



# *2SLGBTQIA+* RACIAL EQUITY REPORT

As a community, we possess great strength, resilience, and resourcefulness, yet we are disproportionately affected by various health, economic, social, legal, and political issues. Many organizations overlook our needs simply because they aren't aware of them.

PRESENTED BY





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# COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHTS

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Our Community Partner Spotlights celebrate and acknowledge organizations and individuals who build more inclusive and accessible spaces for BIPOC people. Through their collaboration and support, these honorary partners have played a vital role in advancing the shared mission of this project, creating a lasting impact on the 2SLGBTQIA+ community in Greater Cleveland.



# The LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland

Founded in 1975, The LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland is a leading nonprofit organization that empowers Northeast Ohio's LGBTQ community through advocacy, education, and celebration. The Center offers high-quality programming and events to meet personal and professional needs of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, serving as a one-stop hub for resources and support.

Their mission is to enrich the lives of the diverse LGBTQ+ community through advocacy, support, education, and celebration, striving for excellence and inclusivity in all aspects of their work.

The LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland is recognized as the primary community partner of the Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment.



*"I'm so excited to have had the experience of participating as an organizational partner with the Greater Cleveland LGBTQ + Community Needs Assessment! I believe that our engagement with the LGBTQ+ needs assessment is not just about data; it's about fostering hope for better care and support for all our community members."*

- Phyllis "Seven" Harris, **Executive Director**

*"Once the data are available, the LGBT Center hopes to gain a deeper understanding of the specific needs and challenges faced by the BIPOC 2SLGBTQIA+ community. These data will be a valuable resource not only for guiding the development of tailored programs and services but also for educating both our own LGBTQ+ community and the broader public about these disparities, fostering greater understanding and support."*

*Ultimately, the goal is to operationalize the findings, ensuring that the assessment leads to meaningful action and disrupts the status quo."*

*We aim to engage in community health improvement planning, driven by the same participatory principles that guided the assessment. This plan will employ direct action and community organizing as a key element, enabling us to utilize our collective power and voices to hold systems and institutions accountable for centering our collective voices and adopting a human-centered design approach."*

*Through this process, we aim to foster a more inclusive and supportive environment where ALL members of the community can thrive."*

-Gulnar Feerasta, **Managing Director**



## Phyllis “Seven” Harris

Phyllis "Seven" Harris' has over 25 years of nonprofit experience, including program management, fundraising, and upper-level leadership positions. She is a social justice champion and is committed to advancing equity issues to create meaningful change.

Phyllis is an experienced and skillful consultant owning her own consulting business specializing in equity and inclusion, social justice, non-profit management, and leadership development. She is deeply committed to helping nonprofits improve by offering professional development, DEI strategy and planning, coaching, and more.



## Gulnar Feerasta

Gulnar Feerasta is a social worker with experience in program development, implementation, and evaluation, grants management, organizational and community engagement, professional training, and education consulting.

Passionate about positive individual outcomes and community impact, during their time overseeing programs and development at the LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland, Feerasta has helped to triple grant revenue over the past few years and named as one of Engage! Cleveland's 24 Emerging Professionals you need to know in 2024.





## B. Riley House

B. Riley House in Cleveland, Ohio offers LGBTQ+ individuals and allies from all backgrounds a safe, affirming space for alcohol and drug recovery treatment, mental health services, and psychotherapy. Founder Tony Correa empowers residents to find their truth and give back to the community.

He is excited to integrate insights from the LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment to provide inclusive, culturally competent care, ensuring that all residents feel seen and empowered in their recovery journey.



### Tony Correa

Tony Correa, founder of B. Riley House, has turned personal struggles with action, creating a mission of helping others. With a degree in human services focused on substance abuse disorder, he emphasizes honesty and community contribution among residents.

Recognized by *Cleveland Magazine* as one of the Most Interesting People of 2020, Tony is dedicated to supporting the LGBTQ+ Community.





## Central Outreach Wellness Center

Central Outreach Wellness Center promotes wellness by providing culturally competent care to a diverse range of clients, including 2SLGBTQIA+ and people living with HIV. The staff at Central Outreach has decades of experience supporting all communities - such as BIPOC and immigrant communities. Central Outreach specializes in HIV, Hepatitis C and recovery healthcare and continues to work to ensure that trust is nurtured through non-judgmental support for all clients.

"With a focus on inclusive health and wellness, we at Central Outreach plan to continue to connect as many people to HIV prevention and treatment as possible," Michael continues. "Cleveland is about five years behind when it comes to HIV prevention, treatment, and education, and we plan to continue minimizing this disparity by helping Cleveland stop the spread of HIV." - Michael Green, Outreach Coordinator



### Michael Green

Michael Green was raised in rural Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Coming from a difficult upbringing and a lower-income household, he was determined to change his future. He earned a public health degree from the University of Pittsburgh while working full-time at Central Outreach Wellness Center in Pittsburgh. After six and a half years of experience in several offices within Central Outreach, helping LGBTQIA+ patients, and developing his skills as a certified clinical medical assistant skills, he moved to Cleveland about two years ago.

He currently provides HIV and STI testing and PrEP access all across the city of Cleveland at various non-clinical spaces, such as bars, festivals, events, and the bathhouse, promoting HIV and STI education and reducing the stigma associated with HIV.





# Cleveland Burlesque and Ohio Burlesque Festival

Since 2004, Cleveland Burlesque and Ohio Burlesque Festival has continued to honor the art of burlesque with integrity, diversity, and inclusivity. Founded by Bella Sin, the show has gained a devoted following in Cleveland, winning multiple awards such as Burlesque Troupe of The Year (2013) and the Lifetime Achievement Award (2014). Cleveland Burlesque provides a safe space for performers of all backgrounds, blending classic and modern burlesque.

Featured in various media outlets, Cleveland Burlesque promotes body positivity and inclusivity while staying true to its roots. Led by Bella Sin and co-producers Heather and Lace, it remains a beloved and respected show nationally. Cleveland Burlesque and Ohio Burlesque Festival is one of many local 2SLGBTQIA+ organizations recognized as an honorary community partner of the Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment.



## Bella Sin

"Diversity in burlesque education enriches the art form, infusing it with a multitude of perspectives and experiences that celebrate individuality, challenge norms, and foster a vibrant, inclusive community."

-Bella Sin, Owner, Executive Producer, and Cleveland's Burlesque Queen

Bella Sin is a multi-award-winning performer from Juarez, in the state of Chihuahua. They are a proud Mexican immigrant who holds the honor of being named "One of Cleveland's Most Interesting People 2011" along with the ongoing title of "Cleveland Burlesque Queen." They are the Executive Producer of the Ohio International Burlesque Festival throughout its entire 10-yr run and is the owner of the long-running Cleveland Burlesque. Bella Sin is an activist, instructor, historian, actress, and philanthropist.



# Haus of Transcendent

Haus of Transcendent (HOT), a nonprofit serving 2SLGBTQIA+ adults, connects this community to support and resources to address health determinants in Northeast Ohio. The mission at Haus of Transcendent is to create a vibrant, healthy community through resource support, art grants, affordable housing, and health policy advising. Services are available in English, Spanish, and Arabic. HOT is one of many local 2SLGBTQIA+ organizations recognized as an honorary community partner of the Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment.

"Collecting and analyzing BIPOC LGBTQI2S+ data is crucial in guiding our priorities at Haus of Transcendent, ensuring that our efforts in Cleveland are responsive to community input. By centering the experiences and needs of BIPOC LGBTQI2S+ individuals, we can create more effective and impactful programs that address the unique challenges faced by Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities in Greater Cleveland."

-Jordi Luke, CEO of Haus of Transcendent.



## Jordi Luke

Jordi Luke (they/he) is the CEO of Haus of Transcendent (HOT), an organization dedicated to addressing the basic needs of LGBTQI2S+ individuals. With fifteen years of experience, Jordi is a nationally recognized executive renowned for developing policies and programs that enhance safety, equity, and access in health and human services.

Jordi has served as a senior government official under three presidents at the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), specifically within the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Administration for Community Living (ACL). Born in Mexico and raised in Chile, Jordi is fluent in Spanish, bringing a valuable cultural and linguistic perspective to their work





## Margie's Hope

Founded in 2011, Margie's Hope enriches the lives of transgender, non-binary, and gender-expansive individuals in Northeast Ohio through community programs like TransAlive!, Margie's Kids, and Margie's Pride while also operating a not-for-profit resale store, Margie's Closet.

Monika Veliz, Board President, aims to improve the community, particularly trans youth, through livelihood, education, and community connectivity.



### Monika Veliz

With her journey as a transwoman starting at fifteen years old, by the time Monika Veliz joined Margie's Hope in 2021, she was already an accomplished artist and entrepreneur.

She served first as a board member, then was elected Vice President, and was finally elected unanimously as President - all within the same year.



## Mx. Juneteenth

Mx. Juneteenth is a free event created by and for Black queer folx to celebrate Juneteenth, a holiday for reverence, remembrance, and celebration of freedom. It is a Black and queer liberation celebration that centers radical politics, community care, and expressive joy. Mx. Juneteenth is one of many local 2SLGBTQIA+ organizations recognized as an honorary community partner of the Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment.

“My hope for Mx. Juneteenth, in accordance with our established mission, vision, and values, is that Mx. Juneteenth will continue to grow, reach new audiences within our communities, and continue to push the bounds of organizing with liberation as the central message. What makes Mx. Juneteenth both special and challenging is that it attempts to apply theories of Black queer feminist and abolitionist principles into relevant practice. We do our best to decenter the status quo that is set by white supremacist capitalist values to imagine something different. Through the organizing of this annual event, my hope is that we continue to grow, and as we grow, we encourage our communities to imagine a liberated world.”

-Avery Ware, Mx. Juneteenth Founder



### Avery Ware

Avery Ware is a higher education professional living in Cleveland by way of Lorain, OH. The majority of their higher ed career has been in student conduct and residence life, but they currently are serving as the director of an LGBT Center at a local university. They have also served as an adjunct professor of American History. Along with their professional career, Avery is very active in the Cleveland queer community.

Most notably, Avery is the founder of a community arts, entertainment, and resource festival titled Mx. Juneteenth: A Black & Queer Liberation Celebration. Avery holds a MA in American Studies from Youngstown State University and a BA in Sociology from the University of Akron. Their writing can be found on their website: [averyware.org](http://averyware.org)





# Transwellness Resources and Support Network

Transwellness Resources and Support Network offers a wide range of services and resources, including HIV and STD prevention, trans activism, community outreach, and safe sex kits. They provide trans education and training, case management, and assistance with essential legal and administrative tasks such as name changes, birth certificate updates, gender marker corrections, identification and EBT applications, marriage notary services, and support for CMHA applications. Additionally, they offer access to a food pantry, shelter and job referrals, healthcare and health insurance assistance, and a welcoming drop-in space for cyber activities or simply connecting with others in the community.

Transwellness Resources and Support Network is one of many local LGBTQ+ organizations recognized as an honorary community partner of the Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment.



## Devinity Jones

Devinity Jones is the Founder and Executive Director of Transwellness Resources and Support Network, where she advocates for transgender individuals by providing access to essential services like healthcare, housing, and mental health resources. As a Black transgender woman, Jones has faced significant adversity, including homelessness and sexual violence, but has emerged as a strong leader in the community. Her personal experiences have fueled her dedication to helping others, particularly through her work supporting transgender individuals who face systemic barriers.

Jones is also a vocal advocate for addressing the violence and discrimination that disproportionately affect Black transgender women. She continues to honor the memory of trans women like Tierramarie Lewis, who was tragically murdered in 2021, by pushing for greater protections and inclusivity. Through her work and advocacy, Jones is committed to creating a safer and more supportive environment for the transgender community in Cleveland and beyond.

# Honorary Community Partners

Our honorary community partners are an exceptional group of talented community organizations and individuals, all with deep roots in serving hard-to-reach and under-served 2SLGBTQIA+ communities within the 2SLGBTQIA+ community of Greater Cleveland.

Their diverse contributions—ranging from hosting vibrant burlesque shows and engaging poetry readings to providing warm, nourishing meals—demonstrated their unwavering commitment to their communities. Each played a crucial role in outreach efforts, raising awareness about the projects community survey, intersectionality listening sessions, and amplifying our message encouraging BIPOC community members to engage in the data collection process in ways that deeply resonated with their audiences.

Thanks to their dedication and passion, we not only connected with the community in meaningful ways but also surpassed our initial goal, collecting an impressive 371 surveys from BIPOC identifying 2SLGBTQIA+ community members, bolstering an impressive 22.4% BIPOC response rate! Their steadfast support was instrumental in the success of this initiative racial representation, and we are deeply grateful for the lasting impact they have made.

## Individual Honorary Partners

- Bree Easterling
- Jenesis “Zuggie” Tate
- Zakiya Acey

## Organizational Honorary Partners







# *ABOUT* **KENT STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

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Kent State University's College of Public Health empowers future leaders through innovative programs and a community-focused approach, playing a vital role in promoting health equity and addressing public health challenges.



# About Kent State University



Kent State University is one of 76 public, higher-research universities, categorized by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, and ranked in the top-tier list of Best National Universities by U.S. News and World Report. Kent State is one of Ohio's leading public universities and a major educational, economic, and cultural resource far beyond the Northeast Ohio region it has served since 1910. The student body comprises more than 37,000 students, and the alumni family exceeds 257,000.

The University's mission is to transform lives and communities through the power of discovery, learning, and creative expression in an inclusive environment.

## *The College of Public Health*

The College of Public Health at Kent State educates future public health leaders, scientists, and scholars, creating national impact on people and out community. The public health profession has contributed to significant gains in lifespan over the past 100 years and will continue to improve the overall health of our population with added contributions from our program graduates.

**Vision:** To be a leader in public health education, inquiry, and engagement.

**Mission:** To advance public health by preparing leaders, scientists, and practitioners to collaborate with community partners in conducting impactful research and practice to solve public health challenges.



# Our Values

Our commitment to shaping the future of public health is driven by our core values. These values guide our actions and decisions, ensuring that we maintain the highest standards of integrity, collaboration, and excellence in everything we do.

Our values are:

- F** - Fairness
  - L** - Leadership
  - A** - Accountability
  - S** - Students First
  - H** - Honor
  - E** - Excellence
  - S** - Success
- 

## How To Cite This Report

When referencing this report, please use the following citation to ensure proper acknowledgment of the authors and their contributions. This citation format will help others locate and engage with the valuable insights presented in this work.

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White, J., Snyder, A. M., DiDonato, A. E., Stimpert, T., & Washington, E. (2024). Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ community needs assessment: 2SLGBTQIA+ racial equity report. Kent State University, College of Public Health.  
<https://lgbtqohio.org>



# Introduction, Purpose, and Goals of this Community Needs Assessment

Community needs assessments are tools public health professionals use to collect, synthesize, and disseminate valuable information to support and validate decision-making and commitments to implementing community health interventions, resources, and investments. Capturing insight about the current health status and potential accomplishments as well as deficiencies in community services and community resources inform key stakeholders—both within and outside the healthcare sector—who are committed to delivering culturally competent services to the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. This contributes to the overall improved health status of the target population.

Community needs assessments are an essential tool for identifying the strengths, opportunities, and resources available in a community to meet the unmet needs of the people living there. Community needs assessments also provide valuable insight and information for identifying and developing innovative solutions to service gaps and building a supportive community to live in. As 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals and as a community, we have abundant strength, resilience, and resourcefulness. At the same time, our community continues to be disproportionately affected by a range of physical, mental, and behavioral health, economic, social, legal, and political issues. Many organizations may overlook our needs because they don't understand what our needs are.

## *Needs Assessment Goals*

- Increase awareness about public health as it relates to the 2SLGBTQIA+ community in Greater Cleveland.
- Lean into the local 2SLGBTQIA+ population demographically as the 2SLGBTQIA+ community is currently unassessed by the US Census, leaving us to rely on estimates.
- Describe the status of the local 2SLGBTQIA+ community holistically; not just focusing on weaknesses and unmet needs but also identifying strengths and achievements.
- Develop a set of community recommendations based on participant input that inform future investments and decision-making for the local 2SLGBTQIA+ community.
- Strengthen partnerships and collaborations between organizations within the local public health system.







# *RESEARCH* **METHODOLOGY**

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Our research methodology showcases the carefully planned and gathered data for this report. By combining proven research techniques with strategic analysis, we have ensured the insights reflect real community challenges and provide actionable, impactful solutions.

# Research Methodology

## *Planning*

The Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment was conducted from January 2023 to December 2024 using a community-based participatory research (CBPR) approach. This approach prioritized collaboration with 2SLGBTQIA+ community members and stakeholders across diverse sectors. The project was guided by nine committees: a Steering Committee, a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) Committee, and seven sub-committees, collectively representing a holistic approach to community health. These sub-committees included Health and Wellness, Religion and Spirituality, Education and Literacy, Housing, Food, and Basic Needs, Business, Employment, and Commerce, Safety and Law Enforcement, and Recreation and Leisure.

These leadership teams were composed of over 180 individuals from more than 120 organizations, including health services, educational institutions, and 2SLGBTQIA+ advocacy groups. The planning process, facilitated by a Program Director and four graduate students from Kent State University's College of Public Health, involved developing clear objectives, establishing recruitment strategies, and identifying key community issues to assess.

Each sub-committee, consisting of 2SLGBTQIA+ community members, subject experts, professionals, and stakeholders, participated in a series of ten 90-minute virtual meetings. These meetings guided the teams in defining the Greater Cleveland 2SLGBTQIA+ Community, conducting SWOT analyses, identifying concerns, determining researchable questions, and selecting appropriate data collection mechanisms. The sub-committee's work was reviewed by the Steering and DEIB committees, with feedback incorporated through monthly virtual meetings.

## *Community Survey*

The primary means of data collection was a comprehensive digital survey co-developed by the project committees to cover critical health domains and community needs. Recruitment occurred through social media, in-person engagement at 2SLGBTQIA+ community events and significant venues, and flyer distribution in collaboration with community partners across Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, and Lorain counties.





The core project team attended and posted flyers at over 120 events and venues. Participants included individuals aged 12 or older, with parental consent for those under 18, identifying as 2SLGBTQIA+ or 2SLGBTQIA+ allies living in the target counties or relying on Greater Cleveland for resources. Survey participants were incentivized with a raffle for one of 35 gift cards from local 2SLGBTQIA+-owned or affirming businesses valued at \$75 each.

Survey metrics reveal that the Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment gathered a total of 2,006 unique survey responses. Of these respondents, 1,653 (82.5%) identified as 2SLGBTQIA+, with 1,594 adults and 59 youth. Additionally, 353 (17.5%) respondents identified as 2SLGBTQIA+ allies, including 350 adults and 3 youth. The BIPOC 2SLGBTQIA+ response rate was 22.4% (371 responses). The overall completion rate was 75%. There were six surveys completed in Spanish. In total the community survey collected 363,041 unique data points.



## *Intersectionality Listening Sessions*

Intersectionality listening sessions (focus groups) were held with historically underrepresented subcommunities, identities, subgroups, and shared experience. These sessions employed a qualitative approach to create a safe space for participants to share their specific challenges and needs. A total of 178 participants engaged in 26 ninety-minute sessions held at the LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland, El Centro De Servicios Sociales, Colors+, Geauga Public Library, Lake County Health Department, and B. Riley Sober House. Participants were compensated with a \$50 prepaid Visa gift card for sharing their time and experiences with the project.

Facilitators led guided discussions to identify and prioritize unmet needs, existing resources, barriers to access, and potential solutions and calls to action. The insights from these sessions were crucial in ensuring underrepresented voices were central to the needs assessment process.



## Stakeholder Interviews

Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 23 key stakeholders from community organizations, healthcare providers, and government. These interviews aimed to gather in-depth insights into the systemic challenges faced by the 2SLGBTQIA+ community and identify potential areas for intervention. Stakeholders were selected for their expertise and involvement in 2SLGBTQIA+ issues, ensuring diverse perspectives. Interviews were anonymous, recorded, transcribed, and thematically analyzed to highlight common concerns and strategic recommendations for improving community health outcomes.



## Strengths

- **Robust Participation:** The assessment recorded 2,006 valid and unique survey responses, providing a rich dataset with a high completion rate that reflects the diverse experiences within the 2SLGBTQIA+ community of Greater Cleveland.
- **Mixed-Methods Approach:** Utilizing both quantitative and qualitative data allows for a comprehensive understanding of the community's needs and priorities.
- **Community-Partnered Approach:** The project piloted a recruitment method that equitably compensated eight community organizations and individuals with access to hard-to-reach 2SLGBTQIA+ sub-community members, working hand-in-hand with the core project team to recruit potential participants for the survey and listening sessions, increasing the diversity of the final sample.



## Limitations

Sampling Bias: The non-probability convenience sampling approach led to potential underrepresentation of certain intersections within the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, such as intersex individuals, 2SLGBTQIA+ youth of diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds, 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity, 2SLGBTQIA+ seniors (over 65), and 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals from Middle Eastern, North African, Asian American, Pacific Islander, and American Indian and Native Alaskan backgrounds.

- Access Barriers: Further local research with these identities in particular should be conducted in the future to better understand and meet the needs of these 2SLGBTQIA+ community members.
- Age Restriction: Data collection did not include 2SLGBTQIA+ community members under the age of 12, which may overlook critical insights from younger demographics.
- Self-Reported Data: The assessment relied on self-reported data, which can be subject to biases, including over- or under-reporting behaviors, experiences, or needs. Respondents may have provided socially desirable answers rather than accurate reflections of their circumstances.
- Response Bias: Certain groups may have been more likely to participate in the survey or focus groups, leading to a response bias. Individuals who are more engaged or have stronger opinions may have skewed the results toward those perspectives.
- Limited Generalizability: Due to the non-random, convenience sampling method, the findings may not be fully generalizable to the entire 2SLGBTQIA+ population or to other regions outside Greater Cleveland. The specific needs identified may be unique to the respondents.







# COMMUNITY RECOMMENDATIONS

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Our Community Recommendations have been gathered directly from our community. Their insights and suggestions help shape strategies, ensuring that everyone is seen and their needs are met,



# Community Recommendations

The following list of prioritized community recommendations was taken from our survey question, “What do you need to address your biggest fear, worry, or concern for yourself as a member of the LGBTQ+ community?”

- 1

Foster a culture of inclusiveness, open-mindedness, empathy, acceptance, and respect within and outside the LGBTQ+ community.
- 2

Address uncertainty and feelings of helplessness by promoting actionable solutions and community engagement.
- 3

Increase accessible community education, including health, civic education, cultural competency, allyship, law enforcement training, workplace training, intersectionality, mediation techniques, and first aid and emergency preparedness.
- 4

Build safe LGBTQ+-friendly resources, including medical services, childcare and family planning, coming out support, political resources, relationship/dating resources, addiction recovery and prevention resources, affirming medical schools/institutions, affirming lawyers and legal services, LGBTQ+-owned business, Cleveland providers, and self-defense tools.
- 5

Enact and enforce laws against discrimination, including those related to gender affirming care, workplace rights, reproductive rights, family rights, marriage rights, gender markers on government documents, housing policy, and taxation on non-spousal health benefits.
- 6

Invest in accessible support programs and groups for LGBTQ+ community members, allies, and general community members such as youth outreach, mentoring, networking, social groups and services, safe online spaces, and groups for autistic LGBTQ+ individuals.
- 7

Ensure government and local leaders actively support the LGBTQ+ community.
- 8

Promote active allyship within and outside the LGBTQ+ community, including trans allyship, BIPOC allyship, and lesbian allyship, with support from institutions, businesses, and silent funders.
- 9

Build more LGBTQ+-friendly safe spaces, community areas, and neighborhoods, including CO-OPs, city planning, third spaces outside of bars and clubs, inclusivity and pride indicators, art collaborations to beautify community spaces, gender-neutral bathrooms, and safety improvements to existing LGBTQ+ spaces.
- 10

Support political and legal advocacy and activism around LGBTQ+ issues, including actions from healthcare institutions, youth empowerment, and union organizing.





# COMMUNITY SURVEY

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Charts and graphs from our community survey, highlighting the unique challenges and needs of BIPOC 2SLGBTQIA+ respondents.



# Community Definition

For the purpose of this project, when referring to the 2SLGBTQIA+ Community of Greater Cleveland, we mean anyone who identifies with marginalized sexual orientations and gender identities such as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and/or Queer or Questioning. This includes individuals whose identity may not be expressly included in the acronym 2SLGBTQIA+, or may not publicly identify or “out” themselves but still feel they belong to the community.

The LGBTQ+ community of Greater Cleveland encompasses those who live or work in Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, or Geauga counties or rely on Greater Cleveland for Healthcare, Social Services, Employment, Education, Religion or Spirituality, Recreation, Community Resources, or Support to satisfy their needs.

We seek to understand the unique needs of those who identify within the many intersections and co-communities of the larger acronym 2SLGBTQIAAP+. This includes acknowledging the unique lived experiences and challenges that historically underserved communities face, which are often excluded from contemporary conversations around wellness and quality of life. To this end, we aim to acknowledge and uplift LGBTQ+ intersections, including, but not limited to those who are:

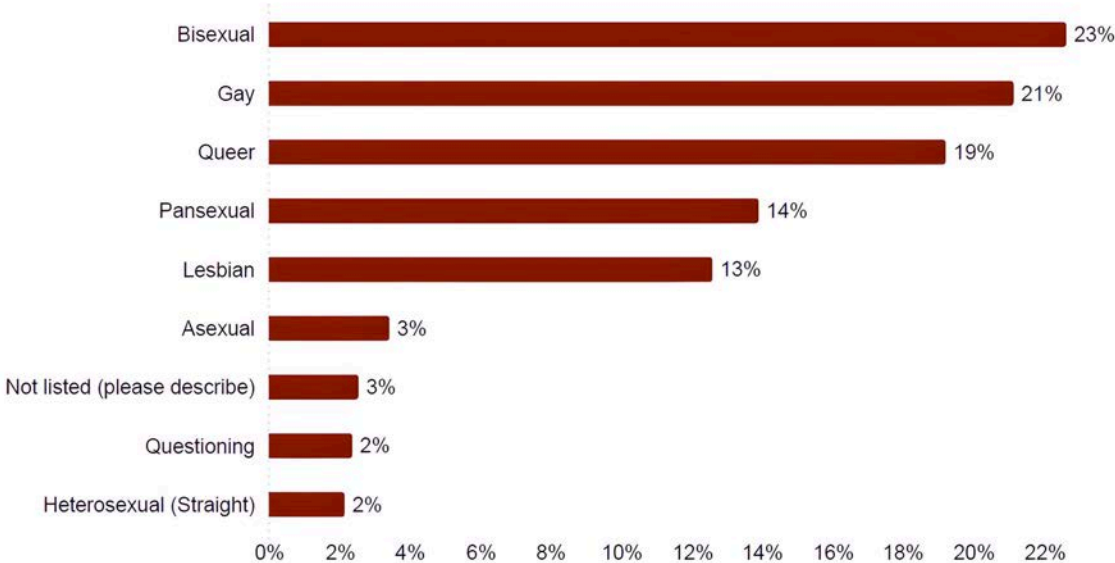
- Trans, nonbinary, gender non-conforming, queer, intersex, pansexual, asexual, and aromantic people
- Indigenous (including those recognized as Two Spirit people)
- Black
- Hispanic and Latinx people
- Asian people
- Arabic people
- Speakers of various languages
- Immigrants, newcomers, and refugees
- First-generation Americans
- Religious minorities and atheists
- Individuals with disabilities and neurodivergent individuals
- Veterans
- Supporting people across the lifespan, from children to older adults
- Individuals with non-Western cultural backgrounds
- Rural 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals
- Survivors of sexual assault and abuse
- People living with HIV
- People experiencing homelessness or impacted by persistent poverty
- Sex workers



# Community Demographics

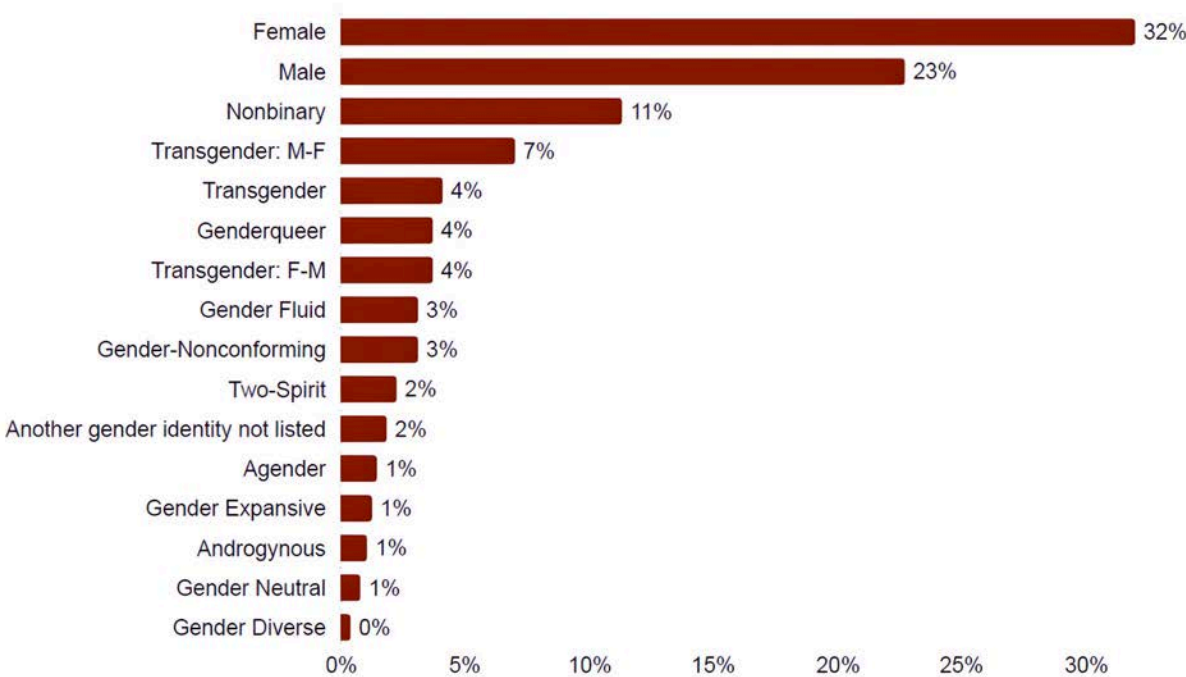
## What is your sexual orientation? (select all that apply)

370 Responses



## What is your current gender identity? (select all that apply)

371 Responses

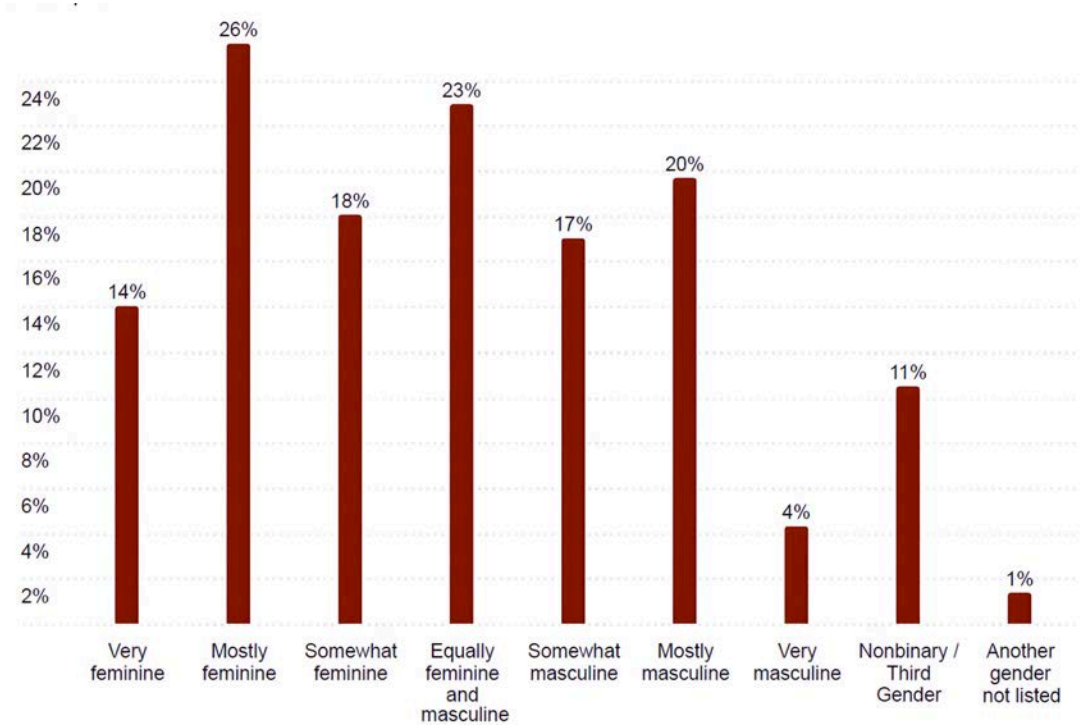




# Community Demographics

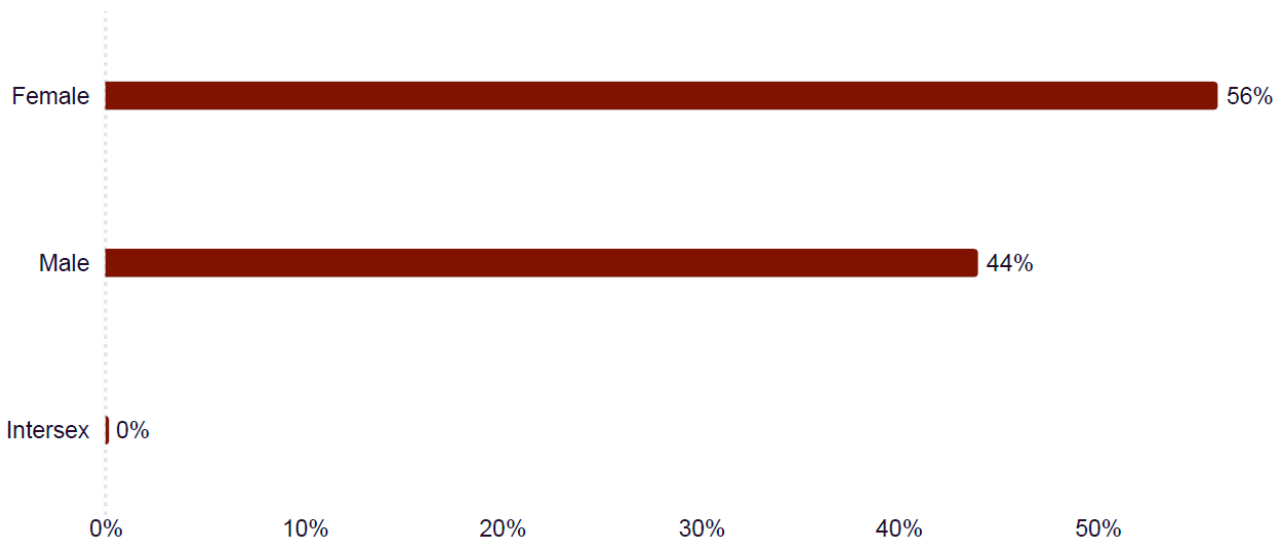
## What is your current gender expression? (select all that apply)

371 Responses



## What sex were you assigned at birth?

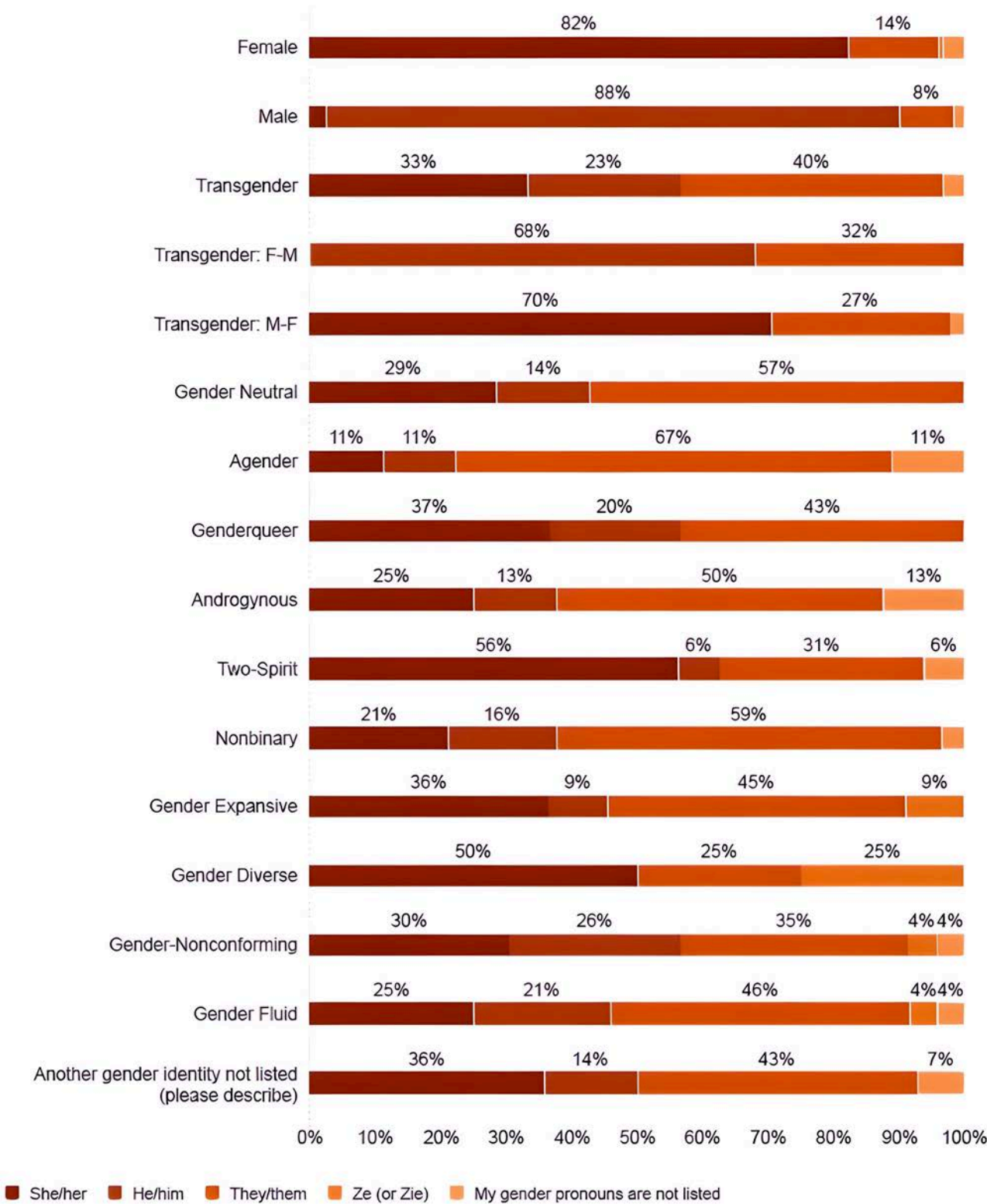
371 Responses



# Community Demographics

## What are your pronouns? (select all that apply) Broken out by gender identity

370 Responses

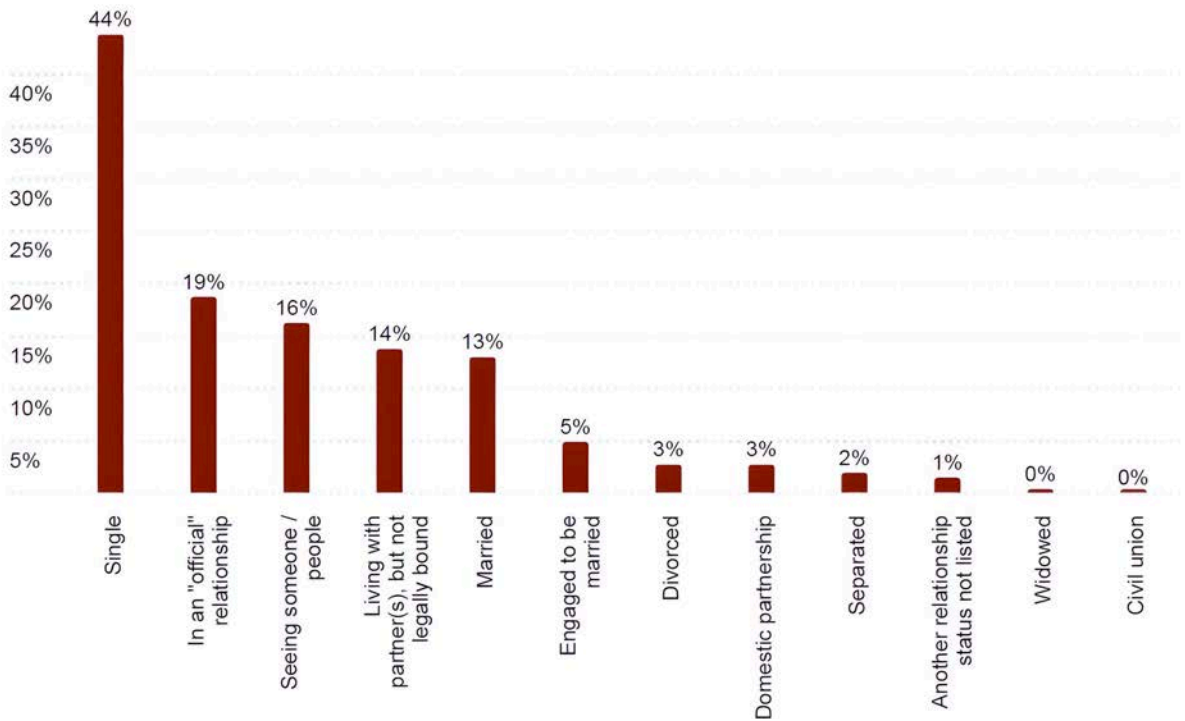




# Community Demographics

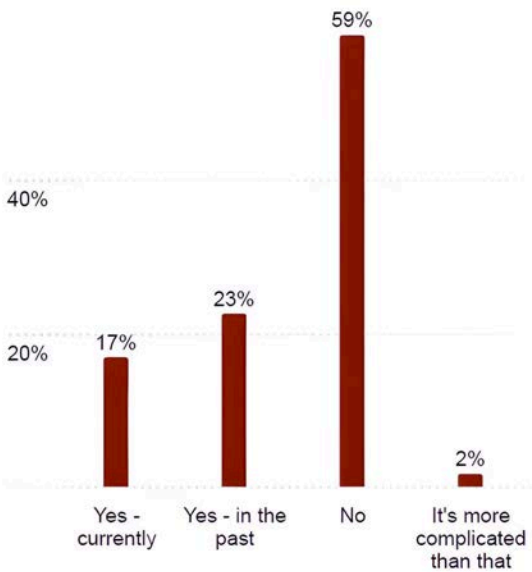
## What is your current relationship status? (select all that apply)

371 Responses



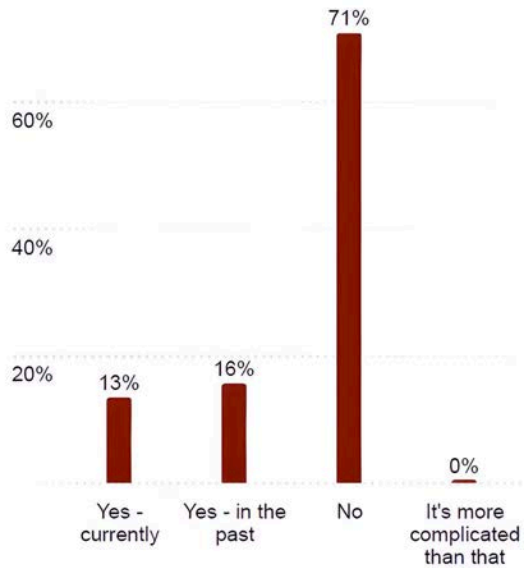
## Are you currently in, or have you ever been in, an open relationship?

