

# **Blandin Community Leadership Program Alumni survey**

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# **Blandin Community Leadership Program Alumni survey**

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# Summary

Since 1985, the Blandin Community Leadership Program (BCLP) has provided intensive leadership training to over 4,300 active community leaders from 320 communities throughout rural Minnesota. The program is nationally recognized and works with emerging and established leaders in rural communities to deepen their understanding of community dynamics and strengthen their skills for initiating and managing change.

Wilder Research, on behalf of the Blandin Foundation, conducted a survey for 4,440 Blandin Foundation Leadership Program Alumni in September and October 2007, as a follow-up to the 2005 baseline survey. Of the 3,775 eligible Alumni, 1,685 questionnaires were completed, yielding a response rate of 45 percent. The survey was designed as a self-administered questionnaire; all Alumni received an invitation by email or U.S. mail to complete the survey on the internet, to call Wilder Research for a mailed copy, or to complete the survey over the phone.

The BCLP Alumni who completed the survey identified the five top most critical issues facing rural Minnesota communities today, identified rural communities' experience with important issues, rated the quality of community services and infrastructure, identified communities' strengths and weaknesses, and identified the key issues they want to address as community leaders. The data is analyzed by region (Minnesota Initiative Foundation regions and metro area) to examine regional versus statewide issues and trends. This report also provides information about changes in Alumni responses from the baseline to the follow-up survey.

## *Survey results*

### **Characteristics of responding Alumni**

Nearly half of the responses were received from Alumni in two regions: the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (23%) and the Northland Foundation (23%). The remaining half of the respondents were distributed among the other four Minnesota Initiative Foundation regions: Southwest Minnesota Foundation region (15%), the Initiative Foundation region (14%), West Central Initiative Foundation (12%), and the Northwest Minnesota Foundation region (8%). The location of the regions is displayed in Figure 2 in the full report.

The age distribution of respondents within each region reflected the age distribution of all Alumni statewide with the largest number of respondents in the 45-54 age group (36%) followed by the 55-64 age group (33%). Men and women answered the survey in roughly

equal proportions. Age and gender distributions were comparable within each region except within the West Central Initiative Foundation where 62 percent of the respondents were female and 38 percent were male. Statewide, over 90 percent of the respondents identified themselves as White; 3 percent identified themselves as American Indian/Alaskan Native; and 1 percent identified themselves as Hispanic or Latino. All other ethnic groups were represented by less than 1 percent of all respondents. This pattern is similar in each region except for the Northwest Initiative Foundation region where 11 percent of the respondents were American Indian/Alaskan Native.

Two-thirds of the respondents (66%) live in towns under 10,000 people, 13 percent live in rural areas, and 15 percent live in cities with more than 20,000 residents.

### **Community issues**

BCLP Alumni identified the top five critical issues that need to be addressed by their communities in the next three to five years:

- Retaining businesses that pay a household-supporting wage
- Providing quality K-12 education
- Having accessible quality health care
- Attracting businesses that pay a household-supporting wage
- Addressing the increasing cost of health care

The availability of quality health care, one of the top five critical issues on this list, was also among the top three areas of recent improvement identified by Alumni. So, although communities are doing better, Alumni feel that their communities should do more over the next few years to make quality health care accessible to their community. Another top critical issue that needs to be addressed, the cost of health care and insurance, is an issue respondents reported has become worse over the past three to five years.

Respondents continue to be concerned with many of the same issues as those that were raised in the 2005 baseline survey; the same issues were identified as critical in both surveys, although the rank order differed slightly. In addition, respondents' perceptions have changed little since 2005 in terms of how their communities are doing in addressing specific issues. However, Alumni reported that their communities were doing slightly better with *reducing illegal drug use* and were doing slightly worse with *reducing the number of people who live in poverty*.

## **Quality of community**

Overall, 94 percent of respondents said they would “definitely” or “probably” recommend their community as a good place to live. A majority (60%) said the quality of life in their communities is “good” and over one-quarter (28%) said “very good.” Nearly half of the respondents said the quality of life in their community is “much better” (4%) or “somewhat better” (44%) compared to five years ago, and 38 percent said it is “about the same.” However, 13 percent said the quality of life in their community is “somewhat worse” than five years ago.

Concerns about community economic health align with economic development and employment items that the respondents rate as the most critical issues to address in their communities. A large majority (82%) feel the economic health of their communities is “good” (36%) or “fair” (46%). Only 6 percent said the economic health of their community is “very good,” but 12 percent said the economic health of their community is “poor.”

The Alumni observe that rural Minnesota is growing more racially and ethnically diverse. Overall, a majority of respondents reported that their communities have become “much more diverse” (17%) or “somewhat more diverse” (41%) over the past five years. The percentage reporting increased diversity ranged from 45 percent in the Northland Foundation region to 74 percent in the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation region. Some Alumni (39%) perceive that their communities have “stayed about the same” regarding diversity. A small proportion of respondents (2% or less) reported that their communities have become less diverse.

Results from the 2005 baseline and 2007 follow-up surveys are similar with regard to respondents’ ratings of the overall quality of life, ratings of the economic health of their communities, perceptions of increasing diversity, and recommendation of their community as a good place to live. On the other hand, a slightly smaller proportion of respondents in 2007 than in 2005 indicated that quality of life and economic health were “somewhat worse” or “much worse,” while the percentages indicating that these issues had “stayed about the same” increased slightly.

## **Community strengths and weaknesses**

Alumni were asked to respond to several statements about their community by indicating whether they “strongly agree,” “agree,” “disagree,” or “strongly disagree” with the statement. Positive community attributes that received a high level of agreement from Alumni are considered strengths and positive attributes that received a high level of disagreement and negative statements that received a high level of agreement are considered weaknesses. According to Alumni, the strengths (in order of importance, so the item listed first received the best rating) in their community include:



- Being able to count on neighbors
- Natural resources
- Feelings of safety
- Access to natural resources for all residents
- A crime rate that is the same or lower than in similar communities
- Available services for persons with alcohol or drug addiction
- A sense of trust among residents
- Good opportunities for recreation for all residents
- Internet use and distance learning in schools
- Productively engaged older adults

The weaknesses (in reverse order, so the items rated worst are listed last) in their community include:

- The economy in the community is not well diversified
- There is not enough affordable quality child care in the community
- Political conflict is not handled in a healthy way
- The community is not generally welcoming to people of diverse backgrounds
- People from different backgrounds do not fill leadership roles
- The community does not recognize diversity as a strength
- The community does not have enough jobs that pay household-supporting wages

The strengths and weaknesses identified by Alumni in 2007 were the same as those identified by Alumni in 2005, with a few exceptions. Respondents to the 2007 follow-up survey highlighted two additional strengths (*productively engaged older adults* and *a crime rate that is the same or lower than in similar communities*) and one additional weakness (the belief that *the economy in their community is not well diversified*). In addition, some weaknesses identified by respondents in 2005 were no longer highlighted in 2007: *increasing illegal drug use* and *lack of opportunities for people of all backgrounds to participate in planning and decision-making*.

## **Issues that Alumni want to address as community leaders**

The top issue respondents said they want to address as community leaders is *business development* (18%, n=233, statewide), which includes the following specific issues:

- Economic development
- Retaining, expanding, and attracting business
- Funding for business (development, building, or equipment)
- Downtown revitalization
- High speed internet availability

The second most frequent response fell into the closely related category of *employment* (16%, n=205, statewide), which includes comments about increasing the number of jobs paying household-supporting wages with benefits; providing accessible job training; and recruiting and retaining young people, especially college graduates in the area. Responses were similar among respondents to the 2005 baseline survey.

# Background and methodology

The Blandin Foundation operates the Blandin Community Leadership Program that provides community leaders – from business owners to educators to health care professionals to clergy to elected officials – with instruction based on specific principles of community leadership. Since 1985, the Blandin Community Leadership Program (BCLP) has provided intensive leadership training to over 4,300 active community leaders from 320 communities throughout rural Minnesota. The program is nationally recognized and works with emerging and established leaders in rural communities to deepen their understanding of community dynamics and strengthen their skills for initiating and managing change.

The Blandin Foundation contracted with Wilder Research in September 2007 to conduct a statewide survey of Leadership Program Alumni as a follow-up to the 2005 Alumni survey that will serve as a baseline. This report presents the results of 1,685 questionnaires completed in September and October 2007.

This report will facilitate the Blandin Foundation's identification of key issues that impact the vitality of rural Minnesota communities as well as trends that may be identified through changes from the 2005 baseline survey to the 2007 follow-up survey. The study also obtained age, gender, race, and town size information about the Foundation's Leadership Program Alumni. The survey was designed so that the Blandin Foundation will be able to use survey findings to inform the Foundation's decision-making regarding future Foundation programs, policies, and grant making. Survey findings will also enable the Foundation to enhance future leadership programming and to authoritatively draw attention to and inform decision makers and the public of rural perspectives and key issues.

## *Study approach*

The primary data collection method used for this study was a web-based self-administered questionnaire. The Blandin Foundation provided the list of all Alumni names and contact information to Wilder Research. Paper (U.S. mail) and telephone completion were provided as alternatives to the web-based questionnaire. Leadership Program Alumni received an invitation to participate in the survey by email, or if no email address was available they received a U.S. mail letter. Both the email invitations and the U.S. mail invitations provided information about how to access the web survey (an actual link to the survey was embedded in the email invitation), including unique login codes so Wilder could track which Alumni had completed the survey. The cover letter contained instructions on how to contact Wilder to obtain a paper copy of the

survey or to complete the survey over the phone if they preferred. After one week, all Alumni who had not yet responded to the survey were sent a reminder email or postcard. After one additional week, all Alumni who had not responded were contacted by phone and reminded to complete their survey. Alumni who were actually reached by phone were also given the option of completing the survey over the phone.

A total of 1,685 Alumni started the survey (completed at least the first page) and most of these (1,615) finished the entire survey. All surveys with one or more completed pages were “counted” as a complete survey, so as not to lose any information. See Figure 1. A map displaying the counties included within each Minnesota Initiative Foundation region is illustrated in Figure 2.

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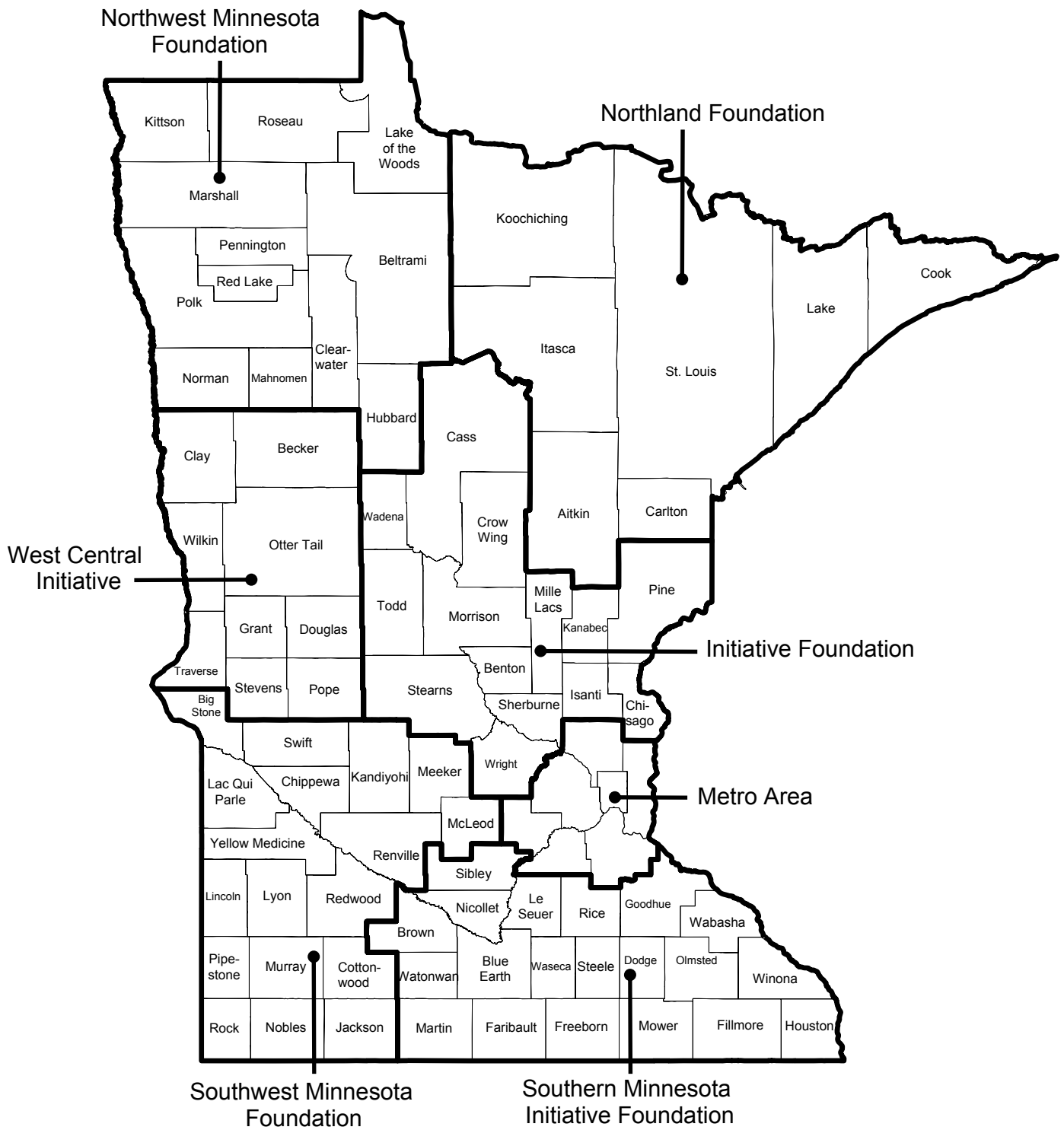
**1. Distribution of respondents by Minnesota Initiative Foundation region**

<b>Minnesota Initiative Foundation region</b>	<b>Number of completed surveys<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Percent of total</b>
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	127	8%
Northland Foundation	381	23%
West Central Initiative	195	12%
Initiative Foundation	239	14%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	246	15%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	394	23%
Metro area	25	2%
Region not identified	78	5%
Statewide	1,685	100%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

<sup>a</sup> Includes respondents that completed one or more pages of the survey.

**2. Counties within Minnesota Initiative Foundation regions**



## **Telephone and paper alternatives**

The email and U.S. mail cover letters contained a toll-free phone number for Wilder Research that the Alumni could call if they preferred to complete the survey on the phone or on paper. Professional survey interviewers were assigned and trained to take these calls. In addition, Wilder survey interviewers contacted all Alumni by phone who had not completed their survey after two mailed attempts to ask for their participation and to assist them to complete the survey as needed. Although we did not track the exact number of Alumni who completed the survey over the phone, on paper, and on the web, we do know that a very small proportion (less than 10%) completed the survey using these alternative administration methods.

## ***Response rate***

A total of 4,440 Blandin Community Leadership Program Alumni were invited to participate in this survey. Of these, 649 were unable to be contacted (by email, U.S. mail, or phone) and six surveys were returned because the respondent is deceased. Additionally, 10 Alumni opted-out of the survey. So, a total of 665 cases were deemed as ineligible and were deducted from the total number mailed to determine the number of eligible cases; a total of 3,775 cases were determined to be eligible cases. The number of eligible cases serves as the basis for calculating the response rate. Of the 3,775 eligible cases, 1,685 questionnaires were completed (including respondents who completed one page or more of their survey). This number yields a response rate of 45 percent.

## ***Comparison with 2005 Alumni survey***

Because the survey instruments used in the 2005 and 2007 surveys are very similar, a significant amount of comparison is possible between the two data sets. The very large sample sizes mean that even very small practical differences will be statistically significant. Therefore, we used a two-tiered process for evaluating changes over time and determining which differences to report. First, we did tests of statistical significance, and in cases where differences between the 2005 and 2007 data were found to be significant, we examined the actual percentage difference and/or the effect size (Cohen's *d*) and only report here those differences that are greater than 10 percentage points and/or where the Cohen's *d* is greater than 0.2 (which would indicate a medium or large effect). In this way, we have minimized the chances of making a Type 1 error (finding difference and reporting it as real when it is actually spurious or due to chance).

# Survey results<sup>1</sup>

## *Characteristics of responding Alumni*

Demographic information was collected from Alumni, including age group, gender, race, and the description of the size of their community. In addition, Alumni were asked to identify the Minnesota Initiative Foundation area within which they reside (there are six Initiative Foundation regions in Minnesota; see Figure 2 on page 7).

### **Initiative Foundation regions**

Each of the Minnesota Initiative Foundation regions is represented in the survey findings, as shown in Figure 3. The largest number of responses came from the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation region (23%) and the Northland Foundation region (23%).

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### **3. Distribution of respondents by Minnesota Initiative Foundation region**

<b>Minnesota Initiative Foundation region</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	394	23%
Northland Foundation	381	23%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	246	15%
Initiative Foundation	239	14%
West Central Initiative Foundation	195	12%
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	127	8%
Metro area <sup>a</sup>	25	2%
Region not identified	78	5%
Statewide <sup>b</sup>	1685	100%

#### **Notes.**

- <sup>a</sup> There is no Initiative Foundation serving the Metro Area; however, a small number of Leadership Alumni reside in the Metro area.
- <sup>b</sup> Total may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

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<sup>1</sup> Detailed survey results from 2005 and 2007 are located in the Appendix.

## Age group

Statewide, the largest number of respondents were in the 45-54 age group (36%), followed by the 55-64 group (33%). The age distribution within each region mirrored the statewide age distribution. See Figure 4.

### 4. Age group of respondents by Initiative Foundation region

Minnesota Initiative Foundation region	Age group							
	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	-	4%	12%	35%	35%	12%	2%	-
Northland Foundation	-	6%	13%	37%	34%	7%	3%	-
West Central Initiative Foundation	-	5%	10%	34%	32%	11%	7%	1%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	-	4%	16%	38%	26%	11%	4%	1%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	<1%	3%	14%	35%	35%	9%	2%	<1%
Metro area	-	8%	4%	28%	48%	12%	-	-
Statewide	<1%	4%	13%	36%	33%	10%	3%	<1%

## Gender

The distribution of men and women was evenly divided statewide. Approximately half (49%) of the respondents are male and half (51%) are female, as shown in Figure 5. The distribution was similar within each region except within the West Central Initiative Foundation where 62 percent of the respondents were female and 38 percent were male.

### 5. Gender of respondents by Initiative Foundation region

Minnesota Initiative Foundation region	Male	Female
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	49%	51%
Northland Foundation	48%	52%
West Central Initiative Foundation	38%	62%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	47%	53%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	48%	52%
Metro area	48%	52%
Statewide	47%	53%



## Ethnicity

Alumni were asked what ethnicity they consider themselves. Statewide, 94 percent of the respondents are White; 3 percent are American Indian/Alaskan Native; and 1 percent are Hispanic or Latino. All other ethnic groups were represented by less than 1 percent of all respondents. This pattern is reflected within each region except for the Northwest Minnesota Foundation region where 11 percent of the respondents reported themselves as American Indian/Alaskan Native. See Figure 6.

### 6. Distribution of ethnicity of respondents Initiative Foundation region

Minnesota Initiative Foundation region	American Indian or Alaskan Native	Asian or Pacific Islander	African American	Hispanic or Latino	Native African	White	Other (includes mixed ethnicity)
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	11%	-	-	-	2%	85%	2%
Northland Foundation	4%	-	1%	-	-	92%	3%
West Central Initiative	1%	-	1%	1%	-	97%	1%
Initiative Foundation	5%	-	-	<1%	<1%	93%	1%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	1%	-	-	2%	-	96%	<1%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	-	1%	1%	3%	-	95%	1%
Metro area	4%	-	-	-	-	96%	-
Statewide	3%	<1%	<1%	1%	<1%	94%	1%

### Description of size of town

Figure 7 displays the distribution of the respondents' by the type or size of their communities. Half of the respondents (48%) live in towns with 500 to 10,000 people. Thirteen percent live in rural areas and 5 percent live in very small towns with population under 500. One-fifth (19%) live in cities with populations between 10,000 and 20,000 and 15 percent live in cities with populations larger than 20,000.

## 7. Distribution of respondents' community descriptions

Minnesota Initiative Foundation region	Open country – on a farm	Open country – not on a farm	In a town with fewer than 500 people	In a town between 500 and 2,500 people	In a town between 2,501 and 5,000 people	In a town between 5,001 and 10,000 people	In a city between 10,001 and 20,000 people	In a city over 20,000 people
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	9%	8%	6%	27%	17%	19%	10%	3%
Northland Foundation	2%	13%	8%	13%	8%	26%	13%	17%
West Central Initiative Foundation	12%	5%	8%	27%	14%	7%	21%	5%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	7%	4%	4%	27%	20%	9%	26%	3%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	4%	2%	2%	15%	12%	4%	27%	35%
Metro area	4%	4%	4%	4%	20%	12%	16%	36%
Statewide	6%	7%	5%	20%	15%	13%	19%	15%

### *The top five critical issues*

Alumni were asked to indicate how important it would be for their community to address specific issues over the next three to five years. They were asked to rate each issues as “critical,” “important but not critical,” “somewhat important,” “not too important,” and “don’t know.” Figure 8 presents the top five issues that were rated by Alumni as “critical” within Initiative Foundation region and for the state as a whole. The most critical issues, according to respondents, are the following:

- Retaining businesses that pay a household-supporting wage
- Providing quality K-12 education
- Having accessible quality health care
- Attracting businesses that pay a household-supporting wage
- Addressing the increasing cost of health care

**8. Ranking of the top 5 issues for rural Minnesota communities in the next 3 to 5 years\***

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Statewide</b>	<b>Northwest Minnesota</b>	<b>Northland</b>	<b>West Central</b>	<b>Initiative Foundation</b>	<b>Southwest Minnesota</b>	<b>Southern Minnesota Initiative</b>
1	Retaining businesses that pay household-supporting wages	Retaining businesses that pay household-supporting wages	Retaining businesses that pay household-supporting wages	Retaining businesses that pay household-supporting wages	Retaining businesses that pay household-supporting wages	Retaining businesses that pay household-supporting wages	Retaining businesses that pay household-supporting wages
2	Providing quality K-12 public education	Providing quality K-12 public education	Attracting businesses to my region that pay household-supporting wages	Providing quality K-12 public education	Providing quality K-12 public education	Providing quality K-12 public education	Providing quality K-12 public education
3	Having quality health care accessible to my community <sup>a</sup>	Having quality health care accessible to my community	Providing quality K-12 public education	Addressing the increasing cost of health care and health insurance	Attracting businesses to my region that pay household-supporting wages	Addressing the increasing cost of health care and health insurance <sup>a</sup>	Having quality health care accessible to my community <sup>a</sup>
4	Attracting businesses to my region that pay household-supporting wages <sup>a</sup>	Attracting businesses to my region that pay household-supporting wages	Addressing the increasing cost of health care and health insurance <sup>a</sup>	Attracting businesses to my region that pay household-supporting wages <sup>a</sup>	Addressing the increasing cost of health care and health insurance	Having quality health care accessible to my community <sup>a</sup>	Addressing the increasing cost of health care and health insurance <sup>a</sup>
5	Addressing the increasing cost of health care and health insurance <sup>a</sup>	Addressing the increasing cost of health care and health insurance	Having quality health care accessible to my community <sup>a</sup>	Having quality health care accessible to my community <sup>a</sup>	Having quality health care accessible to my community	Attracting businesses to my region that pay household-supporting wages	Attracting businesses to my region that pay household-supporting wages

\* Detailed survey results are located in the Appendix.

a The ranking was tied.

