

**COMMUNITY HEALTH SURVEY  
OF “MAGIC MARKER”  
NEIGHBORHOOD**

*Conducted for:*  
**Isles, Inc.**

*Conducted by:*

**R**

**Eagleton Institute of Politics  
Center for Public Interest Polling**

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# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### ***A. Project Background and Objectives***

Isles, a non-profit community organization based in Trenton is encouraging revitalization efforts and community involvement around a brownfield site located in that city. The site is known as the “Magic Marker” site after a recent occupant of the factory site.

Community health data for urban neighborhoods is difficult to obtain. Isles is particularly concerned about obtaining useful health information about residents in this brownfield site. In order to obtain this information, Isles commissioned the Eagleton Institute’s Center for Public Interest Polling at Rutgers University to conduct a survey of households in the neighborhood. Specific objectives included assessing prevalence of certain health conditions, examining links between the household and neighborhood environments and health issues, measuring access to health care, and evaluating knowledge and awareness of the links between one’s environment and health.

### ***B. Summary of Research Methodology***

The survey involved in-person interviews conducted between March 18, 2001 and June 4, 2001 with a random probability sample of 100 heads of households in the Magic Marker study area. Interviewers were recruited from the community and trained by the Eagleton project director.

The study area was defined as follows:

A neighborhood in the Trenton's Census Tract 15, surrounding an 8 acre brownfield site. Specifically, the neighborhood borders are defined by the following streets -- Prospect (west), Reservoir/Globe (north), Pennington (north/east), North Willow (east), and Bellevue (south). Within census tract 15, this area comprises almost all of block group 5 and approximately half of the households in block group 3. The census area boundaries run down the middle of streets that constitute the borders of the study area. For this study, households on the opposite sides of those street were also included. Based on this configuration, there are approximately 500 occupied households in the study area.

A total of 100 households were sampled using a pooled sampling methodology. The universe of households were pooled into 100 sample points with approximately five to six valid addresses in each sample point. Sample points were proportionally assigned to different streets in the neighborhood. A total of 28 interviews were conducted with households on Bellevue Avenue, 22 were conducted in the North 25 area (including North Willow, Fairway, and Carver), 25 were conducted in the northwestern portion (including Reservoir, Rutherford, Marion, and Prospect), and 25 were conducted in the northeastern portion of the study area (including Pennington, Calhoun, Dunham, Wilson, Pashley, and Monroe).

Interviewers conducted interviews with one household from each sample point. Towards the end of the field period, eight sample points were re-sampled and three interviews were conducted from each. Interviewers spoke with the male or female head-of-household.

The 100 households surveyed include 283 individual residents living in those households. A sample of 100 based on a population of 500 has a margin of sampling error of  $\pm 8.5\%$  for most results. "Sampling error" is a statistical term which describes the probable difference between interviewing everyone in a given population and a sample

drawn from that population. Thus, if 47 percent of those in this study sample are found to agree with a particular statement, the percentage of agreement within the population from which the sample was drawn would be between 38.5 and 55.5 percent ( $47 \pm 8.5\%$ ).

Sampling error increases as the sample size is reduced. This is important to note in this particular study as many of the sub-groups (e.g. households with certain reported health conditions) are very small. While these sub-group results may be statistically insignificant, they may be presented in this report if an interesting difference or lack of difference among groups is evident.

### ***C. Organization of the Report***

This descriptive report is designed to provide an overview of the key findings from the research and a road map to the data produced from the survey. Following this introductory chapter is a summary of the survey findings.

Chapter 2 reviews demographic information about the neighborhood obtained in the survey. Chapter 3 presents the results for residents' evaluations of their neighborhood as a place to live. Chapter 4 discusses the prevalence of certain health conditions among area residents. Chapter 4 also includes statistical tables for some of the results.

Chapter 5 examines residents' access to health care. Chapter 6 looks at residents' awareness of environmental health issues.

Readers are encouraged to refer to the questionnaire in Appendix A to review the exact question wording. Appendix A also includes a full listing of results.

*D. Acknowledgments*

The Eagleton Project Director for this study was Patrick Murray, Senior Research Analyst. The report and the interpretation of the survey findings are the sole responsibility of the Center for Public Interest Polling, the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers the State University of New Jersey.

## CHAPTER 2

### NEIGHBORHOOD DEMOGRAPHICS

#### **A. *Race, Income, and Other Household Characteristics***

The following is an overview of the demographic characteristics of the approximately 500 households in the study area.

One-third have lived in the neighborhood for 10 years or less, 35 percent have lived here 11 to 25 years, and 33 percent have lived here more than 25 years. Twenty-four percent have been in their current home for more than 25 years.

Half own the home they live in. Three-fourths have a working telephone in their home.

In terms of income and earnings, about half (52%) of the households are below 200% of the federal poverty level, including 29 percent below 125%. Another 38 percent are above the 200% poverty threshold and 10 percent did not report income levels.

Almost all the households (97%) are African-American.

#### **B. *Size of Household***

One-in-four households is composed of a single person. Three-in-ten include married spouses. About 4-in-10 include children under age 18. Nearly half of these households with children are single parent households (18% of all households). Five percent of the households are comprised of children living with a grandparent and 13 percent include children living with both a parent and grandparent.

Based on survey estimates, approximately 1,300 to 1,500 people live in the study area. About 1-in-4 residents are children under the age of 18, including six percent who are age 5 and younger. Another 15 percent are senior citizens age 65 and older (Table 2.1).