360 Responses



## Are you currently in, or have you ever been in, a polyamorous relationship?

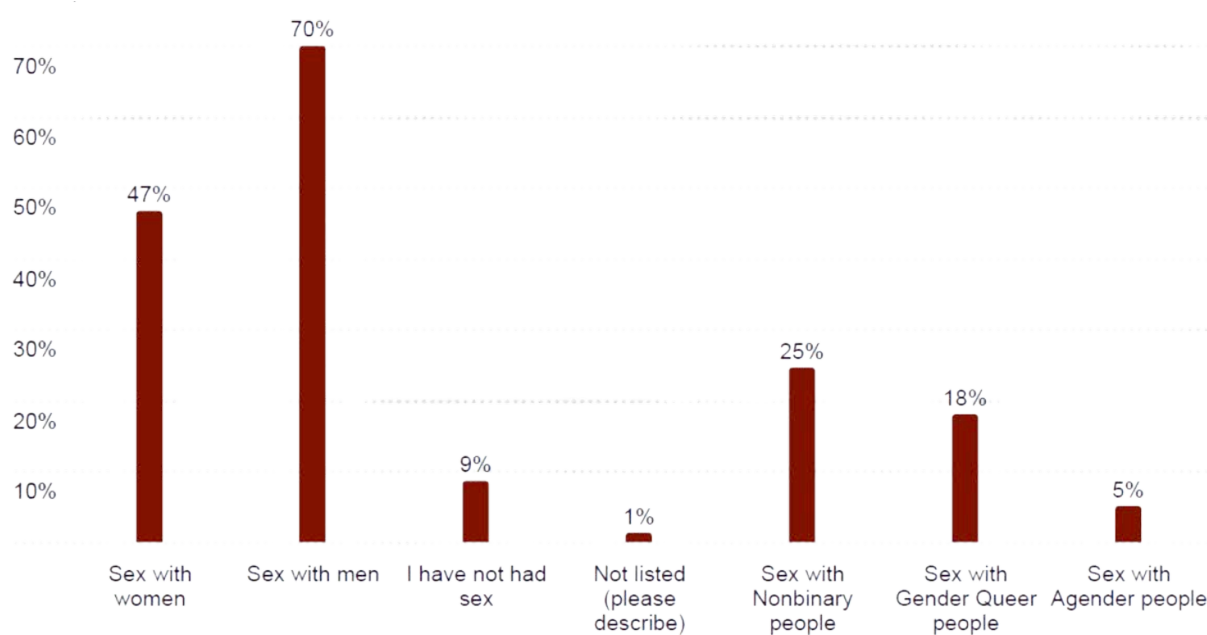
360 Responses



# Community Demographics

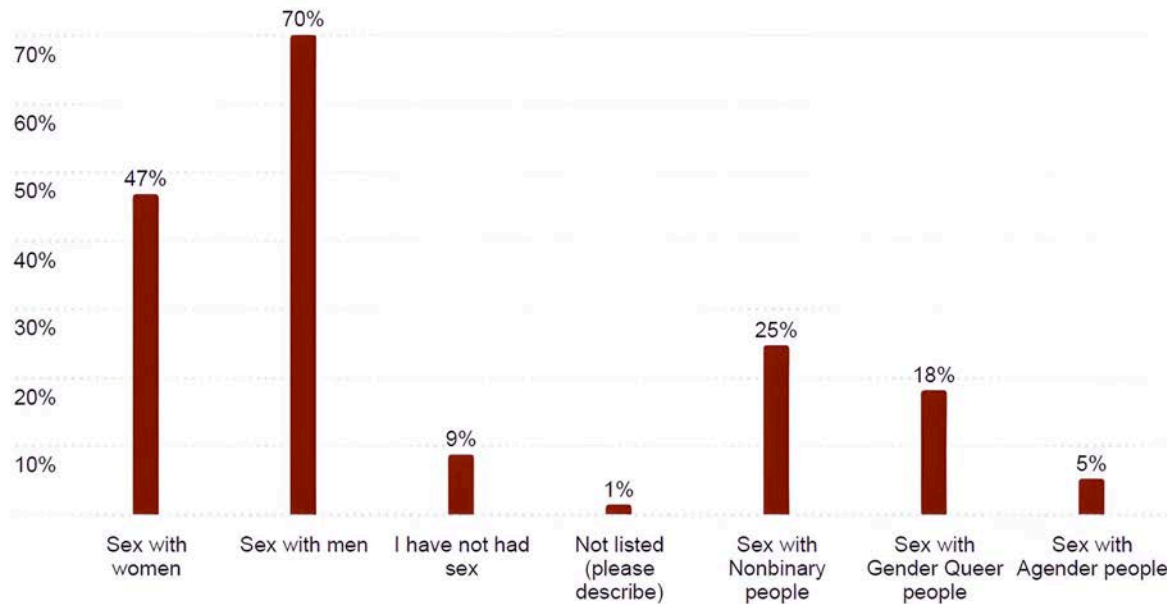
## How would you best describe your sexual attraction(s)? (select all that apply)

360 Responses



## How would you best describe your sexual behavior(s) over the past five (5) years? (select all that apply)

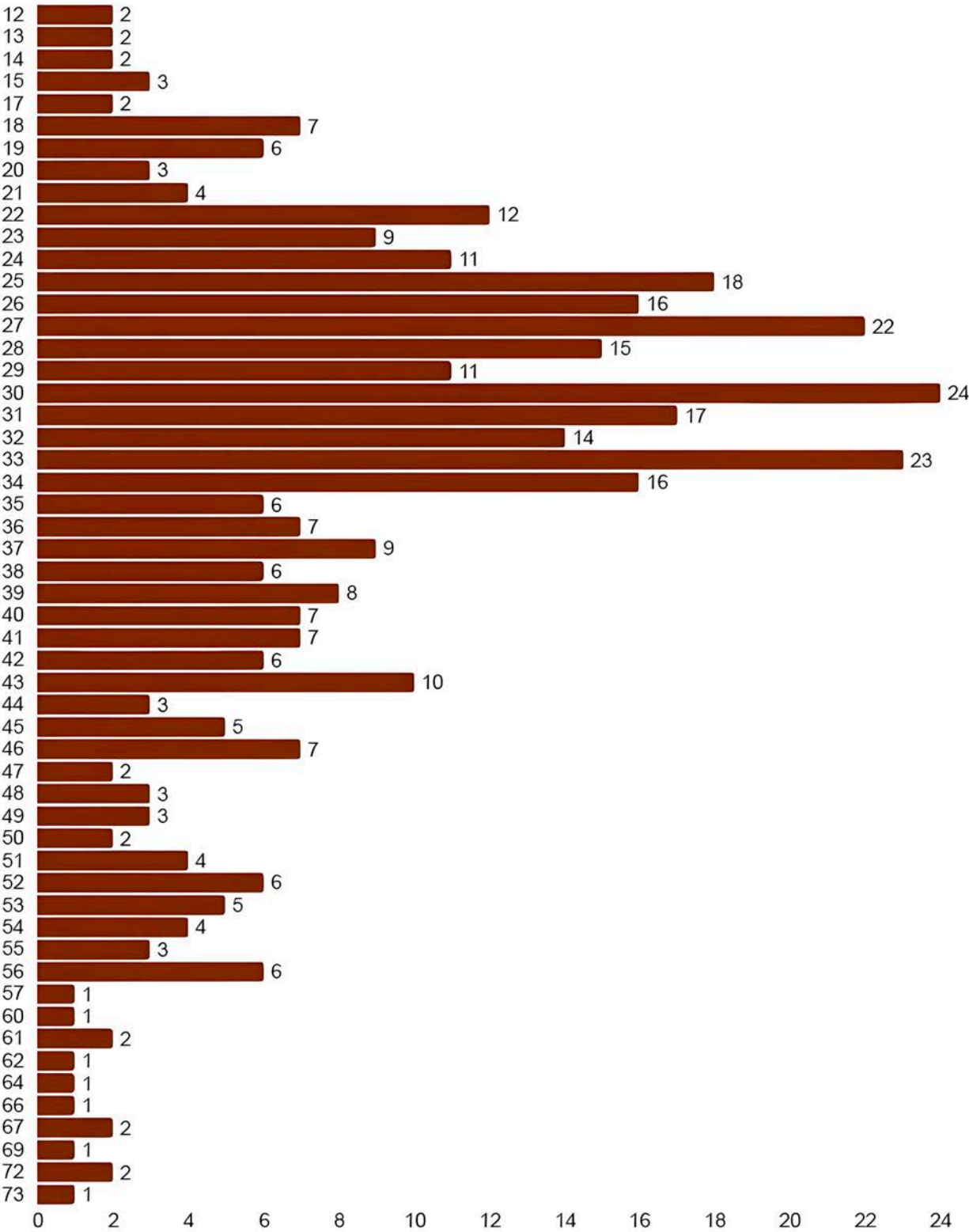
360 Responses





# Community Demographics

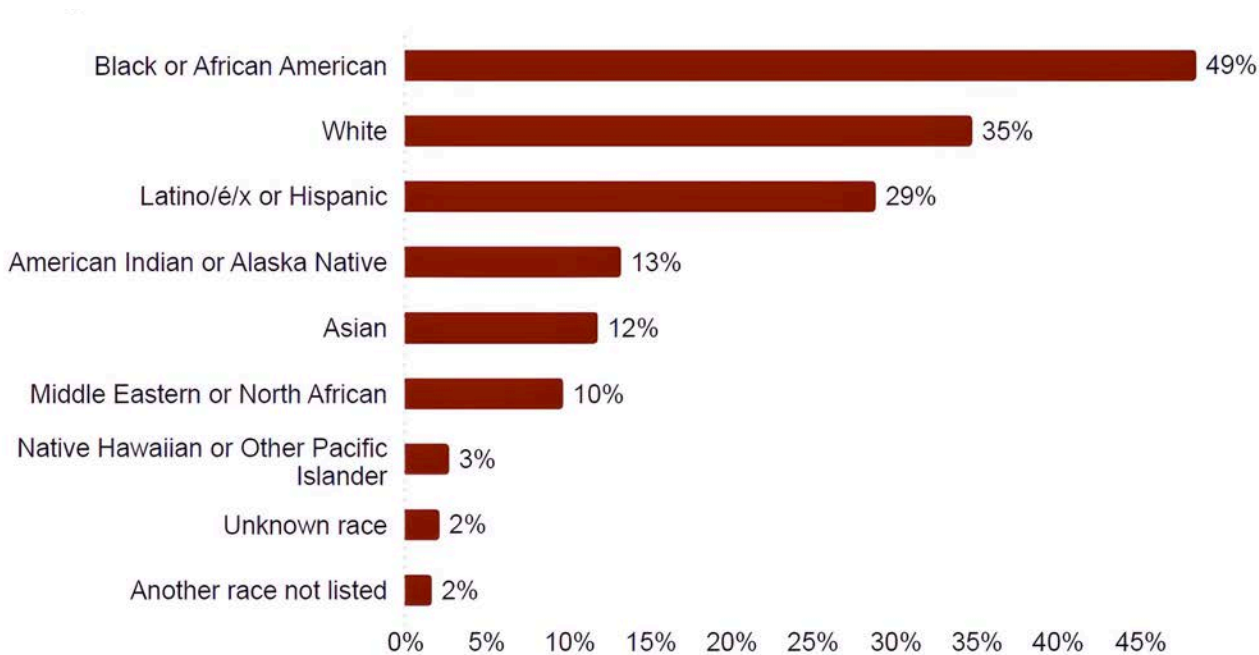
## How old are you? 371 Responses



# Community Demographics

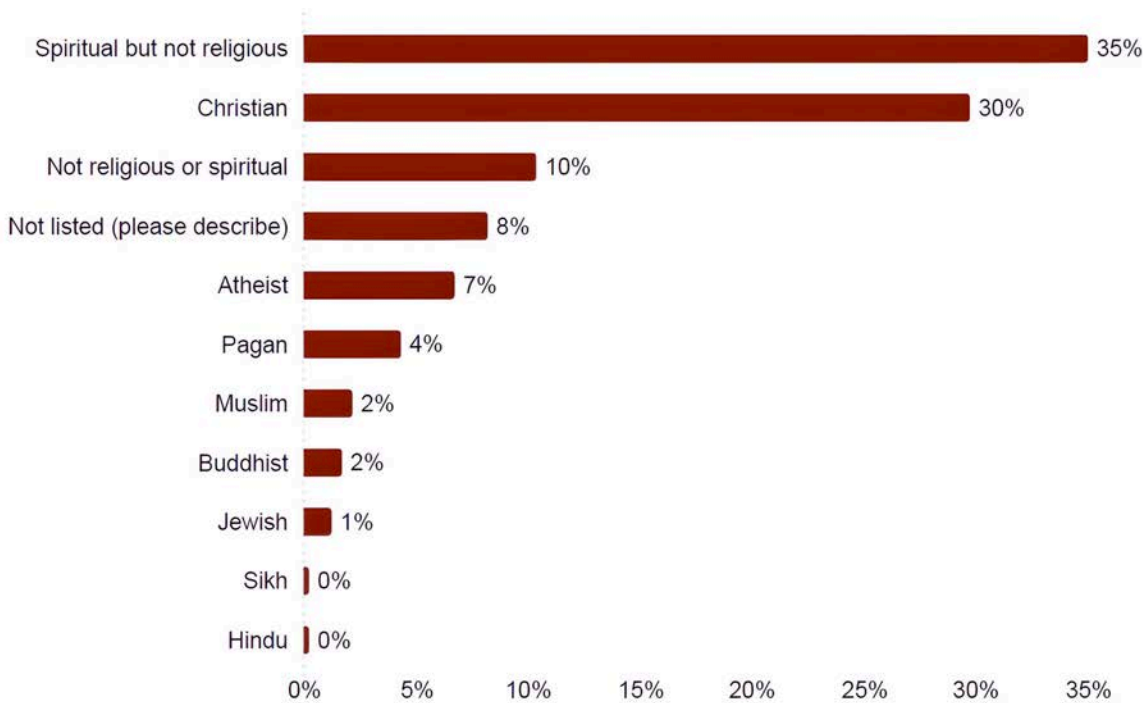
## What is your race and ethnicity? (select all that apply)

371 Responses



## How would you describe your religion and spirituality?

414 Responses

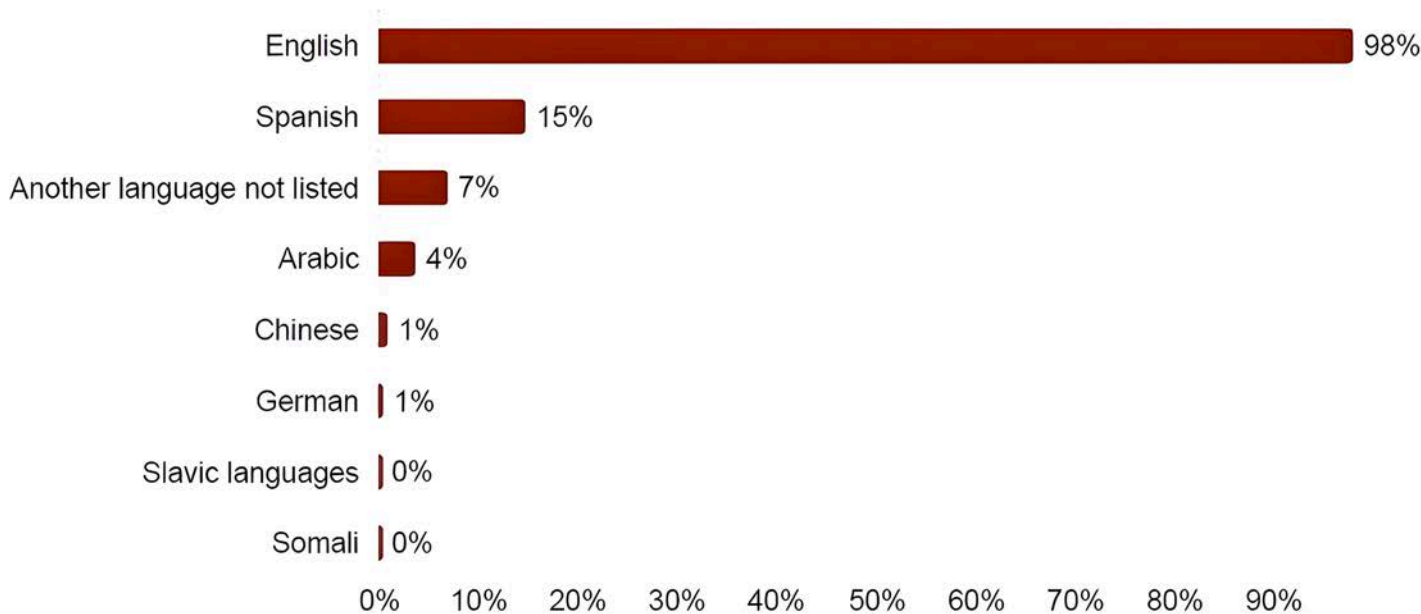




# Community Demographics

What language(s) do you speak at home? (select all that apply)

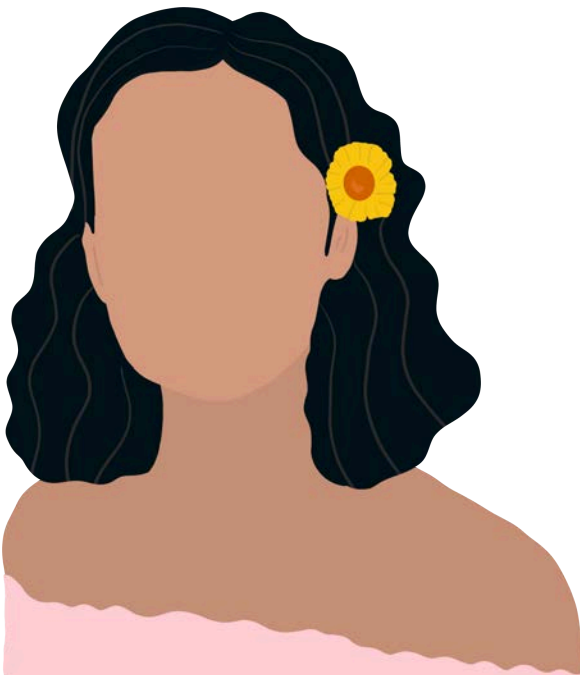
371 Responses



*"We need to get honest about our racial equity or lack thereof. It's always the same few leaders, which is unfair and speaks to a level of comfort among the white community."*

*We need broader representation."*

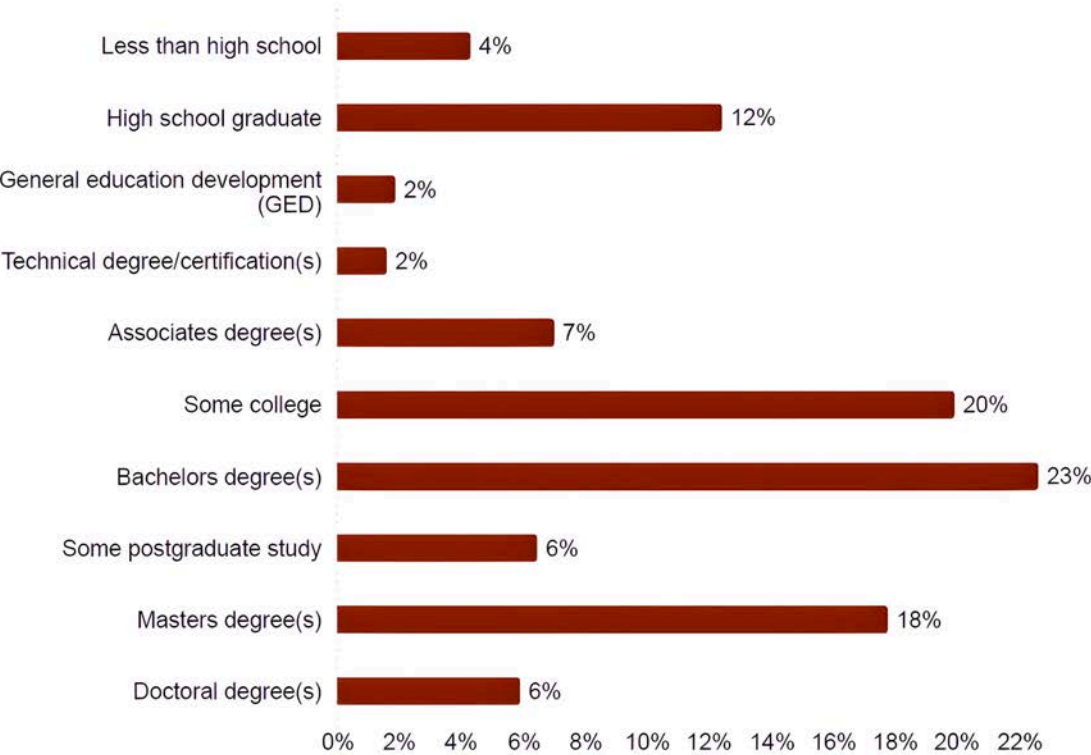
**-Community Stakeholder**



# Community Demographics

## What is the highest level of education you have completed?

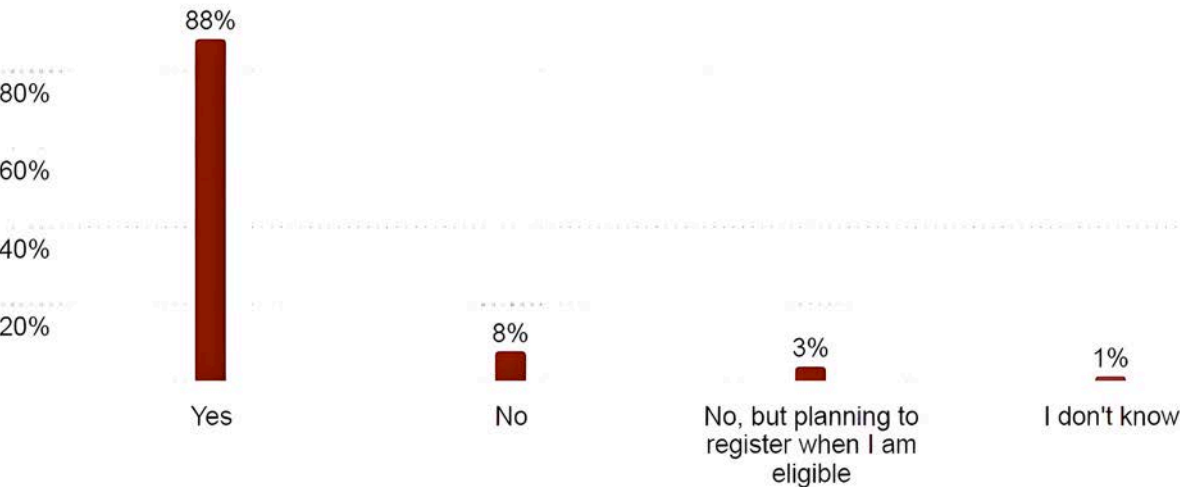
371 Responses



.....

## Are you registered to vote?

358 Responses

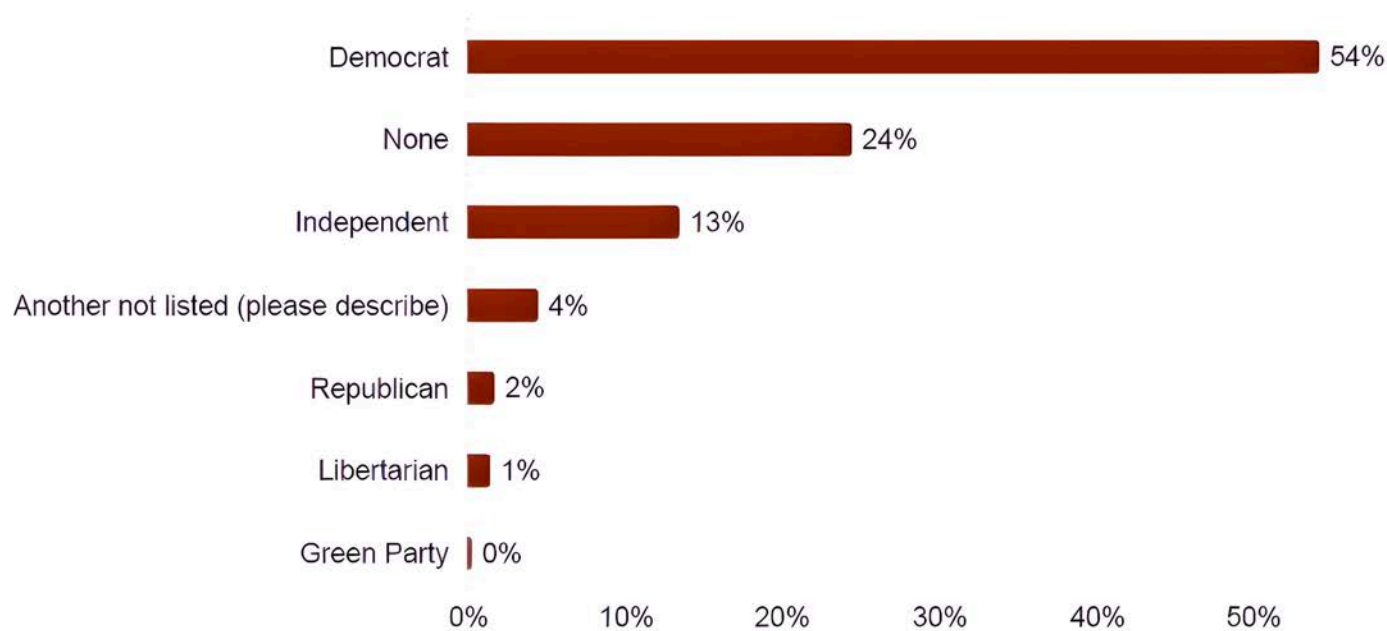




# Community Demographics

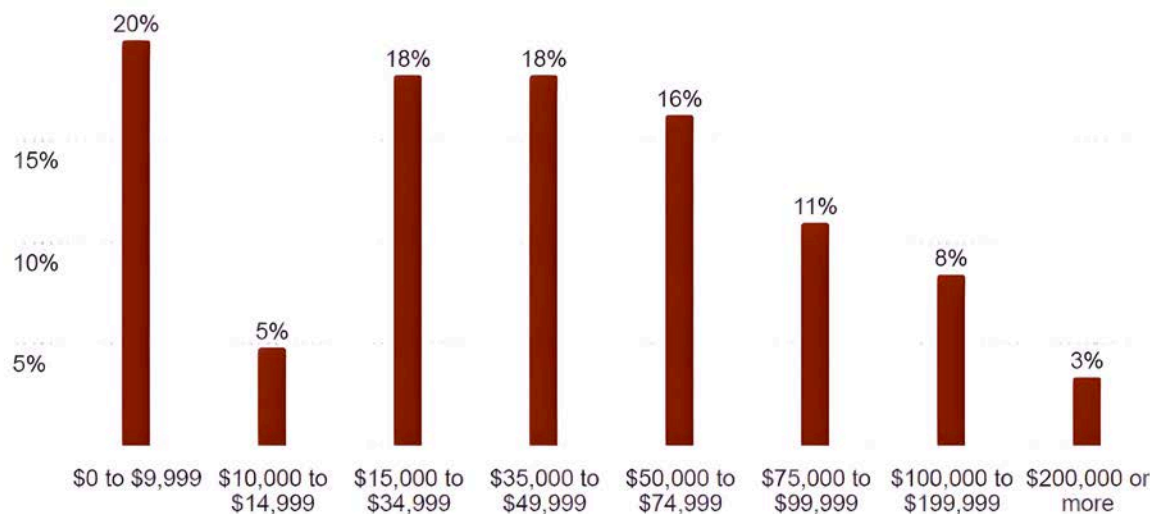
## What is your political affiliation?

356 Responses



## How much do you make in a year from all sources before taxes?

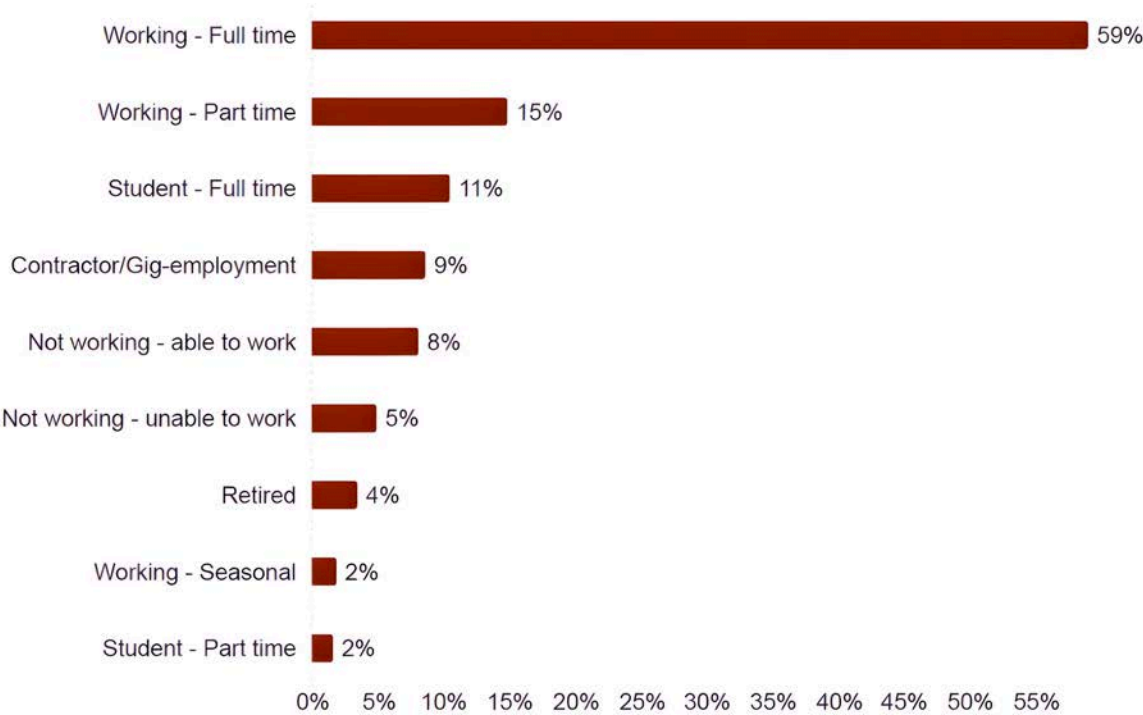
357 Responses



# Community Demographics

## What is your employment status? (select all that apply)

371 Responses



*"Thinking about health beyond just clinical aspects, we focus on social determinants and holistic quality of life.*

*Everything impacts your quality of life, and our work at the center reflects this understanding."*

**- Community Stakeholder**

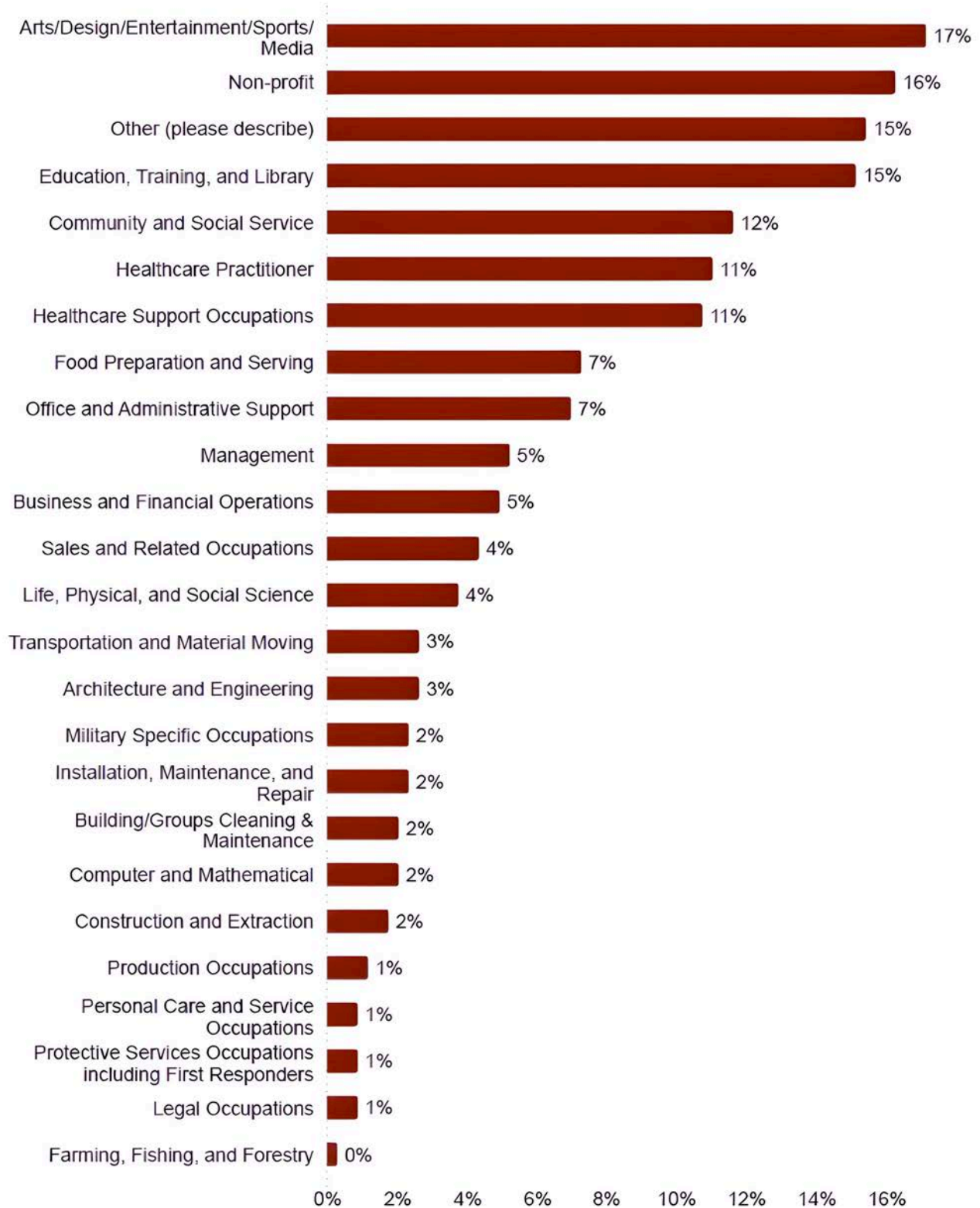




# Community Demographics

## What is your occupation? (select all that apply)

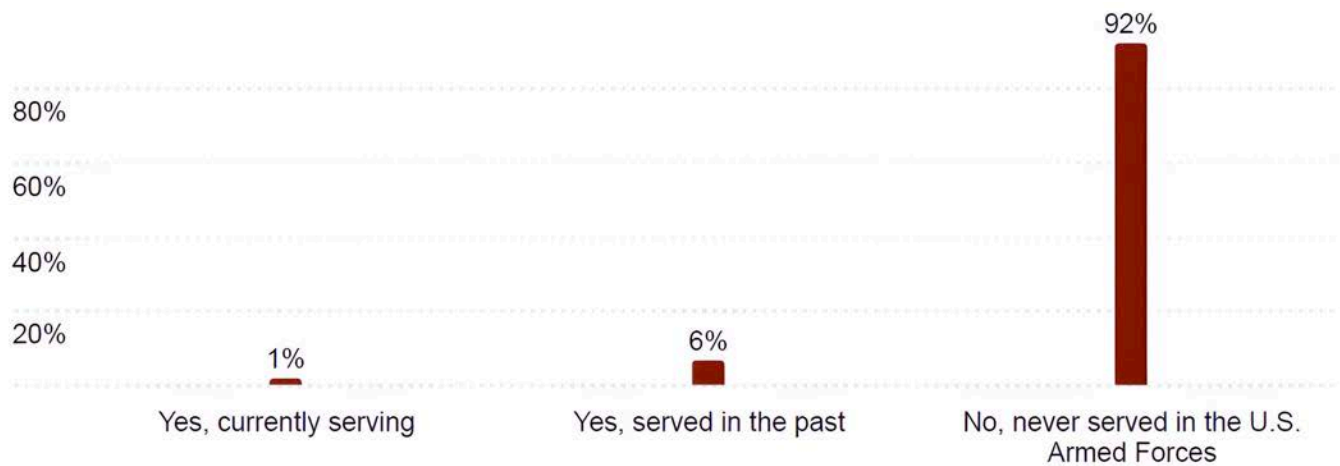
344 Responses



# Community Demographics

## Have you ever served in the U.S. Armed Forces?

359 Responses

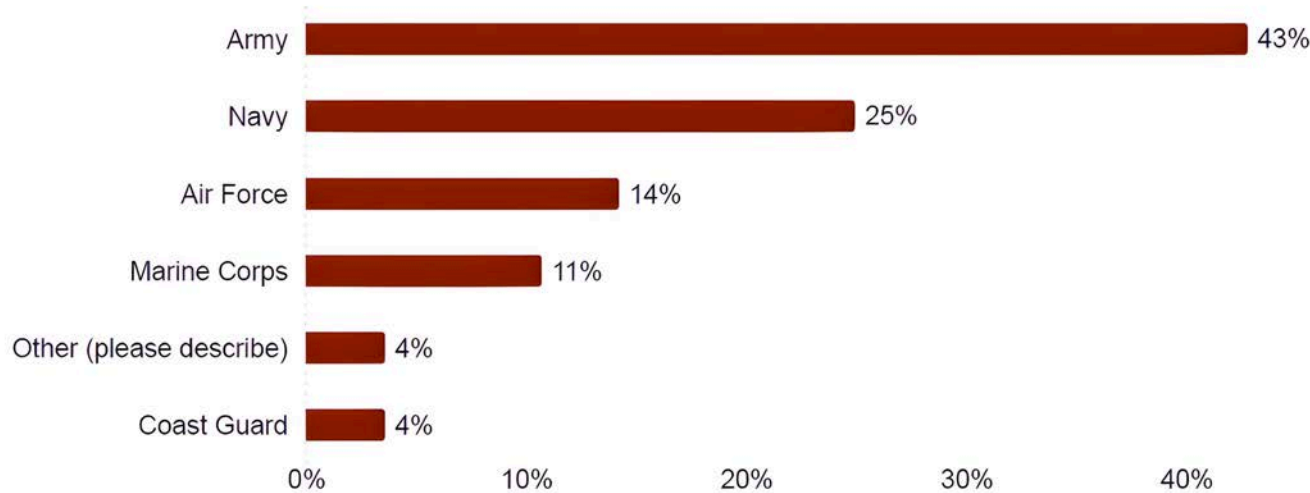


.....

## In what branch or branches did you or do you serve on active duty? (select all that apply)

Only respondents indicating “yes, currently serving” or “yes, served in the past” to the question “Have you ever served in the U.S. Armed Forces?” were asked this question.

28 Responses

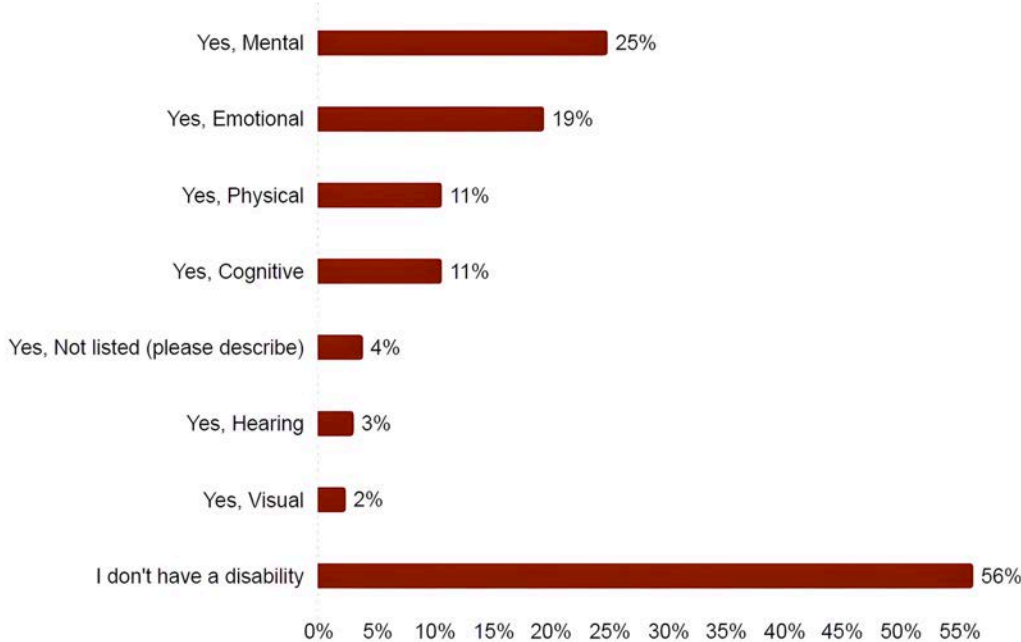




# Community Demographics

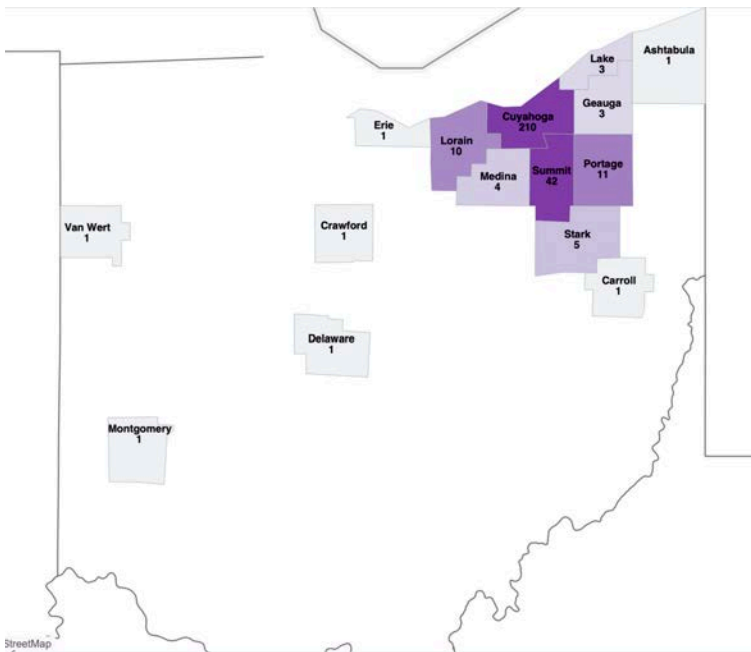
## Do you have any disabilities as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)? (select all that apply)

366 Responses



## What is the zip code where you currentl live or stay most of the time?

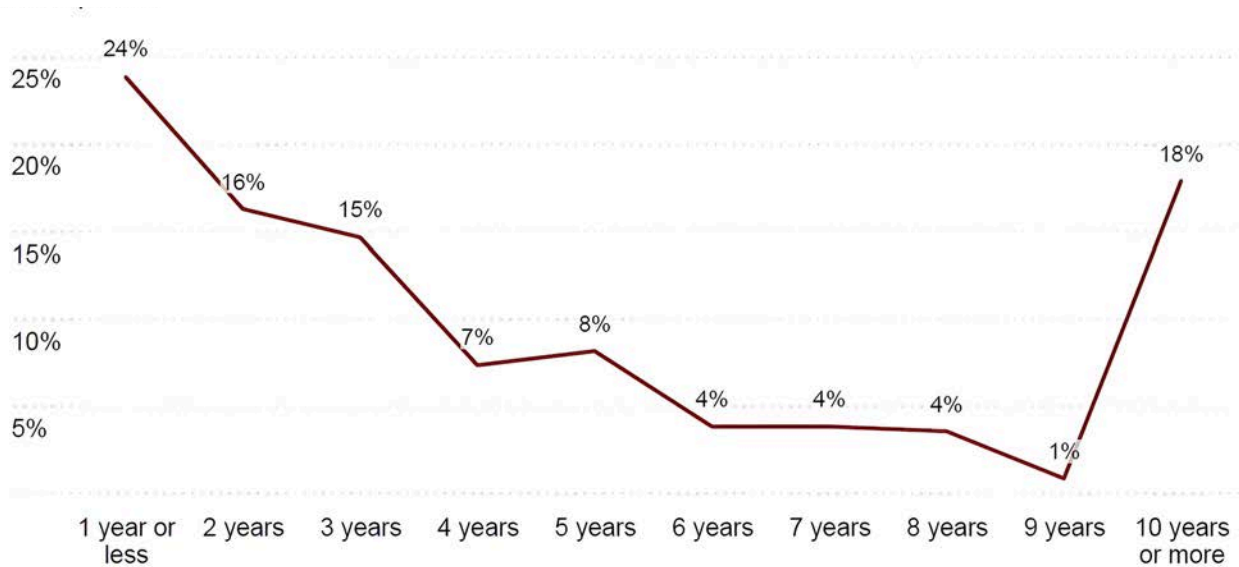
359 Responses



# Community Demographics

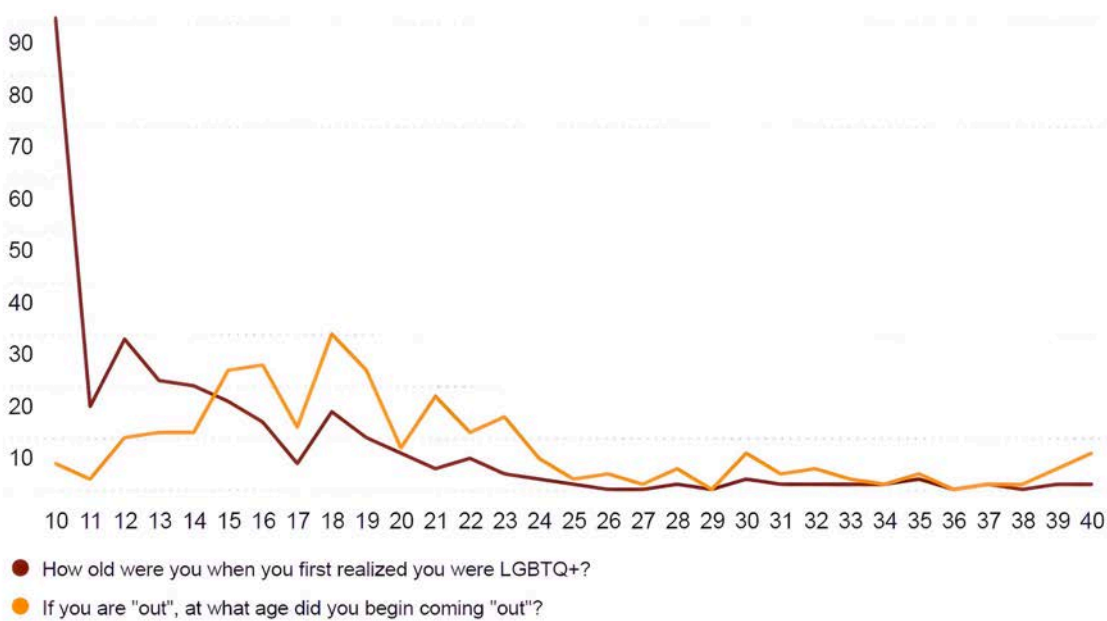
## How many years have you lived there?

369 Responses



## Coming Out

274 Responses

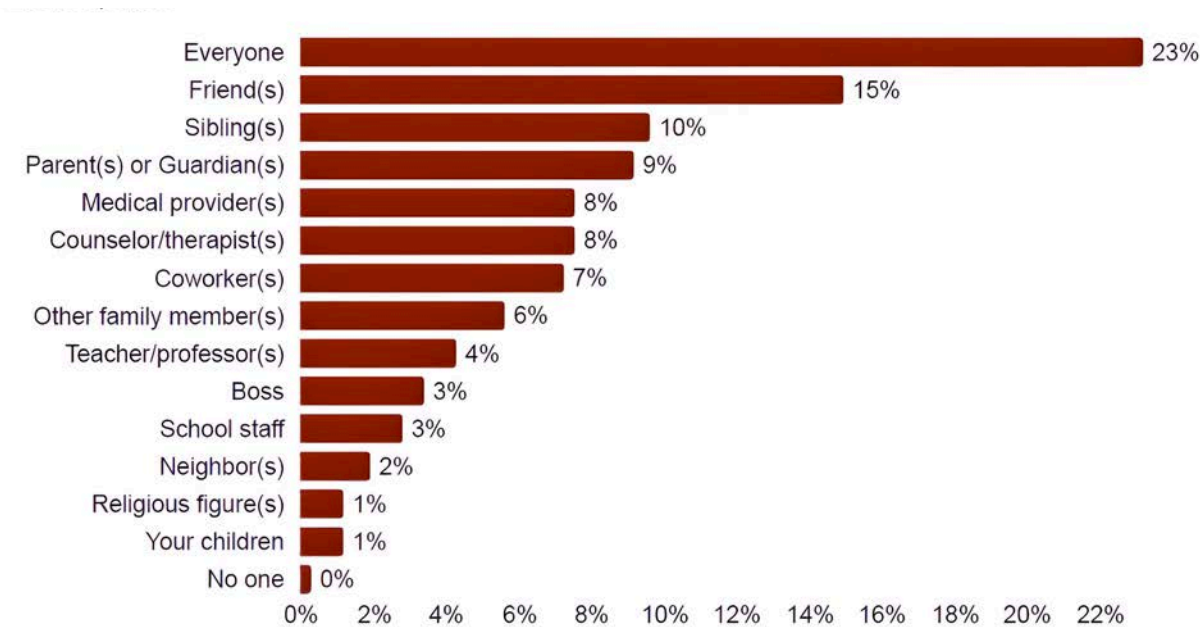




# Community Demographics

Which of the following people are you “out” to? (select all that apply)

273 Responses



*"I've been an out Black lesbian feminist in Cleveland since I was 19, and now I'm 58.*

*Over the years, there's been great interest in understanding our community's strengths and needs, from economic impact to discrimination and inclusion."*

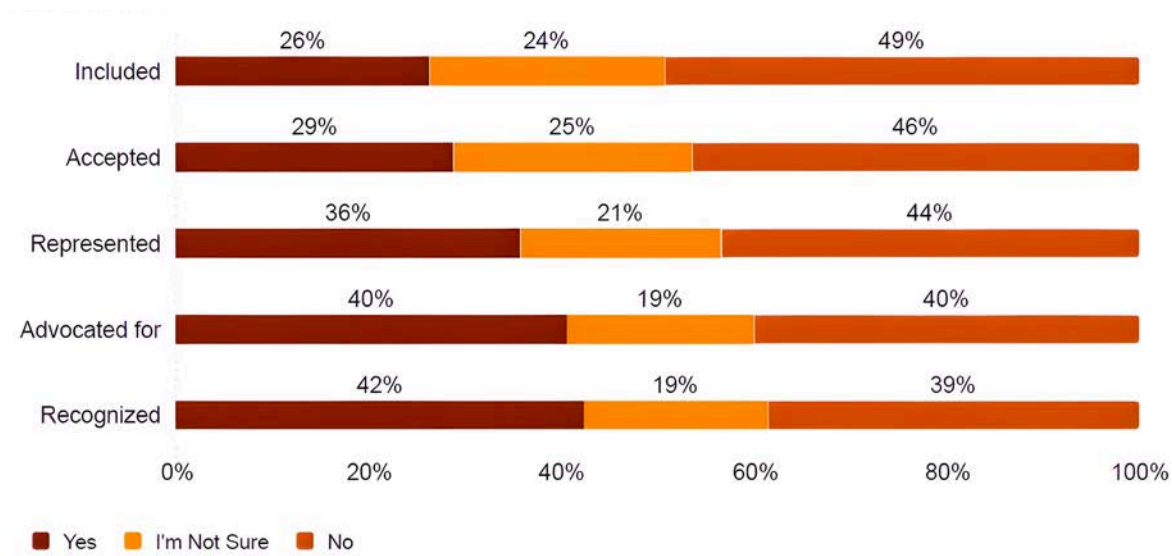
**-Community Stakeholder**



# Community Demographics

In your own experience, do you feel you and your needs are represented, recognized, included, advocated for, and accepted in society?

