



THE PITTSBURGH REGIONAL QUALITY OF LIFE SURVEY

- ARTS & CULTURE
- ECONOMY
- EDUCATION
- ENVIRONMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- HEALTH
- HOUSING & NEIGHBORHOOD
- PUBLIC SAFETY
- TRANSPORTATION
- OVERALL QUALITY OF LIFE

INTRODUCTION

In order to understand where we are going, we must first understand where we are.

In that spirit, we are pleased to release a distillation of the findings of the Pittsburgh Regional Quality of Life Survey, the most extensive survey of the residents of Greater Pittsburgh since the historic Pittsburgh Survey was published in 1908. Our intent in undertaking this survey was to use the most reliable methods possible to understand the behaviors and attitudes of Greater Pittsburgh's citizens. We believe that this survey provides information that can be valuable both as an historic document and as a guide to inform decisions about this region's future. We plan to repeat this survey in future years to gauge our progress in improving the quality of life in the region.

In the pages to come are facts and opinions about life in Greater Pittsburgh, given by the people who live here. The 120-question survey focuses on 10 major areas: arts & culture, economy, education, environment, government, health, housing & neighborhood, public safety, transportation and overall quality of life. The Pittsburgh Regional Quality of Life Survey is based on telephone interviews with more than 1,800 residents of a region that comprises 32 counties in four states. For more detailed information about the methodology of this representative survey, please turn to the Appendix at the back of this report.

The sampling strategy we used allows us to compare and summarize findings for Pittsburgh, Allegheny county, the seven-county metropolitan statistical area (Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Washington and Westmoreland counties), and the "Power of 32" Greater Pittsburgh region (including parts of Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia).

Additionally, we have "oversampled" African American citizens in order to obtain a statistically valid portrait of their lives and how their conditions and attitudes compare with citizens of other races across the region.

The results follow in 10 chapters, researched and written by the staff of the regional indicators project PittsburghToday and the staff of the University of Pittsburgh's University Center for Social and Urban Research (UCSUR). PittsburghToday and UCSUR collaborated on creating the questions, with input from University of Pittsburgh faculty and the help of PittsburghToday's 10 subject area committees, including volunteer citizens and leaders in each area. UCSUR oversaw the execution of the telephone interviews, which were completed in November 2011, and the organization and analysis of the data, which was completed in the early spring of 2012. The survey was funded primarily by UCSUR and by PittsburghToday, through its philanthropic supporters.

Douglas Heuck, Director of PittsburghToday

Richard Schulz, Director, University Center for Social and Urban Research

July 2012

HIGHLIGHTS & KEY FINDINGS

The following four-page summary serves as an overview of what we think are some of the more important and interesting findings to emerge from the **Pittsburgh Regional Quality of Life Survey**. These are summarized by topic area and presented in the order they appear in the report. For full results, see the text that follows. Detailed survey methods are described in the technical appendix that appears at the end of the report.

||| ARTS & CULTURE

- Attendance at museums, galleries, and other cultural events by residents of the region is fairly high with over three-fourths attending at least once in the year prior to the survey. Attendance has increased relative to a similar 2003 survey conducted in Allegheny County.
- City of Pittsburgh residents were more likely to attend cultural events, support arts organizations through donations and volunteering, and to rate art and cultural opportunities positively than those living further from the urban core.
- A significant majority of residents reported that they think arts education in the schools is “very” (44%) or “extremely” (24%) important.

||| ECONOMY

- Results of the survey mirror the national economic climate with more residents saying the economy has gotten worse over the past three years than those saying it has improved.
- The same holds for expectations for the future, with more residents expecting things to get worse than to get better, particularly at the national level.
- In general, the further one moves from the urban core of the region, the less optimistic residents are about prospects for the local economy.
- City of Pittsburgh residents were by far the most optimistic about the local economy.
- Views of the prospects for the local economy were generally more positive than those for the nation as a whole in 2011, while the opposite was true in 2003.



- Despite their significantly greater difficulties paying for housing and other basic necessities, African American residents tended to be more optimistic about the national and regional economy as well as their own personal economic prospects.

||| EDUCATION

- While the majority of the region's residents said that funding for

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HIGHLIGHTS & KEY FINDINGS

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public schools was at least generally adequate, over one-third described it as inadequate.

- Concerns about adequacy of school funding have increased between 2003 and 2011.
- A majority rated local public schools as safe, although only about half rated them as “very safe.”
- African American and City of Pittsburgh residents were less likely to report that the public schools in their communities were adequately funded or safe.
- Despite concerns about funding and safety, residents were generally satisfied with the education their children were receiving with nearly two-thirds rating it as “excellent” (28%) or “very good,” (36%) and these ratings have improved slightly since 2003.

||| ENVIRONMENT

- Despite failure to meet federal air quality standards, the region’s residents do not generally perceive air quality to be a serious problem—less than 1 in 5 think it is a “moderate” or “serious” problem. Similar results were found for drinking water quality.
- Residents were more likely to perceive pollution of streams and rivers as problematic.
- Drilling for natural gas in the Marcellus Shale was perceived as both an economic opportunity for the region and a potential environmental and public health threat, although more residents thought Marcellus Shale drilling was at least a “moderate” economic opportunity (70%) than at least a “moderate” environmental/public health threat (55%).

- More residents supported (44%) than opposed (25%) Marcellus Shale drilling activity, and this tendency was greatest in the six-county remainder of the Pittsburgh MSA where most drilling activity is occurring.
- Male residents were less likely to perceive air quality, drinking water, and stream and river pollution as problems than female residents. Males also were more likely to favor Marcellus Shale activity than females.

||| GOVERNMENT

- Despite difficult economic conditions, respondents to the survey were generally very supportive of increased government spending, particularly for economic development and job creation, schools, and roads and infrastructure improvements.
- In general, City of Pittsburgh residents and African Americans were most supportive of increased government spending.
- Females were more supportive than males of increased government spending on public safety, human services, and schools.
- Support for mergers with neighboring municipalities received mixed support, with 38% strongly or moderately supporting it and one-third opposed.
- City of Pittsburgh residents were most likely to support mergers with neighboring municipalities.

||| HEALTH

- Mirroring national statistics, one troubling indicator for the region’s residents is being overweight as measured by Body Mass Index (BMI).

According to this index, 64% of the residents were either overweight or obese at the time of the survey.

- About one-third of the respondents from the 25-county area surrounding the Pittsburgh MSA were obese using the BMI definition.
- Nearly one in four residents is providing informal care to an ill or disabled family member.
- Over half of the respondents reported “moderate” or “severe” stress during the month prior to the survey, with only 10% reporting “no stress.”
- African American residents were more likely to report “poor” or “fair” health, to smoke, to lack health insurance, and to have been unable to see a doctor because of the cost during the past year. However, African Americans were no more likely to report being stressed.

||| HOUSING & NEIGHBORHOOD

- The region’s residents rated the physical or structural condition of their own homes and those in their immediate neighborhood very positively, with 80% describing them as “excellent” or “very good.”
- African American residents tended to rate the physical condition of their homes less positively than non-African Americans.
- The majority of residents reported being social with their neighbors and perceived neighbors as generally willing to help one another. These indicators were more positive than those reported in the 2003 Allegheny County survey.
- Although residents did not generally see race relations as a problem in their neighborhoods, African Americans were much more likely to do so.

▪ In terms of plans to move, about one in four of those surveyed were either very likely (13%) or somewhat likely (13%) to move from their current residence within the next year.

▪ Approximately 16% did not expect to be living in the region in five years.

▪ Residents with lower incomes, younger residents, and African Americans were more likely to expect to move within the next year and to leave the region in the next five years.

||| PUBLIC SAFETY

▪ Rates of property (15%) and violent crime victimization (2%) reported in the survey were similar to recent national benchmarks (though slightly higher).

▪ Males and younger residents were more likely to report being property crime victims, while African Americans and City of Pittsburgh residents were more likely to report being violent crime victims.

▪ In general, residents of the region feel safe in their neighborhoods and believe that the police do a good job in providing protection.

▪ African Americans, younger residents, and those with lower incomes tended to report feeling less safe and rated police protection less positively.

▪ Residents in the region were strongly supportive of reduced incarceration for non-violent offenders as a way to reduce costs (72%).

||| TRANSPORTATION

▪ Residents perceived road and bridge quality, traffic congestion, and availability of public transit as problems for the region.

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HIGHLIGHTS & KEY FINDINGS

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- Residents of Allegheny County were most likely to see road and bridge quality as a problem.
- About 28% reported using public transportation, with about 10% using it on at least a weekly basis. Use of public transportation in Allegheny County increased between 2003 and 2011.
- As expected, public transportation usage is much higher in the urban core with 40% of City of Pittsburgh residents riding at least once a week and about 25% daily.
- While the majority of residents were satisfied with available public transit, Allegheny County and City residents were more likely to be dissatisfied.
- Lower income, younger, and African American residents were most likely to see availability of public transportation as a problem.

||| OVERALL QUALITY OF LIFE

- Residents rated overall regional quality of life as high. When asked to rate the region as a place to live in terms of overall quality of life, a total of 81% rated it as either “good” (29%), “very good,” (38%), or “excellent” (14%).
- Survey respondents also reported fairly high levels of overall life satisfaction (7.7 on 10-point scale) and general happiness (7.8 on 10-point scale).
- Reported life satisfaction and happiness in the region compared favorably with recent data from word-wide and national surveys.
- While the majority of residents in the region

perceive regional quality of life to have remained the same over the past few years, more thought it had declined (37%) than improved over time (17%).

- City of Pittsburgh residents were the only geographic group in which more residents perceived improved quality of life (32%) than declines (21%).
- Younger residents were also more likely to perceive regional quality of life as improving.
- Those with more education and higher incomes were more likely to rate overall quality of life higher and to perceive improvement in their quality of life over the past few years.
- African American residents rated both their neighborhoods and the broader region less positively in terms of overall quality of life. However, African Americans did not report lower overall life satisfaction or happiness.
- More educated residents and those with higher incomes reported higher overall life satisfaction and happiness. There were no other geographic or demographic differences on these personal quality of life indices. ■

A series of detailed tables of survey results by geography and demographic variables can be found at ucsur.pitt.edu/QOL and pittsburghtoday.org.

— Scott Beach, UCSUR



FINDINGS: ARTS & CULTURE

RELATIVELY FEW RESIDENTS of the Greater Pittsburgh region personally try their hand at creative writing, dance and other art forms. However, support for arts education in local schools is strong throughout the region, as is the willingness to patronize arts performances and cultural institutions to some degree, even in a sluggish, post-recession economy.

More than half (53%) of all residents in the survey area visited a local museum or art gallery or attended an art or cultural event, such as a play, concert or reading at least three times during the previous year. Slightly more than 12% did so at least 11 times, while more than 77% took in a show or visited a museum or gallery at least once.

Far fewer residents create or perform art themselves. Fewer than 1 in 5 of all residents in the survey area, for example, did any creative writing, or sang in a choir, or performed dance, and just over 20% composed music or played a musical instrument. When it comes to doing art, the clear preference is arts and crafts, painting, drawing, sculpture and printmaking—activities in which more than 35% of all residents engaged.

In recent years, it is not uncommon to find the arts on the short list of classes and teachers that public school officials facing serious budget shortfalls consider expendable. Most residents throughout Greater Pittsburgh think otherwise. In the opinion of 68%, arts education in schools is very important or extremely important, while fewer than 4% believe it is not important at all.

GEOGRAPHIC COMPARISONS

The City of Pittsburgh, the center of arts and culture in the region, is home to a professional symphony, ballet and theater companies, world-class venues, a popular summer arts festival and art, natural history and history museums considered to be among the finest in the nation. Not surprisingly, support for and participation in the arts is greatest among residents of the city.

They were more likely to attend arts and cultural events in the previous year than residents in all other parts of Greater Pittsburgh. They were more likely to compose

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VISITS TO MUSEUMS, GALLERIES, ART, CULTURAL EVENTS

During the past year, about how many times have you visited a local museum or gallery or attended an art or cultural event, such as a play, concert, festival, reading or film?

