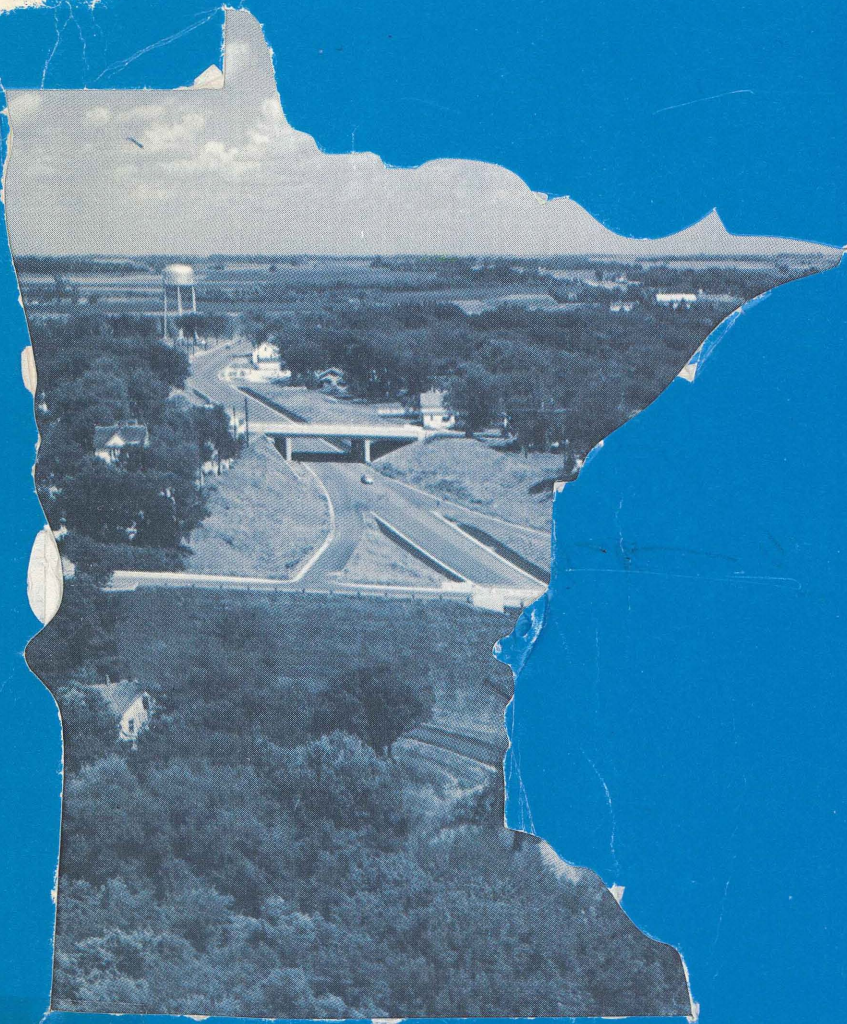




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QUALITY OF LIFE

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Errata for "Quality of Life"

Page 9—

- In the table, the figures under "Schools" should read:

<u>Metro</u>	<u>Non-Metro</u>
18	29
33	52
49	19

Page 11—

- In the bottom row of the table, the figures under "Safety of Property" should read:

<u>Metro</u>	<u>Non-Metro</u>
5	12
33	61
62	27

Page 14—

- Some totals do not add up to 100 because of missing data.
- In the "Age" listing, the sub-category "25-44" should read:

<u>Metro</u>	<u>Non-Metro</u>
H W	H W
76 79	72 77

- In the "Family Size" listing, the sub-category "4" should read:

<u>Metro</u>	<u>Non-Metro</u>
39	26

Page 15—

- Additional credit line, "This project was assisted by a grant from the Graduate School, University of Minnesota."

*"Where am I you ask
I am in God's country
the promised land
this is the place mon amis
my country 'tis of thee."*

... from "Homage to Minnesota"

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Personal Concerns	7
Community Concerns	11
Environmental Concerns	12
Appendix	13



