Community Health Assessment: Methodology and Findings

With a focus on the demographic health indicators discussed in the preceding section of this report, a Community Health Committee was formed by Unity Medical Center that represents the broad interest of the community to weigh in on the health issues that are impacting the population. A survey was generated to inquire about the community and prioritize issues that impact health. This survey was posted online and distributed within the community through avenues such as the hospital, chamber of commerce, public school board, local church, emergency responders, and other civic group email list services. Additionally, hard copies of the survey were handed out in the waiting rooms at the hospital and manually by members of the Community Health Committee within the community.

The methodology utilized in this assessment incorporates data from both quantitative and qualitative sources. Quantitative data input includes primary research (the Community Health Survey) and secondary research (vital statistics and other existing health-related data); these quantitative components allow for trending and comparison to benchmark data at the state and national levels. Qualitative data input includes primary research gathered through an online survey that was deployed to the community along with the expertise provided by the Community Health Committee that was formed by the Hospital.

Community Health Committee

The goal of establishing the Community Health Committee for this process was to solicit input from residents of the PSA that represent the diverse (underserved, chronically ill, low income and minority populations) view of the community and to promote the broad interest of those served by the Hospital. The committee established by Unity Medical Center and their associated community roles or occupations are as follows:

Name	Community Role or Occupation		
Martha McCormick	Hospital Chief Executive Officer		
Pamela Jernigan	Hospital Chief Financial Officer		
Kenneth Ware	Hospital Chief Clinical Officer		

The Committee met twice over a four-month time-frame and was requested to assist with and provide direction for the following responsibilities:

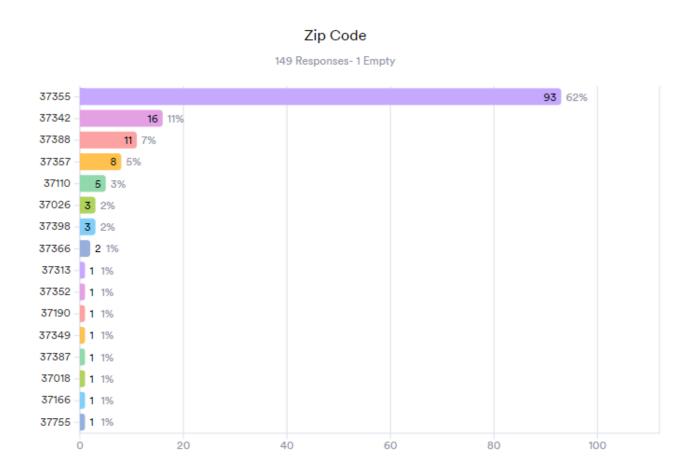
- Interpreting and understanding CHNA requirements and deadlines
- Identifying primary and secondary data sources
- Identifying key community partners
- Developing the organization's CHNA instrument and methodology
- Developing targeted interview questions including identification of its community's population health experts
- Compiling and interpreting the data accumulated through the survey
- Achieving consensus, with its identified community partners, citizens and public health experts, in identifying the top health issues facing its community
- Developing the Hospital's implementation strategy to address the findings of the CHNA

Survey

Unity Medical Center's primary data collection vehicle for determining public perception about the various needs of the community was an online survey, seeking input regarding demographics and health status. To seek input from the medically underserved, chronically ill and low-income individuals and to ensure input from the overall population, the survey was advertised by several different community partners who also helped distribute through their email list services.

Additionally, the survey was available to the public via a link on the hospital's main website for 4-week period, from September 2021 to November 2021. To better gauge the community's perception of the local health needs, the community was asked what they perceive to be the most important health issues in their community. A total of <u>150</u> surveys were received in electronic and paper format. The full survey can be found in the appendix to this report and the associated results for Unity Medical Center are as follows:

The survey was able to capture a range of individuals from several different postal codes. The most common postal code was 37355, the same postal code as the facility. The second and third most common were 37342 and 37388 respectively. There is a visible sharp decline as the postal codes move into adjacent counties.

