



Saratoga Springs Wellbeing Survey Findings May 2020

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Saratoga Springs is one of 25 cities participating in the Utah Wellbeing Project. This project is designed to assess the wellbeing and local perspectives of city residents and to provide information to city leaders to inform their general planning process.

Eighteen cities participated in an online survey effort in February and March 2020. Saratoga Springs City advertised the survey via social media and newsletter. All city residents age 18 and over were encouraged to take the online Qualtrics survey, available February 3, 2020 to March 2, 2020.

A total of **377 completed surveys** were recorded during this effort. This report contains descriptive information based on Saratoga Springs resident responses and comparisons with other cities from this most recent survey effort.

In the summer of 2019, a similar survey was conducted in Saratoga Springs using iPads in places such as city offices, parks, Wal-Mart stores, and local events or festivals. A report on those findings can be found at <https://extension.usu.edu/business-and-community/utah-wellbeing-project/index>.

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Respondent Characteristics

Nearly all of the Saratoga Springs survey respondents (98.9%) were full-time residents. The length of residency ranged from 0 to 30 years with an average of 6 years. More than half of respondents (58.5%) lived in Saratoga Springs for 5 years or less.

Table 1 details the demographic characteristics of the respondents and allows for comparison with U.S. Census information from the 2014-2018 American Community Survey. As the table shows, females, those with college degrees and those with children in their household are overrepresented in the resulting survey sample. The survey underrepresents those from lower income groups. There is no census comparison for religion. These characteristics should be taken into consideration when interpreting the findings from the survey, as survey respondents may not be fully representative of Saratoga Springs residents.

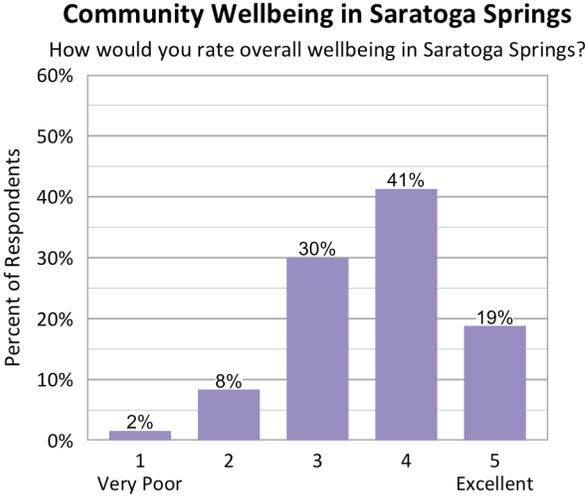
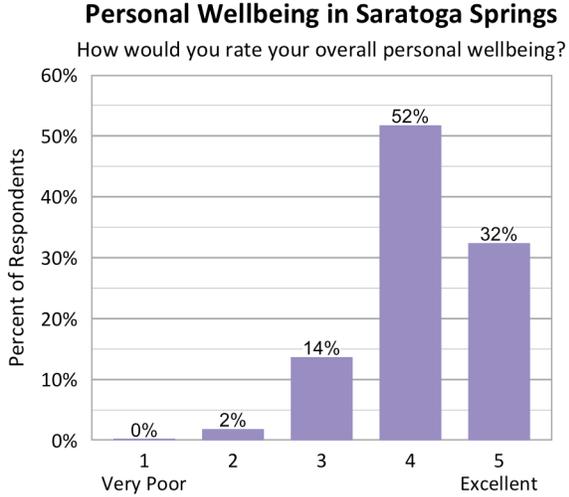
Table 1

Demographic Characteristics of Survey Respondents and U.S. Census Data for Saratoga Springs

Demographic Characteristics	Saratoga Springs iPad Survey 2019 (131 Respondents)	Saratoga Springs Online Survey 2020 (377 Respondents)	American Community Survey 2014-2018 Estimates
Age 18-39	56.9%	53.6%	57.1%
Age 40-59	46.9%	39.0%	31.9%
Age 60 or over	6.2%	7.4%	11.1%
Female	41.5%	64.0%	49.1%
Male, other	58.8%	36.0%	50.9% (Male only)
No college degree	48.4%	41.8%	53.5%
College degree (4-year)	51.6%	58.2%	46.5%
Median household income	NA	NA	\$96,840
Income under \$50,000	12.8%	6.1%	13.5%
Income \$50,000 to \$74,999	21.3%	9.6%	18.9%
Income \$75,000 to \$99,999	20.5%	26.4%	19.9%
Income \$100,000 to \$149,999	33.1%	40.4%	31.0%
Income \$150,000 or over	12.6%	17.5%	16.8%
Religion: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	76.6%	69.8%	NA
Other religion	8.9%	12.9%	NA
No religious preference	14.5%	17.3%	NA
White (non-Latino)	89.1%	88.8%	88.9%
Non-White or Latino	10.9%	11.2%	11.1%
Children under 18 in household	NA	74.4%	67.7%
Employed (combined)	NA	70.5%	68.3% (in labor force age 16+)
Out of work and looking for work	NA	0.6%	2.9% (unemployed)
Other	NA	28.9%	28.9% (not in labor force)

