

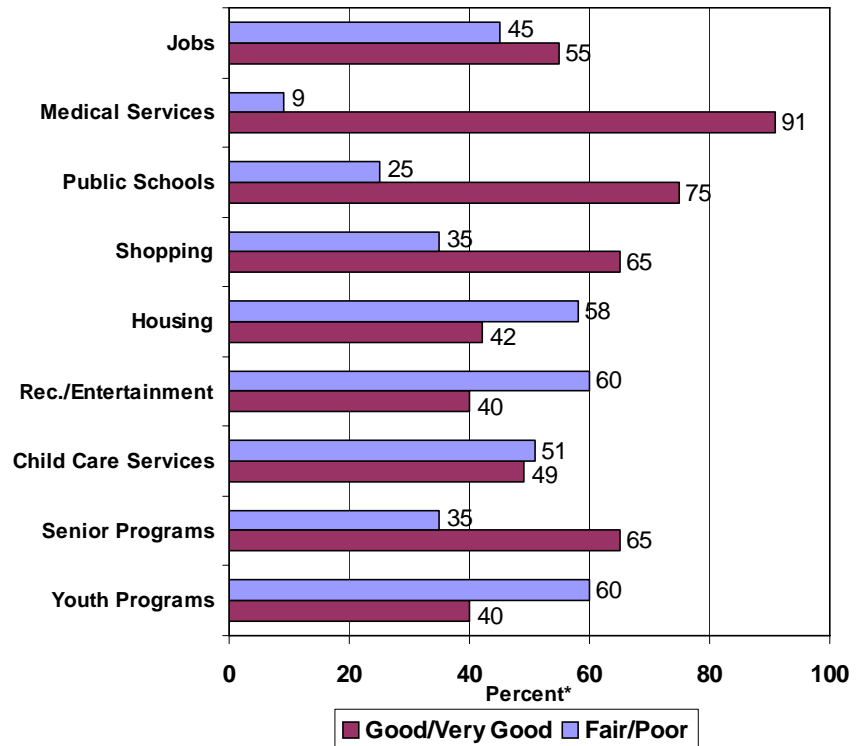
RESIDENTS OF SIOUX CITY SPEAK OUT

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 Sioux City's 285 survey participants.



RATING SERVICES AND FACILITIES AVAILABLE IN SIOUX CITY

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 285 respondents from Sioux City, three-fourths or more gave public schools and medical services a rating of either "good" or "very good." On the contrary, youth programs, housing, child care services, and recreation and entertainment were rated either "fair" or "poor" by at least half of the Sioux City respondents.

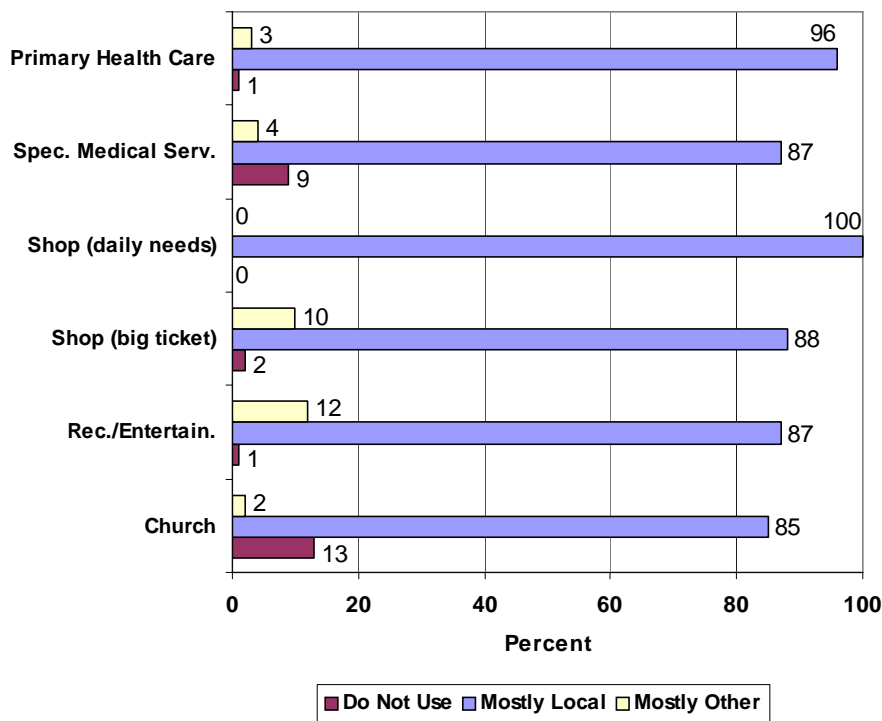


**"Don't know" and "undecided" responses not included.

RDI

This report was prepared through the **Rural Development Initiative** Project, funded by the College of Agriculture, Iowa State University, Ames, IA.