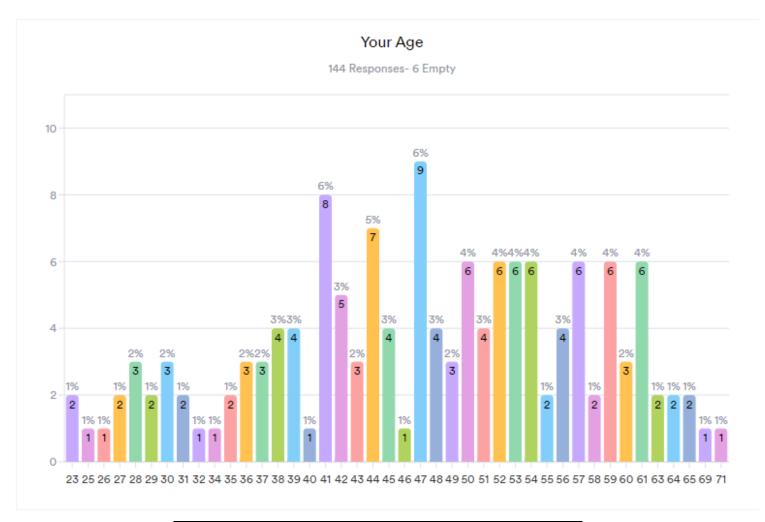


Of the 150 survey respondents, approximately 81.25% were female and 18.75% were male. The survey captured a primarily female-based response turnout.

Gender:		
Male	27	18.75%
Female	117	81.25%

^{*}Six surveys were submitted with the <u>gender field</u> left empty; percentages are calculated with this in mind.

The median age of the respondent fell within the 45 - 54 age range, with the youngest being 23 and the oldest being 71. Participants' responses indicate that interviewee households held 94 children under the age of 18. 126 of the 150 interviewees had at least 2 people in their home, 86 of the 150 interviewees had at least 3 people in their home. 63 of the 150 had at least 4 people in their home, 24 had at least 5 people, and 12 had at least 6 people in their home.



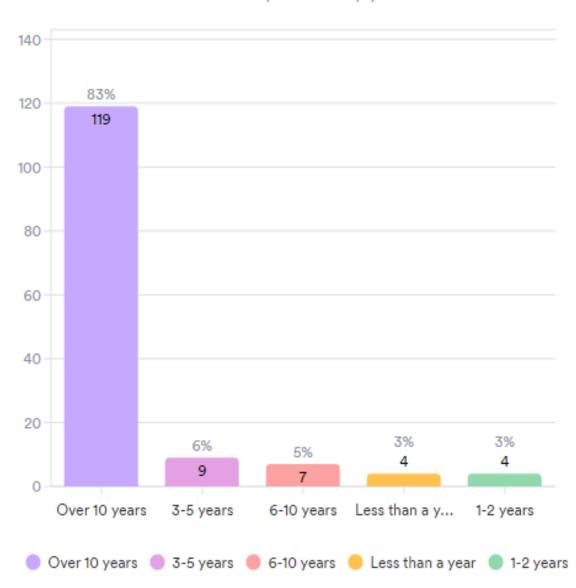
Age:		
18-24	2	1.39%
25-44	56	38.89%
45-54	51	35.42%
55-64	31	21.53%
65+	4	2.78%
Median Age:		45-54

^{*}Six surveys were submitted with the <u>age field</u> left empty; percentages are calculated with this in mind

Responses indicate that over 80% of interviewees have lived in the surrounding area for over 10 years, with the ranges of 3-5 years and 6-10 years following suit. The ranges of 3-5 years and 6-10 years were nearly the same at 6% and 5% respectively. Interviewees who had lived in the area for 1-2 years, or less than a year, were equal but were the smallest percentages.

How long have you lived in the area?

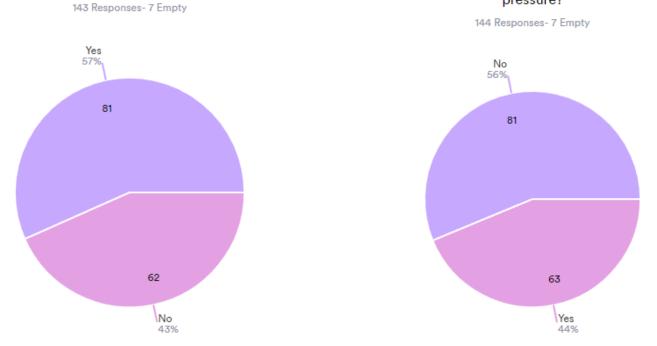
143 Responses- 7 Empty



Responses indicated that over half of interviewees had been vaccinated for Influenza within the past 12 months. Reponses also indicated that over half of interviewees had been informed by a physician that they had high blood pressure. Following this, just over half of interviewees had been prescribed a medication to treat high blood pressure.

