



Mercyhurst Center for Applied Politics

Erie County, Pennsylvania
Social Capital and Civic Engagement
Benchmark Study
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Introduction

This report summarizes the results of a study of social capital and civic engagement in Erie County, Pennsylvania. The goal of the research was to acquire benchmark measures of several indicators of social capital among the county's residents, and to do so in way that (1) allowed the results to be compared to other communities in the United States and (2) allowed future researchers to easily replicate the study in Erie County. To do this, the Mercyhurst Center for Applied Politics (MCAP) utilized questions drawn from the Social Capital Benchmark Study questionnaire, which was administered to residents in dozens of communities across the nation in 2000 and 2006. The MCAP was careful to replicate – as nearly as possible - not only individual items on the 2000 and 2006 questionnaires, but also the order in which questions were asked, interviewer instructions, sample size, and other factors related to methodology.

The survey was conducted by the Mercyhurst Center for Applied Politics (polisci.mercyhurst.edu/mcap) under the direction of Dr. Joseph M. Morris (Director), Dr. Rolfe D. Peterson (Methodologist) and Sean Fedorko (Project Manager), and in conjunction with the Erie Community Foundation. It may be used, in whole or in part, provided the survey is attributed to the Mercyhurst Center for Applied Politics and the Erie Community Foundation. Data will be available for free download at the center's website thirty days after the release of this report. Direct questions to Dr. Joseph M. Morris, Director, Mercyhurst Center for Applied Politics, Mercyhurst College, 501 E. 38th Street, Erie, PA, 16546.

Social Capital

What is social capital? Simply stated, social capital refers to the repository of trust, norms and networks upon which members of a community may draw to solve public problems. Whereas physical capital refers to physical objects, and human capital refers to the properties of individuals, social capital refers to connections among individuals – social networks and the norms of reciprocity and trustworthiness that arise from them. While the term social capital may be relatively new, the concept is not: nineteenth century political and social theorists including Alexis de Tocqueville, John Stuart Mill, Ferdinand Toennies, and Emile Durkheim recognized that communities function best when their members trust one another and adhere to widely-accepted norms. This trust and these norms exist when community members are embedded in dense networks of personal and professional relationships.

How are these networks created? Although scholars disagree over how, when and under what circumstances social capital is created or destroyed, they tend to agree that peoples' participation in formal and informal groups, or lack thereof, plays an important role. The more that people interact with other members of their community, the greater the trust, norms and networks - social capital - that the community will possess. For example, a person's participation in a bowling league, church choir, local environmental group, or neighborhood association encourages him/her to develop relationships with people he/she may not otherwise even interact with. The interaction – namely, collaboration and cooperation – that one experiences as a member of a group encourages the development of interpersonal trust and the norm of reciprocity, and enhances the network of relationships in which one is embedded. Needless to say, the ideal network is one

that involves a broad range (i.e. rich and poor, black and white, young and old) of people.

Why is social capital important for a community? In the early 1990s, Robert Putnam, a Harvard University political scientist, published the results of a multiyear study of government performance in Italy. He found that the civic traditions of different communities explained why some communities enjoyed functioning governments, while others suffered ineffective governance. Simply put, communities that were characterized by a vibrant civil society, where people joined associations and otherwise participated in the civic life of their community, had large reserves of social capital. This social capital translated into a political community that worked together to solve collective problems, and did so efficiently. Since Putnam's landmark study, researchers have not only demonstrated a strong relationship between high levels of social capital and effective local and state governments in the United States, but between high levels of social capital and economic prosperity, community satisfaction, physical and mental health, low crime rates, high high school graduation rates, and numerous other indicators of community and personal well-being. Today, countless communities across our nation have implemented reforms intended to enhance their stock of social capital.

How can social capital be measured? Today, scholars are divided on the best approach to measuring social capital. The reason for this is simple: social capital is a complex concept and scholars still disagree on its precise definition. However, this disagreement has not stopped scholars from attempting to measure it. One of the best and most widely-used measures of social capital was created by the Saguaro Seminar, which was led by Robert Putnam, in 2000. The Saguaro

Seminar produced, then facilitated the administration of a lengthy questionnaire to members of a broad range of communities in the United States. Known as the Social Capital Community Benchmark Study, the questionnaire tapped more than a dozen different indicators of communities' civic life. Among the most important indicators of social capital were measures of (1) generalized social trust, (2) interracial trust, (3) participation in conventional and (4) protest politics, (5) civic leadership activities, (6) associational involvement, (7) informal socializing, (8) diversity of friendships, and (9) faith-based engagement. In 2006 a slightly modified version of this questionnaire was administered to an additional group of more than a dozen communities as well as the nation as a whole. While not without critics, the study is widely accepted as a standard by which other social capital research may be measured.

How did we measure social capital in Erie County, Pennsylvania? To measure social capital in Erie County we relied on questions employed in the Social Capital Community Benchmark Study conducted in 2006. The lengthy instrument included key indicators of (1) generalized social trust, (2) interracial trust, (3) civic and political engagement, (4) associational involvement, (5) formal group involvement, (6) informal socializing, (7) diversity of friendships, (8) organized group interaction, and (9) faith-based engagement. Although the questionnaire employed in the study of Erie County did not include all of the questions on the 2006 questionnaire, those that were included were identical to the earlier study. This means that the results obtained by the Erie County study are comparable to those obtained by the 2006 study of more than one dozen communities in as many states. Since many of the questions asked in the 2006 study are identical to those asked in a 2000 study, the Erie County study is also comparable to that which was conducted in 2000.

Methodology

On Monday, January 10, 2011 research associates at MCAP began conducting interviews with adult residents of Erie County, Pennsylvania. On February 1, 2011 the final interview was completed. During the 23 day field period interviewers called households on weekday evenings between the hours of 6:00 and 9:00 PM and 12:00 and 3:00 PM on selected weekdays. For each working phone number, interviewers made no less than eight attempts to contact an individual residing in a household that had been selected to participate in the study. Calls were generated by CATI software and relied on a list of randomly generated numbers purchased from Marketing Systems Group (<http://www.m-s-g.com/home.aspx>). To minimize selection bias, interviewers were instructed to not administer the questionnaire to the first person in the household to whom they spoke, but to “the adult in the household with the most recent birthday.”

In this study, 435 residents of Erie County were interviewed. For a sample size of 435, there is a 95 percent probability that the results of the study are within plus or minus 4.68 percentage points (the margin of sampling error) of the actual population distribution for any given question. For subsamples, the margin of error is higher (depending on the size of the subsample). Aside from sampling error, there are several factors that prevent the results obtained through a probability sample from being a perfect representation of those that would be obtained if the entire population was interviewed. This non-sampling error is the result of a variety of factors including, but not limited to, response rates and question order. In this survey, a variety of techniques were employed to reduce common sources of non-sampling error.

Response Rate

Calculating a response rate for a particular study involves considering a number of variables (see http://www.aapor.org/Response_Rates_An_Overview.htm); but, simply stated, it refers to the percentage of individuals in a sample that, when contacted, elect to participate in a study by responding an interviewer's questions. In recent years, researchers have documented a sharp decline in response rates. Today, a typical study that relies on telephone interviews can expect a response rate of between 20 and 30%. Although it is unclear if, or to what extent, response rate is a source of non-sampling error, most polls strive to maximize response rate by making multiple attempts to contact individuals and taking steps to secure their cooperation once they have been reached. In this way, our study of adult residents of Erie County is no different than most polls: no less than eight attempts were made to contact hard-to-reach individuals. These attempts occurred during weekday evenings and afternoons. To ensure a high rate of cooperation, interviewers received training on conversion techniques that are consistent with research ethics as outlined by the Mercyhurst College Institutional Review Board. As a result of these efforts, our study obtained a response rate of 25%, which is within the range of what was expected.

Questions

The Frequency Report section of this report contains the questions as they were worded on the questionnaire and in the order in which they were asked. Some of the questions include bracketed information, which is, in every case, an instruction to the programmer or interviewer. Whenever possible, question order was randomized to ensure that respondents did not receive a set order of response options, which allowed response set bias to be minimized. For structured (close-ended) questions, interviewers were trained to probe for clarity when respondents'

answers were not identical to the predefined response options. For unstructured (open-ended) questions, interviewers were trained to record verbatim responses whenever possible. In cases where verbatim responses were impossible to capture due to their length or complexity, interviewers probed for clarity by asking respondents, “How would you summarize that in just a few words.”

Data

Data collected during this study was prepared for analysis by the director and associate director of the Mercyhurst Center for Applied Politics. Data preparation included, but was not limited to, removing partial interviews (respondent-terminated interviews) from the dataset. To maximize the accuracy of our results, the data is weighted. Simply stated, weighting is when data collected from survey respondents are adjusted to represent the population from which the sample was drawn. In this case, the variable “sex” was weighted to correct minor biases in our sample. Although there was also a bias in the variable “age,” where older residents were overrepresented in our sample, an analysis of “age” and key indexes yielded no significant differences in the responses given by individuals of different ages.

Social Trust

An important indicator of the level of social capital in a community is the level of trust between its members. As a concept, generalized social trust has been operationalized, or turned into something that can be measured, in a variety of ways. This study asked respondents six questions about their trust of six groups of people. These questions included items 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6 (see Frequency Report Section).

