

**Results of
1999
Community Needs Survey**

Lincoln County, Nevada

**University of Nevada
Cooperative Extension**

SP-99-02

**RESULTS OF 1999
COMMUNITY NEEDS SURVEY**

Lincoln County, Nevada

**Donald L. Holloway
Extension Educator
University of Nevada Cooperative Extension**

The University of Nevada, Reno, is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, creed, national origin, veteran status, physical or mental disability, and in accordance with University policy, sexual orientation, in any program or activity it operates. The University of Nevada employs only United States citizens and aliens lawfully authorized to work in the United States.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A county-wide survey was conducted in January 1999 throughout Lincoln County. Surveys were mailed out to all 2,000 active post office boxes, with 247, or 12.35%, responding. This is considered a very good return for this type of survey.

Demographically speaking, of those surveyed, 61.4% are female; 72.9% are married; 58.5% have no children living at home; 36.1% have lived in Lincoln County for twenty years or longer; 57.6% are in the 46-64 age range; 97.8% are white; and 25.1% have a yearly income of \$50,000 or more. These represent the highest percents per category.

The following top three community issues were identified as being a major problem and having an impact on the respondents and/or their families: 1) lack of good paying jobs (62.9%); 2) job training opportunities (52.1%); and 3) impact of government policy on public land use (51.6%).

The top three identified issues facing the youth (as seen through the eyes of the adults) include: 1) paying for education after high school (72.2%); 2) deciding what to do after high school (58%); and 3) having satisfying/enjoyable work (51.4%).

At least 40% of the survey respondents indicated they would like information in the following areas:

1) Trees and Shrubs	52.8%
2) Lowering Utility Bills	49.3%
3) Lawn Care	48.9%
4) Fruit Trees	48.4%
5) Wills/Estate Planning	46.4%
6) Pesticide Application	45.8%
7) Controlling High Blood Pressure	45.3%
8) Communication with Government Officials	44.0%
9) Noxious Weeds	43.2%
10) Basic Money Management	42.2%
11) Community Economic Analysis	40.1%

Based on the results of this survey, and the request by the Board of County Commissioners to provide programming for Lincoln County youth in Natural Resources and to help with Community Rural Development, a group of five concerned citizens have suggested that Nevada Cooperative Extension provide programming in the following areas: Agriculture, Community Rural Development, Health, Horticulture and Youth work.

A full and complete copy of the survey questions and responses follows.

University of Nevada Cooperative Extension

Results of 1999 Community Needs Survey

Lincoln County, Nevada

Written survey forms were sent to 2,000 active post office box holders in Lincoln County in January 1999. This included business as well as residential boxes. The majority of the 247 responses came back in January, with a few returned in February. The survey addressed community concerns, youth concerns, community services, information needs, information delivery and demographics. Questions asked and the responses follow.

COMMUNITY ISSUES

Below are some issues that many communities face. Please mark whether this is a problem for you and/or your family. Issues are listed in order, beginning with the issue that the highest percentage of respondents indicated was a "major problem."

	No Problem	Small Problem	Major Problem
Lack of good-paying jobs	16.7%	20.4%	62.9%
Job training opportunities	22.1%	25.8%	52.1%
Impact of government policy on public land use	13.0%	35.3%	51.6%
Overpriced goods and services	15.9%	40.7%	43.5%
Status of medical care	16.2%	44.6%	39.2%
Inadequate preparation of youth for the world of work	20.5%	41.0%	38.6%
Number of cultural opportunities	21.9%	43.4%	34.7%
Recreational activities for youth 7 th -12 th grades	41.5%	24.9%	33.6%
Unemployment	42.4%	24.0%	33.6%
Amount of recreation for adults	30.9%	36.9%	32.3%
Number of activities for families	34.7%	37.0%	28.2%
Shortage of child care	47.2%	24.5%	28.2%
Growth management	32.9%	39.0%	28.1%
Recreational activities for children K-6 th grades	44.2%	27.9%	27.9%
Community pride and appearance	27.0%	46.4%	26.6%
Access to affordable housing	50.2%	28.5%	21.3%
Number of activities for senior citizens	47.4%	34.9%	17.7%
Declining environmental quality	52.3%	31.9%	15.7%
Drug abuse	78.4%	11.0%	10.6%
Alcohol abuse	76.6%	13.1%	10.4%
Suicide/depression	64.5%	26.7%	8.8%
Fear of crime	59.0%	35.8%	5.2%

