

THOMSON REUTERS-NPR HEALTH POLL FOOD ALLERGIES

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THOMSON REUTERS-NPR HEALTH POLL

Each month, the Thomson Reuters-NPR Health Poll surveys approximately 3,000 Americans to gauge attitudes and opinions on a wide range of healthcare issues. Poll results are reported by NPR's Scott Hensley on the health blog Shots (<http://www.npr.org/blogs/health/>) and on air.

Complete survey results are posted here:
<http://healthcare.thomsonreuters.com/npr/>

NPR's reports on the findings are archived here (to be updated):
http://www.npr.org/templates/archives/archive.php?thingId=137038712&ps=sh_sttag

The Thomson Reuters-NPR Health Poll is powered by the Thomson Reuters PULSE™ Healthcare Survey, an independently funded telephone poll which collects information about health behavior, attitudes and utilization from more than 100,000 U.S. households annually.

The results depicted below represent responses from 3,014 survey participants interviewed from June 1-12, 2011. The margin of error is 1.8 percent.



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The survey asked respondents about their experience with and attitudes toward food allergies. Among those polled, one in five (20%) report that a household member had either food allergies or food intolerances.

- Milk and milk products (36%) were the most commonly cited source of intolerance, followed by fruits (19%), vegetables (9%), peanuts (9%), shellfish (8%), gluten (7%) and wheat (6%).
- Among households with food allergies or intolerances, approximately two-thirds said they had been diagnosed by a physician.
- 59% said they support bans on common food allergens (such as peanuts) in public places such as airplanes and lunchrooms.
- Among lifestyle changes required by food allergies and intolerances, respondents most concerns were missing out on foods they love (26%), fear of adverse medical reactions (26%), cost of special diet/foods (25%), segregation in public places (19%), and limitations on social activities (18%). The majority of respondents were not overly concerned about these impacts to their day-to-day lives.
- 49% of households surveyed believe that food allergy fears are blown out of proportion.

SURVEY DATA

Responses in **RED** are statistically significant.

QUESTION 1: Do you or does anyone else in your household have food allergies or food intolerances?

Age	Yes	No
<35	24.1%	75.9%
35 – 64	21.0%	79.0%
65+	15.4%	84.6%
Total	20.1%	79.9%

Income	Yes	No
<\$25k	19.8%	80.2%
\$25k – \$49.9k	19.5%	80.5%
\$50k – \$99.9k	20.6%	79.4%
\$100k+	21.6%	78.4%
Total	20.1%	79.9%

Education	Yes	No
High School or Less	13.9%	86.1%
Some College	22.1%	77.9%
College+	23.9%	76.1%
Total	20.1%	79.9%



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QUESTION 2: Thinking about the youngest person in your household with food allergies or intolerances. What foods is this person allergic or intolerant to? (Accept three mentions)

Age	Milk	Fruit	Vegetables	Peanuts	Shellfish	Gluten	Wheat
<35	42.5%	26.7%	13.4%	10.7%	3.3%	3.7%	0.0%
35 – 64	36.3%	17.1%	8.5%	9.1%	7.5%	8.0%	7.1%
65+	28.4%	19.3%	8.0%	6.9%	13.3%	4.3%	6.1%
Total	35.9%	19.3%	9.4%	9.0%	7.9%	6.5%	5.5%
Income							
<\$25k	37.7%	19.1%	14.3%	5.3%	4.5%	3.5%	5.3%
\$25k – \$49.9k	32.8%	23.5%	3.7%	9.3%	9.4%	2.5%	5.1%
\$50k – \$99.9k	35.9%	10.3%	6.3%	14.5%	10.7%	9.4%	6.0%
\$100k+	34.5%	23.9%	2.8%	6.1%	8.3%	11.9%	7.9%
Total	35.9%	19.3%	9.4%	9.0%	7.9%	6.5%	5.5%
Education							
High School or Less	24.7%	21.9%	16.4%	4.7%	5.4%	4.1%	3.2%
Some College	39.7%	21.5%	6.8%	11.0%	9.5%	2.6%	4.8%
College+	38.7%	16.4%	7.6%	9.7%	8.0%	10.5%	7.3%
Total	35.9%	19.3%	9.4%	9.0%	7.9%	6.5%	5.5%

QUESTION 3: Has this person's food allergies or intolerances been diagnosed by a physician?

Age	Yes	No
<35	70.7%	29.3%
35 – 64	62.4%	33.6%
65+	60.2%	39.8%
Total	63.5%	36.5%
Income		
< \$25k	64.4%	35.6%
\$25k – \$49.9k	66.8%	33.2%
\$50k – \$99.9k	65.7%	34.3%
\$100k+	69.0%	31.0%
Total	63.5%	36.5%
Education		
High School or Less	61.9%	38.1%
Some College	71.2%	22.8%
College+	58.5%	41.5%
Total	63.5%	36.5%



QUESTION 4: Many people experience lifestyle and quality of life adjustments when living with food allergies or intolerances. On a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is "Not At All Concerned" and 5 is "Very Concerned," please rate your level of concern for the following statements.

