

The Jackson/Williamson County Survey

Sponsored by the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute

with support from the Southern Illinois Community Foundation

Conducted by the University of Illinois Springfield Survey Research Office
Center for State Policy and Leadership

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The Jackson/Williamson County Survey's (JWCS) purpose is to examine residents' assessments of the quality of life in Jackson and Williamson County. The survey will provide local leaders, community organizations, and citizens with insights for long-term planning. The questionnaire was developed by staff at the Survey Research Office, Center for State Policy & Leadership at the University of Illinois Springfield and staff and faculty at the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

The following individuals were instrumental to the development of the 2014 Jackson/Williamson Citizen Survey:

David Yepsen, Paul Simon Public Policy Institute
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Delio Calzolari, Paul Simon Public Policy Institute
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Kent Dolezal, Paul Simon Public Policy Institute
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The 2014 survey was conducted by trained SRO interviewers and the data were weighted for probability sampling and to match 2012 population estimates as provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.¹ The sample for this year's survey includes 592 completed interviews. The landline component included 347 responses with a 12.9% response rate and 24.7% cooperation rate. The cell phone component included 245 responses with a 6.1% response rate and 9.3% cooperation rate.² The margin of error for the survey is plus or minus 4.0%. The survey was conducted from February 20th to April 7th 2014.

Note from the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute Director:

Last year, I came across a public opinion poll of Sangamon County residents done by the Survey Research Office at the Center for State Policy and Leadership at the University of Illinois Springfield. It is an impressive, deep-dive into public attitudes in our state capital's home county.

Dr. Ashley Kirzinger wrote in the preface "we were interested in finding out what residents enjoy about their community, what they would like to see improved, how they rate local leaders and an assessment of the overall quality of life in the region." It occurred to me something similar would be useful to decision-makers and business leaders in our region and we could do it as part of our Simon Institute polls. But why reinvent the wheel? Let's have Dr. Kirzinger and her colleagues do a similar poll here.

They agreed but rather than just focus on Jackson County, we expanded it to include Williamson County since the two counties form an economic center for the region. The survey is designed to be useful for business, government officials, non-profit organizations, educators and others for their long-term planning. By understanding more precisely how residents in the two counties feel about these issues and quality of life in the two counties, everyone can better target their efforts and resources. The survey was paid for with non-tax dollars from the Simon Institute's endowment fund and by a contribution from the Southern Illinois Community Foundation. I would also like to thank *The Southern Illinoisian* for co-sponsoring a briefing to unveil the results.

Welcome to the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute's Jackson/Williamson County Survey!

David Yepsen, Director

¹ Weighting survey responses is done in order to ensure that the sample is representative of the population. Two separate weights were assigned in this project- probability and post-stratification. Probability weights are assigned based on an individual's chance to be included in the survey and post-stratification weights are assigned due to the fact that people with certain characteristics are not as likely to respond to the survey as others. Education, gender, age, and race/ethnicity were used as post-stratification weighting variables.

² Response rate is the proportion of completed interviews of all eligible respondents. Cooperation rate is the proportion of completed interviews of all contacted eligible respondents.

The UIS Survey Research Office, a unit in the Center for State Policy & Leadership, takes seriously the task of evaluating the quality of life in Jackson and Williamson County. In order to do this, we conducted an objective in-depth survey of residents of both counties. The following sections contain an expansive analysis of the data collected by researchers from 592 individual responses on 100 questions across nine different areas, including: culture and recreation, social well-being, health, education, economy, infrastructure, government and civic participation, environment, and public safety. Because of the depth of this survey, we believe we have accumulated enough data to discern some positive and negative areas in which the majority of residents are in agreement. In several instances, we combine the counties in our analysis and refer simply to “southern Illinois,” while at other times, we try to parse the differences between the two counties. Knowing that the counties share some environmental, economic, and educational similarities, while also appreciating the uniqueness of their residents is a difficult balance that we hope is effectively managed in the following report.

Economic growth is the key to southern Illinois prosperity

Southern Illinois residents are adamant in their support for programs that encourage economic growth in the region. Less than 15% of Jackson and Williamson County residents believe that current local business conditions are better off than they were a year ago and only 7% rate their county as an excellent place to work, this is in spite of the fact that two-thirds of residents believe that things are generally on the right track in southern Illinois. When asked about economic priorities, the highest priority for both Jackson and Williamson County residents is attracting new business and jobs to southern Illinois, with 77.5% and 88.9% of residents reporting this is a “high priority,” respectively. Residents place this higher than reducing local crime, reducing local government spending, and other tax priorities.

Throughout the survey, we find support for economic initiatives

including improvement to high-speed Internet access for communities (80% of residents of Jackson County and 78% of Williamson County residents reporting that their area needs this infrastructure improvement), and support for growing downtowns of communities with 46.8% reporting that growing downtown is “very important,” and 34.5% reporting that it is “somewhat important.”

Southern Illinois residents believe post-high school education is a priority for the area

The survey asks respondents about a variety of different post-high school educational opportunities in the region. Residents of both counties indicate high levels of support for post-high school institutions like Southern Illinois University, John A. Logan College, and Rend Lake College; as well as apprenticeship and workforce development training programs. 81.4 percent of residents believe that post-high school institutions are very important to the local community, and the vast majority of respondents report that it is important for an individual to have a college degree (88.6% report that it is either “very important” or “somewhat important”). In addition, two-thirds of residents believe that employment training programs are very important for the local area with 28% of employed southern Illinois residents reporting that they participated in such programs.

While both counties report unemployment rates slightly lower than the state average with the number of unemployed individuals decreasing since 2012 (according to the *Illinois Poverty Report*), more than one-third of Jackson County residents over the age of 25 report having a college degree compared to 21.7 percent of Williamson County residents (the 2014 JWCS finds similar results to the American Community Survey 2012 population estimates). Interestingly, a higher percentage of Williamson County residents believe that having a college degree is important compared to Jackson County residents. 92 percent of Williamson County residents report that it is important compared to 84.5 percent of Jackson County residents.

Choosing a place to live

The majority of residents from both counties report that their county is a positive place to live, raise children, and retire. Additionally, 80% of residents are pleased with their current housing and only 36.9% of residents would move away from their current neighborhood if they could. But what are the factors that influence decisions on where to live? On this question, Jackson and Williamson County residents have decidedly different opinions.

According to the 2014 JWCS, crime rate is the most important factor for Jackson County residents when deciding where to live. 78.8 percent of Jackson County residents report that this is “very important,” followed by the quality of schools (69.8%).

Williamson County residents are most concerned with the quality of schools with 84.1% reporting that this is “very important,” followed by crime (82.7%). These differences may be due to the different crime rates reported in each county. In 2012, the Williamson County Sheriff Department reports 18 total violent crimes, and 334 property crimes while the Carbondale Police Department reports 260 violent crimes and 1092 property crimes during the same time period.

The importance placed on the environment and conservation of natural resources

Almost two-thirds of southern Illinois residents report recycling at their homes and 64.4% report that knowing a product is locally grown makes them more likely to purchase the product while grocery shopping. Clearly, conservation is important to southern Illinois residents with more than 90% reporting that conserving the local natural environment is important (both somewhat and very) to their personal well-being and to the well-being of their community.

Southern Illinois residents are also very concerned about litter/improper trash disposal, water quality and to a slightly lesser

degree, air quality. One-fourth of residents report that litter is a big problem in southern Illinois with a slightly higher percentage of Williamson County residents reporting that it is a big problem compared to Jackson County residents, 26.8% compared to 19.7%. In addition, 34.8% of residents are very concerned about the local water quality and 27.4% are somewhat concerned. 15 percent of residents report being very concerned about the local air quality. This is consistent with the most recent Environmental Protection Agency report which finds that while the air quality in southern Illinois is generally four points better than the national average, the water quality is considerably lower (almost 30 points lower than the national average).

High levels of support for local leaders

Overall, Jackson County and Williamson County residents rate their local leaders positively. In the 2014 JWCS Citizen Survey, a higher percentage of both Jackson County and Williamson County residents report that their county has strong leaders than weak leaders. 46.3 percent of Jackson County residents report that their county has strong leaders compared to 34.1% who report that their county has weak leaders. The Williamson County residents rate their leaders similarly with 47% reporting that they have strong leaders and 38.2% reporting that they have weak leaders. Overall, 62.6% of residents report that they have confidence in local leaders to effectively address local problems while only 33.3% report that they are either “not very confident” or “not at all confident” in their local leadership.

The executive summary has highlighted several positive and negative indicators for the region. As you delve further into the report, you will find more in-depth analysis on each topical area. The report was written and prepared by the staff of the Survey Research Office. This report reflects the observations of the author(s) and does not necessarily reflect those of the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute, nor those who provided guidance on this project. Throughout the report, we include external datasets to provide a more complex picture of southern Illinois. Full citations of these data sources are available in the concluding remarks.

Demographics	Unweighted Sample	Weighted Sample	Jackson County Data ¹
<u>Gender</u>			
Female	52.7%	50.2%	49.1%
Male	47.3%	49.8%	50.9%
<u>Age</u>			
18-24	5.8%	24.9%	30.3%
25-34	7.8%	17.2%	17.5%
35-44	12.2%	13.1%	11.9%
45-54	15.4%	15.3%	13.5%
55-64	24.9%	13.8%	12.6%
65 and older	33.9%	15.7%	14.2%
<u>Education</u>			
Less than High School	3.7%	7.9%	9.4%
High School diploma or equivalent	15.5%	26.3%	24.8%
Some college/ trade school	27.7%	29.2%	29.8%
College degree	28.8%	19.2%	29.8%
Advanced degree	24.3%	17.3%	17.4%
<u>Race</u>			
White/Caucasian	78.5%	74.6%	77.8%
Black/ African-American	11.3%	16.5%	14.3%
Asian	2.0%	3.8%	3.2%
Other	5.4%	5.0%	4.7%
<u>Ethnicity</u>			
Hispanic	1.1%	2.2%	- ²
Non-Hispanic	98.9%	97.8%	-
<u>Annual Income</u>			
Less than \$15,000	9.2%	19.4%	-
\$15,000-\$30,000	16.7%	18.3%	-
\$30,001-\$45,000	12.5%	13.2%	-
\$45,001-\$60,000	15.8%	13.5%	-
\$60,001-\$75,000	6.7%	6.3%	-
\$75,001-\$100,000	15.4%	11.5%	-
More than \$100,000	23.8%	17.7%	-

¹ As reported by the most recent U.S. Census Bureau data.

² The survey is not weighted using ethnicity or income due to the fact that both data are subject to nonresponse error and income is not a fixed or stable attribute.

Demographics	Unweighted Sample	Weighted Sample	Williamson County Data³
<u>Gender</u>			
Female	51.5%	49.0%	51.0%
Male	48.5%	51.0%	49.0%
<u>Age</u>			
18-24	6.3%	11.3%	11.9%
25-34	9.5%	13.5%	15.5%
35-44	16.7%	15.2%	15.5%
45-54	14.4%	15.4%	15.3%
55-64	15.8%	18.9%	18.3%
65 and older	37.4%	25.7%	23.5%
<u>Education</u>			
Less than High School	5.7%	9.6%	11.6%
High School diploma or equivalent	23.7%	28.6%	30.0%
Some college/ trade school	36.0%	38.7%	36.6%
College degree	20.6%	14.0%	13.4%
Advanced degree	14.0%	9.1%	8.4%
<u>Race</u>			
White/Caucasian	91.0%	92.0%	92.7%
Black/ African-American	2.2%	3.9%	3.8%
Asian	0.4%	0.7%	0.8%
Other	4.0%	3.4%	2.7%
<u>Ethnicity</u>			
Hispanic	2.8%	2.3%	- ⁴
Non-Hispanic	97.2%	97.7%	-
<u>Annual Income</u>			
Less than \$15,000	11.1%	14.1%	-
\$15,000-\$30,000	22.1%	23.9%	-
\$30,001-\$45,000	11.8%	12.8%	-
\$45,001-\$60,000	14.4%	13.7%	-
\$60,001-\$75,000	15.5%	14.7%	-
\$75,001-\$100,000	11.1%	8.0%	-
More than \$100,000	14.0%	12.8%	-

³ As reported by the most recent U.S. Census Bureau data.

⁴ The survey is not weighted using ethnicity or income due to the fact that both data are subject to nonresponse error and income is not a fixed or stable attribute.

MORE DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Demographics	Weighted Percent	Demographics	Weighted Percent
Urban	18.4%	Village, City, Township	
Suburban	20.5%	Ava	0.9%
Rural	59.2%	Blairsville	0.5%
Rent home	27.8%	Bradley	0.6%
Own home	70.3%	Bush	0.7%
		Cambria	2.1%
Born in southern Illinois	48.8%	Carbondale	21.5%
		Carterville	7.9%
Single	31.9%	Carrol Springs	0.5%
Married	50.8%	Crab Orchard	0.5%
Divorced	8.6%	Creal Springs	1.9%
Widowed	7.6%	Desoto	1.4%
Domestic partner	0.9%	Elk	0.4%
		Energy	1.1%
Adults who report having a disability	19.8%	Grand Tower	0.8%
		Herrin	9.3%
Housing insecure ⁵	7.2%	Hurst	0.6%
Food insecure ⁶	16.9 %	Jackson	1.6%
Healthcare insecure ⁷	15.6%	Johnson City	5.5%
		Kincaid	0.5%
Constructed voter measure	70.5%	Makanda	2.8%
Religious member	51.0%	Marion	18.7%
		Murphysboro	7.9%
Republican	18.4%	Pittsburg	1.2%
Democrat	27.6%	Pomona	0.3%
Independent	27.9%	Rollington	0.5%
Other	18.3%	Somersset	0.6%
		Vergennes	0.5%
		Williamson	2.4%
		Other	1.2%

⁵ Percent of respondents who reported that there had been at least one time in the past 12 months when they were unable to afford housing for them or their family.

⁶ Percent of respondents who reported that there had been at least one time in the past 12 months when they were unable to afford food for them or their family.

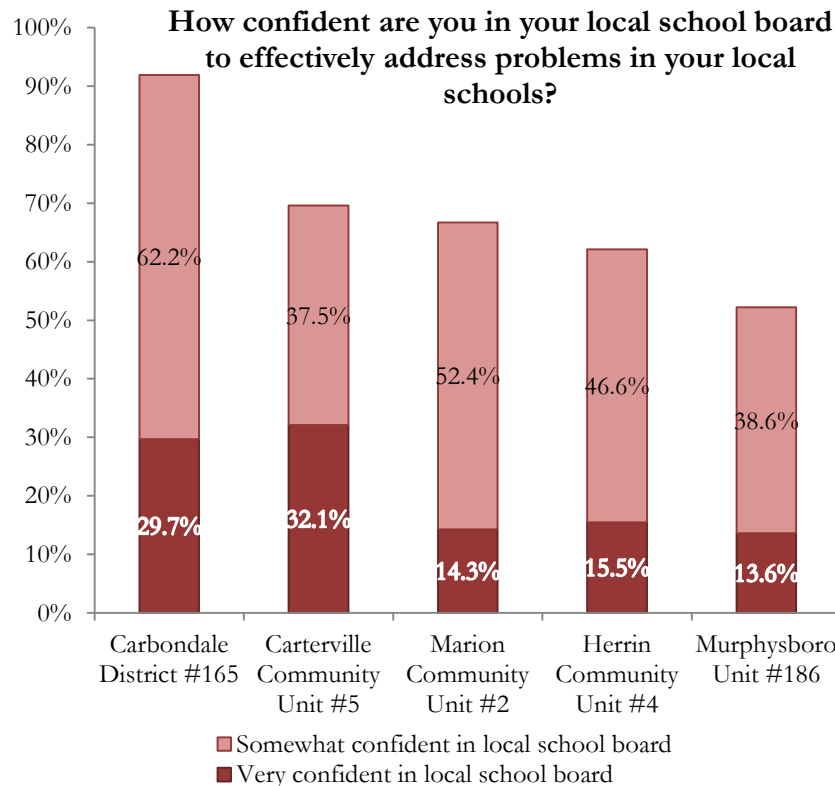
⁷ Percent of respondents who reported that there had been at least one time in the past 12 months when they were unable to afford healthcare services for them or their family.

