



Pulse Survey, 2014

One of the goals of the Pulse Survey is to understand the different experiences of vulnerable families in Battle Creek. Subgroup comparisons were conducted on all survey items to understand these differences.

These comparisons included:

- Race/ethnicity
- Household income
- Adult’s age and employment status

This document summarizes group differences discovered through analysis of data provided by **574 Battle Creek residents**, including: families living at or below 200% of the federal poverty level; teenagers who are pregnant or have children; individuals who identified themselves as a racial/ethnic minority; and individuals/Families receiving supports at WIC, Nurse Family Partnership, or Head Start.

The group differences reported include **ONLY findings that represent a statistically significant difference**. This means that the difference is not due to chance alone, but instead is a meaningful difference between respondent groups.

Employment Matters					
Health		Education		Family Economic Security	
Community Conditions	Early Child/Family Successes	Community Conditions	Early Child/Family Successes	Community Conditions	Early Child/Family Successes
<p>Adults’ Access to Needed Care Rates of unemployed (49%) and full-time employed (46%) adults who said they DON’T have insurance and couldn’t afford a doctor visit were similar</p> <p>Full-time employed adults were almost as likely to say that they DO have insurance (36%) and couldn’t afford the visit as they were to say they DON’T have insurance and couldn’t afford the visit (46%)</p>		<p>Parent Priorities for Quality Childcare Unemployed parents (47%) are less likely to prioritize the availability of learning opportunities to help their child succeed in school than employed parents (70%)</p>	<p>Attitudes about School Readiness Adults who are unemployed (86%) are less likely to agree that parents play an important role in school readiness than full time employed adults (95%)</p>	<p>Adults’ Ability to Meet Their Families’ Basic Needs 81% of part-time workers and 61% of full time workers said their basic needs are only met “somewhat well” or “not well” by their current income</p>	<p>Bank Accounts Unemployed adults (47%) are far less likely to have a bank account than those who are employed full-time (82%) or part-time (74%)</p> <p>Income Consistency Only 34% of part- time workers and 62% of full-time workers say their income is steady</p> <p>Saving Money Employed adults (38%) are more likely than unemployed adults (15%) to save money</p>

Race Matters

Health		Education		Family Economic Security	
Community Conditions	Early Child/Family Successes	Community Conditions	Early Child/Family Successes	Community Conditions	Early Child/Family Successes
<p>Adults and Health Coverage Adults of color (82%) are less likely to have health coverage than white adults (90%)</p> <p>66% of Asian adults reported having health coverage, compared to 90% of white adults</p> <p>Adult’s Access to Primary Care White adults (53%) are less likely to report a wellness check in the last 12 months than adults of color (66%)</p> <p>Children and Health Coverage Children of color (93%) are less likely to have health coverage than white children (98%)</p> <p>Children’s Access to Primary Care Children of color (67%) are less likely to have a personal doctor/health care provider than white children (81%)</p> <p>Asian children (54%) and African-American children (65%) are less likely to have a personal doctor/health care provider than white children (81%)</p>	<p>Pregnant women and prenatal behaviors Pregnant white women (53%) are less likely to want to get more physical activity than women of color (71%)</p> <p>Pregnant white women (41%) are more likely to want to smoke less than women of color (18%)</p>	<p>Where Parents Learn What to Expect from Children at Different Ages Hispanic families were the only group to NOT identify medical professionals as a PRIMARY source of information about their child’s development (Native American: 1st, White and Asian: 2nd, African American: 3rd)</p> <p>Doctors or Medical Professionals as a Resource: What to Expect from Children at Different Ages African-American (48%), Hispanic (45%), and Asian (38%) parents were least likely to list medical professionals as a source of information on child development</p> <p>Native American (88%) and white (71%) parents were most likely to list medical professionals as a source of information on child development</p>	<p>Beliefs about When Children Start Learning Parents of color (65%) are less likely to believe that learning starts at or before birth than white parents (80%)</p> <p>Only 32% of those who are <i>of color</i>, under 20, AND have less than a high school diploma believe learning starts at or before birth, compared to 86% of white adults over age 20 with more than a high school diploma</p>	<p>Responsive Financial Support System White adults (50%) were less likely to say that during their most recent interaction with a financial provider, the provider asked about needs they may have had outside of financial security than adults of color (67%)</p> <p>Income Consistency Adults of color (42%) were less likely to say that their income is steady than white adults (55%)</p> <p>The group most likely experiencing income inconsistency is young (24 and younger) <i>people of color</i> (77%) compared to white and over 25 adults (42%). This increased vulnerability group is also more likely to have an income less than \$10,000 (56% compared to 40%) and work part-time (31% compared to 18%)</p>	<p>Bill Paying White adults (29%) are less likely to pay their bills on time than adults of color (38%)</p> <p>Debt White adults (50%) are more likely to have debt than adults of color (36%)</p> <p>White adults (42%) are also more likely to have debts in collections than adults of color (31%)</p> <p>Saving Money White adults (17%) are less likely to save money than adults of color (28%)</p>