**Table 2.1 Neighborhood Age and Gender Demographics**

<u>Age</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Age Total</u>
0 to 5	2%	4%	6%
6 to 17	11	9	20
18 to 34	10	15	25
35 to 54	11	15	26
55 to 64	4	4	8
65 and over	7	8	15
<u>Gender total</u>	45%	55%	100%



## CHAPTER 3

### NEIGHBORHOOD EVALUATION

#### **A. *Perceptions of the Neighborhood***

Most residents (61%) feel that their neighborhood has got worse in the past five years. The most important issues they see facing the neighborhood include: abandoned houses in disrepair (33%), drug activity (26%), crime and safety (25%), and trash on empty lots (20%).

#### **B. *Healthiness of the Neighborhood***

The “Magic Marker” neighborhood fares somewhat worse than the city of Trenton in terms of residents’ perceptions of it as a healthy place to live. When asked to rate their neighborhood as a healthy place to live, no resident says it is excellent, 39 percent say it is good, 48 percent only fair, and 13 percent poor. The 39 percent positive rating for the neighborhood compares to 56 percent who rate Trenton as a healthy place to live.

The major neighborhood health issues identified by residents include: pollution (18%), rodents and vermin (11%), drugs (7%), trash (6%), abandoned buildings (5%), the Magic Marker factory site (4%), and crime (4%).

One-in-four residents (25%) believe that living near the Magic Marker factory site has an impact on their health, including respiratory problems (10%), drinking water contamination (6%), and general dangers and quality of life deterioration (6%). One-in-three (35%) feel that the factory site has no affect on their health.

## CHAPTER 4

### RESIDENTS' HEALTH

#### **A. *General Health Status***

Overall, about 1-in-3 residents rate their general state of health as excellent (18%) or very good (15%). Another 38 percent say it is good, 26 percent fair, and 3 percent poor. Survey participants report similar health levels for the other adults they live with (29% excellent or very good, 45% good, 26% fair or poor). For those households with children, 46 percent report that their child's health is excellent, 22 percent say it is very good, 27 percent good, and 5 percent fair. No one reported poor health for a child.

#### **B. *Prevalence of Health Conditions***

Study participants were presented with a list of different health conditions and asked whether any are experienced by someone in their household (Table 4.1).

Half of the area households include someone who has high blood pressure (51%), 4-in-10 include someone with diabetes (38%), 3-in-10 include someone with allergies (29%), and 2-in-10 include someone with asthma or other respiratory problems (21%).

About 1-in-10 are households include someone with substance abuse problems (13%), heart disease (12%), eye problems (12%), skin conditions (12%), depression (11%), and high cholesterol (10%).

Eight percent of households report someone has had cancer, although all reported cases are currently in remission.

Fewer than 1-in-10 households report someone has dental problems other than cavities (7%), sickle cell anemia (5%), mental health problems (5%), or learning problems or behavioral disorders (3%). No household reports instances of lead poisoning.

Some of these conditions are more prevalent in poorer households. Allergies (45%), asthma (34%), skin conditions (31%), and depression (31%) are more likely to be present in households earning below 125% of the federal poverty level. On the other hand, diabetes is more prevalent among households earning over 200% of the federal poverty level (45%).

Prevalence estimates were also obtained for the total area population. Some conditions were reported to affect only adults or children, while others affect both age groups (Table 4.2).

Among those conditions affecting all age groups, 13 percent of residents are reported to have allergies. About 4-in-5 allergy sufferers report seasonal or pollen allergies, 1-in-5 report dust allergies, 1-in-10 report allergies to penicillin, 1-in-10 report household chemical allergies, 1-in-10 report mold allergies, and about 1-in-20 report food allergies.

Eight percent of all area residents are reported to have asthma, 5 percent have skin conditions, 5 percent have depression, 2 percent have sickle cell anemia, and 2 percent have mental health problems.

Allergies and asthma tend to affect all age groups, although asthma is somewhat less prevalent among 18 to 34 year old adults (4%) than it is among either children or older adults.. Skin conditions also affect all age groups, but are somewhat more

prevalent among children age 6 to 17 (9%). Depression is reported among all age groups over 5 years old but is more likely to affect females (7%) than males (2%).

Among those conditions that affect adults only, 28 percent of area residents age 18 and older have high blood pressure, including 60 percent of those age 55 and older, 25 percent of those age 35 to 54, and 1 percent of those age 18 to 34.

One-in-five adults (21%) has diabetes, including 49 percent of those age 55 and older, 15 percent of those age 35 to 54, and 1 percent of those age 18 to 34.

Heart disease and eye problems affect about 6 percent of all area adults, particularly those age 55 and older (14% for heart disease and 15% for eye problems). Five percent of area adults have high cholesterol, 4 percent have had cancer, and 4 percent have dental problems. None of these conditions affects adults under age 35.

Nine percent of area residents between the ages of 16 and 54 have reported substance abuse problems. This includes 12 percent of those age 16 to 34 and 5 percent of those age 35 to 54. Men aged 16 to 54 (15%) are more likely than women aged 16 to 54 (5%) to have this condition.

Among conditions affecting children only, 5 percent of those age 6 to 17 have reported learning or behavioral problems. There are no reported behavioral problems among children under age 6. Also, there are no reported cases of lead poisoning among area children.

Most residents who have these conditions are receiving treatment for it. This includes practically everyone who has high blood pressure, diabetes, heart disease, skin conditions, sickle cell anemia, mental health problems, and learning/behavioral problems.

Nine-in-ten of those with high cholesterol, asthma, and allergies are receiving treatment. Those with asthma or allergies who are not receiving treatment are from the poorest households in the area. They tend to have insurance coverage but either don't want medication or don't trust the treatment they get. Among those with asthma who are receiving treatment, nearly 9-in-10 use an inhaler and about 1-in-6 use a nebulizer. Other treatments mentioned in one or two cases include steroids, oxygen, and Theophylline.

Three-in-four of those with eye problems and substance abuse problems are currently receiving treatment. Again, the people not receiving treatment tend not to want treatment.

