

A Project of the Dyson Foundation and the Marist College Institute for Public Opinion to Examine Residents' Priorities for the Mid-Hudson Region

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# Many Voices One Valley 2012

#### Summary of Findings

#### Introduction

Many Voices One Valley 2012 marks the second quinquennial update of a study conducted by the Marist College Institute for Public Opinion in partnership with the Dyson Foundation. The study focuses on what people in the Mid-Hudson Valley think about living in the region and pays close attention to their priorities. The counties included in the study are Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Orange, Putnam, Sullivan, and Ulster. The results document residents' perceptions of the region and their expectations for the future.

Many Voices One Valley 2012 highlights similarities and changes that have occurred in the region over the last decade. Many of the questions asked previously have been included in this new study for comparative purposes.

Several new questions have been added. These questions gauge residents' views about the recession, unemployment, and the future of the job market in the region. The study digs deeper into issues related to business retention and job creation which Mid-Hudson Valley residents deem their top two priorities.

Like the study as a whole, this summary is broken down into three main sections. The first focuses on people's perceptions of living and working in the Mid-Hudson Valley. It also demonstrates their priorities for the future. As previously mentioned, comparisons are made to five, and in some instances, ten years ago.

Making Ends Meet is the second section in the summary. Here, residents' attitudes toward the region's affordability and other financial factors which affect their lives are revealed.

The third section reports on *Health Matters*. While the affordability of health care is no longer the top priority in the Mid-Hudson Valley, it is still among residents' most important concerns. This portion of the summary discusses people's thoughts about the quality of health care in their community and addresses the factors that influence the ability of people to afford and access health care.

In this present study, 4,443 residents of New York's Mid-Hudson Valley were interviewed from February  $2^{nd}$  through March  $14^{th}$ , 2012. The survey results for all residents are statistically significant at  $\pm 1.5\%$ . The margin of error increases for county results and smaller sub-groups in the population.

Additional information about *Many Voices One Valley 2012* may be found on the study's website, ManyVoicesOneValley.org. Complete details and full reports for 2012, 2007, and 2002 may be found there, as well.

## **Residents Priorities for the Mid-Hudson Valley**

Using a scale from 0 to 10, residents assessed the importance they believed should be placed on a host of issues affecting their community. The issues, as in 2007 and 2002, ranged from business concerns to health care to taxes to community services.

Not surprisingly, economic issues are top of mind this year. The leading concern for residents is keeping businesses in the area. It receives an average score of 8.0 out of a possible 10. It surpasses job creation, which ranks second, by just one-tenth of a point. In 2007, business retention was among residents' most pressing concerns. With an average score of 7.9, it placed second. Job creation, however, has climbed the ladder of priorities. Five years ago, the issue ranked sixth and had an average of 7.6. Today, it ranks second.

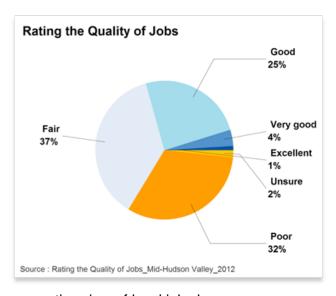
Priorities	MHV 2012	MHV 2007	MHV 2002	Columbia 2012	Columbia 2007	Columbia 2002	Dutchess 2012	Dutchess 2007	Dutchess 2002	Greene 2012	Greene 2007	Greene 2002	Orange 2012	Orange 2007	Orange 2002	Putnam 2012	Putnam 2007	Putnam 2002			Ulster 2002		Sullivan 2007
Keeping businesses in the area	8.0	7.9	7.9	7.8	7.6	7.5	8.2	8.0	7.9	8.0	7.6	7.9	8.2	8.0	8.0	7.7	7.9	7.8	8.0	7.9	8.0	7.8	8.0
Creating more jobs	7.9	7.6	7.5	7.7	7.3	7.2	8.2	7.7	7.5	7.7	7.3	7.4	8.0	7.7	7.6	7.3	6.9	7.1	7.9	7.9	7.5	7.8	7.9
Improving the quality of the public schools	7.6	7.8	7.8	7.6	7.6	7.7	7.6	7.9	7.9	7.7	7.6	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.9	7.1	7.5	7.6	7.7	8.0	7.9	7.6	7.7
Making health care more affordable	7.5	8.0	7.7	7.6	7.9	7.6	7.8	8.0	7.7	7.3	7.6	7.6	7.6	8.0	7.7	6.9	7.6	7.3	7.5	8.1	8.0	7.5	7.9
Providing services for senior citizens	7.4	7.6	7.5	7.3	7.5	7.2	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.2	7.5	7.5	7.7	7.7	7.2	7.3	7.4	7.4	7.7	7.5	7.5	7.4
Reducing taxes	7.4	7.9	7.3	7.1	7.7	7.0	7.5	7.7	7.1	7.4	7.5	7.0	7.6	8.0	7.4	7.2	8.1	7.6	7.1	7.9	7.1	7.1	7.8
Making your community safer	7.3	7.5	7.2	6.8	6.7	6.5	7.5	7.7	7.3	6.7	7.0	6.8	7.6	7.7	7.6	6.8	7.0	6.8	7.1	7.2	7.1	7.3	7.3
Making health insurance easier to get	7.3	7.7	7.4	7.3	7.7	7.3	7.5	7.6	7.3	7.0	7.3	7.2	7.2	7.7	7.5	6.6	7.2	6.9	7.3	7.9	7.7	7.3	7.8
Providing more after-school activities	7.1	7.4	7.3	7.0	7.0	7.2	7.2	7.5	7.2	7.0	7.5	7.4	7.2	7.6	7.5	6.6	6.9	7.4	7.2	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.6
Protecting open space	7.0	7.4	7.3	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.2	7.6	7.3	6.7	6.9	6.6	7.0	7.5	7.5	6.9	7.2	7.5	7.0	7.5	7.2	6.9	7.5
Improving relations between different racial and ethnic groups	6.7	7.2	7.2	6.6	6.5	6.9	6.8	7.4	7.2	6.4	6.1	6.2	6.9	7.3	7.4	6.4	6.8	6.8	6.8	7.4	7.1	6.6	6.7
Providing more affordable, quality child care	6.6	6.9	6.8	6.4	6.8	6.7	6.6	6.9	6.6	6.4	6.7	6.8	6.7	7.0	6.9	5.8	6.5	6.6	6.5	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0
Increasing the amount of affordable housing	6.5	7.1	6.5	6.5	7.0	6.3	6.8	7.2	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.1	6.5	7.2	6.6	5.7	6.5	6.0	6.6	7.1	6.8	6.6	6.9
Supporting the arts and providing more cultural events	6.5	6.8	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.7	6.8	6.4	6.2	6.3	6.0	6.4	6.8	6.6	6.2	6.4	6.5	6.7	7.0	6.6	6.2	6.7
Reducing homelessness	6.4	6.2	6.0	5.9	5.6	5.0	6.7	6.6	6.3	5.6	5.5	5.1	6.6	6.3	6.1	5.5	5.4	5.2	6.5	6.3	6.2	6.4	5.9
Increasing or improving public transportation	6.1	6.4	6.1	5.4	5.5	5.2	6.3	6.6	6.1	5.6	5.6	5.0	6.4	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.7	5.8	6.1	6.4	6.1	5.9	6.2
Increasing the number of public areas	6.1	6.4	6.2	6.0	5.9	6.0	6.2	6.7	6.2	5.7	6.1	5.6	6.3	6.6	6.5	5.7	6.1	6.4	5.9	6.2	6.0	6.0	6.3
Priorities for the Mid-Hudson	Valley:	Trend																	М	any Vo	oices C	ne Vall	ey 2012

In 2007, making health care more affordable was the top concern of those living in the Mid-Hudson Valley. Affordability of health care now ranks fourth on the list of residents' priorities and will be discussed in greater detail later in this summary.

At the county level, keeping businesses in the area is the top priority for every county except for Dutchess and Sullivan Counties. Yet even in these two counties, it places second to job creation. However, the ratings for both issues are extremely close. In Dutchess County, a difference of less than one-tenth of a point exists. The gap is even closer in Sullivan County where less than one-thousandth of a point separates business retention and job creation. In 2007, the issue of business retention ranked among residents' top five priorities in all counties. However, it only topped the list, at that time, for residents of Greene and Sullivan Counties.

When it comes to job creation, the issue is a close second in most counties. As noted, in Dutchess County, it ranks first. Greene County residents place the priority of creating more jobs third behind retaining businesses and improving the quality of public schools.

Nearly seven in ten residents in the Mid-Hudson Valley, 69%, are disappointed with the quality of jobs in their community. That is, they describe the quality as fair or poor. In fact, more than three in ten residents, 32%, describe the quality of jobs in their community



as poor. The proportion of residents who have a negative view of local jobs has increased from, 59%, five years ago. Just 30% now have a positive impression of jobs in their area, a dip from 39% in 2007. This includes one in four, 25%, who rate them as good, 4% say they are very good, and only 1% describes them as excellent.

Would you rate each of the following in your community as excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor: If it is not available at all in your community, please say so: The quality of jobs?

		Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
Mid-Hudson Valley	2012	1%	4%	25%	37%	32%	2%
	2007	2%	6%	31%	36%	23%	3%
	2002	2%	6%	31%	36%	21%	4%
Columbia County	2012	0%	2%	26%	37%	33%	1%
	2007	2%	4%	28%	37%	29%	1%
	2002	2%	4%	28%	37%	25%	3%
Dutchess County	2012	1%	5%	31%	40%	21%	2%
	2007	1%	7%	37%	34%	17%	3%
	2002	3%	11%	36%	31%	13%	6%
Greene County	2012	1%	3%	17%	33%	45%	1%
	2007	1%	6%	20%	38%	34%	1%
	2002	1%	3%	14%	36%	43%	3%
Orange County	2012	1%	3%	25%	38%	31%	2%
	2007	2%	6%	30%	36%	23%	3%
	2002	2%	5%	31%	37%	22%	4%
Putnam County	2012	2%	8%	28%	40%	19%	3%
	2007	2%	7%	39%	33%	15%	4%
	2002	3%	7%	33%	36%	15%	6%
Ulster County	2012	1%	4%	18%	35%	41%	1%
	2007	2%	3%	25%	38%	29%	3%
	2002	1%	3%	26%	41%	27%	3%
Sullivan County	2012	1%	1%	13%	25%	60%	0%
	2007	1%	5%	16%	35%	42%	1%
Rating the Quality o	of Jobs: Tren	nd			Many Voic	es One Va	lley 2012

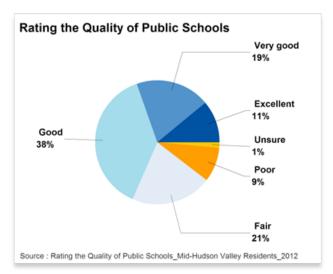
			about the	ty spend too m right amount o y of jobs?	
		Too much	Too little	About the right amount	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
Mid-Hudson Valley	2012	1%	67%	27%	5%
	2007	1%	54%	36%	9%
	2002	1%	50%	39%	10%
Columbia County	2012	1%	69%	25%	5%
	2007	1%	62%	31%	6%
	2002	1%	57%	33%	9%
Dutchess County	2012	1%	61%	33%	5%
	2007	2%	49%	42%	8%
	2002	1%	42%	45%	13%
Greene County	2012	1%	74%	22%	4%
	2007	1%	65%	30%	4%
	2002	0%	64%	28%	8%
Orange County	2012	2%	66%	27%	5%
	2007	1%	53%	38%	9%
	2002	1%	52%	38%	9%
Putnam County	2012	1%	54%	38%	8%
	2007	1%	44%	43%	12%
	2002	1%	44%	44%	11%
Ulster County	2012	1%	73%	20%	7%
	2007	0%	61%	29%	10%
	2002	1%	56%	33%	10%
Sullivan County	2012	1%	83%	14%	2%
	2007	1%	69%	23%	7%
Spending on Qualit	y Jobs: Trend		Many	Voices One Va	alley 2012

It is not surprising, then, that 67% of Mid-Hudson Valley residents believe more money needs to be spent on improving jobs in their community. Here, too, there has been a change. In 2007, 54% thought not enough resources were devoted to bettering the quality of jobs in the area. More than one in four residents in the Mid-Hudson Valley now report the correct amount of funding is being allocated to the issue while just 1% believes too much money is being spent on improving the quality of jobs.

Of note, the importance of tax reduction has declined. While the issue ranked third in 2007 and had an average rating of 7.9, it is now sixth. The issue's mean score has also decreased. It is currently 7.4 out of a possible 10.

Regardless of county, reducing taxes falls within the top ten priorities for residents. It receives its highest ranking of 8.1 in Putnam County where it places third with an average score of 7.2. In 2007, the issue ranked first in Putnam County as it did in Columbia and Orange Counties. Today, Columbia County residents place reducing taxes eighth while Orange County residents rank it fifth.

Improving the quality of public schools has consistently ranked in the top three priorities over the last decade. Today, the issue is third and receives an average score of 7.6 out of a maximum score of 10. In 2007, public education had a higher rating of 7.8, yet ranked fourth. Five years prior, the issue placed second and achieved a mean score of 7.8.



Households with children are very

similar in their assessment of public educations as Mid-Hudson Valley residents as a whole. Although public education has an average score of 7.9, it also ranks third among families with children.

When it comes to the quality of public schools, 68% of Mid Hudson Valley residents have, at least, a good impression. However, only about one in ten residents consider the caliber of their public schools to be excellent. At the other end of the spectrum, just 9% of residents believe their schools are of poor quality. Here, too, there is little difference between residents, overall, and parents. Seven in ten households with children, 70%, are satisfied with the quality of their local schools.

Would you rate each of the following in your community as excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor: If it is not available at all in your community, please say so: Public schools?

		Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
Mid-Hudson Valley	2012	11%	19%	38%	21%	9%	1%
	2007	10%	19%	40%	20%	8%	3%
	2002	11%	19%	41%	20%	6%	4%
Columbia County	2012	5%	16%	43%	26%	8%	2%
	2007	9%	17%	42%	21%	10%	2%
	2002	12%	17%	38%	21%	7%	4%
Dutchess County	2012	10%	21%	37%	21%	8%	2%
	2007	8%	19%	40%	21%	10%	3%
	2002	8%	18%	44%	19%	7%	4%
Greene County	2012	11%	14%	43%	22%	9%	1%
	2007	7%	19%	40%	25%	8%	1%
	2002	12%	16%	41%	19%	8%	3%
Orange County	2012	12%	20%	38%	20%	10%	1%
	2007	12%	20%	37%	20%	7%	4%
	2002	14%	18%	41%	18%	5%	4%
Putnam County	2012	19%	30%	38%	10%	2%	1%
	2007	13%	31%	38%	11%	4%	3%
	2002	18%	26%	37%	14%	4%	2%
Ulster County	2012	10%	16%	38%	24%	12%	1%
	2007	7%	14%	47%	20%	8%	4%
	2002	6%	17%	38%	27%	6%	6%
Sullivan County	2012	8%	12%	35%	29%	12%	3%
	2007	10%	15%	37%	24%	12%	2%
Rating the Quality o	f Public Sc	hools: Trend			Many Voic	es One Va	lley 2012

Does your community spend too much, too little, or about the right amount on: Public schools?

		Too much	Too little	About the right amount	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
Mid-Hudson Valley	2012	16%	31%	51%	2%
	2007	15%	30%	51%	4%
	2002	11%	28%	55%	6%
Columbia County	2012	17%	35%	47%	2%
	2007	13%	31%	51%	4%
	2002	11%	30%	54%	4%
Dutchess County	2012	15%	34%	48%	3%
	2007	14%	35%	47%	4%
	2002	8%	33%	52%	6%
Greene County	2012	17%	24%	56%	3%
	2007	10%	31%	57%	3%
	2002	9%	27%	60%	5%
Orange County	2012	15%	33%	50%	2%
	2007	14%	28%	53%	5%
	2002	12%	24%	58%	6%
Putnam County	2012	23%	15%	61%	1%
	2007	24%	18%	56%	2%
	2002	18%	21%	58%	3%
Ulster County	2012	15%	31%	52%	2%
	2007	14%	29%	51%	7%
	2002	10%	33%	51%	6%
Sullivan County	2012	12%	37%	48%	2%
	2007	14%	31%	52%	4%
Spending on Public	Schools: Tr	end	Ma	ny Voices One V	alley 2012

Overall, Mid-Hudson Valley residents are satisfied with the amount of funding given to the public schools in their community. A majority, 51%, says the amount of money is on target while 31% still believe it falls short. Only 16% report too much money is spent on improving the quality of public schools. There has been little change in residents' attitude toward education funding over the last five years.

There are also similarities between Mid-Hudson Valley residents and households with children. Half of households with children think education funding hits the mark. This compares with 36% who believe more resources are needed, and 14% who say too much money is being spent for this purpose.

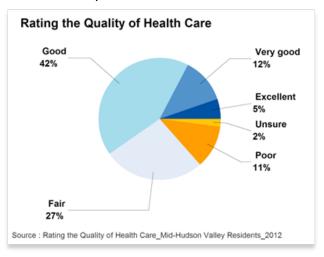
Although making health care more affordable has been surpassed by other leading concerns in the region, however, the issue remains a top tier priority for residents. As mentioned earlier, the issue ranks fourth and has a mean rating of 7.5. In 2007, it was the leading concern in the region and received a score of 8.0.

At the county level, the affordability of health care is among the top six priorities in each of the counties. The issue receives its highest ranking in Columbia and Dutchess Counties where it places third. The issue was among the top three priorities, countywide, five years ago.

Making health insurance easier to access is still important to Mid-Hudson Valley residents. However, here, too, other issues trump the importance of this concern. While the issue had a score of 7.7 in 2007 and ranked fifth, it now achieves an average of 7.3 and places eighth. Dutchess County residents place a higher importance on the issue than those in other counties. Still, the accessibility of health care ranks sixth in Dutchess County and receives a mean score of 7.5. This compares with its seventh

place ranking in the county five years ago. At that time, making health insurance easier to get was of greatest interest to residents living in Columbia County. It ranked third in the county.

Overall, there has been little change in the proportion of residents who are satisfied with the quality of health care services over the past decade. Nearly six in ten residents in the Mid-Hudson Valley, 59%, give these services high marks. This compares with 55% in 2007



and 56% in 2002. Today, only 5% in the region rate the quality of these services as excellent. Thirty-eight percent today consider these services to be of only fair or poor quality.

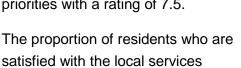
		excellent,	ou rate each very good, go ur community	ood, fair, o	r poor: If i	t is not ava	ailable at
		Excellent Row %	Very good Row %	Good Row %	Fair Row %	Poor Row %	Unsure Row %
Mid-Hudson Valley	2012	5%	12%	42%	27%	11%	2%
	2007	5%	11%	39%	28%	13%	4%
	2002	4%	11%	41%	27%	12%	6%
Columbia County	2012	2%	12%	48%	26%	11%	2%
	2007	2%	11%	40%	30%	15%	1%
	2002	4%	10%	46%	23%	12%	4%
Dutchess County	2012	5%	15%	48%	22%	8%	2%
	2007	5%	13%	40%	26%	11%	4%
	2002	4%	14%	41%	26%	9%	6%
Greene County	2012	3%	9%	41%	29%	15%	2%
	2007	2%	8%	36%	29%	22%	4%
	2002	4%	6%	33%	32%	22%	3%
Orange County	2012	7%	11%	41%	27%	12%	2%
	2007	5%	12%	37%	30%	11%	5%
	2002	3%	10%	42%	26%	13%	6%
Putnam County	2012	10%	16%	41%	24%	6%	3%
	2007	4%	15%	46%	23%	9%	4%
	2002	7%	13%	41%	25%	6%	7%
Ulster County	2012	3%	11%	38%	32%	14%	2%
	2007	4%	8%	40%	28%	17%	3%
	2002	2%	9%	39%	30%	15%	6%
Sullivan County	2012	3%	8%	33%	35%	19%	1%
	2007	3%	7%	34%	33%	20%	3%
Rating the Quality o	f Health Ca	e: Trend			Many Voic	es One Va	illey 2012

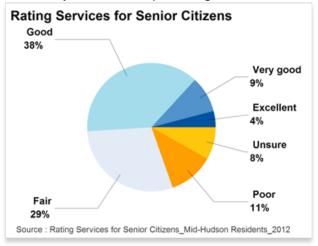
When it comes to the level of funding for health care services, although a plurality of residents, 48%, say the right amount of money is being allocated, more than four in ten, 42%, report too little money is being spent. Only 4% believe too much money is devoted to this issue. These findings are relatively unchanged over the past decade.