NUMBER OF TIMES	OVERALL	GEOGRAPHY			RACE	
		ALLEGHENY COUNTY	6-COUNTY MSA	25-COUNTY	NOT AFRICAN AMERICAN	AFRICAN AMERICAN
0	23.3	16.6	21.6	29.8	23.1	26.3
1-2	23.5	19.8	28.1	23.3	23.7	20.6
3-5	27.0	27.6	27.7	26.1	26.9	28.5
6-10	14.0	17.7	12.7	11.9	14.2	11.3
11-20	7.1	9.7	6.4	5.5	7.1	7.1
20+	5.1	8.6	3.5	3.5	5.0	6.2

Responses shown as percentages of residents

ARTS & CULTURE

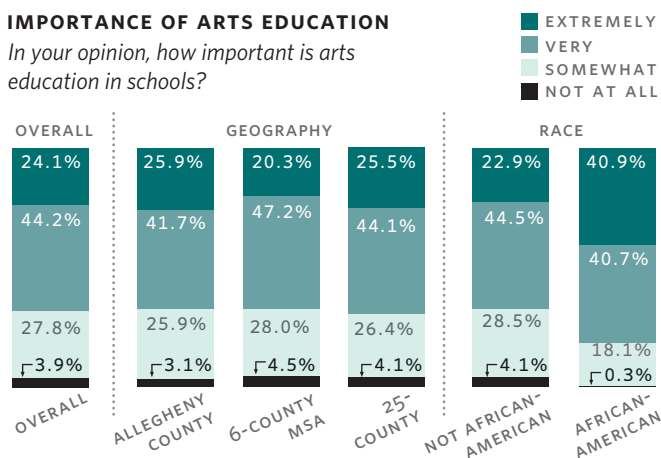
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music, play a musical instrument, sing in a choir and dance. City of Pittsburgh residents were also more likely to support arts organizations with donations and volunteer hours, and rate their art and cultural opportunities as good, very good or excellent.

City residents, however, were less likely to do creative writing than those who live in other parts of the survey area. The greatest percentage of creative writers in the region reside in the Allegheny County municipalities outside of the city. People who live in the six Pittsburgh MSA counties surrounding Allegheny County were the most likely to make crafts, paint, draw, sculpt and do printmaking.

IMPORTANCE OF ARTS EDUCATION

In your opinion, how important is arts education in schools?



Responses shown as percentages of residents

Support for teaching the arts in school was the greatest in the City of Pittsburgh, where nearly 74% of residents consider it a very important or extremely important endeavor. But residents in other parts of the region largely feel the same way. In none of the other geographic areas were there fewer than 67.5% of residents who felt that offering art to children in school was very or extremely important.

Data from a 2003 UCSUR pilot study of quality of life issues in Allegheny County suggest that the percentage of residents who attend arts or cultural events has increased significantly. In the 2003 study, for example, 30% of Allegheny County residents failed to attend a single art or cultural event in the past year, while only 16.6% of residents reported not having attended an event in the 2011 Pittsburgh Regional Quality of Life Survey. And the percentage of residents who attended at least six events during the previous year rose from 24.6% to 36%.

DEMOGRAPHIC COMPARISONS

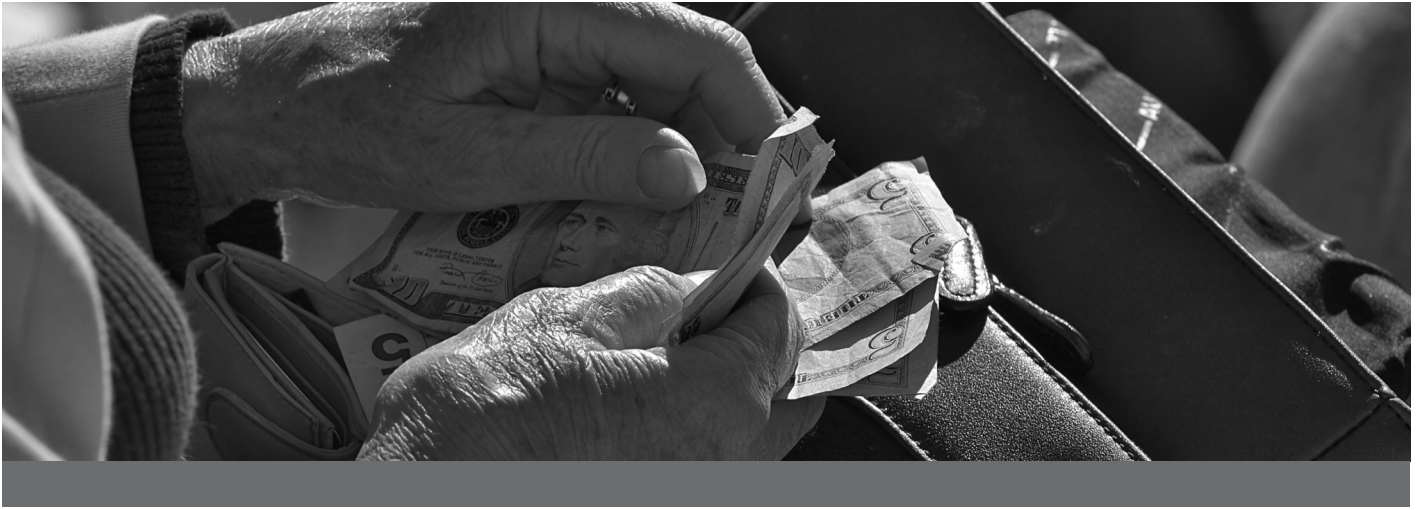
Perceptions, attitudes and behaviors related to art and leisure vary across demographic categories, which include age, race, gender, income and education level.

In general, lower attendance rates for art and cultural events were found among men, people aged 65 years or older, those with a high school diploma or less and residents earning no more than \$25,000 a year.

Among African Americans and non-African Americans, the percentage of those who attended a show or visited a museum the previous year was similar—53% to 54% respectively.

African Americans were also more likely than other races to compose or play music, as well as to sing in a choir and dance. African Americans, women, residents aged 18-29, people with a bachelor's degree and residents with annual incomes between \$100,000 and \$150,000 were more likely to have done some creative writing during the previous year. African Americans were also among the groups least likely to have done crafts, painting, sculpture, drawing and printmaking, which also included men, people over age 65, and those with lower levels of education.

Gender comparisons show that men were more likely than women to compose or play music and to donate money to arts organizations or volunteer their time. Women, on the other hand, were more likely to personally take part in art performances and to consider art education in school as something that is very important or extremely important. ■



FINDINGS: ECONOMY

MORE GREATER PITTSBURGH residents overall report that their financial situation has gotten worse over the past three years than say it has gotten better, although that has not been the case when racial differences are considered.

And as a whole, residents give the local or regional economy a stronger vote of confidence going forward than the national economy.

Nearly 45% of residents interviewed in the Pittsburgh Regional Quality of Life Survey expected local or regional economic conditions to remain the same over the next year; 24% expected the economy to improve; and 31.6% expected it to get worse. About 24% also expected the national economy to improve. However, 47.5% predicted it would get worse.

The past three years brought no change in the financial situations of 48% of the region's residents overall. Others reported mixed fortunes. Nearly 1 in 4 saw improvement in their household financial situations, while 27% of residents overall reported setbacks.

The majority of residents overall reported never having trouble paying their rent or mortgage payments, paying their utility bills or having money for food. However, more than 47% reported having struggled at times to pay for such basic necessities.

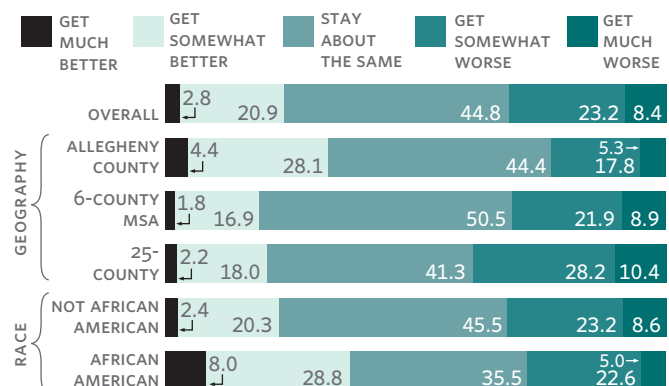
Nearly 80% of residents throughout the region who work are employed full-time. Overall, 45.5% of residents work in the private sector, another 41% in the public sector and 13.5% work for a nonprofit. A little more than 1 in 5 residents identified themselves as self-employed. And only 16% of residents said they belong to a union in a region that for more than a century had been a stronghold of organized labor.

Regardless of their race, where they lived or what sector employed them, most residents agreed that the job market is tough. Nearly 72% overall believed they would have a hard

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ECONOMY

Thinking about the local or regional economy, would you say that over the next year the region's economy will...



Responses shown as percentages of residents

ECONOMY

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time finding a job with another employer that offers the same wages and benefits they now earn, while fewer than 7% percent were confident they could do better.

GEOGRAPHIC COMPARISONS

In general, residents who lived the farthest from Allegheny County were more likely to report having trouble paying for basic necessities. Those most likely to struggle lived in the 25 counties surrounding the Pittsburgh metropolitan statistical area (MSA).

Household financial situations remained the same over the past three years for at least half of the residents in all areas of the region covered in the survey. Residents of the city, however, were more likely to report that their household financial situation improved, while residents outside of Allegheny County were more likely to report their financial situation had gotten worse.

Not surprisingly, those outside of Allegheny County offered more negative assessments of the prospects of the national economy's progress. About half believed it will get worse in the coming year, compared to about 1 in 3 City of Pittsburgh residents who felt the same way.

Geographic differences were also seen in perspectives on regional economic progress. City of Pittsburgh residents were, by far, the most optimistic, with 45% expecting the region's economy to get better in the coming year. Only about 1 in 5 residents outside of Allegheny County felt the same way. And only 15% of city residents expected the regional economy to worsen over the next year, while about 31% of the rest of Allegheny County and 38% of those who live outside of the Pittsburgh MSA offered similar forecasts.

Private sector employment ranged from a low of 40.4% of residents in the six MSA counties outside of Allegheny County to nearly 51% of Allegheny County residents. More significant differences were seen in non-profit and government employment.

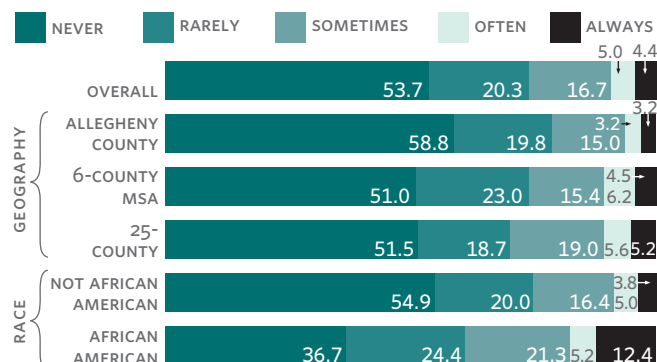
Previous research conducted by UCSUR in 2009 suggested that about half the region's nonprofit jobs are found

in the City of Pittsburgh and that 25% of those who live in the city work in the nonprofit sector. The survey data agreed. About 1 in 4 city residents reported working for nonprofits, compared to 16% of those who live in the rest of Allegheny County and 12.5% of those who live in the six other MSA counties. Only 9.3% of residents living outside of the MSA reported working in the nonprofit sector.

The survey revealed marginal geographic differences in the proportion of residents who reported that they are self-employed, which ranged from 20.4% in the six MSA counties

ECONOMY

How often does your household have difficulty paying for basic necessities like monthly rent or mortgage, food, and utilities?



Responses shown as percentages of residents

outside of Allegheny County to 24.7% of residents who live outside of the MSA.

When asked how easy it would be to find another job in their area that offered the same income and benefits their current job provides, nearly 72% of those living outside of the City of Pittsburgh reported that it would be "not too easy" or "not easy at all." Two-thirds of 66% city residents felt the same way.

A 2003 UCSUR pilot study of Allegheny County residents suggests how their views of the local and national economies have changed. For example, 36.4% of Allegheny County residents felt the national economy was getting somewhat or much better in 2003, compared to 31% who felt the same way in 2011. And by 2011 they were more optimistic about the prospects of the regional economy improving than

the national economy doing the same. Eight years earlier, the reverse was true when significantly more residents thought the national economy would get somewhat or much better the following year than thought the local economy would improve.

DEMOGRAPHIC COMPARISONS

African Americans across the region tend to be more optimistic about the prospects of both the national and regional economies than residents of other races. More than 39% of African Americans felt the national economy would get somewhat or much better in 2011, while only 23% of other races embraced the same level of optimism. And 37% of African Americans said they expect the regional economy to get better, compared to 23% of residents of other races.

Not surprisingly, City of Pittsburgh residents with lower levels of education and lower incomes were more likely to report having difficulty paying monthly basic living expenses.

Racial differences are pronounced when such hardship is examined. Nearly 18% of African Americans in the region said they often or always have trouble paying for housing and other basic necessities. That is more than twice the rate of hardship reported by other races. Such hardship is more prevalent among African Americans in the City of Pittsburgh, where 26.4% reported having trouble paying for basic necessities, compared to only 1.6% of other races.

Throughout the region, 36.7% of African Americans reported they never have trouble affording basic necessities, while nearly 55% of residents of other races said such monthly expenses are never a problem.

However, African Americans, more than any other race, were more likely to report seeing improvement in their household finances over the past three years. More than 41% of African Americans overall said their financial situation had improved somewhat or significantly, compared to 23.6% of residents of other races. And nearly 46% of African Americans living in the City of Pittsburgh reported their financial situation improved over that time.

