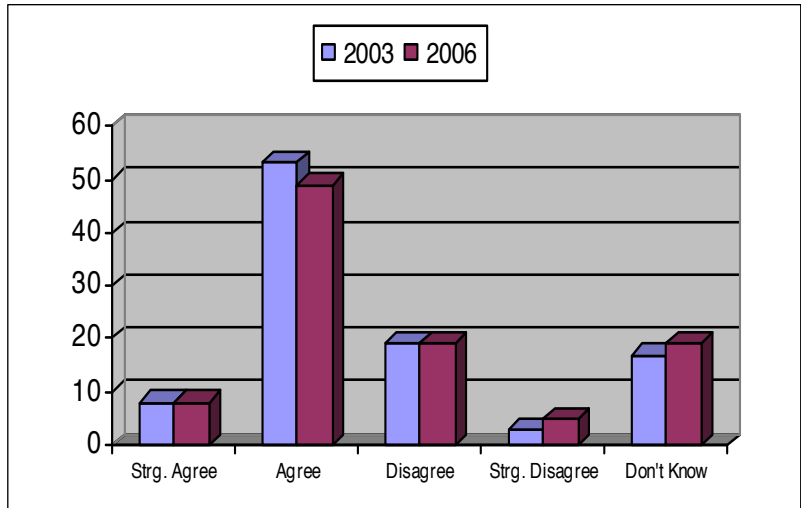


**Diversity
in
Wood
County**



Key Facts

The 2006 *LIFE Community Survey* results indicate:

- Those working full-time and those unemployed are less likely to believe that cultural diversity enhances the quality of life.
- This year's *Survey* shows a 4% decrease among residents who "agree" and "somewhat agree" that diversity enhances quality of life.

Why is this Information Important?

When diversity is viewed positively, relationships are fostered and the quality of life improves.

Impact of Cultural Diversity

In the early part of the 20th Century, 88 percent of Americans were Caucasian. The 2000 U.S. Census results indicated that the number dropped to 69 percent.

While Wood County's racial population mix has not changed at the same rate as the entire nation, changes have impacted the county in the last decade. Because immigrants are more likely to live in poverty, have higher unemployment rates, and earn lower incomes than native-born people, a community initially feels negative economic and social impacts from their influx. As a result, relationships between immigrants and long-time residents can be stressed. However, with increased understanding and awareness, racial and ethnic relations can be improved over time and diversity can be recognized as an asset.

Many public forums and functions, which are open to all residents, promote diversity. It is important that all groups in a diverse society be heard when important decisions are being made in the community.

Source: 2006 Wood County LIFE Community Survey