

# Sidewalk Petition Program Survey Summary

## Introduction

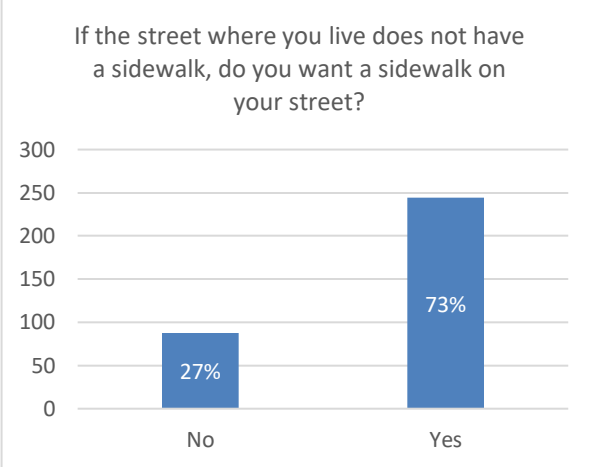
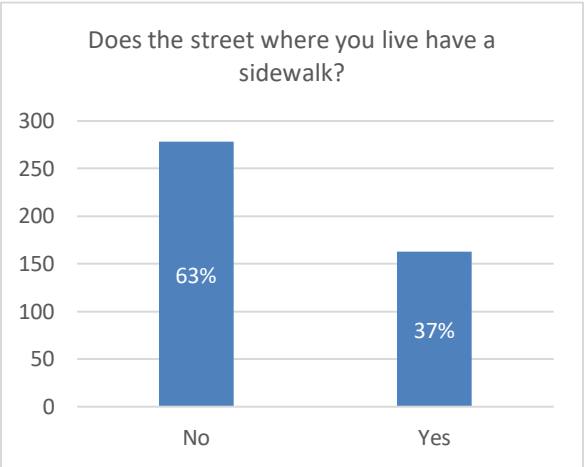
This survey asked about sidewalk preferences and familiarity with the Sidewalk Petition Program. The survey was conducted as part of a Strategic Plan Initiative to review transportation programs through an equity lens. The initiative team reviewed previous program outcomes using data analysis and completed community engagement with this online survey and in-person tabling events per the guidance in the *Raleigh Racial Equity Action Plan*. The survey targeted neighborhoods that have not historically participated in the Sidewalk Petition Program, but was open to all and received responses from around the city. Staff is now developing a recommendation to Council for a reform to the existing program that will result in more equitable delivery of new sidewalks across the City.

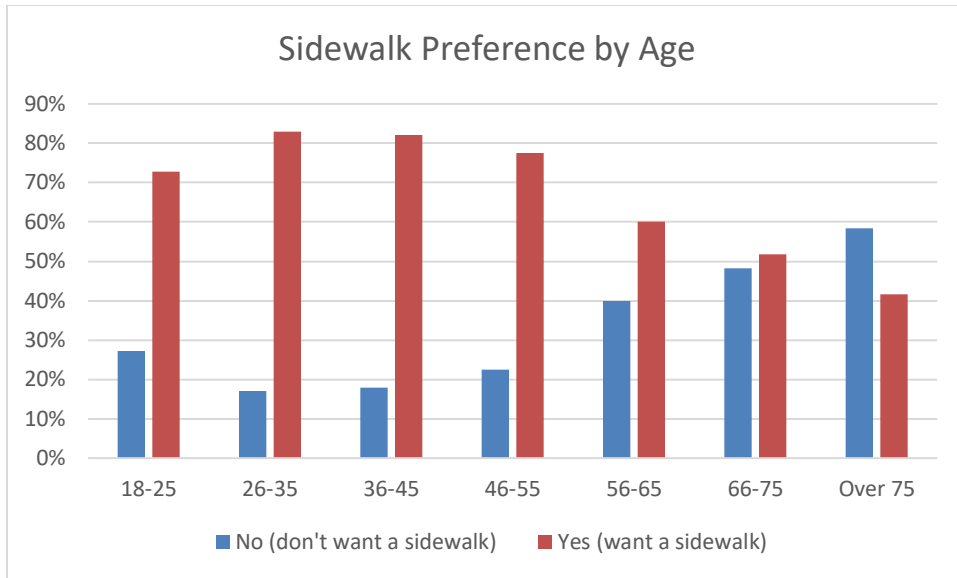
The survey ended with a total of 444 participants and 551 comments. This report is a summary. The full survey and all responses and comments can be viewed [here](#).

