

# Communities Putting Prevention to Work in Minneapolis Local Food Resource Hubs Network Survey Summary

The City of Minneapolis has partnered with Gardening Matters and other community partners to facilitate the Local Food Resource Hubs Network (Hubs Network). The Hubs Network is a recommendation originating from Homegrown Minneapolis, a comprehensive city and community initiative to create a local, healthy, and sustainable food supply.

The goal of the Hubs Network is to support Minneapolis residents to grow and prepare their own fresh produce. It is currently operating in the Northside, Phillips and Southside neighborhoods.

As part of the Hubs Network evaluation, Household Garden members were asked to complete a survey during a seed distribution event in April, 2011. A total of 280 Household Garden members completed a survey, a response rate of 64%. Hubs Network gardeners who are members through a Community Garden membership did not participate in this survey so their experiences and input are not reflected in this report. However, efforts are underway to gather data from these gardeners and explore potential differences between Community Garden and Household Garden members.

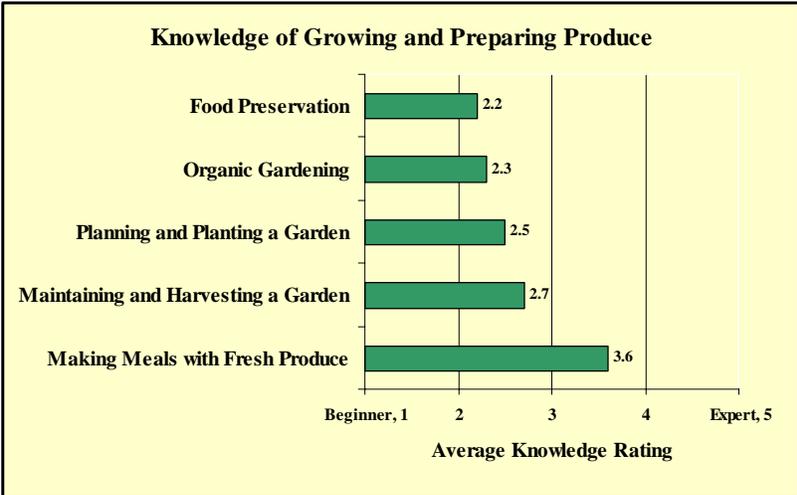
**Hubs Network Membership Types**

- 1) Household Garden—for a single gardener (\$10)
- 2) Community Garden—for multiple gardeners (\$30)

### Members Have Diverse Gardening Knowledge and Experience

Household Garden members rated their knowledge of five aspects of growing and preparing produce. As demonstrated in Figure 1, the respondents rated themselves as least knowledgeable in food preservation and organic gardening. They felt most knowledgeable making meals with fresh produce. Figure 2 demonstrates the length of gardening experience among Household Garden members.

**Figure 1.**



**Respondents felt most knowledgeable making meals with fresh produce.**

**Figure 2.**



**13% of Household Garden members are new gardeners with 0 years of gardening experience.**

## Gardening, Compost and Food Use

About one in three respondents are currently members of a community garden. Most respondents have access to a place to compost food and gardening waste at their homes. Nine percent have no place to compost. About half of the respondents composted at least 50% of their food and garden waste in the past year.

77% of respondents had a food garden in the 2010 growing season. See the text box at right for the three most common uses. One in three of these respondents got the majority of their fruits and vegetables from their own gardens.

### How did Household Garden members use their 2010 harvest?

- People in their households ate the food (98%)
- They gave the food away to friends, family and/or neighbors (72%)
- They canned, froze or dried the food they grew (57%)

## Community Connectedness

One area of focus for the Hubs Network is to build community connections among members. The survey asked a series of questions about this. A majority of respondents agreed with the survey statements such as *people in my neighborhood are willing to help one another* and *people in my neighborhood can be trusted*. The results demonstrate an overall feeling of connection to their communities.

## Health, Nutrition and Access to Food

About two thirds of the survey respondents indicated their health was either very good or excellent. Almost half of the survey respondents met the CDC's *Healthy People 2010* nutrition guidelines of consuming two or more servings of fruit per day **and** three or more servings of vegetables per day. However, access to food was a concern for many survey respondents as illustrated by the text box to the right.

**In the past year, 45% of respondents had to cut the size of meals or skip meals because there was not enough money or food.**

## About the Respondents

*Demographics:* 77% of survey respondents were women. Almost half (45%) of the respondents were in their 30's or 40's but member ages ranged between 22 and 74 years old. When asked to describe their race or ethnicity, 76% of respondents selected only the White or European-American category, 7% selected Black or African-American, and 6% selected multiple categories. 11% selected some other race or ethnicity category.

*Language:* The surveys were offered in multiple languages including English, Spanish and Somali. Almost every survey respondent speaks English, but a variety of languages were also spoken in their homes.

## Next Steps and More Information

Further evaluation activities will supplement the survey data, including a follow-up survey administered in the fall of 2011 to Household Garden members. Additionally, efforts are underway to gather similar data from gardeners who are part of a Community Garden membership. For more information visit the CPPW website at [www.minneapolismn.gov/dhfs/cppw.asp](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/dhfs/cppw.asp) or contact June Mathiowetz at 612-673-2027 or [June.Mathiowetz@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:June.Mathiowetz@minneapolismn.gov)

**"It is very exciting to participate in this movement to enable more people to learn and grow their own food."**

-Hubs Network Member

**"Even though I am an established gardener I still have a lot to learn and money is tight."**

-Hubs Network Member