YOUTH ISSUES

Below are some issues that many youth face. For each one, please indicate how serious you feel the problem is for youth in your community. Issues are listed in order, beginning with the issue that the highest percentage of respondents indicated as a "major problem."

	No Problem	Small Problem	Major Problem
Paying for education after high school	3.3%	24.5%	72.2%
Deciding what to do after high school	7.5%	34.4%	58.0%
Having satisfying/enjoyable work	10.1%	38.5%	51.4%
Lack of values/respect for others	12.3%	42.7%	45.0%
Alcohol abuse	10.5%	50.5%	39.0%
Peer pressure to use drugs/alcohol	12.2%	48.8%	39.0%
The quality of education	21.1%	41.6%	37.3%
Peer pressure for sexual activity	13.7%	49.5%	36.8%
Drug abuse	14.4%	50.2%	35.4%
Tobacco use	13.8%	51.0%	35.2%
Friends using drugs/alcohol	15.7%	52.9%	31.4%
Family having trouble paying bills	12.4%	60.4%	27.2%
Pregnancy prevention	19.2%	54.8%	26.0%
Harassment from peers (bullying, teasing, etc.)	15.0%	59.4%	25.6%
Eating the right foods	19.8%	55.2%	25.0%
Family using drugs/alcohol	19.2%	56.2%	24.6%
Preventing HIV-AIDS	24.4%	51.2%	24.4%
Dating concerns	15.1%	61.8%	23.1%
Making decisions	16.2%	60.8%	23.0%
Abuse	14.6%	65.3%	20.2%
Living up to parents' expectations	19.2%	60.6%	20.2%
Getting along with parents/step-parents	21.5%	66.0%	12.5%
Getting along with classmates	26.4%	61.7%	11.9%
Personal safety in the community	47.1%	45.2%	7.7%
Personal safety in school	47.6%	45.7%	6.7%
Gangs in community	59.0%	36.2%	4.8%

INFORMATION NEEDED - CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

Nevada Cooperative Extension provides classes and workshops as well as printed information on many topics. Respondents were asked to indicate whether they needed written information and/or had an interest in attending a class or workshop. Topics under each subject area are listed in order, beginning with the issue where the highest percentage of respondents indicated an interest in receiving information.

	Do not need information	Would like to attend class/ workshop	Would like printed information
<u>Agriculture</u>			
Pesticide application	36.8%	17.4%	45.8%
Noxious weeds	35.4%	21.4%	43.2%
Wildlife habitat	54.9%	11.9%	33.2%
Irrigation efficiency	61.2%	9.6%	29.3%
Horses	69.2%	7.1%	23.6%
Cattle	77.0%	5.5%	17.5%
Hay production - Alfalfa	77.8%	5.8%	16.4%
Hay production - Other	81.2%	3.9%	14.9%
Rabbits	84.5%	2.1%	13.4%
Poultry	83.3%	3.8%	12.9%
Swine	89.1%	1.6%	9.3%
Sheep	90.3%	2.2%	7.6%
<u>Economic Development</u>			
Community economic analysis	43.4%	16.5%	40.1%
Community development planning	42.5%	21.0%	36.6%
Home-based business	42.5%	26.8%	31.1%
Grant writing	44.4%	27.8%	27.8%
Targeted industry analysis	60.4%	14.3%	25.3%
Main-street business	62.1%	13.7%	24.2%
Program evaluation	65.4%	11.0%	23.6%
<u>Community Involvement</u>			
Communication with government officials	40.6%	15.5%	44.0%
How local government works	48.6%	12.0%	39.4%
Making a difference in your community	41.1%	19.8%	39.1%
How to make meetings more effective	50.7%	15.8%	33.5%
Collaborating/networking with other groups	53.7%	13.7%	32.6%
Youth mentoring program	51.3%	18.1%	30.7%
Conflict management techniques	54.4%	16.7%	28.9%
Recruiting and training volunteers	52.2%	19.7%	28.1%
Running/managing a non-profit	62.0%	12.5%	25.5%
Consensus-building techniques	62.6%	12.3%	25.1%

