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Human Services Useage By Older Hispanics

In Nebraska

by David R. DiMartino

The original report on which this article is based resulted from research conducted by CAUR for the Nebraska Mexican American Commission with funding from the Nebraska Commission on Aging. Dr. DiMartino and Carole M. Davis were co-investigators for the project and co-authored the lengthier report. The cooperation and assistance provided by so many members of the Hispanic communities in Lincoln, Omaha, and Scottsbluff made the study possible.

Older Americans make up an increasingly significant part of the total United States population.<sup>1</sup> Older citizens comprised about 11 percent of the national population, and numbered approximately 24 million in 1978.<sup>2</sup> More importantly, older Americans have increased as a proportion of the total population, and have increased in number by 23 percent between 1970 and 1980.<sup>3</sup> In Nebraska, an estimated 13 percent of the population is "elderly", and only a few other states can claim as great a proportion of elderly residents (most of those also in the Midwest and Plains).<sup>4</sup>

#### The Context

America's older citizens have contributed to their country over a great number of years, as taxpayers, voters, servicemen, and in many other ways. Yet, many older citizens, often on fixed incomes, find themselves financially or otherwise ill-prepared to enjoy their so-called golden years. In fact, over 14 percent of the nation's elderly are included among the nation's "poor", and 23 percent are considered "near poor".<sup>5</sup>

Some older Americans are able to rely upon resources which they have accumulated over the years. Others may be able to call upon family or friends for financial or other assistance (the "informal" support network). However, many older citizens have not accumulated ample reserves for their retirement, nor are they always able to rely upon others for assistance.

As a reaction to the financial plight of many older Americans, American Society has developed a system of human service programs (the "formal" support network) aimed at assisting the elderly and sustaining minimum levels of well-being. There are currently 48 such federal programs created specifically for the elderly and an additional 135 to 200 programs which assist the elderly.<sup>6</sup> Although well-intentioned, that system of human service programs is fragmented, uncoordinated and sometimes duplicative.

The complex of human service programs do not always reach all those they are intended to assist. Potential users may be unaware of the programs, or direct and indirect barriers may exist which prevent participation. Those barriers may be attributable to a wide variety of cultural, spatial, economic, administrative, or structural factors. Agencies responsible for program administration and service delivery may be unaware of the existence or extent of such barriers or of the options available to overcome them, or they may be unconcerned with such considerations. In any case, public programs which fail to reach identifiable groups in need cannot be considered successful. Therefore, the assessment of program participation is a primary requisite for rational program planning and development in the human service field.

#### The Study

The objective of this report is to assess the usage of human service programs by older Hispanics in Nebraska. The focus of the report is to determine the degree to which older Hispanics are aware of and participate in established human service programs. The analysis also examines factors which may influence human services usage, including the study group's demographic, residential, mobility and attitudinal characteristics. Regularities are reported upon and are compared to the tendencies of other older Nebraskans.<sup>7</sup>

The subjects of this study, Nebraska's older Hispanics, were defined according to three characteristics--age, ethnicity, and location. The age characteristic was predefined to include only those persons 60 years of age or older. The group's ethnic character was defined as Hispanic, comparable to the Census bureau's use of the label of "Spanish origins." The term Hispanic was purposely used in order to avoid culturally and/or socio-politically biased terms, and to allow for the inclusion of sub-

ethnic groups (including Mexican-Americans, Cubano-Americans, etc.). Locationally, study subjects were limited to those persons residing within the State of Nebraska--specifically, within the communities of Omaha, Lincoln, and Scottsbluff (including the cities of Scottsbluff and Gering, as well as several outlying towns).

Personal interviews were conducted with each study subject, and those interviews served as the primary data source for this report. Interviews were administered during the summer of 1979 in Omaha and during the winter of 1980 at the other locations. The questionnaire was translated into Spanish and was administered by bilingual interviewers in the language for which each respondent expressed a preference. Respondents were identified and located with the help of leaders in the respective Hispanic communities of the state. There were a total of 217 respondents: 80 from Omaha, 40 from Lincoln, and 97 from the Scottsbluff area.

#### Hispanic Characteristics

In order to provide human services to a population, it is necessary to understand the variations in that population's demographic characteristics. In the case of Nebraska's older Hispanics, demographic characteristics are not as uniform as stereo typical labels might suggest.

The age structure of Nebraska's older Hispanics, as revealed by this study, demonstrates an expected pattern: a general decrease in the number of older citizens with increasing age. A closer examination of age structure by location, however, does yield some differences among the three study sites. Older Hispanics in Lincoln tend to be relatively younger than Hispanics in either Omaha or the Scottsbluff area (as measured both by mean age and age distribution at the three locations). Further, a differentiation between the "youn" old (74 years or younger) and the "old" old (75 years or older) at each location demonstrates a relatively greater proportion of "old" old among Omaha's older Hispanics (41 percent) than among Scottsbluff's

older Hispanic (36 percent) and, particularly, Lincoln's older Hispanic groups (28 percent).

The sex structure of the older citizen group usually yields a greater number of females than males, due to greater mortality rates among males at relatively younger ages. While that expected sex structure appears to hold true for Lincoln's older Hispanic community, there is actually a greater proportion of males than females among older Hispanics in Omaha, and a greater proportion of males among Hispanics of 80 or more years in both Omaha and the Scottsbluff area. These atypical sex structures may be due to the predominantly male migration from Mexico to the United States earlier in this century.

Most of Nebraska's older Hispanics were born in Mexico (for Omaha 79 percent, for the Scottsbluff area 72 percent, and for Lincoln 44 percent). In Lincoln an additional, but smaller number of older Hispanics report their birthplaces as Cuba (17 percent) or other Latin American countries (8 percent). The remaining number of older Hispanics reported being born in the United States (31 percent in Lincoln, 28 percent at Scottsbluff, and 21 percent in Omaha).

Relatively, older Hispanics were asked their preferences when referring to their ethnic heritages. A majority of older Hispanics identify themselves as "Mexicans" at Scottsbluff (55 percent) and Omaha (53 percent). This indicates a very strong identity with their home culture and country of origin. "Mexican-American" is the second most frequent identity preference for older Hispanics in Omaha (43 percent) and Scottsbluff (39 percent), indicating a significant proportion of bi-culturally-oriented people. In Lincoln, a greater proportion of older Hispanics prefer to be identified as "Mexican-Americans" (43 percent) and a lesser proportion as "Mexicans" (23 percent). In addition, Lincoln's older Hispanics also express

preferences for identification as "Hispanics" or "Cubanos" (13 percent, each), indicating their origins other than Mexico.