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April 1978

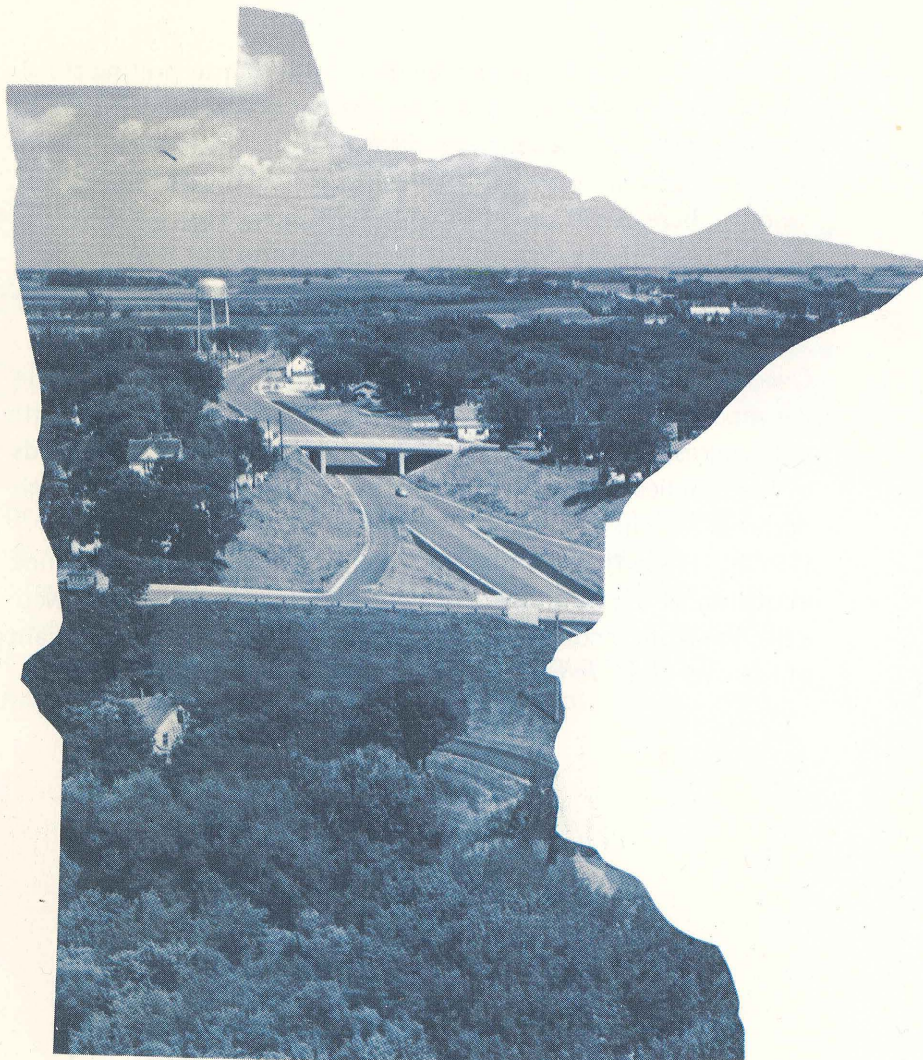
Dear Fellow Minnesotans:

The University of Minnesota, through the Agricultural Experiment Station, endeavors to provide citizens of Minnesota with research information useful in solving their problems.

In Minnesota as elsewhere in the nation, quality of life is a subject much discussed. In a recent study, Minnesotans were asked to report on the quality of their life and what it means to them.

The findings described here have implications for public policy and planning as well as for individual decisions. They will, I believe, be of much interest to all who are concerned with quality of life in Minnesota.

Sincerely,

*Keith Huston*Keith Huston, Director
Agricultural Experiment StationLEGISLATIVE REFERENCE LIBRARY
STATE OF MINNESOTA

QUALITY OF LIFE

The central focus of this study is quality of life, that is, the extent to which the interests and needs of people are satisfied. This report differs from other reports of quality of life in two ways: by its use of a sense of well-being as a measure of quality of life rather than data on selected social and economic indicators held to be related to quality of life; and by its exploration of the relationship among a number of components of quality of life.

For this study, a randomly selected sample of metropolitan and non-metropolitan child-rearing families in Minnesota report on the quality of their lives—the satisfaction of interests and needs—across all aspects of their lives, as well as in specific areas of concern such as family, work, community, and environment. The findings shown here comprise only a part of the total information collected. A more comprehensive report will be available in the future.

All respondents were asked how satisfied or dissatisfied they were with respect to various aspects of life. Their answers are shown in the tables that follow as percentages of people who were extremely satisfied, satisfied, and dissatisfied.

