

# PITTSBURGH REGIONAL QOL SURVEY RESULTS:

## Overall Survey Estimates for ALLEGHENY COUNTY Residents

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### NOTES:

All entries are column % except where noted.

All estimates are weighted for age, sex, race, education, income, and political affiliation  
(See Detailed Survey Methods document for details.)

#### Geography:

Allegheny County: All Allegheny County residents including City of Pittsburgh residents

#### Sample size (unweighted)

Overall n = 1,881

(sub-sample sizes are reported for questions asked only of sub-sets of respondents; actual sample sizes may vary slightly by question due to missing data)

## SECTION: OVERALL QOL

OVERALL1 How many years have you lived where you currently live?

Less than one year	7.9
1-3 years	16.8
3-5 years	7.2
5-10 years	13.1
10-20 years	18.8
More than 20 years	36.1

OVERALL2 How many years have you lived in the southwestern Pennsylvania region? This includes Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Washington and Westmoreland counties.

Less than one year	1.8
1-3 years	6.5
3-5 years	3.8
5-10 years	6.4
10-20 years	7.9
More than 20 years	73.6

[Asked if 5 or less years to OVERALL2] N = 114

OVERALL4 What is the primary reason you moved into the Pittsburgh region?

Family-related reasons	6.0
Job-related reasons	20.7
Housing-related reasons	5.9
Education related reasons (for example you moved to attend or leave college)	59.6
Retirement	1.6
Other reasons (SPECIFY) (e.g., change of climate, health reasons, natural disaster, other)	6.1

OVERALL5 Thinking about the overall quality of life in southwestern Pennsylvania region, how would you rate the region as a place to live?

Excellent	17.3
Very Good	50.2
Good	25.3
Fair	6.3
Poor	0.8

OVERALL6 Would you say that the overall quality of life in southwestern Pennsylvania region has improved, declined, or stayed about the same during the past few years?

Improved	52.2
Declined	9.7
Stayed about the same	38.2

OVERALL7 How would you rate your neighborhood or local community as a place to live?

Excellent	24.0
Very Good	38.3
Good	25.7
Fair	9.3
Poor	2.7

## SECTION: NEIGHBORHOOD

NEIGH1 About how often do you talk to or visit with your immediate neighbors?

Just about everyday	27.7
Several times a month	41.4
Once a month	11.7
Several times a year	10.8
Never	8.4

NEIGH2 Please tell me whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statement: "The people in my neighborhood are willing to help their neighbors."

Strongly agree	34.2
Somewhat agree	53.0
Somewhat disagree	9.3
Strongly disagree	3.5

NEIGH3 When thinking about the racial diversity in your own neighborhood or local community, would you say that it is...

Very diverse	19.4
Somewhat diverse	55.6
Not at all diverse	25.0

NEIGH4 How much of a problem, if any, do you think race relations are in your own neighborhood or local community?

A severe problem	4.9
A moderate problem	21.9
A minor problem	35.8
Not a problem at all	37.4

NEIGH6 Do you expect to be living in the southwestern Pennsylvania region five years from now?

Yes	82.3
No	17.7

## SECTION: ENVIRONMENT

ENVIR1 Would you say that air quality in your community is a...

Severe problem	7.4
Moderate problem	25.5
A Minor problem	34.9
Not a problem at all	32.2

ENVIR2 How about the quality of your drinking water?

Severe problem	10.7
Moderate problem	26.7
A Minor problem	28.1
Not a problem at all	34.5

ENVIR3 How about pollution in streams and rivers?

Severe problem	15.7
Moderate problem	41.2
A Minor problem	29.4
Not a problem at all	13.7

ENVIR4 Would you say that overall environmental quality in our region is...

Improving significantly	8.0
Improving somewhat	42.0
Remaining the same	36.1
Getting somewhat worse	12.5
Getting significantly worse	1.3

ENVIR5 Do you feel that state government oversight of the environment should...

Increase significantly	32.4
Increase somewhat	45.2
Remain the same	16.4
Decrease somewhat	3.8
Decrease significantly	2.2

ENVIR6 To what extent do you think natural gas drilling represents an economic opportunity for this region? Do you think it represents...

A significant economic opportunity for the region	23.0
A moderate economic opportunity for the region	28.7
Only a slight economic opportunity for the region	21.7
Very little or no economic opportunity for the region	14.8
No opinion / Haven't thought about it	11.9

ENVIR7 To what extent do you think natural gas drilling represents a threat to the environment and public health of the region? Do you think it represents...

