Survey Panel Results

The Wellbeing Partners

July 2020

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Background

Each month, The Public Good Projects conducts rapid polling to understand community attitudes toward certain health topics. Data from panel surveys is intended to provide quick information that can be easily applied to programs. Panels are conducted through the Qualtrics survey platform, advertisements on social media, and distribution of an anonymous link. All survey data are reported anonymously. Analysis of the survey results were conducted using IBM SPSS Statistics software.

For July 2020, the survey examined community needs related to COVID-19, and barriers to testing. Respondents were required to be currently living in Nebraska or Iowa, and surveys were targeted toward those living in the Omaha/ Council Bluffs metropolitan area.

Demographics

A total of 440 participants participated in a survey. Survey participants were mostly white and female. The age breakdown was fairly consistent, with the largest portion of respondents between ages 26-45. Most respondents were from Douglas County (52%), followed by Sarpy County (15%). 15% of respondents preferred to not say their county, or reported currently living in another county.*

Demographic		%
Female		66.8%
Male		33.0%
Age Groups	18-25	16.6%
	26-35	20.7%
	36-45	22.5%
	46-55	15.7%
	56-65	14.5%
	66+	10.0%
Hispanic		8.2%
White		84.5%
African American		10.2%
Asian		2.5%
American Indian/Alaska Native		1.8%
Other		1.1%

Demographic	%
Cass County	2.3%
Douglas County	52.0%
Harrison County	1.1%
Mills County	1.8%
Pottawattamie County	8.9%
Sarpy County	14.5%
Saunders County	1.1%
Washington County	3.2%
Other County/ Prefer to not say	15.0%
Employed Full Time	45.5%
Employed Part Time	13.2%
Student	6.1%
Retired	13.2%
Unemployed	20.7%

Participants may have reported living in a county outside of the target intervention counties if they moved since joining the panel or are currently not living in the same county. All participants were required to live in either Nebraska or Iowa.

Income and Food Security

Over 40% of the sample reported earning a total household income of less than $40,000.

Almost 35% of the overall sample reported "sometimes" or "often" worrying about running out of food in the past month. Among those making less than $40,000, the number "sometimes" or "often" worried jumped to 48%.

Worried about running out of food, past 3 mos

Sometimes 26.4%

Never 44.5%

Rarely 20.2%

Often 8.9%
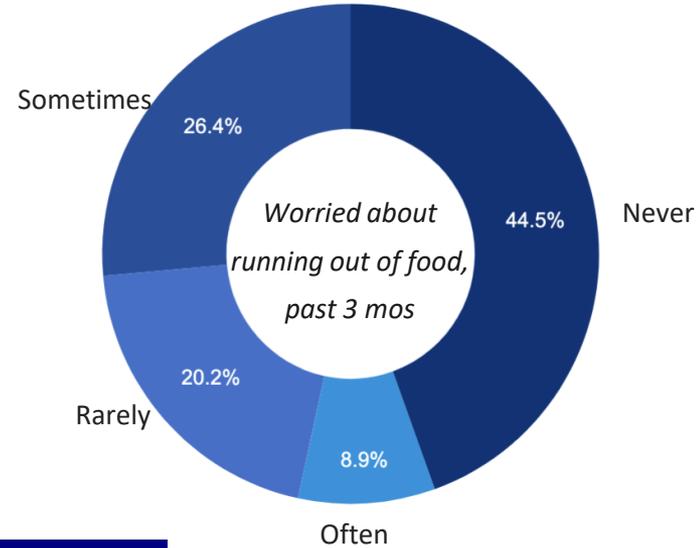
Total Household Income	
Less than $29,999	25.2%
$30,000 to $39,999	15.5%
$40,000 to $49,999	12.7%
$50,000 to $59,999	9.3%
$60,000 to $69,999	7.0%
$70,000+	30.2%

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Food Security and Programs

Respondents were asked to choose all the services or programs they've used in the past few months. 1 in 5 respondents reported using food stamps/ SNAP in the past few months, followed by 17% who reported using food banks.

When asked services that people thought the community needed information on, food banks topped the list at 56%, followed by food stamps/SNAP at 37%, the National Hunger Hotline at 33% - the latter of which only .5% of respondents reported using.

*Other: Mental health assistance, school summer nutrition program, SSDI
**Other: Educational help, Healthcare programs, Children's fitness, Mental health services, Rent assistance

Services or programs used during the past few months

Program	%
FOOD STAMPS	19.1%
FOOD BANKS	16.8%
WIC	3.4%
NAT'L HUNGER HOTLINE	.5%
OTHER*	5.5%
NONE	64.8%

Services or programs community needs more information on

Program	%
FOOD STAMPS	37.3%
FOOD BANKS	55.5%
WIC	26.4%
NAT'L HUNGER HOTLINE	32.7%
OTHER**	1.8%
NONE	24.1%

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COVID-19 Testing

When asked how difficult it would be to get COVID-19 testing, 32% believed that it would be difficult to get tested, and 15% were unsure.

When asked their biggest barriers to testing, most are unsure where to go (39%), are worried about the cost of testing (27%), or fear that the test will hurt (21%). Other barriers included challenges around scheduling and lack of availability of time slots, fear of being exposed to COVID-19 during testing, confusion around testing eligibility, and long waits to get tested.

Biggest Challenge	
Unsure where to go	38.9%
Cost of testing	26.6%
Fear of test hurting	21.4%
Transportation	13.2%
No access to smartphone/computer	2.7%
No internet access	2.3%
Language barriers	2.0%
Other*	5.2%
No barriers	30.5%

Very Difficult
Don't Know
Somewhat Easy
7.5%
15.0%
36.6%
Difficulty getting COVID-19 testing
17.0%
Very Easy
23.9%
Somewhat Difficult

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