### **Comparison of ranked issues between men and women**

The two most important issues for both male and female Alumni were *retaining businesses that pay a household-supporting wage*, followed by *providing quality K-12 education*. Men and women identified the same issues as next in importance but ranked them differently. Men ranked *addressing the increasing cost of health care* as the third most critical issue, *attracting businesses that pay a household-supporting wage* as the fourth most critical, and *having quality health care accessible in their communities* as the fifth most critical. Women ranked *attracting businesses that pay a household-supporting wage* as the third most critical issue, followed by *having quality health care accessible in their communities*, and *addressing the increasing cost of health care*.

### **Comparison of ranked issues between age groups**

The most important issue for all age groups was *retaining businesses that pay household-supporting wages*, except for the 85+ age group (n=6), which ranked *addressing the increasing cost of health care* as the most critical issue their community needs to address in the next three to five years.

### **Comparison of 2005 baseline survey to 2007 follow-up survey**

Figure 9 shows the top five critical issues that were identified by respondents to the 2005 baseline survey compared with those identified by respondents in the 2007 follow-up survey. In both 2005 and 2007, the top two issues were *retaining businesses that pay household-supporting wages* and *providing quality K-12 public education*. Respondents identified the additional issues similarly but ranked them differently. *Addressing the increasing cost of health care* was ranked third and *having accessible quality health care* was ranked fifth for respondents to the 2005 baseline survey, whereas these items were ranked as being of equal importance by respondents to the 2007 follow-up. Respondents to both surveys rated *attracting businesses that pay household-supporting wages* as the fourth most important issue. Respondents from the West Central and Initiative Foundation regions ranked *reducing illegal drug use* among the top five issues in 2005, but this issue was not one of the top five in 2007.

When testing for statistical significance, there were several items from this series of questions (see Appendix for survey instrument, questions 1-27) that indicate changes from 2005 to 2007. These changes may be due to overall shifts in society (such as greater reliance on internet and increased awareness of climate change and other environmental issues) or to current events (such as the 35W bridge collapse that increased public attention on bridge safety). Respondents from 2007 were more likely to rate the following issues as “critical” compared with 2005 respondents: *providing opportunities for young people to be productively engaged in community life* (49% vs.

37%); providing access to quality education beyond high school (37% vs. 24%); providing affordable access to high speed internet (30% vs. 20%); maintaining the local infrastructure such as roads, sewers, and bridges (54% vs. 43%); and ensuring that natural resource use decisions are made with the needs of future generations in mind (46% vs. 35%).

**9. Ranking of the top 5 issues for rural Minnesota communities in the next 3 to 5 years: Comparison of 2005 baseline survey to 2007 follow-up survey**

<b>Rank</b>	<b>2005 baseline</b>	<b>2007 follow-up</b>
1	Retaining businesses that pay household-supporting wages	Retaining businesses that pay household-supporting wages
2	Providing quality K-12 public education	Providing quality K-12 public education
3	Addressing the increasing cost of health care and health insurance	Having quality health care accessible to my community <sup>a</sup>
4	Attracting businesses to my region that pay household-supporting wages	Attracting businesses to my region that pay household-supporting wages <sup>a</sup>
5	Having quality health care accessible to my community	Addressing the increasing cost of health care and health insurance <sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> The ranking was tied.

## *Community experience with the important issues*

Figure 10 presents a statewide summary of Alumni respondents' perceptions of how their communities are doing in addressing specific issues.

### **10. How communities have been doing in addressing specific issue in the past 3 to 5 years**

	<b>Doing better</b>	<b>Experienced no change</b>	<b>Doing worse</b>
Providing affordable access to high speed internet connectivity	68%	26%	5%
Having quality health care accessible to my community	54%	35%	11%
Increasing the involvement of area residents in local planning and projects	43%	46%	12%
Attracting businesses to my region that pay household-supporting wages	43%	41%	16%
Providing access to quality post-secondary education	42%	52%	6%
Maintaining the local infrastructure (such as roads, sewers, and bridges)	41%	39%	20%
Ensuring sustainable use of natural resources	40%	44%	16%
Supporting local entrepreneurs	40%	44%	16%
Improving the local infrastructure	40%	42%	18%
Productively engaging older adults in community life	39%	55%	6%
Providing high quality K-12 education	39%	38%	23%
Having quality health care accessible to low income people in my region	37%	47%	17%
Ensuring an adequate supply of affordable housing	35%	47%	18%
Retaining businesses that pay household-supporting wages	33%	44%	23%
Providing quality, affordable childcare and services for all children age 0-6	31%	54%	15%
Increasing cooperation among local units of government	31%	45%	24%
Reducing illegal drug use	31%	45%	25%
Providing opportunities for adolescents to be productively engaged in community life	30%	51%	20%
Reducing crime	29%	53%	18%
Improving community interaction with racial and ethnic minorities	26%	61%	13%
Increasing the effectiveness of local government	26%	48%	26%
Reducing domestic violence	20%	63%	16%
Reducing alcohol abuse	15%	65%	20%
Reducing the number of people who live in poverty in my community	14%	59%	27%
Reducing taxes	6%	46%	49%
Addressing the increasing cost of health care and insurance	5%	36%	59%

Figure 11 shows the top three issues where respondents reported that their communities are doing better, doing worse, or experiencing no change. *Having quality health care accessible to their community* is an issue that was rated as a top five critical area by respondents. It is also an area where communities appear to be doing better. However, another critical issue, *addressing the cost of health care and insurance*, is an area where respondents reported that their communities are doing worse.

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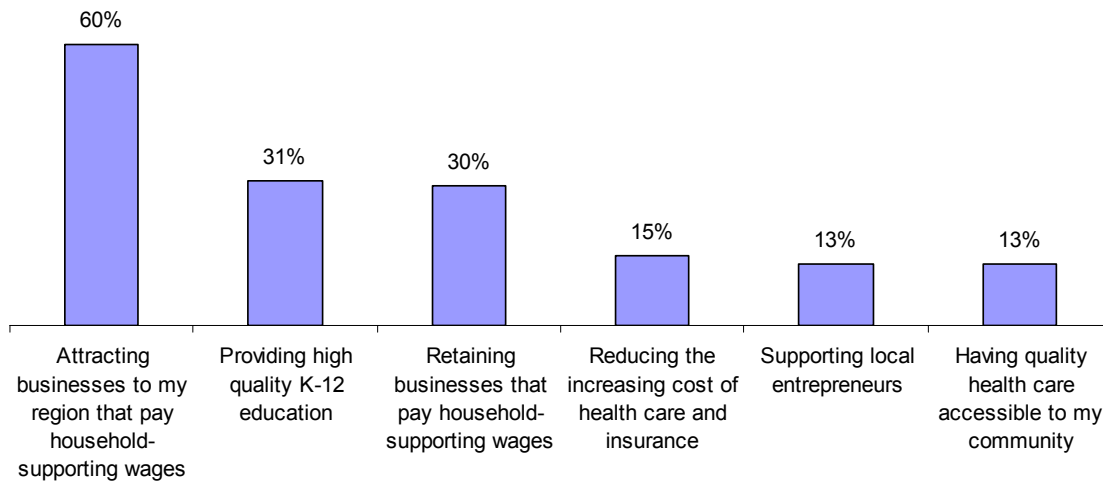
**11. Communities' experience with specific issues: the top three in each category**

<b>Doing better</b>	
Providing affordable access to high speed internet connectivity	68%
Having quality health care accessible to my community	54%
Increasing the involvement of area residents in local planning and projects	43%
<b>Doing worse</b>	
Addressing the increasing cost of health care and insurance	59%
Reducing taxes	49%
Reducing the number of people who live in poverty in my community	27%
<b>Experienced no change</b>	
Reducing alcohol abuse	65%
Reducing domestic violence	63%
Improving community interaction with racial and ethnic minorities	61%

Alumni were asked to identify three issues that they feel most strongly need to be addressed by their communities. While not in complete alignment with the rank order of the five most critical issues reported, all five issues were included as the top issues to be addressed by rural Minnesota communities, as shown in Figure 12. In addition, *supporting local entrepreneurs* was identified as a top issue to be addressed.

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## 12. Issues that respondents said they feel most strongly need to be addressed in their communities



**Note.** The number of responses and percentage of total responses for each issue is in the Appendix (Figure A54).

### Comparison of 2005 baseline survey to 2007 follow-up survey

Overall, respondents' perceptions have changed little since 2005 in terms of how their communities are doing in addressing specific issues. The top three improved issues according to respondents in 2005 were the same top three improved issues that respondents identified in 2007: *providing affordable access to high speed internet connectivity, having quality health care accessible to their communities, and increasing the involvement of area residents in local planning and projects*. Results from both the baseline and follow-up surveys indicate that communities were doing worse with *addressing the increasing cost of health care and reducing taxes*, and that communities had experienced no change with *reducing alcohol abuse and reducing domestic violence*. The results also indicate a few changes in 2007 compared to 2005. *Reducing illegal drug use* was one of the top three issues with which communities were doing worse in 2005, whereas this issue was no longer in the top three by 2007. While respondents to the 2005 baseline survey indicated that their communities had experienced little change with regard to *reducing the number of people who live in poverty*, respondents to the 2007 follow-up indicated that their communities were doing worse with this issue.

When comparing the 2005 and 2007 results to test for statistically significant differences, only one item from this entire series of questions (see the Appendix for the survey instrument, questions 28-53), only one item was found to be significant. In 2005, 42 percent of respondents felt their community was “doing worse” in terms of *reducing*



*illegal drug use*, whereas in 2007 only 25 percent of respondents felt their community was “doing worse.”

BCLP Alumni continue to be concerned with many of the same issues as those that were raised in the 2005 baseline survey. In both years, respondents indicated that the top three issues they feel most strongly need to be addressed by their communities include *attracting businesses that pay household-supporting wages, providing high quality K-12 education, and retaining businesses that pay household-supporting wages. Reducing illegal drug use* was ranked among the top five issues in need of addressing in 2005, whereas this issue was no longer among the top five in 2007. On the other hand, *supporting local entrepreneurs* was among the top five in 2007 but was not one of the top five in 2005.

### ***Quality of communities***

Overall, a majority of respondents (60%) reported that the quality of life in their communities is “good” and over one quarter (28%) reported that the quality of life in their communities is “very good.” When asked to compare community quality of life to five years ago, nearly half of the respondents said the quality of life in their community is “much better” (4%) or “somewhat better” (44%), and 38 percent said it is “about the same.” However, 13 percent said the quality of life in their community is “somewhat worse” and 1 percent said “much worse” than five years ago. Figures 13 and 14 present the distribution of respondents’ responses about the quality of life in their communities.

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#### **13. Respondents’ ratings of the overall quality of life in their communities**

<b>Minnesota Initiative Foundation region</b>	<b>Very good</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Poor</b>
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	24%	61%	12%	3%
Northland Foundation	23%	62%	14%	1%
West Central Initiative	29%	61%	11%	-
Initiative Foundation	27%	60%	13%	1%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	30%	60%	9%	2%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	33%	59%	8%	1%
Metro area	25%	58%	13%	4%
Statewide	28%	60%	11%	1%

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**14. Respondents' comparisons of current overall quality of life in their communities to five years ago**

<b>Minnesota Initiative Foundation region</b>	<b>Much better</b>	<b>Somewhat better</b>	<b>Somewhat worse</b>	<b>Much worse</b>	<b>About the same</b>
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	6%	52%	10%	1%	31%
Northland Foundation	2%	44%	15%	1%	38%
West Central Initiative	3%	49%	12%	1%	36%
Initiative Foundation	6%	38%	13%	<1%	43%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	5%	42%	11%	1%	41%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	6%	43%	13%	1%	38%
Metro area	4%	52%	13%	-	30%
Statewide	4%	44%	13%	1%	38%

A substantial portion (82%) of the respondents reported that they feel the economic health of their communities is “good” (36%) or “fair” (46%). Only 6 percent said the economic health of their community is “very good,” but 12 percent said the economic health of their community is “poor.” Perceptions of community economic health align with the issues of economic development and employment that respondents rate as the most critical and the areas that most need to be addressed in their communities. Figures 15 and 16 display the responses.

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**15. Respondents' ratings of the economic health of their communities**

<b>Minnesota Initiative Foundation region</b>	<b>Very good</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Poor</b>
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	3%	34%	46%	17%
Northland Foundation	3%	27%	53%	17%
West Central Initiative	6%	43%	42%	9%
Initiative Foundation	5%	30%	49%	16%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	9%	41%	41%	9%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	7%	44%	43%	6%
Metro area	4%	38%	46%	13%
Statewide	6%	36%	46%	12%

**16. Respondents' comparisons of economic health of their communities to five years ago**

<b>Minnesota Initiative Foundation region</b>	<b>Much better</b>	<b>Somewhat better</b>	<b>About the same</b>	<b>Somewhat worse</b>	<b>Much worse</b>
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	6%	38%	38%	17%	2%
Northland Foundation	4%	32%	37%	25%	2%
West Central Initiative	4%	29%	45%	20%	1%
Initiative Foundation	5%	30%	40%	23%	3%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	6%	33%	40%	19%	2%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	4%	35%	37%	23%	1%
Metro area	4%	26%	39%	26%	4%
Statewide	5%	33%	39%	22%	2%

Overall, a majority of respondents reported that it is either “very difficult” (10%) or “somewhat difficult” (61%) for local employers to find qualified workers to fill available jobs in their communities, as shown in Figure 17. The remaining respondents reported that it is either “somewhat easy” (25%) or “very easy” (4%) for local employers to find qualified workers. The percentage of respondents who thought it is easy for employers to find qualified workers was much higher (53%) among respondents from the metro area.

**17. Respondents' perceptions of how difficult it is for local employers to find qualified workers to fill available jobs in their communities**

<b>Minnesota Initiative Foundation region</b>	<b>Very difficult</b>	<b>Somewhat difficult</b>	<b>Somewhat easy</b>	<b>Very easy</b>
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	13%	65%	18%	4%
Northland Foundation	11%	62%	24%	4%
West Central Initiative	6%	58%	32%	3%
Initiative Foundation	6%	57%	30%	7%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	13%	63%	22%	2%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	10%	64%	22%	5%
Metro area	10%	38%	43%	10%
Statewide	10%	61%	25%	4%

According to BCLP Alumni, rural Minnesota is increasingly racially and ethnically diverse. Overall, a majority of respondents reported that their communities have become “much more diverse” (17%) or “somewhat more diverse” (41%) over the past five years.

The percentage reporting increased diversity ranged from 45 percent in the Northland Foundation region to 74 percent in the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation region. Otherwise, communities have “stayed about the same,” according to 39 percent of respondents. A small proportion of respondents (4% or less) reported that their communities have become less diverse over the past 5 years. See Figure 18.

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**18. Respondents’ perceptions of the extent to which the racial or ethnic diversity of their communities has changed over the past five years**

<b>Minnesota Initiative Foundation region</b>	<b>Much more diverse</b>	<b>Somewhat more diverse</b>	<b>Stayed about the same</b>	<b>Somewhat less diverse</b>	<b>Much less diverse</b>
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	10%	46%	40%	3%	1%
Northland Foundation	6%	39%	53%	1%	1%
West Central Initiative	11%	41%	44%	3%	1%
Initiative Foundation	11%	38%	50%	<1%	-
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	24%	47%	28%	<1%	<1%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	32%	42%	24%	3%	-
Metro area	14%	48%	38%	-	-
Statewide	17%	41%	39%	2%	<1%

Nearly all respondents (94%) reported that they would “definitely, yes” (55%) or “probably, yes” (39%) recommend their community to someone else as a good place to live, as shown in Figure 19.

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**19. Would respondents recommend their community to someone else as a good place to live?**

<b>Minnesota Initiative Foundation region</b>	<b>Definitely yes</b>	<b>Probably yes</b>	<b>Probably no</b>	<b>Definitely no</b>
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	59%	35%	4%	2%
Northland Foundation	53%	42%	5%	<1%
West Central Initiative	61%	34%	4%	1%
Initiative Foundation	49%	45%	6%	1%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	60%	34%	5%	<1%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	57%	40%	3%	<1%
Metro area	48%	43%	9%	-
Statewide	55%	39%	5%	1%

## **Comparison of 2005 baseline survey to 2007 follow-up survey**

BCLP Alumni rated similarly in 2005 and 2007 the overall quality of life, ratings of the economic health of their communities, perceptions of increasing diversity, and recommendation of their community as a good place to live. When comparing the 2005 and 2007 results to test for statistically significant differences, only one item from this series of questions (see the Appendix for the survey instrument, questions 56-63), was found to be different. In 2007, respondents were more likely to say their community is “about the same” and less likely to say their community is “somewhat worse” or “much worse” than five years ago in terms of economic health compared with respondents from 2005.

### ***Community strengths and weaknesses***

Respondents were asked to indicate the extent to which they agree or disagree with statements that characterize social and political attributes of their communities. Respondents were asked to respond using a scale beginning with “strongly agree” (value of 1), “agree” (value of 2), “disagree” (value of 3), and “strongly disagree” (value of 4). The average numerical value for each statement is summarized in Figure 20.

The shaded areas represent the top 10 areas with the strongest agreement among Alumni and the top 10 areas with the strongest disagreement among Alumni. The top 10 areas with the strongest agreement are community assets that include:

- Being able to count on neighbors
- Natural resources
- Feelings of safety
- Access to natural resources for all residents
- A crime rate that is the same or lower than in similar communities
- Available services for persons with alcohol or drug addiction
- A sense of trust among residents
- Good opportunities for recreation for all residents
- Internet use and distance learning in schools
- Productively engaged older adults

Seven out of the top 10 items receiving ratings of strongest disagreement may be perceived as representing community weaknesses. Community characteristics receiving ratings of strongest disagreement, which may be viewed as community liabilities, include disagreement with the following statements:

- The economy in my community is well diversified
- There is enough affordable quality child care in my community
- Political conflict is handled in a healthy way
- My community is generally welcoming to people of diverse backgrounds
- People from different backgrounds fill leadership roles
- My community recognizes diversity as a strength
- My community has an adequate number of jobs that pay household-supporting wages

Three statements out of the top 10 receiving ratings of strong disagreement may be viewed as positive community attributes. These include disagreement with the following statements:

- There is racial or ethnic tension in my community
- Family violence is increasing in my community
- In my community there are public health problems that are directly related to an environmental problem or issue

**20. Summary of average scores for community characteristics (1 = “strongly agree,” 2 = “agree,” 3 =”disagree,” 4 = “strongly disagree”)**

<b>Community characteristic</b>	<b>Average score<sup>a</sup></b>
I can count on my neighbors when I need help.	1.57
My community’s natural resources are a significant asset.	1.58
I generally feel safe in my community.	1.67
There are adequate opportunities for all members of my community to access and enjoy the natural resources in the area.	1.84
My community doesn’t have more crime than any other community about the same size in Minnesota.	1.91
A person with alcohol or drug addiction in my community can get help.	1.92
Residents of my community generally trust each other.	1.93
My community offers all residents good opportunities for recreation.	1.94
The schools in my community are using up-to-date telecommunications, including the internet and distance learning.	1.97
Older adults are productively engaged in community life.	2.06
People who need training for their job or to improve their opportunities in the workforce can get such training in my community or region.	2.10
When new projects are planned in my community, their potential impact on the environment is given due consideration.	2.17
My community is just as safe as it was five years ago.	2.18
All residents in my community have equal access to essential and basic services.	2.18
People of all ages take advantage of educational opportunities in my community.	2.18
Elected officials in my community are committed to the common good.	2.20

<sup>a</sup> 1=strongly agree; 2=agree; 3=disagree; 4=strongly disagree. Therefore, lower scores indicate stronger agreement with the statement, and higher scores indicate stronger disagreement.

**20. Summary of average scores for community characteristics (1 = “strongly agree,” 2 = “agree,” 3 = “disagree,” 4 = “strongly disagree”) (continued)**

<b>Community characteristic</b>	<b>Average score<sup>a</sup></b>
Illegal drug use in my community is increasing.	2.23
Cultural opportunities and the arts make a significant contribution to my community's economy.	2.28
Community decisions here are guided by a variety of perspectives.	2.36
The economic environment in my community would be good for starting a business.	2.36
People in my community take an active role to prevent domestic violence.	2.40
Alcohol abuse in my community is increasing.	2.41
Elected officials in my community make informed decisions based on the needs of all residents.	2.42
Youth are productively engaged in community life.	2.42
When environmental conflict occurs in my community, it is generally handled in a healthy way.	2.44
People of all backgrounds have meaningful opportunities to participate in planning and decision-making here.	2.52
The economy in my community is well diversified.	2.54
There is racial or ethnic tension in my community.	2.55
Family violence is increasing in my community.	2.55
There is enough affordable quality child care for people who need it in my community.	2.58
When political conflict occurs in my community, it is generally handled in a healthy way.	2.62
My community is genuinely welcoming to people of diverse backgrounds.	2.65
People from different backgrounds (ethnic, socioeconomic, educational) fill leadership roles in my community.	2.76
My community recognizes diversity as a strength.	2.77
In my community there are public health problems that are directly related to an environmental problem or issue.	2.82
My community has an adequate number of jobs that pay household-supporting wages.	2.91

<sup>a</sup> 1=strongly agree; 2=agree; 3=disagree; 4=strongly disagree. Therefore, lower scores indicate stronger agreement with the statement, and higher scores indicate stronger disagreement.



