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GARDEN STATE QUALITY OF LIFE VARIES BY RACE / ETHNICITY

In April, the *Monmouth University Poll* released a unique, comprehensive survey examining New Jersey's quality of life from a wide variety of resident perspectives. This current release focuses on differences in perceptions of quality of life from state residents of different racial and ethnic backgrounds.

The initial report established a benchmark Garden State Quality of Life Index. Among all state residents, the index currently stands at +21 (on a scale -100 to +100). There are some clear differences among New Jersey's different racial and ethnic groups. The Garden State Quality of Life Index score of Hispanics (+21) matches the overall state average, while the index scores of white (+26) and Asian (+29) residents are slightly higher. Black New Jerseyans, with an index score of +3, are significantly less positive in evaluating their home state's quality of life.

There are also some interesting differences by educational attainment within these groups. In general, college educated New Jerseyans score higher on the Garden State Quality of Life Index than non-college educated state residents. These differences, however, do not erase the racial ethnic differences. Black college graduates (+18) score lower than white college graduates (+33), but they also score lower than white New Jerseyans who did not graduate from college (+21).

One basic measure of New Jersey's quality of life is to simply ask residents about their overall view of the state as a place to live. About 2-in-3 white (66%), Hispanic (66%), and Asian (71%) residents have a positive view of the state. However, less than half (49%) of black residents share that view.

Overall, more white (79%) and Asian (79%) residents have positive opinions of their hometowns than of the state as a whole, while Hispanic (65%) and black (53%) residents are about as likely to rate their town positively as they do the state.

When asked about personal safety in their own neighborhood at night, 67% of white residents feel very safe, compared to 55% of Asians, 45% of Hispanics, and 39% of blacks. This 12 point difference between white and Asian residents is noteworthy since Asians aren't any more likely than whites to see crime as a general problem for the state.

The largest difference for residents' evaluations of their local institutions (e.g. government, schools, first responders) revolves around local police. About 2-in-3 (68%) white residents express a lot of trust in their local police department, followed by 57% of Asians, 54% of Hispanics, and 43% of blacks. That puts 25 percentage points between black and white New Jerseyans when it comes to trust in their local police department.

The Monmouth University Polling Institute also created a Local Area Rating Index based on 15 different questions where residents rated their local area on a wide range of issues ranging from safety to economic opportunities to the availability of cultural programs and health care. Overall, Asian New Jerseyans are the most likely (51%) to have a positive view of their local area, followed by white (41%), Hispanic (35%), and black residents (23%). Interestingly, the views of Hispanics from Puerto Rico (24%) and the Caribbean (24%) are more in line with those of black residents, while the views of Hispanics from Central and South America (41%) are in line with white residents.

“About 4-in-10 New Jerseyans are from traditionally defined minority groups. The fact that there are such stark racial differences in perceptions of the Garden State's quality of life poses significant challenges for policymakers,” said Patrick Murray, director of the Monmouth University Polling Institute.

Race relations are also viewed very differently by various racial groups in New Jersey. About 1-in-3 white (36%) and Asian (30%) residents believe racial and ethnic discrimination is at least somewhat of a problem in the state. This increases to 49% among Hispanics and 55% among blacks. It's also worth noting that among Hispanic New Jerseyans, Puerto Ricans (64%) are more likely than those from the Caribbean (48%) or elsewhere in the Americas (45%) to feel discrimination is a problem in the state.

The American Conference on Diversity also posed this question to New Jerseyans in surveys conducted in 1996 and 2007. The overall sense of discrimination has decreased from a statewide high of 61% in 1996 to 44% in 2007 and 40% in the current survey. In 1996, the state was embroiled in a racial profiling controversy involving the State Police.

During that period, the level of concern among white residents about racial and ethnic discrimination declined from 62% in 1996 to 38% in 2007, and held steady at 36% in the current poll. There is a similar trend among black New Jerseyans although the decline was not as steep, with concerns about racial discrimination going from 67% in 1996 down to 58% in 2007 and 55% in the current survey. Among Hispanic residents, views of racial discrimination being a problem did not lessen until very recently, standing at 64% in 1996 and 61% in 2007, before declining to 49% in the current survey.

