

Community Vitality and Experiences of Recent Movers



A study conducted through the Community Vitality Center
and Iowa State University

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
University Extension



Your Previous Location...

First, we would like you to think about your **previous location**, the place and community where you **used to live**.

1. In what state and county did you live **immediately before** moving to your present location?

State: _____

County: _____

2. How long did you live in your **previous location**?

Number of Years: _____

3. At your **previous location**, where was your residence located? (Circle number and give name of community)

1. Inside the city limits of the city/town of _____

2. In a rural area on a farm. The nearest city/town was _____

3. In a rural area but not on a farm. The nearest city/town was _____

4. Other (please specify) _____

4. Before moving **from your previous location**, how long did you think about the possibility of moving? (Circle number)

1. Less than six months

2. Six months to about a year

3. At least a year or two

4. Three years or more

5. Other (please specify) _____

5. What were the ***main reasons*** that you decided **to leave** your **previous location**? (Please give up to three reasons, if applicable)

Most important reason: _____

2nd most important reason: _____

3rd most important reason: _____

6. At your previous location, did you own or rent your residence? (Circle number)

- 1. Owned
- 2. Rented
- 3. Other (please specify) _____

7. Overall, how satisfied were you with your previous location? (Circle number)

- 1. Very dissatisfied
- 2. Somewhat dissatisfied
- 3. Neither dissatisfied or satisfied
- 4. Somewhat satisfied
- 5. Very satisfied

8. In thinking only of your previous location, what would be your chances of achieving the following community and life factors if you were still living there? Would you have no chance at all, a slight chance, a moderate chance, or a high chance? (Circle one number for each item)

At your <u>previous location</u>:	No chance at all	Slight chance	Moderate chance	High chance
Having suitable housing and neighborhoods	1	2	3	4
Freely practicing your religion	1	2	3	4
Being able to meet a variety of people	1	2	3	4
Having a feeling of "belonging" in the community	1	2	3	4
Paying lower taxes	1	2	3	4
Living in a pollution-free environment	1	2	3	4
Having a secure job	1	2	3	4
Being able to participate in leadership roles	1	2	3	4
Living in a crime-safe environment	1	2	3	4
Having good streets, water, and police and fire protection	1	2	3	4
Living near family and relatives	1	2	3	4
Living near friends and acquaintances	1	2	3	4
Having good educational opportunities	1	2	3	4
Having a variety of entertainment available	1	2	3	4
Having a good standard of living	1	2	3	4
Living in a good place to raise children	1	2	3	4
Having opportunities to advance and achieve goals.	1	2	3	4
Having people to rely on in times of need	1	2	3	4
Having natural, scenic or other recreational amenities available	1	2	3	4
Being in a community that takes pride in itself	1	2	3	4
Being able to enjoy life	1	2	3	4

9. Is there anything your previous community could have done that would have changed your mind about leaving? Please explain:

Your Decision to Move...

Next, we would like you to think about the factors and circumstances involved in your **decision to move**. If you have a spouse or partner and you moved together, please consider what factors were involved in the decision for him or her as well.

10. In thinking about your **decision to move** to your current location, were any of the following **work and job** related factors involved for you or your spouse/partner (if you have one)? (Circle yes or no for each item)

	<u>Yourself</u>		<u>Spouse/Partner (If you have one)</u>	
	yes	no	yes	no
Moved to be closer to work location.....				
Moved but continued to work long distance by internet or commuting for same employer or clients	yes	no	yes	no
A job transfer by employer to new location	yes	no	yes	no
Was laid off from previous job.....	yes	no	yes	no
Had accepted a new job with a new employer	yes	no	yes	no
Moved to look for a new job or work	yes	no	yes	no
Moved to take over or start a farming operation	yes	no	yes	no
Moved because of a discontinued farming operation that you owned or operated.....	yes	no	yes	no
Moved to take over, start, or expand a nonfarm business	yes	no	yes	no
Moved because cost of running a nonfarm business would be lower	yes	no	yes	no
Moved because of a discontinued nonfarm business that you owned or operated.....	yes	no	yes	no
Entered, left, or transferred by military	yes	no	yes	no
Moved to start or continue education or training	yes	no	yes	no
Moved because finished education or training.....	yes	no	yes	no
Retired from previous employment	yes	no	yes	no
Other work or job related factors (please specify).....	_____		_____	

