

Tioga County Partnership for Community Health: Building a Better Community

**Community Resources Detailed Analysis:
Parks
Recreation
Transportation**

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This report is best understood in conjunction with the original Quality of Life Survey and quantitative analysis prepared by Eric Larson, Seth Tanner, Al Luloff of AEL and Associates and with the Qualitative Report for “Needs” Responses prepared by Dr. Nicolle Mayo at the Psychology Department at Mansfield University

Introduction

Five-hundred-and-five Tioga County residents completed the Tioga County Partnership for Community Health Community Survey in 2015. The survey was comprised of several sections including questions about Community Resources, Community Activities, Community Support, and Environment. This particular report focuses on the following categories of the community resources portion of the survey: parks, recreation, and transportation.

Method

The current report focuses on the specific areas within the Community Resources portion of the overall survey: parks, recreation, and transportation. Participants rated how well each category meets their needs by placing themselves in one of five categories: “I don’t know about these services,” “I don’t use these services,” “does not meet my needs,” “partially meets my needs, and “meets my needs (see Appendix A).” For this report, respondents who placed themselves in the first two categories, indicating they either don’t know about or don’t use the services, were excluded from the following analyses.

This report examines how various predictors influence the extent to which residents’ needs are being met in terms of trash disposal and recycling services. Predictor variables include “feeling at home in the community,” “being interested in the community,” education, employment status, age, and region of residence.

A note about statistical significance: When comparing groups on their self-reported response category, we found that often some groups were significantly more likely to report having needs met than others. By “significantly more likely” it is meant that the groups did not differ merely due to chance, random factors, or happenstance. Rather, a statistically significant influence indicates that group membership had a meaningful influence on which category respondents put themselves into (i.e., does not meet my needs, partially meets my needs, or meets my needs). In other words, being a member of the group significantly affected whether or not needs were being met.

Data Analysis

Table 1

Self-Reported Utilization/Need for Various Community Resources

Community Resource	Don't know about it		I don't use it		Doesn't meet my needs		Partially meets my needs		Meets my needs		Total
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	
Public Transportation	36	6.34	314	55.28	79	13.91	56	9.86	83	14.61	568
Recreational Facilities	12	2.11	35	6.14	96	16.84	173	30.35	254	44.56	570
Public Parks	4	0.70	22	3.87	54	9.49	192	33.74	297	52.20	569

Table 1 shows the overall number of respondents who answered the questions about the community resources included in this report. In each category, fewer than 7% of all respondents indicated complete unawareness of the resource. Results indicate that among Tioga County residents who are aware of and need the resource, the majority of respondents indicated that parks and recreation meet their needs but very few indicated that transportation meets their needs. In fact, the majority of respondents (55%) indicated that public transportation does not at all meet their needs.

Parks

Three variables predicted needs met by parks: feeling at home in Tioga County, age group, and region. Figures 2.1-2.3 show those results in terms of number of respondents who self-selected into each category. Tables 2.1-2.3 show the percentage of respondents within each category who chose “does not meet my needs,” “partially meets my needs,” or “meets my needs.”

