



Neighborhood Housing Services of Southwest Wisconsin

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**Neighborhood
Housing Services**
of Southwest Wisconsin

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Community Impact Survey

NHS recently conducted a 3-part survey around Southeast Richland Center to better understand the community and how residents view it today. This survey was conducted as a part of a NeighborWorks network-wide effort to get a snapshot of communities throughout the country. It is being used on the national and local levels.

We want to thank all the residents who participated in this survey and the volunteers who helped collect it. We couldn't have done it without you!

We have prepared information from the resident surveys and block observations into this presentation for you in hopes that you would gain a better perspective of your community and neighbors!



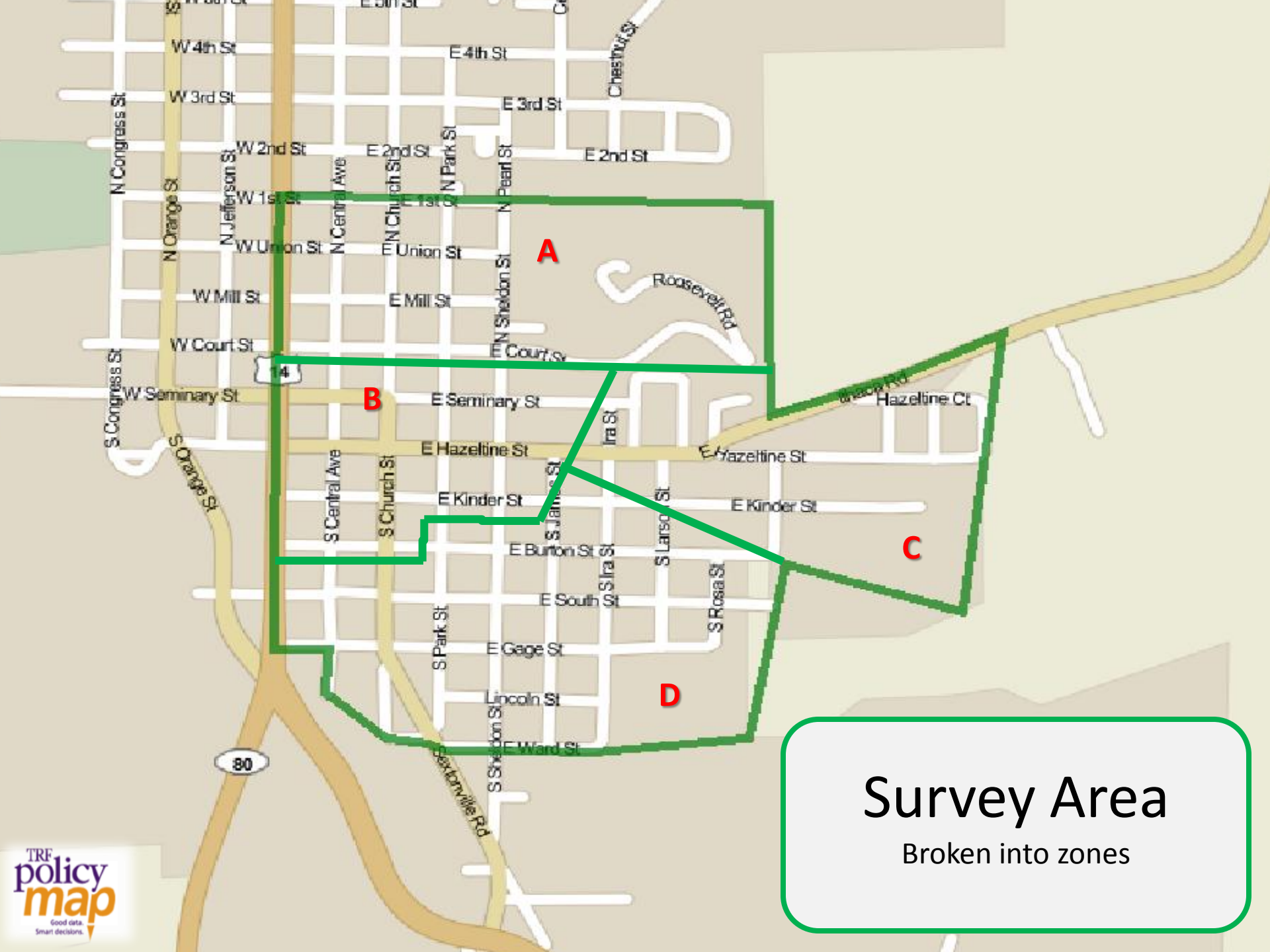
In Partnership With:



Resident Survey Results

In the summer of 2013, Neighborhood Housing Services, through a partnership with GRACE, collected information from 200 local residents asking a range of questions regarding:

- Demographic information
- Their participation in the community
- Their perceptions about their neighborhood
- Their opinions about safety in the area
- Their overall feelings about the community



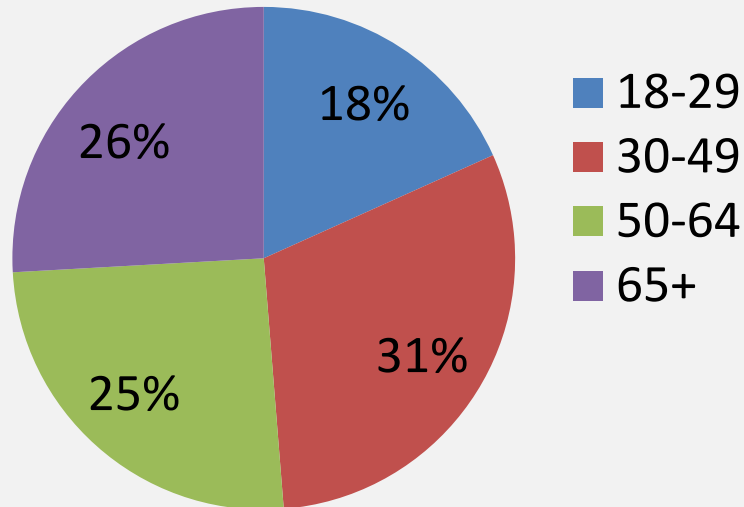
Survey Area

Broken into zones

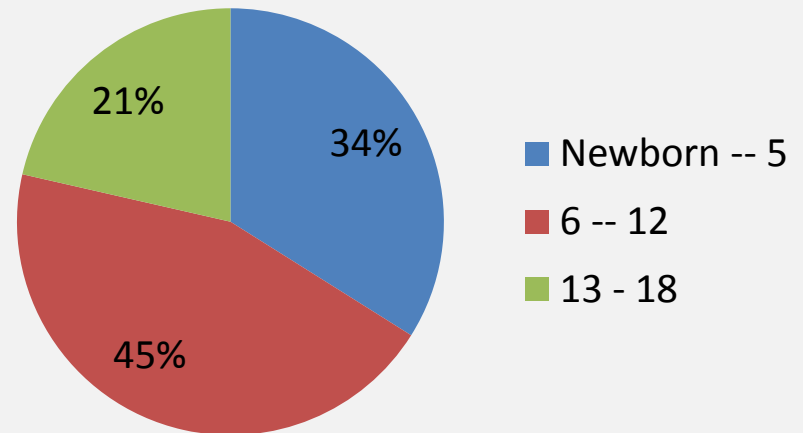
- 63% own their home.
- 58% of respondents were female.

