



LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP, PA 2008



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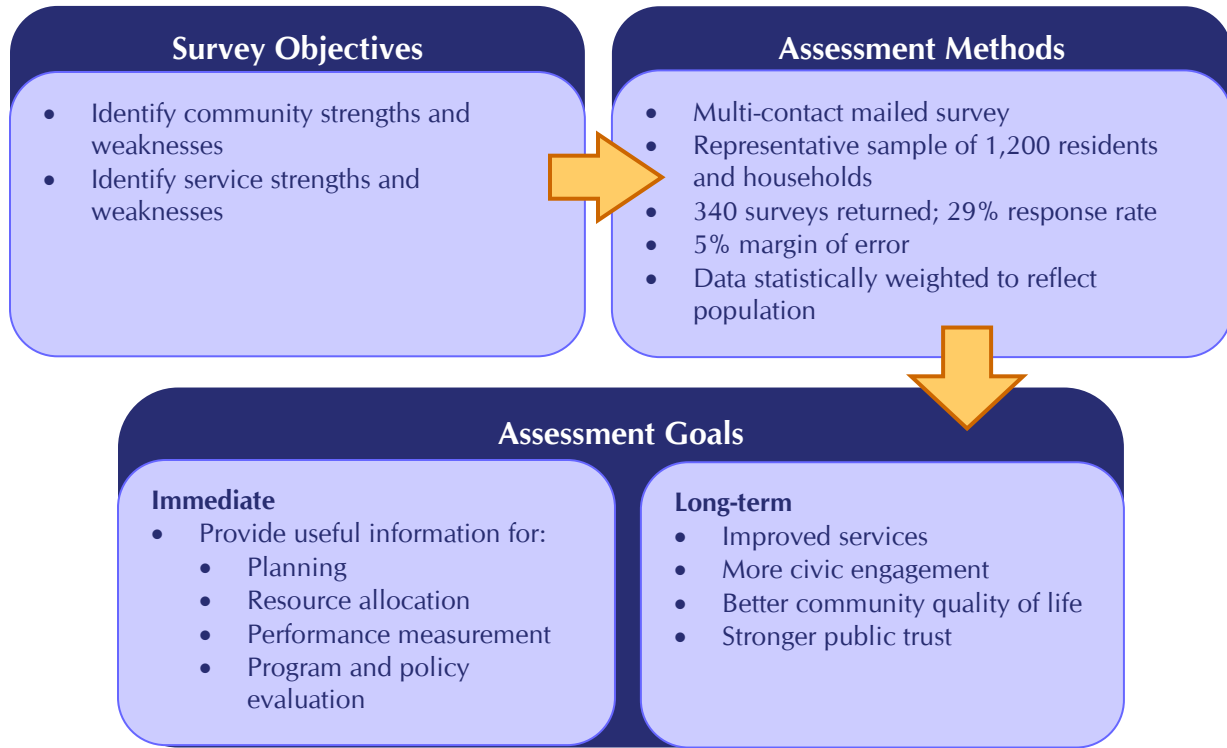
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SURVEY BACKGROUND

ABOUT THE NATIONAL CITIZEN SURVEY™

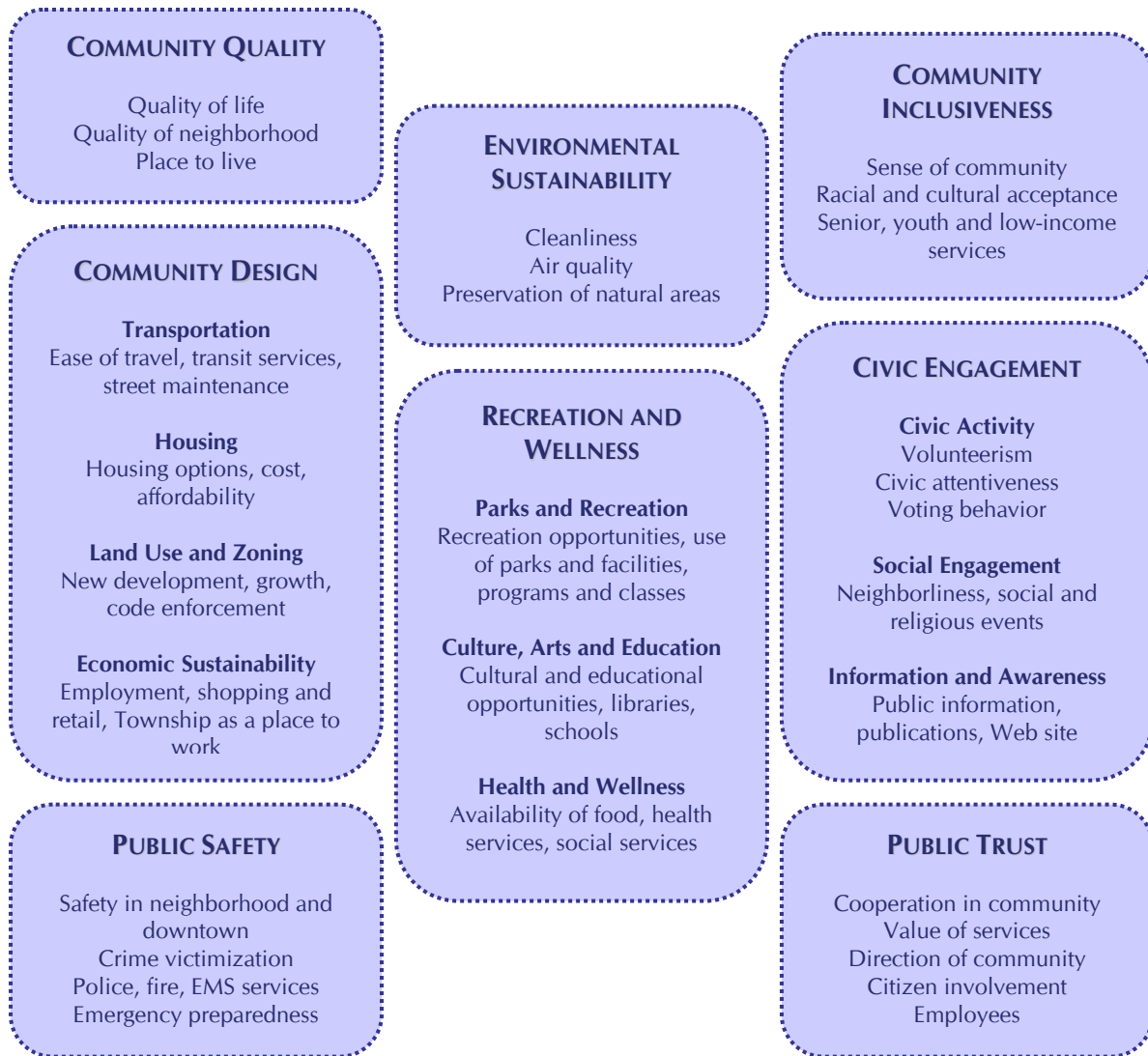
The National Citizen Survey™ (The NCS) is a collaborative effort between National Research Center, Inc. (NRC) and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). The NCS was developed by NRC to provide a statistically valid survey of resident opinions about community and services provided by local government. The survey results may be used by staff, elected officials and other stakeholders for community planning and resource allocation, program improvement and policy making.

FIGURE 1: THE NATIONAL CITIZEN SURVEY™ METHODS AND GOALS



The NCS focuses on a series of community characteristics and local government services, as well as issues of public trust. Resident behaviors related to civic engagement in the community also were measured in the survey.

FIGURE 2: THE NATIONAL CITIZEN SURVEY™ FOCUS AREAS



The survey and its administration are standardized to assure high quality research methods and directly comparable results across The National Citizen Survey™ jurisdictions. Participating households are selected at random and the household member who responds is selected without bias. Multiple mailings give each household more than one chance to participate with self-addressed and postage-paid envelopes. Results are statistically weighted to reflect the proper demographic composition of the entire community. A total of 340 completed surveys were obtained, providing an overall response rate of 29%. Typically, response rates obtained on citizen surveys range from 25% to 40%.

The National Citizen Survey™ customized for Lower Providence Township was developed in close cooperation with local jurisdiction staff. Lower Providence staff selected items from a menu of questions about services and community problems and provided the appropriate letterhead and signatures for mailings.

UNDERSTANDING THE RESULTS

As shown in Figure 2, this report is based around respondents' reports about eight larger categories: community quality, community design, public safety, environmental sustainability, recreation and wellness, community inclusiveness, civic engagement and public trust. Each section begins with residents' ratings of community characteristics and is followed by residents' ratings of service quality. For all evaluative questions, the percent of residents rating the service or community feature as "excellent" or "good" is presented. To see the full set of responses for each question on the survey, please see Appendix A: Complete Survey Frequencies.

Margin of Error

It is customary to describe the precision of estimates made from surveys by a "level of confidence" (or margin of error). The 95% confidence interval quantifies the sampling error or precision of the estimates made from the survey results. A 95% confidence interval can be calculated for any question and indicates that for every 100 random samples of this many residents, the population response to that question would be within the stated interval 95 times. The 95% confidence level for Lower Providence Township survey is generally no greater than plus or minus five percentage points around any given percent reported for the entire sample (340 completed surveys).

Comparing Survey Results

Certain kinds of services tend to be thought better of by residents in many communities across the country. For example, public safety services tend to be received better than transportation services by residents of most American communities. Where possible, the better comparison is not from one service to another in Lower Providence Township, but from Lower Providence Township services to services like them provided by other jurisdictions.

Benchmark Comparisons

NRC's database of comparative resident opinion is comprised of resident perspectives gathered in citizen surveys from approximately 500 jurisdictions whose residents evaluated local government services and gave their opinion about the quality of community life. The Lower Providence Township chose to have comparisons made to the entire database as well as a subset of similar jurisdictions from the database (jurisdictions in the East region, with populations less than 40,000). A benchmark comparison (the average rating from all the comparison jurisdictions where a similar question was asked) has been provided when a similar question on Lower Providence Township Survey was included in NRC's database and there were at least five jurisdictions in which the question was asked. For most questions compared to the entire dataset, there were more than 100 jurisdictions included in the benchmark comparison.

Where comparisons were available, Lower Providence Township results were noted as being "above" the benchmark, "below" the benchmark or "similar to" the benchmark. This evaluation of "above," "below" or "similar to" comes from a statistical comparison of Lower Providence Township's rating to the benchmark.

"Don't Know" Responses and Rounding

On many of the questions in the survey respondents may answer "don't know." The proportion of respondents giving this reply is shown in the full set of responses included in Appendix A. However, these responses have been removed from the analyses presented in the body of the report. In other words, the tables and graphs display the responses from respondents who had an opinion about a specific item.

For some questions, respondents were permitted to select more than one answer. When the total exceeds 100% in a table for a multiple response question, it is because some respondents did select more than one response. When a table for a question that only permitted a single response does not total to exactly 100%, it is due to the customary practice of percentages being rounded to the nearest whole number.

For more information on understanding The NCS report, please see Appendix B: Survey Methodology.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report of Lower Providence Township survey provides the opinions of a representative sample of residents about community quality of life, service delivery, civic participation and unique issues of local interest. A periodic sounding of resident opinion offers staff, elected officials and other stakeholders an opportunity to identify challenges and to plan for and evaluate improvements and to sustain services and amenities for long-term success.

Most residents experience a good quality of life in Lower Providence Township and believe the Township is a good place to live. The overall quality of life in Lower Providence Township was rated as “excellent” or “good” by 83% of respondents. Almost all report they plan on staying in Lower Providence Township for the next five years.

A variety of characteristics of the community were evaluated by those participating in the study. The three receiving the most favorable ratings were opportunities to participate in religious or spiritual activities, cleanliness of Lower Providence, and overall appearance of Lower Providence. The three characteristics receiving the least positive ratings were traffic flow on major streets, ease of bus travel, and opportunities to attend cultural activities.

All of the community characteristics rated were able to be compared to the national benchmark database. Of the 28 characteristics, six were above the benchmark comparison, 13 were similar to the benchmark comparison and nine were below.

Residents in Lower Providence Township were somewhat civically engaged. While only 33% had attended a meeting of local elected public officials or other local public meeting in the previous 12 months, 92% had provided help to a friend or neighbor. About one third of respondents had volunteered their time to some group or activity in Lower Providence Township.

In general, survey respondents demonstrated mild trust in local government. About half rated the overall direction being taken by Lower Providence Township as “good” or “excellent.” This was below the benchmark. Those residents who had interacted with an employee of Lower Providence Township in the previous 12 months gave high marks to those employees. Most rated their overall impression as excellent or good.

On average, residents gave favorable ratings to a majority of local government services. Many of the Township services rated were able to be compared to the benchmark database. Of the 29 services for which comparisons were available, 15 were above the benchmark comparison, ten were similar to the benchmark comparison and four were below.

A Key Driver Analysis was conducted for Lower Providence Township which examined the relationships between ratings of each service and ratings of Lower Providence Township's services overall. Those key driver services that correlated most strongly with residents' perceptions about overall Township service quality have been identified. By targeting improvements in key services, Lower Providence Township can focus on the services that have the greatest likelihood of influencing residents' opinions about overall service quality. Services found to be influential in ratings of overall service quality from the Key Driver Analysis were:

- Township parks
- Police services
- Public information services
- Ambulance or emergency medical services
- Economic development

Of these services, those deserving the most attention may be that which was similar to the benchmark comparisons: economic development. For police services, public information services, ambulance or emergency medical services, and Township parks, Lower Providence Township is above the benchmark and should continue to ensure high quality performance.

COMMUNITY RATINGS

OVERALL COMMUNITY QUALITY

Overall quality of community life may be the single best indicator of success in providing the natural ambience, services and amenities that make for an attractive community. The National Citizen Survey™ contained many questions related to quality of community life in Lower Providence Township – not only direct questions about quality of life overall and in neighborhoods, but questions to measure residents’ commitment to Lower Providence Township. Residents were asked whether they planned to move soon or if they would recommend Lower Providence Township to others. Intentions to stay and willingness to make recommendations provide evidence that Lower Providence Township offers services and amenities that work.

Most of Lower Providence Township’s residents gave high ratings to their neighborhoods and the community as a place to live. Further, a majority reported they would recommend the community to others and plan to stay for the next five years.

FIGURE 3: RATINGS OF OVERALL COMMUNITY QUALITY

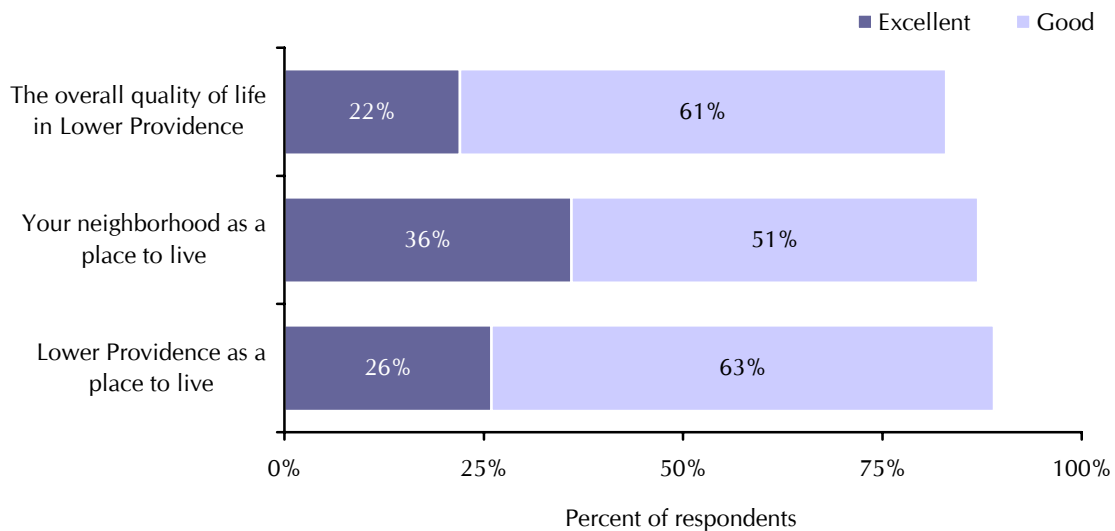


FIGURE 4: LIKELIHOOD OF REMAINING IN COMMUNITY AND RECOMMENDING COMMUNITY

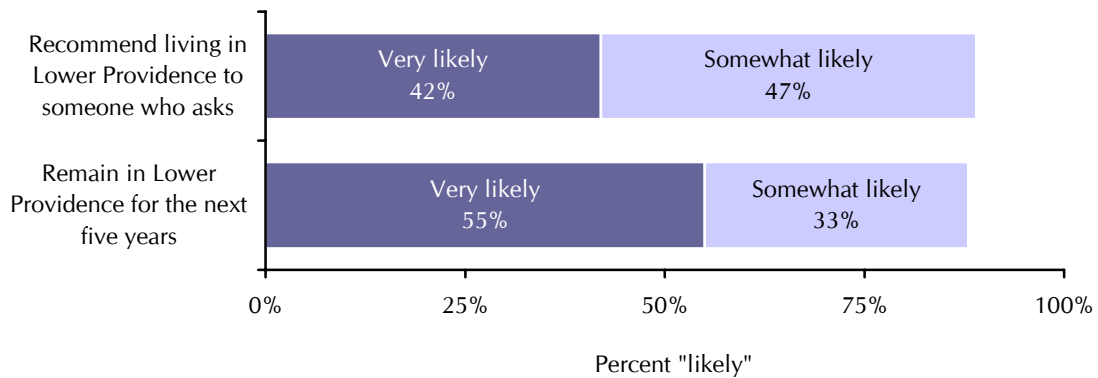


FIGURE 5: OVERALL COMMUNITY QUALITY BENCHMARKS

	National comparison	Populations less than 40,000 in the East
Overall quality of life in Lower Providence	Above	Similar
Your neighborhood as place to live	Above	Above
Lower Providence as a place to live	Above	Similar
Remain in Lower Providence for the next five years	Above	Not available
Recommend living in Lower Providence to someone who asks	Similar	Not available

COMMUNITY DESIGN

Transportation

The ability to move easily throughout a community can greatly affect the quality of life of residents by diminishing time wasted in traffic congestion and by providing opportunities to travel quickly and safely by modes other than the automobile. High quality options for resident mobility not only require local government to remove barriers to flow but they require government programs and policies that create quality opportunities for all modes of travel.

Residents responding to the survey were given a list of six aspects of mobility to rate on a scale of “excellent,” “good,” “fair” and “poor.” Availability of paths and walking trails was given the most positive rating, followed by ease of bicycle travel in Lower Providence.

FIGURE 6: RATINGS OF TRANSPORTATION IN COMMUNITY

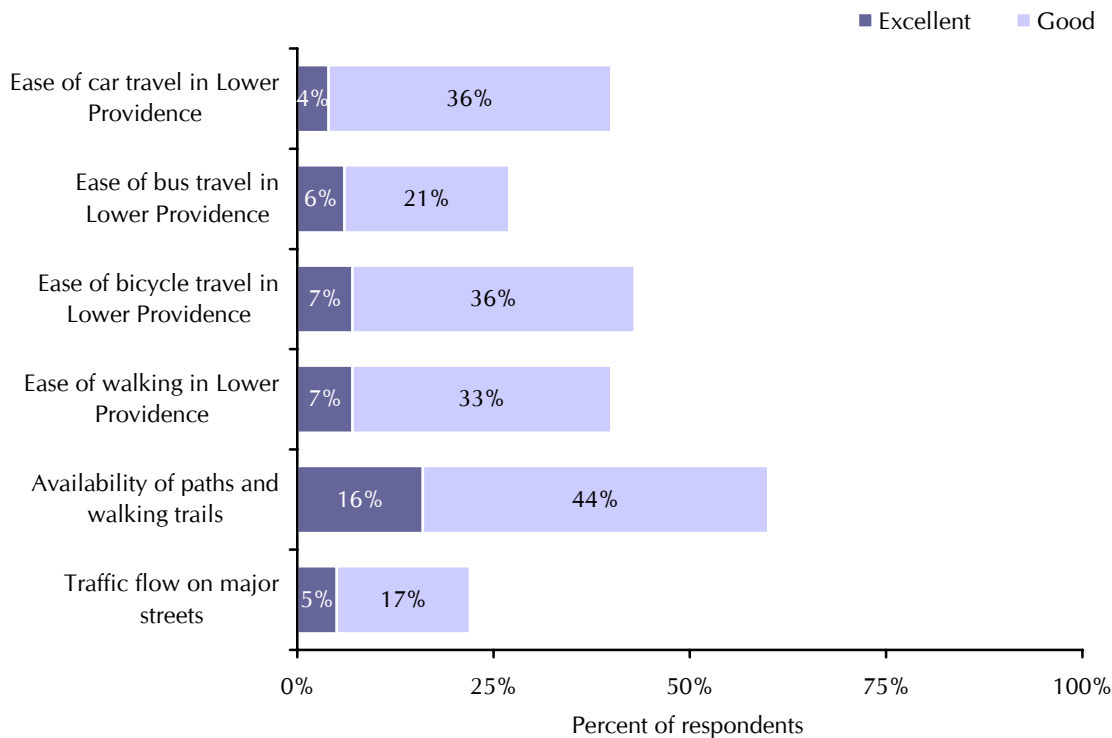


FIGURE 7: COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION BENCHMARKS

	National comparison	Populations less than 40,000 in the East
Ease of bus travel in Lower Providence	Below	Below
Ease of car travel in Lower Providence	Below	Below
Ease of walking in Lower Providence	Below	Below
Ease of bicycle travel in Lower Providence	Below	Similar
Availability of paths and walking trails	Similar	Not available
Traffic flow on major streets	Below	Not available

Five transportation services were rated in Lower Providence. As compared to communities across America, ratings tended to be favorable. Two were above the benchmark, one service was below the benchmark and two were similar to the benchmark.