INFORMATION NEEDED - CLASSES/WORKSHOPS (Continued)

	Do not need information	Would like to attend class/ workshop	Would like printed information
<u>Family Life</u>			
Building self-esteem	46.4%	18.4%	35.3%
How to talk to teenagers about sex	50.5%	14.5%	35.0%
Planning for children's college	49.0%	16.3%	34.6%
How to talk to teenagers about drugs/alcohol	51.0%	14.6%	34.5%
Living with teenagers	56.2%	11.3%	32.5%
Job-seeking skills	51.7%	16.1%	32.2%
Workforce preparation	54.6%	15.1%	30.2%
Parenting	57.4%	12.7%	29.9%
Art activities for small children	55.0%	15.3%	29.7%
Science activities for small children	57.5%	13.5%	29.0%
Anger management	54.9%	18.4%	26.7%
Family violence	63.4%	9.9%	26.7%
Developmental activities for small children	58.6%	14.8%	26.6%
Dating violence	62.6%	10.8%	26.6%
Appropriate discipline	55.6%	19.3%	25.1%
Substance abuse and family concerns	65.4%	12.7%	22.0%
GED (general education development)	72.6%	8.1%	19.3%
Caring for a newborn	75.5%	7.5%	17.0%
<u>Health and Nutrition</u>			
Controlling high blood pressure	47.9%	6.8%	45.3%
Eating a balanced diet	50.5%	9.8%	39.7%
Stretching your food dollar	43.7%	17.4%	38.9%
Stress management	44.1%	17.2%	38.7%
Reducing fat in your diet	49.7%	12.7%	37.6%
Losing weight	45.5%	17.6%	36.9%
Nutrition	52.8%	10.6%	36.7%
Getting more fiber in your diet	60.5%	4.3%	35.1%
Food safety	60.6%	7.8%	31.7%
Diabetes	61.6%	7.0%	31.4%
Food for young children	67.6%	5.5%	26.9%
HIV-AIDS awareness	73.0%	5.6%	21.3%
Eating disorders	76.8%	4.0%	19.2%
How to quit smoking	77.5%	6.6%	15.9%
Tobacco use prevention	79.8%	6.0%	14.2%

INFORMATION NEEDED - CLASSES/WORKSHOPS (Continued)

