

**The Center for Community Studies  
at  
Jefferson Community College**



**Presentation of Results:**

**Eighth Annual  
Survey of the  
Community**

**June 2007**

**Ms. Denise K. Young, Director  
Mr. Joel LaLone, Research Coordinator**



## Acknowledgements

The annual survey of the community is a collaborative effort. The Center is grateful for the expertise and assistance from the following students, faculty, staff and Advisory Committee members.

Participating students included the following:

Ellen Adkins  
Melissa Fleck  
Mitzi Freeman  
Ryan Grant  
Samantha Gray  
Jennifer Hidalgo  
Liz Jensen

Ryan Kimball  
Catherine McCoy  
Megan O'Connell  
Megan Oster  
Carri Paige  
Katherine Pryor  
Franklin Powell  
Bryan Rafferty

Jeremy Ried  
Nick Richter  
Michelle Rist  
Sara Sauveur  
Tim Scee  
RaeAnne Snyder  
Celeste Wessner

Faculty supervisors included:

Joel LaLone ..... Professor of Mathematics and  
Research Coordinator for The Center for Community Studies  
Michael K. White ..... Professor of Mathematics  
Jerilynn Fairman ..... Professor of Mathematics  
Donna Stevenson ..... Associate Professor of Mathematics  
Timothy Grosse ..... Instructor of Mathematics  
Charles Bickel ..... Instructor of Mathematics

The Advisory Committee of the Center for Community Studies includes the following people:

Donald Alexander  
Bruce Armstrong  
Paul Barton  
John W. Deans  
Rev. Fred Garry  
Judith Gentner  
Richard Halpin

Joel LaLone  
Tracy Leonard  
Norah Machia  
Kenneth J. McAuliffe  
Dr. Carole McCoy  
Lisa Porter  
Theresa Quintin

Rebecca Small Kellogg  
Kevin Smith  
Lynn Sprott  
Daniel Stern  
Norman J. Wayte  
Joseph M. Weaver  
Denise K. Young

### **The costs of this study were underwritten by a grant from Community Bank, NA.**

Please contact the Center for Community Studies at (315) 786-2488 for additional information.  
The report is available online at [www.sunyjefferson.edu/ccs/ccs.html](http://www.sunyjefferson.edu/ccs/ccs.html)

The Center for Community Studies  
at Jefferson Community College  
1220 Coffeen Street  
Watertown, New York 13601  
Telephone: 786-2488 or 786-2489  
E-mail: [commstudies@sunyjefferson.edu](mailto:commstudies@sunyjefferson.edu)  
Website: [www.sunyjefferson.edu/ccs/ccs.html](http://www.sunyjefferson.edu/ccs/ccs.html)

E-mail: [commstudies@sunyjefferson.edu](mailto:commstudies@sunyjefferson.edu)  
Website: [www.sunyjefferson.edu/ccs/ccs.html](http://www.sunyjefferson.edu/ccs/ccs.html)

# Table of Contents

<b>Acknowledgements .....</b>	<b>Page ii</b>
<b>Section 1 – Introduction .....</b>	<b>Pages 1-6</b>
Background – For First-time Readers.....	Page 1
What’s New – For Returning Readers .....	Page 1
Methodology .....	Page 2
Socio-demographics of the Sample.....	Page 3
The "Typical" Respondent in Year 2007.....	Page 6
<b>Section 2 – Summary of Findings .....</b>	<b>Pages 7-14</b>
Perceptions of Quality of Life in Jefferson County.....	Page 7
Profile of a Resident in Jefferson County.....	Page 11
<b>Section 3 – Detailed Statistical Results .....</b>	<b>Pages 15-36</b>
Longevity of Living in Jefferson County .....	Page 15
Quality of Life Issues in Jefferson County-Eight Year Trends In Responses.....	Page 17
Quality of life Issues in Jefferson County-More Detailed Investigation of Year 2007 Results .....	Page 19
Technology-related Questions.....	Page 26
Childcare Issues in Jefferson County .....	Page 27
Higher Education in Jefferson County .....	Page 29
Familiarity with <i>The Center for Community Studies</i> .....	Page 30
Fort Drum Expansion Impact Upon Jefferson County .....	Page 30
Miscellaneous “Life in Jefferson County” Results.....	Page 32
<b>Section 4 – Final Comments .....</b>	<b>Page 37</b>
<b>Appendix I - Technical Commence: Assistance in Interpretation of These Results</b>	
<b>Appendix II - The Survey Instrument</b>	

## Table of Tables

Table 1 – Response Rates.....	Page 3
Table 2 – Socio-demographics of the Sample Compared to Census Estimates.....	Page 4
Table 3 – Age and Gender of Sample Compared to U.S. Census.....	Page 5
Table 4 – How Long have you lived in Jefferson County?.....	Page 15
Table 5 – Do you expect that you will still be living in Jefferson County in 5 years?.....	Page 16
Table 6 – If you plan to be still living in Jefferson County in 5 years, why?.....	Page 16
Table 7 – If you do not plan to be still living in Jefferson County in 5 years, why?.....	Page 16
Table 8 – Trends in Issues in Jefferson County indicating “Getting Better”.....	Page 17
Table 9 – Trends in Issues in Jefferson County indicating “Getting Worse”.....	Page 18
Table 10 – Trends in Issues in Jefferson County—Year 2007.....	Page 19
Table 11 – Opportunities for Youth.....	Page 20
Table 12 – Cultural/Entertainment Opportunities.....	Page 20
Table 13 – Cost of Energy.....	Page 20
Table 14 – Healthcare Access.....	Page 20
Table 15 – Healthcare Quality.....	Page 21
Table 16 – Access to Higher Education.....	Page 21
Table 17 – Internet Access.....	Page 21
Table 18 – Recreational Opportunities.....	Page 21
Table 19 – Quality of the Environment.....	Page 22
Table 20 – Local Government.....	Page 22
Table 21 – Real Estate Taxes.....	Page 22
Table 22 – Downtown Watertown.....	Page 22
Table 23 – Policing and Crime Control.....	Page 23
Table 24 – Availability of Good Jobs.....	Page 23
Table 25 – Shopping Opportunities.....	Page 23
Table 26 – K-12 Education.....	Page 23
Table 27 – Overall State of the Local Economy.....	Page 24
Table 28 – Overall Quality of Life in Jefferson County.....	Page 24
Table 29 – Availability of Goods and Services.....	Page 24
Table 30 – Care for the Elderly.....	Page 24
Table 31 – Availability of Housing.....	Page 25
Table 32 – Most Important Issue Facing Residents of Jefferson County.....	Page 25
Table 33 – Do you have Internet access-at home, work or both?.....	Page 26
Table 34 – Where do you have Internet access?.....	Page 26

Table 35 – Do You Personally Own a Cell Phone? .....	Page 26
Table 36 – How many children under the age of 18 live in your household? .....	Page 27
Table 37 – If YES, for children in the household . . .are you currently employed?.....	Page 27
Table 38 – If YES, for children in the household and employment . . . use childcare services? .....	Page 27
Table 39 – Finally, childcare need status among Jefferson County adults: .....	Page 28
Table 40 – If YES, you do use childcare . . . are you satisfied with the source? .....	Page 28
Table 41 – If YES, you do use childcare . . . how much do you estimate that you spend? .....	Page 28
Table 42 – If YES, you do use childcare . . . how many days of work have you missed?.....	Page 29
Table 43 – Are you currently enrolled in college coursework? .....	Page 29
Table 44 – Among those not attending JCC at this time, have you considered attending...? .....	Page 29
Table 45 – Which of the following best describes your current career plans? .....	Page 29
Table 46 – Have you ever heard of The Center for Community Studies? .....	Page 30
Table 47 – Have you ever heard of this survey before the call this evening? .....	Page 30
Table 48 – “The presence of the 10 <sup>th</sup> Mountain Division at Fort Drum since 1985...” .....	Page 30
Table 49 – How has the recent growth from 2003-2007 of Fort Drum impacted the economy? .....	Page 31
Table 50 – How has the recent growth from 2003-2007 of Fort Drum impacted your finances? ....	Page 31
Table 51 – How has the recent growth from 2003-2007 of Fort Drum impacted the quality of life? .....	Page 31
Table 52 – Is your residence in Jefferson County related to civ/mil employment at Fort Drum? ....	Page 32
Table 53 – Is anyone living in your household Active Military? .....	Page 32
Table 54 – How many times have you crossed the border to eastern Ontario in the past year? ....	Page 32
Table 55 –How many hours per month you volunteer for community service activities? .....	Page 33
Table 56 – What is your primary source of information about local news? .....	Page 33
Table 57 – Do you support or oppose developing wind farms in the North Country? .....	Page 33
Table 58 – Do you currently have a compact fluorescent light bulb in your home? .....	Page 34
Table 59 – What is most important to you in a shopping and dining out experience? .....	Page 34
Table 60 – How often have you gone to a community-based meeting in the past year? .....	Page 34
Table 61 – Do you rent or own your home.....	Page 35
Table 62 – If you rent, has your rent increased in the past six months? .....	Page 35
Table 63 – Did you vote in the last local election? .....	Page 35
Table 64 – How would you classify your political beliefs? .....	Page 36
Table 65 – Highest levels of formal education among sampled Jefferson County adults? .....	Page 36

# The Eighth Annual Survey of the Community

*Based on 382 telephone interviews conducted April 2 - April 5, 2007*

## **Section 1 - Introduction**

### **Background – For First-time Readers of this Annual Survey**

The Center for Community Studies at Jefferson Community College was established in October 1999, to engage in a variety of community-building and community-based research activities and to promote the productive discussion of ideas and issues of significance to our area. In collaboration with community partners, the Center conducts research that will benefit the local population, and engages in activities that reflect its commitment to enhancing the quality of life of the area.

The annual survey of the community is one specific activity conducted to gauge the attitudes and opinions of a representative sample of Jefferson County citizens. This activity results in a yearly updated inventory of the attitudes and opinions of citizens of the county.

This document is a summary of the results of the Eighth Annual Survey of the Community, including comparisons with the results of the surveys from the preceding seven years. Further, the key community demographic characteristics of Gender, Age, Education Level, and Household Income Level are investigated as explanatory variables that may be correlated with quality-of-life indicators for the region, using the 2007 survey results. It is standard methodology with professional surveys to provide this further rich information to the reader – information that may assist in explaining the overall findings – by reporting the results for all subgroups within key demographic variables. A test for statistical significance has been completed for each of the cross-tabulations. The results provide important information about contemporary thinking of citizens; and over time will continue to provide important baseline and comparative information as well.

### **“What’s New?” – For Returning Readers of this Annual Survey**

After seven years of completing this study of quality of life indicators in Jefferson County, it has become apparent that the results of this survey provide meaningful and useful information to local decision-makers. To provide analysis that is of maximum levels of accuracy and utility, the following improvement has been made to the annual survey in this, the eighth year of its existence.

- Improvement #1: - The organization of this report has been revised. An “easy-to-find” approach has been adopted in the organization of this presentation of study findings, with the results for each survey question presented in only one location, in Section 3 of this report.
- Improvement #2: - Graphical presentations of key quality of life findings have been incorporated in this report to a larger degree than in any of the seven preceding annual reports.
- Improvement #3: - The returning reader may find that there are questions from earlier years of this survey that are not included in this eighth annual survey. Several questions that have been asked in the past will now only be measured every other year. The length of the survey in recent years has reached a length that is believed to have become detrimental to completion of the best possible sampling and scientific research. In 2006, the survey included approximately 100 questions, and often required more than 30 minutes to complete on the telephone. This length not only caused lower than usual response rates (Jefferson County adults were less likely to volunteer 30+ minutes of their personal time in an evening to a survey), but also caused concerns with the validity of the responses collected toward the end of the survey (the “fatigue” factor). Therefore, in 2007 the survey was reduced to fewer than 70 survey questions. The result was an interview in 2007 that typically lasted only 10-15 minutes on the phone.

## **Methodology – How This Data Was Collected**

The original survey instrument used in the annual survey of the community was constructed in spring 2000 by a team of Jefferson Community College faculty including the following:

Dr. Richard L. Halpin	Former Professor, Sociology; Former Director, The Center for Community Studies Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County
Mr. Joel LaLone	Professor, Mathematics
Dr. Ingrid Overacker	Associate Professor, History
Dr. Ronald A. Palmer	Associate Professor, History
Dr. Raymond Petersen	Professor, Political Science
Ms. Rebecca Riehm	Associate Professor, Sociology
Mr. Michael White	Professor, Mathematics
Dr. Jerome Wichelns	Former Associate Professor, Philosophy; Rector, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Watertown

The instrument is modified each year by The Center for Community Studies, with input from its staff, Advisory Board, and students employed at the Center throughout the current academic year, to include new questions of relevance to local organizations and agencies. There is a core set of approximately 40 questions that have been asked every year since 2000. The primary goal of The Annual Survey of the Community is to collect data regarding quality of life issues of importance to the local citizens. A secondary goal is to provide a very real, research-based, learning experience for undergraduate students enrolled at Jefferson. In accomplishing this second goal, students are involved in all aspects of the research, from question formation to data collection (interviewing), to data entry, to data analysis. The students analyze the data collected in this study annually, as assignments in statistics classes. However, all final responsibility for question-phrasing, question-inclusion versus omission, final data analysis, and reporting of findings lies exclusively with the professional staff of The Center and the Advisory Board of The Center. The discussions that lead to the inclusion of questions at times arise from classroom discussions involving students and Center staff. The decision to include any question as a legitimate and meaningful part of an annual survey, however, is made exclusively by The Center. Similarly, data analysis of the information collected through the annual survey will transpire with faculty and students in the classrooms at Jefferson, however any statistical analysis reported in this document has been completed by the professional staff of the Center. Copies of the introductory script and survey instrument are attached as an appendix.

This study included completing interviews of 382 Jefferson County adult residents. All interviews were completed via telephone. To be eligible to complete the survey, the resident was required to be at least 18 years old. Two thousand personal residence telephone numbers were randomly selected from the population of approximately 29,000 personal residence telephone numbers in Jefferson County. These numbers were obtained from *Accudata America*, a subsidiary of Primis, Inc. *Accudata America* is a firm that specializes in providing contact information for residents of the United States. The telephone numbers were obtained from an unscrubbed list, ensuring that individuals whose households are included in the "telemarketing do-not-call list" would be represented in this study. After receiving the 2,000 randomly selected telephone numbers, the list was randomly sorted a second time and a group of 1,866 residential numbers were selected for attempts to interview. All telephone calls were made between 4:30 and 8:30 p.m. from a call center on the Jefferson Community College campus, in Watertown, New York, on four evenings between April 2<sup>nd</sup> and April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2007. The Jefferson Community College students who completed the interviews had completed training in human subject research methodology and effective interviewing techniques. Professional staff from The Center supervised the telephone interviewing at all times.

When each of the 1,866 telephone numbers was attempted, one of four results occurred: Completion of an interview; a Decline to be interviewed; No Answer/Busy; or an Invalid Number. Voluntary informed consent was obtained from each resident before the interview was completed. This sampling protocol included informing each resident that it was his or her right to decline to answer any and all individual questions within the interview. To be categorized as a completed interview, at least half of the questions on the survey had to be completed. The resident's refusal to answer more than half of the questions was considered a decline to be interviewed. The typical length of a completed survey was approximately 10 to 15 minutes. Declines to be interviewed (refusals) were not called back in an attempt to convince the resident to reconsider the interview. If

no contact was made at a telephone number (No Answer/Busy), call-backs were made to the number. Telephone numbers that were not successfully contacted, and, as a result, were ultimately categorized as No Answer/Busy, were attempted a minimum of four times. No messages were left on answering machines at homes where no person answered the telephone. The response rate results for the study are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1 – Response Rates for the 8 <sup>TH</sup> Annual Survey of the Community					
Result:	Complete Interview	Decline to be Interviewed	Not Valid Telephone Number	No Answer/ Busy	TOTALS
Frequency	382	419	366	699	1866
% of Numbers Attempted	20.5%	22.5%	19.6%	37.5%	100%
% of Valid Numbers	25.5%	27.9%		46.6%	100%
% of Contacted Residents	47.7%	52.3%			100%

Within the fields of social science and educational research, when using telephone interview methodology, a response rate of 25%-30% of all valid phone numbers and almost 50% of all successful contacts where a person is actually talking on the phone are both considered quite successful.