11. In your **decision to move** to your current location, were any of the following ***family, community, and quality-of-life*** factors involved for you or your spouse/partner (if you have one)? (Circle yes or no for each item)

	<u>Yourself</u>		<u>Spouse/Partner (If you have one)</u>	
	yes	no	yes	no
To be nearer parents.....	yes	no	yes	no
To be nearer children	yes	no	yes	no
To be able to live with a spouse or partner	yes	no	yes	no
To be nearer brothers, sisters, or other relatives	yes	no	yes	no
To be nearer friends and acquaintances.....	yes	no	yes	no
A change in marital status (marriage, divorce, widowed)	yes	no	yes	no
To be in a place where it would be easier to find a prospective spouse or partner	yes	no	yes	no
Decline in health of someone in household	yes	no	yes	no
To take care of aging parents	yes	no	yes	no
To be farther from family and relatives.....	yes	no	yes	no
To find available and affordable childcare.....	yes	no	yes	no
To find better quality local schools	yes	no	yes	no
To have greater opportunities for children to achieve	yes	no	yes	no
To find a less congested place to live	yes	no	yes	no
To find a safer place to live	yes	no	yes	no
To lower the cost of housing	yes	no	yes	no
To have lower taxes	yes	no	yes	no
To have better internet, TV, or phone access	yes	no	yes	no
To live in a desirable natural environment	yes	no	yes	no
To find more outdoor recreational activities	yes	no	yes	no
To find arts, entertainment, cultural activities.....	yes	no	yes	no
To find a simpler pace of life	yes	no	yes	no
To find a more exciting lifestyle.....	yes	no	yes	no
To have more ethnic diversity	yes	no	yes	no
To have less ethnic diversity	yes	no	yes	no
To live in someplace new or have a fresh start.....	yes	no	yes	no
Other family or community factors (specify).....	_____		_____	

Your Current Location...

Next, we would like you to think about your **current location**, the place and community where you **live now**.

12. In what state and county do you live now?

State where you live now: _____

County where you live now: _____

13. In what month and year did you move to your current location?

_____ Month of _____ Year

14. At your current location, where is your residence located? (Circle number and give name of community)

1. Inside the city limits of the city/town of _____

2. In a rural area on a farm. The nearest city/town is _____

3. In a rural area but not on a farm. The nearest city/town is _____

4. Other (please specify) _____

15. Did you make this move alone or did others move with you? (Circle number and check boxes of all that apply)

1. Moved alone ⇒ **Skip to 17**

2. Moved with others → → **16. Who moved with you? (Check all that apply)**

Spouse/partner (if you have one)

Child or children

Other related adults

Other unrelated adults

17. What were the *main reasons* that you selected your current location? (Please give up to three reasons, if applicable)

Most important reason: _____

2nd most important reason: _____

3rd most important reason: _____

18. Is this the **first time** that you or your spouse/partner have lived in your **current** state, county, and city/town or have you **lived here previously**? (Circle number)

	Yourself		Spouse/Partner (if you have one)	
	First time	Lived here previously	First time	Lived here previously
In current state	1	2	1	2
In current county	1	2	1	2
In or near current city/town	1	2	1	2

19. How often have you or your spouse/partner moved during childhood and since becoming an adult (age 18 or older)? (Circle one number for each item)

	Never moved	Moved once or twice	Moved 3-5 times	Moved 6 or more times	Don't know
Yourself:					
moved during childhood and youth....	1	2	3	4	5
moved since age 18 or older	1	2	3	4	5
Your spouse/partner (if you have one):					
moved during childhood and youth....	1	2	3	4	5
moved since age 18 or older	1	2	3	4	5

20. Were you and your spouse/partner (if you have one) born in Iowa or were you born in a different state or a different country? (Fill in blank)

	Yourself	Spouse/Partner (if you have one)
Born in Iowa in the county of (specify)	_____	_____
Born in different state (specify)	_____	_____
Born in different country (specify)	_____	_____

21. Did you use any of the following sources of information when making your decision to move to your current location? (Check all that apply)

- Internet
- TV, magazines, newspapers, business publications
- Current community resident
- Employer or co-workers
- Friends and acquaintances
- Family
- Travel or vacation to new location
- Attended school or college in new location
- Other (specify) _____

