

# WHITE CENTER COMMUNITY SURVEY REPORT

2019



WHITE CENTER  
COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT  
ASSOCIATION

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# This report presents key findings from the 2019 Community Survey administered by the White Center Community Development Association.

The White Center Community Development Association (CDA) relies on community data to guide our work. Community data supports us in working alongside our partners and residents to develop strategies, organize, and advocate for community priorities. We support community-owned data by collecting and preserving stories for our community to access. This community-oriented approach to data makes our work unique and keeps us accountable to White Center residents.

The community survey is one of the ways we collect and use community data to guide our work. This community survey was administered in 2019. The survey focused on our community's strengths, vision, and priorities in areas of education, housing, economic development, and community connection. A total of 524 adults and youth completed the survey between May and September 2019.

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## INTRODUCTION

# METHODS & PARTNERSHIPS

The 2019 Community Survey was administered with the support of our White Center COO partners.

The 2019 survey was developed using questions from previous surveys in 2016 and 2017. We combined the youth and adult surveys and updated questions based on input from community residents and partners. The survey was available in person and online from May 31st to September 12th in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Somali. The survey was designed for individuals to respond independently or be conducted by an interviewer, depending on the person's preference.

Outreach strategies were tailored to capture a survey sample that approximates the demographics of our community. Recruitment efforts and outreach included connecting to individuals one-on-one, tabling at partners' events and sites, postings on social media and websites, and flier postings and distributions at community and residential spaces. White Center CDA staff and our partner organizations reached out to our respective communities to invite and provide technical and language support to our community in completing the survey. Together with our partners, we conducted the survey at various community events, programs, and activities

The implementation was fully funded by COO. A \$10 Safeway or Starbucks gift card incentive was provided to participants. The average time it took to complete the survey was approximately 24 minutes. About 84% of the surveys were fully completed.



COMMUNITIES OF OPPORTUNITY

*Communities of Opportunity (COO) is a partnership between the community, Seattle Foundation, and King County. COO is dedicated to creating a vibrant, equitable King County where everyone thrives regardless of race or place.*

*White Center COO partners included: White Center Food Bank, FEEST, WYCA, Southwest Youth and Family Services, YES! Foundation of White Center, Partners in Employment, Education for All, Cham Refugees Community, Trusted Advocates, Village of Hope, and Cambodian Cultural Alliance of Washington.*



# CONNECTION TO WHITE CENTER



59.7% of participants live in White Center



22.5% of participants work in White Center



32.6% of participants gather with a faith community in White Center

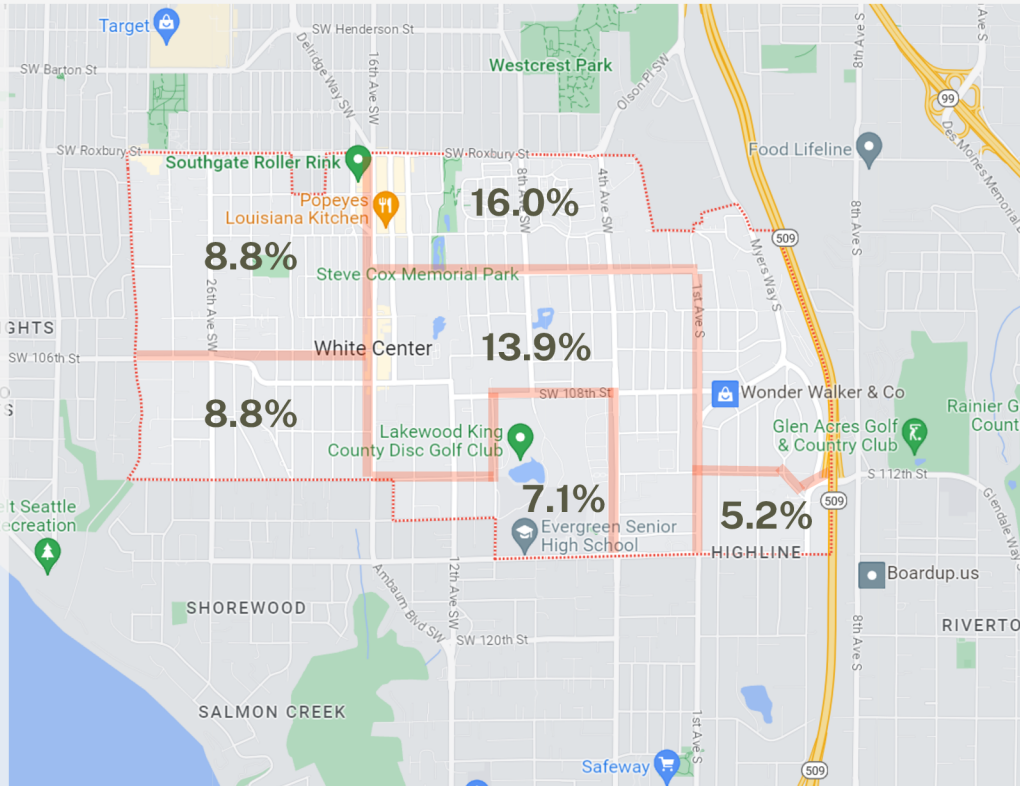


91.6% of participants eat, shop, and/or play in White Center

A total of 524 community members completed the survey. About 59.7% (313) reported living in White Center. Out of those living in White Center, 14.7% also worked in White Center.

## Location of Participants Living in White Center

Participants living in White Center reported living in the areas shown on the map. Most participants who were not living in White Center were living in the surrounding areas such as Seattle (17.2%) and Burien (12.2%). About 10.9% of participants were living in Boulevard Park, Renton, Seatac, South Park, Kent, Tukwila, Des Moines, Covington, Everett, Auburn, Lynwood, Sammamish, Bellevue, and other locations.

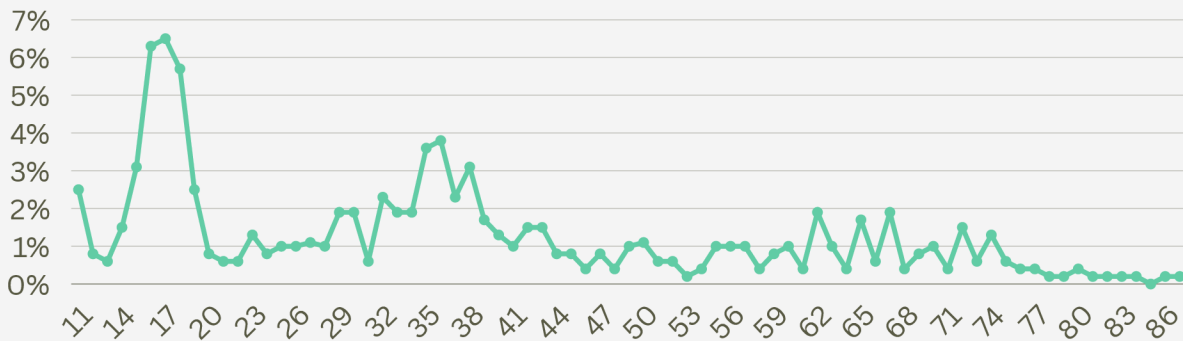


# DEMOGRAPHICS

Participants ranged from 11 to 87 years of age and spoke more than 29 languages altogether.

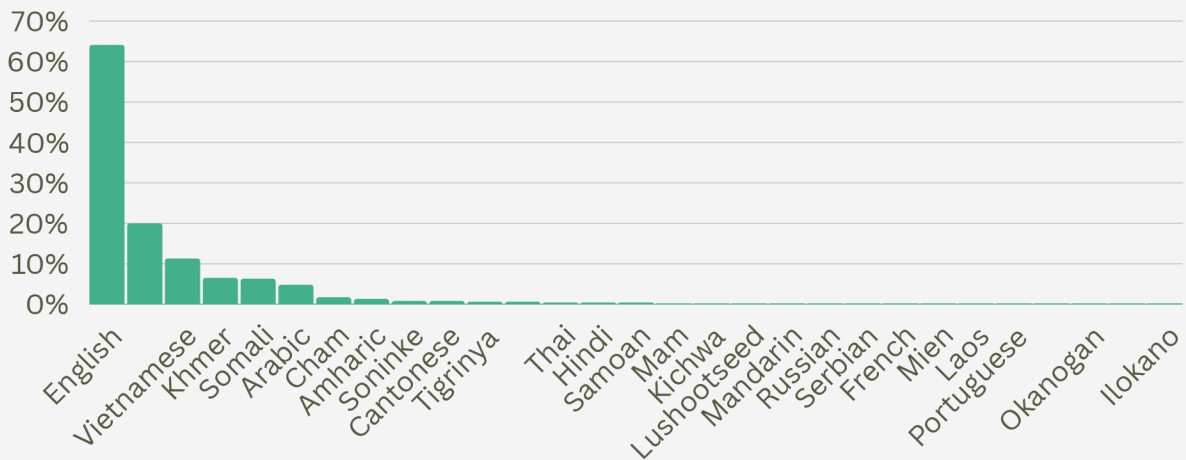
Participants' average age was about 36.6 years. About 21.2% were youths under 17 years or younger, 62.0% were adults between the ages of 18 to 64, and 12.6% were seniors 65 years or older.

**Age in Years**



The top 5 languages spoken at home were: 64.1% English, 20.0% Spanish, 11.3% Vietnamese, 6.5% Khmer, and 6.3% Somali. About 43.9% spoke only English and 35.9% did not speak English. About 21.0% spoke 2 or more languages.

**Languages Spoken at Home**

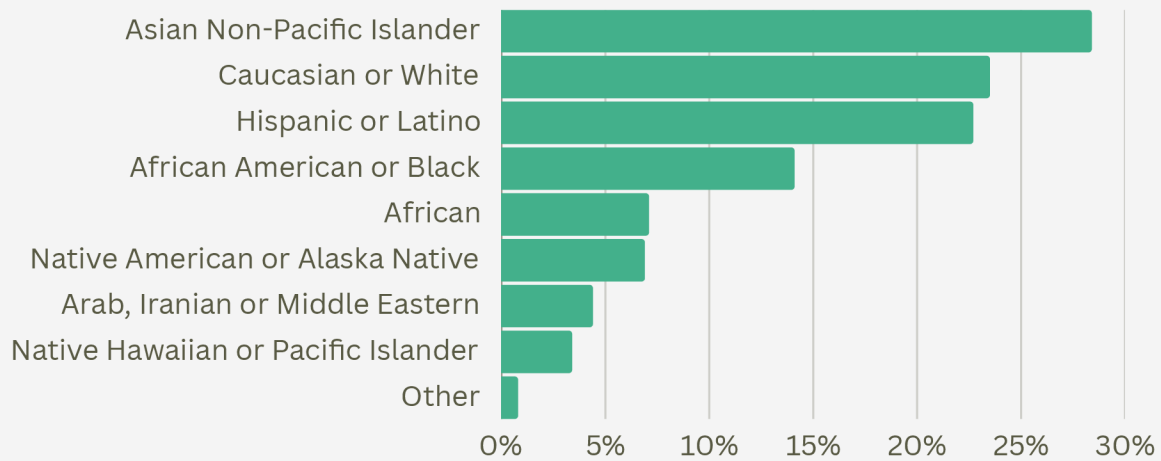


# DEMOGRAPHICS

Participants were of diverse races and ethnicities, identifying with more than 65 cultural and ethnic subgroups and tribal affiliations.

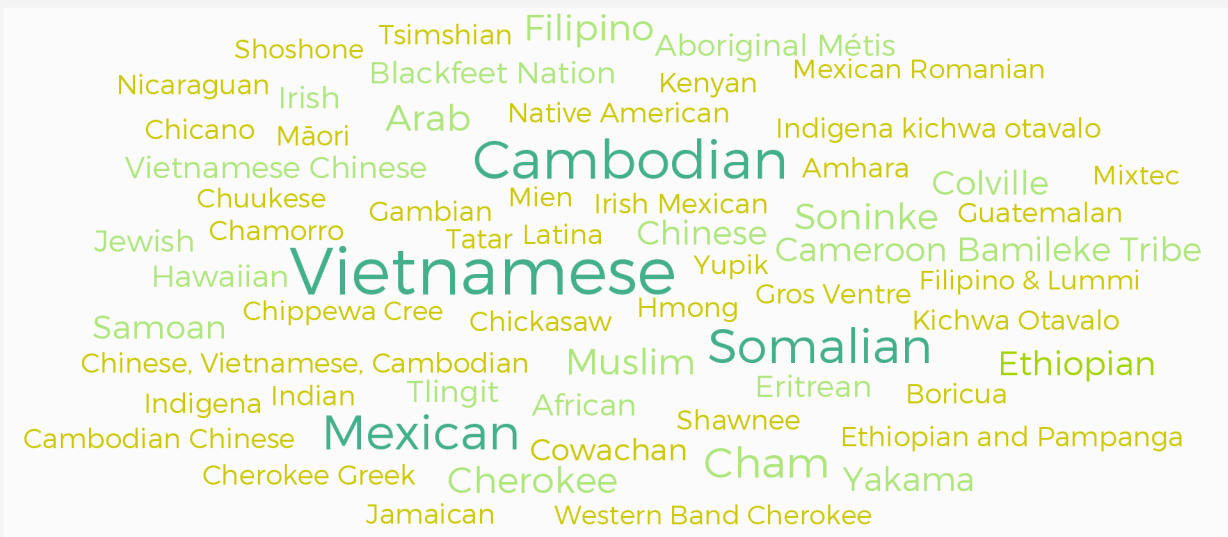
About 10.9% of survey participants identified with 2 or more races and 76.5% identified as a person of color (non-Caucasian or White).

## Race & Ethnicity



\*Totals for this "Check all that apply" question may exceed 100%.

## Cultural/Ethnic Subgroup or Tribal Affiliation

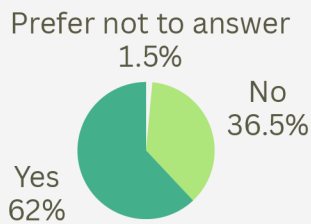


# DEMOGRAPHICS

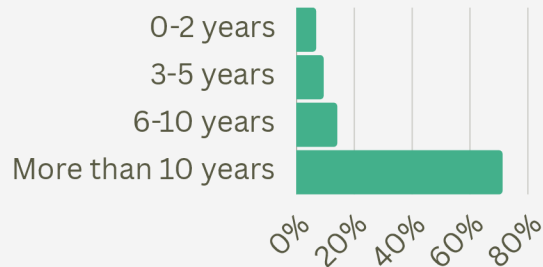
About 36.5% of participants were born outside the United States; 71.2% of foreign-born participants have lived in the US for longer than 10 years.

Foreign-born participants were from 30 different countries: 28.8% Vietnam, 18.4% Mexico, 10.5% Cambodia, 9.9% Somalia, 5.8% Iraq, 4.7% El Salvador, 2.6% Philippines, 2.1% Ethiopia, and 17.2% from 22 other countries.

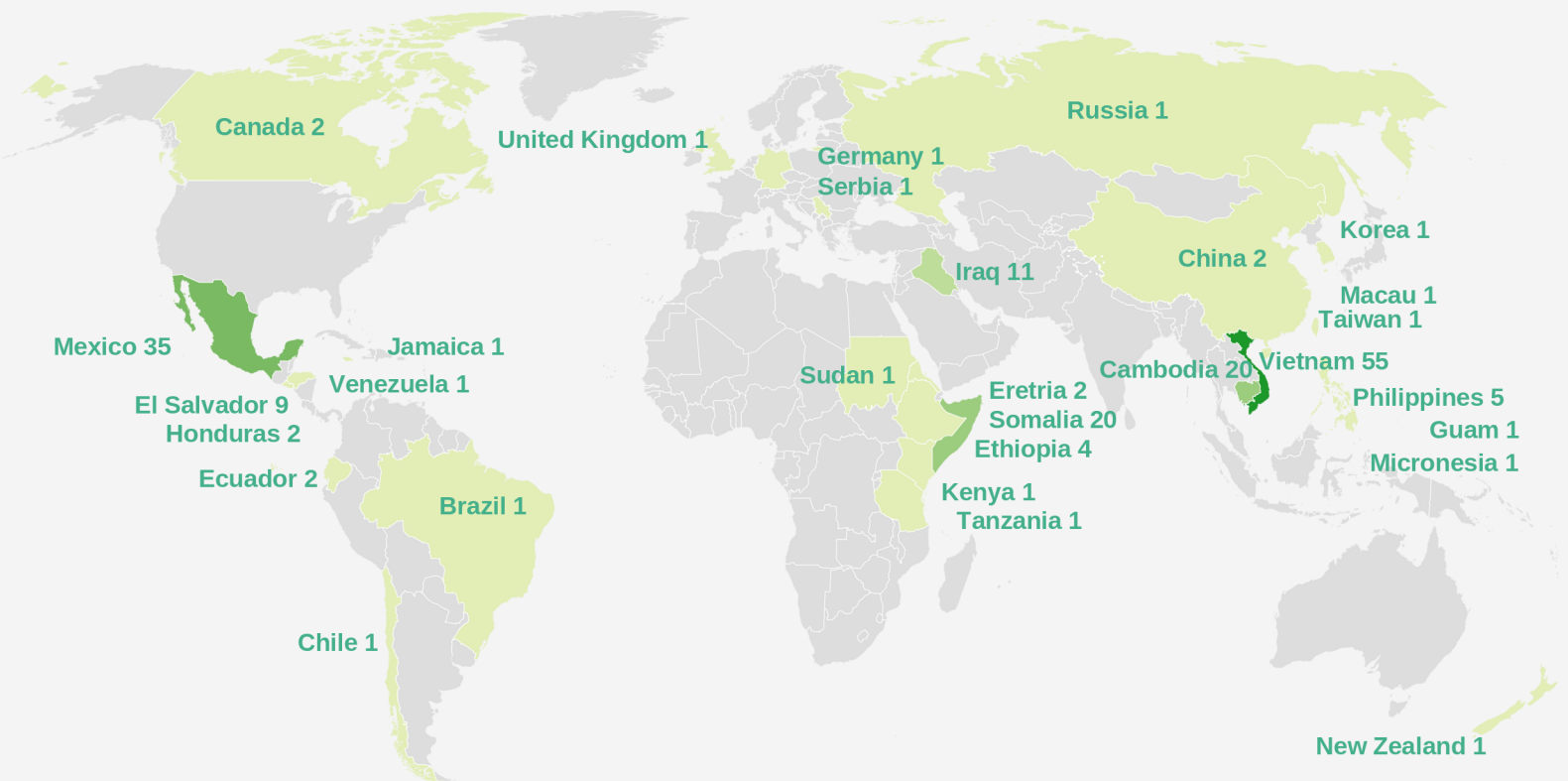
## Born in the US



## Foreign-born Years in the US



## Countries of Birth



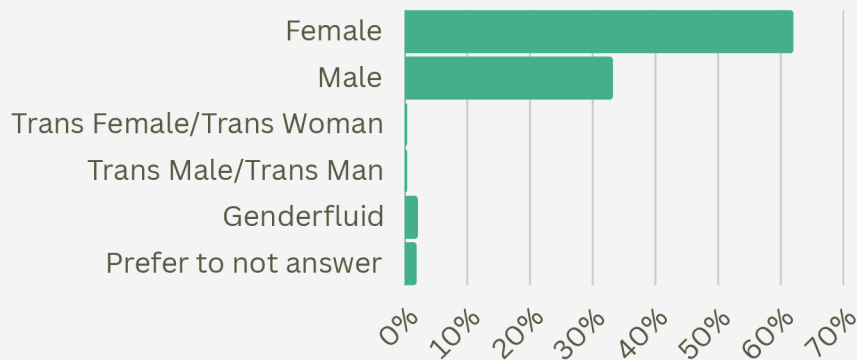


# DEMOGRAPHICS

About 62.0% of participants identified as female and 85.5% identified as straight.

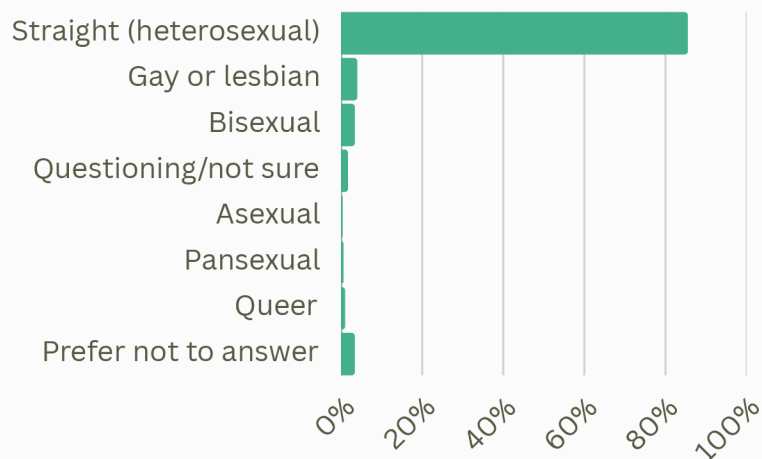
About 35% of participants identified as male, 0.4% as transgender female, 0.4% as transgender male, and 2.1% as genderfluid, non-conforming, and nonbinary.

## Gender Identity



About 85.5% of participants identified as straight or heterosexual. About 4.0% identified as gay/lesbian, 3.4% bisexual, 1.7% questioning, 0.4% asexual, 0.6% pansexual, and 1.0% queer.

