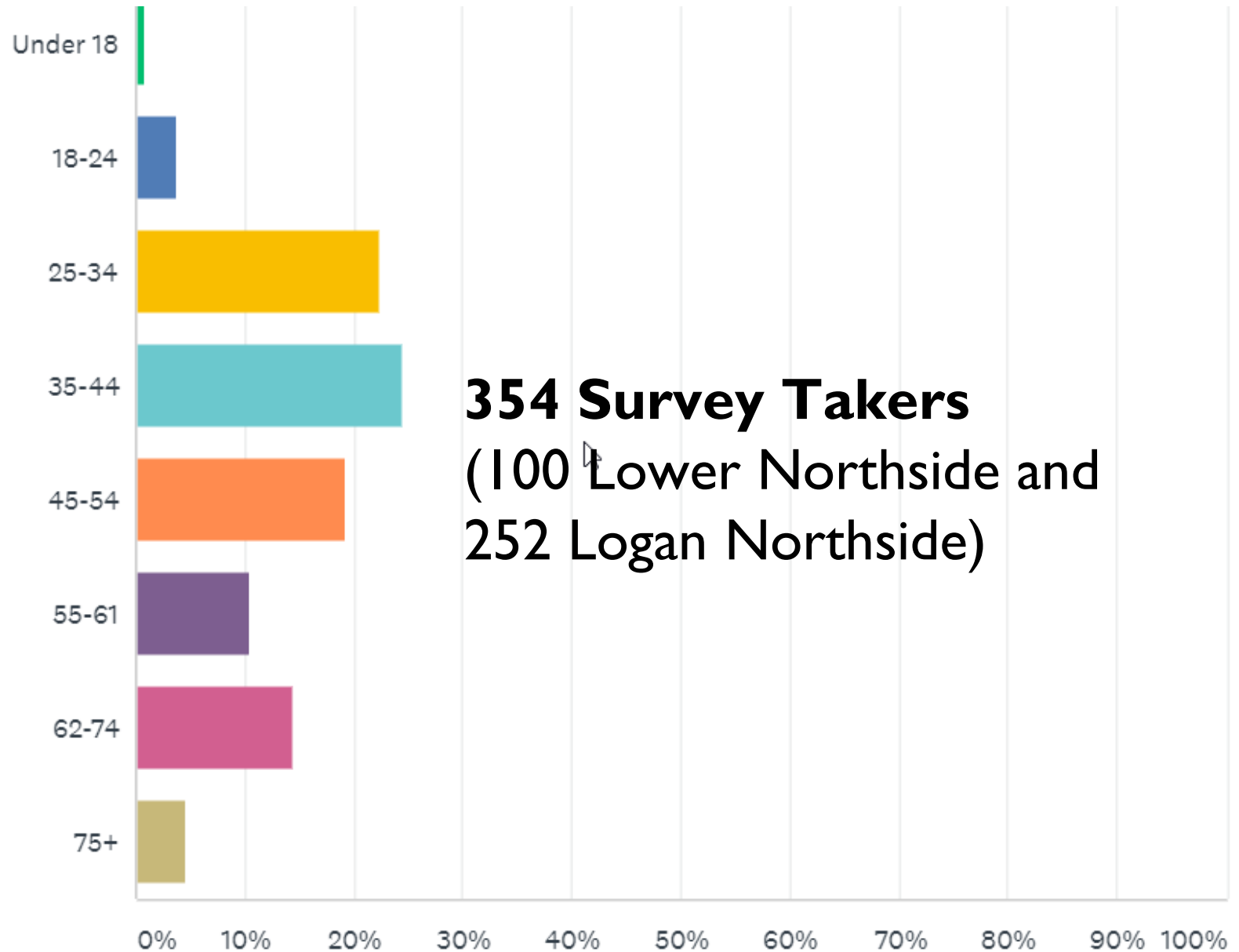




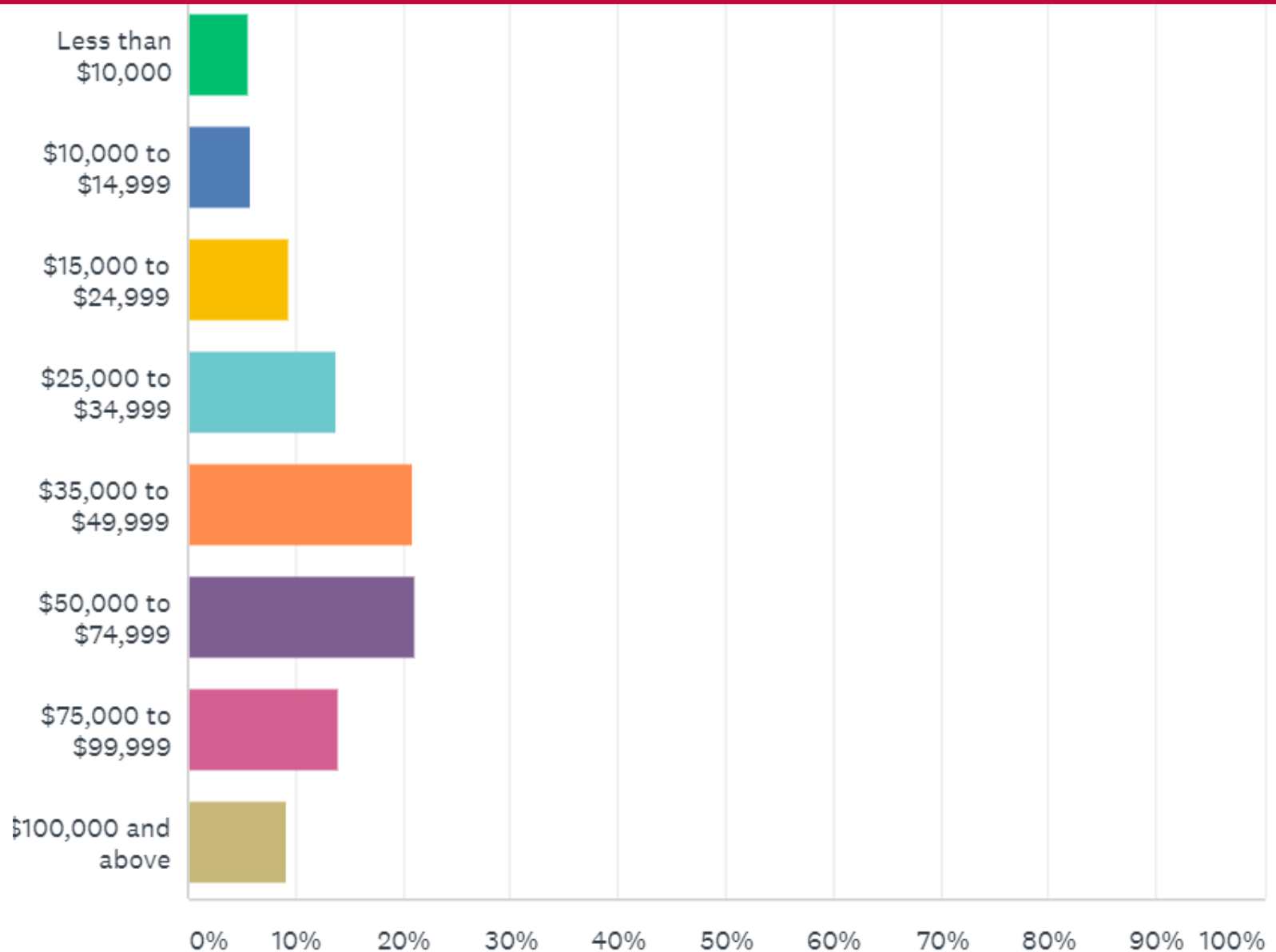
## Community Needs Survey

To inform the Community Development Block Grant and HOME  
5-year plan – look at how to prioritize our funds

