

**Marquette/Alger Compass II Community Survey
March - April 2003**

Report of Findings

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INTRODUCTION

COMPASS II A Community-Building Initiative

COMPASS II is a community-building initiative to engage community stakeholders in sustained, collaborative, strategic efforts to strengthen and improve conditions in the community. This initiative is lead by the United Way of Marquette County (UWMC) on behalf of the Alger-Marquette Human Services Coordinating Body (AMHSCB) and the residents of Alger and Marquette Counties. This community-building initiative begins with an assets-based comprehensive community needs assessment, and the goal is the development and pursuit of a community-generated impact plan, including goals, objectives and measures.

COMPASS II goes beyond the original COMPASS, a needs assessment developed by United Way of America in 1988. The United Way of America modified, field-tested and validated this updated version, expanding it to a community-building guide. The last community needs assessment was completed in 1994-95 in an effort lead by the AMHSCB. That assessment focused primarily on the health and human service needs of Marquette and Alger Counties. Human service organizations continue to utilize the information from the 1994-95 assessment to procure funding, plan and initiate programs, and allocate funding to identified priority areas. Recently, area human service organizations' fund-seeking efforts have been hampered by the lack of current critical data. In addition, a significant number of events have occurred, nationally and locally since 1995, including the loss of all funding to the AMHSCB. Therefore, the UWMC assumed the leadership role and is actively sought sponsorship funds to cover the cost to implement this comprehensive community-building initiative.

As with the original COMPASS in 1995, this report describes the process and the partnership sponsoring this survey, relates when possible how this information will be used to develop solutions to the problems identified, and provides certain data and outcomes of surveys. This report exists mainly as a summary of the most pressing community needs according to assessment findings. The report format is designed specifically to replicate the format of its predecessor to facilitate ease in use. As the use of the 1995 COMPASS results continues to the present, comparisons between results of 1995 and 2003 are included herein. This report does not include all information gathered and analyzed in assessing our communities needs. Additional information appears in the attached appendices and through contacts mentioned later in this document. This document is available on the United Way of Marquette County website, www.unitedway@uwmqt.org and at local libraries.

SPONSORS

United Way of Marquette County gratefully acknowledges the following sponsors for their financial support of the 2003 COMPASS II (listed alphabetically):

- Alger Marquette Community Action Board
- Alger Marquette Human Services Coordinating Body
- Frazier Fund
- Lutheran Social Services
- Marquette Community Foundation
- Marquette County Health Department
- Marquette Alger Youth Foundation
- Medical Care Access Coalition
- Reynolds Foundation

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Disadvantaged	Robyn Loviska
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Local Government	Sandy Gayk
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Tribes	Leslie Young
Workforce Development	Deb Doyle
Youth	Judy Watson Olson
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Executive Summary

This is a report of findings of a telephone survey conducted by Huron Mountain Research Services, LLC between March 31 and April 9, 2003 as part of the Compass II Community Assessment of United Way of America, administered by the United Way of Marquette County on behalf of the Alger-Marquette Human Services Coordinating Body. Residents of Marquette and Alger Counties were asked to rank a series of social economic issues, about volunteering, the United Way, and a number of demographic questions.

The typical respondent for either county was aged between 35 and 54, although Alger County has a higher percentage of residents aged 55 years and older. The pluralities of both counties are terminal High School graduates, although Marquette County has a higher percentage of persons having completed a graduate degree. Less than 40% of both counties are full time employees. More than 40% of Alger residents are retired, twice the percentage of Marquette County residents. And a majority of Alger County retirees have low income.

About three fourths of the adult residents of both counties own their own home; a slightly higher percentage of Marquette County residents own their own home. About half of the adult residents of both counties itemize their taxes, with the percentage slightly higher for Marquette County adult residents.

Respondents were asked to rank issues in their neighborhood, and were later in the questionnaire asked to rank issues in their household. Although there were some differences in rank order between the two counties, the five most salient issues of both counties are

- Young people leaving the area
- Having a lot of anxiety, stress or depression
- No or inadequate medical insurance
- Unemployment or underemployment
- Not having enough money to pay the doctor or buy prescription medications

A majority of Marquette County residents regularly volunteer; two-thirds of the Alger County adult residents regularly volunteer. The most popular groups or sites the adult residents of both counties volunteered with or to are:

1. Children or youth activities
2. Cultural group such as a music group or museum
3. Sports group/team/club
4. A school
5. Civic group such as Kiwanis, Rotary

Finally, an average of more than 96% of the adult residents of both counties had “heard of the United Way, with a slightly larger percentage in Marquette County. And more than 92% of the residents of both counties gave the United Way a favorable rating, with a larger percentage giving such a rating in Alger County.

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Introduction

Historic and Technical Factors

This report presents the findings of a telephone survey conducted by Huron Mountain Research Services, LLC between March 31 and April 9, 2003 as part of the Compass II Community Assessment that is administered by the United Way of Marquette County on behalf of the Alger-Marquette Human Services Coordinating Body. The survey used a Random Digit Dial sample, and was conducted from the offices of the United Way. A total of 9,000 calls was made to residents of Marquette and Alger Counties in Michigan's Upper Peninsula to yield 421 completed questionnaires. A copy of this questionnaire is included in Appendix A.