- The average resident has lived here between 10 and 20 years.

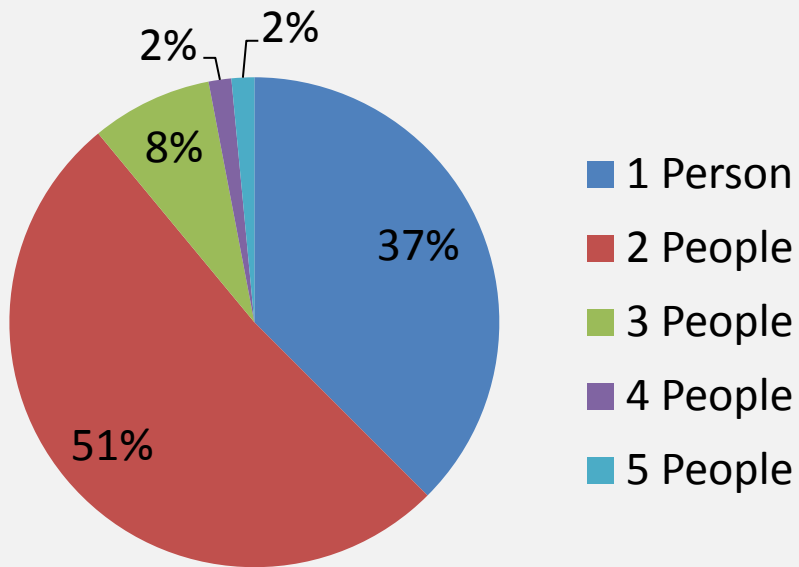
Age of Residents



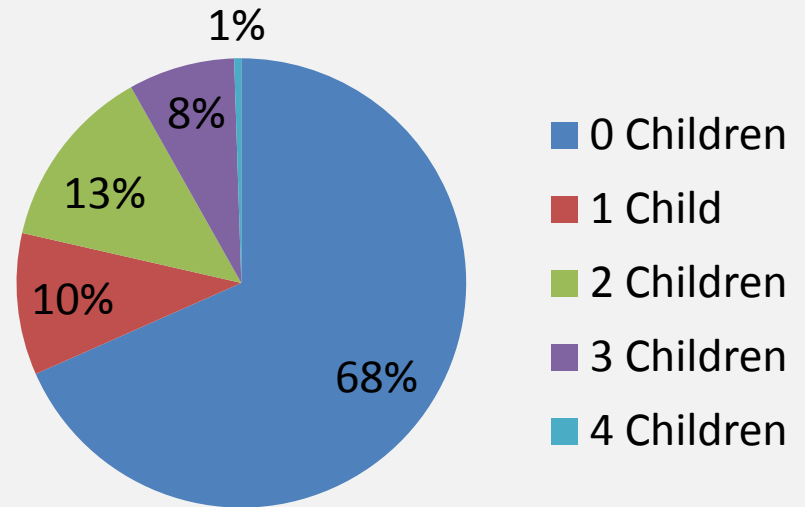
Age Of Children



Number Of People Living In Household Over 18 Years Old



Number Of Children Under 18 Years Old Living In Household



Participation

When looking at how residents often choose to get involved, respondents said they most often:

(In order of most participation)

- Supported local business events
- Volunteered to help others in the community
- Participated in an organized community social event
- Personally taken action to improve the community

Participation

On the other hand, respondents felt they less often:

(In order of least participation)

- Participated in a community, resident or tenant association
- Participated in an advocacy group
- Participated in a community improvement project
- Supported a local political organization, candidate, or ballot initiative