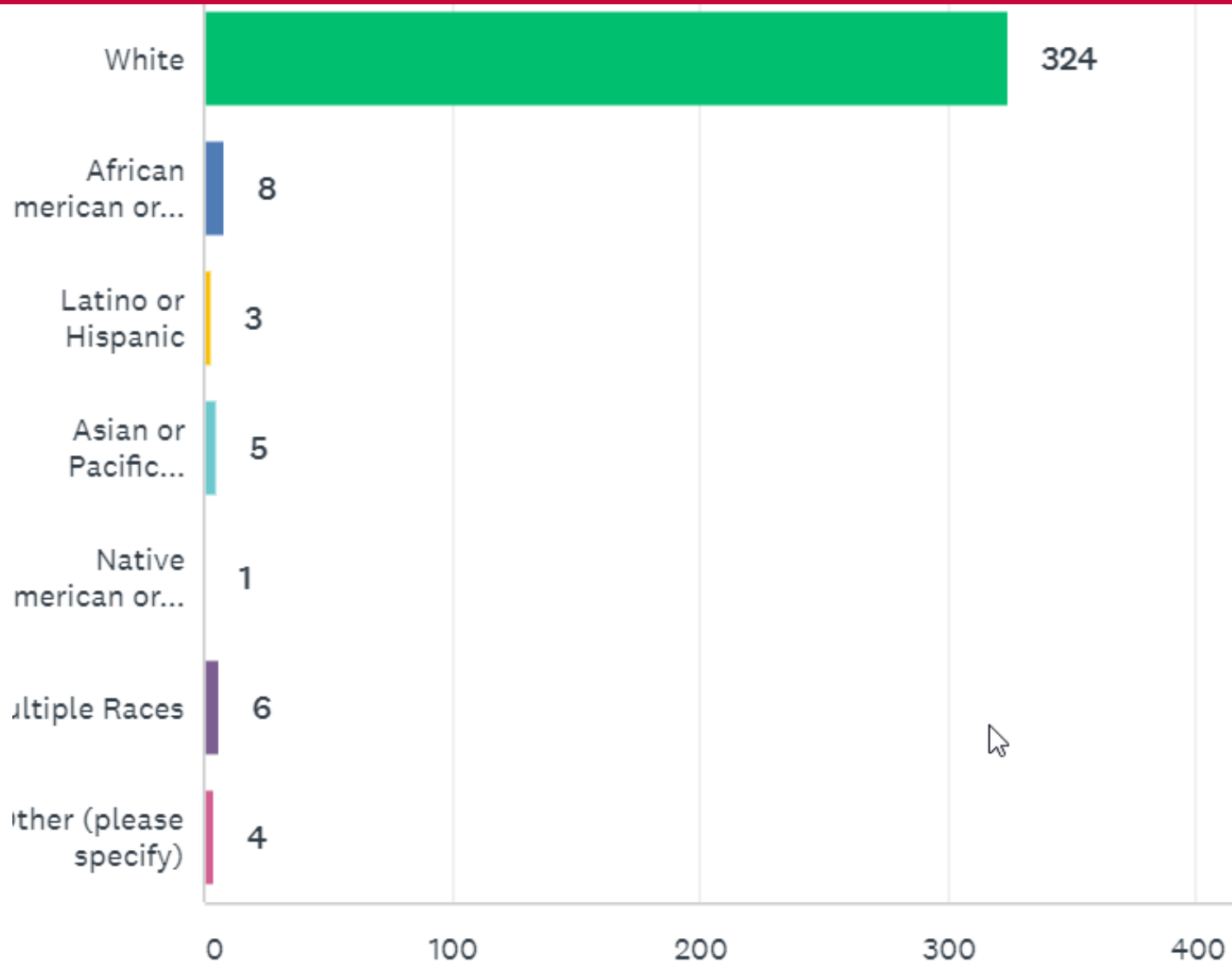
# Who took the survey- Age



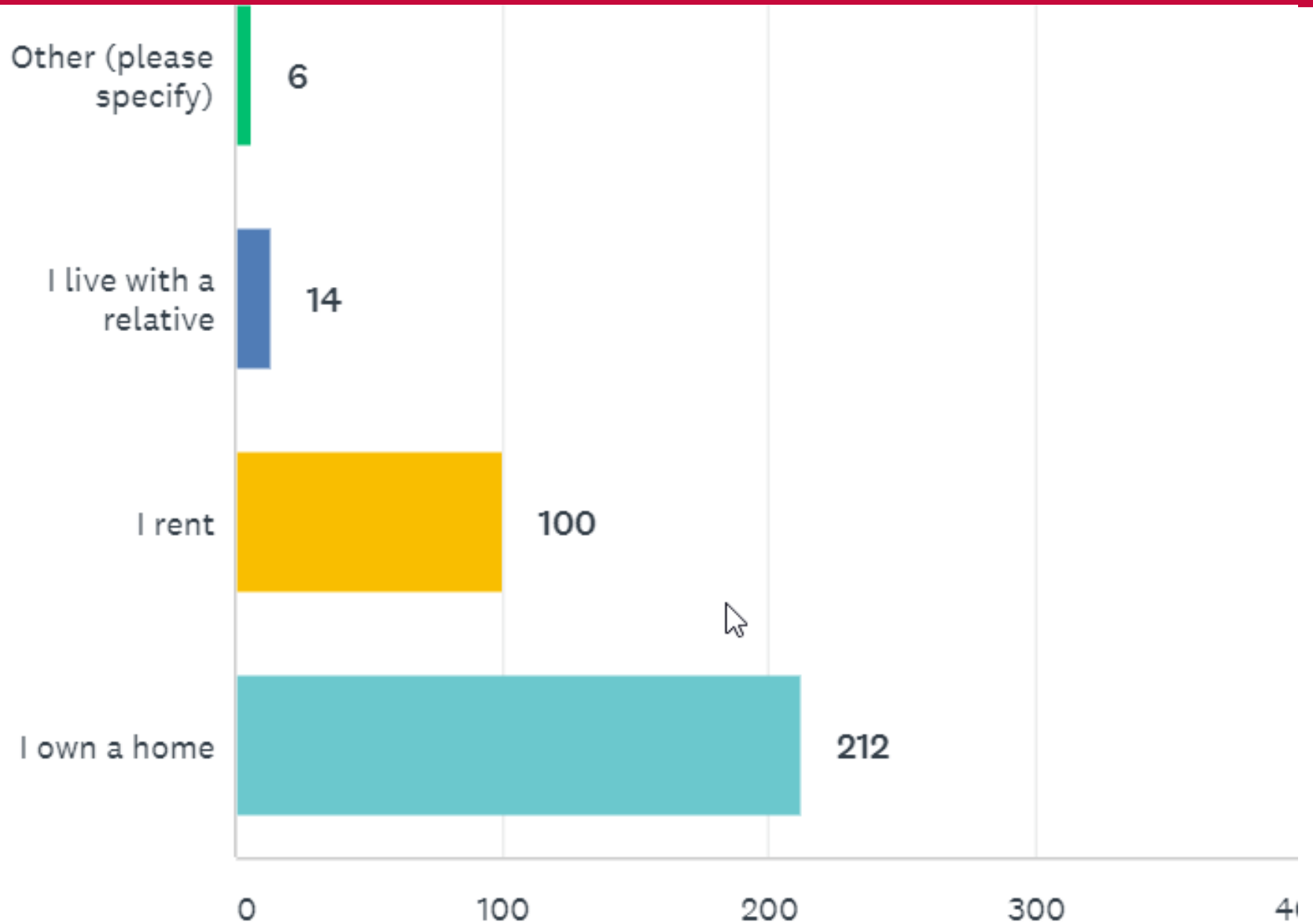
# Who took the survey- Income



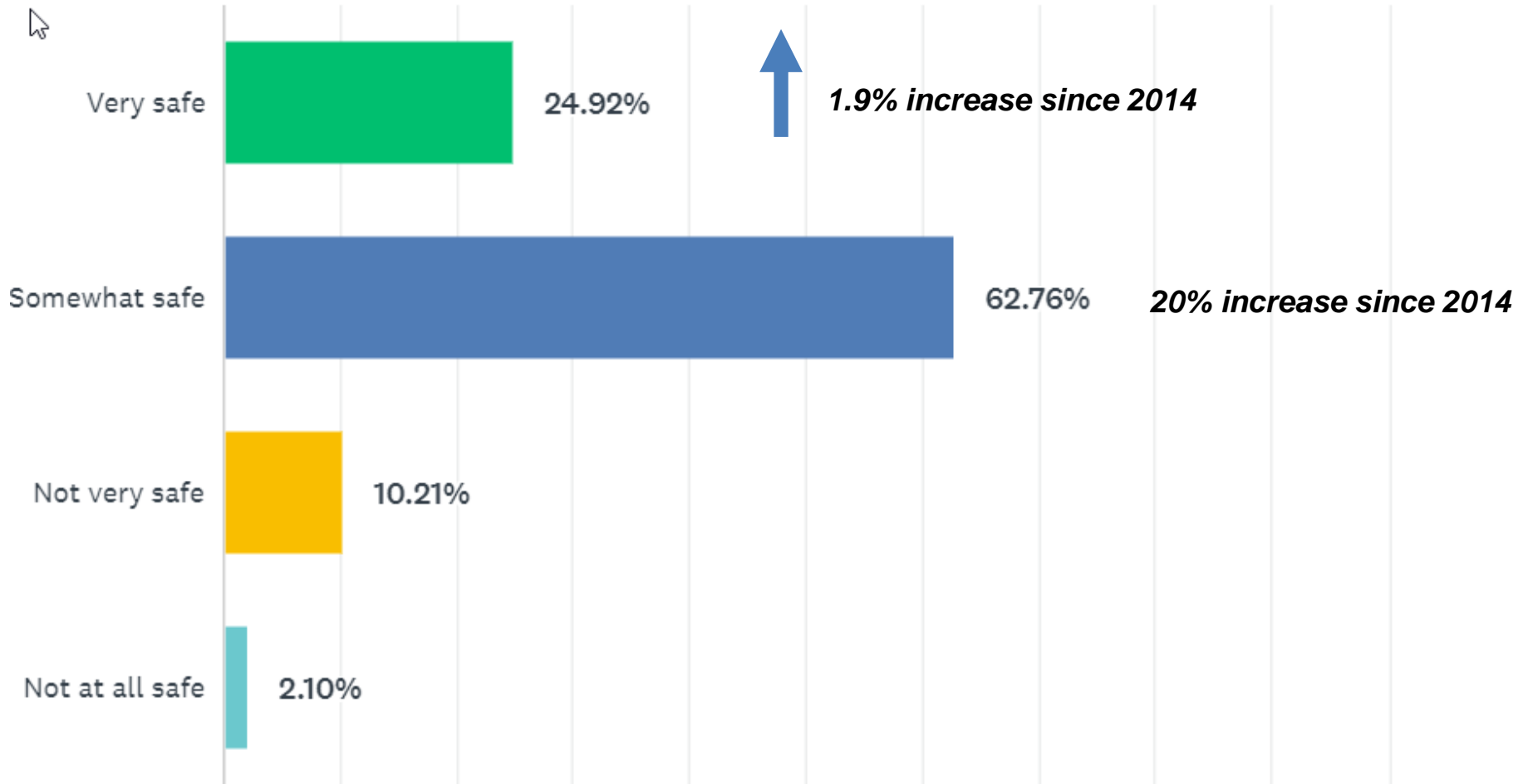
