

New Mover Studies: Van Buren County

Sandra Charvat Burke, Mark A. Edelman, and Michael Hudak

Findings

This report highlights the findings and experiences of Van Buren County respondents who were included in a survey of nonmetropolitan movers in Iowa.¹ The purpose of the study is to better understand the decisions and thoughts of people who have moved and what they think about the communities and areas where they have lived. With increased understanding about why people move, community leaders may be able to develop actionable strategies for attracting and retaining population.²

Nineteen respondents from Van Buren County participated in the survey, seven who moved into the county, ten who moved out, and two who moved within the county but changed zipcode (Table 1). In many respects, the Van Buren County

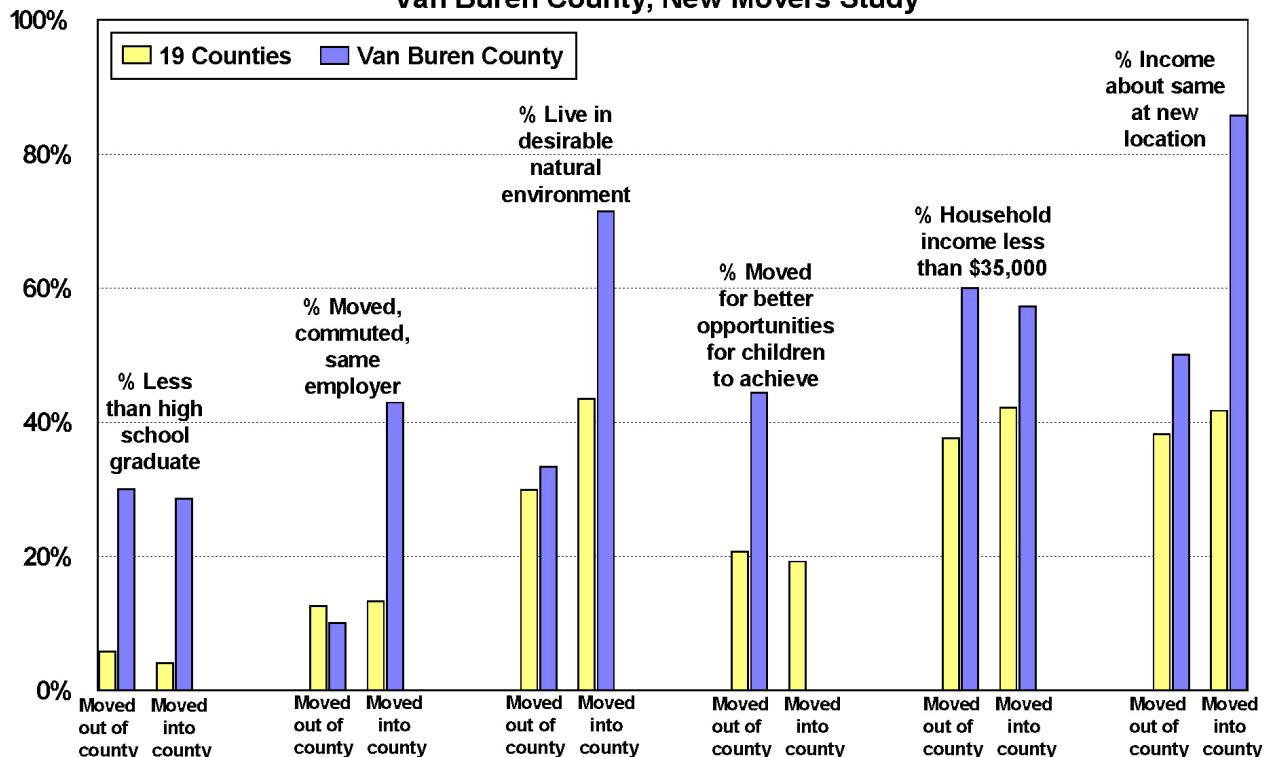
participants shared similar characteristics and responses with the overall set of respondents, but in some aspects there were differences.

