

# **Blacksburg Electronic Village 1996 & 1999 Community Surveys Summary of Findings**

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This summary of findings was compiled by running frequencies and crosstabulations on BEV phone survey data, collected in 1996 and 1999.. There were 558 total survey respondents in 1996, and 409 in 1999. Filtering for students and Blacksburg residents, there were 156 respondents in 1996 and 320 in 1999. Unless noted otherwise, numbers are for non-student Blacksburg residents.

## **Communicating with Community Groups**

Generally speaking, there is an overall increase in the Internet communication among members of various community groups and organizations. There is a slight increase in frequent Internet communication between members of community groups from 1996 to 1999, and a slight decrease in “never” responses to this question. Most likely, this is due to an overall increase in the Internet’s popularity and availability over the three-year period. However, it is uncertain if this finding is due to an increase in the number of people who have access to the Internet from 1996 to 1999, or if more community groups have an active on-line presence in 1999 than in 1996.

## **Communicating with Church**

Running a frequency for 1996 church membership found that 50% of respondents reported being members of a church or place of worship. Of that 50%, a crosstabulation between church membership and communication with other church members found that 62.2% of respondents said they never communicate with other members of their church or place of worship; 20% said they rarely do so; 11.1% claimed to do so occasionally; and 4.4% say they seldom do. Only 2.2% said that they communicated frequently with other members of their place of worship.

In 1999, 36.2% of respondents reported being members of a church or place of worship. Of that 36.2%, 56.9% say they never communicate with members of their place of worship, 15% say they rarely do, 12.6% say they occasionally do, 10.8% say they frequently do, and 4.8% say they seldom do.

### **Communicating with School Groups and Civic Organizations**

In 1996, survey respondents were asked a single question about their membership in and communication with other members of school groups and civic organizations. In 1999, however, membership and communication patterns for these two kinds of community groups were separated into two questions. Also, Internet access was screened in both 1996 and 1999 before respondents were asked about their on-line communication.

- **1996**

37.2% of respondents in 1996 claimed to be a member of a civic organization like the YMCA, Lions Club, or PTA. Of that 37.2%, a crosstabulation between membership and communication with fellow members finds that 51.1% never communicated with other members of the civic organization to which they belonged. 22.2% communicated with other members occasionally, 13.3% did so rarely, and 6.7% of respondents seldom communicated with other group members, while 6.7% did so frequently.

- **1999**

26.5% of respondents in 1999 claimed to be a member of a civic organization. Of that 26.5%, 35.9% say they never communicate with other members using the Internet, 21.8% say they rarely do, 20.5% say they frequently do, 15.4% say they do so occasionally, and 6.4% sometimes use the Internet to communicate with other group members.

- **1999**

37.4% of respondents in 1999 reported being a member of the PTA or other school group. Of that 37.4%, 42.7% say they never communicated with other members of the PTA using the Internet, 21.8% said they occasionally did so, 13.6% said they rarely did so, 11.8% said they did frequently, and 10% said they seldom did so.

### **Communicating with Sports Teams**

36.5% of 1996 respondents claimed to be members of a local sports club. Of that 36.5%, 64.3% said they never used the Internet to communicate with other club members, 11.9% said they did so occasionally, 9.5% said they seldom did so, 7.1% said they did so frequently, and 7.1% said they rarely used the Internet to communicate with other club members.

In 1999, 42.9% of respondents said that they were members of a local sports club. Of that 42.9%, 41.1% said that they never communicated with fellow club members, 17.9% said that they frequently did, 16.1% said they rarely did, 13.4% said that they did so occasionally, and 11.6% said that they seldom used the Internet to communicate with fellow club members.

### **Communicating with Teachers**

In 1999, survey respondents were asked if they had children in school, and whether or not they emailed teachers or read school webpages. There is a sharp rise from 9% in 1996 to 37% in 1999 reporting they send email to their child's teacher. The percentage of respondents reporting they frequently or sometimes use the Internet to get information from local schools also rose from 14% in 1996 to 26% in 1999.