More African Americans than residents of other races also expected their financial situation to get better over the next year. Two-thirds of African Americans across the region felt their own economic situation would get much better or somewhat better, while 29.6% of residents of other races offered such optimistic forecasts of their financial prospects. ■



FINDINGS: **EDUCATION**

THE MAJORITY OF RESIDENTS throughout Greater Pittsburgh agree that the education their children receive deserves high marks for quality. On the issues of school safety and finances, however, perceptions are more sharply divided, particularly along racial lines.

School quality and finances were among the education issues examined in the Pittsburgh Regional Quality of Life Survey.

More than 50% of all residents in the survey area considered the financial resources of their local public schools to be “generally adequate.” Another 15% viewed public school financial resources as “completely adequate.” On the other hand, 34.6% felt their local public schools operate with financial resources that are “generally inadequate” or “completely inadequate.”

Not surprisingly, public schools were the choice of the majority of all residents in the survey area who had children in school. More than 84% had children in public school, while 11% had children in private school, 2% enrolled their children in both public and private schools and the children of 3% of all residents were in some other type of educational setting.

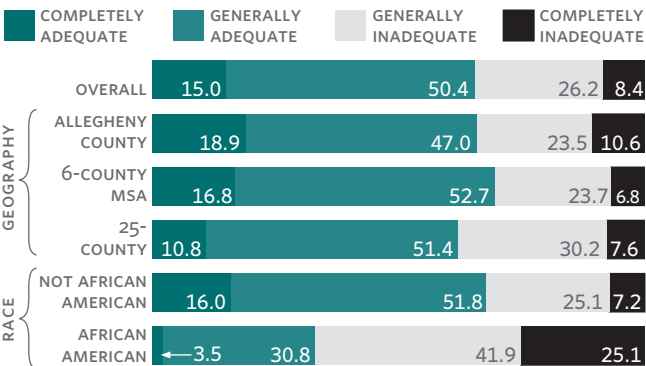
Most are satisfied with their educational choices. Only 3% of residents overall who had children in school felt the quality of education was poor, while 64% gave the quality of the education their children receive ratings of “excellent” or “very good.”

Their involvement in their child’s school and the local school district was mixed. During the previous two years, for example, 86% had visited their child’s school for a parent conference or had been a member of the Parent-Teacher Association or similar organization. However, fewer than 17% of residents overall had attended a local school board meeting.

Local schools were considered to be safe havens for students by the majority of all residents in the survey area. Only 13 percent overall described their local schools as “somewhat unsafe” or “completely unsafe.”

EDUCATION

In your view, how adequate or inadequate are the financial resources available for the public schools in your local community?



Responses shown as percentages of residents

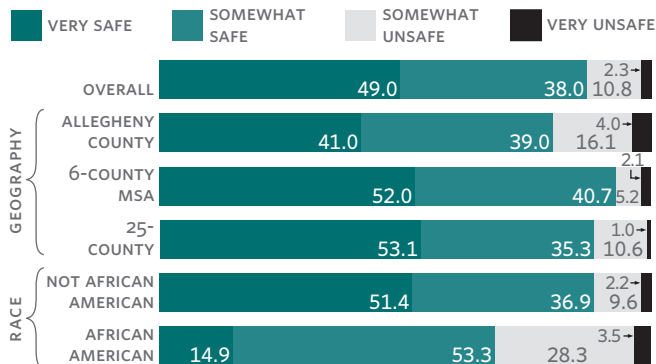
GEOGRAPHIC COMPARISONS

City of Pittsburgh residents were more likely than those living elsewhere in the survey area to express concerns about education issues. For example, the greatest percentage of residents who viewed the financial resources of the public schools as completely inadequate was found in the city, where more than 17% expressed that concern—more than twice the rate of those who felt the same way in the 25 counties surrounding the Pittsburgh MSA.

Data from a 2003 UCSUR pilot study of quality of life issues in Allegheny County suggest residents have become increasingly concerned about the adequacy of school funding. In the 2003 study, 26.3% of Allegheny County residents

EDUCATION

How would you rate the safety of the public schools in your local community?



Responses shown as percentages of residents

rated school funding as generally or completely inadequate compared to nearly 35% of residents who felt the same way in the 2011 Pittsburgh Regional Quality of Life Survey. The rate of those who considered funding to be completely inadequate rose from 5% to 10.6%.

City of Pittsburgh residents were more likely to rate their public schools as somewhat or very unsafe than residents of other parts of the region. The least likely to describe school safety in those terms resided in the six Pittsburgh MSA counties outside of Allegheny County.

Those who live in the City of Pittsburgh were also more likely to rate the quality of public education as fair or poor, and were less likely than residents of other areas to have visited their child's school for a parent conference during the previous two years or to have been a member of the PTA or similar organization.

In Allegheny County, residents express an increasing level of satisfaction with the quality of education their children are receiving when data from the 2003 UCSUR pilot study and the 2011 Pittsburgh Regional Quality of Life Survey are compared. More than 65% of residents rated the quality of education their children receive as excellent or very good in the 2003 study, while nearly 70% of residents gave their children's education the same rating in the recent survey.

DEMOGRAPHIC COMPARISONS

Generally, residents across the survey area who held at least a bachelor's degree were more likely than those less educated to view the financial resources of local schools as being completely adequate and to consider their local schools as very safe places for students. Those with a master's or higher degree were more likely to have children in private schools.

Differences in level of education were also seen in perspectives about the quality of schools.

Residents with a high school degree or less were, for example, more likely than those with more education to rate the overall quality of their child's school as fair or poor.

Younger residents—those 18 to 44 years of age—were more likely than other age groups to have children under the age of 18 living in their homes, and to consider the financial resources of their local schools as generally or completely inadequate.

Some of the most significant demographic differences were seen among races. African Americans were more likely to describe the financial resources available to their public schools as generally or completely inadequate and did so at a rate twice that of other races. They were also more likely than other races to rate the education their children receive as only fair or poor.

School safety was another issue about which perspectives were markedly divided by race. Only 14.9% of African Americans considered their schools to be very safe, while 51.4% of residents of other races characterized their schools as such. African Americans were also much more likely than other races to describe their schools as somewhat or very unsafe. ■



FINDINGS: ENVIRONMENT

FOR DECADES, MUCH OF THE REGION has fallen short of complying with federal air quality standards for ozone and fine particle pollution. Yet, more than half of residents believe the region's air quality is not a problem at all. In fact, they are more likely to express concern about river and stream pollution and the environmental impact of natural gas drilling than about the quality of the air they breathe.

Overall, only 4% of residents in the survey area characterized air quality in the region as a severe problem and 18% viewed the air quality in the region to be either a moderate or severe problem. On the other hand, nearly 54% felt it was not a problem at all.

Only 1 in 10 residents viewed pollution in streams and rivers as being a severe problem and one-third of residents overall described it as either a severe or moderate problem. Another one-third of residents felt stream and river pollution was not a problem at all. Drinking water was less of a concern. About 19% of residents overall believed it to be a severe or moderate problem compared to 59% who felt the quality of the water they drink was not a problem at all.

Drilling for natural gas in the Marcellus Shale formation, which has significantly increased within the region in recent years, was a topic most residents followed to some degree. Only 19% of residents said they did not follow developments in gas drilling, while more than

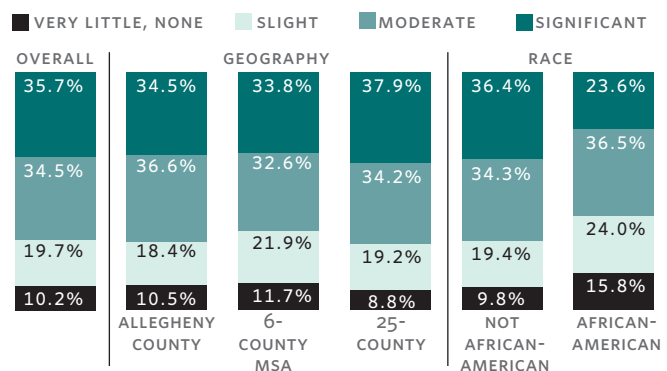
half (54%) said it was an issue they followed very closely or somewhat closely. The chief sources of their information on the issue were newspapers and other news media.

Most residents overall viewed natural gas drilling as an economic opportunity for the region. For example, 7 in 10 saw it as either a significant or moderate economic opportunity, while only 1 in 10 felt it offers very little or no economic opportunity for the region. At the same time, drilling was viewed as an environmental and public health threat to some degree by all but 17% of residents. More than half (55%) believed Marcellus Shale natural gas drilling was either a significant or moderate environmental and public health threat.

However, extracting natural gas from the shale forma-

ENVIRONMENT

To what extent do you think the Marcellus Shale represents an economic opportunity for this region?



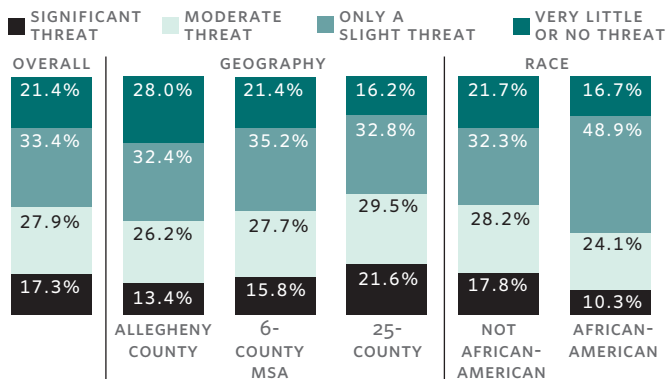
Responses shown as percentages of residents

tion was supported by more than 44% of residents overall, while 1 in 4 opposed the practice. About 11% of residents overall had been personally affected by drilling in some way and 15% said they or someone in their family had signed a lease with a natural gas company to use land they owned.

The majority of residents (57.6%) supported state government assuming greater oversight of the environment, the overall quality of which they were divided on. More than 31% felt that environmental quality was improving, while 22% felt it was getting worse.

ENVIRONMENT

To what extent do you think the Marcellus Shale represents a threat to the environment and public health of the region?



Responses shown as percentages of residents

GEOGRAPHIC COMPARISONS

Although the percentages were small, residents of Allegheny County—excluding those who live in the City of Pittsburgh—were the most likely to view air quality as a severe problem. They were also the least likely to say air quality was not a problem at all. Residents of the six MSA counties surrounding Allegheny County were the least likely to view air quality as a problem, particularly a severe problem. Drinking water, however, was a different story. Those residents were more likely than other residents to consider the quality of the water they drink a severe problem.

City of Pittsburgh residents were the most likely to view river and stream pollution as a severe problem and to believe that Marcellus Shale natural gas production poses a significant or moderate threat to the environment and public health. The city was also where the greatest proportion of residents considered the overall quality of the environment to be improving.

Data from a 2003 UCSUR pilot study of quality of life

issues in Allegheny County suggest some difference in concerns among residents over the quality of the air and local rivers and streams. Nearly 21% of residents viewed air quality as a moderate or severe problem in the 2003 study compared to 23% who gave air quality the same ratings in the 2011 Pittsburgh Regional Quality of Life Survey. The percentage of residents who viewed river and stream pollution as a moderate or severe problem increased from 28.3% to 37.3% over the eight-year period.

Marcellus Shale gas production was viewed in a more positive light in the 25 counties that surround the Pittsburgh MSA. Residents there were the most likely to strongly support natural gas production and the least likely to see it as an environmental or public health threat.

The residents most likely to have been personally affected by drilling activities and to have signed a lease with a natural gas company live in the six MSA counties that surround Allegheny County.

DEMOGRAPHIC COMPARISONS

In general, men across the region were less likely than women to express concern about the quality of the air and water. They were more likely, for example, to express the view that air and water quality and the pollution of streams and rivers were not a problem at all.

Men were also more likely to have followed issues related to Marcellus Shale natural gas production and to believe it represents a significant economic opportunity for the region. And they were less likely to see it as a significant threat to the environment and public health.

Comparing environmental perspectives by household income, residents with an annual income of \$75,000 or greater were the most likely to follow Marcellus Shale issues somewhat closely or very closely and to view natural gas production as a significant economic opportunity for the region. They were also the least likely to recycle their glass, paper or plastic. Residents with more substantial incomes—\$100,000 to \$150,000 a year—were less likely to believe there are no problems at all with the quality of the region's air and water.

The survey data also provide insight into environmental perspectives from a standpoint of level of education. Residents with less than an undergraduate degree, for example, were least likely to follow developments in natural gas production and to see it as a significant economic opportunity for the region. Residents who earned a master's or higher degree were least likely to say there are no problems at all with the region's air quality and river and stream pollution. ■



FINDINGS: **GOVERNMENT**

AT A TIME WHEN GOVERNMENT officials are cutting costs and paring services to address budget shortfalls, the majority of residents across the greater Southwestern Pennsylvania area favor spending more on roads and infrastructure, schools, and economic development and job creation.