K-12 Education

The 2014 sample includes individuals from 13 different school districts in southern Illinois. Twenty percent of the sample report that they live in Marion Community Unit #2, 10.9 percent live in Herrin Community Unit #4, and 10.7 percent live in Carterville Community Unit #5. Of the five most represented school districts, Carbondale District #165 residents report the highest level of confidence in local school boards with 29.7% reporting that they are “very confident” in their local school board and 62.2% reporting that they are “somewhat confident.”



Respondents were asked what, if any, was the biggest change needed in order to improve K-12 education in their local school district. The majority of respondents report that increased funding is the biggest change needed with 26.7 percent of respondents, followed by improving the quality of staff, administration, and teachers (10.7 percent), and improving the quality of technology and resources available to students (7.8 percent).



Of the 160 respondents who report having a school aged child, 84.2% of them report that their oldest (only) child attends public school, 10.1% attend private schools, and 5.8% are homeschooled. Sixty-five percent of parents/guardians with a child enrolled in a private school report that the quality of education that their child receives is “excellent,” compared to 27.4% of respondents with a child enrolled in public school. In addition, 64.3% of parents with children in private school report that their child is “very safe,” compared to 42.4% of parents with children in public school. It is important to note that due to small sample size, these differences are just descriptive and do not have statistical significance.

Almost three-fourths of all respondents report that they believe **Pre-K education programs** are “very important” for the local community. Support is higher in Jackson County (76.3%) than in Williamson County (70.3%), higher in urban areas (84.2%), than in more suburban areas (69.8%) and rural areas (70.3%), and highest among individuals earning \$15,000 or less annually (89.2%).

Comparing Parent Evaluations

School District	2013 Total Enrollment	Average Spending per Student	Percent low income	Education quality rating	Safety rating
Carbondale District #165	1,093	\$8,519	52%	2.27(.97)	2.17(1.0)
Carterville Community Unit #5	1,967	\$4,446	42.9%	1.50(.60)	1.46(.52)
Marion Community #2	4,078	\$4,500	50.2%	2.01(.78)	1.64(.66)
Herrin Community #4	2,526	\$4,740	59.8%	1.94(.81)	1.47(.51)
Murphysboro Unit #186	2,029	\$5,737	49%	1.89(.68)	1.23(.45)

The above table compares the five school districts using school district data retrieved from the Illinois State Board of Education’s School District Report Card and survey responses (standard deviations are in parentheses). No statistical significance is reported due to small sample size. As seen in the table, all of the school districts received an education quality rating and a safety rating below 3 which indicates a positive rating (smaller values indicate more positive scores). Overall, Carterville #5 received the most positive education quality rating (1.50) while Murphysboro #186 received the most positive safety rating (1.23).

The Perceived Importance of Higher Education

13% of the sample includes individuals who are currently enrolled in a college or university. Of these,

- 37.3% attend John A. Logan College,
- 31.3% attend SIU Carbondale,
- 4.5% attend Rend Lake College,
- and 26.9% report attending another college or university.

57% of all respondents report that it is “very important” for an individual to have a college degree with an additional 31.6% who report that it is “somewhat important.”

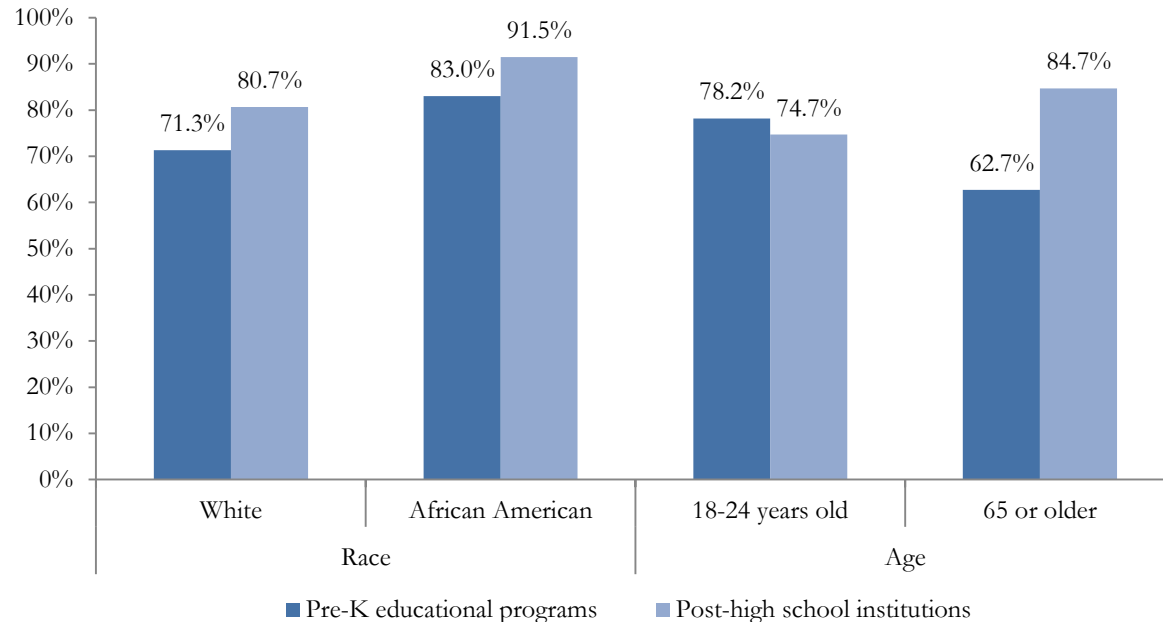
Additionally, 81.4 % of respondents report that post-high school institutions are “very important” to the local community. Support is somewhat higher in Williamson County where 85 % of respondents report that they are “very important” compared to 76.4% in Jackson County. This may be due to the fact that there is a higher percentage of students enrolled in John A. Logan College, which is located in Williamson County, who participated in the survey. However, there were no differences among levels of support for higher educational institutions between those who are currently enrolled in college and those who are not currently enrolled.

Demographic Differences in Evaluations

There were also slight differences in the perceived importance of both Pre-K educational programs and post-high school institutions on the local community by race with a higher percentage of African American respondents reporting that these educational programs are “very important” to the local community than white respondents.

In addition, younger respondents were more likely to report (78.2%) that Pre-K educational programs are “very important,” while 84.6% of respondents ages 65 and older report that post-high school institutions are “very important.”

Percent of respondents who report that these educational programs are "very important" to the local community



Attitudes towards Pre-K and Higher Education

Demographics	Percent of residents who think Pre-K educational programs are very important ⁸	Percent of residents who think a college degree is very important ⁹	Percent of residents who think post-high school institutions are very important for the community ¹⁰
Female	78.0%	57.3%	82.6%
Male	67.4%	55.8%	80.0%
18-24 years old	78.2%	72.4%	74.7%
25-34 years old	82.9%	49.4%	84.2%
35-44 years old	82.4%	48.6%	83.6%
45-54 years old	73.4%	51.2%	75.6%
55-64 years old	64.0%	60.0%	82.8%
65 or older	62.7%	56.4%	84.7%
White	71.3%	54.2%	80.7%
African American	83.0%	70.2%	91.5%
Hispanic	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Less than \$15,000 a year	89.2%	52.7%	78.4%
\$15,001-\$30,000 a year	70.1%	56.2%	82.5%
\$30,001-\$45,000 a year	78.0%	52.5%	77.6%
\$45,001-\$60,000 a year	69.4%	63.9%	82.3%
\$60,001-\$75,000 a year	56.9%	60.0%	94.0%
\$75,001-\$100,000 a year	76.7%	55.8%	93.0%
More than \$100,000 a year	67.2%	61.2%	80.9%
Less than HS	78.7%	76.6%	63.8%
HS diploma or GED	75.2%	59.3%	79.3%
Some college or trade school	70.9%	47.5%	80.2%
College degree	67.9%	56.5%	91.8%
Advanced degree	76.9%	66.2%	90.8%
Urban	84.2%	48.9%	84.4%
Suburban	69.8%	64.5%	82.1%
Rural	70.3%	57.0%	80.5%
Jackson County	76.3%	55.5%	76.4%
Williamson County	70.3%	57.7%	85.0%

⁸ Percent of respondents who reported that Pre-K programs are very important to the local community.

⁹ Percent of respondents who reported that it is very important for an individual to have a college degree.

¹⁰ Percent of respondents who reported that post-high school institutions are very important for the local community.

Strong or Weak Leaders?

46.7% of southern Illinois residents feel their county has strong leaders.

In particular, 46.3% of Jackson County residents and 47.0% of Williamson County residents report that their county has strong leaders, compared to the 34.1% of Jackson County residents and 38.2% of Williamson County residents who report that their county has weak leaders. Generally, women (32.2%) are less likely to report that their county has weak leaders than men (41.2%). Additionally, we find large differences in sentiment reported by income. Individuals who report their income as \$75,000 to \$100,000 per year (59.5%) are the most likely to report that their county has strong leaders while individuals who report their income as less than \$15,000 a year were the least likely to report that their county has strong leaders (30.6%).

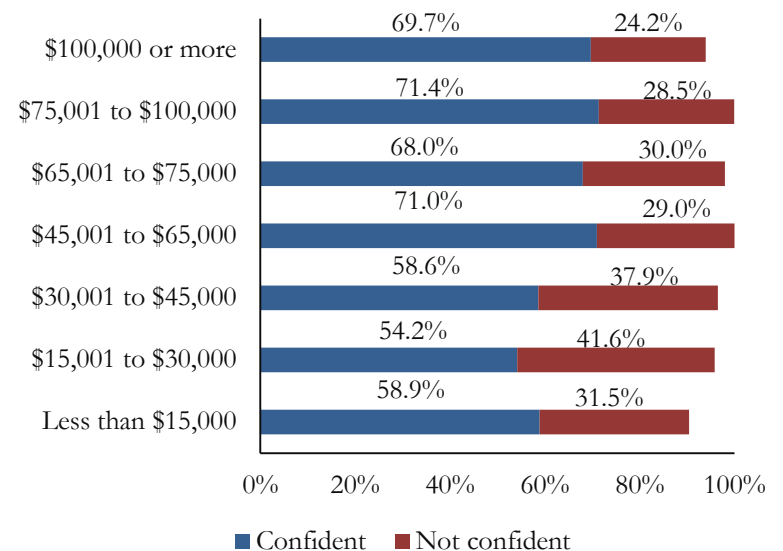
Confidence in Local Leaders?

63.3% of Jackson/Williamson County residents are confident that local leaders can effectively address local problems.

Overall, Jackson County residents are more confident in local leaders (68.8%) than Williamson County residents (59.8%). In general, women (64.4%) and men (62.5%) report confidence in local leaders at about the same level. However, we do find large differences in confidence based on an individual's reported political party. Individuals who identify as an Independent (71.6%) or a Democrat (66.7%) are more likely to report confidence in local leaders while individuals who identify as Republican (57.3%) or with some other party (62.1%) report lower levels of confidence. The age of the survey respondent also made a large difference in confidence as individuals between the ages of 25 to 54 report they are the least confident that local leaders can effectively address local problems with 53.8% of individuals 25 to 34, 55.7% of individuals 45 to 54, and 59.5% of individuals 35 to 44 reporting confidence. Individuals age 55 years and older were the most likely to report confidence in local leaders with 72.9% of individuals 65 years old or older and 70.1% of individuals age 55 to 64 reporting confidence.

Confidence in Elected Leaders?

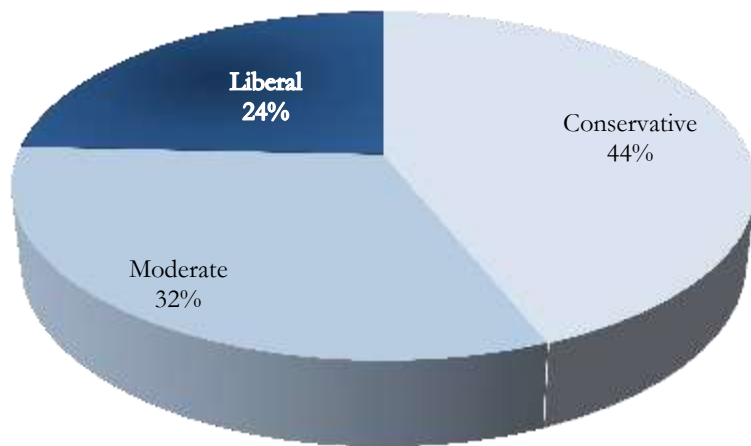
62.5% of Jackson and Williamson County residents are confident that local elected leaders can effectively address local problems. Jackson County residents (67.3%) are more confident than local elected leaders can effectively address local problems than Williamson County residents (59.0%). Specifically, again, we find that older individuals display the most confidence in local elected leaders with individuals 65 years old or older reporting 72.9% confidence and individuals 55 to 64 years old reporting 71.8% confidence. Additionally, survey respondents who report higher income levels report higher confidence in local elected leaders than those who report lower levels of income. For example, 71.4% of individuals with an income level of \$75,001 to \$100,000 report confidence in local elected leaders while 31.5% of individuals with an income level of less than \$15,000 report the same.



Where do southern Illinois residents get local news?

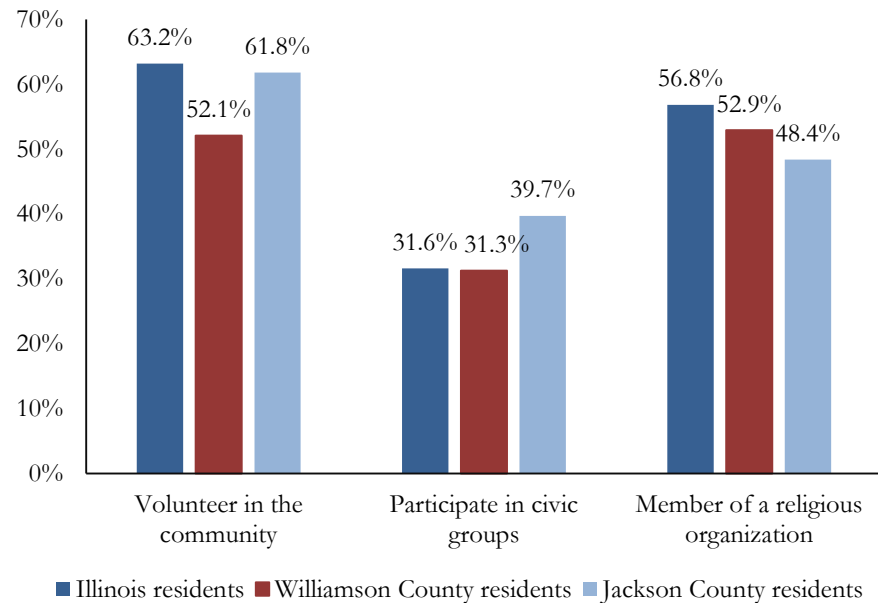
The most popular medium for obtaining local news in Jackson and Williamson County is television. Nearly three out of four respondents (73.5%) report that on a normal day they watch local television. Fifty-five percent of Jackson and Williamson County respondents report that radio is the second most cited medium for obtaining local news. This is followed by 47.1% of respondents who report obtaining local news by newspaper and 45.6% of respondents who report obtaining local news online. Of those respondents who report obtaining local news online, 45.6% report obtaining local news from both news websites and social media, compared to 40.0% who report obtaining local news from a news website only and 13.6% who report using only social media.

How would you describe your views on political matters?



Comparing Jackson/Williamson County to statewide results

When we compare Jackson/Williamson County citizens to a statewide survey of Illinois residents, we find differences in their levels of community service, participation in civic groups, and religious attendance. According to a 2009 statewide survey conducted by the UIS Survey Research Office, 63.2% of Illinois residents are involved in community volunteer activities, 31.6% participate in a school, neighborhood, or civic groups in the past year, and 56.8% are a member of a church, synagogue, temple, or mosque. In the 2014 survey, we find that 61.8% of Jackson County residents and 52.1% of Williamson County report being involved in community volunteer activities, 39.7% of Jackson County residents and 31.3% of Williamson county residents participate in school, neighborhood, or civic groups, and 48.4% of Jackson County residents and 52.9% of Williamson County residents are a member of a church, synagogue, temple, or mosque.



