



**Wexford-Missaukee Counties  
Community Assets/Needs Assessment  
Collaborative**

**2003 Community Care Profile**

**COMMUNITY**

*A Portrait of Wellbeing for  
Wexford and Missaukee Counties*

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## COMMUNITY

<b>Community Self Assessment</b> .....	1
Chart 1: <i>People in your community gather together formally and informally</i> .....	1
Chart 2: <i>People in your community consider the same things important</i> .....	2
Chart 3: <i>People in your community come together to work on common goals</i> .....	2
Chart 4: Comparison of answers to Questions 1b (above) and 1c .....	3
Chart 5: <i>People and groups in your community come together to help each other out when they have a problem</i> .....	3
Chart 6: Comparison of Questions 1b, 1c, 1d .....	4
Chart 7: Survey - 1e: <i>People in your community trust each other</i> .....	4
Chart 8: Survey – 1f <i>People who are different from one another (e.g., young and old, established residents and newcomers) participate together in community activities</i> .....	5
Table 1: Survey - Community Strengths – Aggregate Responses .....	5
Table 2: Community Strengths, by Zip Code.....	5
<b>Community Issues – Household Survey Responses</b> .....	6
Table 3: Survey Results – Community Challenges .....	6
<b>Community Volunteerism – Household Survey Respondents</b> .....	7
Chart 9: <i>Do you regularly do volunteer work in your community?</i> .....	7
Table 4: <i>Number of days volunteered in past month</i> .....	7
Chart 10: Household Survey Respondents – <i>Where do you volunteer?</i> .....	8
Chart 11: <i>How much opportunity do you have to affect how things happen?</i> .....	8
<b>Community Visioning Groups</b> .....	9

# Community Self Assessment

## Community Strengths - Household Survey Responses

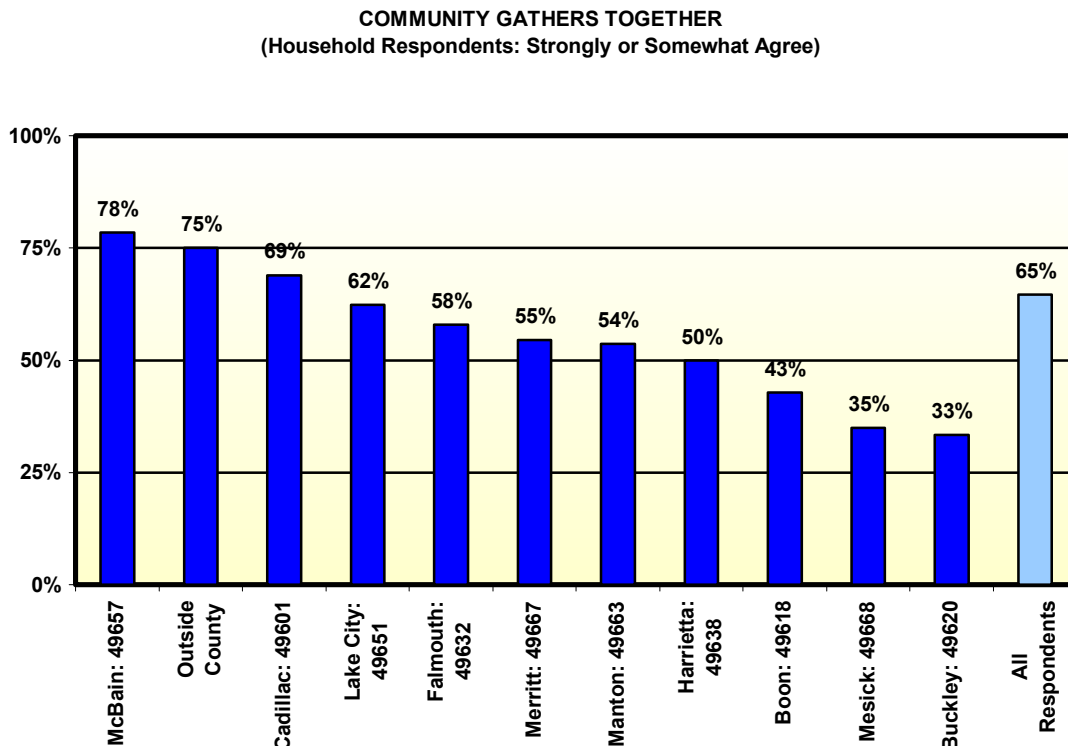
The survey of households was a community survey; accordingly, many of the survey questions ask about the communities in Missaukee and Wexford counties. Section A, Community Strengths, asked respondents to indicate their level of agreement with a series of statements about the people in their community.

