

Iowa City Compassion Needs Assessment

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Abstract

Objective:

A survey was administered to community members served by Iowa City Compassion, a faith-based nonprofit organization. Iowa City Compassion’s mission is to bridge community through hope, opportunities, and partnerships. Through its services, including legal immigration assistance, Iowa City Compassion helps individuals overcome poverty and encourages them to give back to others. Iowa Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (ILEND) trainees partnered with Iowa City Compassion’s Executive Director, Teresa Stecker, to create a survey to collect data on the makeup of community members being served, the community’s awareness and priority needs of Iowa City Compassion programs and services, community utilization and engagement with Iowa City Compassion’s programs and services, and barriers to accessing Iowa City Compassion programs and services.

- A **cross-sectional survey** was created and conducted by **ILEND trainees in collaboration with the Executive Director of Iowa City Compassion**.

Methods

Total number of surveys collected: 47

- A **cross-sectional survey** was created and conducted by **ILEND trainees in collaboration with the Executive Director of Iowa City Compassion**.
- **Data was collected over two days in March 2025** and administered to community members while they received services, with Spanish and Arabic translation assistance provided as needed.
- **Demographics, program service awareness and usage, perceived needs, and barriers to access** were surveyed.
- **Descriptive statistics** were used to assess population characteristics and differences related to disability status.

The following questions are for research purposes only. Your response is completely confidential and will not be shared with immigration authorities or service outside of this study.

IC Compassion Survey

Household Information

1. How many people currently live in your household?
2. How many household members are 18 years old or younger?
3. How many household members are over 18 years old?
4. Does anyone in your household have a disability? (Yes/No)
5. On average, is your monthly household income above \$2,679? (Yes/No)

Education & Background

6. Do you have a U.S. high school degree or equivalent? (Yes/No)
7. What country were you born in?
8. How do you identify your race/ethnicity? (Select all that apply)
 - a. African
 - b. Black/African American
 - c. Asian (non-Hispanic)
 - d. White/Caucasian (non-Hispanic)
 - e. Hispanic/Latino
 - f. Middle Eastern
 - g. Native American/Indigenous/American Indian/Alaska Native (non-Hispanic)
 - h. Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (non-Hispanic)
 - i. Other (please specify)

Community Awareness & Needs Assessment

9. How did you learn about IC Compassion and its programs? (Select all that apply)
 - a. Social Media
 - b. Word of mouth
 - c. Flyers
 - d. Staff member
 - e. Website
 - f. Other (Please specify)
10. What are the three most important needs for your family right now? (Select up to 3)
 - a. Learning English
 - b. Physical healthcare
 - c. Mental healthcare
 - d. Food assistance
 - e. Housing support
 - f. Financial support
 - g. Transportation
 - h. Parenting resources
 - i. Children's services
 - j. Education
 - k. Help adjusting to life in the U.S.

Program Use & Engagement

11. How often do you use IC Compassion's services?
 - a. Weekly
 - b. Monthly
 - c. Occasionally
 - d. Rarely

Barrier Identification

16. What is the biggest challenge you face in accessing IC Compassion's programs or services? (Select all that apply)
 - a. Not aware of available services
 - b. Transportation
 - c. Language barriers
 - d. Hours of operation
 - e. Children
 - f. Lack of time
 - g. Other (please specify)

12. How long have you been receiving services from IC Compassion?

- a. Less than 1 year
- b. 1-2 years
- c. 4+ years

13. Which IC Compassion programs or services have you used in the past year? (Check all that apply)

- a. Immigration help
- b. English language classes
- c. Counseling/mental health services
- d. Food pantry
- e. Housing assistance
- f. Global Food Project
- g. Educational Classes (citizenship, sewing, etc.)
- h. Job training/employment services

