



Center for Community & Regional Research

College of Liberal Arts

University of Minnesota, Duluth

2001 Perceptions of Social Problems and Aspirations of Minnesota's Iron Range Youth

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September 2002

This work was sponsored by grants from the Center for Community and Regional Research, the University of Minnesota Duluth and the Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Board

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Highlights of Findings

1. 258 senior high students from Hibbing and Mesabi East High Schools responded to the survey.
2. 67.1 % of respondents were high school seniors, the remainder consisted of juniors and sophomores.
3. 80.8 % of mothers were employed outside of the home.
4. Of the respondents' fathers not employed outside of the home (9.9%), over half were unemployed.
5. Respondents thought that the most important social problems of their areas were economic problems / job loss," "drinking and drug use" and "lack of activities for kids".
6. Almost one-half of all respondents (47.0%) believed the economic status of their communities to be worse off than it was two years ago.
7. Almost a quarter (23.6%) thought their household was worse off than it was two years ago.
8. Of those responding, 81.6 % planned to attend college after completing their high school education.
9. Half of respondents (51.3%) viewed the economic situation of the Iron Range as having an effect on the probability of them receiving the education required to meet their career goals.
10. Nearly three-quarters (71.2%) of all respondents believe that savings spent on education after high school are wisely invested.
11. A majority of the students (57.6%) do not plan to live on the Iron Range after completing their education.
12. 52.4 percent of respondents believe the future looks uncertain.
13. The statement, "The economic system is working well" was disagreed with by 45.8 percent of the 1988 respondents whereas only 29.8 percent of the 2001 respondents disagreed with the statement.

Introduction

The purpose of this research is to measure the perceptions of Minnesota Iron Range youth regarding: 1) the social impact of Iron Range economic conditions, 2) the personal plans and aspirations of Iron Range youth, and 3) an assessment of social problems in Iron Range communities as judged by the youth. A previous survey of Minnesota Iron Range youth addressing the same perceptions was carried out in 1988 during another period of economic dislocation in the iron mining / taconite industry (Laudergan, 1988). What are the social consequences of changes in the economy of the Minnesota Iron Range according to high school age youth? This is the research question in both the previous and the present study.

Even before the current worldwide economic slump reduced the demand for steel products, the American steel industry was losing market share to low-priced foreign competition. Iron Rangers tend to believe that foreign governments are subsidizing their steel manufacturers by “dumping” steel on the American market at a price that does not fairly reflect its cost. The Bush administration agrees and punitive tariffs have been applied to a wide range of foreign steel imports. This action was not taken soon enough to prevent the downsizing and closing of mining and taconite processing plants on the Iron Range. One example of this is LTV Steel Mining Company announcing that it would permanently shut down its Hoyt Lakes facility. This announcement was initially made in late May of 2000 with all 1,400 employees expected to be out of a job by mid-

2001 (Scheck, 2000). Officials from LTV Steel Mining Company cited unreasonably priced imports for leading to a 20-year low in steel prices (Mesabi Daily News, 2001).

Outmigration is one result of the economic conditions on the Minnesota Iron Range. Hibbing's population according to the 1990 Census was 18,046 with the 2000 census reporting 17,071, a loss of 5.4 percent. Similar population declines are found for other Iron Range communities between 1990 and 2000: Aurora -5.8 percent, Hoyt Lakes -12.7 percent. The push factor in this outmigration is rising unemployment. The Iron Range is located within Minnesota's St. Louis County. Unemployment statistics for both St. Louis County and Duluth (a large city also located within St. Louis County but not considered to be part of the Iron Range) are easily accessible from the Minnesota WorkForce Center. However, the inclusion of Duluth in a discussion of unemployment rates for the Iron Range distorts the probable rate of unemployment for the Iron Range. To compensate for this an alternative unemployment rate was calculated. To do this the number of employed and unemployed in Duluth was subtracted from the number of employed and unemployed in St. Louis County to produce adjusted numbers of both employed and unemployed persons in St. Louis County. Next, this new number of unemployed persons was divided by the labor force (unemployed + employed) to create an adjusted unemployment rate. As posted by Minnesota WorkForce Center, the average unemployment rate for 2001 for St. Louis County was 5.5 percent. After dropping Duluth from the equation the rate of unemployment changed to roughly 6.5 percent. These rates of unemployment are higher than both the Minnesota rate (3.7%) and the national rate (4.8%) for that time period.

Methods

Data gathering in the current study was done during October of 2001. Prior to the actual survey of the Iron Range students, a research team from the University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) traveled to the Minnesota Iron Range to meet with the Mesabi East High School and Hibbing High School principals. A list of social studies classes offered in the fall of 2001 was provided by each principal for his school. A random sample of social studies classes from each school was drawn and all students enrolled in the selected classes and in attendance on the day the surveys were distributed were included in the survey. Prior to the students in the sampled classes being surveyed, a letter was sent to the parents of each prospective student respondent informing the parent of the research and asking them to contact the school principal office if they did not want their child to participate in the survey. There were no requests that students not participate in the study.

Undergraduate students in sociology and criminology at UMD visited the classes to be surveyed, explained the purpose of the survey, distributed the survey to the students, and collected the completed surveys. Completed surveys were returned to UMD where the university students prepared the responses to be entered into a computer file. Data entry was also done by the university students, with preliminary data runs done using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS).

