

# 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, and studies using the NebrASKa Voices panel, have been used for a range of research and reported in a variety of media. We have summarized some of these reports here.

## PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE

ProRail Nebraska, a non-profit group chartered to promote and maintain rail transportation in the State, had their 2020 NASIS data cited in the Lincoln Journal Star. The article stated that twice as many Nebraska residents support more and better passenger rail service in the state as those who opposed it. This support was stronger among millennials.

Even with fewer cars on the road during 2020, there were more accidents than in 2019. By putting people on commuter trains, the traffic congestion and accident rate should decrease.



## PANEL UPDATES

The NebrASKa Voices panel was created in 2018. Since then, the panel has recruited 1,125 members! Over half (63%) were born in Nebraska, and almost all (83%) live in the same residence now as they did two years ago. Most (83%) live in a town or city, but there are still enough to represent farm (8%) and open country (10%) living. It's important to keep contact information like this up to date so BOSR can contact panel members for research opportunities.

In 2020, two researchers used the panel as an affordable way to collect representative data on Nebraskans. BOSR found that panel members were happy to respond - one survey ended with a 73% response rate. Further descriptions of these two projects are on the next page.

# QUICK STATS

**50%** of Nebraskans believe young people in their community are very or somewhat committed to making positive community contributions. -2019

**53%** of Nebraskans are very or somewhat worried about climate change. -2019

**74%** of Nebraskans trust the local and statewide news reported by local news media -2019

Before coronavirus isolation, Nebraskans visited parks and trails 1.7 times on average per week. During isolation, this number dropped to 1.3 times per week. -2020

## SOCIAL NETWORKS

Many NebrASKa Voices panel members were asked to participate in a mail survey last summer. The survey asked about network science, the study of connections that are often complex and hard to see. Only 21% of respondents had heard of network science, but almost everyone (89%) saw research on these connections as very or somewhat valuable for understanding human health.

Respondents were also asked about their views on science and behaviors since the COVID-19 outbreak. Data revealed that almost all respondents (94%) think personal relationships help them through hard times a lot or some.



## EFFECTS OF COVID-19 ON PERSONAL AND WORK LIVES

Panel members who were employed or retired when completing their respective NASIS were asked to participate in a survey conducted by Dr. Jia Yu, an assistant professor of management at UNL. Participants were asked to complete a short, online survey every day for two weeks asking about their experience and the impacts of practicing social distancing due to COVID-19.

Dr. Yu found that social distancing and work uncertainty triggered loneliness. Loneliness in turn reduced work engagement. This was exaggerated with higher levels of work uncertainty, such as unclear COVID-19 protocol and indefinite furloughs.