

United Way of Porter County Porter County Community Foundation

2007 Needs Assessment Citizen Survey



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The 2007 Needs Assessment Citizen Survey was completed by 800 residents of Porter County in June and July 2007, between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. Central Time.

- Of the 800 respondents who completed the 2007 Citizen Survey, 51.4% were female, and 48.6% were male.
- Twenty-two percent (22.0%) of respondents are age 35 to 44, closely followed by 21.3% of respondents who are age 45 to 54. Fifteen percent (14.8%) are age 65 and over, and 13.3% of respondents are age 18 to 24.
- When asked to provide information about household income, 21.4% of respondents indicated that they have a household income of \$50,000 to \$74,999, followed by 21.3% of respondents with a household income below \$25,000. Twelve percent (12.1%) of respondents have a household income of \$100,000 and over.
- Eighty-four percent (84.0%) of respondents do not receive any public assistance. Six percent (5.9%) of respondents receive Medicare, closely followed by 5.8% of respondents who receive Medicaid.
- Ninety percent (89.9%) of respondents are White/Caucasian. Six percent (5.9%) of respondents are African American/Black, and 2.5% of respondents are Hispanic. Five respondents (0.6%) are multi-racial, and two respondents (0.3%) are American Indian/Native American.
- Over seventy percent (70.6%) of respondents own their residence, and 21.4% of respondents rent their residence. Eight percent (8.0%) refused to answer this question.
- Over twenty-nine percent (29.5%) of respondents have lived in Porter County for 21 years or more, followed by 26.6% of respondents who have lived in Porter County for 11 to 20 years. Eleven percent (11.4%) of respondents have lived in Porter County for 1 to 3 years, and only 4.6% of respondents have lived in Porter County for less than one year.



- When asked which community they live in, 47.2% of respondents said that they live in Valparaiso, followed by 24.0% of respondents who live in Portage. Eight percent (8.2%) of respondents live in Porter, and 6.4% of respondents live in Chesterton.
- Over thirty-seven percent (37.6%) of respondents live in the Valparaiso School District, followed by 26.0% of respondents who indicated the school district of Portage Township. Over seven percent (7.5%) of respondents live in the school district of Porter Township, and 6.5% of respondents live in the Duneland School District.
- When asked what township they live in, 26.6% of respondents said that they live in Portage Township. Sixteen percent (16.0%) of respondents live in Porter Township, followed by 15.0% of respondents who live in Center Township. Two percent (2.1%) of respondents live in Union Township, and only one percent (1.0%) of respondents live in Morgan Township.
- Fifty-five percent (54.9%) of respondents are married, followed by 23.6% of respondents who are single. Over ten percent (10.6%) of respondents are divorced, and 7.1% of respondents are widowed.
- Sixty percent (59.9%) of respondents do not have children over the age of 18, and 40.0% of respondents do have children over the age of 18.
- Respondents with children over the age of 18 were asked if one or more of their children has moved outside of Porter County. Fifty-eight percent (58.1%) of respondents said that one or more of their children has moved outside of Porter County. The most common responses as to why one or more of their children have moved outside of Porter County were job and education.
- Thirty-four percent (34.0%) of respondents have children under the age of 18, while 65.9% of respondents do not have children under the age of 18.
- Seventy-two percent (72.1%) of respondents with children under the age of 18 said that both the biological mother and father are living in the household, while 20.6% of respondents said only the biological mother lives in the household. Over six percent (6.6%) of respondents said only the biological father lives in the household, and one respondent (0.4%) said neither biological parent lives in the household.



- Over thirty-two percent (32.5%) of respondents are college graduates (4-year degree), while 30.5% of respondents are high school graduates. Twenty percent (20.3%) of respondents received some college education (no 4-year degree) and 8.1% of respondents have received post-graduate training. Over two percent (2.6%) of respondents have received less than a high school education.
- Over ninety-seven percent (97.6%) of respondents said that English is their native language, while 2.1% of respondents said that English is not their native language.
- Over ninety percent (90.5%) of respondents indicated an automobile (car or truck) is their primary means of transportation. Five percent (5.0%) of respondents ride with a friend or relative, while 2.1% of respondents take the bus. Only one respondent (0.1%) uses a volunteer organization as their primary means of transportation.
- When asked about their employment status, 52.9% of respondents indicated that they are currently employed full-time. Sixteen percent (16.3%) of respondents are retired, followed by 12.9% of respondents who are currently employed part-time. Over four percent (4.5%) of respondents are unemployed, but seeking work, while 2.6% of respondents are unemployed, not seeking work. Two percent (2.1%) of respondents are students, and 1.9% of respondents are disabled.
- All 800 respondents were asked if they are currently employed in a job that is appropriate for their training, experience, and education. Sixty-six percent (66.3%) of respondents feel that they are currently employed in a job that is appropriate. Fourteen percent (13.8%) of respondents said that they are retired. Four percent (4.0%) of respondents are unemployed, followed by 3.6% of respondents who are students.
- Respondents who are currently employed, full-time or part-time, were asked what sector they work in. Twenty-seven percent (27.2%) of respondents work in the service/retail sector, followed by 24.9% of respondents who work in industry/management. Three percent (3.4%) of respondents work in the agricultural sector, and 2.5% of respondents work in nonprofit.



- Currently employed respondents were also asked if they work in Porter County, another Indiana county, or in another state. Seventy percent (70.0%) of respondents work in Porter County, while 25.5% of respondents work in another Indiana county, and 3.4% of respondents work in another state.
- Over forty-one percent (41.6%) of respondents rated the quality of life in Porter County as good, followed by 26.0% of respondents who rated the quality of life as very good. Fourteen percent (14.4%) of respondents rated the quality of life as fair, and 14.1% rated the quality of life as excellent. Only two percent (2.3%) of respondents rated the quality of life in Porter County as poor.
- Twenty-four percent (24.1%) of respondents identified schools as one of the top three strengths of Porter County, followed by 18.0% of respondents who identified people/family as one of the top three strengths. Eleven percent (11.3%) of respondents said community/neighborhoods was a top strength of Porter County, and 9.6% of respondents named location as one of the top three strengths of Porter County.
- Twenty-two percent (21.9%) of respondents identified employment as one of the three most significant issues facing Porter County, followed by 20.2% of respondents who named substance abuse as one of the three most significant issues. Eighteen percent (17.8%) of respondents named health care as one of the most significant issues, and 16.3% of respondents named schools/education as one of the three most significant issues.
- Over eight percent (8.5%) of respondents named health care as the most significant issue facing their family, followed by 6.4% of respondents who named employment as the most significant family issue. Six percent (6.0%) of respondents identified schools/education as the most significant issue to their family, and 5.5% of respondents said senior citizen concerns are the most significant issue facing their family.
- Over fifty-two percent (52.4%) of respondents feel that the building and development in Porter County has been beneficial, while 22.5% of respondents do not feel that the building and development has been beneficial. Twenty-five percent (25.1%) of respondents were unsure.



- Respondents were asked to rate several areas on a scale of 1 to 4, where 1 indicates not a concern, and 4 indicated major concern. The three areas of most concern are: underage drinking, alcohol and/or drug abuse, and cost of prescription drugs.
- The areas of least concern to respondents are: availability of organized recreational programs, illiteracy, homelessness, and emergency response time.
- Thirty-eight percent (37.9%) of respondents rated their health as good, while 26.1% of respondents rated their health as very good. Twenty percent (20.3%) of respondents rated their health as excellent, while only 1.6% rated their health as poor.
- Respondents were asked if they have any kind of health coverage, including health insurance, prepaid plans, or government plans. Seventy-five percent (74.9%) of respondents said that yes, they do have some kind of health coverage, while 24.4% of respondents do not have health coverage.
- Sixty-one percent (60.9%) of respondents have not volunteered their time in the past year, while 38.5% of respondents have volunteered their time in the past year.
- Forty percent (39.9%) of respondents have volunteered for religious organizations in the past year, followed by 25.0% of respondents who volunteered for schools. Only five percent (4.9%) of respondents have volunteered with United Way.
- Ninety percent (90.3%) of respondents were able to give a number of hours that they volunteered, while 9.7% of respondents were unsure of the number of hours they volunteer each month.
- Sixty-nine percent (68.9%) of respondents have made a contribution to a charitable organization in the past year, while 30.6% of respondents have not.





Sharon Kish, President of United Way of Porter County, has requested that Perspectives Consulting Group, Inc. assist United Way of Porter County and the Porter County Community Foundation in completing a community needs assessment.

In order to obtain an understanding of these issues, a telephone survey of Porter County residents was conducted in June and July 2007. The objectives for this survey include:

1. Identify attitudes and perceptions of residents about the quality of life in Porter County.
2. Measure level of concern regarding social issues in Porter County
3. Understand community perception and opinions related to building and development, health care, employment, and charitable giving and volunteering
4. Collect basic demographic data so the survey results can be evaluated across demographic categories such as gender, age, township, household income, etc.

There are two main sections to the report, **Survey Results** and **Conclusions**. The **Survey Results** include the responses to all of the survey questions, generally grouped into categories. The **Conclusions** section outlines some of the implications of the research based upon the survey findings.





The 2007 Needs Assessment Citizen Survey consisted of 79 questions. Topics included issues facing Porter County, areas of concern to Porter County residents, recent building and development in Porter County, and volunteering and charitable contributions, as well as basic demographic information.

The questions included various types of formats including yes/no, open-ended response, and pre-defined choices. The survey was developed based on input from United Way of Porter County. Perspectives Consulting Group, Inc. assembled and ordered the survey questions. The survey instrument is included for reference in the **Appendices**.

The survey was conducted with residents of Porter County. A total of 800 completed surveys were obtained from residents living in Porter County. Surveys were completed in the following prefixes: 395, 464, 465, 476, 477, 510, 531, 546, 548, 646, 690, 696, 728, 762, 763, 764, 766, 787, 872, 873, 874, 879, 921, 926, 929, 940, 942, 962, 963, 986, 988, 989, and 996.

Households were randomly selected and contacted until 800 surveys were completed. Surveys were only completed with adults age 18 or over.

The survey interviewing took place in June and July 2007, between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. Central Time on weekdays. A pretest of 34 surveys was completed, with no significant difficulties or problems noted. These pretest surveys are included in the final results. The survey took approximately ten minutes to complete.

Based on the number of households in Porter County, and the number of survey completions, a confidence level and confidence interval can be calculated. In statistical terms, the confidence level is the likelihood that if the survey were replicated, the results would be the same. The confidence level for this survey was 95 percent, meaning that 95 times out of 100, this survey would produce substantially the same results as achieved this time.

Survey Instrument

Survey Execution

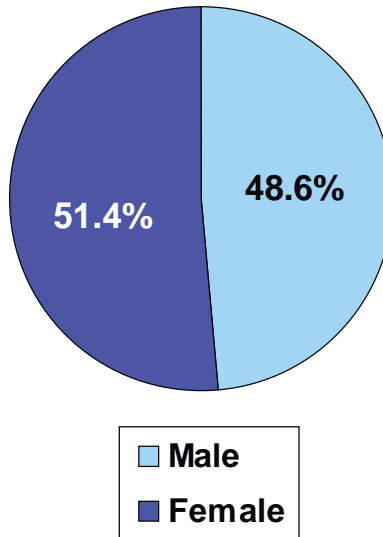


**Survey
Execution -
continued**

The confidence interval is the range that any answer could vary from the actual value. This is the +/- xxx percent" margin of error value that pollsters reference. In this case, the United Way of Porter County 2007 Citizen Survey has a confidence interval of +/- 4 percent. Therefore, the answer to any question on the survey is within plus, or minus 4 percent of the actual value. When comparing two responses to the same question, any difference of less than 8 percent needs to be examined carefully, since statistically the difference could be considered negligible.



Of the 800 respondents who completed the 2007 Citizen Survey, 51.4% were female, and 48.6% were male. This is close to the population of Porter County, which is 50.9% female, and 49.1% male.



Respondent Profile

Chart 1
Gender of Respondent

Respondents were also asked to provide their age. Twenty-two percent (22.0%) of respondents are age 35 to 44, closely followed by 21.3% of respondents who are age 45 to 54. Fifteen percent (14.8%) are age 65 and over, and 13.3% of respondents are age 18 to 24. Two respondents (0.3%) refused to provide their age.

Age	% Respondents	2000 Census
18 to 24	13.3%	13.5%
25 to 34	16.0%	16.4%
35 to 44	22.0%	22.2%
45 to 54	21.3%	21.0%
55 to 64	12.5%	12.4%
65 and over	14.8%	14.6%
Refused/NA	0.3%	

Chart 2
Age of Respondent



Respondent Profile - continued

When asked to provide information about household income, 21.4% of respondents indicated that they have a household income of \$50,000 to \$74,999, followed by 21.3% of respondents with a household income below \$25,000. Twelve percent (12.1%) of respondents have a household income of \$100,000 and over, and 6.5% of respondents refused to provide this information.

Chart 3
Household Income

Household Income	% Respondents	2000 Census
Below \$25,000	21.3%	19.8%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	14.3%	10.4%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	13.5%	15.4%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	21.4%	26.2%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	11.0%	15.2%
\$100,000 and over	12.1%	12.9%
Refused/NA	6.5%	

Respondents were also asked if anyone in their household receives public assistance. Responses total more than 100%, as respondents were able to name all types of public assistance received. Eighty-four percent (84.0%) of respondents do not receive any public assistance. Six percent (5.9%) of respondents receive Medicare, closely followed by 5.8% of respondents who receive Medicaid. Three respondents (0.4%) receive other forms of public assistance, and 1.5% of respondents were unsure.

Chart 4
Public Assistance

Public Assistance	% Respondents
None	84.0%
Medicare	5.9%
Medicaid	5.8%
Supplemental Security Income	5.0%
Food stamps	4.4%
Disability Insurance	3.1%
Other assistance	0.4%
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	0.1%
Unsure/NA	1.5%

**Responses total more than 100% as respondents could list more than one response.*



Respondents who receive other types of public assistance were asked what types. Responses given include:

2 Respondents
Unemployment

1 Respondent
Grants

Respondent Profile - continued

Respondents were asked to identify their primary race or ethnic background. Ninety percent (89.9%) of respondents are White/Caucasian. Six percent (5.9%) of respondents are African American/Black, and 2.5% of respondents are Hispanic. Five respondents (0.6%) are multi-racial, and two respondents (0.3%) are American Indian/Native American. One percent (0.9%) of respondents were unsure of their ethnic background.

Primary Ethnic Background	% Respondents	2000 Census
White/Caucasian	89.9%	95.3%
African American/Black	5.9%	0.9%
Hispanic	2.5%	4.8%
Multi-racial	0.6%	1.3%
American Indian/Native American	0.3%	0.2%
Unsure/NA	0.9%	

Chart 5
Ethnic Background

Respondents were asked if they rent or own their residence. Over seventy percent (70.6%) of respondents own their residence, and 21.4% of respondents rent their residence, compared to the 2000 Census in which 76.7% of respondents own their home. Eight percent (8.0%) of respondents refused to provide this information.

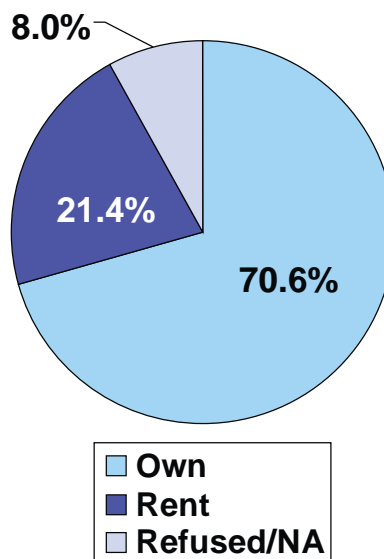


Chart 6
Rent or Own Residence



Respondent Profile - continued

Respondents were also asked how long they have lived in Porter County. Over twenty-nine percent (29.5%) of respondents have lived in Porter County for 21 years or more, followed by 26.6% of respondents who have lived in Porter County for 11 to 20 years. Eleven percent (11.4%) of respondents have lived in Porter County for 1 to 3 years, and only 4.6% of respondents have lived in Porter County for less than one year. Two respondents (0.3%) were unsure of how long they have lived in Porter County.

Chart 7
Years Lived in Porter County

Years Lived in Porter County	% Respondents
Less than 1 year	4.6%
1 to 3 years	11.4%
4 to 6 years	13.9%
7 to 10 years	13.8%
11 to 20 years	26.6%
21 years or more	29.5%
Unsure/NA	0.3%

Chart 8
Community

Community	% Respondents
Valparaiso	47.2%
Portage	24.0%
Porter	8.2%
Chesterton	6.4%
Hebron	4.9%
Kouts	3.6%
Michigan City	1.4%
Crown Point	0.8%
Hobart	0.5%
Beverly Shores	0.4%
Burns Harbor	0.4%
Lakes of the Four Seasons	0.4%
Dune Acres	0.3%
Westville	0.3%
Refused/NA	1.3%

Respondents were asked several questions regarding the area in which they live. When asked which community they live in, 47.2% of respondents said that they live in Valparaiso, followed by 24.0% of respondents who live in Portage. Eight percent (8.2%) of respondents live in Porter, and 6.4% of respondents live in Chesterton. Only two respondents each live in the communities of Dune Acres and Westville (0.3% each).



Respondents were also asked which school district they live in. Over thirty-seven percent (37.6%) of respondents live in the Valparaiso School District, followed by 26.0% of respondents who indicated the school district of Portage Township. Over seven percent (7.5%) of respondents live in the school district of Porter Township, and 6.5% of respondents live in the Duneland School District. Four percent (3.8%) of respondents provided other responses, and 11.9% of respondents were unsure of which school district they live in.

Respondent Profile - continued

School District	% Respondents
Valparaiso	37.6%
Portage Township	26.0%
Porter Township	7.5%
Duneland	6.5%
M.S.D. Boone Township	3.1%
East Porter County	2.5%
Union Township	0.1%
Home schooled	0.1%
Other	3.8%
Refused/NA	11.9%

Chart 9
School District

Other school districts named include:

6 Respondents

Chesterton

5 Respondents

Elston

Westchester

4 Respondents

Boone Grove

2 Respondents

Center

Liberty

1 Respondent

Brummet

Hebron

Morgan

Morgan Township

River Forest

Wheeler



Respondent Profile - continued

When asked what township they live in, 26.6% of respondents said that they live in Portage Township. Sixteen percent (16.0%) of respondents live in Porter Township, followed by 15.0% of respondents who live in Center Township. Two percent (2.1%) of respondents live in Union Township, and only one percent (1.0%) of respondents live in Morgan Township. Seven percent (7.4%) of respondents were unsure of which township they live in.

Chart 10
Township

Township	% Respondents
Portage	26.6%
Porter	16.0%
Center	15.0%
Washington	7.6%
Liberty	5.5%
Pine	4.9%
Westchester	4.1%
Jackson	3.6%
Boone	3.3%
Pleasant	2.9%
Union	2.1%
Morgan	1.0%
Unsure/NA	7.4%

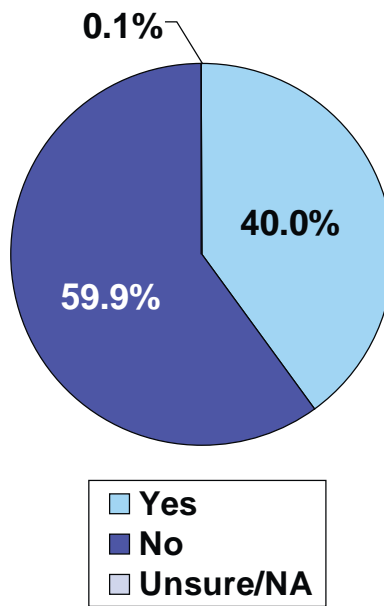
Respondents were asked to identify their marital status. Fifty-five percent (54.9%) of respondents are married, followed by 23.6% of respondents who are single. Over ten percent (10.6%) of respondents are divorced, and 7.1% of respondents are widowed. Two respondents (0.3%) refused to provide this information.

Chart 11
Marital Status

Marital Status	% Respondents
Married	54.9%
Single	23.6%
Divorced	10.6%
Widowed	7.1%
Living with a partner	2.3%
Separated	1.3%
Refused/NA	0.3%



Respondents were also asked if they had children over the age of 18. Sixty percent (59.9%) of respondents do not have children over the age of 18, and 40.0% of respondents do have children over the age of 18. One respondent (0.1%) was unsure.



Respondent Profile - continued

Chart 12
Children Over the Age of 18

Respondents with children over the age of 18 were asked if one or more of their children has moved outside of Porter County. Fifty-eight percent (58.1%) of respondents said that one or more of their children has moved outside of Porter County, and 41.3% of respondents said that their child/children have not moved outside of Porter County. Two respondents (0.6%) were unsure.