About half of those with depression and dental problems are currently receiving treatment. Those not receiving treatment for depression give a variety of reasons, including lack of time, don't feel they need treatment, or lack of insurance coverage. Those not receiving treatment for their dental problems are more likely to cite lack of insurance coverage as the reason.

### ***C. Housing Conditions and Health***

Residents were asked about a number of conditions that may exist in and around their home. About half complain of noise levels (49%) or say there is drug dealing or other criminal activity in their neighborhood (48%). More than 1-in-3 report that there is a vermin (39%) or insect (36%) problem in their building or complex. Another 1-in-3 (33%) say their heating doesn't work right in the winter. One-in-four (24%) say the paint in their home is chipped or flaking, 19 percent say there is mold in their home, 14 percent say their tap water is dirty or has an odor, and 15 percent complain of overcrowding in

their building or complex. Residents who live on Bellevue Avenue or in the North 25 complex are more likely to report these housing conditions.

Almost all area households use wet mops (95%), bleach or ammonia (93%), and room deodorizers (92%) on at least a monthly basis. About half say they use vacuum cleaners with special filters (51%). About 1-in-5 use water filters (20%) or air filters (18%) at least once a month.

About 3-in-4 households use pesticides (79%), rat poison (73%), and Drano or oven cleaners (78%) at least occasionally. About 3-in-5 households who use these products at least once a month.

Also, just under half of area household have wall-to-wall carpeting in some of the rooms in their home. About 1-in-3 use electric or kerosene space heaters.

Table 4.3 examines how some of these housing conditions correlate with reports of allergies, asthma, and skin conditions. Allergies are more prevalent in homes where space heaters are used (50%), where pesticides are used daily (44%), where vacuums are used daily (42%), that have wall to wall carpeting (38%), that have reported mold (37%), and that have problems with tap water (36%).

Asthma is somewhat more prevalent in homes that use space heaters (32%), where the heating doesn't work (27%), that have wall to wall carpeting (27%), and that have cigarette smokers (26%).

Skin conditions are more prevalent in homes that report tap water problems (29%), that have mold (26%), that have insects (22%), where the heat doesn't work (21%), and that have peeling paint (21%).

A Household Illness Index was created based on reports of the sixteen conditions covered in the survey. This index gives a relative picture of the healthiness of area households (Table 4.4). One-in-five households (21%) reports that no one has any of these sixteen illnesses, 38 percent of area households report having one or two of these illnesses, and 41 percent report having three or more.

Homes with conditions such as tap water problems (64%), heat that doesn't work (57%), peeling paint (54%) and similar problems are more likely to report having three or more of these illnesses.

In particular, homes that have mold (5%), tap water problems (7%), peeling paint (8%), and space heaters (8%) are the least likely to report no health problems among their occupants.

#### ***D. Other Health Issues***

About half of the households in the study area include a cigarette smoker. This includes 37 percent of all residents age 16 and older. Smoking is most prevalent among males under age 55 (56% for men age 35 to 54 and 46% for men age 16 to 34 compared to 37% for women age 35 to 54 and 37% for women age 16 to 34). Both men and women age 55 and older are least likely to smoke (28% for men and 22% for women in this age group).

Families with children under age 6 comprise 13 percent of all area households. Over 3-in-5 of these households report that their children have been tested for lead poisoning, 1-in-4 have not, and 1-in-7 are not sure.

Among households with women who have ever been pregnant, 19 percent report that a child has been mis-carried or still-born, 7 percent have had a premature birth, 7 percent have had an underweight birth, and 2 percent have had a child die within a year of birth.



**Table 4.1 Household Incidence of Health Conditions**

	<u>YES</u>	<i><b>POVERTY STATUS:</b></i>		
		<u>Below 125%</u>	<u>125 to 200%</u>	<u>Over 200%</u>
High blood pressure	51%	52%	44%	47%
Diabetes or “sugar”	38	21	35	45
Allergies	29	45	9	26
Asthma or other breathing or lung problems	21	34	9	13
Substance abuse, or problems with alcohol or drugs	13	14	13	11
Heart disease	12	14	4	13
Eye problems which are not corrected by glasses	12	10	13	13
Skin rashes or skin conditions	12	31	--	3
Depression, other than occasionally feeling sad or blue	11	31	4	3
High cholesterol	10	14	4	11
Cancer *	8	10	4	5
Dental problems other than cavities	7	10	4	5
Sickle cell anemia	5	--	9	3
Problems with mental health	5	7	--	--
Learning or behavioral problems	3	7	--	--
Lead poisoning	--	--	--	--

\* All cancer reports are currently in remission

**Table 4.2 Population Health Conditions**

	<i>Proportion of population having this condition</i>					
	<u>TOTAL</u>	<i>By Age:</i>				
		<u>0 to 5</u>	<u>6 to 17</u>	<u>18 to 34</u>	<u>35 to 54</u>	<u>55 and older</u>
High blood pressure	28% <sup>1</sup>	na	na	1%	25%	60%
Diabetes or “sugar”	21 <sup>1</sup>	na	na	1	15	49
Allergies	13	6	16	13	12	15
Asthma or other breathing or lung problems	8	12	10	4	7	11
Substance abuse, or problems with alcohol or drugs	9 <sup>1</sup>	na	na	12	5	na
Heart disease	6 <sup>1</sup>	na	na	--	4	14
Eye problems which are not corrected by glasses	6 <sup>1</sup>	na	na	3	1	15
Skin rashes or skin conditions	5	2	9	4	1	5
Depression, other than occasionally feeling sad or blue	5	--	5	4	4	8
High cholesterol	5 <sup>1</sup>	na	na	--	8	6
Cancer *	4 <sup>1</sup>	na	na	--	3	11
Dental problems other than cavities	4 <sup>1</sup>	na	na	--	4	8
Sickle cell anemia	2	--	3	3	1	--
Problems with mental health	2	--	3	3	--	2
Learning or behavioral problems	4 <sup>2</sup>	--	5	na	na	na
Lead poisoning	--	--	--	na	na	na

