Tioga County Partnership for Community Health: Building a Better Community

Community Resources Detailed Analysis:
Trash Disposal
Recycling

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Prepared with the guidance of the Measurements and Outcomes Committee of the

Tioga County Partnership for Community Health and funded by the Tioga County

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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: trash disposal and recycling

services.

Method

The current report focuses on the specific areas within the Community Resources portion of the overall survey: available and affordable housing, available and affordable childcare, and jobs. 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.

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	%	n
Trash Disposal	10	1.74	63	10.98	46	8.01	104	18.12	351	61.15	574
Recycling Services	12	2.12	43	7.58	79	13.93	124	21.87	309	54.50	567

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 3% of all respondents indicated complete unawareness of the resource, while only about 7-10% indicated that they do not use trash or recycling services. Results indicate that among Tioga County residents who are aware of and need the resource, the majority of respondents indicated that it at least partially meets their needs. However, there was only approximately 61% or less agreement that trash and recycling services completely met respondents' needs.

Trash Disposal

Three variables predicted needs met by trash disposal services: 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

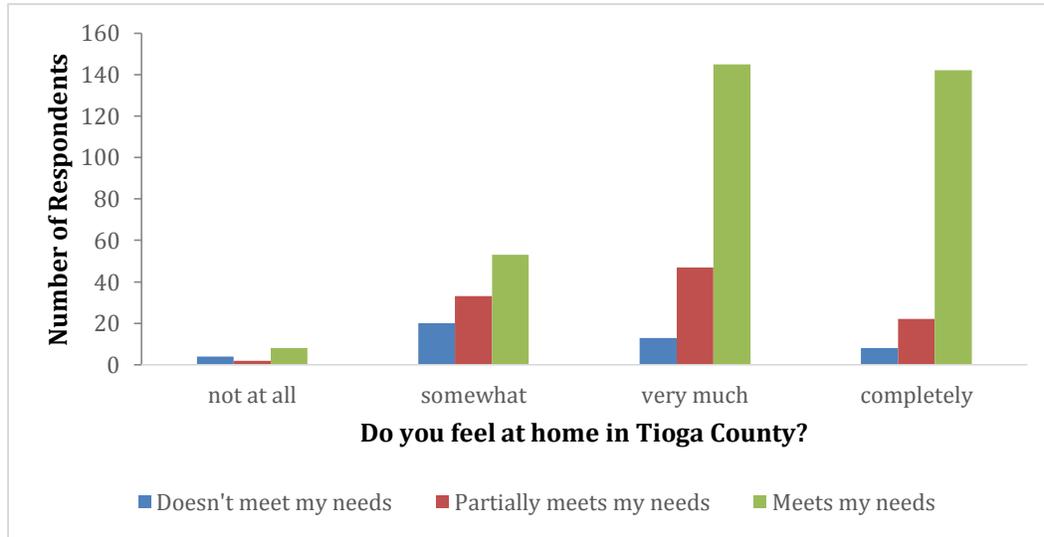*Feeling at Home in Tioga County as a Predictor of Trash Disposal Needs Being Met*

Table 2.1

Feeling at Home in Tioga County as a Predictor of Available Housing Needs Being Met

Do you feel at home?	Doesn't meet my needs	Partially meets my needs	Meets my needs
Not at all (n = 14)	28.6	14.3	57.1
Somewhat (n = 106)	18.9	31.1	50
Very much (n = 205)	6.3	22.9	70.7
Completely (n = 172)	4.7	12.8	82.6

  The data indicate that respondents who indicate that they do not at all feel at home in Tioga County have the highest rates of indicating trash disposal does not meet their needs. Respondents who were more likely to report feeling at home were less likely to categorize themselves into the "does not meet my needs" category. Those who feel completely at home had a very high rate of over 80% saying that trash disposal completely meets their needs.

