

4-H Volunteer Leader Internet Access Survey

FINDINGS

The purpose of this study was to determine the percentage of 4-H volunteer leaders who own a computer, have access to the Internet, and their frequency of access. Additionally, the likelihood that 4-H volunteers would access the Internet for curriculum projects and resources was examined.

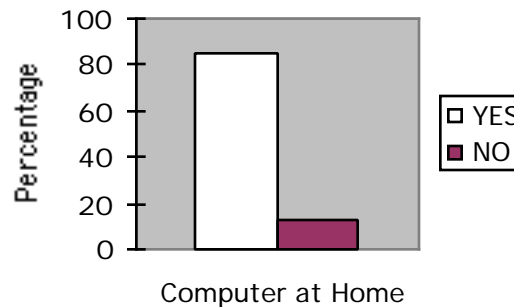
County 4-H coordinators were sent 15 surveys to mail to a randomly selected sample of 4-H volunteers. Of the 67 counties, 59 participated in the study.

A total of 885 surveys were mailed to 4-H volunteers. 589 surveys were returned (62%).

COMPUTER OWNERSHIP

Eighty-four percent of the 4-H volunteers in Pennsylvania have a computer in their home (see Table 1). Over half (54.2%) of the 4-H volunteers in Pennsylvania who work have access to a computer at work. Of those who don't have a computer at home, 3.9% have access to a computer at work. Thus, almost 90% of the 4-H volunteers have a computer available for their use.

Table 1: Computer Ownership



ACCESS TO THE INTERNET

4-H volunteers were asked if they had access to the Internet from their home computer. Sixty-nine percent had access to the Internet from home (see Table 2). An additional 1.6% had access to the Internet at work for a total of 70.6% of 4-H volunteers having Internet access at home or work (see Table 3).

Table 2: Access to Internet at Home

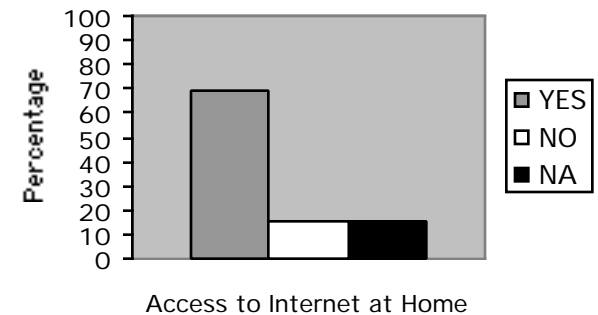
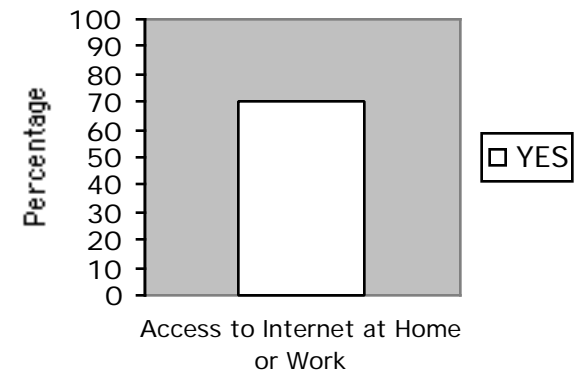
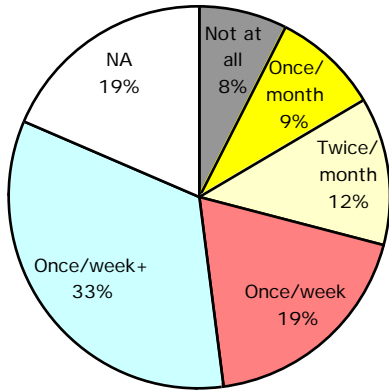


Table 3: Access to Internet at Home or Work



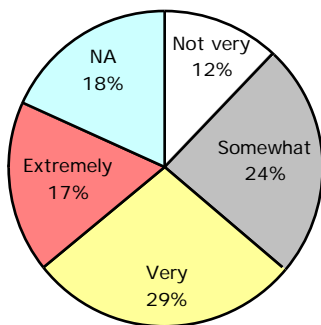
FREQUENCY OF ACCESS TO THE INTERNET

The frequency of access to the Internet on the average was reported by the 4-H volunteers. About 19% of 4-H volunteers are accessing the Internet at least **once/week** with 33% accessing the Internet **more than once each week**. Thus over half of the 4-H volunteers are on the Internet weekly (see Table 4).



LIKELIHOOD OF ACCESSING 4-H CURRICULA ON THE INTERNET

Volunteers were asked how likely they were to access 4-H curriculum materials and resources from the Internet for use with 4-H projects. Forty-six percent of the 4-H volunteers were **very likely** or **extremely likely** to access 4-H curriculum materials on the Internet, if available. Twenty-four percent indicated that they were somewhat likely to access materials from a web site. About 12% indicated that they were not very likely to access a web site for curriculum resources



WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE E-MAIL ADDRESS

Almost 66 percent of the responding 4-H volunteers indicated that they are willing or extremely willing to provide their e-mail addresses to receive information directly from the Department of Agricultural and Extension Education. Those volunteers who were not at all willing to provide their e-mail address were 3.9 percent of the sample. It should be noted that 19.4 percent did not respond because they do not have e-mail capability.

TENURE OF RESPONDENTS

Of the 544 valid responses, the length of service as 4-H volunteers varied. Forty-one percent of the 4-H volunteers were 4-H volunteers for one to five years. Twenty-two percent of the volunteers served between six and ten years and six percent have 16-20 years of service as a volunteer. Those volunteers with more than 20 years of tenure totaled almost 10 percent of the respondents. Six percent of the survey respondents were volunteering for less than one year. There was no association between length of service of the 4-H volunteer and his/her willingness to access the Internet for curriculum resources and information



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