

REGENERATION/REGENERACIÓN
Pájaro Valley Climate Action

Climate of Hope: 2018

A Community Gathering on Environmental
Changes in the Pájaro Valley





Introduction and Background



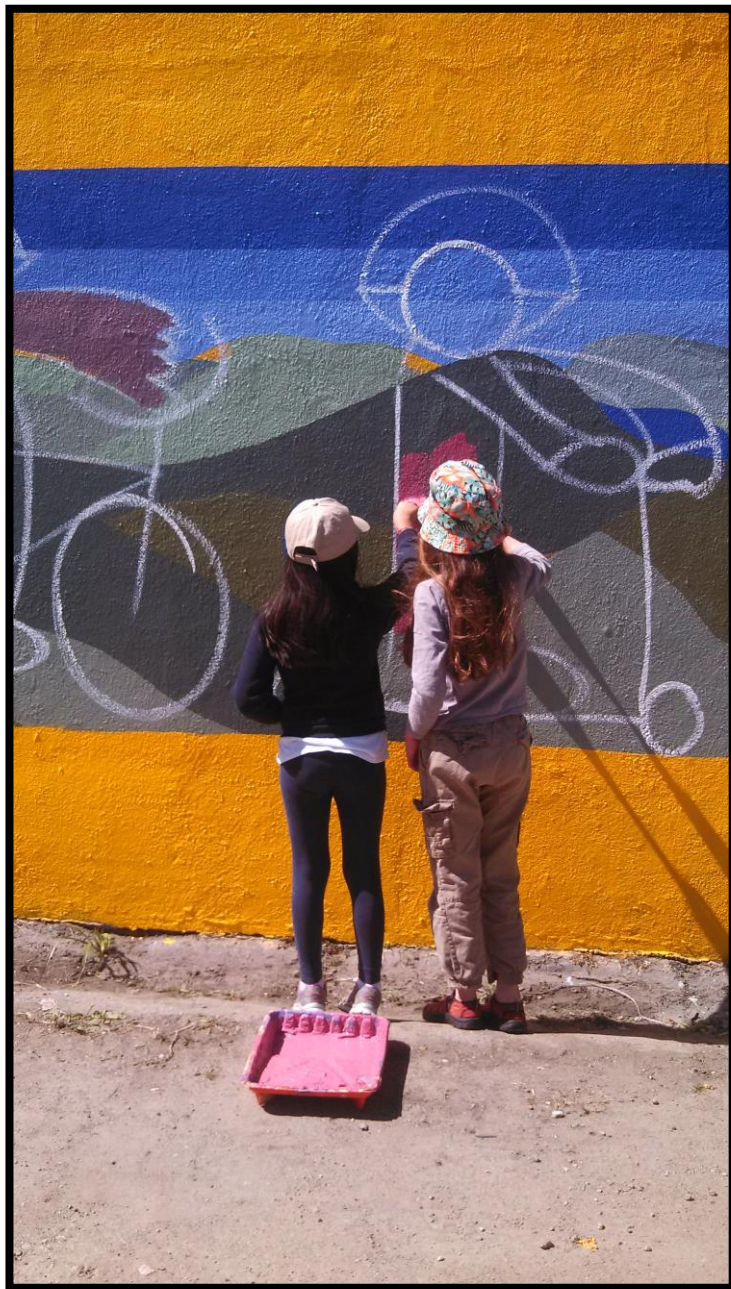
Regeneración - Pajaro Valley Climate Action is working with community partners to empower our community to respond locally to the global challenge of a changing climate.



After forming
in 2016 we
piloted a series
of activities to
engage our
community:



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Healthy Children for A Healthy Planet Festival

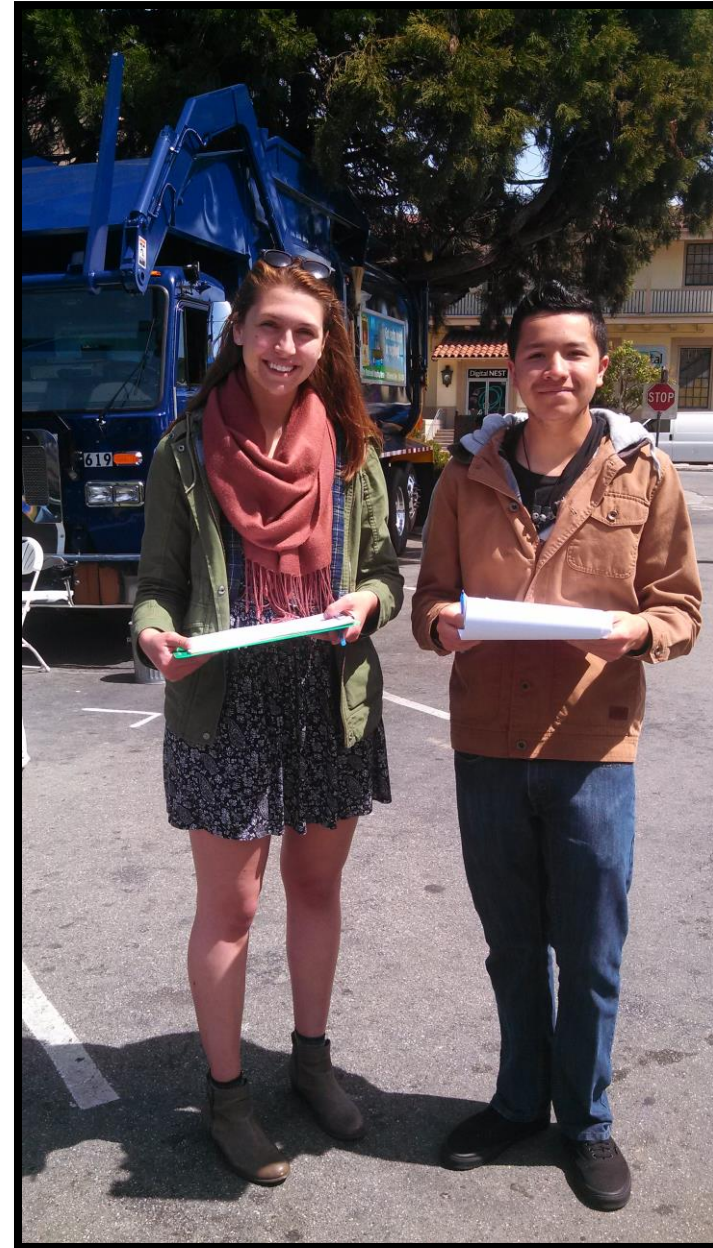


In early 2017 our core team decided to conduct a community based research project in order to find out **how our local community is being affected by pollution and environmental changes** and to learn what solutions people believed would be most beneficial to our community.



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We “took the pulse” of our community with a mini-survey at the 2017 Watsonville Earth Day/Children’s Day Festival and held two community roundtables to solicit input.



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The Community Survey

We developed our survey after extensive research and consultation and hired **Dr. Shishir Mathur**, Associate Dean of Research, College of Social Sciences, San Jose State University to train our survey volunteers and conduct data analysis.