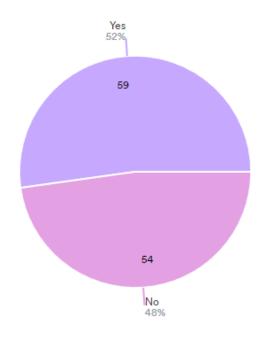
Have you received your flu shot in the past 12 months?

Have you ever been told by a Doctor that you have high blood pressure?



If yes, have you been prescribed a medication for your condition?

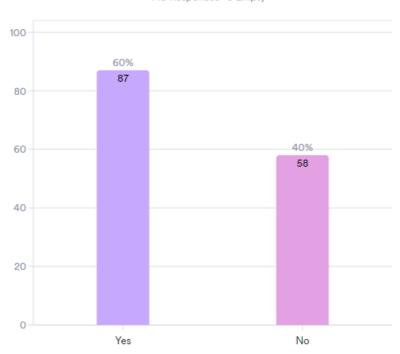
113 Responses- 37 Empty



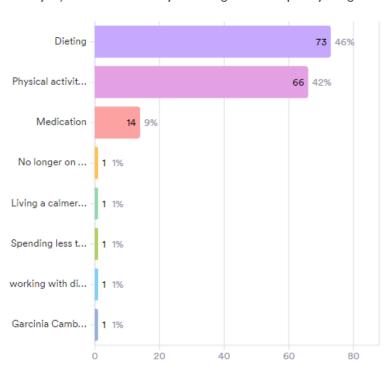
Responses indicated that 60% of interviewees were in the process of weight loss, with 61% stating that they had been told by a physician to lose weight for health reasons. Actions to accomplish weight loss goals were listed as dieting (46%), physical activity (42%), and medication (9%). Other paths for weight loss were no greater than 1% but did include actions such as living a calmer lifestyle, spending less time on social media, no longer taking blood pressure medication, working with a dietician, and holistic actions such as probiotics and supplements. Weekly physical activity levels were shown at 0-2 days (45%), 3-4 days (38%), and 5-7 days (17%). When asked how many minutes were spent exercising each of those days the most common timeframe was 30 minutes.

Are you currently trying to lose weight?

145 Responses- 6 Empty



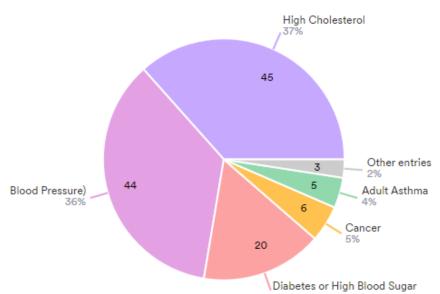
If yes, what actions are you taking to accomplish your goals?



Interviewees were asked to indicate if they had been informed by a physician that they suffer from a given condition. High cholesterol (37%) and high blood pressure (36%) were the most common with diabetes falling into third place at 16%. Cancer (5%), adult asthma (4%), and other entries such as COPD or CHF fell into the 2% bracket. When asked this same question in relation to children the responses were very specified. Asthma (62%), obesity (23%) and diabetes (15%) were the only responses given in relation to children in the household.

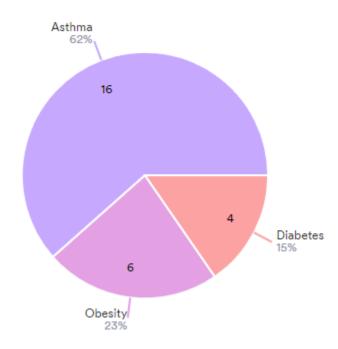
Have you ever been told by a doctor that you have one of the following conditions?