It is important to note that the differences between Jackson and Williamson County responses and statewide responses may also be due to the differences in years. The statewide survey was conducted in 2009 with 700 respondents. UIS Survey Research Office.

Confidence in Jackson/Williamson County leaders

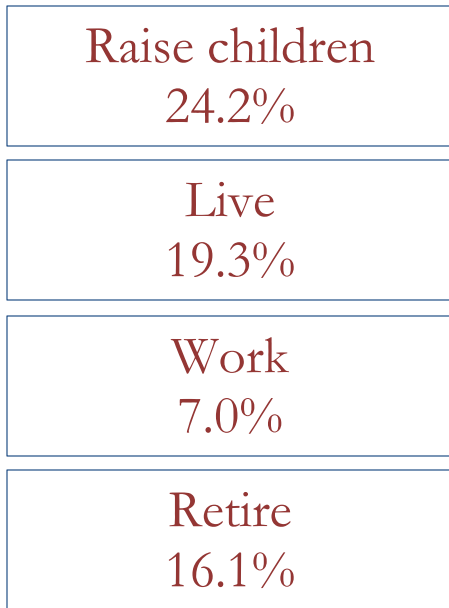
Demographics	Percent of residents who are confident in local leaders ¹¹	Percent of residents who feel their county has strong leaders ¹²	Percent of residents who are confident in local ELECTED leaders ¹³
Female	64.6%	45.9%	63.5%
Male	62.5%	46.9%	61.3%
18-24 years old	64.4%	44.8%	64.3%
25-34 years old	53.8%	44.2%	54.6%
35-44 years old	59.5%	37.0%	57.5%
45-54 years old	55.7%	40.0%	53.2%
55-64 years old	70.1%	57.1%	71.8%
65 or older	72.9%	53.2%	72.9%
White	62.5%	47.6%	62.9%
African American	68.7%	41.3%	66.6%
Hispanic	60.0%	20.0%	40.0%
Less than \$15,000 a year	68.5%	30.6%	58.9%
\$15,001-\$30,000 a year	57.3%	46.3%	54.2%
\$30,001-\$45,000 a year	62.0%	51.7%	58.6%
\$45,001-\$60,000 a year	64.0%	47.5%	71.0%
\$60,001-\$75,000 a year	71.4%	56.2%	68.0%
\$75,001-\$100,000 a year	65.1%	59.5%	71.4%
More than \$100,000 a year	63.6%	45.3%	69.7%
Less than HS	63.0%	53.2%	52.2%
HS diploma or GED	63.7%	54.9%	69.6%
Some college or trade school	59.3%	39.0%	57.4%
College degree	69.0%	47.6%	63.5%
Advanced degree	68.2%	44.4%	66.7%
Urban	60.0%	44.2%	44.2%
Suburban	66.4%	45.3%	35.8%
Rural	64.6%	47.2%	33.3%
Jackson County	68.8%	46.3%	67.3%
Williamson County	59.8%	47.0%	59.0%

¹¹ Percent of respondents who reported that they are either very confident or somewhat confident that local leaders can effectively address local problems.

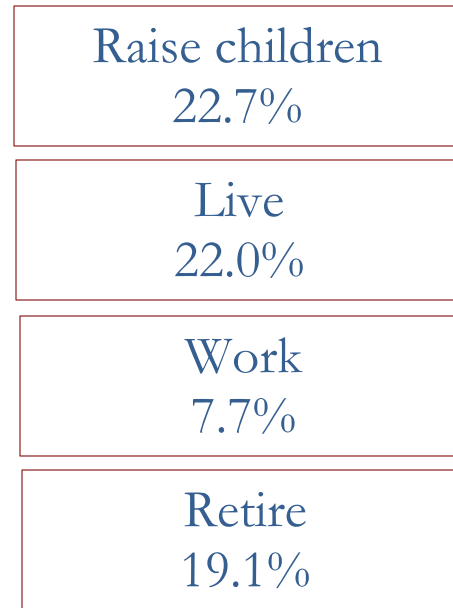
¹² Percent of respondents who believe that Jackson/Williamson County has strong leaders.

¹³ Percent of respondents who reported that they are either very confident or somewhat confident that local elected leaders can effectively address local problems.

Do you think Jackson County is an excellent place to...



Do you think Williamson County is an excellent place to...

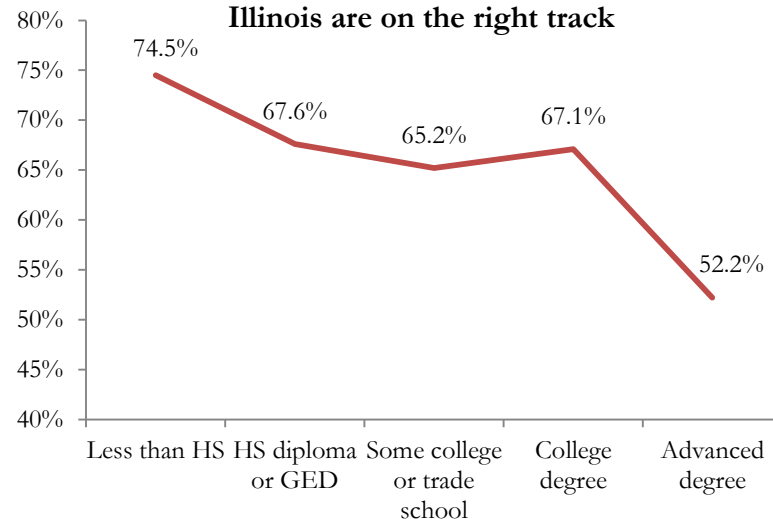


Would you say things are generally on the right track, or do you think things are going in the wrong direction?

Sixty-six percent of survey respondents report that that things are generally on the right track in southern Illinois, while one in four respondents (24%) report that things are going in the wrong direction, and 10% reported that they didn't know. Rural respondents were less positive in their outlooks with 61.2% reporting that things are generally on the right track, compared to 71% of those who report living in more suburban or urban areas who report that things are on the right track.

Interestingly, individuals with higher levels of education were less positive with slightly more than half of individuals with an advanced degree reporting that things are on the right track, compared to 74.5% of individuals without a HS diploma, 67.6% of individuals with a HS diploma or GED, 65.2% of individuals with some college or trade school education, and 67.1% of individuals with a college degree.

Percent of residents who think things in southern Illinois are on the right track



15.2%

of southern Illinois residents believe their immediate area is getting better as a place to live.

60.6%

of southern Illinois residents believe their immediate area is about the same today as it was a year ago, in terms of a place to live.

17.7%

of southern Illinois residents believe their immediate area is getting worse as place to live.

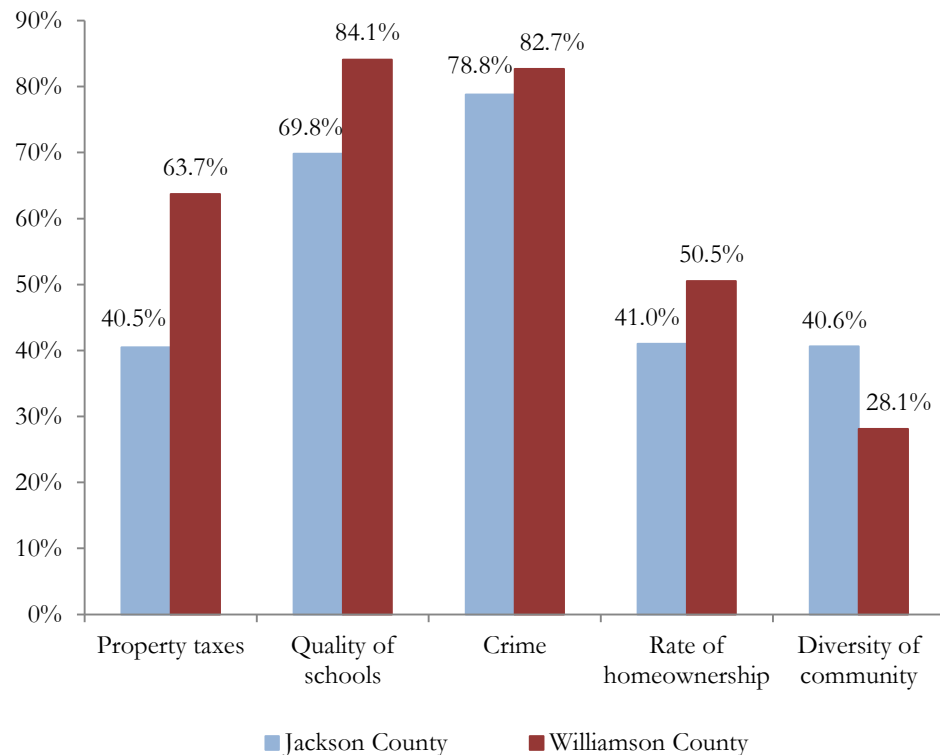
Level of satisfaction with current housing



Forty-one percent of southern Illinois residents report that they are “very satisfied” with their current housing with an additional 37.9% reporting that they are “satisfied.” While there are no differences between the two counties, there are

differences between individuals with varying education and income levels. Thirty percent of individuals earning less than \$15,000 annually report being “very satisfied” with their current housing compared to 70.1% of those earning more than \$100,000 annually. In addition, individuals with higher levels of education report the highest level of satisfaction with their current housing with 60% of those with advanced degrees reporting being “very satisfied” and 50% of individuals with a college degree reporting the same. More than one-third of respondents (36.9%) report that if they could, they would move away from their current neighborhoods. This is slightly higher among Williamson County respondents than Jackson County respondents (38.4% compared to 34.9%). This is also slightly higher among white respondents than African American or Hispanic respondents, (37.1% compared to 28.3% and 30%, respectively).

Percent of respondents who report that these factors are “very important” in determining where they live



Community Social Well-being

Demographics	Percent of residents who think things are on the right track ¹⁴	Percent of residents who think things are going in the wrong direction ¹⁵	Percent of residents who report their immediate area is getting better ¹⁶
Female	61.4%	25.1%	15.4%
Male	69.3%	22.7%	15.1%
18-24 years old	68.6%	23.3%	20.7%
25-34 years old	71.4%	20.8%	26.0%
35-44 years old	71.2%	21.9%	11.0%
45-54 years old	53.2%	31.6%	8.8%
55-64 years old	62.8%	25.6%	11.6%
65 or older	69.1%	18.2%	13.6%
White	65.2%	23.8%	12.4%
African American	75.0%	22.9%	31.9%
Hispanic	72.7%	0%	18.2%
Less than \$15,000 a year	60.3%	17.8%	10.8%
\$15,001-\$30,000 a year	57.7%	13.4%	17.7%
\$30,001-\$45,000 a year	74.1%	19.0%	12.1%
\$45,001-\$60,000 a year	62.3%	36.1%	17.7%
\$60,001-\$75,000 a year	68.6%	21.6%	21.6%
\$75,001-\$100,000 a year	67.4%	15.6%	9.5%
More than \$100,000 a year	63.1%	29.4%	11.9%
Less than HS	74.5%	17.0%	27.7%
HS diploma or GED	67.6%	19.3%	11.7%
Some college or trade school	65.2%	22.3%	13.1%
College degree	67.1%	27.1%	17.6%
Advanced degree	52.2%	38.8%	15.2%
Urban	71.9%	18.8%	15.8%
Suburban	71.7%	16.0%	17.9%
Rural	61.2%	16.0%	14.5%
Jackson County	63.0%	26.0%	14.2%
Williamson County	67.1%	22.1%	16.0%

¹⁴ Percent of respondents who reported that things in southern Illinois are generally on the right track.

¹⁵ Percent of respondents who reported that things in southern Illinois are generally headed in the wrong direction.

¹⁶ Percent of respondents who reported that their immediate area where they live is getting better as a place to live, compared to a year ago.

Economic Priorities

For residents of both counties, the highest economic priority is attracting new businesses and jobs to southern Illinois. 77.5% of Jackson County residents report that this is a “high priority,” as do 88.9% of Williamson County residents. This is followed by reducing local crime (65.3% compared to 71.7%), increasing workforce/employment training programs (54.2% compared to 62.8%), increasing the number of local apprentice training programs (50.5% compared to 58.3%), and developing the medical facilities in southern Illinois (56.9% compared to 54.6%).

Significantly more Williamson County residents report that reducing local government spending is a “high priority” compared to Jackson County residents. Sixty-five percent of Williamson County residents rate it as a high priority compared to only 43.6% of Jackson County residents.

Southern Illinois residents provide mixed responses when asked whether “not allowing new tax increases” or “decreasing property taxes” were a high priority, medium priority, low priority, or not a priority at all with distinct differences between Jackson County and Williamson County respondents.

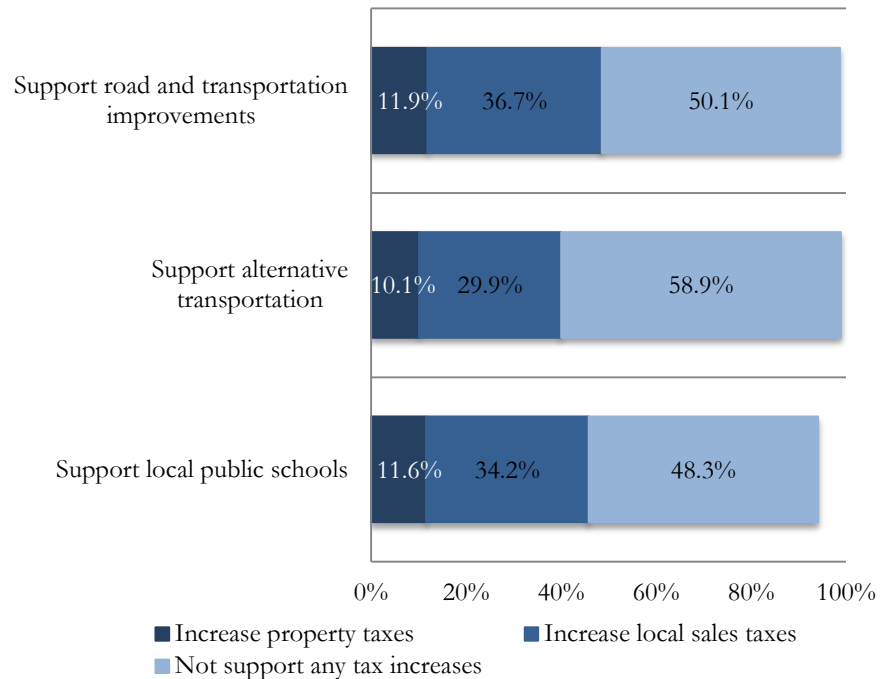
Thirty-three percent of Jackson County respondents report that “not allowing new tax increases” is a high priority and 25.8% report that it is a “low priority.” In Williamson County, we find that 48.3% report that it is a “high priority” and 14.7% report that it is a “low priority.” Forty percent of Jackson County respondents report that decreasing property taxes is a “high priority,” compared to 46% of Williamson County respondents.

Tax Priorities

Southern Illinois residents were asked a series of different questions gauging whether they would support increases in property taxes, local sales taxes, or whether they would not support any tax increases in order to fund

- a) alternative transportation,
- b) local public school,
- c) road and transportation improvements.

For all three categories, a higher percentage of individuals report they would not support any tax increases. The tax increase receiving the most support deals with supporting infrastructure improvements. Thirty-seven percent of respondents report they would support an increase in local sales taxes to support road and transportation improvements.