When asked about racial and ethnic tension in their own town, the numbers are similar. Among black residents, 53% think that there is at least some tension. Among Hispanics, 44% feel the same. Less than 1-in-3 Asians (31%) and whites (28%) think that there is at least some tension. These results are nearly identical to the 1996 American Conference on Diversity survey for whites, blacks, and Hispanics. However, all racial groups

were more positive in the 2007 survey, with just 37% of blacks, 33% of Hispanics, and 21% of whites reporting at least some racial or ethnic tension in their own community.

The survey also asked if state residents feel immigration has had a positive or a negative impact on New Jersey. The state as a whole is divided: 1-in-3 (34%) think it has been a good thing and 1-in-3 (32%) think it has been bad, for a net impact score of +2. Asians are the most positive about immigration's impact on the state at +58. Hispanics are also more positive than negative about immigration, with a net impact score of +20. Black residents are divided, with a net number of +1. Whites are the only group with a negative net number of -8, meaning more white residents think of immigration as being bad rather than good.

A more comprehensive description of the survey results by race and ethnicity can be found in the Monmouth University Polling Institute report, available at:
http://www.monmouth.edu/polling/admin/polls/NJQualityofLife_Race_June2011.pdf .

Funding for the Garden State Quality of Life project was provided by the Plangere Foundation, New Jersey Resources, First Energy Corporation, and sanofi-aventis.

Survey Methodology: The *Garden State Quality of Life* survey was conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute from December 1 to 15, 2010 with a statewide random sample of 2,864 adult residents. Sampling and live telephone interviewing services were provided by Braun Research, Inc. Smaller counties were oversampled so that the final survey included at least 100 survey respondents from each of New Jersey's 21 counties. Racial and ethnic minorities were also oversampled by screening for appropriate respondents in areas of minority population concentration. This resulted in sub-samples of 272 black respondents, 236 Hispanic respondents, and 210 Asian respondents. The survey results were then weighted to accurately reflect the New Jersey adult population for gender, age, education, race, and county.

For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling has a maximum margin of plus or minus 1.8 percentage points. Sampling error increases as the sample size decreases, so statements based on various population subgroups, such as separate figures reported by gender or party identification, are subject to more error than are statements based on the total sample. In this report, the sampling error for the whites is $\pm 2.2\%$, for blacks $\pm 6.0\%$, for Asians $\pm 6.8\%$, and for Hispanics $\pm 6.4\%$. When breaking down the Hispanic population into subgroups by region of origin, the sampling error ranges from 11 to 14 percentage points. In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

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The Garden State's Quality of Life
A survey of New Jersey residents

New Jersey's Quality of Life Varies by Race

by Thomas Lamatsch, Assistant Director
Monmouth University Polling Institute

Introduction

New Jersey is one of the most diverse states in the country. The 2010 Census reports that the state includes 5.2 million white non-Hispanic residents, nearly 1.6 million Hispanic residents, 1.2 million black residents, and just over 700,000 Asian residents. This report examines the quality of life for the varied racial and ethnic groups that make up the state of New Jersey. Aside from discussing quality of life for the four major groups – white, black, Hispanic, and Asian – the report analyzes quality of life among these racial groups by educational attainment and also examines opinions among Hispanics from different parts of the Americas.

A key indicator for New Jersey is the Garden State Quality of Life Index designed by the Monmouth University Polling Institute. The index is a combined evaluation of the state, residents' hometowns, local schools, the environment, and crime. There are some clear differences in this index of perceived quality of life for the state's different racial and ethnic groups. The Garden State Quality of Life Index score of Hispanics (+21) matches the overall state average, while the index scores of white (+26) and Asian (+29) residents are slightly higher. Black New Jerseyans, with an index score of +3, are significantly less positive in evaluating their home state's quality of life.