260 Responses



*"We constantly hear from funders and policymakers that we need data. If you don't exist in the data, you don't exist in the policies or funding decisions."*

*Gathering meaningful data is crucial for visibility and impact."*

**- Community Stakeholder**

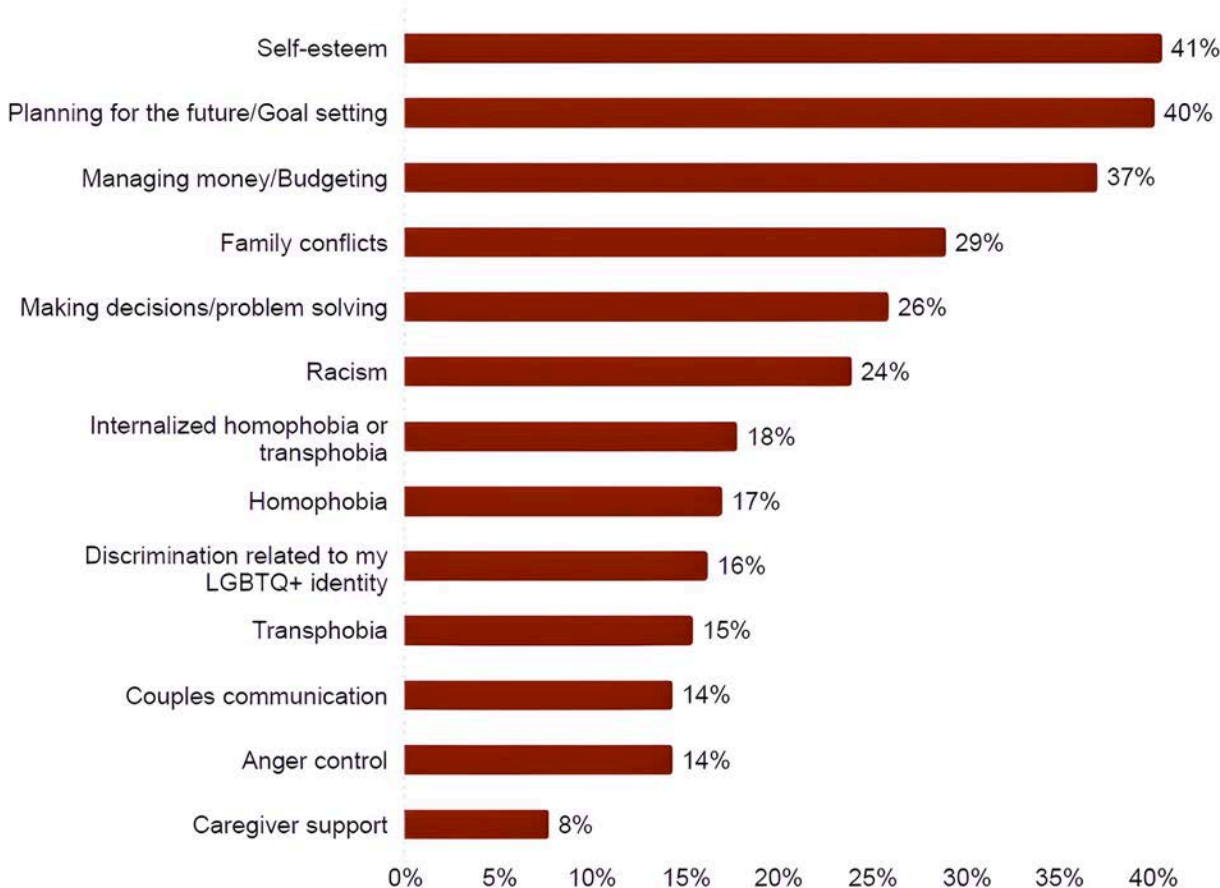




# Community Demographics

Are you experiencing difficulty with any of these things? (select all that apply)

259 Responses



*"The inclusion of Latino queer individuals in Cleveland is still a relatively new practice. This study not only addressed this by creating space but also provided accessible language and resources for a community that has long needed visibility and information.*

*While the work has begun, I am eager to see its continued development and growth in the future."*

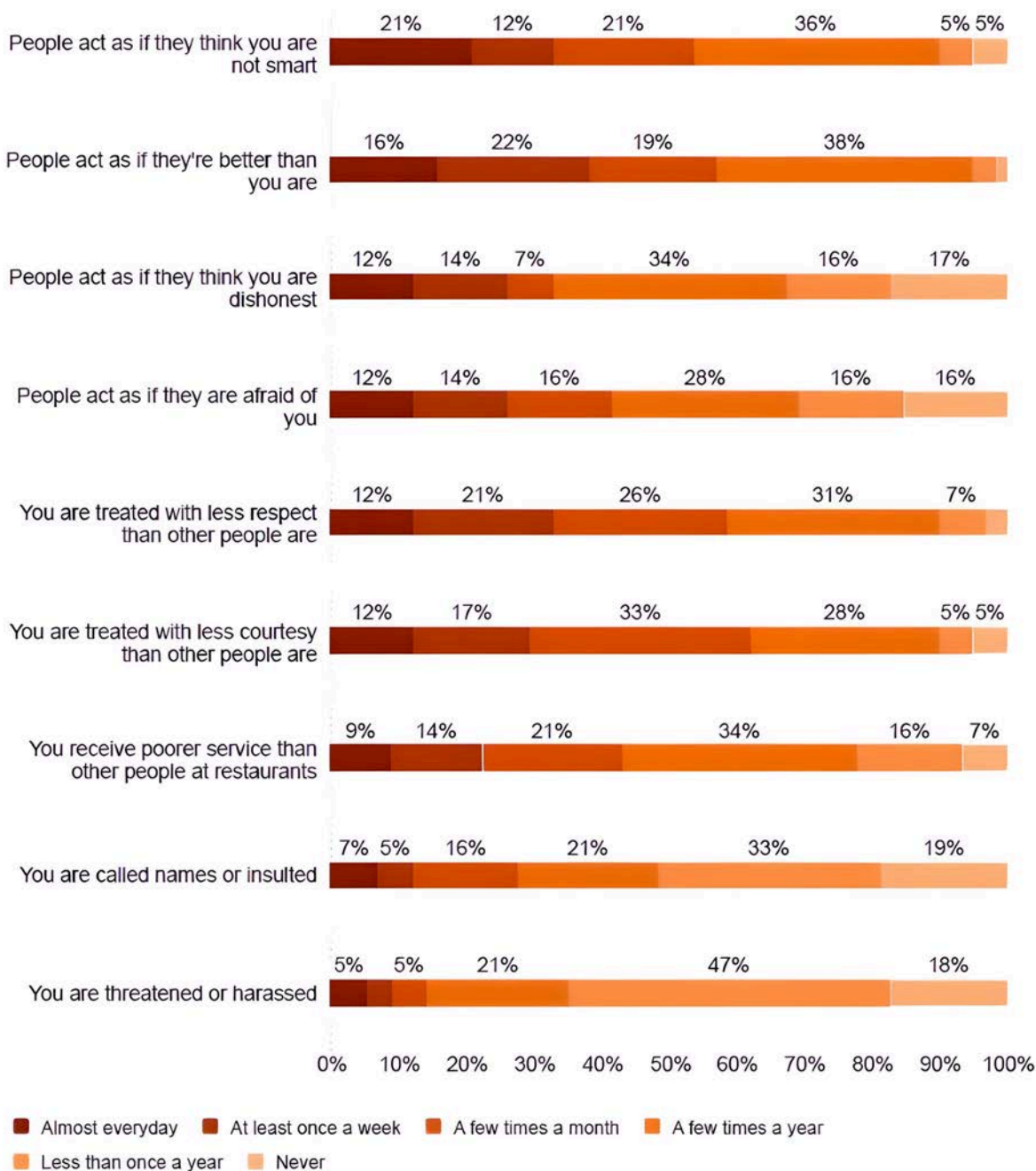
**-Community Stakeholder**

# Community Demographics

## In your day-to-day life, how often do any of the following things happen to you related to your experience of racial discrimination?

Only respondents indicating “Racism” to the question “Are you experiencing difficulty with any of these things?” were asked this question.

58 Responses



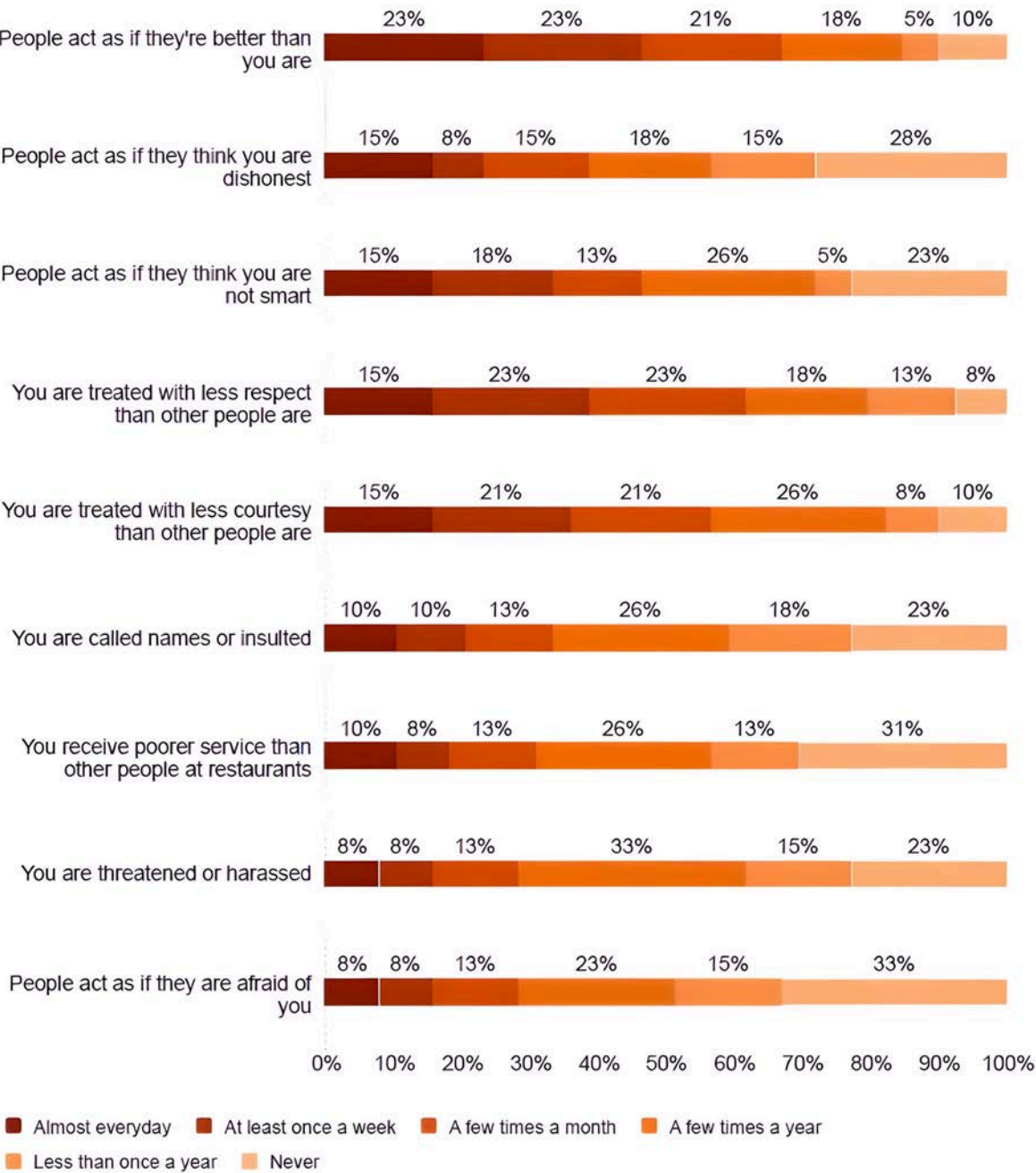


# Community Demographics

## In your day-to-day life, how often do any of the following things happen to you related to your experience of LGBTQ+ discrimination?

Only respondents indicating “Discrimination related to my LGBTQ+ identity” to the question “Are you experiencing difficulty with any of these things?” were asked this question.

39 Responses

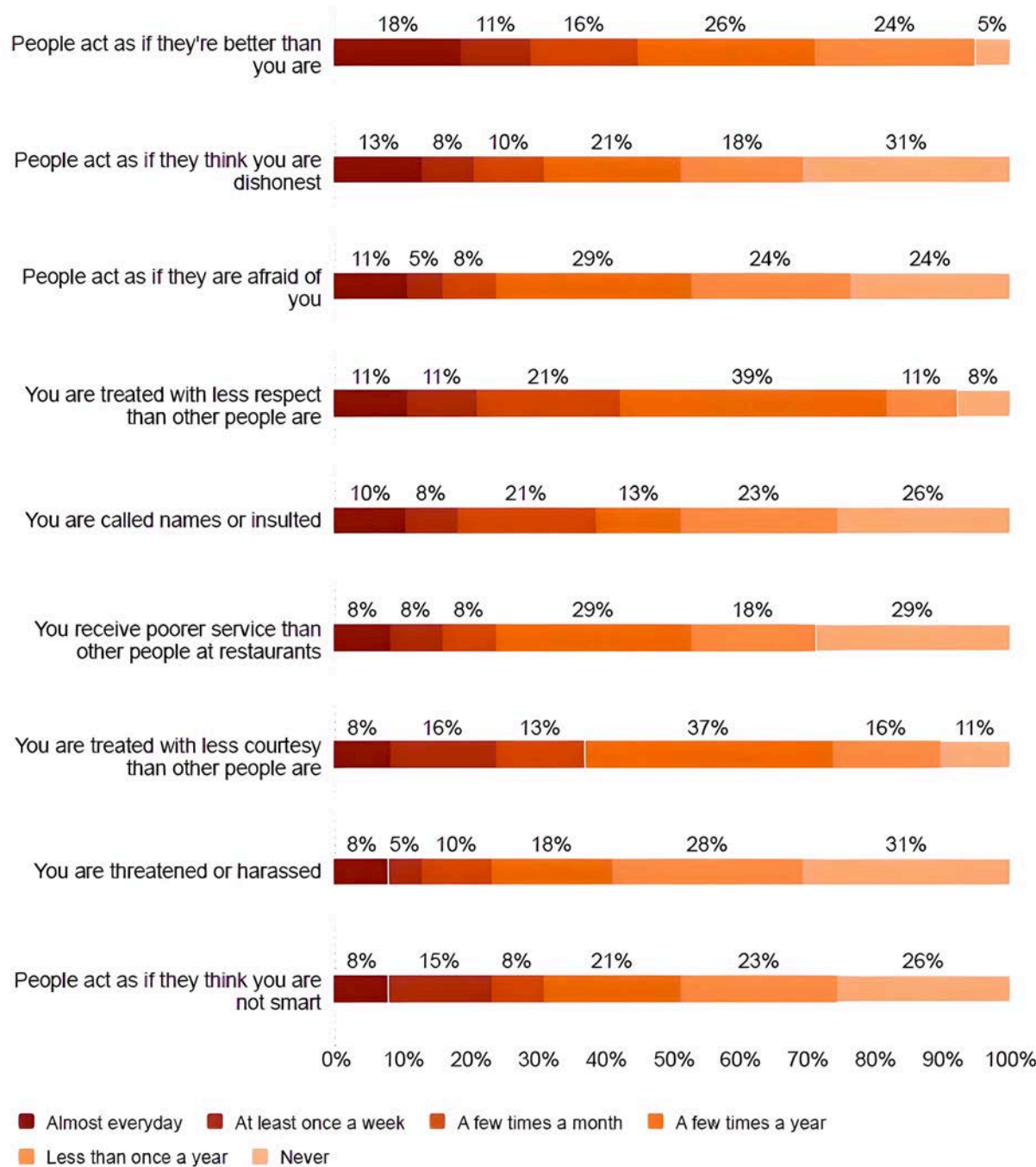


# Community Demographics

## In your day-to-day life, how often do any of the following things happen to you related to your experience of homophobia?

Only respondents indicating “Homophobia” to the question “Are you experiencing difficulty with any of these things?” were asked this question.

39 Responses

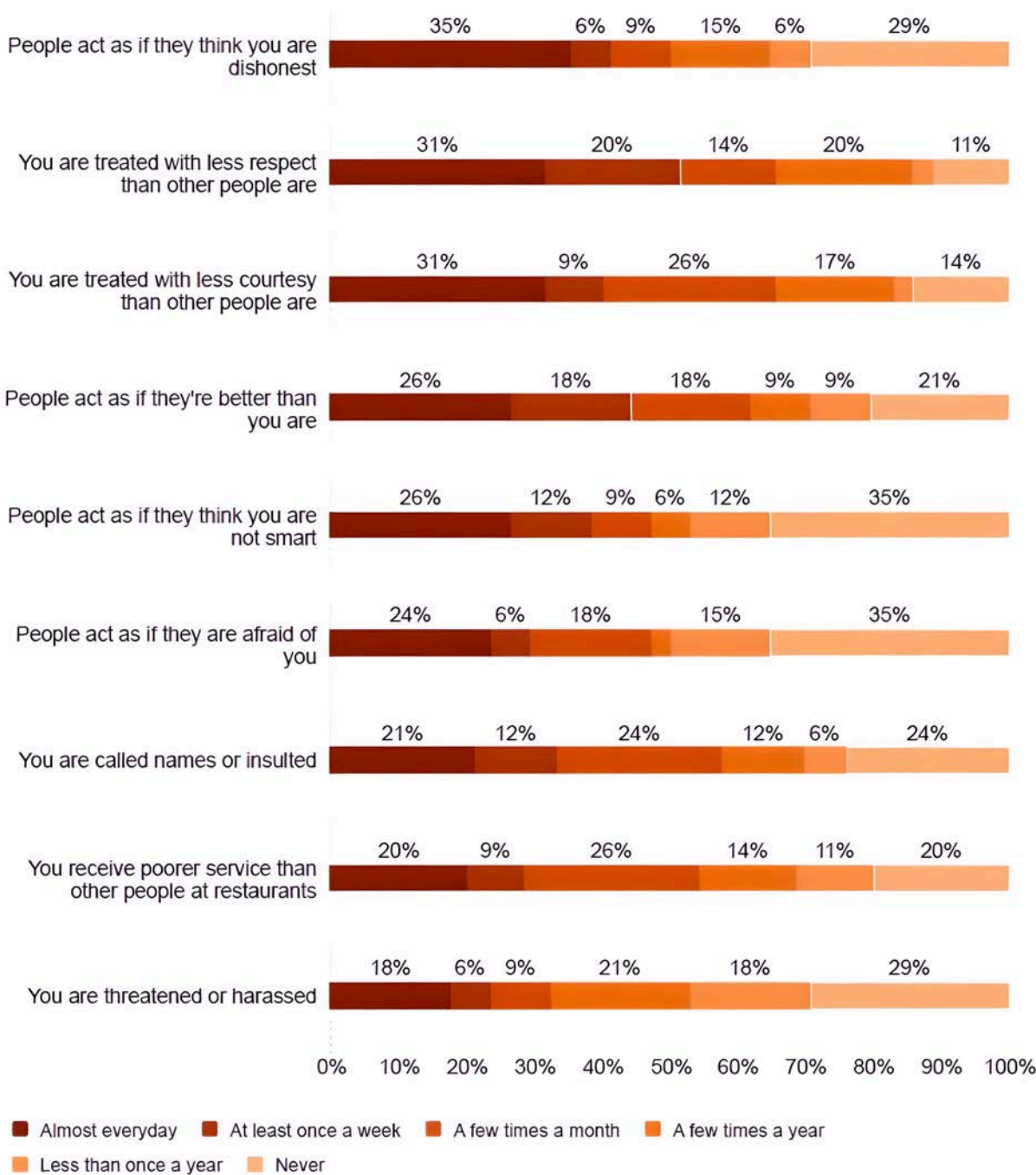


# Community Demographics

## In your day-to-day life, how often do any of the following things happen to you related to your experience of transphobia?

Only respondents indicating “Transphobia” to the question “Are you experiencing difficulty with any of these things?” were asked this question.

35 Responses





# Health and Wellness

For the purpose of this project, we take a holistic approach to health and wellness, encompassing respondents' needs and concerns across all dimensions of well-being, including physical, mental, behavioral, emotional, social, sexual, medical-legal, occupational, and spiritual health, throughout their lifespan. We understand the various factors that impact health and wellness, such as access to quality care and coverage, and acknowledge the importance of health literacy in health issues that disproportionately affect the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.

To achieve health equity, we recognize the need to assess institutional and community barriers that limit healthcare access, such as stigma and discrimination. We advocate for trauma-informed, gender-affirming, and culturally competent care to ensure that 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals have access to competent healthcare providers. We acknowledge the challenges faced by rural LGBTQ+ communities in accessing culturally competent healthcare services, and the need for alternative and community spaces for providing healthcare and prevention services.

We also recognize the importance of continuity of care across institutions serving the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, as well as the needs of caregivers, including healthcare proxies and power of attorney. We acknowledge and welcome the involvement of 2SLGBTQIA+-identifying healthcare providers in providing competent and inclusive care.

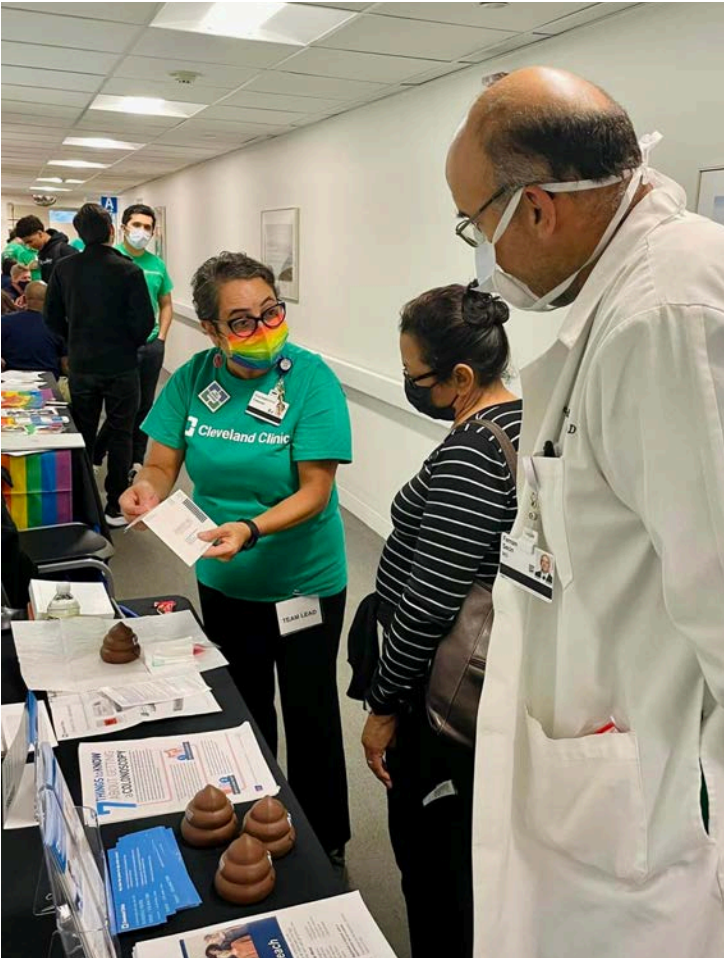
Additionally, we prioritize wellness by providing coping skills specific to the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, and promoting self-advocacy, education, and training.

We acknowledge the value of collecting sexual orientation and gender identity data and implementing appropriate data standards.

.....

*"For Black and Brown communities, health disparities are a major issue. We need more community health workers who understand our specific needs and can navigate the healthcare system for us."*

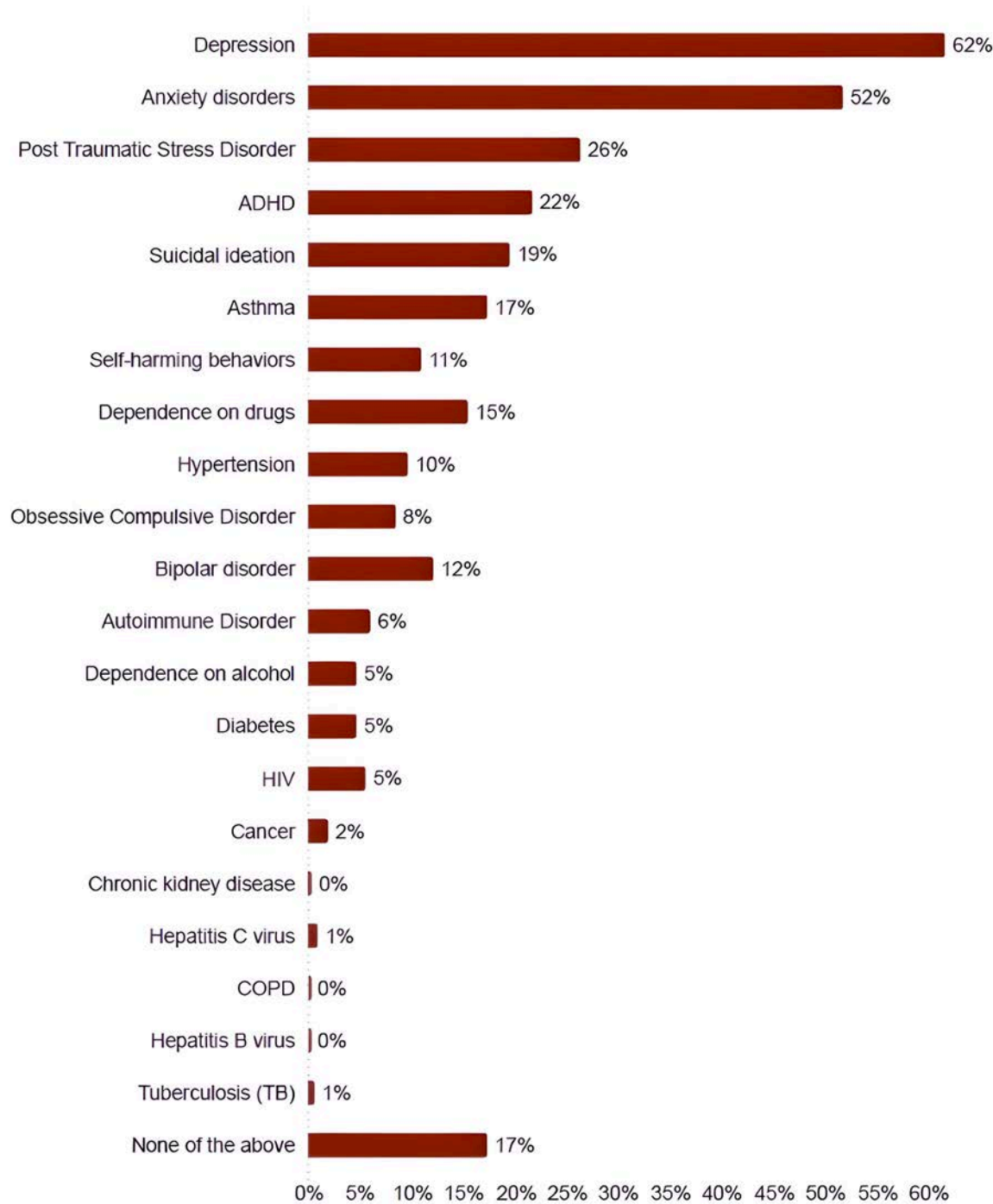
- Community Stakeholder



# Health and Wellness

Have you ever been diagnosed with or experienced any of the following health events in the past five (5) years? (select all that apply)

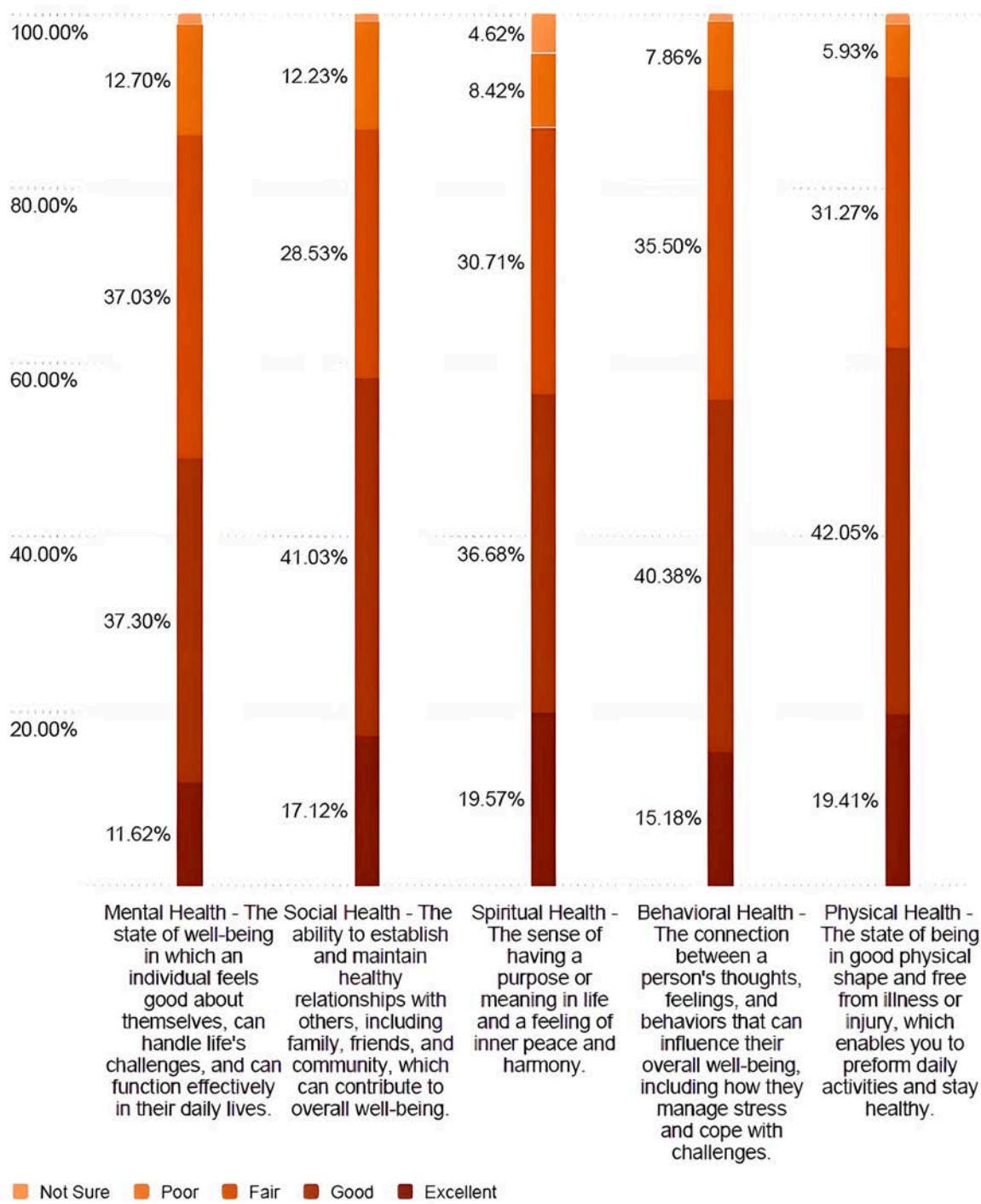
365 Responses



# Health and Wellness

## How would you rate your overall physical, mental, behavioral, spiritual, and social health?

371 Responses

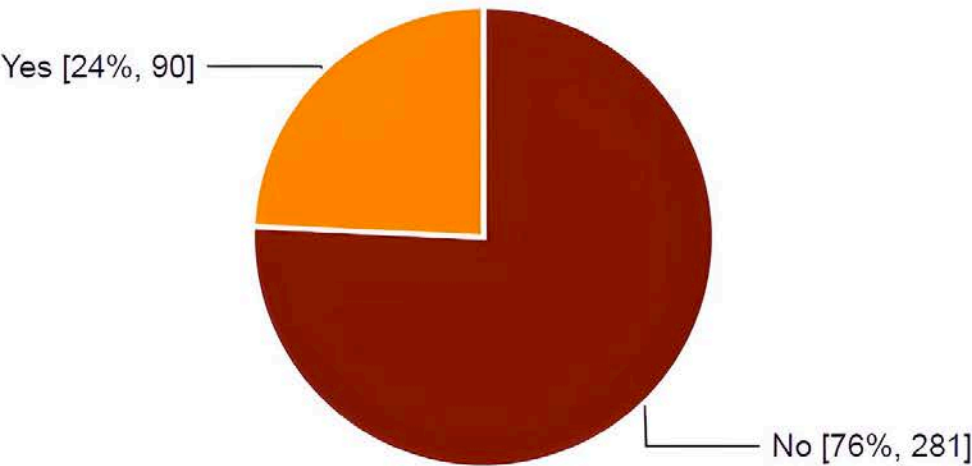




# Health and Wellness

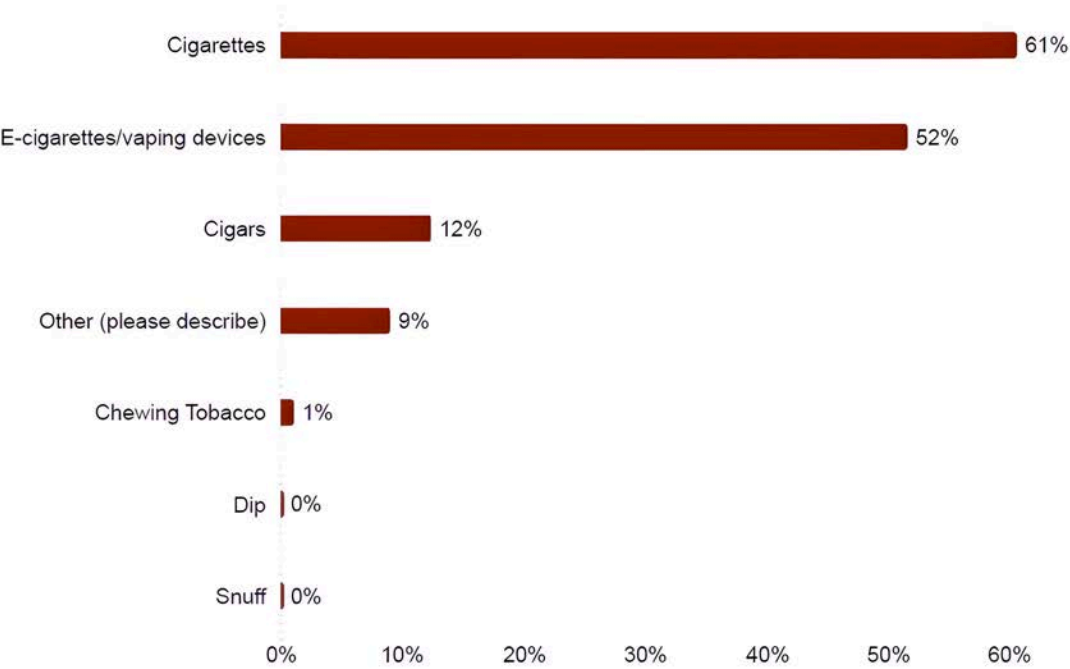
## Do you currently use any tobacco product(s)?

371 Responses



## What kind of tobacco product(s) do you use? (select all that apply)

89 Responses

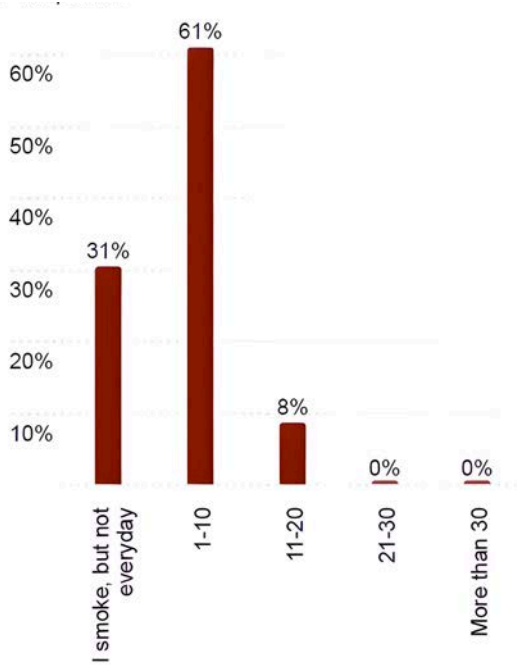


# Health and Wellness

## On average, how many cigarettes/cigars per day do you smoke?

Only respondents indicating “cigarettes” or “cigars” to the question “What kind of tobacco product(s) do you use?” were asked this question.

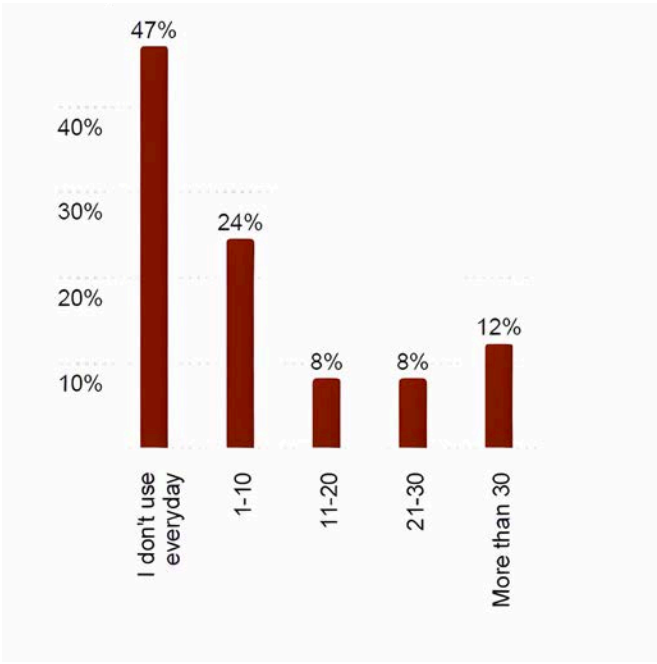
59 Responses



## If you use a form of tobacco other than cigarettes or cigars,

Only respondents indicating “cigarettes” or “cigars” to the question “What kind of tobacco product(s) do you use?” were asked this question.

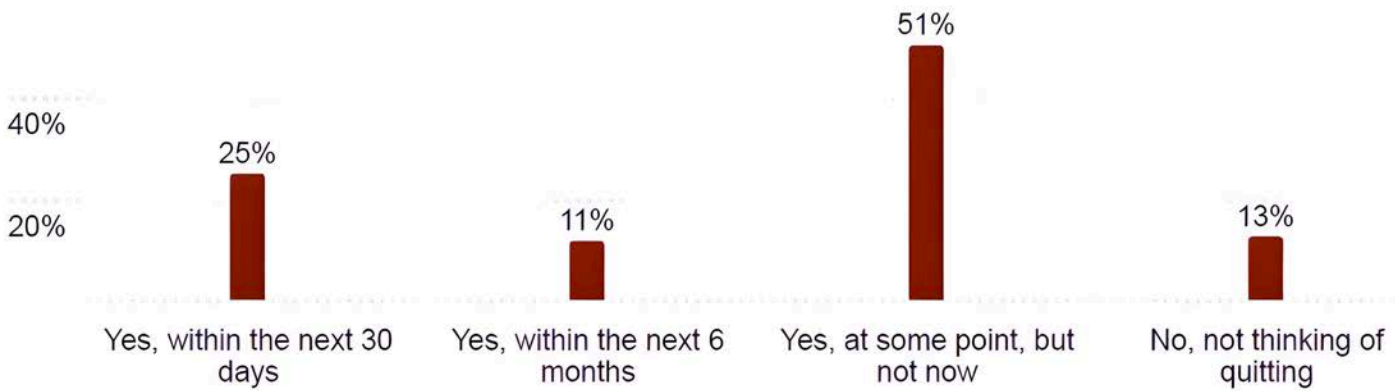
49 Responses



## Are you seriously considering quitting smoking/using tobacco product(s)?

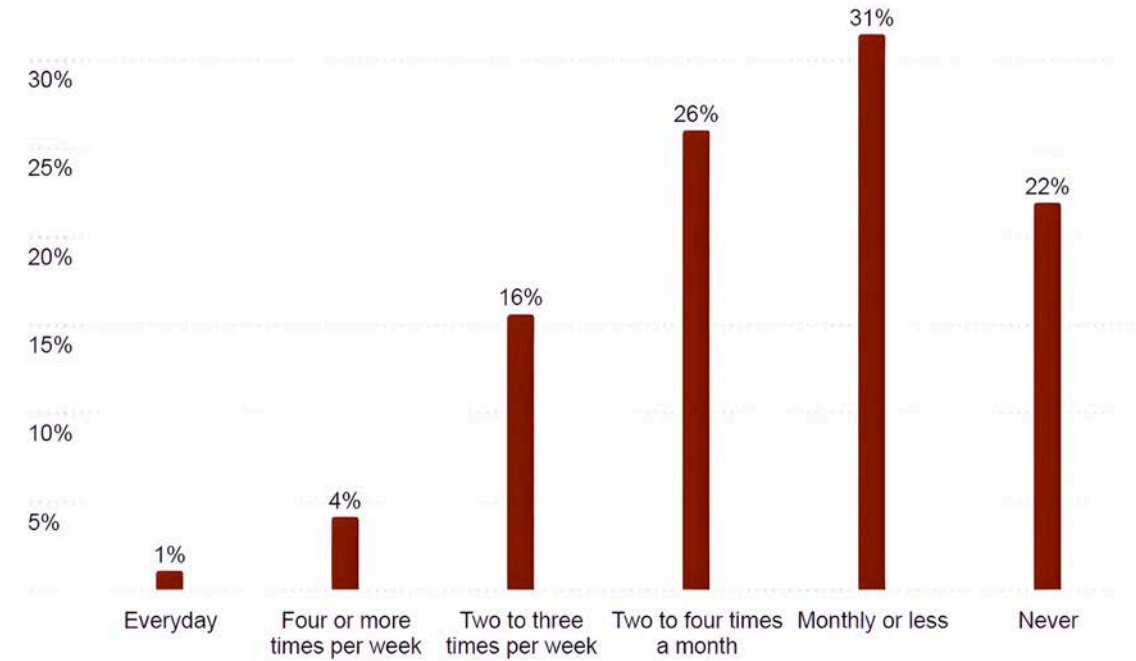
Only respondents indicating “yes” to the question “Do you currently use any tobacco products ?” were asked this question.

87 Responses



How often do you have a drink containing alcohol?

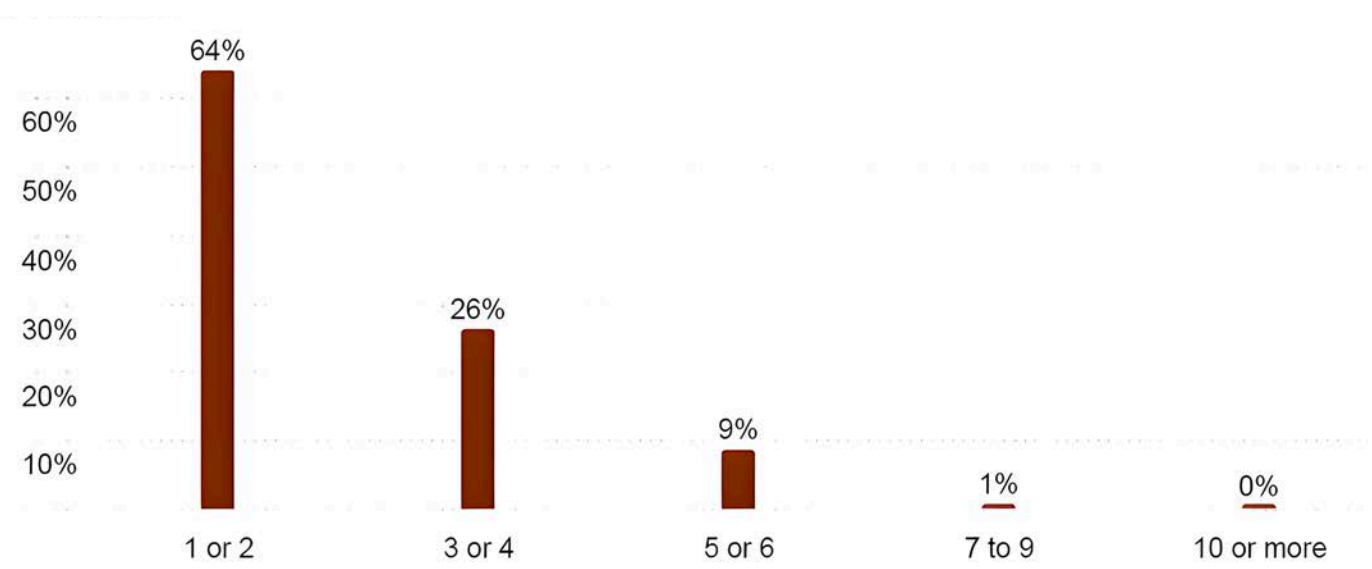
366 Responses



How many drinks containing alcohol do you have on a typical day when you are drinking?

Only respondents who indicated “Everyday”, “Four or more times per week”, “Two to three times per week”, “Two to four times a month” or “Monthly or less to the question “How often do you have a drink containing alcohol?” were asked this question.

278 Responses

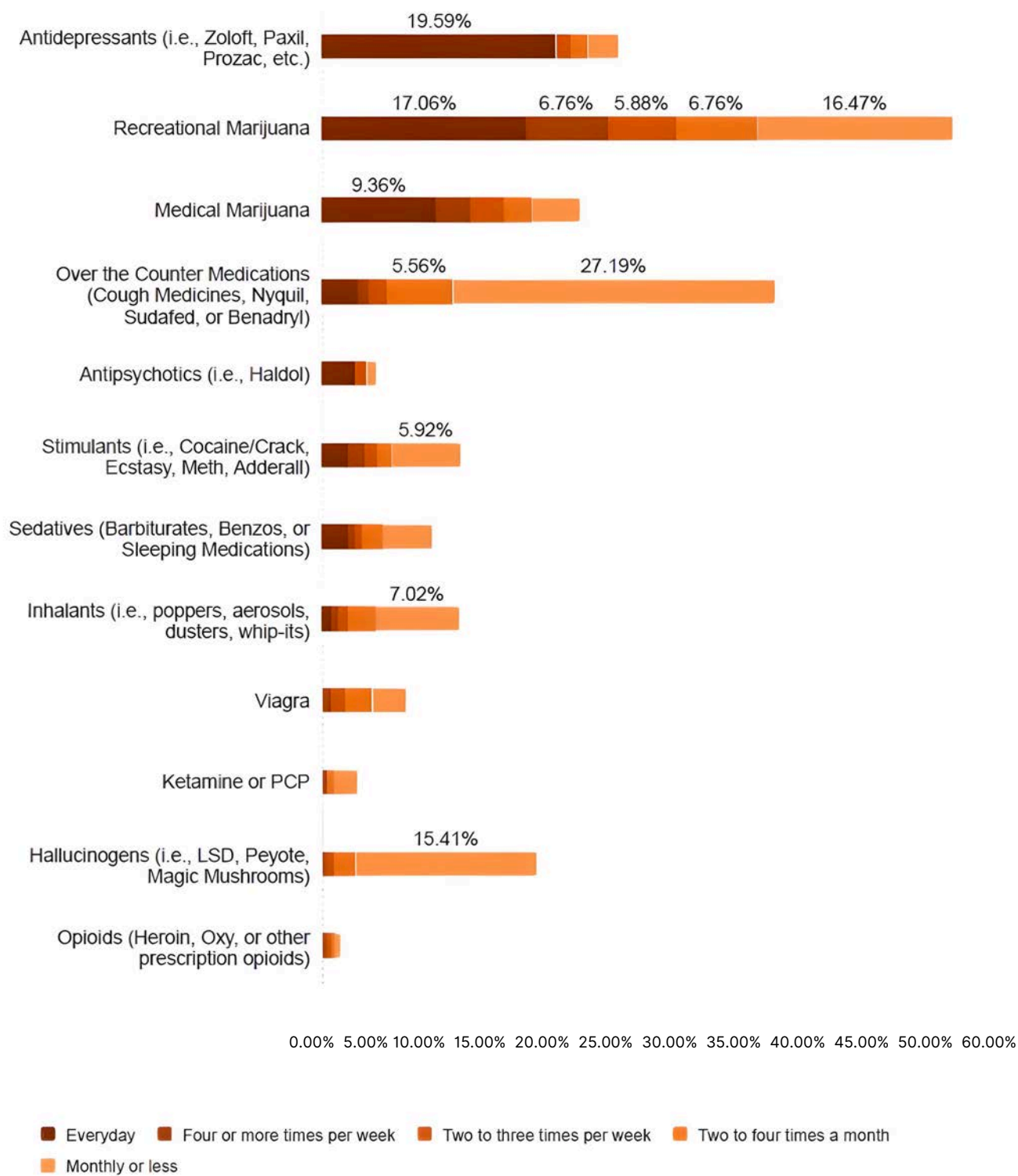




# Health and Wellness

Describe the frequency you use any of the following substances recreationally (i.e., for the experience of feeling and not the intended medical use).