For each question, respondents chose one of the following answers, which are given the weight indicated when for statistical purposes:

- Strongly agree (1.0)
- Somewhat agree (2.0)
- Somewhat disagree (3.0)
- Strongly disagree (4.0)
- No opinion/Don't know (0.0)

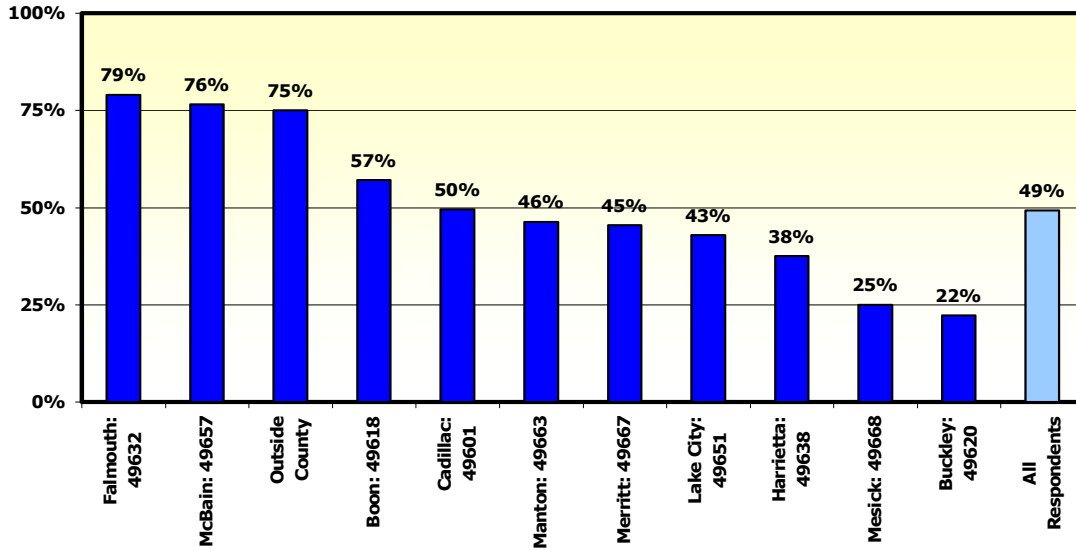
Question 1a asked for responses to the statement *People in your community gather together formally and informally (for example at picnics or meetings)*. The responses indicating agreement and strong agreement are illustrated here:

**Chart 1: Survey responses to Question 1a: *People in your community gather together formally and informally***



**Chart 2: Survey Responses to Survey Question 1b: *People in your community consider the same things important***

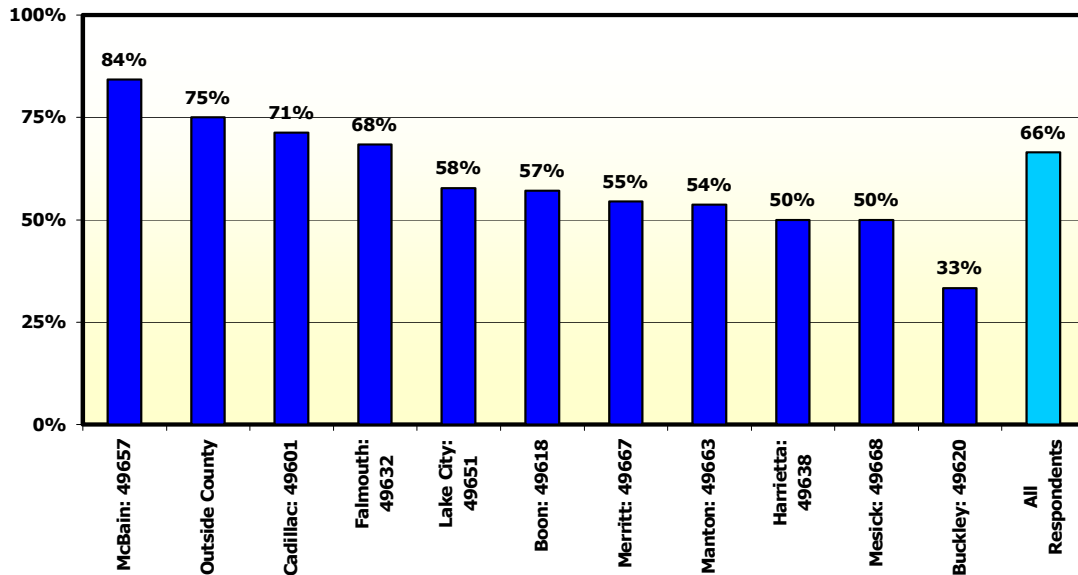
**People Share a Sense of Importance**  
(Household Respondents: Strongly or Somewhat Agree)