Garden State Quality of Life Index	
All New Jerseyans	+21
White	+26
Black	+3
Hispanic	+21
Asian	+29
Race by Education	
<i>White, no college</i>	<i>+21</i>
<i>White, college grad</i>	<i>+33</i>
<i>Black, no college</i>	<i>-1</i>
<i>Black, college grad</i>	<i>+18</i>
<i>Hispanic, no college</i>	<i>+19</i>
<i>Hispanic, college grad</i>	<i>+23</i>
<i>Asian, no college</i>	<i>+28</i>
<i>Asian, college grad</i>	<i>+31</i>

There are also some interesting differences by educational attainment within these groups. In general, college educated New Jerseyans score higher on the Garden State Quality of Life Index than non-college educated state residents. These differences, however, do not erase the racial ethnic differences. Black college graduates (+18) score lower than white college

graduates (+33), but they also score lower than white New Jerseyans who did not graduate from college (+21).

One general finding of the survey is that white and Asian New Jerseyans often have similar views of the state's quality of life. Black New Jerseyans often hold significantly different opinions compared to white and Asian residents. Hispanics tend to fall somewhere in between. The similarities between Asian and white New Jerseyans are particularly interesting considering their different backgrounds. For example, while 94% of white New Jerseyans were born in the United States, only 23% of Asian respondents were.

Overall Rating of the State

One basic measure of New Jersey's quality of life is to simply ask residents about their overall view of the state as a place to live. About 2-in-3 white (66%), Hispanic (66%), and Asian (71%) residents have a positive view of the state. However, less than half (49%) of black residents share that view.

The situation changes a little when education is added to the mix. Among white residents with college degrees, 71% think of New Jersey as an excellent place to live and 61% of non-college graduates think the same. Black college graduates (61%) reach about the same satisfaction rates as white non-graduates, while among black residents without college degrees only 45% have a positive view. This relationship does not hold for Hispanics and Asians. Among Hispanic college graduates, 59% consider New Jersey at least a good place to live while a larger 67% of Hispanics without a college education say the same. Among Asian college graduates, 69% think of the state as an excellent or good place to live, similar to the 72% of Asians without a college education. It is important to note that some of these subgroups are very small and the differences are therefore generally within the margin of error.

The somewhat higher dissatisfaction among black residents is also reflected in the number of people who want to leave the state eventually, rather than stay for the rest of their lives. While only about half of Hispanic (50%), white (49%), and Asian (49%) New Jerseyans want to leave eventually, 62% of black residents plan on moving out of New Jersey at some point. One interesting note in this context is education. Among Asian New Jerseyans, 56% of college graduates think they will leave the state some day compared to only 39% of Asians

without a college education. Being college educated has no impact on white, black, or Hispanic residents.

State versus Hometown

Overall, more white (79%) and Asian (79%) residents have positive opinions of their hometowns than of the state as a whole, while Hispanic (65%) and black (53%) residents are about as likely to rate their town positively as they do the state. Among white New Jerseyans the difference between their hometown and the state is 13 points, among Asians it is 8 points. Among black residents this difference shrinks to 4 points and Hispanic residents actually rate their hometown a little lower than the state, albeit only by one statistically insignificant point.

The Monmouth University Polling Institute created a Local Area Rating Index based on 15 different questions where residents rated their local area on a wide range of issues ranging from safety to economic opportunities to the availability of cultural programs and health care (*see appendix for details*). Overall, Asian New Jerseyans are the most likely (51%) to have a positive view of their local area, followed by white (41%), Hispanic (35%), and black residents (23%). Interestingly, the views of Hispanics from Puerto Rico (24%) and the Caribbean (24%) are more in line with those of black residents, while the views of Hispanics from Central and South America (41%) are in line with white residents.

One particular aspect of this index that shows a racial divide is the environment. About 2-in-3 New Jerseyans across the state think the quality of the environment in their area is either excellent or good. Asians are the most positive (77%), followed by whites (70%) and Hispanics (63%), Among black residents, though, fewer than half (46%) rate the quality of their local environment positively.