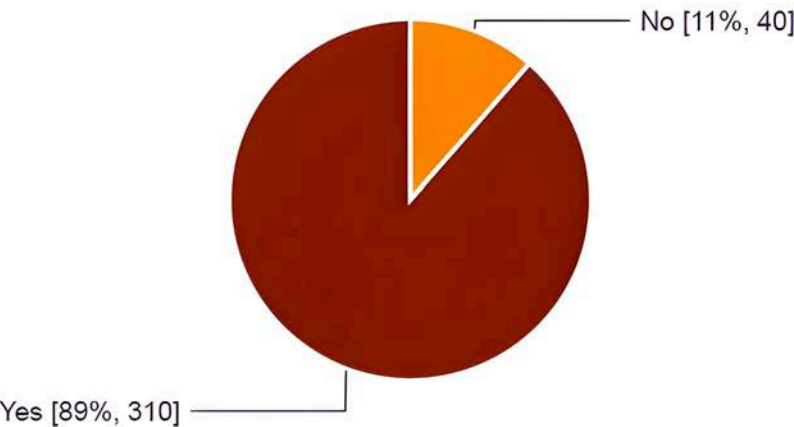
349 Responses



# Health and Wellness

## Do you currently have health insurance coverage?

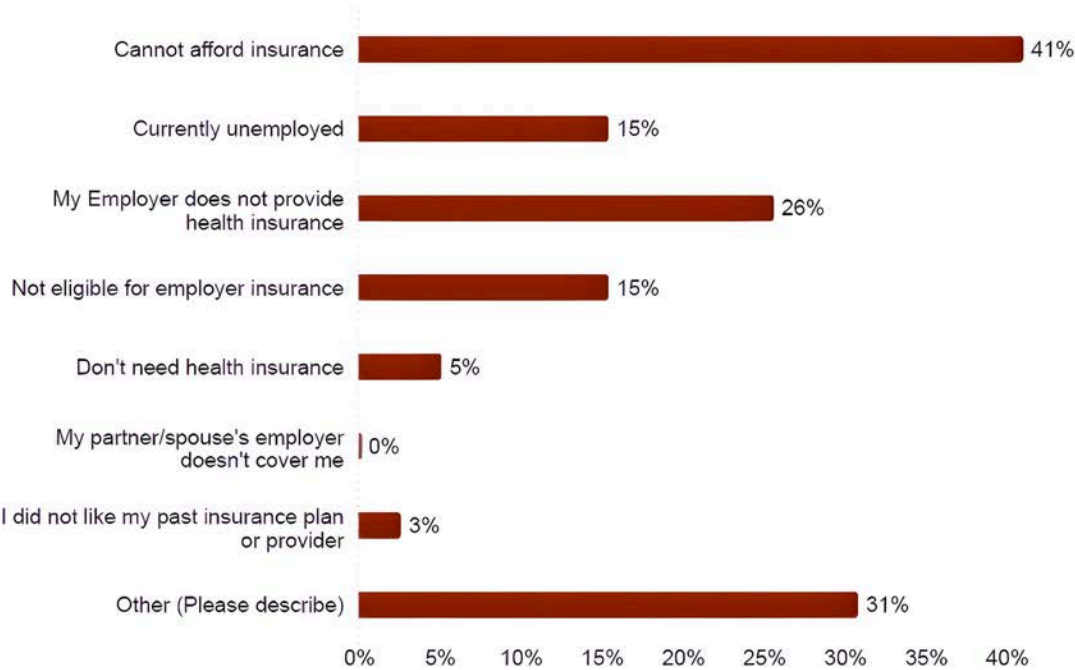
350 Responses



## What are the reason(s) you are currently uninsured? (select all that apply)

Only respondents who indicated “No” to the question “Do you currently have health insurance?” were asked this question.

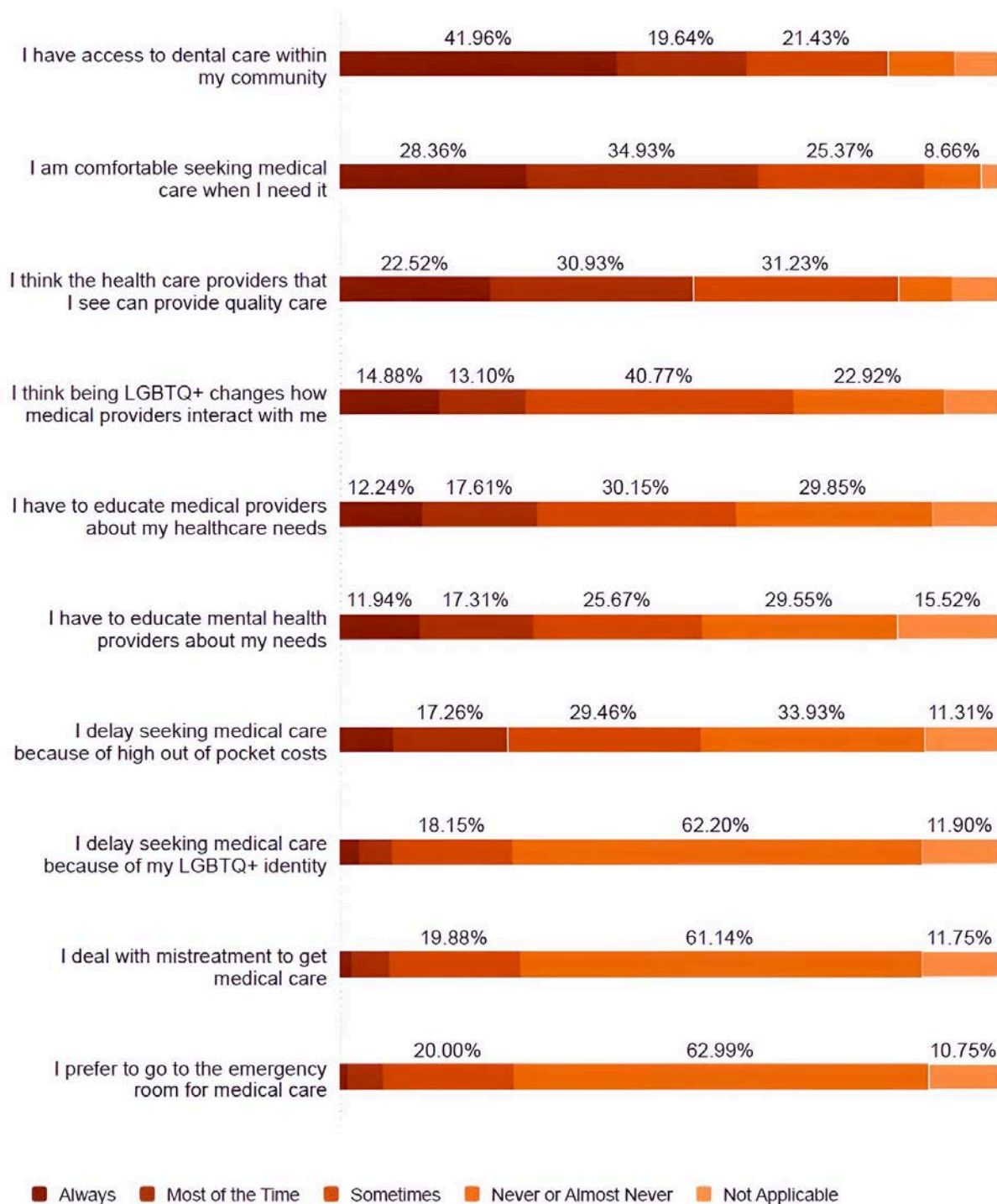
39 Responses



# Health and Wellness

Please tell us more about your typical experience getting healthcare-related services in the past 5 years.

338 Responses

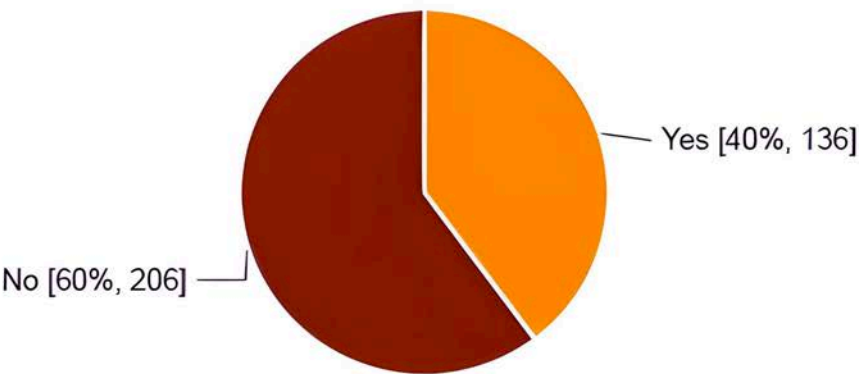




# Health and Wellness

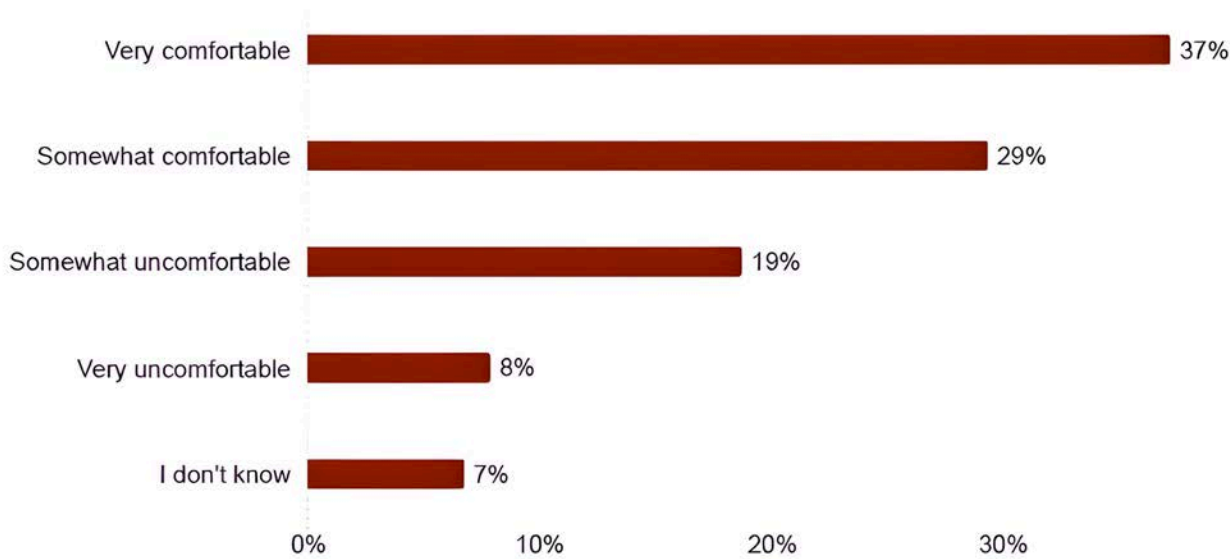
Have you gone to an LGBTQ+ specific doctor's office in the past five (5) years? (i.e.: an LGBTQ+ clinic, gender-affirming clinic, or other LGBTQ+ specialized practice)

342 Responses



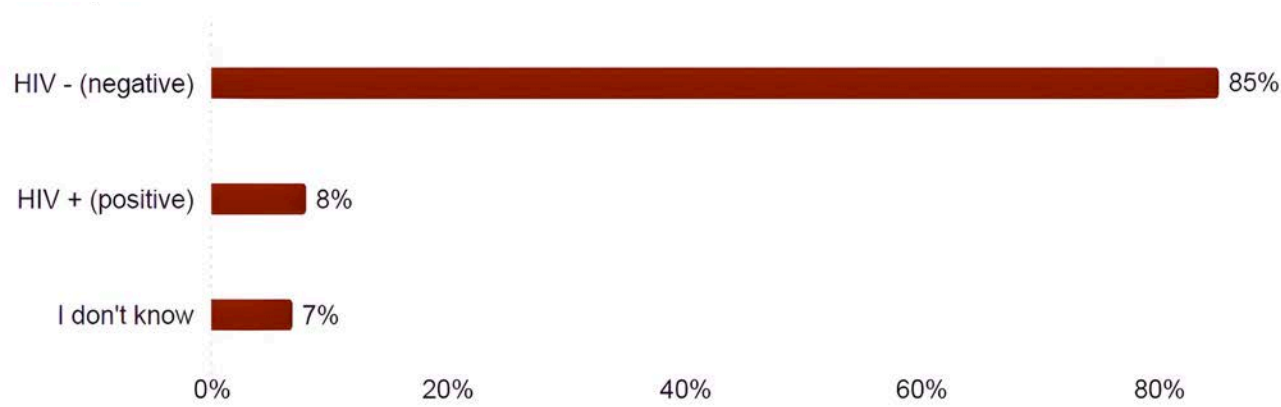
Would you feel comfortable having your health care organization(s) collecting sensitive data such as sexual orientation or gender identity in your patient file?

341 Responses



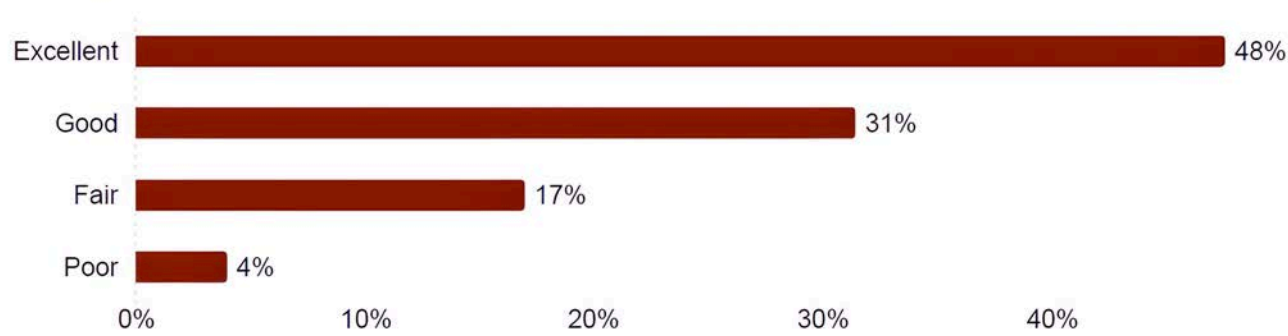
What is your HIV status?

350 Responses



How would you rate your knowledge about HIV and HIV prevention?

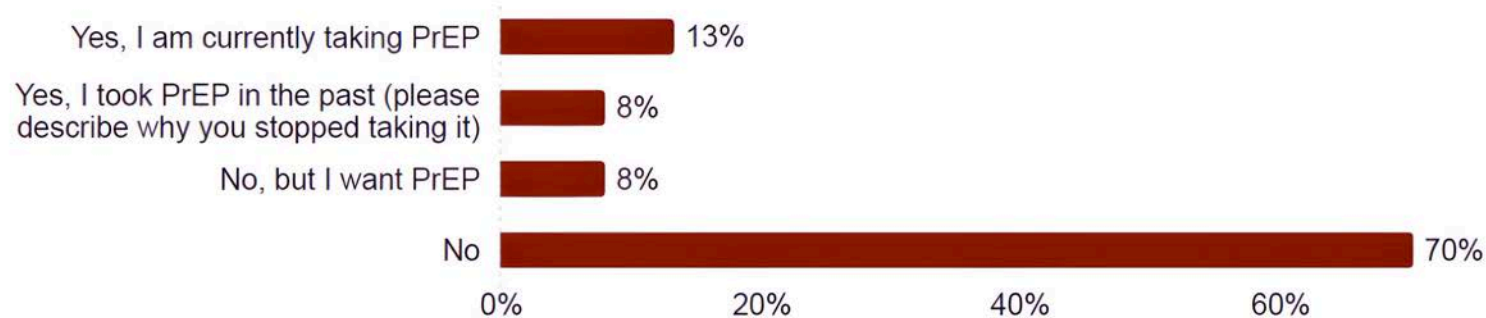
353 Responses



## Have you ever taken pre-exposure prophylaxis (also known as PrEP) for HIV prevention?

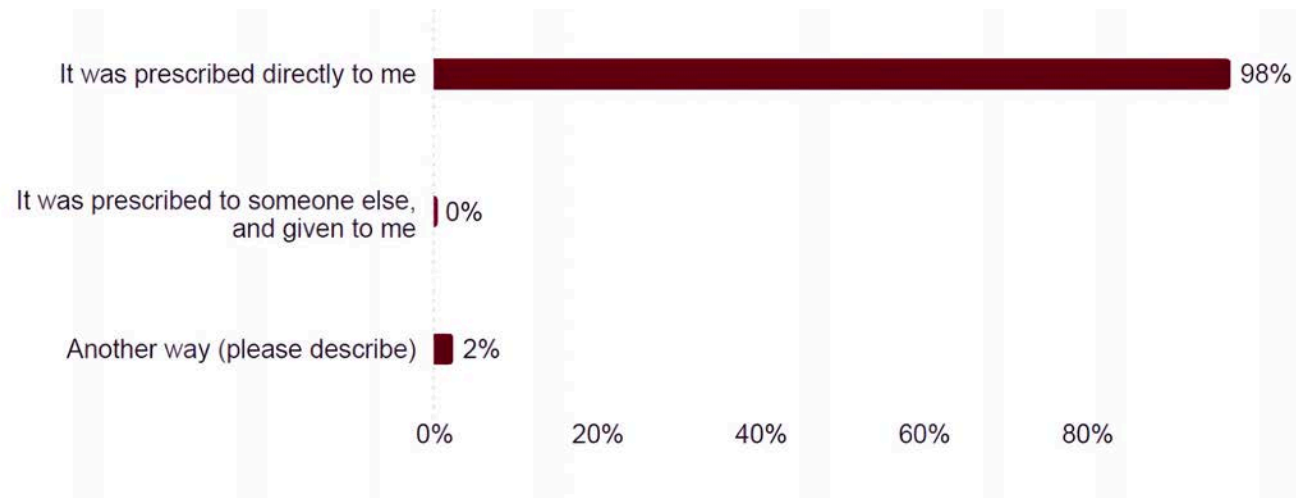
Only respondents who indicated “HIV - (negative)” or “I don’t know” to the question “What is your HIV status?” were asked this question.

321 Responses



## How did you last get your PrEP medication? - Selected Choice

43 Responses

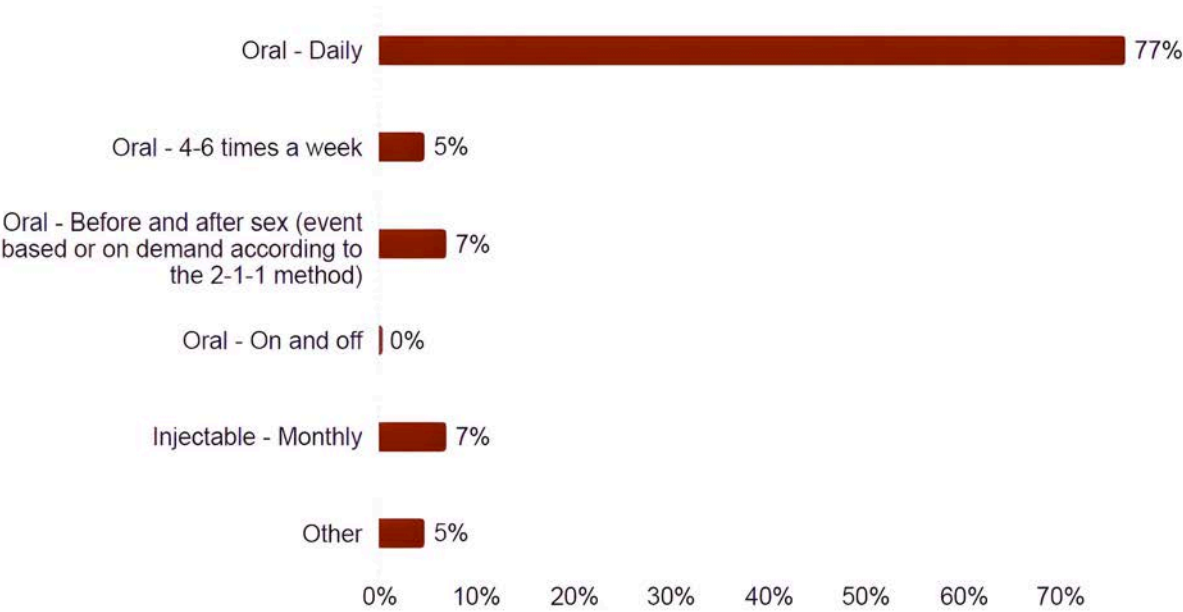




How often do you take your PrEP medication?

Only respondents who indicated “Yes, I am currently taking PrEP” to the question “Have you ever taken pre-exposure prophylaxis (also known as PrEP) for HIV prevention?” were asked this question.

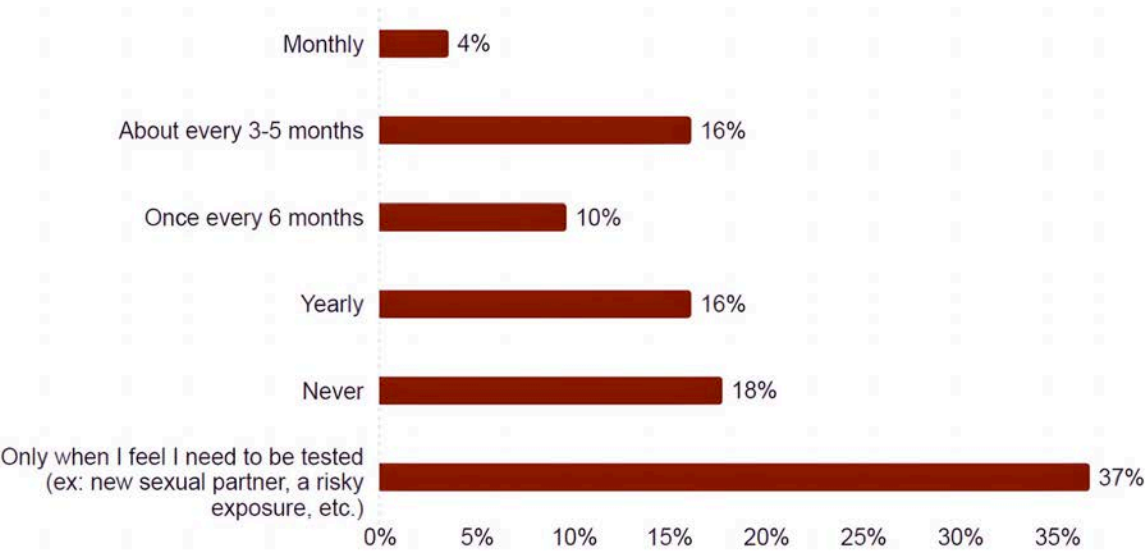
43 Responses



Which of the following best describes how often you get tested for HIV?

Only respondents who indicated “HIV - (negative)” or “I don’t know” to the question “What is your HIV status?” were asked this question.

310 Responses

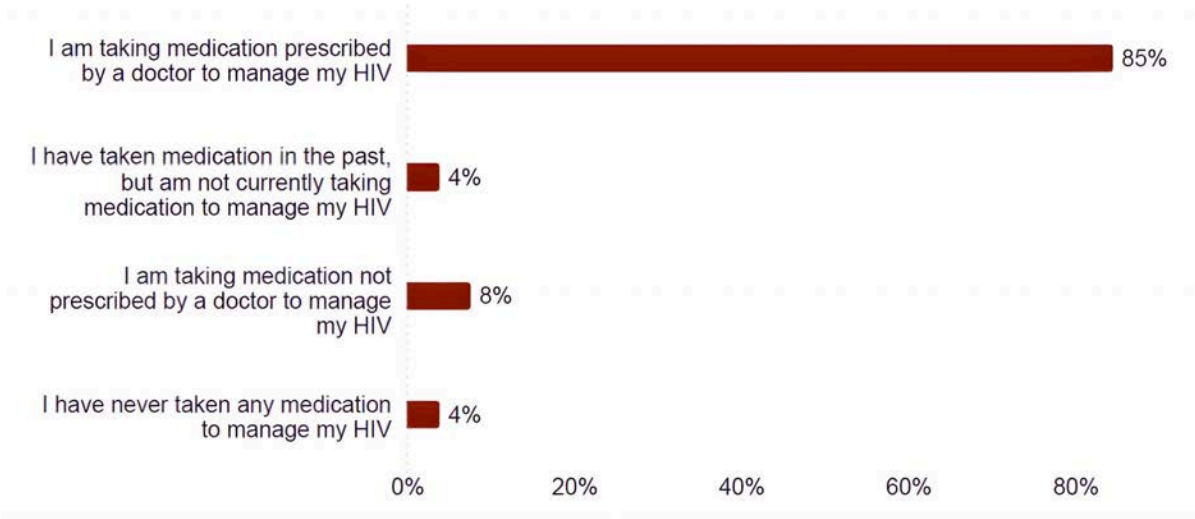


# Health and Wellness

## Choose all options that best fit your approach to your HIV medication(s)? (select all that apply)

Only respondents who indicated “HIV + (positive)” to the question What is your HIV status?” were asked this question.

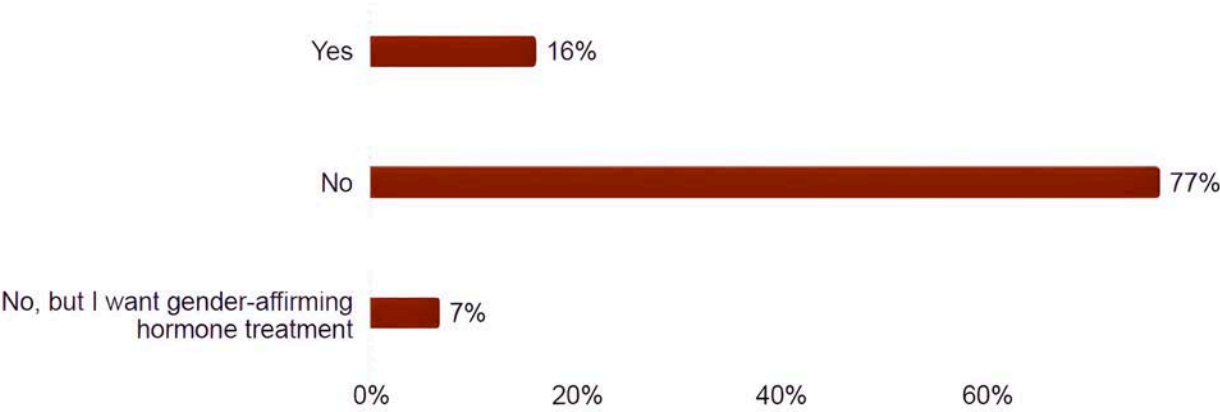
26 Responses



.....

## Are you currently receiving gender-affirming hormone treatment?

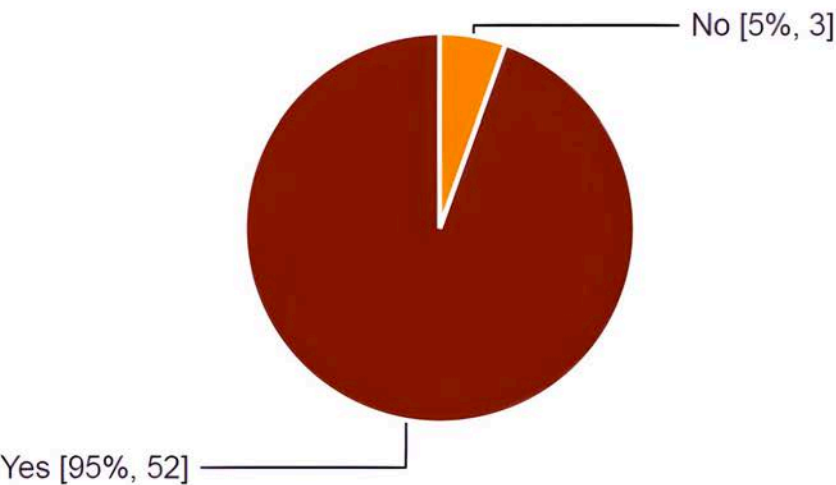
339 Responses



Are you under the supervision of a licensed medical professional for your gender-affirming hormone treatment?

Only respondents who indicated “Yes” to the question “Are you currently receiving gender-affirming hormone treatment?” were asked this question.

55 Responses



*"We need more community health workers who understand and can navigate health and human services for the LGBTQ community.*

*The systemic lack of investment in this area leaves many without essential support."*

**-Community Stakeholder**





Which of the following best describes your gender-affirming hormone treatment access? (select all that apply)

Only respondents who indicated “Yes” to the question “Are you currently receiving gender-affirming hormone treatment?” were asked this question.

54 Responses

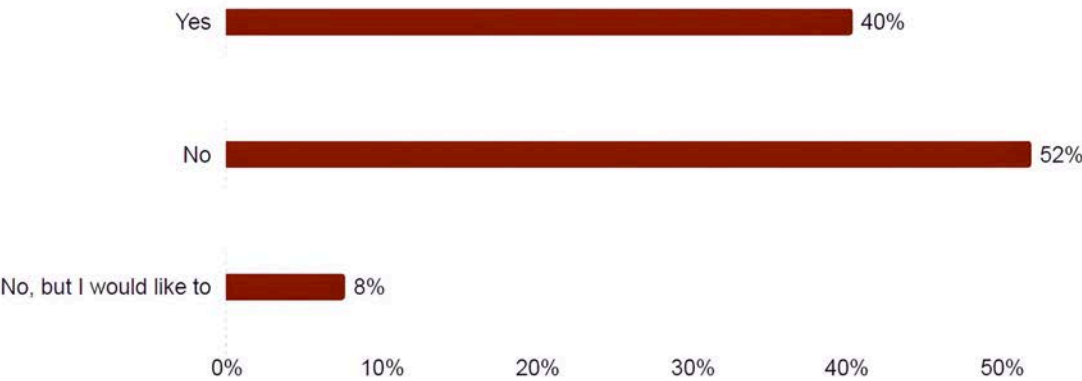


# Health and Wellness

## Do you use telemedicine to access your gender-affirming hormone treatment licensed medical provider?

Only respondents who indicated “Yes” to the question “Are you under the supervision of a licensed medical professional for your gender-affirming hormone treatment?” were asked this question.

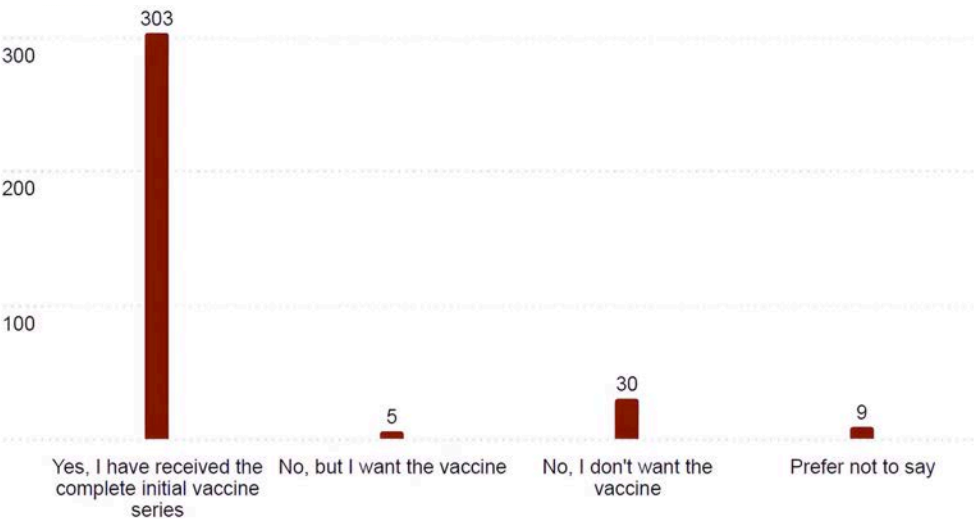
52 Responses



.....

## Have you already completed your primary COVID-19 vaccine series (two doses of Pfizer/Moderna; or one dose of Johnson & Johnson) ?

347 Responses

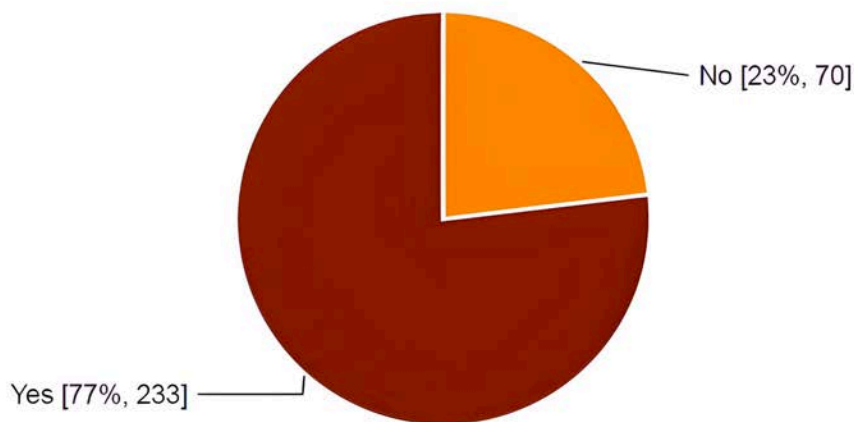


## Health and Wellness

**Did you receive any additional dose(s) of the COVID-19 vaccination? This includes boosters or additional full doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.**

Only respondents who indicated "Yes, I have received the complete initial vaccine series" to the question "Have you already completed your primary COVID-19 vaccine series?" were asked this question.

303 Responses



*"For Black and Brown communities, health disparities are a major issue.*

*We need more community health workers who understand our specific needs and can navigate the healthcare system for us."*

**- Community Stakeholder**

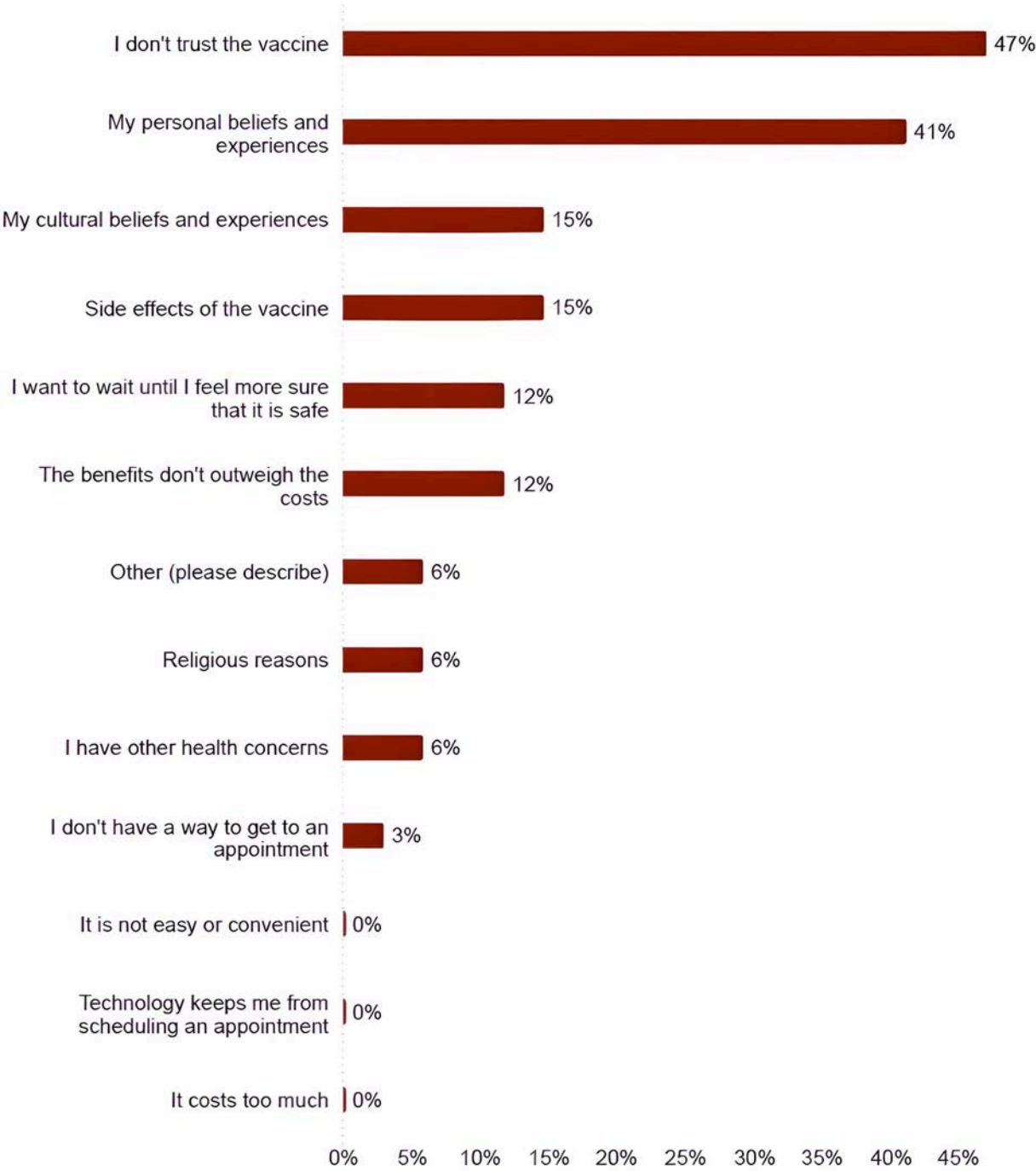




What are the biggest reasons you have not gotten the COVID-19 vaccine? (select all that apply) - Selected Choice

Only respondents who indicated “No, but I want the vaccine” or “No, I don’t want the vaccine” to the question “Have you already completed your primary COVID-19 vaccine series?” were asked this question.

34 Responses



# Religion and Spirituality

For the purpose of this project, when referring to religion and spirituality, we acknowledge respondents' religious and spiritual beliefs and practices as integral to their identities. We aim to assess the inclusion of 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals in religious and spiritual communities and the impact of religion and spirituality on the physical, mental, social, spiritual, and behavioral health and well-being of 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals.

We recognize that definitions of religion and spirituality are diverse and individualistic and that seeking guidance beyond oneself and connecting with a higher power can take many forms. This domain emphasizes identifying concerns related to the inclusion of 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals in religious and spiritual communities, exploring the impact of religion and spirituality on health, promoting greater understanding and acceptance, and assessing the historic religious trauma of 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals within diverse religious and spiritual traditions.

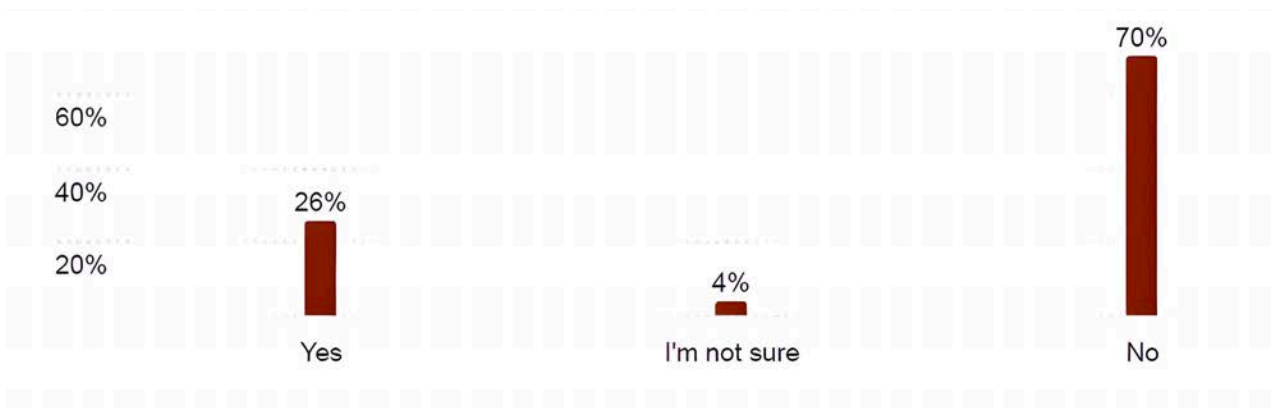
It also recognizes the need for sensitivity and understanding towards individuals who have been marginalized and discriminated against in religious and spiritual contexts while also creating a safe space for 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals to explore their spirituality and religion without fear of judgment or harm.



# Religion and Spirituality

Have you ever felt forced to participate in religious or spiritual activities that you did not want to participate in to receive help or support (such as food assistance, temporary shelter, or other basic needs) ?

279 Responses



.....

*"I think Black trans folks exist closer to this image of Christian divinity than people who benefit (psychically, materially, and otherwise) from our subjugation are willing to admit. The Jesus of the Christian Bible was a friend, protector, and advocate of hoes, trannies, crips, and the otherwise abject.*



*Engaging with transphobic and anti-black businesses, work places, social services, and even places of worship has exposed a greater need for Black trans community, and also the great power that exists within our communities because of our active choices to pursue truth, gentleness, and community for our survival."*



**- Community Member**

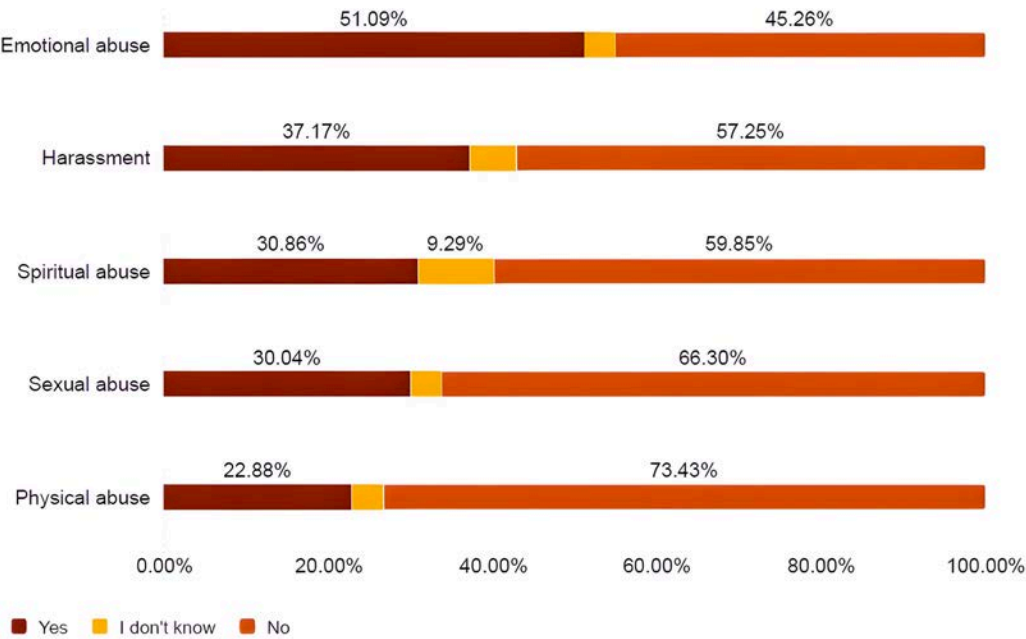




# Religion and Spirituality

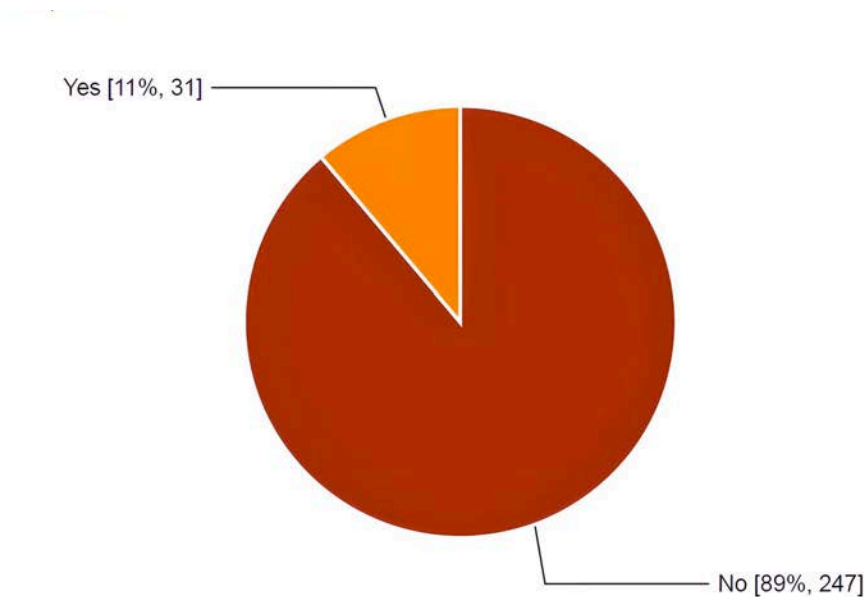
Are you a survivor of sexual, physical, spiritual, emotional abuse or harassment that occurred in a spiritual setting?

277 Responses



Have you ever been involved in conversion therapy?

278 Responses

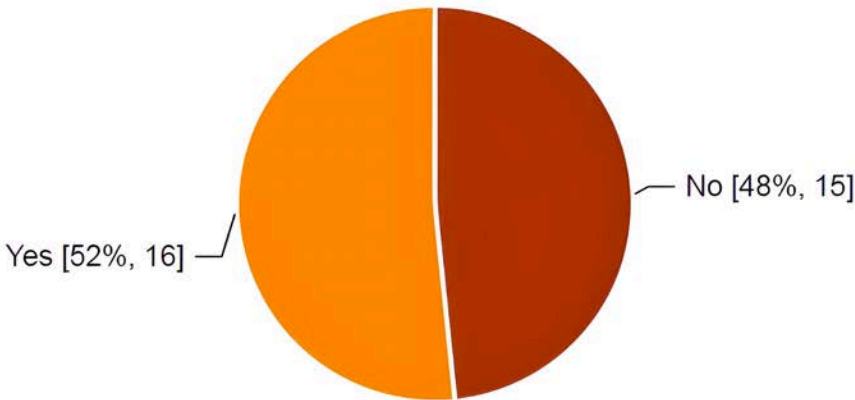


# Religion and Spirituality

## Was this experience with conversion therapy in Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, or Geauga counties in Ohio?

Only respondents indicating "Yes" to the question "Have you ever been involved in conversion therapy?" were asked this question.

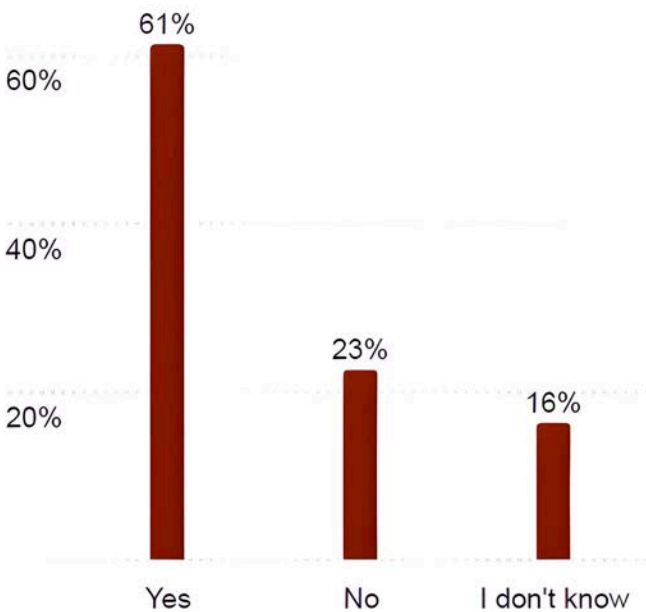
31 Responses



## Were you forced or coerced to participate in conversion therapy?

Only respondents indicating "Yes" to the question "Have you ever been involved in conversion therapy?" were asked this question.

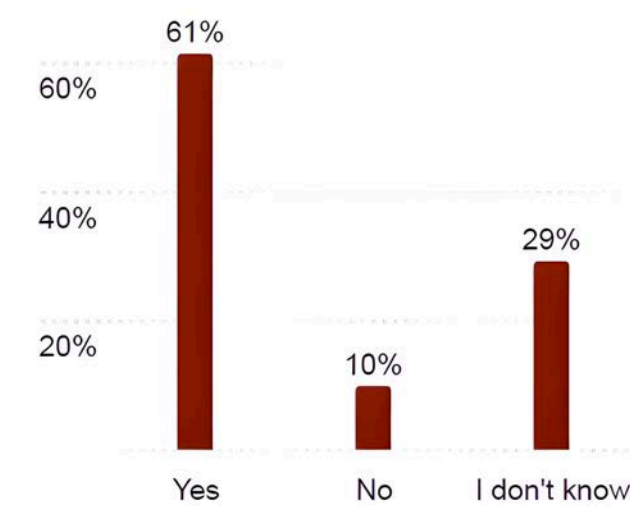
31 Responses



## Was your participation in conversion therapy in response to a religious or spiritual belief or concern?

Only respondents indicating "Yes" to the question "Have you ever been involved in conversion therapy?" were asked this question.