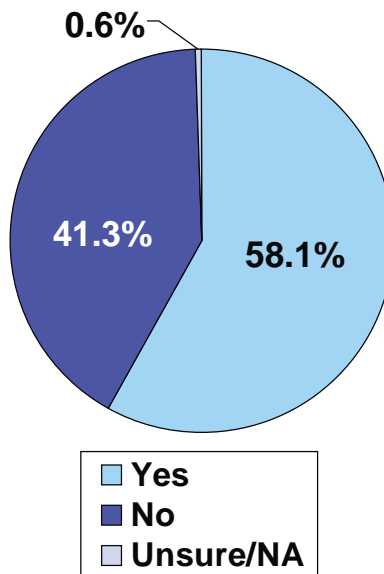


Chart 13
Children Moved Outside of Porter County

Respondents who indicated that one or more of their children had moved outside of Porter County were asked why. Responses given include:

64 Respondents
Job

35 Respondents
Education

16 Respondents
Own family



Respondent Profile - continued

12 Respondents
Never lived in Porter County

10 Respondents
Married

6 Respondents
Job and own family

5 Respondents
Education and job

4 Respondents
Don't like it here

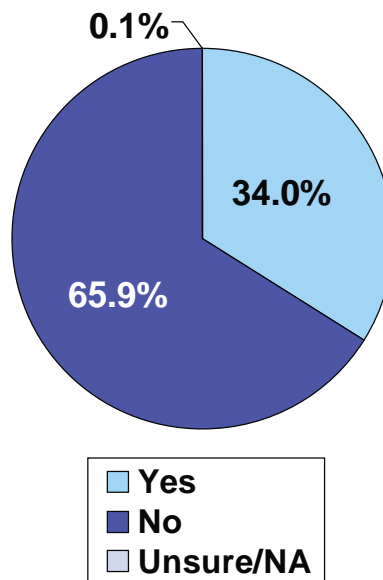
3 Respondents
Adult
Married and job

2 Respondents
Graduated
Job and military
Moved on
Too small of a town

1 Respondent
Adventure
Affordable housing, job
Financial reasons
Housing
Life changes
Live in Kansas
Live on border, but in Lake County
Medical
Military
More affordable housing
Moved
Moved with father
No reason
Not satisfied
Own interests
Personal reasons
Private
Service
Too boring, job
Wanted to go to California



Next, respondents were asked if they have children under the age of 18. Thirty-four percent (34.0%) of respondents have children under the age of 18, while 65.9% of respondents do not have children under the age of 18. One respondent (0.1%) was unsure.



Respondent Profile - continued

Chart 14
Children Under the Age of 18

Respondents who do have children under the age of 18 were asked if the biological mother and father of the children are both living in the household. Seventy-two percent (72.1%) of respondents said that both the biological mother and father are living in the household, while 20.6% of respondents said only the biological mother lives in the household. Over six percent (6.6%) of respondents said only the biological father lives in the household, and one respondent (0.4%) said neither biological parent lives in the household. One respondent (0.4%) was unsure.

Biological Parents Living in Household	% Respondents
Yes - both biological parents	72.1%
No - only biological mother	20.6%
No - only biological father	6.6%
No - neither biological parent/adopted	0.4%
Unsure/NA	0.4%

Chart 15
Parents Living in Household



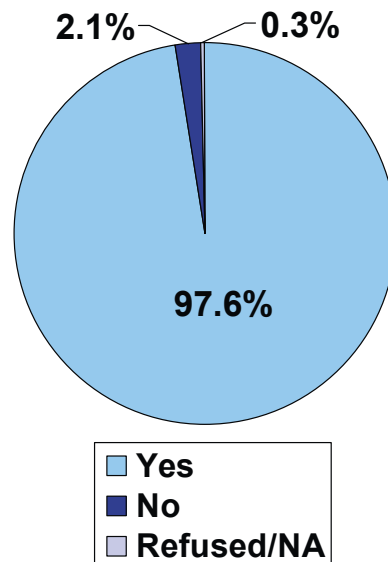
Respondent Profile - continued

Respondents were also asked about the level of education they have received. Over thirty-two percent (32.5%) of respondents are college graduates (4-year degree), while 30.5% of respondents are high school graduates. Twenty percent (20.3%) of respondents received some college education (no 4-year degree) and 8.1% of respondents have received post-graduate training. Over two percent (2.6%) of respondents have received less than a high school education, and 1.0% of respondents refused to provide this information.

Chart 16
Education Level

Education Level	% Respondents
Less than high school	2.6%
High school graduate or GED	30.5%
Business, technical, or vocational school	5.0%
Some college - no 4-year degree	20.3%
College graduate (4-year degree)	32.5%
Post-graduate training	8.1%
Refused/NA	1.0%

Chart 17
English Native Language



Respondents were also asked if English is their native language. Over ninety-seven percent (97.6%) of respondents said that yes, English is their native language, while 2.1% of respondents said that English is not their native language. Two respondents (0.3%) refused to provide this information.



Respondents were asked about their primary means of transportation. Over ninety percent (90.5%) of respondents indicated an automobile (car or truck) is their primary means of transportation. Five percent (5.0%) of respondents ride with a friend or relative, while 2.1% of respondents take the bus. Only one respondent (0.1%) uses a volunteer organization as their primary means of transportation.

Means of Transportation	% Respondents
Automobile	90.5%
Ride with a friend or relative	5.0%
Bus	2.1%
Walk	1.9%
Cab	0.4%
Volunteer organization	0.1%

Respondent Profile - continued

Chart 18

Primary Means of Transportation



Employment

When asked about their employment status, 52.9% of respondents indicated that they are currently employed full-time. Sixteen percent (16.3%) of respondents are retired, followed by 12.9% of respondents who are currently employed part-time. Over four percent (4.5%) of respondents are unemployed, but seeking work, while 2.6% of respondents are unemployed, not seeking work. Two percent (2.1%) of respondents are students, and 1.9% of respondents are disabled.

Chart 19
Employment Status

Employment Status	% Respondents
Currently employed full-time	52.9%
Retired	16.3%
Currently employed part-time	12.9%
Homemaker	6.9%
Unemployed, but seeking work	4.5%
Unemployed, not seeking work	2.6%
Student	2.1%
Disabled	1.9%



All 800 respondents were asked if they are currently employed in a job that is appropriate for their training, experience, and education. Of the 800 respondents, 574 are employed. Of the 574 employed respondents, 92.3% feel they are appropriately employed, while 7.7% are not appropriately employed. Fourteen percent (13.8%) of respondents said that they are retired. Four percent (4.0%) of respondents are unemployed and not seeking employment. Over five percent (5.5%) of respondents provided other responses as to why they are not currently employed in a job that is appropriate for their training, experience, or education, and 1.3% of respondents were unsure.

Other responses given for not being employed in a job that is appropriate include:

9 Respondents

*Can't find a job
Don't work*

5 Respondents

Unsure/NA

4 Respondents

Not appropriate training

2 Respondents

Laid-off

1 Respondent

*Because
Because job was cut
Can't find anything better
Could do better things
No higher paying jobs
No quality jobs
No work
Not employed because don't have license
Over-trained, MA degree
Quit working
Retired, working part-time
Social Security
Student, work part-time
Taking time off
That's personal*

Appropriately Employed	% Respondents
Employed	71.8%
Appropriately	92.3%
Not appropriately	7.7%
Unemployed	5.9%
Seeking employment	1.9%
Not seeking employment	4.0%
Retired	13.8%
Homemaker	3.6%
Disabled	1.9%
Student	1.9%
Unsure/NA	1.3%

Employment - continued

Chart 20
Appropriately Employed



Employment - continued

There are no demographic categories with a significantly higher percentage of respondents who are employed appropriately.

Demographic categories with significantly lower percentages of respondents who are employed appropriately include: age 65 and over (60.7%), M.S.D. Boone Township School District (75.0%), Boone Township (83.3%), Morgan Township (80.0%), widowed (58.8%), divorced (83.3%), living with a partner (81.3%), less than high school education (66.7%), high school graduate or GED (83.5%), retired (50.0%), unemployed but seeking work (26.7%), and household income below \$25,000 (67.5%).

Respondents who are currently employed, full-time or part-time, were asked what sector they work in. Twenty-seven percent (27.2%) of respondents work in the service/retail sector, followed by 24.9% of respondents who work in industry/management. Three percent (3.4%) of respondents work in the agricultural sector, and 2.5% of respondents work in nonprofit. Seven respondents (1.3%) refused to provide this information.

Chart 21
Work Sector

Work Sector	% Respondents
Service/Retail	27.2%
Industry/Management	24.9%
Medical	12.9%
Financial/Insurance	10.6%
Education	10.6%
Government	6.5%
Agricultural	3.4%
Nonprofit	2.5%
Refused/NA	1.3%



Currently employed respondents were also asked if they work in Porter County, another Indiana county, or in another state. Seventy percent (70.0%) of respondents work in Porter County, while 25.5% of respondents work in another Indiana county. Three percent (3.4%) of respondents work in another state, and six respondents (1.1%) refused to provide this information.

Employment - continued

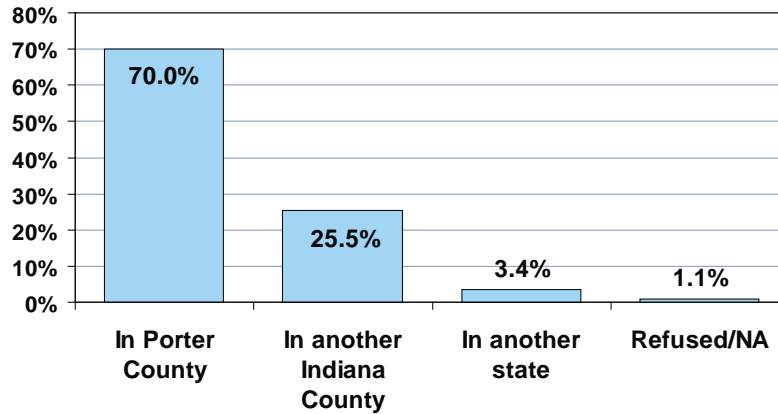


Chart 22
Where Work

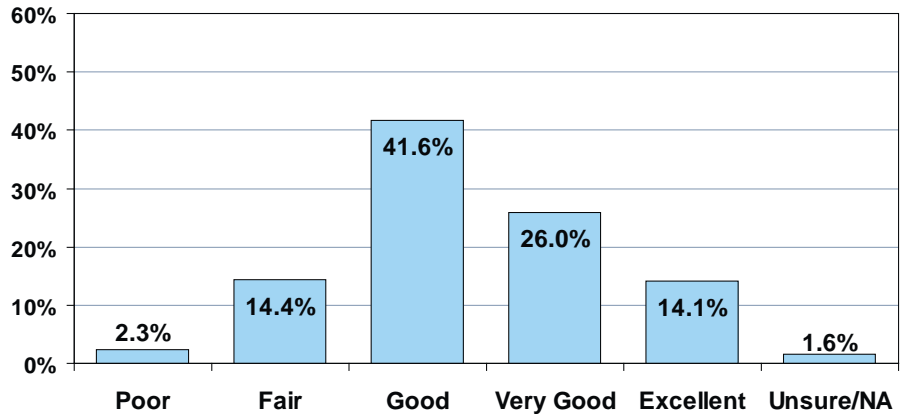


Quality of Life in Porter County

Respondents were asked how they would rate the quality of life in Porter County. Averages were then calculated on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 indicates poor and 5 indicates excellent.

How would you rate the quality of life in Porter County? (787 respondents – 3.36 average)

Chart 23
Quality of Life



Over forty-one percent (41.6%) of respondents rated the quality of life in Porter County as good, followed by 26.0% of respondents who rated the quality of life as very good. Fourteen percent (14.4%) of respondents rated the quality of life as fair, and 14.1% rated the quality of life as excellent. Only two percent (2.3%) of respondents rated the quality of life in Porter County as poor, and 1.6% of respondents were unsure.

Demographic categories with a significantly higher average include: females (3.46), household income \$50,000 to \$74,999 (3.49), household income \$75,000 to \$99,999 (3.57), household income \$100,000 and over (3.84), homemakers (3.63), college graduate (3.58), post-graduate training (3.89), married (3.47), Liberty Township (3.68), Pine Township (4.22), and homeowners (3.49).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower average include: males (3.26), household income below \$25,000 (3.11), household income \$25,000 to \$34,999 (3.16), students (2.94), unemployed, but seeking work (2.94), less than high school education (2.43), high school graduate or GED (3.05), divorced (3.09), separated (2.90), Portage Township (3.20), renters (3.01), and age 25 to 34 (3.18).



Respondents were next asked to identify the top three strengths of Porter County. Twenty-four percent (24.1%) of respondents identified schools as one of the top three strengths of Porter County, followed by 18.0% of respondents who identified people/family as one of the top three strengths. Eleven percent (11.3%) of respondents said community/neighborhoods was a top strength of Porter County, and 9.6% of respondents named location as one of the top three strengths of Porter County. Forty-one percent named other strengths, and 26.0% were unsure of any strengths of Porter County.

Quality of Life in Porter County - continued

Chart 24
Strengths of Porter County

Porter County Strengths	Total % Respondents	Top Strength % Respondents	Second Strength % Respondents	Third Strength % Respondents
Schools	24.1%	10.6%	8.6%	4.9%
People/Family	18.0%	5.9%	8.0%	4.1%
Community/Neighborhoods	11.3%	6.0%	2.7%	2.6%
Location	9.6%	5.6%	2.4%	1.6%
Beaches/Lakes	8.6%	4.3%	2.3%	2.0%
Shopping	7.8%	2.1%	3.1%	2.6%
Employment	7.0%	2.6%	2.7%	1.7%
Parks	6.2%	1.9%	2.7%	1.6%
Rural	5.7%	3.3%	1.5%	0.9%
Close to Chicago	4.5%	2.0%	1.6%	0.9%
Clean	4.0%	2.1%	1.4%	0.5%
Good place to raise a family	3.3%	1.7%	1.1%	0.5%
Familiarity	3.1%	2.4%	0.4%	0.3%
Development	3.0%	0.7%	1.4%	0.9%
Economy	2.6%	1.4%	0.3%	0.9%
Environment	2.5%	1.0%	0.6%	0.9%
Cost of living	2.4%	1.3%	0.5%	0.6%
Police department	2.4%	1.3%	1.0%	0.1%
Low crime	2.2%	1.3%	0.5%	0.4%
Area	2.0%	0.5%	0.9%	0.6%
Business	1.7%	0.5%	0.9%	0.3%
Other	40.9%	15.6%	15.4%	9.9%
Unsure/NA		26.0%	40.0%	61.3%

Other strengths of Porter County named, but not shown in the chart, include:

Community

Big city feel (2 respondents)

Conservative community

Diversity (14 respondents)

Downtown

Ethics (8 respondents)

Friendly (8 respondents)

High school sports (2 respondents)



Quality of Life in Porter County - continued

Community - continued

History
Indiana Dunes (6 respondents)
Integrity of people
Ladies (2 respondents)
Middle-class community
More of a city
Not as much sprawl
Not crowded (13 respondents)
Not Gary or Chicago
Spirit (9 respondents)
Town (8 respondents)
Tri-town
University (4 respondents)
Young people (4 respondents)

Government

Local government (4 respondents)
Low taxes (22 respondents)

Employment/Economy

Opportunity (22 respondents)
Real estate (4 respondents)
Wealth (2 respondents)

Quality of Life

Activities (16 respondents)
Bars (3 respondents)
Churches (12 respondents)
City and country combined (3 respondents)
Entertainment (6 respondents)
Good theaters
Homelessness rate
Housing (12 respondents)
Lifestyle (7 respondents)
Nightlife (13 respondents)
Quality of life (2 respondents)
Quiet (11 respondents)
Restaurants (12 respondents)
Safe (12 respondents)
Small (18 respondents)
Traffic (3 respondents)

Services

Amenities
Cell phone service
Electric company
Fire department (4 respondents)
Healthcare (7 respondents)
Hospital (6 respondents)
Insurance
Police and firefighters
Public services (8 respondents)
Transportation (6 respondents)



Miscellaneous

Animals

Beauty (3 respondents)

Better than Lake County

Billy Homestead

County Fair (2 respondents)

Expo Center

Fourth of July

Infrastructure (2 respondents)

Like it (2 respondents)

No problems

Planning

Special Olympics

**Quality of Life in
Porter County -
continued**



Quality of Life in Porter County - continued

Respondents were also asked to identify the three most significant issues facing Porter County residents. Twenty-two percent (21.9%) of respondents identified employment as one of the three most significant issues facing Porter County, followed by 20.2% of respondents who named substance abuse as one of the three most significant issues. Eighteen percent (17.8%) of respondents named health care as one of the most significant issues, and 16.3% of respondents named schools/education as one of the three most significant issues. Thirty percent (30.0%) of respondents named other issues as being the three most significant facing Porter County, and 15.8% of respondents were unsure of any issues being the most significant to Porter County.

Chart 25
Significant Issues in Porter County

Porter County Significant Issues	Total % Respondents	Top Issue % Respondents	Second Issue % Respondents	Third Issue % Respondents
Employment	21.9%	14.0%	3.5%	4.4%
Substance abuse	20.2%	6.9%	7.4%	5.9%
Health care	17.8%	6.4%	6.7%	4.7%
Schools/education	16.3%	4.9%	7.4%	4.0%
Crime	14.2%	5.4%	5.4%	3.4%
Housing	13.7%	4.7%	4.7%	4.3%
Taxes	12.0%	8.4%	2.6%	1.0%
Roads	9.2%	4.5%	3.1%	1.6%
Transportation	8.4%	2.5%	3.0%	2.9%
Youth concerns	7.5%	1.6%	2.3%	3.6%
Growth	7.0%	5.0%	1.6%	0.4%
Senior citizens concerns	5.8%	1.4%	2.5%	1.9%
Poverty	4.1%	0.9%	1.6%	1.6%
Teen pregnancy	3.9%	0.5%	2.4%	1.0%
Property taxes	2.8%	2.5%	0.3%	0.0%
Child care	1.9%	0.3%	1.0%	0.6%
Mental health	1.7%	0.6%	0.5%	0.6%
Domestic violence	1.7%	0.3%	0.9%	0.5%
Unwed mothers	1.0%	0.0%	0.4%	0.6%
Hunger	0.7%	0.0%	0.4%	0.3%
Child abuse/neglect	0.5%	0.1%	0.1%	0.3%
Other	30.0%	13.4%	9.9%	6.7%
Unsure/NA		15.8%	32.4%	49.7%



Other significant issues facing Porter County not shown in the chart include:

Quality of Life in Porter County - continued

Business/Development

Competitiveness of stores not there
Construction (26 respondents)
Corporation of building highway
Downtown/Vacancies
Green space (2 respondents)
Influx of people (2 respondents)
Influx of people from Lake County
Influx of people from Lake County - criminal records
Influx of too many people in too many housing developments too quickly
Maintaining size
Room for new homes
Steel mills
Steel mine
Too much building (10 respondents)
Too many people (2 respondents)
Too many unwanted people moving in

Government

County commissions
Local government (21 respondents)
Ordinance violations
Too much spending on law enforcement
Voters

Health

Do not need another hospital
Hospital (3 respondents)
Need more hospitals

Employment/Economy

Attract and retain skilled workforce (2 respondents)
Businesses closing
Economy (4 respondents)
Finances
Inflation
Jobs that people actually want
Low income
Need for economic growth
Not enough business
Skilled work force
Wealth

Quality of Life

Boring
Congestion
Cost of living (4 respondents)
Crappy town
Crowded
Entertainment (3 respondents)
Gas prices (2 respondents)
Highway 6 traffic



Quality of Life in Porter County - continued

Quality of Life - continued

Income
Lack of entertainment (2 respondents)
Lack of movie theater
Lack of women
More shopping (4 respondents)
Nightlife (2 respondents)
No movie theater
No parks
No recreational activities
No tourism or entertainment
Noise level too high
Not having an airport
Not much to do (4 respondents)
Nothing changes
Population (7 respondents)
Property
Quality of life
Recreation (2 respondents)
Recreational facilities
Safety
Traffic (14 respondents)

Services

Duplication of services
Electrical wiring should be underground
Landfill (3 respondents)
NIPSCO
Parks
Police department (10 respondents)
Recycling (3 respondents)
Sidewalks
Trim trees around power lines
Utilities
Water (3 respondents)

Social Issues

Aging population is dictating public policy
Blacks moving in and causing problems
BP dumping
Discrimination by police
Diversity (4 respondents)
Environment
Environmental concerns
Gambling
Homelessness
How they deal with minorities
Immigration
Low income families moving in
Pollution (17 respondents)
Preserving environment
Urban sprawl (2 respondents)



Miscellaneous

- Backward state*
- Chicago influence*
- Community problems*
- Everything (2 respondents)*
- Infrastructure (5 respondents)*
- Latinos (2 respondents)*
- Need rain*
- People turning it into a liberal community*
- Planning (3 respondents)*
- RDA*
- Turning into Gary*

Next, respondents were asked to identify the most significant issue facing their family. Over eight percent (8.5%) of respondents named health care as the most significant issue facing their family, followed by 6.4% of respondents who named employment as the most significant family issue. Six percent (6.0%) of respondents identified schools/education as the most significant issue to their family, and 5.5% of respondents said senior citizen concerns are the most significant issue facing their family. Six percent (6.0%) of respondents named other issues as being the most significant to their family, and 44.6% of respondents were unsure of the most significant issue facing their family.