# Who took the survey- Race



# Housing Status



# How safe do you feel? (overall)



## **Compared to City-Wide Survey**

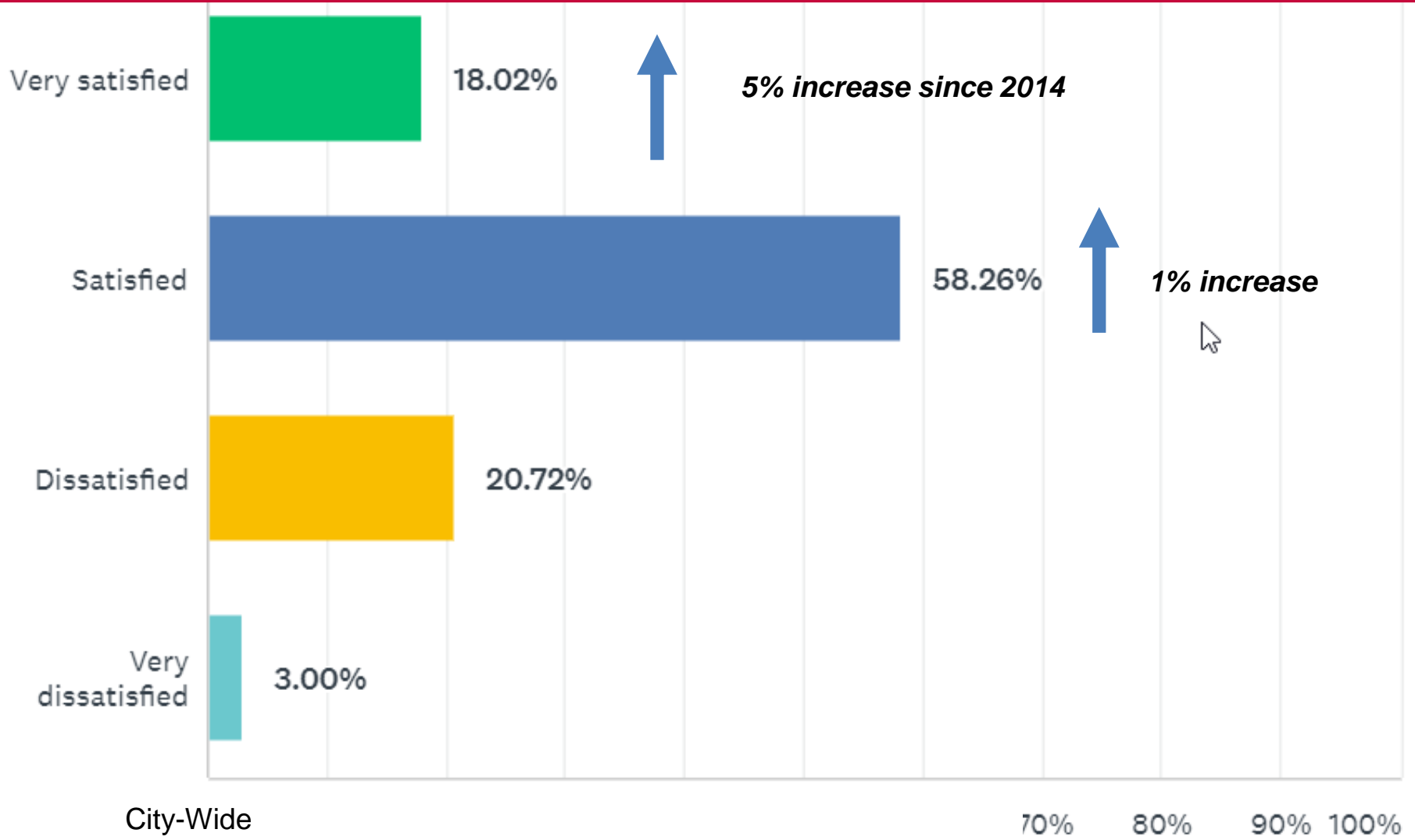
*42% of overall survey takers feel very safe (less safe than city-wide)*

