

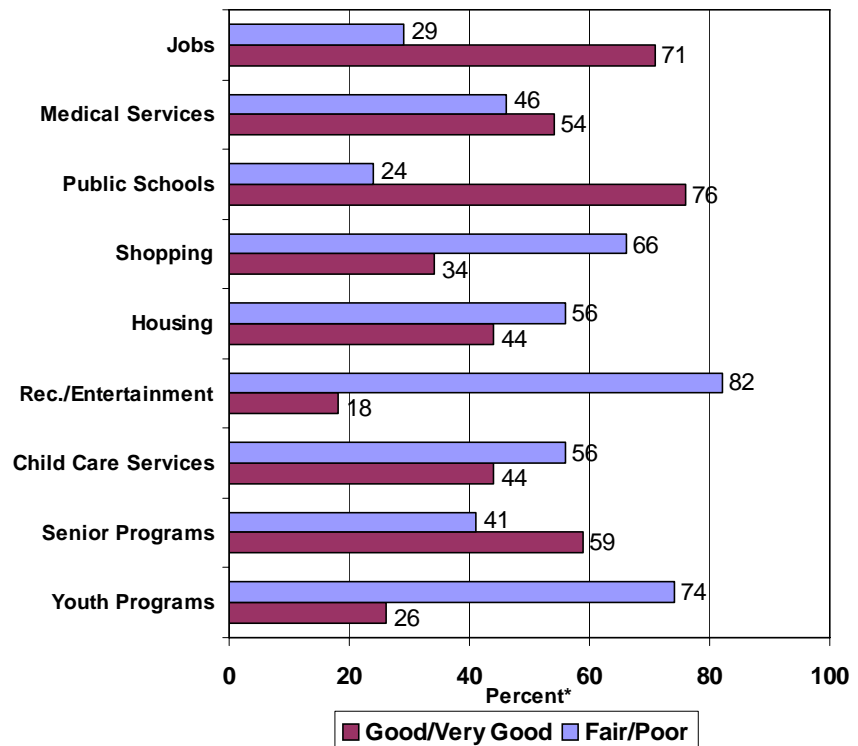
RESIDENTS OF MUSCATINE SPEAK OUT

During June 1997, you were one of 4,750 households asked to participate in a statewide survey of Iowa urban residents. The purpose of this survey was to identify the problems and opportunities facing the state's urban communities. The households that were asked to take part in the study were randomly selected from telephone directories of 15 cities in Iowa. Selection of cities was also random where 15 cities were selected from Iowa's 30 cities having at least 10,000 residents. Of the 4,750 questionnaires mailed out, 2,901 (or 61%) were completed and returned. Below are highlights of the results as reported by Muscatine's 147 survey participants.



