

Vancouver Public Library Survey Study

Internet Usage Statistics

February 1, 2005

ACTION for Health

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Table 1. Use of Internet prior to contacting librarian for health information
(Internet was one of the first three things people tried)

Variables	Included Internet	Did not include Internet	P*-value	Significance**
Gender				
Women	15	22	P=0.406	Not significant
Men	7	6		
Age				
Less than 40 years	16	11	P=0.02	Significant, OR 4.1 (1.07-16.7)
40 years or older	6	17		
Income^a < 2 categories				
<50,000	9	7	P=0.6	Not significant
>50,000	6	7		
Income^a, 3 categories				
<20,000	6	4	N/A	
20,000-70,000	6	5		
>70,000	4	4		
Education^b				
Complete college or less	7	15	P=0.1	Not significant
Attend university, all levels	15	12		
Education, all levels^b				
Less than high school	1	3	P=0.06 ^c	Potential weak association between increasing education level and increasing use of the Internet
Completed high school	2	6		
Some college	2	1		
Completed college	2	5		
Some university	3	5		
Completed university	3	3		
Graduate level	4	3		
Health professional	2	0		
Housing Status^d				
Own	10	15	P=0.2	Not significant
Rent	9	8		
Housing Type^e				
Single, detached or duplex	10	11	P=0.7	Not significant
Apartment, townhouse, etc.	11	15		
Seeking information for				
Self	17	12	P=0.01	Significant, OR=4.5 95% CI (1.12-19.3)
Other ^f	5	16		

* Chi-square test, Pearson correlation co-efficient, unless otherwise specified

** Statistical significance set at 0.05, two-sided, using Pearson chi-square statistic

^a Less than half of the respondents provided information regarding income

^b 2 people did not provide education information

^c Mann-Whitney U, non-parametric test for trend

^d 8 people did not respond

^e 3 people did not respond

^f Other includes: family member, friend, patient, school project

Table 2. Use of Internet post librarian intervention (Internet as a post-library strategy)

Variables	Will use Internet next	Will not use Internet next	P*-value	Significance**
Gender				
Women	13	24	P=0.5	Not significant
Men	6	7		
Age				
Less than 40 years	11	16	P=0.7	Not significant
40 years or older	8	15		
Age				
Less than 30 years	6	10	P=0.9	Not significant
30 years or older	13	21		
Income^a < 2 categories				

<50,000	6	10	P=0.95	Not significant
>50,000	5	8		
Income ^a , 3 categories				
<20,000	4	6	N/A	N/A
20,000-70,000	4	7		
>70,000	3	5		
Education ^b				
Complete college or less	8	14	P=0.8	Not significant
Attend university, all levels	11	16		
Education, all levels ^b				
Less than high school	2	2	P=0.9 ^c	Not significant
Completed high school	4	4		
Some college	1	2		
Completed college	1	6		
Some university	4	5		
Completed university	2	4		
Graduate level	4	1		
Health professional	1	1		
Housing Status ^d				
Own	12	6	P=0.01	Very significant, OR=6.0 (1.31-29.7)
Rent	6	18		
Housing Type ^e				
Single, detached or duplex	9	12	P=0.6	Not significant
Apartment or townhouse	9	17		
Seeking information for Self	8	21	P=0.08	Weak association, although CI for OR crosses 1. [OR=0.35 (0.09-1.31)]
Other ^f	11	10		

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Top Three Trusted Sources of Health Information			P*-value	Significance**
By GENDER	Women (n=37)	Men (n=13)		
Internet	9	3	0.9	Not significant
Doctor	24	7	0.5	Not significant
Friends/Family*	5	2	0.9	Not significant
By AGE	Less than 40 (n=27)	40 or older (n=23)		
Internet	7	5	0.7	Not significant
Doctor	15	16	0.3	Not significant
Friends/Family*	4	3	0.9	Not significant

* Cells have less than 5 values

Table 3. Same as Table 1, but using Question 6a (this include use of Internet as a source, including Internet searches that others did for you) as the outcome variable

Variables	Internet was an information source	Internet not an information source	P*-value	Significance**
Gender				
Women	19	18	P=0.9	Not significant
Men	7	6		
Age				
Less than 40 years	17	10	P=0.09	Not significant
40 years or older	9	14		
Age				
Less than 30 years	9	7	P=0.7	Not significant
30 years or older	17	17		
Income^a < 2 categories				
<50,000	9	7	P=0.9	Not significant
>50,000	7	6		
Income^a, 3 categories				
<20,000	6	4	N/A	N/A
20,000-70,000	4	7		
>70,000	6	2		
Education^b				
Complete college or less	8	14	P=0.05	Significant, although OR crosses 1, OR=0.31 (0.08-1.1)
Attend university, all levels	18	9		
Education, all levels^b				
Less than high school	2	2	P=0.07 ^c	Weak association
Completed high school	2	6		
Some college	2	1		
Completed college	2	5		
Some university	6	3		
Completed university	5	3		
Graduate level	6	2		
Health professional	2	0		
Housing Status^d				
Own	11	7	P=0.5	Not significant
Rent	12	12		
Housing Type^e				
Single, detached or duplex	11	10	P=0.9	Not significant
Apartment, townhouse, etc.	15	12		
Seeking information for				
Self	17	12	P=0.3	Not significant
Other ^f	9	12		

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