



2005 Knox County Fair Survey Results

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Methods and participant characteristics

The Knox County Health Department administered a brief survey to a convenience sample of fair-goers at the Knox County Fair in August 2005. A total of 509 respondents completed the survey. Table 1 displays the demographic characteristics of the survey respondents. The majority were female (82%) and the average age was 44.9 years old. Roughly half had children under age 18 living with them (54%). More than half were married (65%), and most had graduated from high school or obtained a GED (40%), or attended or graduated from college (49%). Almost all respondents were white (98%).

Table 1: Demographic characteristics of 2005 Fair Survey (495-503)

	Number	Percent
Gender		
Male	93	19%
Female	410	82%
Age		
18-30 years	93	19%
31-50 years	249	50%
51+ years	158	32%
Average age	44.9 years	--
Children under age 18 in household		
No children	230	47%
One or more children	265	54%
Marital status		
Married	328	65%
Never married	58	12%
Divorced/separated/widowed	98	20%
Member of an unmarried couple	18	4%
Highest educational attainment		
Did not graduate from high school	59	12%
High school graduate or GED	199	40%
Attended some college / college graduate	244	49%
Race		
White	490	98%
Black or African American	3	0.6%
Hispanic or Latino	1	0.2%
Asian	0	--
Alaskan Native or American Indian	4	0.8%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0	--

Source: 2005 KCHD Fair Survey

Respondents represented all areas of the county, although Danville and Centerburg were slightly underrepresented. More than half of the respondents lived in Mount Vernon (59%); according to 2004 Census data, 50% of Knox County’s population resides in Mount Vernon and other areas in the 43050 zip code area.

Table 2: Residence of 2005 Fair Survey respondents, by zip code (n=508)

	Number	Percent
Mount Vernon (43050)	298	59%
Gambier (43022)	30	6%
Howard (43028)	55	11%
Danville (43014)	23	5%
Fredericktown (43019)	77	15%
Centerburg (43011)	19	4%
Other	6	1%

Source: 2005 KCHD Fair Survey

Secondhand smoke

Most respondents (77%) said that no one ever smokes cigarettes in their home (see Table 3). Almost twenty percent (17%), however said that someone had smoked in their home every day during the past week, indicating on-going, daily exposure to secondhand smoke. Thirty percent said they had been in a car with someone who was smoking during the past seven days (see Table 4).

Table 3: “During the past 7 days, on how many days did anyone smoke cigarettes, cigars, or a pipe anywhere inside your home?” (n=504)

	Number	Percent
No one ever smokes in my home	388	77%
One or more days	116	23%
1-6 days	32	6%
All 7 days	84	17%

Source: 2005 KCHD Fair Survey

Table 4: “In the past 7 days, have you been in a car with someone who was smoking?” (n=503)

	Number	Percent
Yes	149	30%
No	354	70%

Source: 2005 KCHD Fair Survey

Table 5 displays secondhand smoke exposure by zip code area. Howard/Danville area residents were more likely to report exposure than were residents of Mount Vernon/Gambier or, particularly, Fredericktown. Roughly one-third of Howard/Danville residents reported that someone had smoked in their home (27%) or that they had been in a car with someone who smoked (37%) at some point during the past seven days.

Table 5: Secondhand smoke exposure during past 7 days, by zip code area (n=475-476)

	Mount Vernon/Gambier (n=324)	Howard/Danville (n=76-77)	Fredericktown (n=75)
Yes, someone smoked inside your home on 1 or more days	23%	27%	20%
Yes, have been in a car with someone who was smoking	30%	37%	20%

Note: Sample sizes for Centerburg (43011) and other zip codes were too small to include in this analysis.
 Source: 2005 KCHD Fair Survey

In order to assess knowledge of the harms caused by secondhand smoke, respondents were asked if they “strongly agreed,” “agreed,” were “neutral/no opinion,” “disagreed,” or “strongly disagreed” with statements about secondhand smoke. As shown in Table 6, most respondents strongly agreed or agreed with the statements, generally indicating awareness of the dangers posed by secondhand smoke. For example, 93% of respondents either “strongly agreed” or “agreed” that “it is harmful to a person’s health if they live in a house where a smoker smokes tobacco indoors.” Fifteen percent of respondents said they were “neutral” or had “no opinion” on the statement that “smoking cigarettes around a baby increases the chances it will die of sudden infant death syndrome,” indicating a possible need for more information about the link between secondhand smoke and SIDS. Responses to the statement about children who live with smokers being “just as likely to develop asthma or other respiratory problems” were puzzling, possibly reflecting a problem with the question wording.

