Survey Panel Results

The Wellbeing Partners

September 2020

PGP | THE PUBLIC GOOD PROJECTS

Background

Each month, The Public Good Projects conducts rapid polling to understand community attitudes toward certain health topics. Data from panel surveys are intended to provide quick information that can be easily applied to programs. All survey data are reported anonymously. Analysis of the survey results was conducted using R Studio and IBM SPSS Statistics software. Results will focus on the overall sample, with the percentages from sub-analyses reported when notable.

For September 2020, the survey evaluated changes in employment environments, school and learning environments, and levels of self-reported loneliness. Respondents were required to be currently living in Nebraska or Iowa, and surveys were targeted toward those living in the specific counties identified by TWP in the Omaha/ Council Bluffs metropolitan area.

Demographics

There were a total of 142 responses from selected counties. It should be noted that a majority of respondents were from Douglas County (58.5%), with an increase in presence from Sarpy County (26.1%) during this survey, compared to the last panel survey. A majority of respondents were white, female, and between the ages of 25-45 years old.

Demographic	
Cass County	0.7%
Douglas County	58.5%
Pottawattamie County	14.8%
Sarpy County	26.1%
Hispanic	14.8%
White	88.0%
Black/ African American	4.9%
Asian	1.4%
American Indian/Alaska Native	2.1%
Hawaiian Native/ Other Pacific Islander	0.0%

Demographic		
Female		71.8%
Male		27.5%
Prefer to not say		0.7%
Age Groups (in years)	18-24	9.9%
	25-34	31.7%
	35-44	37.3%
	45-54	9.9%
	55+	11.3%

Unemployment

9.2%

Of respondents are currently

Unemployed

38.5%

Of respondents who are unemployed

Are unemployed due to COVID-19

Among the respondents that are unemployed, resources that would be beneficial
to help them through these difficult financial times included:

- Rental Assistance
- Federal Aid (such as stimulus money),
- Daily Job Postings
- Supplemental Income.

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Employed

74.6%

Of respondents are currently employed

Full Time

9.2%

Of respondents are currently employed

Part Time

Of those currently employed, 82.2% have adjusted their workplace due to COVID-19.
- ➔ 39.0% are now working remotely
- ➔ 43.2% have had to adjust their original workspace or implement new protocols

Of the 14.4% who have not made workplace adjustments, the most common occupations included: healthcare, construction, and manufacturing.

Top 3 Industries	%
Health Care and Social Assistance	23.7%
Finance and Insurance	10.2%
Government and Public Administration	7.6%

Top 3 Roles	%
Support Staff	19.3%
Middle Management	17.6%
Trained Professional	16.8%

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Employment during COVID-19

118 respondents who are employed full or part time answered questions about their current work environment.

Top concerns for respondents included exposure to COVID-19 (33.1%) and maintaining a healthy work life balance (16.1%).

In a separate sub analysis by different workplace adjustments:

➔ Of those who are working remotely: 34.0% worry about maintaining work life balance

➔ Of those who adjusted their work environments: 53.8% worry about exposure to COVID-19

Worries about current work environment	%*
Exposure to COVID-19 *"Contracting COVID, spreading it to family."*	33.1%
Struggles with working from home and lack of boundaries between work and home *"Ergonomically inadequate, bad chair and desk," "It's boring always being home"*	16.1%
Lack of COVID-19 safety precautions *"Exposure to many germs daily. Not everyone correctly wearing mask."*	11.0%
Negative impacts on social and mental health *"Not getting enough interaction with staff"* *"It's difficult"*	11.0%
No worries	28.0%

* responses to all open ended questions could be categorized in multiple categories, therefore the percentages will not always equal 100%

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Employment during COVID-19

Respondents overall were more inclined to say there are no benefits to their current working environments (32.2%). However, those that did find benefits in their current work place, 24.6% felt that their environments provided more time and work-life balance.

In a separate sub analysis by different of workplace adjustments:

➔ Of those working remotely: 21.3% like the flexibility of working from home
➔ Of those with adjusted work environments: 21.2% felts their work life balance was most beneficial

Benefits of current working environment	%
Having more time and a better work-life balance *"No commute means more sleep, more time with family. No need to get dressed up or do makeup."*	24.6%
Flexibility *"I like the fact that I can work from home and at the office"*	22.0%
Better productivity *"Fewer interruptions throughout the day"*	14.4%
Feeling safe *"I love working remotely. I have no exposure to others. Absolute risk mitigation. No pressure to go to our office. Zoom meetings. Very safe."*	13.6%
No benefits	32.2%

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Employment during COVID-19

While most respondents felt they did not need additional support, some felt more appropriate tools (conferencing software, PPE, etc) are needed most to help acclimate to their new work environments (21.1%).