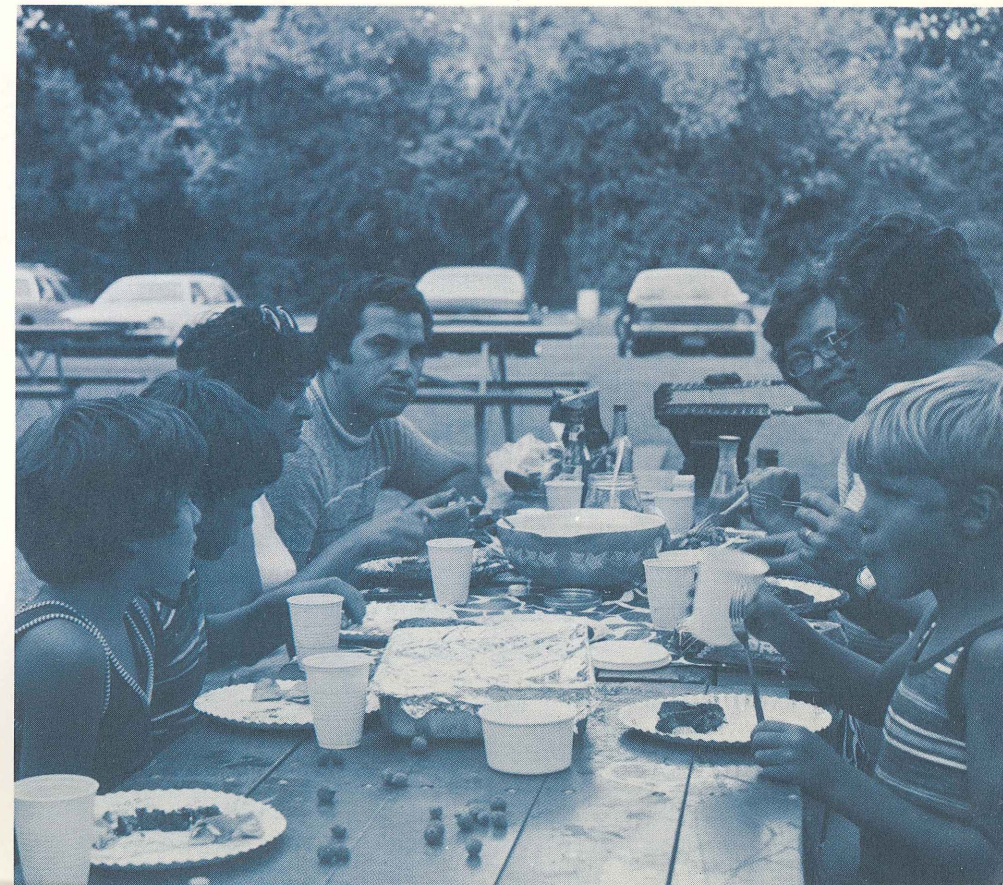
Some additional comments may be helpful in interpreting these tables. Earlier research shows that ratings of life concerns do not change greatly over a short period of time. Thus, if these Minnesota families were polled again, results very similar to those reported here could be expected. This implies that these ratings apparently reflect a deeply held orientation to life, one that is not readily altered by superficial day-to-day events but rather by large scale changes in personal and social environments.

Overwhelmingly, both metropolitan and non-metropolitan families report being satisfied with their quality of life as well as with the progress they are making in improving it. Almost two-thirds of the families report their quality of life was better if not much better at the time of the interview than it was five years earlier (1972). These findings present a more positive picture of trends in quality of life in Minnesota than recent studies which showed a decline from second to twelfth place among the states in quality of life over the five-year period ending in 1972.