\* All cancer reports are currently in remission

<sup>1</sup> Total is for adults only (except substance abuse, which is for persons age 16 to 54 only)

<sup>2</sup> Total is for children only

**Table 4.3 Prevalence of Skin and Respiratory Conditions**

	<u>Allergies</u>	<u>Asthma</u>	<u>Skin rashes</u>
<b>TOTAL HOUSEHOLD PREVALENCE</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>12%</b>
<i>By Household Conditions:</i>			
Chipped or flaking paint	29	25	21
Rats or mice	26	18	15
Roaches or insects	28	19	22
Tap water dirty	36	14	29
Heating doesn't work right	33	27	21
Mold	37	21	26
Wall to wall carpeting	38	27	9
<i>Use pesticides in home:</i>			
-- Daily	44	11	22
-- Weekly or monthly	27	20	11
-- Less often or never	29	26	11
<i>Use special vacuum filter:</i>			
-- Daily	42	17	--
-- Weekly or monthly	26	23	10
-- Less often or never	29	21	17
<i>Use electric or kerosene space heaters:</i>			
-- Yes	50	32	18
-- No	16	15	8
<i>Tobacco smoker in house:</i>			
-- Yes	30	26	18
-- No	28	16	6

**Table 4.4 Household Illness Index**

	No reported <u>illnesses</u>	One or <u>two</u>	<u>3 to 5</u>	6 or <u>more</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>TOTAL HOUSEHOLD PREVALENCE</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<i><u>By Household Conditions:</u></i>					
Chipped or flaking paint	8	38	42	12	100
Rats or mice	23	30	38	8	99
Roaches or insects	19	28	41	11	99
Tap water dirty	7	28	50	14	99
Heating doesn't work right	18	24	42	15	99
Mold	5	42	42	10	99
Wall to wall carpeting	13	36	42	9	100
Use electric or kerosene space heaters	8	39	42	10	99

## CHAPTER 5

### HEALTH CARE ACCESS

#### **A. *Health Insurance Coverage***

Health insurance coverage is fairly widespread in the study area. All of those residents age 5 or younger or age 65 and older have health insurance coverage. Nearly all (95%) children age 6 to 17 have coverage as do nearly all those age 55 to 64 (96%).

Nearly 9-in-10 of those age 18 to 34 (88%) have health coverage. Among this age group, females (90%) are somewhat more likely than males (82%) to have coverage.

About 9-in-10 parents say that they have a regular place for well-child care. Those that don't say that their child is rarely sick and doesn't need a regular place for care.

#### **B. *Prevalence of Routine Medical Check-ups***

About 3-in-4 residents have been to a doctor for a medical check-up in the past five years and 3-in-5 have done so in the past two years (Table 5.1). Adults age 18 to 54 are least likely to have seen a doctor for a check-up in the past two years. Males in this age group (31%) are about half as likely as females in this age group (58%) to have had a check-up. There are no significant gender differences in the other age groups.

Just over half of all area residents have visited a dentist in the past five years and only 1-in-3 have done so in the past year. Again, those age 18 to 54 are least likely to have seen a dentist. Males age 35 to 54 (16%) are the least likely to have visited a dentist in the past year.

Nearly 1-in-10 households report that a member has seen a chiropractor in the past two years and about 2 percent have been to an acupuncturist. These reports tend to come from households that report three or more illnesses and households below 200% of poverty.

**C. Barriers to Care**

Most residents are very (62%) or somewhat (27%) satisfied with the quality of health care their household receives.

Seven-in-ten households report that they experience no barriers to getting the treatment they need. However, 7 percent cite lack of insurance coverage, 8 percent say lack of transportation, and 3 percent mention lack of time as barriers to getting health care for their household.

Also, nearly 1-in-10 households reports that there was a time in the past year when someone in their home needed to see a doctor but could not because of the cost. This barrier affects households in all income categories.

**Table 5.1 Routine Health Care Access**

RESIDENT	Medical Check-up		Dental Check-up	
	Past 5 <u>years</u>	Past 2 <u>years</u>	Past 5 <u>years</u>	Past 1 <u>year</u>
TOTAL	76%	61%	55%	34%
<u>Age</u>				
0 to 5	88	88	62	56
6 to 17	81	72	71	53
18 to 34	67	54	51	27
35 to 54	68	40	44	25
55 and over	89	75	58	29

## CHAPTER 6

### ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

#### **A. *Meetings and Information***

One-in-four residents has attended a community meeting that focused on environmental issues and 1-in-10 have attended such a meeting at the North 25 complex (including 1-in-4 of those residents living in the North 25 complex).

Fewer than 1-in-5 residents report that they occasionally (13%) or often (5%) look for information about environmental conditions that may be a problem in their home or neighborhood. Another 3-in-5 (59%) never do this. Residents with respiratory problems in their household (31%) are more likely than others (11%) to look for environmental information.

#### **B. *Awareness of Local Environmental Issues***

While 3-in-5 area residents believe that environmental conditions outside their homes have a great deal (21%) or some (38%) impact on their families' health, only 1-in-4 say that the environment inside their home has a similar affect (11% great deal and 15% some). Households with reports of respiratory problems, allergies and skin conditions are more likely to see a link between these environments and their families' health.

The main exterior environmental health factors identified by residents who see a link with health are pollution (36%), trash (21%), crime and drugs (13%), chemicals (6%), rodents (5%), abandoned buildings (5%), the Magic Marker factory site (4%), and lack of trees (4%).