Nebraska's older Hispanics have received relatively little formal education, and they are significantly less educated than other older Nebraskans. Least educated as a group are Scottsbluff's older Hispanics, with 43 percent receiving no formal education and only 10 percent completing or going beyond high school. Older Hispanics in Omaha are not much better off educationally, with 37 percent receiving no formal schooling and 13 percent completing or going beyond high school. Lincoln's older Hispanics are relatively better educated than either the Omaha or Scottsbluff groups; only 15 percent in Lincoln received no formal schooling and a full 25 percent completed or went beyond high school. Surprisingly, among those older Hispanics who received some formal schooling, a greater number at Scottsbluff received their educations within the United States (70 percent) than did those from Omaha (65 percent) or Lincoln (58 percent).

Literacy is far more prevalent among Nebraska's older Hispanics than educational attainment alone would indicate. Literacy rates do vary among older Hispanics by location (from 77 percent literate at Scottsbluff, to 89 percent in Omaha, to 95 percent in Lincoln), but ability to read is greater than indicated by formal education at all locations. In addition, a majority of literate older Hispanics are also bilingual, with reading ability in both Spanish and English (77 percent in Omaha, 61 percent in Lincoln, and 51 percent at Scottsbluff). The marital status and living arrangements of older Hispanics vary from those of other older Nebraskans. A smaller proportion of older Hispanics are currently married (48 percent of Scottsbluff, 46 percent in Omaha and 44 percent in Lincoln) than are other older Nebraskans (56 percent). Though rates of widowhood are comparable between older Hispanics and Non-Hispanics, rates of separation

and divorce are greater among older Hispanics (14 percent in Lincoln, 8 percent in Omaha, and 6 percent at Scottsbluff) than among other older Nebraskans (3 percent). Additionally, the number of older Hispanics who have never married is significantly greater in Omaha (11 percent) than elsewhere or among older Non-Hispanics.

The proportion of older Hispanics who live alone (33 percent at Scottsbluff, 28 percent in Lincoln and 27 percent in Omaha), though significant in number, is less than for other older Nebraskans (37 percent). The proportion of older Hispanics living alone is also less than might be expected from the information on numbers married. The differences are accounted for by the relatively large proportion of older Hispanics who "live with others" than their spouses (26 percent in Omaha, and 25 percent in Lincoln, but only 13 percent at Scottsbluff), as compared to other older Nebraskans "living with others" (10 percent). Those "others" with whom elderly Hispanics live are their children, other relatives and friends, and their living arrangements exemplify the extended familial bonds and informal support structure available to older Hispanics.

Nebraska's older Hispanics live predominantly in individual, private homes (89 percent in Omaha, 86 percent at Scottsbluff, and 81 percent in Lincoln) as do other older Nebraskans (83 percent). Greater than a majority of older Hispanics also own their own homes (73 percent in Omaha, 56 percent in Lincoln, and 52 percent at Scottsbluff). However, older Hispanics ownership rates are less than for other older Nebraskans (77 percent). The differences in rates of residency in and ownership of private homes among older Hispanics is, of course, attributable to many older Hispanics living in the homes of friends or relatives.

Older Hispanics have lived in their current residences over relatively large periods of time. Those living in their present residences 20 or more



years total to 56 percent in Omaha, 39 percent in the Scottsbluff area, and 28 percent in Lincoln, as compared to 44 percent of other older Nebraskans. Omaha's older Hispanics are the most long lived at their current residences (more so even than other older Nebraskans); older Hispanics are most comparable to other older Nebraskans in their length of residency.

As for proximity to other Hispanics, older Hispanics were relatively more concentrated within specific neighborhoods in Omaha, and in Scottsbluff and Gering, but relatively more dispersed in Lincoln. These distributions correspond to the overall degree of Hispanic concentration within each of the cities.

Occupationally, older Hispanics have worked predominantly at lesser paying jobs which require less education. The jobs held by older Hispanics have also varied by location, dependent upon the economic base and opportunities at various locations in Nebraska. Older Hispanics in the Scottsbluff area cite employment predominantly as "farm workers" (34 percent) and "laborers" (33 percent) in farm industries. In Omaha, older Hispanics have been employed predominantly as "operatives" (74 percent), especially in the meat packing industry, but also as "service workers" (18 percent). Hispanic employment in Lincoln has been relatively more varied, and older Hispanics cite jobs as "service workers" (39 percent), "operatives" (32 percent), and even "craftsmen" (11 percent). As compared to other older Nebraskans, older Hispanics are markedly under represented among executive, managerial, and clerical occupations, but over represented among the operative, service worker, laborer and homemaker occupations (and in the Scottsbluff area are over represented in the agricultural occupation).

Most older Hispanics are retired or disabled (71 percent in Omaha, 55 percent at Scottsbluff, and 45 percent in Lincoln), as are other older

Nebraskans (75 percent). However, a portion of older Hispanics surveyed continue to work--many between 60 and 65 years of age (25 percent in Lincoln, 16 percent at Scottsbluff, and 13 percent in Omaha), as is true of some other older Nebraskans (21 percent). Unlike other older Nebraskans, a sizeable minority of female older Hispanics have never worked outside their homes (30 percent of Lincoln's older Hispanics, 29 percent of older Hispanics at Scottsbluff, 16 percent of Omaha's older Hispanics, but only 4 percent of other older Nebraskans).

Aside from those older Hispanics who continue to work, most older Hispanics depend upon Social Security benefits as their principle source of income. Some older Hispanics also rely upon retirement funds (pensions) as sources of income, but the proportion receiving pensions varies by the nature of their previous employment, which in this case varies by location (from 45 percent in Omaha, to 34 percent in Lincoln, to 20 percent in the Scottsbluff area). Other older Hispanics receive some income from public assistance funds (30 percent at Scottsbluff, 16 percent in Lincoln, and 3 percent in Omaha). Very few are able to rely upon savings or call upon relatives or friends as sources of income.

