

# QUALITY OF LIFE IN BROWN COUNTY

Spring 2004

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## Trends:

### Overall Satisfaction:

Overall, how would you rate Brown County as a place to live?

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2002	2003	2004
Excellent	30%	31%	34%	37%	33%	40%	34%	47%	46%
Good	67	66	64	62	63	57	62	51	51
Not So Good	3	2	<1	1	4	2	3	2	3
Poor	**	2	1	<1	<1	0	1	1	<1
Not Sure	**	<1	0	0	0	<1	<1	0	0

How satisfied are you with your life as a whole?

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2002	2003	2004
Very Satisfied	50%	48%	58%	61%	61%	64%	59%	69%	70%
Somewhat Satisfied	46	46	36	36	36	34	37	25	26
Somewhat Dissatisfied	3	5	5	2	3	2	3	3	4
Very Dissatisfied	1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	1	2	1
Not Sure	0	1	1	<1	<1	<1	0	1	0

## Health:

### Community:

How would you rate the quality of the health care in Brown County?

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2002	2003	2004
Excellent	18%	19%	19%	24%	22%	27%	30%	28%	33%

Good	71	71	72	71	68	67	64	65	60
Not So Good	4	7	3	3	4	3	2	4	4
Poor	2	1	2	1	3	<1	3	2	3
Not Sure	5	3	4	2	4	2	1	1	1

### Personal:

Some people in Wisconsin drink alcohol. By alcohol I mean beer, wine, wine coolers or liquor. In the past month have you had an alcoholic beverage?

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2002	2003	2004
Yes	68%	68%	65%	70%	71%	74%	67%	54%	57%
No	32	32	35	30	29	26	33	46	43

IF YES: During the past month, have you at any time had FIVE OR MORE drinks in a row?

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2002	2003	2004
Yes	36%	41%	40%	40%	35%	33%	31%	47%	36%
No	63	58	60	59	65	67	68	53	64
Not Sure	1	1	0	<1	0	<1	1	<1	

Do you currently smoke cigarettes, cigars or a pipe?

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2002	2004
Yes	21%	30%	27%	26%	23%	24%	24%	16%
No	79	70	73	74	77	76	76	84
Not Sure	1	<1	0	0	0	<1	0	0

Do you currently have any kind of health care insurance coverage, including health insurance provided by your employer or government plans such as Medicare or Medicaid?

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2002	2003	2004
Yes	88%	84%	88%	89%	92%	96%	94%	93%	94%
No	10	16	12	10	8	4	5	7	6
Not Sure	2	0	<1	<1	<1	0	<1	0	0

### Education:

#### Community Context:

How would you rate the quality of the public schools in Brown County grades kindergarten through 12 in your community?

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2002	2003	2004
Excellent	20%	23%	23%	27%	23%	24%	27%	34%	38%
Good	56	57	54	54	54	56	55	55	47
Not So Good	7	8	7	4	5	5	4	4	8
Poor	2	3	2	3	4	2	2	2	2
Not Sure	16	9	15	12	14	10	12	5	4

### Personal:

In the past year, have you taken any educational courses or additional training for either your work or for your personal development?

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2002	2003	2004
Yes	37%	34%	37%	42%	48%	46%	48%	45%	50%
No	64	66	63	58	52	54	52	55	50
Not Sure	0	<1	0	0	0	<1	0	1	0

### Families:

#### Community Context:

How would you rate Brown County as a place to raise a family?

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2002	2003	2004
Excellent	39%	45%	43%	52%	44%	54%	49%	46%	51%
Good	55	50	55	45	50	42	47	51	46
Not So Good	4	4	<1	2	3	3	2	2	2
Poor	1	1	<1	<1	2	<1	<1	1	1
Not Sure	1	1	<1	<1	2	<1	2	1	<1

### Personal:

How satisfied are you with your current housing?

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2002	2003	2004

Very Satisfied	51%	54%	63%	62%	67%	63%	57%	70%	72%
Somewhat Satisfied	42	36	32	33	26	33	38	25	23
Somewhat Dissatisfied	5	6	4	3	6	3	4	4	3
Very Dissatisfied	2	3	1	1	1	<1	<1	1	1
Not Sure	1	0	0	<1	0	0	0	0	<1

Do you own or do you rent your home?

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2002	2003	2004
Own (or Buying)	73%	62%	65%	67%	64%	71%	76%	73%	80%
Rent	26	37	33	29	34	27	22	25	19
Other	1	1	1	4	3	2	2	2	1
Not Sure	0	0	<1	<1	0	<1	0	0	0

Do you have any children in your household under the age of 18?

	2002	2003	2004
Yes	37%	37%	36%
No	63	63	64

## Economy:

### Community:

How would you rate the economy in Brown County?