A randomizing matrix was used to randomize respondents within each household. The yielded sample was fairly representative of the Marquette and Alger community. To effect a slightly higher degree of representivity, as compared to the U.S. Census 2000 for Marquette and Alger Counties, and to preserve representivity in the analysis of the respondents of each of the two counties, a slight weighting adjustment was done with respect to the COUNTY and the SEX of respondents. This resulted in a close match to the census for Marquette residents. Because of the small number of Alger resident respondents, 42 in the unadjusted sample, the match for Alger residents is not quite as close. Below find Table 1 which compares the Marquette and Alger samples with the Census 2000 percentages for those respective counties.

Comparison Variable	Marquette Sample	Census 2000 Marquette	Alger Sample	Census 2000 Alger
Number of Adult Respondents/Residents	364	51,249	57	7,858
Percent Each County is of Both Counties	86.4%	86.7%	13.6%	13.3%
Females	49.7%	49.8%	42.1%	46.2%
White	95.8%	95.1%	96.4%	87.8%
Native American	1.4%	1.5%	1.8%	3.3%
African American	0.0%	1.3%	0.0%	6.1%
Asian American	0.6%	0.5%	0.0%	0.3%
Latino	0.6%	0.7%	0.0%	1.0%

Organization of this Report

The findings of the survey will be presented in the next section. They will be presented under three main rubrics:

- Demographics
- Social Issues
- Volunteering

All data will be presented for each county, as well as for both counties together. The demographics section will include a description of the sample in terms of

- Sex
- Age
- Formal education
- Employment
- Household income
- Union membership
- Civil voting pattern
- Marriage status
- Home ownership or rental
- Subscription to an internet service.

Each county will be described in terms of these demographics.

Respondents were asked to rate 20 social issues in terms of how great a problem each was “for people in your neighborhood.” The ratings of each county will be ranked and compared in terms of differences between the counties. These differences will be ranked. Factors relating to the differences will be identified.

In addition to these 20 social issues, which respondents identified as present for people in their neighborhood, they were also asked to rate how great a problem 23 issues were “for you or anyone in your household.” Many of these household issues correspond to the neighborhood issues. These will be comparatively analyzed. Otherwise, the analysis will be similar to that which will be done with the macro issues.

The third section of findings will be those concerned with volunteering. This will include an analysis of the organizations or groups for which respondents volunteer and the frequency of their volunteering. The findings of the knowledge of and the rating of the United Way of Marquette County will be presented here.

Findings

All findings will be analyzed by county. Differences between the counties will be further analyzed in terms of one or more pertinent demographic factors. Note, because non responses are not included in analysis, tables will occasionally display data for less than the 421 cases of the sample.

Demographics

Table 2 presents the distribution of the sample by sex for each of the two counties.

Table 2

Distribution by Sex by County

Sex	Count for Marquette County	% for Marquette County	Count for Alger County	% for Alger County
Female	181	49.7	24	42.1
Male	183	50.3	33	51.3
Total	364	100.0	57	100.0

Table 3 presents the distribution of the sample by age group for each of the two counties.

Table 3

Distribution by Age Group by County

Age Group	Count for Marquette County	% for Marquette County	Count for Alger County	% for Alger County	Count for both Counties	% for both Counties
18 - 34	100	27.5	14	24.6	114	27.1
35 - 54	155	42.7	22	38.6	177	42.1
55 or older	108	29.8	21	36.8	129	30.7
Total	363	100.0	57	100.0	420	100.0

Note that Alger County has seven percent more residents in the oldest age group, as compared to Marquette County. Alger County also has 2.9% fewer residents in the youngest age group.

Table 4 presents the distribution of the sample by level of formal education, by county.

Table 4

Distribution by Formal Educational Level by County

Formal Educational Level	Count for Marquette County	% for Marquette County	Count for Alger County	% for Alger County	Count for both Counties	% for both Counties
Grade 10 or below	10	2.7	1	1.8	11	2.6
High School	111	30.5	20	35.7	131	31.2
Some College	97	26.6	15	26.8	112	26.7
College Graduate	92	25.3	15	26.8	107	25.5
Graduate School or higher	54	14.8	5	8.9	59	14.0
TOTAL	364	100.0	56	100.0	420	100.0

The presence of Northern Michigan University in Marquette County, as well as Pathways and some state offices, explains the higher percentage of higher education persons in Marquette County. The 5.9% deficit in this higher education category is compensated by Alger County in a 5.2% greater percentage in the High School graduate category. Thus, there is a slight educational deficit of Alger County as compared to Marquette County.

Table 5 presents the employment status of the residents of each county. Note the biggest difference between the counties is the much higher percentage of Alger residents who are retired; 43.1% as compared to 21.5% for Marquette County, a 21.6% difference. And although the percentages for “Full time–not self employed,” are essentially the same, Alger County has low percentages of residents in “Part time–not self employed” and “Self employed–full time.”

Table 5

Distribution by Employment Status by County						
Employment Status	Count for Marquette County	% for Marquette County	Count for Alger County	% for Alger County	Count for both Counties	% for both Counties
Full time–not self employed	141	39.0	22	37.9	163	38.8
Part time–not self employed	63	17.4	3	5.2	66	15.7
Self employed–full time	17	4.7	1	1.7	18	4.3
Self employed–part time	8	2.2	2	3.4	10	2.4
Retired	78	21.5	25	43.1	103	24.5
Not employed	55	15.2	5	8.6	60	14.3
TOTAL	362	100.0	58	100.0	420	100.0

Table 6 presents the distribution of household income by county.