A significant threat to the environment and public health of the region	33.3
A moderate threat to the environment and public health of the region	29.8
Only a slight threat to the environment and public health of the region	14.9
Very little or no threat to the environment and public health of the region	12.7
No opinion / Haven't thought about it	9.4

ENVIR8 While our region has a rich legacy of producing fossil fuels, community stakeholders have recently demonstrated increased interest in diversifying our energy sources. What factors matter most to you in the sources of energy our community uses? (Please rank the top 2 - drag items over to box)

	Ranked in Top Two	Ranked First
Cost	37.6	23.7
Public Health	46.4	24.7
Environment	50.5	24.8
Effect on job	18.8	6.0
Investing in the future of energy	28.3	12.9
National and regional energy independence	14.9	6.6
My own personal energy independence	3.5	1.4

ENVIR9 Solar power is becoming increasingly cost competitive with conventional energy sources. How much money would you need to be paid to install solar panels on your home?

I would never install solar panels on my home.	13.4
I would completely pay for their installation if it reduced my energy bills by less than \$1,000	18.2
\$1,000 - \$5,000	37.8
\$5,000 - \$10,000	20.1
Greater than \$10,000	9.4
I already have solar panels installed	1.0

ENVIR10 Do you regularly recycle newspaper, glass, or plastic?

Yes	83.3
No	16.7

ENVIR11 Are you a member of or do you volunteer with a group which aims to preserve or protect the environment?

Yes	16.4
No	83.6

ENVIR12 How frequently do you or members of your family go to outdoor public recreation facilities, such as parks, trails and playgrounds?

Almost never	9.2
One to three times a year	17.7
Four to ten times a year	21.0
Ten to 20 times a year	20.9
More than 20 times a year	31.2

ENVIR13 How would you rate the overall quality of public recreational areas in the region, such as parks, trails and playgrounds?

Excellent	16.4
Very Good	44.9
Good	30.5
Fair	6.9
Poor	1.2

## SECTION: GOVERNMENT

GOV1 Redistricting is the process of redrawing the districts of elected representatives, such as members of congress and the state legislature. Gerrymandering is manipulating that process to favor one political party over another. To what extent, if any, do you feel gerrymandering is a problem today in Pennsylvania? Do you believe gerrymandering is:

A serious problem	47.8
Moderate problem	24.8
A minor problem	9.7
Not a problem at all	2.9
No opinion / Have not been following	14.9

GOV2 Should the redrawing of political districts in Pennsylvania be done by an independent, non-partisan commission?

Yes	75.8
No	4.1
No opinion / Have not been following	20.0

GOV3 Do you support abandoning Pennsylvania's "state store" system in favor of allowing wine and liquor to be sold in privately owned retail stores?

Yes	61.6
No	24.2
No opinion / Have not been following	14.2

GOV4 Pennsylvania allows marijuana to be legally sold for medical purposes by licensed retail outlets. Several other states also allow marijuana to be legally sold for recreational use. Do you support legalizing the sale of marijuana for recreational use in Pennsylvania?

Yes	62.1
No	31.8
No opinion / Have not been following	6.1



GOV5 As you may know, Pittsburgh is one of the finalists to be selected for a new Amazon, Inc. headquarters location (sometimes called “Amazon HQ2”). This would bring many high paying jobs and increase the region’s profile. There could be some negative impacts, such as increased housing costs. In general, which of the following best represents your feelings about this possibility?

Strongly favor – the benefits would far outweigh the costs	24.6
Moderately favor – Some concern about the costs, but they are outweighed by the benefits	37.3
Not sure	13.8
Moderately oppose – See some benefits, but they are outweighed by the costs	13.4
Strongly oppose – the costs would far outweigh the benefits	8.7
No opinion / Have not been following	2.2

GOV6 Where do you get your information about local government? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

Newspapers/magazine (print or online)	68.8
Television/radio	76.1
Social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)	48.0
Government web sites	21.3
Other internet sources	33.6
Community meetings	18.0
Other – Please specify	5.5
Not interested / Don't get local government information	1.5

GOV7a Are you registered to vote?

Yes	94.9
No	5.1

[Asked if Yes to GOV7a] N = 1824

GOV7b How often do you vote?

In every election	66.5
In every general election	14.6
In every Presidential election	14.1
Rarely	3.6
Do not vote	1.2

GOV8 Generally speaking, do you consider yourself a Democrat, a Republican, an Independent, or something else?