Figure 2.1

Feeling at Home in Tioga County as a Predictor of Needs Met by Parks

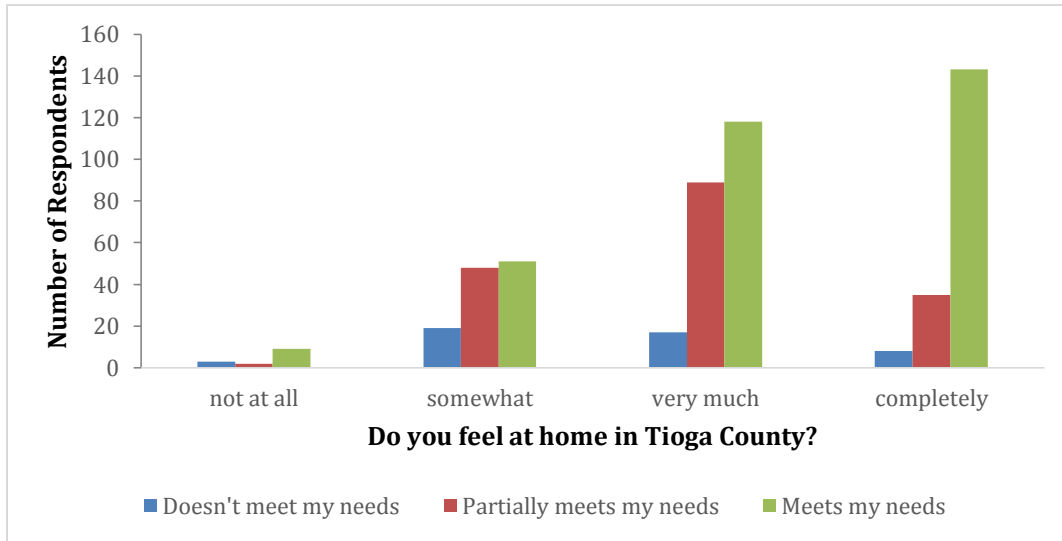


Table 2.1

Feeling at Home in Tioga County as a Predictor of Needs Met by Parks

Do you feel at home?	Doesn't meet my needs	Partially meets my needs	Meets my needs
Not at all (n = 14)	21.4	14.3	64.3
Somewhat (n = 118)	16.1	40.7	43.2
Very much (n = 224)	7.6	39.7	52.7
Completely (n = 186)	4.3	18.8	76.9

Overall respondents seem fairly satisfied with parks in Tioga County. As reflected in other reports, respondents who do not feel at home in Tioga County were less likely to report being satisfied with parks. The overwhelming majority of respondents who are completely at home in Tioga County have their needs met by parks.

Figure 2.2

Interest in Tioga County as a Predictor of Needs Met by Parks

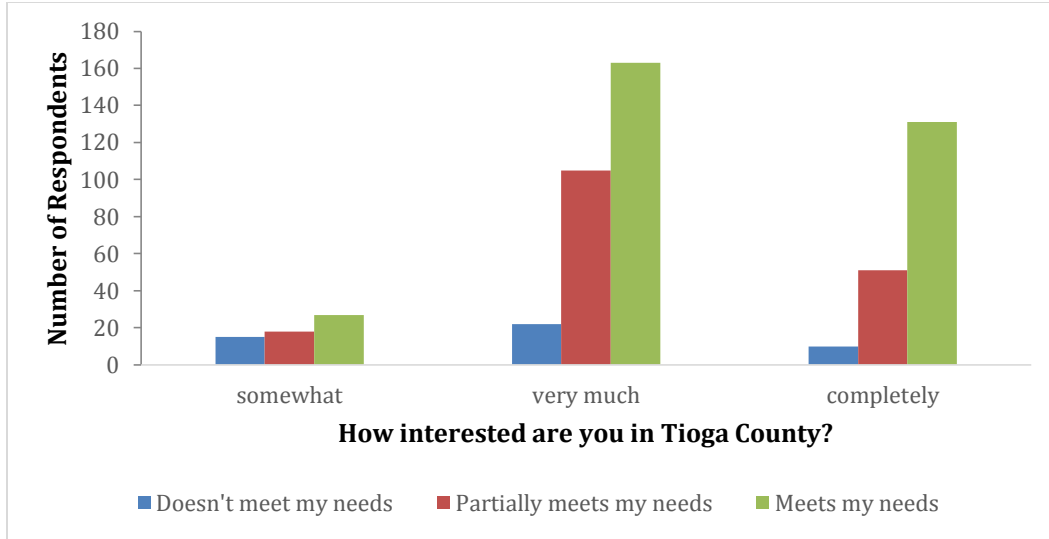


Table 2.2

Interest in Tioga County as a Predictor of Needs Met by Parks

Interest	Doesn't meet my needs	Partially meets my needs	Meets my needs
Somewhat (n = 60)	25	30	45
Very much (n = 290)	7.6	36.2	56.2
Completely (n = 192)	4.3	26.6	68.2

Again we see a similar pattern emerge; respondents who are more interested in Tioga County are more likely to report that their needs are being met by parks.