Demographics of Survey Respondents

Surveys
Collected
Online
and
In Person

138
• Usable
Online
Surveys

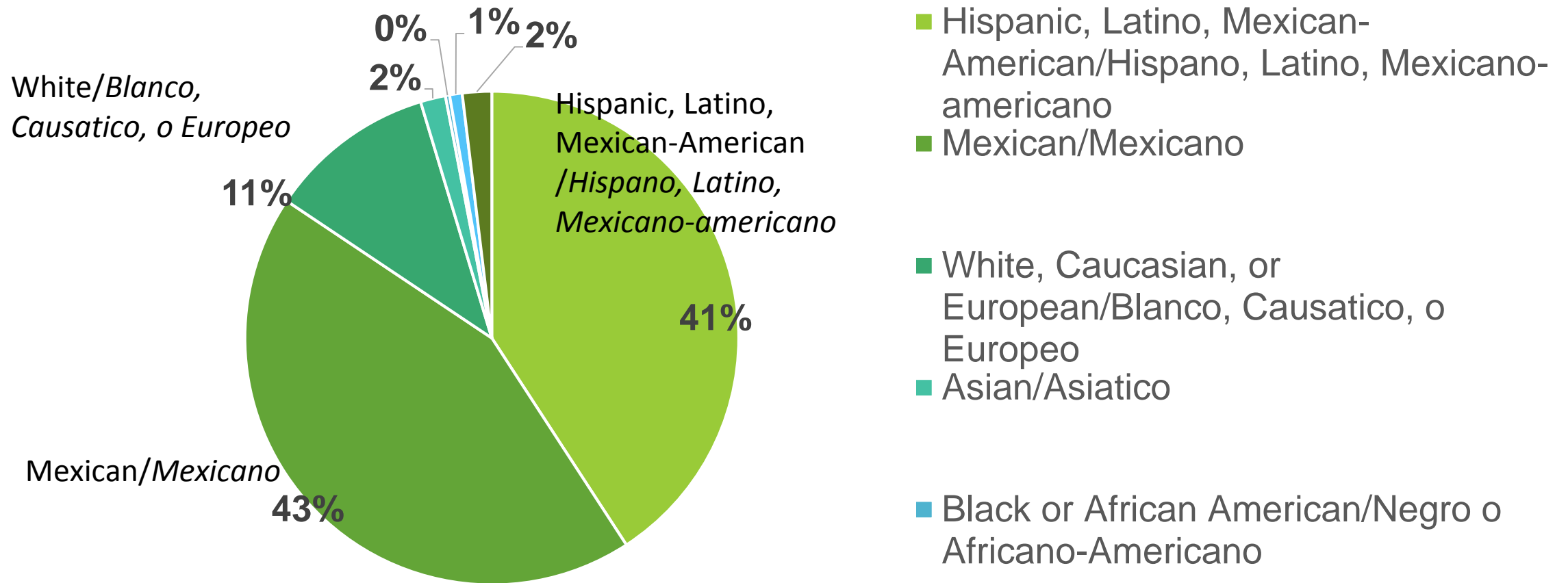


186
• Usable
Paper
Surveys



324
• Total
Surveys

Ethnicity



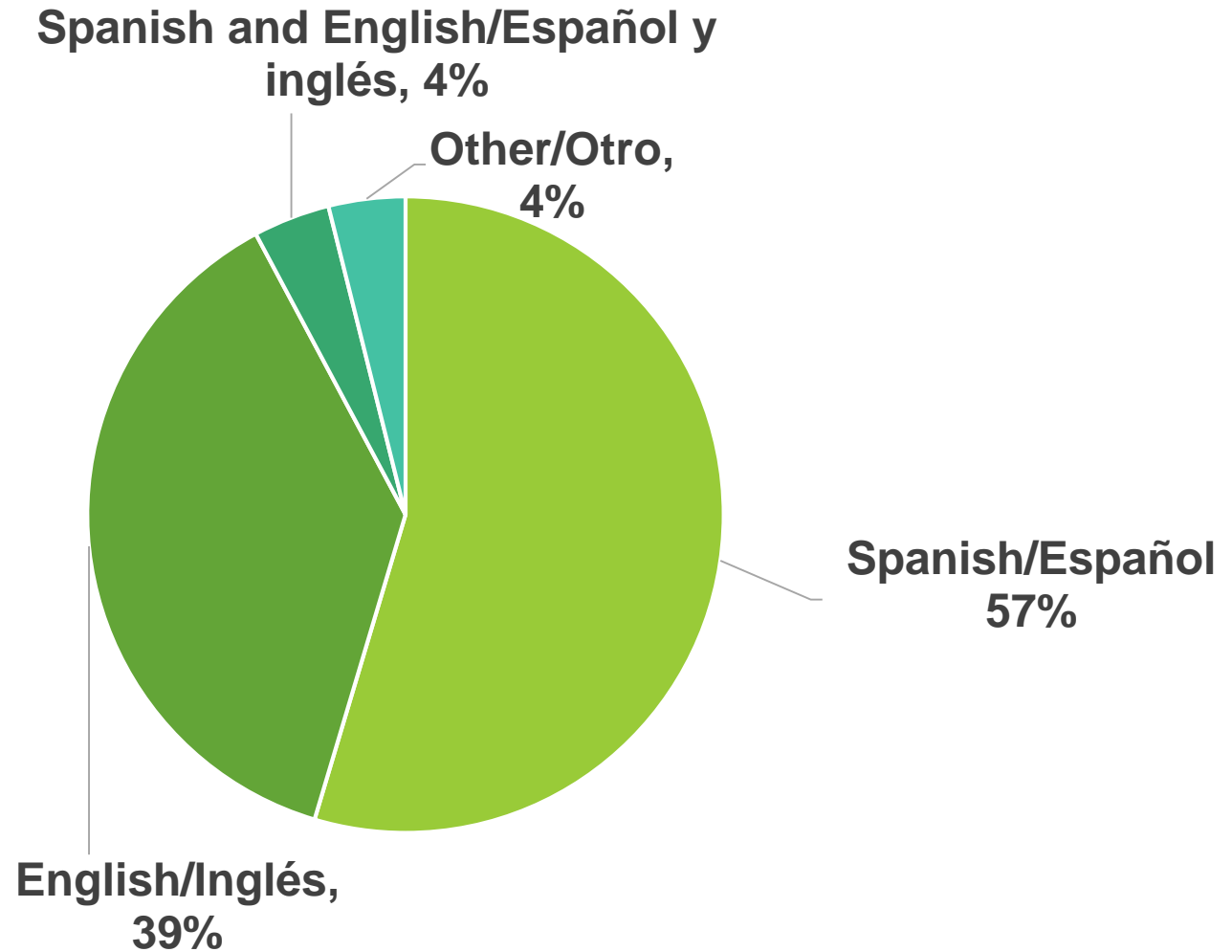
The majority of people identified as either Mexican or Hispanic, Latino, or Mexican American.

Breakdown of Respondents by Language

Language

More than half the respondents speak primarily Spanish at home.

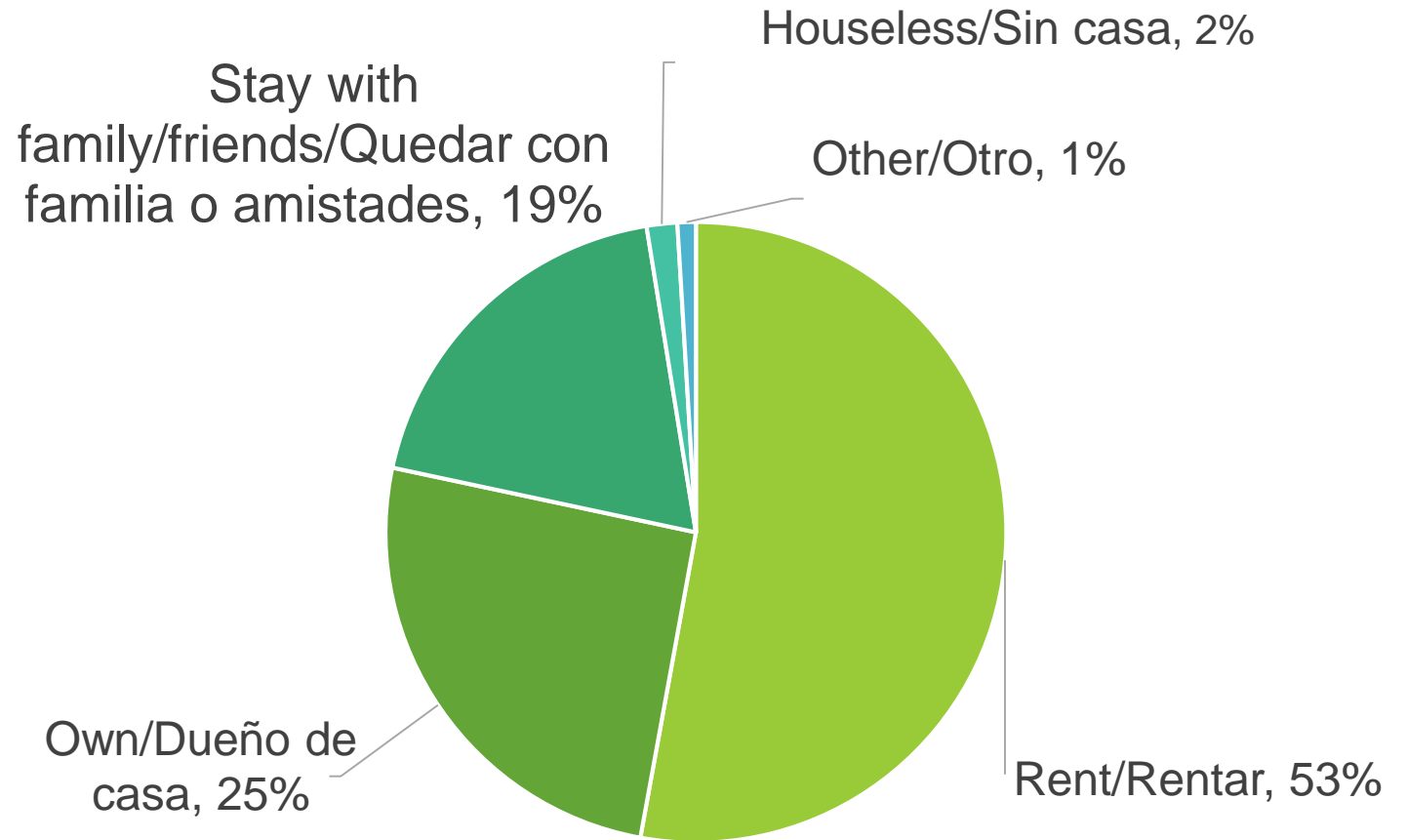
16 speakers of Mexican dialects were interviewed (in Spanish or English).