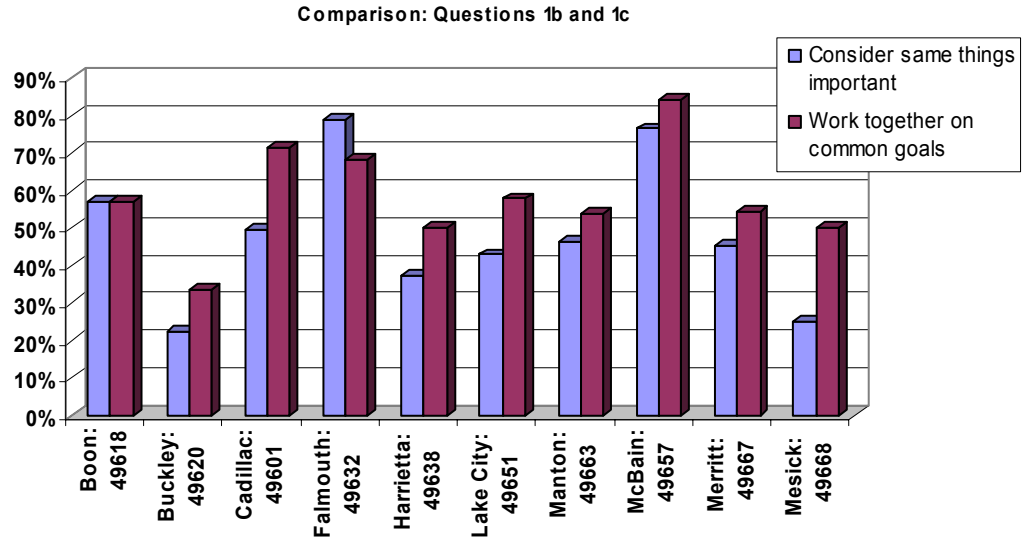
These answers illustrate the diversity of communities, from the perception of near unanimity in Falmouth to a perceived lack of commonality in Mesick and Buckley.

**Chart 3: Survey responses to Question 1c: *People in your community come together to work on common goals***

**Community Works on Common Goals**  
(Household Respondents: Somewhat or Strongly Agree)



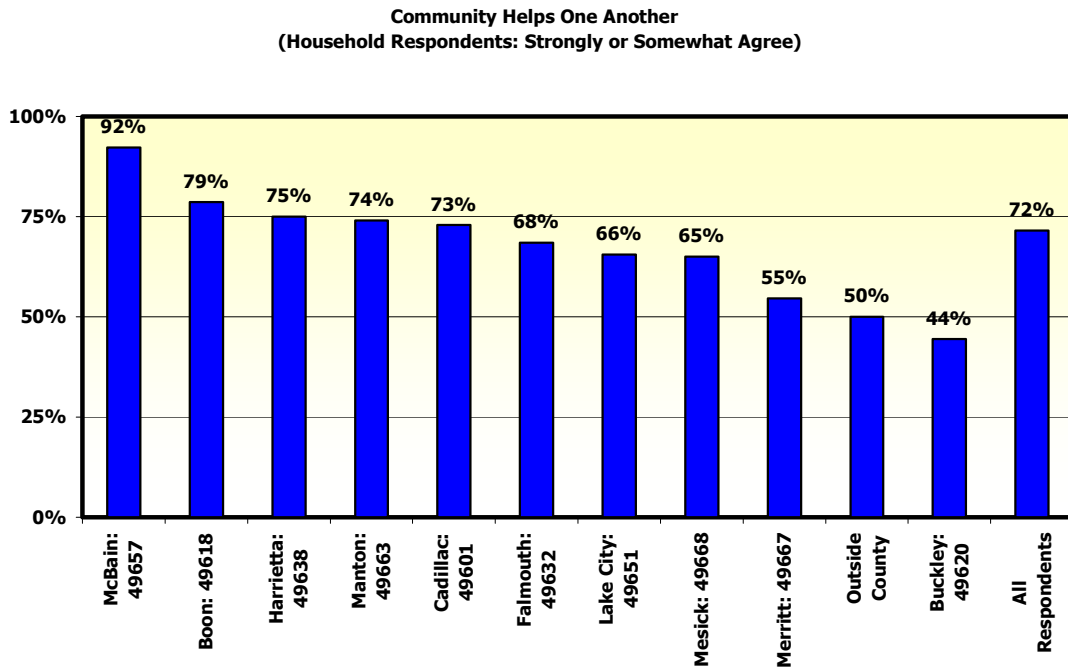
**Chart 4: Comparison of answers to Questions 1b (above) and 1c**



