

ELDERLY HISPANICS AND  
THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM  
IN WORCESTER, MA

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# RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- Does the Elderly Hispanic Population of Worcester, MA experience difficulty in accessing medical care?
- Does income affect the frequency of use of medically related services?
- Does language ability affect the frequency of use of medically related services?
- What types of sickness are most prevalent among the Hispanic population in Worcester MA?

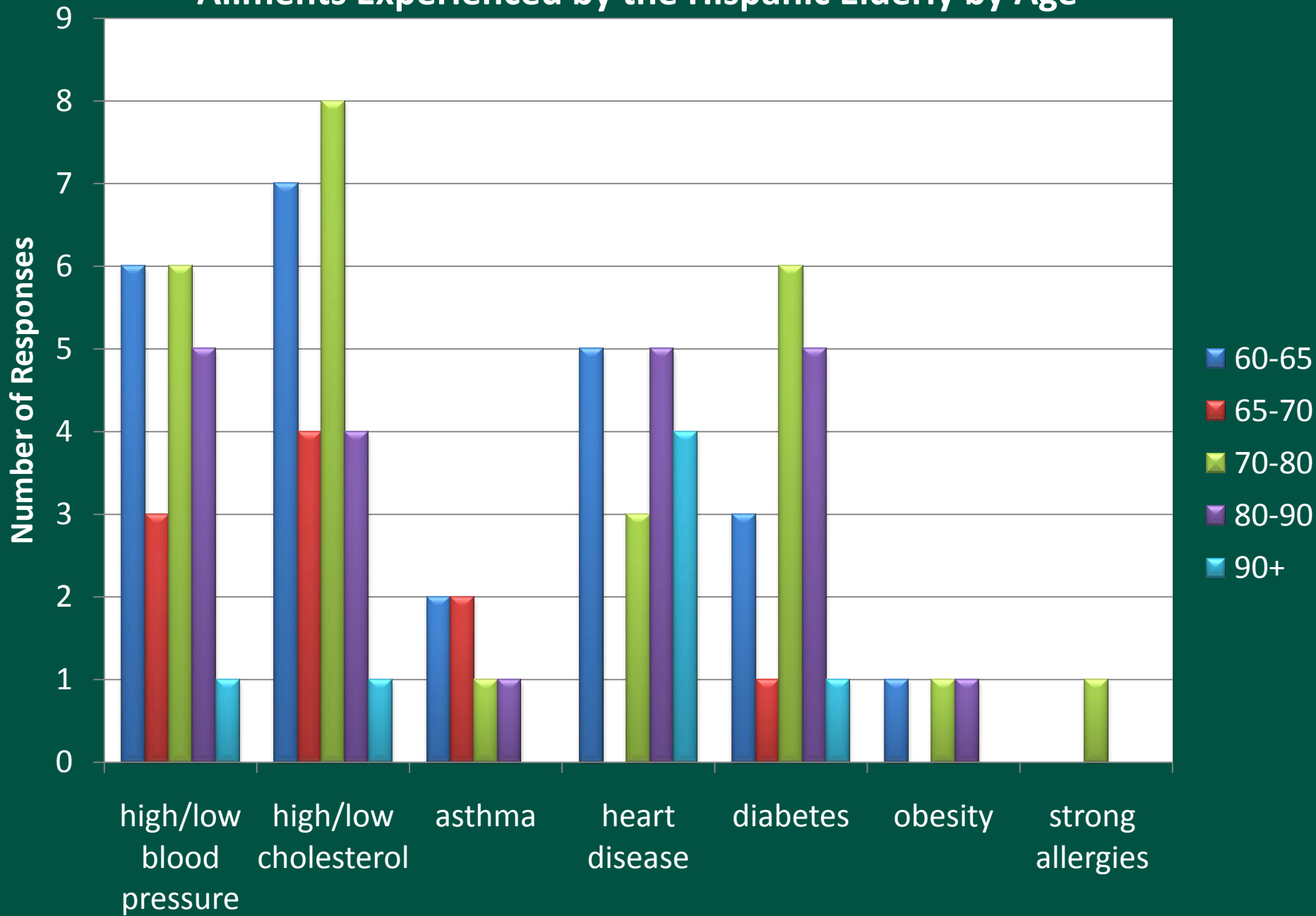
# RELEVANCY

- Hispanic population is more likely to receive poor quality care and have worse access to the health care system <sup>1</sup>
- Lack of access to health care services or the limited access to quality health care has been linked to depression among elderly Latinos <sup>2</sup>
- 32% of Hispanics who lacked a usual healthcare provider have less than a high school diploma, 27% have high school diploma and 19% had some college education<sup>3</sup>
- In Massachusetts 23% of Hispanics ages 18-64 live in poverty<sup>4</sup>