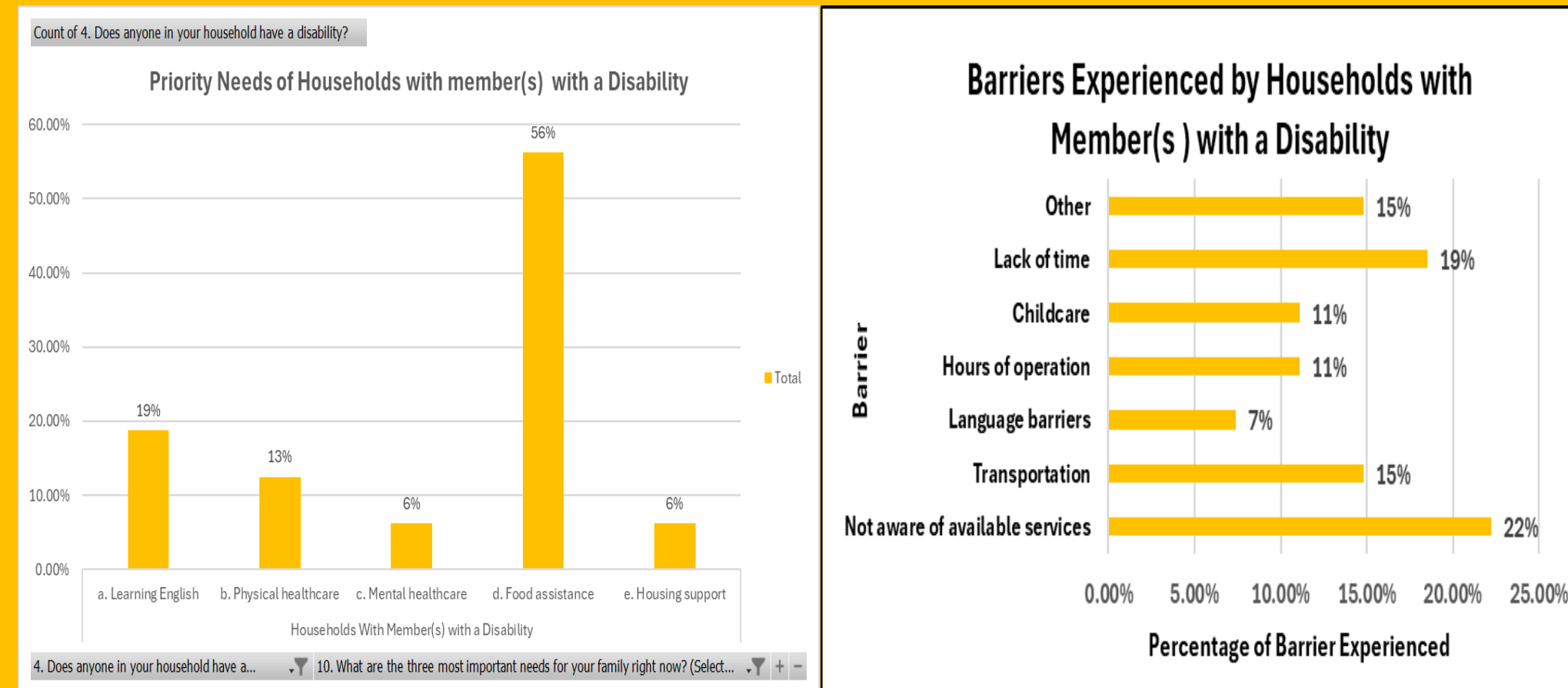
14. What is the most important service that IC Compassion provides for your family? Select one

- a. Immigration help
- b. English language classes
- c. Counseling/mental health services
- d. Food pantry
- e. Housing assistance
- f. Global Food Project
- g. Educational Classes (citizenship, sewing, etc.)
- h. Job training/employment services

15. How much do you agree with this statement? "IC Compassion's services have improved my family's quality of life."

- a. 1- Strongly Disagree
- b. 2- Disagree
- c. 3- Neutral
- d. 4- Agree
- e. 5- Strongly Agree

