

December 2008



A SURVEY OF...

HEALTH CARE NEEDS IN LINCOLN, NEBRASKA



ACCESS ◻ *ISSUES* ◻ *CONCERNS*

*Information presented in this report was gathered during a 2008 survey of patients seeking treatment through free, walk-in clinics provided by medical professionals volunteering for **Clinic with a Heart**. The survey was developed by and conducted at the Center for People in Need. The sample size is 225 respondents.*



Introduction

The Center for People in Need conducted this survey among Clinic with a Heart patients regarding their health care needs and access to health care. This survey was taken during six clinics in October, November, and December 2008.

Clinic with a Heart is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization which provides free, urgent, short-term care to the uninsured and underinsured in Lincoln and surrounding communities. Services provided include medical, chiropractic, physical therapy, and dental care. Patients also can receive limited medication assistance, educational tools and other resources needed to improve and protect their health. Clinics are held weekly at the Center for People in Need and other Lincoln locations.

This is one in a series of poverty surveys developed and conducted by the Center for People in Need.

FUNDING PROVIDED BY WOODS CHARITABLE FUND, INC.

Table of Contents

Chapter 1: Characteristics of respondents	2
Chapter 2: Work Status and Health Issues.....	9
Chapter 3: Insurance and Health Care	13

CHAPTER 1

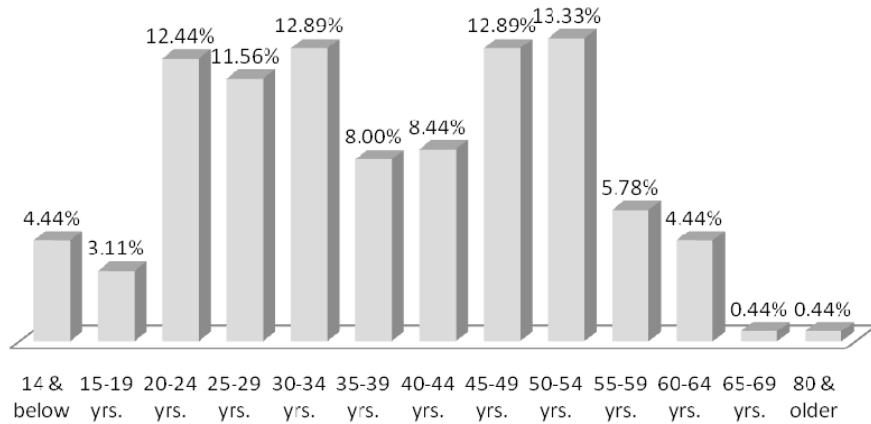
Characteristics of Respondents

This chapter presents data that describes the various characteristics of the respondents to this survey. The sample size is 225; approximately one half males and one half females. Respondents varied on multiple characteristics, including age, ethnic background, primary language, marital status and household demographics.



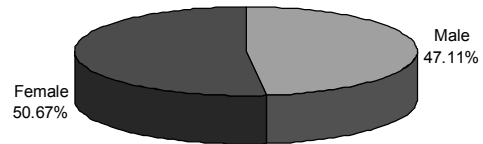
Age and Gender

Age Distribution of Respondents



Gender Distribution

- Males' average age = 39.43 years
- 28.3% were homeless
- 28.3% had been homeless in the past



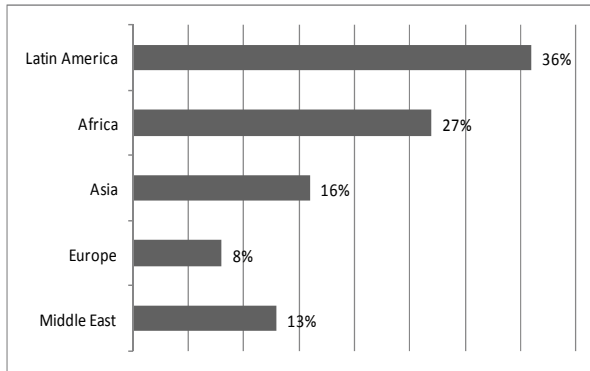
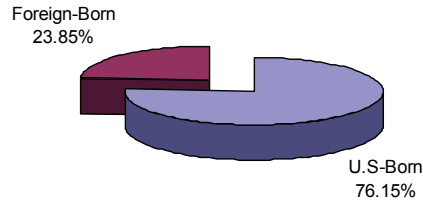
- Females' average age = 36.93 years
- 15.8% were homeless
- 21.9% had been homeless in the past

Key Points

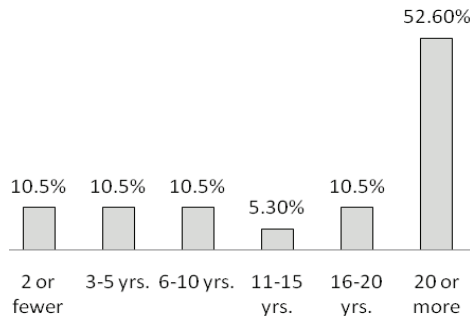
- Most respondents were 20-54 years of age, with an average age of 38 years.
- Respondents were nearly equal by gender.
- There was a higher percentage of males than females who had been homeless and who were homeless.