			bout the ri	ty spend too m ght amount on ervices? About the	
		Too much Row %	Too little Row %	right amount Row %	Unsure
Mid-Hudson Valley	2012	4%	42%	48%	Row % 7%
	2007	2%	43%	46%	9%
	2002	2%	40%	46%	13%
Columbia County	2012	4%	47%	43%	6%
	2007	2%	50%	41%	8%
	2002	1%	39%	49%	11%
Dutchess County	2012	3%	39%	50%	8%
	2007	2%	42%	47%	10%
	2002	2%	39%	46%	14%
Greene County	2012	3%	49%	43%	6%
	2007	4%	50%	39%	7%
	2002	1%	47%	44%	8%
Orange County	2012	5%	39%	49%	6%
	2007	3%	42%	46%	9%
	2002	1%	39%	48%	12%
Putnam County	2012	3%	32%	58%	8%
	2007	3%	32%	57%	8%
	2002	2%	32%	54%	12%
Ulster County	2012	3%	46%	43%	7%
	2007	1%	45%	43%	11%
	2002	3%	46%	37%	15%
Sullivan County	2012	5%	52%	38%	4%
	2007	3%	51%	38%	8%
Spending on Health	Care Servi	ces: Trend	Many	Voices One Va	llev 2012

Among other salient issues for Mid-Hudson Valley residents is providing more services

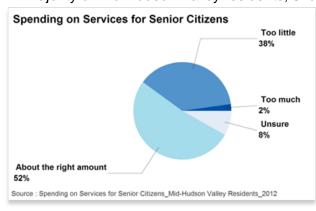
for senior citizens. With a rating of 7.4, it ranks fifth today. Although it garners a lower rating than 2007 when it received a score of 7.6, services for senior citizens placed seventh at that time. Interesting, households with seniors also rank these services in their top five priorities with a rating of 7.5.





afforded to senior citizens is little changed over the past ten years. Currently, 51% think well of these services. This compares with 50% in 2007 and 49% in 2002.

A majority of Mid-Hudson Valley residents, 52%, think funding for services for senior



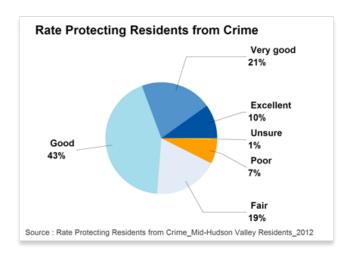
think funding for services for senior citizens is at the correct level. Thirty-eight percent believe more resources are needed. There has been little shift in residents' opinion since 2007 when 49% reported the appropriate amount of money was being spent while 37% wanted more given to these services.

Would you rate each of the following in your community as excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor: If it is not available at all in your community, please say so: Services for senior citizens?

		Excellent Row %	Very good Row %	Good Row %	Fair Row %	Poor Row %	Unsure Row %
Mid-Hudson Valley	2012	4%	9%	38%	29%	11%	8%
	2007	4%	8%	38%	29%	9%	11%
	2002	4%	9%	36%	27%	9%	15%
Columbia County	2012	1%	8%	39%	35%	13%	4%
	2007	3%	7%	34%	32%	17%	7%
	2002	4%	10%	38%	26%	13%	10%
Dutchess County	2012	3%	8%	40%	31%	9%	10%
	2007	3%	7%	38%	30%	8%	13%
	2002	2%	9%	35%	27%	9%	17%
Greene County	2012	7%	6%	37%	27%	14%	8%
	2007	4%	9%	34%	33%	14%	5%
	2002	7%	13%	34%	29%	12%	6%
Orange County	2012	5%	9%	38%	27%	12%	9%
	2007	6%	9%	40%	27%	8%	11%
	2002	5%	11%	37%	26%	8%	13%
Putnam County	2012	8%	15%	40%	27%	4%	5%
	2007	5%	13%	40%	25%	5%	12%
	2002	5%	10%	39%	26%	6%	14%
Ulster County	2012	3%	10%	37%	28%	13%	8%
	2007	2%	5%	36%	32%	13%	13%
	2002	5%	5%	34%	29%	10%	17%
Sullivan County	2012	4%	6%	29%	36%	19%	6%
	2007	3%	8%	32%	35%	15%	8%
Rating Services for	Senior Citiz	ens: Trend			Many Voi	ces One V	alley 2012

			Does your community spend too much, too little, or about the right amount on: Services for senior citizens?						
		Too much	Too little	About the right amount	Unsure				
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %				
Mid-Hudson Valley	2012	2%	38%	52%	8%				
	2007	2%	37%	49%	12%				
	2002	2%	34%	49%	16%				
Columbia County	2012	1%	44%	48%	8%				
	2007	1%	45%	45%	8%				
	2002	1%	41%	47%	11%				
Dutchess County	2012	2%	35%	54%	9%				
	2007	2%	35%	50%	12%				
	2002	1%	33%	48%	18%				
Greene County	2012	2%	38%	54%	6%				
	2007	2%	44%	48%	6%				
	2002	2%	37%	52%	8%				
Orange County	2012	2%	38%	52%	8%				
	2007	2%	36%	49%	13%				
	2002	2%	32%	52%	14%				
Putnam County	2012	5%	27%	60%	8%				
	2007	3%	30%	55%	12%				
	2002	2%	32%	50%	16%				
Ulster County	2012	2%	39%	49%	10%				
	2007	1%	41%	46%	12%				
	2002	3%	37%	42%	18%				
Sullivan County	2012	2%	49%	43%	6%				
	2007	3%	41%	47%	8%				
Spending on Services	for Senior Cit	izens: Trend	Mai	ny Voices One V	alley 2012				

Public safety remains among residents top ten concerns. It currently ranks seventh and has an average score of 7.3. This compares with its eighth place ranking and score of 7.5 in 2007.



Mid-Hudson Valley residents continue to have a positive perception of the way their community protects them from crime. Nearly three in four people, 74%, believe their local law enforcement does, at least, a good job at keeping them safe. This is little changed from 2007 when 75% reported this to be the case.

Public education places at the top of

the list of residents' priorities, but other issues relating to children are also of interest. After-school activities for children and teens are still one of the top ten priorities for the region having ranked tenth in 2007. The issue of child care, on the other hand, receives a rating of 6.6 and ranks twelfth. Five years ago, child care ranked thirteenth and scored 6.9 out of ten. Even among households with children, child care ranks eleventh with an average rating of 6.8.

The concern for protecting open space rounds out residents' top ten priorities for 2012 at number ten. It ranked ninth in 2007. Interestingly, the same issues have been among the top ten priorities for the region, even though their rankings have change.

Five years ago, an increased premium was placed on the issue of affordable housing. Its ranking, at that time, was twelfth, and received a score of 7.1. In 2002, it placed thirteenth. The issue's current ranking and rating reflect the thirteenth place showing and 6.5 average score affordable housing garnered in 2002.

Would you rate each of the following in your community as excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor: If it is not available at all in your community, please say so:

Protecting residents from crime?

		Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
Mid-Hudson Valley	2012	10%	21%	43%	19%	7%	1%
	2007	10%	22%	43%	18%	6%	1%
	2002	12%	21%	46%	15%	4%	1%
Columbia County	2012	7%	19%	49%	19%	6%	0%
	2007	11%	20%	49%	17%	4%	0%
	2002	13%	20%	44%	15%	5%	2%
Dutchess County	2012	8%	22%	47%	18%	5%	0%
	2007	7%	23%	46%	17%	5%	1%
	2002	10%	22%	48%	14%	4%	2%
Greene County	2012	11%	19%	51%	15%	3%	1%
	2007	9%	22%	44%	17%	7%	1%
	2002	13%	18%	44%	19%	5%	1%
Orange County	2012	12%	21%	37%	20%	11%	1%
	2007	13%	21%	40%	17%	8%	1%
	2002	13%	21%	45%	14%	6%	1%
Putnam County	2012	17%	31%	40%	10%	2%	0%
	2007	16%	30%	42%	11%	1%	1%
	2002	22%	31%	38%	8%	2%	0%
Ulster County	2012	7%	18%	49%	19%	5%	1%
	2007	8%	17%	46%	24%	4%	1%
	2002	9%	17%	49%	22%	3%	1%
Sullivan County	2012	7%	14%	37%	29%	12%	0%
	2007	3%	17%	43%	24%	13%	0%

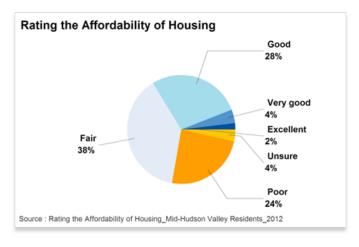
Rate Protecting Residents from Crime: Trend

Many Voices One Valley 2012

Would you rate each of the following in your community as excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor: If it is not available at all in your community, please say so: The amount of affordable housing?

		Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
Mid-Hudson Valley	2012	2%	4%	28%	38%	24%	4%
	2007	1%	3%	21%	36%	34%	4%
	2002	2%	4%	29%	36%	23%	5%
Columbia County	2012	1%	2%	31%	36%	27%	3%
	2007	1%	3%	20%	37%	35%	4%
	2002	2%	6%	31%	37%	18%	6%
Dutchess County	2012	2%	5%	29%	38%	23%	4%
	2007	1%	3%	22%	36%	34%	5%
	2002	3%	4%	27%	38%	22%	6%
Greene County	2012	2%	5%	33%	35%	22%	3%
	2007	3%	4%	29%	34%	27%	3%
	2002	2%	7%	34%	36%	16%	4%
Orange County	2012	2%	4%	29%	38%	23%	4%
	2007	2%	4%	23%	34%	33%	3%
	2002	2%	4%	31%	35%	25%	4%
Putnam County	2012	2%	3%	28%	40%	22%	4%
	2007	1%	4%	18%	39%	35%	3%
	2002	2%	2%	29%	35%	27%	4%
Ulster County	2012	2%	4%	23%	40%	27%	3%
	2007	1%	2%	18%	37%	38%	4%
	2002	1%	5%	26%	37%	24%	6%
Sullivan County	2012	1%	4%	24%	39%	30%	2%
	2007	1%	5%	21%	39%	31%	3%
Rating the Affordab	ility of Hous	sing: Trend			Many Voi	ces One V	alley 2012

20



More than six in ten residents, 62%, in the region do not rate the availability of affordable housing favorably. This is down slightly from 70% in 2007 but similar to the 59% who shared this view in 2002.

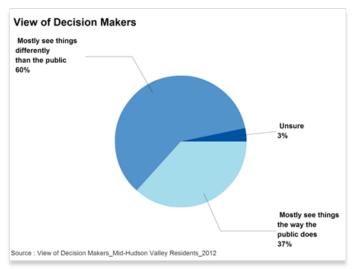
When it comes to spending on affordable housing, 53% believe more resources need to be allocated

to this issue. Again, this is down slightly from 2007 when 58% shared this view. In 2002, 48% had this opinion.

