

Survey Panel Results

The Wellbeing Partners

May 2021

Background

Each month, The Public Good Projects (PGP) conducts rapid polling to understand community attitudes toward certain health topics. For May 2021, survey questions were intended to evaluate stigma towards those experiencing both homelessness and mental health conditions. Eligibility to participate in the survey included currently living in Nebraska or Iowa, specifically from one of the four counties identified by TWP in the Omaha/ Council Bluffs metropolitan area. Participants were recruited through both PGP's internal panel participants, and distribution of the survey link to community members. Data from panel surveys are intended to provide quick information that can be easily applied to programs, and are not intended to serve as a representative sample of the area.

Demographics

The survey concluded with a total of 230 respondents, with the majority being from Douglas County (59.3%). Just over half of respondents were female (55.7%), and most identified as White/ Caucasian (84.8%).

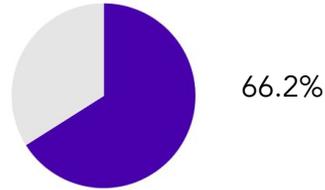
Meanwhile, the ages of respondents were fairly evenly dispersed, with approximately 28% of respondents aged 35-44 or 25-34, 21.3% of respondents aged 55+, and around 11% aged 18-24 or 45-54.

Demographic	
Douglas County	59.3%
Sarpy County	22.5%
Pottawattamie County	15.2%
Cass County	2.6%
White/ Caucasian	84.8%
Hispanic/ Latinx	9.1%
Black/ African American	8.3%
American Indian/Alaska Native	3.9%
Asian	3.0%
Hawaiian Native/ Other Pacific Islander	0.0%
Other Race	0.9%

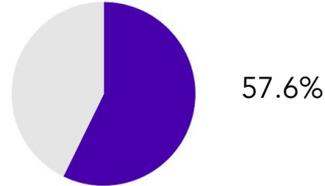
Demographic		
Female		55.7%
Male		42.2%
Non-Binary/ Other		1.3%
Prefer to not say		0.4%
Age Groups (in years)	18-24	9.1%
	25-34	27.8%
	35-44	28.7%
	45-54	13.0%
	55+	21.3%

Homelessness and Mental Health

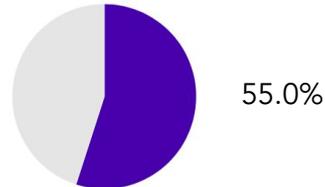
People need more resources to help support their mental health before they become homeless.



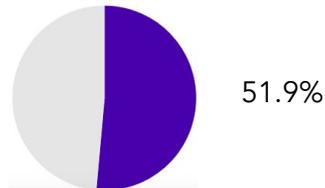
People who are homeless need mental health support more than anything.



Between a quarter to one third of people experiencing homelessness have a serious mental health condition.



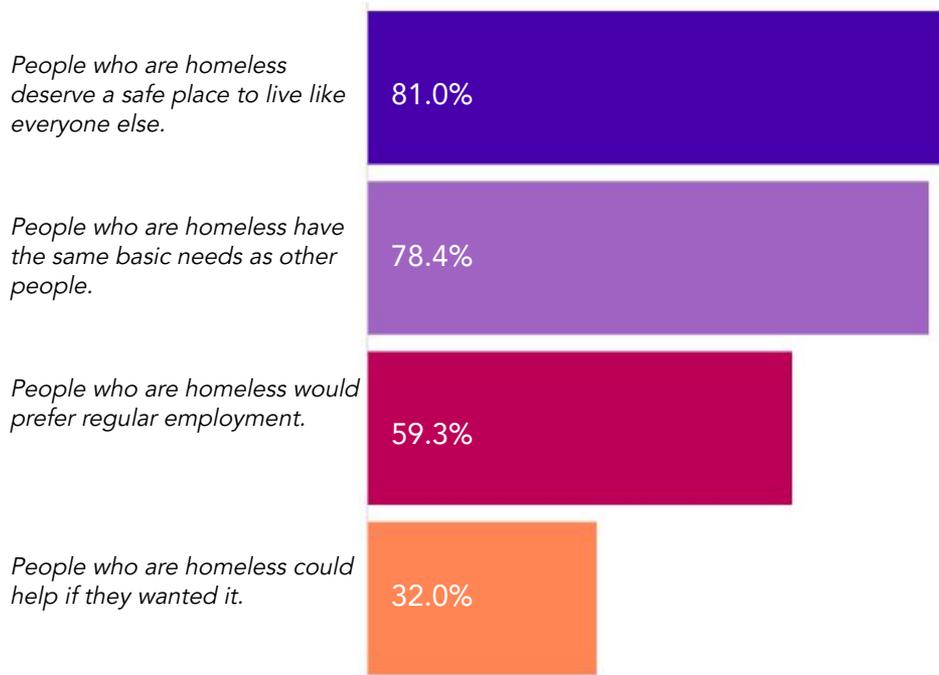
Most people who are homeless also have mental health issues.