The median age of the respondents leaving Van Buren County was 48.5 years which was somewhat older than the median age for respondents leaving other counties in the study. This contrasted with the median age (42.0) of those coming to Van Buren which was younger than those leaving the county as well as younger than those moving into other counties in the study (Tables 1, 5). Males made up a larger portion of the movers to Van Buren than was usually the case for other counties and the Van Buren County groups differed in marital status as well. A higher proportion (80.0%) of those leaving the county than for the overall movers (61.8%) were married, while a lower proportion (42.9%)

of those coming to the county reported they were married. Although the percentages of Van Buren respondents reporting bachelor's degrees were fairly typical, in comparison with the overall movers in the study, much higher proportions of the respondents going either direction for Van Buren County said that they were not high school graduates (Tables 1, 5; Figure 1).

Reasons for moving varied among the respondents, but generally fell into those related to work, family, community, or housing. Work related reasons were cited most frequently as the most important reason for moving by those leaving Van Buren County. Forty percent of this group said they moved to take a new job with a new employer. The respondents coming to the county cited work and housing equally as

Figure 1: Selected Demographic, Moving Decision, and Satisfaction Factors, Van Buren County, New Movers Study



Source: Community Vitality Center, New Movers Study

	Type and Direction of Move							
	Total	Moved Out Of County	Moved Into County	Within County, Different Zipcode	Out To Different Iowa County	In From Different Iowa County	Out To Another State	In From Another State
Number of respondents	19	10	7	2	8	4	2	3
Median age in years	44.0	48.5	42.0	*	48.5	40.5	*	*
Selected age categories	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
% Age 25 – 34	10.5	10.0	14.3	*	12.5	25.0	*	*
% Age 70 or older	10.5	10.0	14.3	*	12.5	0.0	*	*
Gender	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
% Male	52.6	50.0	57.1	*	50.0	50.0	*	*
% Female	47.4	50.0	42.9	*	50.0	50.0	*	*
Marital status	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
% Never married	15.8	20.0	14.3	*	12.5	25.0	*	*
% Married	68.4	80.0	42.9	*	87.5	25.0	*	*
% Divorced or separated	15.8	0.0	42.9	*	0.0	50.0	*	*
% Widowed	0.0	0.0	0.0	*	0.0	0.0	*	*
Highest level of education completed	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
% Less than high school graduate	26.4	30.0	28.6	*	37.5	25.0	*	*
% High school graduate or equivalent	0.0	0.0	0.0	*	0.0	0.0	*	*
% Some college or vocational training	21.1	10.0	28.6	*	12.5	25.0	*	*
% Associate degree	15.8	20.0	0.0	*	12.5	0.0	*	*
% Bachelor degree or more	36.9	40.0	42.9	*	37.5	50.0	*	*
Most important reason for moving								
Number of reasons ¹	26	15	9	2	13	5	2	4
Type of reason	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Work, income, education, retirement	50.0	66.7	33.3	*	61.5	20.0	*	*
Family, friends, health	19.2	20.0	11.1	*	23.1	0.0	*	*
Community, services, amenities	7.7	6.7	11.1	*	7.7	20.0	*	*
Housing	19.2	6.7	33.3	*	7.7	40.0	*	*
Other	3.8	0.0	11.1	*	0.0	20.0	*	*

*Information suppressed, fewer than 4 respondents. ¹Number of reasons exceeds number of respondents because some respondents gave more than one reason.

Community Vitality Center, Iowa State University, Ames, IA

New Mover Studies: Van Buren County

Table 2. Factors in Moving Decision by Type and Direction of Move.