Overall Personal Wellbeing and Overall Wellbeing in Saratoga Springs

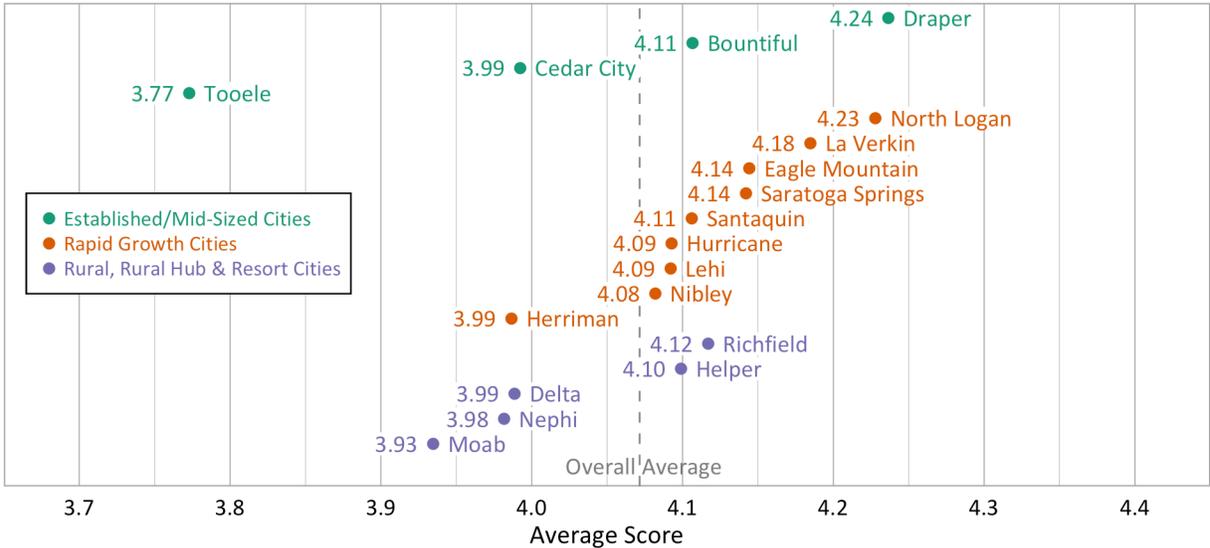
Survey participants were asked about their overall personal wellbeing and overall community wellbeing in Saratoga Springs. These wellbeing indicators are both measured on a 5-point scale from *very poor* (1) to *excellent* (5). The average personal wellbeing score among Saratoga Springs respondents was **4.14**, with 84% of respondents indicating their wellbeing at a 4 or 5 on the 5-point scale. The average score for community wellbeing in Saratoga Springs was **3.67**.



The average personal wellbeing score in Saratoga Springs falls above the average of all cities surveyed in early 2020. The Utah League of Cities and Towns classifies Saratoga Springs in the “Rapid Growth Cities” group, along with eight other cities in this study as indicated in the graph below. Saratoga Springs is above average on personal wellbeing scores in this group, but there is no statistically significant difference in the personal wellbeing scores among these cities.

Overall Personal Wellbeing Scores from Sampled Utah Cities (2020)

(On a scale from 1=Very Poor to 5=Excellent)