Significant Family Issues	% Respondents
Health care	8.5%
Employment	6.4%
Schools/education	6.0%
Senior citizens concerns	5.5%
Youth concerns	4.3%
Housing	4.1%
Taxes	4.1%
Transportation	2.3%
Crime	1.5%
Substance abuse	1.5%
Growth	1.4%
Roads	1.3%
Child care	0.9%
Property Taxes	0.8%
Poverty	0.3%
Teen pregnancy	0.3%
Domestic violence	0.3%
Child abuse/neglect	0.1%
Mental health	0.1%
Other	6.0%
Unsure/NA	44.6%

Chart 26
Significant Family Issue



Quality of Life in Porter County - continued

Other responses given as the most significant issue facing respondents' families include:

1050 North construction - open it up
Age (2 respondents)
Construction (3 respondents)
Cops harassing me
Cost of living (3 respondents)
Discrimination
Economy (2 respondents)
Entertainment
Finances (9 respondents)
Gas prices (2 respondents)
Green space (2 respondents)
Hospital
Income (3 respondents)
Insurance
Lake preservation
Local government (2 respondents)
Mexicans
No beaches
People moving in
Police department
Pollution (2 respondents)
Population
Recreation
Sidewalks
Social Security
Special needs children
War
Water

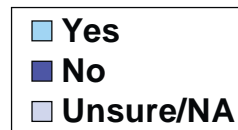
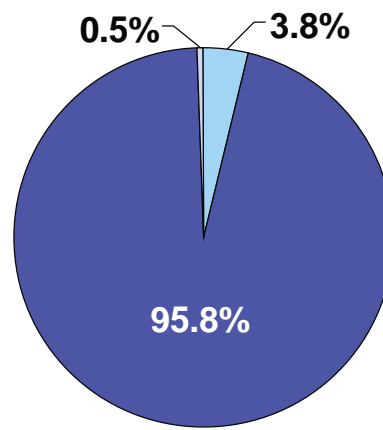


Respondents were asked if they had any other concerns that were not mentioned. Ninety-six percent (95.8%) of respondents had no other concerns, while 3.8% of respondents did have other concerns. Four respondents (0.5%) were unsure.

Respondents who had other concerns that were not mentioned were asked what those concerns were. Responses given include:

1 Respondent

- Bad roads*
- County commissioners are limiting people's property*
- Development*
- Gangs starting to form*
- Garbage in parks*
- Gay rights*
- Getting through the country to do things*
- Growth control*
- Healthcare for the elderly*
- High property taxes*
- Lack of accountable politicians*
- Level of taxes*
- Low income housing*
- More diversity*
- National security - immigration*
- Neighborhood watch needed*
- New traffic conditions*
- Overcrowding in schools*
- Overdevelopment of Porter County*
- Overwalk on Willow Creek by the K-Mart*
- Police brutality - police are out of control*
- Progress*
- Public transportation needs to match development*
- Roads*
- School system*
- School transportation being on time*
- Taxes*
- Taxes too low*
- Too many politicians that aren't for the people*
- Traffic*



Quality of Life in Porter County - continued

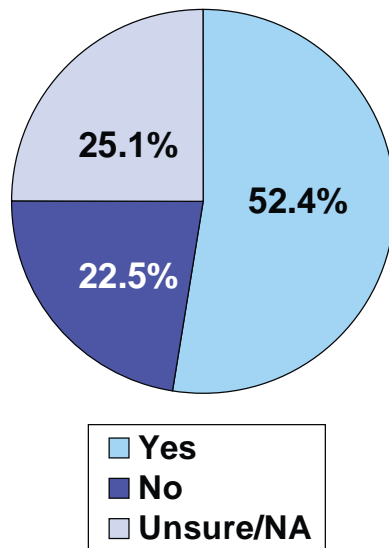
Chart 27

Other Concerns



Quality of Life in Porter County - continued

Chart 28
Building and Development Beneficial



Respondents were also asked if they feel that the building and development that has occurred in Porter County over that past few years is beneficial for the county. Over fifty-two percent (52.4%) of respondents feel that the building and development in Porter County has been beneficial, while 22.5% of respondents do not feel that the building and development has been beneficial. Twenty-five percent (25.1%) of respondents were unsure.

Demographic categories with a significantly higher percentage of respondents who feel that the building and development has been beneficial include: age 25 to 34 (64.1%), Duneland School District (63.5%), Jackson Township (93.1%), Pine Township (94.9%), Westchester Township (66.7%), college graduate (60.4%), post-graduate training (66.2%), African American/Black (61.7%), and household income \$100,000 and over (62.9%).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower percentage of respondents who feel that the building and development has been beneficial include: age 65 and over (31.4%), Portage Township (44.6%), Washington Township (32.8%), widowed (22.8%), divorced (43.5%), high school graduate or GED (40.2%), retired (32.3%), unemployed, but seeking work (41.7%), and household income below \$25,000 (37.1%).

Respondents who feel that the building and development has been beneficial were asked why. Responses given include:

- Building/Development**
- Buildings (2 respondents)*
- Construction jobs, an improvement*
- Convenience (3 respondents)*
- Create a stronger environment*
- Development*
- Development in Chesterton and Valparaiso*
- Development in rural areas*
- Development is a good thing*
- Diverse housing*
- Don't need hospital*
- Easy access to highways*
- Expand its empire, bringing in more people*
- Expands the area (4 respondents)*



Building/Development - continued

Expansion is usually a good thing (2 respondents)
Good for developing neighborhood
Good growth (10 respondents)
Growth (12 respondents)
Growth brings prosperity
Growth is inevitable
Growth, progress
Not having to travel as far for things
Progress (5 respondents)
Reduce all the congestion downtown
Traffic
Valparaiso needed recreational opportunity
Very positive in updating county
Widening streets is good
Without all new buildings, no new people

Community

Adds value to community
Beautified the area (13 respondents)
Brings in more people (8 respondents)
Brings in more young people (2 respondents)
Building community spirit
Cleaned up the cities
Community growth (14 respondents)
Diversity (11 respondents)
Good for community
Growing, but still lovely community
Helps community
Needed to handle influx of people
Upscale residents

Employment/Economy

Brings in jobs (85 respondents)
Brings in jobs, more homes (2 respondents)
Brings in more money (13 respondents)
Brings in more people to spend money (4 respondents)
Easier to get to places; more jobs
Economic growth (43 respondents)
Good for business (7 respondents)
Jobs bring money (3 respondents)
Keeps money in area
Larger tax base
Lots of stores
Made town stronger, Brings in money
More shopping (2 respondents)
More to do
Need more business
Residential economy
Revitalized downtown, shopping competitive
Shopping (4 respondents)
Shopping areas are being fixed
Shopping easier
Significant housing growth adds to tax base
Stores, new housing developments
Supports the area
Way behind, good economy



Quality of Life in Porter County - continued

Housing/Property

Good housing availability
Houses are good
Improves livelihood and house value
Low income housing
Lower cost homes
More houses and bring in taxes
More houses for upperclass
New homes
New homes bring more people
Property values go up
Subdivision growth

Taxes

Good for taxes
Improving tax base, growth
Lowers taxes
Tax base (2 respondents)
Tax structure
Taxes

Miscellaneous

Always a good thing
Always beneficial
As long as it doesn't go overboard
Because it is
Big improvement
Community and economic growth
Diversity, Economic growth
Doesn't matter
Drove me away from where we lived on a farm
Everything has been positive
Good slow pace
Haphazard
Has been positive
Hasn't hurt
Helpful
It doesn't matter, I'm old
Just enough
Lot of improvement
Maybe (3 respondents)
Need it (4 respondents)
Need to move ahead, improve infrastructure
No bad decision
Opportunity (21 respondents)
Orderly
Provides positive town spirit
Reason for living in Porter County
Saves driving
Services, schools
That's what I do
Unsure/NA (46 respondents)
Wealth (2 respondents)
Why I moved here (4 respondents)
Why I stayed in town
Will be good in a few years



Respondents who did not feel that the building and development over the past few years has been beneficial for Porter County were also asked why. Responses given include:

Quality of Life in Porter County - continued

Building/Development

Causes too many detours
Congestion (2 respondents)
Construction (7 respondents)
Didn't need \$30 million jail
Don't have capability for what city has undertaken
Effecting traffic and road conditions
Gotten out of hand
Growing too fast, too many closed buildings
Just takes up land
Losing a lot of wildlife
Losing green space and rural appeal (14 respondents)
Loss of farmland (3 respondents)
Money going towards beautification of city rather than people
Not much planning to mix commercial and residential building
Roads are terrible - becoming what people left other counties for
Ruined the county (3 respondents)
Taking away resources
Too much building, no green space
Too much growth (7 respondents)
Too much growth, too many are closed
Too much of a good thing - created an environment that people were trying to escape from
Too much time/Construction
Traffic (3 respondents)
Turning into Gary
Turning into too much city
Vacant buildings

Community

Bringing in bad people
Bringing in people that you don't want here
Bringing the quality of the town down
Brings in more people
Brought in unwanted citizens
Communities getting too big
Disabled environment
Doesn't help community (2 respondents)
Influx of too many people too fast
Overpopulated (4 respondents)
Schools not large enough
Too crowded (8 respondents)
Too many people flooding the area (2 respondents)
Urban sprawl

Employment/Economy

Costs too much (2 respondents)
Doesn't provide jobs (13 respondents)
Doing nothing for our income
Increases work load
Takes away from jobs (3 respondents)
Too many stores



Quality of Life in Porter County - continued

Housing

Crappy housing

In order to have a good community, you need home buying, not renters

Low income housing, too many businesses

Subdivisions everywhere - too close together

Subsidized housing

Too many homes in too little an area

Too many houses going up

Too many houses, no infrastructure, schools too crowded

Too many subdivisions

Too much expensive housing

Too much, too many cheap homes

Used to be country. Now many apartments; too many people.

Taxes

Infrastructure tax

Rising taxes (3 respondents)

Taxes have gone up, people are changing laws

Taxing existing tax base

Miscellaneous

A waste of money (2 respondents)

Annoying

Construction, population

Doesn't matter

Double-edged sword

Has not helped

Inflation

Insufficient

Money going towards Lake County

No infrastructure

Not affordable

Not controlled, no larger central plan

Not in the long-term

Not well planned (3 respondents)

Only for people that have money

Out of control

Should stay small

Taking too long

Taking up time and space

Terrible infrastructure

Too fast (6 respondents)

Too much (13 respondents)

Too much time and money

Unnecessary

Unsure/NA (13 respondents)



Respondents were asked to rate Porter County in a variety of different areas. Averages were then calculated on a scale of 1 to 4, where 1 indicates not a concern, and 4 indicates major concern.

Rating Porter County

Chart 29 Porter County Ratings

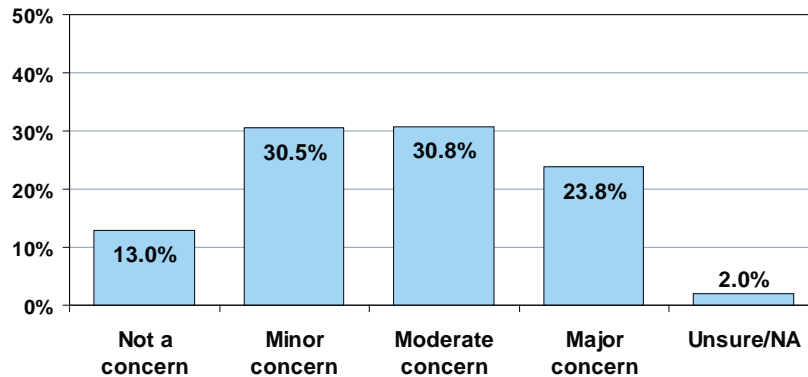
Rating Area	Average
Underage drinking	2.67
Alcohol and/or drug abuse	2.65
Cost of prescription drugs	2.58
Availability of living wage jobs	2.49
Availability of adequate medical insurance coverage	2.48
Availability of affordable medical care	2.46
Availability of jobs for people who want to work	2.40
Teen pregnancy	2.40
Quality of jobs	2.39
Preservation of green space	2.37
Unwed mothers	2.37
Water or air pollution	2.35
Cost of living in Porter County	2.34
Unemployment	2.31
Availability of affordable housing	2.29
Availability of job or technical training	2.29
Crime rate	2.24
Nutrition for school age children and the elderly	2.23
Smoking	2.20
Safety of the school environment	2.20
Racial or ethnic discrimination	2.18
Availability of public transportation	2.18
Domestic violence, abuse of children or adults	2.15
Gambling	2.10
Poverty	2.10
Availability of accessible medical care	2.07
Availability of adolescent mental health care	2.06
Drop out rate	2.04
Mental illness or emotional issues	2.02
Availability of affordable child care	2.00
Availability of affordable elder care	2.00
Availability of child care with flexible hours	1.98
Availability of affordable cultural activities	1.95
Availability of after-school programs	1.95
Availability of recreational facilities	1.94
Availability of emergency shelter	1.94
Availability of affordable legal help	1.94
Availability of affordable preschool programs	1.94
Availability of higher education	1.90
Availability of organized recreational programs	1.86
Illiteracy	1.86
Homelessness	1.83
Emergency response time	1.77



Rating Porter County - continued

Chart 30 Underage Drinking

Underage drinking (784 respondents – 2.67 average)



Thirty-one percent (30.8%) of respondents feel that underage drinking is a moderate concern, closely followed by 30.5% of respondents who feel that underage drinking is a minor concern. Twenty-four percent (23.8%) of respondents feel that underage drinking is a major concern, and 13.0% of respondents think that underage drinking is a not concern. Two percent (2.0%) of respondents were unsure.

Demographic categories with a significantly higher average include: females (2.80), household income of \$100,000 and over (3.00), business, technical or vocational school (3.00), married (2.76), homeowner (2.72), M.S.D. Boone Township School District (2.82), and age 65 and over (2.88).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower average include: males (2.52), household income below \$25,000 (2.51), Hispanic (2.05), student (2.24), high school graduate or GED (2.53), single (2.39), renter (2.44), age 18 to 24 (2.40), and age 25 to 34 (2.37).

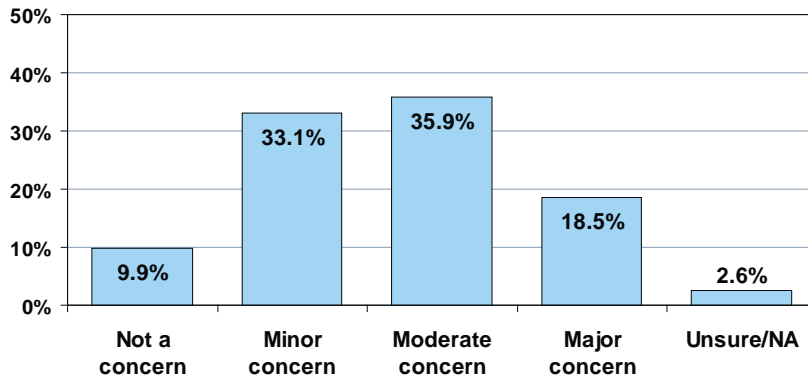
There is a strong correlation between the area "Underage drinking" and the following areas:

- Alcohol and/or drug abuse
- Smoking

The more respondents feel that underage drinking is a major concern, the more likely they were to feel that these areas are also major concerns.



Alcohol and/or drug abuse (779 respondents – 2.65 average)



Rating Porter County - continued

Chart 31
Alcohol and/or Drug Abuse

Thirty-six percent (35.9%) of respondents feel that alcohol and/or drug abuse is a moderate concern, followed by 33.1% of respondents who feel that alcohol and/or drug abuse is a minor concern. Over eighteen percent (18.5%) of respondents feel that alcohol and/or drug abuse is a major concern, and 9.9% feel that alcohol and/or drug abuse is not a concern. Over two percent (2.6%) of respondents were unsure.

Demographic categories with a significantly higher average include: females (2.76), some college (2.81), Portage Township (2.83), Portage Township School District (2.85), Union Township School District (3.25), and age 65 and over (2.92).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower average include: males (2.53), Hispanic (2.21), single (2.46), Porter Township (2.48), Valparaiso School District (2.48), and age 18 to 24 (2.43).

There is a strong correlation between the area “Alcohol and/or drug abuse” and the following areas:

- Underage drinking
- Smoking

The more respondents feel that alcohol and/or drug abuse is a major concern, the more likely they were to feel that these areas are also major concerns.

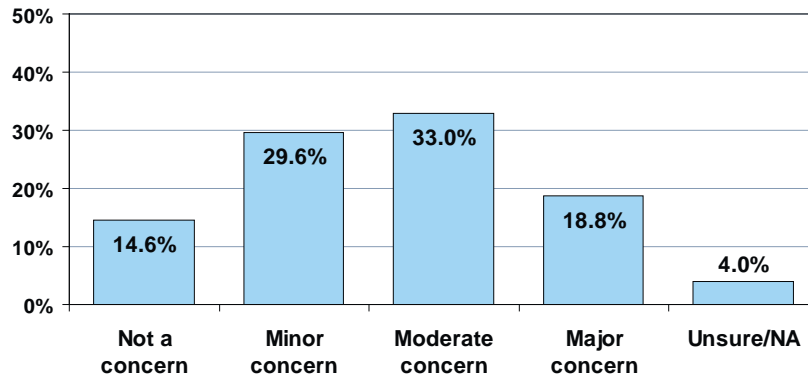


Rating Porter County - continued

Chart 32

Cost of Prescription Drugs

Cost of prescription drugs (768 respondents – 2.58 average)



Thirty-three percent (33.0%) of respondents said that the cost of prescription drugs is a moderate concern, followed by 29.6% of respondents said that the cost of prescription drugs is a minor concern. Nineteen percent (18.8%) of respondents said that the cost of prescription drugs is a major concern, and 14.6% of respondents think that the cost of prescription drugs is not a concern. Four percent (4.0%) of respondents were unsure.

Demographic categories with a significantly higher average include: females (2.70), retired (2.85), some college (2.77), widowed (2.89), divorced (2.81), Portage Township (2.71), age 55 to 64 (2.81), and age 65 and over (2.87).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower average include: males (2.46), household income \$75,000 to \$99,999 (2.32), household income \$100,000 and over (2.33), student (1.67), college graduate (2.37), single (2.26), Pine Township (2.26), Valparaiso School District (2.40), and age 18 to 24 (2.05).

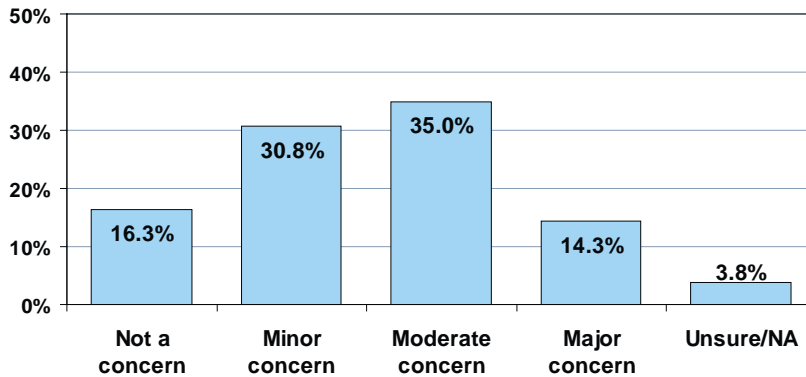
There is a strong correlation between the area “Cost of prescription drugs” and the following areas:

- Availability of adequate medical insurance coverage
- Availability of affordable medical care

The more respondents feel that the cost of prescription drugs is a major concern, the more likely they were to feel that these areas are also major concerns.



Availability of living wage jobs (770 respondents – 2.49 average)



Rating Porter County - continued

Chart 33
Availability of Living Wage Jobs

Thirty-five percent (35.0%) of respondents feel that the availability of living wage jobs is a moderate concern, followed by 30.8% of respondents who feel that the availability of living wage jobs is a minor concern. Sixteen percent (16.3%) of respondents feel that the availability of living wage jobs is not a concern, and 14.3% of respondents feel that it is a major concern. Four percent (3.8%) of respondents were unsure.

Demographic categories with a significantly higher average include: unemployed but seeking work (3.34), high school graduate or GED (2.63), divorced (2.85), Portage Township (2.67), M.S.D. Boone Township School District (2.96), Portage Township School District (2.62), renter (2.73), and age 45 to 54 (2.64).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower average include: college graduate (2.35), Jackson Township (1.71), Valparaiso School District (2.38), homeowner (2.38), and age 18 to 24 (2.30).

There is a strong correlation between the area "Availability of living wage jobs" and the following areas:

- Availability of jobs for people who want to work
- Availability of job or technical training

The more respondents feel that the availability of living wage jobs is a major concern, the more likely they were to feel that these areas are also major concerns.