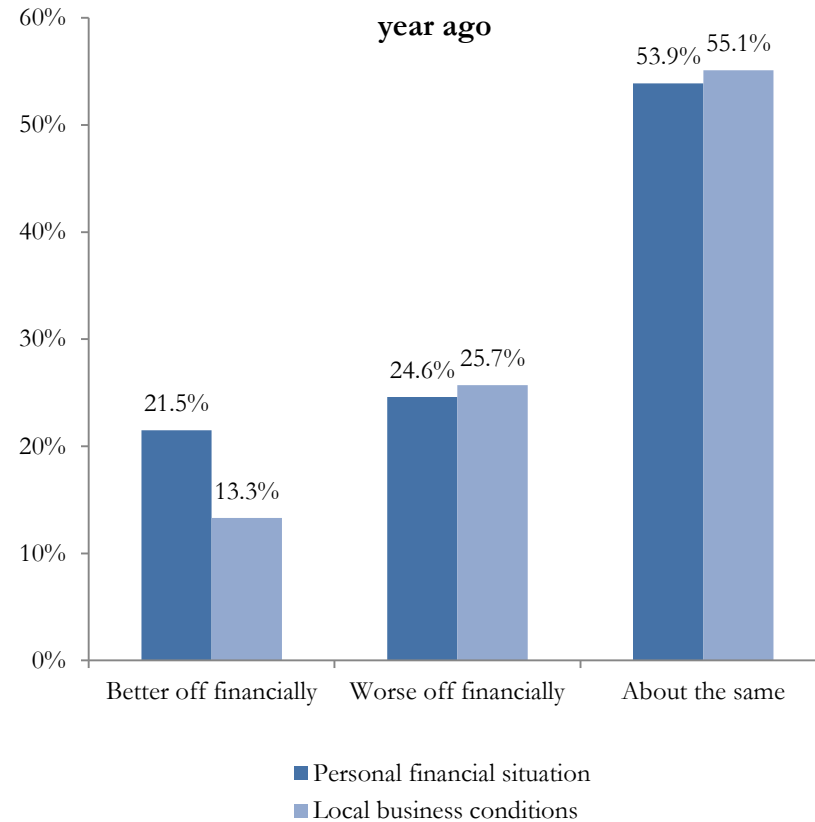
Southern Illinois' Unemployed or Underemployed Citizens

8.2% of Jackson County respondents and 5.9% of Williamson County respondents report currently being unemployed and seeking employment (the actual unemployment rate in Jackson and Williamson Counties according to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics is 8.4% and 9.6%, respectively). Of the employed respondents, 27.7% consider themselves to be underemployed. The rate of employed individuals reporting being underemployed is higher in Williamson County with 32.2% of employed residents report being underemployed, compared to 22.3% of Jackson County residents.

The majority of both unemployed and underemployed southern Illinois residents believe that employment training programs are important for the area. In addition, 16.7% of individuals who are unemployed report that they participated in employment training programs and found these programs useful as did 28.1% of individuals who are employed full-time. One-fourth of underemployed, 28.1% of individuals who are employed full-time, and 16.7% of unemployed respondents report participating in such programs in the past.

	Participated in useful employment training programs	Thinks employment programs are important for the area
Underemployed	25.7%	97.3%
Unemployed	16.7%	100.0%
Employed full-time	28.1%	92.2%

Comparing current personal financial conditions and local business conditions to a year ago



As seen in the graph above, southern Illinois residents are more pessimistic about local business conditions than they are about their own personal financial conditions. Thirteen percent of individuals report that local business conditions are better off than they were a year ago while 21.5% report that they are personally better off than they were a year ago. The majority of respondents report that both personal financial conditions (54%) and local business conditions (55%) are about the same as they were a year ago.

Attitudes towards the economy

Demographics	Percent of respondents who are better off financially than they were a year ago ¹⁷	Percent of respondents who consider themselves underemployed ¹⁸	Percent of respondents who report that business conditions are better than they were a year ago ¹⁹
Female	21.9%	26.3%	14.7%
Male	21.2%	29.3%	11.4%
18-24 years old	19.8%	17.3%	17.2%
25-34 years old	41.6%	45.2%	11.5%
35-44 years old	32.9%	35.2%	18.9%
45-54 years old	12.8%	20.4%	7.6%
55-64 years old	16.3%	16.7%	14.1%
65 or older	10.8%	23.1%	11.8%
White	17.6%	25.4%	12.6%
African American	46.8%	29.2%	8.5%
Hispanic	²⁰ -	-	-
Less than \$15,000 a year	15.1%	50.0%	6.8%
\$15,001-\$30,000 a year	21.6%	47.7%	10.3%
\$30,001-\$45,000 a year	24.1%	16.7%	10.3%
\$45,001-\$60,000 a year	19.7%	17.2%	19.7%
\$60,001-\$75,000 a year	28.0%	25.8%	14.3%
\$75,001-\$100,000 a year	28.6%	23.1%	4.7%
More than \$100,000 a year	32.8%	7.0%	13.6%
Less than HS	12.8%	0%	32.6%
HS diploma or GED	19.3%	34.9%	14.5%
Some college or trade school	23.1%	32.3%	8.7%
College degree	24.7%	30.0%	11.6%
Advanced degree	25.8%	15.4%	11.9%
Urban	26.3%	45.5%	9.4%
Suburban	23.4%	12.7%	10.3%
Rural	20.1%	25.8%	14.2%
Jackson County	22.8%	22.3%	12.3%
Williamson County	20.5%	32.3%	14.0%

¹⁷ Percent of southern Illinois residents who reported that compared to twelve months ago, they are personally better off financially.

¹⁸ Percent of employed respondents who reported that they consider themselves currently underemployed.

¹⁹ Percent of southern Illinois residents who reported that compared to twelve months ago, local business conditions are better off financially.

²⁰ Too few of individuals in this category to report frequencies.

Less than one-fourth of southern Illinois residents report litter is a big problem in the region. This is slightly higher than the percent of individuals who report that litter is a big problem in their local community (17.1%), or on their own street (13.3%). A greater percentage of Williamson County respondents report litter is a problem in southern Illinois (26.8%) than Jackson County respondents (19.7%). We find the same difference when respondents are asked about litter in their local community and on their street. Nineteen percent of Williamson County respondents report litter is a big problem in their local community and 15.0% report it is a big problem on their street, compared to 14.6% of Jackson County respondents who report litter is a big problem in their local community and 11.0% report it is a big problem on their street.

Air and Water Quality

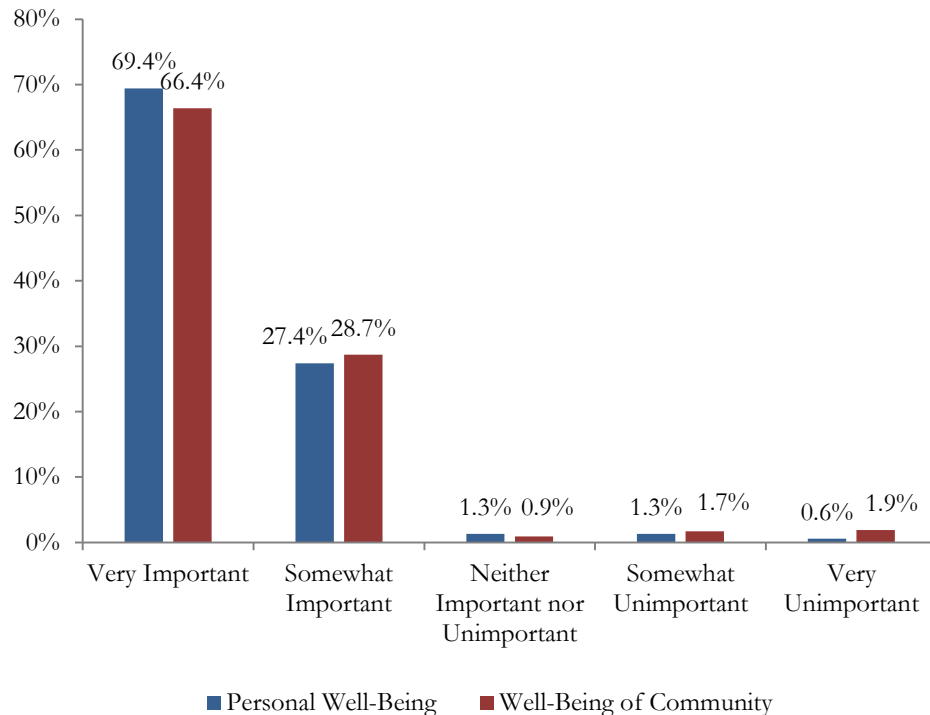
While just over one-third (34.8%) of survey respondents reported being very concerned about water quality, less than one-fifth of respondents (15.4%) reported the same level of concern about air quality. Concern over water quality seems to weigh heaviest on those respondents who reported living in Jackson County. Thirty-eight percent of these respondents rate their level of concern toward local water quality as very concerned as compared to 32.2% of Williamson County respondents.

	Very Concerned about Air Quality	Very Concerned about Water Quality
Jackson	16.4%	38.4%
Williamson	14.7%	32.2%
Total	15.4%	34.8%

Conserving the environment

The majority of Jackson and Williamson County residents report that conserving the local environment is very important for the well-being of their community (66.4%) as well as the well-being of them personally (69.4%). A higher percentage of Jackson County respondents report the importance of conserving local natural environment to the well-being of the community than respondents of Williamson County (75% compared to 65.4%). We find the same difference when respondents are asked about the importance of conserving the local natural environment to their personal well-being (70.9% compared to 63.2%).

Importance of conserving local natural environment to personal well-being and well-being of community



2 in 3 survey respondents reported that knowing a product is locally grown makes them “more likely” to purchase that product.

63.2% of southern Illinois residents report recycling at home



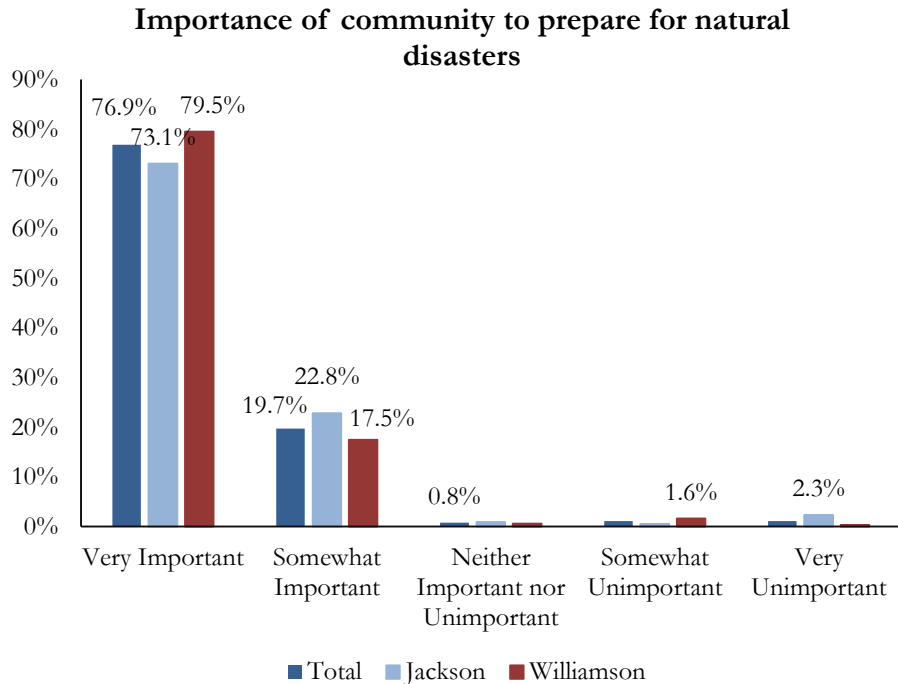
57.5%
of Williamson
County
respondents

71.1%
of Jackson
County
respondents

Of the 36.8% of respondents who do not currently recycle, the top reason given for not recycling is no curbside recycling available. Sixty-five percent of individuals who do not recycle, report that they do not have curbside recycling, 20.8% report that they have no interest in recycling, and 10.4% report that it is too expensive to recycle.

Preparation for Natural Disasters

76.9% of survey respondents report that it is “very important” for their community to prepare for natural disasters. Williamson County residents are slightly more likely to report that it is very important to prepare than Jackson County residents, 79.5% and 73.1%, respectively. However, the vast majority in both counties report that it is either “very important” or “somewhat important” as seen in the graph below.



Attitudes towards litter

Demographics	Percent of residents who think litter in Southern Illinois is a big problem ²¹	Percent of residents who think litter in their own community is a big problem ²²	Percent of residents who think litter on their street is a big problem ²³
Female	26.0%	20.9%	15.5%
Male	22.0%	13.6%	11.4%
18-24 years old	8.0%	9.5%	13.8%
25-34 years old	23.4%	18.2%	9.1%
35-44 years old	18.9%	16.4%	10.8%
45-54 years old	26.6%	16.5%	17.7%
55-64 years old	32.6%	20.7%	16.3%
65 or older	31.5%	19.1%	11.0%
White	25.9%	17.0%	13.8%
African American	10.6%	21.3%	10.6%
Hispanic	10.0%	0%	0%
Less than \$15,000 a year	32.9%	16.4%	13.5%
\$15,001-\$30,000 a year	26.0%	21.9%	14.4%
\$30,001-\$45,000 a year	19.0%	15.5%	6.9%
\$45,001-\$60,000 a year	38.7%	16.1%	17.7%
\$60,001-\$75,000 a year	14.0%	16.0%	8.0%
\$75,001-\$100,000 a year	25.6%	23.8%	9.5%
More than \$100,000 a year	17.9%	14.9%	17.9%
Less than HS	26.1%	19.6%	27.7%
HS diploma or GED	19.3%	11.8%	7.6%
Some college or trade school	26.1%	18.1%	15.4%
College degree	22.4%	21.2%	12.9%
Advanced degree	28.4%	18.2%	10.6%
Urban	20.8%	13.7%	6.2%
Suburban	20.8%	20.8%	14.2%
Rural	25.2%	16.8%	14.9%
Jackson County	19.7%	14.6%	11.0%
Williamson County	26.8%	18.8%	15.0%

²¹ Percent of respondents who reported that litter in Southern Illinois is a big problem.

²² Percent of respondents who report that litter in their own community is a big problem.

²³ Percent of respondents who report that litter on their street is a big problem.

Feeling Safe

Jackson and Williamson County residents report high levels of safety. Nearly three-fourths of respondents indicating that they feel safe at walking alone in their neighborhood at night.

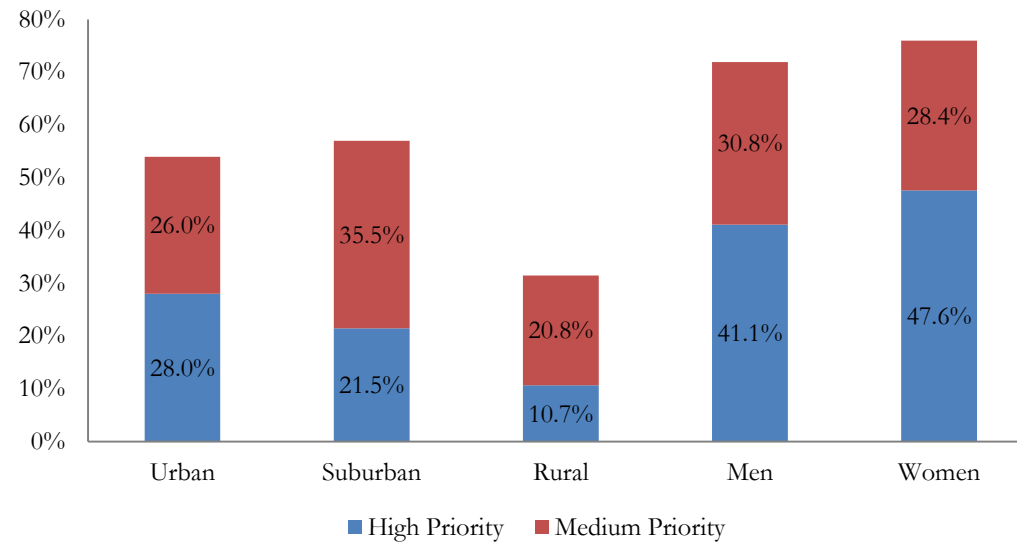


Eighty percent of respondents report feeling either “as safe” or “safer” in their homes than they did a year ago. Williamson County residents report slightly higher rates of feeling less safe with 17.7% reporting that they feel less safe in their home compared to 12.8% of Jackson County residents.

Gender also plays a role in evaluation of safety for respondents. Only 12.5% of men report feeling unsafe walking alone at night, while over 30% of women feel the same.

