VoiceGR Survey and 2015 Results

VoiceGR is an evolving survey, designed uniquely to connect demographics with opinions and perceptions of greater Grand Rapids area residents. VoiceGR is meant to be a baseline to stimulate conversation on issues pertinent to our region. VoiceGR is a product of the Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy. For more information regarding VoiceGR and the 2015 VoiceGR Survey Results, please visit: http://johnsoncenter.org/resources/community-data/voicegr2015/.

One of the data tools that can be used to explore the 2015 VoiceGR Survey Results is the Tableau Public Viz Tool. The Tableau Public Viz Tool is the product of a collaboration between the Community Research Institute of the Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy at Grand Valley State University and Dr. Neil Carlson at the Calvin College Center for Social Research.

The purpose of this document is to provide descriptions of the Split By variables for the 2015 VoiceGR Survey Results displayed in the Tableau Public Viz Tool.

Tableau Public Viz Tool

Once you have entered the Tableau Public Viz Tool, the Split By variable is located as pictured below (see arrow):

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VoiceGR 2015 Results

Selected survey section: Grade GR
Selected survey question: For yourself, what grade would you give the greater Grand Rapids as a place to live overall? Choose only one:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Split by</th>
<th>N (resp.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>4,848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Chart with data visualizations and dropdown menus for Survey Section and Question.]

HELPFUL TIP:
Use the drop-down menus to choose both a Survey Section and a Question.

Don't see any results?
Be sure to select a Question after changing a Survey Section.
Split By Variable Description

The Split By option enables break-downs of the 2015 VoiceGR survey questions by the variables listed below. Splitting by a variable will display the distribution of responses to the selected question for each category within the Split By variable. The Grand Total for a question when a field is chosen for Split By other than All will show the Grand Total for survey respondents who responded to both the indicated question and the questions that fed into the calculation for the Split By variable.

Interpretation Example

Survey Section: Grade GR
Question: For yourself, what grade would you give the Greater Grand Rapids Area as a place to live?
Split By: Age

Approximately 32% of the 971 young adults who responded to this question rated Grand Rapids as an A - Excellent place to live.

Variable Calculations and Descriptions

All

This option displays the overall proportion of survey respondents who selected each response option of the indicated survey question.

Age

Age was categorized as follows:

- Youth: Less than 18 years old
- Young Adult: 18 to less than 26 years old
- Middle Aged Adult: 26 to less than 45 years old
- Mature adult: 45 to less than 65 years old
- Senior: 65 or older
**Body Mass Index Category**

Body mass index (BMI) was calculated using the following formula.

\[ \text{BMI} = \frac{\text{weight} \times 703}{\text{height}^2} \]

BMI was categorized as follows:

- Underweight: Less than 18.5
- Normal Weight: 18.5 to less than 25
- Overweight: 25 to less than 30
- Obese: Greater than 30

**Employment Status**

Employment status was calculated based on the number of full-time and part-time jobs a respondent indicated having. Respondents who indicated being out of the workforce due to a particular reason (retired, disabled, etc.) were excluded from the calculation. Of the respondents who were not out of the workforce for a certain reason, the respondents who indicated having at least 1 full-time job were considered to be employed full-time; respondents who indicated having 0 full-time jobs and at least 1 part-time job were considered to be employed part-time; and respondents who indicated having 0 full-time jobs and 0 part-time jobs were considered to be unemployed.

**Education**

Some education categories were combined. Education was categorized as shown below.

- Bachelor’s or Graduate Degree
- Some college, in college, Associate’s degree, or Technical certification
- High school or GED
- Less than high school

**No Health Care Coverage**

Respondents who answered ‘None’ to the check-all-that-apply question *Which of the following best describes the health care coverage you have?* were categorized as ‘Yes’. All other respondents who responded to this question were categorized as ‘No’.
Near or Below 100% and 200% Poverty

The income category and number of adults and children that the respondent indicated were residing in their household were compared to Michigan’s 100% poverty threshold and 200% poverty threshold separately. Income was categorized in the VoiceGR survey and thus this calculation is a rough estimate and not an exact value on the respondents in 100% and 200% poverty. The resulting thresholds can be seen in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Size</th>
<th>100% Cutoff</th>
<th>200% Cutoff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>40,000</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>50,000</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>30,000</td>
<td>60,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>35,000</td>
<td>70,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>80,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Housing Status

Housing status was categorized using the response options from the survey question in the VoiceGR Survey What is your current housing status? Choose only one.

- Own, no mortgage
- Own, paying mortgage
- Rent, including subsidized housing or college housing
- Living with someone (friend, relative, etc.) and paying rent
- Living with someone Go to 30 (friend, relative, etc.) and not paying rent
- Homeless
- Other

Student Status

Student status was categorized using the response options from the survey question in the VoiceGR Survey Are you currently a student? Choose only one.

- Yes
- No

‘Yes’ indicates the respondent was a student and ‘No’ indicates the respondent was not a student.
Gender

Gender was categorized using the response options from the survey question in the VoiceGR Survey *What gender do you identify with? Choose only one.*

- Male
- Female
- None of the above
- Don’t know/not sure

Basic Needs

This is the survey question from the VoiceGR Survey *Based on your current income, how well can you afford to meet your basic needs (food, including water; shelter; utilities; and clothing)? Choose only one.* categorized into two options:

- Very well or fairly well
- Not very well or not at all

Sexual Orientation

Sexual orientation was categorized using the response options from the survey question in the *How would you describe your sexual orientation? Choose only one.*

- Heterosexual/straight
- Gay/lesbian
- Bisexual
- None of the above

Children

Respondents with children were identified using the response options from the survey question in the *Do you have children? Choose only one.*

- Yes
- No

‘Yes’ indicates the respondent had at least one child and ‘No’ indicates the respondent did not have at least one child.
Race by Level of Education

The Split By variables Education and Race were combined to create an extra split.

Race by Gender

The Split By variables Gender and Race were combined to create an extra split.

Race

The question Which of the following race categories best describes you? Check all that apply. was used to create a new variable for race with mutually exclusive categories based on the following conditions. If a respondent indicated that they were Hispanic or Latino, they were assigned to the group ‘Hispanic/Latino’ regardless of whether or not they selected another race; if a respondent checked more than two races, the respondent was assigned to the ‘Multiracial’ category; otherwise, the respondent was assigned the same race category as they checked in the original question.

Location

The point on the map or cross streets that the respondent entered were used to assign each respondent to a city or Grand Rapids neighborhood.