	Type and Direction of Move						
	Total	Moved Out Of County	Moved Into County	Within County, Different Zipcode	Out To Different Iowa County	In From Different Iowa County	In From Another State
	19	10	7	2	8	4	2
	% Yes ¹	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes
Number of respondents	19	10	7	2	8	4	2
Factors in Moving Decision							
Moved, commuted, same employer	31.6	10.0	42.9	*	12.5	50.0	*
Job transfer by employer to location	0.0	0.0	0.0	*	0.0	0.0	*
Laid off from previous job	10.5	20.0	0.0	*	12.5	0.0	*
New job with new employer	21.1	40.0	0.0	*	37.5	0.0	*
Moved to look for new job or work	15.8	30.0	0.0	*	12.5	0.0	*
Retired from previous employment	15.8	20.0	14.3	*	12.5	0.0	*
To be nearer parents	17.6	12.5	28.6	*	0.0	50.0	*
To be nearer children	27.8	33.3	28.6	*	42.9	25.0	*
To live with spouse or partner	21.1	30.0	0.0	*	37.5	0.0	*
To be nearer siblings, other relatives	16.7	11.1	28.6	*	0.0	25.0	*
To be nearer friends, acquaintances	22.2	22.2	28.6	*	14.3	50.0	*
Change in marital status	16.7	11.1	14.3	*	14.3	25.0	*
Place easier find spouse or partner	5.6	11.1	0.0	*	0.0	0.0	*
Decline in health	16.7	22.2	14.3	*	14.3	0.0	*
Take care aging parents	0.0	0.0	0.0	*	0.0	0.0	*
Find less congested place to live	44.4	22.2	57.1	*	14.3	75.0	*
Find safer place to live	27.8	22.2	28.6	*	14.3	25.0	*
Live in desirable natural environment	50.0	33.3	71.4	*	28.6	100.0	*
More outdoor recreation	33.3	33.3	28.6	*	14.3	50.0	*
Find arts, entertainment, cultural	22.2	33.3	14.3	*	28.6	25.0	*
Find simpler pace of life	33.3	33.3	42.9	*	28.6	50.0	*
Find more exciting lifestyle	16.7	22.2	14.3	*	14.3	25.0	*
Live someplace new, have fresh start	52.6	40.0	57.1	*	25.0	50.0	*
Lower cost of housing	38.9	44.4	42.9	*	42.9	50.0	*
Have lower taxes	33.3	33.3	42.9	*	14.3	50.0	*
Have better internet, tv, phone	16.7	33.3	0.0	*	28.6	0.0	*
Find better quality local schools	11.1	22.2	0.0	*	14.3	0.0	*
Opportunities children to achieve	27.8	44.4	0.0	*	42.9	0.0	*
Have more ethnic diversity	11.1	11.1	14.3	*	14.3	25.0	*
Have less ethnic diversity	5.6	0.0	14.3	*	0.0	25.0	*

*Information suppressed, fewer than 4 respondents. ¹Respondents could respond "Yes" to more than one factor.

New Mover Studies: Van Buren County											
Table 3. Lived in Area Previously, Sources of Information, Ease of Finding Housing, and Household Income by Type and Direction of Move.											
	Type and Direction of Move										
	Total	Moved Out Of County	Moved Into County	Within County, Different Zipcode	Out To Different Iowa County	In From Different Iowa County	Out To Another State	In From Another State			
Number of respondents	19	10	7	2	8	4	2	3			
Previously had lived:	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes
In current state	89.5	100.0	71.4	*	100.0	100.0	*	*	*	*	*
In current county	42.1	30.0	42.9	*	37.5	50.0	*	*	*	*	*
In or near current city/town	33.3	30.0	33.3	*	37.5	50.0	*	*	*	*	*
Used source of information for move	% Yes ¹	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes
Internet	26.3	50.0	0.0	*	37.5	0.0	*	*	*	*	*
TV, magazines, newspapers	21.1	20.0	14.3	*	12.5	25.0	*	*	*	*	*
Current community resident	5.3	10.0	0.0	*	12.5	0.0	*	*	*	*	*
Employer or co-workers	21.1	30.0	14.3	*	37.5	25.0	*	*	*	*	*
Friends and acquaintances	21.1	30.0	14.3	*	37.5	25.0	*	*	*	*	*
Family	52.6	30.0	71.4	*	37.5	50.0	*	*	*	*	*
Travel or vacation to new location	10.5	20.0	0.0	*	12.5	0.0	*	*	*	*	*
Attended school or college there	0.0	0.0	0.0	*	0.0	0.0	*	*	*	*	*
Ease of finding housing at new location	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Very difficult (1)	21.1	20.0	28.6	*	25.0	50.0	*	*	*	*	*
Somewhat difficult (2)	5.3	0.0	0.0	*	0.0	0.0	*	*	*	*	*
Neither difficult or easy (3)	15.8	20.0	0.0	*	25.0	0.0	*	*	*	*	*
Somewhat easy (4)	26.3	40.0	14.3	*	37.5	0.0	*	*	*	*	*
Very easy (5)	31.6	20.0	57.1	*	12.5	50.0	*	*	*	*	*
Average rating finding housing (1 – 5)	3.42	3.40	3.71	*	3.13	3.00	*	*	*	*	*
Household income for 2004	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Less than \$20,000 (1)	21.1	30.0	14.3	*	25.0	25.0	*	*	*	*	*
\$20,000 - \$34,999 (2)	36.8	30.0	42.9	*	37.5	50.0	*	*	*	*	*
\$35,000 - \$49,999 (3)	26.3	20.0	28.6	*	12.5	0.0	*	*	*	*	*
\$50,000 - \$69,999 (4)	0.0	0.0	0.0	*	0.0	0.0	*	*	*	*	*
\$70,000 - \$99,999 (5)	5.3	0.0	14.3	*	0.0	25.0	*	*	*	*	*
\$100,000 - \$149,999 (6)	10.5	20.0	0.0	*	25.0	0.0	*	*	*	*	*
\$150,000 or more (7)	0.0	0.0	0.0	*	0.0	0.0	*	*	*	*	*
Average income category (1 – 7)	2.63	2.70	2.57	*	2.88	2.50	*	*	*	*	*

