

NOTE: The information in this supplemental file were not copy edited or formatted by the *Journal of Environmental Health*. The items serve as extra resources for the reader should they want the information.

Supplemental Item 1:

Phone survey script for Alabama Residents

Hello, my name is _____ and I am calling from the Survey Research Unit at the _____.

Is this (phone number)? May I please speak to someone in your household who is 18 years of age or older?

Your telephone number has been chosen randomly, and I would like to ask you some questions to help us get a better understanding of environmental issues within the state. The information collected will be used to determine important environmental issues to Alabama residents in urban and rural communities.

Protocol number #E151029003, “Survey in urban and rural areas to define opportunities and barriers in the development of a statewide environmental health tracking program” is for research purposes.

There are no direct personal benefits to participating in the survey, though information collected in this study may benefit Alabamians in the future by better understanding environmental health issues within the state. The survey collects information that may be identifiable based on demographics. To minimize this risk, information is kept confidential outside of the research team. Information used in external reports such as research proposals and publications will be described by groups so individuals will not be identifiable.

Your participation is voluntary and you don’t have to answer any question you don’t want to. The survey should only take about 15 minutes.

Do you have any questions regarding the survey or this research project in general?

Yes, answer as needed. If can’t answer then say:

By completing this survey, you are indicating your consent to participate in the study.

The field of environmental health deals with the ways in which things in our environment affect our health. For example, restaurants are inspected to make sure they are safe places to eat, and public pools are inspected to make sure they are safe places to swim. Other environmental health specialists ensure that the air, water, and soil in our communities are safe. I would like to know your opinion on some environmental health issues.

I am going to ask you to tell me the two main environmental health issues in your community that concern you the most.

Q1. What is the FIRST environmental health issue in your community that concerns you the most?

1. _____
2. Not concerned about any environmental health issues in our community
7. Don't Know
9. Refused

IF (ANS > 1) Skip to Q5

Q2. In your opinion, who is MOST RESPONSIBLE for addressing this issue? (Choose one only; if more than one, use "Other" option)

1. Local government
2. State government
3. Federal government
4. Community based organizations
5. Area industries
6. Other: _____
7. Don't Know
9. Refused

Q3. What is the SECOND environmental health issue in your community that concerns you the most?

1. _____
2. Not concerned about any environmental health issues in our community
7. Don't Know
9. Refused

IF (ANS > 1) Skip to Q5

Q4. In your opinion, who is MOST RESPONSIBLE for addressing this (2nd) issue? (Choose one only; if more than one, use "Other" option)

1. Local government
2. State government
3. Federal government
4. Community based organizations
5. Area industries
6. Other: _____
7. Don't Know
9. Refused

Please tell me if you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statement:

Q5. The key decision makers in my community have a good plan for addressing environmental issues in our community. Do you...

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Disagree
4. Strongly disagree
7. Don't Know
9. Refused

Q6.1-6.4 Which statement best describes you and your involvement in environmental health issues?

6.1 I AM actively involved in addressing environmental health issues I mentioned or other environmental health issues in my community.

1. True

2. False

7. Don't Know

9. Refused

6.2 I am NOT actively involved in environmental issues in my community, but am looking for ways to become involved.

1. True

2. False

7. Don't Know

9. Refused

6.3 I am NOT actively involved in environmental issues in my community, but am involved in other issues, projects, and activities.

1. True

2. False

7. Don't Know

9. Refused

6.4 I do NOT participate in any issues, projects, or activities in my community.

1. True

2. False

7. Don't Know

9. Refused

Q7. Do you think a database linking environmental data (such as air pollution levels, food safety data) and health data (such as emergency department visits for asthma, GI illnesses etc.) collected from different locations around the state would be useful or important? For example, for local and state public health departments to use to connect environmental events with health outcomes?

1. Yes
2. No
7. Don't know
9. Refused

Additional questions for public health professionals only:

Q8. As a public health professional, do you think you would use such an online database of environmental and health data?

1. Yes (skp to Q9)
2. No (skp to Q10)
7. Don't know (skp to Q11)
9. Refused (skp to Q11)

Q9. If yes, can you give an example of how you think you would use it?

Q10. If no, can you tell me why?

Q11. Do you think it would be difficult for the state to build such a database?