Study supervision and coordination was done by two faculty members of the UMD Sociology-Anthropology Department. J. Clark Laundergan and Bruce Mork coordinated the student participation and had responsibility for the logistics of requesting approval for the use of Human Subjects and securing funding necessary to carry out the

study. Students were able to use the survey data to meet project requirements in research classes but received no additional academic credit unless they took responsibility for report preparation or communicating the study findings in public presentations.

The questions asked in the 2001 survey were the same or similar to those asked in 1988 (Laudergan, 1988). The survey questions were arranged according to three areas: 1) characteristics of respondents, 2) student attitudes including several open ended questions, and 3) statements arranged with an agree to disagree scale response.

Characteristics of the Respondents

Of the two schools that participated in the survey, 258 students responded. Slightly more than half of the surveys (54.3%) were completed by males as shown in Table 1. The student respondents ranged in age from 15 to 20 with the majority (96.5%) of the students in the age range from 16 to 18 (Table 2). Most of the respondents were in their senior year of high school (Table 3).

Two questions relating to home life were asked to get an indication of household composition. As shown in Table 4, 68.8 percent of the respondent's parents were married with only 12.9 percent of the parents divorced or single. Some parents were remarried, 11.3 percent, and five students indicated that their parent was widowed (2.0%). Respondents were also asked to report the number of people living in their household (Table 5). The most common response indicated that there were three to five people living in a home (82.3%). A little more than ten percent of the households were composed of six to nine members. Only 7.1 percent of the respondents reported that the household that they lived in consisted of one or two members.

Respondents were asked to report, if known, the number of years of education that their fathers had completed. Of the 258 respondents, 6.7 percent of fathers had an educational attainment of less than 12 years. Almost 29 percent of fathers had completed 12 years of education while 33.3 percent had 13 to 15 years of education and 31.5 percent had completed 16 or more years of education (Table 6).

Respondents were also asked to report on the occupations of their fathers. The occupations of the fathers were broken down into 5 categories. The most common occupational category, held by 51.3 percent of the respondent's fathers, was classified as blue collar. This was followed by 30.4 percent administrator / manager / professional, 7.5 percent other white collar, 6.3 percent unemployed / student /retired / homemaker, and 4.6 percent other positions (Table 7). The vast majority of fathers (90.1%) are employed outside of the home with only a reported 9.9 percent employed inside the home (Table 8). Most fathers employed outside of the home are employed full time (92.4%). Another 4.3 percent were employed in more than one job equaling full time or more and 3.3 percent worked part time (Table 9). Of the fathers not employed outside of the home: 55.2 percent were unemployed, 10.3 percent were disabled and 34.5 percent were retired. Unemployed and retired fathers were more commonly reported by Mesabi East respondents (Table 10).

The educational attainment of the mothers of the respondents was also asked. 4.8 percent of the mothers had completed less than 12 years of education, 30.3 percent had 12 years of education, 30.8 percent had 13 to 15 years of education, and 34.0 percent had 16 or more years of education (Table 11).

The occupational categories for the mothers were the same as those for the respondents' fathers. 35.8 percent of the mothers held the occupation of administrative / manager / professional, followed by 34.2 percent blue collar service, 5.3 percent other white collar, 14.4 percent unemployed / student / retired / homemaker, and 10.3 percent other (Table 12).

Table 13 reports that 206 of the mothers (80.8%) were employed outside of the home. A majority of mothers employed outside of the home, 68.6 percent, held primarily full time positions. 27.5 percent were employed part time and 3.9 percent had more than one job equaling full time or more (Table 14). Of the 40 mothers not employed outside of the home, 67.5 percent were homemakers, 20.0 percent were unemployed, 7.5 percent were disabled, and 5.0 percent were retired (Table 15).

When asked about the total annual income of parents before taxes (Table 16), many of the respondents either chose not to answer or they indicated that they did not know the annual income of their parents. Of the students who did respond to the question, 51.4 percent state that the household they reside in made \$50,000 or more, 42.4 percent made between \$20,000 and \$49,999, and 6.2 percent made less than \$20,000.

Because of the relatively small size of the communities located along the Iron Range, not every town is able to have a high school. The student populations of many schools are composed of students from several towns. This was very evident with Mesabi East as can be seen in Table 17. Although located in Aurora, only 30.9 percent of the students surveyed lived in that city, 29.4 percent came from Hoyt Lake, 17.6 percent came from Biwabik, and 22.1 percent came from other small towns. Hibbing is a larger

town, so it is not surprising that 93.2 percent of the respondents report residing in that town.

As stated earlier in this report, 96.5 percent of the students who responded to this survey were between the ages of 16 and 18. When asked how long the respondent had resided in their community (Table 18), over half (53.7%) stated that they had lived in the same community anywhere between 16 and 18 years. 15.1 percent of the students have lived in their communities for five years or less, 10.9 percent have lived in their communities between six and ten years, and 17.2 percent have been residing in their communities anywhere from eleven to fifteen years.

Respondents were asked how many generations of their family have resided on the Iron Range (Table 19). It was reported that 74.2 percent of the respondents' families have lived on the Iron Range for two to four generations. Only 17.9 percent of the families have lived on the Iron Range for one generation or less, and 7.7 percent of the families have lived on the Range for five generations or more.

Student Attitudes and Opinions

With the closing of mines over the past few years, students were asked how well their families were doing now as compared to two years ago. Table 20 shows that 33.5 percent of the respondents feel that they are better off financially and 23.6 percent feel they are worse off financially than they were two years ago. Quite a few students (42.9%) felt that there was no change in their financial situation as compared to two years ago.