Table 6

Distribution by Household Income by County						
Income Category	Count for Marquette County	% for Marquette County	Count for Alger County	% for Alger County	Count for both Counties	% for both Counties
Less than \$15,000	45	14.2	11	22.9	56	15.3
\$15,000 but less than \$25,000	45	14.2	11	22.9	56	15.3
\$25,000 but less than \$50,000	109	34.3	12	25.0	121	33.1
\$50,000 but less than \$100,000	106	33.3	14	29.2	120	32.8
\$100,00 but less than \$200,000	13	4.1	0	0.0	13	3.6
Total	318	100.0	48	100.0	366	100.0

With respect to income, Alger, compared to Marquette, is over represented in the lower income categories, and under represented in the higher income categories. How this difference in income is distributed among the various employment categories is presented in Table 7.

Table 7

Distribution of Employment Status by Household Income by County

Income Category	LT \$25,000		\$25,000 or more		LT \$25,000	\$25,000 or more
	Marquette County	Alger County	Both Counties			
Employment Status	N=90	N=225	N=23	N=25	N=113	N=250
Full time-not self employed	12.2	51.6	21.7	52.0	14.2	51.6
Part time-not self employed	27.8	13.8	8.7	4.0	23.9	12.8
Self employed	5.6	7.6	4.3	0.0	5.3	6.8
Retired	26.7	16.9	56.5	28.0	32.7	18.0
Not employed	27.8	10.2	8.7	16.0	23.9	10.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note that Alger County retirees account for 56.5% of all residents who earn less than \$25,000 annually, as compared to 26.7% for Marquette County. Further, 65% of all Alger retirees earn less than \$25,000 annually, as compared to 38.7% for Marquette County retirees. With respect to full time employees, 27.8% in Alger County earn less than \$25,000 annually, as compared to Marquette County, where only 8.7% of the full time employees earn less than \$25,000. Thus, Alger County distinguishes itself from Marquette County in that it has lower income, but also by the fact that it has a much higher percentage of retired persons with low income.

Table 8 displays more data relevant to employment, specifically whether the respondent is employed by a public agency or private business. It indicates, first, that the percentage of persons in both counties who work for the federal, state, or local government is 15%, which is about 5% higher than the national average. But more revealing is the distinction between the two counties with respect to such employment. As Table 8 indicates, 15.9% of Marquette employees indicated employment with federal, state, or local government, while only 8.1% of Alger employees indicated the same. Local government is not very large in this region, and such employment would fall fairly equally for residents of both counties. The only significant group of federal employees would be the Transportation Safety employees at Sawyer International Airport, which is in Marquette County. These would be fairly well paid, by local standards, and,

of course, they may live in either Marquette or Alger County. The most numerous public employees would be those working for the State of Michigan. These would include Corrections Department employees. There are corrections facilities in both Alger and Marquette Counties, although the larger facility is in Marquette County. And Family Independence Agency and Public Health offices are mostly, if not exclusively, in Marquette County. State employees also, by local standards, are well paid.

Table 8

Distribution by Type of Employer by County

Work for Federal, State or Local Government	Count for Marquette County	% for Marquette County	Count for Alger County	% for Alger County	Count for both Counties	% for both Counties
Yes	44	15.9	3	8.1	47	15.0
No	233	84.1	34	91.9	267	85.0
Total	277	100.0	37	100.0	314	100.0

What Table 8 seems to be telling us is that a much higher proportion of federal and state employees live in Marquette County, which will help explain the higher percentage of higher waged workers in Marquette County.

Table 9 displays the comparative rate of union membership.

Table 9

Distribution of Union Membership by County

Are you a Union Member?	Count for Marquette County	% for Marquette County	Count for Alger County	% for Alger County	Count for both Counties	% for both Counties
Yes	63	21.4	11	25.0	74	21.6
No	232	78.6	33	75.0	265	78.2
Total	295	100.0	44	100.0	339	100.0

Union membership pertains mostly to “blue collar” jobs, and it also represents higher paying “blue collar” jobs. This table confirms the image that Alger County has a higher percentage of “blue collar” jobs.

Table 10 displays data pertaining to civil voting. The question these data are responses to is: Do you vote in most elections?

Table 10

Distribution of Voting Response by County						
Do you vote in most elections?	Count for Marquette County	% for Marquette County	Count for Alger County	% for Alger County	Count for both Counties	% for both Counties
Yes	301	82.7	45	78.9	346	82.2
No	63	17.3	12	21.1	75	17.8
Total	364	100.0	57	100.0	421	100.0

Slightly more respondents in Marquette claim to vote in most elections than do Alger respondents. This may evidence a class phenomenon, in that Alger County has fewer middle class persons. But fully 82.7% of Marquette residents, and 78.9% of Alger residents claim to exercise their suffrage regularly, both of which are substantially higher than the actual turnout in elections in recent years.

Table 11 presents the marriage status of respondents:

Table 11

Distribution of Marriage Status by County						
Marriage Status	Count for Marquette County	% for Marquette County	Count for Alger County	% for Alger County	Count for both Counties	% for both Counties
Married	216	59.3	34	59.6	250	59.4
Living with partner, unmarried	13	3.6	0	0.0	13	3.1
Single, never married	76	20.9	14	24.6	90	21.4
Separated	2	0.5	0	0.0	2	0.5
Divorced	30	8.2	1	1.8	31	7.4
Widowed	27	7.4	8	14.0	35	8.3
Total	364	100.0	57	100.0	421	100.0

Essentially both counties have the same percentage of married couples. Alger County has a slightly higher percentage of “Single, never married.” But the most notable difference is that Alger County has almost twice the percentage of widowed residents than does Marquette County, 14.0% and 7.4%, respectively.