In a separate sub analysis by different of workplace adjustments:

➜ Of those who are working remotely: 17.0% need a lighter work load and more flexibility when completing assignments
➜ Of those who adjusted their work environment: 15.4% needed more safety precautions

Additional support needed to improve current work environment	%
Work supplies *"Better video conferencing tools"*	21.2%
More safety precautions *"Stricter rules on appropriate mask wear"*	17.8%
More flexibility or a lighter workload *"A lighter patient schedule to accommodate the additional protocols, especially when employees take necessary time off."*	11.0%
More compensation *"More money"*	8.5%
No support needed	36.4%

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Education during COVID-19

52.8%

Of respondents

Have children under 18yrs

Of the children that are currently attending school:

➔ 48.6% are taking classes in person

➔ 21.6% are taking classes online through distance learning

➔ 16.2% are doing a combination of in person classes and distance learning

➔ 9.5% are being homeschooled, either by a parent or professional

➔ 4% are taking courses other ways

Academic Levels*

4% Not in School

41.3% ChildCare/Pre- Kindergarten

18.7% Kindergarten

32.0% 1st- 4th Grade

17.3% 5th-6th Grade

21.3% 7th-8th Grade

18.7% High School

*percentage does not equal 100% as respondents are asked to "select all that apply"

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Education during COVID-19

Overall, 76 parents or guardians answered questions on their children's current educational environment.

Most parents or guardians worried most about their child's exposure to COVID-19 (23.7%) or that they are falling behind in education (19.7%).

In a separate sub analysis by different educational environments:

➔ Of those whose children are learning from home (including distance learning, homeschool or combo of online and in-person): 36.1% worry their children are falling behind.
➔ Of those whose children are learning in-person only: 40.5% worry about their children being exposed to COVID-19.

Worries about current learning environment	%
Exposure to COVID-19 *"I am concerned with them going back in person 100% in fear of getting sick. Since many parents send sick kids to school normally."*	23.7%
Falling behind in education *"I fear they are getting behind on their assignments and not getting enough education on the days they are virtual. I also feel they are getting too much screen time and not enough social interaction."*	19.7%
Unsafe or ineffective learning environment *"since they are in person, I will feel very guilty is either of my children get really sick", "Space, our house isn't set up to have space for schooling"*	18.4%
Lack of socializing *"Kids need to hang out with friends"*	14.5%
No worries	27.6%

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Education during COVID-19

Overall, most parents or guardians felt that socialization of their children with classmates, friends or family was a benefit of their current learning environment (26.3%).

It should be noted that some of these themes, such as socialization and safety of learning environment show up in both worries and benefits, indicating individual perspective is important when understanding how families are adjusting to changes caused by COVID-19.

In a separate sub analysis by different educational environments:

➔ Of those whose children are learning from home: 44.4% feel a safer environment was beneficial
➔ Of those whose children are learning in person: 48.6% felt socialization was beneficial

Benefits of current learning environment	%
Social benefits *"Interacting with other kids her age."*	26.3%
Safer environment *"He is safe at home with me. He doesn't have to wear a mask."*	23.7%
In person education *"Daily in person learning with his pre-school teacher. It's scary but a 4 year old doesn't have the attention span to do virtual learning"*	21.1%
Flexibility/autonomy with learning *"He is thriving in remote - less anxiety, more autonomy, yet we are closely connected."*	10.5%
Nothing	9.2%

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Education during COVID-19

Most respondents stated that additional support they needed were resources from or for their schools (27.6%), or resources to help with distance learning (21.1%).

In a separate sub analysis by different educational environments:

➤ Of those whose children are learning from home: 44.4% feel they need more resources from or for their schools

➤ Of those whose children are learning in person: 59.5% felt they needed no additional support

Additional support for current learning environment	%
Additional resources for and from schools *"School needs better technology", "Continued communication with teachers and flexibility with assignments."*	27.6%
Resources to help with distance learning *"At home ideas for promoting educational development, small group options outside of the home."*	21.1%
Leadership from state/national authorities *"A strong national and state leader putting forth scientific guidelines for schools."*	6.6%
Confirmation that children are not falling behind *"Someway to confirm they are learning everything they need to be"*	2.6%
No support needed	46.1%

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Loneliness

80.1%
have someone to talk to about their mental health

59.1%
have met in person with someone in the last day

25.4%
have met with someone less than a week ago

In the past 6 months, how often...	%*
Do you feel you lack company or friendship	59.9%
Do you feel left out	51.4%
Have you felt isolated from others	65.5%

*Always/ Sometimes

While respondents seem to have individuals they feel they can turn to when they want to talk about their mental health, there are still high rates of self reported loneliness in the past 6 months.

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Loneliness

Among ways people say they are coping with loneliness, a majority use electronic communications, such as phone calls, texts, social media, etc., to connect with loved ones. COVID-19 may be influencing coping strategies and perhaps explains why more people have been reaching out to loved ones electronically, rather than in person.

What coping mechanisms do you use when you feel lonely	%
Connect with friends and family (via electronics) *"Video chatting more with friends and family", "I livestream on Twitch.tv and interact with friends via Discord", "Facebook, texting, by phone or email"*	65.6%
Connect with friends and family (in person) *"Spending time with my children to take my mind off feelings of isolation", "I have video chats or safe distance drinks sometimes."*	13.0%
Exercising *"New activities like outdoor fitness" ,"Sport", "Praying and exercising"*	11.5%
Being Outdoors *"phone calls, exercise together ie bike, walk; just being outside and seeing other people around", "I find a nice walk in the woods to be calming amd euphoric as well."*	8.4%
No coping mechanism	19.1%

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Thank you