

Community Survey Results for the 2025 Comprehensive Plan Update

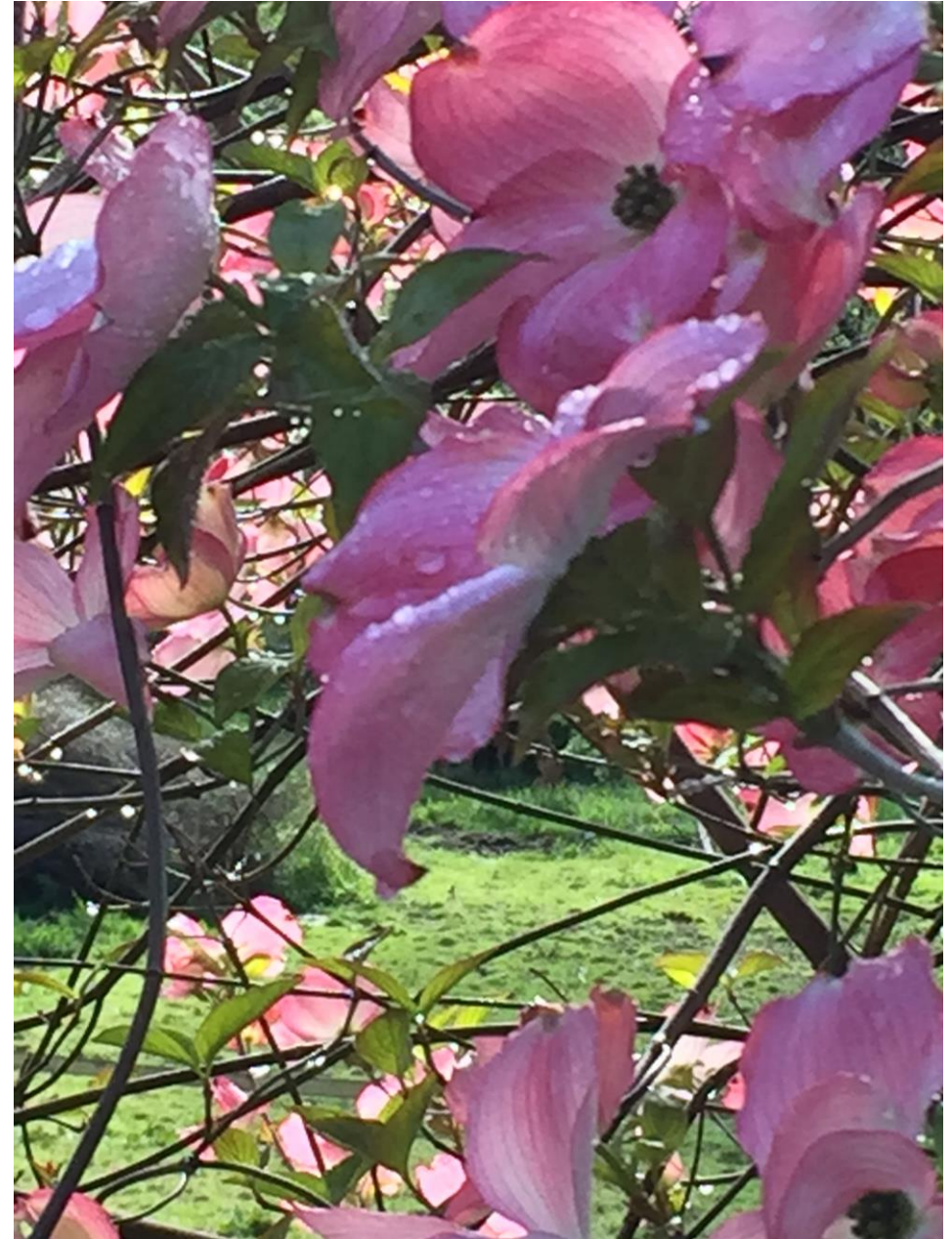
*Balancing Nature and Community:
Tumwater's Path to Sustainable Growth*



Planning Commission – March 26, 2024

Intent

- Present the results of the nonscientific community survey
- Discuss upcoming activities



Community Engagement Process

Provide meaningful opportunities throughout the process for the community and stakeholders to participate in the Comprehensive Plan periodic update

The Community Engagement Plan identifies tactics, strategies, and platforms to inform and consult the community and stakeholders throughout the periodic update

The process is flexible and will change to take advantage of events and opportunities that may arise



Objectives

- Inform the community about the Update
- Gauge interest in specific issues and elements
- Identify preferences for notification and events
- Evaluate how to improve public engagement



Quick Facts



Survey started November 2023



Over 22,000 postcards were mailed, and notices were posted on City's webpage and social media platforms



Survey closed February 14, 2024



975 responses were received



Nonscientific Survey

- Because the survey was a nonscientific, it reflected the opinions of those who chose to respond to the survey
- Conclusions drawn from the results should take that into account

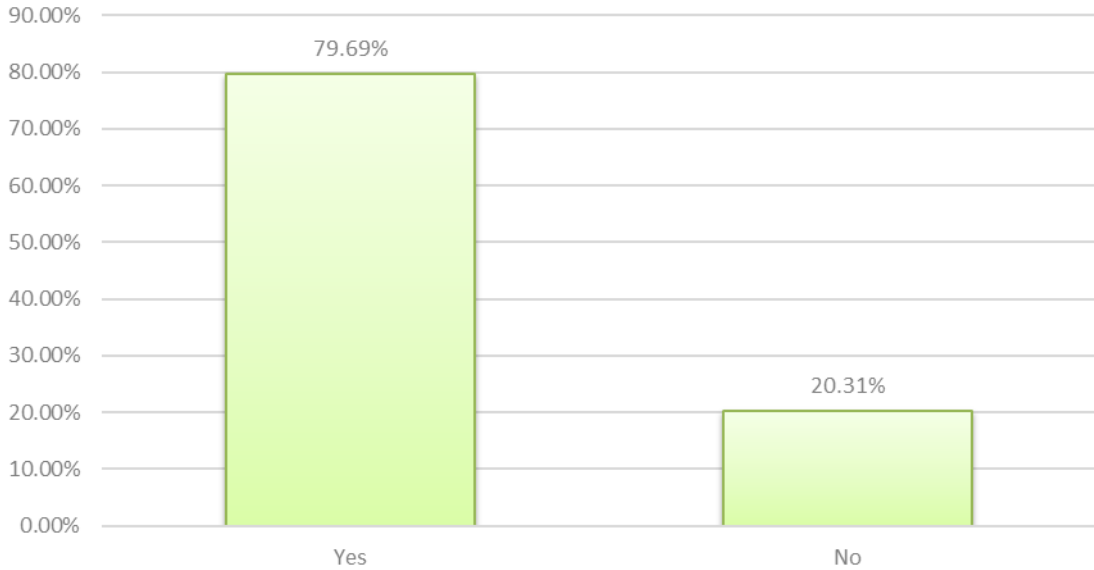




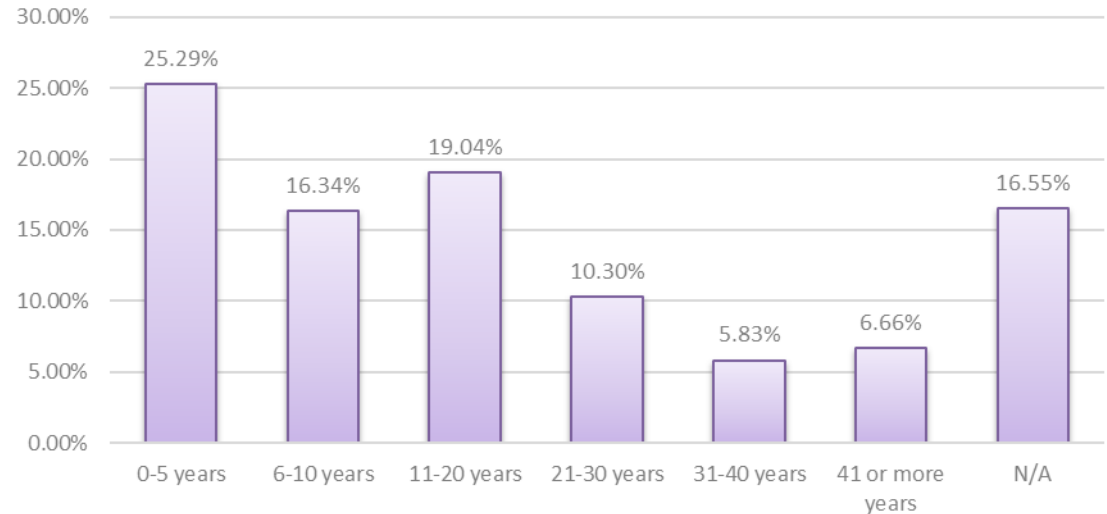
Demographic Questions

Living in Tumwater

Do you live in Tumwater?

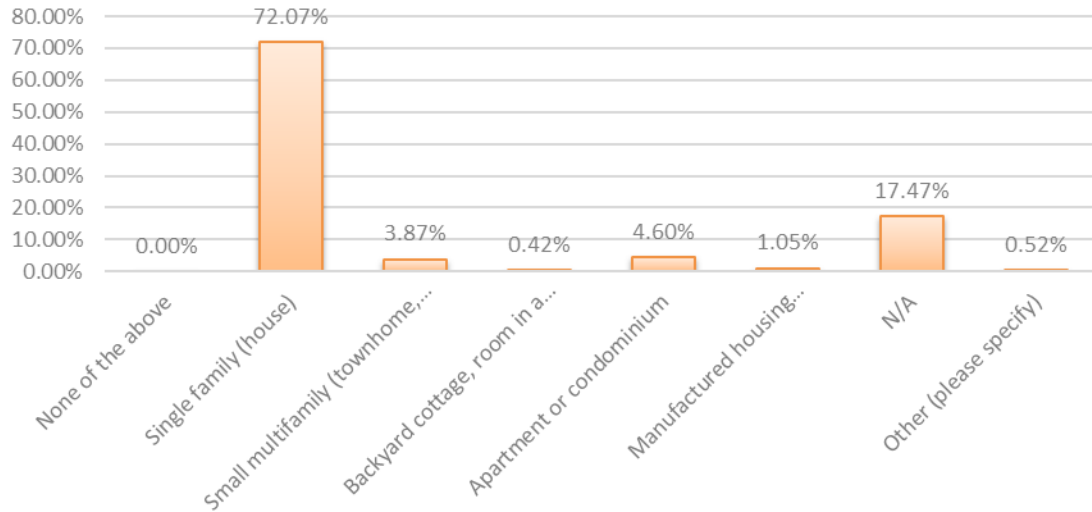


About how long have you lived in Tumwater?