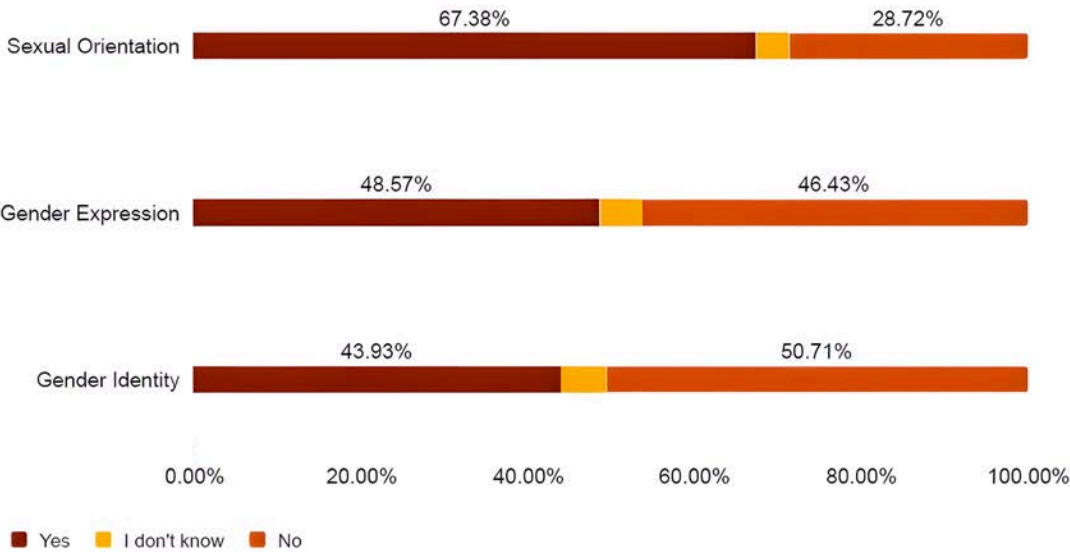
31 Responses



# Religion and Spirituality

Have religious teachings about gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation ever made you feel a diminished sense of self-worth?

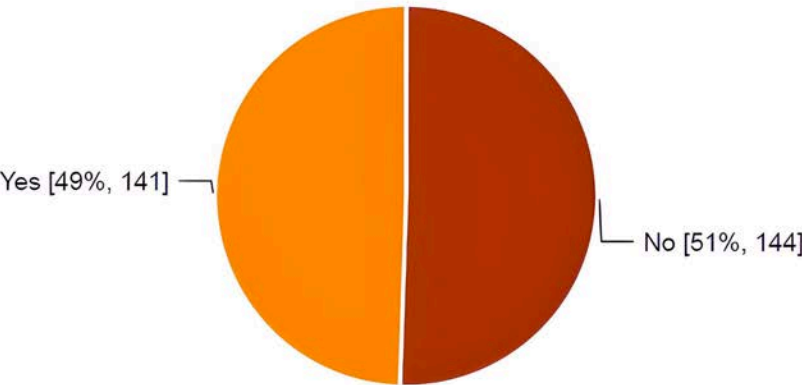
283 Responses



.....

Would you like to know more about which local religious and spiritual organizations are LGBTQ+ welcoming, friendly, and affirming?

285 Responses

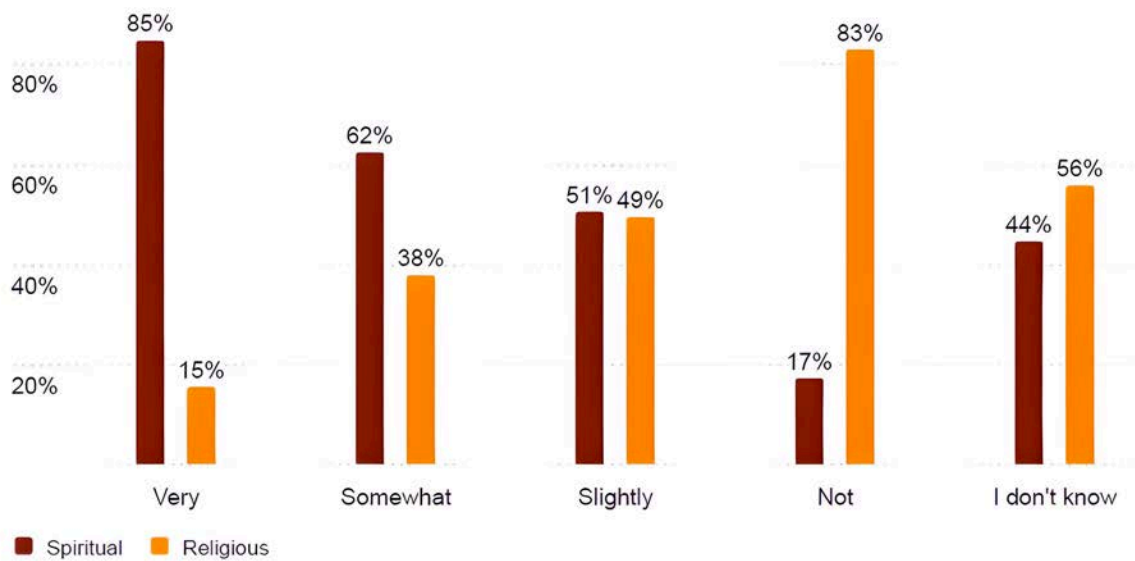




# Religion and Spirituality

## To what level do you consider yourself to be religious or spiritual?

286 Responses

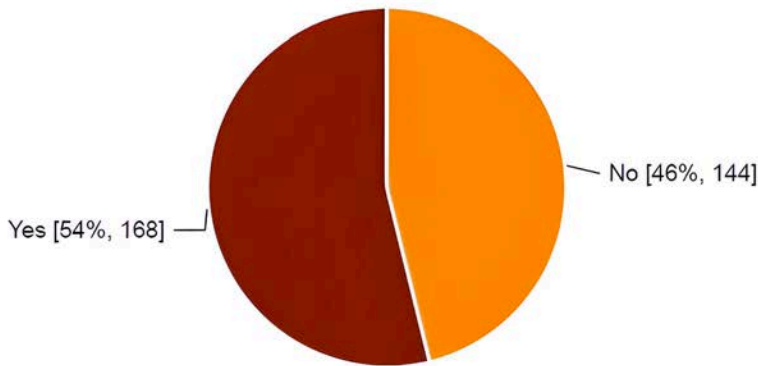


.....

## As a member of the LGBTQ+ community, do you feel you have a safe place to explore and/or practice your religion or spirituality to the degree that you would like to?

Only respondents who indicated "Very", "Somewhat", "Slightly", or "I don't know" to the question "To what level do you consider yourself to be religious or spiritual?" were asked this question.

312 Responses

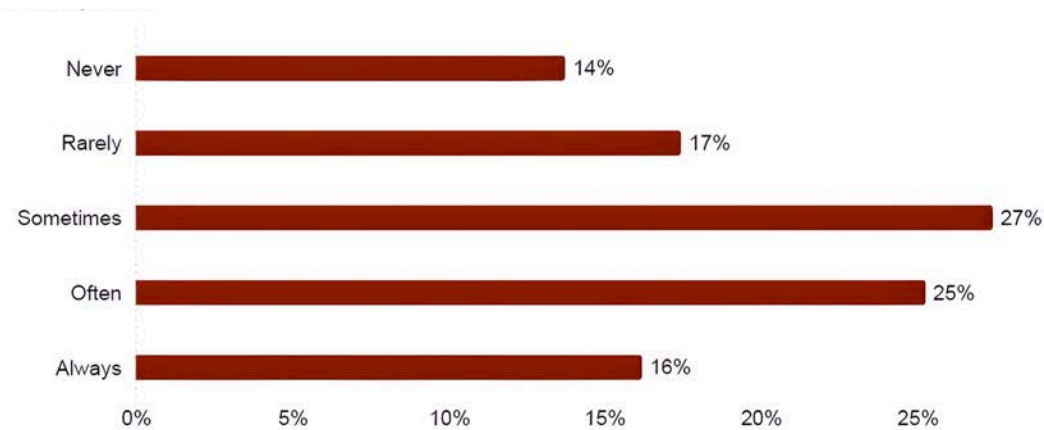


# Religion and Spirituality

## How often do you turn to your religion or spirituality to help you deal with problems in your life?

Only respondents who indicated "Very", "Somewhat", "Slightly", or "I don't know" to the question "To what level do you consider yourself to be religious or spiritual?" were asked this question.

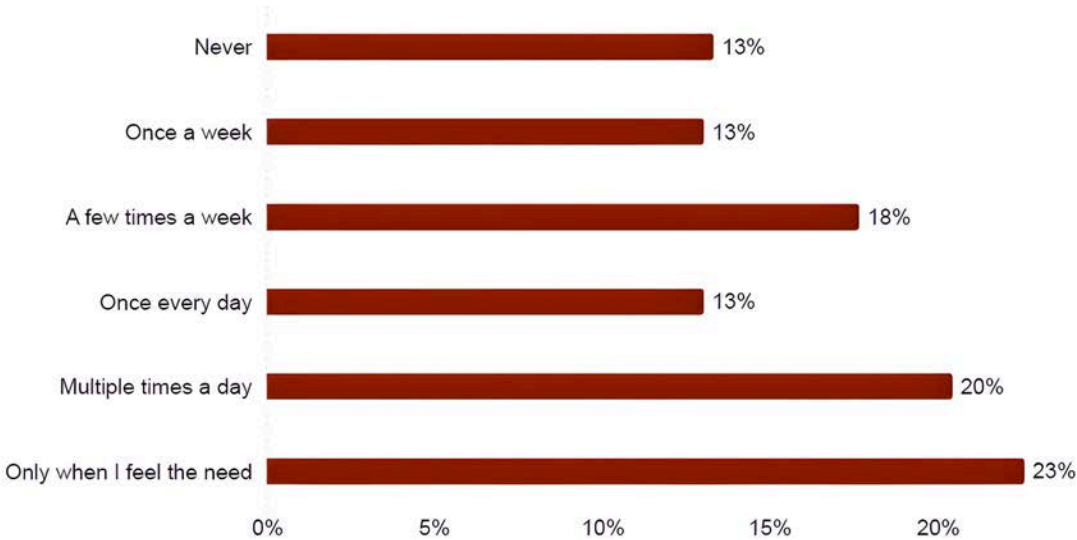
321 Responses



## How often do you participate in individual spiritual practices alone? (such as praying, meditating, or some other individual spiritual practice)

Only respondents who indicated "Very", "Somewhat", "Slightly", or "I don't know" to the question "To what level do you consider yourself to be religious or spiritual?" were asked this question.

323 Responses

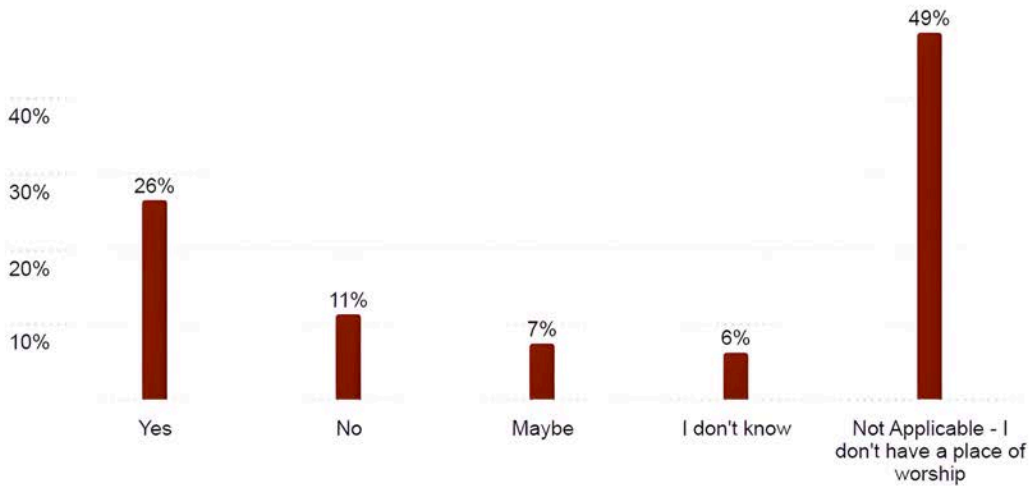


# Religion and Spirituality

## Do you feel the religious or spiritual leaders in your place of worship need more LGBTQ+ diversity training?

Only respondents who indicated "Very", "Somewhat", "Slightly", or "I don't know" to the question "To what level do you consider yourself to be religious or spiritual?" were asked this question.

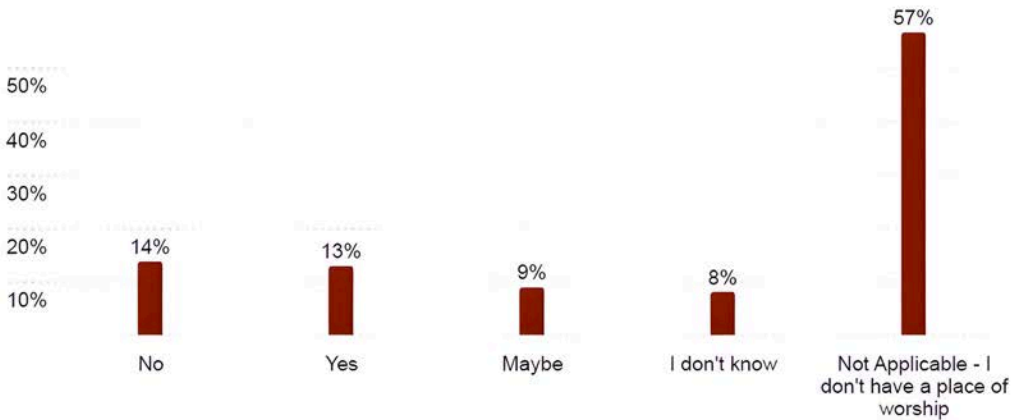
325 Responses



## Do you feel your religious or spiritual organization claims to be LGBTQ+ welcoming, friendly, and affirming outwardly, but the culture internally is not welcoming, friendly, and affirming?

Only respondents who indicated "Very", "Somewhat", "Slightly", or "I don't know" to the question "To what level do you consider yourself to be religious or spiritual?" were asked this question.

320 Responses

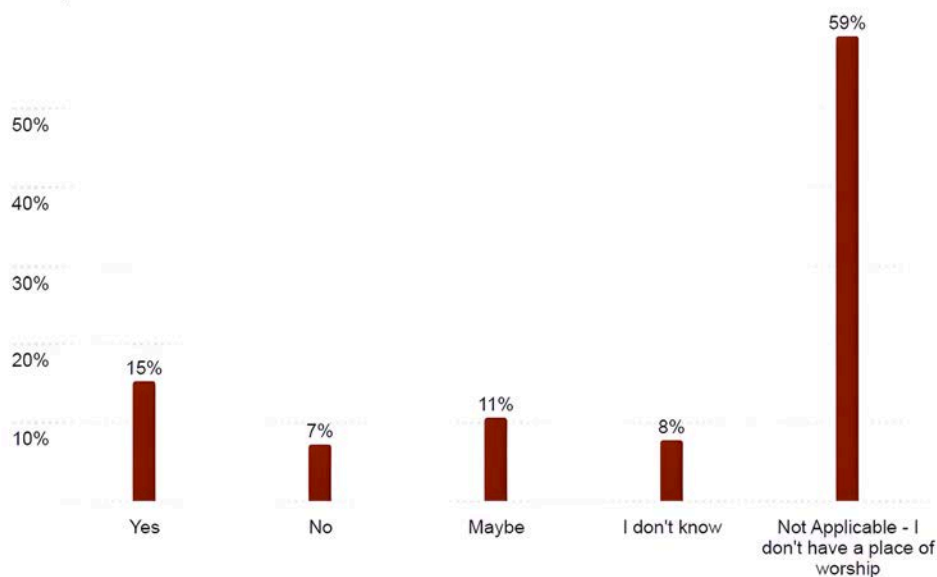




# Religion and Spirituality

Do you feel the members of your religious or spiritual organization are as welcoming, friendly, and affirming as the organization's leaders?

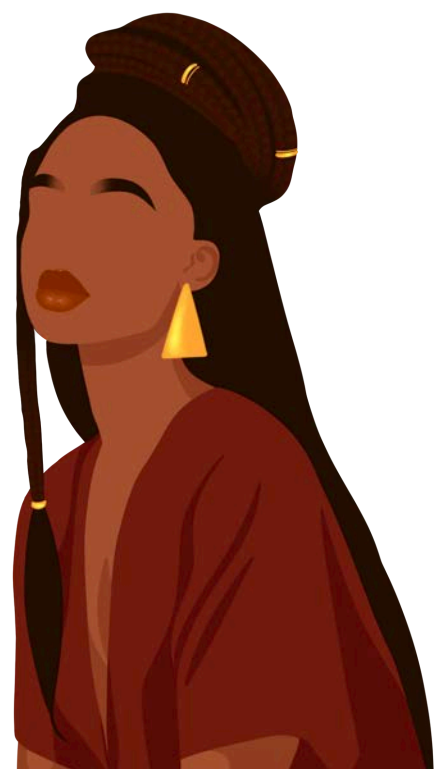
321 Responses



*"So I feel like for me as a black person, living and working in Cleveland one of the great transformations that have happened like within my religious spiritual framework, understanding practice has been bastardized relationship to Christianity. It's difficult to claim that space because I am a tranny and people don't actually believe us to be like Spiritual.*

*Another thing is this idea of like a commitment to witchcraft, criminality, and sin as a framework. I think it's one that exists as like what people say. People say people are slipping away. My spirituality and my spiritual framework has been very much tied into fugitive, especially as I transition, and I'm living as a trans person"*

**- Community Member**



# Education and Literacy

Education and literacy are important factors for the success of the LGBTQ+ community. In this project, we aim to assess respondents' concerns and needs related to inclusive and affirming education and literacy resources in all learning settings, including homeschool, private, and public schools in Greater Cleveland.

We aim to assess learning environments to ensure learners and educators feel represented, have a sense of belonging, and are supported. We also acknowledge the importance of enhancing health literacy, financial literacy, political literacy, and media literacy among LGBTQ+ individuals.

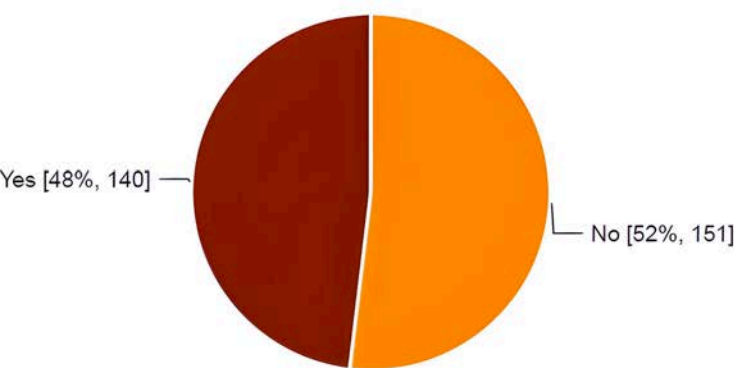
Moreover, we consider workforce training and development needs in short-term certificates and other educational pathways that propel career growth and gainful employment, especially among adult and non-traditional students. Additionally, the domain seeks to explore literacy disparities. In our efforts to ensure equal access to education and literacy resources, we aim to assess the barriers around safety and policy initiatives related to LGBTQ+ topics and issues.



# Education and Literacy

## Have you been enrolled as a student in the past five (5) years?

291 Responses

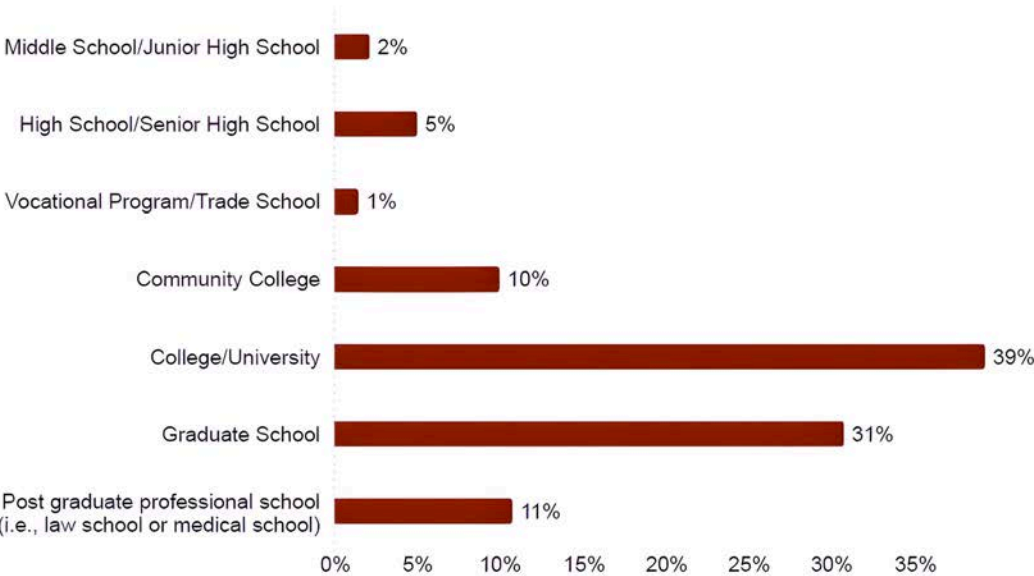


.....

## What kind of education program, certification, or training are/were you enrolled in?

Only respondents who indicated "Yes" to the question "Have you been enrolled as a student in the past five (5) years?" were asked this question.

140 Responses



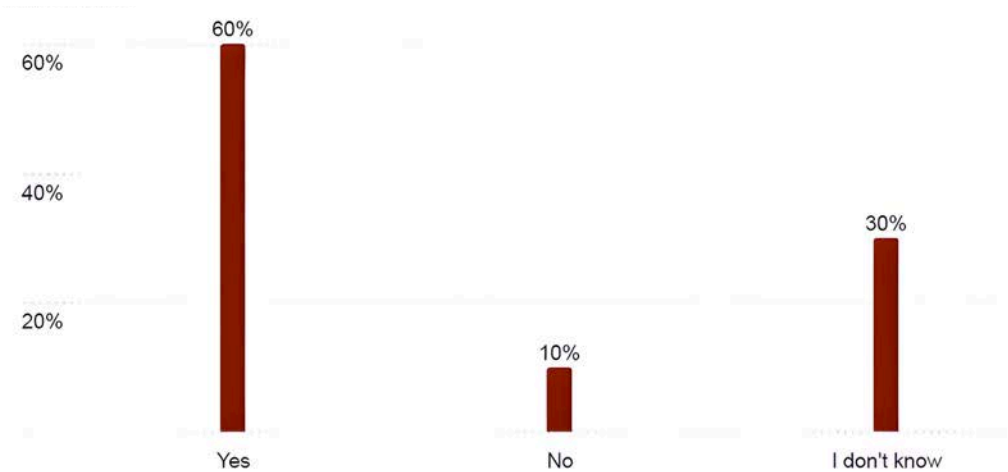


# Education and Literacy

## Do you plan to continue your education after high school?

Only respondents who indicated "Middle School/Junior High School" or "High School/Senior High School" to the question "What kind of educational program, certification, or training are/were you enrolled in?" were asked this question.

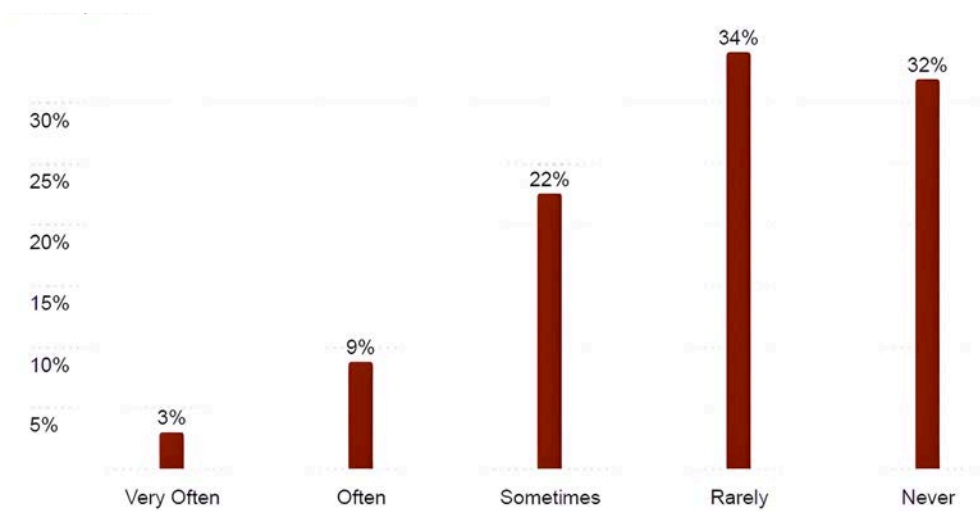
10 Responses



## How often have you been worried about your physical safety in your educational setting(s)?

Only respondents who indicated "Yes" to the question "Have you been enrolled as a student in the past five (5) years?" were asked this question.

138 Responses

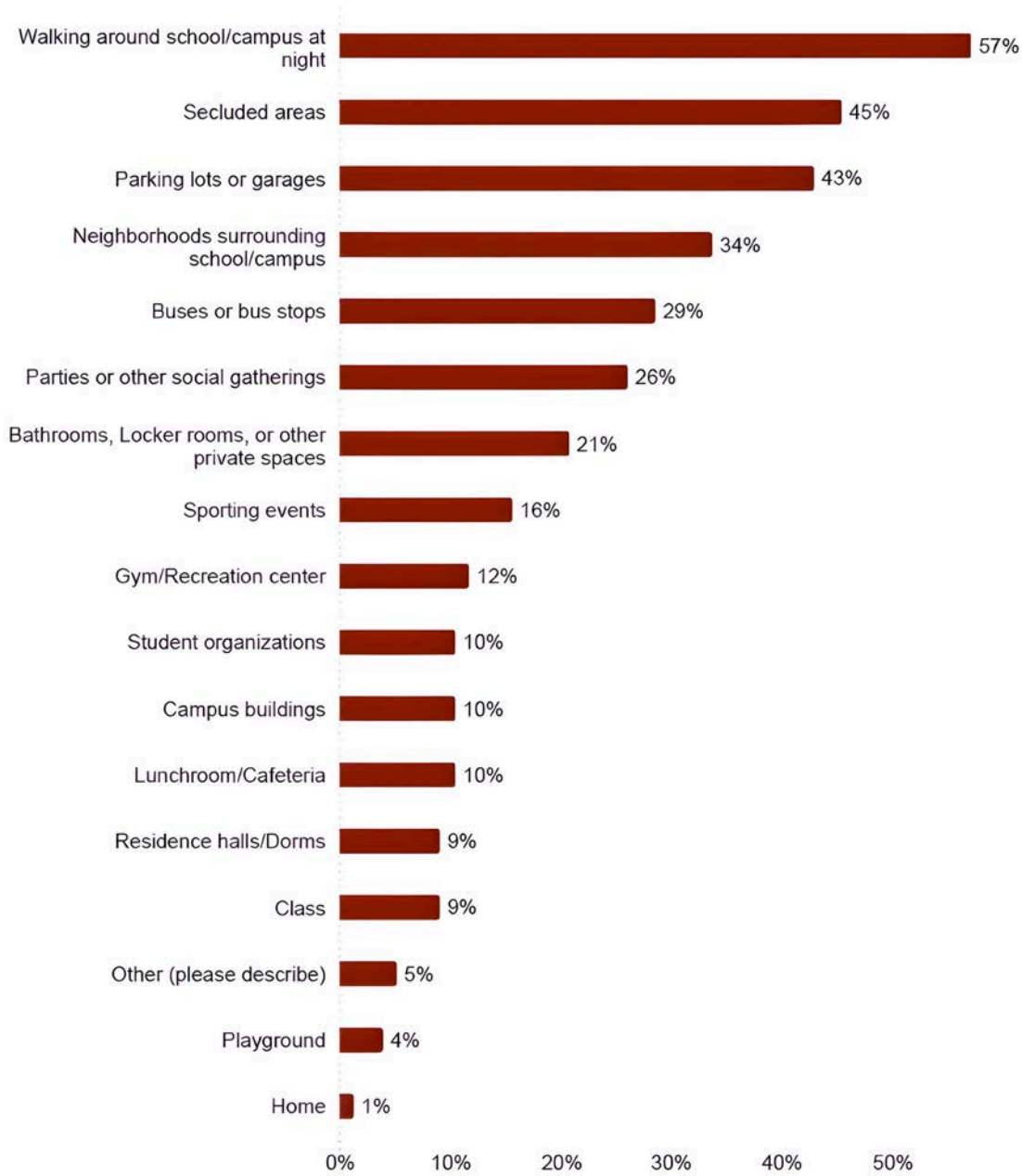


# Education and Literacy

## Which of the following settings have you avoided due to fear for your physical safety (select all that apply)

Only respondents who indicated "Very Often", "Often", "Sometimes", or "Rarely" to the question "How often have you been worried about your physical safety in your educational setting(s)?" were asked this question.

77 Responses

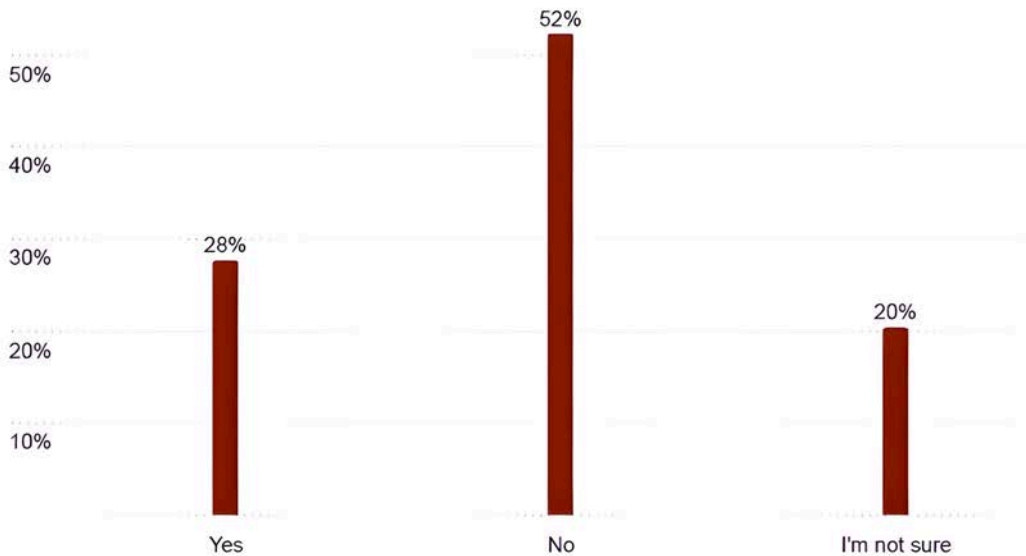


# Education and Literacy

## In general, have you felt discriminated against in an educational setting because you are LGBTQ+?

Only respondents who indicated "Yes" to the question "Have you been enrolled as a student in the past five (5) years?" were asked this question.

138 Responses



*"Our youth, especially those from Black and Brown backgrounds, need better educational support and mentoring programs.*

*They need to see successful role models who look like them and understand their struggles."*

**- Community Stakeholder**



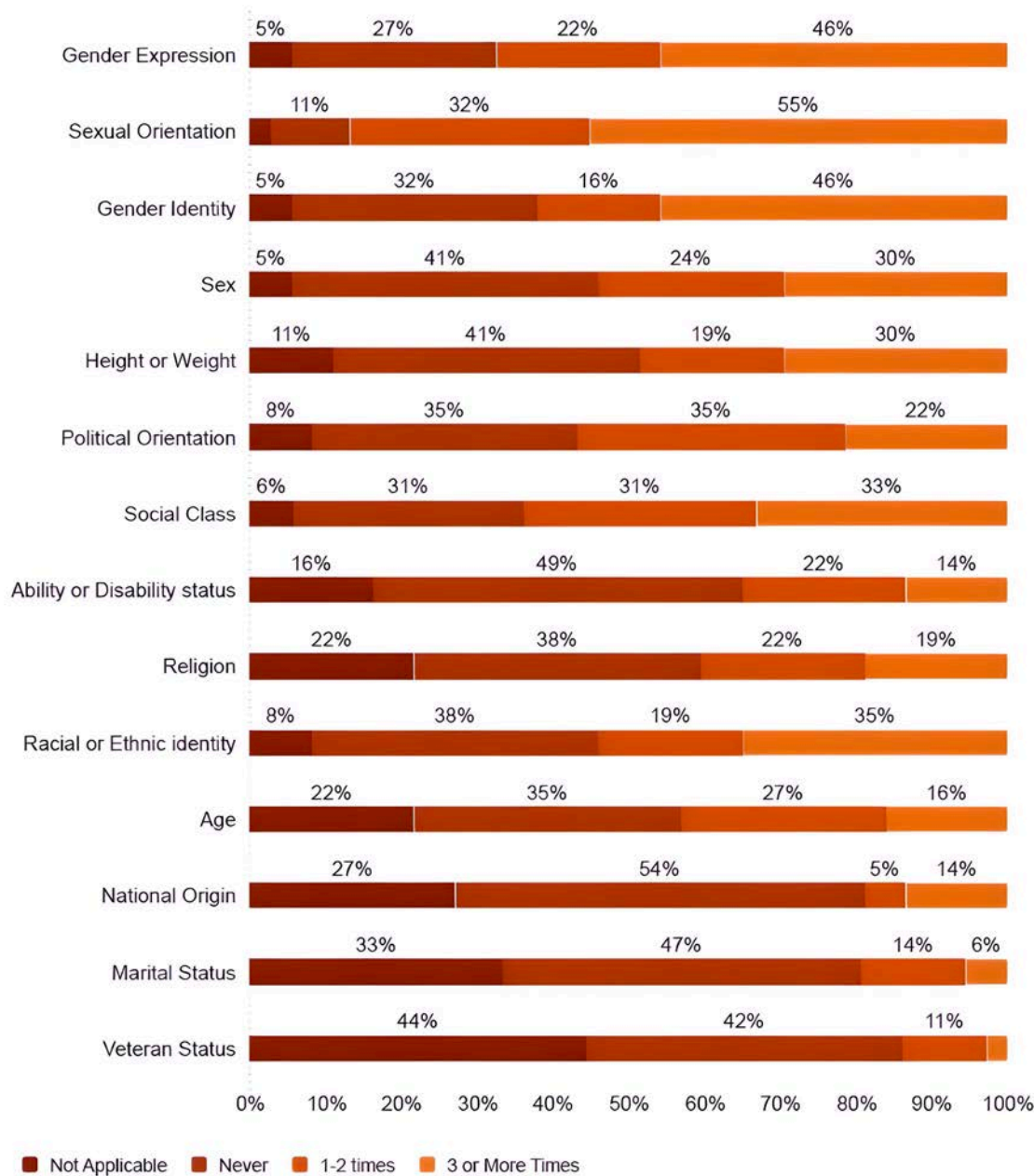


# Education and Literacy

## How often have you experienced any of the following types of discrimination in an educational setting?

Only respondents who indicated "Yes" to the question "In general, have you felt discriminated against in an educational setting because you are LGBTQ+?" were asked this question.

38 Responses

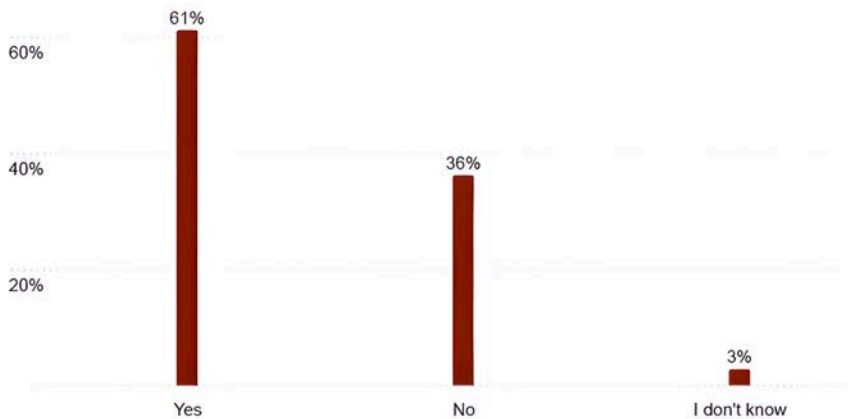


# Education and Literacy

## Did this/these events happen in Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, or Geauga County, Ohio?

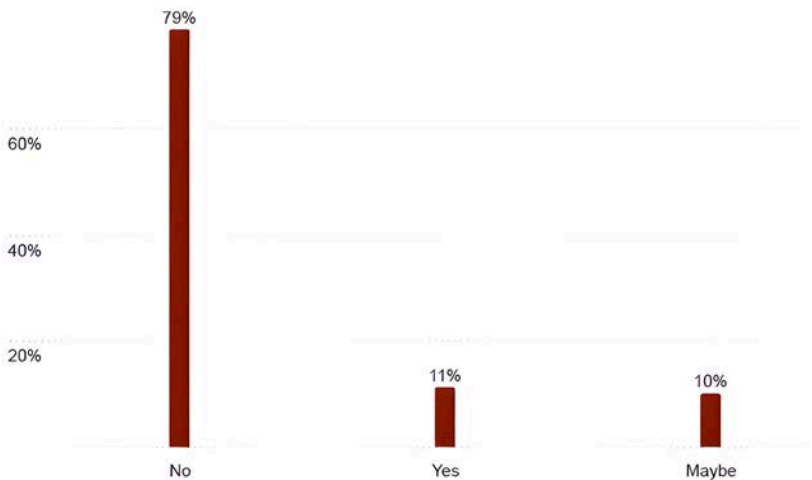
Only respondents who indicated "Yes" to the question "In general, have you felt discriminated against in an educational setting because you are LGBTQ+?" were asked this question.

36 Responses



## Do you feel you received enough LGBTQ+ sex education in school?

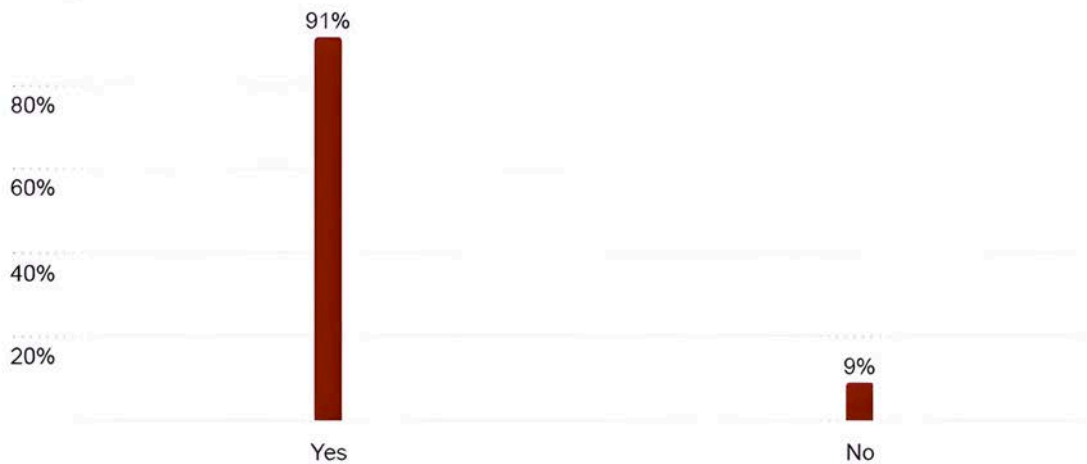
286 Responses



# Education and Literacy

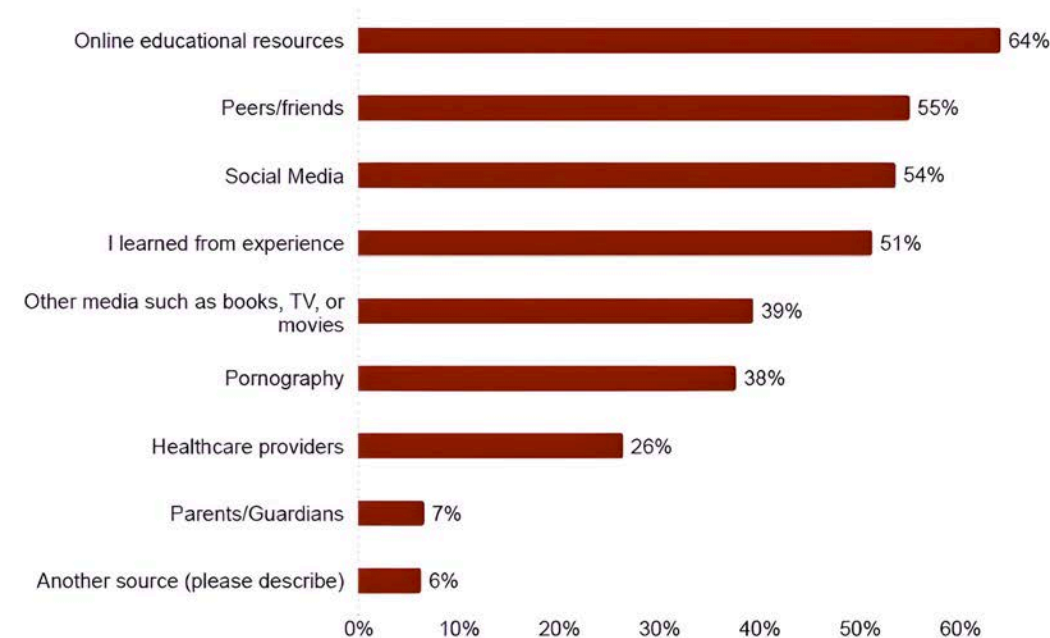
## Did you have to find any LGBTQ+ sex education or information on your own?

286 Responses



## Where did you typically get your LGBTQ+ sex education/information? (select all that apply)

287 Responses



## Housing, Food, and Basic Needs

For the purpose of this project, when referring to housing, food, and basic needs, we acknowledge that having access to safe, affordable, and sustainable basic necessities is essential for leading a fulfilling life.

There are numerous challenges and barriers that individuals within the LGBTQ+ community may face when accessing basic needs such as food, shelter, transportation, and medical care. In addition, we acknowledge that homelessness can take many forms. Individuals experiencing housing insecurity may not fit the traditional definition of homelessness, but they still have significant needs that must be assessed.

Therefore, this assessment will prioritize identifying and assessing the unique needs and barriers faced by LGBTQIA+ individuals in accessing these basic necessities and work towards developing equitable and sustainable solutions to ensure that everyone in the community can lead healthy and fulfilling lives.

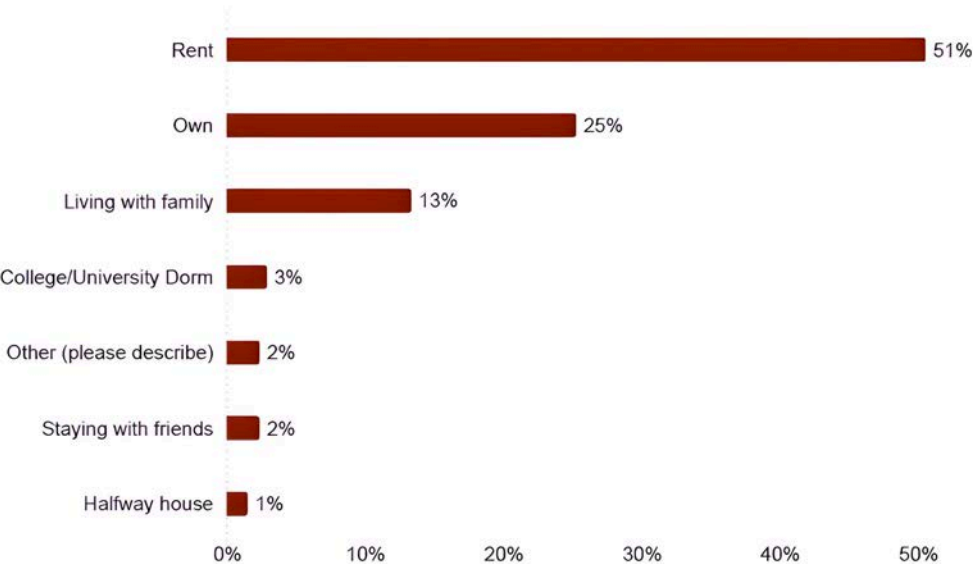




# Housing, Food, and Basic Needs

## What is your current housing status?

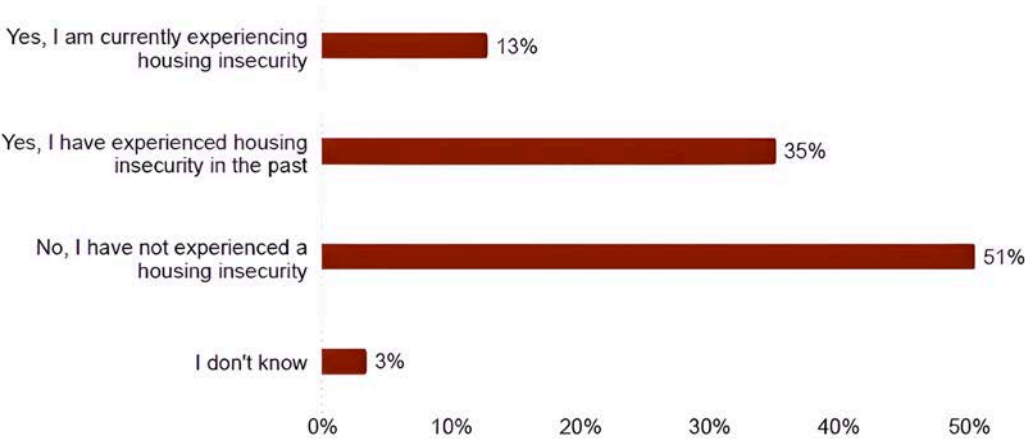
344 Responses



.....

## Housing insecurity is when you are unable to access or afford enough housing consistently. Have you ever in your life experienced housing insecurity? (select all that apply)

344 Responses

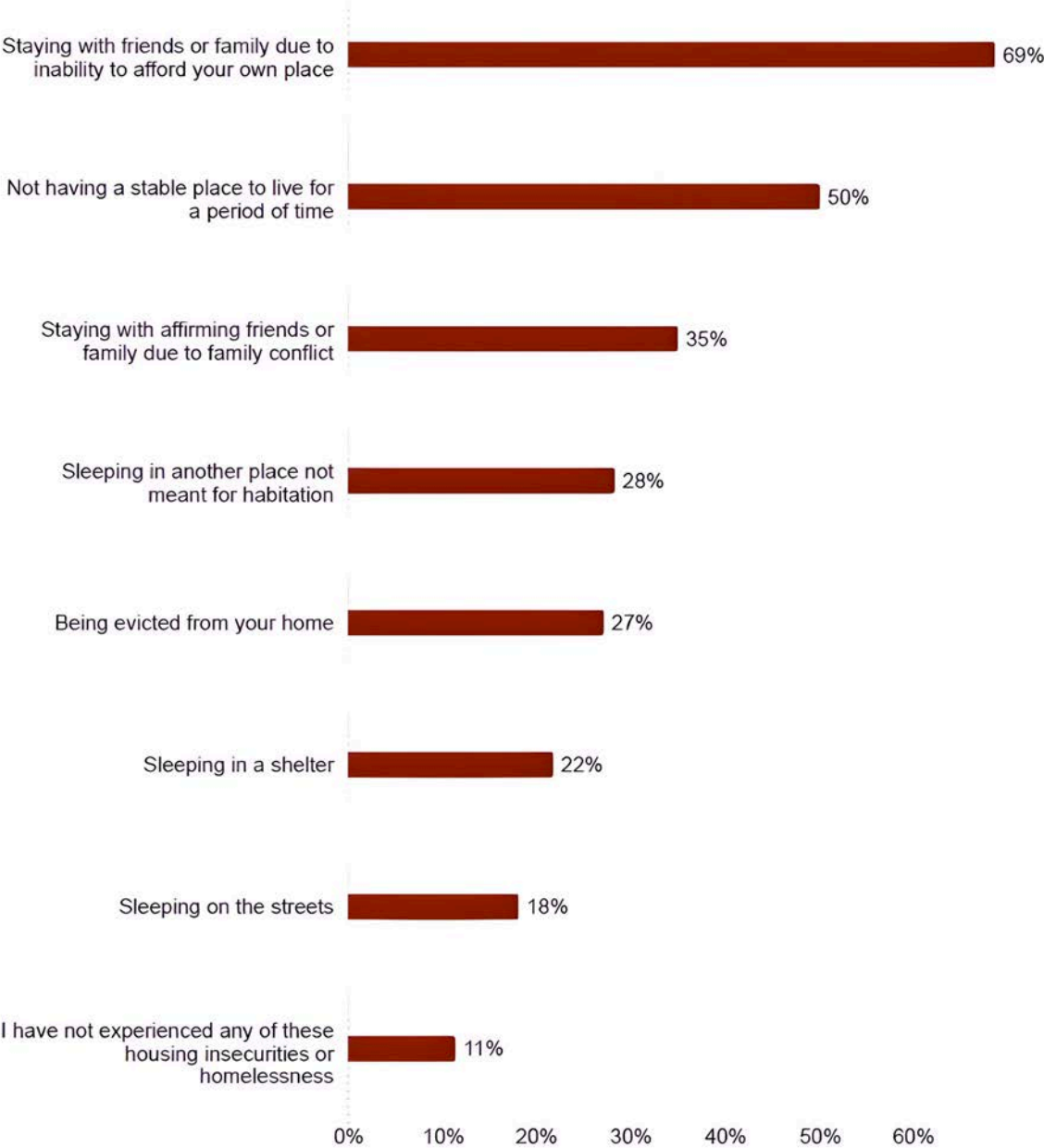


# Housing, Food, and Basic Needs

## Have you ever experienced any of the following housing insecurity or homeless situations?

Only respondents indicating "Yes, I am currently experiencing a housing insecurity", "Yes, I have experienced a housing insecurity in the past", or "I don't know" to the question "Have you ever in your life experienced housing insecurity?" were asked this question.

