

PERCEPTIONS OF THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SAFETY NET ACROSS MISSOURI

In the fall of 2017, Missouri Foundation for Health conducted a research project to connect with Missouri voters and get a better understanding of the role of the safety net in their lives and in their communities. What follows are findings from our statewide survey, conducted October 12-18, 2017.

We spoke with 840 Missouri voters, including additional voters in central and southwest Missouri to ensure we had representation across the rural and urban communities in the state. The survey was conducted by calling both landline and cell phone numbers. Overall, the sample of Missouri voters that participated in the survey is representative of the state population.

For this research, Missouri's safety net was defined as "programs that help low-income children and adults get by. Think about programs like Missouri Medicaid for adults and children, SNAP (sometimes called food stamps), SSDI or disability, and housing assistance."



Half of Missouri voters have personal experience with the safety net.



Most Missourians, **two-thirds**, know someone who is currently receiving help through the safety net.



81% believe "the safety net helps people who are trying to improve their lives."



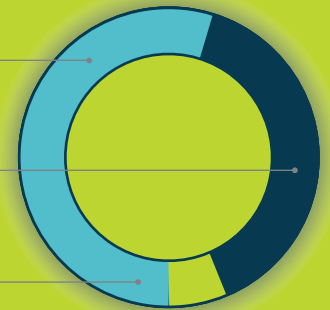
Across demographics and political parties, Missouri voters do not support cuts to safety net programs. **More than eight in ten** Missouri voters want to either keep funding levels the same (**44%**) or increase funding (**38%**) for safety net programs.

Almost all agree the safety net is important.

54%
very important

38%
somewhat important

8%
not important/other



Missourians believe all levels of government should play a role in helping families in need.

federal
state
local