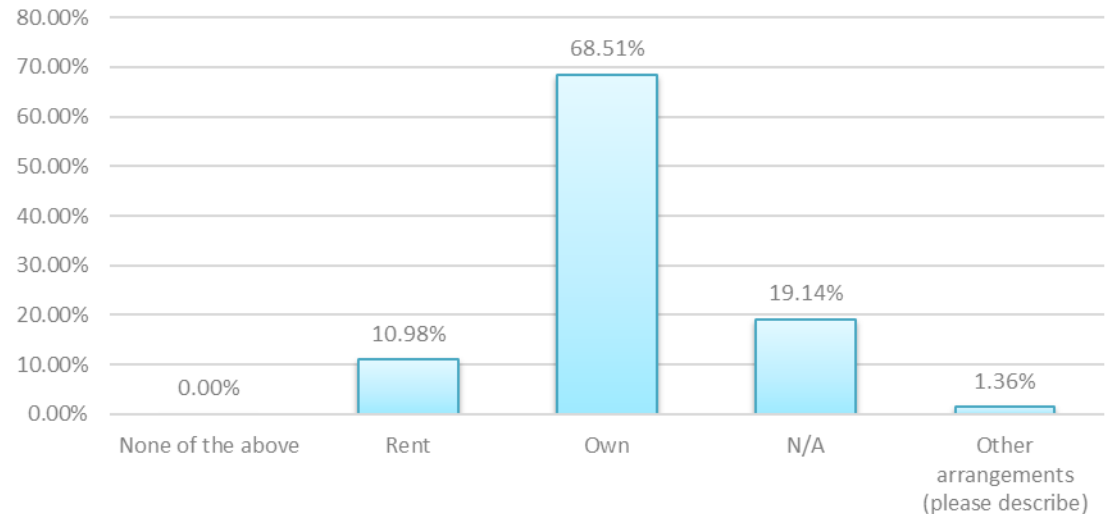


Type of Residence

If you live in Tumwater, what best describes your home?

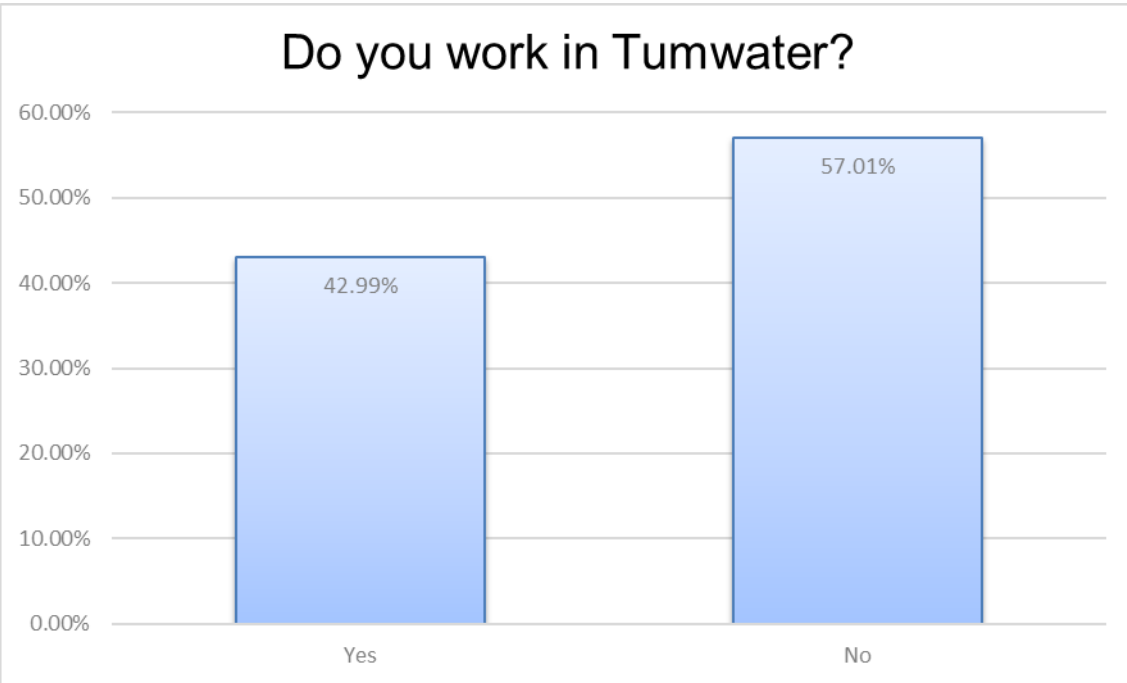


If you live in Tumwater, do you own or rent your home?

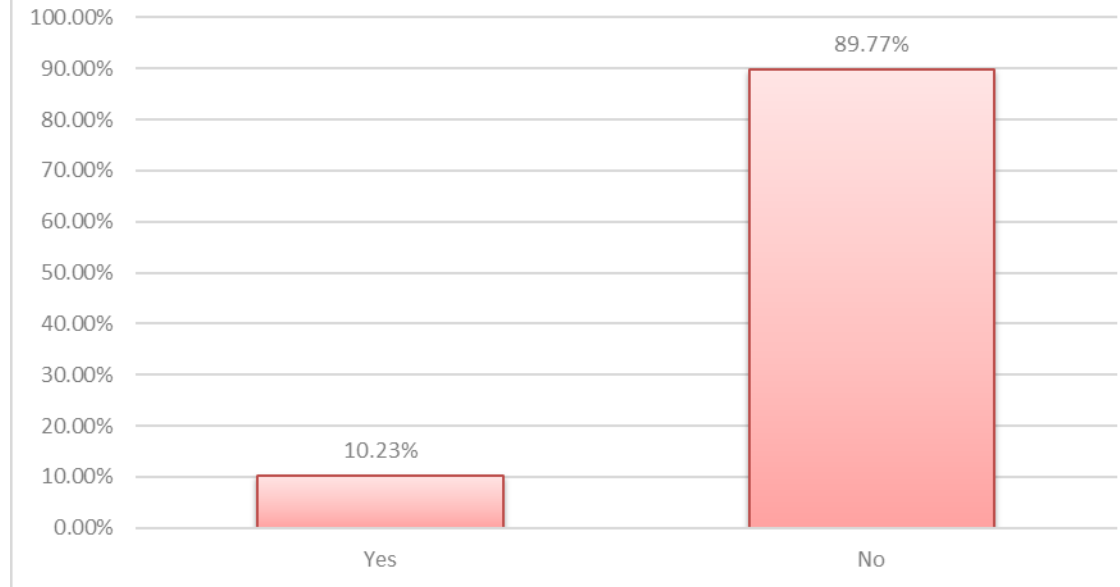


Work and Employment

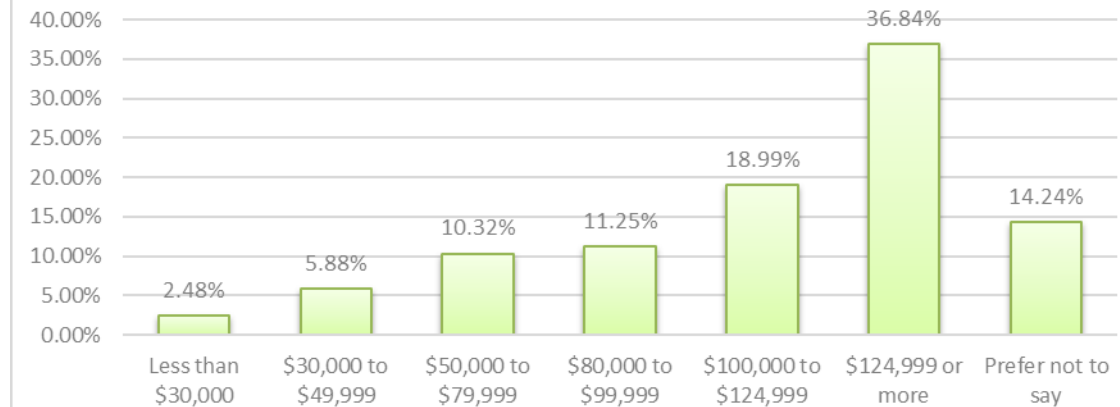
Do you work in Tumwater?



Do you own a business in Tumwater?

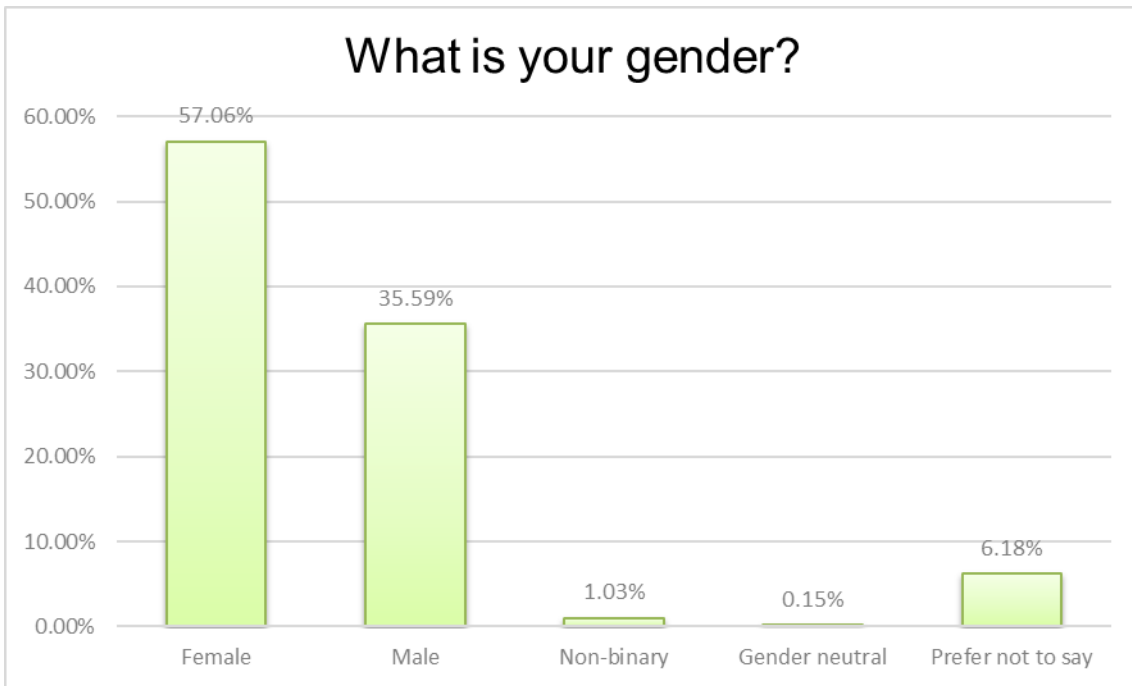


Which category includes your household's total annual income from all sources and all residents at this address during the past 12 months?

