

Dutchess County ICA Community Health Survey Final Report

March 2009

Prepared for:
Dutchess County Department of Health
Donald Pryor, PhD
Maria Ayoob, MPH
Project Directors

1 South Washington Street
Suite 400
Rochester, NY 14614
585.325.6360

100 State Street
Suite 330
Albany, NY 12207
518.432.9428

www.cgr.org

Acknowledgements

CGR thanks the Dutchess County Integrated County Assessment Workgroup (ICA) and the Dutchess County Department of Health (DCDOH) for undertaking this effort, as well as the 1,000 Dutchess County residents who participated in the survey.

Special thanks to Jim Antonevich of Metrix Matrix for extensive guidance on survey design and methodology.

Staff Team

In addition to the Project Directors, the success of this study and the production of this report are primarily due to the efforts of the following CGR staff:

Sara Abrams – Research Associate

Responsible for data analysis plan, post-stratification weighting, statistical analysis, and report writing.

Katherine Corley – Research Assistant

Responsible for analysis and coding of open-ended survey questions.

Meredith Mabe – Research Assistant

Responsible for creation and formatting of data tables, graphs, and report appendices, and analysis of qualitative data components.

Michael Silva – Research Assistant

Responsible for Census data analysis.

SUMMARY

Community Health Survey

The purpose of this countywide community health assessment survey is to identify priority community health and quality of life issues from the perspective of Dutchess County residents. One thousand adults living in Dutchess County were invited to participate in a telephone survey, conducted between October 9 and November 25, 2008. This report presents findings on community safety and health, access to healthcare and other social services, community features, and overall quality of life in Dutchess County.

For the purposes of data collection and analysis, the county was subdivided into four regions – three multi-zip code regions and the fourth consisting of the municipality of City of Poughkeepsie. The boundaries were established based on sociodemographic similarities/dissimilarities as well as geographic considerations, access to services, and input from ICA team members based on their experience working with various population sub-groups within the county. The ICA team reviewed population densities, urban/rural characteristics, racial/ethnic composition, and income and housing. Knowledge of transportation and essential services layout throughout the county was also considered. Due to its unique characteristics – notably racial and ethnic composition, population density and socioeconomic issues - the City of Poughkeepsie was identified as a region of its own. Survey results were analyzed by the regions described, as well as by age, race/ethnicity, educational level, and gender.

Key Findings

Community Safety

Threats to Safety

- Unsafe driving or roads was the only issue, among several, that a majority of the survey sample considered a serious threat to the safety of their community. Notably, when analyzed by region, a larger proportion of Southwest and City of Poughkeepsie residents (60% and 65%, respectively) indicated that unsafe driving is a serious threat, compared to about 40% of Northeast and Northwest residents.
- A disproportionate percentage of residents of the City of Poughkeepsie feel that several issues are a threat to the safety of their community, as compared to the other three regions. More than 60% of City of Poughkeepsie residents said that the unsafe use of firearms, crime in general, and substance abuse are a serious threat to the safety of their community.

- Relatively large proportions of the sample answered “Don’t know” when asked if the following are serious threats to the safety of their community: violence in the home (24%), school violence or bullying (25%), and internet predators (31%).
- Generally, younger respondents responded in the affirmative more often than other groups for this set of questions, with the proportion of affirmative answers declining with age.
- Generally, larger proportions of Hispanic and non-Hispanic black residents indicate that the items listed were a threat to the safety of their community than non-Hispanic white residents.

Emergency Preparedness - Community

- The majority of survey respondents indicated they either do not know or do not feel that their community is ready for a natural disaster or other emergency. Only about a quarter of all residents feel their community is ready to deal with such an event.
- The proportion of residents who feel their community is ready for a natural disaster ranged from 35% in the Northeast to only 15% in the City of Poughkeepsie. Fifty-six percent of City of Poughkeepsie residents felt their community is not prepared.

Emergency Preparedness – Self

- Nearly two-fifths (38%) of survey respondents “never” stockpile supplies such as canned food, bottled water, and prescription medicines in preparation for emergencies.

Community Health

- Lyme Disease (and other insect-related diseases) was the only one of five health issues that a majority of respondents consider a serious health issue in their community. About two-thirds of the sample responded “yes” to this question, in contrast to 35% or less for all of the other health issues in the list. A greater proportion of respondents from the Northwest and Northeast regions (74% and 79%) feel that Lyme Disease is a serious concern; however, more than half of respondents from all regions responded in the affirmative.
- While only a fifth of all respondents feel that unsafe housing conditions are a serious health issue, just over half of City of Poughkeepsie residents feel they are (the same proportion of City of Poughkeepsie residents who feel Lyme Disease is a serious health issue).
- With the exception of Lyme Disease, the youngest age group (18-21 years) had the highest proportion of respondents indicating that any of the five items are a serious health issue in their community.

Healthcare Access

- Less than 20% of Dutchess County residents surveyed said that they or someone in their household was unable to receive necessary healthcare services in the past year. More than one-third of City of Poughkeepsie residents were unable to receive needed healthcare services.
- Almost two-thirds of respondents who were unable to receive needed services indicated that health insurance was a reason they or a member of their household was unable to receive services. Among those who reported health insurance problems as barriers to needed healthcare services, specific problems included lack of insurance (81%) and lack of coverage for service (46%).
- The majority (89%) of surveyed Dutchess County residents reported that they have health insurance coverage for themselves; however, more respondents from the City of Poughkeepsie were uninsured compared with other regions.
- Over one-third of respondents reported going outside of Dutchess County for healthcare services in the previous year. This was most common among respondents from the Northeast region of the county, where over half indicated accessing services outside of Dutchess County.
- Among respondents who accessed services outside Dutchess County, the most commonly cited reason was a preference for a provider outside of the County (69%).

Social Services

- Only a small proportion of respondents were unable to receive necessary financial assistance (7%) or other types of basic assistance (12%) from county or non-profit agencies. Ineligibility was the most common barrier to respondents unable to access these services.

Caregiver Services

- Eleven percent of respondents reported being a caregiver to an elderly, disabled, or sick family member. Most caregivers were middle-aged – between 35-59.

Community Characteristics

- Close to 90% of Dutchess County respondents reported being satisfied with their current housing situation. Respondents in the Northeastern region of Dutchess County reported the most satisfaction with housing conditions, while residents of the City of Poughkeepsie were least satisfied.

- Of respondents who indicated that certain features were available in their community, three-quarters of respondents reported using public recreation areas like parks, playgrounds, and sports fields, over half use outdoor trails, and less than a quarter report using community centers. Awareness of outdoor recreation areas including parks and trails was high, whereas awareness of community centers was relatively low.
- Although the majority of respondents indicated that it was not difficult for them to buy healthy foods in their community, 26% of respondents in the City of Poughkeepsie reported difficulty. More than half of those who reported difficulty buying healthy foods indicated that such foods are too expensive.

Overarching Issues

Quality of Life

- Half of the entire sample indicated they are very satisfied with the quality of life in Dutchess County. A large majority indicated they are “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied” (87%). A notable exception was the City of Poughkeepsie. Only about a fifth of respondents from this region reported being “very satisfied,” while nearly as many were “dissatisfied.” The majority of respondents from the City of Poughkeepsie (66%) still fell into the categories of “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied,” however.

Means of Getting Information

- The internet was the most commonly cited information source, with 62% of respondents choosing this among their favorite ways of obtaining information about services. Both word of mouth and newspapers were favorites among about half the sample. Far fewer respondents chose radio, service providers and 211.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Summary	ii
Community Health Survey	ii
Key Findings	ii
Table of Contents	vi
Introduction	1
Methodology	1
Regional Approach	1
Survey Data Collection	2
Data Weighting and Analysis	2
Limitations	4
Respondent Characteristics	4
Demographic Characteristics	4
Household Characteristics	6
Survey Results	9
Community Safety	9
Threats to Safety in Your Community	9
Key Findings	9
Detailed Findings	11
Natural Disasters and Emergencies – Community Readiness	15
Key Findings	15
Detailed Findings	15
Natural Disasters and Emergencies - Preparation for Emergencies	16
Key Findings	17
Detailed Findings	17
Community Health	18
Serious Health Issues in Your Community	18
Key Findings	18
Detailed Findings	19
Healthcare Access	21
Key Findings	22
Detailed Findings	23
Social Services	31
Key Findings	31
Detailed Findings	32

Caregiver Services	35
Key Findings.....	35
Detailed Findings.....	35
Veterans Services	35
Community Characteristics.....	36
Housing	36
Key Findings.....	36
Detailed Findings.....	36
Recreational Features.....	37
Key Findings.....	37
Detailed Findings.....	38
Access to Healthy Foods	43
Key Findings.....	43
Detailed Findings.....	43
Overarching Issues.....	44
Quality of Life	44
Key Findings.....	44
Detailed Findings.....	45
Means of Obtaining Information.....	46
Key Findings.....	46
Detailed Findings.....	47
Conclusions	48
Recommendations	49

INTRODUCTION

The Dutchess County Integrated County Assessment Workgroup (ICA) was established to implement a countywide integrated assessment. The ICA includes representatives from many agencies and organizations within Dutchess County – the Health & Human Services Cabinet, Dutchess County Departments of Health, Social Services, Mental Hygiene, Veterans Affairs, Probation, Office of Aging, Planning and Development, the Mental Health Association, the Youth Bureau, the Dyson Foundation, and Normet. In engaging in a systematic and integrated community assessment, the ICA seeks to examine all aspects of the local health and human services systems, including physical, legal, social, economic, and health environments.

The purpose of this countywide community health assessment survey is to identify priority community health and quality of life issues from the perspective of Dutchess County residents. This assessment promises to add great value to the work of ICA member agencies in Dutchess County in planning, monitoring, and service delivery.

In this report, we present the results of survey frequency and crosstab analyses. In the text we describe both statistically significant findings and, in some cases, additional findings that may not be statistically significant but are notable and potentially relevant to the work of the ICA. Frequency tables and summary graphs are included in the text.

Methodology

Regional Approach

For the purposes of data collection and analysis, the county was subdivided into four regions – three multi-zip code regions and the fourth consisting of the municipality of City of Poughkeepsie. The boundaries were established based on sociodemographic similarities/dissimilarities as well as geographic considerations, access to services, and input from ICA team members based on their experience working with various population sub-groups within the county. The ICA team reviewed population densities, urban/rural characteristics, racial/ethnic composition, and income and housing. Knowledge of transportation and essential services layout throughout the county was also considered. Due to its unique characteristics – notably racial and ethnic composition, population density and socioeconomic issues - the City of Poughkeepsie was identified as a region of its own.

Survey Data Collection

Data was collected using a telephone survey. The full survey script is available in Appendix B. The survey was conducted by Metrix Matrix, Inc., a Rochester-based telephone survey research firm. Calls were made between October 10th, 2008 and November 25th, 2008. Mondays through Fridays, calls were made between 9:00 AM and 8:00 PM, and on Saturdays between 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM. Calls were made randomly to households in each region of the county. Respondents were required to be at least 18 years of age and confidentiality was ensured through use of a telephone list with no addresses or names attached. In addition, respondents were not asked for any personal information aside from the demographic data included in the survey. The average length of time for each completed survey was 18 minutes.

A total of 8,073 calls were made. There was a 39% refusal rate, and an additional 49% of calls were ‘retired’ due to incorrect numbers or a total of three tries without a response. The overall rate of completed surveys was approximately 12%. Please see Appendix C for additional details.

Survey sampling was conducted so the sample of completed surveys for each region in Dutchess County was proportionate to the total population in each of the four regions. Dividing Dutchess County into four regions allows for analyses to consider specific assets and disparities. Appendix A contains a map of the four regions of Dutchess County.

Table 1: Sample Size, by Region (Weighted Sample)

Region	Completed Surveys		2000 U.S. Census	
	Sample Size (n)	Percent	Total Population (N)	Percent
Northwest	190	19%	40,268	19%
Northeast	170	17%	34,561	17%
Southwest	530	53%	111,419	53%
City of Pough.	110	11%	22,173	11%
Total	1,000	100%	208,421	100%

Data Weighting and Analysis

Post-stratification weighting is used to ensure that the population sampled is representative of the total population. Data from the 2000 U.S. Census were used to create post-stratification weights for each region by four demographic characteristics: Gender, Age, Hispanic, and Race¹. This

¹ This survey followed Census Bureau practices in asking respondents to self-identify their race and ethnicity. According to the Census Bureau (see <http://www.census.gov/prod/2001pubs/cenbr01-1.pdf>), “the Federal government considers race and Hispanic origin to be two separate concepts;” and the Census includes

process involved imputation of missing values for demographic characteristics, so that all cases would be included when data were weighted. Missing values for variables used to construct weights would otherwise result in the case being excluded from weighted analyses. For cases with missing values (except those missing Gender), respondents were assigned to the largest or more common category within their region, as respondents are most likely to fall into these groups. Thus for all respondents with corresponding missing values, Age was assigned to *35-59 years*, Hispanic was assigned to *No*, and Race was assigned to *White*. Missing values for Gender were randomly assigned. The number of missing values for demographic characteristics ranged from 8 for Gender to 56 for Race. The assignments of missing values involved small enough numbers that they did not significantly affect subsequent analyses.

Post-stratification weighting was calculated using a manual iterative process. The weights were then normalized, or re-balanced, so the weighted sample sizes for each region equal the unweighted sample sizes for each region. Weighting results in fractional rather than whole number frequencies, so frequencies do not always sum to the total sample size, even though weighted data are normalized. As a result, sample sizes for frequencies and crosstabs presented in this report may be slightly larger or smaller than the total sample size of 1,000 due to rounding of these fractional numbers. The weighting process described here was used to ensure that the survey sample is representative of the overall population of Dutchess County. In other words, weighting allows us to use survey data to make generalizations about residents of the four regions within Dutchess County.