## Sexual Orientation

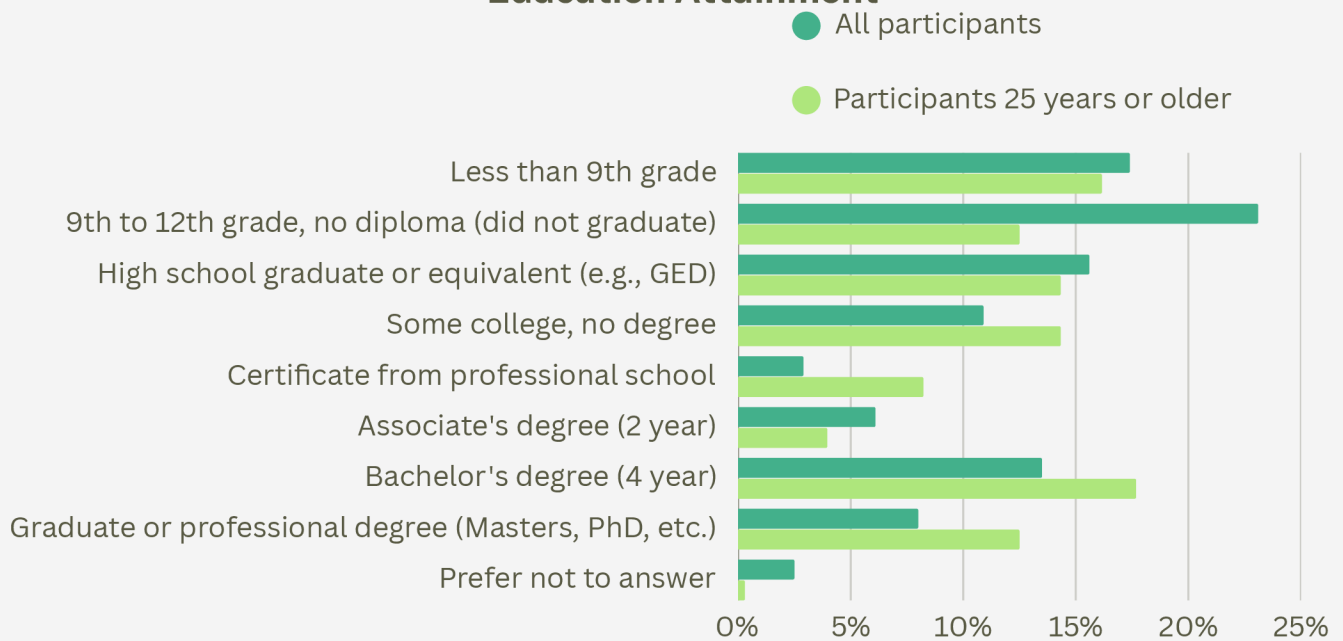


# DEMOGRAPHICS

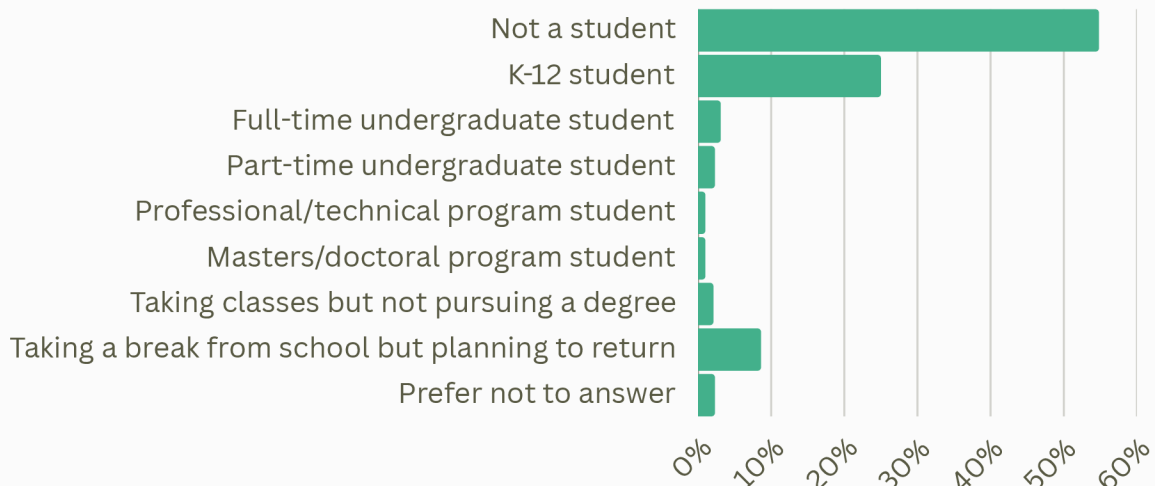
About 71.0% of participants 25 years or older have completed high school or equivalent.

About 46% of participants were students, taking classes but not pursuing a program, or planning to return to school soon. Of the 212 participants who had not completed high school, 61.8% were current K-12 students.

## Education Attainment



## Current Education Enrollment



# HOUSING

## Most survey participants were living in stand-alone or single-family housing and apartments.

About 44.8% of participants reported living in stand-alone or single-family housing, and 49.7% were living in other permanent types of housing such as apartments, townhouses, duplexes, condominiums, mobile /manufactured homes, or shared housing. About 4.1% were living in temporary housing such as shelters, tiny homes, and Couchsurfing, and 1.4% were living on the streets. Housing types were similar when comparing White Center residents to all participants.

### Housing Type by Location

	White Center n=212	Seattle n=68	Burien n=43	Others n=45	All residents n=368
Stand-alone / single-family house	86 40.4%	34 50.0%	21 48.8%	24 53.3%	<b>165</b> <b>44.8%</b>
Apartment	68 31.9%	18 26.5%	12 27.9%	16 35.6%	<b>114</b> <b>31.0%</b>
Townhouse	20 9.4%	1 1.5%	3 7.0%	0 0.0%	<b>24</b> <b>6.5%</b>
Duplex	13 6.1%	5 7.4%	2 4.7%	1 2.2%	<b>21</b> <b>5.7%</b>
Condominium	5 2.3%	5 7.4%	2 4.7%	1 2.2%	<b>13</b> <b>3.5%</b>
Mobile home / Manufactured home	3 1.4%	4 5.9%	1 2.3%	0 0.0%	<b>8</b> <b>2.2%</b>
Shelter	5 2.3%	1 1.5%	0 0.0%	1 2.2%	<b>7</b> <b>1.9%</b>
Tiny house in tiny house village	7 3.3%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	<b>7</b> <b>1.9%</b>
On the streets	4 1.9%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	1 2.2%	<b>5</b> <b>1.4%</b>
Shared housing	1 0.5%	0 0.0%	1 2.3%	1 2.2%	<b>3</b> <b>0.8%</b>
Couchsurfing	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	1 2.3%	0 0.0%	<b>1</b> <b>0.3%</b>

*n=number of participants*

# HOUSING

About 51.1% of participants were renting, and 27.3% have lived in their current homes for longer than 10 years.

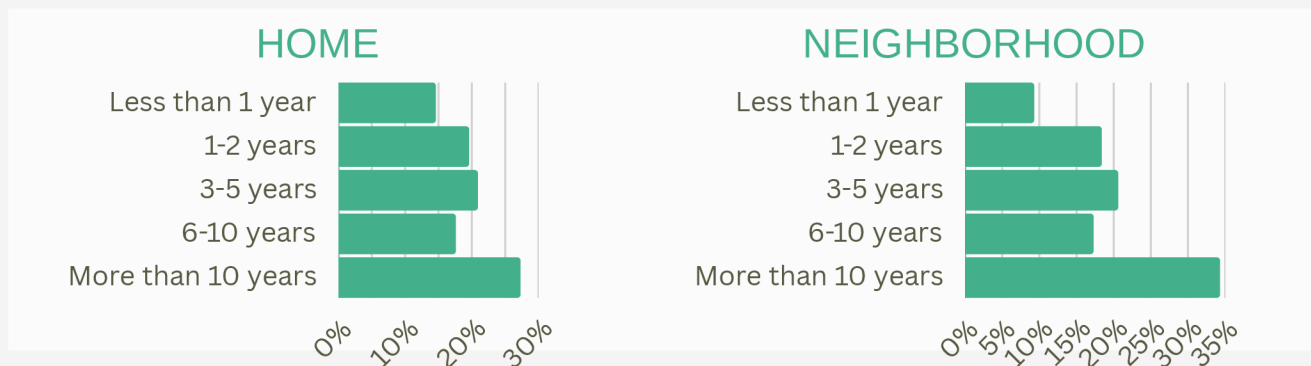
About 28.3% of participants were homeowners, and 14.4% were living with family or friends (5.7% paid and 8.7% unpaid). About 5.7% of the participants were unhoused.

## Housing Situation by Location

	White Center n=212	Seattle n=68	Burien n=43	Others n=45	All Residents n=368
<b>Renter</b>	116 54.7%	32 47.1%	18 41.9%	22 48.9%	<b>188</b> <b>51.1%</b>
<b>Homeowner</b>	60 28.3%	21 30.9%	11 25.6%	12 26.7%	<b>104</b> <b>28.3%</b>
<b>Living with family/friends without payment</b>	12 5.7%	9 13.2%	6 14.0%	5 11.1%	<b>32</b> <b>8.7%</b>
<b>Living with family/friends with payment</b>	6 2.8%	4 5.9%	7 16.3%	4 8.9%	<b>21</b> <b>5.7%</b>
<b>Homeless</b>	17 8.0%	1 1.5%	1 2.3%	2 4.4%	<b>21</b> <b>5.7%</b>
<b>Prefer not to answer</b>	1 0.5%	1 1.5%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	<b>2</b> <b>0.5%</b>

About 85.4% of the participants have lived in their current home and 90.6% in their current neighborhood for 1 year or longer.

## Length of Time at Current Location

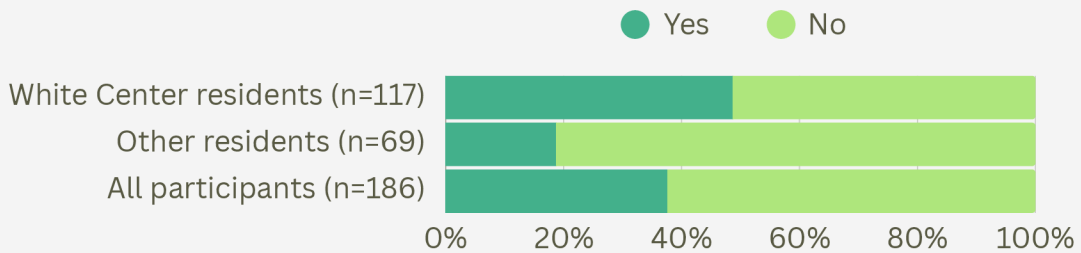


# HOUSING

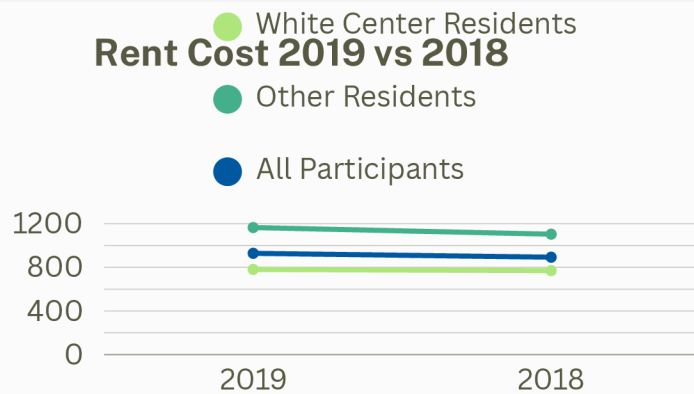
## Almost half of participants renting in White Center had housing subsidy.

Out of 186 participants who were renting, 70 were receiving subsidies to pay for rent costs (White Center residents 48.7%; other residents 18.8%; all participants 37.6%).

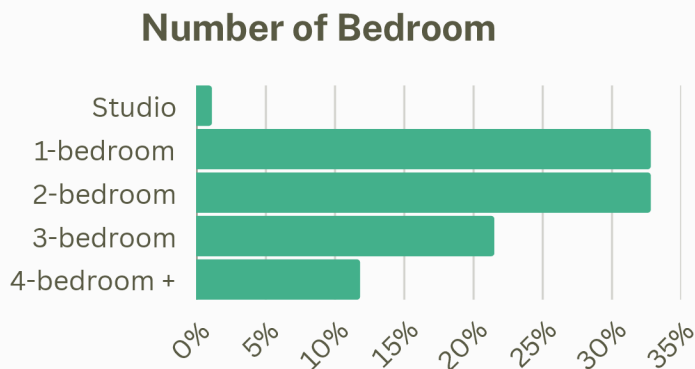
### Currently Living in Subsidized Housing



Participants' average rent cost was \$928.03. White Center residents reported an average rent of \$780.02 which was slightly lower than participants living elsewhere (\$1,164.12). Participants reported a 3.8% increase in rent compared to the previous year.



Most participants who were renting were living in 2-bedroom (32.8%) or 3-bedroom (32.8%) homes. About 1.1% were living in studios, and 11.8% were living in homes with 4 bedrooms or more.



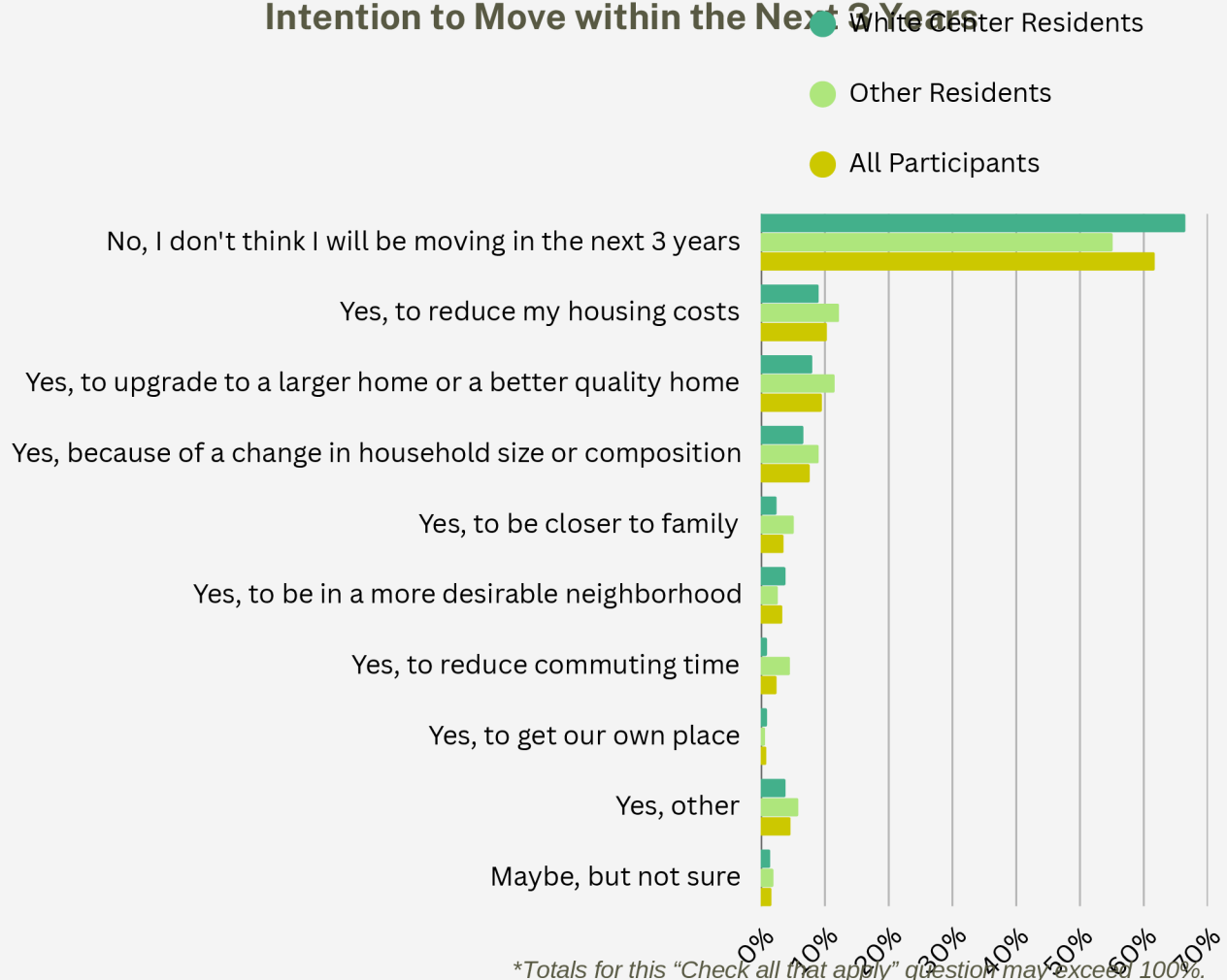
# HOUSING

About 61.7% of participants were not planning to move in the next 3 years.

For both White Center and all other residents, the top reasons for participants planning to move were reducing housing costs (White Center residents 9.0%; all participants 10.3%) upgrading to a larger or better-quality home (White Center residents 8.0%; all participants 9.5%), or changing household size or composition (White Center residents 6.6%; all residents 7.6%).

Other less common reasons not included in the chart below include relocating for work, getting permanent housing, returning to hometown or country, wanting less yard work, getting a smaller home, going to a less populated area, and wanting to have an experience of living somewhere else.

## Intention to Move within the Next 3 Years



# HOUSING

White Center residents reported a slightly stronger sense of connection to their neighbors than other participants.

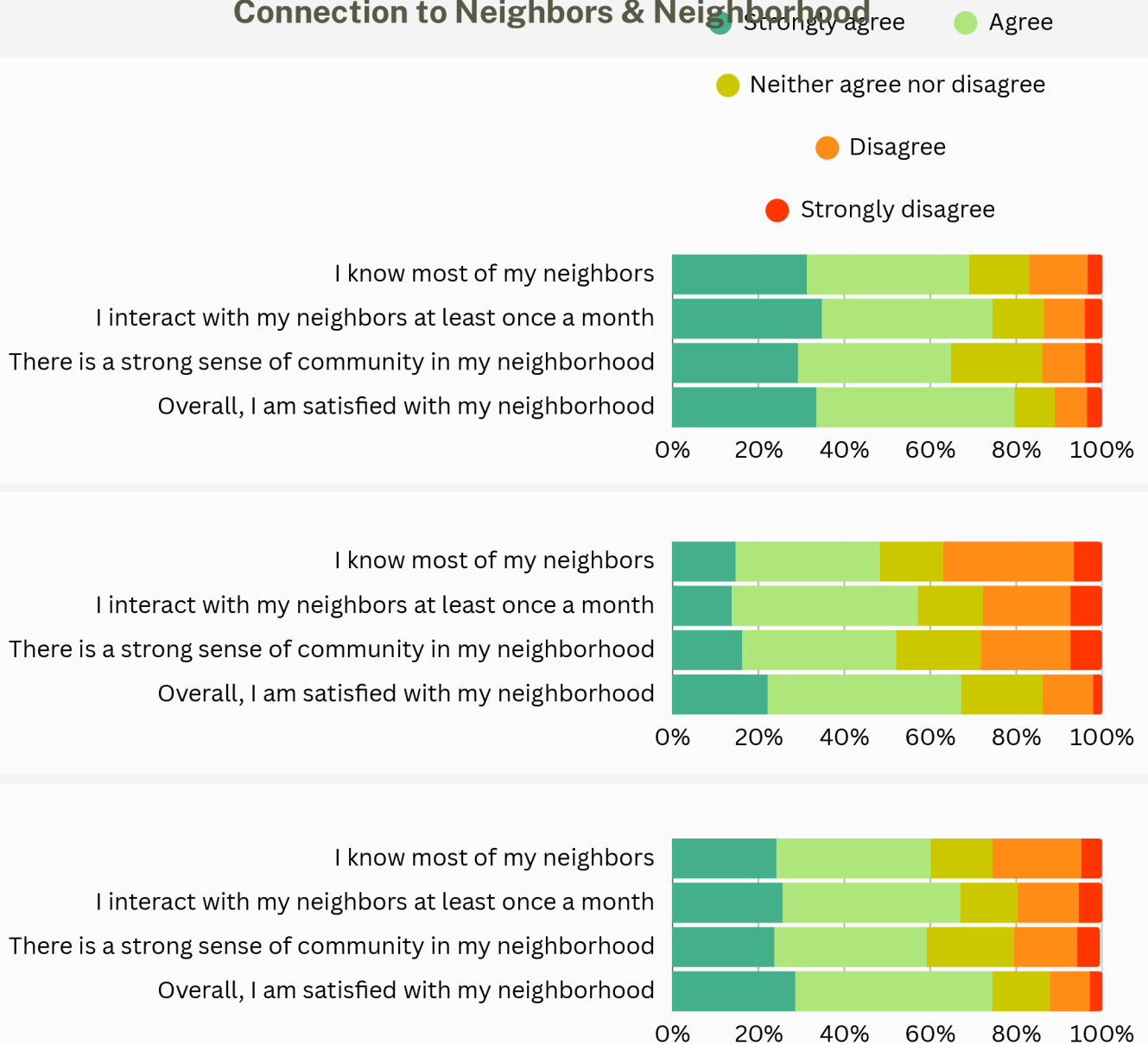
About 79.8% of White Center residents reported being satisfied with their neighborhood in comparison to 67.3% of other residents. Overall, about 60.2% of all participants knew most of their neighbors, 67.1% interacted with their neighbors at least once a month and 59.2% reported a strong sense of community in their neighborhood.

