



2024 Mad River Valley Community Wellbeing Survey

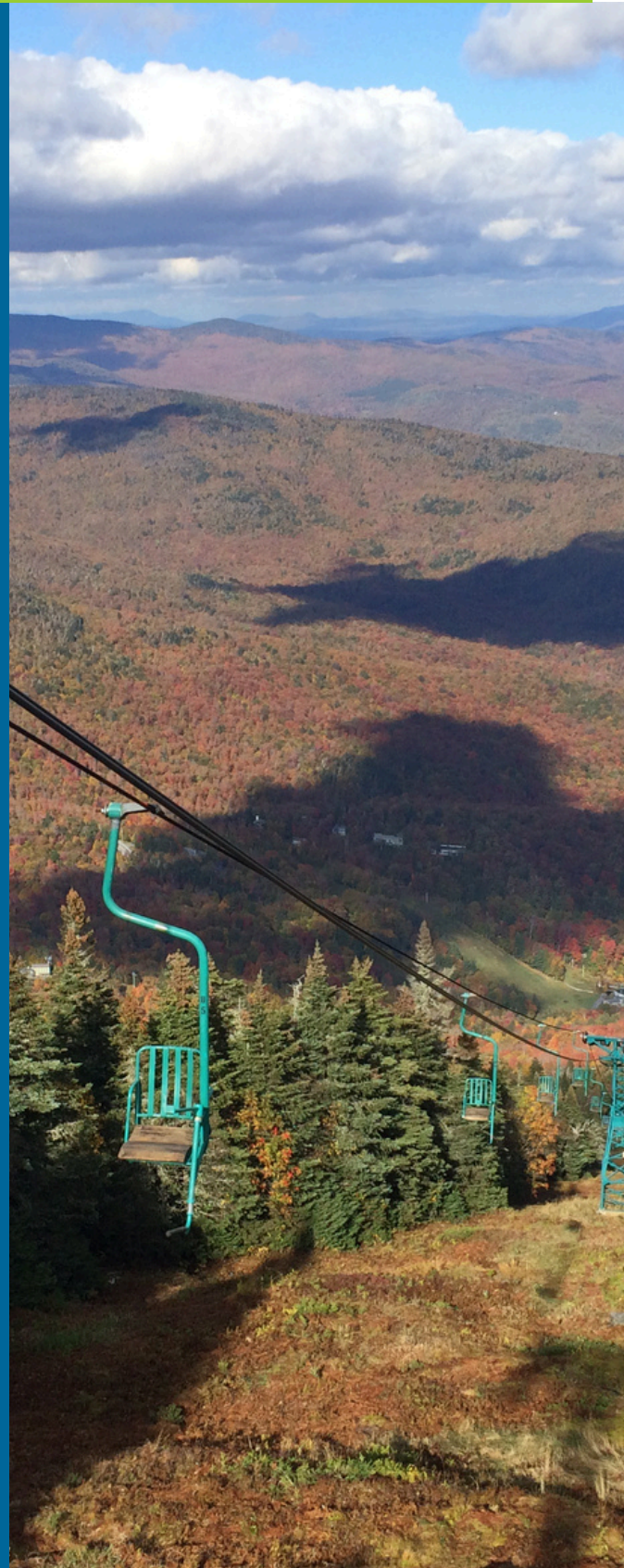
Background & Results



MAD RIVER VALLEY
PLANNING DISTRICT
Fayston • Waitsfield • Warren

Table of Contents

- 1** Background
- 2** Methodology
(Survey Development +
Distribution)
- 4** Demographics
- 5** Results Summary
- 7** MRV Domain Results
- 19** MRV Open-Ended
Questions
- 26** Conclusion
- 27** Acknowledgments
- 28** Appendix
(Individual Questions)



Background

The Mad River Valley (MRV) Community Wellbeing Survey was launched in 2021 to give our community a deeper understanding of how the MRV's people, environment, and local economy are doing. The Mad River Valley Planning District (MRVPD) developed the survey with support from the MRV Community Dashboard Advisory Committee (AC) as part of the MRV Community Indicators Project.

The MRV Wellbeing Survey has been conducted thrice (2021, 2022, and 2024).

Another key aspect of the Community Indicators Project was the creation of the MRV Community Dashboard. Its aim was to enhance the overall wellbeing and resilience of the Mad River Valley by providing community members and local decision-makers with greater access to vital local data.

The MRV Community Dashboard can be found [on MRVPD's website](#). This year's survey results will be incorporated into the Dashboard in Fall 2024.

What does the Wellbeing Survey measure?

- **Satisfaction with Life**
 - Overall happiness, anxiety level
- **Psychological Wellbeing**
 - Engagement, optimism, accomplishment
- **Physical Health**
 - Health, energy, ability, exercise
- **Time Balance**
 - Time for enjoyment, time balance, rushed time
- **Community Vitality**
 - Trust, safety, volunteerism, belonging
- **Social Connectedness**
 - Support, caring, love, loneliness
- **Education & Culture**
 - Cultural opportunity and community culture
- **Physical Environment**
 - Environmental quality and opportunity
- **Governance**
 - Access, trust, confidence
- **Material Wellbeing**
 - Financial security
- **Work Life**
 - Satisfaction, interest, autonomy, pay

THE SURVEY AT-A-GLANCE

- 2024 marks the third edition of the MRV Wellbeing Survey.
- The 2024 Survey was open from April 25 through June 6, 2024.
- The Survey is intended for full-time residents of the MRV Planning District's 3 member towns: Fayston, Waitsfield, and Warren.
 - Of the 573 total respondents, 84 part-time residents and residents of other towns took the Survey; these responses have been separated out of the data and can be found on **page 18**.
- Overall Wellbeing for 2024 was 3.79 (out of 5), which is a slight decrease from the Overall score of 3.80 in 2022.

Methodology

SURVEY DEVELOPMENT

Preexisting survey instruments heavily influence the MRV Wellbeing Survey to provide a useful benchmark for measuring local data.

The survey questions are based on the [Vermont Happiness Study](#), which is led by the University of Vermont's [Center for Rural Studies](#), the [Vermont State Data Center](#), and [Gross National Happiness USA](#).

MRVPD Staff and the MRV Community Dashboard AC chose to model the MRV Wellbeing Survey on this existing, validated survey to avoid reinventing the wheel and to enable comparisons with the statewide Vermont Happiness Study. This approach provides a valuable benchmark for our results.

Survey responses are based on a five-point scale, with 5 being the most positive response and 1 being the most negative.



The MRV Community Dashboard AC added or adjusted several questions from the Vermont Happiness Study to better reflect the MRV's specific needs:

- How much confidence do you have in your state (Vermont) government?
- [To what extent do you agree] I can influence decisions affecting my town.
- In your community, how satisfied are you with your access to educational opportunities for youth?
- In your community, how satisfied are you with your access to childcare and early childhood education?
- How satisfied are you with the water quality in your environment?
- In the past 12 months, how often has it been difficult to address medical needs due to cost?
- [To what extent do you agree] The MRV is an affordable place for me to live.
- [To what extent do you agree] The MRV offers me good opportunities to get ahead professionally.

Two questions regarding corruption and satisfaction with the national government were not included within the governance domain, as they were deemed to be unimportant and/or irrelevant.

Methodology

SURVEY DISTRIBUTION

Hey Warren,
Waitsfield,
& Fayston
residents!

WIN A GIFT CARD!

Take the 2024 MRV Wellbeing Survey:
<https://bit.ly/2024-wellbeing-survey>



SCAN ME!

YOU COULD WIN A GIFT CARD TO:



For more information, please visit:
www.mrvpd.org

MAD RIVER VALLEY
PLANNING DISTRICT
Fayston • Waitsfield • Warren

Deadline:
6/6/24

WHERE WAS THE 2024 MRV WELLBEING SURVEY DISTRIBUTED?

Online

- MRVPD website, e-newsletter
- Weekly on Front Porch Forum
- Partner e-newsletters including schools
- Valley Reporter Article

In Person

- Paper copies at the libraries, Town offices, laundromat, MRV Senior Center, and MRV Community Pantry
- Posters with QR codes
- Presentations to local community groups
- Tabling events at local stores, Waitsfield Farmers Market, and community events

THANKS TO...

Many thanks to our community partners who helped distribute & promote the survey, including:

- MRV Community Pantry
- MRV Senior Center
- Local schools
- MRV Rotary
- MRV Interfaith Council
- MRV libraries
- Drip Culture Saunas, Deco Restaurant & Bar, The Mad Rover, The Waitsfield Farmers Market, and Mehuron's Supermarket
- MRV Chamber of Commerce
- Towns of Fayston, Waitsfield, & Warren

573

PEOPLE RESPONDED TO THE 2024
MRV WELLBEING SURVEY

That's **12%** of the MRV
population

And a **14%** increase from the 2022
response rate

Demographics

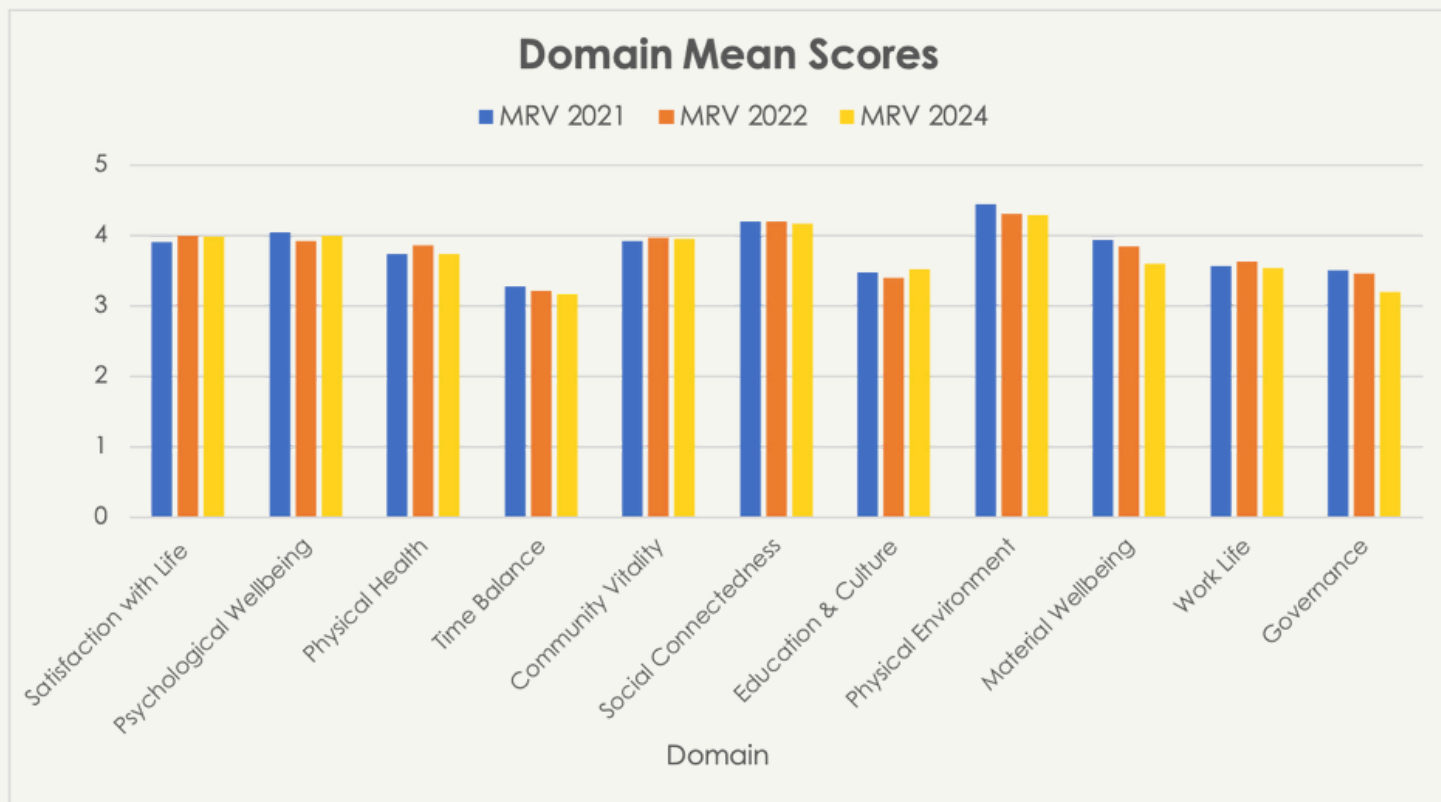
MRV Population data is derived from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2015-2019 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates for the Mad River Valley.

	MRV Wellbeing Survey Respondents		MRV Population
	2022	2024	
Age			
17 or under	1%	2%	21%
18-35	10%	9%	13%
36-50	23%	27%	23%
51-64	31%	32%	21%
65-79	30%	24%	13%
80 and above	5%	6%	11%
Gender Identity			
Woman	65%	66%	49%
Man	34%	31%	51%
Other	1%	3%	-
Income			
<\$10,000/year	3%	2%	4%
\$10,000 - \$25,000	5%	6%	11%
\$25,000 - \$50,000	15%	12%	19%
\$50,000 - \$75,000	14%	16%	16%
\$75,000 - \$100,000	17%	18%	14%
\$100,000 - \$150,000	26%	23%	17%
>\$150,000	23%	24%	18%
Town of Residence			
Fayston	27%	23%	24%
Waitsfield	31%	32%	39%
Warren	26%	31%	37%
Other	16%	15%	-

Results Summary

DOMAIN MEAN SCORES

Overall MRV results: 2021, 2022, & 2024



*Mean/average score indicates the middle value of each domain.

2024 Highlights

The results are in!

Here are some major takeaways from this year's MRV Community Wellbeing Survey:

+4%

Education & Culture experienced the highest increase from 2022 - 2024.

4.3

Similar to 2022, the highest 2024 score was for Physical Environment

-8%

Governance experienced the largest decrease since 2022, mainly due to a lack of confidence in State Government.

Results Summary

DOMAIN MEAN SCORES

MRV Overall Results - 2021 to 2024

Domain	Mean Score MRV-2021	Mean Score MRV-2022	Mean Score MRV-2024	Change from MRV-2021 to MRV-2024
Satisfaction with Life	3.91	3.99	3.99	+0.08
Psychological Wellbeing	4.05	3.92	3.99	-0.06
Physical Health	3.73	3.86	3.74	+0.01
Time Balance	3.27	3.21	3.16	-0.11
Community Vitality	3.92	3.97	3.95	+0.03
Social Connectedness	4.20	4.19	4.17	-0.03
Education & Culture	3.48	3.40	3.52	+0.04
Physical Environment	4.44	4.30	4.29	-0.15
Material Wellbeing	3.94	3.84	3.60	-0.34
Work Life	3.56	3.63	3.53	-0.03
Governance	3.50	3.46	3.19	-0.31

Understanding Wellbeing

Analyzing survey results through the domains side-by-side, as above, provides a more accurate depiction of holistic wellbeing than the individual indicators. By comparing each domain, we can see areas where the Mad River Valley excels and areas where there is room for improvement.

To contextualize the 2024 MRV Wellbeing Survey results, the findings are compared with results from the 2021 & 2022 survey iterations. Mean scores were calculated for each domain (1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest possible).

Most of the domain means in the 2024 MRV Wellbeing Survey decreased compared to results from 2021. The decreases varied between -0.03 & -0.34, with the largest declines occurring in the **Governance** (-0.31) & **Material Wellbeing** (-0.34) domains.

Despite this trend, it is also important to understand how the MRV results compare to Vermont as a whole, which can be found on the following page.

Results Summary

DOMAIN MEAN SCORES

Overall Results for VT vs. MRV

Domain	Mean Score VT-2021	Mean Score MRV-2024	Change from VT-2021 to MRV-2024
Satisfaction with Life	3.6	3.99	+0.39
Psychological Wellbeing	3.8	3.99	+0.19
Physical Health	3.5	3.74	+0.24
Time Balance	3.1	3.16	+0.06
Community Vitality	3.5	3.95	+0.45
Social Connectedness	3.5	4.17	+0.67
Education & Culture	3.3	3.69	+0.39
Physical Environment	4.1	4.29	+0.19
Material Wellbeing	4.0	3.72	-0.28
Work Life	3.6	3.70	+0.1

Understanding Wellbeing

To understand how the MRV results compare to those of the larger region, results from the MRV Wellbeing Survey are compared to those of the Vermont Happiness Survey. The Vermont Happiness Survey has been conducted in 2013, 2017, 2020, and most recently in January 2021*. Like the MRV Wellbeing Survey, mean scores for the Vermont Happiness Survey were calculated for each domain (1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest possible score).

Compared with the most recent statewide [Vermont Happiness Survey](#) results (2021), the Mad River Valley scored higher in every domain in 2024, except for **Material Wellbeing**, which scored -0.28 lower. The MRV stands out, particularly in **Social Connectedness** and **Community Vitality**.

This is a helpful comparison because it illustrates that despite a drop in MRV Domain Mean scores from 2021 - 2024, overall well-being in the MRV is higher in most cases compared to the state of Vermont.

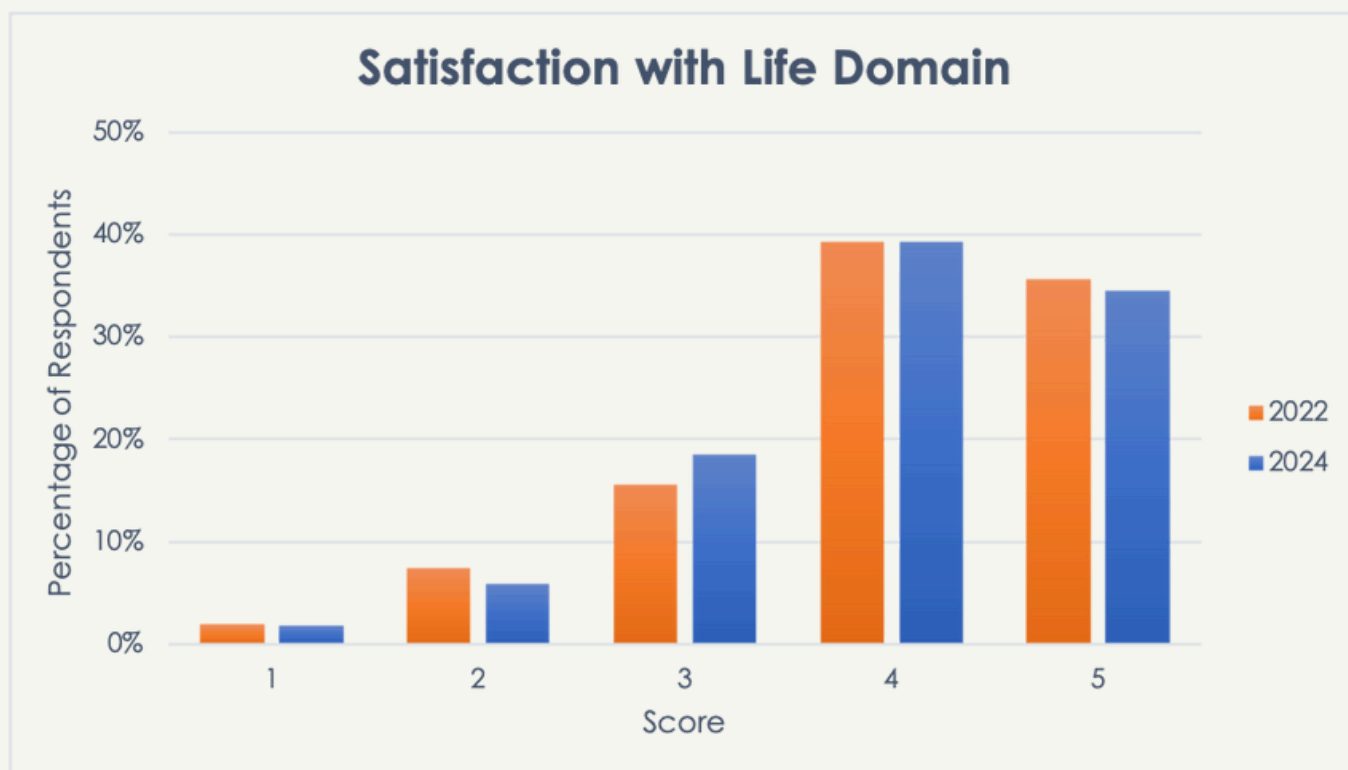
*2021 VT state data is the most current available.

Mad River Valley Domain Results

Note: Questions in this section marked with an asterisk indicate MRV-specific questions, either additional or modified from the VT Happiness Study.

SATISFACTION WITH LIFE: 3.99

Overall happiness, anxiety level, general satisfaction



What did this domain measure?

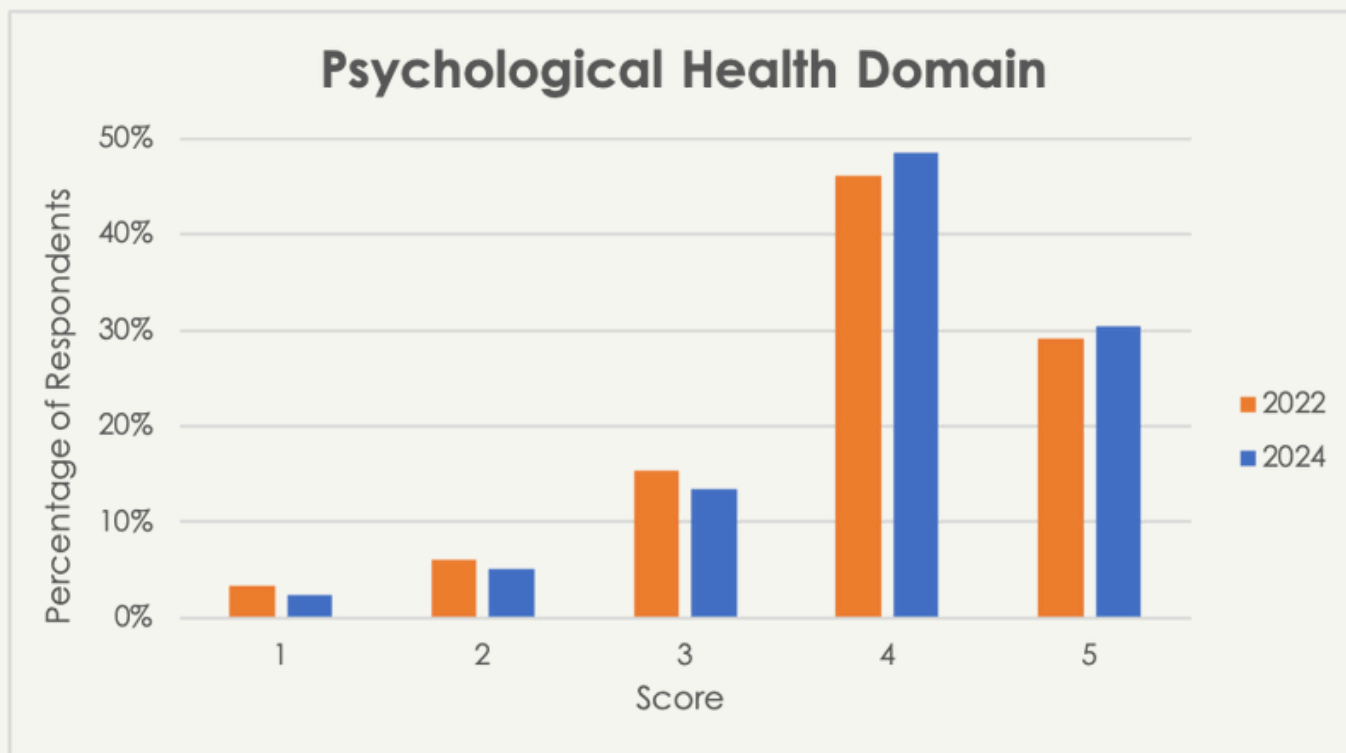
- Overall, how satisfied are you with your life nowadays? -.07
- Overall, how happy did you feel yesterday? -.01
- To what extent do you feel the things you do in life are worthwhile? =
- Overall, how anxious did you feel yesterday? +.05

Change MRV-2022 to MRV-2024

<p>=</p> <p>This score was equal in the 2022 & 2024 surveys.</p>	<p>43%</p> <p>of respondents said the things they do in life are "Very Worthwhile"</p>	<p>87%</p> <p>of respondents were "Somewhat" or "Very Satisfied" with life nowadays</p>	<p>-2%</p> <p>The mean score when asked 'Overall, how satisfied are you with your life nowadays?' dropped from 2022 - 2024</p>
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PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH: 3.99

Engagement, optimism, accomplishment



What did this domain measure?

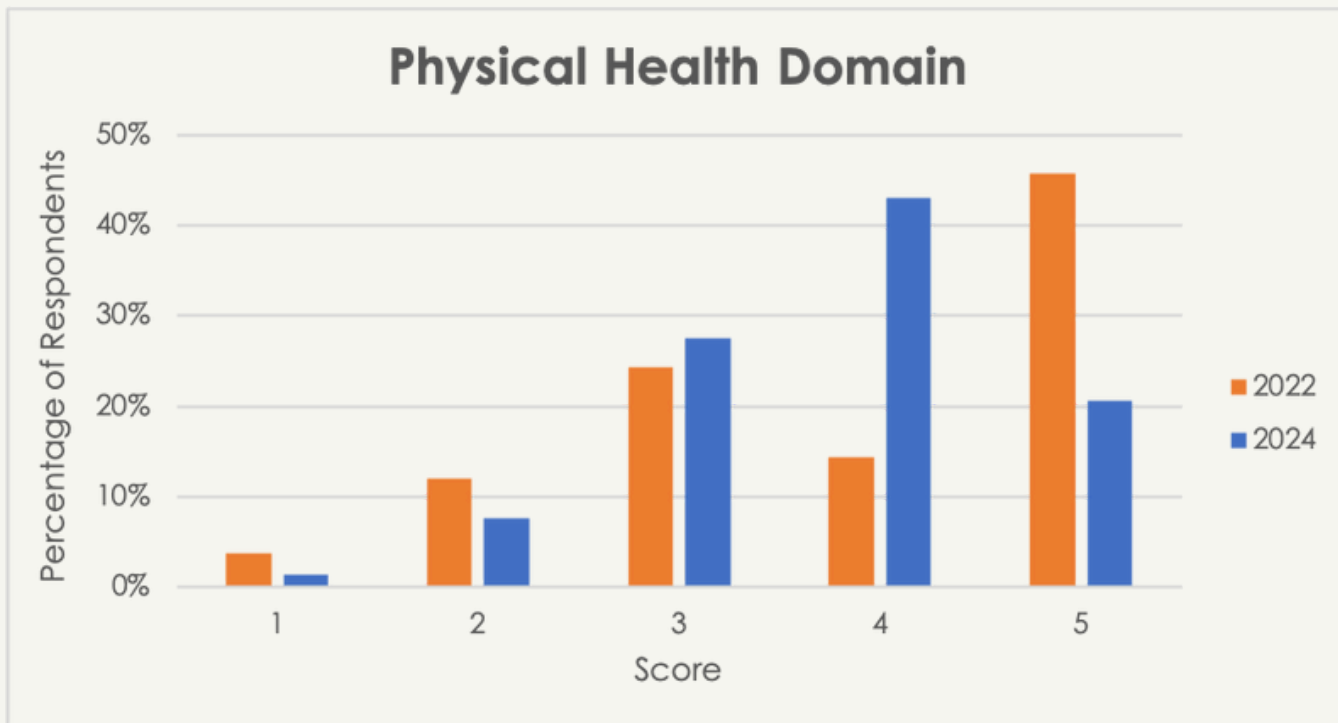
Change MRV-2022
to MRV-2024

- I lead a purposeful and meaningful life. +.10
- I am engaged and interested in my daily activities. +.11
- I am optimistic about my future. +.03
- Most days I feel a sense of accomplishment. +.08



PHYSICAL HEALTH: 3.74

Health, energy, ability, exercise



What did this domain measure?