166 Responses

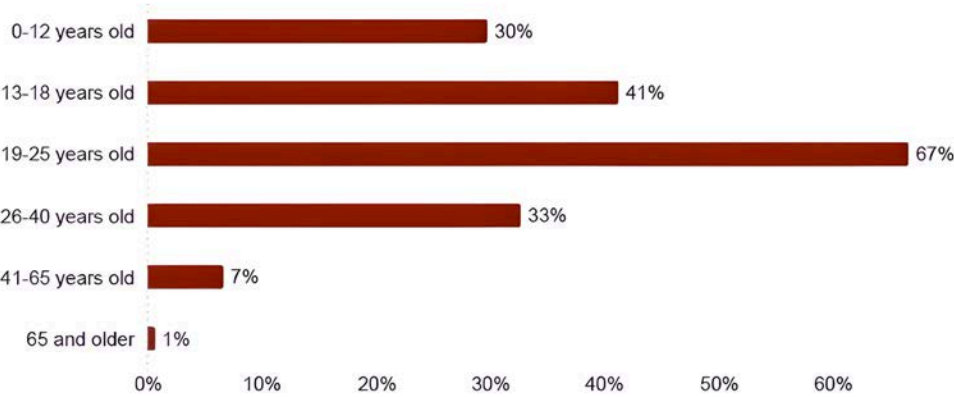


# Housing, Food, and Basic Needs

## At what age range(s) have you experienced these housing insecurities or homelessness? (select all that apply)

Only respondents indicating "Yes, I am currently experiencing a housing insecurity" or "Yes, I have experienced a housing insecurity in the past" to the question "Have you ever in your life experienced housing insecurity?" were asked this question.

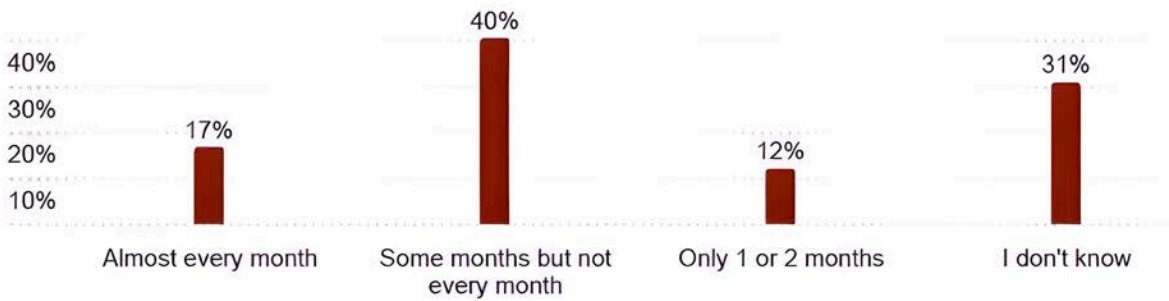
152 Responses



## How often do you experience these housing insecurities or homelessness?

Only respondents indicating "Yes, I am currently experiencing a housing insecurity" to the question "Have you ever in your life experienced housing insecurity?" were asked this question.

42 Responses

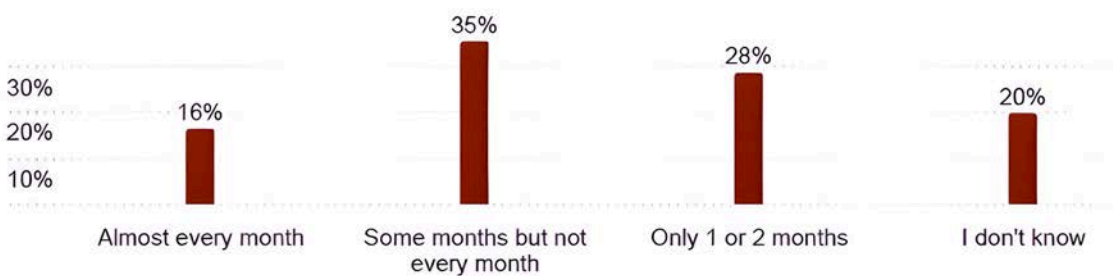


# Housing, Food, and Basic Needs

## How often did you experience these housing insecurities or homelessness in the past?

Only respondents indicating "Yes, I have experienced a housing insecurity in the past" to the question Have you ever in your life experienced housing insecurity?" were asked this question.

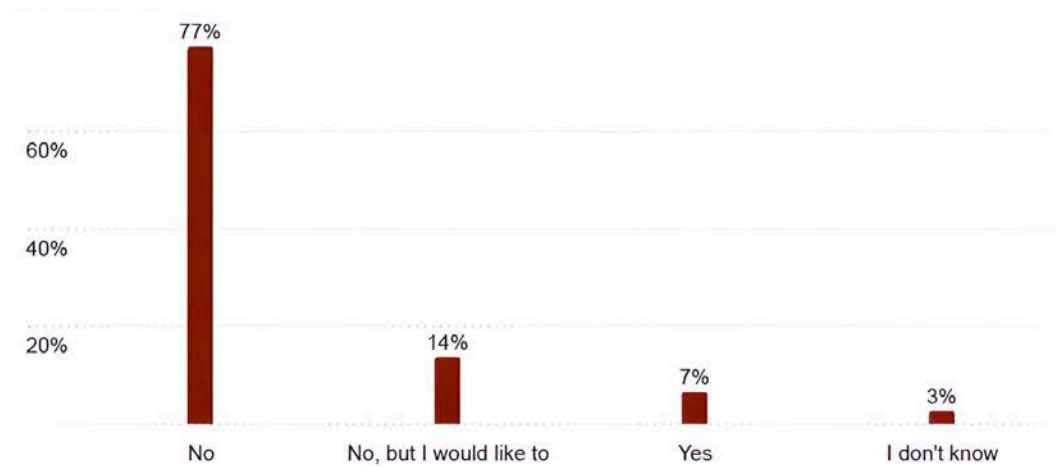
116 Responses



.....

## Are you currently receiving housing assistance such as programs and/or services designed to provide support and resources to individuals or families who are in need of affordable housing or experiencing housing-related difficulties?

332 Responses

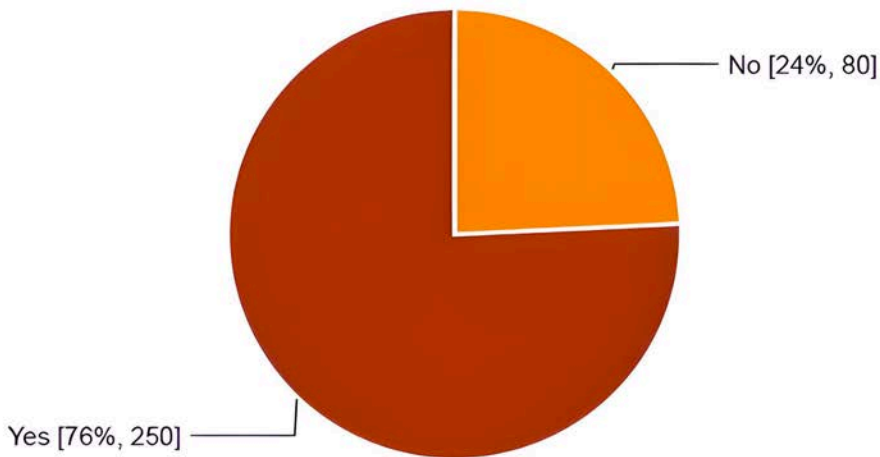




# Housing, Food, and Basic Needs

## Are you satisfied with your current living arrangements?

330 Responses



*"How race has played a role in some of the issues and challenges even within our community. It is segregated, and it's not just Cleveland.*

*But I'm just wondering how we could even improve that. How can we bring the community together?"*

**-Community Stakeholder**

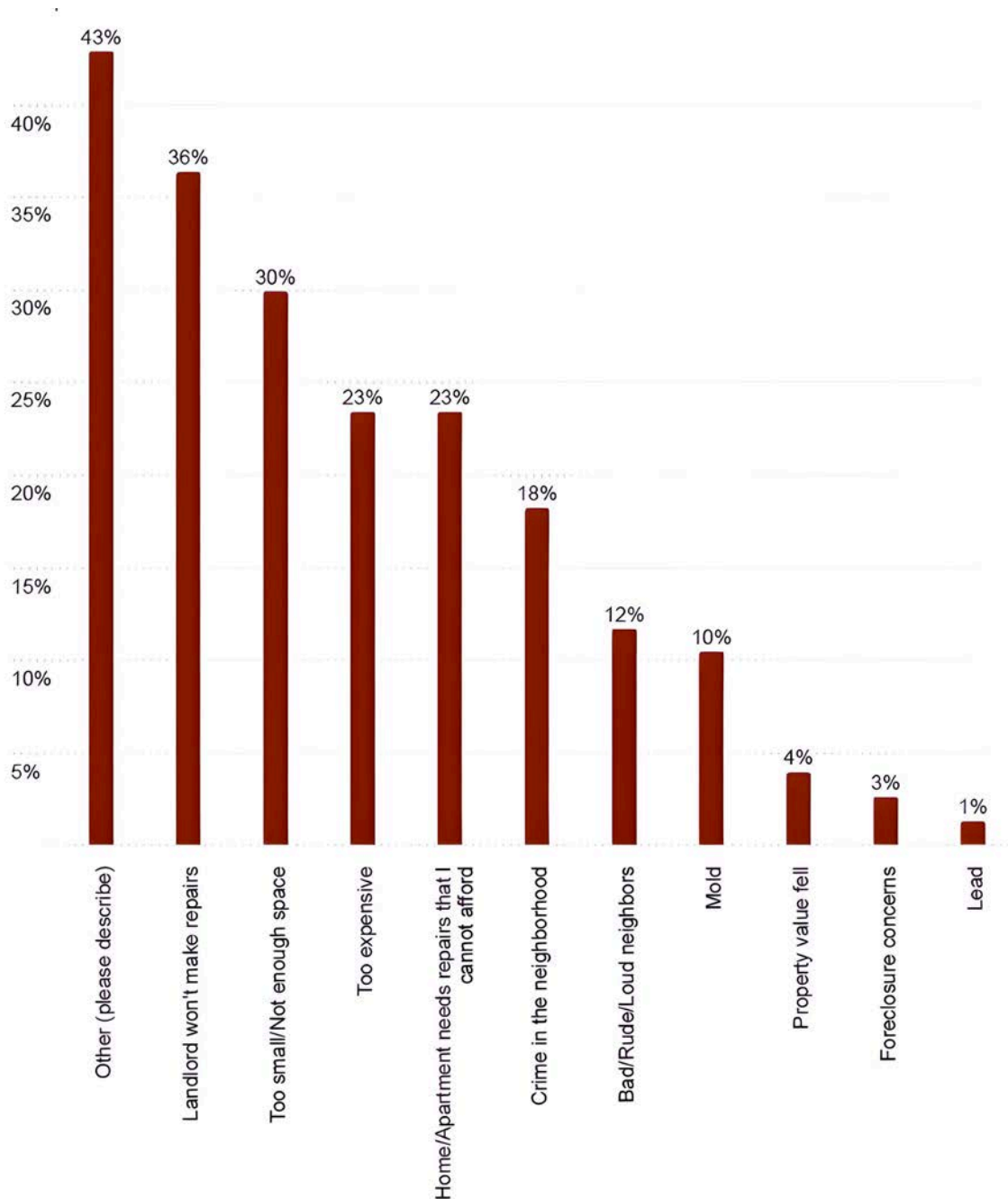


# Housing, Food, and Basic Needs

Please tell us why you are not satisfied with your current living arrangement. (select all that apply)

Only respondents indicating "No" to the question "Are you satisfied with your current living arrangements?" were asked this question.

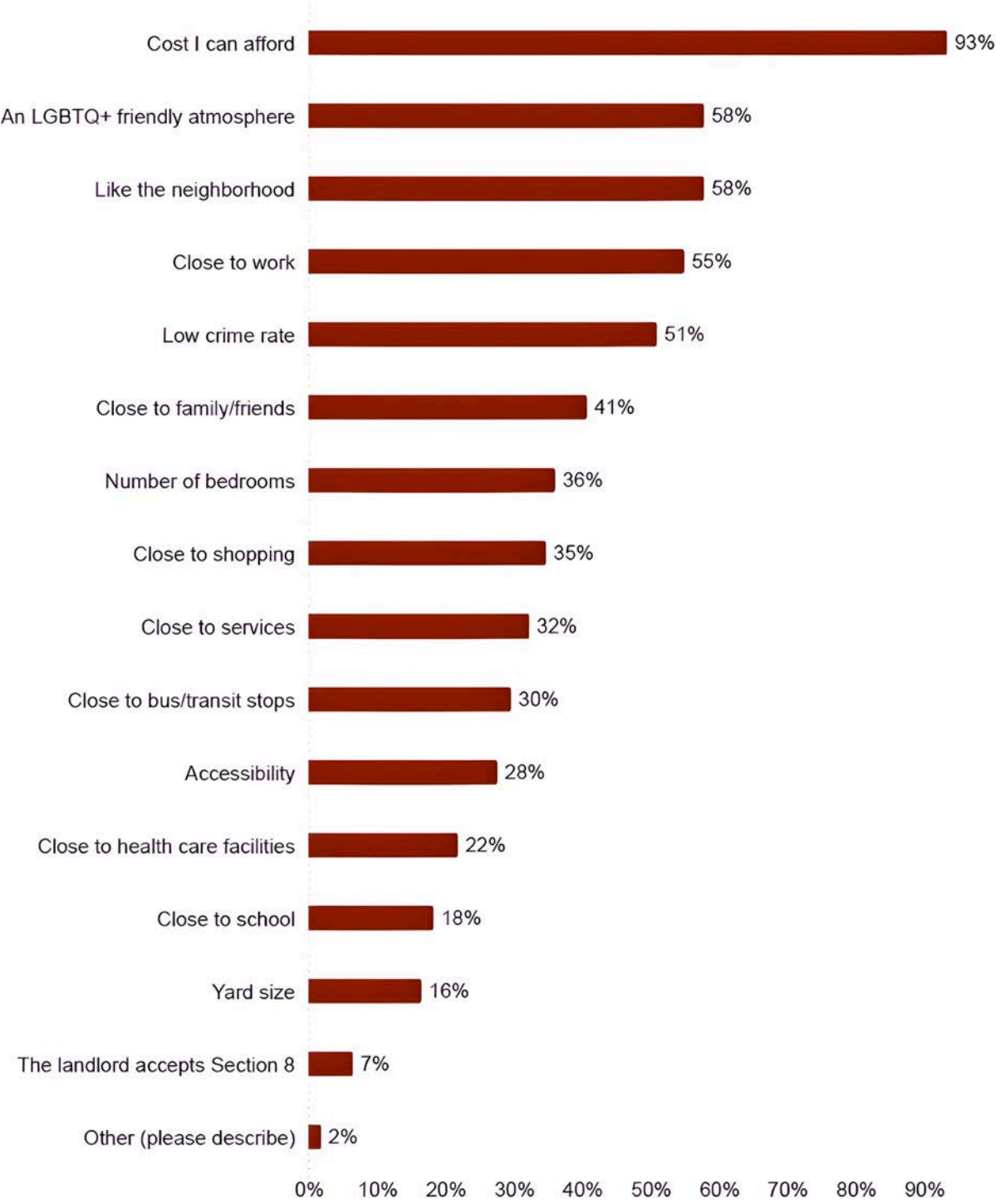
77 Responses



# Housing, Food, and Basic Needs

What factors are most important to you when choosing your home or apartment? (select all that apply)

322 Responses

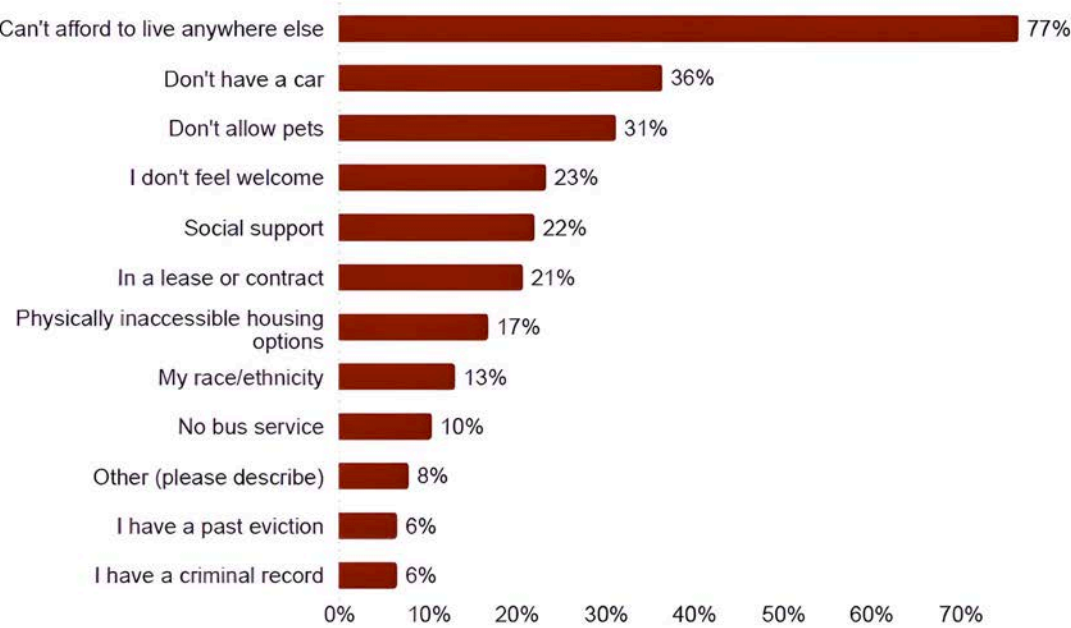


# Housing, Food, and Basic Needs

## What are the barriers, if any, that keep you from living in another part of your community? (select all that apply)

Only respondents indicating "No" to the question "Are you satisfied with your current living arrangements?" were asked this question.

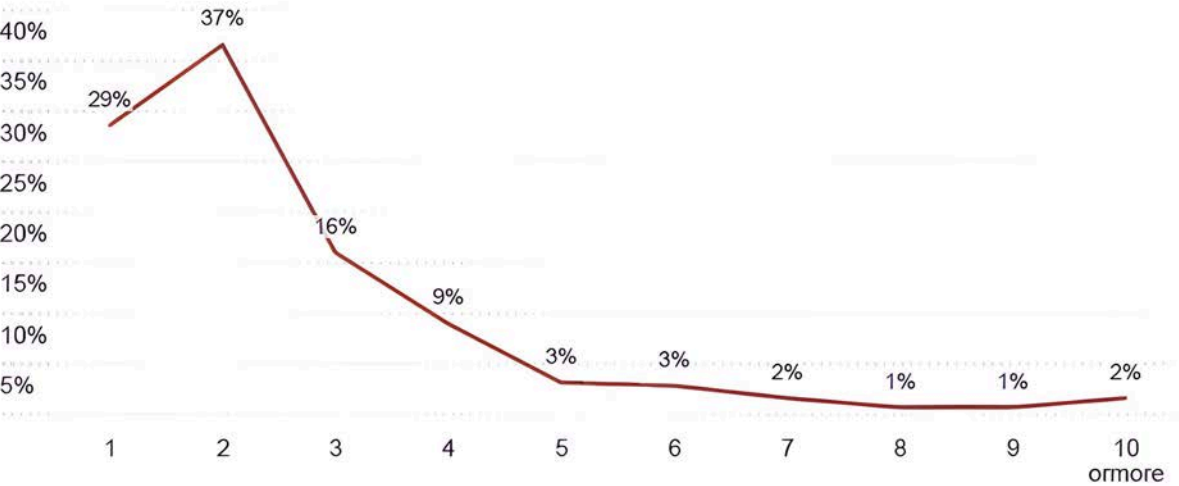
77 Responses



.....

## How many people live in the place where you stay? (including yourself)

326 Responses

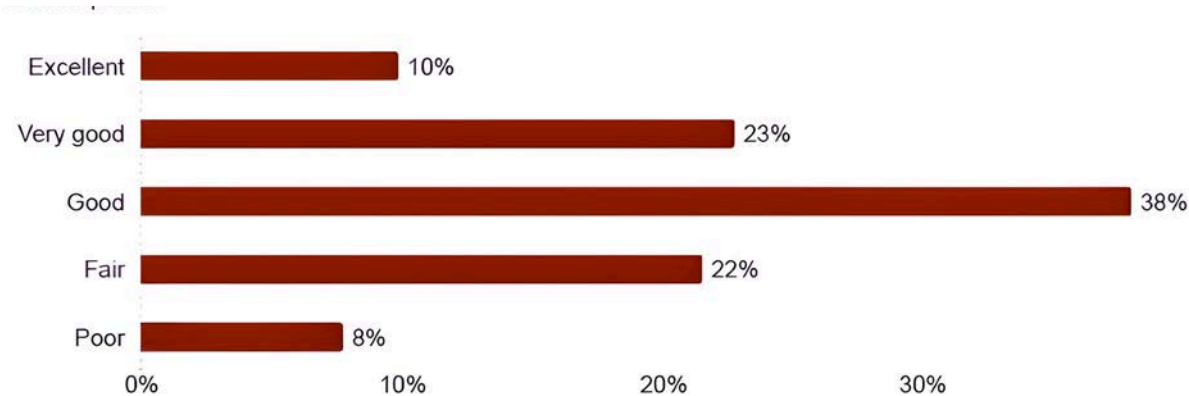




# Housing, Food, and Basic Needs

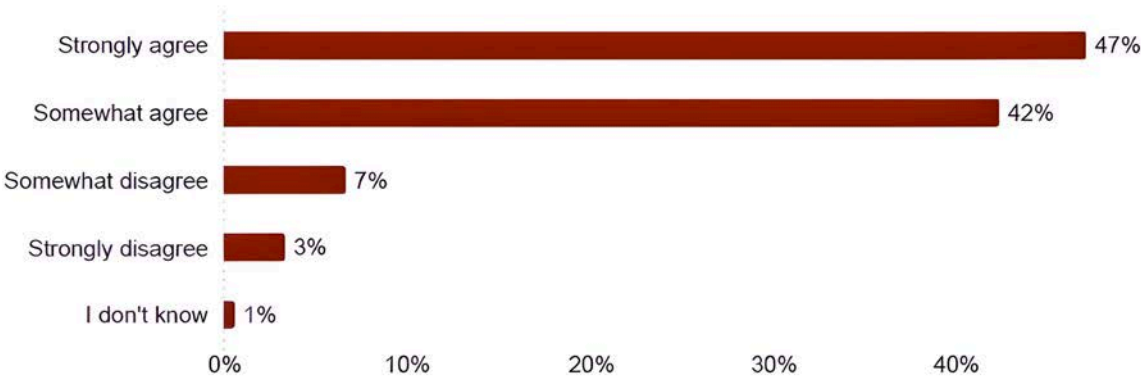
In general, how healthy do you feel your overall diet is?

334 Responses



I am confident that I know how to choose healthy foods.

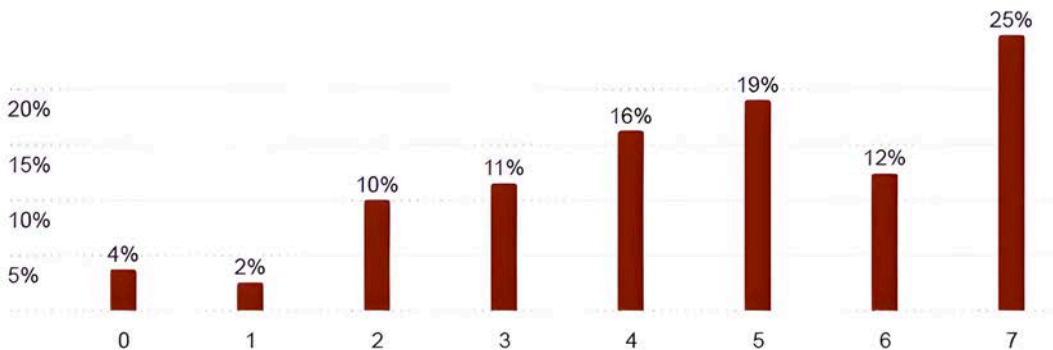
333 Responses



# Housing, Food, and Basic Needs

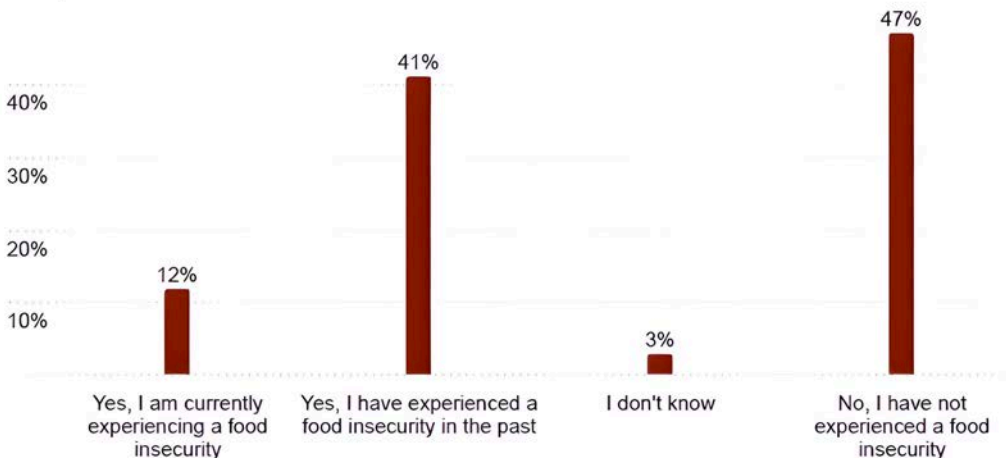
How many days per week do you eat meals prepared in your home?

322 Responses



Food insecurity is when you are unable to access or afford enough food consistently. Have you ever in your life experienced food insecurity?  
(select all that apply)

333 Responses

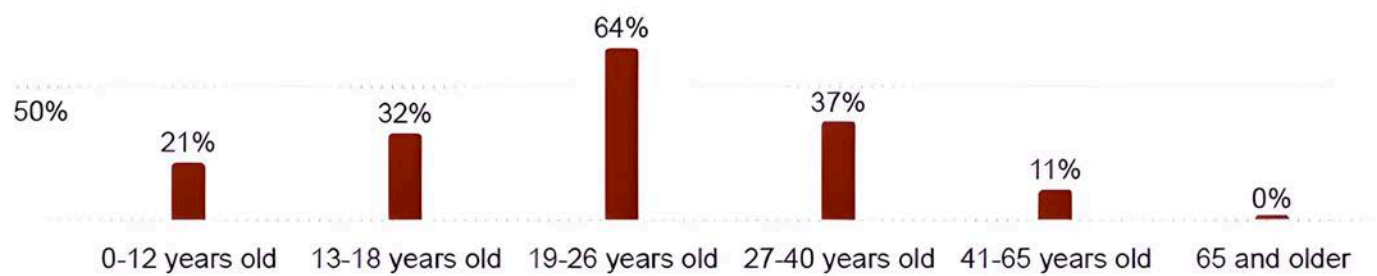


# Housing, Food, and Basic Needs

## At what age range(s) have you experienced food insecurity? (select all that apply)

Only respondents who indicated "Yes, I am currently experiencing a food insecurity" or "Yes I have experienced a food insecurity in the past" to the question "Have you ever in your life experienced a food insecurity?" were asked this question.

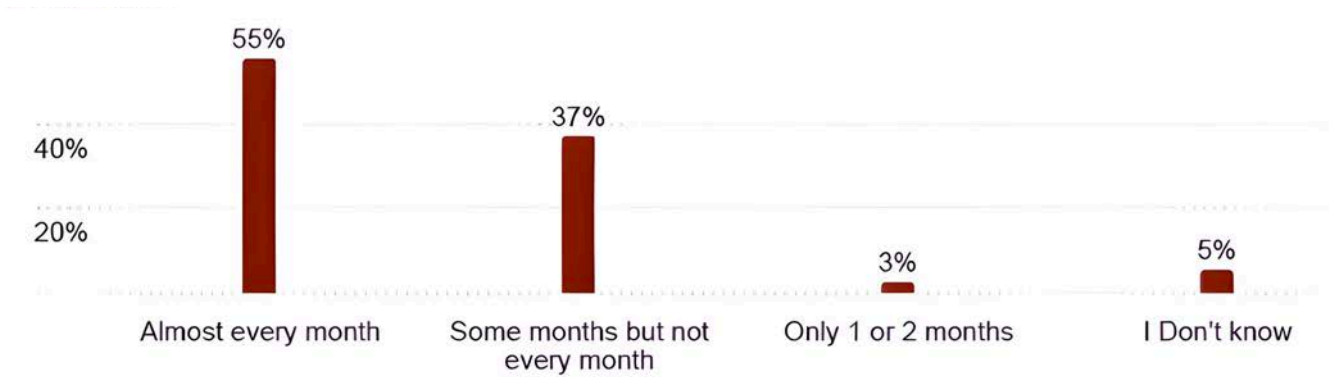
165 Responses



## How often do you experience food insecurity?

Only respondents who indicated "Yes, I am currently experiencing a food insecurity" to the question "Have you ever in your life experienced a food insecurity?" were asked this question.

38 Responses

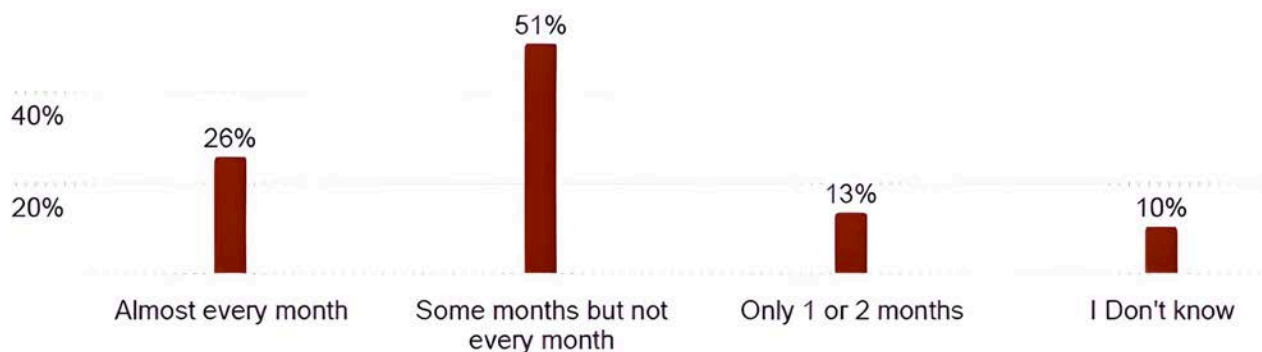


# Housing, Food, and Basic Needs

## How often did you experience food insecurity in the past?

Only respondents who indicated "Yes I have experienced a food insecurity in the past" to the question "Have you ever in your life experienced a food insecurity?" were asked this question.

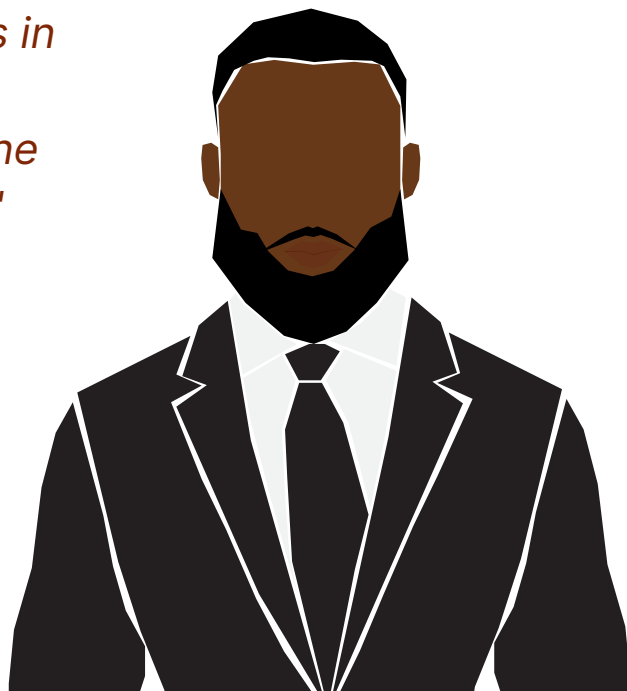
136 Responses



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*"We need to see more Black and Brown faces in positions of power, not just as tokens but as actual decision-makers. It's about giving us the space to lead and the resources to succeed."*

**-Community Stakeholder**

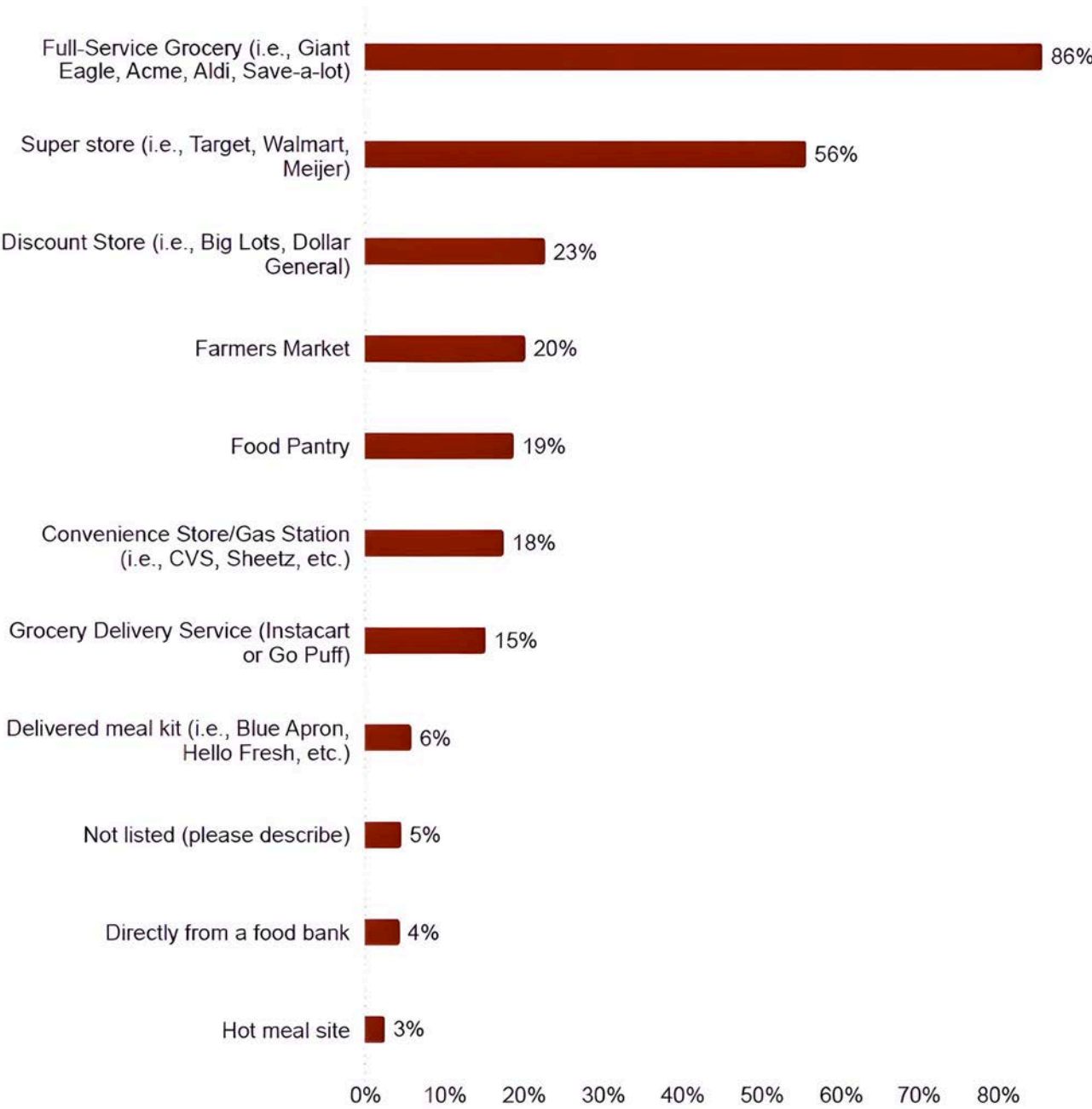




# Housing, Food, and Basic Needs

## Where do you usually get your groceries? (select all that apply)

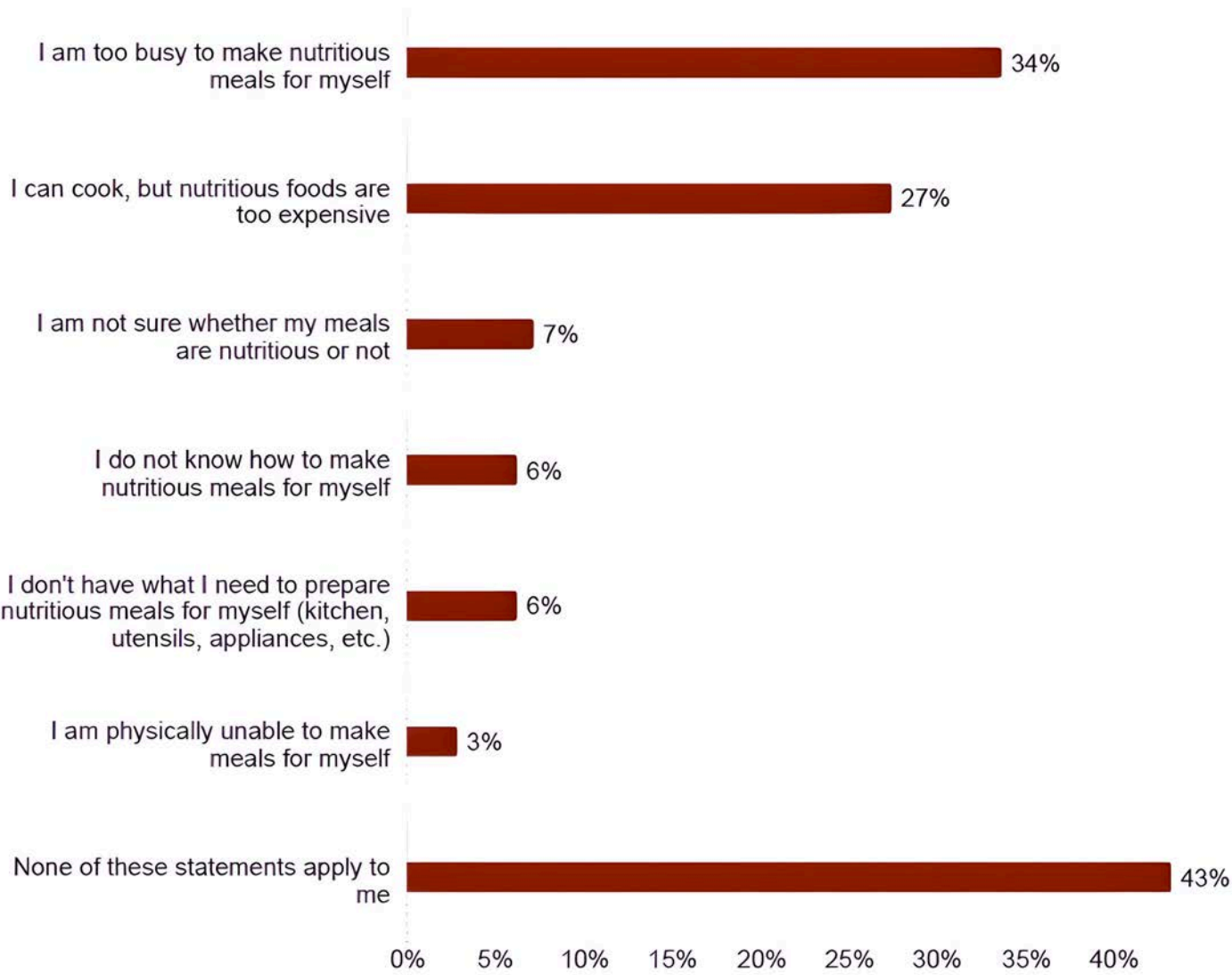
320 Responses



# Housing, Food, and Basic Needs

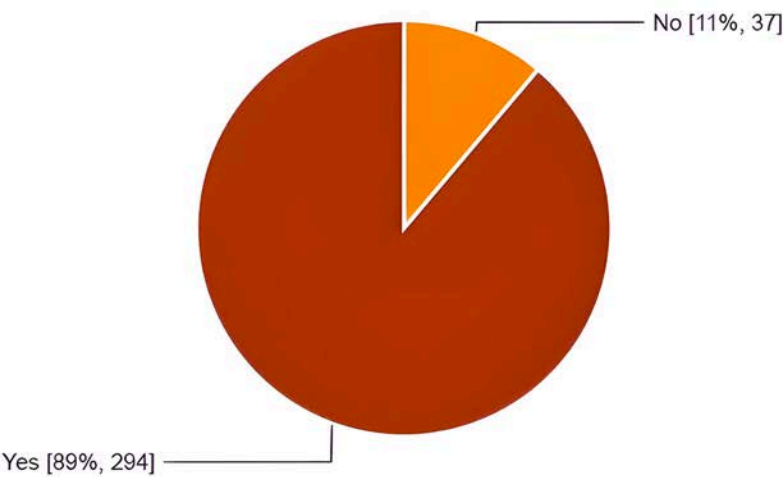
Please select all of the following statements that you feel apply to you about food and nutrition. (Select all that apply)

321 Responses



# Housing, Food, and Basic Needs

Do you have a computer or laptop with internet access at the place you live or stay that you can use?

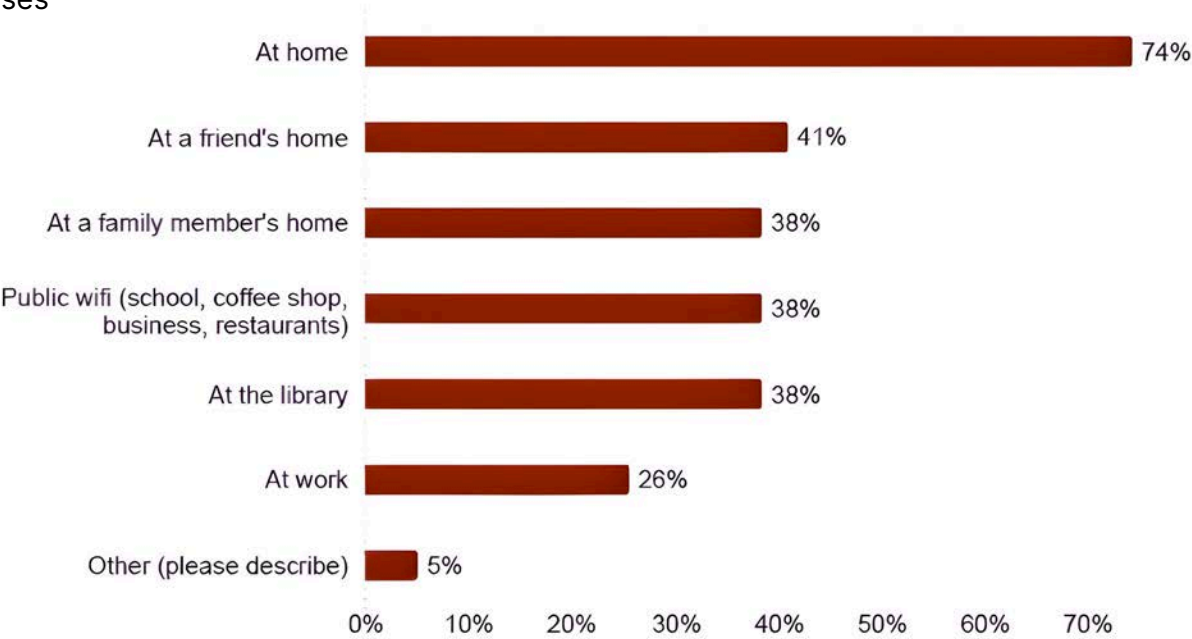


.....

## Where do you usually access/use the internet? (select all that apply)

Only respondents who indicated “No” to the question “Do you have a computer or laptop with internet access at the place you live or stay that you can use?” or “Do you have a smartphone with internet access?” were asked this question.

39 Responses

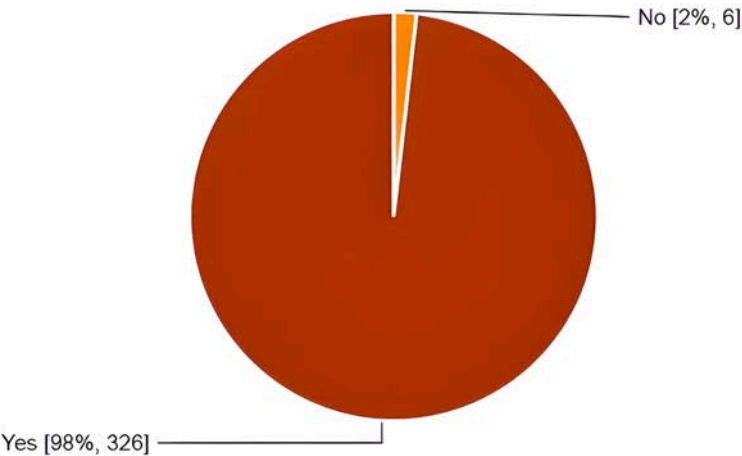


# Housing, Food, and Basic Needs

## Do you have a smartphone with internet access? (a phone that also has computer capabilities and accesses the internet)

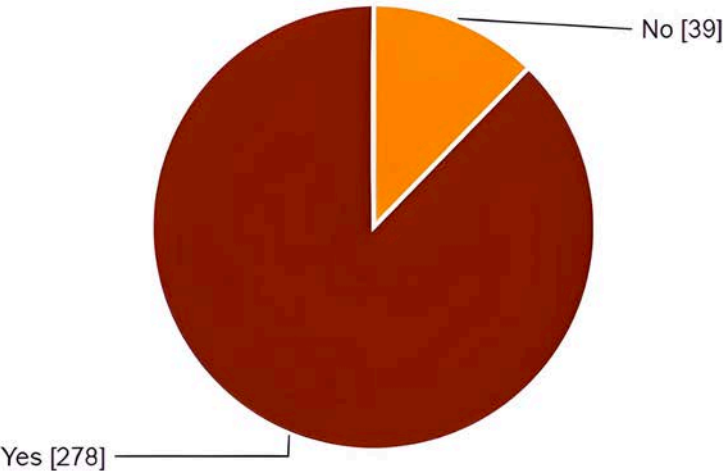
Only respondents who indicated "No" to the question "Do you have a computer or laptop with internet access at the place you live or stay that you can use?" or "Do you have a smartphone with internet access?" were asked this question.