All statistical analyses were conducted using SPSS Statistics 17.0. For all survey questions, only data weighted for Gender, Age, Hispanic, and Race are shown. For all survey questions, frequencies and crosstabs by region, gender, age, race/ethnicity, and education were run. For questions that included the option of identifying “other issues,” CGR analyzed these answers and identified those that fell into the multiple choice categories used in the question. In these cases answers were coded and added to the quantitative data set.

two questions – one allowing the individual to self-identify as Hispanic or non-Hispanic, and one allowing the individual to self-identify as a member of one or more racial groups.

Limitations

One limitation of the data is that those living in institutional settings, those without land-line telephones, and those with a primary language other than English are excluded. Another limitation is that this survey relies on self-reported data. Respondents tend to under-report undesirable behaviors but may over-report behaviors that seem desirable. The respondent's ability to recall information may also affect the accuracy of the responses. A final limitation is that some survey questions had a small number of responses, making it difficult to analyze differences between sub-groups within the county.

Respondent Characteristics

The data were weighted to be representative of the sex, age, race, and Hispanic distribution of Dutchess County within each region. The demographic profile of respondents by region and countywide is presented in Appendix C and unweighted, weighted, and census percentages for gender, age, Hispanic, and race are compared.

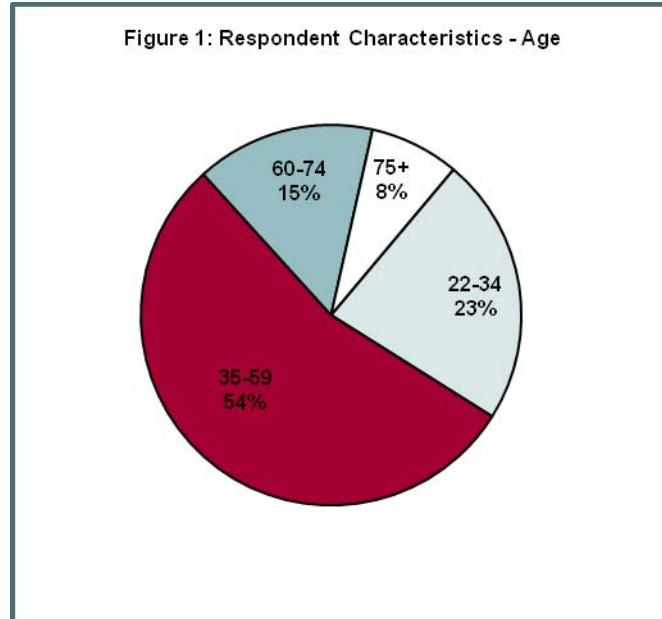
Demographic Characteristics

Gender

Unweighted proportions for gender show that females were oversampled while males were undersampled in each region and countywide. When weighted to match the Census population distribution for gender, there were slightly more female respondents than male respondents (51% female vs. 49% male, countywide). These differences were not statistically significant.

Age

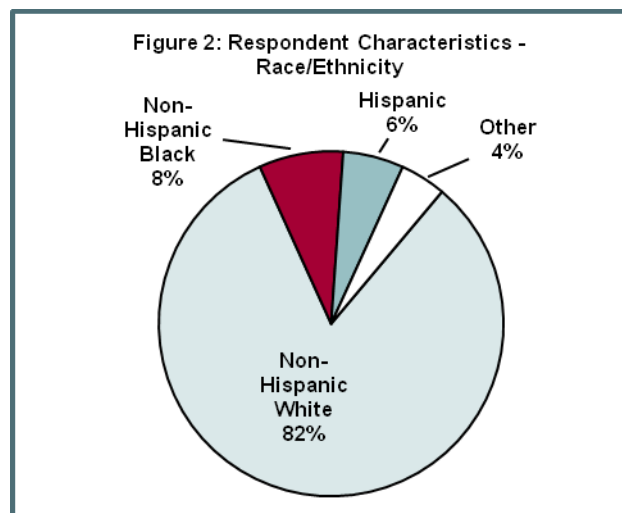
The unweighted age distribution shows that younger Dutchess County residents were undersampled, while older residents were oversampled in each region and countywide. This pattern is commonly seen in community-based telephone surveys. Upon weighting to match the Census population distribution in each region, 8% of respondents were age 18-21, 21% were 22-34, 50% were 35-54, 14% were 60-74, and 7% were age 75 or older. In comparing regions, the City of Poughkeepsie had the largest proportions of both younger and older respondents – 36% were under age 35 and 24% were age 60 or older. Half of respondents in the other regions were 35 – 59 years old. These differences were not statistically significant.

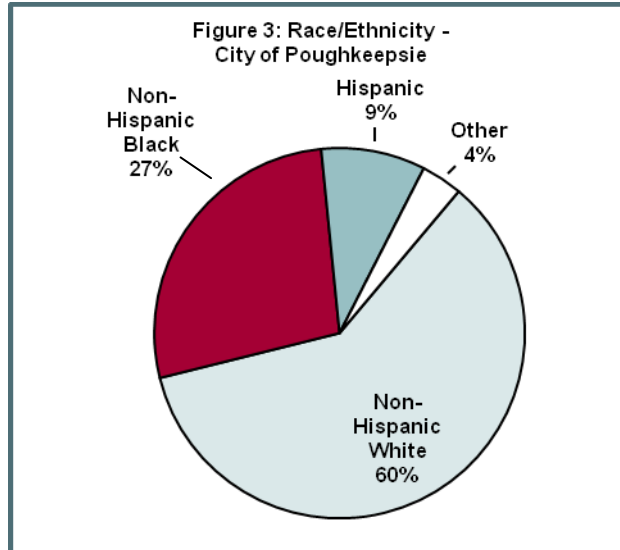


Race/Ethnicity

Unweighted proportions for ethnicity show that Hispanics were oversampled in the Northwest and Northeast regions and undersampled in the Southwest and City of Poughkeepsie. Blacks were oversampled in all regions. These regional differences were corrected when the data were weighted.

Throughout this report racial/ethnic differences are presented as non-Hispanic white, non-Hispanic black, and Hispanic. Countywide and within each region except the City of Poughkeepsie, the vast majority (81% or greater) of respondents were non-Hispanic white. Very few respondents outside of the City of Poughkeepsie were non-Hispanic black or Hispanic. In the City of Poughkeepsie, 60% of respondents were non-Hispanic white, 27% non-Hispanic black, 9% Hispanic, and 4% Other.





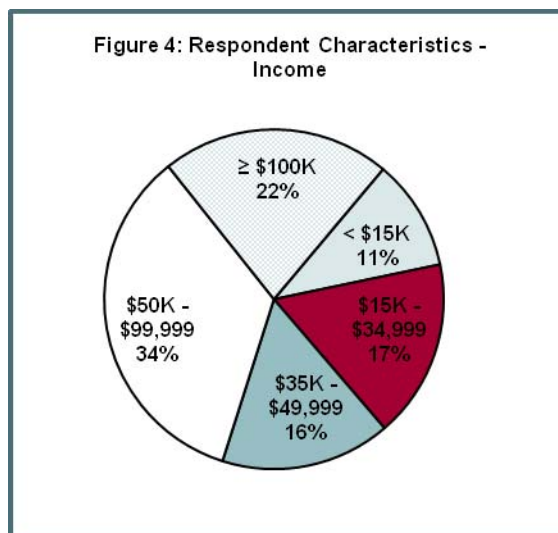
Educational Level

Nearly half of Dutchess County residents surveyed reported having a college degree, about a quarter had some college education, and another quarter was less educated. This pattern generally holds true for respondents from the Northwest, Northeast, and Southwest regions. The proportion of respondents with less education was higher for the Southwest (26% vs. about 22% in the rest of the county), while the proportion of respondents with some college was higher in the Northwest and Northeast (about 28% vs. 23%). Among respondents from the City of Poughkeepsie, 40% indicated that they had high school or less education, 23% had attended some college, and 32% a college degree.

Household Characteristics

Income

More than half of Dutchess County residents surveyed indicated that their gross annual household income is at least \$50,000, while 11% reported an income of less than \$15,000. Income was generally lower among respondents from the City of Poughkeepsie, where nearly 60% reported an income of less than \$35,000 and a third indicated that their income is less than \$15,000. Respondents from the Northeast region were more affluent – 70% indicated that their annual income is at least \$50,000, including a quarter reporting that their income is more than \$100,000.

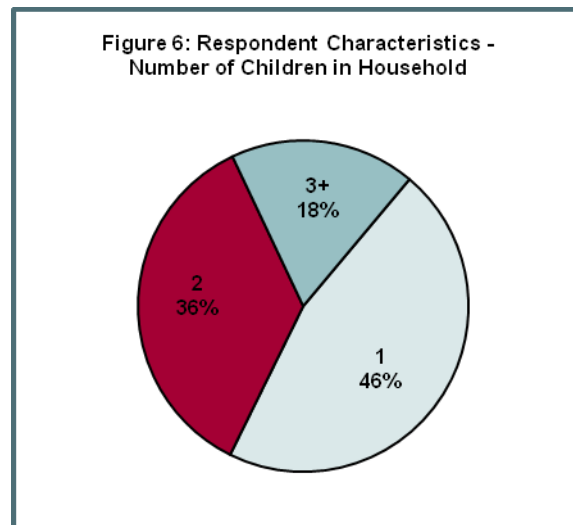
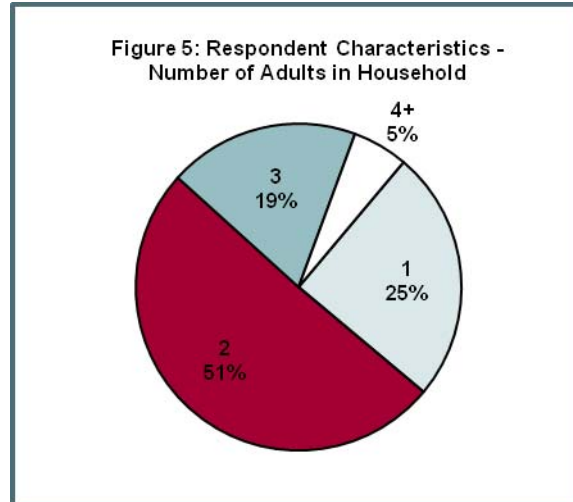


Home Ownership

Nearly three-quarters of respondents reported owning their home while 28% reported renting. Both the Northeast and Southwest regions had greater proportions of respondents reported owning their home, at 78% and 76% respectively. Respondents from the City of Poughkeepsie had the lowest level of home ownership, with only 30% reporting that they own their home.

Household Size

Half of Dutchess County's surveyed residents reported having two adults residing in their household, while a quarter live alone. More than half of respondents indicated that they have no children under age 18 in their household, 21% have 1 child, 16% have 2 children, and 8% have 3 or more children. Comparing regions, nearly half of respondents from the City of Poughkeepsie reported living alone, while at least a quarter of respondents from the Northeast and Southwest regions have three or more adults living in their households. Sixty-four percent of respondents from the Northwest region indicated that they have no children under age 18 in their household. Respondents from the Southwest region have the largest families, where more than a quarter reported having 2 or more children in their household.



Country of Birth

The great majority of respondents indicated that they were born in the United States. The City of Poughkeepsie had a larger proportion of respondents who were foreign-born (14% vs. 8% for other regions), although this difference was not statistically significant.

Primary Language

Most respondents (95%) indicated that the primary language spoken at home is English. Still, Spanish is the primary language for 3% of respondents and a language other than English or Spanish is primary for 2% of respondents. Spanish is the primary language among 7% of City of Poughkeepsie respondents and 4% of Southwest respondents.

Military Service

Twelve percent of surveyed Dutchess County residents indicated having been in active military service. Military service was slightly greater among

respondents from the City of Poughkeepsie (14%) and the Southwest (13%), although these differences were not statistically significant.

SURVEY RESULTS

Community Safety

Threats to Safety in Your Community

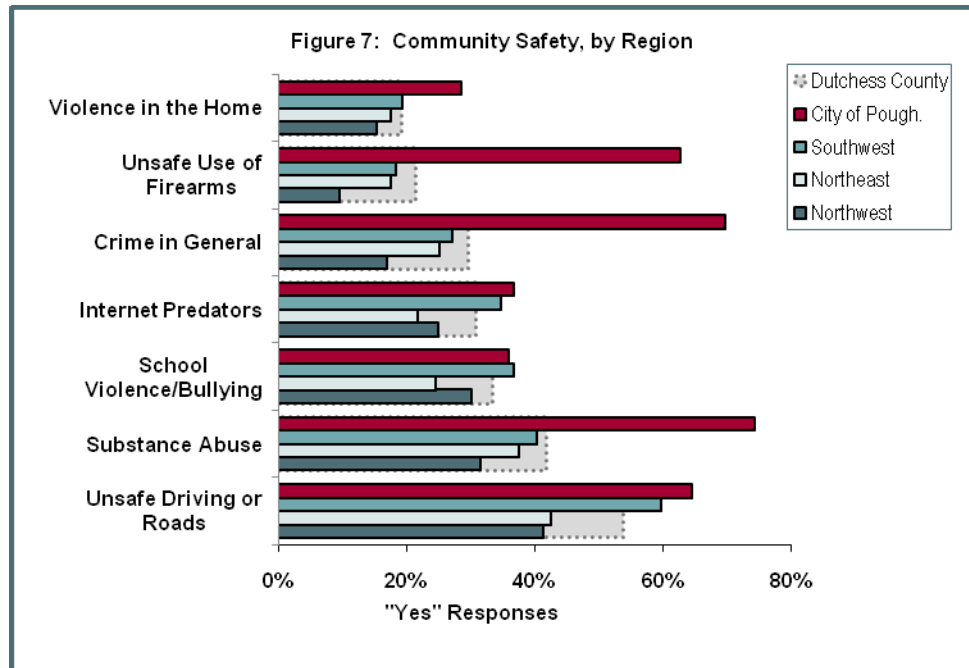
Survey respondents were asked if any of the following are a serious threat to the safety of their community: unsafe driving or roads as a threat to pedestrians, drivers or others; substance abuse; unsafe use of firearms; crime in general; violence in the home; school violence or bullying; and internet predators.