- In general, I would say my health is...
- During the past week, how satisfied were you with your ability to perform your daily activities?
- During the past week, would you say you had a lot of energy...
- During the past week, how satisfied were you with the quality of your exercise?

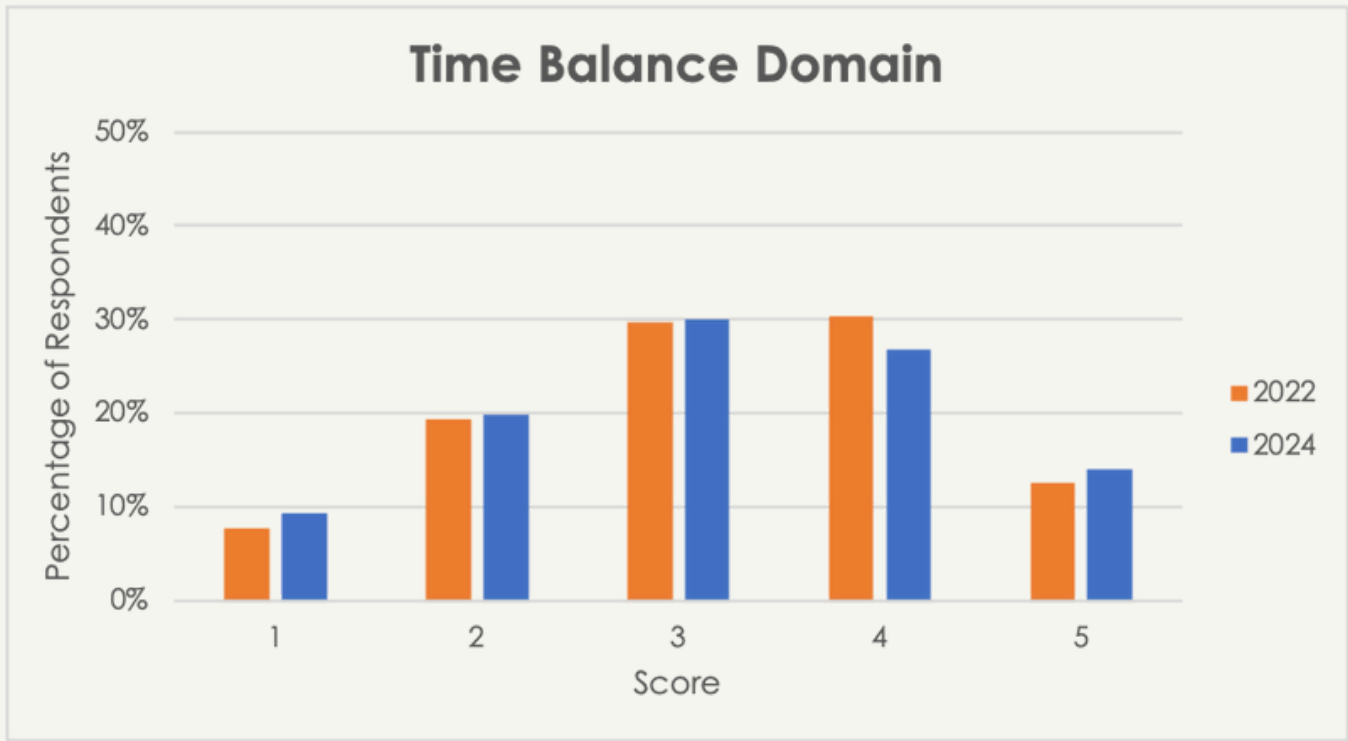
Change MRV-2022 to MRV-2024

-0.03
+0.03
-0.02
+0.04

<h2 style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">-.12</h2> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 5px 0 0 0;">Score decreased from 2022</p>	<h2 style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">60%</h2> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 5px 0 0 0;">of respondents said their health was "Very Good" or "Excellent"</p>	<h2 style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">55%</h2> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 5px 0 0 0;">of respondents were "Somewhat" or "Very Satisfied" with their quality of exercise in the past week</p>
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TIME BALANCE: 3.16

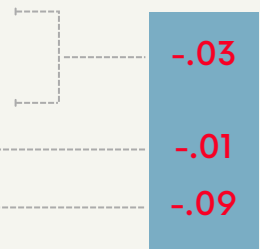
Time for enjoyment, time balance, rushed time



What did this domain measure?

- In a typical week, how much of your time can you spend doing things that you enjoy?
- In the past week, my life has been too rushed...
- In the past week, I have had plenty of spare time...

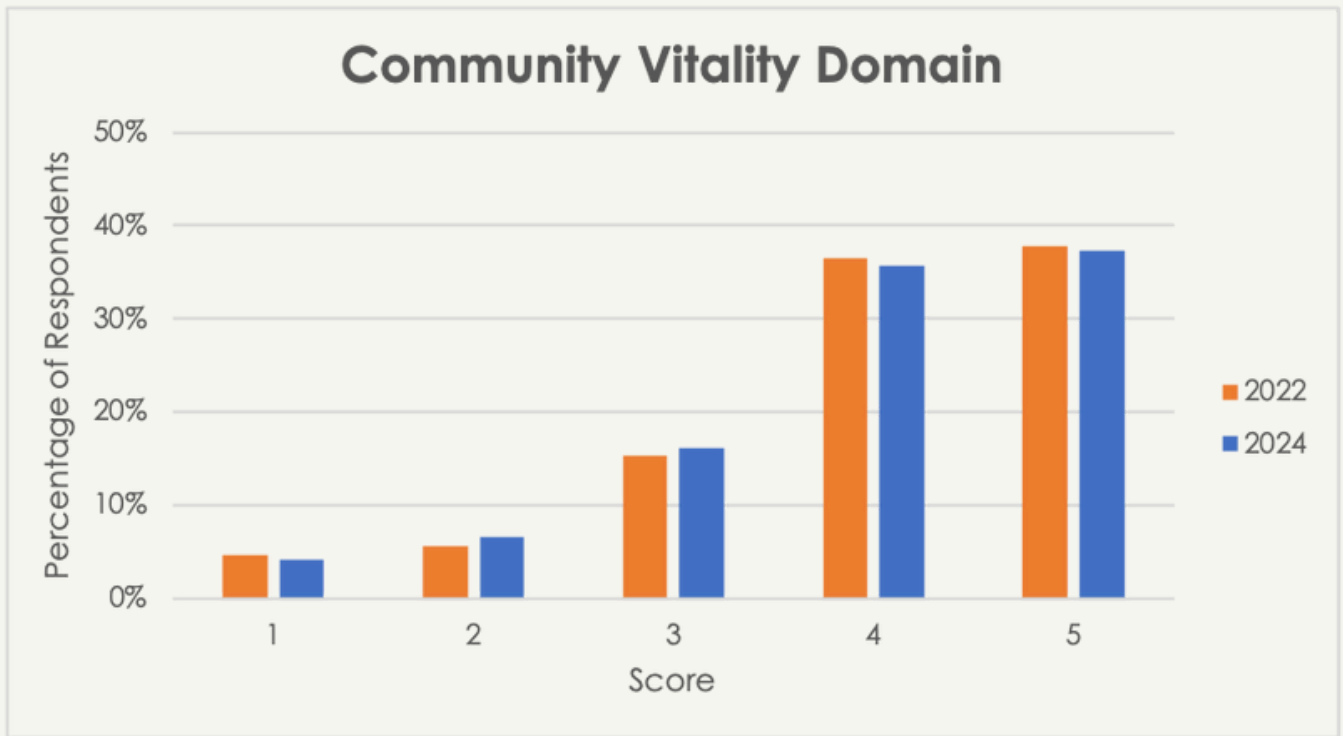
Change MRV-2022 to MRV-2024



<h2 style="font-size: 2em;">-4%</h2> <p>Compared to 2022, more respondents "Disagree" or "Strongly Disagree" that they have plenty of spare time</p>	<h2 style="font-size: 2em;">Lowest</h2> <p>score in the 2024 survey went to Time Balance</p>	<h2 style="font-size: 2em;">-.05</h2> <p>Score decreased from 2022</p>	<h2 style="font-size: 2em;">77%</h2> <p>of respondents spend "Some" or "Most" of their time doing things they enjoy</p>
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COMMUNITY VITALITY: 3.95

Trust, safety, volunteerism, belonging



What did this domain measure?

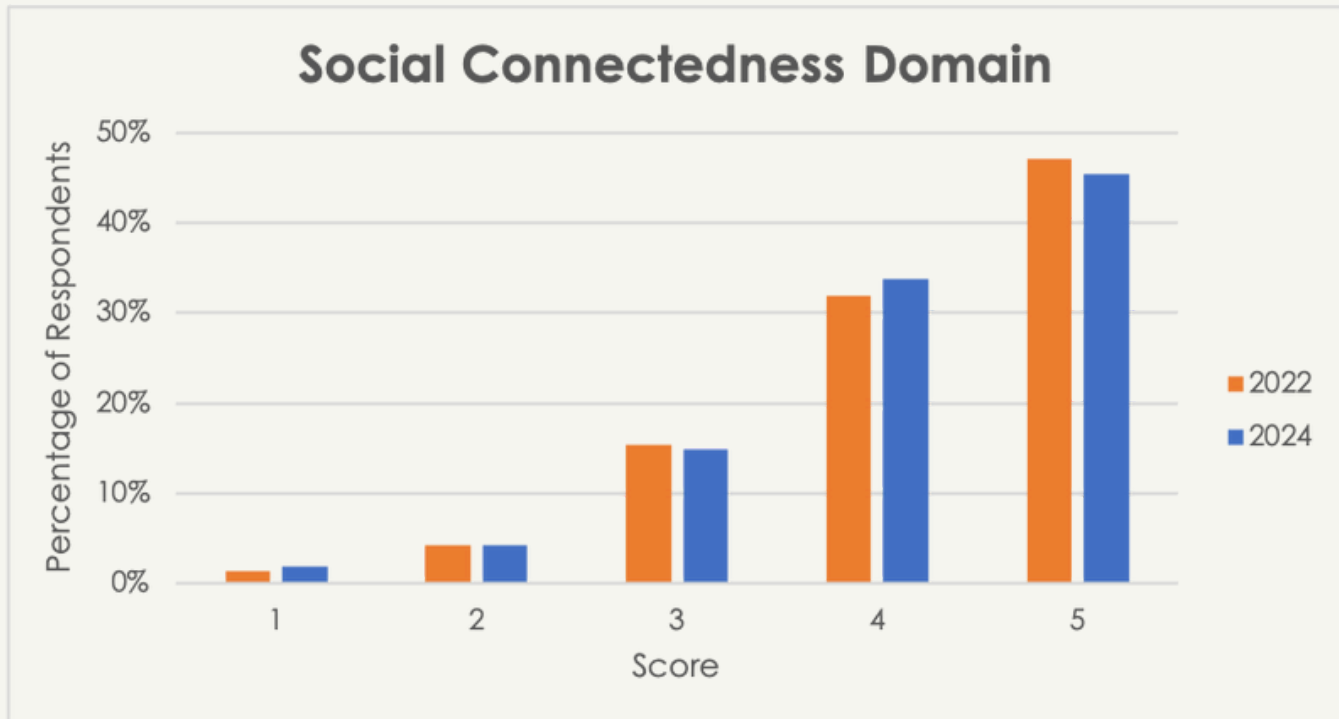
Change MRV-2022 to MRV-2024

- When thinking about your neighbors, do you trust... +.03
- When thinking about businesses in your community, do you trust... -.11
- Now, imagine that you lost a wallet or purse that contained two hundred dollars. How likely would it be to have all your money returned if it was found by someone who lives in the community? +.10
- How satisfied are you with your personal safety in your community? -.09
- In the past 12 months have you donated money... -.14
- In the past 12 months have you volunteered your time... +.25
- Would you describe your feeling of belonging to your local community as... =
- How often do you feel uncomfortable or out of place in your community because of things like your ethnicity, culture, race, skin color, language, accent, gender, sexual orientation, or religion? -.08

<h2>-.02</h2> <p>Score decreased from 2022</p>	<h2>90%</h2> <p>of respondents were "Somewhat" or "Very" satisfied with their personal safety in the community</p>	<h2>79%</h2> <p>of respondents trust "Most" of "All" of their neighbors</p>	<h2>TIME</h2> <p>was more likely to be donated than money in the 2024 survey. This is the first year this has been true in the community, according to the data.</p>
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SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS: 4.17

Support, caring, love, loneliness



What did this domain measure?

Change, 2022 - 2024:

- How satisfied are you with your personal relationships? -.12
- During the past week, have you felt loved... -.06
- During the past week, have you felt lonely... +.07
- People in my life care about me. +.12

-5%

Respondents that were "Somewhat" or "Very" satisfied with their personal relationships dropped from 2022 - 2024

-.02

Overall score decreased from 2022

30%

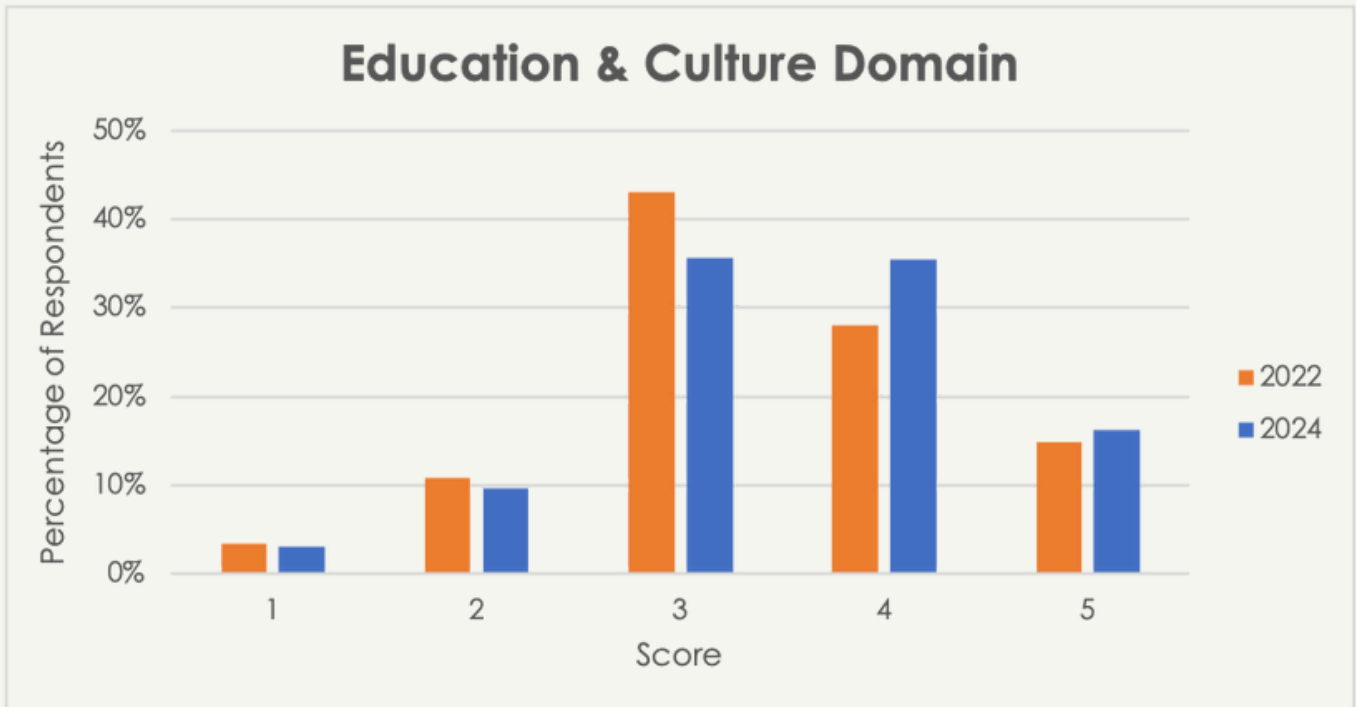
of respondents reported feeling lonely "Sometimes", "Often", or "Very Often" in the last week

90%

of respondents "Agree" or "Strongly Agree" that people in their life care about them

EDUCATION & CULTURE: 3.52

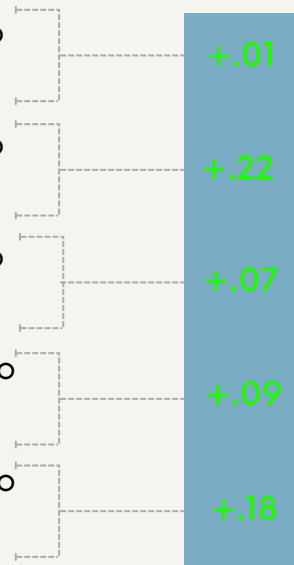
Cultural opportunity, community culture, access to education



What did this domain measure?

- In your community, how satisfied are you with your access to sports and recreational activities?
- In your community, how satisfied are you with your access to artistic and cultural activities?
- In your community, how satisfied are you with your access to learning opportunities like informal workshops or trainings?
- *In your community, how satisfied are you with your access to educational opportunities for youth?
- *In your community, how satisfied are you with your access to childcare and early childhood education?

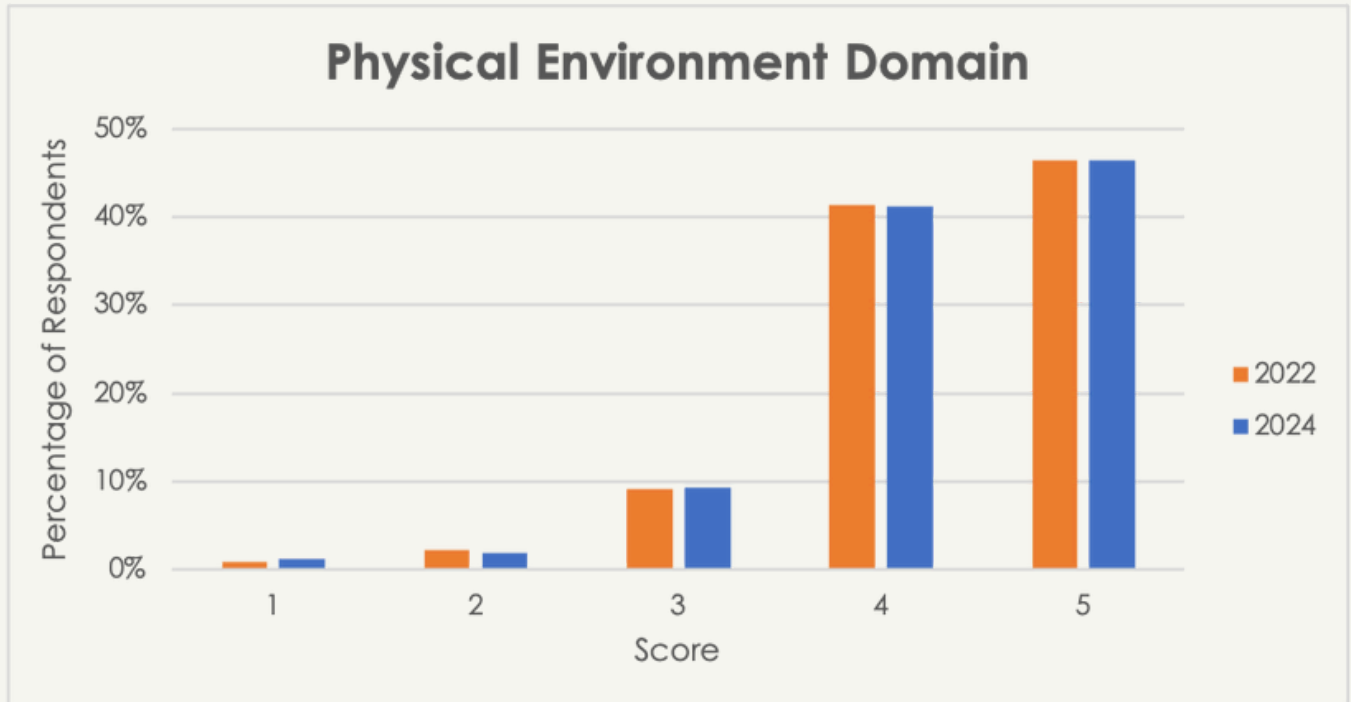
Change, 2022 - 2024:



<h2 style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">+.12</h2> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">Overall score increased from 2022</p>	<h2 style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">40%</h2> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">of respondents were "Somewhat" or "Very" satisfied with access to childcare and early childhood education</p>	<h2 style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">65%</h2> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">of respondents were either "Satisfied" or "Very Satisfied" with their access to artistic & cultural activities in the community</p>	<h2 style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">75%</h2> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">of respondents were "Satisfied" or "Very Satisfied" with their access to recreational activities & sports</p>
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PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT: 4.29

Environmental quality and opportunity



What did this domain measure?

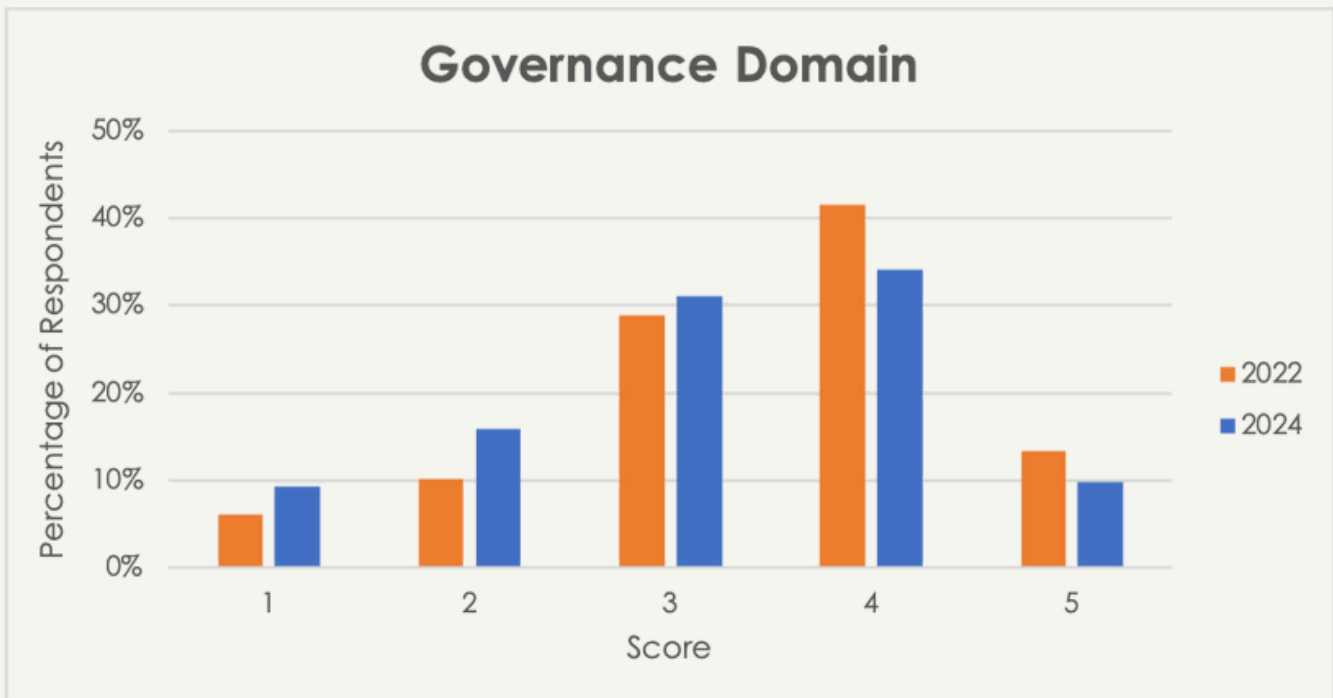
Change, 2022 - 2024:

- How healthy is the natural environment of the Mad River Valley? -.02
- How satisfied are you with efforts to preserve the natural environment in your community? +.06
- How satisfied are you with opportunities you have to enjoy nature? =
- How satisfied are you with the air quality in your environment? -.04
- *How satisfied are you with the water quality in your environment? -.04

<p>79%</p> <p>of respondents were either "Satisfied" or "Very Satisfied" with efforts to preserve the natural environment in the community</p>	<p>-.01</p> <p>Overall score decreased from 2022</p>	<p>#1</p> <p>highest score in the 2024 survey</p>	<p>87%</p> <p>of respondents said the natural environment of the Mad River Valley is "Very" or "Extremely" healthy</p>	<p>93%</p> <p>of respondents were either "Satisfied" or "Very Satisfied" with opportunities to enjoy nature & the air quality in the Mad River Valley</p>
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GOVERNANCE: 3.19

Access, trust, confidence



What did this domain measure?