*49% of overall survey takers feel somewhat safe*

*7% feel not very safe*

*1% not at all safe*

# How satisfied do you feel? (overall)



## City-Wide

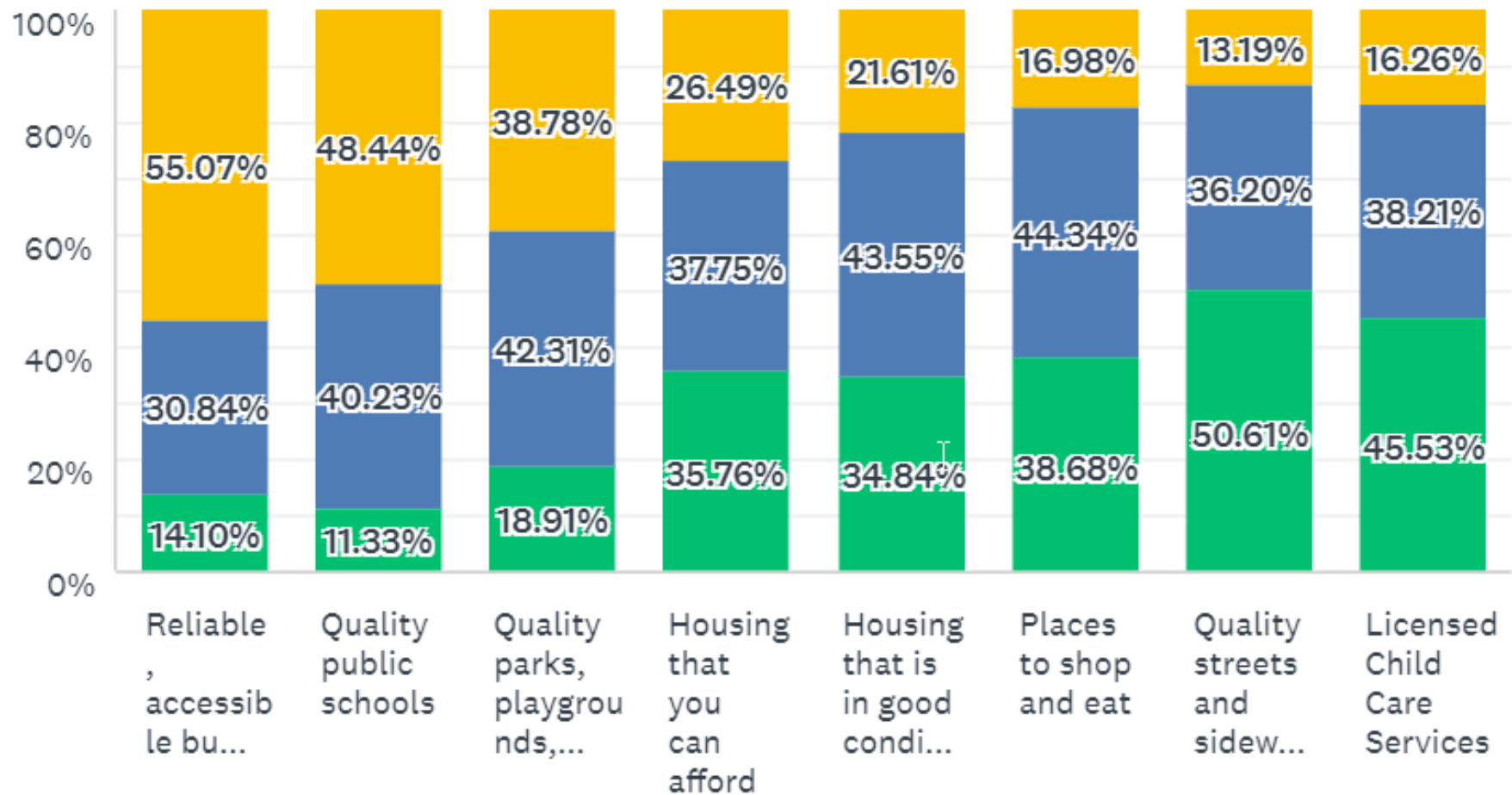
- 2019 34% feel very satisfied
- 2014 13% feel very satisfied

# What do you like best about your neighborhood?

- Quiet (49)
- Neighbors and people (45)
- Close, Location, and Convenient (57)
- Schools (29)
- Parks and playground (14)
- Familiarity and lived here for a long time (17)
- New young families moving here , single family homes
- Walkability
- Close to grocery stores, shopping, public transit
- Being on the parade route
- Tree-lined streets



# How satisfied are you with your access to the following resources?

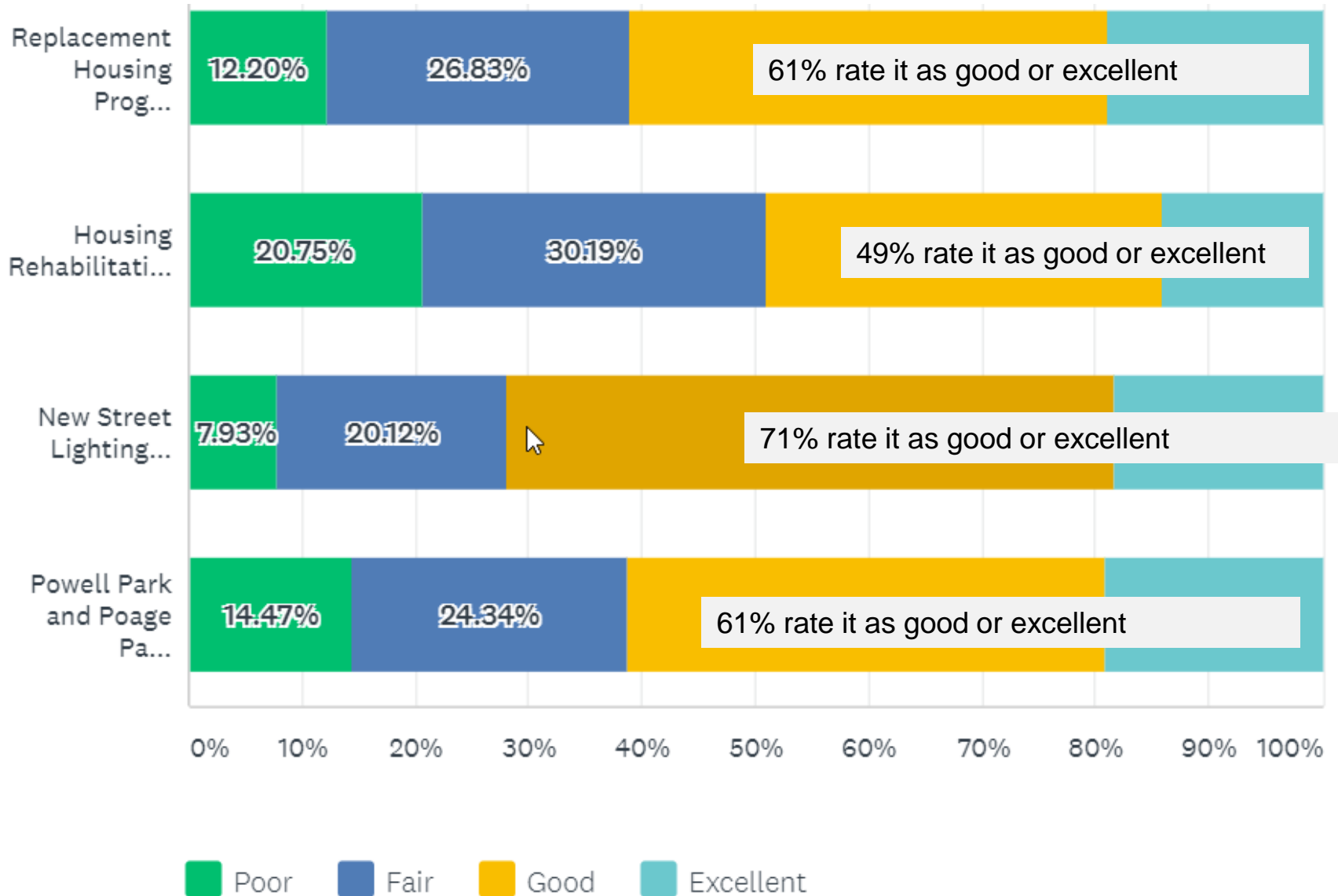


People are the happiest with their access to bus service, quality schools, parks. Least satisfied with access to licensed child care services, streets, and places to shop and eat. Housing quality is an issue.