Figure 2.3

Region as a Predictor of Needs Met by Parks

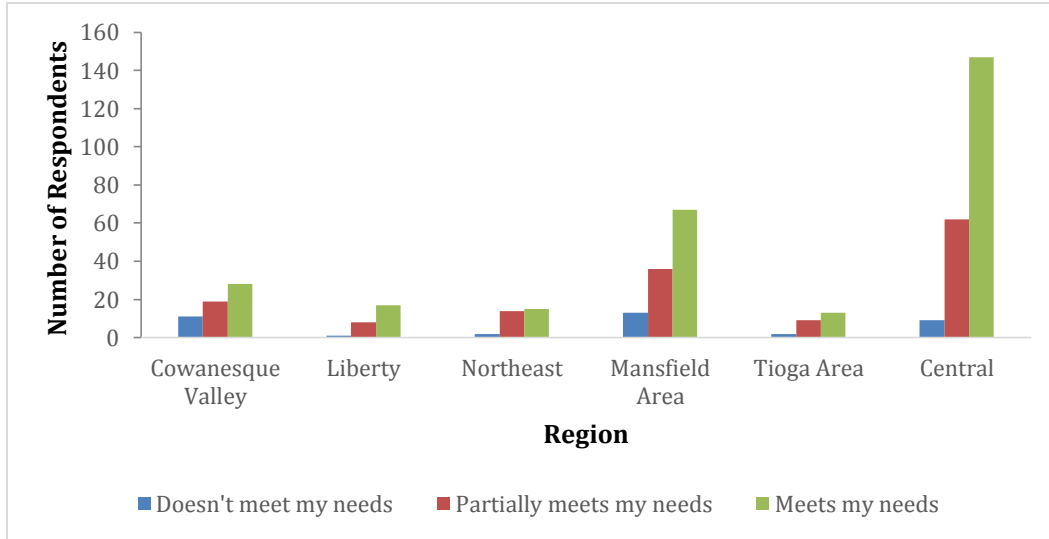


Table 2.3

Region*	Doesn't meet my needs	Partially meets my needs	Meets my needs
Cowanesque Valley (n = 58)	19	32.8	48.3
Liberty Area (n = 26)	3.8	30.8	65.4
Northeast (n = 31)	6.5	45.2	48.4
Mansfield Area (n = 116)	11.2	31	57.8
Tioga Area (n = 24)	8.3	37.5	54.2
Central (n = 216)	4.1	28.4	67.4

Respondents in most regions appear to have their needs met by parks, with the exception of the Cowanesque Valley and Mansfield Areas. Nineteen percent of the respondents in the Cowanesque Valley indicated that their needs were not being met by

parks and 11% of Mansfield respondents indicated that they did not have their needs met by parks.

Summary of Parks

Respondents who report the highest proportions of needs being met by parks in Tioga County are more likely to feel at home in Tioga County and be interested in Tioga County. Furthermore, respondents who have their needs met by parks are *least* likely to come from the Cowanesque Valley or Mansfield Areas.

Recreational Events

The same three factors predicted extent to which needs were being met by recreational events: feeling at home in Tioga County, interest in Tioga County, and region. Figures 3.1-3.3 show those results in terms of number of respondents who self-selected into each category. Tables 3.1- 3.3 show the percentage of respondents within each category who chose “does not meet my needs,” “partially meets my needs,” or “meets my needs.”

