

# Central Indiana Household Survey 2000

## An Overview



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## **Central Indiana's Future: Understanding the Region and Identifying Choices**

The Center for Urban Policy and the Environment has launched a new research project—Central Indiana's Future: Understanding the Region and Identifying Choices—funded by an award of general support from the Lilly Endowment. The aim of the project is to increase understanding of the region and to inform decision-makers about the array of options for improving quality of life for Central Indiana residents. Researchers from several universities are working to understand how the broad range of investments made by households, governments, businesses, and nonprofit organizations within the Central Indiana Region contribute to quality of life. The geographic scope of the project includes 44 counties in an integrated economic region identified by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

The Center for Urban Policy and the Environment is part of the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University—Purdue University Indianapolis. For more information about the Central Indiana Project or the research reported here, contact the center at 317-261-3000 or visit the center's Web site at [www.urbancenter.iupui.edu](http://www.urbancenter.iupui.edu).



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents results of a survey of 6,448 households in Central Indiana conducted between July and September 2000. The survey was a collaborative effort between the Center for Urban Policy and the Environment (Center) and the Central Indiana Regional Citizens' League (CIRCL). The Center is using survey results in analyses of the 44-county Central Indiana Region (see Map 1). This region includes six Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) that include 18 of the 44 counties. CIRCL used selected survey results to help develop a Central Indiana Quality of Life Index.

The survey instrument was designed to be comprehensive in identifying citizens' perceptions of the quality of life in the region. This report offers an overview of responses to the survey questions. More detailed analyses are provided in other reports focusing on specific topics covered by this survey, including perceptions about public safety, growth, recreational use of water resources, arts and cultural involvement, and civic engagement.

MAP 1: Central Indiana





## SELECTED SURVEY RESULTS

- Respondents are optimistic about their communities
- Quality of life issues are important in respondents' perceptions of problems facing their communities as well as in residents' decisions whether to relocate and where to move
- Respondents perceive changes in the racial and ethnic composition of their communities
- Some people are concerned about a lack of supervision of youth
- More than 80 percent of Central Indiana residents surveyed own their place of residence
- Nearly one-third of the respondents have personally paid for job-related training or education in the past five years
- Though most respondents think they can impact their community through civic involvement, one-half are not civically engaged
- People are satisfied with the quality of local public schools
- Households express satisfaction with the quality of public services in their neighborhoods
- Most respondents feel safe in their communities
- Crime is not perceived as a problem
- Respondents take measures to increase their sense of security
- Respondents think new residential development near them will improve property values
- Some respondents perceive congestion produced by new development as a problem
- Most respondents are satisfied with the quality of healthcare services and over one-half are very satisfied
- Twenty-seven percent think there is a problem with the quality of drinking water in their communities and ten percent think there is a problem with air quality
- More than one-half of households attended arts and cultural events during the previous year
- The majority of respondents exercise and most of these respondents exercise regularly (more than once a week)
- Most of the respondents who exercise use public facilities for physical activity
- Nearly half of the respondents participate in water-related recreation



## INTRODUCTION

Between July and September 2000, the Center for Urban Policy and the Environment commissioned the Indiana University Public Opinion Laboratory to conduct a survey of Central Indiana households to identify citizens' perceptions of the quality of life in the region. Respondent households were selected using the random digit dialing method for participation in telephone interviews. Complete methodological details and demographic data are included in the appendices.

The survey instrument consisted of 62 questions (see Appendix A) and the average interview lasted 26 minutes. To interpret respondents' meaning adequately, several important questions were asked in both closed list and open-ended fashion. In some questions, the open-ended questions elicited responses ill-captured in the closed-list format. For example, uncontrolled growth and development emerged as respondents' highest ranked concern in the open-ended format. Eighty-seven percent of households were willing to participate in a similar survey in the future. Most of the data were collected between July 6 and September 17, 2000.

All respondents did not answer all questions. To account for non-responses to specific questions, the number of respondents is provided within the table for each question. (Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.) Several questions were either open-ended or listed "other" as an option. To allow for a more pragmatic analysis common responses were grouped together. Some examples of these groupings are provided in Appendix D.







## SURVEY RESULTS

### PERCEPTIONS OF COMMUNITY IMAGE

#### Households express optimism about their communities

The majority of survey participants are optimistic about their respective communities. Over three-quarters believe things are going in the right direction and a significant majority (86.2 percent) rates their community as a good or excellent place to live, with 36.6 percent voicing the most positive view. Central Indiana residents' perceptions of their local communities appear to parallel those of the nation. According to *Straight Talk from Americans 2000 (Straight Talk)*, 74 percent of people are satisfied with the direction of their local communities.<sup>1</sup> However, far fewer (48 percent) feel similarly about the direction of the country.

Central Indiana residents also do not differ greatly from the state or the nation in how they evaluate their communities. Results from the Social Capital Community Benchmark Survey show that 88 percent of people in Indiana and 85 percent nationally rate their respective communities positively.<sup>2</sup> People in Central Indiana are slightly less likely to rate their communities as excellent (36.6 percent) than the state (40 percent) and the U.S. (41 percent). Central Indiana residents' views also correspond to those reported in *Straight Talk* in which 83 percent of respondents regard their community positively and the Knight Foundation Community Indicators Project in which 82 percent of people rate their communities as either excellent (36 percent) or good (46 percent).<sup>3</sup>

#### Households reflect stability of residence

Survey results show that nearly one-half (46 percent) of respondents have lived in their communities for more than 20 years. The average length of residence in the region is 23 years. Furthermore, a considerable majority of residents report they are unlikely to relocate within the next five years and of those, 44.6 percent are "not at all likely" to move away.

The Social Capital Community Benchmark Survey found that 43 percent of respondents in Indiana and 37 percent in the nation have lived in their respective communities more than 20 years (this includes 14 percent in Indiana and 10 percent nationally who say "all of their lives"). Forty-two percent of participants in the Knight Foundation's Community Indicators Project have resided in the same community for more than 20 years.

**Table 1**

*Do you think things in (community name) are generally going in the right direction or the wrong direction? (n=6,397)*

Right direction	77.3%
Wrong direction	15.2%
Don't know	7.5%

**Table 2**

*Overall, how would you rate (community name) as a place to live? (n=6,441)*

Excellent	36.6%
Good	49.6%
Only fair	11.1%
Poor	2.5%
Don't know	.2%

**Table 3**

*For how many years have you lived in (community name)? (n=6,440)*

Less than one year	2.8%
One to five years	22.5%
Six to ten years	12.9%
11 to 20 years	15.8%
More than 20 years	46.0%
Mean years of residence	23.0
Median years of residence	18.0

**Table 4**

*How likely are you to move from (community name) within the next five years? (n=6,442)*

Very likely	16.2%
Somewhat likely	15.0%
Not very likely	23.0%
Not at all likely	44.6%
Don't know	1.1%



### Quality of life issues matter in households' decisions about moving

Over one-third of the responses given as reasons for moving to the area relate to quality of life issues. These include a desire to live in a smaller community or a well-kept neighborhood, the availability of and access to recreational and cultural activities, and moving to an area convenient to work and retail facilities. Responses also indicate that many either grew up in or were prior residents of the area.

Of those respondents who indicate they are likely to relocate within the next five years, one-quarter of their responses are associated with employment reasons and 16 percent pertain to housing issues. Quality of life issues represent roughly 12 percent of responses and include reasons such as moving away from an urban, congested area to a smaller, more rural community or vice versa. If recreational opportunities also are considered, then quality of life represents 20 percent of responses. Responses under environmental issues involve factors such as climate, or cleaner air and water.

### Households convey optimism about community

Residents across the region express a relatively strong sense of community. According to *Ready, Willing, and Able: Citizens Working for Change (Ready, Willing, and Able)*,<sup>4</sup> 77 percent of people in the United States say they feel fairly (49 percent) or very connected (28 percent) to their communities. In contrast, 87.7 percent of Central Indiana residents say there is some (42.6 percent) or even a strong (45.1 percent) sense of community. Among the 8.4 percent of respondents who express less sense of community, only 1.2 percent of them say there is "no sense of community."

### Nonresidents of Marion County identify themselves as part of Indianapolis

Survey participants were asked how they identify where they live while in and out of their county of residence. If asked while out of the area, 11.9 percent of Central Indiana residents that do not live in Marion County report they identify Indianapolis. While the majority of these respondents live in the other eight counties in the Indianapolis Metropolitan Statistical Area (Boone, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, Madison, Morgan, and Shelby), at least one person in 26 of the 44 counties in the region says Indianapolis.

**Table 5**

*What were the reasons you decided to move to this area? (n=8,600) (Multiple responses allowed)*

Community quality of life	31.6%
Prior residence/grew up in the community	23.2%
Personal or familial reasons/circumstances	16.0%
Educational issues/good schools	9.7%
Affordable housing/quality, type, or size of housing available/to buy or build	9.1%
Employment reasons	7.9%
Other	1.8%
Don't know	.6%

**Table 6**

*Which of the following best describes why you would leave your community to live somewhere else? (n=2,479) (Multiple responses allowed)*

To get a better job	24.7%
To move to a nicer home	16.1%
To find a place with more recreational opportunities	8.2%
To find better schools	8.0%
To find a safer place to live	5.8%
Don't know	.4%
Something else	36.9%
Personal reasons/circumstances	15.0%
Community quality of life	11.7%
Environmental reasons	3.6%
Affordable housing/ to build or own	2.0%
Educational reasons	1.8%
Other	1.6%
Taxes	1.2%

**Table 7**

*Is there a sense that people who live in (community name) have common interests? (n=6,435)*

Strong sense of community	45.1%
Some sense of community	42.6%
Hardly any sense of community	7.3%
No sense of community	1.2%
Don't know	3.9%



## PERCEPTIONS OF COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHICS

### Households' perceptions reflect changing demographics in the region

According to Census data shown in Table 8, the white population of the 44-county area as a proportion of the total has declined from 90.9 percent in 1990 to 87.6 percent in 2000. The proportions of the Black/African American, Asian, and those identified as Other (see expanded categories for 2000 Census) have all risen. The American Indian population has remained stable at 0.3 percent. As a proportion of the total population, all races other than white have increased from 9 percent to 12.4 percent. The Hispanic proportion of the total population (of any race) has grown from 0.8 percent in 1990 to 2.4 percent in 2000, a threefold increase.

One-half of survey respondents perceive that the racial and ethnic composition of their community has changed at least somewhat, and 20 percent observe a lot of change in the composition of their communities.

### Perceptions of racial and ethnic relations not considered a problem

As shown in Table 10, over one-half of the respondents do not believe that diversity has had much of an impact in their community, and roughly one-third view racial and ethnic diversity in their communities positively. When asked in an open-ended format, only 2.2 percent of responses cite race and ethnic relations (see Table 11) and even less, 1.1 percent of responses reflect the view that race and ethnic relations are problems which receive inadequate attention from local government officials (see Table 12). However, when asked directly about tension between different racial and ethnic groups, 20 percent of respondents perceive it as a problem, while 76 percent do not view it as a problem in their community (see Table 13). After answering other questions about the issue, 8.5 percent of the responses name tensions between racial and ethnic groups as the most important problem facing their community (see Table 14).