*Information suppressed, fewer than 4 respondents. ¹ Respondents could respond "Yes" to more than one source.

New Mover Studies: Van Buren County

Table 4. Income Comparison Between Locations, Satisfaction with Previous and Current Locations, and Doing Move Over Again by Type and Direction of Move.

	Type and Direction of Move							
	Total	Moved Out Of County	Moved Into County	Within County, Different Zipcode	Out To Different Iowa County	In From Different Iowa County	Out To Another State	In From Another State
Number of respondents	19	10	7	2	8	4	2	3
Current location income compared with previous location income	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Significantly lower income (1)	5.3	10.0	0.0	*	12.5	0.0	*	*
Somewhat lower income (2)	10.5	10.0	14.3	*	0.0	0.0	*	*
About same income (3)	63.2	50.0	85.7	*	62.5	100.0	*	*
Somewhat higher income (4)	10.5	10.0	0.0	*	12.5	0.0	*	*
Significantly higher income (5)	10.5	20.0	0.0	*	12.5	0.0	*	*
Average comparison income (1 – 5)	3.11	3.20	2.86	*	3.13	3.00	*	*
Satisfaction with previous location	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Very dissatisfied (1)	15.8	20.0	14.3	*	12.5	25.0	*	*
Somewhat dissatisfied (2)	15.8	10.0	14.3	*	12.5	0.0	*	*
Neither dissatisfied or satisfied (3)	26.3	20.0	42.9	*	12.5	75.0	*	*
Somewhat satisfied (4)	10.5	10.0	14.3	*	12.5	0.0	*	*
Very satisfied (5)	31.6	40.0	14.3	*	50.0	0.0	*	*
Average satisfaction previous (1 – 5)	3.26	3.40	3.00	*	3.75	2.50	*	*
Satisfaction with current location	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Very dissatisfied (1)	10.5	0.0	28.6	*	0.0	50.0	*	*
Somewhat dissatisfied (2)	0.0	0.0	0.0	*	0.0	0.0	*	*
Neither dissatisfied or satisfied (3)	10.5	10.0	14.3	*	12.5	25.0	*	*
Somewhat satisfied (4)	31.6	40.0	28.6	*	50.0	0.0	*	*
Very satisfied (5)	47.4	50.0	28.6	*	37.5	25.0	*	*
Average satisfaction current (1 – 5)	4.05	4.40	3.29	*	4.25	2.50	*	*
Would do move over again	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Definitely not (1)	0.0	0.0	0.0	*	0.0	0.0	*	*
Probably not (2)	0.0	0.0	0.0	*	0.0	0.0	*	*
Undecided (3)	10.5	20.0	0.0	*	25.0	0.0	*	*
Probably yes (4)	26.3	10.0	57.1	*	12.5	50.0	*	*
Definitely yes (5)	63.2	70.0	42.9	*	62.5	50.0	*	*
Average rating do move over (1 – 5)	4.53	4.50	4.43	*	4.38	4.50	*	*

*Information suppressed, fewer than 4 respondents.

New Mover Studies: 19 County Overall Findings

Table 5. Age, Gender, Marital Status, Education, and Most Important Reason for Moving by Type and Direction of Move.