## Quality of community services

Figure 21 displays respondents' ratings of the quality of services in their communities. Services that received ratings of "very good" or "good" from at least 50 percent of the Alumni include: roads, high speed internet service, water, recycling, sewer, relevant news and information, human service safety net programs, physical health and wellness services, and mental health and wellness services. Services that received ratings of "fair" or "poor" from at least 50 percent of the Alumni include: public transportation, rail service, and air service. Rail and air service may be key strategic services related to addressing the economic development issues viewed as critical by the respondents, including retaining and attracting businesses that pay a household-supporting wage.

### 21. Respondents' perceptions of the quality of services in their communities

	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor
Public transportation	6%	26%	36%	32%
Roads	7%	52%	35%	6%
Rail	4%	29%	23%	45%
Air service	4%	23%	30%	42%
High speed internet service	23%	47%	23%	7%
Water	34%	54%	10%	2%
Recycling	29%	50%	16%	5%
Sewer	22%	57%	17%	4%
Relevant news and information	14%	53%	27%	6%
Human service safety net programs	12%	56%	28%	5%
Physical health and wellness services	17%	58%	22%	3%
Mental health and wellness services	12%	50%	29%	9%

### Comparison of 2005 baseline survey to 2007 follow-up survey

Respondents to the 2007 follow-up survey highlighted the same community strengths as those identified by respondents in 2005, plus two additional ones that were not highlighted in 2005: *productively engaged older adults* and *a crime rate that is the same or lower than in similar communities*. In addition, some weaknesses identified by respondents in 2005 were no longer highlighted in 2007; these include agreement that *illegal drug use is increasing* and disagreement that *people of all backgrounds have opportunities to participate in planning and decision-making*. On the other hand, respondents to the 2007 follow-up highlighted a weakness that was not highlighted in

2005, the belief that *the economy in their community is not well diversified*. Results from the 2005 baseline and 2007 follow-up surveys were similar with regard to respondents' perceptions of the quality of services in their communities.

When comparing the 2005 and 2007 results to test for statistically significant differences, only two items from these series of questions (see the Appendix for the survey instrument, questions 64-99 for strengths and weaknesses and 100-111 for ratings of community services) were found to be significantly different. First, respondents from 2007 were more likely than respondents from 2005 to “disagree” or “strongly disagree” (and they were less likely to “strongly agree”) that *illegal drug use in their community is increasing*. (This difference, when tested for effect size was found to have a “medium” effect at Cohen’s  $d=0.72$ .) Second, in 2007 respondents were more likely than respondents from 2005 to “disagree” (and they were less likely to “agree” or “strongly agree”) that *people from different backgrounds (ethnic socioeconomic, educational) fill leadership roles in their community*.

### ***The one issue respondents want to address as community leaders***

Alumni were asked if they could focus on only one issue that might help their community, region, or rural Minnesota, what is that one issue. Of the 1,285 Alumni who responded to this question, the top issue among respondents was *business development* (18%,  $n=233$ , statewide), which refers to the following specific issues:

- Economic development
- Retaining, expanding, and attracting business (retail, and manufacturing)
- Funding for business (development, building, or equipment)
- Downtown revitalization
- High speed internet availability

The second most frequent response given by Alumni fell into the closely related category of *employment* (16%,  $n=205$ , statewide), which includes comments about increasing the number of jobs paying household-supporting wages and benefits to support families; providing accessible job training; and recruiting and retaining young people, especially college graduates in the area.

The responses by region reflected the statewide patterns. *Business development* and *employment* were the top two issues among respondents from each region, with the exception of respondents from the metro area ( $n=18$ ), who identified *health* (22%,  $n=4$ )

and *improving cooperation* (22%, n=4) as the top two areas on which they would like to focus. While *business development* and *employment* were the top issues in each of the other regions, their rank order differed. *Business development* was the top issue, followed by *employment* in the Northwest Minnesota Foundation, Northland Foundation, West Central Initiative, and Southwest Minnesota Foundation regions. In the Initiative Foundation and Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation regions, the pattern was reversed, with greater interest in *employment* than in *business development*.

### **Comparison of 2005 baseline survey to 2007 follow-up survey**

Respondents to the 2005 baseline survey also indicated that the top issue they wanted to address as community leaders was *business development*, followed by *employment*, so there are no significant changes over time in respondents' opinions of issues their communities should address.

# Appendix

*Detailed survey results for 2005 baseline and 2007 follow-up, by  
Minnesota Initiative Foundation region and statewide*

*Survey questionnaire*



***Detailed survey results, by Minnesota Initiative Foundation region and statewide***

**A1. In the next 3 to 5 years, how important is it to... Attract businesses to my region that pay household supporting wages?**

In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?	Critical	Important but not critical	Somewhat important	Not too important
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	67%	29%	4%	1%
Northland Foundation	75%	23%	2%	1%
West Central Initiative	60%	36%	4%	-
Initiative Foundation	56%	37%	6%	1%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	65%	29%	7%	-
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	61%	33%	6%	1%
Metro area	36%	52%	9%	3%
Region not identified	61%	29%	11%	-
Total	64%	31%	5%	2%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	66%	26%	7%	-
Northland Foundation	71%	27%	1%	1%
West Central Initiative	56%	39%	4%	1%
Initiative Foundation	63%	31%	5%	1%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	60%	37%	3%	-
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	56%	38%	6%	-
Metro area	58%	25%	17%	-
Region not identified	53%	36%	9%	1%
Total	62%	33%	5%	1%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, <1% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

**A2. In the next 3 to 5 years, how important is it to... Retain businesses that pay household-supporting wages?**

In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?	Critical	Important but not critical	Somewhat important	Not too important
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	81%	17%	2%	1%
Northland Foundation	87%	12%	1%	<1%
West Central Initiative	72%	24%	2%	2%
Initiative Foundation	69%	27%	5%	-
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	78%	20%	2%	<1%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	76%	20%	4%	<1%
Metro area	58%	42%	-	-
Region not identified	79%	21%	-	-
Total	77%	20%	2%	<1%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	83%	16%	1%	-
Northland Foundation	85%	15%	1%	-
West Central Initiative	72%	25%	3%	-
Initiative Foundation	76%	21%	3%	-
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	84%	14%	2%	-
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	78%	21%	1%	-
Metro area	67%	25%	8%	-
Region not identified	64%	31%	4%	1%
Total	79%	19%	2%	-

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, <1% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

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**A3. In the next 3 to 5 years, how important is it to... Support local entrepreneurs?**

In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?	Critical	Important but not critical	Somewhat important	Not too important
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	39%	46%	14%	1%
Northland Foundation	51%	41%	8%	1%
West Central Initiative	50%	43%	7%	1%
Initiative Foundation	44%	44%	9%	2%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	51%	39%	10%	1%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	47%	44%	9%	<1%
Metro area	36%	39%	21%	3%
Region not identified	46%	54%	-	-
Total	48%	43%	9%	1%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	56%	39%	6%	-
Northland Foundation	55%	40%	5%	-
West Central Initiative	49%	45%	6%	1%
Initiative Foundation	46%	47%	7%	-
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	59%	35%	6%	-
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	50%	43%	6%	1%
Metro area	46%	46%	-	8%
Region not identified	53%	36%	10%	1%
Total	52%	41%	6%	1%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, <1% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.



**A4. In the next 3 to 5 years, how important is it to... Have quality health care accessible to my community?**

In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?	Critical	Important but not critical	Somewhat important	Not too important
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	61%	36%	2%	1%
Northland Foundation	66%	27%	6%	1%
West Central Initiative	57%	32%	9%	2%
Initiative Foundation	57%	34%	7%	3%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	59%	36%	4%	1%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	57%	33%	8%	3%
Metro area	46%	36%	15%	3%
Region not identified	71%	29%	-	-
Total	60%	32%	7%	2%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	67%	25%	7%	1%
Northland Foundation	67%	29%	4%	1%
West Central Initiative	56%	34%	7%	3%
Initiative Foundation	61%	30%	7%	2%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	63%	31%	5%	0%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	59%	29%	10%	2%
Metro area	42%	50%	4%	4%
Region not identified	60%	31%	8%	1%
Total	62%	30%	7%	2%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, <1% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

**A5. In the next 3 to 5 years, how important is it to... Have quality health care accessible to low income people in my region?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Critical</b>	<b>Important but not critical</b>	<b>Somewhat important</b>	<b>Not too important</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	53%	35%	11%	1%
Northland Foundation	59%	30%	10%	1%
West Central Initiative	48%	37%	14%	1%
Initiative Foundation	53%	35%	12%	1%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	46%	44%	10%	1%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	46%	41%	12%	2%
Metro area	30%	33%	36%	-
Region not identified	68%	25%	7%	-
Total	50%	37%	12%	1%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	58%	33%	8%	1%
Northland Foundation	63%	29%	7%	1%
West Central Initiative	51%	38%	8%	3%
Initiative Foundation	60%	27%	11%	2%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	50%	40%	9%	1%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	52%	35%	12%	2%
Metro area	46%	42%	4%	8%
Region not identified	56%	33%	8%	3%
Total	56%	34%	9%	2%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, <1% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

**A6. In the next 3 to 5 years, how important is it to... Provide quality, affordable childcare and services for all children age 0-6? (2007)**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Critical</b>	<b>Important but not critical</b>	<b>Somewhat important</b>	<b>Not too important</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	42%	38%	20%	1%
Northland Foundation	43%	37%	18%	2%
West Central Initiative	37%	42%	19%	3%
Initiative Foundation	40%	41%	17%	3%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	37%	46%	15%	2%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	42%	40%	17%	2%
Metro area	24%	36%	36%	3%
Region not identified	36%	46%	18%	-
Total	40%	40%	18%	2%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	42%	46%	7%	5%
Northland Foundation	48%	37%	14%	2%
West Central Initiative	40%	46%	11%	3%
Initiative Foundation	47%	38%	11%	3%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	47%	39%	14%	-
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	48%	35%	15%	1%
Metro area	38%	54%	4%	4%
Region not identified	57%	38%	5%	-
Total	47%	39%	12%	2%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 1% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

**A7. In the next 3 to 5 years, how important is it to... Offer K-12 public education that meets your definition of quality?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Critical</b>	<b>Important but not critical</b>	<b>Somewhat important</b>	<b>Not too important</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	75%	24%	1%	-
Northland Foundation	72%	25%	3%	<1%
West Central Initiative	64%	30%	5%	1%
Initiative Foundation	73%	23%	4%	<1%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	76%	21%	3%	<1%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	74%	22%	3%	1%
Metro area	58%	36%	3%	3%
Region not identified	68%	29%	4%	-
Total	72%	24%	3%	1%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	69%	27%	3%	1%
Northland Foundation	69%	26%	4%	1%
West Central Initiative	68%	25%	5%	3%
Initiative Foundation	71%	24%	4%	1%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	70%	26%	3%	1%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	69%	27%	4%	-
Metro area	54%	38%	8%	-
Region not identified	69%	28%	1%	1%
Total	69%	26%	4%	1%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, <1% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

**A8. In the next 3 to 5 years, how important is it to... Provide opportunities for young people to be productively engaged in community life?**

In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?	Critical	Important but not critical	Somewhat important	Not too important
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	41%	43 %	14%	2%
Northland Foundation	37%	49%	13%	1%
West Central Initiative	36%	49%	14%	1%
Initiative Foundation	38%	49%	14%	-
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	38%	50%	11%	2%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	36%	47%	16%	1%
Metro area	34%	41%	22%	3%
Region not identified	33%	56%	11%	-
Total	37%	48%	14%	1%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	52%	40%	6%	1%
Northland Foundation	44%	48%	7%	1%
West Central Initiative	47%	43%	10%	1%
Initiative Foundation	53%	39%	8%	-
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	48%	47%	5%	-
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	48%	44%	7%	1%
Metro area	46%	46%	8%	-
Region not identified	62%	33%	4%	1%
Total	49%	44%	7%	1%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, <1% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

**A9. In the next 3 to 5 years, how important is it to... Provide access to quality education beyond high school?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Critical</b>	<b>Important but not critical</b>	<b>Somewhat important</b>	<b>Not too important</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	32%	40%	26%	2%
Northland Foundation	26%	55%	16%	3%
West Central Initiative	22%	48%	23%	8%
Initiative Foundation	20%	59%	17%	4%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	23%	51%	22%	4%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	23%	47%	24%	5%
Metro area	15%	46%	36%	3%
Region not identified	22%	67%	11%	-
Total	24%	51%	21%	5%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	40%	44%	13%	2%
Northland Foundation	39%	49%	11%	1%
West Central Initiative	32%	40%	22%	7%
Initiative Foundation	37%	47%	11%	5%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	36%	49%	12%	3%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	36%	43%	17%	4%
Metro area	33%	46%	21%	-
Region not identified	48%	34%	14%	4%
Total	37%	45%	14%	4%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 1% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

**A10. In the next 3 to 5 years, how important is it to... Provide affordable access to high speed internet connectivity?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Critical</b>	<b>Important but not critical</b>	<b>Somewhat important</b>	<b>Not too important</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	23%	39%	33%	5%
Northland Foundation	19%	48%	27%	7%
West Central Initiative	23%	40%	27%	10%
Initiative Foundation	15%	47%	28%	11%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	24%	47%	21%	8%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	20%	40%	32%	9%
Metro area	12%	27%	42%	18%
Region not identified	11%	59%	30%	-
Total	20%	44%	28%	8%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	39%	41%	18%	2%
Northland Foundation	30%	47%	19%	5%
West Central Initiative	31%	42%	24%	3%
Initiative Foundation	29%	50%	16%	5%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	36%	46%	16%	2%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	24%	47%	21%	7%
Metro area	38%	38%	25%	-
Region not identified	24%	49%	24%	3%
Total	30%	46%	19%	5%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 1% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

**A11. In the next 3 to 5 years, how important is it to... Maintain the local infrastructure (such as roads, sewers, and bridges)?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Critical</b>	<b>Important but not critical</b>	<b>Somewhat important</b>	<b>Not too important</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	38%	45%	17%	-
Northland Foundation	46%	43%	10%	<1%
West Central Initiative	38%	45%	15%	2%
Initiative Foundation	40%	48%	11%	1%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	46%	44%	10%	1%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	42%	48%	9%	1%
Metro area	46%	39%	15%	-
Region not identified	63%	30%	7%	-
Total	43%	45%	11%	1%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	54%	42%	4%	-
Northland Foundation	53%	41%	6%	-
West Central Initiative	55%	39%	5%	1%
Initiative Foundation	50%	44%	5%	-
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	56%	39%	5%	-
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	56%	40%	4%	-
Metro area	42%	50%	8%	-
Region not identified	52%	42%	6%	-
Total	54%	41%	5%	-

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, <1% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.



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**A12. In the next 3 to 5 years, how important is it to... Improve the local infrastructure?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Critical</b>	<b>Important but not critical</b>	<b>Somewhat important</b>	<b>Not too important</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	24%	44%	30%	2%
Northland Foundation	31%	51%	17%	1%
West Central Initiative	26%	48%	22%	4%
Initiative Foundation	28%	55%	15%	2%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	25%	54%	20%	2%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	26%	47%	24%	3%
Metro area	27%	49%	24%	-
Region not identified	58%	35%	8%	-
Total	28%	50%	20%	2%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	29%	55%	13%	2%
Northland Foundation	35%	51%	13%	1%
West Central Initiative	25%	61%	11%	3%
Initiative Foundation	34%	51%	14%	1%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	27%	56%	15%	2%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	36%	53%	10%	1%
Metro area	29%	54%	17%	-
Region not identified	30%	51%	16%	3%
Total	32%	54%	13%	2%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 1% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

**A13. In the next 3 to 5 years, how important is it to... Increase the effectiveness of local government including city, county and tribal?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Critical</b>	<b>Important but not critical</b>	<b>Somewhat important</b>	<b>Not too important</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	35%	40%	16%	9%
Northland Foundation	30%	49%	18%	2%
West Central Initiative	26%	47%	23%	4%
Initiative Foundation	34%	46%	17%	3 %
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	29%	45%	25%	2%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	28%	46%	24%	2%
Metro area	24%	55%	21%	-
Region not identified	37%	56%	4%	4%
Total	30%	47%	21%	3%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	40%	49%	10%	1%
Northland Foundation	42%	43%	14%	2%
West Central Initiative	32%	50%	16%	2%
Initiative Foundation	41%	43%	16%	-
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	28%	55%	15%	2%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	40%	46%	12%	2%
Metro area	50%	42%	8%	-
Region not identified	33%	52%	12%	3%
Total	38%	47%	14%	2%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 1% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

**A14. In the next 3 to 5 years, how important is it to... Increase cooperation between local units of government?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Critical</b>	<b>Important but not critical</b>	<b>Somewhat important</b>	<b>Not too important</b>
<b>2007 – Question not asked in 2005.</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	48%	44%	7%	1%
Northland Foundation	39%	45%	15%	2%
West Central Initiative	34%	46%	17%	3%
Initiative Foundation	42%	42%	14%	2%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	31%	53%	13%	2%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	42%	45%	13%	1%
Metro area	42%	38%	21%	-
Region not identified	37%	49%	13%	1%
Total	39%	46%	14%	2%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 1% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

**A15. In the next 3 to 5 years, how important is it to... Ensure an adequate supply of affordable housing?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Critical</b>	<b>Important but not critical</b>	<b>Somewhat important</b>	<b>Not too important</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	36%	39%	20%	5%
Northland Foundation	39%	41%	18%	2%
West Central Initiative	30%	46%	19%	4%
Initiative Foundation	27%	49%	22%	4%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	27%	50%	20%	3%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	33%	43%	22%	3%
Metro area	25%	28%	41%	6%
Region not identified	44%	33%	22%	-
Total	32%	44%	20%	3%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	41%	42%	13%	4%
Northland Foundation	44%	42%	12%	2%
West Central Initiative	36%	42%	18%	4%
Initiative Foundation	39%	39%	18%	4%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	32%	52%	14%	2%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	29%	49%	19%	3%
Metro area	38%	38%	21%	4%
Region not identified	38%	49%	10%	3%
Total	37%	45%	15%	3%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, <1% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

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**A16. In the next 3 to 5 years, how important is it to... Reduce crime?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Critical</b>	<b>Important but not critical</b>	<b>Somewhat important</b>	<b>Not too important</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	35%	41%	19%	5%
Northland Foundation	25%	44%	26%	6%
West Central Initiative	24%	38%	29%	9%
Initiative Foundation	34%	40%	21%	5%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	25%	50%	22%	3%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	22%	43%	27%	8%
Metro area	33%	33%	30%	3%
Region not identified	30%	52%	15%	4%
Total	26%	43%	25%	6%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	34%	46%	17%	2%
Northland Foundation	31%	43%	21%	5%
West Central Initiative	26%	44%	25%	6%
Initiative Foundation	39%	42%	14%	5%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	25%	45%	25%	4%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	30%	44%	21%	6%
Metro area	50%	25%	25%	-
Region not identified	41%	43%	13%	3%
Total	31%	43%	21%	5%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 1% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

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**A17. In the next 3 to 5 years, how important is it to... Reduce illegal drug use?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Critical</b>	<b>Important but not critical</b>	<b>Somewhat important</b>	<b>Not too important</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	64%	26%	10%	-
Northland Foundation	53%	33%	12%	2%
West Central Initiative	58%	32%	9%	1%
Initiative Foundation	70%	23%	6%	1%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	61%	29%	10%	1%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	55%	27%	15%	4%
Metro area	39%	42%	18%	-
Region not identified	59%	30%	7%	4%
Total	59%	29%	11%	2%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	58%	31%	9%	2%
Northland Foundation	50%	36%	13%	2%
West Central Initiative	48%	36%	12%	4%
Initiative Foundation	58%	32%	8%	2%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	44%	41%	13%	2%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	47%	38%	12%	3%
Metro area	63%	29%	8%	-
Region not identified	56%	34%	7%	3%
Total	50%	36%	11%	2%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 1% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

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**A18. In the next 3 to 5 years, how important is it to... Reduce alcohol abuse?**

In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?	Critical	Important but not critical	Somewhat important	Not too important
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	48%	41%	11%	1%
Northland Foundation	35%	40%	23%	2%
West Central Initiative	31%	44%	20%	5%
Initiative Foundation	47%	38%	14%	2%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	34%	42%	21%	3%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	31%	41%	20%	7%
Metro area	30%	33%	33%	3%
Region not identified	37%	52%	7%	4%
Total	36%	41%	19%	4%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	50%	37%	13%	-
Northland Foundation	40%	43%	16%	2%
West Central Initiative	38%	40%	19%	4%
Initiative Foundation	49%	37%	12%	3%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	29%	50%	20%	1%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	40%	42%	15%	4%
Metro area	50%	42%	8%	-
Region not identified	46%	41%	11%	1%
Total	41%	42%	15%	2%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 1% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

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**A19. In the next 3 to 5 years, how important is it to... Reduce domestic violence?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Critical</b>	<b>Important but not critical</b>	<b>Somewhat important</b>	<b>Not too important</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	46%	37%	14%	3%
Northland Foundation	39%	40%	20%	1%
West Central Initiative	38%	37%	21%	5%
Initiative Foundation	45%	41%	12%	2%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	35%	41%	21%	3%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	33%	40%	22%	5%
Metro area	39%	18%	36%	6%
Region not identified	48%	37%	11%	4%
Total	39%	39%	19%	3%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	45%	45%	8%	2%
Northland Foundation	44%	44%	12%	1%
West Central Initiative	31%	49%	17%	3%
Initiative Foundation	46%	39%	13%	2%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	33%	45%	22%	-
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	35%	45%	16%	4%
Metro area	38%	29%	33%	-
Region not identified	51%	31%	15%	3%
Total	39%	43%	15%	2%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 2% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.