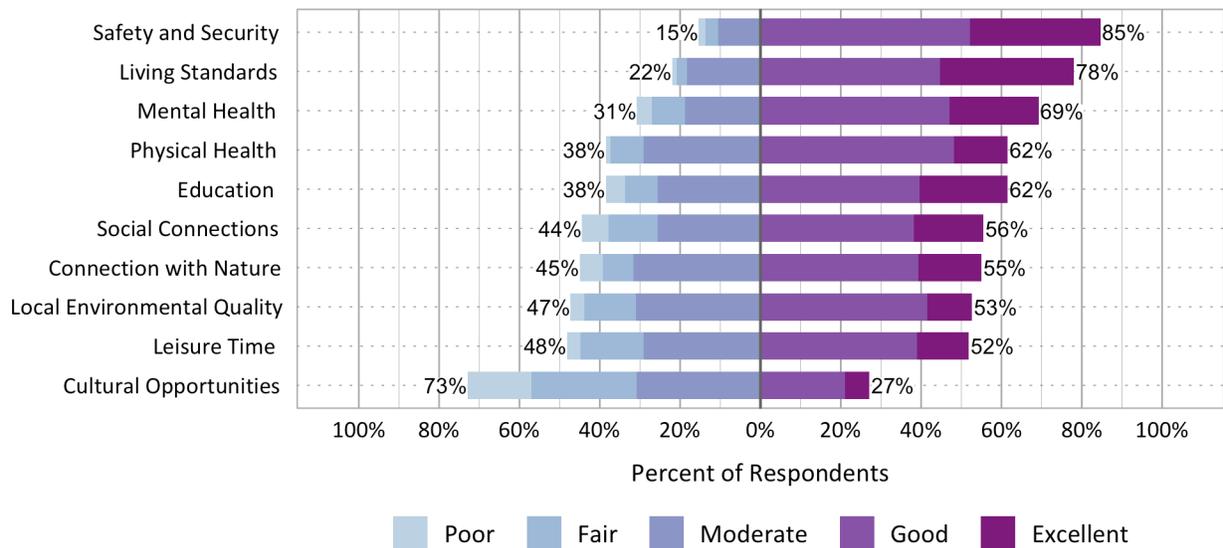


Wellbeing Domains in Saratoga Springs

According to national and international entities tracking wellbeing, a number of common domains make up wellbeing. In this survey, respondents rated ten domains on a 5-point scale from *poor* to *excellent*, and indicated their importance to their overall personal wellbeing on a 5-point scale from *not at all important* to *very important*. Based on percentage with a *good* or *excellent* rating, the top three highest rated wellbeing domains for respondents were **Safety and Security** and **Living Standards** and **Living Standards**. The three most important wellbeing domains were **Safety and Security**, **Living Standards**, and **Mental Health**.

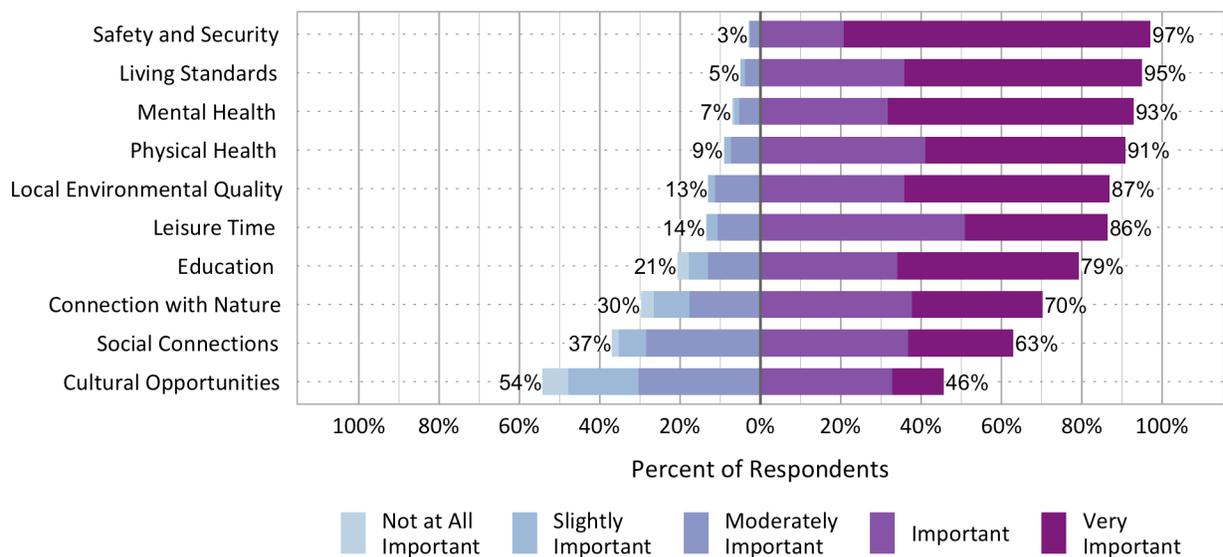
Wellbeing Domain Ratings in Saratoga Springs

How would you rate your level of personal wellbeing in each of the following categories?



Wellbeing Domain Importance in Saratoga Springs

How important are the following categories to your overall personal wellbeing?