Location was correlated with evaluations of safety. Respondents from urban areas report feeling less safe walking alone at night (69.5%) than those who report living in more suburban (76.6%) or rural areas (76.7%). Additionally, those in urban areas were more likely to report feeling less safe compared to a year ago (20.8%) than those in suburban (15.0%) or rural areas (14.9%).

Percentage of respondents indicating visibility of police as a high or medium priority



Visibility of Police



Respondents differ in how often they report seeing police in their neighborhoods. Overall, 14.7% of respondents report seeing police “very often” and 25% report seeing police “somewhat often.” Unsurprisingly, rural citizens report seeing police less frequently than those living in suburban or urban areas. In fact, only 10.7% of rural respondents report seeing the police “very often” compared to 20.8% and 21.5% for urban and suburban respondents respectively.

Additionally, respondents overwhelmingly indicate that the visibility of police was a “high priority” (44.4%) or a “medium priority.” Women are more likely to report the visibility of police as a “high priority” (47.6%) than men (41.1%). Similar differences are found between urban, rural, and suburban respondents. Individuals from urban areas (46.3%) and suburban areas (50.0%) were more likely to report the visibility of police as a high priority, compared to 39.7% of respondents living in rural areas.

Public Safety in southern Illinois

Demographics	Percent of residents who feel safe in their neighborhood ²⁴	Percent of residents who report feeling safer ²⁵	Percent of residents who see visibility of police as very important ²⁶
Female	63.7%	7.0%	47.6%
Male	86.0%	8.0%	41.1%
18-24 years old	82.8%	4.6%	24.4%
25-34 years old	84.4%	16.9%	33.8%
35-44 years old	73.0%	13.5%	39.2%
45-54 years old	72.7%	2.6%	55.7%
55-64 years old	74.4%	5.8%	47.1%
65 or older	67.6%	3.6%	58.7%
White	74.1%	7.6%	42.7%
African American	81.2%	6.5%	31.9%
Hispanic	100.0%	0%	25.0%
Less than \$15,000 a year	71.2%	6.8%	42.6%
\$15,001-\$30,000 a year	65.6%	11.5%	37.4%
\$30,001-\$45,000 a year	79.3%	10.3%	58.6%
\$45,001-\$60,000 a year	72.1%	8.1%	41.7%
\$60,001-\$75,000 a year	86.0%	4.0%	40.0%
\$75,001-\$100,000 a year	83.7%	4.7%	50.0%
More than \$100,000 a year	89.4%	4.5%	35.8%
Less than HS	74.5%	4.3%	34.0%
HS diploma or GED	77.4%	5.6%	51.8%
Some college or trade school	66.5%	9.9%	43.3%
College degree	78.6%	8.1%	43.5%
Advanced degree	89.2%	6.1%	40.3%
Urban	69.5%	7.3%	46.3%
Suburban	76.6%	7.5%	50.0%
Rural	76.7%	7.5%	39.7%
Jackson County	78.1%	5.5%	39.6%
Williamson County	72.5%	8.9%	47.9%

²⁴ Percent of respondents who reported that they felt safe walking alone in their neighborhood at night.

²⁵ Percent of respondents who reported feeling safer in their own homes now, compared to a year ago.

²⁶ Percent of respondents who reported that visibility of police was a “high priority.”



76.8% of southern Illinois residents report commuting to work. Of these, only 1% report taking a bus to get to work. Amtrak services are the most used transportation mode for traveling out of town.



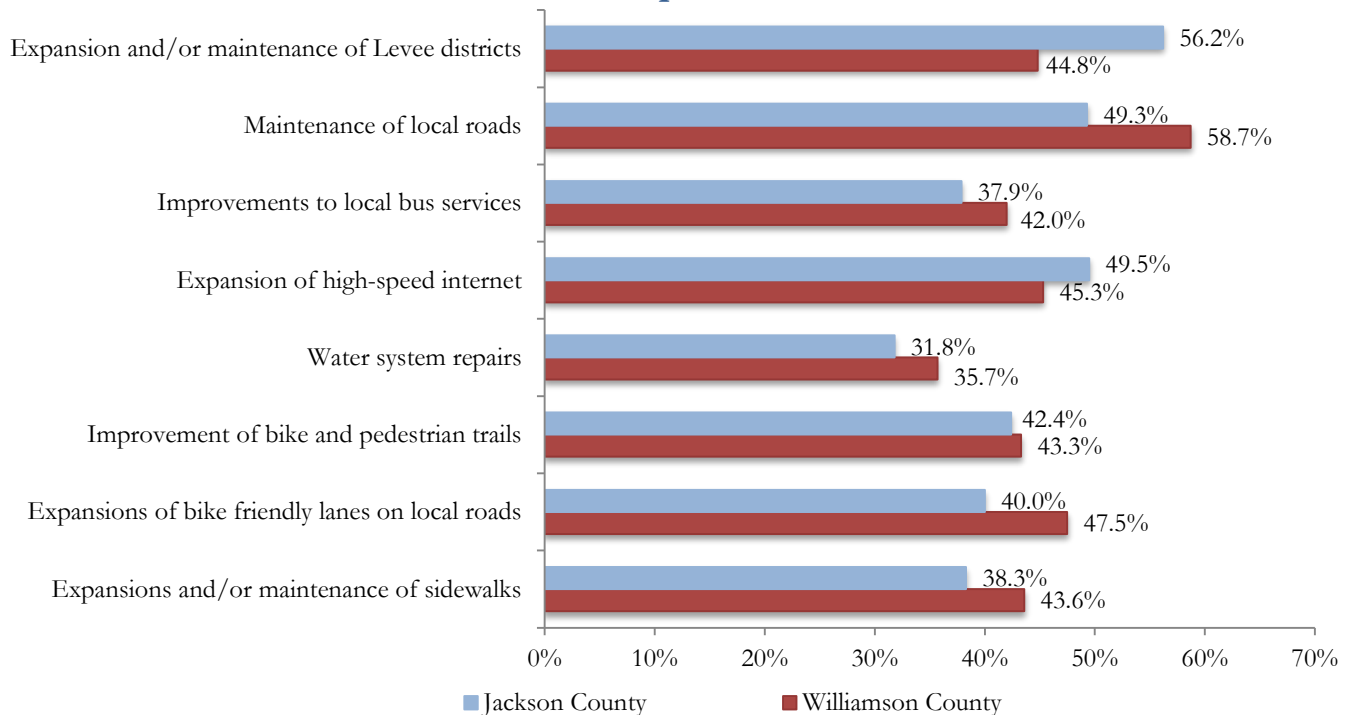
47% of southern Illinois residents believe growing the downtown of their community is very important and 34.5% reporting that it is somewhat important. There were no differences between residents of Jackson and Williamson counties.



81.9% of southern Illinois residents report having Internet access in their homes. Despite this, 43.8% of residents report that expanding high-speed Internet access is a much needed infrastructure improvement.

When asked whether a variety of different infrastructure improvement projects were needed in their community, Jackson and Williamson County residents had slightly different responses. Williamson County residents report that maintenance of local roads is the most needed improvement, while Jackson County residents report that expansion and/or maintenance of levee districts is the most needed improvement. For a complete list of rankings, see the topline report at the end of this report.

Percent of respondents who report that their area needs these infrastructure improvements "a lot."



Attitudes towards infrastructure priorities in southern Illinois

Demographics	Percent of southern Illinois residents who do not have Internet access ²⁷	Percent of southern Illinois residents who think growing downtown is very important ²⁸	Percent of southern Illinois residents who commute to work ²⁹
Female	19.8%	52.5%	70.3%
Male	16.7%	40.7%	82.3%
18-24 years old	12.6%	37.5%	61.5%
25-34 years old	11.7%	53.2%	80.6%
35-44 years old	8.2%	45.3%	86.8%
45-54 years old	19.0%	53.2%	70.8%
55-64 years old	20.9%	45.9%	86.1%
65 or older	30.0%	44.5%	91.7%
White	19.7%	47.4%	78.1%
African American	6.4%	39.6%	66.7%
Hispanic	0%	54.5%	75.0%
Less than \$15,000 a year	28.8%	42.5%	51.5%
\$15,001-\$30,000 a year	27.8%	57.7%	80.0%
\$30,001-\$45,000 a year	17.2%	51.7%	83.3%
\$45,001-\$60,000 a year	13.1%	45.9%	83.3%
\$60,001-\$75,000 a year	8.0%	34.0%	87.1%
\$75,001-\$100,000 a year	2.4%	51.2%	92.0%
More than \$100,000 a year	0%	41.8%	84.1%
Less than HS	41.3%	47.8%	50.0%
HS diploma or GED	27.6%	40.4%	79.4%
Some college or trade school	15.4%	50.3%	74.7%
College degree	8.2%	47.7%	84.0%
Advanced degree	1.5%	46.3%	79.5%
Urban	19.8%	44.3%	66.7%
Suburban	17.0%	43.9%	78.6%
Rural	17.8%	47.6%	79.5%
Jackson County	13.7%	47.0%	66.9%
Williamson County	21.2%	46.4%	84.9%

²⁷ The percent of respondents who reported that they do not have Internet access in their homes.

²⁸ The percent of respondents who reported that that they believe growing the downtown of their community is very important.

²⁹ The percent of respondents who reported that they commute to work.

12.1%

of southern Illinois residents report not currently having health insurance.

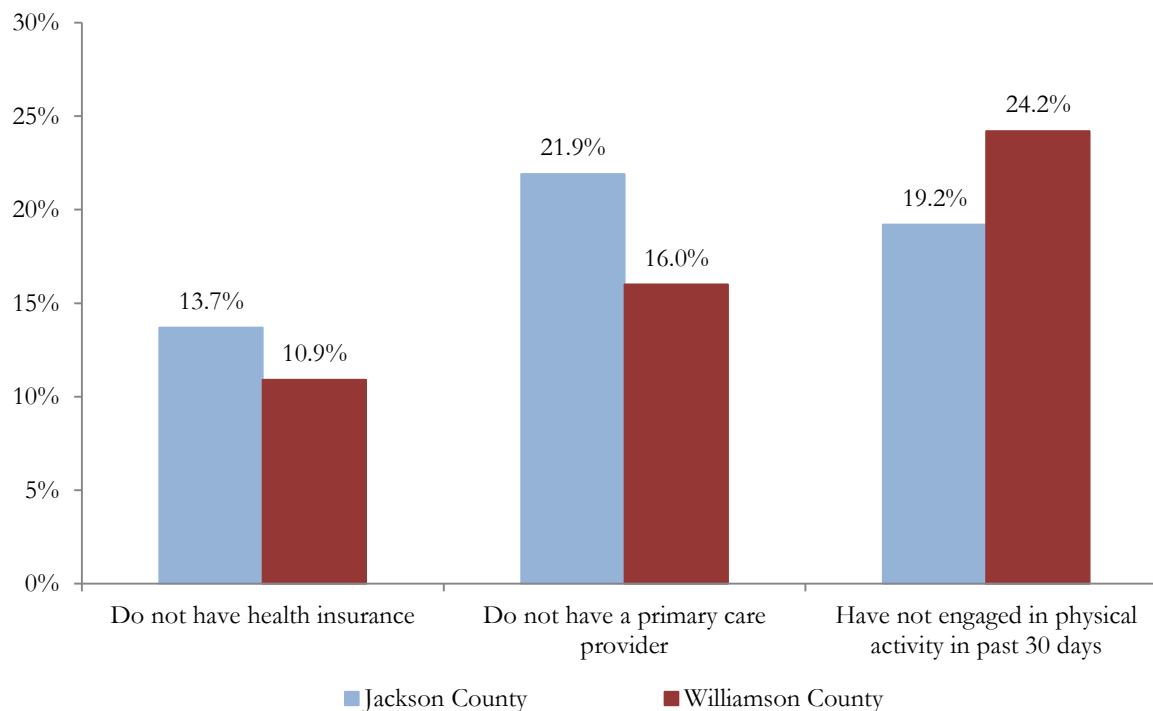
18.5%

report not having a personal doctor or primary health care provider.

22.1%

of southern Illinois residents report not engaging in any physical activity in the past 30 days.

Health Indicators in southern Illinois



Southern Illinois' Uninsured Population

12.1% of respondents in the 2014 Jackson and Williamson County Citizen Survey report not having health care coverage (including health insurance, HMOs, government plans, or Medicare). This is slightly lower than the statewide estimate provided by the most recent American Community Survey, which reports the statewide uninsured rate at 13.1%. In 2012, the Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE) conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau found that 11.1% of Jackson County residents and 11.8% of Williamson County residents did not have health insurance coverage. The JWCS was in the field during implementation and enrollment period for the Affordable Care Act. Over the next several years, it will be interesting to examine the trends in rates of uninsured southern Illinois residents. Age, education, income, and race are all strong predictors of health insurance status. One-fourth of individuals who earn less than \$30,000 annually report being uninsured as do 17% of individuals without a HS diploma. Twenty-five to 34 year olds report the highest rate of being uninsured at 33.8%, and one-fourth of African-American adults report not having insurance compared to 9.6% of white respondents.

Health Status

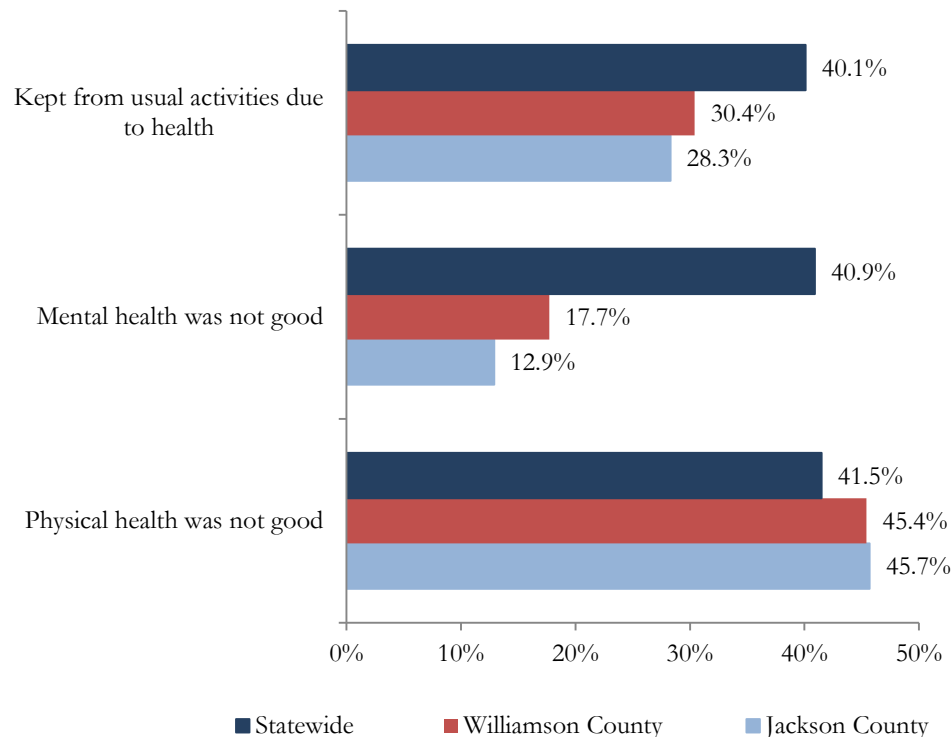
When asked about their health in the past 30 days, 45.5% report there was at least one day in which their physical health was not good, 29.5% report there had been at least one day in which they had been kept from usual activities due to health, and 15.7% report at least one day in which their mental health was not good. When comparing the county rates to the most recent statewide data (2011 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey) we find that while a higher percentage of Jackson and Williamson County residents report that their physical health was not good on at least one day than statewide respondents, a lower percentage report that their mental health was not good or they were kept from usual activities due to health on at least one day.

Educating children about nutrition and physical activity

Less than 7% of respondents report that local schools are paying too much attention to helping students adopt and practice healthy nutrition and physical activity behaviors. One-third of respondents (33.1%) report that local schools are paying “about the right amount of attention” to these issues while 47% report that local schools are “not paying enough attention” to these issues.

Southern Illinois residents are well aware of the importance of physical activity to one’s health with 91% reporting that physical activity is “very important” and 8.2% reporting that it is “somewhat important.”