1. Yes
2. No
7. Don't know
9. Refused

Q12. What are some of the barriers you can think of?

Q13. Would you be willing to (and have the time) to be a part of a working group for developing an environmental health tracking program by being a part of a working group,

1. Yes
2. No
7. Don't know
9. Refused

DEMOGRAPHICS

I just have a few more questions to ask to make sure we have a good cross-section of your community's opinion.

Q14. What is your age? _____

Q15. What city or neighborhood do you live in? _____

Q16: What street do you live on: _____

Q17. What is your zipcode: _____

Q18. Are you Hispanic or Latino?

1. Yes
2. No
7. Don't know
9. Refused

Q19. Which one of these groups would you say best represents your ancestry/ethnicity/race? (Choose all that apply)

- 1 White or European American
- 2 Black or African American
- 3 Alaskan Native or American Indian
- 4 Asian
- 5 Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- 6 Some other race [SPECIFY] _____
- 7 Don't know / Not sure
- 9 Refused

Q20: What is the highest grade or year of school that you completed?

1. Never attended school or only attended kindergarten
2. Grades 1 through 8 (Elementary)
3. Grades 9 through 11 (Some high school)
4. Grade 12 diploma or GED (High school graduate)
5. College 1 year to 3 years (Some college, associate, technical or vocational degree)
6. College 4 years or more (College graduate, Bachelor's degree)
7. Graduate or Professional degree
8. Don't Know / Not Available
9. Refused

Q21. Indicate the income, before taxes, from all household members during the past 12 months. Include all income sources: for example, bonuses, Supplemental Social Security, investment income, child support, etc.

1. Less than \$20,000
2. \$20,000 to
\$49,999
3. \$50,000 to
\$74,999
4. \$75,000 or more
7. Don't Know
9. Refused

Q22. Would you say that in general your health is:

Excellent, Very good, Good, Fair, or Poor ?

1. Excellent
2. Very good
3. Good
4. Fair
5. Poor
7. DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE
9. REFUSED

Closing: This completes the survey. Thank you again for helping us. The information you have provided will help us to understand your concerns about environmental problems Alabamians are facing and different ways to understand and address those concerns. Do you have any additional thoughts you would like to share?

If you have questions about your rights as a research participant, or concerns or complaints about the research, you may contact the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CT, Monday through Friday. You may also call this number in the event the research staff cannot be reached or you wish to talk to someone else.

Supplemental Item 2:

Environmental Health Professionals Survey

We would like you to answer some questions to help us get a better understanding of environmental issues within the State of Alabama. The information collected will be used to determine important environmental issues in Alabama in both urban and rural communities. Protocol number #E151029003, “Survey in urban and rural areas to define opportunities and barriers in the development of a statewide environmental health tracking program” is for research purposes. There are no direct personal benefits to participating in the survey, though information collected in this study may benefit Alabamians in the future by providing a better understanding of environmental health issues within the state. The survey collects information that may be identifiable based on demographics. To minimize this risk, information is kept confidential outside of the research team. Information used in external reports such as research proposals and publications will be described by groups so individuals will not be identifiable. Your participation is voluntary and you don’t have to answer any question you don’t want to. The survey should only take about 15 minutes. By completing this survey, you are indicating your consent to participate in the study.

Please click the ">>" button below to continue.

The field of environmental health deals with the ways in which things in our environment affect our health. For example, restaurants are inspected to make sure they are safe places to eat, and public pools are inspected to make sure they are safe places to swim. Other environmental health specialists ensure that the air, water, and soil in our communities are safe. We would like to know your opinion on some environmental health issues.

We would like you to tell us the TWO main environmental health issues IN YOUR COMMUNITY that concern you the most.

Q1 What is the FIRST environmental health issue in your community that concerns you the most?

Answer Q2 If an issue is listed for Q1.

Q2 In your opinion, what level of responsibility does each of the following groups have for addressing this first issue?

	No Responsibility 1	Low level of responsibility 2	Moderate level of responsibility 3	High level of responsibility 4	Full/ Exclusive Responsibility 5
Local Government	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
State Government	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Federal Government	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Based Organizations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Area Industries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Answer Q3 If an issue is listed for Q1.