Housing

Roughly half of all respondents rent their home, one in four own their home. Nearly **one in five stay with family or friends.**

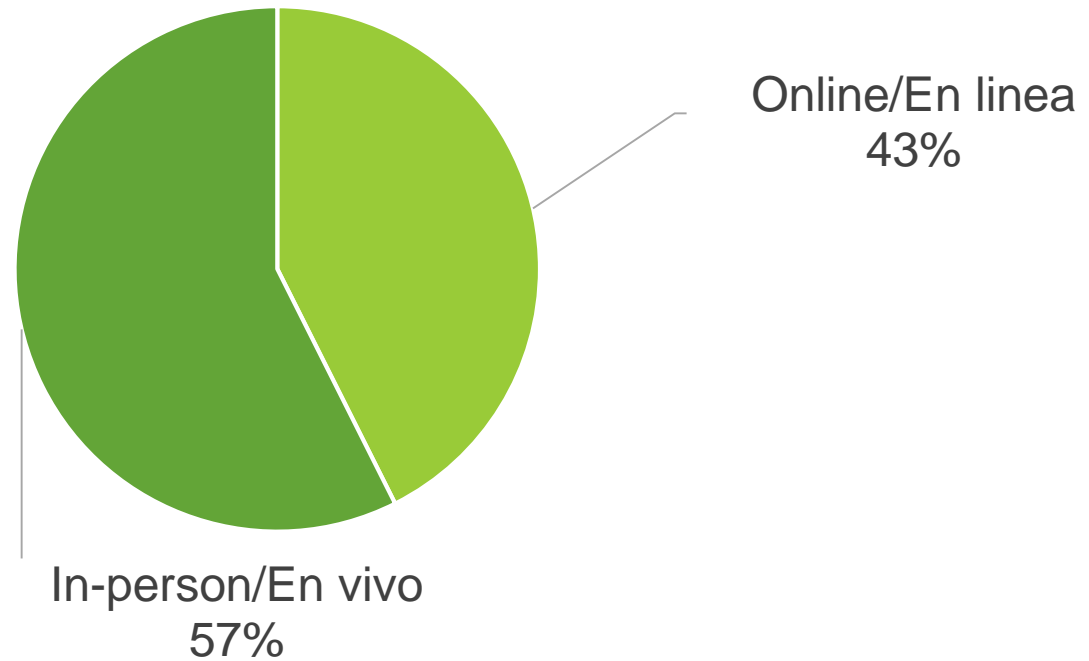
Breakdown of Respondents by Housing



Survey Format

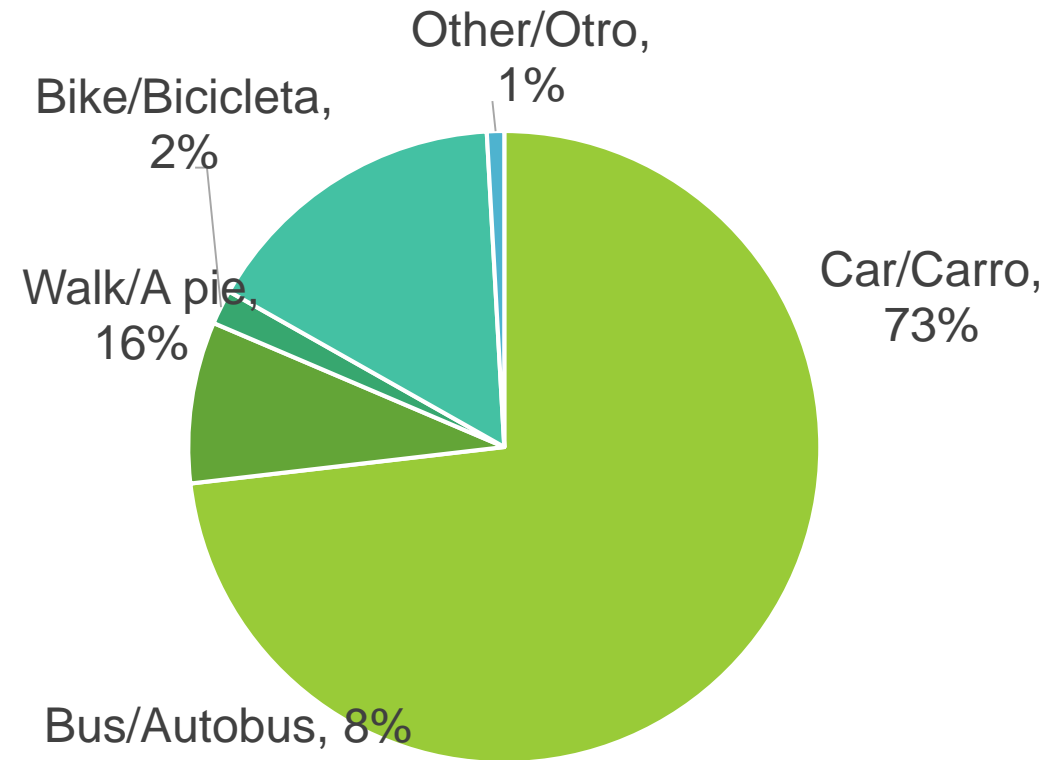
More than half completed their surveys in person, and slightly less than half online.

Breakdown of Respondents by Online/In-Person



Transportation
Nearly three out
of four drive a car
for transportation.

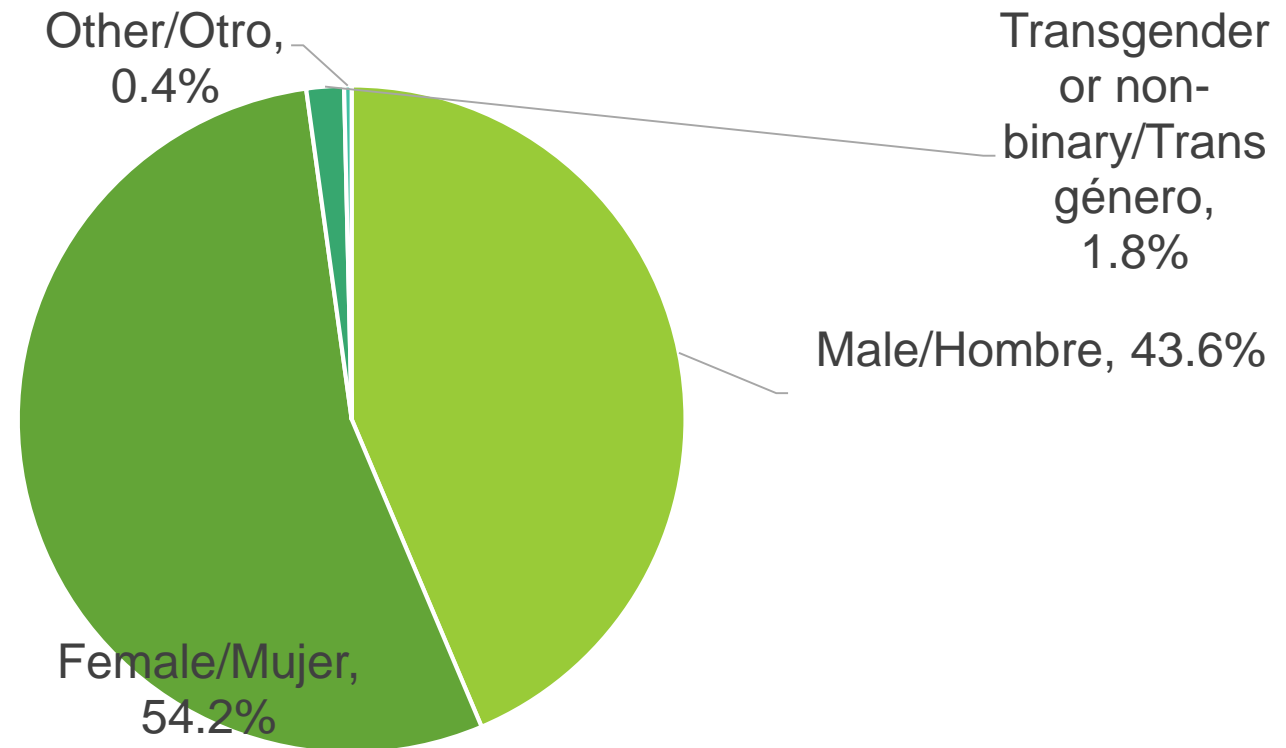
Breakdown of Respondents by Transportation Mode



Gender

Slightly more females than males answered. People that were transgender or non-binary were also represented.