## Connection to Neighbors & Neighborhood

WHITE CENTER

OTHER

ALL



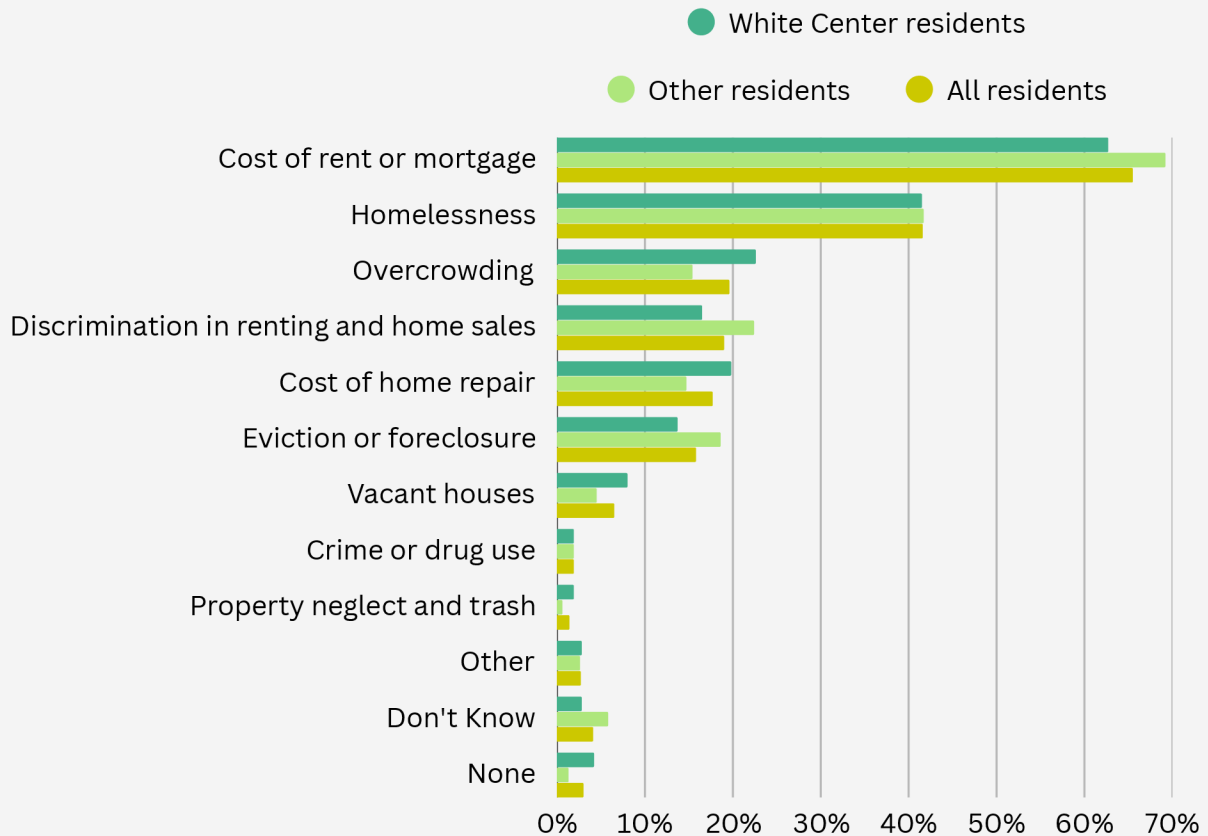
# HOUSING

About 65.5% of participants believed that the cost of rent and mortgage is the most significant housing challenge for White Center.

Other top challenges participants reported include homelessness (41.6%), overcrowding (19.6%), discrimination in renting and home sales (19.0%), cost of home repair (17.7%), and eviction or foreclosure (15.8%).

About 3.0% of participants believed that the White Center community does not have housing challenges, and about 4.1% reported not knowing what challenges exist. About 2.8% reported other less common housing-related challenges that are not listed in the chart below. Those challenges include general displacement or gentrification, high crime and drug rates, mental health issues, predatory landlords, low wages, safety concerns, etc. In general, White Center residents reported similar housing challenges as other participants.

## Housing Challenges in White Center



\*Totals for this "Check all that apply" question may exceed 100%.



# HOUSING

"More affordable housing and ways to do repairs/renovations at affordable pricing so houses aren't bought and flipped then gentrifying the community."

-White Center Community Member

Below is a list summarizing participants' suggestions for how to make housing better in White Center in the order of most to least frequently mentioned. The top suggestion mentioned by about 52.8% of participants was to increase the affordability of housing for rent and/or purchase. The second top suggestion was to increase housing support programs such as transitional housing, rent/mortgage support, emergency funds, eviction support, first-time buyer, utility support, maintenance and repair support, etc.

Other less suggested housing-related ideas not listed below include having more general social services (drug prevention programs for youth, social activities for elders, etc.), increasing public transportation, and having more community-building events. Though some participants support building more homes and shelters, there were also a few participants who did not want to build more homes or shelters in White Center.

**01**

**Increase affordability and make housing cheaper for individuals and families to rent and purchase**

**02**

**Increase support programs to help individuals and families get housing and keep their homes**

**03**

**Provide more services, shelters, and housing for unhoused individuals and families**

**04**

**Increase police presence, streetlights, and other security efforts to keep our neighborhoods safe**

**05**

**Implement market regulation policies such as rent control to reduce housing cost**

**06**

**Increase curb appeal by having more clean-ups of sidewalks, streets, and public spaces**

**07**

**Enforce housing codes and regulations to keep homeowners accountable to property maintenance**

**08**

**Increase wages and create more jobs to strengthen the local economy and housing affordability**

**09**

**Increase density and build more housing units for individuals and families of various sizes**

**10**

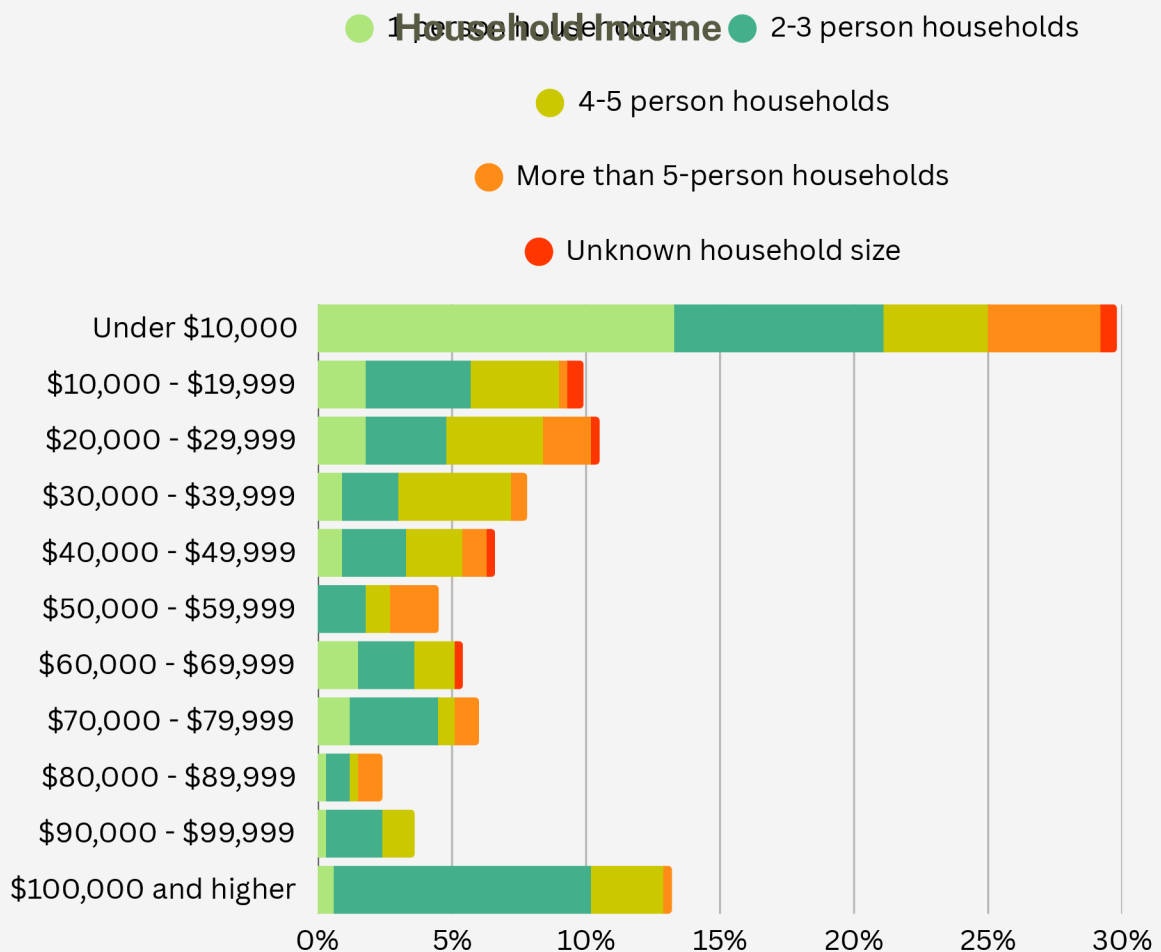
**Renovate or remove vacant homes and turn them into affordable housing and shelters**

# ECONOMY

About 58.1% of participants reported a household income of less than \$30,000.

About 29.8% of participants reported their household income to be less than \$10,000; of those, about 13.3% were 1-person households, 7.8% were 2-3 person households, 3.9% were 4-5 person households, 4.2% were more than 5-person households, and 0.6% were unknown household size.

About 13.3% of participants reported their household income to be more than \$100,000; of those, about 0.6% were 1-person households, 9.6% were 2-3 person households, 2.7% were 4-5 person households, and 0.3% were more than 5-person households.

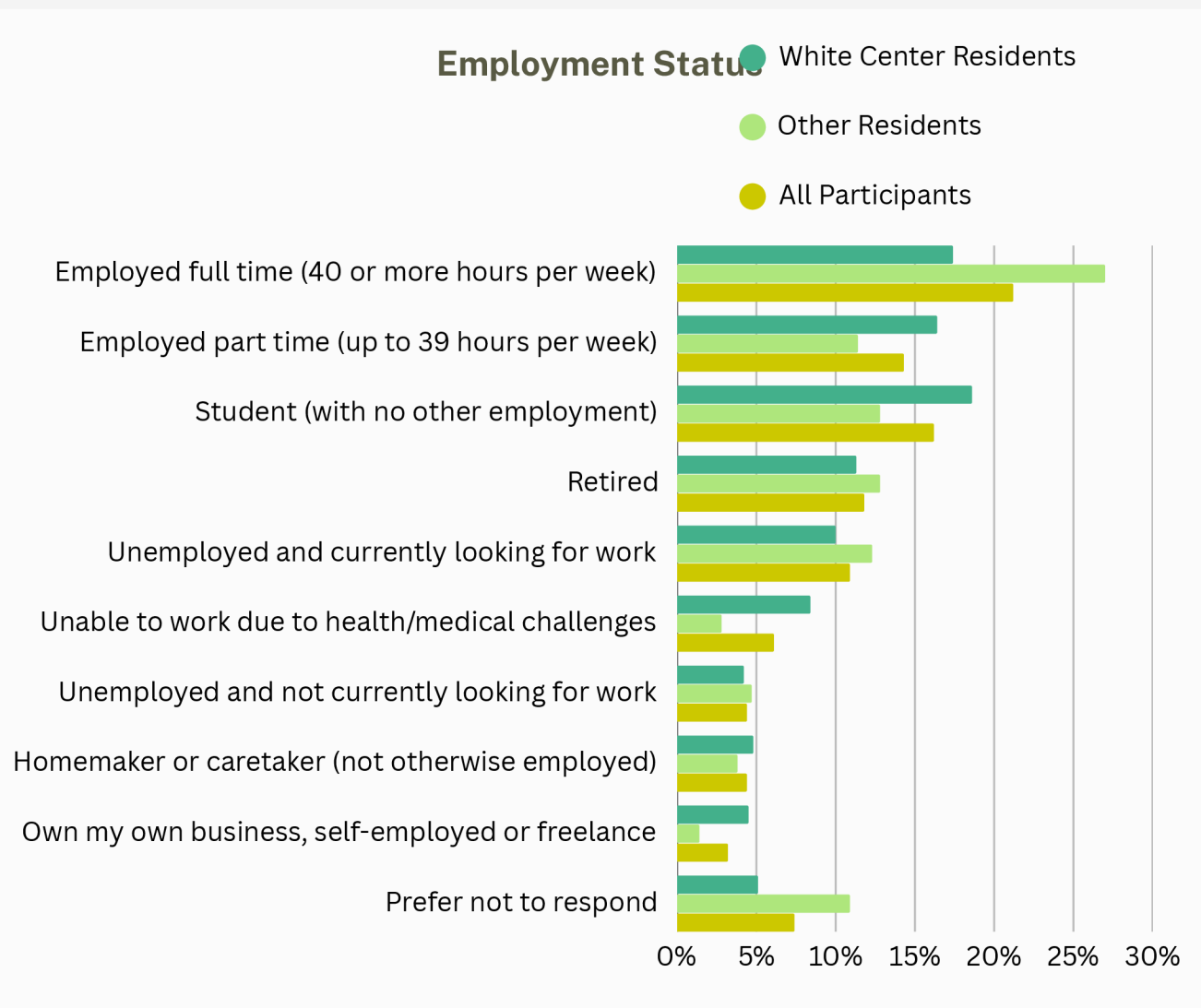


# ECONOMY

About 21.2% of participants were full-time employed, and 14.3% were part-time employed.

Full-time employment among White Center residents was slightly lower than other residents (White Center residents 17.4%; other residents 27.0%). However, part-time employment among White Center residents was higher than other participants (White Center residents 16.4%; other residents 11.4%).

Participants also reported a total of 335 other household members, not including themselves, who were currently unemployed (White Center residents 201; other residents 133).

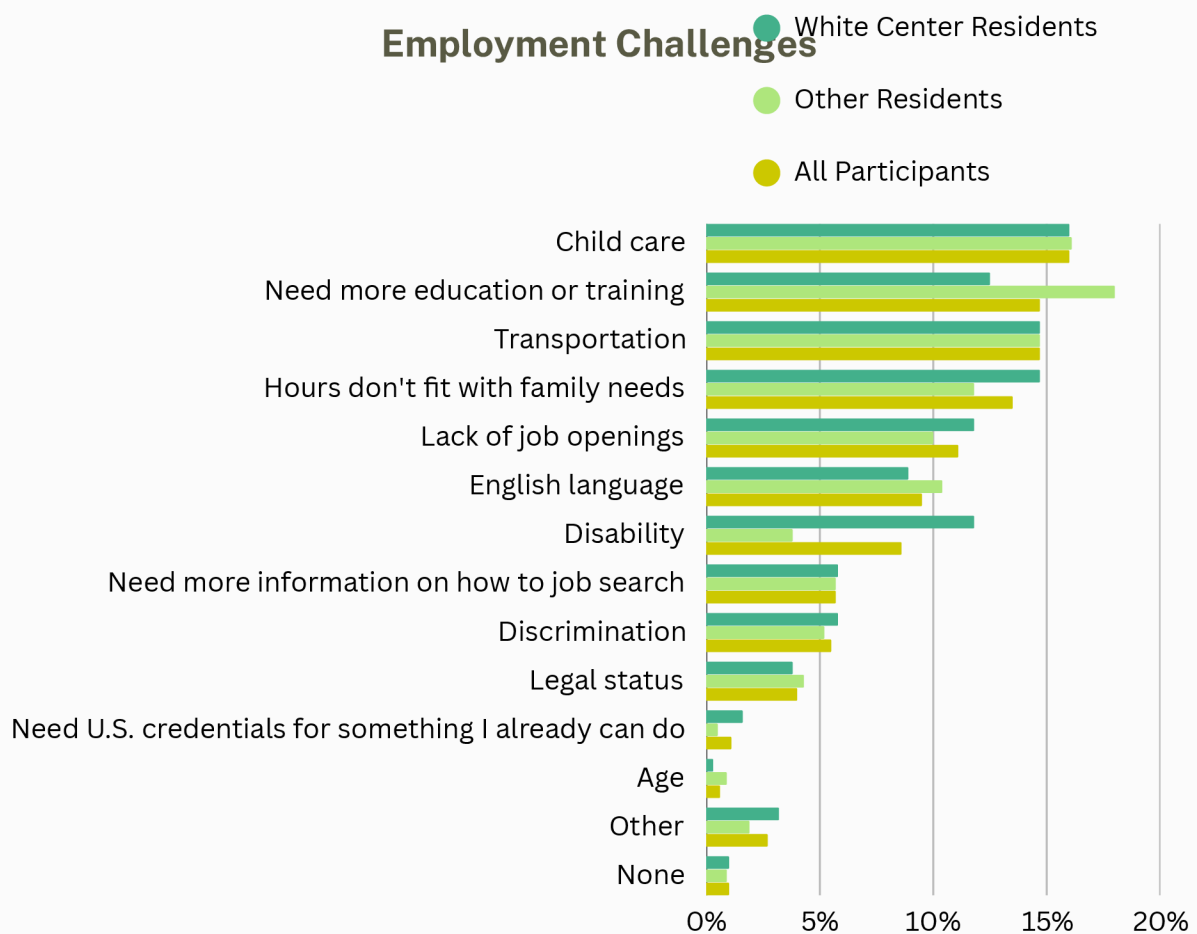


# ECONOMY

## Child care is the most significant employment challenge for participants.

About 34.5% of participants had never looked for jobs in the past. Of those who have sought employment, about 16.0% of participants reported that child care is a barrier to finding employment. Other challenges participants reported include needing more education or training (14.7%), transportation (14.7%), hours not fitting their needs (13.5%), lack of job openings (11.1%), English language (9.5%), and others listed in the chart below. White Center residents reported similar economic challenges as other participants.

About 1.0% reported not experiencing any challenges, and 2.7% reported other less common challenges not included in the chart such as physical and mental health, drug addictions, pregnancy, and homelessness.




\*Totals for this "Check all that apply" question may exceed 100%.

# ECONOMY

English fluency is the most needed skill for finding a job.

When asked what type of education or training would be most helpful to their career development, 174 participants reported needing various training programs ranging from hands-on experiences and apprenticeships, short-term professional development courses/workshops, technical degrees or certificates, college or bachelor's degrees, to graduate degrees. Specific skills reported by participants are listed below from most mentioned to least.

## Skills and Training for Career Development



English fluency  
Computer literacy & technology  
Health care (CNA, nursing, etc.)  
Business Management and entrepreneurship  
Computer science, math, or engineering  
Career planning and job search  
Communications and marketing  
Management and leadership  
Child care  
Culinary  
Art  
Customer service and hospitality  
Cultural competency  
Counseling  
Advocacy  
Confidence building  
Work ethics  
Peer support  
Pay rate negotiation

# ECONOMY

About 49.2% of participants reported currently receiving some financial and/or resource assistance.

The most common resource used by participants is Food Stamps or SNAP (White Center residents 29.1%; all participants 25.6%).

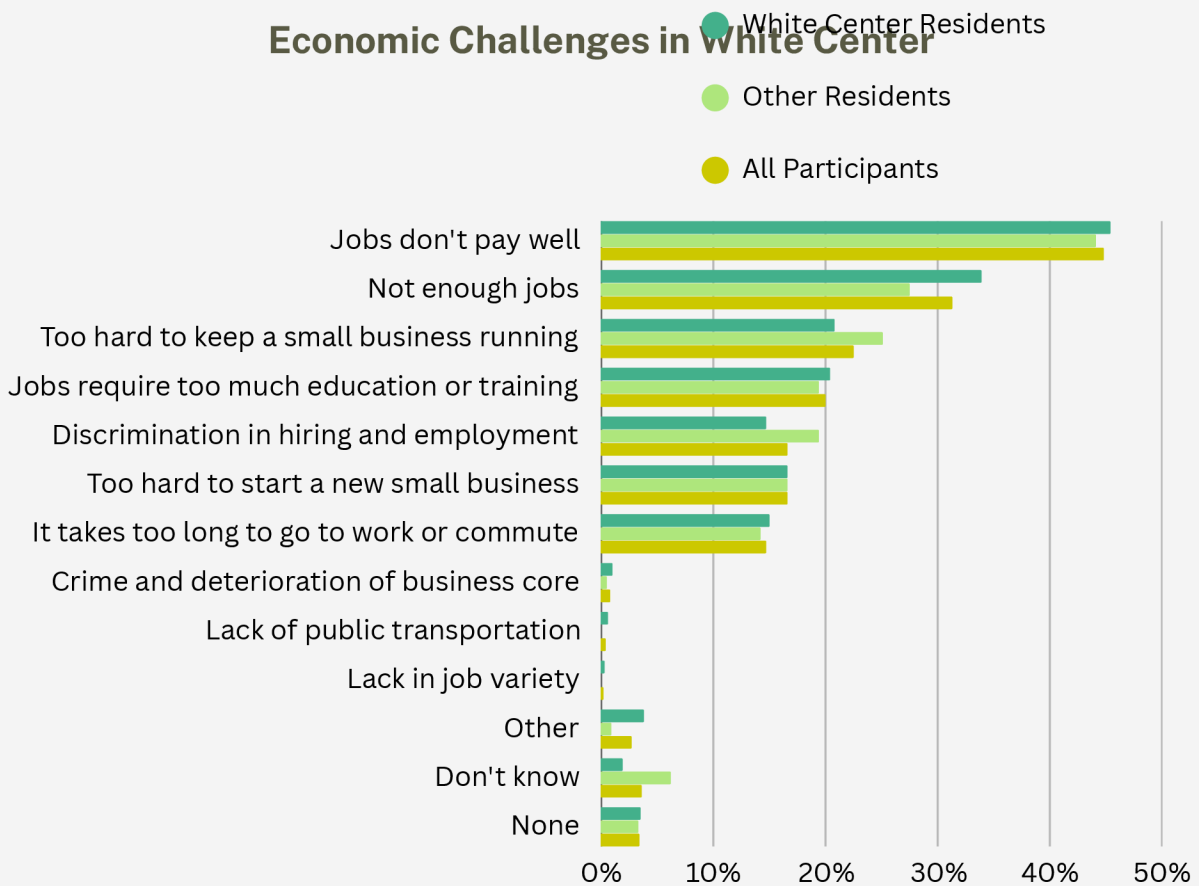
White Center Residents	Financial and/or Resource Assistance	All participants
46.3%	None	49.2%
29.1%	Food Stamps or SNAP	25.6%
16.6%	Disability or SSI	13.2%
12.8%	Medicare and/or Medicaid	11.5%
7.0%	Social Security	5.9%
4.2%	WIC	5.0%
3.8%	Help from family or friends	4.8%
4.2%	Federal or WA Student Aid	2.9%
2.2%	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	2.1%
0.6%	Unemployment	0.8%
8.3%	Don't Know/Unknown	9.9%

# ECONOMY

About 44.5% of participants believed that low pay is the most significant economic challenge for White Center.

Other top challenges participants reported include not having enough jobs (31.3%), too hard to keep a small business running (22.5%), jobs requiring too much education or training (20.0%), discrimination in hiring and employment (16.6%), starting a new small business is too hard (16.6%), and work commute being too long (14.7%).

About 3.4% of participants believed that the White Center community does not have economic challenges, and about 3.6% reported not knowing what challenges exist. About 2.7% reported other less common economic-related challenges not listed in the chart below such as safety and security issues, lack of resources and support such as child care, and lack of community engagement with local businesses and start-ups. In general, White Center residents reported similar economic challenges as other participants.



*\*Totals for this "Check all that apply" question may exceed 100%.*

# ECONOMY

"I think making space for more businesses, paying more to employees, and making the neighborhood look better."

