

Food Access Surveys

BUREAU OF AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCES,
OFFICE FOR PHYSICAL DISABILITIES AND INDEPENDENT LIVING AND
GOVERNORS COMMITTEE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
JULY 2020

Office for Physical Disabilities and Independent Living Overview

- Provides Staff Support to Governor Appointed Disability Councils
 - Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities
 - Wisconsin Council on Physical Disabilities
 - Assistive Technology Advisory Council
 - Independent Living Council of Wisconsin
- Administers and Oversees Programs
 - WisTech Program (State Assistive Technology Program)
 - iCanConnect (National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program)
 - Independent Living Services

Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities Overview

In 1948, a Governor's Committee was established with one goal: to improve employment opportunities for people with disabilities. The group's mission was broadened in 1976 to cover many aspects of disability in Wisconsin and became the Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities (GCPD). Unlike other disability councils in state government, the focus of the Governor's Committee includes all disabilities and six of its members represent specific disability constituencies.

GCPD is charged with the following duties:

- Advise the Governor and state agencies on problems faced by people with disabilities.
- Review legislation affecting people with disabilities.
- Promote effective operation of publicly-administered or supported programs serving people with disabilities.
- Promote the collection, dissemination and incorporation of adequate information about people with disabilities for purposes of public planning at all levels of government.
- Promote public awareness of the needs and abilities of people with disabilities.
- Encourage the effective involvement of people with disabilities in government.

Development of Food Access Surveys

- Consumer and agency inquiries have been received in our office during the pandemic related to people not having access to food or nutrition services.
- Consumer councils were also receiving inquiries related to food access.
- There was a need to get real data versus individual stories to assess scope of this issue.
- OPDIL/GCPD sent the survey out June 1, 2020.
- In one week, 141 individuals responded and 4 agencies.
 - After initial influx of responses the Individual Survey and Agency Survey were left open for response through June 30, 2020.



Individual Survey Findings

- Received 151 individual responses.
- People from 44 counties responded.
- Majority of survey respondents were in the 18-25 years old age range.
- 81% of survey respondents have a disability, so the survey reached its intended audience.
- 39% of survey respondents stated that they have experienced problems getting food during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Three main reasons people cited they did not have access to food were: being high-risk and could not go to grocery store (58%); Not having access to transportation (34%); and restaurants I usually go to are closed (27%).
- Of those individuals who have experienced issues accessing food, when asked who they contacted for help 72% stated a family member. The second highest rated resource was other (29%).