Limitations on Social Activities

Age	1 — Not at all concerned	2	3	4	5 — Very concerned
<35	70.6%	19.2%	3.9%	0.0%	6.3%
35 — 64	54.2%	11.0%	12.4%	5.2%	17.2%
65+	61.7%	7.7%	14.9%	3.6%	12.0%
Total	58.8%	12.0%	11.2%	3.9%	14.1%

Income

< \$25k	53.5%	7.4%	12.4%	5.5%	21.2%
\$25k — \$49.9k	54.7%	12.2%	15.5%	4.1%	13.5%
\$50k — \$99.9k	64.2%	14.2%	12.1%	1.7%	7.9%
\$100k+	61.7%	25.3%	6.3%	3.5%	3.3%
Total	58.8%	12.0%	11.2%	3.9%	14.1%

Education

High School or Less	52.3%	4.3%	10.3%	4.3%	28.8%
Some College	54.4%	14.2%	10.9%	6.3%	14.2%
College+	65.1%	14.0%	11.9%	1.9%	7.1%
Total	58.8%	12.0%	11.2%	3.9%	14.1%

Segregation in Public Places

Age	1 — Not at all concerned	2	3	4	5 — Very concerned
<35	54.0%	19.7%	4.4%	6.5%	15.3%
35 — 64	66.6%	4.6%	8.3%	3.4%	17.1%
65+	72.5%	6.5%	8.0%	2.5%	10.4%
Total	65.1%	8.0%	7.5%	3.9%	15.6%

Income

< \$25k	59.8%	5.5%	6.4%	1.5%	26.9%
\$25k — \$49.9k	69.5%	4.7%	10.5%	2.8%	12.5%
\$50k — \$99.9k	72.4%	9.8%	1.9%	6.1%	9.8%
\$100k+	60.7%	10.4%	19.0%	1.7%	8.1%
Total	65.1%	8.0%	7.5%	3.9%	15.6%

Education

High School or Less	57.6%	12.5%	9.9%	2.8%	17.2%
Some College	60.4%	6.0%	7.0%	5.2%	21.5%
College+	72.2%	7.3%	6.7%	3.4%	10.4%
Total	65.1%	8.0%	7.5%	3.9%	15.6%



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Cost of Special Diet/Foods

Age	1—Not at all concerned	2	3	4	5—Very concerned
<35	62.4%	9.8%	16.9%	6.5%	4.3%
35 — 64	51.8%	8.1%	9.5%	7.8%	22.8%
65+	63.1%	8.5%	9.0%	8.8%	10.6%
Total	56.1%	8.5%	10.8%	7.8%	16.8%
Income					
< \$25k	37.8%	10.7%	14.6%	14.9%	22.1%
\$25k — \$49.9k	52.3%	10.7%	11.6%	5.8%	19.6%
\$50k — \$99.9k	64.9%	6.1%	10.8%	7.0%	11.2%
\$100k+	80.6%	5.1%	8.0%	2.2%	4.1%
Total	56.1%	8.5%	10.8%	7.8%	16.8%
Education					
High School or Less	45.7%	12.4%	8.9%	6.1%	26.9%
Some College	48.7%	6.2%	11.8%	12.8%	20.4%
College+	66.9%	8.3%	11.1%	4.8%	9.0%
Total	56.1%	8.5%	10.8%	7.8%	16.8%

Fear of Adverse Medical Reactions

Age	1- Not at all concerned	2	3	4	5- Very concerned
<35	54.2%	13.3%	8.5%	10.6%	13.4%
35 — 64	37.7%	16.0%	20.3%	7.5%	18.5%
65+	51.8%	10.2%	11.6%	13.0%	13.3%
Total	43.6%	14.3%	16.3%	9.2%	16.5%
Income					
< \$25k	33.9%	13.9%	20.2%	11.2%	20.8%
\$25k — \$49.9k	42.1%	8.0%	18.4%	9.2%	22.2%
\$50k — \$99.9k	50.0%	13.1%	16.1%	9.4%	11.4%
\$100k+	47.3%	29.0%	11.0%	7.1%	5.6%
Total	43.6%	14.3%	16.3%	9.2%	16.5%
Education					
High School or Less	47.9%	11.1%	15.1%	5.3%	20.6%
Some College	31.1%	11.1%	23.5%	11.4%	22.9%
College+	50.8%	18.3%	11.6%	9.6%	9.8%
Total	43.6%	14.3%	16.3%	9.2%	16.5%