Quality of Life

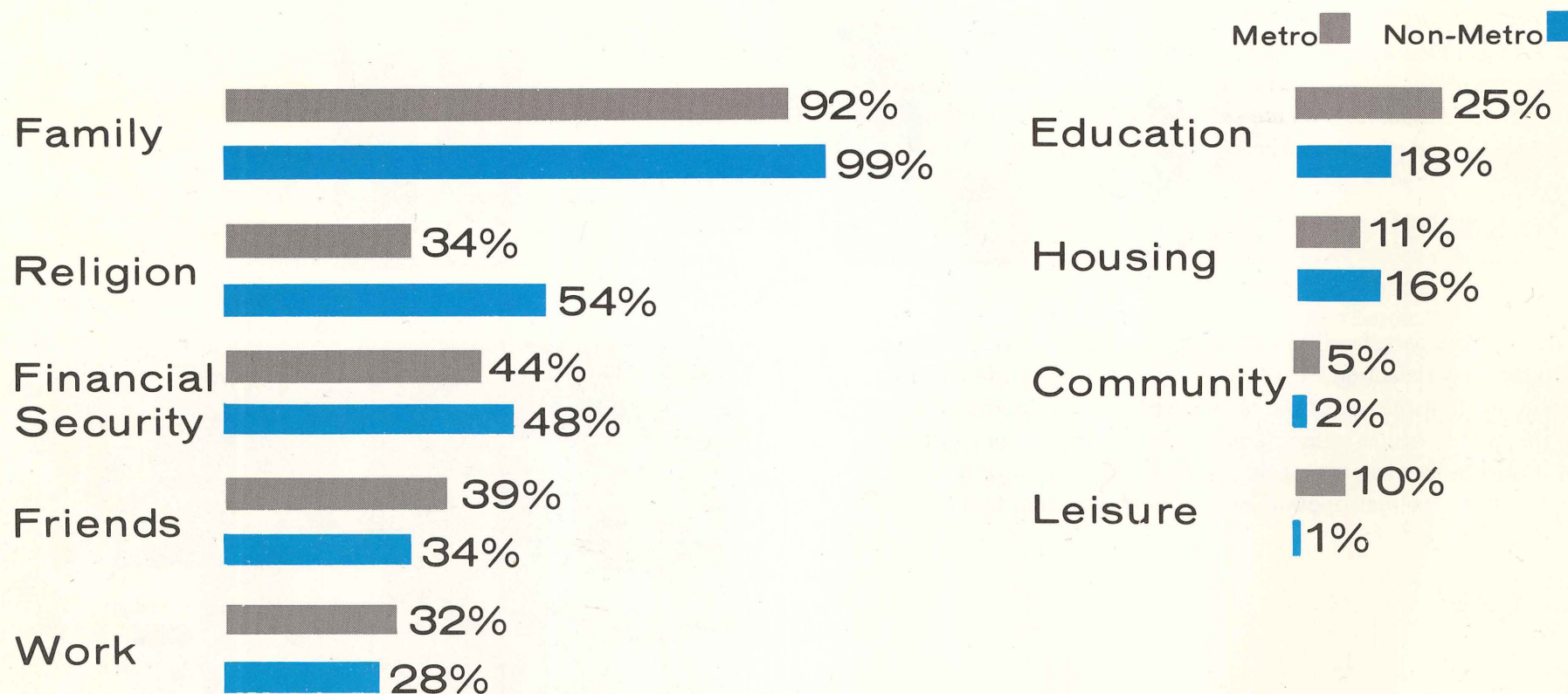


For the most part, families who report satisfaction with progress also report satisfaction with their current quality of life. Analysis reveals that the sex of the respondent is not a significant factor in the quality of life rating. That is, about the same proportion of husbands as wives report satisfaction with quality of life among both the metropolitan and non-metropolitan families.



VALUED CONCERNS

Considered very important



This graph shows the percent of respondents that rank each item as very important to themselves. Family was rated as very important by nine out of ten persons. Metropolitan families differ from non-metropolitan families only with respect to the importance of religion and leisure. Among the other concerns, metro-

politan and non-metropolitan differences are too small to be statistically significant. More wives than husbands ranked religion and education as very important concerns, and more husbands than wives indicate that work is very important.

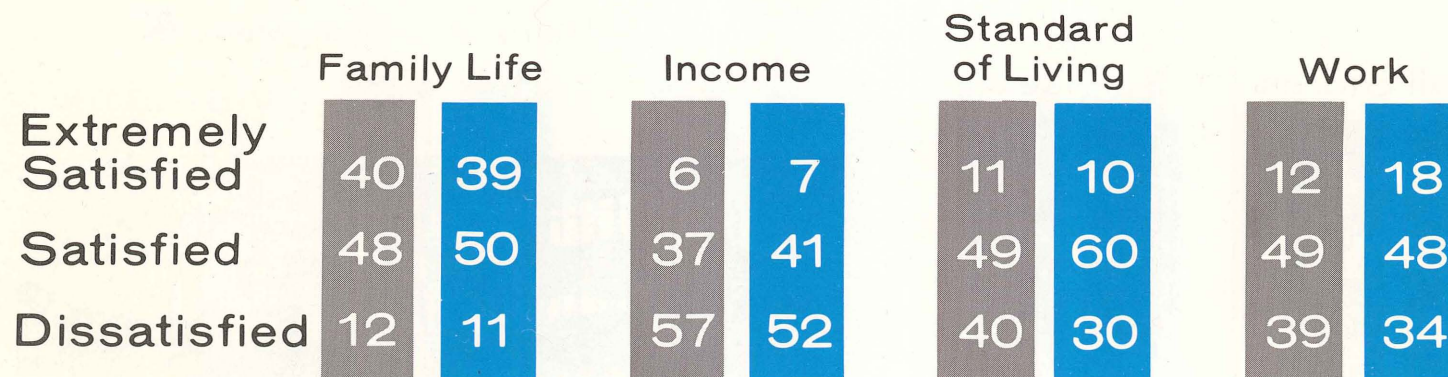
PERSONAL CONCERNS

Family Life

In view of the incidence of divorce and other family problems, widespread dissatisfaction with family life might have been anticipated. However, these findings clearly dispute that. Almost 9 out of 10 report they are satisfied with their family life; 40 per cent rated family life as extremely satisfactory. Metropolitan and non-metropolitan families are strikingly alike. Family life outranks all other concerns in importance in this study.