After recoding the responses to these six questions to ensure consistent polarity (1=trust a lot or some; 0=trust a little or not at all), the cases that did not clearly indicate a degree of trust (does not apply, don't know, refused to answer) were coded as "missing," which allowed them to be removed from the analysis. Once the data had been transformed, the responses for all of the items were added together to produce a raw *social trust index* score for each case. To ensure comparability with studies conducted in other communities and the nation, the raw *social trust index* scores were then averaged, and transformed into a percentage of the highest score for the index, which is five (i.e. answering

Summary of Generalized Social Trust Index Items

<i>What percent of Erie County residents trust (a lot or some)...</i>	
<i>People in general?</i>	58%
<i>Their neighbors</i>	85%
<i>Their coworkers?*</i>	68%
<i>People at the stores where they shop?</i>	85%
<i>Police in their community?</i>	90%

**Percent indicating "trust a lot/some" increases to 89% if "does not apply" responses are removed from the analysis*

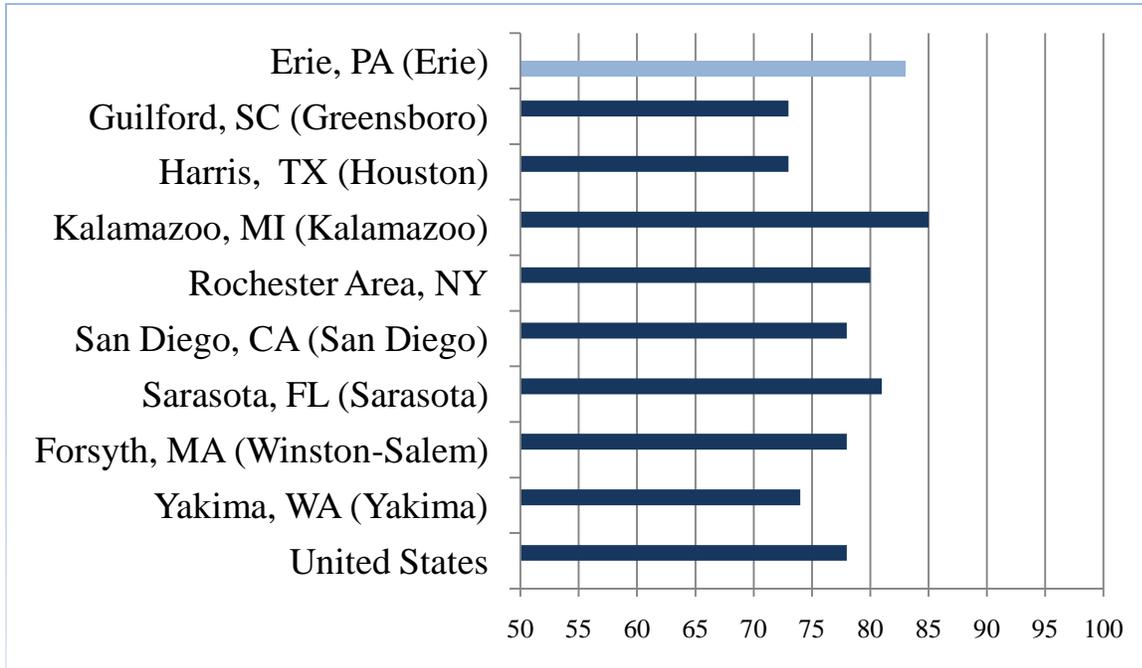
Margin of error is less than or equal to +/- 5%

“yes” to three of five questions gives an individual a score of .6, or 60%). Finally, this procedure was performed on the 2006 datasets to allow for comparison.

Erie County residents expressed a relatively high level of social trust, or generalized trust in members of their community (see questions in Summary of Generalized Social Trust Items box). Fifty-eight percent of respondents indicated that, generally speaking, “people can be trusted.” Males (59%) were slightly more trusting than females (57%), and younger people tend to be slightly less trusting than older. Seventy-two percent of respondents making between \$60,000 and 90,000 per year said that, generally speaking, “people can be trusted,” while only 25% said that they cannot. Of the respondents who indicated that they made between \$30,000 and \$60,000 per year 56% said that “people can be trusted.” This generally high level of trust extends to subgroups of the population, including the police. Ninety percent of Erie County residents indicated that they generally trusted the police.

The generally high level of social trust expressed by residents of Erie County is apparent in the community’s *social trust index* score. The average five-point *social trust index* score for Erie County was 4.13, compared to 3.66 for Guilford County, 3.64 for Harris County, 3.87 for San Diego County, 4.04 for Sarasota County, 3.89 for Forsyth County, 3.69 for Yakima County, 3.98 for the Rochester area, and 3.90 for the United States population. Only Kalamazoo County (4.24) scored higher (see Table 1).

Table 1. Social Trust Index: Erie County (2011), Selected Counties and the Nation (2006)



Interracial Trust

Measuring the level of interracial trust in a community, or the degree to which people of one racial group trust those of another, is a particularly challenging endeavor. Social scientists have long recognized that individuals who answer questions on a survey tend to do so in ways that are socially desirable, rather than truthful. While it is challenging to measure, assessing the concept of interracial trust is essential for understanding the nature of the networks present in a community. Social capital that exists among individuals of the same race, but does not exist across racial groups, may not be as useful to a community as social capital that crosses racial boundaries.

To measure interracial trust in Erie County this study asked respondents four questions about their trust of different racial groups. These questions included items 7, 8, 9, and 10 (see Frequency Report Section). Because we were interested in interracial, and not intraracial trust, the items used to construct the *interracial trust index* varied based on a respondent's race. After recoding the responses to these six questions to ensure consistent polarity (1=trust a lot or some; 0=trust a little or not

Summary of Interracial Trust Index Items

What percent of white/Caucasian respondents trust (a lot or some)...

Whites/Caucasians? 86%

African-Americans? 76%

Asians? 76%

Hispanics/Latinos? 71%

What percent of non-white/Caucasian respondents trust (a lot or some)...

(Q1) Whites/Caucasians? 85%

(Q2) African-Americans? 73%

(Q3) Asians? 61%

(Q4) Hispanics/Latinos? 63%

Margin of error is substantially greater than +/- 5% because subgroups of the population are being analyzed.

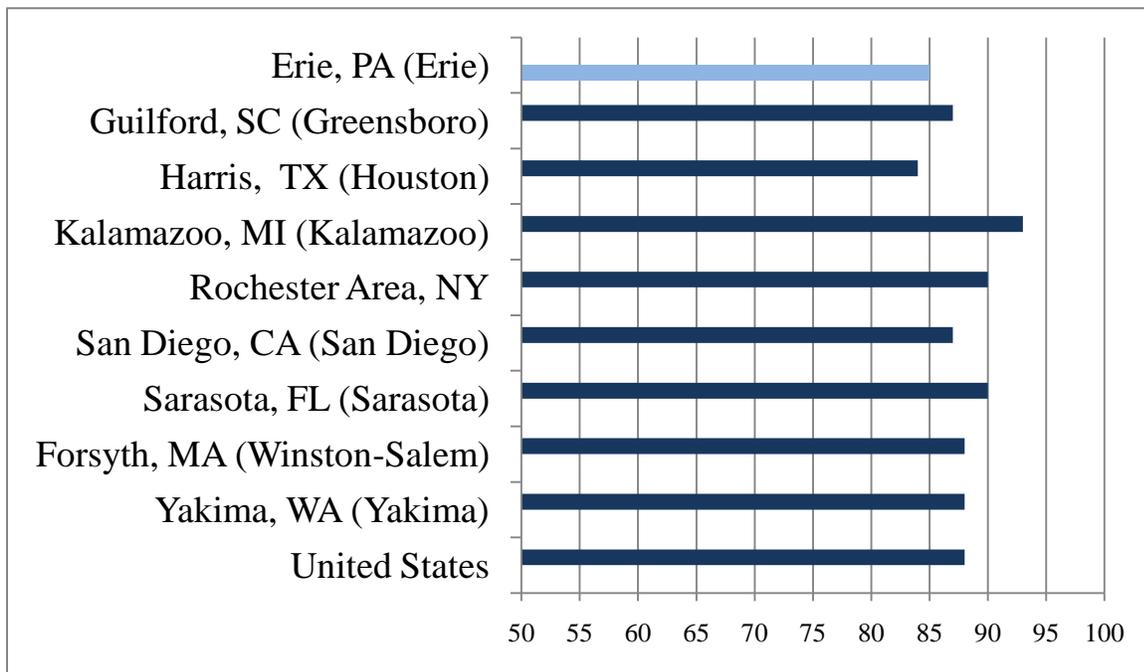
at all), the cases that did not clearly indicate a degree of trust (does not apply, don't know, refused to answer) were coded as "missing," which allowed them to be removed from the analysis. Once the data had been recoded, it was transformed into a new variable that combined each respondent's evaluation of the trustworthiness of racial groups other than their own. To ensure comparability with studies conducted in other communities and the nation, the raw *interracial trust index* scores were then averaged, and transformed into a percentage of the highest score for the index, which is three (i.e. answering "yes" to one of three questions gives an individual a score of .33, or 33%) . Finally, this procedure was performed on the 2006 datasets to allow for comparison.