#### Continuity and change in the past five years

Most Mid-Hudson Valley residents like living in their community and continue to believe they can make a difference. Eighty-four percent of residents rate life in their community as, at least, good. This includes 20% who perceive it to be excellent. Residents' attitudes toward life in the Mid-Hudson Valley are little changed from 2007 or 2002 when 88% had this view.

Almost three in four residents, 74%, say they can have, at least, a moderate impact in improving their community. A similar proportion of residents in 2007 held this belief. At that time, 77% reported they could help make their community better.



While residents have a generally positive feeling about life in the Mid-Hudson Valley, they are skeptical of their local decision makers. Sixty percent of residents say their local decision makers mostly see things differently than the public. While the same proportion of residents shared this opinion in 2007. In 2002, residents divided. Half thought

decision makers in their community were not on the same page as the public while 43% said they were in tune.

		Overall, do you feel that those individuals who are in positions to make decisions for your community:		
		Mostly see things the way the public does	Mostly see things differently than the public	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
Mid-Hudson Valley	2012	37%	60%	3%
	2007	35%	60%	5%
	2002	43%	50%	8%
Columbia County	2012	41%	55%	4%
	2007	41%	55%	3%
	2002	48%	43%	9%
Dutchess County	2012	36%	60%	4%
	2007	29%	65%	6%
	2002	42%	47%	10%
Greene County	2012	41%	55%	4%
	2007	38%	56%	6%
	2002	42%	53%	5%
Orange County	2012	36%	62%	3%
	2007	38%	57%	5%
	2002	41%	53%	6%
Putnam County	2012	40%	57%	3%
	2007	33%	61%	6%
	2002	47%	48%	5%
Ulster County	2012	37%	59%	3%
	2007	37%	59%	4%
	2002	44%	49%	7%
Sullivan County	2012	31%	66%	3%
	2007	32%	63%	5%
View of Decision Ma	akers: Trend		Many Voices One Va	lley 2012

There are some modest changes at the county level. While six in ten residents in Dutchess County perceive their local leaders to be out of touch, 65% thought this to be the case in 2007. A slight improvement is also noted in Putnam County where 57% report their local leaders do not see things the same as the public. This compares with 61% in 2007. In Orange County, there has been a slight uptick in those who believe their local leaders are out of step. Sixty-two percent have this view now compared with 57% in 2007.

The average length of residence in the Mid-Hudson Valley is 23 years, unchanged from 2007. However, unlike 2007, while the proportion of residents who had lived in the region for more than ten years had been steadily growing, the proportion of new residents has decreased.

In 2002, 62% of Mid-Hudson Valley residents said they lived in the region for more than ten years. This compares with 66% in 2007 and 71% today. Looking at new residents in the area, 24% of those in 2002 reported they moved to the region within the previous five years. In 2007, that proportion was 21%, and today, it is 13%.

Who are new residents? Many are young. More than six in ten new residents are white, and many were born in the United States. One in five new residents is of Latino background. Seventeen percent of new residents were born in another country.

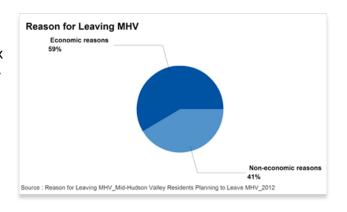
While 2007 marked a noteworthy fluctuation in party registration, there has been little change since that time. However, a slight decline in the proportion of registered Republicans has occurred. Today, 36% of registered voters are Democrats, 29% are Republicans, and 34% are not enrolled in a political party. Five years ago, 34% reported they were Democrats, 33% said they were Republicans, and 32% were not enrolled in a party.

#### Residents' plans for the future

Although many residents in the Mid-Hudson Valley express a positive sentiment about living in the region and are engaged in their community, 31% of residents have plans to leave the Mid-Hudson Valley in the next five years. This compares with 29% who said the same in 2007.

Age matters. A majority of residents age thirty and younger, 53%, plan to relocate. In 2007, just less than half, 49%, said they were planning to leave the region. Those age sixty and older are the least likely to move out. Eighteen percent of residents within this age group say they will leave the region.

Many residents report that economic reasons are behind their decision to leave. Nearly six in ten residents, 59%, say money matters are the leading cause of their relocation plans while 41% cite non-economic reasons. Economic issues have become more influential in residents' decision to leave the region than



in 2007. At that time, half of residents said they were leaving because of financial issues while 50% reported other reasons where the catalyst.

Specifically, why are residents leaving? Twenty-one percent attribute their relocation plans to taxes while 19% are moving away because of jobs. An additional 17% cite the cost of living. In 2007, the leading causes were the cost of living with 17%, taxes with 17%, and jobs with 12%.

		Plan to move someplace else What is the main reason you plan to move away from the Mid-Hudson Valley?						
		Taxes	Jobs	Cost of living		Move near family	Quality of life	Time for change
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
Mid-Hudson Valley	2012	21%	19%	17%	7%	4%	4%	4%
	2007	17%	12%	17%	8%	5%	6%	7%
Columbia County	2012	23%	13%	9%	5%	9%	11%	5%
	2007	21%	8%	10%	7%	8%	8%	17%
Dutchess County	2012	20%	21%	15%	9%	5%	6%	7%
	2007	15%	15%	20%	10%	4%	4%	6%
Greene County	2012	20%	29%	10%	14%	5%	3%	3%
	2007	8%	23%	11%	18%	6%	8%	6%
Orange County	2012	23%	15%	20%	6%	4%	3%	4%
	2007	17%	6%	17%	6%	5%	7%	7%
Putnam County	2012	24%	13%	14%	6%	7%	4%	6%
	2007	26%	5%	20%	7%	5%	6%	2%
Ulster County	2012	20%	21%	21%	8%	2%	3%	2%
	2007	20%	15%	15%	7%	3%	3%	9%
Sullivan County	2012	18%	29%	8%	5%	2%	8%	1%
	2007	12%	23%	11%	7%	4%	12%	5%
Top Reasons for Lea	aving MHV:	Trend				Many '	Voices One \	/alley 2012

Non-economic reasons include the climate with 7%. Four percent want to be close to family. An additional 4% say quality of life is their motivation while the same proportion says it is time for a change. Five years ago, 8% cited climate as their main reason. Seven percent reported they needed a change, and 6% believed the area was too crowded. An additional 6% mentioned the quality of life.

To where do residents intend to move? More than three in four Mid-Hudson Valley residents who plan to move say they are going to relocate to somewhere outside of New York State. Only 19% plan on remaining in state but outside of the Mid-Hudson Valley. Independent of county, more than seven in ten residents who are going to leave report they are heading out of state. Residents of Columbia and Greene Counties who plan to move out of the region are most likely to leave New York State. Eighty-four percent of those who have relocation plans in these counties say they will no longer be New York State residents.

## **Making Ends Meet**

Many residents in the Mid-Hudson Valley perceive the region to be unaffordable. Sixty-one percent say the Mid-Hudson Valley is not very affordable or not affordable at all. This is similar to the 64% who thought the same in 2007.

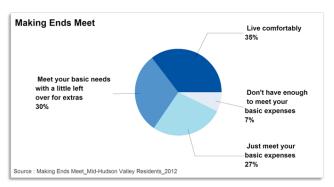
Everyday expenses are sources of financial stress for many in the Mid-Hudson Valley. By far, more residents cite the cost of gasoline as burdensome than any other expense. Nearly eight in ten residents, 79%, report the cost of gasoline stretches their family's budget. This includes 46% who say it creates a great deal of strain on their family's budget. Concern over this cost has not mitigated over the last five years. In 2007, 77% of residents felt the financial pinch due to this expense.

Another major cause of financial anxiety for residents is paying their utility bills. About two-thirds of residents, 67%, consider this cost a financial hardship. Included here are 29% who report paying for heat and electricity causes them a great deal of financial stress. In 2007, 63% of residents experienced financial stress because of their utility bills.

As in 2007, property taxes cause economic strain for many residents in the region. Six in ten, including 31% who feel a great deal of economic strain and 29% who say they feel a good amount, are financially strapped because of these bills. A similar 58% of residents described this economic hardship five years ago.

Additionally, a majority of residents, 53%, have a difficult time meeting their housing expenses. That is, 25% have undergone a great deal of financial strain and 28% have experienced a good deal trying to pay their rent or mortgage. The same proportion, 53%, felt this way five years ago.

Paying for health insurance and health care continues to be problematic for many in the Mid-Hudson Valley. A notable 43% say they find it a challenge to pay for health insurance. In fact, nearly one in five, 18%, says their family's budget is greatly strained by this



expense. Little improvement has been made in this area. Forty-one percent of residents reported feeling stressed because of these costs five years ago.

Paying for medical care, independent of health insurance, is burdensome for 36% of the Mid-Hudson Valley population. Here, too, few in-roads have been made to alleviate this strain. Five years ago, 35% experienced economic hardship at the expense of paying for necessary care such as medicine.

Education costs are worrisome for more than three in ten residents in the region. Thirty-five percent of residents say they have difficulty paying for tuition. This is similar to 33% in 2007.

Thirty-nine percent of residents do not have to be concerned about paying for child care. However, 42% of families with small children, report this expense is a financial headache. In 2007, a similar proportion, 40%, felt this way.

More than four in ten residents do not have to worry about public transportation costs. However, Sixty-five percent of residents who rely on public transportation to commute to work describe the cost as a significant financial burden.

Overall, about one-third of households are having a hard time making ends meet. Thirty-four percent of households say they either just have enough money to meet basic needs or cannot meet those necessities. On the other end of the spectrum, 35% live comfortably, and 30% have some money left over after paying for necessary expenses. Residents in Sullivan County are the least likely to live comfortably, 29%, and the most likely to say their income is just meeting their basic financial needs, 35%.

#### The job scene

Most residents in the Mid-Hudson Valley view a bleak jobs picture. Many residents were hard hit by the recession and view its impact as long-lasting. Concerns about job loss persist in the region.

When it comes to job opportunities, most Mid-Hudson Valley residents, 89%, report jobs are difficult to find. Regardless of the county in which they reside, most people share this view. Sullivan and Ulster County residents are the most pessimistic. Ninety-five percent of Sullivan County residents and 93% Ulster County residents report jobs are hard to come by.

Nearly half of residents in the Mid-Hudson Valley express concerns they or someone in their household will lose their job in the next twelve months. Forty-eight percent, including 21% who are very concerned and 27% who are somewhat concerned, are worried about job loss affecting their household.