Figure 3.1

Feeling at Home as a Predictor of Needs Met by Recreational Events

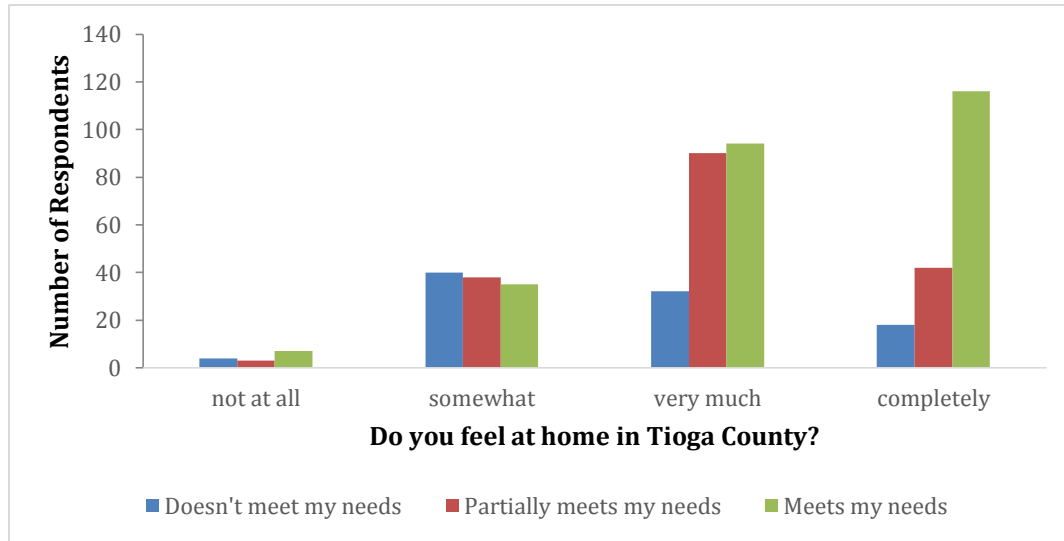


Table 3.1

Feeling at Home as a Predictor of Needs Met by Recreational Events

Do you feel at home?	Doesn't meet my needs	Partially meets my needs	Meets my needs
Not at all (n = 14)	28.6	21.4	50
Somewhat (n = 113)	35.4	33.6	31
Very much (n = 216)	14.8	41.7	43.5
Completely (n = 176)	10.2	23.9	65.9

Respondents who report feeling at home in Tioga County were more likely to report that needs are being met recreational events. Approximately 28% of respondents who do not feel at home in Tioga County reported that recreational services do not meet their needs in contrast to 10% of respondents who completely feel at home. There is a clear

trend that feeling more at home in Tioga County is related to a greater perception of needs being met by recreational events.

Figure 3.2

Interest in Tioga County as a Predictor of Recreation

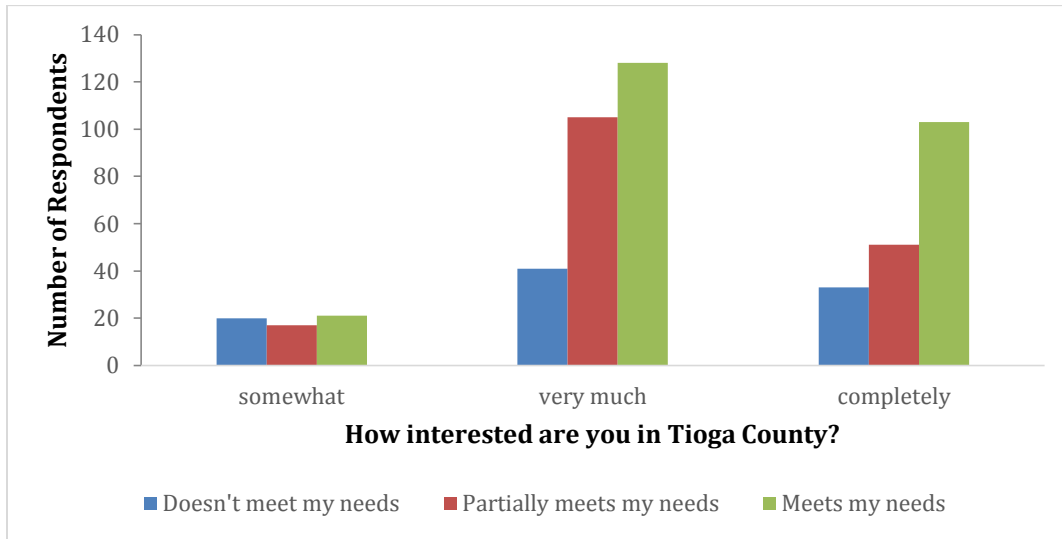


Table 3.2

Interest in Tioga County as a Predictor of Recreation

Interest	Doesn't meet my needs	Partially meets my needs	Meets my needs
Somewhat (n = 58)	34.5	29.3	36.2
Very much (n = 274)	15	38.3	46.7
Completely (n = 187)	17.6	27.3	55.1

Respondents who are more interested in Tioga County are more likely to have their needs met by recreational events. Among those only somewhat interested, 34% indicated that recreational events do not meet their needs. However, the proportion of those who

feel completely at home yet indicate that recreational events do not meet their needs is fairly high at 17.6%.