Table 6: “How much do you agree with these statements about secondhand smoke?” (n=490-494)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral or No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Average Rating
	1	2	3	4	5	
It is harmful to a person’s health if they live in a house where a smoker smokes tobacco indoors.	73%	20%	6%	1%	1%	1.4
Inhaling someone else’s cigarette smoke can cause lung cancer in nonsmokers.	65%	22%	10%	2%	1%	1.5
Smoking cigarettes around a baby increases the chances it will die of sudden infant death syndrome?	60%	21%	15%	2%	1%	1.6

Source: 2005 KCHD Fair Survey

More than half of all respondents said they would support an Ohio law that would prohibit smoking tobacco products in public places (See Table 7). Support was highest among Fredericktown residents (74%, see Table 8) and those age 51 and older (75%, see Table 9).

Table 7: "The state of Ohio is being asked to consider a law that would prohibit smoking tobacco products in public places. Would you support such a law?" (n=486)

	Number	Percent
Yes	334	69%
No	152	31%

Source: 2005 KCHD Fair Survey

Table 8: Support for smoke-free public places law, by zip code area (n=460)

	Mount Vernon/Gambier (n=312)	Howard/Danville (n=75)	Fredericktown (n=73)
"Yes:" "The state of Ohio is being asked to consider a law that would prohibit smoking tobacco products in public places. Would you support such a law?"	70%	61%	74%

Note: Sample sizes for Centerburg (43011) and other zip codes were too small to include in this analysis.

Source: 2005 KCHD Fair Survey

Table 9: Support for smoke-free public places law, by age (n=478)

	Age (years)		
	18-30 (n=90)	31-50 (n=238)	51+ (n=150)
"Yes:" "The state of Ohio is being asked to consider a law that would prohibit smoking tobacco products in public places. Would you support such a law?"	64%	66%	75%

Source: 2005 KCHD Fair Survey

Health behaviors

Table 10 lists three behaviors related to obesity, and the frequency at which respondents reported doing these behaviors. Almost half (48%) of respondents said they eat breakfast every day, while 6% said they never eat breakfast and 22% said they only eat it 1 or 2 times a week. More than half (56%) said they participate in 30 minutes of physical activity 3-4 times a week or daily. Most respondents (70%) said they eat in restaurants 1 or 2 times per week.

Table 10: Health behaviors related to obesity (n=475-486)

	Never	1-2 times	3-4 times	Daily
How many days a week do you eat breakfast?	6%	22%	25%	48%
How many times a week do you participate in 30 minutes or more of physical activity (ex. Aerobics, walking, biking, etc.)	8%	37%	30%	26%
How many times during the week, do you or your family eat out at a restaurant?	10%	70%	18%	3%

Source: 2005 KCHD Fair Survey

The majority of respondents (67%) supported the idea of banning cell phone use while driving (see Table 11). There was less support for banning eating (44%) or smoking (47%) while driving.

Table 11: "Do you think any of these activities should be banned while driving?" (n=448-453)

	Yes	
	Number	Percent
Using cell phone	314	67%
Eating	199	44%
Smoking	211	47%

Source: 2005 KCHD Fair Survey

Internet access

Most respondents said they had access to the Internet (72%) (see Table 12). Of those with access, 89% said they used the Internet at home, 8% at work, and 4% at another location.

Table 12: Internet access

	Number	Percent
"Do you have access to the Internet?" (n=480)		
Yes	344	72%
No	136	28%
Among those with access to the Internet who answered further questions (n=297)... "Where?"		
Home	265	89%
Work	22	8%
Other (library or unspecified)	12	4%

Source: 2005 KCHD Fair Survey

Table 13 displays differences in Internet access by age, zip code, and educational attainment categories. The most striking differences were by educational level, and these differences were statistically significant ($p \leq .001$, Chi-Square test). Only 44% of those who did not graduate from high school reported having any Internet access, compared to 84% of those with some college or a college diploma. Thirty-one to 50-year-olds were the most likely to report Internet access; 76% of respondents in this age group had access, compared to 67% of 18-30-year-olds and 66% of over age 50. About three-quarters of Howard/Danville (76%) and Fredericktown residents (74%) reported having access. Among respondents who reported any Internet access, the vast majority in all categories said they had access to the Internet at home.

