

BeHeardPhillySM Poverty Survey

Project Background

In June of 2016, BeHeardPhillySM advisory board member, Nyron Crawford moderated “Poverty and Inequality: A Panel Discussion on Issues and Avenues to Engagement.” Inspired by this topic, BeHeardPhillySM in collaboration with the Philadelphia Citizen, launched a 10-question survey on issues related to quality of life in Philadelphia, and residents knowledge of the state and status of poverty in Philadelphia. The Philadelphia Citizen wrote an article on June 14th titled: Are You Satisfied? describing the upcoming survey. The survey was open from June 16th – June 28th, 2016.

Responses

A total of 1,407 responded to the survey. Because of partial responses and missing data, a total of 1,062 responses were used in the weighting and analysis.

Sample, Weighting and Analysis

Virtually, all survey data are weighted before they can be used to produce reliable estimates of population parameters. While reflecting the selection probabilities of sampled units, weighting also attempts to compensate for practical limitations of a sample survey, such as differential nonresponse and undercoverage. The weighting process for this survey essentially entailed two major steps. The first step consisted of computation of *base weights* to reflect unequal selection probabilities and selection of one adult per household. In the second step, base weights were adjusted so that the resulting final weights aggregate to reported totals for the target population.

For the second step, final weights were adjusted using the method of *Iterative Proportional Fitting*, which is commonly referred to as *Raking*. Specifically, design weights were simultaneously adjusted along the following raking dimensions using the *WgtAdjust* procedure of SUDAAN. It should be noted that survey data for some of demographic questions used for weighting included missing values. All such missing values were first imputed using a *hot-deck* procedure before construction of the survey weights. As such, respondent counts reflected in the following tables correspond to the post-imputation step.

Table 1. First raking dimension for weight adjustments by gender

Gender	Respondents		Population ¹	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Male	468	44.07%	535,945	45.9%
Female	594	55.93%	630,438	54.1%
Total	1,062	100.0%	1,166,383	100.0%

¹ The needed population totals for weighting have been obtained from the American Community Survey (ACS).

Table 2. Second raking dimension for weight adjustments by age

Age	Respondents		Population	
18-24	75	7.1%	149,700	12.8%
25-34	371	34.9%	279,609	24.0%
35-44	171	16.1%	191,107	16.4%
45-54	120	11.3%	183,728	15.8%
55-64	154	14.5%	174,046	14.9%
65+	171	16.1%	188,193	16.1%
Total	1,062	100.0%	1,166,383	100.0%

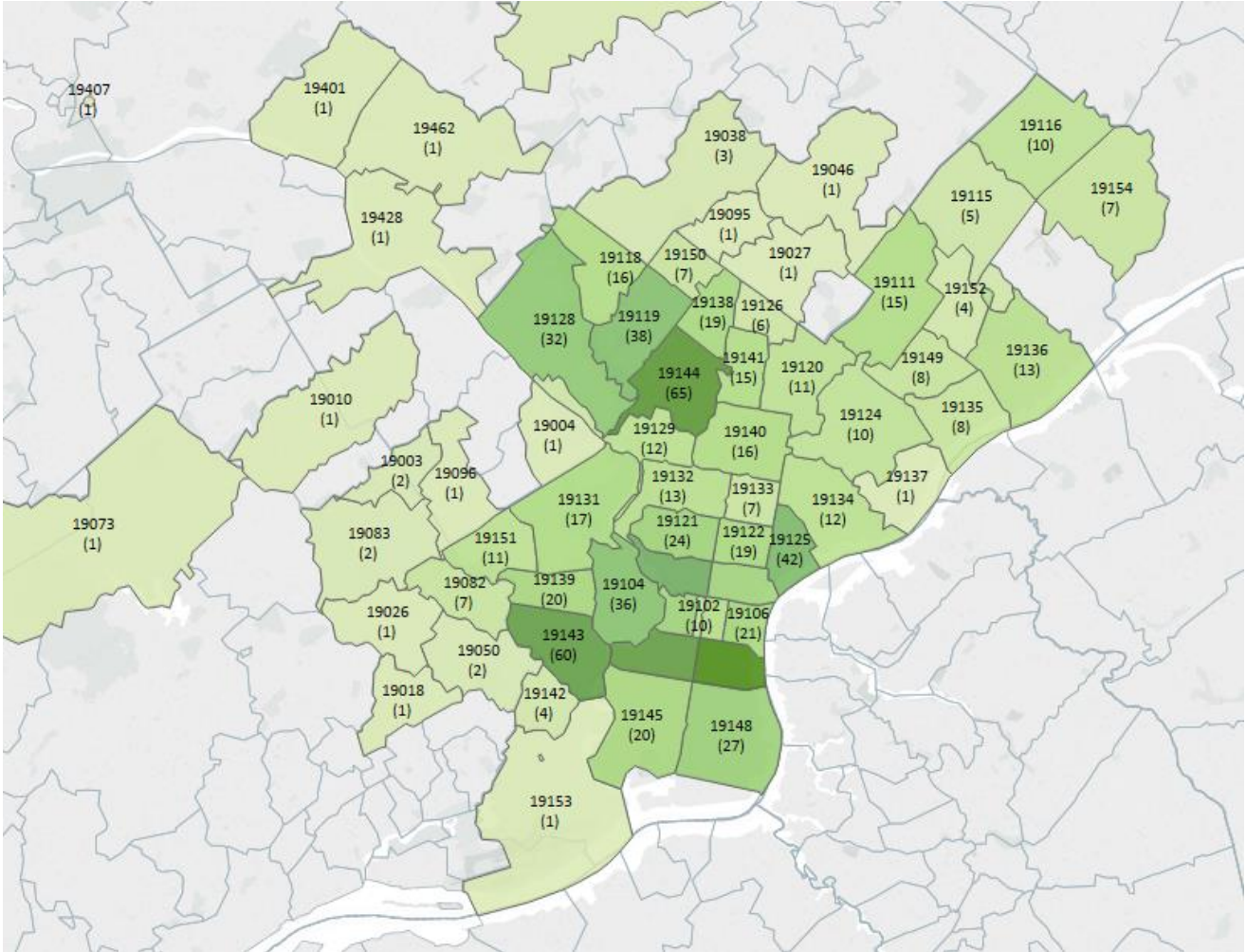
Table 3. Third raking dimension for weight adjustments by race-ethnicity