Ethnicity and Countries of Origin

Countries of Birth



Regions of origin among foreign-born participants

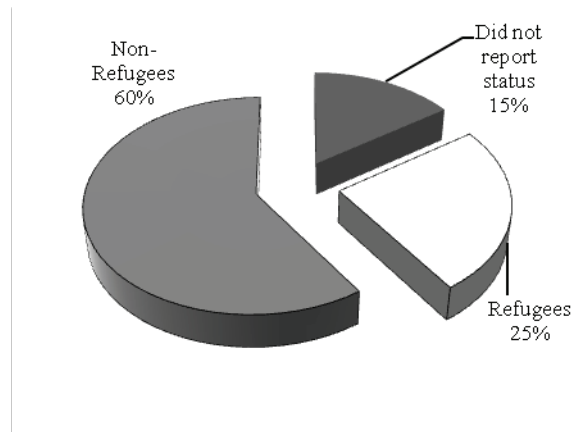


Years in the U.S. among foreign-born respondents

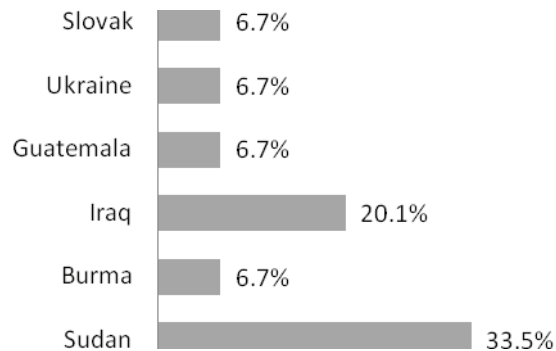
Key Points

- The majority of respondents were U.S.-born.
- Most participants not born in the U.S. came from Latin American, particularly Mexico. The second largest group came from Africa (Sudan); the third from Asia (Vietnam).
- Most Middle Eastern participants came from Iraq, and most Europeans were from Germany.
- Most foreign-born respondents have been in the U.S. for 20 years or more, with an average of 27 years.

Among the 23.85% respondents who are foreign-born ...



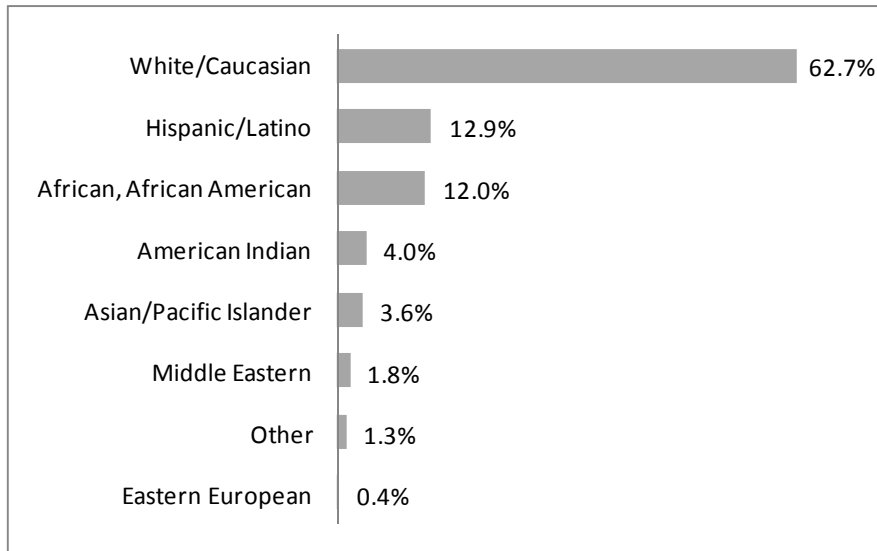
Refugees' Regions of Origin



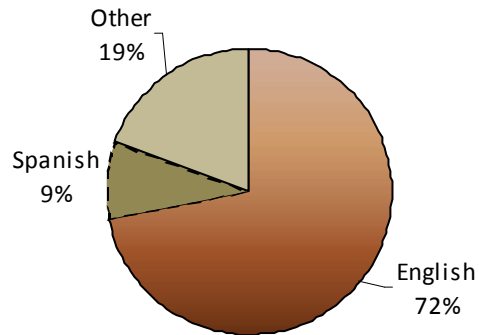
Key Points

- Participants who came to the U.S. as refugees came from Sudan (5 of 15), followed by Iraq (3 of 15), Burma (1 of 15), Slovak (1 of 15), Guatemala (1 of 15) and Ukraine (1 of 15)
- Only 1 participant with refugee status reported how long he/she had lived in the U.S.: 4 years.