-White Center Community Member

Below is a list summarizing participants' suggestions for how to make the economy better in White Center in the order of most to least frequently mentioned. The top suggestion mentioned by about 17.3% of participants was to increase and diversify the local job market. Some suggested bringing in larger businesses and supporting a variety of industries beyond service-related work and with varying education requirements, while others feel supporting local and small businesses would be enough. The second top suggestion was to increase pay to match the cost of living in the area.

Other less suggested economy-related ideas not listed below include increasing the density and affordability of housing to better support families with the cost of living, encouraging more people to support one another, increasing marketing efforts to bring more traffic to local businesses, and having more community spaces for businesses to sell and engage with the community such as farmers market or community market.

**01**

**Increase and diversify the local job market by bringing in different types of businesses**

**02**

**Increase wages and job benefits to match the rising cost of living and inflation**

**03**

**Provide more support and resources for small businesses to start and thrive**

**04**

**Revitalize business areas by increasing safety, curb appeal, and attract more traffic to businesses**

**05**

**Increase career training programs including professional education and on-the-job training**

**06**

**Increase employment support services and local platforms to connect people to jobs**

**07**

**Increase equitable employment opportunities for everyone by reducing discriminatory hiring practices**

**08**

**Increase public transportation and improve road and traffic conditions to support better work commute**

**09**

**Support stronger engagement/partnership between families and local businesses**

**10**

**Increase access to child care and support or accommodations for families with childcare needs**

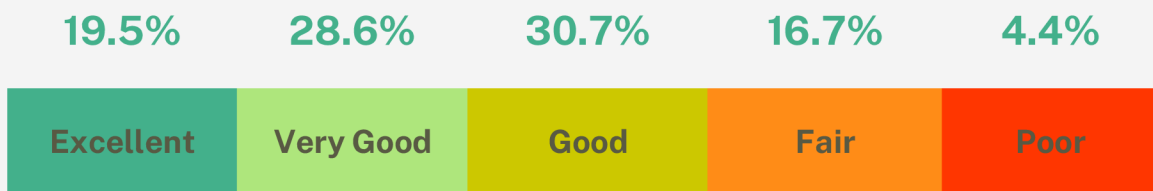


# HEALTH

About 19.5% of participants feel that their health is in excellent condition.

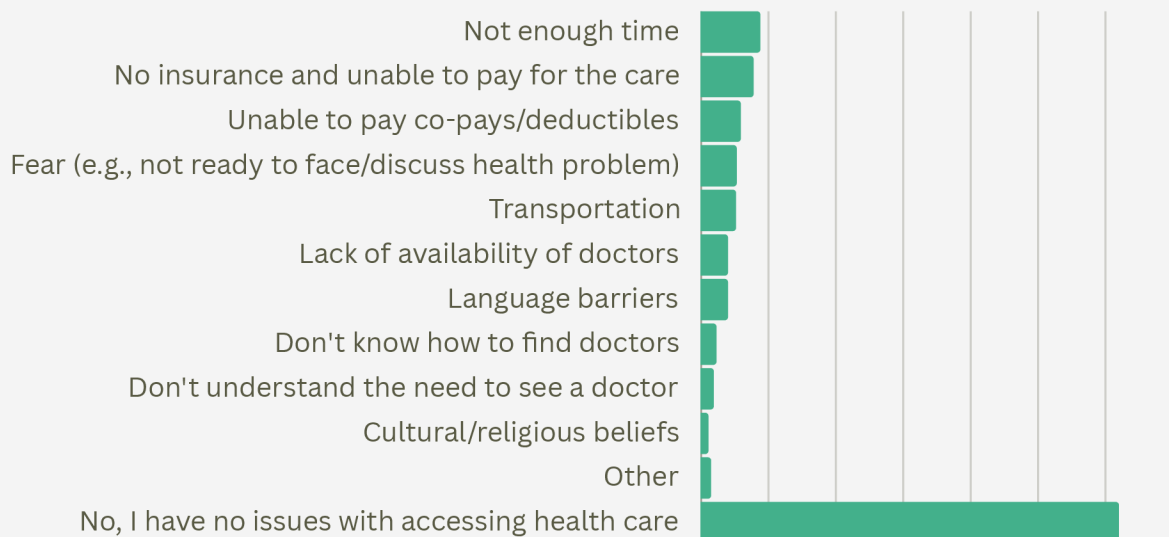
About 78.8% of participants reported that their health is good, very good, or excellent. About 16.7% reported their health as fair, and 4.4% reported their health as poor.

## General Health Rating



Though most participants reported not having any barriers to accessing health care, 38.0% reported experiencing various barriers listed in the chart below. Other less frequently reported barriers not listed below include long waiting times to be able to see a doctor, delays in insurance authorization, lack of trans-affirming doctors, and having doctors who are racist and/or too quick to prescribe medications instead of finding other solutions.

## Barriers to Health Care Access



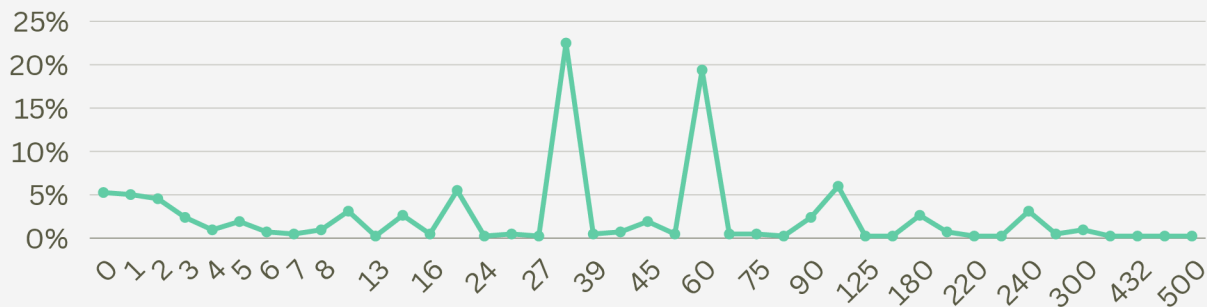
\*Totals for this "Check all that apply" question may exceed 100%.

# HEALTH

Participants reported an average of 57 minutes of physical activity a day, and about 62.8% of the participants reported not having used any substance in the last 7 days.

Although 22.2% of the participants reported doing less than 10 minutes of daily physical activity, many reported doing 30 minutes (22.5%) or 60 minutes (19.4%) of daily physical activity.

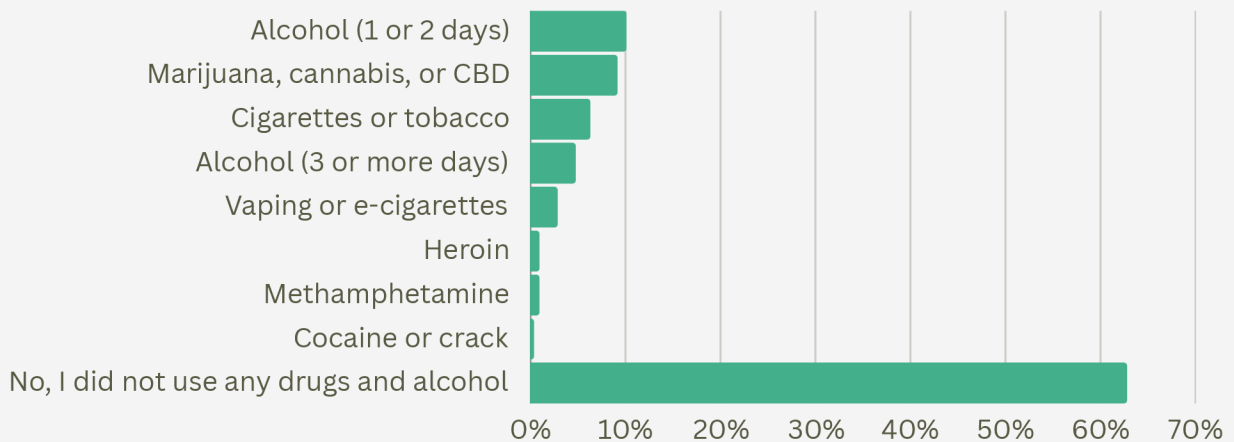
## Minutes of Daily Physical Activity in a Day



\*Participants were asked to add up minutes of physical activity that increases their heart rate or makes them breathe hard some of the time such as riding a bike, jogging/running, participating in sports, etc.

Out of the substances that were used by participants, alcohol use was the most common (10.1%) followed by marijuana, cannabis, or CBD (9.2%).

## Substance Use in the Past 7 Days



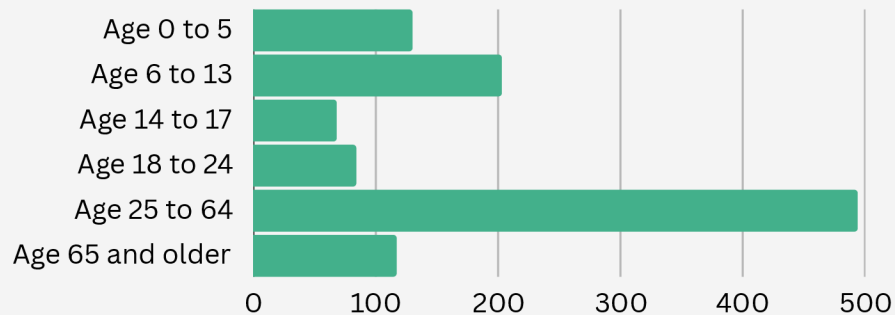
\*Totals for this "Check all that apply" question may exceed 100%.

# HEALTH

Participants had an average of 3.1 household members per household, and 88.8% of households had health insurance coverage for everyone.

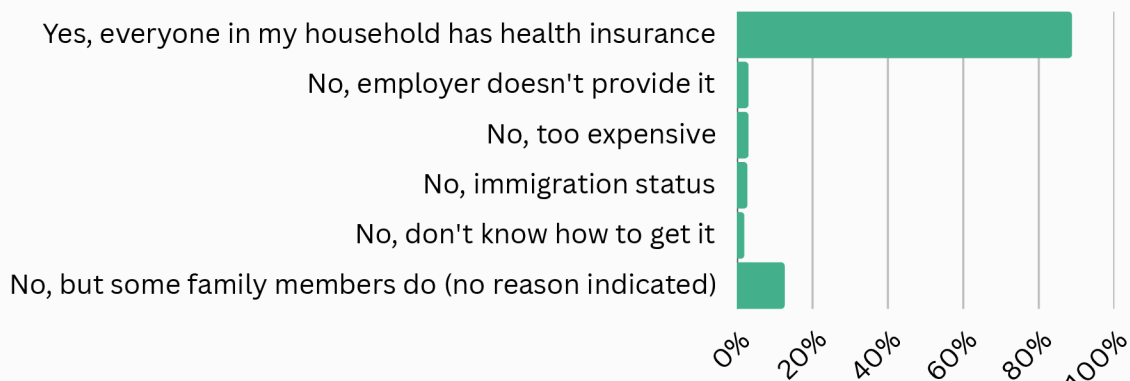
Altogether, 354 participants reported a total number of 1,096 household members. The most prevalent age group amongst the household members was 25 to 64 years of age.

## Total Number of Household Members by Age Group



For the 11.2% of households that do not have health insurance for everyone in their family, reasons reported include employers not providing it (3.0%), high cost of health insurance (3.0%), immigration status (2.7%), and not knowing how to get it (1.9%).

## Household Health Insurance



\*Totals for this "Check all that apply" question may exceed 100%.

# HEALTH

## About 64.7% of participants get most of their food from chain grocery stores.

About 30.5% of the participants get most of their food from local cultural markets such as Hung Long, Castillos, etc. While a slightly higher proportion of White Center residents rely on fast-food chain restaurants for most their food than other residents (White Center residents 21.7%, other residents 8.1%, 16.2% of all participants), most major food sources are similar amongst participants.

White Center Residents	Major Food Source	All Participants
<b>63.6%</b>	Chain Grocery Stores (Safeway, QFC, Costco, etc.)	<b>64.7%</b>
<b>32.3%</b>	Local Cultural Markets (Hung Long, Castillos, Samway, etc.)	<b>30.5%</b>
<b>16.6%</b>	Restaurants & Food Trucks	<b>17.0%</b>
<b>21.7%</b>	Fast Food Chain Restaurants (McDonald's, Pizza Hut, Taco bell, etc.)	<b>16.2%</b>
<b>13.7%</b>	Food Banks	<b>13.7%</b>
<b>10.9%</b>	Other Free Food Programs	<b>10.7%</b>
<b>13.1%</b>	Farmer's Markets or Community-supported agriculture (CSA)	<b>10.5%</b>
<b>9.9%</b>	Corner or Convenience Stores	<b>8.8%</b>
<b>1.6%</b>	Other (Dollar Tree, home, health stores, etc.)	<b>1.0%</b>

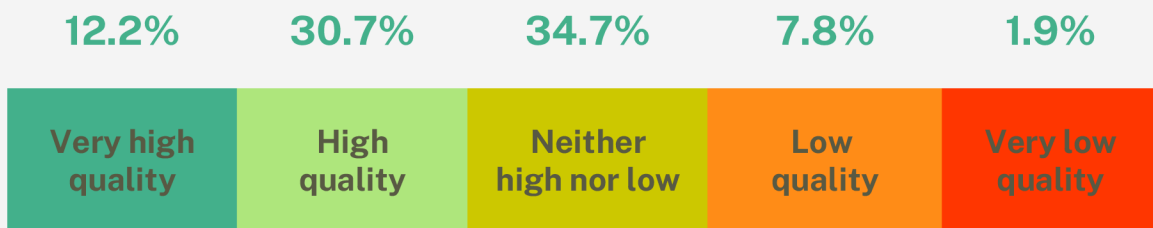
*\*Totals for this "Check all that apply" question may exceed 100%.*

# HEALTH

Overall, 42.9% of participants felt that the food in White Center is of high or very high quality.

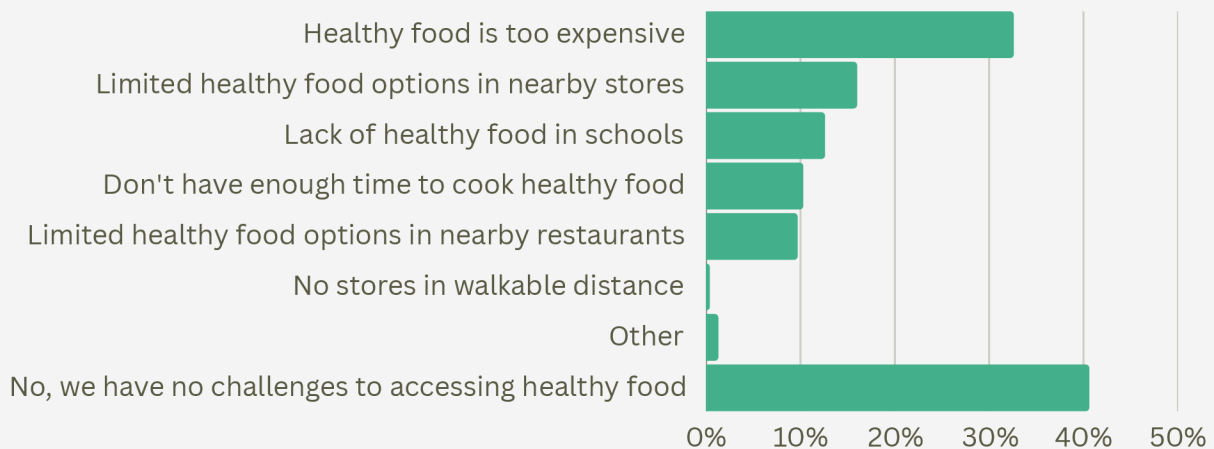
About 34.7% of the participants felt that the quality of food in the White Center is neither low nor high quality, and about 9.7% feel that it's low or very low quality.

## White Center Food Quality Rating



About 40.6% of participants reported not having any barriers to accessing healthy food in White Center. For those who do, healthy food being too expensive is the top challenge (32.6%) followed by having limited healthy food options in nearby stores (16.0%). Other less frequently reported challenges not listed in the chart below include a lack of self-control when purchasing unhealthy foods, not having the ability to cook due to health issues or a lack of cooking equipment, or local stores not being clean.

## Barriers to Healthy Food Access



*\*Totals for this "Check all that apply" question may exceed 100%.*

# HEALTH

## Participants hope to see more variety and higher quality food in White Center.

The top 3 foods participants would like to see more in White Center are healthier options, more cultural and ethnic diversity, and more fresh fruits and vegetables. A few other less mentioned food-related ideas not listed below include having more clean and well-stocked markets, community gardens, pop-up fresh food-making classes/sessions, and more outdoor seating at restaurants.

### Foods Participants Would Like to See More in White Center



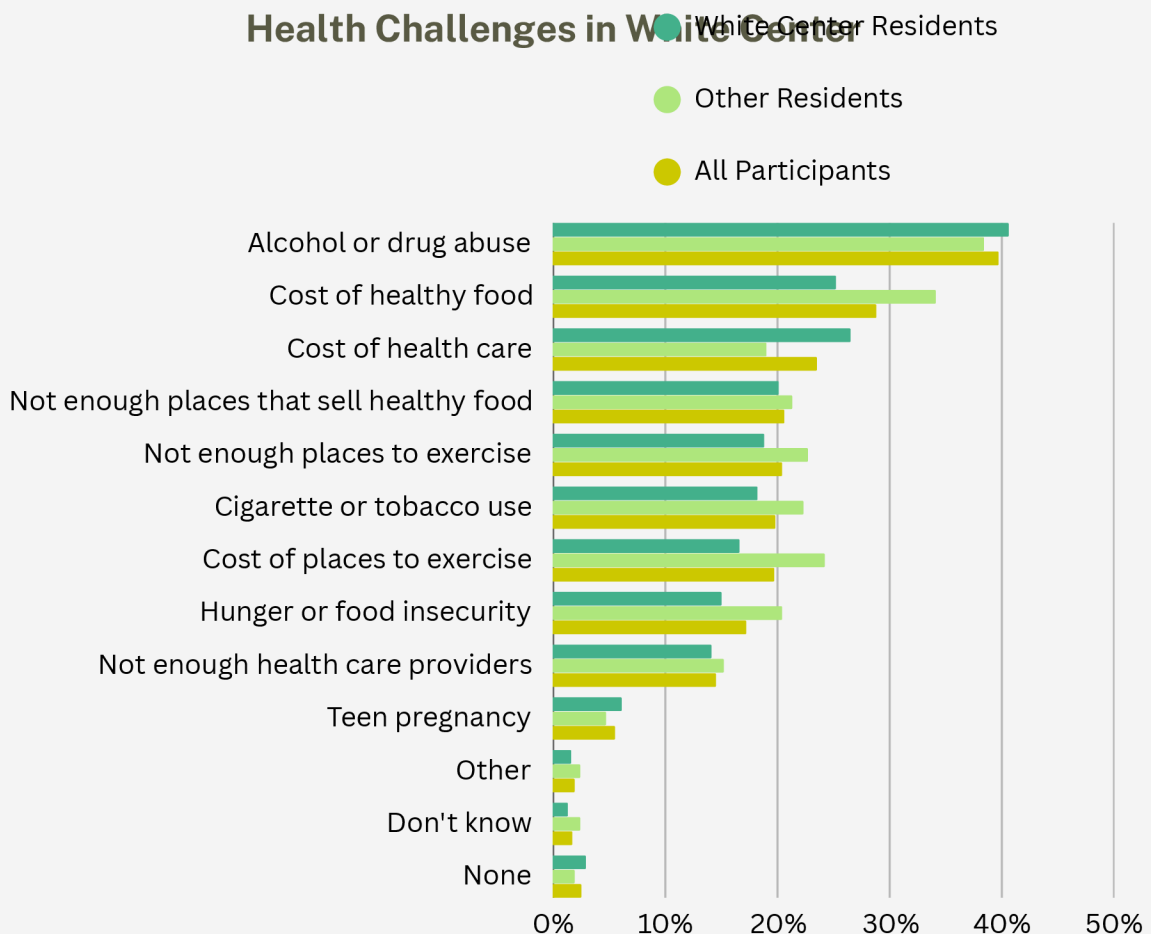
\*Totals for this question may exceed 100% as question asked to list multiple items.

# HEALTH

About 39.7% of participants believed that alcohol and drug abuse is the most significant health challenge for White Center.

Other top challenges participants reported include the cost of healthy food (28.8%), cost of health care (23.5%), not enough places that sell healthy food (20.6%), not enough places to exercise (20.4%), and cigarette or tobacco use (19.8%).

About 2.5% of participants believed that the White Center community does not have health challenges, and about 1.7% reported not knowing what challenges exist. About 1.9% reported other less common health-related challenges not listed in the chart below such as not having enough parks and safe outdoor spaces, the high number of unhoused individuals on the streets, and the general high cost of living. In general, White Center residents reported similar health challenges as other participants.



\*Totals for this "Check all that apply" question may exceed 100%.

# HEALTH

"Promoting and offering more affordable places to exercise and clean and high-quality healthy foods."

-White Center Community Member

Below is a list summarizing participants' suggestions for how to improve health better in White Center in the order of most to least frequently mentioned. The top suggestion mentioned by about 17.7% of participants was to increase the accessibility and affordability of exercise programs and centers (swimming pools, gyms, exercise equipment, community programs/classes, etc.). The second top suggestion was to increase access to better quality food that is affordable and available close by.

Other less suggested health-related ideas not listed below include increasing housing affordability and support for the unhoused, providing incentives for healthy behaviors, providing more social support and resources for those in need, increasing wages and income to reduce financial burden and stress, increasing public transportation (especially to health care services), having community gardens and farmer's market, and focusing on preventative efforts.