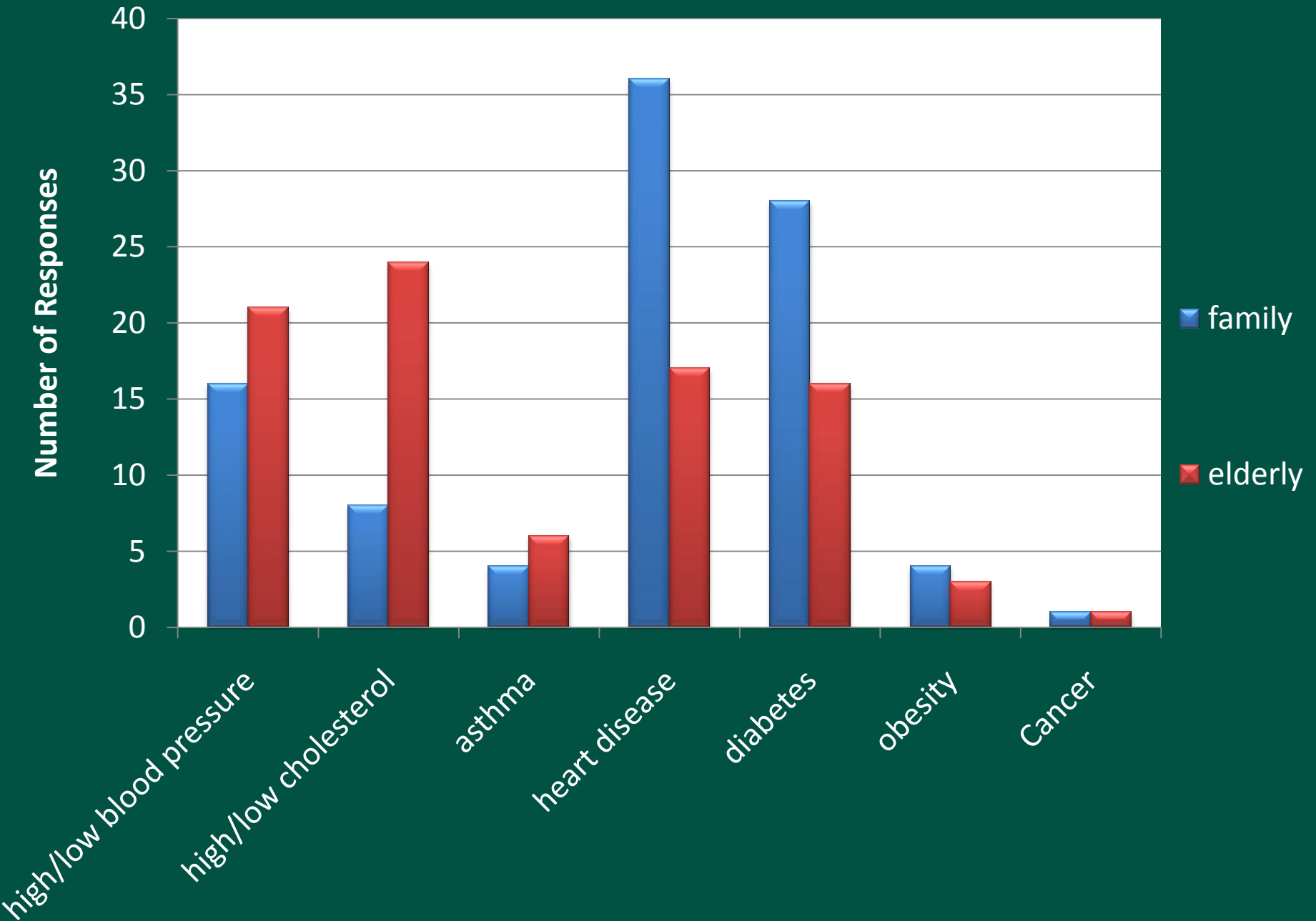
# THE SURVEY GROUP

- 51 individuals completed the survey
  - ❖ twelve were ages 60-65
  - ❖ nine were ages 65-70
  - ❖ thirteen were ages 70-80
  - ❖ thirteen more were 80-90
  - ❖ four respondents age 90 or more
- 21 were male and 30 were female
- 45 respondents, or 88% earned \$30,000 or less a year

