City of St. Joseph

Survey of Education Facilities Needs Spring 2004

A SCIENTIFIC TELEPHONE SURVEY CONDUCTED FOR The St. Joseph Area Committee on Education BY ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY SURVEY

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ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY SURVEY SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH INSTITUTE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

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SCSU SURVEY HOMEPAGE HTTP://web.stcloudstate.edu/scsusurvey

Drs. Frank, Wagner and Kukoleca Hammes are members of the Midwest Association of Public Opinion Research (M.A.P.O.R.) and the American Association of Public Opinion Research (A.A.P.O.R.) and subscribe to the code of ethics of the A.A.P.O.R.

I. History and Mission of the Survey

The SCSU Survey is an ongoing survey research extension of the Social Science Research Institute in the College of Social Sciences at St. Cloud State University. The SCSU Survey performs its research in the form of telephone interviews. Telephone surveys are but one of the many types of research employed by researchers to collect data randomly. The telephone survey is now the instrument of choice for a growing number of researchers.

Dr. Steve Frank began the SCSU Survey in 1980 conducting several omnibus surveys a year of central Minnesota adults in conjunction with his Political Science classes. The SCSU Survey conducts its statewide omnibus survey once a year. In addition to questions focusing on the research of the faculty directors, clients can buy into the survey or contract for specialized surveys.

Presently, the omnibus surveys have continued, but have shifted to a primary statewide focus. These statewide surveys are conducted once a year in the fall and focus on statewide issues such as election races, current events, and other important issues that are present in the state of Minnesota. Besides the annual fall survey, the SCSU Survey conducts an annual spring survey of SCSU students on various issues such as campus safety, alcohol and drug use, race, etc. Lastly, the SCSU Survey conducts contract surveys for various public and private sector clients. The Survey provides a useful service for the people and institutions of the State of Minnesota by furnishing valid data of the opinions, behaviors, and characteristics of adult Minnesotans.

The primary mission of the SCSU Survey is to serve the academic community and various clients through its commitment to high quality survey research and to provide education and experiential opportunities to researchers and students. The directors of the SCSU Survey strive to assure that all SCSU students and faculty directors contribute to the research process, as all are essential in making a research project successful. This success is measured by our ability to obtain high quality survey data that is timely, accurate, and reliable while maintaining an environment that promotes the professional and personal growth of each staff member. The survey procedures used by the SCSU Survey adhere to the highest quality academic standards. The SCSU Survey maintains the highest ethical standards in its procedures and methods. Both faculty and student directors demonstrate integrity and respect for dignity in all interactions with colleagues, clients, researchers, and survey participants.

II. Survey Staff

The Survey's faculty directors are Dr. Steve Frank (SCSU Professor of Political Science), Dr. Steven Wagner (SCSU Professor of Public and Non-Profit Administration) and Dr. Michelle Kukoleca Hammes (SCSU Assistant Professor of Political Science). The faculty directors are members of the Midwest Association of Public Opinion Research (M.A.P.O.R.) and the American Association of Public Opinion Research (A.A.P.O.R.). The directors subscribe to the code of ethics of A.A.P.O.R.

A STEPHEN I. FRANK

Dr. Frank holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science from Washington State University. Dr. Frank teaches courses in American Politics, Public Opinion and Research Methods at St. Cloud State University. Dr. Frank started the SCSU Survey in 1980, and since has played a major role in the development, administration and analysis of over 150 telephone surveys for local and state governments, school districts and a variety of nonprofit agencies. Dr. Frank has completed extensive postgraduate work in survey research at the University of Michigan. Dr. Frank coauthored with Dr. Wagner and published by Harcourt College, *"We Shocked the World!" A Case Study of Jesse*

Ventura's Election as Governor of Minnesota. Revised Edition. He also recently published two academic book chapters: one appears in the current edition of *Perspectives on Minnesota Government and Politics* and the other, co-authored with Dr. Wagner, is contained in *Campaigns and Elections*, edited by Robert Watson and Colton Campbell. Dr. Frank is past chairperson of the SCSU Department of Political Science and currently serves as President of the Minnesota Political Science Association.