At the county level, those living in Putnam, Sullivan, and Dutchess Counties are the most concerned. A majority of Putnam County residents, 53%, 51% of those in Sullivan County, and half of those in Dutchess County are, at least, somewhat concerned that a member of their family will lose their job in the next year.

If they were to become unemployed, about three in four employed residents are not optimistic they will be able to find a similar position. Seventy-six percent of workers believe it will be very difficult or difficult to attain a position like the one they currently have. This includes more than four in ten, 43%, who report it will be very difficult. The proportion of employed residents who believe it will be difficult to find another job has grown sharply since 2007 when 61% residents thought there would be some degree of difficulty landing a comparable position. At that time, 30% thought it would be difficult, and another 31% said it would be very difficult.

		How concerned are you that in the next 12 months you or someone else in your household might be out of work and looking for a job: Very concerned, somewhat concerned, or not concerned at all?				
		Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not concerned at all		
		Row %	Row %	Row %		
Mid-Hudson Valley	2012	21%	27%	52%		
Columbia County	2012	13%	25%	62%		
<b>Dutchess County</b>	2012	22%	28%	50%		
Greene County	2012	21%	26%	54%		
Orange County	2012	24%	23%	53%		
Putnam County	2012	18%	35%	47%		
Ulster County	2012	20%	29%	51%		
Sullivan County	2012	23%	28%	50%		
Mid-Hudson Valley	2012					
Length of residence	5 years or less	26%	29%	46%		
	6 to 10 years	19%	30%	50%		
	Over 10 years	21%	26%	53%		
Gender	Male	20%	28%	52%		
	Female	23%	26%	51%		
Age	18 to 30	20%	30%	50%		
	31 to 44	21%	32%	47%		
	45 to 59	28%	30%	42%		
	60 or older	15%	16%	69%		
Pre-retirement Age	50 to 64	25%	29%	46%		
Income	Less than \$30,000	32%	22%	46%		
	\$30,000 to just under \$50,000	25%	29%	46%		
	\$50,000 or more	17%	28%	55%		
	\$100,000 or more	11%	28%	61%		
Education	Not College Graduate	25%	26%	49%		
	College Graduate	16%	28%	56%		
Race	White	19%	27%	54%		
	African American	30%	24%	46%		
	Latino	29%	31%	41%		
Children in	Children in household	22%	30%	48%		
Household	No children in household	21%	25%	54%		
Five years from now, plans to stay	Plan to stay in the Mid- Hudson Valley	19%	27%	55%		
or move	Plan to move someplace else	27%	29%	44%		
Employed		18%	33%	50%		
Financially at risk in	mmediately	32%	25%	44%		
Financially at risk in	n 1 to 3 months	27%	29%	44%		
Faced economic ha		39%	33%	28%		
	Job Loss Concerns Many Voices One Valley 2012					

			olenty of jobs ava	nities where you livilable in your comi ilable in your comi ult to find?	
		Plenty of jobs	Jobs are difficult to find	Plenty of some jobs	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
Mid-Hudson Valley	2012	7%	89%	1%	3%
Columbia County	2012	8%	86%	3%	3%
Dutchess County	2012	7%	89%	1%	4%
Greene County	2012	8%	90%	1%	1%
Orange County	2012	9%	86%	1%	4%
Putnam County	2012	6%	90%	1%	3%
Ulster County	2012	4%	93%	1%	2%
Sullivan County	2012	3%	95%	1%	1%
Mid-Hudson Valley					
Length of residence		10%	85%	1%	4%
_0g 000.u000	6 to 10 years	7%	88%	1%	3%
	Over 10 years	6%	90%	1%	3%
Gender	Male	8%	88%	1%	3%
	Female	6%	90%	1%	3%
Age	18 to 30	11%	87%	1%	1%
9-	31 to 44	8%	88%	1%	3%
	45 to 59	4%	92%	1%	2%
	60 or older	4%	89%	1%	6%
Pre-retirement Age	50 to 64	4%	92%	1%	3%
Income	Less than \$30,000	6%	91%	1%	2%
	\$30,000 to just under \$50,000	9%	88%	1%	2%
	\$50,000 or more	7%	89%	1%	3%
	\$100,000 or more	7%	88%	1%	4%
Education	Not College Graduate	7%	89%	1%	3%
	College Graduate	6%	90%	1%	3%
Race	White	6%	90%	1%	3%
	African American	8%	88%	2%	2%
	Latino	9%	86%	1%	4%
Children in	Children in household	8%	88%	1%	2%
Household	No children in household	6%	90%	1%	3%
Five years from now, plans to stay	Plan to stay in the Mid- Hudson Valley	7%	89%	1%	3%
or move	Plan to move someplace else	7%	91%	1%	1%
Employed	·	7%	90%	1%	2%
Financially at risk in	mmediately	8%	89%	0%	2%
Financially at risk in	n 1 to 3 months	7%	90%	1%	2%
Faced economic ha	ardship	5%	93%	0%	1%
Job Opportunities				Many Voices O	ne Valley 2012

Mid-Hudson Valley Employed Residents If you were to lose your job or househld income would it be very difficult, difficult, not very difficult, or not difficult at all to find another similar position about the same distance from your home? Not very Not difficult at Very difficult **Difficult** difficult all Row % Row % Row % Row % 43% 17% 7% 2012 33% 14% 2007 31% 30% 26% 2012 48% 24% 20% 8% 2007 35% 28% 24% 13% 15% 4% 2012 43% 38% 2007 27% 31% 27% 15% 2012 27% 15% 5% 52% 2007 36% 34% 19% 11% 2012 42% 31% 18% 9%

29%

40%

30%

31%

26%

31%

31%

27%

14%

28%

19%

28%

11%

18%

14%

8%

19%

7%

9%

8%

12%

Many Voices One Valley 2012

Mid-Hudson Valley

Columbia County

**Dutchess County** 

Greene County

Orange County

**Putnam County** 

**Ulster County** 

Sullivan County

2007

2012

2007

2012

2007

2012

2007

Difficulty Finding Another Job

Concerns about finding a similar job permeate every county in the region. The most pessimistic are workers in Dutchess, Sullivan, Greene, and Putnam Counties. Eightyone percent of Dutchess County residents say it will be difficult to find a job like their current one. The same proportion of Sullivan County residents shares this view including half of workers who think it will be very difficult to find a similar position. Looking at workers in Greene County, 79% say finding a comparable position will be difficult or very difficult. This includes a majority, 52%, who believes it will be very difficult. Seventy-eight percent of Putnam County residents express significant worry about finding a similar job in their community.

30%

38%

24%

44%

37%

50%

39%

Mid-Hudson Valley residents have felt the impact of the recession. While most residents did not find themselves looking for a job after the recession hit in December of 2007, a significant 28% were job hunting at some point after that time.

Looking at differences among the counties in the region, 31% of Sullivan County residents and 29% of Ulster County residents were out of work and searching for a job at some point during the recession. In Dutchess and Orange Counties, 28% were in a

similar bind, and 26% of Putnam County residents were looking for a job. Columbia and Greene County residents follow with 25% and 24%, respectively, out of work and job hunting at some time during the recession.

		Just from wha	tyou've seen o	r heard, do you	u think the job	s that your
			s lost in this red			
		the economy improves, or do you think they were jobs that wi probably never come back?				that will
			Jobs will	Some jobs	Community	
		Jobs will	never come	will come	did not lose	
		come back	back	back	jobs	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
Mid-Hudson Valley	2012	40%	51%	4%	1%	4%
Columbia County	2012	41%	52%	4%	1%	2%
Dutchess County	2012	43%	50%	3%	1%	3%
Greene County	2012	35%	53%	5%	2%	4%
Orange County	2012	41%	48%	6%	1%	4%
Putnam County	2012	44%	47%	3%	2%	4%
Ulster County	2012	35%	56%	4%	1%	5%
Sullivan County	2012	30%	61%	3%	2%	3%
Mid Hudeen Valley						
Mid-Hudson Valley		4007				
Length of residence	•	48%	43%	7%	1%	2%
	6 to 10 years	43%	48%	4%	1%	4%
	Over 10 years	38%	53%	4%	1%	4%
Gender	Male	41%	51%	4%	1%	3%
	Female	39%	51%	4%	1%	5%
Age	18 to 30	52%	43%	3%	0%	2%
	31 to 44	40%	51%	4%	1%	4%
	45 to 59	35%	57%	4%	1%	3%
	60 or older	35%	52%	4%	2%	7%
Pre-retirement Age	50 to 64	34%	58%	4%	1%	3%
Income	Less than \$30,000	37%	53%	4%	1%	5%
	\$30,000 to just under \$50,000	38%	54%	4%	1%	4%
	\$50,000 or more	42%	50%	4%	1%	3%
	\$100,000 or more	44%	48%	5%	1%	2%
Education	Not College Graduate	41%	52%	3%	1%	4%
	College Graduate	39%	50%	5%	1%	4%
Race	White	39%	52%	4%	1%	3%
	African American	45%	43%	3%	1%	9%
	Latino	42%	51%	3%	1%	3%
Children in	Children in household	43%	50%	4%	1%	2%
Household	No children in household	37%	52%	4%	1%	5%
Five years from	Plan to stay in the Mid-	44%	47%	4%	1%	4%
now, plans to stay or move	Hudson Valley Plan to move	33%	61%	4%	0%	3%
Employed	someplace else	40%	53%	4%	1%	2%
Financially at risk in	mmediately	40%	52%	5%	1%	3%
Financially at risk in	•	40%	53%	3%	1%	3%
Faced economic ha		34%	59%	3% 4%	0%	3%
Job Opportunities		J <del>4</del> 70	J <del>3</del> 70			
Job Opportunities				wany	Voices One V	aney 2012

How long did it take those who experienced a gap in employment to find a new job? More than seven in ten out of work residents were searching for a job longer than three months including 28% who were job hunting for more than a year. Regardless of the specific county, at least seven in ten residents were looking for work longer than three months and 79% of those in Orange County report this to be the case.

In fact, in the Mid-Hudson Valley, residents who lost their jobs found work, on average, after a year. The job search was longest in Sullivan County where those who experienced job loss report they secured work on average in 13.8 months. The shortest time looking before finding a new job was in Dutchess and Columbia Counties where those who had experienced job loss found employment on average in 10.6 and 10.7 months, respectively.

Notable proportions of residents felt the recession's impact in other ways. More than one in four, 28%, experienced a pay cut. More than three in ten had their benefits reduced or had to pay a larger share of them.