Table 12 indicates the comparative percentages with respect to the itemization of taxes.

Table 12

Itemization of Taxes by County						
Did you itemize, or are you planning to itemize, on your 2002 tax return?	Count for Marquette County	% for Marquette County	Count for Alger County	% for Alger County	Count for both Counties	% for both Counties
Yes	130	43.2%	23	50.0%	153	44.1%
No	171	56.8%	23	50.0%	194	55.9%
Total	301	100.0%	46	100.0%	59.6	100.0%

A slightly larger percentage of Alger County taxpayers itemize their taxes. Itemization of taxes is, in part, a function of age, and, in part, by education as a correlate for income and type of occupation. The higher Alger County percentage may be explained by the older, lesser educated, and lower income population.

Table 13

Home Ownership by County						
Do you own your current place of residence?	Count for Marquette County	% for Marquette County	Count for Alger County	% for Alger County	Count for both Counties	% for both Counties
Rent	89	24.9%	15	26.8%	104	25.1%
Own	269	75.1%	41	73.2%	310	74.9%
Total	358	100.0%	56	100.0%	414	100.0%

Table 13 indicates the distribution of homeowners and renters within each county. It also indicates that there is no major difference with respect to this factor between the counties.

The ethnic breakdown of the two counties’ populations reveals no major difference between them, as is evident in Table 14. Largely because of the University, Marquette County has at least a few members of most ethnicities, and is reflected in Marquette’s distribution. Alger County’s distribution reflects the basic Upper Peninsula’s population: European-Americans and Native Americans.

Table 14
Ethnicity by County

What ethnic group would you consider yourself to be in?	Count for Marquette County	% for Marquette County	Count for Alger County	% for Alger County	Count for both Counties	% for both Counties
White (Euro-American)	346	95.8%	53	96.4%	399	95.9%
Native American	5	1.4%	1	1.8%	6	1.4%
Asian-American	2	0.6%	0	0.0%	2	0.5%
Latino	2	0.6%	0	0.0%	2	0.5%
Other	6	1.7%	1	1.8%	7	1.7%
TOTAL	361	100.0%	55	100.0%	416	100.0%

Social Issues

Two aspects of social issues were presented to respondents in this survey. The first set asked respondents to rank “problems in the area in which they live.” The second set asked respondent to rank problems which have affected “you or anyone in your household over the last 12 months.” The first set will be referred to as the “Neighborhood Issues,” and the second set as the “Household Issues.” We will first analyze the Neighborhood Issues, which should be understood as resident’s perception of social issues in their community.

Respondents were presented with a social issue and asked to identify it as:

- Not a Problem,
- A Minor Problem,
- A Moderate Problem, or
- A Major Problem

For analysis, this ranking was assigned the numbers 1 to 4, where 1 represents “Not a Problem,” and 4 represents “A Major Problem.” Ranks were then averaged. Thus, an average rank of 2.5 would represent a community rank halfway between Minor and Moderate Problem. Table 15 indicates the average ranking of each of the macro issues by county.

Table 15**Average Rank of Neighborhood Issues by County****(N=257)**

Issue	Marquette	Alger	Total
Unemployment or underemployment	2.5	2.5	2.5
Poverty	2.0	2.1	2.0
Water, air, noise, or other pollution	1.5	1.6	1.6
Inadequate public transportation	1.9	2.0	1.9
Alcohol abuse	2.6	2.6	2.6
No or inadequate medical insurance	2.5	2.8	2.5
Drug Abuse	2.3	2.4	2.3
Homeless youth and young adults	1.8	1.7	1.8
Crime	1.9	1.7	1.8
Lack of affordable medical care	2.4	2.6	2.4
Illiteracy	1.7	1.6	1.7
Domestic violence, abuse of children and/or adults	2.6	2.1	2.2
Substandard housing	1.9	2.1	1.9
Shortage of child day care	1.8	2.3	1.9
Lack of affordable legal services	2.0	2.1	2.0
Teenage pregnancy	2.3	2.4	2.3
Racial or ethnic discrimination	1.8	1.8	1.8
Overcrowded housing	1.6	1.4	1.5
Shortage of affordable housing	1.9	2.0	1.9
Young people leaving the area	3.0	3.0	3.0

To allow comparative analysis, only the respondents who responded to all of the macro problem items were included in the analysis. These were, therefore, the same 257 persons who answered each of the items.

Upon examining the table it can be seen that Marquette and Alger counties share the ranking for many issues. They have identical rankings for four issues, and divide by only 0.1 points for most of the rest. The issue for which they share the identical highest rank is “Young people leaving the area.” This is seen as an equally serious problem in both counties. The next highest ranking issue for Marquette County is “Domestic violence,…” and “Alcohol abuse,” which share the second and third position for Marquette County. The next highest ranking issues for Marquette County are “No or inadequate medical insurance” and “Unemployment or underemployment,” which share the fourth and fifth positions. For Alger County the next highest ranking issue is “No or inadequate medical insurance.” The third and fourth ranking issues are “Lack of affordable medical care” and “Alcohol abuse.”