In spite of the sources of income discussed above, the incomes of older Hispanics are relatively low. The incomes of Nebraska's older Hispanics are significantly less than the incomes of other older Nebraskans. Nearly all older Hispanic household incomes reported fall below the "low-income" level used by H.U.D. to determine eligibility for housing assistance. Among the locations of older Hispanics in Nebraska, average incomes ranged from a low at Scottsbluff (\$225/month) through Lincoln (\$367/month) to a high at Omaha (\$447/month); this variation in incomes by location corresponds to differences in costs of living, which increases with increased urbanization.

## Mobility and Interaction

It is generally agreed that people require contact with other people in order to maintain a minimum level of mental and physical well-being. Older Americans are sometimes stereotyped as an isolated population who seldom leave their residences because of a lack of inclination or ability, and that lack of mobility is often attributed to problems of mental or physical health. The results of this survey dispel the stereotype of social and physical isolation, and demonstrate the type of activities and degree of participation enjoyed by older Hispanics.

### Physical Mobility

While a significant minority of older Hispanics do live in relative isolation, most older Hispanics surveyed get out of their residences at least several times per week (89 percent in Omaha, 76 percent in Lincoln, and 73 percent of Scottsbluff), as do most other older Nebraskans (88 percent). Some older Hispanics walk to get around (26 percent in Omaha, 18 percent in Lincoln, and 17 percent at Scottsbluff), but the most frequently used way to get around is to be driven by family or friends (56 percent at Scottsbluff, 50 percent in Lincoln, and 41 percent in Omaha). Senior citizen buses (Handibus) are used by very few older Hispanics and by an equally small number of other older Nebraskans. Unlike other older Nebraskans, for fewer older Hispanics drive their own cars to get around (43 percent in Lincoln, 33 percent in Omaha, and 29 percent at Scottsbluff, but 70 percent among other older Nebraskans). Thus, most older Hispanics enjoy a relatively high degree of physical mobility, though they are somewhat dependent on others for that mobility.

### Social Mobility

Another consideration in assessing the well-being of the older population is its inclination and ability to interact with others. Older

Hispanics visit far more frequently with relatives than with friends. They also visit more frequently in their own homes, with both relatives and friends, than they do away from their homes. Among the study locations, older Hispanics at Scottsbluff are generally least interactive while those in Omaha are most interactive. As compared to other older Nebraskans, older Hispanics visit a little less frequently with relatives and much less readily with friends.

Dining patterns generally parallel the visiting patterns of older Hispanics, though there is relatively less contact with friends and relatives through dining than by social visits. Many older Hispanics dine with some other person, though a sizeable minority do dine alone (32 percent at Scottsbluff, 30 percent in Lincoln, and 25 percent in Omaha). A minority also eat away from home "regularly" or "often." While many older Hispanics know of a "hot noon meal" program available to the elderly, only a minority of older Hispanics who know of the program use the program "regularly" (25 percent in Omaha, 23 percent in Lincoln, and 18 percent at Scottsbluff). Additionally, the dining patterns of older Hispanics tend to parallel the eating habits of other older Nebraskans.

#### Activities

A compilation of the activities of older Hispanics demonstrate a relatively active and invalued population, though a sizeable subgroup expresses an inability to participate in various desired activities. Entertainment (radio, music, TV) is the most frequently cited category of activities enjoyed by older Hispanics in their homes. Gardening and chores, (and to a lesser extent arts and crafts) are also mentioned frequently as "at home" activities. Away from home, activities are more varied and include entertainment (movies, dances, bingo), socializing and Church activities, chores and outdoor events (picnics, park visits, sight-

seeing), and sports. Spanish-language entertainment, particularly movies, is the most desired of unrealized activities among older Omaha Hispanics. The ability to do "chores" and "gardening" are cited most frequently as desired by Scottsbluff and Lincoln Hispanics, respectively. Other desired activities include sports, visiting and reading.

#### Satisfactions

Older Hispanics, though relatively active, express a substantial degree of dissatisfaction with their ability to move about and interact with others. The majority of older Hispanics in Lincoln and the Scottsbluff area (52 and 54 percent, respectively) and nearly one-third (32 percent) in Omaha are dissatisfied with their level of activities. Moreover, a large number of older Hispanics are "sometimes" or "often" lonely (48 percent in Lincoln, 61 percent in Omaha, and 68 percent of Scottsbluff). The majority are "satisfied" with their lives, but a sizeable minority (12 percent in Omaha, 13 percent in Lincoln, and 22 percent at Scottsbluff) express "little" or "no" satisfaction with life. Clearly, the Scottsbluff area contains the greatest proportion of dissatisfied older Hispanics. In addition, older Hispanics at all three locations are less satisfied with their level of activities, are more lonely, and are less satisfied with their lives than are other older Nebraskans. That greater proportion of dissatisfied older Hispanics also appears to correspond to the greater proportion encountering financial and other problems.

#### Human Service Usage

The principal objective of this report is to assess the availability and use of established services for Nebraska's older Hispanic population. The concern here is not with the absolute supply of services (for example, the number of available hospitals), nor is it with the spatial distribution of services (for example, the location of private physicians' offices),

although these factors are important. This analysis focuses instead upon the relative numbers of older Hispanics in the Scottsbluff area, Lincoln, and Omaha who are aware of established services and the frequencies of their participation in these services.

### Health Services

Among the most important services used by older citizens and the general population are medical/health services. Medical services include both personnel (such as doctors and dentists) and facilities (such as hospitals and clinics). Medical services also may be either privately or publicly financed and/or operated.

The basic question related to the use of medical services is whether the potential user has had a need for such services. Therefore, older Hispanic respondents were asked whether and how often they had been ill during the previous twelve-month period. Among the three locations examined, 73 percent, 67 percent, and 60 percent of older Hispanics in Scottsbluff, Lincoln, and Omaha, respectively, state that they had been ill during the previous year. Thus, the incidence of illness was greatest among the Scottsbluff population and least among Omaha's older Hispanics.

A comparison of frequency of illness to frequency of medical treatment demonstrates a fairly strong association between the incidence of illness and the pursuit of treatment. The proportion of older Hispanics receiving annual health checkups varies greatly among the the three locations--73 percent in Omaha, 60 percent in Lincoln, and 40 percent at Scottsbluff. Older Hispanics at Scottsbluff report the lowest incidence of checkups and the highest incidence of illnesses, and Omaha's older Hispanics have the highest rate of checkups and the lowest incidence of reported illnesses.

The proportion of older Hispanics using medical services and frequency of usage varies by location and the type of medical service. (See Table 1).

