

**DMACC  
Questionnaire**

**April 2003**

**ASK TO SPEAK TO THE PERSON ON THE LIST. IF THE PERSON DOES NOT LIVE AT THE ADDRESS, ASK FOR A REFERRING PHONE NUMBER AND CALL THAT NUMBER.**

**INTRODUCTION/CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT**

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I work for an Iowa based research firm. Today we are conducting research on behalf of Des Moines Area Community College with students who have left high school within the past five years. All the questions we ask you will be confidential and no individual responses will be reported. The responses will only be reported as a group. The results of this survey will help schools and students be better prepared to meet the challenges they face.

If any question makes you feel uncomfortable or you would prefer not to answer, you may ask to skip it. If you don't understand the question or do not know how to answer, that is OK and we'll skip to the next question.

You may also stop the survey at any time.

1 First, I'd like to talk to you about your high school experience. Did you feel your high school's expectations for you were

- 1 Too high
- 2 Adequate
- 3 Too low
- 8 Skip
- 9 DK/NA

2 While in high school, was your reading ability

- 1 Very satisfactory
- 2 Satisfactory
- 3 Unsatisfactory
- 4 Very unsatisfactory
- 8 Skip
- 9 DK/NA

3-9 Now I'd like to read you a series of statements that may or may not describe your high school experience. Using a scale of 1 to 5 where "5" is strongly agree, "4" is agree, "3" is neutral, "2" is disagree and "1" is strongly disagree, how do you rate each of the following? (**READ AND RANDOMIZE Q.3-9**)

- 3 High school activities helped me feel that I belonged in school
- 4 Counselors and teachers helped me feel that I belonged in school
- 5 Teachers taught me in a way that was easy for me to learn
- 6 My high school courses were relevant to me
- 7 I needed more individual help to learn
- 8 I felt I fit in at high school.
- 9 Vocational or technical classes were more relevant than other classes

10 How often did you participate in school activities, such as student dances, school sports, or music groups?

- 1 Very often
- 2 Fairly often
- 3 Sometimes
- 4 Almost never
- 5 Never
- 8 Skip
- 9 DK/NA

11 How often did you skip classes while in high school?

- 1 Very often
- 2 Fairly often
- 3 Sometimes
- 4 Almost never
- 5 Never
- 8 Skip
- 9 DK/NA

12 How many times did you use alcohol or drugs while in high school?

- 1 Never
- 2 1-2 times per week
- 3 3-4 times per week
- 4 5-6 times per week
- 5 7 or more times per week
- 6 Other \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 Skip
- 9 DK/NA

13 Was being pregnant, or getting someone pregnant, a reason for you not completing high school?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 8 Skip
- 9 DK/NA

14 Were you ever referred to Juvenile Court Services for delinquent behavior?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 8 Skip
- 9 DK/NA

15 How many different high schools did you attend?

- 1 1 school
- 2 2-3 schools
- 3 4-5 schools
- 4 6 or more schools
- 8 Skip
- 9 DK/NA

16 What was the **primary** reason you dropped out of high school? **PROBE FOR THE ONE PRIMARY REASON**

17 What could have caused you to stay in school? **PROBE**

Current and Future

Now I'd like to ask you some questions about your current employment and living circumstances and future plans.

18 Are you currently working towards a GED or alternative high school diploma?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Already completed one – If so, at what age did you complete it? \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 Skip
- 9 DK/NA

19 Are you currently employed?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No **SKIP TO Q.21**
- 8 Skip
- 9 DK/NA

20 Are you working?

- 1 Full-time, 30 hours or more **SKIP TO Q.22**
- 2 Part-time, less than 30 hours **SKIP TO Q.22**
- 8 Skip
- 9 DK/NA

21 If you are not working now, what do you do?

- 1 Seeking employment
- 2 Homemaker
- 3 Student
- 4 Other \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 Skip
- 9 DK/NA

22 Which of the following best describe your current job or your most recent job?

- 1 Manager/Administrative
- 2 Professional/Technical
- 3 Sales/Marketing
- 4 Clerical/Administrative Support
- 5 Service Worker
- 6 Crafts Worker/Installer/Repairer
- 7 Operator/Assembler
- 8 Laborer
- 9 Other \_\_\_\_\_
- 88 Skip
- 99 DK/NA