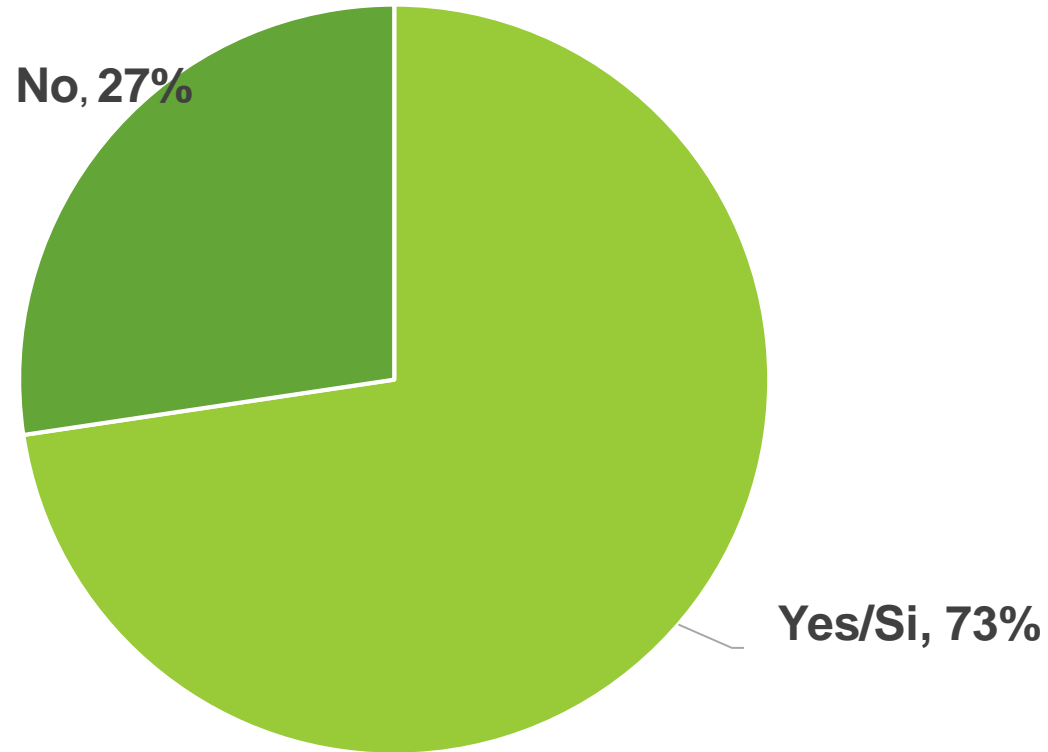
Breakdown of Respondents by Gender



Breakdown by First Community Survey

First Survey

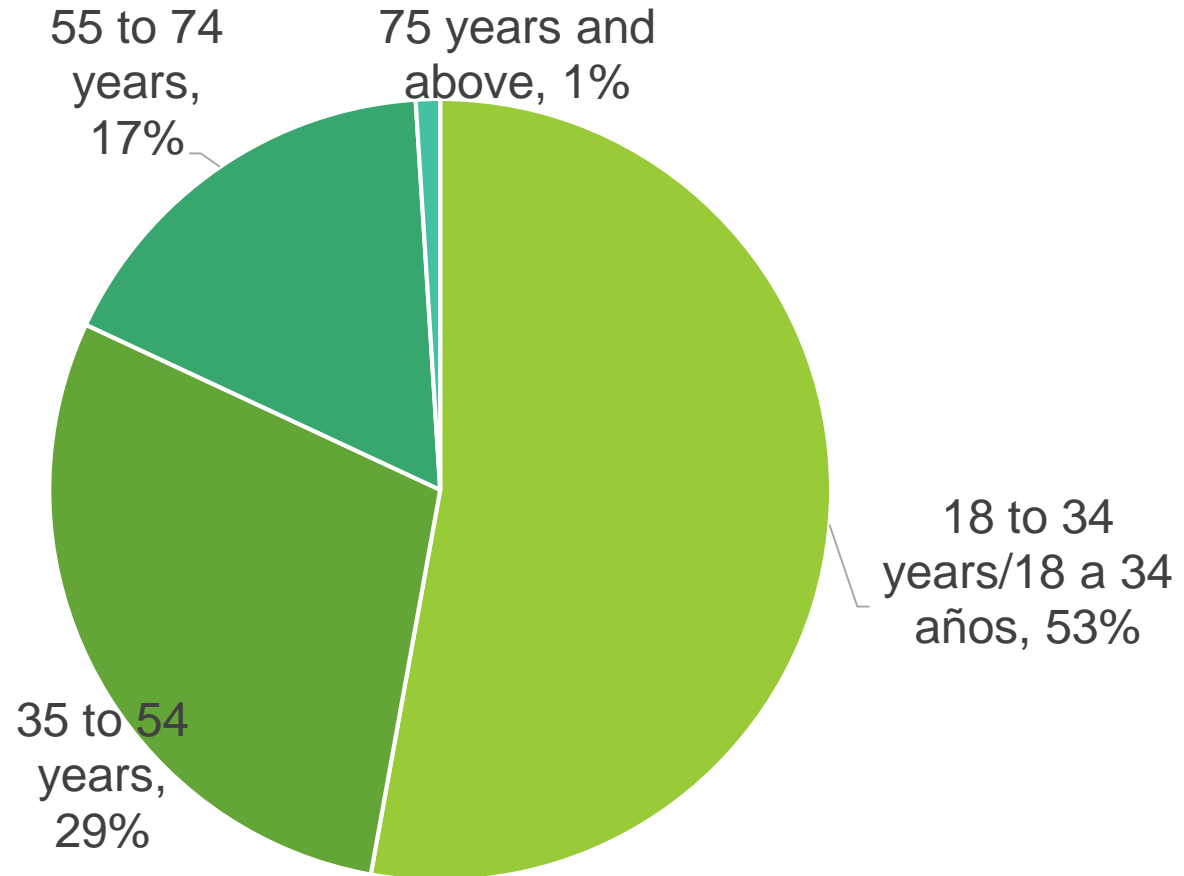
For more than three in four respondents, this was their first survey.



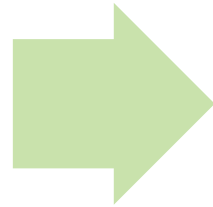
Age

Young adults ages 18-34 made up more than half of the survey respondents.

Breakdown of Respondents by Age



We had good
representation
from adults in
the
community



We want to
know what
young people
think!*

**We could only legally survey adults. However, since climate change will affect the youngest people the most, we know this is a limitation and gap in our research.*



