

## CHAPTER 20: EMOTIONAL SUPPORT AND LIFE SATISFACTION

### Emotional and Social Support in 2005

**Definition** Responding “Always” or “Usually” to the following question: “How often do you get the social and emotional support you need?” (The response options offered were “Always,” “Usually,” “Sometimes,” “Rarely,” and “Never.”)

**Prevalence** **WV:** 78.9% (95% CI: 77.3-80.5) in 2005.  
**US:** 77.9% (95% CI: 77.6-78.2) in 2005.  
 West Virginia ranked 28<sup>th</sup> highest among 53 BRFSS participants in 2005.

**Gender** **Men:** 80.0% (95% CI: 77.5-82.5) in 2005.  
**Women:** 77.9% (95% CI: 75.9-79.9) in 2005.  
 There was no significant difference in emotional and social support between men and women.

**Age, Education, Household Income** Adults with increasing levels of education and income were more likely to report receiving emotional and social support. This support was highest among the 25-34 age group (82.5%), and among those aged 65 and older (81.4%), but the differences by age were slight.

**Table 20.1 Emotional support by demographic characteristics: WVBRFSS, 2005**

Characteristic	Men			Women			Total		
	# Resp.	%	95% CI	# Resp.	%	95% CI	# Resp.	%	95% CI
<b>TOTAL</b>	1,313	<b>80.0</b>	77.5-82.5	2,146	<b>77.9</b>	75.9-79.9	3,459	<b>78.9</b>	77.3-80.5
<b>Age</b>									
18-24	67	<b>82.2</b>	72.4-92.0	99	<b>77.6</b>	68.9-86.2	166	<b>79.9</b>	73.4-86.5
25-34	176	<b>81.8</b>	75.8-87.7	276	<b>83.3</b>	78.8-87.8	452	<b>82.5</b>	78.8-86.3
35-44	222	<b>78.3</b>	72.3-84.3	346	<b>74.3</b>	69.2-79.3	568	<b>76.2</b>	72.3-80.1
45-54	277	<b>76.9</b>	71.6-82.1	450	<b>76.1</b>	72.0-80.3	727	<b>76.5</b>	73.2-79.8
55-64	267	<b>79.8</b>	74.8-84.8	364	<b>75.5</b>	70.7-80.3	631	<b>77.6</b>	74.1-81.1
65+	302	<b>82.7</b>	78.2-87.2	603	<b>80.5</b>	77.1-83.8	905	<b>81.4</b>	78.7-84.1
<b>Education</b>									
Less than H.S.	234	<b>69.4</b>	62.8-76.1	368	<b>67.9</b>	62.3-73.4	602	<b>68.7</b>	64.3-73.0
H.S. or G.E.D.	534	<b>79.8</b>	75.9-83.7	852	<b>77.1</b>	73.9-80.3	1,386	<b>78.4</b>	75.9-80.9
Some Post-H.S.	243	<b>84.1</b>	78.8-89.3	496	<b>78.2</b>	74.1-82.4	739	<b>80.6</b>	77.3-83.9
College Graduate	301	<b>86.2</b>	81.4-90.9	427	<b>87.6</b>	84.3-90.9	728	<b>86.9</b>	84.0-89.7
<b>Income</b>									
Less than \$15,000	157	<b>57.7</b>	48.6-66.9	424	<b>63.9</b>	58.7-69.0	581	<b>61.6</b>	56.9-66.3
\$15,000- 24,999	261	<b>75.3</b>	69.5-81.1	447	<b>70.2</b>	65.2-75.2	708	<b>72.6</b>	68.8-76.4
\$25,000- 34,999	205	<b>80.3</b>	74.2-86.3	251	<b>81.6</b>	76.5-86.6	456	<b>80.9</b>	76.8-84.9
\$35,000- 49,999	205	<b>79.5</b>	72.9-86.1	262	<b>80.7</b>	74.6-86.8	467	<b>80.1</b>	75.6-84.6
\$50,000- 74,999	208	<b>90.6</b>	86.7-94.5	260	<b>87.2</b>	83.1-91.3	468	<b>89.0</b>	86.1-91.8
\$75,000+	173	<b>91.7</b>	87.4-96.1	209	<b>90.2</b>	85.8-94.5	382	<b>91.0</b>	87.9-94.1

## General Life Satisfaction in 2005

**Definition** Responding “Very satisfied” or “Satisfied” to the following question: “In general, how satisfied are you with your life?” (The response options offered were “Very satisfied,” “Satisfied,” “Dissatisfied,” or “Very dissatisfied.”)