## Summary of Responses

**Question 1:** Does the street where you live have a sidewalk?

**Question 2:** If the street where you live does not have a sidewalk, do you want a sidewalk on your street?



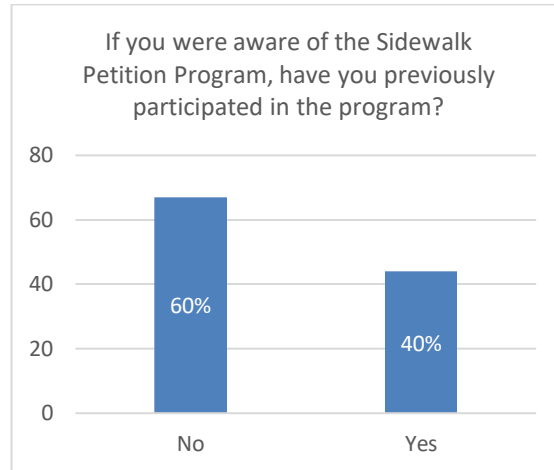
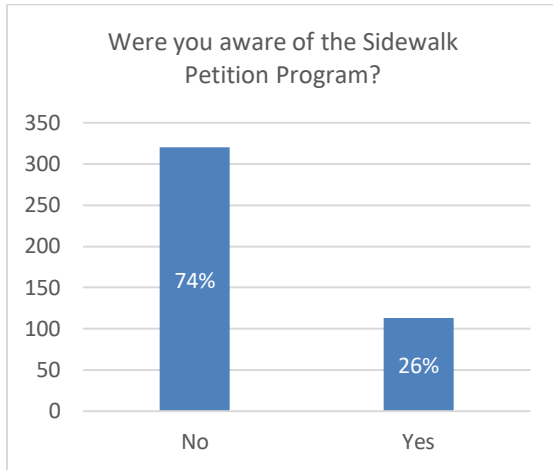


#### Key Notes:

- The majority of respondents without a sidewalk would like a sidewalk.
- Based on the zip codes provided by 78% of respondents, there was no clear correlation between sidewalk preferences and previous participation in the program.
- Residents who have lived in Raleigh for less than 10 years are more likely to want a sidewalk in comparison to long-time residents.
- Residents who rent are more likely to want a sidewalk than residents who own (89% vs. 72%)
- Residents under the age of 55 were more likely to want a sidewalk than older residents.
- Residents that do not want sidewalks have stated it would take away a portion of their property, they believe their community functions just fine without them, and it would be disruptive to the function of their neighborhood if sidewalks were added.

**Question 3:** Were you aware of the Sidewalk Petition Program?

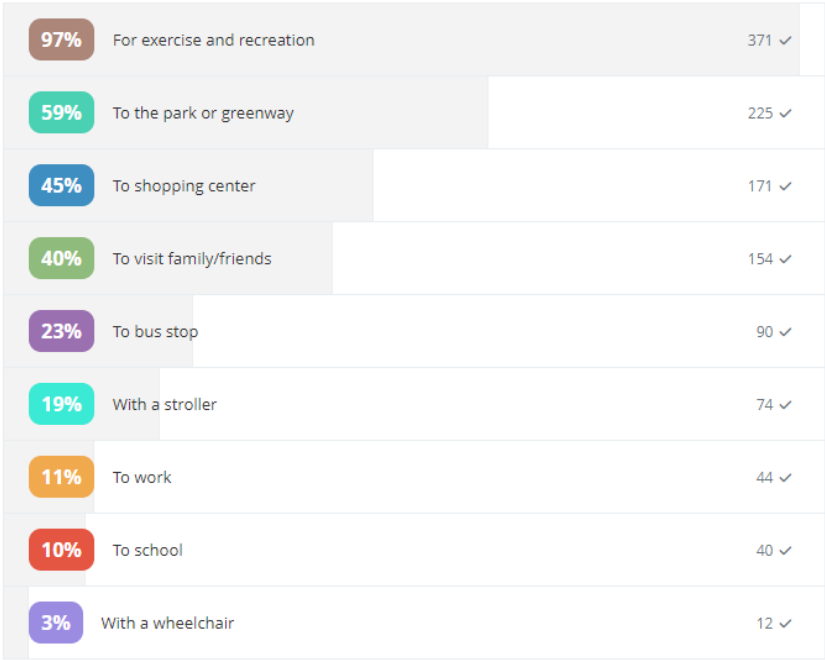
**Question 4:** If you were aware of the Sidewalk Petition Program, have you previously participated in the program? Please tell us how (if yes) or why not (if no) in the comments.