Figure 3.3

Region as a Predictor of Needs Met Recreation

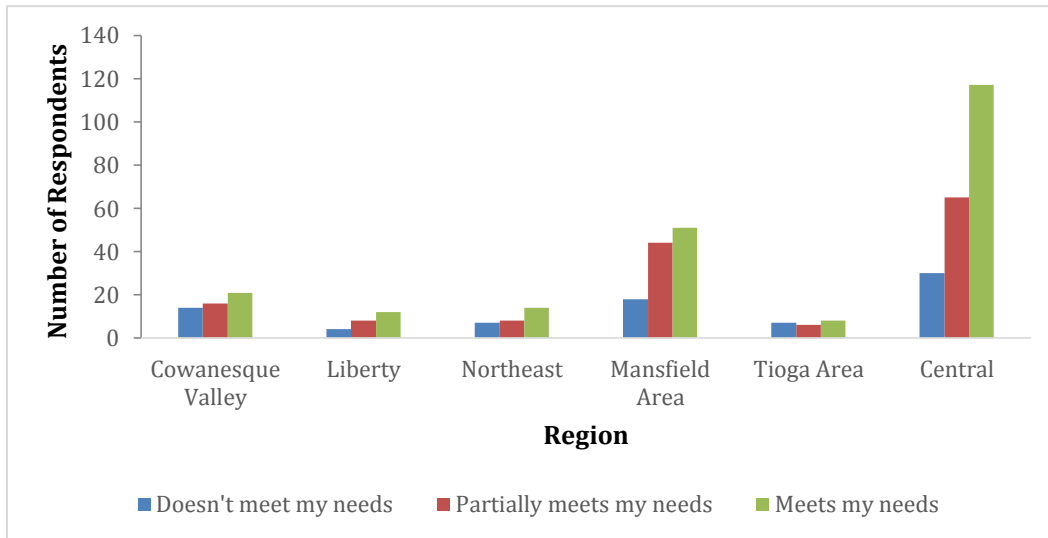


Table 3.3

Region as a Predictor of Needs Met Recreation

Region*	Doesn't meet my needs	Partially meets my needs	Meets my needs
Cowanesque Valley (n = 51)	27.5	31.4	41.2
Liberty Area (n = 24)	16.7	33.3	50
Northeast (n = 29)	24.1	27.6	48.3
Mansfield Area (n = 113)	15.9	38.9	45.1
Tioga Area (n = 21)	33.3	28.6	38.1
Central (n = 212)	14.2	30.7	55.2

Respondents in the Tioga Area were much less likely to indicate that recreational events meet their needs compared to all other regions. The Liberty Area and the Cowanesque Valley had the highest rates of “meets my needs.” All other regions (Northeast, Liberty, Mansfield, and Tioga) had very low rates of respondents indicating that recreational events meets their needs, with all three having rates under 50%.

Summary of Recreational Events

Respondents who report highest ratings of “meets my needs” are more likely to feel at home in Tioga County and be from the Central Area or Cowanesque Valley. Respondents from the Tioga Area had very low rates of indicating that recycling services meet their needs.

Transportation

Four factors predicted extent to which needs were being met by transportation services: feeling at home in Tioga County, interest in Tioga County, education, and region. Figures 4.1-4.4 show those results in terms of number of respondents who self-selected into each category. Tables 4.1- 4.4 show the percentage of respondents within each category who chose “does not meet my needs,” “partially meets my needs,” or “meets my needs.”