### **Socio-demographics of the Sample – Who was Interviewed?**

This section of the report includes a description of the results for the socio-demographic variables included in the survey sample. The socio-demographic characteristics of the sampled adult residents can be used to attain three separate objectives.

1. Initially, this information adds to the knowledge and awareness about the true characteristics of the population of adult residents in the sampled county (i.e. What is the typical household size, educational profile, and income level in Jefferson County?).
2. Secondly, this socio-demographic information facilitates the ability for the data to be sorted or partitioned to investigate for significant relationships – relationships between socio-demographic characteristics of people and their attitudes and behaviors regarding the quality of life in Jefferson County. Identification of significant relationships allows local citizens to use the data more effectively to better understand the factors that are correlated with various aspects of life in the county.
3. Finally, the socio-demographic information also serves an important purpose when compared to established facts about Jefferson County to analyze the representativeness of the sample that was randomly selected in this study.

The results for the socio-demographic questions in the survey are summarized in Table 2. Note that the socio-demographic data presented in Table 2 is raw, or unweighted; it represents the actual characteristics of the residents who were interviewed via the previously described telephone methodology.

Table 2 – Socio-demographics of the Sample Compared to U.S. Census Estimates for Jefferson County			
Socio-demographic Characteristic:	8 <sup>th</sup> Annual Survey of the Community Sample Results		Jefferson County Population Parameters (U.S. Census 2005)
	n	%	%
<b>GENDER</b>			
Male	130	34.0%	49.0%
Female	252	66.0%	51.0%
<b>AGE GROUP (US Census %'s are among those 18 years old or older)</b>			
18-29	53	13.9%	23.6%
30-39	71	18.6%	21.0%
40-49	92	24.1%	19.2%
50-59	74	19.4%	15.2%
60-69	44	11.5%	9.1%
70+	48	12.5%	11.9%
<b>EDUCATION LEVEL</b>			
Did not complete HS	22	6.0%	12.6%
HS Graduate	115	31.1%	34.6%
Some College	164	44.5%	33.0%
College Graduate (4+years)	68	18.5%	19.8%
<b>ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME</b>			
Less than \$25,000	96	27.4%	28.4%
\$25,000-\$50,000	139	39.7%	31.6%
\$50,000-\$75,000	77	22.0%	20.5%
More than \$75,000	38	10.9%	19.5%
<b>CHILDREN LIVING IN THE HOME</b>			
No children	217	58.0%	36.3% have at least one child in the home
1 child	65	17.4%	
2 children	57	15.2%	
3 children	25	6.7%	
4 or more children	10	2.7%	
<b>RACE/ETHNICITY</b>			
White	342	91.4%	91.7%
Black or African American	8	2.1%	4.0%
Hispanic or Latino	7	1.9%	3.3%
Asian, Pacific Islander	1	0.3%	1.3%
Native American	3	0.8%	0.3%
Multiracial	8	2.1%	1.4%
Other	5	1.3%	1.3%
<b>MARITAL STATUS</b>			
Single	87	23.3%	57.0% Married
Married	219	58.6%	
Other	68	18.2%	

In general, the responses to the socio-demographic questions included in the survey appear to closely parallel that which is true for the entire adult populations of Jefferson County, with the exception that women were more likely than men to answer the telephone and/or agree to a survey, and older residents are more likely to be sampled as well. The 2005 U.S. Census reports for gender and age distributions of the actual adult populations that reside in Jefferson County are shown in Table 3. Additionally, the gender and age distributions of the interviewed adults for this study are shown for comparison. An analysis of the postal zip codes of the respondents paralleled that which is true for the distribution of all Jefferson County adults very closely – the entire county was proportionally represented.

Table 3 – Age and Gender of the Sample Compared to U.S. Census 2005 Reported Distributions for Persons 18+ Years Old Among Jefferson County							
Age Groups:	8 <sup>th</sup> Annual Survey of the Community Sample			Age Groups:	Jefferson County US Census 2005 Statistics		
	% Male	% Female	Totals		% Male	% Female	Totals
18-29	4.7	9.2	13.9	18-29	13.3	10.3	23.6
30-39	5.8	12.8	18.6	30-39	10.7	10.3	21.0
40-49	8.7	15.4	24.1	40-49	9.4	9.8	19.2
50-59	7.3	12.1	19.4	50-59	7.2	8.0	15.2
60-69	3.1	8.4	11.5	60-69	4.1	5.0	9.1
70+	4.4	8.1	12.5	70+	4.3	7.6	11.9
Totals	34.0	66.0	100.0	Totals	49.0	51.0	100.0

Table 3 clearly illustrates a type of sampling error that is inherent in telephone methodology: Females and older persons are typically overrepresented – regardless of the subject of the survey. To compensate for this overrepresentation of females and older residents in the sample collected in this study, post-stratification weightings by gender and age have been completed in any further analysis of the data analyzed in this report. All subsequent statistics that will be reported in this document are weighted by gender and age.

Given the extreme diligence placed on scientific sampling design and the high response rates, after application of post-stratification weightings by age and gender, it is felt that this random sample of Jefferson County adults does accurately represent the population of Jefferson County adults. When using the sample statistics presented in this report to estimate that which would be expected for the entire Jefferson County adult population, the exact margin of error for this survey is question-specific. The margin of error depends upon the sample size for each specific question and the resulting sample for each question. Sample sizes tend to vary for each question on the survey, since some questions are only appropriate for certain subgroups, (i.e. only persons who have children under age 18 living in their household and work outside the home were then asked if they use childcare services), and/or as a result of persons refusing to answer questions. In general, the results of this survey for any questions that were answered by the entire sample of 382 residents may be generalized to the population of all adults at least 18 years of age residing in Jefferson County with a 95% confidence level to within a margin of error of approximately  $\pm 4$  to  $\pm 5$  percentage points. For questions that were only posed to certain specific subgroups such as the childcare services utilization question, the resulting smaller sample sizes of  $n=50-100$  allow generalization to the specific subpopulation of all adults at least 18 years of age residing in that county (i.e. generalization of some specific characteristics of renters to *all Jefferson County renters*) with a 95% confidence level to within a margin of error of approximately  $\pm 8$  to  $\pm 10$  percentage points. For more specific detail regarding the margin of error for any individual questions included in this survey, please contact the staff at The Center for Community Studies.

In order to maximize comparability among the eight annual surveys that have been completed between 2000 and 2007, the procedures used to collect information and the core questions asked have remained virtually identical. All surveys were conducted in the first week in April each year, and the total number of interviews ranged from 340 to 413, depending upon the year. All interviewers have been similarly and extensively trained preceding data collection each year. The survey methodology used to complete the Eighth Annual Survey of the Community was comparable to that used in the previous seven years. Furthermore, post-stratification weights for age and gender have also been applied to all results from the first seven years of surveying to allow for valid comparisons for trends over the eight year period that will be illustrated later in this report. Please note that these weights that have been applied to preceding year results will at times change the statistics that are reported for those years. The results for years 2000-2005 that are reported in this study should be used rather than those reported in earlier years.

All data compilation and statistical analyses within this study have been completed using *Minitab, Release 15* and *SPSS, Release 14*.

## **The "Typical" Respondent in Year 2007**

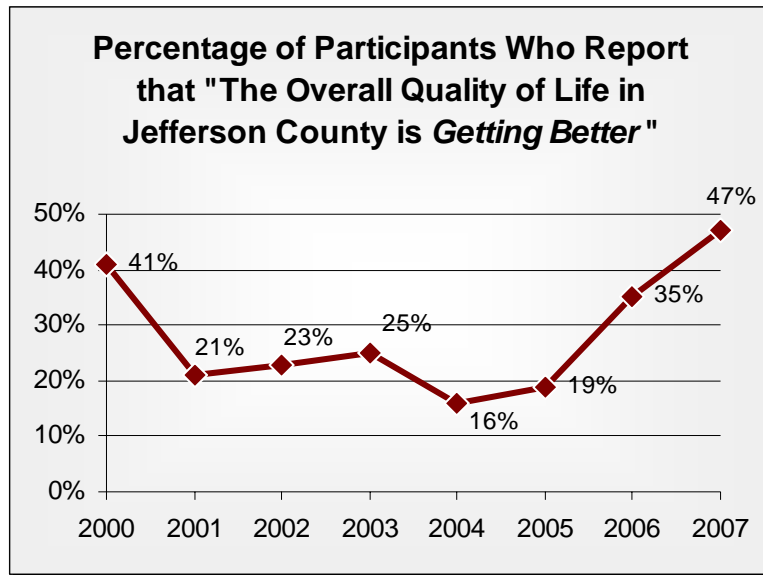
A profile of a typical respondent is that they have lived in Jefferson County more than seven years, and intend to continue living here. They have completed a high school education and perhaps some college studies. They tend to own their home and live in a household with an annual income between \$25,000 and \$50,000. They voted in the most recent local elections and hold "middle of the road" political views. They have access to the Internet both at home and at work and own a cell phone. They regard the overall quality of life in the county as positive, and are feeling more positive about the overall local economy and the availability of good jobs than they have in the past eight years. They are most concerned about the high costs of energy, real estate taxes, and the availability of housing. They believe that both healthcare quality and healthcare access are improving. They support wind farm development and have at least one compact fluorescent light bulb in their home. They believe that opportunities for youth in the county are improving. They have not attended a community-based meeting in the past year although they do volunteer in the local community, contributing an average of 7 hours per month. They rely on local television and the local daily newspaper to learn about local news and they are increasingly likely to use the Internet to acquire this information. They are either currently attending, or have considered attending, Jefferson Community College in the past three years for either a credit bearing class or a non-credit workshop. They believe that the location of the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division at Fort Drum positively impacts both the quality of life and the economy of the region and that the recent growth of Fort Drum has positively impacted their own personal financial health. They report that cultural, entertainment and recreational opportunities are improving in the county. They are noticing the growing shopping opportunities and availability of goods and services and indicate that when accessing those goods and services, price is most important to them in a shopping experience and quality is most important in a dining experience.

## Section 2 – Summary of Findings

### I. Perceptions of *Quality of Life* in Jefferson County:

1. Most Jefferson County adult residents continue to **view the quality of life in the region as positive** and it appears that their satisfaction with the quality of life in the region has **significantly improved** over the past year, **particularly in areas related to jobs and the economy.** (Table 8)
2. In the presentation of findings for the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Survey in 2006, the following statement was made: “county residents, regardless of gender, age, income, and education level, reported the highest rates of positive perceptions (“getting better”) ever recorded on every single economic-related indicator recorded except housing and cost of energy.” **In 2007, each of these all-time highs for positive impressions of local economic-related indicators were further surpassed.** (Table 8, Page 14)
3. The overall quality of life in the area was reported as getting better by 47% of the residents, a 12% increase from the finding in 2006, and **the highest rate of satisfaction ever reported in the eight years of completing this survey.**

Residents were four times more likely to report that the overall quality of life in the area is “getting better” than they were to indicate that it is “getting worse”. Level of satisfaction with the overall quality of life is not significantly different across genders, education levels, or income levels, however, the highest rate of reporting “getting better” was found among the younger age group – *55% of the participants age 18-29 reported that the overall quality of life in the county is getting better.* (Tables 8, 10, and 28)

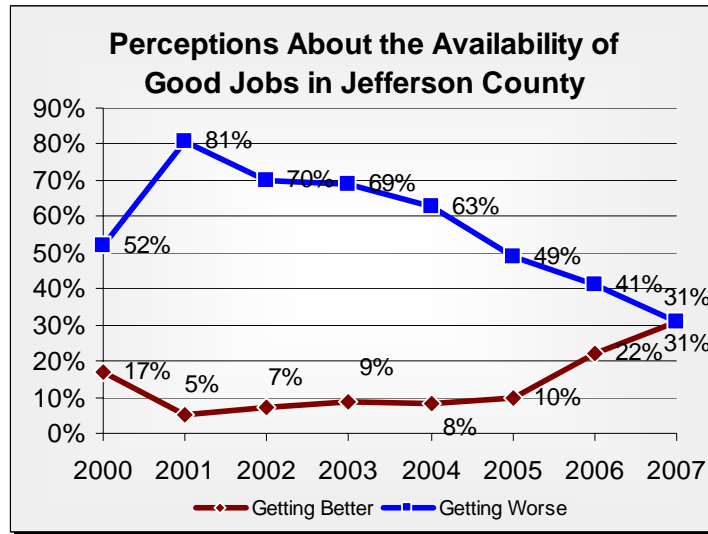


4. **Residents reported the most satisfaction with the following aspects** of our community: (Table 10)
  - Shopping Opportunities (86% indicated “getting better”)
  - Internet Access (63% indicated “getting better”)
  - Availability of Goods and Services (70% indicated “getting better”)
  - Access to Higher Education (49% indicated “getting better”)
  - The Overall Quality of Life in Jefferson County (47% indicated “getting better”)
  - Cultural and Entertainment Opportunities (42% indicated “getting better”)
5. **Residents reported the most dissatisfaction with the following aspects** of our community: (Table 10)
  - Cost of Energy (77% indicated “getting worse”)
  - Real Estate Taxes (63% indicated “getting worse”)
  - Availability of Housing (48% indicated “getting worse”)
  - Downtown Watertown (42% indicated “getting worse”)

6. Economic-related Quality of Life Findings:

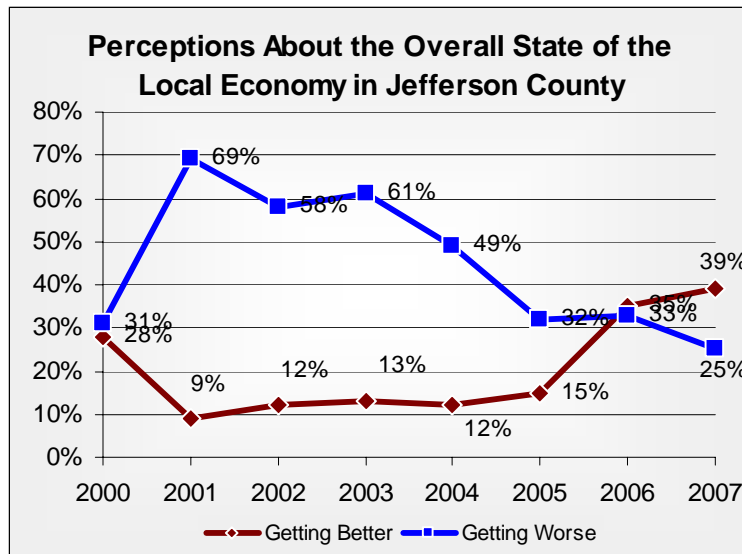
**Availability of Good Jobs:**

Residents reported the highest rate of availability of good jobs as *getting better* that has been recorded throughout the eight years of data collection (31%), which is almost triple the 7-year average preceding 2007, which was 11% reporting *getting better*. The rate at which residents reported “getting worse” was half of the average rate of the first seven years of this survey (31% vs. a 7-year average of 61%). **For the first time ever, respondents were equally as likely to report “getting better” as they were to report “getting worse”.** As a comparison, in 2000, 81% reported that availability of good jobs was getting worse, while only 5% reported “getting better.” (Table 24)



