
Representativeness of Survey Respondents

To assess whether survey respondents were representative of the population of local government units, we compared their characteristics with those of all local governments in Minnesota. As the following tables show, respondents closely resemble their respective populations.

Comparison Between All Counties and Those Represented in the Survey

	<u>Statewide</u>	<u>Survey Respondents</u>
Region		
Central	31%	31%
Metropolitan	8	9
North	28	30
South	33	30
Population		
Fewer than 10,001	17%	17%
10,001 -- 20,000	29	27
20,001 -- 30,000	17	20
30,001 -- 50,000	17	13
50,001 -- 100,000	10	11
More than 100,000	9	13
Population Growth, 1997-98		
Yes	62	63
No	38	38

NOTE: Geographic region is based on the state's economic development regions. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

Comparison Between All Cities with at Least 10,000 Residents and Those Represented in the Survey

	<u>Statewide</u>	<u>Survey Respondents</u>
Region		
Central	8%	6%
Combination	1	3
Metropolitan	68	71
North	6	3
South	17	18
Population		
10,000 -- 13,000	15%	11%
13,001 -- 17,000	20	24
17,001 -- 21,000	17	16
21,001 -- 30,000	16	16
30,001 -- 50,000	18	21
More than 50,000	15	13
Population Growth, 1997-98		
Yes	82%	83%
No	18	18

NOTE: Geographic region is based on the state's economic development regions. The combination category includes cities whose boundaries include counties in two or more regions. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

Comparison Between All Cities with Fewer Than 10,000 Residents and Those Represented in the Survey

	<u>Statewide</u>	<u>Survey Respondents</u>
Region		
Central	32%	36%
Combination	1	2
Metropolitan	11	7
North	26	24
South	31	32
Population		
Fewer than 501	48%	43%
501 – 1,000	20	24
1,001 – 2500	17	19
2501 – 5000	9	8
5001 – 7500	4	3
7501 – 10,000	3	4
Population Growth From 1997 to 1998		
Yes	48%	48%
No	52	52

NOTE: Geographic region is based on the state's economic development regions. The combination category includes cities whose boundaries include counties in two or more regions. Statewide figures for population growth are based on our random sample and not the statewide population. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

Comparison Between All Towns and Those Represented in the Survey

	<u>Statewide</u>	<u>Survey Respondents</u>
Region		
Central	32%	33%
Metropolitan	3	5
North	37	32
South	28	30
Population		
Fewer than 501	70%	67%
501 – 1,000	19	18
1,001 – 1500	5	7
More than 1500	6	8

NOTE: Geographic region is based on the state's economic development regions. Estimates of town populations for 1998 were not available so no comparison on population growth could be made. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.