Figure 2.2

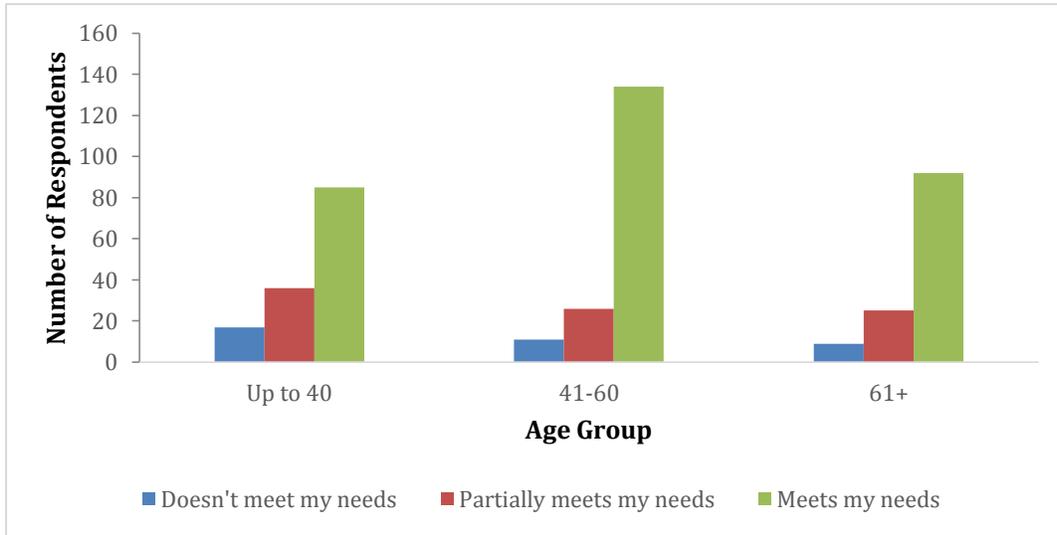*Age as a Predictor of Trash Disposal Needs Being Met*

Table 2.2

Region as a Predictor of Needs Available Housing Needs Being Met

Age	Doesn't meet my needs	Partially meets my needs	Meets my needs
Up to 40 (n = 138)	12.3	26.1	61.6
41-60 (n = 171)	6.4	15.2	78.4
61+ (n = 126)	7.1	19.8	73

Older respondents were more likely to say that trash disposal services meets their needs more so tan younger respondents. Younger respondents were more likely to indicate that trash disposal services do not meet their needs.

Figure 2.3

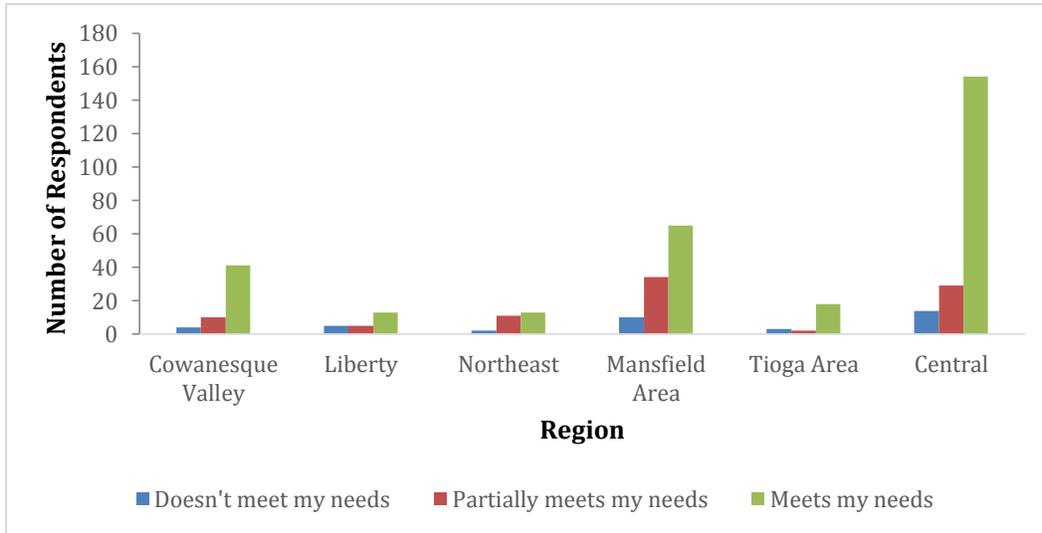*Region as a Predictor of Trash Disposal Needs Being Met*

Table 2.3

Region as a Predictor of Trash Disposal Needs Being Met

Region*	Doesn't meet my needs	Partially meets my needs	Meets my needs
Cowanesque Valley (n = 55)	7.3	18.2	74.5
Liberty Area (n = 23)	21.7	21.7	56.5
Northeast (n = 26)	7.7	42.3	50
Mansfield Area (n = 109)	9.2	31.2	59.6
Tioga Area (n = 23)	13	8.7	78.3
Central (n = 197)	7.1	14.7	78.2

Participants in the Liberty Area expressed the lowest satisfaction of trash disposal

services, with 21% indicating that trash disposal services do not meet their needs.

Cowanesque Valley, Tioga Area, and Central Area have very high rates of respondents saying that trash disposal services completely meets their needs.