FIGURE 8: RATINGS OF TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING SERVICES

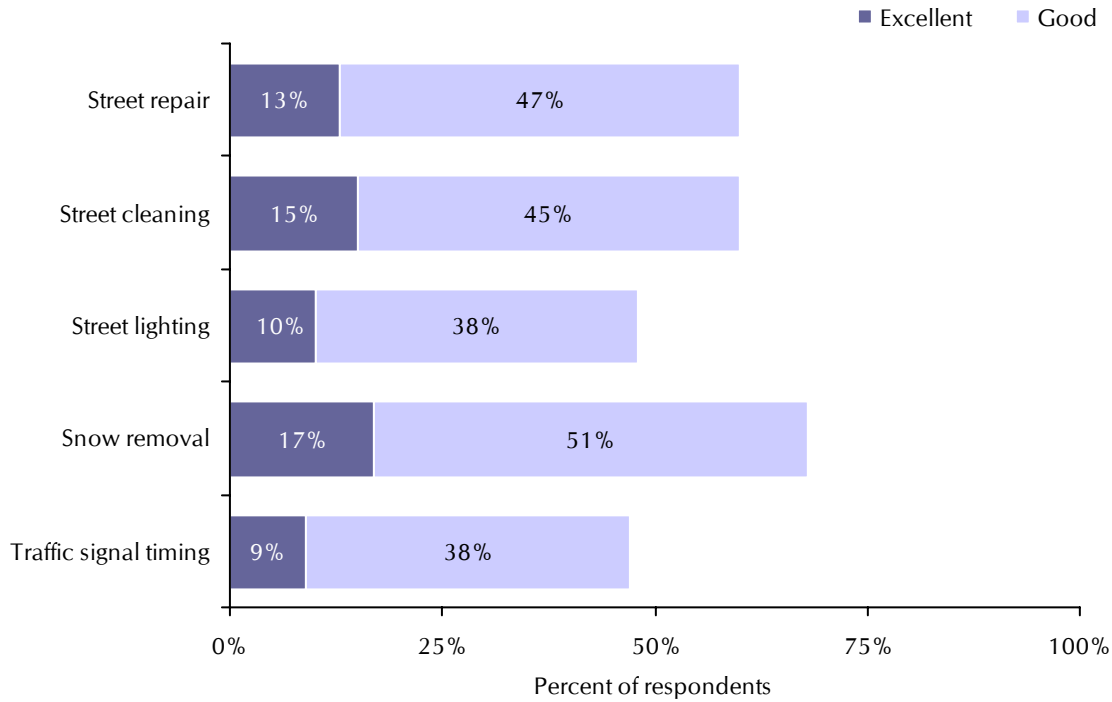
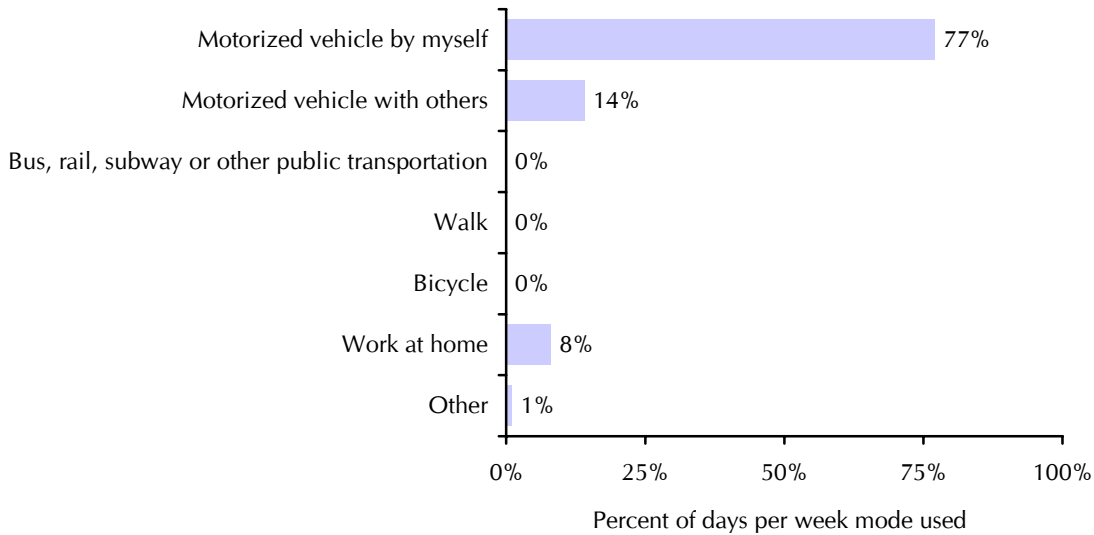


FIGURE 9: TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING SERVICES BENCHMARKS

	National comparison	Populations less than 40,000 in the East
Street repair /maintenance	Above	Above
Street cleaning	Similar	Similar
Street lighting	Below	Below
Snow removal	Above	Above
Light timing	Similar	Similar

By measuring choice of travel mode over time, communities can monitor their success in providing attractive alternatives to the traditional mode of travel, the single-occupied automobile. When asked how they typically traveled to work, single-occupancy (SOV) travel was the overwhelming mode of use. However, 14% of work commute trips were made in a motorized vehicle with others.

FIGURE 10: MODE OF TRAVEL USED FOR WORK COMMUTE



Housing

Housing variety and affordability are not luxuries for any community. When there are too few options for housing style and affordability, the characteristics of a community tilt heavily to a homogeneous palette, often of well-off residents. While this may seem attractive to a community, the absence of affordable townhomes, condominiums, mobile homes, single family detached homes and apartments means that in addition to losing the vibrancy of diverse thoughts and lifestyles, the community loses the service workers that sustain all communities – police officers, school teachers, house painters and electricians. These workers must live elsewhere and commute in at great personal cost and to the detriment of traffic flow and air quality. Furthermore lower income residents who can sustain in a community with mostly high cost housing pay so much of their income to rent or mortgage that little remains to bolster their own quality of life or local business.

The survey of Lower Providence Township residents asked respondents to reflect on the availability of affordable housing as well as the variety of housing options. The availability of affordable housing was rated as “excellent” or “good” by 43% of respondents, while the variety of housing options was rated as “excellent” or “good” by 54% of respondents. The rating of perceived affordable housing availability was better Lower Providence Township than the ratings, on average, in comparison jurisdictions.

FIGURE 11: RATINGS OF HOUSING IN COMMUNITY

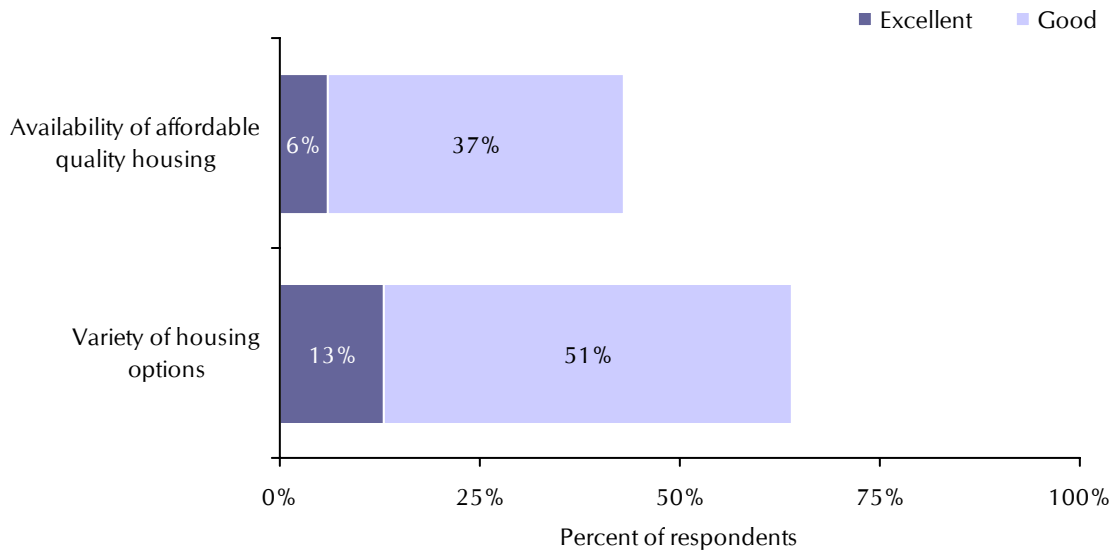
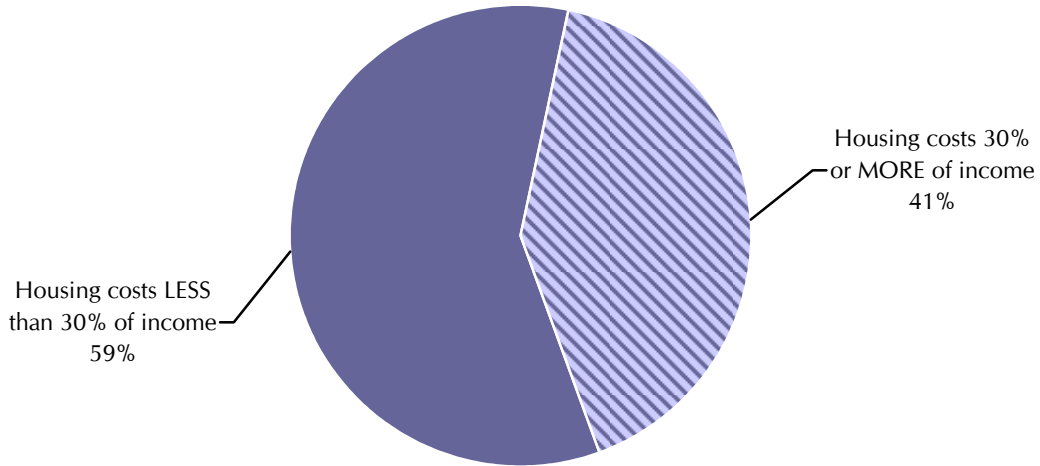


FIGURE 12: HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS BENCHMARKS

	National comparison	Populations less than 40,000 in the East
Availability of affordable quality housing	Above	Similar
Variety of housing options	Above	Not available

To augment the perceptions of affordable housing in Lower Providence, the cost of housing as reported in the survey was compared to residents' reported monthly income to create a rough estimate of the proportion of residents of Lower Providence Township experiencing housing cost stress. About 40% of survey participants were found to pay housing costs of more than 30% of their monthly household income.

FIGURE 13: PROPORTION OF RESPONDENTS WHOSE HOUSING COSTS ARE "AFFORDABLE"



Land Use and Zoning

Community development contributes to a feeling among residents and even visitors of the attention given to the speed of growth, the location of residences and businesses, the kind of housing that is appropriate for the community and the ease of access to commerce, green space and residences. Even the community’s overall appearance often is attributed to the planning and enforcement functions of the local jurisdiction. Residents will appreciate an attractive, well-planned community. The NCS questionnaire asked residents to evaluate the quality of new development, the appearance of Lower Providence Township and the speed of population growth. Problems with the appearance of property were rated, and the quality of land use planning, zoning and code enforcement services were evaluated.

The overall quality of new development in Lower Providence Township was rated as “excellent” by 14% of respondents and as “good” by an additional 50%. The overall appearance of Lower Providence was rated as “excellent” or “good” by 68% of respondents and was similar to the national benchmark. When rating to what extent run down buildings, weed lots or junk vehicles were a problem in Lower Providence Township, 35% thought they were a “major” or “moderate” problem.

FIGURE 14: RATINGS OF THE COMMUNITY'S "BUILT ENVIRONMENT"

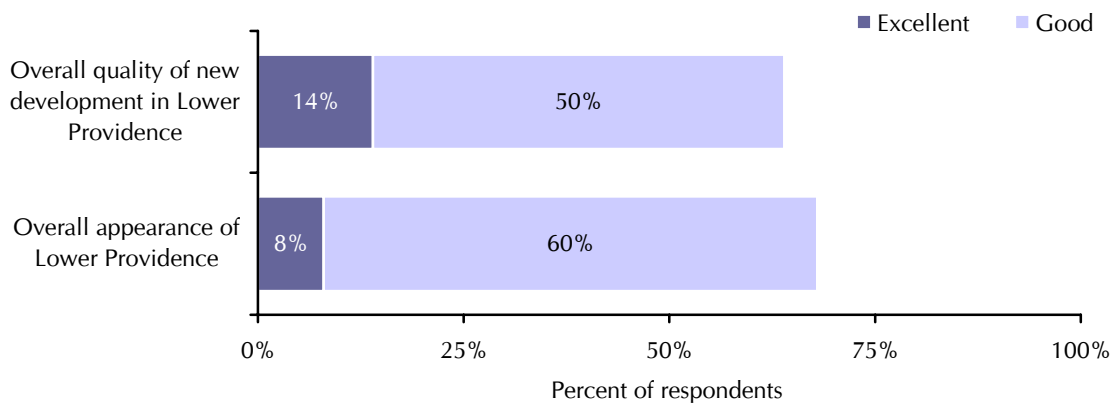


FIGURE 15: BUILT ENVIRONMENT BENCHMARKS

	National comparison	Populations less than 40,000 in the East
Quality of new development in city	Above	Above
Overall appearance of Lower Providence	Similar	Below

FIGURE 16: RATINGS OF POPULATION GROWTH

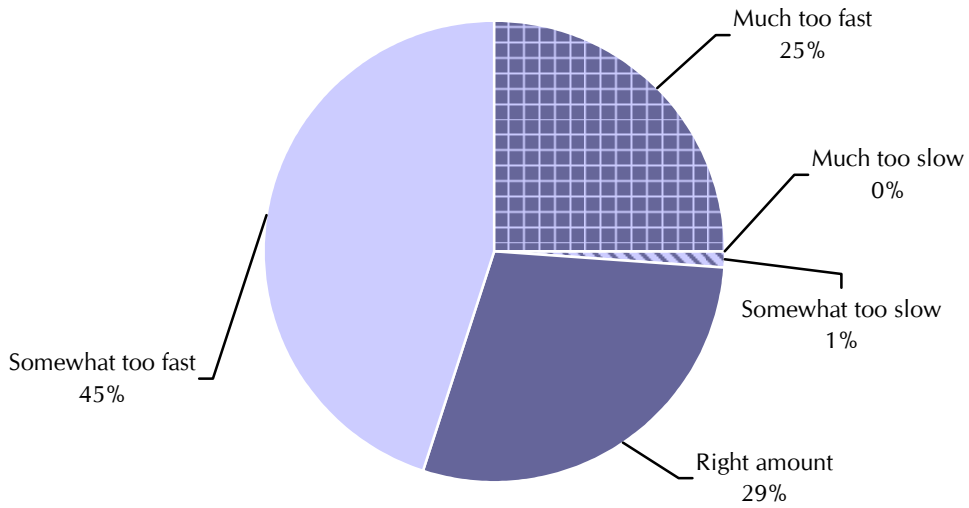


FIGURE 17: POPULATION GROWTH BENCHMARKS

Population Growth Benchmarks		
	National comparison	Populations less than 40,000 in the East
Population growth seen as too fast	Above	Above

FIGURE 18: RATINGS OF NUISANCE PROBLEMS

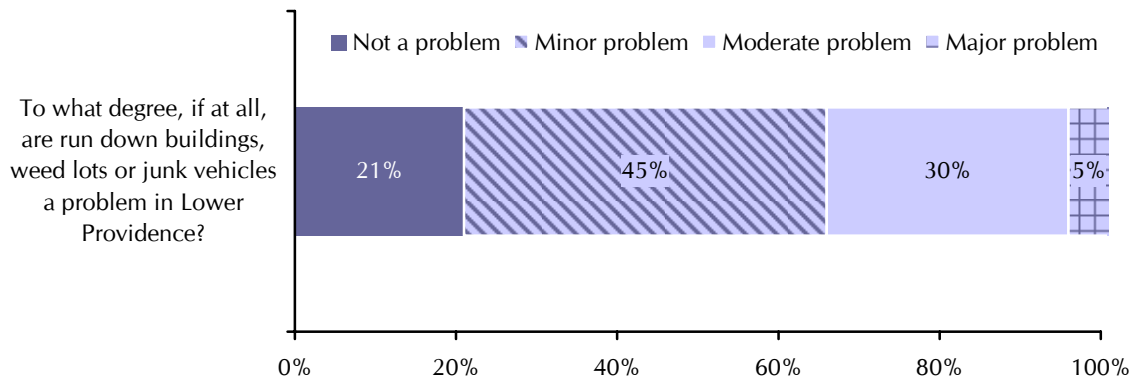


FIGURE 19: RATINGS OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY CODE ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

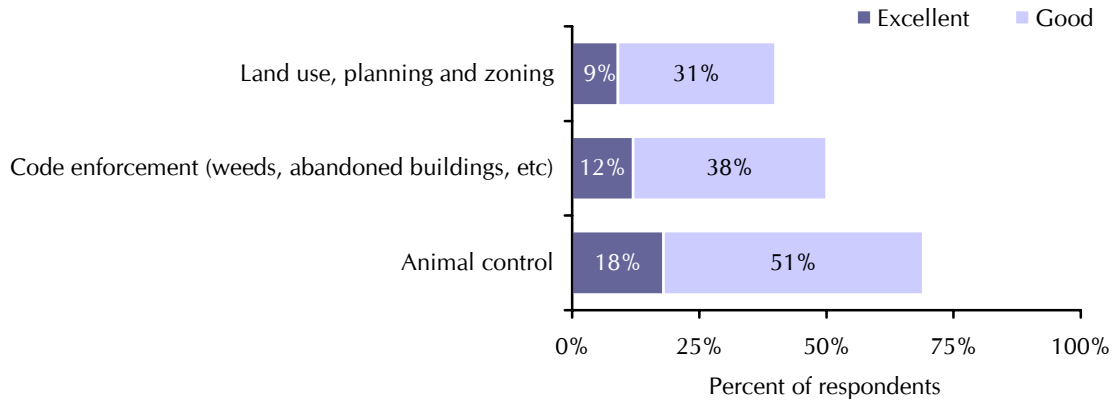


FIGURE 20: PLANNING AND COMMUNITY CODE ENFORCEMENT SERVICES BENCHMARKS

	National comparison	Populations less than 40,000 in the East
Land use, planning and zoning	Similar	Similar
Code enforcement (weeds, abandoned buildings, etc)	Above	Above
Animal control	Above	Similar

ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

The health of the economy may color how residents perceive their environment and all the services that local government delivers. In particular, a strong or weak local economy will shape what residents think about job and shopping opportunities. Just as residents have an idea about the speed of local population growth, they have a sense of how fast job and shopping opportunities are growing.

Survey respondents were asked to rate a number of community features related to economic opportunity and growth. The most positively rated features were Lower Providence as a place to work and the overall quality of business and service establishments in Lower Providence. Receiving the lowest rating was employment opportunities.

FIGURE 21: RATINGS OF ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY AND OPPORTUNITIES

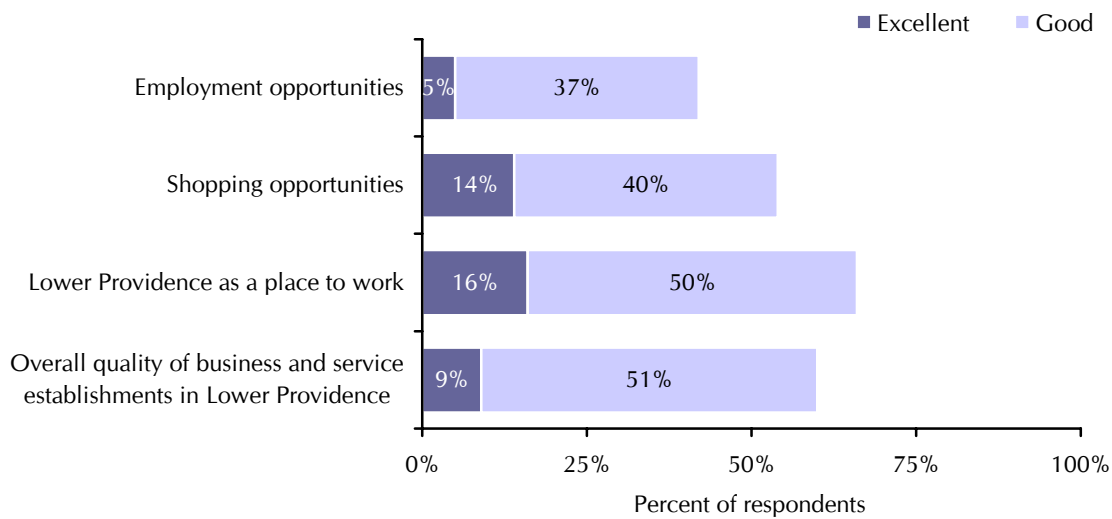


FIGURE 22: ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY AND OPPORTUNITIES BENCHMARKS

	National comparison	Populations less than 40,000 in the East
Employment opportunities	Above	Similar
Shopping opportunities	Above	Above
Place to work	Above	Above
Overall quality of business and service establishments in Lower Providence	Similar	Not available

When asked to evaluate the rate of job growth in Lower Providence, 32% responded that it was the “right amount,” while 38% reported the “right amount” of retail growth was occurring in Lower Providence.

FIGURE 23: RATINGS OF RETAIL AND JOB GROWTH

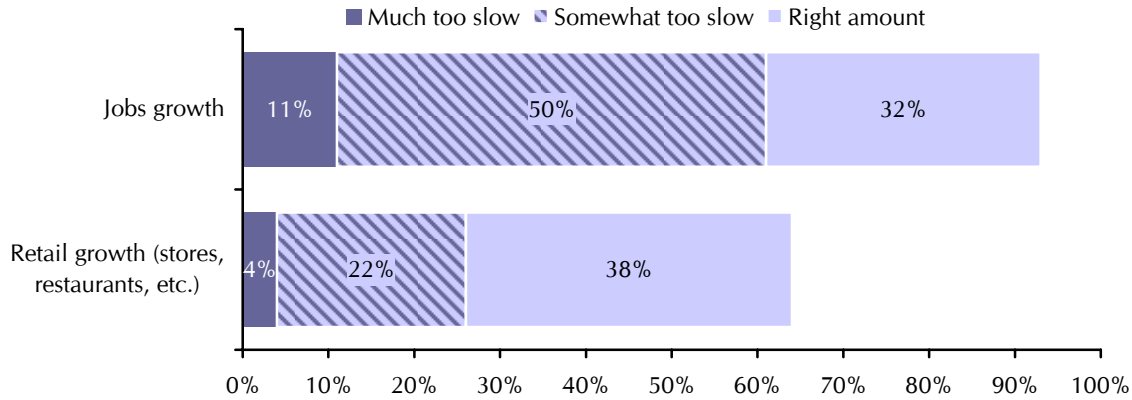


FIGURE 24: JOB AND RETAIL GROWTH BENCHMARKS

	National comparison	Populations less than 40,000 in the East
Retail growth seen as too fast	Above	Above
Jobs growth seen as too slow	Below	Below

FIGURE 25: RATINGS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

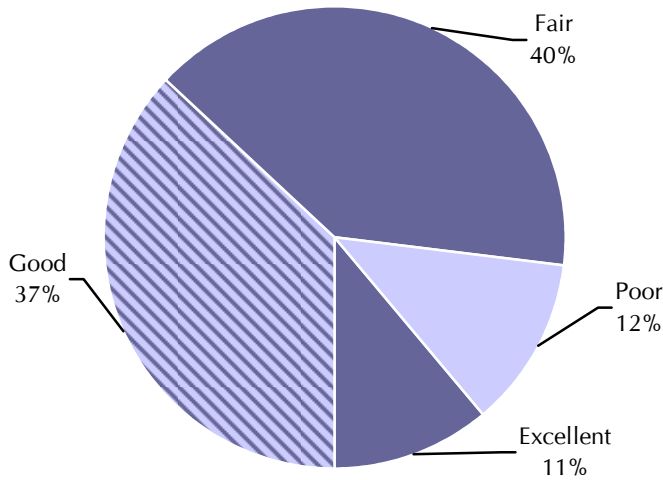


FIGURE 26: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES BENCHMARKS

	National comparison	Populations less than 40,000 in the East
Economic development	Similar	Similar

Residents were asked to reflect on their economic prospects in the near term. Eight percent of Lower Providence Township residents expected that the coming six months would have a “somewhat” or “very” positive impact on their family, while 63% felt that the economic future would be “somewhat” or “very” negative.

FIGURE 27: RATINGS OF PERSONAL ECONOMIC FUTURE

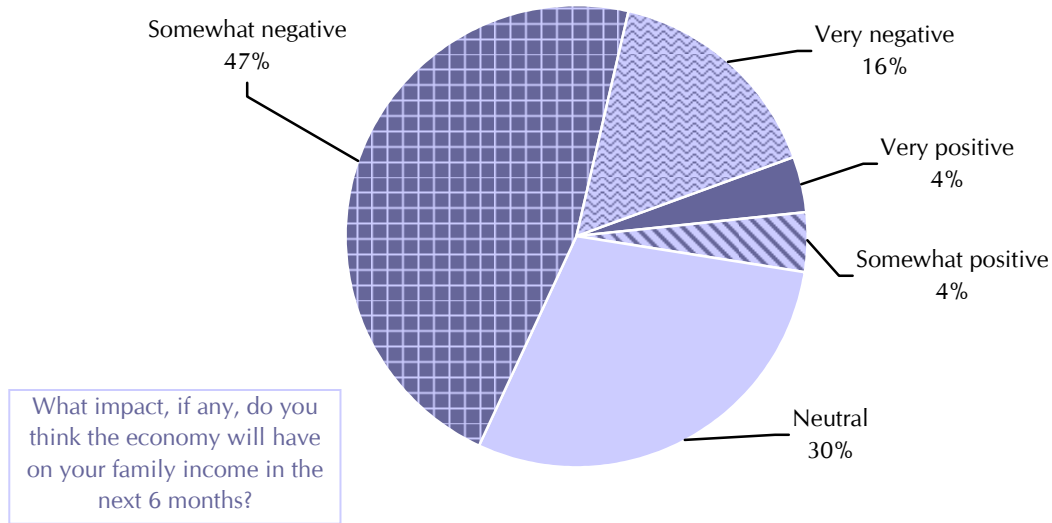


FIGURE 28: PERSONAL ECONOMIC FUTURE BENCHMARKS

	National comparison	Populations less than 40,000 in the East
Positive impact of economy on household income	Below	Below

PUBLIC SAFETY

Safety from violent or property crimes creates the cornerstone of an attractive community. No one wants to live in fear of crime, fire or natural hazards, and communities in which residents feel protected or unthreatened are communities that are more likely to show growth in population, commerce and property value.