Most New Jerseyans think the area they live in is an excellent or good place to raise a family, but there is a wide disparity among racial groups.

Aspects of Life in the Area Where You Live				
<i>Those rating it as "excellent" or "good":</i>	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian
The quality of the environment	70%	46%	63%	77%
As a place to raise a family	80%	50%	69%	79%

Four-in-five whites (80%) and Asians (79%) share that opinion. It is somewhat lower for Hispanics (69%) and much lower for blacks (50%). Across all racial groups, college educated residents are more likely to say that their area of New Jersey is a good place to raise a family.

The largest difference between college educated and non-college educated residents is 20 points among both black (66% compared to 46%) and Hispanic (85% compared to 65%) residents. The difference is smaller for white (85% compared to 76%) and Asian (83% compared to 76%) residents.

Neighborhoods

Overall, about half of New Jerseyans strongly agree that their neighbors are trustworthy. This number varies a great deal among different racial and ethnic groups in the state. While 62% of white residents strongly agree that their neighbors are trustworthy, fewer Asians (50%), Hispanics (31%), and blacks (24%) feel the same way. Across all races we find an age gap, with older people (50 years or older) being more likely to strongly agree that their neighbors are trustworthy. The difference is the largest among black New Jerseyans where 35% of those 50 and older strongly agree that their neighbors are trustworthy, while only 16% of those under 50 say the same. Among white residents the difference is 69% (50 and over) to 55% (under 50), among Asians it is 62% (50 and over) to 47% (under 50), and finally among Hispanics it shrinks to 4 points: 34% (50 and over) to 30% (under 50).

White residents are most likely to strongly agree that they feel that they belong to their community. More than half of white New Jerseyans (56%) strongly agree, followed by black (47%), Hispanic (42%), and finally Asian (36%) New Jerseyans.

These individual results are also confirmed when looking at a combination of questions that measures neighborliness (*see appendix for details*). Six questions were combined into an index including being able to ask a neighbor for help and how often neighbors talk to each other. White New Jerseyans (39%) are most likely to score high on this perception of neighborliness index, compared to all other racial and ethnic groups. Only 23% of black, 22% of Hispanic, and 19% of Asians score high on the index. One interesting fact is that among black residents age is a big factor, with 1-in-3 (33%) among those 50 and older scoring high and only 16% of those under 50 scoring high. In all other racial and ethnic groups age is not a factor at all.

Race Relations

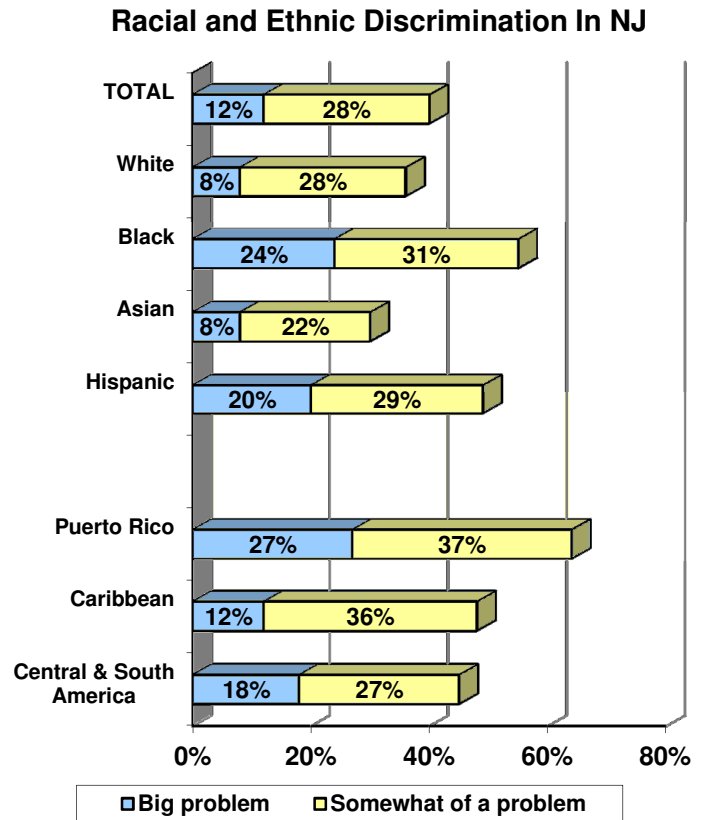
Race relations are seen very differently by various racial groups in New Jersey. About 1-in-3 white (36%) and Asian (30%) residents believe racial and ethnic discrimination is at least