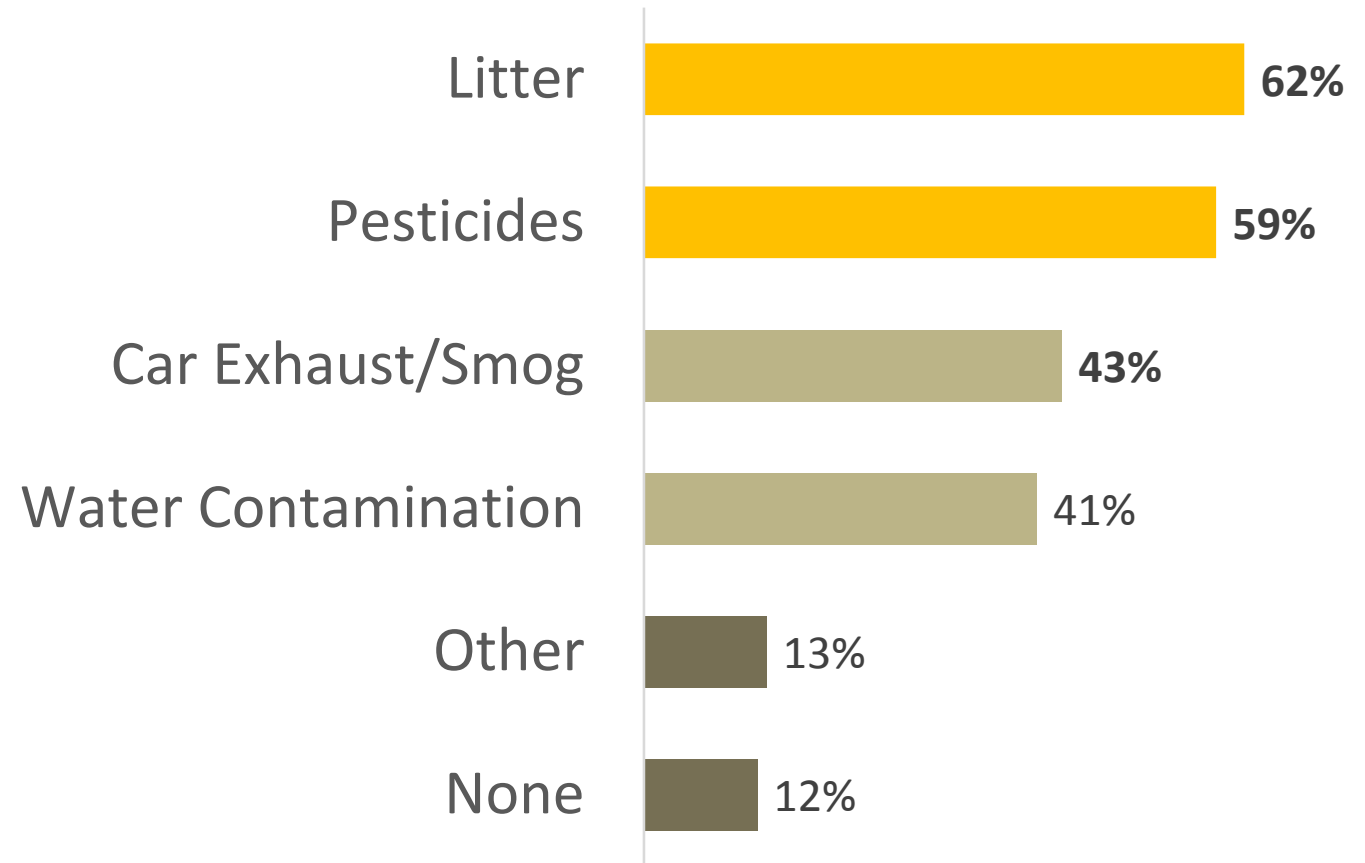
Highlights from the Survey

Key Findings

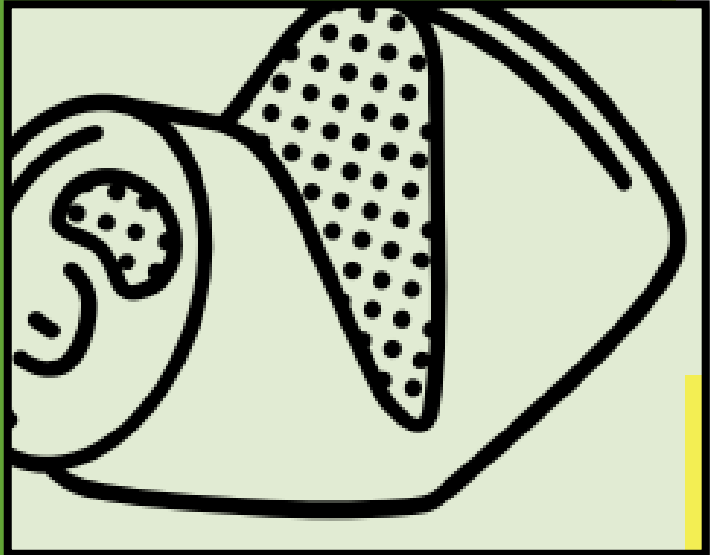
- 1. Environmental Changes are Observed and Experienced in the Pajaro Valley**
- 2. Issues Affect Groups Differently – and Disproportionately**
- 3. There is Strong Desire to Take Personal and Collective Action**

Top Concerns

Litter and Pesticides are the most commonly cited pollution types reported to negatively affect the Pájaro Valley Community.



More About Litter



Litter comes from the over production of stuff - it is a visual clue to something that has gone very wrong in how we live our lives



Litter shows a lack of connection and caring about the environment, including most profoundly a diminished sense of self-worth

Pesticides



“I have many health problems, but I don’t have time to go to doctor appointments because I work a lot.”



“Some people are being affected by having pesticides on food or being sprayed w/ pesticides. People living outside are exposed to elements and when more erratic or extreme, worse for them.”

Pesticides



“When notified about pesticide spraying I sometimes choose not to work because of fear of bringing pesticides home on clothing and bringing poison into the home....I check on the water level for work and sometimes the chemical level is too high for the plants.”



“My child and I get rashes from pesticide exposure.”

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Smog

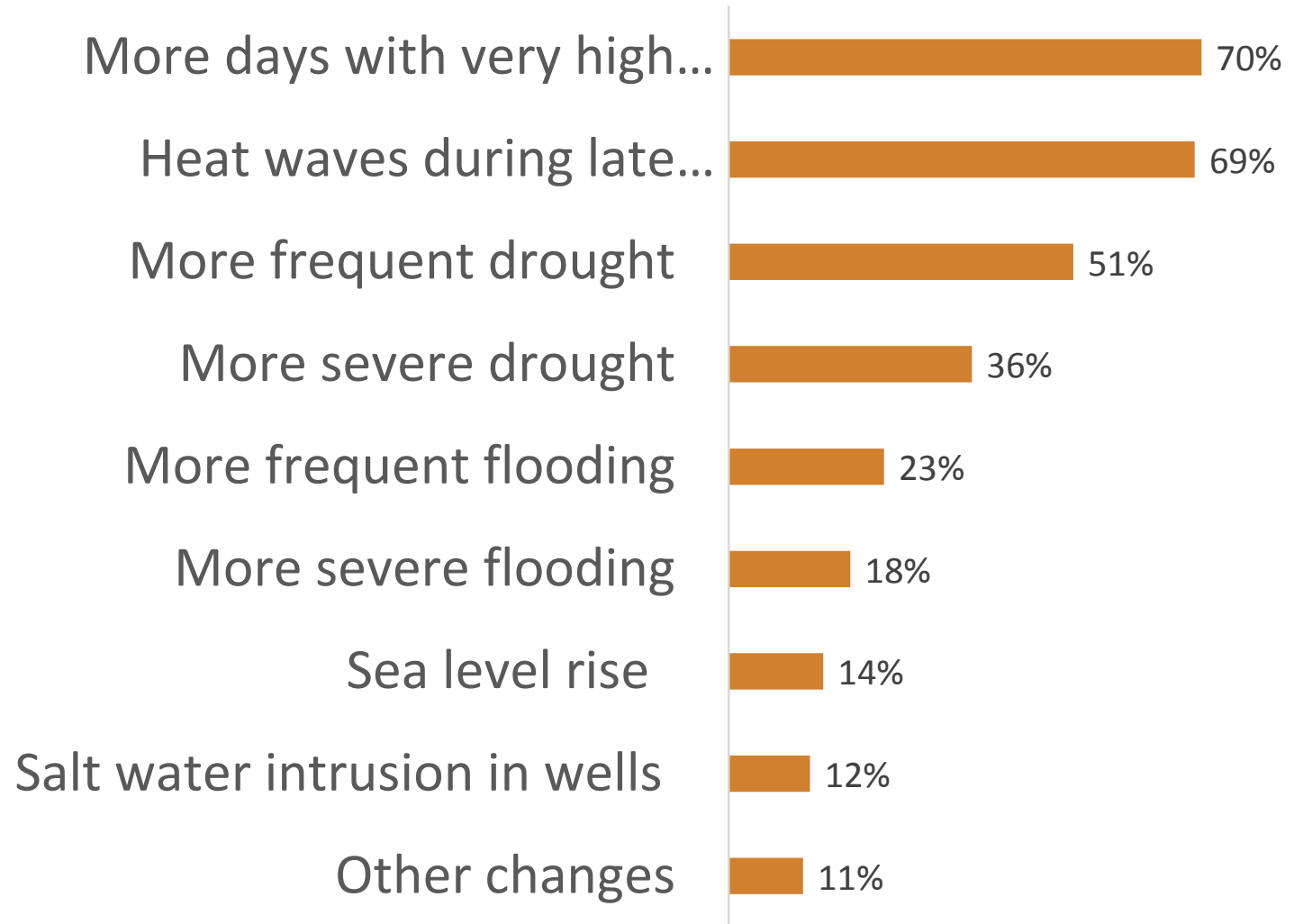


“Due to my cancer, I need to spend more on natural [food] and organic foods. Perhaps I don’t eat a lot of meat, very little, but due to my cancer I have a lot of expenses. Smog is very bad for me. And the contaminated air affects my illness. Honestly, I don’t know how to explain it.”

“My child can’t play outside because polluted air aggravates his Von Willebrand Disease.”

Environmental Changes Experienced

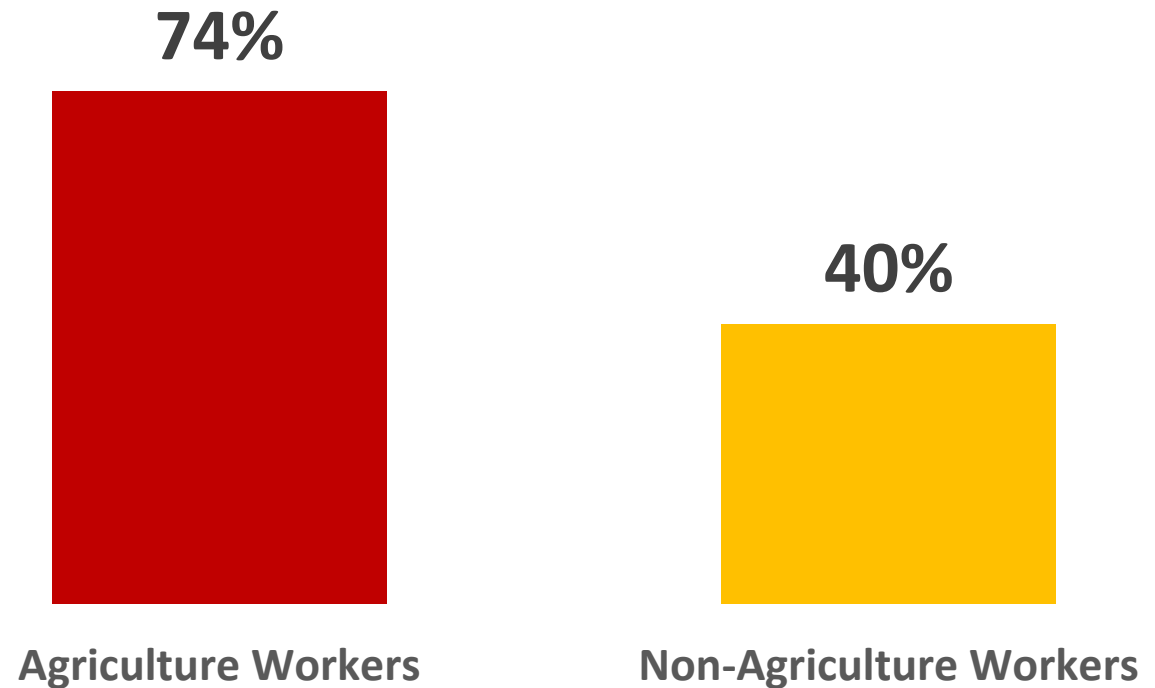
Pájaro Valley is suffering from very high temperatures, heatwaves and frequent drought



Extreme Heat by Occupation

Three-quarter of agriculture workers, their families or neighbors in the Pájaro Valley suffer from extreme heat conditions at the workplace.