The three issues on which Marquette and Alger Counties differ the most are:

- Domestic Violence
- Shortage of Child day care
- No or inadequate medical insurance

The first issue, “Domestic Violence,” differs by 0.5 rank points, with the higher score held by Marquette County. For the second and third issues the higher rank score is held by Alger County. Thus, Alger County residents seem more concerned about economic issues, including “Lack of affordable medical care,” “Shortage of child day care,” and “No or inadequate medical insurance.” Marquette, by contrast, is more concerned with moral and social/criminal issues, including “Alcohol Abuse,” and “Domestic Violence.” This difference also reflects the income differences between the counties.

Table 16, on the following page, presents the same display for the micro, or family, issues. The three highest ranking issues for Marquette County are:

1. Having a lot of anxiety, stress, or depression
2. Finding it difficult to budget
3. Not being able to pay for or get medical insurance

“No or inadequate medical insurance” ranked 4.5 among the macro issues, but within Marquette County families it ranks third. Further, all three of the top ranking micro issues are economic or economically related issues, in contrast to the salience given moral issues among the community problems identified.

The three top ranking issues for Alger County are:

1. Having a lot of anxiety, stress, or depression
2. Not being able to pay for or get medical insurance
3. Not having enough money to pay the doctor or buy prescription medications

These are rather explicitly economic issues, and consistent with Alger County residents’ ranking of community issues.

Table 16

**Average Rank of Household Issues by County
(N=337)**

Issue	Marquette	Alger	Total
Not having enough room in your house for all the people who live there.	1.2	1.3	1.2
Living in housing which needs major repairs.	1.2	1.3	1.2
Not having enough money for food.	1.3	1.4	1.3
Not having enough money to pay for housing.	1.2	1.3	1.2
Not being able to pay the utility bills.	1.3	1.3	1.3
Not having enough money to buy needed clothing and shoes.	1.2	1.2	1.2

Table 16
Average Rank of Household Issues by County
(N=337)

Issue	Marquette	Alger	Total
Not being able to afford legal help.	1.3	1.5	1.3
Finding it difficult to budget.	1.5	1.5	1.5
Not being able to pay or get medical insurance.	1.5	1.7	1.5
Not having enough money to pay the doctor or buy prescription medications.	1.4	1.6	1.5
Not being able to get home health care for someone with a disability tor serious illness or for an elderly person.	1.2	1.2	1.2
Not being able to get adult day care for someone with a disability or serious illness, or for an elderly person.	1.2	1.4	1.2
Not being able to get special transportation for a disabled or elderly person.	1.2	1.3	1.2
Difficulty in reading well enough to get along.	1.1	1.1	1.1
Not being able to find work.	1.4	1.3	1.4
Not being able to afford recreational activities.	1.4	1.4	1.4
Having a lot anxiety, stress, or depression.	1.7	1.8	1.7
Experiencing an alcohol and/or drug problem.	1.2	1.2	1.2
Experiencing physical conflict in the household.	1.1	1.1	1.1
Children or teenagers experiencing behavior or emotional problems.	1.2	1.2	1.2
Not being able to afford child day care.	1.1	1.1	1.1
Not being able to find after-school child care.	1.1	1.1	1.1
Not being able to prepare nutritious meals	1.1	1.0	1.1

The three issues with the greatest different ranking between Marquette County and Alger County are:

1. Not being able to afford legal help.
2. Not being able to pay or get medical insurance.
3. Not being able to get adult day care for someone with a disability or serious illness, or for an elderly person.

For all of these three issues, the ranking is higher for Alger County. This also seems to reflect on Alger County's lower average income, but, particularly with respect to being able to afford medical insurance, economic needs are also significant for Marquette County residents at the family level.

Salient Issues

Having examined both the community issues, as perceived by residents, and the family issues, affirmed by residents, the salient issues of concern for each county can be identified. Given that the two lists of issues are at different experiential levels, that some issues are shared, and some unique to each list, and that the response patterns are distinct, a rule of selections will have to be used. This rule has three components. An issue will be selected as salient if:

1. It is top ranking on either list,
2. It ranks among the top five issues in both lists, and
3. A high ranking issue on either list related to an issue identified in 2.

Thus, the highest ranking issue for both counties on the community list is "Young people leaving the area," and the highest ranking issue for both counties on the family list is "Having a lot of anxiety, stress or depression." And an issue in the top five ranks on both lists for both counties is "Not being able to pay or get medical insurance" (Household)/"No or inadequate medical insurance" (Neighborhood). Another issue, "Not being able to find work"(Household), is county

specific, to Marquette County. Now, using this technique, the five highest ranking issues for each county can be listed.

Five Most Salient Issues for Each County

Marquette County

Alger County

Young people leaving the area	Young people leaving the area
Having a lot of anxiety, stress or depression	Having a lot of anxiety, stress or depression
No or inadequate medical insurance	No or inadequate medical insurance
Unemployment or underemployment	Not having enough money to pay the doctor or buy prescription medications
Not having enough money to pay the doctor or buy prescription medications	Unemployment or underemployment

The technique produces the same five issues for both counties, with a slight difference in saliency among the issues. However, as comparability between the lists is limited, the five issues can be regarded as common between the two counties.

Volunteering

Respondents to the survey were asked whether they “regularly do volunteer work” in their neighborhood. Table 17 provides the responses.

