

Middlebury College

Survey of Individual Behavior in Vermont

2006



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Section 1: Welcome

Welcome to the Middlebury College Survey of Individual Behavior in Vermont. Your participation in this survey and careful consideration of each question are important keys to its success. All of your responses will remain strictly confidential.

This survey will take about half an hour to complete. Upon completion of the survey, you will be entered into a lottery to receive a cash payout. The amount of money you might earn will depend on the decisions you make in the first part of the survey. Please note that we will only enter you into the lottery if the survey is filled out completely.

Please read the following consent statement and check the circle to indicate your agreement:

I freely and voluntarily consent to be a participant in this research project. I understand that the purpose of this research is to examine individual behavior. To this aim, I will be asked to fill out a survey and make decisions with economic consequences. I understand that I am free to discontinue my participation at any time without consequence. I understand that all my responses will be confidential, that any identifiers will be removed, and that only Dr. Jeffrey Carpenter and his research assistants will have access to these data. I further understand that information from all the participants will be grouped together to provide only general information about adult behavior. I understand that if I would like more information about this research, I can contact Dr. Jeffrey Carpenter, Associate Professor of Economics, at Middlebury College (802-443-3241).

I have read, and I understand the above.

Section 2: Splitting \$100

We begin the survey with a three-part decision-making task that involves real money. In this task you will allocate \$100 between yourself and a charity of your choice. You will simply decide how much of the \$100 you want us to send directly to you and how much you want us to send to the charity. The funds for this part of the survey have been provided by the National Science Foundation.

We expect that 500 people will respond to this survey. When we have collected 500 responses we will randomly pick 50 people and implement their decisions. This means that you have a 1 in 10 chance of having your choice implemented. In other words, for 1 in 10 people we will send you and/or the charity that you select actual money. Therefore, you should consider your choices carefully.

The first thing that you will do is choose a charity. Then you will choose how to allocate \$100 between yourself and the charity that you picked. If you are one of the 50 chosen participants, your choice will be implemented and you and/or your charity of choice will receive the amounts of money that you have selected.

Part A:

1. Please choose the charity that you want to receive your donation. Pick one of the following charities or write in a charity at the bottom:

- American Red Cross
- United Way
- Vermont Public Radio
- Amnesty International
- American Cancer Society
- Doctors without Borders
- United Service Organizations (USO)
- UNICEF
- Vermont Land Trust
- Humane Society of the United States
- Habitat for Humanity
- The Nature Conservancy
- American Diabetes Association
- Other: _____

Part B:

Choose the amount of money that you want us to allocate to the charity of your choice. The remaining money will be sent in the form of an anonymous VISA gift card directly to you.

1. Allocate _____ of the \$100 to my charity of choice and send the rest to me.

Part C:

We are interested in how much you think other people would donate to a charity.

1. Of the \$100, how much do you think that any random participant will donate to a charity? _____
2. Of the \$100, how much do you think that your mother would donate to a charity? _____
3. Of the \$100, how much do you think that your best friend would donate to a charity? _____

End of Section 2

We will now ask some short questions about you and your attitudes. Please remember that you must complete all pages of this survey and reach a final page that says "Finished!" to be entered in the drawing for money.

Section 3: Attitudes

Part A:

On the following pages there are phrases describing people's behaviors. Please use the rating scale below to indicate how accurately each statement describes you. Describe yourself as you generally are now, not as you wish to be in the future.

Response Options:

1: Very Inaccurate 2: Inaccurate 3: Neither 4: Accurate 5: Very Accurate

1. Make people feel welcome.

Very Inaccurate 1 2 3 4 5 Very Accurate

2. Like to help others.

Very Inaccurate 1 2 3 4 5 Very Accurate

3. Feel sympathy for those who are worse off than myself.

Very Inaccurate 1 2 3 4 5 Very Accurate

4. Believe that criminals should receive help rather than punishment.

Very Inaccurate 1 2 3 4 5 Very Accurate

5. Believe that the poor deserve our sympathy.

Very Inaccurate 1 2 3 4 5 Very Accurate

6. Am indifferent to the feelings of others.

Very Inaccurate 1 2 3 4 5 Very Accurate

7. Make people feel uncomfortable.

Very Inaccurate 1 2 3 4 5 Very Accurate

8. Turn my back on others.

Very Inaccurate 1 2 3 4 5 Very Accurate

9. Don't like to get involved in other people's problems.

Very Inaccurate 1 2 3 4 5 Very Accurate

10. Have little sympathy for the unemployed.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Very Inaccurate	<input type="radio"/>	Very Accurate				

11. Feel comfortable around people.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Very Inaccurate	<input type="radio"/>	Very Accurate				

12. Make friends easily.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Very Inaccurate	<input type="radio"/>	Very Accurate				

13. Am skilled in handling social situations.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Very Inaccurate	<input type="radio"/>	Very Accurate				

14. Don't like to draw attention to myself.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Very Inaccurate	<input type="radio"/>	Very Accurate				

15. Talk to a lot of different people at parties.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Very Inaccurate	<input type="radio"/>	Very Accurate				

Part B:

For each of the following statements, please indicate your likelihood of engaging in each activity or behavior using the scale provided below.