**A20. In the next 3 to 5 years, how important is it to... Reduce the number of people that live in poverty in my community?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Critical</b>	<b>Important but not critical</b>	<b>Somewhat important</b>	<b>Not too important</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	39%	39%	19%	4%
Northland Foundation	42%	36%	19%	4%
West Central Initiative	27%	43%	27%	3%
Initiative Foundation	36%	45%	17%	2%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	30%	42%	24%	4%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	29%	43%	23%	5%
Metro area	29%	26%	29%	16%
Region not identified	65%	19%	15%	-
Total	34%	41%	22%	4%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	38%	47%	13%	2%
Northland Foundation	50%	34%	13%	2%
West Central Initiative	29%	51%	18%	2%
Initiative Foundation	43%	43%	11%	3%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	30%	46%	22%	2%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	33%	46%	19%	3%
Metro area	29%	29%	38%	4%
Region not identified	44%	41%	10%	5%
Total	38%	43%	16%	2%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 1% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

**A21. In the next 3 to 5 years, how important is it to... Ensure that natural resource use decisions are made with the needs of future generations in mind?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Critical</b>	<b>Important but not critical</b>	<b>Somewhat important</b>	<b>Not too important</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	30%	48%	18%	5%
Northland Foundation	40%	40%	18%	2%
West Central Initiative	34%	40%	22%	4%
Initiative Foundation	39%	39%	19%	3%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	35%	41%	23%	2%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	30%	45%	22%	3%
Metro area	23%	42%	36%	-
Region not identified	33%	56%	11%	-
Total	35%	42%	21%	3%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	42%	45%	9%	4%
Northland Foundation	45%	43%	11%	1%
West Central Initiative	48%	36%	15%	1%
Initiative Foundation	48%	40%	11%	1%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	43%	43%	12%	1%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	46%	42%	11%	1%
Metro area	54%	33%	8%	4%
Region not identified	46%	36%	14%	5%
Total	46%	41%	12%	2%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 1% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

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**A22. In the next 3 to 5 years, how important is it to... Address the impacts of climate change on your community?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Critical</b>	<b>Important but not critical</b>	<b>Somewhat important</b>	<b>Not too important</b>
<b>2007 – Question not asked in 2005.</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	21%	33%	31%	15%
Northland Foundation	20%	40%	26%	14%
West Central Initiative	17%	38%	32%	14%
Initiative Foundation	19%	32%	33%	17%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	18%	37%	30%	15%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	22%	37%	27%	14%
Metro area	33%	33%	21%	13%
Region not identified	20%	42%	27%	10%
Total	20%	37%	29%	15%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 2% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

**A23. In the next 3 to 5 years, how important is it to... Productively engage older adults in community life?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Critical</b>	<b>Important but not critical</b>	<b>Somewhat important</b>	<b>Not too important</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	12%	55%	31%	2%
Northland Foundation	11%	51%	34%	4%
West Central Initiative	12%	51%	34%	3%
Initiative Foundation	15%	58%	24%	4%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	15%	56%	26%	3%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	15%	51%	29%	5%
Metro area	10%	60%	27%	3%
Region not identified	11%	56%	30%	4%
Total	13%	53%	30%	4%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	25%	51%	23%	2%
Northland Foundation	14%	58%	26%	3%
West Central Initiative	20%	57%	22%	2%
Initiative Foundation	21%	52%	26%	2%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	17%	57%	24%	3%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	17%	56%	25%	2%
Metro area	33%	46%	21%	-
Region not identified	25%	53%	17%	5%
Total	18%	55%	24%	2%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 1% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

**A24. In the next 3 to 5 years, how important is it to... Address the increasing cost of health care and health insurance?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Critical</b>	<b>Important but not critical</b>	<b>Somewhat important</b>	<b>Not too important</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	73%	19%	6%	2%
Northland Foundation	69%	26%	4%	1%
West Central Initiative	62%	28%	8%	2%
Initiative Foundation	68%	24%	8%	<1%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	71%	23%	5%	1%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	70%	23%	6%	1%
Metro area	58%	26%	16%	-
Region not identified	82%	15%	4%	-
Total	69%	24%	6%	1%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	61%	33%	5%	1%
Northland Foundation	67%	27%	5%	1%
West Central Initiative	57%	35%	7%	1%
Initiative Foundation	62%	32%	6%	-
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	63%	28%	8%	-
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	59%	32%	9%	1%
Metro area	54%	33%	13%	-
Region not identified	65%	25%	7%	3%
Total	62%	31%	7%	1%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, <1% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

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**A25. In the next 3 to 5 years, how important is it to... Reduce taxes?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Critical</b>	<b>Important but not critical</b>	<b>Somewhat important</b>	<b>Not too important</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	18%	37%	28%	17%
Northland Foundation	13%	38%	27%	23%
West Central Initiative	14%	37%	28%	20%
Initiative Foundation	11%	44%	26%	20%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	12%	38%	32%	19%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	10%	32%	33%	26%
Metro area	16%	29%	36%	19%
Region not identified	11%	48%	30%	11%
Total	12%	37%	29%	21%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	20%	39%	29%	13%
Northland Foundation	10%	37%	32%	21%
West Central Initiative	15%	42%	32%	11%
Initiative Foundation	21%	37%	27%	16%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	12%	43%	31%	13%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	14%	35%	28%	23%
Metro area	8%	25%	38%	29%
Region not identified	18%	32%	35%	15%
Total	14%	38%	30%	18%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 1% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

**A26. In the next 3 to 5 years, how important is it to... Improving community interaction with racial and ethnic minorities?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Critical</b>	<b>Important but not critical</b>	<b>Somewhat important</b>	<b>Not too important</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	19%	35%	35%	11%
Northland Foundation	10%	39%	37%	14%
West Central Initiative	18%	36%	28%	18%
Initiative Foundation	17%	39%	32%	13%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	22%	40%	30%	9%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	25%	40%	28%	7%
Metro area	17%	27%	40 %	17%
Region not identified	19%	35%	31%	15%
Total	19%	38%	32%	12%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	25%	45%	22%	8%
Northland Foundation	20%	39%	33%	8%
West Central Initiative	17%	39%	33%	11%
Initiative Foundation	19%	36%	32%	13%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	24%	43%	25%	8%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	26%	44%	22%	8%
Metro area	29%	33%	25%	13%
Region not identified	26%	31%	28%	16%
Total	22%	41%	28%	10%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 1% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

**A27. In the next 3 to 5 years, how important is it to... Increase the involvement of area residents in local planning and projects?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Critical</b>	<b>Important but not critical</b>	<b>Somewhat important</b>	<b>Not too important</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	22%	52%	20%	6%
Northland Foundation	16%	50%	29%	6%
West Central Initiative	23%	53%	21%	3%
Initiative Foundation	24%	46%	26%	4%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	23%	47%	28%	3%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	22%	46%	28%	4%
Metro area	26%	36%	39%	-
Region not identified	26%	52%	19%	4%
Total	21%	48%	26%	4%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	28%	57%	14%	2%
Northland Foundation	20%	52%	26%	2%
West Central Initiative	19%	53%	26%	2%
Initiative Foundation	27%	44%	25%	4%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	22%	49%	25%	3%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	20%	53%	24%	3%
Metro area	33%	46%	21%	-
Region not identified	25%	47%	20%	7%
Total	22%	51%	24%	3%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 1% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.



**A28. In the last 3 to 5 years, how has your community been doing? Have they...  
Attracted businesses to my region that pay household-supporting wages?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Doing better</b>	<b>Doing worse</b>	<b>Experienced no change</b>
<b>2005</b>			
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	34%	15%	52%
Northland Foundation	33%	26%	44%
West Central Initiative	26%	20%	54%
Initiative Foundation	41%	13%	45%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	39%	20%	41%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	30%	26%	45%
Metro area	47%	20%	33%
Region not identified	15%	35%	50%
Total	33%	22%	45%
<b>2007</b>			
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	39%	14%	47%
Northland Foundation	39%	17%	44%
West Central Initiative	43%	14%	43%
Initiative Foundation	44%	14%	42%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	51%	14%	35%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	41%	19%	40%
Metro area	52%	10%	38%
Region not identified	43%	13%	43%
Total	43%	16%	41%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 6% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

**A29. In the last 3 to 5 years, how has your community been doing? Have they...  
Retained businesses that pay household-supporting wages?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Doing better</b>	<b>Doing worse</b>	<b>Experienced no change</b>
<b>2005</b>			
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	31%	24%	45%
Northland Foundation	24%	34%	41%
West Central Initiative	23%	260%	52%
Initiative Foundation	26%	22%	53%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	32%	26%	43%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	22%	29%	50%
Metro area	27%	50%	23%
Region not identified	4%	40%	56%
Total	25%	28%	47%
<b>2007</b>			
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	24%	23%	53%
Northland Foundation	29%	26%	45%
West Central Initiative	34%	23%	43%
Initiative Foundation	36%	20%	44%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	40%	19%	41%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	33%	22%	45%
Metro area	40%	30%	30%
Region not identified	36%	25%	39%
Total	33%	23%	44%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 8% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

**A30. In the last 3 to 5 years, how has your community been doing? Have they...  
Supported local entrepreneurs?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Doing better</b>	<b>Doing worse</b>	<b>Experienced no change</b>
<b>2005</b>			
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	30%	14%	55%
Northland Foundation	34%	18%	48%
West Central Initiative	33%	22%	45%
Initiative Foundation	22%	23%	55%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	32%	24%	44%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	34%	20%	46%
Metro area	19%	48%	33%
Region not identified	30%	25%	45%
Total	31%	21%	48%
<b>2007</b>			
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	30%	22%	48%
Northland Foundation	42%	16%	42%
West Central Initiative	41%	16%	44%
Initiative Foundation	40%	16%	44%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	37%	16%	46%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	43%	14%	43%
Metro area	35%	10%	55%
Region not identified	38%	14%	48%
Total	40%	16%	44%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 1% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

**A31. In the last 3 to 5 years, how has your community been doing? Have they... Had quality health care that is accessible to my community?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Doing better</b>	<b>Doing worse</b>	<b>Experienced no change</b>
<b>2005</b>			
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	65%	13%	22%
Northland Foundation	61%	12%	28%
West Central Initiative	47%	10%	44%
Initiative Foundation	51%	10%	39%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	59%	9%	32%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	62%	9%	29%
Metro area	23%	27%	50%
Region not identified	50%	15%	35%
Total	57%	11%	33%
<b>2007</b>			
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	60%	11%	28%
Northland Foundation	44%	22%	34%
West Central Initiative	53%	6%	41%
Initiative Foundation	55%	5%	40%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	59%	7%	35%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	60%	8%	32%
Metro area	52%	10%	38%
Region not identified	49%	11%	40%
Total	54%	11%	35%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 4% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

**A32. In the last 3 to 5 years, how has your community been doing? Have they... Had quality health care that is accessible to low income people in my region?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Doing better</b>	<b>Doing worse</b>	<b>Experienced no change</b>
<b>2005</b>			
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	39%	19%	43%
Northland Foundation	30%	29%	42%
West Central Initiative	25%	18%	57%
Initiative Foundation	23%	25%	52%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	31%	20%	49%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	37%	21%	42%
Metro area	5%	32%	63%
Region not identified	15%	30%	55%
Total	30%	23%	47%
<b>2007</b>			
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	42%	17%	40%
Northland Foundation	30%	26%	43%
West Central Initiative	35%	13%	52%
Initiative Foundation	35%	12%	53%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	35%	14%	51%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	43%	13%	44%
Metro area	35%	15%	50%
Region not identified	39%	12%	48%
Total	37%	17%	47%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 17% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

**A33. In the last 3 to 5 years, how has your community been doing? Have they... Provided quality, affordable childcare and services for all children age 0-6?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Doing better</b>	<b>Doing worse</b>	<b>Experienced no change</b>
<b>2005</b>			
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	30%	21%	49%
Northland Foundation	29%	21%	50%
West Central Initiative	31%	21%	49%
Initiative Foundation	25%	18%	57%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	27%	17%	56%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	32%	18%	50%
Metro area	30%	22%	48%
Region not identified	24%	14%	62%
Total	29%	19%	52%
<b>2007</b>			
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	39%	18%	43%
Northland Foundation	32%	16%	53%
West Central Initiative	35%	15%	50%
Initiative Foundation	24%	17%	59%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	28%	12%	60%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	34%	15%	51%
Metro area	32%	11%	58%
Region not identified	26%	10%	64%
Total	31%	15%	54%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 19% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

**A34. In the last 3 to 5 years, how has your community been doing? Have they... Offered K-12 public education that meets your definition of quality?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Doing better</b>	<b>Doing worse</b>	<b>Experienced no change</b>
<b>2005</b>			
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	29%	36%	35%
Northland Foundation	20%	43%	37%
West Central Initiative	34%	25%	41%
Initiative Foundation	38%	29%	33%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	36%	29%	35%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	30%	32%	38%
Metro area	45%	23%	32%
Region not identified	37%	33%	30%
Total	31%	33%	36%
<b>2007</b>			
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	50%	18%	33%
Northland Foundation	35%	23%	42%
West Central Initiative	44%	20%	36%
Initiative Foundation	38%	22%	40%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	40%	24%	37%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	39%	25%	36%
Metro area	57%	9%	35%
Region not identified	27%	36%	38%
Total	39%	23%	38%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 4% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

**A35. In the last 3 to 5 years, how has your community been doing? Have they... Provided opportunities for young people to be productively engaged in community life?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Doing better</b>	<b>Doing worse</b>	<b>Experienced no change</b>
<b>2005</b>			
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	22%	23%	56%
Northland Foundation	23%	24%	54%
West Central Initiative	30%	15%	55%
Initiative Foundation	29%	19%	53%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	26%	22%	52%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	28%	15%	57%
Metro area	24%	16%	60%
Region not identified	12%	28%	60%
Total	26%	19%	55%
<b>2007</b>			
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	28%	19%	52%
Northland Foundation	30%	19%	51%
West Central Initiative	33%	20%	47%
Initiative Foundation	30%	21%	49%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	25%	21%	54%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	32%	18%	50%
Metro area	36%	9%	55%
Region not identified	25%	23%	52%
Total	30%	20%	51%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 8% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.



**A36. In the last 3 to 5 years, how has your community been doing? Have they... Provided access to quality education beyond high school? (2007)**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Doing better</b>	<b>Doing worse</b>	<b>Experienced no change</b>
<b>2005</b>			
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	33%	12%	55%
Northland Foundation	41%	10%	50%
West Central Initiative	29%	5%	66%
Initiative Foundation	30%	9%	62%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	30%	7%	63%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	34%	4%	62%
Metro area	38%	3%	59%
Region not identified	21%	13%	67%
Total	33%	7%	59%
<b>2007</b>			
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	45%	7%	48%
Northland Foundation	50%	6%	44%
West Central Initiative	32%	5%	63%
Initiative Foundation	39%	6%	55%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	41%	5%	54%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	40%	5%	55%
Metro area	33%	10%	57%
Region not identified	41%	11%	49%
Total	42%	6%	52%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 5% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

**A37. In the last 3 to 5 years, how has your community been doing? Have they... Provided affordable access to high speed internet connectivity?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Doing better</b>	<b>Doing worse</b>	<b>Experienced no change</b>
<b>2005</b>			
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	74%	4%	22%
Northland Foundation	69%	5%	26%
West Central Initiative	69%	6%	25%
Initiative Foundation	67%	6%	27%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	71%	4%	25%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	69%	4%	28%
Metro area	73%	-	27%
Region not identified	61%	9%	30%
Total	69%	5%	26%
<b>2007</b>			
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	70%	5%	24%
Northland Foundation	68%	5%	27%
West Central Initiative	68%	7%	25%
Initiative Foundation	74%	4%	22%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	72%	4%	24%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	65%	6%	29%
Metro area	45%	5%	50%
Region not identified	54%	11%	35%
Total	68%	5%	26%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 8% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

**A38. In the last 3 to 5 years, how has your community been doing? Have they...  
Maintained the local infrastructure (such as roads, sewers, and bridges)?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Doing better</b>	<b>Doing worse</b>	<b>Experienced no change</b>
<b>2005</b>			
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	39%	19%	42%
Northland Foundation	28%	31%	41%
West Central Initiative	43%	17%	40%
Initiative Foundation	36%	18%	47%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	34%	17%	49%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	31%	23%	46%
Metro area	53%	17%	30%
Region not identified	23%	39%	39%
Total	34%	22%	44%
<b>2007</b>			
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	45%	15%	40%
Northland Foundation	37%	23%	41%
West Central Initiative	50%	17%	34%
Initiative Foundation	45%	12%	43%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	42%	20%	38%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	37%	25%	39%
Metro area	39%	9%	52%
Region not identified	44%	31%	26%
Total	41%	20%	39%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 4% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

**A39. In the last 3 to 5 years, how has your community been doing? Have they... Improved the local infrastructure?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Doing better</b>	<b>Doing worse</b>	<b>Experienced no change</b>
<b>2005</b>			
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	42%	19%	39%
Northland Foundation	29%	30%	42%
West Central Initiative	46%	11%	43%
Initiative Foundation	39%	16%	46%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	35%	14%	52%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	35%	20%	45%
Metro area	55%	21%	24%
Region not identified	33%	33%	33%
Total	36%	19%	44%
<b>2007</b>			
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	48%	14%	38%
Northland Foundation	34%	22%	45%
West Central Initiative	50%	12%	39%
Initiative Foundation	41%	13%	46%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	41%	17%	43%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	39%	22%	40%
Metro area	41%	9%	50%
Region not identified	47%	17%	36%
Total	41%	18%	42%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 7% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

**A40. In the last 3 to 5 years, how has your community been doing? Have they...  
Increased the effectiveness of local government including city, county and tribal**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Doing better</b>	<b>Doing worse</b>	<b>Experienced no change</b>
<b>2005</b>			
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	23%	25%	52%
Northland Foundation	26%	25%	49%
West Central Initiative	30%	14%	56%
Initiative Foundation	29%	26%	45%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	22%	24%	54%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	27%	24%	50%
Metro area	41%	22%	37%
Region not identified	8%	42%	50%
Total	26%	23%	50%
<b>2007</b>			
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	31%	20%	49%
Northland Foundation	25%	32%	43%
West Central Initiative	29%	17%	54%
Initiative Foundation	29%	24%	47%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	24%	22%	54%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	23%	30%	47%
Metro area	25%	20%	55%
Region not identified	34%	21%	45%
Total	26%	26%	48%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 8% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

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**A41. In the last 3 to 5 years, how has your community been doing? Have they...  
Increased cooperation among local units of government?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Doing better</b>	<b>Doing worse</b>	<b>Experienced no change</b>
<b>2007 – Question not asked in 2005.</b>			
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	40%	20%	39%
Northland Foundation	26%	25%	49%
West Central Initiative	32%	16%	52%
Initiative Foundation	29%	24%	47%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	32%	18%	50%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	31%	32%	37%
Metro area	39%	6%	56%
Region not identified	36%	19%	44%
Total	31%	24%	45%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 9% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

**A42. In the last 3 to 5 years, how has your community been doing? Have they... Ensured an adequate supply of affordable housing?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Doing better</b>	<b>Doing worse</b>	<b>Experienced no change</b>
<b>2005</b>			
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	49%	18%	33%
Northland Foundation	25%	25%	50%
West Central Initiative	38%	19%	42%
Initiative Foundation	43%	17%	41%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	41%	17%	42%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	39%	18%	43%
Metro area	40%	30%	30%
Region not identified	16%	20%	64%
Total	37%	20%	43%
<b>2007</b>			
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	48%	11%	41%
Northland Foundation	31%	24%	45%
West Central Initiative	38%	16%	46%
Initiative Foundation	34%	20%	46%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	30%	16%	54%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	37%	16%	47%
Metro area	24%	38%	38%
Region not identified	41%	14%	46%
Total	35%	18%	47%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 9% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

**A43. In the last 3 to 5 years, how has your community been doing? Have they... Reduced crime?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Doing better</b>	<b>Doing worse</b>	<b>Experienced no change</b>
<b>2005</b>			
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	24%	25%	51%
Northland Foundation	21%	15%	64%
West Central Initiative	31%	15%	53%
Initiative Foundation	26%	21%	52%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	31%	19%	50%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	39%	14%	48%
Metro area	24%	28%	48%
Region not identified	36%	14%	50%
Total	30%	17%	53%
<b>2007</b>			
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	31%	15%	54%
Northland Foundation	22%	21%	57%
West Central Initiative	32%	13%	55%
Initiative Foundation	25%	20%	55%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	29%	15%	56%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	33%	19%	47%
Metro area	35%	18%	47%
Region not identified	44%	10%	46%
Total	29%	18%	53%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 14% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.