Because a majority of the respondents have lived in their respective communities for over five years (84.9%) they were asked their opinion on how the community they are living in is doing economically today in comparison to two years ago (Table 21). With the decline in the demand for taconite, it is not surprising to find that 47.0 percent of the respondents feel that their communities are worse off economically than two years ago. Whereas 16.6 percent feel that their communities are better off economically than they were two years ago and 36.4 percent felt that there had been no change in the community.

When respondents were asked to report what they thought were the four most important social problems facing their communities (Table 22), the most common response was economic problems / job loss (42.3%). It is apparent, when excluding the category of "other", that economic problems / job loss is the most important social problem as that response had the highest percentage of responses in all four columns of the tables (reported in order of importance). "Drinking and drugs" and "lack of activities for kids" were also identified as important social problems on the Minnesota Iron Range.

Table 23 reports on the age at which the respondents believe they are most likely to get married. A large majority of the respondents (86.3%) plan on getting married between the ages of 20 and 29, only 5.9 percent reported wanting to marry after the age of 30. No more than 5 students (2.0%) planned to marry under the age of 20 and 5.9 percent had no plans to get married. The survey also asked students how many children they hope to have. As seen in Table 24, 10.8 percent do not plan to have any children, 60.8 percent hoped to have one or two children, 26.0 percent hope to have three or four children, and 2.4 percent of the respondents hoped to have five or more children.

It is increasingly apparent that education breeds opportunity. Therefore, respondents were asked what their educational plans were. The most frequent response shows that many plan on attending college (81.6%). This was followed by vocational / technical (votec) training (9.8%), training in the military (4.3%), and other (1.6%). Seven of the students (2.7%) planned on ending their education with high school (Table 25).

When asked whether or not the students planned to live on the Iron Range after they completed their education, 57.6 percent reported that they do not plan to come back to the Iron Range, 10.1 percent do plan to continue living on the Iron Range and 32.3 percent were undecided (Table 26).

The respondents were then asked of their occupational aspirations. 28.5 percent of the students reported wanting to enter science and engineering careers (including medical careers). Human services received 12.0 percent of the responses, education careers, 8.4 percent, fine arts, 8.8 percent, personal services, 5.2 percent, military, 1.6 percent, and 14.9 percent other (Table 27).

When asked whether or not the respondents had discussed these career goals with their parents, 86.8 percent reported that they had, while 13.2 percent had not (Table 28). Those who had discussed their career goals with their parents reported what their parents encouraged them to do. As shown in Table 29, 39.7 percent replied that their parents encouraged them to do whatever they wanted to. College was suggested by 41.1 percent of the parents, vocational / technical / trade school by 5.5 percent, military by 2.7 percent, and other by 11.0 percent.

Students were asked whether the economics of the Iron Range had affected their chances of getting the education needed to attain their desired jobs (Table 30). Half of the respondents (51.5%) felt that this would have an effect on their likelihood while 48.8 percent thought that there would be no effect. Of those anticipating the economic situation as having an effect on their probability of receiving their desired education, 13.2 percent expected "much effect".

When asked what types of businesses the Iron Range needs (Table 31), 12.2 percent of respondents thought that the area was in need of businesses that would provide entertainment. About one-fifth (18.9%) desired manufacturing. Another 29.1 percent said retail and 3.4 percent, tourism. Other received 36.5 percent of the responses. Table 32 reports whether or not the respondents are thinking of starting a new business on the Iron Range. Most (91.7%) stated that they did not plan to start a new business on the Iron Range.

The students were asked to comment on their personal goals and what they would like their life to be like ten years from now. The responses were categorized as shown in Table 33. Having a family and a good career is the most sought after goal by the respondents (78.4%). Materialism (accumulation of wealth and property) is the next most important goal, with 15.3 percent of the students hoping to have achieved this in ten years.

Agree/Disagree Statement Findings

Table 34 ranks responses to statements about selected conditions. Fifteen separate statements were given and respondents were asked whether they agreed or

disagreed with the statement. These responses were then ranked. Eight of the statements were agreed with by a majority of the respondents and the remainder of the statements were disagreed with by the majority.

The statements and percentage of agreement are as follows: "Savings Spent on Education After High School Are Wisely Invested" (71.2% Agree), "Most Jobs Require More Education Than is Necessary to do the Job Well" (68.6% Agree), "Alcoholism is a Serious Problem Affecting Families on the Iron Range" (63.6% Agree), "The More Education a Person Has, the Better Able They Are to Enjoy Life" (62.7% Agree), "The Future Looks Uncertain" (52.4% Agree), "Most People Can Earn a Comfortable Living on the Iron Range in the Current Economy" (48.1% Agree), "A Person Can Plan for the Future so that Everything Will Come Out All Right in the Long Run" (46.1% Agree), "Parents Expect Too Much of Their Children" (36.8% Agree).

Statements disagreed with by the respondents are: "Success Depends More on Luck than on Real Ability" (76.8% Disagree), "Supporting the Family Financially is Primarily the Husband's Job" (65.1% Disagree), "Mothers Should Not Work Outside the Home if They Have Very Young Children" (53.9% Disagree), "The Government Ought to Guarantee a Living for Those Who Cannot Find Work" (48.0% Disagree), "Most People Can Be Trusted" (43.0% Disagree), "A Person Should Strike in Order to Secure Greater Returns for Labor" (38.4% Disagree), and "The Economic System is Working Well" (29.8% Disagree).

Comparison of 1988 and 2001 Studies

Comparing the results of the 2001 research with that of 1988 found many differences. Some of these differences may be due simply to changing times. Others, however, may in fact be a result of the recent economic disparities of the area. It must be noted that no statistical test of significance was used to determine which differences were worth mentioning. Rather, the authors of this paper decided upon the comparisons between the two research projects.