Private doctors are the most frequently used health service by older Hispanics in all three locations, used by 77 percent of Lincoln's, 70 percent of Omaha's, and 44 percent of Scottsbluff's older Hispanics. The lesser proportion of older Hispanics in Scottsbluff consulting private doctors might be, in part, attributed to older Scottsbluff Hispanics' smaller incomes and abilities to pay for medical services.

Hospitals are the second most frequently utilized health service, although used at a far lesser rate than are private doctors. Hospitals are used by 32 percent of Omaha's older Hispanics, 30 percent of Lincoln's, and 25 percent of Scottsbluff's.

Older Hispanics use medical clinics infrequently for the most part. Medical school facilities are not used at all by older Hispanics in any of the locations. The non-use of medical school facilities by Omaha's older Hispanics is surprising in view of the presence of two medical colleges in Omaha, Creighton University and the University of Nebraska.

A minority of older Hispanics consult dentists at all three locations. However, the older Hispanics in the Scottsbluff area visit their dentists far less readily than do the other groups. Whether the infrequent consultation with dentists is due to a lack of problems or an avoidance of dental treatment or other reasons could not be determined.

The only one of the demographic characteristics of older Hispanics that demonstrates a statistical association with frequency of medical service usage is income. Unfortunately, this suggests that treatment is dependent upon income rather than need and that those persons with lesser incomes will utilize medical services less.

The comparison of medical services utilized by older Hispanics with usage by older Nebraskans yields several differences. (See Table 1). Generally, older Hispanics use private doctors and dentists less than do

older Nebraskans; older Scottsbluff Hispanics use doctors and dentists markedly less. Hospitals are used slightly more by older Hispanics in Omaha and Lincoln but less by Scottsbluff Hispanics than they are by other older Nebraskans. Similarly, older Hispanics in Lincoln and, particularly, Scottsbluff receive health checkups less often than do other older Nebraskans, though older Omaha Hispanics report a greater frequency of health checkups than do other older Nebraskans.

These differences in health services usage between older Hispanics and other older Nebraskans, though not generally great, might be due to some combination of differences in age, levels of health, attitudes toward services, number and availability of services, and, of course, the incomes of potential users.

The willingness of potential patients to utilize health services and the frequency with which they do so is influenced by the problems encountered in attempting to acquire the services. A relatively small proportion of older Hispanics claim to have had problems in acquiring health services, though that proportion is greater, for the most part, than the small proportion of other older Nebraskans who also cite problems associated with health service acquisition. Cost, transportation, availability of Spanish-speaking personnel, long waits (culturally unacceptable), and availability of services are, in order of frequency, the problems most cited by older Hispanics.

#### Legal Services

Older Hispanics were asked whether they had encountered legal problems during the previous twelve-month period. Lincoln's older Hispanics experience the lowest frequency of legal problems. In addition, Lincoln is an exception in that older Hispanics who experience legal problems there do not seek legal services; the other Hispanic groups seek counsel as often



as (Omaha) or more often than (Scottsbluff) they experience problems. In comparison to other older Nebraskans, older Hispanics experience far lower rates of legal problems.

Older Hispanics were asked who they would contact for legal advice. A majority (59 percent) of older Hispanics in Omaha express their preference for using a lawyer as their best source of legal advice. In Lincoln and Scottsbluff, lawyers and family members are selected about equally as the preferred source of legal counsel. Other possible sources of legal advice are not cited very frequently, except for the selection of priests/ministers by Scottsbluff's older Hispanics (14 percent).

A number of human service programs exist specifically to assist older citizens or include benefits for older citizens. These programs are designed to provide and with finances, health and nutrition, security, and/or transportation and communications. The question at hand is whether the programs designed to meet the needs of older citizens are reaching older Hispanics. The first step in finding the answer to that question is to determine whether older Hispanics are aware of these programs, and, if they are, whether they use the services.

The awareness of and participation in selected human service programs by older Hispanics is summarized in Table 2. Only one of the 16 public programs examined could claim a majority of older Hispanics as participants in all locations. That program, Social Security, serves 78 percent of older Hispanics in Omaha, 63 percent in Lincoln, and 59 percent in Scottsbluff. Still, a sizeable majority of older Hispanics do not participate in the Social Security program, and a number (8 percent in Omaha, 8 percent in Lincoln, and 6 percent at Scottsbluff) have not even heard of the program.

Other programs are known of by a majority of older Hispanics but none of those programs include a majority as participants. Seven of those widely-recognized programs are in Lincoln and six are in Omaha, but only three are represented in Scottsbluff. The Handibus transportation program is recognized by a majority of older Hispanics in all three locations, as is the Meals on Wheels program. A majority of older Hispanics from both Omaha and Lincoln recognize the Senior Citizens Centers program. And, a majority of older Hispanics in Lincoln are aware of the Handyman Repair Service and a winterizing and insulating program.

A majority of older Hispanics do not recognize the remaining programs--eight of the programs in Omaha, seven in Scottsbluff, and five in Lincoln. In all three locations, a majority of older Hispanics are unaware of the Home Health Care, Homemaker/Chores, Friendly Visitors, and Retired Senior Volunteers programs. A majority of older Hispanics in Omaha and Scottsbluff are also unaware of the Telephone Reassurance program. In addition, the Supplemental Security Income, Handyman Repair Service, and winterizing and insulating programs are unrecognized by a majority of Omaha's older Hispanics, and the Senior Citizen Discount and Housing Rehabilitation programs are generally unrecognized by older Hispanics in Lincoln.

#### Human Services - User Characteristics

The characteristics of public program users were examined for those programs that attracted relatively greater proportions of older Hispanics at each location. Because of the relatively meager usage of public programs by older Hispanics at all three locations, the analysis examined user characteristics for programs with as few as 10 percent of respondents participating. Only three programs were used by more than 10 percent of the respondents at all three locations--the Social Security

program, Food Stamp program, and Senior Citizens Center program.

The Social Security program is the only program examined which includes a substantial proportion of older Hispanic participants from all three locations. An examination of Social Security user characteristics reveals that the users are rather evenly distributed by demographic characteristics (such as sex, educational level, and income). Exceptions include the fact that proportionately more married persons than singles in Scottsbluff and Lincoln participate in the program, and proportionately greater numbers of the more elderly use the program than do the less aged. Generally, no definable subgroup uses the Social Security program more than others.

