

Council on the Future of Vermont

Looking Ahead: Vermonters' Values and Concerns

Phone / Online Survey Comparison

The online survey data used in this report were collected by the Center for Rural Studies from Feb. 12 to Aug. 25, 2008. The poll was hosted on the Center for Rural Studies web site (<http://crs.uvm.edu>), with a link from the Council on the Future of Vermont site (www.futureofvermont.org). There were 829 respondents.

The phone survey data used in this report were collected by the Center for Rural Studies from March 10 to 17, 2008. The polling was conducted from the University of Vermont using computer-aided telephone interviewing (CATI). A random sample for the poll was drawn from a Vermont phone list that is updated quarterly. Only Vermont residents over the age of 18 were interviewed. There were 699 respondents.

Full reports from each of the surveys are available online at the Council on the Future of Vermont and Center for Rural Studies web sites.

Demographics

The online respondents were, on average, six years younger than the phone respondents and reported having lived in Vermont an average of about 10 years less than the phone respondents. Although both survey populations had a similar number of household members, the online respondents reported more household members under the age of 18 (See Table 1).

Table 1. *Demographic comparison*

	Phone	Online
Age (median) * state median: 41	56	50
Household members (mean)	2.6	2.5
Household members under 18 (mean)	.6	1.7
Years in Vermont	35	25
Total respondents	699	829

Although the online respondents were more educated than the phone survey respondents (see Table 2), they reported lower incomes (see Table 3).

Table 2. *Education level*

	Phone	Online
<9th grade	.6	0.4
9-12 grade (no diploma)	2.9	3.8
High school graduate (incl. GED)	23.1	14.2
Some college (no degree)	18.1	7.5
Associates/technical	13.2	32.5
Bachelor	20.8	32.5
Post-graduate/professional	21.3	41.6
Total	100.0	100.0

According to the U.S. Census, 89.8 percent of Vermonters aged 25 and older are high school graduates and 32.4 percent have bachelor's or higher degrees.

About a two thirds (66.4%) of online respondents reported household incomes above the state median, \$47,665¹, compared to 73.9 percent of the phone respondents (see Table 3).

Table 3. *Income*

	Phone	Online
<\$25,000	13.4	10.5
\$25,000-\$34,999	1.8	10.0
\$35,000-\$49,999	10.9	14.5
\$50,000-\$74,999	21.7	26.1
>\$75,000	52.2	38.9
Total	100.0	100.0

¹ Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey (2006 inflation-adjusted dollars, with a margin of error of +/- \$1,270)

Results • Closed-ended Questions

Attendance

Table 4. *Have you attended a Conversation on the Future of Vermont forum?*

	Phone	Online
Yes	1.9	8.4
No	98.1	91.6
Total	100.0	100.0

Values

Table 5. *I value Vermont's spirit of independence.*

	Phone	Online
Strongly agree	63.6	65.3
Agree	29.5	24.5
Neutral	4.5	7.6
Disagree	2.0	1.8
Strongly disagree	.4	0.9
Total	100.0	100.0

Table 6. *I am proud of being from or living in Vermont.*

	Phone	Online
Strongly agree	62.4	66.3
Agree	31.2	20.5
Neutral	3.9	6.5
Disagree	2.2	3.7
Strongly disagree	.4	3.1
Total	100.0	100.0

Table 7. *I trust my neighbors.*

	Phone	Online
Strongly agree	49.5	31.5
Agree	36.7	48.6
Neutral	9.0	14.4
Disagree	3.6	4.4
Strongly disagree	1.1	1.0
Total	100.0	100.0

Table 8. *I value the privacy that I get in Vermont.*

	Phone	Online
Strongly agree	51.6	44.7
Agree	39.4	37.0
Neutral	6.5	13.6
Disagree	2.0	3.8
Strongly disagree	.6	0.9
Total	100.0	100.0

Table 9. *I am tolerant of diverse lifestyles in Vermont.*

	Phone	Online
Strongly agree	51.4	67.2
Agree	33.4	19.3
Neutral	8.2	8.6
Disagree	5.9	3.5
Strongly disagree	1.0	1.3
Total	100.0	100.0

