

QUALITY OF LIFE

Quality of life is a person's perception of the environment and context in which they live, work, and play. For example, how satisfied they are with their neighborhood as a place to live. Residents were asked about their satisfaction with eight specific measures. The results show that they are at least moderately satisfied with each measure.



Residents were **most satisfied with Mesa County as a place to visit and have fun,** and with both their neighborhood and Mesa County as a place to live.

They were least satisfied with Mesa County as a place to work, raise children, and retire. Overall, on a scale of 0 to 4, where 0 is dissatisfied and 4 is strongly satisfied, they rated the overall quality of life a 2.5, between moderately satisfied and satisfied.

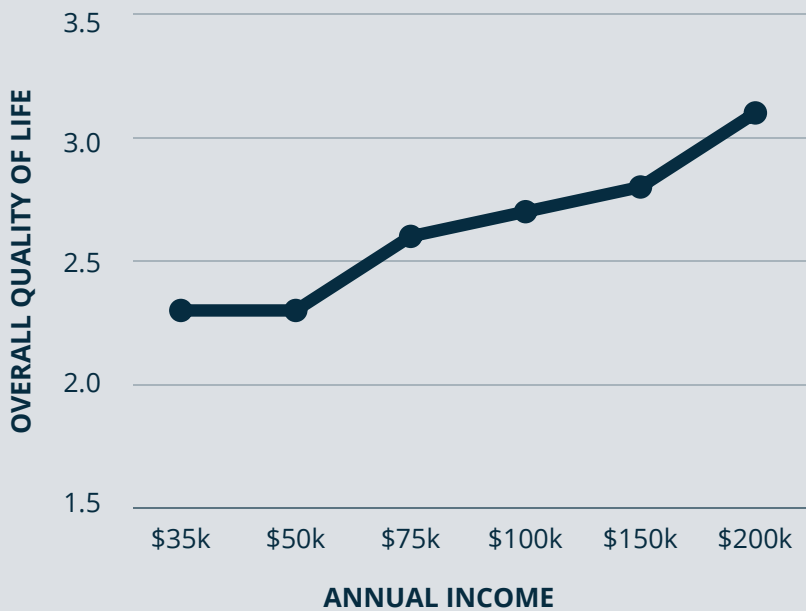
Satisfaction with the quality of life in Mesa County was most strongly impacted by income level. While the satisfaction with Mesa County as a place to visit, work, and retire did not change significantly with income, a higher income was correlated with a higher satisfaction with residents' neighborhood and the county as a place to live, the overall quality of life, and Mesa County as a place to have fun and raise children.

“I think the biggest priority for this county is affordable living. There are so many lower wage jobs that people can't even afford housing (rentals or homes). I'm not talking about minimum wage jobs, I'm talking about relatively professional jobs that pay quite low compared to the skills and experience required for the job.”



Female, 40-49 Years Old

SATISFACTON WITH QUALITY OF LIFE BY INCOME



To increase satisfaction with Mesa County as a place to raise children, **work to address (and increase messaging around) child care inadequacy identified in community conditions**, and support efforts to improve K-12 education, a universally held priority for Mesa County residents.

To increase satisfaction with Mesa County as a place to work, incorporate actions that account for the **community's prioritization of both local business growth and growing diverse employment opportunities**.

Investigate the potential relationship between **quality of life measures and household income**, particularly for the two groups with household incomes less than \$35k and between \$35k and \$50k.



Notably, the overall satisfaction level of the \$35k-\$50k income group was the same as the less than \$35k group. **This may be an indicator of the success of assistance and support programs in having a measurable impact on the quality of life for those making less than \$35k.** Without those social supports, the satisfaction responses from this group would likely be lower. Similar trends were observed in the Community Conditions and Social Capital sections (see pages 21 and 27).

Other factors that impacted response included age. **Older residents were more satisfied with quality of life in Mesa County than their younger counterparts, but this is in part explained by the fact that generally, income increases as age increases.**

People who are newer to the community (less than 10 years) were slightly more satisfied than people who have lived here longer. This was especially true of the newer retirement-age community's satisfaction with Mesa County as a place to retire. **This group tended to be more satisfied than their counterparts who had been here longer.**