Democrat	58.0
Republican	28.0
Independent	9.8
Something else / Other – Please specify	4.2

GOV9 Generally speaking, do you consider yourself to be a liberal, a conservative, or a moderate?

Liberal	40.7
Conservative	26.1
Moderate	33.2

## SECTION: ARTS

ARTS1 During the past year, about how many times have you visited a local museum or gallery or attended an art or cultural event, such as a play, concert, festival, reading or film?

None	13.3
1-2 times	23.1
3-5 times	26.0
6-10 times	18.4
11-20 times	10.1
More than 20 times	9.1

ARTS2 During the past year, have you made any donations to arts or cultural organizations?

Yes	38.7
No	61.3

ARTS3 In your opinion, how important is arts education in schools?

Not important	3.2
Somewhat important	22.7
Very important	38.2
Extremely important	26.0

ARTS4 How would you rate the overall quality of the region's arts and cultural opportunities?

Excellent	21.6
Very Good	44.8
Good	26.6
Fair	5.9
Poor	1.1

## SECTION: TRANSPORTATION

TRANS1 How much of a problem, if any, do you think there is with road and bridge quality in the region?

A severe problem	56.8
A moderate problem	36.9
A minor problem	5.1
Not a problem at all	1.1

TRANS2 How much of a problem, if any, do you think there is with traffic congestion in the region?

A severe problem	34.9
A moderate problem	54.4
A minor problem	9.9
Not a problem at all	0.8

TRANS3 How much of a problem, if any, do you think there is with the availability of public transit in the region?

A severe problem	27.2
A moderate problem	40.9
A minor problem	22.9
Not a problem at all	9.0

TRANS4 How much of a problem, if any, do you think there is with the availability of nonstop flight destinations at Greater Pittsburgh International Airport?

A severe problem	16.7
A moderate problem	36.1
A minor problem	33.9
Not a problem at all	13.4

TRANS5 How much of a problem, if any, do you think there is with the availability of safe and dedicated bicycling and pedestrian routes in the region?

A severe problem	13.8
A moderate problem	28.0
A minor problem	34.0
Not a problem at all	24.2

TRANS6 How often do you use public transit?

5 days a week or more	20.7
About once a week	10.7
About once a month	6.3
Less than once a month	20.8
Never	37.9
Public transit is not available	3.5

TRANS7 Would you support increased funding for the improvement of roads and bridges in the region?

Yes	86.2
No	13.8

[Asked if Yes to TRANS7] N = 1694

TRANS8 Which one of the following options would you most strongly support to provide this funding for improvement of roads and bridges?

Increased gasoline taxes	16.3
Increased vehicle registration fees	24.0
More toll roads	9.1
Divert from some other source	50.6

## SECTION: EDUCATION

EDUC1 In your view, how adequate or inadequate are the financial resources available for the public schools in your local community? Would you say the financial resources are...

Completely adequate	17.9
Generally adequate	42.1
Generally inadequate	30.6
Completely inadequate	9.4

EDUC2 How would you rate the safety of the public schools in your local community?

Very safe	24.6
Somewhat safe	55.6
Somewhat unsafe	15.4
Very unsafe	4.4

EDUC3 Do you have any children aged 3-18?

Yes	17.8
No	82.2

[Asked if Yes to EDUC3] N = 348

EDUC4 Are they enrolled in any type of educational program?

Yes	89.0
No	11.0

[Asked if Yes to EDUC3] N = 322

EDUC5 Does your child/children attend ... (you can select more than one)

Public school	81.8
Private school	14.5
Home school	0.6
Charter school	9.7

[Asked if Yes to EDUC3] N = 323

EDUC6 Does your child attend a neighborhood school?

Yes	72.1
No	27.9

[Asked if Yes to EDUC3] N = 317

EDUC7 Which of the following are the most important factors in choosing a school for your child? (pick two - drag items to box)

	Ranked in Top Two	Ranked First
Proximity	26.2	14.0
Safety	48.2	23.5
Religion	3.0	1.5
Specialized instruction	32.3	9.2
Family tradition	0.9	0.7
Academic outcomes	82.7	50.3
Other	6.7	0.6

[Asked if Yes to EDUC3] N = 323

EDUC8 How would you rate the overall quality of education that your children are receiving?

Excellent	34.2
Very Good	30.2
Good	23.8
Fair	9.4
Poor	2.3

[Asked if Yes to EDUC3] N = 323

EDUC9 In the past two years, have you been a member of the PTA or similar parent organization?