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2002	2003	2004
Excellent	17%	20%	22%	29%	27%	34%	12%	5%	6%
Good	71	67	66	66	67	62	67	57	67
Not So Good	9	10	6	4	4	3	16	29	23
Poor	3	2	2	<1	2	<1	3	8	4
Not Sure	2	2	4	<1	<1	1	1	1	1

### Personal:

How concerned are you that in the next year you will become unemployed?

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2002	2003	2004
Very Concerned	8%	9%	7%	7%	5%	4%	8%	9%	6%

Somewhat Concerned	12	10	12	15	8	13	16	21	14
Not Too Concerned	30	27	32	24	23	24	25	24	28
Not At All Concerned	51	54	49	54	65	59	51	46	51
Not Sure	1	0	<1	<1	0	0	<1	0	<1

Do you expect that at this time next year you will be financially better off than now or worse off than now?

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2002	2003	2004
Better	68%	66%	67%	69%	73%	70%	59%	58%	64%
The Same	19	25	21	21	19	20	24	18	20
Worse	10	7	7	8	6	8	15	21	12
Not Sure	2	3	6	2	2	2	2	3	4

## Culture and Recreation:

### Recreation:

How would you rate the quality of recreational trail systems like the Fox River Trail?

	2003	2004
Excellent	34%	42%
Good	51	46
Not So Good	4	4
Poor	2	1
Not Sure	7	6

How would you rate Brown County as a place for recreational activities?

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2002
Excellent	19%	20%	22%	20%	22%	22%	20%
Good	59	61	58	61	58	61	57
Not So Good	15	15	13	14	16	13	19
Poor	5	4	5	5	4	3	4
Not Sure	3	1	2	<1	<1	1	<1

### Culture:

How would you rate the quality of cultural venues like the Meyer and Weidner theaters?

	2003	2004
Excellent	51%	44%
Good	41	47
Not So Good	4	6
Poor	1	<1
Not Sure	2	3

How would you rate the cultural activities in Brown County such as museums, art shows, ballet, opera, and symphony concerts?

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2002
Excellent	21%	22%	20%	24%	22%	24%	22%
Good	54	62	59	56	55	58	56
Not So Good	17	12	14	13	16	13	18
Poor	3	4	5	5	4	4	3
Not Sure	5	1	3	3	2	2	1

### Personal Computer Use:

Do you, or does any member of your household own a personal computer?

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2002	2003
Yes	33%	31%	38%	44%	52%	65%	71%	70%
No	67	69	62	56	48	35	29	30
Not Sure	<1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Have you used the Internet at all in the last 12 months?

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2002	2003	2004
Yes	21%	31%	46%	55%	70%	85%	84%	75%	76%
No	63	67	54	45	30	15	16	24	25
Not Sure	17	2	<1	0	0	0	0	<1	0

Have you made any online purchases in the past 12 months?

	2002	2003	2004
Yes	58%	55%	69%
No	42	45	31

**Environment:**

How satisfied are you with the progress of the cleanup of the Fox River in the Green Bay area?

	1999	2000	2002	2004
Very Satisfied	2%	5%	6%	9%
Somewhat Satisfied	40	39	38	40
Somewhat Dissatisfied	38	32	35	30
Very Dissatisfied	14	17	14	12
Not Sure	6	7	8	8

**Satisfaction with Local Government:**

How satisfied are you with how well Brown County government represents your interests?

	2003	2004
Very Satisfied	13%	9%
Somewhat Satisfied	57	64
Somewhat Dissatisfied	18	18
Very Dissatisfied	7	7
Not Sure	4	3

How satisfied are you with how well your community government represents your interests?

	2003	2004
Very Satisfied	15%	13%
Somewhat Satisfied	59	64
Somewhat Dissatisfied	17	13
Very Dissatisfied	6	6
Not Sure	2	3

How much do you feel you can trust your local government officials (city, village, town and county) to do what is best for your community?

	2003	2004
Always	15%	9%
Sometimes	73	76
Hardly Ever	8	13
Never	3	1
Not Sure	1	1

**Questions about elected officials asked in previous surveys:**

Rate the overall job that the Brown County government is doing?

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2002
Excellent	4%	7%	7%	7%	7%	8%	4%
Good	70	70	73	73	74	71	68
Not So Good	17	17	9	16	14	13	17
Poor	3	3	6	3	4	4	6
Not Sure	6	4	5	1	2	4	4

Rate overall job that your city, village or township government is doing.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2002
Excellent	6%	10%	11%	11%	11%	11%	9%
Good	68	69	69	73	69	69	71
Not So Good	19	15	10	12	15	13	11
Poor	3	3	5	2	3	4	5
Not Sure	3	4	5	2	1	3	4

**Personal:**

Now I will read you a statement. Please tell me whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the statement. "I believe that I can have an impact on the decisions that are made by community leaders here in Brown County."