The Food Stamp program is used by a far lesser proportion of older Hispanics--35 percent in Scottsbluff, 18 percent in Lincoln, and 12 percent in Omaha. Among users in Omaha proportionately more are younger, married, and renting. In Lincoln, proportionately more are female, living alone, and renting. For Scottsbluff, more are younger, living alone, and renting. Thus, the only uniform characteristic of Food Stamp participants among the three locations is the fact that participants do not own their residences, perhaps indicative of their smaller incomes.

The third program used by at least 10 percent of older Hispanics at all three locations is the Senior Citizens Center program, used by 18 percent in Scottsbluff, 16 percent in Omaha, and 11 percent in Lincoln. In Omaha, program users tend to be evenly distributed by sex, more often single, and relatively younger. More Scottsbluff program users tend to be female, single, and are relatively younger. For Lincoln, more program participants are female, married, and relatively younger. Thus, the commonality among older Hispanic users at the three survey locations is their relatively younger ages.

A number of other programs had more than 10 percent of respondents participating from two of the three locations surveyed. More than 10 percent of respondents participate in two programs in both Lincoln and Scottsbluff. Those programs are the Supplemental Security Income (34 percent in Scottsbluff and 22 percent in Lincoln) and Welfare programs (31 percent in Scottsbluff and 26 percent in Lincoln). For both Lincoln and Omaha two programs are used by 10 percent or more of respondents; those are the Meals on Wheels (12 percent in Omaha and 10 percent in Lincoln) and Senior Citizen Discount programs (13 percent in Lincoln and 11 percent in Omaha). For both Omaha and Scottsbluff the Handibus Transportation program is used by at least 10 percent of respondents--20 percent in Scottsbluff and 11 percent in Omaha.

No definable subgroup or user characteristics could be determined for the users of the Supplemental Security Income program in either Lincoln or Scottsbluff--except for their relatively lower incomes. In fact, the users are quite different in the two places: proportionately more are female, younger, married, and renting in Scottsbluff but more evenly distributed by sex, age, marital status, and ownership status in Lincoln.

Aside from lower incomes, the participants in the Welfare program in both Lincoln and Scottsbluff do exhibit certain common characteristics. Those include proportionately more females, retired persons, and renters.

The remaining programs used by at least 10 percent of Hispanics at two locations demonstrate no uniform user characteristics; those include the Meals on Wheels and Senior Citizen Discount programs in Lincoln and Omaha, and the Handibus program in Omaha and Scottsbluff.

#### Human Services - Hispanic/Non Hispanic Comparisons

The extent of the usage of human service programs by older Hispanics can be further analyzed by comparing their usage rates to those of other

older Nebraskans. (See Table 3.) Given the proportionately greater number of older Hispanics receiving relatively lower incomes, older Hispanics would be expected to utilize human service programs (particularly those involving financial aid) to a greater extent than would older Nebraskans in general. (Some of the differences in participation between groups may also be influenced by the existence of the program in one location but not in all locations across the state.)

Older Nebraskans participate to a greater extent than do older Hispanics in all three locations for the Social Security and Senior Citizen Discount programs. Older Nebraskans also use Senior Citizens Centers to a greater extent than do older Hispanics in Lincoln and Scottsbluff. And, other older Nebraskans use the Telephone Reassurance program to a greater extent than do Omaha and Scottsbluff older Hispanics.

By individual locations, older Nebraskans participate more than do Scottsbluff's older Hispanics in four of the 15 comparable human service programs examined. The four human service programs with greater participation from older Nebraskans included the Senior Citizen Discount, Social Security, Telephone Reassurance, and Retired Senior Volunteers programs. For Lincoln, older Nebraskans participate more than older Hispanics in four programs. These included the Social Security, Senior Citizen Discount, Senior Citizens Center, and Handibus programs. Finally, older Nebraskans participate to a greater extent than do Omaha's older Hispanics in six of the 15 selected public programs examined. The six included Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, Senior Citizen Discounts, Homemaker/Chores, Senior Citizens Centers, and Telephone Reassurance.

The greater participation of older Nebraskans, as compared to older Hispanics, in several financial programs is the opposite of what would be expected, based upon the lower incomes of the older Hispanic group. Likewise, the greater participation of older Nebraskans in programs oriented

toward improved interaction is somewhat surprising in view of the somewhat lesser overall interaction of older Hispanics with relatives and, especially, friends. Thus, older Hispanics appear to be participating disproportionately less than do older Nebraskans in several of the human service programs examined.

The need for human service programs to reach a greater proportion of older Hispanics is further substantiated by the comparison of program awareness between older Hispanics and older Nebraskans. (See Table 3.) As compared to older Nebraskans, Lincoln's older Hispanics are less aware of four programs, Scottsbluff's older Hispanics are less aware of nine, and older Hispanics in Omaha of ten. Overall, older Hispanics in Lincoln seem to be the most aware of programs, and Omaha's older Hispanics appear to be the least informed.

#### Human Services - Additional Considerations

In addition to simple participation rates, an assessment of the adequacy of human service programs in reaching their intended clients should also consider whether potential program users qualify for the programs and whether they wish to participate.

The financial characteristics of older Hispanics suggest that considerably greater numbers are qualified to participate in certain programs than are currently participating. As an example, with 73 percent of older Hispanic households in Omaha renting their residences and with almost all of these households at or below "low-income" levels, those qualified to receive housing assistance must exceed the current levels of program useage. Likewise, given the considerable dependence by older Hispanics on travel by foot and or via rides from friends and relatives, and considering the prominence of transportation problems cited by those who had difficulty receiving health care, a greater use of both the

Handibus and Home Health Care programs should be expected. Evidence is thus strong that potential demand for programs among older Hispanics is not being met by those programs.

More difficult to determine is whether eligible older Hispanics wish to participate in the human service programs offered. As an example, though 85 percent of Omaha's older Hispanics know of a hot noon meal program, only 31 percent participate "regularly" or "occasionally." Whether that knowledge without participation is due to lack of transportation to meal sites, cultural differences in food preferences, or other reasons is difficult to determine. However, the relatively high level of loneliness and dissatisfaction expressed by older Hispanics suggests the potential for greater participation in such programs.