22. Before choosing your current location, what **other locations** did you consider? (Circle number)

1. Only this location
2. Other locations in this same state
3. Other locations in other states
4. Other locations in both this state and other states
5. Other (please specify)_____

23. Overall, how satisfied are you with your **current location**? (Circle number)

1. Very dissatisfied
2. Somewhat dissatisfied
3. Neither dissatisfied or satisfied
4. Somewhat satisfied
5. Very satisfied

24. In thinking **only** of your **current location**, what are your **chances of achieving** the following community and life factors now that you are **living here**? Do you have **no chance at all**, a **slight chance**, a **moderate chance**, or a **high chance**? (Circle one number for each item)

At your <u>current location</u>:	No chance at all	Slight chance	Moderate chance	High chance
Having suitable housing and neighborhoods	1	2	3	4
Freely practicing your religion	1	2	3	4
Being able to meet a variety of people	1	2	3	4
Having a feeling of "belonging" in the community	1	2	3	4
Paying lower taxes	1	2	3	4
Living in a pollution-free environment	1	2	3	4
Having a secure job	1	2	3	4
Being able to participate in leadership roles	1	2	3	4
Living in a crime-safe environment	1	2	3	4
Having good streets, water, and police and fire protection.....	1	2	3	4
Living near family and relatives.....	1	2	3	4
Living near friends and acquaintances.....	1	2	3	4
Having good educational opportunities	1	2	3	4
Having a variety of entertainment available	1	2	3	4
Having a good standard of living	1	2	3	4
Living in a good place to raise children	1	2	3	4
Having opportunities to advance and achieve goals.	1	2	3	4
Having people to rely on in times of need	1	2	3	4
Having natural, scenic or other recreational amenities available	1	2	3	4
Being in a community that takes pride in itself	1	2	3	4
Being able to enjoy life	1	2	3	4

25. **Compare your current location with your previous location** on these availability, cost, and other community factors. Please indicate if your current location is *worse*, the *same as*, or *better* than your previous location. Then indicate in the column to the right if this is what you expected when you moved. (Circle number then circle yes or no)

Current location worse than previous location	Current location same as previous location	Current location better than previous location	Was this what you expected when you moved?	
---	--	--	--	--

The **Availability and Quality** of:

Housing.....	1	2	3	yes	no
Grocery shopping	1	2	3	yes	no
Farmer's market, buying locally produced food ..	1	2	3	yes	no
Other shopping	1	2	3	yes	no
Restaurants	1	2	3	yes	no
Childcare.....	1	2	3	yes	no
Local schools	1	2	3	yes	no
Activities/services for youth	1	2	3	yes	no
Activities/services for seniors.....	1	2	3	yes	no
Health care providers and services.....	1	2	3	yes	no
Parks and recreation.....	1	2	3	yes	no
Library services.....	1	2	3	yes	no
Internet services	1	2	3	yes	no
TV services	1	2	3	yes	no
Cell phone services	1	2	3	yes	no
Public transportation	1	2	3	yes	no

The **Cost** of:

Housing.....	1	2	3	yes	no
Groceries	1	2	3	yes	no
Childcare.....	1	2	3	yes	no
Electricity and natural gas.....	1	2	3	yes	no
Water and sewer.....	1	2	3	yes	no
Internet services	1	2	3	yes	no
TV services	1	2	3	yes	no
Telephone services.....	1	2	3	yes	no
Car, gasoline, or other transportation	1	2	3	yes	no
Health care	1	2	3	yes	no
Land.....	1	2	3	yes	no
Property and other local taxes	1	2	3	yes	no
State taxes.....	1	2	3	yes	no

Other Community Factors:

The friendliness of neighbors.....	1	2	3	yes	no
Feeling welcomed into the community.....	1	2	3	yes	no
Opportunities to join local organizations	1	2	3	yes	no
Effective community leaders.....	1	2	3	yes	no
Commute time to work.....	1	2	3	yes	no

26. Is there anything in your **current location** that you would like to see improved?

27. If you had it to do over again, would you have moved to your **current location**?
(Circle number)

- 1. Definitely not
- 2. Probably not
- 3. Undecided
- 4. Probably yes
- 5. Definitely yes

Some Background Questions about Yourself and Your Household...