Q3 What is the SECOND environmental health issue in your community that concerns you the most?

Answer Q4 If a (second) issue is listed for Q3

Q4 In your opinion, what level of responsibility does each of the following groups have for addressing this issue?

	No Responsibility 1	Low level of responsibility 2	Moderate level of responsibility 3	High level of responsibility 4	Full/ Exclusive Responsibility 5
Local Government	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
State Government	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Federal Government	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Based Organizations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Area Industries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q5 The key decision makers in my community have a good plan for addressing environmental issues in my community. Do you:

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Q6 Which statement best describes you and your involvement in environmental health issues?

- I AM actively involved in addressing environmental health issues I mentioned or other environmental health issues in my community

- I am NOT actively involved in environmental issues in my community, but am looking for ways to become involved
- I am NOT actively involved in environmental issues in my community, but am involved in other issues, projects, and activities
- I do NOT participate in any issues, projects, or activities in my community

Q7 Do you think a database linking environmental data (such as air pollution levels, food safety data) and health data (such as emergency department visits for asthma, GI illnesses etc.) collected from different locations around the state would be useful or important? For example, for local and state public health departments to use to connect environmental events with health outcomes?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Q8 As a public health professional, do you think you would use such an online database of environmental health data?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Answer Q9 If Yes Is Selected for Q8

Q9 Can you give an example of how you think you would use the online database?

Answer Q10 If No Is Selected for Q8

Q10 Please describe why you would not use the online database.

Q11 Do you think it would be difficult for the State of Alabama to build such a database?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Q12 What are some of the barriers you can think of?

Q13 Would you be willing (and have the time) to be a part of a working group for developing an environmental health tracking program?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Demographic Information - This information will be used to differentiate demographic and urban and rural characteristics of participants and the communities they live in. You do not have to answer any question that makes you feel uncomfortable.

Q14 What is your age (enter number of years)? _____

Q15 What city or neighborhood do you live in? _____

Q16 What street do you live on? _____

Q17 What is your zip code? _____

Q18 Are you Hispanic or Latino/a?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know/ not sure
- Prefer not to respond

Q19 Which one of these groups would you say best represents your ancestry/ ethnicity/ race? (Choose all that apply)

- White
- Black or African American
- Alaskan Native or American Indian
- Asian
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- Some other race (please specify) _____
- Don't know/ not sure
- Prefer not to respond

Q20 What is the highest grade or year of school that you completed?

- Never attended school or only attended kindergarten
- Grades 1 through 8 (Elementary)
- Grades 9 through 11 (Some high school)
- Grade 12 diploma or GED (High school graduate)
- College 1 year to 3 years (Some college, associate, technical, or vocational degree)
- College 4 years or more (College graduate, Bachelor's Degree)
- Graduate or Professional degree
- Don't know
- Prefer not to respond

Q21 Indicate the income, before taxes, from all household members during the past 12 months. Include all income sources, for example bonuses, Supplemental Social Security, investment income, child support, etc.

- Less than \$20,000
- \$20,000 - \$49,999
- \$50,000 - \$74,999
- \$75,000 or more
- Don't know
- Prefer not to respond

Q22 Would you say that in general your health is:

- Excellent
- Very good
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Don't know/ not sure

This completes the survey. Thank you again for helping us. The information you have provided will help us to understand your concerns about environmental problems Alabamians are facing and different ways to understand and address those concerns.

If you have questions about your rights as a research participant, or concerns or complaints about the research, you may contact the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CT, Monday through Friday. You may also call this number in the event the research staff cannot be reached or you wish to talk to someone else.

Once you are satisfied with your responses, please click the ">>" button below to submit your survey.

