

## **SENIOR SURVEY**

*Printed in Active Aging*

The senior survey was printed in Active Aging in March 2003 and distributed to approximately 59,000 seniors in the tri-county area (Sedgwick, Butler and Harvey counties), respondents were asked complete the survey and mail their reply to Central Plains Area Agency on Aging by April 15<sup>th</sup>. In addition Theron Black distributed 50 surveys in a senior center setting, 46 of these were returned to us and included among these results.

A total of 238 completed surveys were returned to our office. Surveys were considered completed for these results if the majority of the questions were completed, that is not leaving more than four of the survey areas blank. Blank areas were considered as a non-response or not applicable, especially if questions proceeding or after were completed.

### **Demographics:**

Of the 238 surveys received 170 respondents described themselves as Female, 54 Male and 14 did not complete the question. The respondents described their ethnic background as 197 Caucasian/white, 15 Native Americans, 10 African Americans and two Hispanics, 14 did not respond to this question. Of these respondents 92 described themselves as married, 75 were widowed, 39 were single, and 32 did not respond to this question.

The ages of the respondents ranged from 55 to 81 years old or older with 59 respondents listing themselves at 81 or older, 55 were 76 – 80, 47 were 71 – 75, 40 were 66 – 70, 19 were in the age range of 61 – 65 and 10 were 55 – 60 years old, and eight did not complete this question.

The respondents were asked to respond to their residence according to county and if in a urban or rural setting. Those completing these questions 196 describe themselves as living in the city or urban area, and 26 are living in the country or rural area, 16 did not respond to this question. Of those responding to the county of residence 191 were from Sedgwick County, 22 from Butler County and 14 were from Harvey County, 11 respondents did not compete this question.

### **Senior Concerns:**

The survey asked the respondents to answer what their concerns were either now or within the next five years. They were instructed to mark all that apply and then circle the three that were most important to them. Those not responding to this section were not counted, however most marked multiple concerns, thus the total responses will not equal the number of surveys returned.

Cost of medicine was the most concerning item with 188 listing this as their concern and 92 of those respondents listing cost of medicine as most important. Cost of food was

concerning for 141 respondents with 58 listing as the most important concern. The availability and cost of in-home care concerned 115 with 37 listing it as their most important concern, Home upkeep/yard work/cleaning was concerning to 115 respondents with 57 listing this as their most important concern. Health insurance information was the fifth most concerning with 98 listing it as their concern and 29 listing as most important to them. Seventy-five of the respondents listed Availability of reliable transportation as their major concern and 19 indicated that transportation was their most important concern. Mental Health issues and Family Caregiver issues tied as the seventh concern with 58 respondents listing them as their concern, of those 16 listed Mental health as most important and eight indicated Family Caregiving was most important to them. Fifty-one respondents were concerned about continued education on health issues, six of those respondents indicated this issue most important. The availability of full or part-time work was indicated as a concern by 37 of the respondents with nine listing this issue as most important. Twenty-five respondents completed the Other category and supplied their major concern, of these concerns were Caring for a disabled child, utilities, Taxes, Home security, availability of affordable housing and reduced interest income. The eleventh ranking category was Grandparent caring for grandchildren with 16 responding as a concern and four indicating this was the most important issue.

### **Use of Services:**

In response to the question “I currently use services for seniors in my community” only 73 indicated that they currently use services in the community, 153 indicated they do not and 12 respondents did not complete this question.

When asked “How often do you go to the senior center for other than meals?” 109 indicate that they never use the senior center, 56 rarely go to the senior center, 31 go weekly, 24 attend monthly and two respondents indicate that they attend the senior center daily.

Don't need any services was the reason 115 of the respondents indicated “What keeps you from using some services for seniors?” Don't know who to contact was the response on 50 of the surveys, 42 felt there were too many questions before you qualify for help, 31 indicated services cost too much, 28 responded that they don't have transportation, and 27 responded that the “don't want charity”, and “It takes too long to get services”.

### **Caregiver Questions:**

The response to “I help care for a person 60+” 150 indicated that it did not apply, 38 responded in my home, 13 in their home, and eight responded in another community setting. Twenty-nine did not respond to this question.