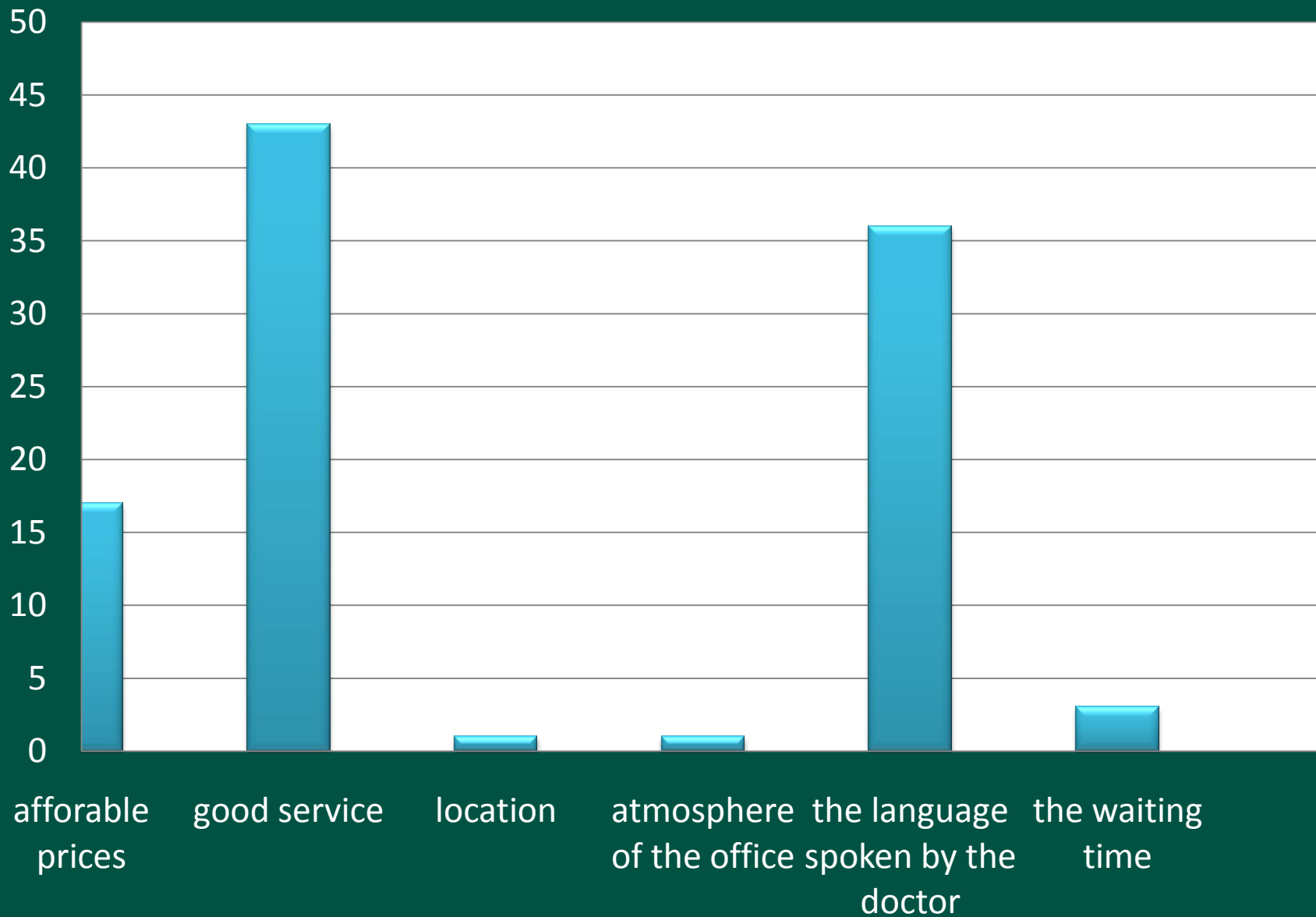
# Aliments Experienced by the Hispanic Elderly by Age