**Key Notes:**

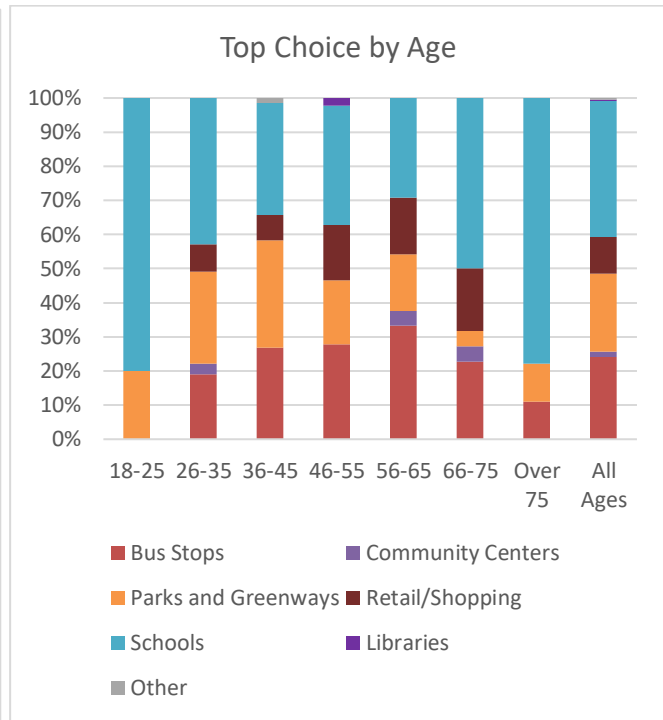
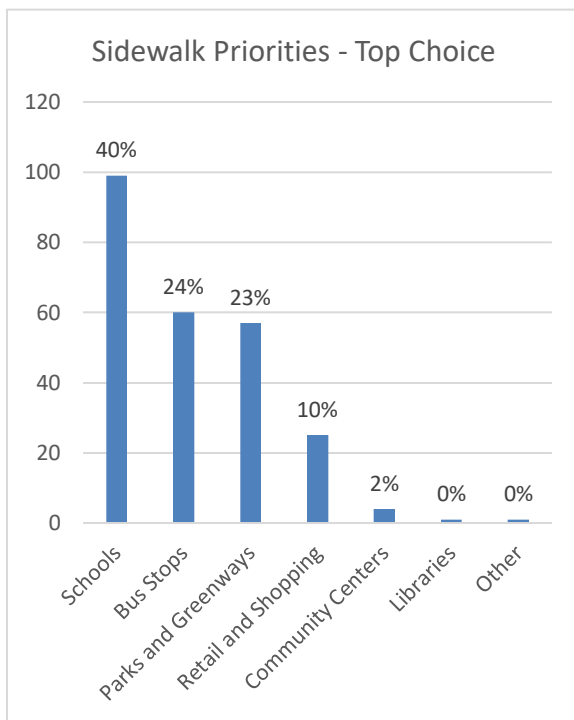
- Most respondents were not aware of the program.
- Many of the target areas were clustered in south and southeast Raleigh where awareness of the program was lower than average.
- Long-time residents (5 or more years) were more than twice as likely to be aware of the program. This is expected, since the City has not actively promoted the program since it went on hold in 2019.
- Residents have stated that the petition has created animosity between neighbors who are opposed to and who are for the program.
- People who were aware and still did not participate mentioned the disruption of the flow of the neighborhood, trees that would have to be removed, property that would be taken from them if a sidewalk was put in. Some stated they were fine walking in the street.