**A44. In the last 3 to 5 years, how has your community been doing? Have they... Reduced illegal drug use?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Doing better</b>	<b>Doing worse</b>	<b>Experienced no change</b>
<b>2005</b>			
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	19%	51%	31%
Northland Foundation	18%	44%	39%
West Central Initiative	28%	41%	32%
Initiative Foundation	23%	48%	29%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	21%	47%	32%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	33%	31%	37%
Metro area	23%	42%	35%
Region not identified	27%	32%	41%
Total	24%	42%	34%
<b>2007</b>			
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	26%	27%	46%
Northland Foundation	24%	29%	47%
West Central Initiative	35%	18%	47%
Initiative Foundation	36%	27%	37%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	30%	20%	50%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	32%	25%	43%
Metro area	31%	25%	44%
Region not identified	36%	17%	47%
Total	31%	25%	45%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 18% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

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**A45. In the last 3 to 5 years, how has your community been doing? Have they...  
Reduced alcohol abuse?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Doing better</b>	<b>Doing worse</b>	<b>Experienced no change</b>
<b>2005</b>			
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	9%	33%	59%
Northland Foundation	11%	25%	64%
West Central Initiative	16%	28%	56%
Initiative Foundation	11%	30%	60%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	14%	22%	64%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	15%	16%	69%
Metro area	21%	25%	54%
Region not identified	23%	23%	55%
Total	13%	24%	63%
<b>2007</b>			
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	13%	27%	60%
Northland Foundation	12%	23%	65%
West Central Initiative	20%	19%	61%
Initiative Foundation	13%	23%	64%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	14%	13%	73%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	16%	19%	65%
Metro area	18%	18%	65%
Region not identified	36%	14%	50%
Total	15%	20%	65%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 24% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

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**A46. In the last 3 to 5 years, how has your community been doing? Have they...  
Reduced domestic violence?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Doing better</b>	<b>Doing worse</b>	<b>Experienced no change</b>
<b>2005</b>			
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	11%	16%	73%
Northland Foundation	16%	17%	67%
West Central Initiative	17%	20%	63%
Initiative Foundation	10%	22%	67%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	17%	22%	61%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	17%	12%	71%
Metro area	19%	14%	67%
Region not identified	21%	26%	53%
Total	16%	18%	67%
<b>2007</b>			
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	25%	11%	64%
Northland Foundation	23%	17%	60%
West Central Initiative	25%	14%	61%
Initiative Foundation	16%	20%	64%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	16%	16%	68%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	19%	16%	65%
Metro area	14%	14%	71%
Region not identified	33%	19%	48%
Total	20%	16%	63%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 31% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

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**A47. In the last 3 to 5 years, how has your community been doing? Have they...  
Reduced the number of people who live in poverty in my community?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Doing better</b>	<b>Doing worse</b>	<b>Experienced no change</b>
<b>2005</b>			
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	10%	26%	64%
Northland Foundation	12%	34%	54%
West Central Initiative	11%	25%	64%
Initiative Foundation	13%	25%	62%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	12%	24%	64%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	9%	27%	65%
Metro area	14%	29%	57%
Region not identified	-	38%	62%
Total	11%	28%	62%
<b>2007</b>			
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	15%	22%	63%
Northland Foundation	17%	34%	49%
West Central Initiative	17%	17%	66%
Initiative Foundation	13%	26%	62%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	14%	21%	65%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	13%	29%	59%
Metro area	-	53%	47%
Region not identified	21%	21%	58%
Total	14%	27%	59%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 25% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

**A48. In the last 3 to 5 years, how has your community been doing? Have they...  
Ensuring that natural resource decisions are made with the needs of future  
generations in mind?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Doing better</b>	<b>Doing worse</b>	<b>Experienced no change</b>
<b>2005</b>			
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	28%	14%	58%
Northland Foundation	38%	17%	46%
West Central Initiative	36%	11%	54%
Initiative Foundation	30%	24%	46%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	35%	13%	52%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	27%	15%	58%
Metro area	35%	23%	42%
Region not identified	29%	14%	57%
Total	33%	16%	52%
<b>2007</b>			
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	36%	17%	47%
Northland Foundation	44%	16%	40%
West Central Initiative	47%	14%	39%
Initiative Foundation	41%	17%	42%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	35%	15%	50%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	39%	14%	47%
Metro area	42%	21%	37%
Region not identified	24%	28%	48%
Total	40%	16%	44%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 17% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

**A49. In the last 3 to 5 years, how has your community been doing? Have they...  
Productively engaged older adults in community life**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Doing better</b>	<b>Doing worse</b>	<b>Experienced no change</b>
<b>2005</b>			
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	34%	8%	58%
Northland Foundation	32%	4%	64%
West Central Initiative	35%	5%	62%
Initiative Foundation	31%	8%	62%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	41%	7%	52%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	39%	6%	55%
Metro area	64%	4%	32%
Region not identified	23%	23%	55%
Total	36%	6%	58%
<b>2007</b>			
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	43%	9%	48%
Northland Foundation	28%	9%	63%
West Central Initiative	49%	6%	45%
Initiative Foundation	40%	4%	56%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	37%	3%	60%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	42%	6%	52%
Metro area	53%	11%	37%
Region not identified	23%	13%	63%
Total	39%	6%	55%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 13% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

**A50. In the last 3 to 5 years, how has your community been doing? Have they...  
Reduced the increasing cost of health care and insurance?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Doing better</b>	<b>Doing worse</b>	<b>Experienced no change</b>
<b>2005</b>			
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	8%	55%	37%
Northland Foundation	7%	58%	35%
West Central Initiative	6%	44%	50%
Initiative Foundation	6%	52%	42%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	6%	50%	44%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	7%	49%	44%
Metro area	4%	46%	50%
Region not identified	-	75%	25%
Total	7%	52%	42%
<b>2007</b>			
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	6%	58%	36%
Northland Foundation	4%	69%	27%
West Central Initiative	7%	54%	40%
Initiative Foundation	5%	54%	42%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	4%	59%	37%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	5%	55%	40%
Metro area	12%	53%	35%
Region not identified	6%	55%	39%
Total	5%	59%	36%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 12% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

**A51. In the last 3 to 5 years, how has your community been doing? Have they... Reduced taxes?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Doing better</b>	<b>Doing worse</b>	<b>Experienced no change</b>
<b>2005</b>			
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	5%	57%	38%
Northland Foundation	8%	46%	46%
West Central Initiative	9%	41%	49%
Initiative Foundation	8%	54%	39%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	8%	34%	58%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	9%	37%	54%
Metro area	17%	47%	37%
Region not identified	12%	56%	32%
Total	8%	44%	48%
<b>2007</b>			
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	4%	49%	47%
Northland Foundation	5%	45%	50%
West Central Initiative	6%	48%	46%
Initiative Foundation	9%	48%	42%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	5%	49%	47%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	4%	53%	43%
Metro area	13%	48%	39%
Region not identified	9%	44%	47%
Total	6%	49%	46%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 6% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.



**A52. In the last 3 to 5 years, how has your community been doing? Have they...  
Improved community interaction with racial and ethnic minorities?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Doing better</b>	<b>Doing worse</b>	<b>Experienced no change</b>
<b>2005</b>			
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	14%	15%	71%
Northland Foundation	16%	10%	74%
West Central Initiative	28%	12%	59%
Initiative Foundation	18%	13%	69%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	36%	10%	54%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	43%	13%	44%
Metro area	27%	19%	54%
Region not identified	4%	17%	79%
Total	28%	12%	60%
<b>2007</b>			
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	22%	18%	60%
Northland Foundation	21%	14%	65%
West Central Initiative	30%	8%	63%
Initiative Foundation	24%	9%	67%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	29%	10%	60%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	31%	15%	54%
Metro area	26%	21%	53%
Region not identified	15%	12%	73%
Total	26%	13%	61%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 15% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

**A53. In the last 3 to 5 years, how has your community been doing? Have they...  
Increased the involvement of area residents in local planning and projects?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Doing better</b>	<b>Doing worse</b>	<b>Experienced no change</b>
<b>2005</b>			
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	42%	12%	46%
Northland Foundation	39%	10%	50%
West Central Initiative	42%	12%	47%
Initiative Foundation	41%	13%	46%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	44%	12%	44%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	41%	13%	46%
Metro area	46%	19%	35%
Region not identified	22%	17%	61%
Total	41%	12%	47%
<b>2007</b>			
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	43%	14%	43%
Northland Foundation	46%	10%	45%
West Central Initiative	49%	8%	43%
Initiative Foundation	44%	9%	46%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	31%	16%	53%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	43%	13%	44%
Metro area	43%	10%	48%
Region not identified	41%	17%	41%
Total	43%	12%	46%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 8% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

**A54. Please identify the three issues you feel most strongly needs to be addressed in your community.**

<b>2005</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
26 Attracted businesses to my region that pay household-supporting wages	624	52%
32 Had high quality K-12 education	535	34%
27 Retained businesses that pay household-supporting wages	417	26%
41 Reduced illegal drug use	411	26%
47 Addressed the increasing cost of health care and insurance	402	25%
39 Ensured an adequate supply of affordable housing	201	13%
28 Supported local entrepreneurs	177	11%
29 Had quality health care accessible to my community	165	10%
38 Increasing the effectiveness of local government	160	10%
30 Had quality health care accessible to low income people	119	8%
45 Ensured sustainable use of natural resources	119	8%
33 Provided opportunities for adolescents to be productively engaged in community life	115	7%
36 Maintained the local infrastructure (such as roads, sewers, and bridges)	112	7%
37 Improved the local infrastructure	104	7%
44 Reduced the number of people who live in poverty in my community	115	7%
48 Reduced taxes	115	7%
31 Provided quality, affordable childcare and services for all children age 0-6	97	6%
40 Reduced crime	101	6%
50 Increased the involvement of area residents in local planning and projects	99	6%
42 Reduced alcohol abuse	80	5%
49 Responded to racial and ethnic diversity	85	5%
35 Provided affordable access to high speed internet connectivity	44	3%
34 Provided access to quality post secondary education	32	2%
43 Reduced domestic violence	38	2%
46 Productively engaged older adults in community life	33	2%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

**A54. Please identify the three issues you feel most strongly needs to be addressed in your community.**

<b>2007</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
28 Attracted businesses to my region that pay household-supporting wages	960	60%
34 Offered high K-12 education that meets your definition of quality	499	31%
29 Retained businesses that pay household-supporting wages	482	30%
50 Reduced the increasing cost of health care and insurance	235	15%
30 Supported local entrepreneurs	210	13%
31 Had quality health care accessible to my community	206	13%
35 Provided opportunities for young people to be productively engaged in community life	177	11%
40 Increased the effectiveness of local government including city, county and tribal	166	10%
44 Reduced illegal drug use	155	10%
42 Ensured an adequate supply of affordable housing	153	10%
48 Ensured that natural resource used decisions are made with the needs of future generations in mind	147	9%
38 Maintained the local infrastructure (such as roads, sewers, and bridges)	142	9%
32 Had quality health care accessible to low income people in my region	130	8%
39 Improved the local infrastructure	129	8%
47 Reduced the number of people who live in poverty in my community	126	8%
52 Improved community interaction with racial and ethnic minorities	114	7%
41 Increased cooperation among local units of government	109	7%
51 Reduced taxes	109	7%
53 Increased the involvement of area residents in local planning and projects	109	7%
33 Provided quality, affordable childcare and services for all children age 0-6	91	6%
36 Provided access to quality education beyond high school	71	4%
43 Reduced crime	68	4%
45 Reduced alcohol abuse	60	4%
37 Provided affordable access to high speed internet connectivity	54	3%
49 Productively engaged older adults in community life	40	3%
46 Reduced domestic violence	18	1%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

**A55. If there is an issue that you feel strongly needs to be addressed in your community and it is not listed above, please describe briefly.**

2005	Northwest Minnesota Foundation		Northland Foundation		West Central Initiative	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
10 Business Development	3	12%	10	15%	6	17%
30 Child Care	-	-	-	-	-	-
40 Community Issues	4	16%	9	13%	4	11%
50 Community Services	-	-	4	6%	3	9%
60 Conservation Issues	2	8%	3	4%	2	6%
70 Crime	1	4%	2	3%	2	6%
80 Diversity Issues	2	8%	1	1%	1	3%
90 Education	1	4%	6	9%	5	14%
100 Employment	1	4%	2	3%	-	-
110 Government Issues, Local	-	-	10	15%	3	9%
120 Government Issues, Regional	2	8%	8	12%	3	9%
130 Government Issues, State Level	-	-	2	3%	1	3%
140 Health Care	1	4%	4	6%	-	-
150 Housing	-	-	3	4%	1	3%
160 Population Issues	1	4%	-	-	-	-
170 Poverty Issues	2	8%	2	3%	2	6%
180 Services for Seniors	-	-	-	-	-	-
190 Services for youth	2	8%	1	1%	1	3%
200 Transportation	-	-	-	-	-	-
210 Tribal Issues	1	4%	2	3%	1	3%
220 Urban Issues	-	-	-	-	-	-
239 Responsible parenting/teach responsibility/parental support	3	12%	1	1%	-	-
241 Gambling	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	25	100%	69	100%	35	100%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

**A55. If there is an issue that you feel strongly needs to be addressed in your community and it is not listed above, please describe briefly. (continued)**

<b>2005</b>	<b>Initiative Foundation</b>		<b>Southwest Minnesota Foundation</b>		<b>Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation</b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
10 Business Development	7	13%	4	10%	4	8%
30 Child Care	1	2%	-	-	-	-
40 Community Issues	4	7%	6	15%	9	17%
50 Community Services	9	16%	7	17%	5	9%
60 Conservation Issues	3	5%	3	7%	7	13%
70 Crime	-	-	2	5%	2	4%
80 Diversity Issues	-	-	3	7%	1	2%
90 Education	1	2%	-	-	3	6%
100 Employment	-	-	-	-	2	4%
110 Government Issues, Local	10	18%	2	5%	3	6%
120 Government Issues, Regional	2	4%	1	2%	6	11%
130 Government Issues, State Level	1	2%	3	7%	2	4%
140 Health Care	3	5%	2	5%	4	8%
150 Housing	1	2%	1	2%	-	-
160 Population Issues	2	4%	3	7%	1	2%
170 Poverty Issues	1	2%	-	-	1	2%
180 Services for Seniors	1	2%	-	-	-	-
190 Services for youth	2	4%	1	2%	-	-
200 Transportation	3	5%	1	2%	1	2%
210 Tribal Issues	1	2%	1	2%	-	-
220 Urban Issues	1	2%	-	-	-	-
239 Responsible parenting/teach responsibility/parental support	-	-	1	2%	1	2%
241 Gambling	3	5%	-	-	1	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

**A55. If there is an issue that you feel strongly needs to be addressed in your community and it is not listed above, please describe briefly. (continued)**

2005	Metro area		Region not identified		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
10 Business Development	1	17%	1	33%	36	13%
30 Child Care	-	-	-	-	1	<1%
40 Community Issues	1	17%	-	-	37	13%
50 Community Services	-	-	-	-	28	10%
60 Conservation Issues	1	17%	-	-	21	7%
70 Crime	1	17%	-	-	10	34%
80 Diversity Issues	-	-	-	-	8	3%
90 Education	-	-	-	-	16	6%
100 Employment	-	-	-	-	5	2%
110 Government Issues, Local	1	17%	1	33%	30	10%
120 Government Issues, Regional	-	-	1	33%	23	8%
130 Government Issues, State Level	-	-	-	-	9	3%
140 Health Care	-	-	-	-	14	5%
150 Housing	-	-	-	-	6	2%
160 Population Issues	1	17%	-	-	8	3%
170 Poverty Issues	-	-	-	-	8	3%
180 Services for Seniors	-	-	-	-	1	<1%
190 Services for youth	-	-	-	-	7	2%
200 Transportation	-	-	-	-	5	2%
210 Tribal Issues	-	-	-	-	6	2%
220 Urban Issues	-	-	-	-	1	<1%
239 Responsible parenting/teach responsibility/parental support	-	-	-	-	6	2%
241 Gambling	-	-	-	-	4	1%
Total	6	100%	3	100%	288	100%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

**A55. If there is an issue that you feel strongly needs to be addressed in your community and it is not listed above, please describe briefly. (continued)**

2007	Northwest Minnesota Foundation		Northland Foundation		West Central Initiative	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
10 Business Development	2	4%	5	3%	3	5%
30 Child Care	-	-	1	1%	1	2%
40 Community Issues	1	2%	1	1%	1	2%
50 Community Services	1	2%	2	1%	-	-
60 Conservation Issues	3	6%	10	6%	1	2%
70 Crime	1	2%	1	1%	-	-
80 Diversity Issues	1	2%	1	1%	1	2%
90 Education	2	4%	7	4%	1	2%
100 Employment	2	4%	5	3%	-	-
110 Government Issues, Local	-	-	9	6%	1	2%
120 Government Issues, Regional	-	-	1	1%	-	-
130 Government Issues, State Level	1	2%	-	-	-	-
140 Health Care	3	6%	3	2%	1	2%
150 Housing	2	4%	4	3%	-	-
160 Population Issues	-	-	2	1%	1	2%
170 Poverty Issues	1	2%	3	2%	1	2%
180 Services for Seniors	2	4%	1	1%	3	5%
190 Services for youth	-	-	2	1%	1	2%
200 Transportation	1	2%	5	3%	2	3%
210 Tribal Issues	2	4%	1	1%		
220 Urban Issues	-	-	-	-		
239 Responsible parenting/teach responsibility/parental support	-	-	-	-		
241 Gambling	-	-	-	-		
Total	25	50%	64	42%	18	33%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.



**A55. If there is an issue that you feel strongly needs to be addressed in your community and it is not listed above, please describe briefly. (continued)**

<b>2007</b>	<b>Initiative Foundation</b>		<b>Southwest Minnesota Foundation</b>		<b>Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation</b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
10 Business Development	3	4%	-	-	1	1%
30 Child Care	-	-	-	-	-	-
40 Community Issues	4	5%	-	-	4	4%
50 Community Services	-	-	2	3%	1	1%
60 Conservation Issues	2	3%	5	6%	8	7%
70 Crime	2	3%	-	-	3	3%
80 Diversity Issues	-	-	-	-	1	1%
90 Education	4	5%	4	5%	1	1%
100 Employment	1	1%	2	3%	-	-
110 Government Issues, Local	-	-	3	4%	3	3%
120 Government Issues, Regional	-	-	-	-	2	2%
130 Government Issues, State Level	2	3%	1	1%	2	2%
140 Health Care	-	-	-	-	1	1%
150 Housing	2	3%	1	1%	1	1%
160 Population Issues	3	4%	-	-	1	1%
170 Poverty Issues	-	-	-	-	2	2%
180 Services for Seniors	-	-	-	-	2	2%
190 Services for youth	1	1%	1	1%	1	1%
200 Transportation	7	9%	1	1%	2	2%
210 Tribal Issues	1	1%				
220 Urban Issues	-	-				
239 Responsible parenting/teach responsibility/parental support						
241 Gambling						
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>35%</b>

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

**A55. If there is an issue that you feel strongly needs to be addressed in your community and it is not listed above, please describe briefly. (continued)**

<b>2007</b>	<b>Metro area</b>		<b>Region not identified</b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
10 Business Development	-	-	-	-
30 Child Care	-	-	-	-
40 Community Issues	-	-	-	-
50 Community Services	-	-	-	-
60 Conservation Issues	1	13%	-	-
70 Crime	-	-	-	-
80 Diversity Issues	-	-	-	-
90 Education	-	-	-	-
100 Employment	-	-	-	-
110 Government Issues, Local	-	-	-	-
120 Government Issues, Regional	-	-	-	-
130 Government Issues, State Level	-	-	-	-
140 Health Care	-	-	-	-
150 Housing	-	-	-	-
160 Population Issues	1	13%	-	-
170 Poverty Issues	-	-	-	-
180 Services for Seniors	-	-	-	-
190 Services for youth	-	-	-	-
200 Transportation	-	-	-	-
210 Tribal Issues	-	-	-	-
220 Urban Issues	-	-	-	-
239 Responsible parenting/teach responsibility/parental support	-	-	-	-
241 Gambling	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.-

**A56. How would you rate the overall quality of life in your community today? Would you say that quality of life now is**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Very good</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Poor</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	22%	54%	21%	3%
Northland Foundation	22%	63%	15%	1%
West Central Initiative	26%	61%	11%	2%
Initiative Foundation	20%	64%	15%	1%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	30%	57%	13%	<1%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	33%	58%	9%	1%
Metro area	16%	71%	13%	-
Region not identified	24%	52%	24%	-
Total	26%	60%	13%	1%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	24%	61%	12%	3%
Northland Foundation	23%	62%	14%	1%
West Central Initiative	29%	61%	11%	-
Initiative Foundation	27%	60%	13%	1%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	30%	60%	9%	2%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	33%	59%	8%	1%
Metro area	25%	58%	13%	4%
Region not identified	19%	68%	10%	3%
Total	28%	60%	11%	1%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, <1% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

**A57. When you compare the overall quality of life in your community now to what your community was like five years ago, would you say that life now is**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Much better</b>	<b>Somewhat better</b>	<b>Somewhat worse</b>	<b>Much worse</b>	<b>About the same</b>
<b>2005</b>					
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	7%	42%	17%	1%	33%
Northland Foundation	3%	37%	26%	2%	32%
West Central Initiative	3%	44%	14%	2%	37%
Initiative Foundation	4%	54%	19%	2%	22%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	6%	46%	14%	2%	32%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	6%	44%	17%	1%	33%
Metro area	7%	50%	20%	-	23%
Region not identified	-	36%	33%	-	29%
Total	5%	44%	19%	2%	31%
<b>2007</b>					
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	6%	52%	31%	10%	1%
Northland Foundation	2%	44%	38%	15%	1%
West Central Initiative	3%	49%	36%	12%	1%
Initiative Foundation	6%	38%	43%	13%	-
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	5%	42%	41%	11%	1%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	6%	43%	38%	13%	1%
Metro area	4%	52%	30%	13%	-
Region not identified	7%	40%	33%	20%	-
Total	4%	44%	13%	1%	38%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 2% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

**A58. Would you recommend your community to someone else as a good place to live?  
(2007)**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Definitely yes</b>	<b>Probably yes</b>	<b>Probably no</b>	<b>Definitely no</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	52%	36%	9%	2%
Northland Foundation	40%	50%	8%	1%
West Central Initiative	53%	42%	3%	2%
Initiative Foundation	48%	44%	8%	<1%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	59%	35%	6%	-
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	58%	36%	5%	2%
Metro area	53%	40%	7%	-
Region not identified	32%	56%	12%	-
Total	51%	41%	6%	1%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	59%	35%	4%	2%
Northland Foundation	53%	42%	5%	-
West Central Initiative	61%	34%	4%	1%
Initiative Foundation	49%	45%	6%	1%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	60%	34%	5%	-
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	57%	40%	3%	-
Metro area	48%	43%	9%	-
Region not identified	42%	55%	3%	-
Total	56%	39%	5%	1%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 2% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

**A59. How would you rate the economic health of your community today (economic opportunity for all)? Would you say it is**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Very good</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Poor</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	3%	34%	47%	16%
Northland Foundation	1%	23%	56%	20%
West Central Initiative	3%	42%	46%	9%
Initiative Foundation	6%	40%	43%	11%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	4%	46%	42%	8%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	6%	49%	39%	6%
Metro area	9%	34%	53%	3%
Region not identified	-	28%	48%	24%
Total	4%	39%	46%	11%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	3%	34%	46%	17%
Northland Foundation	3%	27%	53%	17%
West Central Initiative	6%	43%	42%	9%
Initiative Foundation	5%	30%	49%	16%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	9%	41%	41%	9%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	7%	44%	43%	6%
Metro area	4%	38%	46%	13%
Region not identified	9%	34%	31%	25%
Total	6%	36%	46%	12%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, <1% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

**A60. When you compare the economic health of your community to what it was like five years ago, would you say it is now...**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Much better</b>	<b>Somewhat better</b>	<b>About the same</b>	<b>Somewhat worse</b>	<b>Much worse</b>
<b>2005</b>					
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	5%	41%	30%	25%	-
Northland Foundation	2%	31%	26%	37%	5%
West Central Initiative	2%	36%	30%	28%	5%
Initiative Foundation	5%	45%	27%	20%	3%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	6%	36%	24%	30%	3%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	3%	35%	29%	31%	2%
Metro area	3%	34%	22%	41%	-
Region not identified	-	25%	21%	38%	17%
Total	4%	36%	27%	30%	3%
<b>2007</b>					
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	6%	38%	38%	17%	2%
Northland Foundation	4%	32%	37%	25%	2%
West Central Initiative	4%	29%	45%	20%	1%
Initiative Foundation	5%	30%	40%	23%	3%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	6%	33%	40%	19%	2%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	4%	35%	37%	23%	1%
Metro area	4%	26%	39%	26%	4%
Region not identified	3%	35%	39%	23%	-
Total	5%	33%	39%	22%	2%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 3% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

**A61. How difficult would you say it is for local employers to find qualified workers to fill available jobs in your community?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Very difficult</b>	<b>Somewhat difficult</b>	<b>Not that difficult</b>	<b>Somewhat easy</b>	<b>Very easy</b>
<b>2005</b>					
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	12%	51%	31%	4%	3%
Northland Foundation	9%	44%	29%	13%	6%
West Central Initiative	8%	41%	33%	12%	6%
Initiative Foundation	6%	39%	40%	10%	5%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	7%	52%	29%	10%	2%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	6%	43%	37%	9%	4%
Metro area	3%	31%	47%	13%	6%
Region not identified	8%	29%	38%	21%	4%
Total	8%	44%	33%	10%	5%
<b>2007</b>					
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	13%	65%	-	18%	4%
Northland Foundation	11%	62%	-	24%	4%
West Central Initiative	6%	58%	-	32%	3%
Initiative Foundation	6%	57%	-	30%	7%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	13%	63%	-	22%	2%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	10%	64%	-	22%	5%
Metro area	10%	38%	-	43%	10%
Region not identified	14%	55%	-	28%	3%
Total	10%	61%	-	25%	4%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 6% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.



