Data Processing and Analysis - Synopsis

Questionnaires were distributed to all households in public housing in Washington, DC (approximately 8,000) in May 2011. Nearly 1,000 questionnaires were returned to collection boxes in the properties' management offices. Volunteers at the DC Cancer Consortium entered the questionnaire responses into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. In the process they determined that over 100 questionnaires contained no responses.

Collaborators from Morgan State and George Washington Universities converted the data to a format that could be read by Stata 11, cleaned it, and manually checked the validity of the electronic data on a random 10% sample. Errors were found in less than 1% of the variables. Frequencies were run on questions 1-9 in Stata 11. The results appear in the bar graphs that follow.

Question 10 collected demographic data on the respondents and their households. Altogether, 1,371 individuals were represented in the coded responses, ranging in age from newborn to over 81. More than 87% of respondents were African American; 27% were White; race data was missing for the remaining 10%. A little under 5% also identified themselves as Hispanic. More than 90% had some form of health insurance. Eighty-eight percent reported having a regular doctor and 69.1% reported having a regular dentist.

Question 11 was labeled "Additional Comments" and left blank. A total of 168 respondents wrote something in the blanks. When four Morgan State University students independently coded these qualitative responses, nine themes emerged. The top three themes were: resident requests for more resources (26.19%); expressions of gratitude for someone taking the time to ask for resident input (17.86%); and resident complaints about conditions in their units or within the public housing property. The qualitative responses are presented in the table below.

Themes from Coded Responses

Theme	Number	Percentage
Lack of Resources	44	26.19%
Thank You for Asking	30	17.86%
Complaints	22	13.10%
General Response	20	11.90%
Maintenance Problems	19	11.31%
Safety Issues	16	9.52%
Medical Problems	10	5.95%
Mental Health Issues	4	2.38%
Not Legible	3	1.79%
Total	168	100%