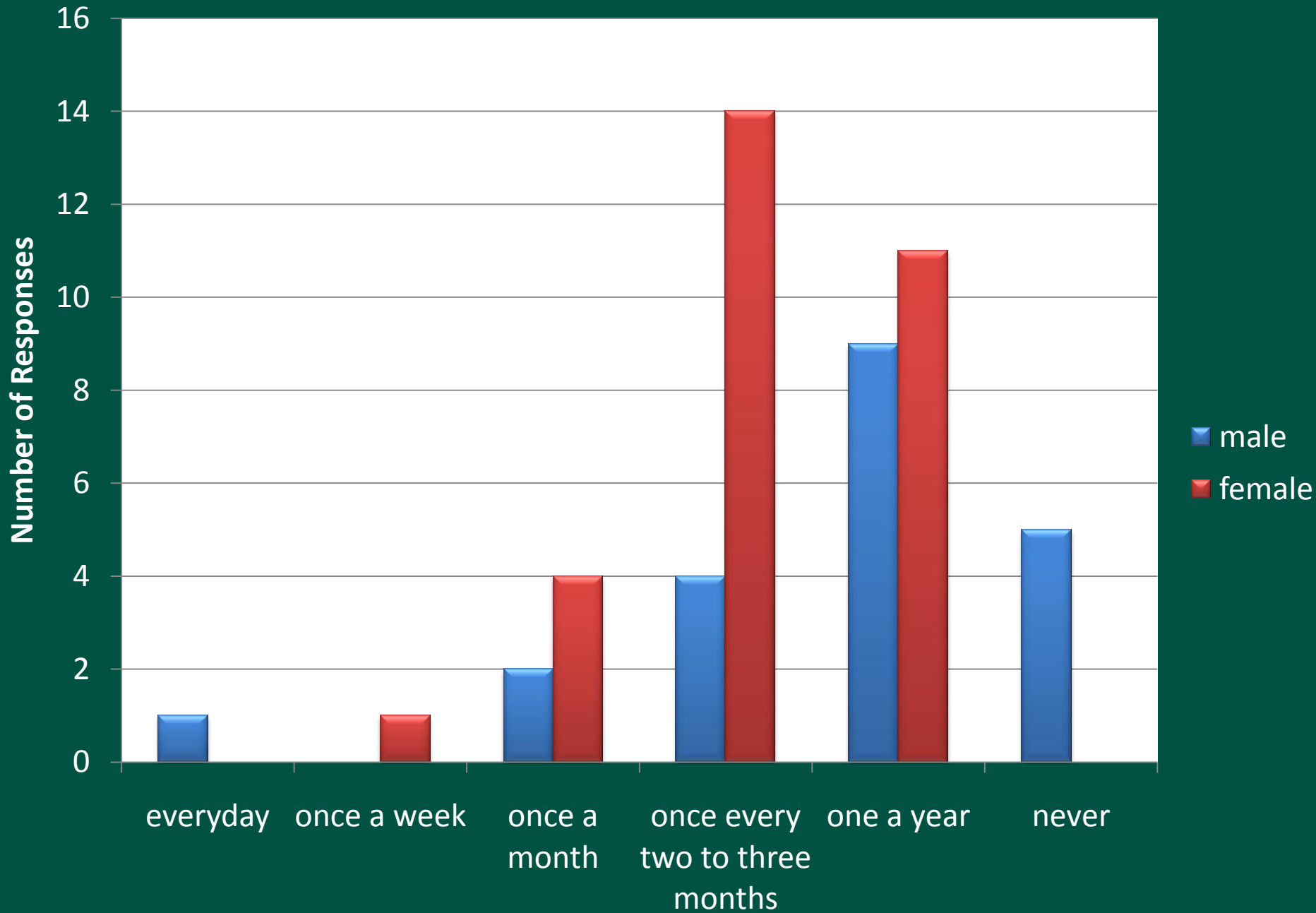
# Aliments of Hispanic Families as reported by the Elderly