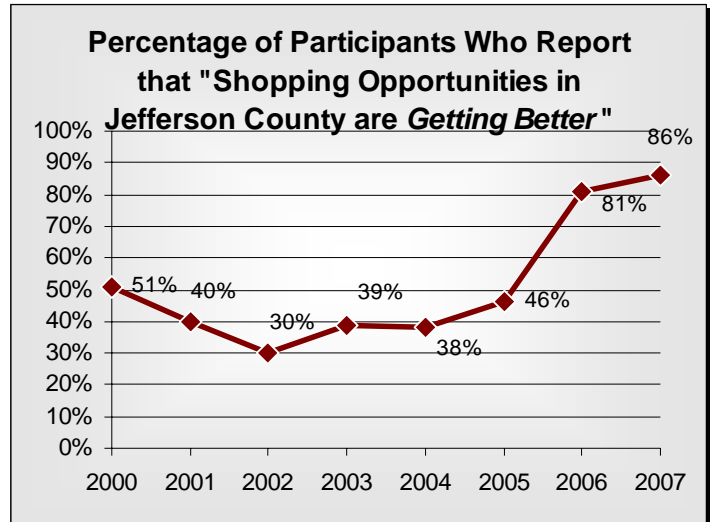
**Overall State of Local Economy:**

Residents were the most likely to report that the overall state of the local economy is *getting better* that has been recorded throughout the eight years of data collection (39%, increased from 35% in 2006, and **more than double the 7-year average preceding 2007**, which was 18% reporting *getting better*). For the first time ever, respondents were much more likely to report “getting better” than they were to report “getting worse” (39% vs. 25%). As a comparison, in 2003, 61% reported that the overall state of the local economy was getting worse, while only 13% reported “getting better”. Interestingly, residents age 18-29 are significantly more likely to perceive that the overall state of the local economy is getting better than those residents 30+ years of age. (Table 27)



**Shopping Opportunities:**

An overwhelming majority of Jefferson County residents (across all ages, income levels, education levels, and within both genders) believe that shopping opportunities in the county are *getting better*. The 86% reporting *getting better* is the highest ever recorded in this annual survey, the 7-year average preceding 2007 was 46% reporting *getting better*. Only 5% of the participants reported that they believed that shopping opportunities are *getting worse*. (Table 25)



**Availability of Goods/Services:**

Again, residents reported the highest rate of availability of goods and services as *getting better* that has been recorded throughout the years of completing this survey (70%, increased from 51% in 2006, and more than double the 5-year average preceding 2007). Residents with the highest education levels and from households reporting the highest annual income levels were significantly more likely to report *getting better* than those with lower education levels and those from lower income households, respectively. (Table 29)

**Availability of Housing:**

In 2007, residents are still much more likely to believe that housing availability is *getting worse* than *getting better* (48% versus 29%), however, the rate of reporting *getting better* has increased from 12% when first recorded in 2005, to the current rate of 29% reporting *getting better*. (Table 31)

**Cost of Energy:**

Throughout the eight years of completing this annual survey, the cost of energy has consistently been viewed by the majority as *getting worse*. In 2007, that continued to be reflected with 77% reporting *getting worse* (the 7-year average has been 77%), and only 2% reporting *getting better*. (Table 13)

**Real Estate Taxes:**

Residents reported the highest rate of real estate taxes as *getting worse* that has been recorded throughout the eight years of data collection (63%), increased from 39% in 2005, and significantly higher than the 7-year average preceding 2007, which was 49% reporting *getting worse*). As a comparison, in 2000, the first year of this annual survey, and a year when quality of life attitudes among residents were at very high/positive levels similar to that which has been found currently in this 2007 study ... in 2000, only 41% of the residents reported that real estate taxes were *getting worse*. (Table 21)

**7. Lifestyle-related (less economic) Quality of Life Findings:**

**Opportunities for Youth:**

In 2007, residents reported the highest ever of "opportunities for youth" *getting better* (33%, with a 7-year average preceding 2007 of 23% reporting *getting better*). (Table 11)

**Healthcare Access and Healthcare Quality**

2007 saw the highest rate ever reported of healthcare access *getting better* and a higher-than-usual rate of healthcare quality *getting better*, with residents far more likely to report each of these community health attributes as *getting better* than they were to indicate *getting worse*. (Tables 14 and 15)

**Cultural/Entertainment Opportunities:**

Dramatic increases were found in 2007 regarding the likelihood that a resident would report that cultural/entertainment opportunities in the county are *getting better*, the rate increased from 28% in 2006 to the current level of 42%. The 42% getting better rate is the highest ever measured throughout the history of completing this survey, and it appears to be a rate that is independent of gender, age, income, and education level – all groups appear to have similar perceptions of the state of cultural/entertainment opportunities in the county. (Table 12)

**Recreational Opportunities:**

Perceptions of recreational opportunities in the county remained similar to that which has been reported in the past – the most likely response (44%) is *staying the same*, with the remaining residents more likely to indicate that recreational opportunities are *getting better* than *getting worse* (41% versus 10%). (Table 18)

**Access to Higher Education:**

Residents are more than six times as likely to report access to higher education *getting better* than *getting worse*, a finding that is not significantly different from earlier years. (Table 16)

**Downtown Watertown:**

In 2006, attitudes among county residents regarding downtown Watertown had reached a more positive level than had been seen in recent years – a three year positive trend 2004-2006 was observed. In 2007, this trend has slightly reversed, with 26% of the participants reporting getting better and 42% reporting getting worse. (Table 22)

**Policing and Crime Control:**

Residents continue to be more likely to view policing and crime control in 2007 as *getting better* than *getting worse* (30% vs. 20%, respectively), with residents under 30 years old the most likely to perceive it as better. (Table 23)

**Quality of K-12 Education:**

K-12 education is viewed as improving by more residents than at any time since 2001, with residents more than four times as likely to report that K-12 education is *getting better* than *getting worse* (41% vs 10%). Interestingly, the residents with the highest education level themselves are the least likely to perceive K-12 education as *getting better*. (Table 26)

**Availability of Elder Care:**

The perception of availability of care for the elderly reported in 2007 was the typical rate over the preceding three years – 19% of the participants perceive availability of care for the elderly as *getting better*. However, residents were more likely to perceive availability of care for the elderly as *getting worse*; 21% reported this opinion. Residents age 60 or older, those with lower formal education levels, and those from lower income households were the most likely to view availability of care for the elderly positively. (Table 30)

**Internet Access:**

Year after year the residents of Jefferson County respond positively regarding Internet access. The results in 2007, 63% indicating *getting better* and 5% indicating *getting worse*, are quite typical. The perception of Internet access as *getting better* is significantly higher among the 18-30 age group than among older residents, and highest among those with some college but no 4+ year degree when compared across education levels. (Table 17)

**Quality of the Environment:**

Perceptions among Jefferson County residents regarding the quality of the local environment have remained very stable over the eight years of surveying. The results in 2007, 47% reporting *staying the same*, and among those who perceive a change it being a very similar rate that reports *better* versus *worse* (21% and 25%, respectively) are very close to the long-term averages that have been found in the preceding seven years. (Table 19)

**Local Government:**

Consistent with every preceding year of this annual survey, the most common response from Jefferson County residents regarding local government is *staying the same*. Interestingly, the residents age 60+ are significantly more likely to report that local government is *getting better* than younger age groups. (Table 20)

## II. Profile of a Resident of Jefferson County:

### Longevity of Living in Jefferson County:

8. Among our respondents, 72% have lived in the county for more than seven years and, *reflecting the satisfaction seen throughout this year's responses, only 18% reported that they did not expect to be living here five years from now – the lowest percentage ever recorded.* (Tables 4-7)

### Technology-related:

9. The majority of Jefferson County residents (79%) have access to the Internet, either at home or at work or both. This rate has not changed significantly since 2005 (when the rate increased from 71% in 2004 to 79% in 2005). Younger residents and those with higher formal education levels and from higher income households are most likely to have Internet access. Interestingly, over 40% of the residents age 60+ report to have Internet access. (Tables 33 and 34)
10. Cell phone use among Jefferson County residents continues to increase; currently over 77% of residents report having a personal cell phone. ***Younger residents, age 18-30, are most likely to have a cell phone (92%), however, even among those age 60+ the majority have a cell phone (56% of this older group).*** Cell phone ownership is significantly correlated with household income level, yet again, even among the lowest income group, under \$25,000 annually, the majority report to have a personal cell phone. (Table 35)

### Childcare Issues:

11. Approximately 47% of the sampled households in the county report to have at least one child under the age of 18 living in the home. Among this group, slightly more than 70% of the respondents indicated that they currently work outside the home. Among this group of employed residents who have children living in their home, approximately one in three pays for childcare services for at least one child while they are at work. To summarize: Therefore, the results from the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Survey suggest that approximately one in nine households in the county (10.5%) pays for childcare services. (Tables 36-39)

Childcare needs among Jefferson County residents:	Among entire Jeff. Co. Adult Population	Among Jeff. Co. "Parent "
Have no children under 18 in the home	52.6%	---
Have children and ...		
Did not report Childcare needs	0.9%	1.9%
Not employed	14.1%	29.8%
Employed, but use NO Childcare services	21.9%	46.2%
Employed, and use Childcare services	<b>10.5%</b>	<b>22.1%</b>

12. Among those residents who currently use childcare services in Jefferson County, the vast majority (87%) are satisfied with the source of services they use. (Table 40)
13. ***It is not uncommon that Jefferson County residents who use childcare services while at work must miss work because they are unable to locate suitable childcare for their children on certain days – 38% of the working parents reported missing at least one day of work in the past year due to this childcare issue, with 4% of the working parents reported missing at least one week of work in the past year due to this childcare issue.*** (Table 42)
14. Residents who use childcare services were asked the typical cost per week. The following table summarizes the results found in 2007. Therefore, the results from the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Survey suggest that among those

Jefferson County families who pay for childcare services: the typical cost per *child* per week for childcare services is \$70, and given that there are, of course, families who pay for childcare services for more than one child, *the typical cost per family per week for childcare services is \$109.* (Table 41)

Typical per child, per week, childcare cost:	2007
\$0	10.3%
\$1-\$50	21.8%
51-\$75	16.1%
\$76-\$100	38.2%
\$101-\$125	10.3%
\$126+	3.1%
Mean weekly cost <i>per child</i>	<b>\$70</b>
Mean weekly cost <i>per family</i> using childcare	<b>\$109</b>

15. **Childcare services represent a significant economic segment within the Jefferson County economy.** Given that there are approximately 42,400 households in Jefferson County (U.S. Census 2005), with the estimated rate of 10.5% of the households paying for childcare services, the result is an estimate of 4,450 current households in the county paying for childcare services. **With an estimated average weekly cost of \$109 per household, the total annual expenditure for childcare services among Jefferson County residents is over \$24,000,000 (4450\*\$109\*50 weeks).** (Table 41)

Higher Education:

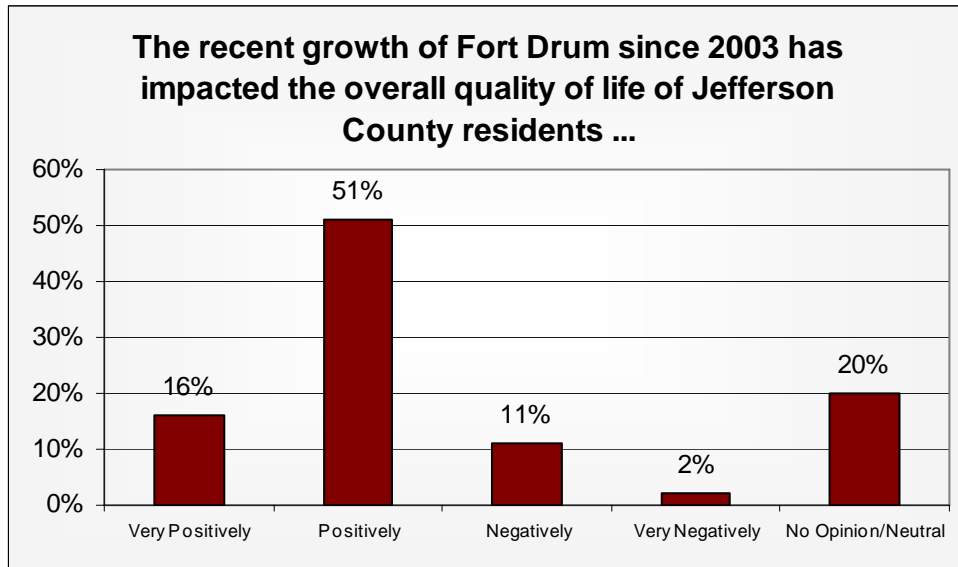
16. In 2007, questions were newly developed and posed regarding current higher education pursuit, as well as future education and career plans. Approximately 14% of the surveyed adults are currently taking college coursework, with about half of this group currently attending Jefferson Community College, and the remaining half taking coursework at other colleges, most commonly online courses. (Table 43)
17. Among those residents not currently attending Jefferson Community College (either not going to college at all, or attending at some other college currently), 41% of these individuals reported that they had considered attending JCC at some point in the past three years, with 23% indicating that they are *currently* considering attending JCC. (Table 44)
18. When asked to describe their current career plans, county residents most commonly reported having no interest in a career change. The following table summarizes the career plans. (Table 45)

Career plans?	2007
"I want a new career in the next 5 years."	25.2%
"I want a new job in the same career field in the next 5 years."	21.1%
"I have no interest in a job/career change."	53.7%

Fort Drum Expansion Impact:

19. The findings of this study, consistent with all other years of this annual survey, **overwhelmingly suggest support for Fort Drum.** Over 75% of adults in Jefferson County agree that **the presence of the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division at Fort Drum since 1985 has improved the overall quality of life of Jefferson County citizens.** A high rate of Fort Drum support persists among all gender, age, education and income groups, with at least 66% agreeing in each partitioned subgroup. (Table 48)
20. Considering the more recent growth of Fort Drum since 2003, Jefferson County residents again strongly report that this growth has had a positive impact on the county and its residents.
- Over 75% of the residents report that this recent growth has had a positive impact on *the overall economy and job/financial health of county residents* (while only 10% reported a negative impact). (Table 49)

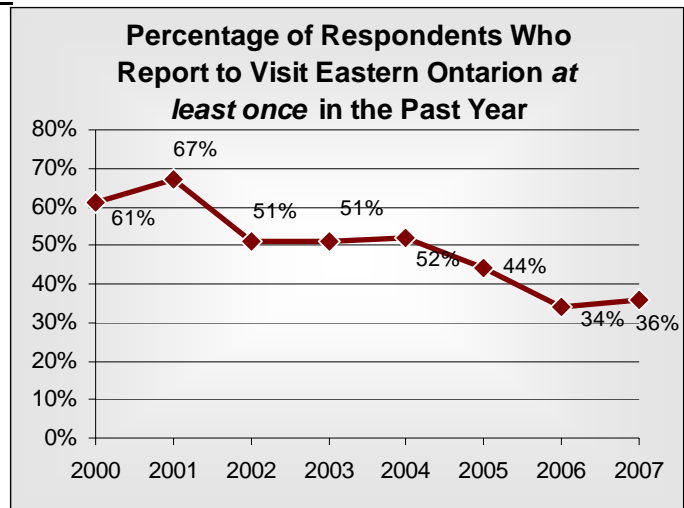
- Over 40% of the residents report that this recent growth has had a positive impact on their *personal job/financial health* (while only 7% reported a negative impact). (Table 50)
- Over 65% of the residents report that this recent growth has had a positive impact on the *overall quality of life of county residents* (while only 13% reported a negative impact). (Table 51)



21. **The significance of the presence of Fort Drum among the Jefferson County community is demonstrated by the fact that more than one out of every four households (27%) in the survey group report that their residence in Jefferson County is related to either their or a family member’s civilian or military employment at Fort Drum.** Further, over 22% of the survey group indicated that there is a member of the household who is active military. (Tables 52-53)

