

Assistance For Elderly Households in Philadelphia

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Introduction

The Jewish Relief Agency of Philadelphia (JRA) is a nonprofit organization that provides a monthly food box to those in need. Every two years, the Jewish Relief Agency conducts a client satisfaction survey. In January 2022, 1800 surveys were sent to a sample of clients of which nearly 900 were returned. My interest in this dataset is the subpopulation of "senior households"; that is, households that contain only one or two residents, and all residents are 65 years or older. In 2020 and 2022, in this category there were 494 and 566 respondents, respectively. I have two research questions for this population:

- How did these senior households find out about the JRA?
- How did the JRA food box benefit senior households (e.g., I was able to pay for my medicine), and did that change from 2020 to 2022?

By examining how these senior households were referred to the JRA and how the households benefitted, the JRA can assess how to allocate their resources to best serve this population in need.

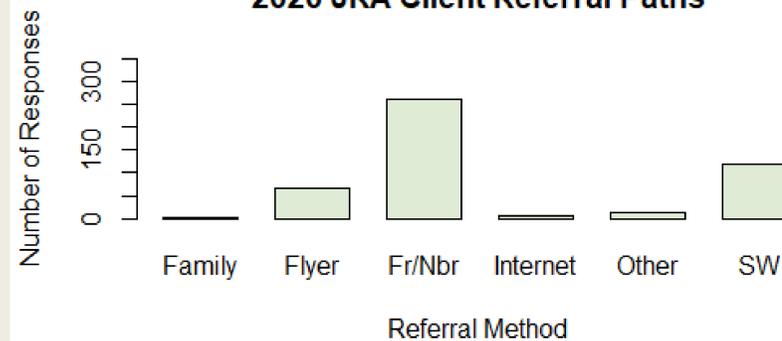
Methods and Analysis

- I used Qualtrics to enter all survey responses into a database.
- I used the statistical programming language R programming language in order to extract a dataset including only senior households.
- I created a bar chart to describe the distribution of how the clients were referred to the JRA for 2020 and 2022.
- I created a bar chart and a relative frequency table to summarize the client benefits for 2020 and 2022.
- I conducted a test of hypothesis comparing 2020 vs. 2022 for clients feeling more food secure.

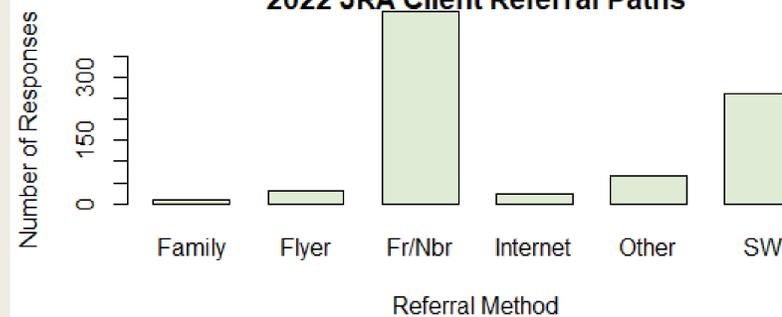
Referral Results

From 2020 to 2022, the way that senior households have been referred to the JRA's services has condensed to more friend or neighbor (word of mouth) and social worker referrals. Referrals through a flyer or publication saw a decrease. In 2022, 87% of clients were referred by a friend or neighbor or by a social worker, as compared to 77% in 2020.

2020 JRA Client Referral Paths



2022 JRA Client Referral Paths



Conclusion and Summary

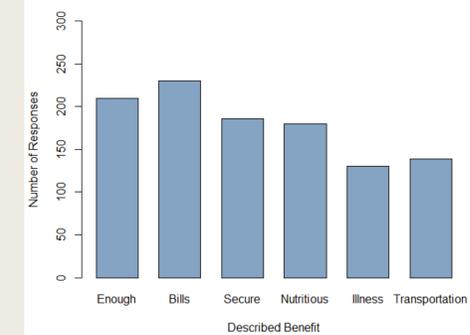
The JRA's client base is largely comprised of elderly individuals who live in assisted living complexes with social workers who frequently visit them. Because of this, the JRA can expand their reach to elderly households by word of mouth and social workers to continue their outreach to those in need. In terms of the JRA's food box assistance to their elderly clients, it is important to note that there is a growing demand for food due to lack of transportation. This is important to the JRA as they can continue to pursue expansion of transportation and grocery delivery programs with the knowledge of a growing demand for these services. The JRA is also looking to expand funding for their nutritious food programs with knowledge of a growing need for nutritious food within the senior households they serve.

Assistance Results

For the assistance results, there was a consistent response from 2020 to 2022. There was a 4% increase in people who felt more food secure because of the JRA box over the pandemic, though it was not statistically significant ($\chi^2=1.512$, $p=0.219$). Clients had greater access to food because of their JRA box due to their own lack of personal transportation, along with gaining access to healthier foods. Both of those initiatives have been receiving growing attention from the JRA and can be very impactful in the senior population.

Benefit	2020		2022	
	Total Responses (#)	Total Responses (%)	Total Responses (#)	Total Responses (%)
Because of the JRA food box, I have enough food to eat each month.	207	43	226	40
Because of the JRA food box, I am able to pay my other bills (medical, rent, utilities, etc.).	223	46	211	37
Because of JRA's monthly box of food, I feel more food secure.	180	37	234	41
Because of the JRA food box, I have access to more nutritious food.	134	28	165	29
I am unable to get to the grocery store due to an illness or disability and JRA brings me food that I am unable to get on my own.	175	36	179	32
I am unable to get to the grocery store due to lack of transportation and JRA brings me food that I am unable to get on my own.	129	27	156	28

2020 JRA Client Benefits



2022 JRA Client Benefits