Table 35. Age of Respondent

	1988	2001
	(%)	(%)
15 to 17	37.0	75.2
18 to 19	63.0	24.4
20	0.0	0.4

The first difference is found when comparing the respondent ages. As shown in Table 35, the 2001 study had 75.2 percent of the respondents between the ages of 15 to 17 and 24.4 percent between 18 and 19, while the 1988 research yielded only 37.0 percent of respondents falling within the 15 to 17 range and 63.0 percent between 18 and 19.

Table 36. Year in School of Respondent

	1988	2001
	(%)	(%)
Sophomore / Junior	20.1	33.0
Senior	79.9	67.1

There is also a noticeable difference in the respondent's year in school between the two research projects. Table 36 shows that 33 percent of the 2001 respondents were either a sophomore or a junior at the time of the survey (primarily juniors at 32.2%) and 67.1 percent of the respondents were seniors. Of the respondents of the 1988 survey 20.1 percent were sophomores and juniors and 79.9 percent seniors. These differences in age and year in school are not attributed to economics or the passing of time but are important due to the fact that with age and education comes knowledge and maturity.

Table 37. Years of Education Completed by Respondents' Fathers

	1988	2001
	(%)	(%)
6-11	12.4	6.7
12	20.8	28.6
13-15	35.4	33.3
16-22	31.5	31.5

There was also a visible difference in the years of education that the respondents' fathers had completed (Table 37). The 2001 survey data revealed that fewer fathers had attained only 6 to 11 years of school (6.7% in 2001 as compared to 12.4% in 1988) and a greater percentage (28.6% in 2001 versus 20.8% in 1988) had completed at least 12 years of education. Based on this shift it is possible to say that a greater importance has been placed upon education in recent years. Post high school levels of education held no extreme differences.

Table 38. Father's Job Status If Not Employed Outside the Home

	1988	2001
	(%)	(%)
Unemployed	13.3	55.2
Disabled / Retired	86.7	44.8

One very important difference between the 2001 and 1988 findings are the dissimilarities in the job status of respondents' fathers not employed outside the home. As seen in Table 38, in 1988, of those fathers not employed outside the home, only 13.3 percent were unemployed while 86.7 percent were disabled or retired. However, in 2001 55.2 percent of the fathers not employed outside the home were unemployed while only 44.8 percent were disabled or retired, a considerable difference. This difference could possibly be accredited to the failing economy of the taconite-dependent Iron Range.

Table 39. Years of Education Completed by Respondents' Mothers

	1988	2001
	(%)	(%)
6-11	4.3	4.8
12	22.3	30.3
13-15	52.1	30.8
16-22	21.3	34.0

There was also an apparent difference in the educational attainment of mothers of the 2001 and 1988 respondents (Table 39). In 2001 30.3 percent of the mothers had completed 12 years of education, 30.8 percent had finished between 13 and 15 years of education, and 34.0 percent had 16 or more years of education. In 1988 only 22.3 percent

had completed 12 years of education, 52.1 percent had 13 to 15 years of education, and only 21.3 percent had 16 or more years of education. Though fewer mothers had completed 13 to 15 years of education in 2001, a greater percentage of mothers had completed 16 or more years of education. As with the differences found in the educational attainment of fathers, a greater number of parents in the 2001 survey have completed more years of education.

Table 40. Mother's Employment Outside of the Home

	1988	2001
	(%)	(%)
Full Time	54.7	68.6
Part Time	42.0	27.5
More Than One Job Equaling Full Time or More	3.3	3.9

The findings also revealed that, of the mothers of the 2001 respondents who were employed outside the home, more were likely to be employed full time and less likely to be employed part time than those of the 1988 respondents (68.6% versus 54.7% and 27.5% versus 42.0%, respectively). This difference is shown in Table 40.

Table 41. Mother's Job Status If Not Employed Outside the Home

	1988	2001
	(%)	(%)
Unemployed	14.8	20.0
Disabled / Retired	9.3	12.5
Homemaker	75.9	67.5

Similar to the fathers of the 2001 respondents, the mothers of the 2001 respondents also had a higher rate of unemployment than those of the 1988 respondents (Table 41). In 2001 20.0 percent of the mothers not employed outside the home were unemployed whereas only 14.8 percent of the 1988 mothers were unemployed. The percent of homemakers declined between 1988 and 2001 along with an increase in disabled / retired mothers.

Table 42. Respondents Belief about Economic Status of Their Community As Compared to Two Years Ago

	1988	2001
	(%)	(%)
Better Off Economically	29.2	16.6
Worse Off Economically	34.0	47.0
Same	36.8	36.4

Attitudes on the economic status of the Iron Range communities have changed over the years. In 1988, 29.2 percent of the respondents held the belief that the economic status of their community was better when compared to three years prior, whereas only 16.6 percent of the 2001 respondents felt the same about their community. It is not surprising then to find that more respondents in the 2001 survey felt that their community was worse off than the 1988 respondents. These results are depicted in Table 42.

Table 43. Respondent's Plans to Continue Living On The Iron Range After Completing Education

	1988	2001
	(%)	(%)
Yes	6.0	10.1
No	61.8	57.6
Undecided	32.3	32.3

Considering the economic hardships faced by the Iron Range in the past few years, it was surprising to the researchers to find that more students from the 2001 survey are planning to stay on the Iron Range after they are done with schooling than there were students in 1988. Table 43 shows that 10.1 percent of the 2001 respondents plan to return to the Iron Range. In comparison, only six percent of the 1988 respondents planned to return to the Iron Range after completing their education.