**01**

**Increase exercise programs and spaces such as community pools, gyms, and classes**

**02**

**Increase affordability and accessibility to higher quality foods within White Center**

**03**

**Increase drug and substance treatment and rehabilitation support programs and resources**

**04**

**Increase health promotion, awareness, prevention, and educational life skill programs**

**05**

**Increase the accessibility and affordability of health care services and health insurance**

**06**

**Increase safe outdoor spaces such as parks, bike lanes, sidewalks, community gardens, etc.**

**07**

**Open more community health care centers and clinics in White Center**

**08**

**Increase efforts to clean up the air and environment in White Center**

**09**

**Provide more mental health care services and support programs in White Center**

**10**

**Create policies to limit and reduce the sales of alcohol, cigarettes, and drugs**

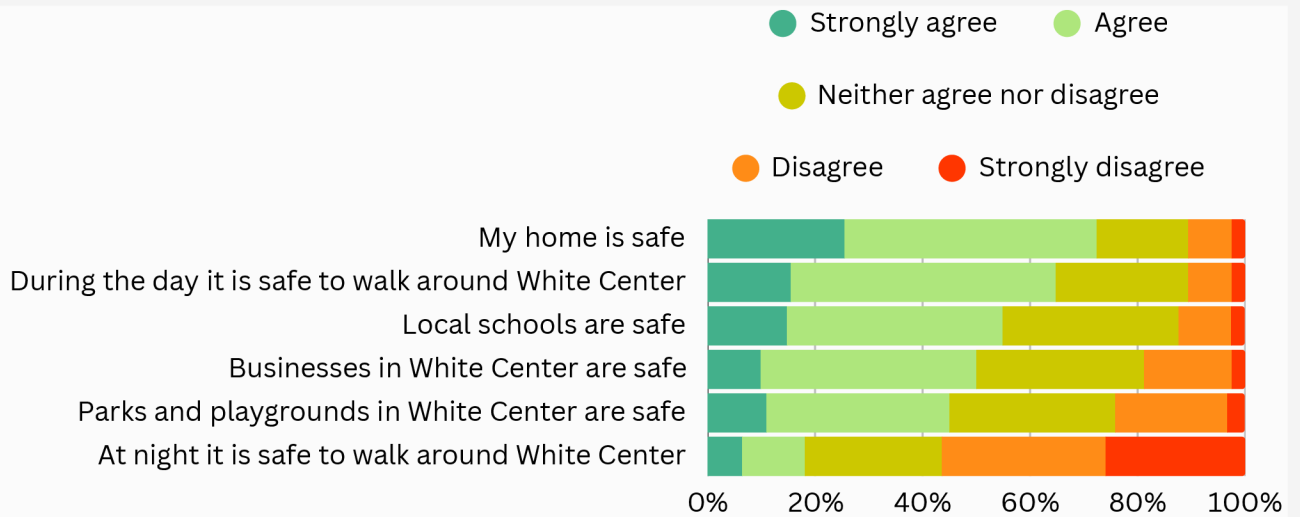


# SAFETY & SECURITY

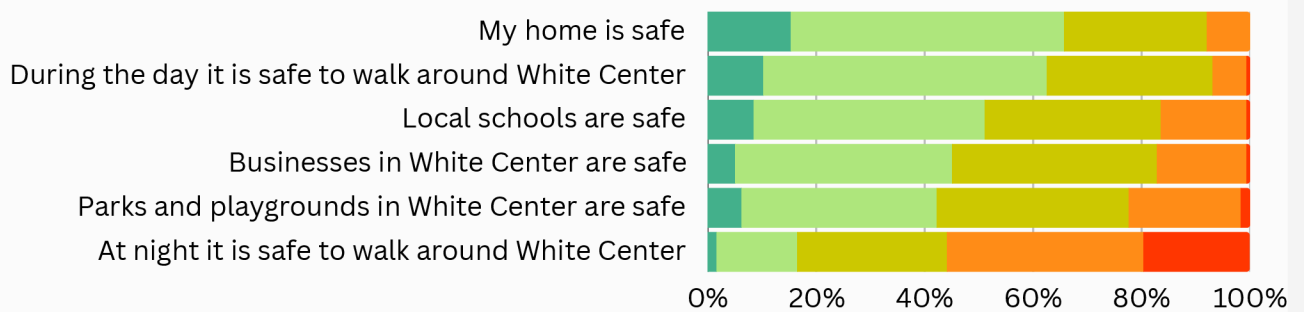
Participants feel the safest at home and least safe walking around White Center at night.

## Perception of Neighborhood Safety

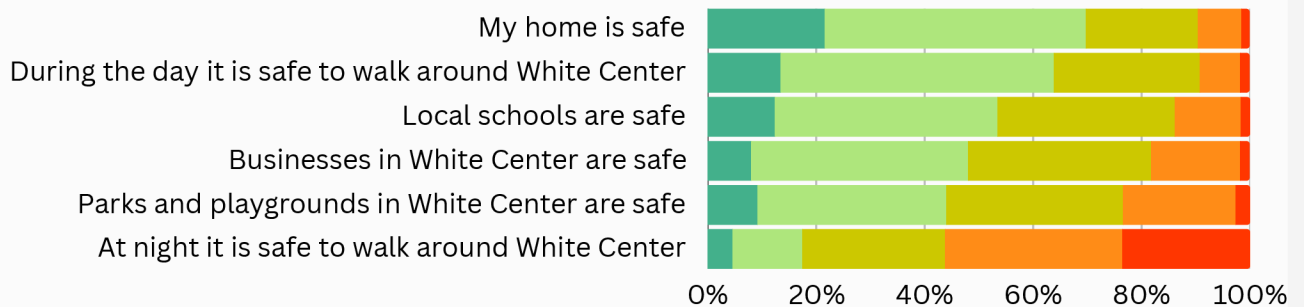
WHITE CENTER



OTHER



ALL



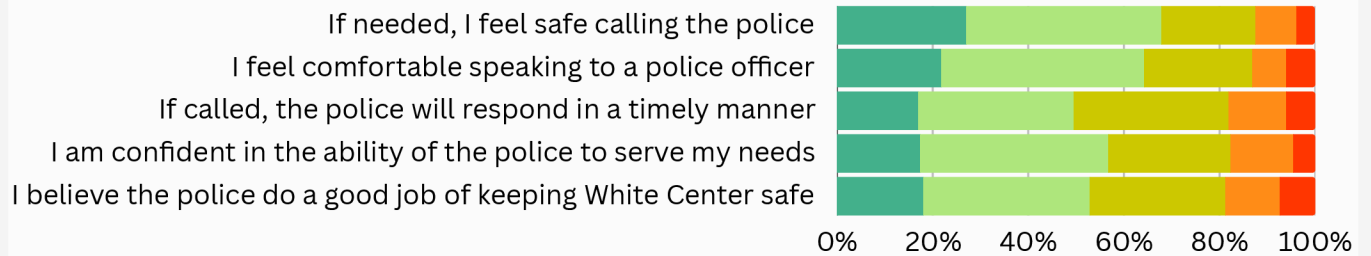
# SAFETY & SECURITY

About 47.5% of participants believe that the police are doing a good job in keeping White Center safe.

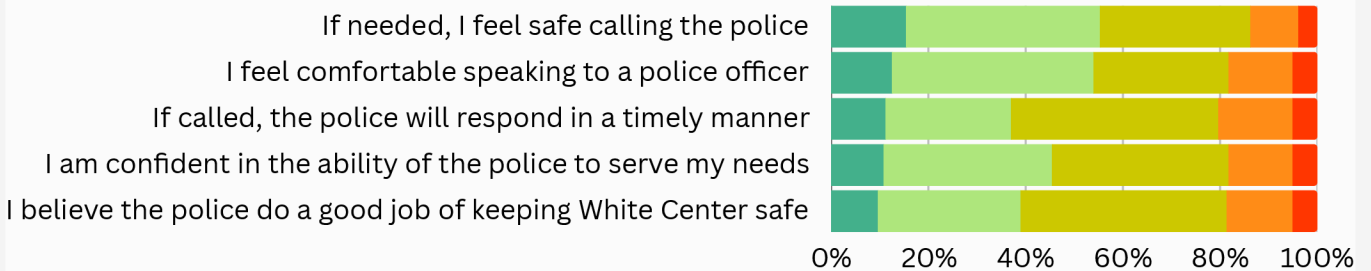
## Perception of Police Services



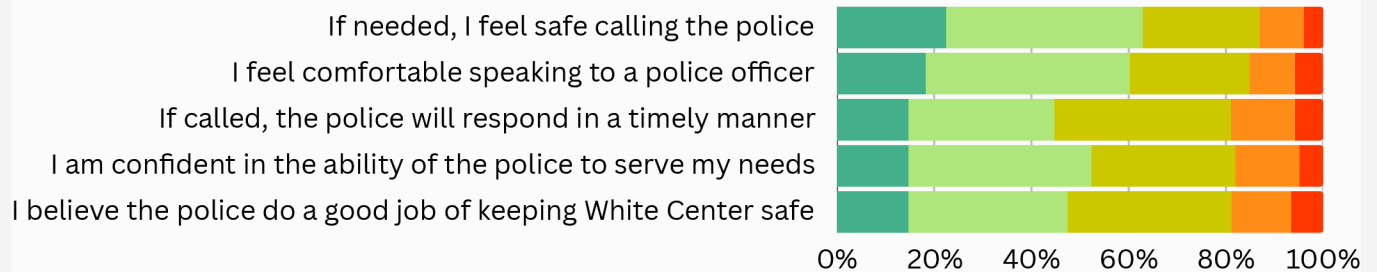
WHITE CENTER



OTHER



ALL

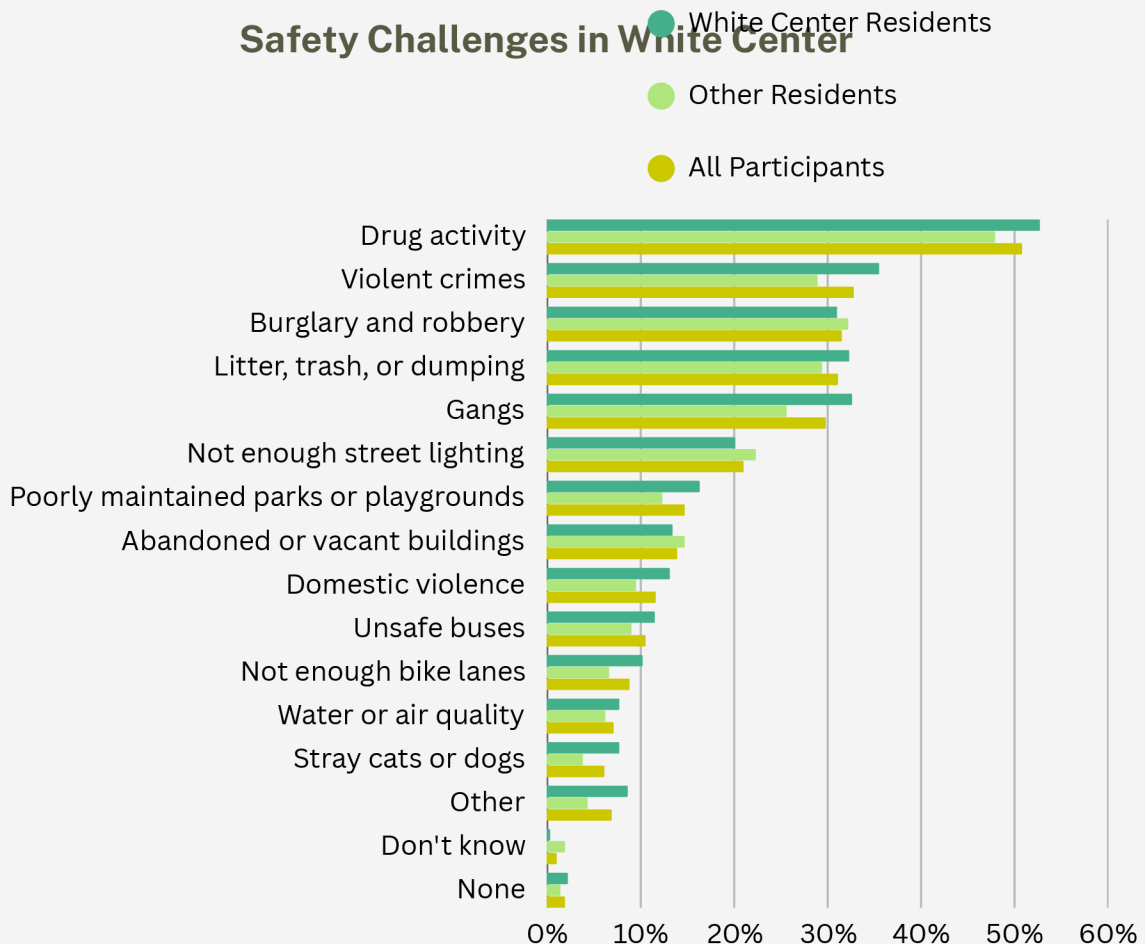


# SAFETY & SECURITY

About 50.8% of participants believed that drug activity is the most significant safety challenge for White Center.

Other top challenges participants reported include violent crimes (32.8%), burglary and robbery (31.5%), litter and trash (31.1%), and gang activity (29.8%).

About 1.9% of participants believed that the White Center community does not have safety challenges, and about 1.0% reported not knowing what challenges exist. About 6.9% reported other less common safety-related challenges not listed in the chart below such as houselessness, vandalizing, access to guns, and lack of response from the police. In general, White Center residents reported similar safety challenges as other participants.



\*Totals for this "Check all that apply" question may exceed 100%.

# SAFETY & SECURITY

"I am ambivalent about police presence and what it represents for communities of color, but the people committing crimes are emboldened in WC. Open air drug dealers, shootings and robbery needs to be discouraged visibly."

-White Center Community Member

Below is a list summarizing participants' suggestions for how to make White Center safer in the order of most to least frequently mentioned. The top suggestion mentioned by about 18.5% of participants was to increase police presence and other security measures such as patrolling and adding security cameras. The second top suggestion was to increase social support programs to improve economic opportunities and housing affordability.

Other less suggested safety-related ideas not listed below include increasing youth programs and activities, increasing family workshops and counseling services, opening shelters for stray cats and dogs, reducing sales of alcohol and drugs, implementing policies to hold people accountable for crimes they committed, etc.

01

**Increase police presence and security measures such as more police patrols and security cameras**

02

**Increase social support programs to improve economic opportunities and housing affordability**

03

**Increase community events and gatherings to build trust, cohesion, and community action**

04

**Increase street clean-up, removal of vacant buildings, and activation of public spaces**

05

**Increase drug-related support programs and rehab centers to prevent and reduce drug activity**

06

**Increase gang prevention efforts such as implementing more youth engagement programs**

07

**Increase lighting at night on the streets and at public spaces such as bus stops**

08

**Increase police from the community and police trained in undoing racism, decriminalization, and de-escalation**

09

**Implement policies such as gun control to reduce violent crimes**

10

**Form neighborhood or block watches for neighbors to work together to keep their neighborhood safe**

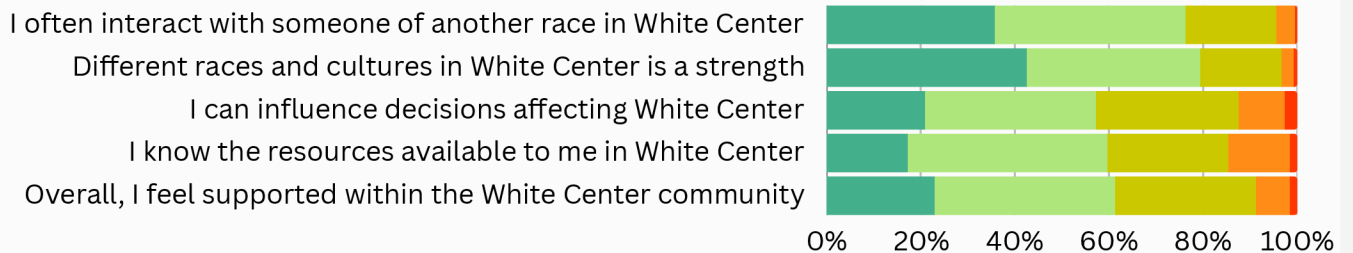
# CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

About 60.9% of participants feel supported within the White Center community.

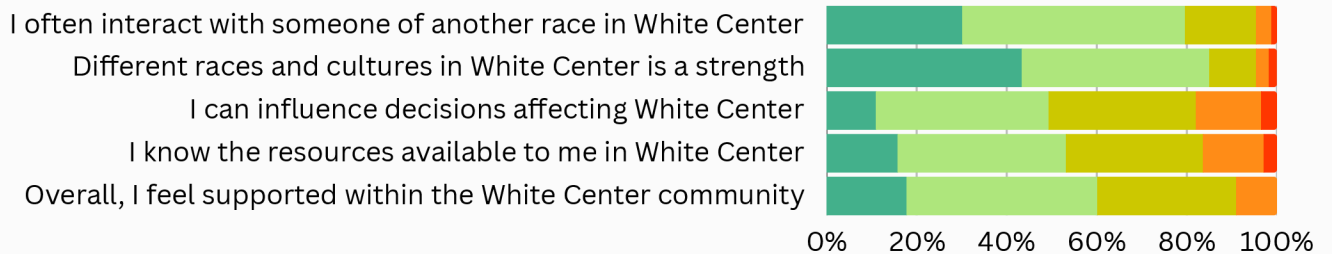
## Perception of Community Engagement



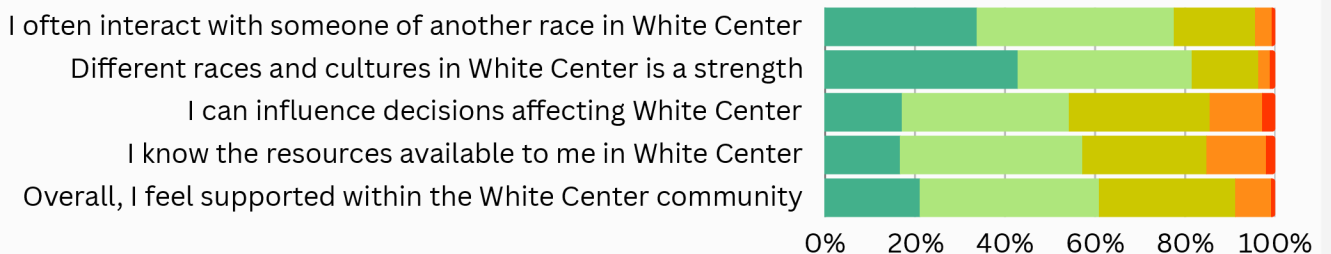
WHITE CENTER



OTHER



ALL

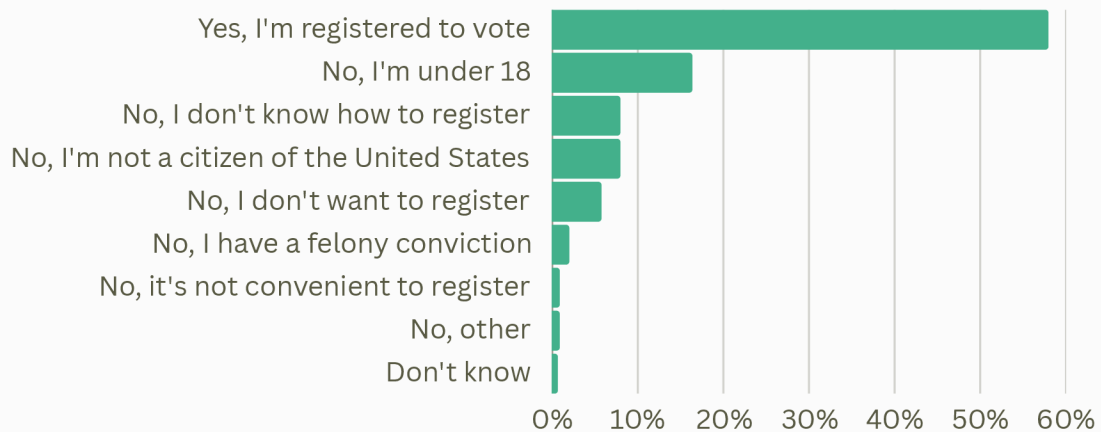


# CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

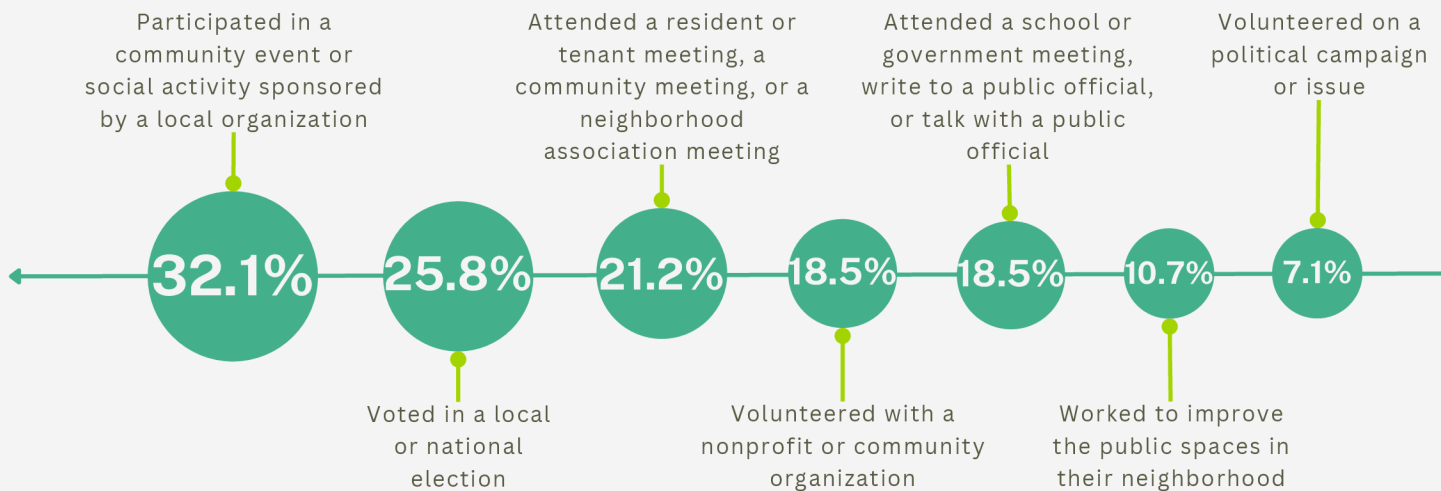
About 58.0% of participants were registered to vote, and in the last year, 25.8% voted in an election.

