

YOUR DATA: IN THE NEWS



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 range of research and reported in a variety of media. We have summarized some of these reports here.

PLATTE BASIN WATER MANAGEMENT

Mark E. Burbach, an associate geoscientist with the School of Natural Resources, published an abstract using 2019 NASIS data. The abstract covered integrated approaches to water management, and how they've evolved between 2012 and 2019. The study replicated a previously completed study reviewing opinions from Platte Basin stakeholders, Platte Basin non-farm residents, and non-farm residents across NE.

Overall, all four groups agree that local control is integral to water management in the state. A majority of stakeholders do not yet agree they have an ability to influence water rules.



CLIMATE CHANGE CONCERN

As Nebraska approached the one year anniversary of the 2019 floods, the Lincoln Journal Star reported Nebraskans' opinions on climate change using 2019 NASIS data.

Data revealed that political party affiliation lines remain divided on the issue. About 93% of Nebraska liberals believe humans cause climate change, with 32% of conservatives holding the same opinion. 86% of moderate Nebraskans believe in climate change, and 63% believe that it's man-made. About 60% either do not believe or are not sure if climate change was related to the flooding in March 2019.

The biggest concern throughout the state is the potential impacts of drought and flooding on the state's agriculture, though there remains disagreement on whether or not the floods are climate-related.

QUICK STATS

93% of Nebraskan liberals believe in climate change. -2018

53% of Nebraskan conservatives believe in climate change. -2016

86% of Nebraskans moderates believe in climate change. -2017

Previously the maximum number of study invitations to panel members was set at three per year. We will reach that threshold this year. With this in mind, we will be changing the number of uses to five.

RECOGNIZING NASIS DATA

NASIS, one of the nation's longest running state omnibus surveys, provides data that are used and valued in research and the classroom.

Dr. Kristin Olson, professor and vice chair of Sociology at UNL, uses NASIS data within the classroom. The data helps Dr. Olson teach in her sociology classes with both undergraduate and graduate students.

"Data from NASIS has been indispensable to my teaching and research," said Dr. Olson.

Dr. Jolene Smyth, associate professor of Sociology at UNL, frequently uses NASIS data in her courses and to conduct research. Much of the research Dr. Smyth has done has been nationally recognized by sociology colleagues.

"For the past 13 years my students and I have been using NASIS to try to understand how to make answering surveys easier and more enjoyable for respondents," said Dr. Smyth.

NASIS data has been used in presentations at scientific conferences enough that "people nationwide know how great of a survey" it is, according to Dr. Smyth.

"It has been a key resource here at UNL that has helped me and my students be successful, and I am so grateful for the Nebraskans who take the time to do the survey every year," said Dr. Smyth.

NASIS has been conducted annually since 1977 which means, according to Dr. Smyth, that there are valuable data on Nebraskan's experiences and opinions dating back decades. Dr. Smyth said "There are people across this nation and even some in other countries who have benefited in their education or career from NASIS data."