Table 44. Respondent's Plans for Education

	1988	2001
	(%)	(%)
High School Graduate Only	1.4	2.7
Votec Training After High School	15.2	9.8
College	72.4	81.6
Other	11.1	5.9

When asked about post-secondary education plans, it was discovered that 81.6 percent of the 2001 respondents plan to go on to college (Table 44). In 1988, only 72.4 percent reported wanting to go to college after high school. Fewer respondents in the 2001 survey planned on attending any sort of vocational training (15.2% in 1988 as compared to 9.8% in 2001). There was also a slight increase in the percentage of students planning to graduate from high school only. Only 1.4 percent of the 1988 respondents stated that they planned to stop their education after high school, in 2001, it was found that 2.7 percent of respondents planned to stop their education after high school.

Table 45. What Parent(s) Encourage Respondent To Do

	1988	2001
	(%)	(%)
What I Want	60.2	39.7
College	26.3	41.1
Other	5.4	13.7

There was noticeable difference in what respondents reported their parents encouraging them to do (Table 45). In 1988 upwards of 60 percent of the students stated that their parents encouraged them to do what they wanted to do. In 2001, it seems as though parents are more likely to encourage their children to go on to college. The percentage of parents in 2001 encouraging their children to do what they want has dropped to 39.7 percent whereas encouragement to go to college has increased almost 20 percent from 1988.

Table 46. Respondents Thinking of Starting A New Business On The Iron Range

	1988	2001
	(%)	(%)
Yes	19.0	8.3
No	78.7	91.7

In a time of independent prosperity it was interesting to see that fewer of the respondents (8.3%) in the 2001 survey were thinking of starting a new business on the Iron Range (Table 46). In 1988, 19 percent of the respondents were contemplating starting up their own business.

Table 47. Percent and Rank of Agreement/Disagreement With Statements About Selected Conditions

	1988	2001
	(%)	(%)

Percentage who agreed with:		
Most Jobs Require More Education Than Is Necessary To Do The Jobs Well	39.9	68.6
Percentage who disagreed with:		
Success Depends More On Luck Than On Real Ability	41.5	76.8
Supporting The Family Financially is Primarily The Husband's Job	53.8	65.1
The Economic System Is Working Well	45.8	29.8

Of the fifteen Agree/Disagree statements concerning selected conditions, four of the statements, as shown in Table 47, were found to have differences worth mentioning.

A greater percentage of respondents (68.6%) in the 2001 survey agreed with the statement "Most jobs require more education than is necessary to do the jobs well" than the 1988 respondents (39.9%). When asked if "success depends more on luck than on real ability", 76.8 percent of the 2001 survey respondents stated that they disagreed whereas only 41.5 percent of the 1988 participants disagreed with the statement.

A higher percentage of the 2001 participants disagreed with the statement "Supporting the family financially is primarily the husband's job". In 1988, 53.8 percent of the respondents disagreed with this statement, whereas in 2001, 65.1 percent of the respondents disagreed.

The statement, "The economic system is working well" was disagreed with by 45.8 percent of the 1988 respondents. Only 29.8 percent of the 2001 respondents disagreed with the statement.

Conclusion

The intent of this study was to measure the perceptions of Minnesota Iron Range youth regarding the social consequences that have resulted because of the changes in the

economy on the Iron Range. The economic downturn and the closing of mines prompted researchers at the University of Minnesota Duluth to look at three different aspects of social life on the Iron Range as reported by the area youth. These aspects included: 1) the social impact of Iron Range economic conditions, 2) the personal plans and aspirations of Iron Range youth, and 3) an assessment of social problems in Iron Range communities as judged by the youth. The findings from the study have been reported in a descriptive manner.

Researchers were also able to compare results from the 2001 survey with the results of the 1988 survey (see Tables 35 – 47). As found in the 1988 survey, many of the youth surveyed on the Iron Range in 2001 intend to leave the Iron Range. More students in 2001 plan to attend college after completing their high school education. As outmigration continues on the Iron Range, the information provided by this study should be of interest to community decision makers. It is hoped that survey results will be useful for decision makers on the Iron Range when they are planning responses to the changing economic and social realities on the Minnesota Iron Range.

Further analysis and interpretation of the data presented in this report will be done in response to requests from individuals and organizations. Requests should be directed to:

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Tables 1 through 34

Table 1. Gender of Respondent by School

	Hibbing		Mesabi East		Total	
	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)
Male	102	53.7	38	55.9	140	54.3
Female	88	46.3	30	44.1	118	45.7
Total	190	73.6	68	26.4	258	100

Table 2. Age of Respondent by School

	Hibbing		Mesabi East		Total	
	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)
15	3	1.6	0	0.0	3	1.2
16	42	22.1	14	20.6	56	21.7
17	95	50.0	40	58.8	135	52.3
18	44	23.2	14	20.6	58	22.5
19	5	2.6	0	0.0	5	1.9
20	1	0.5	0	0.0	1	0.4
Total	190	73.6	68	26.4	258	100

Table 3. Year in School of Respondent by School

	Hibbing		Mesabi East		Total	
	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)
Sophomore	2	1.1	0	0.0	2	0.8
Junior	62	32.6	21	30.9	83	32.2
Senior	126	66.3	47	69.1	173	67.1
Total	190	73.6	68	26.4	258	100

