

Vital Communities' 2005 Quality-of-Life Survey

Data from the 18 NORTHERN TOWNS in V.C.'s Service Area

(VT: Ryegate, Newbury, Topsham, Bradford, Corinth, Washington, Chelsea, Vershire, West Fairlee, Fairlee)

(NH: Bath, Landaff, Haverhill, Benton, Piermont, Warren, Orford, Wentworth)

There were **111 respondents** from these towns.

Questions #1-34:

<u>Ideal Community Component:</u>	<u>My TOWN is Achieving This Ideal:</u>			<u>This REGION is Achieving This Ideal:</u>		
	AGREE:	DISAGREE:	NO OPINION:	AGREE:	DISAGREE:	NO OPINION:
Good schools	78	25	8	84	13	14
Friendly people	104	3	4	102	3	6
Racial and ethnic diversity	14	82	15	26	69	16
Support for charities (volunteers & donors)	84	12	15	87	8	16
Religious and spiritual diversity	53	41	17	74	19	18
Liveable wages	26	72	13	50	44	17
A well-diversified economy	26	74	11	60	34	17
Enough job and income opportunities	12	84	15	50	47	14
A low poverty rate	25	74	12	38	57	16
Adequate stores and services	50	58	3	84	20	7
A strong feeling of community	87	22	2	77	21	13
A clean, healthy environment	93	13	5	92	10	9
Well-planned development	33	65	13	33	58	20
A convenient public transit system	8	96	7	34	67	10
Ample, varied recreational facilities	50	57	4	79	23	9
A stimulating cultural scene	25	78	8	82	21	8
An enjoyable entertainment scene	26	75	10	87	17	7
Enough affordable housing	35	64	12	26	68	17
Adequate sidewalks and bike paths	36	65	10	49	50	12
Accessible health care	73	27	11	85	16	10
Reasonable traffic conditions on our roads	93	17	1	73	33	5
An effective court system (criminal and civil)	54	15	42	65	12	34
Available child care	40	34	37	51	22	38
Available senior care	46	36	29	60	21	30
A well-functioning safety net for the needy	40	48	23	43	35	33
Appropriate zoning	31	66	14	33	42	36
Appropriate building regulations	37	58	16	38	33	40
Enough open space conserved for the public	60	44	7	60	38	13
A sense of personal safety	101	8	2	94	5	12
Vital town centers	69	40	2	75	18	18
A strong farming economy	67	36	8	56	38	17
All public service positions filled (e.g., Select Boards)	87	16	8	47	12	52

Q. #35: Of the ideal components listed above, please list 3 that should be the most critically important for this region to focus on (in order of importance):						
	MOST	2nd most	3rd most			
	Important:	Important:	Important:		TOTAL:	Percentage:
Good schools	32	14	10		56	17.0%
Enough affordable housing	6	8	10		24	7.3%
A clean, healthy environment	11	4	11		26	7.9%
Liveable wages	16	16	4		36	10.9%
Well-planned development	7	8	10		25	7.6%
Enough job and income opportunities	8	6	12		26	7.9%
A strong feeling of community	4	4	6		14	4.3%
A well-diversified economy	9	9	4		22	6.7%
Friendly people	1	3	1		5	1.5%
Enough open space conserved for the public	2	3	2		7	2.1%
Vital town centers	2	5	8		15	4.6%
Accessible health care	2	2	2		6	1.8%
Appropriate zoning	1	1	2		4	1.2%
A sense of personal safety	0	4	1		5	1.5%
Adequate sidewalks and bike paths	0	1	3		4	1.2%
Racial and ethnic diversity	0	3	1		4	1.2%
A convenient public transit system	1	3	4		8	2.4%
A strong farming economy	4	5	2		11	3.3%
A stimulating cultural scene	1	0	2		3	0.9%
A well-functioning safety net for the needy	0	3	1		4	1.2%
Adequate stores and services	0	0	2		2	0.6%
An effective court system (criminal and civil)	0	0	1		1	0.3%
Reasonable traffic conditions on our roads	1	2	4		7	2.1%
All public service positions filled (e.g., Select Boards)	0	1	1		2	0.6%
An enjoyable entertainment scene	0	1	0		1	0.3%
Appropriate building regulations	1	0	1		2	0.6%
Religious and spiritual diversity	0	1	0		1	0.3%
Ample, varied recreational facilities	0	1	0		1	0.3%
Available child care	0	1	1		2	0.6%
Available senior care	0	1	1		2	0.6%
Support for charities (volunteers and donors)	1	0	2		3	0.9%
Total Responses:	110	110	109		329	99.7%
Q. 36: How would you rate the overall quality of life in this region?		Number of Responses:				
Excellent	55					
Satisfactory	45					

	Needs improvement	11						
Q. 37: Overall, how much impact do you think you can have in making your community a better place to live?		Number of Responses:						
	A big impact	22						
	A moderate impact	48						
	A small impact	38						
	No impact at all	3						
Q. 38: Is the population level:		Number of Responses:						
	About right	97						
	Too high	11						
	Too low	3						
Q. 39: Which one of the following strategies is the best way to handle growth?		Number of Responses:						
	Allow growth only if it won't hurt quality of life	51						
	Permit slow but steady growth	46						
	Stop growth now	6						
	Actively encourage growth	8						
Q. 40: Which of the following would you say best describes the funding level at your town's public schools?		Number of Responses:						
	They get more than enough money to provide a good education	25						
	They get adequate funding to provide a good education	42						
	They don't get enough money to do a good job	29						
	They are grossly underfunded	10						
	Don't know/No opinion	5						
Q. 41: Do our cultural, entertainment and recreation facilities meet the needs of people at all income and age levels?		Number of Responses:						
	Yes	41						