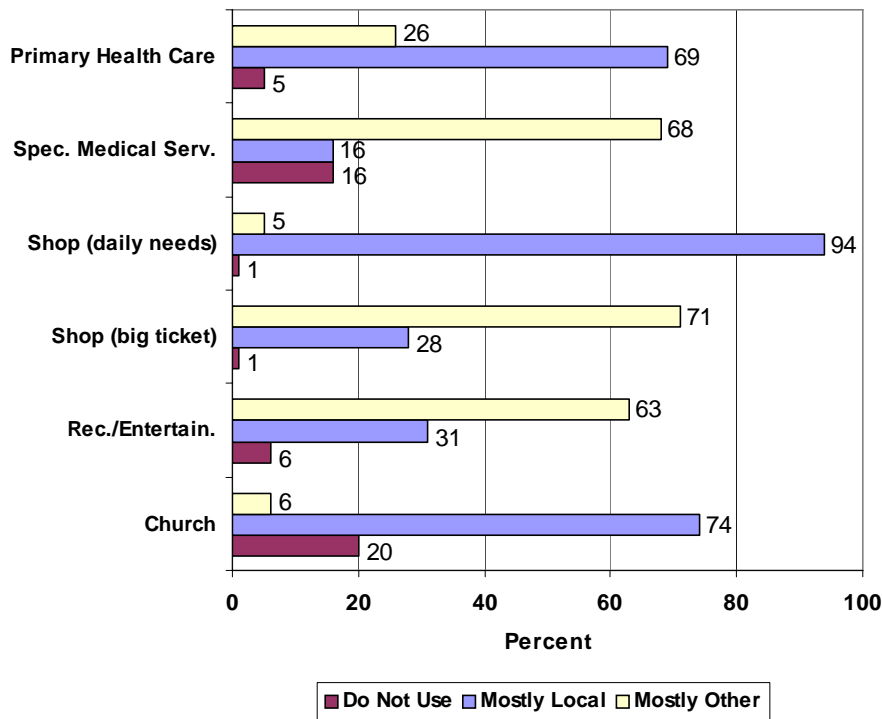
RATING SERVICES AND FACILITIES AVAILABLE IN MUSCATINE

Nine local services and facilities were listed on the questionnaire, along with the instructions to rate each as "very good," "good," "fair," or "poor." Of the 147 respondents from Muscatine, over half gave public schools, jobs, medical services, and senior programs a rating of either "good" or "very good." Shopping, housing, child care services, and youth programs received a rating of "fair" or "poor" by at least half of the Muscatine respondents.



**"Don't know" and "undecided" responses not included.

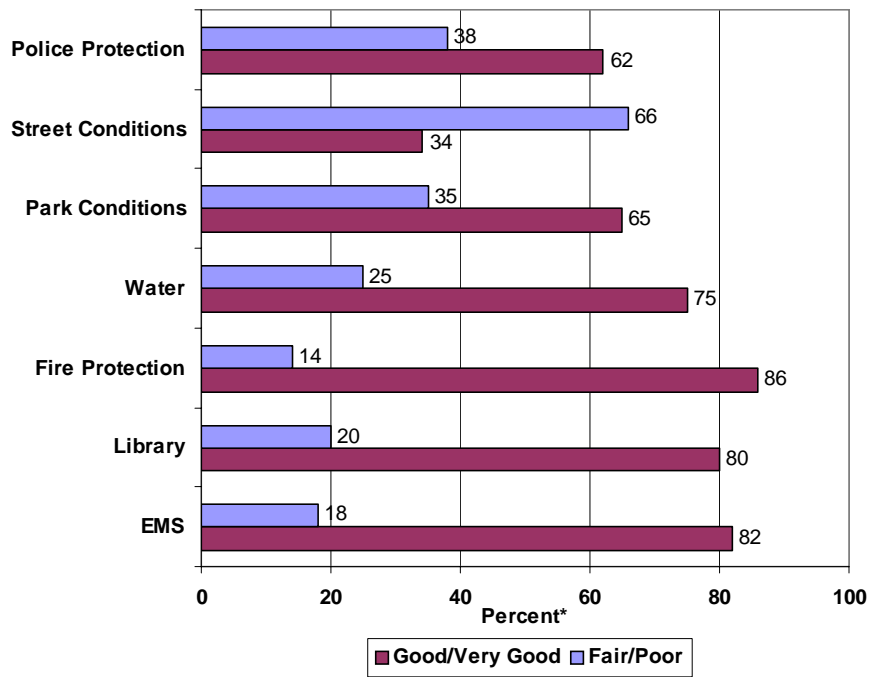
LOCAL PURCHASING PATTERNS



For a variety of reasons, many Iowa residents rely on neighboring cities for services. Based on returned questionnaires, Muscatine respondents sometimes follow this pattern. A majority of respondents reported remaining in Muscatine for primary health care, church, and shopping for daily needs items. Over half the respondents also reported leaving Muscatine for specialized medical services, shopping for big ticket items, and recreation and entertainment.

RATING GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Seven services normally provided through local governments were included with the instructions to rate each as “very good,” “good,” “fair,” or “poor.” Fire protection was rated highest with 86% of the respondents giving it a “very good” or “good” rating. Emergency response services (EMS) and library services followed closely behind. Street conditions ranked the lowest with a majority of the respondents giving it a rating of “fair” or “poor.”