Table 4. Marital Status of Respondent's Parents by School

	Hibbing		Mesabi East		Total	
	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)
Married	134	71.3	42	61.8	176	68.8
Remarried	17	9.0	12	17.6	29	11.3
Divorced/Single	24	12.8	9	13.2	33	12.9
Widowed	2	1.1	3	4.4	5	2.0
Other	11	5.9	2	2.9	13	5.1
Total	188	73.4	68	26.6	256	100

Table 5. Number of People in Respondent's Household by School

	Hibbing		Mesabi East		Total	
	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)
1	1	0.5	0	0.0	1	0.4
2	10	5.3	7	10.3	17	6.7
3	44	23.5	14	20.6	58	22.7
4	74	39.6	28	41.2	102	40.0
5	39	20.9	11	16.2	50	19.6
6	10	5.3	4	5.9	14	5.5
7	4	2.1	4	5.9	8	3.1
8	4	2.1	0	0.0	4	1.6
9	1	0.5	0	0.0	1	0.4
Total	187	73.3	68	26.7	255	100

Table 6. Years of Education Completed by Respondents' Fathers by School

	Hibbing		Mesabi East		Total	
	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)
6	1	0.6	0	0.0	1	0.5
7	1	0.6	0	0.0	1	0.5
9	2	1.2	0	0.0	2	1.0
10	7	4.3	0	0.0	7	3.3
11	2	1.2	1	2.1	3	1.4
12	40	24.5	20	42.6	60	28.6
13	6	3.7	2	4.3	8	3.8
14	32	19.6	13	27.7	45	21.4
15	15	9.2	2	4.3	17	8.1
16	41	25.2	5	10.6	46	21.9
17	4	2.5	0	0.0	4	1.9
18	5	3.1	3	6.4	8	3.8
19	2	1.2	0	0.0	2	1.0
20	4	2.5	1	2.1	5	2.4
22	1	0.6	0	0.0	1	0.5
Total	163	77.6	47	22.4	210	100

Table 7. Occupation of Respondents' Fathers by School

	Hibbing		Mesabi East		Total	
	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)
Unemployed/Student /Retired/Homemaker	4	2.2	11	17.7	15	6.3
Blue Collar Service	92	51.7	31	50.0	123	51.3
Administrator/Manager/ Professional	63	35.4	10	16.1	73	30.4
Other White Collar	13	7.3	5	8.1	18	7.5
Other	6	3.4	5	8.1	11	4.6
Total	178	74.2	62	25.8	240	100

Table 8. Respondents' Fathers Employed Outside the Home by School

	Hibbing		Mesabi East		Total	
	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)
Yes	170	93.9	48	78.7	218	90.1
No	11	6.1	13	21.3	24	9.9
Total	181	74.8	61	25.2	242	100

Table 9. Fathers' Employment Outside of the Home by School

	Hibbing		Mesabi East		Total	
	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)
Full Time	151	92.6	43	91.5	194	92.4
Part Time	5	3.1	2	4.3	7	3.3
More Than One Job Equaling Full Time or More	7	4.3	2	4.3	9	4.3
Total	163	77.6	47	22.4	210	100

Table 10. Fathers' Job Status If Not Employed Outside the Home by School

	Hibbing		Mesabi East		Total	
	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)
Unemployed	3	33.3	13	65.0	16	55.2
Disabled	3	33.3	0	0.0	3	10.3
Retired	3	33.3	7	35.0	10	34.5
Total	9	31.0	20	69.0	29	100

Table 11. Years of Education Completed by Respondents' Mothers by School

	Hibbing		Mesabi East		Total	
	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)
4	0	0.0	1	2.1	1	0.5
8	1	0.6	0	0.0	1	0.5
9	0	0.0	1	2.1	1	0.5
10	3	1.8	0	0.0	3	1.4
11	2	1.2	2	4.3	4	1.9
12	46	28.0	18	38.3	64	30.3
13	14	8.5	5	10.6	19	9.0
14	29	17.7	10	21.3	39	18.5
15	5	3.0	2	4.3	7	3.3
16	47	28.7	7	14.9	54	25.6
17	6	3.7	0	0.0	6	2.8
18	5	3.0	1	2.1	6	2.8
19	1	0.6	0	0.0	1	0.5
20	3	1.8	0	0.0	3	1.4
21	2	1.2	0	0.0	2	0.9
Total	164	77.7	47	22.3	211	100

Table 12. Occupation of Respondents' Mothers by School

	Hibbing		Mesabi East		Total	
	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)
Unemployed/Student/ Retired/Homemaker	25	14.0	10	15.6	35	14.4
Blue Collar Service	60	33.5	23	35.9	83	34.2
Administrative/Manager/ Professional	71	39.7	16	25.0	87	35.8
Other White Collar	11	6.1	2	3.1	13	5.3
Other	12	6.7	13	20.3	25	10.3
Total	179	73.7	64	26.3	243	100

Table 13. Respondents' Mothers Employed Outside the Home by School

	Hibbing		Mesabi East		Total	
	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)
Yes	152	81.3	54	79.4	206	80.8
No	35	18.7	14	20.6	49	19.2
Total	187	73.3	68	26.7	255	100

Table 14. Mothers' Employment Outside of the Home by School

	Hibbing		Mesabi East		Total	
	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)
Full Time	110	72.4	32	58.2	142	68.6
Part Time	37	24.3	20	36.4	57	27.5
More Than One Job Equaling Full Time or More	5	3.3	3	5.5	8	3.9
Total	152	73.4	55	26.6	207	100