Ethnic Background



Primary Languages Spoken

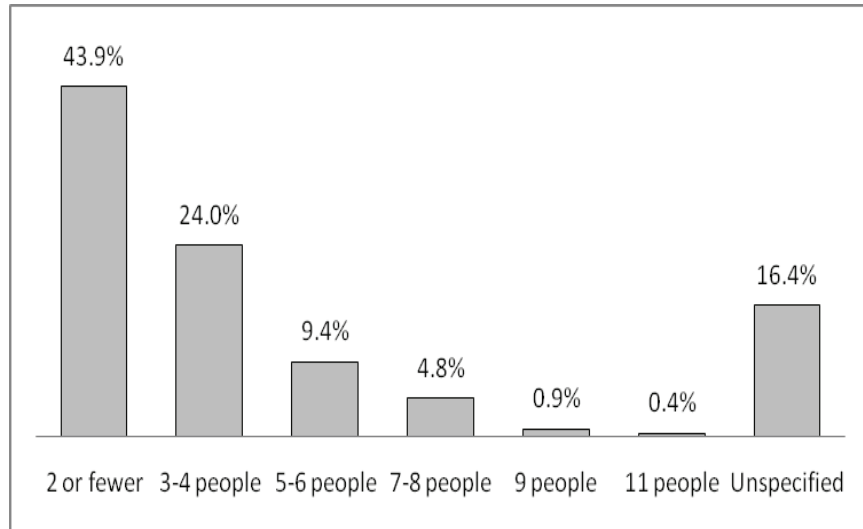


Key Points

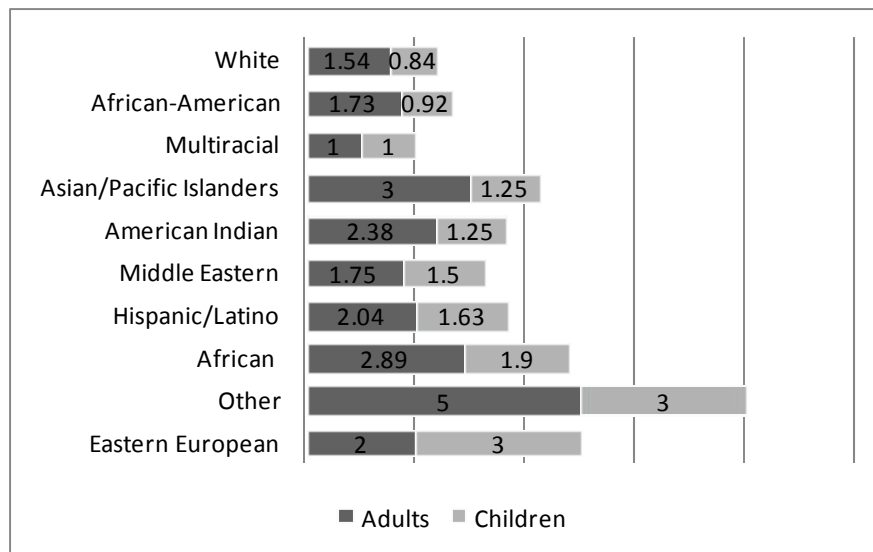
- Languages spoken other than English included Vietnamese (2.2%), Kurdish (1.3%), Arabic and Urdu (4.0%), and multi-/bi-lingual (2.7%). Other languages spoken by less than 1% of respondents included: Ukrainian, Polish, Karen, and Chinese. 7.1% did not identify a primary language.

Household Size and Composition

Number of people in household



*Household size/composition by ethnic group
(# represent means)*

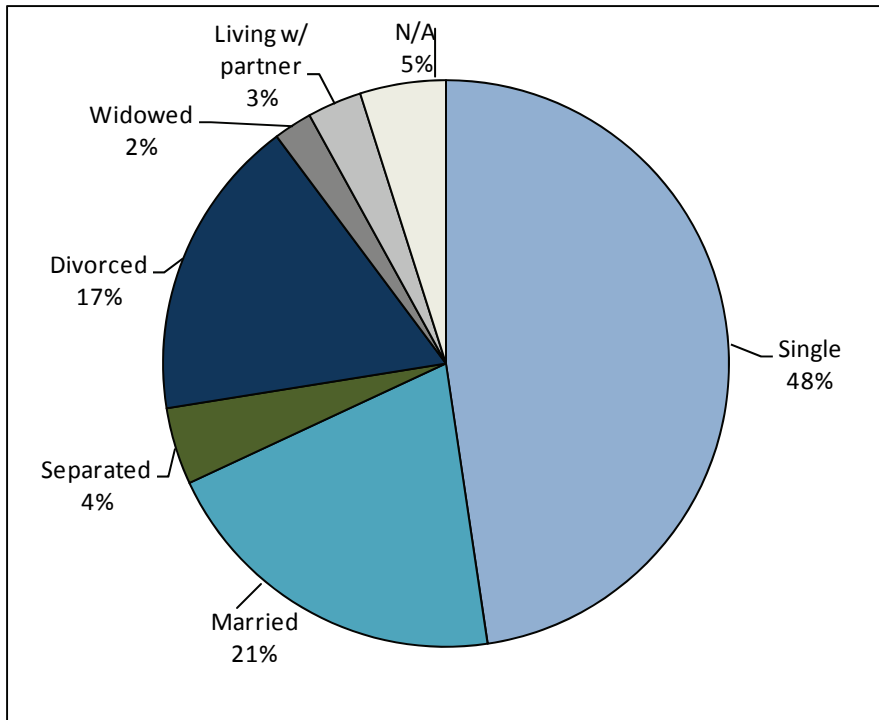




Other Key Points

- Average household size was 2.8 people.
- Foreign-born respondents reported significantly larger household sizes (average = 3.88) than U.S.-born respondents (average = 2.51).
- Households had 0 to 6 children (average=1.05 children.)
 - 44% had no children
 - 16.4% had one child
 - 11.6% had two children
 - 10.2% had three children
 - 4% had four to six children
 - 13.8% did not respond to the question
- Households had 0 to seven adults (average of slightly more than one adult per home). 44.9% had one adult in the home (the respondent), 27.6% had two adults, and 14.1% had more than two adults.