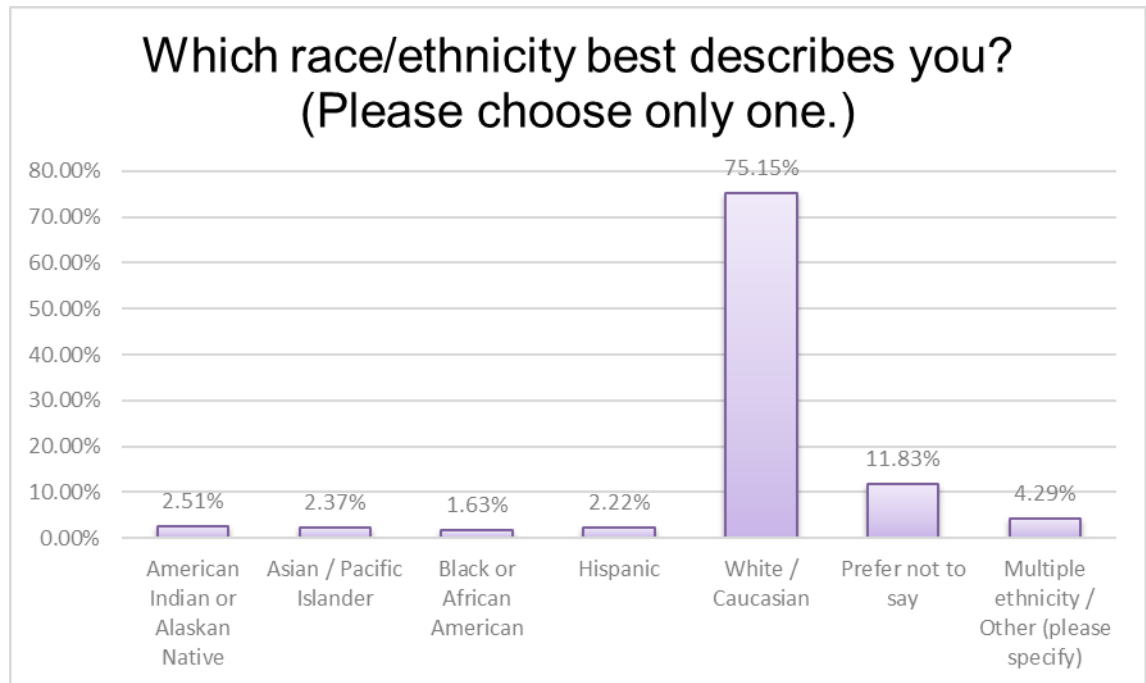


Gender, Race, and Ethnicity

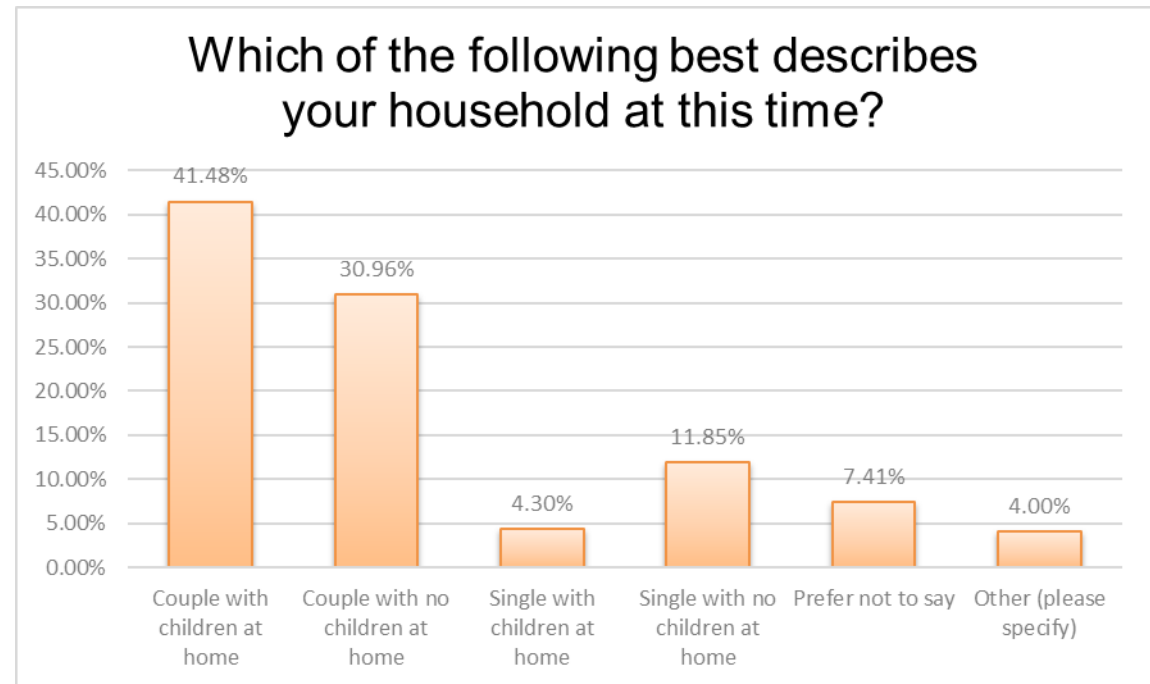
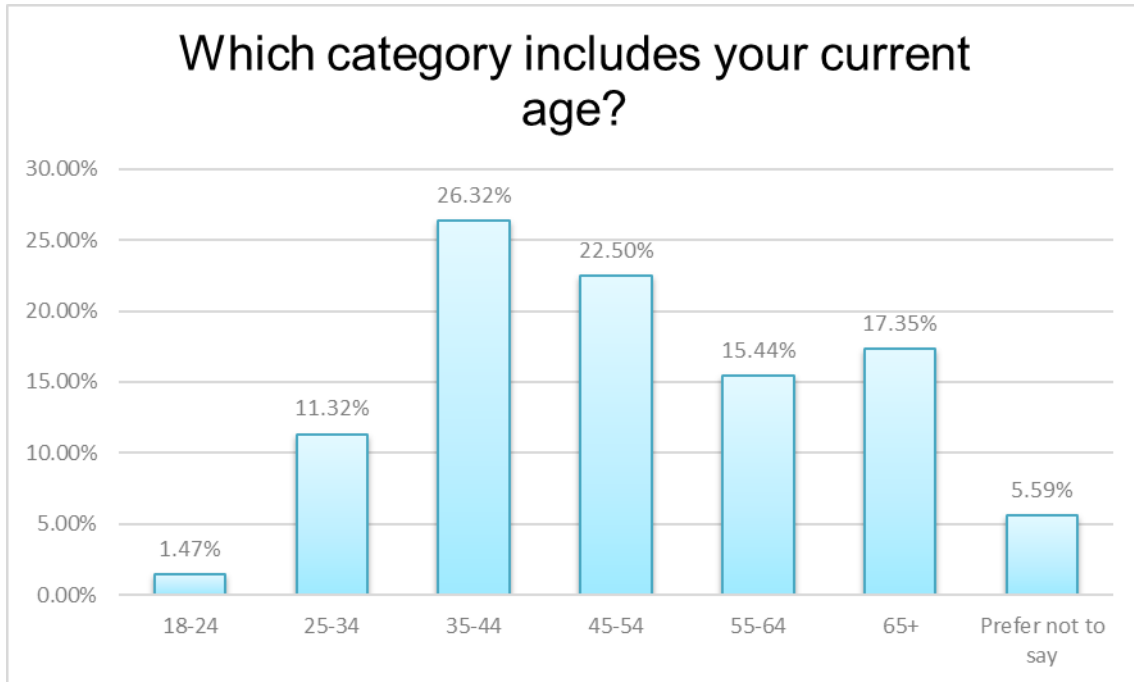
What is your gender?



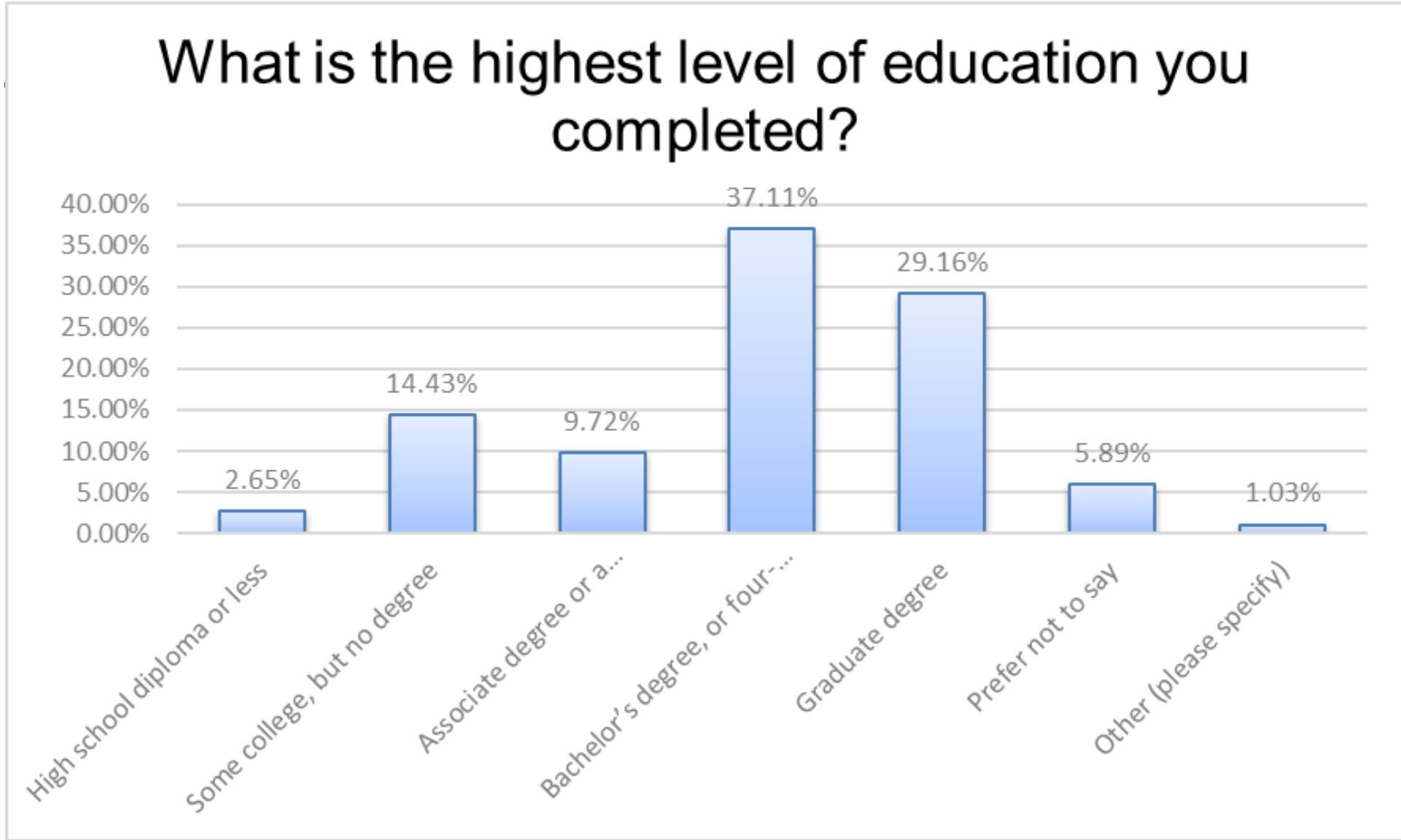
Which race/ethnicity best describes you? (Please choose only one.)