**Question 5:** Where and how do you walk? Choose all that apply.



**Question 6:** Where should the City build missing sidewalks first? Please rank in order of importance to you.

76%	Connecting to school	Rank: 2.12
75%	Connecting to bus stops	Rank: 2.26
79%	Connecting to parks and greenways	Rank: 2.83
73%	Connecting to retail and shopping	Rank: 3.57
17%	Other	Rank: 3.98
65%	Connecting to community centers	Rank: 4.30
62%	Connecting to the library	Rank: 4.79



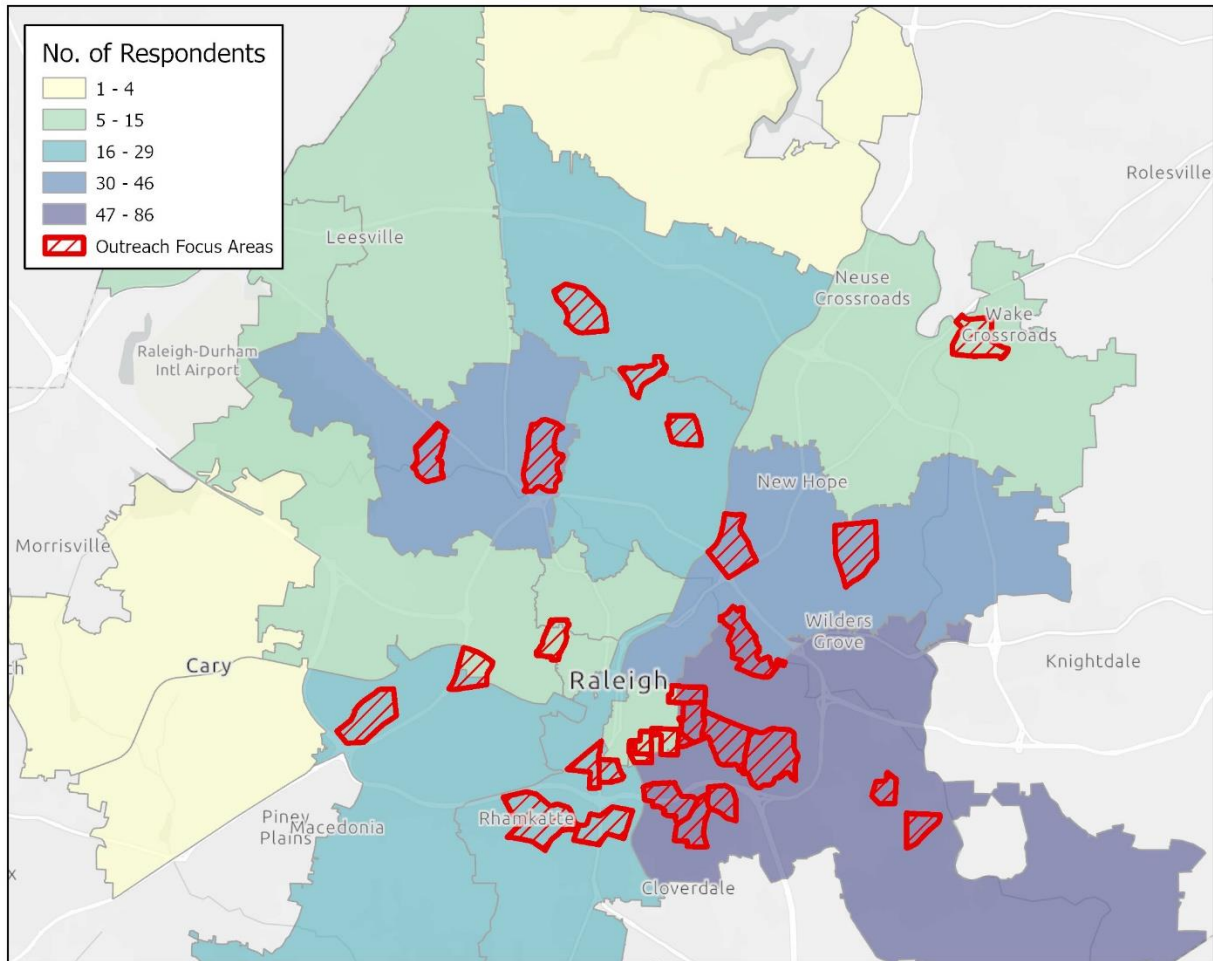
**Key Notes:**

- While the most common walking trip purpose was recreation, respondents identified the top priority destinations as schools and bus stops. This indicates a desire for more transportation options via walking.
- Schools were identified as a consistent priority in all zip codes.

