

**CONGREGATION SURVEY ON SOCIAL MINISTRY ACTIVITY**

*Division for Church in Society and the Department for Research and Evaluation*

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

N=212

**Survey 1**

Survey  
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We want to know about the level and type of the congregation's participation with social service ministries. In this questionnaire we distinguish between **Providing Space and/or Volunteers** and **Direct Oversight**.

By **Providing Space and/or Volunteers** we mean contributing space and/or volunteers for the work of a social service ministry without being in direct oversight of that social service ministry. By **Direct Oversight** we mean that the ministry is a significant part of the congregation's life and that the congregation plays a significant role in providing oversight to the persons managing or running the program and in providing or raising its financial support.

For our purposes, **do not indicate that the congregation is participating with a social service ministry** if it provides financial support or in-kind donations but does not provide space and/or volunteers or direct oversight to that ministry.

Finally, if a particular question does not seem applicable to your congregation or you do not readily know the answer, skip it and move on to the next question. When filling in the circles, please **completely fill** in the circle (●). **Please do not place a ✓ or an X in or on top of the circles.**

1. Please indicate below any childcare or early childhood ministries for which your congregation provides space and/or volunteers or direct oversight. **Do not** include nursery during Sunday Services or Christian education activities (Sunday School, VBS, etc.) *(Fill in the circle next to all that apply and then indicate your type of involvement where appropriate)*

| Space/Volunteers or Oversight?<br>(Fill in the circle if<br>the answer is "Yes") | How? <i>(fill in one circle only)</i> | Provide<br>Volunteers<br><u>Only</u> | Provide<br>Space<br><u>Only</u> | Provide Both<br>Volunteers<br>and Space | Provide<br>Direct<br>Oversight | Approximate<br>Number of Persons<br>Served in 1998/1999 |
|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>24.8%</b>   | a preschool                           | -                                    | <b>8.1%</b>                     | <b>1.3</b>                              | <b>15.8</b>                    | <b>43 avg.</b>  |
| 25.9   |                                       | -                                    | 10.4                            | 0.7                                     | 14.6                           | 49 avg.   |
| <b>7.3</b>   | full day child care                   | -                                    | <b>1.7</b>                      | <b>0.2</b>                              | <b>5.4</b>                     | <b>88 avg.</b>  |
| 7.4  |                                       | -                                    | 2.3                             | 0.7                                     | 4.5                            | 47 avg.   |
| <b>1.2</b>   | Head Start                            | -                                    | <b>1.0</b>                      | <b>0.2</b>                              | -                              | <b>32 avg.</b>  |
| 2.1  |                                       | -                                    | 1.5                             | 0.7                                     | -                              | 15 avg.   |
| <b>1.0</b>   | an elementary school                  | -                                    | <b>0.3</b>                      | <b>0.2</b>                              | <b>0.5</b>                     | <b>174 avg.</b>   |
| 2.2  |                                       | 0.8                                  | 0.9                             | -                                       | 0.5                            | 126 avg.  |
| <b>8.5</b>   | before and/or after school program    | <b>0.2</b>                           | <b>2.1</b>                      | <b>0.4</b>                              | <b>5.9</b>                     | <b>43 avg.</b>  |
| 13.9   |                                       | 0.2                                  | 4.4                             | 0.3                                     | 8.6                            | 38 avg.   |
| <b>6.1</b>   | tutoring program (for children)       | <b>1.5</b>                           | <b>1.3</b>                      | <b>0.8</b>                              | <b>2.4</b>                     | <b>24 avg.</b>  |
| 6.4  |                                       | 1.6                                  | 1.5                             | 0.9                                     | 2.4                            | 29 avg.   |
| <b>4.5</b>   | program for at risk youth             | <b>1.6</b>                           | <b>1.6</b>                      | <b>0.3</b>                              | <b>0.9</b>                     | <b>45 avg.</b>  |
| 4.5  |                                       | 1.0                                  | 1.6                             | -                                       | 1.6                            | 32 avg.   |

**If you indicated the congregation provides Direct Oversight for any of the social ministries listed above, please answer Question 2. Otherwise, skip to Question 3.**

2. Do you provide aid in any of the following ways to the children (or parents/guardians) who participate in the congregation's programs? *(Fill in the circle next to all that apply)*

|              |      |  |
|--------------|------|--|
| <b>12.5%</b> | 14.3 | offer scholarships to low-income children              |
| <b>3.1</b>   | 3.9  | accept vouchers to subsidize low-income children       |
| <b>2.4</b>   | 4.9  | use government programs to help subsidize cost of food |

3. Is your congregation involved in providing shelter for those in need in any of the following ways? (For this question, providing financial support alone is considered involvement. Fill in the circle next to all that apply.)