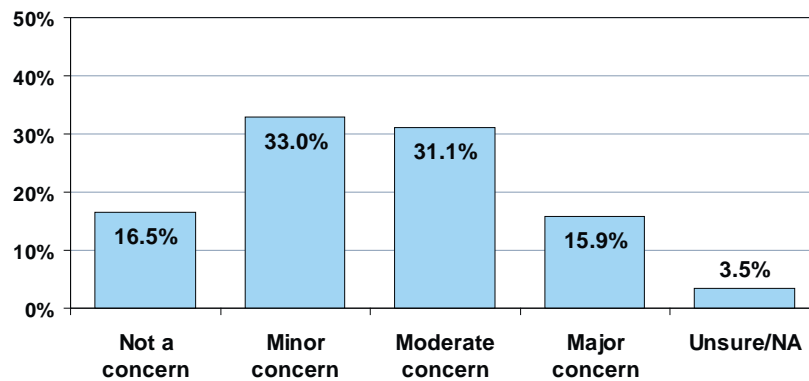


Rating Porter County - continued

Chart 34

Availability of Adequate Medical Insurance Coverage

Availability of adequate medical insurance coverage (772 respondents – 2.48 average)



Thirty-three percent (33.0%) of respondents feel that the availability of adequate medical insurance coverage is a minor concern, followed by 31.1% of respondents who feel that the availability of adequate medical insurance coverage is a moderate concern. Over sixteen percent (16.5%) of respondents feel that the availability of adequate medical insurance coverage is not a concern, and 15.9% of respondents feel that it is a major concern. Over three percent (3.5%) of respondents were unsure.

Demographic categories with a significantly higher average include: some college (2.68), widowed (2.79), divorced (2.69), M.S.D. Boone Township School District (3.04), age 45 to 54 (2.65), age 55 to 64 (2.71), and age 65 and over (2.68).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower average include: college graduate (2.26), single (2.19), Valparaiso School District (2.31), age 18 to 24 (1.98), and age 25 to 34 (2.22).

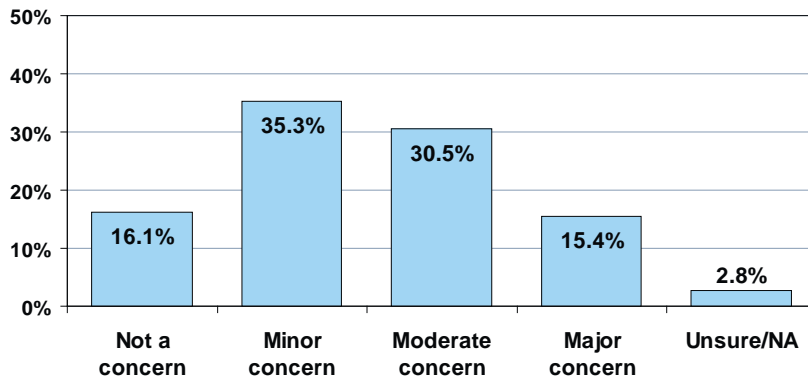
There is a strong correlation between the area “Availability of adequate medical insurance coverage” and the following areas:

- Cost of prescription drugs
- Availability of affordable medical care

The more respondents feel that the availability of adequate medical insurance coverage is a major concern, the more likely they were to feel that these areas are also major concerns.



Availability of affordable medical care (778 respondents – 2.46 average)



Rating Porter County - continued

Chart 35
Availability of Affordable Medical Care

Thirty-five percent (35.3%) of respondents feel that the availability of affordable medical care is a minor concern, followed by 30.5% of respondents who feel that the availability of affordable medical care is a moderate concern. Sixteen percent (16.1%) of respondents feel that the availability of affordable medical care is not a concern, and 15.4% of respondents feel that the availability of affordable medical care is a major concern. Three percent (2.8%) of respondents were unsure.

Demographic categories with a significantly higher average include: retired (2.65), some college (2.69), widowed (2.79), divorced (2.76), age 55 to 64 (2.72), and age 65 and over (2.70).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower average include: student (1.75), college graduate (2.20), single (2.12), and age 18-24 (2.70).

There is a strong correlation between the area “Availability of affordable medical care” and the following areas:

- Cost of prescription drugs
- Availability of adequate medical insurance coverage

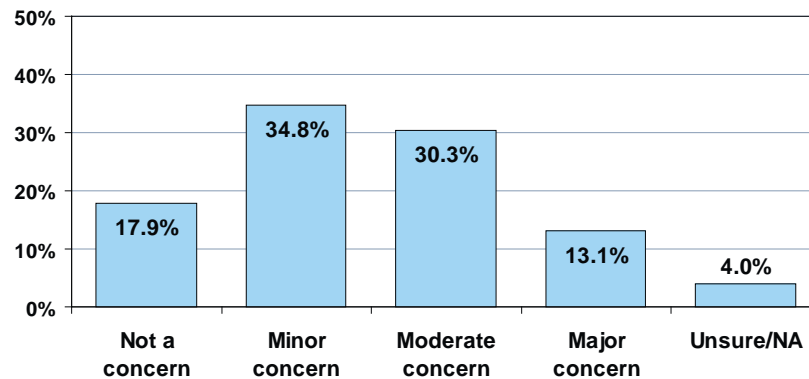
The more respondents feel that the availability of affordable medical care is a major concern, the more likely they were to feel that these areas are also major concerns.



Rating Porter County - continued

Chart 36
Availability of Jobs for People Who Want to Work

Availability of jobs for people who want to work (768 respondents – 2.40 average)



Thirty-five percent (34.8%) of respondents feel that the availability of jobs for people who want to work is a minor concern, while 30.3% of respondents feel that the availability of jobs for people who want to work is a moderate concern. Eighteen percent (17.9%) of respondents feel that the availability of jobs for people who want to work is not a concern, and 13.1% of respondents feel that it is a major concern. Four percent (4.0%) of respondents were unsure.

Demographic categories with a significantly higher average include: unemployed but seeking work (3.46), high school graduate or GED (2.56), divorced (2.77), Portage Township (2.64), Portage Township School District (2.58), renter (2.68), and age 45 to 54 (2.55).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower average include: Jackson Township (1.96), Liberty Township (2.00), Pine Township (2.03), Duneland School District (2.04), Valparaiso School District (2.27), homeowner (2.28) and age 18 to 24 (2.07).

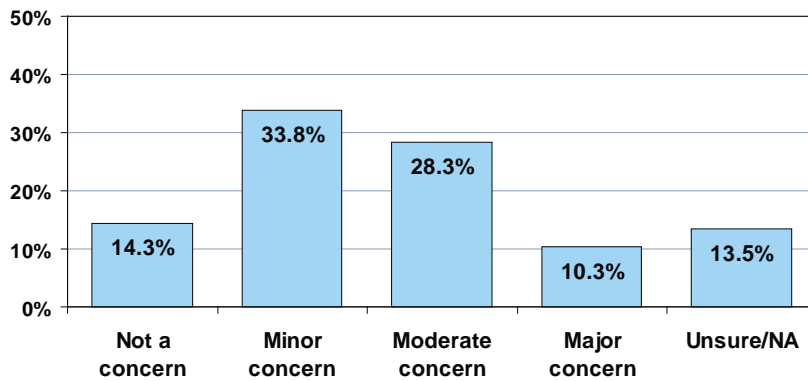
There is a strong correlation between the area “Availability of jobs for people who want to work” and the following areas:

- Unemployment
- Quality of jobs
- Availability of living wage jobs

The more respondents feel that the availability of jobs for people who want to work is a major concern, the more likely they were to feel that these areas are also major concerns.



Teen pregnancy (692 respondents – 2.40 average)



Rating Porter County - continued

Chart 37
Teen Pregnancy

Thirty-four percent (33.8%) of respondents feel that teen pregnancy is a minor concern, while 28.3% of respondents feel that teen pregnancy is a moderate concern. Fourteen percent (14.3%) of respondents feel that teen pregnancy is not a concern, and 10.3% of respondents feel that teen pregnancy is a major concern. Over thirteen percent (13.5%) of respondents were unsure.

Demographic categories with a significantly higher average include: females (2.52), Portage Township (2.58), and Portage Township School District (2.59).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower average include: males (2.27), student (1.75), Porter Township (2.18), Duneland School District (2.06), Valparaiso School District (2.28), and age 18 to 24 (2.14).

There is a strong correlation between the area “Teen pregnancy” and the following area:

- Unwed mothers

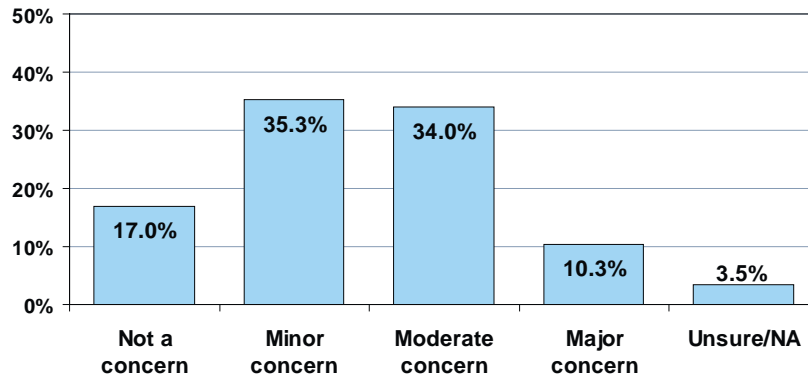
The more respondents feel that teen pregnancy is a major concern, the more likely they were to feel that unwed mothers are also a major concern.



Rating Porter County - continued

Chart 38
Quality of Jobs

Quality of jobs (772 respondents – 2.39 average)



Thirty-five percent (35.3%) of respondents feel that the quality of jobs is a minor concern, closely followed by 34.0% of respondents who feel that the quality of jobs is a moderate concern. Seventeen percent (17.0%) of respondents feel that the quality of jobs is not a concern, and 10.3% of respondents feel that the quality of jobs is a major concern. Over three percent (3.5%) of respondents were unsure.

Demographic categories with a significantly higher average include: unemployed but seeking work (3.08), unemployed not seeking work (2.84), high school graduate or GED (2.58), divorced (2.68), separated (3.00), Portage Township (2.53), M.S.D. Boone Township School District (2.76), renter (2.58), and age 45 to 54 (2.58).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower average include: retired (2.20), business, technical or vocational school (2.03), college graduate (2.27), post-graduate training (2.21), Jackson Township (1.79), Liberty Township (2.11), Pine Township (1.95), Duneland School District (2.12), Valparaiso School District (2.26), homeowners (2.30), and age 18 to 24 (2.16).

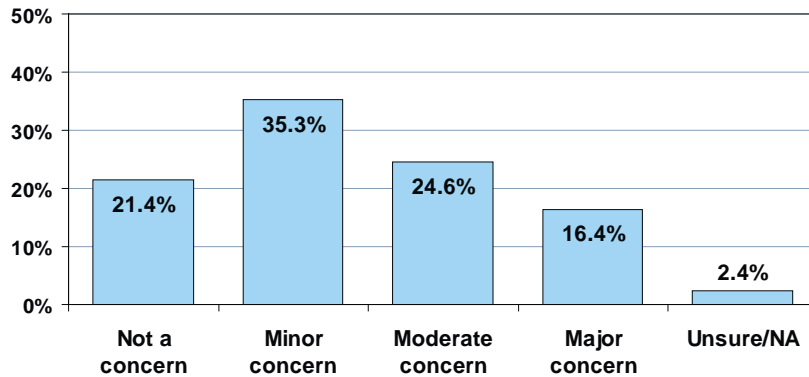
There is a strong correlation between the area “Quality of jobs” and the following areas:

- Availability of jobs for people who want to work
- Availability of living wage jobs

The more respondents feel that the quality of jobs is a major concern, the more likely they were to feel that these areas are also major concerns.



Preservation of green space (781 respondents – 2.37 average)



Rating Porter County - continued

Chart 39
Preservation of Green Space

Thirty-five percent (35.3%) of respondents feel that the preservation of green space is a minor concern, while 24.6% of respondents feel that the preservation of green space is a moderate concern. Twenty-one percent (21.4%) of respondents feel that the preservation of green space is not a concern, and 16.4% of respondents feel that it is a major concern. Two percent (2.4%) of respondents were unsure.

Demographic categories with a significantly higher average include: females (2.50), Westchester Township (2.88), and age 55 to 64 (2.64).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower average include: males (2.23), currently employed part-time (2.18), single (2.21), Pine Township (1.59), Valparaiso School District (2.24), and age 18 to 24 (2.04).

There is a strong correlation between the area "Preservation of green space" and the following area:

- Water or air pollution

The more respondents feel that preservation of green space is a major concern, the more likely they were to feel that water or air pollution is also a major concern.

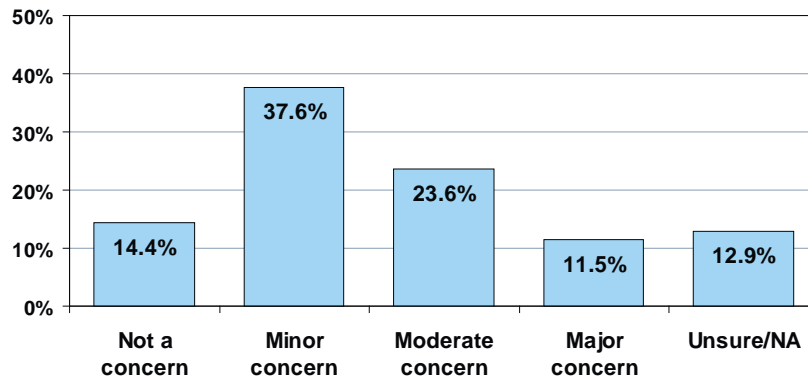


Rating Porter County - continued

Chart 40

Unwed Mothers

Unwed mothers (697 respondents – 2.37 average)



Over thirty-seven percent (37.6%) of respondents feel that unwed mothers are a minor concern, while 23.6% of respondents feel that unwed mothers are a moderate concern. Fourteen percent (14.4%) of respondents feel that unwed mothers are not a concern, and 11.5% of respondents feel that unwed mothers are a major concern. Thirteen percent (12.9%) of respondents were unsure.

Demographic categories with a significantly higher average include: females (2.52), Portage Township (2.57), Washington Township (2.69), M.S.D. Boone Township School District (2.84), Portage Township School District (2.57), and age 65 and over (2.59).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower average include: males (2.22), student (1.88), Center Township (2.19), Porter Township (2.19), Duneland School District (2.04), Valparaiso School District (2.24), and age 18 to 24 (2.11).

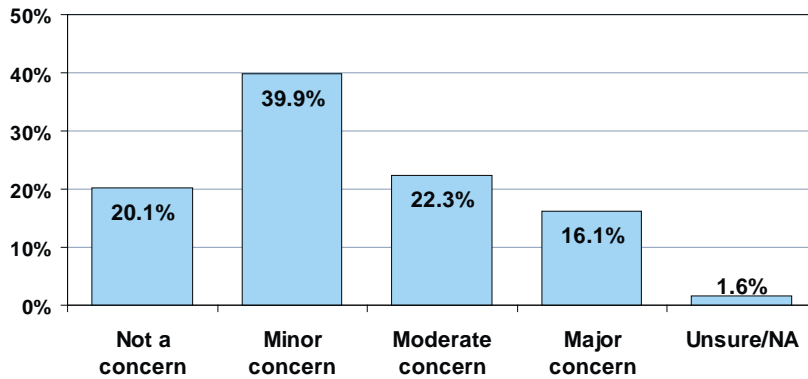
There is a strong correlation between the area “Unwed mothers” and the following areas:

- Teen pregnancy
- Gambling

The more respondents feel that unwed mothers are a major concern, the more likely they were to feel that these areas are also major concerns.



Water or air pollution (787 respondents – 2.35 average)



Rating Porter County - continued

Chart 41
Water or Air Pollution

Forty percent (39.9%) of respondents said that water or air pollution is a minor concern, while 22.3% of respondents feel that water or air pollution is a moderate concern. Twenty percent (20.1%) of respondents feel that water or air pollution is not a concern, and 16.1% of respondents feel that water or air pollution is a major concern. Over one percent (1.6%) of respondents were unsure.

Demographic categories with a significantly higher average include: females (2.45), unemployed but seeking work (2.86), Center Township (2.53), Westchester Township (2.79), age 45 to 54 (2.50), and age 55 to 64 (2.59).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower average include: males (2.25), single (2.17), Jackson Township (1.90), Pine Township (1.51), Porter Township (2.20), Valparaiso School District (2.17), and age 18 to 24 (2.02).

There is a strong correlation between the area “Water or air pollution” and the following area:

- Preservation of green space

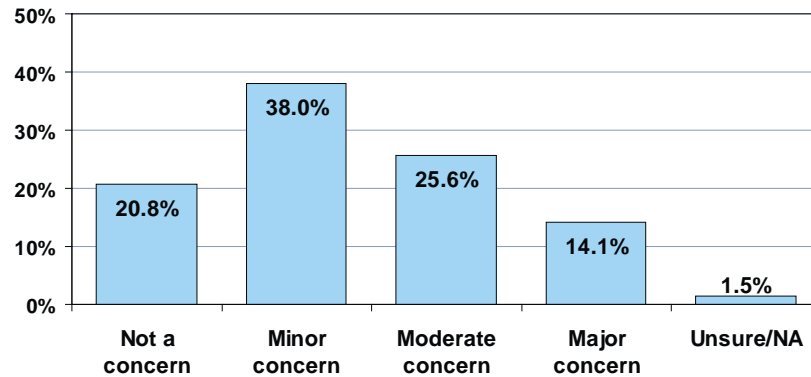
The more respondents feel that water or air pollution is a major concern, the more likely they were to feel that preservation of green space is also a major concern.



Rating Porter County - continued

Chart 42
Cost of Living in Porter County

Cost of living in Porter County (788 respondents – 2.34 average)



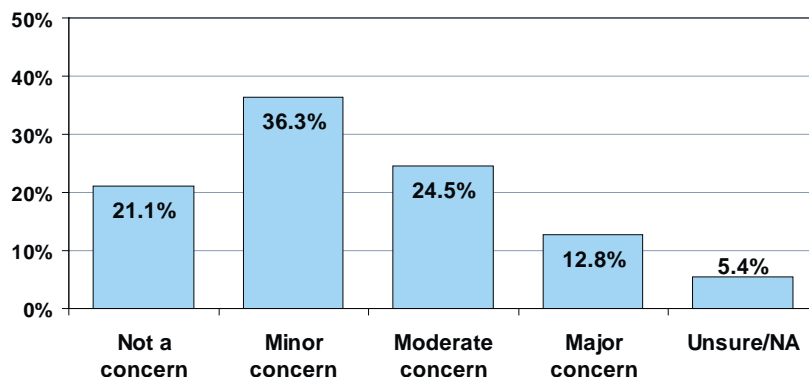
Thirty-eight percent (38.0%) of respondents said that the cost of living in Porter County is a minor concern, while 25.6% of respondents said that the cost of living is a moderate concern. Twenty-one percent (20.8%) of respondents feel that the cost of living in Porter County is not a concern, while 14.1% of respondents feel that the cost of living in Porter County is a major concern. Over one percent (1.5%) of respondents were unsure.

Demographic categories with a significantly higher average include: household income below \$25,000 (2.58), unemployed but seeking work (3.17), less than high school education (2.81), high school graduate or GED (2.55), divorced (2.67), Porter Township (2.50), and renter (2.64).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower average include: household income \$100,000 and over (1.98), college graduate (2.11), post-graduate training (2.05), married (2.22), Jackson Township (1.90), Pine Township (1.67), Washington Township (1.95), Valparaiso School District (2.20), and homeowner (2.23).



Unemployment (757 respondents – 2.31 average)



Rating Porter County - continued

Chart 43 Unemployment

Thirty-six percent (36.3%) of respondents feel that unemployment is a minor concern, while 24.5% of respondents feel that unemployment is a moderate concern. Twenty-one percent (21.1%) of respondents feel that unemployment is not a concern, and 12.8% of respondents feel that unemployment is a major concern. Five percent (5.4%) of respondents were unsure.

Demographic categories with a significantly higher average include: unemployed but seeking work (3.34), high school graduate or GED (2.56), divorced (2.65), separated (3.20), Portage Township (2.53), Porter Township (2.58), Portage Township School District (2.45), Porter Township School District (2.73), and renter (2.60).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower average include: household income \$35,000 to \$49,999 (2.13), household income \$75,000 to \$99,999 (2.10), business, technical or vocational school (1.95), college graduate (2.17), post-graduate training (2.06), married (2.21), Jackson Township (1.67), Liberty Township (1.84), Pine Township (1.51), Duneland School District (1.82), Valparaiso School District (2.18), homeowner (2.17), and age 18 to 24 (2.06).

There is a strong correlation between the area "Unemployment" and the following area:

- Availability of jobs for people who want to work

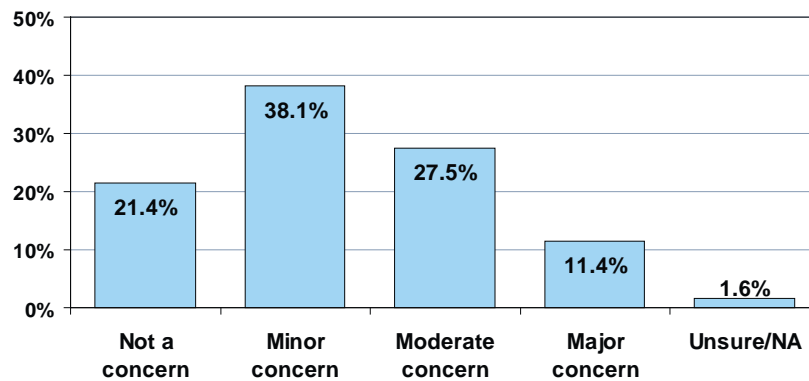
The more respondents feel that unemployment is a major concern, the more likely they were to feel that the availability of jobs for people who want to work is also a major concern.