Generally speaking, white respondents were trusting of nonwhite members of their community, and nonwhite respondents were trusting of white members (see Summary of Interracial Trust box). White respondents indicated the most trust for their own racial group, but 76% indicated "a lot" or "some" trust for African-Americans and Asians and 71% indicated that they trust Hispanic/Latinos. Nonwhite respondents appeared to trust white residents more than other nonwhite residents, but the small number of nonwhite respondents (28) precludes any generalization about the nonwhite population as a whole. Of "age," "race," "gender," and "income," the only variable that appears to be related to trust of different racial groups is "income." Respondents who are members of the lowest income category, \$0 to \$30,000, tended to be slightly less trusting of races other than their own.

In spite of the fact that Erie County residents tend to indicate a high level of interracial trust, its score on the *interracial trust index* is lower than that which was obtained in several counties involved in the 2006 Social Capital Community

Benchmark Study (Table 2). Erie County’s score of 2.56/3.00, or 85%, is lower than Guilford County (2.61), Kalamazoo County (2.79), Rochester area (2.69), San Diego County (2.62), Sarasota County (2.69), Forsyth County (2.63), Yakima County (2.63), and the United States population (2.63). Erie County’s score is, however, higher than Harris County (2.54). Relatively speaking, Erie County appears to possess slightly less interracial trust than most of the communities studied in 2006 and the nation as a whole.

Table 2. Interracial Trust Index: Erie County (2011), Selected Counties and the Nation (2006)



Diversity of Friendships

For high levels of social capital to exist in a community, its members must be embedded in dense social networks. For social capital to be most productive for a community, these networks must include people of all socioeconomic groups. One way of assessing the quality of these networks is to measure the diversity of friendships members of a community possess. This study asked respondents nine questions about the people with whom they were friends. These questions included items 22 through 35 (see Frequency Report Section).

After recoding the responses to these six questions to ensure consistent polarity (1=yes; 0=no), the cases that did not clearly indicate friendship (don't know, refused to answer) were coded as "missing," which allowed them to be removed from the analysis. Once the data had been transformed, the responses for all of the items were

added together to produce a raw *diversity of friendship index* score for each case. To ensure comparability with studies conducted in other communities and the nation, the raw *diversity of friendship index* scores were then averaged, and

Summary of Diversity of Friendship Index Items

*What percent of Erie County residents
have a personal friend who...*

(Q1) Is a business owner? 77%

(Q2) Is a manual worker? 90%

(Q3) Has been on welfare? 52%

(Q4) Owns a vacation home? 55%

(Q5) Is of a different religion? 90%

(Q5) Is white? 98%

(Q5) Is African-American? 72%

(Q5) Is Asian? 34%

(Q5) Is Hispanic/Latino? 46%

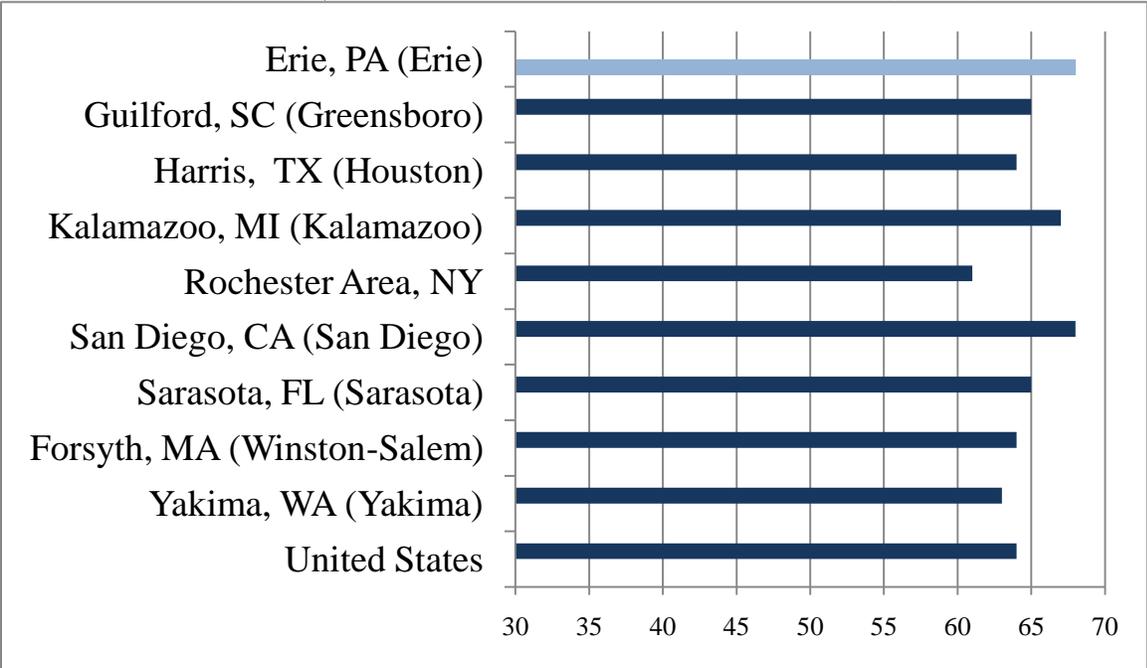
Margin of error is less than or equal to +/- 5%

transformed in to a percentage of the highest score for the index, which is nine (i.e. answering “yes” to three of nine questions gives an individual a score of .33, or 33%). Finally, this procedure was performed on the 2006 datasets to allow for comparison.

Erie County’s relatively low score on the *interracial trust index* may be at least partially the result of residents’ network of friends that is not racially diverse. As the items in the Summary of Diversity of Friendship Index box indicate, a majority (in some cases, substantial majority) of respondents have friends who are of different economic classes (business owners, manual workers, friends who have been on welfare, own vacation homes, or are of a different religion). This diversity of friends does not extend as thoroughly to people of different races. This is true regardless of one’s race, income level, age, or gender.

In spite of the fact that Erie County residents tend to lack racial diversity in the group of people they call “their close, personal friends,” the average score for the *diversity of friendship index*, which is 6.15, is still relatively high (see Table 3). When compared to Guilford County (5.81), Harris County (5.75), Kalamazoo County (5.99), Sarasota County (5.82), Forsyth County (5.78), Yakima County (5.74), Rochester area (5.50), and the United States population (5.74), Erie County’s index score is impressive. Indeed, San Diego (6.12) is the only county whose index score approaches Erie’s score.

**Table 3. Diversity of Friendships Index:
Erie Counties (2011), Selected Counties and the Nation (2006)**



Civic and Political Engagement

Civic and political engagement has long been recognized as a key indicator of the civic health of a community. It is generally agreed that civic and political engagement is both a cause and consequence of social capital: It perpetuates and reflects people’s willingness to come together to recognize and address public issues. This study asked respondents five questions about their participation in the civic/political life their community. These questions included items 17 through 21 (see Frequency Report Section).

After recoding the responses to these six questions to ensure consistent polarity (1=engaged in activity; 0=did not engage in activity), the cases that did not clearly indicate civic/political engagement (don’t know, refused to answer) were coded as “missing,” which allowed them to be removed from the analysis. Once the data had been transformed, the responses for all of the items were added together to produce a raw *civic and political engagement index* score for each case. To ensure comparability with studies

conducted in other communities and the nation, the *raw civic and political engagement index* scores were then averaged, and transformed in to a percentage

Summary of Civic and Political Engagement Index Items

What percent of Erie County residents say that they...

Voted in the 2008 presidential election? 85%

What percent of Erie County residents say that, in the past 12 months, they...

Signed a petition? 34%

Attended a political rally? 15%

Worked on a community project? 29%

Participated in a protest, demonstration, boycott or march? 6%

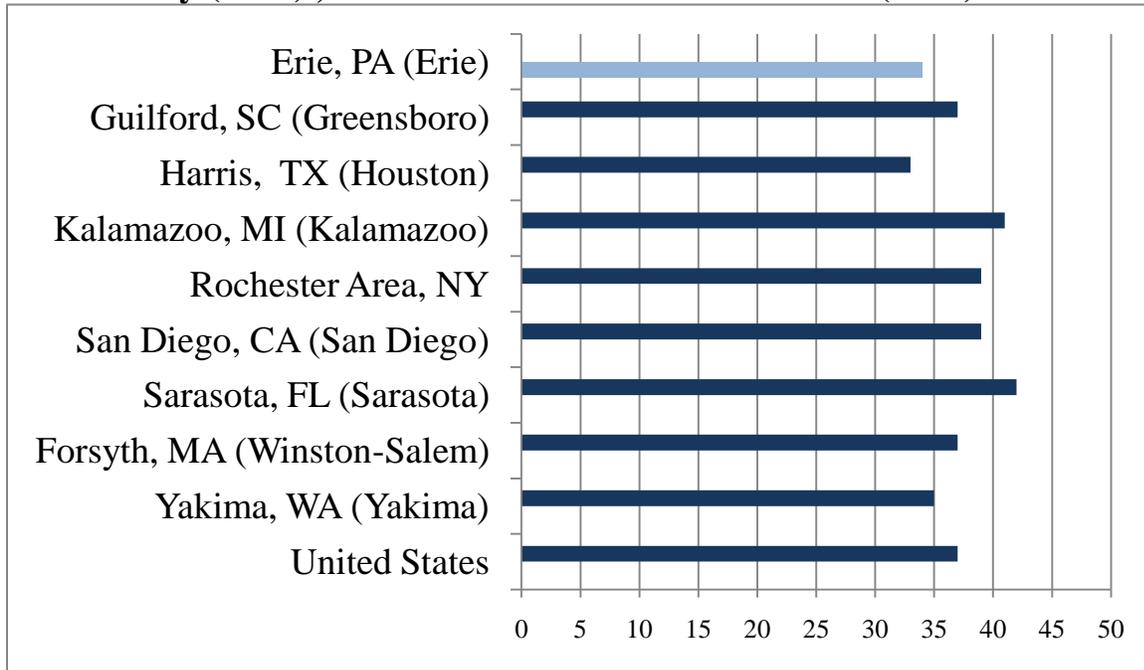
Margin of error is less than or equal to +/- 5%

of the highest score for the index, which is five (i.e. answering “yes” to three of five questions gives an individual a score of .6, or 60%). Finally, this procedure was performed on the 2006 datasets to allow for comparison.