**Table 8**  
*Central Indiana Race and Ethnicity as Reported in 2000 Census*

Race	Share of Total Population 1990	Share of Total Population 2000
White	90.9%	87.6% (White alone)*
Black	7.8%	8.6% (Black or African American alone)*
American Indian	0.3%	0.3% (American Indian and Alaska Native alone)*
Asian	0.8%	1.2% (Asian alone)*
Other	0.3%	**
<b>Ethnicity</b>		
Hispanic or Latino (any race)	0.8%	2.4%

\*2000 Census Categories

\*\*The new Census categories allow for additional identification choices, including Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone (.03%), some other race alone (1.1%), and two or more races (1.2%).

**Table 9**

*Overall, do you think the racial and ethnic makeup of your community has been changing a lot, somewhat, very little, or not at all? (n=6,436)*

A lot	19.8%
Somewhat	30.4%
Very little	32.4%
Not at all	13.6%
Don't know	3.7%

**Table 10**

*Overall, would you say that ethnic and racial diversity in your community is a good thing, could cause problems, or has not made much difference? (n=6,398)*

Good thing	29.3%
Could cause problems	15.7%
Has not made much difference	51.5%
Don't know	3.5%



## CHALLENGES FOR COMMUNITIES

### Households perceive a variety of problems confronting their communities

While Central Indiana residents are optimistic about their communities, they are aware of problems. A variety of issues and concerns that impact well-being and quality of life emerge from the survey responses.

Those who cite public safety issues are concerned about crime, gangs, and issues relevant to law enforcement such as corruption, police brutality and racism, vandalism, and traffic violations. Respondents also mention social problems such as domestic violence, drugs, and lack of respect for others. Infrastructure problems identified include roads and highway maintenance, traffic problems, and sewer systems. Education issues cited are concerns about quality and graduation rates. Inadequate governmental services include lack of communication with politicians, zoning laws, service provision, public transportation, and sanitation services. Youth concerns involve unsupervised children or teens, neglect, lack of activities for youth, and curfew violations. However, without prompting, the most frequently cited problems relate to uncontrolled growth and development.

According to a 2000 national CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll,<sup>5</sup> in response to an open-ended question regarding the “worst” problem facing communities, education issues/school (17 percent) and crime issues (12 percent) topped the list of concerns. Crime and violence (18 percent) were most often cited as problems in the *Straight Talk* survey. The same CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll reports drugs/alcohol abuse as listed by 10 percent of respondents and taxes by 5 percent. In contrast to Central Indiana responses, growth (unrestrained/growth/overcrowding) was only cited by four percent of those surveyed. However, according to *Straight Talk*, issues related to development/sprawl/traffic represent 18 percent of responses to a similar open-ended question, topping the list of problems.

### Many perceive that local government officials provide adequate attention to problems

A surprising 40 percent of responses to questions about problems which receive inadequate attention from local government officials are either “don’t know” or “none.” These responses could reflect satisfaction with actions of local governments. Another possible reason for this could be that however they view the severity of the problems in their communities, people tend to look to institutions other than governmental ones to address problems. Of those respondents who express concerns about governmental institutions solving problems, they most frequently mention

**Table 11**

*What do you think are the most important problems facing your community today? (n=8,888) (Multiple responses allowed)*

Uncontrolled growth/development	13.2%
Public safety	11.9%
Social problems	9.4%
Infrastructure	9.4%
Education issues	8.3%
Don't know	7.4%
Inadequate governmental services	5.7%
Community quality of life	5.5%
Youth issues	4.9%
Employment issues	4.4%
None	4.0%
Environmental concerns	3.6%
Taxes	3.5%
Race-ethnic relations	2.2%
Other	2.0%
Lack of growth	2.0%
Economic conditions	1.4%
Utility services	1.2%

**Table 12**

*What problems in your local community, if any, don't get enough attention from local governmental officials? (n=6,878) (Multiple responses allowed)*

Don't know	20.8%
None	17.6%
Infrastructure	14.3%
Public safety	7.2%
Inadequate governmental services	7.2%
Education issues	5.5%
Social problems	4.3%
Youth issues	3.9%
Community quality of life	3.8%
Environmental concerns	3.7%
Other	2.8%
Uncontrolled growth/new development	2.7%
Taxes	1.9%
Lack of growth	1.1%
Race-ethnic relations	1.1%
Healthcare services/insurance	1.0%
Utility services	1.0%



infrastructure, followed by public safety, inadequate governmental services, and education issues. Responses to this question are similar to those cited in response to most important problems (see Table 11). Issues related to inadequate governmental services are broader, however, and include a need for services for the elderly and disadvantaged, need for public transportation, ordinance violations, and zoning laws. Environmental concerns vary from flooding and drainage problems to animal or pest control to noise pollution.

According to *Straight Talk*, which reported development/sprawl/traffic topping the list of problems, 14 percent of respondents feel that the same issues receive inadequate attention from local government officials. Even though growth is a concern for Central Indiana residents (13.8 percent), it only garnered 2.7 percent of responses regarding what problems receive inadequate attention.

When respondents were asked directly about specific issues, certain problems are more apparent. As Table 13 illustrates, one-third of responses to questions about particular issues indicate that a number are perceived as serious problems. These include availability of high-paying jobs, unsupervised youth, availability of arts or cultural activities, crime, and the availability of affordable housing. One-half of respondents label availability of high-paying jobs as a problem. Forty percent express the view that their communities face a problem with unsupervised children and teens. Over one-third of the respondents don't know if the availability of affordable, quality childcare is a problem, possibly indicating that this issue only affects some people, and only during a part of their lives.

**Table 13**

Thinking about the (community name) area, I'm going to read a list of problems some communities face. For each, please tell me if it is a problem or not a problem in the community where you live.

Issue	A problem	Not a problem	Don't know
Availability of high-paying jobs (n=6,424)	50.5%	43.2%	6.3%
Unsupervised children and teens (n=6,430)	41.1%	51.8%	7.1%
Availability of arts or cultural events (n=6,437)	35.3%	60.4%	4.3%
Crime (n=6,443)	29.9%	69.1%	1.0%
Availability of affordable housing (n=6,434)	27.0%	67.2%	5.8%
Quality of the drinking water (n=6,434)	26.5%	69.5%	3.9%
Availability of outdoor recreational space and activities (n=6,443)	23.5%	75.2%	1.3%
Tension between different racial and ethnic groups (n=6,433)	20.0%	76.0%	4.0%
Availability of affordable, quality childcare (n=6,370)	19.4%	44.8%	35.8%
Quality of the air (n=6,447)	10.4%	88.8%	0.8%



### A variety of issues emerge as problems

When asked to identify one issue as the most important community problem, no single concern stood out. Availability of high-paying jobs, unsupervised children and teens, and crime were chosen by over ten percent of the respondents.

Similar concerns emerge, although to slightly varying degrees, from the Knight Foundation Community Indicators Project survey. According to that survey, 15 percent of people perceive crime, drugs, or violence as the most important problem in their community, 9 percent cite too many unsupervised children and teenagers, 8 percent not enough affordable housing, 7 percent quality of education provided by public schools, 5 percent not enough arts and cultural activities, 4 percent not enough affordable, quality childcare, and 3 percent mention tension between racial and ethnic groups.

**Table 14**

*Of the issues that we just discussed, which one is the most important problem facing your community today?*

*(n=6,216) (One response allowed)*

Availability of high-paying jobs	15.9%
Unsupervised children and teens	14.9%
Crime	11.3%
Don't know	9.6%
Tension between different racial and ethnic groups	8.5%
Availability of affordable housing	7.1%
Quality of the drinking water	6.2%
Other	4.3%
Availability of outdoor recreational spaces and activities	3.0%
Growth/development/overcrowding	2.8%
Availability of affordable, quality childcare	2.7%
Availability of arts or cultural events	2.4%
No problems	2.3%
Education issues	1.8%
Social problems	1.7%
Public safety	1.6%
Infrastructure	1.5%
Youth issues	1.2%
Quality of the air	1.1%



## COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS

### Households invest in their communities

Investment is essential to a region's success and high quality of life. Business, government, and nonprofit sectors all make investments in communities, as do households. Results from the survey reveal that Central Indiana residents invest in themselves as well as their communities in a variety of ways, including home improvement and/or maintenance, education, and volunteer activity.

### Home improvements are one type of household investment

According to data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census the rate of homeownership in Indiana in 2000 was 74.9 percent, 72.6 percent in the Midwest region (the highest among four regions; Northeast, South, West, and Midwest) and 67.4 percent nationally.<sup>6</sup> The survey results show that over 80 percent of respondents live in single-family homes and a considerable majority (80 percent) currently own their residence, higher than the state, region, or nation. The average length of residence at one address is 12.5 years.

Most respondents report that their homes as well as those of their neighbors are in good condition. Nonetheless, nearly one-half have undertaken a significant home maintenance or improvement project in the last five years. Over one-third of these projects, valued at \$1,000 or more, have involved either house painting or the installation of a new roof.

#### Table 20

*In the last five years since January 1996, or since you have lived at this address, have you (or anyone in your household/or your landlord) ever undertaken a major home maintenance or improvement project such as replacing the roof, adding an addition, or hiring a landscape company to plant trees? (n=6,391)*

Yes	49.2%
No	50.1%
Don't know	.7%

#### Table 21

*What types of projects were undertaken that you estimate cost more than \$1,000? (n=5,653) (Multiple responses allowed)*

New roof or house painting	31.8%
Other	26.3%
Room addition or new garage	14.9%
Kitchen or bath remodeling	9.8%
Tree planting or landscaping	8.7%
Replacement of heating, air conditioning, or plumbing	7.9%
Don't know	.6%

#### Table 15

*Which of the following best describes your residence? (n=6,436)*

House	81.2%
Duplex	2.8%
Condo or townhouse	3.4%
Apartment	9.0%
Mobile home	3.6%

#### Table 16

*Do you currently own or rent your residence? (n=6,412)*

Own	80.5%
Rent	19.5%

#### Table 17

*How long have you lived at your current residence? (n=6,441)*

Mean	12.5 years
Median	7.0 years
Range	Less than 6 months to 88 years

#### Table 18

*My (housing type) needs a lot of repair work. (n=6,433)*

Strongly agree	9.2%
Somewhat agree	17.6%
Somewhat disagree	17.8%
Strongly disagree	55.1%
Don't know	.3%

#### Table 19

*The houses in my neighborhood need a lot of work. (n=6,431)*

Strongly agree	5.9%
Somewhat agree	14.9%
Somewhat disagree	23.0%
Strongly disagree	54.8%
Don't know	1.4%



**Education investments by households are primarily in higher education**

Another key to successful regions with high quality of life is the quality and level of educational attainment. Over 30 percent of respondents personally paid for job-related training or education in the last five years and of that investment 53 percent went toward higher education, including undergraduate, graduate, medical, or law school.

One-third of the respondents plan to pay for training or education in the next two years and an even larger portion (62 percent) intend to use resources for college, graduate, medical, or law school. Additionally, over 30 percent of households are saving for future education or training.