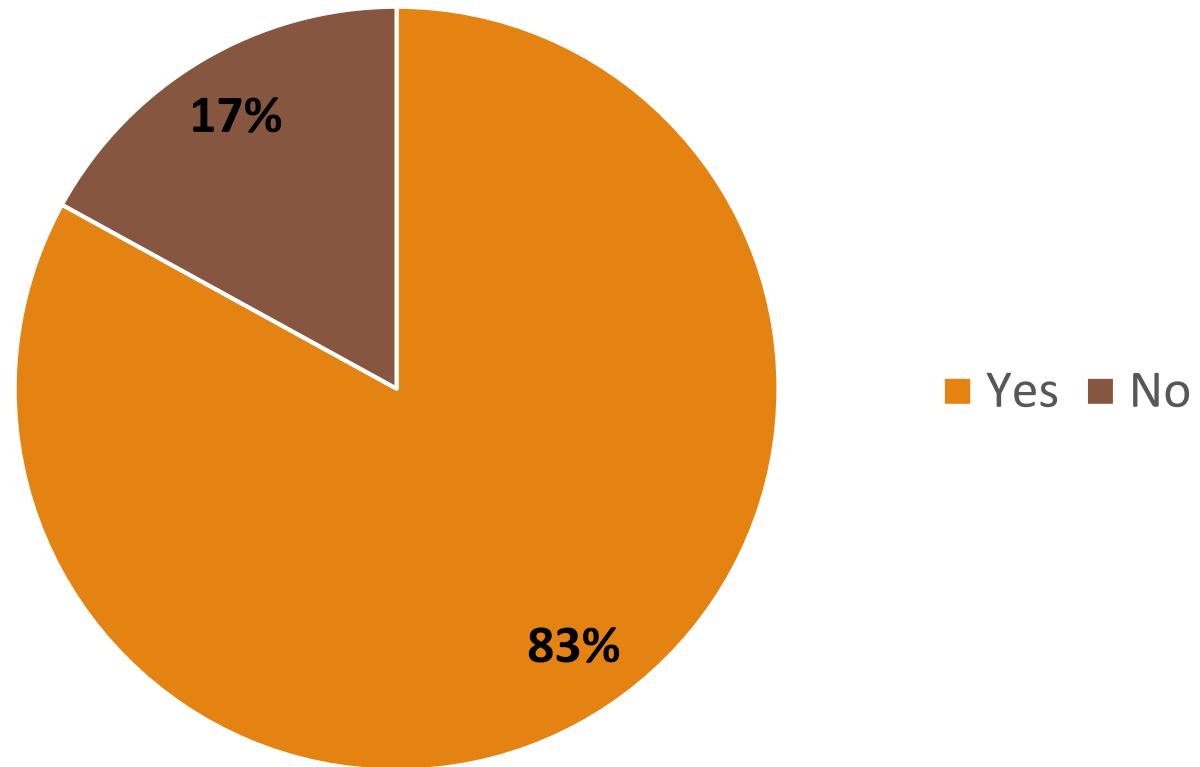


Individual Survey Findings (cont.)

- Only 16% had reported ever eating at a congregate meal site.
- 3% of survey respondents reported receiving Meals on Wheels.
- 21% of survey respondents stated there were other people in their homes or family who need access to food or nutritional support during COVID-19 pandemic.

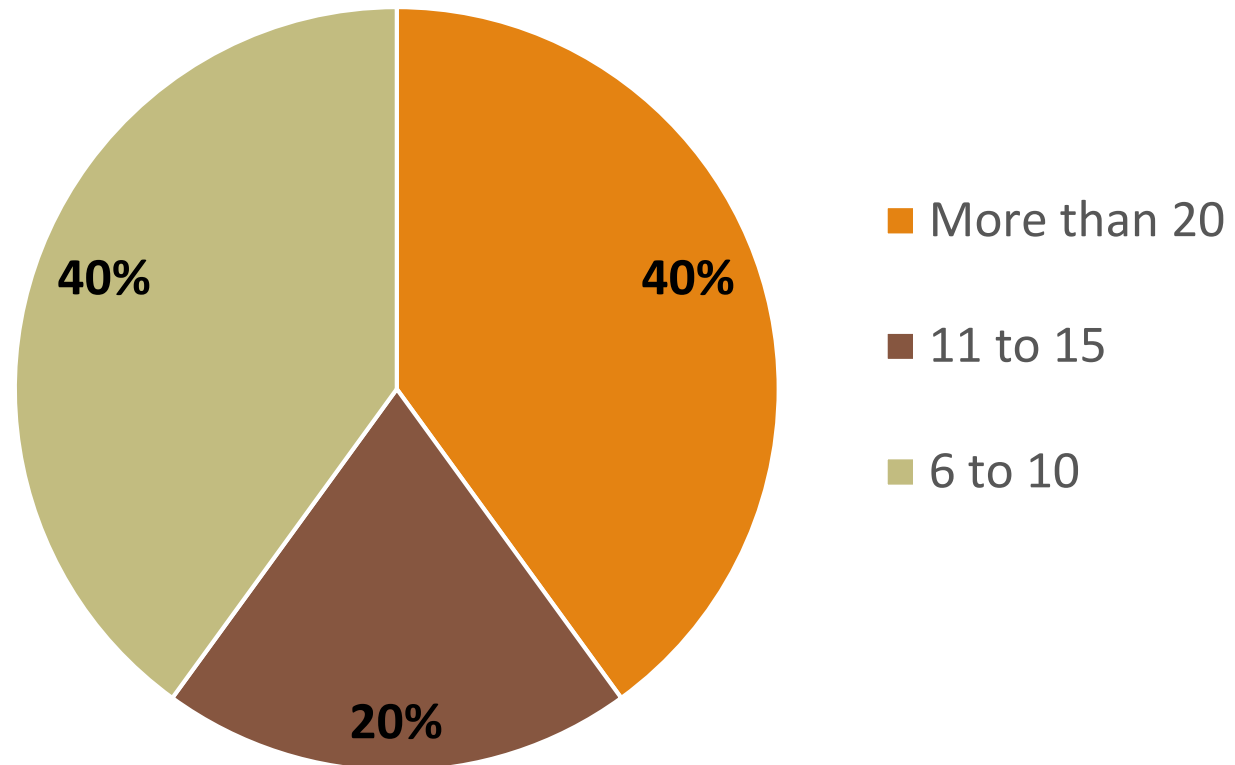
Agency Survey Findings

Have you received calls or requests from individuals due to lack of access to food during the COVID-19 pandemic?