Table 17

Percentage of Persons Volunteering by County

	Marquette	Alger	Total
Percentage	52.5%	66.7%	54.4%
Number	362	57	419

Over half of the populations of either county claims to volunteer. Alger County residents claim to volunteer at a slightly higher rate than do Marquette County residents, but the difference is not statistically significant.

Respondents were then asked to identify where they did their volunteering. Table 18 displays the responses by county.

Table 18

Percentage of Volunteers for Type of Site by County

Volunteer Site	Marquette		Alger		Total	
	%	N	%	N	%	N
Children or youth activities	40.7%	364	36.8%	57	40.1%	421
Civic group such as Kiwanis, Rotary	14.6%	363	24.1%	58	15.9%	421
Cultural group such as a music group or museum	39.3%	364	32.8%	58	38.4%	422
Environmental group	3.0%	363	5.3%	57	3.3%	420
For low-income people, elders, or homeless people	7.4%	363	3.5%	57	6.9%	420
A hospital or health group	5.0%	363	5.3%	57	5.0%	420
Human service organization	4.7%	363	5.2%	58	4.8%	421
Neighborhood group/neighborhood association	6.0%	364	5.2%	58	5.9%	422
Political group, party, or candidate	2.7%	364	5.3%	57	3.1%	421
Religious group/church/synagogue	1.1%	363	0.0%	57	1.0%	420
A school	16.8%	363	19.3%	57	17.1%	420
Sports group/team/club	25.3%	364	21.1%	57	24.7%	421
Hobby or recreational group/club	6.3%	364	10.5%	57	6.9%	421
Other group	74.2%	364	75.4%	57	74.3%	421

As the identification of the volunteer site was an open ended question, responses had to be coded into the specific categories. Some responses were not applicable to the specific categories, and others were not obviously applicable. The default, when in doubt, was the “Other group” category. This category, consequently, is overpopulated, and the specific categories are

underpopulated. The major volunteer sites may still be identified. For both counties, the five most popular volunteer groups or sites are:

1. Children or youth activities
2. Cultural group such as a music group or museum
3. Sports group/team/club
4. A school
5. Civic group such as Kiwanis, Rotary

The United Way

Two questions referred specifically to the United Way. The first asked whether respondent had ever heard of the United Way, and the second asked respondent to rate the United Way. Table 19 provides the responses for the first question:

Table 19

Ever Heard of United Way by County

Have you ever heard of United Way?	Marquette		Alger		Both Counties	
	%	N	%	N	%	N
Yes	96.7	352	93.0	53	96.2	405
No	3.3	12	7.0	4	3.8	16
Total	100.0	364	100.0	57	100.0	421

These responses indicate that the United Way is quite well known in both counties. If it is less heard of in Alger County, by 3.7%, it should be recalled that Alger County has no United Way agency. Table 20 displays the rating of the United Way by each county.

Table 20**Rating of United Way by County**

What is your overall opinion of the United Way?	Marquette		Alger		Both Counties	
	%	N	%	N	%	N
	Very Favorable	47.3	160	41.7	20	46.6
Somewhat Favorable	45.6	154	56.3	27	46.9	181
Somewhat Unfavorable	5.6	19	2.1	1	5.2	20
Very Unfavorable	1.5	5	0.0	0	1.3	5
Total	100.0	338	100.0	48	100.0	386

Almost half, 47.3%, of Marquette residents accord the highest rating to the United Way; as compared to 41.7% of Alger County residents. With respect to a “Favorable” rating, encompassing the top two ratings, 92.9% of Marquette County residents give such a rating; 98.0% of Alger County residents give a favorable rating.

Summary and Conclusion*Summary*

A telephone survey of the adult residents of Marquette and Alger Counties was conducted by Huron Mountain Research Services, LLC between March 31 and April 9, 2003 as part of the Compass II Community Assessment that is administered by the United Way of Marquette County on behalf of the Alger-Marquette Human Services Coordinating Body. Residents of Marquette and Alger Counties were asked to rank a series of social economic issues, about volunteering, about the United Way, and a number of demographic questions.

The typical respondent for either county was aged between 35 and 54, although Alger County has a higher percentage of residents aged 55 years and older. A plurality of both counties is terminal High School graduates, although Marquette County has a higher percentage of persons having completed a graduate degree. Less than 40% of both counties are full time employees. More than 40% of Alger residents are retired, twice the percentage of Marquette County residents. And a majority of Alger County retirees have low income.

About three fourths of the adult residents of both counties own their own home; a slightly higher percentage of Marquette County residents own their own home. About half of the adult residents of both counties itemize their taxes, with the percentage slightly higher for Marquette County adult residents.

Respondents were asked to rank issues in their neighborhood, and were later in the questionnaire asked to rank issues in their household. Although there were some differences in rank order between the two counties, the five most salient issues of both counties are

Young people leaving the area
Having a lot of anxiety, stress or
depression
No or inadequate medical insurance
Unemployment or underemployment
Not having enough money to pay the
doctor or buy prescription medications

A majority of Marquette County residents regularly volunteer; two-thirds of Alger County residents regularly volunteer. The most popular groups or sites the adult residents of both counties volunteered with or to are:

1. Children or youth activities
2. Cultural group such as a music group or museum
3. Sports group/team/club
4. A school
5. Civic group such as Kiwanis, Rotary

Finally, an average of more than 96% of the adult residents of both counties had “heard of the United Way, with a slightly larger percentage in Marquette County. And more than 92% of the residents of both counties gave the United Way a favorable rating, with a larger percentage giving such a rating in Alger County.