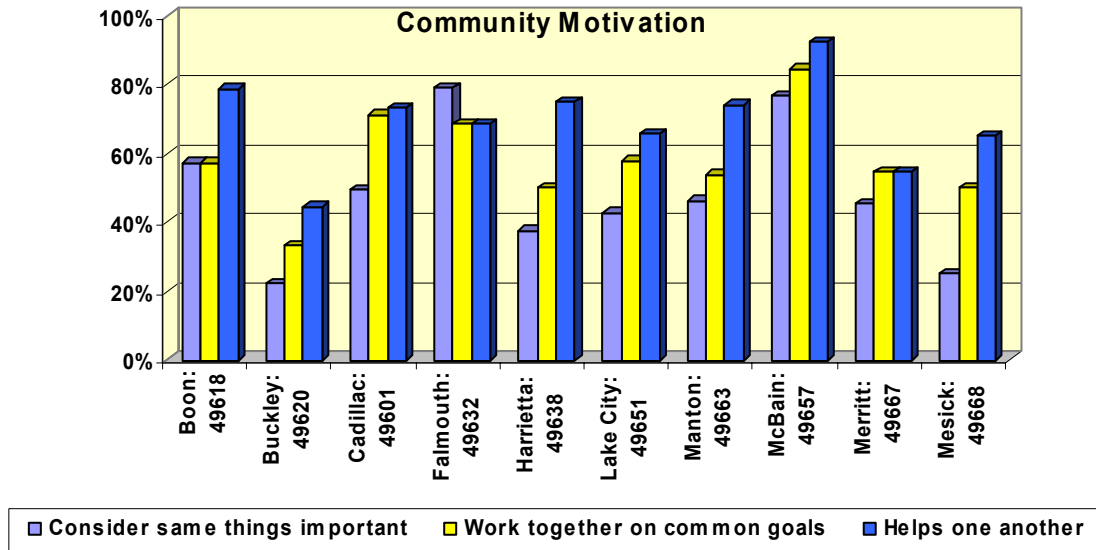
With the exceptions of Buckley and Falmouth, a higher percentage of respondents indicated that people come together to work on common goals than answered positively to the question of whether there was a common understanding of what is important.

People in these communities will be motivated by a call to work together for the common good, even if there is not unanimity about the importance of the specific goals.

**Chart 5: Survey Responses to Question 1d: *People and groups in your community come together to help each other out when they have a problem***