Comparing Jackson County, Williamson County, and Statewide Results



23.4%
of residents report going to a clinic when they get sick or need advice.

58.0%
of residents report going to a doctor’s office when they get sick or need advice.

Important health indicators

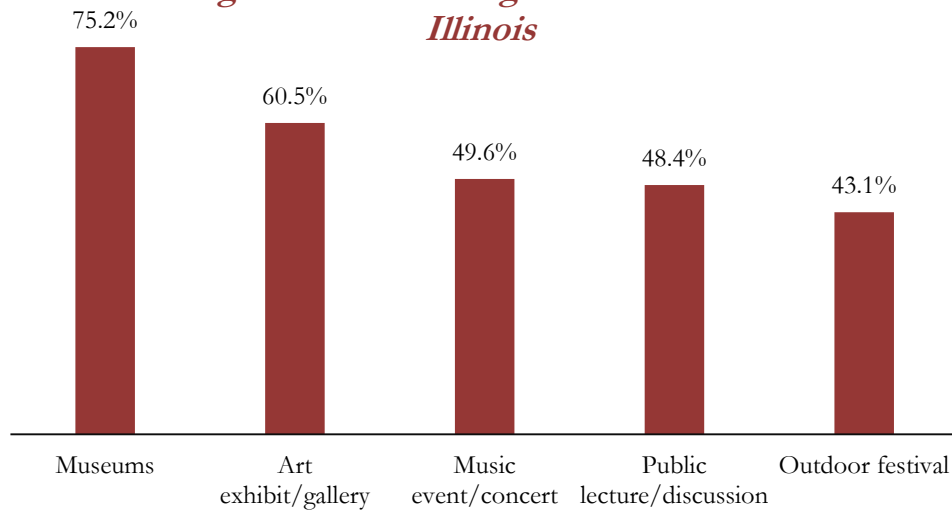
Demographics	Percent of residents who are uninsured ³⁰	Percent of residents who do not have a primary doctor ³¹	Percent of residents who report being healthcare insecure ³²
Female	10.0%	12.3%	20.9%
Male	14.0%	24.7%	10.6%
18-24 years old	13.8%	25.3%	16.3%
25-34 years old	33.8%	40.3%	24.7%
35-44 years old	13.7%	34.2%	13.5%
45-54 years old	11.5%	7.6%	20.5%
55-64 years old	4.7%	8.1%	16.3%
65 or older	1.8%	4.5%	7.2%
White	9.6%	17.4%	16.7%
African American	25.5%	23.4%	8.7%
Hispanic	20.0%	30.0%	9.1%
Less than \$15,000 a year	24.7%	20.5%	43.8%
\$15,001-\$30,000 a year	24.7%	25.0%	19.8%
\$30,001-\$45,000 a year	12.1%	32.8%	28.8%
\$45,001-\$60,000 a year	8.1%	11.5%	0%
\$60,001-\$75,000 a year	0%	18.0%	8.0%
\$75,001-\$100,000 a year	9.3%	9.5%	0%
More than \$100,000 a year	1.5%	14.9%	1.5%
Less than HS	17.0%	14.9%	21.3%
HS diploma or GED	16.6%	30.3%	22.1%
Some college or trade school	11.5%	13.7%	16.4%
College degree	9.3%	14.0%	11.6%
Advanced degree	4.5%	15.2%	1.5%
Urban	17.9%	15.8%	17.9%
Suburban	10.3%	24.3%	10.4%
Rural	10.7%	16.6%	15.6%
Jackson	13.7%	21.9%	16.0%
Williamson	10.8%	16.0%	15.3%

³⁰ Percent of respondents who reported that they do not have health care coverage through either health insurance, HMO, government plan, or Medicare.

³¹ Percent of respondents who reported that they do not have anyone that they consider their primary doctor or health care provider.

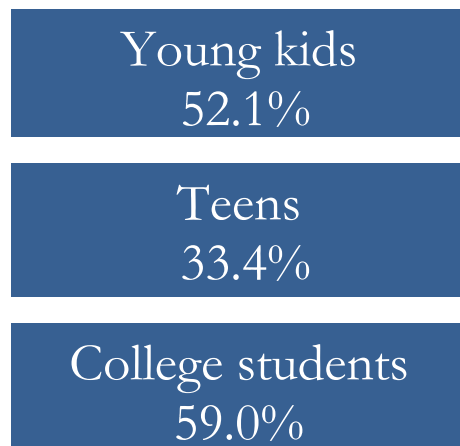
³² Percent of respondents who reported that at least once in the past 12 months they did not have enough money to pay for health care or medicines that them or someone in their family needed.

Percent of respondents who think there are not enough of the following events in southern Illinois



Three-fourths of southern Illinois residents report that they do not think there are enough museums in the region. This opinion slightly differs among different age groups, races, and income levels. Younger individuals, African-Americans, and those earning less than \$30,000 a year, report that there are not enough museums at a higher rate than other demographic groups.

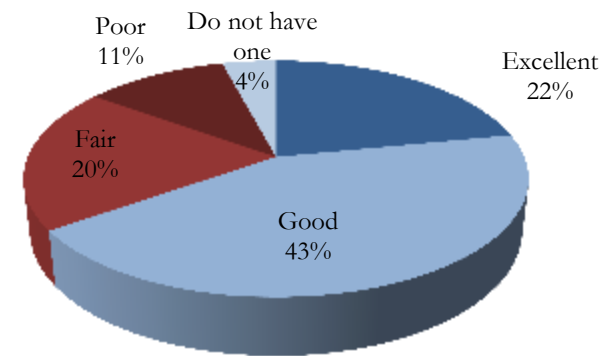
Are you satisfied with the recreational opportunities in your area for...



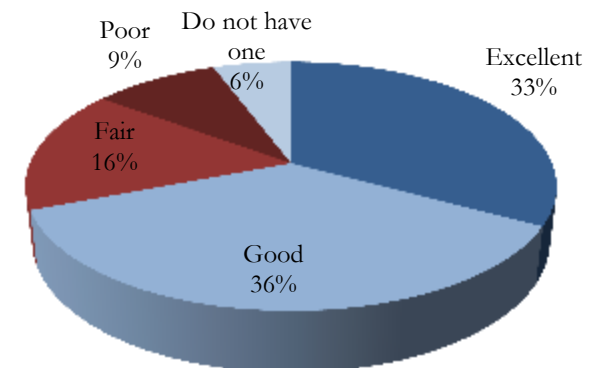
Evaluating local parks and libraries

When asked to evaluate their local parks and libraries, the majority of respondents rate their local library and their local park as either excellent or good. Sixty-five percent of respondents rate their local park as either excellent or good and 69.2% rate their local library as either excellent or good.

How would you rate your local park?



How would you rate your local library?



Attitudes towards recreational facilities

Demographics	Percent of residents who rated local library as poor ³³	Percent of residents who rated local park as poor ³⁴	Percent of residents who do not think there are enough museums ³⁵
Female	7.8%	12.7%	75.5%
Male	10.6%	9.0%	74.7%
18-24 years old	17.1%	33.3%	80.0%
25-34 years old	9.6%	14.3%	93.5%
35-44 years old	11.6%	8.2%	84.5%
45-54 years old	5.6%	5.2%	74.0%
55-64 years old	7.1%	4.7%	69.1%
65 or older	5.7%	2.8%	57.7%
White	8.4%	10.7%	73.5%
African American	13.0%	12.2%	95.5%
Hispanic	10.0%	18.2%	45.5%
Less than \$15,000 a year	8.6%	13.6%	90.3%
\$15,001-\$30,000 a year	10.9%	12.6%	71.7%
\$30,001-\$45,000 a year	16.4%	8.6%	80.0%
\$45,001-\$60,000 a year	13.1%	11.5%	75.4%
\$60,001-\$75,000 a year	2.1%	2.0%	79.2%
\$75,001-\$100,000 a year	7.1%	7.0%	73.2%
More than \$100,000 a year	3.3%	3.1%	65.7%
Less than HS	11.1%	36.2%	65.9%
HS diploma or GED	8.5%	3.0%	79.9%
Some college or trade school	10.5%	11.1%	79.5%
College degree	5.1%	9.4%	71.1%
Advanced degree	9.5%	9.4%	65.6%
Urban	13.5%	9.5%	75.8%
Suburban	5.6%	5.6%	67.0%
Rural	7.4%	11.3%	71.4%
Jackson	9.9%	14.9%	74.6%
Williamson	8.5%	8.0%	75.6%

³³ Percent of respondents who reported that their local library is of poor quality.

³⁴ Percent of respondents who reported that their local park is of poor quality.

³⁵ Percent of respondents who reported that there are not enough museums in southern Illinois.

The 2014 Jackson and Williamson County Survey provides a tremendous amount of insight into the attitudes of Jackson County and Williamson County residents. Overall, these individuals think southern Illinois is a good place to raise children, live, and retire. They rate their schools positively (both K-12 schools and post-high school institutions) and express confidence in local leaders to effectively address local issues. Two-thirds of southern Illinois residents believe things are generally on the right track in southern Illinois.

However, residents still express significant concerns about the economy. The majority of Jackson and Williamson County residents did not rate southern Illinois positively in terms of a place to work. They support economic initiatives to increase job growth and encourage business expansion in the region. In addition, they appear committed in their support for workforce training programs and post-high school institutions.

The purpose of this report is not to provide suggestions to local Jackson County and Williamson County leaders on how to move forward. Instead, we offer complex and detailed information on what the residents of these counties told us during phone interviews about the quality of life in southern Illinois. However, we do believe the results of the 2014 JWCS survey is an excellent starting point for both communities to listen to their residents and make strategic, evidence-based decisions on the future directions of the region. The staff at the Survey Research Office are honored to be part of the process.

External sources

Civic Engagement in Illinois. Survey of Illinois General Public (2009).

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Illinois State Board of Education's Illinois Report Card. Available at <http://www.illinoisreportcard.com>.

Uniform Crime Reporting Statistics. U.S. Department of Justice's Federal Bureau of Investigation. Available at <http://www.ucrdatatool.gov>.

United States Census Bureau/ American Fact Finder. 2008-2012 American Community Survey 5-year estimates. Available at <http://factfinder2.census.gov>.

United States Environmental Protection Agency's Annual Quality Reports for Illinois. Available at <http://cfpub.epa.gov/safewater/ccr>.

United States Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics' Unemployment Databases. Available at <http://www.bls.gov/data>.

TOPLINE REPORT

EDUCATION

What school district do you currently live in...

	Valid percent
Carbondale District #165	7.0%
Carbondale District #95	5.0%
Desoto District #95	1.6%
Elverado Unit #196	1.2%
Giant City District #130	1.3%
Murphysboro Unit #186	8.4%
Tricounty Unit #176	2.6%
Unity Point District #140	2.8%
Carterville Community Unit #5	10.7%
Crab Orchard Community Unit #3	1.7%
Herrin Community Unit #4	10.9%
Johnson City Community Unit #1	5.2%
Marion Community Unit #2	20.0%
Other	3.8%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	

Thinking about your local school district, what is the biggest change needed (if any) in order to improve k-12 education?

	Valid percent
Improving quality of staff, administration, and teachers	10.7%
Busing/ Home-based schools	1.5%
Consolidation	1.0%
Decrease class sizes	5.0%
Discipline	3.1%
Diversity	2.6%
Fiscal responsibility	2.3%
Increase funding to schools	26.7%
Building and facility improvements	2.6%
Improve safety	1.3%
Improve technology and resources	7.8%
Improve parent involvement	2.3%
Don't know	0.8%
No change needed	3.6%
Other	2.5%

Others mentioned: drug education, everything, home-schooling, longer days, nutrition, union.

If local leaders chose to increase taxes to support local public schools, which of the following would you be most likely to support?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Increase property taxes	11.6%	13.2%	10.4%
Increase local sales taxes	34.2%	33.8%	34.5%
Not support any tax increase	48.3%	45.7%	50.2%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	5.9%	7.3%	4.9%

How much confidence would you say you have in the local school board to effectively address problems in your local schools? Would you say you are...

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Very confident	16.6%	15.5%	17.3%
Somewhat confident	44.4%	44.7%	44.1%
Not very confident	13.5%	15.1%	12.4%
Not at all confident	9.3%	7.8%	10.5%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	15.8%	16.4%	15.4%
Refused (NOT OFFERED)	0.4%	0.2%	0.2%

Thinking about Pre-K education programs... How important, if at all, would you say these programs are for the local community?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Very important	72.8%	76.3%	70.3%
Somewhat important	12.0%	10.0%	13.4%
Neither important nor unimportant	1.9%	2.3%	1.6%
Not very important	4.0%	2.3%	5.2%
Not at all important	2.9%	2.7%	2.9%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	6.5%	6.4%	6.5%

TOPLINE REPORT

Are you the parent or primary guardian (GRANDPARENT) of a school age child?
(Between the ages of 5 and 18)

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Yes	26.7%	29.7%	24.5%
No	73.1%	70.3%	75.2%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	0.2%	0.0%	0.3%

Thinking about your oldest (only) child, do they attend public or private school or is your child homeschooled?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Attends public school	84.2%	81.5%	86.5%
Attends private school	10.1%	12.3%	8.1%
Is homeschooled	5.8%	6.2%	5.4%

If you had to rate the quality of education that your oldest (only) child is receiving, would you say it is...

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Excellent	31.5%	25.0%	37.1%
Good	40.0%	40.0%	40.0%
Fair	21.5%	23.3%	20.0%
Poor	6.9%	11.7%	2.9%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)			

Thinking about your child's personal safety at school, do you think your child is...

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Very safe	44.7%	39.3%	49.3%
Somewhat safe	46.2%	45.9%	46.5%
Not too safe	7.6%	13.1%	2.8%
Not at all safe	0.8%	1.6%	0.0%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	0.0%	1.4%	0.8%

Currently, are you enrolled in a college or university?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Yes	13.1%	16.4%	10.8%
No	86.9%	83.6%	89.2%

What college or university do you attend?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
SIU Carbondale	31.3%	33.3%	29.0%
John A. Logan College	37.3%	44.4%	29.0%
Rend Lake College	4.5%	0.0%	9.7%
Other	26.9%	22.2%	32.3%

What is the highest grade of school that you completed?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Less than a high school diploma	8.7%	7.8%	9.4%
HS diploma or GED	27.8%	26.5%	28.7%
Trade school or technical training after HS	1.9%	0.9%	2.6%
Some college	32.9%	28.3%	36.2%
A four-year college degree	16.2%	19.2%	14.0%
An advanced degree (Ph.D., Law)	12.5%	17.4%	9.1%

What additional degree or apprentice training offerings would you like to see offered by post-high school institutions?

	Total	Total
Apprenticeships/ Internships	2.0%	5.4%
Business	1.9%	3.8%
Computing	3.8%	3.9%
Technical (aviation, engineering, etc.)	9.6%	11.8%
General trade	11.8%	9.9%
Healthcare	7.0%	15.5%
Human services	5.8%	
Mechanical (auto repair, welding, etc.)		
Construction		
Job skills		
Technical/ vocational		
None		
Other		

Other: general education, dual credit courses, foreign languages, liberal arts, utilities, agriculture, culinary, more course offerings, athletics, transportations, undergraduate, accuracy, military, bachelor, athletics, coal, creative, P.E., speech, research, junior college

TOPLINE REPORT

In general, how important, if at all, do you think it is for an individual to have a college degree?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Very important	57.0%	55.7%	57.8%
Somewhat important	31.6%	28.8%	33.7%
Neither important nor unimportant	4.4%	6.8%	2.6%
Somewhat unimportant	2.5%	3.2%	2.0%
Not at all important	3.2%	3.2%	3.3%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	1.3%	2.3%	0.7%

How important, if at all, do you think post-high school institutions (like SIU, John A. Logan College, Rend Lake College) are to the local community?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Very important	81.4%	76.4%	85.0%
Somewhat important	14.6%	17.7%	12.4%
Neither important nor unimportant	1.1%	1.4%	1.0%
Somewhat unimportant	1.3%	3.2%	0.0%
Not at all important	0.6%	0.5%	0.7%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	0.9%	0.9%	1.0%

PUBLIC SAFETY

Do you feel safe or unsafe walking alone at night in your neighborhood?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Safe	74.9%	78.1%	72.5%
Unsafe	21.5%	19.2%	23.2%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	3.6%	1.1%	2.5%

Compared to a year ago, do you feel less safe, safer, or about the same level of safety in your own home?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Less safe	15.6%	12.8%	17.7%
Safer	7.4%	5.5%	8.9%
Same level of safety	72.9%	74.4%	71.8%
Did not live there a year ago	4.0%	7.6%	1.6%

How often, if at all, do you see police or other types of law enforcement patrolling your neighborhood (or street)?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Very often	14.7%	13.4%	15.6%
Somewhat often	25.0%	23.5%	26.1%
Not very often	30.5%	29.0%	31.6%
Not often at all	28.6%	33.2%	25.4%
Don't know (NOT OFFERED)	1.1%	0.9%	1.3%

Thinking about public safety in your local area, please let me know if you think the following improvement is a high priority, a medium priority, a low priority, or not a priority at all?