Miscellaneous “Life in Jefferson County” Results:

22. **There has been an obvious and fairly steep trend toward reduced cross-border travel over the past eight years,** which reached an all-time low in 2006 and 2007. In 2006, only 34% of residents indicated they had crossed the border to Ontario in the past year, while the 2007 result was similarly at 36% (this has been as high as 67% in the past). (Table 54)



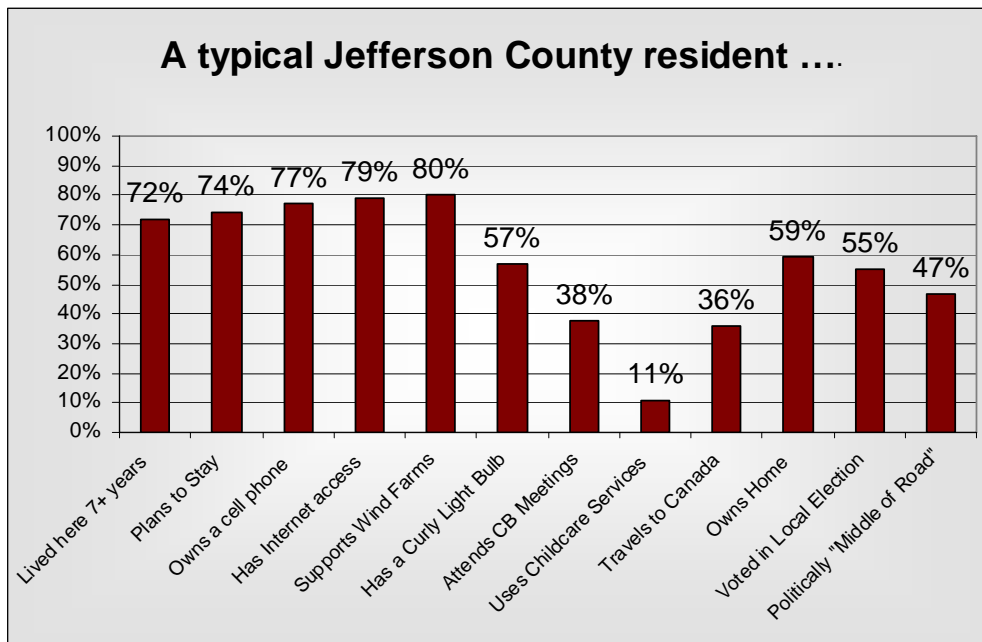
23. **The spirit of volunteerism remains strong in Jefferson County.** Approximately half the respondents reported regular volunteer time to the community. The mean number of hours volunteered per citizen of 7 hours/month is slightly lower than the preceding 7-year average of 8.25 hours/month. Nevertheless, the economic impact of this volunteerism is over \$150,000,000 per year. (Table 55)

24. Jefferson County residents report a most common source of information about local news as Watertown-based television (55% report this source), while the Watertown Daily Times is the next most cited source of local news (19%). Over 17% of the residents reported the Internet as their primary source of information about local news. (Table 56)

25. There is strong evidence of support among the majority of Jefferson County residents (80.4%) for developing wind farms as a renewable energy source in the North Country. This high level of support was evident among both genders, all education level groups, all age groups, and all income groups. (Table 57)
26. Jefferson County residents are more likely to have a fluorescent light bulb in their home than not to – 57% report to have at least one of the “curly light bulbs” in their home. (Table 58)
27. Residents were asked which factors are most important to them in a shopping experience (non-grocery), and in a dining experience. The following table summarizes the results found. (Table 59)

	Shopping experience (non-grocery)	Dining out experience
Price	34.5%	11.5%
Convenience	12.1%	6.5%
Selection	12.3%	12.7%
Atmosphere	6.3%	16.1%
Location	8.0%	5.7%
Quality of goods/food	23.0%	41.1%
Other Factors	2.0%	2.9%
“I don’t go.”	0.5%	1.6%
Service	1.2%	2.0%

28. Over one-third of residents (38%, slightly higher than the 37% rate found in 2006) have attended at least one community-based meeting (school, church, town, fire hall etc.). This rate of community participation appears to be independent of age and gender, however, residents with higher education levels and from higher income households are significantly more likely to report to attend community-based meetings. (Table 60)
29. The majority of Jefferson County residents own their own homes (59%). Of the 33% who rent, slightly more than one-fourth (27%) reported that their rent has increased in the past six months, a rate that is decreased from the 33% of renters who reported rental fee increases in 2006. (Tables 61-62)
30. Jefferson County residents are more likely to have voted in the last local election than to have not (55% voted), and most commonly report to be “middle of the road” (46%), self-identifying as neither conservative or liberal, but if they indicated a political belief, are significantly more likely to be conservative than liberal (35% versus 18%). The distribution of political beliefs has remained very consistent across the years of completing this annual survey. (Tables 63-64)



## Section 3- Detailed Statistical Results

This section of the Report of Findings provides a detailed presentation of the results for each of the questions in the 2007 survey. The results for each of these survey questions are presented in this section of the report with the following organizational structure:

- (1) The results for each year that the question was asked are presented in a table to allow for an analysis of trends or changes.
- (2) A seven year average has been calculated (when possible) for comparison of the magnitude of the 2007 result to the average of the preceding seven years.
- (3) The 2007 results for most of these questions have been cross-tabulated by each of the demographic factors of gender, age, education level, and household income level (total of over 200 cross-tabulations). Significant correlations are highlighted in gray throughout. The key statistics against which the cross-tabulated results should be compared (the 2007 aggregate result) is highlighted in the "2007" column in each table and in larger bolded font. For further explanation of the statistical concepts of "Margin of Error" and "Statistical Significance," please refer to Appendix I – "Technical Comments."

For ease of use, survey questions have been organized into the following sections:

- Longevity of Living in Jefferson County (Tables 4-7)
- Quality of Life Issues – Eight Year Trends in Responses (Tables 8-9)
- Quality of Life Issues – More Detailed Investigation of Year 2007 Results (Tables 10-32)
- Technology-related Questions (Tables 33-35)
- Childcare Issues in Jefferson County (Tables 36-42)
- Higher Education in Jefferson County (Tables 43-45)
- Familiarity with The Center for Community Studies (Tables 46-47)
- Fort Drum Expansion Impact Upon Jefferson County (Tables 48-53)
- Miscellaneous "Life in Jefferson County" Results (Tables 54-65)

### Longevity of Living in Jefferson County

Table 4 – How long have you lived in Jefferson County?

How Long Lived Here:	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Years 1-7 Average
<1 Year	1.2%	3.2%	6.8%	3.2%	7.1%	4.0%	4.4%	4.8%	<b>4.3%</b>
1-3 Years	12.9%	14.9%	11.1%	12.6%	13.7%	9.1%	10.0%	14.6%	<b>12.0%</b>
4-6 Years	4.2%	8.4%	4.1%	6.1%	8.1%	10.0%	9.0%	8.9%	<b>7.1%</b>
7+ Years	81.7%	73.4%	77.9%	78.1%	71.1%	77.0%	76.6%	<b>71.8%</b>	<b>76.5%</b>

By Gender	% 7+ yrs
Males	72.6%
Females	70.8%

By Age	% 7+ yrs
18-29	57.1%
30-59	72.4%
60+	89.6%

By Education	% 7+ yrs
No College	87.6%
Some College	64.4%
4+ Year Degree	59.8%

By Income	% 7+ yrs
Less than \$25,000	86.6%
\$25,000-\$50,000	66.8%
More than \$50,000	69.1%

(If you have not yet visited the Technical Comments Appendix – the gray shading indicates that there is a statistically significant difference)

Table 5 – Do you expect that you will still be living in Jefferson County in 5 years?

Plan to Stay?	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Years 1-7 Average
Yes	78.1%	65.8%	73.0%	72.7%	66.1%	72.1%	74.2%	<b>74.3%</b>	<b>71.7%</b>
No	19.6%	28.8%	21.0%	22.6%	28.3%	19.4%	18.2%	17.8%	<b>22.6%</b>
Not Sure	2.3%	5.4%	6.0%	4.7%	5.6%	8.4%	7.6%	7.9%	<b>5.7%</b>

By Gender	% Yes
Males	74.9%
Females	73.7%

By Age	% Yes
18-29	52.7%
30-59	78.8%
60+	91.2%

By Education	% Yes
No College	86.0%
Some College	67.6%
4+ Year Degree	71.5%

By Income	% Yes
Less than \$25,000	86.7%
\$25,000-\$50,000	69.2%
More than \$50,000	73.4%

Table 6 – If you plan to be still living in Jefferson County in 5 years, what is the primary reason for staying?

Why Stay?	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Years 2-7 Average
Family		62.4%	70.2%	69.0%	72.3%	81.0%	70.0%	<b>69.9%</b>	<b>70.8%</b>
Employment		30.6%	19.0%	19.2%	14.8%	12.8%	14.2%	16.4%	<b>18.4%</b>
Other		7.0%	10.9%	11.8%	12.9%	6.1%	15.8%	13.7%	<b>10.8%</b>

Table 7 – If you do not plan to be still living in Jefferson County in 5 years, what is the primary reason for leaving?

Why Leave?	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Years 2-7 Average
Military		60.7%	62.6%	50.9%	29.7%	23.4%	32.5%	<b>55.9%</b>	<b>43.3%</b>
Employment		23.6%	11.6%	27.8%	27.5%	24.6%	30.3%	11.4%	<b>24.2%</b>
Other		15.7%	25.7%	21.3%	42.8%	52.0%	37.1%	32.7%	<b>32.4%</b>

## Quality of Life Issues in Jefferson County – Eight Year Trends in Responses

The shaded sets of adjacent cells in each of the following two tables are notable variations in responses of Jefferson County residents between earlier results and the current 2007 results. The larger font and bolded number in each row is the largest percentage found throughout the eight years for each survey question. For quick reference, considering the sample sizes collected each year in the Annual Survey of the Community, a difference of 6% or larger between any two years is considered statistically significant. For more detail regarding statistical significance, please refer to Appendix I.

Table 8 – *Trends in Issues in Jefferson County – Years 2000-2007*  
% Indicating “Getting Better” Each Year

Issue or Characteristic	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
1. Opportunities for youth	31	26	17	21	18	22	29	<b>33</b>
2. Cultural / entertainment opportunities	36	26	32	28	26	26	28	<b>42</b>
3. Cost of energy	3	2	<b>7</b>	1	2	2	1	2
4. Health care access	36	25	25	32	22	22	33	<b>37</b>
5. Health care quality	33	22	26	31	21	20	<b>35</b>	31
6. Access to higher education	<b>62</b>	45	50	48	41	34	43	49
7. Internet access	<b>75</b>	61	65	70	49	44	58	63
8. Recreational opportunities	<b>44</b>	37	35	36	27	29	37	41
9. Quality of the environment	<b>30</b>	23	19	24	22	22	23	21
10. Local government	<b>17</b>	10	12	14	13	12	9	12
11. Real estate taxes	<b>12</b>	5	5	6	5	6	5	4
12. The downtown of Watertown	<b>33</b>	25	22	25	16	22	27	26
13. Policing and crime control	35	39	31	39	33	19	<b>36</b>	30
14. Availability of good jobs	17	5	7	9	8	10	22	<b>31</b>
15. Shopping opportunities	51	40	30	39	38	46	81	<b>86</b>
16. Quality of K-12 education	<b>50</b>	31	33	37	31	31	38	41
17. The overall state of the local economy	28	9	12	13	12	15	35	<b>39</b>
18. The overall quality of life in the area	41	21	23	25	16	19	35	<b>47</b>
19. Availability of goods and services in the area			28	37	28	24	51	<b>70</b>
20. Availability of care for the elderly					15	15	<b>28</b>	19
21. Availability of housing						12	20	<b>29</b>

**Table 9 – Trends in Issues in Jefferson County – Years 2000-2007  
% Indicating “Getting Worse” Each Year**

Issue or Characteristic	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
1. Opportunities for youth	18	<b>32</b>	31	27	22	16	18	16
2. Cultural / entertainment opportunities	13	<b>21</b>	13	17	9	7	14	12
3. Cost of energy	77	84	65	77	68	78	<b>88</b>	77
4. Health care access	19	<b>29</b>	21	25	19	13	25	22
5. Health care quality	21	<b>25</b>	14	19	11	9	19	17
6. Access to higher education	3	8	6	9	4	5	<b>11</b>	7
7. Internet access	1	<b>14</b>	3	3	4	5	6	5
8. Recreational opportunities	10	<b>13</b>	12	10	8	7	11	10
9. Quality of the environment	20	20	16	<b>25</b>	10	16	24	25
10. Local government	23	<b>34</b>	28	31	24	19	29	24
11. Real estate taxes	41	55	51	55	47	39	58	<b>63</b>
12. The downtown of Watertown	39	45	<b>47</b>	38	45	42	38	42
13. Policing and crime control	14	14	10	11	8	18	18	<b>20</b>
14. Availability of good jobs	52	<b>81</b>	70	69	63	49	41	31
15. Shopping opportunities	13	19	22	<b>25</b>	10	6	5	5
16. Quality of K-12 education	9	<b>15</b>	8	15	5	7	13	10
17. The overall state of the local economy	31	<b>69</b>	58	61	49	32	33	25
18. The overall quality of life in the area	11	<b>30</b>	16	19	16	11	16	13
19. Availability of goods and services in the area			<b>16</b>	13	9	5	6	4
20. Availability of care for the elderly					15	16	17	<b>21</b>
21. Availability of housing						54	<b>57</b>	48

## Quality of Life Issues in Jefferson County – More Detailed Investigation of Year 2007 Results

Table 10 shows the detailed results for all 21 quality of life indicators recorded in 2007. The larger font and bolded number in each row is the largest result found for each survey question, providing an easy method to determine whether a quality of life indicator is perceived currently as getting better or worse, etc.

Table 10 – *Trends in Issues in Jefferson County – Year 2007*  
(table entries are %'s)

Issue or Characteristic	Getting Better	Staying the Same	Getting Worse	Don't Know
1. Opportunities for youth	33	<b>37</b>	16	14
2. Cultural / entertainment opportunities	<b>42</b>	40	12	6
3. Cost of energy	2	12	<b>77</b>	9
4. Health care access	<b>37</b>	33	22	8
5. Health care quality	31	<b>46</b>	17	7
6. Access to higher education	<b>49</b>	35	7	9
7. Internet access	<b>63</b>	20	5	12
8. Recreational opportunities	41	<b>44</b>	10	6
9. Quality of the environment	21	<b>47</b>	25	7
10. Local government	12	<b>47</b>	24	17
11. Real estate taxes	4	14	<b>63</b>	19
12. The downtown of Watertown	26	24	<b>42</b>	8
13. Policing and crime control	30	<b>42</b>	20	8
14. Availability of good jobs	<b>31</b>	29	31	8
15. Shopping opportunities	<b>86</b>	7	5	2
16. Quality of K-12 education	<b>41</b>	30	10	19
17. The overall state of the local economy	<b>39</b>	31	25	5
18. The overall quality of life in the area	<b>47</b>	37	13	3
19. Availability of goods and services in the area	<b>70</b>	24	4	2
20. Availability of care for the elderly	19	<b>35</b>	21	25
21. Availability of housing	29	17	<b>48</b>	6

Tables 11-31, shown on the following 5-6 pages, provide the greatest level of detail in results. In these 21 tables, the results for each of the quality of life indicators is shown for each year sampled (includes all possible responses to each survey question each year), along with cross-tabulations by four key demographic factors. By inspecting the results after cross-tabbing by any of these demographic factors the reader can better understand factors that may be significantly correlated with perceptions of quality of life characteristics of the county. Again, significant correlations are highlighted in gray. Finally, Table 32 shows the distribution of responses to an open-ended survey question asking the most important issue facing Jefferson County residents.