Table 2: In your opinion, are any of the following issues a serious threat to safety in your community?

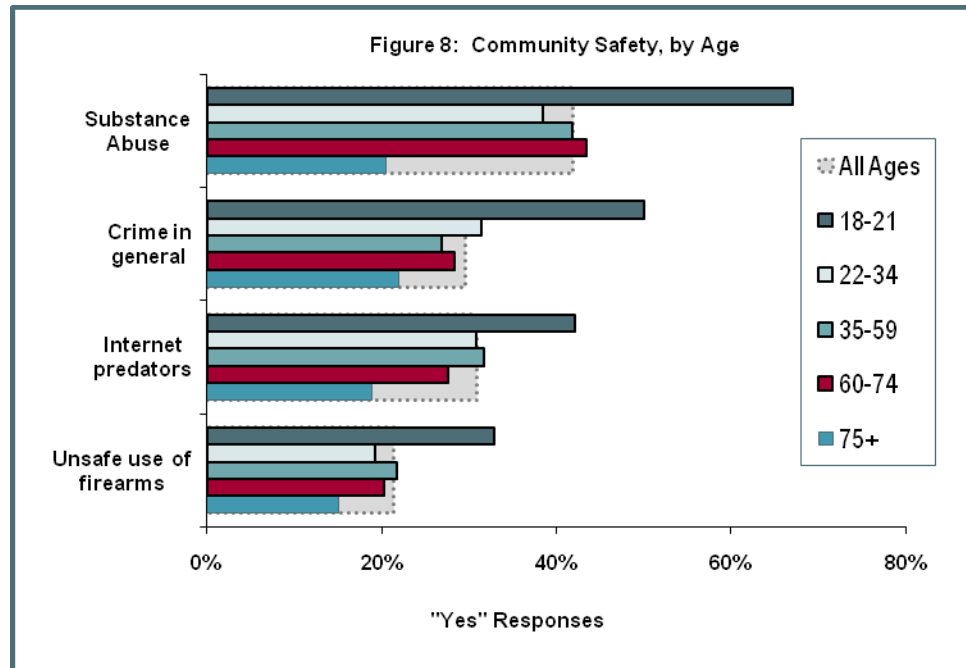
	Yes	Percentage (n=1000)
Unsafe driving or roads as a threat to pedestrians, drivers, or others	538	53.8%
Substance Abuse (for example, drugs or alcohol)	418	41.8%
School violence or bullying	333	33.3%
Internet predators	308	30.8%
Crime in general	295	29.5%
Unsafe use of firearms	214	21.4%
Violence in the home such as domestic violence or child abuse	192	19.2%

Key Findings

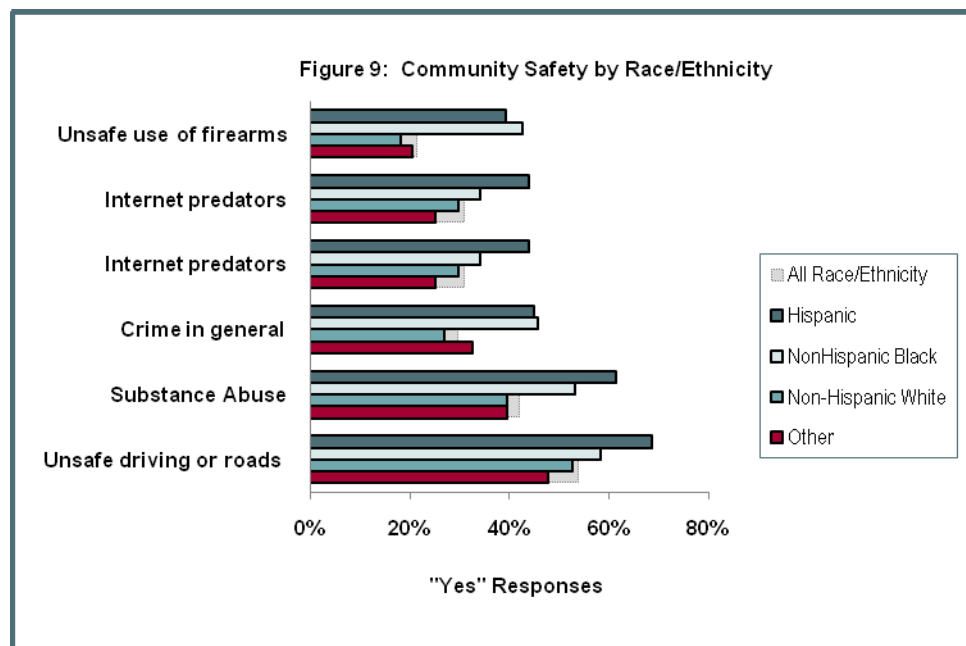
- Unsafe driving or roads was the only issue, among several, that a majority of the survey sample considered a serious threat to the safety of their community. Notably, when analyzed by region, a larger proportion of Southwest and City of Poughkeepsie residents (60% and 65%, respectively) indicated that unsafe driving is a serious threat, compared to about 40% of Northeast and Northwest residents.



- A disproportionate percentage of residents of the City of Poughkeepsie feel that several issues are a threat to the safety of their community, as compared to the other three regions. As illustrated in Figure 7, more than 60% of City of Poughkeepsie residents said that the unsafe use of firearms, crime in general, and substance abuse are a serious threat to the safety of their community.
- Relatively large proportions of the sample answered “Don’t know” when asked if the following are serious threats to the safety of their community: substance abuse (20%), unsafe use of firearms (14%), violence in the home (24%), school violence or bullying (25%), and internet predators (31%).
- Generally, younger respondents responded in the affirmative more often than other groups for this set of questions, with the proportion of affirmative answers declining with age. Issues for which these variations were particularly notable are highlighted in Figure 8.



- Generally, larger proportions of Hispanic and non-Hispanic black residents indicate that the items listed were a threat to the safety of their community than non-Hispanic white residents, as shown in Figure 9.



Detailed Findings

Unsafe Driving or Roads

Respondents from the Southwest region and the City of Poughkeepsie were more likely to consider unsafe driving or roads a serious threat to the

community – 60% and 65%, respectively, compared to approximately 42% of respondents in the Northwest and Northeast regions.

A higher proportion of male respondents indicated that unsafe driving or roads is a serious issue compared with female respondents (58% versus 50%). Female Dutchess County residents were more likely to either not think this is a serious issue or not know.

The proportion of respondents who felt this is a serious issue was highest in the youngest age group (62% of 18-21 year olds) and generally declined with each age category. In the oldest group, 75 years and older, 51% considered unsafe driving or roads a serious threat.

A larger proportion of Hispanic respondents (68%) indicated that unsafe driving or roads is a serious threat to the safety of their communities than any other racial/ethnic category.

There was little variation among respondents with differing levels of education on this issue, with over half of respondents in each group indicating that unsafe driving or roads is a serious community issue.

Substance Abuse

Nearly three-quarters of City of Poughkeepsie respondents saw substance abuse as a serious threat to the safety of their community. This is in contrast to less than half of residents in the other three regions.

Two thirds of 18-21 year olds saw substance abuse as a serious threat, compared to less than half of all other age groups.

While less than half of non-Hispanic white respondents (40%) indicated that substance abuse is a serious threat to the safety of their community, more than half of Hispanic (61%) and non-Hispanic black (53%) respondents saw it as a serious threat.

The proportion of respondents who felt this is a serious issue was highest in the group with the least amount of education (45% of those with high school education or less) and declined with increasing education.

Unsafe Use of Firearms

A higher proportion of City of Poughkeepsie residents considered the unsafe use of firearms a serious threat to the safety of their community than residents of any other region in the County (63% compared to less than 20% in other regions).

A third of 18-21 year olds saw the unsafe use of firearms as a serious threat to the safety of their community, compared with 22% or less in other age groups.

Approximately 40% of Hispanic and non-Hispanic black respondents considered the unsafe use of firearms a serious threat to the safety of their communities; this is more than twice the proportion of non-Hispanic white respondents.

While 30% of respondents in the high school or less group considered unsafe use of firearms a serious threat to the safety of the community, only 18% of respondents in the other education groups viewed it as a serious threat.

Crime in General

While less than a third of the entire sample indicated that crime is a threat to the safety of their community, 70% of City of Poughkeepsie respondents answered yes to this question. Half of 18-21 year olds surveyed felt it is a serious threat, compared to less than a third in other age groups. Approximately 45% of Hispanic and non-Hispanic black respondents indicated that crime is a threat to the safety of their community, compared to less than a third of other race/ethnicity groups. Over one-third of respondents in the high school or less education group viewed crime as a serious threat, compared to less than a quarter of those in the college or more group.

Violence in the Home

Regional differences were not statistically significant. However, it is notable that a higher proportion of all respondents indicated they did not know whether this is a serious issue than those who indicated that it is an issue (24% vs. 19%).

Among female respondents, 17% viewed violence in the home as a serious threat to the safety of the community, versus 21% of male respondents. Slightly more female respondents indicated that they did not know whether this is a serious issue, compared with male respondents (25% vs. 22%). Still, gender differences were not statistically significant.

The proportion of respondents that saw violence in the home as a serious threat was 22% or less in all age groups, with the highest proportion (22%) in the 35-59 year old age group and the lowest, 14%, in the 22-34 year old group.

Among Hispanic respondents, 30% saw violence in the home as a serious threat to the safety of the community; among non-Hispanic black respondents, the proportion was 28%. Less than a fifth (18%) of non-Hispanic white respondents saw violence in the home as a serious threat.

The proportion of respondents who considered violence in the home a serious threat was 22% among respondents with an educational level of

high school or less and between 17% and 18% for respondents with some college and those who were college educated.

School Violence or Bullying

A third of the entire sample indicated that school violence or bullying is a serious threat to the safety of their community. The lowest proportion was in the Northeast sample, at 25%; the City of Poughkeepsie was 36%, and the highest was in the Southwest, at 37%.

The proportion of Dutchess County residents who viewed school violence or bullying as a threat to community safety was greater among female respondents than males (36% vs. 30%). These differences were not statistically significant.

There was little variation among age groups on this issue, with the proportion of respondents who saw school violence as a serious threat to safety ranging from 26% among the 75 and older group to 36% among the 35-59 year old group.

Among the three major ethnic groups represented in the sample, the proportion identifying school violence as a threat ranged from 33% among non-Hispanic white respondents to 39% among Hispanic respondents. Differences among race/ethnic groups were not statistically significant.

There was little variation between education levels on this issue, with the proportion of respondents who viewed school violence or bullying as a threat to community safety ranging from 32% for those who are high school educated to 34% for those with at least a college degree.

Internet Predators

Internet predators were seen as a major threat to safety by less than a third of the sample (31%). Notably, an equal proportion indicated that they did not know whether or not this is a serious threat. The Northeast and Northwest samples had the lowest proportion of respondents who considered this a serious threat, at 22% and 25%, respectively, whereas the City of Poughkeepsie and Southwest had the highest proportions, at 37% and 35%, respectively.

The largest proportion of respondents who saw internet predators as a serious threat was in the 18-21 year old group, at 42%, compared to less than a third in all of the other age categories.

Differences across racial/ethnic groups were not statistically significant.

There was little variation between education levels for respondents indicating that internet predators are a threat to community safety. The proportion for all levels range from 31% to 32%.

Natural Disasters and Emergencies – Community Readiness

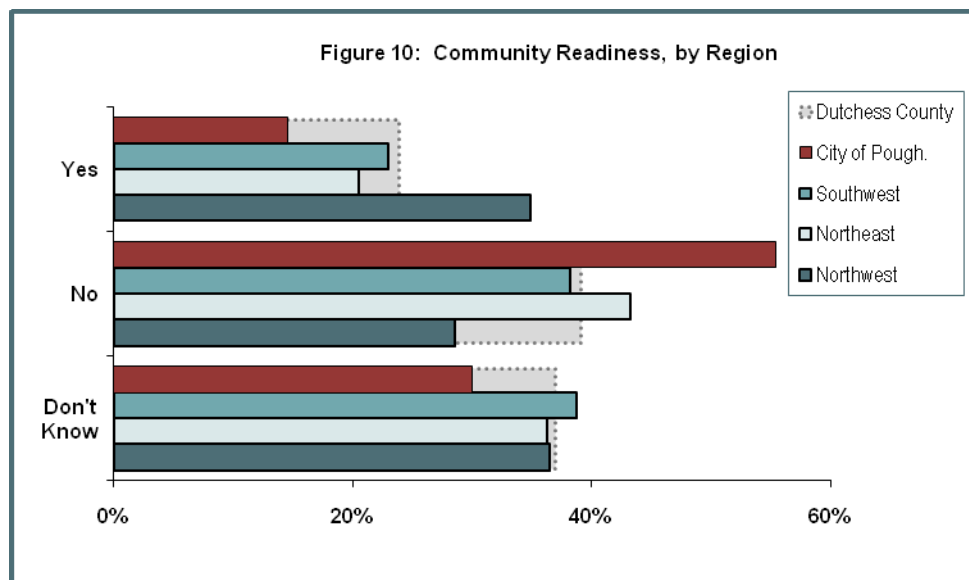
Survey respondents were asked whether they feel their community is ready to deal with a natural disaster or emergency.

Table 3: Do you feel that your community is ready to deal with a natural disaster or other emergency?

Response	Yes	Percentage
Yes	239	23.9%
No	392	39.2%
Don't Know	369	36.9%
Total	1,000	100.0%

Key Findings

- The majority of survey respondents indicated they either do not know or do not feel that their community is ready for a natural disaster or other emergency. Only about a quarter of all residents feel their community is ready to deal with such an event.
- The proportion of residents who feel their community is ready for a natural disaster ranged from 35% in the Northwest to only 15% in the City of Poughkeepsie, as illustrated in Figure 10. Fifty-six percent of City of Poughkeepsie residents felt their community is not prepared.