In terms of civic and political engagement, residents of Erie County tend to be most likely to engage in “conventional” forms of participation, such as voting. Just like other populations, Erie County residents are more likely to vote if they have make more than \$90,000 per year (89%), are married (89%) or over the age of 60 (92.5%). Unconventional forms of participation, such as signing petitions, attending rallies, working on a community project, and attending a march, are practiced by far fewer Erie County residents. Though the correlation is far from perfect, younger residents tend to be more active in this form of political participation.

When the civic and political engagement items are combined into an index, Erie County (1.70/5.0) scores fairly low compared to other counties and the United States population as a whole (Table 4). Guilford County (1.83), Kalamazoo (2.07), Rochester area (1.95), San Diego (1.97), Sarasota County (2.09), Forsyth County (1.85), Yakima County (1.73), and the United States population as whole (1.87) score higher than Erie County. Indeed, Erie bests only one county, Harris (1.63). There is no doubt that this is the result of Erie County residents failure to participate in “unconventional” politics.

**Table 4. Civic and Political Engagement Index:
Erie County (2011) , Selected Counties and the Nation (2006)**



Faith-Based Engagement

Individuals' involvement in faith-based organizations, such as a congregation or religious service organization, are widely recognized as excellent places to form the trust, norms and networks that constitute social capital. As long as the networks that are developed include people from a wide range of socioeconomic groups, faith-based engagement can build and perpetuate stocks of social capital.

This study asked respondents three questions about their faith-based engagement. These questions included items 36, 38, 39 (see Frequency Report Section).

After recoding the responses to these six questions to ensure consistent polarity (1=yes; 0=no), the cases that did not clearly indicate faith-based engagement (don't know, refused to answer) were coded as "missing," which allowed them to be removed from the analysis. Once the data had been transformed, the responses for all of the items were added together to produce a raw *faith-based engagement index* score for each case. To ensure comparability with studies conducted in other communities and

Summary of Faith-Based Index Items

Percent of Erie County residents who...

Are a member of a local church, synagogue, or other religious or spiritual community?

69%

Have, in the past months, taken part in any sort of activity with people at a church or place of worship other than attending services?

52%

Have, in the past months, been involved in any organization affiliated with religion, such as the Knights of Columbus or B'nai B'rith, or a bible study group?

27%

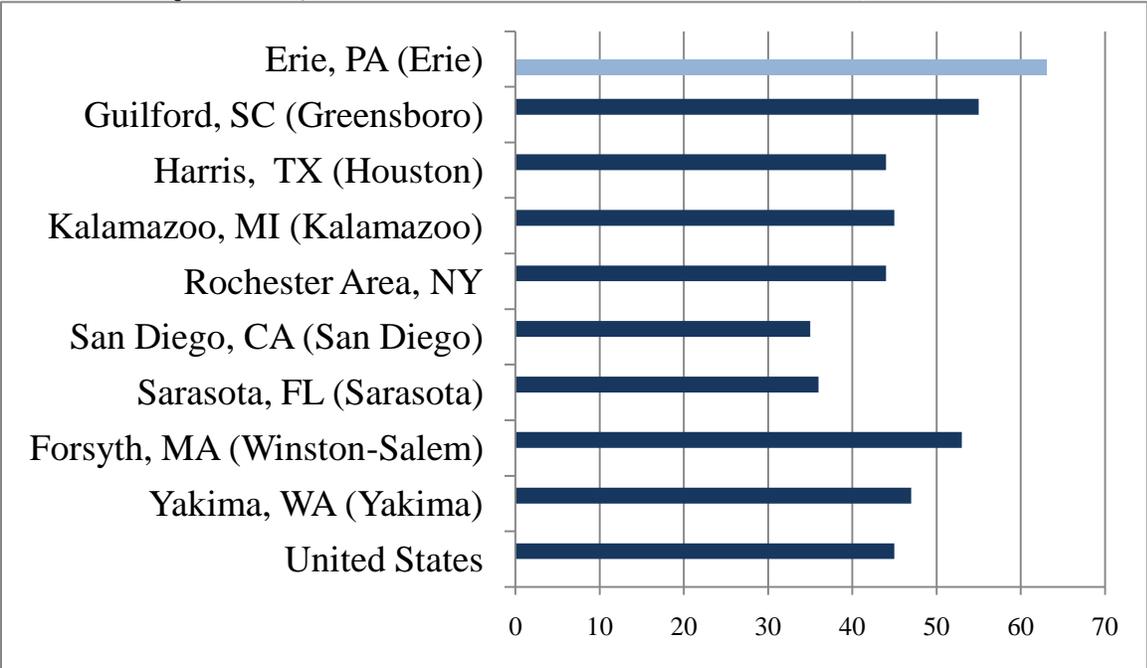
Margin of error is less than or equal to +/- 5%

the nation, the raw *faith-based engagement index* scores were then averaged, and transformed in to a percentage of the highest score for the index, which is three (i.e. answering “yes” to one of three questions gives an individual a score of .33, or 33%). Finally, this procedure was performed on the 2006 datasets to allow for comparison.

Not surprisingly, faith-based engagement among Erie County residents is high. More than two-thirds (69%) of respondents indicated that they were a member of a church, synagogue or other religious/spiritual community, and 52% have taken part in some activity, such as bible study, associated with a church during the past twelve months. Married people are far more likely to be members of a church (75%) and participate in church activities (56%) than non-married people (60% and 47%, respectively). Likewise, 46% of respondents over the age of 60 attend church at least once per week, compared to 29% of those who are between 41 and 50 years of age.

Erie County’s *faith-based engagement index* score is 1.88/3.00, which is higher than Guilford County (1.64), Harris County (1.32), Kalamazoo (1.36), Rochester area (1.32), San Diego (1.05), Sarasota County (1.09), Forsyth County (1.58), Yakima County (1.41), and the United States population as whole (1.36).

**Table 5. Faith-based Engagement Index:
Erie County (2011), Selected Counties and the Nation (2006)**



Diversity of Formal Group Involvement

An excellent indicator of communities with high levels of social capital is the degree to which residents participate in a diverse array of formal associations. These associations, whether recreational or professional, bring people together in face-to-face interaction where the seeds of trust are sewn and networks are formed. The greater the diversity in formal group involvement, the greater the likelihood that people will enter networks comprised of socioeconomic diversity. This study asked respondents fifteen questions about their formal group involvement. These questions included items 40 through 53 (see Frequency Report Section).

After recoding the responses to these six questions to ensure consistent polarity (1=yes; 0=no), the cases that did not clearly indicate participation in a formal group (don't know, refused to answer) were coded as "missing," which allowed them to be removed from the analysis. Once the data had been transformed, the responses for all of the items were added together to produce a raw

Summary of Diversity of Formal Group Involvement Index Items

What percent of Erie County Residents have, in the past twelve months, participated in...

<i>An adult sports club or league, or an outdoor activity club?</i>	<i>31%</i>
<i>A youth organization, like youth sports leagues or the scouts?</i>	<i>27%</i>
<i>A parents' association, like the PTA?</i>	<i>20%</i>
<i>A veteran's group?</i>	<i>13%</i>
<i>A neighborhood association?</i>	<i>15%</i>
<i>A charity or social welfare organization?</i>	<i>41%</i>
<i>A labor union?</i>	<i>17%</i>
<i>A professional, trade, farm, or business association?</i>	<i>26%</i>
<i>Service clubs or fraternal organizations such as the Lions or Kiwanis?</i>	<i>19%</i>

Margin of error is less than or equal to +/- 5%

formal group involvement index score for each case. To ensure comparability with studies conducted in other communities and the nation, the raw *formal group involvement index* scores were then averaged, and transformed in to a percentage of the highest score for the index, which is fourteen (i.e. answering “yes” to 7 of fourteen questions gives an individual a score of .5, or 50%) . Finally, this procedure was performed on the 2006 datasets to allow for comparison.