The main interior environmental health factors identified by residents who see a link with health are mold (11%), cleanliness and germs (10%), dust and air quality (8%), rodents and insects (6%), and building maintenance (5%).

When asked whether they were aware of the existence of specific environmental problems in their area, half (51%) of the residents say they know of contaminated land issues in their neighborhood. Another 18 percent say there is no such problem and 31 percent do not know if such a problem exists.

Just over 1-in-3 (35%) say they know of an air pollution problem in their area, 28 percent say there is no such problem, and 37 percent do not know. Also, 18 percent say there is a water pollution problem while 37 percent say there is not and 45 percent do not know.

Less than 10 percent of area residents feel there are problems with asbestos (7%), lead (6%), and leaking underground tanks (4%) in their neighborhood. Between 23 percent and 35 percent feel that these problems are not present in their neighborhood, while the majority of residents say they do not know if these problems exist.

### ***C. General Environment and Health Links***

More than 4-in-5 area residents feel that exposure to tobacco smoke (58% great deal and 27% some) and the quality of drinking water (46% great deal and 39% some) affect people's health. Between 6 and 10 percent say these things have little or no effect on health and between 5 and 9 percent don't know.

About 3-in-4 residents say that lead paint or lead dust has an impact on health (55% great deal and 22% some), compared with 11 percent who say it has little effect and



12 percent who have no opinion. A similar 3-in-4 residents feel that home cleaning methods and products (30% great deal and 44% some) have a health impact, compared to 16 percent who don't and 10 percent who have no opinion.

Three-in-five residents believe that the following has an affect on people's health: mice droppings (45% great deal and 16% some), mold in the house (35% great deal and 27% some), and ventilation for home appliances (24% great deal and 39% some). For mice droppings, 13 percent feel this has little or no impact on health and 26 percent have no opinion. For ventilation and mold, 24 percent of residents feel that these two issues have little or no impact on people's health and 13 percent have no opinion.

Just over half of all residents feel that having trees on your street affects people's health (22% great deal and 31% some) compared to 25 percent who say this has little or no health impact and 22 percent who have no opinion.

Survey participants were presented with ten pairs of environmental conditions and health problems and asked to assess whether there is a link in each pair. More than 3-in-4 residents see a strong link between dust and allergies (82%), and air quality and asthma (75%). More than half see a strong link between the environment and cancer (63%) and exposure to lead and learning disabilities (52%).

About 4-in-10 see a strong link between pesticide exposure and learning disabilities (43%), outdoor pesticide use and general health problems (40%), indoor pesticide use and general health problems (39%), and the presence of mice and asthma (37%). Three-in-ten see a strong link between lack of calcium and lead poisoning (29%).

In all these cases, fewer than 7 percent say there is no link between the environmental condition and health problem. However, a few pairings produced a high

number of “don’t know” responses. These include the links between calcium and lead poisoning (31% don’t know), mice and asthma (30%), pesticides and learning disabilities (24%), and cockroaches and asthma (24%).

## APPENDIX : ANNOTATED SURVEY INSTRUMENT

### EAGLETON INSTITUTE ISLES COMMUNITY HEALTH SURVEY (n = 100)

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ (first and last name). I'm on the staff of the Eagleton Poll at Rutgers University. We are conducting a neighborhood health survey for Isles and the Northwest Civic Improvement Association. I'd like to ask you some questions concerning your health and well-being. This will take about 20 to 25 minutes. To begin with do you live in this house or apartment? Are you at least 18 years old? Are you the head of the household? [IF YES] Do you have time to complete the interview now?

1. For how many years have you lived in this neighborhood?

32%	1-10
35	11-25
33	26 +

2. And for how many years have you lived in this home?

41%	1-10
35	11-25
24	26 +

3. Thinking back over the past five years, has your neighborhood got better, worse, or stayed about the same as a place to live. [If lived here less than five years ask: Since you moved in ...]

--%	Better
61	Worse
30	About the same
7	Mixed response (VOL)
2	DK

4. And what are the most important issues facing this neighborhood? What would you like to see changed or improved?

26%	Drugs	5%	Magic Marker site
25	Crime, safety	5	Vermin
33	Abandoned houses / disrepair	4	Noise
8	Youth issues	6	Overpopulation
20	Trash, litter, empty lots	5	Employment
10	Neighbors /involvement	3	Schools

5. Now, thinking about health issues. Please rate your neighborhood as a healthy place to live -- is it excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

--%	Excellent
39	Good
48	Only Fair
13	Poor
--	DK

6. Please rate the city of Trenton as a healthy place to live -- is it excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

1%	Excellent
55	Good
33	Only Fair
11	Poor
--	DK

7. Now thinking about HEALTH ISSUES in your neighborhood, what do you think is the most important health concern in your area? (*Probe for single answer*)

18%	Pollution
11	Rodents/vermin
4	Magic Marker /battery factory site
6	Trash
5	Abandoned buildings
7	Drugs
4	Crime & safety
2	Cancer
2	Overpopulation
21	Other
19	DK

- 7A. Do you think that living near the site of the old Magic Marker factory has any impact on your health? If so, please describe the impact?

25%	Yes (10% Respiratory problems, 6% water contamination, 6% eyesore/unsafe)
35	No
40	DK

8. Thinking about your own health: Would you say that in general your health is excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor?

18%	Excellent
15	Very Good
38	Good
26	Fair
3	Poor
--	Don't know

9. And thinking about the health of other adults in your household: Would you say that in general their health is excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor?

10%	Excellent
9	Very Good
29	Good
14	Fair
3	Poor
34	NA/No other adults in household
1	Don't know

10. And thinking about the health of children in your household: Would you say that in general their health is excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor?