Residents were asked to rate their feelings of safety from violent crimes, property crimes, fire and environmental dangers and to evaluate the local agencies whose main charge is to provide protection from these dangers. Most gave positive ratings of safety in the Township Lower Providence. About 90% percent of those completing the questionnaire said they felt “very” or “somewhat” safe from violent crimes and 64% felt “very” or “somewhat” safe from environmental hazards. Daytime sense of safety was better than nighttime safety and neighborhoods felt safer than downtown.

FIGURE 29: RATINGS OF COMMUNITY AND PERSONAL PUBLIC SAFETY

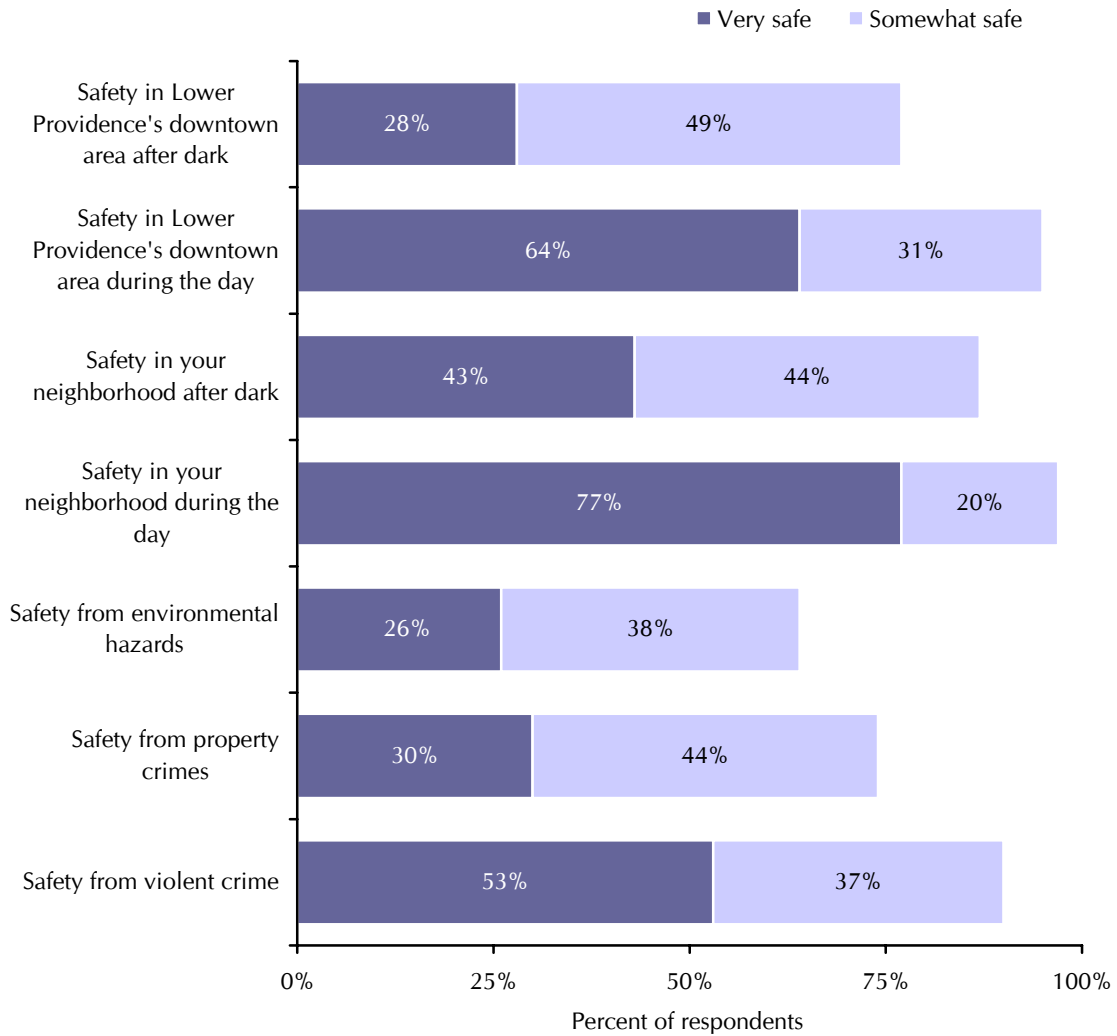


FIGURE 30: COMMUNITY AND PERSONAL PUBLIC SAFETY BENCHMARKS

	National comparison	Populations less than 40,000 in the East
Safety in your neighborhood during the day	Above	Similar
Safety in your neighborhood after dark	Above	Above
Safety in Lower Providence's downtown area during the day	Above	Similar
Safety in Lower Providence's downtown area after dark	Above	Above
Safety from violent crime (e.g., rape, assault, robbery)	Above	Above
Safety from property crimes (e.g., burglary, theft)	Above	Above
Toxic waste or other environmental hazard(s)	Below	Not available

As assessed by the survey, 9% of respondents reported that someone in the household had been the victim of one or more crimes in the past year. Of those who had been the victim of a crime, 82% had reported it to police.

FIGURE 31: CRIME VICTIMIZATION AND REPORTING

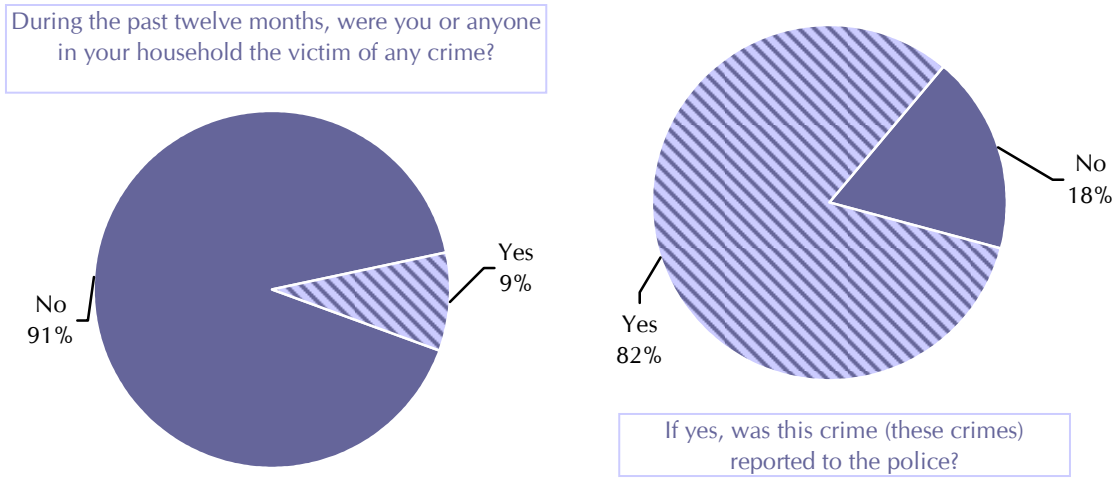


FIGURE 32: CRIME VICTIMIZATION AND REPORTING BENCHMARKS

	National comparison	Populations less than 40,000 in the East
Victim of crime	Below	Similar
Reported crimes	Above	Above

Residents rated seven Township public safety services; of these, all were rated above the benchmark comparison. Fire services and ambulance or emergency medical services received the highest ratings, while traffic enforcement and emergency preparedness received the lowest ratings.

FIGURE 33: RATINGS OF PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES

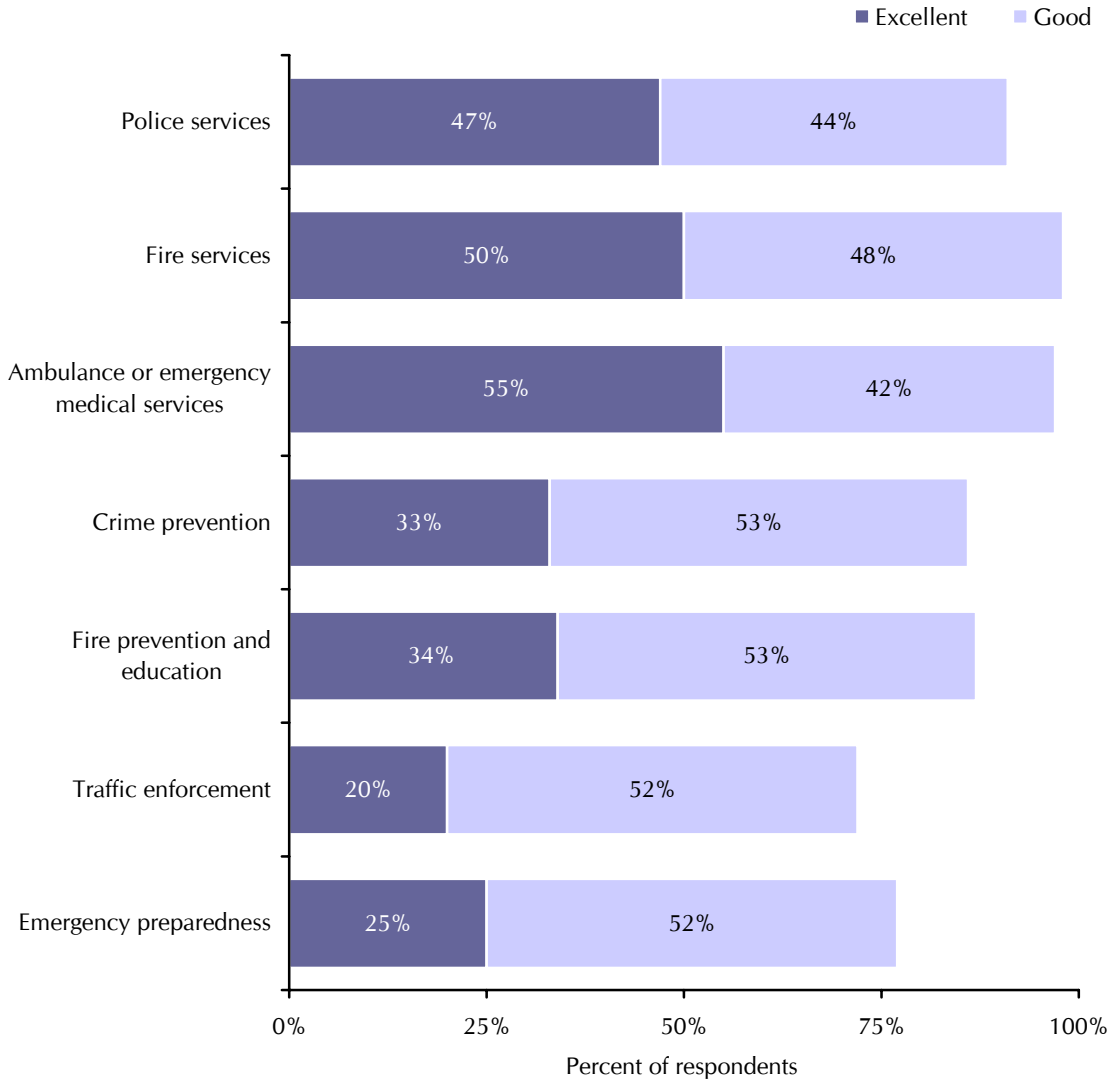


FIGURE 34: PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES BENCHMARKS

	National comparison	Populations less than 40,000 in the East
Police services	Above	Above
Fire services	Above	Above
EMS/ambulance	Above	Above
Crime prevention	Above	Above
Fire prevention and education	Above	Above
Traffic enforcement	Above	Above
Emergency preparedness	Above	Not available

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Residents value the aesthetic qualities of their hometowns and appreciate features such as overall cleanliness and landscaping. In addition, the appearance and smell or taste of the air and water do not go unnoticed. These days, increasing attention is paid to proper treatment of the environment. At the same time that they are attending to community appearance and cleanliness, cities, counties, states and the nation are going “Green”. These strengthening environmental concerns extend to trash haul, recycling, sewer services, the delivery of power and water and preservation of open spaces. Treatment of the environment affects air and water quality and, generally, how habitable and inviting a place appears

Residents of Lower Providence Township were asked to evaluate their local environment and the services provided to ensure its quality. The overall quality of the natural environment was rated as “excellent” or “good” by 65% of survey respondents. Cleanliness of Lower Providence received the highest rating, and it was similar to the national benchmark.

FIGURE 35: RATINGS OF THE COMMUNITY'S NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

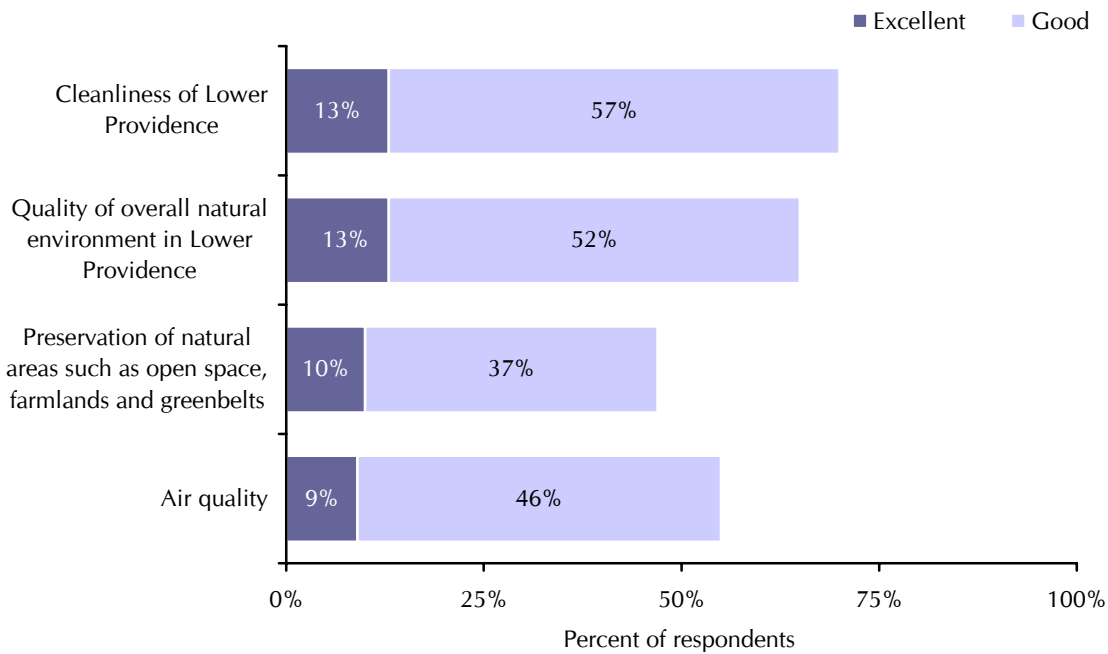


FIGURE 36: COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT BENCHMARKS

	National comparison	Populations less than 40,000 in the East
Cleanliness of Lower Providence	Similar	Not available
Quality of overall natural environment in Lower Providence	Below	Not available
Preservation of natural areas such as open space, farmlands and greenbelts	Below	Below
Air quality	Below	Not available

FIGURE 37: FREQUENCY OF RECYCLING IN LAST 12 MONTHS

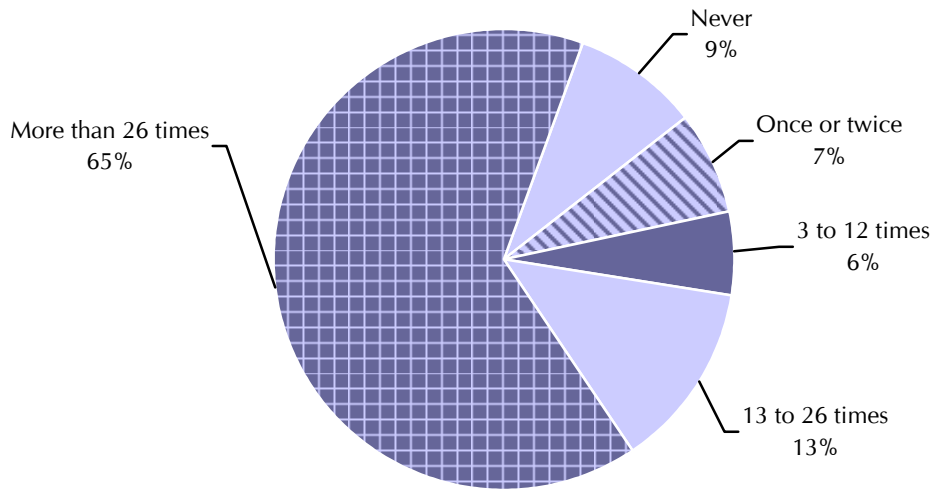


FIGURE 38: FREQUENCY OF RECYCLING BENCHMARKS

	National comparison	Populations less than 40,000 in the East
Recycled used paper, cans or bottles from your home	Above	Similar

FIGURE 39: RATINGS OF UTILITY SERVICES

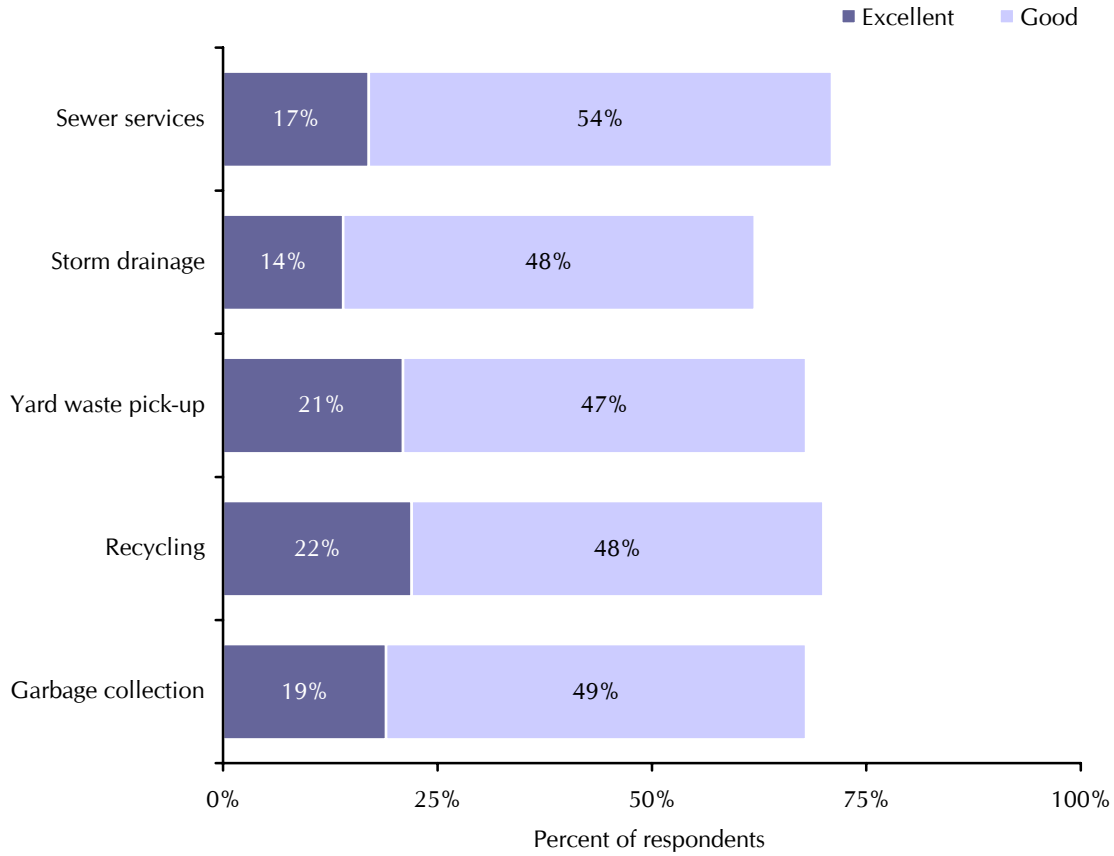


FIGURE 40: UTILITY SERVICES BENCHMARKS

	National comparison	Populations less than 40,000 in the East
Sewer services	Similar	Similar
Storm drainage	Above	Similar
Yard waste pick-up	Similar	Below
Recycling	Similar	Similar
Garbage collection	Below	Below

RECREATION AND WELLNESS

Parks and Recreation

Quality parks and recreation opportunities help to define a community as more than the grind of its business, traffic and hard work. Leisure activities vastly can improve the quality of life of residents, serving both to entertain and mobilize good health. The survey contained questions seeking residents' perspectives about opportunities and services related the community's parks and recreation services.

Recreation opportunities in Lower Providence Township were rated somewhat positively as were services related to parks and recreation.

FIGURE 41: RATINGS OF COMMUNITY RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

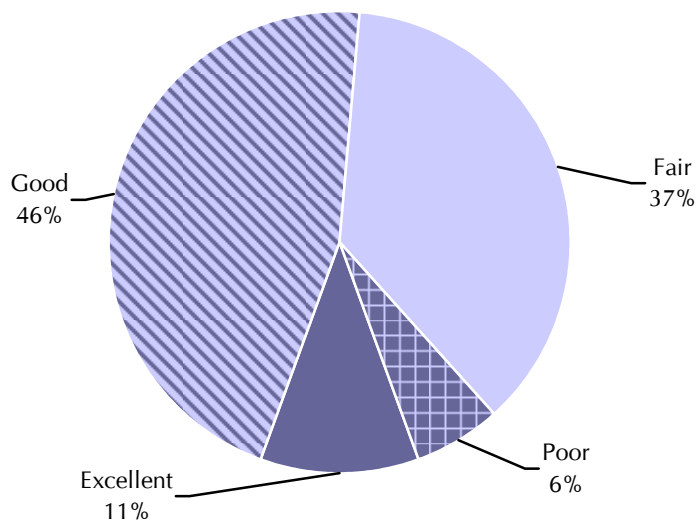


FIGURE 42: COMMUNITY RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES BENCHMARKS

	National comparison	Populations less than 40,000 in the East
Recreation opportunities	Similar	Similar

FIGURE 43: PARTICIPATION IN PARKS AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

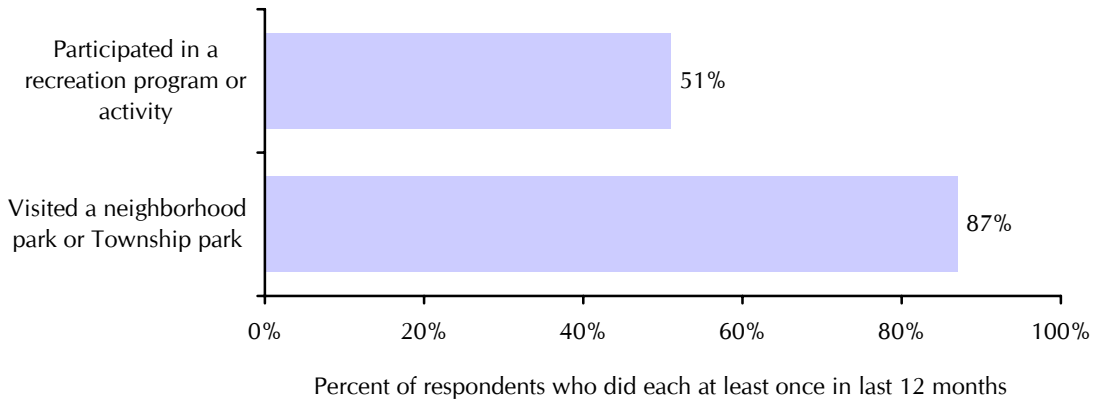


FIGURE 44: PARTICIPATION IN PARKS AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES BENCHMARKS

	National comparison	Populations less than 40,000 in the East
Participated in a recreation program or activity	Above	Similar
Visited a neighborhood park or Township park	Similar	Similar

FIGURE 45: RATINGS OF PARKS AND RECREATION SERVICES

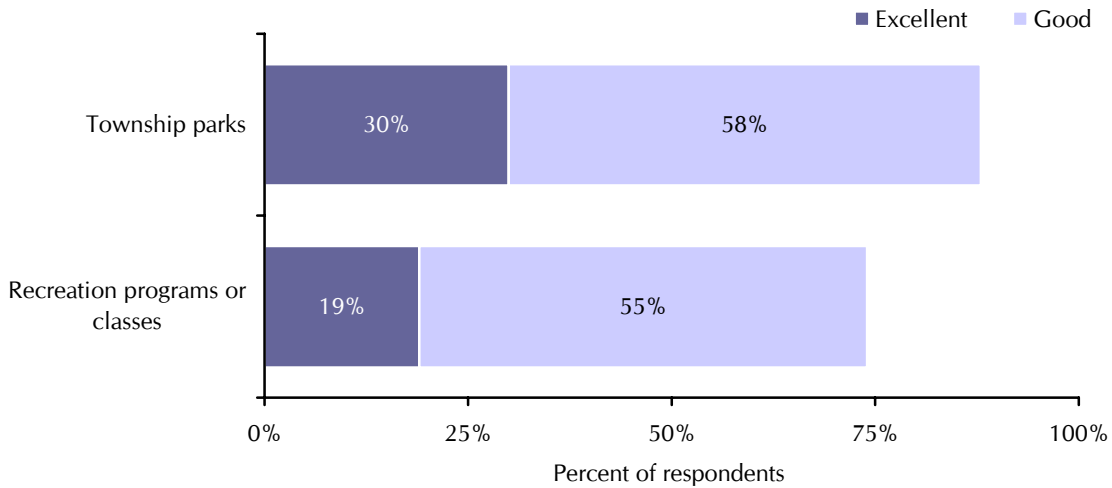


FIGURE 46: PARKS AND RECREATION SERVICES BENCHMARKS

	National comparison	Populations less than 40,000 in the East
Township parks	Above	Above
Recreation programs or classes	Above	Above

Culture, Arts and Education

A full service community does not address only the life and safety of its residents. Like an individual who drudges to the office and returns home, a community that pays attention only to the life sustaining basics becomes insular, dreary and uninspiring to business and individuals. In the case of communities without thriving culture, arts and education opportunities, the magnet that attracts those who might consider relocating there is vastly weakened. Cultural, artistic, social and educational services elevate the opportunities for personal growth among residents. In the survey, residents were asked about the quality of opportunities to participate in cultural and educational activities.