**Prevalence** **WV:** **91.8%** (95% CI: 90.7-92.9) in 2005.  
**US:** **94.4%** (95% CI: 94.2-94.5) in 2005.  
 West Virginia ranked lowest among 53 BRFSS participants in 2005.

**Gender** **Men:** 92.2% (95% CI: 90.5-93.9) in 2005.  
**Women:** 91.4% (95% CI: 90.1-92.8) in 2005.  
 There was no significant difference in this satisfaction factor between men and women.

**Age, Education, Household Income** Reports of general life satisfaction did not vary significantly among most age groups. Adults with four or more years of college education, however, were significantly more satisfied with life than any less-educated group. The greatest differences occurred by household income, particularly for men. The prevalence of being satisfied with life was 97.0% in the group with the highest household income, declined significantly to 89.4% among the \$15,000 - \$24,999 income group, and was the lowest (79.2%) among the lowest income group (less than \$15,000 annually).

**Table 20.2 Very satisfied or satisfied with life by demographic characteristics: WVBRFSS, 2005**

Characteristic	Men			Women			Total		
	# Resp.	%	95% CI	# Resp.	%	95% CI	# Resp.	%	95% CI
<b>TOTAL</b>	1,328	<b>92.2</b>	90.5-93.9	2,151	<b>91.4</b>	90.1-92.8	3,479	<b>91.8</b>	90.7-92.9
<b>Age</b>									
18-24	68	<b>88.7</b>	80.4-96.9	99	<b>91.8</b>	85.2-98.4	167	<b>90.2</b>	84.8-95.5
25-34	175	<b>93.5</b>	89.6-97.3	276	<b>95.4</b>	92.9-97.9	451	<b>94.4</b>	92.2-96.7
35-44	223	<b>93.8</b>	90.5-97.1	345	<b>91.6</b>	88.4-94.8	568	<b>92.7</b>	90.4-95.0
45-54	280	<b>90.1</b>	86.4-93.8	449	<b>88.2</b>	85.3-91.2	729	<b>89.2</b>	86.8-91.5
55-64	266	<b>93.2</b>	90.1-96.2	362	<b>88.9</b>	85.6-92.2	628	<b>91.0</b>	88.7-93.2
65+	314	<b>94.2</b>	91.6-96.8	612	<b>92.6</b>	90.2-95.0	926	<b>93.3</b>	91.5-95.1
<b>Education</b>									
Less than H.S.	241	<b>87.3</b>	82.4-92.2	372	<b>89.2</b>	85.6-92.7	613	<b>88.2</b>	85.2-91.2
H.S. or G.E.D.	542	<b>93.3</b>	90.7-95.9	853	<b>90.7</b>	88.5-92.8	1,395	<b>92.0</b>	90.3-93.6
Some Post-H.S.	243	<b>90.3</b>	85.7-94.9	497	<b>90.2</b>	86.9-93.6	740	<b>90.3</b>	87.5-93.0
College Graduate	301	<b>96.4</b>	94.2-98.7	426	<b>96.3</b>	94.6-98.1	727	<b>96.4</b>	95.0-97.8
<b>Income</b>									
Less than \$15,000	158	<b>75.2</b>	66.9-83.4	425	<b>81.6</b>	77.6-85.6	583	<b>79.2</b>	75.2-83.2
\$15,000- 24,999	261	<b>88.6</b>	84.4-92.9	451	<b>90.1</b>	87.3-92.9	712	<b>89.4</b>	86.9-91.9
\$25,000- 34,999	209	<b>94.9</b>	92.0-97.9	249	<b>93.4</b>	90.3-96.5	458	<b>94.2</b>	92.1-96.4
\$35,000- 49,999	206	<b>97.4</b>	95.4-99.4	262	<b>93.6</b>	89.0-98.3	468	<b>95.6</b>	93.1-98.1
\$50,000- 74,999	209	<b>95.8</b>	91.7-99.9	259	<b>96.3</b>	93.9-98.7	468	<b>96.0</b>	93.6-98.5
\$75,000+	172	<b>98.0</b>	96.0-100	207	<b>95.8</b>	91.0-100	379	<b>97.0</b>	94.5-99.5