Economic

On the other hand, dissatisfaction about economic concerns—standard of living, income, and employment—is pervasive. The majority of families, metropolitan and non-metropolitan, report dissatisfaction with total family income; a significant proportion of families are dissatisfied with their standard of living and their current employment situation. The level of satisfaction with each of these, family life, work, income and standard of living, affected the level of satisfaction with life in general.



All figures shown in percentages



Families as Consumers

The satisfaction of human needs and interests is dependent in substantial measure on access to goods and services provided through public and private channels. Family members were asked to report on their satisfaction with both the availability and quality of goods and services in their communities. In most of their replies, the effect of place of residence is clear. More metropolitan families report satisfaction than non-metropolitan families.

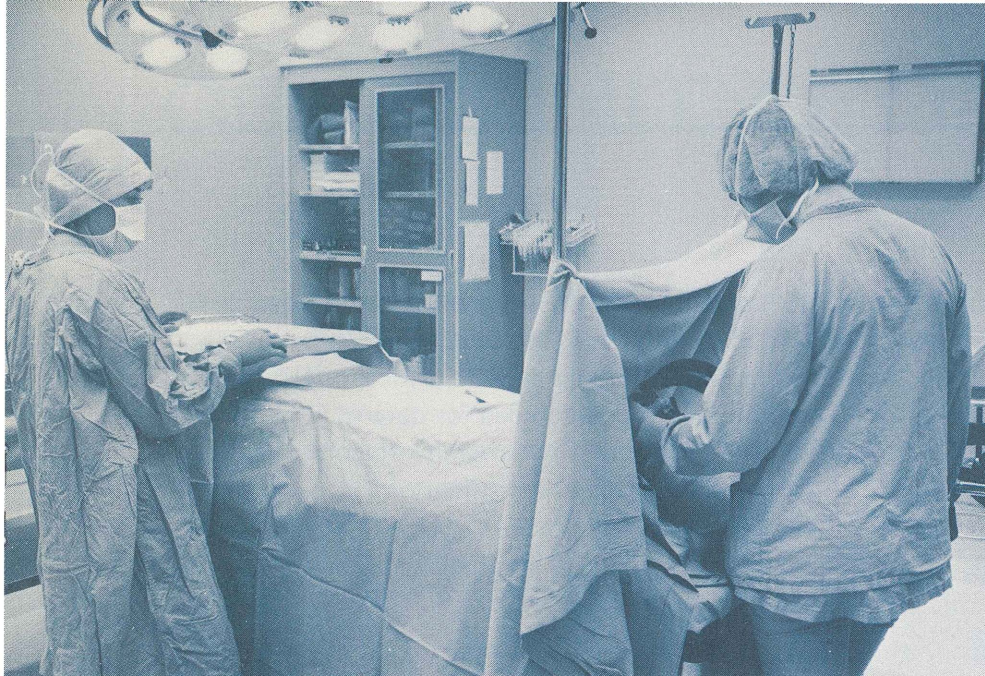
	Retail Stores		Repair Services	
Extremely Satisfied	23	7	10	10
Satisfied	47	44	39	43
Dissatisfied	30	49	51	47

All figures shown in percentages

More than half the families in this study are satisfied with the retail stores and repair services found in their communities. Not surprisingly, the greatest number of families who find retail stores extremely satisfactory reside in the metropolitan area. The dissatisfaction with quality and availability of repair services frequently voiced by consumers, is reflected by these families. Nearly half report dissatisfaction with these items. Of particular interest is the finding that the general sense of well-being for these families is not much affected by satisfaction with retail markets.

Metro ■ Non-Metro ■





	Health		Schools		Day-Care	
Extremely Satisfied	20	7	16	29	25	9
Satisfied	44	34	29	52	30	46
Dissatisfied	36	59	45	19	45	45

All figures shown in percentages

In contrast to satisfaction with retail markets, satisfaction with health care services and schools is closely related to satisfaction with quality of life in general. Furthermore, about 9 out of 10 metropolitan and non-metropolitan families think health care services are important to their general well being, 40 percent think they are extremely important. Although metropolitan and

non-metropolitan families differed in their rating of schools in their communities, they tended to agree about the importance they attached to schools. Schools were rated as extremely important to quality of life by 43 percent of metropolitan and 55 percent of non-metropolitan families.

