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# YOUR DATA: IN THE NEWS

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In this newsletter, we are highlighting a few of the ways your data has been featured in local news in the past few years. Data from the Nebraska Annual Social Indicators Survey (NASIS), which you might have participated in, has been used for a variety of research and reported in a variety of media. We have summarized some of these reports here.

## TRUST IN NEWS

Tobin Beck, a UNL Ph.D. student in political science, wrote in a news release about Nebraskans' trust in news. Data from the 2018 NASIS indicate that while 70% of Nebraskans say they trust local news, 40% say they trust national news.

Beck's analyses also showed that trust in media was related to political ideology, with the majority of those whose political views are more liberal saying they trust media and the majority of those whose political views are more conservative saying they distrust media.

## SUPPORT FOR DEATH PENALTY

UNL sociologist Lisa Kort-Butler was interviewed in a 2016 NET article about support for the death penalty. Data from the NASIS indicate that Nebraskans' support for the death penalty had decreased from 75% in 1987 to 45% in 2016. These results were reported to contrast the results of a statewide vote in November of that year retaining the death penalty.

In the article, Kort-Butler discussed analyses made with other data that indicate that individuals' opinions about the death penalty are related to their opinions about crime.

## QUICK STATS

**70%** of Nebraskans say they trust local news

-2018

**45%** of Nebraskans support death penalty

-2016

**41%** of Nebraskans think the unicameral works better than two-house legislatures

-2017

**18%** of Nebraskans have access to prescription pills, including opioids

-2016

**75%** of Nebraskans support legal protections for LGBT individuals from job discrimination

-2018

## UNICAMERAL

In January of this year, UNL's Nebraska Lectures began with a presentation about Nebraska's unicameral. Charlyne Berens, professor emeritus and former associate dean of the College of Journalism and Mass Communications, cited NASIS data in this presentation. In 2017, 41% of Nebraskans disagreed that the legislature should return to a two-house, partisan body and the same percentage agreed that the legislature works better than two-house legislatures in other states. The lecture can be found on the Nebraska Lectures website at the following link: [research.ul.edu/nebraskalectures/](http://research.ul.edu/nebraskalectures/)

## ACCESS TO DRUGS

Sociologist Patrick Habecker was interviewed for a July 2018 Nebraska Today article about drug access. Data from the 2016 NASIS indicated that 18% of Nebraskans reported access to prescription pills, including opioids. In addition, the data indicated that 35% of Nebraskans have access to marijuana. Data were from those aged 19 and older and indicated that access was not different between urban and rural areas.

## LGBT PROTECTIONS

Sociologists Emily Kazyak and Kelsy Burke wrote an opinion piece in the Journal Star in April of this year about LGBT protections and religious freedom. Data from the 2018 NASIS indicate that 3 out of 4 Nebraskans support legal protections for gays, lesbians, and transgender individuals from job discrimination. In several other articles, the sociologists were interviewed about a similar topic. Discussing 2015 NASIS data, they reported that 64% of Nebraskans oppose laws that would deny service to the LGBT community.