When asked “I received care/assistance in my home from another person 60+” 189 respondents said no, and 20 responded yes. One hundred and eighty-two indicated they did not receive care/assistance in their home from another person under 60, where 34 indicated yes to this question.

|          |  |                  |                       |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|----------|--|------------------|-----------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <b>A</b> | <b>Have you heard of Central Plains Area Agency on Aging?</b>  |                  | Most Important        |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|          | YES  | 138              |                       |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|          | NO   | 68               |                       |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|          | Blank  | 32               |                       |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|          |  | 238              |                       |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>B</b> | <b>As a Senior, which of the following needs are a concern to you now, or could be in the next five years?</b> |                  |                       |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|          |  | <b>Responses</b> | <b>Most Important</b> |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|          | Cost of food   | 141              | 58                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|          | Mental Health  | 58               | 16                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|          | Cost of Medicine   | 188              | 92                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|          | Home up-keep/yard work/cleaning  | 115              | 57                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|          | Health insurance information   | 98               | 29                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|          | Continued education on health issues   | 51               | 6                     |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|          | Availability of Full or Part-time Work   | 37               | 9                     |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|          | Availability/cost of in-home care  | 115              | 37                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|          | Family caregiver issues  | 58               | 8                     |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|          | Availability of reliable transportation  | 75               | 19                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|          | grandparent caring for grandchildren   | 16               | 4                     |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|          | Other: Disabled Child, Utilities, Taxes, Utilities, Home Se  | 25               | 0                     |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>C</b> | <b>I currently use services for seniors in my community</b>  |                  |                       |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|          | YES  | 73               |                       |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|          | NO   | 153              |                       |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>D</b> | <b>How often do you go to a senior center for other than meals?</b>  |                  |                       |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|          | Daily  | 2                |                       |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|          | weekly   | 31               |                       |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|          | monthly  | 24               |                       |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|          | rarely   | 56               |                       |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|          | never  | 109              |                       |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|          |  | 222              |                       |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>E</b> | <b>What keeps you from using some services for seniors?</b>  |                  |                       |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|          | Don't need any services  | 115              |                       |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|          | Don't know who to contact  | 50               |                       |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|          | Don't have transportation  | 28               |                       |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|          | Services cost too much   | 31               |                       |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|          | Don't want charity   | 27               |                       |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|          | It takes to long to get services   | 27               |                       |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|          | Too many questions before you qualify for help   | 42               |                       |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>F</b> | <b>I help care for a person 60+:</b>   |                  |                       |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|          | In my home   | 38               |                       |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|          | In their home  | 13               |                       |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|          | In another community setting   | 8                |                       |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|          | Does not apply   | 150              |                       |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>G</b> | <b>I receive care/assistance in my home from another person 60+:</b>   |                  |                       |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|          | Yes  | 20               |                       |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|          | No   | 189              |                       |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>H</b> | <b>I receive care/assistance in my home from another person under 60</b>                                       |                  |                       |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|          | Yes  | 34               |                       |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|          | No   | 182              |                       |  |  |  |  |  |  |

|   |   |  |     |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|---|--|-----|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|   |   |  |     |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| I | <b>My age is</b>                          |  |     |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | 55-60                                     |  | 10  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | 61-65                                     |  | 19  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | 66-70                                     |  | 40  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | 71-75                                     |  | 47  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | 76-80                                     |  | 55  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | 81+                                       |  | 59  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   |   |  | 230 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| J | <b>I am</b>                               |  |     |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | Male                                      |  | 54  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | Female                                    |  | 170 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   |   |  | 224 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   |   |  |     |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | Married                                   |  | 92  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | Widowed                                   |  | 75  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | Single                                    |  | 39  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| K | <b>I live in</b>                          |  |     |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | City/Urban                                |  | 196 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | Country/Rural                             |  | 26  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| L | <b>My ethnic background is</b>            |  |     |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | African American                          |  | 10  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | Asian                                     |  | 0   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | Caucasian                                 |  | 197 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | Hispanic                                  |  | 2   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | Native American                           |  | 15  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | Other _____                               |  |     |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   |   |  | 224 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| M | <b>Please mark the county you live in</b> |  |     |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | Sedgwick                                  |  | 191 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | Harvey                                    |  | 14  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | Butler                                    |  | 22  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   |   |  | 227 |  |  |  |  |  |  |