About 26.3% of participants were not able to register to vote because they were under the age of 18 (6.4%), were not US citizens (8.0%), or had a felony conviction (2.0%). About 8.0% did not register because they did not know how, and 0.9% felt that registration was not convenient for them. About 0.9% had other reasons for not wanting to vote such as not trusting the government, and 0.7% did not know if they were registered to vote.

## Registered to Vote



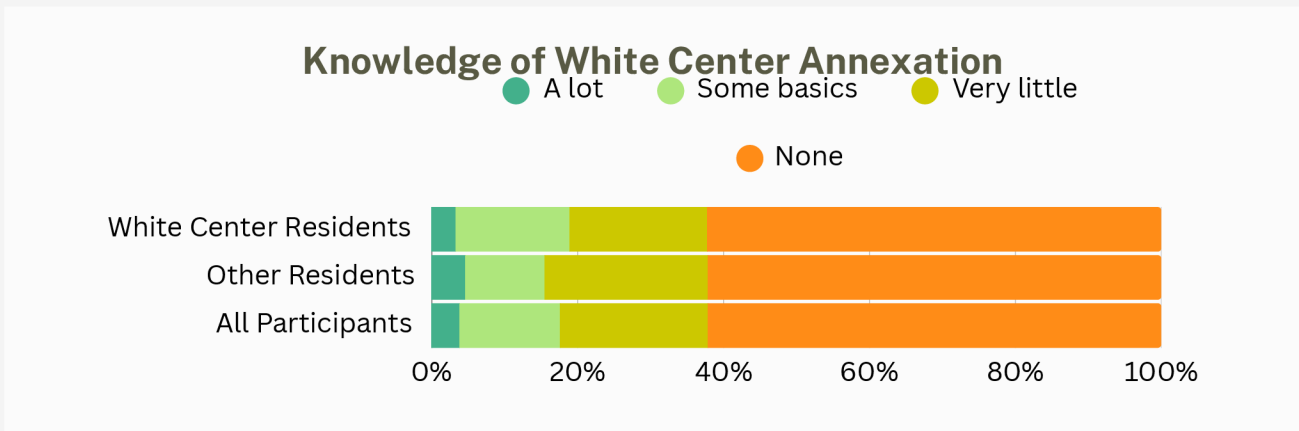
## Community Engagement in the Last Year



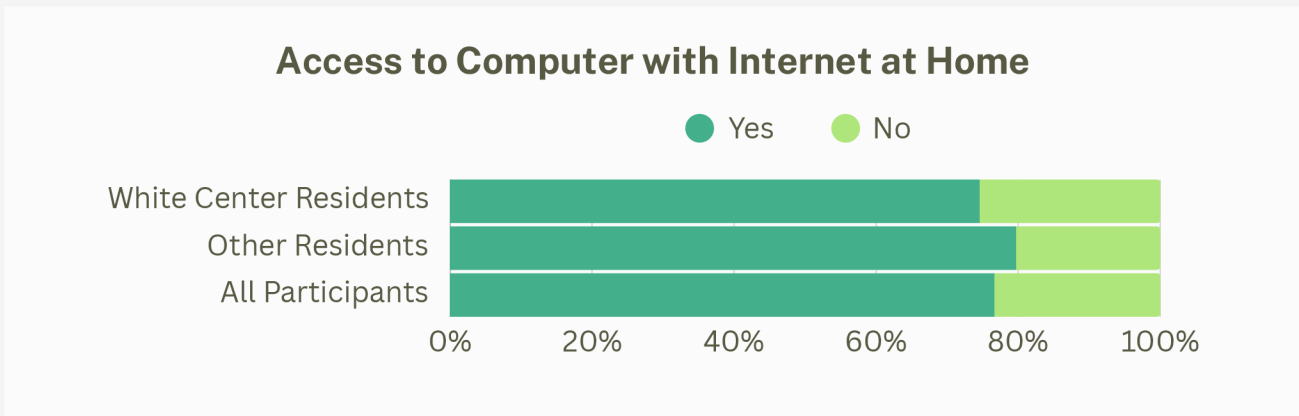
# CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

About 62.1% of participants reported not knowing anything about annexation and how it might affect White Center and its residents.

About 20.3% of the participants have heard of it but know very little about it, 13.8% have some basic understanding of it, and only 3.8% reported understanding the issue of annexation very well.



About 76.7% of the participants have a computer with internet at home. Residents living within White Center have a 5.1% lower rate of having a computer with internet at home when compared to other participants.



# CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Participants reported experiencing the most discrimination on the street or in a public setting.

White Center Residents	Experience of Discrimination in the Past 12 Months	All Participants
22.9%	On the street or in a public setting	25.2%
13.2%	At school	12.9%
12.7%	Getting a job	12.1%
9.7%	At work	11.6%
11.1%	Getting housing	10.0%
10.0%	In my family	10.0%
10.1%	Getting medical care	9.9%
10.1%	From the police or in the courts	9.9%
9.7%	At home	8.9%
6.4%	Getting a loan	6.6%
5.9%	Applying for social services or public assistance	6.2%



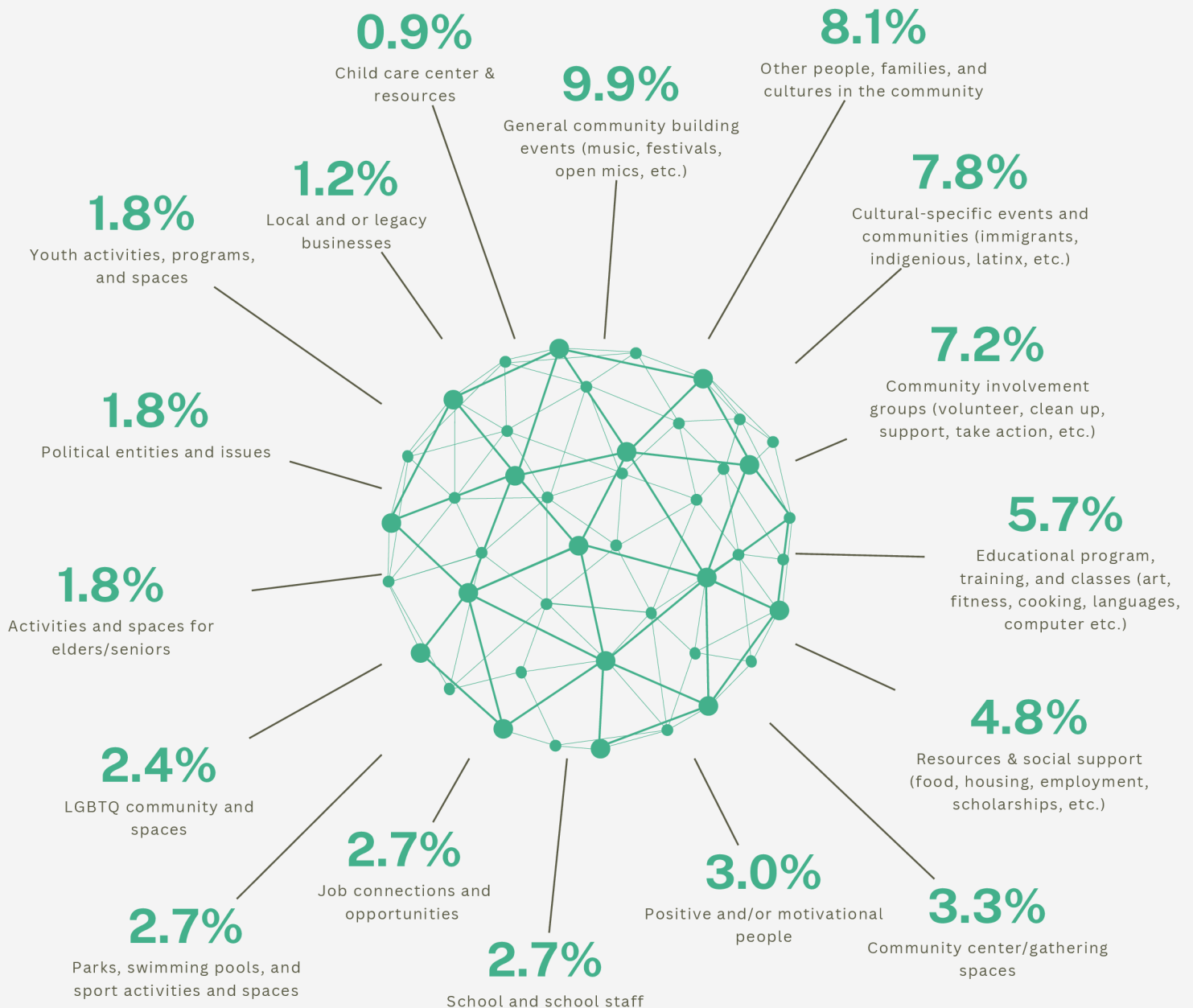
# CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

"I would like to be connected to groups that are working to improve the business district, attract amenities, and to opportunities for people to take action to make improvements in the neighborhood."

-White Center Community Member

Participants would like to see more community events and activities in White Center.

## Connections Participants Want More of in White Center



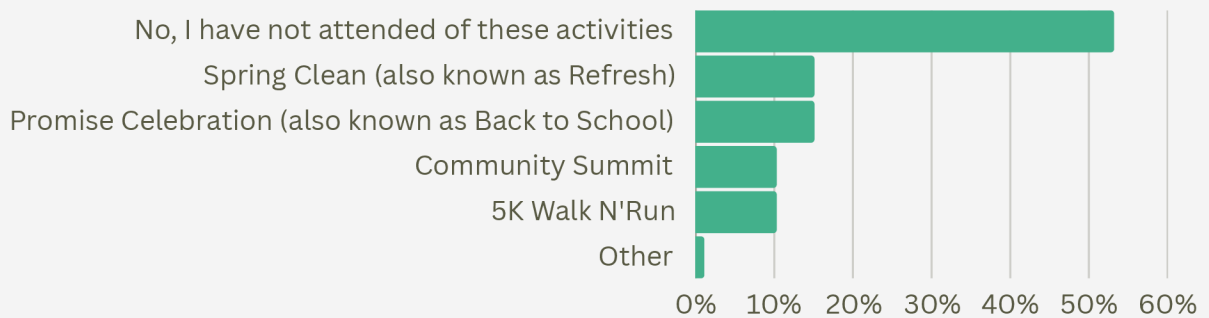
\*Totals for this question may exceed 100% as question asked to list multiple items.

# CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

About 38.7% of participants were not familiar with the WCCDA's work, and 53.2% did not attend a WCCDA event in the last year.

About 15.1% of participants attended the Spring Clean and Promise Celebration. About 10.3% attended the Community Summit and 5K Walk N' Run. Others attended the WCCDA's Play and Learn groups and events hosted by our community partners such as the car show, fresh flavor, and job fairs.

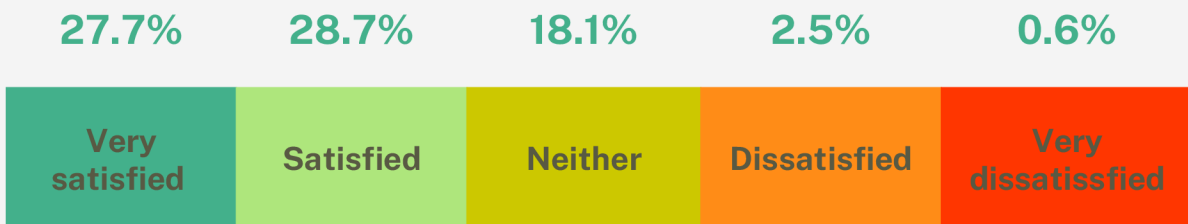
## Attendance of WCCDA's Events in Past Year



*\*Totals for this "Check all that apply" question may exceed 100%.*

About 56.4% of the participants who were familiar with the WCCDA were either satisfied (28.7%) or very satisfied (27.7%) with the WCCDA's programs and services.

## Satisfaction of WCCDA's Programs and Services



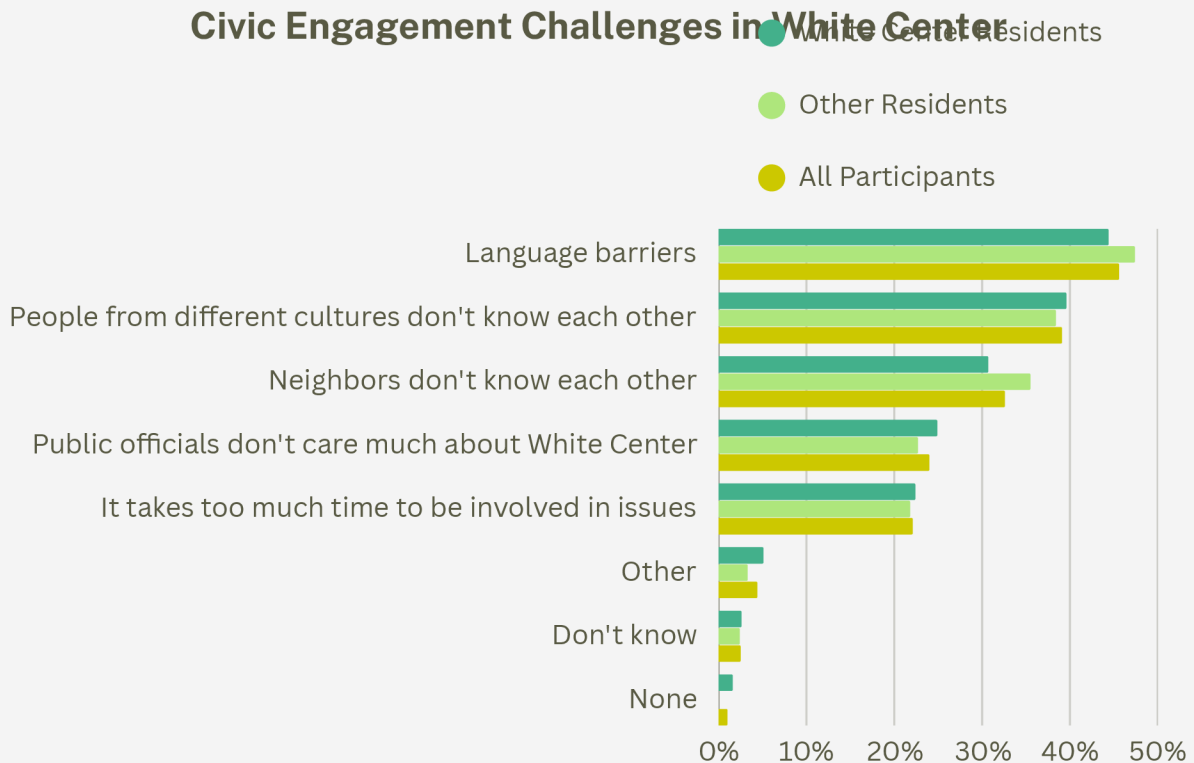
# CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

About 45.6% of participants believed that language is the most significant civic engagement challenge for White Center.

Other top challenges participants reported include people from different cultures who do not know each other (39.1%), neighbors who do not know each other (32.6%), public officials not caring much about White Center (24.0%), and it takes too much time to be involved in issues (22.1%).

About 1.0% of participants believed that the White Center community does not have civic engagement challenges, and about 2.4% reported not knowing what challenges exist. About 4.4% reported other less common civic engagement challenges not listed in the chart below such as lack of interest, ineffective communication strategies, systemic racism, lack of education, lack of trust for people and government, and not having a community center for people to gather. In general, White Center residents reported similar civic engagement challenges as other participants.

## Civic Engagement Challenges in White Center



\*Totals for this "Check all that apply" question may exceed 100%.

# CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

"More community events to bring people together; the government doesn't know what's going on in the community, hold the community accountable and listen to community voices and working together with the community."

-White Center Community Member

Below is a list summarizing participants' suggestions for how to increase civic engagement in White Center in the order of most to least frequently mentioned. The top suggestion mentioned by about 15.1% of the participants was to have more community events and gatherings to bring people together. The second top suggestion was to increase outreach efforts and awareness by going to where people are, increasing communication in informal spaces and schools, making sure the literacy level of the message is appropriate, making sure the information shared is language and culturally relevant, etc.

01

Increase community events such as block parties, multicultural and cultural-specific events, open forums, etc.

02

Increase inclusive outreach and educational efforts with consideration to literacy levels, languages, cultures, etc.

03

Increase relationship-building efforts within the community, across different cultures, and government entities

04

Increase diverse representation in civic committees; more community voices, power, and solutions

05

Develop a visible and vibrant community center for different groups to gather, learn, and celebrate together

06

Provide engagement incentives to reduce the burden for people who are experiencing economic challenges

07

Increase efforts to reduce crime and increase safety for the community

08

Increase efforts to address issues around houselessness

09

Form a local administrative body or incorporate into Seattle

10

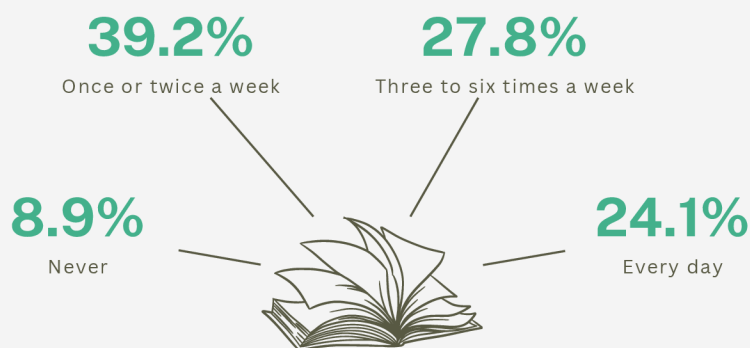
Increase encouragement for more personal accountability and actions

# CHILD CARE

Of the 541 participants, 81 reported being a parent or a caregiver of children from 0-5 years of age.

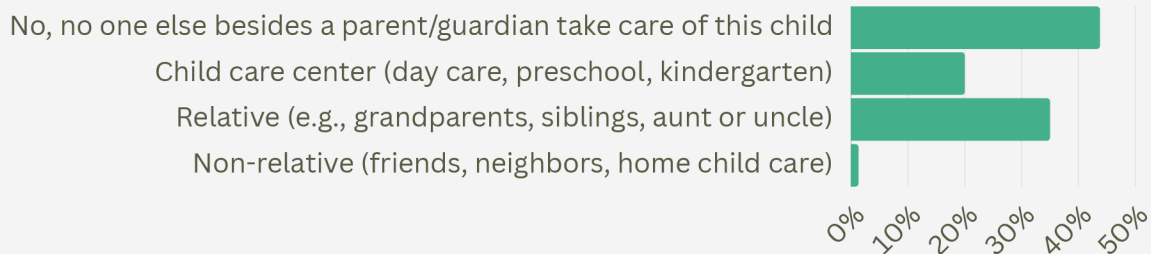
Most parents/guardians read to their children at least once or twice a week. About 24.1% of the parents/guardians read to their children every day.

## Read to Child per Week



A little more than half of the participants have someone else to take care of their children: 20.0% child care center, 35.0% relative, and 1.3% non-relative. For those who pay for childcare, the average cost is about \$9.25 per hour, ranging from \$0 to \$15 per hour.

## Child Caregiver



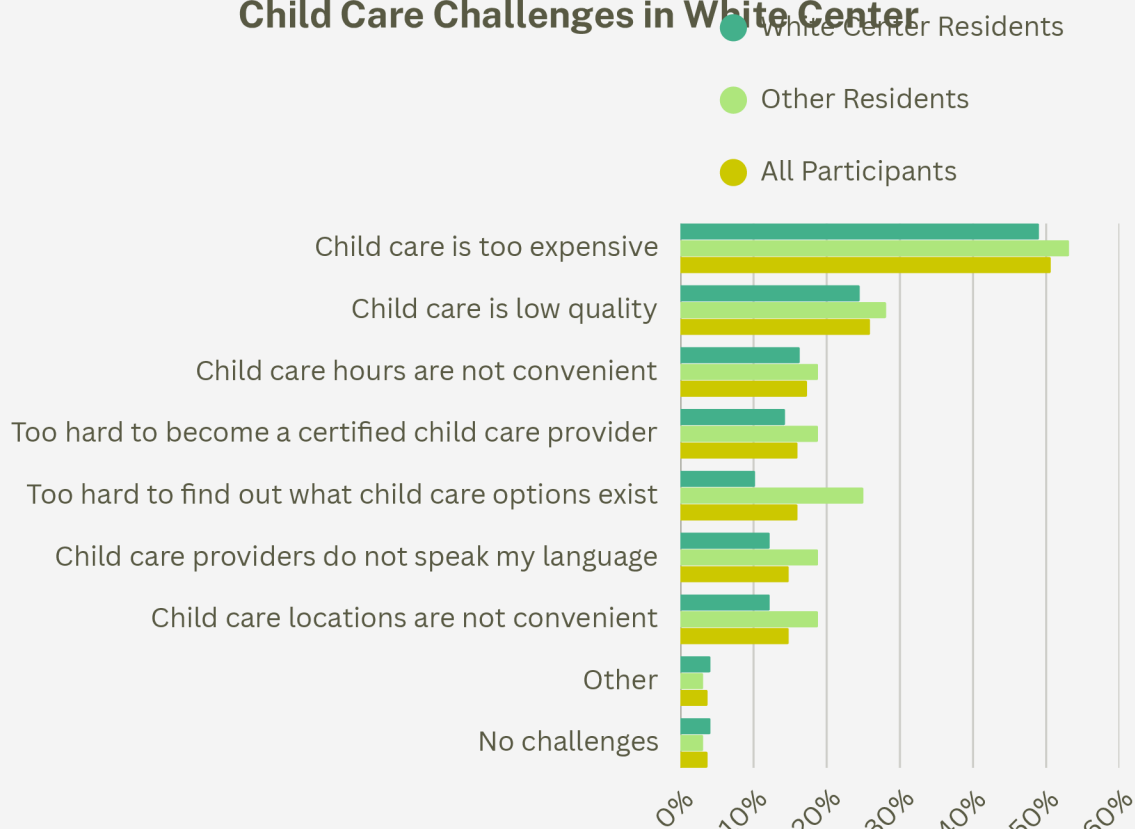
# CHILD CARE

About 50.6% of participants who have children from 0-5 years of age believed that cost is the most significant challenge for early childhood education in White Center.