In fact, no more than 16.8% of residents overall favored spending less on any of the six government services examined in the 2011 Pittsburgh Regional Quality of Life Survey. In many cases, spending cuts were supported by no more than 1 in 10 residents across the survey area.

Variations in the views of residents on the issues of government spending and municipal mergers emerged when geography and demographic differences, such as political party affiliation and race, were considered.

Overall, more than 53% of residents across the survey area supported increasing government spending for schools, while only 12% favored spending less. Another 34.5% supported keeping school spending levels the same. Investing more in roads and infrastructure was supported by 55% of all residents in the survey area, while 7.6% favored reducing such expenditures. Nearly 70% of residents overall favored spending more on economic development and job creation. Only 9% supported spending less.

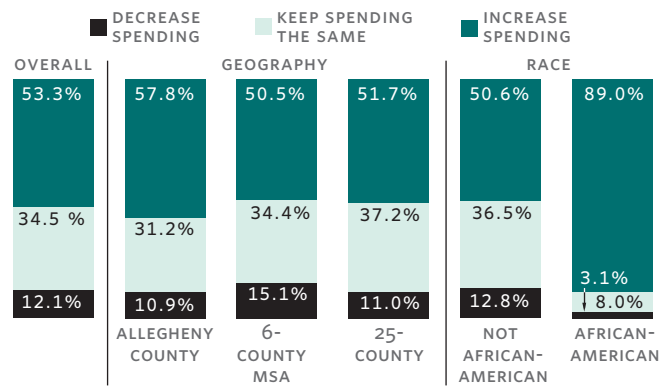
Fewer than half of residents overall sup-

ported spending more for human services, public safety, and parks and recreation. Spending more on parks and recreation drew the least support among all residents. However, significantly more residents favored spending the same for those services than were advocates for spending less.

Support for merging their municipality with a neighboring one was mixed. The notion of a merger received strong or moderate support from 38% of residents overall, while 29% neither supported nor opposed it. About one-third of all residents were opposed to the idea of merging with another municipality.

GOVERNMENT

Keeping limited resources in mind, should your local government increase spending, keep spending about the same amount, or decrease spending on schools?



Responses shown as percentages of residents

GEOGRAPHIC COMPARISONS

City of Pittsburgh residents were the most likely to favor increased government spending on five of the six services examined in the survey: public safety, human services, schools, parks and recreation, and economic development and job creation. The exception was spending more on roads and infrastructure, which residents of counties outside the Pittsburgh MSA were more likely than others to favor.

Residents least likely to support spending more on roads and infrastructure resided in the six MSA counties outside Allegheny County. Even then, more than 49% were in favor of doing so. Residents of the MSA counties outside of Allegheny County were also the least likely to favor spending more on

GOVERNMENT

How strongly would you support or oppose the idea of merging your municipality with any neighboring municipality?

	OVERALL	GEOGRAPHY			RACE	
		ALLE- GHENY COUNTY	6- COUNTY MSA	25- COUNTY	NOT AFRICAN AMERICAN	AFRICAN AMERICAN
STRONGLY SUPPORT	15.4	16.0	12.6	17.0	14.8	23.7
MODERATELY SUPPORT	22.5	22.6	24.0	21.3	21.4	36.4
NEITHER SUPPORT NOR OPPOSE	29.1	26.5	26.4	33.1	29.5	23.1
MODERATELY OPPOSE	15.4	17.3	17.2	12.7	16.2	4.6
STRONGLY OPPOSE	17.7	17.7	19.9	16.1	18.1	12.3

Responses shown as percentages of residents

public safety and on economic development and job creation.

City of Pittsburgh residents were more likely to be in favor of merging with one or more neighboring municipalities than were residents of the rest of the Pittsburgh MSA and the 25 counties surrounding it.

Residents of the City of Pittsburgh were also more likely than others to consider themselves Democrats and as having a liberal political ideology. Residents of the six MSA counties outside of Allegheny County were the most likely to consider themselves Republican and as having a conservative political ideology.

More residents considered themselves moderates than any other ideology, except in the 25 counties that surround the Pittsburgh MSA, where they were most likely to call themselves conservatives. In general, the farther from the city residents lived, the more likely they were to consider themselves Republican and conservative.

POLITICAL AFFILIATION & IDEOLOGY

Throughout the survey area, residents who identified themselves as Democrats were the most likely to support government spending for all services examined, while residents who considered themselves Republicans were the least supportive. This gap on spending attitudes was widest for human services, schools, and economic development and job creation.

Similar trends were seen with political ideology: residents who considered themselves liberal were more supportive of government spending across the board; moderates held the middle ground; and those who identified with a conservative ideology were the least likely to favor government spending. The ideology gap was widest on spending for roads and infrastructure, human services and schools.

DEMOGRAPHIC COMPARISONS

African Americans, residents with less formal education and residents with lower household incomes supported increased government spending for all six services examined in the survey throughout the greater Southwestern Pennsylvania area.

Women, in general, were more likely than men to support spending more on schools, public safety and human services. Younger residents—those 18 to 29 years of age—were more likely than other age groups to favor government spending on roads and infrastructure, and economic development and job creation. And the idea of merging their municipality with a neighboring one was supported by more middle-aged residents—aged 30 to 64 years—than by younger and older residents.

Race clearly mattered in how residents viewed public spending. Across the survey area, much higher percentages of African Americans favored spending more for police protection, schools, human services, economic development, and parks and recreation than other races.

The gap, in many cases, was significant. For example, spending more for human services was favored by nearly 67% of African Americans—almost double the percentage of non-African Americans who supported an increase in human services funding. And more than 61% of African Americans supported spending more on public safety, which only about 31% of other races favored. ■



FINDINGS: HEALTH

ABOUT 1 IN 5 PEOPLE who reside in the greater Southwestern Pennsylvania area describe their health as fair or poor. Nearly two-thirds of residents overall are obese or overweight as determined by their Body Mass Index and more than half are living anything but stress-free lives.

The declining health of others also has a significant impact on residents. Overall, more than 23% of residents interviewed in the Pittsburgh Regional Quality of Life Survey reported caring for friends or relatives who are seriously ill—and the percentages of residents doing so were fairly consistent throughout the survey region.

Age, race, education, income and geographic differences were also seen across a number of health indicators, including self-reported health ratings and whether residents were able to afford to see a doctor when they needed to.

More than half of residents overall described their health as being excellent or very good, while about 30% described their health as “good” and nearly 20% rated their health as either fair or poor. Nearly 23% of residents smoke every day or some days.

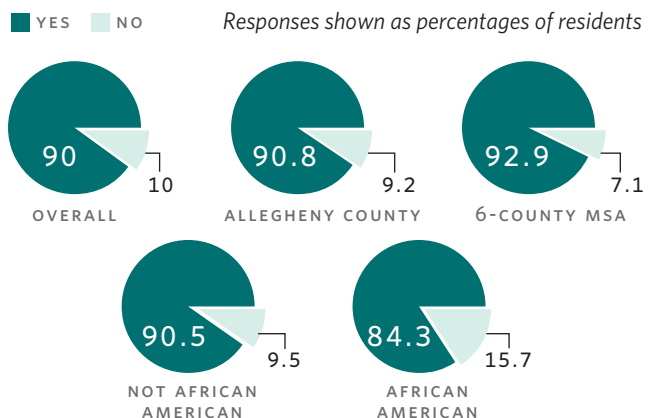
The weight of residents emerged as a widespread problem. BMI measurements calculated from reported height and

weight revealed that 64% of residents overall were either overweight or obese, a condition that increases the risk of Type 2 diabetes, coronary heart disease, certain cancers, stroke and other diseases.

Stress is not a benign health factor and can alter such functions as immune system response, heart rate and digestion—and most residents across the survey area experienced some level of stress during the month prior to being interviewed. Nearly 52% of residents overall, for example, experienced moderate to severe stress, while only 1 in 10 reported having a stress-free month.

HEALTH

Do you have any kind of health care coverage, including health insurance, prepaid plans such as HMOs, or government plans such as Medicare?

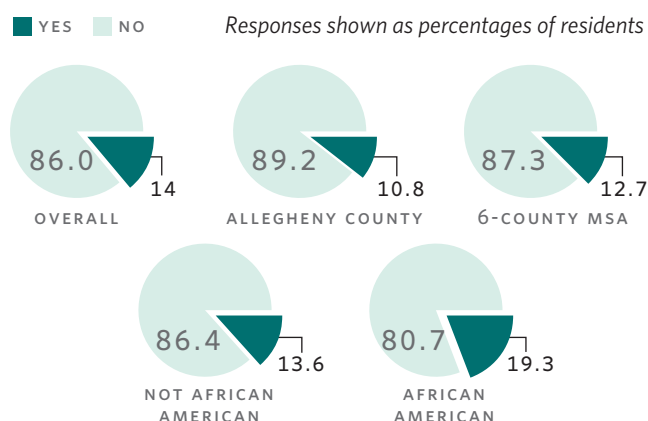


During the month prior to being interviewed, nearly 1 in 4 residents overall provided care for someone who is seriously ill, usually a relative. The time they spent doing so varied, with nearly 47% having spent 8 hours a week or less providing care. However, 36% of residents spent 20 or more hours a week caring for a sick relative or friend.

Most residents overall reported having health care coverage, which is a key factor in gaining access to medical care. Only 1 in 10 residents said they did not have some type of coverage, such as private insurance, a health maintenance organization or other prepaid plan, or a government plan, such as Medicare. However, 14% said there were times during the prior year when they needed to see a doctor but couldn't afford to.

HEALTH

Was there a time during the last 12 months when you needed to see a doctor but could not because of the cost.



Health data from Allegheny County, the largest county in southwestern Pennsylvania, compare favorably to the rest of the nation in several categories. In the Pittsburgh Regional Quality of Life Survey, for example, 56% of Allegheny County residents characterized their health as “excellent” or “very good” compared to 54.8% of all Americans who describe their health in similar terms, according to 2010 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) data. The rate of obese residents in Allegheny County (24.7%) is lower than the national rate (27.5%), as is the rate of overweight residents. And nearly 91% of Allegheny County residents reported having health insurance compared to the 85%

national coverage rate the BRFSS reports.

Among Allegheny County residents, 13.4% described themselves as everyday smokers in the Pittsburgh Regional Quality of Life Survey compared to 12.4% of all Americans who characterized themselves as daily smokers in the 2010 BRFSS. On a positive note, the rate of smokers in Allegheny County appears to be declining. In a 2002 survey conducted by the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health, 27% of residents said they smoked compared to 20% who said they smoked in the 2011 Pittsburgh Regional Quality of Life Survey.

GEOGRAPHIC COMPARISONS

In the Greater Pittsburgh area, Allegheny County residents—excluding those who live in the City of Pittsburgh—were the most likely to rate their health as good, very good or excellent. Only 12% reported poor or fair health, while such health ratings were reported by about 22% of residents in the City of Pittsburgh, the six other Pittsburgh MSA counties and the 25 counties surrounding. Residents least likely to report very good or excellent health lived in the 25 counties outside of the MSA.

Those 25 outer-ring counties also had the greatest proportion of residents (68%) who were overweight or obese, with 33% considered to be obese. The least likely residents to have a weight problem lived in Allegheny County, where 59% were considered overweight or obese.

City of Pittsburgh residents were the most likely not to have health insurance (14%), closely followed by those who live in the 25 counties outside of the Pittsburgh MSA, where 13% of residents were without coverage. And 17.5% of those living in

the outer-ring counties reported times when they could not afford to see a physician, which was the highest proportion of residents in the survey region whose finances prevented them from seeing a doctor.

Residents of counties outside of the MSA were also the most likely to experience moderate or severe stress. Those least likely to experience such stress levels lived in the City of Pittsburgh.

However, city residents were the most likely to smoke every day or at least some days.

City residents were also the most likely to care for a sick

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HEALTH



friend or relative and 53% of those who provided such care did so for 20 hours a week or more. Two-thirds of city residents cared for a sick friend or relative for longer than a year, as did a similar percentage of residents of the six MSA counties outside of Allegheny County.