Table 10. *I believe there is a strong sense of community where I live.*

	Phone	Online
Strongly agree	43.5	30.2
Agree	41.9	41.9
Neutral	7.9	17.1
Disagree	5.9	8.3
Strongly disagree	.9	2.4
Total	100.0	100.0

Table 11. *I believe that Vermont's creative communities are valuable to the state.*

	Phone	Online
Strongly agree	49.1	61.5
Agree	40.1	25.5
Neutral	7.0	8.9
Disagree	3.3	2.9
Strongly disagree	.4	1.2
Total	100.0	100.0

Table 12. *I value the working landscape and its heritage.*

	Phone	Online
Strongly agree	71.2	70.9
Agree	26.0	21.6
Neutral	1.9	5.5
Disagree	.6	1.5
Strongly disagree	.3	0.6
Total	100.0	100.0

Table 13. *I value the participatory government in Vermont.*

	Phone	Online
Strongly agree	45.7	59.2
Agree	37.2	27.6
Neutral	11.1	8.8
Disagree	4.9	2.1
Strongly disagree	1.0	2.3
Total	100.0	100.0

Table 14. *I value the accessibility of government in Vermont.*

	Phone	Online
Strongly agree	32.1	57.8
Agree	41.8	28.8
Neutral	12.9	8.7
Disagree	10.7	2.4
Strongly disagree	2.5	2.3
Total	100.0	100.0

Table 15. *I value the small size and scale of the state.*

	Phone	Online
Strongly agree	51.2	65.9
Agree	36.7	23.8
Neutral	9.2	6.6
Disagree	2.6	2.2
Strongly disagree	.3	1.6
Total	100.0	100.0

Table 16. *I believe that private property rights are well respected in Vermont.*

	Phone	Online
Strongly agree	23.8	24.7
Agree	46.1	36.9
Neutral	14.8	19.6
Disagree	12.3	10.6
Strongly disagree	3.1	8.2
Total	100.0	100.0

Challenges

Table 17. *A shortage of affordable housing.*

	Phone	Online
Very concerned	53.7	55.5
Moderately concerned	29.6	27.8
Slightly concerned	9.3	11.2
Not at all concerned	7.4	5.5
Total	100.0	100.0

Table 18. *A shortage of available housing.*

	Phone	Online
Very concerned	30.8	24.6
Moderately concerned	39.1	38.3
Slightly concerned	16.7	25.1
Not at all concerned	13.3	12.1
Total	100.0	100.0

Table 19. *The accessibility of health care.*

	Phone	Online
Very concerned	55.2	52.4
Moderately concerned	24.6	24.5
Slightly concerned	9.2	12.5
Not at all concerned	11.1	10.6
Total	100.0	100.0

Table 20. *The quality of health care.*

	Phone	Online
Very concerned	30.5	31.9
Moderately concerned	27.1	28.0
Slightly concerned	19.0	18.8
Not at all concerned	23.4	21.3
Total	100.0	100.0

Question 21: *The rate of business development in Vermont.*

	Phone	Online
Very concerned	46.4	37.9
Moderately concerned	29.6	32.8
Slightly concerned	14.1	20.2
Not at all concerned	9.9	9.1
Total	100.0	100.0

Table 22. *The development of an adequate workforce for the future.*

	Phone	Online
Very concerned	56.7	42.6
Moderately concerned	27.8	32.8
Slightly concerned	9.0	19.0
Not at all concerned	6.6	5.5
Total	100.0	100.0

Table 23. *The increasing costs of living, such as transportation, heating and electricity.*

	Phone	Online
Very concerned	82.0	75.3
Moderately concerned	14.1	18.2
Slightly concerned	2.3	5.5
Not at all concerned	1.6	1.0
Total	100.0	100.0

Table 24. *The quality of education.*

	Phone	Online
Very concerned	40.4	44.4
Moderately concerned	30.8	30.4
Slightly concerned	15.6	15.6
Not at all concerned	13.2	9.6
Total	100.0	100.0

Table 25. *The way Vermont finances public education.*

	Phone	Online
Very concerned	55.8	51.2
Moderately concerned	27.2	27.8
Slightly concerned	9.0	16.0
Not at all concerned	8.1	5.0
Total	100.0	100.0