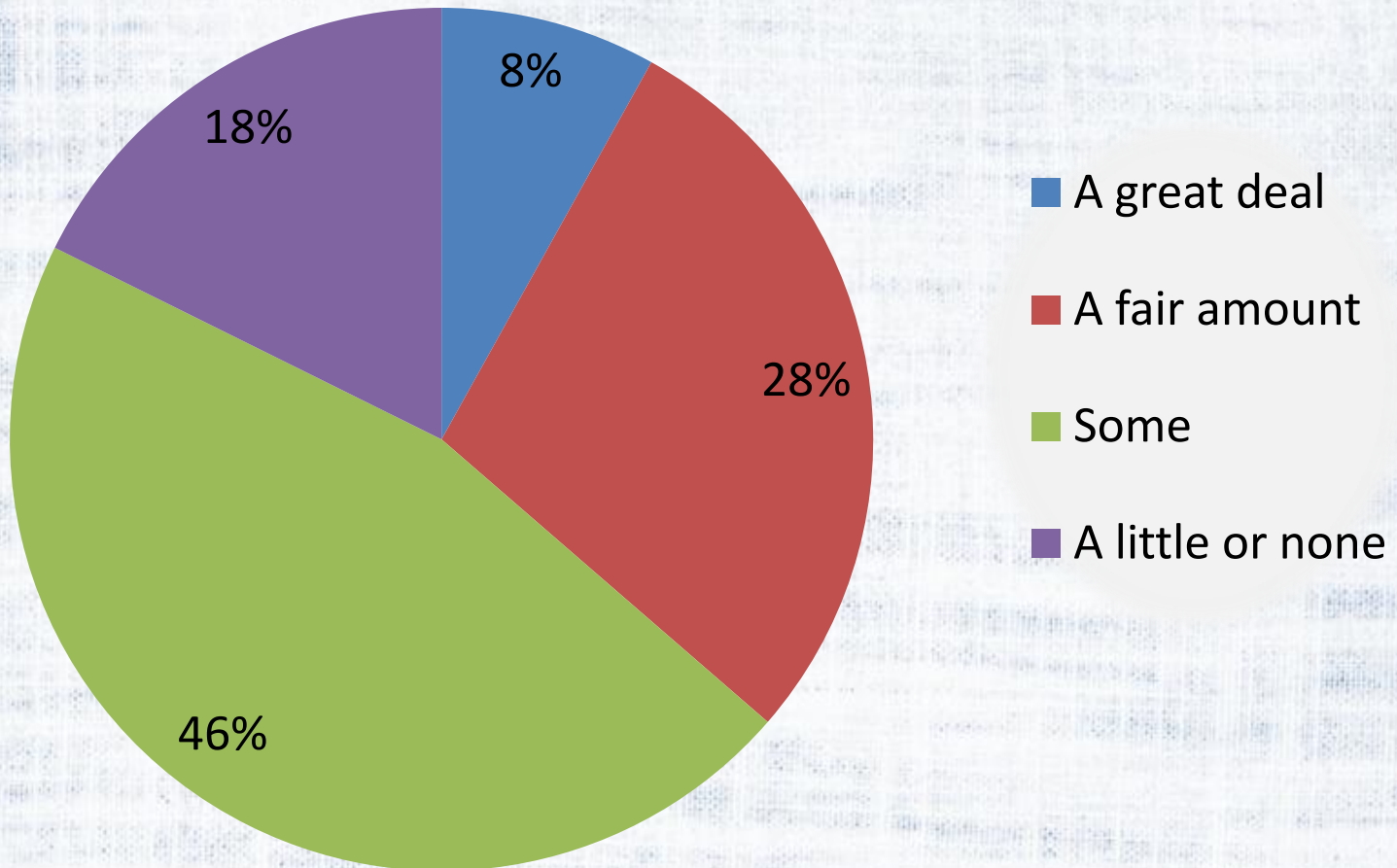
Willingness to Participate

Local residents polled said they were willing or somewhat willing to:

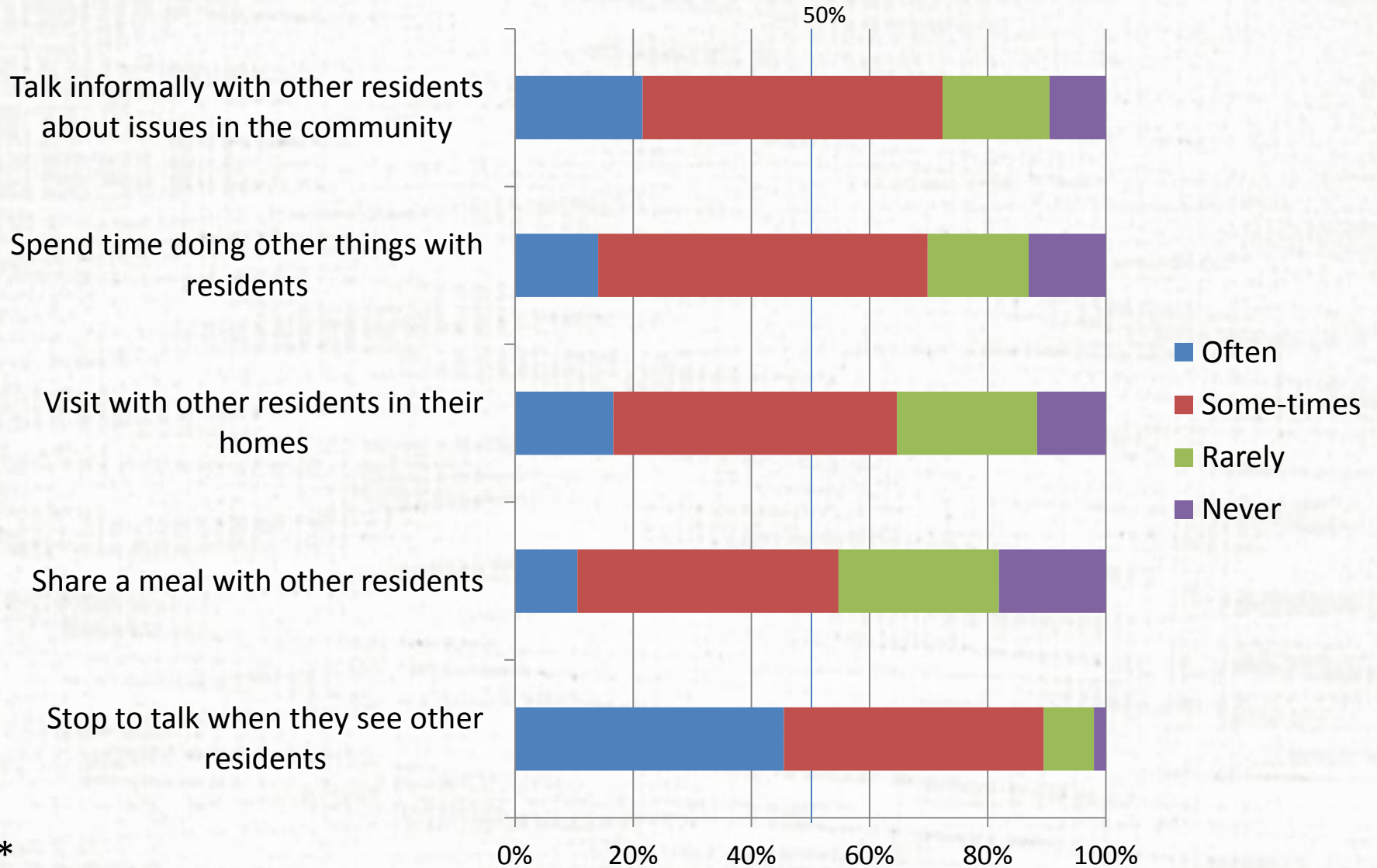
(In order of most willing)

- Work with others to make things happen
- Increase their leadership skills so that they can help influence change
- Help groups sort out differences or deal with conflict

How Much of a Positive Difference Do You Feel You Can Make?