Jackson County	High priority	Medium priority	Low priority	Not a priority at all
Visibility of police	39.6%	27.8%	17.5%	15.1%
Overall quality of local ambulance service	57.0%	23.0%	8.0%	12.0%
Overall quality of local fire protection	61.1%	22.7%	5.9%	10.3%
Lighting of area	43.9%	30.4%	17.3%	8.4%

Williamson County	High priority	Medium priority	Low priority	Not a priority at all
Visibility of police	47.9%	31.0%	11.2%	9.9%
Overall quality of local ambulance service	69.7%	19.0%	6.8%	4.4%
Overall quality of local fire protection	70.5%	19.2%	7.5%	2.7%
Lighting of area	40.2%	31.2%	20.6%	8.0%

INFRASTRUCTURE

How safe or unsafe do you feel it is to travel on local roads and highways?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Very safe	22.1%	28.9%	17.3%
Safe	48.1%	44.5%	50.7%
Neutral	17.9%	17.0%	18.6%
Unsafe	6.4%	9.8%	8.4%
Very unsafe	2.8%	2.6%	2.7%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	0.8%	0.5%	1.0%

TOPLINE REPORT

Please let me know if your areas needs the following infrastructure improvement a lot, a little, or not at all?

Jackson County	A lot	A little	Not at all
Expansions and/or maintenance of sidewalks	38.3%	43.5%	18.2%
Expansions of bike friendly lanes on local roads	40.0%	38.1%	21.9%
Improvement of bike and pedestrian trails	42.4%	36.5%	21.2%
Storm sewer repairs	32.6%	48.9%	18.4%
Sanitary sewer repairs	28.2%	41.5%	30.3%
Water system repairs	31.8%	29.4%	38.8%
Expansion of high-speed internet	49.5%	30.0%	20.5%
Improvements to local bus services	37.9%	24.7%	37.4%
Maintenance of local roads	49.3%	58.7%	54.8%
Expansions and/or maintenance of highways/interstate	27.7%	34.7%	37.6%
Expansions and/or maintenance of Southern Illinois Airport	24.7%	44.4%	30.9%
Expansion and/or maintenance of Williamson County Regional Airport	19.7%	54.1%	26.1%
Expansion and/or maintenance of Levee districts	56.2%	26.6%	17.2%
Improved Streetscaping	18.6%	51.0%	30.5%

Williamson County	A lot	A little	Not at all
Expansions and/or maintenance of sidewalks	43.6%	34.8%	21.6%
Expansions of bike friendly lanes on local roads	47.5%	29.8%	22.7%
Improvement of bike and pedestrian trails	43.3%	28.9%	27.8%
Storm sewer repairs	36.5%	36.2%	27.3%
Sanitary sewer repairs	29.8%	35.3%	34.9%
Water system repairs	35.7%	34.0%	30.3%
Expansion of high-speed internet	45.3%	32.0%	22.7%
Improvements to local bus services	42.0%	26.9%	18.1%
Maintenance of local roads	58.7%	32.7%	8.6%
Expansions and/or maintenance of highways/interstate	31.9%	42.6%	25.5%
Expansions and/or maintenance of Southern Illinois Airport	31.2%	41.2%	37.6%
Expansion and/or maintenance of Williamson County Regional Airport	31.0%	37.9%	31.0%
Expansion and/or maintenance of Levee districts	44.8%	33.0%	22.2%
Improved Streetscaping	25.0%	40.4%	34.6%

Of the list previously mentioned, which infrastructure improvement would you rate as the highest priority in your area?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Expansions and/or maintenance of sidewalks	10.1%	7.8%	11.7%
Expansions of bike friendly lanes on local roads	2.5%	2.0%	2.8%
Improvement of bike and pedestrian trails	4.1%	3.9%	4.3%
Storm sewer repairs	3.3%	2.0%	4.3%
Sanitary sewer repairs	2.1%	2.4%	1.8%
Water system repairs	7.0%	3.4%	9.6%
Expansion of high-speed internet	8.8%	9.8%	8.2%
Improvements to local bus services	6.4%	9.8%	3.9%
Maintenance of local roads	38.6%	39.0%	38.3%
Expansions and/or maintenance of highways/interstate	5.1%	3.4%	6.4%
Expansions and/or maintenance of Southern Illinois Airport	0.6%	1.0%	0.4%
Expansion and/or maintenance of Williamson County Regional Airport	1.8%	0.5%	2.8%
Expansion and/or maintenance of Levee districts	8.4%	13.7%	4.6%
Improved Streetscaping	1.2%	1.5%	1.1%

If local leaders chose to pay for new roads, road upgrades, or other infrastructure improvements, would you support an increase in property taxes, increase in local sales taxes, or would you not support any tax increase?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Increase property taxes	11.9%	11.0%	12.5%
Increase local sales taxes	36.7%	40.8%	33.8%
Would not support any tax increase	50.1%	46.8%	52.5%
Don't know (NOT OFFERED)	1.3%	1.4%	1.3%

TOPLINE REPORT

How important, if at all, do you think growing the downtown of your community is to the area? Is it...

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Very important	46.8%	47.0%	46.6%
Somewhat important	34.5%	35.2%	34.1%
Not very important	9.9%	7.8%	11.5%
Not important at all	7.3%	8.7%	6.2%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	1.5%	1.4%	1.6%

Do you commute to work?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Yes	76.8%	66.9%	84.9%
No	23.2%	33.1%	15.1%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)			

On a normal work week, what form of transportation do you use most often to get to work?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Car	95.2%	92.7%	96.8%
Bus	1.0%	1.2%	0.8%
Walk	0.5%	1.2%	0.0%
Bike	2.4%	3.7%	1.6%
Other	1.0%	1.2%	0.8%
Don't know (NOT OFFERED)			

In what city do you work?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Carbondale	16.8%	28.6%	7.8%
Herrin	5.3%	4.1%	6.1%
Marion	11.9%	4.1%	17.5%
Murphysboro	2.8%	6.3%	0.3%
West Frankfort	1.7%	0.0%	2.8%
Other	61.5%	56.9%	65.5%

Other responses include: Ava, Benton, Cape Girardeau, Cartersville, Chester, Cobden, Compton, Crab Orchard, Craneville, Creal Springs, Desoto, Duquoin, Energy, Galatia, Glacia, Harrisburg, Jacob, Johnson City, Kansas City, MO, Makanda, Mount Vernon, Paducah, Percy, Pickneyville, Pittsburg, Southern Illinois, St. Louis, MO, Sylmore, CA, Vienna, Vincennes, IN, Whittington,

If local leaders chose to increase taxes to support alternative transportation here in your local county, (such as on bike paths, buses and trains) which of the following would you support?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Increase property taxes	10.1%	9.2%	10.7%
Increase local sales taxes	29.9%	31.2%	29.0%
Not support any tax increase	58.9%	58.3%	59.3%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	1.1%	1.4%	1.0%

In the past year, when traveling out of town, have you used the following modes of transportation? (PERCENT WHO RESPONDED "YES")

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Williamson County Regional Airport	15.6%	15.5%	15.6%
Amtrak	27.6%	34.7%	22.5%
An intercity bus like Greyhound	7.1%	11.0%	4.2%

Now thinking about technology in your county, do you have Internet access in your home? [NOT JUST ON CELL PHONE]

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Yes	81.9%	86.3%	78.8%
No	18.1%	13.7%	21.2%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)			

How do you connect to the Internet?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Cable/Satellite	45.8%	45.0%	46.5%
Dial up	5.3%	5.8%	5.0%
Through wireless provider	46.3%	47.1%	45.6%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	2.6%	2.1%	2.9%

TOPLINE REPORT

What would you rate as the biggest reason you do not currently have Internet in your home?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Cost/Expense	32.6%	40.0%	29.2%
Do not have the ability to have access	5.3%	6.7%	4.6%
Do not use the internet/have no interest	22.1%	26.7%	20.0%
Have the internet through their phone	7.4%	0.0%	10.8%
Don't have a computer	27.4%	16.7%	32.3%
Worried about computer viruses/internet security	3.2%	10.0%	0.0%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	2.1%	0.0%	3.1%

Are there any Internet Hot Spot areas in your neighborhood?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Yes	29.2%	21.1%	35.0%
No	51.9%	61.9%	44.8%
Unsure	18.9%	7.1%	11.8%

ECONOMY

What is your current employment status?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Employed Full-Time	31.9%	27.9%	34.8%
Employed Part-Time	12.6%	19.6%	7.5%
Self-Employed	6.5%	7.8%	5.6%
Full-Time Student	3.2%	5.9%	1.3%
Unemployed and seeking employment	6.9%	8.2%	5.9%
Unemployed and not currently seeking employment	5.5%	3.7%	6.9%
Disabled, unable to work	7.6%	5.9%	8.9%
Retired	25.0%	19.2%	29.2%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	0.8%	1.8%	0.0%

What economic sector best describes your job's primary economic activity?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Natural resources and mining	4.5%	1.6%	6.9%
Construction	7.1%	5.7%	8.3%
Manufacturing	8.6%	10.6%	6.9%
Wholesale trade, retail trade, transportation/warehousing	16.0%	13.8%	17.9%
Information systems	3.0%	3.3%	2.8%
Finance, insurance, real estate	3.7%	1.6%	5.5%
Professional and businesses services	5.6%	7.3%	4.1%
Education services	16.8%	21.1%	13.1%
Health care and social assistance	15.7%	15.4%	15.9%
Accommodations, food, arts, entertainment, recreation	5.2%	3.3%	6.9%
Public administration	2.6%	2.4%	2.8%
Other	11.2%	13.8%	9.0%

Others mentioned: Public safety, Pastor, Home maker, Child care

Is your current job in the private sector, non-profit sector, or public sector?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Private sector	38.7%	37.7%	39.5%
Non-profit sector	9.7%	13.1%	6.8%
Public sector	50.2%	46.7%	53.1%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	1.5%	2.5%	0.7%

Do you consider yourself underemployed?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Yes	27.7%	22.3%	32.3%
No	71.2%	76.9%	66.4%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	1.1%	0.8%	1.4%

TOPLINE REPORT

Have you participated in employment training programs in southern Illinois, and how useful do you think these programs were:

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Did not participate	74.9%	77.2%	73.2%
Participated and useful	21.3%	19.6%	22.5%
Participated and not useful	3.0%	2.7%	3.3%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	0.8%	0.5%	1.0%

How important, if at all, do you think these programs are for the local area?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Very important	63.8%	61.6%	65.4%
Somewhat important	29.0%	32.0%	26.8%
Neither important nor unimportant	1.9%	0.9%	2.6%
Somewhat unimportant	0.6%	0.9%	0.3%
Very unimportant	3.0%	2.6%	3.6%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	1.7%	2.3%	1.3%

Thinking about twelve months ago, would you say you are better off financially, worse off, or about the same?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Better off	21.5%	22.8%	20.6%
Worse off	24.6%	22.8%	25.8%
About the same	53.9%	54.3%	53.6%

What about current local business conditions in your county, do you think they are better, worse, or about the same as they were 12 months ago?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Better off	13.3%	12.3%	14.0%
Worse off	25.7%	26.9%	24.8%
About the same	55.1%	49.8%	59.0%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	5.9%	11.0%	2.3%

How important are the following priorities to you. Are they a high priority, a medium priority, a low priority, or not a priority at all?

Jackson County	High priority	Medium priority	Low priority	Not a priority at all
Reducing local crime	65.3%	21.9%	7.3%	5.5%
Attracting new businesses and jobs to southern Illinois	77.5%	18.3%	0.5%	3.7%
Reducing local government spending	43.6%	32.7%	14.2%	9.5%
Increasing workforce/employment training programs	54.2%	39.7%	2.8%	3.3%
Increasing the number of local apprentice training programs	50.5%	40.1%	6.1%	3.3%
Developing the medical facilities in southern Illinois	56.9%	24.5%	9.7%	8.8%
Increasing minority participation in the local workforce	49.3%	34.8%	9.7%	6.3%
Not allowing any new tax increases	32.7%	35.5%	25.8%	6.0%
Decreasing property taxes	40.0%	28.1%	17.6%	14.3%

Williamson County	High priority	Medium priority	Low priority	Not a priority at all
Reducing local crime	71.7%	20.8%	5.9%	1.6%
Attracting new businesses and jobs to southern Illinois	88.9%	7.8%	1.3%	1.1%
Reducing local government spending	64.5%	21.0%	7.9%	6.6%
Increasing workforce/employment training programs	62.8%	27.5%	7.7%	2.0%
Increasing the number of local apprentice training programs	58.3%	31.5%	8.6%	1.7%
Developing the medical facilities in southern Illinois	54.6%	25.0%	12.8%	7.6%
Increasing minority participation in the local workforce	43.2%	34.7%	15.6%	6.5%
Not allowing any new tax increases	48.3%	30.3%	14.7%	6.7%
Decreasing property taxes	46.0%	24.5%	19.1%	10.4%

TOPLINE REPORT

ENVIRONMENT

How big of a problem, if at all, is litter/improper trash disposal in each of the following areas. In Southern Illinois?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Big problem	23.9%	19.7%	26.8%
Small problem	48.1%	48.2%	48.0%
Not a problem at all	22.7%	24.8%	21.2%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	5.3%	7.3%	3.9%

In your local community?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Big problem	17.1%	14.6%	18.8%
Small problem	43.6%	43.8%	43.5%
Not a problem at all	36.2%	38.4%	34.7%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	3.0%	3.2%	2.9%

On your street?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Big problem	13.3%	11.0%	15.0%
Small problem	32.0%	31.1%	32.7%
Not a problem at all	52.4%	56.2%	49.7%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	2.3%	1.8%	2.6%

Do you happen to recycle at you home?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Yes	63.2%	71.1%	57.5%
No	36.8%	28.9%	42.5%

Is it because you do not have interest in recycling, you don't have curbside recycling, or the costs of recycling are too much?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Does not have interest	20.8%	22.2%	20.2%
Does not have curbside recycling	64.6%	63.5%	65.1%
Cost is too much	10.4%	11.1%	10.1%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	4.2%	3.2%	4.7%

How important, if at all, is conserving the local natural environment to your personal well-being? Very important, somewhat important, neither important nor unimportant, somewhat unimportant, or very unimportant?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Very important	69.4%	75.0%	65.4%
Somewhat important	27.4%	22.7%	30.7%
Neither important nor unimportant	1.3%	0.5%	2.0%
Somewhat unimportant	1.3%	1.4%	1.3%
Very unimportant	0.6%	0.5%	0.7%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)			

How about for the well-being of your community?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Very important	66.4%	70.9%	63.2%
Somewhat important	28.7%	24.1%	31.9%
Neither important nor unimportant	0.9%	0.9%	1.0%
Somewhat unimportant	1.7%	1.4%	2.0%
Very unimportant	1.9%	2.7%	1.3%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	0.4%	0.0%	0.7%

TOPLINE REPORT

How important, if at all, is it for your community to prepare for natural disasters (LIKE TORNADOES, FLOODS, ETC)?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Very important	76.9%	73.1%	79.5%
Somewhat important	19.7%	22.8%	17.5%
Neither important nor unimportant	0.8%	0.9%	0.6%
Somewhat unimportant	1.1%	0.5%	1.6%
Very unimportant	1.1%	2.3%	0.3%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	0.4%	0.5%	0.3%

What about water quality? How would you rate your level of concern toward local water quality? Would you say you are very concerned, somewhat concerned, not very concerned or not at all concerned?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Very concerned	34.8%	38.4%	32.2%
Somewhat concerned	27.4%	23.7%	30.0%
Not very concerned	169.2%	17.4%	20.5%
Not at all concerned	17.7%	18.7%	16.9%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	1.0%	1.8%	0.3%

CULTURE AND RECREATION

How satisfied are you with the current access to local recreational or cultural events?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Very satisfied	27.1%	20.8%	23.4%
Satisfied	38.0%	34.4%	40.6%
Neutral	22.4%	24.8%	20.8%
Dissatisfied	6.8%	6.0%	7.5%
Very dissatisfied	7.2%	5.5%	8.4%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	2.1%	2.3%	1.9%

Thinking about public facilities close to your home, would you rate the following as excellent, good, fair, or poor (Or do you not have one?)