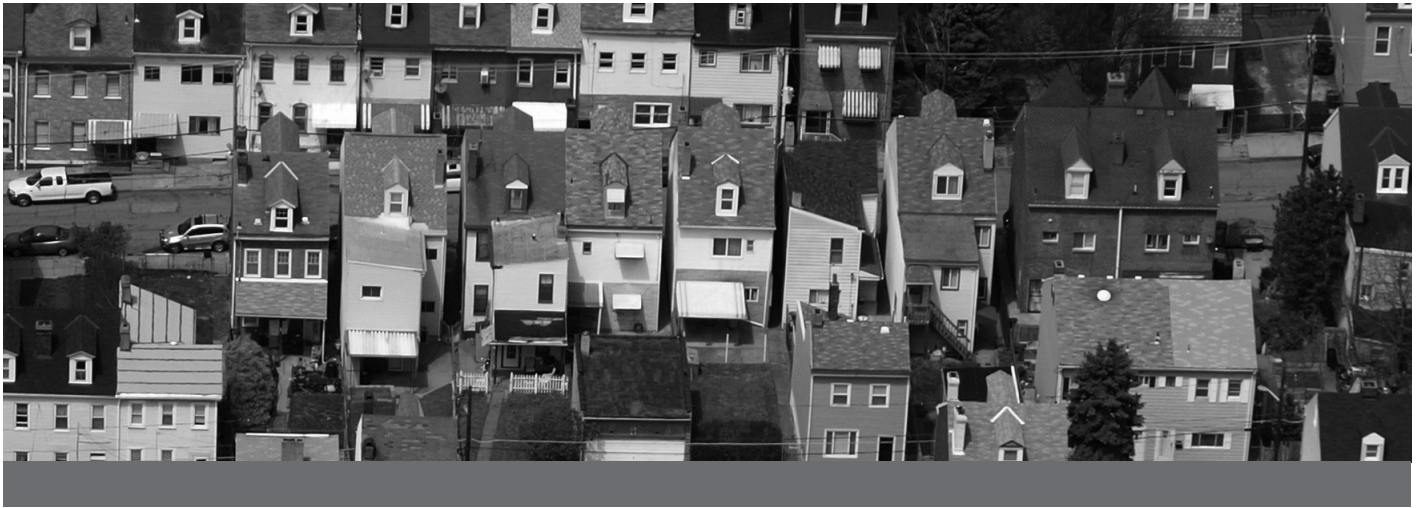
DEMOGRAPHIC COMPARISONS

Self-reported health did not significantly differ by gender. However, reported stress levels were higher among women, and men were more likely to be overweight and obese. Although men and women were equally likely to have health care coverage, women were more likely to report a time when they needed to see a doctor but could not afford to do so.

Age, as expected, was an important factor in health outcomes. Self-reported health worsened with age. But as age increased, the likelihood of not having health insurance decreased. Only 2% of residents 65 years old or older did not have health care coverage. Reported moderate to severe levels of stress peaked among residents 30 to 44 years old, while residents aged 65 and older were the least likely to experience such stress levels. The highest obesity rate was among residents 45 to 64 years old, while the lowest was among 18 to 29 year olds.

Racial differences were also seen. African Americans, for example, were more likely than other races to smoke every day or some days and to rate their health as either fair or poor. They were also more likely not to have some kind of health care coverage and to report times when they could not afford to see a physician.

Education and income levels were also influential. Self-reported health ratings improved with higher levels of education and income, while reported levels of stress and rates of obesity and being overweight tended to decrease. Not surprisingly, those residents with higher levels of education and income were the most likely to have health care coverage and the least likely to report times when they could not afford to visit a physician. ■■



FINDINGS: HOUSING & NEIGHBORHOOD

MORE RESIDENTS THROUGHOUT Greater Pittsburgh are homeowners than are renters, unless they are African American. And regardless of race or where in the region they reside, few residents live in housing they consider to be in poor condition.

Throughout the Pittsburgh Regional Quality of Life Survey area, 78.6% of residents reported that they or their family own the home in which they live.

Whether they owned or rented, 8 in 10 residents described the condition of their housing as good, very good or excellent. More than 30% described the condition of their home as excellent, while less than 2% overall said it was poor. A greater proportion of residents (88%) gave the structural condition of houses and buildings in their neighborhood a good or higher rating, while less than 3% considered the condition of those structures to be poor.

GEOGRAPHIC COMPARISONS

City of Pittsburgh residents were more likely to be renters than residents in the rest of Allegheny County and the region. The highest rate of homeownership was reported in the six MSA counties outside of Allegheny County, where more than 83% of residents said they or their family owned the home in which they lived.

Those six MSA counties also had the highest proportion of residents who rated the condition of their residence as either excellent or very good, and the highest proportion of resi-

dents who gave the condition of homes and buildings in their neighborhood similarly high ratings. Those who live in the City of Pittsburgh were the least likely to rate the condition of their residence and the condition of the homes and buildings in their neighborhood as excellent or very good.

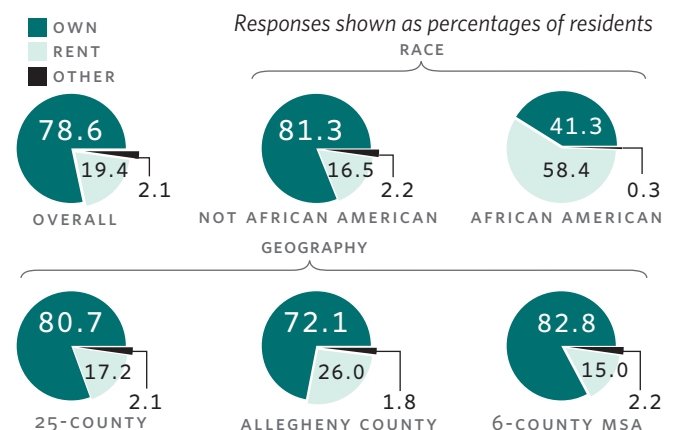
DEMOGRAPHIC COMPARISONS

Regardless of geography, residents with a master's, professional or doctoral degree had the highest homeownership rates

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HOUSING

Do you or your family own the place where you currently live, or do you rent, or other?



HOUSING

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of any education level, ranging from 82.6% in the City of Pittsburgh to more than 90% in the rest of Allegheny County and the region. City residents with a high school degree or less reported the lowest homeownership rates. That, however, was not always the case in the rest of Allegheny County and other six counties within the MSA.

More than half of residents aged 18 to 29 years who live in the MSA outside of Allegheny County reported that they or their family owned their home, compared to 42% of Allegheny County residents in the same age group and more than 24% of young City of Pittsburgh residents. Across all age groups, homeownership rates tended to increase the farther residents lived from the city.

And older residents generally rated the physical and structural conditions of their housing higher, on average, than younger residents. For example, although the City of Pittsburgh had the greatest proportion of residents who gave the condition of their housing low ratings, nearly 83% of city

residents rated the condition of their residence as fair or poor, compared to 9.6% of other races.

The largest concentrations of African American residents are found in the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County. Among them, those who lived in the city were more likely to rate the condition of the house or apartment in which they live as “excellent” or “very good” than those who lived in the county. There was little difference among races in the proportion of residents who rated the condition of their residence or structural conditions in their neighborhood as poor.

NEIGHBORHOOD

Most of the region’s residents do not anticipate moving any time soon. But if they do, it will most likely be someplace within the area, where most expect to remain for the next five years. They also tend to consider their neighbors helpful, and the majority of them do not see race relations as a problem in their neighborhood, although such views tend to vary depending on the race of the person making the observation.

Nearly 74% of residents overall said it was “not likely at all” that they would move from their current residence within the following year. And about 84% expected to be living in the region in five years.

Most residents in the survey are social within their neighborhoods. About 74% overall speak with their neighbors at least several times a month and 38% do so every day. Fewer than 7% said they never speak with neighbors. And most see their neighbors as helpful. More than 90% of residents agreed to some degree that their neighbors are willing to help others in the community.

Only about 13% of residents live in neighborhoods they described as being very diverse, compared to about 47% who live in neighborhoods described as somewhat diverse and 40% who characterized their neighborhoods as not at all diverse.

Residents were also asked to characterize race relations in their neighborhood. Overall, 64% said race relations are not a problem at all, while only about 3% rated race relations as a severe problem.

Data from a 2003 UCSUR pilot study of quality of life issues in Allegheny County suggest residents have become more social with their neighbors and less likely to report race relations as a neighborhood problem. In the 2003 study, about 26% of Allegheny County residents said they visit with neighbors just about every day, while nearly 41% reported

HOUSING

How would you describe, in general, the physical condition of surrounding houses or building in your neighborhood?

	OVERALL	GEOGRAPHY			RACE	
		ALLE- GHENY COUNTY	6- COUNTY MSA	25- COUNTY	NOT AFRICAN AMERICAN	AFRICAN AMERICAN
EXCELLENT	18.6	16.4	22.1	17.8	19.5	6.7
VERY GOOD	39.6	38.3	43.7	37.9	40.6	26.7
GOOD	29.8	31.0	24.9	32.4	29.2	38.6
FAIR	9.2	11.1	7.0	9.2	7.9	26.1
POOR	2.8	3.3	2.3	2.7	2.9	1.0

Responses shown as percentages of residents

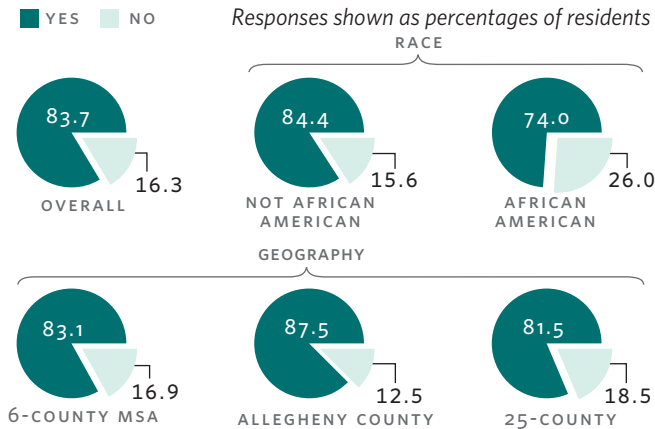
residents age 65 and older rated the condition of their residence as very good or excellent—the highest proportion of residents in the region to do so.

Homeownership rates for African Americans are significantly lower than for residents of other races, regardless of where in the region they live. For example, African American homeownership ranged from 36% of City of Pittsburgh residents to 38.5% in the rest of Allegheny County.

And throughout the region, African American residents were more likely than residents of other races to give the low ratings to the structural condition of their residence, as well as homes and buildings in their neighborhood. More than 22% of African Americans across the region rated the condi-

NEIGHBORHOOD

Do you expect to be living in the Southwestern Pennsylvania region five years from now?



doing so in the 2011 Pittsburgh Quality of Life Survey. The rate of those who said race relations is not a problem in their neighborhood rose from 46.4% to just over 58%, while the proportion of residents who viewed race as a severe or moderate problem fell from 22.8% to 14.1%.

GEOGRAPHIC COMPARISONS

Where people lived in the survey area was a factor in neighborhood diversity and perceived race relations. Those living in the City of Pittsburgh were the most likely to characterize their neighborhood as racially diverse and to identify race relations as a problem. Residents of the six MSA counties outside Allegheny County and of the 25 counties surrounding the Pittsburgh MSA were more likely to live in neighborhoods described as “not at all diverse” and were least likely to view race relations as a problem.

City of Pittsburgh residents were less likely than residents of other areas to agree that their neighbors are willing to help others in the community. For example, 38% of city residents strongly agreed that their neighbors were willing to help others, while 55% of Allegheny County residents felt that way about their neighbors, as did 57% of residents of the six MSA counties outside of Allegheny County and the 25 counties surrounding the Pittsburgh MSA.

Residents of the city were also more likely to say it was “very likely” they would move from their current residence within the next year. The residents least likely to move lived in the six MSA counties outside of Allegheny County. Where residents lived, however, did not significantly change the proportion of those who expected to be living in the region in five years.

DEMOGRAPHIC COMPARISONS

Lower income residents, African Americans and younger residents—especially those aged 18 to 29—were more likely than other demographic groups to say that it is very likely they will move from their current residence in the next year. They were also the least likely to believe they would be living in the region in five years.

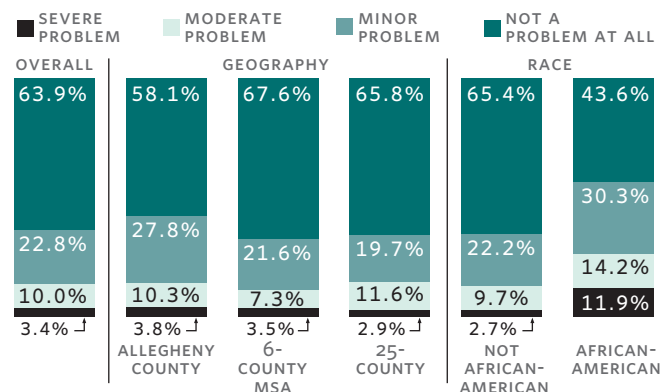
Older residents were more likely to visit and to speak with neighbors and to consider their neighbors as willing to help others in the community than were younger residents surveyed.