**Chart 6: Comparison of Questions 1b, 1c, 1d**

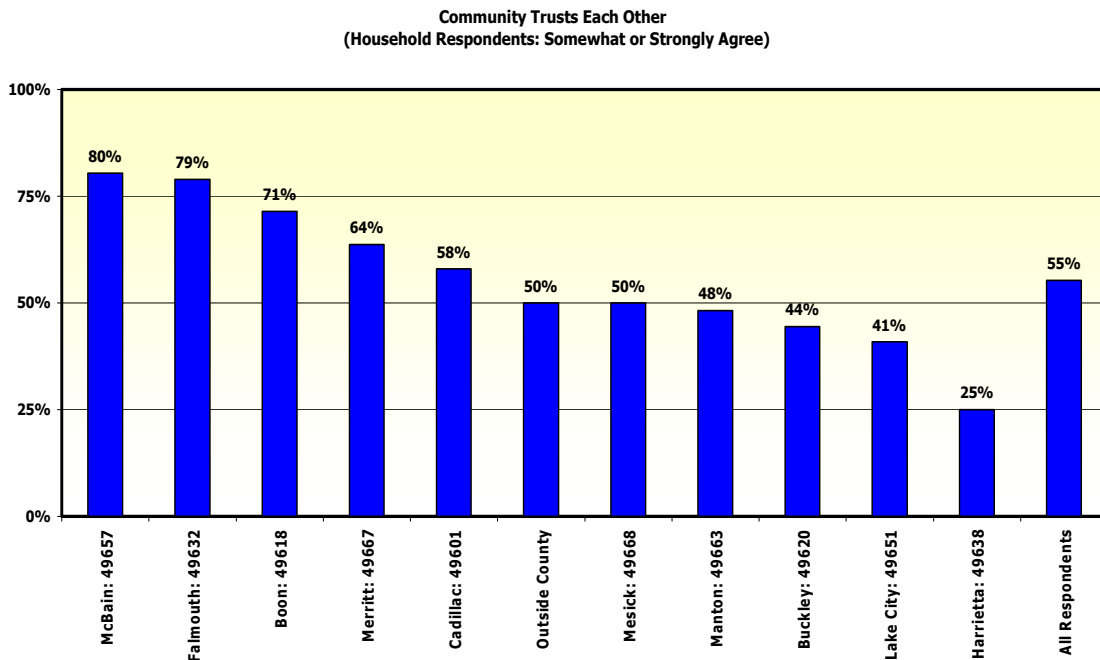


In nearly every community, respondents reported a reason to work together: a common understanding of what is important, a culture of working together, or an understanding that in this community, people help each other.

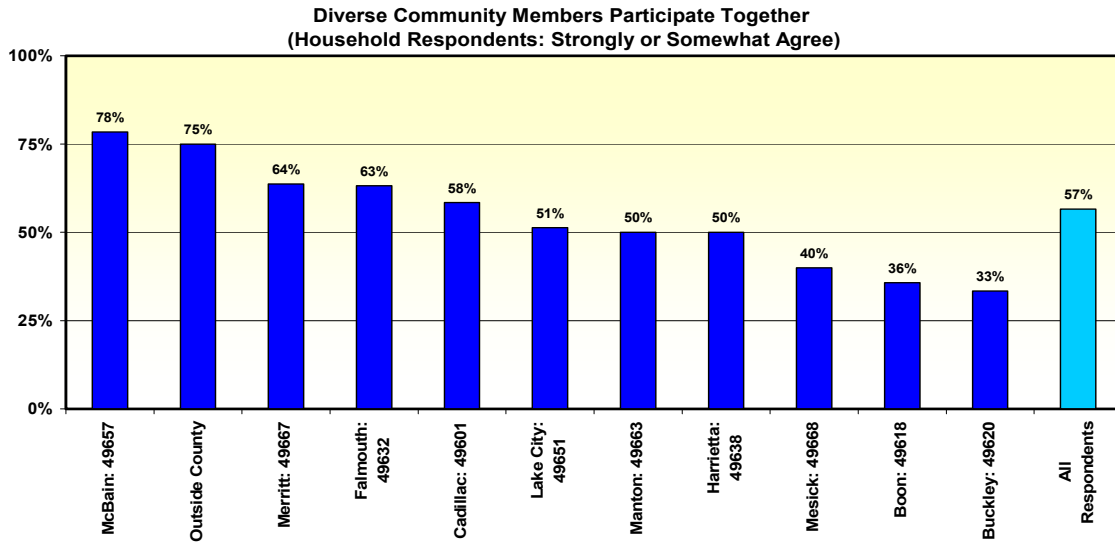
Community culture must be considered when trying to work for change in these communities.

The fifth question asked about the level of trust in the community. This question received the second lowest average of all the questions about community – only 55%. Answers closely mirror the answers to Question 1a, which asked about a shared sense importance.

**Chart 7: Survey - 1e: People in your community trust each other**



**Chart 8: Survey – 1f People who are different from one another (e.g., young and old, established residents and newcomers) participate together in community activities.**



**Table 1: Survey - Community Strengths – Aggregate Responses**

CAN A HOUSEHOLD SURVEY: COMMUNITY STRENGTHS			
	Strongly/Somewhat Agree	Somewhat/Strongly Disagree	Don't Know or No Response
Community gathers together	64.6%	15.5%	13.5%
Community shares sense of importance	49.3%	34.8%	12.9%
Community works on common goals	66.5%	24.5%	9.7%
Community helps one another	71.6%	18.8%	9.2%
Community trusts each other	55.3%	31.0%	11.1%
Diverse members participate together	56.6%	27.8%	12.2%