	Type and Direction of Move							
	Total	Moved Out Of County	Moved Into County	Within County, Different Zipcode	Out To Different Iowa County	In From Different Iowa County	Out To Another State	In From Another State
Number of respondents	737	327	366	85	206	207	121	159
Median age in years	46.0	42.0	48.0	45.0	43.0	44.0	41.0	53.5
Selected age categories	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
% Age 25 – 34	21.3	22.0	18.9	24.7	20.9	21.7	24.0	15.1
% Age 70 or older	13.2	9.8	14.5	20.0	10.2	12.6	9.1	17.0
Gender	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
% Male	54.5	57.7	50.4	54.8	54.6	46.1	63.0	56.1
% Female	45.5	42.3	49.6	45.2	45.4	53.9	37.0	43.9
Marital status	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
% Never married	12.0	15.8	8.6	10.7	13.8	10.8	19.3	5.7
% Married	62.4	61.8	61.9	64.3	60.1	57.4	64.7	67.7
% Divorced or separated	16.3	13.3	20.5	14.3	16.8	25.0	7.6	14.5
% Widowed	9.4	9.0	9.1	10.7	9.4	6.9	8.4	12.0
Highest level of education completed	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
% Less than high school graduate	5.1	5.8	4.1	7.2	6.8	3.5	4.2	5.0
% High school graduate or equivalent	17.3	16.7	16.3	25.0	20.0	17.6	11.0	14.6
% Some college or vocational training	28.3	26.0	30.3	28.6	31.2	29.3	16.9	31.6
% Associate degree	10.6	11.8	10.7	9.5	12.7	12.7	10.2	8.2
% Bachelor degree or more	38.8	39.7	38.5	29.8	29.3	37.0	57.6	40.5
Most important reason for moving								
Number of reasons ¹	1,011	458	498	115	289	288	169	210
Type of reason	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Work, income, retirement, education	38.4	47.2	36.5	15.7	45.0	36.1	50.9	37.1
Family, friends, health	22.3	18.1	27.5	13.9	20.8	23.3	13.6	33.3
Community, services, amenities	22.0	22.0	21.9	19.1	18.0	21.2	29.0	22.9
Housing	15.7	10.5	12.4	50.4	13.8	17.0	4.7	6.2
Other	1.6	2.2	1.6	0.9	2.3	2.3	1.8	0.5

¹Number of reasons exceeds number of respondents because some respondents gave more than one reason.

Community Vitality Center, Iowa State University, Ames, IA

New Mover Studies: 19 County Overall Findings
 Table 6. Factors in Moving Decision by Type and Direction of Move.