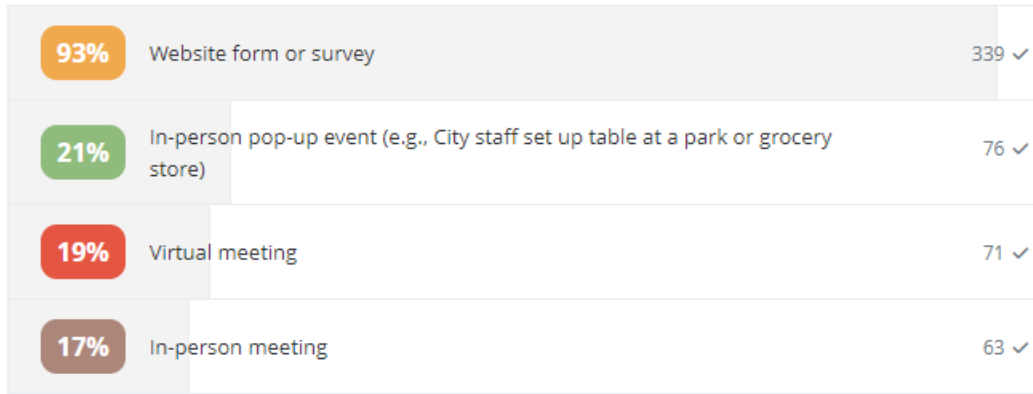
- There are safety concerns for children walking to schools through neighborhoods without sidewalks.

**Question 7: What is your zip code?**

The map below shows the home location of respondents who provided a Raleigh zip code (350 respondents/79% of participants). Survey target areas are outlined in red.