**Table 2: Community Strengths, by Zip Code**

CAN A HOUSEHOLD SURVEY by Zip Code: COMMUNITY STRENGTHS - Strongly or Somewhat AGREE						
COMMUNITY STRENGTHS	Gathers together	Shared importance	Common Goals	Helps one another	Trusts one another	Diverse Participation
McBain: 49657	78%	76%	84%	92%	80%	78%
Outside County	75%	75%	75%	50%	50%	75%
Cadillac: 49601	69%	50%	71%	73%	58%	58%
Lake City: 49651	62%	43%	58%	66%	41%	51%
Falmouth: 49632	58%	79%	68%	68%	79%	63%
Merritt: 49667	55%	45%	55%	55%	64%	64%
Manton: 49663	54%	46%	54%	74%	48%	50%
Harrietta: 49638	50%	38%	50%	75%	25%	50%
Boon: 49618	43%	57%	57%	79%	71%	36%
Mesick: 49668	35%	25%	50%	65%	50%	40%
Buckley: 49620	33%	22%	33%	44%	44%	33%
No Response	25%	13%	25%	38%	13%	25%
<b>All Respondents</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>57%</b>

## Community Issues – Household Survey Responses

The household survey also asked respondents to rank their level of concern about a series of community issues. We will summarize the results from this section of the survey here, and refer to the results in other sections as appropriate. The table below summarizes the percentage of respondents in each community who agreed that an issue was a major issue or a moderate issue.

The following color coding is applied to this table:

- Over 80% of respondents rated issue major or moderate
- Over 70% of respondents rated issue major or moderate
- Over 60% of respondents rated issue major or moderate

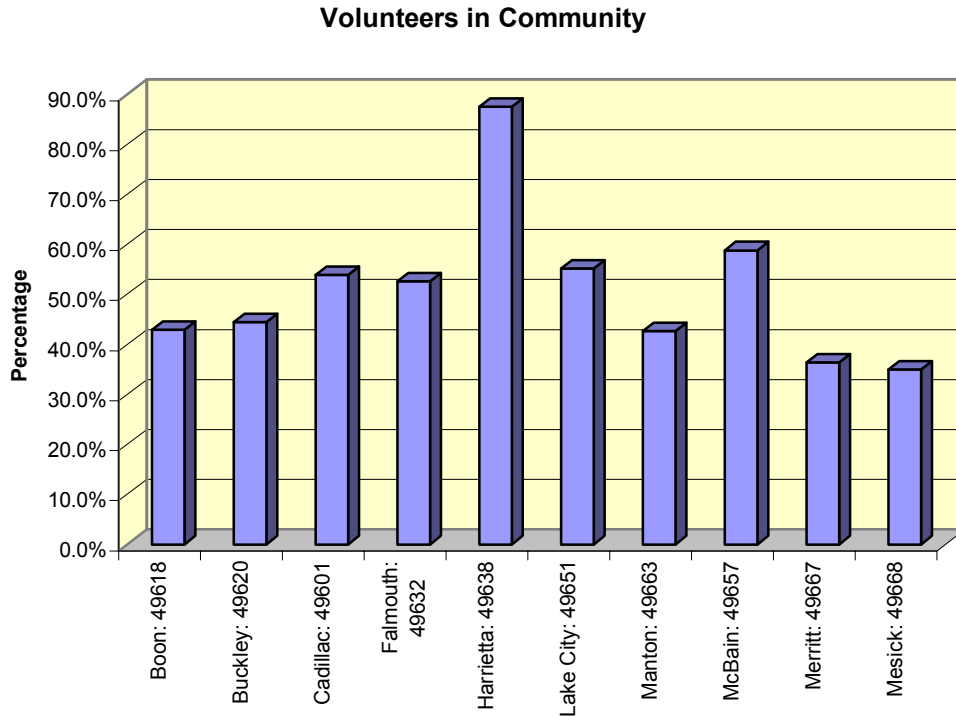
**Table 3: Survey Results – Community Challenges**