Table 11 - Opportunities for Youth	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Years 1-7 Average
Better	31.1%	25.9%	17.4%	21.4%	17.7%	22.4%	28.9%	<b>32.7%</b>	<b>23.5%</b>
Same	41.8%	35.1%	39.2%	36.9%	43.9%	47.3%	38.1%	37.3%	<b>40.3%</b>
Worse	18.0%	31.8%	31.1%	26.7%	22.2%	16.4%	18.1%	15.8%	<b>23.5%</b>
Don't Know	9.1%	7.2%	12.3%	15.0%	16.3%	14.0%	14.9%	14.2%	<b>12.7%</b>

By Gender	% Better
Males	30.5%
Females	35.0%

By Age	% Better
18-29	37.0%
30-59	31.1%
60+	31.3%

By Education	% Better
No College	32.7%
Some College	33.2%
4+ Year Degree	33.4%

By Income	% Better
Less than \$25,000	32.3%
\$25,000-\$50,000	27.9%
More than \$50,000	38.9%

Table 12 - Cultural/ Entertainment Opportunities	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Years 1-7 Average
Better	36.2%	26.1%	32.3%	28.4%	26.2%	25.5%	28.4%	<b>41.5%</b>	<b>29.0%</b>
Same	45.0%	48.3%	47.0%	48.0%	57.9%	56.9%	51.1%	40.0%	<b>50.6%</b>
Worse	13.3%	20.6%	13.5%	16.7%	9.2%	7.4%	13.7%	12.1%	<b>13.5%</b>
Don't Know	5.4%	5.0%	7.2%	6.9%	6.7%	10.2%	6.8%	6.3%	<b>6.9%</b>

By Gender	% Better
Males	42.1%
Females	40.9%

By Age	% Better
18-29	44.7%
30-59	41.0%
60+	38.7%

By Education	% Better
No College	37.3%
Some College	43.6%
4+ Year Degree	44.1%

By Income	% Better
Less than \$25,000	31.3%
\$25,000-\$50,000	42.4%
More than \$50,000	47.6%

Table 13 - Cost of Energy	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Years 1-7 Average
Better	2.8%	1.6%	6.9%	1.2%	1.7%	2.0%	1.5%	2.0%	<b>2.5%</b>
Same	12.8%	7.8%	17.4%	10.0%	21.2%	12.9%	5.8%	11.7%	<b>12.6%</b>
Worse	77.0%	83.8%	65.3%	76.7%	67.8%	78.0%	88.0%	<b>76.9%</b>	<b>76.7%</b>
Don't Know	7.4%	6.8%	10.4%	12.1%	9.3%	7.1%	4.7%	9.3%	<b>8.3%</b>

By Gender	% Worse
Males	75.7%
Females	78.3%

By Age	% Worse
18-29	59.7%
30-59	86.3%
60+	74.6%

By Education	% Worse
No College	76.4%
Some College	75.5%
4+ Year Degree	87.9%

By Income	% Worse
Less than \$25,000	80.2%
\$25,000-\$50,000	72.6%
More than \$50,000	86.0%

Table 14 - Healthcare Access	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Years 1-7 Average
Better	36.2%	25.2%	24.8%	31.5%	22.0%	21.7%	32.5%	<b>36.6%</b>	<b>27.7%</b>
Same	39.8%	40.9%	47.5%	35.8%	45.2%	54.6%	35.2%	33.3%	<b>42.7%</b>
Worse	18.8%	29.2%	21.4%	25.4%	19.5%	13.3%	25.0%	21.8%	<b>21.8%</b>
Don't Know	5.3%	4.7%	6.3%	7.3%	13.3%	10.4%	7.3%	8.3%	<b>7.8%</b>

By Gender	% Better
Males	35.5%
Females	37.8%

By Age	% Better
18-29	34.9%
30-59	34.3%
60+	45.0%

By Education	% Better
No College	36.1%
Some College	37.5%
4+ Year Degree	28.9%

By Income	% Better
Less than \$25,000	39.2%
\$25,000-\$50,000	34.5%
More than \$50,000	36.4%

Table 15 - Healthcare Quality	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Years 1-7 Average
Better	33.5%	21.9%	26.0%	31.4%	20.9%	19.8%	34.9%	<b>30.5%</b>	<b>26.9%</b>
Same	37.9%	48.1%	53.8%	43.2%	56.7%	58.4%	40.0%	45.8%	<b>48.3%</b>
Worse	21.4%	24.8%	14.1%	19.0%	10.5%	9.1%	18.8%	16.6%	<b>16.8%</b>
Don't Know	7.2%	5.2%	6.0%	6.5%	11.9%	12.6%	6.4%	7.0%	<b>8.0%</b>

By Gender	% Better
Males	26.8%
Females	34.6%

By Age	% Better
18-29	30.5%
30-59	25.0%
60+	45.6%

By Education	% Better
No College	29.9%
Some College	30.3%
4+ Year Degree	26.2%

By Income	% Better
Less than \$25,000	33.9%
\$25,000-\$50,000	31.0%
More than \$50,000	24.3%

Table 16 - Access to Higher Education	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Years 1-7 Average
Better	62.4%	45.1%	50.0%	47.9%	41.4%	33.7%	42.8%	<b>48.5%</b>	<b>46.2%</b>
Same	27.0%	42.2%	35.5%	36.5%	47.1%	54.7%	36.7%	34.8%	<b>40.0%</b>
Worse	3.4%	8.3%	6.3%	8.6%	4.4%	5.4%	11.5%	7.1%	<b>6.8%</b>
Don't Know	7.2%	4.4%	8.2%	7.0%	7.1%	6.3%	9.0%	9.5%	<b>7.0%</b>

By Gender	% Better
Males	50.0%
Females	46.9%

By Age	% Better
18-29	60.1%
30-59	40.2%
60+	55.4%

By Education	% Better
No College	50.5%
Some College	51.9%
4+ Year Degree	33.8%

By Income	% Better
Less than \$25,000	50.3%
\$25,000-\$50,000	48.4%
More than \$50,000	47.5%

Table 17 - Internet Access	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Years 1-7 Average
Better	74.7%	60.9%	64.7%	69.7%	49.0%	44.2%	57.9%	<b>62.7%</b>	<b>60.2%</b>
Same	8.0%	11.7%	18.6%	12.9%	31.4%	32.7%	22.9%	20.1%	<b>19.7%</b>
Worse	1.3%	14.5%	3.5%	3.3%	3.6%	4.6%	5.7%	4.8%	<b>5.2%</b>
Don't Know	16.1%	12.9%	13.3%	14.2%	16.0%	18.6%	13.5%	12.4%	<b>14.9%</b>

By Gender	% Better
Males	62.1%
Females	63.4%

By Age	% Better
18-29	74.0%
30-59	65.2%
60+	41.1%

By Education	% Better
No College	55.0%
Some College	69.3%
4+ Year Degree	62.1%

By Income	% Better
Less than \$25,000	58.5%
\$25,000-\$50,000	68.8%
More than \$50,000	62.6%

Table 18 - Recreational Opportunities	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Years 1-7 Average
Better	43.7%	36.6%	34.6%	36.5%	27.3%	29.4%	37.5%	<b>40.5%</b>	<b>35.1%</b>
Same	42.8%	46.2%	47.2%	50.2%	59.6%	57.7%	44.5%	43.8%	<b>49.7%</b>
Worse	9.6%	12.8%	12.5%	9.9%	7.9%	6.8%	11.4%	9.7%	<b>10.1%</b>
Don't Know	3.9%	4.4%	5.7%	3.5%	5.3%	6.2%	6.6%	6.0%	<b>5.1%</b>

By Gender	% Better
Males	41.1%
Females	39.8%

By Age	% Better
18-29	41.4%
30-59	39.9%
60+	40.7%

By Education	% Better
No College	39.0%
Some College	42.3%
4+ Year Degree	37.6%

By Income	% Better
Less than \$25,000	42.0%
\$25,000-\$50,000	42.3%
More than \$50,000	37.2%

Table 19 - Quality of the Environment	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Years 1-7 Average
Better	30.4%	22.9%	19.4%	24.1%	22.5%	21.7%	22.8%	<b>21.0%</b>	<b>23.4%</b>
Same	47.6%	54.2%	61.8%	45.8%	61.1%	55.5%	47.7%	46.7%	<b>53.4%</b>
Worse	19.7%	19.8%	16.0%	24.9%	10.2%	16.0%	23.8%	25.2%	<b>18.6%</b>
Don't Know	2.2%	3.1%	2.8%	5.2%	6.2%	6.8%	5.7%	7.1%	<b>4.6%</b>

By Gender	% Better
Males	22.8%
Females	19.1%

By Age	% Better
18-29	18.7%
30-59	20.0%
60+	26.4%

By Education	% Better
No College	21.7%
Some College	24.0%
4+ Year Degree	12.7%

By Income	% Better
Less than \$25,000	18.7%
\$25,000-\$50,000	22.6%
More than \$50,000	21.8%

Table 20 - Local Government	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Years 1-7 Average
Better	16.8%	10.4%	12.0%	13.7%	13.2%	11.8%	9.1%	<b>11.6%</b>	<b>12.4%</b>
Same	48.4%	47.4%	53.8%	41.3%	48.7%	53.4%	45.9%	47.4%	<b>48.4%</b>
Worse	22.7%	33.8%	27.8%	31.4%	23.5%	18.8%	28.6%	24.3%	<b>26.7%</b>
Don't Know	12.1%	8.4%	6.4%	13.6%	14.7%	16.0%	16.4%	16.7%	<b>12.5%</b>

By Gender	% Better
Males	9.1%
Females	14.2%

By Age	% Better
18-29	9.2%
30-59	8.6%
60+	22.8%

By Education	% Better
No College	14.4%
Some College	11.7%
4+ Year Degree	5.7%

By Income	% Better
Less than \$25,000	14.6%
\$25,000-\$50,000	9.2%
More than \$50,000	12.2%

Table 21 - Real Estate Taxes	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Years 1-7 Average
Better	11.6%	5.4%	4.6%	6.1%	5.2%	6.2%	5.5%	4.2%	<b>6.4%</b>
Same	30.5%	24.3%	22.9%	16.7%	24.7%	28.6%	20.3%	13.5%	<b>24.0%</b>
Worse	40.6%	54.6%	51.0%	54.8%	47.4%	38.8%	58.4%	<b>62.9%</b>	<b>49.4%</b>
Don't Know	17.3%	15.7%	21.6%	22.5%	22.6%	26.4%	15.8%	19.3%	<b>20.3%</b>

By Gender	% Worse
Males	66.7%
Females	58.8%

By Age	% Worse
18-29	49.1%
30-59	69.5%
60+	63.6%

By Education	% Worse
No College	66.3%
Some College	60.0%
4+ Year Degree	64.6%

By Income	% Worse
Less than \$25,000	62.9%
\$25,000-\$50,000	58.4%
More than \$50,000	72.5%

Table 22 - Downtown Watertown	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Years 1-7 Average
Better	33.0%	24.5%	22.1%	24.7%	15.6%	22.2%	26.7%	<b>26.1%</b>	<b>24.1%</b>
Same	25.2%	26.4%	26.1%	29.9%	31.1%	29.1%	28.6%	23.8%	<b>28.1%</b>
Worse	38.8%	45.2%	47.4%	37.9%	45.4%	41.8%	37.6%	42.4%	<b>42.0%</b>
Don't Know	3.0%	3.9%	4.4%	7.5%	7.9%	6.9%	7.1%	7.6%	<b>5.8%</b>

By Gender	% Better
Males	21.3%
Females	31.2%

By Age	% Better
18-29	33.1%
30-59	24.1%
60+	22.1%

By Education	% Better
No College	32.2%
Some College	21.6%
4+ Year Degree	21.6%

By Income	% Better
Less than \$25,000	31.1%
\$25,000-\$50,000	29.6%
More than \$50,000	17.2%

Table 23 - Policing and Crime Control	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Years 1-7 Average
Better	34.8%	39.1%	31.0%	38.9%	32.7%	18.9%	36.2%	<b>29.7%</b>	<b>33.1%</b>
Same	47.6%	40.6%	51.8%	42.2%	51.1%	53.9%	40.5%	42.1%	<b>46.8%</b>
Worse	13.8%	14.4%	10.4%	11.0%	8.3%	18.1%	17.7%	19.9%	<b>13.4%</b>
Don't Know	3.9%	5.9%	6.8%	7.8%	8.0%	9.2%	5.7%	8.3%	<b>6.8%</b>

By Gender	% Better
Males	28.5%
Females	31.1%

By Age	% Better
18-29	40.0%
30-59	26.3%
60+	25.2%

By Education	% Better
No College	31.9%
Some College	33.9%
4+ Year Degree	17.2%

By Income	% Better
Less than \$25,000	34.4%
\$25,000-\$50,000	32.5%
More than \$50,000	25.3%

Table 24 - Availability of Good Jobs	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Years 1-7 Average
Better	16.6%	4.5%	6.7%	9.2%	7.7%	9.9%	21.6%	<b>31.4%</b>	<b>10.9%</b>
Same	27.0%	10.9%	18.2%	16.4%	23.7%	35.5%	29.5%	29.0%	<b>23.0%</b>
Worse	52.1%	80.8%	69.6%	69.2%	62.8%	49.3%	41.1%	31.4%	<b>60.7%</b>
Don't Know	4.3%	3.8%	5.5%	5.2%	5.8%	5.4%	7.8%	8.1%	<b>5.4%</b>

By Gender	% Better
Males	28.1%
Females	35.0%

By Age	% Better
18-29	31.6%
30-59	32.5%
60+	28.3%

By Education	% Better
No College	35.2%
Some College	28.7%
4+ Year Degree	30.6%

By Income	% Better
Less than \$25,000	33.2%
\$25,000-\$50,000	24.8%
More than \$50,000	39.5%

Table 25 - Shopping Opportunities	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Years 1-7 Average
Better	51.0%	40.2%	30.1%	38.5%	37.6%	46.2%	80.9%	<b>85.5%</b>	<b>46.4%</b>
Same	34.1%	40.2%	46.0%	36.2%	46.3%	43.7%	11.7%	6.8%	<b>36.9%</b>
Worse	13.2%	18.6%	21.7%	24.6%	10.0%	6.1%	5.3%	5.4%	<b>14.2%</b>
Don't Know	1.6%	0.9%	2.2%	0.7%	6.2%	4.0%	2.1%	2.4%	<b>2.5%</b>

By Gender	% Better
Males	85.0%
Females	86.0%

By Age	% Better
18-29	78.7%
30-59	89.4%
60+	84.1%

By Education	% Better
No College	79.4%
Some College	88.9%
4+ Year Degree	91.1%

By Income	% Better
Less than \$25,000	80.5%
\$25,000-\$50,000	84.1%
More than \$50,000	92.4%

Table 26 - K-12 Education	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Years 1-7 Average
Better	49.6%	30.8%	32.8%	36.6%	30.9%	30.7%	37.8%	<b>40.8%</b>	<b>35.6%</b>
Same	25.1%	39.5%	43.8%	27.6%	40.2%	42.2%	29.0%	30.2%	<b>35.3%</b>
Worse	9.3%	15.3%	8.5%	15.0%	5.4%	7.5%	12.7%	10.3%	<b>10.5%</b>
Don't Know	16.1%	14.4%	15.0%	20.8%	23.5%	19.6%	20.5%	18.7%	<b>18.6%</b>