Impact of Extreme Heat Conditions at the Work Place by Occupation



More about Heat

“Everyone who’s working in agriculture - farmworkers - is affected more by the heat.”



“Sometimes we can only work 3 or 4 hours; some people faint.”

More about Heat

“The supervisor stops work. If we leave early it means smaller pay check, less money.”

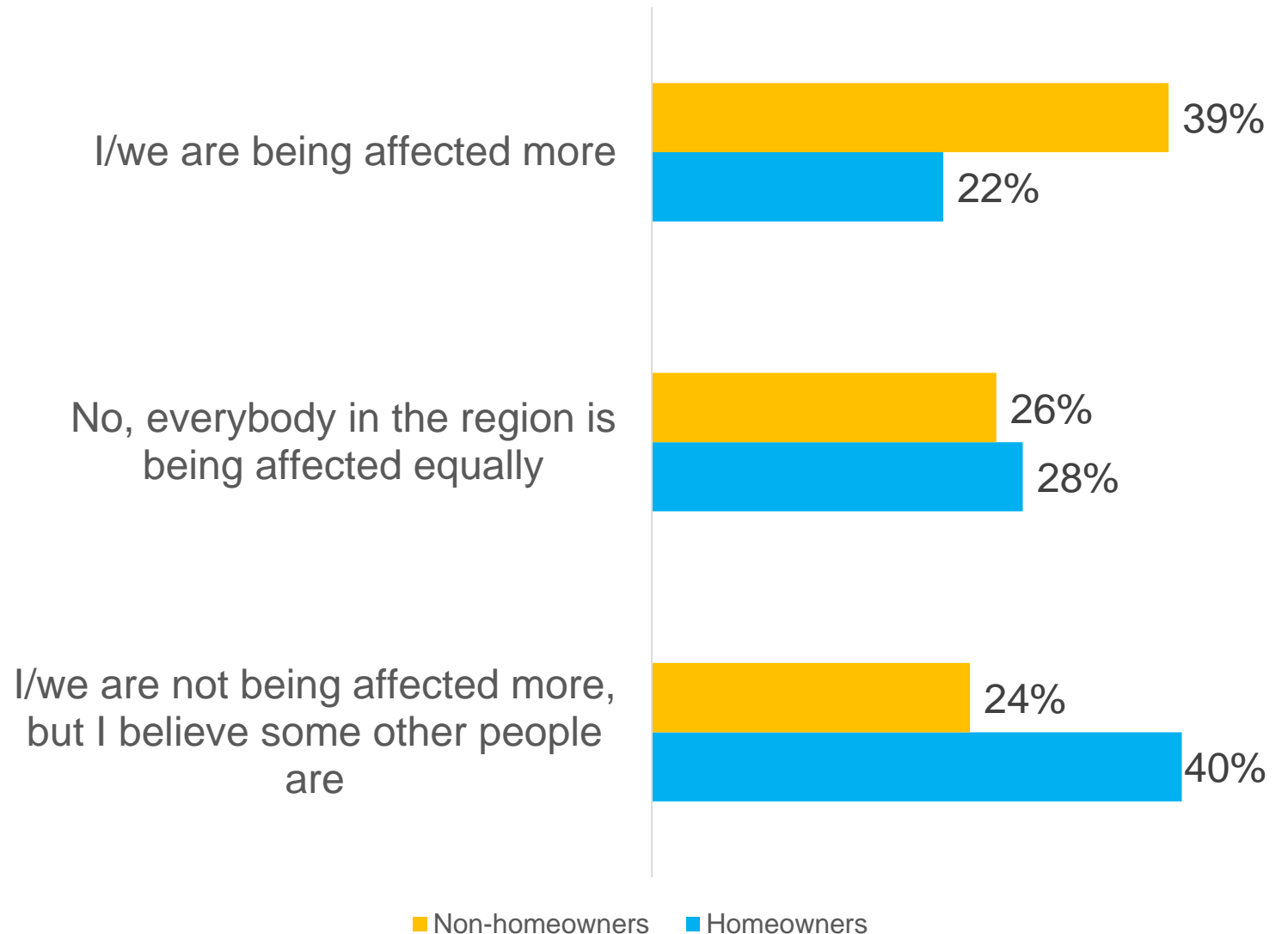
“The classroom temperature exceeds 95 degrees, at times over 100. No AC. Human bodies cannot concentrate and learn at these extreme temperatures.”

“It is hotter in the blackberry rows. It is causing fainting. Stressful days, after that it is cooler.”

People Impacted Most

Compared to homeowners, non-homeowners are more likely to feel they are affected more than others by pollution and or environmental changes.