123 Responses- 81 Empty



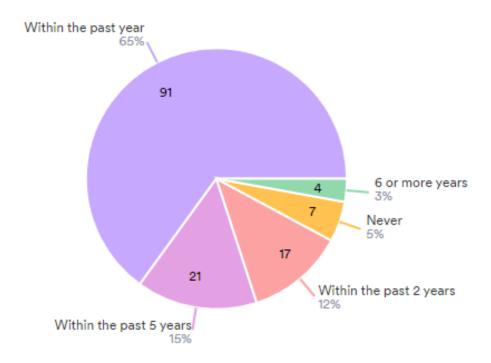
Has a child in your household been told by a doctor that they have one of the following conditions?

26 Responses- 128 Empty



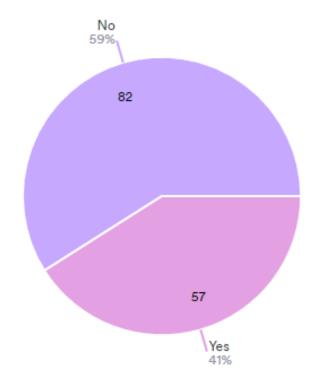
How long has it been since you last had your cholesterol level checked?

140 Responses- 10 Empty

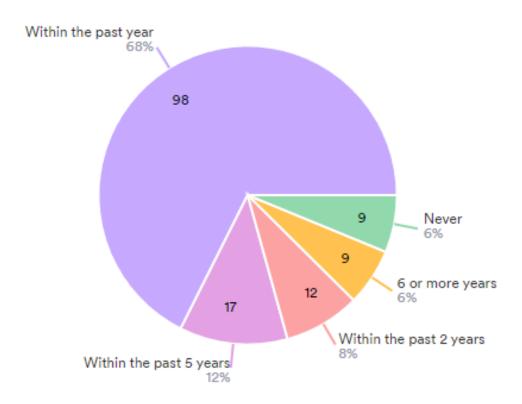


Have you ever been told by a doctor or health care professional that your blood cholesterol level is too high?

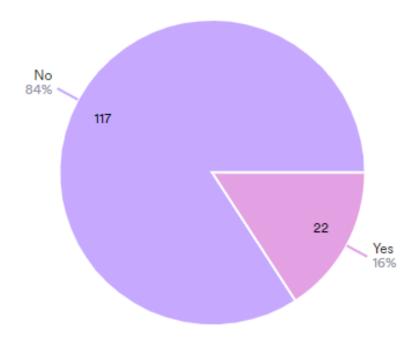
139 Responses- 11 Empty



How long has it been since your blood was last checked for diabetes?



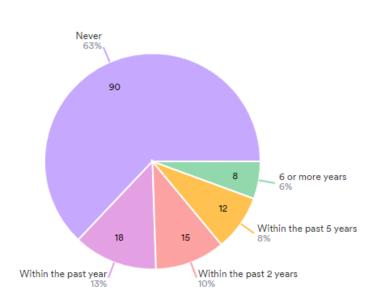
Have you ever been told by a doctor or health care provider that you have high blood sugar or diabetes?

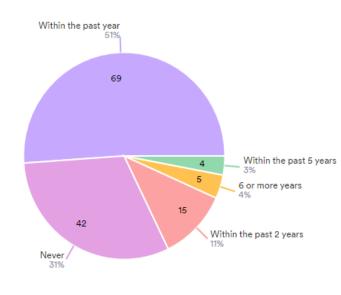


Interviewees were asked a series of questions involving colon cancer screenings, mammograms, breast exams, and Pap-Smear's for female related cancers. Colon screening responses indicated that over 60% over interviewees had not been screened for colon cancer. Mammogram responses show that 51% of interviewees had received a mammogram within the past 12 months, but 31% had never received a mammogram. In relation to breast exams interviewee responses show that 63% had received a breast exam by a doctor or nurse within the past year, with never (13%) and within the past 2 years (12%) falling in behind. Pap-smear data indicates that 55% of interviewees had received a Pap-smear within the past year (55%), within the past 2 years (15%), and had never received a paper smear at 15%.

How long has it been since your last screening for colon cancer?