How Often Do You Feel Residents:



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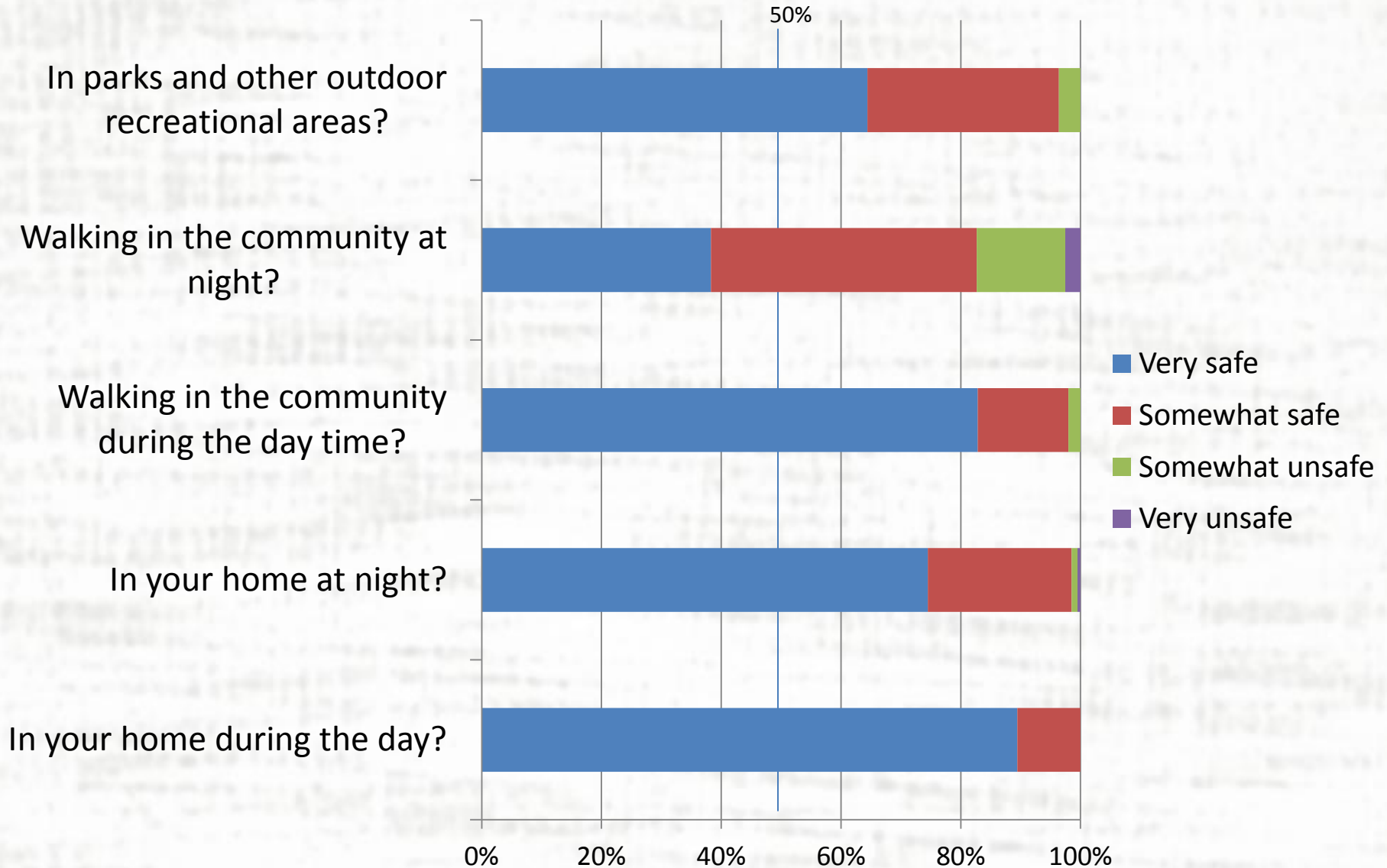
Helpful Neighbors

The respondents overwhelmingly felt their neighbors would help if:

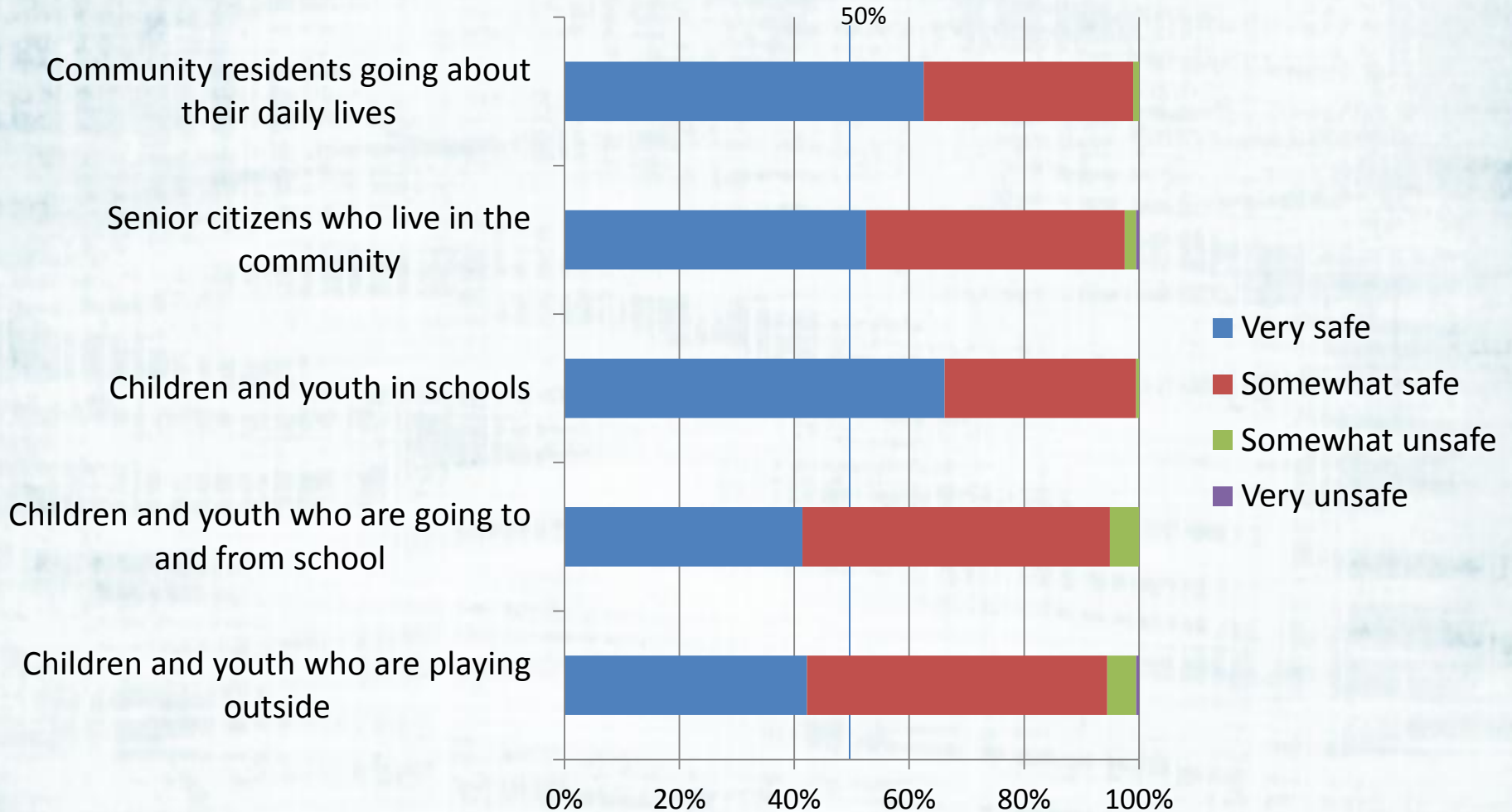
(In order of most likely)

