

South Dakota Quality of Life

A statewide study to gain a better understanding of how communities across South Dakota are providing for the people who live in them.



To be completed by the adult (age 18 or over) in your household who has had the most recent birthday.

Rural Life & Census Data Center
South Dakota State University
Brookings, SD 57007
605-688-4899

Measuring Community Capacity: Does it Impact Quality of Life: Results from a South Dakota Study

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Does community capacity impact quality of life?

- Current theory of change underlying much of community development assumes a link
- Case studies provide examples
- Qualitative research to support this theory



Taking a quantitative approach

- 6000 surveys
 - Oversampled rural
 - Oversampled native majority
 - 41.45% return rate
 - Consulted with Don Dillman on design and delivery strategy

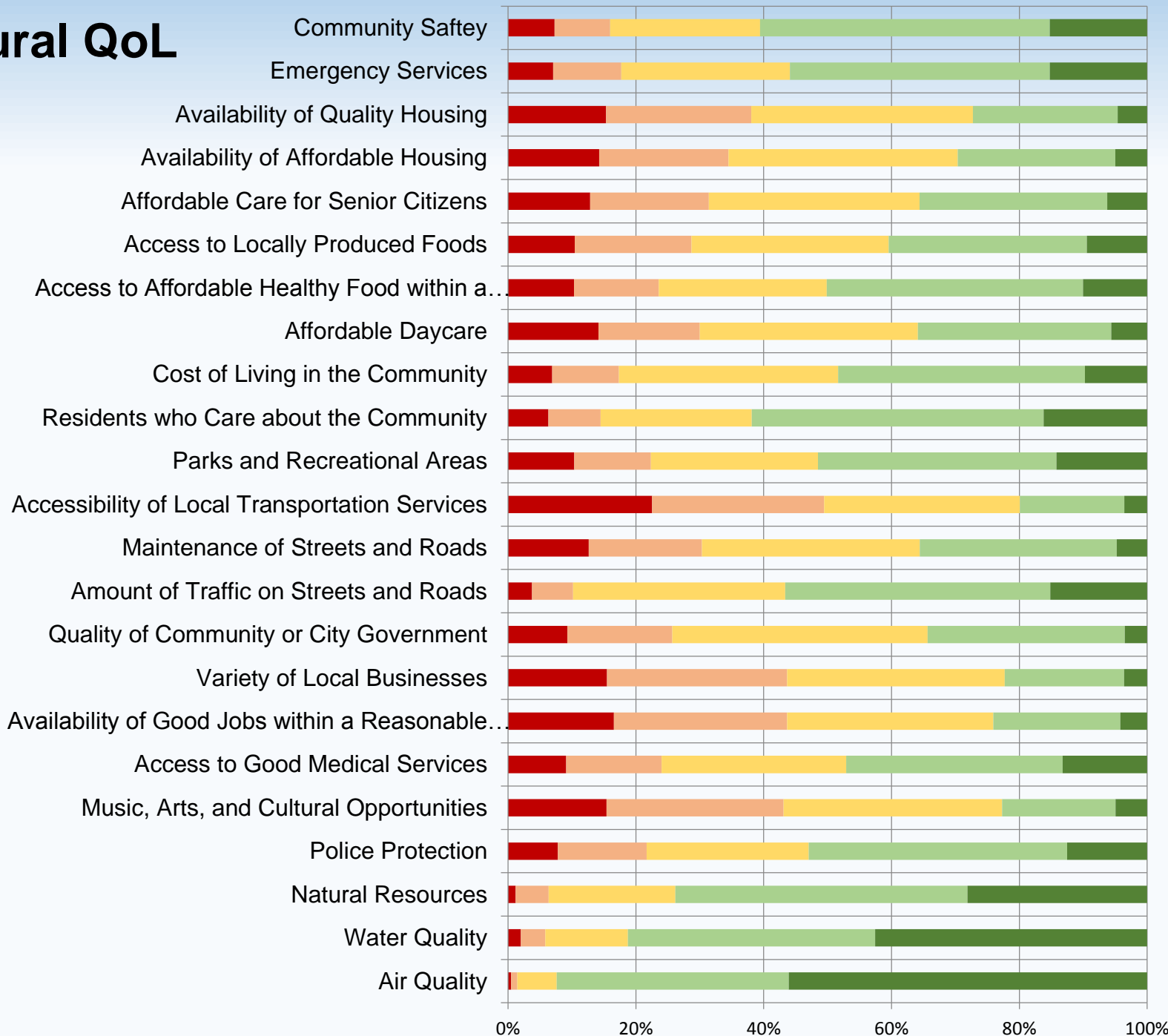


Standard quality of life indicators

- Availability of services
- Quality of services
- Quality of natural resources
- Cost of living
- Safety