Supplemental Table 1. Categories of the responses to the environmental health priority in the phone and online survey conducted in Alabama between February and March 2016

<i>ID</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Included items</i>
1	Pests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mosquitoes • Insecticides sprayed in fields • The neighbors are hoarders and its causes rats • Insect control • Summer insecticide sprayings • Loose animals
2	Weather and geology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flooding of the streets from the creek • Erosion • Global warming • Vacant lots from recent tornado
3	Built environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vacant house • Old building left empty • Abandoned homes • Broken live power pole • Overgrown weeds/grass • Dilapidated building, weed and trees grown up • Rock quarry shakes the ground on houses where I live • Mold issue • Need hospitals or clinics • Street lights • Lousy roads • Bridge in your neighborhood is old and dangerous • Roads have many holes • State of the roads • Water supply • No groceries store

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public pool in neighborhood was closed
4 Sewage systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lack of sewage system • No sewer system • Bathrooms have no septic tanks • Poor drainage system • Sewage system is getting old & needs replacing • After hard rain the drains are clogged • The sewage system there are problems • Poor drainage system • Septic tank • Waste water • When it rains water run in ditch around house • Better septic tank inspection • Pure septic waste on the grounds where you have to walk • Sewer pollution
5 General pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steel plants • Industrial plants • Plants in the neighborhood causing pollution • Pollution from manufacturing • Hammer mill • Pollution (including both of water and soil)
6 Soil contamination and waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trash, garbage, litter, rubbish • Clean streets, roads, highways, yards • Trash pick-up • Chemical waste • Soil and dirt contamination • Burning trash • Recycling

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landfills and dumps • Coal ash being dumped • Strip mining
7 Water pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water pollution • Water quality • Sanitary & safe swimming pools • Unsafe drinking water • Pollution in local rivers, streams, creeks or lakes • Dirty faucet water, chemical in water • The things people throw in to water • Water has to many filters - to much chlorine • Our water should not have fluoride in it • Gas stations that leak
8 Air pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air pollution • Air quality • Toxic fumes • Smog from plants • Air pollution from plants • Smoking • Air - so close to the steel mill • The carbon emissions • Chemicals in the air that we breathe • Heavy metals being sprayed into the air • Car emissions • Smoke in lungs-it causes cancer • Cement plants putting out cement dust
9 Paper mill caused pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water and air pollution caused by the paper mill • Area I live in has a paper mill and dumping in the water • Paper mill has terrible smell

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The smells from paper mills
10 Transportation and noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cars driving too fast • Noise pollution too loud • The train is too loud • Congested with traffic
11 Food safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restaurant food services • Fresh foods/fast foods • Cleanliness of restaurants • Poison on vegetables • Safety of our food
12 Health outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tb outbreak • Transmission of communicable disease • Obesity and diabetes • Aids epidemic • Get ahead of Zika virus • Lime disease
13 Crime and community services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fighting and violence • Alcohol and drugs • Break ins and stealing • Safe place to go and eat • Community safety • Lack youth support • Environmental regulations • Education about health • No healthcare for young kids • Race relations • Public school system • Police take their time when call for them come out
14 Natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lots of trees and animals and shrubbery

-
- Forest area behind subdivision/lot of trees
 - Replanting/loggers
 - The trees being cut down in my community
 - Take care of natural resources
-

Supplemental Table 2. Results of chi-square tests for differences in environmental health priorities between rural and urban respondents in the 2015 community workshop in Alabama

<i>Category</i>	<i>Camden (Rural)</i>	<i>Birmingham (Urban)</i>
<i>Pests</i>	3 (8.8) ^a	1 (2.1)
<i>Weather and geology</i>	6 (17.6)	9 (18.8)
<i>Built environment</i>	1 (2.9)	3 (6.3)
<i>Sewage systems</i>	1 (2.9)	0 (0.0)
<i>General pollution</i>	3 (8.8)	9 (18.8)
<i>Soil contamination and waste</i>	0 (0.0)	2 (4.2)
<i>Water pollution</i>	1 (2.9)	0 (0.0)
<i>Air pollution</i>	6 (17.6)	20 (41.7)
<i>Paper mill caused pollution</i>	3 (8.8)	0 (0.0)
<i>Transportation and noise</i>	0 (0.0)	1 (2.1)
<i>Health outcomes</i>	9 (26.5)	3 (6.3)
<i>Crime and community services</i>	1 (2.9)	0 (0.0)
<i>Total</i>	34 (100)	48 (100)
<i>Sig.^b</i>	0.005*	

Note: ^a: a(b): a is the number of responses in the category and b is its percentage (%) in the population group (column); ^b: Sig. (2-sided) using chi square test (with Monte Carlo method when needed); Bolded numbers with the asterisk (*): significance level ≤ 0.05 .