Rating Porter County - continued

Chart 44
Availability of Affordable Housing

Availability of affordable housing (787 respondents – 2.29 average)



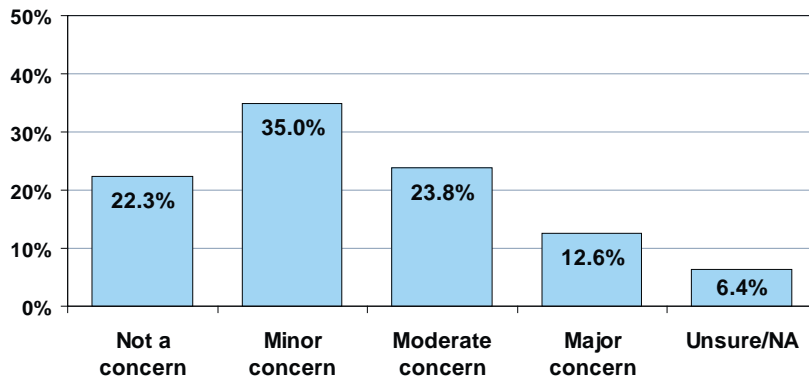
Thirty-eight percent (38.1%) of respondents feel that the availability of affordable housing is a minor concern, while 27.5% of respondents feel that the availability of affordable housing is a moderate concern. Twenty-one percent (21.4%) of respondents feel that the availability of affordable housing is not a concern, and 11.4% of respondents feel that it is a major concern. Over one percent (1.6%) of respondents were unsure.

Demographic categories with a significantly higher average include: household income below \$25,000 (2.45), household income \$25,000 to \$34,999 (2.46), unemployed but seeking work (2.89), less than high school education (2.80), high school graduate or GED (2.56), divorced (2.54), Center Township (2.49), renter (2.60), and age 55 to 64 (2.51).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower average include: household income \$75,000 to \$99,999 (2.03), household income \$100,000 and over (2.01), college graduate (1.98), post-graduate training (2.06), Jackson Township (1.78), Pine Township (1.64), Washington Township (1.93), and homeowner (2.18).



Availability of job or technical training (749 respondents – 2.29 average)



Rating Porter County - continued

Chart 45
Availability of Job or Technical Training

Thirty-five percent (35.0%) of respondents feel that the availability of job or technical training is a minor concern, while 23.8% of respondents feel that the availability of training is a moderate concern. Twenty-two percent (22.3%) of respondents feel that the availability of job or technical training is not a concern, and 12.6% of respondents feel that it is a major concern. Six percent (6.4%) of respondents were unsure.

Demographic categories with a significantly higher average include: unemployed but seeking work (3.00), unemployed not seeking work (2.74), divorced (2.70), separated (3.10), Boone Township (2.83), Portage Township (2.59), Washington Township (2.83), M.S.D. Boone Township School District (3.00), and Portage Township School District (2.53).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower average include: business, technical or vocational school (1.90), post-graduate training (2.06), Center Township (2.07), Jackson Township (1.46), Liberty Township (1.68), Pine Township (1.59), Duneland School District (1.84), Valparaiso School District (2.11), and age 18 to 24 (1.84).

There is a strong correlation between the area “Availability of job or technical training” and the following area:

- Availability of living wage jobs

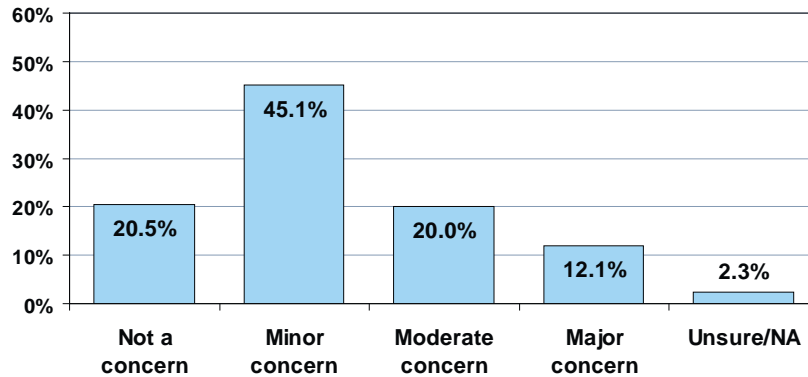
The more respondents feel that the availability of job or technical training is a major concern, the more likely they were to feel that the availability of living wage jobs is also a major concern.



Rating Porter County - continued

Chart 46
Crime Rate

Crime rate (782 respondents – 2.24 average)



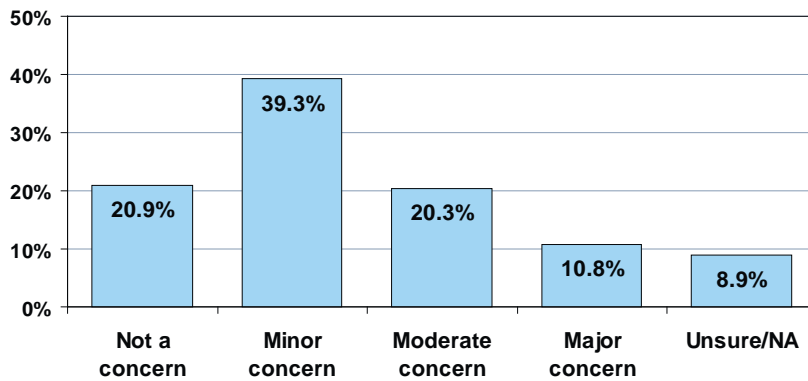
Forty-five percent (45.1%) of respondents feel that the crime rate is a minor concern. Over twenty percent (20.5%) of respondents feel that the crime rate is not a concern, closely followed by 20.0% of respondents who feel that the crime rate is a moderate concern. Twelve percent (12.1%) of respondents feel that the crime rate is a major concern. Two percent (2.3%) of respondents were unsure.

Demographic categories with a significantly higher average include: females (2.35), some college (2.46), and age 55 to 64 (2.52).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower average include: males (2.13), African American/Black (1.93), college graduate (2.06), post-graduate training (1.97), Pine Township (1.71), Washington Township (1.93), Valparaiso School District (2.07), and age 18 to 24 (2.01).



Nutrition for school age children and the elderly (729 respondents – 2.23 average)



Rating Porter County - continued

Chart 47

Nutrition for Children and the Elderly

Thirty-nine percent (39.3%) of respondents feel that nutrition for school age children and the elderly is a minor concern. Twenty-one percent (20.9%) of respondents feel that nutrition for school age children and the elderly is not a concern, closely followed by 20.3% of respondents who feel that nutrition is a moderate concern. Eleven percent (10.8%) of respondents feel that nutrition for school age children and the elderly is a major concern, and 8.9% of respondents were unsure.

Demographic categories with a significantly higher average include: females (2.32), have children under the age of 18 (2.35), and Portage Township (2.36).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower average include: males (2.14), student (1.44), no children under the age of 18 (2.16), single (1.97), East Porter County School District (1.70), and age 18 to 24 (1.91).

There is a strong correlation between the area “Nutrition for school age children and the elderly” and the following area:

- Availability of adolescent mental health care

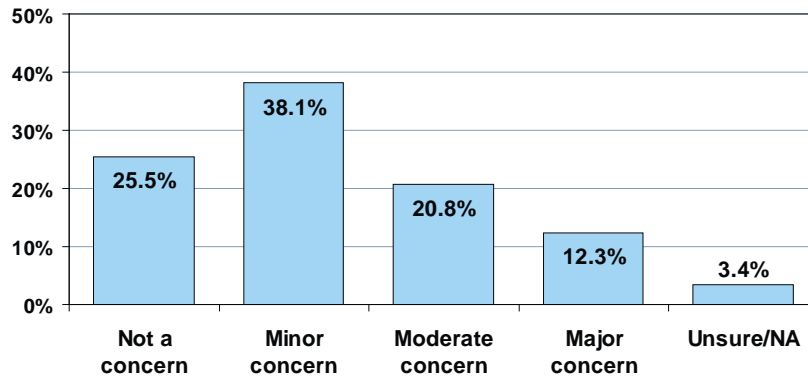
The more respondents feel that nutrition for school age children and the elderly is a major concern, the more likely they were to feel that the availability of adolescent mental health care is also a major concern.



Rating Porter County - continued

Chart 48
Smoking

Smoking (773 respondents – 2.20 average)



Thirty-eight percent (38.1%) of respondents feel that smoking is a minor concern, while 25.5% of respondents feel that smoking is not a concern. Twenty-one percent (20.8%) of respondents feel that smoking is a moderate concern, and 12.3% feel that smoking is a major concern. Three percent (3.4%) of respondents were unsure.

Demographic categories with a significantly higher average include: females (2.29), unemployed but seeking work (2.95), Westchester Township (2.63), age 55 to 64 (2.41), and age 65 and over (2.39).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower average include: males (2.11), Hispanic (1.79), some college (2.07), single (1.93), Pine Township (1.87), Washington Township (1.86), and age 18 to 24 (1.89).

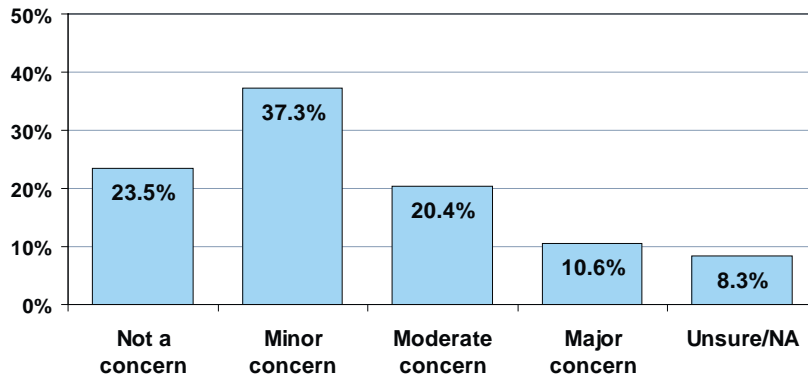
There is a strong correlation between the area “Smoking” and the following areas:

- Alcohol and/or drug abuse
- Underage drinking

The more respondents feel that smoking is a major concern, the more likely they were to feel that these areas are also major concerns.



Safety of the school environment (734 respondents – 2.20 average)



Rating Porter County - continued

Chart 49
Safety of the School Environment

Thirty-seven percent (37.3%) of respondents feel that the safety of the school environment is a minor concern, while 23.5% of respondents feel that the safety of the schools is not a concern. Twenty percent (20.4%) of respondents feel that the safety of the school environment is a moderate concern, and 10.6% of respondents feel that it is a major concern. Eight percent (8.3%) of respondents were unsure.

Demographic categories with a significantly higher average include: females (2.31), Portage Township (2.35), and M.S.D. Boone Township School District (2.73).

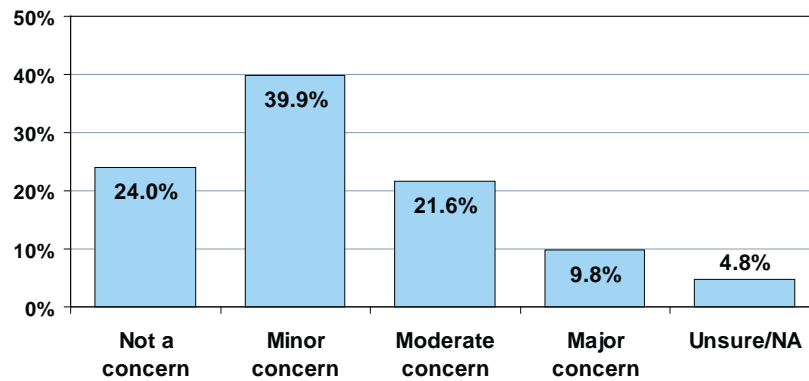
The demographic categories with a significantly lower average include: males (2.08), household income under \$25,000 (2.06), single (2.01), Washington Township (1.75), Valparaiso School District (2.07), and age 18 to 24 (2.01).



Rating Porter County - continued

Chart 50 Racial or Ethnic Discrimination

Racial or ethnic discrimination (762 respondents – 2.18 average)



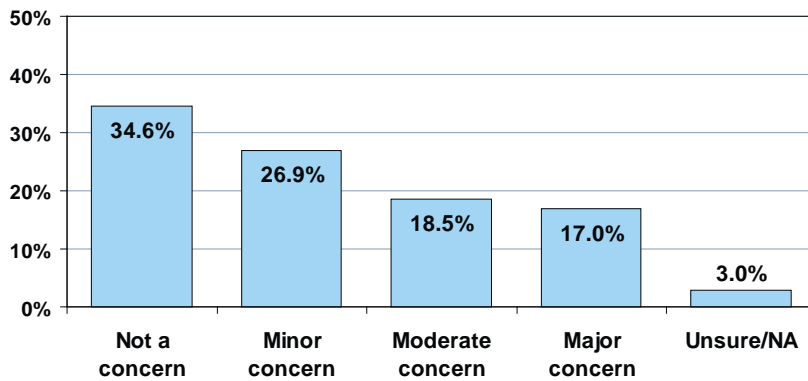
Forty percent (39.9%) of respondents feel that racial or ethnic discrimination is a minor concern, while 24.0% of respondents feel that racial or ethnic discrimination is not a concern. Over twenty-one percent (21.6%) of respondents feel that racial or ethnic discrimination is a moderate concern, and 9.8% of respondents feel that discrimination is a major concern. Five percent (4.8%) of respondents were unsure.

Demographic categories with a significantly higher average include: females (2.29), household income \$100,000 and over (2.39), African American/ Black (2.60), Portage Township (2.32), Washington Township (2.67), and Portage Township School District (2.33).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower average include: males (2.07), high school graduate or GED (2.05), Jackson Township (1.85), and age 18 to 24 (1.99).



Availability of public transportation (776 respondents – 2.18 average)



Rating Porter County - continued

Chart 51
Availability of Public Transportation

Over thirty-four percent (34.6%) of respondents feel that the availability of public transportation is not a concern, while 26.9% of respondents feel that the availability of public transportation is a minor concern. Over eighteen percent (18.5%) of respondents feel that the availability of public transportation is a moderate concern, and 17.0% of respondents feel that public transportation is a major concern. Three percent (3.0%) of respondents were unsure.

Demographic categories with a significantly higher average include: females (2.30), some college (2.38), Union Township School District (2.88) and age 55 to 64 (2.46).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower average include: males (2.06), African American/Black (1.80), business, technical or vocational school (1.79), college graduate (1.97), Jackson Township (1.75), Pine Township (1.44), Washington Township (1.66), and Valparaiso School District (1.98).

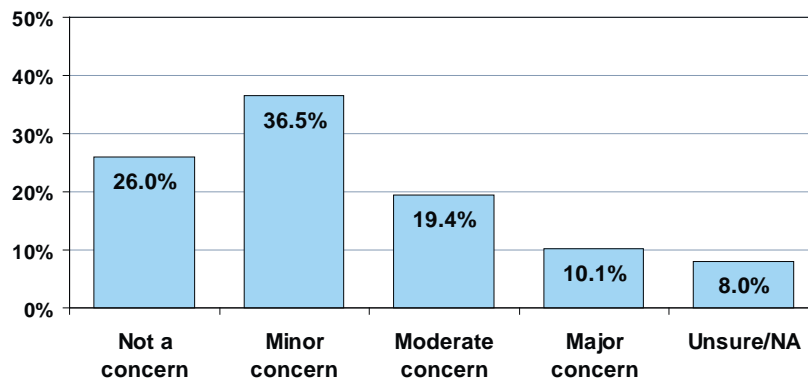


Rating Porter County - continued

Chart 52

Domestic Violence

Domestic violence, abuse of children or adults (736 respondents – 2.15 average)



Over thirty-six percent (36.5%) of respondents said that domestic violence is a minor concern, while 26.0% of respondents said that domestic violence is not a concern. Nineteen percent (19.4%) of respondents said that domestic violence is a moderate concern, and 10.1% of respondents said that domestic violence is a major concern. Eight percent (8.0%) of respondents were unsure.

Demographic categories with a significantly higher average include: females (2.32), retired (2.39), some college (2.32), Portage Township (2.37), Portage Township School District (2.29), age 55 to 64 (2.49), and age 65 and over (2.43).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower average include: males (1.97), household income \$25,000 to \$34,999 (1.97), currently employed part-time (1.94), college graduate (1.99), single (1.87), separated (1.60), Jackson Township (1.75), Pine Township (1.35), Washington Township (1.95), Valparaiso School District (1.91), and age 18 to 24 (1.76).

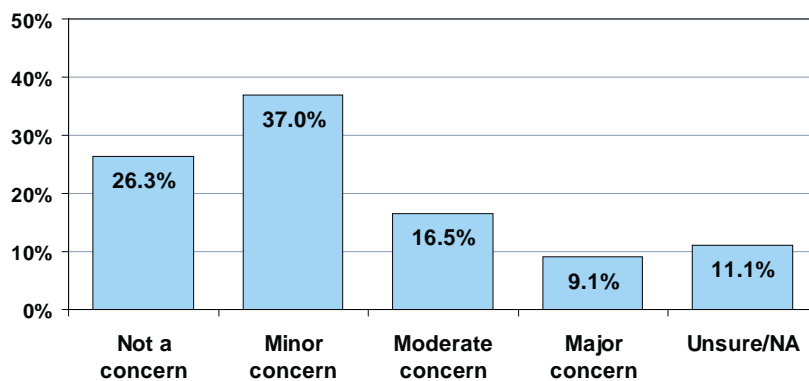
There is a strong correlation between the area “Domestic violence, abuse of children or adults” and the following areas:

- Availability of adolescent mental health care
- Availability of affordable elder care

The more respondents feel that domestic violence is a major concern, the more likely they were to feel that these areas are also major concerns.



Gambling (711 respondents – 2.10 average)



Rating Porter County - continued

Chart 53
Gambling

Thirty-seven percent (37.0%) of respondents feel that gambling is a minor concern, while 26.3% of respondents feel that gambling is not a concern. Over sixteen percent (16.5%) of respondents feel that gambling is a moderate concern, and 9.1% of respondents feel that gambling is a major concern. Eleven percent (11.1%) of respondents were unsure.

Demographic categories with a significantly higher average include: females (2.20), household income \$100,000 and over (2.33), Portage Township (2.27), and Portage Township School District (2.27).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower average include: males (1.99), Porter Township (1.85), East Porter County School District (1.60), Valparaiso School District (1.95), and age 18 to 24 (1.84).

There is a strong correlation between the area "Gambling" and the following area:

- Unwed mothers

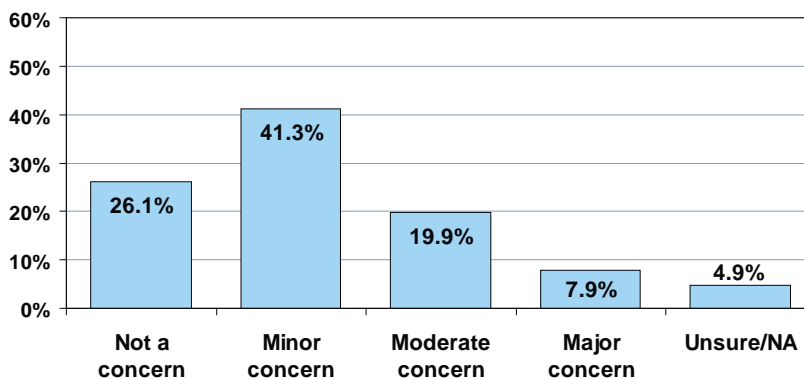
The more respondents feel that gambling is a major concern, the more likely they were to feel that unwed mothers are also a major concern.



Rating Porter County - continued

Chart 54
Poverty

Poverty (761 respondents – 2.10 average)



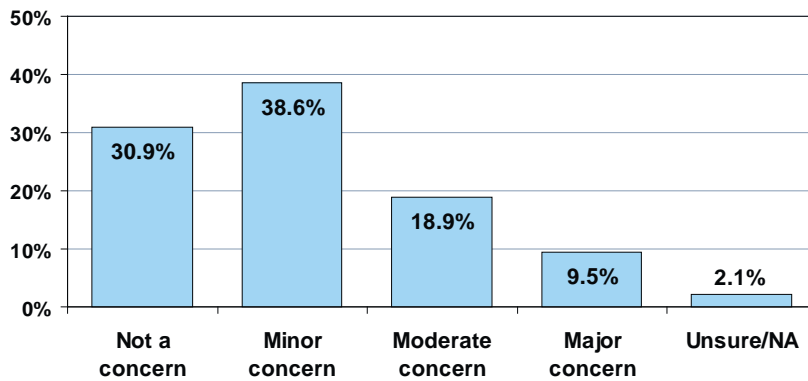
Forty-one percent (41.3%) of respondents feel that poverty is a minor concern, while 26.1% of respondents feel that poverty is not a concern. Twenty percent (19.9%) of respondents feel that poverty is a moderate concern, and 7.9% of respondents feel that poverty is a major concern. Five percent (4.9%) of respondents were unsure.