Age and Type of Household



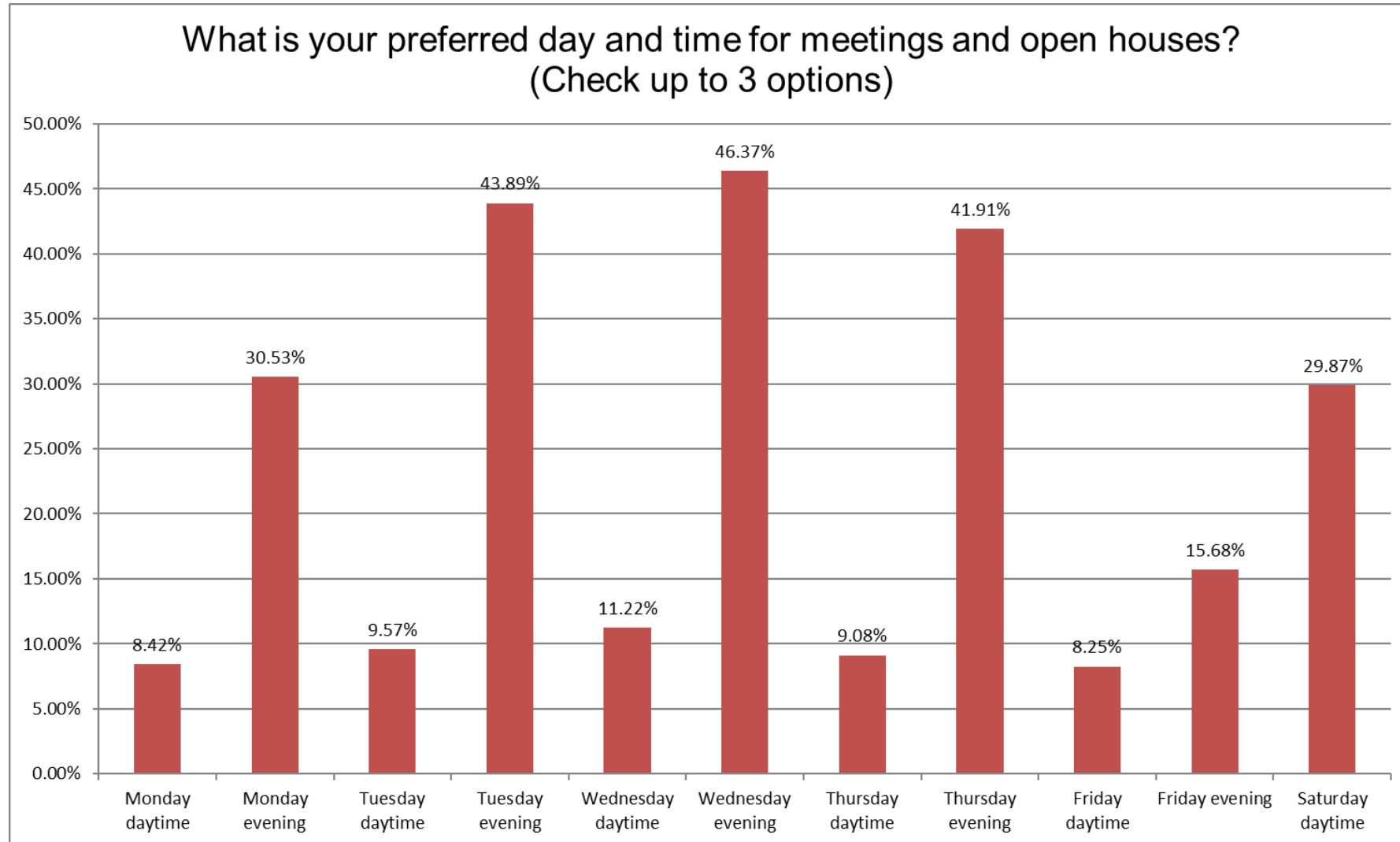
Education



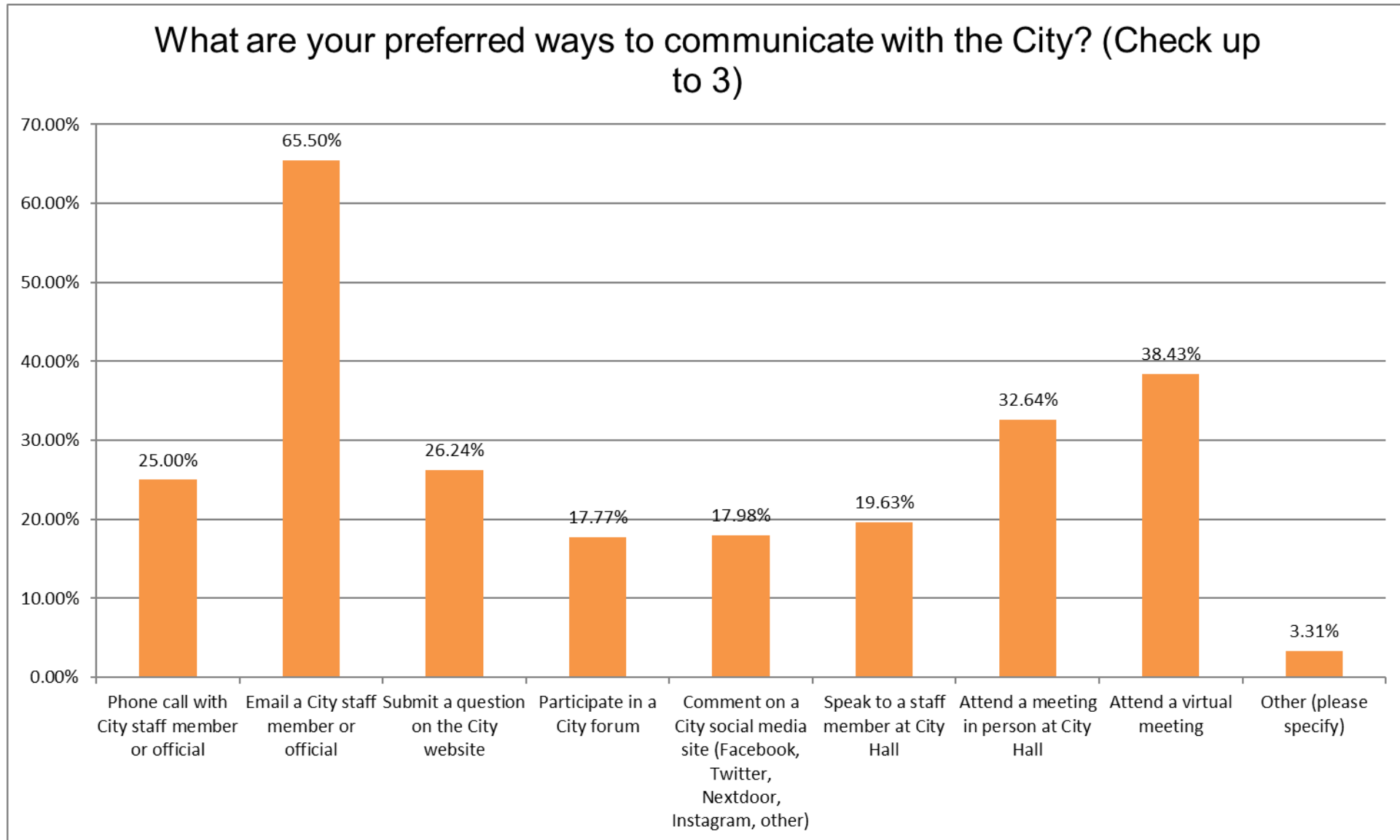


Communication Preferences

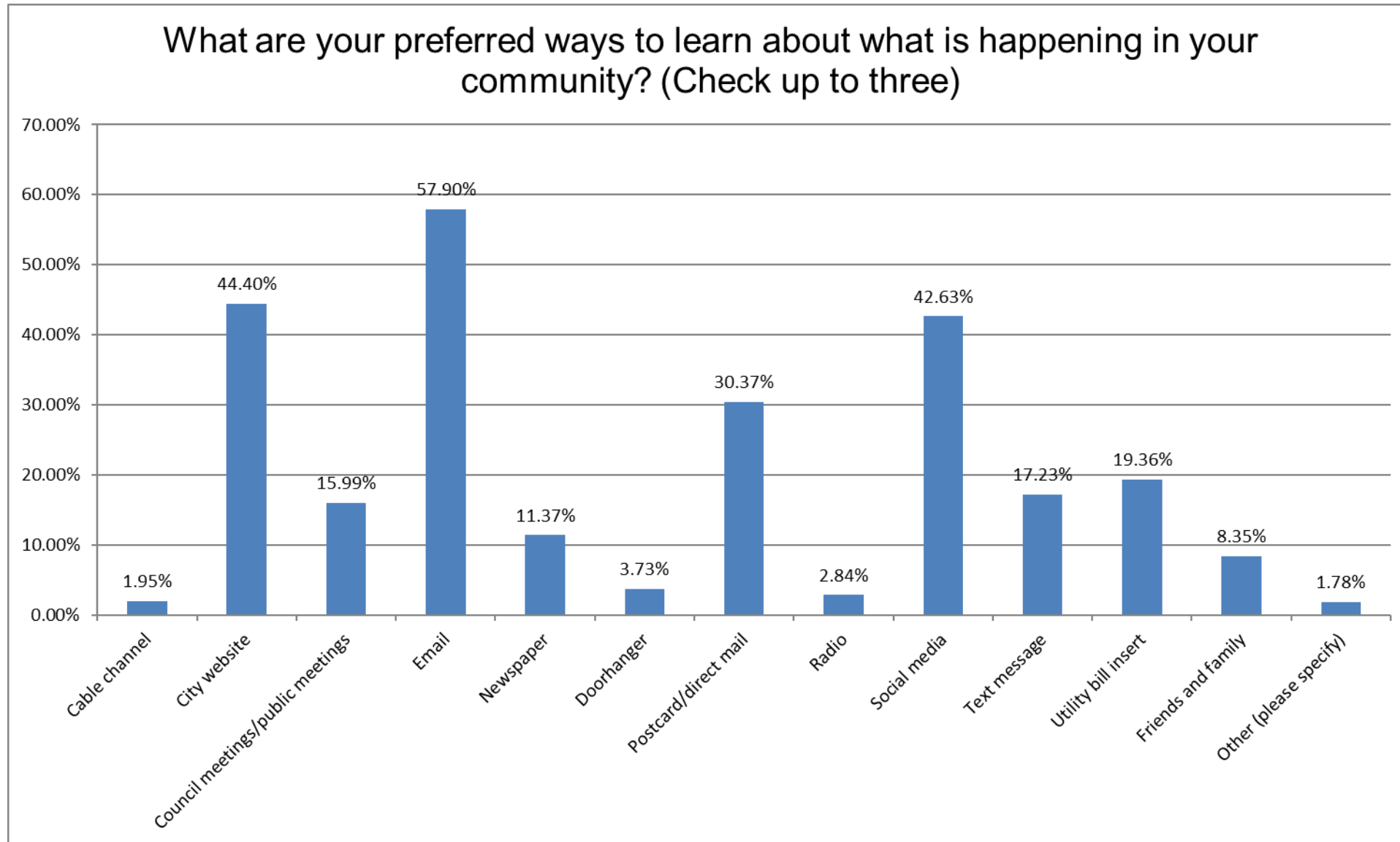
Preferred Days and Times for Meetings



Communication with the City