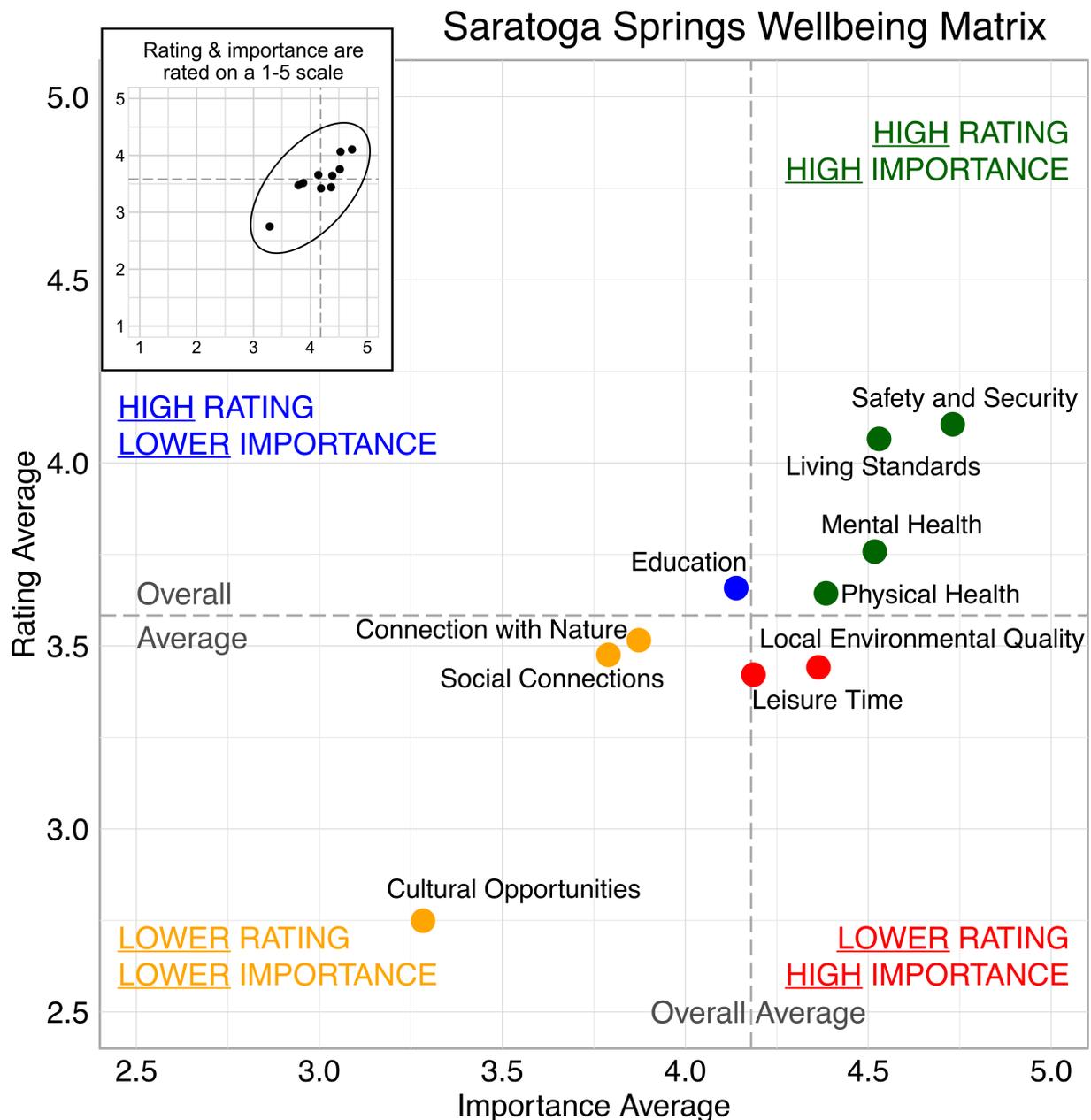
The demographic variables for age, gender, religion, income, and race/ethnicity were significantly related to various wellbeing perspectives among Saratoga Springs respondents. These relationships are shown in Table 2 and are based on a multivariate generalized linear model using the categories from Table 1, excluding children in household and employment.

Table 2
Relationships Between Demographic Characteristics and Wellbeing Domains for Saratoga Springs

Domains Rated	Demographic Variables					
	Age 60+	Female	College Degree	Latter-day Saint	Higher Income	Nonwhite or Latino
Overall Personal Wellbeing					+	
Wellbeing in Saratoga Springs	+ vs 40-59			+ vs no religious preference and other religion		
Connection to Nature						
Cultural Opportunities				+ vs no religious preference		
Education				+ vs no religious preference		
Leisure Time	+ vs 40-59			+ vs no religious preference	+	
Living Standards	+ vs 40-59			+ vs no religious preference and other religion	+	
Local Environmental Quality				+ vs no religious preference and other religion		
Mental Health	+ vs 40-59	-		+ vs no religious preference	+	
Physical Health					+ \$150,000 + > Under \$50,000	
Safety and Security	+ vs 18-39				+	
Social Connections				+ vs no religious preference and other religion	+	
	Domain Importance					
Connection to Nature				- vs no religious preference		
Cultural Opportunities						+
Education	-	+				
Leisure Time	- vs 18-39			- vs no religious preference	+	
Living Standards						+
Local Environmental Quality						
Mental Health		+				
Physical Health						
Safety and Security						
Social Connections		+				

