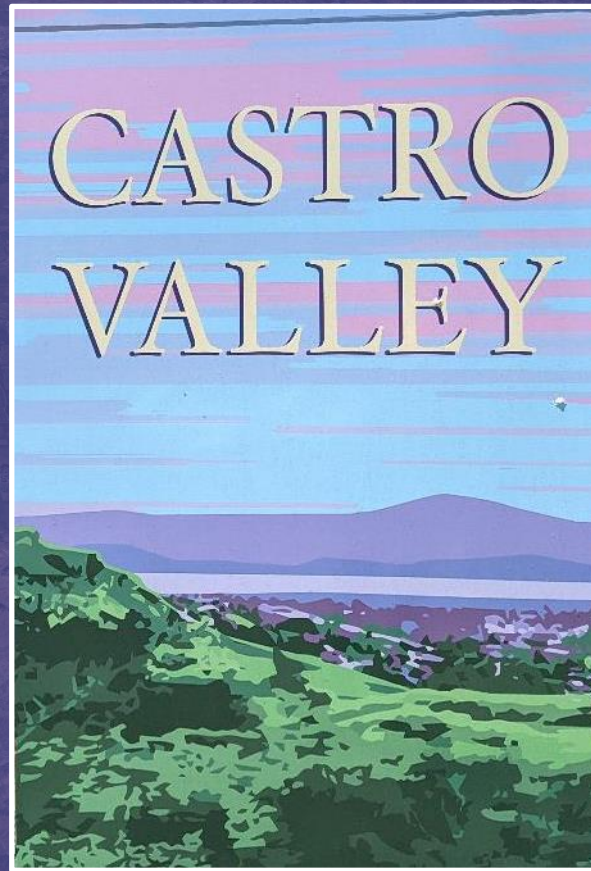


Alameda County EJ Element

ACHCC EJ Bucket Meeting #7



July 21, 2022



Welcome and Introductions



Agenda

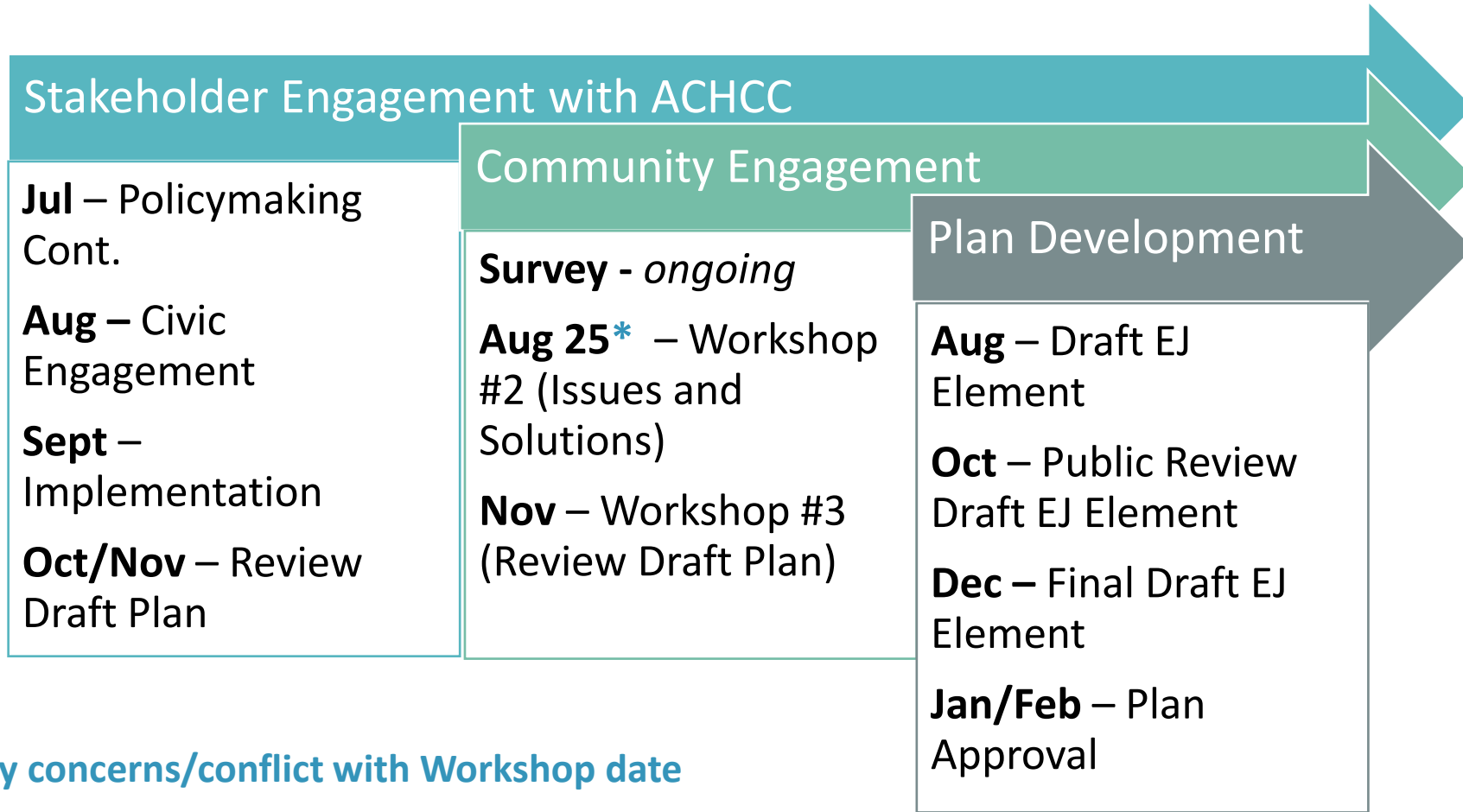
1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Project Update and Process
3. Summary of Community Comments
4. MURAL Board Refresher
5. Breakouts: Community Feedback & Policymaking
6. Report-out from Breakouts
7. Next Steps