**Table 22**

*Have you or anyone in your household personally paid for any job-related training or education in the past five years? (n=6,444)*

Yes	32.5%
No	67.3%
Don't know	.2%

**Table 23**

*What type of education or training is it? (n=2,235) (Multiple responses allowed)*

College/graduate school/ medical school/law school	53.4%
Other	23.3%
Computer training	7.5%
Vocational/trade school	5.7%
Continuing education	5.7%
Job training – general	4.4%

**Table 24**

*Do you have plans for anyone in your household to pay for any job-related training or education in the next two years? (n=6,442)*

Yes	28.6%
No	69.7%
Don't know	1.7%

**Table 25**

*What type of education/training will it be? (n=1,873) (Multiple responses allowed)*

College/graduate school/ medical school/law school	62.5%
Continuing education	6.5%
Continuing Education	5.8%
Vocational/trade school	4.9%
Job training – general	2.7%
Other	17.7%

**Table 26**

*In the past six months, has anyone in your household saved any money for future education or training? (n=6,438)*

Yes	31.1%
No	68.3%
Don't know	.6%





### Households invest in their communities through civic engagement

Broad civic engagement also is associated with successful regions. Such community involvement may take various forms as the survey results demonstrate. A substantial majority (70.5 percent) believes they can have a moderate or even a big impact in making their communities a better place to live.

Results from the Social Capital Community Benchmarks Survey indicate that nationally, 77 percent of people think they can have a big or moderate impact in improving their communities. Seventy-six percent of survey participants in Indiana believe they can. Central Indiana residents (36 percent) are slightly more likely than the nation (34 percent) or people in Indiana (33 percent) to think that they can have a “big” impact.

Survey results also reveal that 50 percent of households in Central Indiana have been involved in a variety of volunteer activities, including church-related events, youth and education programs, community groups, and more as shown in Table 29. The Central Indiana Region is somewhat below the nation in this regard, according to Independent Sector Giving and Volunteer National Survey data, which shows that 56 percent of Americans volunteered in 1999.<sup>7</sup> According to another national survey report, *Ready, Willing, and Able*, 54 percent of people in the United States volunteered in the past year.

### Table 29

*I am going to read you a list of community programs and groups, please tell me if you spent time volunteering for a program or group like this in the last 12 months. In the last 12 months have you volunteered your time to: (n=3,219)*

A church or church-related activity	65.5%
A program that helps the poor, elderly, or homeless people	41.1%
Attended a public meeting about an issue of concern for you	39.2%
A professional or business organization	35.1%
A youth development program such as a day care center, scouts, or little league	32.2%
Any kind of educational program such as an after-school program or PTA	27.5%
A hospital or health organization, including those that fight particular diseases	25.0%
A neighborhood or civic group such as a block association or neighborhood watch	20.3%
An arts or cultural group such as a museum, theater, or music group	17.5%
An environmental activity	15.8%
A program that helps animals, such as the Humane Society	14.4%
A political organization	14.1%
Any other type of organization	12.6%

### Table 27

*Overall, how much impact do you think people like you can have in making your community a better place to live? (n=6,442)*

Big impact	35.9%
Moderate impact	34.6%
Small impact	21.3%
No impact	6.4%
Don't know	1.8%

### Table 28

*Have you volunteered your time in the last 12 months? By volunteering I mean spending your time helping without being paid for it? (n=6,444)*

Yes	50.0%
No	49.6%
Don't know	.5%



Nearly three-quarters of survey participants said they voted in the last presidential (1996) or general election (1998). According to statistics collected by the Indiana Election Division, among registered voters (as opposed to all citizens) 63 percent voted in the 1996 presidential election and 24 percent voted in the 1998 general election. This difference of reported versus actual voting is common, reflecting respondents desire to provide socially endorsed responses.

Further analysis regarding civic participation in the region is the subject of a forthcoming report.

**Households participate regularly in religious activity**

Over one-half of households attend a place of worship at least once a month and more than one-third participate in religious activity once a week or more. According to Independent Sector Giving and Volunteering Survey data from 1998, 76 percent of people nationwide reported attendance at religious services sometime during the past year. If all levels of attendance are taken into account, 76 percent of Central Indiana households attended places of worship in the past year.

**Most respondents don't feel their lives are too hectic**

Over 60 percent of respondents report that they have enough time to spend with family. The fact that nearly 40 percent believe their lives are too hectic may be one reason people do not volunteer their time to the community.

**Table 30**

*Did you vote in the last presidential or general election? (n=6,432)*

Yes	74.1%
No	25.8%
Don't Know	.1%

**Table 31**

*About how often do you go to a church, synagogue, or other place of worship for religious reasons? (n=6,429)*

Two or more times a week	15.2%
Once a week	26.9%
2-3 times a month	10.3%
Once a month	7.2%
Less than once a month	16.7%
Never	23.3%
Don't know	.3%

**Table 32**

*In general, would you strongly agree...My life is so hectic that I am not able to spend as much time with my family as I would like. (n=6,388)*

Strongly agree	17.3%
Somewhat agree	20.5%
Somewhat disagree	17.5%
Strongly disagree	43.8%
Don't know	1.0%



## PERCEPTIONS OF COMMUNITY PUBLIC SERVICES

### Households report satisfaction with the quality of public education

The survey found that nearly three-quarters of respondents are satisfied with the quality of local public schools and nearly 40 percent are “very satisfied,” as shown in Table 33a.

The issue of public education often is cited as an important component in a region’s quality of life. It is worth noting that less than ten percent of responses to a series of questions about problems facing communities and problems that do not receive adequate attention from local government officials relate to issues of education (see tables 11, 12, and 13). As a factor in respondents’ decisions about moving, education concerns represent less than ten percent of responses (see tables 5 and 6).

According to the Knight Foundation Community Indicators Project, 19 percent of people rate their local public schools as excellent, 51 percent say good, and roughly one-third (29 percent) evaluate them as either fair (22 percent) or poor (7 percent). A 2000 Gallup poll found that only seven percent of people are completely satisfied with the quality of education students receive (in kindergarten through grade twelve) in the United States, 29 percent are somewhat satisfied, and 61 percent are either somewhat dissatisfied (40 percent) or completely dissatisfied (21 percent).<sup>8</sup> According to the same Gallup poll, in the case of their own children, 31 percent are completely satisfied, 47 percent are somewhat satisfied, 12 percent are somewhat dissatisfied, and only 6 percent are completely dissatisfied.

**Table 33**

*I am going to read a list of local institutions and organizations. For each, please tell me overall how satisfied you are with the quality of services in your neighborhood.*

**Table 33a**

*Your local public schools (n=6,393)*

Very satisfied	38.2%
Somewhat satisfied	35.3%
Somewhat dissatisfied	9.7%
Very dissatisfied	6.5%
Don't know	10.3%



### Households convey a high level of satisfaction with the quality of public safety services

Public safety and security are important components in determining high quality of life. To gauge perceptions of public safety, surveys often include questions about the quality of public services, law enforcement, and crime. Results from the survey show that a significant majority of respondents are very satisfied with their local fire department, ambulance/rescue department, and police services.

According to results from the Knight Foundation Community Indicators Project, nationwide, people hold a positive view of their local police and fire departments. Seventy-four percent of people surveyed rate their local police department as either excellent (23 percent) or good (51 percent). With regard to their local fire department, an overwhelming majority (90 percent) rate the quality of service as either excellent (39 percent) or good (51 percent).

Although the reported satisfaction level with police services was lower than for fire and ambulance, a majority are satisfied with the quality of law enforcement. In fact, just over one-half report they are “very satisfied.” When respondents express concerns about law enforcement they cite problems of corruption, brutality, and racism. (See discussion above regarding problems facing communities and tables 11 through 14).

**Table 33b**

*Your local fire department (n=6,425)*

Very satisfied	69.8%
Somewhat satisfied	23.4%
Somewhat dissatisfied	1.9%
Very dissatisfied	.9%
Don't know	4.1%

**Table 33c**

*Your local ambulance/rescue department (n=6,420)*

Very satisfied	63.9%
Somewhat satisfied	24.4%
Somewhat dissatisfied	2.9%
Very dissatisfied	1.8%
Don't know	7.0%

**Table 33d**

*Police services in your neighborhood (n=6,433)*

Very satisfied	53.9%
Somewhat satisfied	32.6%
Somewhat dissatisfied	6.9%
Very dissatisfied	4.4%
Don't know	2.3%



## PERCEPTIONS OF COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES

### Most people feel safe in their communities

Questions pertaining to crime and fear of walking alone at night have been included in numerous surveys about quality of life. The following tables include results from questions addressing perceptions of security in respondents' neighborhoods.

Over 85 percent of respondents report they would feel safe walking alone in their neighborhood at night and 61.2 percent respond "very safe."

Compared to results from national surveys, Central Indiana residents report feeling relatively safe. Eighty percent of people nationally feel safe when walking in their neighborhoods after dark according to *Straight Talk*. However, only 41 percent feel "very safe," nearly 20 percent less than in Central Indiana. According to the Knight Foundation Community Indicators Project, 83 percent of those surveyed say they feel safe from crime when walking in their neighborhood after dark. Approximately one-half (51 percent) of respondents say "very safe," a figure still lower than for Central Indiana.

### Households perceive a stable crime rate

More than three-quarters of respondents believe the crime rate has remained the same over the last six months (February–July 2000).

In stark contrast, according to a 2000 Gallup Organization poll, 34 percent of U.S. residents perceive more crime in their area than a year before, 46 percent less, and 15 percent say the level of crime is the same.<sup>9</sup> According to a report from the Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Perceptions of Neighborhood Crime*, 1995, seven percent of U.S. households in 1995 identified crime as a neighborhood problem.<sup>10</sup> Perceptions of crime rates, however, tend to lag actual crime and victimization levels. The authors note that comparable to the general pattern of violent victimization rates, household perceptions of crime rose during the late 1980s and early 1990s and then leveled off. However, as crime declined from 1994 to 1995, perceptions that crime was a neighborhood problem remained relatively constant.

When asked specifically if crime is a problem, one-third of respondents report that it is (see Table 13). The most common crime-related problems mentioned are property crime (48 percent of responses), drugs and alcohol (20 percent of responses) and robbery (8 percent of responses). In response to other questions about problems in general, fewer recognize crime as a significant problem (see tables 11 and 14). Crime is not perceived as a problem receiving inadequate attention from local government officials (see Table 12).

**Table 34**

*How safe would you feel walking alone in your neighborhood after dark? (n=6,441)*

Very safe	61.2%
Somewhat safe	25.7%
Somewhat unsafe	7.7%
Very unsafe	4.6%
Don't know	.8%

**Table 35**

*Overall, would you say that crime in your neighborhood has increased, remained about the same, or decreased in the last six months? (n=6,405)*

Increased	10.2%
Remained the same	75.9%
Decreased	9.0%
Don't know	4.8%



### Households take measures to feel more secure

Although the perceptions of public safety in neighborhoods are relatively high, the precautions taken by respondents to secure their homes are noteworthy. The most frequently mentioned measure taken is installation of strong locks (42.3 percent). Over one-third of respondents admit to keeping a firearm for protection, and since this question is one that in some areas may lead to underreporting, the possibility exists that this number is actually higher. Nearly one-third of those who have a firearm say that it is for protection, and 45 percent indicate it is for both protection and recreation.

Other security measures taken include the installation of security or alarm systems, buying a dog for protection, keeping a weapon other than a firearm, joining neighborhood watches, and installing bars on windows.

According to *Guns in America: National Survey on Private Ownership and Use of Firearms*, in 1997 35 percent of U.S. households owned guns.<sup>11</sup> A national Gallup poll conducted during the summer 2000 found that 39 percent of households have a gun in the home.<sup>12</sup> Twenty-two percent of those in the same poll reportedly bought a gun for protection, 32 percent keep a dog for such reasons, and 39 percent had special locks installed.

Further analysis of perceptions of crime and public safety in the region is the subject of another forthcoming report.