Household Marital/Civil Status of Respondents



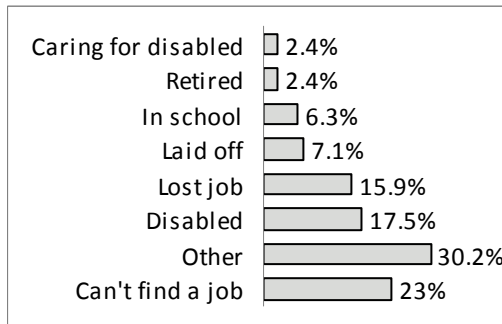
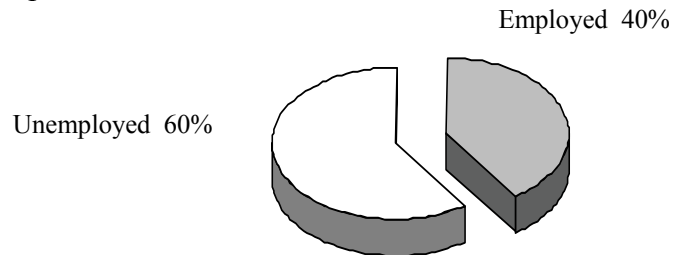
Other Key Points

- The majority of the respondents were single.
- Average household monthly income was \$ 516.02, ranging from \$ 0-3500.

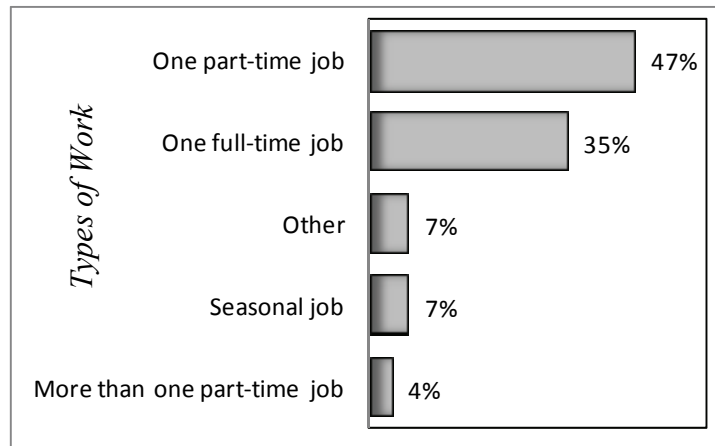
CHAPTER 2

Work Status

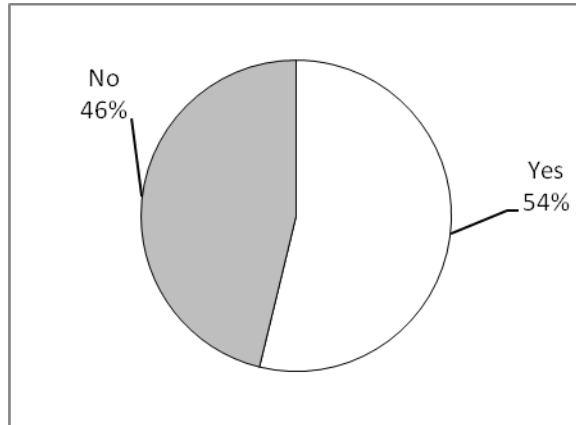
This chapter presents employment information. More than half of respondents were not employed for different reasons, including being unable to find a job, being disabled or caring for a disabled family member. Some respondents reported they had lost jobs due to health problems.