Change, 2022 - 2024:

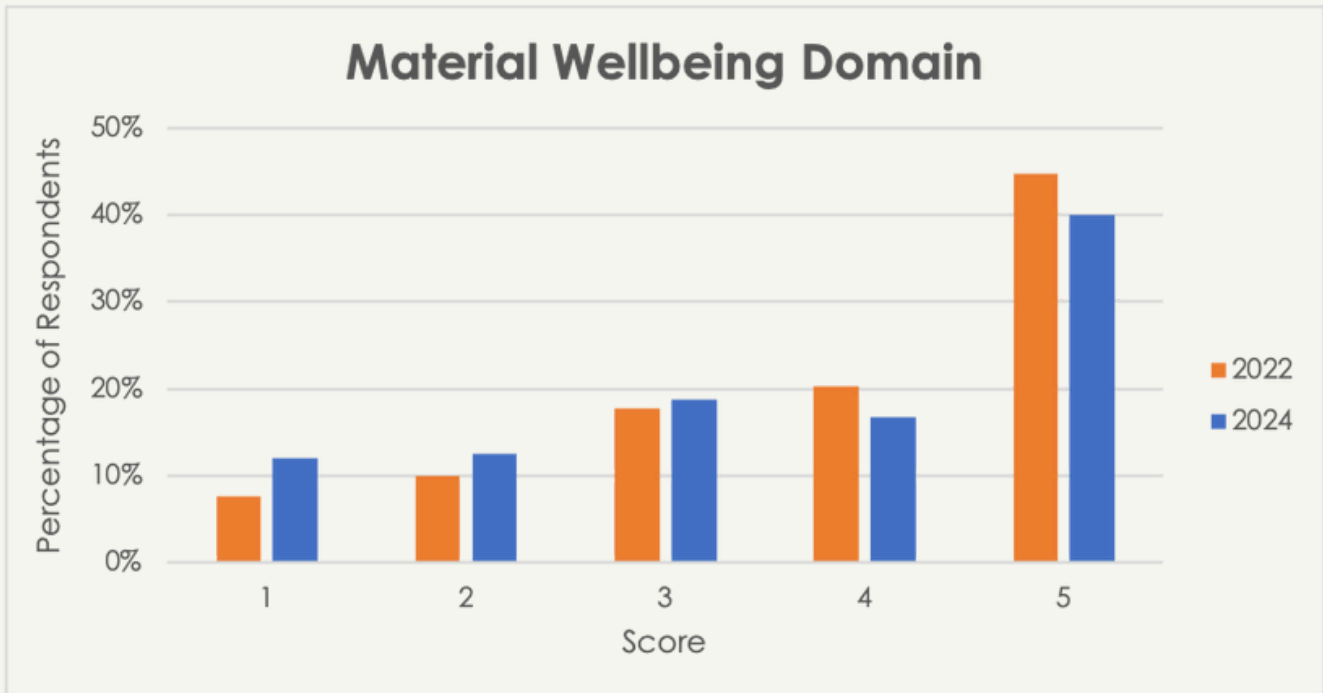
- Public officials in my community pay attention to what people think. -.17
- How much confidence do you have in your local (town) government? -.17
- *How much confidence do you have in your state (Vermont) government? -.52
- *I can influence decisions affecting my town. -.20

<h2 style="margin: 0;">-.27</h2> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">Score decreased from 2022*</p>	<h2 style="margin: 0;">49%</h2> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">of respondents "Agree" or "Strongly Agree" that public officials in the community pay attention to what people think</p>	<h2 style="margin: 0;">54%</h2> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">of respondents had "Some" or "A Great Deal" of confidence in their local town Government</p>	<h2 style="margin: 0;">35%</h2> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">of respondents "Neither Agree nor Disagree" that they can influence decisions affecting their town</p>
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*The biggest Governance score decrease occurred at the state governance level. See pages 42-43 for individual question breakdowns.

MATERIAL WELLBEING: 3.60

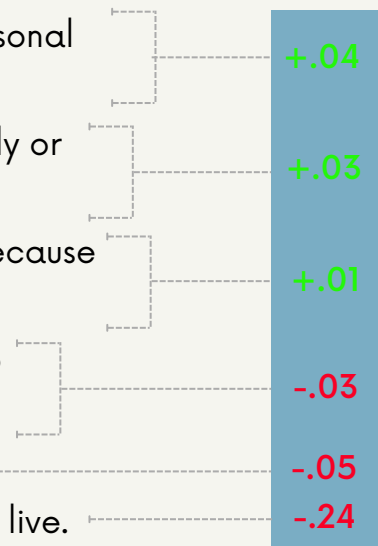
Financial security



What did this domain measure?

Change, 2022 - 2024:

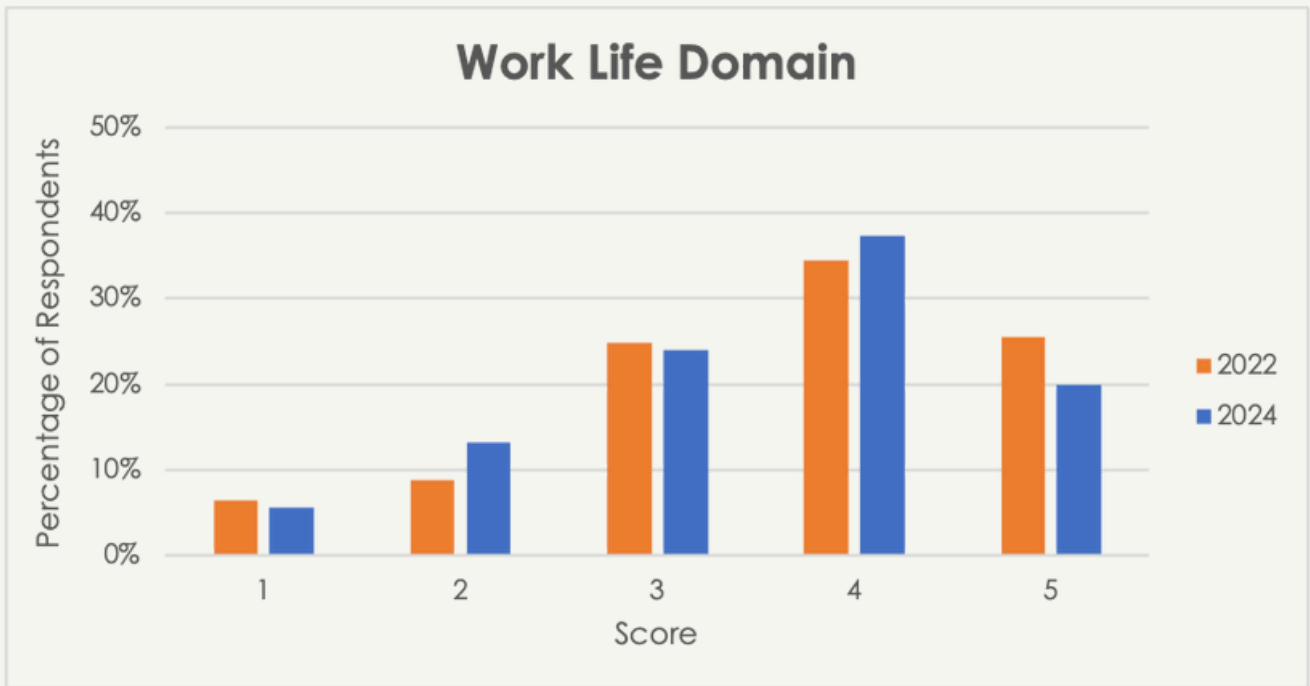
- In general, how much stress do you feel about your personal finances?
- How often do you find yourself just getting by financially or living paycheck to paycheck?
- In the past 12 months, how often have you eaten less because there wasn't enough money for food?
- *In the past 12 months, how often has it been difficult to address medical needs due to cost?
- I have enough money to buy the things that I want.
- *The Mad River Valley is an affordable place for me to live.



<h2 style="margin: 0;">-.24</h2> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">Score decreased from 2022</p>	<h2 style="margin: 0;">50%</h2> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">of respondents "Disagree" or "Strongly Disagree" that the Mad River Valley is an affordable place to live</p>	<h2 style="margin: 0;">55%</h2> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">of respondents feel a "Moderate", "High", or "Overwhelming" amount of stress about their finances</p>	<h2 style="margin: 0;">84%</h2> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">of respondents noted that they had "Never" eaten less resulting from financial hardship</p>	<h2 style="margin: 0;">46%</h2> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">of respondents find themselves just getting by financially "Sometimes", "Most", or "All" of the time</p>
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WORK LIFE: 3.53

Satisfaction, interest, autonomy, pay



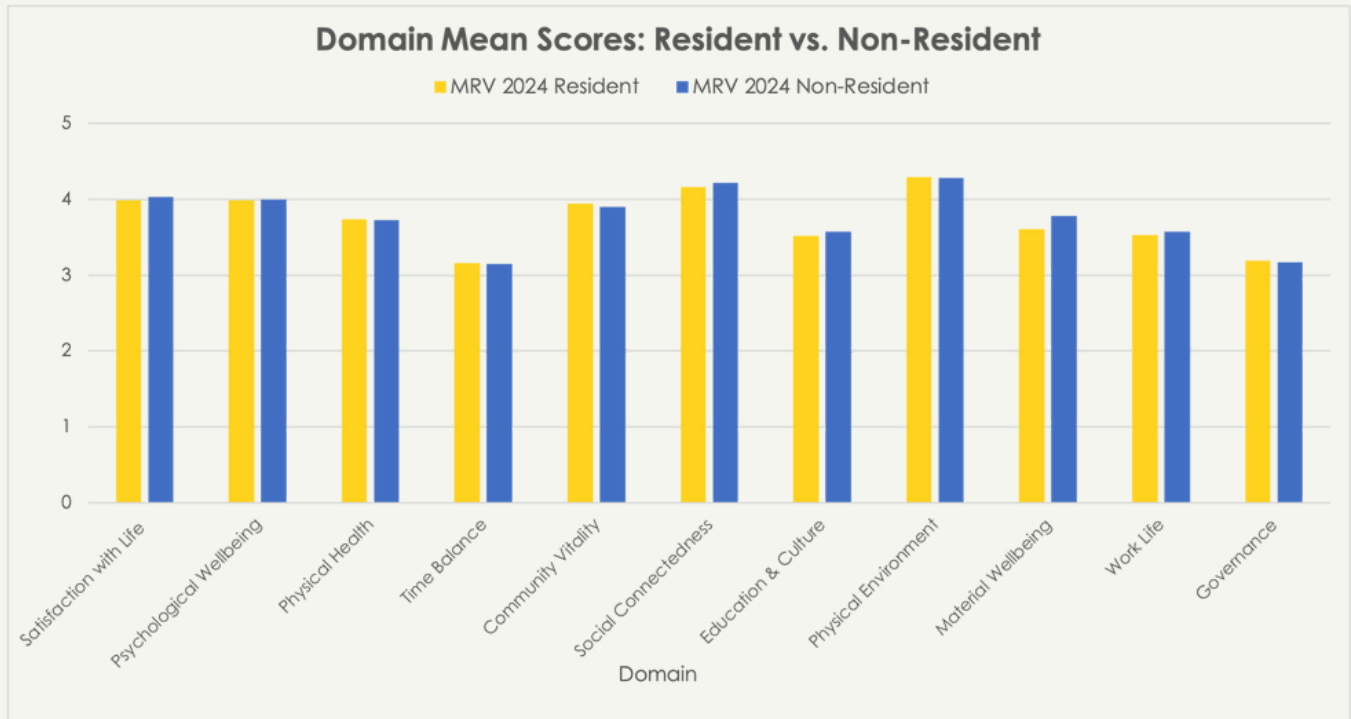
What did this domain measure?

Change, 2022 - 2024:

- How satisfied are you with your current work life? -.01
- How often do you find your current work life interesting? +.04
- My work conditions allow me to be as productive as I can be. -.01
- Considering my work efforts and achievements, I get paid appropriately. +.03
- I am allowed to decide how to get my work done. -.06
- *The Mad River Valley offers me good opportunities to get ahead professionally. -.11

<h2 style="margin: 0;">-.10</h2> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">Score decreased from 2022</p>	<h2 style="margin: 0;">68%</h2> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">of respondents said they were "Somewhat" or "Very" satisfied with their current work life</p>	<h2 style="margin: 0;">44%</h2> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">of respondents "Agree" or "Strongly Agree" that they are paid appropriately considering their work effort</p>	<h2 style="margin: 0;">15%</h2> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">of respondents "Agree" or "Strongly Agree" that the MRV offers opportunities to get ahead professionally</p>
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MRV Resident v. Non-Resident Results



What the Data Tells Us...

The MRV Wellbeing Survey is intended for full-time residents of the MRV Planning District's 3 member towns: Fayston, Waitsfield, and Warren. In 2024, the survey received 84 responses from part-time residents of these towns as well as residents of neighboring towns.

Non-resident responses have been separated from resident responses to identify whether there is a significant difference in wellbeing between those who call the MRV home full-time and those who vacation or visit here.

Of the 11 domains measured in the Wellbeing Survey, **the scores for residents and non-residents were not vastly different.** Six domains* scored lower (-.01 to -.18) among full-time residents of the MRV, while the remaining five** domains scored slightly higher (+.01 to +.05). The largest disparity between these groups was in the Material Wellbeing domain, in which the full-time resident population scored -.18 lower than the non-resident population.

* Satisfaction with Life, Psychological Wellbeing, Social Connection, Education & Culture, Material Wellbeing, & Work Life *

** Physical Health, Time Balance, Community Vitality, Physical Environment, & Governance **

Open-Ended Questions

The MRV Community Wellbeing Survey also asks 3 open-ended questions, to get a deeper sense of residents' experiences.

QUESTION 1

What are the strengths of living in the Mad River Valley?

QUESTION 2

What are the challenges of living in the Mad River Valley?

QUESTION 3

What are the "big picture" changes you would most like to see that would improve the quality of life in the Mad River Valley?

The open-ended questions provide a greater level of insight and detail into respondents' perceptions of strengths, challenges, and changes in the community. They are the "heart" of the MRV Wellbeing Survey.

The following pages identify major themes, trends, and keywords that showed up repeatedly in the responses, as well as a representative sample of answers. The word clouds are weighted by the frequency of responses.

See Appendix, page 48, for the complete open-ended responses.

Question 1:

What are the strengths of living in the Mad River Valley?

"We have a strong & caring community"

"Recreation and spaces in nature to play, very involved community, and kind/genuine people."

"A real sense of community. Small enough to know many people. Healthy Environment. Like minded people. Access to the great outdoors."

"I enjoy the sense of community, the chats that seem to happen almost everywhere you go [...] (and) the feeling of safety for my family, friends, and those in the community."

"Strong sense of community, access to natural environment and recreation, access to locally sourced food, opportunities for creative outlets."

"Community engagement, down to earth people, and strong conservation initiatives"

"It's a beautiful, tight-knit, community."

"Beautiful surroundings, caring community, peaceful existence."

Question 2:

What are the challenges of living in the Mad River Valley?

"We have a lack of affordable housing, few young people and few high paying job opportunities."

"Not many 'third spaces' that are free to gather in the winter time, cost of living does not match wages, and lack of housing for young professionals."

"It's a bottleneck, very hard to make friends, class is huge in that challenge of meeting new people, people look down on others, hard for single people to connect, everything is an hour away, not a lot of resources for low-income folks, lack of diversity..."

"Due to a lack of affordable housing we are losing employees of local businesses. Because of this, the restaurants and stores are often closed when I wish they were open."

"Needing to drive everywhere - minimal public transportation. Lack of diversity. Expensive housing. Restaurants not open every day. Too many people voting down the school budgets - using our children as pawns in their protests. "

"I own my house and car and have ample resources to live comfortably, BUT, it is not healthy or good for our community to not be able to house many of our workers affordably. I want the folks who work retail and food services, who mow our lawns and plow our driveways, remove our trash, lifties at MRG etc. to find affordable housing. Likewise, potential first time home-buying families who used to be able to find affordable modest starter homes (the so-called missing middle) who are now priced out of the MRV."

"Worried about development ruining our rural character and too many wealthy 2nd home owners coming in building huge houses."

"Cost of housing. Educational funding. Lack of diversity. Lack of variety of ethnic restaurants. No pharmacy."

Question 3:

#1

HOUSING was the top response again, with 165 mentions

WHAT ARE THE "BIG PICTURE" CHANGES YOU WOULD MOST LIKE TO SEE THAT WOULD IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE MAD RIVER VALLEY?

7%

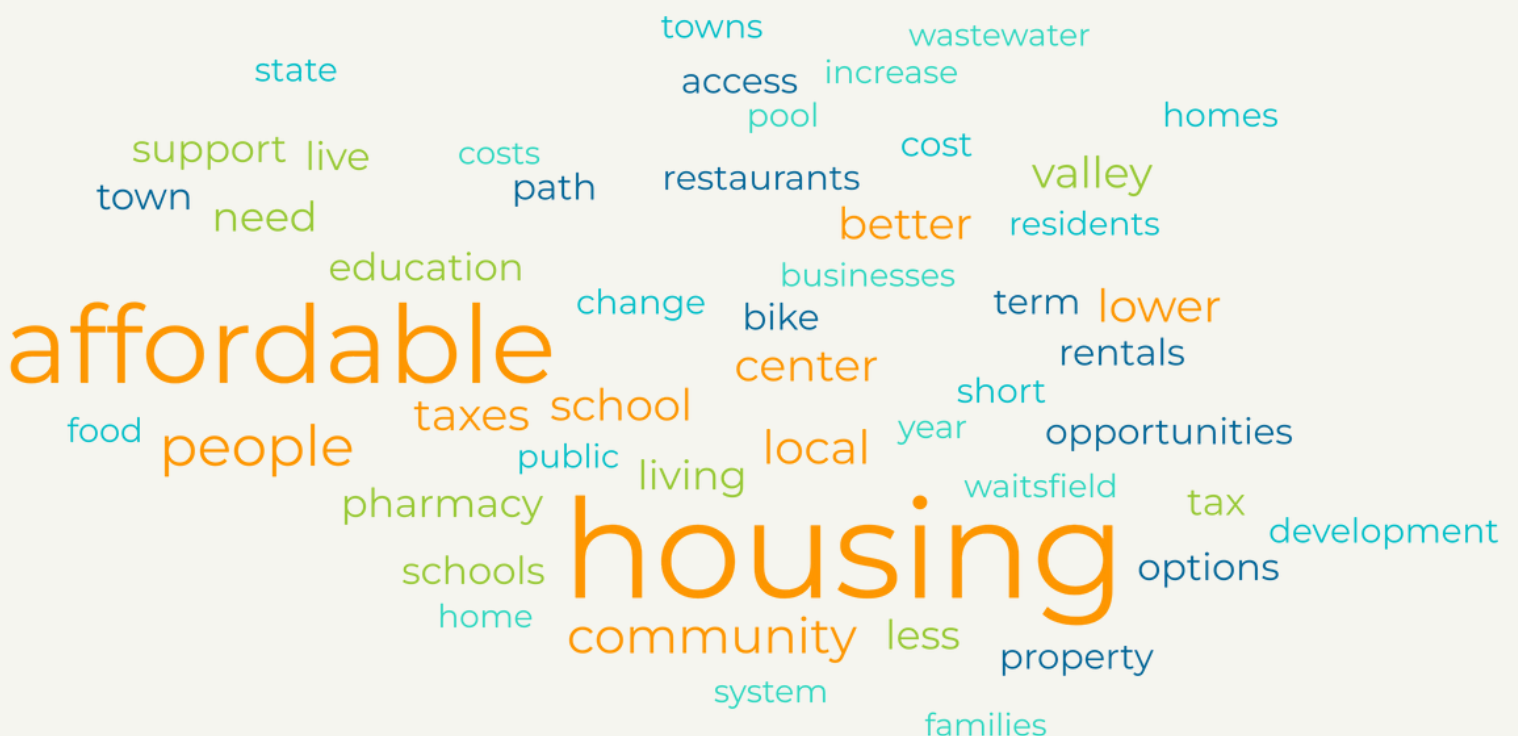
of respondents mentioned the need for a "community center" to improve quality of life in the MRV

9%

of respondents cited concerns about the impacts of short-term rentals on the community.

HIGH PROPERTY TAXES

were a concern, and mentioned by over 50 respondents



Question 3:

What are the "big picture" changes you would most like to see that would improve the quality of life in the Mad River Valley?

"I would love to see some development of a 'town center' or 'main drag' with some more affordable housing options and a few more local businesses to patron. A bike path or walking path would be amazing too!"

"Short-term rentals like Airbnb are making it difficult for locals to find affordable housing. We need regulations to prioritize long-term residents."

"A bit more flexibility in zoning and development; with the housing crisis, LURs (land use regs) prevent many homeowners or land owners from developing on their property. I recognize there are some incentives for ADUs, but it's still so expensive and cumbersome to build anything affordable in the Valley."

"Affordable housing... 300k or under, wastewater treatment, a connected trail off of route 100 to facilitate biking, walking, running from Warren to Moretown, an uphill mountain biking route from the bottom of the Sugarbush Access road up to Eurich Pond. Ways for 20 somethings and 30 somethings to live in the area. "

"A Community Center where children/youth can gather and other community members can access year round fitness and social activities. Our community needs to have a balance between catering to tourists and supporting local people to thrive. We HAVE to address affordable housing and limits on short term rentals ASAP."

"The schools need a huge investment beyond just long neglected maintenance, they need major updates. People are coming here. Build sustainable, beautiful, multi family housing, apartments, tiny houses. More families will build the economy here and will support the aging population. Be an example for the circular, sustainable economy. More charging stations. Continue to support local small business, continue to keep chains and big business out."

"More diverse housing options that are more affordable. More entertainment, retail and services. A community center."

"Bike path from Moretown to Warren. More affordable housing for young people. The sewage system for Waitsfield."

Conclusion & Next Steps

CONCLUSION

Our goal with the 2024 MRV Wellbeing Survey was to increase overall participation. The good news? We received 14% more responses than in the 2022 survey iteration!

While overall survey participation increased, there is still room to improve in capturing a more representative sample of the MRV population regarding age, gender identity, and household income.

By examining the results of this survey, we see areas in which the MRV excels (community vitality, social connectedness) and areas that can be improved (time balance, governance).

The good news is that we have another couple of years to plan for the next MRV Wellbeing Survey (Spring 2026)!

1

NEXT STEPS

Sharing results with the community.

Now that the data has been sorted, MRVPD staff will make the rounds to inform elected officials, stakeholders, and community members about the results, including:

- Selectboards & Planning Commissions
- Schools & childcare centers
- Service & action organizations
- Environmental & conservation orgs
- Libraries
- Business community
- And more

We will also post the results on MRVPD's website and incorporate them into the [MRV Community Dashboard](#).

2

Aligning MRVPD's work plan with identified needs.

One purpose of the Wellbeing Survey is to inform MRVPD's work and supplement the data in our [Annual Data Report](#).

To accomplish this, the results of the 2024 Wellbeing Survey will inform MRVPD's FY 2026 Work Plan in part.

These discussions will occur toward the end of the year as we begin planning for FY 2026.

3

Repeating the survey regularly.

The MRV Wellbeing Survey is most useful when the data can be compared longitudinally across multiple years. Over time, the Survey will help answer the questions:

- How is the MRV changing?
- What are perceived challenges?
- What opportunities are present?
- What ideas does the community have to address its perceived needs?

Stay tuned for the next Wellbeing Survey, scheduled for 2026!

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to...

The Dashboard Advisory Committee for their help in developing the MRV Community Wellbeing Survey:

- Laura Brines
- Helen Kellogg
- Jared Cadwell
- Brian Voigt
- Daniel Raddock

The businesses who donated gift cards to survey participants:

- The Mad Rover
- Drip Culture Saunas
- Deco Restaurant & Bar
- Cabot Creamery

Community partners who shared & supported the Wellbeing Survey.

This report was authored in July 2024 by Sam Robinson, Community Planner at the Mad River Valley Planning District, with input from Executive Director Joshua Schwartz and the MRVPD Steering Committee.

Questions?

Contact sam@mrvpd.org



Thanks to everyone
who took the 2024
MRV Wellbeing Survey!

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Waitsfield, VT 05660
www.mrvpd.org
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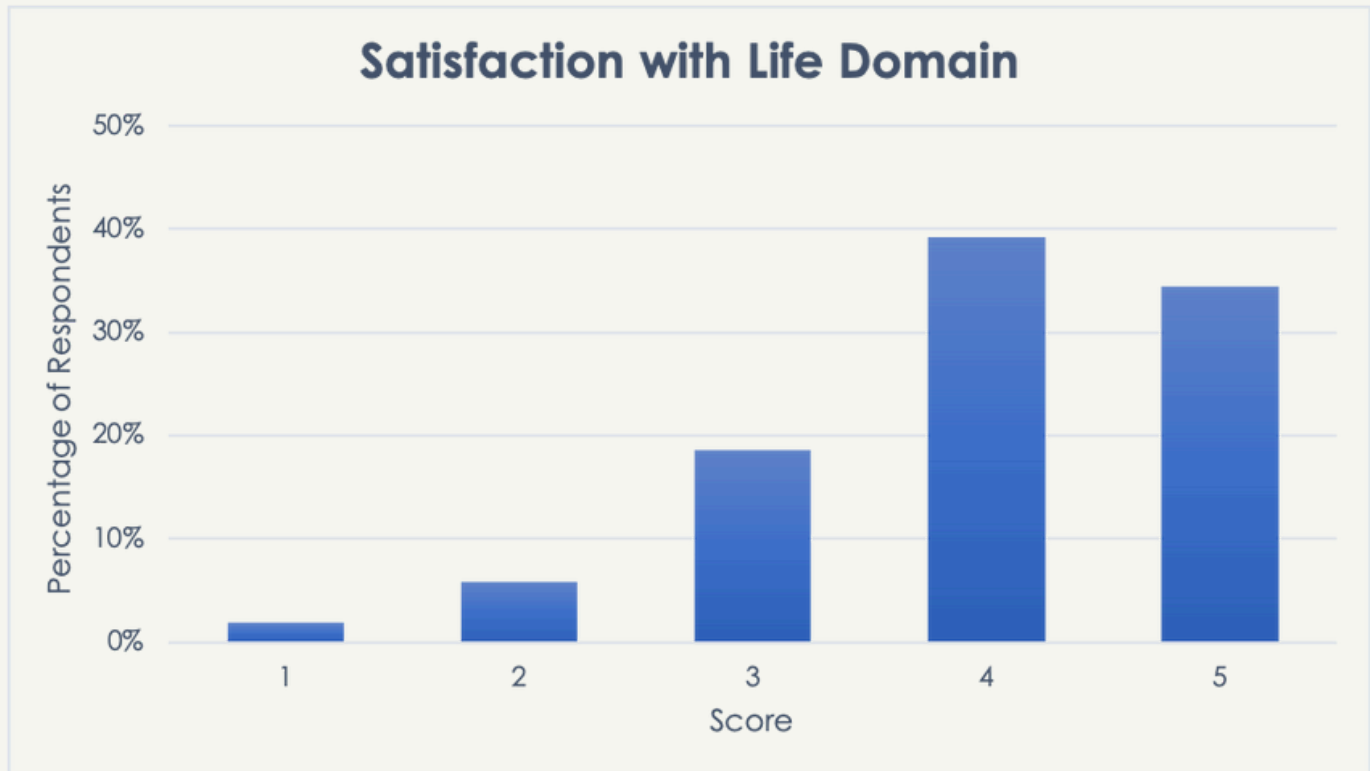


MAD RIVER VALLEY
PLANNING DISTRICT
Fayston • Waitsfield • Warren

Appendix: Individual Question Results

SATISFACTION WITH LIFE: 3.99

Overall happiness, anxiety level, general satisfaction



Overall, how satisfied are you with your life nowadays?

	MRV 2022	MRV 2024
Very Dissatisfied (1)	1%	0%
Somewhat Dissatisfied (2)	4%	3%
Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied (3)	14%	20%
Somewhat Satisfied (4)	46%	47%
Very Satisfied (5)	35%	30%

To what extent do you feel the things you do in life are worthwhile?

	MRV 2022	MRV 2024
Very Unworthwhile (1)	0%	1%
Somewhat Unworthwhile (2)	3%	3%
Neither Unworthwhile nor Worthwhile (3)	12%	12%
Somewhat Worthwhile (4)	39%	41%
Very Worthwhile (5)	45%	43%

Overall, how happy did you feel yesterday?