Preferred Ways of Receiving Information

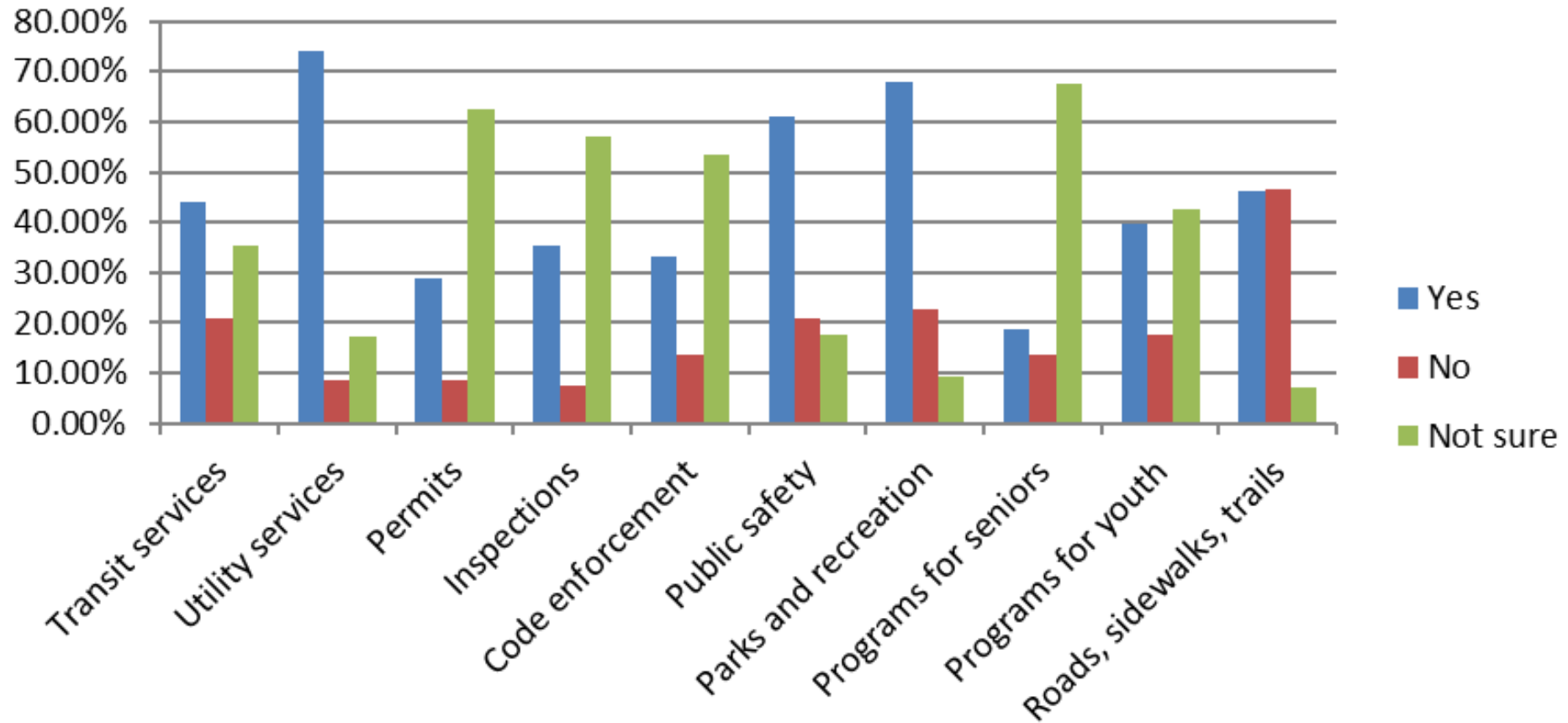




Looking at the City Now

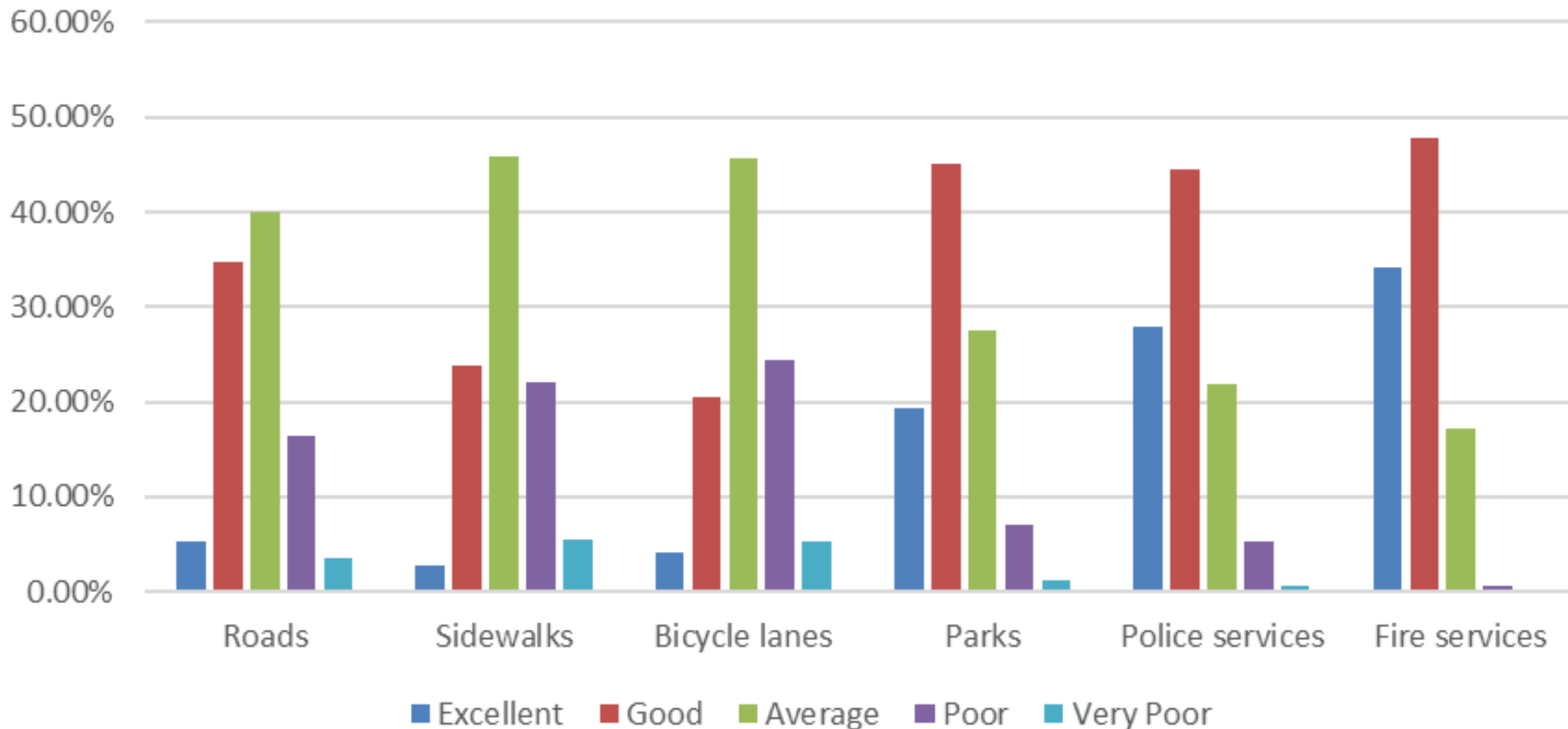
Current City Services

Do these services and facilities offered in Tumwater meet your needs?