19%	Excellent
9	Very Good
11	Good
2	Fair
--	Poor
58	NA/No children in household
1	Don't know

Now I'd like to ask you some more questions about the health of others in your household. So I need to find out who lives with you.

11. First of all, how many people live in your household, including yourself?

- 23% One
- 26 Two
- 28 Three
- 23 Four or more
  
- 37% Single Generation households
- 45% Two Generation households (Parent & child)
- 13% Three Generation households (Grandparent, parent, & child)
- 5% Grandparent and grandchild households (no parent)
  
- 29% Married spouses households
- 18% Single parent households
  
- 10% Households with non-immediate family members
  
- 42% Households with children under age 18
- 13% Households with children under age 6

#### HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

Age	Male		Female		Total	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
0 to 5	5	2%	11	4%	16	6%
6 to 17	32	11	26	9	58	20
18 to 34	29	10	42	15	71	25
35 to 54	32	11	41	15	73	26
55 to 64	10	4	13	4	23	8
65 and over	19	7	23	8	42	15
Gender total	127	45	156	55	283	100

Let's start with some questions about the type of health care used by people in your household.

12. Has anyone in your household had a routine check-up within the past five years?

- 91% Yes ---> Specify who: Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 No
- 7 DK

13. And has anyone in your household had a routine check-up within the past two years?

- 80% Yes ---> Specify who: Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_
- 12 No
- 8 DK

14. Has anyone in your household visited a dentist within the past five years?

- 75% Yes ---> Specify who: Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_
- 13 No
- 12 DK

15. Has anyone in your household visited a dentist within the past year?

48% Yes ---> Specify who: Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
 35 No  
 17 DK

**[IF CHILDREN AGE 17 and younger IN HOUSEHOLD, ASK Q.16  
 IF NO CHILDREN IN HOUSEHOLD GO TO Q.17:]**

16. Do you have a regular place that you take your children for well-child health care -- that is for routine check-ups and vaccinations? [**CLARIFY IF NEEDED:** Only for check-ups, NOT when they are sick or have an injury.]

81% Yes  
 5 No  
 14 DK

**[IF ANO® OR ADK® TO Q.16, ASK:]**

16A. What are the reasons why you do not have a regular place to take your children for routine well-child care? (*don't need care or don't know*)

16B. And where do you usually take your children when they are sick or have an injury? (*emergency room or clinic*)

17. In general, how satisfied are you with the quality of health care your household receives--very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, not very satisfied, or not at all satisfied?

62% Very satisfied  
 27 Somewhat satisfied  
 3 Not very satisfied  
 1 Not at all satisfied  
 3 (VOL) Don't get care  
 4 Don't know

18. There are many reasons why people don't get or follow the medical care they need. Are there any barriers that prevent you and those in your household from getting the treatment you need?

69% None  
 7 Insurance/cost  
 8 Transportation  
 3 No time  
 2 Other  
 11 DK

19. Was there a time during the last 12 months, when someone in your household needed to see a doctor or nurse practitioner, but could not because of the cost?

9% Yes  
 86 No  
 5 Don't know

20. In the past two years, have you or someone in your household ever gone to a natural healer, chiropractor, acupuncturist, or any other type of non-traditional health care provider when you needed medical care or advice on health? [**IF A YES,® PROBE:** What type of provider?]

10% Yes (specify type of practitioner: \_\_\_\_\_)  
 87 No  
 3 DK

Now some questions about health insurance coverage:

21. Do the adults in your household have any kind of health care coverage, including health insurance, prepaid care plans such as HMOs, or government plans such as Medicare or Medicaid?

86% Yes, ALL have coverage  
7 SOME have coverage  
3 No, NONE have coverage  
4 DK

22. Are the children in your household covered by health insurance?

93% Yes, ALL have coverage  
2 SOME have coverage  
2 No, NONE have coverage  
3 DK

23. Now, I'm going to read you a list of medical conditions. For each one, please tell me whether any member of your household has this condition now.

**FIRST, IDENTIFY PERSON OR PERSONS WHO HAVE THIS CONDITION:**

B. Is the person who has this condition male or female? What is his/her age?

C. Is he/she getting treatment for it?

D. If not getting treatment, why not?

**HOUSEHOLD INCIDENCE:**

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>DK</u>
23-1. <b>Diabetes or Asugar@</b>	38%	60%	2%
23-2. <b>High blood pressure</b>	51	48	1
23-3. <b>Heart Disease</b>	12	81	7
23-4. <b>High Cholesterol</b>	10	83	7
23-5. <b>Eye problems which are not corrected by glasses</b>	12	86	2
23-6. <b>Dental problems other than cavities</b>	7	90	3
23-7. <b>Sickle cell anemia</b>	5	94	1
23-8. <b>Depression, other than occasionally feeling sad or blue</b>	11	89	--
23-9. <b>Problems with mental health</b>	5	93	2
23-10. <b>Substance abuse, or problems with alcohol or drugs</b>	13	87	--
23-11. <b>Skin rashes or skin conditions</b>	12	88	--
23-12. <b>Allergies</b>	29	71	--
23-13. <b>Asthma or other breathing or lung problems</b>	21	79	--
23-14. <b>Lead poisoning</b>	--	94	6

**[IF CHILDREN AGE 5 and younger IN HOUSEHOLD, ASK:]**

23a. Have your children age 5 and younger ever been tested for lead poisoning?

62% Yes  
23 No  
15 DK

24. Have any of the children who grew up in this house ever had learning disabilities or behavioral problems, such as attention deficit disorder?

3% Yes → Who has had these conditions?  
94 No  
3 DK

25. Has anyone in your household ever had cancer?

8% Yes → Who has had cancer?  
90 No  
2 DK

26. Does anyone in the household have any other type of medical condition that I haven't mentioned?

6% Yes  
88 No  
6 DK

27. Is there anyone who used to live in this household, such as an adult child, who had a health condition while they were living here?