Agreement with statements

Respondents were asked how much they agree with several statements about those experiencing both mental health and homelessness. The majority of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with all statements, which may indicate that many participants associate homelessness with mental health conditions. The statements “people need more resources to help support their mental health before they become homeless” and “people who are homeless need mental health support more than anything” had the highest levels of agreement at 66.2% and 57.6%.

Perception of Basic Needs

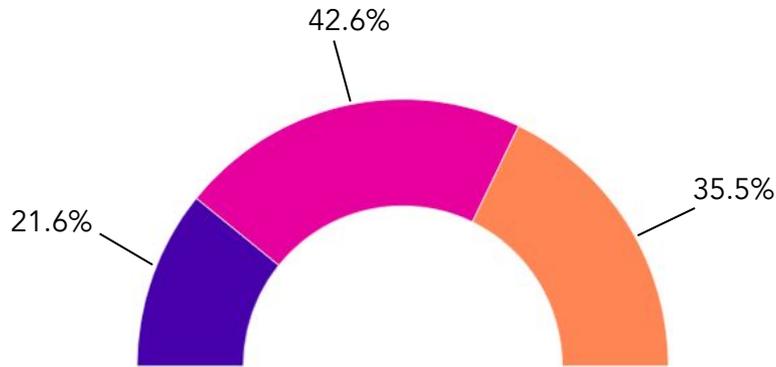


Agreement with statements

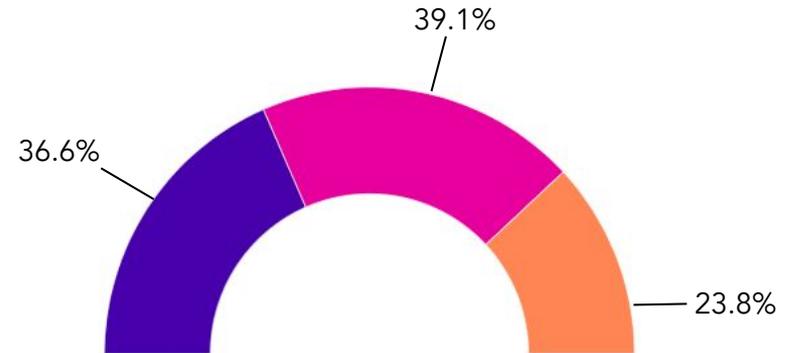
Respondents were asked how much they agree with several statements about the needs of those experiencing homelessness. Around 80% of respondents agreed that those who are homeless deserve a safe place to live and have the same basic needs as other people. Over half respondents felt that those experiencing homelessness would prefer regular employment (59.3%). This is of note as employment support was the second most common answer to the open-ended question "How can your community best support those who are homeless?"

Stigma Towards Homelessness

Respondents were asked how much they agree or disagree with the following statements to gauge the level stigma towards those experiencing homelessness. The largest percentage of respondents were unsure if most people who are homeless use drugs or if they are more likely to commit crimes than other people (42.6%; 39.1%). Encouragingly, over a third of of respondents disagreed that most people who are homeless are also using drugs (35.5%) or are more likely to commit crimes than other people (36.6%), while less than a quarter of respondents held one of these stigmatizing attitudes.



Most people who are homeless are also using drugs.

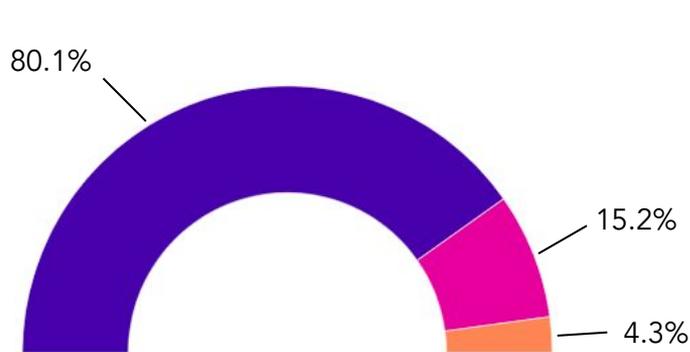


People who are homeless aren't any more likely to commit crimes than other people.