Impacts: Homeowners / Non-Homeowners

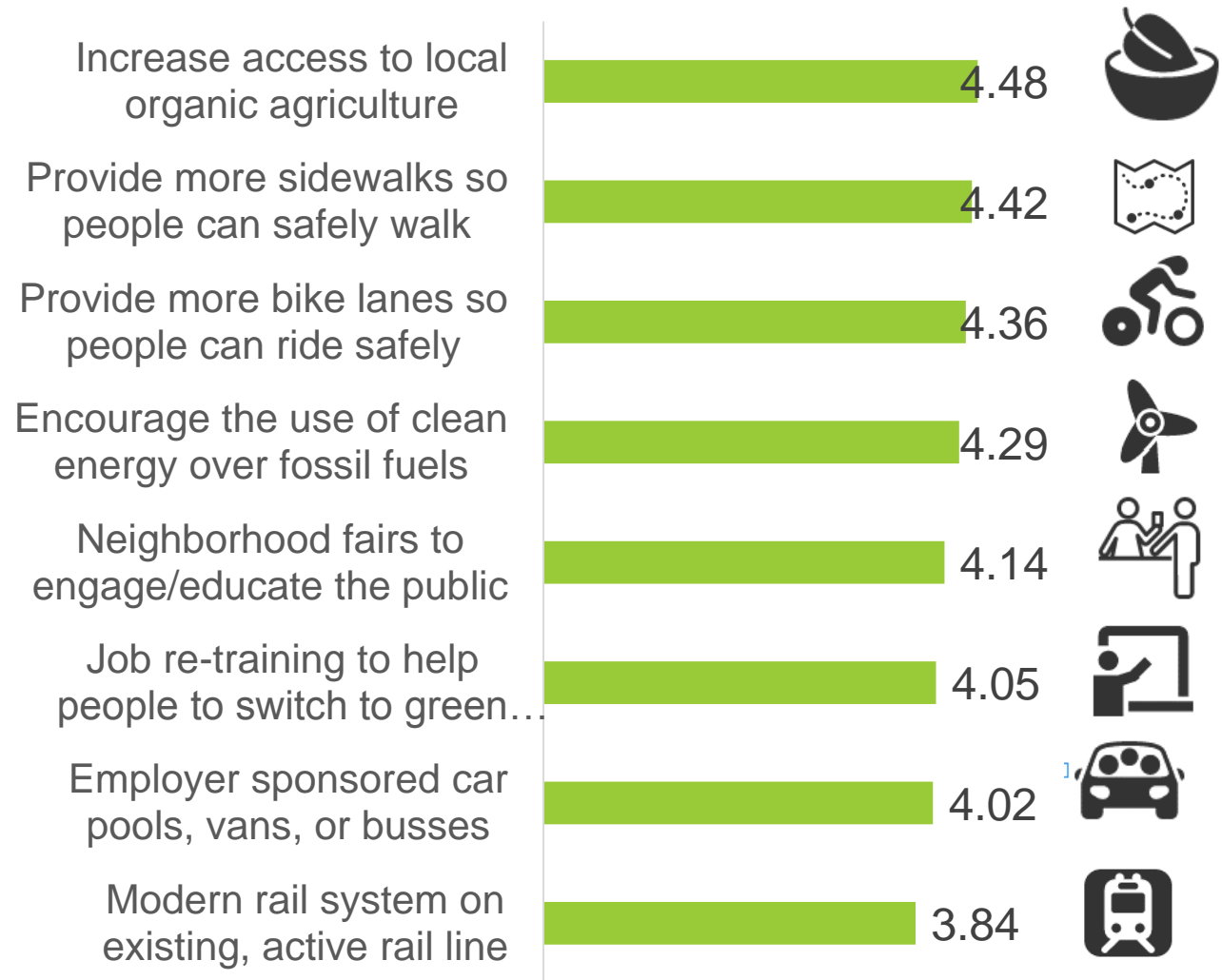




Support for Changes and Initiatives

Initiatives to Reduce Pollution and/or Greenhouse Gas Emissions

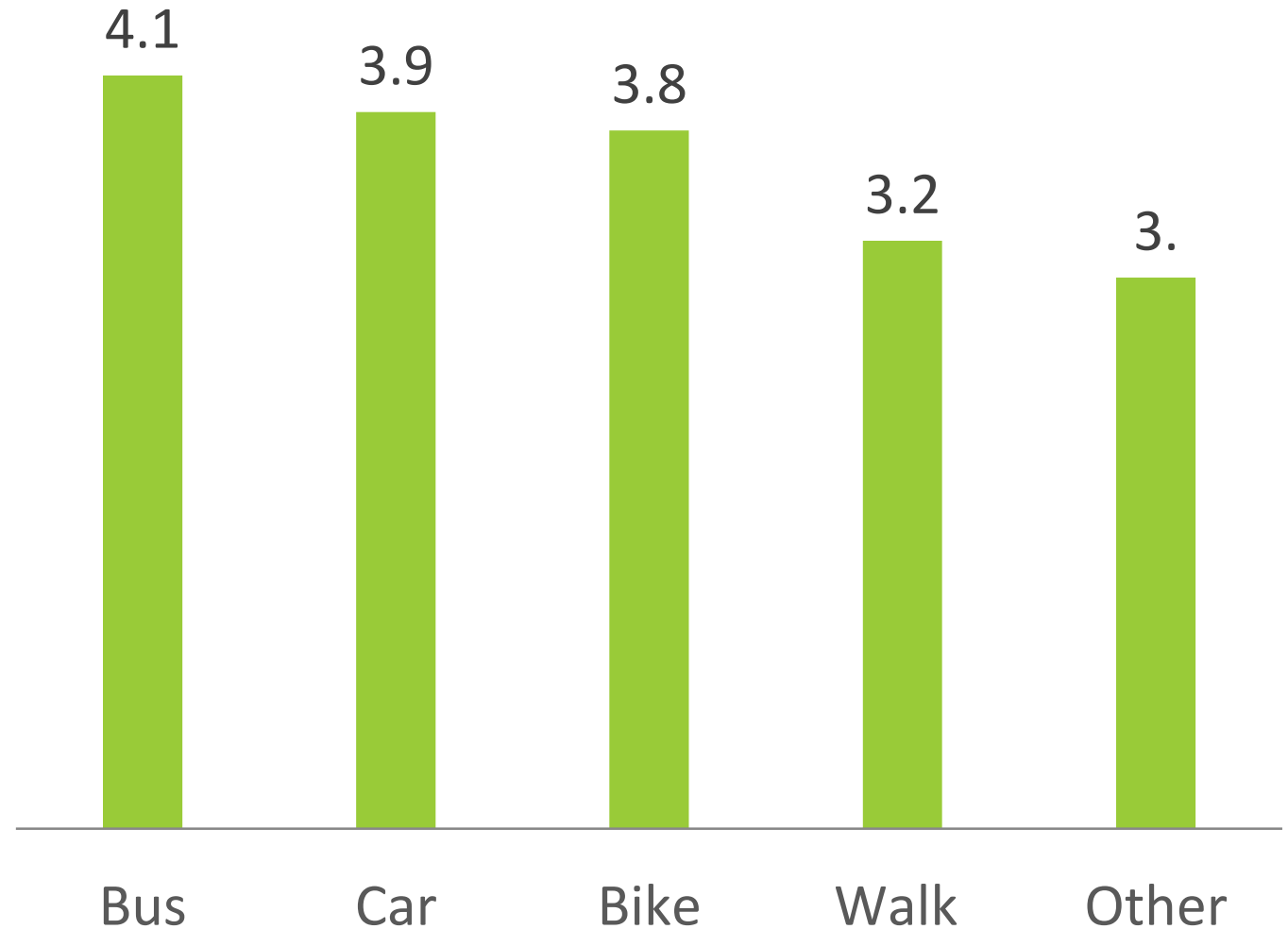
All initiatives were rated positively and with strong support (greater than 4 on a 5 point scale).



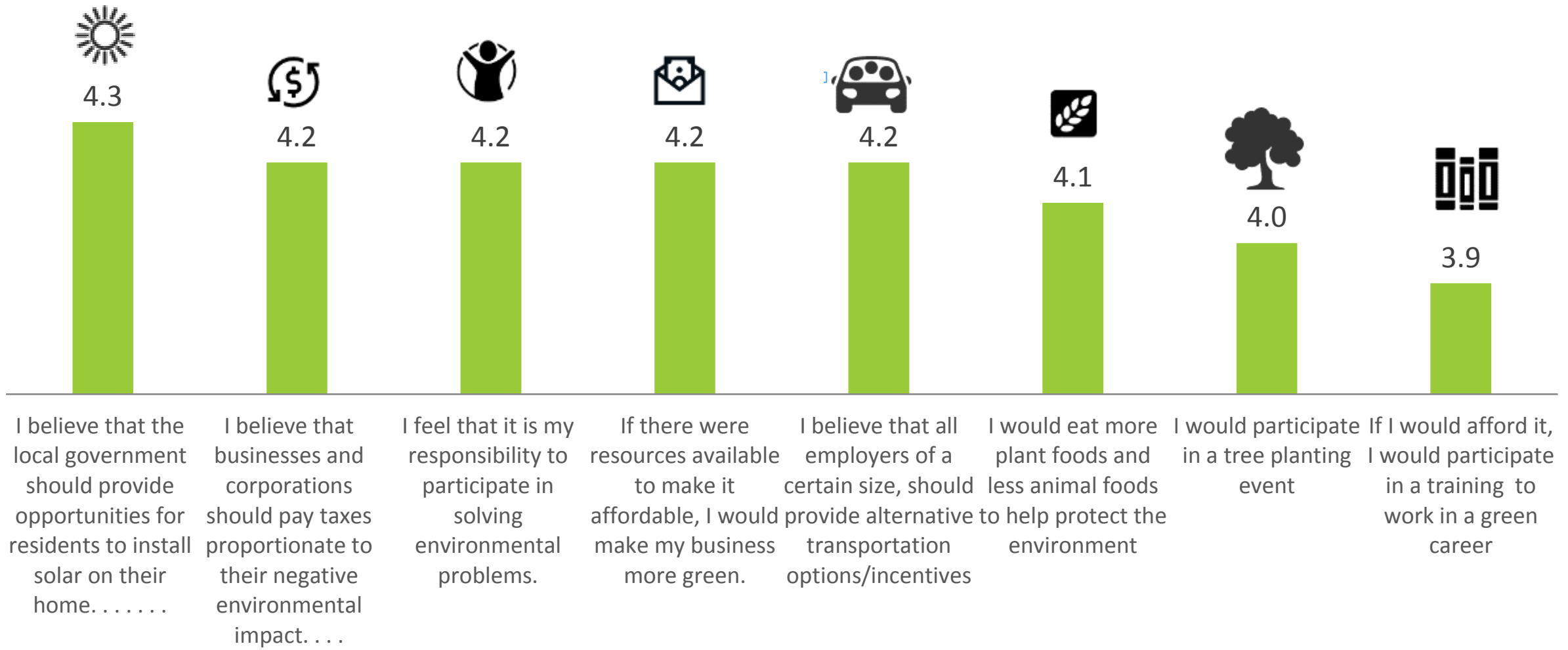
Support for Service on the Existing, Active Coastal Line

Bus riders are most likely to support provisions of modern rail service on the existing, active rail line between Watsonville, Aptos, Capitola and Santa Cruz, with connections at Pájaro to other rail networks by **Primary Transportation Mode**.

Support for Service on the Existing Active Coastal Line
by Respondent Transportation Type



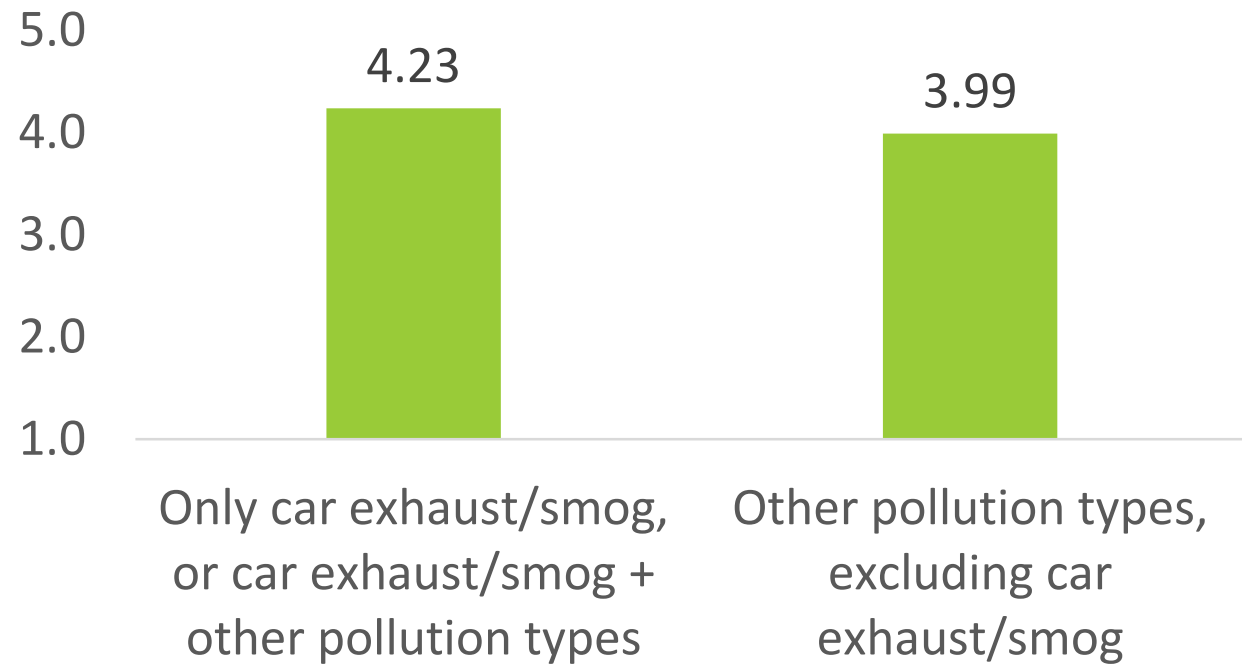
Degree of Support for Various Initiatives to Promote Environmental Sustainability



Employer-Sponsored Transportation

There is strong support for employer sponsored carpools, vans and busses.

