



# Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System Profile Caregiver Survey Results and Community Implications

## Report Information

Topic: Summer Reading  
 Programs: See full list on page 2  
 Date Range: None

### Overview

Wherever public libraries are working, possibility lives. People who work in public libraries know that library services open new opportunities for anyone who enters – putting people on the path to literacy, technological know-how, or a better job. Libraries see evidence of this every day – what they are often missing is the data to support it. Measuring outcome data helps libraries demonstrate the good they are doing and the value their impact is having in the community. For example, the Project Outcome: Year in Review 2016 Annual Report sites that nearly 80% of library users surveyed report that library programs and services have had some kind of positive impact on their lives in the last year, with a majority of patrons reporting that the educational aspect of these programs and services is what they like most. And these patron benefits are in high demand. Patrons most commonly suggested improvement for the library is new, more, or more frequent classes and programs.<sup>i</sup>

### Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System Profile Survey Work

Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System Profile conducted follow-up surveys to program participants to collect data and insights about how their summer reading services and programs are supporting community needs. Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System Profile surveyed patrons using the **Project Outcome Summer Reading Caregiver Survey**, which measures the impact of services designed to provide continuous reading and learning opportunities for children between school breaks to limit learning gaps. A total of **290** survey responses were collected.

### Results

A total of **290** survey responses were collected. Of the percentage of parents or caregivers surveyed who either **agreed or strongly agreed** that they benefited from the service or program:

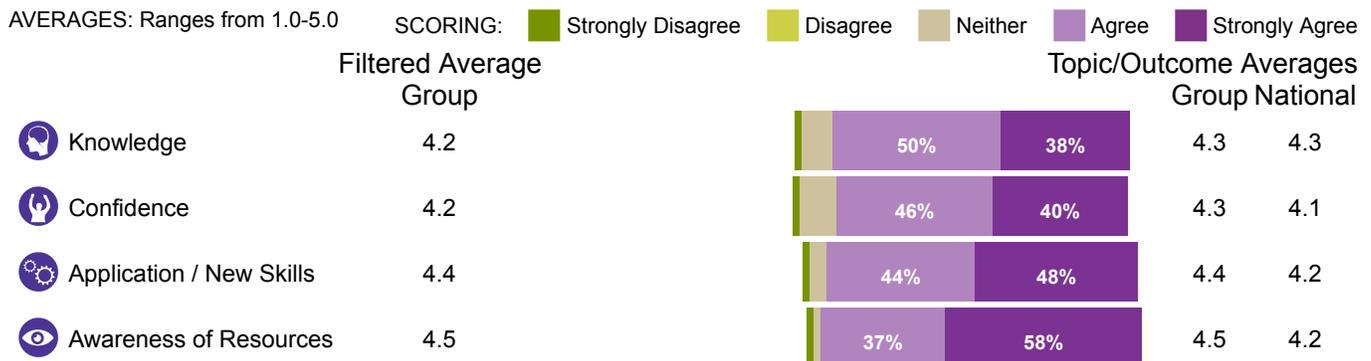
**88%** reported their child maintained or increased their reading skills

**92%** reported their child reads more often

**86%** reported their child is a more confident reader

**95%** reported their child uses the library more often

The full results of the survey(s) are shown below.



A total of **290** survey responses were collected across 37 libraries. The Response Rate is based on the number of surveys distributed to each library.

Program Name	Survey Name	Response Rate
Summer Reading - 7/1/2017	Summer Reading - Caregiver - WSE*	0.00%
Summer Reading - 7/1/2017	Summer Reading - Caregiver - Amherst (4)	38.80%
Summer Reading - 7/1/2017	Summer Reading - Caregiver - City of Tonawanda	15.00%
Summer Reading - 10/31/2017	Summer Reading - Caregiver - CON	2.50%
Summer Reading - 7/1/2017	Summer Reading - Caregiver - OPK	32.50%
Summer Reading - 7/1/2017	Summer Reading - Caregiver - NCO	15.00%
Summer Reading - 7/1/2017	Summer Reading - Caregiver - MAR	0.00%
Summer Reading - 7/1/2017	Summer Reading - Caregiver - LNC	0.00%
Summer Reading - 7/1/2017	Summer Reading - Caregiver - LCW	27.50%
Summer Reading - 7/1/2017	Summer Reading - Caregiver - Town of Tonawanda (2)	12.50%
Summer Reading - 7/1/2017	Summer Reading - Caregiver - Hamburg (2)	22.50%
Summer Reading - 7/1/2017	Summer Reading - Caregiver - GRI	40.00%
Summer Reading - 7/1/2017	Summer Reading - Caregiver - ELM	32.50%
Summer Reading - 7/1/2017	Summer Reading - Caregiver - EDN	7.50%
Summer Reading - 7/1/2017	Summer Reading - Caregiver - EAU	95.00%
Summer Reading - 7/1/2017	Summer Reading - Caregiver - COL	27.50%
Summer Reading - 7/1/2017	Summer Reading - Caregiver - CLA	35.00%
Summer Reading - 7/1/2017	Summer Reading - Caregiver - Cheektowaga (2)	11.30%
Summer Reading - 7/1/2017	Summer Reading - Caregiver - BOS	25.00%
Summer Reading - 7/1/2017	Summer Reading - Caregiver - ANG	17.50%
Summer Reading - 7/1/2017	Summer Reading - Caregiver - ALD	32.50%
Summer Reading - 7/1/2017	Summer Reading - Caregiver - NST	40.00%
Summer Reading - 7/1/2017	Summer Reading - Caregiver - Buffalo (9)	3.60%