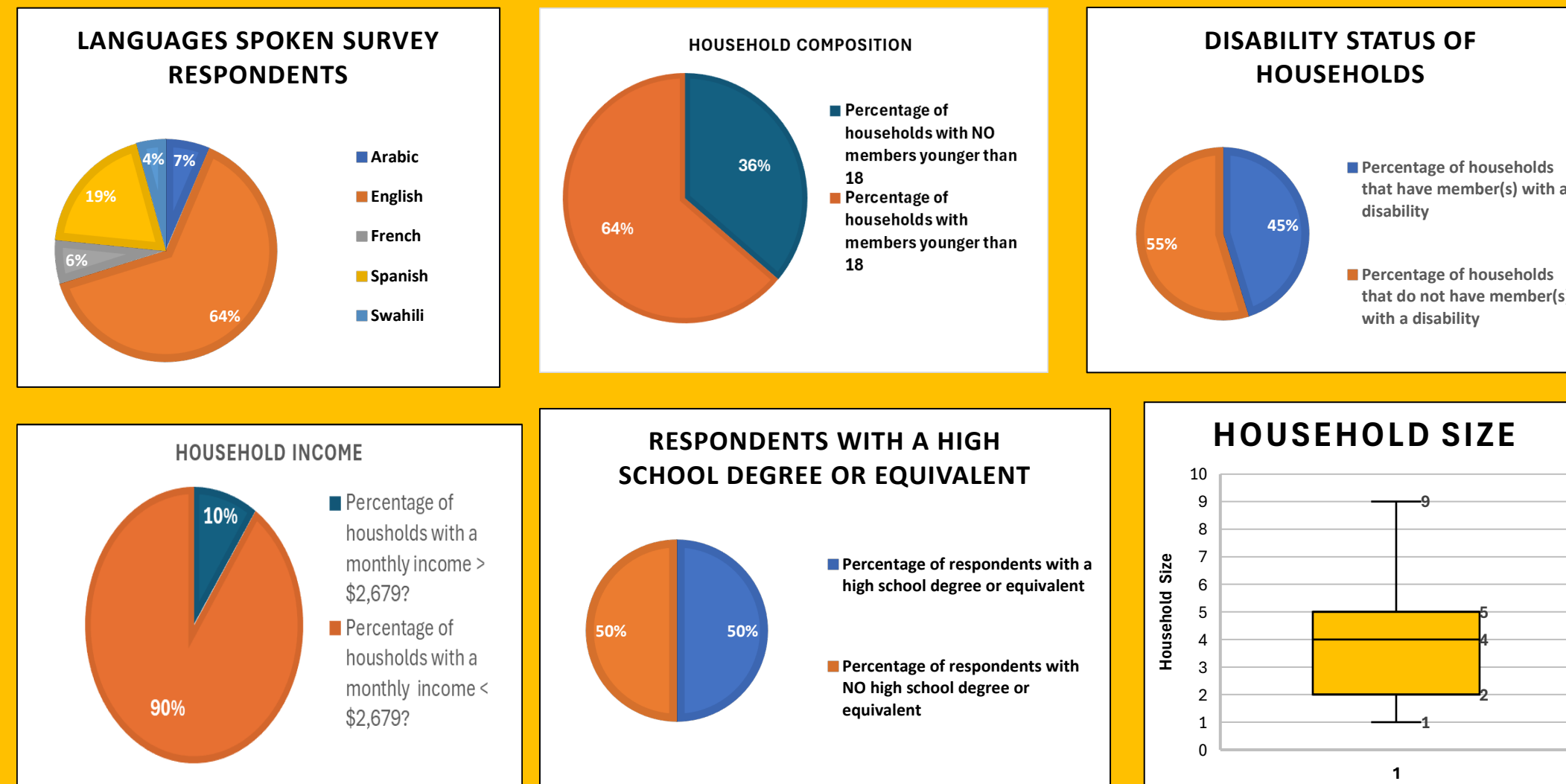
Key Findings Charts



Key Findings Explained

- **45% of survey respondents reported having a household member with a disability.**
- Among those who answered “Yes” regarding a family member with a disability, **the most pressing needs identified were food assistance (56%), learning English (19%), and physical healthcare (13%).**
- Households with a member who has a disability also cited **barriers to accessing services and programs, including lack of time, unawareness of available services, transportation issues, inconvenient hours of operation, childcare challenges, and language barriers.**

Results



Conclusion & Future Direction

To better serve individuals receiving services from Iowa City Compassion, it’s important to focus on the unique barriers and priorities faced by people with disabilities. Studies show that increasing awareness of available services and improving access through tailored services based on specific barriers can make a big difference (Hunt et al). Future steps could include building stronger support systems, using community-based models, and making sure there are services specifically tailored for households with disabilities and their varying needs. Long-term evaluations will also help Iowa City Compassion track if programs are meeting the changing needs of the community.

References

1. *About Us* | ic-compassion. (n.d.). Ic-compassion. <https://www.iccompassion.org/about-us>
2. CCRESA Office of Innovative Projects | CCRESA Office of Innovative Projects. <https://eotta.ccresa.org/FPL.php>.
- 3 .Hunt, Xanthe, et al. “Community Support for Persons with Disabilities in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: A Scoping Review.” *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, vol. 19, no. 14, July 2022, p. 8269. *PubMed Central*, <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph19148269>.

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