	Do not need information	Would like to attend class/ workshop	Would like printed information
<u>Horticulture</u>			
Trees and shrubs	21.1%	26.1%	52.8%
Lawn care	28.8%	22.3%	48.9%
Fruit trees	22.6%	29.0%	48.4%
House plants	42.0%	14.4%	43.6%
Vegetable gardening	24.6%	32.5%	42.9%
Desert landscaping	37.2%	20.8%	42.1%
Home landscape design	30.8%	28.1%	41.1%
Composting	42.6%	19.1%	38.3%
Irrigation	45.8%	18.4%	35.8%
<u>Resource Management</u>			
Lowering utility bills	34.0%	16.7%	49.3%
Wills/estate planning	24.6%	28.9%	46.4%
Basic money management	38.8%	18.9%	42.2%
Insurance	47.7%	10.7%	41.6%
Advance directives (living trust & durable power of attorney)	26.4%	33.0%	40.6%
Home record keeping	45.3%	14.4%	40.3%
Retirement planning	36.8%	23.9%	39.2%
Consumer protection/Small Claims Court	48.1%	13.6%	38.3%
Investment basics	42.1%	20.8%	37.1%
Shopping skills	55.7%	10.8%	33.5%
Credit	59.7%	8.0%	32.3%
<u>Youth Activities</u>			
Job skills	56.2%	13.9%	29.9%
Life-skills classes	59.5%	15.5%	25.0%
Being a volunteer	63.1%	12.1%	24.7%
How to start a business	56.3%	19.9%	24.4%
Social etiquette	62.2%	13.4%	24.4%
Community sports programs	65.1%	11.3%	23.6%
Camping programs	64.3%	13.3%	22.4%
After-school programs	64.8%	17.3%	17.9%
4-H clubs	69.8%	14.1%	16.1%

INFORMATION DELIVERY

For you, how useful is each of the following methods for receiving educational information?

Useful ways to receive information:

Methods are listed in order, beginning with the one that the highest percentage of respondents marked "very useful."

	Not Useful	Somewhat Useful	Very Useful
Computer programs/information	19.9%	32.7%	47.4%
Public classes/workshops	17.1%	35.8%	47.1%
Written publications	12.2%	45.2%	42.6%
Internet	30.3%	30.3%	39.5%
Video-taped programs	24.1%	39.8%	36.1%
Correspondence course	22.3%	42.6%	35.1%
Newsletter	13.4%	51.5%	35.1%
Newspaper	13.9%	51.0%	35.1%
Public access television	32.8%	37.1%	30.1%
TV in general	34.6%	44.7%	20.7%
Radio	44.4%	36.0%	19.6%
Word of mouth	29.5%	52.1%	18.4%
Information provided through retail stores	41.3%	51.1%	7.6%

What time of day is easiest to attend a meeting/class?

Times are listed in order, beginning with the one that the highest percentage of people marked as "very convenient."

	Not Convenient	Somewhat Convenient	Very Convenient
Evening	18.0%	32.8%	49.2%
Afternoon	35.6%	40.2%	24.1%
Morning (10:00 a.m.)	49.7%	27.4%	22.9%
Early morning (7:00 a.m.)	69.8%	19.2%	11.0%

DEMOGRAPHICS

To help us better understand the demographics of those responding, please check the appropriate boxes below.

Gender:

Female	61.4%
Male	38.5%

Education:

Less than high school graduation	5.6%
High school graduation or GED	22.9%
Post HS or vocational training	6.8%
Some college	31.2%
College graduate	20.9%
Advanced college degree	12.8%

Marital Status:

Married	72.9%
Single	9.6%
Divorced	9.6%
Widowed	7.9%

Number of children living at home:

0	58.5%
1	9.2%
2	14.0%
3	7.4%
4 or more	10.9%

How long have you lived in Lincoln County?

0 - 5 years	29.8%
6 - 10 years	15.5%
11 - 15 years	6.7%
16 - 20 years	11.8%
Over 20 years	36.1%

Age Group:

Under 21	.4%
21 - 35	13.1%
36 - 45	13.6%
46 - 64	57.6%
65 or older	15.3%

Race:

White	97.8%
Hispanic/Latino	.4%
Pacific Islander or Asian	.4%
Native American or Alaskan Native	.4%
African American	0

Annual Household Income:

Under \$10,000	8.5%
\$10,001 - \$20,000	10.3%
\$20,001 - \$30,000	18.8%
\$30,001 - \$40,000	17.5%
\$40,001 - \$50,000	19.7%
Over \$50,000	25.1%

Community in which you reside:

Caliente	27.9%
Panaca	27.9%
Alamo	22.1%
Pioche	15.4%
Hiko	3.8%
Rachel	2.1%
Other	.8%