**A62. To what extent has the racial or ethnic diversity of your community changed over the past five years? Would you say**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Much more diverse</b>	<b>Somewhat more diverse</b>	<b>Stayed about the same</b>	<b>Somewhat less diverse</b>	<b>Much less diverse</b>
<b>2005</b>					
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	9%	40%	48%	3%	-
Northland Foundation	3%	32%	62%	3%	1%
West Central Initiative	13%	37%	47%	2%	1%
Initiative Foundation	12%	38%	48%	1%	<1%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	31%	38%	31%	<1%	-
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	30%	44%	23%	3%	1%
Metro area	20%	53%	23%	-	3%
Region not identified	4%	38%	58%	-	-
Total	17%	38%	42%	2%	1%
<b>2007</b>					
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	10%	46%	40%	3%	1%
Northland Foundation	6%	39%	53%	1%	1%
West Central Initiative	11%	41%	44%	3%	1%
Initiative Foundation	11%	38%	50%	-	-
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	24%	47%	28%	-	-
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	32%	42%	24%	3%	-
Metro area	14%	48%	38%	-	-
Region not identified	28%	31%	41%	-	-
Total	17%	41%	39%	2%	-

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 3% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

**A63. When you compare the economic health of your community to what it was like five years ago would you say that economic disparities between the haves and have nots have**

In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?	Increased a great deal	Increased somewhat	Stayed about the same	Became somewhat worse	Decreased a great deal
<b>2007 – Question not asked in 2005</b>					
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	14%	42%	39%	5%	-
Northland Foundation	13%	47%	35%	5%	-
West Central Initiative	7%	44%	43%	5%	1%
Initiative Foundation	12%	45%	40%	3%	-
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	10%	45%	37%	7%	-
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	15%	43%	39%	3%	-
Metro area	19%	19%	62%	-	-
Region not identified	12%	46%	31%	12%	-
Total	13%	44%	39%	5%	-

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 4% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

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**A64. I can count on my neighbors when I need help**

In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	47%	45%	8%	-
Northland Foundation	44%	52%	4%	-
West Central Initiative	50%	47%	3%	1%
Initiative Foundation	46%	49%	3%	1%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	47%	47%	3%	3%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	50%	43%	7%	1%
Metro area	38%	59%	3%	-
Region not identified	48%	48%	4%	-
Total	47%	48%	4%	1%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	46%	50%	2%	1%
Northland Foundation	46%	48%	5%	1%
West Central Initiative	50%	44%	5%	1%
Initiative Foundation	47%	50%	3%	-
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	47%	50%	2%	-
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	51%	45%	4%	1%
Metro area	52%	43%	4%	-
Region not identified	41%	48%	7%	4%
Total	48%	48%	4%	1%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 2% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

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**A65. Residents of my community generally trust each other**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	15%	69%	14%	2%
Northland Foundation	15%	73%	12%	<1%
West Central Initiative	24%	68%	7%	1%
Initiative Foundation	14%	72%	13%	1%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	19%	72%	8%	1%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	16%	75%	9%	1%
Metro area	16%	69%	9%	6%
Region not identified	13%	71%	13%	4%
Total	17%	72%	10%	1%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	17%	70%	11%	2%
Northland Foundation	18%	67%	14%	1%
West Central Initiative	31%	63%	6%	1%
Initiative Foundation	15%	73%	11%	-
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	20%	73%	7%	1%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	17%	71%	11%	1%
Metro area	30%	57%	13%	-
Region not identified	15%	74%	7%	4%
Total	20%	69%	11%	1%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 2% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

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**A66. The economy in my community is well diversified**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	3%	43%	44%	11%
Northland Foundation	2%	30%	54%	12%
West Central Initiative	5%	49%	40%	7%
Initiative Foundation	4%	43%	48%	5%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	6%	58%	34%	3%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	7%	52%	35%	6%
Metro area	11%	44%	30%	15%
Region not identified	5%	43%	33%	19%
Total	5%	46%	42%	8%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	4%	43%	43%	10%
Northland Foundation	1%	25%	64%	9%
West Central Initiative	7%	44%	43%	6%
Initiative Foundation	3%	38%	56%	4%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	5%	51%	42%	3%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	9%	50%	38%	3%
Metro area	4%	43%	52%	-
Region not identified	11%	48%	26%	15%
Total	5%	41%	48%	6%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 4% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

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**A67. The economic environment in my community would be good for starting a business**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	4%	53%	36%	6%
Northland Foundation	3%	44%	42%	10%
West Central Initiative	12%	48%	37%	4%
Initiative Foundation	12%	51%	33%	4%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	9%	56%	32%	3%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	8%	54%	33%	4%
Metro area	7%	55%	32%	7%
Region not identified	-	75%	25%	-
Total	8%	52%	35%	5%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	4%	62%	29%	5%
Northland Foundation	4%	45%	44%	8%
West Central Initiative	12%	56%	28%	5%
Initiative Foundation	11%	50%	36%	3%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	9%	59%	27%	5%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	10%	55%	32%	3%
Metro area	9%	57%	30%	4%
Region not identified	-	43%	30%	26%
Total	8%	53%	34%	5%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 9% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

**A68. My community has an adequate number of jobs that pay household supporting wages**

In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	2%	19%	55%	24%
Northland Foundation	-	9%	59%	33%
West Central Initiative	2%	17%	62%	19%
Initiative Foundation	1%	18%	63%	18%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	1%	24%	58%	17%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	2%	19%	66%	14%
Metro area	-	19%	71%	10%
Region not identified	4%	4%	57%	35%
Total	1%	17%	61%	21%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	2%	19%	58%	21%
Northland Foundation	1%	14%	63%	23%
West Central Initiative	2%	24%	56%	17%
Initiative Foundation	-	16%	71%	14%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	2%	28%	59%	11%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	1%	25%	68%	7%
Metro area	-	18%	64%	18%
Region not identified	12%	23%	38%	27%
Total	1%	21%	63%	15%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 4% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

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**A69. My community recognizes diversity as a strength**

In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	3%	27%	56%	14%
Northland Foundation	1%	28%	52%	19%
West Central Initiative	6%	34%	44%	16%
Initiative Foundation	-	26%	60%	15%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	4%	33%	53%	11%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	3%	28%	56%	13%
Metro area	-	29%	54%	18%
Region not identified	-	28%	56%	17%
Total	3%	29%	54%	15%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	4%	30%	56%	11%
Northland Foundation	1%	26%	56%	16%
West Central Initiative	3%	39%	48%	10%
Initiative Foundation	1%	29%	60%	10%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	3%	35%	54%	8%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	3%	29%	57%	11%
Metro area	-	24%	59%	18%
Region not identified	4%	26%	57%	13%
Total	2%	30%	56%	12%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 14% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.



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**A70. My community is genuinely welcoming to people of diverse backgrounds**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	1%	39%	53%	8%
Northland Foundation	3%	34%	52%	11%
West Central Initiative	4%	41%	46%	9%
Initiative Foundation	1%	35%	57%	7%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	1%	41%	51%	7%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	1%	34%	54%	10%
Metro area	7%	47%	43%	3%
Region not identified	5%	50%	41%	5%
Total	2%	37%	52%	9%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	7%	36%	50%	7%
Northland Foundation	1%	35%	55%	9%
West Central Initiative	5%	34%	54%	7%
Initiative Foundation	1%	44%	48%	8%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	2%	41%	50%	7%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	3%	37%	52%	8%
Metro area	-	47%	47%	5%
Region not identified	-	48%	44%	8%
Total	3%	38%	52%	8%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 10% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

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**A71. There is racial or ethnic tension in my community**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	12%	41%	42%	5%
Northland Foundation	3%	37%	53%	7%
West Central Initiative	3%	38%	50%	9%
Initiative Foundation	9%	36%	48%	7%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	5%	45%	45%	5%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	5%	56%	34%	5%
Metro area	3%	26%	61%	10%
Region not identified	-	33%	52%	14%
Total	6%	43%	45%	6%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	9%	43%	43%	5%
Northland Foundation	6%	48%	40%	7%
West Central Initiative	4%	27%	56%	13%
Initiative Foundation	8%	30%	52%	10%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	6%	35%	51%	8%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	6%	49%	37%	8%
Metro area	4%	30%	48%	17%
Region not identified	12%	40%	36%	12%
Total	6%	40%	45%	9%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 9% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

**A72. People of all backgrounds have meaningful opportunities to participate in planning and decision-making here**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	3%	46%	40%	10%
Northland Foundation	5%	46%	41%	8%
West Central Initiative	4%	45%	45%	6%
Initiative Foundation	4%	44%	43%	10%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	<1%	43%	48%	9%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	4%	41%	46%	9%
Metro area	4%	52%	41%	4%
Region not identified	-	39%	50%	11%
Total	3%	44%	44%	9%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	6%	38%	50%	6%
Northland Foundation	5%	44%	43%	8%
West Central Initiative	2%	57%	34%	7%
Initiative Foundation	5%	52%	38%	5%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	3%	42%	50%	6%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	4%	47%	42%	7%
Metro area	-	63%	32%	5%
Region not identified	-	48%	48%	4%
Total	4%	47%	42%	7%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 9% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

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**A73. I generally feel safe in my community**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	23%	69%	8%	1%
Northland Foundation	27%	71%	1%	1%
West Central Initiative	33%	63%	4%	1%
Initiative Foundation	20%	75%	4%	-
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	23%	73%	4%	1%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	31%	67%	1%	1%
Metro area	19%	72%	6%	3%
Region not identified	17%	78%	4%	-
Total	26%	70%	3%	1%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	28%	67%	5%	-
Northland Foundation	34%	61%	4%	-
West Central Initiative	44%	56%	1%	-
Initiative Foundation	26%	71%	3%	-
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	41%	58%	1%	-
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	39%	59%	2%	-
Metro area	35%	57%	9%	-
Region not identified	20%	72%	8%	-
Total	36%	62%	3%	-

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 4% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

**A74. My community doesn't have more crime than any other community about the same size in Minnesota**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	16%	58%	19%	9%
Northland Foundation	17%	73%	8%	2%
West Central Initiative	26%	71%	3%	1%
Initiative Foundation	12%	74%	10%	3%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	15%	72%	11%	3%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	27%	66%	6%	1%
Metro area	23%	68%	7%	3%
Region not identified	14%	81%	5%	-
Total	19%	70%	8%	3%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	14%	55%	27%	4%
Northland Foundation	21%	66%	14%	-
West Central Initiative	30%	67%	3%	-
Initiative Foundation	16%	68%	14%	2%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	29%	65%	6%	1%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	27%	61%	10%	2%
Metro area	29%	57%	10%	5%
Region not identified	24%	71%	-	5%
Total	23%	64%	11%	2%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 7% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

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**A75. My community is just as safe as it was five years ago**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	9%	49%	36%	6%
Northland Foundation	11%	56%	30%	3%
West Central Initiative	11%	55%	33%	1%
Initiative Foundation	7%	43%	48%	2%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	8%	52%	36%	5%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	16%	48%	33%	3%
Metro area	16%	23%	58%	3%
Region not identified	-	70%	30%	-
Total	11%	51%	36%	3%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	12%	56%	30%	2%
Northland Foundation	13%	52%	32%	2%
West Central Initiative	17%	55%	28%	-
Initiative Foundation	10%	56%	33%	2%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	17%	58%	25%	1%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	19%	49%	30%	2%
Metro area	13%	57%	30%	-
Region not identified	14%	52%	29%	5%
Total	15%	54%	30%	2%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 4% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

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**A76. Illegal drug use in my community is increasing**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	36%	60%	4%	1%
Northland Foundation	34%	57%	8%	<1%
West Central Initiative	28%	63%	9%	1%
Initiative Foundation	37%	57%	7%	-
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	31%	60%	8%	1%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	23%	65%	12%	-
Metro area	13%	80%	3%	3%
Region not identified	37%	58%	5%	-
Total	30%	61%	8%	<1%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	12%	62%	25%	1%
Northland Foundation	11%	65%	23%	1%
West Central Initiative	6%	55%	35%	3%
Initiative Foundation	11%	59%	30%	1%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	7%	53%	39%	1%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	10%	55%	33%	2%
Metro area	12%	71%	18%	-
Region not identified	5%	84%	11%	-
Total	10%	59%	30%	1%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 23% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

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**A77. Alcohol abuse in my community is increasing**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	18%	51%	31%	1%
Northland Foundation	15%	41%	44%	<1%
West Central Initiative	13%	44%	43%	1%
Initiative Foundation	15%	51%	33%	1%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	12%	43%	44%	1%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	8%	44%	48%	<1%
Metro area	4%	50%	42%	4%
Region not identified	13%	60%	27%	-
Total	13%	45%	42%	1%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	5%	52%	38%	4%
Northland Foundation	5%	51%	44%	-
West Central Initiative	7%	42%	49%	2%
Initiative Foundation	7%	54%	38%	1%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	2%	42%	55%	1%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	7%	46%	46%	1%
Metro area	8%	69%	23%	-
Region not identified	6%	72%	22%	-
Total	6%	49%	45%	1%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 30% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.



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**A78. A person with alcohol or drug addiction in my community can get help**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	7%	72%	10%	1%
Northland Foundation	10%	82%	7%	1%
West Central Initiative	12%	80%	7%	2%
Initiative Foundation	11%	82%	6%	1%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	15%	79%	6%	<1%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	15%	75%	9%	2%
Metro area	22%	67%	11%	-
Region not identified	9%	77%	14%	-
Total	13%	78%	7%	1%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	17%	73%	7%	3%
Northland Foundation	17%	75%	8%	-
West Central Initiative	19%	73%	7%	1%
Initiative Foundation	16%	73%	11%	1%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	17%	74%	7%	1%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	20%	73%	6%	1%
Metro area	10%	80%	10%	-
Region not identified	14%	57%	24%	5%
Total	18%	74%	8%	1%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 6% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

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**A79. Family violence is increasing in my community**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	3%	49%	49%	-
Northland Foundation	6%	51%	43%	1%
West Central Initiative	5%	34%	59%	2%
Initiative Foundation	5%	55%	41%	-
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	5%	44%	50%	1%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	3%	34%	62%	1%
Metro area	-	56%	38%	6%
Region not identified	13%	27%	60%	-
Total	5%	44%	51%	1%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	3%	38%	54%	5%
Northland Foundation	3%	45%	52%	1%
West Central Initiative	5%	39%	52%	3%
Initiative Foundation	2%	50%	47%	1%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	4%	37%	58%	1%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	-	37%	62%	1%
Metro area	-	30%	70%	-
Region not identified	17%	67%	17%	-
Total	3%	41%	55%	1%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 46% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

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**A80. People in my community take an active role to prevent domestic violence**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	2%	46%	48%	4%
Northland Foundation	5%	54%	36%	4%
West Central Initiative	6%	55%	35%	4%
Initiative Foundation	1%	52%	43%	4%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	2%	51%	42%	5%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	3%	51%	44%	3%
Metro area	-	35%	60%	5%
Region not identified	-	37%	58%	5%
Total	3%	51%	41%	4%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	3%	46%	47%	4%
Northland Foundation	6%	61%	30%	3%
West Central Initiative	7%	59%	32%	2%
Initiative Foundation	1%	52%	45%	2%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	2%	57%	39%	2%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	3%	51%	45%	2%
Metro area	-	53%	47%	-
Region not identified	-	53%	29%	18%
Total	4%	55%	39%	3%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 27% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

**A81. When new projects are planned in my community, the potential impact on the environment is given due consideration**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	9%	68%	20%	3%
Northland Foundation	13%	66%	18%	3%
West Central Initiative	14%	69%	14%	3%
Initiative Foundation	8%	59%	29%	5%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	8%	71%	18%	3%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	10%	63%	22%	6%
Metro area	10%	66%	24%	-
Region not identified	10%	80%	5%	5%
Total	11%	66%	20%	4%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	12%	54%	31%	2%
Northland Foundation	16%	63%	18%	4%
West Central Initiative	12%	68%	19%	1%
Initiative Foundation	6%	69%	22%	3%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	7%	68%	24%	1%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	9%	67%	21%	4%
Metro area	-	80%	20%	-
Region not identified	6%	56%	31%	6%
Total	10%	65%	21%	3%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 12% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

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**A82. My community's natural resources are a significant asset**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	46%	47%	7%	-
Northland Foundation	63%	35%	3%	<1%
West Central Initiative	38%	52%	10%	1%
Initiative Foundation	47%	47%	5%	1%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	35%	52%	13%	1%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	37%	51%	11%	1%
Metro area	23%	50%	23%	3%
Region not identified	55%	36%	9%	-
Total	44%	47%	9%	1%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	52%	42%	7%	-
Northland Foundation	73%	26%	1%	-
West Central Initiative	42%	51%	7%	1%
Initiative Foundation	49%	45%	6%	-
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	29%	62%	9%	-
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	41%	48%	10%	1%
Metro area	35%	43%	22%	-
Region not identified	30%	65%	-	5%
Total	49%	44%	7%	-

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 4% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

**A83. In my community there are public health problems that are directly related to an environmental problem or issue**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	9%	16%	56%	19%
Northland Foundation	4%	20%	63%	13%
West Central Initiative	3%	14%	68%	14%
Initiative Foundation	3%	13%	69%	15%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	6%	12%	70%	13%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	2%	11%	73%	13%
Metro area	-	13%	67%	21%
Region not identified	6%	17%	67%	11%
Total	4%	14%	68%	14%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	4%	23%	64%	10%
Northland Foundation	8%	29%	53%	10%
West Central Initiative	3%	15%	70%	12%
Initiative Foundation	2%	20%	68%	10%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	1%	16%	72%	10%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	4%	15%	70%	11%
Metro area	-	33%	38%	29%
Region not identified	9%	18%	73%	-
Total	4%	20%	65%	11%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 18% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

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**A84. My community offers all residents good opportunities for recreation**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	18%	59%	19%	4%
Northland Foundation	27%	57%	14%	2%
West Central Initiative	16%	59%	22%	4%
Initiative Foundation	18%	53%	25%	4%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	20%	57%	20%	3%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	26%	54%	18%	2%
Metro area	22%	44%	34%	-
Region not identified	17%	52%	26%	4%
Total	22%	56%	20%	3%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	23%	50%	22%	4%
Northland Foundation	36%	51%	12%	2%
West Central Initiative	23%	54%	21%	2%
Initiative Foundation	15%	64%	20%	1%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	16%	65%	18%	1%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	27%	61%	12%	-
Metro area	22%	61%	17%	-
Region not identified	5%	55%	40%	-
Total	25%	58%	16%	1%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 1% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

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**A85. Cultural opportunities and the arts make a significant contribution to my community's economy**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	13%	34%	45%	8%
Northland Foundation	19%	37%	35%	9%
West Central Initiative	6%	40%	45%	9%
Initiative Foundation	4%	42%	46%	9%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	10%	39%	43%	8%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	14%	43%	36%	7%
Metro area	11%	14%	68%	7%
Region not identified	-	32%	64%	5%
Total	12%	39%	41%	82%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	19%	40%	37%	4%
Northland Foundation	27%	38%	29%	5%
West Central Initiative	15%	42%	39%	4%
Initiative Foundation	5%	50%	41%	5%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	8%	43%	44%	5%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	19%	46%	33%	2%
Metro area	8%	46%	42%	4%
Region not identified	13%	31%	31%	25%
Total	17%	43%	36%	4%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 4% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.