Smoke detectors are important to public safety in preventing deaths from fires. An overwhelming majority of survey respondents have functional smoke detectors. Of the few that do not, the primary reason mentioned is lack of or dead batteries.

**Table 36**

*We hear a lot about people's concerns for safety in their homes. Have you or anyone in your household done any of the following things to make you feel safer in your home?*

Measures taken to feel more secure	Percent who have taken these measures
Installed strong locks on doors ( <i>n</i> = 6,434)	42.3%
Keep a gun or a firearm ( <i>n</i> = 6,353)	34.0%
Bought a dog for protection ( <i>n</i> = 6,438)	15.4%
Installed a security/alarm system ( <i>n</i> = 6,410)	17.4%
Keep a weapon other than a gun or a firearm ( <i>n</i> = 6,377)	14.9%
Joined a neighborhood crime watch ( <i>n</i> = 6,423)	11.0%
Installed bars on windows ( <i>n</i> = 6,436)	2.2%

**Table 37**

*Is the gun or firearm primarily for protection, recreation, or both? (*n* = 2,139)*

Protection	27.2%
Recreation	25.4%
Both	45.3%
Don't know	2.2%

**Table 38**

*Do you have any smoke detectors in your home? (*n* = 6,446)*

Yes	97.8%
No	2.2%

**Table 39**

*Do all of your smoke detectors work? (*n* = 6,303)*

Yes	96.8%
No	2.0%
Don't know	1.2%

**Table 40**

*Why not? (Multiple responses allowed) (*n* = 135)*

No batteries/batteries dead	61.5%
Detector disconnected/uninstalled	14.8%
Detector broken	9.6%
Don't know	5.9%
Outdated/too old	3.0%
Bad product	1.5%
Other reasons	3.7%



## PERCEPTIONS OF COMMUNITY GROWTH ISSUES

Household responses reflect mixed perceptions about growth and new development. Several of the survey questions address households' views of new residential development and the perceived impact of growth in their communities. The majority of respondents feel that new residential development is of high quality and will have a positive impact on property values. When asked specifically about new development, the majority of respondents do not think it has had a significant impact on their community or affected street congestion. However, without prompting in response to another question, more respondents cited uncontrolled growth and development than any other single issue (13.2 percent) as the most important problem facing communities. (See Table 11)

Further analysis of growth and congestion issues will be the subject of a future report.

The responses to a follow-up question about new development and street congestion indicate nearly two-thirds of respondents disagree that development has contributed to congestion.

**Table 41**

*The new homes being built nearest to me are high quality and will improve property values. (n=6,130)*

Strongly agree	48.1%
Somewhat agree	23.4%
Somewhat disagree	8.1%
Strongly disagree	11.2%
Don't know	9.2%

**Table 42**

*My neighborhood doesn't have the same feel anymore because of all the new development. (n=6,171)*

Strongly agree	12.5%
Somewhat agree	11.6%
Somewhat disagree	20.1%
Strongly disagree	48.7%
Don't know	7.1%

**Table 43**

*The streets in my community are congested because of all the new development. (n=6,242)*

Strongly agree	18.0%
Somewhat agree	13.7%
Somewhat disagree	16.5%
Strongly disagree	48.5%
Don't know	3.2%

**Table 44**

*In general, how long does it take you to go where you or your family normally shop for food? (n=6,445)*

Less than 5 minutes	26.7%
5-10 minutes	40.2%
11-15 minutes	17.6%
More than 15 minutes	15.1%
Don't know	.4%



## PERCEPTIONS OF COMMUNITY HEALTH ISSUES

### Households report satisfaction with healthcare services

A considerable majority of respondents report they are satisfied, and more than half say they are “very satisfied” with the quality of healthcare services in their community. As problems that reportedly receive inadequate attention from local government officials, healthcare services and/or insurance represent only one percent of responses (see Table 12).

As with the subject of education, perceptions of the quality of healthcare tend to vary according to whether respondents are asked about their own experiences or the quality of services at the national level. A 2000 poll conducted by the Gallup Organization found that 54 percent of those surveyed are satisfied with the quality of healthcare in the country as a whole and 44 percent convey dissatisfaction.<sup>13</sup> However, 82 percent say they are satisfied with the quality of healthcare they receive and only 16 percent report being dissatisfied.

The two most often cited reasons for dissatisfaction with healthcare services are inadequate insurance coverage (21.5 percent of responses) and insufficient quality and quantity of services (19 percent). Other reasons include dissatisfaction with insurance providers, policies, and coverage and the high cost of insurance. A small number of Central Indiana households (3.7 percent) reports that they do not currently have medical insurance. According to U.S. Census data from 1999, 15.5 percent of the nation was without health insurance for the entire year<sup>14</sup> as were 10.8 percent of Indiana residents.<sup>15</sup>

**Table 45**

*How satisfied are you with the quality of healthcare services you and your household receive? (n=6,381)*

Very satisfied	51.8%
Somewhat satisfied	34.2%
Somewhat dissatisfied	7.6%
Very dissatisfied	5.0%
Don't know	1.4%

**Table 46**

*Why are you dissatisfied with the healthcare services you and your household receive? (n=1,063)  
(Multiple responses allowed)*

Inadequate health insurance coverage	21.5%
Inadequate quality and quantity of healthcare	19.0%
Dissatisfaction with insurance providers, policies, and coverage	17.2%
Cost of insurance	15.4%
Cost of medication/healthcare	9.5%
Lack of insurance	5.6%
Negative experience with physicians	5.3%
Dissatisfaction with Medicaid/Medicare coverage and services	3.2%
Other	2.6%
Don't know	.7%





### **Few households report that environmental issues are a problem in their community**

When asked specifically about whether the quality of drinking water is a problem, over one-quarter of respondents indicate that it is, and 10.4 percent note that the quality of air in their community is a problem (see Table 13).

As problems in general facing their communities, far fewer respondents cite environmental concerns or the quality of drinking water and air. Less than four percent report environmental concerns as problems that do not get enough attention from local government officials (see Table 12). Six percent indicate that the quality of drinking water is one of the most important problems facing their community and one percent cite air quality (see tables 11 and 14).

A March 2001 nationwide Gallup poll found that nearly one-half (47 percent) of those surveyed view the quality of the environment as only fair.<sup>16</sup> While 41 percent say the quality of the environment is good, only five percent regard it as excellent and six percent say poor.

### **Perceptions of Community Amenities**

One measure of quality of life is the degree to which people participate in and have access to arts and cultural events. Questions included in the survey identify how people perceive the availability of arts and cultural events as well as the extent to which members of the community support these events.

When asked if the availability of arts or cultural events in particular is an issue of concern, over one-third of respondents report that it is (see Table 13). When asked to identify the most important problem facing their community, however, only 2.4 percent of respondents point to the availability of these events (see Table 14).



### Households attend arts and cultural events

Sixty percent of Central Indiana residents have attended an art or cultural event in the past year and of those, over half attended such an event at least twice during that time. The most often attended events were concerts, followed by museums and plays. Among those who volunteer in their communities, 17.5 percent did so for an arts or cultural group such as a museum, theater, or musical group (see Table 29).

A report about attendance at specific art and cultural events/venues throughout the region is the subject of an issue brief, *Arts and Cultural Events Draw Central Indiana Residents*. Two questions from the survey addressed in that report include these: What facility or institution for arts and cultural events, did you attend the most often in the last 12 months? And What city is this facility or institution in?

### Perceptions of availability and access to recreation facilities

Questions on the survey related to recreation help to ascertain the value placed on water-related recreation and to determine perceptions of access to and availability of recreational facilities. When asked specifically, roughly one-quarter of respondents suggest that the availability of outdoor recreational space and activities is a problem. However, the availability of the latter is mentioned by only about three percent of those surveyed as the most important problem (see Table 14). Over one-half of respondents are aware of hiking or trail facilities in close proximity to their home.

**Table 47**

*In the past 12 months have you attended any kind of art or cultural event such as a play, opera, concert or ballet or visited a museum, historical society, or art festival? (n=6,443)*

Yes	59.8%
No	39.8%
Don't know	.4%

**Table 48**

*How often did you attend art or cultural events in the last 12 months? (n=3,838)*

Once	14.4%
2-4 times	45.0%
5-7 times	16.5%
More than seven times	23.3%
Don't know	.9%

**Table 49**

*What type of art or cultural event did you attend MOST often in the last 12 months? (n=3,838)*

Concert	29.5%
Visited a museum	25.1%
Play	22.3%
Something else	9.2%
Art festival	8.2%
Visited a historical society	2.3%
Opera	1.4%
Ballet	1.1%
Don't know	1.0%

**Table 50**

*Is there currently a hiking or trail facility in your immediate area? Say within a five or ten minute drive from you home? (n=6,444)*

Yes	51.5%
No	45.0%
Don't know	3.5%



### Majority of Central Indiana respondents exercise on a regular basis

Questions included in the survey about recreation help to determine how people are trying to stay in shape. An overwhelming majority of households participate regularly in some type of exercise activity and 46.3 percent engage in fitness activities three or more times per week. Survey respondents report participation in a wide variety of fitness activities. Over one-half (56.6 percent) of those who do engage in regular exercise walk for fitness, followed by bicycling, running, weight lifting, and swimming.

According to *Physical Activity and Health: A Report of the Surgeon General*, 25 percent of adults nationwide do not participate in any type of leisure time physical activity and more than 60 percent are not regularly active.<sup>17</sup> The report found that walking is one of the most common forms of physical activity in the country. Walking is by far the most common fitness activity according to Central Indiana residents as well.

**Table 51**

*In the past 12 months, have you regularly participated in any exercise activity such as walking, running, bicycling, swimming, skating, basketball, or tennis primarily for purposes of fitness? (n=6,443)*

Yes	68.4%
No	31.5%
Don't know	.1%

**Table 52**

*How often did you participate in these fitness activities? (n=4,401)*

Daily	26.2%
Three or more times per week	41.6%
1-2 times per week	25.4%
3 times per month	2.2%
1-2 times per month	2.0%
Once a month	1.9%
Don't know	.8%

**Table 53**

*Of all the fitness activities that you participated in, what type of exercise or fitness activity did you participate in most often? (n=4,374)*

Walking	56.6%
Bicycling/stationary bike	8.7%
Running/jogging/treadmill	8.0%
Other	6.4%
Lifting weights/nautilus equipment	5.5%
Swimming	4.5%
Basketball	3.7%
Aerobics/Tae Bo/jazzercise	2.5%
General exercise	1.7%
Golf	1.4%
Tennis	1.1%



### Majority use public facilities for exercise

Questions about the type of facilities used help to analyze providers, which are increasingly in the private sector. Of those who engage regularly in fitness activity, most do so at a public facility.

### Households value water-related recreational resources

Nearly one-half of Central Indiana residents have participated in water-related recreational activity in the last year.

Further analysis regarding the use of rivers, streams, and lakes will be addressed in a forthcoming report.