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2002	2004
Strongly Agree	14%	18%	14%	13%	17%	17%	13%	16%
Somewhat Agree	53	42	50	53	54	54	54	58
Somewhat Disagree	22	21	22	20	18	15	22	17
Strongly Disagree	10	15	11	14	11	12	9	7
Not Sure	2	5	3	1	<1	2	2	2

**Crime & Safety:**

How would you rate the quality of law enforcement in Brown County?

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2002	2003	2004
Excellent	17%	21%	18%	21%	22%	27%	25%	35%	25%

Good	67	67	73	71	68	64	66	57	66
Not So Good	10	5	7	5	7	6	5	6	7
Poor	3	5	2	2	2	2	2	2	<1
Not Sure	3	1	<1	2	2	1	2	1	2

How safe do you feel or would you feel being out alone in your neighborhood at night?

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2002	2003	2004
Very Safe	39%	46%	50%	49%	49%	54%	64%	58%	60%
Somewhat Safe	40	37	36	34	37	35	28	33	29
Somewhat Unsafe	12	11	9	12	10	8	7	8	8
Very Unsafe	8	6	5	4	4	3	<1	2	4
Not Sure	<1	0	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	0	0

### Diversity & Community Feeling:

How often do you talk with your immediate neighbors?

	2003	2004
Daily	16%	16%
Several Times a Week	35	40
Several Times a Month	23	20
Monthly or Less	26	23
Not Sure	<1	1

Do you have a personal relationship (relative, friend, co-worker etc) with a person of a different race other than your own?

	2002	2003	2004
Yes	62%	58%	58%
No	37	41	42
Not Sure	<1	1	<1

Do you believe the growing diversity in cultures in Brown County is having a positive impact, negative impact, or no impact?

	2002	2003	2004
Positive	60%	60%	54%
Negative	21	20	22
No Impact at all	13	13	11

Not Sure	6	5	12
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## Demographics:

### Community of Residence:

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2002	2003	2004
Allouez	7%	6%	4%	8%	8%	12%	7%	6%	6%
Ashwaubenon	12	8	7	7	6	7	6	8	7
Bellevue	7	5	4	6	5	5	4	6	6
Denmark	3	3	2	3	2	2	2	1	2
City of De Pere	11	13	9	10	11	9	15	13	10
City of Green Bay	43	46	56	46	47	43	45	44	45
Hobart	1	1	<1	2	2	1	1	2	3
Howard	4	6	6	4	7	6	7	7	5
Ledgeview	1	1	<1	1	<1	1	1	2	2
Oneida	1	<1	0	<1	0	0	<1	1	1
Pulaski	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1
Suamico	2	3	3	4	3	4	3	3	6
Wrightstown	2	2	4	3	2	2	1	2	2
Other	4	5	5	5	5	7	5	7	6

How many years altogether have you lived in Brown County?

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2002	2003	2004
Less Than 1 Year	2%	3%	5%	2%	6%	2%	2%	2%	3%
1-5 Years	12	11	11	11	13	13	13	11	11
6-10 Years	9	10	8	8	10	8	9	8	8
11-15 Years	7	6	5	5	6	8	8	8	8
16-20 Years	11	12	15	12	9	8	7	9	6
More than 20 Years	60	59	56	62	57	61	62	61	47
Not Sure	<1	<1	0	0	0	0	<1	0	
All my life									17

Into which of these age categories do you fall?

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2002	2003	2004
18-24	15%	19%	17%	16%	14%	11%	6%	2%	8%
25-34	24	22	24	24	24	17	17	11	15
35-44	20	19	18	22	20	28	26	8	22

45-54	11	11	12	11	17	20	22	8	19
55-64	11	11	11	11	10	10	13	9	16
65 & Over	18	19	19	16	15	15	16	61	20
Not Sure	<1	0	0	<1	0	<1	0	0	0

**Employment Status:**

	2003	2004
Employed Outside Home	57%	59%
Run a Business Within Home	7	4
Stay at Home Parent/Homemaker	5	6
Student	3	3
Unemployed-looking	3	4
Out of the Workforce	26	24
Not Sure	0	<1

## Highest level of education?

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2002	2003	2004
Less than a High School Diploma	18%	16%	20%	9%	6%	7%	6%	6%	5%
High School Diploma	39	42	39	50	30	27	27	29	23
Some College/Tech	28	26	26	18	35	36	33	30	34
College Degree	11	12	11	19	20	22	24	22	26
Graduate/Professional Degree	4	4	3	4	10	8	10	13	11
Not Sure	0	0	0	0	0	<1	<1	0	0

## CURRENT marital status?

	2003	2004
Single, Living Together	7%	7%
Single, Not Living Together	15	15
Married	58	59
Separated	2	1
Divorced	8	10
Widowed	9	9

## Racial or Ethnic Heritage?