Support for Employer-sponsored Carpools, Vans, or Buses by Pollution Type

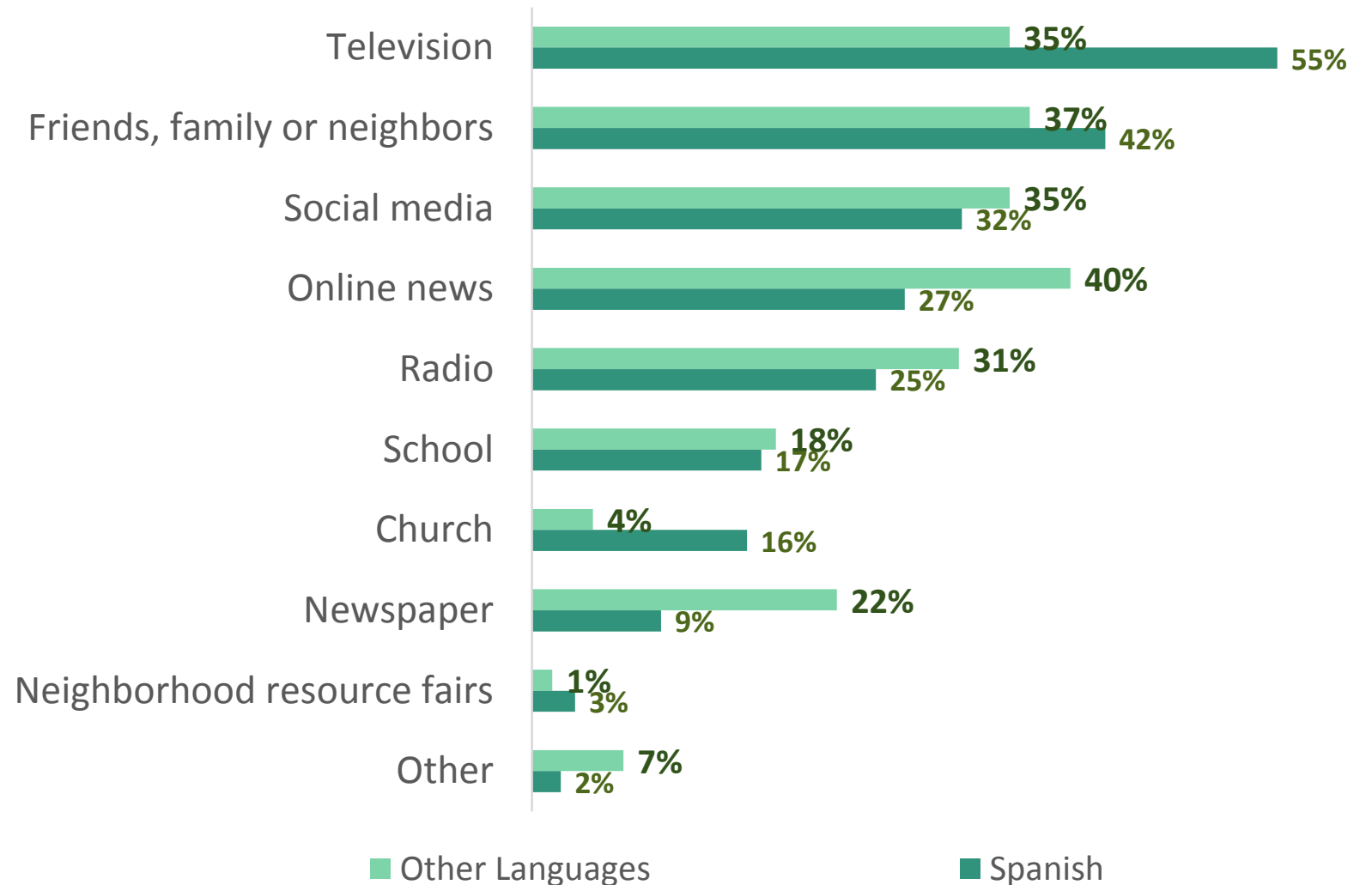


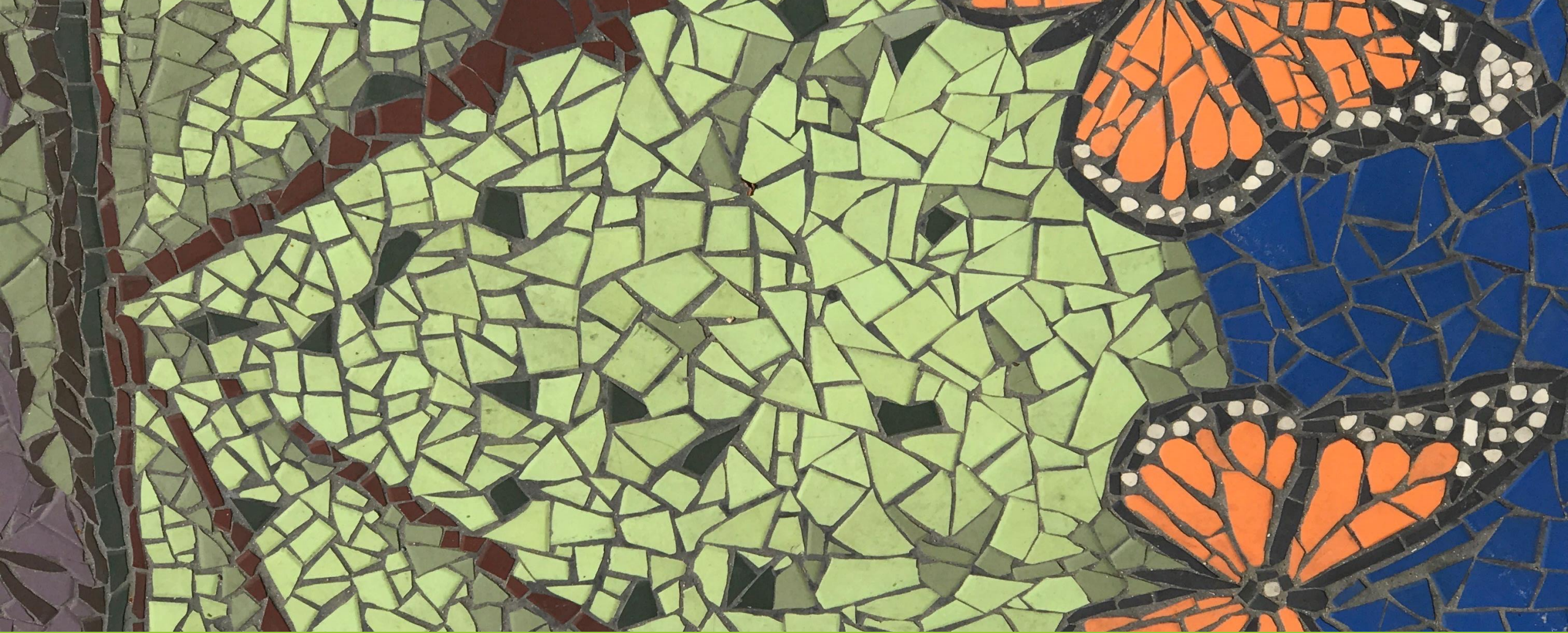
News sources

Television (55%) is the most frequently cited source for those who primarily speak Spanish at home.

For non-Spanish speakers online news (40%) is the most frequently cited source of daily news.

Top Sources of Daily News by Primary Language Spoken at Home





Next Steps

Future Direction & Needs

- **Pose additional questions for further research.** Our data could be analyzed in many different ways.
- **Share our data.** We believe our data will be helpful to many groups in our community as organizations seek grants or conduct more research.
- **Attract resources.** We need funding to complete a longer written report and will be seeking funding to begin projects or campaigns chosen from survey results.



Reflections

Contact Information

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