2% Yes  
68 No  
30 DK

28. Does anyone in your household smoke cigarettes now?

50% Yes ---> Specify  
50 No  
-- DK

**HOUSEHOLD ILLNESS INDEX:**

21% No reported illnesses  
17 One reported illness  
21 Two reported illnesses  
16 Three reported illnesses  
18 Four or five reported illnesses  
7 Six or more reported illnesses



- W1. Have any of the females in your household ever been pregnant?
- 70% Yes  
 19 No --> **GO TO Q.E1**  
 11 NA (No women in HH) --> **GO TO Q.E1**
- W2. Have any of these females ever lost a child during pregnancy or had a still-born child?
- 19% Yes 71% No 10% DK
- W3. Have any ever had a baby who was born more than 3 weeks before the due date?
- 7% Yes 81% No 12% DK
- W4. Have any ever had a baby who was born weighing less than 5 and a half pounds?
- 7% Yes 81% No 12% DK
- W5. Have any children born in this household died within the first year of birth?
- 2% Yes 95% No 3% DK

### [ASK EVERYONE:]

- E1. Would you say the conditions in the environment INSIDE your home affect your family's health -- a great deal, somewhat, only a little, or not at all?

11% Great deal  
 15 Somewhat  
 12 Only a little  
 43 Not at all C> SKIP TO Q.E2  
 19 DK C> SKIP TO Q.E2

- E1A. What are those environmental conditions inside your home that affect your family's health?

11% Mold  
 10 Cleanliness, germs  
 8 Dust, air quality  
 6 Rodents, insects  
 5 Building maintenance  
 3 Tobacco smoke  
 3 Drinking water  
 3 Inadequate, non-working heating  
 2 Household chemicals  
 1 Asbestos

- E2. Would you say the conditions in the environment OUTSIDE your home affect your family's health -- a great deal, somewhat, only a little, or not at all?

21% Great deal  
 38 Somewhat  
 11 Only a little  
 18 Not at all C> SKIP TO Q.E3  
 12 DK C> SKIP TO Q.E3

- E2A. What are those environmental conditions outside your home that affect your family's health?

36% Pollution  
 21 Trash  
 13 Crime, drugs  
 6 Chemicals, odors  
 5 Rodents  
 5 Abandoned buildings  
 4 Magic Marker factory site  
 4 Lack of trees  
 3 Broken glass

E3. Do you ever use [READ ITEM] in your home? [IF YES, PROBE: Do you use these about daily, weekly, monthly, once or twice a year, or less often?]

	Yes, Daily	Yes, Weekly	Yes, Monthly	Yes, Yearly	Yes, Less often	No, Never	DK
a. Air filters, such as humidifiers	12%	4%	2%	1%	5%	75%	1%
b. Water filters, on your faucets or portable jugs with filters you keep in your fridge	7	11	2	1	2	76	1
c. Wet mops to clean the house	26	65	4	--	1	3	1
d. Pesticides, poisons or sprays to control insects	9	19	37	5	9	21	--
e. Poisons to control rodents, such as rats or mice	11	20	28	5	9	25	2
f. A vacuum cleaner with a special filter to catch small particles	12	36	3	--	4	44	1
g. Moth balls or flakes	4	8	10	9	6	57	6
h. Room deodorizers including sprays and plug-ins	29	49	14	2	3	3	--
i. Bleach or ammonia	23	53	17	--	4	2	1
j. Drano, oven cleaners, or other strong cleaners that give off fumes	5	11	43	11	8	22	--

E4. What type of heat do you use in the winter? Is it electric, gas, oil, coal, wood, or kerosene or propane heaters? [CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY]

15%	Electric
42	Gas
35	Oil
1	Coal
10	Kerosene/propane
18	Other ( <i>space heaters, steam heat</i> )
3	DK

E5. Some people feel that different things in the environment may affect people's health while other things may not have much of an effect. There are no right or wrong answers to these questions. In your opinion, how much of an effect does [READ ITEM] have on people's health in general -- a great deal, some, only a little, or nothing at all?

	Great Deal	Some	Only a Little	Not at All	DK
a. The quality of drinking water	46%	39%	3%	3%	9%
b. Home cleaning methods and products	30	44	10	6	10
c. Having trees on your street	22	31	14	11	22
d. Mice droppings	45	16	7	6	26
e. Mold in the house	35	27	17	7	14
f. Ventilation for stoves, heaters, and water heaters	24	39	16	8	13
g. Lead paint or lead dust	55	22	9	2	12
h. Exposure to tobacco smoke	58	27	9	1	5

- E6. Some people think that there are links between environmental issues and certain health conditions. Others feel that there are few or no links between some of these things. In your own opinion, based on what you have read or heard, how much of a link do you think there is between [READ ITEM] -- a strong link, a mild link, a weak link, or no link at all?