By Gender	% Better
Males	39.0%
Females	42.8%

By Age	% Better
18-29	36.7%
30-59	40.5%
60+	47.2%

By Education	% Better
No College	58.2%
Some College	33.9%
4+ Year Degree	21.7%

By Income	% Better
Less than \$25,000	46.4%
\$25,000-\$50,000	42.6%
More than \$50,000	34.2%

Table 27 - Overall State of the Local Economy	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Years 1-7 Average
Better	27.6%	9.2%	12.0%	12.7%	12.3%	15.1%	34.7%	<b>39.3%</b>	<b>17.7%</b>
Same	37.1%	18.6%	26.2%	23.4%	32.1%	45.5%	28.2%	30.5%	<b>30.2%</b>
Worse	31.5%	69.3%	58.5%	60.6%	48.7%	32.1%	32.6%	25.2%	<b>47.6%</b>
Don't Know	3.7%	3.0%	3.4%	3.3%	6.9%	7.3%	4.5%	5.0%	<b>4.6%</b>

By Gender	% Better
Males	41.3%
Females	37.1%

By Age	% Better
18-29	51.5%
30-59	35.5%
60+	33.0%

By Education	% Better
No College	36.2%
Some College	42.4%
4+ Year Degree	36.8%

By Income	% Better
Less than \$25,000	28.9%
\$25,000-\$50,000	33.6%
More than \$50,000	52.6%

Table 28 - Overall Quality of Life in Jefferson County	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Years 1-7 Average
Better	40.9%	20.7%	23.0%	25.5%	15.6%	18.6%	34.9%	<b>46.8%</b>	<b>25.6%</b>
Same	46.9%	46.4%	57.7%	52.7%	62.6%	67.0%	46.7%	37.3%	<b>54.3%</b>
Worse	10.8%	29.9%	16.2%	18.9%	16.5%	10.6%	15.7%	12.5%	<b>16.9%</b>
Don't Know	1.4%	3.0%	3.1%	2.9%	5.3%	3.8%	2.6%	3.4%	<b>3.2%</b>

By Gender	% Better
Males	46.2%
Females	47.4%

By Age	% Better
18-29	55.0%
30-59	41.8%
60+	49.2%

By Education	% Better
No College	47.1%
Some College	43.0%
4+ Year Degree	51.1%

By Income	% Better
Less than \$25,000	41.0%
\$25,000-\$50,000	44.4%
More than \$50,000	53.1%

Table 29 - Availability of Goods and Services	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Years 3-7 Average
Better			27.8%	36.9%	28.4%	24.1%	51.2%	<b>70.2%</b>	<b>33.7%</b>
Same			54.6%	48.8%	59.3%	67.1%	37.9%	24.1%	<b>53.5%</b>
Worse			15.9%	12.7%	8.6%	5.2%	6.0%	4.0%	<b>9.7%</b>
Don't Know			1.8%	1.6%	3.7%	3.7%	4.9%	1.7%	<b>3.1%</b>

By Gender	% Better
Males	70.4%
Females	70.1%

By Age	% Better
18-29	73.1%
30-59	71.7%
60+	62.5%

By Education	% Better
No College	56.2%
Some College	76.5%
4+ Year Degree	82.2%

By Income	% Better
Less than \$25,000	65.5%
\$25,000-\$50,000	66.2%
More than \$50,000	81.5%

Table 30 - Care for the Elderly	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Years 5-7 Average
Better					14.7%	15.2%	27.5%	<b>19.1%</b>	<b>19.1%</b>
Same					37.3%	41.0%	32.4%	35.3%	<b>36.9%</b>
Worse					14.6%	16.0%	16.9%	20.6%	<b>15.8%</b>
Don't Know					33.4%	27.9%	23.2%	25.1%	<b>28.2%</b>

By Gender	% Better
Males	18.5%
Females	19.7%

By Age	% Better
18-29	15.7%
30-59	16.4%
60+	31.0%

By Education	% Better
No College	31.3%
Some College	13.0%
4+ Year Degree	8.8%

By Income	% Better
Less than \$25,000	31.2%
\$25,000-\$50,000	19.0%
More than \$50,000	11.3%

Table 31 - Availability of Housing	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Years 5-7 Average
Better						11.8%	20.3%	<b>28.9%</b>	<b>16.1%</b>
Same						27.6%	15.2%	16.7%	<b>21.4%</b>
Worse						54.1%	57.3%	47.8%	<b>55.7%</b>
Don't Know						6.5%	7.2%	6.5%	<b>6.9%</b>

By Gender	% Better
Males	29.5%
Females	28.3%

By Age	% Better
18-29	29.0%
30-59	27.1%
60+	33.9%

By Education	% Better
No College	36.5%
Some College	25.7%
4+ Year Degree	22.0%

By Income	% Better
Less than \$25,000	30.5%
\$25,000-\$50,000	28.5%
More than \$50,000	29.3%

Table 32 - The most important issue facing residents of Jefferson County

Most Important Issue	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Employment, loss of jobs, etc.	-	48%	50%	37%	44%	30%	18%	18%
Housing	-	-	-	-	-	8%	17%	14%
Taxes	-	4%	10%	13%	14%	9%	11%	14%
Drug related problems	-	-	-	-	-	5%	3%	8%
Crime	-	-	-	-	-	5%	4%	6%
Economic decline, loss of industry, etc.	-	27%	10%	13%	10%	14%	9%	5%
Energy issues – cost and availability	-	-	-	-	-	-	13%	4%
Military/civilian relations	-	-	-	-	-	-	6%	3%
Healthcare issues	-	-	4%	5%	5%	3%	6%	3%
Education, problems with schools	-	3%	3%	8%	-	2%	3%	3%

## Technology-related Questions

Tables 33-35 show the results (both as trends over time as well as detailed cross-tabs with the 2007 data) for survey questions regarding Internet access and cell phone use.

Table 33 - Do you have Internet access – at either home or work or both?

Internet Access	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Years 3-7 Average
Yes			72.4%	77.1%	71.1%	78.6%	81.7%	<b>79.0%</b>	<b>76.2%</b>
No			27.6%	22.9%	28.9%	21.4%	18.3%	21.0%	<b>23.8%</b>

By Gender	% w/ Access
Males	81.9%
Females	75.9%

By Age	% w/ Access
18-29	93.0%
30-59	85.8%
60+	42.3%

By Education	% w/ Access
No College	69.8%
Some College	83.0%
4+ Year Degree	91.1%

By Income	% w/ Access
Less than \$25,000	51.6%
\$25,000-\$50,000	85.4%
More than \$50,000	93.7%

Table 34 - Where do you have Internet access?

Where Internet Access?	2007
Only at Home	<b>35.4%</b>
Only at Work	<b>3.2%</b>
Both Home and Work	<b>40.4%</b>
No access	21.0%

Table 35 - Do you personally own a cell phone?

Own cell phone?	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Years 6-7 Average
Yes						65.9%	71.2%	<b>77.1%</b>	<b>68.6%</b>
No						34.1%	28.8%	22.9%	<b>31.5%</b>

By Gender	% w/ Access
Males	76.3%
Females	78.0%

By Age	% w/ Access
18-29	91.8%
30-59	77.7%
60+	56.4%

By Education	% w/ Access
No College	74.6%
Some College	82.6%
4+ Year Degree	69.6%

By Income	% w/ Access
Less than \$25,000	66.1%
\$25,000-\$50,000	78.3%
More than \$50,000	86.7%

## Childcare Issues in Jefferson County

Table 36 - How many children under the age of 18 live in your household? (Note: weights have been applied to these results)

# children in household?	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Years 1-7 Average
0	63.5%	56.1%	54.2%	59.0%	56.6%	53.9%	50.4%	52.6%	<b>56.2%</b>
1	15.8%	20.0%	21.4%	15.3%	20.1%	16.6%	26.4%	<b>19.1%</b>	<b>19.4%</b>
2	13.4%	14.7%	17.6%	17.6%	12.9%	20.6%	15.7%	<b>17.6%</b>	<b>16.1%</b>
3	5.6%	6.2%	5.0%	5.5%	8.4%	7.4%	5.8%	<b>7.8%</b>	<b>6.3%</b>
4 or more	1.7%	3.0%	1.9%	2.5%	2.0%	1.5%	1.7%	<b>3.0%</b>	<b>2.0%</b>

Table 37 - If YES, you do have children in the household ... are you currently employed?

Among the 157 families reported to have children in the household ... "are you employed?"	2007
Yes, employed	<b>70.2%</b>
No, not employed	29.8%

By Gender	% Empl.
Males	83.8%
Females	56.9%

By Age	% Empl.
18-29	59.6%
30-59	77.4%
60+	20.0%

By Education	% Empl.
No College	59.4%
Some College	70.9%
4+ Year Degree	87.3%

By Income	% Empl.
Less than \$25,000	51.8%
\$25,000-\$50,000	60.5%
More than \$50,000	84.1%

(NOTE: small sample sizes for these screened cross-tabulations)

Table 38 - If YES, you both have children in the household and are employed (n=104, from the 157 households with children) ... for how many children do you use childcare services while at work?

# children for whom childcare services used? (among the 104 households who both have kids and are employed)	2007
0	67.6%
1	<b>17.4%</b>
2	<b>12.6%</b>
3	<b>2.4%</b>
4+	<b>0.0%</b>

Table 39 - Finally, childcare need status among Jefferson County adults:

Childcare needs:	Among Entire Jeff. Co. Adult Population	Among Jeff. Co. "Parent" Population
Have no children under 18 in the home	52.6%	---
Have children and ...		
Did not report childcare needs	0.9%	1.9%
Not employed	14.1%	29.8%
Employed, but use NO childcare services	21.9%	46.2%
Employed, and use childcare services	<b>10.5%</b>	<b>22.1%</b>

By Gender	% Use CC
Males	23.8%
Females	20.5%

By Age	% Use CC
18-29	20.4%
30-59	23.6%
60+	0.0%

By Education	% Use CC
No College	12.0%
Some College	25.2%
4+ Year Degree	33.7%

By Income	% Use CC
Less than \$25,000	23.2%
\$25,000-\$50,000	17.3%
More than \$50,000	27.9%

(NOTE: small sample sizes for these screened cross-tabulations, only among "parents")

Table 40 - If YES, you do use childcare ... are you satisfied with the source? (NOTE: sample size is small because of screening for: parent AND employed AND use childcare services, therefore, the sample size with Table 40 is among 29 surveyed households)

Satisfied with childcare services used?	2007
Yes (25 households)	<b>86.6%</b>
No (4 households)	13.4%

Table 41 - If YES, you do use childcare ... how much (per child) do you estimate that you spend in a typical week for childcare? (AGAIN NOTE: sample size is small because of screening for: parent AND employed AND use childcare services, therefore, the sample size with Table 41 is among 29 surveyed households)

Typical per child, per week, childcare cost:	2007
\$0	10.3%
\$1-\$50	21.8%
51-\$75	16.1%
\$76-\$100	38.2%
\$101-\$125	10.3%
\$126+	3.1%
Mean weekly cost <i>per child</i>	<b>\$70</b>
Median	\$72
Range	\$0-\$130
Standard Deviation	\$37
Mean weekly cost <i>per family</i> using childcare	<b>\$109</b>
Estimated Annual Cost <i>per family</i>	<b>\$5,668</b>
Estimated County Expenditure over \$25,000,000 annually	

Table 42 - If YES, you do use childcare ... how many days of work have you missed *in the past year* because you were unable to locate suitable childcare for your children? (ONE MORE TIME NOTE: sample size is small because of screening for: parent AND employed AND use childcare services, therefore, the sample size with Table 42 is among 29 surveyed households)

Days missed work:	2007
None	62.1%
One day	<b>7.3%</b>
2-5 days	<b>26.5%</b>
6-10 days	<b>2.0%</b>
11+ days	<b>2.0%</b>

## Higher Education in Jefferson County

Table 43 - Are you currently enrolled in college coursework?

College situation:	2007
Not in college now	86.1%
Yes, taking college coursework now ...	
At JCC	7.4%
Not at JCC (taking online courses elsewhere)	5.0%
Not at JCC (taking traditional courses elsewhere)	1.4%

Table 44 - **Among those not attending JCC at this time, have you considered attending JCC at any point in the past three years?**

Considered attending JCC?	2007
No.	59.0%
Yes, I am considering now.	18.5%
Yes, I considered in the past 3 years, but not right now.	22.6%

Table 45 - Which of the following best describes your current career plans?

Career plans?	2007
"I want a new career in the next 5 years."	25.2%
"I want a new job in the same career field in the next 5 years."	21.1%
"I have no interest in a job/career change."	53.7%

## Familiarity with *The Center for Community Studies*

Table 46 - Have you ever heard of The Center for Community Studies at JCC before this survey?

Heard of <i>The Center</i> ?	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Years 5-7 Average
Yes					40.0%	32.5%	34.3%	<b>33.4%</b>	<b>35.6%</b>
No					60.0%	67.5%	65.7%	66.6%	<b>64.4%</b>

By Gender	% Yes
Males	28.9%
Females	38.2%

By Age	% Yes
18-29	14.8%
30-59	37.3%
60+	47.8%

By Education	% Yes
No College	24.9%
Some College	33.6%
4+ Year Degree	50.7%

By Income	% Yes
Less than \$25,000	25.9%
\$25,000-\$50,000	30.8%
More than \$50,000	43.6%

Table 47 - Have you ever heard of this annual survey before the call this evening?

Heard of this survey?	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Years 1-7 Average
Yes	33.9%	27.8%	20.1%	22.2%	24.4%	23.7%	26.3%	<b>30.0%</b>	<b>25.5%</b>
No	66.1%	72.2%	79.9%	77.8%	75.6%	76.3%	73.7%	70.0%	<b>74.5%</b>

By Gender	% Yes
Males	24.0%
Females	36.4%

By Age	% Yes
18-29	13.3%
30-59	32.1%
60+	46.7%

By Education	% Yes
No College	27.3%
Some College	32.8%
4+ Year Degree	28.7%

By Income	% Yes
Less than \$25,000	30.5%
\$25,000-\$50,000	29.0%
More than \$50,000	32.2%

## Fort Drum Expansion Impact Upon Jefferson County

Table 48 - "The presence of the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division at Fort Drum since 1985 has improved the overall quality of life of Jefferson County citizens."

Fort Drum since 1985 has (+) Quality of Life in Jeff. Co.	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Years 4-7 Average
Strongly Agree				36.6%	40.4%	35.9%	38.2%	<b>39.0%</b>	<b>37.8%</b>
Agree				44.8%	42.4%	41.3%	37.9%	<b>36.3%</b>	<b>41.6%</b>
Disagree				6.2%	8.3%	11.5%	12.0%	9.6%	<b>9.5%</b>
Strongly Disagree				0.9%	0.6%	3.3%	3.9%	5.6%	<b>2.2%</b>
No Opinion/Neutral				11.4%	8.3%	8.0%	8.1%	9.5%	<b>9.0%</b>

By Gender	% A+SA
Males	73.2%
Females	77.4%

By Age	% A+SA
18-29	83.6%
30-59	69.9%
60+	78.9%

By Education	% A+SA
No College	66.2%
Some College	80.6%
4+ Year Degree	80.4%

By Income	% A+SA
Less than \$25,000	67.6%
\$25,000-\$50,000	75.7%
More than \$50,000	82.9%

Table 49 - How has the recent growth from 2003-2007 of Fort Drum impacted the overall economy and job/financial health of Jefferson County residents?

Fort Drum impact since 2003 on Overall Jeff. Co. Economy:	2006	2007
Very Positively	34.3%	<b>29.5%</b>
Positively	43.8%	<b>48.2%</b>
Negatively	8.2%	7.2%
Very Negatively	1.9%	2.4%
No Opinion/Neutral	11.8%	12.7%

By Gender	% P+VP
Males	79.2%
Females	76.1%

By Age	% P+VP
18-29	72.8%
30-59	77.2%
60+	85.7%

By Education	% P+VP
No College	72.4%
Some College	81.2%
4+ Year Degree	81.2%

By Income	% P+VP
Less than \$25,000	77.5%
\$25,000-\$50,000	73.8%
More than \$50,000	86.9%

Table 50 - How has the recent growth from 2003-2007 of Fort Drum impacted your personal job/financial health?