An alternative way of examining the relative desirability of a public program might be to compare rates of participation in that program with rates of knowledge about the program between the age subgroups. If the proportion of older Hispanics with knowledge about a program increases with age (60's to 70's to 80's) but participation decreases, then participation in that program either becomes less desirable among older Hispanics with increasing age or becomes less accessible. In such a case, the public agency should either demonstrate the desirability of the program to potential clients or facilitate their usage of the program. One of the selected programs which fits that pattern is the Senior Citizens Center program in Omaha.

Alternatively, if the proportion of older Hispanics participating in a program increases with age but the proportion knowledgeable about the program decreases, then the public program would seem to be failing to reach Hispanics who would use it. The two programs which fit this case are the Handibus Transportation program and the Handyman Repair Service

program in Omaha.

In short, both the eligibility of older Hispanics and their propensity to use human service programs can be demonstrated. Thus, there is clearly a need for additional human service provision for older Hispanics in Nebraska.

#### Conclusions

Analysis of the responses of those surveyed for this report demonstrates several areas of need among the older Hispanic population. Comparisons of the espoused needs of older Hispanics with the needs of other older Nebraskans reinforces the fact that relatively greater needs occur among Hispanics as compared to the general population.

The most significant of the documented needs for older Hispanics are financial. The very large proportion of older Hispanics subsisting below low income level demonstrates the extent and severity of the financial problems faced by the group. In addition, almost all other aspects of living, including activities and services that involve payments, are impacted by the financial status of the older Hispanics.

The older Hispanic population, though relatively active, includes members who are in need of (and desire) specific activities and services. The need for those activities and services may be attributed to various conditions, including problems of health, income, transportation, and communication (language). Findings, such as the fact that from 25 to 32 percent of older Hispanics dine alone and that only 24 to 28 percent visit regularly or often with friends, demonstrate the need for greater interaction and activities.

Most importantly for the purposes of this report, older Hispanics have a demonstrated need for available human service programs. Their awareness of and participation in programs are less than should be expected.



With participation rates of less than 16 percent for 14 of the 15 programs examined in Omaha, for 12 of the 15 programs in Lincoln, and for 7 of the 15 in Scottsbluff, human services are clearly under-utilized by older Hispanics. Moreover, compared to other older Nebraskans, the majority of older Hispanics are less aware of up to 10 out of 15 programs and participate less in from 4 to 6 of the programs. Ironically, the financial and residential programs for which older Hispanics have the greatest need are those very programs least utilized.

The need for greater knowledge of and participation in human service programs by older Hispanics suggests the necessity for better dissemination of information on those programs. That information should be available in Spanish as well as English, so that those who have difficulty with English may also receive first-hand information. In addition, the financial needs of older Hispanics suggest the necessity for greater efforts at locating and encouraging older Hispanics to make use of those public programs for which they qualify.

#### FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup>There is no magical age at which people become "elderly." In fact, several human service programs become available to "older" Americans prior to their 65th birthday, the age traditionally used to distinguish the "old" from the "pre-old". There is also a common distinction made between the "young old" (younger than 75 years of age) and the "old old" (greater than 75 years of age).

<sup>2</sup>U.S. Bureau of the Census. Social and Economic Characteristics of the Older Population: 1978. Current Population Reports, Series p-23, No. 85. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office. August, 1979. p. 2.

<sup>3</sup>Saldo, Beth J. America's Elderly In the 1980's. Population Bulletin, Vol. 35, No. 4. November, 1980. p. 6-7.

<sup>4</sup>Saldo. p. 13

<sup>5</sup>Saldo. p. 21

<sup>6</sup>Saldo. p. 31

<sup>7</sup>Research Associates. Final Report of an Attitudes Study of Nebraska's Older Citizens-Statewide Data. Lincoln, Nebraska. 1978.

Person No. \_\_\_\_\_

Area No. \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Record type of housing**

1. House
2. Apartment/duplex
3. Apartment/duplex for senior citizens
4. Mobile home
5. Rented room
6. Boarding house, hotel

7. Other  \_\_\_\_\_

**Knock on door or ring bell. When answered say:**

"Hello, I'm \_\_\_\_\_ working for the Nebraska Mexican American Commission."

Is \_\_\_\_\_ at home?

**if NO say:**

We would like to ask him/her some questions about life in Omaha so that we can improve services for older Mexican Americans. Can you tell me when he/she will be home?

**Make an arrangement to return later.**

**If YES say:**

We would like you to tell us what you do and what services you need so that Omaha will be a better place for older Mexican Americans to live.

PART I  I'd like to ask you questions about your activities and needs.

1. On the whole, how satisfied are you with your life today?

Very Satisfied	Fairly Satisfied	Not Very Satisfied	Not At All Satisfied	1
1	2	3	4	<input type="text"/>

2. How often do you feel lonely?

Often	Sometimes	Never	2
3	2	1	<input type="text"/>

3. Do you feel you have: too much to do, enough to do, or not enough to do?

Too Much To Do	Enough To Do	Not Enough To Do	3
1	2	3	<input type="text"/>

4. What kinds of activities do you enjoy at your home? How often?

Activity	How often?			
	Daily	* Weekly	Monthly	Other (Specify)
_____	1	2	3	4 _____
_____	1	2	3	4 _____
_____	1	2	3	4 _____
_____	1	2	3	4 _____

If no answer, ask "How about hobbies, reading, TV, gardening?"

5. What kinds of activities do you enjoy away from your home? How often?

_____	1	2	3	4 _____
_____	1	2	3	4 _____
_____	1	2	3	4 _____
_____	1	2	3	4 _____

If no answer, ask "How about visiting, picnics and outings, sports, eating out, church activities, hobbies, entertainment, clubs?"

6. What other activities would you enjoy if you could? How often?

_____	1	2	3	4 _____
_____	1	2	3	4 _____
_____	1	2	3	4 _____
_____	1	2	3	4 _____

7. Can you read Spanish, English, both?

If neither, go to 11

Neither 1  
Spanish 2  
English 3  
Both 4

7

7A. Do you read newspapers regularly?

Yes 1  
No 2

7A

8. Are any of them printed in Spanish?

Yes 1  
No 2

8

If Yes Which? 1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_

9. Do you read magazines regularly?

Yes 1  
No 2

9

10. Are any of them printed in Spanish?

Yes 1  
No 2

10

If Yes Which? 1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_

11. Do you listen to radio regularly?

Yes 1  
No 2

11

12. Are any programs in Spanish?

Yes 1  
No 2

12

If Yes Which? 1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_

13. Do you watch TV regularly?

Yes 1  
No 2

13

14. Are any programs in Spanish?

Yes 1  
No 2

14

If Yes Which? 1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_

15. Do you have a telephone in your home?

Yes 1  
No 2

15

16. How often do you get out of your home?

Read choices

- Almost every day 1
- A few times a week 2
- A few times a month 3
- Once a month 4
- Several times a year 5
- Once a year 6
- Never, except for emergencies 7

16

17. How do you usually get around for your regular chores and activities?

Read choices; if more than one, number in order of their use to the left.