	<u>Strong Link</u>	<u>Mild Link</u>	<u>Weak Link</u>	<u>No Link</u>	<u>DK</u>
a. Air quality and asthma	75%	20%	1%	--%	4%
b. Cockroaches and asthma	31	30	8	7	24
c. Pesticide use inside the house and health problems	39	33	11	3	14
d. Pesticide use outside the house and health problems	40	30	6	4	20
e. Exposure to Lead and learning disabilities	52	22	7	1	18
f. The environment and cancer	63	27	4	1	5
g. Exposure to pesticides and learning disabilities	43	25	6	2	24
h. Mice and asthma	37	25	7	1	30
i. Dust and allergies	82	13	1	1	3
j. Lack of calcium and lead poisoning	29	26	11	3	31

- E7. Do any of the following conditions exist at the place where you live -- [READ ITEM]?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK</u>
a. Too many people living in your home or apartment	8%	92%	--%
b. Too many people living in your building or housing complex	15	84	1
c. The paint is chipped or flaking	24	73	3
d. There are rats or mice in the building or complex	39	60	1
e. There are cockroaches or other insects in the building or complex	36	63	1
f. The tap water is dirty or smells bad	14	82	4
g. The heating doesn't work right in the winter	33	65	2
h. There is drug dealing or other criminal activity in the neighborhood	48	48	4
i. The neighborhood is very noisy	49	51	--
j. Mold	19	62	19

- E8. Is there [READ ITEM] in your neighborhood that you are aware of?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK</u>
a. An asbestos problem	7%	35%	58%
b. A water pollution problem	18	37	45
c. An air pollution problem	35	28	37
d. A problem with leaking underground tanks	4	23	73
e. A problem with lead [LED]	6	26	68
f. A problem with contaminated land	51	18	31

Now I just have a few questions so that we can group all answers.

D1. What is the highest grade or year of school you completed? [**CODE BELOW: READ IF NECESSARY**]

7% 8th grade or less  
 28 Grades 9-11/some high school  
 41 Grade 12/High school graduate/GED  
 2 Vo-tech/training school  
 21 Some college  
 1 Junior/community college graduate/Associates degree  
 -- College graduate/Bachelors degree

D2. Are you currently employed full-time, employed part-time or seasonally, retired, a homemaker, student, not employed due to a disability, or temporarily laid off or not employed?

44% Employed full-time  
 6 Employed part-time or seasonally  
 26 Retired  
 5 Homemaker  
 6 Disabled  
 12 Laid-off/ not employed  
 1 Other

D3. Are you married, widowed, divorced, separated, a member of an unmarried couple, or have you never been married?

29% Married  
 19 Widowed  
 7 Divorced  
 11 Separated  
 4 Member of unmarried couple  
 30 Single-Never married

D4. Do you own or rent your apartment or house?

51% Own  
 47 Rent  
 2 Live rent free with parents/relatives/friends

D5. Do you have wall to wall carpeting in your home?

45% Yes ----> How many rooms? \_\_\_\_\_  
 55 No

D6. When was the last time the inside of your house was painted?

27% Past 2 years  
 16 Past 3-5 years  
 21 Past 6-10 years  
 4 More than 10 years ago  
 32 DK

**[ASK D7 ONLY IF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 15 ARE IN HOUSEHOLD:]**

D7. Where do your children usually play -- inside your house or a neighbor-s house, in the yard around your house, at a playground or schoolyard, or in empty lots in the area?

53% Inside house  
 33 Yard  
 51 Playground / schoolyard  
 8 Empty lots  
 10 Other  
 21 DK

D8. And thinking about the area where you live---in general, how safe do you feel in [READ ITEM] -- very safe, somewhat safe, not very safe, or not at all safe?

	Very <u>safe</u>	Somewhat <u>safe</u>	Not very <u>safe</u>	Not at all <u>safe</u>	Don't <u>know</u>
a. Your neighborhood during the day	23%	61%	13%	3%	--%
b. Your neighborhood at night	19	51	12	18	--
c. Your own home at night	30	51	11	8	--

D9. Do you ever attend community meetings on environmental issues? [IF A YES, @ PROBE: Do you do this often, occasionally, or only rarely?]

1%	Yes, often
8	Yes, occasionally
17	Yes, rarely
73	No, never
1	DK

D10. In the past year, have you attended a community meeting at "North 25" that featured environmental issues?

10%	Yes
87	No
3	DK

D11. Do you ever look for information about an environmental condition that may be a problem in your home or neighborhood? [IF A YES, @ PROBE: Do you do this often, occasionally, or only rarely?]

5%	Yes, often
13	Yes, occasionally
23	Yes, rarely
59	No, never
--	DK

D12. Are you of Hispanic or Latino origin?

D13. Do you consider your race to be white, black, Asian, or something else?

97	Black/African-American
1	White
1	Hispanic/Latino
1	Other

D14. So that we can group all answers, what is your total annual household income before taxes. Stop me when I reach the appropriate category -- [READ LIST]:

10%	Under \$11,000
10	\$11,000 to just under \$20,000
21	\$20,000 to just under \$30,000
9	\$30,000 to just under \$40,000
29	\$40,000 to just under \$60,000
10	\$60,000 or more
11	DK/Ref

D15. And how many people in your household live on this income?

(see Q.11)

**POVERTY STATUS (based on D14 and D15)**

29% Below 125% federal poverty level  
 23 125%-200% poverty  
 38 Above 200% poverty  
 10 Not determined

D16. With your current income, is your household able to buy all of the things you need, buy some of the things you need, buy a few of the things you need, or not buy much of what you need?

50% Buy ALL of the things you need,  
 32 Buy SOME of the things you need,  
 14 Buy a FEW of the things you need, or  
 3 NOT buy much of what you need?  
 1 DK/ref

D17. Does anyone in your household receive public assistance from [READ ITEM]?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
a. Tanf - Temporary Aid for needy families	8%	76%	16%
b. General assistance or welfare	10	78	12
c. Disability insurance	9	74	17
d. S.S.I. -- Supplemental Security Income Insurance	12	76	12

D18. Is there a working telephone in your apartment or house?

76% Yes, have telephone  
 21 Have no working telephone  
 3 DK

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME!**  
 (End of interview)

Sample Region:

28% Bellevue Avenue  
 25 Rutherford/Reservoir/Prospect/Marion  
 25 Pennington/Dunham/Wilson/Monroe/Calhoun/Pashley  
 22 North Willow/Fairway/Carver/

Interview Dates: March 18, 2001 to June 4, 2001