Yes	29.2
No	70.8

EDUC10 In the past two years, have you attended a school board meeting?

Yes	10.2
No	89.8

## SECTION: PUBLIC SAFETY

SAFE1 In general, how do you think your neighborhood compares with other neighborhoods in the area with regard to the amount of crime? Do you think it has more crime than other neighborhoods, about the same amount of crime, or less crime?

More crime	8.4
About the same	33.7
Less crime	58.0

SAFE2 Comparing safety in your neighborhood now with safety a year ago, is there now...

More crime	11.2
About the same amount of crime	76.5
Less crime	12.3

SAFE3 In terms of personal experience with crime, during the past year, have you been the victim of a property crime? That is, have you had money or property stolen, property vandalized, your home broken into, or a car stolen?

Yes	12.8
No	87.2

SAFE4 How about violent crime? During the past year, have you been the victim of a personal assault, a robbery involving the use of force or a weapon, or some other type of violent crime?

Yes	2.5
No	97.5

SAFE5 How would you rate the police in your community in terms of giving protection to people in your neighborhood?

Excellent	18.3
Very Good	34.0
Good	30.4
Fair	12.5
Poor	4.8



## SECTION: HOUSING

HOUSE1 Do you or your family own the place where you currently live, do you rent, or other?

Own	64.2
Rent	29.8
Live with someone who owns	4.4
Live with someone who rents	0.9
Other	0.7

[Asked if Own or Rent in HOUSE1] N = 1812

HOUSE2 Do you spend 30 percent or more of your income for housing?

Yes	43.2
No	51.8
Don't contribute	5.0

HOUSE3 How would you rate the overall physical or structural condition of the house or apartment in which you live?

Excellent	20.3
Very Good	36.9
Good	28.2
Fair	12.2
Poor	2.4

HOUSE4 What about the condition of the other houses or buildings in your neighborhood? Would you say that, in general, the physical condition of surrounding houses and buildings is...

Excellent	13.2
Very Good	38.2
Good	33.6
Fair	11.4
Poor	3.6

## SECTION: ECONOMY

ECON1 How often does your household have difficulty paying for basic necessities, such as monthly rent or mortgage, food, and utilities?

Never	48.3
Rarely	26.0
Sometimes	18.2
Often	4.9
Always	2.7

ECON2 In the past 3 years, has your household's financial situation...

Gotten significantly better	11.0
Gotten somewhat better	26.8
Stayed about the same	42.5
Gotten somewhat worse	15.7
Gotten significantly worse	4.1

ECON3 Thinking about the national economy, would you say that over the next year the nation's economy will...

Get much better	7.6
Get somewhat better	25.2
Stay about the same	33.3
Get somewhat worse	27.5
Get much worse	6.3

ECON4 Thinking about the local or regional economy, would you say that over the next year the region's economy will...

Get much better	4.7
Get somewhat better	35.1
Stay about the same	44.1
Get somewhat worse	13.3
Get much worse	2.7

ECON5 Thinking about your own economic situation, would you say that over the next year your economic situation will...

Get much better	8.7
Get somewhat better	27.7
Stay about the same	49.4
Get somewhat worse	11.5
Get much worse	2.7

ECON6 Are you currently employed either full or part time?

Yes	60.0
No	6.7
Retired	22.8
Disabled	8.1
Unable to work	1.4
Refused	1.0

[Asked if Yes to ECON6] N = 1017

ECON7 How many hours per week do you USUALLY work at your main job?

35 hours or more per week	81.6
Less than 35 hours per week	18.4

[Asked if Less than 35 hours per week to ECON7] N = 246  
 ECON8 What is your main reason for working part-time?

Slack work/business conditions	1.2
Could only find part-time work	3.1
Seasonal work	6.5
Child care problems	3.1
Other family/personal obligations	4.9
Health/medical limitations	4.7
School/training	30.8
Retired/Social Security limit on earnings	12.3
Full-time workweek is less than 35 hours	7.9
Other – Please specify	25.6

[Asked if Yes to ECON6] N = 1016  
 ECON9 At your primary job are you

Employed in the Private Sector	38.8
Employed in the Public Sector	32.3
Employed in the Non-profit Sector	22.9
Self-employed	6.1

[Asked if Yes to ECON6] N = 1016  
 ECON10 Are you a member of a union?

Yes	15.5
No	84.5

[Asked if Yes to ECON6] N = 1016  
ECON11 How do you usually get to work?