Response Options:

1: Very Unlikely 2: Unlikely 3: Not Sure 4: Likely 5: Very likely

1. Going down a ski run that is beyond your ability or closed.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Very Unlikely	<input type="radio"/>	Very Likely				

2. Going whitewater rafting during rapid water flows in the spring.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Very Unlikely	<input type="radio"/>	Very Likely				

3. Not wearing a seat belt when a passenger in the front seat.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Very Unlikely	<input type="radio"/>	Very Likely				

4. Periodically engaging in a dangerous sport (e.g., mountain climbing or sky diving).

	1	2	3	4	5	
Very Unlikely	<input type="radio"/>	Very Likely				

5. Trying out bungee jumping at least once.

Very Unlikely 1 2 3 4 5 Very Likely

6. Piloting your own small plane, if you could.

Very Unlikely 1 2 3 4 5 Very Likely

Part C:

For each of the following statements, please indicate how strongly you agree using the scale provided below.

Response Options:

1: Strongly Disagree 2: Disagree 3: Neither 4: Agree 5: Strongly Agree

1. Volunteers are important in their communities.

Strongly Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 Strongly Agree

2. Volunteering makes people feel good about themselves.

Strongly Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 Strongly Agree

3. Volunteering is a good way to make friends.

Strongly Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 Strongly Agree

4. In general, it looks good to have volunteering on your resume.

Strongly Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 Strongly Agree

5. Volunteering can help me to develop skills that will benefit me in my chosen profession.

Strongly Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 Strongly Agree

6. Volunteering can help me to make contacts that are important to me professionally.

Strongly Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 Strongly Agree

7. The people I am close to place a high value on community service.

Strongly Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 Strongly Agree

Section 4: Volunteering

We are now going to ask you two sets of questions about your activity with the volunteer fire department. The first set concerns what you did last month and the second set concerns what you do in a typical month.

In the past month:

1. How many hours of work did you do for the fire department? _____
2. How many hours of training did you do for the fire department? _____

In a typical month:

3. How many hours of work do you do for the fire department? _____
4. How many hours of training do you do for the fire department? _____

Now think about volunteer work that you may have done that does not involve your work for the fire department.

5. In a typical month, do you perform any unpaid volunteer work outside of the fire department?
 - No
 - Yes
 - 5.1. If yes, how many hours? _____
6. In a typical month, do any other members of your household do any unpaid volunteer work, not including the fire department?
 - No
 - Yes
7. In the past year, did you or somebody in your household donate money to a charitable organization?
 - No
 - Yes
 - 7.1. If yes, how much money did your household donate in the past calendar year? _____
8. Last year did you itemize the deductions on your personal federal income tax return?
 - No
 - Yes

Now we are going to ask you a few questions about your background and experience as a firefighter.

9. With which fire department are you affiliated? _____

10. At what age did you first become a volunteer firefighter? _____

11. How many years of experience do you have as a volunteer firefighter? _____

12. Have you ever worked as a professional paid firefighter?

- No
- Yes

12.1. If yes, for how many years? _____

13. Have any of your family members been professional or volunteer firefighters?

- No
- Yes

13.1. If yes, who (relation) and indicate professional or volunteer. _____

14. Were you invited by a friend or family member to apply to the volunteer fire department?

- No
- Yes

15. Prior to joining the volunteer fire department with which you are currently affiliated, did you have friends or family on that department?

- No
- Yes

16. Currently, how far is your primary residence from the fire station to which you respond?

- Less than 1/2 mile
- 1/2 to 2 miles
- 2 to 4 miles
- Greater than 4 miles

17. Currently, how far is your usual place of employment from the fire station to which you respond?

- Less than 1/2 mile
- 1/2 to 2 miles
- 2 to 4 miles
- Greater than 4 miles
- Place of employment varies
- Not currently employed

Section 5: Demographics

1. What is your age as of your last birthday? _____
2. What is your gender?
 - Male
 - Female
3. Please indicate your marital status.
 - Married and living in home with spouse
 - Married but spouse absent or separated
 - Widowed
 - Divorced
 - Never married
4. How many children aged 18 or younger currently reside primarily in your household? _____
 - 4.1. How many of these children are aged 12 or younger? _____
5. How many children aged 18 or younger do you have who are not currently living in your household or who do not primarily reside there? _____
6. How many adult children (over age 18) do you have? _____
7. Please report the highest level of education you have completed.
 - Less than 9th grade
 - 9th - 12th grade, but no diploma
 - High school diploma
 - GED
 - Some college
 - Associate's degree
 - Bachelor's degree
 - Master's degree
 - Doctoral or other professional degree (PhD, MD, DDS, DVM, JD)
8. Are you currently enrolled full-time in school?
 - No
 - Yes
9. Were you born in the United States?
 - No
 - Yes
 - 9.1. If yes, in what city and state were you born? _____
10. Where do you currently reside? Include city, state, and zip code. _____

11. Please rate your religious outlook.

- Religious
- Somewhat religious
- Not very religious
- Not religious
- Do not know

12. How often do you attend organized religious services?

- Never
- Rarely
- Occasionally
- Regularly
- Very often

13. How often did you attend organized religious services as a child?

- Never
- Rarely
- Occasionally
- Regularly
- Very often

14. Do you have a non-standard state-issued license plate on your primary vehicle? (This question refers to the actual license plate and not any accompanying frame or add-on badge).