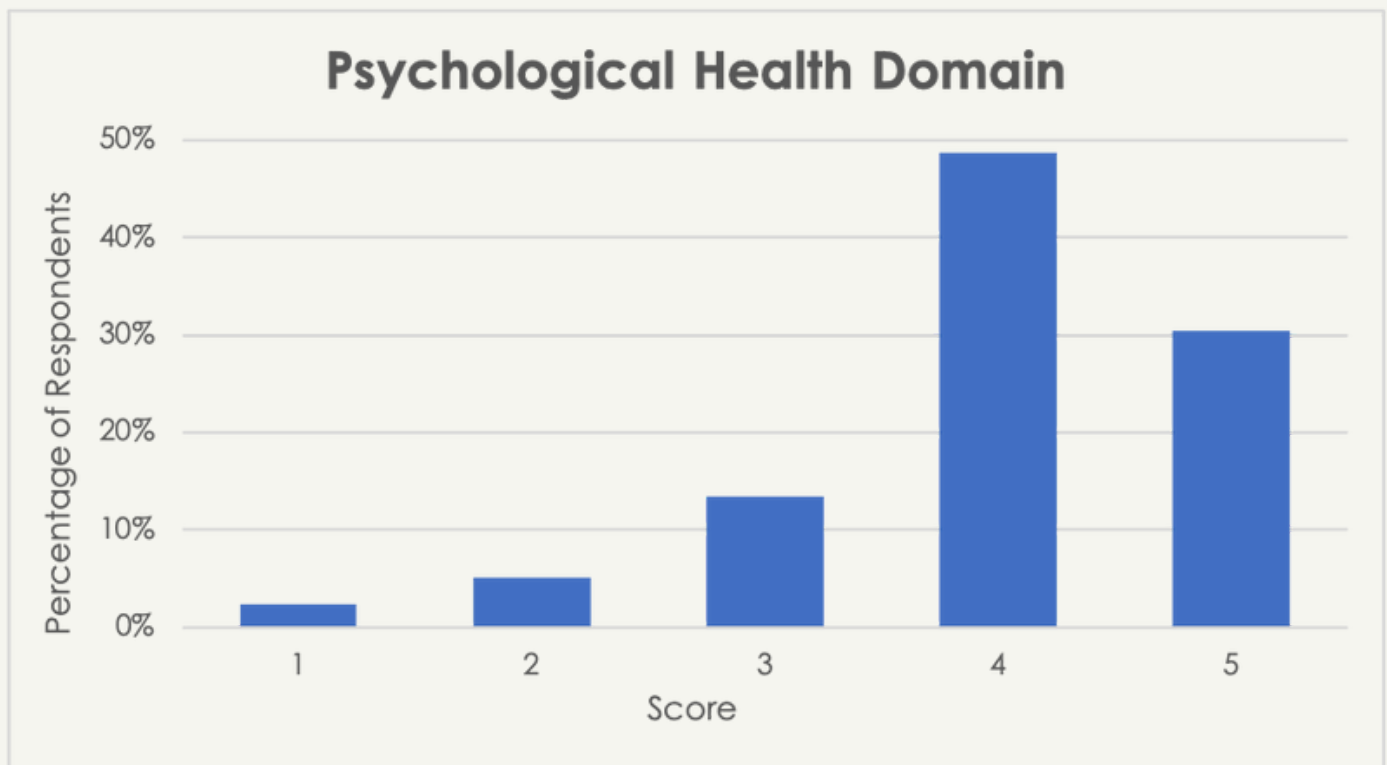
	MRV 2022	MRV 2024
Very Unhappy (1)	1%	1%
Somewhat Unhappy (2)	5%	4%
Neither Unhappy nor Happy (3)	16%	19%
Somewhat Happy (4)	44%	41%
Very Happy (5)	34%	34%

Overall, how anxious did you feel yesterday?

	MRV 2022	MRV 2024
Very Anxious (1)	5%	5%
Somewhat Anxious (2)	17%	13%
Neither Anxious nor Unanxious (3)	20%	23%
Somewhat Unanxious (4)	28%	28%
Very Unanxious (5)	29%	30%

PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH: 3.99

Engagement, optimism, accomplishment



I lead a purposeful and meaningful life.

	MRV 2022	MRV 2024
Strongly Disagree	3%	2%
Disagree	4%	3%
Neither Agree nor Disagree	15%	12%
Agree	47%	48%
Strongly Agree	31%	35%

I am engaged and interested in my daily activities.

	MRV 2022	MRV 2024
Strongly Disagree	3%	2%
Disagree	4%	4%
Neither Agree nor Disagree	14%	8%
Agree	45%	50%
Strongly Agree	34%	36%

I am optimistic about my future.

	MRV 2022	MRV 2024
Strongly Disagree	4%	3%
Disagree	10%	8%
Neither Agree nor Disagree	13%	17%
Agree	44%	44%
Strongly Agree	29%	27%

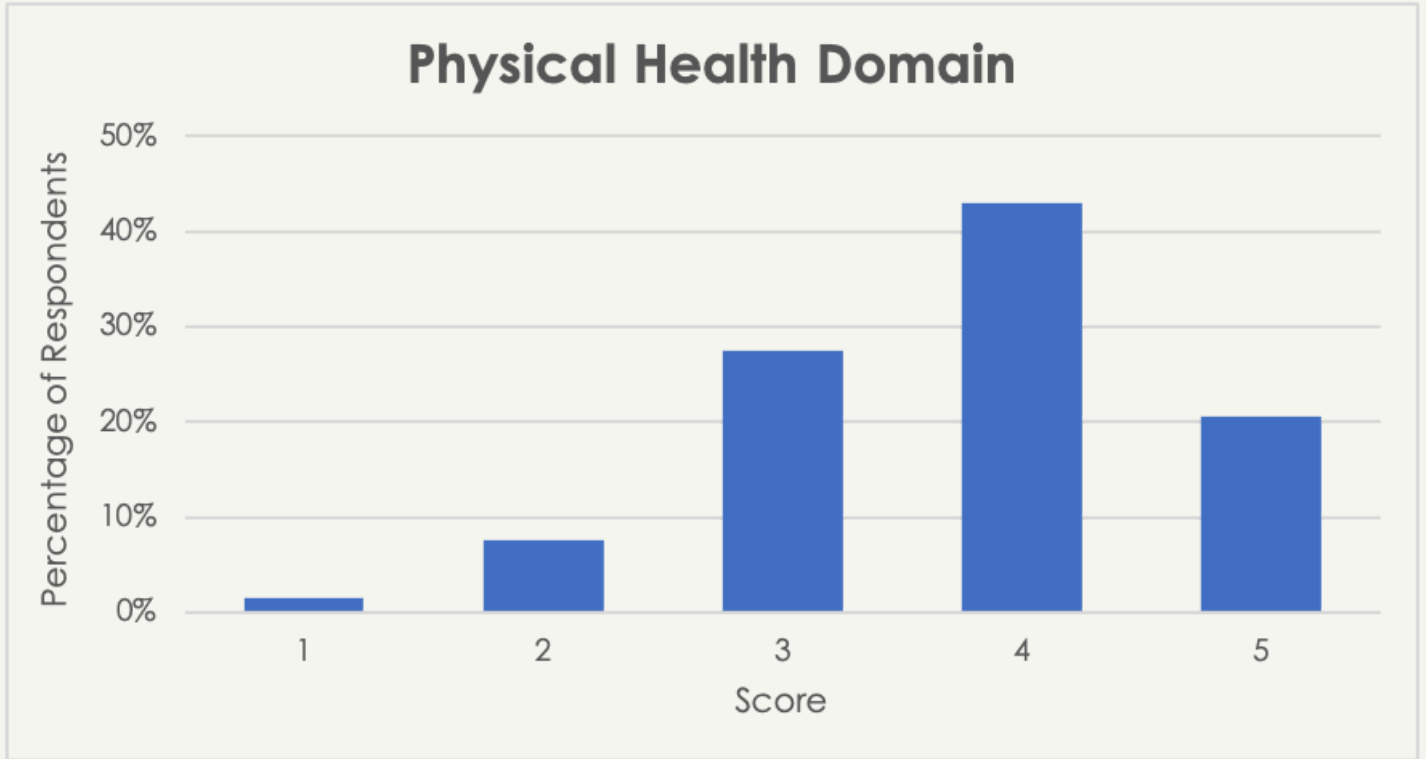
Most days I feel a sense of accomplishment.

	MRV 2022	MRV 2024
Strongly Disagree	3%	2%
Disagree	7%	6%
Neither Agree nor Disagree	19%	17%
Agree	49%	52%
Strongly Agree	23%	24%



PHYSICAL HEALTH: 3.74

Health, energy, ability, exercise



In general, I would say my health is:

	MRV 2022	MRV 2024
Poor	1%	0%
Fair	9%	8%
Good	25%	32%
Very Good	46%	42%
Excellent	19%	18%

During the past week, would you say you had a lot of energy...

	MRV 2022	MRV 2024
Very Rarely or Never	1%	1%
Rarely	7%	6%
Sometimes	31%	32%
Often	46%	46%
Very Often or Always	15%	15%

During the past week, how satisfied were you with your ability to perform your daily activities?

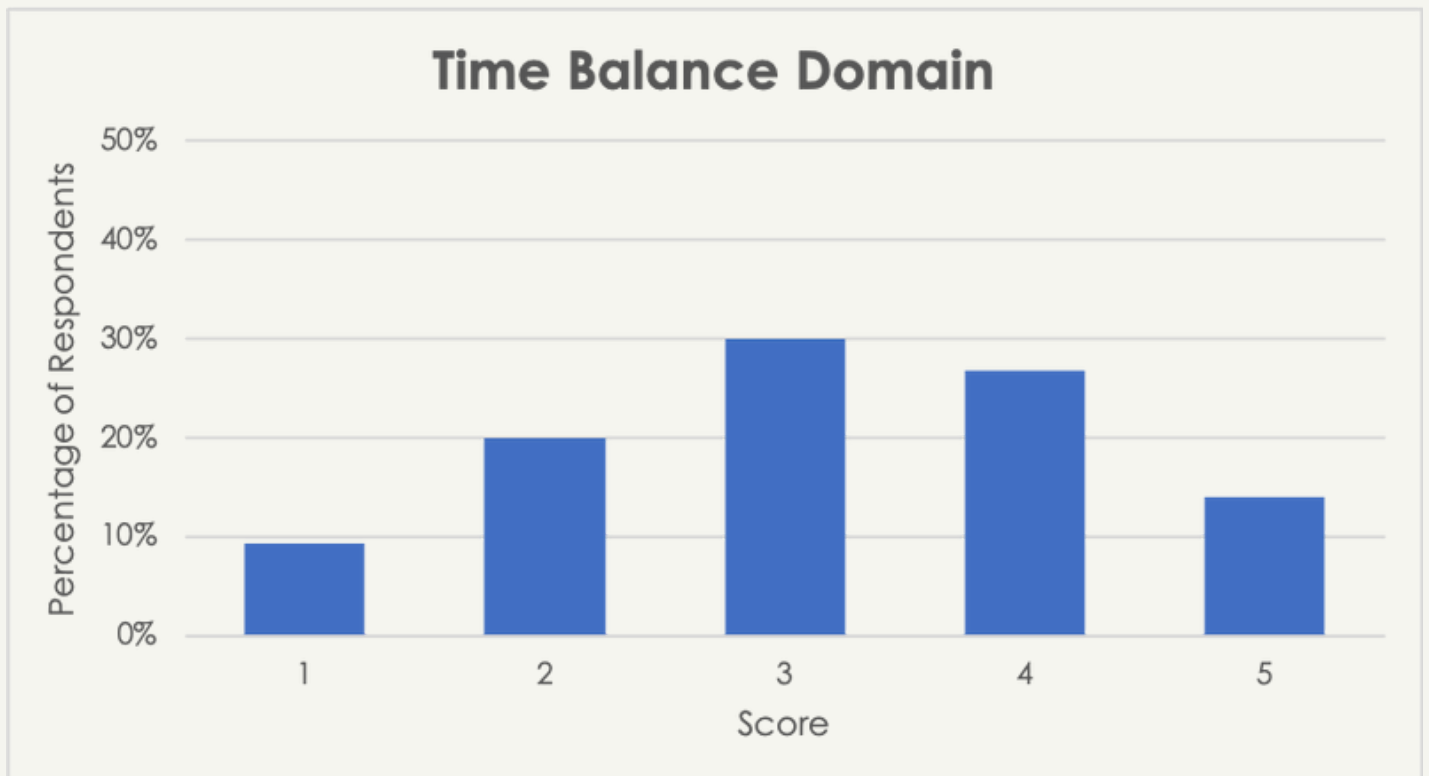
	MRV 2022	MRV 2024
Very Dissatisfied	1%	0%
Somewhat Dissatisfied	6%	4%
Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied	14%	19%
Somewhat Satisfied	46%	48%
Very Satisfied	33%	29%

During the past week, how satisfied were you with the quality of your exercise?

	MRV 2022	MRV 2024
Very Dissatisfied	4%	5%
Somewhat Dissatisfied	13%	13%
Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied	32%	28%
Somewhat Satisfied	33%	35%
Very Satisfied	18%	20%

TIME BALANCE: 3.21

Time for enjoyment, time balance, rushed time



In a typical week, how much of your time can you spend doing things that you enjoy?

	MRV 2022	MRV 2024
None of your time	1%	0%
Not much of your time	15%	15%
Some of your time	34%	39%
Most of your time	42%	38%
All of your time	8%	8%

In the past week, my life has been too rushed...

	MRV 2022	MRV 2024
Strongly Agree	9%	11%
Agree	19%	19%
Neither Agree nor Disagree	27%	25%
Disagree	28%	26%
Strongly Disagree	17%	19%

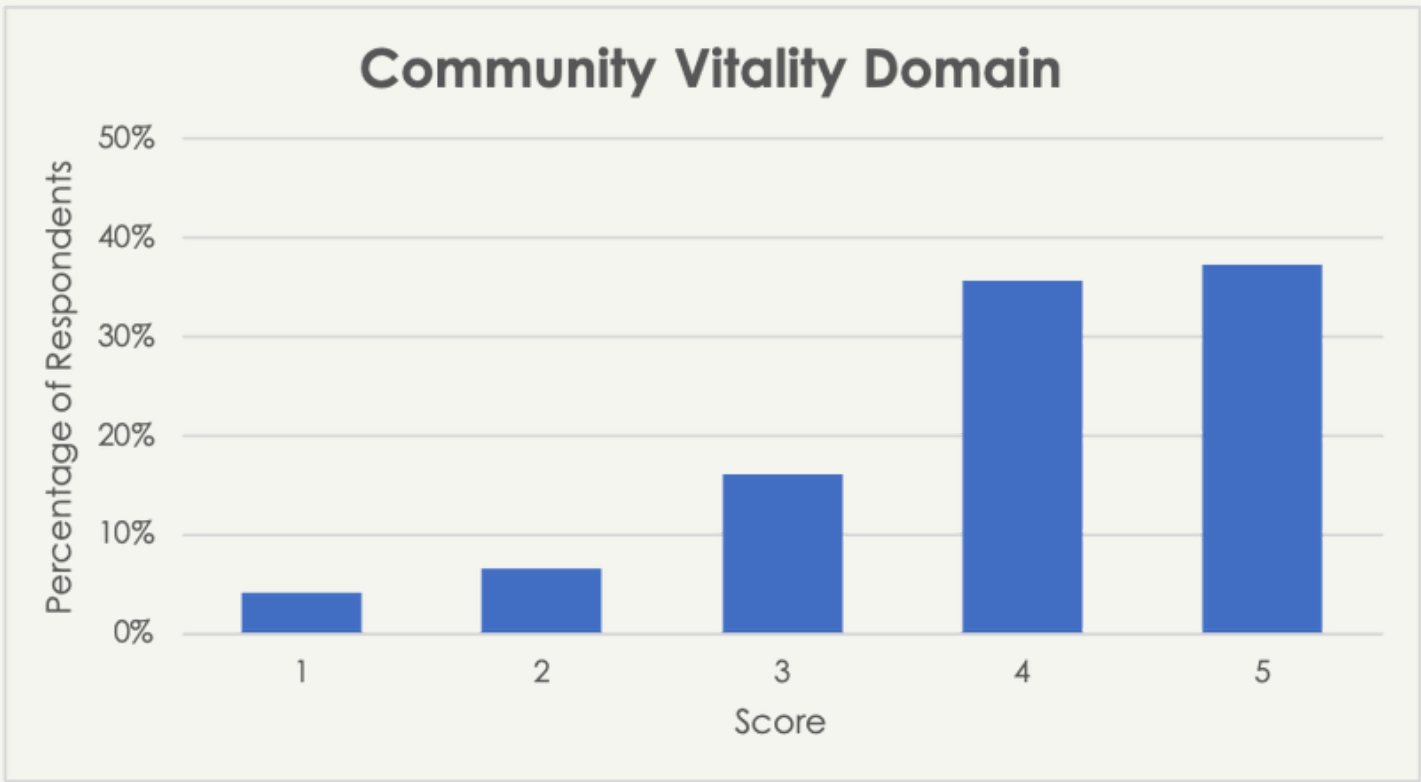
In the past week, I have had plenty of spare time...

	MRV 2022	MRV 2024
Strongly Disagree	13%	16%
Disagree	25%	26%
Neither Agree nor Disagree	28%	26%
Agree	21%	17%
Strongly Agree	13%	15%



COMMUNITY VITALITY: 3.95

Trust, safety, volunteerism, belonging



When thinking about your neighbors, do you trust...

	MRV 2022	MRV 2024
None of them	0%	1%
A few of them	5%	5%
Some of them	18%	15%
Most of them	45%	46%
All of them	31%	33%

When thinking about businesses in your community, do you trust...

	MRV 2022	MRV 2024
None of them	1%	0%
A few of them	3%	3%
Some of them	13%	20%
Most of them	60%	57%
All of them	23%	19%

Would you describe your feeling of belonging to your local community as...

	MRV 2022	MRV 2024
Very weak	4%	4%
Somewhat weak	7%	8%
Neither weak nor strong	27%	28%
Somewhat strong	38%	34%
Very strong	24%	27%

How often do you feel uncomfortable or out of place in your community because of things like your ethnicity, culture, race, skin color, language, accent, gender, sexual orientation, or religion?

	MRV 2022	MRV 2024
All of the time	1%	2%
Most of the time	3%	2%
Some of the time	7%	10%
Rarely	29%	27%
Never	61%	59%



Now, imagine that you lost a wallet or purse that contained two hundred dollars. How likely would it be to have all your money returned if it was found by someone who lives in the community?

	MRV 2022	MRV 2024
Not at all likely	4%	2%
Somewhat likely	7%	7%
Unsure	27%	22%
Very likely	38%	42%
Extremely likely	24%	27%

How satisfied are you with your personal safety in your community?

	MRV 2022	MRV 2024
Very unsatisfied	1%	1%
Unsatisfied	3%	3%
Somewhat satisfied	7%	6%
Satisfied	29%	37%
Very satisfied	61%	53%

In the past 12 months have you donated money...

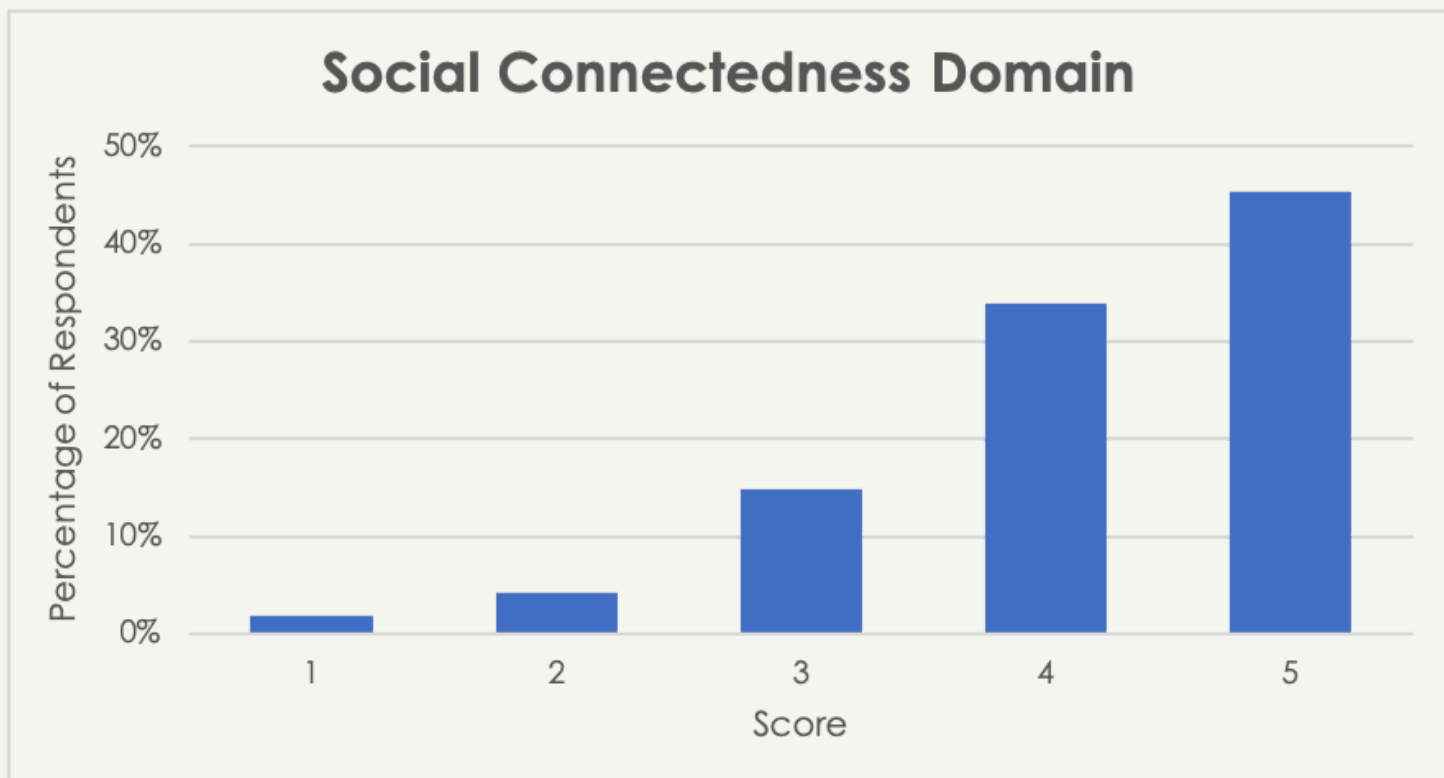
	MRV 2022	MRV 2024
Not in the past 12 months	7%	10%
About once in the past 12 months	10%	13%
About once every six months	18%	16%
About once every three months	30%	28%
About once a month or more	35%	33%

In the past 12 months have you volunteered your time...

	MRV 2022	MRV 2024
Not in the past 12 months	23%	14%
About once in the past 12 months	9%	12%
About once every six months	10%	12%
About once every three months	15%	15%
About once a month or more	42%	47%

SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS: 4.17

Support, caring, love, loneliness



How satisfied are you with your personal relationships?

	MRV 2022	MRV 2024
Very Dissatisfied	1%	2%
Somewhat Dissatisfied	4%	6%
Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied	15%	17%
Somewhat Satisfied	39%	40%
Very Satisfied	41%	35%

People in my life care about me.

	MRV 2022	MRV 2024
Strongly Disagree	1%	1%
Disagree	2%	2%
Neither Agree Nor Disagree	6%	7%
Agree	28%	32%
Strongly Agree	63%	58%

During the past week, have you felt lonely...

	MRV 2022	MRV 2024
Very Often or Always	2%	3%
Often	7%	6%
Sometimes	25%	21%
Rarely	28%	30%
Very Rarely or Never	38%	40%

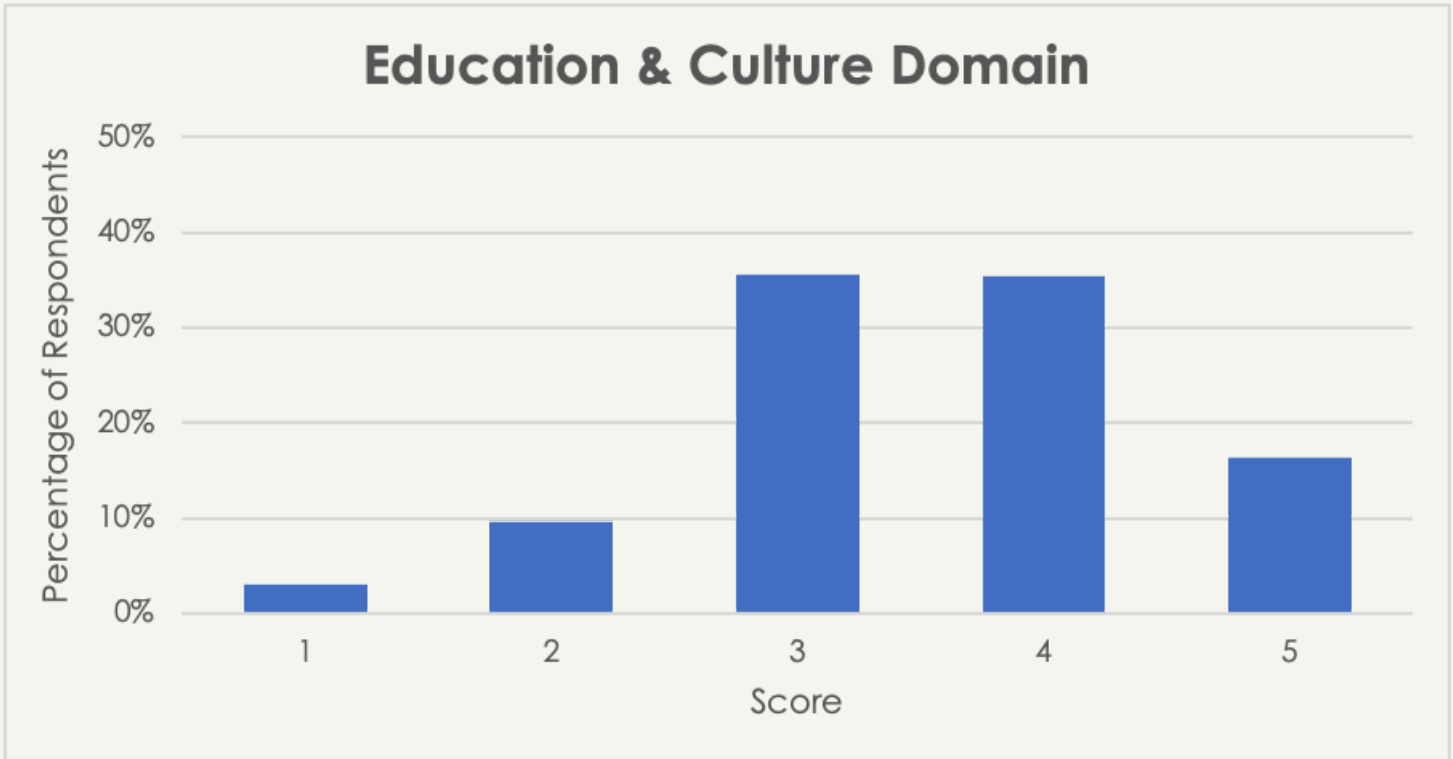
During the past week, have you felt loved...