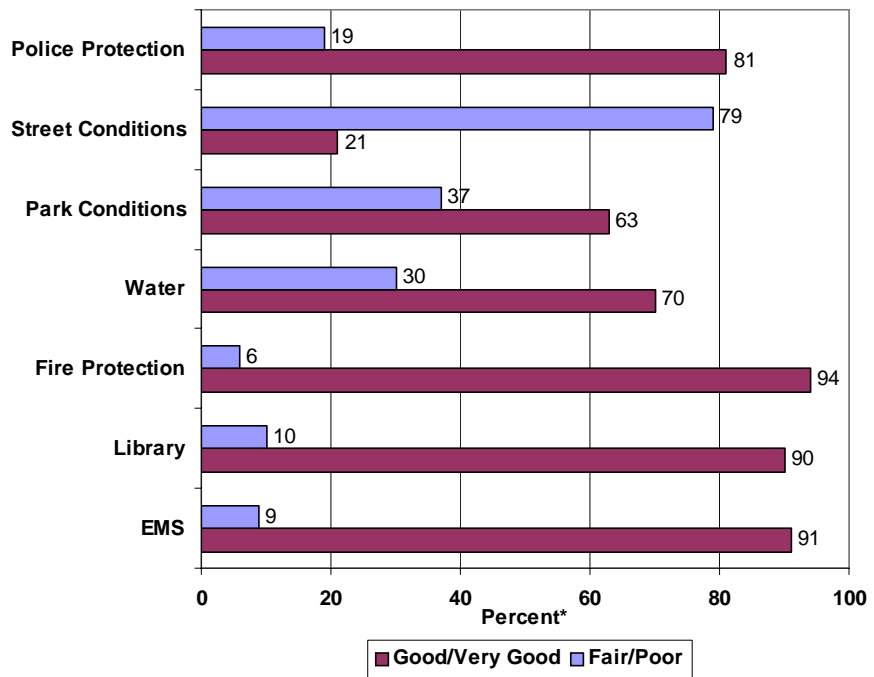
LOCAL PURCHASING PATTERNS



For a variety of reasons, many Iowa residents rely on neighboring cities for services. Based on returned questionnaires, Sioux City respondents do not follow this pattern. All respondents reported shopping for daily needs items in Sioux City. A large majority of respondents also reported remaining in Sioux City for primary health care, specialized medical services, recreation and entertainment, church, and shopping for big ticket items.

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 94% of the respondents giving it a “very good” or “good” rating. Emergency response services (EMS), police protection, and library services followed closely behind. Street conditions ranked the lowest with a large majority of respondents giving it a rating of “fair” or “poor.”

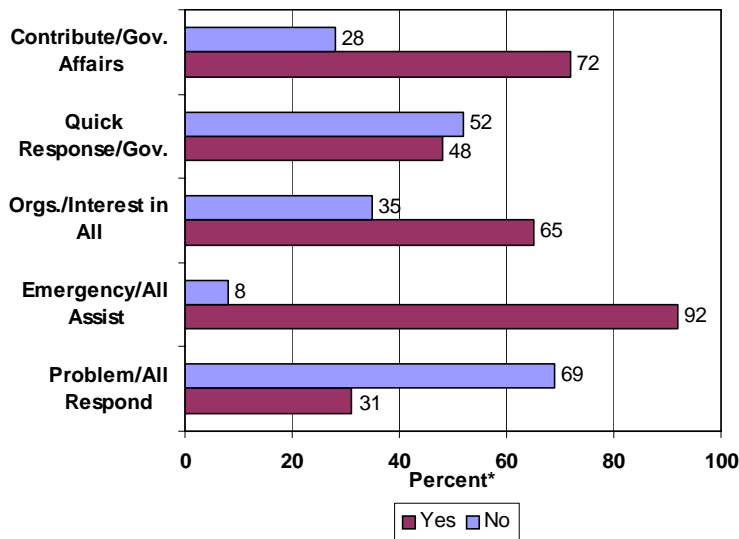
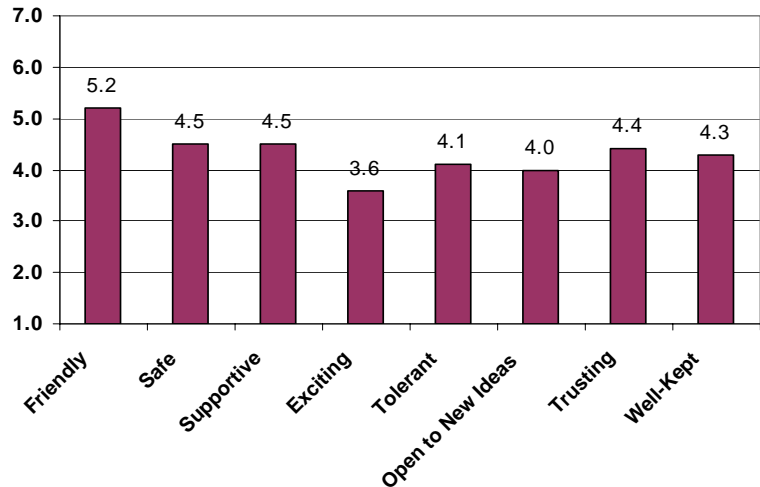


*“Don’t know” and “undecided” responses not included.