- 11.5%** 11.6 make beds and shelter available for the homeless
- 43.2** 40.0 provide financial support to a local community organization to help homeless persons
- 40.1** 43.7 involved in Habitat for Humanity projects
- 24.4** 21.7 provide home energy (heat and utility) assistance
- 8.8** 9.0 involved in other forms of housing activities

4. Does your congregation provide space and/or volunteers or direct oversight to any program(s) that provide(s) food for those in need in any of the following ways? (Fill in the circle next to all that apply and then indicate the nature of involvement where appropriate)

| Space/Volunteers or Oversight?<br>(Fill in the circle if the answer is "Yes") | How? (fill in one circle only)          | Provide Volunteers Only | Provide Space Only | Provide Both Volunteers and Space | Provide Direct Oversight | Approximate Number of Persons Served in 1998/1999 |
|---|---|-------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <b>20.2%</b><br>15.8  | a food pantry in church building        | <b>3.9</b><br>3.1       | <b>1.1</b><br>0.5  | <b>8.8</b><br>4.2                 | <b>6.3</b><br>7.0        | <b>671 avg.</b><br>1941 avg.                      |
| <b>46.3</b><br>43.3   | a food bank to collect for agencies     | <b>22.5</b><br>18.6     | <b>2.0</b><br>4.8  | <b>12.6</b><br>15.6               | <b>8.0</b><br>3.3        | <b>1128 avg.</b><br>193 avg.                      |
| <b>7.8</b><br>4.1   | a "soup" kitchen in the church building | <b>3.7</b><br>0.9       | -                  | <b>1.5</b><br>0.2                 | <b>2.6</b><br>2.9        | <b>1450 avg.</b><br>2482 avg.                     |
| <b>3.5</b><br>4.7   | a WIC program                           | -<br>0.5                | <b>3.0</b><br>3.7  | -<br>0.5                          | -                        | <b>403 avg.</b><br>169 avg.                       |
| <b>23.9</b><br>26.4   | Meals on Wheels program                 | <b>21.2</b><br>25.1     | -                  | <b>1.2</b><br>1.1                 | <b>1.4</b><br>0.3        | <b>231 avg.</b><br>57 avg.                        |

5. Is your congregation, by itself or in cooperation with other congregations or agencies, participating in the development of low-income rent subsidized housing for seniors or other persons? (For this question, providing financial support alone is considered involvement. Fill in the circle next to all that apply)

- 3.5%** 3.6 yes, exclusively for seniors
- 5.9** 7.8 yes, for other persons
- 57.9** 61.8 no
- 0.4** 1.2 don't know

6. Does your congregation provide space and/or volunteers or provide direct oversight to any social service ministries that provide any of the following? (Fill in the circle next to all that apply and indicate the number of persons served as appropriate)

| Provide Space and/or Volunteers, or Provide Direct Oversight? |  | Approximate Number Served in 1998 | Approximate Number Served in 1999 |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>9.5%</b>   | 8.0 a mentoring program                              | <b>23 avg.</b>                    | 27 avg.                           |
| <b>1.9</b>  | 1.6 job training, interview training, etc.           | <b>23 avg.</b>                    | 11 avg.                           |
| <b>3.7</b>  | 2.6 job counseling                                   | <b>5 avg.</b>                     | 15 avg.                           |
| <b>5.5</b>  | 3.1 assistance with job searching                    | <b>0 avg.</b>                     | 16 avg.                           |
| <b>3.0</b>  | 4.5 transportation to job interviews                 | <b>5 avg.</b>                     | 10 avg.                           |
| <b>2.3</b>  | 1.9 education programs such as GED                   | <b>36 avg.</b>                    | 320 avg.                          |
| -   | 0.6 participate in Charitable Choice Program         | -                                 | -                                 |
| <b>3.1</b>  | 2.8 help poor apply for Medicaid assistance, etc.    | <b>22 avg.</b>                    | 17 avg.                           |
| <b>0.6</b>  | 2.0 participate in State Children's Health Insurance | <b>6 avg.</b>                     | -                                 |
| <b>11.1</b>   | 14.2 a parish nurse program                          | <b>95 avg.</b>                    | 93 avg.                           |

Provide Space and/or Volunteers,  
or Provide Direct Oversight?