Opportunities to attend cultural activities were rated as “excellent” or “good” by 39% of respondents. Educational opportunities were rated as “excellent” or “good” by 66% of respondents. Compared to the benchmark data, educational opportunities were similar to the national benchmark, and below the custom benchmark comparison.

FIGURE 47: RATINGS OF CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

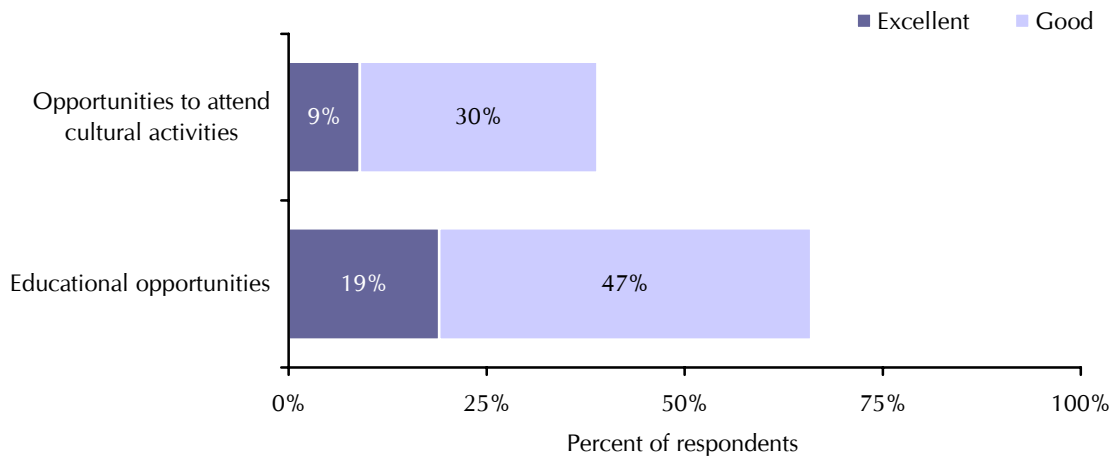


FIGURE 48: CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES BENCHMARKS

	National comparison	Populations less than 40,000 in the East
Opportunities to attend cultural activities	Below	Below
Educational opportunities	Similar	Below

FIGURE 49: PARTICIPATION IN CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

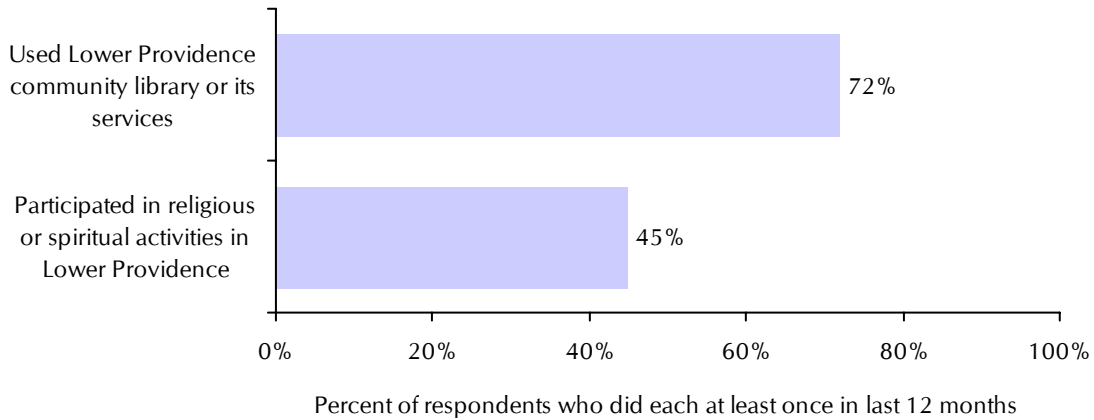


FIGURE 50: PARTICIPATION IN CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES BENCHMARKS

	National comparison	Populations less than 40,000 in the East
Used Lower Providence public libraries or their services	Similar	Below
Participated in religious or spiritual activities in Lower Providence	Below	Not available

FIGURE 51: PERCEPTION OF CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

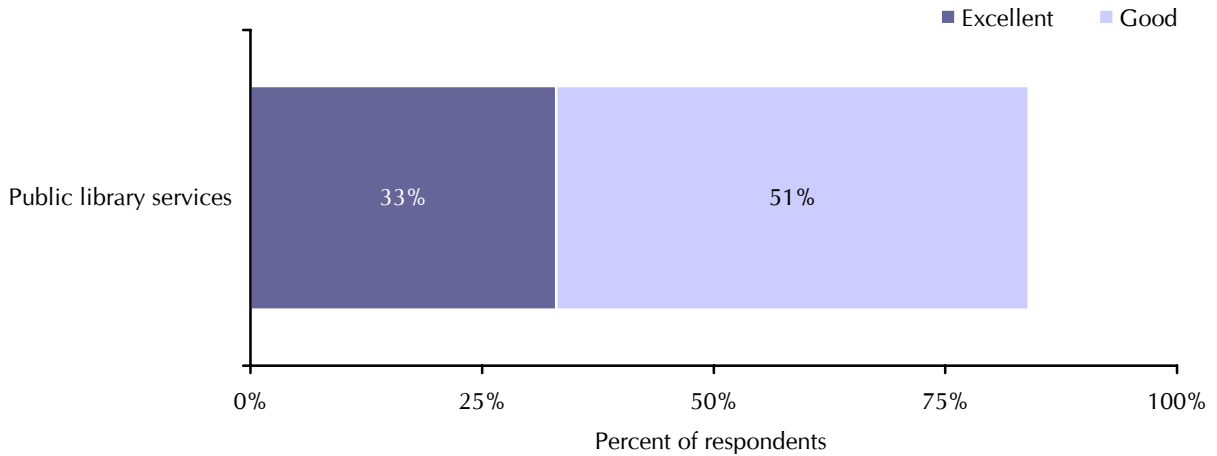


FIGURE 52: CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES BENCHMARKS

	National comparison	Populations less than 40,000 in the East
Public library services	Similar	Similar

Health and Wellness

Healthy residents have the wherewithal to contribute to the economy as volunteers or employees and they do not present a burden in cost and time to others. Although residents bear the primary responsibility for their good health, local government provides services that can foster that well being and that provide care when residents are ill.

FIGURE 53: RATINGS OF COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITIES

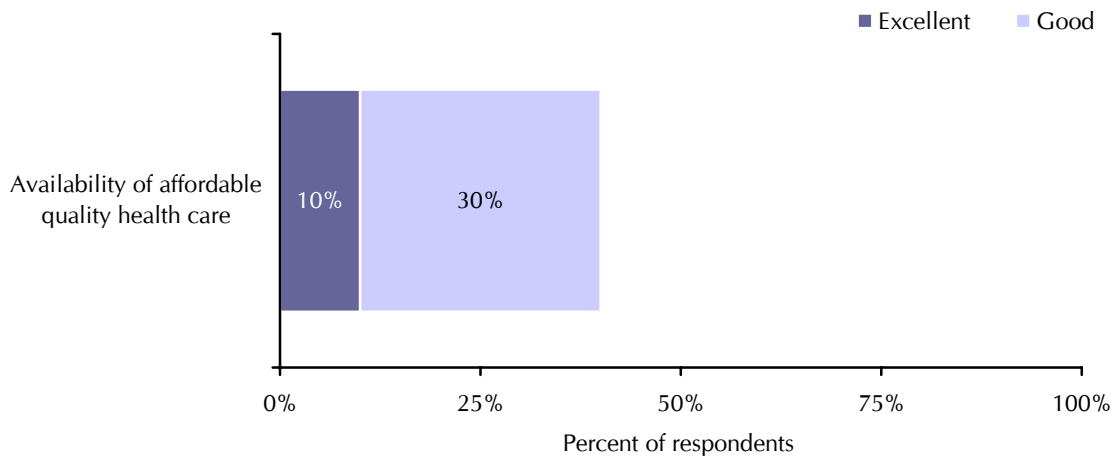


FIGURE 54: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITIES BENCHMARKS

	National comparison	Populations less than 40,000 in the East
Availability of affordable quality health care	Similar	Below

COMMUNITY INCLUSIVENESS

Diverse communities that include among their residents a mix of races, ages, wealth, ideas and beliefs have the raw material for the most vibrant and creative society. However, the presence of these features alone does not ensure a high quality or desirable space. Surveyed residents were asked about the success of the mix: the sense of community, the openness of residents to people of diverse backgrounds and the attractiveness of Lower Providence Township as a place to raise children or to retire. They were also questioned about the quality of services delivered to various population subgroups, including older adults, youth and residents with few resources. A community that succeeds in creating an inclusive environment for a variety of residents is a community that offers more to many.

A high percentage of residents rated Lower Providence Township as an “excellent” or “good” place to raise kids and a moderate percentage rated it as an excellent or good place to retire. Most residents felt the local sense of community was excellent or good. Even more survey respondents felt Lower Providence Township was open and accepting towards people of diverse backgrounds. Availability of affordable quality child care was rated the lowest by residents but was higher than the national benchmark.

FIGURE 55: RATINGS OF COMMUNITY QUALITY AND INCLUSIVENESS

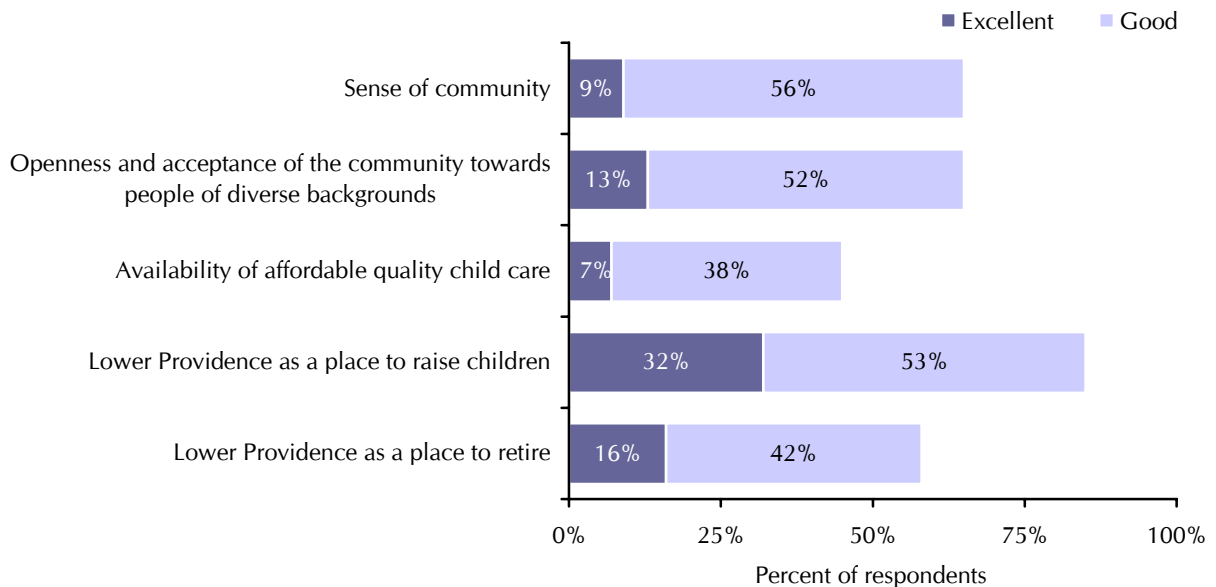


FIGURE 56: COMMUNITY QUALITY AND INCLUSIVENESS BENCHMARKS

	National comparison	Populations less than 40,000 in the East
Sense of community	Similar	Below
Openness and acceptance of the community toward people of diverse backgrounds	Similar	Similar
Availability of affordable quality child care	Above	Similar
Lower Providence as a place to raise kids	Above	Above
Lower Providence as a place to retire	Similar	Similar

Services to more vulnerable populations (e.g., seniors, youth or low-income residents) ranged from 38% to 59% with ratings of “excellent” or “good.”

FIGURE 57: RATINGS OF QUALITY OF SERVICES PROVIDED FOR POPULATION SUBGROUPS

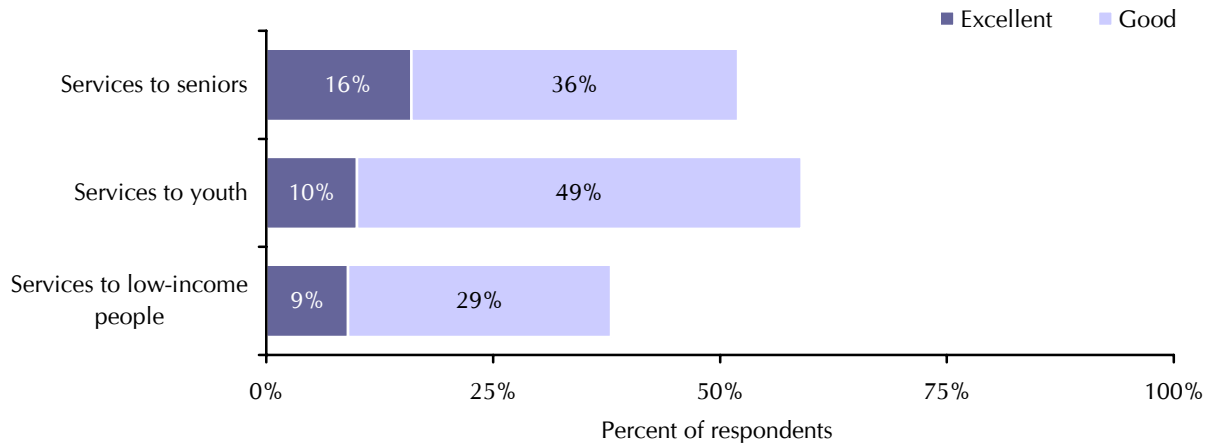


FIGURE 58: SERVICES PROVIDED FOR POPULATION SUBGROUPS BENCHMARKS

	National comparison	Populations less than 40,000 in the East
Services to seniors	Below	Below
Services to youth	Similar	Similar
Services to low income residents	Similar	Similar

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Government leaders, elected or hired, cannot run a jurisdiction alone and a jurisdiction cannot run effectively if residents remain strangers with little to connect them. Staff and elected officials require the assistance of local residents whether that assistance comes in tacit approval or eager help; and commonality of purpose among the electorate facilitates policies and programs that appeal to most and causes discord among few. Furthermore, when neighbors help neighbors, the cost to the community to provide services to residents in need declines. When residents are civically engaged, they have taken the opportunity to participate in making the community more livable for all. The extent to which local government provides opportunities to become informed and engaged and the extent to which residents take those opportunities is an indicator of the connection between government and populace. By understanding your residents' level of connection to, knowledge of and participation in local government, the Township can find better opportunities to communicate and educate citizens about its mission, services, accomplishments and plans. This survey information is essential for public communication and for helping local government staff to conceive strategies for reaching reluctant voters whose confidence in government may need boosting prior to important referenda.

Civic Activity

Respondents were asked about the perceived community volunteering opportunities and their participation as citizens of Lower Providence Township.

FIGURE 59: RATINGS OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

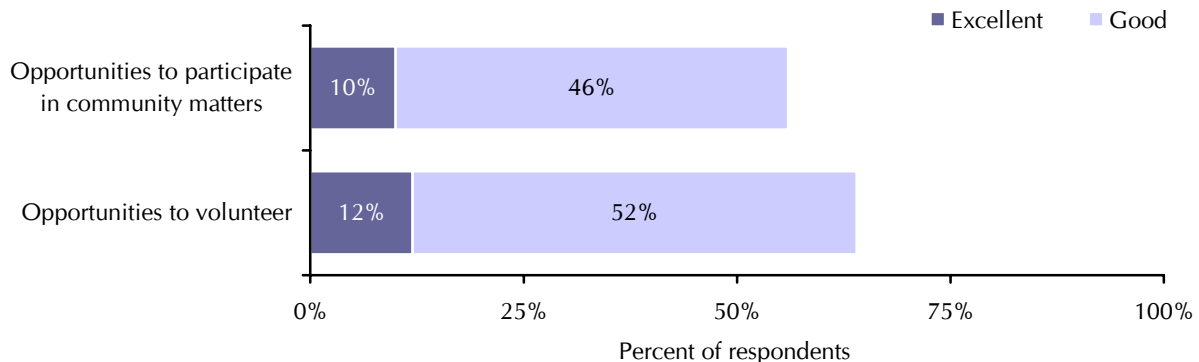


FIGURE 60: CIVIC ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES BENCHMARKS

	National comparison	Populations less than 40,000 in the East
Opportunities to participate in community matters	Similar	Not available
Opportunities to volunteer	Below	Not available

Most of the participants in this survey had not attended a public meeting in the 12 months prior, but the vast majority had helped a friend.

FIGURE 61: PARTICIPATION IN CIVIC ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

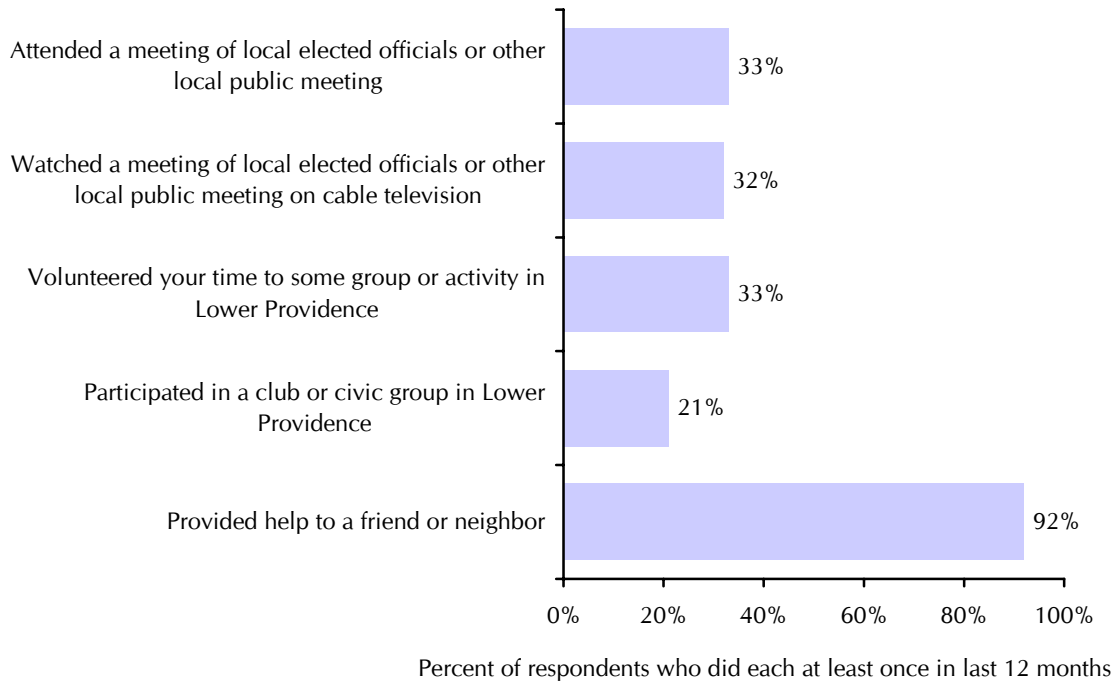
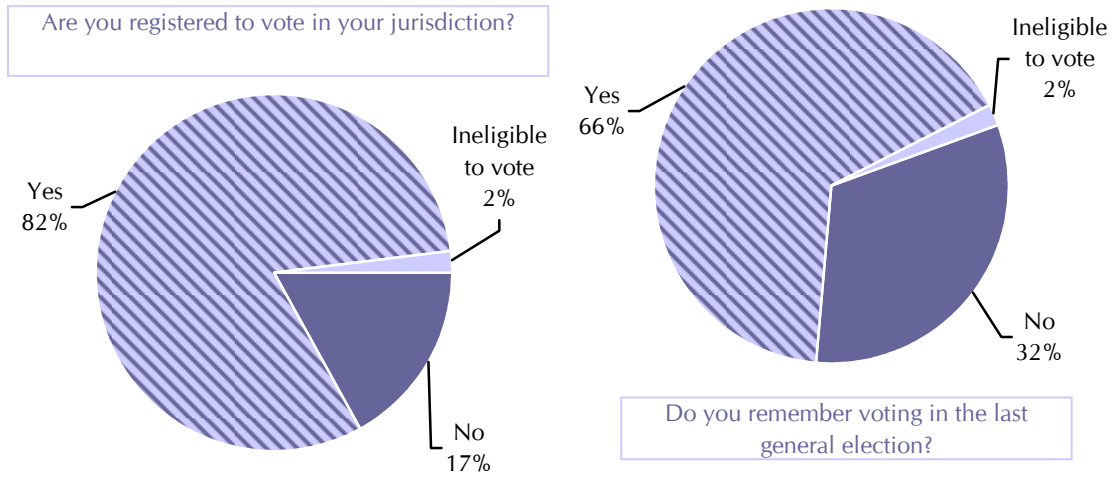


FIGURE 62: PARTICIPATION IN CIVIC ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES BENCHMARKS

	National comparison	Populations less than 40,000 in the East
Attended a meeting of local elected officials or other local public meeting	Above	Similar
Watched a meeting of local elected officials or other local public meeting on cable television	Below	Below
Volunteered your time to some group or activity in Lower Providence	Below	Below
Participated in a club or civic group in Lower Providence	Below	Not available
Provided help to a friend or neighbor	Similar	Not available

Lower Providence Township residents showed the largest amount of civic engagement in the area of electoral participation. Approximately 82% reported they were registered to vote; 66% indicated they had voted in the last general election.

FIGURE 63: REPORTED VOTING BEHAVIOR



Information and Awareness

Those completing the survey were asked about their use and perceptions of various information sources and local government media services. When asked whether they had visited Lower Providence Township Web site in the previous 12 months, 59% reported they had done so at least once. Public information services were rated favorably compared to benchmark data.