- An elderly neighbor needed someone to periodically check on him or her
- They needed a favor, such as picking up mail or borrowing a tool
- A neighbor needed someone to take care of a child in an emergency
- A package was delivered when they were not at home and it needed to be accepted
- They needed someone to watch their home when they were away
- They needed a ride somewhere

How Safe Do You Feel:



How Safe Do You Feel The Following Groups Are?



Public Service Providers

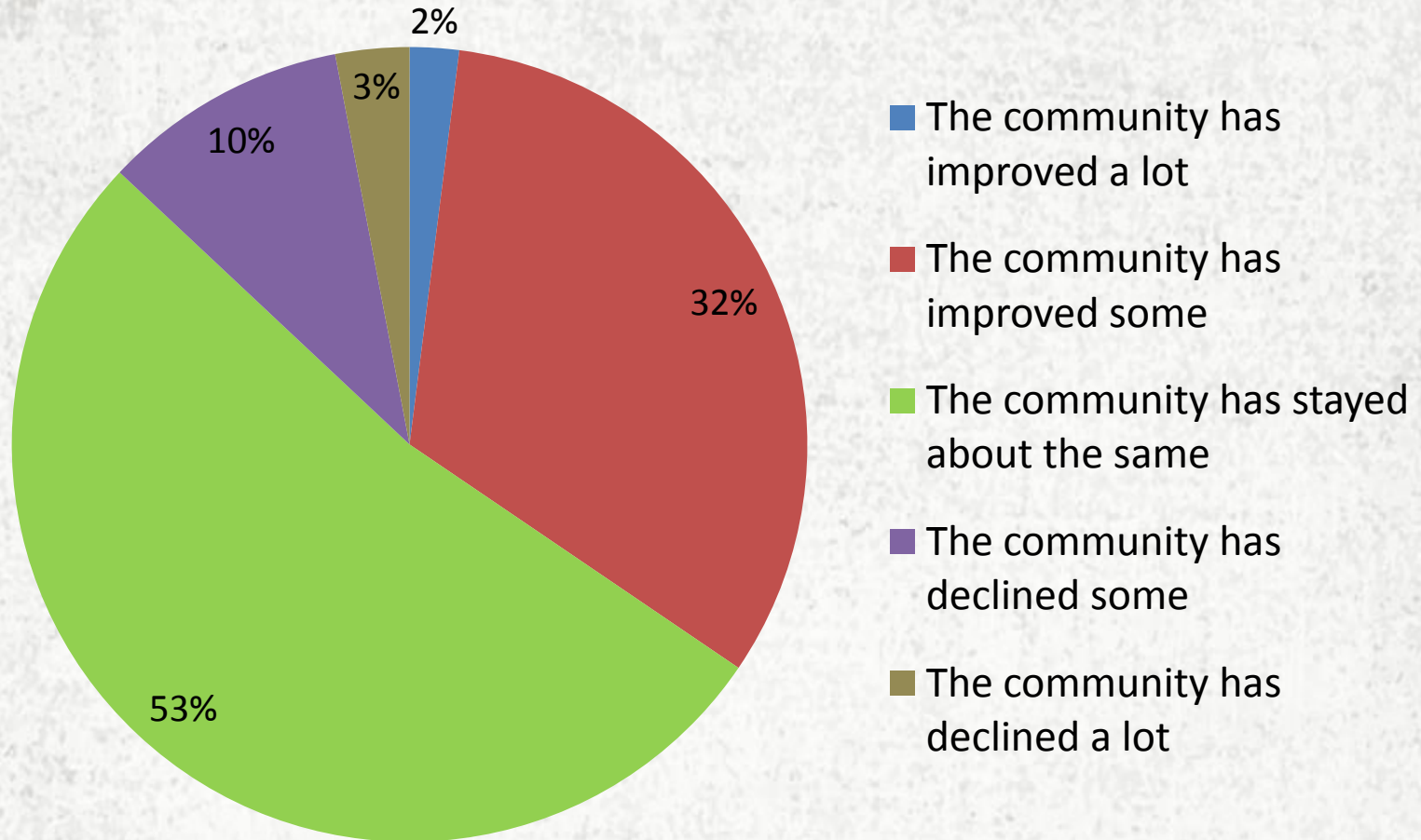
Percent of Respondents that rated the service Good or Very Good:

- Fire – 97%
- Trash – 94%
- Police – 90%
- Ambulance – 90%
- Other (Snow Removal, Street Cleaning) – 77%