**Table 54**

*Do you participate in this activity in a public facility or a private facility? (n=4,391)*

Public	70.6%
Private	28.6%
Don't know	.7%

**Table 55**

*In the last 12 months, have you or any members of your household used any river, stream or lake in Central Indiana for fishing, boating, swimming, nature study, or any other type of recreational activity? (n=6,445)*

Yes	47.3%
No	52.4%
Don't know	.2%

**Table 56**

*What is your best estimate of the number of times you used these rivers, streams, and lakes for recreation in the last 12 months? (n=2,985)*

Median usage per year	6 times
Mean usage per year	18.1 times



## ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup>A national survey of 1,006 people and four regional surveys of 500 people each in Denver, Philadelphia, San Francisco, and Tampa. The survey was commissioned by the Pew Partnership for Civic Journalism and was conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates. Interviews were conducted between October 6 and October 31, 1999. The survey report and results are available at [www.pewcenter.org/doingcj/research/r\\_ST2000nat1.html](http://www.pewcenter.org/doingcj/research/r_ST2000nat1.html).

<sup>2</sup>A national study comprised of a national sample of 3,000 respondents and representative samples of 40 communities nationwide, including Indiana. The survey, conducted between July and November 2000, builds off the work of Robert Putnam, author of *Bowling Alone: Collapse and Revival of the American Community*, and strategies for civic revitalization outlined in *Better Together*, a recent Saguaro Seminar report. Survey results are available at [www.cfsv.org/community-survey](http://www.cfsv.org/community-survey).

<sup>3</sup>A national survey of 26 communities across the country conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates for the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. Interviews were conducted between October 11 and November 14, 1999. The survey report and results are available at [www.knightfdn.org/default.asp?story=indicators/indicators.html#](http://www.knightfdn.org/default.asp?story=indicators/indicators.html#).

<sup>4</sup>The national poll, commissioned by the Pew Partnership for Civic Change, was conducted by the Campaign Study Group, and surveyed 1,830 randomly selected adults from October 26 through November 18, 2000. The survey report and results can be found at [www.pew-partnership.org/pubs/rwa/full\\_report/table\\_of\\_contents.html](http://www.pew-partnership.org/pubs/rwa/full_report/table_of_contents.html).

<sup>5</sup>Results from the Gallup Organization poll are based on telephone interviews with a randomly selected national sample of 1,032 adults, conducted May 23 and May 24, 2000. Survey results can be found at [www.gallup.com/poll/surveys/2000/Topline000523/index.asp](http://www.gallup.com/poll/surveys/2000/Topline000523/index.asp).

<sup>6</sup>U.S. Census Bureau housing vacancies and homeownership data can be found at [www.census.gov/hhes/www/housing/hvs/annual00/ann00ind.html](http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/housing/hvs/annual00/ann00ind.html). See Table 12 for homeownership rates by area and Table 13 for homeownership rates by state.

<sup>7</sup>The data were obtained from in-home personal interviews conducted by the Gallup Organization in May, June, and July 1999, with a national sample of 2,553 adults. Survey results can be found at [www.independentsector.org/GandV/default.htm](http://www.independentsector.org/GandV/default.htm).

<sup>8</sup>Survey results are based on telephone interviews conducted with 1,019 adults between August 24 and August 27, 2000, and are available at [www.gallup.com/poll/surveys/2000/Topline000824/q19t28.asp](http://www.gallup.com/poll/surveys/2000/Topline000824/q19t28.asp).

<sup>9</sup>Poll results are based on telephone interviews conducted with 1,012 adults between August 29 and September 5, 2000 and can be found at [www.gallup.com/poll/surveys/2000/Topline000829/q11t14.asp](http://www.gallup.com/poll/surveys/2000/Topline000829/q11t14.asp).

<sup>10</sup>DeFrances, Carol J. and Steven K. Smith. 1998. Perceptions of Neighborhood Crime, 1995. Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report. This report presents data from the American Housing Survey (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development) and the BJS National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS).

<sup>11</sup>*Guns in America: Results of a Comprehensive National Survey on Firearms Ownership and Use. Summary Report (1997)*. Philip J. Cook and Jens Ludwig. The National Institute of Justice-sponsored National Survey of Private Ownership of Firearms was conducted by the Chilton Research Services of Drexel Hill, PA in November and December 1994.



<sup>12</sup> The results are based on telephone interviews with a randomly selected national sample of 1,012 adults, conducted between August 29 and September 5, 2000. Survey results are available at [www.gallup.com/poll/indicators/indGuns.asp](http://www.gallup.com/poll/indicators/indGuns.asp) (gun ownership) and [www.gallup.com/poll/surveys/2000/Topline000829/q29.asp](http://www.gallup.com/poll/surveys/2000/Topline000829/q29.asp) (safety measures).

<sup>13</sup> Poll results are based on telephone interviews conducted with 1,008 national adults between September 11 and 13, 2000, and are available at [www.gallup.com/poll/surveys/2000/Topline000911/q11t19.asp](http://www.gallup.com/poll/surveys/2000/Topline000911/q11t19.asp).

<sup>14</sup> Data obtained from U.S. Census Bureau table titled People Without Health Insurance for the Entire Year: 1998 and 1999. Available at [www.census.gov/hhes/hlthins/hlthin99/hi99ta.html](http://www.census.gov/hhes/hlthins/hlthin99/hi99ta.html).

<sup>15</sup> Data obtained from U.S. Census Bureau table titled Percent of People Without Health Insurance Coverage Throughout the Year by State (3-year Average): 1997 to 1999. Available at [www.census.gov/hhes/hlthins/hlthin99/hi99te.html](http://www.census.gov/hhes/hlthins/hlthin99/hi99te.html).

<sup>16</sup> Poll results are based on telephone interviews conducted with 1,060 adults between March 5 and March 7, 2001. Results can be found at [www.gallup.com/poll/surveys/2001/Topline010305/q13t14.asp](http://www.gallup.com/poll/surveys/2001/Topline010305/q13t14.asp).

<sup>17</sup> This 1996 report is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/sgr/sgr.htm>. The difference between levels of activity in Central Indiana and the nation may be attributed to the fact that self-reported information about physical activity, for surveys such as this one, can result in over reporting.



## APPENDIX A

### 2000 Central Indiana Household Survey Instrument

Hello, my name is (YOUR NAME) and I am calling from the Indiana University Public Opinion Laboratory. We are conducting a survey about the quality of life in your community. We would like to ask you some questions about how you feel about where you live, problems in your community, the quality of services, and opportunities for a good life. All your answers will remain strictly confidential and anonymous. This survey will take about 15-20 minutes and I promise I am not trying to sell anything.

SCR1: First of all, for this survey I need to speak to the head of the household. By head of the household, I mean the person primarily or jointly responsible for paying the bills and making household decisions. Is this person available?

IF PERSON IS NOT AVAILABLE, ASK FOR A TIME TO REACH THEM AND SCHEDULE A CALLBACK.

IF PERSON YOU ARE SPEAKING TO IS HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD, PRESS ANY KEY TO CONTINUE.

SCR2: What county do you live in?

- |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. Bartholomew |                |
| 2. Benton      | 24. Marion-In  |
| 3. Boone       | 25. Marion-Out |
| 4. Brown       | 26. Miami      |
| 5. Carroll     | 27. Monroe     |
| 6. Cass        | 28. Montgomery |
| 7. Clay        | 29. Morgan     |
| 8. Clinton     | 30. Orange     |
| 9. Decatur     | 31. Owen       |
| 10. Delaware   | 32. Parke      |
| 11. Fayette    | 33. Putnam     |
| 12. Fountain   | 34. Randolph   |
| 13. Greene     | 35. Rush       |
| 14. Hamilton   | 36. Shelby     |
| 15. Hancock    | 37. Sullivan   |
| 16. Hendricks  | 38. Tippecanoe |
| 17. Henry      | 39. Tipton     |
| 18. Howard     | 40. Union      |
| 19. Jackson    | 41. Vermillion |
| 20. Jennings   | 42. Vigo       |
| 21. Johnson    | 43. Warren     |
| 22. Lawrence   | 44. Wayne      |
| 23. Madison    | 45. White      |
|                | 46. NA/Ref     |

SCR3: What is your age?

SCR4: Record respondent's gender (BY OBSERVATION)

- 1 Male
- 2 Female

**The first set of questions deals with general questions about the community in which you live.**

1a. When people in your county ask you where you live, what do you tell them?

1b. When you are out of this area, and people ask where you live, what do you tell them?

2. For how many years have you lived in: INSERT COMMUNITY NAME



3. What were the reasons you decided to move to this area?  
(DO NOT READ LIST) (ACCEPT UP TO 3 ANSWERS)

- 1 Location convenient to work
- 2 Affordable housing
- 3 Quality/Type/Size of housing
- 4 Close to relatives/friends
- 5 Greenways/parks nearby
- 6 Location convenient to shopping
- 7 Recreation/Entertainment/Cultural Activities
- 8 Safe Neighborhoods
- 9 Good Schools
- 10 Reasonable tax rates
- 11 Liked neighborhood/Well-kept
- 12 Job Change
- 13 Grew up here
- 14 Other
- 15 Don't know
- 16 No answer/Refuse

4. Overall, how would you rate (INSERT COMMUNITY NAME) as a place to live?  
Would you say it is excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

- 1 Excellent
- 2 Good
- 3 Only Fair
- 4 Poor
- 5 Don't Know
- 6 No answer/Refuse

5. Do you think things in are generally going in the right direction or the wrong direction?

- 1 Right Direction
- 2 Wrong Direction
- 3 Don't Know
- 4 No answer/Refuse

6. Is there a sense that people who live in have common interests?  
Would you say there is a strong sense of community, some sense of community, or hardly any sense of community?

- 1 Strong sense of community
- 2 Some sense of community
- 3 Hardly any sense of community
- 4 No sense of community
- 5 Don't Know
- 6 No answer/Refuse

7a. How likely are you to move from within the next five years?  
Would you say very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or not at all likely?

- 1 Very Likely
- 2 Somewhat Likely
- 3 Not Very Likely SKIP 7b
- 4 Not At All Likely SKIP 7b
- 5 Don't Know SKIP 7b
- 6 No answer/Refuse SKIP 7b

7b. Which of the following best describes why you would leave your community to live somewhere else?