FIGURE 64: USE OF INFORMATION SOURCES

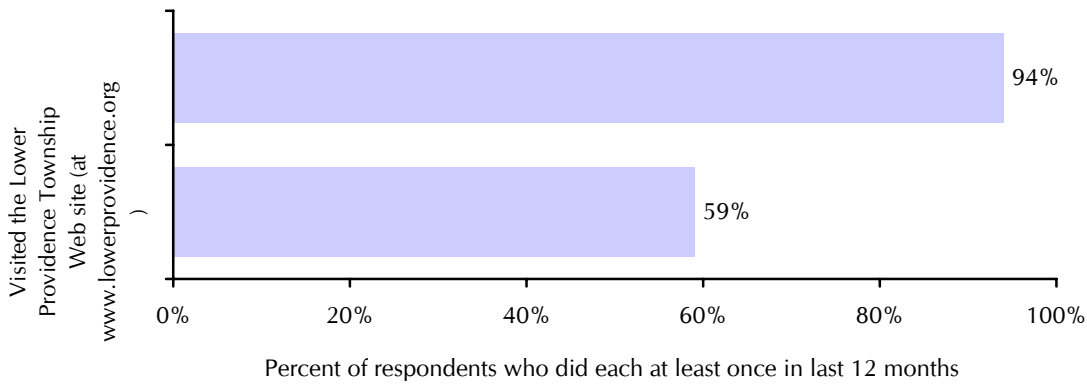


FIGURE 65: USE OF INFORMATION SOURCES BENCHMARKS

	National comparison	Populations less than 40,000 in the East
Read Lower Providence Newsletter	Above	Similar
Visited the Lower Providence Township Web site (at www.lowerprovidence.org)	Similar	Not available

FIGURE 66: RATINGS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT MEDIA SERVICES AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

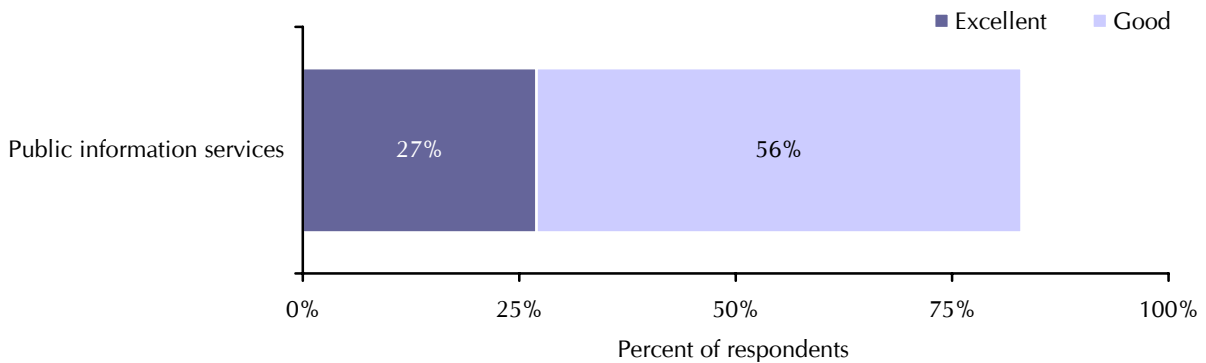


FIGURE 67: LOCAL GOVERNMENT MEDIA SERVICES AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION BENCHMARKS

	National comparison	Populations less than 40,000 in the East
Public information services	Above	Above

Social Engagement

Opportunities to participate in social events and activities were rated as “excellent” or “good” by 53% of respondents, while even more rated opportunities to participate in religious or spiritual events and activities as “excellent” or “good.”

FIGURE 68: RATINGS OF SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

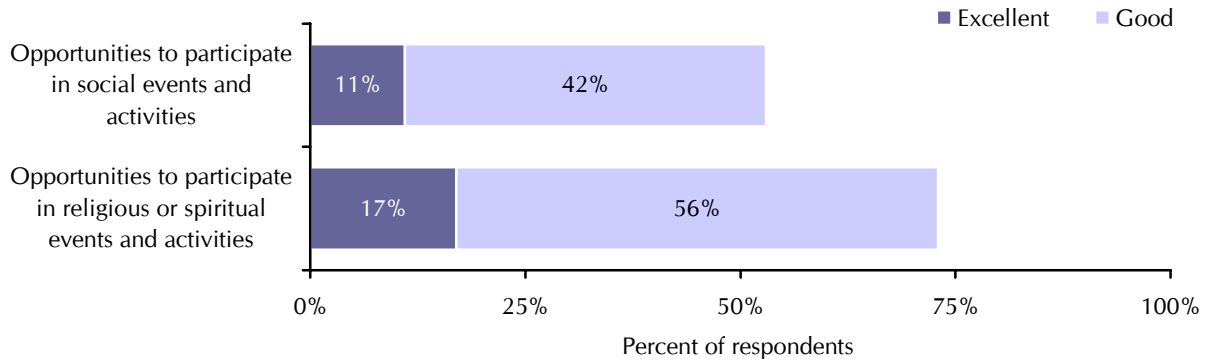


FIGURE 69: SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES BENCHMARKS

	National comparison	Populations less than 40,000 in the East
Opportunities to participate in social events and activities	Similar	Not available
Opportunities to participate in religious or spiritual events	Similar	Not available

Residents in Lower Providence reported a fair amount of neighborliness. More than 52% indicated talking or visiting with their neighbors several times a week or more frequently.

FIGURE 70: CONTACT WITH IMMEDIATE NEIGHBORS

About how often, if at all, do you talk to or visit with your immediate neighbors?

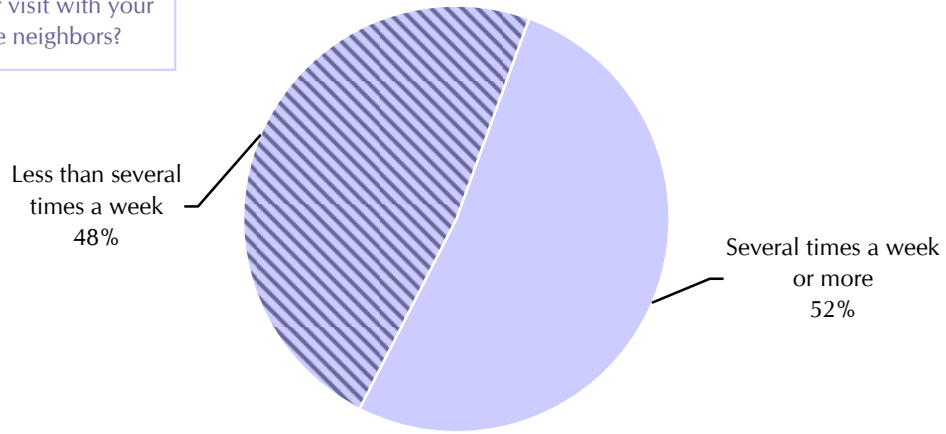


FIGURE 71: CONTACT WITH IMMEDIATE NEIGHBORS BENCHMARKS

	National comparison	Populations less than 40,000 in the East
Has contact with neighbors at least once per month	Similar	Not available

PUBLIC TRUST

Residents are more likely to cooperate with the proposals and policies advanced by their community leaders when trust in local government officials runs high. Trust can be measured in residents' opinions about the overall direction Lower Providence Township is taking, their perspectives about the service value their taxes purchase and the openness of government to citizen participation. In addition, resident opinion about services provided by Lower Providence Township could be compared to their opinion about services provided by the state and federal governments. If residents find nothing to admire in the services delivered by any level of government, their opinions about Lower Providence Township may be colored by their dislike of what all levels of government provide.

About half of respondents felt that the value of services for taxes paid was "excellent" or "good." When asked to rate the job Lower Providence Township does at listening to citizens, 29% rated it as "excellent" or "good."

FIGURE 72: PUBLIC TRUST RATINGS

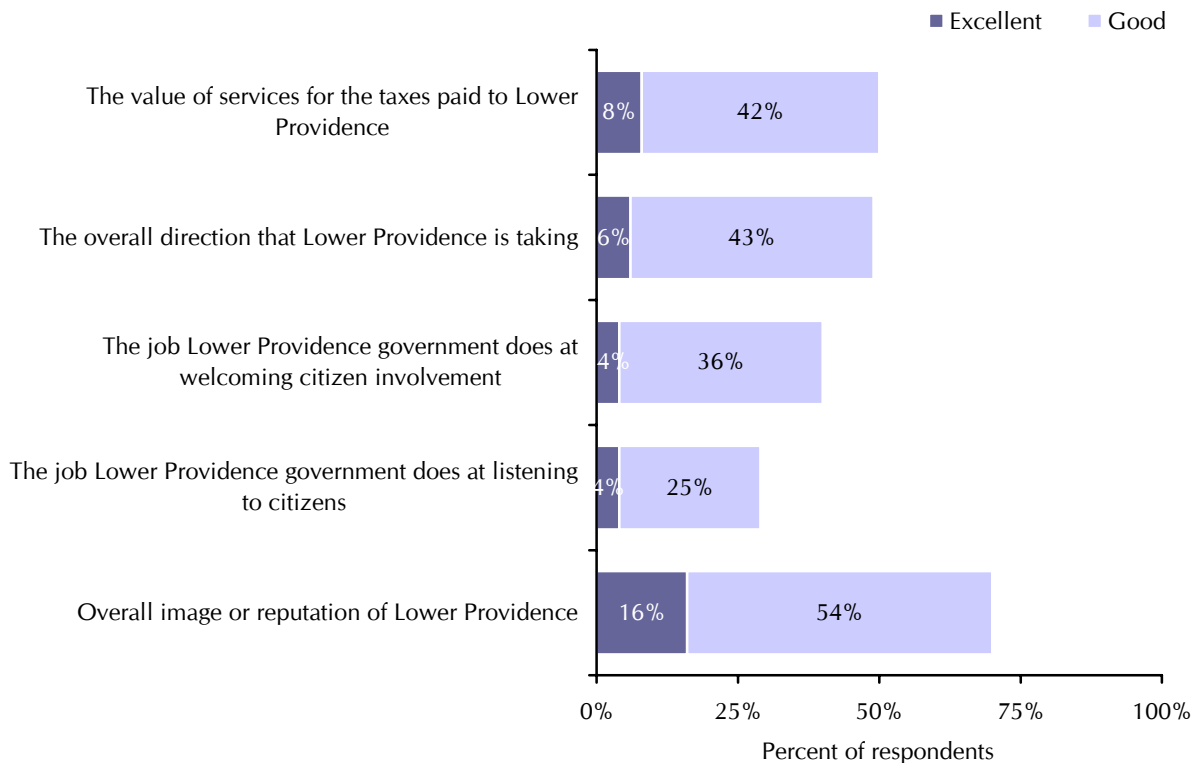


FIGURE 73: PUBLIC TRUST BENCHMARKS

	National comparison	Populations less than 40,000 in the East
Value of services for the taxes paid to Lower Providence	Below	Below
The overall direction that Lower Providence is taking	Below	Below
Job Lower Providence government does at welcoming citizen involvement	Below	Below
Job Lower Providence government does at listening to citizens	Below	Below
Overall image or reputation of Lower Providence	Similar	Similar

On average, residents of Lower Providence Township gave the highest evaluations to their own local government and the lowest average rating to the federal government. The overall quality of services delivered by Lower Providence Township was rated as “excellent” or “good” by 75% of survey participants. The Lower Providence Township’s rating was above the national benchmark, but similar to the benchmark when compared to other communities in the East of similar population size.

FIGURE 74: RATINGS OF SERVICES PROVIDED BY LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS

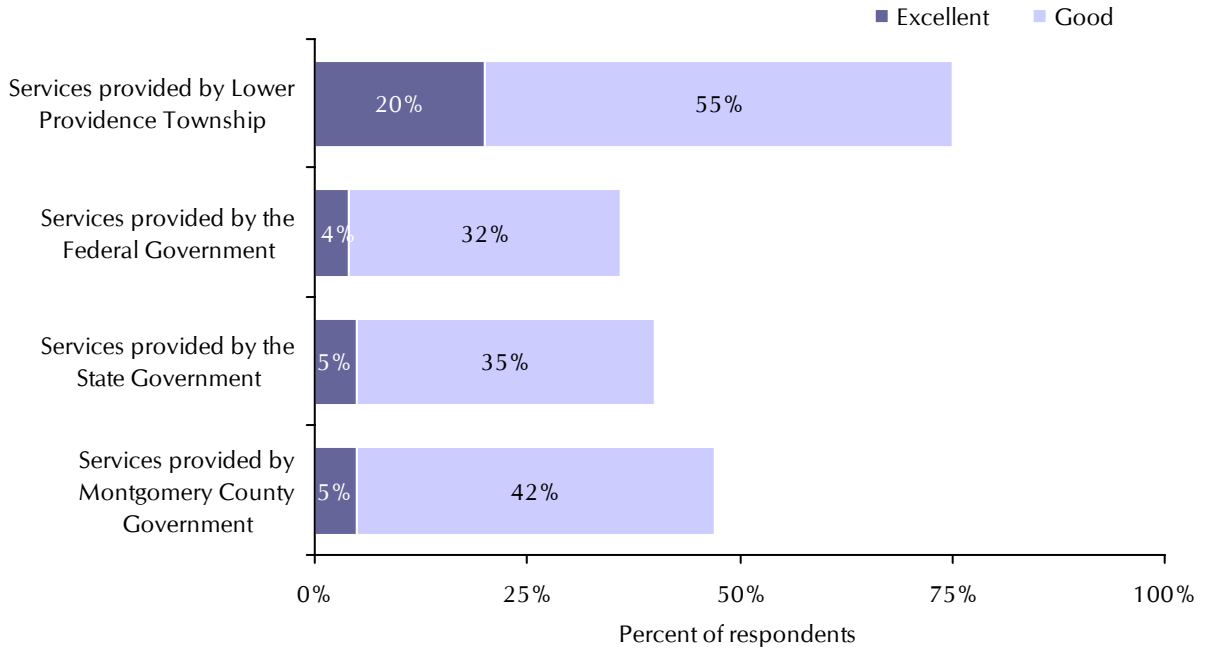


FIGURE 75: SERVICES PROVIDED BY LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS BENCHMARKS

	National comparison	Populations less than 40,000 in the East
Services provided by Lower Providence Township	Above	Similar
Services provided by the Federal Government	Similar	Similar
Services provided by the State Government	Similar	Similar
Montgomery County government general	Similar	Not available

Lower Providence Township Employees

The employees of Lower Providence Township who interact with the public create the first impression that most residents have of Lower Providence Township. Front line staff who provide information, assist with bill paying, collect trash, create service schedules, fight fires and crime and even give traffic tickets are the collective face of Lower Providence Township. As such, it is important to know about residents' experience talking with that "face." When employees appear to be knowledgeable, responsive and courteous, residents are more likely to feel that any needs or problems may be solved through positive and productive interactions with Lower Providence Township staff.

Those completing the survey were asked if they had been in contact with a Township employee either in-person or over the phone in the last 12 months; the 56% who reported that they had been in contact were then asked to indicate overall how satisfied they were with the employee in their most recent contact. Township employees were rated highly; 88% of respondents rated their overall impression as "excellent" or "good."

FIGURE 76: PROPORTION OF RESPONDENTS WHO HAD CONTACT WITH TOWNSHIP EMPLOYEES IN PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS

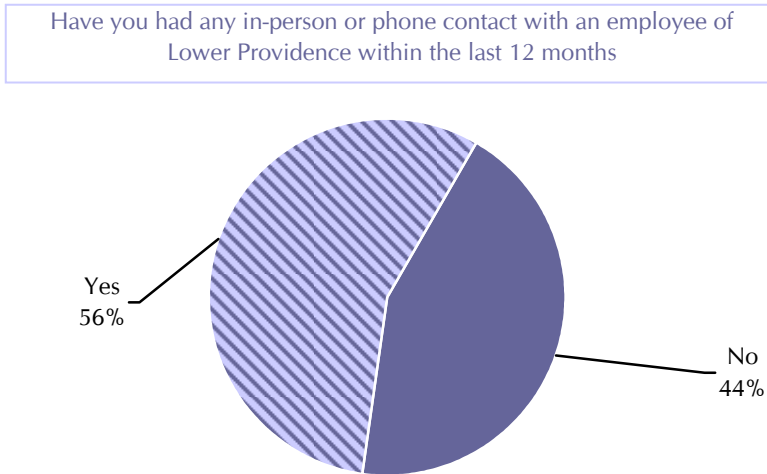


FIGURE 77: CONTACT WITH TOWNSHIP EMPLOYEES BENCHMARKS

	National comparison	Populations less than 40,000 in the East
Had contact with Township employee(s) in last 12 months	Similar	Below

FIGURE 78: RATINGS OF TOWNSHIP EMPLOYEES (AMONG THOSE WHO HAD CONTACT)

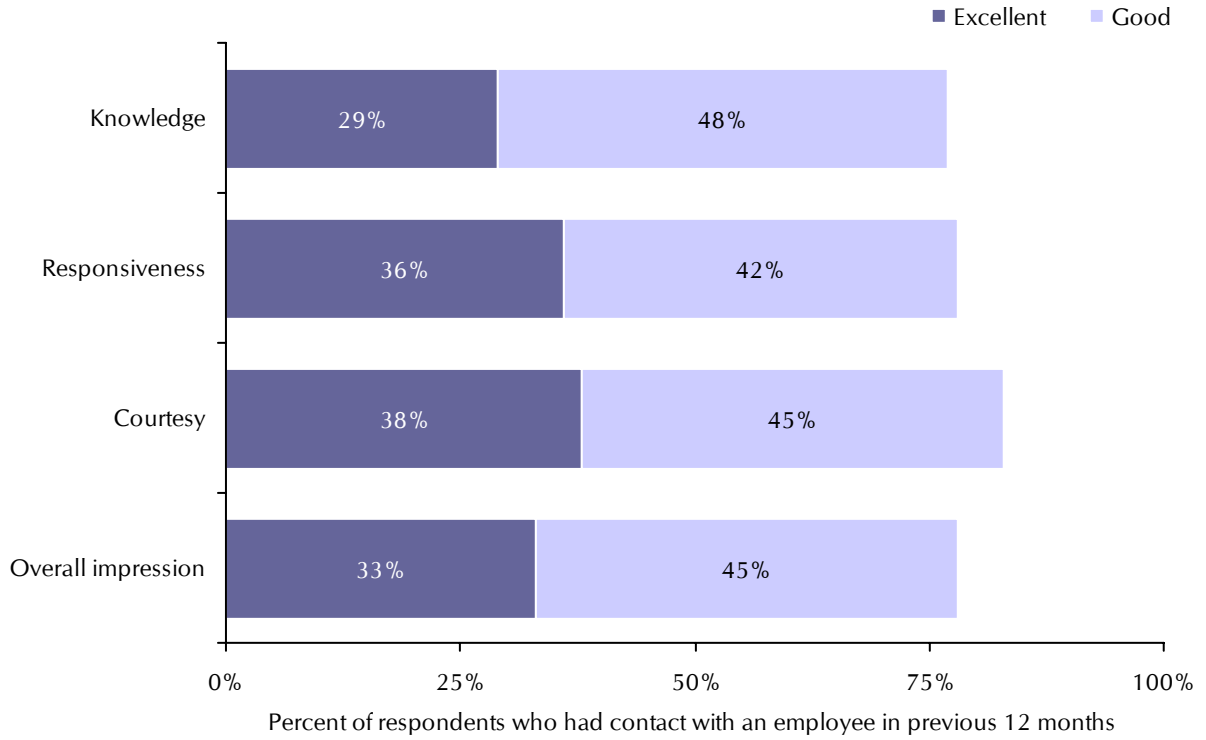


FIGURE 79: RATINGS OF TOWNSHIP EMPLOYEES (AMONG THOSE WHO HAD CONTACT) BENCHMARKS

	National comparison	Populations less than 40,000 in the East
Knowledge	Similar	Below
Responsiveness	Above	Similar
Courtesy	Above	Similar
Overall impression	Above	Similar

FROM DATA TO ACTION

RESIDENT PRIORITIES

Knowing where to focus limited resources to improve residents' opinions of local government requires information that targets the services that are most important to residents. However, when residents are asked what services are most important, they rarely stray beyond core services – those directed to save lives and improve safety.

In market research, identifying the most important characteristics of a transaction or product is called Key Driver Analysis. The key drivers that are identified from that analysis do not come from asking customers to self-report which service or product characteristic most influenced their decision to buy or return, but rather from statistical analyses of the predictors of their behavior. When customers are asked to name the most important characteristics of a good or service, responses often are expected or misleading – just as they can be in the context of a citizen survey. For example, air travelers often claim that safety is the primary consideration in their choice of an airline, yet key driver analysis reveals that frequent flier perks or in-flight entertainment predicts their buying decisions.

In local government core services – like fire protection – invariably land at the top of the list created when residents are asked about the most important local government services. And core services are important. But by using Key Driver Analysis, our approach digs deeper to identify the less obvious, but more influential services that are most related to residents' ratings of overall quality of local government services. Because services focused directly on life and safety remain essential to quality government, it is suggested that core services should remain the focus of continuous monitoring and improvement where necessary – but monitoring core services or asking residents to identify important services is not enough.

A Key Driver Analysis (KDA) was conducted for Lower Providence Township by examining the relationships between ratings of each service and ratings of Lower Providence Township's overall services. Those key driver services that correlated most highly with residents' perceptions about overall Township service quality have been identified. By targeting improvements in key services, Lower Providence Township can focus on the services that have the greatest likelihood of influencing residents' opinions about overall service quality.

Services found to be most strongly correlated with ratings of overall service quality from the Lower Providence Key Driver Analysis were:

- Township parks
- Police services
- Public information services
- Ambulance or emergency medical services
- Economic development

LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP ACTION CHART™

The 2008 Lower Providence Township Action Chart™ on the following page combines three dimensions of performance:

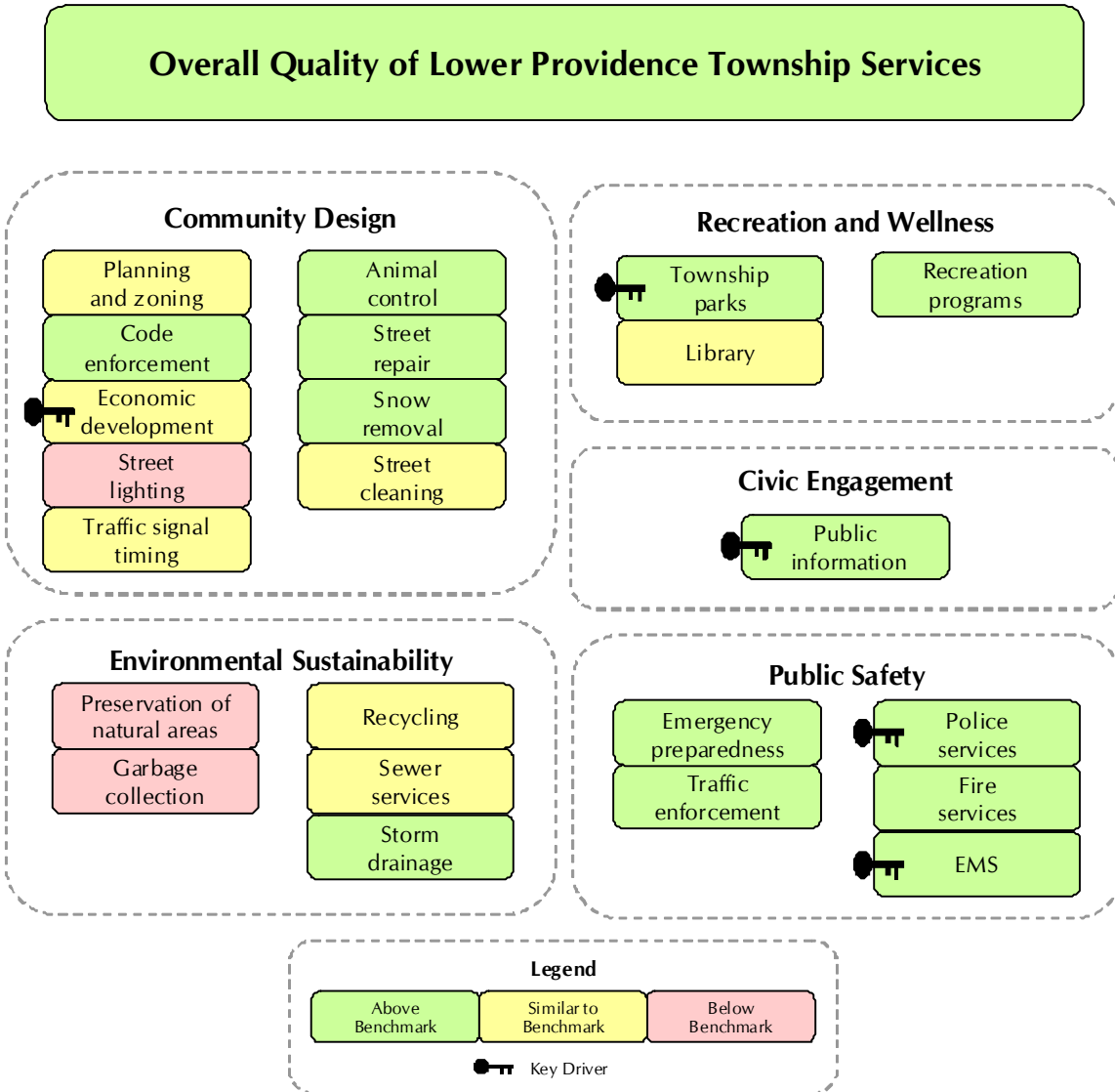
- Comparison to resident evaluations from other communities. When a comparison is available, the background color of each service box indicates whether the service is above the benchmark (green), similar to the benchmark (yellow) or below the benchmark (red).
- Identification of key services. A black key icon next to a service box indicates that service is key (either core or key driver)

Twenty-three services were included in the KDA for Lower Providence Township. Of these, 13 were above the benchmark, three were below the benchmark and seven were similar to the benchmark. The five key drivers are shown.