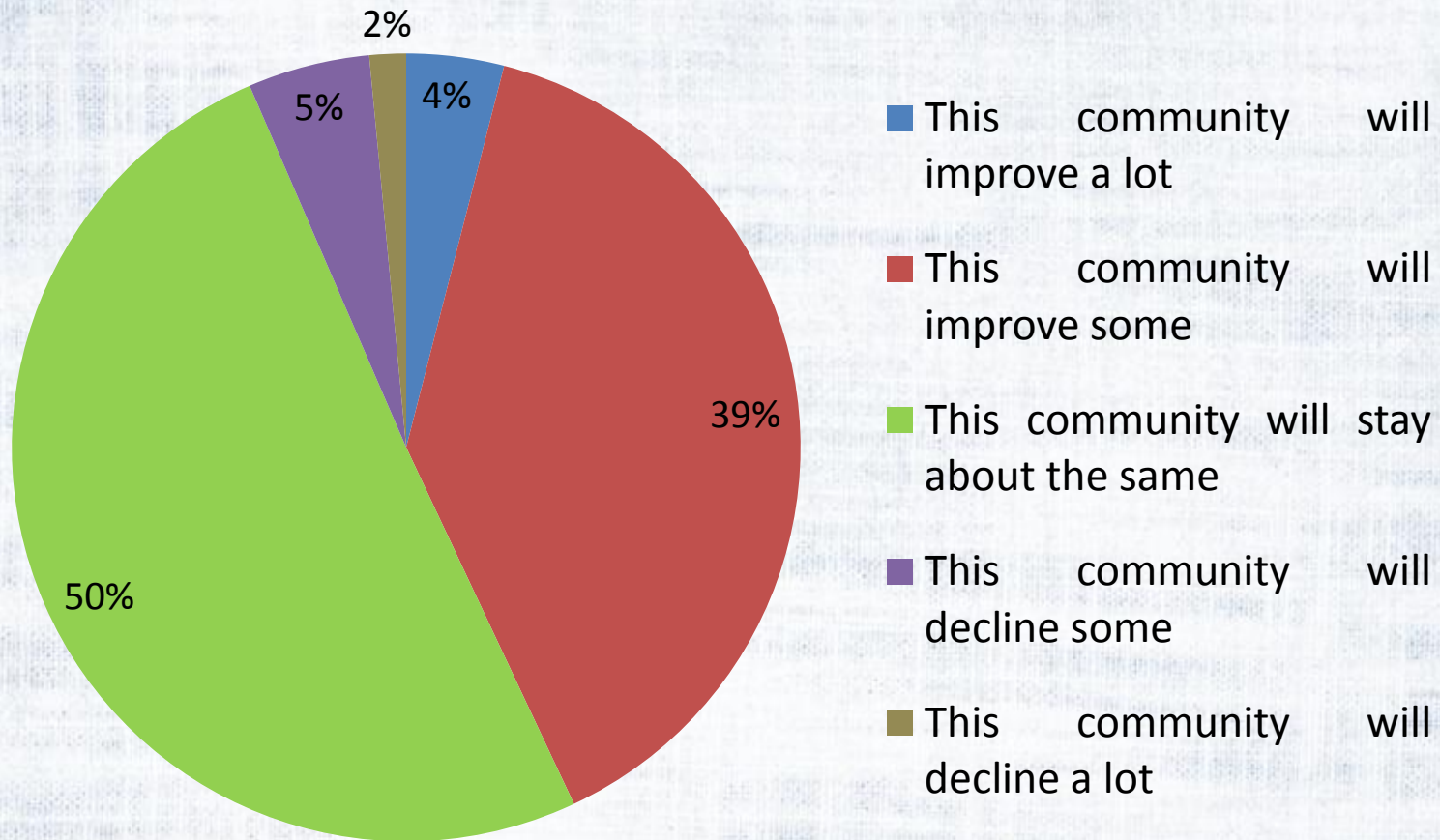
Most were concerned with the response times, especially regarding the effectiveness of snow removal.

Many commented that they were satisfied with the various public services provided.

Change In Past 3 Years



Change In The Next 3 Years



The Reasoning – The Bad

In the Past Three Years:

Declines were felt economically and in regards to safety.

- Some Businesses Closed
- Few New Businesses Came In
- Safety Concerns
 - Drugs
 - Gangs
 - Sex Offenders

In the Next Three Years:

Many pointed out a need to strengthen the economy.

- Loss Of Businesses In The Past
- Improvements Needed In City Government
- Improvements Needed In Communications

The Reasoning – The Good

In the Past Three Years:

Respondents were confident of community improvements.

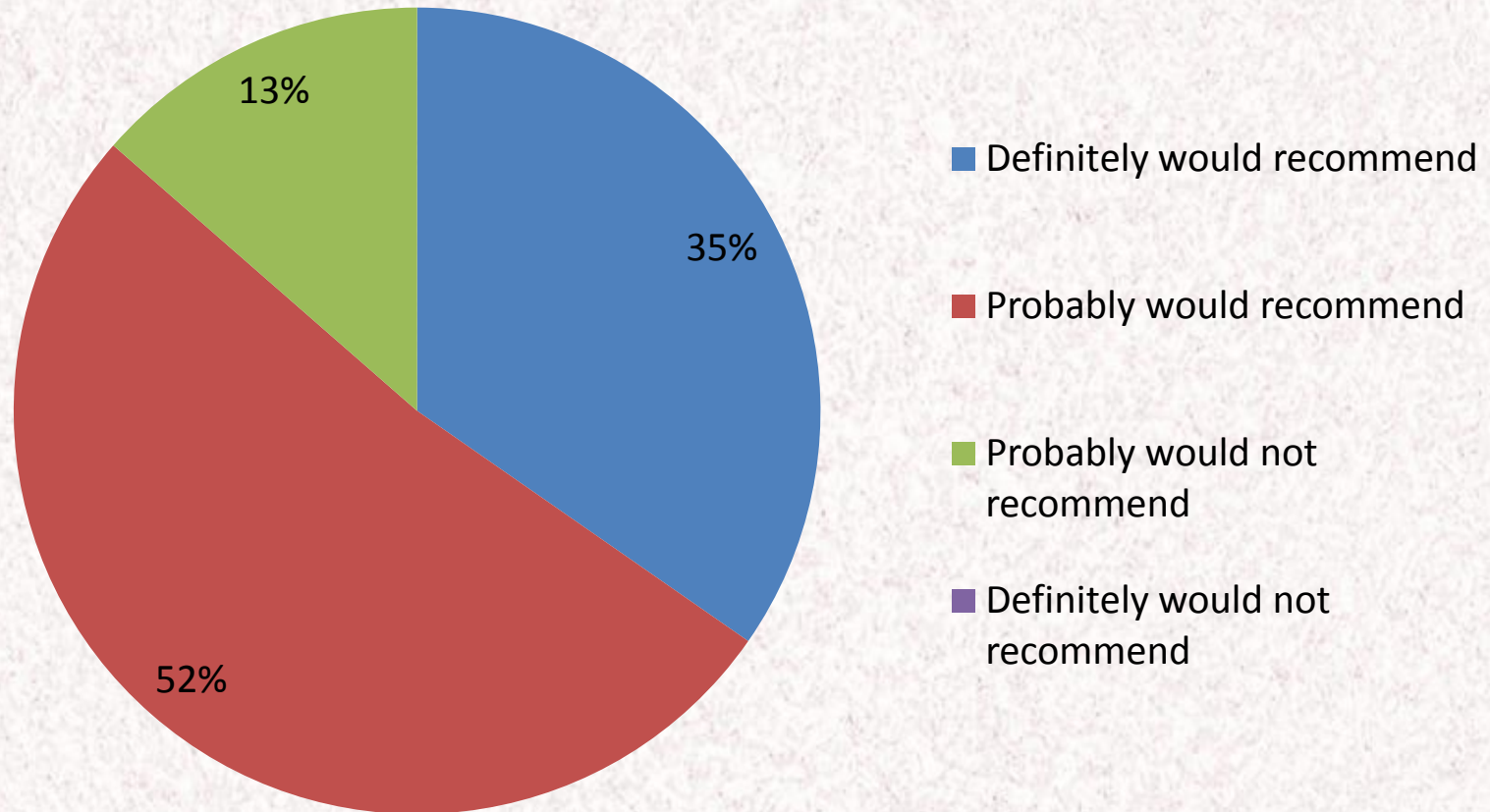
- New Community Center/Senior Center
- Some Streets Were Fixed
- Updated Facilities
- Some New Businesses