To get a better job, to move to a nicer home, to find better schools, to find a safer place to live, to find a place with more recreational opportunities, or something else?  
(ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES)

- 1 To get a better job
- 2 To move to a nicer home
- 3 To find better schools
- 4 To find a safer place to live
- 5 To find a place with more recreational opportunities
- 6 Something else
- 7 Don't know
- 8 No answer/Refuse

**The next set of questions deals with problems that may be facing your community.**

8. What do you think are the most important problems facing your community today?  
(DO NOT READ LIST) (ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES)

- 1 Crime
- 2 Drugs
- 3 Gangs
- 4 Lack of medical insurance
- 5 Lack of medical care
- 6 Environmental concerns (air pollution, recycling, water quality, etc.)
- 7 Neighborhood not kept up
- 8 Other (SPECIFY)
- 9 None/No problems
- 10 Don't Know
- 11 No answer/Refuse

9. What problems in your local community, if any, don't get enough attention from local governmental officials?  
(DO NOT READ LIST) (ACCEPT UP TO 3 RESPONSES)

- 1 Crime
- 2 Drugs
- 3 Gangs
- 4 Lack of medical insurance
- 5 Lack of medical care
- 6 Environmental concerns (air pollution, recycling, water quality, etc.)
- 7 Neighborhood not kept up
- 8 Other (SPECIFY)
- 9 None/No problems
- 10 Don't Know
- 11 No answer/Refuse

10. Thinking about the (INSERT COMMUNITY NAME) area, I'm going to read a list of problems some communities face.  
For each one, please tell me if it is a problem or not a problem in the community where you live.

a. Crime

- 1 A problem
- 2 Not a problem SKIP TO 10B
- 3 Don't Know SKIP TO 10B
- 4 No answer/Refuse SKIP TO 10B



WHAT TYPE OF CRIME PROBLEM?

b. Availability of high-paying jobs

- 1 A problem
- 2 Not a problem
- 3 Don't Know
- 4 No answer/Refuse

c. Availability of arts or cultural events

- 1 A problem
- 2 Not a problem
- 3 Don't Know
- 4 No answer/Refuse

d. Availability of outdoor recreational space and activities

- 1 A problem
- 2 Not a problem
- 3 Don't Know
- 4 No answer/Refuse

e. Quality of the drinking water

- 1 A problem
- 2 Not a problem
- 3 Don't Know
- 4 No answer/Refuse

f. Quality of the air

- 1 A problem
- 2 Not a problem
- 3 Don't Know
- 4 No answer/Refuse

g. Availability of affordable quality childcare

- 1 A problem
- 2 Not a problem
- 3 Don't Know
- 4 No answer/Refuse

h. Unsupervised children and teens

- 1 A problem
- 2 Not a problem
- 3 Don't Know
- 4 No answer/Refuse

i. Availability of affordable housing

- 1 A problem
- 2 Not a problem
- 3 Don't Know
- 4 No answer/Refuse



j. Tension between different racial and ethnic groups

- 1 A problem
- 2 Not a problem
- 3 Don't Know
- 4 No answer/Refuse

11. Of the issues that we just discussed, which one is the most important problem facing your community today?  
(RE-READ ANSWERS IF NECESSARY) (ACCEPT ONLY 1 RESPONSE)

- 1 Crime
- 2 Availability of high paying jobs
- 3 Availability of arts or cultural events
- 4 Availability of outdoor recreational space and activities
- 5 Quality of the drinking water
- 6 Quality of the air
- 7 Availability of affordable quality childcare
- 8 Unsupervised children and teens
- 9 Availability of affordable housing
- 10 Tension between different racial and ethnic groups
- 11 Other (SPECIFY)
- 12 Don't Know
- 13 No answer/Refuse

12. Overall, do you think the racial and ethnic make up of your community has been changing a lot, somewhat, very little, or not at all?

- 1 A lot
- 2 Somewhat
- 3 Very little
- 4 Not at all
- 5 Don't know
- 6 No answer/Refuse

13. Overall, would you say that ethnic and racial diversity in your community is a good thing, could cause problems, or has not made much difference?

- 1 Good thing
- 2 Could cause problems
- 3 Has not made much difference
- 4 Don't know
- 5 No answer/Refuse

**The next set of questions deals with institutions and organizations in your community.**

14. I'm going to read a list of local institutions and organizations. For each one, please tell me overall how satisfied you are with the quality of services in your neighborhood. Would you say very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?

a. Your local public schools?

- 1 Very satisfied
- 2 Somewhat satisfied
- 3 Somewhat dissatisfied
- 4 Very dissatisfied
- 5 Don't know
- 6 No answer/Refuse



b. Your local fire department?

- 1 Very satisfied
- 2 Somewhat satisfied
- 3 Somewhat dissatisfied
- 4 Very dissatisfied
- 5 Don't know
- 6 No answer/Refuse

c. Your local ambulance/rescue department

- 1 Very satisfied
- 2 Somewhat satisfied
- 3 Somewhat dissatisfied
- 4 Very dissatisfied
- 5 Don't know
- 6 No answer/Refuse

d. Police services in your neighborhood?

- 1 Very satisfied
- 2 Somewhat satisfied
- 3 Somewhat dissatisfied
- 4 Very dissatisfied
- 5 Don't know
- 6 No answer/Refuse

**The next set of questions deals with safety in your community and neighborhood.**

15. How safe would you feel walking alone in your neighborhood after dark?

Would you say very safe, somewhat safe, somewhat unsafe, or very unsafe?

- 1 Very safe
- 2 Somewhat safe
- 3 Somewhat unsafe
- 4 Very unsafe
- 5 Don't know
- 6 No answer/Refuse

16. Overall, would you say that crime in your neighborhood has increased, remained about the same, or decreased in the last six months?

- 1 Increased
- 2 Remained the same
- 3 Decreased
- 4 Don't know
- 5 No answer/Refuse

17. We hear a lot about people's concerns for safety in their homes.

Have you or anyone in your household done any of the following things to make you feel safer in your home?

a. Bought a dog for protection

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Don't know
- 4 No answer/Refuse



b. Installed strong locks on doors

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Don't know
- 4 No answer/Refuse

c. Installed bars on windows

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Don't know
- 4 No answer/Refuse

d. Keep a gun or firearm

- 1 Yes
- 2 No SKIP TO 17E
- 3 Don't know SKIP TO 17E
- 4 No answer/Refuse SKIP TO 17E

Is the gun or firearm primarily for protection, recreation, or both?

- 1 Protection
- 2 Recreation
- 3 Both
- 4 Don't know
- 5 No answer/Refuse

e. Keep a weapon other than a gun or a firearm

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Don't know
- 4 No answer/Refuse

f. Joined a neighborhood crime watch

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Don't know
- 4 No answer/Refuse

g. Installed a security/alarm system

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Don't know
- 4 No answer/Refuse

18a. Do you have any smoke detectors in your home?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No SKIP TO "NEXT"
- 3 Don't know SKIP TO "NEXT"
- 4 No answer/Refuse SKIP TO "NEXT"



18b. Do all of your smoke detectors work?

- 1 Yes SKIP TO "NEXT"
- 2 No
- 3 Don't know SKIP TO "NEXT"
- 4 No answer/Refuse SKIP TO "NEXT"

18c. Why not?

(DO NOT READ LIST) (ACCEPT UP TO 3 RESPONSES)

- 1 Batteries dead/no batteries
- 2 Disconnected
- 3 Detector is broken
- 4 Other
- 5 Don't know
- 6 No answer/Refuse

**The next set of questions deals with health care issues and your family.**

19. How many members of your household currently have medical insurance coverage?

20a. How satisfied are you with the quality of health care services you and your household receive?  
Would you say very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?

- 1 Very satisfied SKIP TO "NEXT"
- 2 Somewhat satisfied SKIP TO "NEXT"
- 3 Somewhat dissatisfied
- 4 Very dissatisfied
- 5 Don't know SKIP TO "NEXT"
- 6 No answer/Refuse SKIP TO "NEXT"

20b. Why are you dissatisfied with the health care services you and your household receive?  
(DO NOT READ LIST) (ACCEPT UP TO 3 RESPONSES)

- 1 No doctor in area
- 2 Lack of money
- 3 Lack of insurance
- 4 Insurance does not cover
- 5 No transportation
- 6 Appointment not available
- 7 Doctor won't take Medicare
- 8 Doctor won't take Medicaid
- 9 Language barrier
- 10 Have to wait too long
- 11 Other (SPECIFY)
- 12 Don't know
- 13 No answer/Refuse

**The next set of questions deals with household issues.**

21. How long have you lived at your current residence?  
(RECORD IN YEARS)

0=Less than 6 months 1=Six months to 1 year

22. Do you currently own or rent your residence?

- 1 Own
- 2 Rent
- 3 No answer/Refuse



23. In the last five years since January 1996, or since you have lived at this address, have you (or anyone in your household/or your landlord) ever undertaken a major home maintenance or improvement project such as replacing the roof, adding an addition, or hiring a landscape company to plant trees?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No SKIP TO 25
- 3 Don't know SKIP TO 25
- 4 No answer/Refuse SKIP TO 25

24. What types of projects were undertaken that you estimate cost more than \$1000?  
(DO NOT READ LIST) (ACCEPT UP TO 3 RESPONSES)

- 1 Room addition or new garage
- 2 Kitchen or bath remodeling
- 3 Tree planting or landscaping
- 4 New roof or house painting
- 5 Replacement of heating, air conditioning, or plumbing
- 6 Other (SPECIFY)
- 7 Don't know
- 8 No answer/Refuse

25. Which of the following best describes your residence? Would you say a single family home, a duplex, a condo or townhouse, an apartment, or a mobile home?

- 1 House
- 2 Duplex
- 3 Condo or Townhouse
- 4 Apartment
- 5 Mobile Home
- 6 Don't know
- 7 No answer/Refuse

26. I am going to read several statements to you. Please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with each.

26a. My (INSERT HOUSING TYPE) needs a lot of repair work.

- 1 Strongly Agree
- 2 Somewhat Agree
- 3 Somewhat Disagree
- 4 Strongly Disagree
- 5 Don't know
- 6 No answer/Refuse

26b. The houses in my neighborhood need a lot of work.

- 1 Strongly Agree
- 2 Somewhat Agree
- 3 Somewhat Disagree
- 4 Strongly Disagree
- 5 Don't know
- 6 No answer/Refuse

26c. The new homes being built nearest to me are high quality and will improve property values.

- 1 Strongly Agree
- 2 Somewhat Agree
- 3 Somewhat Disagree
- 4 Strongly Disagree
- 5 Don't know
- 6 No answer/Refuse



26d. My neighborhood doesn't have the same feel anymore because of all the new development.

- 1 Strongly Agree
- 2 Somewhat Agree
- 3 Somewhat Disagree
- 4 Strongly Disagree
- 5 Don't know
- 6 No answer/Refuse

26e. The streets in my community are congested because of all the new development.

- 1 Strongly Agree
- 2 Somewhat Agree
- 3 Somewhat Disagree
- 4 Strongly Disagree
- 5 Don't know
- 6 No answer/Refuse

27. In general, how long does it take you to go where you or your family normally shop for food?

Would you say less than 5 minutes, 5-10 minutes, 11-15 minutes, or more than 15 minutes?

- 1 Less than 5 minutes
- 2 5-10 minutes
- 3 11-15 minutes
- 4 More than 15 minutes
- 5 Don't know
- 6 No answer/Refuse

28. In general, would you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statement:

My life is so hectic that I am not able to spend as much time with my family as I would like.

- 1 Strongly agree
- 2 Somewhat agree
- 3 Somewhat disagree
- 4 Strongly disagree
- 5 Don't know
- 6 No answer/Refuse

**The next few questions deal with employment and training.**

29a. Have you or anyone in your household personally paid for any job-related training or education in the past five years?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No SKIP TO 30A
- 3 Don't know SKIP TO 30A
- 4 No answer/Refuse SKIP TO 30A

29b. What type of education or training was it?

30a. Do you have plans for anyone in your household to pay for any job related training or education in the next two years?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No SKIP TO 31
- 3 Don't know SKIP TO 31
- 4 No answer/Refuse SKIP TO 31

30b. What type of education or training is it?

31. In the past six months, has anyone in your household saved any money for future education or training?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Don't know
- 4 No answer/Refuse





**The next few questions ask about participation in a number of activities.**

32a. About how often do you go to a church, synagogue, or other place of worship for religious reasons? Would you say 2 or more times a week, once a week, 2-3 times a month, once a month, less than once a month, or never?

- 1 Two or more times a week
- 2 Once a week
- 3 2-3 times a month
- 4 Once a month
- 5 Less than once a month
- 6 Never SKIP TO 33
- 7 Don't know SKIP TO 33
- 8 No answer/Refuse SKIP TO 33

32b. What is the name of the church and the city in which it is located?