somewhat of a problem in the state. This increases to 49% among Hispanics and 55% among blacks. It's also worth noting that among Hispanic New Jerseyans, Puerto Ricans (64%) are more likely than those from the Caribbean (48%) or elsewhere in the Americas (45%) to feel discrimination is at least somewhat of a problem in the state.

The American Conference on Diversity also posed this question to New Jerseyans in surveys conducted in 1996 and 2007 – the only instances other than the current Monmouth University Poll where large samples of black and Hispanic residents were asked about this issue. It is interesting to note that the overall sense of discrimination has decreased from a statewide high of 61% in 1996 to 44% in 2007 and 40% in the current survey. In 1996, the state was embroiled in a racial profiling controversy involving the State Police.

During that period, the level of concern among white residents about racial and ethnic discrimination declined from 62% in 1996 to 38% in 2007, and held steady at 36% in the current poll. There is a similar trend among black New Jerseyans although the decline was not as steep, with concerns about racial discrimination going from 67% in 1996 down to 58% in 2007 and 55% in the current survey. Among Hispanic residents, views of racial discrimination being a problem did not lessen until very recently, standing at 64% in 1996 and 61% in 2007, before declining to 49% in the current survey.

When asked about racial and ethnic tension in their own town, the numbers are similar. Among black residents, 53% think that there is at least some tension. Among Hispanics, 44% feel the same. Less than 1-in-3 Asians (31%) and whites (28%) think that there is at least some tension. These results are nearly identical to the 1996 American Conference on Diversity survey for whites, blacks, and Hispanics. However, all racial groups were more positive in the 2007 survey, with just 37% of blacks, 33% of Hispanics, and 21% of whites reporting at least some racial or ethnic tension in their own community.



Asking simply about how race relations are in their area without mentioning the words tension or discrimination, white (75%) and Asian (74%) residents are far more likely to think race relations are at least good. Only 58% of Hispanic and 46% of black New Jerseyans think so. This means that less than half of black residents think of race relations in the area they live as excellent or good. It is a particular problem of younger black New Jerseyans. Only 40% of blacks between the ages of 18 and 49 think race relations are either good or excellent compared to 53% of blacks 50 years of age and older.

Immigration

The survey also asked if state residents feel immigration has had a positive or a negative impact on New Jersey. The state as a whole is divided: 1-in-3 (34%) think it has been a good thing and 1-in-3 (32%) think it has been bad. Subtracting the percentage who say it has been bad for the state from those who say immigration has been good for the state produces a net +2 impact opinion.

There are, however, major differences among the various racial and ethnic groups in the state. Asians are the most positive at +58. This is not too surprising considering that 74% of this group was born outside of the United States. Hispanics are also more positive than negative toward immigration, with a net impact score of +20. It is worth noting that support is considerably lower than the support of Asian New Jerseyans, even though 50% of this group was also born outside the United States. Black residents are divided, with a net number of +1, they mirror the state average. Only 15% of this group was born outside the US. Whites are the only group with a negative net number of -8, meaning more white residents think of immigration as being bad rather than good. They are also the group with smallest number of foreign born residents (6%).

The key difference across all racial and ethnic groups is education. The biggest difference is among white residents. While non-college white educated residents are negative on immigration (-21), college educated whites are generally positive (+14). Similarly, black residents without college educations are negative (-6) while black college graduates are favorable (+25). Among Hispanics and Asians, who are generally positive towards immigration, we still find college graduates being even more positive by 15 to 20 points.