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, Sioux City respondents assigned the highest rating to the friendliness of its residents, followed by the safety and the supportive environment of Sioux City. 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, Sioux City's responsiveness to personal and community problems varies. A large majority agreed that all were allowed to contribute to local governmental affairs and that everyone would help in case of an emergency. Over half also felt that organizations are interested in what is best for all residents. On the contrary, at least half of the respondents 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.

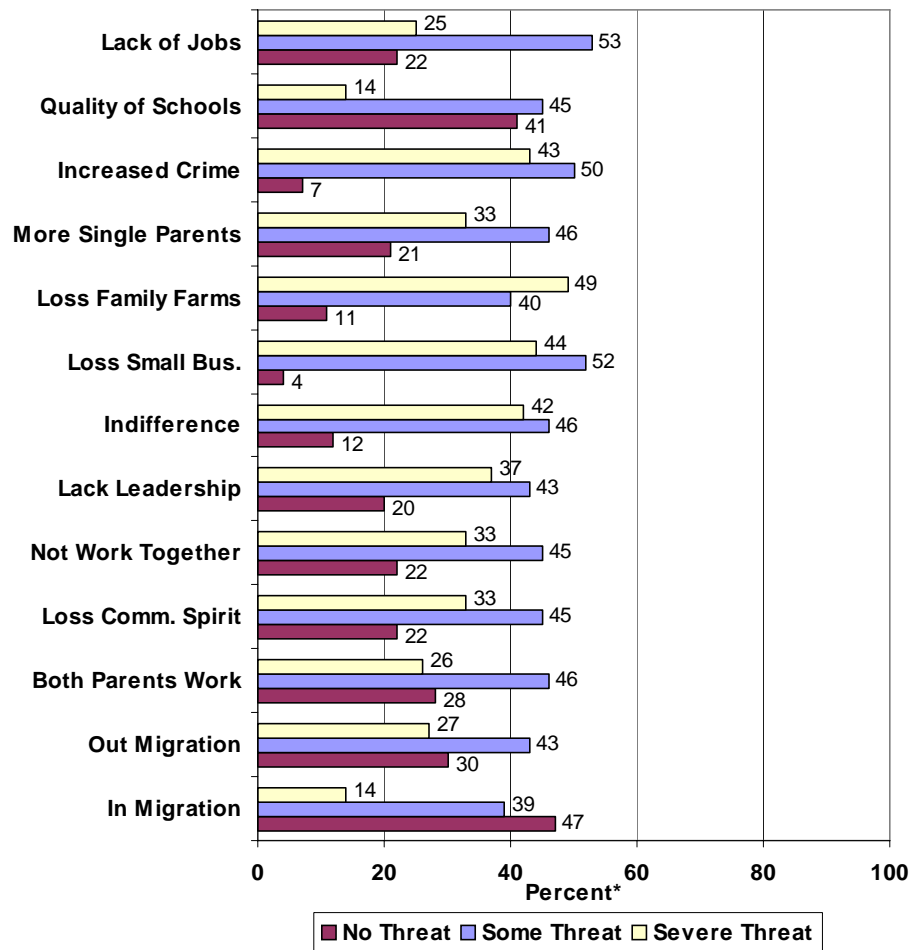
INTEREST AND PARTICIPATION IN SIOUX CITY ACTIVITIES

Over three-fourths of Sioux City respondents are interested in being informed of community activities. Yet, only 50% 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, 34% indicated being "very active" or "somewhat active."

Ties between local residents often are related to commitment to the community. In Sioux City's case, 66% of the respondents indicated knowing the name of more than 100 adult residents. In addition, 74% indicated that half or more of their close personal friends live in Sioux City. As for the respondents' adult relatives and in-laws, 44% indicated that half or more of them also live in Sioux City.

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 Sioux City, at least three-fourths of the respondents see lack of jobs, loss of family farms, increased crime, more single parents, resident indifference, lack of leadership, lack of leadership, residents not working together, loss of community spirit, and loss of small businesses as conditions that pose threats ("some" or "severe") to the future of the community. Less concern was expressed with quality of schools and people moving into the community.



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

OVERALL COMMUNITY ATTACHMENT

How important is it for Sioux City residents to feel a part of their city? When asked this question, 88% 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 Sioux City, 94% said that they did. Furthermore, 74% indicated they would be sorry if forced to move away from Sioux City. In spite of the community concerns as indicated in the previous charts, the majority of respondents see Sioux City as their home and are reluctant to move away from the area.

Prepared by Vern Ryan, Lori Merritt, Nicole Grewe, Chris Colvin, Department of Sociology, Iowa State University. For further information about this report, contact Alan J. Vandehaar, Woodbury County Extension Office, 4301 Sergeant Rd., Suite 213, Sioux City, IA 51106; Telephone (712) 276-2157; Fax (712) 276-6211; x1vandeh@exnet.iastate.edu. For information on other reports in the RDI series, contact Vern Ryan, 317C East Hall, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011; Telephone (515) 294-5011; Fax (515) 294-2303; vryan@iastate.edu.