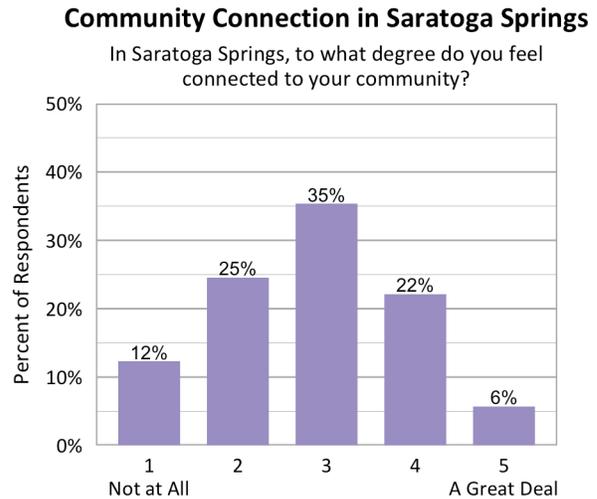
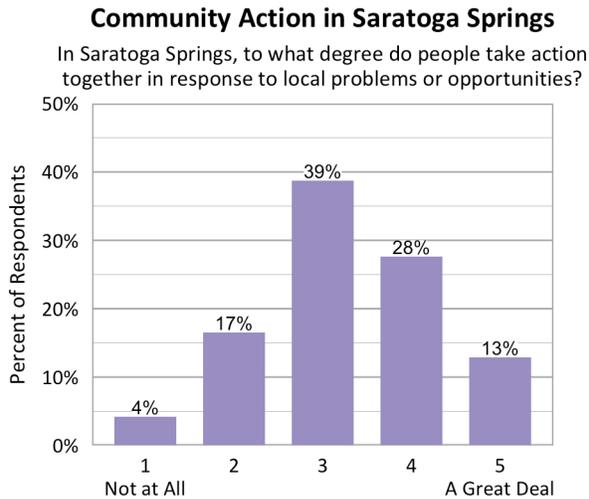
Wellbeing Matrix for Saratoga Springs

The graph below illustrates the relationship between the average rating and the average importance of wellbeing domains for survey respondents from Saratoga Springs. Local environmental quality and leisure time fall into the red quadrant, indicating that they were found to be of higher than average importance, but rated lower than average. It is important to note that all domains except for cultural opportunities have an average rating above 3.0 (moderate) and the average importance score for all domains was higher than 3.0 (moderately important).



Community Action and Connection in Saratoga Springs

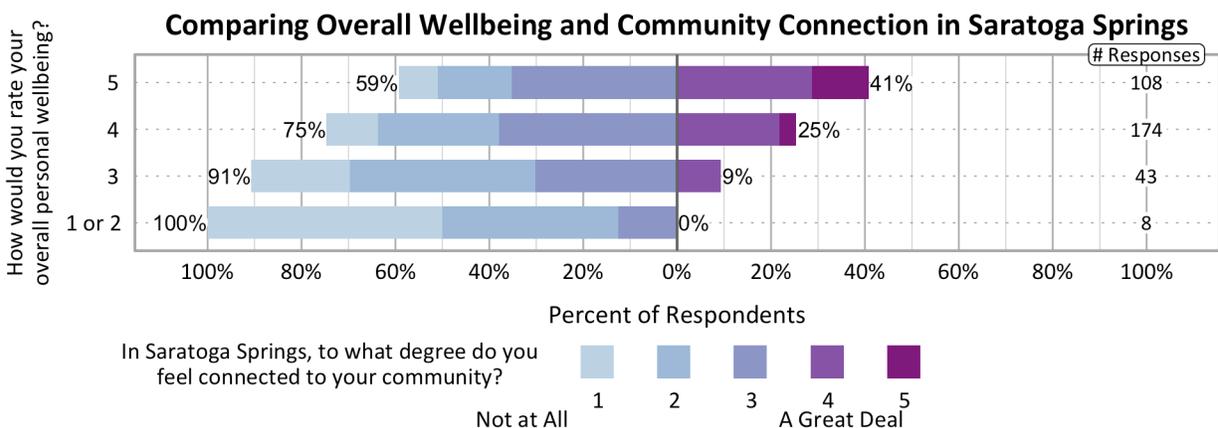
Survey participants were asked about community actions and connectedness to community in Saratoga Springs. Both questions were scored on a 5-point scale from *not at all* (1) to *a great deal* (5). When asked about the degree to which people take action together in response to local problems or opportunities in Saratoga Springs, the average score was **3.29**. When asked about the degree they feel connected to their community, the average score was **2.84**.