Thirty-three percent of residents in Ulster County and 28% in Putnam County say they underwent a pay cut as a result of the recession. Twenty-seven percent in both Dutchess and Orange Counties, 26% in Columbia and Greene Counties, and 25% in Sullivan County report the same.

Looking at those who experienced reduced benefits, 34% of Putnam County residents, 32% of those in Ulster County, 31% in Dutchess and Orange Counties, 29% in Columbia County, and 27% in Greene and Sullivan Counties had their benefits reduced or had to pay a larger share of them due to the recession.

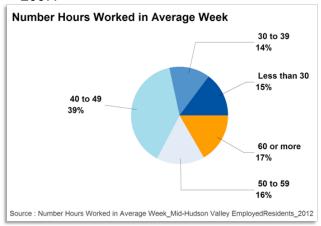
Unfortunately, a majority of Mid-Hudson Valley residents perceive the effects of the recession to be long-term. Fifty-one percent of residents believe the jobs lost in their community will never return. This compares with 40% who believe they will come back. Sullivan County residents are the most pessimistic. Sixty-one percent in this county report they will never see jobs lost during the recession return. Majorities in Ulster, 56%, Greene, 53%, and Columbia, 52%, Counties feel the same. Half of Dutchess County residents agree.

# Working in the Mid-Hudson Valley

60% of Mid-Hudson Valley residents are employed compared with 68% who described themselves this way in 2007. Currently, 19% of adults in the region say they are not working, 11% report they are unemployed but looking for work, and 9% say they are retired. Five years ago, 21% described themselves as not working, 5% said they were unemployed but looking for work, and 6% reported they were retired.

At the household level, 39% of households in the Mid-Hudson Valley have at least two jobs. This includes households where two adult earners work as well as those households where one adult holds more than one job. This is a decline from 2007 when 55% held two or more jobs.

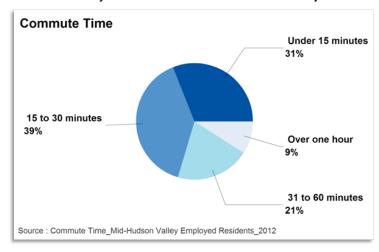
As in 2007, the proportion of households with multiple jobs increases with income. A majority, 55%, of households with an annual income of \$100,000 or more have at least two jobs. This includes 15% with three or more jobs. In 2007, 77% of households earning \$100,000 or more reported two or more jobs present in their household. Just 28% of those earning less than \$50,000 hold two or more jobs compared with 40% in 2007.



Employed residents are working slightly longer work weeks. On average, residents put in 43.8 hours at their jobs. This compares with 43.1 hours in 2007. Seventy-two percent of employed residents, including one-third who work fifty hours or more, put in forty hours or more at their jobs. This is similar to the 74% who said the same five years ago. At that time, the

same proportion, 33%, worked fifty hours or more.

On average, Mid-Hudson Valley residents spend just over thirty minutes getting to work. This compares with twenty-eight minutes in 2007. About three in ten residents, 31%, travel less than fifteen minutes one-way to work while 39% report they are on the road between fifteen and thirty minutes. Twenty-one percent have a commute of between thirty-one minutes and an hour while just 9% have a longer commute. These

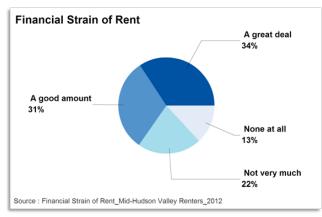


proportions are similar to those found in 2007.

Looking at income, the more residents earn, the longer they commute. While those who earn less than \$50,000 annually have an average commute of 22.5 minutes, those who make \$100,000 or more travel 34.5 minutes to get to or from work. With the exception of those in the

latter income bracket, workers are commuting longer than they had in the past. Renting but hoping to own

While 70% of Mid-Hudson Valley residents own their home, 30% rent their residence. Many renters experience financial difficulty paying their rent. Sixty-five percent, including 34% of renters who say they experience a great deal of economic stress, report this to be the case. These proportions are comparable to what they were in 2007.



five years ago.

While 43% of those who do not own their home express an interest in doing so, six in ten renters believe it is unlikely they will be able to afford a home.

If they cannot afford to purchase their own home, a majority of renters, 56%, say they will leave the region. Here, too, this is similar to what it was

#### **Underwater mortgages**

Homeowners have worries of their own. If they were to sell their home today, almost three in ten homeowners, 29%, say they will still owe more money than the amount they would receive from the sale.

At the county level, homeowners in Orange County are most likely to say they would be in the red if they were to sell their home today. Thirty-six percent say they would be in this situation. Homeowners in Greene County are the least likely to still owe money on their home if they were to sell. However, the proportion, 19%, is still notable.

Overall, there is a need for more affordable housing. As previously noted, 62% of Mid-Hudson Valley residents perceive the quality of affordable housing negatively. Additionally, a majority, 53%, state their communities need to devote more resources to bring about better quality housing in the region.

#### Mid-Hudson Valley Homeowners

Thinking about how much you could sell your home for today and how much you still owe on your home, do you currently owe more on your home than you could sell it for today, or not? If you do not have a mortgage, please say so.

		Yes, owe more	No		
		Row %	Row %		
Mid-Hudson Valley	2012	29%	71%		
Columbia County	2012	20%	80%		
<b>Dutchess County</b>	2012	28%	72%		
Greene County	2012	19%	81%		
Orange County	2012	36%	64%		
Putnam County	2012	24%	76%		
Ulster County	2012	26%	74%		
Sullivan County	2012	29%	71%		
Mid-Hudson Valley	2012				
Length of residence	5 years or less	51%	49%		
	6 to 10 years	42%	58%		
	Over 10 years	22%	78%		
Gender	Male	29%	71%		
	Female	29%	71%		
Age	18 to 30	38%	62%		
	31 to 44	41%	59%		
	45 to 59	24%	76%		
	60 or older	16%	84%		
Pre-retirement Age	50 to 64	21%	79%		
Income	Less than \$30,000	33%	67%		
	\$30,000 to just under \$50,000	30%	70%		
	\$50,000 or more	29%	71%		
	\$100,000 or more	26%	74%		
Education	Not College Graduate	33%	67%		
	College Graduate	25%	75%		
Race	White	24%	76%		
	African American	61%	39%		
	Latino	51%	49%		
Children in	Children in household	36%	64%		
Household	No children in household	22%	78%		
Five years from	Plan to stay in the Mid-Hudson	26%	74%		
now, plans to stay or move	Valley Plan to move someplace else	37%	63%		
Employed	Tidit to move someplace else	29%	71%		
Financially at risk in	mmediately	51%	49%		
Financially at risk in		40%	60%		
Faced economic hardship 49% 51%					
		10 /0	Many Voices One Valley 2012		
Underwater Mortgages: Homeowners Many Voices One Valley 2012					

		Experience of Economic Hardships		
		Faced at least one economic hardship in past year	year	
		Row %	Row %	
Mid-Hudson Valley		34%	66%	
	2007	24%	76%	
Columbia County	2012	25%	75%	
	2007	26%	74%	
Dutchess County	2012	32%	68%	
	2007	23%	77%	
Greene County	2012	33%	67%	
	2007	31%	69%	
Orange County	2012	33%	67%	
	2007	23%	77%	
Putnam County	2012	30%	70%	
	2007	19%	81%	
Ulster County	2012	37%	63%	
	2007	26%	74%	
Sullivan County	2012	43%	57%	
	2007	25%	75%	
Mid-Hudson Valley	2012			
Income	Less than \$30,000	61%	39%	
	\$30,000 to just under \$50,000	46%	54%	
	\$50,000 or more	22%	78%	
Income	Less than \$30,000	61%	39%	
	\$30,000 to just under \$50,000	46%	54%	
	\$50,000 to just under \$75,000	33%	67%	
	\$75,000 to just under \$100,000	24%	76%	
	\$100,000 or more	14%	86%	
Household with gap	in insurance	60%	40%	
Live in government	housing	62%	38%	
Household looking	for work	57%	43%	
Children in Househ	old	38%	62%	
Low income housel	hold with children	72%	28%	
Children with gap in	n insurance	67%	33%	
Experience of Eco	onomic Hardship	Many Voic	es One Valley 2012	

# People doing without

Compared with 2007, more Mid-Hudson Valley residents have experienced an economic hardship in the past year. Residents were asked if they had undergone difficulties such as problems paying for food, housing costs, utility bills, or medical treatment. Thirty-four percent of residents in the Mid-Hudson Valley say they have had at least one such financial difficulty. This compares with 24% in 2007 who reported they had at least one area of economic hardship in the previous year.

# A look at the economy

What do residents think of the Mid-Hudson Valley economy? A majority, 54%, think it is about the same as it has been. Three in ten believe it is getting worse while 16% say it is getting better.

Majorities in each of the counties say the economy of the Mid-Hudson Valley is status quo. However, there is one exception. Forty-nine percent of Sullivan County residents perceive the region's economic situation to be about the same while 41% think it is deteriorating.

On the home front, 52% of residents say their personal family finances will remain about the same in the coming year. A notable 35% believe they will improve while 12% say they will get worse.

Here, too, majorities in all of the counties, except for Sullivan County, think their money matters will not change in the next year. Sullivan County residents are the most optimistic. While 47% of Sullivan County residents believe their family finances will stay about the same, 39% think they will get better. This level of optimism is also present in Orange County where 38% report their family's financial picture will be brighter.