Detailed Findings

The largest proportion of respondents who felt their community is prepared was from the Northwest (35%), with the smallest proportion in the City of Poughkeepsie (15%). Respondents from the Northeast and

Southwest regions fell in the middle of this range at 21% and 23%. City of Poughkeepsie respondents were less likely to be unaware if their community is prepared to deal with a natural disaster or emergency (30% vs. 36%-39% in other regions).

Male respondents were more likely to indicate feeling that their community is prepared to deal with a natural disaster or emergency – 27% compared to 21% of female respondents. A larger proportion of female respondents felt that their community is not prepared (40% vs. 35% of males), and nearly equal proportions of male and female respondents indicated not knowing.

About a third of 18-21 year olds and a third of those 60 and older indicated that they feel their communities are ready for an emergency, compared with 15% of the 22-34 age group and 23% of the 35-59 age group. A larger proportion of respondents under age 60 felt their community is not prepared – 42%, compared with 30% of 60-74 year olds and 23% among those aged 75 and older. Nearly one-quarter of 18-21 year olds did not know if their community was prepared to deal with a natural disaster or emergency.

More than half (57%) of Hispanic respondents indicated that they did not know if their community is ready to deal with a natural disaster or emergency, whereas 36% of non-Hispanic whites and 34% of non-Hispanic blacks did not know. The non-Hispanic white group had the largest proportion of respondents who felt their community is ready to deal with a natural disaster or emergency – 25%, compared to less than 18% in the other race/ethnicity categories.

Over one-quarter of college educated respondents felt their community is ready to deal with a natural disaster or emergency, compared with 22% of respondents with less education. Respondents with less than a college education were more likely to be unaware of community readiness (38%-40% vs. 34% among college educated respondents).

Natural Disasters and Emergencies - Preparation for Emergencies

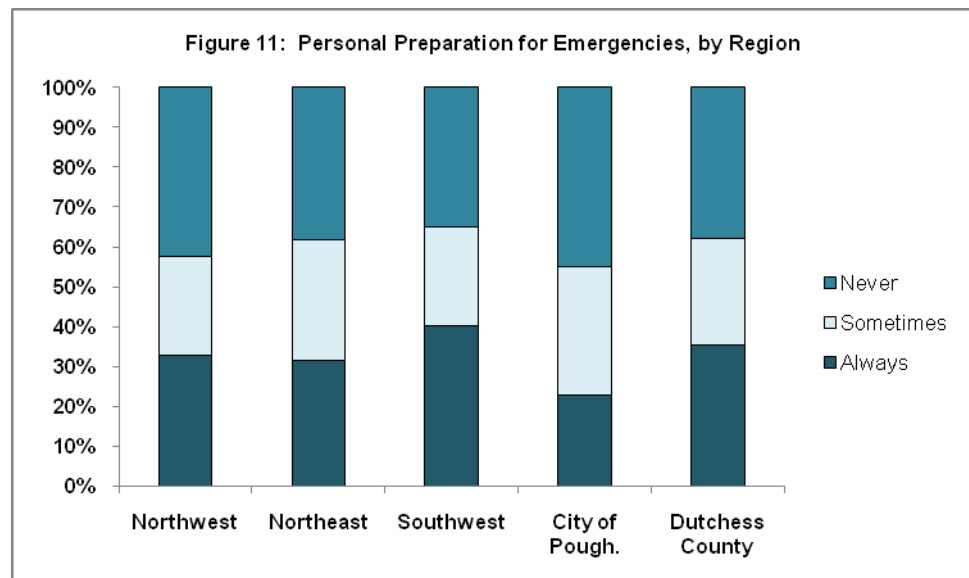
Survey respondents were asked: “In preparation for an emergency – like a winter storm – do you stockpile at least a two week supply of emergency food and supplies, such as canned food, bottled water, and any medicine you take regularly?”

Table 4: In preparation for an emergency -- like a winter storm -- do you stockpile at least a two week supply of emergency food and supplies, such as canned food, bottled water, and any medicine you take regularly?

Response	Yes	Percentage
Always	352	35.2%
Sometimes	264	26.4%
Never	377	37.7%
Don't Know	7	0.7%
Refused	0	0.0%
TOTAL	1,000	100.0%

Key Findings

- Nearly two-fifths (38%) of survey respondents “never” stockpile supplies such as canned food, bottled water, and prescription medicines in preparation for emergencies.



Detailed Findings

Differences across regions, gender, educational levels and racial/ethnic groups were not statistically significant.

Only 15% of 18 to 21 year olds indicate they always prepare for an emergency. In other age groups, the proportion ranges from 34% among 35-59 year olds to 45% among those 75 and older.

Community Health

Serious Health Issues in Your Community

Survey respondents were asked if any of the following are a serious health issue in their community: air pollution; water pollution; unsafe housing conditions; food safety; Lyme disease or other insect-related diseases.

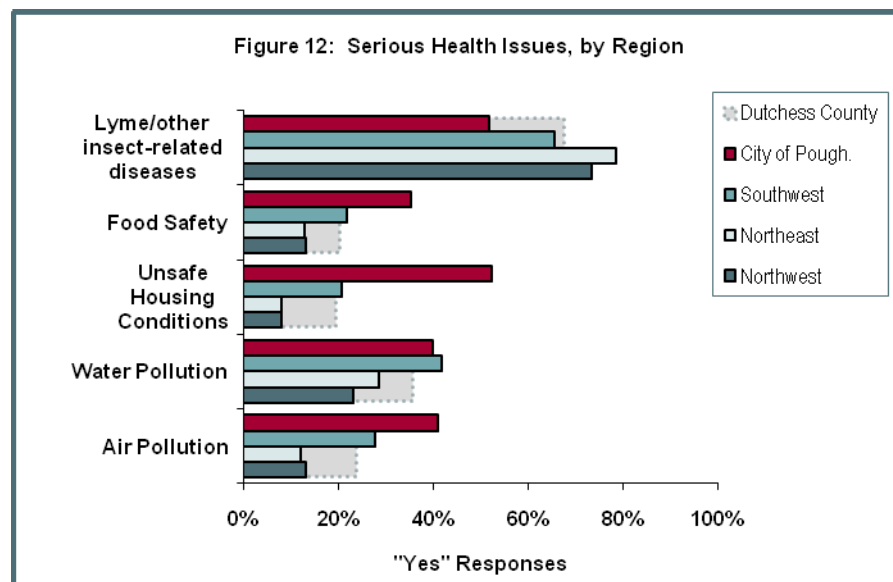
Table 5 shows the proportion of the sample responding yes to each of the categories above.

Table 5: In your opinion are any of the following a serious health issue in your community?

	Yes	Percentage
Lyme Disease or Other insect-related diseases	678	67.8%
Water Pollution	358	35.8%
Air Pollution	236	23.6%
Food Safety	202	20.2%
Unsafe Housing Conditions	196	19.6%

Key Findings

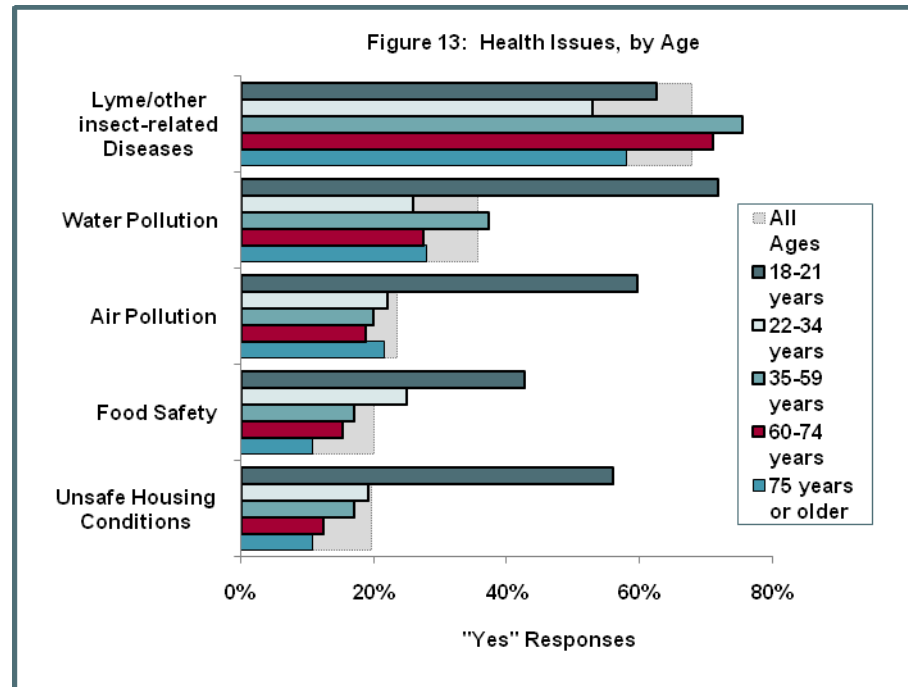
- Lyme Disease (and other insect-related diseases) was the only one of five health issues that a majority of respondents consider a serious health issue in their community (see Figure 12). About two-thirds of the sample responded “yes” to this question, in contrast to 35% or less for all of the other health issues in the list. A greater proportion of respondents from the Northwest and Northeast regions (74% and 79%) feel that Lyme Disease is a serious concern; however, more than half of respondents from all regions responded in the affirmative.



- While only a fifth of all respondents feel that unsafe housing conditions are a serious health issue, just over half of City of Poughkeepsie

residents feel that they are (the same proportion of City of Poughkeepsie residents who feel Lyme Disease is a serious health issue).

- With the exception of Lyme Disease, the youngest age group (18-21 years) had the highest proportion of respondents indicating that any of the five items are a serious health issue in their community, as illustrated in Figure 13.



Detailed Findings

Air Pollution

The largest proportion of respondents who indicated that air pollution is a serious health issue was among residents of the Southwest region of the County and the City of Poughkeepsie. Forty-one percent of City of Poughkeepsie respondents and more than a quarter (28%) of the respondents from Southwestern Dutchess saw air pollution as a serious health issue, compared to less than 14% of residents of the Northwest and Northeast.

Nearly a quarter of both male and female residents viewed air pollution as a serious issue; however, female residents were more likely to indicate not knowing if air pollution is a serious issue (12% vs. 7% of males).

Significant differences emerged across age groups and race/ethnicity categories in terms of air pollution. Nearly 60% of the youngest age group (18-21 years) considers air pollution a serious health issue, compared to about a quarter of the sample as whole. Hispanic respondents were much

more likely to not know if air pollution was a serious health issue (23%, compared with less than 13% for other groups).

Respondents with high school education or less were slightly more likely to consider air pollution a serious issue. However, variations across educational levels were not statistically significant.

Water Pollution

A similar regional variation emerged in terms of water pollution. About 40% of Southwest and City of Poughkeepsie residents considered this a serious health issue, compared with about a quarter of the remaining sample.

Male residents were more likely to indicate that water pollution is a serious issue (38% vs. 33% of females), while female residents were more likely to not know if water pollution is a serious issue (17% vs. 11% of males).

As with air pollution, younger residents were more likely to consider water pollution a serious issue – 72% of 18-21 year olds compared to 35% of the overall sample.

There was little variation among respondents with different educational levels; approximately 35% of all groups considered water pollution a serious issue.

Unsafe Housing Conditions

More than half of City of Poughkeepsie residents (52%) and about a fifth of Southwest residents consider unsafe housing conditions to be a serious health issue. This is in contrast to less than 10% of residents of the Northeast and Northwest regions of the County.

About a fifth of both male and female residents indicated that unsafe housing was a serious community health issue – 21% and 18%, respectively. These gender differences were not statistically significant.

The majority of 18-21 year olds consider unsafe housing a serious health issue, compared to less than a fifth of the remaining sample.

The Black non-Hispanic group had the largest proportion of residents (37%) who indicated that unsafe housing was a serious health issue, compared with 23% of Hispanic respondents and only 18% of non-Hispanic white respondents. However, it is important to note that these differences across racial/ethnic groups are likely driven by the regional differences and the underlying racial/ethnic differences between regions in Dutchess County.

A quarter of respondents with less than college education consider unsafe housing conditions to be a serious health issue, compared with 14% of college educated respondents.

Food Safety

Residents from the City of Poughkeepsie were the most likely to indicate that food safety is a serious health issue, as were younger survey respondents, males, and Hispanic respondents. Variations within race/ethnicity categories were not statistically significant. College educated respondents were less likely to indicate that food safety is a serious health issue.

Lyme Disease and Other Insect-related Diseases

As mentioned above, Lyme disease and other insect-related disease was the only category that a majority of the sample reported as a serious health issue in their community. The highest proportions of residents indicating this is a serious issue were in the Northeast (79%) and Northwest (74%); nearly two thirds of respondents from the Southwest and slightly more than half of those from the City of Poughkeepsie said it is a serious health issue.

Residents between the ages of 35 and 74 were the most likely to say this is a serious health issue (76% of 35-59 year olds and 71% of 60-74 year olds).

Differences across racial/ethnic groups were not statistically significant.

Three-quarters of college educated respondents indicated that Lyme disease and other insect related diseases are serious health issues in the community, compared with just over half of respondents with a high school education or less.

Healthcare Access

Survey participants were asked: “at any time in the past year, did you or any member of your immediate household need but did not receive any of the following healthcare services?” Less than 20% of the entire sample indicated that they had needed but did not receive a particular type of health care service.