Figure 4.1

Feeling at Home as a Predictor of Needs Met by Transportation Services

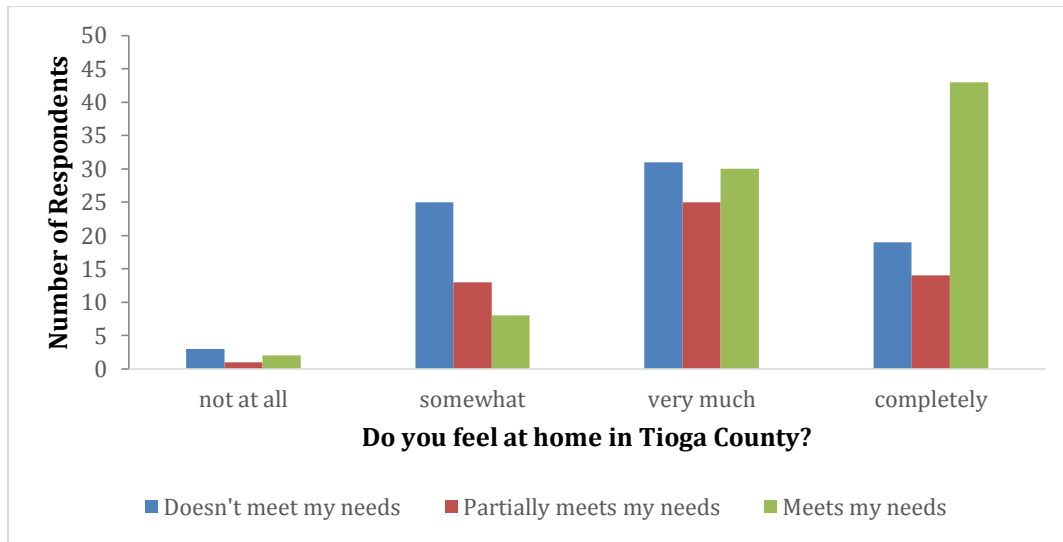


Table 4.1

Feeling at Home as a Predictor of Needs Met by Transportation Services

Do you feel at home?	Doesn't meet my needs	Partially meets my needs	Meets my needs
Not at all (n = 6)	50	16.7	33.3
Somewhat (n = 46)	54.3	28.3	17.4
Very much (n = 86)	36	29.1	34.9
Completely (n = 76)	25	18.4	56.6

Respondents are very dissatisfied with transportation services. Among those who indicate being not at all at home or only somewhat at home in Tioga County, over 50% say that transportation services are not meeting their needs. Even among those who feel

completely at home in Tioga County, only 56% say that transportation services completely meet their needs.