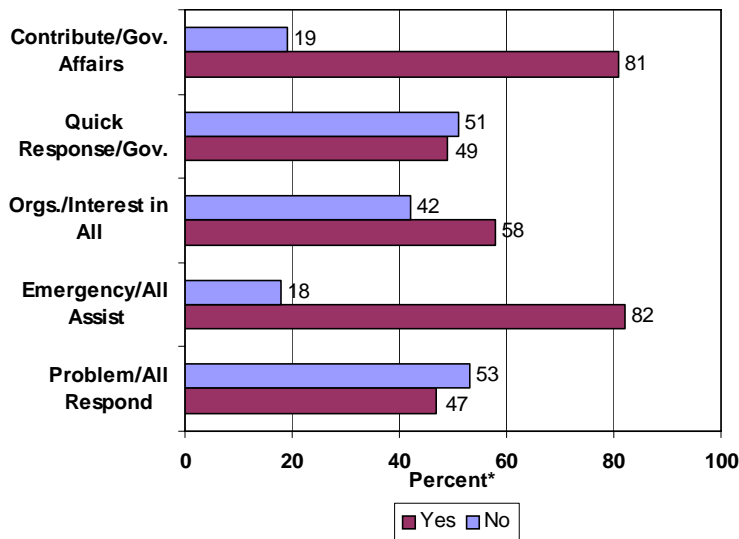
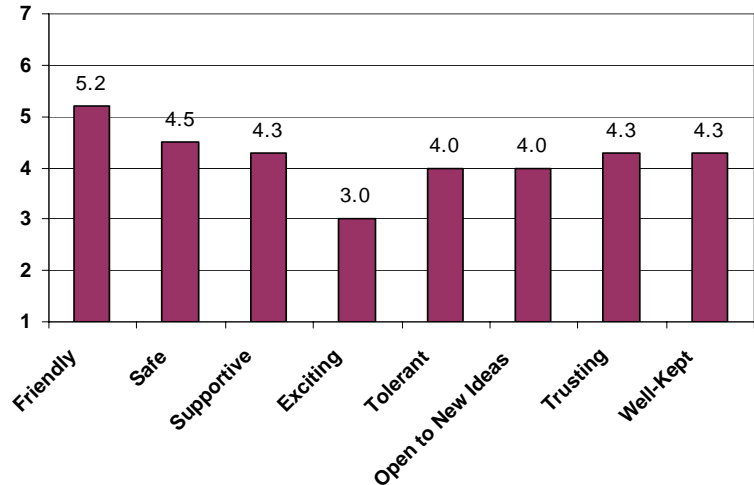


*“Don’t know” and “undecided” responses not included.

FRIENDLINESS AND EVIDENCE OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT

In addition to describing cities by their physical traits, important social features are also significant when evaluating local conditions. Accordingly, questions were included in the survey asking residents to assess various social characteristics of their communities.

Of the eight attributes evaluated on a 7-point scale, Muscatine respondents assigned the highest rating to the friendliness of its residents, followed by the safety of Muscatine. The lowest rating was given to the amount of excitement offered to the residents.



*"Don't know" and "undecided" responses not included.

According to survey respondents, Muscatine's responsiveness to personal and community problems varies. A majority of respondents agreed that all were allowed to contribute to local governmental affairs, that everyone would help in case of an emergency, and that organizations are interested in what is best for all residents. At least half also felt that a city office would not give a quick response in regard to a complaint and that when something needs to be done, not everyone gets behind it.