33. In the last 12 months have you attended any kind of art or cultural event such as a play, opera, concert or ballet or visited a museum, historical society or art festival?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No SKIP TO 38
- 3 Don't know SKIP TO 38
- 4 No answer/Refuse SKIP TO 38

34. How often did you attend art or cultural events in the last 12 months?

- 1 Once
- 2 2-4 times
- 3 5-7 times
- 4 More than seven times
- 5 Don't know
- 6 No answer/Refuse

35. What type of art or cultural event did you attend MOST often in the last 12 months?

- 1 Play
- 2 Opera
- 3 Concert
- 4 Ballet
- 5 Visited a museum
- 6 Visited a historical society
- 7 Art festival
- 8 Something else
- 9 Don't know
- 10 No answer/Refuse

36. What FACILITY OR INSTITUTION for arts and cultural events, did you attend the most often in the last 12 months?

37. What city is this facility or institution in?

38a. In the last 12 months, have you or any members of your household used any river, stream, or lake in Central Indiana for fishing, boating swimming, nature study, or any other type of recreational activity?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No SKIP TO 39
- 3 Don't know SKIP TO 39
- 4 No answer/Refuse SKIP TO 39

38b. What is your best estimate of the number of times you used these rivers, streams and lakes for recreation in the last 12 months? \_\_\_\_\_

38c. What is the name of the river, stream, or lake you visited most often in the last 12 months?  
(PROBE FOR SPECIFICS)



39. In the past 12 months, have you regularly participated in any exercise activity such as walking, running, bicycling, swimming, skating, basketball, or tennis primarily for purposes of fitness?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No SKIP TO 44
- 3 Don't know SKIP TO 44
- 4 No answer/Refuse SKIP TO 44

40. How often did you participate in these fitness activities?

- 1 Daily
- 2 Three or more times per week
- 3 1-2 times per week
- 4 3 times per month
- 5 1-2 times per month
- 6 Once a month
- 7 Don't know
- 8 No answer/Refuse

41. Of all the fitness activities that you participated in, what type of exercise or fitness activity did you participate in most often?  
(IF DOESN'T PARTICIPATE IN ONE MORE THAN OTHERS, ASK FOR THE MOST RECENT ACTIVITY)

42. Do you participate in this activity in a public facility or a private facility?

- 1 Public
- 2 Private
- 3 Don't know
- 4 No answer/Refuse

43. What is the name of that facility?

(PROBE FOR NAME, E.G., YMCA, BALLY'S, ETC.)

44. Is there currently a hiking path or trail facility in your immediate area? Say within a five or ten minute drive from your home?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No SKIP TO "NEXT"
- 3 Don't know SKIP TO "NEXT"
- 4 No answer/Refuse SKIP TO "NEXT"

45. What is the name of this hiking path or trail facility?

**The next set of questions asks about volunteer activities.**

46. Have you volunteered your time in the last 12 months? By volunteering I mean spending your time helping without being paid for it?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Don't know
- 4 No answer/Refuse

47. I am going to read you a list of community programs and groups, please tell me if you spent time volunteering for a program or group like this in the last 12 months.  
In the last 12 months have you volunteered your time to:

a. A youth development program such as a day care center, scouts, or little league?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 No answer/Refuse



b. Any kind of educational program such as an after school program or PTA?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 No answer/Refuse

c. A program that helps the poor, elderly, or homeless people?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 No answer/Refuse

d. An arts or cultural group such as a museum, theater, or music group?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 No answer/Refuse

e. A neighborhood or civic group such as a block association or neighborhood watch?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 No answer/Refuse

f. Attend a public meeting about an issue of concern to you?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 No answer/Refuse

g. A hospital or health organization, including those that fight particular diseases?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 No answer/Refuse

h. A church or church related activity?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 No answer/Refuse

i. An environmental activity?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 No answer/Refuse

j. A political organization?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 No answer/Refuse

k. A professional or business organization?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 No answer/Refuse



l. A program that helps animals, such as the Humane Society?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 No answer/Refuse

m. Any other type of organization that I have not mentioned?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 No answer/Refuse

TYPE OTHER TYPE OF ORGANIZATION RESPONDENT HAS VOLUNTEERED FOR

48. To which organization did you donate the most time?

49. What city is this organization located in?

50. Overall, how much impact do you think people like you can have in making your community a better place to live? Would you say a big impact, a moderate impact, a small impact, or no impact at all?

- 1 Big impact
- 2 Moderate impact
- 3 Small impact
- 4 No impact
- 5 Don't know
- 6 No answer/Refuse

51. Did you vote in the last presidential or general election?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Don't know
- 4 No answer/Refuse

**Now I have just a few more questions to make sure the people we speak with are representative of everyone in your area.**

52. Including yourself, how many people live in your household?

53. What is your racial or ethnic identity?

- 1 White/Caucasian
- 2 Black/African-American
- 3 Hispanic
- 4 Asian/Pacific Islander
- 5 Arabic
- 6 Native American
- 7 Bi-racial
- 8 Other
- 9 No answer/Refuse

54. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- 1 8th grade or less
- 2 Less than high school
- 3 High school graduate/GED
- 4 Some technical/trade school
- 5 Technical/Trade school graduate
- 6 Some college
- 7 Associate's degree
- 8 Bachelor's degree
- 9 Professional or Graduate school
- 10 No answer/Refuse



55. What is your marital status?

- 1 Single, never married
- 2 Married, spouse living
- 3 Divorced/Separated
- 4 Widowed
- 5 Single with partner/companion in household
- 6 No answer/Refuse

56. What is your current employment status?

- 1 Employed full-time (35+ hours per week)
- 2 Employed part-time
- 3 Retired
- 4 Unemployed-looking for work
- 5 Unemployed for health/disability reasons
- 6 Unemployed-never worked/don't want to work
- 7 Caring for family member at home
- 8 Student
- 9 Full time home maker
- 10 Other
- 11 No answer/Refuse

57. In what city do you work?

58. Last year, what was your total combined household income? Would you say less than \$20,000, \$20-\$40,000, 40-60, 60-80, 80-100, or more than \$100,000?

- 1 Less than \$20,000
- 2 \$20,000-\$40,000
- 3 \$40,001-\$60,000
- 4 \$60,001-\$80,000
- 5 \$80,001-\$100,000
- 6 More than \$100,000
- 7 Don't know
- 8 No answer/Refuse

59. For demographic purposes, can I have your address or nearest intersection?

60. We may be contacting residents again in the coming months to see if their opinions have changed. May we contact you again in the future?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

61. Could I have your first name so we know who to ask for?

62. And could I get your phone number just to confirm?

That was my last question. I would like to thank you for your time and cooperation. Remember that your opinion counts!





## APPENDIX B

### Methodology

The Center for Urban Policy and the Environment commissioned the Indiana University Public Opinion Laboratory to conduct the survey. The survey instrument was designed as a joint effort by staff members from the Indiana University Public Opinion Laboratory and the Center for Urban Policy and the Environment. The survey instrument was implemented in the field in its entirety.

The survey results are based on telephone interviews with a representative sample of 6,448 heads of households, aged 18 and older, living in the 44-county Central Indiana Region.

The interviews were conducted by professional interviewers at the Indiana University Public Opinion Laboratory on the Indiana University Purdue University–Indianapolis campus. All interviewers received at least four hours of general interviewer training, in addition to the more than two hours of specific training on the Central Indiana Household Survey instrument. Most of the interviewers were “veterans” in the sense they had participated in many other survey research projects. The interviewers were specially selected from a large pool of potential interviewers (over 100 people have been trained in interviewing and had experience in implementing survey research during 2000) as those who had the most complete and diverse experience in surveys requiring special sensitivity to errors that may be introduced through pace of speech and/or interviewer effects.

The interviewers questioned 6,448 people from Central Indiana households. To ensure a representative sample, respondents were selected using the random digit dialing method. The cooperation rate was 19.4 percent, which is defined as the proportion of all completed interviews of all eligible contacts or

$$\frac{\text{complete}}{\text{complete}+\text{refusal}+\text{break-off}}$$

The refusal rate was 13.1 percent (defined as the proportion of all refusal and break-off contacts of all potentially eligible cases or

$$\frac{\text{refusal} + \text{break-off}}{\text{complete}+\text{refusal}+\text{break-off}+\text{no answer}+\text{busy}+\text{not in quota}+\text{disconnected}+\text{not in service}}$$

The overall margin of error for the survey’s entire sample was 1.2 percent. That means that if the same questions were asked of a similar sample, 19 out of 20 times you would receive answers within +/- 1.2 percentage points of those reported in this document. Of course, additional errors may result from things such as question wording, respondent inattention, pace of speech by the interviewer, and a host of other factors. Each of these is given special attention during interviewer training and the data collection phase so they are minimized as much as possible. There is no reason to believe there are any significant biases in the data collected for this research.

Telephone interviews were conducted from July 6, 2000, to September 17, 2000. Calls were made on Mondays through Fridays between 4:00 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., between 12:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays and between 11:30 a.m. and 9:30 p.m. on Sundays. Calls were made at other times if requested by respondents. Each interviewer was given a set of answers, What the Respondent Might Like to Know, to provide standard answers to any question raised by the people contacted for the interview. The majority of individuals contacted for this research were polite, according to our interviewers, and seemed eager to participate.



Within Central Indiana, responses roughly were geographically distributed as follows:

- 400 in eight “collar” counties of Indianapolis Metropolitan Statistical Area (Boone, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, Madison, Morgan, and Shelby)
- 800 in Marion County, providing a representative sample for the whole county and separate representative sample for the area served by the Indianapolis Police Department, the pre-Unigov City of Indianapolis.
- 400 in each of the other Central Indiana MSAs (Bloomington, Kokomo, Lafayette, Muncie, Terre Haute)
- 400 in non-MSA counties (26 counties)

The calls, resulting in 6,448 completed interviews, had the following dispositions:

No Answer	80,079
Busy	32,553
Answering Machine	52,843
Refusal	26,107
Not in Quota	23,890
Disconnected	21,685
Not in Service	13,901
Break-off	753
Callback	19,676
<u>Complete</u>	<u>6,448</u>
TOTAL DIALINGS	277,936





## APPENDIX C

### Demographics

#### Age

What is your age? (n=6,442)

18-24	6.7%
25-34	16.0%
35-44	21.6%
45-54	21.4%
55-64	14.3%
Over 64	20.0%

#### Gender

Respondent's gender recorded by observation (n=6,448)

Female	52.3%
Male	47.7%

#### Household size

Including yourself, how many people live in your household? (n=6,415)

one	18.3%
two	35.8%
three	17.7%
four	17.0%
five	7.4%
six or more	3.8%

#### Racial/Ethnic Identity

What is your racial or ethnic identity? (n=6,389)

White/Caucasian	93.5%
Black/African American	3.4%
Hispanic	.7%
Asian/Pacific Islander	.6%
Native American	.6%
Bi-racial	.6%
Other	.6%
Arabic	.03%

#### Educational Level

What is the highest level of education you have completed? (n=6,425)

8th grade or less	1.2%
Less than high school	4.6%
High school graduate/GED	33.2%
Some technical/trade school	2.1%
Technical/Trade school graduate	3.3%
Some college	18.5%
Associate's degree	4.9%
Bachelor's degree	18.2%
Professional or Graduate school	14.0%

#### Marital Status

What is your marital status? (n=6,421)

Single, never married	14.5%
Married, spouse living	64.9%
Divorced/Separated	10.7%
Widowed	8.7%
Single with partner/companion in household	1.2%



### Employment Status

What is your employment status? (n=6,431)

Employed full-time (35+ hours per week)	54.5%
Employed part-time	8.0%
Retired	23.3%
Unemployed-looking for work	2.1%
Unemployed for health/disability reasons	2.6%
Unemployed-never worked/don't want to work	.5%
Caring for family member at home	.7%
Student	1.6%
Full-time homemaker	4.6%
Other	2.1%

### Household Income

Last year, what was your total combined household income? (n=5,637)

Less than \$20,000	14.3%
\$20,000 to \$40,000	26.3%
\$40,001 to \$60,000	22.2%
\$60,001 to \$80,000	14.9%
\$80,001 to \$100,000	7.8%
More than \$100,000	10.1%
Don't Know	4.4%



## APPENDIX D

Several questions from the survey instrument were either open-ended or listed “other” as an option. To allow for a more pragmatic analysis, the Indiana University Public Opinion Laboratory coded the most common responses. For this report, these categories were further consolidated as the examples below (tables D1 and D2) demonstrate.