Demographic categories with a significantly higher average include: unemployed but seeking work (2.71), high school graduate or GED (2.28), divorced (2.37), Porter Township (2.25), and M.S.D. Boone Township School District (2.57).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower average include: college graduate (1.95), post-graduate training (1.87), Jackson Township (1.76), Pine Township (1.67), Duneland School District (1.81), Valparaiso School District (1.95), and age 18 to 24 (1.85).



Availability of accessible medical care (783 respondents – 2.07 average)



Rating Porter County - continued

Chart 55
Availability of Accessible Medical Care

Over thirty-eight percent (38.6%) of respondents said that the availability of accessible medical care is a minor concern, while 30.9% of respondents said that the availability of accessible medical care is not a concern. Nineteen percent (18.9%) of respondents said that the availability of accessible medical care is a moderate concern, and 9.5% of respondents said that it is a major concern. Two percent (2.1%) of respondents were unsure.

Demographic categories with a significantly higher average include: retired (2.30), some college (2.26), widowed (2.34), divorced (2.31), Portage Township (2.30), Westchester Township (2.55), Portage Township School District (2.25), age 55 to 64 (2.34), and age 65 and over (2.92).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower average include: college graduate (1.87), single (1.79), Jackson Township (1.55), Liberty Township (1.70), Pine Township (1.29), Valparaiso School District (1.84), and age 18 to 24 (1.71).

There is a strong correlation between the area “Availability of accessible medical care” and the following area:

- Mental illness or emotional issues

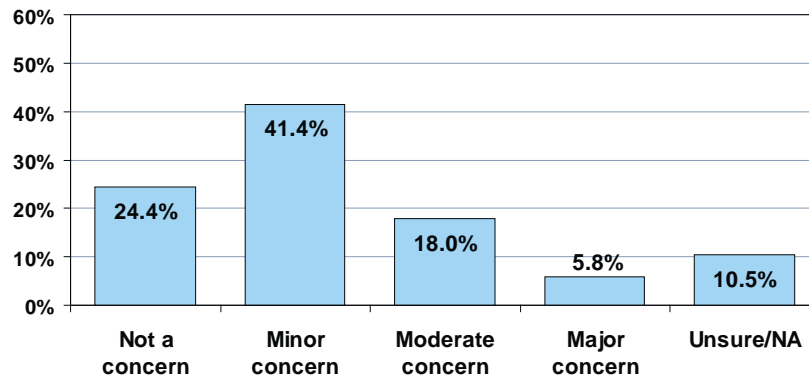
The more respondents feel that the availability of accessible medical care is a major issue, the more likely they were to feel that mental illness or emotional issues are also major issues.



Rating Porter County - continued

Chart 56
Availability of Adolescent Mental Health Care

Availability of adolescent mental health care (716 respondents – 2.06 average)



Forty-one percent (41.4%) of respondents said that the availability of adolescent mental health care is a minor concern, while 24.4% of respondents said that the availability of adolescent mental health care is not a concern. Eighteen percent (18.0%) of respondents said that the availability of adolescent mental health care is a moderate concern, and 5.8% of respondents said that it is a major concern. Over ten percent (10.5%) of respondents were unsure.

Demographic categories with a significantly higher average include: females (2.14), retired (2.27), some college (2.28), Portage Township (2.22), M.S.D. Boone Township School District (2.78), Union Township School District (2.71), age 55 to 64 (2.38), and age 65 and over (2.25).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower average include: males (1.97), African American/Black (1.73), student (1.56), college degree (2.28), single (1.80), Jackson Township (1.68), Pine Township (1.65), Washington Township (1.81), Valparaiso School District (1.90), age 18 to 24 (1.73), and age 25 to 34 (1.82).

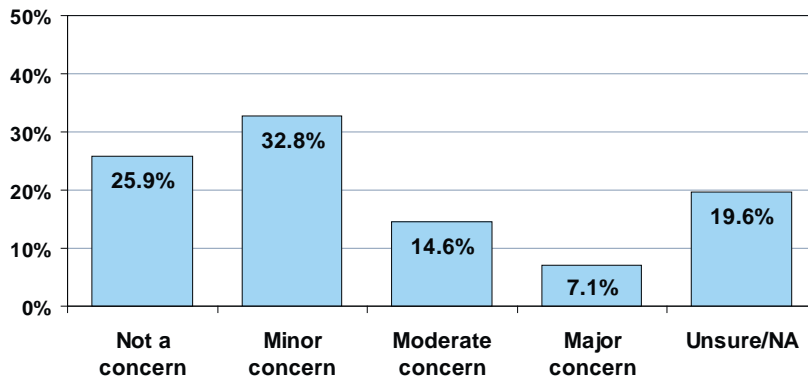
There is a strong correlation between the area "Availability of adolescent mental health care" and the following areas:

- Nutrition for school age children and the elderly
- Domestic violence, abuse of children or adults

The more respondents feel that the availability of adolescent mental health care is a major concern, the more likely they were to feel that these areas are also major concerns.



Drop out rate (643 respondents – 2.04 average)



**Rating Porter
County - continued**

Chart 57

**Drop Out
Rate**

Thirty-three percent (32.8%) of respondents feel that the drop out rate is a minor concern, followed by 25.9% of respondents who feel that the drop out rate is not a concern. Over fourteen percent (14.6%) of respondents feel that the drop out rate is a moderate concern, and 7.1% of respondents feel that the drop out rate is a major concern. Over nineteen percent (19.6%) of respondents were unsure.

Demographic categories with a significantly higher average include: females (2.15), Portage Township (2.24), Portage Township School District (2.25), and age 55 to 64 (2.37).

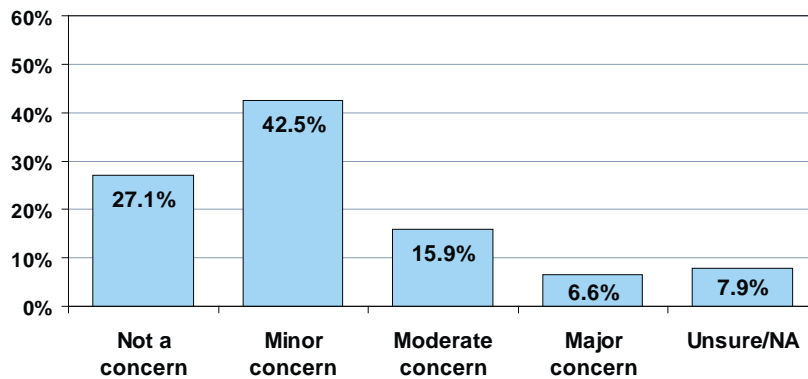
Demographic categories with a significantly lower average include: males (1.92), student (1.65), single (1.87), Jackson Township (1.64), Pine Township (1.59), Valparaiso School District (1.83), and age 18 to 24 (1.78).



Rating Porter County - continued

Chart 58
Mental Illness or Emotional Issues

Mental illness or emotional issues (737 respondents – 2.02 average)



Over forty-two percent (42.5%) of respondents feel that mental illness or emotional issues are a minor concern, while 27.1% of respondents feel that mental illness or emotional issues are not a concern. Sixteen percent (15.9%) of respondents feel that mental illness or emotional issues are a moderate concern, and 6.6% of respondents feel that they are a major concern. Eight percent (7.9%) of respondents were unsure.

Demographic categories with a significantly higher average include: females (2.16), retired (2.26), unemployed but seeking work (2.32), widowed (2.25), living with a partner (2.47), Portage Township (2.21), M.S.D. Boone Township School District (2.61), Portage Township School District (2.14), and age 65 and over (2.31).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower average include: males (1.92), homemaker (1.76), student (1.69), college graduate (1.89), single (1.82), Jackson Township (1.52), Pine Township (1.29), Valparaiso School District (1.77), and age 18 to 24 (1.77).

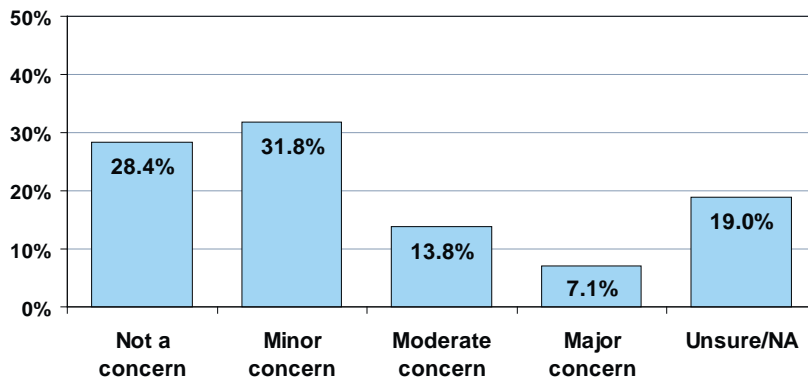
There is a strong correlation between the area “mental illness or emotional issues” and the following area:

- Availability of accessible medical care

The more respondents feel that mental illness or emotional issues are major concerns, the more likely they were to agree that the availability of accessible medical care is also a major concern.



Availability of affordable child care (648 respondents – 2.00 average)



Rating Porter County - continued

Chart 59
Availability of Affordable Child Care

Thirty-two percent (31.8%) of respondents feel that the availability of affordable child care is a minor concern, followed by 28.4% of respondents who feel that the availability of affordable child care is not a concern. Fourteen percent (13.8%) of respondents feel that the availability of affordable child care is a moderate concern, and 7.1% of respondents feel that it is a major concern. Nineteen percent (19.0%) of respondents were unsure.

Demographic categories with a significantly higher average include: females (2.12), living with a partner (2.80), and age 55 to 64 (2.43).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower average include: males (1.86), household income below \$25,000 (1.79), currently employed part-time (1.82), student (1.54), college graduate (1.88), single (1.69), Pine Township (1.40), Valparaiso School District (1.85), and age 18 to 24 (1.76).

There is a strong correlation between the area “Availability of affordable child care” and the following areas:

- Availability of child care with flexible hours
- Availability of affordable elder care

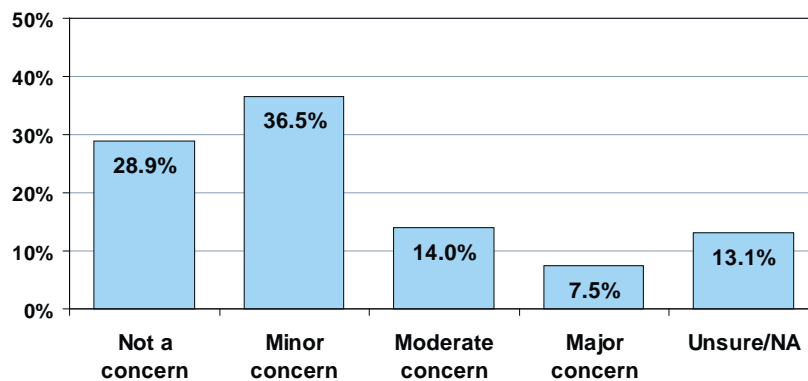
The more respondents feel that the availability of affordable child care is a major concern, the more likely they were to feel that these areas are also major concerns.



Rating Porter County - continued

Chart 60
Availability of Affordable Elder Care

Availability of affordable elder care (695 respondents – 2.00 average)



Over thirty-six percent (36.5%) of respondents feel that the availability of affordable elder care is a minor concern, followed by 28.9% of respondents who feel that the availability of affordable elder care is not a concern. Fourteen percent (14.0%) of respondents feel that the availability of affordable elder care is a moderate concern, and 7.5% of respondents feel that it is a major concern. Thirteen percent (13.1%) of respondents were unsure.

Demographic categories with a significantly higher average include: females (2.13), some college (2.18), Portage Township (2.19), Portage Township School District (2.16), and age 55 to 64 (2.37).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower average include: males (1.87), student (1.50), less than high school education (1.56), college graduate (1.85), single (1.74), Jackson Township (1.56), Pine Township (1.42), Washington Township (1.77), Valparaiso School District (1.75), age 18 to 24 (1.64), and age 25 to 34 (1.82).

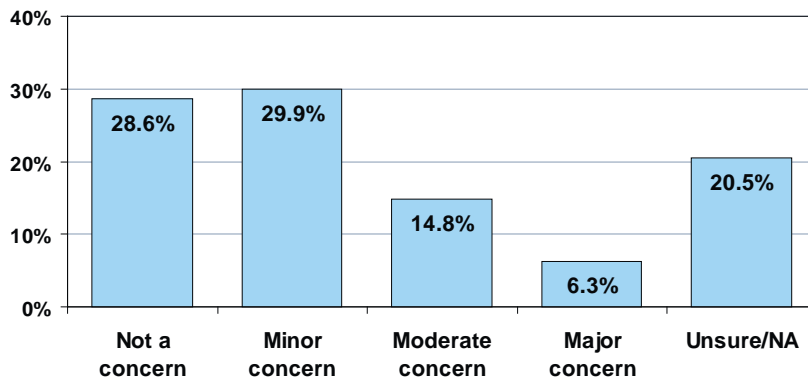
There is a strong correlation between the area “Availability of affordable elder care” and the following areas:

- Availability of affordable child care
- Availability of child care with flexible hours
- Domestic violence, abuse of children or adults

The more respondents feel that the availability of affordable elder care is a major concern, the more likely they were to feel that these areas are also major concerns.



Availability of child care with flexible hours (636 respondents – 1.98 average)



Rating Porter County - continued

Chart 61

Availability of Child Care with Flexible Hours

Thirty percent (29.9%) of respondents said that the availability of child care with flexible hours is a minor concern, closely followed by 28.6% of respondents who said that the availability of child care with flexible hours is not a concern. Fifteen percent (14.8%) of respondent said that the availability of child care with flexible hours is not a concern, and 6.3% of respondents said that it is a major concern. Over twenty percent (20.5%) of respondents were unsure.

Demographic categories with a significantly higher average include: females (2.12), married (2.08), and age 55 to 64 (2.41).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower average include: males (1.84), student (1.54), single (1.66), Pine Township (1.37), Union Township (1.62), Valparaiso School District (1.82), and age 18 to 24 (1.67).

There is a strong correlation between the area “Availability of child care with flexible hours” and the following areas:

- Availability of affordable child care
- Availability of affordable elder care

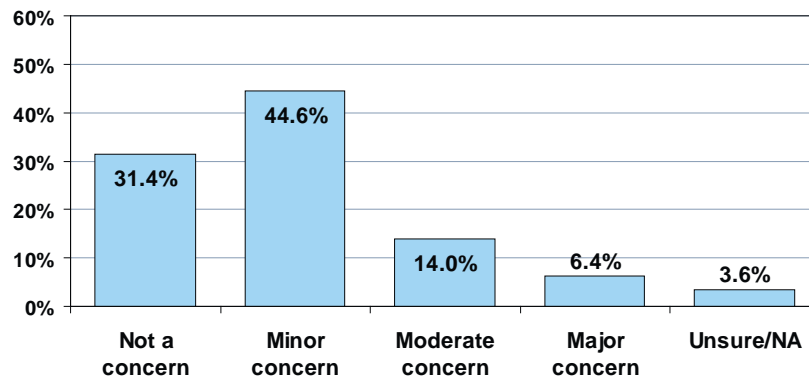
The more respondents feel that the availability of child care with flexible hours is a major concern, the more likely they were to feel that these areas are also major concerns.



Rating Porter County - continued

Chart 62
Availability of Affordable Cultural Activities

Availability of affordable cultural activities (771 respondents – 1.95 average)



Over forty-four percent (44.6%) of respondents feel that the availability of affordable cultural events is a minor concern, followed by 31.4% of respondents who feel that the availability of affordable cultural events is not a concern. Fourteen percent (14.0%) of respondents feel that the availability of affordable cultural events is a moderate concern, and 6.4% of respondents feel that that availability of affordable cultural activities is a major concern. Over three percent (3.6%) of respondents were unsure.

Demographic categories with a significantly higher average include: living with a partner (2.50), Portage Township School District (2.07), and age 65 and over (1.77).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower average include: retired (1.76), Porter Township School District (1.74), and Valparaiso School District (1.85).

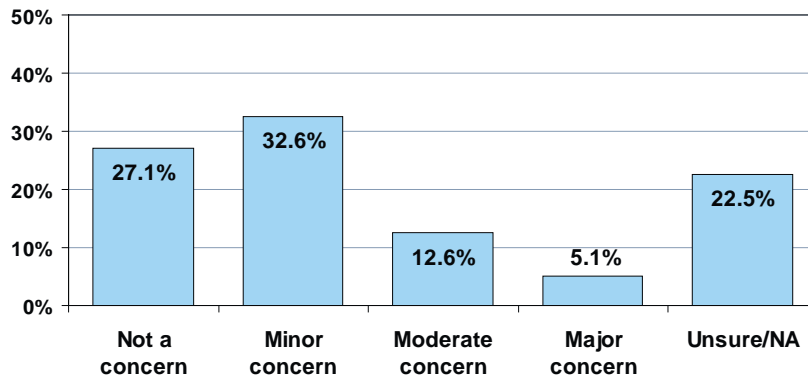
There is a strong correlation between the area “Availability of affordable cultural activities” and the following areas:

- Availability of recreational facilities
- Availability of organized recreational programs

The more respondents feel that the availability of affordable cultural activities is a major concern, the more likely they were to feel that these areas are also major concerns.



Availability of after-school programs (620 respondents – 1.95 average)



Rating Porter County - continued

Chart 63
Availability of After-School Programs

Over thirty-two percent (32.6%) of respondents feel that the availability of after-school programs is a minor concern, followed by 27.1% of respondents who feel that the availability of after-school programs is not a concern. Over twelve percent (12.6%) of respondents feel that the availability of after-school programs is a moderate concern, and 5.1% of respondents feel that the availability of after-school programs is a major concern. Over twenty-two percent (22.5%) of respondents were unsure.

Demographic categories with a significantly higher average include: females (2.04), Portage Township (2.09), and age 55 to 64 (2.16).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower average include: males (1.85), African American/Black (1.66), single (1.77), Pine Township (1.52), Washington Township (1.50), Valparaiso School District (1.81), and age 65 and older (1.74).

There is a strong correlation between the area “Availability of after-school programs” and the following area:

- Availability of affordable preschool programs

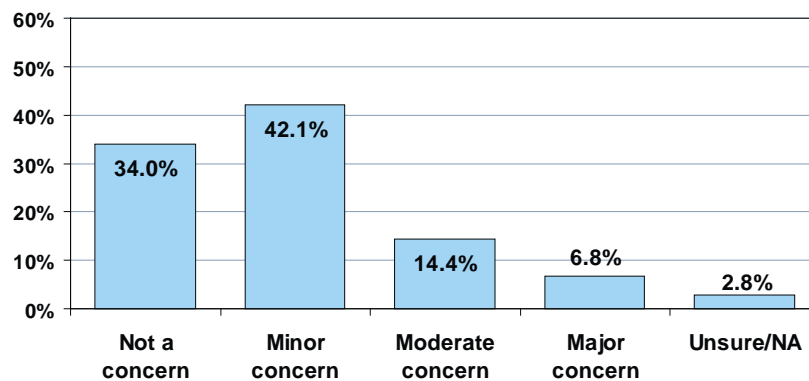
The more respondents feel that the availability of after-school programs is a major concern, the more likely they were to feel that the availability of affordable preschool programs is a major concern.



Rating Porter County - continued

Chart 64 Availability of Recreational Facilities

Availability of recreational facilities (778 respondents – 1.94 average)



Forty-two percent (42.1%) of respondents feel that the availability of recreational facilities is a minor concern, followed by 34.0% of respondents who feel that the availability of recreational facilities is not a concern. Fourteen percent (14.4%) of respondents feel that the availability of recreational facilities is a moderate concern, and 6.8% of respondents feel that it is a major concern. Three percent (2.8%) of respondents were unsure.

The only demographic category with a significantly higher average is: age 55 to 64 (2.17).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower average include: college degree (1.82), Pine Township (1.69), Washington Township (1.64), Valparaiso School District (1.79), and age 65 and over (1.75).

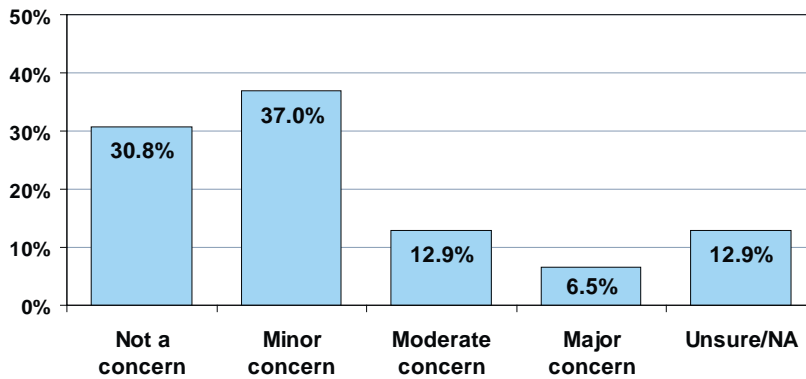
There is a strong correlation between the area "Availability of recreational facilities" and the following areas:

- Availability of affordable cultural activities
- Availability of organized recreational programs

The more respondents feel that the availability of recreational facilities is a major concern, the more likely they were to feel that these areas are also major concerns.