Please complete this section for yourself and your spouse/partner. (Circle or fill in response)

	Yourself	Spouse/Partner (If you have one)
28. What is your age?	_____years	_____years
29. Are you male or female?	male female	male female
30. What is your marital status?		
Never married.....	1	1
Married	2	2
Separated.....	3	3
Divorced	4	4
Widowed.....	5	5
31. What is the highest level of education that you completed?		
Less than 9 th grade.....	1	1
9 th to 12 th grade, no diploma.....	2	2
High school graduate or equivalent.....	3	3
Some college or vocational training	4	4
Associate degree	5	5
Bachelor degree.....	6	6
Advanced degree	7	7

	<u>Yourself</u>	<u>Spouse/Partner (If you have one)</u>
32. Which group best describes you?		
White	1	1
Black or African American	2	2
Hispanic or Latino/a.....	3	3
American Indian or Alaskan native	4	4
Asian or Pacific islander	5	5
Other (specify)	_____	_____

33. Which best describes the kind of area in which you grew up?

Rural area on a farm	1	1
Rural area but not on a farm	2	2
Small town under 2,500.....	3	3
Medium town 2,500 – 9,999	4	4
Large town 10,000 – 24,999.....	5	5
Small city 25,000 – 49,999	6	6
Small metro area 50,000 – 249,999	7	7
Large metro area over 250,000.....	8	8

34. Who lives in your household with you? (Circle number and check boxes if applicable)

1. Live alone ⇒ **Skip to 36**

2. Live with others → → **35. Who lives with you? (Check all that apply)**

- Spouse/partner (if you have one)
- Child or children (please give age)

age _____	age _____
age _____	age _____
age _____	age _____
- Other related adults (please give relationship)

- Other adults (please give number)

36. Is your current residence owned or rented? (Circle number)

1. Owned

2. Rented

3. Other (please specify) _____

37. In what kind of residence do you currently live? (Circle number)

1. Single family home not attached to any other
2. Townhome or condominium
3. Duplex, triplex, or quadplex
4. Apartment
5. Mobile home
6. Other (please specify) _____

38. How easy or difficult was it to find housing when you moved to your current location? (Circle number)

1. Very difficult
2. Somewhat difficult
3. Neither difficult or easy
4. Somewhat easy
5. Very easy

	<u>Yourself</u>	<u>Spouse/Partner (If you have one)</u>
39. What is your present employment status?		
Employed or self-employed full-time	1	1
Employed or self-employed part-time	2	2
Not employed but looking for work.....	3	3
Not employed and not looking for work.....	4	4
Student, not employed	5	5
Student and employed	6	6
Retired.....	7	7
Other (specify).....	_____	_____

40. If you are currently *employed or self-employed*:

What kind of work do you do?..... _____

What is your occupation?

How many hours do you usually work each week? _____ hours

How many minutes does it take you to go (one way) to work? _____ minutes

41. If you are currently *unemployed or retired*:

What kind of work did you usually do?..... _____

What was your occupation?..... _____

42. How do you expect your total annual household income in your current location to compare to your household's annual income in your previous location? (Circle number)

1. Significantly lower in current location than in previous location
2. Somewhat lower in current location than in previous location
3. About the same in current location as in previous location
4. Somewhat higher in current location than in previous location
5. Significantly higher in current location than in previous location

43. Did you or your spouse/partner have income from the following sources in 2004? (Check all that apply)

	<u>Yourself</u>	<u>Spouse/Partner (if you have one)</u>
Wages or salary from employment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Non-farm self-employment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Active farming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rental or royalty income from farmland, real estate, or other sources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interest or dividends from savings or investments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social security.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other retirement, pension, or fund income (do not include social security).....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unemployment compensation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public assistance or welfare	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

44. Which of the following best describes your household's total annual income from all sources for 2004? (Circle number)

1. Less than \$20,000
2. \$20,000 - \$34,999
3. \$35,000 - \$49,999
4. \$50,000 - \$69,999
5. \$70,000 - \$99,999
6. \$100,000 - \$149,999
7. \$150,000 or more

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. Your assistance is very much appreciated. If there is anything else you would like to tell us or if there are other comments that you have, please use the space below.

**Please fold your completed questionnaire in half and
return it in the postage-paid envelope to:**

**Community Vitality Center
478 Heady Hall, Department of Economics
Iowa State University
Ames, IA 50011**

Thank You!!

. . . and justice for all

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