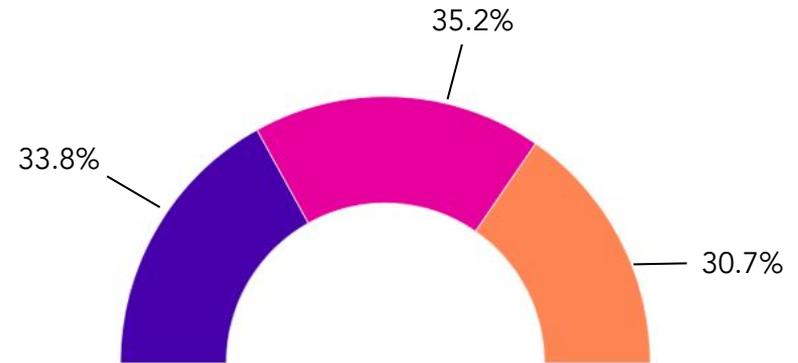
● Agree ● Neither agree nor disagree ● Disagree

Stigma Towards Homelessness

Encouragingly, an overwhelming majority of respondents agreed with the statement “if a coworker told me the previously were homeless, I would still feel comfortable working with them (80.1%). Meanwhile, responses were mixed for the statement “I wouldn’t be comfortable having a homeless shelter located near me,” with 33.8% agreeing, 35.2% neither agreeing or disagreeing, and 30.7% disagreeing with the statement.



If a coworker told me they previously were homeless, I would still feel comfortable working with them.

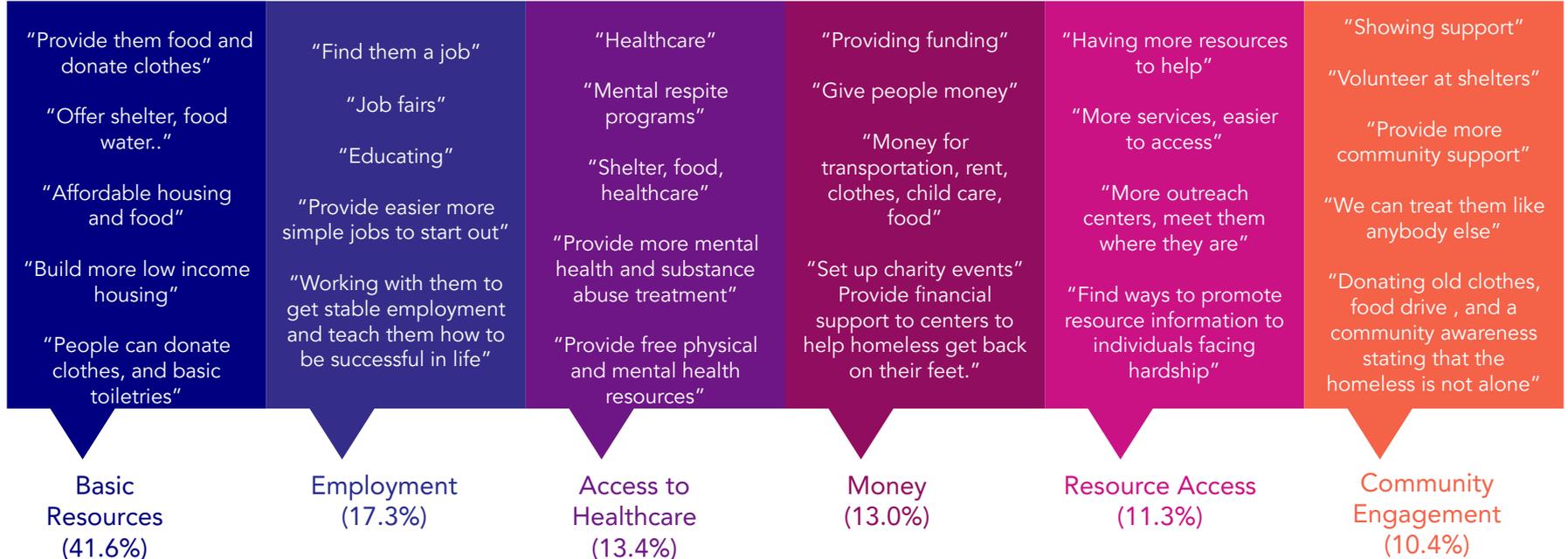


I wouldn't be comfortable having a homeless shelter located near me.

● Agree ● Neither agree nor disagree ● Disagree

Community Support

Respondents were asked how they feel their community can support those who are homeless. The majority of respondents felt that they should improve access to basic resources such as housing, food, and clothes. This was followed by providing education or employment support, improving access to healthcare, including mental health resources, donating money, increasing availability and access to resources, and increasing community engagement and support.



*Percentages may exceed 100% as answers may fall under multiple themes

Thank you.