Availability of emergency shelter (697 respondents – 1.94 average)



Rating Porter County - continued

Chart 65
Availability of Emergency Shelter

Thirty-seven percent (37.0%) of respondents feel that the availability of emergency shelter is a minor concern, while 30.8% of respondents feel that the availability of emergency shelter is not a concern. Thirteen percent (12.9%) of respondents feel that the availability of emergency shelter is a moderate concern, and 6.5% of respondents feel that the availability of emergency shelter is a major concern. Thirteen percent (12.9%) of respondents were unsure.

Demographic categories with a significantly higher average include: females (2.08), unemployed but seeking work (2.41), unemployed not seeking work (2.47), less than high school education (2.31), some college (2.12), living with a partner (2.60), Portage Township (2.08), M.S.D. Boone Township School District (2.45), and Portage Township School District (2.09).

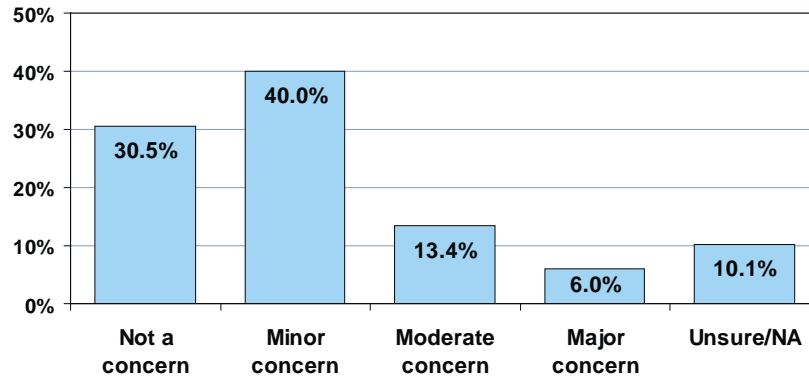
Demographic categories with a significantly lower average include: males (1.81), homemaker (1.68), college graduate (1.73), single (1.78), Pine Township (1.39), Washington Township (1.56), East Porter County School District (1.60), Valparaiso School District (1.77), and age 18 to 24 (1.77).



Rating Porter County - continued

Chart 66
Availability of Affordable Legal Help

Availability of affordable legal help (719 respondents – 1.94 average)



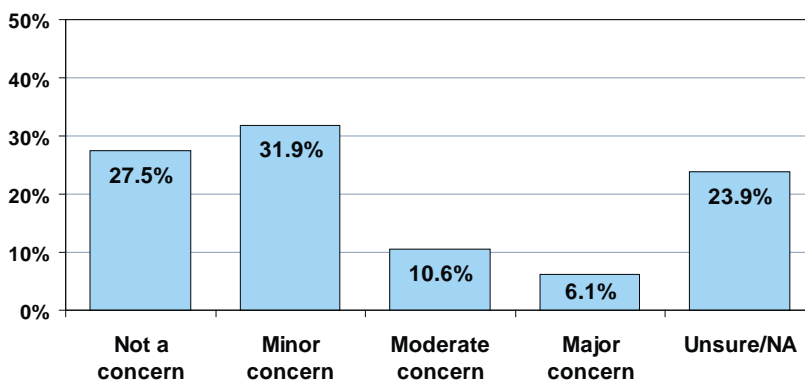
Forty percent (40.0%) of respondents said that the availability of affordable legal help is a minor concern, while 30.5% of respondents said that the availability of affordable legal help is not a concern. Thirteen percent (13.4%) of respondents said that the availability of affordable legal help is a moderate concern, and 6.0% of respondents said that it is a major concern. Ten percent (10.1%) of respondents were unsure.

Demographic categories with a significantly higher average include: household income \$100,000 and over (2.15), unemployed not seeking work (2.50), Portage Township (2.11), and age 55 to 64 (2.32).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower average include: Pine Township (1.54), Union Township (1.53), and Valparaiso School District (1.77).



Availability of affordable preschool programs (609 respondents – 1.94 average)



Rating Porter County - continued

Chart 67
Availability of Affordable Preschool Programs

Thirty-two percent (31.9%) of respondents feel that the availability of affordable preschool programs is a minor concern, followed by 27.5% of respondents who feel that the availability of affordable preschool programs is not a concern. Over ten percent (10.6%) of respondents feel that the availability of affordable preschool programs is a moderate concern, and 6.1% of respondents feel that the availability of affordable preschool programs is a major concern. Twenty-four percent (23.9%) of respondents were unsure.

The only demographic category with a significantly higher average is: females (2.08).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower average include: males (1.79), post-graduate training (1.73), single (1.76), Pine Township (1.48), Washington Township (1.54), and Valparaiso School District (1.83).

There is a strong correlation between the area “Availability of affordable preschool programs” and the following area:

- Availability of after-school programs

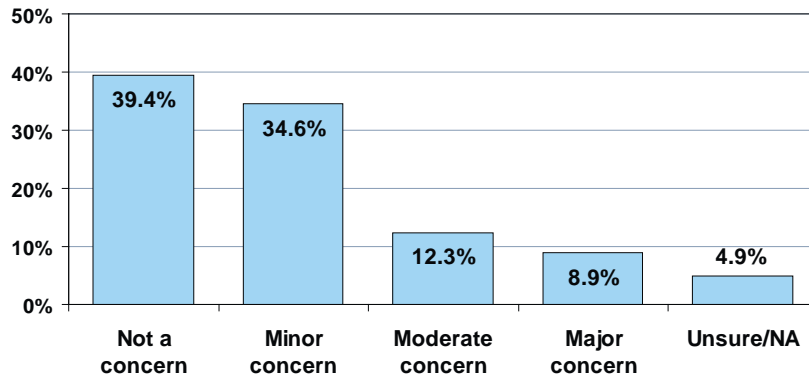
The more respondents feel that the availability of affordable preschool programs is a major concern, the more likely they were to feel that the availability of after-school programs is also a major concern.



Rating Porter County - continued

Chart 68
Availability of Higher Education

Availability of higher education (761 respondents – 1.90 average)



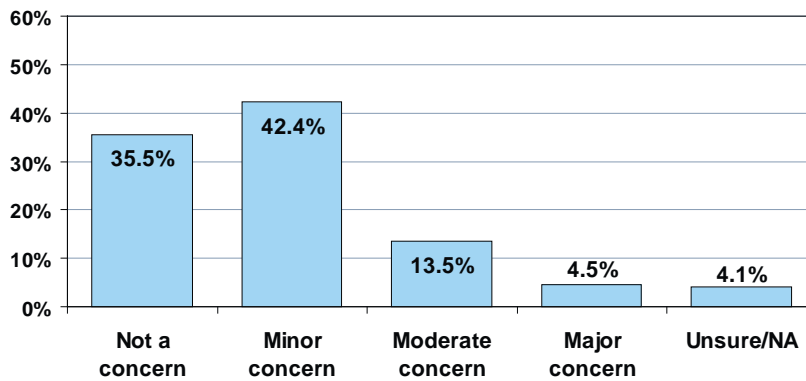
Thirty-nine percent (39.4%) of respondents feel that the availability of higher education is not a concern, followed by 34.6% of respondents who feel that the availability of higher education is a minor concern. Twelve percent (12.3%) of respondents feel that the availability of higher education is a moderate concern, and 8.9% of respondents feel that it is a major concern. Five percent (4.9%) of respondents were unsure.

Demographic categories with a significantly higher average include: high school graduate or GED (2.07), some college (2.10), Porter Township (2.07), and age 55 to 64 (2.12).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower average include: African American/Black (1.68), college degree (1.71), post-graduate training (1.58), single (1.74), Jackson Township (1.50), Pine Township (1.32), and Valparaiso School District (1.70).



Availability of organized recreational programs (767 respondents – 1.86 average)



Rating Porter County - continued

Chart 69
Availability of Organized Recreational Programs

Forty-two percent (42.4%) of respondents said that the availability of organized recreational programs is a minor concern, followed by 35.5% of respondents who said that the availability of organized recreational programs is not a concern. Over thirteen percent (13.5%) of respondents said that the availability of organized recreational programs is a moderate concern, and 4.5% of respondents said that the availability of organized recreational programs is a major concern. Four percent (4.1%) of respondents were unsure.

Demographic categories with a significantly higher average include: Portage Township (1.99) and Portage Township School District (2.00).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower average include: Washington Township (1.54) and Valparaiso School District (1.72).

There is a strong correlation between the area “Availability of organized recreational programs” and the following areas:

- Availability of recreational facilities
- Availability of affordable cultural activities

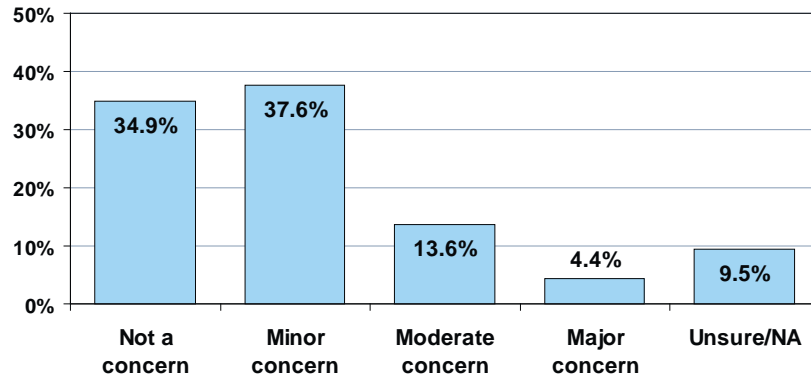
The more respondents feel that the availability of organized recreational programs is a major concern, the more likely they were to feel that these areas are also major concerns.



Rating Porter County - continued

Chart 70
Illiteracy

Illiteracy (724 respondents – 1.86 average)



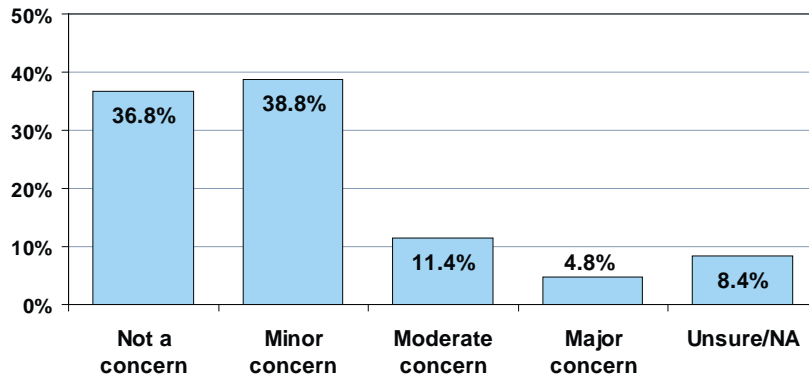
Over thirty-seven percent (37.6%) of respondents feel that illiteracy is a minor concern, followed by 34.9% of respondents who feel that illiteracy is not a concern. Over thirteen percent (13.6%) of respondents feel that illiteracy is a moderate concern, and 4.4% of respondents feel that illiteracy is a major concern. Over nine percent (9.5%) of respondents were unsure.

Demographic categories with a significantly higher average include: Portage Township (2.06) and Portage Township School District (2.06),

Demographic categories with a significantly lower average include: household income \$75,000 to \$99,999 (1.66), currently employed part-time (1.70), college graduate (1.75), single (1.69), Liberty Township (1.43), Pine Township (1.36), Washington Township (1.56), Valparaiso School District (1.66), and age 18 to 24 (1.65).



Homelessness (733 respondents – 1.83 average)



Rating Porter County - continued

Chart 71 Homelessness

Thirty-nine percent (38.8%) of respondents feel that homelessness is a minor concern, followed by 36.8% of respondents who feel that homelessness is not a concern. Eleven percent (11.4%) of respondents feel that homelessness is a moderate concern, and 4.8% of respondents feel that homelessness is a major concern. Eight percent (8.4%) of respondents were unsure.

Demographic categories with a significantly higher average include: females (1.94), unemployed but seeking work (2.31), high school graduate or GED (1.94), divorced (2.11), Portage Township (1.97), Portage Township School District (1.96), and Union Township School District (2.75).

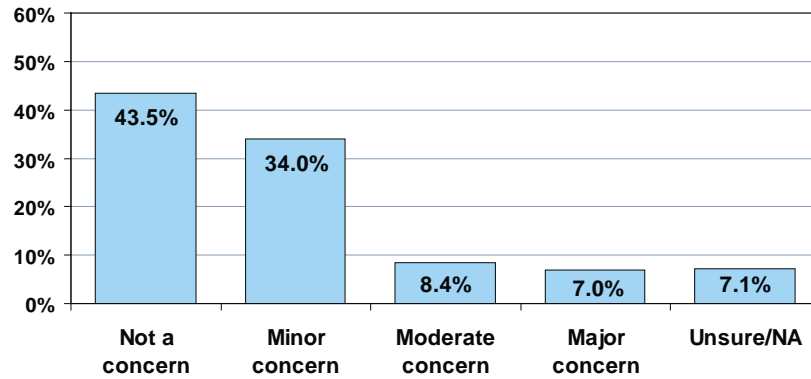
Demographic categories with a significantly lower average include: males (1.71), household income \$75,000 to \$99,999 (1.57), student (1.47), college graduate (1.66), Liberty Township (1.56), Pine Township (1.36), Washington Township (1.57), Valparaiso School District (1.65), and age 18 to 24 (1.63).



Rating Porter County - continued

Chart 72 Emergency Response Time

Emergency response time (743 respondents – 1.77 average)



Over forty-three percent (43.5%) of respondents said that emergency response time is not a concern, followed by 34.0% of respondents who feel that emergency response time is a minor concern. Eight percent (8.4%) of respondents said that emergency response time is a moderate concern, and 7.0% of respondents said that emergency response time is a major concern. Seven percent (7.1%) of respondents were unsure.

The only demographic category with a significantly higher average is: M.S.D. Boone Township School District (2.26).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower average include: post-graduate training (1.50), separated (1.25), and Washington Township (1.36).



Respondents were also asked to rate their health compared to others of the same age. An average was then calculated on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 indicates poor and 5 indicates excellent.

How would you rate your health compared to others your age (796 respondents – 3.50 average)

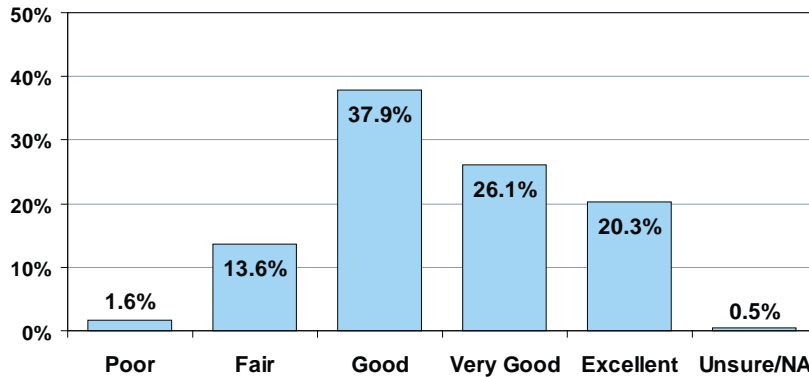


Chart 73
Health Compared to Others

Thirty-eight percent (37.9%) of respondents rated their health as good, while 26.1% of respondents rated their health as very good. Twenty percent (20.3%) of respondents rated their health as excellent, while only 1.6% rated their health as poor. Four respondents (0.5%) were unsure of how to rate their health.

Demographic categories with a significantly higher average include: household income \$50,000 to \$74,999 (3.69), household income \$75,000 to \$99,999 (3.68), household income \$100,000 and over (4.19), currently employed full-time (3.67), homemaker (3.85), student (3.82), college graduate (3.91), post-graduate training (4.00), single (3.82), Pine Township (4.42), Washington Township (3.80), Valparaiso School District (3.65), homeowner (3.59), age 18 to 24 (3.89), age 25 to 34 (3.87) and age 35 to 44 (3.63).

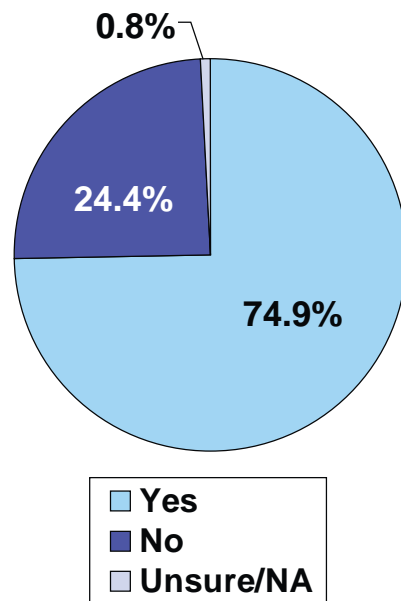
Demographic categories with a significantly lower average include: household income below \$25,000 (3.26), household income \$25,000 to \$34,999 (3.17), household income \$35,000 to \$49,999 (3.31), retired (3.02), unemployed but seeking work (3.14), unemployed not seeking work (2.71), less than high school (2.62), high school graduate or GED (3.01), widowed (2.75), divorced (3.06), Pleasant Township (3.09), Porter Township (3.27), Westchester Township (3.15), renter (3.16), age 45 to 54 (3.35), age 55 to 64 (3.22), and age 65 and over (3.01).



Health - continued

Chart 74

Health Coverage



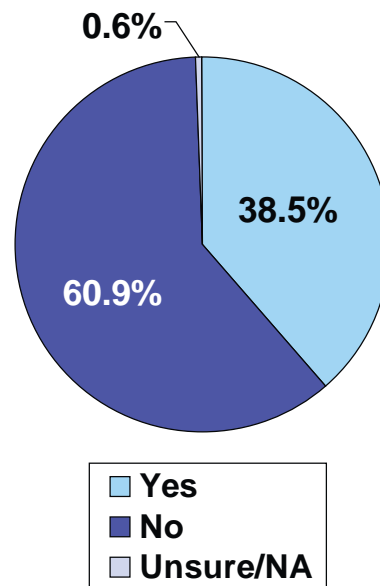
Respondents were asked if they have any kind of health coverage, including health insurance, prepaid plans, or government plans. Seventy-five percent (74.9%) of respondents said that yes, they do have some kind of health coverage, while 24.4% of respondents do not have health coverage. Six respondents (0.8%) were unsure.

Demographic categories with a significantly higher percentage of respondents who have health coverage include: Duneland School District (88.5%), Boone Township (88.5%), Center Township (90.8%), Liberty Township (84.1%), Pine Township (92.3%), Westchester Township (90.9%), business, technical, or vocational school (85.0%), post-graduate training (83.1%), and household income \$25,000 to \$34,999 (83.3%).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower percentage of respondents who have health coverage include: Washington Township (24.6%), divorced (58.8%), unemployed but seeking work (63.9%), African American/Black (63.8%), household income below \$25,000 (65.9%), and household income \$100,000 and over (66.0%).



Respondents were asked if they had volunteered their time in the past year. Sixty-one percent (60.9%) of respondents have not volunteered their time in the past year, while 38.5% of respondents have volunteered their time in the past year. Five respondents (0.6%) were unsure.



Community Engagement

Chart 75
Volunteered in the Past Year

Demographic categories with a significantly higher percentage of respondents who have not volunteered their time in the past year include: ages 65 and over (74.6%), homeowners (80.1%), Washington Township (73.8%), Westchester Township (48.5%), single (75.1%), divorced (75.3%), high school graduate or GED (74.2%), retired (70.8%), unemployed but seeking work (86.1%), household income below \$25,000 (80.6%), and household income \$25,000 to \$34,999 (77.2%).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower percentage of respondents who have not volunteered their time in the past year include: ages 35 to 44 (52.8%), Duneland School District (48.1%), Center Township (52.5%), Jackson Township (51.7%), Pine Township (48.7%), married (49.9%), post-graduate training (35.4%), homemaker (34.5%), have children under the age of 18 (52.2%), household income \$50,000 to \$74,999 (50.9%), household income \$75,000 to \$99,999 (43.2%), and household income \$100,000 and over (43.3%).



Respondents who have volunteered in the past year were asked which types of organizations they volunteered for. Responses total more than 100% since respondents were able to list all types of organizations they have volunteered for. Forty percent (39.9%) of respondents have volunteered for religious organizations in the past year, followed by 25.0% of respondents who volunteered for schools. Only five percent (4.9%) of respondents have volunteered with United Way. Over ten percent (10.7%) of respondents named other types of organizations, and six respondents (1.9%) were unsure of the types of organizations for which they volunteered.