	Type and Direction of Move							
	Total	Moved Out Of County	Moved Into County	Within County, Different Zipcode	Out To Different Iowa County	In From Different Iowa County	Out To Another State	In From Another State
Number of respondents	737	327	366	85	206	207	121	159
Factors in Moving Decision	% Yes ¹	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes
Moved, commuted, same employer	14.2	12.6	13.3	28.8	16.7	18.8	5.5	6.4
Job transfer by employer to location	7.6	9.8	7.1	1.3	7.8	4.0	13.4	11.0
Laid off from previous job	4.9	7.9	3.4	0.0	8.3	3.1	7.1	3.9
New job with new employer	26.7	34.3	24.7	3.8	29.7	25.6	42.1	23.5
Moved to look for new job or work	16.5	19.4	15.9	5.0	15.0	13.6	27.0	18.8
Retired from previous employment	14.4	11.1	16.9	12.2	10.8	14.6	11.7	19.9
To be nearer parents	23.7	21.0	30.5	7.5	19.7	30.2	23.1	30.9
To be nearer children	20.1	21.3	22.3	7.4	24.4	19.7	16.0	25.6
To live with spouse or partner	15.0	15.5	14.3	16.5	17.6	19.0	12.0	8.0
To be nearer siblings, other relatives	30.5	26.6	38.4	11.1	24.7	34.3	29.7	43.6
To be nearer friends, acquaintances	29.6	29.3	32.6	21.5	30.7	34.8	27.0	29.6
Change in marital status	13.2	12.1	13.3	16.0	12.6	16.0	11.1	9.8
Place easier find spouse or partner	7.9	12.7	4.2	3.7	9.6	5.5	17.9	2.6
Decline in health	10.4	7.6	11.5	12.3	8.6	7.0	6.0	17.4
Take care aging parents	5.9	5.1	7.6	1.2	4.5	5.5	6.0	10.4
Find less congested place to live	28.2	15.2	39.2	27.2	20.6	32.3	6.0	48.1
Find safer place to live	26.1	15.9	35.9	18.5	21.3	30.0	6.8	43.5
Live in desirable natural environment	35.8	29.9	43.5	25.9	31.0	43.8	28.2	43.1
More outdoor recreation	29.3	28.3	31.7	22.2	24.2	36.1	35.0	26.0
Find arts, entertainment, cultural	23.7	36.1	15.8	6.2	28.1	16.9	49.6	14.3
Find simpler pace of life	36.8	25.2	49.6	24.7	30.0	44.8	16.9	55.8
Find more exciting lifestyle	22.4	31.3	17.7	8.6	25.0	21.4	41.9	13.0
Live someplace new, have fresh start	41.4	39.5	43.2	37.0	38.2	43.8	41.7	42.5
Lower cost of housing	31.7	20.1	41.5	32.9	26.3	35.3	9.5	49.4
Have lower taxes	25.5	18.6	34.0	15.9	18.5	30.3	19.0	38.8
Have better internet, tv, phone	8.3	12.4	6.2	1.2	11.6	8.5	13.8	3.3
Find better quality local schools	14.0	12.1	17.3	8.6	13.7	16.6	9.4	18.2
Opportunities children to achieve	19.3	20.7	19.2	14.8	20.8	19.0	20.5	19.5
Have more ethnic diversity	10.3	16.9	5.9	1.2	9.6	7.0	29.3	4.6
Have less ethnic diversity	4.4	2.6	6.3	3.7	3.1	4.0	1.7	9.2

¹ Respondents could respond "Yes" to more than one factor.

		Type and Direction of Move							
		Moved Out Of County	Moved Into County	Within County, Different Zipcode	Out To Different Iowa County	In From Different Iowa County	Out To Another State	In From Another State	Total
Number of respondents	737	327	366	85	206	207	121	159	
Previously had lived:	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes
In current state	77.2	73.9	77.6	97.5	95.5	96.9	36.8	53.5	
In current county	38.6	28.3	34.3	100.0	33.9	36.5	31.5	33.9	
In or near current city/town	34.2	28.5	32.3	69.9	34.0	35.6	18.7	27.9	
Used source of information for move	% Yes ¹	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes	% Yes
Internet	31.2	35.2	30.3	14.1	26.7	24.6	49.6	37.7	
TV, magazines, newspapers	22.3	24.8	20.5	20.0	22.8	22.7	28.1	17.6	
Current community resident	22.0	21.4	23.0	18.8	19.4	20.8	24.8	25.8	
Employer or co-workers	23.6	26.3	23.5	16.5	25.2	24.2	28.1	22.6	
Friends and acquaintances	36.6	39.4	35.0	34.1	36.4	38.6	44.6	30.2	
Family	41.2	37.0	44.0	42.4	37.4	41.5	36.4	47.2	
Travel or vacation to new location	14.2	15.6	15.8	2.4	10.2	12.6	24.8	20.1	
Attended school or college there	6.9	7.0	6.3	7.1	7.3	3.9	6.6	9.4	
Ease of finding housing at new location	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Very difficult (1)	8.8	5.9	12.2	9.4	7.8	9.3	2.5	16.0	
Somewhat difficult (2)	20.6	24.2	18.1	18.8	23.0	18.6	26.3	17.3	
Neither difficult or easy (3)	16.5	15.2	15.3	21.2	14.7	17.2	16.1	12.8	
Somewhat easy (4)	22.4	22.7	23.1	20.0	23.5	23.5	21.2	22.4	
Very easy (5)	31.6	32.0	31.4	30.6	30.9	31.4	33.9	31.4	
Average rating finding housing (1 – 5)	3.47	3.51	3.43	3.44	3.47	3.49	3.58	3.36	
Household income for 2004	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Less than \$20,000 (1)	17.3	16.0	18.8	19.0	18.0	18.4	12.6	19.4	
\$20,000 - \$34,999 (2)	23.0	21.6	23.3	26.6	25.0	24.3	16.0	21.9	
\$35,000 - \$49,999 (3)	18.2	18.2	17.7	22.8	18.0	20.4	18.5	14.2	
\$50,000 - \$69,999 (4)	18.5	18.2	19.1	15.2	18.0	21.4	18.5	16.1	
\$70,000 - \$99,999 (5)	12.4	13.8	11.9	8.9	12.5	12.6	16.0	11.0	
\$100,000 - \$149,999 (6)	7.7	8.5	7.2	3.8	6.5	1.5	11.8	14.8	
\$150,000 or more (7)	2.9	3.8	1.9	3.8	2.0	1.5	6.7	2.6	
Average income category (1 – 7)	3.20	3.33	3.11	2.95	3.10	2.96	3.71	3.32	