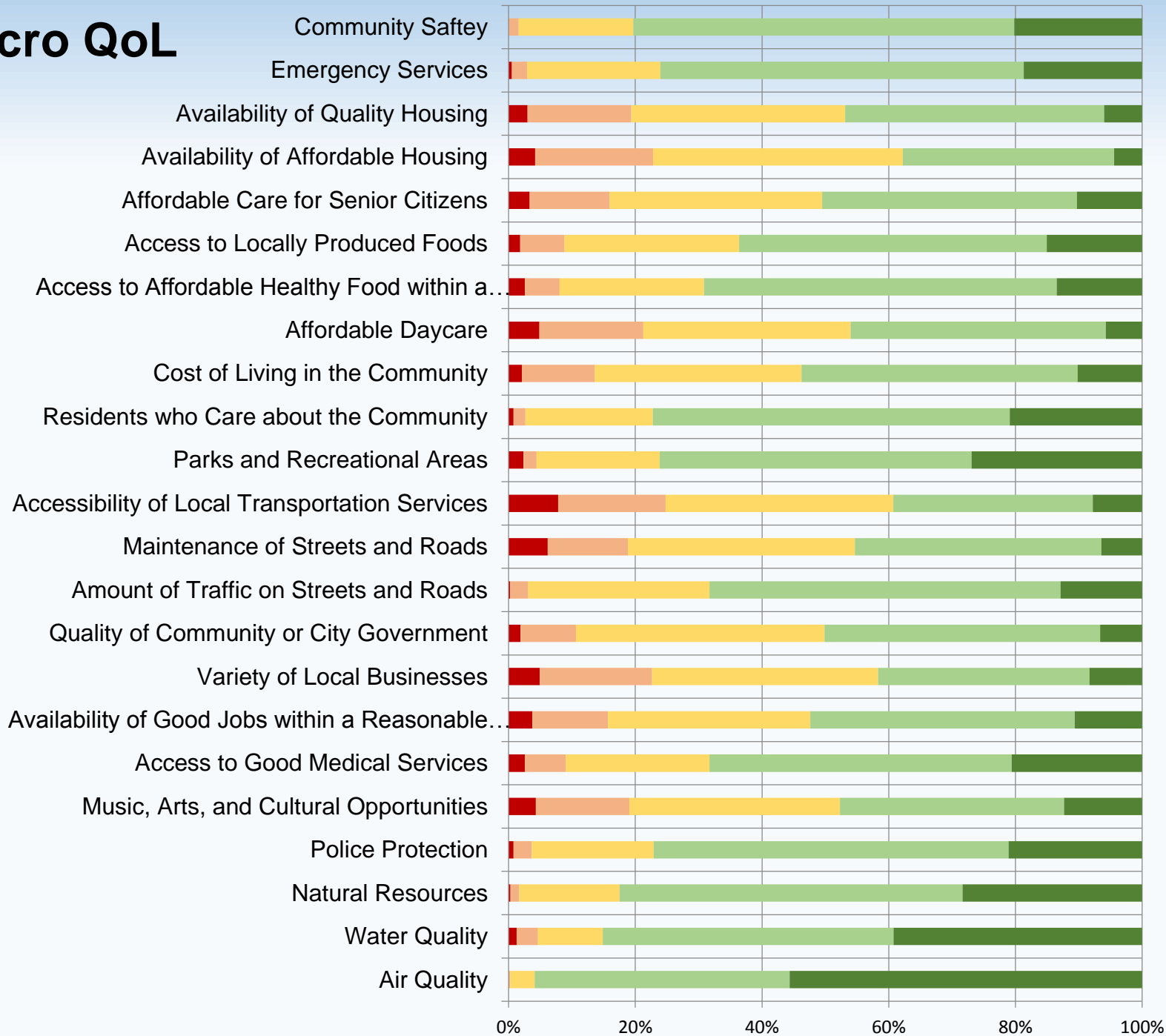


Rural QoL



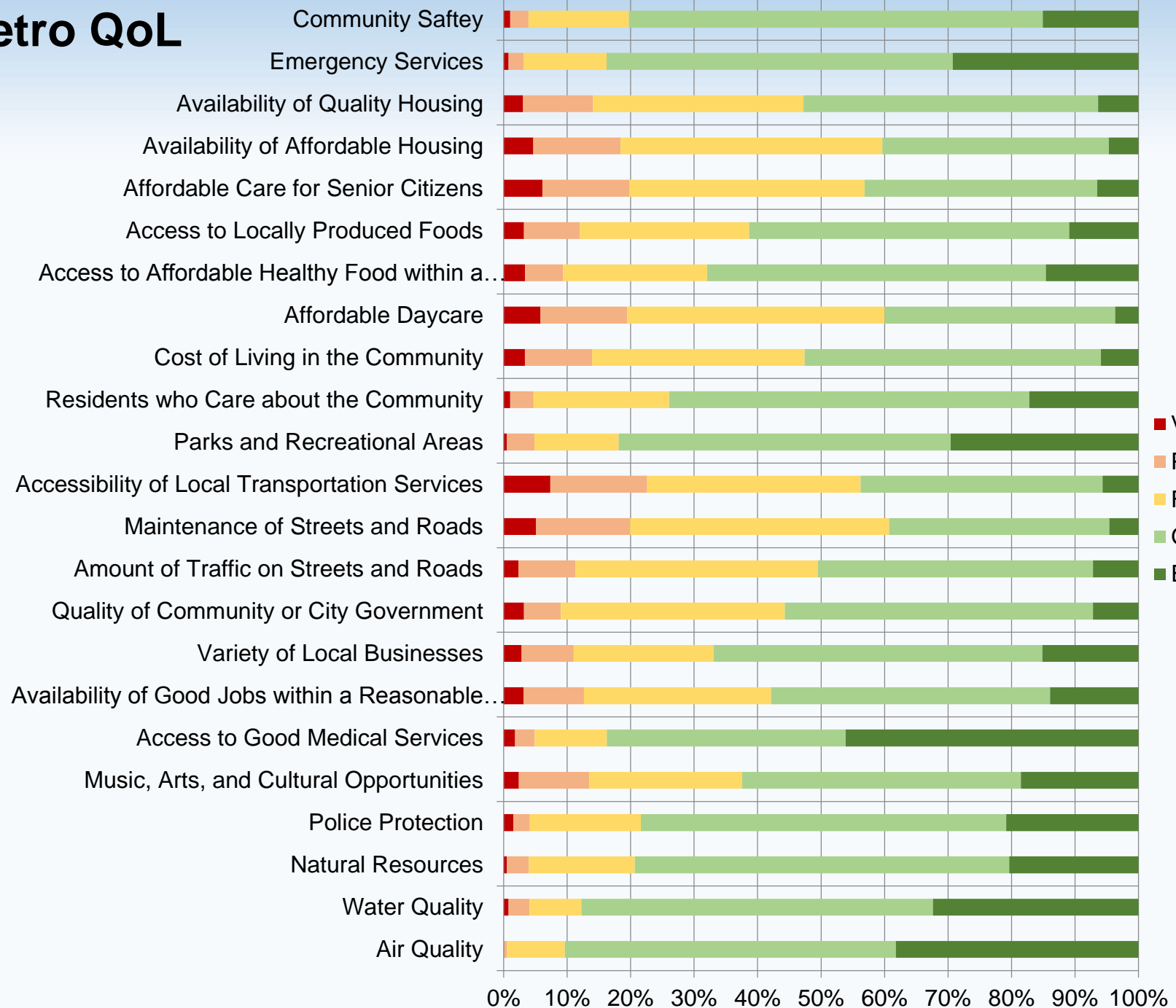
- 49.5% of rural residents rate accessibility of local transportation services as poor or very poor
- Availability of quality and affordable housing a challenge facing rural SD
- Lack of good jobs in a reasonable driving distance coupled with a lack of variety in local business
- Safety and emergency services fairly positive review
- Natural capital items ranked the highest
- Belief that residents care about the community and police protection is good