Summary of Trash Disposal

Respondents who report the highest proportions of needs being met by trash disposal services are more likely to feel at home in Tioga County. Furthermore, respondents who have their needs met by trash disposal services are most likely to come from the Cowanesque Valley, Tioga, or Central Areas.

Respondents who indicate that trash disposal services do not meet their needs are less likely to report feeling at home in Tioga County. Also, a large proportion of respondents from the Liberty Area indicate that trash disposal services do not meet their needs.

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Recycling Services

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The same three factors predicted extent to which needs were being met by recycling services: feeling at home in Tioga County, age, 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

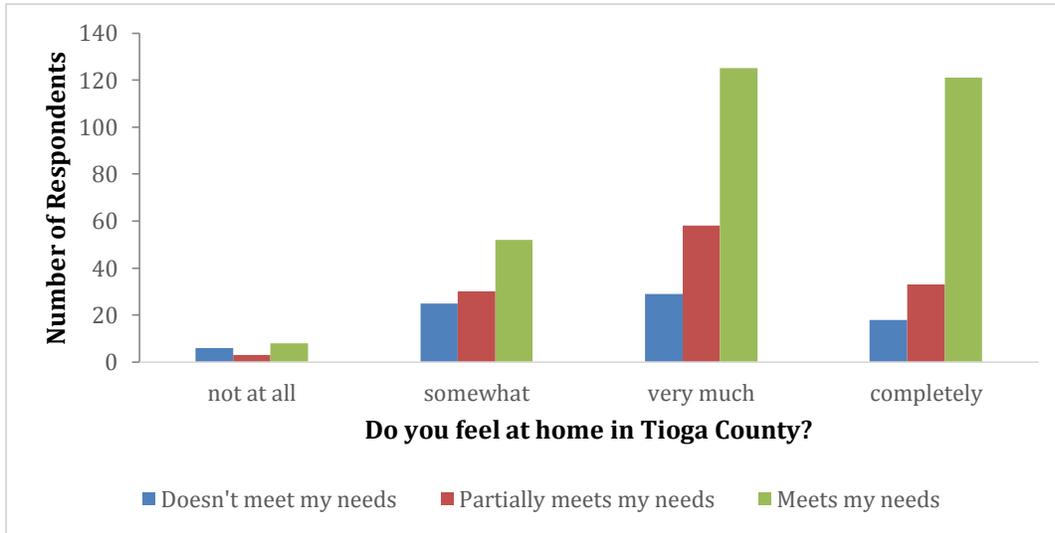*Feeling at Home as a Predictor of Recycling Services Needs Being Met*

Table 3.1

Feeling at Home as a Predictor of Recycling Services Needs Being Met

Do you feel at home?	Doesn't meet my needs	Partially meets my needs	Meets my needs
Not at all (n = 17)	35.3	17.6	47.1
Somewhat (n = 107)	23.4	28.0	38.6
Very much (n = 212)	13.7	27.4	59.0
Completely (n = 172)	10.5	19.2	70.3

Respondents who report feeling at home in Tioga County were more likely to report that needs are being met recycling services. Approximately 35% of respondents who do not feel at home in Tioga County reported that recycling services do not meet their needs in contrast to 10.5% 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 recycling services.

Figure 3.2

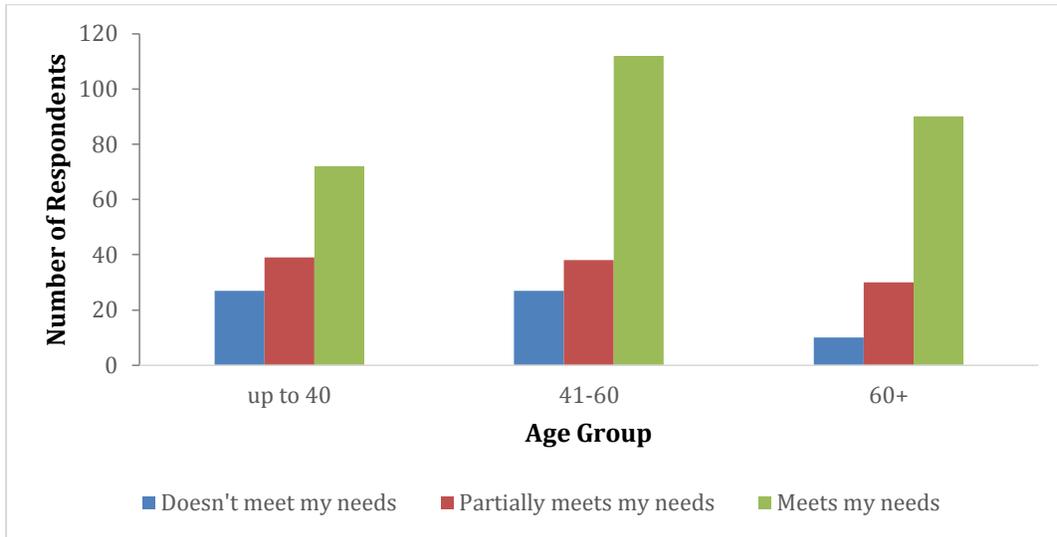*Age as a Predictor of Recycling Services Needs Being Met*