	MRV 2022	MRV 2024
Very Rarely or Never	1%	1%
Rarely	3%	3%
Sometimes	14%	14%
Often	35%	35%
Very Often or Always	47%	47%



EDUCATION & CULTURE: 3.52

Cultural opportunity, community culture, access to education



In your community, how satisfied are you with your access to sports and recreational activities?

	MRV 2022	MRV 2024
Very Unsatisfied	3%	3%
Somewhat Unsatisfied	5%	5%
Neither Satisfied Nor Unsatisfied	19%	16%
Somewhat Satisfied	37%	39%
Very Satisfied	37%	36%

In your community, how satisfied are you with your access to artistic and cultural activities?

	MRV 2022	MRV 2024
Very Unsatisfied	3%	3%
Somewhat Unsatisfied	13%	9%
Neither Satisfied Nor Unsatisfied	33%	24%
Somewhat Satisfied	36%	48%
Very Satisfied	15%	17%

In your community, how satisfied are you with your access to learning opportunities like informal workshops or trainings?

	MRV 2022	MRV 2024
Very Unsatisfied	2%	3%
Somewhat Unsatisfied	14%	10%
Neither Satisfied Nor Unsatisfied	45%	42%
Somewhat Satisfied	27%	34%
Very Satisfied	12%	11%

*In your community, how satisfied are you with your access to educational opportunities for youth?

	MRV 2022	MRV 2024
Very Unsatisfied	3%	3%
Somewhat Unsatisfied	10%	11%
Neither Satisfied Nor Unsatisfied	55%	46%
Somewhat Satisfied	24%	31%
Very Satisfied	7%	9%

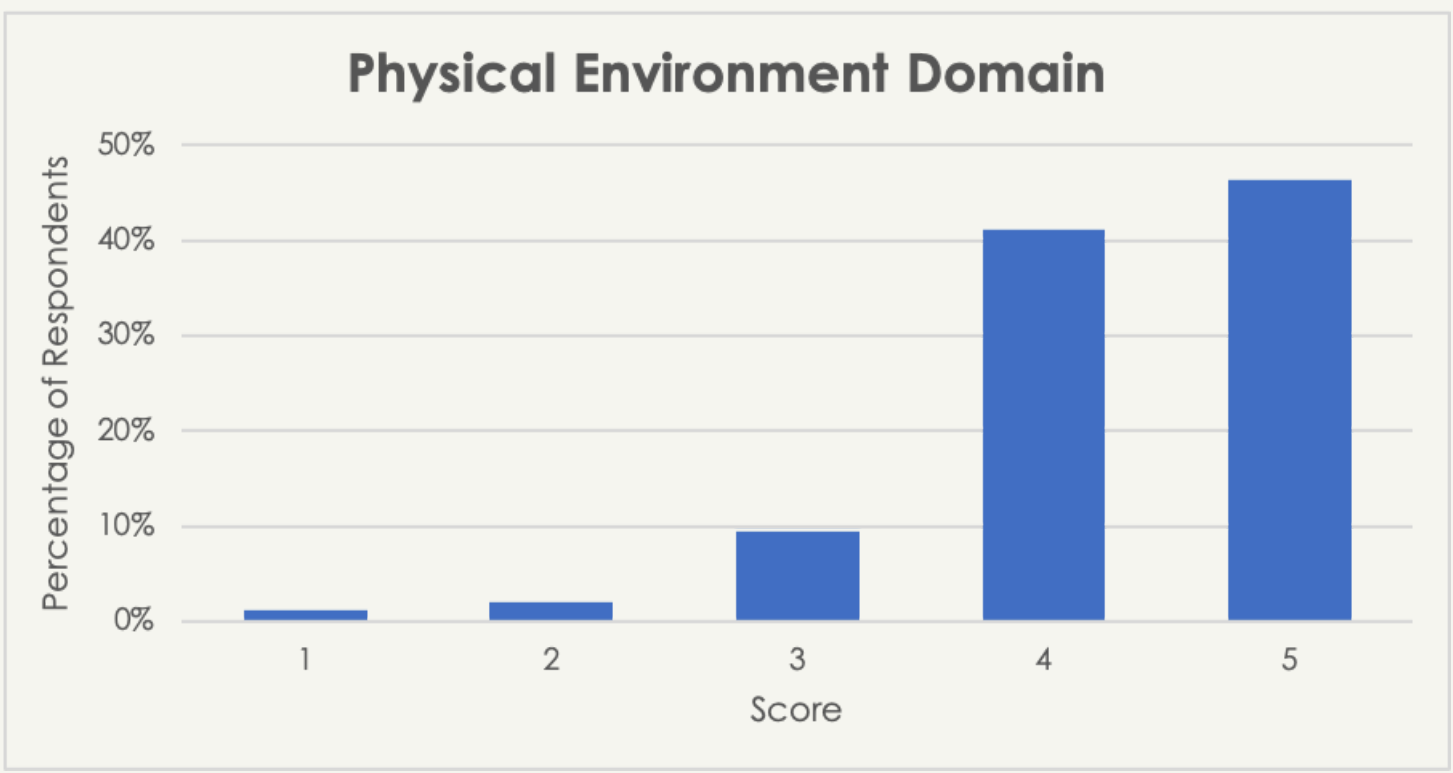
*In your community, how satisfied are you with your access to childcare and early childhood education?

	MRV 2022	MRV 2024
Very Unsatisfied	5%	3%
Somewhat Unsatisfied	13%	14%
Neither Satisfied Nor Unsatisfied	63%	52%
Somewhat Satisfied	16%	24%
Very Satisfied	4%	7%



PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT: 4.29

Environmental quality and opportunity



How healthy is the natural environment of the Mad River Valley?

	MRV 2022	MRV 2024
Not At All Healthy	0%	0%
A Little Healthy	1%	2%
Somewhat Healthy	9%	11%
Very Healthy	53%	48%
Extremely Healthy	37%	39%

How satisfied are you with efforts to preserve the natural environment in your community?

	MRV 2022	MRV 2024
Very Unsatisfied	1%	2%
Somewhat Unsatisfied	5%	4%
Neither Satisfied Nor Unsatisfied	18%	15%
Somewhat Satisfied	54%	54%
Very Satisfied	22%	25%

How satisfied are you with opportunities you have to enjoy nature?

	MRV 2022	MRV 2024
Very Unsatisfied	1%	1%
Somewhat Unsatisfied	1%	1%
Neither Satisfied Nor Unsatisfied	6%	5%
Somewhat Satisfied	34%	36%
Very Satisfied	58%	57%

How satisfied are you with the air quality in your environment?

	MRV 2022	MRV 2024
Very Unsatisfied	1%	1%
Somewhat Unsatisfied	1%	1%
Neither Satisfied Nor Unsatisfied	5%	6%
Somewhat Satisfied	30%	34%
Very Satisfied	63%	59%

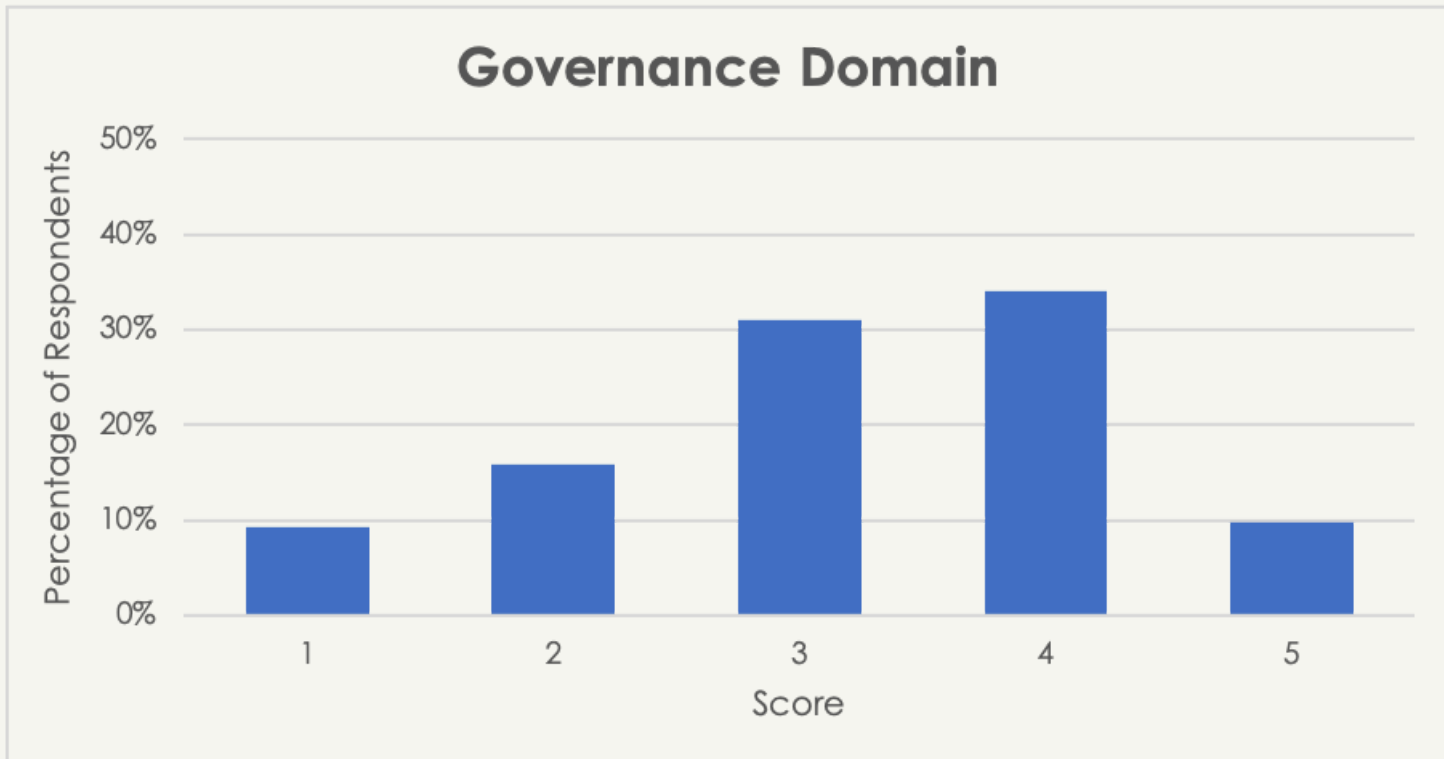
*How satisfied are you with the water quality in your environment?

	MRV 2022	MRV 2024
Very Dissatisfied	1%	2%
Somewhat Dissatisfied	3%	2%
Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	7%	10%
Somewhat Satisfied	36%	34%
Very Satisfied	52%	52%



GOVERNANCE: 3.19

Access, trust, confidence



Public officials in my community pay attention to what people think.

How much confidence do you have in your local (town) government?

	MRV 2022	MRV 2024
Strongly Disagree	5%	8%
Disagree	9%	13%
Neither Agree Nor Disagree	30%	31%
Agree	42%	37%
Strongly Agree	13%	12%

	MRV 2022	MRV 2024
No confidence	5%	7%
Not very much confidence	9%	14%
A fair amount of confidence	27%	26%
Quite a lot of confidence	42%	40%
A great deal of confidence	16%	14%

*How much confidence do you have in your state (Vermont) government?

	MRV 2022	MRV 2024
No confidence	5%	10%
Not very much confidence	10%	20%
A fair amount of confidence	26%	33%
Quite a lot of confidence	48%	31%
A great deal of confidence	12%	5%

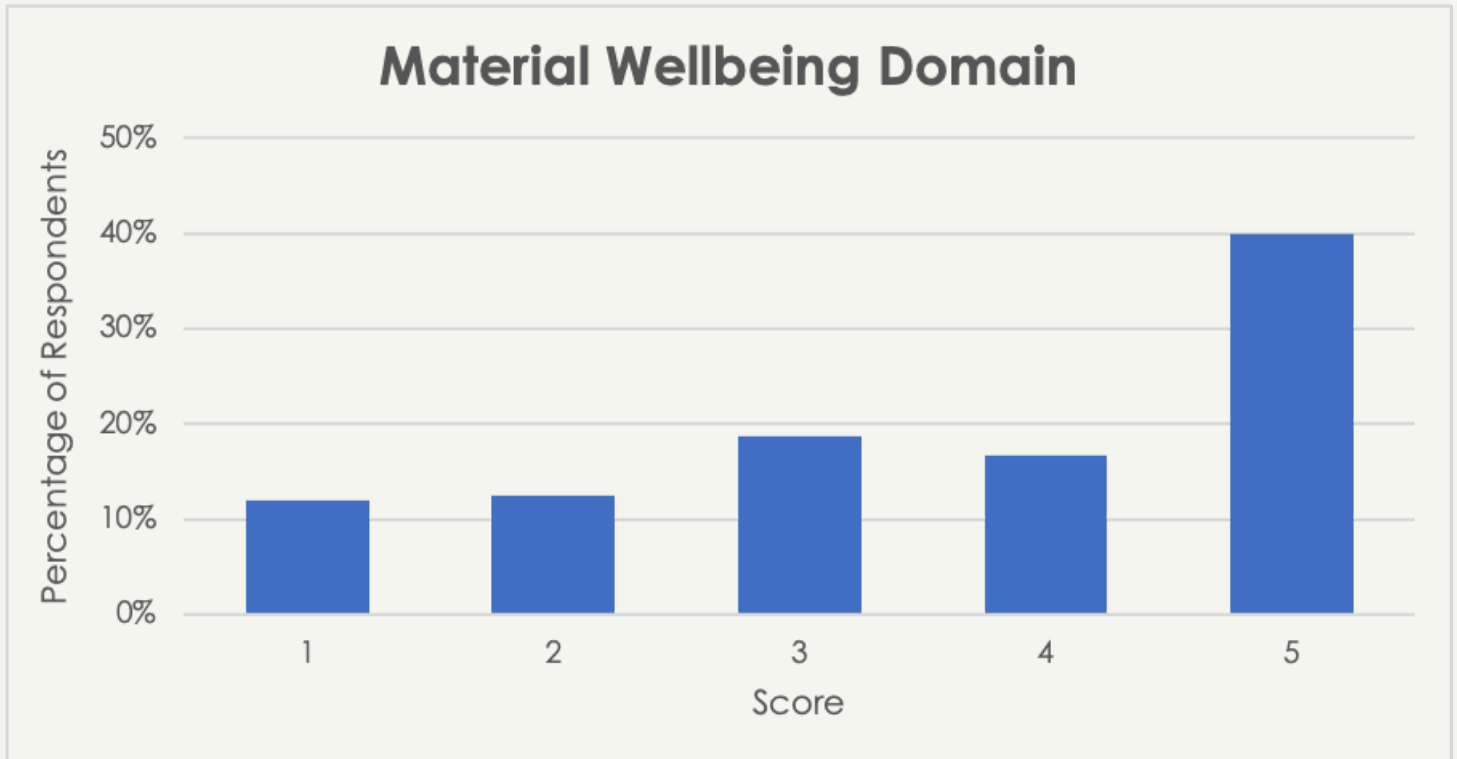
*I can influence decisions affecting my town.

	MRV 2022	MRV 2024
Strongly Disagree	8%	11%
Disagree	13%	17%
Neither Agree Nor Disagree	32%	35%
Agree	34%	29%
Strongly Agree	12%	9%



MATERIAL WELLBEING: 3.84

Financial security



In general, how much stress do you feel about your personal finances?

	MRV 2022	MRV 2024
Overwhelming Stress	8%	11%
High Stress	18%	17%
Moderate Stress	28%	27%
Low Stress	30%	26%
No Stress At All	16%	19%

How often do you find yourself just getting by financially or living paycheck to paycheck?

	MRV 2022	MRV 2024
All of the time	9%	13%
Most of the time	11%	13%
Sometimes	20%	20%
Rarely	21%	17%
Never	38%	37%

In the past 12 months, how often have you eaten less because there wasn't enough money for food?

	MRV 2022	MRV 2024
About once a month or more	5%	7%
About once every three months	2%	2%
About once every six months	1%	3%
About once in the past year	2%	4%
Never	89%	84%

*In the past 12 months, how often has it been difficult to address medical needs due to cost?

	MRV 2022	MRV 2024
Very Often or Always	5%	4%
Often	5%	8%
Sometimes	15%	15%
Rarely	12%	12%
Very Rarely or Never	63%	61%

I have enough money to buy the things that I want.

	MRV 2022	MRV 2024
Strongly Disagree	7%	10%
Disagree	9%	12%
Neither Agree nor Disagree	21%	24%
Agree	32%	23%
Strongly Agree	31%	31%

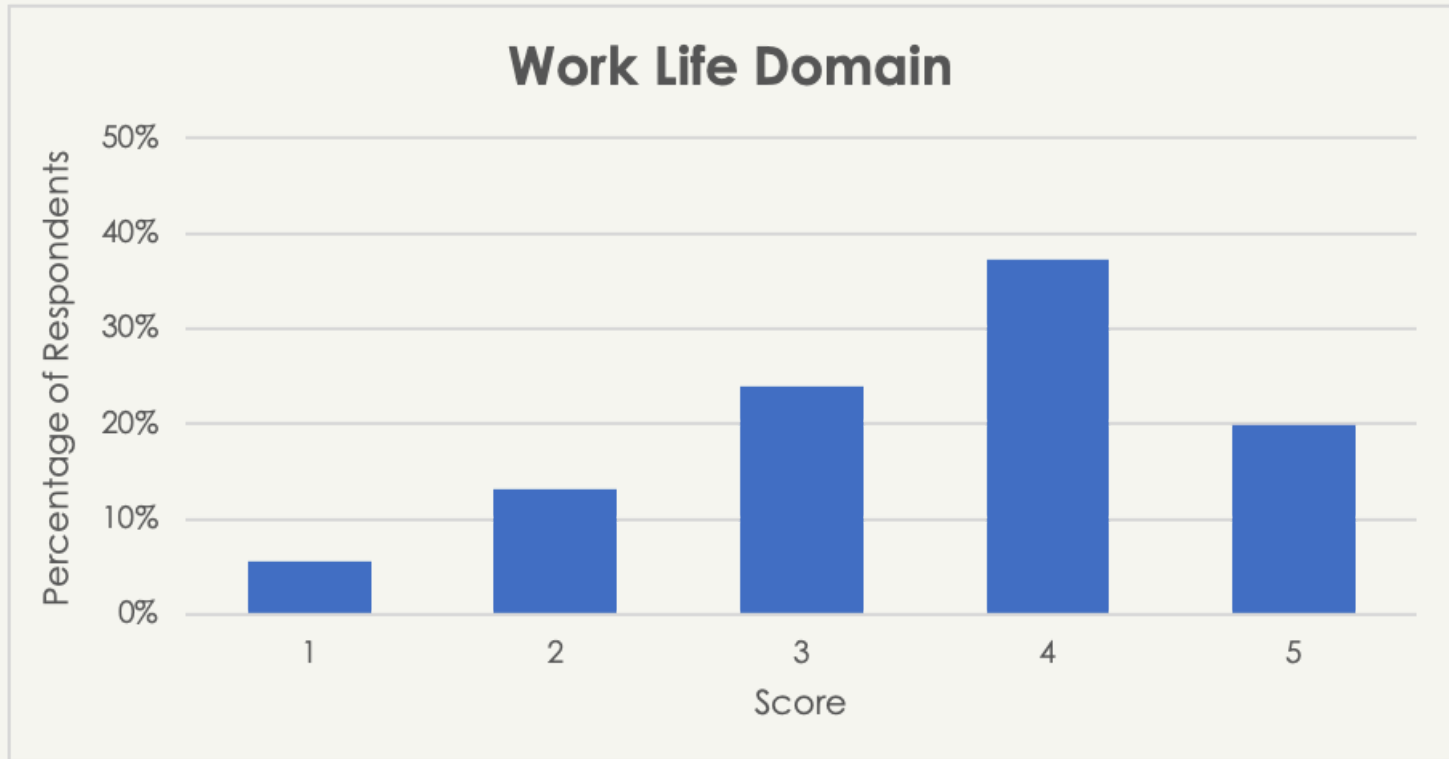


*The Mad River Valley is an affordable place for me to live.

	MRV 2022	MRV 2024
Strongly disagree	14%	27%
Disagree	18%	23%
Neither Agree nor Disagree	24%	24%
Agree	27%	17%
Strongly agree	17%	8%

WORK LIFE: 3.63

Satisfaction, interest, autonomy, pay



How satisfied are you with your current work life?

	MRV 2022	MRV 2024
Very Dissatisfied	3%	2%
Somewhat Dissatisfied	7%	9%
Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	25%	22%
Somewhat Satisfied	32%	43%
Very Satisfied	32%	25%

How often do you find your current work life interesting?

	MRV 2022	MRV 2024
Very rarely or never	4%	2%
Rarely	4%	7%
Sometimes	20%	21%
Often	46%	46%
Very often or always	27%	24%



My work conditions allow me to be as productive as I can be.

	MRV 2022	MRV 2024
Strongly Disagree	3%	2%
Disagree	6%	7%
Neither Agree Nor Disagree	18%	21%
Agree	47%	50%
Strongly Agree	26%	20%

Considering my work efforts and achievements, I get paid appropriately.

	MRV 2022	MRV 2024
Strongly Disagree	11%	8%
Disagree	14%	23%
Neither Agree Nor Disagree	23%	25%
Agree	32%	30%
Strongly Agree	21%	14%

I am allowed to decide how to get my work done.

	MRV 2022	MRV 2024
Strongly Disagree	3%	3%
Disagree	5%	7%
Neither Agree Nor Disagree	17%	18%
Agree	35%	40%
Strongly Agree	40%	33%

*The Mad River Valley offers me good opportunities to get ahead professionally.

	MRV 2022	MRV 2024
Strongly Disagree	16%	17%
Disagree	17%	27%
Neither Agree Nor Disagree	45%	37%
Agree	14%	15%
Strongly Agree	7%	5%

Question 1:

What are the strengths of living in the Mad River Valley?

We have a strong and caring community.
It is beautiful with amazing people
Recreation and spaces in nature to play, A very involved community, and kind/ genuine people.
living with people who love the outdoors, nature, low sprawl
Great community and access to nature!
Great food, recreation opportunities, beauty of the land
Natural envirement
rural quality, good folks
sense of community/belonging
nature
community
Remote living situation. Wildlife. Friendly faces. Neighbors to call on.
Amazing, connected community. opportunity to be out in nature.
proximity to daughter & family
The environement.
small town
community
The beauty & peace of nature
natural environment, recreational opportunities, aging population aging healthfully
Beautiful, oeaceful
Great skiing and community, around skiing and outdoors. People are mostly friendly and like minded. Availability of good food (mehurons) and addition of retail (addison west).
Community, natural beauty, good schools
Nature, recreation, community
the natural beauty, community of people

Question 1:

What are the strengths of living in the Mad River Valley?

Natural beauty
the access to recreation - skiing, biking, hiking, swimming
Proximity to nature
Good neighbors. Close to family
Enjoy the sense of community, the chats that seem to happen almost everywhere you go. Outdoor recreation. Feeling of safety for my family, friends and those in the community in general.
Great Opportunities to engage with the outdoors...
supportive community; natural environment; recreational opportunities, local businesses
The community is amazing.
Few people
Outdoor spaces, community, youth sports programs and fields
It's beautiful - the natural landscape - the river, the mountains are so beautiful.
Beautiful environment, wonderful people.
Skiing and nature
It is safer than most places. Nice people in stores.
My neighbors, the forests, our little patch of homestead, the town and valley itself
Family
rural, pleasant neighbors, I like my home and neighbors
Great people. Beautiful area.
outdoors, beauty, nice people
The people, natural environment and lifestyle
Community, recreational opportunities, access to grocery shopping, basic needs.
Outdoors and community
Fantastic outdoor atmosphere, great things to do outside, fantastic group of people who call MRV home.
Ski area. Great people.
Caring people, beautiful nature, great libraries

Question 1:

What are the strengths of living in the Mad River Valley?

community, natural beauty
Beauty, community, slow pace
Little traffic, good nature and air. Supportive community
It's a beautiful, fairly rural place in a very generous, caring community
Close to my work, beautiful rivers, lakes, trails, roads, the east warren market, wmrw, all the mountains and snow, snowy adventures, floating,
The people the outdoor activities and Sugarbush
It's beautiful and people are friendly. I'm lucky to have a home here.
The community is amazing. I work and live here and would not change it for the world. I love the Valley.
Outdoor access And the early education center - NOW
My home and skiing at SB fear of losing it due to taxes
safe community, variety of retail options, proximity to Burlington and Montpelier when necessary
Recreation, friends, natural beauty
Access to nature and recreation, community
It,Ãs beauty and the members of the community come together in a crisis
Natural beauty, recreational activities, community, arts
Nature/Being outdoors
Community/ Vermont/Nature
(1) Large numbers of volunteers with public & private organizations; strong sense of community
Beauty, cleanliness, availability of recreation, interesting and caring people.
the natural beauty and resources, education, and variety of people
Environment, friends, lucky enough to own home
Sense of community is very strong. Lots of available activities (sports, outdoor hikes and walks, volunteer opportunities, book clubs, cultural etc.

Question 1:

What are the strengths of living in the Mad River Valley?

Mother Nature
Diverse population, arts, ability to express opinion.
Opportunities to enjoy the outdoors and recreate.
the people, outdoor activities
Beautiful, high quality food
access to nature, sense of community, safety
A great lifestyle and people that care.
it is getting harder to think of things
Sense of community and absolute beauty.
Beautiful setting, nice people
Wildlife
Good
It is a pretty area.
nice place
The rural nature, ease of access to the outdoors, most facilities are here, (except for a drug store), lack of traffic issues, sense of community, it's beautiful!. I feel safer here than any of the city areas.
Provacy, nature, clean living
The river access, quiet
Wonderful community and easy access to nature
Beauty and kindness
The natural beauty and the people
The environment, access to recreational activities, space
Access to natural beauty, ability to get involved in so many ways
Nature outdoor recreation community

Question 1:

What are the strengths of living in the Mad River Valley?

Beautiful area
NATURE
Access to a high-quality natural world, recreation, cultural events.
Access to outdoor activities
Nature, the community
Beauty, close friends, ability to get out in nature
aligned community
Country life, woods, slower lifestyle
It is a quiet place, beautiful, peaceful. Most people feel like neighbors because of their sense of community.
recreation, food, music
Access to outdoor recreation
Hiking and nature trails
The beautiful landscape, access to good food/farms, supportive community, interesting cultural opprt
little traffic, nature, decent neighbors
Because we live in a small town people get to know you and will help you if needed.
nature
Wonderful interesting people, great skiing, gorgeous countryside, healthy caring attitudes
Beautiful, open minded, more positive and relaxed lifestyle vs where we moved from.
Natural environment, most of the people living here, quality of living.
Outdoor lifestyle
natural environment, supportive community
Family, rural character
The people
Nature, skiing
Nature, space, view

Question 1:

What are the strengths of living in the Mad River Valley?