Race also was an important factor in how residents viewed their neighborhood and neighbors. African Americans, for example, were more likely to be skeptical about the willingness of their neighbors to help others. Nearly 19% of African Americans somewhat or strongly disagreed that their neighbors are willing to help fellow neighbors—about twice the proportion of residents of other races who felt the same way about their neighbors.

African Americans were also much more likely than residents of other races to live in racially diverse neighborhoods and to consider race relations a problem in their community. More than 26% of African American residents, for example, described race relations in their neighborhood as a severe or moderate problem—more than twice the rate (12.3%) of residents of other races who used the same terms to describe race relations in their community. ■

NEIGHBORHOOD

How much of a problem, if any, do you think race relations are in your own neighborhood or local community?



Responses shown as percentages of residents



FINDINGS: PUBLIC SAFETY

MOST RESIDENTS of Greater Pittsburgh feel safer in the confines of their neighborhood than in others, don't see much change in the local crime rate and give their local police high marks for the job they do protecting them. Such perspectives on public safety, however, tend to differ depending on race and where in the region residents live.

Overall, 67% of the residents interviewed in the Pittsburgh Regional Quality of Life Survey felt the safest in their neighborhoods. A similar proportion of residents perceived safety in their neighborhood to be about the same as in the previous year. Another 17.6% felt there is more crime, while about 16% felt there is less.

Relatively few residents were victims of either property or violent crimes in the past year. About 15% of residents overall reported having been a victim of property crime and only 1.8% reported having been a victim of violent crime. Those rates are slightly higher than the 2010 national crime rates reported in the National Crime Victimization Survey published by the U.S. Department of Justice. An estimated 12% of all Americans were victims of property crime that year and 1.5% were victims of violent crime.

Throughout Greater Pittsburgh, local police were rated as doing at least a good job

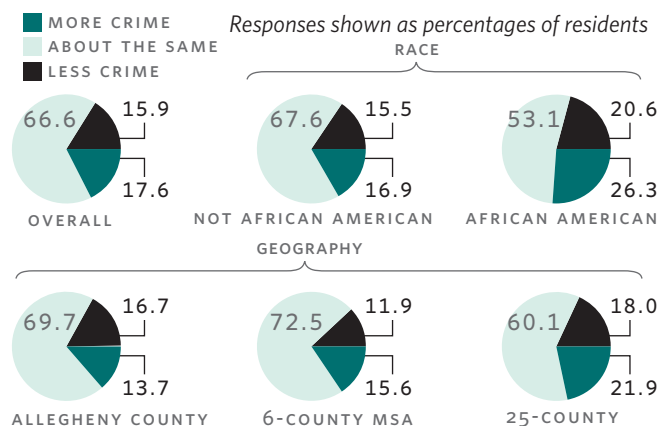
of protecting the community by 88% of residents overall. And 51% of residents rated local police work as either excellent or very good. Only 7.4% felt their local police do a poor job protecting them and their neighbors.

The Pittsburgh Regional Quality of Life Survey also examined the views of residents on approaches to dealing with people who are convicted of crimes. Most residents overall (72%) supported reduced incarceration of non-violent offenders in order to lower costs.

Residents had mixed views on whether to emphasize re-

PUBLIC SAFETY

Comparing safety in your neighborhood now with safety a year ago, is there now...



habilitation to prepare offenders to reenter society, to combine rehabilitation and shorter prison terms or to emphasize longer prison terms. About 37% of residents overall favored a combination of rehabilitation and shorter prison terms. Another 33.5% favored longer prison terms and more than 29% preferred an emphasis on rehabilitation.

GEOGRAPHIC COMPARISONS

Residents of the City of Pittsburgh were more likely than residents who live elsewhere in the region to feel that crime in their neighborhood is greater than in other neighborhoods. They were also more likely to report having been a victim of both violent and property crime during the past year and to say that police do at least a “good” job protecting the community.

PUBLIC SAFETY

How would you rate the police in your community in terms of giving protection to people in your neighborhood?

	OVERALL	GEOGRAPHY			RACE	
		ALLE- GHENY COUNTY	6- COUNTY MSA	25- COUNTY	NOT AFRICAN AMERICAN	AFRICAN AMERICAN
EXCELLENT	23.7	30.8	20.5	20.3	24.8	8.9
VERY GOOD	27.5	28.0	28.0	26.6	28.4	15.2
GOOD	26.8	22.9	28.6	28.7	26.7	28.6
FAIR	14.6	11.9	16.1	15.8	13.3	32.8
POOR	7.4	6.4	6.8	8.7	6.9	14.5

Responses shown as percentages of residents

Allegheny County residents—excluding those who live in the City of Pittsburgh—were the most likely to describe the job police in their community do as excellent or very good.

Those who live in the 25 counties surrounding the Pittsburgh MSA were the most likely to have the opinion that crime has increased in their neighborhood, although no other geographic area had a higher proportion of residents who felt their neighborhood is safer than others. They were the least likely to support reduced incarceration of non-violent offenders to save costs and the least likely to support an emphasis on rehabilitation of convicted offenders to prepare them to return to the community. They were the most likely to support longer prison sentences.

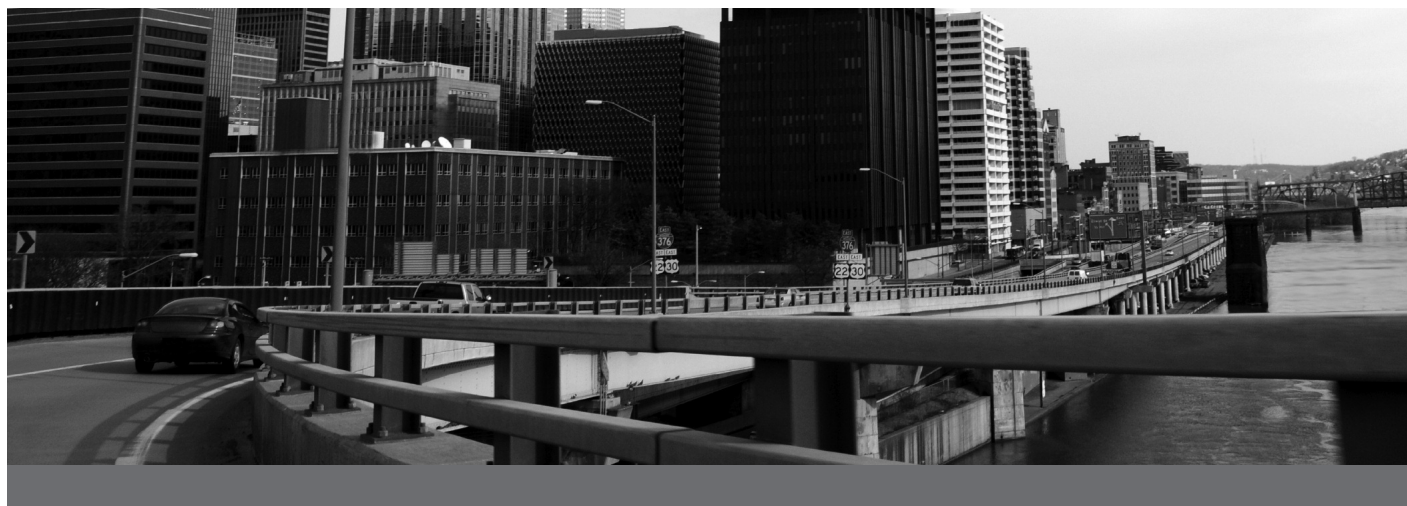
DEMOGRAPHIC COMPARISONS

Younger residents, African Americans and residents with lower household incomes tended to feel there is more crime in their neighborhoods than in others. They were also more likely to feel their neighborhoods are less safe than a year ago. The same subgroups, as well as residents with lower formal education, were less likely to describe police as doing a good job protecting their communities.

Men and younger residents were more likely to report having been a victim of property crime in the past year, while those more likely to have been a victim of violent crime in the past year were men who live in the City of Pittsburgh and African Americans.

Younger residents tended to be more supportive of emphasizing rehabilitation for convicted criminals rather than longer prison terms. Residents with higher levels of education also tended to be more supportive of rehabilitation. However, the most highly educated residents—those with a masters or higher degree—tended to favor a combination of rehabilitation and shorter prison terms. Men and younger residents were more likely than others to favor reduced incarceration of non-violent offenders to reduce costs.

Racial differences in many cases were significant. Nearly 55% of African Americans reported having been a victim of violent crime – almost three times the victimization rate of other races. African Americans were twice as likely as other races to say their local police do a poor job protecting them. They were also more likely to feel that crime in their neighborhood has increased and twice as likely to say crime is higher in their neighborhood than in others. Still, nearly 51% of African Americans felt their neighborhoods were safer than other neighborhoods. ■



FINDINGS: TRANSPORTATION

THE STATE OF ROADS, bridges and public transportation is a concern across much of the nation, and Greater Pittsburgh is no exception. In 2011, the region's largest public transit operator reduced service across the system and braced for more significant reductions in coming years.

Pittsburgh was identified as one of the regions with the highest number of structurally deficient bridges in the nation. And Pittsburgh International Airport showed few signs of regaining the traffic volume it had enjoyed before losing its USAirways hub status several years earlier.

Residents are not unaffected by such problems. The Pittsburgh Quality of Life Survey found that most view the state of public transportation and the condition of roads and bridges as matters of concern.

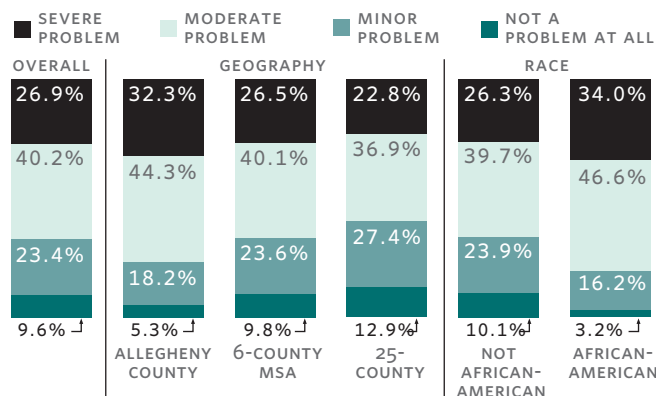
More than two thirds of residents overall considered the availability of public transportation a problem to some degree. More than half, for example, considered it to be a severe or moderate problem, while about one-third of residents described it as "not a problem at all." About 28% of residents overall use public transportation, and about 1 in 10 said they do so on a weekly basis. Another 16% of residents said public transit is not available where they live. A

majority of resident who have access to public transportation and use it reported being satisfied with the service.

The quality of roads and bridges was also viewed as a problem by a majority of residents across the Pittsburgh MSA and 25 counties surrounding it. Nearly 67% of residents overall considered the quality of roads and bridges to be either a severe or moderate problem, while less than 10% said road and bridge quality is not a problem at all. And traffic congestion was a concern of 3 in 4 residents overall, with

TRANSPORTATION

How much of a problem, if any, do you think there is with road and bridge quality in the region?



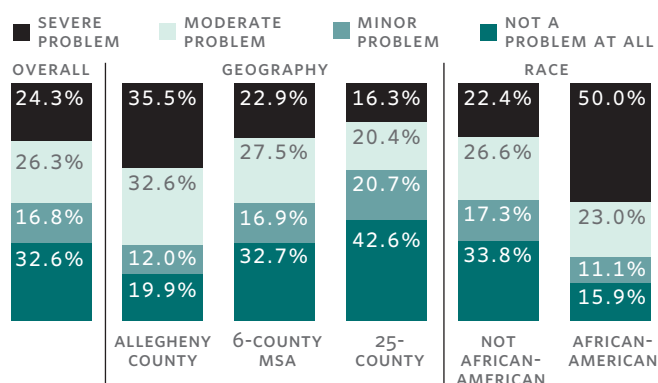
Responses shown as percentages of residents

more than half of them rating it as a severe or moderate problem.

The survey also offers insight on what residents think about other means of transportation in the region. More than 60% of residents overall, for example, considered the availability of nonstop destinations from Pittsburgh International Airport to be a problem of some degree. However, less than 17% described it as a severe problem. Views on the safety and availability of bike and pedestrian routes were mixed. Four in 10 residents overall considered it a problem, with 38% describing it as a severe or moderate problem. Overall, 53% of residents who live outside the city of Pittsburgh never travel to the city or do so less than once a month. Another 21% travel to the city at least once a week. Most of those who travel to the city said entertainment, events and sports were the reasons they do so.

TRANSPORTATION

How much of a problem, if any, do you think there is with the availability of public transit in the region?



Responses shown as percentages of residents

GEOGRAPHIC COMPARISONS

Not surprisingly, significantly more residents of Allegheny County, including those who live in the City of Pittsburgh, use public transit than those who live outside of the county, particularly those in the 25 counties surrounding the Pittsburgh MSA, where transit systems are smaller and service much more limited. In fact, 23% of those residents said public transportation is not available where they live.