Race-Ethnicity	Respondents		Population	
White	671	63.2%	451,742	38.7%
Black	287	27.0%	466,976	40.0%
Hispanic	23	2.2%	140,428	12.0%
Other	81	7.6%	107,237	9.2%
Total	1,062	100.0%	1,166,383	100.0%

Table 4. Fourth raking dimension for weight adjustments by education

Education	Respondents		Population	
HS or Less	166	15.6%	596282	51.1%
Some College	155	14.6%	283924	24.3%
College Graduate	319	30.0%	173411	14.9%
Beyond College	422	39.7%	112766	9.7%
Total	1,062	100.0%	1,166,383	100.0%

Where they Came From



Weighted Results

The weighted responses to the survey questions are reported below. For knowledge-based question, the correct answers are highlighted in green.

1. What do you think are the two most important issues for the government to address?

(Source: NPR-Kaiser Family Foundation-Kennedy School of Government Poverty Study)

Below is a list of some of the most frequently used words:

- Education
- Poverty
- Gun
- Control
- Public
- Inequality
- Schools
- Income
- Jobs
- Taxes
- Government
- Security
- Social
- School
- Violence
- Healthcare
- Health
- Safety
- Crime
- Economy

Below is a list of some of the most frequently used phrases:

- Gun control
- Income inequality
- Public schools
- Health care
- Social security
- Poverty and education
- Education and guns
- Inequality and education

(see **Appendix A** for full results)

2. How big a problem is poverty in our society today?

 (Source: [NPR-Kaiser Family Foundation-Kennedy School of Government Poverty Study](#))

	Respondents		NPR
A big problem	940,375	84.1%	55%
Somewhat of a problem	135,217	12.1%	33%
A small problem	21,286	1.9%	8%
Not a problem at all	21,916	2.0%	2%
Total	1,118,793	100.0%	100%

3. How would you rate your own financial situation today?

 (Source: [NPR-Kaiser Family Foundation-Kennedy School of Government Poverty Study](#))

	Respondents		NPR
Excellent	72,146	6.4%	7%
Good	330,372	29.4%	43%
Only fair	524,012	46.7%	38%
Poor	195,927	17.5%	11%
Total	1,122,456	100.0%	100%

4. A family of 4 can earn up to how much money per year, and still be considered at the poverty level? (Source: <https://www.healthcare.gov/glossary/federal-poverty-level-FPL/>)

	Respondents	
\$16,500	121,478	10.8%
\$24,250	266,513	23.7%
\$38,000	199,729	17.8%
\$45,750	194,460	17.3%
Don't know	340,276	30.3%
Total	1,122,456	100.0%

5. Thinking of the future, do you think Philly will be better or worse as a place to live 5 years from now?

	Respondents	
Better	387,571	34.5%
Worse	264,992	23.6%
Same	174,931	15.6%
Mixed	181,554	16.2%
Don't know	113,219	10.1%
Total	1,122,267	100.0%

6. Who do you think should be most responsible for cutting the poverty rate in Philly?

	Respondents	
Individuals	144,362	12.9%
Government	607,371	62.3%
Businesses	108,904	7.3%
Education system	169,239	12.3%
Someone else	89,465	7.4%
Total	1,119,341	100.0%

7. Would you be willing to pay more in taxes if it would cut the poverty rate by 50% in 50 years?

	Respondents	
Yes	492,703	44.3%
No	419,793	37.8%
Don't know	198,511	17.9%
Total	1,122,456	100.0%

8. Of the 10 largest cities in the US (which includes Philly), do you know where Philly ranks in terms of % of people in poverty?

(Source: [Philly #1 for *deep* poverty – Philly.com](#))

	Respondents	
First	207,061	18.5%
Third	222,524	19.8%
Fifth	133,664	11.9%
Seventh	62,141	5.5%
Don't Know	496,783	44.3%
Total	1,122,173	100.0%

9. Do you know what % of Philly's population lives below the poverty level?

(Source: [Pew, census](#))

	Respondents	
13%	45,005	4.0%
15%	53,698	4.8%
22%	195,330	17.4%
26%	373,768	33.4%
Don't know	451,773	40.4%
Total	1,119,574	100.0%

10. Do you know which racial/ethnic group has the highest rate of poverty in Philly?
 (Source: [Latinos have region's highest poverty rate \(Philly.com\)](#); [census](#))

	Respondents	
Asians	16,321	1.5%
Black/Afr Amer	662,648	59.0%
Hispanic/Latinos	111,313	9.9%
Whites	39,861	3.6%
Other	13,133	1.2%
Don't know	279,179	24.9%
Total	1,122,456	100.0%