In terms of demographic characteristics and these community-related questions, age, income, and religion played significant roles as shown in Table 3. Additionally, there is a significant, positive relationship between community connectedness and personal wellbeing.

Table 3
Demographic Characteristics and Community Questions

Community Questions	Age 60+	Female	College Degree	Latter-day Saint	Higher Income	Nonwhite or Latino
Do people in Saratoga Springs take action?					+	
Do you feel connected to your community?	+ vs 40-59			+		

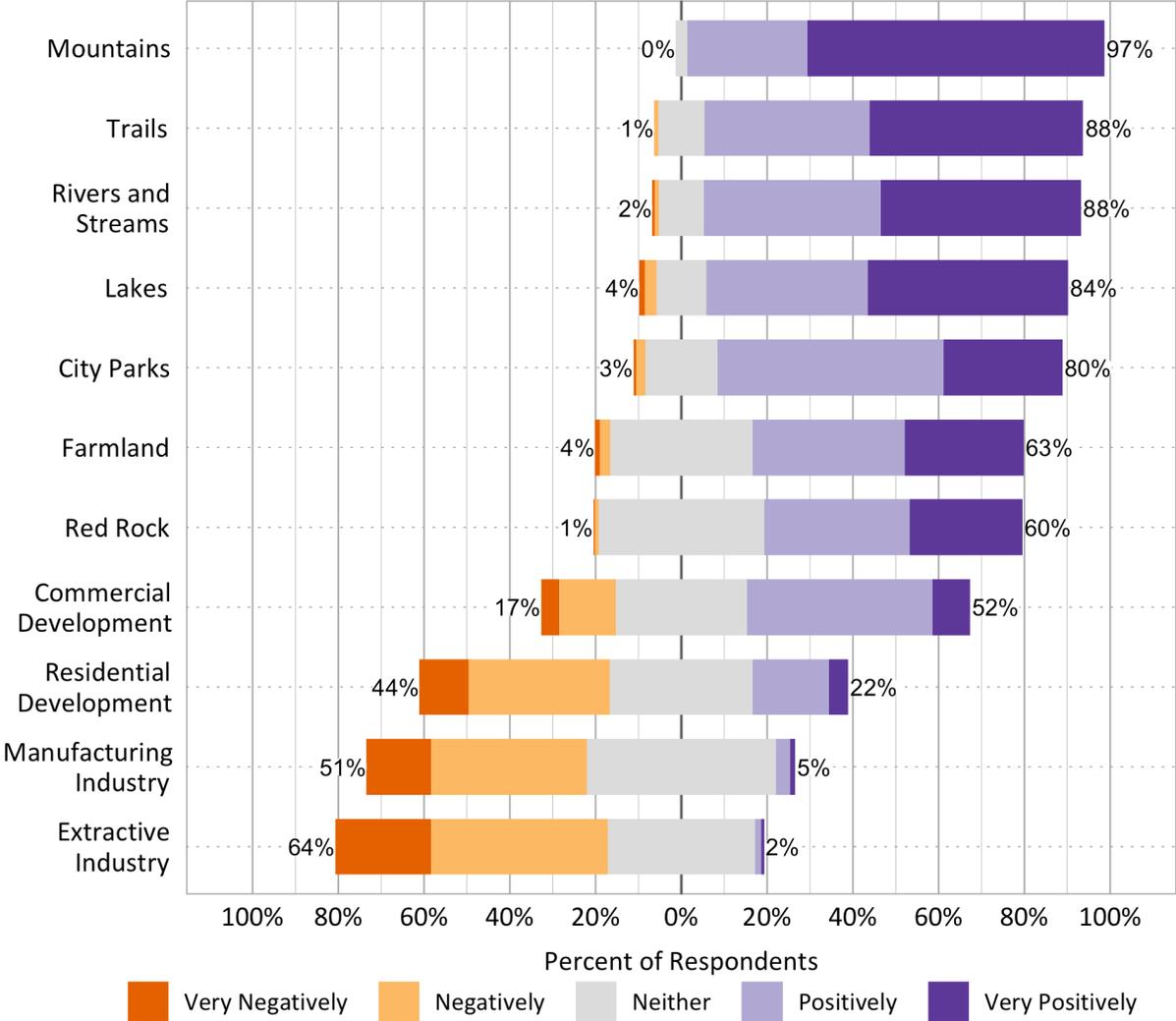


Influence of Landscape Features on Wellbeing

Survey participants were asked about the influence of landscape features on their wellbeing. Mountains, trails, rivers and streams, lakes, and city parks were found to have an overwhelmingly positive influence on respondents' wellbeing. Almost two-thirds of respondents also noted farmland (63%) and red rock (60%) as having a positive influence.