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Do not currently have one
Jackson County					
Your local library	31.0%	35.0%	16.7%	9.9%	7.4%
Your local park	23.1%	38.0%	20.7%	14.9%	3.4%
Williamson County					
Your local library	34.6%	36.9%	15.6%	8.5%	4.4%
Your local park	20.9%	47.2%	19.3%	8.0%	4.7%

Thinking about a normal trip to the grocery store, does knowing that the product is locally grown make you less likely, more likely or does it not affect the likelihood of you purchasing the product?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Less likely	1.5%	0.9%	2.0%
More likely	64.4%	63.0%	65.4%
Does not affect the likelihood	33.3%	35.6%	31.7%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	0.8%	0.5%	1.0%

How would you rate your level of concern toward local air quality? Would you say you are very concerned, somewhat concerned, not very concerned or not at all concerned?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Very concerned	15.4%	16.4%	14.7%
Somewhat concerned	24.0%	21.5%	25.8%
Not very concerned	35.8%	35.2%	36.3%
Not at all concerned	24.6%	26.5%	23.2%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	0.2%	0.5%	0.0%

TOPLINE REPORT

Thinking about the following events in your county, do you think there are too many, not enough, or the right amount?

Jackson County	Too many	Not enough	The right amount
Outdoor festival (not including fair)	3.9%	42.5%	53.6%
Local yard sale	12.2%	18.8%	69.0%
Local farmer's market	2.3%	31.2%	66.5%
Music event/concert	0.5%	43.9%	55.7%
Art exhibit/gallery	2.9%	57.4%	39.7%
Theater production	0.5%	42.2%	57.4%
Museum	0%	74.6%	25.4%
Local sporting event	8.1%	15.2%	76.8%
Local fair	3.5%	22.4%	74.1%
Public lecture/discussion	1.7%	47.5%	50.8%

Williamson County	Too many	Not enough	The right amount
Outdoor festival (not including fair)	2.8%	43.7%	53.5%
Local yard sale	24.2%	8.1%	67.7%
Local farmer's market	1.7%	42.4%	55.9%
Music event/concert	1.4%	53.9%	44.7%
Art exhibit/gallery	0.7%	63.05	36.3%
Theater production	2.1%	37.1%	60.7%
Museum	0.3%	75.6%	24.0%
Local sporting event	7.9%	12.0%	80.1%
Local fair	4.8%	20.2%	75.6%
Public lecture/discussion	2.5%	49.2%	48.4%

Are you satisfied with the recreational opportunities for young kids in your area?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Yes	52.1%	50.7%	53.1%
No	43.9%	46.1%	42.3%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	4.0%	3.2%	4.6%

Are you satisfied with the recreational opportunities for teens in your area?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Yes	33.4%	34.4%	32.7%
No	57.1%	53.7%	59.5%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	9.0%	11.9%	7.8%

Are you satisfied with the recreational opportunities for college students in your area?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Yes	59.0%	67.6%	52.9%
No	31.4%	24.7%	36.3%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	9.5%	7.8%	10.8%

HEALTH

Thinking about your own personal health care, do you...

Have health care coverage (including health insurance, HMOs, government plans, or Medicare)?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Yes	87.0%	85.8%	87.8%
No	12.1%	13.7%	10.9%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	1.0%	0.5%	1.3%

Do you have anyone who you think of as your personal doctor or primary health care provider?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Yes	81.3%	78.1%	83.7%
No	18.5%	21.9%	16.0%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	0.2%	0.0%	0.3%

TOPLINE REPORT

What kind of place do you USUALLY go to when you are sick or need advice about your health? Is it a...

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Clinic	23.4%	25.6%	21.8%
Doctor's office	58.0%	55.7%	59.6%
Emergency room	4.8%	4.1%	5.2%
Urgent care facility	8.4%	8.7%	8.1%
Some other place	3.2%	4.6%	2.3%
Do not have such a place	1.3%	0.9%	1.6%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	1.0%	0.5%	1.3%

What is your primary source of information about your health?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Family/friends	12.0%	11.4%	12.4%
Primary care provider/Doctor	60.6%	58.0%	62.4%
Local media	1.3%	0.5%	2.0%
Internet	16.2%	16.9%	15.7%
Something else	7.6%	11.0%	5.2%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%

Thinking about the last 30 days, was there at least one day in which your...
Physical health was not good?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Yes	45.5%	45.7%	45.4%
No	54.1%	54.3%	53.9%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	0.4%	0.0%	0.7%

Mental health was not good?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Yes	15.7%	12.9%	17.7%
No	83.9%	86.6%	82.0%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	0.4%	0.5%	0.3%

You were kept from your usual activities due to your physical or mental health?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Yes	29.5%	28.3%	30.4%
No	68.6%	67.1%	69.6%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	1.9%	4.6%	0%

Have you engaged in physical leisure time activity?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Yes	77.5%	80.4%	75.5%
No	22.1%	19.2%	24.2%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	0.4%	0.5%	0.3%

How important, if at all, do you think physical activity is to your general health?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Very important	91.0%	91.3%	90.8%
Somewhat important	8.2%	8.2%	8.2%
Neither important nor unimportant	0.4%	0%	0.7%
Somewhat unimportant	0.2%	0%	0.3%
Not important at all	0%	0%	0%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	0.2%	0.5%	0%

How much attention do you think the local schools are paying to helping students adopt and practice healthy nutrition and physical activity behaviors?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Too much attention	6.9%	4.6%	8.5%
About the right amount of attention	33.1%	35.3%	31.5%
Not enough attention	47.0%	46.3%	47.5%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	13.0%	13.8%	12.5%

SOCIAL WELL-BEING

Would you say things are generally on the right track, or do you think things are going the wrong direction here in southern Illinois?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Right track	66.0%	64.2%	67.3%
Wrong direction	24.0%	26.5%	22.2%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	10.0%	9.3%	10.5%

TOPLINE REPORT

Compared to a year ago, would you say the immediate area where you live is getting better, about the same, or getting worse as a place to live?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Getting better	15.2%	14.2%	16.0%
About the same	60.6%	57.5%	62.7%
Getting worse	17.7%	18.7%	17.0%
Did not live there a year ago	4.4%	7.8%	2.0%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	2.1%	1.8%	2.3%

Do you think that your area is an excellent, good, fair, or poor...

Jackson County	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Place to live	19.3%	41.7%	32.6%	6.4%
Place to raise children	24.2%	44.2%	22.3%	9.3%
Place to work	7.0%	38.8%	26.2%	28.0%
Place to retire	16.1%	36.7%	26.6%	20.6%

Williamson County	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Place to live	22.0%	48.2%	22.6%	7.2%
Place to raise children	22.7%	53.0%	15.5%	8.9%
Place to work	7.7%	34.3%	32.0%	26.0%
Place to retire	19.1%	43.3%	19.1%	18.4%

Have there been times in the past 12 months when you did not have enough money to pay for... (PERCENT WHO RESPONDED "YES")

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Food that you or your family needed?	16.9%	15.5%	17.9%
Shelter or housing for you and your family?	7.2%	7.8%	6.8%
Health care and/or medicines that you or your family needed	15.6%	16.0%	15.3%

What level of satisfaction do you have with your current housing? Are you...

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Very satisfied	41.9%	41.9%	41.8%
Satisfied	37.9%	31.8%	42.2%
Neutral	14.7%	19.4%	11.4%
Unsatisfied	3.1%	2.8%	3.3%
Very unsatisfied	2.3%	4.1%	1.0%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	0.2%	0%	0.3%

Thinking about your local neighborhood, how many years have you lived in your local neighborhood?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Less than a year	7.6%	11.4%	4.9%
One to five years	25.7%	29.7%	22.9%
Six to ten years	17.0%	20.5%	14.4%
Eleven to twenty years	18.9%	14.2%	22.2%
More than 20 years	24.8%	21.0%	27.5%
All your life	6.1%	3.2%	8.2%

Would you move away from your current neighborhood if you could, or would you stay in your current neighborhood?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Move away	36.9%	34.9%	38.4%
Stay in current neighborhood	61.4%	64.2%	59.3%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	1.7%	0.9%	2.3%

TOPLINE REPORT

How important, if at all, are the following factors in deciding where to live?

Jackson County	Very important	Somewhat important	Neither important nor unimportant	Somewhat unimportant	Not at all important
Property taxes	40.5%	36.2%	5.2%	3.8%	14.3%
Quality of schools	69.8%	13.5%	2.8%	2.8%	11.2%
Crime	78.8%	18.0%	0.9%	0.9%	1.4%
Rate of homeowner ship	41.0%	28.6%	7.6%	5.7%	17.1%
Diversity of community	40.6%	22.6%	6.9%	6.9%	23.0%

Williamson County	Very important	Somewhat important	Neither important nor unimportant	Somewhat unimportant	Not at all important
Property taxes	63.7%	18.3%	3.7%	1.4%	12.9%
Quality of schools	84.1%	14.0%	0.3%	0.7%	1.0%
Crime	82.7%	13.7%	0.3%	0.7%	1.0%
Rate of homeowner ship	50.5%	28.7%	6.6%	3.8%	10.4%
Diversity of community	28.1%	39.4%	10.3%	4.8%	17.5%

GOVERNMENT AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION

In general, how much confidence would you say you have in local leaders to effectively address local problems? Would you say you are very confident, somewhat confident, not very confident, or not at all confident?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Very confident	10.1%	10.5%	9.8%
Somewhat confident	52.5%	56.8%	49.3%
Not very confident	20.0%	16.4%	22.5%
Not at all confident	13.3%	11.8%	14.4%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	4.2%	4.5%	3.9%

Do you feel that you understand how your local government makes decisions?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Yes	69.8%	68.3%	70.9%
No	26.0%	25.2%	26.5%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	4.2%	6.4%	2.6%

Do you think your county has strong or weak leaders?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Strong	46.7%	46.3%	47.0%
Weak	36.5%	34.1%	38.2%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	16.8%	19.6%	14.8%

Do you think everyone in your community is treated equally, in other words, does everyone get a "fair shake"?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Yes	41.3%	41.8%	40.8%
No	52.9%	54.1%	52.0%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	5.9%	4.1%	7.2%

Are you currently registered to vote?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Yes	87.1%	84.5%	88.9%
No	12.5%	15.5%	10.4%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	0.4%	0.0%	0.7%

Did you happen to remember to vote in the most recent presidential election?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Yes	77.6%	71.2%	82.1%
No	21.9%	28.3%	17.3%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	0.4%	0%	0.7%
Refused (NOT OFFERED)	0.2%	0.5%	0%

TOPLINE REPORT

Voting (CONSTRUCTED VARIABLE: Self reported voter + Know polling place)			
	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Voter +Knew polling place	70.5%	65.3%	74.2%
Voter + Did not know polling place	7.0%	5.9%	7.8%
Did not vote	22.5%	28.8%	18.0%

Have you done any of the following in the past 12 months? (PERCENT WHO RESPONDED “YES”)

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Wrote a letter to the editor of the local newspaper	5.3%	5.9%	4.9%
Went online to express your opinion about political or community issues	27.6%	27.1%	28.0%
Discussed politics with friends or family	83.7%	86.8%	81.4%
Volunteered through or for a charitable or religious organization	56.2%	61.8%	52.1%
Contacted or visited a public official to express your opinion	27.9%	28.3%	27.7%
Participated in a school group (PTA) or neighborhood/community association (Neighborhood watch) or civic group (American Legion/Lions Club)	34.8%	39.7%	31.3%
Participated in adult sports or recreation organization	20.9%	26.9%	16.6%
Worked for a political party or candidate?	8.6%	8.7%	8.5%
Contributed money to a political party or candidate	16.2%	16.4%	16.0%

Are you a member of a church, synagogue, temple, or mosque?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Yes	51.0%	48.4%	52.9%
No	48.4%	50.7%	46.7%
Refused (NOT OFFERED)	0.6%	0.9%	0.3%

Would you characterize where you live as urban, suburban, or rural?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Urban	18.4%	21.9%	16.0%
Suburban	20.5%	19.1%	21.5%
Rural	59.2%	56.7%	60.9%
Don't know (NOT OFFERED)	1.9%	2.3%	1.6%

As of today, would you describe yourself as a Republican, Democrat, Independent, or Other?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Republican	18.4%	14.6%	21.2%
Democrat	27.6%	31.5%	24.8%
Independent	27.9%	26.9%	28.7%
Other	18.3%	21.0%	16.3%
Don't know (NOT OFFERED)	4.2%	2.7%	5.2%
Refused (NOT OFFERED)	3.6%	3.2%	3.9%

How would you describe your views on most political matters?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Extremely conservative	4.4%	1.8%	6.2%
Conservative	22.2%	25.8%	19.5%
Slightly conservative	12.3%	11.8%	12.7%
Moderate, middle of the road	28.2%	21.7%	32.9%
Slightly liberal	10.6%	15.8%	6.8%
Liberal	8.1%	9.0%	8.1%
Extremely liberal	2.6%	5.0%	2.6%
Don't know (NOT OFFERED)	6.2%	6.8%	6.2%
Refused (NOT OFFERED)	4.9%	2.3%	4.9%

TOPLINE REPORT

What is your current marital status?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Single	31.9%	35.5%	29.3%
Married	50.8%	48.6%	52.3%
Divorced	8.6%	9.5%	7.9%
Widowed	7.6%	5.0%	9.5%
Domestic Partner	0.6%	0.5%	0.7%
Refused (NOT OFFERED)	0.6%	0.9%	0.3%

Do you currently rent or own your own home?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Rent	27.8%	31.0%	25.5%
Own	70.3%	66.2%	73.2%
Don't know (NOT OFFERED)	1.9%	2.8%	1.3%

Were you born in Southern Illinois?

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Yes	48.8%	40.1%	54.9%
No	44.4%	58.5%	44.4%
Don't Know (NOT OFFERED)	1.0%	1.4%	0.7%

On a normal day, do you ... (PERCENT WHO RESPONDED "YES")

	Total	Jackson County	Williamson County
Watch local television news	73%	68.6%	76.1%
Listen to local radio about your area	54.5%	53.4%	55.2%
Read local news online	45.3%	52.5%	40.2%
Read a local newspaper	46.8%	47.7%	46.1%

What city, village, township do you currently live in?

	Total
Ava	0.9%
Blairsville	0.5%
Bradley	0.6%
Bush	0.7%
Cambria	2.1%
Carbondale	21.5%
Carterville	7.9%
Carrol Springs	0.5%
Crab Orchard	0.5%
Creal Springs	1.9%
Desoto	1.4%
Elk	0.4%
Energy	1.1%
Grand Tower	0.8%
Herrin	9.3%
Hurst	0.6%
Jackson	1.6%
Johnson City	5.5%
Kincaid	0.5%
Makanda	2.8%
Marion	18.7%
Murphysboro	7.9%
Pittsburg	1.2%
Pomona	0.3%
Rollington	0.5%
Somerset	0.6%
Vergennes	0.5%
Williamson	2.4%
Other	1.2%
Don't know (NOT OFFERED)	0.3%
Refused (NOT OFFERED)	4.1%