Other challenges parents of children 0-5 years of age reported include low quality of child care (25.9%), child care hours not convenient (17.3%), too hard to find a certified child care provider (16.0%), too hard to find out what child care options exist (16.0%), child care providers do not speak my language (14.8%), and child care locations are not convenient (14.8%).

About 3.7% of the parents believed that the White Center community does not have any early childhood education challenges, and 3.7% reported other challenges such as not having options for higher-income households and that child care centers do not put enough resources into early education. In general, White Center residents reported similar child care challenges as other participants.

## Child Care Challenges in White Center



\*Totals for this "Check all that apply" question may exceed 100%.

# CHILD CARE

"Children should have free access to preschool services; there is not always space or the family doesn't qualify."

-White Center Community Member

Below is a summary list of suggestions from parents of children 0-5 years of age on how to make child care better in White Center in the order of most to least frequently mentioned. The top 2 suggestions equally mentioned by 14.8% of parents/caregivers were 1) to have better educational programming and 2) to make child care more affordable with extended subsidies or sliding scales. Other top suggestions included having more cultural inclusivity with diverse cultures and languages in programming, increasing safety, and increasing the hours and locations of childcare centers. Participants suggested extending child care hours to early in the morning from 4-5 am to 10-11 pm at night.

One participant mentioned their preference for having more child care centers rather than home child care in White Center.

**01**

**Improve educational programming with increased reading activities, skilled teachers, etc.**

**02**

**Increase child care affordability with free programs, sliding pay scale, extended subsidies, etc.**

**03**

**Increase cultural inclusivity with more diverse ethnic cultures and languages in child care**

**04**

**Increase safety measures at child care centers and environments**

**05**

**Increase daycare locations and provide extended hours from early morning to late evening**

**06**

**Improve outreach and support to help families find child care; more information available in different languages**

**07**

**Increase general resources and support services for families with children**

**08**

**Increase federal, state, and local investment in early childhood education and child care**

**09**

**Extend public school to younger ages; preschool be free and available to all children**

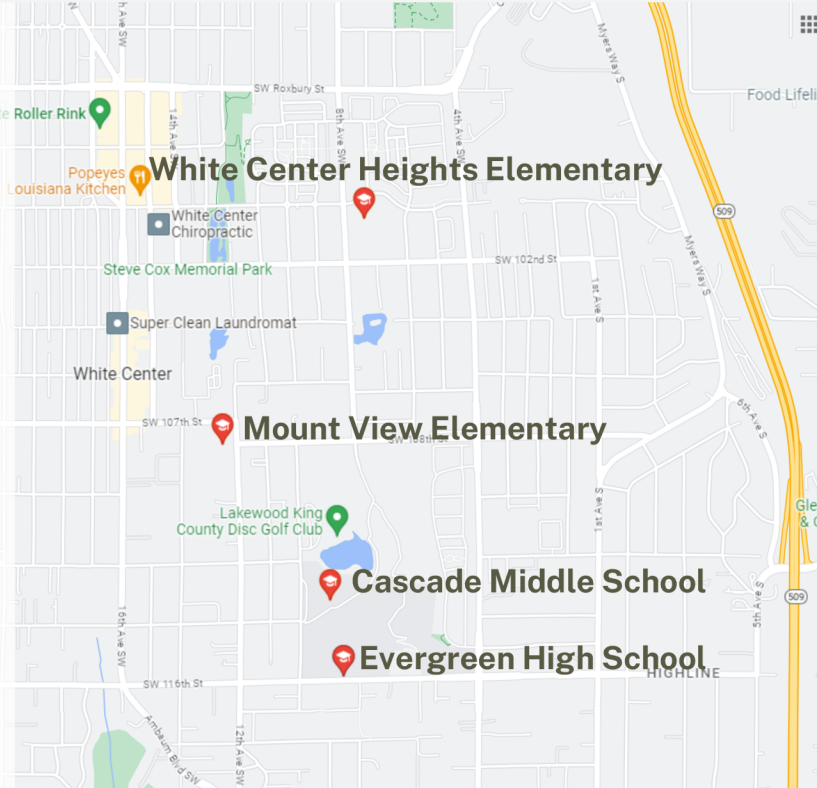
**10**

**Increase wages for educators and child care providers**

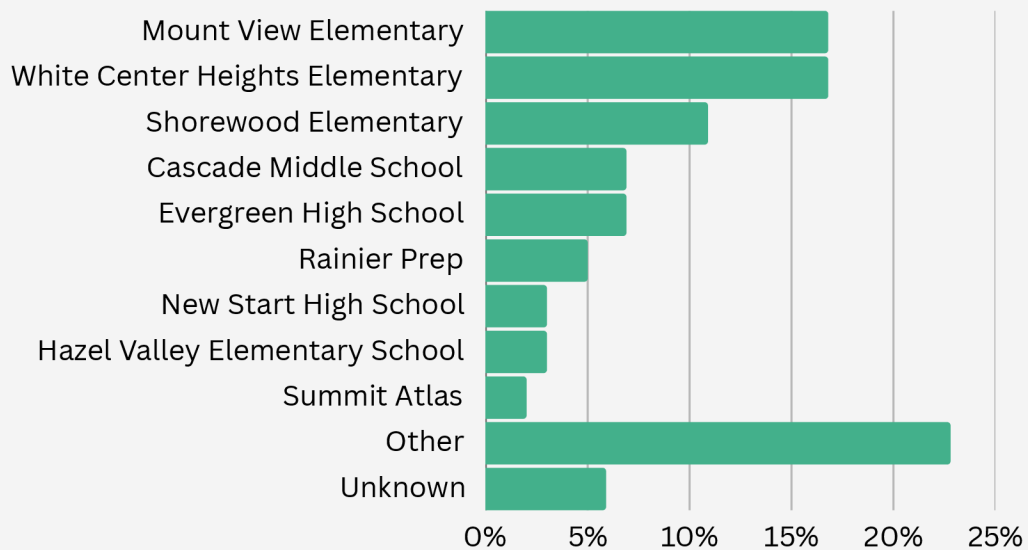
# K-12 EDUCATION PARENTS

Of the 541 participants, 101 participants reported being a parent to 1 or more children in K-12.

About 47.5% of K-12 parents had children attending schools located in White Center (Mount View Elementary, White Center Heights Elementary, Cascade Middle School, and Evergreen High School), and 73.3% had children attending schools within Highline School District. About 8.9% had children attending schools in other districts and 11.9% had children attending private or charter schools.



## K-12 Schools Participant's Children Attended



\*Totals for this "Check all that apply" question may exceed 100%.

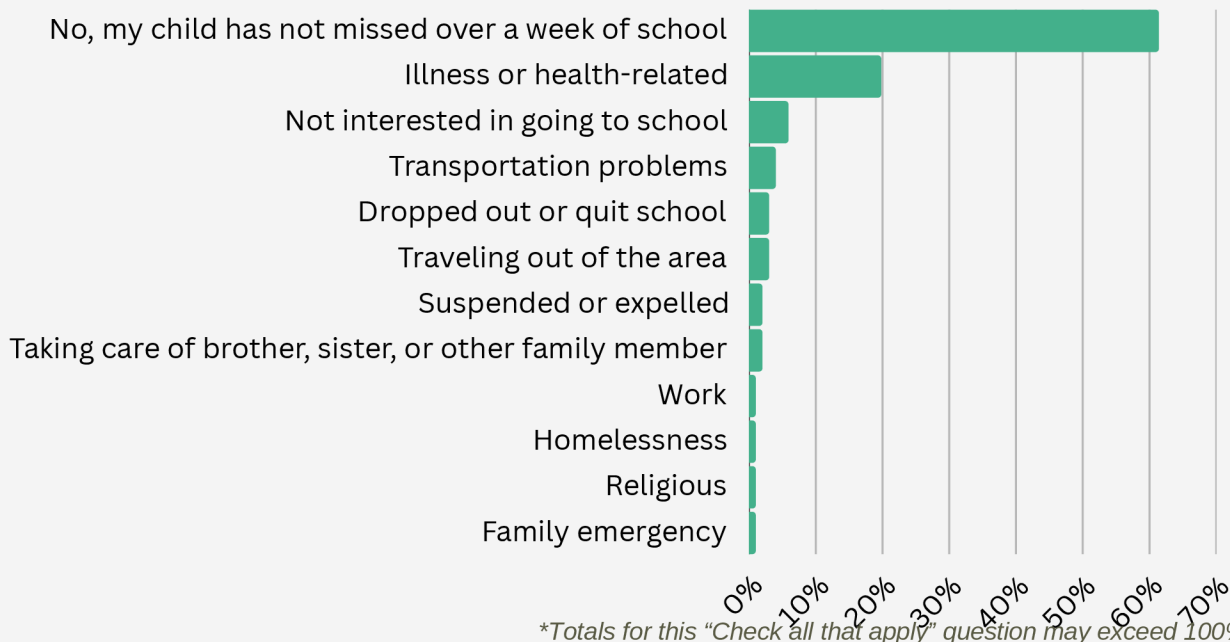


# K-12 EDUCATION PARENTS

About 38.6% of K-12 parents reported their children missing more than a week of school that year.

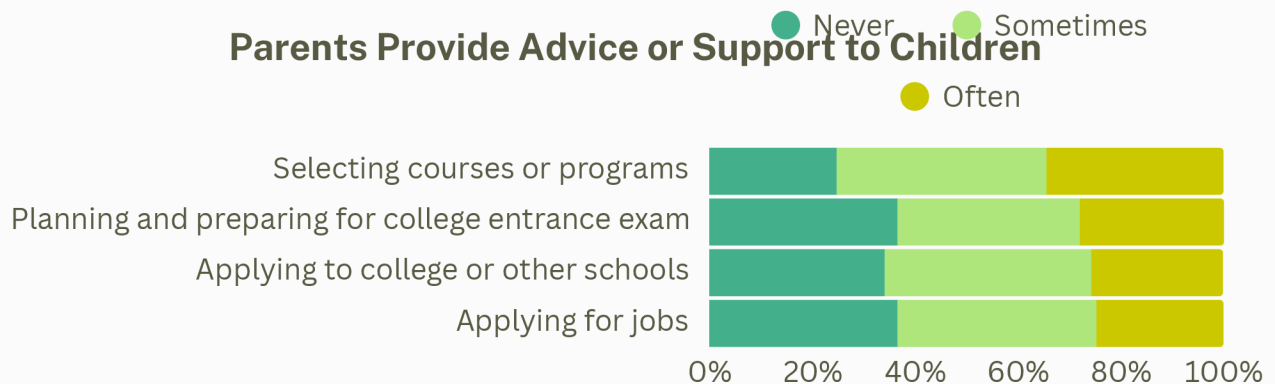
The top 3 reasons for students missing more than a week of school reported by parents were: illness or health-related (19.8%), not being interested in going to school (5.9%), and transportation problems (4.0%).

## Reasons for Over 1 Week of Absences in the 2019-2020 School Year



When applicable, most participating parents provide support to their children in selecting programs/courses, planning and applying for school/college, and applying for jobs.

## Parents Provide Advice or Support to Children

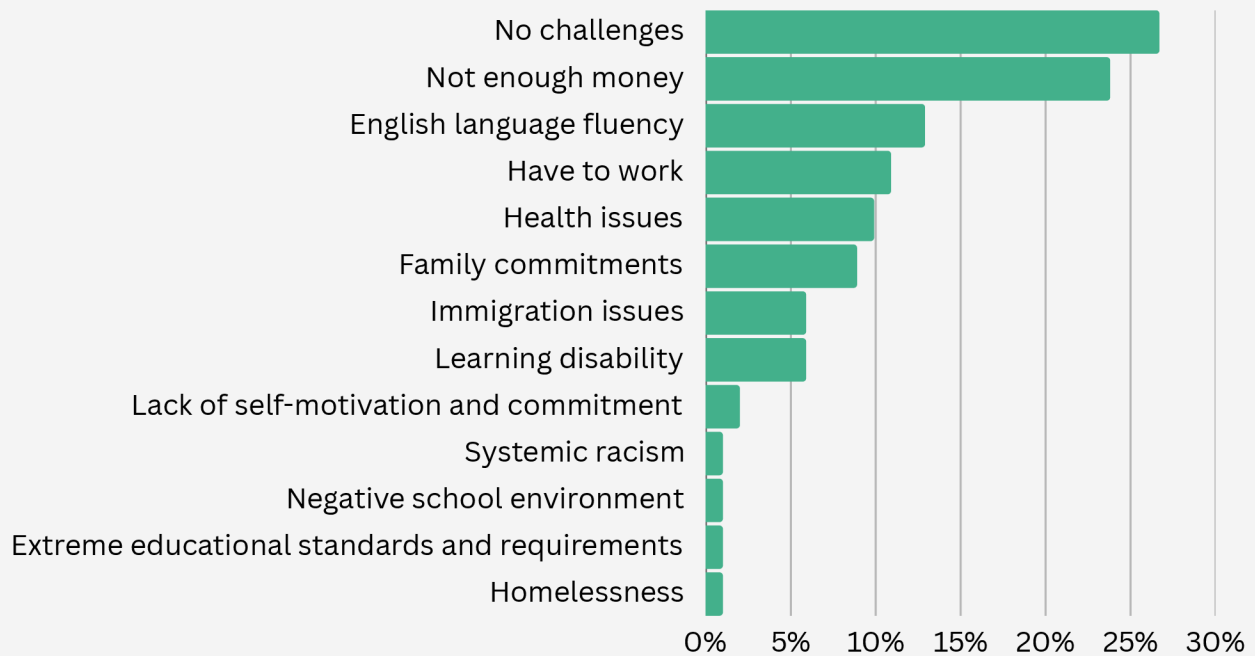


# K-12 EDUCATION PARENTS

About 26.7% of K-12 parents believe that their children will not have to overcome any major challenges to graduate high school.

The top 3 challenges anticipated by the parents for their children to overcome to graduate from high school were: not having enough money (23.8%), not having English language fluency (12.9%), and children having to work (10.9%).

## Challenges Parents Anticipated Children Need to Overcome to Graduate High School



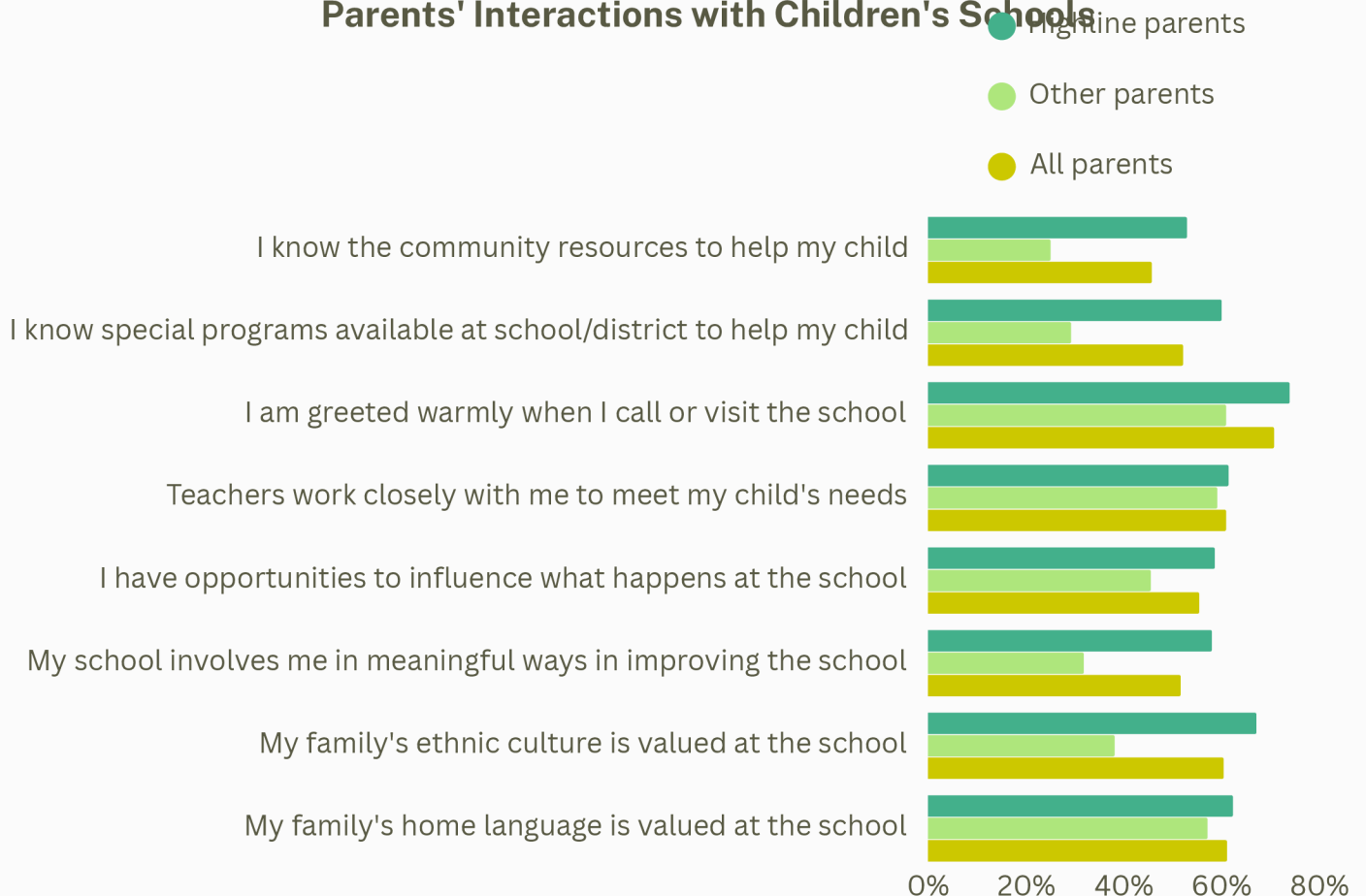
\*Totals for this "Check all that apply" question may exceed 100%.

# K-12 EDUCATION PARENTS

About 45.7% of participating K-12 parents know about the community resources that are available to support their children.

When comparing parents' engagement and experiences with their children's schools, Highline School District parents have a slightly more positive experience than parents from other school districts.

## Parents' Interactions with Children's Schools

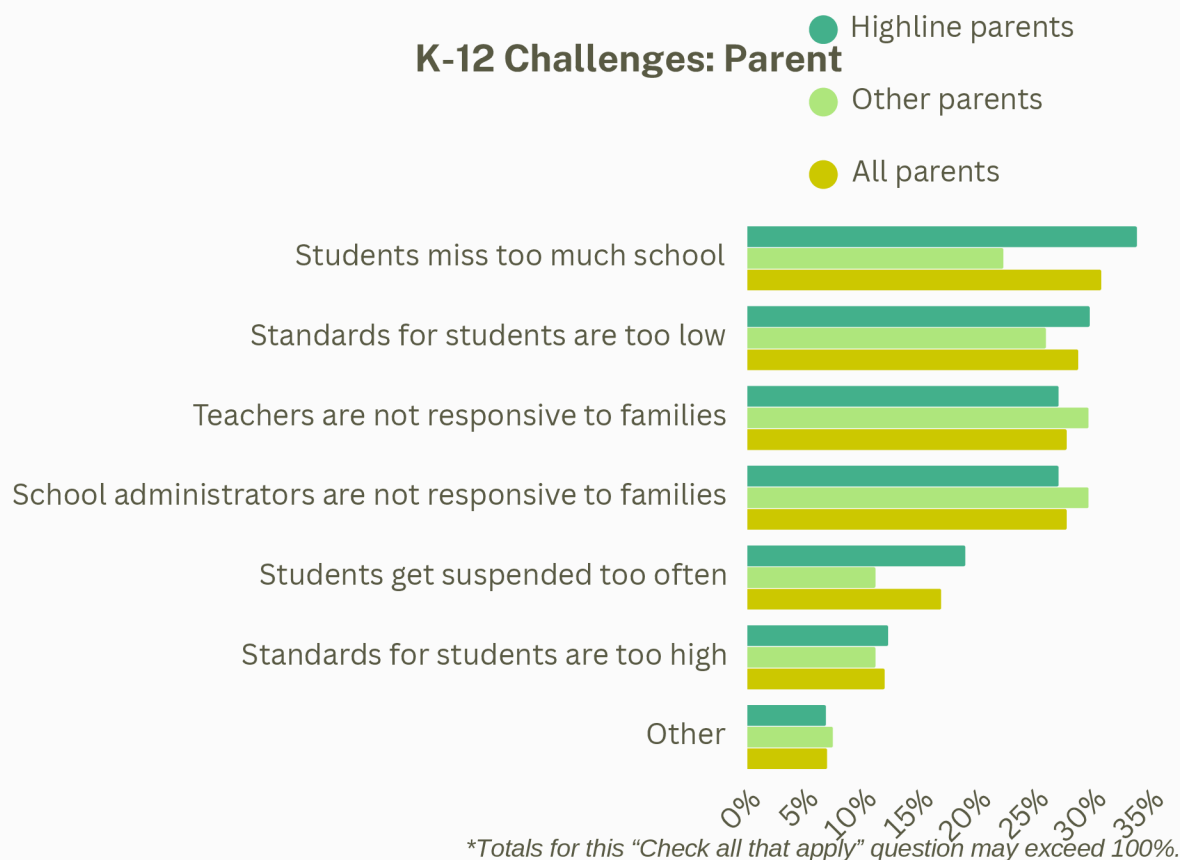


# K-12 EDUCATION PARENTS

About 30.7% of participating K-12 parents believed that missing too much school is the biggest K-12 challenge in White Center.

Other challenges K-12 parents reported include standards for students being too low (28.7%), teachers are not responsive to families (27.7%), school administrators are not responsive to families (27.7%), students get suspended too often (16.8%), and standards for students are too high (11.9%).

Other challenges less frequently mentioned by participants and are not listed in the chart below include issues with the lack of teachers of color and/or are bilingual, teacher burn-out due to having to "wear too many hats," administrative staff not being supported by the district, staff's attitude toward families, and families struggle with financial burden and not being able to support their children more fully. In general, White Center residents reported similar K-12 challenges as other participants.



# K-12 EDUCATION PARENTS

"More parent involvement with their children in evening programs that are meaningful and not just following up on info gathered in surveys."  
-White Center Community Member

Below is a list of parents' feedback and suggestions for how to make K-12 better in White Center in the order of most to least frequently mentioned. The top suggestion mentioned by about 12.6% of participants was for the schools to increase authentic and active engagement with parents.