**A86. There are adequate opportunities for all members of our community to access and enjoy the natural resources of our area**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	28%	56%	15%	2%
Northland Foundation	30%	63%	6%	1%
West Central Initiative	13%	76%	9%	2%
Initiative Foundation	14%	69%	16%	1%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	19%	66%	13%	2%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	23%	68%	8%	1%
Metro area	11%	79%	12%	-
Region not identified	9%	73%	18%	-
Total	21%	67%	12%	13%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	33%	54%	13%	-
Northland Foundation	40%	50%	8%	1%
West Central Initiative	27%	59%	14%	1%
Initiative Foundation	21%	68%	10%	1%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	17%	69%	13%	1%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	28%	63%	9%	-
Metro area	27%	50%	23%	-
Region not identified	20%	65%	15%	-
Total	28%	60%	11%	1%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 2% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

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**A87. People of all ages take advantage of educational opportunities in my community**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	16%	62%	17%	4%
Northland Foundation	10%	69%	19%	2%
West Central Initiative	8%	71%	21%	1%
Initiative Foundation	8%	70%	21%	1%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	9%	68%	20%	3%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	16%	65%	18%	2%
Metro area	7%	77%	16%	-
Region not identified	5%	68%	26%	-
Total	11%	68%	19%	2%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	8%	52%	37%	2%
Northland Foundation	14%	60%	26%	1%
West Central Initiative	14%	61%	23%	2%
Initiative Foundation	5%	62%	33%	-
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	6%	63%	29%	2%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	15%	63%	22%	-
Metro area	21%	53%	26%	-
Region not identified	-	59%	41%	-
Total	11%	61%	27%	1%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 9% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

**A88. People who need training for their job or to improve their opportunities in the workforce can get such training in my community or region**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	15%	62%	21%	2%
Northland Foundation	8%	65%	22%	4%
West Central Initiative	16%	64%	18%	2%
Initiative Foundation	10%	71%	16%	3%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	14%	70%	12%	5%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	17%	65%	14%	4%
Metro area	7%	65%	19%	10%
Region not identified	23%	73%	5%	-
Total	13%	67%	17%	4%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	14%	65%	17%	4%
Northland Foundation	16%	60%	20%	3%
West Central Initiative	16%	61%	19%	4%
Initiative Foundation	9%	66%	24%	-
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	12%	68%	18%	3%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	14%	69%	15%	1%
Metro area	10%	65%	20%	5%
Region not identified	-	71%	24%	6%
Total	14%	65%	19%	2%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 5% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

**A89. There is enough affordable quality child care for people who need it in my community**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	4%	40%	42%	13%
Northland Foundation	4%	33%	50%	14%
West Central Initiative	4%	38%	46%	12%
Initiative Foundation	2%	56%	37%	6%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	4%	51%	37%	7%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	2%	46%	43%	9%
Metro area	8%	42%	42%	8%
Region not identified	-	58%	37%	5%
Total	3%	44%	43%	10%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	4%	42%	47%	7%
Northland Foundation	2%	38%	46%	14%
West Central Initiative	5%	43%	45%	7%
Initiative Foundation	4%	44%	44%	7%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	2%	49%	42%	7%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	3%	47%	42%	8%
Metro area	18%	24%	59%	-
Region not identified	-	54%	38%	8%
Total	3%	44%	44%	9%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 25% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

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**A90. The schools in my community are using up-to-date technology, including the internet and distance learning**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	23%	69%	7%	2%
Northland Foundation	13%	68%	17%	2%
West Central Initiative	22%	64%	11%	3%
Initiative Foundation	22%	68%	8%	2%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	24%	70%	5%	<1%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	23%	62%	13%	3%
Metro area	33%	60%	7%	-
Region not identified	14%	67%	19%	-
Total	21%	66%	11%	2%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	25%	66%	8%	2%
Northland Foundation	13%	68%	16%	3%
West Central Initiative	23%	59%	14%	4%
Initiative Foundation	19%	73%	8%	1%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	21%	67%	10%	2%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	23%	59%	14%	4%
Metro area	27%	64%	9%	-
Region not identified	19%	56%	25%	-
Total	20%	65%	12%	3%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 7% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

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**A91. Older adults are productively engaged in community life**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	9%	76%	14%	1%
Northland Foundation	5%	78%	16%	1%
West Central Initiative	8%	75%	17%	1%
Initiative Foundation	4%	79%	16%	1%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	9%	76%	15%	<1%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	13%	72%	14%	2%
Metro area	7%	86%	7%	-
Region not identified	-	52%	43%	5%
Total	8%	75%	15%	1%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	6%	78%	16%	-
Northland Foundation	13%	72%	14%	1%
West Central Initiative	10%	77%	12%	1%
Initiative Foundation	7%	76%	17%	-
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	4%	83%	12%	1%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	14%	71%	15%	-
Metro area	28%	50%	22%	-
Region not identified	-	69%	25%	6%
Total	10%	75%	15%	1%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 8% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

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**A92. Youth are productively engaged in community life**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	3%	43%	47%	7%
Northland Foundation	1%	49%	47%	4%
West Central Initiative	3%	63%	32%	2%
Initiative Foundation	2%	55%	41%	1%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	3%	53%	42%	3%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	3%	57%	37%	3%
Metro area	-	69%	31%	-
Region not identified	-	46%	50%	5%
Total	2%	54%	41%	3%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	2%	44%	51%	3%
Northland Foundation	2%	53%	42%	3%
West Central Initiative	8%	54%	37%	1%
Initiative Foundation	1%	55%	43%	1%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	1%	56%	42%	1%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	5%	54%	39%	2%
Metro area	21%	53%	26%	-
Region not identified	-	41%	53%	6%
Total	3%	53%	41%	2%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 8% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

**A93. People from different backgrounds (ethnic, socio-economic, educational) fill leadership roles in my community**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	3%	37%	46%	14%
Northland Foundation	3%	45%	45%	8%
West Central Initiative	3%	44%	46%	7%
Initiative Foundation	2%	43%	46%	10%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	1%	37%	51%	11%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	2%	36%	53%	9%
Metro area	4%	23%	62%	12%
Region not identified	9%	36%	50%	5%
Total	2%	40%	49%	9 %
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	2%	33%	55%	11%
Northland Foundation	1%	30%	61%	7%
West Central Initiative	2%	36%	55%	7%
Initiative Foundation	1%	28%	63%	8%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	-	23%	69%	8%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	1%	29%	60%	9%
Metro area	5%	38%	52%	5%
Region not identified	-	53%	41%	6%
Total	1%	30%	61%	8%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 6% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.



**A94. When political conflict occurs in my community, it is generally handled in a healthy way**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	2%	41%	45%	12%
Northland Foundation	1%	44%	46%	9%
West Central Initiative	2%	60%	31%	8%
Initiative Foundation	1%	44%	44%	12%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	2%	59%	32%	7%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	2%	49%	38%	11%
Metro area	-	62%	35%	4%
Region not identified	-	52%	38%	10%
Total	2%	50%	39%	10%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	1%	38%	53%	8%
Northland Foundation	1%	31%	57%	11%
West Central Initiative	3%	54%	38%	5%
Initiative Foundation	1%	45%	42%	11%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	2%	55%	37%	6%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	1%	45%	45%	9%
Metro area	-	67%	28%	6%
Region not identified	-	67%	20%	13%
Total	2%	44%	46%	9%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 8% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

**A95. When environmental conflict occurs in my community, it is generally handled in a healthy way**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	2%	46%	50%	3%
Northland Foundation	2%	53%	39%	6%
West Central Initiative	4%	71%	22%	4%
Initiative Foundation	1%	56%	35%	8%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	1%	69%	27%	2%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	2%	63%	30%	5%
Metro area	-	68%	32%	-
Region not identified	-	79%	21%	-
Total	2%	61%	33%	5%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	1%	49%	44%	6%
Northland Foundation	1%	47%	44%	8%
West Central Initiative	3%	69%	26%	3%
Initiative Foundation	1%	58%	35%	6%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	3%	68%	27%	2%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	1%	62%	31%	6%
Metro area	-	65%	29%	6%
Region not identified	-	62%	31%	8%
Total	1%	58%	35%	5%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 16% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

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**A96. Community decisions here are guided by a variety of perspectives**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	4%	47%	45%	4%
Northland Foundation	2%	57%	35%	6%
West Central Initiative	2%	67%	28%	3%
Initiative Foundation	2%	61%	33%	3%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	3%	61%	34%	2%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	5%	58%	32%	5%
Metro area	-	68%	29%	3%
Region not identified	-	69%	31%	-
Total	3%	59%	34%	4%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	1%	57%	38%	4%
Northland Foundation	2%	61%	33%	4%
West Central Initiative	5%	65%	26%	4%
Initiative Foundation	2%	67%	27%	4%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	2%	65%	31%	2%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	4%	60%	31%	5%
Metro area	-	67%	29%	5%
Region not identified	-	75%	19%	6%
Total	3%	63%	31%	4%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 6% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

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**A97. Elected officials in my community are committed to the common good**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	14%	58%	23%	5%
Northland Foundation	7%	70%	19%	4%
West Central Initiative	10%	73%	15%	2%
Initiative Foundation	9%	60%	27%	4%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	10%	72%	17%	2%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	13%	62%	21%	4%
Metro area	10%	67%	23%	-
Region not identified	6%	71%	24%	-
Total	10%	66%	20%	3%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	13%	60%	22%	5%
Northland Foundation	7%	59%	30%	4%
West Central Initiative	17%	64%	16%	3%
Initiative Foundation	7%	70%	18%	5%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	11%	75%	11%	2%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	8%	62%	26%	3%
Metro area	10%	67%	24%	-
Region not identified	-	79%	14%	7%
Total	10%	65%	22%	4%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 5% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

**A98. Elected officials in my community make informed decisions based on the needs of all residents**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	11%	48%	35%	6%
Northland Foundation	5%	48%	42%	6%
West Central Initiative	7%	64%	27%	3%
Initiative Foundation	7%	46%	42%	6%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	6%	57%	35%	2%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	11%	49%	35%	6%
Metro area	7%	63%	19%	11%
Region not identified	7%	47%	40%	7%
Total	7%	52%	36%	5%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	8%	47%	40%	5%
Northland Foundation	4%	43%	46%	8%
West Central Initiative	13%	56%	27%	4%
Initiative Foundation	6%	54%	35%	5%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	7%	57%	32%	3%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	6%	49%	41%	5%
Metro area	10%	48%	43%	-
Region not identified	-	54%	38%	8%
Total	6%	50%	38%	5%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 7% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

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**A99. All residents in my community have equal access to essential and basic services**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	11%	61%	22%	6%
Northland Foundation	6%	62%	29%	3%
West Central Initiative	8%	69%	21%	2%
Initiative Foundation	7%	70%	22%	12%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	9%	67%	22%	2%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	13%	63%	20%	4%
Metro area	10%	72%	17%	-
Region not identified	13%	47%	33%	7%
Total	9%	65%	23%	3%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	9%	63%	26%	3%
Northland Foundation	6%	55%	36%	3%
West Central Initiative	12%	74%	13%	1%
Initiative Foundation	9%	71%	19%	-
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	7%	76%	16%	1%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	9%	67%	23%	1%
Metro area	5%	85%	10%	-
Region not identified	7%	71%	21%	-
Total	8%	67%	23%	2%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 8% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

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**A100. Quality of service in your community: Public transportation?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Very good</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Poor</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	5%	19%	34%	42%
Northland Foundation	3%	12%	37%	49%
West Central Initiative	7%	33%	32%	30%
Initiative Foundation	5%	19%	28%	48%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	10%	29%	38%	24%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	6%	30%	36%	27%
Metro area	3%	13%	28%	56%
Region not identified	-	39%	17%	44%
Total	6%	24%	34%	37%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	7%	19%	39%	35%
Northland Foundation	3%	23%	35%	39%
West Central Initiative	8%	31%	35%	26%
Initiative Foundation	5%	20%	36%	40%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	12%	33%	33%	22%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	6%	31%	37%	26%
Metro area	-	17%	33%	50%
Region not identified	8%	15%	38%	38%
Total	6%	26%	36%	32%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 2% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

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**A101. Quality of service in your community: Roads?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Very good</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Poor</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	12%	50%	35%	4%
Northland Foundation	2%	32%	45%	22%
West Central Initiative	6%	64%	26%	3%
Initiative Foundation	7%	57%	32%	4%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	7%	59%	29%	5%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	6%	57%	31%	6%
Metro area	12%	46%	42%	-
Region not identified	-	53%	35%	12%
Total	6%	52%	34%	9%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	8%	62%	27%	3%
Northland Foundation	3%	36%	48%	13%
West Central Initiative	9%	57%	30%	5%
Initiative Foundation	6%	59%	32%	3%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	11%	59%	28%	2%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	6%	54%	35%	5%
Metro area	4%	58%	33%	4%
Region not identified	8%	23%	54%	15%
Total	7%	52%	35%	6%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, <1% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.



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**A102. Quality of service in your community: Rail?**

In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	6%	22%	16%	56%
Northland Foundation	1%	21%	21%	57%
West Central Initiative	5%	31%	24%	40%
Initiative Foundation	2%	27%	16%	56%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	8%	29%	25%	38%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	4%	35%	24%	37%
Metro area	-	30%	19%	52%
Region not identified	8%	15%	23%	54%
Total	4%	28%	22%	46%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	1%	31%	20%	48%
Northland Foundation	3%	17%	20%	60%
West Central Initiative	4%	32%	23%	42%
Initiative Foundation	5%	24%	14%	57%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	5%	41%	28%	26%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	3%	35%	27%	34%
Metro area	-	19%	24%	57%
Region not identified	10%	10%	20%	60%
Total	4%	29%	23%	45%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 17% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

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**A103. Quality of service in your community: Air service?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Very good</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Poor</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	9%	24%	31%	37%
Northland Foundation	6%	16%	23%	54%
West Central Initiative	2%	26%	26%	46%
Initiative Foundation	4%	29%	33%	34%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	1%	17%	34%	48%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	3%	22%	30%	45%
Metro area	14%	17%	28%	41%
Region not identified	6%	24%	41%	29%
Total	4%	21%	29%	45%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	9%	24%	30%	37%
Northland Foundation	4%	21%	28%	47%
West Central Initiative	5%	25%	28%	42%
Initiative Foundation	5%	26%	25%	44%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	6%	22%	32%	40%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	2%	23%	36%	39%
Metro area	9%	36%	14%	41%
Region not identified	-	-	42%	58%
Total	5%	23%	30%	42%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 9% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

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**A104. Quality of service in your community: High speed internet service?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Very good</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Poor</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	34%	42%	21%	3%
Northland Foundation	13%	39%	32%	16%
West Central Initiative	27%	42%	22 %	9%
Initiative Foundation	21%	42%	24%	12%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	23%	49%	19%	9%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	27%	49%	19%	6%
Metro area	32%	42%	26%	-
Region not identified	29%	47%	18%	6%
Total	23%	44%	23%	10%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	24%	47%	20%	10%
Northland Foundation	16%	46%	28%	10%
West Central Initiative	31%	44%	18%	7%
Initiative Foundation	17%	48%	28%	8%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	27%	46%	21%	6%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	27%	47%	22%	4%
Metro area	13%	70%	13%	4%
Region not identified	25%	33%	17%	25%
Total	23%	47%	23%	7%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 2% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

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**A105. Quality of service in your community: Water?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Very good</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Poor</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	24%	61%	11%	3%
Northland Foundation	33%	56%	9%	3%
West Central Initiative	30%	54%	12%	5%
Initiative Foundation	35%	53%	9%	3%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	25%	54%	14%	7%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	33%	54%	11%	2%
Metro area	18%	73%	9%	-
Region not identified	33%	56%	11%	-
Total	31%	55%	11%	3%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	30%	56%	11%	3%
Northland Foundation	40%	48%	10%	2%
West Central Initiative	35%	51%	10%	4%
Initiative Foundation	28%	60%	10%	1%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	32%	54%	11%	4%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	34%	54%	11%	1%
Metro area	25%	63%	4%	8%
Region not identified	17%	58%	-	25%
Total	34%	54%	10%	2%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 1% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

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**A106. Quality of service in your community: Recycling?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Very good</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Poor</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	17%	55%	18%	10%
Northland Foundation	24%	52%	18%	6%
West Central Initiative	24%	52%	18%	6%
Initiative Foundation	26%	42%	21%	11%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	40%	47%	10%	3%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	40%	47%	12%	1%
Metro area	36%	58%	6%	-
Region not identified	28%	33%	33%	6%
Total	31%	49%	16%	5%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	23%	47%	21%	10%
Northland Foundation	24%	50%	20%	6%
West Central Initiative	33%	52%	13%	2%
Initiative Foundation	21%	48%	22%	9%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	34%	55%	10%	2%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	37%	50%	11%	2%
Metro area	33%	46%	13%	8%
Region not identified	23%	31%	31%	15%
Total	30%	50%	16%	5%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 1% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

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**A107. Quality of service in your community: Sewer?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Very good</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Poor</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	18%	60%	21%	2%
Northland Foundation	20%	52%	20%	7%
West Central Initiative	21%	65%	12%	3%
Initiative Foundation	22%	52%	19%	7%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	26%	59%	10%	5%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	28%	61%	9%	2%
Metro area	25%	59%	16%	-
Region not identified	11%	56%	22%	11%
Total	23%	58%	15%	4%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	22%	57%	18%	2%
Northland Foundation	18%	53%	23%	7%
West Central Initiative	25%	61%	9%	5%
Initiative Foundation	17%	57%	23%	3%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	21%	61%	16%	2%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	28%	58%	10%	4%
Metro area	32%	41%	18%	9%
Region not identified	17%	50%	25%	8%
Total	22%	57%	17%	4%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 4% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

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**A108. Quality of service in your community: Relevant news and information?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Very good</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Poor</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	14%	48%	24%	14%
Northland Foundation	12%	45%	34%	9%
West Central Initiative	12%	57%	23%	8%
Initiative Foundation	11%	53%	26%	9%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	15%	56%	23%	7%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	14%	53%	26%	7%
Metro area	15%	55%	18%	12%
Region not identified	11%	44%	33%	11%
Total	13%	52%	27%	9%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	14%	47%	32%	7%
Northland Foundation	10%	49%	34%	7%
West Central Initiative	17%	53%	23%	7%
Initiative Foundation	12%	53%	29%	6%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	16%	63%	18%	3%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	15%	55%	24%	6%
Metro area	29%	46%	21%	4%
Region not identified	15%	46%	15%	23%
Total	14%	54%	27%	6%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, <1% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

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**A109. Quality of service in your community: Human service safety net programs?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Very good</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Poor</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	8%	48%	31%	13%
Northland Foundation	10%	51%	33%	7%
West Central Initiative	7%	55%	29%	8%
Initiative Foundation	8%	49%	40%	4%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	11%	48%	37%	4%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	13%	56%	26%	5%
Metro area	15%	46%	27%	12%
Region not identified	6%	39%	50%	6%
Total	10%	51%	32%	6%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	8%	46%	40%	6%
Northland Foundation	11%	54%	29%	5%
West Central Initiative	14%	58%	23%	4%
Initiative Foundation	6%	58%	31%	4%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	13%	61%	23%	4%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	14%	56%	25%	4%
Metro area	10%	57%	29%	5%
Region not identified	8%	42%	17%	33%
Total	12%	56%	28%	5%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 9% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.



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**A110. Quality of service in your community: Physical health and wellness services?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Very good</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Poor</b>
<b>2005</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	18%	46%	30%	7%
Northland Foundation	17%	51%	27%	5%
West Central Initiative	11%	63%	22%	4%
Initiative Foundation	14%	53%	30%	4%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	18%	60%	20%	2%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	21%	56%	21%	3%
Metro area	19%	52%	26%	3%
Region not identified	28%	33%	33%	6%
Total	17%	55%	24%	4%
<b>2007</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	14%	54%	28%	4%
Northland Foundation	15%	55%	27%	4%
West Central Initiative	22%	56%	19%	3%
Initiative Foundation	9%	59%	29%	2%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	22%	57%	18%	3%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	20%	63%	16%	2%
Metro area	13%	52%	30%	4%
Region not identified	18%	45%	27%	9%
Total	17%	58%	22%	3%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 2% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

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**A111. Quality of service in your community: Mental health and wellness services?**

In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor
<b>2007 – Question not asked in 2005.</b>				
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	10%	40%	36%	14%
Northland Foundation	11%	50%	31%	9%
West Central Initiative	15%	51%	28%	6%
Initiative Foundation	5%	50%	35%	9%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	13%	53%	25%	9%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	16%	53%	25%	6%
Metro area	5%	40%	45%	10%
Region not identified	18%	27%	27%	27%
Total	12%	50%	29%	9%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. In 2007, 7% of respondents said they “don’t know” to this item—the above percentages were calculated of those who gave a valid (i.e., not “don’t know”) response.

**A112. As a community leader, if you could focus on only one issue that might help your community, your region, or rural Minnesota, what would that be?**

2005	Northwest Minnesota Foundation		Northland Foundation		West Central Initiative	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
10 Business Development	16	18%	82	27%	38	23%
30 Child Care	-	-	6	2%	2	1%
40 Community Issues	8	9%	9	3%	8	5%
50 Community Services	1	1%	6	2%	2	1%
60 Conservation Issues	5	6%	5	2%	5	3%
70 Crime	7	8%	15	5%	14	8%
80 Diversity Issues	3	3%	3	1%	4	2%
90 Education	5	6%	18	6%	16	10%
100 Employment	15	17%	60	20%	23	14%
110 Government Issues, Local	5	6%	18	6%	9	5%
120 Government Issues, Regional	1	1%	13	4%	3	2%
130 Government Issues, State Level	2	2%	4	1%	2	1%
140 Health Care	11	12%	20	7%	13	8%
150 Housing	1	1%	5	2%	10	6%
160 Population Issues	2	2%	4	1%	7	4%
170 Poverty Issues	2	2%	16	5%	4	2%
180 Services for Seniors	-	-	4	1%	1	1%
190 Services for youth	1	1%	2	1%	3	2%
200 Transportation	3	3%	8	3%	1	1%
210 Tribal Issues	-	-	1	<1%	1	1%
239 Responsible parenting/teach responsibility/parental support	-	-	-	-	1	1%
240 Improve quality of life	1	1%	-	-	-	-
241 Gambling	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	89	100%	299	100%	167	100%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

**A112. As a community leader, if you could focus on only one issue that might help your community, your region, or rural Minnesota, what would that be? (continued)**

<b>2005</b>	<b>Initiative Foundation</b>		<b>Southwest Minnesota Foundation</b>		<b>Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation</b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
10 Business Development	36	19%	51	24%	65	21%
30 Child Care	1	1%	4	2%	6	2%
40 Community Issues	18	10%	7	3%	14	5%
50 Community Services	8	4%	1	1%	4	1%
60 Conservation Issues	13	7%	6	3%	12	4%
70 Crime	19	10%	18	9%	7	2%
80 Diversity Issues	1	1%	6	3%	18	6%
90 Education	14	7%	18	9%	31	10%
100 Employment	17	9%	33	16%	48	16%
110 Government Issues, Local	14	7%	13	6%	17	6%
120 Government Issues, Regional	8	4%	2	1%	7	2%
130 Government Issues, State Level	2	1%	5	2%	1	<1%
140 Health Care	15	8%	21	10%	22	7%
150 Housing	3	2%	5	2%	10	3%
160 Population Issues	1	1%	6	3%	9	3%
170 Poverty Issues	7	4%	2	1%	6	2%
180 Services for Seniors	-	-	3	1%	-	-
190 Services for youth	4	2%	4	2%	10	3%
200 Transportation	7	4%	6	3%	16	5%
210 Tribal Issues	-	-	2	1%	-	-
239 Responsible parenting/teach responsibility/parental support	-	-	-	-	3	1%
240 Improve quality of life	-	-	-	-	1	<1%
241 Gambling	-	-	-	-	1	<1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

**A112. As a community leader, if you could focus on only one issue that might help your community, your region, or rural Minnesota, what would that be? (continued)**