Family Housing

In general, a high proportion of families express satisfaction with their housing. Analysis confirms that this is true in metropolitan and non-metropolitan communities and for husbands and wives. Regardless of place of residence, the level of overall well-being seems inseparable from satisfaction with one's home. However, when asked about the quality and availability of housing in their communities, metropolitan and non-metropolitan residents differ;

more metropolitan and non-metropolitan wives than husbands say they are dissatisfied with their area's housing. Persons displeased with their present dwellings also are critical of local housing supply. These findings suggest a need for determining the roots of dissatisfaction, and initiating programs to correct deficits for all family members and families living in a variety of settings.



Family Housing

Extremely Satisfied	14	13
Satisfied	60	62
Dissatisfied	26	25

Housing in Community

Extremely Satisfied	16	7
Satisfied	51	41
Dissatisfied	33	52

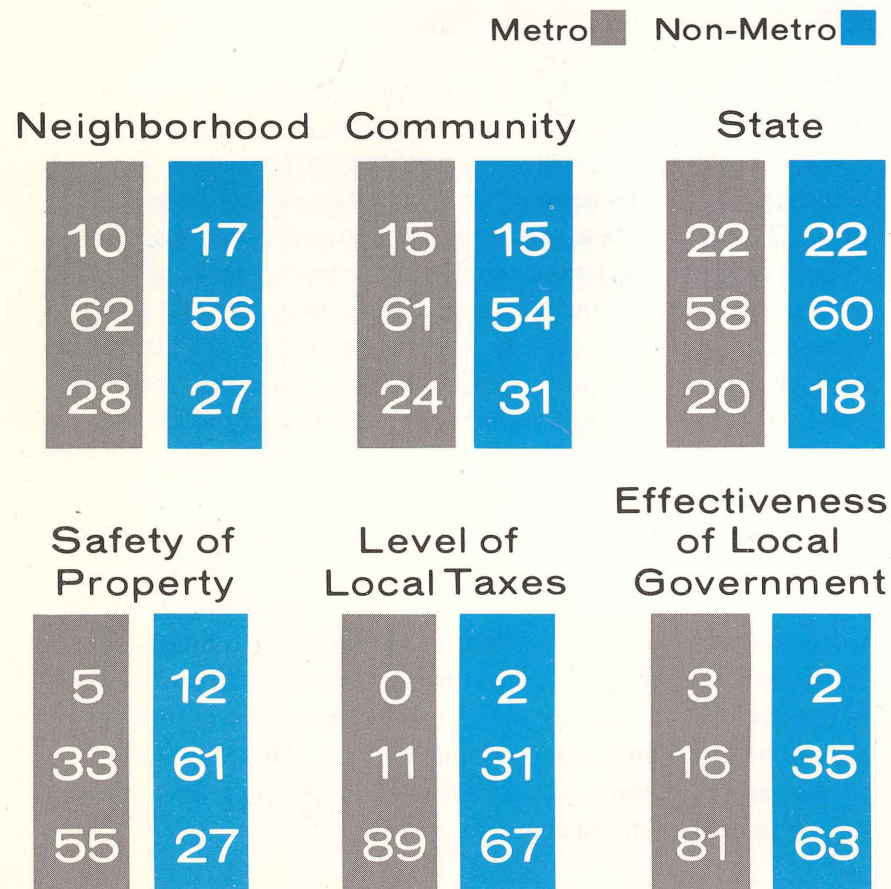
All figures shown in percentages

COMMUNITY CONCERNS_____

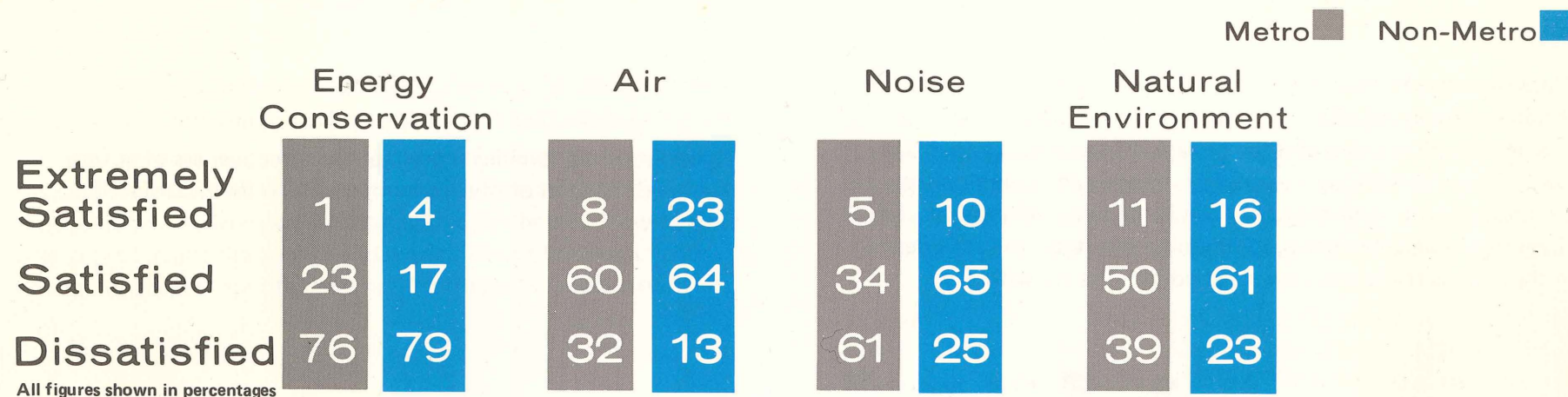
Taken as a group, about three-fourths of the families are satisfied, if not extremely satisfied, with their neighborhood, the community in which they live, and their State, Minnesota. The proportion of families who say their neighborhoods and communities are important to their quality of life is the same, 85 percent. Of these three—neighborhood, community and state—only residence in the state is related to how satisfied families are with life in

general. Safety of property is rated as important by more families in this study than any concern except family life.

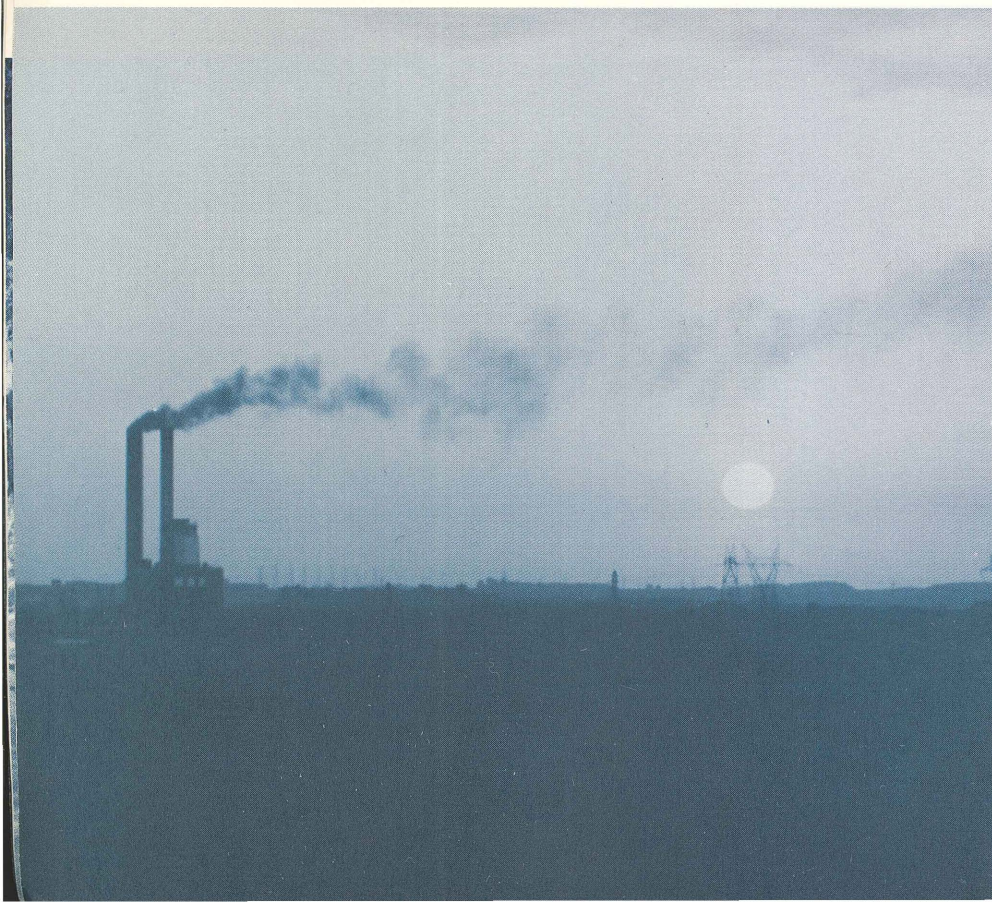
Eight out of ten families think that the effectiveness of government and the level of taxes are important to their satisfaction with life.



ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS _____



In spite of Minnesota's relatively clear skies, people show concern about air quality—especially metropolitan residents who more often express dissatisfaction. They also are aware of noise pollution. The appearance of the natural environment, while pleasing in both places to the largest number, is somewhat more satisfying among non-metropolitan residents. These environmental quality assessments appear to relate to living place. People are distressed by environmental conditions, but not to the point that their quality of life evaluations are affected. Community efforts toward energy conservation (in both metropolitan and non-metropolitan places) are not regarded as at all satisfactory. Eighty percent of the people in both places feel such effort is important. Bearing on these figures may be the information collected, that in the metropolitan area 56 percent of the families have made some effort in the last 12 months to insulate their homes, add storm windows, etc. or are planning some conservation measures in the next 12 months; 77 percent in the non-metropolitan area have done or are anticipating similar actions. This Minnesota family sample appears to believe there is an energy crisis and is willing to do something about it.



APPENDIX

Methodology

These survey data were collected by personal interview during June 1977. The 100 metropolitan and 100 non-metropolitan families with at least one child under the age of 18 who comprise the sample, were randomly selected according to cluster sampling procedures developed by Dr. Seymour Sudman, Survey Research Laboratory, University of Illinois. The population base for the sample was the local telephone directory. For the metropolitan sample, the Minneapolis directory was used. The non-metropolitan site, Montevideo, was selected from a list of towns with populations between 5,000 and 10,000 located more than 30 miles from a metropolitan area. The choice of family member as respondent was controlled to permit reporting by equal numbers of husbands and wives. On the basis of the distribution of responses, the seven-step scale of satisfaction was collapsed to a three-step scale for this report. "Dissatisfied" includes "somewhat satisfied," "mixed," "somewhat dissatisfied," "dissatisfied," and "extremely dissatisfied" ratings.

Analysis of Data

A method of multivariate analysis was used to test for differences between categories of variables. Where relationships exist data are significant at $p < .05$ level (which reflects correction for cluster sampling influence where present).

References

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- Minnesota Department of Economic Development. *Quality of Life*. Research Bulletin No. 02. St. Paul: Research Division, January 1976.
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. *The Quality of Life Concept*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1973.

PROFILE OF FAMILIES

Metro  Non-Metro  H = Husband
W = Wife

Percentage of Responses

Age (years)	H	W	H	W	Years of Marriage		
Under 25	3	7	6	9	5 and under	18	25
25-44	76	19	72	77	6-10.	32	25
45-64	21	13	21	13	11-20	31	29
65 and over	0	0	1	1	21 and over	14	21
Years of School Completed					Family Size		
8 or less	1	2	5	1	3	22	26
9-11.	10	11	15	6	4	39	29
12	27	38	38	54	5	24	30
Over 12	61	48	42	39	6 or more.	15	18
Employment					Age of Oldest Child		
Not working.	2	47	1	51	Under 1	3	5
Less than 35 hours	0	21	0	28	1-5	29	22
35 hours and over.	97	27	98	21	6-11.	29	22
Occupation of Husband					12-17	22	36
Professional, Technical.	25		15		18 and over	17	15
Managers, Self-employed	15		25		Annual Family Income		
Clerical, Sales	13		15		Under \$9,000	4	9
Craftsmen, Foremen.	19		23		\$9,000-\$14,999	27	40
Operatives	14		12		\$15,000-\$19,999.	17	25
Laborers, Service	6		5		\$20,000-\$29,999.	39	17
					\$30,000 and over	11	7

Mean Ratings of Overall Quality of Life and Life Satisfaction

Family	6.23	6.20
State	5.81	5.93
Community	5.79	5.67
Neighborhood	5.75	5.78
Housing Unit	5.75	5.69
Quality of Life.	5.64	5.55
Retail	5.60	5.01
Standard of Living	5.54	5.60
Health Services.	5.52	4.81
Air Quality	5.52	6.09
Natural Environment	5.46	5.82
Housing in Community.	5.37	4.98
Employment	5.30	5.50
Day-Care Services.	5.27	5.22
Repair Services.	5.16	5.25
Schools	5.11	5.82
Income	4.99	5.13
Noise	4.70	5.70
Safety of Property	4.67	5.60
Energy Conservation.	4.38	4.55
Effectiveness of Government		
Officials	4.17	4.58
Level of Taxes	3.38	4.27

A REPORT OF RESEARCH

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Science and Education Administration

Cooperative Research

The United States Department of Agriculture

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