Public transit usage is most highly concentrated in the City of Pittsburgh, where 40% of the residents said they ride

it at least once a week and 1 in 4 use it almost daily. About two-thirds of Allegheny County residents described the availability of public transit as a severe or moderate problem, making them the most likely to feel that way. Allegheny County and City of Pittsburgh residents were the most likely to be dissatisfied with the public transportation available to them.

A 2003 pilot study conducted by UCSUR suggests that transit usage among Allegheny County residents increased over the eight years that followed. For example, the proportion of residents who reported never using public transit decreased from 50.6% in 2003 to 44% in 2011. And everyday users in Allegheny County increased from just under 10% in 2003 to nearly 15% in 2011.

The Pittsburgh Regional Quality of Life Survey also found that where residents live matters when it comes to their assessments of transportation infrastructure. The closer residents lived to the region's urban core, the more likely they were to view the conditions of the roads and bridges as a severe or moderate problem. More than 3 in 4 residents of the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County rated road and bridge quality as such. And more than 35% of Allegheny County residents – excluding those who live in the city – considered it to be a severe problem.

Allegheny County residents were also more likely to view traffic congestion as a problem, with 8 in 10 describing it as a severe or moderate problem. Residents were less likely to report congestion as a problem the farther away from the urban core they lived, particularly in the 25 counties surrounding the MSA, where 43.5% of residents said it was not a problem at all.

The availability of nonstop airline flights from Pittsburgh International Airport was seen as a severe problem by about 1 in 4 Allegheny County residents, but less so outside the county. And City of Pittsburgh residents were more likely than residents who lived elsewhere to view the availability of safe and dedicated bicycle and pedestrian routes as a severe or moderate problem.

As would be expected, travel to and around the City of Pittsburgh declines the farther residents live from the city. More than 37% of Allegheny County residents – excluding those who live in Pittsburgh – reported traveling in and around the city five or more days a week, suggesting they commuted to work or to other daily activities. Moving far-

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TRANSPORTATION

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ther out, more than 72% of those who live in counties surrounding the MSA said they rarely or never visit the city.

DEMOGRAPHIC COMPARISONS

Residents with higher levels of education were more likely to give the condition of roads and bridges in the region poor ratings. For example, City of Pittsburgh residents with a master's or professional degree or higher rated road and bridge quality the poorest among residents of all education levels, with 43.5% describing it as a severe problem. Education-related differences in traffic congestion ratings were also seen. In the City of Pittsburgh, 90% of residents whose education went no higher than having attended some college described traffic congestion as a severe or moderate problem, compared to about two-thirds of those with more education.

Older residents of the City of Pittsburgh—those aged 65 and older—were more likely to find traffic congestion to be a severe problem than younger residents. Age is also factor in how residents perceive the availability of public transportation. For example, in the City of Pittsburgh, where public transit usage is high, about 40% of residents aged 18 to 29 years rated availability as a severe problem, the highest proportion of any age group to do so. On the other hand, half of residents 65 or older felt the availability of public transit was not a problem at all.

Survey data also revealed income and race to be significant factors in public transportation usage and how residents perceived service. Survey results underscore the problems of public transit in the region. In Pittsburgh and throughout Allegheny County, a public transportation funding crisis has led to drastic service cuts in the past two years and more are expected in the coming year. Not surprisingly, those who use public transit the most—modest income workers, younger-aged residents and workers, and African American workers and residents—describe transit in the region as a moderate or severe problem. For example, 82% of City of Pittsburgh residents earning \$25,000–\$50,000 a year rated the availability of public transportation as a severe or moderate problem, making them the most likely income group in the region to do so.

More than 37% of African Americans throughout the region reported using public transit at least once a week, compared to about 8% of other races. In the City of Pittsburgh, 3 in 4 African American residents rated availability of public transit as either a severe or moderate problem, compared to 62.6% of city residents of other races. ■



OVERALL QUALITY OF LIFE

ASK RESIDENTS of greater Southwestern Pennsylvania about the quality of life in the region and their neighborhoods and most will give both high marks as places in which to live. And they should know. Most have lived in the region for at least 10 years.

About 80% have been residents for 20 or more years and 90% have spent at least 10 years in the region.

More than half of residents (55%) have lived in the current residence for at least 10 years, and 35% have lived in the same home for 20 years or longer. Another 16.5% of residents across the survey area have been in the same home for 5 to 10 years.

The quality of life in the region was rated as excellent or very good by nearly 52% of residents overall, while more than 29% described it as “good.” Fewer than 9% overall rated the quality of life in the region as fair or poor.

Residents were slightly more generous when rating their neighborhoods. Nearly 56% overall rated the quality of life in their neighborhood as either excellent or good, while more than 26% described it as very good.

As for their assessment of recent trends in the quality of life found in the region, 46% of residents overall were of the opinion it has stayed the same over the past few years. However, about 37% said it has declined, which was more than twice the proportion of residents who held the view that the regional quality of life is improving.

Data from a 2003 UCSUR pilot study of quality of life issues in Allegheny County suggest that how residents view the quality of life in their neighborhoods has declined slightly in recent years. In the 2003 study, for example, 59.5% of Allegheny County residents rated the quality of life in their neighborhoods as excellent or very good, while 54.7% felt the same about their neighborhoods in the 2011 Pittsburgh Regional Quality of Life Survey. The proportion of Allegheny County residents who said the quality of life in the region has improved increased from 23% to 27%. The percentage of residents who said the regional quality of life declined rose from nearly 19% to 25.6% over the eight-year period.

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OVERALL QUALITY OF LIFE

How many years have you lived in the Southwestern Pennsylvania region?

	OVERALL	GEOGRAPHY			RACE	
		ALLE- GHENY COUNTY	6- COUNTY MSA	25- COUNTY	NOT AFRICAN AMERICAN	AFRICAN AMERICAN
LESS THAN ONE YEAR	0.4	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.4	0
1-3 YEARS	2.4	1.7	1.8	3.2	2.3	2.9
3-5 YEARS	2.9	1.8	2.4	4.1	2.9	2.7
5-10 YEARS	4.7	7.0	2.8	4.3	4.6	6.4
10-20 YEARS	9.8	11.2	6.3	11.0	9.6	12.5
MORE THAN 20 YEARS	79.9	77.7	86.4	77.2	80.2	75.5

Responses shown as percentages of residents

OVERALL QUALITY OF LIFE

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GEOGRAPHIC COMPARISONS

City of Pittsburgh residents are more transient than residents of other areas of the region with about 34% having lived at their current residence for 3 or fewer years. They were also the least positive when rating their neighborhoods.

However, city residents perceived the most improvement in the quality of life offered in the region. They were, for example, the only geographic group to view regional quality of life as improving (32%) rather than declining (21%).

Residents of the six MSA counties surrounding Allegheny County were the most likely to rate the quality of life in their neighborhood as either excellent or very good. Those who live in the 25 “outer ring” counties surrounding the Pittsburgh MSA were the least likely to describe the quality of life in the region as either excellent or very good and the most likely to rate it as only fair or poor.

OVERALL QUALITY OF LIFE

Thinking about the overall quality of life in [southwestern Pa./the region], how would you rate the region as a place to live?

	OVERALL	GEOGRAPHY			RACE	
		ALLE- GHENY COUNTY	6- COUNTY MSA	25- COUNTY	NOT AFRICAN AMERICAN	AFRICAN AMERICAN
EXCELLENT	14.3	16.7	15.1	11.9	14.9	6.2
VERY GOOD	37.5	42.7	43.1	29.6	38.8	20.3
GOOD	29.4	24.9	27.3	34.5	29.5	28.0
FAIR	14.0	12.0	11.3	17.4	12.2	37.6
POOR	4.8	3.7	3.2	6.7	4.5	8.0

Responses shown as percentages of residents

DEMOGRAPHIC COMPARISONS

Younger residents, African Americans and those with higher levels of education were more likely to have lived a shorter period of time at their current address than other age, race and education groups. Age differences also were seen in how residents perceived trends in the quality of life in the region. Younger residents—aged 18 to 44—were more likely to be of the opinion it is improving, while residents who were 45 years old or older were more likely to say it is declining. However, those 65 years old and older generally rated their quality of life the highest.

Differences in how residents assess the quality of life in

the region were also seen across levels of education and annual household income. Residents with higher education levels and higher household incomes gave regional quality of life higher ratings than those who are less educated and have lower incomes. Residents with higher education and income levels were also more likely to view the quality of life in the region as improving rather than declining.

Racial differences on quality of life issues were among the most pronounced. In general, African Americans were much less positive in assessing the quality of life in the region and in their neighborhoods. Only 26.5% rated the quality of life in the region as excellent or very good, compared to nearly 54% of other races. More than 45% of African Americans rated the regional quality of life only as fair or poor, while fewer than 15% of other races felt the same way. And similar gaps were seen in their views on the quality of life found in their neighborhoods.

LIFE SATISFACTION & HAPPINESS

The Pittsburgh Regional Quality of Life Survey also explored overall life satisfaction and happiness through two broad summary questions, not unlike worldwide surveys, such as the World Values Survey and the European Social Survey, which compare nations around the world on quality of life indicators.

Overall, residents of the 32-county survey are largely satisfied with the quality of the lives they are leading. Asked to rate how satisfied they are with their lives, their mean score was 7.7 on a scale of 1 to 10 with 1 being “very dissatisfied” and 10 being “very satisfied.” And there were no differences by geography. The score is very close to the 7.8 reported for the United States as a whole in the 2005 Gallup World Poll.

Regional residents rated their happiness relatively high. The score overall was 7.8 on a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 is very unhappy and 10 is very happy. The score is higher than the mean of 7.4 reported for the United States in 2005–2009 World Values Survey.

Few demographic differences were seen on how residents viewed their satisfaction with their lives and their happiness across the region. One exception, however, was socioeconomic status as measured by income and education. Residents with higher incomes and a higher level of education tended report both greater satisfaction with their lives and higher levels of happiness than those with lower incomes and less education. ■

TECHNICAL APPENDIX

DETAILED SURVEY METHODS

The University Center for Social and Urban Research (UCSUR) conducted the Pittsburgh Regional Quality of Life (QOL) Survey in collaboration with the PittsburghToday/Regional Indicators Project. The survey asked questions about a broad range of topics related to quality of life in the region, including both perceptions/attitudes and behaviors. Topics included local neighborhoods, the environment, government, the arts, transportation, education, public safety, housing, the economy, health, demographics, overall satisfaction with the region, and overall life satisfaction and happiness. The survey was conducted by telephone using random digit dialing (RDD) sampling of both landline and cellular telephones between July and November, 2011. Details on survey methodology are provided in this appendix.

Defining the region

A key issue is the geographic definition of the “Pittsburgh region,” which in turn defines the target population for the survey. The narrowest definition would include only Allegheny County, not an acceptable definition if one proposes to take a truly regional approach. At the next level, the seven county Pittsburgh Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) is often used, adding Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Washington, and Westmoreland counties. Other regional planning organizations have taken a broader view, arguing that the “Pittsburgh region” should include Eastern Ohio and the West Virginia panhandle (the “tri-state area”). Recently, a regional group has

argued for an even broader definition, incorporating 32 counties, stretching east to Blair and Bedford counties in Pennsylvania, and including two counties in Maryland as well as those in Ohio and West Virginia (the “Power of 32”). This broad “Power of 32” definition of the Pittsburgh region was used for this survey.

Sample design

The target population was English-speaking adults (18 and older) living in private residences in the 32-county “Power of 32” region. A disproportionate stratified sample design was used with the goal of obtaining approximately 500 interviews from each of the following geographic strata:

(1) Allegheny County (*total population 1,223,348 according to the 2010 Decennial Census*);

(2) the 6 counties making up the remainder of the Pittsburgh MSA (*Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Washington, Westmoreland; population 1,132,495*); and

(3) the remaining 25 counties making up the “Power of 32” geography (*population 1,753,495, which includes the following counties: In Pa.: Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, Mercer, Somerset; In Ohio: Belmont, Columbiana, Jefferson, Mahoning, Monroe; In W.Va.: Brooke, Hancock, Harrison, Marion, Marshall, Monongalia, Ohio, Preston, Tyler, Wetzel; In Md.: Allegany, Garrett.*)

The design also called for over-sampling of African American residents, who live primarily in

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Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh. The goal was to obtain a total of 400 African American respondents. Thus, the total targeted sample size was 1,850 (assuming approximately 50 African American respondents in the 500 Allegheny County sample, plus a 350 over-sample). This design allows potential users of the data to obtain statistically reliable estimates for the “Pittsburgh Region,” defined at any of the three levels of inclusiveness (Allegheny County, the 7-county Pittsburgh MSA, and the “Power of 32” region). It also allows for reliable comparisons between the three distinct geographic strata and for separate estimates for African American residents.