B. STEVEN C. WAGNER

Dr. Wagner holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science and a Master of Public Administration from Northern Illinois University. Dr. Wagner earned his Bachelor of Science in Political Science from Illinois State University. Dr. Wagner teaches courses in American Politics and Public and Nonprofit Management at St. Cloud State University. Dr. Wagner joined the SCSU Survey in 1997. Before coming to SCSU, Dr. Wagner taught in Kansas where he engaged in community-based survey research and before that was staff researcher for the U.S. General Accounting Office. Dr. Wagner has written many papers on taxation and state politics and budgeting, and has published articles and book chapters on voting behavior, federal funding of local services and organizational decision making. Dr. Wagner, with Dr. Frank, published two texts on Jesse Ventura's election and service as Minnesota's Governor. With Dr. Frank, Dr. Wagner recently published a chapter on Ventura's election in Watson and Campbell's *Campaigns and Elections*.

C. MICHELLE KUKOLECA HAMMES

Dr. Kukoleca Hammes holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science and a Masters in Political Science from the State University of New York at Binghamton. Dr. Kukoleca Hammes earned her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Niagara University. Kr. Kukoleca Hammes' is a comparativist with an area focus on North America and Western Europe. Her substantive focus is representative governmental institutions. She teaches courses in American Government, Introduction to Ideas and Institutions, Western European Politics, and a Capstone in Political Science at St. Cloud State University. Dr. Kukoleca Hammes, since joining the survey team, is using her extensive graduate school training in political methodology to aid in questionnaire construction and results analysis. She recently published a book chapter on Minnesota public participation in the Fifth Edition of *Perspectives on Minnesota Government and Politics*.

D. Supervisors and Callers

SCSU student, Mr. Jason Lunser served as senior student lab supervisor. Mr. Lunser screened and trained all callers and supervised the working of the lab during calling hours. After five or more hours of training and screening, approximately 20 SCSU students completed the calling.

Mr. Jason Amunrud, also a SCSU student, provided technical support to ensure the interviewing software and all related hardware functioned.

III. Methodology

The SCSU Survey operates the CATI Lab in Stewart Hall 324. The CATI Lab, which stands for <u>Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing Lab</u>, is equipped with 13 interviewer stations that each includes a computer, a phone, and a headset. In addition to the interviewer stations, there is the Supervisor Station, which is used to monitor the survey while it is in progress. The SCSU Survey has its own server designated solely for the use of the SCSU Survey.

The SCSU Survey is licensed to use Sawtooth Software's Ci3 Questionnaire Authoring Version 4.1, a state-of-the-art windows-based computer-assisted interviewing package. This program allow us to develop virtually any type of questionnaire while at the same time programming edit and consistency checks and other quality control measures to insure the most valid data. Interviewing with Ci3 offers many advantages:

- 1. Complete control of what the interviewer sees;
- 2. Automatic skip or branch patterns based on previous answers, combinations of answers, or even mathematical computations performed on answers;
- 3. Randomization of response categories or question order;
- 4. Customized questionnaires using respondents' previous responses, and,
- 5. Incorporation of data from the sample directly into the sample database.

In addition, all interview stations are networked for complete, ongoing sample management. Sawtooth Software's Ci3 allows immediate data updating, ensuring maximum data integrity and allowing clients to get progress reports anytime. The Survey directors are able the review data for quality and consistency. Question answers are entered directly into the computer, thus keypunching is eliminated, which decreases human error and facilitates immediate data analysis. The calling system is programmed to store call record keeping automatically, allowing interviewers and supervisors to focus on the interviewing task. Callbacks are programmed through the computer network and made on a schedule. Each number is called ten times. Interrupted surveys are easily completed. Persons who are willing to be interviewed can do so when it is convenient to them, improving the quality of their responses.