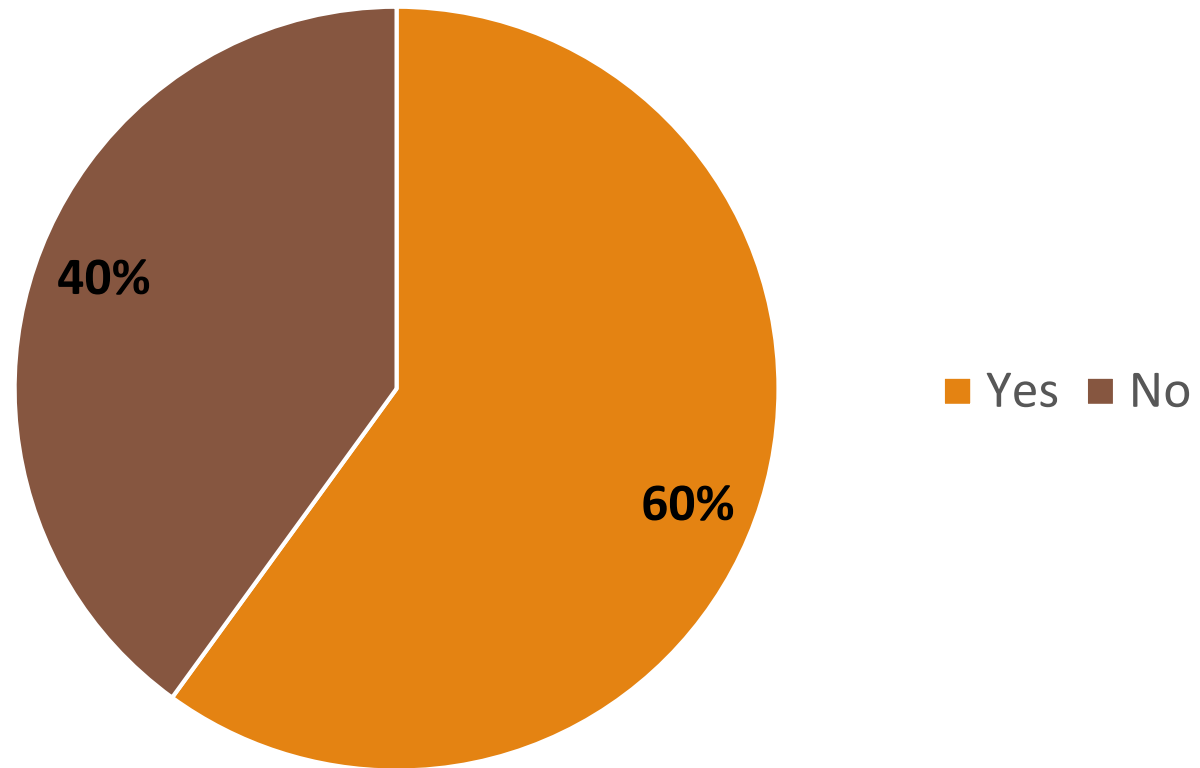
Agency Survey Findings(cont. 2)

How many calls have you received?