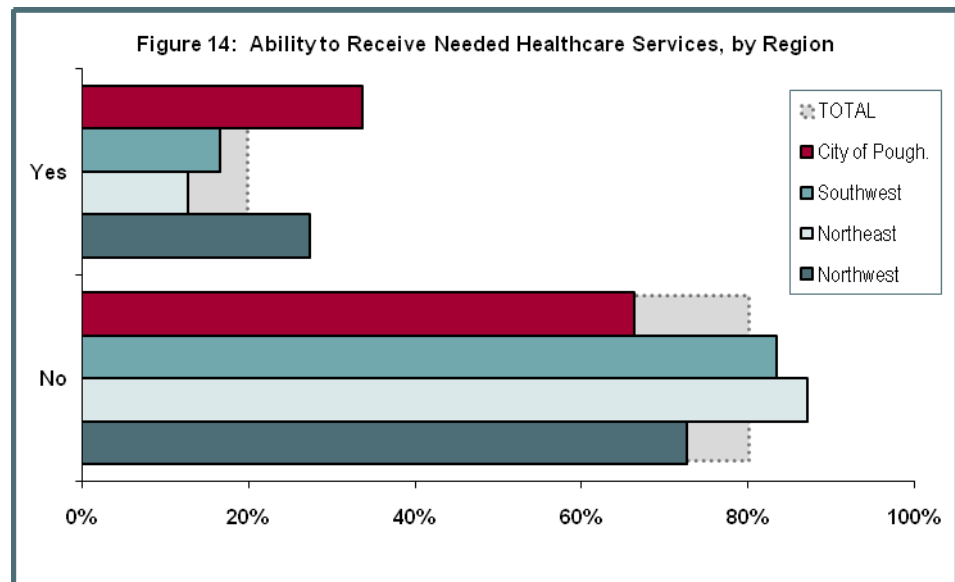
Table 6: At any time in the past year did you or any member of your immediate household need but did not receive any of the following health care services?

Analysis of respondents answering 'yes' to any service listed.

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	197	19.7%
No	803	80.3%
Total	1,000	100.0%

Key Findings

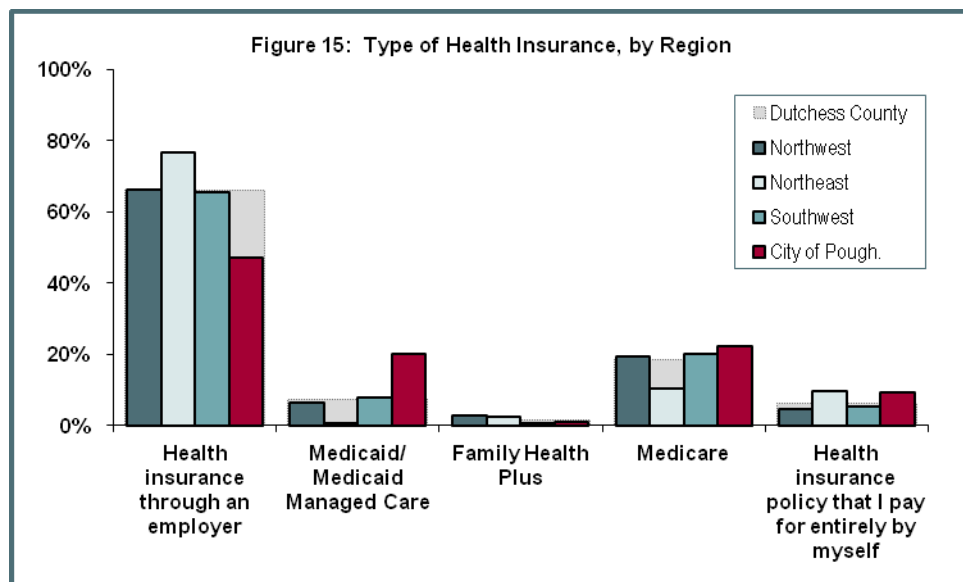
- Less than 20% of Dutchess County residents surveyed said that they or someone in their household was unable to receive necessary healthcare services in the past year.
- A larger proportion of respondents in the City of Poughkeepsie (34%) and the Northwest (27%) reported needing but not receiving one or more health care services, compared to 13% of residents of the Northeast region and 17% of the Southwest region (see Figure 14).



- Almost two-thirds of respondents who were unable to receive needed services indicated that health insurance was a reason they or a member of their household were unable to receive services. Among those who reported health insurance problems as a barrier to needed healthcare services, specific problems included lack of insurance (81%) and lack of coverage for service (46%).
- The majority (89%) of surveyed Dutchess County residents reported that they have health insurance coverage for themselves; however, more respondents from the City of Poughkeepsie were uninsured (78%) compared with other regions (89-93%). Of those that are insured, the

majority are covered by an employer-sponsored plan, either their own or someone else's (66%).

- Over one-third of respondents reported going outside of Dutchess County for healthcare services in the previous year. This was most common among respondents from the Northeast region of the county, where over half indicated accessing services outside of Dutchess County.
- Among respondents who accessed services outside Dutchess County, the most commonly cited reason was a preference for a provider outside of the County (69%).



Detailed Findings

Ability to Receive Needed Services

The highest frequency of respondents unable to receive a needed service in the past year was in the City of Poughkeepsie (34%) and the Northwest (27%). Across age groups, the highest proportion of respondents unable to receive needed services was in the youngest age group and declined steadily as age increased.

Numbers in the Hispanic and non-Hispanic black subgroups are small and variations were not statistically significant.

There was only a small amount of variation across educational levels in terms of needing but not receiving services; excluding the “other” category, between 17% and 23% of any group reported needing but not receiving any of the needed services.

The table below shows the particular services that respondents needed but did not receive.

Table 7: At any time in the past year did you or any member of your immediate household need but did not receive any of the following health care services?

Response	Number	Percentage (n=1000)	Percentage of those who reported needing but not receiving services (n=193)
Dental Care	103	10.3%	53.4%
Primary Care for an adult, such as an annual checkup or a visit for a minor complaint such as a cold	70	7.0%	36.3%
Eye Care	60	6.0%	31.1%
Health Screening (for example mammogram, Pap Smear, colonoscopy)	46	4.6%	23.8%
A visit to a specialist who treats heart problems, diabetes, or other specific conditions	46	4.6%	23.8%
Prescription drugs	44	4.4%	22.8%
Surgery	26	2.6%	13.5%
Mental health services	14	1.4%	7.3%
Visits to a pediatrician, for a regular checkup or child was sick	12	1.2%	6.2%
Hearing Care	11	1.1%	5.7%
Any medical services provided by the Veteran's administration	10	1.0%	5.2%
Substance abuse services	3	0.3%	1.6%

The most frequently reported service that respondents needed but did not receive was dental care (53% of all respondents who reported not being able to receive needed care), followed by primary care for an adult (36%) and eye care (31%).

Generally, due to the small number of responses for each individual type of service, it is not possible to report statistically significant results across demographic and regional categories. However, it is notable that 26% of City of Poughkeepsie residents who reported needing but not receiving care indicated they could not access dental care, compared to 8% of Northeast and Southwest residents, and 12% of Northwest residents.

Access to Mental Health Services

As shown in the table related to specific services above, 14 respondents indicated they needed but did not receive mental health services. These respondents were asked to specify the type of mental health services they needed but were not able to receive. Frequencies for this question are

presented below; however, the subset of the sample is too small to analyze the data across regions or other characteristics:

Table 8: In regards to mental health services, in the past year did you or any member of your immediate household need but did not receive any of the following services?

(This question was asked if respondent indicated needing but not receiving mental health services in the previous question.)

	Yes	Percentage (n=14)
Counseling/Therapy	8	57.1%
Medications	4	28.6%
Crisis Care	1	7.1%
Hospitalization	1	7.1%

Barriers to Healthcare Access

Health Insurance

Respondents were asked to indicate the reasons they were unable to receive needed care. Of the 193 respondents who were unable to receive needed services, almost two-thirds (123) indicated that health insurance was one reason they or an immediate member of their household were unable to receive needed services.

Table 9: Was health insurance ever a reason why you or any immediate member of your household did not receive a needed healthcare service?

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	123	63.9%
No	64	33.4%
Don't Know	5	2.7%
Total	193	100.0%

Due to the small sample size within this question, statistically significant results were not obtained when regional and demographic comparisons were made.

Similarly, we cannot report demographic or regional comparisons for the specific types of health insurance barriers experienced by respondents; however, frequencies for these barriers are presented in Table 10.

Table 10: (For respondents indicating an inability to access services). Was health insurance ever a reason why you or any immediate member of your household did not receive a needed healthcare service?

	Yes	Percentage (n=123)
Lack of health insurance and could not pay out-of-pocket	100	81.3%
Health insurance policy did not cover service	57	46.3%
Health insurance policy covered the service but the co-pay or deductible was too expensive	41	33.3%

Other Access Issues

Respondents had the opportunity to indicate additional reasons why they were unable to access needed services.

Table 11: Continuing possible reasons why you or any immediate member of your household did not receive a needed healthcare service, were any of the following a problem for you?

	Yes	Percentage (n=183)
There was too long a wait to get an appointment	30	16.4%
The provider had limited hours	28	15.3%
Unable to take time off from work	28	15.3%
The service was not available	16	8.7%
Transportation problems (for example, unavailable or too expensive)	14	7.7%
Provider did not speak your language (for example, little or no translation available)	9	4.9%
Not aware at the time that the service was available	6	3.3%
Child care problems	3	1.6%

Sample sizes within each response are too small to draw statistically significant conclusions across demographic and regional categories.

Accessing Services Outside Dutchess County

Approximately one-third (34%) of survey respondents indicated that they or an immediate member of their household had gone outside of Dutchess County for healthcare services in the past year.

Table 12: In the past year, have you or any immediate member of your household gone outside of Dutchess County to get healthcare services?

Response	Number	Percentage
No	657	65.7%
Yes	338	33.8%
Don't Know	6	0.6%
Total	1,000	100.0%

Respondents in the Northeast region were most likely to access services outside the County – 52% of this population, as opposed to 11% of City of Poughkeepsie residents. In the Southwest region, 35% of residents had gone outside of the County for services; in the Northwest, 28% had.

By age group, about a half (51%) of 18-21 year olds had accessed services outside of the County. The proportions in other age groups fell between 26% of 75 and older residents and 36% of 35-39 year olds.

By race/ethnicity, the largest proportion of residents accessing services outside the County was among non-Hispanic whites, at 36%, and the lowest proportion was among non-Hispanic blacks, at 17%.

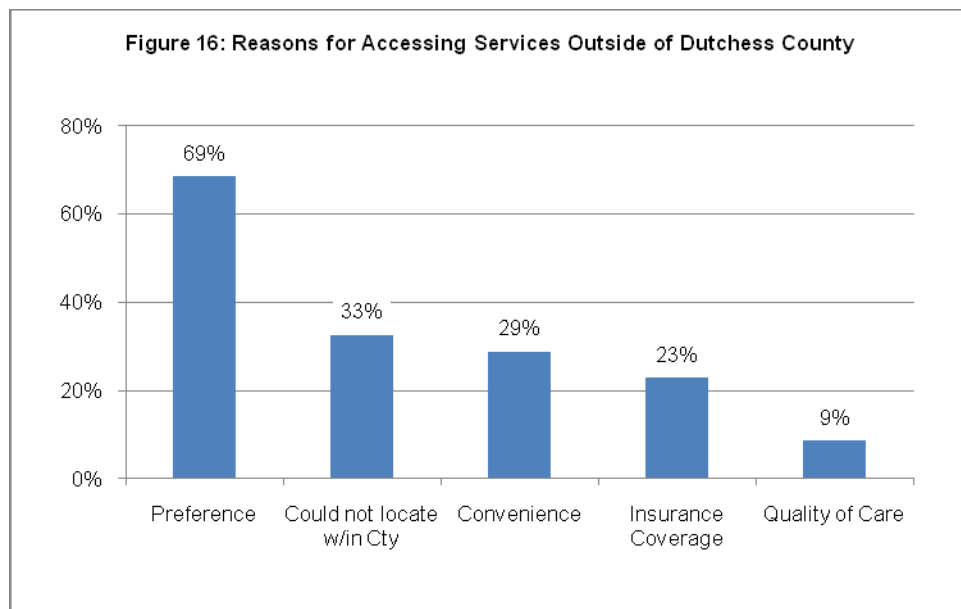
Across educational levels, those with an educational level of college or more had the highest proportion of respondents who said they had accessed services outside of the County (41%), compared to about a third of the sample as a whole.

The subset of respondents who indicated they had accessed services outside of the County was asked to indicate the reason(s) that they had gone outside of the County.

Table 13: Please indicate which of the following reasons you or a household member had for going outside Dutchess County for healthcare services.

	Yes	Percentage (n=337)
Preferred a provider outside of Dutchess County	231	68.5%
Could not locate a provider in Dutchess County	110	32.6%
It was more convenient to go outside Dutchess County	97	28.8%
Health insurance did not cover the providers needed in Dutchess County	77	22.8%

One-third of respondents who had to go outside of the County for healthcare services did so because they could not locate a provider within Dutchess County; this represents 11% of all respondents. In addition to the listed reasons, 29 respondents indicated that they sought health care services outside of Dutchess County because of the quality of care and 19 said that they were referred to a provider outside of Dutchess County. Figure 16 illustrates the proportion of residents identifying specific reasons for accessing services outside of the County, including those who specified reasons that were not listed in the survey question.



Preferred a provider outside of Dutchess County

Nearly two-thirds (69%) of respondents who reported seeking care outside the County indicated they preferred a provider outside of the County. The highest proportion of this response was in the Northwest and Southwest regions, at 71% each, followed by the Northeast (65%), and the City of Poughkeepsie (50%).

The proportion of those who preferred a provider outside of the County was highest among respondents age 22 or older. Compared to only 30% of 18-21 year olds, 69% of 22-34 year olds, 77% of 35-59 year olds, and 63% of those 75 years and older cited this as a reason.

A comparison across racial/ethnic groups is not appropriate due to the small number of respondents in the non-Hispanic black and Hispanic groups.

A comparison across educational levels indicates that a majority of each group preferred a provider outside the County, with the highest proportion (81%) among those in the "high school or less" category and the smallest (51%) among those with some college.

Could not locate a provider in Dutchess County

Of the 337 survey respondents who had sought care outside of the County, about one-third (110) cited their inability to locate a provider in Dutchess County. Of 12 City of Poughkeepsie residents who had sought care outside the County, 9 cited this as the reason (75%). Between 29% and 37% of respondents in other regions indicated that the inability to locate a provider was a reason for seeking care outside the County.