Race Matters

Health		Education		Family Economic Security	
Community Conditions	Early Child/Family Successes	Community Conditions	Early Child/Family Successes	Community Conditions	Early Child/Family Successes
<p>Children’s Access to Primary Care Parents of color (56%) are far less likely than white parents (83%) to take their child to a doctor’s office when their child is sick</p> <p>Responsive Healthcare System White parents (38%) were less likely to say that at their child’s last doctor visit, the doctor asked them about their needs AND connected them to supports than African-American parents (57%)</p> <p>Support for Children’s Health Families of color (82%) are less likely to feel they can talk to their child’s doctor about emotional health than white parents (91%)</p> <p>Asian families are far less likely (58%) to report that their doctor has talked to them about what to expect at different ages than other families (85%)</p>		<p>Parent Access to Quality Childcare African-American parents (64%) are far more likely to say there are no good options for childcare in their neighborhood than all other parents (26%)</p> <p>Asian parents were the least likely (14%) to seek childcare compared to other parents (56%)</p> <p>Priorities for Quality Childcare Hispanic and Asian parents (51%) are more likely to prioritize adults with experience/ education in childcare settings than African-American and white parents (31%)</p> <p>Asian families (0%) are less likely to prioritize small group sizes in childcare settings than other families (37%)</p> <p>Reasons Children do not Attend Preschool 28% of African-American parents cited transportation as a reason their child doesn’t attend preschool, compared to 0% of other parents</p>	<p>Adults’ Attitudes about Pre-school and School Readiness Adults of color (84%) are less likely to agree that parents play an important role in school readiness than white adults (92%)</p>		<p>Retirement Strategies Adults of color (23%) were more likely to list family support as a strategy for meeting expenses in old age than white adults (12%)</p> <p>Areas for Additional Support White adults (35%) are less likely to want information about getting a job or a better paying job than adults of color (64%). Income and employment rates for these two groups are similar</p>

Age Matters

Health		Education		Family Economic Security	
Community Conditions	Early Child/Family Successes	Community Conditions	Early Child/Family Successes	Community Conditions	Early Child/Family Successes
<p>Adults' Access to Health Care Adults younger than 20 (50%) are less likely to have a personal doctor than adults ages 35 and up (68%)</p> <p>Adults younger than 20 (49%) are less likely to have a wellness check in the last 12 months than adults ages 35 and up (66%)</p>	<p>Pregnant Women and Knowledge about Fetal Development Pregnant teens (17%) are most likely to believe that a baby is full term at 34 weeks, compared to 4% of pregnant women age 20 and over</p>	<p>Beliefs about When Children Start Learning Only 57% of respondents under age 20 believe that a child starts learning at birth or before compared to 80% of adults over 20</p> <p>Only 32% of those who are of color, <i>under 20</i>, AND have less than a diploma believe learning starts at or before birth, compared to 86% of white adults over age 20 with more than a high school diploma</p>	<p>Income Consistency Adults age 24 and younger (38%) were less likely to say that their income is steady than adults 25 and older (53%)</p> <p>The group most likely experiencing income inconsistency is young (24 and younger) <i>people of color</i> (77%) compared to white and over 25 respondents (42%). This increased vulnerability group is also more likely to have an income less than \$10,000 (56% compared to 40%) and work part-time (31% compared to 18%)</p>		
<p>Adults and Unmet Healthcare Needs Adults ages 35 and older (26%) are more likely to report that they didn't receive needed health care in the last 12 months, compared to 17% of adults under age 35</p>		<p>Parents' Confidence in Promoting their Child's Readiness for School Parents who were <i>younger than 20 years</i> of age or making less than \$10,000 per year reported feeling the LEAST CONFIDENT about preparing their children for school. (Under 25 AND lowest income= 11%) Parents over 25 AND with incomes greater than \$10,000 felt the most confident (61%)</p>		<p>Retirement Strategies The percent of adults (30%) stating that they haven't thought about strategies for meeting expenses in old age is similar for all age groups</p> <p>Adults over age 50 (67%) were far more likely than younger adults (28%) to list Social Security as a strategy for meeting expenses in old age</p>	

Income Matters¹

Health		Education		Family Economic Security	
Community Conditions	Early Child/Family Successes	Community Conditions	Early Child/Family Successes	Community Conditions	Early Child/Family Successes
<p>Adult's Access to Healthcare Adults with household income less than \$10,000 (50%) were less likely to have a <i>personal doctor</i> compared to 63% of other adults</p> <p>Adults with household income less than \$10,000 were less likely (59%) to have had a <i>wellness check</i> than those with an income above \$31,460 (72%)</p> <p>Adults and Unmet Healthcare Needs Adults age 35+ in the <i>median income groups</i> were the most likely (36%) to say they hadn't received needed care compared to 13% of adults with Income <\$10,000 or \$31,460+ AND younger than 35</p>	<p>Pregnant women and attitudes about breastfeeding Women in the lowest income group (<\$10,000; 43%) are most likely to believe that formula is as good as breast milk. (7%-10% of women in higher income brackets endorsed this belief)²</p>	<p>Access to Quality Childcare Parents in the lowest income group (<\$10,000; 71%) were far more likely to have difficulty finding childcare they wanted than parents in the highest income group (\$31,460+; 22%)</p>	<p>Parents' Confidence in Promoting their Child's Readiness for School Parents who were younger than 25 years of age (21%) or making <i>less than \$10,000</i> (29%) per year reporting feeling the LEAST CONFIDENT about preparing their children for school (Under 25 AND lowest income= 11%)</p> <p>Parents over 25 AND with <i>incomes greater than \$10,000</i> felt the most confident (61%)</p>	<p>Adults and Bank Accounts Not having enough money is the primary reason adults reported (71%) for not having a bank account.</p> <p>Income Consistency The group most likely experiencing income inconsistency is young (24 and younger) <i>people of color</i> (77%) compared to white and over 25 respondents (42%). This increased vulnerability group is also more likely to have an income less than \$10,000 (56% compared to 40%) and work part-time (31% compared to 18%)</p> <p>Adults' Ability to Meet Their Families' Basic Needs The highest income group (\$31,460+) was least likely to say they had difficulty meeting their needs (41%), compared to an average of 71% of adults in other brackets</p>	<p>Adults and Bank Accounts Of those who do not have a bank account, 89% have an income less than \$23,000</p>

¹ The survey sample consisted of vulnerable families, so income comparisons are among families below 200% of the federal poverty level.