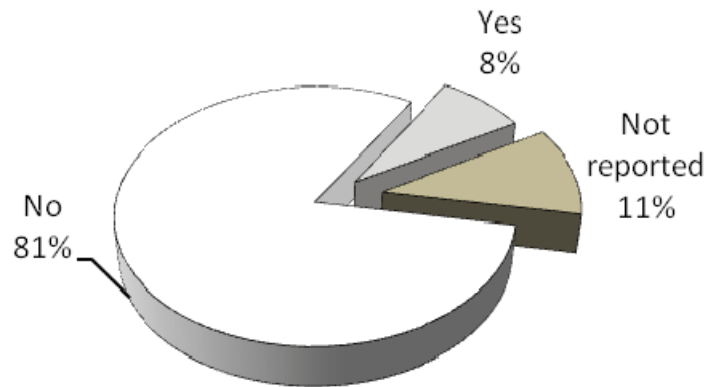
Reasons for not working



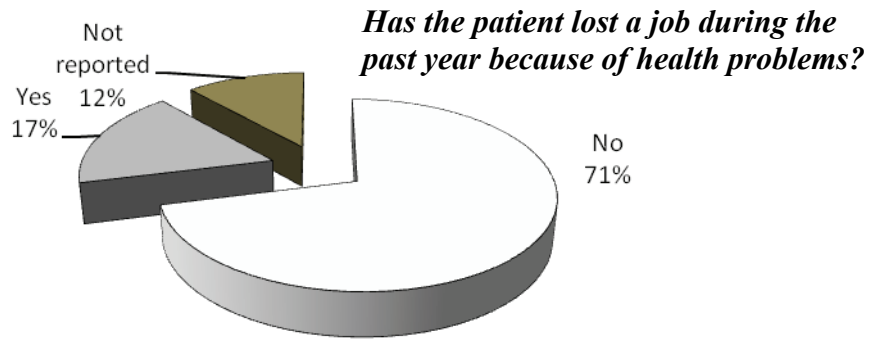
Health and Employment



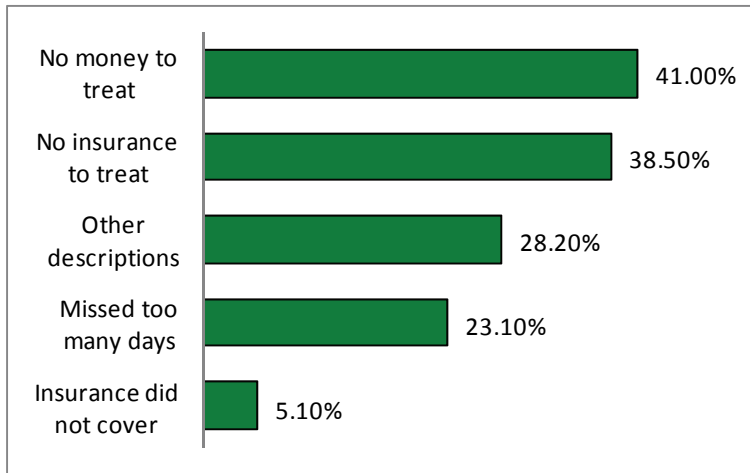
If employed, does the patient's job provide paid sick leave?



Has the patient ever not been hired for a job because of health problems?



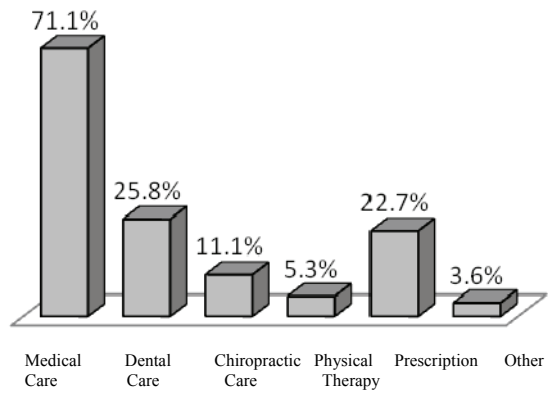
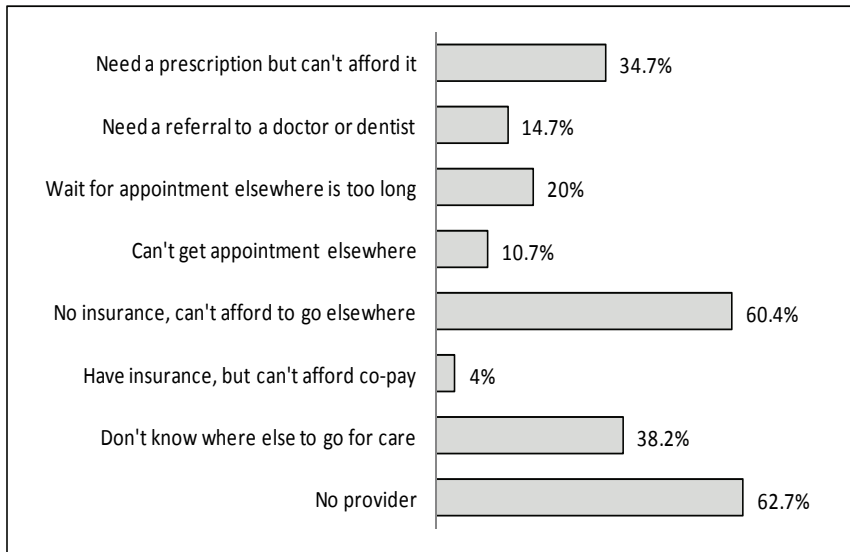
Among those who lost job due to health problems



Key Points

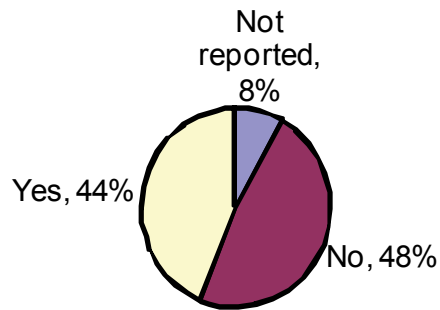
- 88.9% of respondents reported that their current health condition prevented them from working.
- Only three respondents reported the duration of their paid sick leave: 1 month, 1 week and 4 weeks, respectively.
- Among those who did not get a job due to health problems, 55.6% reported they had no insurance to treat their condition, and 61.1% reported having no money for treatment. Some overlaps occurred between the two populations.

Reasons for Visiting Clinic with a Heart

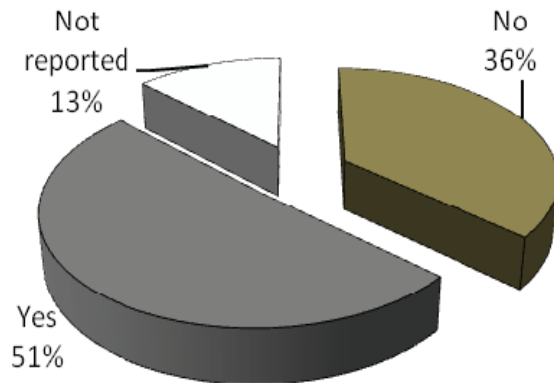


Type of treatment

Do you have a chronic (ongoing) health problem?