Community Challenges	Boon: 49618	Buckley: 49620	Cadillac: 49601	Falmouth: 49632	Harrietta: 49638	Lake City: 49651	Manton: 49663	McBain: 49657	Merritt: 49667	Mesick: 49668	All Communities
Unemployment or underemployment	64	100	77	71	71	79	87	74	60	85	77
Poverty	62	88	76	71	63	79	76	58	80	70	75
Lack of jobs	62	100	75	76	88	81	83	65	70	90	76
Illiteracy	29	56	50	31	25	55	50	27	10	26	48
Unsafe school environment	43	33	38	25	25	26	27	18	0	26	0
Overcrowded classrooms	50	44	43	25	29	48	43	36	30	25	0
Water or air pollution	50	44	65	38	50	43	52	45	50	45	57
Noise or other pollution	50	56	52	38	25	34	44	34	10	40	46
Alcohol and/or drug abuse	50	89	75	67	75	73	76	69	64	65	73
Alcohol and/or drug abuse	36	44	48	44	38	52	61	43	36	35	48
Mental illness or emotional issues	57	44	60	53	38	51	50	43	45	30	55
Lack of affordable medical care	57	67	72	94	63	72	78	71	82	65	72
HIV/AIDS	29	22	34	25	0	28	40	31	0	20	32
Shortage of affordable housing	57	67	68	65	86	70	70	50	40	55	67
Substandard housing	43	78	59	65	63	62	65	29	18	65	58
Overcrowded housing	14	44	39	44	38	36	44	25	20	40	38
Shortage of recreational facilities (swimming pools, etc.)	43	78	52	71	63	63	65	45	36	55	55
Lack of cultural activities (concerts, museums, etc.)	29	78	46	76	63	66	67	52	45	70	52
Crime	50	89	59	59	63	60	63	57	36	45	59
Gangs	43	33	41	19	38	28	36	45	9	15	37
Teenage pregnancy	57	56	61	53	75	61	63	58	45	50	60
Racial or ethnic discrimination	36	22	46	25	63	30	44	32	9	15	40
Family violence, abuse of children or adults	57	56	68	47	50	67	62	46	36	35	64
Lack of affordable care for children	54	56	60	53	75	67	73	50	55	50	61
Inadequate public transportation	29	78	38	65	63	61	63	37	55	45	45
Poor road and/or traffic conditions	82	133	98	118	138	128	136	87	109	95	106

## Community Volunteerism – Household Survey Respondents

The second section of the household survey asked participants to report on their own community and civic involvement. The first chart illustrates volunteerism by percentage of volunteerism in each community.

**Chart 9: Survey – Do you regularly do volunteer work in your community?**



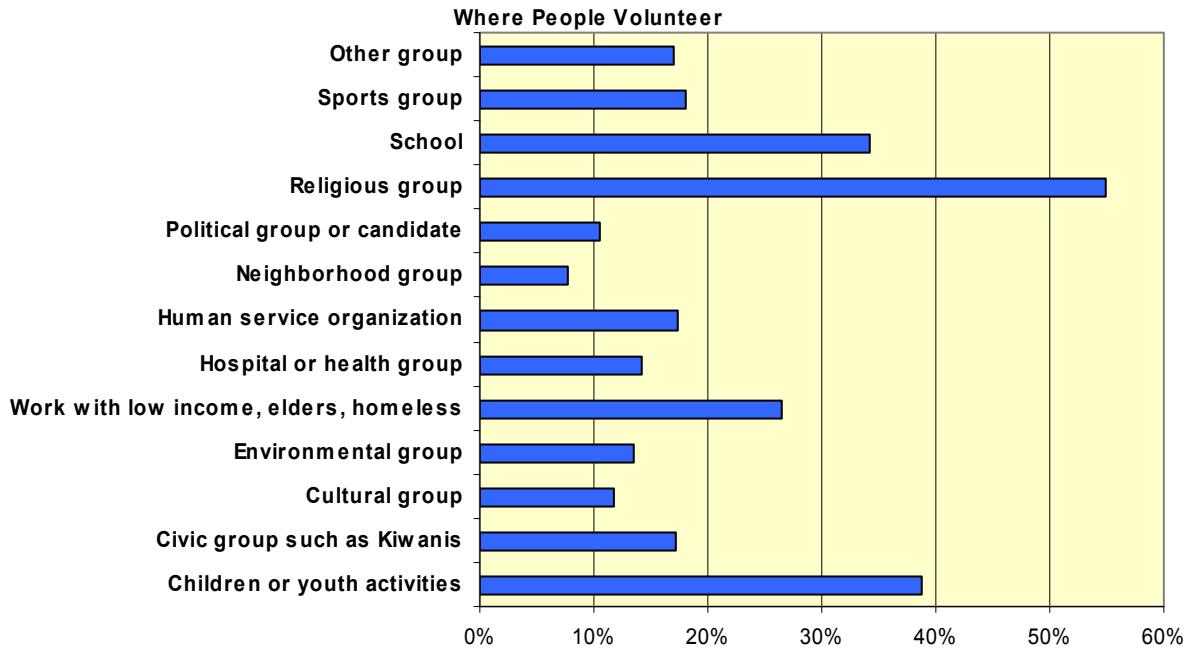
The 456 respondents who answered “Yes” to this question reported volunteering at an average of three different types of volunteer organizations.