2005	Metro area		Region not identified		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
10 Business Development	6	23%	1	8%	295	23%
30 Child Care	-	-	-	-	19	2%
40 Community Issues	2	8%	4	33%	70	5%
50 Community Services	-	-	1	8%	23	2%
60 Conservation Issues	-	-	-	-	46	4%
70 Crime	-	-	2	17%	82	6%
80 Diversity Issues	1	4%	-	-	36	3%
90 Education	3	12%	-	-	105	8%
100 Employment	4	15%	1	8%	201	15%
110 Government Issues, Local	3	12%	-	-	79	6%
120 Government Issues, Regional	1	4%	-	-	35	3%
130 Government Issues, State Level	-	-	1	8%	17	1%
140 Health Care	4	15%	1	8%	107	8%
150 Housing	1	4%	1	8%	36	3%
160 Population Issues	-	-	-	-	29	2%
170 Poverty Issues	1	4%	-	-	38	3%
180 Services for Seniors	-	-	-	-	8	1%
190 Services for youth	-	-	-	-	24	2%
200 Transportation	-	-	-	-	41	3%
210 Tribal Issues	-	-	-	-	4	<1%
239 Responsible parenting/teach responsibility/parental support	-	-	-	-	4	<1%
240 Improve quality of life	-	-	-	-	2	<1%
241 Gambling	-	-	-	-	1	<1%
Total	26	100%	12	100%	1302	100%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

**A112. As a community leader, if you could focus on only one issue that might help your community, your region, or rural Minnesota, what would that be?**

2007	Northwest Minnesota Foundation		Northland Foundation		West Central Initiative	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
10 Business Development	9	8%	36	11%	8	5%
30 Child Care	-	-	-	-	-	-
40 Community Issues	1	1%	1	<1%	1	1%
50 Community Services	-	-	3	1%	1	1%
60 Conservation Issues	4	4%	14	4%	-	-
70 Crime	-	-	1	<1%	-	-
80 Diversity Issues	1	1%	2	1%	3	2%
90 Education	6	5%	20	6%	6	4%
100 Employment	1	1%	4	1%	1	1%
110 Government Issues, Local	3	3%	9	3%	4	3%
120 Government Issues, Regional	-	-	-	-	-	-
130 Government Issues, State Level	2	2%	-	-	-	-
140 Health Care	1	1%	6	2%	-	-
150 Housing	-	-	1	<1%	1	1%
160 Population Issues	-	-	-	-	1	1%
170 Poverty Issues	-	-	14	4%	-	-
180 Services for Seniors	3	3%	-	-	1	1%
190 Services for youth	3	3%	4	1%	1	1%
200 Transportation	-	-	1	<1%	-	-
210 Tribal Issues	1	1%	2	1%	-	-
239 Responsible parenting/teach responsibility/parental support	-	-	-	-	-	-
240 Improve quality of life	-	-	-	-	-	-
241 Gambling	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	35%	33%	118	100%	167	100%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

**A112. As a community leader, if you could focus on only one issue that might help your community, your region, or rural Minnesota, what would that be? (continued)**

2007	Initiative Foundation		Southwest Minnesota Foundation		Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
10 Business Development	11	6%	16	9%	16	5%
30 Child Care	-	-	-	-	1	<1%
40 Community Issues	2	1%	1	1%	6	2%
50 Community Services	3	2%	2	1%	2	1%
60 Conservation Issues	5	3%	2	1%	16	5%
70 Crime	-	-	-	-	2	1%
80 Diversity Issues	2	1%	6	3%	10	3%
90 Education	10	5%	14	8%	12	4%
100 Employment	1	1%	2	1%	4	1%
110 Government Issues, Local	4	2%	1	1%	2	1%
120 Government Issues, Regional	-	-	-	-	-	-
130 Government Issues, State Level	-	-	-	-	3	1%
140 Health Care	1	1%	2	1%	2	1%
150 Housing	1	1%	1	1%	-	-
160 Population Issues	-	-	-	-	1	<1%
170 Poverty Issues	5	3%	2	1%	5	2%
180 Services for Seniors	1	1%	-	-	2	1%
190 Services for youth	4	2%	1	1%	4	1%
200 Transportation	2	1%	3	2%	2	1%
210 Tribal Issues	-	-	1	1%	-	-
239 Responsible parenting/teach responsibility/parental support	-	-	-	-	3	1%
240 Improve quality of life	-	-	-	-	1	<1%
241 Gambling	-	-	-	-	1	<1%
Total	188	100%	213	100%	308	100%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

**A112. As a community leader, if you could focus on only one issue that might help your community, your region, or rural Minnesota, what would that be? (continued)**

2007	Metro area		Region not identified		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
10 Business Development	-	-	-	-	295	23%
30 Child Care	-	-	-	-	19	2%
40 Community Issues	1	6%	-	-	70	5%
50 Community Services	-	-	-	-	23	2%
60 Conservation Issues	-	-	-	-	46	4%
70 Crime	-	-	-	-	82	6%
80 Diversity Issues	-	-	-	-	36	3%
90 Education	3	17%	-	-	105	8%
100 Employment	-	-	-	-	201	15%
110 Government Issues, Local	-	-	-	-	79	6%
120 Government Issues, Regional	-	-	-	-	35	3%
130 Government Issues, State Level	-	-	1	1%	17	1%
140 Health Care	-	-	-	-	107	8%
150 Housing	-	-	-	-	36	3%
160 Population Issues	-	-	-	-	29	2%
170 Poverty Issues	-	-	-	-	38	3%
180 Services for Seniors	-	-	-	-	8	1%
190 Services for youth	1	6%	-	-	24	2%
200 Transportation	1	4%	-	-	41	3%
210 Tribal Issues	-	-	-	-	4	<1%
239 Responsible parenting/teach responsibility/parental support	-	-	-	-	4	<1%
240 Improve quality of life	-	-	-	-	2	<1%
241 Gambling	-	-	-	-	1	<1%
Total	26	100%	12	100%	1302	100%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.



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**A113. What is your age group?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>20-24</b>	<b>25-34</b>	<b>35-44</b>	<b>45-54</b>	<b>55-64</b>	<b>65-74</b>	<b>75-84</b>	<b>85+</b>
<b>2005</b>								
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	-	1%	17%	41%	27%	13%	2%	-
Northland Foundation	<1%	3%	11%	40%	31%	10%	4%	<1%
West Central Initiative	1%	4%	17%	38%	22%	15%	3%	1%
Initiative Foundation	-	4%	13%	32%	31%	13%	6%	1%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	-	3%	15%	39%	26%	12%	4%	1%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	-	3%	16%	41%	29%	10%	2%	-
Metro area	-	9%	15%	52%	12%	12%	-	-
Region not identified	-	-	-	25%	-	-	755	-
Total	<1%	3%	14%	39%	28%	12%	4%	1%
<b>2007</b>								
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	-	4%	12%	35%	35%	12%	2%	0%
Northland Foundation	-	6%	13%	37%	34%	7%	3%	-
West Central Initiative	-	5%	10%	34%	32%	11%	7%	1%
Initiative Foundation	-	3%	9%	36%	37%	11%	4%	-
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	-	4%	16%	38%	26%	11%	4%	1%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	-	3%	14%	35%	35%	9%	2%	-
Metro area	-	8%	4%	28%	48%	12%	-	-
Region not identified	-	-	25%	25%	25%	25%	-	-
Total	-	4%	13%	36%	33%	10%	3%	-

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

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**A114. What is your gender?**

<b>In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>2005</b>			
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	45%	55%	100%
Northland Foundation	45%	55%	100%
West Central Initiative	43%	58%	100%
Initiative Foundation	52%	48%	100%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	42%	58%	100%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	50%	50%	100%
Metro area	49%	52%	100%
Region not identified	50%	50%	100%
Total	47%	54%	100%
<b>2007</b>			
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	49%	51%	100%
Northland Foundation	48%	52%	100%
West Central Initiative	38%	62%	100%
Initiative Foundation	49%	51%	100%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	47%	53%	100%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	48%	52%	100%
Metro area	48%	52%	100%
Region not identified	50%	50%	100%
Total	47%	53%	100%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

**A115. Which of the following best describes your community?**

In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?	Open country – on a farm	Open country – not on a farm	In a town with fewer than 500 people	In a town between 500 and 2,500 people	In a town between 2,501 and 5,000 people	In a town between 5,001 and 10,000 people	In a city between 10,001 and 20,000 people	In a city over 20,000 people	Total
<b>2005</b>									
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	8%	9%	9%	28%	9%	23%	13%	2%	100%
Northland Foundation	2%	13%	7%	18%	11%	35%	14%	2%	100%
West Central Initiative	9%	8%	11%	29%	16%	12%	9%	7%	100%
Initiative Foundation	3%	10%	4%	28%	17%	22%	11%	3%	100%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	9%	4%	4%	24%	15%	15%	28%	2%	100%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	3%	1%	1%	15%	17%	6%	26%	32%	100%
Metro area	6%	3%	3%	9%	25%	9%	25%	19%	100%
Region not identified	25%	-	-	-	25%	-	50%	-	100%
Total	5%	7%	5%	22%	15%	18%	18%	10%	100%
<b>2007</b>									
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	9%	8%	6%	27%	17%	19%	10%	3%	100%
Northland Foundation	2%	13%	8%	13%	8%	26%	13%	17%	100%
West Central Initiative	12%	5%	8%	27%	14%	7%	21%	5%	100%
Initiative Foundation	8%	9%	5%	26%	25%	12%	10%	3%	100%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	7%	4%	4%	27%	20%	9%	26%	3%	100%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	4%	2%	2%	15%	12%	4%	27%	35%	100%
Metro area	4%	4%	4%	4%	20%	12%	16%	36%	100%
Region not identified	-	-	-	33%	17%	17%	-	33%	100%
Total	6%	7%	5%	20%	15%	13%	19%	15%	100%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

**A116. What ethnicity do you consider yourself?**

In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation do you live?	American Indian or Alaskan Native	Asian or Pacific Islander	African American	Hispanic or Latino	Native African	White	Other (includes mixed ethnicity)	Total
<b>2005</b>								
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	9%	-	-	-	-	91%	-	100%
Northland Foundation	3%	-	-	<1%	1%	96%	<1%	100%
West Central Initiative	1%	1%	-	1%	-	97%	1%	100%
Initiative Foundation	2%	-	-	-	-	96%	2%	100%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	<1%	<1%	-	2%	-	96%	1%	100%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	<1%	1%	<1%	2%	1%	97%	<1%	100%
Metro area	-	-	-	-	-	100%	-	100%
Region not identified	-	-	-	-	-	100%	-	100%
Total	2%	<1%	<1%	1%	<1%	96%	1%	100%
<b>2007</b>								
Northwest Minnesota Foundation	11%	-	-	-	2%	85%	2%	100%
Northland Foundation	4%	-	1%	-	-	92%	3%	100%
West Central Initiative	1%	-	1%	1%	-	97%	1%	100%
Initiative Foundation	5%	-	-	-	-	93%	1%	100%
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	1%	-	-	2%	-	96%	-	100%
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	-	1%	1%	3%	-	95%	1%	100%
Metro area	4%	-	-	-	-	96%	-	100%
Region not identified								100%
Total								100%

**Note.** Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

# Survey questionnaire



**BLANDIN FOUNDATION™**  
PUBLIC POLICY & ENGAGEMENT

## Rural Pulse SURVEY

**Instructions:** Please answer each of the following questions. When you have completed this survey return it in the enclosed postage paid envelope. Your answers will remain anonymous.

**For each item, please indicate how important you think it is for your community to address each of the following issues in the next 3 to 5 years.**

In the next 3 to 5 years, how important is it to...	Critical	Important but not critical	Somewhat important	Not too important	Don't know
1. Attract businesses to my region that pay household-supporting wages?	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
2. Retain businesses that pay household-supporting wages?	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
3. Support local entrepreneurs?	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
4. Have quality health care that is accessible to my community?	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
5. Have quality health care that is accessible to low income people in my region?	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
6. Provide quality, affordable childcare and services for all children age 0-6?	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
7. Offer K-12 public education that meets your definition of quality?	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
8. Provide opportunities for young people to be productively engaged in community life?	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
9. Provide access to quality education beyond high school?	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
10. Provide affordable access to high speed internet connectivity?	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
11. Maintain the local infrastructure (such as roads, sewers, and bridges)?	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
12. Improve the local infrastructure?	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
13. Increase the effectiveness of local government, including city, county and tribal?	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
14. Increase cooperation between local units of government?	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
15. Ensure an adequate supply of affordable housing?	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
16. Reduce crime?	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
17. Reduce illegal drug use?	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
18. Reduce alcohol abuse?	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>

In the next 3 to 5 years, how important is it to...	Critical	Important but not critical	Somewhat important	Not too important	Don't know
19. Reduce domestic violence?	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
20. Reduce the number of people that live in poverty in my community?	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
21. Ensure that natural resource use decisions are made with the needs of future generations in mind.	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
22. Address the impacts of climate change on your community?	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
23. Productively engage older adults in community life?	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
24. Address the increasing cost of health care and health insurance?	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
25. Reduce taxes?	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
26. Improving community interaction with racial and ethnic minorities?	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
27. Increase the involvement of area residents in local planning and projects?	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>

**For each item, please indicate whether your community or region has generally been doing better, doing worse, or has experienced no change in its response to the specified issue over the last 3 to 5 years.**

In the last 3 to 5 years, how has your community been doing? Have they...	Doing better	Doing worse	Experienced no change	Don't know
28. Attracted businesses to my region that pay household-supporting wages?	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
29. Retained businesses that pay household-supporting wages?	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
30. Supported local entrepreneurs?	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
31. Had quality health care that is accessible to my community?	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
32. Had quality health care that is accessible to low income people in my region?	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
33. Provided quality, affordable childcare and services for all children age 0-6?	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
34. Offered K-12 public education that meets your definition of quality?	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
35. Provided opportunities for young people to be productively engaged in community life?	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
36. Provided access to quality education beyond high school?	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
37. Provided affordable access to high speed internet connectivity?	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
38. Maintained the local infrastructure (such as roads, sewers, and bridges)?	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
39. Improved the local infrastructure?	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
40. Increased the effectiveness of local government including city, county and tribal?	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
41. Increased cooperation among local units of government	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
42. Ensured an adequate supply of affordable housing?	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>

In the last 3 to 5 years, how has your community been doing? Have they...	Doing better	Doing worse	Experienced no change	Don't know
43. Reduced crime?	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
44. Reduced illegal drug use?	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
45. Reduced alcohol abuse?	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
46. Reduced domestic violence?	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
47. Reduced the number of people who live in poverty in my community?	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
48. Ensured that natural resource use decisions are made with the needs of future generations in mind?	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
49. Productively engaged older adults in community life?	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
50. Reduced the increasing cost of health care and health insurance?	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
51. Reduced taxes?	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
52. Improved community interaction with racial and ethnic minorities?	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
53. Increased the involvement of area residents in local planning and projects?	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>

54. Using the numbers from the list above (questions 26 to 50), please identify the three issues you feel most strongly need to be addressed in your community? Please specify in the spaces below.

Issue 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Issue 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Issue 3 \_\_\_\_\_ Don't know <sup>8</sup>

55. If there is an issue that you feel strongly needs to be addressed in your community and it is not listed above, please describe briefly.

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56. How would you rate the overall quality of life in your community today? Would you say that quality of life now is ...

- <sup>1</sup> Very good
- <sup>2</sup> Good
- <sup>3</sup> Fair
- <sup>4</sup> Poor
- <sup>8</sup> Don't know

57. When you compare the overall quality of life in your community now to what your community was like five years ago, would you say that life now is ...

- <sup>1</sup> Much better
- <sup>2</sup> Somewhat better
- <sup>3</sup> About the same
- <sup>4</sup> Somewhat worse
- <sup>5</sup> Much worse
- <sup>8</sup> Don't know

58. Would you recommend your community to someone else as a good place to live?

- <sup>1</sup> Definitely yes
- <sup>2</sup> Probably yes
- <sup>3</sup> Probably no
- <sup>4</sup> Definitely no
- <sup>8</sup> Don't know

59. How would you rate the economic health of your community today (economic opportunity for all)? Would you say it is...

- <sup>1</sup> Very good
- <sup>2</sup> Good
- <sup>3</sup> Fair
- <sup>4</sup> Poor
- <sup>8</sup> Don't know

60. When you compare the economic health of your community to what it was like five years ago, would you say it is now...

- <sup>1</sup> Much better
- <sup>2</sup> Somewhat better
- <sup>3</sup> About the same
- <sup>4</sup> Somewhat worse
- <sup>5</sup> Much worse
- <sup>8</sup> Don't know

61. How difficult would you say it is for local employers to find qualified workers to fill available jobs in your community?

- <sup>1</sup> Very difficult
- <sup>2</sup> Somewhat difficult
- <sup>3</sup> Not that difficult
- <sup>4</sup> Somewhat easy
- <sup>5</sup> Very easy
- <sup>8</sup> Don't know

62. To what extent has the racial or ethnic diversity of your community changed over the past five years? Would you say...

- <sup>1</sup> It has become much more diverse
- <sup>2</sup> It has become somewhat more diverse
- <sup>3</sup> It has stayed about the same
- <sup>4</sup> It has become somewhat less diverse
- <sup>5</sup> It has become much less diverse
- <sup>8</sup> Don't know

63. When you compare the economic health of your community to what it was like five years ago would you say that economic disparities between the haves and have nots have

- <sup>1</sup> Increased a great deal
- <sup>2</sup> Increased somewhat
- <sup>3</sup> Stayed about the same
- <sup>4</sup> Become somewhat less diverse
- <sup>5</sup> Decreased a great deal
- <sup>8</sup> Don't know



<b>Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
64. I can count on my neighbors when I need help.	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
65. Residents of my community generally trust each other.	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
66. The economy in my community is well diversified.	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
67. The economic environment in my community would be good for starting a business.	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
68. My community has an adequate number of jobs that pay household supporting wages.	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
69. My community recognizes diversity as a strength.	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
70. My community is genuinely welcoming to people of diverse backgrounds.	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
71. There is racial or ethnic tension in my community.	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
72. People of all backgrounds have meaningful opportunities to participate in planning and decision-making here.	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
73. I generally feel safe in my community.	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
74. My community doesn't have more crime than any other community about the same size in Minnesota.	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
75. My community is just as safe as it was five years ago.	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
76. Illegal drug use in my community is increasing.	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
77. Alcohol abuse in my community is increasing.	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
78. A person with alcohol or drug addiction in my community can get help.	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
79. Family violence is increasing in my community.	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
80. People in my community take an active role to prevent domestic violence.	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
81. When new projects are planned in my community, their potential impact on the environment is given due consideration.	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
82. My community's natural resources are a significant asset.	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
83. In my community there are public health problems that are directly related to an environmental problem or issue.	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
84. My community offers all residents good opportunities for recreation.	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
85. Cultural opportunities and the arts make a significant contribution to my community's economy.	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
86. There are adequate opportunities for all members of our community to access and enjoy the natural resources of our area.	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
87. People of all ages take advantage of educational opportunities in my community.	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
88. People who need training for their job or to improve their opportunities in the workforce can get such training in my community or region.	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>

<b>Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
89. There is enough affordable quality child care for people who need it in my community.	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
90. The schools in my community are using up-to-date technology, including the internet and distance learning.	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
91. Older adults are productively engaged in community life.	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
92. Youth are productively engaged in community life.	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
93. People from different backgrounds (ethnic, socio-economic, educational) fill leadership roles in my community.	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
94. When political conflict occurs in my community, it is generally handled in a healthy way.	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
95. When environmental conflict occurs in my community, it is generally handled in a healthy way.	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
96. Community decisions here are guided by a variety of perspectives.	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
97. Elected officials in my community are committed to the common good.	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
98. Elected officials in my community make informed decisions based on the needs of all residents.	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
99. All residents in my community have equal access to essential and basic services.	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>

**For each item, please indicate whether you think the quality of service in your community is very good, good, fair, or poor.**

	<b>Very good</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
100. Public transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
101. Roads	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
102. Rail	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
103. Air service	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
104. High speed internet service	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
105. Water	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
106. Recycling	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
107. Sewer	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
108. Relevant news and information	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
109. Human service safety net programs	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
110. Physical Health and wellness services	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>
111. Mental Health and wellness services	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup>

112. As a community leader, if you could focus on only one issue that might help your community, your region, or rural Minnesota, what would that be? Please describe below.

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### About you and your community

Please check one response for each of the following questions.

113. In what Minnesota Initiative Foundation region do you live?

- <sup>1</sup> **Northwest Minnesota Foundation**  
(Counties include: Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Mahnomen, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake, Roseau)
- <sup>2</sup> **Northland Foundation** (Counties include: Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, St. Louis)
- <sup>3</sup> **West Central Initiative** (Counties include: Becker, Clay, Douglas, Grant, Otter Tail, Pope, Stevens, Traverse, Wilkin)
- <sup>4</sup> **Initiative Foundation** (Counties include: Benton, Cass, Chisago, Crow Wing, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Pine, Sherburne, Stearns, Todd, Wadena, Wright)
- <sup>5</sup> **Southwest Minnesota Foundation**  
(Counties include: Big Stone, Chippewa, Cottonwood, Jackson, Kandiyohi, Lac qui Parle, Lincoln, Lyon, McLeod, Meeker, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Renville, Rock, Swift, Yellow Medicine)
- <sup>6</sup> **Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation**  
(Counties include: Blue Earth, Brown, Dodge, Faribault, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houston, LeSueur, Martin, Mower, Nicollet, Olmsted, Rice, Sibley, Steele, Wabasha, Waseca, Watonwan, Winona)
- <sup>7</sup> **Metro area** (Counties include: Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, Washington)

114. What is your age group?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> 15-19 | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>6</sup> 55-64                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup> 20-24 | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>7</sup> 65-74                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup> 25-34 | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>8</sup> 75-84                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup> 35-44 | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>9</sup> 85+                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>5</sup> 45-54 | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>-8</sup> Prefer not to answer |

115. What is your gender?

- <sup>1</sup> Male
- <sup>2</sup> Female
- <sup>8</sup> Prefer not to answer

116. Which of the following best describes your community?

- <sup>1</sup> Open country – on a farm
- <sup>2</sup> Open country – not on a farm
- <sup>3</sup> In a town with fewer than 500 people
- <sup>4</sup> In a town between 500 and 2,500 people
- <sup>5</sup> In a town between 2,501 and 5,000 people
- <sup>6</sup> In a town between 5,001 and 10,000 people
- <sup>7</sup> In a city between 10,001 and 20,000 people
- <sup>8</sup> In a city over 20,000 people
- <sup>-8</sup> Don't know

117. What ethnicity do you consider yourself?

- <sup>1</sup> American Indian or Alaskan Native
- <sup>2</sup> Asian or Pacific Islander
- <sup>3</sup> African American
- <sup>4</sup> Hispanic or Latino
- <sup>5</sup> Native African
- <sup>6</sup> White
- <sup>7</sup> Other (includes mixed ethnicity)
- <sup>-8</sup> Prefer not to answer

***Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.  
Please place it in the postage paid envelope and mail it today.***

Wilder Research, 1295 Bandana Boulevard North, Suite 210, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55108