**Table D1**

**What do you think are the most important problems facing your community today?**

(Up to three responses accepted)

<b>Category to Which Survey Response Was Assigned</b>	<b>Consolidated Categories</b>
Lack of affordable housing	Affordable housing
Lack of available/affordable/quality childcare	Childcare
Getting people out to vote	Civic engagement
Area becoming an inner city	Community quality of life
Image of community as racist	Community quality of life
Lack of a "downtown"	Community quality of life
Lack of arts/cultural activities	Community quality of life
Lack of community feel/spirit/involvement	Community quality of life
Lack of parks/Need parks	Community quality of life
Lack of places to shop/restaurants/retail facilities	Community quality of life
Lack of recreational activities-General	Community quality of life
Monon Trail	Community quality of life
Need better newspapers	Community quality of life
Need bike trails	Community quality of life
Need more homeowners in area	Community quality of life
Neighborhood not kept up	Community quality of life
Neighbors	Community quality of life
Quality of life	Community quality of life
Relationship between university and community	Community quality of life
Closing of Fort Harrison	Economic conditions
Cost of living	Economic conditions
Downtown rehabilitation/revitalization	Economic conditions
Lack middle class/Too much economic disparity	Economic conditions
Low income levels/Low income people	Economic conditions
Not enough food for the population	Economic conditions
Price of fuel	Economic conditions
Problems with local unions	Economic conditions
The economy/Local economic development	Economic conditions
Education/Services for special education children	Education issues
Illiteracy	Education issues
Local level of education/Low graduation rate	Education issues
New school boundary lines	Education issues
No college in area	Education issues
Schools/Education problems-General	Education issues
Lack of high paying jobs	Employment issues
Too many jobs in area/No employees	Employment issues
Unemployment/Lack of jobs/Factories closing	Employment issues
Untrained/Unqualified workforce	Employment issues



A power plant	Environmental concerns
Drought	Environmental concerns
Electrical power plant	Environmental concerns
Environmental concerns	Environmental concerns
Flooding/Drainage problems	Environmental concerns
Hog farm and farm waste	Environmental concerns
Low crop yield	Environmental concerns
Mining nearby	Environmental concerns
Nearby waste water treatment plant	Environmental concerns
Noise pollution/Car stereos	Environmental concerns
PCB dumpsites in Monroe Co./PCB problems	Environmental concerns
Problems with Sugar Creek	Environmental concerns
Quality of air	Environmental concerns
Recycling	Environmental concerns
Rumpke dump	Environmental concerns
The landfill	Environmental concerns
Trains-Noise	Environmental concerns
White River fish kill	Environmental concerns
Airport expansion/Airport noise	Growth/development/uncontrolled growth
Area is too industrial/Too many factories	Growth/development/uncontrolled growth
Construction	Growth/development/uncontrolled growth
Incorporation b/w Whiteland and New Whiteland	Growth/development/uncontrolled growth
Proposed annexation of Lawrence	Growth/development/uncontrolled growth
Proposed annexation of Whiteland and New Whiteland	Growth/development/uncontrolled growth
Uncontrolled growth/Overcrowded/Lack of planned development	Growth/development/uncontrolled growth
Abortion	Healthcare services/insurance
Lack of care/services for mentally ill	Healthcare services/insurance
Lack of medical care	Healthcare services/insurance
Lack of medical insurance	Healthcare services/insurance
Need more than one hospital	Healthcare services/insurance
Price of medication	Healthcare services/insurance
Proposed building of new hospital	Healthcare services/insurance
Accessibility for handicapped/disabled people/More services	Inadequate governmental services
Animal control/Pest control	Inadequate governmental services
Care for the elderly/Services for elderly	Inadequate governmental services
County is trying to ban guns	Inadequate governmental services
Government/Politicians/Lack of communication from	Inadequate governmental services
Image of city's workers	Inadequate governmental services
Jail overcrowding/Problems with local jail	Inadequate governmental services
Judicial system/Problems with judicial system	Inadequate governmental services
Lack of funding for local library/No local library	Inadequate governmental services
Lack of support for local businesses	Inadequate governmental services
Local budget/Spending money in wrong places/services	Inadequate governmental services
More help for welfare recipients, the poor/needed, homeless	Inadequate governmental services
More help/aid to farmers	Inadequate governmental services
Need help/services for Hispanic community	Inadequate governmental services
Neighborhood not kept up/Ordinance violations not enforced	Inadequate governmental services
Problems with postal service	Inadequate governmental services
Sanitation/Garbage/Littering/Sanitation services	Inadequate governmental services
Transportation/Need public transportation	Inadequate governmental services
Unequal distribution of services in community	Inadequate governmental services
Zoning laws	Inadequate governmental services



Accidents on State Road 67	Infrastructure
Infrastructure	Infrastructure
Lack of available parking	Infrastructure
Lack of upkeep on railroads/Railroad crossings/traffic	Infrastructure
Need airport in Martinsville	Infrastructure
Need more street lights	Infrastructure
Railroad relocation	Infrastructure
Roads/Highways/Streets need repaired/Roads need plowed	Infrastructure
Sewer system	Infrastructure
Sidewalks/Sidewalk repairs	Infrastructure
Traffic problems/Need more traffic signals	Infrastructure
Inability to attract new business/industry/No opportunities	No growth
Lack of funds/No growth/No progress	No growth
Vacant properties/Abandoned buildings	No growth
Historic preservation	Other
Homosexuality	Other
Image of Indiana University	Other
Lack of available lawyers	Other
Lack of recognition for IUPUI	Other
Modernization	Other
Rural areas don't get enough attention	Other
Separation of church and state	Other
Social Security	Other
Technology is slow	Other
Tensions between Greenwood and Center Grove	Other
TV programs	Other
Use of fireworks	Other
Young families moving out of area	Other
Crime	Public safety
Drinking and driving	Public safety
Gangs	Public safety
Lack of fire hydrants	Public safety
Law enforcement-Corruption,brutality, racism	Public safety
Need fences around ponds/retention ponds	Public safety
Need gun control	Public safety
Problems with volunteer fire dept./Emer. services/Slow response	Public safety
Safety/Need more police protection/Lack of police presence	Public safety
Speeding/Traffic violations in general	Public safety
Too many local bars/liquor stores	Public safety
Vandalism	Public safety
Immigration/Illegal aliens	Race-ethnic relations
Need for diversification/Too much intolerance	Race-ethnic relations
Racial problems or tensions	Race-ethnic relations
"Hate" crimes	Social problems
Domestic violence	Social problems
Drugs	Social problems
Lack of morality/respect for others	Social problems
No emphasis on family/Family values	Social problems
Problems with alcohol	Social problems
Suicide rate is high	Social problems
Teen pregnancies/Single parents/Unwed mothers	Social problems
Taxes	Taxes



Cellular phone towers	Utility services
Delivery of cable TV service	Utility services
Phone system/Telephone company/lines	Utility services
Poor utility services /Utility services too costly	Utility services
Water supply/Water quality/High water bills	Utility services
Child neglect/abuse/molestation	Youth issues
Children/Teens	Youth issues
Lack of activities of teens/kids	Youth issues
New juvenile facility in Pendleton	Youth issues
Teen violence	Youth issues
Too much pressure on kids to succeed	Youth issues
Underage drinking	Youth issues
Unsupervised teens/kids/Curfew violations/No parenting	Youth issues



**Table D2**  
**What were the reasons you decided to move to this area? (Up to three responses allowed)**

<b>Category to Which Survey Response Was Assigned</b>	<b>Consolidated Categories</b>
Affordable housing	Affordable/quality/type of housing/to build/own
Affordable housing/Wanted to own or build home	Affordable/quality/type of housing/to build/own
Quality/Type/Size of housing	Affordable/quality/type of housing/to build/own
Area is close to lake or water	Community quality of life
Close to airport	Community quality of life
Diversity of people	Community quality of life
Feel at home	Community quality of life
Friendly people	Community quality of life
Greenways/Parks nearby	Community quality of life
Greenways/Parks nearby/Like the scenery	Community quality of life
Less yard work	Community quality of life
Like neighborhood/Well-kept	Community quality of life
Liked neighborhood/Well-kept/Liked area	Community quality of life
Location convenient to shopping	Community quality of life
Location convenient to work	Community quality of life
Location convenient-general	Community quality of life
Multi-cultural activities	Community quality of life
Needed a change/lifestyle change/something different	Community quality of life
No daylight savings time	Community quality of life
No social or economic barriers	Community quality of life
Prestige of the city/Character of the city	Community quality of life
Quiet area/Slower lifestyle/It's a small community	Community quality of life
Recreation/Entertainment/Cultural activities	Community quality of life
Safe neighborhoods	Community quality of life
Safe neighborhoods/Good place to raise kids	Community quality of life
To get away from the airport	Community quality of life
To get out of city/To get away from city	Community quality of life
Wanted to live in a rural area/country area/farm	Community quality of life
Wanted to live in or near city	Community quality of life
Wanted to stay away from busy roads/interstates/Less traffic	Community quality of life
Cost of living	Economic conditions
Economic opportunities	Economic conditions
Fast growing area	Economic conditions
Low insurance costs	Economic conditions
Good schools	Education issues/good schools
Good schools/To go to college	Education issues/good schools
Job change	Employment reasons
Military-Was stationed here	Employment reasons
Climate	Environmental reasons
Quality of the water	Environmental reasons
Health reasons/To be near medical facilities	Healthcare services
Convenient to transportation/Quality of roads	Infrastructure
County offered bond money	Other
Most populated city	Other



Close to relatives/friends	Personal reasons/life circumstances
Divorced/Separated from spouse	Personal reasons/life circumstances
Inherited home	Personal reasons/life circumstances
Old house burned down	Personal reasons/life circumstances
Own pets	Personal reasons/life circumstances
Owned property/Given property	Personal reasons/life circumstances
Retired/Moved to retirement community	Personal reasons/life circumstances
Sold old home/Forced to sell old home	Personal reasons/life circumstances
Spouse lived here/Got married/Spouse died	Personal reasons/life circumstances
To get away from family-friends/To live alone/Get out on own	Personal reasons/life circumstances
Grew up here	Prior residence/grew up in the community
Grew up here/Born here/Lived here before	Prior residence/grew up in the community
Good police department	Public safety
Reasonable tax rates	Taxes
Reasonable tax rates/Good property value	Taxes
Utility services	Utility services
Wanted running water and sewers/Well dried up	Utility services