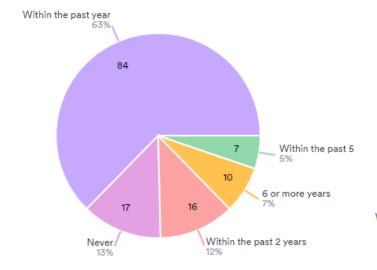
How long has it been since your last mammogram for breast cancer?

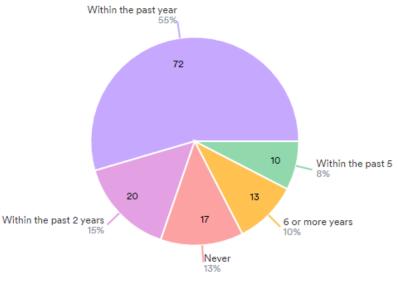




How long has it been since your last breast exam by a doctor or nurse?

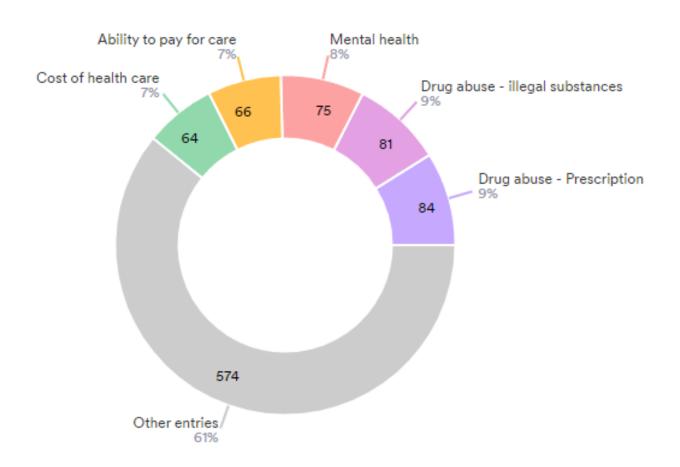
How long has it been since your last Pap-Smear for female related cancer?





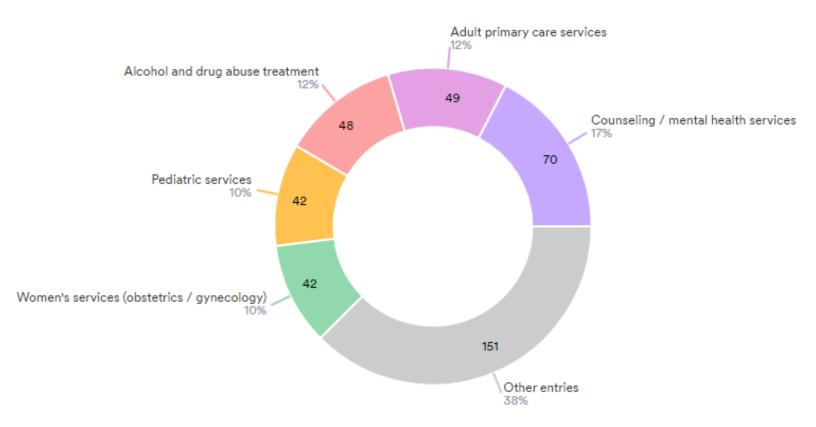
Survey recipients were asked to assess the most pressing health issues in their communities. These questions included which medical services were most needed, health education, ideas, and suggestions for services to be offered, etc. When asked about what the most pressing health issues were, a very wide range of answers were received. The cost of health care, ability to pay for health care, mental health, and drug abuse (illegal substances and prescription medications) are some of the received answers. However, the highest percentages of response fell into the "other" category. Common themes within this category were obesity, tobacco use (in young adults and adults), and alcohol dependency.

What do you think are the most pressing health issues in your community? (Check all that apply)



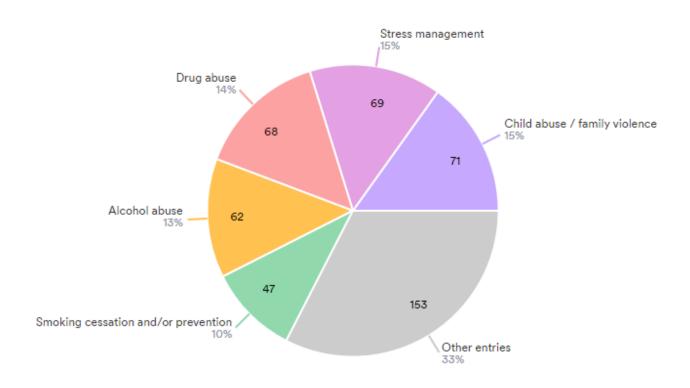
When asked what medical services were most needed in the community there was a similar phenomenon. Women's services, pediatrics, alcohol and drug abuse treatment, primary care, and mental health counseling all fell within a similar range while the "other" category carried the majority. The "other" category showed cancer treatment, diabetes care, heart care, and orthopedic services as needs for the community.