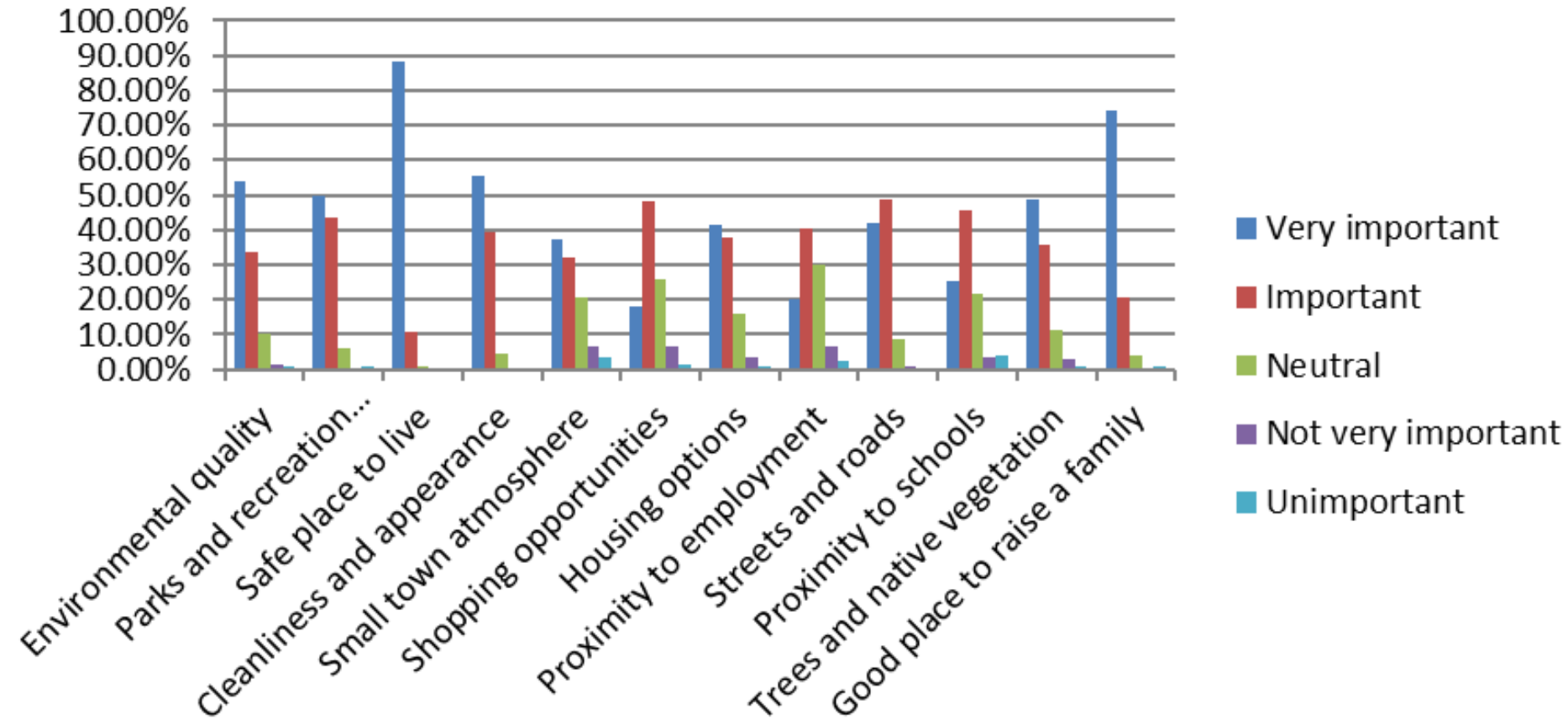
Current City Services

Please rate Tumwater on its provision of the following services.



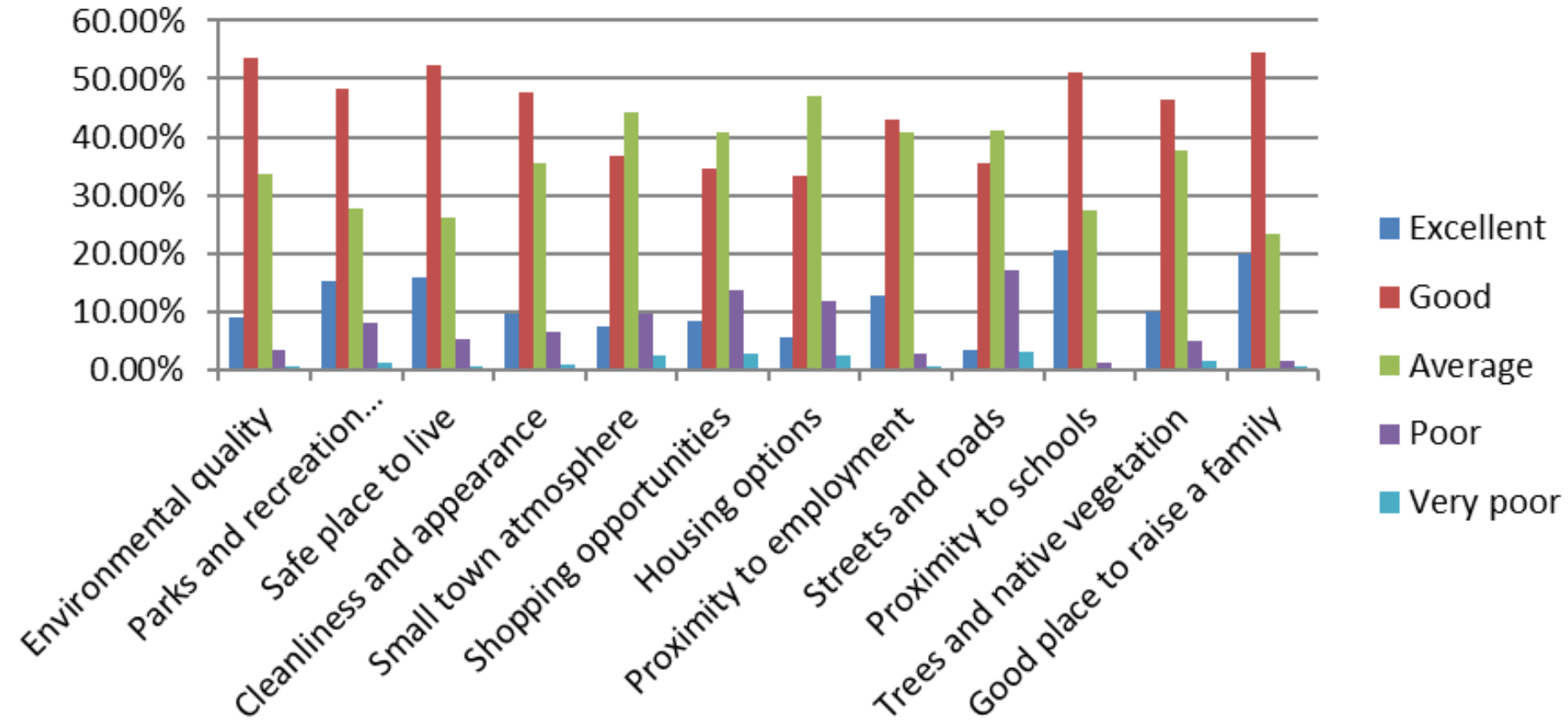
Factors in “Quality of Life”

How important are the following factors to a good "quality of life"?

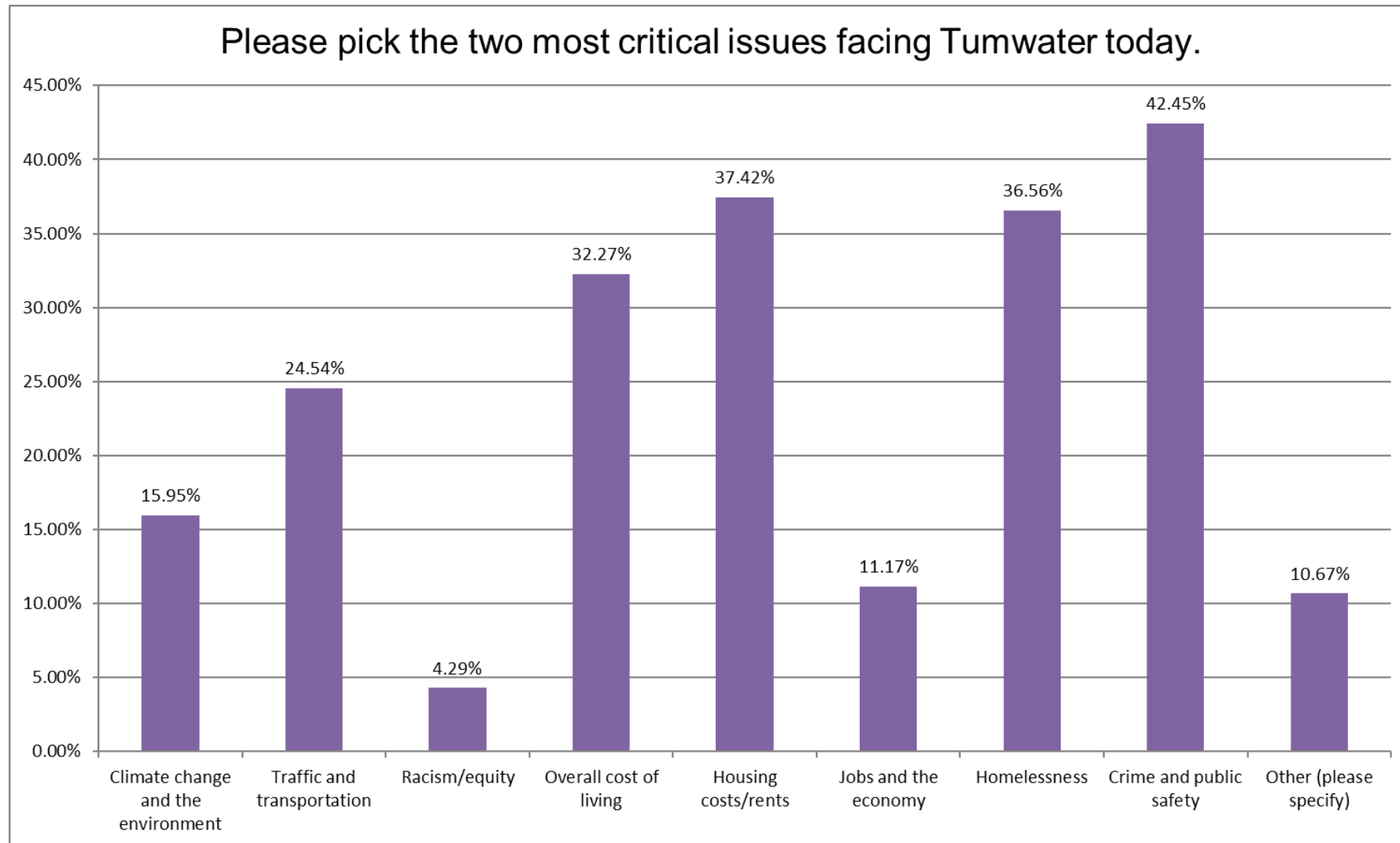


Rating the City on “Quality of Life” Factors

How would you rate Tumwater on these factors?



Critical Issues Today



What is the City's Greatest Asset?