Workplan Process & Schedule



Workplan Process and Schedule



* Email Ali with any concerns/conflict with Workshop date

Community Outreach Process and Results

- Community Survey – Posted May 5th in English and Spanish
 - 14 English responses
 - 17 Spanish responses
- Workshop #1 – May 19th ; 68 registered, 57 total attendees
 - Advertised through MACs, ACHCC, Community Events, TVHC
 - Workshop included polling questions for each EJ topic



Summary of Community Input

3



Pollution

NO PARKING
12:00 - 2:00
THURSDAY

Community Comments and Zoom Poll

- *The majority of the participants have or know someone who has had respiratory infections, such as **asthma, heart disease and/or lung cancer.**
- ***“Many children have asthma.** My children get sick easily and often complain about not being able to breathe.”
- More than 75% of participants reported routinely seeing **diesel trucks** where they live, work, or play.
- There is concern that the conversation about **air pollution from the trucks on the freeways** that Supervisor Miley had with Oakland and San Leandro did not include the unincorporated communities. **“There needs to be a focus on us, not just East and West Oakland.”**
- **“Trucks have never been allowed on 580;** exclusion of trucking was part of the legislation that created that freeway. **We would absolutely be damaged** by the opening of 580 to completely encircle Ashland with diesel particulate matter.”
- ***“Please protect trees and educate the public** on the importance of large city trees for cleaning up pollution and shade!”
- **“There is loud noise** from the train.”
- ***“People throw out and abandon cars, furniture, and mattresses.”**
- ***“Cigarette and marijuana buds** are found on the streets.”
- ***“Please help keep the streets clean, there is a lot of trash** on them.”