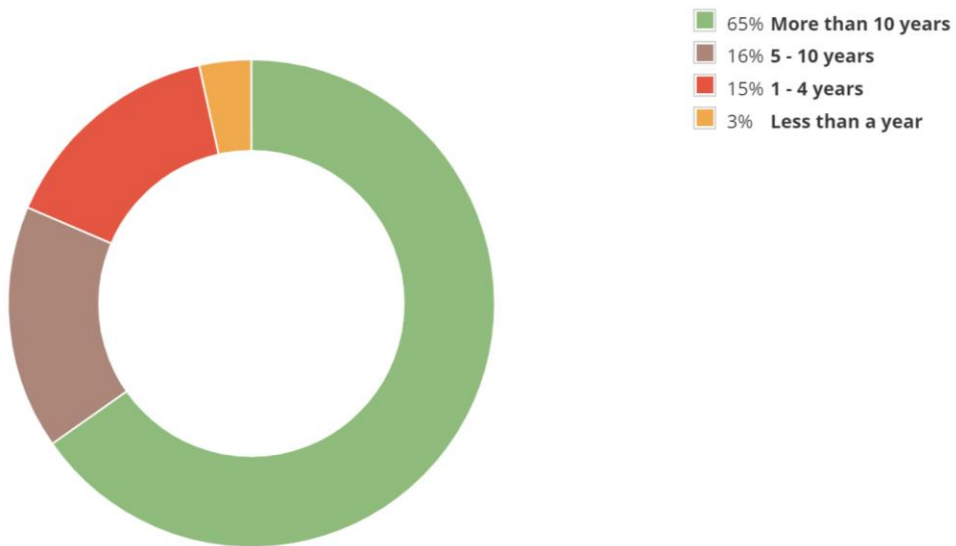


**Question 8:** How do you prefer to share your feedback with the City? Choose all that apply.



366 Respondents

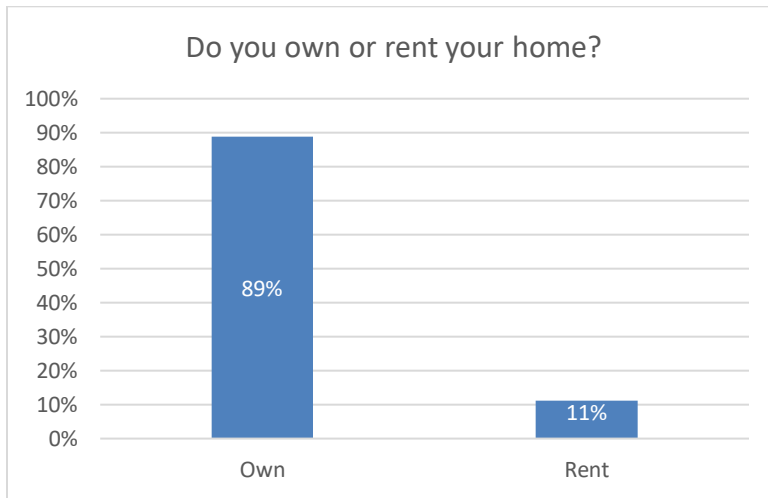
**Question 9:** How long have you lived in Raleigh? (377 responses/85% of respondents)



## Voluntary Demographic Information

Participants were invited to voluntarily share their demographic information. A subset of the 444 respondents filled out each demographic question as noted below. This means the demographic information available is only a partial snapshot of the participants. The results of the demographic information questions are shown below. A comparison to the City demographics are provided for context in the key notes. City demographics are based on the *2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates*. These context notes can help guide future engagement efforts and track success against the City's goal of inclusive engagement.

**Question 10:** Do you own or rent your home? (368 responses/83% of respondents)

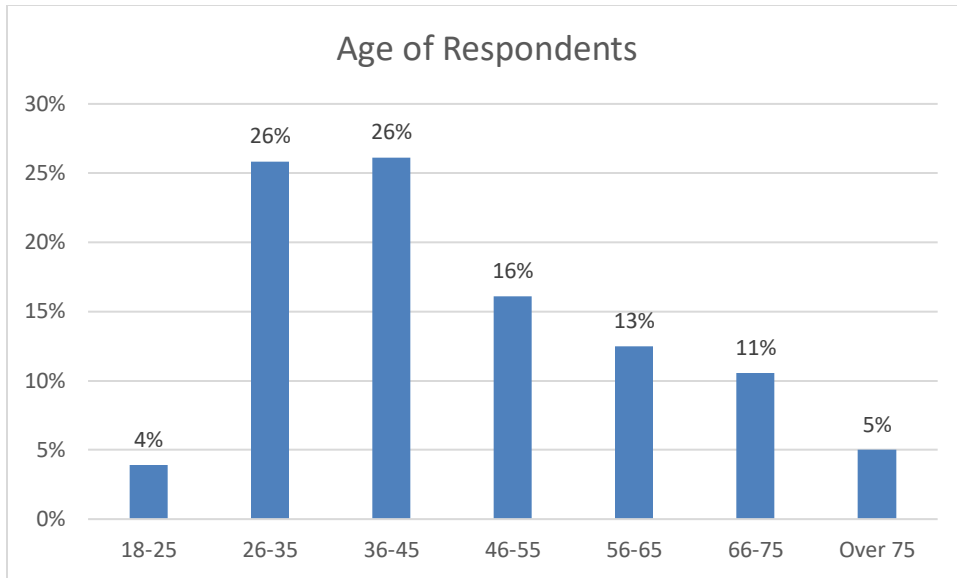


### Key Notes:

- Renters are underrepresented in the survey. While 11% of respondents rent their home, 48% of City housing units are renter-occupied.