		Right now do you think the Mid-Hudson Valley economy is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?		
		Getting better	Getting worse	Staying about the same
		Row %	Row %	Row %
Mid-Hudson Valley	2012	16%	30%	54%
Columbia County	2012	22%	25%	53%
<b>Dutchess County</b>	2012	20%	27%	54%
Greene County	2012	13%	34%	53%
Orange County	2012	14%	31%	55%
Putnam County	2012	18%	29%	54%
Ulster County	2012	12%	33%	55%
Sullivan County	2012	10%	41%	49%
Mid-Hudson Valley	2012			
Length of residence	5 years or less	19%	23%	58%
	6 to 10 years	15%	25%	59%
	Over 10 years	15%	33%	52%
Gender	Male	18%	29%	53%
	Female	13%	32%	55%
Age	18 to 30	18%	28%	54%
	31 to 44	14%	31%	55%
	45 to 59	14%	34%	52%
	60 or older	17%	28%	56%
Pre-retirement Age	50 to 64	15%	32%	53%
Income	Less than \$30,000	13%	33%	54%
	\$30,000 to just under \$50,000	13%	30%	57%
	\$50,000 or more	18%	28%	54%
	\$100,000 or more	20%	28%	52%
Education	Not College Graduate	14%	33%	53%
	College Graduate	18%	25%	56%
Race	White	16%	29%	55%
	African American	14%	35%	51%
	Latino	13%	31%	56%
Children in	Children in household	15%	31%	55%
Household	No children in household	16%	30%	54%
Five years from	Plan to stay in the Mid-	17%	26%	56%
now, plans to stay	Hudson Valley			
or move	Plan to move someplace else	12%	38%	50%
Employed		16%	30%	55%
Financially at risk in	mmediately	13%	36%	51%
Financially at risk in	1 to 3 months	14%	34%	52%
Faced economic ha	ırdship	12%	36%	53%
Direction of the Economy			Ma	any Voices One Valley 2012

	In the coming year, do you expect your personal family finances get better, get worse, or stay about the same?			
		Get better	Get worse	Stay about the same
		Row %	Row %	Row %
Mid-Hudson Valley	2012	35%	12%	52%
Columbia County	2012	34%	9%	57%
Dutchess County	2012	33%	12%	55%
Greene County	2012	34%	16%	50%
Orange County	2012	38%	11%	51%
Putnam County	2012	32%	14%	53%
Ulster County	2012	35%	13%	51%
Sullivan County	2012	39%	14%	47%
Mid-Hudson Valley	2012			
Length of residence		49%	6%	44%
· ·	6 to 10 years	42%	11%	47%
	Over 10 years	31%	14%	55%
Gender	Male	37%	12%	51%
	Female	33%	13%	53%
Age	18 to 30	48%	6%	46%
	31 to 44	48%	12%	40%
	45 to 59	32%	14%	54%
	60 or older	16%	16%	68%
Pre-retirement Age	50 to 64	26%	16%	58%
Income	Less than \$30,000	40%	13%	48%
	\$30,000 to just under \$50,000	38%	13%	49%
	\$50,000 or more	34%	11%	55%
	\$100,000 or more	35%	10%	55%
Education	Not College Graduate	36%	13%	51%
	College Graduate	33%	11%	56%
Race	White	30%	13%	56%
	African American	59%	7%	35%
	Latino	51%	8%	41%
Children in	Children in household	44%	11%	45%
Household	No children in household	29%	14%	57%
Five years from now, plans to stay	Plan to stay in the Mid- Hudson Valley	34%	12%	54%
or move	Plan to move someplace else	39%	13%	49%
Employed		37%	12%	51%
Financially at risk in	mmediately	39%	15%	46%
Financially at risk in	n 1 to 3 months	36%	13%	51%
Faced economic ha	ardship	41%	15%	44%
Personal Finance	S		Mar	ny Voices One Valley 2012

### **Health Matters**

When it comes to health insurance, there has been little change for households over the last decade. Almost one in four households, 24%, has experienced a gap in coverage over the last year. That is, one or more members within a household have not had continuous health insurance coverage during the past year. This is the same proportion of households with a similar experience in 2007 and 2002.

Regional differences exist.			Gap in Heal	th Insurance
Sullivan County has the largest			Household members not insured now or	Household members continuously
proportion of			in past year	insured
households who			Row %	Row %
have	Mid-Hudson Valley	2012	24%	76%
experienced a		2007	24%	76%
•	Only makin On water	2002	24%	76%
gap in their	Columbia County	2012 2007	20% 31%	80% 69%
health insurance		2007	26%	74%
coverage in the	Dutchess County	2012	21%	79%
region. Thirty-	Date Hood County	2007	22%	78%
one percent of		2002	24%	76%
those in Sullivan	Greene County	2012	25%	75%
		2007	29%	71%
County report		2002	28%	72%
this to be the	Orange County	2012	26%	74%
case. In Ulster		2007	24%	76%
and Orange	Dutana Orași	2002	24%	76%
Counties, 26%	Putnam County	2012 2007	20% 14%	80% 86%
•		2007	15%	85%
report their	Ulster County	2012	26%	74%
household has	Glotol County	2007	31%	69%
not maintained		2002	30%	70%
continuous	Sullivan County	2012	31%	69%
health insurance		2007	28%	72%
coverage over	Gap in Health Insura	ince: Trend	Many Voices	s One Valley 2012

the last year followed by Greene County where 25% of households indicate at least one member was without health insurance. Twenty-one percent of Dutchess County households and 20% of both Columbia and Putnam County residents report the same.

Also of note, there has been a significant decrease in the proportion of households without continuous coverage in Columbia County. While one in five reports a gap now, 31% said the same in 2007. In Putnam County, there has been a slight increase in the proportion of households without continuous coverage. Five years ago, 14% said at least one member in their household went without medical insurance. This compares with 20% now.

Small strides have been made in reducing the proportion of uninsured children in the Mid-Hudson Valley. Although a significant proportion of households with children, 10%, say at least one child has not been covered over the past year, the proportion has decreased from 15% in 2007.

No demographic group is immune from this issue. Regardless of age, race, length of residence, or employment status, gaps in health insurance for household members exist.

# Households currently without health insurance

Looking at current health coverage, 11% of households in the Mid-Hudson Valley have at least one member, adult or child, who is not currently insured. There has been little improvement since 2007 when 12% of households lacked health insurance. However, there has been a slight improvement in the proportion of households with children who are uninsured. Four percent of Mid-Hudson Valley households with children have at least one child who is without medical coverage. This compares with 7% in 2007 and 6% in 2002.

At the county level, Greene and Sullivan Counties have the highest proportions of uninsured households. Fourteen percent of households in Greene County and 17% in Sullivan County report at least one member in their household is currently without medical insurance. There has been a notable change in Columbia County. In 2007, 16% of Columbia County households said not all household members were insured. At that time, Columbia County was among the counties with the highest proportion of uninsured households. Today, 9% of households in Columbia County indicate there is at least one member who is not covered.

		Gap in Health Insurance		
		Children not insured now or in past year Row %	Children continuously insured Row %	
Mid-Hudson Valley	2012	10%	90%	
	2007	15%	85%	
	2002	13%	87%	
Columbia County	2012	6%	94%	
	2007	17%	83%	
	2002	13%	87%	
Dutchess County	2012	9%	91%	
	2007	15%	85%	
	2002	13%	87%	
Greene County	2012	10%	90%	
	2007	23%	77%	
	2002	21%	79%	
Orange County	2012	11%	89%	
	2007	15%	85%	
	2002	13%	87%	
Putnam County	2012	12%	88%	
	2007	8%	92%	
	2002	8%	92%	
Ulster County	2012	9%	91%	
	2007	19%	81%	
	2002	15%	85%	
Sullivan County	2012	18%	82%	
	2007	17%	83%	
Gap in Health Insurance	e for Childre	n: Trend M	any Voices One Valley 2012	

#### **Priced out?**

Residents in the Mid-Hudson Valley continue to have difficulty dealing with the burdens of health care costs. Thirty-six percent of residents in the Mid-Hudson Valley say the cost of medical care, not including health insurance, places, at least, a good amount of financial strain on their family's budget. This is little changed from 2007 when 35% had a similar amount of financial stress. When it comes to health insurance costs, 43% say they are burdened by these expenses. Here, too, there has been little change. Five years ago, 41% felt this financial pain.

Like 2007, uninsured households, those without continuous health coverage, and disabled residents are hard pressed by medical expenses. A majority of households who are uninsured, 54%, half of those who have a gap in coverage, and 50% of disabled residents say their monthly budgets are strained by health care costs.

# Going without because of cost

For some residents in the Mid-Hudson Valley, medical costs are so burdensome they are forced to sacrifice at the expense of their health. Fifteen percent of residents have skipped a doctor's visit in the past year because of the cost. This is an increase from 2007 when 11% went without medical treatment. When it comes to purchasing needed medication, 14% have foregone this care because it was not in their budget. This proportion was 10% in 2007.

Households without health insurance are nearly three times as likely, 42%, as Mid-Hudson Valley residents overall to skip a doctor's appointment. Households who have experienced a gap in coverage are also more likely to have done the same, 37%. These groups are also twice as likely to do without needed medication because of the cost. Thirty-three percent of uninsured households and 32% of households who have not had continuous coverage have not bought medication because of the financial burden.

#### Conclusion

Mid-Hudson Valley residents place increased importance on economic issues such as keeping businesses in the area and job creation. They also highly value quality public education, affordable health care, and services for senior citizens.

Since 2007, there has been a shift in residents' priorities. While making health care more affordable and access to health insurance remain important, these issues have been surpassed by economic concerns. Interestingly, while their rankings have changed, the top ten priorities for the region have remained the same since 2002.

Many Mid-Hudson Valley residents say the area is just not affordable. They experience difficulty paying for everyday expenses, and residents have a pessimistic view of the region's jobs scene. They are concerned that they or a member of their household will become unemployed. This is not surprising since Mid-Hudson Valley residents were hard hit by the recession and view its impact on the jobs picture as long-lasting.

Residents' views of the housing situation are little better. More than six in ten have a negative impression of the quality of affordable housing. In fact, nearly six in ten renters do not think they will be able to afford a home. However, renters interested in buying a home are more optimistic. Still, even these individuals say that if they cannot afford to purchase a place to live, they are likely to move out of the area.

To make ends meet, residents are working longer hours. On the brighter side, residents are cautiously optimistic about the future of their personal finances. A majority think their money matters will not change in the next year, and more than one-third expect to see an improvement. Slightly more than one in ten think their finances will get worse. However, the overall economy of the region is a different story. While a majority thinks it's about the same as it has been, three in ten residents believe it is getting worse.

The lack of continuous health insurance continues to challenge the Mid-Hudson Valley. While modest improvements have been made to insure children, 11% of households in the region still have a member without health insurance, and nearly one in four households have experienced a gap in their coverage. These proportions are little changed from 2007 and 2002.

Health care costs and the expense of health insurance are burdens to many in the Mid-Hudson Valley. For smaller but still significant proportions of the region, these residents sacrifice necessary care such as doctor's visits and medication because the cost is too much of a strain on their family's budget.

Overall, most Mid-Hudson Valley residents like living in their communities and are actively engaged in the region. However, economic catalysts such as taxes, jobs, and the cost of living are prompting significant proportions of residents to relocate, making the need to keep businesses in the region and to create new jobs essential.

# **How the Survey Was Conducted**

The survey was conducted by the Marist College Institute for Public Opinion and funded by the Dyson Foundation.