What medical services are most needed in your community? (Check all that apply)



The prior trend continued into health education services. Reponses show that child abuse education and stress management education were both held at 15%, with drug abuse education following closely at 14%. Alcohol abuse and smoking prevention fell at 3rd and 4th at 13% and 10% respectively. The "other" category showed responses such as diabetes education, cancer screenings, Alzheimer's education, STD education, and Asthma education.

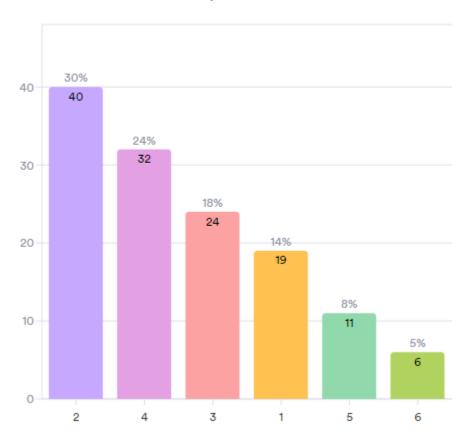
Please check all types of health education services most needed in your community:



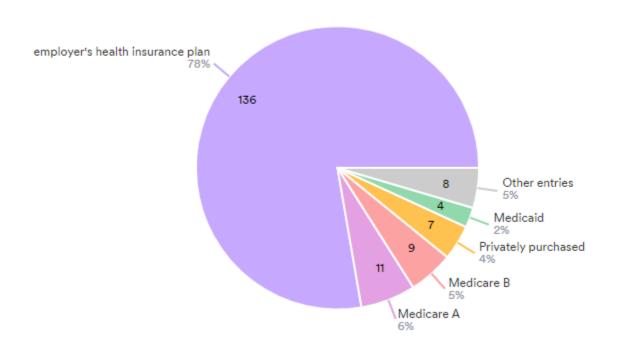
Interviewees were then asked for suggestions to improve the overall health of the community in the area. There was an overwhelming response suggesting better mental health options for both children and adults. Stress management and suicide prevention were common themes. This included counseling, mental health specific facilities, and that these options be affordable. Following mental health options was nutritional and diet-based education.

Interviewees were asked questions regarding the status of their health insurance. These questions included how many members of the household were insured, how the insurance was obtained, etc. They were then asked questions involving the availability of transportation to health care services. Interviewees were also asked to include the mileage they must travel, one way, to reach necessary destinations.

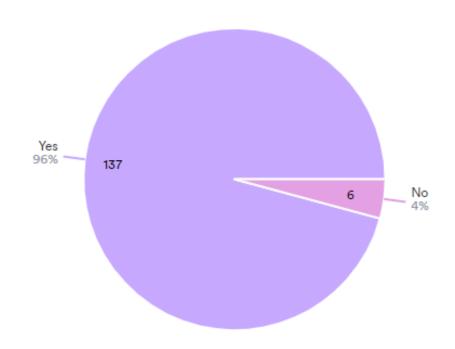
Including yourself, how many household members are currently covered by health insurance?



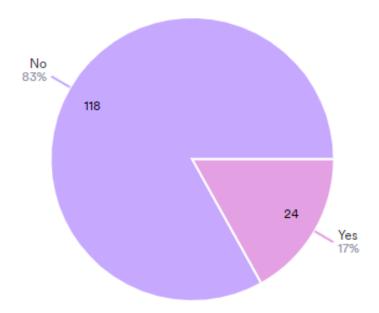
If you or members of your household have health insurance coverage, how is it obtained? (Check all that apply)



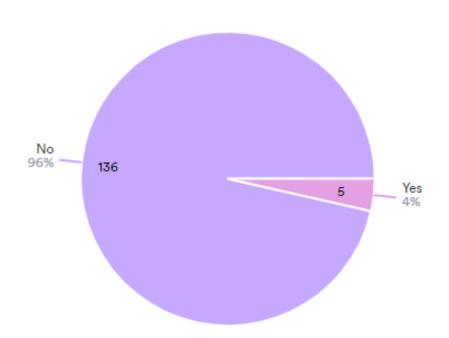
Do any of these insurance policies provide dental coverage?