Calls were made at various times during the week (Sunday through Thursday, 4:30 to 9:30) to maximize contacts and ensure equal opportunities to respond among various demographic groups. The calling system maintains full and detailed records, including the number of attempts made to each number and the disposition of each attempt. Initial refusals were contacted and many were converted to completions. The survey was administered on Sunday, June 13 through Sunday, June.

Several steps were taken to ensure that the telephone sample of the St. Joseph area was representative of the larger population. Survey Sampling Inc. of Fairfield, Connecticut created a sample of phone numbers from phone lists of working numbers in the area. The parameters of the survey included the census tracts for the City of St. Joseph, St. Joseph Township, St. Wendel Township, Collegeville Township, and Avon Township. In addition, a screening question was asked at the beginning of the survey to ensure that the households we reached were part of the population we were seeking to interview. We also randomize within households in order to ensure that we talk to both males and females and to persons of all age groups (over the age of 18). In order to accomplish this our interviews rotate each phone call to ask for either 1) the oldest male, 2) the oldest female, 3) the youngest male, or 4) the youngest female.

The sample consists of 549 respondents. In samples of 549 interviews, the sample error due to sampling and other random effects is approximately plus/minus four percent at the 95 percent confidence level. This means that if one were to have drawn 20 samples of the population and administered the same instrument it would be expected that the overall findings would be greater/lesser than four percent only one time in twenty. In all surveys there are other possible sources of error for which precise estimates are not calculated. These include interviewer and coder error, respondent misinterpretation, and analysis errors. When analysis is made of sub-samples such as respondents who are live in university residence halls, or when the sample is broken down by variables such as gender, the sample error may be larger.

The demographics of the sample match the known characteristics of the population very well and weighting was only applied to gender. The ratio of males to females among the completed interviews was slightly higher than exists in the actual population, so the sample was weighted to reflect a sample of roughly 51% female and 49% male in the population.. In terms of other demographic factors, interviewing resulted in a sample within the margin of error of the population and they were therefore not weighted.

The cooperation rate of the survey for those who completed the screening question was 82 percent. A cooperation rate of 82 percent is 30 percentage points above the average for professional marketing firms. A cooperation rate of 82 percent means that once we reached an eligible respondent, around eight of every ten respondents agreed to participate in the survey. The cooperation rate is determined by adding the number of completed interviews (548) to the total number of refusals (114) and dividing the number of completed interviews (548) by the sum of the completions and refusals (662).

Table 1: Calling Record	
Disposition Record	Frequency
Completed Calls (weighted shown)	549
Answered Screening Question But Were Not Eligible	295
Not Working Numbers	208
Not Eligible – Respondent not available during the period of the study, language problems, hearing problems, illness, out of state.	111
Callbacks – Appointments made but contact could not be made with designated respondent.	923
Refusals – Attempt to re-contact and convert refusals to a completion was made for all refusals.	114
Answering Machine – Live contact could not be made even after 10 calls.	435
Business Phones	43
No Answers – Probable non-working numbers.	212
Fax/Modem	6
Busy	47
Call Blocking	32
No longer at student	10
No longer resident at phone number, new number not available, wrong number	268
Other-partially completed but not finished, miscellaneous	25
Total Calls Placed	3000
Total starting sample, including duplicate names and invalid phone numbers	3000

Table 2:Challenge Facing Education

"In your opinion, what is the greatest challenge facing k-12 education in the St. Joseph area?"