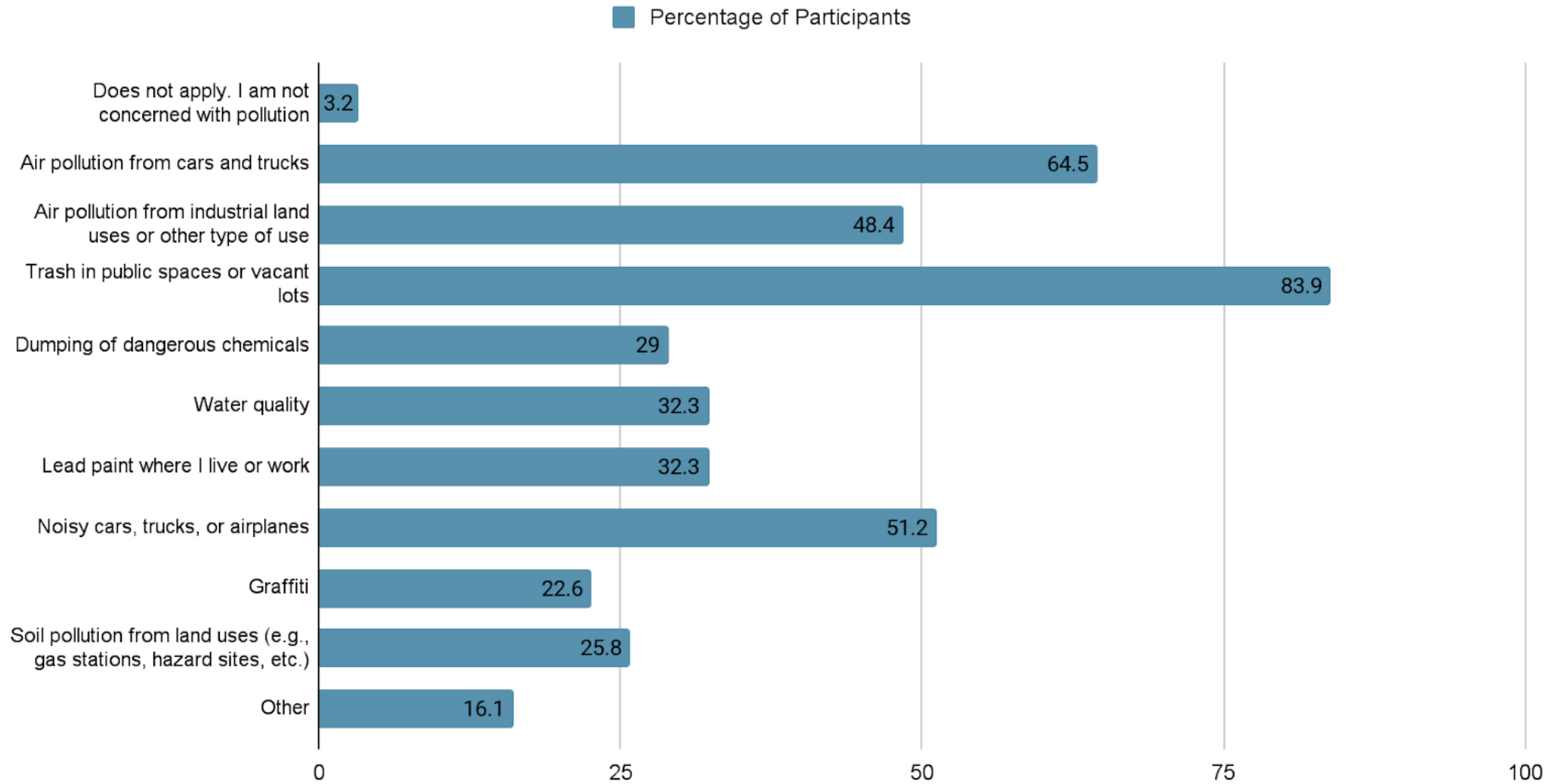
Survey Results

Question: Which pollution problems are you most concerned about?

The community's top concerns (ranked most to least):

1. Trash in public spaces and parking lots (83.9%)
2. Air pollution from cars and trucks (64.5%)
3. Noise from cars, trucks or airplanes (51.2%)
4. Air pollution from industrial land uses (48.4%)

Which pollution problems are you most concerned about in your community?



Policy Solutions from ACHCC

Issue Topics

- Cars & truck pollution
- Pollution from businesses
- Soil pollution
- Illnesses caused from pollution

Preventative Education on Asthma. Promote collaboration between Public Health agencies, Planning Departments, and local districts to provide preventative education on Asthma. Present information in classrooms and in the community.

Education/Awareness of Pollution. Develop a community-based campaign to raise awareness on the sources, impacts, testing and remediation of air, water and soil pollutions.

Preventing Asthma. Policies focus on adding air filtration systems to buildings, providing education/prevention around asthma in classrooms; creating a campaign to reduce asthma rates; enforcing smoke-free housing; funding programs to help residents with deferred maintenance and inspecting homes before rented; phase out body shops near residences.