Micro QoL



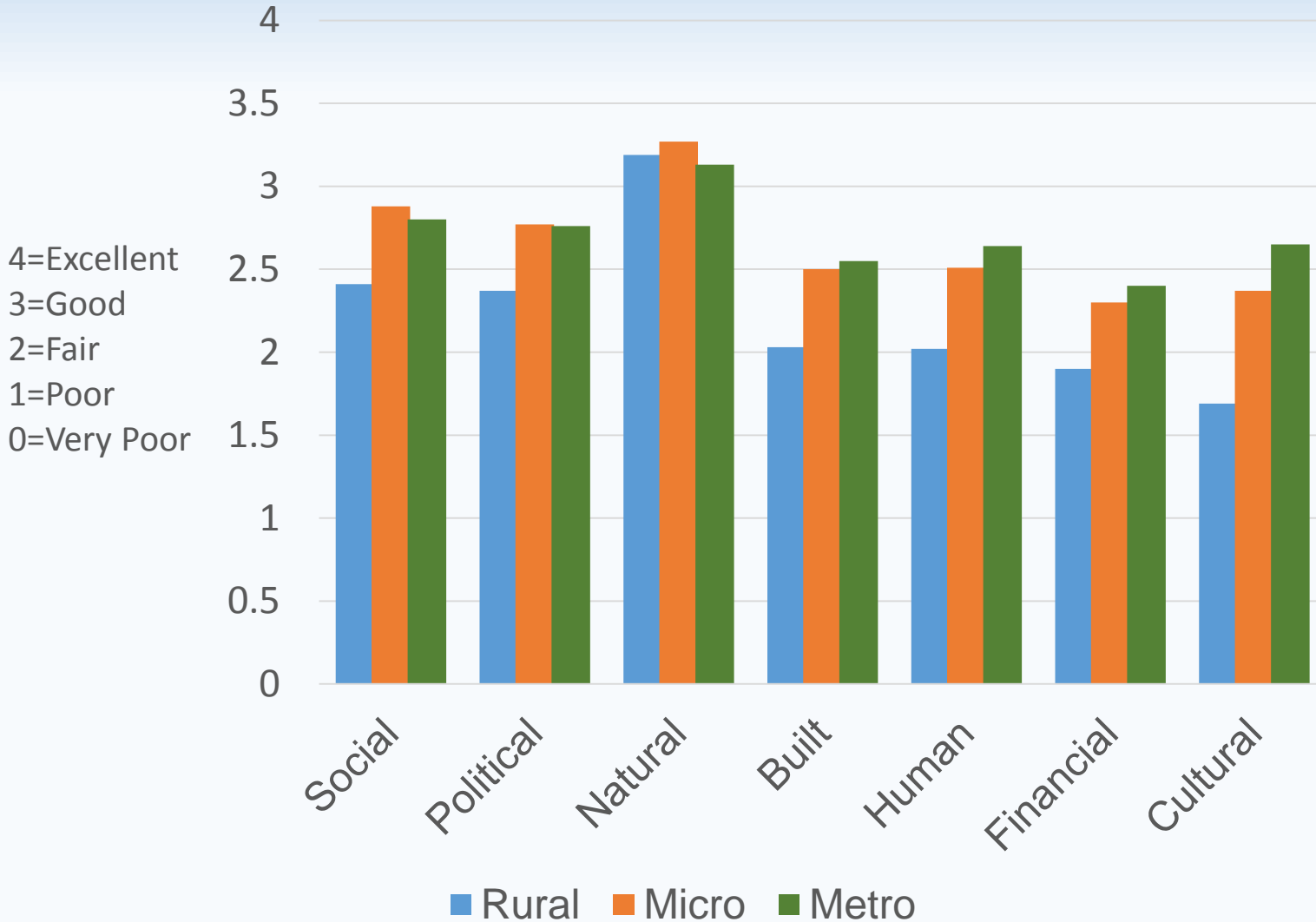
- Housing (quality and affordability), affordable daycare, access to transportation services and variety of local businesses have the poorest ratings
- High natural capital
- Safe community with high quality emergency services
- Residents care and high quality of parks and recreational areas
- Over 20% rate affordable daycare as poor

Metro QoL



- Higher natural, built and financial capital
- Access to good medical services, emergency services, natural qualities and parks and recreation areas ranked on top.
- Transportation, street maintenance, and affordable care for senior citizens among poorest rated qualities