Age also plays a role. Except for the Asian population, younger adults are more likely to support immigration than older residents. While whites age 50 or older have a net negative view of -15, those under 50 are evenly divided. Immigration is one of the few issues where black and white residents are close in their opinions.

Crime in New Jersey

Nearly 6-in-10 (58%) black residents think crime is a serious problem in New Jersey. This compares to 37% of Hispanics and just 25% of whites and 20% of Asians. Among Hispanics, Puerto Ricans are the most likely to consider crime a very serious issue. More than half (51%) think so, compared to only 1-in-3 of Hispanics from the Caribbean (32%) or Central and South America (32%).

Crime in New Jersey	
	Very serious
White	25%
Black	58%
Asian	20%
Hispanic	37%
--Puerto Rico	51%
--Caribbean	32%
--Central & South America	32%

When it comes to evaluating crime, education is a significant factor. While 63% of non-college educated blacks say crime is a very serious problem, only 39% of college educated blacks do. This might be related to socio-economic status, meaning college educated black New Jerseyans have a higher probability of living in safer neighborhoods. Lower education, however, hardly makes any difference for the other races. In fact, among Hispanic New Jerseyans, college graduates are *more* likely to say that crime is a very serious problem.

When asked about personal safety in their own neighborhood at night, 67% of white residents feel very safe, compared to 55% of Asians, 45% of Hispanics, and 39% of blacks. While the lower number of black and Hispanic residents is not surprising given the context of the other crime related questions, the 12 point difference between white and Asian residents is noteworthy.

Financial Situation of the Household

In addition to the overall Garden State Quality of Life Index that measures satisfaction with life in New Jersey, the Monmouth University Polling Institute created a personal life satisfaction index, ranging from perceptions of financial success to how much a person feels at home in their community to the amount of time spent with their family (*see appendix for*

details). About 1-in-3 (34%) white residents score high on the personal life satisfaction index, compared to 26% of Asians, 24% of blacks, and 18% of Hispanics.

The financial situation of about 3-in-4 New Jerseyans is reported as being either very good or fairly good. There are minor differences among the racial groups, with more Asians (82%) and whites (77%) reporting that they are doing okay than blacks (69%) and Hispanics (68%).

One interesting observation is education. It is more likely for white, black, and Hispanic households to report that their financial situation is *very good* if the respondent is college educated. Among Asians there is no distinction between those with college degrees and those without. In fact, non-college educated Asians have the highest likelihood of reporting their household's financial situation as very good.

Life Satisfaction Index			
	Low	Moderate	High
White	22%	44%	34%
Black	33%	44%	24%
Asian	25%	49%	26%
Hispanic	41%	42%	18%

When asked more directly if the respondent's household is having trouble making ends meet, there are some subtle differences among the main racial groups, with 22% of blacks, 21% of Hispanics, 14% of whites, and 10% of Asians having trouble. It is interesting to note, though, that there are major differences among the different Hispanic sub-groups. While only 10% of Hispanics from Central and South America state that they have trouble making ends meet, the number increases to 26% for Puerto Ricans, and climbs to 38% for Hispanics from the Caribbean.

This division can also be found when looking at how concerned New Jerseyans are that they or someone in their household will lose their job within the next year. Overall, 2-in-3 white (63%), Asian (67%) and black (69%) New Jerseyans fear that they or someone in their household will lose their job in the next 12 months. The fear of job loss is the highest among Hispanics (78%). There are also stark differences among different Hispanic sub-groups, with 72% of Hispanics from Central and South America, 83% of Puerto Ricans, and a full 93% of Hispanics from the Caribbean fearing job loss in their household in the coming year.