Fort Drum Recent Growth - Impact on Your Personal Job/Financial Health?	2006	2007
Very Positively	20.7%	<b>12.8%</b>
Positively	27.2%	<b>27.9%</b>
Negatively	7.0%	5.0%
Very Negatively	2.1%	2.1%
No Opinion/Neutral	43.0%	52.2%

By Gender	% P+VP
Males	43.0%
Females	38.2%

By Age	% P+VP
18-29	44.9%
30-59	45.3%
60+	22.1%

By Education	% P+VP
No College	39.4%
Some College	40.6%
4+ Year Degree	43.2%

By Income	% P+VP
Less than \$25,000	30.9%
\$25,000-\$50,000	43.0%
More than \$50,000	47.0%

Table 51 - How has the recent growth from 2003-2007 of Fort Drum impacted the overall quality of life of Jefferson County residents?

Fort Drum Recent Growth - Impact on Overall Quality of Life in Jeff. Co.	2006	2007
Very Positively	25.5%	<b>15.6%</b>
Positively	47.0%	<b>51.2%</b>
Negatively	11.7%	10.8%
Very Negatively	3.6%	2.4%
No Opinion/Neutral	12.2%	20.0%

By Gender	% P+VP
Males	62.4%
Females	71.6%

By Age	% P+VP
18-29	66.9%
30-59	66.3%
60+	68.1%

By Education	% P+VP
No College	62.0%
Some College	71.8%
4+ Year Degree	64.3%

By Income	% P+VP
Less than \$25,000	64.0%
\$25,000-\$50,000	64.7%
More than \$50,000	73.2%

Table 52 - Is your residence in Jefferson County related to either civilian or military employment at Fort Drum, either by you or a family member?

Residence related to Fort Drum?	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Years 1-7 Average
Yes	17.7%	24.8%	25.0%	26.3%	25.3%	21.7%	23.8%	<b>26.7%</b>	<b>23.5%</b>
No	82.3%	75.2%	75.0%	73.7%	74.7%	78.3%	76.2%	73.3%	<b>76.5%</b>

Table 53 - Is anyone living in your household Active Military?

Active Military in household?	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Years 6-7 Average
Yes – me						10.2%	3.9%	<b>7.7%</b>	<b>7.1%</b>
Yes – but not me						11.5%	10.1%	<b>14.7%</b>	<b>10.8%</b>
No active military						78.3%	86.0%	77.5%	<b>82.2%</b>

## Miscellaneous “Life in Jefferson County” Results

Table 54 - How many times have you crossed the border to eastern Ontario in the past year?

Canada Visits	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Years 1-7 Average
0	38.7%	33.0%	49.5%	49.3%	48.2%	56.2%	65.6%	64.0%	<b>48.6%</b>
1-2 times	26.6%	36.2%	24.9%	23.6%	25.0%	21.7%	20.6%	<b>17.8%</b>	<b>25.5%</b>
3-5 times	15.4%	11.7%	12.6%	13.1%	13.3%	9.3%	5.6%	<b>8.8%</b>	<b>11.6%</b>
6+ times	19.4%	19.1%	12.9%	14.0%	13.5%	12.9%	8.2%	<b>9.3%</b>	<b>14.3%</b>

By Gender	% Visit at least once
Males	41.4%
Females	30.2%

By Age	% Visit at least once
18-29	40.4%
30-59	32.7%
60+	39.2%

By Education	% Visit at least once
No College	27.8%
Some College	37.8%
4+ Year Degree	52.7%

By Income	% Visit at least once
Less than \$25,000	25.7%
\$25,000-\$50,000	39.2%
More than \$50,000	44.6%

Table 55 - Estimate how many hours per month you volunteer for community service activities such as church, school and youth activities, charitable organizations, local government, boards, etc.

Volunteer Hours per Month	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Years 2-7 Average
Mean		7.1	9.4	9.4	6.8	6.6	10.2	<b>7.0</b>	<b>8.25</b>
Median		2.0	2.0	3.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.0	
Standard Deviation		16.7	22.1	19.3	12.2	13.3	18.9	16.9	
Range		0-120	0-250	0-150	0-80	0-100	0-160	0-170	

By Gender	Mean
Males	5.5
Females	8.5

By Age	Mean
18-29	4.9
30-59	7.7
60+	7.7

By Education	Mean
No College	5.3
Some College	6.5
4+ Year Degree	11.3

By Income	Mean
Less than \$25,000	7.1
\$25,000-\$50,000	6.1
More than \$50,000	6.6

Table 56 - What is your primary source of information about local news?

Source of Local News	2007
Watertown TV	54.8%
Watertown Daily Times	18.9%
Internet	17.4%
Radio	3.5%
Syracuse TV	2.2%
Friends	1.9%
Weekly NP	1.1%
Other	18.9%

Table 57 - Do you support or oppose developing wind farms as a renewable energy source in the North Country?

Support or Oppose Wind Farms?	2007
Strongly support	<b>47.6%</b>
Somewhat support	<b>32.8%</b>
Somewhat oppose	5.4%
Strongly oppose	3.0%
No opinion/Not sure	11.2%

By Gender	% support
Males	80.4%
Females	80.5%

By Age	% support
18-29	78.7%
30-59	82.2%
60+	78.1%

By Education	% support
No College	77.8%
Some College	81.8%
4+ Year Degree	83.9%

By Income	% support
Less than \$25,000	82.4%
\$25,000-\$50,000	78.3%
More than \$50,000	85.5%

Table 58 - Do you currently have a compact fluorescent light bulb (the curly ones) in any light fixture in your home?

Compact Fluorescent light bulb?	2007
Yes	<b>57.3%</b>
No	42.0%
Not sure	0.7%

By Gender	% Yes
Males	56.7%
Females	57.9%

By Age	% Yes
18-29	62.4%
30-59	55.8%
60+	54.5%

By Education	% Yes
No College	56.2%
Some College	65.2%
4+ Year Degree	42.1%

By Income	% Yes
Less than \$25,000	44.9%
\$25,000-\$50,000	61.0%
More than \$50,000	63.0%

Table 59 - What is most important to you in a ...

	Shopping experience (non-grocery)	Dining out experience
Price	34.5%	11.5%
Convenience	12.1%	6.5%
Selection	12.3%	12.7%
Atmosphere	6.3%	16.1%
Location	8.0%	5.7%
Quality of goods/food	23.0%	41.1%
Other Factors	2.0%	2.9%
"I don't go."	0.5%	1.6%
Service	1.2%	2.0%

Table 60 - How often have you gone to a community-based meeting in the past year? (i.e. school board, town board, public or church committee, town hall/fire hall meetings, etc.)

Go to community-based meetings?	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Years 1-7 Average
Never							63.1%	62.1%	<b>63.1%</b>
Once							9.9%	<b>7.8%</b>	<b>9.9%</b>
2-5 times							13.3%	<b>17.9%</b>	<b>13.3%</b>
6+ times							13.7%	<b>12.1%</b>	<b>13.7%</b>

By Gender	% Attend
Males	35.9%
Females	40.0%

By Age	% Attend
18-29	39.7%
30-59	36.9%
60+	38.0%

By Education	% Attend
No College	28.5%
Some College	41.1%
4+ Year Degree	48.5%

By Income	% Attend
Less than \$25,000	27.1%
\$25,000-\$50,000	32.7%
More than \$50,000	53.4%

Table 61 - Do you rent or own your home?

Rent or own?	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Years 1-7 Average
Rent						30.5%	30.5%	33.3%	<b>30.5%</b>
Own						65.6%	64.7%	<b>58.9%</b>	<b>65.2%</b>
Neither						3.9%	4.8%	7.8%	<b>4.4%</b>

By Gender	% Own
Males	59.9%
Females	57.9%

By Age	% Own
18-29	25.7%
30-59	66.4%
60+	82.9%

By Education	% Own
No College	64.9%
Some College	50.0%
4+ Year Degree	69.1%

By Income	% Own
Less than \$25,000	43.7%
\$25,000-\$50,000	52.7%
More than \$50,000	76.1%

Table 62 - If you rent, has your rent increased in the past six months? If so, has it caused you to move?

Rent increased?	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Years 1-7 Average
Yes-caused me to move						8.2%	4.9%	<b>8.0%</b>	<b>6.6%</b>
Yes-but I haven't moved						13.3%	28.1%	<b>19.0%</b>	<b>20.7%</b>
No-hasn't gone up						78.5%	67.0%	73.0%	<b>72.8%</b>

By Gender	% Rent Inc.
Males	32.1%
Females	21.2%

By Age	% Rent Inc.
18-29	27.5%
30-59	28.3%
60+	17.1%

By Education	% Rent Inc.
No College	13.8%
Some College	27.8%
4+ Year Degree	48.0%

By Income	% Rent Inc.
Less than \$25,000	24.4%
\$25,000-\$50,000	30.0%
More than \$50,000	28.0%

Table 63 - Did you vote in the last local election?

Vote in last local election?	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Years 6-7 Average
Yes						60.7%	49.8%	<b>54.6%</b>	<b>55.3%</b>
No						39.3%	50.2%	45.4%	<b>44.8%</b>

By Gender	% Yes
Males	59.6%
Females	49.3%

By Age	% Yes
18-29	35.0%
30-59	56.0%
60+	77.7%

By Education	% Yes
No College	51.6%
Some College	56.1%
4+ Year Degree	57.0%

By Income	% Yes
Less than \$25,000	48.0%
\$25,000-\$50,000	48.9%
More than \$50,000	65.0%

Table 64 - How would you classify your political beliefs?

Political beliefs:	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Years 6-7 Average
Very Conservative						6.3%	8.4%	<b>8.5%</b>	<b>7.4%</b>
Moderately Conservative						29.1%	29.8%	<b>26.7%</b>	<b>29.5%</b>
Middle of the Road						43.2%	40.4%	46.5%	<b>41.8%</b>
Moderately Liberal						17.8%	14.7%	<b>13.1%</b>	<b>16.3%</b>
Very Liberal						3.7%	6.7%	<b>5.2%</b>	<b>5.2%</b>

By Gender	% Cons.	% Lib.
Males	42.9%	13.2%
Females	26.8%	23.8%

By Age	% Cons.	% Lib.
18-29	30.5%	19.5%
30-59	37.6%	16.6%
60+	34.8%	21.5%

By Education	% Cons.	% Lib.
No College	30.7%	13.2%
Some College	36.2%	15.5%
4+ Year Degree	41.5%	35.0%

By Income	% Cons.	% Lib.
Less than \$25,000	29.2%	19.0%
\$25,000-\$50,000	28.3%	20.0%
More than \$50,000	47.7%	16.9%

Table 65 – Highest Levels of Formal Education Among Sampled Jefferson County Adults

Educational Attainment:	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Years 1-7 Average
High School Graduate	35.9%	33.7%	34.4%	35.1%	32.4%	33.5%	36.9%	37.1%	<b>34.6%</b>
Some College Coursework	37.7%	44.5%	40.3%	41.0%	41.8%	43.2%	37.1%	44.9%	<b>40.8%</b>
4+ Year Degree	26.4%	21.8%	25.2%	23.9%	25.8%	23.4%	25.9%	18.0%	<b>24.6%</b>

## **Section 4 – Final Comments**

This report is a presentation of the information collected from 382 telephone interviews conducted during the evenings of April 2-5, 2007 with comparisons to similar annual surveys completed in 2000-2006. The Center for Community Studies exists to engage in a variety of community-based research activities, and to promote the productive discussion of ideas and issues of significance to our community. As such, the results of this survey are available for use by any citizen or organization in the community. If you use information from this survey, we simply ask that you acknowledge the source.

These interviews produced a large volume of data, which can be analyzed and assessed in a number of different ways. **Please contact The Center for Community Studies for specific analyses.** Additionally, we are available to make presentations of these survey findings to community groups and organizations upon request. Please contact::

The Center for Community Studies  
Room 2-013  
1220 Coffeen Street  
Watertown, NY 13601  
Telephone: (315) 786-2488 or (315) 786-2489

Joel LaLone, Research Coordinator  
Denise Young, Director

[jlalone@sunyjefferson.edu](mailto:jlalone@sunyjefferson.edu)  
[dyoung@sunyjefferson.edu](mailto:dyoung@sunyjefferson.edu)

[www.sunyjefferson.edu/ccs/ccs.html](http://www.sunyjefferson.edu/ccs/ccs.html)

The Ninth Annual Survey of the Community is tentatively scheduled for the first week of April 2008.

# **Appendix I - Technical Comments – Assistance in Interpretation of these Results**

*(For the Statistically Interested)*

In a typical year, over 200 copies of this report are produced and disseminated for free to citizens of Northern New York by The Center for Community Studies. This wide distribution, coupled with the report being freely available as a pdf file at the Jefferson Community College website, result with a very wide array of readers – who, no doubt, have a very wide array of statistical backgrounds. The following comments are provided to give guidance for interpretation of the presented findings so that readers with less-than-current statistical training might maximize the use of the information contained in the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Survey.

Recall that the margin of error for this survey has been stated as approximately  $\pm 4$  to  $\pm 5$  percentage points. Therefore, when a percentage is observed in one of the following tables, the appropriate interpretation is that we are 95% confident that if all Jefferson County adult residents were surveyed (rather than just the 382 that were actually surveyed), the percentage that would result for all residents would be within  $\pm 4$  to  $\pm 5$  percentage points of the sample percentage that we calculated in this study. For example, in Table 17 on page \_\_\_\_\_, it can be observed that 32.7% of our sample in 2007 reported that they believe that opportunities for youth have *gotten better* in the region in the past year. With this sample result we can infer with 95% confidence (only a 5% chance that it will not be true) that if all Jefferson County adults were asked – somewhere between 28.2% and 37.2% of the population of approximately 80,000 adults in Jefferson County believe that opportunities for youth have *gotten better* in the region in the past year (used a margin of error of  $\pm 4.5\%$ ). This resulting interval (28.2%-37.2%) is known as a 95% Confidence Interval. The consumer of this report should use this pattern when attempting to generalize any of these survey findings to the entire adult population of Jefferson County.

As has been previously mentioned, the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Survey report investigates for significant factors that may be correlated with various quality-of-life indicators. The statistical techniques that will be applied to identify statistically significant relationships or differences will depend upon the structure of each variable (survey question) and will include Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient  $r$ , the Independent Two Sample t-Test, Analysis of Variance (ANOVA), a z-test for Binomial Proportions, a Poisson Test, and the  $\chi^2$  Test for Independence. A test or correlation that results with  $p < 0.05$  will be considered statistically significant.

A comment or two regarding “statistical significance” could help readers of varying quantitative backgrounds most appropriately interpret the results of what has been statistically analyzed. Because the data for the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Survey is based on a *sample* of 382 adult residents, as opposed to obtaining information from every single adult resident in Jefferson County, there must be a method of determining whether an observed relationship or difference in the *sample* survey data is likely to continue to hold true if every adult resident of the county were, in fact, interviewed. To make this determination, tests of statistical significance are standard practice in evaluating sample survey data. For example, if the *sample* data shows that female residents are more likely to report that Opportunities for Youth are getting better in Jefferson County than male residents (35.0% vs. 30.5%, respectively, Table 17 on page \_\_\_\_\_ again), the researcher would want to know if this greater satisfaction with improving opportunities for youth would still be present if they interviewed every Jefferson County adult rather than just the sample of 382 adults who were actually interviewed. To answer this question, the researcher uses a test of statistical significance. The outcome of a statistical significance test will be that the result is either “not statistically significant” or the result is “statistically significant.”