Mean Scores of Capitals



- Rural capitals significantly lower than micro and metro for several capitals
- Natural capital perceived as highest for rural, micro, and metro respondents
- Rural residents hold negative perceptions for their financial and cultural capitals

Rural and urban differences

Rural:

- High natural capital (air, water, resources)
- Rural low: financial and built capitals - accessibility of local transportation, availability of good jobs within a driving distance, variety of local businesses, availability of quality housing, and availability of affordable housing
- Rural is significantly different from micro or metro ***EXCEPT*** for natural capital



Rural and urban differences

Micro and Metro:

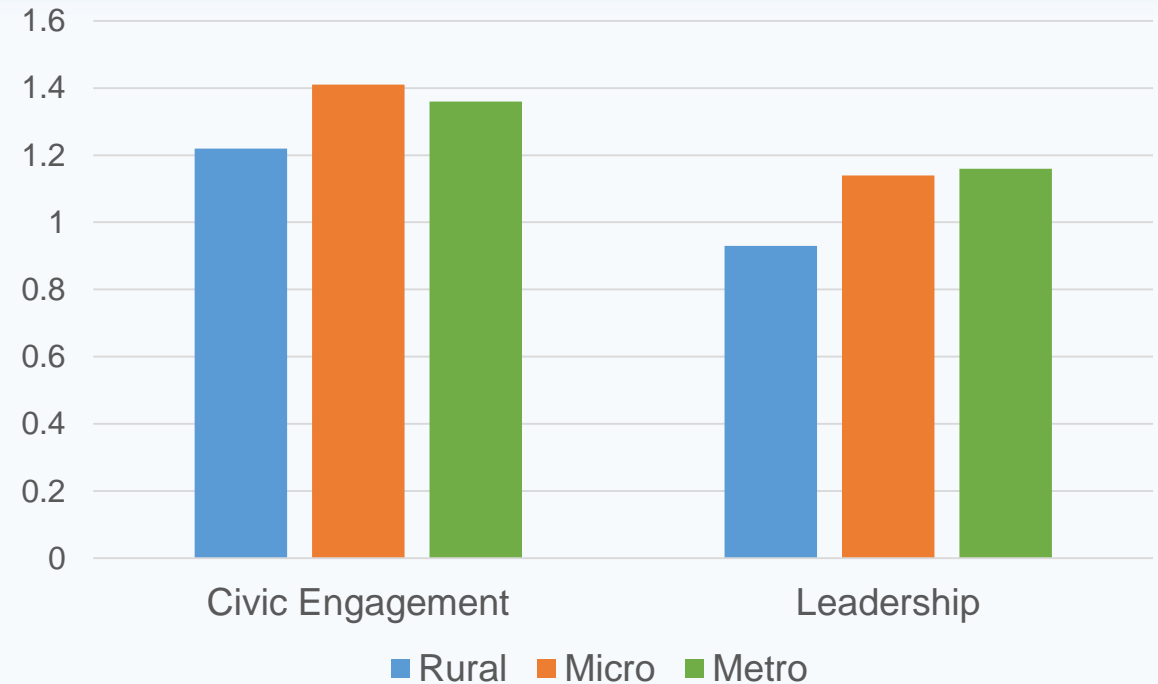
- Only significant difference is cultural capital
- Both micro and metro report higher quality of life than rural
- Housing (quality and affordability), affordable daycare, access to transportation services and variety of local businesses have the poorest ratings for both micro and metro
- Safe community with high quality emergency services
- Residents care and high quality of parks and recreational areas
- Slightly higher built and financial for metro



Community capacity

- 23 indicators
 - Solving our own problems
 - Supporting small business
 - Up to date vision and plan
 - People from different groups get along
 - People volunteer and donate
 - Young people have a voice
 - Regional cooperation
 - Move from talking to doing
- Factor analysis – 2 factors
 - Civic engagement (volunteering, helping others, cooperating, getting along)
 - Leadership (how we work, having a vision, planning ahead, incorporating youth)
- Significant differences between Rural-Micro and Rural-Metro

Mean Scores of Community Capacity Variables



Standardized regression coefficients for variables in linear regression for quality of life capitals