Government and Public Institutions

There is almost no difference among the various ethnic and racial groups when it comes to confidence in local government. Only 18% of whites, 18% of Asians, 17% of Hispanics, and 13% of blacks have a lot of confidence in their local government. The differences start to appear when it comes to confidence in the local school system, where about half of Asians (53%) and whites (46%) express a lot of confidence compared to 38% of Hispanics and 37% of blacks. The differences get even larger when it comes to evaluating local emergency personnel. While 83% of white New Jerseyans have a lot of confidence in their local fire and rescue department, 73% of Asians, 72% of Hispanics, and 63% of blacks do.

The largest difference among racial and ethnic groups can be observed when residents evaluate their local police department. About 2-in-3 (68%) white residents express a lot of trust in their local police department, followed by 57% of Asians, 54% of Hispanics, and 43% of blacks. That puts 25 percentage points between black and white New Jerseyans when it comes to trust in the local police department.

Confidence in Local Services				
<i>Percentage saying they have "a lot" of confidence in :</i>	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian
Local government	18%	13%	17%	18%
Local schools	46%	37%	38%	53%
Local police	68%	43%	54%	57%
Local fire and rescue	83%	63%	72%	73%

Only about 1-in-3 New Jerseyans think they get their money's worth for the local taxes they pay. There are only small differences among various racial groups. Asians (44%) are most likely to say that the quality of local services is worth the amount of local taxes paid. Whites (34%) and Hispanics (33%) are almost exactly at the state average and black residents (27%) are slightly lower.

Services

When it comes to providing programs for the needy, about half of Hispanic (53%), white (50%), and Asian (48%) New Jerseyans think their area is doing an excellent or good job. Among black New Jerseyans only 37% feel that way. Other factors such as gender, education, or age do not have an impact.

Access to health care is seen very differently by various racial groups in the state. Three-in-four white (74%) and Asian (74%) residents, think access to health care is either excellent or

good in their area. Among Hispanics, it drops to 60% and among blacks, to just 50%. For black residents, education comes into play for this question, with 60% of college educated blacks thinking access to health care in their area is good while only 47% of non-college educated black New Jerseyans feel that way. Education makes little difference for white residents and does not make a difference for Asian and Hispanic state residents.

Cultural and Recreational Activities

About 2-in-3 New Jerseyans think the availability of cultural and recreational activities offered in their area is either excellent or good. A majority of whites (69%), Asians (68%), and to a lesser degree Hispanics (55%) share that opinion. Among blacks, however, only 41% feel that the availability of cultural and recreational activities in their area is excellent or good.

The survey asked about nine state-based activities New Jerseyans may have participated in during the past year. Some activities are universally popular, such as taking a stroll through a downtown area in the state, which about 3-in-4 black (79%), white (78%), Hispanic (74%), and Asian (71%) residents have done in the past year. On the other end of the spectrum, far fewer people across all racial and ethnic groups visited a museum, including 42% of Asians, 37% of Hispanics, 36% of whites, and 30% of blacks.

Activities Participated in New Jersey				
	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian
Strolled through a downtown area	78%	79%	74%	71%
Took a drive in the country	76%	52%	54%	66%
Visited a historical site	59%	37%	41%	47%
Attended a concert or play	57%	43%	48%	45%
Visited a farm	56%	33%	40%	46%
Took a vacation	44%	28%	40%	39%
Gone to a ball game	40%	31%	33%	26%
Gone to an amusement park	38%	45%	66%	50%
Visited a museum	36%	30%	37%	42%

Some activities are more popular among some groups than others. More than half (56%) of white residents visited a farm in the state, but only 46% of Asians, 40% of Hispanics, and 33% of blacks did. Similarly, 3-in-4 white residents (76%) took a drive in the country, compared to only 66% of Asians, 54% of Hispanics, and 52% of blacks. Attending concerts and plays are

somewhat more popular among whites (57%), than among Hispanics (48%), Asians (45%), and blacks (43%). Ball games are also more popular among whites (40%), compared to Hispanics (33%), blacks (31%), and Asians (26%). Going to an amusement park, on the other hand, is particularly popular among Hispanics (66%) and not quite as popular among Asians (50%), blacks (45%) and whites (38%). Finally, taking a vacation in New Jersey is interesting with about 4-in10 whites (44%), Hispanics (40%), and Asians (39%) having taken one, but only 28% of black residents saying the same.