The beauty of nature and the people who live here
nature, valley youth sports
The Trees and Rivers
I could afford my house
Community, nature, skiing, farm fresh food
Beauty, recreation, slow pace.
community
Accessibility to mountains, streams, music, activities, community
Fresh air, little to no crime
Connection with nature and the environment
Natural surroundings and periodic quiet environment.
The outdoors.
I can get some of what I need here
nature, skiing
the "vibe" is positive aka farmer market, round up etc.
Privacy, not being near a neighbor yet quick drive to town
Community engagement, down to earth people, and strong conservation initiatives.
There is natural beauty. It is familiar.
Access to outdoors, sense of community for our children, safety
biking, skiing, river, people
Nature people
It's beautiful here. Plenty of places to walk, hike, bike and swim.
Community, nature, skiing, mountain biking, small town vibe, no chain stores
semi rural VT
Natural environment

Question 1:

What are the strengths of living in the Mad River Valley?

Friends and the community and the natural environment.
Access to the outer doors, Ronnie in the Woods with my dog many friendships of all kinds. Ability to help someone every day , Pedestrian access to many things, We need more paths and boardwalks
The land and the people
Natural beauty, vibrant community
Community and a peaceful environment.
Access to nature, sense of community
Close to outdoor recreation
Rural still
Its natural assets and people
access to nature, strong sense of community and belonging, strong public schools
sense of community; sharing; good neighbors; more relaxed pace; no stop lights
Sense of community
defined scope--we are bound together by geography and culture; there's a creative and active streak amongst many who live here
Outdoor rec, amazing community, great schools
The people and businesses of our community. Wonderful schools and of course all the beauty around us.
Access to nature; good neighbors
people, natural environment, farms
Community
Recreational opportunity, rural character (although feels threatened by growth and suburban qualities, political open mindedness with humanistic tendencies.
beautiful setting
Natural outside and sports activities
The natural outdoors, the beauty, sporting opportunities and nice people
The people, environment, beauty.
Access to nature and recreational activities outdoors; neighbors are helpful; community members are generally safe and trustworthy. People are willing to help. Children can be independent without safety issues.

Question 1:

What are the strengths of living in the Mad River Valley?

Natural beauty, recreational opportunities
Natural environment, community, can purchase almost everything locally
Its truly beautiful here almost all the time
The environment and recreational opportunities
Sense of Community, Clean Environment, Water and Air.
Strong sense of community, access to natural environment and recreation, access to locally sourced food, opportunities for creative outlets
Nature, fresh farm-to-table meals, clean air, beautiful views.
Quality of life and a beautiful place
It is a beautiful place to live.
Quality of life
only place left to live
the community, the outdoor opportunities
The community, nature, recreational opportunities.
Community
Close to family
Recreation scenery people
The people and the place
Access to the outdoors and a focus on appreciation of the environment.
Beauty, access to nature, friendly people
Recreation and public education opportunities for kids
Access to beautiful outdoor places to recreate
Easy access to trails for hiking and biking,
Good schools, though those have changed. Community driven population
great access to nature, exercise options and welcoming community and supportive
We live in a caring community that takes care of one another

Question 1:

What are the strengths of living in the Mad River Valley?

Healthy environment
The sense of community
Not Sure
Community, beauty, caring people, recreation
Walkability. Surrounded by recreational opportunities. Many local necessities and other services (Post Office, groceries, medical services, eateries, hardware, etc.). Engaged municipal governments. Mad Marathon and now the revived triathlon.
The natural beauty, recreation, and lack of people
Beauty, community, skiing
The people
The beauty, the snow, the river, the outdoor activities, opportunities, people
having friends and interacting with people of all ages, income levels and backgrounds; the beautiful scenery; the recreational opportunities
Quality of life
Outdoor recreation, community, generally fully stocked grocery stores
Nature, quiet, safety, recreation
Environment/nature. Fortunate to have purchased home many years ago when affordable.
Good community feeling and helpfulness
Size and connectedness
Outdoor recreation, small supportive community
Nature.
Access to Recreation and Community
Nature, access to culture, vibrant community
nature, recreation, beauty
Personal relationships, volunteer opportunities, natural beauty, a solid mix of folks from different socio-economic backgrounds (though living/housing costs are negatively impacting this dynamic)
Caring community, recreation
Focus on environmental living

Question 1:

What are the strengths of living in the Mad River Valley?

The amount of public land and trails, the vibe, the sense of community
Quiet, active lifestyle.
The atmosphere, nature.
Beautiful surroundings, caring community
Strong community bonds
natural beauty, sense of community
nature, family and friends
The other people living/working in this community are very special
No traffic lights, few stop signs, a good grocery store and easy access to Biking and skiing
Overall good and caring people; Beautiful nature; Good outdoor activities; Great place to raise a family.
it's beautiful, access to recreational activities, sense of community
natural beauty, easy to be active and lovely community
Value of community, safe place for kid, proximity to outdoors
It is cozy and there is easy access to a lot of natural beauty
Sugarbush
Recreation
access to and surrounded by natural elements, community of people who share love of recreation and kindness, sustainable living
A real sense of community. Small enough to know many people. Healthy environment. Like minded people. access to the great outdoors.
Beautiful, family
strong community, beauty of nature, good restaurants and shops
Beautiful place to live
clean space
Access to the natural world. Small schools.
environment and community
Access to outdoor recreation; Kind & caring people

Question 1:

What are the strengths of living in the Mad River Valley?

Great outdoor adventures.
Strong, unwavering sense of community and belonging. Safety. Access to the outdoors.
Nature and natural beauty
People, community, recreation, schools, quality of life
There is a lot of wonderful shops and stores.
Recreation, sense of community, beauty
Strong community values
Natural beauty, slow pace, low population, ski areas
Easy going and Laid back
Safety and enviroment
Access to nature and outdoors, good school and great teachers
It is quiet
Excellent Community Spirit
Access to wonderful surrounding town/cites
Sense of community, access to outdoor recreation, education
Community, natural resources
People, community and access to nature and recreation.
Outdoor activities, beautiful surroundings
nice nature, nice folks, i can leave my doors unlocked, lots of peace and serenity, my community accepts my work
its a great place to live with very little traffic and no stop lights and thats great.
the natural environment, and the individuals who live here
gorgeous natural environment
nature, community, recreation, river, cool people
beautiful scenery

Question 1:

What are the strengths of living in the Mad River Valley?

community
Quiet. Nature. Art Community
Environment, natural beauty
Ski swim paddle boarding
Strong community
It's a beautiful area with lots of outdoor recreation opportunities, good restaurants, access to high-quality local food, and entertainment options (movie theater, free music).
Community, nature
Beauty and nature abound. Strong sense of community, conservation and public good. Slower pace of life. Wonderful, unique, treasures abound. Excellent faculty, staff and curriculum at Harwood Union HS.
In some sense, the community. We are lucky we are small and know our community. The great outdoors and opportunity linked that and lastly, ability to access good food even though it is very expensive.
Community! Environment!
The natural beauty and the charm. Kind people
Nature
You can find a sense of community, Abundance of nature and nature lovers, Constant ability for recreation in any season of the year
Safe environment
Seeing friends and acquaintances frequently around town. No traffic. Beautiful scenery. Environmentally conscious community. Ability to live and work in one small community. World class ski areas in town.
Access to nature, space to explore
It's a beautiful tight knit community
Small Community
I love th/© access to nature
The beautiful scenery, moderate climate, friendly people
Access to skiing, mountain biking, and the river.
nature, beauty, access to fresh healthy food
A caring community of folks; access to outdoor activities; it's not like Stowe
Sense of community, connection, environment

Question 1:

What are the strengths of living in the Mad River Valley?

Great community. Lots of activities...like sports, arts, music, etc.
A great area with lots of proactive groups
Safe environment, clean environment, caring people, Lots of access to recreational activities
beauty; strong sense of community
Community, outdoor recreation, proximity to stores
I grew up here and all my family is here. There are a lot of opportunities and good people.
The natural beauty of our area
Slow pace
Strong sense of community and outdoor activities and sports for kids
Much to do outdoors; many local attractions also for plays, arts, crafts.
River beaches, library, VG, not much going on
The freshly cut farm fields, backroads and river.
Mountains, river and activities.
Outdoor opportunities, friendly atmosphere, hard working volunteers
Folks let me be who I am
Caring neighbors and community
the environment
The MRV is a special place that is full of natural beauty and opportunities to recreate. There is also a strong sense of community I believe due to our hemmed-in-ness. I bal bal beauty and lots of opporra
Access to trails, open spaces, amazing people
Community, natural/rural area, schools, kids sports programs, skiing, low pollution, peacefulness, safety.
Beautiful, nature, community
Nature, recreation, and strong sense of community
Natural environment, access through recreation
Beautiful location, great community, lots happening.
Outdoor recreation, beautiful place to live, overall good quality of life.

Question 1:

What are the strengths of living in the Mad River Valley?

I grew up here
Beautiful. Close to skiing. Great place to raise children and we love our school
nice people, sense of community, skiing, farmers market, local events, marathon
Living in a community where everyone cares about each other.
great community, engagement, great schools, great outdoor activities
Nice area. Feel safe
Beautiful natural environment and peaceful community
Beautiful surroundings & strong community
Access to recreation and abundant water and snow. A tight knit community.
Nature
community, beauty and access to outdoor.
Access to recreational activities. Small town with a lot of amenities
It is beautiful, safe, and the people are generally pretty wonderful.
The community and its willingness to pitch in to support in times of need. The beautiful mountains, dirt roads, trails and paths.
The small community and the values of life.
The natural beauty and small community feel
i can walk to places.
I like the small town life and knowing your neighbors and such, even though now when I walk into a grocery store I can, recognize 90% of the people in there
Family nearby - this is the only positive thing I see
The nature
Environment, education
many seniors
It is a beautiful place. We feel safe, it is clean, and we are able to enjoy the outdoors because we are a dual income family whose businesses are unconnected to the MRV.
I dont know anymore

Question 1:

What are the strengths of living in the Mad River Valley?

Safety, access to natural resources, good education for my child
Recreation and scenery
Rural community with sufficient services
The people and small town vibe.
Outdoor activities. Booming construction. Schools
Beauty, safety
Recreation
Beautiful nature, rural privacy, friendly community
The environment -- skiing, hiking, biking, rivers, lake
Beautiful surroundings, caring community, peaceful existence
Community, pace of living, natural surroundings.
Everyone knows each other
the summer and river time
close to work, youth sports however those are too costly, summer river excursions
Nature
The beauty; access to the outdoors
The lake
Peaceful and beautiful
it's a beautiful place to live
The access to the river and hiking. The small high quality elementary school. Just enough restaurants and stores to stay occupied.
nature, clean, quiet
multiple parks nearby, little traffic, small population
The natural beauty and my family and friends.
Beautiful strong community that is safe
It is a stunning place to be. Just beautiful. Peaceful. Most necessities are readily available. Some people are very kind. I love being part of the school environment. I am thankful.
Very strong community, committed public servants, and beautiful geography.

Question 1:

What are the strengths of living in the Mad River Valley?

small community
Living in a community that cares about each other, the environment and their own health and wellbeing.
Access to Nature, Interesting Community Events, Engaged People in the Community
Natural Beauty and outside to me
Free Wheelin, natural beauty, friendly people, recreation, fresh vegetables & farms
Nature and the people are kind
hiking/walking trails, snow & water sports, free wheelin' service
Beautiful outdoors
Good people, easy access to recreation, beautiful landscapes
community
Strong sense of community, with mostly like minded people. Great recreation.
healthful community, active senior citizen activities, climate suits me
Environment , good friends and other people contact good
There are a lot of nice people here.
community, natural environment
Being in nature, beautiful swimming holes, winter outdoor recreation
I just love my house, when I come back from work I enter my house and voila
The people, the environment/nature
The community, natural beauty
The Mad River Valley community boasts rich natural and recreational offerings that enhance residents' opportunities for outdoor activities and personal health. There are affordable housing options that provide comfort and safety, adding to the affordability of living in the community. Furthermore, transparent communication between community officials and residents aids in data-driven decision-making, bolstering the wellbeing and resilience of the entire valley.
Clean air, water, organic local food, little light pollution
Community, recreation, cultural opportunities
Beautiful place to live with lots of opportunities to enjoy nature

Question 1:

What are the strengths of living in the Mad River Valley?

Beauty of nature; wonderful people; safety (elderly female living alone); Farmers Market and CSA; skiing & outdoor sports attract some far-away family and some wonderful houseguests
Beauty. Friendly people. Access to good food.
Being able to enjoy the beautiful nature that surrounds us. Having a family owned supermarket where I know almost all the employees by name. Being able to grow my own vegetables.
The changing of the seasons & safe place
Natural beauty, good schools
attractive landscape; sense of community
Environment
Community and the natural surroundings
Quality of life
Natural beauty, snow sports, small elementary schools
It's a beautiful place to live and raise my children.
beauty, gentle life-style, outdoor recreation
The nature all around and focus on outdoor activities
Community.
Caring community, beautiful place, great schools, dedication to keeping the valley clean, natural and beautiful.
A good mix of recreational, business and social activities.
Gorgeous environment. Good people
Clean air and good hiking, good schools, friendly community, volunteer opportunities, good local shops
Outdoor recreation is valued and prioritized. Community is health-focused and active. Nature is everywhere. Access to high quality local food.
Natural beauty, a great sense of community, our schools
The beautiful nature all around and the river.
It is clean and there is a good sense of community while also providing space away from the more populated areas.
Friendly people

Question 1:

What are the strengths of living in the Mad River Valley?

Know many who live here
Community, recreational opportunities, healthy, surrounded by beauty
Ability for recreation. People around that I feel truly care about you.
the outdoor spaces for activities I love and the beauty
Vibrant, accepting community, beautiful environment, lots of outdoor year-round recreation, mostly uncrowded with no traffic
Community
Community
Small town living is the best! Community
Safety, geographical beauty
Community, safety, elementary schools, natural beauty, air and water quality, sports,
very caring and generous community
Access to recreation in the natural environment and access to local products.
School system
Rather safe, small town community feeling (everyone knows everyone), lots of natural recreation.
Access to outdoor activities and recreation; small-town community vibe
Enjoying the natural beauty of our area by hiking, walking, skiing.
location
Access to the outdoors, mountain biking, sliding on snow, people within the community, skating at the warren skate park
Peaceful,, friendly people, respectful of differences. Beautiful mountains and river to enjoy nature.
Skiing and biking
Quality of life
Nature and people
Small town living
It is beautiful and green. Mostly quiet and peaceful
The people. The skiing, Sugarbush, the river. Hiking
Sense of community, access to healthy living
Friendly, caring community in beautiful environment

Question 1:

What are the strengths of living in the Mad River Valley?

River, skiing, hiking, golf
green environment
It's fairly quiet
Good school district and good community support
Beautiful place to live, caring community, good food, family here
outdoor recreation, beauty, community
Community, Nature
It is a caring community
The community and the nature all around us
nature, people
I live here all my life

Question 2:

What are the challenges of living in the Mad River Valley?

We have a lack of affordable housing, few young people and few high paying job opportunities.
Expensive place to live
Not many 'third spaces' that are free to gather in the winter time, cost of living does not match wages, and lack of housing for young professionals.
low diversity, too expensive for many
Knotweed and cost of living
Cost, and too many NIMBY attitudes
Property taxes
worried about development ruining our rural character. and too many wealthy 2nd home owners coming in building huge houses.
taxes, no surprise. Mud season
Harwood
non-sensical stormwater regulations
Taxes taxes and more taxes. Full time resident worried about being able to afford property upon retirement. Where to go and what to do?
Shopping is distant (where do you buy pajamas in the Valley?!).
Too many groups trying to plan life
The rude selfish immoral people with bad intentions.
too much government
property taxes
Cost of housing/bad housing options. Winter is lonely if you don't ski. No young people! Culture isn't politically active or interested in change & creative solutions to social problems. People are complacent.
housing unavailable for median income and lower income. few intellectually stimulating jobs, few well paid jobs. the service/tourism economy is not viable ; high quality medical care for conditions other than orthopedics. e.g. to get to hospital in event of heart attack, it will take at least 1 hour.
Town government of Warren, cost of living, second homeowners and airBNb
not enough to do - 6 week classes in the arts, cooking, etc
Limited entertainment beyond outdoors. Miss the Skinner barn shows, would like a larger music venue, a better fitness center.
Cost of living, lack of diversity, lack of a pharmacy,

Question 2:

What are the challenges of living in the Mad River Valley?

Lack of economic opportunities for skilled workers, animosity toward outsiders, rising taxes
lack of arts culture
The expense, it is filled with pretentious people and mentally unstable people.
lack of restaurants, lack of drive people and moving too slow, things close so early, and any conveniences are far away... but it's also what we signed up for!
Coast of living, especially housing
Dangerous roads. Few opportunities for recreation for older adults. No sidewalks on many busy roads, forcing people to drive. Examples are East Warren Rd, Joslin Hill Rd. No bike lanes. Dangerous for kids to ride to school.
My spouse would note a lack of divergent cultural and dining opportunities, I'm good with what we have and when needing more, am happy to travel elsewhere - and always happy to come home.
Isolation, lack of job opportunities, lack of social opportunities that do not include drinking or pot smoking, high taxes
lack of affordable housing, lack of affordable dining options
Housing for renters is scarce and real estate is too high
High taxation
Expensive to own a home
The lack of restaurants is very disheartening. The MRV used to be a very vibrant, happening place.
Bit of a drive to get anywhere
Cost of living, no chance of a middle class family to own a home
Isolation if you are elderly & too expensive.
The costs and watching all those 2nd empty homes being built pushing out those who need a home and work here
Family
too much alcohol consumption at downtown businesses
Cost of living. Limited dining options.
The retired people hold the rest of us hostage with their voting against education and their belief that things should cost what they did in 1980. It's a very, very serious problem.
Some of the people, many of the visitors and the taxation

Question 2:

What are the challenges of living in the Mad River Valley?

No drug store, one bank, limited shopping for day to day products, lack of public transportation, basic services at least 30 minute drive.
Lack of services
No services, not much choice in restaurants, hard to do comparison shopping Thank God for Mehuron'S!
High cost and lack of housing.
No drug store
far from culture, expensive
Lack of restaurants, high taxes
Poor conditions of roads Very high property taxes No drugstore, limited physicians, local clinic limited. Poor stores
It's expensive and you have to drive distances for certain things
It's a bottleneck, very hard to make friends, class is huge in that challenge of meeting new people, people look down on others, hard for single people to connect, everything is an hour away, not a lot of resources for low income folks, lack of diversity, plowing on private roads is a nightmare, my neighbors are bullies and no one cares, my roads are a mess and no one cares, expensive AF,
No effort to build affordable housing. Too many old people. I am 62 by the way
I can see it becoming impossible for people like me to live here. Not sure how it will change when only rich people can live here.
It is expensive and I wish there was more access to activities for youth.
No housing for the average family. Only housing for the wealthy
State and local governments are difunctional and waste money
lack of drugstore, unaffordable housing for teachers, nurses, etc., growing income disparity, employee shortage
No pharmacy, high taxes, access to medical care- not enough providers
Affordability
Taxes, very few restaurants
Housing costs, staffing, taxes
Cost of Living Unsustainable
Lack of younger people

Question 2:

What are the challenges of living in the Mad River Valley?

<p>(1) Retired 17 years, I'm affected by inflated prices across almost all categories of living expenses. I believe many Valley (and State of VT) businesses have used, and continue to use the pandemic as an excuse to raise their prices, often blaming staffing shortages. (2) Many restaurants have closed and those remaining have restricted hours, days of service. (I'm not seeing restaurants varying their menus & service options as ways of coping with inflation.) (3) As I've aged and experienced some big health problems, I find myself wanting to hire people to do certain tasks I used to do myself (seasonal yard work). Very difficult to find willing workers: not only expensive but unreliable. Hence, many tasks I'd like to have done go neglected, or wait for out-of-state family members to visit and help. (4) While Valley residents, by and large, are well educated and many consider themselves social justice advocates, I find the community quite timid, disengaged with current national crises. Where are the political and personal responses to mass incarceration, complicity in military outrages, extraordinary poverty and homelessness in the state and nation? The Valley seems a too complacent, self-satisfied "bubble".</p>
<p>Lack of community engagement by significant segments of the community, substance abuse among adults and teens (often related to lack of engagement and mental health issues).</p>
<p>high property taxes, mud season, complainers</p>
<p>Poor availability for affordable housing</p>
<p>I own my house and car and have ample resources to live comfortably, BUT, it is not healthy or good for our community to not be able to house many of our workers affordably. I want the folks who work retail and food services, who mow our lawns and plow our driveways, remove our trash, lifties at MRG etc. to find affordable housing. Likewise, potential first time home-buying families who used to be able to find affordable modest starter homes (the so-called missing middle) who are now priced out of the MRV.</p>
<p>It is small and there are not many opportunities for expansion.</p>
<p>Housing all talk and no action, environmental quality all talk and not the right approach.</p>
<p>Cost and insularity.</p>
<p>taxes</p>
<p>Housing is un-affordable, lack of age diversity, second home owners don't share same values as some locals.</p>
<p>high housing costs resulting in gentrification; lack of a live music scene</p>
<p>Lack of housing. Lack of restaurants.</p>
<p>getting overrun with people that want the city life in the country</p>
<p>No MRV police department. People drive way to fast and you never see police enforcing the speed limit. Very expensive to rent or buy...ridiculous.</p>
<p>Not enough law enforcement so people drive too fast - even on dead end roads</p>
<p>Airbnb and second home owners</p>
<p>None</p>
<p>Cost of living, housing</p>

Question 2:

What are the challenges of living in the Mad River Valley?

No culture, incredibly boring.
prices to high
Power outages. As mentioned previously - lack of a drug store. Lack of affordable housing, and the fact that housing is going to be increasing, especially due to taxes.
Accrss to some needed otemd, cost of items here
Cost of living
Everything is expensive - restaurants, real estate, etc.
Grocery and gas costs
The current school funding situation is insane and needs to be fixed for the whole state
Cost of housing, no pharmacy
It's so expensive, local amenities are not accessible and are closed at odd time and after typical work hours
Lack of cultural diversity, shift in community feel with so many more part time property owners and mostly out of control property taxes
Influx of out of staters who are rude and greedy
Too expensive
travel distance to culture, medical, shopping
Over-priced real estate and high cost of skiing. Loss of open land to development.
local politicians are out of touch.
Cost of living, cost of housing. Barely any rental options
No community pool.
single life sucks
costs, costs, small town gossip
Too far from hospitals, no pharmacy, most local stores are too expensive because building/rent is so expensive. That makes it really difficult to sustain the community I feel like.
cost of everything
Somewhat isloated

Question 2:

What are the challenges of living in the Mad River Valley?

<p>A lot of localism. Not much comraderie. At business events (as a business owner) nobody comes up to h traduce themselves or helps promote other businesses. Feel it is a negative place for local support. Lots of gossip within the community that is not positive. No reaching out or mutually supportive unless you've lived here for a long time or from here. If you are an attractive and successful woman there is the feeling of jealousy and looks rather than cool! A new person in town! And wanting to get to know them and support their local business.</p>
<p>Glyphosate spraying on too many fields , excessive property taxes and unrealistic educational budgets, no affordable housing educ</p>
<p>few places to rent for housing, expense of living here, home pricing</p>
<p>I have no neighbors and our land borders the National Forest. I find it vey isolating so I travel frequently.</p>
<p>too many STRs, not enough support for the business community</p>
<p>Housing is too expensive & in short supply, needs for medical, retail & restaurant resources/businesses</p>
<p>We do miss our restaurant offerings, easier access to medical need</p>
<p>Quality of Available services, some really cranky people,</p>
<p>Property Taxes, we built our home in 2008 and we think we will eventually leave Vermont because of property taxes. The state needs to find a better way to fund schools.</p>
<p>property taxes, difficulty acquiring prompt medical care, distance from higher educational opportunities for adults, no pharmacy</p>
<p>Expensive</p>
<p>Distance from hospitals, doctors take no new patienrs, distance from cultural events</p>
<p>No pharmacy, long waitlist for medical care</p>
<p>Lacks culture, restaurants, gym, healthy shopping</p>
<p>Access to some services like doctors</p>
<p>cost, second home owners, short term rentals</p>
<p>The complete demise of the working class and affordability. The Spread of second homes and STRs has only gotten worse and worse. People cannot afford to live and work here. We cannot raise families here. We are being displaced at a rapid rate by the super wealthy parasites from out of state. Our school budget was just voted down twice. Our cost per pupil has skyrocketed because families cannot live here an put their kids in school. Our community is nearing total collapse. Ban short term rentals now and put the tax burden on non-homestead properties. If they're rich enough to afford multiple homes, when many Vermonters are being denied even one, they can afford to be taxed.</p>
<p>everything is very expensive</p>
<p>Taxes - need smart development to spur affordable housing construction and build tax base plus support local businesses</p>

Question 2:

What are the challenges of living in the Mad River Valley?

Cost of and lack of available housing for young families.
housing
Taxes have increased and may be pricing us out of Vermont, Why does Vermont tax Social Security???
All the out of state people with way too much money who now live here and influence local agendas.
Cost of housing
Distance to specialist medical care.
The cost of living here: taxes and housing prices (rent OR own).
Price of property high, too many restrictions on home type
taxes, the crazy tax crazy legislature, the progressive agenda destroying Vermont
More housing for elder people or people with out cars in the center of town areas.
property taxes, school budget
Financial inequities, Airbnb, lack of affordable housing
Money is God. Big homes and expensive lifestyles are taking over. Always a committee taking charge to 'improve' (change) the way of life that was a positive about this place.
Lack of diversity, restaurant options
the school not getting enough money
Car trucks driving too fast
Taxes
Like everywhere in Vermont, it's VERY expensive. I also find that the people in the MRV have an entitlement problem. People tend to have a negative relationship with tourists (not business owners, as they rely on tourism) and assume that if they aren't from around here, they are evil doers. Too many drunk drivers, it's obvious with the amount of empty alcohol cans/bottles on the side of the road.
Lack of true down town center, no community center (fitness center, community hub)
semi rural VT
Lack of restaurants, high cost of living
Raising costs impact the diversity (race, age, etc) of the community.
The speed of cars on dirt roads and route 100,Ä¶ Negative Tirades pursue online in the local newspaper go on and on

Question 2:

What are the challenges of living in the Mad River Valley?