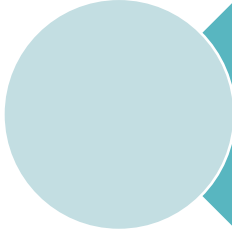
Pollution Monitoring/Enforcement. Policies focus on collecting and monitoring data, tax proactive code enforcement, incentives to adopt remedial practices, creating a county tax fund from polluting businesses, mapping pollutants and testing levels regularly, citing litterers, phasing out polluting industries.

Regulations/Screening. Policies focus on creating truck idling regulations, freeway screening, establishing a buffer from freeways for sensitive land uses, establishing pollution warning zones (e.g., signage), and.

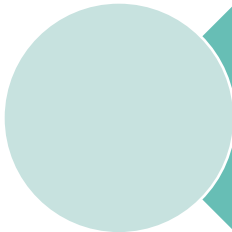
Policy Solutions from ACHCC Cont.

Issue Topics

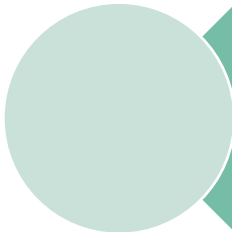
- Cars & truck pollution
- Pollution from businesses
- Soil pollution
- Illnesses caused from pollution



Soil and Water Contamination. Policies focus on education, enforcement, charging fees to contaminators, home testing kits for lead, providing safe drinking water in parks, preventing human habitation and run-off near creeks from encampments and toxic flows.



Urban Greening. Policies focus on investments in tree canopies in the most burdened areas; creating a street tree master plan and special tree district; not placing parks in pollution zones; gardening education; and green gentrification (preventing displacement from improvements).



EV/bike/ped/VMT reduction. Policies focus on incentivizing hydrogen fuel cell trucks and buses; investing in EV infrastructure/incentives, prioritizing bike lanes; incentivizing work-from-home; building electrification, and improving bus routes to enable commuting without cars.

Community Concerns to Address

Community concerns that lack ACHCC policy solutions:

1. Littering (cigarettes, marijuana buds, junk on streets)
2. Illegal dumping (abandoned furniture, cars, mattresses, etc.)

Community Policy Idea: Provide a place to leave unwanted furniture for a low or no cost.

3. Trucking on 580 and lack of engagement with Priority Communities
4. Noise from cars, trucks, planes or trains (51.2%)
5. Graffiti (22.6%)



Safe and Sanitary Homes and Neighborhoods

Community Comments and Zoom Poll

- More than 60% of the participants said they **do not feel safe** in their own neighborhoods.
- More than 75% of participants reported spending over 40% of their gross income on rent/**housing costs**.
- “**Gentrification** is real. I miss my neighbors.”
- A participant wanted to focus on the issues leading to **displacement** or how these new policies will not add to displacement and green gentrification.

Community Comments and Zoom Poll Cont.

- “There is a **high unhoused population.**”
- “I have been living in my studio for 15 years now and there has **never been any type of upgrade or maintenance.**”
- “**Cockroaches in homes are a problem** but **no efforts are done to help** get rid of them other than applying the gel. “