- The parks, landscape, trees, proximity to recreation, and community events
- Small town feel & central location
- Schools and Community
- Police, Fire, Government & crime prevention
- Not many homeless encampments
- Historical background

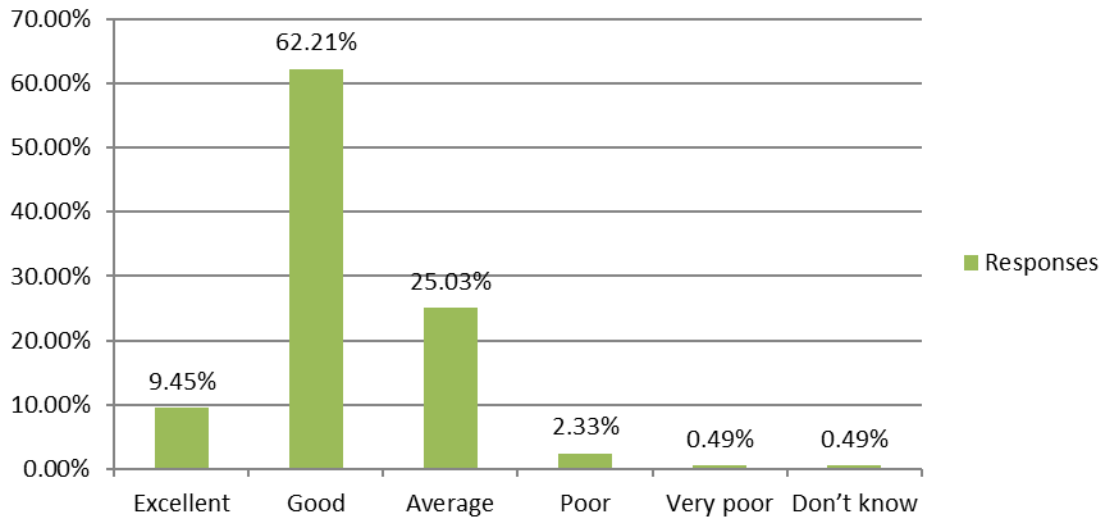




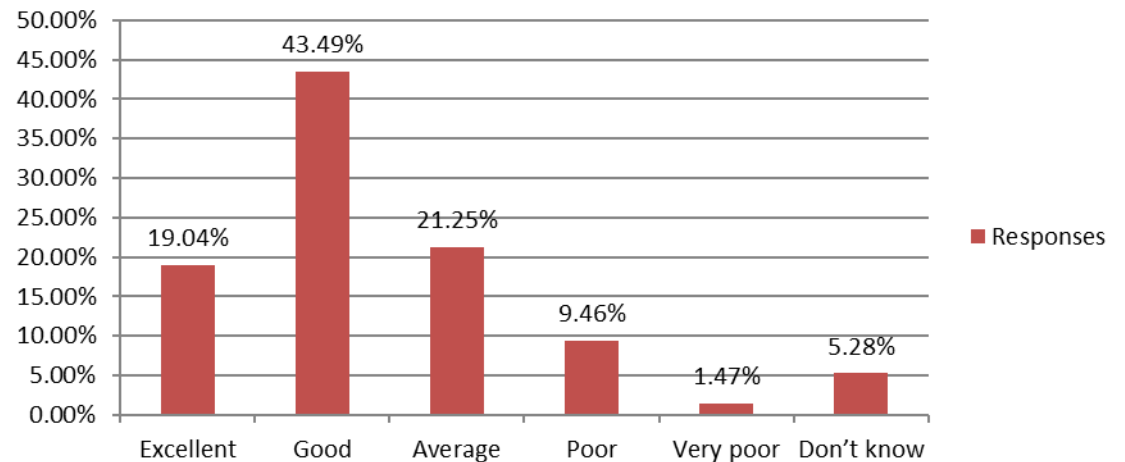
Looking Ahead

Overall Quality of Life Now and in Five Years

How would you rate the overall quality of life in Tumwater today?

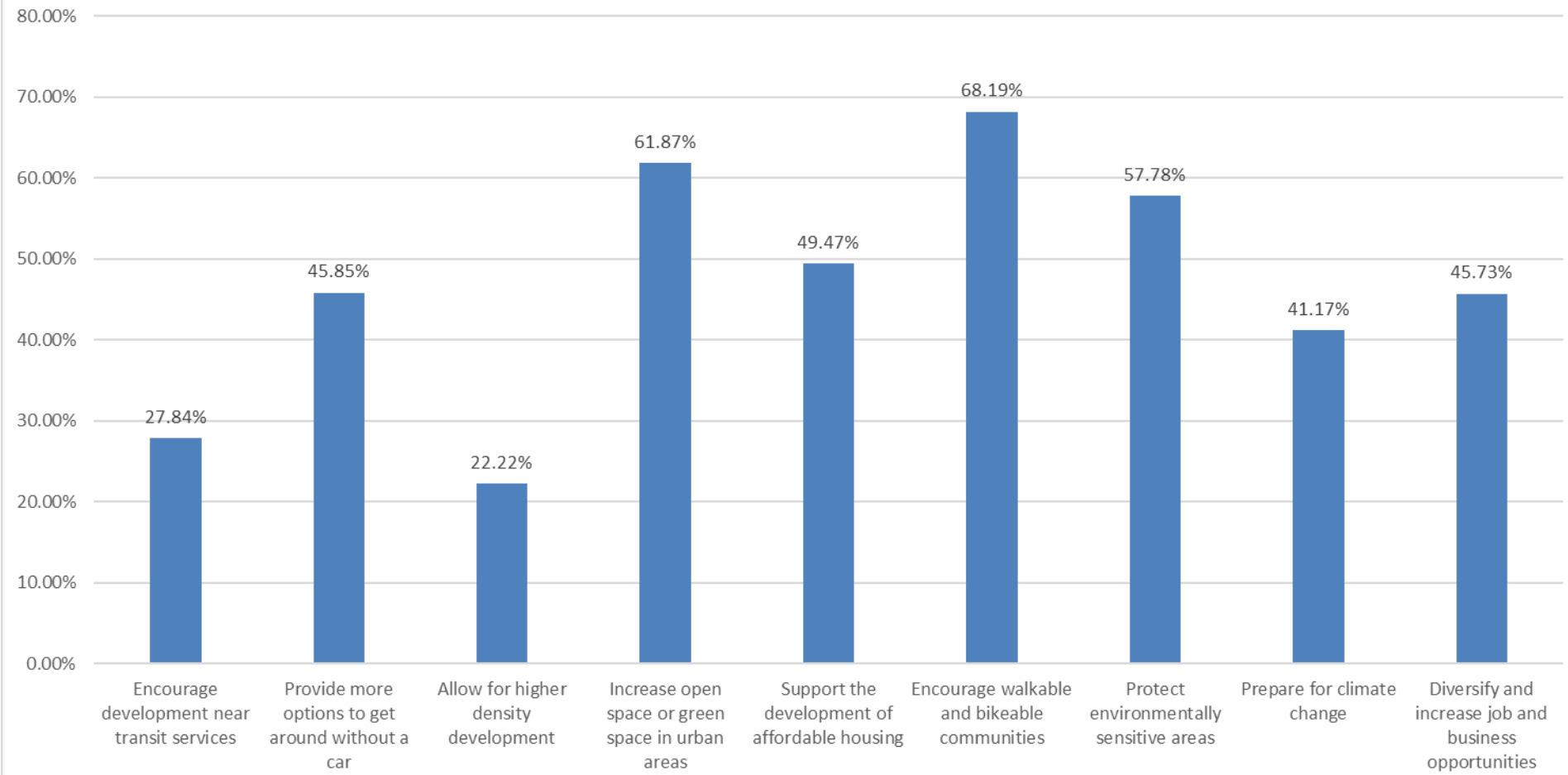


Looking ahead 5 years from now, how do you expect to rate the quality of life in Tumwater?

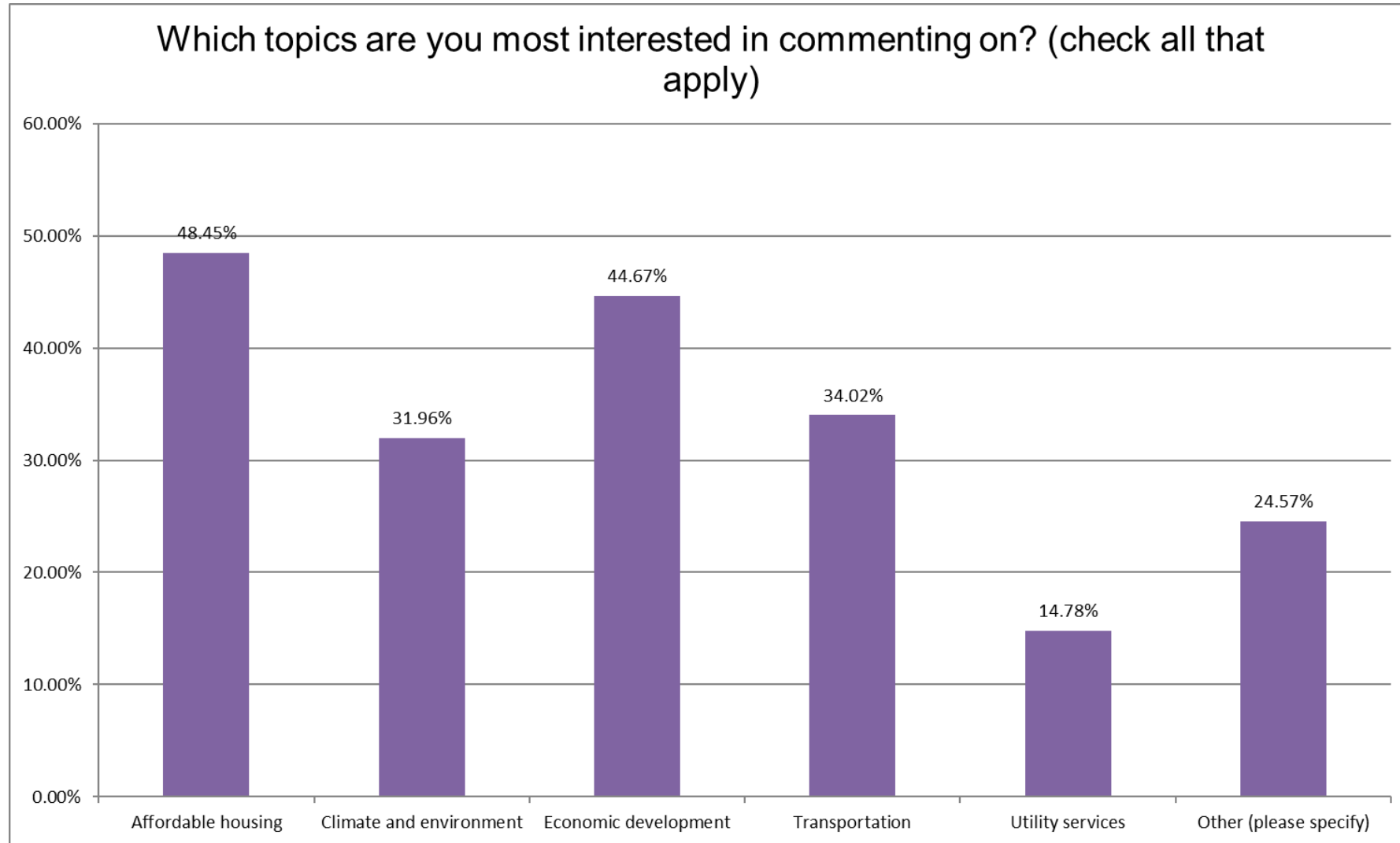


Preferences for Growth Strategies

There are many different strategies available to cities to help shape how they grow and develop over time. Which of the following strategies do you think Tumwater should pursue? (check all that apply)



Topics of Interest



What would be your top three priorities?