Conclusion

New Jersey is one of the most racially and ethnically diverse states in the country. At the same time it is also highly segregated, impacting the quality of life for various racial and ethnic groups in the state. There is general agreement on some items, such as poor reviews for the quality of government, but there are also significant differences on many facets of quality of life in the Garden State.

Overall, white and Asian residents are happier with the state and many aspects of their lives than are Hispanic and black New Jerseyans. Across many issues white and Asian residents often share opinions, which is notable considering their different cultural backgrounds. At the same time, the opinions of black New Jerseyans are often sharply more negative than white and Asian state residents. The Hispanic population often falls between these extremes. However, even among Hispanics there can be wide variations in opinion depending on what part of Latin America they have come from.

New Jersey's various racial and ethnic groups are an important factor that contributes to the large diversity of opinions and views in the Garden State. This diversity enriches the state, but the wide variations in opinions and experiences demonstrate the difficulty posed for policy makers looking to improve the quality of life for all New Jerseyans.

The full survey results and methodology for the statewide sample can be found in the Monmouth University Polling Institute report, "**The Garden State's Quality of Life: A survey of New Jersey residents**," available at http://www.monmouth.edu/polling/admin/polls/MonmouthU_NJQualityofLife_April2011.pdf .

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APPENDIX

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For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling has a maximum margin of plus or minus 1.8 percentage points. Sampling error increases as the sample size decreases, so statements based on various population subgroups, such as separate figures reported by gender or party identification, are subject to more error than are statements based on the total sample. In this report, the sampling error for the whites is $\pm 2.2\%$, for blacks $\pm 6.0\%$, for Asians $\pm 6.8\%$, and for Hispanics $\pm 6.4\%$. When breaking down the Hispanic population into subgroups by region of origin, the sampling error ranges from 11 to 14 percentage points. In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

Garden State Quality of Life Index:

- Overall, how would you rate New Jersey as a **place to live** – excellent, good, only fair, or poor?
- How would you rate your town or city as a **place to live** – excellent, good, only fair, or poor?
- How would you rate the quality of the environment in your area – excellent, good, only fair, or poor?
- How would you rate the job your local schools are doing - excellent, good, only fair, or poor?
- How safe do you feel in your neighborhood at night – very safe, somewhat safe, or not at all safe?

Life Satisfaction Index:

- For this question, please think about a picture of a ladder. Suppose that the top of the ladder represents the best possible life for you, and the bottom represents the worst possible life for you. If the top step is "10" and the bottom step is "0", on which step of the ladder do you feel you personally stand at the present time?
- I'm going to read you a few statements. For each one please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree.
 - I have enough time to spend with my family
 - I stay up at night worrying how to make ends meet
 - I find myself wishing I could live somewhere else
 - I feel like I belong in my community

Local Area Index:

- How would you rate your town or city as a place to live - excellent, good, only fair, or poor?
- Now, I'd like your opinion of some different aspects of life in the area where you live. For each one I read, please tell me whether you would rate it as excellent, good, only fair, or poor
 - The quality of the environment
 - The amount of building and development
 - The condition of local roads
 - Traffic
 - Access to public transportation
 - The availability of good-paying jobs
 - The availability of affordable housing
 - The availability of cultural and recreational activities
 - Personal safety and crime
 - Race relations
 - Providing programs for the needy
 - Access to health care
 - As a place to raise a family
 - The job your local schools are doing

Neighborliness Index:

- I'd like to ask you a few questions about your neighborhood. For each one please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree.
 - Most of the people in my neighborhood are trustworthy
 - People in my neighborhood are always in a hurry
 - If a garbage can fell in front of my home a neighbor would pick it up for me
 - I feel comfortable going to a neighbor if I feel sad and need someone to talk to
 - I can ask a neighbor if I need someone to run an errand for me
 - I talk to my neighbors every day