**Question 11:** What is your age? (360 responses/81% of respondents)

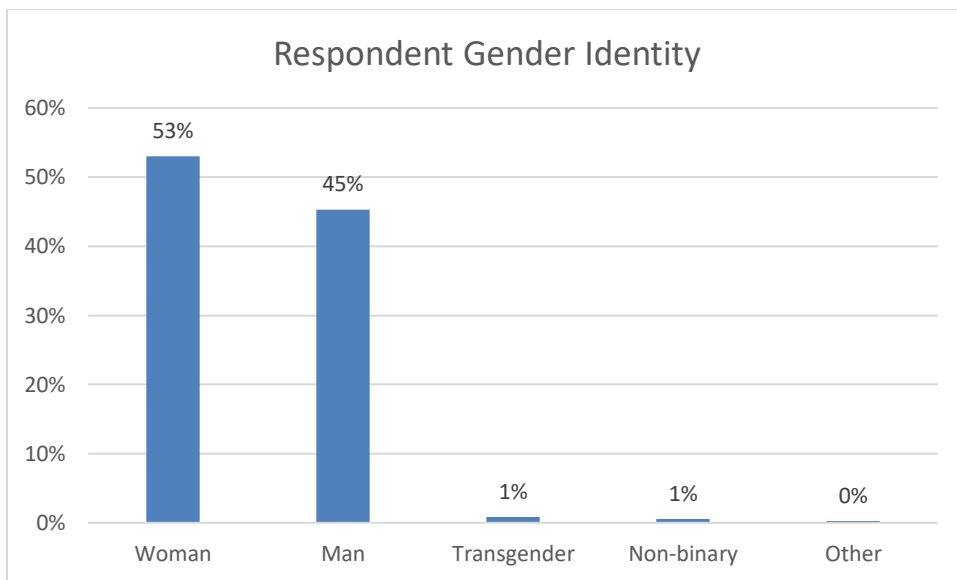




**Key Notes:**

- The distribution of adult responses by age generally matches the City distribution, although the population under 25 was underrepresented and the population between 36 and 45 was overrepresented.
- Children up to age 19 represent a quarter of City residents and should be considered closely in program design.

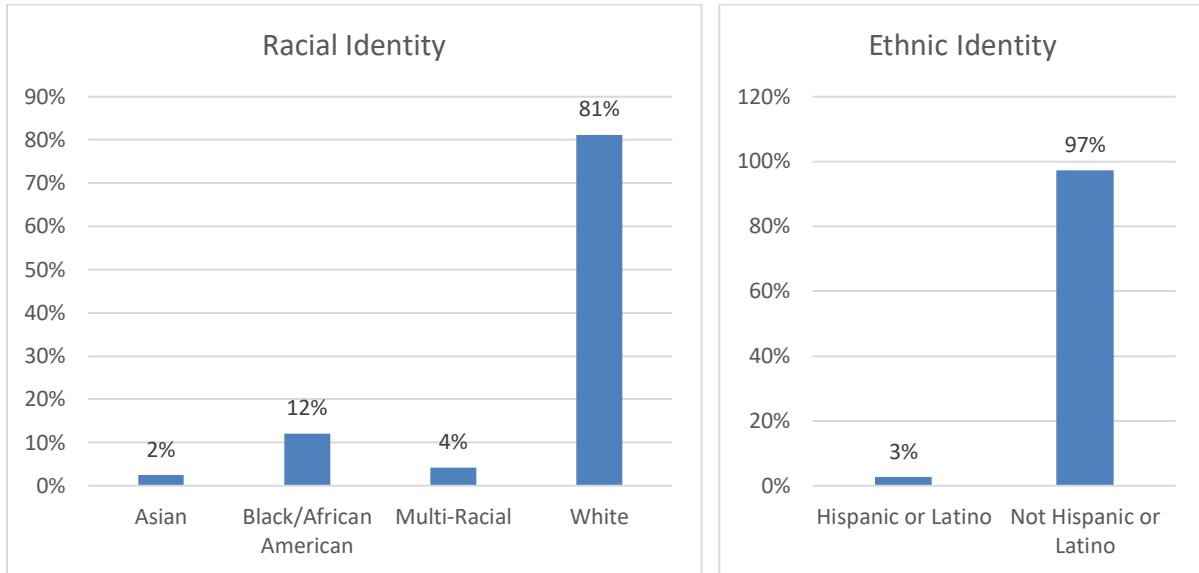
**Question 12:** What is your gender identity? (351 responses/79% of respondents)



**Key Notes:**

- Women are slightly overrepresented in the survey (53% of respondents versus 51% of City residents).

**Question 3:** What is your racial identity? (Choose all that apply.) (331 responses/75% of respondents)



**Key Notes:**

- The white population is overrepresented in the survey (81% of respondents versus 56% of City residents).
- The Hispanic population is underrepresented in the survey (3% of respondents versus 11% of City residents).