Cost of Special Diet/Foods

Age	1- Not at all concerned	2	3	4	5- Very concerned
<35	62.4%	9.8%	16.9%	6.5%	4.3%
35 – 64	51.8%	8.1%	9.5%	7.8%	22.8%
65+	63.1%	8.5%	9.0%	8.8%	10.6%
Total	56.1%	8.5%	10.8%	7.8%	16.8%

Income

< \$25k	37.8%	10.7%	14.6%	14.9%	22.1%
\$25k – \$49.9k	52.3%	10.7%	11.6%	5.8%	19.6%
\$50k – \$99.9k	64.9%	6.1%	10.8%	7.0%	11.2%
\$100k+	80.6%	5.1%	8.0%	2.2%	4.1%
Total	56.1%	8.5%	10.8%	7.8%	16.8%

Education

High School or Less	45.7%	12.4%	8.9%	6.1%	26.9%
Some College	48.7%	6.2%	11.8%	12.8%	20.4%
College+	66.9%	8.3%	11.1%	4.8%	9.0%
Total	56.1%	8.5%	10.8%	7.8%	16.8%

Fear of Adverse Medical Reactions

Age	1- Not at all concerned	2	3	4	5- Very concerned
<35	54.2%	13.3%	8.5%	10.6%	13.4%
35 – 64	37.7%	16.0%	20.3%	7.5%	18.5%
65+	51.8%	10.2%	11.6%	13.0%	13.3%
Total	43.6%	14.3%	16.3%	9.2%	16.5%

Income

< \$25k	33.9%	13.9%	20.2%	11.2%	20.8%
\$25k – \$49.9k	42.1%	8.0%	18.4%	9.2%	22.2%
\$50k – \$99.9k	50.0%	13.1%	16.1%	9.4%	11.4%
\$100k+	47.3%	29.0%	11.0%	7.1%	5.6%
Total	43.6%	14.3%	16.3%	9.2%	16.5%

Education

High School or Less	47.9%	11.1%	15.1%	5.3%	20.6%
Some College	31.1%	11.1%	23.5%	11.4%	22.9%
College+	50.8%	18.3%	11.6%	9.6%	9.8%
Total	43.6%	14.3%	16.3%	9.2%	16.5%



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Missing Out on Foods You Enjoy

Age	1- Not at all concerned	2	3	4	5- Very concerned
<35	36.0%	28.9%	13.8%	5.4%	15.9%
35 – 64	40.5%	14.6%	15.8%	7.9%	21.2%
65+	54.0%	11.2%	14.5%	4.4%	15.9%
Total	42.2%	16.6%	15.2%	6.8%	19.2%
Income					
< \$25k	37.6%	10.8%	14.1%	6.0%	31.6%
\$25k – \$49.9k	50.2%	12.3%	13.3%	10.3%	14.0%
\$50k – \$99.9k	42.1%	14.2%	20.5%	7.6%	15.7%
\$100k+	37.8%	38.5%	13.9%	2.8%	7.0%
Total	42.2%	16.6%	15.2%	6.8%	19.2%
Education					
High School or Less	50.9%	11.4%	9.0%	4.5%	24.1%
Some College	38.2%	5.9%	19.0%	9.9%	27.1%
College+	40.9%	27.3%	15.4%	5.6%	10.8%
Total	42.2%	16.6%	15.2%	6.8%	19.2%

QUESTION 5: Do you believe the bans on certain common food allergy items (such as peanuts) from public places like airplanes and lunchrooms is an important safety measure?

Age	Yes	No
<35	54.1%	45.9%
35 – 64	59.9%	40.1%
65+	59.8%	40.2%
Total	59.0%	41.0%
Income		
< \$25k	62.9%	37.1%
\$25k – \$49.9k	56.6%	43.4%
\$50k – \$99.9k	60.5%	39.5%
\$100k+	55.7%	44.3%
Total	59.0%	41.0%
Education		
High School or Less	59.5%	40.5%
Some College	55.3%	44.7%
College+	61.6%	38.4%
Total	59.0%	41.0%



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QUESTION 6: Do you believe food allergy fears are being blown out of proportion?

Age	Yes	No
<35	45.2%	44.8%
35 – 64	49.4%	50.6%
65+	48.5%	51.5%
Total	48.5%	51.5%
Income		
< \$25k	49.7%	50.3%
\$25k – \$49.9k	42.0%	58.0%
\$50k – \$99.9k	47.8%	52.2%
\$100k+	55.8%	44.2%
Total	48.5%	51.5%
Education		
High School or Less	52.0%	48.0%
Some College	47.2%	52.8%
College+	46.5%	53.5%
Total	48.5%	51.5%



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