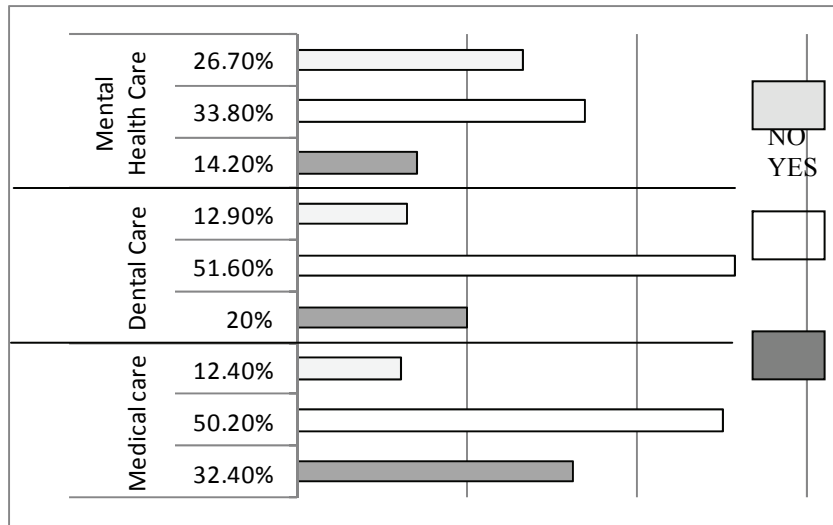
Is your current health condition worse because you have been unable to access health care sooner?



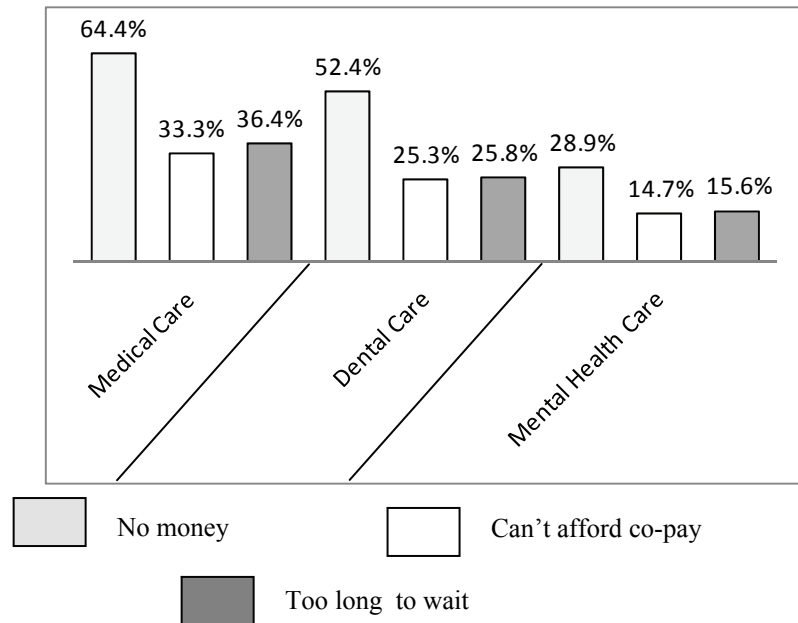
Key Points

- Among those who had a chronic health problem, 59.6% came to Clinic with a Heart that day because of that problem.
- 31.3% reported they had gone to a hospital emergency room during the past year because of the problem.

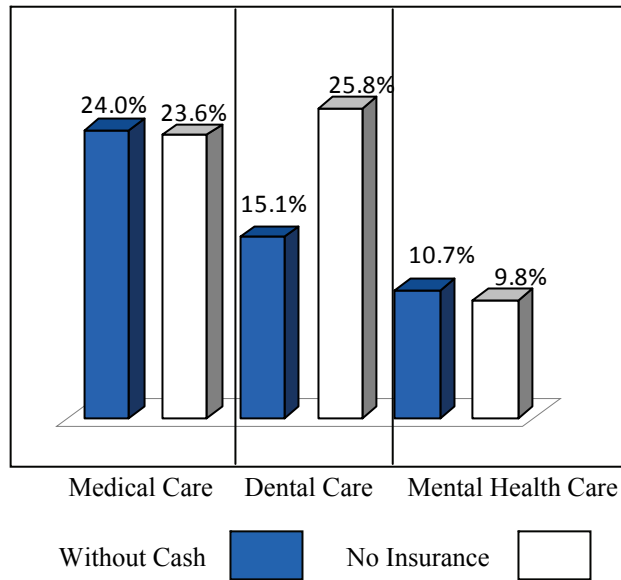
During the past year have you been able to access medical, dental, and mental health care services?



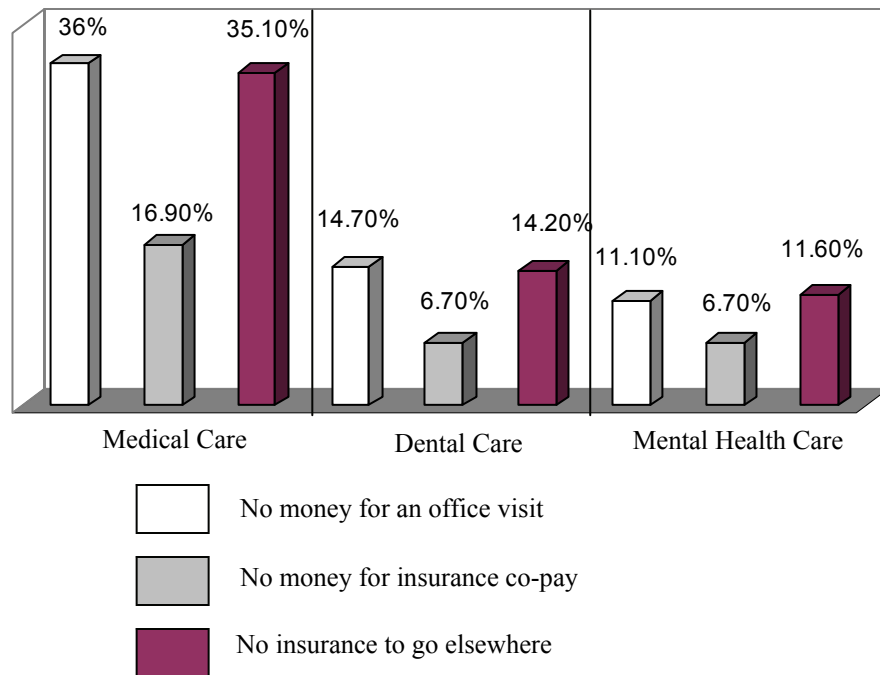
Reasons for lacking accessibility to medical, dental, and mental health care services.