¹ Respondents could respond “Yes” to more than one factor.

New Mover Studies: 19 County Overall Findings

Table 8. Income Comparison Between Locations, Satisfaction with Previous and Current Locations, and Doing Move Over Again by Type and Direction of Move.

	Type and Direction of Move							
	Total	Moved Out Of County	Moved Into County	Within County, Different Zipcode	Out To Different Iowa County	In From Different Iowa County	Out To Another State	In From Another State
Number of respondents	737	327	366	85	206	207	121	159
Current location income compared with previous location income	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Significantly lower income (1)	11.0	6.9	16.1	3.8	7.0	11.8	6.8	21.8
Somewhat lower income (2)	12.1	10.7	13.3	7.5	11.9	9.8	8.5	17.9
About same income (3)	41.9	38.2	41.7	63.8	46.8	46.6	23.7	35.3
Somewhat higher income (4)	23.1	29.2	19.2	17.5	26.9	20.1	33.1	17.9
Significantly higher income (5)	11.8	15.0	9.7	7.5	7.5	11.8	28.0	7.1
Average comparison income (1 – 5)	3.13	3.35	2.93	3.18	3.16	3.10	3.67	2.71
Satisfaction with previous location	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Very dissatisfied (1)	11.2	11.4	11.5	9.4	12.7	12.1	9.2	10.7
Somewhat dissatisfied (2)	14.7	14.8	15.9	11.8	16.1	16.0	12.5	15.7
Neither dissatisfied or satisfied (3)	12.7	16.9	9.0	15.3	17.6	11.7	15.8	5.7
Somewhat satisfied (4)	29.0	26.5	29.0	29.4	27.3	26.2	25.0	32.7
Very satisfied (5)	32.5	30.5	34.5	34.1	26.3	34.0	37.5	35.2
Average satisfaction previous (1 – 5)	3.57	3.50	3.59	3.67	3.38	3.54	3.69	3.66
Satisfaction with current location	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Very dissatisfied (1)	7.6	8.7	7.8	4.7	9.3	6.9	7.7	9.0
Somewhat dissatisfied (2)	8.1	7.8	9.5	5.9	9.8	7.4	4.3	12.2
Neither dissatisfied or satisfied (3)	6.6	5.9	8.4	3.5	7.3	6.9	3.4	10.3
Somewhat satisfied (4)	29.4	27.6	29.5	28.2	24.9	27.1	32.5	32.7
Very satisfied (5)	48.3	50.0	44.8	57.6	48.8	51.7	52.1	35.9
Average satisfaction current (1 – 5)	4.03	4.03	3.94	4.28	3.94	4.09	4.17	3.74
Would do move over again	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Definitely not (1)	3.2	3.1	3.6	1.2	2.0	2.9	5.1	4.4
Probably not (2)	5.1	4.3	4.7	9.4	4.9	4.9	3.4	4.4
Undecided (3)	9.7	8.7	10.4	7.1	8.3	6.8	9.3	15.2
Probably yes (4)	33.2	35.1	33.0	29.4	38.2	35.4	29.7	29.7
Definitely yes (5)	48.9	48.8	48.4	52.9	46.6	50.0	52.5	46.2
Average rating do move over (1 – 5)	4.20	4.22	4.18	4.24	4.23	4.25	4.21	4.09

Community Vitality Center, Iowa State University, Ames, IA

New Mover Studies: Van Buren County

most important for the move. Nearly 43 percent of those moving in said that, although they had moved, they continued to have the same employer and commuted to their work (Tables 2, 6; Figure 1).