Table 13: Internet access, by age, zip code area, and educational attainment

	Have ANY Internet access (n=453-473)	Have Internet at HOME, among those who have any Internet access (n=275-293)
Age		
18-30 years	67%	80%
31-50 years	76%	91%
51+ years	66%	91%
Zip code area		
Mount Vernon/Gambier	68%	86%
Howard/Danville	76%	94%
Fredericktown	74%	96%
Highest educational attainment		
Did not graduate from high school	44% ***	90%
High school graduate or GED	64% ***	92%
Attended some college/college graduate	84% ***	87%

Differences were statistically significant; *** p≤.001, Chi-Square test.

Source: 2005 KCHD Fair Survey

Emergency preparedness and safety

The survey asked respondents if they had several different types of emergency equipment in their homes. Almost all respondents seemed to be prepared for fire; 93% reported having a working smoke detector in their home and 95% said they know what to do if their home caught on fire (see Table 14). Eighty-five percent said they owned a battery-powered radio with batteries. Far fewer, however, reported having a weather alert radio (25%) or a generator (23%).

About half of respondents said they owned a gun (48%). The vast majority said they feel safe in their community (92%) and feel safe traveling to other areas (84%).

Table 14: Emergency preparedness and safety (n=472-484)

	Yes	
	Number	Percent
Do you own a weather alert radio?	122	25%
Do you have a battery-powered radio and batteries for use if the electricity is off?	410	85%
Do you own a generator?	113	23%
Does your family know what to do if your home caught on fire?	457	95%
Do you have a working smoke detector in your home?	448	93%
Do you own a gun?	230	48%
Do you feel safe in your community?	440	92%
Do you feel safe traveling to other areas?	397	84%

Source: 2005 KCHD Fair Survey

Table 15 displays differences in emergency preparedness and perceived safety by zip code area. There were statistically significant differences for two items. Mount Vernon/Gambier residents were significantly more likely than others to own a weather alert radio ($p \leq .05$). Howard/Danville residents were significantly more likely than other respondents to own a gun ($p < .01$). Otherwise, responses varied little by geographic area. Most notably, almost all respondents from all three areas said they feel safe in their community.

Table 15: Emergency preparedness and safety, by zip code area

	Yes		
	Mount Vernon/Gambier (n=303-311)	Howard/Danville (n=72-73)	Fredericktown (n=72-73)
Do you own a weather alert radio?	28%*	18%*	16%*
Do you have a battery-powered radio and batteries for use if the electricity is off?	84%	89%	88%
Do you own a generator?	21%	23%	25%
Does your family know what to do if your home caught on fire?	95%	97%	95%
Do you have a working smoke detector in your home?	93%	96%	93%
Do you own a gun?	44%**	67%**	51%**
Do you feel safe in your community?	91%	92%	96%
Do you feel safe traveling to other areas?	85%	81%	83%

Differences were statistically significant; ** $p \leq .01$, * $p \leq .05$ Chi-Square test.

Source: 2005 KCHD Fair Survey

Respondents who said they did not feel safe in their community or traveling to other areas were asked to explain why they felt this way. These responses were coded and are displayed in Tables 16 and 17.

Table 16: Open-ended responses: Reasons for not feeling safe in your own community (n=21)

Reason	Number of respondents
Bad people around, bad neighbors, suspicious people in the area	8
Drugs	2
People with guns	2
Problems with law enforcement	2
Cars get broken into	1
Not all the time	1

Source: 2005 KCHD Fair Survey

Table 17: Open-ended responses: Reasons for not feeling safe while traveling to other areas (n=37)

Reason	Number of respondents
Crime in large cities; Columbus, Cleveland, Mansfield	13
Not always, it depends	5
Drive-by shootings and random shootings in big cities	4
Not familiar, its not home, unknown dangers	4
Road rage, crazy drivers, drunk drivers	3
Crime (unspecified)	3
I go prepared, I carry a gun	2
Other	2
Bad experience in the past	1

Source: 2005 KCHD Fair Survey