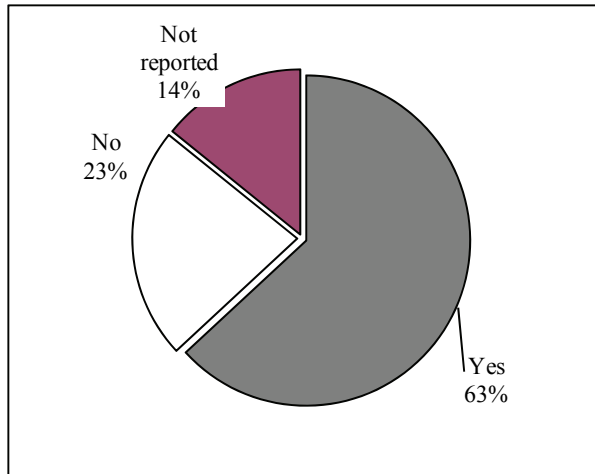
Reasons for being denied care at a walk-in, urgent care clinic.



Reasons for going to a hospital emergency room.

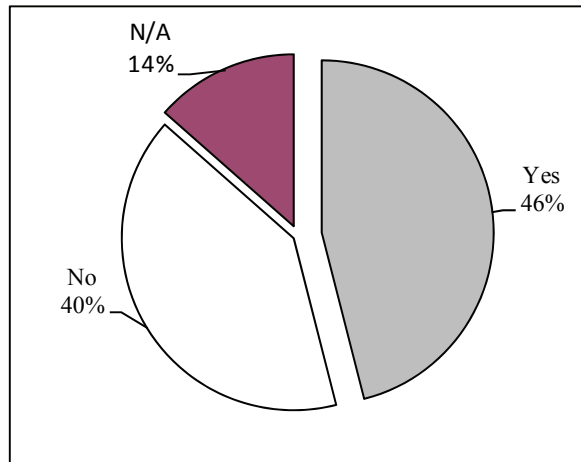


Prescriptions



During the past year have you had trouble paying for prescriptions?

Have you taken less than the prescribed amount of a prescription to make it last longer?

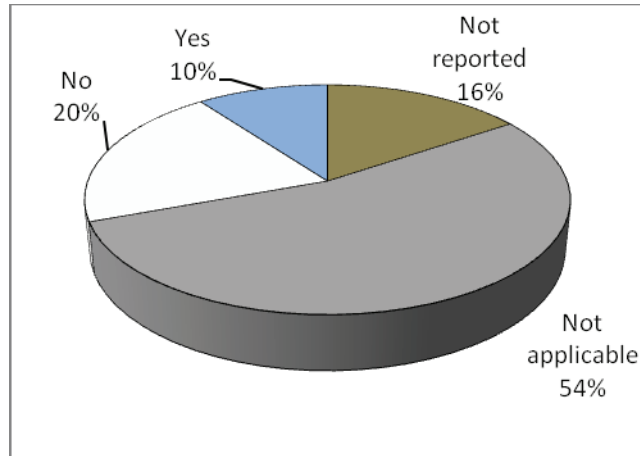


Key Points

- Among those who had insurance, 38.9% could not fill their prescriptions because they could not afford the co-pay.
- 49.8% of respondents reported they had gone without prescriptions because they lacked prescription insurance and could not afford to pay the full cost.

Birth Control

Do you have trouble affording prescription birth control?



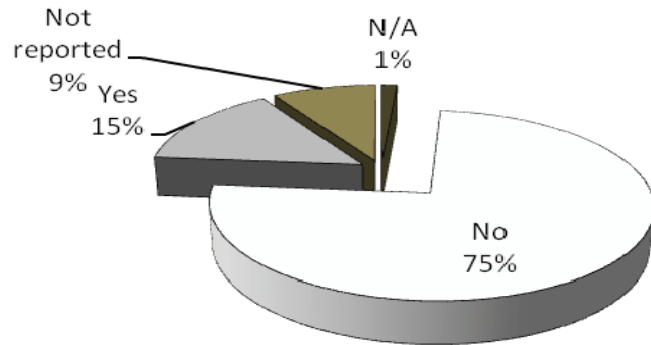
Key Points

Among those who had trouble getting prescription birth control:

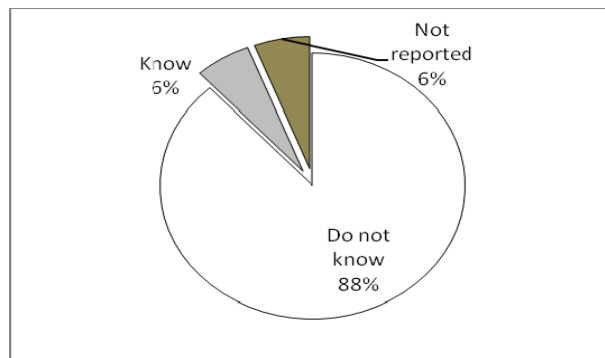
- 73.9% reported they could not afford a doctor's appointment.
- 17.4% reported they could not get an appointment to get a prescription.
- 21.7% reported they did not know where to go.
- 8.7% reported their doctor would not give them a prescription.
- 78.3% reported they could not afford prescription birth control.
- 4.3% reported their insurance did not cover prescriptions for birth control.
- 4.4% reported they had an unintended pregnancy because they could not get or afford prescription birth control.

Access to Lincoln Medication Assistance Program for Prescriptions

Have you ever asked the Lincoln Medication Assistance Program (LMAP) for help getting a prescription?



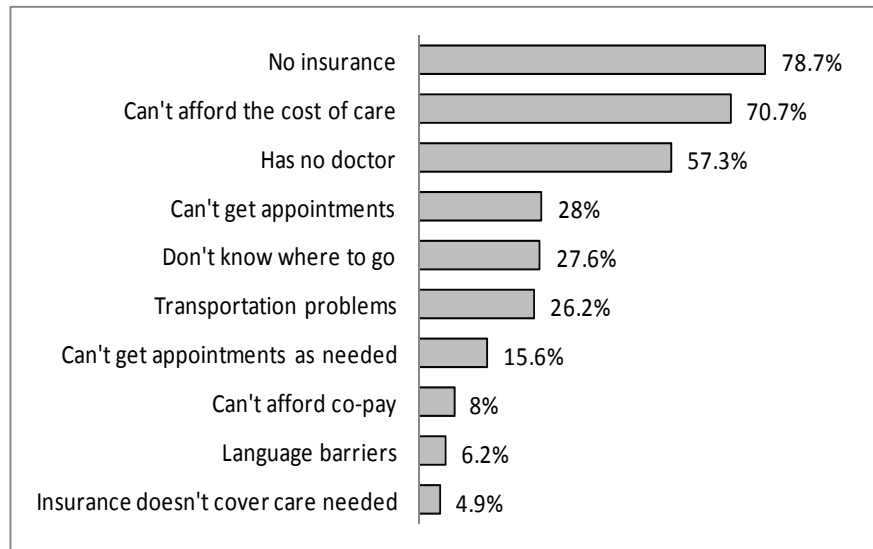
If NO, does the patient or his/her family know about LMAP?



Key Points

- The majority of respondents (three out of four) reported they didn't access the Lincoln Medication Assistance Program (LMAP) for prescriptions.
- Almost nine out of ten respondents who did not receive help from LMAP reported they did not know about the program

Barriers to Health Care



Key Points

- Having no health insurance is the greatest problem in health care. Nearly eight of ten reported having no health insurance; seven of ten said they could not afford insurance; over one half of respondents (57.7%) reported they did not have a doctor;
- A little more than one in four (26.2%) reported they had transportation problems; 27.6% reported they did not know where to go.
- 28% reported they could not get appointments when needed; 15.6% reported they could not get appointments.
- Language did not appear to be a major barrier among this sample; only 6.2% reported they had a language barrier.



POVERTY STATISTICS
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

POVERTY IN LANCASTER COUNTY, NE

GENERAL POPULATION STATISTICS

Total population	275,665 individuals
Total households	108,620
Total families in households	68,630 families
Total families with female householders, No husband present	10,921

POVERTY STATISTICS

11% live in poverty	30,323 individuals
6.2% of all families live in poverty	6,734 families
21% of female led households live in poverty	2,293

Acknowledgements



The Center thanks Clinic with a Heart and their patients for allowing the Center to conduct this survey during several walk-in clinics.

Clinic with a Heart is a 501(c)(3) organization founded in 2003 by Dr. Rob Rhodes. Medical professionals and community members volunteer their time and expertise to provide free, walk-in clinics weekly at the Center for People in Need and other locations across Lincoln.

Clinic with a Heart is a “medical mission at home” and serves as an entry point to Lincoln’s healthcare system. Patients receive limited medication assistance, educational tools, and other resources. In 2008 alone, the program reported over 2,000 patient visits.

The survey was developed and administered with the oversight of Susan Hale, advocacy educator at the Center for People in Need.

The report was prepared for the Center for People in Need by Xiaoyun Zhang, doctorate student of Child, Youth and Family Studies under the supervision of Dr. Yan Ruth Xia, associate professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Teresa Harms
Executive Director
Clinic with a Heart
P.O. Box 22851
Lincoln, Ne 68542-2924
(402) 421-2924

Beatty Brasch
Executive Director
Center for People in Need
3901 N. 27th Street
Lincoln, NE 68521
(402) 476-4357



Center for People in Need
3901 N. 27th Street, Unit 1
Lincoln, NE 68521
Phone: 402-476-4357
Fax: 402-476-4358
Website: www.centerforpeopleinneed.org



Clinic with a Heart
PO Box 22851
Lincoln, NE 68542-2942
Phone: 402-421-2924
Website: www.clinicwithaheart.org

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