The Van Buren County movers were similar to those in other counties in that the respondents who came into Van Buren were more likely than those who left to say that wanting a less congested place to live, or a safer place to live, or a simpler pace of life was a factor in their moving decision. In contrast, those moving out were more likely to say they wanted more arts, entertainment, or cultural activities or a more exciting lifestyle than those who came into the county. The respondents coming to Van Buren County were especially likely (71.4%) to say that wanting to live in a desirable natural environment was a factor in their moving decision. Among those moving from the county, 44 percent cited wanting better opportunities for their children to achieve; 22 percent noted finding better schools; and 33 percent said they wanted better internet, tv, or phone. None of the respondents moving in cited schools, opportunities for their children, or the internet or phone as a factor in their move (Tables 2, 6; Figure 1).

The movers coming into Van Buren County were especially likely (71.4%) to cite family members as a source of information for their move. Although those who moved out of the county also used family for information (30.0%), half of this group cited using the internet as well. The respondents coming to the county, on average, found the search for housing to be easier than those who left. Fifty-seven percent of those moving in said that finding housing was very easy compared with just 20 % of those moving out. However, 20 percent or more of the movers going either

Table 9. Mover Categories and Type and Direction of Move.

Category	Type and Direction of Move
Within County, Zipcode change	Moved within one of the 19 study counties but changed zip code.
Out To Another Iowa County	Moved out of one of the study counties to another county in Iowa.
In From Another Iowa County	Moved from another county in Iowa into one of the study counties.
Out To Another State	Moved out of one of the study counties to another state.
In From Another State	Moved from another state into one of the study counties.

direction said that finding housing in their new location was very difficult (Table 3).

The Van Buren County movers tended to report lower income than many respondents in other counties in the study. Fifty-seven percent or more of those moving either into or out of the county said their income was below \$35,000. For many of the Van Buren movers, however, their income did not change much with their move. Half of those who left the county and 85 percent of those who moved in said that their income would be about the same in their new location as before their move (Tables 3, 4, 7, 8; Figure 1).

The respondents who left Van Buren tended to be satisfied with their new location. Ninety percent reported they were somewhat to very satisfied after the move. Fifty-seven percent of those moving to the county reported being somewhat to very satisfied with their Van Buren location. Still, all of those moving into the county said they would probably or definitely do their move over again (Table 4).

The goal of this study is to better understand the experiences of people who have moved. This report focuses on the findings for Van Buren County and highlights some of the similarities and differences with the findings for the entire set of 19 counties. Because the number of respondents in any one county is small, the overall findings and trends are likely the best guidelines as community residents and leaders think about possible next steps. The overall objective is to help community leaders

better understand household moving trends so they can develop actionable strategies to address the reasons why people come, why people leave, enhance the qualities that cause people to stay, and thus stabilize or increase their population.²

The Study

These research results are from a survey of nonmetropolitan movers in 19 selected counties in Iowa that included Van Buren County.¹ People who had moved either into or out of these 19 counties were identified through a purchased database and were mailed a survey in the fall of 2005. The survey asked questions about the respondent's previous location as well as their current location, reasons for moving, satisfaction with multiple factors in their communities, as well as their demographic, social, and economic situation. Five categories of movers are used to examine the results (Table 9). Most respondents had moved during 2003 through 2005 and 737 respondents who met the study criteria replied for an overall response rate of 35 percent. The estimated response rate for Van Buren County was 38.0 percent.

Notes

1. Previous reports, a description of the study, the counties included, and the survey questionnaire are available on the Community Vitality Center web site at: www.cvcia.org.
2. Previous reports contain examples of possible next steps and strategies that community leaders might consider.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

University Extension

Community Vitality Center
 478 Heady Hall
 Iowa State University
 Ames, IA 50011-1070
 515-294-3000
cvc@iastate.edu
www.cvcia.org
 December, 2009

... and justice for all

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Many materials can be made available in alternative formats for ADA clients. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Jack M. Payne, director, Cooperative Extension Service, Iowa State University of Science and Technology, Ames, Iowa.