Table 3.2

Age as a Predictor of Recycling Services Needs Being Met

Age group	Doesn't meet my needs	Partially meets my needs	Meets my needs
Up to 40 (n = 138)	19.6	28.3	52.2
41-60 (n = 177)	15.3	21.5	63.3
Over 60 (n = 130)	7.7	23.1	69.2

Respondents in the older age groups were slightly more likely to indicate that needs

were being met by recycling services. Those in the younger age groups, however, were

much more likely to report that recycling services do not meet their needs.
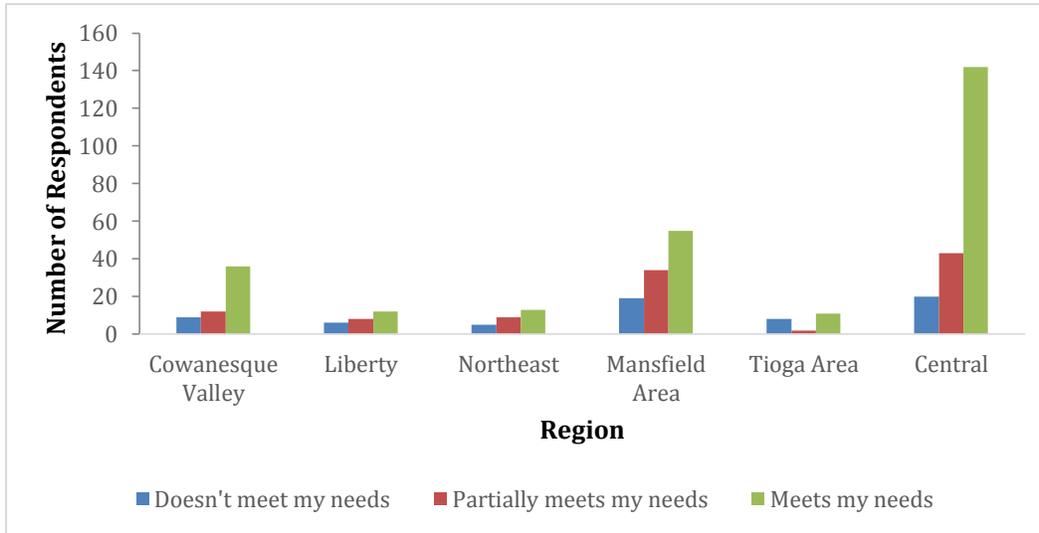
Figure 3.3

Region as a Predictor of Needs Met by Recycling Services

Table 3.3

Region as a Predictor of Needs Met by Recycling Services

Region*	Doesn't meet my needs	Partially meets my needs	Meets my needs
Cowanesque Valley (n = 57)	15.8	21.1	63.2
Liberty Area (n = 26)	23.1	30.8	46.2
Northeast (n = 27)	18.5	33.3	48.1
Mansfield Area (n = 108)	17.6	31.5	50.9
Tioga Area (n = 21)	38.1	9.5	52.4
Central (n = 205)	9.8	21.0	69.3

Respondents in the Tioga Area were much less likely to indicate that recycling

services meet their needs compared to all other regions. The Central 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 recycling services meets their needs, with all three having rates under 50%.

Summary of Recycling Services

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.

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General Summary

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The data indicate that Tioga County residents are more likely to report that their trash and recycling needs are being met when they feel at home in the county. In both the trash and recycling categories, there was most agreement that needs are being met when the respondents indicated that they feel completely at home. Older respondents are more likely to have their trash and recycling needs met compared to their counterparts. This age difference could reflect different attitudes about recycling, perhaps.

In the analysis of the separate regions, Cowanesque Valley and Central Areas consistently reported the highest rate of needs being met by both trash and recycling services. Respondents in Liberty had the worst satisfaction with trash services and Tioga Area had that worst satisfaciton with recycling services. .

Overall it appears that Tioga County residents are mixed on their perception of whether trash and recycling services are meeting their needs.   There were high rates of needs being met in many areas, and the proportions of those who say that their needs are not being met are low (10-20% on average).

*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 6).

Table 6

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