Private car, truck, or van	66.1
Public transit	20.7
Motorcycle	0.1
Bicycle or walking	4.8
Worked at home	5.1
Other - Please specify	3.1

[Asked if Yes to ECON6] N = 1016  
ECON12 How easy would it be for you to find a job with another employer in the area that offers the same income and fringe benefits you have now?

Very easy	7.3
Fairly easy	32.5
Not too easy	41.2
Not easy at all	19.0

[Asked if No to ECON6]] N = 114  
ECON13 Are you looking for full time work at this time?

Yes	30.8
No	69.2

[Asked if No to ECON13] N = 80  
ECON14 Reason you are not looking for a job: Check all that apply

Child care problems	0.2
Other family/personal obligations	3.0
Health/medical limitations	15.4
School/training	43.7
Retired/Social Security limit on earnings	15.4
Full-time workweek is less than 35 hours	0.0
Other – Please specify	22.2

ECON15 Are you currently a full- or part-time student at a community college, a 4-year college/university, or a technical/ trade/professional school?

No, not a student	85.6
Student at Community college	1.8
Student at a 4-year college/university	10.4
Student at a technical/trade/professional school	2.3

[Asked if a student in ECON15] N = 131

ECON16 Are you enrolled full-time or part time?

Full Time	73.6
Part Time	26.4

## SECTION: HEALTH

HLTH1 Overall, how would you rate your health?

Excellent	14.2
Very Good	32.0
Good	37.3
Fair	14.0
Poor	2.4

HLTH2 During the past month, how would describe your stress level? Would you say you have had...

No stress	9.0
Mild stress	45.2
Moderate stress	35.2
Severe stress	10.6

HLTH3 Was there a time during the last 12 months when you needed to see a doctor but could not because of the cost?

Yes	14.3
No	85.7

HLTH4 Do you now smoke cigarettes every day, some days, or not at all?

Every day	7.9
Some days	4.9
Not at all	87.3

## SECTION: RELIGION

RELIG1 What is your current religious preference?

None	29.4
Protestant	18.0
Catholic	32.6
Jewish	3.3
Muslim	0.7
Other – please specify	16.1

RELIG2 How often do you usually attend religious services, meetings and/or activities?

Every day or nearly every day	1.5
At least once a week	28.0
At least once a month	8.3
A few times a year	26.6
Never	35.6

RELIG3 To what extent do you consider yourself a spiritual person?

Very spiritual	22.1
Moderately spiritual	37.2
Slightly spiritual	24.0
Not spiritual at all	16.8



## SECTION: HAPPINESS

HAPPYRD Now a few questions about how you feel about life in general.

HAPPY1 All things considered, how satisfied would you say you are with life these days? Please rate on a scale from 1 to 10 where 1 means “Very Dissatisfied,” and 10 means “Very Satisfied.”

Mean Rating                      7.2

HAPPY2 Taking all things together, on a scale of 1 to 10, how happy would you say you are? Here, 1 means “Very Unhappy” and 10 means “Very Happy.”

Mean Rating                      7.2

## SECTION: DEMOGRAPHICS

AGE What is your age now? (IN YEARS)

18 - 29	20.4
30 - 44	15.0
45 - 64	42.4
65 and older	22.2

SEX What is your gender?

Male	47.6
Female	52.4

MARITAL STATUS What is your current marital status?

Married/living as married	50.2
Divorced or separated	10.6
Widowed	6.3
Single/never married	32.9

HISPANIC Are you of Hispanic or Latino descent?

Yes	2.0
No	98.0

RACE What is your race? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

Caucasian/White	84.5
Asian/Pacific Islander	4.1
Native American	1.7
Black or African-American	13.0

EDUCATION What is the highest level of education you have completed?

Eighth grade or less	0.0
Some high school	0.9
High school graduate or GED	32.0
Some college, no degree	16.9
Associate's degree, occupational	3.9
Associate's degree, academic	4.8
Bachelor's degree	24.8
Master's degree	13.1
Professional degree	1.3
Doctoral degree	2.3

INCOME Which of the following best describes your household's total yearly income?

Under \$25,000	16.5
\$25,000 to just under \$50,000	28.4
\$50,000 to just under \$75,000	18.8
\$75,000 to just under \$100,000	10.7
\$100,000 to just under \$150,000	16.0
\$150,000 or More	9.6

VETERAN STATUS Are you a veteran?

Yes	7.8
No	92.2