# How satisfied are you with your access to the following resources?

- Police need to patrol more. Children finding needles in the school playground, sidewalks, allys.
- Police need to be more responsive.
- Need restaurants and affordable housing
- Crime and pockets of bad areas and drugs. More police presence.
- Better lighting and safety. More use of the parks.
- Need a Grocery Store.
- Cunningham Street needs to be fixed.
- More street lighting (mentioned a lot)
- Improvements to Bridgeview Plaza.
- Upkeep of homes
- Wittenberg Park in poor condition.
- Potholes.
- More restaurants, grocery stores, clothing stores, since the loss of Bridgeview Plaza.
- Small rental units are not maintained well.
- Drugs and homelessness
- Fully stocked grocery store available
- Crime is bad in our area by Gordys

# Rate the quality and effectiveness of City programs.



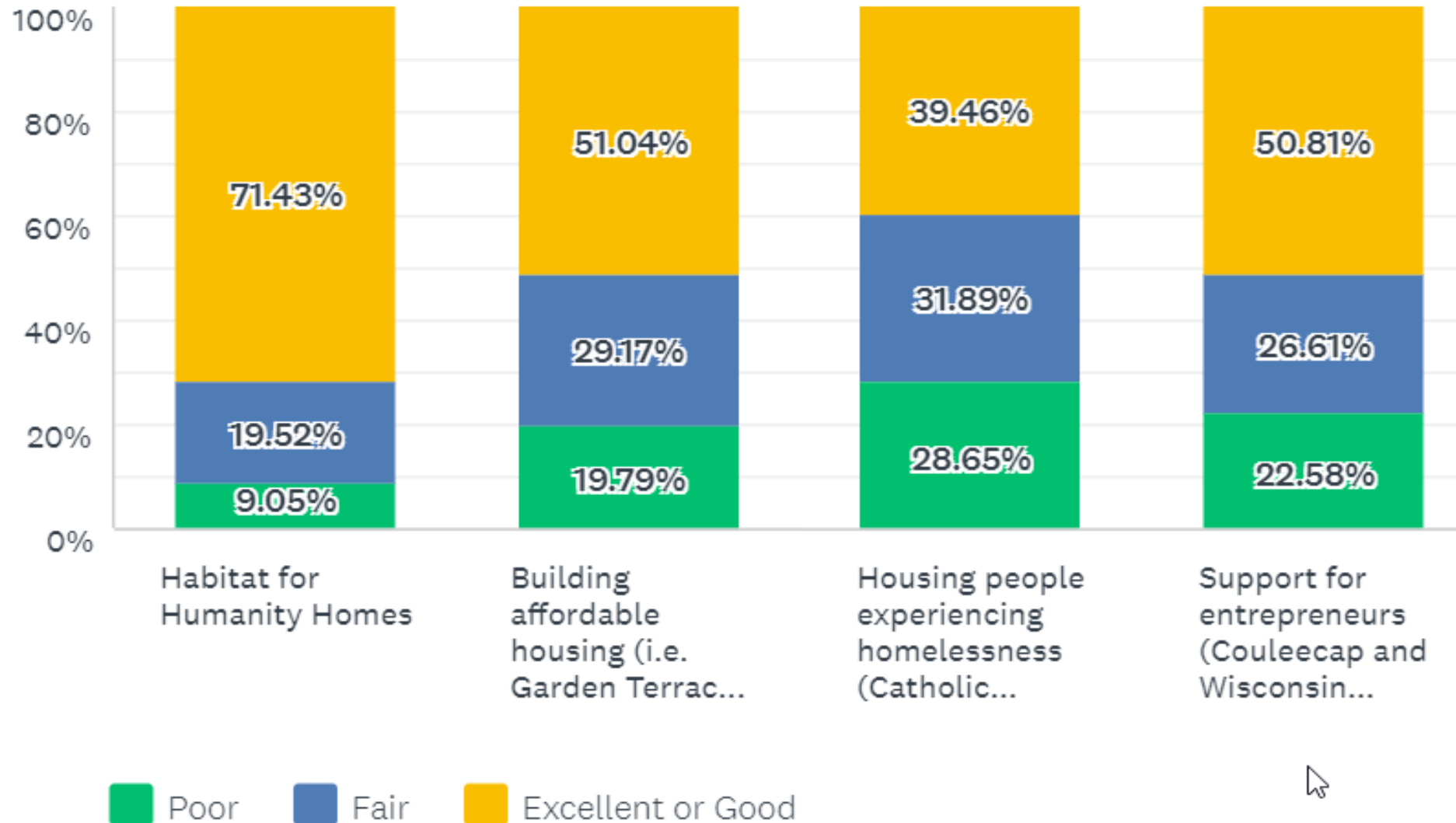
# Comments on City-projects

- Love the lighting by Logan Middle! I would focus on housing over park renovations.
- Programs for financial literacy to enable more people to move from renting to homeownership.
- Continue to revitalize parks throughout the City, Copeland is a mess, their commitment to the park ends at the outfield fence.
- Look at the Senior Center situation.
- More programs to build homes in the flood plain
- I am not aware of these programs
- Definitely keep that program up! I used the home rehab program a few years back and it was so nice to work with them.
- Remove and replace homes.
- What about low-income people?
- More high quality rental housing
- Lighting on George St, all of Clinton St from Rose to George, more lighting at Copeland park on Rose St side
- More loans or grants for old homes to get fixed up
- More lighting, lighting at Public Housing

# Comments on City-projects

- Impressed with City Partnerships
- Replacing homes makes these unaffordable and pushes people out.
- More attention to Northside and revitalizing homes and neighborhoods in this area
- I appreciate all these programs
- Would like to see more of these types of programs on Northside.
- I haven't heard of these programs.
- More home renovations and multi-unit housing developments.
- Street lights on Liberty St side by Logan. Street lights on both sides of the school.
- I like the improvements at Badger Hickey Park
- Look into uncontrolled intersections
- Tear down multiple homes and create city blocks no longer in flood zone.

# Rate the quality and effectiveness of programs funded by the City.



# Comments on City-funded projects

- I thought we are building affordable housing but I don't qualify. Single mother of one who crosses \$44,000/nets \$30,000. Punished for having health insurance with a massive deductible.
- Not enough is done in this city for small business and women-owned business.
- Define affordable.
- We have a serious homeless problem in La Crosse. I hear about the housing programs but they aren't affordable and the qualifications are impossible.
- Too difficult to obtain decent affordable housing. High rents, individuals with prior legal issues disqualified due to past felony convictions even with proven rehabilitation
- I live in Roosevelt school and they are amazing apartments and are very affordable.
- Do a good job on housing but they end up being too expensive for most
- Stop building low-income housing
- The apartments next to my house are Couleecap renters. The cops are always there due to problems with them.