# Characteristics most important to the Latino Elderly in Healthcare

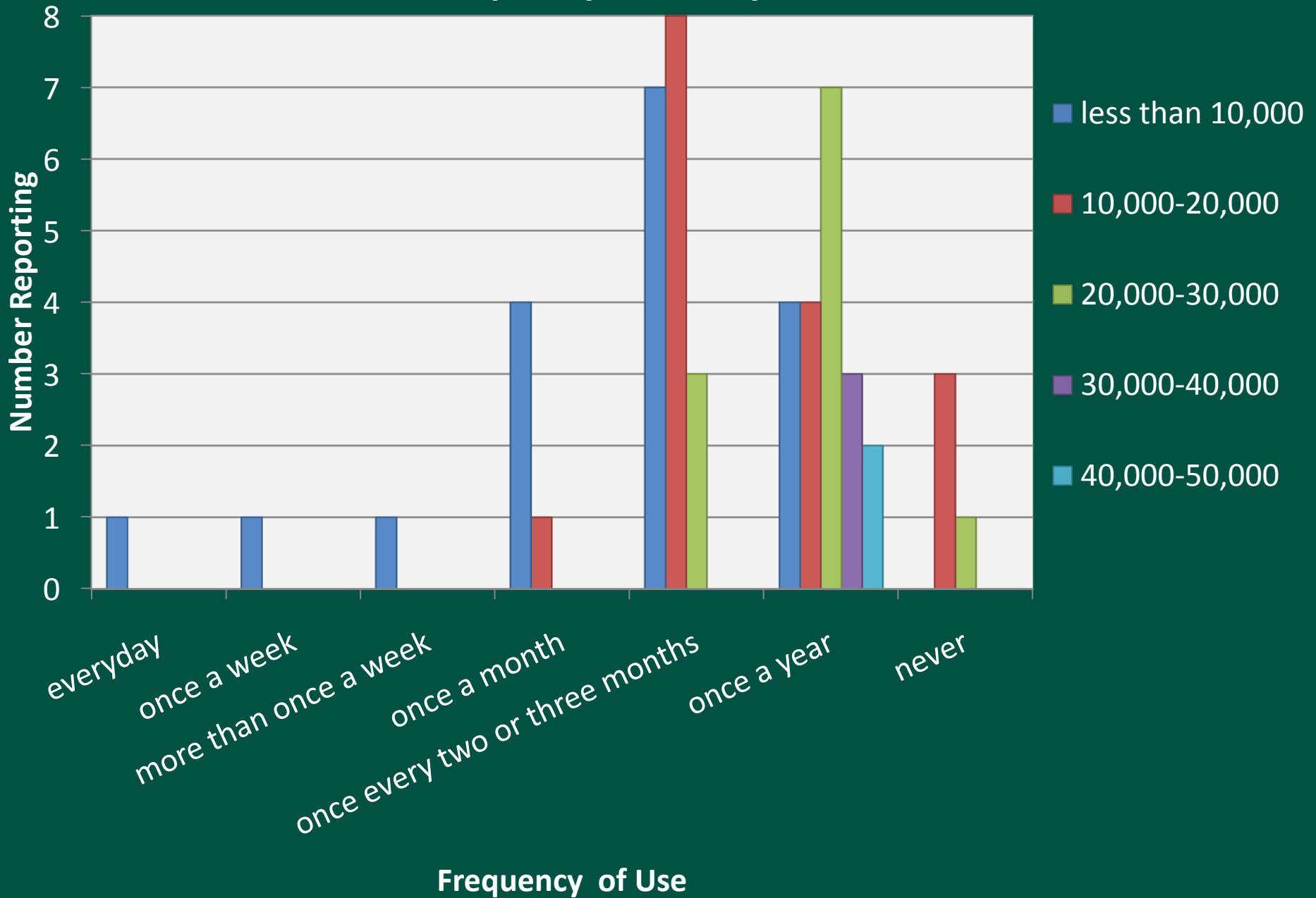


# Frequency of Medical Visits by Gender





# Frequency of Use by Income



# SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS

- The elderly suffer from high/low blood pressure and cholesterol the most followed by diabetes and heart disease.
- The elderly reported that heart disease and diabetes were the two most common diseases that they suffer from.
- The elderly identified that good service and the language spoken by the doctor were their two highest priorities in identifying a healthcare provider

# SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS CONTINUED

- Females were more likely to see a doctor more than once a year than their male counterparts.
- Those who earned less than 10,000 dollars a year were more likely to visit the doctor. With increased income the frequency of medical visits decreases.
- All of the elderly Hispanics rated the services they have received in Worcester as good to excellent

# REFERENCES

1. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. National Healthcare Disparities Report 2007. Healthcare Report. United States Department of Health and Human Services. Rockville, MD, 2008.
2. Rodriguez-Galan, Marta B. and Luis M. Falcón. "Perceived Problems with Access to Medical Care and Depression Among Older Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, Other Hispanics, and a Comparison Group of Non-Hispanic Whites." Journal of Aging and Health 21 (2009): 501-518.
3. A Joint Pew Hispanic Center and Robert Wood Johnson Research Foundation Report. Hispanics and Healthcare in the United States: Access, Information and Knowledge. Washington, DC, 2008.
4. Pew Hispanic Center. Demographic Profile of Hispanics in Massachusetts, 2007. 2010. 10 3 2010  
<<http://pewhispanic.org/states/?stateid=MA>>.

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