Conclusions

Five social economic issues were identified as common between the adult residents of Marquette County and Alger County, although the order of salience is slightly different between the counties. These issues are

- Young people leaving the area
- Having a lot of anxiety, stress or depression
- No or inadequate medical insurance
- Unemployment or underemployment
- Not having enough money to pay the doctor or buy prescription medications

In Alger County the order of the last two are reversed.

These are a mixed group of issues. “Young people leaving the area” would require a number of measures to effectively address it, and most would be developmental measures, and not social service type measures. “Unemployment of underemployment” is another developmental issue.

The issue of “Having a lot anxiety, stress, or depression” needs to be explored to determine the basis for this choice. Anxiety and stress can be brought upon by a number of things. These may include economic status, medical needs, 9/11, or the West Nile Virus, or a combination of these and/or others. Community consultation may be needed to explore this condition. Any treatment for this would also depend on its basis.

Finally, the medical insurance and medical access issues do have a treatment center in Marquette. Is this adequate for Alger County residents?

These five issues fairly clearly derive from a representative sample and a clear set of ratings. The logical next step is community consultation.

APPENDIX A

Compass II Marquette/Alger Community Survey Questionnaire

**Marquette/Alger Compass II Survey
March–April 2003**

Caller's Name: _____ Date: _____ Done _____

Indicate, and block out, the Calling Sheet number: _____

- V ● 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6

Phone Number: _____ Attempt 1: _____ Attempt 2: _____ Attempt 3: _____

Call: Time Started: hr __ __ min __ __ A.M/P.M. Ended: hr __ __ min __ __ A.M/P.M

	Hour		Minutes				Hour		Minutes				
01	○	○	0	0	○	○	01	○	○	0	0	○	○
02	○	○	1	1	○	○	02	○	○	1	1	○	○
03	○	○	2	2	○	○	03	○	○	2	2	○	○
04	○	○	3	3	○	○	04	○	○	3	3	○	○
05	○	○	4	4	○	○	05	○	○	4	4	○	○
06	○	○	5	5	○	○	06	○	○	5	5	○	○
07	○	○		6		○	07	○	○		6		○
08	○	○		7		○	08	○	○		7		○
09	○	○		8		○	09	○	○		8		○
10	○	○		9		○	10	○	○		9		○
11	○	○					11	○	○				
12	○	○					12	○	○				

○ A M
○ P M

○ A M
○ P M

Hello, my name is _____

I am calling for the United Way. We are conducting a random survey to give area residents a chance to share their ideas and opinions about community strengths and needs.

Is this a convenient time for a ten minute survey?

All responses to the survey will be treated on a strictly confidential basis; we simply need to know the opinion of area residents.

As I have said, this is a random telephone survey. Your identity is unknown to us. Your number was selected by random and we won't ask for your name, only for your opinion: But I have to ask two questions about the people living in this household in order to pick the person who would be part of this random sample.

First, how many persons, 18 years of age, or older, live in this household? _____

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9 or more

How many of these are men? _____

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
1	2	3	4 or more

[MAKE SELECTION. CIRCLE NUMBER OF ADULTS IN HOUSEHOLD, CIRCLE NUMBER OF MEN. THE SELECTED PERSON IS THE INTERSECTION OF THESE TWO.]

[1]	Number of Persons 18 + in Housing Unit			
	1 ADULT	2 ADULTS	3 ADULTS	4 OR MORE
0 MEN	ADULT	OLDER WOMAN	OLDEST WOMAN	YOUNGEST WOMAN
1 MAN	ADULT	WOMAN	YOUNGEST WOMAN	MAN
2 MEN		YOUNGER MAN	YOUNGER MAN	YOUNGEST WOMAN
3 MEN			OLDER MAN	WOMAN OR YOUNGEST MAN
4 OR MORE				YOUNGEST MAN

2. People sometimes have problems in the area in which they live. Here is a list of some problems. For each one, please say whether you believe it Not a Problem, Is a Minor Problem, a Moderate Problem, or a Major Problem for people in your neighborhood. [READ THE LIST. MARK EACH ONE.]

	NP	MiP	MdP	Mj P	DK
a. Unemployment or underemployment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Poverty	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Water, air, noise, or other pollution	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Inadequate public transportation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Alcohol Abuse	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. No or Inadequate Medical Insurance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. Drug Abuse	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h. Homeless youth and young adults	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
i. Crime	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
j. Lack of affordable medical care	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
k. Illiteracy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
l. Domestic violence, abuse of children and/or adults	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
m. Substandard housing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
n. Shortage of child day care	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
o. Lack of affordable legal services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
p. Teenage pregnancy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
q. Racial or ethnic discrimination	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
r. Overcrowded housing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
s. Shortage of affordable housing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
t. Young people leaving the area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3. How much opportunity do you have to affect how things happen in your neighborhood? Would you say you have Much Opportunity, Some Opportunity, Little Opportunity, or No Opportunity?