# Comments on City-funded projects

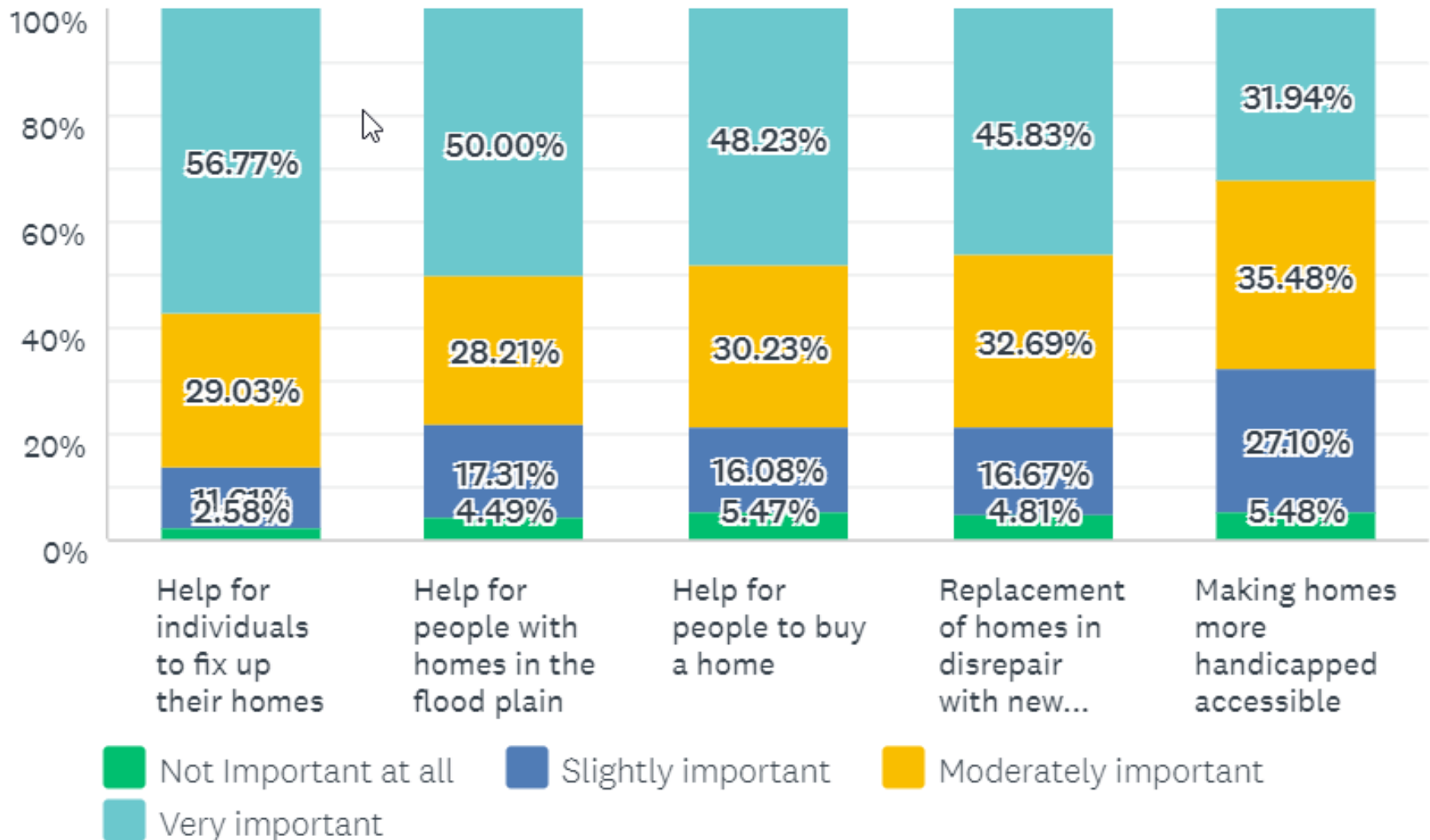
- Don't spend funds on these programs, just fix the roads.
- There needs to be more affordable houses being built. The housing replacement programs and new builds should be more affordable.
- Again, Roosevelt school was built to have affordable housing but we need to address what is affordable, not subsidized. More housing needs to be addressed for those seniors that do not fall in the low income category, middle income that is affordable.
- There needs to be more homes renovated for single families. City needs to push out landlords.
- Define affordable housing... my mother is 64 years old on a fixed income and can not afford these housing developments.
- Coulee cap has helped us winterize our house and we are very thankful. Our heating bill has gone down and it helps a lot since we are on a fixed income.
- More single family homes need to be renovated and rentable.
- La Crosse is looking great. Rather would like to see older homes and building renovated instead of being tore down.
- The Garden Terrace apartment complex is great



# Comments on City-funded projects

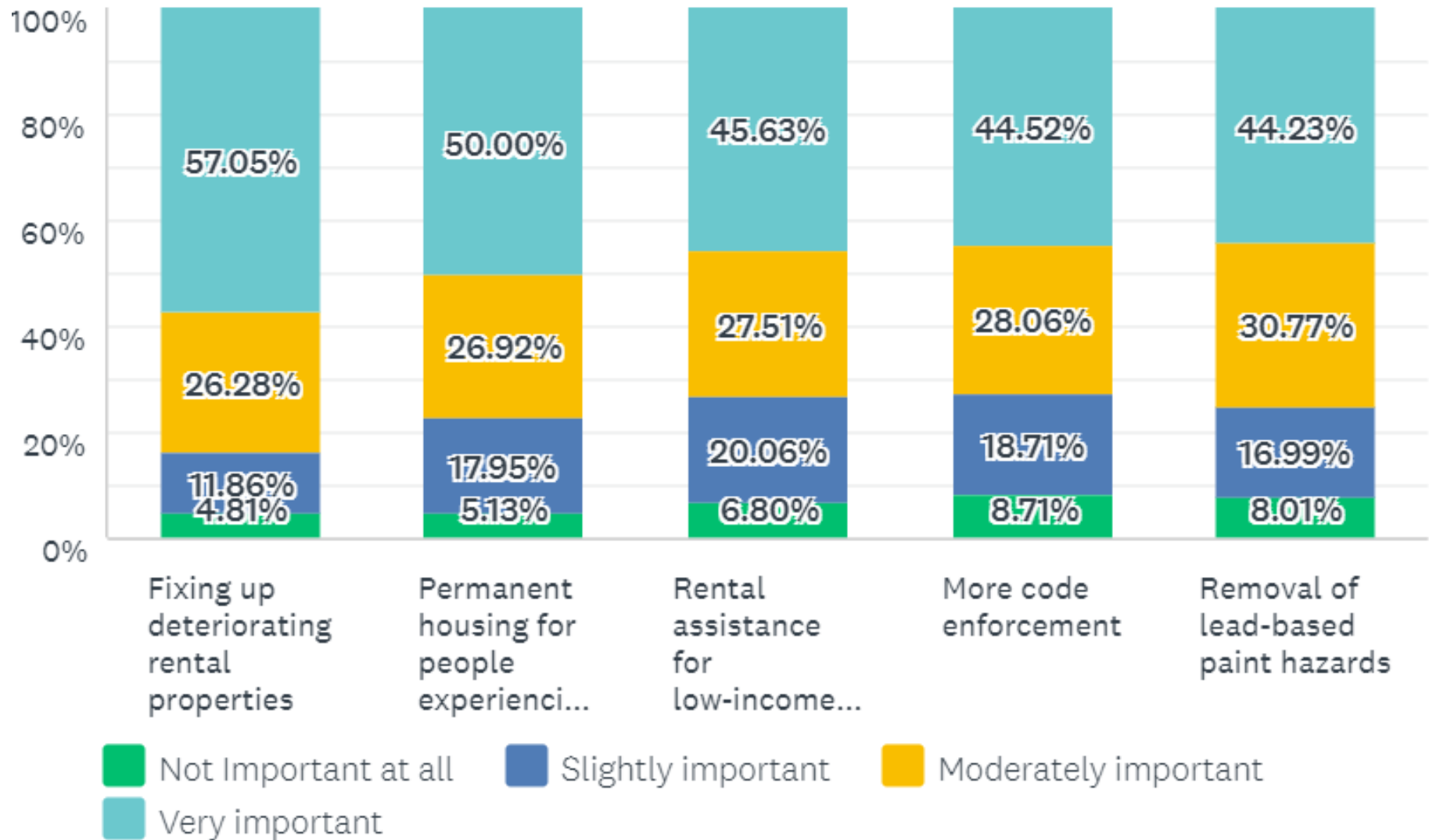
- I needed help for rent catholic charities said my rents too high for my wages. I pay less than 800 for a tiny 3 bd rm house. I wont get a 2 bd room apt for that in this area. I was so angry.
- In regard to homelessness housing...those needing assistance should be able to receive help, but they should also be capable of following through on the necessities of living and maintaining a home or rental...
- There is a need for some apartments but I would not say there necessarily affordable and impose some restrictions on income that are unrealistic.
- Your programs are driving out the working class. (They make too much for these programs and make too little to afford a home).
- Great programs but you still have slum lords and their many properties.
- The requirements to get into the affordable housing are too strict.
- Entrepreneur programs are great, more small business.
- Not enough help for the middle class familys that will continue to help the Northside. Single family homes need to be affordable and pet friendly.
- None of these programs help people in the flood plain.
- Homelessness and drug use in this town are becoming horrendous.