Considering all performance data included in the Action Chart, a jurisdiction typically will want to consider improvements to any key driver services that are not at least similar to the benchmark. In the case of Lower Providence, no key drivers were below the benchmark. Therefore, Lower Providence may wish to seek improvements to economic development, as this key driver received ratings similar to other benchmark jurisdictions. More detail about interpreting results can be found in the next section.

Services with a high percent of respondents answering “don’t know” were excluded from the analysis and were considered services that would be less influential. See Appendix A: Complete Survey Frequencies, Frequencies Including “Don’t Know” Responses for the percent “don’t know” for each service.

FIGURE 80: LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP ACTION CHART



Using Your Action Chart™

The key drivers derived for Lower Providence Township provide a list of those services that are uniquely related to overall service quality here. Those key drivers are marked by key symbols in the action chart. Because key driver results are based on a relatively small number of responses, the relationships or correlations that define the key drivers are subject to more variability than is seen when key drivers are derived from a large national dataset of resident responses. To benefit Lower Providence Township, NRC lists the key drivers derived from tens of thousands of resident responses from across the county. This list is updated every three years so that you can compare your key drivers to the key drivers from the entire NRC data set. Where your locally derived key drivers overlap national key drivers, it makes sense to focus even more strongly on your keys. Similarly, when your local key drivers overlap your core services, there is stronger argument to make for attending to your key drivers that overlap with core services. In the following table, we have listed your key drivers, core services and the national key drivers below and we have indicated Lower Providence Township key drivers that overlap core services or the nationally derived keys.

FIGURE 81: KEY DRIVERS COMPARED

Service	Lower Providence Township Key Drivers	National Key Drivers	Core Services
Code enforcement			✓
Economic development	✓	✓	
EMS	✓		✓
Fire			✓
Garbage collection			✓
Land use planning and zoning		✓	
Police services	✓	✓	✓
Public information services	✓	✓	
Public schools		✓	
Sewer			✓
Storm drainage			✓
Street repair			✓
Township parks	✓		
Water			✓

POLICY QUESTIONS

“Don’t know” responses have been removed from the following questions, when applicable.

Policy Question 1					
To what degree would you support or oppose the Township funding each of the following?	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Total
Preserving open space	67%	28%	2%	3%	100%
Acquiring open space	52%	37%	6%	5%	100%
"Growing greener" initiative (such as alternative fuel vehicles and renewable energy)	61%	32%	6%	2%	100%
Building projects for Parks and Recreation	51%	41%	7%	2%	100%
Programs for teens	58%	39%	1%	2%	100%
Programs for seniors	53%	43%	2%	2%	100%

Policy Question 2					
To what degree would you support or oppose the Township raising taxes to fund each of the following?	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Total
Preserving open space	26%	43%	16%	15%	100%
Acquiring open space	16%	35%	29%	20%	100%
"Growing greener" initiative (such as alternative fuel vehicles and renewable energy)	24%	42%	20%	15%	100%
Building projects for Parks and Recreation	20%	46%	17%	17%	100%
Programs for teens	18%	50%	17%	15%	100%
Programs for seniors	16%	48%	22%	14%	100%

Policy Question 3	
The Township is considering a single Township-wide zip code. This would break away from 19403 and may require giving up the identities of Audubon, Collegetown, Eagleville, Trooper and Valley Forge. To what degree do you support or oppose a single Township-wide zip code for Lower Providence?	Percent of respondents
Strongly support	24%
Somewhat support	32%
Somewhat oppose	19%
Strongly oppose	26%
Total	100%

**APPENDIX A: COMPLETE SURVEY
FREQUENCIES**

FREQUENCIES EXCLUDING "DON'T KNOW" RESPONSES

Question 1: Quality of Life					
Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Lower Providence:	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Total
Lower Providence as a place to live	26%	63%	10%	1%	100%
Your neighborhood as a place to live	36%	51%	12%	1%	100%
Lower Providence as a place to raise children	32%	53%	14%	1%	100%
Lower Providence as a place to work	16%	50%	25%	9%	100%
Lower Providence as a place to retire	16%	42%	28%	13%	100%
The overall quality of life in Lower Providence	22%	61%	16%	1%	100%

Question 2: Community Characteristics					
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Lower Providence as a whole:	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Total
Sense of community	9%	56%	30%	6%	100%
Openness and acceptance of the community towards people of diverse backgrounds	13%	52%	27%	7%	100%
Overall appearance of Lower Providence	8%	60%	29%	3%	100%
Cleanliness of Lower Providence	13%	57%	28%	2%	100%
Overall quality of new development in Lower Providence	14%	50%	30%	7%	100%
Variety of housing options	13%	51%	29%	7%	100%
Overall quality of business and service establishments in Lower Providence	9%	51%	31%	9%	100%
Shopping opportunities	14%	40%	35%	11%	100%
Opportunities to attend cultural activities	9%	30%	47%	14%	100%
Recreational opportunities	11%	46%	37%	6%	100%
Employment opportunities	5%	37%	43%	15%	100%
Educational opportunities	19%	47%	29%	5%	100%
Opportunities to participate in social events and activities	11%	42%	42%	5%	100%
Opportunities to participate in religious or spiritual events and activities	17%	56%	26%	1%	100%
Opportunities to volunteer	12%	52%	32%	4%	100%
Opportunities to participate in community matters	10%	46%	35%	8%	100%
Ease of car travel in Lower Providence	4%	36%	36%	23%	100%
Ease of bus travel in Lower Providence	6%	21%	37%	36%	100%
Ease of bicycle travel in Lower Providence	7%	36%	29%	28%	100%
Ease of walking in Lower Providence	7%	33%	34%	26%	100%
Availability of paths and walking trails	16%	44%	27%	13%	100%
Traffic flow on major streets	5%	17%	44%	34%	100%
Availability of affordable quality housing	6%	37%	35%	22%	100%
Availability of affordable quality child care	7%	38%	39%	16%	100%
Availability of affordable quality health care	10%	30%	44%	16%	100%
Air quality	9%	46%	35%	9%	100%
Quality of overall natural environment in Lower Providence	13%	52%	30%	6%	100%
Overall image or reputation of Lower Providence	16%	54%	27%	4%	100%

Question 3: Growth						
Please rate the speed of growth in the following categories in Lower Providence over the past 2 years:	Much too slow	Somewhat too slow	Right amount	Somewhat too fast	Much too fast	Total
Population growth	0%	1%	29%	45%	25%	100%
Retail growth (stores, restaurants, etc.)	4%	22%	38%	20%	17%	100%
Jobs growth	11%	50%	32%	6%	2%	100%

Question 4: Code Enforcement	
To what degree, if at all, are run down buildings, weed lots or junk vehicles a problem in Lower Providence?	Percent of respondents
Not a problem	21%
Minor problem	45%
Moderate problem	30%
Major problem	5%
Total	100%

Question 5: Community Safety						
Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel from the following in Lower Providence:	Very safe	Somewhat safe	Neither safe nor unsafe	Somewhat unsafe	Very unsafe	Total
Violent crime (e.g., rape, assault, robbery)	53%	37%	9%	1%	0%	100%
Property crimes (e.g., burglary, theft)	30%	44%	17%	9%	0%	100%
Environmental hazards, including toxic waste	26%	38%	17%	15%	4%	100%

Question 6: Personal Safety						
Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel:	Very safe	Somewhat safe	Neither safe nor unsafe	Somewhat unsafe	Very unsafe	Total
In your neighborhood during the day	77%	20%	3%	1%	0%	100%
In your neighborhood after dark	43%	44%	9%	4%	0%	100%
In Lower Providence's downtown area during the day	64%	31%	5%	0%	0%	100%
In Lower Providence's downtown area after dark	28%	49%	16%	7%	0%	100%

Question 7: Crime Victim	
During the past twelve months, were you or anyone in your household the victim of any crime?	Percent of respondents
No	91%
Yes	9%
Total	100%

Question 8: Crime Reporting	
If yes, was this crime (these crimes) reported to the police?	Percent of respondents
No	18%
Yes	82%
Total	100%

Question 9: Resident Behaviors						
In the last 12 months, about how many times, if ever, have you or other household members participated in the following activities in Lower Providence?	Never	Once or twice	3 to 12 times	13 to 26 times	More than 26 times	Total
Used Lower Providence community library or its services	28%	27%	24%	11%	9%	100%
Participated in a recreation program or activity	49%	35%	14%	1%	2%	100%
Visited a neighborhood park or Township park	13%	32%	32%	16%	6%	100%
Attended a meeting of local elected officials or other local public meeting	67%	26%	4%	2%	1%	100%
Watched a meeting of local elected officials or other local public meeting on cable television	68%	23%	7%	1%	1%	100%
Read Lower Providence Newsletter	6%	28%	59%	4%	3%	100%
Visited the Lower Providence Township Web site (at www.lowerprovidence.org)	41%	22%	30%	3%	4%	100%
Recycled used paper, cans or bottles from your home	9%	7%	6%	13%	65%	100%
Volunteered your time to some group or activity in Lower Providence	67%	17%	8%	2%	6%	100%
Participated in religious or spiritual activities in Lower Providence	55%	11%	8%	6%	21%	100%
Participated in a club or civic group in Lower Providence	79%	10%	5%	2%	4%	100%
Provided help to a friend or neighbor	8%	19%	39%	20%	14%	100%
Read the local newspaper (Times Herald)	24%	17%	25%	8%	26%	100%

Question 10: Neighborliness	
About how often, if at all, do you talk to or visit with your immediate neighbors (people who live in the 10 or 20 households that are closest to you)?	Percent of respondents
Just about everyday	18%
Several times a week	34%
Several times a month	21%
Once a month	4%
Several times a year	14%
Once a year or less	4%
Never	5%
Total	100%

Question 11: Service Quality					
Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Lower Providence:	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Total
Police services	47%	44%	6%	3%	100%
Fire services	50%	48%	2%	0%	100%
Ambulance or emergency medical services	55%	42%	3%	0%	100%
Crime prevention	33%	53%	12%	2%	100%
Fire prevention and education	34%	53%	11%	2%	100%
Traffic enforcement	20%	52%	20%	8%	100%
Street repair	13%	47%	35%	5%	100%
Street cleaning	15%	45%	33%	8%	100%
Street lighting	10%	38%	31%	20%	100%
Snow removal	17%	51%	26%	5%	100%
Traffic signal timing	9%	38%	36%	17%	100%
Garbage collection	19%	49%	21%	10%	100%
Recycling	22%	48%	24%	6%	100%
Yard waste pick-up	21%	47%	26%	6%	100%
Storm drainage	14%	48%	25%	13%	100%
Sewer services	17%	54%	23%	5%	100%
Township parks	30%	58%	12%	1%	100%
Recreation programs or classes	19%	55%	24%	1%	100%
Land use, planning and zoning	9%	31%	38%	23%	100%
Code enforcement (weeds, abandoned buildings, etc)	12%	38%	33%	17%	100%
Animal control	18%	51%	23%	8%	100%
Economic development	11%	37%	40%	12%	100%
Services to seniors	16%	36%	33%	16%	100%
Services to youth	10%	49%	33%	8%	100%
Services to low-income people	9%	29%	46%	16%	100%
Public library services	33%	51%	14%	2%	100%
Public information services	27%	56%	14%	2%	100%
Emergency preparedness (services that prepare the community for natural disasters or other emergency situations)	25%	52%	21%	2%	100%
Preservation of natural areas such as open space, farmlands and greenbelts	10%	37%	34%	19%	100%
Community Access channel	17%	49%	31%	3%	100%

Question 12: Government Services Overall					
Overall, how would you rate the quality of the services provided by each of the following?	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Total
Lower Providence Township	20%	55%	22%	3%	100%
The Federal Government	4%	32%	43%	21%	100%
The State Government	5%	35%	46%	14%	100%
Montgomery County Government	5%	42%	46%	8%	100%

Question 13: Contact with Township Employees	
Have you had any in-person or phone contact with an employee of Lower Providence Township within the last 12 months (including police, receptionists, planners or any others)?	Percent of respondents
No	44%
Yes	56%
Total	100%

Question 14: Township Employees					
What was your impression of the employee(s) of Lower Providence Township in your most recent contact?	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Total
Knowledge	29%	48%	17%	5%	100%
Responsiveness	36%	42%	16%	6%	100%
Courtesy	38%	45%	12%	5%	100%
Overall impression	33%	45%	14%	7%	100%

Question 15: Government Performance					
Please rate the following categories of Lower Providence Township government performance:	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Total
The value of services for the taxes paid to Lower Providence	8%	42%	39%	11%	100%
The overall direction that Lower Providence is taking	6%	43%	41%	9%	100%
The job Lower Providence government does at welcoming citizen involvement	4%	36%	44%	16%	100%
The job Lower Providence government does at listening to citizens	4%	25%	50%	21%	100%

Question 16: Recommendation and Longevity					
Please indicate how likely or unlikely you are to do each of the following:	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Somewhat unlikely	Very unlikely	Total
Recommend living in Lower Providence to someone who asks	42%	47%	7%	5%	100%
Remain in Lower Providence for the next five years	55%	33%	8%	5%	100%

Question 17: Impact of the Economy	
What impact, if any, do you think the economy will have on your family income in the next 6 months? Do you think the impact will be:	Percent of respondents
Very positive	4%
Somewhat positive	4%
Neutral	30%
Somewhat negative	47%
Very negative	16%
Total	100%

Question 18a: Policy Question 1					
To what degree would you support or oppose the Township funding each of the following?	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Total
Preserving open space	67%	28%	2%	3%	100%
Acquiring open space	52%	37%	6%	5%	100%
"Growing greener" initiative (such as alternative fuel vehicles and renewable energy)	61%	32%	6%	2%	100%
Building projects for Parks and Recreation	51%	41%	7%	2%	100%
Programs for teens	58%	39%	1%	2%	100%
Programs for seniors	53%	43%	2%	2%	100%

Question 18b: Policy Question 2					
To what degree would you support or oppose the Township raising taxes to fund each of the following?	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Total
Preserving open space	26%	43%	16%	15%	100%
Acquiring open space	16%	35%	29%	20%	100%
"Growing greener" initiative (such as alternative fuel vehicles and renewable energy)	24%	42%	20%	15%	100%
Building projects for Parks and Recreation	20%	46%	17%	17%	100%
Programs for teens	18%	50%	17%	15%	100%
Programs for seniors	16%	48%	22%	14%	100%

Question 18c: Policy Question 3	
The Township is considering a single Township-wide zip code. This would break away from 19403 and may require giving up the identities of Audubon, Collegetown, Eagleville, Trooper and Valley Forge. To what degree do you support or oppose a single Township	Percent of respondents
Strongly support	24%
Somewhat support	32%
Somewhat oppose	19%
Strongly oppose	26%
Total	100%

Question D1: Employment Status	
Are you currently employed for pay?	Percent of respondents
No	24%
Yes, full-time	68%
Yes, part-time	8%
Total	100%

Question D2: Mode of Transportation Used for Commute	
During a typical week, how many days do you commute to work (for the longest distance of your commute) in each of the ways listed below?	Percent of days mode used
Motorized vehicle (e.g., car, truck, van, motorcycle, etc...) by myself	77%
Motorized vehicle (e.g., car, truck, van, motorcycle, etc...) with other children or adults	14%
Bus, rail, subway or other public transportation	0%
Bicycle	0%
Bicycle	0%
Work at home	8%
Other	1%

Question D3: Length of Residency	
How many years have you lived in Lower Providence?	Percent of respondents
Less than 2 years	9%
2 to 5 years	21%
6 to 10 years	17%
11 to 20 years	22%
More than 20 years	30%
Total	100%

Question D4: Housing Unit Type	
Which best describes the building you live in?	Percent of respondents
One family house detached from any other houses	78%
House attached to one or more houses (e.g., a duplex or townhome)	6%
Building with two or more apartments or condominiums	12%
Mobile home	1%
Other	3%
Total	100%

Question D5: Housing Tenure (Rent/Own)	
Is this house, apartment or mobile home...	Percent of respondents
Rented for cash or occupied without cash payment	22%
Owned by you or someone in this house with a mortgage or free and clear	78%
Total	100%

Question D6: Monthly Housing Cost	
About how much is your monthly housing cost for the place you live (including rent, mortgage payment, property tax, property insurance and homeowners" association (HOA) fees)?	Percent of respondents
Less than \$300 per month	1%
\$300 to \$599 per month	7%
\$600 to \$999 per month	15%
\$1,000 to \$1,499 per month	21%
\$1,500 to \$2,499 per month	36%
\$2,500 or more per month	19%
Total	100%

Question D7: Presence of Children in Household	
Do any children 17 or under live in your household?	Percent of respondents
No	52%
Yes	48%
Total	100%

Question D8: Presence of Older Adults in Household	
Are you or any other members of your household aged 65 or older?	Percent of respondents
No	79%
Yes	21%
Total	100%

Question D9: Household Income	
How much do you anticipate your household's total income before taxes will be for the current year? (Please include in your total income money from all sources for all persons living in your household.)	Percent of respondents
Less than \$24,999	10%
\$25,000 to \$49,999	15%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	36%
\$100,000 to \$149,000	19%
\$150,000 or more	20%
Total	100%

Question D10: Ethnicity	
Are you Spanish, Hispanic or Latino?	Percent of respondents
No, not Spanish, Hispanic or Latino	99%
Yes, I consider myself to be Spanish, Hispanic or Latino	1%
Total	100%

Question D11: Race	
What is your race? (Mark one or more races to indicate what race(s) you consider yourself to be.)	Percent of respondents
American Indian or Alaskan Native	2%
Asian, Asian Indian or Pacific Islander	8%
Black or African American	1%
White	88%
Other	3%
Total may exceed 100% as respondents could select more than one option	

Question D12: Age	
In which category is your age?	Percent of respondents
18 to 24 years	3%
25 to 34 years	21%
35 to 44 years	17%
45 to 54 years	31%
55 to 64 years	13%
65 to 74 years	7%
75 years or older	8%
Total	100%

Question D13: Gender	
What is your sex?	Percent of respondents
Female	50%
Male	50%
Total	100%

Question D14: Registered to Vote	
Are you registered to vote in your jurisdiction?	Percent of respondents
No	17%
Yes	82%
Ineligible to vote	2%
Total	100%

Question D15: Voted in Last General Election	
Many people don't have time to vote in elections. Did you vote in the last general election?	Percent of respondents
No	32%
Yes	66%
Ineligible to vote	2%
Total	100%

FREQUENCIES INCLUDING “DON’T KNOW” RESPONSES

These tables contain the percentage of respondents for each response category as well as the “n” or total number of respondents for each category, next to the percentage.

Question 1: Quality of Life												
Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Lower Providence:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
	Lower Providence as a place to live	26%	84	63%	205	10%	33	1%	3	0%	0	100%
Your neighborhood as a place to live	36%	116	51%	165	12%	39	1%	4	0%	0	100%	324
Lower Providence as a place to raise children	28%	90	46%	148	12%	39	1%	2	13%	42	100%	321
Lower Providence as a place to work	9%	29	29%	91	14%	44	5%	16	43%	136	100%	317
Lower Providence as a place to retire	12%	38	31%	100	21%	67	10%	31	27%	86	100%	323
The overall quality of life in Lower Providence	22%	71	61%	199	16%	50	1%	3	0%	0	100%	324

Question 2: Community Characteristics												
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Lower Providence as a whole:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count
Sense of community	8%	25	52%	166	28%	88	6%	19	6%	18	100%	317
Openness and acceptance of the community towards people of diverse backgrounds	11%	34	43%	137	23%	72	6%	20	18%	56	100%	318
Overall appearance of Lower Providence	8%	26	60%	191	29%	94	3%	10	0%	0	100%	321
Cleanliness of Lower Providence	13%	42	57%	183	27%	88	2%	6	1%	3	100%	322
Overall quality of new development in Lower Providence	13%	40	46%	146	28%	88	6%	20	7%	21	100%	315
Variety of housing options	12%	38	47%	148	26%	83	7%	22	8%	25	100%	315
Overall quality of business and service establishments in Lower Providence	9%	28	49%	156	30%	96	9%	28	4%	13	100%	322
Shopping opportunities	14%	45	40%	127	35%	110	11%	34	0%	1	100%	317
Opportunities to attend cultural activities	7%	22	24%	76	37%	116	11%	35	22%	70	100%	318
Recreational opportunities	11%	34	43%	138	34%	111	6%	18	6%	21	100%	322
Employment opportunities	3%	9	24%	76	28%	88	10%	31	36%	115	100%	321
Educational opportunities	16%	52	41%	132	25%	81	4%	13	14%	45	100%	322
Opportunities to participate in social events and activities	10%	31	35%	114	35%	113	4%	14	15%	50	100%	322
Opportunities to participate in religious or spiritual events and activities	12%	40	42%	136	20%	63	1%	3	25%	81	100%	322
Opportunities to volunteer	9%	29	39%	122	23%	74	3%	8	26%	84	100%	318
Opportunities to participate in community matters	8%	26	37%	119	29%	91	7%	21	19%	61	100%	319
Ease of car travel in Lower Providence	4%	13	36%	115	36%	115	23%	73	1%	5	100%	321
Ease of bus travel in Lower Providence	3%	11	11%	36	19%	62	19%	61	47%	150	100%	319
Ease of bicycle travel in Lower Providence	5%	16	27%	85	22%	70	21%	68	25%	80	100%	319
Ease of walking in Lower Providence	7%	21	31%	96	32%	99	25%	78	6%	19	100%	314
Availability of paths and walking trails	16%	49	43%	135	26%	83	12%	38	2%	8	100%	312
Traffic flow on major streets	5%	14	17%	54	44%	140	34%	107	0%	1	100%	316
Availability of affordable quality housing	5%	15	31%	98	30%	94	19%	59	16%	51	100%	317
Availability of affordable quality child care	4%	11	19%	60	19%	60	8%	24	51%	160	100%	315

Question 2: Community Characteristics												
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Lower Providence as a whole:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
	Availability of affordable quality health care	6%	21	21%	65	30%	94	11%	35	32%	102	100%
Air quality	9%	27	43%	136	32%	103	8%	26	8%	26	100%	318
Quality of overall natural environment in Lower Providence	12%	38	50%	160	29%	91	5%	17	3%	11	100%	317
Overall image or reputation of Lower Providence	15%	49	53%	168	26%	84	4%	12	2%	5	100%	318

Question 3: Growth														
Please rate the speed of growth in the following categories in Lower Providence over the past 2 years:	Much too slow		Somewhat too slow		Right amount		Somewhat too fast		Much too fast		Don't know		Total	
	Population growth	0%	0	1%	2	24%	77	36%	117	20%	66	20%	63	100%
Retail growth (stores, restaurants, etc.)	4%	12	20%	64	35%	112	18%	58	16%	50	8%	26	100%	323
Jobs growth	5%	17	23%	73	14%	46	3%	8	1%	3	54%	176	100%	322

Question 4: Code Enforcement		
To what degree, if at all, are run down buildings, weed lots or junk vehicles a problem in Lower Providence?	Percent of respondents	Count
Not a problem	19%	61
Minor problem	42%	132
Moderate problem	28%	87
Major problem	5%	14
Don't know	7%	22
Total	100%	317