	Human	Natural	Political	Financial	Social	Built
Civic Engagement Capacity	.228**	.443**	.297**	.272*	.416**	.150**
Leadership Capacity	.231**	-.114*	.210**	.284**	.143**	.261**
Distance Needs	-.228**	-	-.156**	-.235**	-.151**	-.113*
Distance Social	-.116*	-	-.122*	-	-.101*	-.181**
Adj R	0.389**	0.126**	.381**	.403**	.424**	.422**

* = significant at .05 level

** = significant at .01 level

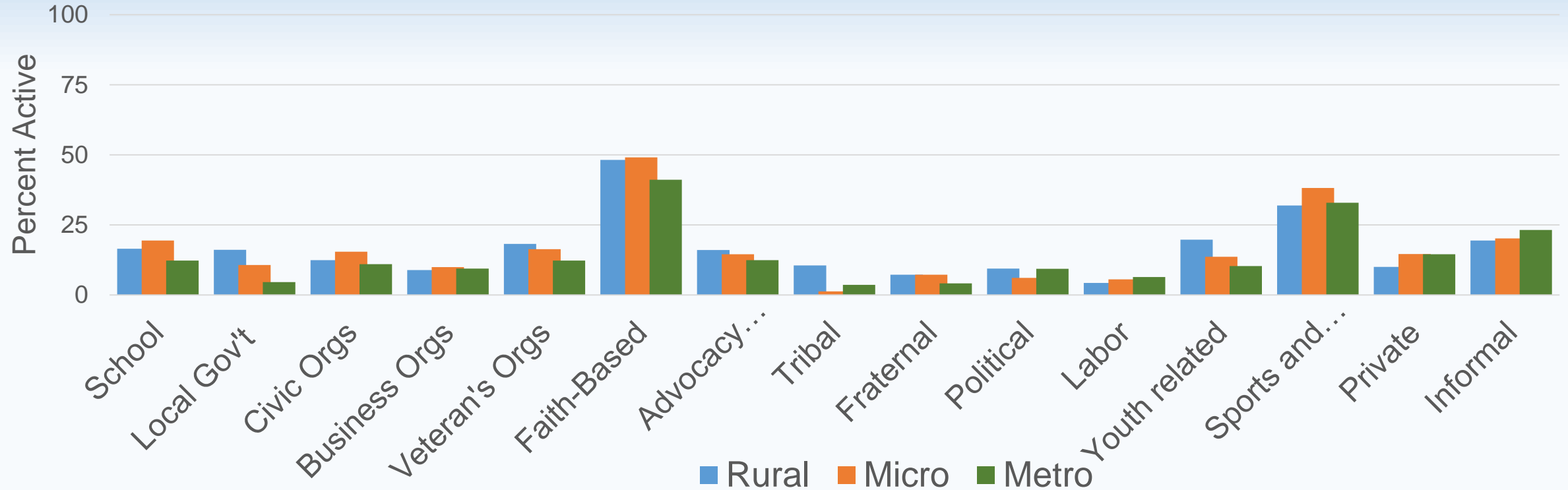


Also included Putman's variables

- Volunteer
- Vote
- Participate in organizations
- Attend church

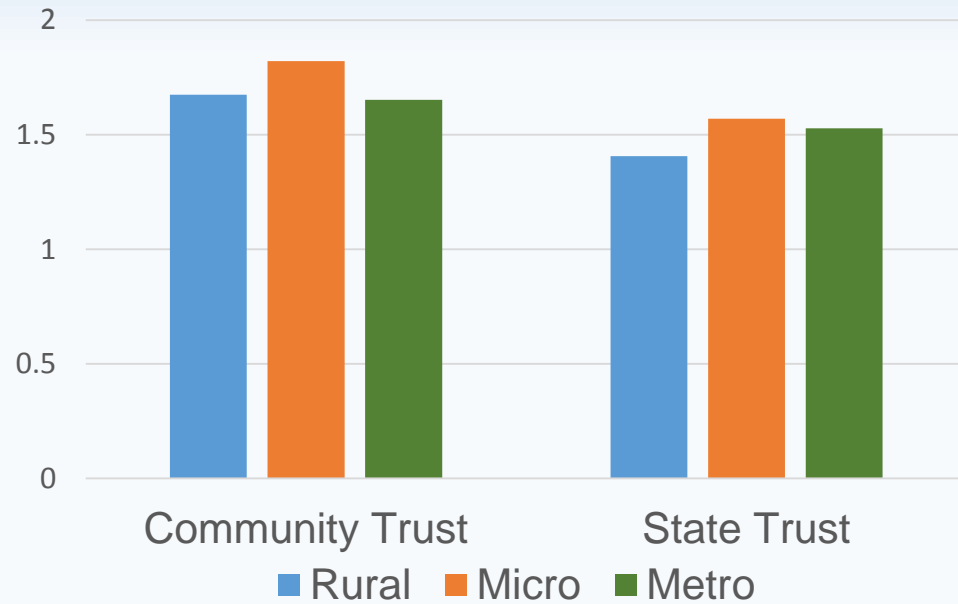


Participation in Organizations

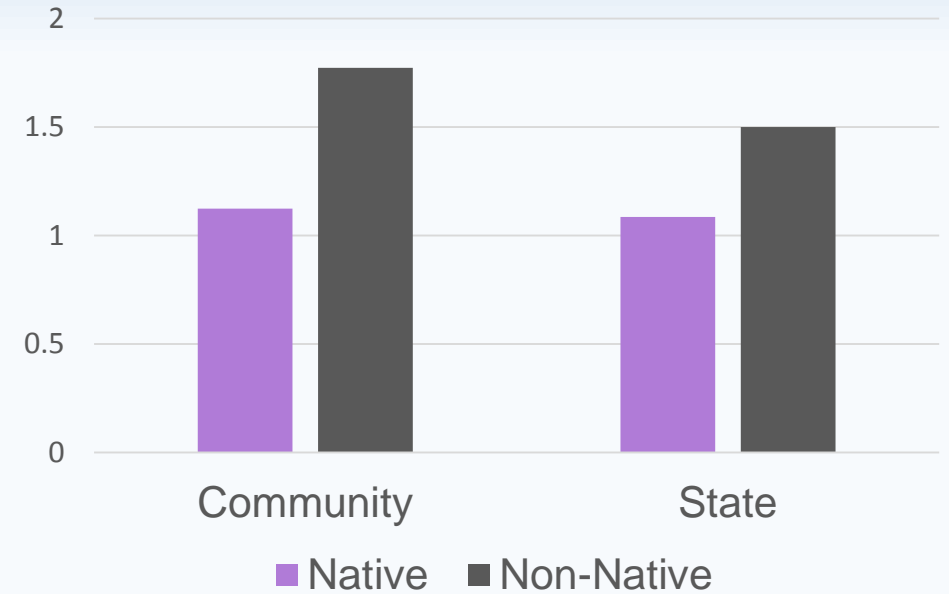


- Faith-based organizations most attended
- Lower levels of participation in local government, fraternal, and youth related organizations for micro
- Sports and recreation participation strong among respondents

Differences in Mean Scores of Trust: Rural, Micro, Metro



Differences in Mean Scores of Trust for Native and Non-Natives



Correlations between Trust and Capitals

	Natural	Political	Cultural	Human	Financial	Social	Built
Community	.390**	.409**	.159**	.354**	.374**	.468**	.353**
State	.188**	.191**	.128**	.161**	.164**	.173**	.162**

- Generally, people have trust in each other
- Significant differences between Native and non-Native respondents



Conclusion

- Micro and metro residents report a higher quality of life
 - Natural capital high among all residents
 - Financial, human, and built capital significantly higher for micro and metro
 - Biggest problems: adequate and affordable housing, accessibility of public transportation, and maintenance of road infrastructure
- Rural communities have less capacities than their micro and metro counterparts
 - Factor analysis: 2 factors (civic engagement and leadership)
 - Civic engagement capacities higher than leadership capacities
 - Civic engagement = stronger influence on political and social capital
 - Leadership = slightly stronger influence on financial and built capital
- Highest form of organization participation = religious services (just under 50%)
- People are generally trusting, except for significant differences between Native and non-Natives
- Distance to resources = negative influences on quality of life



Next steps

- Look at differences in social capital indicators
- Wellness and indicators
- Policy implications



What did we learn?

- Not so much difference between metro and micro in SD
- Rural and non-rural are very different on a number of indicators
- In SD housing and transportation are critical problems
- Native outcomes significantly lower on most items



What did we learn?

- The company that does the sampling produces biased samples
- Over sampling in native majority actually results in higher chance of whites being included