# Programs that meet City's homeownership needs



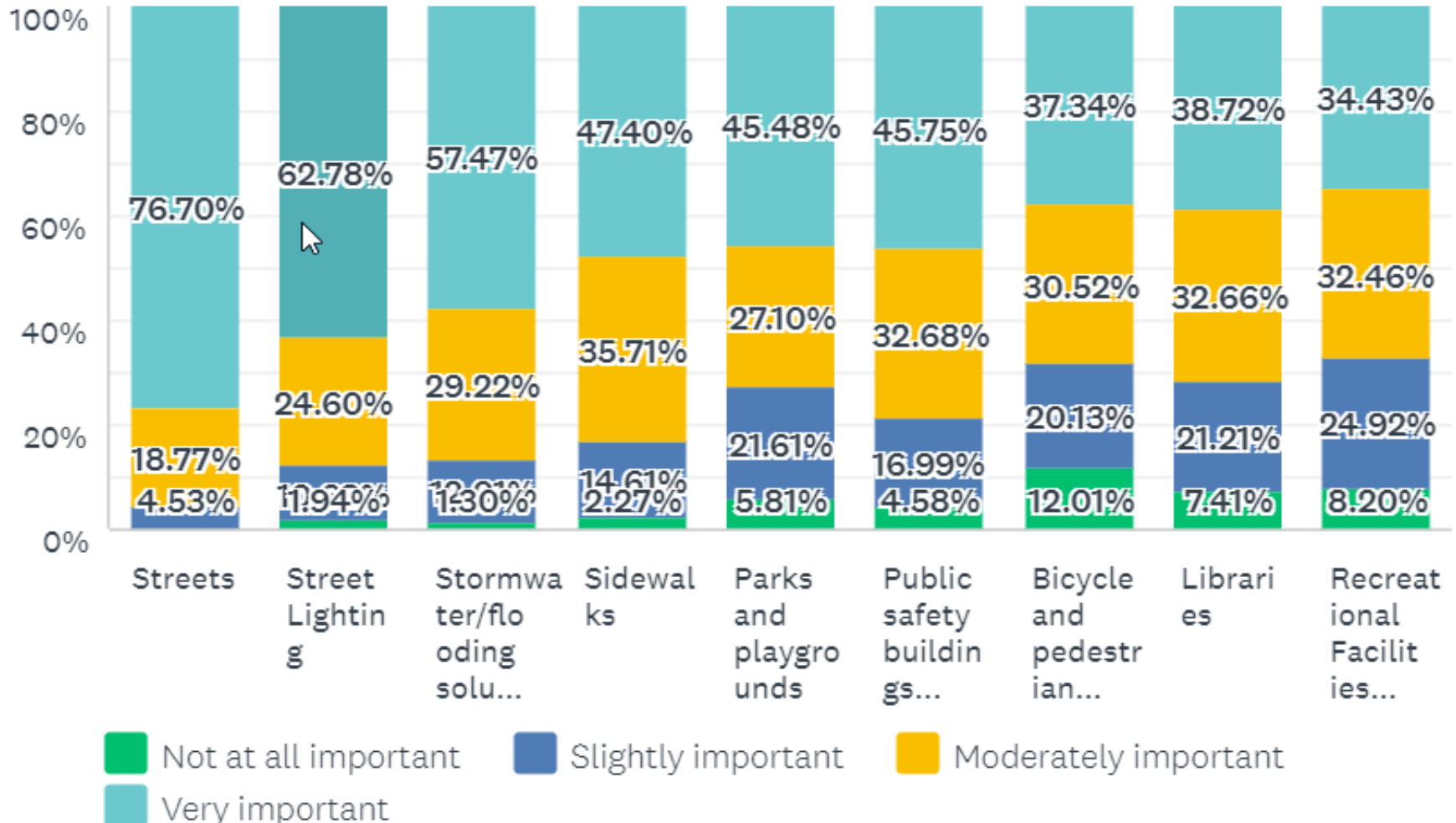
**Much larger percentage of people interested in programs that help people fix up their existing homes and help for people with homes in the flood plain.**

# Programs that meet City's rental needs



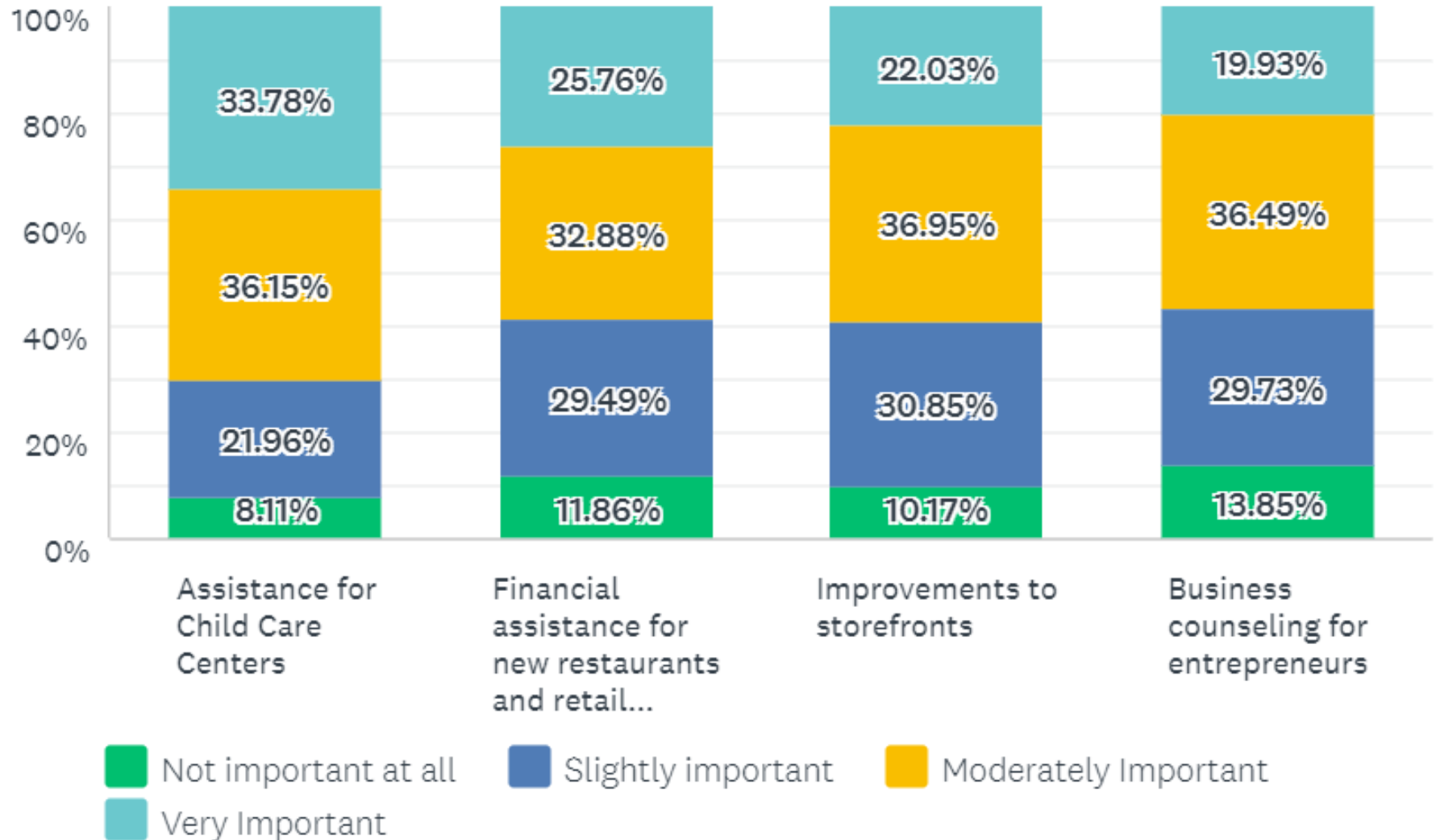
**Improving the quality of rental properties and permanent housing for the homeless very important. Rental assistance for low-income families also important.**

# How important are the following capital improvements?



Streets, street lighting, stormwater/flooding solution very important for the northside. But addressing housing quality and housing affordability still seen as slightly more important than other capital improvements.