Police & Fire / Crime / Public City Services:

- Reduce homelessness
- Prioritize public safety and reduce crime & drugs
- Hire more police and firefighters
- Create more programs for homeless
- Create more programs for special needs or families in need
- Maintain a clean city
- Improve schools



What would be your top three priorities?

Housing:

- Reduce sprawl
- Keep small town feel
- Have more affordable options for owning/renting
- Create more middle housing
- Improve building permit process
- Create affordable senior housing



What would be your top three priorities?

Economic Development:

- More local shops/restaurants
- Redevelop the brewery
- Create a downtown
- Create a more uniform building code/theme
- Create more jobs
- Bring in and attract more employers and industries
- Diversify business
- Create more community spaces for events/venues



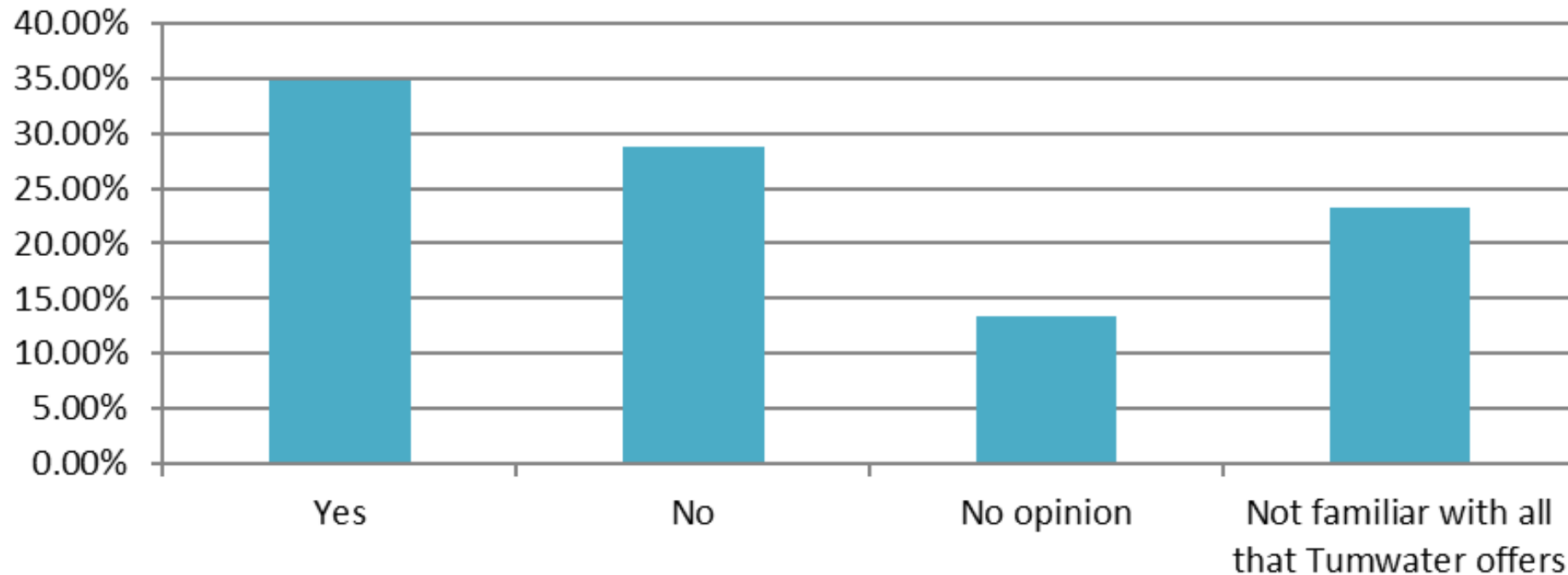
Concern About Housing

When asked about the how serious do you think the current housing situation is in Tumwater, on a scale of 0 to 10, where zero is “at all a problem: and ten is “a crisis”, the average survey respondents said **5.5**

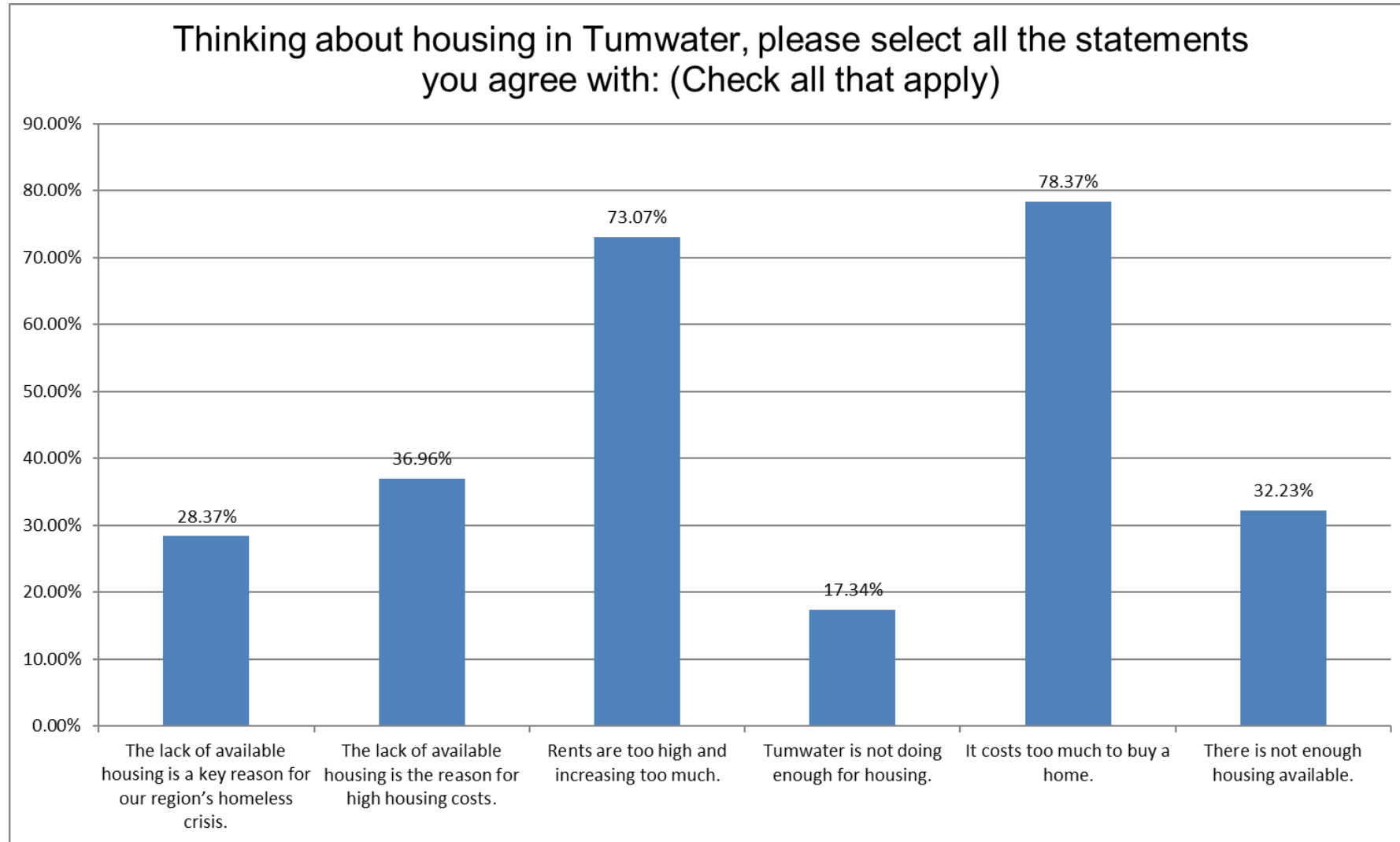


Housing and Services for All Stages of Life

Does Tumwater offer a mix of housing and services that encourages residents to continue living in the community at every stage of their lives?



Concern About Housing



Housing Considerations

- Concern with high density housing, schools being crowded, lack of infrastructure to support growth, and population growth
- Regulations that protect property taxes, short term rentals and private companies purchasing housing and using as rentals, controlling the rental market and prices, capping interest rates
- Anti-growth and development, keep single family residences or do not build more housing and apartments. Providing more housing will not solve homelessness



Housing Considerations

- Concern with overcrowding and traffic impacts
- Lower impact fees, streamline and create a faster permitting system, and stop raising property taxes to incentivize more affordable housing
- Provide facilities for behavioral health services and treatment centers
- Affordability for all income/age groups



Respondents Wanted City Leadership to Hear

There were 227 written survey responses to Question #26 “Please provide any additional comments or ideas you would like the City leadership to hear?” and they are found on pages 146 – 158 of Attachment C

Because the responses were so varied, staff did not try to provide a summary in this memorandum





Upcoming Events

Joint City Tours with City Council

- Tuesday, April 9, 2024 – Housing
- Tuesday, August 13, 2024 – Transportation



Joint Work Sessions with City Council

- Tuesday, June 25, 2024 – Development Code
- Tuesday, July 9, 2024 – Climate
- Tuesday, July 23, 2024 – Economic Development
- Tuesday, October 22, 2024 – Land Use and Development Code
- Tuesday, December 10, 2024 – 2025 Work Program



Upcoming Open Houses

Each Open House will be in person with a separate online component starting the day of the open house and be active for two weeks

- Wednesday, May 29, 2024 – Housing
- Wednesday, July 31, 2024 – Climate
- Wednesday, October 2, 2024 – Development Code



Submitting Comments or Questions

Written comments or questions are welcome at any time during the periodic update process

- The periodic update email is compplan@ci.tumwater.wa.us
- City of Tumwater Contact:

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