Figure 4.2

Interest in Tioga County as a Predictor Needs Met by Transportation Services

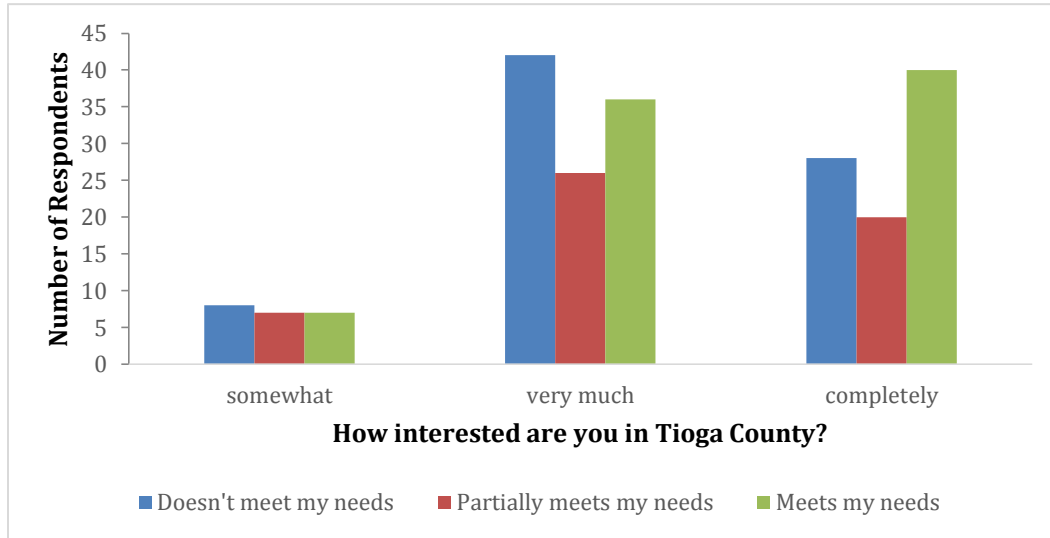


Table 4.2

Interest in Tioga County as a Predictor Needs Met by Transportation Services

Interest	Doesn't meet my needs	Partially meets my needs	Meets my needs
Somewhat (n = 22)	36.4	31.8	31.8
Very much (n = 104)	40.4	25	34.6
Completely (n = 88)	31.8	22.7	45.5

Respondents who are more interested in Tioga County are more likely to have their needs met by transportation services. Among those only somewhat interested, 36.4% indicated that transportation services do not meet their needs. However, the proportion of

those who feel completely at home indicate that transportation services do not meet their needs is fairly high at 31.8%.

Figure 4.3

Education as a Predictor of Needs Met by Transportation Services

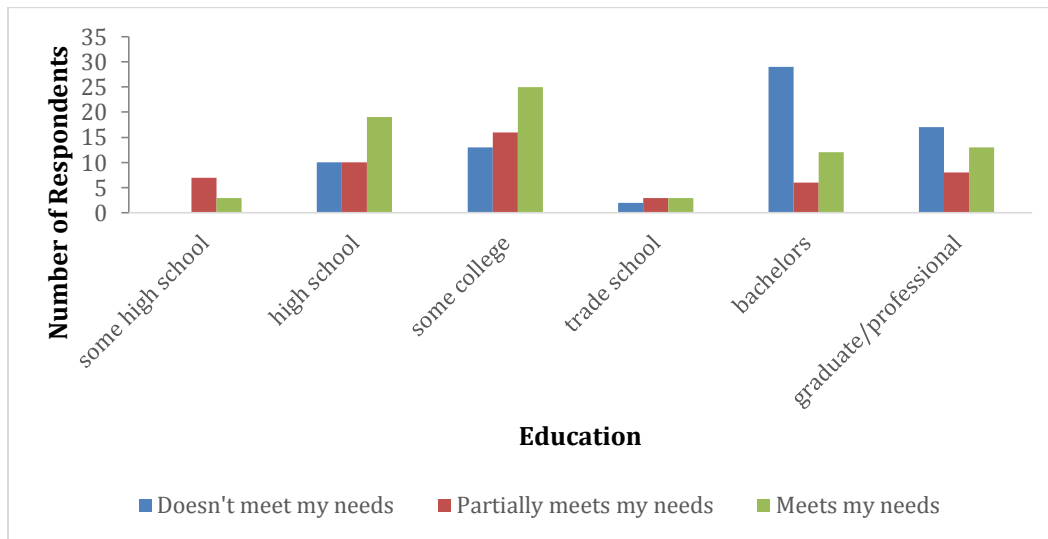


Table 4.3

Education as a Predictor of Needs Met by Transportation Services

Education	Doesn't meet my needs	Partially meets my needs	Meets my needs
Some high school (n = 10)	0	70	30
High school (n = 39)	25.6	25.6	48.7
Some college (n = 54)	24.1	29.6	46.3
Trade school (n = 8)	25	37.5	37.5
Bachelor's (n = 47)	61.7	12.8	25.5
Graduate/professional (n = 38)	44.7	21.1	34.2

The results for education are somewhat confusing; as level of education increases, perception of needs met by transportation services actually decreases. Participants with a graduate degree were nearly twice as likely to indicate that transportation services do not meet their needs compared to those with a high school education, some college, or a trade school education. In any given level of education, there were never more than 50% of respondents who indicated that transportation services meet their needs.