Erie County residents tend to at least participate in the activities of formal

groups (see Summary of Formal Group Involvements Index Items box). Sometimes the groups with which Erie County residents are involved are devoted to recreation, such as sports clubs or leagues (31%) or hobby or garden clubs (35%), while at other times they are devoted to charity or social welfare (41%) and professional activities (26%). Just as impressive as the number of Erie residents who belong to one group is the number of people who are involved in multiple groups. The *diversity of formal group involvement index* score, which measures the number of different types of groups residents have been involved with over the past twelve months, is an impressive 3.03/14.00 (see Table 6). Erie County’s score compares favorably to Harris County (2.86), Kalamazoo (2.98), Rochester area (2.69), San Diego (2.74), Sarasota County (3.01), Forsyth County (3.0), Yakima

Summary of Diversity of Formal Group Involvement Index Items, Cont’d.

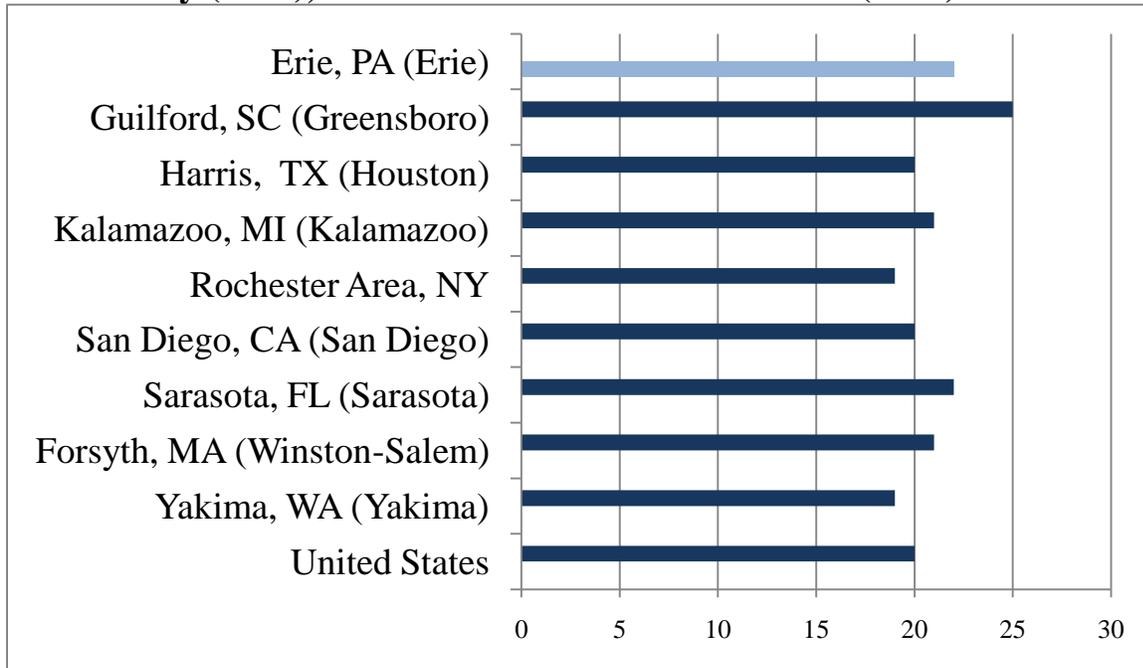
What percent of Erie County residents have, in the past twelve months, participated in...

<i>Ethnic, nationality, or civil rights organizations, such as the National Organization for Women?</i>	5%
<i>Other public interest groups?</i>	15%
<i>A literary, art, discussion or study group?</i>	17%
<i>Any other hobby, investment, or garden clubs or societies.</i>	35%
<i>A support group or self-help program ?</i>	18%

Margin of error is less than or equal to +/- 5%

County (2.62), and the United States population as whole (2.79). Guilford County's (3.46) index score bests Erie County's score by .43.

Table 6. Diversity of Formal Group Involvement Index: Erie County (2011), Selected Counties and the Nation (2006)



Informal Social Interactions

For many years scholars have been lamenting the rise of radical individualism, which causes people isolate themselves from others. As radical individualism increases, it becomes less likely that a person will engage in the meaningful face-to-face interaction that produces social capital. In a community of isolated individuals, the possibility of solving collective problems diminishes substantially. This study assesses individual isolation by asking respondents five questions about their informal social interaction with other people and, in doing so, provides a benchmark measure of Erie County residents' sociability.

The five items included in this index are items 58 through 62 (see Frequency Report Section). After recoding the responses to these three questions to ensure consistent polarity (0=never did this, 1=once, 2=a few times, 3=2-4 times, 4=5-9 times, 5=about once a month on average, 6=twice a month, 7=about once a week on average, 8=more than once a week) the cases that did not clearly indicate a degree of trust (don't know, refused to answer) were coded as "missing," which allowed them to be removed from the analysis. Once the data had been transformed, the responses for all of the items were added together to produce an *informal social interaction index* score for each case. To ensure comparability with studies conducted in other communities and the nation, the raw *informal social interaction index* scores were then averaged, and transformed into a percentage of the highest score for the index, which is 40 (i.e. answering "once" to 5 of five questions gives an individual a score of .125, or 12.5%). Finally, this procedure was performed on the 2006 datasets to allow for comparison.

Summary of Informal Social Interaction Index Items: Erie County (2011)

How many times in the past twelve months have Erie County residents...

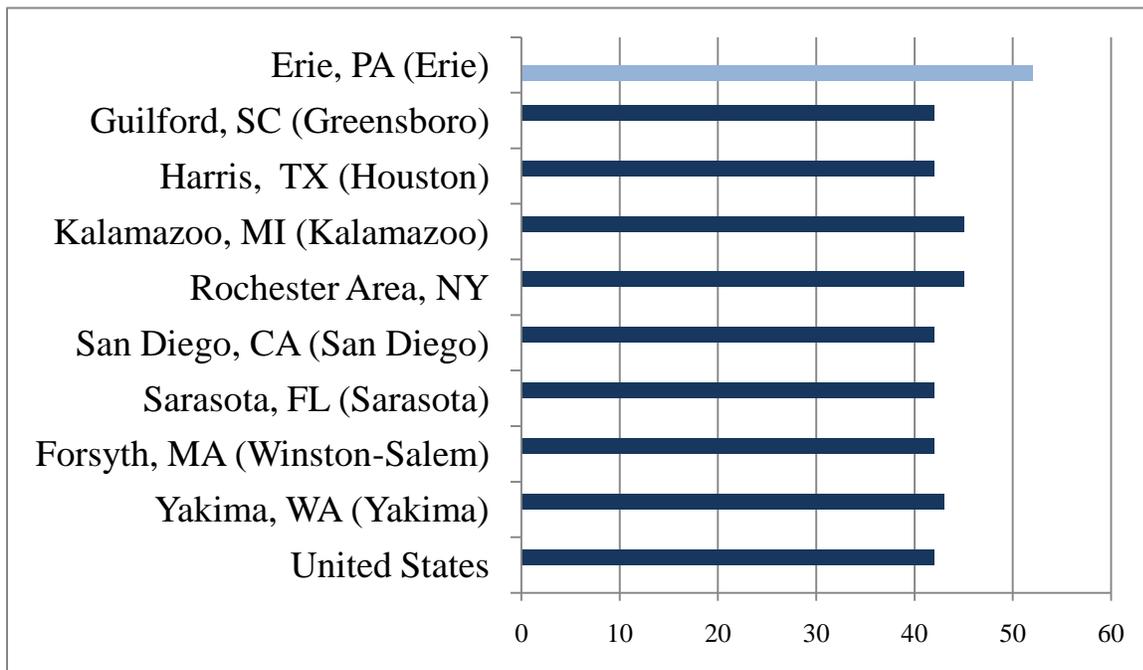
	<i>Never</i>	<i>Once</i>	<i>A Few</i>	<i>2-4 Times</i>	<i>5-9 Times</i>	<i>Once a Month</i>	<i>Twice a Month</i>	<i>Once a Week</i>	<i>More than Once a Week</i>
<i>Visited/been visited by relative?</i>	3%	1%	1%	8%	13%	15%	17%	18%	23%
<i>Had friends over to their home?</i>	6%	1%	2%	12%	18%	21%	20%	8%	11%
<i>Socialized with friends in a public place?</i>	18%	1%	2%	15%	14%	17%	18%	8%	7%
<i>Played cards/games with others?</i>	31%	2%	1%	13%	11%	18%	7%	11%	6%
<i>Socialized with coworkers outside work?</i>	35%	3%	1%	16%	12%	11%	8%	7%	2%

Margin of Error is less than or equal to +/-5%. Row totals may not equal 100% due to rounding and not reporting "don't know" or "refused to answer" responses.

Erie County residents are exceptionally social (see Summary of Informal Social Interaction Index Items box). More than half (58%) have visited or been visited by a relative at least twice per month during the past twelve months, while 60% had friends to their home at least once a month during the same time period. Forty-two

percent get together at least once per month with others to play cards or board games, and 28% socialized with coworkers at least once per month. The strongest evidence of Erie residents' sociability is presented in Table 7, where the county's average *informal social interaction index* score is compared scores for other counties and the nation as whole. As Table 7 indicates, Erie County's index score (20.79/40.00) is substantially higher than the earned by Guilford County (16.63), Harris County (16.67), Kalamazoo (18.19), Rochester area (17.95), San Diego (16.73), Sarasota County (16.98), Forsyth County (16.67), Yakima County (17.19), and the United States population as a whole (16.95).