4,443 adults 18 years of age or older who live in the Mid-Hudson Valley in New York were interviewed in proportion to the adult population in seven counties: Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Orange, Putnam, Sullivan, and Ulster. The survey was designed to collect information about the Mid-Hudson Valley as a region and to allow for county level analysis as well. Representative samples were drawn from each county based on the population distribution within that county. In order to analyze the opinions of residents of the Mid-Hudson Valley, the seven county samples were combined and weighted to reflect the population distribution of the entire region. Census comparisons to the 2012 survey results are displayed at the end of this report.

This is the third time over the past decade this project has been undertaken. Many of the questions in this survey were asked of Mid-Hudson Valley residents in each of the previous two studies. As a result, comparisons may be made over time for 2007 and 2002. Residents of Sullivan County were first included in the 2007 study of the region.

The goal of a scientifically designed survey sample is to be representative of the population that is being surveyed. The results obtained from a scientific probability survey are not just answers from those individuals who responded but more importantly, because of the design and methods by which the data is collected, can be used to generalize to the population as a whole. For this survey, the results are an estimate of what would have been obtained, within a certain range, if all adults 18 years of age or older in the Mid-Hudson region were interviewed.

# How to interpret the numbers

Sampling error is the difference between the responses to the survey if all adults 18 years of age or older who live in the Mid-Hudson Valley had been interviewed and the actual survey results. Sampling error is primarily based upon the number of interviews in the survey sample. The sampling error may be interpreted as indicating the probability (95 times out of 100) within which the results of repeated samplings, in the same time period, assuming the same sampling procedures, could be expected to fall within a certain range.

The margin of error for the survey results of Mid-Hudson residents is ±1.5% for percentages near 50% at a confidence level of 95%. The sampling error diminishes slightly for questions whose results are at the extremes and the sampling error increases as the number of interviews for a particular group or sub-group within the sample declines.

Region	Sample Size	Margin of Error	
Mid-Hudson	4443	±1.5%	
Columbia	506	±4.5%	
Dutchess	848	±3.5%	
Greene	527	±4.5%	
Orange	991	±3.5%	
Putnam	512	±4.5%	
Sullivan	519	±4.5%	
Ulster	540	±4.5%	
	Many Voices One Valley 2012		

For example, 51% of Mid-Hudson Valley residents surveyed think their community spends too little money on public transportation. The margin of error of ±1.5% means that we may conclude there is a high probability, 95 times out of 100, that the average results for this question of repeated samplings in the region will fall between 49.5% and 52.5%. All results are rounded to the next whole number.

In evaluating the information detailed in this report, several points should be noted. First, the analysis often focuses on differences among subgroups rather than commonalities. Therefore, the charts depicted in the report do not include all factors but rather those where differences are evident. Additional tables may be found at ManyVoicesOneValley.org and may be referenced for further detail among subgroups and other key segmenting variables.

Second, some questions in the survey were only asked of a subgroup of those interviewed depending on an answer to a previous question. For instance, residents were asked if they were currently employed. If they were not, they were not asked subsequent questions about their job such as commute time. Questions that were not asked of all residents are identified.

Finally, totals in tables may not add to 100% due to rounding.

# Methodology: sample design

A dual frame, stratified random digit dial (RDD) probability design was used to draw the telephone numbers for the survey. RDD ensures representation of both listed and unlisted telephone numbers. Telephone numbers were selected based upon two separate frames or lists of telephone exchanges, one for landline and one for cell phone numbers. Telephone numbers were selected based upon a list of telephone exchanges from throughout the seven counties. The exchanges were selected to ensure that each county was represented in proportion to its population in accordance with a probability sample design that gives all landline telephone numbers, listed and unlisted, and cell phone numbers a known chance of being included. Results are based on both landline and cell phone interviews of adults 18 years of age and older.

The landline and cell phone samples were combined. Nineteen percent of the completed interviews were obtained from the cell phone sampling frame.

In order to participate in the survey a household or cell phone owner had to have a residence located within one of the seven counties and have an adult resident that was 18 years of age or older. For the landline frame, a member within each household was then selected to be interviewed through the use of a random household selection method. In order to be interviewed, a respondent needed to be at least 18 years of age or older and be a resident of the Mid-Hudson Valley.

# Methodology: data collection

The questionnaire and the telephone sample were programmed for computer assisted telephone interviewing (CATI). Interviewing was conducted from a centralized telephone facility at the Marist College Institute for Public Opinion using trained interviewers who were specifically briefed on this study. The interviews were conducted in either English or Spanish.

There were a total of 294 interviewers and supervisors who worked on this study. On average, the supervisor to interviewer ratio was seven to one. Polling supervisors regularly monitored, evaluated, and provided feedback to the interviewing staff throughout the data collection period. The average length of the survey was twenty-two minutes.

One hundred and ninety seven pretest interviews for the survey were administered by telephone on December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011. As a result of the pretest, the questionnaire was updated and revised. Although there were limited changes made to the questionnaire, pretest interviews were not included as part of the final dataset.

Interviews were conducted February 2<sup>nd</sup> through March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Interviewers contacted households between 5:30 p.m. and 9:15 p.m. Callbacks were also conducted between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on weekdays. Up to 8 attempts to contact a household were made. Callbacks were staggered over times of day and days of the week to maximize the chances of making contact with a potential respondent. Suspended interviews and refusals were re-contacted at least once in order to attempt to convert them to a completed interview. This included callbacks to initial unsuccessful contacts, refusal conversion, and scheduled appointments. A toll free number was used so that respondents could call the survey center at their convenience to complete an interview.

Information from survey participants is both confidential and anonymous. Personal identifying information is removed from files after the integrity of the data is verified.

# Comparisons of 2012 Survey Results to 2010 Census

Mid-Hudson Valley		2012 Survey	2010 Census
County	Columbia	6%	6%
	Dutchess	26%	26%
	Greene	4%	4%
	Orange	32%	31%
	Putnam	9%	9%
	Sullivan	7%	7%
	Ulster	16%	17%
Gender	Male	50%	50%
	Female	50%	50%
Age	Under 45	48%	45%
	45 and older	53%	55%
Income	Less than \$15,000	10%	9%
	\$15,000 to just under \$30,000	13%	13%
	\$30,000 to just under \$50,000	17%	17%
	\$50,000 to just under \$75,000	18%	18%
	\$75,000 to just under \$100,000	15%	14%
	\$100,000 or more	28%	28%
Race	White	74%	77%
	African American	8%	8%
	Latino	13%	12%
	Other	4%	3%
Mid-Hudson Valley		Many Void	ces One Valley 2012

<b>Columbia County</b>		2012 Survey	2010 Census
Gender	Male	49%	50%
	Female	51%	50%
Age	Under 45	40%	37%
	45 and older	60%	63%
Income	Less than \$15,000	13%	10%
	\$15,000 to just under \$30,000	17%	16%
	\$30,000 to just under \$50,000	18%	22%
	\$50,000 to just under \$75,000	18%	18%
	\$75,000 to just under \$100,000	11%	12%
	\$100,000 or more	22%	22%
Race	White	89%	91%
	Non-white	11%	9%
<b>Columbia County</b>		Many Voic	es One Valley 2012

<b>Dutchess County</b>		2012 Survey	2010 Census
Gender	Male	49%	49%
	Female	51%	51%
Age	Under 45	47%	45%
	45 and older	53%	55%
Income	Less than \$15,000	9%	9%
	\$15,000 to just under \$30,000	11%	11%
	\$30,000 to just under \$50,000	16%	16%
	\$50,000 to just under \$75,000	17%	18%
	\$75,000 to just under \$100,000	16%	16%
	\$100,000 or more	32%	31%
Race	White	76%	77%
	Non-white	24%	23%
<b>Dutchess County</b>		Many Voice	es One Valley 2012

<b>Greene County</b>		2012 Survey	2010 Census
Gender	Male	51%	52%
	Female	49%	48%
Age	Under 45	42%	40%
	45 and older	58%	60%
Income	Less than \$15,000	10%	11%
	\$15,000 to just under \$30,000	23%	22%
	\$30,000 to just under \$50,000	19%	21%
	\$50,000 to just under \$75,000	23%	21%
	\$75,000 to just under \$100,000	12%	12%
	\$100,000 or more	13%	13%
Race	White	89%	88%
	Non-white	11%	12%
<b>Greene County</b>		Many Voices	One Valley 2012

<b>Orange County</b>		2012 Survey	2010 Census
Gender	Male	52%	49%
	Female	48%	51%
Age	Under 45	52%	49%
	45 and older	48%	51%
Income	Less than \$15,000	10%	8%
	\$15,000 to just under \$30,000	11%	12%
	\$30,000 to just under \$50,000	16%	15%
	\$50,000 to just under \$75,000	17%	18%
	\$75,000 to just under \$100,000	15%	15%
	\$100,000 or more	32%	32%
Race	White	70%	71%
	Non-white	30%	29%
Orange County		Many Voices	one Valley 2012

<b>Putnam County</b>		2012 Survey	2010 Census
Gender	Male	50%	49%
	Female	50%	51%
Age	Under 45	45%	41%
	45 and older	55%	59%
Income	Less than \$15,000	4%	5%
	\$15,000 to just under \$30,000	9%	9%
	\$30,000 to just under \$50,000	15%	13%
	\$50,000 to just under \$75,000	14%	15%
	\$75,000 to just under \$100,000	15%	15%
	\$100,000 or more	43%	43%
Race	White	85%	84%
	Non-white	15%	16%
<b>Putnam County</b>		Many Voices	s One Valley 2012

<b>Sulivan County</b>		2012 Survey	2010 Census
Gender	Male	49%	51%
	Female	51%	49%
Age	Under 45	48%	41%
	45 and older	52%	59%
Income	Less than \$15,000	17%	15%
	\$15,000 to just under \$30,000	18%	18%
	\$30,000 to just under \$50,000	20%	20%
	\$50,000 to just under \$75,000	21%	20%
	\$75,000 to just under \$100,000	11%	12%
	\$100,000 or more	14%	15%
Race	White	74%	75%
	Non-white	26%	25%
<b>Sullivan County</b>		Many Voice	s One Valley 2012

Ulster County		2012 Survey	2010 Census
Gender	Male	49%	49%
	Female	51%	51%
Age	Under 45	45%	43%
	45 and older	55%	57%
Income	Less than \$15,000	9%	10%
	\$15,000 to just under \$30,000	17%	15%
	\$30,000 to just under \$50,000	18%	19%
	\$50,000 to just under \$75,000	21%	20%
	\$75,000 to just under \$100,000	15%	14%
	\$100,000 or more	20%	22%
Race	White	84%	84%
	Non-white	16%	16%
Ulster County		Many Voices One Valley 2012	