The meaning of “not statistically significant” is that if the sample were repeated many more times (in this case that would mean many more different groups of  $n=382$  randomly selected adults from the approximately 80,000 adults in Jefferson County), then the results of these samples would not consistently show that female residents are more likely to report that Opportunities for Youth are getting better in Jefferson County than male residents; some samples might have females higher and some have males higher. In this case, the researcher could not report *with high levels of confidence* that the female satisfaction rate is statistically significantly different than the male rate. Rather, the difference found within the one actually selected sample of size  $n=382$  Jefferson County residents would be interpreted as small enough that it could be due simply to the random chance of sampling – *not statistically significant*.

Conversely, the meaning of “statistically significant” is that if the sample were repeated many more times, then the results of these samples would consistently show that female Jefferson County adults are more likely to report that Opportunities for Youth are getting better than males, and further, if every adult were interviewed, we are confident that the population “perceived as getting better” rate among females would be higher than the rate among males. One can never be 100% certain (or confident) that the result of a sample will indicate appropriately whether the population percentages are, in fact, statistically significantly different from one another or not. However, the standard confidence level is 95% (as it is with the previously described Confidence Interval) - meaning that the observed sample difference would also be found in 95 out of 100 random samples of similar size n. The interpretation of a “statistically significant” difference is that it is so large that there is a probability of less than 5% that this difference occurred simply due to the random chance of sampling – instead, it is considered a “real” difference. In statistical vocabulary and notation this would be represented as a p-value of less than 5% ( $p < 0.05$ ).

Note should be made between the analyses that included all 382 sampled residents versus those that involved questions that were only asked of certain subgroups (i.e. only parents asked). With only 157 persons with children under the age of 18 living in their home sampled in this study, and then partitioning by levels of some other factor such as household income level, sample sizes within specific factor/level combinations can become quite small. With these small sample sizes, extremely large sample differences must be found to be considered statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ). For this reason, as well as to condense the voluminous amount of data and statistics that are included in these tables into a manageable and useful size, most of the categorical variables have been collapsed throughout any following correlational analyses. For example, annual household income levels have been collapsed into the following three categories: Less than \$25,000, \$25,000-\$50,000, and Over \$50,000. Another caution: the statistics reported in the correlative tables (correlating with Gender, Age, etc.) are percentages of the sampled subgroups. To determine the sample size for each subgroup – to avoid over interpretation – the reader should refer to the preceding socio-demographic table (Table 2) that provide counts, or sample sizes, as well as Table 4, below. Again, findings should be considered with sample sizes in mind. The statistical tests of significance take into consideration these varying sample sizes.

The following sample sizes were collected within each of the four key demographic variable subgroups:

Sample Sizes Within Each Socio-demographic Factor Subgroup

<b>Gender</b>	<b>n</b>
Males	130
Females	252

<b>Age</b>	<b>n</b>
18-29	53
30-59	237
60+	92

<b>Education</b>	<b>n</b>
No College	137
Some College	164
4+ Year Degree	68

<b>Income</b>	<b>n</b>
Less than \$25,000	96
\$25,000-\$50,000	139
More than \$50,000	115

Finally, the reader can observe highlighted results in each cross-tabulation table by noting the shaded cells – shaded in gray. The shaded cells designate statistically significant relationships. To determine which differences and relationships are, in fact, statistically significant (recall, again that this means a difference or relationship that is large or strong enough to be 95% confident that it is not simply due to the random chance of sampling based upon the sizes of the selected sample) the 5% significance level has been used ( $p < 0.05$ ). Note that in Table 17, it should be concluded that there is not a statistically significant relationship between Gender and perception of Opportunities for Youth – the 35.0% versus 30.5% are not far enough apart to be considered statistically significant (the cells are not shaded gray).

# **Appendix II – The Survey Instrument**

# Community Survey 2007

Good evening. My name is (first name), I am a student at Jefferson Community College, how are you doing this evening (afternoon)? Tonight I am calling for the Center for Community Studies at JCC. We are conducting the eighth annual survey of the community; we are interested in your opinions about the quality of life in Northern New York. Do you have a few minutes to do a survey for us (or, "help us out")?

If **NO** . . . Might there be another adult in the home who might wish to participate or is there a more convenient time to call?

If **YES** . . . (First verify that the person is 18 years old.) Great, well, let's begin.

*Our first few questions are about the choice to live in Jefferson County*

1. How long have you lived in Jefferson County? (**CHECK ONE.**)

< 1 year (1)     1-3 years (2)     4-7 years (3)     > 7 years (4)

2. Do you expect you will still be living in Jefferson County in 5 years? (**CHECK ONE.**)

yes (1)     no (2)     not sure (3)

3. If **yes**, reasons:     "family, it is home, etc."(1)     work, business related (2)  
 other: explain (3) \_\_\_\_\_

4. If **no**, reasons:     military related (1)     other employment related (2)  
 other: explain (3) \_\_\_\_\_

*Next, I'm going to read you a list of issues facing the county please tell us whether in your opinion in the past year, the TREND has gotten Better, stayed about the Same, or gotten Worse.*

Issue	What is the TREND in past year?			
	Better	Same	Worse	Don't Know; Not Sure
5. Opportunities for youth				
6. Cultural / entertainment opportunities				
7. Cost of energy				
8. Health care access				
9. Health care quality				
10. Access to higher education				
11. Internet access				
12. Recreational opportunities				
13. Quality of the environment				
14. Local government				
15. Real estate taxes				
16. The downtown of Watertown				
17. Policing and crime control				
18. Availability of good jobs				
19. Shopping opportunities				
20. Quality of k-12 education				
21. The overall state of the local economy				
22. The overall quality of life in the area				
23. Availability of goods/services in area				
24. Availability of care for the elderly.				
25. Availability of housing				

**I have a few more *Quality of Life* questions about Jefferson County ...**

26. What do you think is the most important issue facing the **RESIDENTS** of Jefferson County at the present time?  
*(Open ended question, write their answer in the space provided on the coding form. DO NOT read the list below, they are simply examples if the interviewee needs prompting).*

1. Crime	7. Inefficient, ineffective government	13. Overall depressed economy
2. Drug, alcohol problems	8. Intolerance	14. Taxes
3. Economic decline (loss of industry, etc.)	9. "Isolation," lack of cult/recre/shop opps	15. Youth related issues
4. Education, problems with schools	10. Lack of "community vision"	16. Energy issues (cost, availability)
5. Environmental issues	11. Employment issues, loss of jobs, etc.	17. Other: (identify)
6. Health care issues	12. Military/civilian relations	18. Housing

27. What is the **one** best aspect of living in Jefferson County? (open-ended, briefly record answer on coding form)  
 28. What is the **one** main drawback of living in Jefferson County? (open-ended, briefly record ans. on coding form)

*The next questions are related to your use of technology.*

29. Do you have access to the Internet at either home or work? **H(1) W(2) Both(3) Neither(4)**  
 30. Do you personally have a cell phone? **Y(1) N(2)**

*We now have some questions involving a variety of aspects of living in our county.*

31. How many times have you crossed the border to eastern Ontario during the past year? (**CHECK ONE**)  
 \_\_\_none (1) \_\_\_1 or 2 times (2) \_\_\_3-5 times (3) \_\_\_more than 5 times (4)

32. Please estimate how many hours per month that you volunteer for community service activities such as church, school and youth activities, charitable organizations, local government boards, and so forth. (**record number of hours**) \_\_\_\_\_ hours

33. What is your **PRIMARY (only one!)** source of information about **LOCAL** news/events?  
 \_\_\_ Watertown Daily Times (1) \_\_\_ A Syracuse newspaper (5) \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_ (9)  
 \_\_\_ A Watertown television station (2) \_\_\_ Radio (6)  
 \_\_\_ Internet (Newzjunky, TV7...) (3) \_\_\_ Friends and acquaintances (7)  
 \_\_\_ A Syracuse television station (4) \_\_\_ A weekly newspaper (8)

34. Do you support or oppose developing windfarms as a renewable energy source in the North Country?  
 Strongly support (1) Somewhat support (2) Somewhat oppose (3) Strongly oppose (4) no opinion/not sure (5)

35. Do you currently have a compact fluorescent light bulb (**the curly ones**) in any light fixture in your home?  
 Yes (1) No (2) Not sure (3)

What is most important to you in a ...	Choose ONE characteristic for each experience:							
	Price	Convenience (easy in-n-out)	Selection	Atmosphere	Location	Quality (of goods or food)	Other Factor (specify)	Don't Go
36. SHOPPING experience (non-grocery)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
37. DINING OUT experience	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

38. How often have you gone to a community-based meeting in the past year? (*i.e. school board, town board, public or church committee, town hall/fire hall meeting etc.*)  
 \_\_\_never (1) \_\_\_once (2) \_\_\_2-5 times (3) \_\_\_6 or more times (4)

39. Do you rent or own your home? **Rent(1) Own(2) Neither(3)**  
 40. (If RENT) Has your rent increased in the past 6 months? **Yes(CausedMove)(1) Yes(NoMove)(2) No(3)**

41. How many children under the age of 18 live in your household? \_\_\_\_\_ (If NONE, skip to #47)  
*If at least one child:*
42. Are you currently employed? **Y(1)** **N(2)** (If NO, skip to #47)
43. For how many of your children do you use childcare services while at work? \_\_\_\_ (If NONE, skip to #47)
44. Are you satisfied childcare source? **Y(1)** **N(2)**
45. How much do you estimate that you spend in a typical week for childcare? \_\_\_\_\_
46. How many days of work have you missed **in the past year** because you were unable to locate suitable childcare for your children?  
 \_\_\_none (0) \_\_\_one day (1) \_\_\_2-5 days (2) \_\_\_6-10 days (3) \_\_\_11 or more days (4)

**Next, we have some questions related to the college.**

47. Are you currently enrolled in college coursework? (circle all)  
 \_\_\_ No(1) \_\_\_ Yes-at JCC(2) \_\_\_ Yes-elsewhere-ONLINE(3) \_\_\_ Yes-elsewhere-NOT ONLINE(4)  
 go to #48 go to #51 go to #48 go to #48
48. Have you considered attending JCC at any point in the past 3 years?  
 \_\_\_ No(1) \_\_\_ Yes-I am considering now(2) \_\_\_ Yes-I considered in the past(3)  
 go to #51 go to #49 go to #49
49. If YES, you have considered attending JCC, was it full time or part time? **F(1)** **P(2)** **NotSure(3)**
50. Which of the following, if any, are reasons you chose not to attend JCC? (**READ ALL**, Circle all)

1. Cost to go to JCC	6. Other family responsibilities (other than work/childcare)
2. Childcare	7. "You just took a new job"
3. Deployment	8. The JCC timing of classes doesn't work for you
4. Current work schedule doesn't allow	9. JCC doesn't have the program you want.
5. Transportation issues	10. If so, specify desired program:

51. Which of the following best describes your career plans?
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. "I want a new career in the next 5 years"                       | 3. "I have no interest in a job/career change." |
| 2. "I want a new job in the same career field in the next 5 years" |   |
52. Have you ever heard of The Center for Community Studies at JCC before this survey? (circle one) **Y(1)** **N(2)**
53. Have you ever heard of this annual survey before this evening? (circle one) **Y(1)** **N(2)**

**Finally, we have a couple Fort Drum related questions.**

54. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: **"The presence of the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum since 1985 has improved the overall quality of life of Jefferson County citizens."** (Read choices.) \_\_\_ Strongly Agree (1) \_\_\_ Agree (2) \_\_\_ Disagree (3) \_\_\_ Strongly Disagree (4) \_\_\_ Neutral/No Opinion (5)

How has the **recent growth** from 2003-2007 of Fort Drum impacted ...

	Choose ONE characteristic for each experience:				
	Very Positively	Positively	Negatively	Very Negatively	Neutral/ No Opinion
55. the overall economy and job/financial health of Jefferson County citizens?	1	2	3	4	5
56. your personal job/financial health?	1	2	3	4	5
57. the overall quality of life of Jefferson County citizens?	1	2	3	4	5

**We are almost finished. The last few demographic questions will help us get a better sense of the general nature of the people who have helped us with this project.**

58. Age: I am going to read some categories of age classification. Please stop me when I get to the category in which your age falls. (**CHECK ONE**.)  
 \_\_\_ teens (1) \_\_\_ twenties (2) \_\_\_ thirties (3) \_\_\_ forties (4)  
 \_\_\_ fifties (5) \_\_\_ sixties (6) \_\_\_ seventies (7) \_\_\_ eighties and older (8)

59. **Education:** I am going to read some categories relating to education. Please stop me when I get to the category in which your highest level of formal education falls. **(CHECK ONE.)**  
 less than high school graduate **(1)**       associate's degree **(4)**  
 high school graduate **(2)**       bachelor's degree **(5)**  
 some college, no degree **(3)**       graduate or professional degree **(6)**
60. **Household income range:** I am going to read some categories relating to income. Please stop me when I get to the category in which your yearly household income falls:  
 Up to 10,000 **(1)**       10,000-25,000 **(2)**       25,000-50,000 **(3)**  
 50,000-75,000 **(4)**       75,000-100,000 **(5)**       Over 100,000 **(6)**
61. Is anyone living in your household active military?  **Y (you)(1)**  **Y (not you)(2)**  **N(3)**
62. Is your residence in Jefferson County related to either civilian or military employment at Fort Drum, by either you or a family member? (Check one.)  **Y(1)**  **N(2)**
63. How would you describe yourself in regard to your race or ethnicity? **(CHECK ONE.)**  
 Black **(1)**       White **(2)**       Hispanic **(3)**       Asian / Pacific Islander **(4)**  
 Native American **(5)**       multiracial **(6)**       other \_\_\_\_\_ **(7)**
64. How would you classify your political beliefs? (Read list; **CHECK ONE.**)  
 very conservative **(1)**       moderately conservative **(2)**       middle of the road **(3)**  
 moderately liberal **(4)**       very liberal **(5)**
65. Did you vote in the last local election? Yes **(1)**      No **(2)**      Not sure **(3)**
66. Marital status: are you:       single **(1)**       married **(2)**       other **(3)**
67. Apparent gender:  male **(1)**       female **(2)**

**Just one more!**

**68. In which Jefferson County township do you reside? (CHECK ONE.)**

1.  Adams (Adams Center)
2.  Alexandria (Collins Landing, Plessis, Redwood, Wellesley Island)
3.  Antwerp (Oxbow)
4.  Brownville (Dexter, Glen Park)
5.  Cape Vincent
6.  Champion (Deferiet, Great Bend, West Carthage)
7.  Clayton (Depauville, Grindstone Island)
8.  Ellisburg (Belleville, Mannsville, Pierrepont Manor, Woodville)
9.  Henderson (Henderson Harbor)
10.  Hounsfield (Sackets Harbor, Sulfur Springs, Smithville)
11.  LeRay (Calcium, Evans Mills, Fort Drum)
12.  Lorraine
13.  Lyme (Three Mile Bay, Chaumont)
14.  Orleans (Fineview, Fishers Landing, LaFargeville, Thousand Island Park)
15.  Pamelaia
16.  Philadelphia
17.  Rodman
18.  Rutland (Black River, Felts Mills)
19.  Theresa (Lakes)
20.  Town of Watertown (Burrville) ⇒
21.  City of Watertown ⇒
22.  Wilna (Carthage, Croghan, Natural Bridge)
23.  Worth
24.  not sure

<i>Be sure to specify town or city</i>
--

*Thank you very much for your time and for sharing your thoughts with us. The results of this representative survey of Jefferson County residents will be reported through the media and on our website in June. Good evening. (website: [www.sunyjefferson.edu/ccs/ccs.htm](http://www.sunyjefferson.edu/ccs/ccs.htm))*