Approximate  
Number Served in 1998

Approximate  
Number Served in 1999

|              |      |  |                 |          |
|--------------|------|--|-----------------|----------|
| <b>17.0%</b> | 17.4 | blood pressure screening                 | <b>83 avg.</b>  | 93 avg.  |
| <b>4.2</b>   | 6.4  | a community health clinic                | <b>41 avg.</b>  | 173 avg. |
| <b>6.1</b>   | 7.1  | health care volunteers for the community | <b>25 ave.</b>  | 55 avg.  |
| <b>29.4</b>  | 26.2 | clothing                                 | <b>273 avg.</b> | 430 avg. |
| <b>0.7</b>   | 2.9  | legal services                           | <b>10 avg.</b>  | 136 avg. |
| <b>3.4</b>   | 6.4  | medical services                         | <b>57 avg.</b>  | 89 avg.  |
| <b>5.6</b>   | 6.3  | mental health services                   | <b>45 avg.</b>  | 326 avg. |
| <b>6.6</b>   | 6.7  | substance abuse treatment                | <b>137 avg.</b> | 96 avg.  |

If you indicated you provided **Direct Oversight** to any social service ministry noted in any of the above questions, please answer Questions 7 through 14. **Otherwise, please skip to Question 15.**

7. Do the persons served by the social service ministries under the congregation's direct oversight come from one or all of the following? *(Fill in the circles for all that apply)* **28.3% of the congregations answered this question on the first survey and 35.4% answered this question on both the first and second survey. Of those...**

|              |      |   |
|--------------|------|---|
| <b>68.3%</b> | 70.7 | the congregation                              |
| <b>83.3</b>  | 90.7 | the local community                           |
| <b>38.3</b>  | 46.7 | by referral from other agencies/congregations |
| <b>3.3</b>   | 2.7  | other   |

8. Please consider all the people served in the **last year** by the social service ministries for which the congregation provided direct oversight. To the best of your ability, estimate the approximate percentage of those people in the following categories:

|                                      |              |  |              |                |              |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|--|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| A. White                             | <b>70.4%</b> | B. Female                                    | <b>56.1%</b> | E. Under age 5 | <b>24.7%</b> |
| African-American<br>or Black         | <b>19.2</b>  | Male   | <b>46.4</b>  | Age 5 to 18    | <b>22.0</b>  |
| Hispanic                             | <b>4.2</b>   |  |              | Age 19 to 64   | <b>33.1</b>  |
| Asian or Pacific<br>Islander         | <b>2.2</b>   | C. Physically or Developmentally<br>Disabled | <b>6.2</b>   | Age 65/over    | <b>17.7</b>  |
| American Indian or<br>Alaskan Native | <b>3.2</b>   | D. Members of Single<br>Parent Families      | <b>33.6</b>  |                |              |

9. Is there a waiting list for any of the social service ministries for which the congregation provides direct oversight? **28.8% of the congregations answered this question on the first survey and 36.5% answered this question on the second survey. Of those...**

|              |      |    |             |      |     |
|--------------|------|----|-------------|------|-----|
| <b>88.5%</b> | 89.8 | no | <b>11.5</b> | 10.2 | yes |
|--------------|------|----|-------------|------|-----|

10. Does the congregation have to turn people away from any of the social service ministries for which the congregation provides direct oversight due to lack of capacity? **28.8% of the congregations answered this question on the first survey and 37.3% answered this question on the second survey. Of those...**

|              |      |     |  |      |                       |
|--------------|------|-----|--|------|-----------------------|
| <b>78.7%</b> | 80.2 | no  |  |      |                       |
| <b>21.3</b>  | 19.8 | yes | Do you make referrals to those who you do turn away? |      |                       |
|              |      |     | <b>14.8%</b>   | 9.9  | most of the time      |
|              |      |     | <b>1.6</b>   | 5.3  | some of the time      |
|              |      |     | <b>4.9</b>   | 14.6 | seldom or hardly ever |

11. What amount did the congregation budget in 1999 and in 2000 for all the social service ministries for which it provides direct oversight?

**\$14,185 avg. in 1999**                      \$ 14,356 avg. in 2000

12. What amount did the congregation spend for all the social service ministries for which it provided direct oversight in the year ...

1997 **\$23,877** avg.      1998 **\$19,805** avg.      1999 \$219,633 avg. (average jumps due to a very large grant received by one congregation.)

13. In the last year, have you referred people who ask for charitable assistance to other congregations or social service ministries?

|              |      |             |
|--------------|------|-------------|
| <b>70.7%</b> | 68.5 | yes         |
| <b>16.3</b>  | 22.4 | no          |
| <b>12.7</b>  | 9.1  | no response |

14. Does the congregation have a Women of the ELCA unit?

|              |      |     |
|--------------|------|-----|
| <b>26.9%</b> | 26.3 | no  |
| <b>73.1</b>  | 69.8 | yes |

Does the Women of the ELCA unit at your church provide any of the following services?

|             |      |                           |
|-------------|------|---------------------------|
| <b>6.1%</b> | 8.0  | food pantry               |
| <b>1.6</b>  | 10.5 | child care                |
| <b>4.0</b>  | 0.4  | transportation assistance |
| <b>20.5</b> | 13.1 | other                     |

The following questions were only part of the second survey:

b, Does your congregation employ any staff whose primary responsibility is for social service ministry programs?

|       |             |
|-------|-------------|
| 85.8% | no          |
| 6.7   | yes         |
| 7.4   | no response |

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!**

Please return to  
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