Table 15. Mothers' Job Status If Not Employed Outside the Home by School

	Hibbing		Mesabi East		Total	
	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)
Unemployed	4	13.3	4	40.0	8	20.0
Disabled	1	3.3	2	20.0	3	7.5
Retired	2	6.7	0	0.0	2	5.0
Homemaker	23	76.7	4	40.0	27	67.5
Total	30	75.0	10	25.0	40	100

Table 16. Total Annual Household Income of Respondent by School

	Hibbing		Mesabi East		Total	
	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)
Under \$14,999	4	2.9	4	9.8	8	4.5
\$15,000 to \$19,999	2	1.5	1	2.4	3	1.7
\$20,000 to \$29,999	14	10.3	4	9.8	18	10.2
\$30,000 to \$39,999	19	14.0	8	19.8	27	15.3
\$40,000 to \$49,999	19	14.0	11	26.8	30	16.9
\$50,000 to \$59,999	31	22.8	3	7.3	34	19.2
\$60,000 and Over	47	34.6	10	24.4	57	32.2
Total	136	76.8	41	23.2	177	100

Table 17. City or Town Respondent Resides In by School

	Hibbing		Mesabi East		Total	
	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)
Aurora	0	0.0	21	30.9	21	8.1
Biwabik	0	0.0	12	17.6	12	4.7
Hibbing	177	93.2	0	0.0	177	68.6
Hoyt Lakes	0	0.0	20	29.4	20	7.8
Other	13	6.8	15	22.1	28	10.9
Total	190	73.6	68	26.4	258	100

Table 18. Number of Years Respondent has Resided in Community by School

	Hibbing		Mesabi East		Total	
	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)
1	6	3.2	4	5.9	10	3.9
2	5	2.6	1	1.5	6	2.3
3	5	2.6	2	2.9	7	2.7
4	6	3.2	5	7.4	11	4.3
5	2	1.1	3	4.4	5	1.9
6	4	2.1	2	2.9	6	2.3
7	4	2.1	0	0.0	4	1.6
8	2	1.1	2	2.9	4	1.6
9	6	3.2	0	0.0	6	2.3
10	5	2.6	3	4.4	8	3.1
11	6	3.2	5	7.4	11	4.3
12	11	5.8	1	1.5	12	4.7
13	8	4.2	3	4.4	11	4.3
14	1	0.5	0	0.0	1	0.4
15	5	2.6	4	5.9	9	3.5
16	29	15.3	8	11.8	37	14.4
17	55	29.1	18	26.5	73	28.4
18	21	11.1	7	10.3	28	10.9
19	6	3.2	0	0.0	6	2.3
20	1	0.5	0	0.0	1	0.4
22	1	0.5	0	0.0	1	0.4
Total	189	73.5	68	26.5	257	100

Table 19. Number of Generations of Respondents Family That Have Resided on the Iron Range by School

	Hibbing		Mesabi East		Total	
	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)
0	8	4.7	1	1.8	9	3.9
1	24	14.0	8	14.0	32	14.0
2	35	20.3	16	28.1	51	22.3
3	62	36.0	23	40.4	85	37.1
4	29	16.9	5	8.8	34	14.8
5	11	6.4	2	3.5	13	5.7
6	1	0.6	0	0.0	1	0.4
7	1	0.6	0	0.0	1	0.4
8	0	0.0	1	1.8	1	0.4
9	1	0.6	0	0.0	1	0.4
10	0	0.0	1	1.8	1	0.4
Total	172	75.1	57	24.9	229	100

Table 20. Financial State of Respondents Household As Compared to Two Years Ago by School

	Hibbing		Mesabi East		Total	
	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)
Better Off Financially	75	40.1	10	14.9	85	33.5
Worse Off Financially	32	17.1	28	41.8	60	23.6
Same	80	42.8	29	43.3	109	42.9
Total	187	73.6	67	26.4	254	100

Table 21. Respondents Belief on Economic Status of Their Community As Compared to Two Years Ago by School

	Hibbing		Mesabi East		Total	
	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)
Better Off Economically	35	18.8	7	10.4	42	16.6
Worse Off Economically	82	44.1	37	55.2	119	47.0
Same	69	37.1	23	34.3	92	36.4
Total	186	73.5	67	26.5	253	100

Table 22. Most Important Social Problems According to Respondents

	First		Second		Third		Fourth	
	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)
Lack of Activities for Kids	24	13.7	13	9.2	14	14.3	2	2.8
Drinking/Drugs	20	11.4	23	16.3	11	11.2	11	15.5
Economic Problems/Job Loss	74	42.3	50	35.5	24	24.5	19	26.8
Race Relations	5	2.9	6	4.3	5	5.1	4	5.6
Crime/Vandalism	8	4.6	10	7.1	9	9.2	3	4.2
Encroachment by Outsiders	2	1.1	2	1.4	1	1.0	3	4.2
Other	42	24.0	37	26.2	34	34.7	29	40.8
Total	175	100	141	100	98	100	71	100

Table 23. Age At Which Respondent Plans to Marry by School

	Hibbing		Mesabi East		Total	
	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)
Under 20	4	2.1	1	1.5	5	2.0
20-24	76	40.6	32	47.1	108	42.4
25-29	85	45.5	27	39.7	112	43.9
30-34	10	5.3	4	5.9	14	5.5
35 or Over	1	0.5	0	0.0	1	0.4
Don't Plan to Marry	11	5.9	4	5.9	15	5.9
Total	187	73.3	68	26.7	255	100