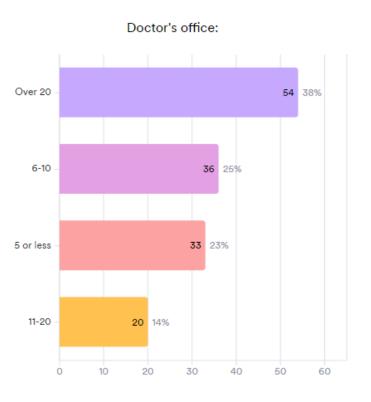
Are the co-pays for any of those services a large enough problem that you postpone or go without services / prescriptions?

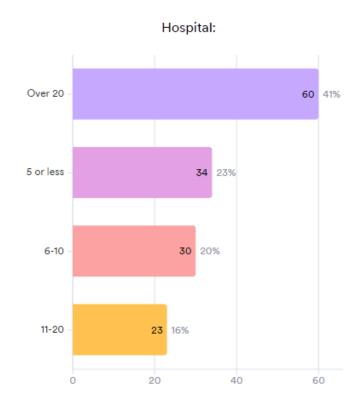


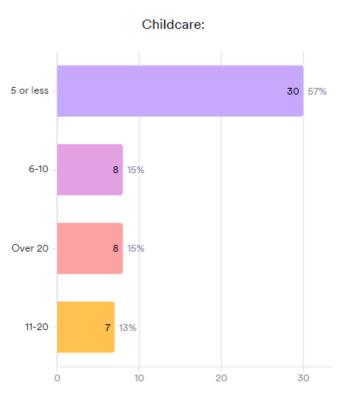
Do you have trouble getting transportation to health care services?

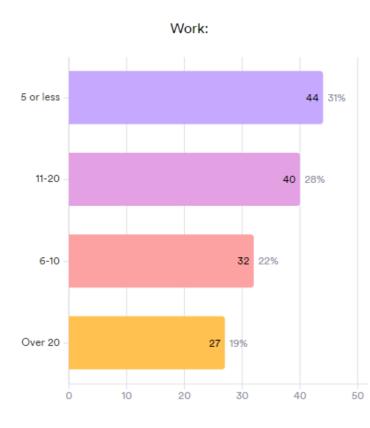


Mileage traveled, one way, to reach necessary destinations:



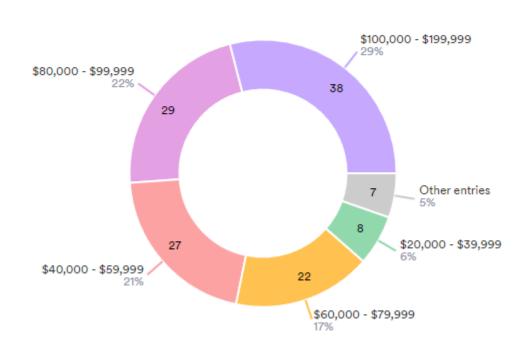






Finally, interviewees were asked to determine their household income, and describe their current housing situations. The most common total household incomes fell between \$100,000 - \$199,999 at 29%, with \$80,000 - \$99,999 at 22% and \$40,000 - \$59,999 at 21%. In terms of living situations most interviewees currently owned a home or condo (89%), while some currently rent a home, apartment, or room (9%). There were some outliers such as living with a friend or relative, multiple households sharing a living space, or willingly living with a friend.

Counting all income sources from everyone in your household, what was the combined household income last year? (Check only one)



- Data	Response	%
Own a house or condo	129	89%
Rent a house, apartment, or room	13	9%
Living temporarily with a friend or relative	1	1%
Multiple households sharing an apartment or house	1	1%
Living with a friend by choice	1	1%
Other entries	0	0%