23 What is your most recent hourly income?

- 1 Less than \$6
- 2 \$6 - \$6.99
- 3 \$7 - \$7.99
- 4 \$8 - \$8.99
- 5 \$9 - \$9.99
- 6 \$10 - \$10.99
- 7 \$11 - \$11.99
- 8 \$12 +

88 Skip  
99 DK/NA

24 How satisfied were you with your most recent job?

- 1 Very satisfied
- 2 Satisfied
- 3 Dissatisfied
- 4 Very Dissatisfied

8 Skip  
9 DK/NA

25 How many jobs have you held in the past 2 years?

- 1 None
- 2 1-2 jobs
- 3 3-4 jobs
- 4 5 or more jobs

8 Skip  
9 DK/NA

26 What types of jobs have you held in the past 2 years?

- 1 Manager/Administrative
- 2 Professional/Technical
- 3 Sales/Marketing
- 4 Clerical/Administrative Support
- 5 Service Worker
- 6 Crafts Worker/Installer/Repairer
- 7 Operator/Assembler
- 8 Laborer
- 9 Other \_\_\_\_\_

88 Skip  
99 DK/NA

- 27 What type of job would you like to do?
- 28 What steps will you have to take to get there?
- 29 Are you receiving public assistance?  
1 Yes  
2 No  
8 Skip  
9 DK/NA
- 30 Do you have plans for attending college?  
1 Yes  
2 No  
3 Have completed some college  
8 Skip  
9 DK/NA
- 31 Are you on parole or probation for any criminal activity?  
1 Yes  
2 No  
8 Skip  
9 DK/NA
- 32 What is your marital status?  
1 Married  
2 Divorced  
3 Separated  
4 Widowed  
5 Never married  
8 Skip  
9 DK/NA
- 33 Do you have any children?  
1 Yes  
2 No  
3 Unknown  
8 Skip  
9 DK/NA

## Background and Demographics

Now I'd like to ask you a few questions about your family.

34 What is the highest level of education your mother received?

- 1 Grade school/middle school
- 2 High school
- 3 Some college
- 4 2-year college degree
- 5 4-year college degree
- 6 Graduate school
- 7 Other \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 Skip
- 9 DK/NA

35 What is the highest level of education your father received?

- 1 Grade school/middle school
- 2 High school
- 3 Some college
- 4 2-year college degree
- 5 4-year college degree
- 6 Graduate school
- 7 Other \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 Skip
- 9 DK/NA

36 How many of your siblings, if any, dropped out of high school?

- 1 None
- 2 1-2
- 3 3-4
- 4 5 or more
- 5 No brothers or sisters
- 8 Skip
- 9 DK/NA

37 Did your family expect you to graduate from high school?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Unknown
- 8 Skip
- 9 DK/NA

- 38 Did anyone in your household, not counting yourself, have a substance abuse or mental health problem at the time you dropped out?
- 1 Yes
  - 2 No
  - 3 Unknown
  - 8 Skip
  - 9 DK/NA
- 39 How often did your parents/guardians attend school conferences/activities?
- 1 Very often
  - 2 Fairly often
  - 3 Sometimes
  - 4 Almost never
  - 5 Never
  - 8 Skip
  - 9 DK/NA
- 40 Were you ever held back a year while you were in school?
- 1 Yes
  - 2 No
  - 8 Skip
  - 9 DK/NA
- 41 What year did you drop out of high school?
- 1 Freshman
  - 2 Sophomore
  - 3 Junior
  - 4 Senior
  - 8 Skip
  - 9 DK/NA
- 42 What is your gender?
- 1 Male
  - 2 Female
- 43 How old are you? \_\_ \_\_



44 How would you classify your race/ethnic group?

1 African American

2 Asian

3 Bi-racial

4 Caucasian/White

5 Hispanic

6 Native American

7 Pacific Islander

8 Other \_\_\_\_\_

88 Skip

99 DK/NA

45 Is English your primary language?

1 Yes

2 No

8 Skip

9 DK/NA

46 How would you classify your family income at the time you left high school?

1 Less than \$20,000 per year

2 Between \$20,000 and \$50,000 per year

3 More than \$50,000 a year

8 Skip

9 DK/NA

**CLOSING**