39 Responses



## Do you have access to a reliable form of transportation?

317 Responses

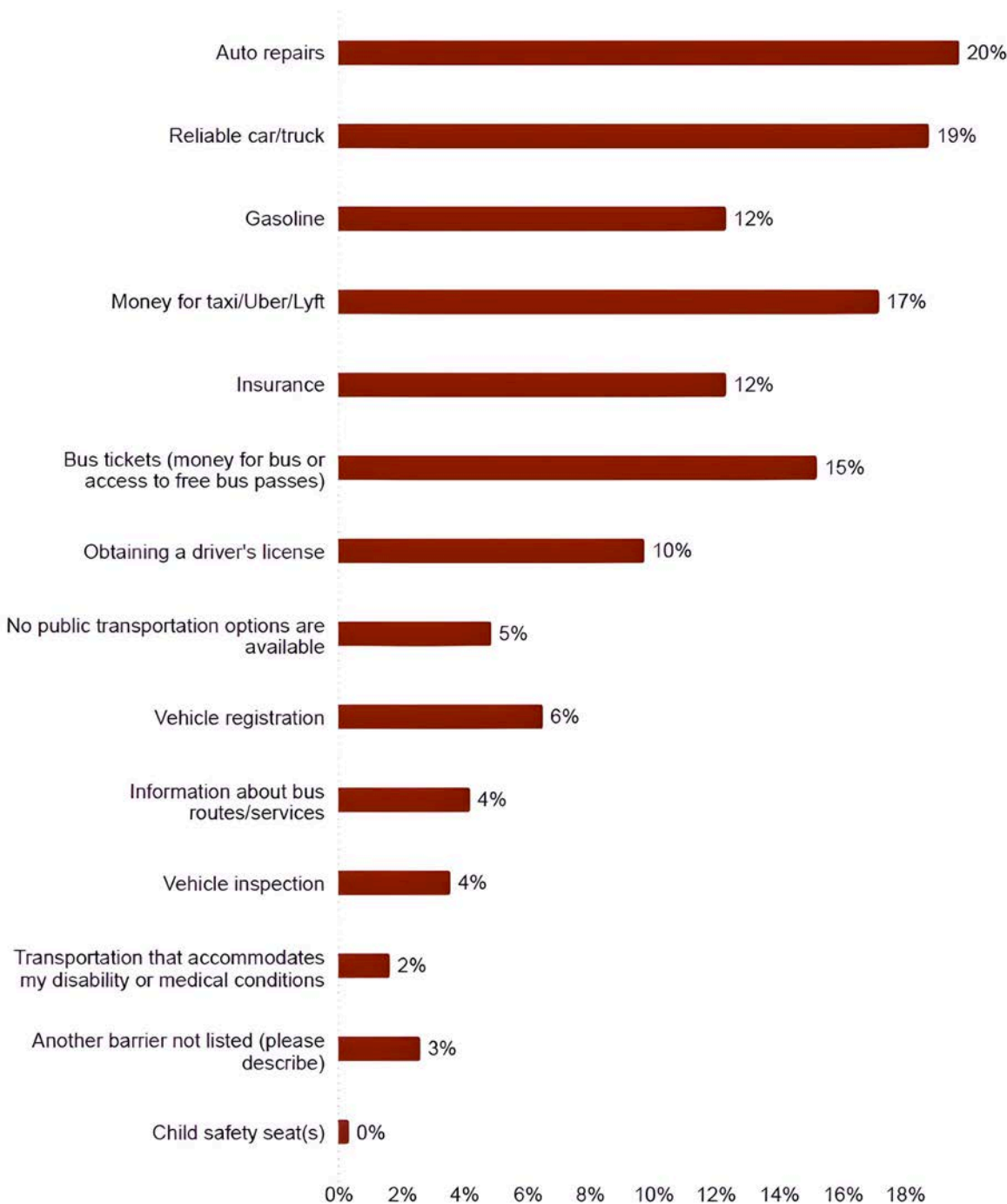




# Housing, Food, and Basic Needs

Is it hard for you to use or get any of the following transportation related needs?  
(select all that apply)

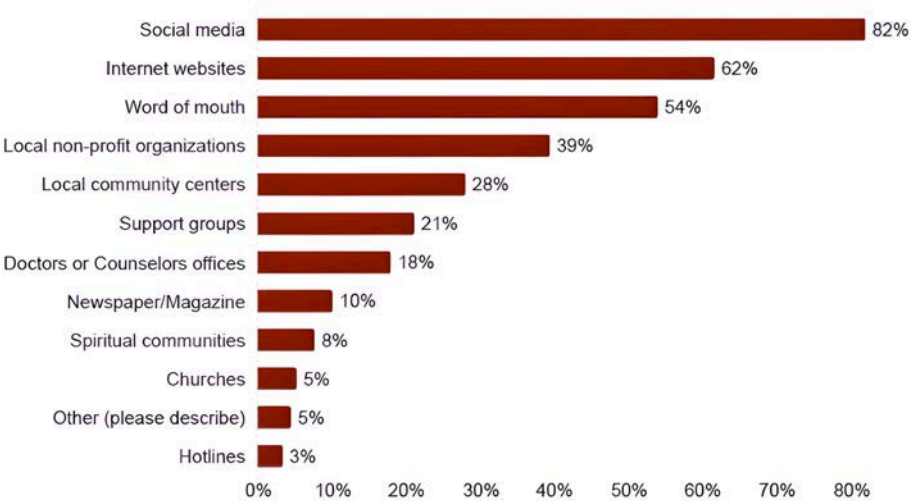
309 Responses



# Housing, Food, and Basic Needs

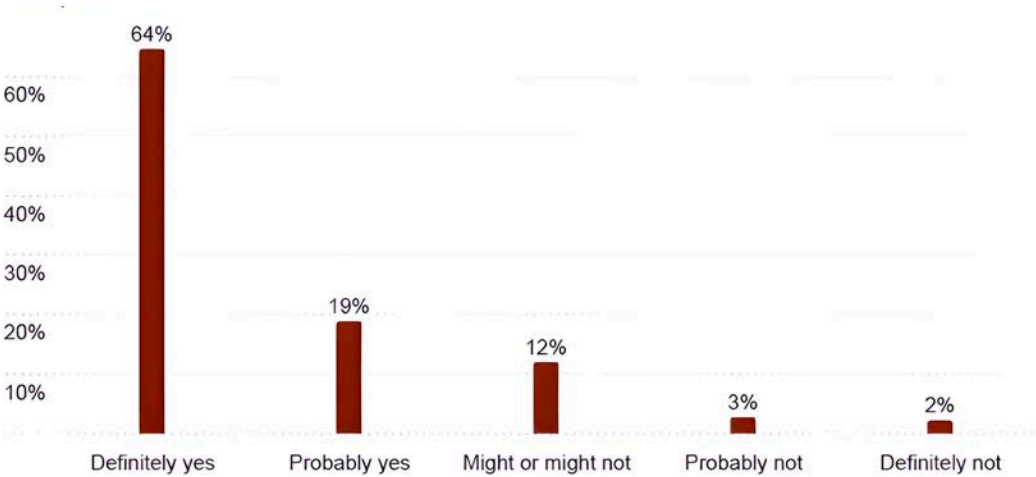
Where do you go to find LGBTQ+ community information, support, or resources?  
(select all that apply)

328 Responses



Do you think it would be helpful to have one centralized place to house all LGBTQ+ affirming community support and resource information, so you don't have to go to different places to find it?

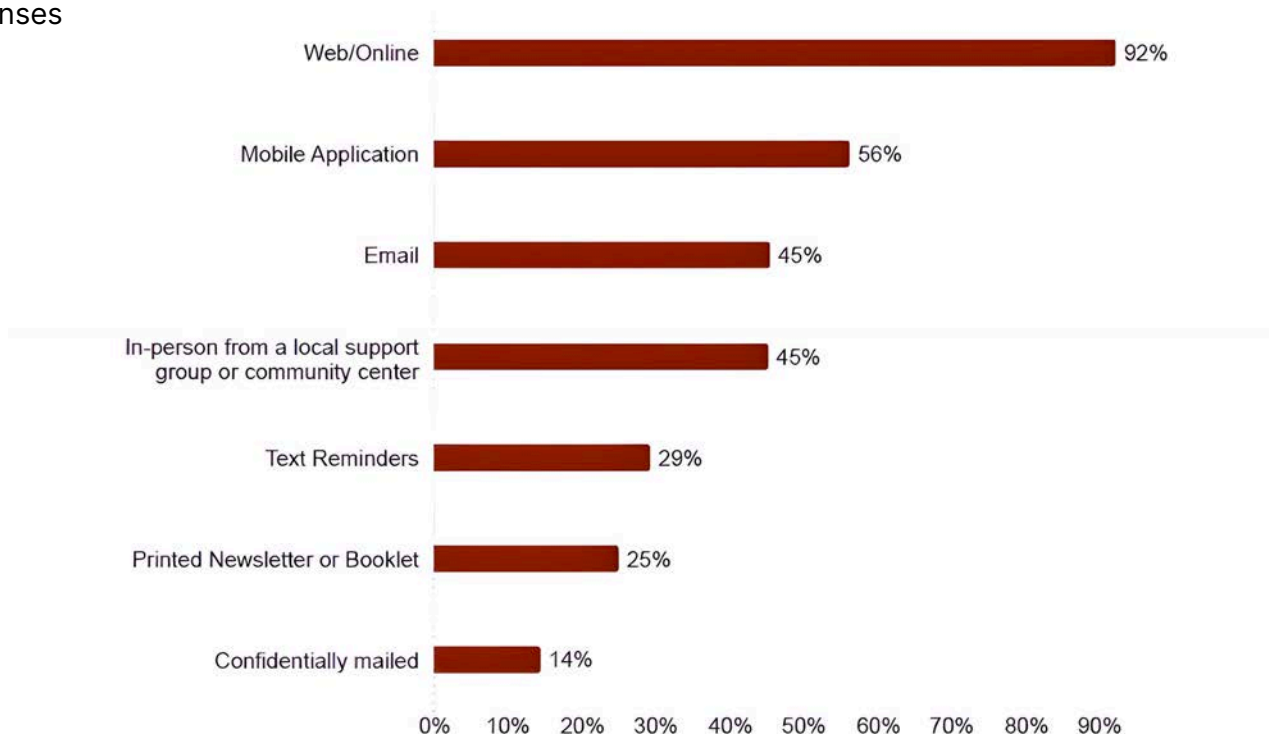
329 Responses



# Housing, Food, and Basic Needs

What format would you prefer this type of information to be available?  
(select all that apply)

308 Responses



*"I'm worried many BIPOC queer people are not getting the community and assistance they need outside of a bar."*

*"Our city needs to do a better job to offer affordable housing, groceries and education to those who cannot afford it normally, especially with inflation."*

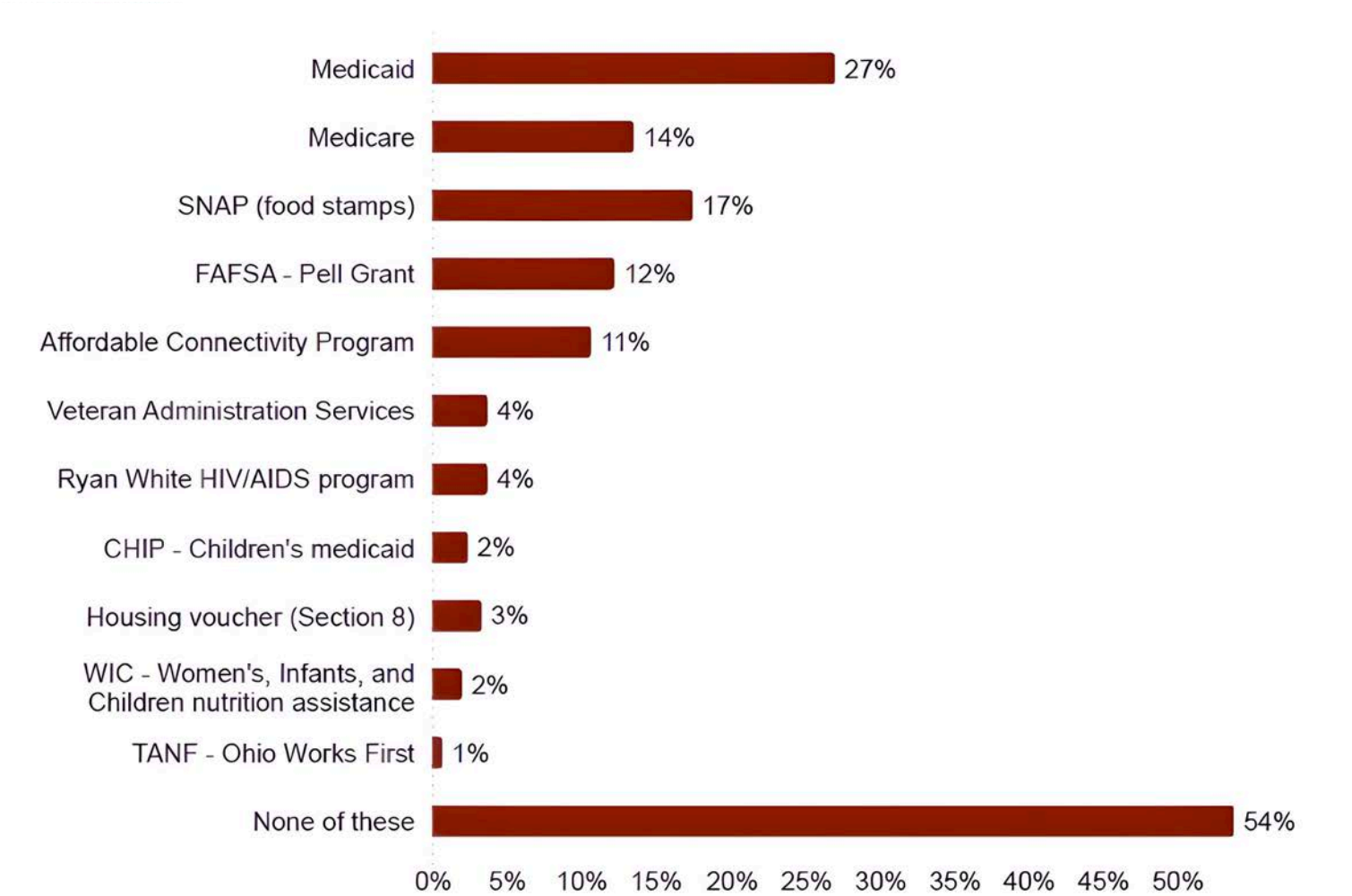
**-Community Stakeholder**



# Housing, Food, and Basic Needs

Do you or a member of your household receive any of these types of assistance? (select all that apply)

303 Responses





## Buisness, Employment, and Commerce

For the purpose of this project, when referring to business, employment, and commerce, we include respondents' experiences, concerns, and needs as business owners, employees, or consumers with special considerations for barriers that prevent respondents from receiving fair and equitable treatment free of discrimination in these settings.

In this project, we recognize and assess the unique experiences, concerns, and needs of individuals at the intersection of race, gender, class, and ability. Our goal is to promote inclusivity, support, and meaningful experiences for individuals who identify as queer or who prefer not to disclose their identity.

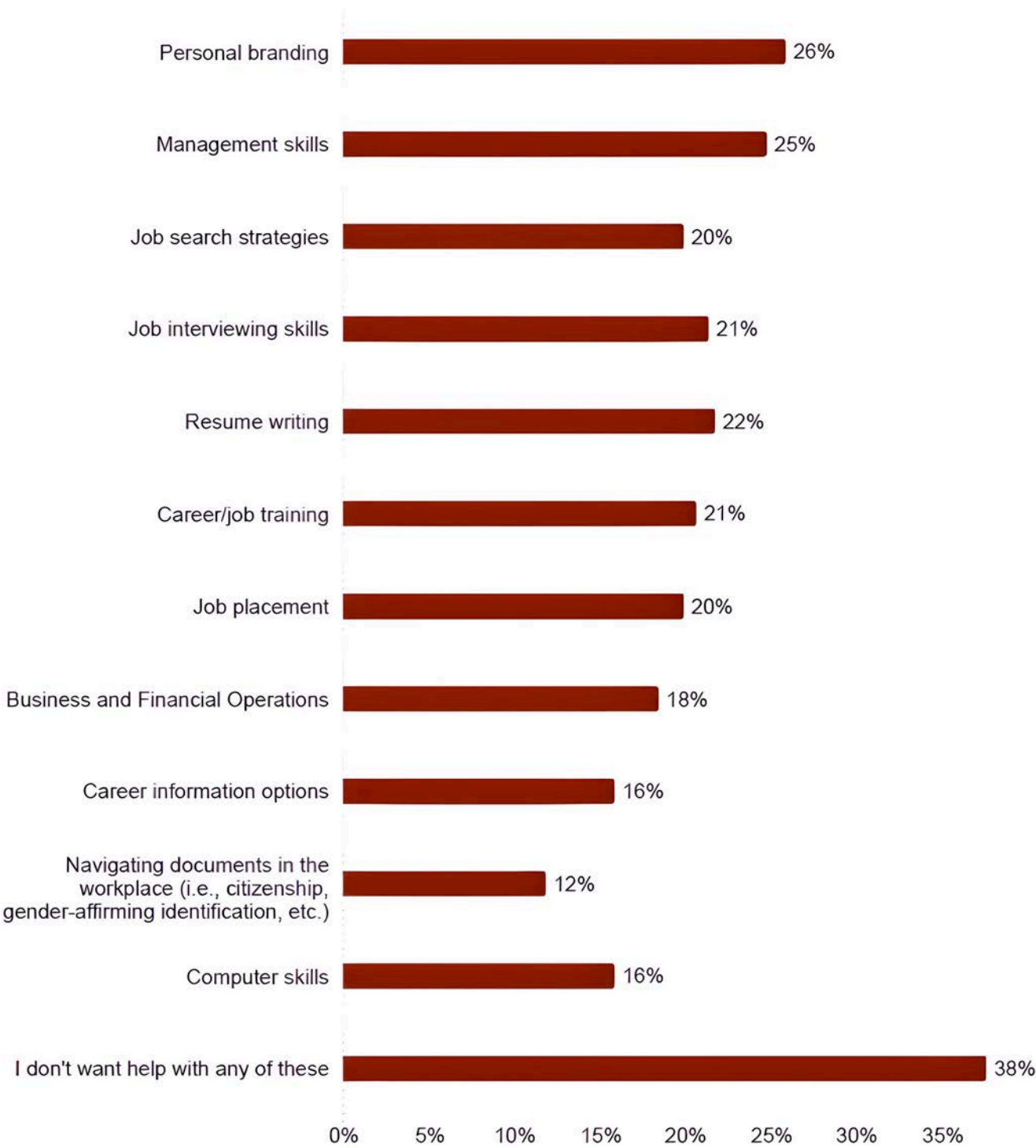
We also aim to consider the needs of newcomers, particularly those in the refugee community, to ensure that they feel supported and included in the business and employment sector in Greater Cleveland.



# Buisness Employment and Commerce

Would you like to help with any of these job-related activities? (select all that apply)

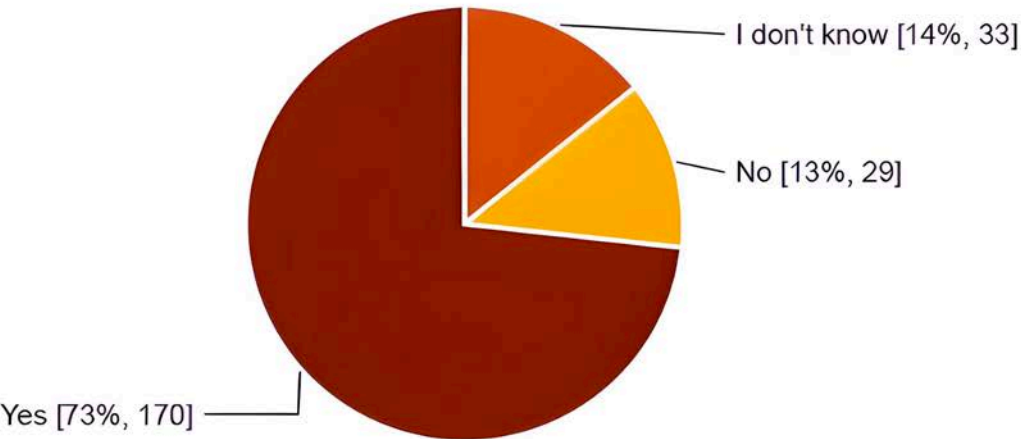
271 Responses



# Buisness Employment and Commerce

Do you feel safe being "out" in your current work environment? (Please answer this question about your primary work environment if you work more than one job)

232 Responses



*"Honestly, when I first applied and went through the process, I wasn't really thinking about me as a Black gay man. I was thinking more of me as a Black man.*

*But, you know, realizing that I am gay, of course, and I'm openly gay. So I know that that would have some impact as well."*

**-Community Member**

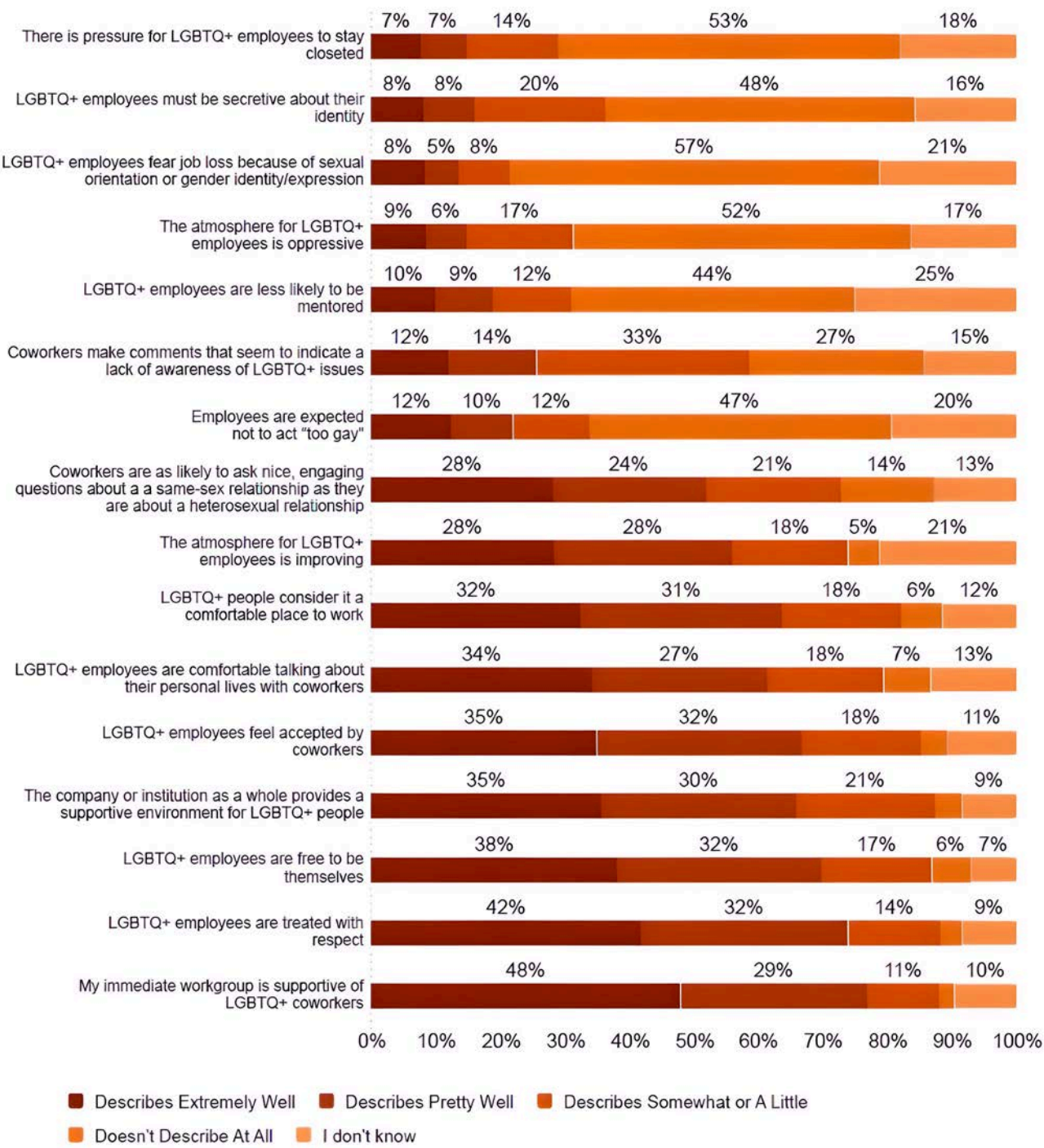




# Buisness Employment and Commerce

Tell us what attitudes exist at your job/workplace towards LGBTQ+ employees. (Please answer these questions about your primary work environment if you work more than one job)

228 Responses

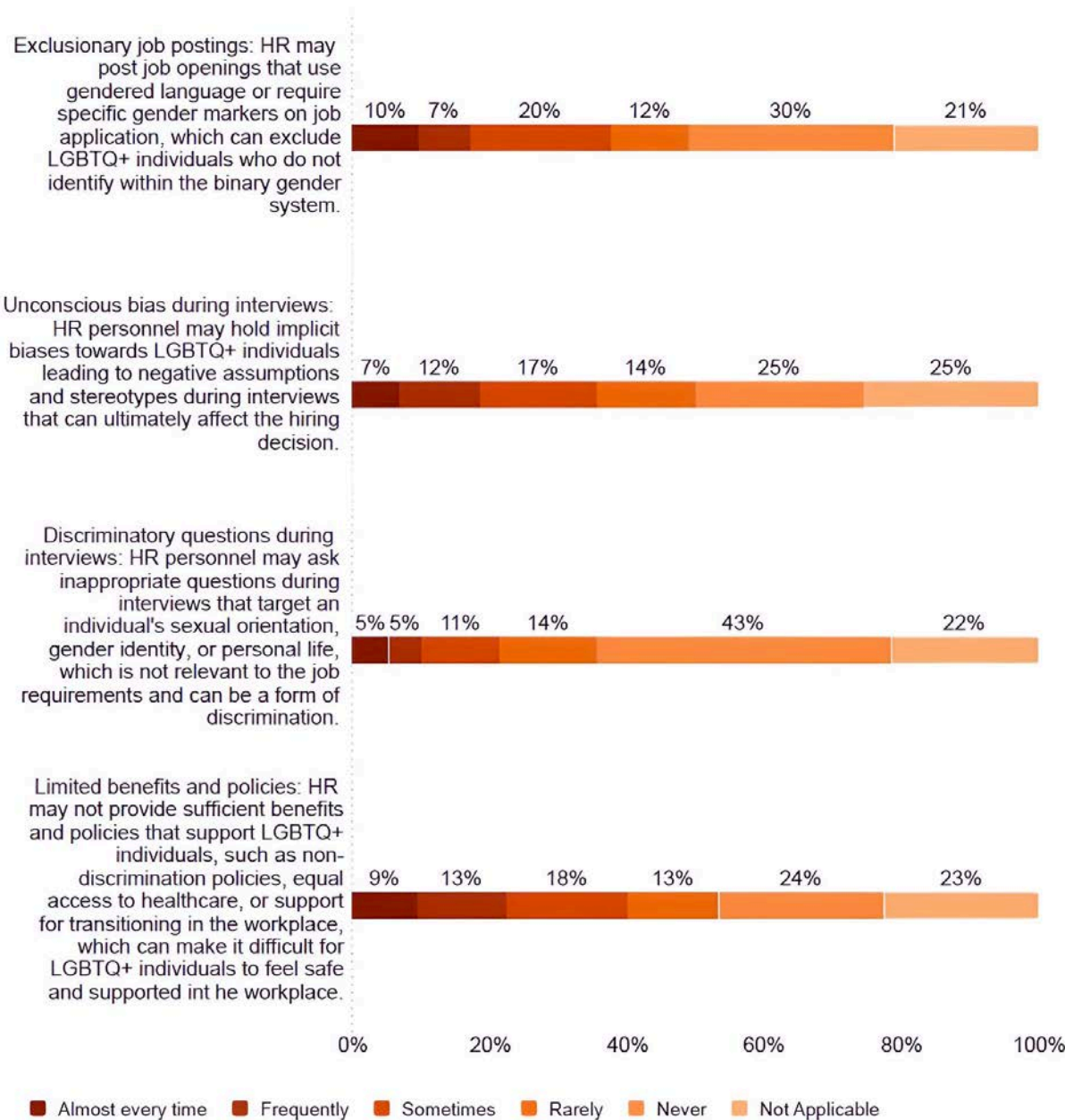




# Buisness Employment and Commerce

Tell us about how often you experience any of the following in the hiring process or during interviews that you have had in the past.

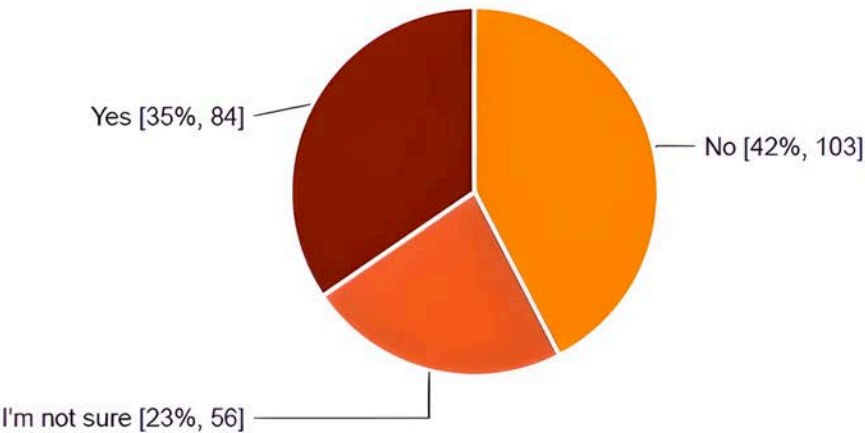
270 Responses



# Buisness Employment and Commerce

## Have you ever felt discriminated against based on your sexual orientation or gender identity at work?

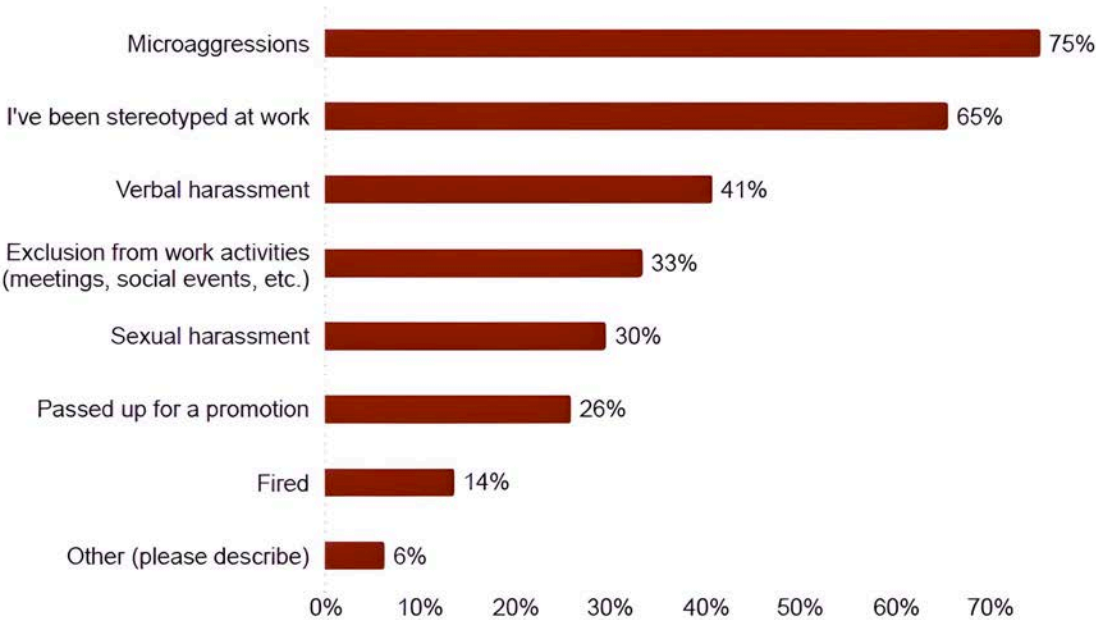
243 Responses



## What kind of workplace discrimination have you experienced based on your sexual orientation or gender identity? (select all that apply)

Only respondents indicating "Yes" to the question "Have you ever felt discriminated against based on your sexual orientation or gender identity at work?" were asked this question.

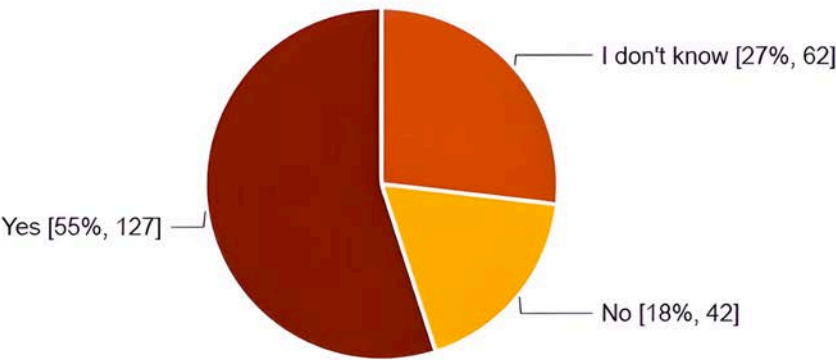
81 Responses



# Buisness Employment and Commerce

**Does your current employer have rules/regulations/policies in place for those who have experienced workplace discrimination based on their sexual orientation or gender identity?**

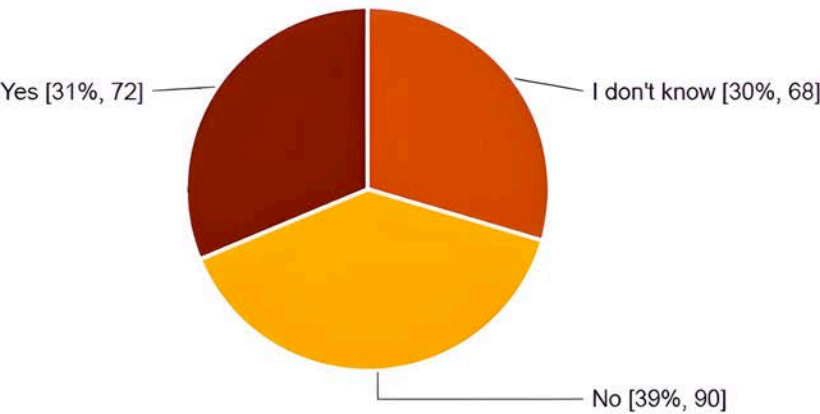
231 Responses



.....

**Does your place of employment have an LGBTQ+ employee resource group (ERG), LGBTQ+ affinity group, or LGBTQ+ employee resource network (ERN)?**

230 Responses



## Safety and Law Enforcement

For the purpose of this project, we use the term safety and law enforcement to encompass respondents' treatment, perceptions of safety, and safety needs in all spaces throughout the community, including private and public areas.

We recognize that creating a safe physical space involves more than just the presence of law enforcement and is an inter-professional responsibility. Therefore, we aim to assess various aspects of safety preparedness and raise awareness of available safety and law enforcement resources.

Additionally, we acknowledge a need to recognize and respond to shifts in law enforcement from historical views and experiences, and prioritize professional development opportunities for people in positions of power to better understand the experiences of those most affected, including intersectional LGBTQ+ identities.

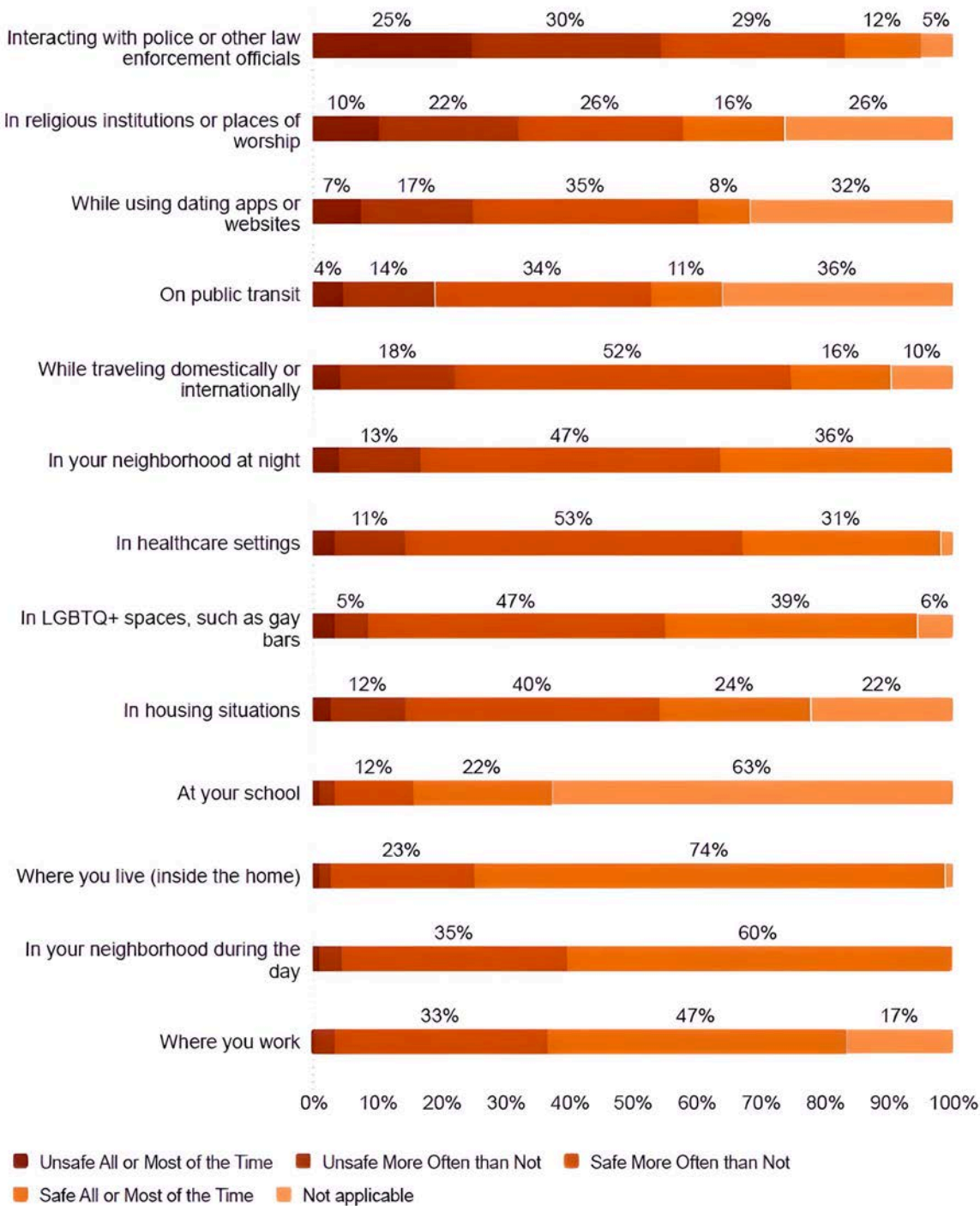




# Safety and Law Enforcement

## How physically safe do you feel in the following situations and settings?

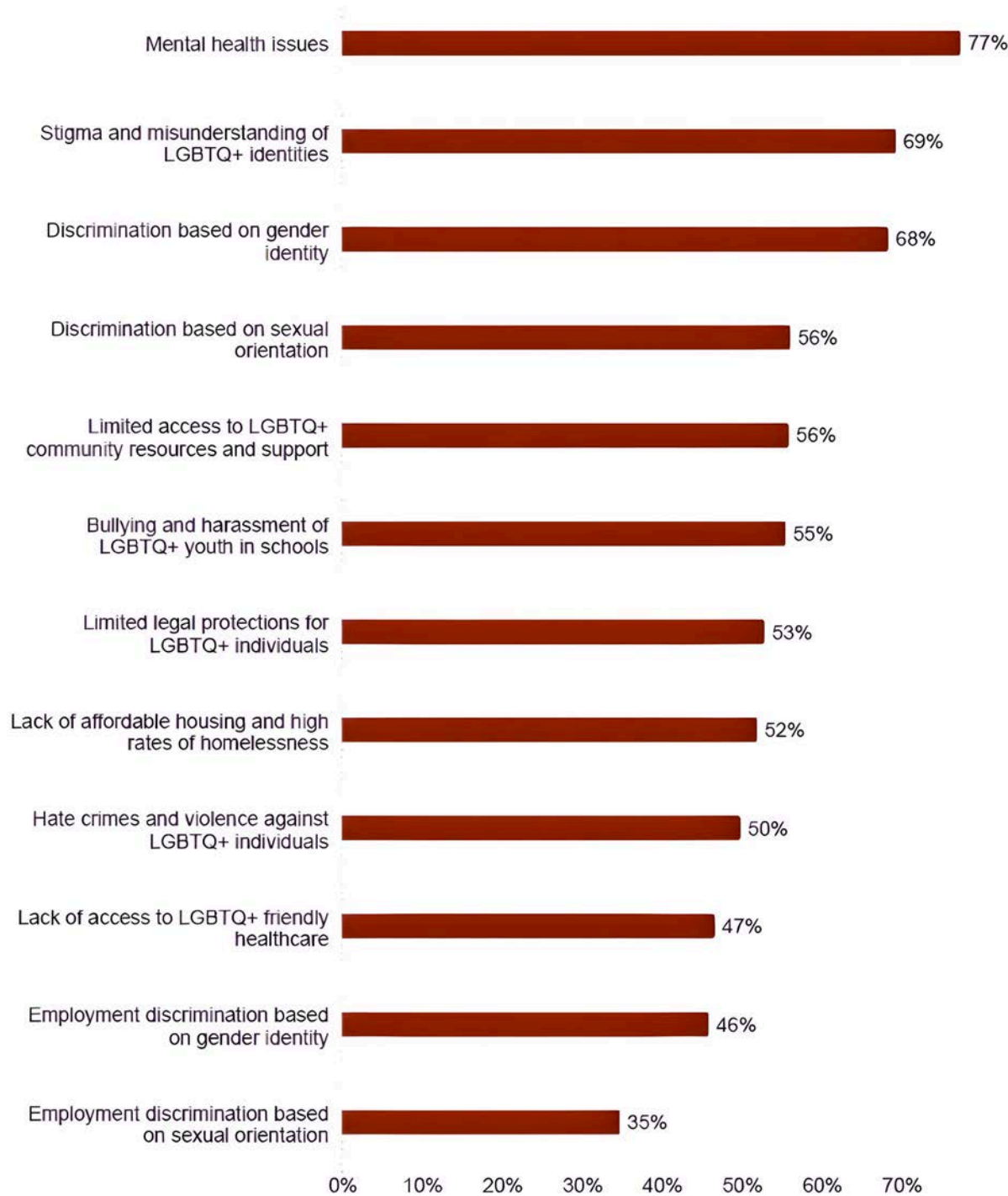
316 Responses



# Safety and Law Enforcement

Please select the issues that you think are problems specifically related to the LGBTQ+ community in your local area. (select all that apply)

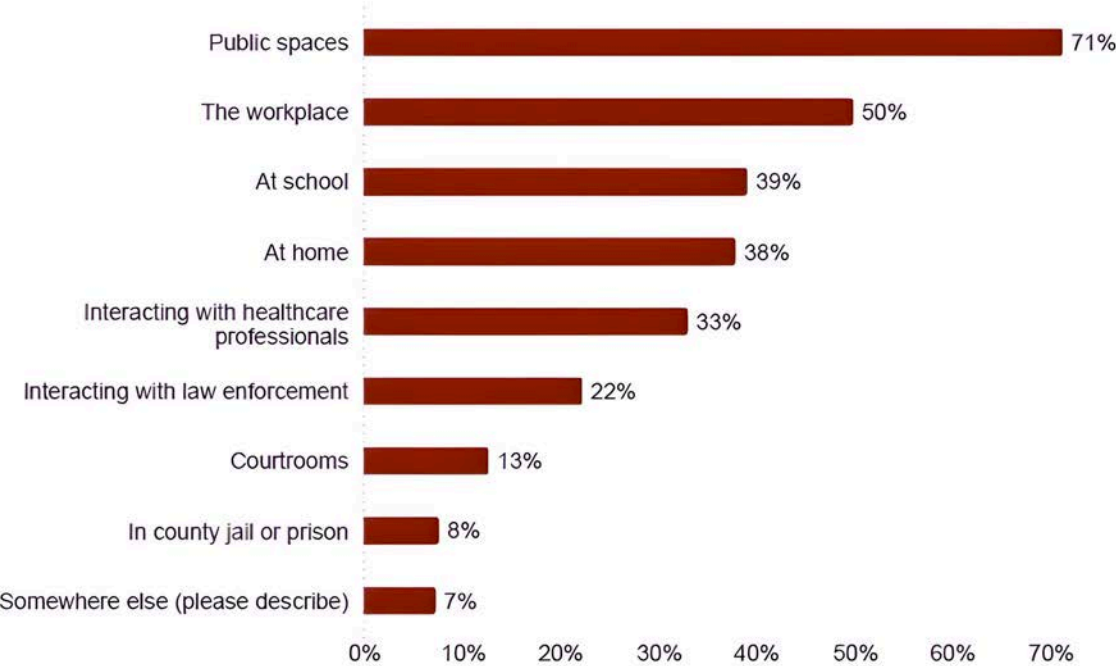
305 Responses



# Safety and Law Enforcement

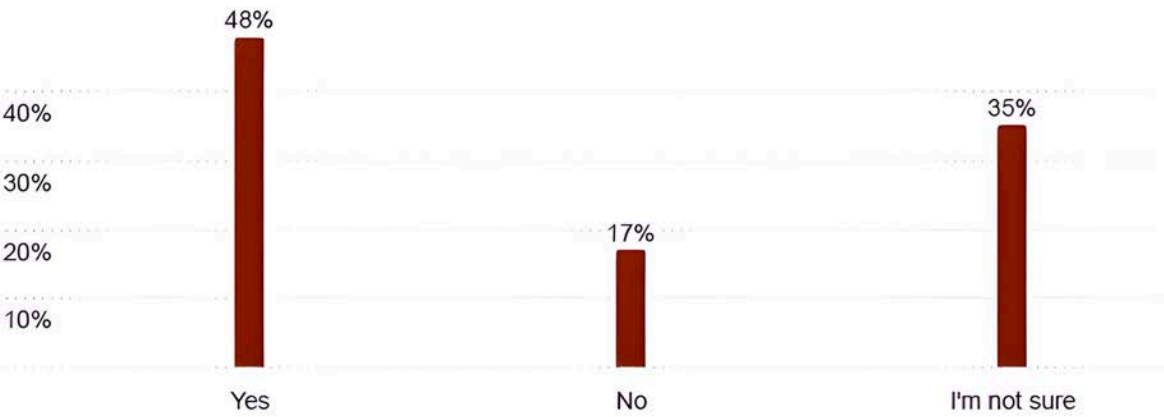
Have you ever experienced LGBTQ+ discrimination in the following places or situations? (select all that apply)

261 Responses



Are there certain parts of Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, or Geauga counties that you worry about your safety or acceptance because of your LGBTQ+ identity?

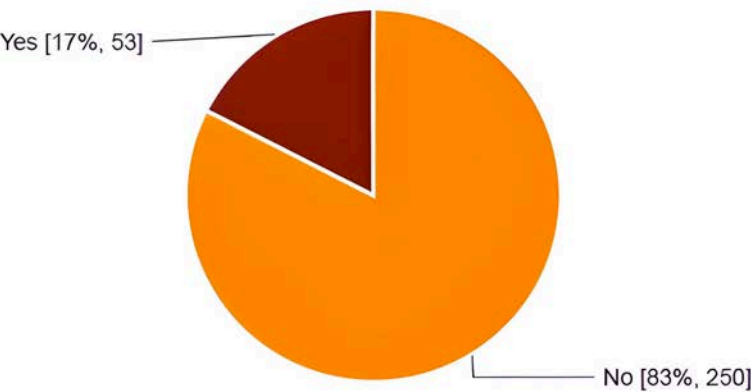
316 Responses



# Safety and Law Enforcement

Have you been arrested, detained by, or had a negative interaction(s) with a law enforcement officer or the justice system in the past five (5) years?

303 Responses

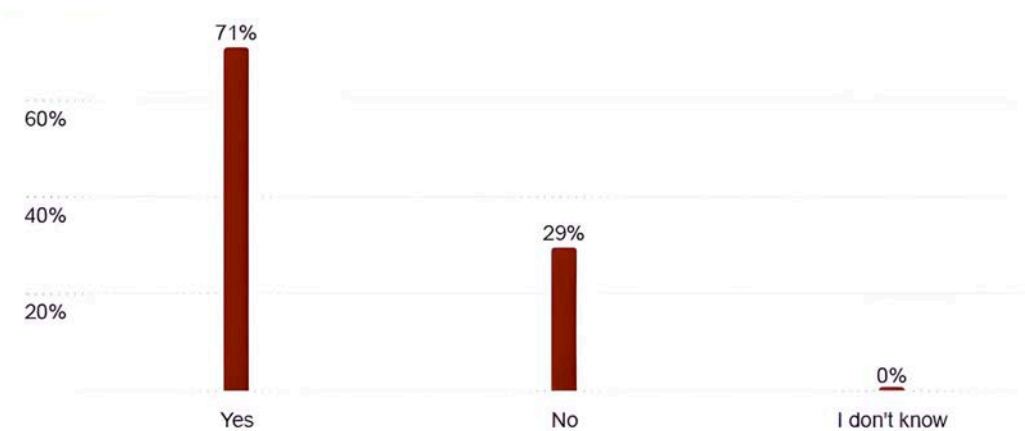


.....