RDD telephone samples of both landline and cellular telephones were drawn to conduct the survey. The sample was purchased from Survey Sampling International (SSI), one of the major survey sample providers in the U.S. Landline RDD sampling involves generation of random phone numbers in a defined geographic area—both listed and unlisted—and was the standard method for obtaining representative samples of households by telephone until the last few years. Landline RDD samples allow targeting of demographic groups—e.g., African Americans in this survey—by linkage of area codes/telephone exchanges (first three digits of phone #) to recent Census data. The dramatic increase in the use of cell phones over the past ten years—current estimates are that approximately 30% of all U.S. households are cell only—has made incorporation of cell phones into RDD designs standard practice

to avoid coverage error. Research has shown that cell only households tend to be younger, minority, more mobile, more likely to be employed, and to rent rather than own their home. Cell phones are assigned unique area code/exchanges—which represent where the phone was purchased—which allows separate sampling of landline and cell phones. It is important to note that the cell phone sample needs to be screened for geography, since the respondent may live in a different area than where the phone was purchased. Also, cell phone samples do not allow demographic targeting via Census linkage like landline samples. Some households/individuals have both landline and cell phones, and are thus contactable using either sample frame. This was measured in the survey and adjusted for through the sampling weights, which are described below. The goal was to complete 30% of the interviews by cell phone.

More specifically, sampling was done from 7 mutually exclusive and exhaustive strata which cover landline and cell telephones in the 32 county region of interest:

(1) Allegheny County Landline

Low density African American (defined as telephone exchanges with less than 25% African American population according to Census data)

(2) Allegheny County Landline

High density African American (defined as telephone exchanges with 25% or higher African American population according to Census data)

(3) Allegheny County Cell

(4) 6-county remainder PGH MSA Landline

(5) 6-county remainder PGH MSA Cell

(6) 25-county outlying/remainder Landline

(7) 25-county outlying/remainder Cell

Within the landline strata, a respondent was randomly selected from multiple adult households using the most recent birthday method. No within household selection was done for the cell phone sample, which was considered an individual device. Probabilities of selection varied across strata (e.g., higher probability in strata 2; lower probabilities in the cell strata), which are also adjusted for in the sample weights discussed below. It should be noted that respondents may have been sampled in one stratum (e.g., Allegheny County cell) but actually reside in another stratum (e.g., Westmoreland cell) since the cell phone frame is generated by point of purchase. In the geographic analyses in the report, these cases are coded for their actual residential location. However, the statistical weights were derived based on the original sampling strata. It should be noted that two potential sources of coverage error—population members having no chance of being included in the sample—are present with this design:

(1) Households with no telephone service

(estimated at approximately 2% of households in the U.S.), and

(2) individuals who've recently moved to the region but purchased their cell phone outside the region (no estimate available, but likely to be fairly small). Individuals who were reached who had purchased their cell phone in the region but have since moved out of the region were screened out of the survey.

Data collection and response rates

Data were collected in UCSUR's computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) lab by trained interviewers between July 11 and November 10, 2011. CATI involves programming the survey instrument using standard software that displays the questions on the interviewer's computer screen in proper order with automated skip patterns. Data are entered into the system as answers are provided. UCSUR telephone interviewers receive rigorous training in survey interviewing techniques and are continuously monitored during data collection for quality control purposes. Each sampled telephone number was called up to six times on different days of the week at different times of the day with evenings and weekends emphasized to maximize probability of contact. Once an individual or household was contacted, as many calls as necessary were made to either complete the survey or obtain a refusal. The CATI system also automates call scheduling and callbacks. A total of 1,805 interviews were completed, including 799 in Allegheny County (including 337 African Ameri-

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cans), 502 in the 6-county remainder of the Pittsburgh MSA (14 African Americans), and 504 in the 25 outlying/remaining counties of the “Power of 32” geography (16 African Americans). Thus, a total of 367 African Americans were surveyed, falling slightly short of the goal of 400. In terms of landline versus cell phone interviews, 1,377 of the interviews were conducted on landlines (76%) and 428 on cell phones (24%), again falling somewhat below the goal of 30% cell interviews. Cost constraints prevented conducting additional cell phone interviews and interviews with African Americans. Prior to conducting any cell phone interview, the respondent was asked to confirm that they were in a safe place (i.e., not driving) to answer the questions. However, the survey did not require that the cell phone respondents be at home while answering the questions. Interviews took an average of 30 minutes to complete.

Of the initial 26,098 phone numbers put into the system, 11,116 were determined to be non-households or not associated with eligible individuals (businesses, disconnected, non-working numbers, not an adult, not in target geography, etc.), and thus ineligible. Of the remaining 14,982 numbers, we were able to make contact and deliver the survey request to 7,661 households/individuals (51.1% contact rate), of whom 1,805 actually completed an interview (23.6% cooperation rate), for an overall response rate of 12.0%. The landline sample rates were 49.7% contact and 25.6% cooperation, for an overall response rate of 12.7%. The corresponding cell rates were 57.0% contact and 18.7% cooperation, for an


overall response rate 10.7%. Note the slightly higher contact rate but lower cooperation rate for the cell phone sample, which resulted in a lower overall cell response rate. Although these may seem low, they are comparable to current response rates obtained by similar survey organizations using similar methods in other studies. However, the cooperation rates for the survey are lower than many surveys, most likely due to the length of the survey (about 30 minutes), quite long by industry standards. The rates are also higher than response rates obtained using standard 3–4 day political polling methodology, which process two to three times as many telephone numbers to complete the same number of surveys using limited callbacks. We also applied standard weighting techniques to the data in an attempt to partially adjust for non-response (see below).

Statistical weighting

A two-step statistical weighting process was used in which each completed case was adjusted for (1) probability of selection, and (2) non-response by age and sex via post-stratification. These steps are described in more detail here.

1. Probability of selection weight.

This contained 3 components: (a) initial probability of selection of the telephone number, which varied across strata; (b) # adults in the household (landline sample only; weight equal to number of adults); and (c) telephone ownership status—those reachable by both cell and landline



are given a weight of 0.5 at this stage given twice the probability of selection; those with cell only or landline only are given a weight of 1. The initial probability of selection (step a) was highest for the Allegheny County high density African American landline stratum used for over-sampling (these cases were down-weighted), while the probabilities of selection were lower for the low density African American landline stratum and the three cell phone strata (these cases were up-weighted). The 6-county MSA landline and 25-county outlying/remainder landline strata had intermediate probabilities of selection and thus were assigned less extreme weights.

2. Age x sex post-stratification weight.

To further adjust for non-response, a gender by age (18–29; 30–44; 45–64; 65+) post-stratification weight was constructed using the latest available American Community Survey (ACS) data from the 8 cells as the benchmark. These weights were constructed separately within the three geographic areas of interest (Allegheny County; 6-county remainder MSA; 25-county outlying/remainder). The cell weights were constructed by dividing the cell population percentage (e.g., % of 18 and older population in Allegheny County that is 18–29 and male, based on ACS data) by the cell sample percentage, after adjusting for probability of selection (e.g., % of Allegheny County survey sample that is 18–29 and male after applying base probability of selection weight). Thus, cells that were under-represented in the sample relative to their population sizes were up-weighted (generally 18–44 year

olds), while those that were over-represented were down-weighted (those 45 and older).

The probability of selection and post-stratification weights were combined to produce the final case weight, which is used for all of the estimates in this report. The weights ranged from a low of 0.03 to a high of 5.56. The 10th and 90th percentiles were 0.05 and 1.88 respectively. The 25th percentile of the weighting variable was 0.29 and the 75th percentile was 1.25.

Nonresponse bias analysis using population benchmarking

As noted above, the response rate for the survey was low (12%). Thus, nonresponse bias may be of concern, despite attempts to adjust for this through the statistical weights just described. To examine potential nonresponse bias, the table below compares weighted survey estimates to recent benchmark data for the region at the three primary levels of geography covered by the survey (or where benchmark data is available).

In terms of demographic variables, the survey sample slightly over-represents females and African Americans after applying the weights. The gender bias is somewhat lower in Allegheny County, while the racial bias is highest in the county. The survey sample is also more educated than the population as a whole. However, the age distribution of the sample almost directly mirrors that for the population. Note that education was not included in the post-stratification weighting scheme, and this would have certainly brought the sample more into line with the population.

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TECHNICAL APPENDIX, NONRESPONSE BIAS

VARIABLE	ALLEGHENY COUNTY		7-COUNTY MSA		POWER OF 32	
	POPULATION BENCHMARK	SURVEY	POPULATION BENCHMARK	SURVEY	POPULATION BENCHMARK	SURVEY
GENDER^a						
MALE	47.1	44.6	47.6	42.4	48.2	42.8
FEMALE	52.9	55.4	52.4	57.6	51.8	57.2
AGE^a						
18–29	21.2	21.4	19.0	19.1	19.3	19.3
30–44	22.3	22.1	22.3	22.2	22.3	22.1
45–64	35.6	35.5	37.0	36.8	36.7	36.5
65+	20.9	21	21.6	21.9	21.7	22.1
RACE^a						
WHITE ONLY	83.8	81.5	89.4	88	91.1	90.9
AFRICAN-AMERICAN ONLY	11.9	15.4	7.5	9.2	6.3	6.3
EDUCATION^b						
HIGH SCHOOL OR LESS	40.2	30	46	31.8	50.6	34.4
SOME COLLEGE	27.8	27	27.3	29.4	27.1	31.2
BACHELOR'S	19.4	26.5	17.2	23.4	14.5	20.3
MASTERS+	12.1	16.6	9.5	15.4	7.8	14.1
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE^c	(6.4 – 7.4)	7.4	(6.5 – 7.6)	7.4	—	—
UNION MEMBER^d	—	—	15.3	15.1	—	—
TRANSIT TO WORK ALONE (PRIVATE CAR)^e	71.0	71.7	—	—	—	—
NO HEALTH INSURANCE (AGE 18–64)^f	12.6	11.5	—	—	—	—
SMOKE CIGARETTES^g	21.0	20.0	—	—	—	—

POPULATION BENCHMARK SOURCES:

^a2010 Decennial Census

^b2006–2010 American Community Survey

^cCurrent Population Survey, July–November 2011 ranges

^dFrom www.unionstats.com; calculated from the 2011 Current Population Survey

^e2005–2009 American Community Survey

^fU.S. Census Bureau Small Area Health Insurance estimates 2009

^gBehavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) 2006 – 2008

“—” indicates no benchmark data available at that level of geography.

However, additional factors make the weighting scheme more complex and in some cases can increase design effects, so we decided on the simple age x sex post-stratification. Readers should keep these demographic differences between the sample and population in mind when interpreting survey results, particularly factors that may be related to education level.

The table also shows how the survey estimates compare to population benchmark statistics for five other substantive variables. These benchmarks were only available for Allegheny County and/or the 7-county Pittsburgh MSA. The data show that the survey provides fairly good estimates for the unemployment rate, union membership, mode of transportation to work, lacking health insurance, and smoking rate. These results increase confidence in the accuracy of the survey estimates despite the low response rate and slight demographic biases in the final survey sample.

Precision of the survey estimates

Approximate 95% confidence interval margins of error for the survey estimates for different levels of geography and for the African American sub-sample are presented in the table below. Since the sample design was not a simple random sample—we used disproportionate stratified sampling requiring sample weight—the complex sample design results in a loss of precision (i.e., “design effects”). The design effects in

the survey (which are calculated separately for each survey estimate) ranged from 1.2 to 2.5, with the typical design effect being about 1.75. This is an estimate of the variance of our complex sample design parameter estimates to the variance we would have obtained from a simple random sample of the same size. This typical design effect is taken into account for the following margin of error estimates. The table also assumes an estimated proportion of 0.5, the maximum variance. Thus, the most conservative estimate is presented. Margins of error are smaller as estimates get closer to 0.

From the table, one can calculate estimates for other sub-groups (e.g., males and females, age categories) of similar size. However, it is important to note that surveys are subject to additional non-sampling errors, including those due to non-response and measurement errors, which are not accounted for in the margin of error estimates. These should be taken into account when interpreting these and any other survey data. ■

SAMPLE SIZES, PRECISION OF SURVEY ESTIMATES

GEOGRAPHY / SUB-GROUP	SAMPLE SIZE	95% CONFIDENCE INTERVAL MARGIN OF ERROR (PCT. POINTS)
“POWER OF 32” GEOGRAPHY	1,805	+/- 3.0
PITTSBURGH MSA (7-COUNTY)	1,301	+/- 3.7
ALLEGHENY COUNTY	799	+/- 4.6
6-COUNTY REMAINDER MSA / 25-COUNTY REMAINDER “POWER OF 32”	APPROX. 500	+/- 5.8
AFRICAN-AMERICANS	367	+/- 6.8

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THE PITTSBURGH REGIONAL QUALITY OF LIFE SURVEY

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