- Table 4, below, shows the reported number of days volunteered in the month prior to the survey.
- Chart 10, below, depicts the organizations and rate of volunteerism.

**Table 4: Number of days volunteered in past month**

None	85
1 day	76
2 days	108
3 - 5 days	138
6 or more days	100
Don't know	7

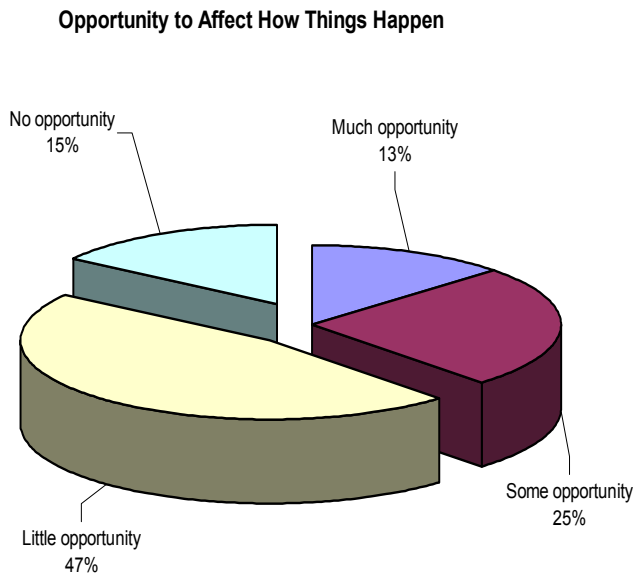
**Chart 10: Household Survey Respondents – Where do you volunteer?**



Nearly 90% of respondents reported that they vote in most elections.

Despite their high level of volunteerism and excellent voter record, nearly two-thirds of the respondents reported that they feel they have little or no opportunity to affect how things happen.

**Chart 11: Survey - How much opportunity do you have to affect how things happen?**



## ***Community Visioning Groups***

The Community Asset and Needs Assessment committee conducted “visioning” focus groups starting in October 2002 and finishing in January 2003. The purpose was to obtain information relative to four open ended questions about the community.

### **Method:**

Responses were obtained by two primary methods:

- Facilitated meetings (committees, book clubs, civic organizations, etc.) in which each group member was asked to respond in a “brainstorm” fashion, and all ideas were recorded.
- Forms distributed via direct contact, work mailboxes, homes, at meetings and the receiver was asked to take time on their own, fill the form out, and return it.

### **Responses:**

There were 293 completed surveys. Of those with demographic information available, the following summarizes the diversity of the responses.

Age (n=228)	Under 20 7%	20-50 38%	50-65 23%	65+ 33%		
Gender (n= 207)	Female 70%		Male 30%			
Children living in the home (n=173)	Yes 28%		No 73%			
Income Level (n=90)	Low (under \$25,000) 16%	Medium (\$25,000-\$75,000) 76%	High (\$75,000+) 9%			
Residence (n=216)	Cadillac 42%	Manton 32%	Unknown Wexford 8%	Lake City 11%	McBain 2%	Unknown Missaukee 7%

<b><i>What do you cherish most about your community?</i></b>	<b>Responses</b>
1. Natural Environment & Beauty	141
2. Lifestyle / Small Town Atmosphere	114
3. People	94
4. Sense of Community	72

<b><i>What would make your community even better?</i></b>	Responses
1. Youth activities, safe and fun	42
2. Downtown Revitalization	20
3. More culture	18
4. Better paying jobs / Better job market	14
5. YMCA / Community Recreation Center	12
6. More places to swim / Community swimming pool	13
<i>A grocery store in Manton received high scores from the residents.</i>	

<b><i>If you have been here for a long time, what are some time-honored traditions that cause you to be proud of your community?</i></b>		Responses
Wexford County	1. Arts Festival / Ethnic Food Festival	44
	2. First Night	43
	3. Jazz in the Park / Summer Pavilion Music	25
	<i>Manton Harvest festival received high scores from residents.</i>	
Missaukee County	1. Greatest 4 <sup>th</sup> in the North	16
	2. Parades	9
	3. Festival of the Pines	7

<b><i>Pretend it is the year 2010. In the best-case scenario, your community is a place where...?</i></b>
1. Everyone (all ages) feels safe; there is no crime.
2. We live in a friendly atmosphere; people are happy, caring, and helpful.
3. We live in a clean environment where there is planned, controlled growth.

***VISION STATEMENT - 2010***  
 Our naturally beautiful community will be safe, caring and friendly, with ample resources and opportunities, which will allow our residents to achieve their full potential