 6.4 %
Something else, non-Hispanic	20 4.8 %	80 5 %	100 5 %
White alone, non-Hispanic	372 89.2 %	1188 74.6 %	1560 77.7 %
Total	417 100 %	1592 100 %	2009 100 %

Table B52. Annual Household Income of Rural and Urban Respondents

Annual Household Income	*County density*		**Total**
	Rural	Urban	
$100,000 or more	42 10.1 %	271 17 %	313 15.6 %
$60,000 to $99,999	84 20.1 %	364 22.9 %	448 22.3 %
$30,000 to $59,999	143 34.3 %	475 29.9 %	618 30.8 %
Less than $30,000	125 30 %	391 24.6 %	516 25.7 %
Don't know / Not sure	23 5.5 %	89 5.6 %	112 5.6 %
Total	417 100 %	1590 100 %	2007 100 %

Table B53. Voter Registration Status of Rural and Urban Respondents

Voter Registration	*County density*		***Total***
	Rural	Urban	
Don't know / Not sure	4 1 %	35 2.2 %	39 1.9 %
Yes	326 78.4 %	1280 80.4 %	1606 80 %
No	86 20.7 %	277 17.4 %	363 18.1 %
Total	416 100 %	1592 100 %	2008 100 %

The Center for Rural Pennsylvania Board of Directors

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