\*West Seneca Public Library was closed for construction during the survey period. Surveys were not distributed in the temporary space.



Topic: Summer Reading

Survey Type: Caregiver | Report Created On: 11/8/2017

## Additional Survey Information

The library also asked the following questions:

- What did your child like most about the program/service?
- What could the library do to help your child continue to learn more?

## About the Surveys

The Project Outcome surveys were developed by the Public Library Association's Performance Measurement Task Force, which is comprised of a diverse group of public and state library leaders, consultants, data researchers and analysts. The surveys are designed to help libraries measure the outcomes of programs and services and the impact they have on patrons. The results are intended to show a direction of change, not rigorous statistical proof of change. To learn more about Project Outcome, visit [www.projectoutcome.org](http://www.projectoutcome.org) (<https://www.projectoutcome.org>).

## Implications for Community Impact

Summer reading programs are an essential public library service that benefits a range of patrons from children, teens and adults. Public libraries intend summer reading programs to be engaging and fun while providing structure that supports ongoing learning opportunities for adults and protects against literacy backsliding for children out of school.

- Summer reading programs are particularly important for children transitioning from "learning to read" to "reading to learn" education levels. According to a three-year study by Dominican University's Graduate School of Library and Information Studies, students who participate in their local library's summer reading program significantly improve their reading skills.<sup>ii</sup>
- Children who participate in summer reading programs end up ahead of those who don't. The Lexile Framework provides a way to match a reader with an appropriate text within their reading level. Research shows that there is a 52 Lexile point gain for children who participate in summer reading programs.<sup>iii</sup> Summer reading programs reduce summer learning loss. Instead of losing knowledge and skills during the summer months, kids who attend summer reading programs actually show gains.
- Summer reading programs improve more than reading skills. In the Dominican University study, teachers report that children who participate in summer reading programs return to school with a more positive attitude about reading and higher level of confidence in the classroom, read beyond what is required, and perceive reading as important.<sup>iv</sup>
- Most people in the United States view public libraries as an integral part of the education system by providing resources to everyone, while also being advocates of digital and information literacy. A recent report produced by the Pew Research Institute found that those over the age of 15 feel that public libraries have an important role in fulfilling the educational needs of the community they serve. Specifically, 85% of the surveyed population feel that public libraries need to coordinate with schools in literacy programs and resources provided to children. In addition, 78% feel libraries adequately encourage literacy and an enthusiasm for reading.<sup>v</sup>

## Sources

<sup>i</sup>Project Outcome. "Project Outcome: A Year in Review 2016 Annual Report," Accessed March 23, 2017.

<https://www.projectoutcome.org/annual-report> (<https://www.projectoutcome.org/annual-report>)

<sup>ii</sup>Susan Roman, Deborah T. Carran and Carole D. Fiore. "Public Library Summer Reading Programs Close the Reading Gap," (San Rafael: Dominican University Graduate School of Library & Information Science, 2010). Accessed March 30, 2017.

<https://www.oregon.gov/osl/LD/youthsvcs/srp.certificates/dominicanstudy.pdf>

(<https://www.oregon.gov/osl/LD/youthsvcs/srp.certificates/dominicanstudy.pdf>)

<sup>iii</sup>[www.lexile.com](http://www.lexile.com)

<sup>iv</sup>Roman, Carragan, and Fiore. "Public Library Summer Reading Programs"

<sup>v</sup>John B. Horrigan, Lee Rainie, and Dana Page. "Libraries at the crossroads." Pew Research Center (2015). Accessed October 23, 2015.

<http://www.pewinternet.org/files/2015/09/2015-09-15librariesFINAL.pdf> (<http://www.pewinternet.org/files/2015/09/2015-09-15librariesFINAL.pdf>)

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