Other less suggested ideas relating to K-12 not listed include improving school lunches, having more sports, having more constructive conversations about race in the education system, giving students more homework, providing more mental health support to students and families, providing more one-on-one support to students, and reducing language requirements.

**01** Increase authentic outreach and parent involvement

**02** Increase resources and multicultural support for students and families

**03** Increase investment in teachers; support teachers to develop their knowledge and skills

**04** Increase multi-lingual and multicultural programming for students

**05** Improve the disciplinary system to keep students in school but hold them accountable for their actions

**06** Hire more staff and teachers who are from the community, look like the students, and are of color

**07** Provide more after-school programming to support students outside of the classroom

**08** Implement changes to instruction times such as later start time, increase school hours, etc.

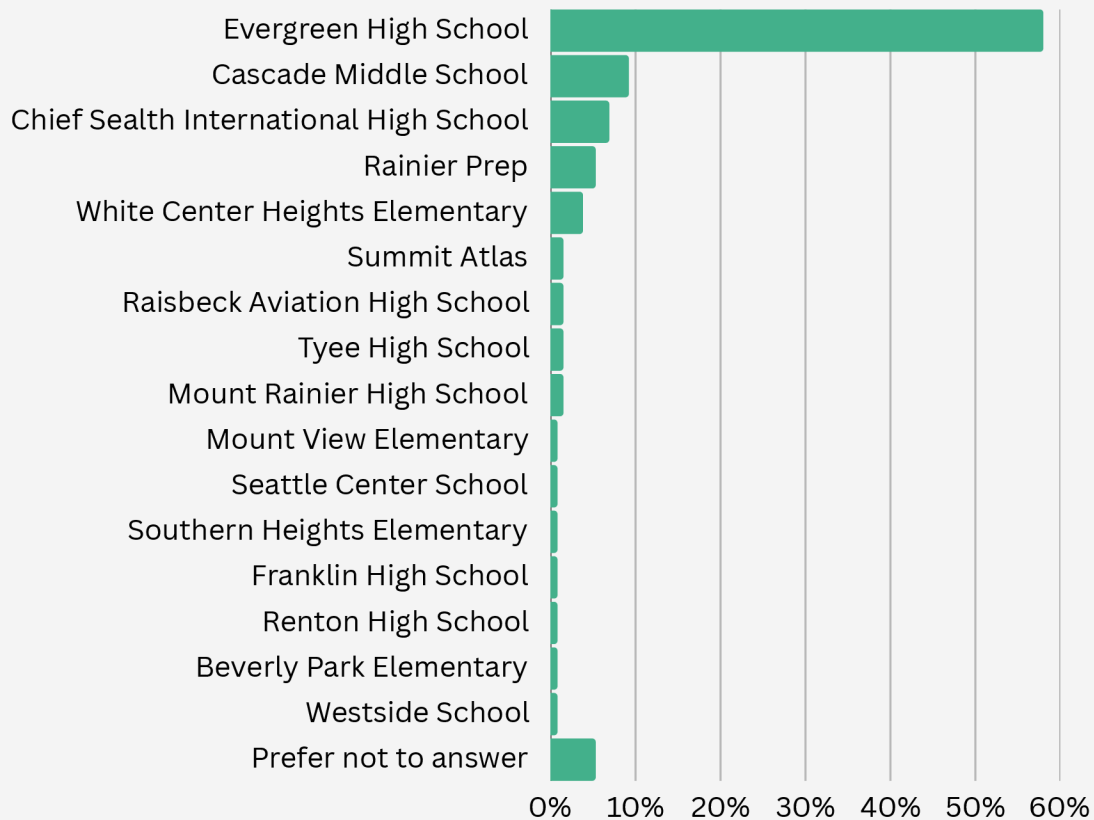
**09** Increase safety and security at school for students to focus on learning

**10** Increase learning standards for both students and teachers

# K-12 EDUCATION STUDENTS

Of the 541 participants, 131 reported being K-12 students. 71.8% of the students were attending schools located in White Center (Evergreen High School, Cascade Middle School, White Center Heights Elementary, and Mount View Elementary), and 77.9% were attending schools from the Highline School District. About 8.4% were in the Seattle School District, 7.7% in charter and/or private schools, and 0.8% in the Renton School District.

## K-12 Schools Students Attended



# K-12 EDUCATION STUDENTS

About 67.9% of the students reported being somewhat satisfied to very satisfied with their schools.

About 15.3% of the students were very satisfied, 26.0% satisfied and 26.7% somewhat satisfied with their schools. Students from Highline School District reported similar satisfaction rates compared to students from other school districts.

**Students' Satisfaction by School District/Type**

	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
Highline n=102	14.7%	27.5%	28.4%	21.6%	4.9%	2.0%	1.0%
Other public schools n=12	16.7%	25.0%	33.3%	16.7%	8.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Charter or private n=12	25.0%	8.3%	16.7%	16.7%	0.0%	0.0%	16.7%
Unknown n=5	0.0%	40.0%	0.0%	20.0%	20.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>All schools n=131</b>	<b>15.3%</b>	<b>26.0%</b>	<b>26.7%</b>	<b>20.6%</b>	<b>5.3%</b>	<b>1.5%</b>	<b>2.3%</b>

*n=number of participants*

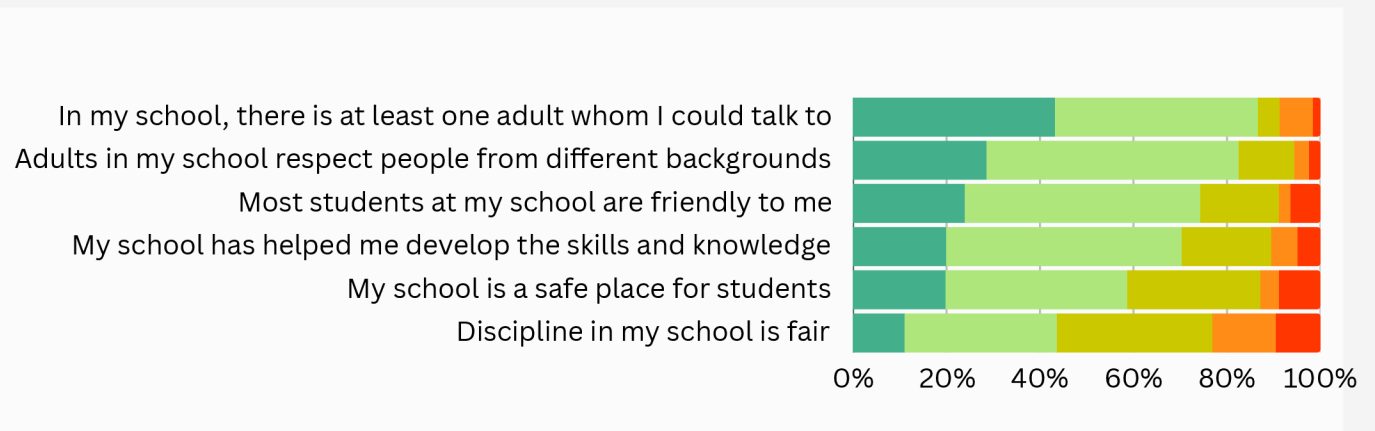
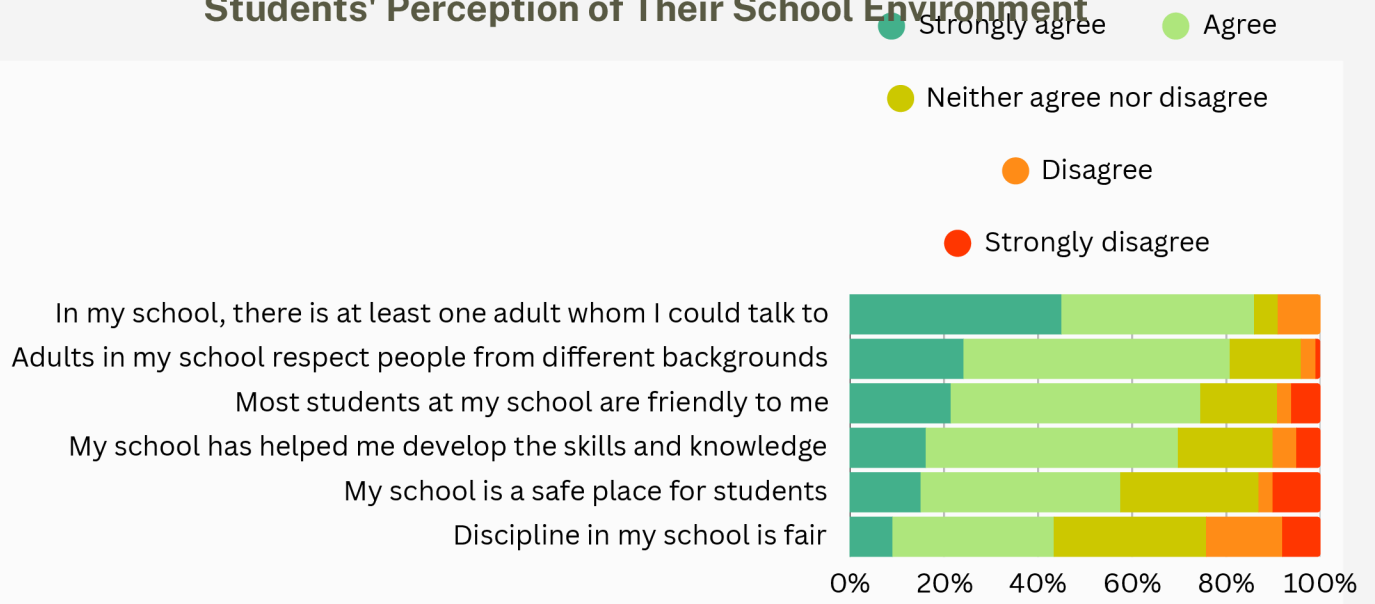
# K-12 EDUCATION STUDENTS

Most students reported positive feelings toward their school environment.

About 86.6% of the students agreed that they have at least 1 adult in their school to whom they could talk to, and about 82.5% agreed that adults in their school respect students from different backgrounds. Students disagreed the most with their schools' disciplinary process being fair with 24.0% of Highline School District students and 22.8% of all participating students disagreeing or strongly disagreeing. Overall, Highline School District students had similar perceptions toward their school environment compared to other participating students.

## Students' Perception of Their School Environment

ALL STUDENTS HIGHLINE STUDENTS





# K-12 EDUCATION STUDENTS

About 56.9% of the students were active in extracurricular activities at their schools.

Students who were not involved in extracurricular activities at their schools reported the following reasons for lack of involvement: not having time (16.2%), not being interested in the activities available at their schools (13.1%), not knowing what activities there are (4.6%), not being interested in extracurricular activities in general (3.8%), worrying about the costs (1.5%), wanting to focus on their academics instead (.08%), or not liking the uniforms that comes with certain extracurricular activities (.08%). About 2.3% of the students were not involved in any extracurricular activities when they completed the survey; however, they had plans to join.

## Extracurricular Activities Involvement

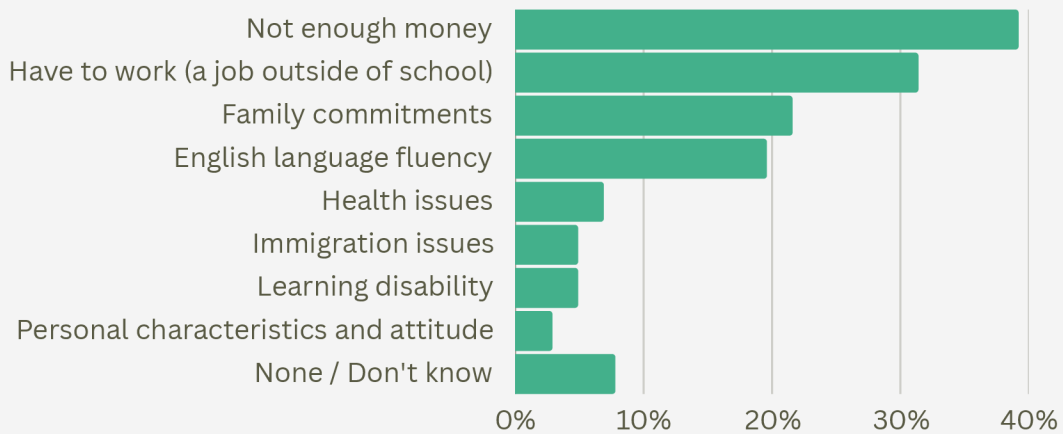


# K-12 EDUCATION STUDENTS

## Most students anticipated challenges but planned to go to college after graduating high school.

About 93.1% of participating students reported the possibility of encountering some challenges that they may have to overcome to graduate high school. Not having enough money was the most significant challenge (36.6%) followed by having to work (33.6%), having family commitments (19.8%), and English language fluency (19.1%).

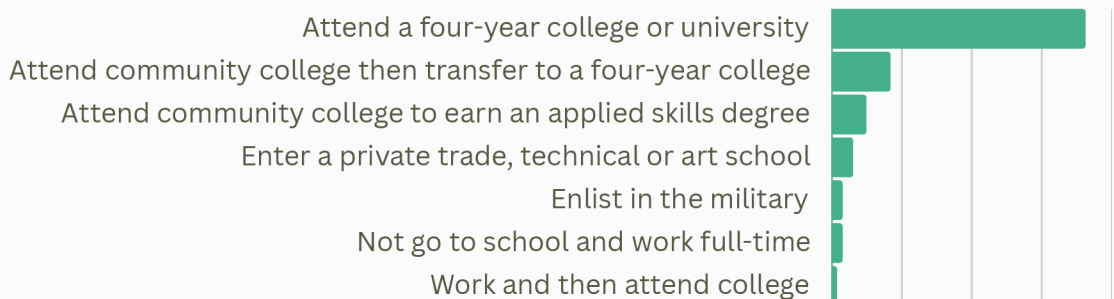
### Challenges Students Need to Overcome to Graduate High School



\*Totals for this "Check all that apply" question may exceed 100%.

About 72.5% of the students planned to attend a four-year college/university, and 16.8% planned to attend a community college first and then transfer to a four-year school.

### Plans After High School



\*Totals for this "Check all that apply" question may exceed 100%.

# K-12 EDUCATION STUDENTS

"For the staff to look more like the students and there is more fairness and equity in the different systems."

-White Center Community Member

Below is a list summarizing students' suggestions for how to make K-12 better in White Center in the order of most to least frequently mentioned. The top suggestion mentioned by 15.0% of the students was to increase resources and programs to support students' overall well-being such as mental health resources, funding, etc.

Other less suggested ideas not listed below include letting students have more control and options in their learning, having more community involvement, having more homework and after-school programs, having access to a gym, and having better quality teachers.

01

Increase resources and programs to support student's overall well-being such as mental health

02

Implement changes to school schedule such as class lengths and times, number of classes, break times, etc.

03

Provide better classes and programs such as ethnic studies, art, math, budgeting and finance, etc.

04

Implement more student-teacher relationship-building activities to motivate students such as mentoring program

05

Increase tools and programs to support students academically, especially for struggling students

06

Hire more staff and teachers who are from the community, look like the students, and are of color

07

Improve the disciplinary system to be more fair and effective in supporting students' learning in the classroom

08

Provide better quality and culturally relevant lunches to help students be full and stay focused in school

09

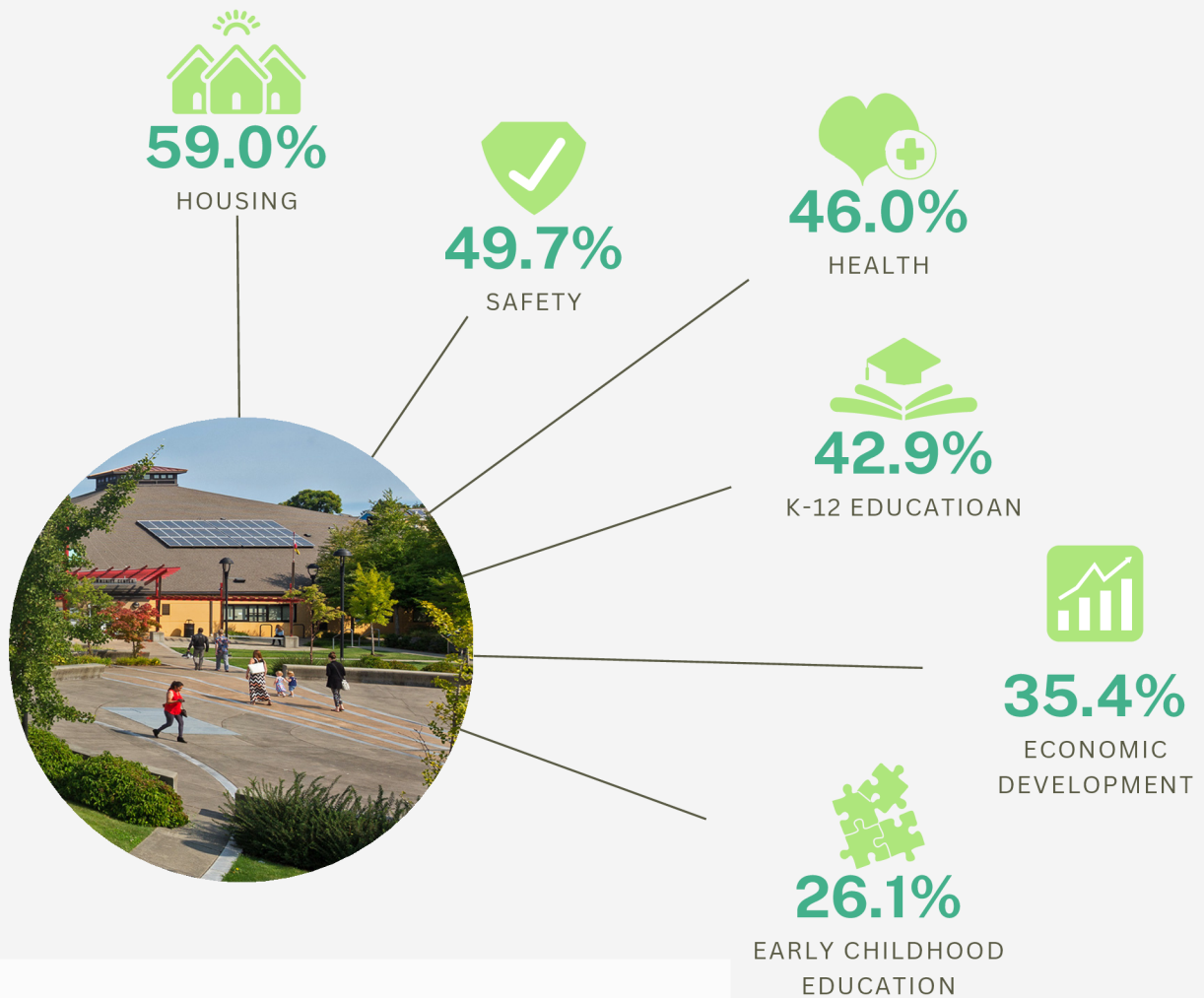
Increase safety and security at school and reduce gang activities so students can feel safe

10

Increase funding to build better schools or remodel and renovate old school buildings

# COMMUNITY VISION

What should community organizations focus on to improve White Center?



Other specific mentions included:

- support, resources, and housing for the unhoused
- recovery support for drug addictions
- uplift cultures and arts in White Center
- social support and services for elders
- economic development for the people of White Center by the people of White Center

# COMUNITY VISION

What do you think is the best thing about White Center?



# COMMUNITY VISION

What is your vision for the future of White Center?

Environmental-friendly place  
Better roads, public transportations, and infrastructure  
Less gentrified  
No biases  
Gentrified  
More affordable housing and living costs so that people can stay  
Healthier with more access to health and health care  
A better and improved place to live  
More black and brown businesses  
Clean and beautiful  
More local police  
A world class city  
More community spaces and events, activities, and programs  
Continue to be culturally diverse and vibrant  
A safer place for families, children, and everyone to live (free of drugs, crimes, gangs, violence, etc.)  
More fun things  
Thriving economy and businesses  
More development and growth  
Abundant  
Equity  
Expensive  
Stay the same as now  
A community center  
A vibrant night life  
A friendly and inclusive community where people feel connected and cared for  
A place for children to grow  
Everyone is engaged and working together for a better future  
Prosperous economy with more opportunities and thriving local and diverse businesses  
More big stores  
Better resourced schools and more engaged students  
Less crowded  
An art community with murals, art, and artists  
No more homelessness  
Nicer homes

# KEY FINDINGS

A total of 524 community members aged 11 to 87 years completed the survey. Other participant demographic findings include:

- 59.7% of the participants live in White Center, and 22.5% of participants work in White Center
- Participants spoke more than 29 languages and identified with 65 cultural and ethnic affiliations

Participants identified housing as the top priority for White Center to focus on improving. And participants suggested providing support for the unhoused as a solution in all the primary areas of discussion in this survey: housing, health, safety and security, and civic engagement. Other top findings in these areas include:

- Participants identified cost as the most significant challenge for housing in White Center; increasing housing affordability was the most suggested housing solution
- Participants identified low pay as the most significant challenge for the economy in White Center; increasing and diversifying the local job market was the most suggested solution
- Participants identified alcohol and drug activities as the most significant challenges for health and safety in White Center; increasing exercise programs and police presence/security measures were the most suggested solutions
- Participants identified language barrier and community members not knowing one another as the main challenges to civic engagement for the White Center community; increasing community engagement activities was the most suggested solution

About 25.0% of participants were K-12 students, 19.3% were parents of K-12 students, and 15.5% were parents/caregivers of children from 0-5 years. K-12 students would like to have more resources and support programs in school, and K-12 parents would like more engagement from the schools. Parents/caregivers identified cost as the most significant challenge for early childhood education in White Center and suggested extended subsidies or sliding scale programs to make child care more affordable.

Most participants believed that the best thing about White Center is its cultural and ethnic diversity. Looking into the future, participants envisioned White Center to be a safe and prosperous place for everyone to live and thrive.

Thank you to our community members for completing this survey and sharing your stories. Thank you to our community partners for your support in outreach and connection to the community. We are grateful for your continued trust in the WCCDA to hold your stories and guide our work.