Table 26. *Pressure to convert open lands to residential, commercial, or other development.*

	Phone	Online
Very concerned	54.0	57.9
Moderately concerned	26.0	20.4
Slightly concerned	10.8	12.2
Not at all concerned	9.2	9.6
Total	100.0	100.0

Table 27. *The changes in the earth's climate and their potential impacts on the Vermont landscape and seasons.*

	Phone	Online
Very concerned	52.5	57.8
Moderately concerned	26.4	16.8
Slightly concerned	7.6	11.0
Not at all concerned	13.6	14.4
Total	100.0	100.0

Table 28. *The increasing price of land in Vermont.*

	Phone	Online
Very concerned	49.0	44.6
Moderately concerned	29.4	32.7
Slightly concerned	11.0	15.9
Not at all concerned	10.5	6.8
Total	100.0	100.0

Table 29. *The potential for an increased rate of population growth in Vermont.*

	Phone	Online
Very concerned	29.3	28.0
Moderately concerned	27.9	29.8
Slightly concerned	22.6	20.4
Not at all concerned	20.1	21.9
Total	100.0	100.0

Table 30. *An increase in the average age of the Vermont population.*

	Phone	Online
Very concerned	18.6	20.2
Moderately concerned	27.5	38.5
Slightly concerned	26.9	25.8
Not at all concerned	27.0	15.5
Total	100.0	100.0

Table 31. *The limited availability of high speed Internet connections and wireless telecommunications in Vermont.*

	Phone	Online
Very concerned	35.0	34.4
Moderately concerned	22.0	29.0
Slightly concerned	15.6	23.3
Not at all concerned	27.3	13.3
Total	100.0	100.0

Table 32. *An increasing gap between high-income and low-income populations.*

	Phone	Online
Very concerned	58.9	60.2
Moderately concerned	23.9	20.7
Slightly concerned	9.2	10.6
Not at all concerned	8.0	8.4
Total	100.0	100.0

Table 33. *The health and viability of Vermont farms and the agricultural sector.*

	Phone	Online
Very concerned	69.4	57.3
Moderately concerned	22.7	24.4
Slightly concerned	4.5	12.7
Not at all concerned	3.4	5.5
Total	100.0	100.0

Table 34. *The level of engagement of Vermonters in their local communities.*

	Phone	Online
Very concerned	16.8	21.7
Moderately concerned	31.1	37.0
Slightly concerned	26.2	25.6
Not at all concerned	25.9	15.7
Total	100.0	100.0

Table 35. *The level of engagement of Vermonters in their local governments.*

	Phone	Online
Very concerned	15.1	23.4
Moderately concerned	28.6	36.1
Slightly concerned	24.2	26.3
Not at all concerned	32.0	14.2
Total	100.0	100.0

Table 36. *The tax rate in Vermont.*

	Phone	Online
Very concerned	62.9	44.7
Moderately concerned	22.2	26.2
Slightly concerned	9.1	17.9
Not at all concerned	5.7	11.2
Total	100.0	100.0

Table 37. *The state's existing public infrastructure and its future maintenance.*

	Phone	Online
Very concerned	51.8	48.8
Moderately concerned	31.8	35.5
Slightly concerned	11.3	14.1
Not at all concerned	5.1	1.6
Total	100.0	100.0

Table 38. *Public safety in Vermont.*

	Phone	Online
Very concerned	15.5	13.8
Moderately concerned	29.1	26.0
Slightly concerned	23.6	36.0
Not at all concerned	31.7	24.2
Total	100.0	100.0

Table 39. *The future of Vermont's renewable and alternative energy infrastructure.*

	Phone	Online
Very concerned	56.7	54.4
Moderately concerned	26.1	23.9
Slightly concerned	9.8	14.1
Not at all concerned	7.3	7.6
Total	100.0	100.0

Table 40. *The maintenance of healthy downtowns and village centers in Vermont.*

	Phone	Online
Very concerned	29.1	43.5
Moderately concerned	29.9	31.0
Slightly concerned	23.4	16.0
Not at all concerned	17.6	9.5
Total	100.0	100.0

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