By gender, 39% of female respondents were unable to locate a provider in Dutchess County, compared with 26% of males.

By age group, the largest proportion of respondents who indicated they could not locate a provider in the County was in the 18-21 year old group, at 71%, compared to a range of 25% to 29% among all other age groups except those respondents between 60 and 74 years. In this group, 5 of 38 respondents, or 13%, indicated they could not locate a provider in Dutchess County.

A comparison across racial/ethnic groups is not appropriate due to the small number of respondents in the non-Hispanic black and Hispanic groups.

Comparisons across educational levels were not statistically significant.

Health insurance did not cover the providers needed in Dutchess County

Nearly a quarter of respondents who sought care outside the County did so because their health insurance did not cover the provider(s) they needed in Dutchess County.

The proportion of respondents who cited this as a reason for going outside the County ranged from a high of 55% (23 of 42) among 18-21 year olds to 3% of 60-74 year olds (1 of 38) and no respondents in the 75 and over group.

A comparison across racial/ethnic groups is not appropriate due to the small number of respondents in the non-Hispanic black and Hispanic groups.

By education level, the smallest proportion of respondents reporting that health insurance did not cover providers within the County were those with a college education or more, at 15%, compared to 32% of those with high school or less and 37% of those with some college.

It was more convenient to go outside Dutchess County

The highest proportion of respondents who indicated that it was more convenient to go outside of the County for services was in the City of Poughkeepsie (58%). However, due to the small number of City of Poughkeepsie residents who had gone outside of the County for services, this number should be interpreted with caution.

As noted above, variations across age and racial/ethnic groups must be interpreted with caution due to small subsets for this question.

Those respondents with an educational level of college or more had the smallest proportion of respondents (25%) who cited convenience as a reason for accessing services outside the County, compared to 32% of those with high school or less and 35% of those with some college.

Insurance Status

A large majority (89%) of survey respondents reported that they have health insurance coverage for themselves.

Table 14: Do you currently have health insurance coverage for yourself?

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	893	89.2%
No	108	10.8%
Total	1000	100.0%

A smaller proportion of City of Poughkeepsie residents had coverage; 78% compared with 89% or above in the other regions.

Across age groups, the proportion of respondents with health insurance was lowest in the youngest age group (77%) and increased with each age group to 99% of those age 70 and older.

By race/ethnicity, Hispanic respondents had the smallest proportion of insurance coverage at 79%; among non-Hispanic whites the proportion was 90% and among non-Hispanic blacks, 87%.

The proportion of respondents with health insurance increased with educational level, from 82% of those with high school or less to 96% of those with college or more.

Respondents who indicated they were covered by health insurance were asked to indicate the type of insurance they have.

Table 15: Which of the following type of health insurance are you covered by? Select One.

	Yes	Percentage (n=894)
Health insurance through an employer, whether your own or someone else's	578	64.7%
Medicare	163	18.2%
Medicaid/ Medicaid Managed Care	66	7.4%
Health insurance policy that I pay for entirely by myself	56	6.3%
Family Health Plus	14	1.6%
Refused	12	1.3%
Don't Know	5	0.6%

The majority of respondents were covered by employer sponsored insurance, either their own or someone else's.

The largest proportion of respondents with employer-based health insurance was: residents of the Northeast region of the County (75%); in the 18-21 and 34-59 year age groups (78 and 77%, respectively); non-Hispanic white (66%); and those with an educational level of college or more (75%). Groups with the smallest proportion covered by employer sponsored insurance were residents of the City of Poughkeepsie (47%); 60-74 years old (49%) and 70 and older (12%); Hispanic (56%) or non-Hispanic black (55%); and with an educational level of high school or less (43%).

Subgroups for other types of insurance are too small for valid interpretation across demographic or regional characteristics.

Social Services

Respondents were asked whether, in the past year, they or someone in their immediate household needed but were unable to receive financial assistance or any other type of assistance from a county or non-profit agency.

Table 16: At any time in the past year did you or any member of your immediate household need but did not receive any of the following financial assistance?

Analysis of respondents answering 'yes' to any service listed.

Response	Number	Percentage
No	930	92.9%
Yes	71	7.1%
Total	1,001	100.0%

Table 17: At any time in the past year did you or any member of your immediate household need but did not receive any other service assistance?

Analysis of respondents answering 'yes' to any service listed.

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	115	11.5%
No	885	88.5%
Total	1,000	100.0%

Key Findings

- Only a small proportion of respondents were unable to receive necessary financial assistance (7%) or other types of basic assistance (12%) from county or non-profit agencies. Ineligibility was the most common barrier for respondents unable to access these services.

Detailed Findings

Financial Assistance

Less than a tenth of the sample reported needing but not being able to receive financial assistance from a County or non-profit agency.

Residents of the City of Poughkeepsie and individuals 22-34 years of age constituted the highest proportion of respondents who answered “yes” to this question. Comparisons by race/ethnicity and by educational level were not statistically significant.

Respondents were asked to indicate which specific services they applied for and did not receive. Of those who had indicated they were unable to receive one or more of the services listed, 44% applied for but were unable to receive Social Security Disability/Supplemental Security Income, and 44% applied for but did not receive Medicaid.

Table 18: In the past year, did you or any immediate member of your household apply for any of the following types of financial assistance from a county or non-profit agency, but were unable to receive them?

	Yes	Percentage (n=1000)	Percentage of those unable to receive one or more needed service (n=71)
Social Security Disability (SSD) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	31	3.1%	43.7%
Medicaid	31	3.1%	43.7%
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	22	2.2%	31.0%
Food stamps	19	1.9%	26.8%
Non-medical Services provided by the Veteran's Administration	12	1.2%	16.9%

Due to the small percentage of the total sample that was unable to receive financial services, comparisons across demographics and region are not presented here.

Barriers to Access – Financial Assistance

Respondents were asked to indicate the reason(s) they were unable to receive the services they applied for. As illustrated in Table 19, more than half cited ineligibility as one of the reasons they did not receive the service. About a fifth said the application process was too complicated. Due to the small sample sizes in this question, crosstab results are not presented here.

Table 19: Were any of the following service issues a reason that you or any immediate member of your household did not receive the needed service?

	Yes	Percentage* (n=69)
Not eligible for service	41	57.3%
Application process too complicated/did not understand application	14	20.1%
Unaware that such service was available	12	17.4%
The wait to get an appointment was too long	10	14.0%
Service full and unable to take more people	9	13.0%
Felt uncomfortable about seeking service	8	12.0%
Service hours too limited	7	9.7%
Unable to take time off from work	4	6.1%
I did not have transportation to reach the service	3	5.0%
Service not available in community	3	4.7%
Child care problems	3	3.9%
Language (for example, little/no translation available)	1	2.2%

**The weighting method used results in fractional values, rather than whole numbers, for frequencies. In this report we have rounded all fractions to the nearest whole number. Because the percentages are computed from the fractional values, percentages with the same whole number frequency may differ slightly.*

Other Services

Respondents were asked to indicate whether they had needed but were unable to receive any of a list of non-financial services from a County or non-profit agency in the past year.

Across demographic and regional groups, the highest proportion of respondents unable to receive a needed service was among: residents of the City of Poughkeepsie (26%) and 18-21 year olds (24%); and, excluding the “other” category, those with an educational level of some college (17%). Racial/ethnic comparisons were not statistically significant. Following are frequencies for each of the services that respondents could indicate they applied for but were unable to receive.

Table 20: At any time during the past year, did you or any member of your immediate household need but did not receive any of the following basic types of assistance from a county or non-profit agency?

	Yes	Percentage (n=1000)	Percentage of those unable to receive one or more needed service (n=112)*
Fuel and/or utilities assistance	45	4.5%	40.1%
Housing assistance	38	3.8%	33.8%
Transportation	20	2.0%	18.2%
Senior services	16	1.5%	14.3%
Legal assistance or advocacy services	14	1.4%	12.8%
Home care, respite or adult day care	14	1.4%	12.6%
Child care subsidy	12	0.1%	10.3%
Youth programs	11	0.9%	9.8%
Developmental disability or mental retardation services	4	0.4%	3.5%

**The weighting method used results in fractional values, rather than whole numbers, for frequencies. In this report we have rounded all fractions to the nearest whole number. Because the percentages are computed from the fractional values, percentages with the same whole number frequency may differ slightly.*

Barriers to Access – Other Services

Respondents who indicated they were unable to receive one or more of the services above were asked to indicate the reason(s) they were unable to do so (note that of the 112 respondents who were unable to receive one or more services, only 95 gave one or more reasons):

Table 21: Were any of the following issues a reason why you or any immediate member of your household did not receive needed service?

	Number	Percentage* (n=95)
Not eligible for service	60	63.2%
The service was too expensive	31	32.5%
The wait to get an appointment was too long	22	23.3%
Language (for example, little/no translation available)	16	17.1%
I did not have transportation to reach the service	14	14.9%
Service full and unable to take more people	14	14.9%
Service hours too limited	12	12.3%
Felt uncomfortable about seeking service	11	11.3%
Service not available in community	10	10.6%
Child care problems	9	9.4%
Unaware that such service was available	9	9.1%
Application process too complicated/did not understand application	4	4.2%
Unable to take time off from work	4	4.0%

**The weighting method used results in fractional values, rather than whole numbers, for frequencies. In this report we have rounded all fractions to the nearest whole number. Because the percentages are computed from the fractional values, percentages with the same whole number frequency may differ slightly.*

Caregiver Services

Respondents were asked whether they or anyone in their household is a caregiver to an elderly ill or disabled family member.

Table 22: Are you or anyone in your immediate household a caregiver to an elderly, ill, or disabled family member?

	Number	Percentage
Yes	110	11.0%
No	883	88.4%
Don't Know	7	0.6%
Total	1,000	100.0%

Key Findings

- Eleven percent of respondents reported being a caregiver to an elderly, disabled, or sick family member. Most caregivers were middle aged – between 35 and 59.

Detailed Findings

The largest proportion of caregivers was in the 35-59 year age group. Comparisons across other demographic and regional groups were not statistically significant.

A small number of caregivers reported needing but not receiving one or more of the following services:

Table 23: In the past year, did you or the person you care for need but were unable to receive any of the following services?

Response	Number	Percentage* (n=15)
Minor home modifications	8	53.3%
Transportation services	4	25.7%
Information and support	3	22.6%
In home care, respite or adult day care	3	22.3%
Financial assistance	3	20.9%

**The weighting method used results in fractional values, rather than whole numbers, for frequencies. In this report we have rounded all fractions to the nearest whole number. Because the percentages are computed from the fractional values, percentages with the same whole number frequency may differ slightly.*

Veterans Services

Individuals indicating they are or have ever been a member of active military service were asked about their awareness of veteran services. Results are listed in Table 24.

Table 24. Are you aware that you may be entitled to veteran services even if you have not served in combat? (n=118*)

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	102	86.4%
No	13	11.0%
Unsure	3	2.5%

**The weighting method used results in fractional values, rather than whole numbers, for frequencies. In this report we have rounded all fractions to the nearest whole number. This explains the difference between the total in this table and the total in the demographic table for individuals indicating they have been a member of active military service.*

Community Characteristics

Housing

Respondents were asked whether they are satisfied with their current housing conditions.

Table 25: Are you satisfied with your current housing situation?

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	899	89.9%
No	76	7.6%
Unsure	25	2.5%
Total	1,000	100.0%

Key Findings

- Close to 90% of Dutchess County respondents report being satisfied with their current housing situation. Respondents in the Northeastern region of Dutchess County reported the most satisfaction with housing conditions, while residents of the City of Poughkeepsie were least satisfied.

Detailed Findings

Among those who are satisfied with their housing conditions, the largest proportion was in the Northeast region, at 98%, and the lowest in the City of Poughkeepsie, at 72%. The proportion of those satisfied with the current housing situation was lowest in the younger age groups: 87% of 18-21 year olds and 81% of 22-34 year olds, with 93% of the other age groups reporting satisfaction with the housing situation.

Non-Hispanic black residents had the lowest proportion of respondents who were satisfied with their current housing situation, at 73% compared to 88% of Hispanic respondents and 91% of non-Hispanic white respondents.

Reasons for dissatisfaction with housing

Respondents indicating they were not satisfied with their housing were given the opportunity to choose one or more reasons.

Table 26: Are any of the following reasons why you are not satisfied?

	Yes	Percentage (n=76)
Housing too expensive	54	70.4%
Problems with the neighborhood (for example, noise level)	21	27.6%
Housing run down or structurally unsafe	16	20.9%
Housing is too far from town/services	2	2.8%

Of those who said that they were not satisfied with their housing, 70% indicated that housing was too expensive, a third reported neighborhood problems, and 21% said that housing was run down or structurally unsafe.

Due to the small number of respondents within each category, it is not appropriate to analyze these data across regional or demographic characteristics. However, it is of note that more than a quarter of City of Poughkeepsie residents expressed dissatisfaction with their housing.

Recreational Features

Respondents were asked to indicate whether three types of recreational features were available in their communities, whether they use them, and if not, why not.

Table 27: Are any of the following features available in your local community?