- No
- Yes

14.1. If yes, please pick all of the options that describe the plate.

- Plate has letters or numbers that I selected (a "vanity plate").
- Plate is of a special design to recognize a cause such as conservation or status such as Pearl Harbor survivor, veteran of a foreign war, or volunteer firefighter.

15. Did you vote in the previous (2004) presidential election?

- No
- Yes
- Not eligible

16. Did you vote in the first presidential election for which you were eligible?

- No
- Yes
- Not yet eligible

17. As a child, did you ever participate in the Boy or Girl Scouts?

- No
- Yes

17.1. If yes, for approximately how many years were you involved?

- Less than 1 year
- 1 to 3 years
- 4 to 6 years
- Greater than 6 years

On a scale of 1-5, rank how responsible you were for the following as a child.

18. Helping with household chores such as washing the dishes.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Not Responsible	<input type="radio"/>	Very Responsible				

19. Helping to care for younger siblings.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Not Responsible	<input type="radio"/>	Very Responsible				

Section 6: Work

We are now going to ask you some questions about your work. For all of these questions, unless otherwise directed, please consider the last full calendar week (Sunday-Saturday). Please do not consider paid or unpaid work you have done for the fire department for this series of questions.

1. Last week, did you do any work for pay or profit?

- No
- Yes

If no, please go to question 2. If yes, please go to Section 7.

2. You have indicated that last week you did not work for pay or profit. Is this because you were on vacation or on leave from a current job?

- No
- Yes

If no, please answer questions 3 and 4. If yes, please go to Section 7.

3. Please indicate the primary reason that you did not work last week:

- Retired
- Full-time student
- Disabled
- Unable to work
- Could not find work for other reasons
- Chose not to work for other reasons

4. Do you currently want a job, either full or part-time?

- No
- Yes

Please move on to Section 8.

Section 7: Questions for Those Currently Working

When answering the following questions, please do not count hours spent with the fire department. Only answer the following questions if you reported in Section 6 either that you did work last week or that you did not work last week because you were on vacation or leave.

1. How many hours a week do you *usually* work for pay or profit at your main job? _____
2. How many hours a week do you *usually* work for pay or profit at any other jobs? _____

We are now going to ask you some questions about earnings. We realize this is a sensitive matter and are asking because it is an important component of this survey and your response is valuable. Your response will remain strictly confidential and will be stored with no identifying information.

3. Please consider your main job only. Are you paid by the hour or salaried?
 - Paid by the hour
 - Salaried
4. Please again consider your main job only. If you are salaried, what is your annual salary? _____
5. Still considering your main job only, if you are paid by the hour, what are your earnings in a usual week?

6. What kind of work is this? That is, what would you consider your occupation?
 - Professional, Managerial, or Technical
 - Sales
 - Clerical
 - Services
 - Skilled blue collar
 - Laborer
 - Farmer
 - Military
 - Other

Please tell us a little bit about your main job.

7. Are you self-employed?
 - No
 - Yes
8. How much flexibility do you have in deciding the number of hours you will work in a given week?
 - No flexibility
 - Little flexibility
 - Some flexibility
 - Much flexibility
 - Complete flexibility

9. How much flexibility do you have in choosing to leave work in order to respond to a call?

- No flexibility
- Little flexibility
- Some flexibility
- Much flexibility
- Complete flexibility

10. If you leave work to respond to a call, does your employer pay you for the hours you were absent?

- No
- Yes

11. Please rank your satisfaction with your main job.

- Dislike it very much
- Dislike it
- Neutral
- Like it
- Like it very much

12. How interesting do you find your main job to be?

- Very boring
- Not interesting
- Neutral
- Interesting
- Very interesting

Section 8: Income Questions

We are now going to ask you some questions about income. We realize this is a sensitive matter. We are asking because it is an important component of this survey and your response is valuable. Your response will also remain strictly confidential and will be stored with no identifying information.

1. In the last calendar year, what was the approximate pre-tax income for your entire household?

- Less than \$10,000
- \$10,000 to \$14,999
- \$15,000 to \$24,999
- \$25,000 to \$34,999
- \$35,000 to \$49,999
- \$50,000 to \$74,999
- \$75,000 to \$99,999
- \$100,000 to \$149,999
- \$150,000 to \$199,999
- \$200,000 or more

2. Do you own your home?

- No
- Yes

2.1 If no, how much do you pay in monthly rent? _____

2.2 If yes, in the last calendar year, how much did you pay in property taxes? _____

Finished!

You have reached the end of this survey. Before returning it, please be sure that you have answered all applicable questions. Thank you very much for your participation. You will be contacted by October 30th if you have been selected to receive money used in the charitable donation question at the beginning of this survey.