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Lack of Local Facilities	66	12
Transportation	23	4
Daycare	8	1
Funding	110	20
Inclusion in District 742	6	1
Current School Administration	18	3
Current School Board	4	1
Open Enrollment in Other Schools	15	3
Lack of Identity	9	2
Other [Volunteered]	86	16
Don't Know	202	37
Refused	2	0
Total	549	100

Figure 1: Challenge Facing Education



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Table 3: Number of Children "How many children do you have?"		
0	102	20
1	58	11
2	149	29
3	112	21
4	37	7
5	25	5
6	13	2
7	9	2
8	6	1
9	2	.5
10	2	.5
11	2	.5
Don't Know	24	.5
Refused	7	0
Total	549	100
Mean (average)= 2.48 Median (middle response)= 2 Mode (most common response)= 2		

Figure 2: Number of Children



Table 4:	
Number of Children Who Every Attended District 742	

"Have you ever had children enrolled in St. Cloud School District 742?" "If YES, how many?"

[Only asked of those who answered that they have children in previous question.]

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
None	216	52
1	51	12
2	70	17
3	40	10
4	9	2
5	10	3
6	8	2
7	6	1
8	2	1
9	1	0
10	0	0
11	1	0
Don't Know	1	0
Refused	1	0
Total	416	100

Figure 3: Number of Children Who Every Attended District 742



Table 5:	
Number of Children Who Now Attend District 742	2

"Do you currently have children enrolled in St. Cloud School District 742?" "If YES, how many?"

[Only asked of those who answered that they have children in previous question.]

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
None	135	62
1	37	17
2	27	12
3	11	5
4	3	1
5	1	1
6	4	2
7	1	0
Don't Know	0	0
Refused	0	0
Total	219	100

Figure 4: Number of Children Who Now Attend District 742



Table 6: Number of Children Who Now Attend Kennedy Elementary School

Intro: "Now I would like to ask you about specific schools your children attend. Some may apply to your children and some may not."

"How many children do you have attending Kennedy Elementary School?"

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
0	68	58
1	23	20
2	20	17
3	3	2
4	2	1
Don't Know	1	1
Refused	2	1
Total	120	100

Figure 5: Number of Children Who Now Attend Kennedy Elementary School



Table 7:Number of Children Who Now Attend North Junior High

Intro: "Now I would like to ask you about specific schools your children attend. Some may apply to your children and some may not."

"How many children do you have attending North Junior High?"

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
0	94	81
1	16	14
2	4	2
3	1	.33
4	1	.33
Don't Know	1	.33
Refused	3	2
Total	120	100

Figure 6: Number of Children Who Now Attend North Junior High



Table 8:Number of Children Who Now Attend Apollo High School

Intro: "Now I would like to ask you about specific schools your children attend. Some may apply to your children and some may not."

"How many children do you have attending Apollo High School?"

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
0	81	71
1	21	18
2	8	7
3	1	1
4	1	1
Don't Know	4	1
Refused	4	1
Total	120	100

Figure 7: Number of Children Who Now Attend Apollo High School



Table 9:Number of Children Who Now Attend Other Schools in District 742

Intro: "Now I would like to ask you about specific schools your children attend. Some may apply to your children and some may not."

"How many children do you have attending schools in District 742 other than Kennedy Elementary School, North Junior High, or Apollo High School?"

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
0	87	75
1	16	13
2	8	7
3	2	1
4	1	1
5	0	0
6	0	0
7	1	1
Don't Know	1	1
Refused	3	1
Total	119	100

Figure 8: Number of Children Who Now Attend Other Schools in District 742



Table 10:Number of Children Who Now Attend Other Educational Choices

"Do you have children enrolled in another school district, in a parochial school, home schooled, or in some other educational setting?"

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Another School District	103	25
Parochial School	25	6
Home School	6	1
Other Educational Setting	5	1
No Children In Any Type of K-12 School	225	55
Don't Know	42	10
Refused	10	2
Total	417	100

Figure 9: Number of Children Who Now Attend Other Educational Choices



Table 11: Reasons for Not Enrolling Child in School District 742 [MULTIPLE RESPONSE]

"Why have you chosen not to enroll your children in a school in St. Cloud School District 742?"