Fear of development moving in, ruining what we have
The lack of swimming opportunities. The many swimmers in the Valley have to drive 35-40 minutes to get to a lap pool. There have been pools in every community I've lived in except this one. With serious efforts to establish the Mad River Path, we will hopefully soon be a place where people don't have to drive everywhere. The one remaining thing that would make it a great place to live is a year-round lap swimming facility.
Sometimes one has to travel to purchase items that you can't get here.
Cost of living, lack of affordable housing and restaurants
High taxes, lack of housing for workers
Crazy taxes esp. property
Costs, not just for me but most working people
lack of access to cultural offerings, lack of racial and ethnic diversity, lack of job opportunities, lack of recreational options for kids (outside of team sports or skiing/snowboarding)
non-residents who often leave their brains at home (erratic driving; driving very slowly; not giving turn signals; not a lot of resources such as available in more urban areas;
Affordability for other than the wealthy
lack of housing for a spectrum of incomes
Economic divide, lack of affordable housing, too focused on tourists, inability to pass school budget
Housing and childcare availability. Very expensive to live here. Sugarbush need to offer more affordable passes for families.
Housing shortage; cost of living
expensive, not inclusive, isolation
High taxes no affordable housing
Overdependence on automobiles for many purposes.
far from cultural centers
No Olympic size pool and skating opportunities are limited
Too many good restaurants have closed Lack of basketball courts we need to improve the skating ring. We need an Olympic size pool in the area.
Property taxes.
Not culturally diverse and people of color in this community continue to be subjected to white supremacy culture and harassment, unfortunately more often than community members realize. Not enough activities and educational opportunities for children/youth and young adults. Not enough access to year round healthy food (organic and vibrant).

Question 2:

What are the challenges of living in the Mad River Valley?

Increasing development without apparent plans/regulation; hard to meet people
Rapidly increasing taxes. No pharmacy. Sometimes feels too small
cost of living is too high for younger generations. The Valley is "aging out"
Unaffordable taxes that will soon force me to sell and move elsewhere (I'm on Social Security and my property taxes consume almost 50% of SS)
Tourist Traffic on week Ends and Vacations, Dangerous driving habits of motorists especially in the early morning hours. Too many accidents.
Knotweed, lack of pharmacy, lack of support for schools
Racism and close-mindedness. Not many places for food or entertainment.
People locally think they know it all! I moved here 2 years ago locals seem to turn there nose up
Not enough affordable housing and high paying jobs. It is too expensive to live in the valley
Taxes, too much nanny state, transient second home community
lots
I'm incredibly concerned about the future of education, both as it affects my children in the schools and my job as an educator. It is very stressful, makes me worry a lot for my kids, and makes me disappointed in/upset about my community. The funding situation is pitting the most financially vulnerable in our community against our children. It's a terrible situation for all involved.
Professional job opportunities, restaurant closures, too many dispensaries, dangerous drivers, Alterra's management of the mountain
Busy weekends
High Taxes
Not enough housing
Limited housing
housing options-- they are impacting my ability to staff at work and my own personal choices. Lack of access to robust mental health supports.
Lack of affordable housin
Expensive
living far from everyday needed things like a pharmacy
Can get crowded during certain times of year and that makes it hard for us to enjoy our home, trails, swimming holes. It is expensive.

Question 2:

What are the challenges of living in the Mad River Valley?

Way too expensive for the amenities and opportunities available. Rental inflation
high cost of housing, becoming "too privileged" and the awful rush for development, especially in sensitive environments.
Lack of affordable housing
Cost of living is fucking insane
For me as a professional sailor, too far from the ocean. Too seasonal.
Having to deal with people coming and going.
No pharmacy. Need for more health care workers
Can't think of any. Weekend event noise levels have improved (decreased).
Lack of restaurants, far left politics
ability to make more money, lack of restaurants & gathering places
Cost. Taxes. School cost
the cost is high
mud season; long stretches where you have limited opportunity to mingle with others outside trips to the grocery store (in the shoulder seasons, mainly); insufficient amount of restaurants and music
Not enough diversity
Pedestrian access and safety (particularly by foot), high cost of living with direct effect of staff of local businesses particularly service industry, lack of health care services
Lack of affordable housing, increased lack of dining, challenges in hiring because of housing challenges
Can't afford a house or condo, it's basically just wealthy people who think alike
Too many homes purchased for rentals means our neighborhood is dying. Cost of living is too high with fewer choices (restaurants, groceries, employers that pay low).
Too much emphasis on sports
Poor economy/ lack of opportunity
Housing, development planning
Cost of living, lack of housing, lack of social opportunities, lack of commerce
Cost of Living, Aging Demographic, Irasville

Question 2:

What are the challenges of living in the Mad River Valley?

Differences between "Have" and "Have not", the establishment that does not want to change
lack of diversity
Increased uber wealthy disengaged and part-time population populations
Lack of goods and services
Too many tourists wanting too much in the valley
really frustrated that our community voted down the school budget twice. Also, living too far away from gyms that host basketball practice and volleyball. Too many short-term (airbnb) rentals, not enough long-term rentals for our workforce.
Expensive, weekends can be really busy with tourists.
Cost of living
Affordable housing shortage, not enough resources for working people, too many second homes
Lack of housing and affordability
poor proximity to resources when convenient to my schedule
lack of restaurants, poorly maintained downtown
It is VERY expensive to live here
No drugstore, too many rainy/overcast days, irregularity of business hours, grumpy business owners.
You need to have a car to move around. Hard to walk everywhere.
affordability, rural/remote
affordability and taxes keep increasing making us question whether we can actually retire here
Lack of diversity
Hard for businesses to stay open, meaning there is not a huge variety for food options, and they're all pretty expensive. Sugarbush prices are exorbitant and they've been buying up surrounding businesses
There are very limited social opportunities
Too expensive for locals now. All the businesses cater to the rich, not affordable. We are going to lose a lot of locals if school taxes go up
high monetary costs, especially educational,
Hard for many to find employment. Low wages. Housing and taxes are unaffordable for many which prevents us from having people from every socio economic class as neighbors.

Question 2:

What are the challenges of living in the Mad River Valley?

Taxes too high, locals moving out
property taxes
Not very affordable
Lack of housing
Cost of housing. Educational funding. Lack of diversity. Lack of variety of ethnic restaurants. No pharmacy.
cost
Minimal diversity; high taxes
Expensive to live, not many jobs.
Cultural activities are limited, can't really walk anywhere, lack of diversity of people (race, ethnicity, cultural background, etc.). Limited food options, and everything is just a bit more expensive and upscale than I sometimes want. No dive bars!
Far from highway. Need to travel for many goods and services, no affordable housing. Expensive. Shops charge more because of tourists
Too expensive and we got in when housing was more affordable! VT is pricey. Too pricey. I'm worried about the diversity of our area- you have to have money to live here and we are losing important people and ideas if we keep pricing people out., I have considered myself an environmentalist my whole life and now I almost find the conversations about nature irritating. We need housing. We need open areas but we also need businesses. I question current dining regulations if we truly want things to change.
No pharmacy
Housing costs, taxes
Affordable housing
High taxes
Housing costs, food costs, entitled people
No drug store!!!
Access to medical care. Long waits for doctors, no primary care doctors taking new patients, popular spots sometime being over crowded
Gets lonely to expensive to enjoy the culture
Dramatic lack of affordable workforce housing
Lack of leadership on our boards representing the village residents concerns, not the monetary advancements of board members.
Cost of housing, access to childcare
Lack of diversity (social, economic, racial), housing costs

Question 2:

What are the challenges of living in the Mad River Valley?

Dependence on automobiles, lack of shared use path for commuting to work, school, town. Lack of year round public transportation.
Cost of living, not enough young people !
not racially diverse, too many wealthy folks, not enough working class vibes, not enough free palestine posters, not enough young people
Due to a lack of affordable housing we are losing employees to local business. because of this the restaurants and stores are often closed when I wish they where open.
rising property values which impact our taxes, increasing traffic
lack of cultural activities, lack of diversity
Low wages, no housing
lack of transportation
mud season
Sometimes too slow
Lack of quality restaurants, lack of diversity, lack of support for education in the recent budget debate
High cost
Affordability for young families
I've been here four years and don't feel like I'm connected to anyone. I've tried attending various community events, yoga classes , barre classes, workshops, and volunteering... But haven't really connected with anyone in a way that leads to friendships or a greater sense of belonging to the community. I feel like most of the social opportunities available skew towards an older (retiree) audience, so lots of events or groups I simply can't participate in because they happen during work hours, and when I can attend, I feel like I don't belong because I'm the youngest person in the room by 30 years. Plus, a lot of opportunities just don't align with my particular interests. It's been a struggle.
Cost of living, lack of housing for service industry,
Not many high paying jobs. Elders are voting (and rudely posting) against maintaining and funding the schools and otherwise making the area more hospitable for young people. No clear, equitable, long term vision for affordable housing. The Harwood Union High School building is crumbling due to long deferred basic maintenance, hurting morale there.
It is unaffordable. It is moving in the wrong direction. It doesn't support local people enough.
We have to pass school budget, wastewater bond & Harwood HS bond!
The cost. Being driven out by wealthy out-of-staters
Cost of living

Question 2:

What are the challenges of living in the Mad River Valley?

Community can be clique, There are not a lot of young people to socialize with, There are limited opportunities for good paying jobs
Too small, valley closes in on people
Needing to drive everywhere - minimal public transportation. Lack of diversity. Expensive housing. Restaurants not open every day. Too many people voting down the school budgets - using our children as pawns in their protests.
Can feel like everyone knows everyone which is difficult when new to the valley
The mehuérons parking lot
High taxes and the public education.
Living here as a young person is really tough and often depressing. Renting is horrible and I don't believe I'll ever be able to afford a house in the valley now
Need a pharmacy
Lack of access to health care, reliance on cars.
it is dangerous to walk as much as I or my children want. Cross walks are poorly marked and drivers do not pay attention and drive too fast. It is expensive to live here, even with a "good job".
Disporportionate housing availability - ownership, long term rentals
Affordability
Hi taxes. Disappearing restaurants.
Taxes are not great
Hi cost-of-living unaffordable property taxes, Limited opportunities for other families coming in, very limited housing due to second homeownership and short term rentals.
None that come to mind
Lack of affordable housing and it's impact on the community
Poor housing opportunities
lack of specific stores: Drug Store, most of the MRV focus is based around Sugarbush and their visitors, so a lot of the facilities are unreachable for locals to use (pools, gyms, etc.)
Parochialism as to zoning and density, us against them mentality at times, at other times - lack of economic understanding and complexity in housing, zoning, education funding (and opposition to consolidation of tiny school populations among the 3+ towns, tourism, rental properties and the needed cooperation among these for the MRV to thrive.
busy beaches, dog owners not respecting leash laws,

Question 2:

What are the challenges of living in the Mad River Valley?

Many new residents and no community gatherings to meet just to become a more knowing community.
Declining school quality for students
Shopping can be a challenge. I do not like yo order in line but cannot find items at times better roads,
Property Taxes are high
Practically unaffordable! Not a lot of housing! Not a lot of Early Childhood Education Centers or
the people who visit
too expensive for many people so the population skews toward the well off
Far from other opportunities, not a lot of great options for teens not into sports
Cost of living, lack of health care.
Costs, lack of law enforcement,, no pharmacy (should have been first)
It's expensive for younger people to move here,
Distance from population centers, need the drive everywhere
Cost, housing, lack of diversity.
Unaffordable for many to live and work here, educational system is currently not supported, lack of restaurants for visitors early in the week.
Living costs are too high. And no options to move elsewhere in the valley
Far from a large more affordable super market for groceries, far from most shopping and other activities for kids
parking at the village square, restaurants keep not making it, cost of living for workforce, affordable housing
living with close minded people and little diversity
no workforce housing, too much economic inequity, no pharmacy, not enough services
Too expensive
Limited services and amenities, high taxes, expensive
Affordability for many
Inability for middle class workers to start out but a house, or have access to homeownership.
No pharmacy
Groceries are way too expensive. Parochial vision of how Valley used to be that fail to acknowledge the reality.

Question 2:

What are the challenges of living in the Mad River Valley?

Costs can be high
There is no affordable housing for young people starting out, the zoning regulations around development are far too strict, and the town of Fayston is run by a "Good Ole Boy's" network.
Cost of living in VT in general
That things are very expensive and it is hard for people that don't ski or bike and have physical limitations.
I find a lot of the activities outside of outdoor sports is often geared to an older population.
very high costs of everything.
Definitely the gentrification. My mom was actually on the brink of homelessness and without a job because of how much living costs have increased. It has been a rough 4 years due to that.
It is extremely expensive. Taxes are way too HIGH. There is little to do for senior citizens. All money and effort from the government seems to go towards supporting tourism rather than the people who live and pay taxes in the valley, There are no sidewalks except on route 100 so places to walk are inaccessible to many people, The local government is not efficient. There are many homes that are being lived in that are left unfinished so they pay lower taxes - the town of Waitsfield lets this go on for years - there are some that have been unshingled or partially unshingled for over 10 years. You have to drive everywhere. There is no public transportation. Medical care is difficult to access and there is no pharmacy closer that about a 30-45 minute drive. Overall, quality of life is poor and everything is overly expensive.
Cost of living high not enough jobs
high cost of housing
lack of affordable housing for low to moderate income people
little affordable housing
Local economy is tough for small business owners. Hiring is hard. VT doesn't offer enough incentive for independent small businesses to tap into for help.
Everything besides nature
My family has to live in a tiny house bc we cant afford a bigger one here.
Cost of living - road conditions - lack of academic offerings in HUUSD schools and
Distance from major metropolitan areas
Cost of living, taxes are sky rocketing making it nearly impossible to afford my house and utilities.
Expensive. Flatlanders. Culture.
Expensive!
Property taxes
Expensive
Very small, not as much culture, quiet, can get easily overcrowded, common workers struggle to find housing, while huge houses sit vacant 90% of the time

Question 2:

What are the challenges of living in the Mad River Valley?

Diminishing businesses / restaurants, transient nature of some residents, growing animosity among those with different views, declining school quality (HUHS), limited enrichment / sports / activities for kids and families
Tourist driven decision-making, cost of living, lack of activities for youth/teens, lack of restaurants
It's too expensive, there's no public pools
cost of living and nothing to do no affordable places to eat/shop, far away from everything
shops always closed on weekends, too unaffordable, not much to do all winter for activity unless your wealthy and can ski
Costs of living, second home owners, lack of affordable housing
High cost of living
High cost of living & schools high not listening parents
Cost of living
no affordable housing. too many Airbnb's.
Cost of housing and cost of food. Lack of variety of ethnic backgrounds.
isolated, no diversity, high cost of living, lack of culture, wealth gap, astronomical prices on goods
businesses close too early, restaurant prices are too high, people cut programs instead of schools, don't value mental health at schools, my electricity is too expensive. If I sell my house I will be out-priced to live here, I have to supplement my income with a part-time job and Airbnb.
High cost of living and overly restrictive rules regarding property use and development.
Expensive and not a lot of options
It is very expensive for an average person here. Groceries, utilities, services.
Cost of living, scarcity of housing, minimal walkability.
Lack of restaurants, no pharmacy
No drugstore, not enough workforce housing
Expenses (Education Tax, Groceries, Extracurricular Fees (Blockhouse Membership, Ski Pass)).
Alterra, businesses closing and not reopening, cost of living is way too high
Need a pharmacy, lack of restaurants, lack of transportation
It is far from more popular areas and most people drive far for work.
no late night popular price eating places, no drug store

Question 2:

What are the challenges of living in the Mad River Valley?

Small-town feel with everyone knowing everyone in overlapping roles, makes it hard for people to be held accountable professionally because they may also be your neighbor, kid's friend's parent, etc. Lack of racial and cultural diversity here is harmful for the kids and children of color suffer

Limited access to train or other public transport, people are spread out, few businesses in Warren Village, too much paving of rural roads, not enough condensed/clustered housing in the villages, town plans and zoning allowing continued sprawl, lack of affordable housing (specifically in the villages w/ access to public transport)

lack of businesses and alliterative activities beyond recreation

Mud.

housing unaffordable for working people, pay scale too low for essential living expenses, have to travel for cultural things, orthopedics and primary care medicine, but availability of specialized medicine and emergency care is poor

Far away from needed things when online doesn't help

The winters can be long and hard with fewer activities outside of winter sports.

costs of living (housing, taxes, fuels, food)

Very expensive to live here, cannot rely on businesses to be open when they say or have what I need to buy. Many in the community publicly shame others for differing opinions

Things are cost like hell

Housing is unaffordable for the working force. If you retire here with money, it's all rainbows and sunshine. If you're young and trying to live and make a reasonable wage, it is no bueano.

Pricey all around.

Potential negatives might include limited transportation connections and public transit services, which could affect the ease of travel for residents and visitors alike. Additionally, the cost of living may gradually increase as the community develops and improves, potentially becoming burdensome for some residents. Finally, while the community offers abundant recreational activities, there might be a lack of certain necessary services and facilities, such as diverse shopping and medical services.

Expensive food and not enough housing

High cost of living

Lack of affordable housing. Lack of long term rental. Taxes

Hospitals etc. 45 minutes or more away; high real-estate taxes; please don't tell them, but some houseguests :)

The incredible level of stupidity I saw around the pandemic response. Indoor mask mandates. People getting vaccinated over and over. Absolutely zero media coverage of vaccine reactions. Attempted censorship of WMRW for having diverse points of view.

Not having access to enough doctors. Not enough housing for workers.

Question 2:

What are the challenges of living in the Mad River Valley?

Too expensive to buy food & property taxes are out of control !!!!
Not enough commerce or housing
No pharmacy; difficulty in accessing medical care; having to drive most places; lack of restaurants.
High price of taxes
Cost of living, transportation
Home ownership
lack of goods and services, high home prices,
It's almost unbearably expensive.
increasing cost of living, lack of affordability for moderate or low income people
The lack of housing, the new school budget which underfunds our schools
Childcare cost and availability. Cost of living (trying to compete/keep up with tourist and out of state transplants),
Housing costs, getting around (need for all wheel drive vehicle)
Sometimes I avoid activities. I like on the weekends because of out of town visitors.
Lack of affordable housing for others
Not many jobs, very little to no affordable housing, no pharmacy, tons of alcohol and marijuana
Somewhat difficult for an introverted single adult without kids to meet people; not much is open in the later evenings
Unsustainably expensive for many, lack of public transport, distance from entertainment and big city amenities, everything closes early or revolves around alcohol.
Very expensive being a local to rent or buy a home.
We're far away from a few basic things like a pharmacy.
Not enough access to shoes, sheets and home needs.
High cost of living
No pharmacy
Cost of living is high. Not enough housing
cost of living, busy seasons

Question 2:

What are the challenges of living in the Mad River Valley?

Long drive to find a variety of goods and services, especially when trying to save money, lack of a local pharmacy, influx of new second homes and increased property values giving rise to higher cost of living
Housing, school budget decreases, no pharamcy
Cost of goods and services
Property taxes , fuel cost . It's a very expensive place to live
Cost of living
Cost, no affordable living,
we are a community of seniors, the PO is not handicap accessible, Mehuron's doesn't have a public restroom
The costs of living are so high, it makes personal improvements to my property or lifestyle nearly impossible.
Not affordable, too costly too many drugs and welfare
Expensive, lack of diversity, very little for teens to do (no community center/etc)
Cost of living here; lack of affordable home ownership (not just rentals); all the local business are extremely expensive; tourists; proximity to airport/rental car services
Lack of housing for many, as well as lack of public transportation availability.
lack of housing and affordable housing for middle class workers. Lacking amenities such as a pharmacy
Restaurants keep closing, Not enough staff at local business
Cost of living... no workforce housing, or starter homes that are below 450k... or 300k... we desperately need a wastewater treatment plant to help generate productive development. Jobs and growing opportunities
Shops are pricey
seeing the full time population shrink due to an increase in 2nd home owners and Air bnbs.
SSSSS
Lack of diversity
Housing, public transportation
It's SO expensive and the businesses all seem to have odd hours and just be hobby businesses. The people who run the town are catering entirely to tourists and are not focused on locals. It's feeling like Massachusetts more and more.
Cost of housing. Lack of hotels for visitors. Lack of restaurants and night life
The lack of affordability for many of our neighbors
Lack of affordable housing especially young families and folks at the beginning of their careers. Astronomical property taxes. Complicated school funding formula

Question 2:

What are the challenges of living in the Mad River Valley?

Busy bodies (aka nosy parkers), lack of affordable housing, lack of opportunity for upward career mobility
high cost of rent
Too many people coming here
Tourist have made my home town to expensive to raise my family in my family home and do up keep to my home.
Super expensive to live here
Beautiful healthy environment, caring kind community
expensive, hard for restaurants and businesses to survive
High cost of living
We need an urgent care - the local office is not responsive
The over abundance of consuming alcohol , not enough community gatherings/activities
lack of diversity (financial and all other ways), and cars/trucks go TOO FAST with no consequences
the prices

Question 3:

What are the “big picture” changes you would most like to see that would improve the quality of life in the Mad River Valley?

I would like to see more compact development in Waitsfield and Irasville Village to support infill development.
Less expensive
I would love to see some development of a 'town center' or 'main drag' with some more affordable housing options and a few more local businesses to patron. A bike path or walking path would be amazing too!
dense mixed use retail, business, and moderate income housing in the town centers
More affordable healthy food
More multi unit housing projects and the other towns not leaving all problems with growth to Waitsfield
Fix property tax re: schools
keep development down. attract/support refugee families to farm our old farms (since farming) to farm
access for 1st home buyers to find affordable homes
better schools
wastewater system in waitsfield, more affordable housing
Consolidate fire dept. services. Spend less money on visioning and more on doing. More support/facilities for the elderly.
Local control of schools and Valley-wide educational cooperation between towns for efficiency. Expanded tech employers. More affordable housing.
reduce state oversight and unplanned taxation
Find a way to expose the rude selfish immoral people with bad intentions.
less regulation
lower property taxes
More support for young people building/buying homes and trying to create a life here. More support for the arts - rather than just recreation. More financial support for local news, so we don't lose it one day like so many towns have, more support/effort around mental health care/supports.
redevelopment of vacant and underutilized structures into multi- unit affordable housing
Support locals and small businesses
better restaurants and things to do
More diverse housing options that are more affordable. More entertainment, retail and services. a community center
I'd love to see a great rec center where people of all ages and incomes could exercise, have access to equipment and classes, courts and fields. The SHARC and the Bridges are too expensive for most people in the valley.

Question 3:

What are the “big picture” changes you would most like to see that would improve the quality of life in the Mad River Valley?

Infrastructure investments allowing affordable homes to be built.
more density and a functioning downtown that would give patrons for art and local business.
Stop catering to the wealthy. Start making the valley a sustainable place to live again.
restaurants that serve more than burgers or pizza, more restaurants, a pharmacy!
More reasonable regulations to make moderate changes
Improvement in recreational opportunities for local seniors such as an easily reached affordable fitness center, sidewalks, a new or renovated theater/performance center. Removal of all income taxes on social security. Property tax breaks for all seniors
Properly funding our school system! HUUSD is doing it's best, but the voters refuse to pass school budgets which are needed to improve our infascture. Consolidate the elementary schools (reduce those costs), listen to the voters and take what actions are possible.
More professional opportunities locally, more ways to meet people
environmental protection efforts, affordable housing, incentives for small businesses
Less Airbnb's and more availability for renters to stay in the valley especially for those that work in the valley
Affordability
Better playgrounds/play space support and funding
I'd love to see more restaurants - we need to embrace tourism again. This is how we make our living.
Lower cost of living
Discounts for elderly & more elderly affordable housing.
Stop 2nd home ownership and AirBnB's. There are lots by us that all empty 2nd homes rarely used. And so many people needing housing who work here but can't live here. That needs to change. If taxes go up too much, we'd have to sell our home. Social Security only covers so much.
More affordable housing
better community commitment to wetland and natural environment
More affordable housing in Irasville area. Increase walk ability between different towns. More consistent public transportation.
We need a new high school. Serious investment in education. The state needs to change how it funds schools. We can neither afford higher property taxes - it's already impossible for families to buy a home here - nor can we afford to have teachers leaving in droves and kids who can afford it leaving for private school. The numbers of high schoolers who go to Rice is appalling - it's not a great choice but it's the only choice.
I'd like to see education taxes resolved, and I'd like to see the visitors to our community be educated in how to treat locals with respect and share in the community spirit

Question 3:

What are the “big picture” changes you would most like to see that would improve the quality of life in the Mad River Valley?

Resolution to issues listed above.
Rid ourselves of local and state governmental dysfunction
I'd like to see The Big Picture open again for breakfast & lunch and movies 6 nights a week, for one! More restaurants, more shopping choices,
More affordable housing.
Affordable housing
well thought-out and well-placed affordable housing
Education
Better local health clinic and more doctors. Reduce the number of schools and school costs.
affordable housing (not for me personally but I worry about others, taxes are high. I'm approaching retirement and not convinced I can stay here.
Community housing, farm shares that are affordable,
Bike path from moretown to Warren. More affordable housing for young people. The sewage system for Waitsfield
not sure
I would like to see more housing and development in the downtown Waitsfield area. This would help the housing crisis and allow residents to keep their business in the valley rather than going to other places to eat, bowl, get coffee, and have access to year round sports for kids (ice skating, lax, trampolines, etc)
Affordable family housing
Consolidate school buildings, FD and Towns themselves. We do not have the economy of scale. If it weren't for the out of state home owners paying our way we would another groups of poor towns in Vermont.
slow down building of McMansions that are vacant most of the year, create affordable housing for young families, continue conservation efforts for river and mountains
Improvement on the negative aspects
Village growth and revitalization
Housing that would enable people in the service industry to live here, as well as be more welcoming to diversity and immigrants
That our local governance and policies start to reflect care for the people living here instead of catering to out of staters and airbnb owners.
Waste Water System

Question 3:

What are the "big picture" changes you would most like to see that would improve the quality of life in the Mad River Valley?

(1) We need zoning changes that would prohibit plus future large-lot housing (no more approvals, 4 plus acres' single-family construction, which incentivizes "mega-mansions" construction. (2) Require owners of the two shopping centers on Valley floor to maintain interior roads! (3) Enforce VT rules on local commissions' requirements re timely filing of meeting minutes & expenditure reports. (4) Preserve the Town's financial interest in the General Wait House by appropriate building repairs and maintenance. (E.g., There are trees growing through the roof!) I'm hopeful the relatively new Wait House Commission and the newly-constituted Board of Directors of the Waitsfield Historical Society will collaborate on this. (5) Planning grants through the VT Historical Society are available for towns' activities to commemorate the national 250th celebration in 2026 of the U.S.'s founding. Let's make this a big deal in the Valley. Select boards of the Valley towns can, and should, get behind this NOW and facilitate our many civic groups' co-planning for a possibly yearlong schedule of events. I was deeply disappointed in 2011-2015 when Waitsfield chose to ignore the Sesquicentennial commemoration of the American Civil War, one of the relatively few VT communities to not have any such activity.

Make more vocationally focused education available in middle and high schools. That would be consistent with family and cultural norms of this predominantly rural community. More support for families in need, especially children.