- Walk 1
- Take a bus 2
- Take a senior citizen bus 3
- Take a taxi 4
- Drive your own car 5
- Get driven by family/friends 6

17

18. How often do relatives visit with you in your home?

Read choices

- |  | Regularly | Often | Seldom | Never |    |
|--|-----------|-------|--------|-------|----|
|  | 1         | 2     | 3      | 4     | 18 |

18

19. How often do you visit with relatives in their homes?

- |  |   |   |   |   |    |
|--|---|---|---|---|----|
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 19 |
|--|---|---|---|---|----|

19

20. How often do friends visit with you in your home?

- |  |   |   |   |   |    |
|--|---|---|---|---|----|
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 20 |
|--|---|---|---|---|----|

20

21. How often do you visit with friends in their homes?

- |  |   |   |   |   |    |
|--|---|---|---|---|----|
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 21 |
|--|---|---|---|---|----|

21

22. How often do you eat meals away from your home?

- |  |   |   |   |   |    |
|--|---|---|---|---|----|
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 22 |
|--|---|---|---|---|----|

22

23. With whom do you usually eat your main meal of the day?

Read choices

- Alone 1
- With spouse 2
- With other relatives 3
- With friends/neighbors 4

23

Other  5

24. Do you know of a program in your neighborhood which provides hot noon meals at a public place?

If no, go to 26

- | Yes | No |    |
|-----|----|----|
| 1   | 2  | 24 |

24

If yes

25. How often have you eaten there?

- Yes, regularly 1
- Yes, occasionally 2
- Yes, rarely 3
- No, never 4

25

26. How many times have you been ill in the last year? \_\_\_\_\_ 26

Record details if relevant

27. How many times have you sought out medical services in the last year? \_\_\_\_\_ 27

28. How many times have you used these services in the last year? \_\_\_\_\_ 28

Dentist _____	1	<input type="text"/>
Private doctor _____	2	<input type="text"/>
Medical clinic _____	3	<input type="text"/>
Medical school _____	4	<input type="text"/>
Hospital _____	5	<input type="text"/>
"Curandero" _____	6	<input type="text"/>
Other <input type="text"/> Specify _____	7	<input type="text"/>

Read each

29. Did you have any problems in getting health services? Yes No 29  
 1 2

If yes, ask

30. What problems? \_\_\_\_\_ 30

Availability _____	1	<input type="text"/>
Cost _____	2	<input type="text"/>
Spanish speaking _____	3	<input type="text"/>
Transportation _____	4	<input type="text"/>
Long waits _____	5	<input type="text"/>
Other _____	6	<input type="text"/>

Wait; if no response, offer choices. . . .  
 "Star" those problems cited before choices were offered.

31. Have you had a regular health checkup during the last year? Yes No 31  
 1 2

32. How do you usually pay for medical services? \_\_\_\_\_ 32

Cash	1	
Health insurance	2	
Medicare	3	
Medicaid	4	
Other <input type="text"/> Specify _____	5	<input type="text"/>
Not paid, yet	6	

Don't read choices  
 There may be more than one answer

33. How many times have you had legal questions or problems in the last year? \_\_\_\_\_

33

Such as those related to contracts, program eligibility, mortgage, etc.

If the person has had problems, ask:

34. Who do you ask about legal matters?

Don't read choices

- Lawyer 1
- Family 2
- Friends 3
- Priest/minister 4
- Doctor 5
- Other  Specify \_\_\_\_\_ 6

34

If the person has not had problems, ask:

35. If you had legal problems who would you consult?

Don't read choices

- Lawyer 1
- Family 2
- Friends 3
- Priest/minister 4
- Doctor 5
- Other  Specify \_\_\_\_\_ 6

35

36. How many times have you used legal services in the last year? \_\_\_\_\_

If no times

37. Why didn't you use legal services?

Don't read choices

- No legal problems 1
- Didn't know where to go 2
- No services available 3
- Too expensive 4
- Transportation problems 5
- Health problems 6
- Rely on family 7
- Other  Specify \_\_\_\_\_ 8

37

38. Are you registered to vote?

- Yes 1
- No 2

38

If yes

39. Did you vote in the last election?

- Yes 1
- No 2

39

40-42. Now I'm going to read you a list of programs and services for older citizens in Omaha and ask you some questions about each one.

READ EACH SERVICE, ASK: 1. Have you heard of; (IF YES)  
 2. Have you participated in it; (IF THEY PARTICIPATED)  
 3. Were there Spanish speaking workers available to work with you?

	40.			41.			42.		
	Heard of			Participated			Spanish speaking workers available to you		
	Yes	No	Not Sure	Yes	No	NA	Yes	No	NA
Senior citizen's center	1	2	3	1	2	8	1	2	8
Social security	1	2	3	1	2	8	1	2	8
Meals on wheels	1	2	3	1	2	8	1	2	8
Food stamps	1	2	3	1	2	8	1	2	8
Home repair service for elderly (handyman)	1	2	3	1	2	8	1	2	8
Programs assisting in winterizing & insulating homes for older Americans	1	2	3	1	2	8	1	2	8
Programs assisting in homemaker/chores for senior citizens	1	2	3	1	2	8	1	2	8
Senior citizen's discounts	1	2	3	2	3	8	1	2	8
Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)	1	2	3	1	2	8	1	2	8
Home health care programs	1	2	3	1	2	8	1	2	8
Telephone reassurance program	1	2	3	1	2	8	1	2	8
Handibus transportation for senior citizens	1	2	3	1	2	8	1	2	8
Supplementary Security Income <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">say</span> or SSI	1	2	3	1	2	8	1	2	8
Welfare programs	1	2	3	1	2	8	1	2	8
Friendly visitor	1	2	3	1	2	8	1	2	8
Other	1	2	3	1	2	8	1	2	8

43. I am going to read a list of problems that the community leaders often feel are serious. Please tell me how serious you think these problems are for the Omaha Hispanic community. Not at all serious, somewhat serious, or very serious. These are problems for the community itself.