Chart 76
**Organizations
Volunteered
For**

Organizations	% Respondents
Religious organization	39.9%
Schools	25.0%
Health and human service organization	15.6%
Service organization	14.9%
Parks and recreation	8.8%
United Way	4.9%
Other	10.7%
Unsure/NA	1.9%

**Responses total more than 100% as respondents could list more than one response.*

Other organizations for which respondents volunteered include:

3 Respondents

*Political
Special Olympics*

2 Respondents

*Animals
Boys & Girls Club
Salvation Army
Sports
Work*

1 Respondent

*Adult groups
Babysitting
Blood donation, Knights of Columbus, Goodwill
Business
Campus support group
City
Community Symphony - Chicago
Food drives
Food Pantry
Government*



1 Respondent - continued

Jail

Labor organizations

March of Dimes

Nonprofits

Salvation Army

Share-Fast

Shelters, jails

Women's Center, Girl Scouts

**Community
Engagement -
continued**

Respondents who have volunteered their time in the past year were also asked how many hours they volunteer each month. An average was then calculated to determine the average number of hours volunteered each month among respondents who do volunteer their time.

How many hours per month do you volunteer? (278 respondents – 11.05 average)

Ninety percent (90.3%) of respondents were able to give a number of hours that they volunteered, while 9.7% of respondents were unsure of the number of hours they volunteer each month.

The only demographic category with a significantly higher average number of hours volunteered is: age 65 and over (20.32).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower average number of hours volunteered include: age 25 to 34 (6.55), Liberty Township (8.00), Pleasant Township (5.69), currently employed full-time (9.67), homemaker (8.35), student (4.86), and African American/Black (8.14).

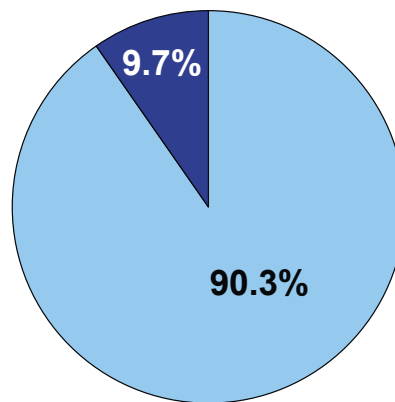
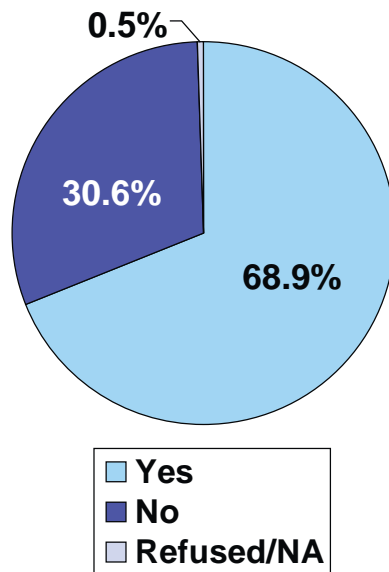


Chart 77
**Hours
Volunteered
per Month**



Community Engagement - continued

**Chart 78
Charitable Contribution**



Respondents were also asked if they had made a contribution to a charitable organization in the past year. Sixty-nine percent (68.9%) of respondents have made a contribution to a charitable organization in the past year, while 30.6% of respondents have not. Four respondents (0.5%) refused to provide this information.

Demographic categories with a significantly higher percentage of respondents who have made a charitable contribution in the past year include: ages 35 to 44 (79.5%), ages 55 to 64 (79.0%), Duneland School District (86.5%), Boone Township (80.8%),

Center Township (82.5%), Jackson Township (79.3%), Pine Township (82.1%), Westchester Township (90.9%), married (81.5%), business, technical, or vocational school (82.5%), post-graduate training (80.0%), homemaker (92.7%), have children under the age of 18 (80.1%), and household income \$100,000 and over (83.5%).

Demographic categories with a significantly lower percentage of respondents who have made a charitable contribution in the past year include: ages 18 to 24 (47.2%), ages 65 and over (54.2%), Washington Township (41.0%), single (52.4%), widowed (52.6%), divorced (54.1%), high school graduate or GED (60.7%), retired (58.8%), student (47.1%), unemployed but seeking work (33.3%), and household income below \$25,000 (50.6%).



Based on the survey results presented in this report, the following conclusions have been developed:

Quality of Life. When asked to rate the quality of life in Porter County, 81.7% of respondents rated the quality of life as good, very good, or excellent. People with higher incomes, people with higher education, and females rated the quality of life in Porter County significantly higher than the overall average, while people with lower incomes, people with less education, and males rated the quality of life significantly lower.

Strengths and Issues. When asked to identify the top three strengths of Porter County, schools (24.1%), people/family (18.0%), and community/neighborhoods (11.3%) were the top strengths named. Respondents were also asked to name the top three issues facing Porter County. Employment (21.9%), substance abuse (20.2%), and health care (17.8%) were named as the top three issues facing Porter County. However, schools/education (16.3%) was the fourth issue named, despite being named as a top strength. When asked, “What do you think is the most significant issue facing your family?” the top responses were health care (8.5%), employment (6.4%), and schools/education (6.0%). The issues employment and health care were both top responses in Porter County issues and family issues, indicating that Porter County residents find these issues to be both personal and public issues.

Building and Development. When asked if they thought the recent building and development in Porter County is beneficial, 52.4% of respondents said yes, they think the building and development is beneficial, while 22.5% did not. Common reasons given for considering the recent building and development to be beneficial or not beneficial include:

Beneficial

Brings in jobs (85 respondents)
Economic growth (43 respondents)
Opportunity (21 respondents)

Not Beneficial

Losing green space and rural appeal (14 respondents)
Doesn't provide jobs (13 respondents)
Too much (13 respondents)



Conclusions - continued

Areas of Concern. Respondents were asked to rate Porter County in 43 areas on the 2007 Needs Assessment Citizen Survey on a scale of 1 to 4, where 1 indicates not a concern, and 4 indicates a major concern. Based on the averages calculated, the areas of greatest concern include: underage drinking (2.67), alcohol and/or drug abuse (2.65), and the cost of prescription drugs (2.58). The areas of least concern include: availability of organized recreational programs (1.86), illiteracy (1.86), homelessness (1.83), and emergency response time (1.77).

It is important to note that the average is not always indicative of the distribution of responses. A wide distribution of responses could result in a neutral average, therefore it is important to also look at the dispersion of responses. Areas with a wide distribution of responses spread out from the average include:

Availability of public transportation
Preservation of green space
Underage drinking
Water or air pollution

Responses with a narrow distribution of responses close to the average include:

Availability of organized recreational programs
Homelessness
Illiteracy
Availability of adolescent mental health care

Differences. Respondents were asked to rate Porter County in 43 areas on the 2007 Needs Assessment Citizen Survey on a scale of 1 to 4, where 1 indicates not a concern, and 4 indicates a major concern. There were several demographic categories that consistently rated many of these areas higher or lower.



The following demographic categories rated at least 12 of the 43 areas significantly higher than the overall average, meaning these demographic categories found several areas to be of greater concern:

- Female respondents rated 25 of the 43 areas significantly higher
- Portage Township respondents rated 25 of the 43 areas significantly higher
- Respondents age 55 to 64 rated 19 of the 43 areas significantly higher
- Portage Township School District respondents rated 19 of the 43 areas significantly higher
- Divorced respondents rated 13 of the 43 areas significantly higher
- Respondents unemployed, but seeking employment rated 13 of the 43 areas significantly higher
- M.S.D. Boone Township School District respondents rated 12 of the 43 areas significantly higher
- Respondents completing some college rated 12 of the 43 areas significantly higher

The following demographic categories rated at least 12 of the 43 areas significantly lower than the overall average, meaning these demographic categories found several areas to be of less concern:

- Valparaiso School District respondents rated 35 of the 43 areas significantly lower
- Respondents age 18 to 24 rated 32 of the 43 areas significantly lower
- Pine Township respondents rated 29 of the 43 areas significantly lower
- Male respondents rated 25 of the 43 areas significantly lower
- Single respondents rated 23 of the 43 areas significantly lower
- College graduate respondents rated 22 of the 43 areas significantly lower
- Jackson Township respondents rated 18 of the 43 areas significantly lower
- Washington Township respondents rated 18 of the 43 areas significantly lower

Furthermore, it is interesting to note that while females rated the quality of life in Porter County significantly higher than the overall average, females also indicated significantly greater concern in 25 of the 43 rating areas. Conversely, males rated the quality of life in Porter County significantly lower than the overall average, they showed significantly less concern for 25 of the 43 rating areas.



Conclusions - continued

Health. Respondents were asked how they would rate their health compared to others. Eighty-four percent (84.3%) of respondents rated their health as good, very good, or excellent. People with higher household incomes, people with higher education, younger people, and employed people rated their health significantly higher than the overall average, while people with lower household incomes, people with less education, older people, and unemployed people rated their health significantly lower.

In addition, seventy-five percent (74.9%) of respondents have health coverage. It is interesting to note that demographic categories with a significantly lower percentage of respondents who have health coverage include both household income below \$25,000 (65.9%), and household income \$100,000 and over (66.0%).

Employment. Of the 800 respondents surveyed, 574 are employed. Of the respondents employed, 92.3% feel that they are appropriately employed, while 7.7% do not feel they are appropriately employed. The top reasons given for not being appropriately employed are:

Can't find a job (9 respondents)

Don't work (9 respondents)

Not appropriate training (4 respondents)

Furthermore, of the respondents who are unemployed, 4.0% are not seeking employment, while 1.9% of respondents are seeking employment.

Community Engagement. Sixty-one percent (60.9%) of respondents have not volunteered their time in the past year, while 38.5% of respondents have volunteered their time. People with lower incomes and people who are single or divorced have a significantly higher percentage of respondents who have not volunteered, while people with higher incomes and married people have a significantly lower percentage of respondents who have not volunteered.

When asked if they had made a contribution to a charitable organization in the past year, 68.9% of respondents said that yes, they have made a charitable contribution, while 30.6% of respondents have not. Married people and people with household incomes of \$100,000 and over have a significantly higher percentage of respondents who have made a charitable contribution, while single, divorced, and widowed people, and people with a household income below \$25,000 have significantly lower percentages of respondents who have made a charitable contribution.



2007 Needs Assessment Citizen Survey 101

Perspectives Consulting Group, Inc. 105





2007 Needs Assessment Citizen Survey

Good Evening, my name is _____ from Perspectives Consulting Group, and we are working with United Way of Porter County and the Porter County Community Foundation who are sponsoring a survey to identify our community's strengths and needs. Your answers will be confidential and will not be connected to you in any way.

Tel. Number: _____
 Interviewer: _____
 Date/Time: _____

Final 6-21-2007







Are you 18 years old or older? Yes - Continue No - May I speak to someone 18 or older please? (CODE: ADULT)
 Do you live in Porter County? Yes - Continue No

1. How would you rate the quality of life in Porter County? (Read Choices)	[1] Poor [2] Fair [3] Good [4] Very Good [5] Excellent [6] Unsure/NA
2. What would you identify as the top three strengths of Porter County?	[1] List: _____ [2] Unsure/NA
What do you think are the three most significant issues facing Porter County residents? (Do NOT read choices)	[1] Child abuse/neglect [2] Child care [3] Crime [4] Employment [5] Health care [6] Housing [7] Hunger [8] Mental health [9] Poverty [10] Schools/education [11] Senior citizens concerns [12] Substance abuse [13] Teen pregnancy [14] Transportation [15] Domestic violence [16] Youth concerns [17] Unwed mothers [18] Other _____ [19] Unsure/NA
3. Top Issue – Most Important: _____	
4. Second Issue – Second Most Important: _____	
5. Third Issue – Third Most Important: _____	
6. What do you think is the most significant issue facing your family? (Do NOT read choices)	[1] Child abuse/neglect [2] Child care [3] Crime [4] Employment [5] Health care [6] Housing [7] Hunger [8] Mental health [9] Poverty [10] Schools/education [11] Senior citizens concerns [12] Substance abuse [13] Teen pregnancy [14] Transportation [15] Domestic violence [16] Youth concerns [17] Unwed mothers [18] Other _____ [19] Unsure/NA

People sometimes have concerns about issues that affect our community. We would like you to tell us about issues that you are concerned about. One a scale from 1 – 4 with 1 being “not a concern” and 4 being “major concern,” how would you rate the following issues in Porter County?

	Not a concern	[2]	[3]	Major concern	Unsure/NA
Economic Issues					
7. Unemployment	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]
8. Cost of living in Porter County	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]
9. Availability of jobs for people who want to work	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]
10. Poverty	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]
11. Quality of jobs	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]
12. Availability of living wage jobs	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]
13. Availability of job or technical training	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]
Education Issues					
14. Illiteracy	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]
15. Safety of the school environment	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]
16. Availability of affordable pre-school programs	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]
17. Availability of after-school programs	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]
18. Drop out rate	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]
19. Availability of higher education	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]
Environmental Issues					
20. Water or air pollution	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]
21. Preservation of green space	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]
Housing Issues					
22. Availability of affordable housing	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]
23. Availability of emergency shelter	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]
24. Homelessness	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]
Health Issues					
25. Alcohol and/or drug abuse	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]
26. Underage drinking	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]
27. Smoking	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]
28. Mental illness or emotional issues	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]
29. Availability of accessible medical care	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]

	Not a concern		Major concern	Unsure/NA
30. Cost of prescription drugs	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4] [5]
31. Availability of adequate medical insurance coverage	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4] [5]
32. Availability of affordable medical care	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4] [5]
33. Nutrition for school age children and the elderly	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4] [5]
34. Availability of adolescent mental health care	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4] [5]
Leisure Activity Issues				
35. Availability of recreational facilities	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4] [5]
36. Availability of affordable cultural activities	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4] [5]
37. Availability of organized recreational programs	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4] [5]
Safety Issues				
38. Crime rate	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4] [5]
39. Emergency response time	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4] [5]
Social Issues				
40. Teen pregnancy	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4] [5]
41. Unwed mothers	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4] [5]
42. Gambling	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4] [5]
43. Racial or ethnic discrimination	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4] [5]
44. Availability of affordable legal help	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4] [5]
45. Availability of affordable child care	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4] [5]
46. Availability of child care with flexible hours	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4] [5]
47. Availability of affordable elder care	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4] [5]
48. Domestic violence, abuse of children or adults	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4] [5]
Transportation				
49. Availability of public transportation	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4] [5]
50. Do you have any other concerns that we have not mentioned?	[1] Yes, what? _____	[2] No	[3] Unsure/NA	
51. Do you feel that the building and development that has occurred in Porter County over the past few years is beneficial for the county?	[1] Yes, why? _____	[2] No, why? _____	[3] Unsure/NA	
52. Do you have any kind of health coverage, including health insurance, prepaid plans such as HMOs or government plans such as Medicare?	[1] Yes	[2] No	[3] Unsure/NA	
53. Are you currently employed in a job that is appropriate for your training, experience, and education?	[1] Yes	[2] No, why not? _____	[3] Unsure/NA	
54. Have you volunteered your time in the past year?	[1] Yes	[2] No - Skip to question #57	[3] Unsure/NA - Skip to question #57	➔
55. For which types of organizations have you volunteered? (Do NOT read choices/Check all that apply)	[1] Religious Organization, religious group, church, synagogue, or mosque	[2] United Way	[3] Service organizations, ie. Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions	[4] Parks and Recreation [5] Schools
	[6] Health and Human Service Organizations	[7] Other _____	[8] Unsure/NA	
56. How many hours per month do you volunteer?	[1] Hours: _____	[2] Unsure/NA		
➔ 57. Have you made a contribution to a charitable organization in the past year?	[1] Yes	[2] No	[3] Refused/NA	
For statistical purposes only:				
58. Is English your native language?	[1] Yes	[2] No	[3] Refused/NA	
59. What is your age? (Read choices)	[1] 18-24	[2] 25-34	[3] 35-44	[4] 45-54 [5] 55-64 [6] 65 and over [7] Refused/NA
60. How would you rate your health compared to others your age: (Read choices)	[1] Poor	[2] Fair	[3] Good	[4] Very Good [5] Excellent [6] Unsure/NA
61. What is your primary means of transportation? (Do NOT read choices, prompt with list when asked)	[1] Automobile (car or truck)	[2] Cab	[3] Bus	[4] Walk [5] Ride with a friend or relative [6] Bicycle [7] Volunteer organization [8] Other, specify _____

62. In what community do you live? <i>(Do not read)</i>	[1] Beverly Shores [4] Dune Acres [7] Ogden Dunes [10] South Haven [12] Other _____	[2] Burns Harbor [5] Hebron [8] Portage [11] Valparaiso	[3] Chesterton [6] Kouts [9] Porter [13] Refused/NA
63. Do you own or rent your residence?	[1] Own	[2] Rent	[3] Refused/NA
64. In what school district do you live?	[1] Duneland [3] M.S.D. Boone Township [5] Porter Township [7] Valparaiso [9] Other: _____	[2] East Porter County [4] Portage Township [6] Union Township [8] Home schooled [10] Unsure/NA	
65. In what township do you live?	[1] Boone [5] Morgan [9] Porter [12] Westchester [14] Unsure/NA	[2] Center [6] Pine [10] Union	[3] Jackson [7] Pleasant [11] Washington [13] Other: _____
66. How long have you lived in Porter County? <i>(Read Choices)</i>	[1] Less than 1 year [4] 7-10 years [7] Unsure/NA	[2] 1-3 years [5] 11-20 years	[3] 4-6 years [6] 21 or more years
67. Are you single, married, widowed, divorced, separated, or living with a partner?	[1] Single [4] Divorced [6] Living with a partner	[2] Married [5] Separated [7] Refused/NA	[3] Widowed
68. Do you have children over the age of 18?	[1] Yes [3] Unsure/NA – skip to question 70	[2] No – Skip to question 70	
69. Has one or more of your children moved outside of Porter County?	[1] Yes, why? _____ [2] No	[3] Unsure/NA	
 70. Do you have children under the age of 18?	[1] Yes [3] Unsure/NA – skip to question 72	[2] No – skip to question 72	
71. <i>If children under 18 – Are both the biological mother and father of the children living in the household?</i>	[1] Yes – Both biological mother and father [2] No – Only biological mother [4] No – Neither biological parent/adopted	[3] No – Only biological father [5] Unsure/NA	
 72. What is the highest level of education you have completed?	[1] Less than high school [3] Business, technical or vocational school [4] Some college - no 4-year degree [5] College graduate (BS, BA or other 4-year degree) [6] Post-graduate training	[2] High school graduate or GED [7] Refused/NA	
73. What is your current employment status? <i>(Read choices if necessary)</i>	[1] Currently employed full-time [3] Homemaker – Skip to question 76 [4] Retired – Skip to question 76 [6] Unemployed, but seeking work – Skip to question 76 [7] Unemployed, not seeking work – Skip to question 76 [8] Disabled – Skip to question 76 [9] Unsure/NA	[2] Currently employed part-time [5] Student – Skip to question 76	
74. In what sector do you work? <i>(Read Choices)</i>	[1] Industry/Management [3] Service/Retail [5] Medical [7] Education [9] Refused/NA	[2] Government [4] Nonprofit [6] Financial/Insurance [8] Agricultural [10] Other _____	
75. Do you currently work in Porter County, in another Indiana county or in another state?	[1] In Porter County [3] In another state	[2] In another Indiana county [4] Refused/NA	
 76. What is your primary race or ethnic background? <i>(If they hesitate, read choices)</i>	[1] White/Caucasian [3] Hispanic [5] American Indian/Native American [6] Other _____	[2] African American/Black [4] Asian or Pacific Islander [7] Unsure/NA	
77. Which range best represents your total household income before taxes? <i>(Read choices)</i>	[1] Below \$25,000 [3] \$35,000 to \$49,999 [5] \$75,000 to \$99,999 [7] Refused/NA	[2] \$25,000 to \$34,999 [4] \$50,000 to \$74,999 [6] \$100,000 and over	
78. Does anyone in your household receive any of the following forms of public assistance?	[1] Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) [2] Food stamps [4] Disability Insurance (SSDI) [6] Medicaid [7] Other assistance _____ [8] None	[3] Supplemental Security Income (SSI) [5] Medicare	[9] Unsure/NA
Thank you for participating in this survey. We appreciate the time you have taken to help identify community needs.			
79. <i>(Determine by voice)</i> Gender of Respondent	[1] Male	[2] Female	



Founded in 1987, Perspectives Consulting Group, Inc. provides market research and strategic planning services to businesses and organizations throughout the United States. Using state-of-the-art market research techniques including focus groups, telephone/mail surveys, interviews and customer response systems, Perspectives Consulting Group, Inc. obtains the information necessary to make efficient and effective decisions and plan for the future. Perspectives Consulting Group, Inc. offers a full-range of planning services including strategic planning and feasibility studies that are essential to succeed in today's marketplace. Our primary focus is meeting the needs of nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, governmental agencies, religious organizations, and United Ways.



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- To provide the client with what they need, when they need it.
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- To treat each client's situation as unique and individual, providing the best combination of services to meet the client's needs.
- To maintain a state of involvement that allows clear, unbiased, objectivity that insures and protects the confidentiality of the client's situation.

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