In terms of development and industry in the landscape, almost two-thirds (64%) of respondents noted extractive industry as having a negative or very negative influence on their wellbeing and over half (51%) noted manufacturing industry as having a negative or very negative influence. While twice as many respondents (44%) noted residential development as having a negative influence as compared to those who noted it having a positive influence (22%), over half of respondents felt that commercial development has a positive influence (52%) while less than one-fifth (17%) noted it as having a negative influence.

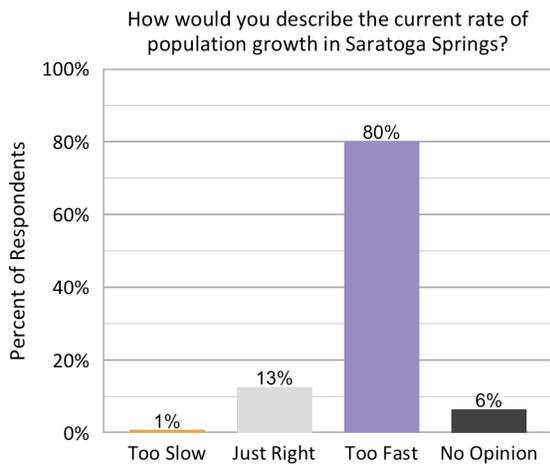
The Role of Landscape Features in Saratoga Springs Residents' Wellbeing
 How does the presence of the following landscape features influence your wellbeing?



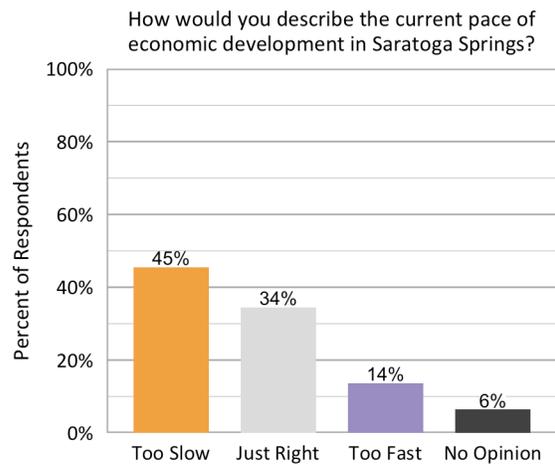
Perspectives on Population Growth and Economic Development in Saratoga Springs

Survey respondents overwhelmingly indicated that they felt population growth was too fast (80%). Comparatively, only 14% of respondents indicated that economic development is too fast, while just under half (45%) indicated that it is too slow and just over one-third (34%) indicated it is just right. Compared to the other cities in the study, Saratoga Springs was in the upper group of cities with respondents indicating population growth is too fast and in the middle range regarding those feeling the pace of economic development is too slow.