Table 24. Number of Children Respondent Would Like to Have by School

	Hibbing		Mesabi East		Total	
	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)
0	23	12.5	4	6.1	27	10.8
1	14	7.6	2	3.0	16	6.4
2	95	51.6	41	62.1	136	54.4
3	41	22.3	14	21.2	55	22.0
4	7	3.8	3	4.5	10	4.0
5	3	1.6	1	1.5	4	1.6
6	0	0.0	1	1.5	1	0.4
8	1	0.5	0	0.0	1	0.4
Total	184	73.6	66	26.4	250	100

Table 25. Respondent's Plans for Education by School

	Hibbing		Mesabi East		Total	
	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)
High School Graduate Only	7	3.7	0	0.0	7	2.7
Votec Training After High School	12	6.4	13	19.1	25	9.8
College	159	85.0	49	72.1	208	81.6
Training in Military	7	3.7	4	5.9	11	4.3
Other	2	1.1	2	2.9	4	1.6
Total	187	73.3	68	26.7	255	100

Table 26. Respondent's Plans to Continue Living On The Iron Range After Completing Education by School

	Hibbing		Mesabi East		Total	
	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)
Yes	17	9.0	9	13.2	26	10.1
No	114	60.3	34	50.0	148	57.6
Undecided	58	30.7	25	36.8	83	32.3
Total	189	73.5	68	26.5	257	100

Table 27. Occupational Aspirations of Respondent by School

	Hibbing		Mesabi East		Total	
	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)
Science and Engineering (Including Medical Careers)	55	30.4	16	23.5	71	28.5
Education	13	7.2	8	11.8	21	8.4
Human Services	22	12.2	8	11.8	30	12.0
Fine Arts	18	9.9	4	5.9	22	8.8
Business	17	9.4	2	2.9	19	7.6
Mechanical/Trades	17	9.4	15	22.1	32	12.9
Military	4	2.2	0	0.0	4	1.6
Personal Services	9	5.0	4	5.9	13	5.2
Other	26	14.4	11	16.2	37	14.9
Total	181	72.7	68	27.3	249	100

Table 28. Respondent Discussed Career Goals With Parent(s) by School

	Hibbing		Mesabi East		Total	
	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)
Yes	163	86.2	60	88.2	223	86.8
No	26	13.8	8	11.8	34	13.2
Total	189	73.5	68	26.5	257	100

Table 29. What Parent(s) Encourage Respondent To Do by School

	Hibbing		Mesabi East		Total	
	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)
What I Want	63	39.6	24	40.0	87	39.7
College	65	40.9	25	41.7	90	41.1
Vocational/Technical/ Trade School	6	3.8	6	10.0	12	5.5
Military	4	2.5	2	3.3	6	2.7
Other	21	13.2	3	5.0	24	11.0
Total	159	72.6	60	27.4	219	100

Table 30. Level of Effect The Economics of The Iron Range Have Had In Respondent Receiving Education That is Needed For Future by School

	Hibbing		Mesabi East		Total	
	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)
No Effect	97	52.7	26	38.2	123	48.8
Some Effect	76	41.3	36	52.9	112	44.4
Much Effect	11	6.0	6	8.8	17	6.7
Total	184	73.0	68	27.0	252	100

Table 31. Businesses That Respondents Felt Are Needed On The Iron Range by School

	Hibbing		Mesabi East		Total	
	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)
Entertainment	15	14.6	3	6.7	18	12.2
Manufacturing	20	19.4	8	17.8	28	18.9
Retail	37	35.9	6	13.3	43	29.1
Tourism	3	2.9	2	4.4	5	3.4
Other	28	27.2	26	57.8	54	36.5
Total	103	69.6	45	30.4	148	100

Table 32. Respondent Thinking of Starting A New Business by School

	Hibbing		Mesabi East		Total	
	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)
Yes	17	9.1	4	5.9	21	8.3
No	169	90.9	64	94.1	233	91.7
Total	186	73.2	68	26.8	254	100

Table 33. Personal and Life Goals Of Respondent For The Next Ten Years by School

	Hibbing		Mesabi East		Total	
	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)
Materialism	30	17.4	6	9.4	36	15.3
Family/Career	128	74.4	57	89.1	185	78.4
Other	14	8.1	1	1.6	15	6.4
Total	172	72.9	64	27.1	236	100

Table 34. Percent and Rank of Agreement/Disagreement With Statements About Selected Conditions

<u>Statements, %, and Rank</u>	(%)	Agree	Disagree
Savings Spent On Education After High School Are Wisely Invested	71.2	1	
Most Jobs Require More Education Than Is Necessary To Do The Jobs Well	68.6	2	
Alcoholism Is A Serious Problem Affecting Families On The Iron Range	63.6	3	
The More Education A Person Has, The Better Able They Are To Enjoy Life	62.7	4	
The Future Looks Uncertain	52.4	5	
Most People Can Earn A Comfortable Living On The Iron Range In The Current Economy	48.1	6	
A Person Can Plan The Future So That Everything Will Come Out All Right In The Long Run	46.1	7	
Parents Expect Too Much Of Their Children	36.8	8	
Success Depends More On Luck Than On Real Ability	76.8		1
Supporting The Family Financially Is Primarily The Husband's Job	65.1		2
Mothers Should Not Work Outside The Home If They Have Very Young Children	53.9		3
The Government Ought To Guarantee A Living For Those Who Cannot Find Work	48.0		4
Most People Can Be Trusted	43.0		5
A Person Should Strike In Order To Secure Greater Returns For Labor	38.4		6
The Economic System Is Working Well	29.8		7