Question 5: Community Safety														
Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel from the following in Lower Providence:	Very safe		Somewhat safe		Neither safe nor unsafe		Somewhat unsafe		Very unsafe		Don't know		Total	
	Violent crime (e.g., rape, assault, robbery)	53%	169	37%	118	9%	27	1%	5	0%	0	0%	2	100%
Property crimes (e.g., burglary, theft)	30%	96	44%	141	17%	53	8%	27	0%	1	1%	2	100%	321
Environmental hazards, including toxic waste	24%	76	35%	111	16%	51	14%	46	4%	12	8%	24	100%	321

Question 6: Personal Safety														
Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel:	Very safe		Somewhat safe		Neither safe nor unsafe		Somewhat unsafe		Very unsafe		Don't know		Total	
	In your neighborhood during the day	76%	245	20%	64	3%	8	1%	3	0%	0	0%	1	100%
In your neighborhood after dark	43%	137	44%	142	9%	30	4%	12	0%	1	0%	0	100%	321
In Lower Providence's downtown area during the day	62%	199	30%	96	5%	15	0%	0	0%	0	3%	11	100%	321
In Lower Providence's downtown area after dark	26%	83	46%	147	15%	48	6%	20	0%	1	6%	18	100%	317

Question 7: Crime Victim		
During the past twelve months, were you or anyone in your household the victim of any crime?	Percent of respondents	Count
No	90%	285
Yes	8%	27
Don't know	1%	4
Total	100%	316

Question 8: Crime Reporting		
If yes, was this crime (these crimes) reported to the police?	Percent of respondents	Count
No	18%	5
Yes	82%	22
Don't know	0%	0
Total	100%	27

Question 9: Resident Behaviors												
In the last 12 months, about how many times, if ever, have you or other household members participated in the following activities in Lower Providence?	Never		Once or twice		3 to 12 times		13 to 26 times		More than 26 times		Total	
	Used Lower Providence community library or its services	28%	91	27%	86	24%	77	11%	36	9%	28	100%
Participated in a recreation program or activity	49%	156	35%	110	14%	43	1%	3	2%	6	100%	317
Visited a neighborhood park or Township park	13%	42	32%	101	32%	100	16%	51	6%	20	100%	315
Attended a meeting of local elected officials or other local public meeting	67%	214	26%	84	4%	13	2%	6	1%	3	100%	320
Watched a meeting of local elected officials or other local public meeting on cable television	68%	213	23%	74	7%	23	1%	2	1%	3	100%	316
Read Lower Providence Newsletter	6%	20	28%	86	59%	181	4%	11	3%	11	100%	309
Visited the Lower Providence Township Web site (at www.lowerprovidence.org)	41%	131	22%	72	30%	95	3%	8	4%	12	100%	318
Recycled used paper, cans or bottles from your home	9%	28	7%	22	6%	20	13%	40	65%	204	100%	314
Volunteered your time to some group or activity in Lower Providence	67%	211	17%	54	8%	26	2%	5	6%	20	100%	317
Participated in religious or spiritual activities in Lower Providence	55%	174	11%	34	8%	24	6%	18	21%	65	100%	316
Participated in a club or civic group in Lower Providence	79%	251	10%	31	5%	16	2%	7	4%	14	100%	319
Provided help to a friend or neighbor	8%	25	19%	57	39%	119	20%	62	14%	43	100%	305
Read the local newspaper (Times Herald)	24%	76	17%	56	25%	80	8%	25	26%	82	100%	318

Question 10: Neighborliness		
About how often, if at all, do you talk to or visit with your immediate neighbors (people who live in the 10 or 20 households that are closest to you)?	Percent of respondents	Count
Just about everyday	18%	57
Several times a week	34%	108
Several times a month	21%	67
Once a month	4%	12
Several times a year	14%	43
Once a year or less	4%	12
Never	5%	17
Total	100%	316

Question 11: Service Quality												
Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Lower Providence:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
	Police services	44%	140	41%	131	5%	17	3%	10	6%	20	100%
Fire services	38%	121	36%	115	1%	5	0%	0	24%	78	100%	318
Ambulance or emergency medical services	40%	129	31%	97	2%	7	0%	0	27%	85	100%	318
Crime prevention	24%	78	39%	125	9%	28	1%	4	26%	83	100%	318
Fire prevention and education	23%	74	37%	117	8%	25	1%	4	31%	99	100%	318
Traffic enforcement	18%	56	45%	143	18%	56	7%	22	13%	40	100%	316
Street repair	12%	39	44%	139	33%	103	5%	15	7%	21	100%	317
Street cleaning	14%	43	42%	131	31%	97	7%	23	6%	19	100%	314
Street lighting	10%	31	37%	117	30%	95	20%	63	4%	11	100%	318
Snow removal	17%	52	49%	153	25%	78	5%	16	4%	13	100%	312
Traffic signal timing	9%	27	36%	114	34%	109	17%	53	4%	13	100%	316
Garbage collection	18%	59	46%	147	20%	64	10%	31	5%	16	100%	318
Recycling	21%	66	45%	143	23%	72	5%	17	5%	17	100%	315
Yard waste pick-up	17%	54	38%	120	21%	65	5%	16	20%	62	100%	316
Storm drainage	12%	38	42%	133	22%	70	12%	37	13%	40	100%	318
Sewer services	14%	45	45%	140	20%	61	4%	12	17%	52	100%	310
Township parks	28%	88	53%	168	11%	34	1%	2	8%	25	100%	317
Recreation programs or classes	13%	42	38%	121	17%	54	1%	3	31%	97	100%	317
Land use, planning and zoning	6%	21	23%	74	28%	90	17%	54	25%	79	100%	317
Code enforcement (weeds, abandoned buildings, etc)	9%	28	29%	91	24%	77	13%	40	25%	79	100%	316
Animal control	12%	37	32%	102	15%	46	5%	15	37%	117	100%	317
Economic development	7%	23	26%	82	28%	89	8%	26	30%	96	100%	316
Services to seniors	6%	18	13%	42	12%	38	6%	19	63%	200	100%	317
Services to youth	6%	19	29%	90	19%	61	5%	14	42%	132	100%	317
Services to low-income people	3%	9	9%	28	14%	44	5%	15	69%	218	100%	314
Public library services	28%	87	43%	134	12%	36	2%	6	16%	49	100%	312

Question 11: Service Quality												
Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Lower Providence:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
	Public information services	22%	67	44%	139	11%	35	2%	5	21%	66	100%
Emergency preparedness (services that prepare the community for natural disasters or other emergency situations)	20%	64	43%	136	17%	54	2%	6	17%	54	100%	315
Preservation of natural areas such as open space, farmlands and greenbelts	9%	28	34%	106	31%	97	17%	55	9%	28	100%	314
Community Access channel	10%	30	28%	89	18%	57	2%	5	42%	132	100%	313

Question 12: Government Services Overall												
Overall, how would you rate the quality of the services provided by each of the following?	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
	Lower Providence Township	20%	61	53%	166	21%	66	3%	10	3%	11	100%
The Federal Government	3%	10	28%	89	37%	116	19%	58	13%	41	100%	314
The State Government	4%	13	31%	97	41%	127	12%	38	12%	38	100%	314
Montgomery County Government	4%	13	35%	109	38%	120	7%	21	16%	50	100%	314

Question 13: Contact with Township Employees		
Have you had any in-person or phone contact with an employee of Lower Providence Township within the last 12 months (including police, receptionists, planners or any others)?	Percent of respondents	Count
No	44%	135
Yes	56%	176
Total	100%	311

Question 14: Township Employees												
What was your impression of the employee(s) of Lower Providence Township in your most recent contact?	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
	Knowledge	29%	52	47%	86	17%	31	5%	9	2%	3	100%
Responsiveness	35%	64	42%	76	16%	29	6%	11	1%	1	100%	181
Courtesy	38%	68	45%	82	12%	21	5%	9	0%	1	100%	181
Overall impression	33%	60	45%	82	14%	25	7%	13	0%	1	100%	181

Question 15: Government Performance												
Please rate the following categories of Lower Providence government performance:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
	The value of services for the taxes paid to Lower Providence	7%	22	38%	123	36%	114	10%	30	9%	30	100%
The overall direction that Lower Providence is taking	6%	19	38%	123	37%	118	8%	27	11%	35	100%	323
The job Lower Providence government does at welcoming citizen involvement	3%	9	27%	88	33%	107	12%	40	24%	77	100%	321
The job Lower Providence government does at listening to citizens	3%	10	19%	60	38%	120	16%	52	24%	75	100%	317

Question 16: Recommendation and Longevity												
Please indicate how likely or unlikely you are to do each of the following:	Very likely		Somewhat likely		Somewhat unlikely		Very unlikely		Don't know		Total	
	Recommend living in Lower Providence to someone who asks	41%	134	46%	149	7%	22	4%	15	1%	3	100%
Remain in Lower Providence for the next five years	54%	176	32%	104	8%	25	5%	15	1%	4	100%	323

Question 17: Impact of the Economy		
What impact, if any, do you think the economy will have on your family income in the next 6 months? Do you think the impact will be:	Percent of respondents	Count
Very positive	4%	12
Somewhat positive	4%	13
Neutral	30%	95
Somewhat negative	47%	147
Very negative	16%	49
Total	100%	316

Question 18a: Policy Question 1										
To what degree would you support or oppose the Township funding each of the following?	Strongly support		Somewhat support		Somewhat oppose		Strongly oppose		Total	
Preserving open space	67%	216	28%	92	2%	5	3%	11	100%	324
Acquiring open space	52%	165	37%	120	6%	19	5%	16	100%	320
"Growing greener" initiative (such as alternative fuel vehicles and renewable energy)	61%	194	32%	100	6%	18	2%	6	100%	318
Building projects for Parks and Recreation	51%	161	41%	129	7%	21	2%	6	100%	317
Programs for teens	58%	188	39%	126	1%	4	2%	5	100%	323
Programs for seniors	53%	168	43%	139	2%	7	2%	5	100%	320

Question 18b: Policy Question 2										
To what degree would you support or oppose the Township raising taxes to fund each of the following?	Strongly support		Somewhat support		Somewhat oppose		Strongly oppose		Total	
Preserving open space	26%	83	43%	140	16%	52	15%	49	100%	324
Acquiring open space	16%	52	35%	114	29%	93	20%	63	100%	322
"Growing greener" initiative (such as alternative fuel vehicles and renewable energy)	24%	76	42%	133	20%	64	15%	47	100%	320
Building projects for Parks and Recreation	20%	63	46%	147	17%	54	17%	53	100%	317
Programs for teens	18%	57	50%	160	17%	56	15%	50	100%	323
Programs for seniors	16%	51	48%	153	22%	71	14%	46	100%	322

Question 18c: Policy Question 3		
The Township is considering a single Township-wide zip code. This would break away from 19403 and may require giving up the identities of Audubon, Colledgeville, Eagleville, Trooper and Valley Forge. To what degree do you support or oppose a single Township	Percent of respondents	Count
Strongly support	18%	59
Somewhat support	25%	79
Somewhat oppose	15%	48
Strongly oppose	20%	64
Don't know	22%	70
Total	100%	320

Question D1: Employment Status		
Are you currently employed for pay?	Percent of respondents	Count
No	24%	77
Yes, full-time	68%	219
Yes, part-time	8%	27
Total	100%	323

Question D2: Mode of Transportation Used for Commute	
During a typical week, how many days do you commute to work (for the longest distance of your commute) in each of the ways listed below?	Percent of days mode used
Motorized vehicle (e.g., car, truck, van, motorcycle, etc...) by myself	77%
Motorized vehicle (e.g., car, truck, van, motorcycle, etc...) with other children or adults	14%
Bus, rail, subway or other public transportation	0%
Bicycle	0%
Bicycle	0%
Work at home	8%
Other	1%

Question D3: Length of Residency		
How many years have you lived in Lower Providence?	Percent of respondents	Count
Less than 2 years	9%	30
2 to 5 years	21%	68
6 to 10 years	17%	56
11 to 20 years	22%	72
More than 20 years	30%	98
Total	100%	323

Question D4: Housing Unit Type		
Which best describes the building you live in?	Percent of respondents	Count
One family house detached from any other houses	78%	252
House attached to one or more houses (e.g., a duplex or townhome)	6%	21
Building with two or more apartments or condominiums	12%	39
Mobile home	1%	3
Other	3%	9
Total	100%	323

Question D5: Housing Tenure (Rent/Own)		
Is this house, apartment or mobile home...	Percent of respondents	Count
Rented for cash or occupied without cash payment	22%	71
Owned by you or someone in this house with a mortgage or free and clear	78%	248
Total	100%	319

Question D6: Monthly Housing Cost		
About how much is your monthly housing cost for the place you live (including rent, mortgage payment, property tax, property insurance and homeowners" association (HOA) fees)?	Percent of respondents	Count
Less than \$300 per month	1%	4
\$300 to \$599 per month	7%	21
\$600 to \$999 per month	15%	45
\$1,000 to \$1,499 per month	21%	66
\$1,500 to \$2,499 per month	36%	111
\$2,500 or more per month	19%	59
Total	100%	307

Question D7: Presence of Children in Household		
Do any children 17 or under live in your household?	Percent of respondents	Count
No	52%	169
Yes	48%	154
Total	100%	323

Question D8: Presence of Older Adults in Household		
Are you or any other members of your household aged 65 or older?	Percent of respondents	Count
No	79%	254
Yes	21%	69
Total	100%	323

Question D9: Household Income		
How much do you anticipate your household's total income before taxes will be for the current year? (Please include in your total income money from all sources for all persons living in your household.)	Percent of respondents	Count
Less than \$24,999	10%	30
\$25,000 to \$49,999	15%	44
\$50,000 to \$99,999	36%	104
\$100,000 to \$149,000	19%	56
\$150,000 or more	20%	58
Total	100%	292

Question D10: Ethnicity		
Are you Spanish, Hispanic or Latino?	Percent of respondents	Count
No, not Spanish, Hispanic or Latino	99%	310
Yes, I consider myself to be Spanish, Hispanic or Latino	1%	4
Total	100%	314

Question D11: Race		
What is your race? (Mark one or more races to indicate what race(s) you consider yourself to be.)	Percent of respondents	Count
American Indian or Alaskan Native	2%	6
Asian, Asian Indian or Pacific Islander	8%	26
Black or African American	1%	3
White	88%	279
Other	3%	9
Total may exceed 100% as respondents could select more than one option		

Question D12: Age		
In which category is your age?	Percent of respondents	Count
18 to 24 years	3%	9
25 to 34 years	21%	66
35 to 44 years	17%	54
45 to 54 years	31%	101
55 to 64 years	13%	41
65 to 74 years	7%	23
75 years or older	8%	27
Total	100%	320

Question D13: Gender		
What is your sex?	Percent of respondents	Count
Female	50%	160
Male	50%	160
Total	100%	319

Question D14: Registered to Vote		
Are you registered to vote in your jurisdiction?	Percent of respondents	Count
No	16%	53
Yes	81%	260
Ineligible to vote	1%	5
Don't know	1%	5
Total	100%	323

Question D15: Voted in Last General Election		
Many people don't have time to vote in elections. Did you vote in the last general election?	Percent of respondents	Count
No	32%	103
Yes	65%	211
Ineligible to vote	2%	7
Don't know	0%	1
Total	100%	322

APPENDIX B: SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The National Citizen Survey™ was developed to provide local jurisdictions an accurate, affordable and easy way to assess and interpret resident opinion about important community issues. While standardization of question wording and survey methods provide the rigor to assure valid results, each jurisdiction has enough flexibility to construct a customized version of The National Citizen Survey™ that asks residents about key local services and important local issues.

Results offer insight into residents' perspectives about local government performance and as such provide important benchmarks for jurisdictions working on performance measurement. The National Citizen Survey™ is designed to help with budget, land use and strategic planning as well as to communicate with local residents. The National Citizen Survey™ permits questions to test support for local policies and answers to its questions also speak to community trust and involvement in community-building activities as well as to resident demographic characteristics.

SURVEY VALIDITY

The question of survey validity has two parts: 1) how can a jurisdiction be confident that the results from those who completed the questionnaire are representative of the results that would have been obtained had the survey been administered to the entire population? and 2) how closely do the perspectives recorded on the survey reflect what residents really believe or do?

To answer the first question, the best survey research practices were used for the resources spent to ensure that the results from the survey respondents reflect the opinions of residents in the entire jurisdiction. These practices include:

- Using a mail-out/mail-back methodology, which typically gets a higher response rate than phone for the same dollars spent. A higher response rate lessens the worry that those who did not respond are different than those who did respond.
- Selecting households at random within the jurisdiction to receive the survey. A random selection ensures that the households selected to receive the survey are similar to the entire population. A non-random sample may only include households from one geographic area, or from households of only one type.
- Over-sampling multi-family housing units to improve response from hard-to-reach, lower income, or younger apartment dwellers.
- Selecting the respondent within the household using an unbiased sampling procedure; in this case, the "birthday method." The cover letter included an instruction requesting that the respondent in the household be the adult (18 years old or older) who most recently had a birthday, irrespective of year of birth.
- Contacting potential respondents three times to encourage response from people who may have different opinions or habits than those who would respond with only a single prompt.
- Soliciting response on jurisdiction letterhead signed by the highest ranking elected official or staff member, thus appealing to the recipients' sense of civic responsibility.
- Providing a self-addressed, postage-paid return envelope.
- Offering the survey in Spanish when appropriate and requested by Township officials.
- Using the most recent available information about the characteristics of jurisdiction residents to weight the data to reflect the demographics of the population.

The answer to the second question about how closely the perspectives recorded on the survey reflect what residents really believe or do is more complex. Resident responses to surveys are influenced by a variety of factors. For questions about service quality, residents' expectations for

service quality play a role as well as the “objective” quality of the service provided, the way the resident perceives the entire community (that is, the context in which the service is provided), the scale on which the resident is asked to record his or her opinion and, of course, the opinion, itself, that a resident holds about the service. Similarly a resident’s report of certain behaviors is colored by what he or she believes is the socially desirable response (e.g., reporting tolerant behaviors toward “oppressed groups,” likelihood of voting a tax increase for services to poor people, use of alternative modes of travel to work besides the single occupancy vehicle), his or her memory of the actual behavior (if it is not a question speculating about future actions, like a vote), his or her confidence that he or she can be honest without suffering any negative consequences (thus the need for anonymity) as well as the actual behavior itself.

How closely survey results come to recording the way a person really feels or behaves often is measured by the coincidence of reported behavior with observed current behavior (e.g., driving habits), reported intentions to behave with observed future behavior (e.g., voting choices) or reported opinions about current community quality with objective characteristics of the community (e.g., feelings of safety correlated with rates of crime). There is a body of scientific literature that has investigated the relationship between reported behaviors and actual behaviors. Well-conducted surveys, by and large, do capture true respondent behaviors or intentions to act with great accuracy. Predictions of voting outcomes tend to be quite accurate using survey research, as do reported behaviors that are not about highly sensitive issues (e.g., family abuse or other illegal or morally sanctioned activities). For self-reports about highly sensitive issues, statistical adjustments can be made to correct for the respondents’ tendency to report what they think the “correct” response should be.

Research on the correlation of resident opinion about service quality and “objective” ratings of service quality tend to be ambiguous, some showing stronger relationships than others. NRC’s own research has demonstrated that residents who report the lowest ratings of street repair live in communities with objectively worse street conditions than those who report high ratings of street repair (based on road quality, delay in street repair, number of road repair employees). Similarly, the lowest rated fire services appear to be “objectively” worse than the highest rated fire services (expenditures per capita, response time, “professional” status of firefighters, breadth of services and training provided). Whether some research confirms or disconfirms that relationship between what residents think about a community and what can be seen “objectively” in a community, NRC has argued that resident opinion is a perspective that cannot be ignored by government administrators. NRC principals have written, “If you collect trash three times a day but residents think that your trash haul is lousy, you still have a problem.”

SURVEY SAMPLING

“Sampling” refers to the method by which survey recipients were chosen. All households within Lower Providence Township were eligible to participate in the survey; 1,200 were selected to receive the survey. These 1,200 households were randomly selected from a comprehensive list of all housing units within Lower Providence Township boundaries. The basis of the list of all housing units was a United States Postal Service listing of housing units within zip codes. Since some of the zip codes that serve Lower Providence Township households may also serve addresses that lie outside of the jurisdiction, the exact geographic location of each housing unit was compared to jurisdiction boundaries, using the most current municipal boundary file (updated on a quarterly basis), and addresses located outside of Lower Providence Township boundaries were removed from consideration.

To choose the 1,200 survey recipients, a systematic sampling method was applied to the list of households known to be within Lower Providence Township. Systematic sampling is a procedure whereby a complete list of all possible items is culled, selecting every Nth one until the appropriate amount of items is selected. Multi-family housing units were over sampled as residents of this type of housing typically respond at lower rates to surveys than do those in single-family housing units.

An individual within each household was selected using the birthday method. The birthday method selects a person within the household by asking the “person whose birthday has most recently passed” to complete the questionnaire. The underlying assumption in this method is that day of birth has no relationship to the way people respond to surveys. This instruction was contained in the cover letter accompanying the questionnaire.

SURVEY ADMINISTRATION

Selected households received three mailings, one week apart, beginning June 9, 2008. The first mailing was a prenotification postcard announcing the upcoming survey. The next mailing contained a letter from the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors inviting the household to participate, a questionnaire and a postage-paid return envelope. The final mailing contained a reminder letter, another survey and a postage-paid return envelope. The second cover letter asked those who had not completed the survey to do so and those who have already done so to refrain from turning in another survey. Completed surveys were collected over the following five weeks.

SURVEY RESPONSE RATE AND CONFIDENCE INTERVALS

Of the surveys mailed, 30 were returned because the housing unit was vacant or the postal service was unable to deliver the survey as addressed. Of the 1,200 households receiving the survey mailings, 340 completed the survey, providing a response rate of 29%. In general, response rates obtained on local government resident surveys range from 25% to 40%.

In theory, in 95 cases out of 100, the results based on the number of responses obtained will differ by no more than five percentage points in either direction from what would have been obtained had responses been collected from all Lower Providence Township adults. This difference from the presumed population finding is referred to as the sampling error (or the “margin of error” or 95% confidence interval”). For subgroups of responses, the margin of sampling error is larger. In addition to sampling error, the practical difficulties of conducting any survey of the public may introduce other sources of error. For example, the failure of some of the selected adults to participate in the sample or the difficulty of including all sectors of the population, such as residents of some institutions or group residences, may lead to somewhat different results.

SURVEY PROCESSING (DATA ENTRY)

Completed surveys received by NRC were assigned a unique identification number. Additionally, each survey was reviewed and “cleaned” as necessary. For example, a question may have asked a respondent to pick two items out of a list of five, but the respondent checked three; NRC staff would choose randomly two of the three selected items to be coded in the dataset.

Once all surveys were assigned a unique identification number, they were entered into an electronic dataset. This dataset was subject to a data entry protocol of “key and verify,” in which survey data were entered twice into an electronic dataset and then compared. Discrepancies were evaluated against the original survey form and corrected. Range checks as well as other forms of quality control were also performed.

SURVEY DATA WEIGHTING

The demographic characteristics of the survey sample were compared to those found in the 2000 Census estimates. Sample results were weighted using the population norms to reflect the appropriate percent of those residents. Other discrepancies between the whole population and the sample were also aided by the weighting due to the intercorrelation of many socioeconomic characteristics.

The variables used for weighting were housing tenure and gender/age. This decision was based on:

- The disparity between the survey respondent characteristics and the population norms for these variables
- The saliency of these variables in detecting differences of opinion among subgroups

The primary objective of weighting survey data is to make the survey sample reflective of the larger population of the community. This is done by: 1) reviewing the sample demographics and comparing them to the population norms from the most recent Census or other sources and 2) comparing the responses to different questions for demographic subgroups. The demographic characteristics that are least similar to the Census and yield the most different results are the best candidates for data weighting. A third criterion sometimes used is the importance that the community places on a specific variable. For example, if a jurisdiction feels that accurate race representation is key to staff and public acceptance of the study results, additional consideration will be given in the weighting process to adjusting the race variable.

A special software program using mathematical algorithms is used to calculate the appropriate weights. A limitation of data weighting is that only 2-3 demographic variables can be adjusted in a single study. Several different weighting “schemes” are tested to ensure the best fit for the data.