Figure 4.4

Region as a Predictor of Needs Met by Transportation Services

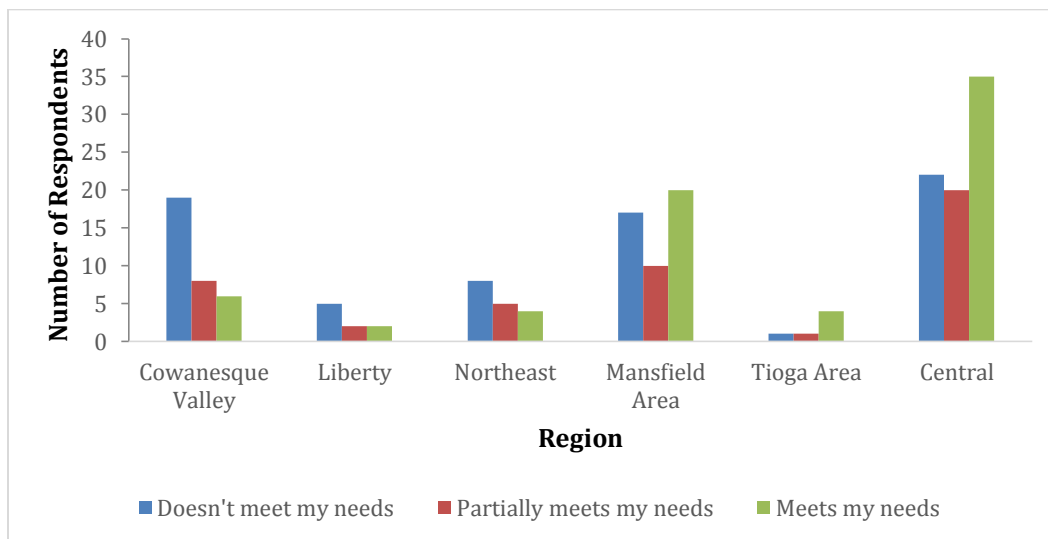


Table 4.4

Region as a Predictor of Needs Met Transportation Services

Region*	Doesn't meet my needs	Partially meets my needs	Meets my needs
Cowanesque Valley (n = 33)	57.6	24.2	18.2
Liberty Area (n = 9)	55.6	22.2	22.2
Northeast (n = 17)	47.1	29.4	23.5
Mansfield Area (n = 47)	36.2	21.3	42.6
Tioga Area (n = 6)	16.7	16.7	66.7
Central (n = 77)	28.6	26	45.5

The results indicate that respondents who are from the Cowanesque Valley, Liberty Area, and the Northeast area appear to be particularly likely to indicate that transportation services do not meet their needs. (However, note the small sample sizes). Participants from the Mansfield and Central areas appear to be most likely to indicate that transportation services meet their needs (note: the Tioga Area is not discussed as it only had 6 respondents to this question).

. Transportation Summary

Overall transportation services are not meeting the needs of the majority of Tioga County residents. Respondents are more satisfied with transportation services if they feel at home in Tioga County or if they are interested in the county. Interestingly, respondents with advanced degrees are less likely than others to agree that transportation services meet their needs. Finally, respondents in the two most populated areas of the county – Mansfield and Wellsboro – indicate the highest satisfaction with transportation services.

However, the rates of needs being met are still fairly low, coming in below 50% across all regions.

General Summary

The data indicate that Tioga County residents are most likely to report that their parks, recreation, and transportation needs are being met when they feel at home in the county and when they are interested in the county.

In the analysis of the separate regions, most regions indicated high levels of satisfaction with parks and recreation. When looking at transportation, the Mansfield and Central Areas consistently reported the highest rate of needs being met.

***Township Comparisons**

Participants were asked to report which borough or township they live in. We received answers from 35 separate towns and boroughs. The reported information was matched up to one of six Tioga County planning regions (see Table 4).

Table 4

Cowanesque Valley	Liberty	Northeast	Mansfield	Tioga	Central
Chatham	Liberty	Jackson	Arnot	Lawrenceville	Charleston
Deerfield	Morris	Millerton	Blossburg	Tioga	Duncan
Elkland	Union	Rutland	Covington		Shippen
Farmington	Ward	Roseville	Hamilton		Wellsboro
Knoxville		Sullivan	Mansfield		Whitneyville
Nelson			Putnam		Middlebury
Osceola			Richmond		Holliday
Clymer					Delmar
Brookfield					
Westfield					
n = 54	n = 25	n = 29	n = 107	n = 20	n = 205