[Caller reads options and selects as many as apply]

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY OF RESPONSE	PERCENT OF TOTAL RESPONSES
Religious Reasons	20	10
School Size	22	10
Class Size	22	10
Transportation	19	9
Proximity	46	22
Extra-Curricular Activities	6	3
Quality of Education	29	14
Quality of Facilities	12	6
Other	26	13
Don't Know	7	3
Refused	0	0
Total	210	100

Figure 10: Reasons for Not Enrolling Child in School District 742 [MULTIPLE RESPONSE]



Table 12:Likely to Send Child to Educational Facilities in St. Joseph

"If there were K-12 facilities in St. Joseph, how likely would you be to send your children there? Is it not at all likely, somewhat likely, very likely, or would you definitely send your children to a St. Joseph K-12 school"

[Asked of those with children who do not send their children to District 742 currently.]

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY OF RESPONSE	PERCENT OF TOTAL RESPONSES
Not At All Likely	66	47
Somewhat likely	27	20
Very Likely	27	20
Definite	7	5
Don't Know	12	8
Refused	0	0
Total	140	100

Figure 11: Likely to Send Child to Educational Facilities in St. Joseph





Table 13:Transportation to School

"If your children are not home schooled or in a residential school setting, how do they get to school"

[Asked of those with children.]

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY OF	PERCENT OF TOTAL
	RESPONSE	RESPONSES
Bus	80	58
Walk	8	6
Parent Drives Student to School	32	23
Carpool	1	1
Other	10	7
Don't Know	7	5
Refused	1	0
Total	139	100

Figure 12: Transportation to School



Table 14:Time to Get to School

"What is the average length of time, in minutes, of your child's commute to school?"

[Asked of those with children.]

Mean (average)= 22.14 Median (middle response)= 20 Mode (most common response)= 20 Number of Responses= 123

Don't Know= 11

Refused= 5

Total Number of Responses= 139

Table 15:Satisfaction with District 742

"In general, from what you know or have heard, how satisfied are you with District 742?" "Are you very satisfied, satisfied, dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied"

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY OF RESPONSE	PERCENT OF TOTAL RESPONSES
Very Satisfied	53	10
Satisfied	209	38
Dissatisfied	103	19
Very Dissatisfied	28	5
Don't Know	149	27
Refused	7	1
Total	549	100

Figure 13: Satisfaction with District 742



Table 16: Satisfaction with Kennedy Elementary School

"In general, from what you know or have heard, how satisfied are you with Kennedy Elementary?" "Are you very satisfied, satisfied, dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied"

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY OF RESPONSE	PERCENT OF TOTAL RESPONSES
Very Satisfied	92	17
Satisfied	156	28
Dissatisfied	17	3
Very Dissatisfied	10	2
Don't Know	268	49
Refused	5	1
Total	549	100

Figure 14: Satisfaction with Kennedy Elementary School



Table 17:Satisfaction with North Junior High

"In general, from what you know or have heard, how satisfied are you with North Junior High?" "Are you very satisfied, satisfied, dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied"

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY OF RESPONSE	PERCENT OF TOTAL RESPONSES
Very Satisfied	39	7
Satisfied	143	26
Dissatisfied	60	11
Very Dissatisfied	16	3
Don't Know	286	52
Refused	5	1
Total	549	100

Figure 15: Satisfaction with North Junior High



Table 18:Satisfaction with Apollo High School

"In general, from what you know or have heard, how satisfied are you with Apollo High School?" "Are you very satisfied, satisfied, dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied"

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY OF RESPONSE	PERCENT OF TOTAL RESPONSES
Very Satisfied	37	6
Satisfied	127	23
Dissatisfied	87	16
Very Dissatisfied	49	9
Don't Know	244	45
Refused	5	1
Total	549	100