The process actually begins at the point of sampling. Knowing that residents in single family dwellings are more likely to respond to a mail survey, NRC oversamples residents of multi-family dwellings to ensure their proper representation in the sample data. Rather than giving all residents an equal chance of receiving the survey, this is systematic, stratified sampling, which gives each resident of the jurisdiction a known chance of receiving the survey (and apartment dwellers, for example, a greater chance than single family home dwellers). As a consequence, results must be weighted to recapture the proper representation of apartment dwellers.

The results of the weighting scheme are presented in the table on the following page.

Weighting Scheme for Lower Providence Township, PA 2008 Citizen Survey			
Respondent Characteristics	Population Norm ¹	Unweighted Survey Data	Weighted Survey Data
Tenure			
Rent Home	21%	8%	22%
Own Home	79%	92%	78%
Type of Housing Unit			
Single-Family Detached	72%	90%	79%
Attached	18%	10%	21%
Ethnicity			
Non-Hispanic	98%	99%	99%
Hispanic	2%	1%	1%
Race			
White/Caucasian	86%	92%	86%
Non-White	14%	8%	14%
Gender			
Female	47%	50%	50%
Male	53%	50%	50%
Age			
18-34	28%	7%	24%
35-54	46%	44%	48%
55+	26%	48%	28%
Gender and Age			
Females 18-34	12%	4%	12%
Females 35-54	21%	25%	22%
Females 55+	14%	21%	15%
Males 18-34	16%	3%	12%
Males 35-54	25%	19%	26%
Males 55+	12%	27%	13%

¹ Source: 2000 Census

SURVEY DATA ANALYSIS AND REPORTING

The survey dataset was analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). Frequency distributions were presented in the body of the report.

Use of the “Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor” Response Scale

The scale on which respondents are asked to record their opinions about service and community quality is “excellent,” “good,” “fair” or “poor” (EGFP). This scale has important advantages over other scale possibilities (very good to very bad; very satisfied to very dissatisfied; strongly agree to strongly disagree, as examples). EGFP is used by the plurality of jurisdictions conducting citizen surveys across the U.S. The advantage of familiarity was one that NRC did not want to dismiss when crafting The National Citizen Survey™ questionnaire, because elected officials, staff and residents already are acquainted with opinion surveys measured this way. EGFP also has the advantage of offering three positive options, rather than only two, over which a resident can offer an opinion. While symmetrical scales often are the right choice in other measurement tasks, NRC has found that ratings of almost every local government service in almost every jurisdiction tend, on average, to be positive (that is, above the scale midpoint). Therefore, to permit finer distinctions among positively rated services, EGFP offers three options across which to spread those ratings. EGFP is more neutral because it requires no positive statement of service quality to judge (as agree-disagree scales require) and, finally, EGFP intends to measure absolute quality of service delivery or community quality (unlike satisfaction scales which ignore residents’ perceptions of quality in favor of their report on the acceptability of the level of service offered).

“Don’t Know” Responses

On many of the questions in the survey respondents may answer “don’t know.” The proportion of respondents giving this reply is shown in the full set of responses included in Appendix A. However, these responses have been removed from the analyses presented in the body of the report. In other words, the tables and graphs display the responses from respondents who had an opinion about a specific item.

Benchmark Comparisons

NRC has been leading the strategic use of surveys for local governments since 1991, when the principals of the company wrote the first edition of what became the classic text on citizen surveying. In *Citizen Surveys: how to do them, how to use them, what they mean*, published by ICMA, not only were the principles for quality survey methods articulated, but both the idea of benchmark data for citizen opinion and the method for gathering benchmark data were pioneered. The argument for benchmarks was called “In Search of Standards.” “What has been missing from a local government’s analysis of its survey results is the context that school administrators can supply when they tell parents how an 80 percent score on the social studies test compares to test results from other school systems...”

NRC’s database of comparative resident opinion is comprised of resident perspectives gathered in citizen surveys from approximately 500 jurisdictions whose residents evaluated local government services. Conducted with typically no fewer than 400 residents in each jurisdiction, opinions are intended to represent over 30 million Americans. NRC has innovated a method for quantitatively integrating the results of surveys that conducted by NRC with those that others have conducted. The integration methods have been thoroughly described not only in the Citizen Surveys book, but also in *Public Administration Review, Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*. Scholars who specialize in the analysis of citizen surveys regularly have relied on this work (e.g., Kelly, J. &

Swindell, D. (2002). Service quality variation across urban space: First steps towards a model of citizen satisfaction. *Journal of Urban Affairs*, 24, 271-288.; Van Ryzin, G., Muzzio, D., Immerwahr, S., Gulick, L. & Martinez, E. (2004). Drivers and consequences of citizen satisfaction: An application of the American Customer Satisfaction Index Model to New York City, *Public Administration Review*, 64, 331- 341). The method described in those publications is refined regularly and statistically tested on a growing number of citizen surveys in NRC's proprietary databases. NRC's work on calculating national benchmarks for resident opinions about service delivery and quality of life won the Samuel C. May award for research excellence from the Western Governmental Research Association.

The Role of Comparisons

Benchmark comparisons are used for performance measurement. Jurisdictions use the comparative information to help interpret their own citizen survey results, to create or revise community plans, to evaluate the success of policy or budget decisions, to measure local government performance. Taking the pulse of the community has little meaning without knowing what pulse rate is too high and what is too low. When surveys of service satisfaction turn up "good" citizen evaluations, jurisdictions need to know how others rate their services to understand if "good" is good enough. Furthermore, in the absence of national or peer community comparisons, a jurisdiction is left with comparing its fire protection rating to its street maintenance rating. That comparison is unfair. Streets always lose to fire. More important and harder questions need to be asked; for example, how do residents' ratings of fire service compare to opinions about fire service in other communities?

A police department that provides the fastest and most efficient service—one that closes most of its cases, solves most of its crimes and keeps the crime rate low—still has a problem to fix if the residents in the community it intends to protect believe services are not very good compared to ratings given by residents to their own objectively "worse" departments. The benchmark data can help that police department – or any department – to understand how well citizens think it is doing. Without the comparative data, it would be like bowling in a tournament without knowing what the other teams are scoring. NRC recommends that citizen opinion be used in conjunction with other sources of data about budget, personnel and politics to help managers know how to respond to comparative results.

Jurisdictions in the benchmark database are distributed geographically across the country and range from small to large in population size. Most commonly, comparisons are made to the entire database. Comparisons may also be made to subsets of jurisdictions (for example, within a given region or population category). Despite the differences in jurisdiction characteristics, all are in the business of providing local government services to residents. Though individual jurisdiction circumstances, resources and practices vary, the objective in every community is to provide services that are so timely, tailored and effective that residents conclude the services are of the highest quality. High ratings in any jurisdiction, like SAT scores in any teen household, bring pride and a sense of accomplishment.

Comparison of Lower Providence to the Benchmark Database

The Lower Providence Township chose to have comparisons made to the entire database and a subset of similar jurisdictions from the database (jurisdictions in the East with populations less than 40,000). A benchmark comparison (the average rating from all the comparison jurisdictions where a similar question was asked) has been provided when a similar question on Lower Providence Township Survey was included in NRC's database and there were at least five jurisdictions in

which the question was asked. For most questions compared to the entire dataset, there were more than 100 jurisdictions included in the benchmark comparison.

Where comparisons are available, Lower Providence results are noted as being “above” the benchmark, “below” the benchmark or “similar to” the benchmark. This evaluation of “above,” “below” or “similar to” comes from a statistical comparison of Lower Providence's rating to the benchmark (the rating from all the comparison jurisdictions where a similar question was asked).

APPENDIX C: SURVEY MATERIALS

The following pages contain copies of the survey materials sent to randomly selected households within Lower Providence Township.



Lower Providence Township

100 Parklane Drive • Eagleville, PA 19403

Presorted
First Class Mail
US Postage
PAID
Boulder, CO
Permit NO. 94



Lower Providence Township

100 Parklane Drive • Eagleville, PA 19403

Presorted
First Class Mail
US Postage
PAID
Boulder, CO
Permit NO. 94



Lower Providence Township

100 Parklane Drive • Eagleville, PA 19403

Presorted
First Class Mail
US Postage
PAID
Boulder, CO
Permit NO. 94



Lower Providence Township

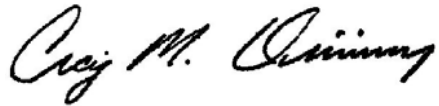
100 Parklane Drive • Eagleville, PA 19403

Presorted
First Class Mail
US Postage
PAID
Boulder, CO
Permit NO. 94

Dear Lower Providence Township Resident,

Your household has been selected at random to participate in an anonymous citizen survey about Lower Providence Township. You will receive a copy of the survey next week in the mail with instructions for completing and returning it. On behalf of the Board of Supervisors thank you in advance for helping us with this important project!

Sincerely,

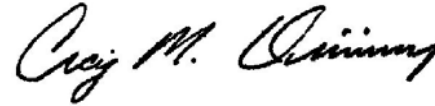


Craig M. Dininny
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

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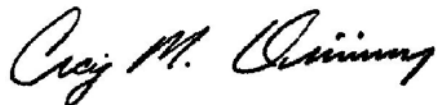


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Chairman, Board of Supervisors

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Sincerely,

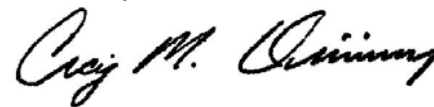


Craig M. Dininny
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

Dear Lower Providence Township Resident,

Your household has been selected at random to participate in an anonymous citizen survey about Lower Providence Township. You will receive a copy of the survey next week in the mail with instructions for completing and returning it. On behalf of the Board of Supervisors thank you in advance for helping us with this important project!

Sincerely,



Craig M. Dininny
Chairman, Board of Supervisors



LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP

100 Parklane Drive • Eagleville, PA 19403 • www.lowerprovidence.org
Administration: 610-539-8020 • Fax: 610-539-6347
Police: 610-539-5900 • Fax: 610-630-2219



June 2008

Dear Lower Providence Township Resident:

Lower Providence Township wants to know what you think about our community and municipal government. You have been randomly selected to participate in Lower Providence Township's 2008 Citizen Survey.

Please take a few minutes to fill out the enclosed Citizen Survey. Your feedback will help the Township set benchmarks for tracking the quality of services provided to residents. Your answers will help the Township Board of Supervisors make decisions that affect our community. We hope you find the questions interesting and we will definitely find your answers useful. Please participate!

To get a representative sample of Lower Providence Township residents, the adult (anyone 18 years or older) in your household who most recently had a birthday should complete this survey. Year of birth of the adult does not matter.

Please have the appropriate member of the household spend a few minutes to answer all the questions and return the survey in the enclosed postage-paid envelope. **Your responses will remain completely anonymous.**

Your participation in this survey is very important – especially since your household is one of only a small number of households being surveyed. If you have any questions about the Citizen Survey please call 610-635-3531.

Please help us shape the future of Lower Providence Township. Thank you for your time and participation.

Sincerely,

Craig M Dininny
Chairman, Board of Supervisors



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June 2008

Dear Lower Providence Resident Township:

About one week ago, you should have received a copy of the enclosed survey. **If you completed it and sent it back, we thank you for your time and ask you to discard this survey. Please do not respond twice.** If you have not had a chance to complete the survey, we would appreciate your response. Lower Providence Township wants to know what you think about our community and municipal government. You have been randomly selected to participate in the Lower Providence Township's Citizen Survey.

Please take a few minutes to fill out the enclosed Citizen Survey. Your feedback will help the Township set benchmarks for tracking the quality of services provided to residents. Your answers will help the Township Board of Supervisors make decisions that affect our community. We hope you find the questions interesting and we will definitely find your answers useful. Please participate!

To get a representative sample of Lower Providence Township residents, the adult (anyone 18 years or older) in your household who most recently had a birthday should complete this survey. Year of birth of the adult does not matter.

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Please help us shape the future of Lower Providence Township. Thank you for your time and participation.

Sincerely,

Craig M Dininny
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

Lower Providence Township 2008 Citizen Survey

Please complete this questionnaire if you are the adult (age 18 or older) in the household who most recently had a birthday. The adult's year of birth does not matter. Please select the response (by circling the number or checking the box) that most closely represents your opinion for each question. Your responses are anonymous and will be reported in group form only.

1. Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Lower Providence:

	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Lower Providence as a place to live	1	2	3	4	5
Your neighborhood as a place to live	1	2	3	4	5
Lower Providence as a place to raise children	1	2	3	4	5
Lower Providence as a place to work	1	2	3	4	5
Lower Providence as a place to retire	1	2	3	4	5
The overall quality of life in Lower Providence	1	2	3	4	5

2. Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Lower Providence as a whole:

	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Sense of community	1	2	3	4	5
Openness and acceptance of the community towards people of diverse backgrounds	1	2	3	4	5
Overall appearance of Lower Providence	1	2	3	4	5
Cleanliness of Lower Providence	1	2	3	4	5
Overall quality of new development in Lower Providence	1	2	3	4	5
Variety of housing options	1	2	3	4	5
Overall quality of business and service establishments in Lower Providence	1	2	3	4	5
Shopping opportunities	1	2	3	4	5
Opportunities to attend cultural activities	1	2	3	4	5
Recreational opportunities	1	2	3	4	5
Employment opportunities	1	2	3	4	5
Educational opportunities	1	2	3	4	5
Opportunities to participate in social events and activities	1	2	3	4	5
Opportunities to participate in religious or spiritual events and activities	1	2	3	4	5
Opportunities to volunteer	1	2	3	4	5
Opportunities to participate in community matters	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of car travel in Lower Providence	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of bus travel in Lower Providence	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of bicycle travel in Lower Providence	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of walking in Lower Providence	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of paths and walking trails	1	2	3	4	5
Traffic flow on major streets	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of affordable quality housing	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of affordable quality child care	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of affordable quality health care	1	2	3	4	5
Air quality	1	2	3	4	5
Quality of overall natural environment in Lower Providence	1	2	3	4	5
Overall image or reputation of Lower Providence	1	2	3	4	5

3. Please rate the speed of growth in the following categories in Lower Providence over the past 2 years:

	<i>Much too slow</i>	<i>Somewhat too slow</i>	<i>Right amount</i>	<i>Somewhat too fast</i>	<i>Much too fast</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Population growth	1	2	3	4	5	6
Retail growth (stores, restaurants, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5	6
Jobs growth	1	2	3	4	5	6

4. To what degree, if at all, are run down buildings, weed lots or junk vehicles a problem in Lower Providence?

- Not a problem
 Minor problem
 Moderate problem
 Major problem
 Don't know

5. Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel from the following in Lower Providence:

	Very safe	Somewhat safe	Neither safe nor unsafe	Somewhat unsafe	Very unsafe	Don't know
Violent crime (e.g., rape, assault, robbery)	1	2	3	4	5	6
Property crimes (e.g., burglary, theft).....	1	2	3	4	5	6
Environmental hazards, including toxic waste.....	1	2	3	4	5	6

6. Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel:

	Very safe	Somewhat safe	Neither safe nor unsafe	Somewhat unsafe	Very unsafe	Don't know
In your neighborhood during the day.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
In your neighborhood after dark.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
In Lower Providence's commercial areas during the day	1	2	3	4	5	6
In Lower Providence's commercial areas after dark.....	1	2	3	4	5	6

7. During the past twelve months, were you or anyone in your household the victim of any crime?

- No → Go to Question 9
 Yes → Go to Question 8
 Don't know → Go to Question 9

8. If yes, was this crime (these crimes) reported to the police?

- No
 Yes
 Don't know

9. In the last 12 months, about how many times, if ever, have you or other household members participated in the following activities in Lower Providence?

	Never	Once or twice	3 to 12 times	13 to 26 times	More than 26 times
Used Lower Providence community library or its services.....	1	2	3	4	5
Participated in a recreation program or activity	1	2	3	4	5
Visited a Township park.....	1	2	3	4	5
Attended a meeting of local elected officials or other local public meeting	1	2	3	4	5
Watched a meeting of local elected officials or other local public meeting on cable television	1	2	3	4	5
Read the Lower Providence Township Newsletter.....	1	2	3	4	5
Visited the Lower Providence Township Web site (at www.lowerprovidence.org)	1	2	3	4	5
Recycled used paper, cans or bottles from your home.....	1	2	3	4	5
Volunteered your time to some group or activity in Lower Providence.....	1	2	3	4	5
Participated in religious or spiritual activities in Lower Providence	1	2	3	4	5
Participated in a club or civic group in Lower Providence.....	1	2	3	4	5
Provided help to a friend or neighbor	1	2	3	4	5
Read the local newspaper (<i>Times Herald</i>)	1	2	3	4	5

10. About how often, if at all, do you talk to or visit with your immediate neighbors (people who live in the 10 or 20 households that are closest to you)?

- Just about every day
 Several times a week
 Several times a month
 Once a month
 Several times a year
 Once a year or less
 Never

Lower Providence Township 2008 Citizen Survey

11. Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Lower Providence:

	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Police services	1	2	3	4	5
Fire services	1	2	3	4	5
Ambulance or emergency medical services.....	1	2	3	4	5
Crime prevention	1	2	3	4	5
Fire prevention and education	1	2	3	4	5
Traffic enforcement.....	1	2	3	4	5
Street repair	1	2	3	4	5
Street cleaning	1	2	3	4	5
Street lighting.....	1	2	3	4	5
Snow removal.....	1	2	3	4	5
Traffic signal timing	1	2	3	4	5
Garbage collection.....	1	2	3	4	5
Recycling.....	1	2	3	4	5
Yard waste pick-up	1	2	3	4	5
Storm drainage.....	1	2	3	4	5
Sewer services	1	2	3	4	5
Township parks.....	1	2	3	4	5
Recreation programs or classes	1	2	3	4	5
Land use, planning and zoning	1	2	3	4	5
Code enforcement (weeds, abandoned buildings, etc)	1	2	3	4	5
Animal control	1	2	3	4	5
Economic development	1	2	3	4	5
Services to seniors.....	1	2	3	4	5
Services to youth.....	1	2	3	4	5
Services to low-income people	1	2	3	4	5
Public library services	1	2	3	4	5
Public information services	1	2	3	4	5
Emergency preparedness (services that prepare the community for natural disasters or other emergency situations)	1	2	3	4	5
Preservation of natural areas such as open space, farmlands and greenbelts.....	1	2	3	4	5
Community Access channel.....	1	2	3	4	5

12. Overall, how would you rate the quality of the services provided by each of the following?

	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Lower Providence Township.....	1	2	3	4	5
The Federal Government	1	2	3	4	5
The State Government	1	2	3	4	5
Montgomery County Government	1	2	3	4	5

13. Have you had any in-person or phone contact with an employee of Lower Providence Township within the last 12 months (including police, receptionists, planners or any others)?

- No → Go to Question 15 Yes → Go to Question 14

14. What was your impression of the Lower Providence Township employee(s) in your most recent contact? (Rate each characteristic below.)

	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Knowledge.....	1	2	3	4	5
Responsiveness.....	1	2	3	4	5
Courtesy	1	2	3	4	5
Overall impression.....	1	2	3	4	5

15. Please rate the following categories of Lower Providence government performance:

	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
The value of services for the taxes paid to Lower Providence Township...	1	2	3	4	5
The overall direction that Lower Providence Township is taking	1	2	3	4	5
The job Lower Providence Township government does at welcoming citizen involvement	1	2	3	4	5
The job Lower Providence Township government does at listening to citizens	1	2	3	4	5

16. Please indicate how likely or unlikely you are to do each of the following:

	<i>Very likely</i>	<i>Somewhat likely</i>	<i>Somewhat unlikely</i>	<i>Very unlikely</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Recommend living in Lower Providence to someone who asks.....	1	2	3	4	5
Remain in Lower Providence for the next five years	1	2	3	4	5

17. What impact, if any, do you think the economy will have on your family income in the next 6 months? Do you think the impact will be:

- Very positive
 Somewhat positive
 Neutral
 Somewhat negative
 Very negative

18. Please check the response that comes closest to your opinion for each of the following questions:

a. To what degree would you support or oppose the Township funding each of the following?

	<i>Strongly support</i>	<i>Somewhat support</i>	<i>Somewhat oppose</i>	<i>Strongly oppose</i>
Preserving open space	1	2	3	4
Acquiring open space.....	1	2	3	4
“Growing greener” initiative (such as alternative fuel vehicles and renewable energy).....	1	2	3	4
Building projects for Parks and Recreation.....	1	2	3	4
Programs for teens	1	2	3	4
Programs for seniors	1	2	3	4

b. To what degree would you support or oppose the Township raising taxes to fund each of the following?

	<i>Strongly support</i>	<i>Somewhat support</i>	<i>Somewhat oppose</i>	<i>Strongly oppose</i>
Preserving open space	1	2	3	4
Acquiring open space.....	1	2	3	4
“Growing greener” initiative (such as alternative fuel vehicles and renewable energy).....	1	2	3	4
Building projects for Parks and Recreation.....	1	2	3	4
Programs for teens	1	2	3	4
Programs for seniors	1	2	3	4

c. The Township is considering a single Township-wide zip code. This would break away from 19403 and may require giving up the identities of Audubon, Collegeville, Eagleville, Trooper and Valley Forge. To what degree do you support or oppose a single Township-wide zip code for Lower Providence?

- Strongly support
 Somewhat support
 Somewhat oppose
 Strongly oppose
 Don't know

Lower Providence Township 2008 Citizen Survey

Our last questions are about you and your household. Again, all of your responses to this survey are completely anonymous and will be reported in group form only.

D1. Are you currently employed for pay?

- No → Go to Question D3
- Yes, full time → Go to Question D2
- Yes, part time → Go to Question D2

D2. During a typical week, how many days do you commute to work (for the longest distance of your commute) in each of the ways listed below? (Enter the total number of days, using whole numbers.)

- Motorized vehicle (e.g., car, truck, van, motorcycle, etc...) by myself days
- Motorized vehicle (e.g., car, truck, van, motorcycle, etc...) with other children or adults days
- Bus, Rail, Subway or other public transportation days
- Walk days
- Bicycle days
- Work at home days
- Other days

D3. How many years have you lived in Lower Providence?

- Less than 2 years 11-20 years
- 2-5 years More than 20 years
- 6-10 years

D4. Which best describes the building you live in?

- One family house detached from any other houses
- House attached to one or more houses (e.g., a duplex or townhome)
- Building with two or more apartments or condominiums
- Mobile home
- Other

D5. Is this house, apartment or mobile home...

- Rented for cash or occupied without cash payment?
- Owned by you or someone in this house with a mortgage or free and clear?

D6. About how much is your monthly housing cost for the place you live (including rent, mortgage payment, property tax, property insurance and homeowners' association (HOA) fees)?

- Less than \$300 per month
- \$300 to \$599 per month
- \$600 to \$999 per month
- \$1,000 to \$1,499 per month
- \$1,500 to \$2,499 per month
- \$2,500 or more per month

D7. Do any children 17 or under live in your household?

- No Yes

D8. Are you or any other members of your household aged 65 or older?

- No Yes

D9. How much do you anticipate your household's total income before taxes will be for the current year? (Please include in your total income money from all sources for all persons living in your household.)

- Less than \$24,999
- \$25,000 to \$49,999
- \$50,000 to \$99,999
- \$100,000 to \$149,999
- \$150,000 or more

Please respond to both question D10 and D11:

D10. Are you Spanish, Hispanic or Latino?

- No, not Spanish, Hispanic or Latino
- Yes, I consider myself to be Spanish, Hispanic or Latino

D11. What is your race? (Mark one or more races to indicate what race you consider yourself to be)

- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Asian, Asian Indian or Pacific Islander
- Black or African American
- White
- Other

D12. In which category is your age?

- 18-24 years 55-64 years
- 25-34 years 65-74 years
- 35-44 years 75 years or older
- 45-54 years

D13. What is your sex?

- Female
- Male

D14. Are you registered to vote in your jurisdiction?

- No
- Yes
- Ineligible to vote
- Don't know

D15. Many people don't have time to vote in elections. Did you vote in the last general election?

- No
- Yes
- Ineligible to vote
- Don't know

Thank you for completing this survey. Please return the completed survey in the postage paid envelope to:
National Research Center, Inc., 3005 30th St., Boulder, CO 80301



Lower Providence Township

100 Parklane Drive • Eagleville, PA 19403

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