Table 7. Informal Social Interaction Index: Erie County (2011), Selected Counties and the Nation (2006)



Organized Group Interactions

Social capital is most easily generated when individuals have sustained involvement in formal groups, where face-to-face interaction occurs regularly. Less important for the generation of social capital, but still important, is individuals' interaction with organized groups. When a person attends a community event, city council meeting or club meeting (even if they are not a member), there exists the opportunity to expand social networks and develop generalized social trust.

This study asked respondents three questions about their interaction with organized groups. These questions included items 55, 56 and 57 (see Frequency Report Section). After recoding the responses to these three questions to ensure consistent polarity (0=never did this, 1=once, 2=a few times, 3=2-4 times, 4=5-9 times, 5=about once a month on average, 6=twice a month, 7=about once a week on average, 8=more than once a week) the cases that did not clearly indicate a degree of trust (don't know, refused to answer) were coded as "missing," which allowed them to be removed from the analysis. Once the data had been transformed, the responses for all of the items were added together to produce a *organized group interaction index* score for each case. To ensure comparability with studies conducted in other communities and the nation, the raw *organized group interaction index* scores were then averaged, and transformed into a percentage of the highest score for the index, which is 24 (i.e. answering "once" to all three questions gives an individual a score of .125, or 12.5%). Finally, this procedure was performed on the 2006 datasets to allow for comparison.

Summary of Organized Group Involvement Index Items: Erie County (2011)

How many times in the past twelve months have Erie County residents attended a...

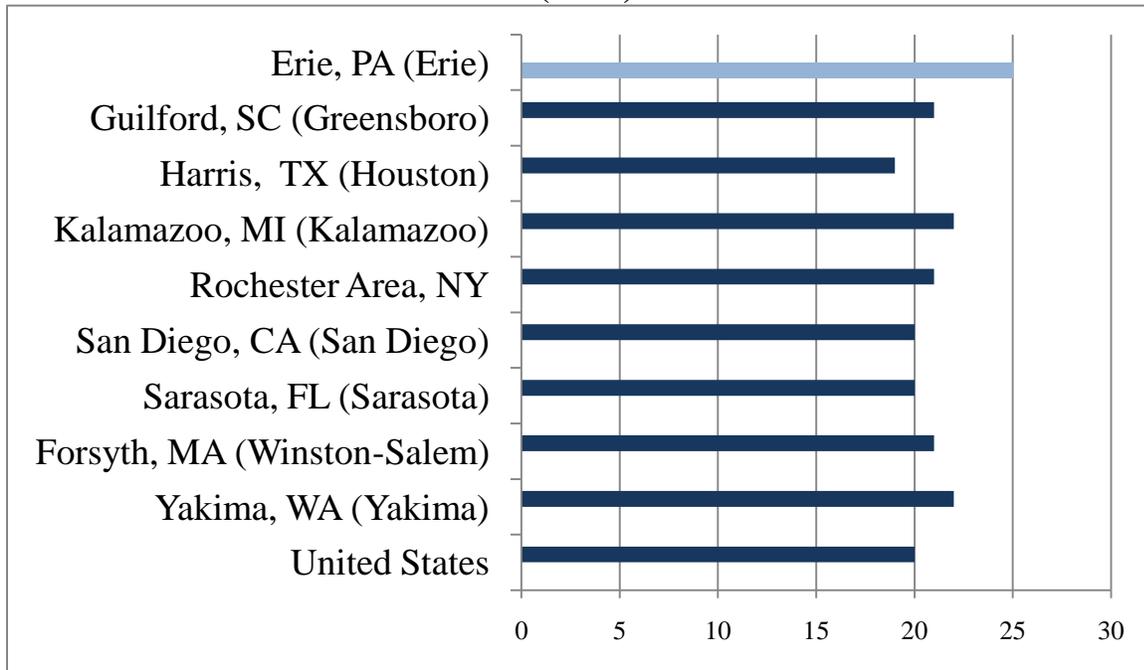
	<i>Never</i>	<i>Once</i>	<i>A Few</i>	<i>2-4 Times</i>	<i>5-9 Times</i>	<i>Once a Month</i>	<i>Twice a Month</i>	<i>Once a Week</i>	<i>More than Once a Week</i>
<i>Celebration, parade, sports or art event?</i>	14%	8%	2%	32%	18%	13%	8%	3%	2%
<i>Club Meeting?</i>	59%	3%	2%	10%	8%	11%	3%	3%	2%
<i>Public meeting involving town or school affairs?</i>	66%	8%	2%	13%	5%	4%	0%	1%	0%

Margin of Error is less than or equal to +/-5%

Although Erie County residents report a great deal of group involvement and sociability, their attendance at “club” and “public” or “school” meetings is less than impressive. More than half of all respondents reported that they had not attended a club meeting during the past twelve months, and two-thirds said that they had not attended a single public/school meeting during the same time period. These statistics contrast sharply with those associated with less demanding activities, such as attending parades, sports events, or art shows. Seventy-six percent of Erie County residents attended less demanding activities at least 2-4 times during the past twelve months.

In spite of the relatively low participation in more demanding meetings, Erie County’s *organized group involvement index* score (6.06/24.00) is relatively high. Guilford County (4.69), Harris County (4.67), Kalamazoo (5.32), Rochester area (5.13), San Diego (4.74), Sarasota County (4.85), Forsyth County (4.96), Yakima County (5.18), and the United States population as a whole (4.82) score lower than Erie County (see Table 8).

Table 8. Organized Group Interaction Index: Erie County (2011), Selected Counties and the Nation (2006)



Frequency Report

Q.1 I'd like to first ask you some questions about how you view other people.
Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people?

People can be trusted	58%
You can't be too careful	39%
Depends (VOLUNTEERED)	3%
Don't know	1%
Refused	-

Next, generally speaking, we'd like to know how much you trust different groups of people in your community.

[ASK QUESTIONS 3 TO 7 IN RANDOM ORDER]

Q.2 Now, think about **people in your neighborhood**. Would you say that you can trust them a lot, some, only a little, or not at all?

Trust them a lot	54%
Trust them some	31%
Trust them only a little	9%
Trust them not at all	4%
Does not apply (VOLUNTEERED)	1%
Don't know	1%
Refused	-

Q.3 Now think about **people you work with**. Would you say that you can trust them a lot, some, only a little, or not at all?

Trust them a lot	42%
Trust them some	26%
Trust them only a little	7%
Trust them not at all	2%
Does not apply (VOLUNTEERED)	22%
Don't know	1%
Refused	-

Q.4 Now, think about people at **your church or place of worship**. Would you say that you can trust them a lot, some, only a little, or not at all?

Trust them a lot	61%
Trust them some	23%
Trust them only a little	3%
Trust them not at all	0%
Does not apply (VOLUNTEERED)	13%
Don't know	0%
Refused	-

Q.5 Now, think about people who **work in the stores where you shop**. Would you say that you can trust them a lot, some, only a little, or not at all?

Trust them a lot	37%
Trust them some	48%
Trust them only a little	9%
Trust them not at all	3%
Does not apply (VOLUNTEERED)	1%
Don't know	2%
Refused	-

Q.6 Now, think about **police in your local community**. Would you say that you can trust them a lot, some, only a little, or not at all?

Trust them a lot	60%
Trust them some	31%
Trust them only a little	4%
Trust them not at all	4%
Does not apply (VOLUNTEERED)	1%
Don't know	1%
Refused	-

Now, we'd like to know your levels of trust for different racial groups in your community.

We will be using the same scale. Take a moment to think about the group I name and then let me know if you would say that you can trust them a lot, some, only a little, or not at all?

[ASK QUESTIONS 9 TO 12 IN RANDOM ORDER]

Q.7 How about White people or caucasians?

(Would you say that you can trust them a lot, some, only a little, or not at all?)

Trust them a lot	32%
Trust them some	55%
Trust them only a little	7%
Trust them not at all	1%
Does not apply (VOLUNTEERED)	1%
Don't know	1%
Refused	4%

Q.8 How about African Americans or Blacks?

(Would you say that you can trust them a lot, some, only a little, or not at all?)

Trust them a lot	26%
Trust them some	49%
Trust them only a little	13%
Trust them not at all	2%
Does not apply (VOLUNTEERED)	4%
Don't know	2%
Refused	4%

Q.9 How about Asian people?

(Would you say that you can trust them a lot, some, only a little, or not at all?)

Trust them a lot	30%
Trust them some	45%
Trust them only a little	7%
Trust them not at all	3%
Does not apply (VOLUNTEERED)	8%
Don't know	5%
Refused	3%

Q.10 How about Hispanics or Latinos?

(Would you say that you can trust them a lot, some, only a little, or not at all?)

Trust them a lot	27%
Trust them some	43%
Trust them only a little	13%
Trust them not at all	2%
Does not apply (VOLUNTEERED)	8%
Don't know	3%
Refused	4%

Q.17 As you may know, around half the public does not vote in presidential elections. How about you – did you vote in the presidential election in 2008 when Barack Obama ran against John McCain, or did you skip that one?
[DO NOT PROBE DK RESPONSE]

Yes, Voted	85%
No, skipped that one	15%
Was not eligible (VOLUNTEERED)	0%
Don't know	-
Refused	-

Q.18 Still thinking about politics, which of the following have you done in the past 12 months?

Have you **signed a petition**?