Figure 16: Satisfaction with Apollo High School



Table 19: Educational Options for the St. Joseph Area			
"What do you think is the ideal education option for the St. Joseph area" [Responses were read to interviewee. Only one response allowed.]			
RESPONSE	FREQUENCY OF RESPONSE	PERCENT OF TOTAL RESPONSES	
The current situation within St. Cloud School District 742	72	13	
Domain within St. Cloud School District	110	01	

The current situation within St. Cloud	72	13
School District 742		
Remain within St. Cloud School District	118	21
742 and have k-12 facilities within the		
City of St. Joseph		
Partner with another school district (such	48	9
as Rocori)		
A separate school district for the St.	141	26
Joseph area		
K-12 Charter School	20	3
Don't Know	142	26
Refused	8	2
Total	549	100

Figure 17: Educational Options for the St. Joseph Area



Table 20:Taxes for Educational Facilities

"Would you be willing to have an increase in your property taxes to have K-12 facilities in the City of St. Joseph" [If no, key 1 and do not read next.]

"If so, how much a month would you be willing to pay additionally in taxes to support these facilities?"

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY OF RESPONSE	PERCENT OF TOTAL RESPONSES
\$0 [volunteered]	240	44
\$1-\$20	63	12
\$21-\$40	38	7
\$41-\$60	26	5
\$61-\$80	8	1
\$81-\$100	8	1
\$101 or more	17	3
Don't Know	108	20
Refused	40	7
Total	549	100

Figure 18: Taxes for Educational Facilities



Table 21: Vote in Last School Board Election "Did you vote in the last school board election"			
RESPONSE	FREQUENCY OF RESPONSE	PERCENT OF TOTAL RESPONSES	
Yes	278	51	
No	245	45	
Don't Know/ Can't Remember	21	3	
Refused	4	1	
Total	549	100	

Figure 19: Vote in Last School Board Election



"What age group are you a member of?" "Are you.... [read categories as necessary]?"

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY OF RESPONSE	PERCENT OF TOTAL RESPONSES
18-24	40	7
25-34	69	13
35-44	143	26
45-54	126	23
55-65	80	15
65+	75	14
Don't Know	8	1
Refused	8	1
Total	549	100

Figure 20: Vote in Last School Board Election



Table 23: Rent or Own "Do you own your home or do you rent?"				
Own	490	91		
Rent	38	7		
Don't Know	8	1		
Refused	13	1		
Total	549	100		

Figure 21: Rent or Own



Table 24: Time Lived in St. Joseph Area					
"How long have you lived in the City of St. Joseph, St. Joseph Township, St. Wendel Township, Collegeville Township, or Avon Township?" [Only enter whole numbers. Round up.] [Enter 1 for one year or less.]					
Mean (average)= 17.03 Median (middle response)= 14 Mode (most common response)= 3 Number of Responses= 520 Don't Know= 22 Refused= 7					
Total Number of Responses= 5	549				
RESPONSE	FREQUENCY OF RESPONSE	PERCENT OF TOTAL RESPONSES			
1-5 years	116	23			
6-10 years	91	17			
11-15 years	85	16			
16-20 years	63	12			
21-25 years	42	8			
26-30 years	55	11			
30+ years	67	13			
Total	520	100			

Figure 22: Time Lived in St. Joseph Area



Table 25:Primary Employment

"Are you working now, temporarily laid off, unemployed, retired, a household manage, a fulltime student or what?" If more than one... "What do you consider yourself primarily?"

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY OF RESPONSE	PERCENT OF TOTAL RESPONSES
Working Now	398	72
Laid Off	6	1
Unemployed	15	3
Retired	83	15
Disabled	4	1
Household Manager	15	3
Student	12	2
Don't Know	5	1
Refused	11	2
Total	549	100

Figure 23: Primary Employment



Table 26: Gender From Initial Screening for Rotation Within Household				
Male	411	49		
Female	428	51		
Don't Know	0	1		
Refused	0	2		
Total	549	100		

Figure 24: Gender