**Was this arrest, detainment, or negative interaction(s) with a law enforcement officer or the justice system in Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, or Geauga County, Ohio?**

Only respondents who indicated "Yes" to the question "Have you been arrested, detained by, or had a negative interaction(s) with a law enforcement officer or the justice system in the past five (5) years?" were asked this question.

51 Responses



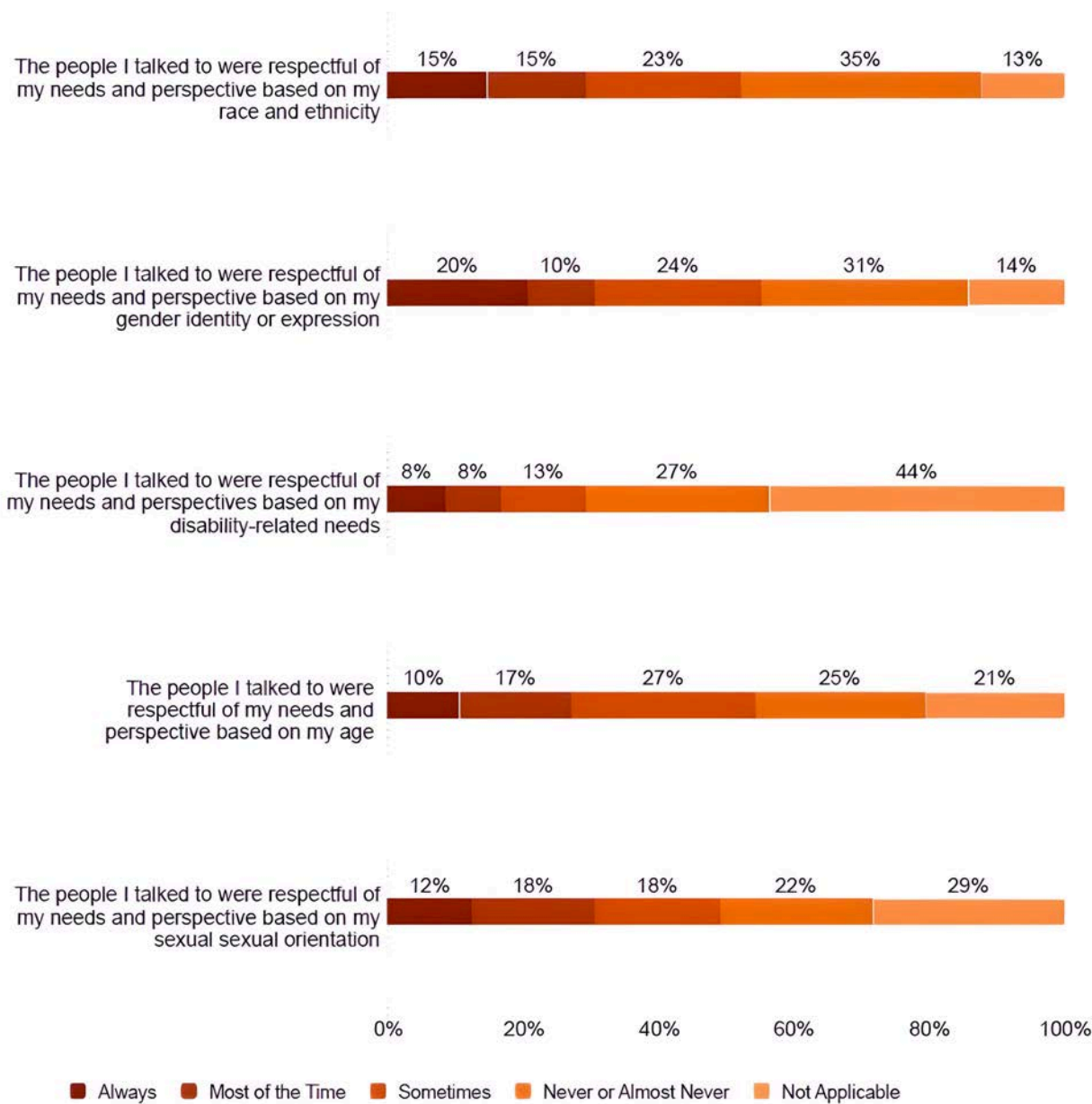


# Safety and Law Enforcement

## How often are the following statements true pertaining to your arrest, detainment or interactions with the justice system?

Only respondents who indicated "Yes" to the question "Have you been arrested, detained by, or had a negative interaction(s) with a law enforcement officer or the justice system in the past five (5) years?" were asked this question.

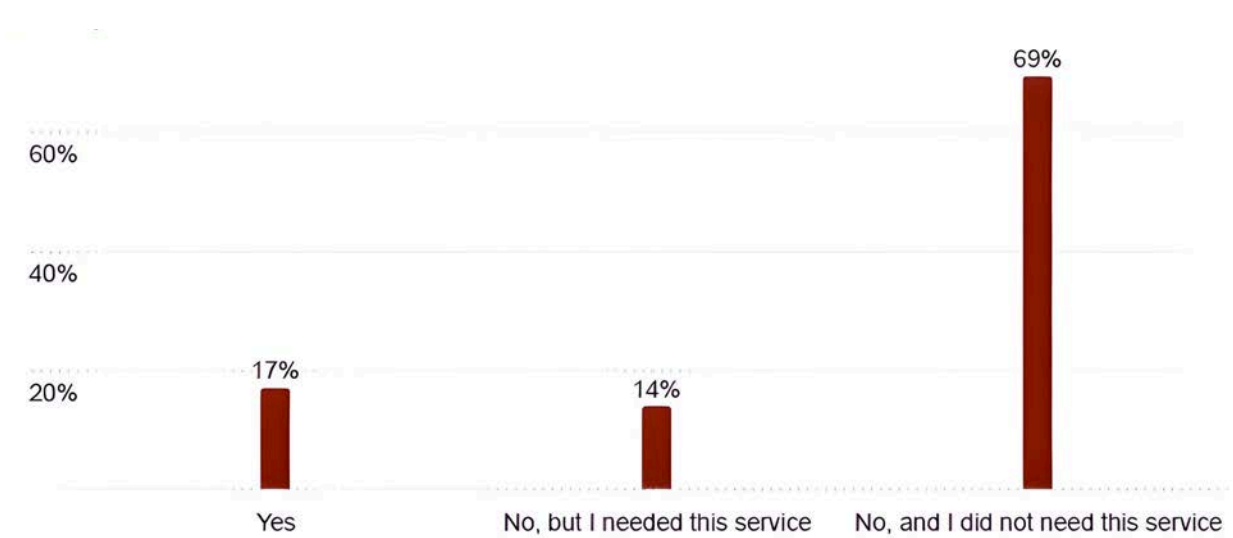
50 Responses



# Safety and Law Enforcement

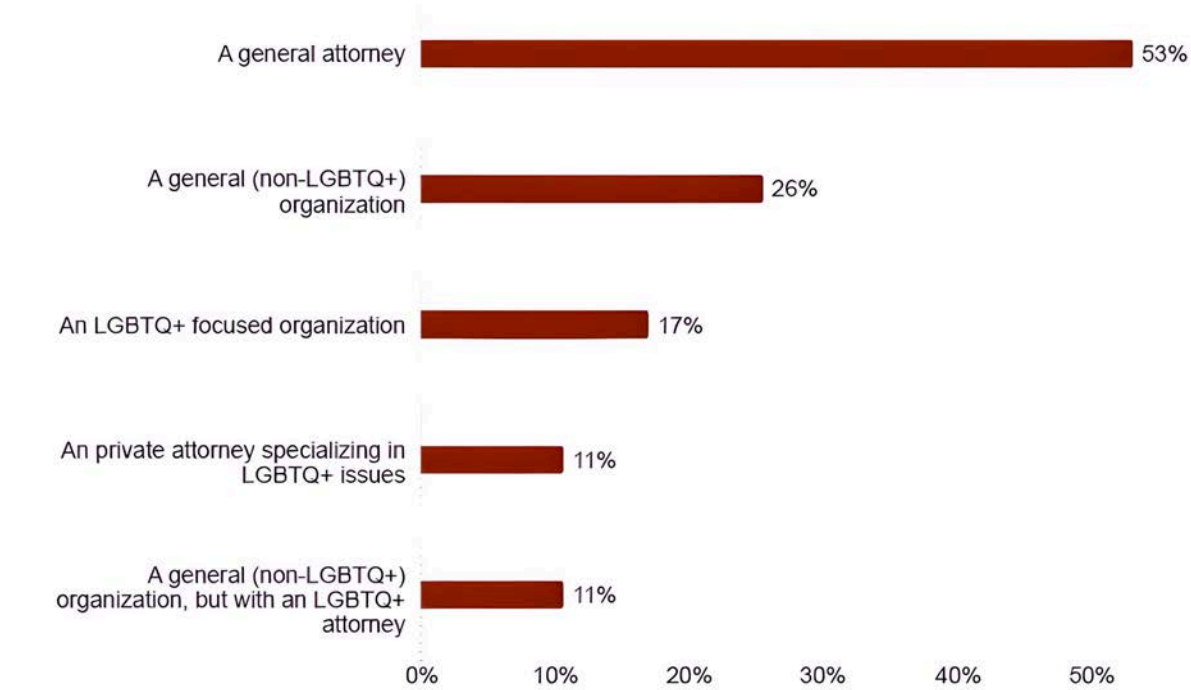
Did you use any kind of personal legal help or services in the past five (5) years?

297 Responses



Where did/do you usually get these legal services? (select all that apply)

47 Responses

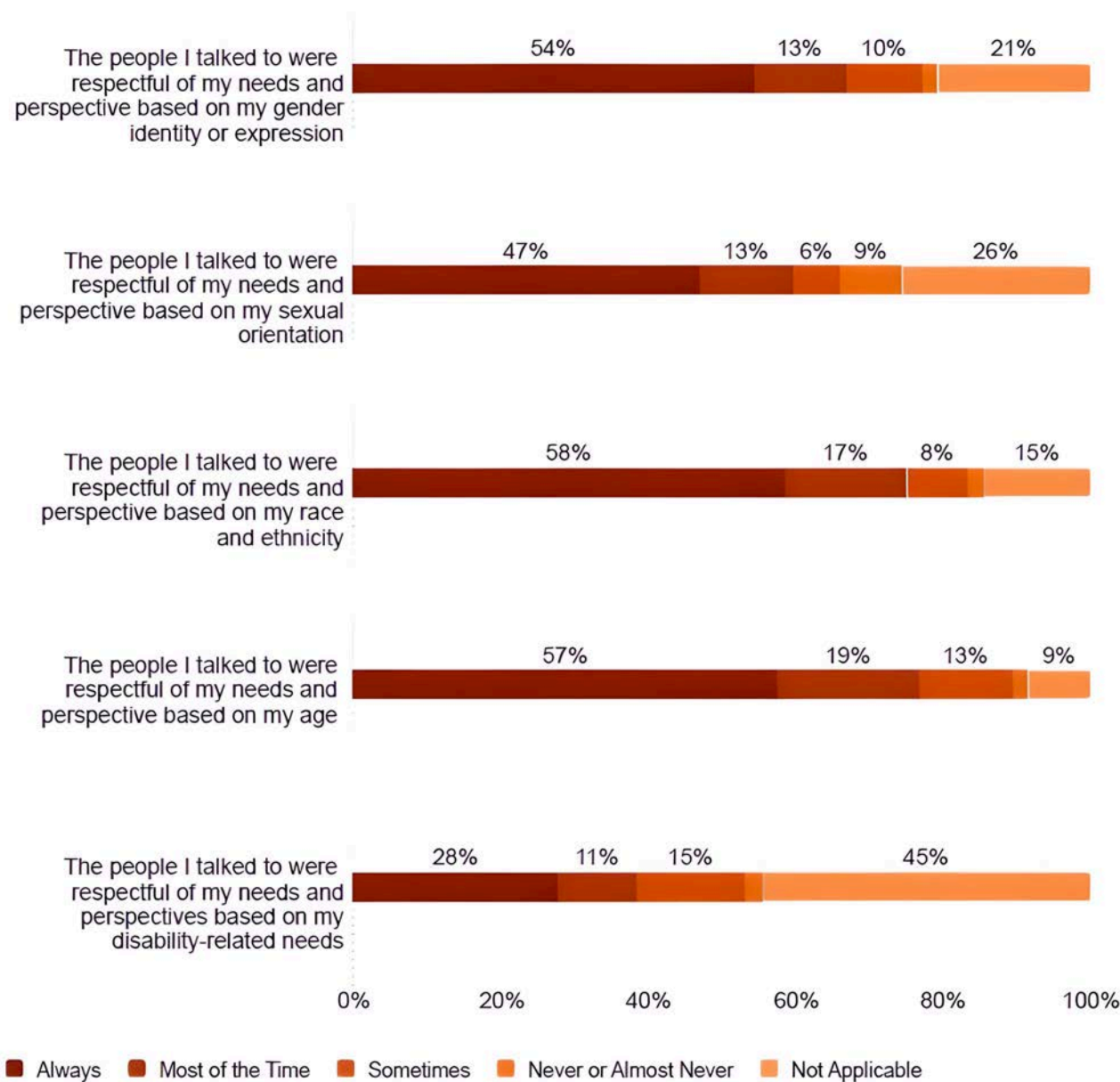


# Safety and Law Enforcement

## How often are the following statements true pertaining to your interactions with legal services?

Only respondents who indicated "Yes" to the question "Did you use any kind of personal legal help or services in the past five (5) years?" were asked this question.

48 Responses

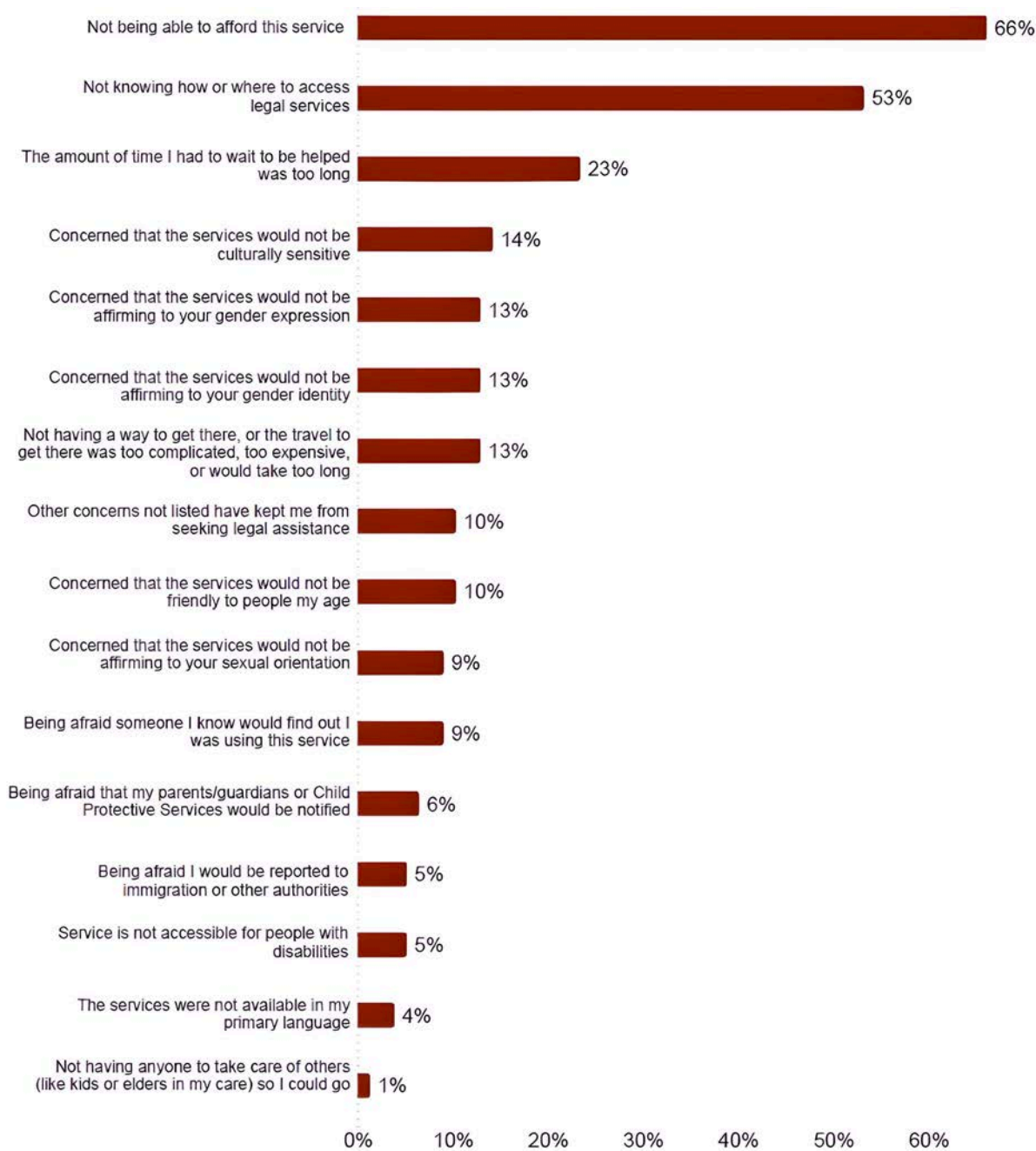


# Safety and Law Enforcement

## Do any of these make it hard for you to get legal support? (select all that apply)

Only respondents who indicated “Yes” or “No” to the question "Did you use any kind of personal legal help or services in the past five (5) years?" were asked this question.

77 Responses

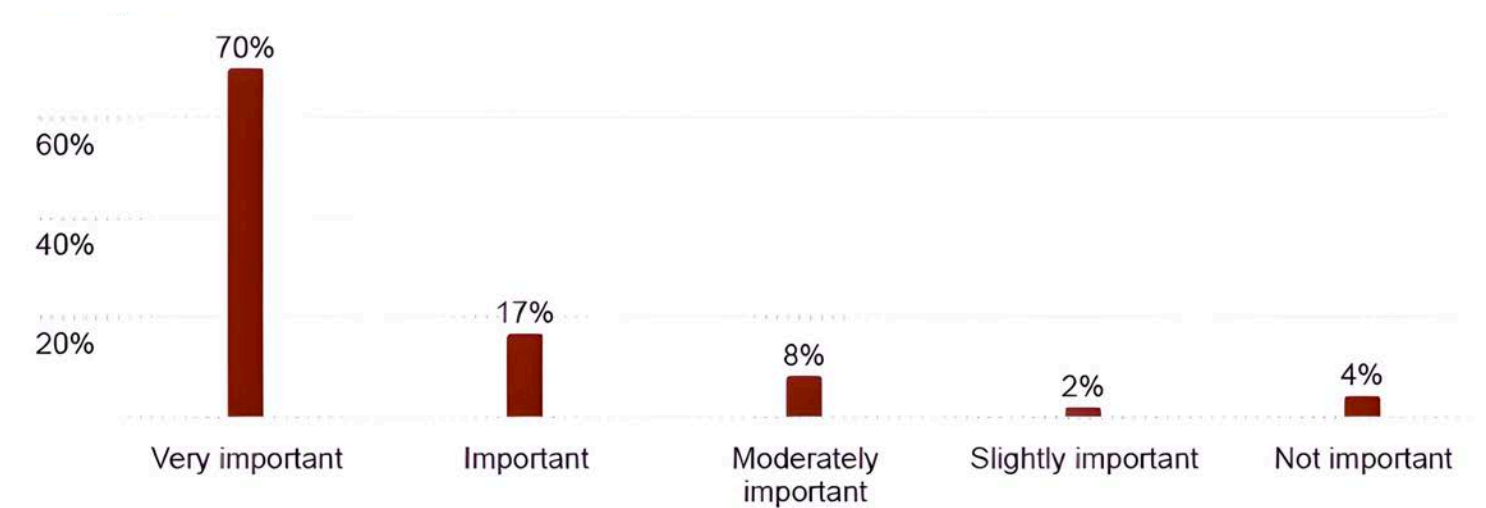




# Safety and Law Enforcement

Whether or not you have personally needed legal help, how important do you feel it is that LGBTQ+ specific lawyers or other legal services are available?

294 Responses



*"Local government needs to acknowledge our existence and help us be more visible. Cities like Milwaukee have sections on their websites dedicated to queer communities.*

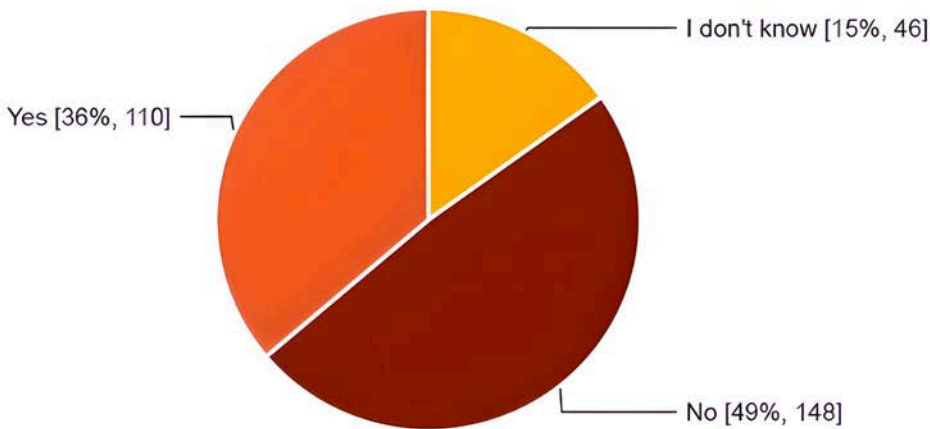
*Cleveland needs to integrate our community into the city's culture and priorities."*

**- Community Stakeholder**



In the past five years, have you ever been bullied because of your LGBTQ+ identity?

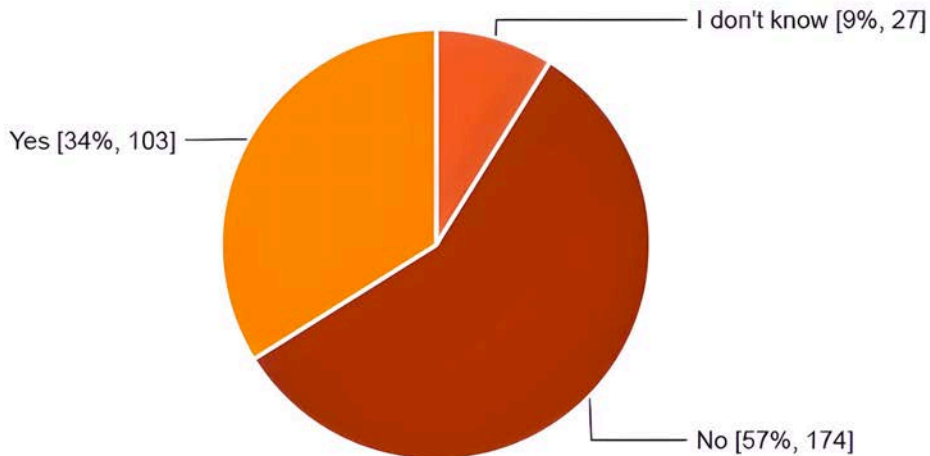
304 Responses



.....

In the past five years, have you ever been electronically bullied (count being bullied through texting, Instagram, Facebook, or other social media)?

304 Responses



## Recreation and Leisure

For the purpose of this project, we define Recreation and Leisure broadly to include respondents' concerns, experiences, and social needs related to both active and passive activities, which may occur both inside and outside of work and be pursued for enjoyment and relaxation.

We recognize that diverse communities may engage in a wide range of recreational and leisure activities, and we strive to acknowledge and respect these differences.



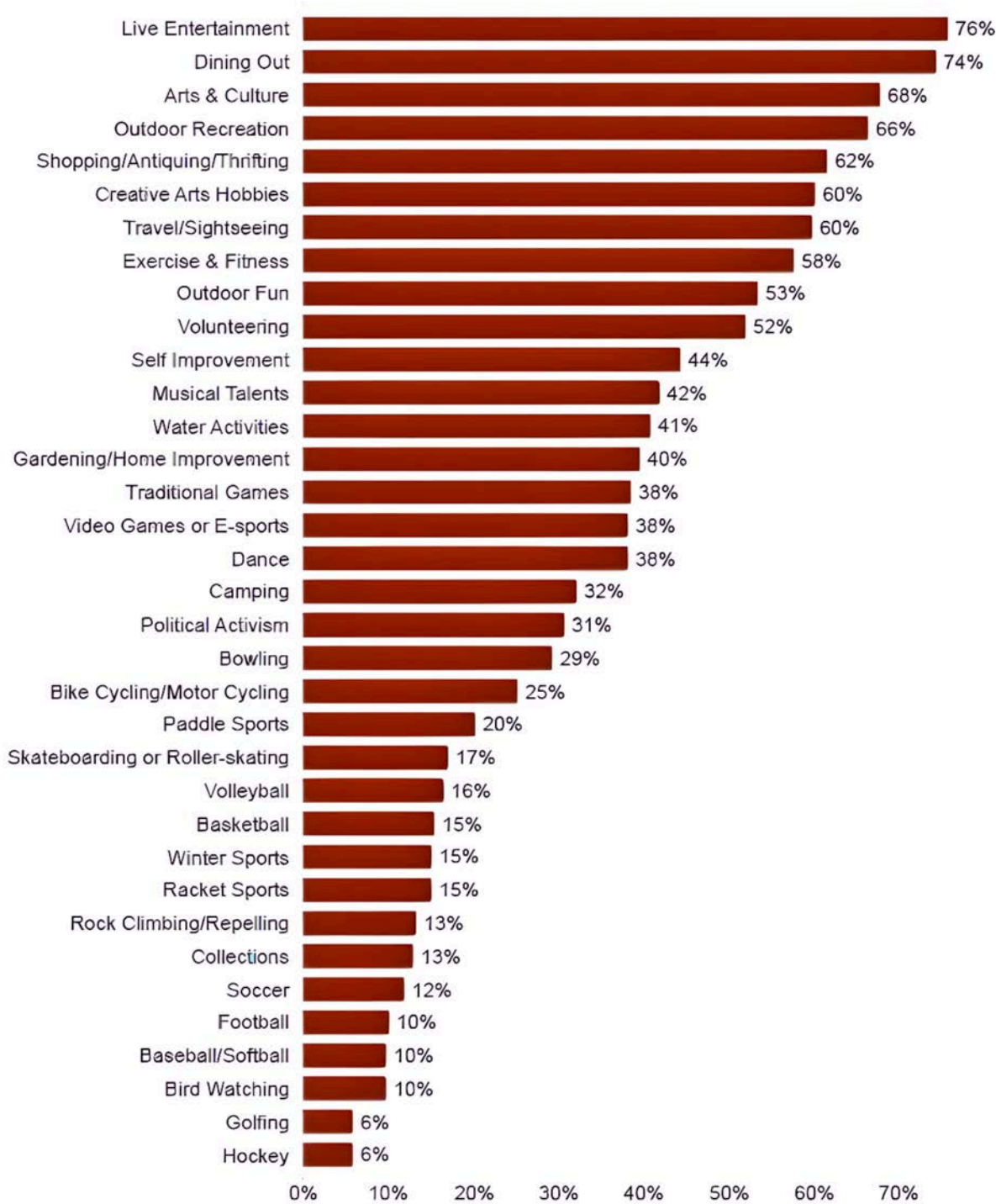
*"Lorain County differs significantly depending on where you go. Affluent areas like Avon Lake contrast sharply with downtown Lorain, which struggles with funding, no public transportation, no sidewalks, and no safe way to bike. People constantly ask how they can get to our events."*

**-Community Member**

# Recreation and Leisure

Select the types of activities you enjoy watching or participating in.  
(select all that apply)

286 Responses

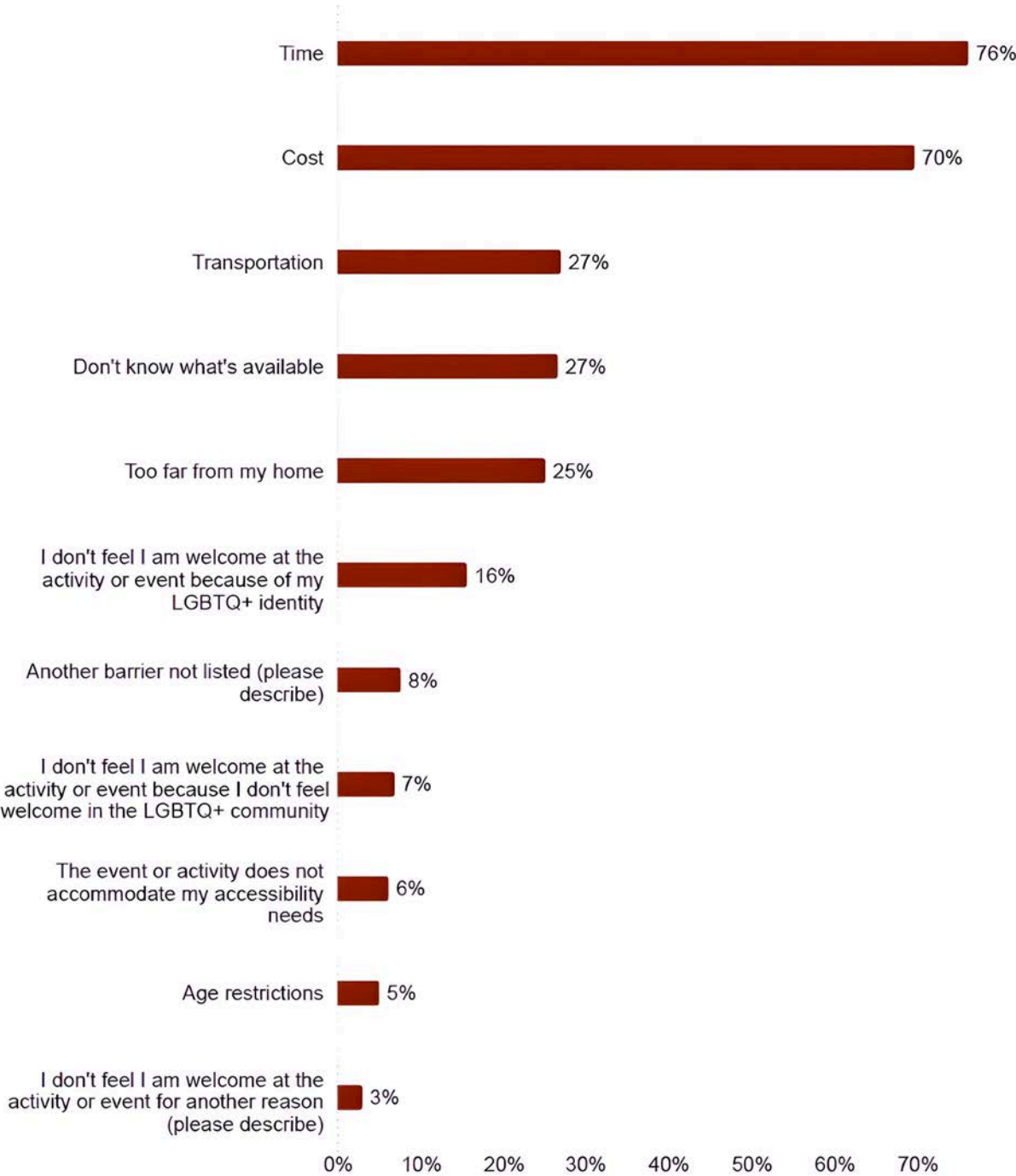




# Recreation and Leisure

Do any of the following barriers prevent you from participating in recreating and leisure activities that you enjoy as much as you would like to? (select all that apply)

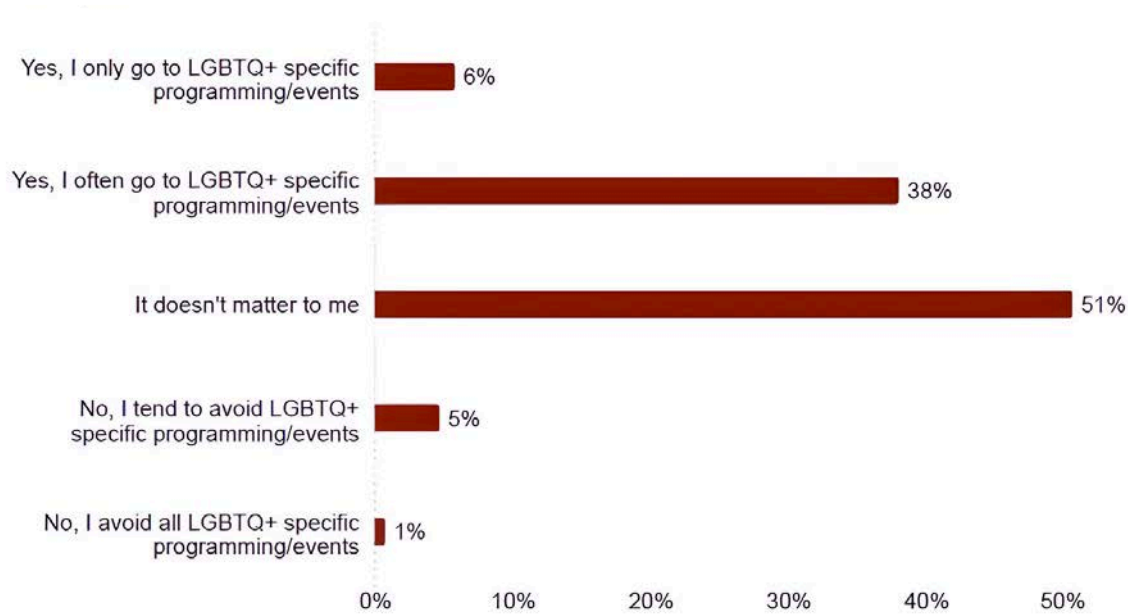
274 Responses



# Recreation and Leisure

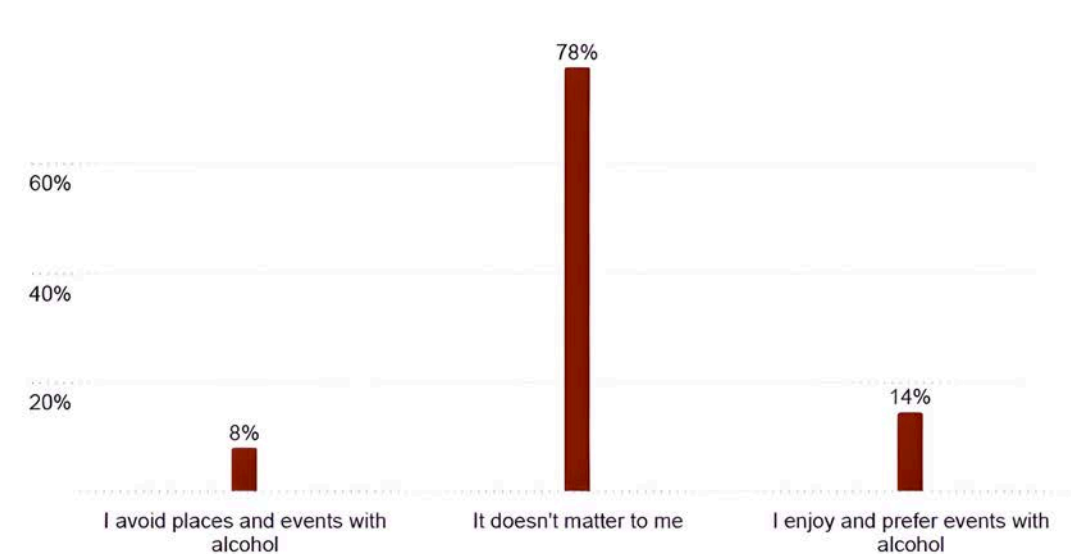
In general, do you prefer LGBTQ+ specific programming and events over general community programming and events?

278 Responses



If there is alcohol at an LGBTQ+ event does it keep you from attending ?

278 Responses





# *INTERSECTIONALITY* **COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHTS**

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Intersectionality listening sessions were conducted with individuals of color within the 2SLGBTQIA+ community to document their unique perspectives and challenges. These sessions provided a vital platform for participants to voice their experiences with intersectional discrimination, as well as the barriers they face in accessing resources and support.



# Latiné, Latinx, Latino, Hispanic and Spanish LGBTQ+ Community

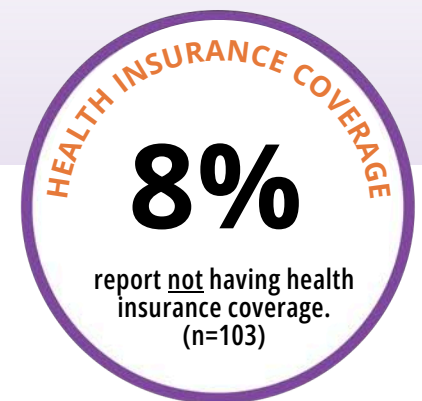
**Latiné, Latinx, Latino, Hispanic, Afro-Latino, and/or Spanish LGBTQ+ community members, over the age of 18, who reside in Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, or Geauga County or the surrounding area.**

## Community Priorities and Calls to Action Identified:

- Establish community-centric free support groups to address the stigma, access, and cost of mental health resources.
- Implement training programs in LGBTQ+ venues to reduce discrimination based on language barriers and accents, fostering a more inclusive environment.
- Increase awareness and intervention programs to address violence and bullying, promoting safer spaces within the community.
- Foster collaborative efforts between intersectional community groups and organizations to provide comprehensive support.
- Enforce anti-discrimination policies in workplaces and provide support for those facing workplace racism.
- Enhance safety measures in digital spaces and public transit, including more safety/security staff and better enforcement of legal protections.
- Provide legal services through existing support organizations to assist with navigating legal documentation issues.
- Allocate budget and prioritize the translation of resources and materials into Spanish, ensuring accessibility for non-English speakers in LGBTQ+ spaces and events.

"The inclusion of Latino queer individuals in Cleveland is still a relatively new practice. studies like this one not only address this by creating space but also provided accessible language and resources for a community that has long needed visibility and information. While the work has begun, I am eager to see its continued development and growth in the future."

- Cuyahoga County Resident, Age 39



View the Full Community Report, 2SLGBTQIA+ Racial Equity Report, Interactive Self-reported Health and Sociodemographic Dashboard, and Local Resource Linktree [lgbtqhio.org](https://lgbtqhio.org)



**Data Source:** Qualitative insights from Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment intersectionality listening session for the Latiné, Latinx, Latino, Hispanic and Spanish LGBTQ+ community (n=7) and quantitative data on health insurance coverage, housing insecurity, food insecurity, and tobacco product use from the Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment community survey filtered to respondents identifying as Latiné, Latinx, Latino, Hispanic or Spanish (n=107).



## Black and African American LGBTQ+ Community

**Black, African American, and/or Afro-latino LGBTQ+ community members, over the age of 18, and reside in Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, or Geauga County or the surrounding area.**

### Community Priorities and Calls to Action Identified:

- Expand services for affordable housing, particularly on the east side of Cleveland, and establish more LGBTQ+-friendly housing options.
- Address food insecurity by creating more accessible and healthy food options and improving transportation to these resources.
- Develop and support intersectional spaces for Black LGBTQ+ individuals, fostering a sense of community and belonging.
- Implement policies and training programs to reduce discrimination in nightlife and other social spaces, ensuring inclusivity and safety.
- Enhance public transportation safety measures and provide more options for accessing healthy food.
- Improve access to healthcare by addressing systemic barriers, increasing supportive resources, and ensuring inclusive and affirming care for Black LGBTQ+ individuals.
- Create microgrant programs and networking opportunities for Black LGBTQ+ artists and independent workers to support their creative and professional endeavors.
- Strengthen community-based services to address intersectionality and historical trauma, ensuring they are robust and inclusive.

**"I worry about the intersections of my queerness and Blackness in interactions with safety and law enforcement officials, as well as recreational and leisure activities in certain spaces."**

**- Cuyahoga County Resident, Age 45**



View the Full Community Report, 2SLGBTQIA+ Racial Equity Report, Interactive Self-reported Health and Sociodemographic Dashboard, and Local Resource Linktree at [lgbtqohio.org](http://lgbtqohio.org)



**Data Source:** Qualitative insights from Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment intersectionality listening session for the Black and African American LGBTQ+ community (n=7) and quantitative data on health insurance coverage, housing insecurity, food insecurity, and tobacco product use from the Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment community survey filtered to respondents identifying as Black or African American (n=180).

## Middle Eastern and North African LGBTQ+ Community

**Middle Eastern and/or North African LGBTQ+ community members over the age of 18 who reside in Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, or Geauga County.**

While this community spotlight aims to shed light on the experiences and needs of Middle Eastern and North African (ME/NA) LGBTQ+ individuals, it is important to acknowledge the limitations of our study. The ME/NA LGBTQ+ community remains underrepresented in our sample, which may be attributed to several factors, including geographical isolation, historical marginalization, and the mistrust of research initiatives due to past exploitation and cultural insensitivity. Despite having collected insights on the following community priorities and calls to action, our team would like to highlight the need for more inclusive and targeted efforts to ensure their voices are adequately heard and represented in future research and community assessments.

### Community Priorities and Calls to Action Identified:

- Promote opportunities for ME/NA people in management and other power positions within the LGBTQ+ community.
- Utilize government grant programs to repurpose empty and unused real estate, such as Airbnbs, for affordable housing for immigrants and homeless LGBTQ+ youth.
- Foster volunteering and financial assistance programs from large organizations to support emergency food, shelter, and voucher services. Implement food recycling programs.
- Develop educational resources and outreach programs to enhance understanding of religious and cultural beliefs. Include required workplace training on these topics.
- Create and distribute educational resources for LGBTQ+ education in the ME/NA community, emphasizing safety, acceptability, and receptiveness.
- Promote Queer ME/NA safe spaces through TV ads and other confidential channels.
- Implement educational resources and required training in workplaces to combat ME/NA discrimination, focusing on microaggressions and colorism. Foster more sensitivity and language education.
- Provide educational resources and training for the LGBTQ+ community about ME/NA cultures and intersectionality. Include outreach to physicians in training, clinical programs, and workplaces.
- Expand case management services by creating more paid positions for community health workers both within the health system and the community.
- Develop third-party representation, interpreters, financial assistance, and community outreach to support ME/NA individuals needing resources for citizenship, documentation, and safety.
- Encourage support from the LGBTQ+ community to foster buy-in from the ME/NA community.

**“My biggest concern as part of the LGBTQ+ community is not being fully accepted or loved by my middle eastern family once they know who I am.”**

**- Cuyahoga County Resident, Age 30**



View the Full Community Report, 2SLGBTQIA+ Racial Equity Report, Interactive Self-reported Health and Sociodemographic Dashboard, and Local Resource Linktree at [lgbtqohio.org](https://lgbtqohio.org)

**Data Source:** Qualitative insights from Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment intersectionality listening session for the Middle Eastern and North African LGBTQ+ community (n=2) and quantitative data on health insurance coverage, housing insecurity, food insecurity, and tobacco product use from the Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment community survey filtered to respondents identifying as Middle Eastern or North African (n=36). Limitation: underrepresentation in intersectionality listening session.



# Asian American and Pacific Islander LGBTQ+ Community

**Asian American and/or Pacific Islander LGBTQ+ community over the age of 18 who reside in Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, or Geauga County.**

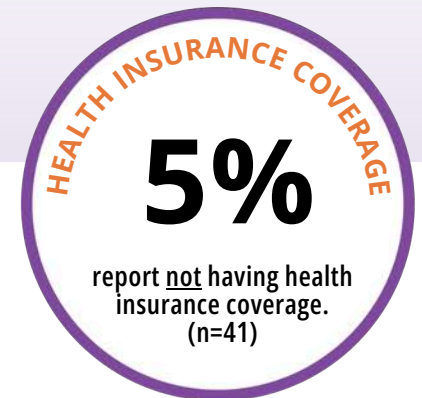
While this community spotlight aims to shed light on the experiences and needs of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AA/PI) LGBTQ+ individuals, it is important to acknowledge the limitations of our study. The AA/PI LGBTQ+ community remains underrepresented in our sample, which may be attributed to several factors, including geographical isolation, historical marginalization, and the mistrust of research initiatives due to past exploitation and cultural insensitivity. Despite having collected insights on the following community priorities and calls to action, our team would like to highlight the need for more inclusive and targeted efforts to ensure their voices are adequately heard and represented in future research and community assessments.

## Community Priorities and Calls to Action Identified:

- Support the expansion and resourcing of existing AA/PI queer organizations like OPAWL to increase accessibility and outreach within the community.
- Advocate for education and cultural competency training within AA/PI-serving organizations to ensure LGBT inclusivity and trauma-informed care.
- Facilitate the establishment of new inter-organizational groups tailored to the diverse needs of AA/PI LGBTQ+ people, fostering community and support across generational and cultural differences.
- Promote media portrayal and visibility of AA/PI LGBTQ+ individuals, advocating for their inclusion in community events, social justice initiatives, and government policies without tokenization.
- Organize listening sessions and cultural exchanges to bridge inter-community cultural differences and foster understanding among adopted and emigrated AA/PI individuals.

*“Coming out to my Chinese immigrant parents led to me being kicked out of the house. It took me a long time to understand there will be a lot of people in life who don’t love you because of who you are. But there’s gonna be a lot of people who do love you. One of those people is going to be you one day.”*

- Lake County Resident, Age 31



View the Full Community Report, 2SLGBTQIA+ Racial Equity Report, Interactive Self-reported Health and Sociodemographic Dashboard, and Local Resource Linktree at [lgbtqohio.org](http://lgbtqohio.org)

**Data Source:** Qualitative insights from Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment intersectionality listening session for the Asian American and Pacific Islander LGBTQ+ community (n=1) and quantitative data on health insurance coverage, housing insecurity, food insecurity, and tobacco product use from the Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment community survey filtered to respondents identifying as Asian American or Pacific Islander (n=44). Limitation: underrepresentation in intersectionality listening session.

## American Indian and Alaska Native LGBTQ+ Community

**American Indian and/or Alaska Native LGBTQ+ community members over the age of 18 who reside in Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, or Geauga County.**

While this community spotlight aims to shed light on the experiences and needs of American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) LGBTQ+ individuals, it is important to acknowledge the limitations of our study. The AI/AN LGBTQ+ community remains underrepresented in our sample, which may be attributed to several factors, including geographical isolation, historical marginalization, and the mistrust of research initiatives due to past exploitation and cultural insensitivity. Despite many attempts by our team to host intersectionality listening sessions for this part of our community, we were unable to engage this important part of our community in collecting qualitative lived experiences.

Due to the lack of identifying community priorities and calls to action directly from AI/AN LGBTQ+ community members and to address these limitations and enhance future engagement and representation of the AI/AN LGBTQ+ community in future initiatives, our team proposes the following actions:

- Build trust with the AI/AN LGBTQ+ community through cultural competency
- Increase outreach and accessibility to the AI/AN community
- Strengthen community partnerships with historically trusted AI/AN serving organizations
- Promote inclusive policy and advocacy for the AI/AN LGBTQ+ community
- Provide funding and resources

By implementing these actions, we can work towards a more inclusive and representative understanding of the AI/AN LGBTQ+ community, ensuring that their voices are heard, respected, and valued in all aspects of research and community engagement.

*“With being Indigenous as well as a woman, I get talked down too a lot! People have no idea what a 2 spirit person is. I have to be firm and hold my ground. I try to pave the way for the 2 spirit people’s after me.”*


- Cuyahoga County Resident, Age 43



View the Full Community Report, 2SLGBTQIA+ Racial Equity Report, Interactive Self-reported Health and Sociodemographic Dashboard, and Local Resource Linktree at [lgbtqohio.org](http://lgbtqohio.org)

**Data Source:** Quantitative data on health insurance coverage, housing insecurity, food insecurity, and tobacco product use from the Greater Cleveland LGBTQ+ Community Needs Assessment community survey filtered to respondents identifying as American Indian or Alaska Native (n=49). Limitation: no representation in intersectionality listening session.





# *DATA REQUESTS &* **MORE INFORMATION**

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The intention of this community needs assessment is to collect information directly from the local 2SLGBTQIA+ BIPOC community and provide it in an organized, accessible, and easy-to-use format for community members, stakeholders, and organizations who serve the 2SLGBTQIA+ community to carry out their mission.

Please visit our website at [lgbtqohio.org](http://lgbtqohio.org) for more information and to stay up to date with this project and future related work.

By visiting the website, you will be able to:

- Download a .PDF copy of the Full Community Report and Recommendations
- Download a .PDF copy of this 2SLGBTQIA+ Racial Equity Report
- Access the interactive Self-reported Health and Sociodemographic Dashboard
- Access the Local Resource Linktree
- Learn more about expanding and adapting this work to Northeast Ohio
- Request a presentation of this information to your organization
- Connect with the project for future opportunities to support this work