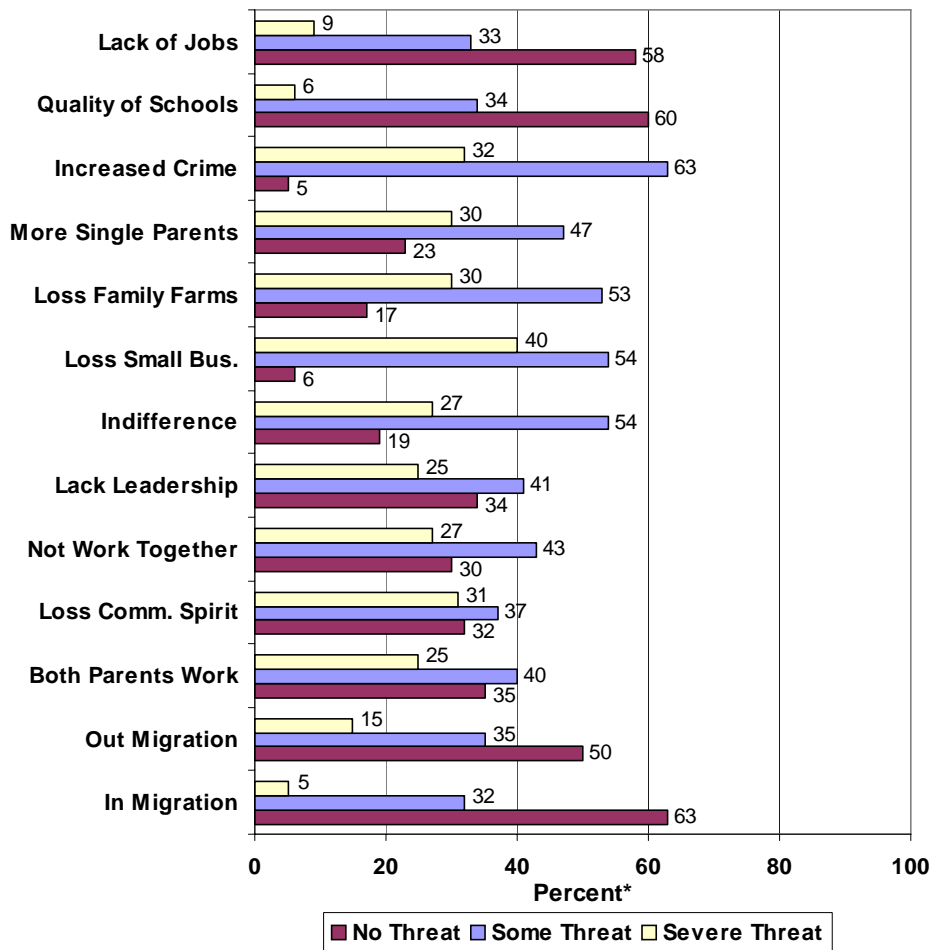
INTEREST AND PARTICIPATION IN MUSCATINE ACTIVITIES

Over three-fourths of Muscatine respondents are interested in being informed of community activities. Yet, only 44% reported having participated over the past year in any community improvement project. When asked to describe their level of involvement in local community improvement activities and events, 31% indicated being "very active" or "somewhat active."

Ties between local residents often are related to commitment to the community. In Muscatine’s case, 69% of the respondents indicated knowing the name of more than 100 adult residents. In addition, 73% indicated that half or more of their close personal friends live in Muscatine. As for the respondents’ adult relatives and in-laws, 48% indicated that half or more of them also live in Muscatine.

PERCEIVED COMMUNITY THREATS

The future of Iowa’s urban communities will probably depend on whether or not important trends will continue over the course of the next few years. In the case of Muscatine, at least three-fourths of the respondents see loss of family farms, increased crime, more single parents, resident indifference, and loss of small businesses as conditions that pose threats (“some” or “severe”) to the future of the community. Over half of Muscatine respondents expressed that quality of schools, lack of jobs, and people moving into and out of the community posed



**“Don’t know” and “undecided” responses not included.

OVERALL COMMUNITY ATTACHMENT

How important is it for Muscatine residents to feel a part of their city? When asked this question, 87% of the survey respondents reported that it was important for them to feel a part of the city. When asked whether they feel “at home” in Muscatine, 95% said that they did. Furthermore, 68% indicated they would be sorry if forced to move away from Muscatine. In spite of the community concerns as indicated in the previous charts, the majority of respondents see Muscatine as their home and are reluctant to move away from the area.

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