Yes	34%
No	66%
Don't Know ...	0%
Refused	-

[ASK QUESTIONS 22 TO 24 IN RANDOM ORDER]

Q.19 Attended a **political rally**?

Yes	15%
No	85%
Don't know	-
Refused	-

Q.20 Worked on a **community project**?

Yes 29%

No 71%

Don't know -

Refused -

Q.21 Participated in any **demonstrations, protests, boycotts, or marches**?

Yes 6%

No 94%

Don't know -

Refused -

Now I'd like to ask you a few questions about your friends. Think about everyone that you would count as a personal friend - not just your closest friends.

[ASK QUESTIONS 26 TO 30 IN RANDOM ORDER]

Q.22 (Do you have a personal friend that) **owns their own business**?

Yes 77%

No 23%

Don't know .. 1%

Refused -

Q.23 (Do you have a personal friend who) **is a manual worker?**
(IF NECESSARY: Works in a factory, as truck driver, or as a laborer.)

Yes 90%

No 10%

Don't know -

Refused 0%

Q.24 (Do you have a personal friend who) has been **on welfare?**

Yes 52%

No 44%

Don't know .. 4%

Refused -

Q.25 (Do you have a personal friend who) **owns a vacation home?**

Yes 55%

No 44%

Don't know .. 1%

Refused -

Q.26 (Do you have a personal friend who) has a **different religion** than you?

Yes 90%

No 8%

Don't know .. 2%

Refused -

[ASK QUESTIONS 31 TO 38 IN RANDOM ORDER IN GROUPS OF 2]

Q.27 (Do you have a personal friend who) is **white or caucasian**?

Yes 98%

No 1%

Don't know .. 0%

Refused 0%

Q.29 (Do you have a personal friend who) is **Hispanic**?

Yes 46%

No 53%

Don't know .. 1%

Refused 1%

Q.31 (Do you have a personal friend who) is **Asian**?

Yes 34%

No 65%

Don't know .. 1%

Refused 1%

Q.33 (Do you have a personal friend who) is **black or African American**?

Yes 72%

No 28%

Don't know .. 0%

Refused 0%

Q.35 (Do you have a personal friend who) you would describe as a **community leader**?

Yes 51%

No 48%

Don't know .. 1%

Refused -

Q.36 Are you a member of a local church, synagogue, or other religious or spiritual community?

Yes 69%

No 31%

Don't know -

Refused -

Q.37 Not including weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services?

[IF NECESSARY PROBE WITH CATEGORIES]

Every week (or more often) 37%

Almost every week 6%

Once or twice a month 18%

A few times per year 15%

Less often than that 20%

Don't know 3%

Refused 0%

[IF THE ANSWER TO QUESTION 36 IS 2, THEN SKIP TO QUESTION 38]

Q.38 In the past 12 months, have you taken part in any sort of activity with people at your church or place of worship other than attending services? This might include teaching Sunday school, serving on a committee, attending choir rehearsal, a retreat, or other things.

Yes 52%

No 48%

Don't know -

Refused -

Now I'd like to ask about other kinds of groups and organizations. I'm going to read a list; just answer **yes** if you have been involved in the past 12 months with this kind of group.

[NOTE: SCHOOL YEAR INVOLVEMENT/SCHOOL ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD BE INCLUDED.]

[ASK QUESTIONS 44 TO 59 IN RANDOM ORDER]

Q.39 (How about) any organization **affiliated with religion**, such as the Knights of Columbus or B'nai B'rith (BA-NAY BRITH), or a bible study group?

Yes 27%

No 73%

Don't know -

Refused -

Q.40 (How about) an **adult sports club or league, or an outdoor activity club?**

Yes 31%

No 69%

Don't know -

Refused -

Q.41 (How about) a **youth organization** like youth sports leagues, the scouts, 4-H clubs, or Boys and Girls Clubs?

Yes 27%

No 73%

Don't know -

Refused -

Q.42 (How about) a **parents' association**, like the PTA or PTO, or other school support or service groups?

Yes 20%

No 79%

Don't know .. 0%

Refused -

Q.43 (How about) a veteran's group?

Yes 13%

No 87%

Don't know -

Refused -

Q.44 (How about) a **neighborhood association**, like a block association, a homeowner or tenant association, or a crime watch group?

Yes 15%

No 85%

Don't know -

Refused -

Q.45 (How about) a **charity or social welfare organization** that provides services in such fields as health or service to the needy?

Yes 41%

No 59%

Don't know -

Refused -

Q.46 (How about) a **labor union**?

Yes 17%

No 83%

Don't know -

Refused -

Q.47 (How about) a **professional, trade, farm, or business association**?

Yes 26%

No 74%

Don't know -

Refused -

Q.48 (How about) **service clubs or fraternal organizations** such as the Lions or Kiwanis or a local women's club or a college fraternity or sorority?

[NOTE: Includes Alumni Organizations]

Yes 19%

No 81%

Don't know -

Refused -

Q.49 (How about) **ethnic, nationality, or civil rights organizations**, such as the National Organization for Women, the Mexican American Legal Defense or the NAACP?

Yes 5%

No 95%

Don't know -

Refused -

Q.50 (How about) other public interest groups, **political action groups**, political clubs, or party committees?

Yes 15%

No 85%

Don't know -

Refused -

Q.51 (How about) either a **literary, art**, discussion or study group; or a musical, dancing, or singing group?

Yes 17%

No 83%

Don't know -

Refused -

Q.52 (How about) any other hobby, investment, or garden clubs or societies?

Yes 35%

No 65%

Don't know -

Refused -

Q.53 (How about) a **support group or self-help program** for people with specific illnesses, disabilities, problems, or addictions?

Yes 18%

No 82%

Don't know -

Refused -

Q.54 (How about) a **social club** or bar where you **pay** for membership?

Yes 35%

No 65%

Don't Know -

Refused -

Now, I'm going to ask you how many times you may have done certain things in the past twelve months. For all of these, I want you just to give me your best guess, and don't worry that you might be off a little.

Q.55 About how many times in the past 12 months did you attend a celebration, parade, or a local sports or art event in your community?

(GIVE RESPONDENT A MOMENT TO THINK ABOUT THE ANSWER.
IF RESPONDENT IS UNABLE TO ANSWER, PROBE: Would you say you never did this, did it once, a few times, about once a month on average, twice a month, about once a week on average, or more often than that?
IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS "A FEW TIMES", PROBE WITH: Would that be closer to 2-4 times or 5-9 times?)

Never did this	14%
Once	8%
A few times (ENTER ONLY IF FIGURE CANNOT BE CLARIFIED)	2%
2-4 times	32%
5-9 times	18%
About once month on average (APPROXIMATELY 12 TIMES)	13%
Twice a month (APPROXIMATELY 24 TIMES)	8%
Once a week on average (APPROXIMATELY 56 TIMES)	3%
More than once a week	2%
Don't know	0%
Refused	0%

[ASK QUESTIONS 62 TO 68 IN RANDOM ORDER]

Q.56 (How many times in the past twelve months have you) **attended a club meeting?**

(GIVE RESPONDENT A MOMENT TO THINK ABOUT THE ANSWER.
IF RESPONDENT IS UNABLE TO ANSWER, PROBE: Would you say you never did this, did it once, a few times, about once a month on average, twice a month, about once a week on average, or more often than that?
IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS "A FEW TIMES", PROBE WITH: Would that be closer to 2-4 times or 5-9 times?)

Never did this	59%
Once	3%
A few times (ENTER ONLY IF FIGURE CANNOT BE CLARIFIED)	2%
2-4 times	10%
5-9 times	8%
About once month on average (APPROXIMATELY 12 TIMES)	11%
Twice a month (APPROXIMATELY 24 TIMES)	3%
Once a week on average (APPROXIMATELY 56 TIMES)	3%
More than once a week	2%
Don't know	0%
Refused	-

Q.57 How many times in the past twelve months have you) attended any **public meeting** in which there was discussion of town or school affairs?

(GIVE RESPONDENT A MOMENT TO THINK ABOUT THE ANSWER.
IF RESPONDENT IS UNABLE TO ANSWER, PROBE: Would you say you never did this, did it once, a few times, about once a month on average, twice a month, about once a week on average, or more often than that?
IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS "A FEW TIMES", PROBE WITH: Would that be closer to 2-4 times or 5-9 times?)

Never did this	66%
Once	8%
A few times (ENTER ONLY IF FIGURE CANNOT BE CLARIFIED)	2%
2-4 times	13%
5-9 times	5%
About once month on average (APPROXIMATELY 12 TIMES)	4%
Twice a month (APPROXIMATELY 24 TIMES)	0%
Once a week on average (APPROXIMATELY 56 TIMES)	1%
More than once a week	0%
Don't know	0%
Refused	-

Q.58 (How many times in the past 12 months have you) visited relatives in person or had them visit you?

(GIVE RESPONDENT A MOMENT TO THINK ABOUT THE ANSWER.
IF RESPONDENT IS UNABLE TO ANSWER, PROBE: Would you say you never did this, did it once, a few times, about once a month on average, twice a month, about once a week on average, or more often than that?
IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS "A FEW TIMES", PROBE WITH: Would that be closer to 2-4 times or 5-9 times?)