Waste water treatment, lower property tax, back roads

More affordable housing

More housing affordable to more residents. Our housing is not super expensive relative to some other high cost areas, which is part of the problem as out-of-staters can afford second homes here (hey they contribute to the economy) but it is unfair competition. Second, our housing costs out of sync with wages here. Larger scale rental developments funded primarily with tax credits are not a great answer. Scattered site housing is preferable. Small lot zoning in the village centers would be helpful. Laws providing for duplexes and ADU's are helpful, but not enough. Happy to discuss this further.

Reduce the commercialization of the forests with bike trails etc, allowing use of glysohate on many, many acres of valley land with no comments or controls.t

Housing, reduced cost of living, more job opportunities outside the service industry.

change the structure of property taxes

Affordable housing opportunities.

wastewater in Irasville; new performing arts venue(s)

stop catering to the tourists and think about the people supporting the tourism you want

Enforce speed limits by having a police department.

Building codes so a house gets completed in a certain amount of time and not be an eyesore

Good and safe housing for American citizens

Transportation

More affordable housing

Live music, rec sports leagues, more food options, better affordability

lower prices on food and other things

Question 3:

What are the "big picture" changes you would most like to see that would improve the quality of life in the Mad River Valley?

The school district/s are in need of a "makeover".
Statewide changes in how education is funded
Rec center including pool and hot tub... Public access and affordable
Very excited for wastewater and infill of Irasville and the Bridge Street area with reasonable housing and small comemrcial development.
more affordable housing
A local pharmacy, more affordable housing
I'd like to see is building connections between residents, non-residents and visitors. If we know one another and understand each others challenges we can support each other better.
Affordability
More direct route to R 89 - not through Waterbury.
More affordable housing - but realistically, the cost of real estate has made such housing unachievable. We need a local drug store. escalating real estate market has probably made such housing not at all achievable. We need a local drug store.
consolidate schools to bring down costs
Cost of living
Community pool and rec. center
More technical jobs - new industry!
affordability for everyone
A pharmacy and a dedicated EMT unit that is always available, not just volunteer. I don't like that most ambulances take 20-30 minutes to arrive. It's kind of scary!
more affordable housing and other service, more service at the health center like vaccinations, blood draws
We need a local pharmacy!
Supportive community whether you are from here or not. Inclusion.
To get the major conventional dairy to stop spraying glyphosate, to rein in property taxes, create more affordable housing,
bring the blue collar workers back, bring cost of living down
We need lower housing costs and better public transportation. We need to balance the sustainability of nature with recreation.

Question 3:

What are the "big picture" changes you would most like to see that would improve the quality of life in the Mad River Valley?

STR laws put into place. towns working together more
More support/opportunities for 4 season jobs that pay a living wage
The State to fix the education system
More public participation, better coffee shop, more support for local businesses.
Develop apartment housing for lower median income households. Change school funding so property taxes are not so high.
better funding and more staffing for the health center, educational opportunities for adults
Less taxation
Young and old get together, people with opposing political views listen to each other without disdain
Limit short term rentals to improve housing opportunities
Improved infrastructure, fitness options
higher tax for second home owners; limit on short term rentals; affordability for the folks who actually live here
BAN SHORT TERM RENTALS NOW! Tax second homes at a much higher rate than homestead properties. Make the Valley a place for Vermonters to live again.
walking tours for senior citizens
Affordable Housing for young people starting out. "Missing Middle" housing is desperately needed
Improve housing access and affordability.
affordable housing
Consider those of us living on fixed incomes, stop tax increases in our towns and SSecurity
Less rich people moving here.
More and better housing opportunities
Tax short term rentals - it will lead to lower prices on the sale of home and increase long term rentals for those who work and want to live here.
More affordable housing, less big homes being built in the future
elect new reps. revive vitality to the valley. get valley residents heads out of the sand and realize there's a world out there that's a lot harder to live in. get them to stop bickering, work together, increase density. stop complaining about lack of house and vote for zoning changes. in short, embrace some change.

Question 3:

What are the “big picture” changes you would most like to see that would improve the quality of life in the Mad River Valley?

housing that is affordable both for young and old
to make it more affordable to live here. So much is spent in property taxes but for what? road maintenance is good, schools? after a certain age, one shouldn't have to put any more kids through school
Regulate and tax Airbnb, invest in affordable quality housing, and promote conservation to preserve this paradise
Slowing the marketing of this place as a type of Disneyland. Prioritizing being more inclusive of the less wealthy. Driving through town on Route 100 from Old County Rd through Rt17 intersection is cluttered with often huge vehicles that go too fast. Our parking lots are eyesores. Growth seems not to match resources, creating an un-homelike feel. Can tourism not have any limit? We are a gentrified community.
the schools being provided with more money to hire new teachers.
Skiable path through valley similar to Stowe bike path
Get the State to stop taxing retirees and their pensions and social security.
Wider shoulders on Route 100 for more room for bicyclists, walkers, etc. Try to complete the path to connect all the towns from Moretown to Warren. Enforce speeding and drunk driving violations.
see above - true downtown - with mixed use retail, commercial and affordable housing
less taxes
More housing to increase tax base and get more workers
Affordable housing and living.
A slower, gentler, kinder overall atmosphere, more people greeting one another with a handshake or eye contact. More people, riding bikes, and Greeting one another
none
The completion of the Mad River Path and the addition of a lap pool.
Actually I like the peaceful surroundings. The valley could use more restaurants
More affordable housing and options for families
More affordable housing options
Affordability! I do not want to live in a town only for the wealthy. I want more support for public schools and our children. I want fewer Airbnb's and more people living in those homes!
Rules against / limiting Short Term Rental

Question 3:

What are the "big picture" changes you would most like to see that would improve the quality of life in the Mad River Valley?

local government become more engaged with people they serve and the same for the legislators who serve the MRV
develop a public recreational facility for kids
minimize "McMansions" and sprawl; more affordable housing; don't advertise any more secret swimming holes; more community events
Affordable housing for middle and lower income people
walkable infrastructure near stores and services, elder housing contiguous with services and stores
Heavy regulations on short-term rentals
Affordable housing, a public pool, more childcare, more physicians at the Health Center so the wait isn't so long.
Legislature needs to fix the whole school funding/property tax debacle
fitness center, inclusive groups/orgs,
More housing
Universal cellular phone service without dependence on WiFi
Cooperation the figure out school financing at the state, regional, and local level.
Upgrade the skating rink and have an Olympic size pool
More unity between the towns as far as our environment and what we see as a blueprint for what our natural environment will look like and how we're gonna manage it in the coming years
More good and reasonably priced restaurants.
A Community Center where children/youth can gather and other community members can access year round fitness and social activities. Our community needs to have a balance between catering to tourists and supporting local people to thrive. We HAVE to address affordable housing and limits on short term rentals ASAP.
Overall development plan; more opportunities to meet people
More housing, multi-use path for the whole valley, park and ride and more transit options
More affordable housing and less short term rentals
Something must be done about school taxes and having too many schools, too small classes, and too many school administrators. The amount of rules, regulations, permitting costs etc. tha make development of affordable housing impossible.

Question 3:

What are the "big picture" changes you would most like to see that would improve the quality of life in the Mad River Valley?

More affordable property taxes. Educations costs are to high in the State of Vermont. Too many school districts.
A change in school funding, a recreation/resource center that includes space for a senior center and a new food shelf.
Open people's minds and don't accept disrespect or hate
Become more like Stowe and affordable housing
Affordable housing and for the valley population to grow with full time residents.
Stop telling me to be safe, careful, and how to do everything
lower food prices and pother costs
Educational priorities
Schools improved by keeping tax revenue in our towns
Less regulation, more common sense
Real ice rink more affordable skiing for locals in
Affordable housing projects
Increase affordable housing; space/support for some more interest groups to coalesce. I'd love to join a reading group, a hiking group, a walking group, but am feeling so tapped out by my work that I don't have capacity to work on creating one myself.
Indoor public lap pool / swimming pool and rec center for all ages
getting a pharmacy and more restaurants
Actual accessible and inclusive schools and play spaces for our aging population and kids
expanding low income housing, stronger zoning protection for the environments
Lesser tax burden by school consolidation
Affordable housing, tax the second homeowners for god sake
To hire more locals by the big employer Sugarbush.
Stop the developing

Question 3:

What are the "big picture" changes you would most like to see that would improve the quality of life in the Mad River Valley?

Housing to Be able to provide workforce and keep young people here. A local pharmacy, local police for safety issues
Teen or Youth Center, perhaps organized by the MRVRD for those kids not inclined or have access to skiing, track, or other sports. We see so many kids (e.g, Mad River Meadows Apts., village skateboarders, etc.) that do not have the "sports" connection, inclination, or guidance and have little to do.
A more moderate approach to local issues, an understanding that our current education system is failing in so many ways (and addressing it).
employee housing
Housing for local workers, school tax structure
supporting young folks and families in the area to be able to live sustainably
skating rink/rec center; more music festivals and community events
More subsidized housing, marketing small tech firms to establish their small companies here using quality of schools, lifestyle, and broadband access to attract these companies
More housing would be great, more affordable food options
Start charging/taxing airbnb/vrbo Gold Lords! Put real tangible effort into affordable housing for people that actually work the grunt jobs. Then we might see a real revival of restaurants and varied music and art scenes.
An extremely less regressive outlook on taxation
Jobs. Housing. Sewer pipe.
More attainable housing, less massive 2nd homes, a community center for locals (like a YMCA or such w pool, gym, etc)
Community center, consolidated schools, pharmacy.
Wastewater, Mixed Use Development in Irasville, More Food/Bar Options, Influx of Youth (Young Professionals)
affordability, net zero housing, active transportation, small organic farms
STR inventory and regulation - I'm certain STR impact is significant
Affordable housing, increased childcare facilities, containment of education costs
A pharmacy, a Whole Foods grocery store!!!
better financing of education. more control of airb-n-bs so have more affordable and workforce housing
More school consolidation to decrease taxes, Affordable housing to increase socioeconomic and other diversity

Question 3:

What are the “big picture” changes you would most like to see that would improve the quality of life in the Mad River Valley?

Would like downtown Waitsfield to put money into making the shops look nicer.
More affordable housing, fewer short-term rentals
More affordable housing and restrictions on short term rentals
improvements to the development of the downtown area to draw more retail businesses and restaurants. improved road conditions (paved and dirt). long term investment in our schools and education system
affordable housing, better property taxes
A change in education regulations/bills/laws, it's outrageous and has been since i've moved here. More affordable eateries, like a Diner would be welcome, larger bike lanes on the roads, slower traffic through town
Affordable housing
education reform
I didn't have much to submit on feeling like people are neighbors because in my condo complex only about half of the people live there full time. And I'm alright with people having second homes, but it's really detrimental to the formation of a community, when every other week you have to worry about a crew coming in from out of state. You want to trust them, but you just don't know if you can. I don't know if limiting short-term rentals is the answer, cause tourism is good for the local economy. But it's the shoulder seasons where businesses really suffer. If people lived year round, the landscape might be different, but more businesses might be surviving year round. Who knows?
Equality, compassion, a place where you aren't judged, or not have the ability to move forward, possibly due to only hearing one side of a story, by a board of directors.
none come to mind, just being sure to keep a balance of valuing tourism and the year round residents
Affordable housing. A drug store. A hardware store.
Gym, skatium enclosed, bike path,
more housing for people of lower or moderate housing
Change in funding education. More affordable housing.
a pharmacy, youth center
The state addressing the broken school funding / tax methodology.
More affordable housing for year round residents
More affordable housing and less short term rentals. Fairer prices especially for food. Lower taxes
A pharmacy and another bank
more affordable house for all

Question 3:

What are the “big picture” changes you would most like to see that would improve the quality of life in the Mad River Valley?

More availability of affordable housing, and more activities to enjoy during the spring summer fall
We need a drug store!
Less income and social disparity
more affordable housing
Skating center, not an open air rink
Access to Doctors, grief support group, housing for middle income families, and more respect for the environment as the valley is developed more.
Affordable living
Accelerate efforts to encourage development of affordable housing, particularly rental housing.
We need a pharmacy. We need affordable housing close. We need to clean up centers of towns. We need to keep things simple for the Vermonter not all tourism. Vermonters are endangered species and we need to preserve that simplicity.
More trails and paths connecting parts of the community
Affordable housing that leads to people working here also being able to live here; increased diversity in all categories
Develop shared use paths for commuting to work, school, town and year round public transportation.
Improved cost of living, bike path, nail salon/more food options, more community events
less commerce goals, less ski industry, more racial diversity, less economic growth mentality, keep this place weird and humble, its a rural place dont try to modernize it, stop airbnb!!!
Make development of housing for people to live in valley easier and more straight forward while still keeping to the town plan.
a reconfiguration of the property tax laws, and a bike path through the Valley
community engagement to develop affordable housing, Mad River Path plan to develop paths adjacent to Rt 100,
housing
Getting a new pharmacy
More affordable housing. Denser Housing. Walkability is good but can be improved (more sidewalks)
Affordable housing and more activities for kids
Improvements at HUHS (physical building), increase in quality arts programs

Question 3:

What are the “big picture” changes you would most like to see that would improve the quality of life in the Mad River Valley?

Restaurants that can stay around in stick season
Municipal wastewater!
I think the first thing is that I'd love more opportunities to connect with younger adults. Maybe more local adult rec sports... But I don't ski, mountain bike, or any of the other "typical" sports here in the valley. It would be nice to have something like adult beer league soccer, football, baseball, kickball, etc. Alternately, it would be great to have other social gatherings that more align with my interests: book clubs that read genre fiction (sci fi, horror, etc.) rather than memoirs and more general fiction; networking events; etc. That said, I know my time to participate is relatively limited, particularly since I'm now expecting our first child. The second thing would be childcare. We're on a bunch of lists, but have been told that those lists have hundreds of people waiting. I have no idea how I'm going to keep working once our baby is born, so while I have ample professional opportunities, I may not be able to take advantage of them if I'm forced to be a full-time stay-at-home parent.
The way it is changing into another Stowe and losing our uniqueness of a small town flavor
The schools need a huge investment beyond just long neglected maintenance, they need major updates. People are coming here. Build sustainable, beautiful, multi family housing, apartments, tiny houses. More families will build the economy here and will support the aging population. Be an example for the circular, sustainable economy. More charging stations. Continue to support local small business, continue to keep chains and big business out.
Affordable housing. Control over short term rentals.
School budget, Housing, wastewater, equity for early Ed teachers
Lower cost of living (ie affordable prices at the grocery stores), more restaurants
Affordable housing
Local business for the change of good. Local government should focus on helping the right long-term business ventures find the right retail or office locations in Waitsfield that currently sit vacant. I think this change is already starting to happen on the ground floor, but it is important to quality of life for all who live in MRV and it also helps with the retention of young people (think UVM grads or young professionals) who can afford to live in the valley. This is the core of what MRV stands for: community for all!
More art offerings like concerts and plays
Increase housing in the town centers, of various sizes and price-ranges.
Real estate is too expensive and I think we need more affordable grocery stores.
We need a pharmacy
Revamp education system, children are not prepared for college, or they have to pay to go to private school.
Housing for people of all incomes!
Bring a pharmacy to the valley

Question 3:

What are the “big picture” changes you would most like to see that would improve the quality of life in the Mad River Valley?

Keep investing in the local schools and other opportunities for youth and their parents.
I would like to see making pedestrian traffic safety a priority.
Housing for those who want to work in the MRV
Sustainability of being able for folks to afford living in the MRV
Get the education tax under control by the legislature
Affordability would probably be number one, more communal, living opportunities for families to share in order to make it more affordable, ways of multi generational integration, i.e. the use working together with and for older adults and older adults, helping to take care of the youth. with the aging population in Vermont, we have to discover sustainable ways to care for the aging. Dementia, friendly neighborhoods increasing the education and support for such.
more housing
Perhaps more dining options for lunch and restaurants that could make a go of 7 days a week year around. Would like to see an Italian restaurant.
Affordable housing options
housing for locals
We need an indoor recreational facility for locals to use that's not owned or operated by the ski resort. This could double as a community center, indoor track and a place for locals to go watch concert, etc. Astro Turf / ice / basketball / Arcade - it's great that Sugarbush might have their own facilities, but it'd be nice to have a place dedicated for the people/kids who live here who can just go to and not be part of the resort that is somewhat out-of-tune with the community and caters to their own guests.
Approval of the Wastewater Treatment Facility for a dozen+ reasons. Upgrading Irasville/downtown - several parking lots, storefronts look run down even though they could look much better, even with just paint, plantings, paving, and landscaping.
close one grade school, create a community center in the school we close, more adult learning and Akido
Workforce housing, more support for dairy and other farmers so our landscape does not become heavily impacted, better public river access and cultural gatherings and events.
Community engagement in better holistic education of our kids
Wastewater project moving forward
Be one town with individual villages in prep for MRV becoming VT's first regional state park
eliminate Air B&B s
More housing options, better transportation, options for concentrated activities options for optr density of living
Some kind of rec center w pool and gym (bridges is super expensive for locals, SB is pretty run down)

Question 3:

What are the "big picture" changes you would most like to see that would improve the quality of life in the Mad River Valley?

Pharmacy, crosswalks marked better/have light to push when waiting to cross.
Affordable housing
Growth of town centers, better bike lanes/bike paths
The multi-use path would be an incredible addition. More restaurants/bars returning. A pharmacy!
Short term - get the town water treatment system approved so that we can think about additional building in the core of town.
Affordable housing and less air bnb's around so we can have more housing options
New playground at the Warren school for our children
stay on top of zoning
prices going down
workforce housing - not the same as low income
Greater emphasis on development. More Lawson's
More affordable housing
5 person select board in Fayston
a pharmacy
Municipal wastewater in Waitsfield and Moretown, with the possibility of people in Fayston being able to join if they are in close proximity. Relocation of Warren town garage to make way for housing. Groceries that don't cost 25% more than same things in Waterbury!
We need to drastically loosen the land use regulations and allow development of housing on smaller parcels of land and on land that has been deemed "off limits" - i.e.: steep slopes, repurposing camps/cabins even if close to water, etc.
More opportunities for teens/youth
More accessible paths, get the Skatium up and running, a space for teens.
I don't really know. I think for a small town, we are doing pretty good. I think anytime we offer activates-farmers markets, flea markets, round ups, etc. we offer people a chance to talk and through this moments we build stronger relationships that make our community tighter and more lively.
lower rents, lower food prices.
I'm not sure what can be done to change the issues that I think are most important in the valley but I would like to be apart of the change
More focus by government on quality of life for residents. (A fitness center, an indoor pool, SIDEWALKS on roads that lead to Route 100 and to "town"). Lower taxes. Efforts to condemn homes that are unfinished, are eyesores, falling down etc, or financial penalties for not improving these properties. We need a full pharmacy!

Question 3:

What are the “big picture” changes you would most like to see that would improve the quality of life in the Mad River Valley?

Everything
WASTEWATER
Local government enforcing zoning. Less favoritism.
More jobs and housing
pharmacy
Embrace tourism.
HOUSING!!!!!!!! WTF .
More job opportunities for mid career professionals, higher pay, more access to local doctors and mental health, and lower housing costs
Cost of living improvements / local discounts / services such as garbage pick up included in taxes
More educated government leadership.
Property taxes, school budgets, childcare access
Lower taxes. Lower grocery bills. Less dependency on out of state dollars.
Lower taxes
Affordable housing
More affordable housing
More robust engagement from chamber of commerce around constantly closing and failing businesses, livability for employees, diversity, more vibrancy in the community
Cap put on STRs, local ordinances put in place to support local population growth, focus on long-term viability of locals living and working in our community
An affordable gym/pool. For regular Vermont residents that can afford the bridges or shark.
more recreation for those that do not ski like a recreation center that would cater to senior citizens and the youth and bring community together
a community center gym (not like the overpriced Shark) more like a YMCA community center
Affordable housing
More full time residents; lower cost of living
More options at high school home economics and wood shop are life skills that have been cut
Affordable housing & more affordable food

Question 3:

What are the “big picture” changes you would most like to see that would improve the quality of life in the Mad River Valley?

More affordable housing. Manage airbnb's and tax them.
Taxes lower
increase affordability. you won't see diversity if only very wealthy white families can afford these properties
bacteria in swimming water, qualify more easily for help with heating, better and more credible information about state tax system impacting property taxes, rather than blaming school budgets. MORE mental health awareness
Lower the cost of living
Lower taxes. Lower prices for groceries. Lower fuel costs. Lower cable and internet prices. Bringing back a pharmacy would be helpful.
Denser housing in population centers, more and better shared use paths and sidewalks
A more vital village areas, bringing back a pharmacy(maybe in the old TD bank building)
Even more sidewalks and paths through town and a bike path that the Misha is promoting.
Sugarbush/Mad River Glen combo ski pass for locals. Artistic painted crosswalk/planters (Bridge Street) to slow traffic. VT Welcome Wagon chapter in the area. Adult group ride/hike/run/walk/paddle/XC/ski meetups - celebrate our sports! Yearly Community Festival- free pop up booths to sell handiworks, Food vendors, music, games for children and adults, silly competitions, raffles etc.
I'm moving out of the valley (after living here for 22Years) to get better education for my kids. Harwood and the district have failed both my children. Especially my son, who has an IEP, they've totally dropped the ball on his services, I've watched Harwood get worse and worse for the quality of education they deliver. Act 127 is crap, and I'm moving somewhere, where the private education delivers more for 1/2 of the cost of spending per pupil Harwood does.
Transportation to and from events for those who don't drive after dark
Community centers for youth that have a free and safe space to hang out in with an employed adult chaperone.
less expensive to live here, public transportation
Actionable plans to increase housing, hire more culturally diverse staff for the schools, and encourage more people of color to move in to the Valley (with affordable housing, more job opportunities, and culturally sensitive schools
Better funding of high school so we don't lose families; clustered affordable housing in villages; more strongly discourage sprawl; implement strategies to encourage incubation of new businesses
there is nothing for youths to do during the day
Bike paths connecting resorts.

Question 3:

What are the "big picture" changes you would most like to see that would improve the quality of life in the Mad River Valley?

medicare for all, better cost control on education, housing
Ok as is
Stability for businesses could be better. It is hard when so much of the area is dependent on tourism.
covenanted workforce housing of right size
More affordable and reliable shops and restaurants so we can actually support our local establishments more regularly and be able to get out for dinner more. More opportunity for childcare and babysitting, stores that cater to locals so we do t have to travel an hour or wait a week for an Amazon order for essentials
if the government will do it, reduce inflation, poor people are suffering, we have so much responsibilities now, taking care of yourself and your family and taking care of people on the streets
Affordable housing, fewer short term rentals, or standards for short term rentals.
In my view, "big picture" improvements include increased and enhanced transportation connections, such as improved diversity and reach of SunRail train services, and more frequent service of the Lynx bus system. I would like to see the implementation of fee-free overdraft protection measures by financial institutions like Harborstone, automatically waiving fees for overdrafts up to \$200. Moreover, protecting and enhancing the coastal experience is very important to me, to ensure that these natural resources can be enjoyed by generations to come.
More housing for lower and moderate incomes
Most changes need to be made on a state level- education funding is obviously a hot topic.
More affordable housing and long term rental availability
I chose to retire here from MA, and I honestly can't think of anything
More tolerance of truly diverse opinions.
Affordable housing.
Lower the property tax rate for fixed income folks
More housing and businesses
more public transportation; affordable housing; more diversity in our population
Changing the way we fund things
More affordable to allow more year round residents
More doctors at health center
commitment to developing Waitsfield village, construction of more village housing and businesses

Question 3:

What are the “big picture” changes you would most like to see that would improve the quality of life in the Mad River Valley?

Better housing opportunities for people who work here and want to live here.
opportunities for community engagement that are non-alcohol, inter-community bike trail, regeneration /renewal of rec path...seems to be slipping away
More access to homes that are less than half a million dollars
Dedicated bike lanes on major roads. Also, A rec path at the valley floor like Stowe (I know it's in the grand plan but when...15 years from now?) Biking on the sidewalk with toddlers is sketchy.
Better system for taxes
More affordable housing.
Embrace the younger community - affordable housing
More affordable housing
Consistent cell reception, particularly in Warren. The flooding and storms last year made me realize how much I rely on internet access to be able to call for help.
Affordability, more affordable and accessible third spaces
Affordable housing
A pharmacy would be nice
Pharmacy, address speeding in Warren Village
Affordable housing. Affordable food.
no idea
Nothing to change really, just make the effort to keep a check on development, such as big hotels and chain stores and restaurants. Would hate to see the valley turn into a place like Stowe or Waterbury.
A full service Doctors office
Making the cost of living more affordable. It feels as though we r getting priced out of the valley .
Lower taxes
Affordable living options, more food options
Encouraging more middle-of-the road lifestyle opportunities such as reasonably priced restaurants and public amenities such as a pool to encourage gathering places for residents rather than just tourists.
More things to do other than drugs and alcohol
Affordable rentals options for those looking to rent, a community center for recreation with pool, more community events like the Round Up.

Question 3:

What are the “big picture” changes you would most like to see that would improve the quality of life in the Mad River Valley?

Provide housing/land grants to middle-class people. Rich people don't need the help, people near poverty already have services to help, but people in the middle-income bracket have no assistance and still can't afford home ownership. My wife and I make \$150k annually combined and buying a home in the MRV or in VT is still out of reach.
Affordable living costs. I'm concerned that our taxes will continue to increase and that I will reach a point that I will no longer be able to comfortably live here in this beautiful community.
more affordable middle class housing or first time home owners, access to more full time year rounds rentals control over amount of air bnbs and seasonal rentals. A PHARMACY
Affordable housing
Affordable housing... 300k or under, wastewater treatment, a connected trail off of route 100 to facilitate biking, walking, running from Warren to Moretown, an uphill mountain biking route from the bottom of the Sugarbush Access road up to Eurich Pond. Ways for 20 somethings and 30 somethings to live in the area.
decrease taxes
for town officials to do something to make it easier for full time residents to actually live here.
Fewer short term rentals and more homes available to year round folks
It's pretty darn good!
Affordable housing
Our town spending needs to be reigned in. The older generation on fixed incomes are being taxed out of their homes as is the middle class. It feels like all we do is cater to tourism and everyone wants to change the town into something that is less Vermont
Increase affordable housing, bike path connecting Waitsfield Warren and beyond
Access to affordable housing
Affordable housing, reasonable property taxes,
Affordable housing, change Sugarbush from big corporate ownership
na
Keep it on the qt to avoid more people moving here
Vermont being the filled with generations of Vermonters.
More affordable housing
Lower taxes, better cell service, affordable housing
Very excited about a path from Warren to Moretown!

Question 3:

What are the “big picture” changes you would most like to see that would improve the quality of life in the Mad River Valley?

Affordable housing
options for streaming -we get half the speed and choices for twice the cost
Things for people that DONT drink to enjoy. Luckily I am not handicapped- if I was- I imagine literally the ONLY thing there is to do here is drink.
better and safer ways to bike on major roads (2, 100, 17) - lower speeds, more police, batter bike lanesmore arrests for speeding during summer
more help for older people in winter