Stress "Community"

Are language problems not at all serious, somewhat serious, or very serious in Omaha?	Not At All Serious	Somewhat Serious	Very Serious	Not Applicable
Language	1	2	3	8
Services for older persons	1	2	3	8
Alcohol over-use	1	2	3	8
Education	1	2	3	8
Youth activities	1	2	3	8
Losing the Mexican/Hispanic culture	1	2	3	8
Housing	1	2	3	8
Recreation	1	2	3	8
Crime/safety	1	2	3	8
Drug use	1	2	3	8
Transportation	1	2	3	8
Employment	1	2	3	8
Health care	1	2	3	8
Discrimination	1	2	3	8
Getting welfare services	1	2	3	8
Law enforcement	1	2	3	8



44. I'm going to read the problems again and I want you to tell me which ones have been most serious for you.

Stress "for you"

Are language problems not at all serious, somewhat serious, or very serious for you?

	Not At All Serious	Somewhat Serious	Very Serious	Not Applicable
Language	1	2	3	8
Services for older persons	1	2	3	8
Alcohol over-use	1	2	3	8
Education	1	2	3	8
Youth activities	1	2	3	8
Losing the Mexican/Hispanic culture	1	2	3	8
Housing	1	2	3	8
Recreation	1	2	3	8
Crime/safety	1	2	3	8
Drug use	1	2	3	8
Transportation	1	2	3	8
Employment	1	2	3	8
Health care	1	2	3	8
Discrimination	1	2	3	8
Getting welfare services	1	2	3	8
Law enforcement	1	2	3	8

**PART II**

State

Now, I'd like to ask you a few questions about your residence.

45. How long have you lived at this address? \_\_\_\_\_: years

45

46. Where did you live last?

Read choices

- Same neighborhood in Omaha 1
- Other neighborhood in Omaha Specify \_\_\_\_\_ 2
- Outside of Omaha Specify \_\_\_\_\_ 3
- Outside of state Specify \_\_\_\_\_ 4
- Outside of country Specify \_\_\_\_\_ 5

46

49. Did you have trouble finding your present residence?

Yes  
1

No  
2

49

If yes

50. What trouble did you have?

Wait; if no response,  
offer choices. . . .  
"Star" those problems  
cited before choices  
were offered.

Availability

Cost

Ethnic Neighborhood

Discrimination

Other

Specify \_\_\_\_\_

1  
2  
3  
4  
5

50

51. Do you own the residence you live in?

Yes  
1

No  
2

51

If yes

52. What are your total housing costs per month? \_\_\_\_\_

52

53. Have you heard of the homestead tax exemption?

Yes  
1

No  
2

53

If yes

53A. Have you applied for the homestead tax exemption?

Yes  
1

No  
2

53A

If no

54. What are your rental costs per month? \_\_\_\_\_

54

55. Does this include utilities?

Yes  
1

No  
2

55

PART III

State

Now I'd like to ask a few questions about you.

Record whether male or female

56. Male 1  
Female 2

56

57. How old were you on your last birthday? \_\_\_\_\_ years

57

58. Are you single, married, widowed, divorced or separated?

Single

Married

Widowed

Divorced

Separated

1  
2  
3  
4  
5

58

59. Are you head of your household?

Yes  
1

No  
2

59

60. What are your living arrangements?

- |                      |  |                          |
|----------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Do you live alone    | 1  | 60                       |
| with husband or wife | 2  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| with your children   | 3  |                          |
| with other relatives | 4  |                          |
| with friends         | 5  |                          |
| Other                | <input type="checkbox"/> Specify _____ 6 | 61                       |
|                      |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |

62. What is your employment status?

- |                                     |   |                          |
|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Are you currently working           | 1 | 62                       |
| unemployed                          | 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| retired                             | 3 |                          |
| Never worked outside the home       | 4 |                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> If working |   | 63                       |

63. How many hours per week do you work? \_\_\_\_\_

63A. What is your job? \_\_\_\_\_

If retired

64. What was your job? \_\_\_\_\_

65. Did you ever attend school?

- |   |    |                          |
|---|----|--------------------------|
| Yes   | No | 65                       |
| 1   | 2  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> If no, go to question 67 |    |                          |

65A. What was the last year of school you completed?

- |   |   |                          |
|---|---|--------------------------|
| No formal education                       | 1   | 65A                      |
| Kindergarten thru 6                       | 2   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 thru 9                                  | 3   |                          |
| Some high school                          | 4   |                          |
| Trade school                              | 5   |                          |
| Completed high school (12 years)          | 6   |                          |
| Post high school business or trade school | 7   |                          |
| Some college                              | 8   |                          |
| Completed college                         | 9   |                          |
| Advanced college degree                   | 10  |                          |
| Other                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Specify _____ 11 |                          |

If there is a problem ask how many years of formal education.

66. Where did you attend school?

- |        |   |   |                          |
|--------|---|---|--------------------------|
| U.S.   | <input type="checkbox"/> Specify state(s) _____ | 1 | 66                       |
| Mexico |   | 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other  | <input type="checkbox"/> Specify _____          | 3 |                          |

67. Where were you born?

- |        |  |   |                          |
|--------|--|---|--------------------------|
| U.S.   | <input type="checkbox"/> Specify State _____ | 1 | 67                       |
| Mexico |  | 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other  | <input type="checkbox"/> Specify _____       | 3 |                          |

68. When you refer to your ethnic heritage, how do you identify yourself?

- |                  |  |                          |
|------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Hispanic         | 1                                      | 68                       |
| Chicano          | 2                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mexican-American | 3                                      |                          |
| Other            | <input type="checkbox"/> Specify _____ | 4                        |

Read choices

69. What is your religion?

- Catholic 1
- Protestant  \_\_\_\_\_ 2
- Other  \_\_\_\_\_ 3
- None 4

69

70. What religious activities do you participate in regularly?

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70

71. What is your weekly/monthly income?

Weekly \_\_\_\_\_

Monthly \_\_\_\_\_

71

72. What are your sources of income?

- Earnings 1
- Savings 2
- Social security 3
- Other retirement funds 4
- Family 5
- Welfare 6
- Other  \_\_\_\_\_ 7

72

73. Is there anything else about your life in Omaha that you would like to change, or any services that you could use?

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Thank you very much for taking the time to help us.