Never did this	4%
Once	1%
A few times (ENTER ONLY IF FIGURE CANNOT BE CLARIFIED)	1%
2-4 times	8%
5-9 times	13%
About once month on average (APPROXIMATELY 12 TIMES)	15%
Twice a month (APPROXIMATELY 24 TIMES)	17%
Once a week on average (APPROXIMATELY 56 TIMES)	18%
More than once a week	23%
Don't know	-
Refused	-

Q.59 (How many times in the past twelve months have you) **had friends over to your home?**

(GIVE RESPONDENT A MOMENT TO THINK ABOUT THE ANSWER.)

IF RESPONDENT IS UNABLE TO ANSWER, PROBE: Would you say you never did this, did it once, a few times, about once a month on average, twice a month, about once a week on average, or more often than that?

IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS "A FEW TIMES", PROBE WITH: Would that be closer to 2-4 times or 5-9 times?)

Never did this	6%
Once	1%
A few times (ENTER ONLY IF FIGURE CANNOT BE CLARIFIED)	2%
2-4 times	12%
5-9 times	18%
About once month on average (APPROXIMATELY 12 TIMES)	21%
Twice a month (APPROXIMATELY 24 TIMES)	20%
Once a week on average (APPROXIMATELY 56 TIMES)	8%
More than once a week	11%
Don't know	0%
Refused	-

Q.60 (How many times in the past twelve months have you) **socialized with coworkers outside of work?**

(GIVE RESPONDENT A MOMENT TO THINK ABOUT THE ANSWER.)

IF RESPONDENT IS UNABLE TO ANSWER, PROBE: Would you say you never did this, did it once, a few times, about once a month on average, twice a month, about once a week on average, or more often than that?

IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS "A FEW TIMES", PROBE WITH: Would that be closer to 2-4 times or 5-9 times?)

Never did this	35%
Once	3%
A few times (ENTER ONLY IF FIGURE CANNOT BE CLARIFIED)	1%
2-4 times	16%
5-9 times	12%
About once month on average (APPROXIMATELY 12 TIMES)	11%
Twice a month (APPROXIMATELY 24 TIMES)	8%
Once a week on average (APPROXIMATELY 56 TIMES)	7%
More than once a week	2%
Don't know	3%
Refused	0%

Q.61 (How many times in the past twelve months have you) **hung out with friends** at a park, shopping mall, or other public place?

(GIVE RESPONDENT A MOMENT TO THINK ABOUT THE ANSWER.)

IF RESPONDENT IS UNABLE TO ANSWER, PROBE: Would you say you never did this, did it once, a few times, about once a month on average, twice a month, about once a week on average, or more often than that?

IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS "A FEW TIMES", PROBE WITH: Would that be closer to 2-4 times or 5-9 times?)

Never did this	18%
Once	1%
A few times (ENTER ONLY IF FIGURE CANNOT BE CLARIFIED)	2%
2-4 times	15%
5-9 times	14%
About once month on average (APPROXIMATELY 12 TIMES)	17%
Twice a month (APPROXIMATELY 24 TIMES)	18%
Once a week on average (APPROXIMATELY 56 TIMES)	8%
More than once a week	7%
Don't know	0%
Refused	-

Q.62 (How many times in the past twelve months have you) **played cards** or **board games** with others?

(GIVE RESPONDENT A MOMENT TO THINK ABOUT THE ANSWER.

IF RESPONDENT IS UNABLE TO ANSWER, PROBE: Would you say you never did this, did it once, a few times, about once a month on average, twice a month, about once a week on average, or more often than that?

IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS "A FEW TIMES", PROBE WITH: Would that be closer to 2-4 times or 5-9 times?)

Never did this	31%
Once	2%
A few times (ENTER ONLY IF FIGURE CANNOT BE CLARIFIED)	1%
2-4 times	13%
5-9 times	11%
About once month on average (APPROXIMATELY 12 TIMES)	18%
Twice a month (APPROXIMATELY 24 TIMES)	7%
Once a week on average (APPROXIMATELY 56 TIMES)	11%
More than once a week	6%
Don't know	0%
Refused	-

Q.63 People and families often **contribute** money, property or other assets for a wide variety of charitable purposes.

In the past 12 months, did you donate to any charitable causes?

- 1. Yes 83%
- 2. No 17%
- 3. Dk -
- 4. Refused -

[IF THE ANSWER IS 2, THEN SKIP TO QUESTION 66]

Q.64 During the past 12 months, approximately how much money did you and the other family members in your household contribute to **all religious causes**, including your local religious congregation

[IF NECESSARY: PROMPT WITH CATEGORIES]

- None 17%
- Less than \$100 11%
- \$100 to less than \$500 26%
- \$500 to less than \$1,000 11%
- \$1,000 to less than \$5,000 22%
- More than \$5,000 4%
- Don't know 3%
- Refused 6%

Q.65 (During the past 12 months, approximately how much money did you and other family members in your household contribute to) **to all non-religious charities, organizations, or causes?**

[IF NECESSARY, PROMPT WITH CATEGORIES]

None	11%
Less than \$100	18%
\$101 to less than \$500	39%
\$501 to less than \$1,000	11%
\$1,001 to less than \$5,000	11%
More than \$5,000	2%
Don't know	5%
Refused	4%

Q.66 How many times in the past twelve months have you volunteered?

[IF NECESSARY PROMPT WITH CATEGORIES]

(CLARIFICATION: By volunteering, I mean any unpaid work you've done to help people besides your family and friends or people you work with.)

(CLARIFICATION: Count every time you did any volunteer work, no matter how much or little.)

(GIVE RESPONDENT A MOMENT TO THINK ABOUT THE ANSWER. IF RESPONDENT IS UNABLE TO ANSWER, PROBE: Would you say you never did this, did it once, a few times, about once a month on average, twice a month, about once a week on average, or more often than that? IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS "A FEW TIMES", PROBE WITH: Would that be closer to 2-4 times or 5-9 times?)

Never did this	44%
Once	4%
A few times (ENTER ONLY IF FIGURE CANNOT BE CLARIFIED)	4%
2-4 times	11%
5-9 times	11%
About once month on average (APPROXIMATELY 12 TIMES)	8%
Twice a month (APPROXIMATELY 24 TIMES)	8%
Once a week on average (APPROXIMATELY 56 TIMES)	5%
More than once a week	4%
Don't know	1%
Refused	-

Q.67 Just a few more questions and we'll be all done!

First, would you say that you live within walking distance of a **grocery store**?

Yes 38%

No 62%

Don't know -

Refused -

Q.68 (How about) **other retail shopping area**?

Yes 36%

No 64%

Don't know -

Refused -

[ASK QUESTIONS 75 TO 81 IN RANDOM ORDER]

Q.69 (How about) a **post office**?

Yes 35%

No 65%

Don't know -

Refused -

Q.70 (How about) a **restaurant**?

Yes 52%

No 48%

Don't know -

Refused -

Q.71 (How about) a **coffee shop**?

Yes 27%

No 73%

Don't know -

Refused -

Q.72 (How about) a **bar**?

Yes 54%

No 46%

Don't know .. 0%

Refused -

Q.73 (How about) an **elementary school**?

Yes 59%

No 41%

Don't know -

Refused -

Q.74 (How about) a **park**?

Yes 58%

No 42%

Don't know -

Refused -

Q.75 (How about) a **library**?

Yes 20%
No 80%
Don't know .. 0%
Refused -

Q.76 Are you currently employed?

Yes 62%
No 17%
Laid-Off/Furloughed 2%
Retired 20%
Dk -
Refused -

[IF THE ANSWER IS 1, THEN SKIP TO QUESTION 78]

[IF THE ANSWER IS 4, THEN SKIP TO QUESTION 80]

[IF THE ANSWER IS 5, THEN SKIP TO QUESTION 80]

[IF THE ANSWER IS 6, THEN SKIP TO QUESTION 80]

Q.77 Are you currently seeking employment?

1. Yes 25%
2. No . 75%
3. Dk -
4. Rf -

[IF THE ANSWER IS 1, THEN SKIP TO QUESTION 80]

[IF THE ANSWER IS 2, THEN SKIP TO QUESTION 80]

[IF THE ANSWER IS 3, THEN SKIP TO QUESTION 80]

[IF THE ANSWER IS 4, THEN SKIP TO QUESTION 80]

Q.81 What is **your race**?

White or Caucasian	92%
Black or African American	4%
Asian or Pacific Islander	0%
Hispanic or Latino	2%
Other	0%
Don't Know	-
Refused	1%

Q.82 What is your **marital status**?

Single, never married	16%
Married	62%
Separated	2%
Divorced	11%
Widowed	10%
Other	1%
Don't know	0%
Refused	-

Q.83 If you add together the yearly incomes, before taxes, of all the members of your household for the past year, would the total be...

[READ CATEGORIES]

Less than \$30,000	20%
\$30,000 to \$60,000	28%
\$60,000 to \$90,000	20%
\$90,000 to \$120,000	10%
Greater than \$120,000	9%
Don't know	4%
Refused	9%

Q.96 [DO NOT ask this question; only record for demographic purposes]

[Is the respondent male or female?]

Male ...	49%
Female ..	51%

NOTE: Data is weighted by gender to match population demographics in Erie County. The actual percentage of male to female respondents in the sample before weighting is 36% male to 64% female.