

STRAW POLLS AZ
DIVISION OF BEHAVIOR RESEARCH CENTER, INC.

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**WEALTH GAP SEEN AS WIDENING
RUBBERIZED FREEWAYS RATED AS EFFECTIVE IN NOISE CONTROL
40 PERCENT USE HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOMS**

Phoenix, Arizona, March 8, 2012. A majority (52%) of respondents in this survey believe the wealth gap in American is making more true than in recent years the old expression that the “*rich just get richer while the poor get poorer.*” Not even a fifth doubt this is true.

In addition, the widely reported concern that health care officials have about the growing use of hospital emergency rooms for services that could be taken care of in a doctor’s office, is reflected in the finding that 40 percent of respondents say someone in their family was admitted for care at an ER room during the prior 12 months.

Nearly 90 percent here believe that the ADOT experiments with rubberized asphalt is having a positive impact in reducing freeway noise.

DETAIL: WEALTH GAP GROWING

The bulk of those interviewed believe the wealth gap between rich and poor Americans is greater than just ten years ago. Only 16 percent opine that the wealth gap may be closing in America, while 52 percent believe the gap is widening. This response pattern holds across all age groups.

“There is an old expression that the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. Do you think this expression is more true in America now than ten years ago, about as true as it was ten years ago or is it less true than ten years ago?”

More true than ten years ago	52%
Same as ten years ago	32
Less true than ten years ago	<u>16</u>
	100%

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**DETAIL: USE OF HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOMS HITS 40 PERCENT**

Use of emergency rooms in hospitals has reached what appear to be high levels in that 40 percent of respondents surveyed in Maricopa County report that someone in the family was admitted for care at a Hospital ER room in the prior 12 months. Although young adults made the heaviest use of ER rooms (48%) the practice is fairly robust across all age groups (35 to 54 year olds, use totaled 32% and among those 55 and older, use totaled 44%). Health care professionals have been reporting that this trend seems to be mounting for a variety of reasons, even though emergency room care may cost many times more than outpatient care in a doctor's office.

*"Have you or anyone in your family been admitted for care to an emergency room at a hospital in the past twelve months?"*

|             | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No/<br/>Not Sure</u> |
|-------------|------------|-------------------------|
| County wide | 40%        | 60%                     |
| <u>AGE</u>  |            |                         |
| Under 35    | 48%        | 52%                     |
| 35 to 54    | 32         | 68                      |
| 55 or older | 44         | 56                      |

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DETAIL: NINE OF TEN SAY RUBBERIZED ASPHALT IS REDUCING TRAFFIC NOISE

Fifty-six percent of respondents believe that rubberized asphalt has reduced traffic noise on freeways in Maricopa county "a lot". Another 28 percent say there has been "some" reduction in traffic noise but only one in ten question the effectiveness of rubberized asphalt in helping reduce traffic noise.

"As you may be aware, rubberized asphalt is used on some freeways here in Maricopa County as a strategy to reduce noise from freeway traffic. From your own experience would you say the new rubberized asphalt has reduced freeway noise a lot, reduced freeway noise a little or has it not reduced freeway noise at all?"

	A Lot	A Little	Not at All	Not Sure
County wide	56%	28%	10%	6%
<u>AGE</u>				
Under 35	52%	36%	3%	9%
35 to 54	61	18	15	6
55 or older	55	35	9	1

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This BRC Straw Poll is based on 428 automated telephone interviews with a random cross section of adults in Maricopa County. The interviewing was completed between February 26 and March 7, 2012. Respondents were reached via land lines. The study was conducted by Straw Polls Arizona, a division of Behavior Research Center of Phoenix, which encourages readers and journalists to recognize the difference between scientific polling and the long tradition of straw polls for which no margin of error can be computed.