MO	SO	LO	NO	DK
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

4. Do you regularly do volunteer work in your neighborhood?

- Yes
- No -[SKIP TO 7]
- DK or RF -[SKIP TO 7]

5. Where do you do your volunteering? [DO NOT READ. MARK AS MANY AS APPLY.]

- Children of youth activities _____
- Civic group such as Kiwanis, Rotary _____
- Cultural group such as a music group or museum _____
- Environmental group _____
- For low-income people, elders, or homeless people _____
- A hospital or health group _____
- Human service organization _____
- Neighborhood group/neighborhood association _____
- Political group, party, or candidate _____
- Religious group/church/synagogue _____
- A school _____
- Sports group/team/club _____
- Hobby or recreational group/club _____
- Other group _____

6. In the past month, about how many days, if any, have you done volunteer work? [DO NOT READ. MARK ONLY ONE.]

- None _____
- 1 day _____
- 2 days _____
- 3 to 5 days _____
- 6 or more days _____
- DK or RF _____

7. Do you vote in most elections?

- Yes _____
- No _____
- DK or RF _____

8. We will now turn to problems for which people and families often look for help. These problems affect people of all ages. Please indicate whether any of the following has been a problem for you or anyone in your household over the last 12 months. Indicate whether each item has been Not a Problem, a Minor Problem, a Moderate Problem, or a Major Problem. [READ THE LIST. MARK EACH ONE.]

	NP	MiP	MdP	MjP	DK
a. Not having enough room in you house for all the people who live there.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Living in housing which needs major repairs.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Not having enough money for food.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Not having enough money to pay for housing.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Not being able to pay the utility bills.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Not having enough money to buy needed clothing and shoes.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. Not being able to afford legal help	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h. Finding it difficult to budget.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
i. Not been able to pay for or get medical insurance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
j. Not having enough money to pay the doctor or buy prescription medications	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
k. Not being able to get home health care for someone with a disability or serious illness or for an elderly person.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
l. Not being able to get adult day care for someone with a disability or serious illness, or for an elderly person.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
m. Not being able to get special transportation for a disabled or elderly person.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
n. Difficulty in reading well enough to get along	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
o. Not being able to find work.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
p. Not being able to afford recreational activities.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
q. Having a lot of anxiety, stress, or depression.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
r. Experiencing an alcohol and/or drug problem.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
s. Experiencing physical conflict in the household	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
t. Children or teenagers experiencing behavior or emotional problems.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
u. Not being able to find or afford child day care.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
v. Not being able to find afterschool child care.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
w. Not being able to prepare nutritious meals.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

9. How many adults, 65 years of age or older, including yourself if you are in that category, live in your household?

_____ [WRITE NUMBER, AND MARK BELOW.]

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6 or more

10. Now I am going to read two statements and I'd like you to tell me whether you Strongly Agree, Somewhat Agree, Neither Agree Nor Disagree, Somewhat Disagree or Strongly Disagree with each one.

	SA	A	N	D	SD	DK	RF
A. I am actively involved in community organizations.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
B. I want to help strengthen my community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Now I'm going to ask you some specific questions about the United Way.

11. Have you heard of United Way?

- Yes* _____
- No* _____
- DK* _____

12. Thinking about everything you know, what is your overall opinion of the United Way? Is it very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable?

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Very Favorable | Somewhat Favorable | Somewhat Unfavorable | Very Unfavorable | DK | RF |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

[DEMOGRAPHICS]

22. RECORD RESPONDENT'S SEX. **DO NOT READ.**

- Female* _____
- Male* _____

23. Which of the following includes your age? [READ LIST]

- 18 to 34 _____
- 35 to 54 _____
- 55 or older _____
- RF* _____

24. What was the highest level of education you completed? [READ LIST]

- Grade 10, or below _____
- High School _____
- Some College _____
- College Graduate _____
- Graduate School or higher (any) _____
- RF* _____

25. What is your current employment status? Are you employed...[READ LIST]

- Full time–Not Self-Employed
- Part time–Not Self-Employed
- Self-Employed–Full Time___
- Self-Employed–Part Time___
- Retired_____ –SKIP TO 28
- Not Employed_____ –SKIP TO 28
- RF _____

26. Do you work for the local, state or federal government?

- Yes_____
- No_____
- DK_____
- RF_____

27. How many employees are at your place of employment? [READ LIST. IF UNSURE, ENCOURAGE BEST GUESS.]

- 1 to 50_____
- 51 to 250_____
- 251 to 999_____
- 1,000 or more_____
- DK_____
- RF_____

28. Are you a member of a labor union?

- Yes_____
- No_____
- DK_____
- RF_____

29. What is your marital status? [READ LIST]

- Married_____ O
- Living with a partner, unmarried O
- Single, never been married__ O
- Separated_____ O
- Divorced_____ O
- Widowed_____ O
- RF _____ O

30. Do you own your current place of residence?

- Rent_____ O
- Own_____ O
- RF _____ O

31. Do you have a home e-mail account on the Internet?

- Yes_____ O
- No_____ O
- DK/RF_____ O

32. Did you itemize, or are you planning to itemize, on your 2002 tax return?

- Yes_____ O
- No_____ O
- DK_____ O
- RF _____ O

33. Which of the following best describes you household's total annual income before taxes? [READ LIST]

- Under \$15,000 _____
- \$15,000 but less than \$25,000
- \$25,000 but less than \$50,000
- \$50,000 but less than \$100,000
- \$100,000 but less than \$200,000
- \$200,000 or more _____
- DK* _____
- RF* _____

34. What ethnic group would you consider yourself to be in? [READ LIST]

- White (Euro-American)_
- Native American/Indian_
- Asian-American _____
- African American/Black _____
- Hispanic/Latin American _____
- Other (SPECIFY) _____
- RF* _____

Thank you very much for your time and assistance.