In the Next Three Years:

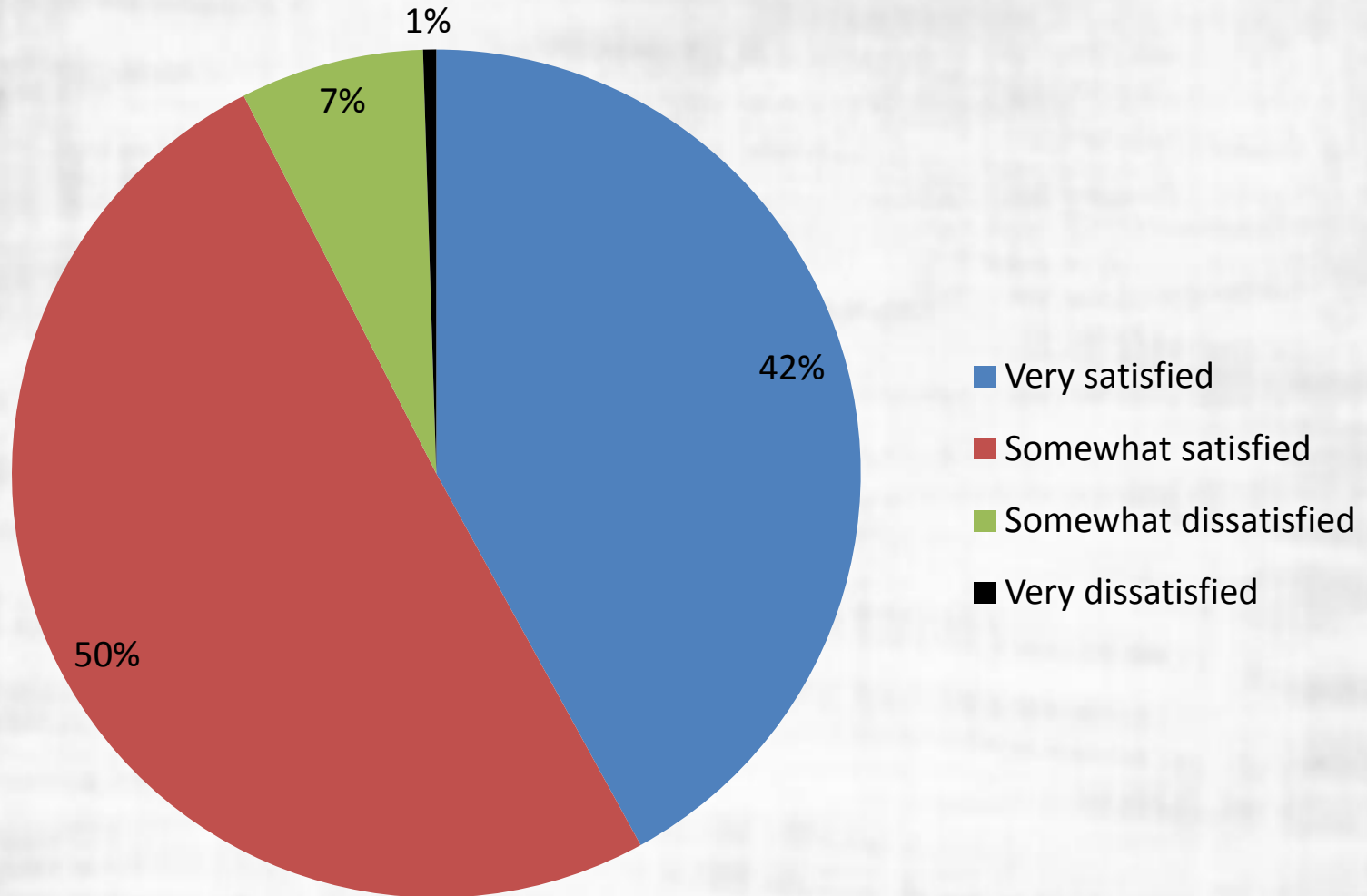
People noted efforts in the past that were likely to carry over.

- More People Are Getting Involved
- Based On Past Reflections
- Hope

Would You Recommend This Community?



Overall Satisfaction



The Reasoning – The Bad

When Considering a Recommendation:

People were concerned about employment opportunities.

- Lack of businesses and industries
- Lack of job
- Lack of activities

In Determining Level of Satisfaction:

Respondents would like more opportunities in the area.

- Lack of businesses and industry
- Lack of jobs
- Lack of activities, specifically for
 - Youth
 - Young Adults
 - Seniors

The Reasoning – The Good

When Considering a Recommendation:

Residents recognize the friendly atmosphere.

- Good community to live in and raise a family in
- Safe
- Small town

In Determining Level of Satisfaction:

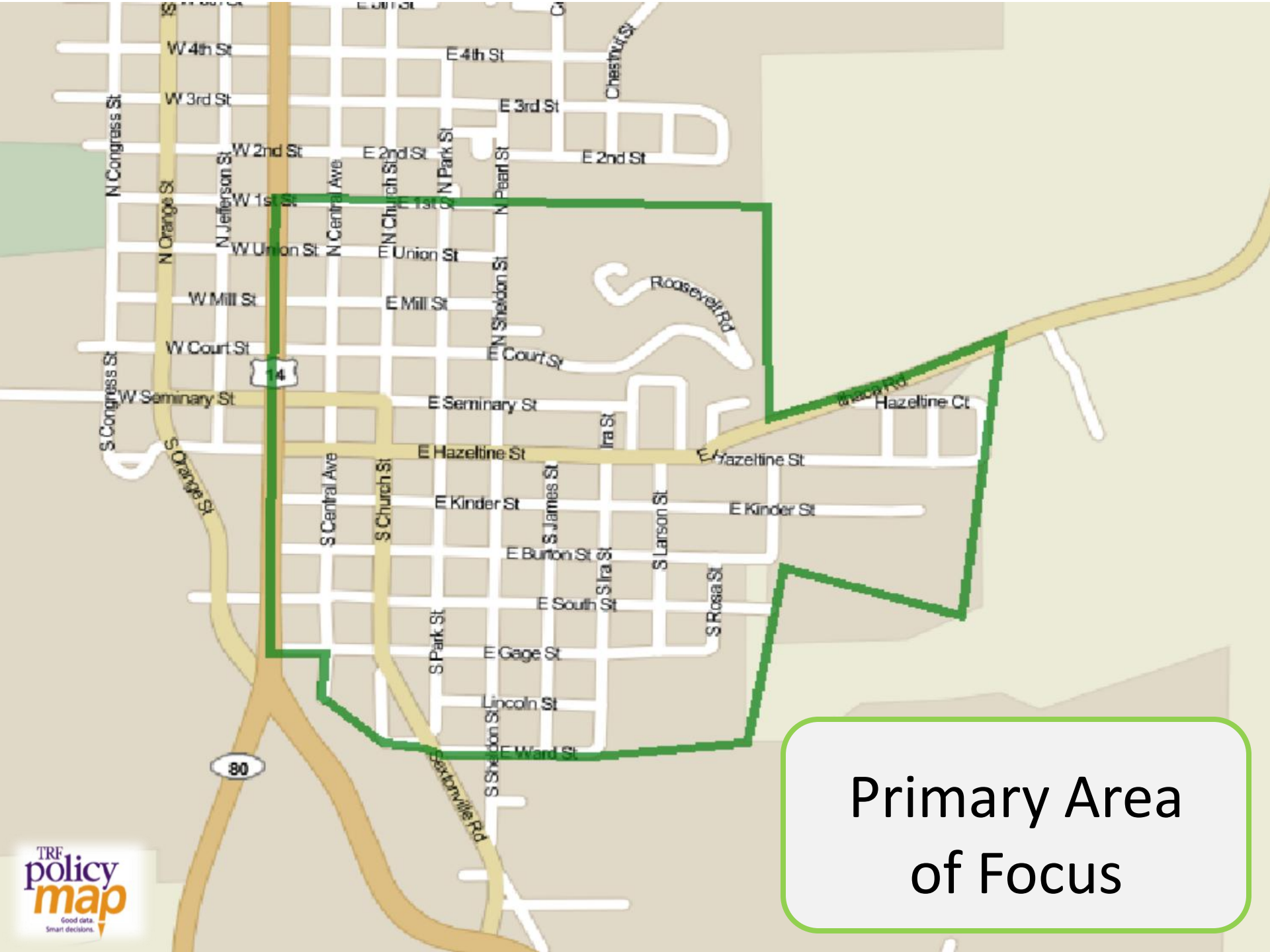
People appreciate the welcoming environment.

- Good community
- Small town
- Friendly

Block Observation Results

In 2013, Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) of Southwest Wisconsin conducted a survey of approximately 54 blocks throughout the Richland Center community with the following findings to report.

- Building usage
- Cleanliness of the block
- General maintenance conditions



Primary Area
of Focus

Building Usage

Most of the blocks were predominately single family homes, and only 10 blocks did not have a single family home on them.

Also found on the blocks were:

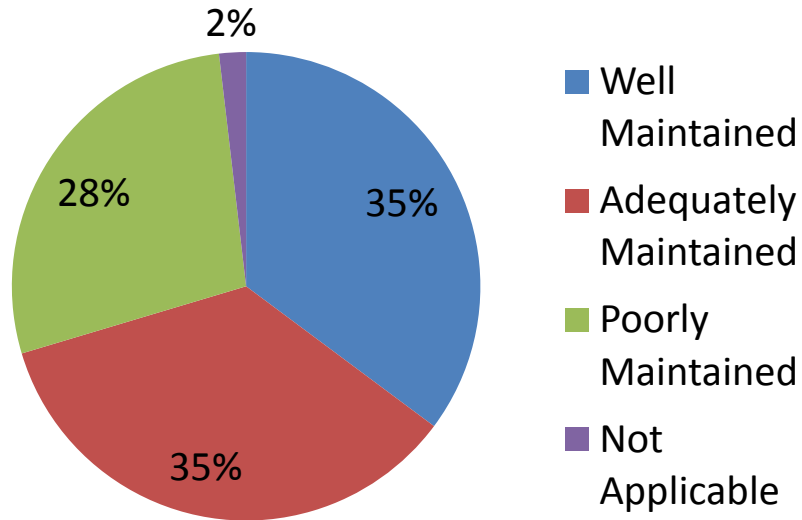
- Commercial/office buildings
- Multiple-family dwellings
- Industrial buildings
- Institutional buildings.

More than 50% of the blocks had most or all of the homes in good condition.

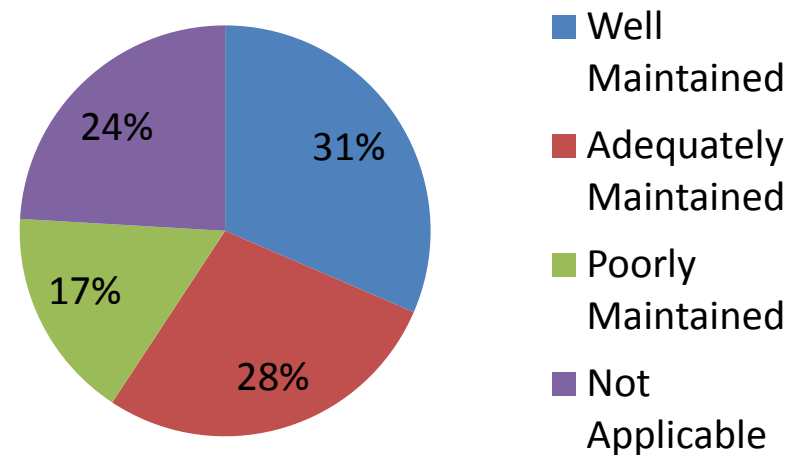
Cleanliness of Block

- Very few blocks had any vacant or abandoned buildings.
 - Only 6 blocks were found to have one or more vacant lots.
- There was no graffiti found on the blocks observed.
- Four blocks were reported to have illegal dumping.
- Trash, debris, or litter was found on 28 of the blocks.

Condition of Street Surfaces



Condition of Sidewalks and Curbs



Conclusion

- We hope this was insightful and that you walk about with a better sense of Richland Center.
- Keep taking steps to improve your neighborhood and community!
 - Get involved in an organization or association!
 - Shop locally! Shop downtown!
Keep the businesses here!
 - Sit down and talk with your neighbors!



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