	Yes	Percentage (n=1000)
Public outdoor recreation areas like parks, playgrounds, sports fields	915	91.5%
Public outdoor trails for walking, running or bicycling	786	78.5%
Community Centers	618	61.9%

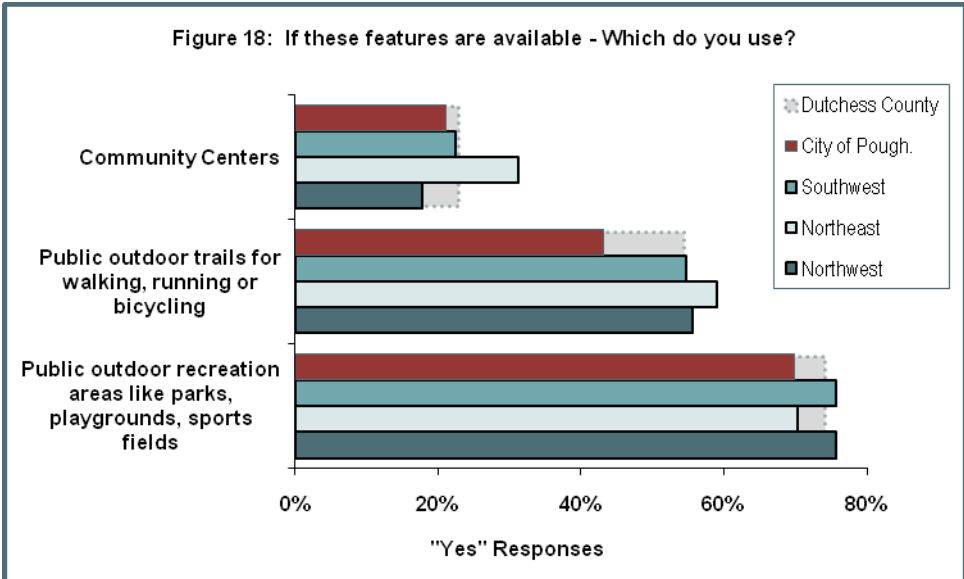
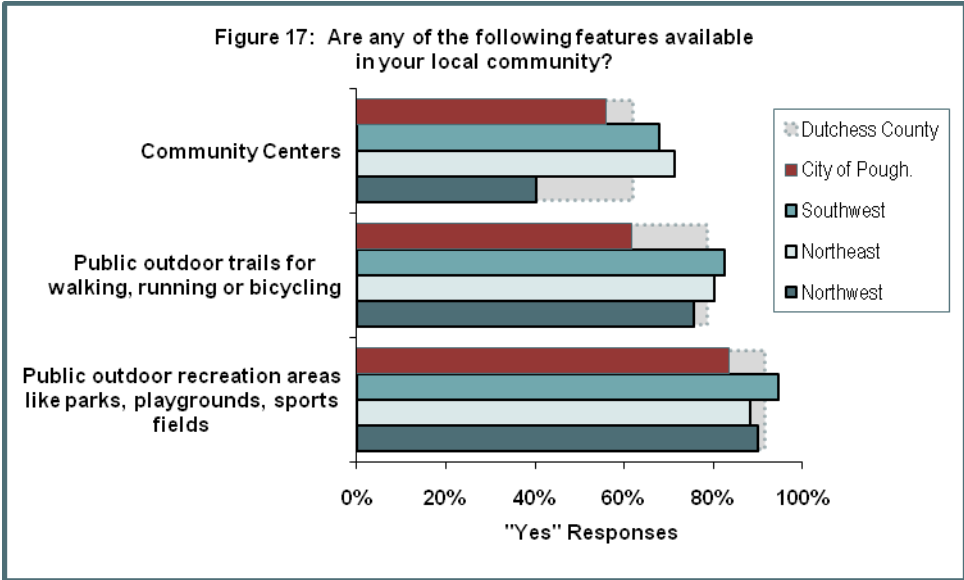
Table 28: Which of these features do you use?

	Yes	Percentage (n=959)
Public outdoor recreation areas like parks, playgrounds, sports fields	711	74.1%
Public outdoor trails for walking, running or bicycling	522	54.4%
Community Centers	219	22.9%

Key Findings

- Of respondents who indicated that certain features were available in their community, three-quarters of respondents report using public recreation

areas like parks, playgrounds, and sports fields, over half use outdoor trails, and less than a quarter report using community centers. Awareness of outdoor recreation areas including parks and trails was high, whereas awareness of community centers was relatively low among respondents.



Detailed Findings

Awareness of parks, playgrounds, and sports fields was highest among respondents, with only 5% indicating that these were not available and 3% being unsure. Eight percent of respondents were unsure if public outdoor

trails were available in the community. Awareness of community centers was lowest, with 21% of respondents indicating that they were unsure if community centers are available in their community and 17% indicating that they were not available.

Availability of Features

Parks, playgrounds and sports fields

By region, the proportion of respondents indicating that parks, playgrounds and fields are available ranged from 84% in the City of Poughkeepsie to 95% in the Southwest region. The City of Poughkeepsie had the highest proportion of respondents who said that these features were not available in their community at 15%, while 6% of Northwest respondents were unsure if parks, playgrounds and fields were available.

By age group, the proportion of respondents between 22 and 74 years of age indicating that parks, playgrounds and fields are available was 94% to 95%, with 65% of 18-21 year olds indicating the same and 85% of those 75 and older indicating the same. Over a quarter of those 18-21 said that parks, playgrounds and fields were not available in their community and another 10% were unsure.

Across racial/ethnic categories, the proportion of respondents indicating these features are available ranged between 88% and 93% (“other” excluded due to small sample size), with the highest proportion among Hispanics, and the lowest among non-Hispanic blacks. Non-Hispanic white respondents were more likely to say that parks, playgrounds and fields were not available in their community, while Hispanic and non-Hispanic blacks were more likely to be unsure if these features were available.

By educational level, the highest proportion of respondents who reported that parks, playgrounds and fields are available in their community was 95%, and the lowest was in the high school or less group, at 86%.

Outdoor trails for walking, running and cycling

Approximately 80% of respondents from the Northwest, Northeast and Southwest regions of the County indicated the trails are available in their community (76%, 80% and 83%, respectively), while 62% of City of Poughkeepsie respondents indicated the availability of this feature in their community. Respondents in Poughkeepsie were more likely to be unsure if outdoor trails were available in their community (12%), compared with Northwest and Northeast respondents (both 6%).

By age group there were relatively small variations in this question; the lowest proportion of respondents indicating the trails are available was the 22-34 year category (67%), and the highest proportion, 83%, was among

the 35-59 year age group. Twenty percent of 22-34 year olds said that outdoor trails were not available in their community and 13% of this group was unsure if these features were available. About 11% of those 60 and older were also unsure if outdoor trails were available in their community. Differences across racial/ethnic groups and educational levels were not statistically significant.

Community Centers

Over two-thirds of residents in the Northeast (71%) and Southwest (68%) indicated that community centers are available in their communities. By contrast, 56% of City of Poughkeepsie residents and 40% of Northwest residents indicated that community centers are available. About a fifth of the entire sample (21%) was unsure whether community centers are available. The proportion of respondents who were unsure was 15% in the Northeast, 17% in the City of Poughkeepsie, 21% in the Southwest and 29% in the Northwest.

Nearly two-thirds of both male and female respondents indicated that community centers were available in their community; however, female respondents were more likely to be unsure about the availability of community centers (25% vs. 17%).

The proportion of survey respondents who said that community centers are available increased by age group; 39% of 18-21 year olds indicated this was the case; 81% of the 75 and older group indicated the same. The proportion of survey respondents who were unsure about the availability of community centers decreased by age group, with 36% of 18-21 year olds reporting being unsure and 12% of the 75 and older group reporting the same.

By race and ethnicity, half of Hispanic residents say community centers are available; 57% of non-Hispanic black residents and 64% of non-Hispanic white residents said the same. Although awareness of community centers was low among minority groups, more Hispanics indicated that community centers were not available, while more non-Hispanic blacks were unsure if community centers were available.

Differences across educational groups were not statistically significant.

Use of recreational features

Of the respondents indicating that the above features are available in their community, the largest proportion said they use parks, playgrounds and sports fields; 54% say the outdoor trails, and only 23% say they use community centers.

Parks, playgrounds and sports fields

Regional variations in response to this question were small; 70% of respondents in the City of Poughkeepsie and the Northeast regions, and 76% of respondents in the Northwest and Southwest regions indicate using these features.

A larger proportion of 22-34 year olds (88%) use parks, playgrounds and fields than any other age group, across which proportions of those using these features range from 44% in the 75 and older group and 78% among 35-59 year olds.

Differences across gender and racial/ethnic categories were not statistically significant.

Across educational levels, the smallest proportion of those using parks, playgrounds and fields was in the high school or less category, at 65%, increasing to 78% in the college or more group.

Outdoor trails for walking, running and cycling

Use of walking, running and cycling trails was least prevalent among City of Poughkeepsie residents, at 43%, and most prevalent among residents of the Northeast, at 59%.

Male respondents were more likely to indicate using outdoor trails, at 59% compared with 50% of female respondents.

By age group, 18-21 year olds had the largest proportion of respondents indicating they use trails (71%); the oldest age group, those 75 and over, had the smallest (27%).

Differences across race and ethnic groups were not statistically significant.

The largest proportion of users of outdoor trails, by education level, was in the college or more group (60%), compared to 47% in the high school or less group.

Community centers

As noted above, a small percentage of the entire sample reported using community centers. Nearly a third of residents in the Northeast region use community centers; closer to one-fifth of the other regions' survey respondents do so.

Variations by age, race/ethnicity and educational level for this question were not statistically significant. However, a larger proportion of males (27%) indicated using community centers, compared with female respondents (19%).

Reasons for non-use of community recreation features

Respondents were asked to identify which of the following three issues make it difficult or impossible to use the features described above.

Table 29: Do any of the following issues make these features difficult or impossible to use?

	Yes	Percentage (n=959)
They are difficult to get to	74	7.7%
They are not safe	67	7.0%
They are too expensive to use	31	3.2%

Features are not safe

Nearly a fifth of City of Poughkeepsie respondents indicated that the features are not safe, compared with a range of 3-8% of the other regional groups.

By gender differences, females were more likely to indicate that features were not safe (8% vs. 5%).

In the 22-34 year age group, 12% indicated that the features are not safe, compared with a range of 3-6% in the other age groups.

About a tenth of Hispanic respondents felt that community features described above are not safe; 8% of non-Hispanic blacks and 6% of non-Hispanic whites felt that this was the case.

Little variation was seen among educational levels, except in the “other” category; however, due to the small number of respondents in this group the significance of this difference cannot be determined.

Features are difficult to get to

Variations among regions, gender, and educational levels were not statistically significant for this response.

By age group, the lowest proportion of respondents that felt the features are difficult to get to was in the 18-21 year old group, at 3%, and the highest was in the 22-34 year age group, at 9%.

A larger proportion of Hispanic respondents (22%) felt that the features are difficult to get to, compared to 13% or less in the other racial/ethnic groups.

Features are too expensive to use

Variations across regions and age groups for this response are not statistically significant.

Although 3% of both male and female respondents felt that community centers were too expensive to use, a greater proportion of females indicated that they did not know if they were too expensive (6% vs. 3%).

While only 2% of non-Hispanic white respondents felt that the features are too expensive to use, 13% of Hispanic respondents felt that this was the case.

While less than 2% of respondents in the some college group felt that features are too expensive to use, 6% of those in the high school or less group felt that this was the case.

Access to Healthy Foods

Survey participants were asked whether it is difficult for them to buy healthy foods in their community.

Table 30: Is it difficult for you to buy healthy foods in your community, such as fresh fruits, vegetables and low-fat milk?

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	111	11.1%
No	878	87.9%
Unsure	10	1.0%
Total	1,000	100.0%

Key Findings

- Although the majority of respondents indicated that it was not difficult for them to buy healthy foods in their community, 26% of respondents in the City of Poughkeepsie reported difficulty. Other groups fell between 9 and 11%. More than half of those who reported difficulty buying healthy foods indicated that such foods are too expensive.

Detailed Findings

About a fifth of Hispanic and non-Hispanic black respondents reported difficulty buying healthy food; by comparison, 10% of non-Hispanic white respondents experienced such difficulty.

Variations by gender, age group, and educational level were not statistically significant.

Respondents were given the opportunity to indicate the reason(s) that buying food was difficult. Due to the small subsets of respondents in each age group, it is not appropriate to report results of comparisons across demographic and regional groups for this question.

Table 31: Are any of the following reasons why it is difficult for you to buy healthy foods?

	Yes	Percentage (n=110)
Too expensive	68	61.4%
Not available where I shop	39	35.1%
Too far to get to	27	24.5%

Overarching Issues

Quality of Life

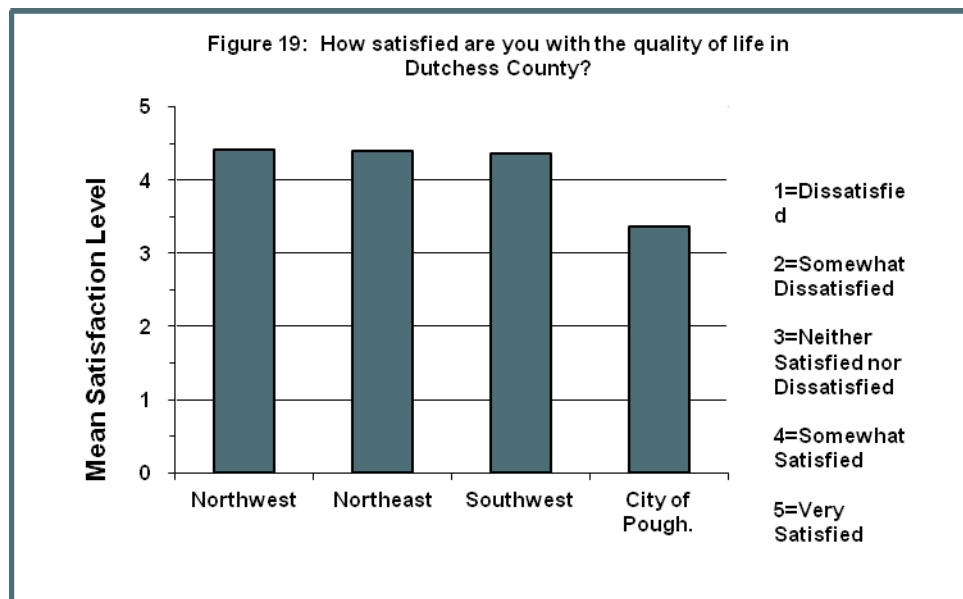
Survey respondents were asked to indicate how satisfied they are with the quality of life in Dutchess County.