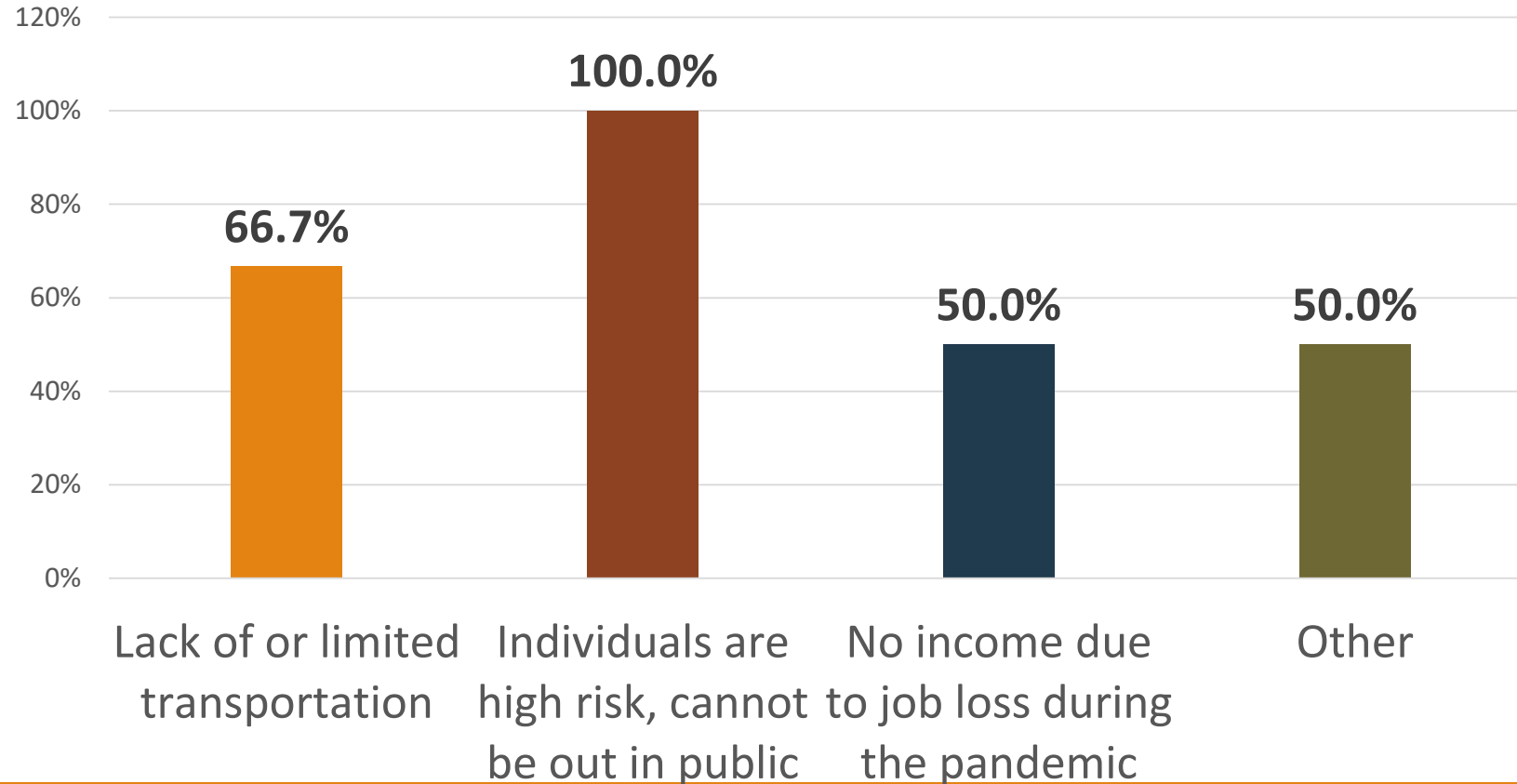
Agency Survey Findings (cont. 3)

Is your agency able to assist individuals directly?



Agency Survey Findings (cont. 4)

What are some of the challenges or barriers consumers in your region or county are experiencing related to either food access or nutritional supports during COVID-19 pandemic? (check all that apply)



Agency Survey Findings (cont. 5)

How are you reaching out to consumers to inform them of resources related to food access and nutritional supports within the community?

- Facebook posts, phone calls, emails
- Staff have been in contact with consumers on a weekly basis since late March to gauge need. We have sent out flyers to consumers letting them know that they can contact our agency for assistance. We have a new collaboration with Hunger Task force for monthly food pick-up and we have begun work on a plan to reach out to individuals with disabilities through our social media outlets. Information is available for callers as well.
- They call us/general phone calls to consumers to inquire how there are/referrals from area agencies and organizations.
- Via phone calls and emails.

Thank you

Feedback or Questions?

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