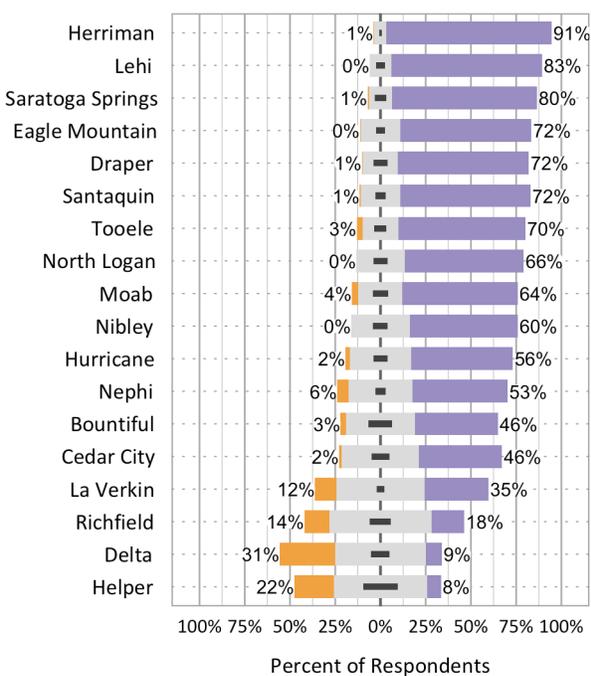
Population Growth in Saratoga Springs



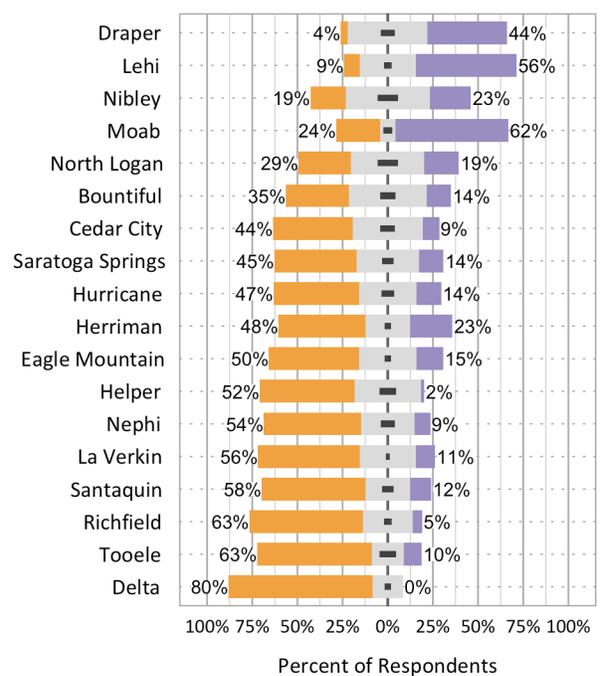
Economic Development in Saratoga Springs



Population Growth in Sampled Utah Cities



Economic Development in Sampled Utah Cities



Risks and Assets for Wellbeing in Saratoga Springs

Survey respondents indicated the degree to which a number of possible local issues were a major or minor risk or asset to wellbeing in Saratoga Springs (see Table 4).

Table 4

Top Rated Assets and Risks by Saratoga Springs Respondents

Highest Rated Assets (Indicated by at least 70% of respondents)	Highest Rated Risks (indicated by at least 25% of respondents)
Public Safety	Substance Abuse
Recreation Opportunities	Air Quality
Access to Quality Food	Electronic Devices
Opportunities for Youth	Affordable Housing
Access to Public Land	Roads and Transportation

Respondents also wrote in other assets and risks as shown in Table 5. It is clear that some people not only listed current assets, but also those they wish Saratoga Springs had.

Table 5

Other Assets and Risks Mentioned by Saratoga Springs Respondents

Other Assets		Other Risks	
Education (2)	Open space, off roading (2)	Traffic, traffic lights (12)	Growth, overcrowding, overdevelopment (9)
Accessibility to a post office and liquor store	Animal control	One main road north and south is unacceptable (7)	Townhomes and apartments, high density housing, small lot size (3)
Availability of cultural opportunities	Cemetery	Clean up Utah Lake (2)	Mormons, LDS Church (2)
High quality licensed child care	Infrastructure	Mosquitoes, bugs (2)	Airplanes
Limited growth	Local businesses	Cheap motels	City council representation
Pool	Public roads	Emergency services	Infrastructure
Road maintenance	Sales tax base	Safe entrance/exit to Dalmore Meadows	Secondary water
Utah Lake clean-up & dredging	Utah Lake Walking trails	Stinky smell from taps	Would love nice sit-down restaurants
Volunteer opportunities	Wildlife		

Summary of Open Comments

Respondents were given the opportunity to provide comments at the end of the survey. Comments were made by 134 respondents (36% of those that completed the survey). The primary concern of Saratoga Springs residents was the rapid rate of growth and development. Many comments lamented the loss of nature, open space, and wildlife as the city expands. Other concerns related to growth include traffic, air quality, lacking infrastructure, and high-density housing. However, people also said they want to see more restaurants, shopping, recreation, and entertainment options in Saratoga Springs. Overall, respondents wanted to slow down and responsibly manage the rate of development.

Dominant themes in comments included the following:

- Desire for slow and controlled growth
- Seeking more restaurants, shopping, entertainment, and recreation
- Perspectives about too much high-density housing
- Problems with traffic and road infrastructure
- Lamenting the loss of farmland and nature

A Few Quotes

- *The traffic is horrible. We need to build new roads. Redwood is the only main road in the city. It causes stress and is a security concern in the case of an emergency.*
- *Need more commerce and businesses. Traffic congestion needs to be addressed for growth.*
- *Concerned about the number of high density housing being built. I'm seeing all townhouses and very few single family homes being built. Starting to feel like we are packing them in which will put stress on all our infrastructure. Needs balance.*
- *We love the city, but the population is growing way too quickly. Getting crowded, and I'm so sad that we are losing so much farmland to more housing.*
- *We need basics like postal office, splash pads, pools, rec centers, shaded trails etc. Please!*