Table 32: How satisfied are you with the quality of life in Dutchess County?

Response	Number	Percentage
Very Satisfied	495	49.5%
Somewhat Satisfied	379	37.9%
Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	37	3.7%
Somewhat Dissatisfied	51	5.1%
Dissatisfied	30	3.0%
Don't Know	6	0.6%
Refused	2	0.2%
Total	1,000	100.0%

Key Findings

- Half of the entire sample indicated they are very satisfied with the quality of life in Dutchess County. A large majority indicated they were “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied” (88%). A notable exception was the City of Poughkeepsie. Only about a fifth of respondents from this region were “very satisfied,” while nearly as many were “dissatisfied.” The majority of respondents from the City of Poughkeepsie (66%) still fell into the categories of “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied,” however. Note that in the survey, the scale for this question ranged from 1= “Very Satisfied” to 5= “Dissatisfied.” This question was recoded for the purposes of analysis.



- Responses of “very satisfied” increased with age and level of education. Younger, non-Hispanic black, and those with an education level of high school or less also had slightly higher rates of dissatisfaction than the sample as a whole (13%, 7% and 7%, compared to 3% overall).

Detailed Findings

Nearly 90% of the survey respondents indicated that they are somewhat or very satisfied with the quality of life in Dutchess County, including nearly half who said that they are very satisfied. Less than one-tenth of respondents (81 of 1000, or 8.1%) indicated that they are somewhat dissatisfied or dissatisfied with the quality of life in the County.

Due to the small number of respondents who indicated that they were somewhat dissatisfied or dissatisfied, it is not possible to make meaningful comparisons across subgroups within these response categories. However, it is notable that by region, approximately 90% of respondents in the Northwest, Northeast, and Southwest regions report being very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the quality of life in the County, while approximately 65% of residents of the City of Poughkeepsie chose one of these two responses. Also, the largest proportion indicating they are satisfied with the quality of life in the County are in the 60 or above age category.

Due to the small number of within each group we will not present specific comparisons here.

The proportion of respondents who reported being very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the quality of life in Dutchess County was 81% among those with an educational level of high school or less, 88% among

those with some college education, and 90% among those with college or more.

Means of Obtaining Information

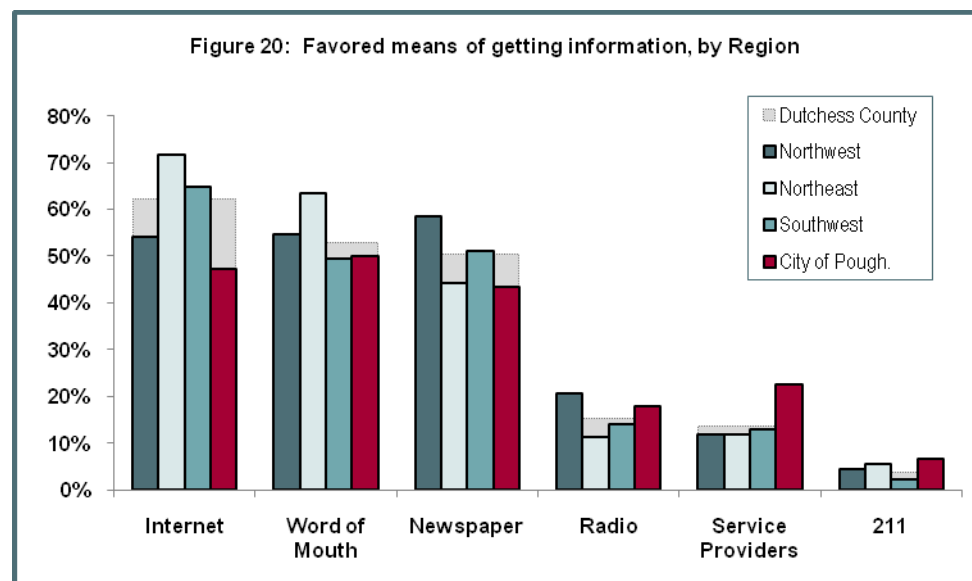
Survey respondents were asked to identify their two favorite ways of obtaining information about the services mentioned in the survey. Respondents were not asked to rank their top choices. Respondents were also able to give open-ended answers, so some gave more than two preferred ways to obtain information about services.

Table 33: What are your top two favorite ways of getting information on the services we talked about?

	Yes	Percentage
Internet (<i>n</i> =974)	605	62.1%
Word of Mouth (<i>n</i> =974)	516	53.0%
Newspaper (<i>n</i> =974)	491	50.4%
Radio (<i>n</i> =974)	148	15.2%
Service Providers (<i>n</i> =969)	133	13.7%
211 (<i>n</i> =968)	35	3.6%

Key Findings

- The internet was the most commonly cited information source, with 62% of respondents choosing this among their favorite ways of obtaining information about services. Both word of mouth and newspapers were favorites among about half the sample. Far fewer respondents chose radio, service providers and 211.



Detailed Findings

Word of mouth

For word of mouth, variations across region, age, and educational level were not statistically significant. Female respondents preferred word of mouth compared to males. Across racial/ethnic groups, only 23% of Hispanic respondents chose this as one of their favorite ways of getting information, compared with more than half of respondents in the other groups.

Internet

The use of the internet as a means of getting information was most prevalent in the Northeast and Southwest regions in the County (72% and 65%, respectively, compared with 54% in the Northwest region and 47% in the City of Poughkeepsie); among the two youngest age groups (about 75%, compared to 21% in the oldest group); and among those with a college education or more (73% compared to 41% in the high school or less category). Variations across race/ethnicity were not statistically significant.

Newspaper

The use of newspapers was most prevalent among older respondents and Hispanic respondents. Regional, gender, and educational variations were not statistically significant.

Radio

The use of radio as a favorite way of getting information was least prevalent in the Northeast region of the County, at 11%, compared to the Northwest and City of Poughkeepsie, where nearly a fifth of respondents cited the radio as one of their preferred ways to get information. Radio use was also most prevalent among older age groups, Hispanics and those in the high school or less educational group.

Service Providers

Regional, race/ethnicity and educational level variations in the preference for service providers as a source of information were not statistically significant. Service providers were a preferred source of information among 17% of males, compared with only 11% of female respondents. By age group, the largest proportion of respondents who prefer to get information from service providers were in the youngest and in the oldest age groups.

None of the demographic or regional comparisons for use of 211 as a means of obtaining information about services were statistically significant.

CONCLUSIONS

This survey was designed to assess the health of communities in Dutchess County, using a broadly defined concept of health that includes issues such as safety, housing, access to healthcare and social services, and features of the community that encourage healthy eating and physical activity.

The majority of Dutchess County residents are satisfied with their quality of life in the County. Most are able to receive the healthcare and social services they need, as well as financial assistance from the County government or non-profit agencies. Most have health care insurance. While some residents go outside the County for healthcare services, most access services within their home County. The majority is satisfied with their housing and report that community features such as parks, playgrounds and outdoor trails are available to them and that it is not difficult to access healthy foods.

However, notable challenges emerged from our analysis of the survey data. As would be expected, given demographic variations among the regions examined in the survey, differences emerged in terms of quality of life, access to services, and major concerns of residents.

Residents of the City of Poughkeepsie rated their satisfaction with the quality of life in Dutchess County lower than residents of any other region. A larger proportion of the City of Poughkeepsie's respondents are concerned with the unsafe use of firearms, substance abuse, crime and unsafe housing than residents of the other three regions surveyed. They also have the highest proportion of uninsured residents. A larger proportion of City of Poughkeepsie residents reported an inability to access needed services – healthcare, financial or other social services – than residents of any other region.

While these findings may not be surprising, they suggest priorities for the County in targeting programs and interventions for this region of the County.

Residents of the Southwest region share some of the concerns of City of Poughkeepsie residents, although to a lesser extent. Like respondents from the City of Poughkeepsie, larger proportions of respondents from the Southwest are concerned with unsafe driving or roads, school violence or bullying and internet predators than the sample as a whole – although the

proportions do not vary from the County average by a large amount. Like respondents from the City of Poughkeepsie, larger proportions of respondents from the Southwest, compared with the Northeast and Northwest feel that water pollution, air pollution, food safety and unsafe housing conditions are serious threats to the health of their community.

Residents of the Northwest region are typically most positive in their perceptions. For example, there are notable differences between the Northwest region and the other three regions related to safety threats addressed in the survey. This region included the lowest proportions of all respondents who felt that substance abuse, crime in general and the unsafe use of firearms are serious safety threats to their community. Along with the Northeast, relatively low proportions of Northwest respondents feel that water and air pollution, food safety and unsafe housing conditions are a threat to the health of their communities. Northwest respondents had, by far, the largest proportion of respondents reporting that they feel their community is ready to respond to an emergency or natural disaster. One exception is the high level of concern about Lyme Disease and other insect-related diseases; large proportions of respondents from both the Northwest and Northeast (74% and 78%, respectively) see these diseases as a serious threat to the health of their community.

The Northeast was notable for low proportions of respondents who feel that unsafe driving, school violence or bullying, and internet predators are major threats to the safety of their community. This region had the lowest proportion of residents who reported an inability to access needed services – healthcare, social services, or financial assistance. The region had relatively high proportions of respondents reporting that community centers and public trails for walking, hiking or running are available and had the largest proportion of respondents who reported using community centers.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The results of this survey can potentially serve as the basis for increased effectiveness of County activities and interventions related to various issues. CGR recommends that the ICA work together in regard to addressing the issues identified, in order to most effectively target particular issues and populations.

Many questions in this survey relate to the perceptions of respondents. In considering ways to address the issues raised in the survey, it is important to keep this in mind, and consider the relationship between these perceptions and an actual state of reality. For example, a low proportion of respondents indicating that food safety is a serious health threat does not necessarily indicate the extent to which food safety is an actual health

threat; it may be related to that actuality, or to the level of awareness about food safety, or a combination of both along with other variables. In using the results of this survey, the ICA should consider other existing data about a particular issue in comparison to the perception of the issue. For example, if public health data show that poor food safety practices have led to a recent disease outbreak, but respondents do not consider this a serious threat, the appropriate intervention may be an awareness campaign focusing on protecting oneself from exposure to bacteria spread through improper practices.

High priority issues for the ICA or individual agencies/organizations to address follow.

- **City of Poughkeepsie.** Several important issues emerged in the survey regarding the City of Poughkeepsie. These deserve particular attention from the County. Safety, housing, and healthcare are specific areas of concern that seem to affect the City of Poughkeepsie more strongly than other regions. City of Poughkeepsie residents have more concerns in terms of public safety (including crime, the unsafe use of firearms, and substance abuse) and safe housing. A lower proportion of County residents who reside in the City of Poughkeepsie have health insurance and residents have a harder time accessing healthcare, financial and social services. This data should be useful to various County agencies and organizations, which may need to more specifically target activities, resources and interventions to address these issues and the concerns of this particular population.
- **Unsafe driving or roads – as a threat to pedestrians, drivers or others.** These were seen as a threat to the safety of the community by a majority of the sample as whole. The proportion of individuals who indicated that this is a safety issue exceeded any other safety issue by more than 10 percentage points. A variation to keep in mind in developing an approach to this issue is that a larger proportion of respondents in the Southwest and the City of Poughkeepsie see this as a serious threat. There may be various issues and approaches involved in addressing this perceived safety threat including education regarding safety practices, both for drivers and pedestrians, and seeking out County resources for safety improvements.
- **Lyme disease and other insect related diseases.** This emerged as a perceived threat to the community for the majority of respondents from all regions, with larger proportions in the Northwest and Northeast. The County should ensure that it is adequately disseminating safety information about this issue, and also, if currently engaged in activities to reduce this threat, consider educating residents about these efforts.

- **Emergency Preparedness.** Most residents do not feel their communities are prepared for emergencies or natural disaster. County activities around emergency preparedness may need to be made more visible to residents, and any specific information that residents would need in case of an emergency should be disseminated.
- **Health Insurance.** About 10% of the County's residents do not have health insurance. Older residents, most of whom have access to coverage through Medicare, largely reported being insured. The youngest age groups, along with Hispanics and those with less than a college education, had the lowest proportions of insured respondents. Agencies and organizations working with these populations should be apprised of these data. The ICA should consider opportunities to reach out to uninsured individuals with information about low cost insurance options.
- **Healthcare Access.** One fifth of the survey respondents were unable to receive healthcare services that they've needed; and nearly two-thirds of these respondents reported a lack of health insurance as a barrier to accessing services. Notably, among residents of the City of Poughkeepsie, more than a third of residents reported being unable to receive needed services. As mentioned above, the County should make a concerted effort to educate residents about insurance options as well as low-cost or no-cost healthcare services. As a high-priority area of focus, dental care was cited by 10% of respondents as a service they could not access.
- **Service Eligibility.** Although the numbers are low, eligibility was the most cited reason for an inability to access social services. This may suggest that in some cases, eligibility rules are too restrictive. Agencies or organizations providing such services may wish to examine eligibility rules and their records of denied applicants to determine ways to more effectively serve populations that just miss eligibility guidelines. In addition, there may be a need to disseminate information about eligibility criteria to the public to ensure that individuals are aware of their eligibility for particular programs and what to expect when applying.
- **Information Dissemination.** Since the internet is favored by a large portion of the population as a means of obtaining information, agencies and organizations in the County should maximize their use of the web as a means of disseminating information to residents. While the survey does not provide data about awareness of 211, the small number of respondents who identified this as a means of obtaining information may suggest low awareness of this service. The County should examine its 211 program to assess why this might be the case.

- **Youth Concerns.** High levels of concern about both health and safety issues were observed in the youngest age group. It is of particular importance that programs that work with youth are aware of these concerns. Youth programs, in conjunction with other agencies, may then be able to find ways to effectively address these issues in their target population, and other agencies can become aware of the need to target their messages or programs to this population as appropriate.