

# **Council on the Future of Vermont**

## **Looking Ahead: Vermonters' Values and Concerns**

### **Phone / Online Survey Comparison**

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

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

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

### **Demographics**

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

Table 1. *Demographic comparison*

	Phone	Online
Age (median) * state median: 41	56	<b>50</b>
Household members (mean)	2.6	<b>2.5</b>
Household members under 18 (mean)		

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

Table 2. *Education level*

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

## Results • Closed-ended Questions

### Attendance

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

	Phone	Online
Yes	1.9	<b>8.4</b>
No	98.1	<b>91.6</b>
Total	100.0	<b>100.0</b>

### Values

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

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

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

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



Table 10.

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

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

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

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

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

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



Table 19. *The accessibility of health care.*

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

Table 20. *The quality of health care.*

	Phone	Online
Very concerned		



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

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

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

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

Table 24. *The quality of education.*

	Phone	Online

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Table 33. *The W000 (mmh ar) 07207 Wq24 ref 8384844 ref 87872 f c (re 6195 m T) Be W 37 ET Q 0544 ref 8789 W*





