

Twenty key findings of the 2007 Central New Jersey Regional Social Capital Benchmark Survey

	CENTRAL NEW JERSEY	NATIONAL	
1.	Many people surveyed have deep roots in the community:		
	lived in community 6 to 10 years	22%	17%
	11+ years	52%	54%
	over 20 years	33%	35%
2.	Most are well connected with immediate neighbors (defined as the “10 or 20 households that live closest to you”) and talk to or visit with immediate neighbors just about every day or several times a week at rates that are notably higher than the national survey:		
	56%	48%	
3.	The vast majority of respondents feel they can have an impact in making community a better place to live:		
	have an impact	96%	96%
	have a moderate impact	46%	45%
	have a big impact	33%	34%
4.	Race-ethnicity and religion — sometimes considered the great dividers — are not as important to our sense of who we are as are other factors:		
	Central New Jersey		National
	Very	Very, moderately, slightly	Not
	70%	97%	3%
	58%	90%	10%
	49%	93%	7%
	48%	84%	14%
	37%	85%	15%
			being an American
			occupation
			place of residence
			religion
			ethnic/racial background
			Very
			slightly
			Not
			77%
			96%
			4%
			54%
			90%
			10%
			54%
			92%
			9%
			57%
			87%
			13%
			38%
			79%
			20%
5.	Overall, we have notably greater diversity in our personal friendships along ethnic, racial and religious lines when compared to the national sample:		
	has a friend who has a different religion	83%	78%
	has a personal friend who is white	90%	91%
	has a personal friend who is Latino or Hispanic	61%	58%
	Has a personal friend who is Asian	51%	36%
	has a personal friend who is Black or African American	70%	63%

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6.	Compared to the nation, central New Jersey is more balanced politically and socially:	
	Conservative	33%
	Middle-of-road	29%
	Liberal	38%
7.	Compared to the nation, our community exhibits greater religious diversity:	
	Christian	70%
	Jewish	6%
	Other	9%
	No Religion	14%
8.	We have similar or higher levels of trust when compared with the rest of the country:	
	People can be trusted (some or a lot)	45%
	People in your neighborhood can be trusted	84%
	People you work with can be trusted	85%
	People who work in the stores where you shop can be trusted	83%
	Police in your local community can be trusted	87%
	White people can be trusted	89%
	African Americans or blacks can be trusted	87%
	Asian people can be trusted	88%
	Hispanics or Latinos can be trusted	87%
9.	Most of us are very satisfied with our lives.	
	On a scale of 1 to 10 with 10 "extremely satisfied," the percentages selecting 7, 8, 9 and 10 on the scale were:	88%
10.	Most residents consider their health to be good to excellent	90%
11.	Most residents feel it is very or somewhat unlikely they will be a crime victim in the next 12 months:	76%
12.	Most residents rate their community as a good or excellent place to live:	85%
13.	A much higher percentage of our residents read the newspaper daily than residents do nationally:	40%

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14. More of us spend over 11 hours per week on the internet or communicating by email:	20%	10%
15. Our average daily commute is:	31 minutes	26 minutes
16. Our average work week is:	42 hours	45 hours
Therefore, we are no busier than the nation on average in the time it takes us to work and get to work:	47.2	49.3
17. There are a variety of reasons why we are not as engaged in community as we would like:		National survey did not ask this question
Work/family	29%	
Lack of information	17%	
Feel can't make difference	12%	
Feeling unwelcome	10%	
Concerns for safety	9%	
Inadequate transportation	6%	
18. While we appear to be a well-connected region, many of us have <u>NOT</u> joined groups and organizations that increase social capital . The following chart shows the percentage of survey respondents who have <u>NOT</u> participated in one of the groups or organizations listed:		
	Central New Jersey	National (where differences exceed 3%)
Organization affiliated with religion (not worship)	85%	
Adult sports club or league	80%	
Youth organization	76%	
Parents' association or school group	74%	
Veteran's group	93%	
Neighborhood association	81%	
Organization for senior citizens	88%	
Charity or social welfare organization	62%	66%
Labor union	87%	
Pro, trade, farm, business assn	68%	78%
Service clubs or fraternal org	88%	
Ethnic, nationality, civil rights org	91%	94%
Other public interest, political, party	86%	90%
Literary, art, discussion, study	77%	81%

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	Other hobby, investment, garden	77%	
	Support or self-help	85%	80%
19.	Likewise, a significant percentage of respondents did NOT volunteer, join clubs, attend public events or simply play together over “the past year” of their lives. The following percentages never :		
	Volunteered	40%	
	Attended club meeting	58%	
	Attended public meeting	51%	
	Attended celebration, parade, sports, art event	27%	
	Taken part in artistic group	63%	
	Played cards or board games	34%	
	Played a team sport	71%	
			National survey did not ask this question
20.	Central NJ's demographics are different		
	18 to 29 years old	21%	22%
	30 to 49 years old	44%	39%
	50 and over	35%	41%
	Non-hispanic white	64%	62%
	Non-hispanic black	15%	13%
	Hispanic	11%	16%
	Asian	8%	7%
	Other	2%	2%
	High school diploma OR LESS	21%	47%
	Bachelor's degree OR HIGHER	51%	28%
			CNJ is significantly better educated
	2006 Household income less than \$30,000	16%	28%
	Household income \$30,000 to \$75,000	30%	40%
	Household income over \$75,000	54%	27%
	Household income over \$100,000	36%	15%
	Household income over \$200,000	20%	n/a
			CNJ household incomes are higher