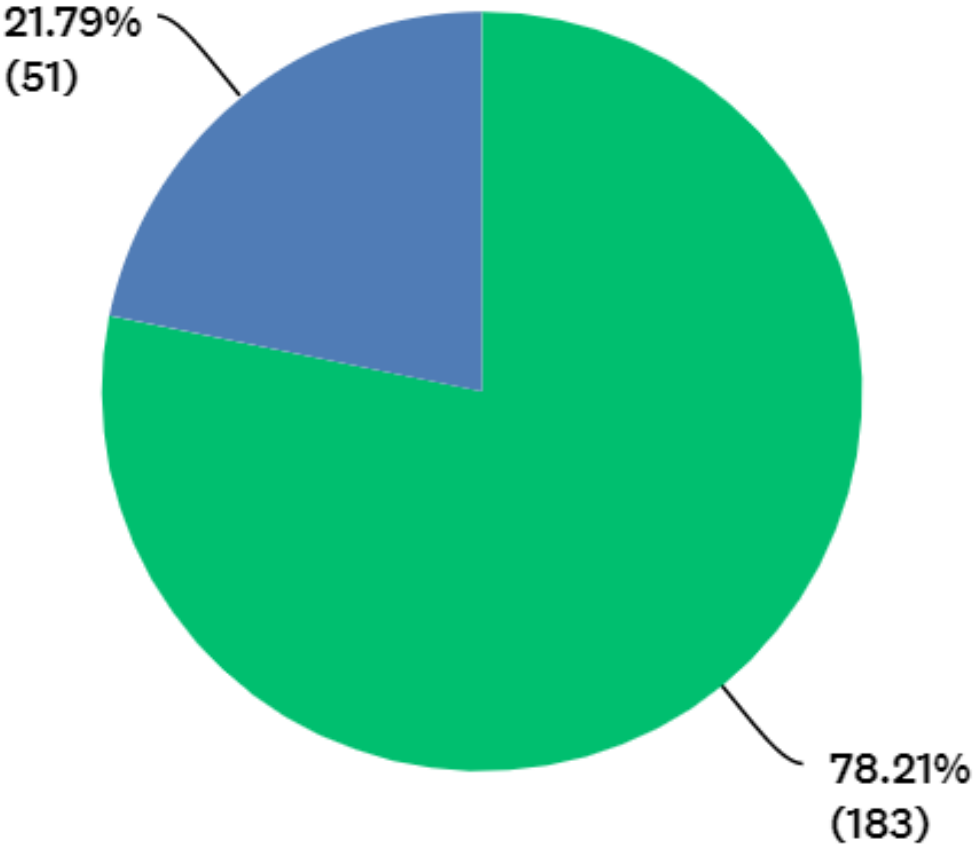
# How important are these Economic Development programs?



# Four (4) types of services that City should prioritize

▼ Crime prevention and public safety	54.18%	162
▼ Mental Health Services 	49.16%	147
▼ Homeless services (housing, shelters, support)	46.49%	139
▼ Low-cost health care services	38.80%	116
▼ Substance abuse services and prevention	33.44%	100
▼ Domestic violence and child abuse prevention	30.43%	91
▼ Youth services and programs	27.76%	83
▼ Job training	18.06%	54
▼ Food Banks	17.39%	52
▼ Parks and Recreation	16.72%	50
▼ Transportation services (bus, car repair)	15.38%	46
▼ Child Care	15.05%	45

# Would you support a strategy that targets resources to specific neighborhoods ?



City-wide 75% said yes

Yes No

# Key Takeaways

1. Addressing crime issues is more important for residents here than other areas of the City, seems to be a growing issue of concern
2. Lighting is a high priority
3. Streets (similar City-wide)
4. Stormwater and flooding issues more of a concern
5. Residents more interested in assistance to help working class, middle income families, concern that “Affordable Housing” has too many barriers
6. Many comments about improving shopping and restaurant options on Northside



# Any final Comments?

- I live in a property and the landlord does not care. They (landlord) stopped maintaining my furnace. My furnace operates at less than 80% efficiency.
- I love La Crosse and would like to continue to be a resident, but find myself sometimes looking elsewhere to live due to being priced out of quality housing. The DART team has played a major role in my relatives life this last year and I am thankful for these programs! I also love the focus of inclusivity of all cultures within our community and schools
- substance abuse assistance - Gundersen has 2 year wait and Mayo closed
- Crosswalk at Livingston
- Maintain Northside Senior Center, Senior Centers
- New lighting on Avon St are excellent, I wish there was more Lighting on the Northside
- Easier access to the La Crosse Public Housing Authority
- There needs to be stricter rules and regulations for landlords. Need better tenant screening.
- More homes and apartments for working class families
- Focus on rebuilding homes in the flood plain and more emphasis on Senior living housing
- More health and educational support
- Northside needs developing
- Child care options and fair pricing
- More substance abuse resources
- Push out bad landlord and tear down dilapidated homes for new development. All rentals should be inspected.
- Stop taxing property owners
- Rents are too high in La Crosse, \$850 or higher for rents is not affordable.

# Any final Comments?

- More focus on Northside low income families
- Street lighting at 2700 block of prospect st
- Help people to be aware of all the assistance out there
- Biggest problems are the roads
- Rein in the slum lords around the college. Fix the roads.
- Sidewalk repair along 200 rose St.
- The empty retail space from Shopko and KMart leaving needs to be fulfilled. Either something to draw in visitors, or housing. Keeping a positive energy going is what makes La Crosse a great city to live in. The Mayors Conference showed and demonstrated the commitment of our leaders. I applauded them all and say thank you with great gratitude of making La Crosse a great place to live.
- More building erected to help people with mental health problems
- I don't like the idea of pitting neighborhoods against one another. I agree that some neighborhoods need more work, but that's why we have City Hall and its staff - to determine where the needs are, and target projects, not neighborhoods, The creation of all the neighborhood associations and new identities simply created a shadow government, letting City Hall shift blame, if convenient. I don't wish to empower these groups further. Can the Council members not represent their neighborhoods??

# Any final Comments?

- Parents need more input on our schools. Coaches are being protected When engaging in verbal abuse to kids. Teachers do not have enough say and enforcing discipline in the schools
- Use the Flood Plain Grant to actually help people get out of the flood Plain. Instead of Spouting off that there are all these funds but no one has been utilizing them. Get a Flood Plain manager who can focus on the issues
- We need to make this more of a community again. The city is losing it hometown appeal. It needs to look better and we need to address the homeless and drug problems. We need to have more places for the homeless to go during the winter months especially. I know that Catholic Charities fills up quickly as well as does the Salvation Army. We need to make the neighborhoods safer. More lighting, and more patrols. We moved into this rental in 2001, since that time we have watched the neighborhood deteriorate, and the crime go way up.

## **What's next for the survey results?**

- Share with City Council, Department Heads
- Inform Council of the importance of roads but maintain focus on things we (Community Development) do well and can leveraging resources- housing quality and affordability
- Share results with police department

## **Preliminary Ideas for 5-Year CDBG Plan**

- Slower “pace” of replacement housing but continue to advocate for its support
- Support another lighting project
- Prioritize getting the word out about housing rehabilitation programs
- Continue to examine how to improve quality of housing stock through incentives and enforcement
- Deeper affordability for “new” affordable housing

What are your thoughts?

Based on the survey, where do you think the City should prioritize its funds?