Survey Results

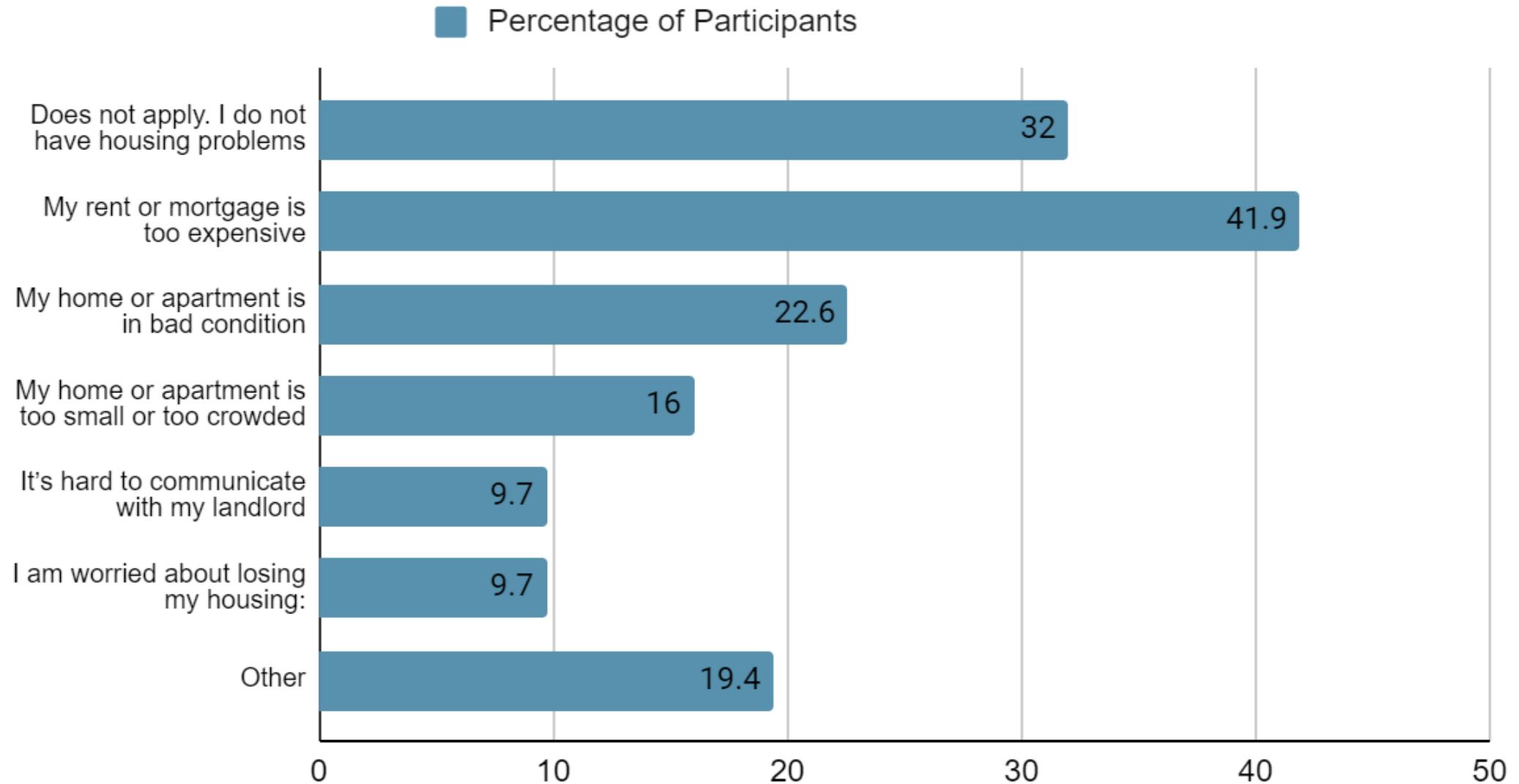
Question: Do you have any problems with your housing?

The community's top concerns (ranked most to least):

1. Rent/mortgage is too expensive (41.9%)
2. Home/apartment is in bad condition (22.6%)
3. Home/apartment is too small or too crowded (16%)

* 32% reported that they do not have housing problems

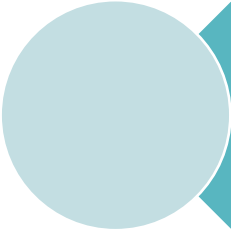
Do you have any problems with your housing?



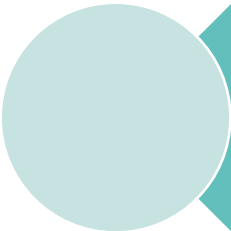
Policy Solutions from ACHCC

Issue Topics

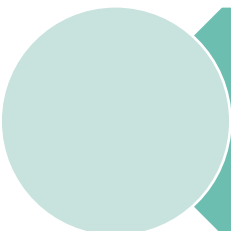
- Perception of increased crime
- Lack of clean, safe neighborhoods
- Home maintenance and pest control
- Cost of housing
- Gentrification and displacement



Education and Awareness. Policies focus on healthy home education, front lawn conversions to increase green space; acknowledging rental property owners who maintain safe, affordable, healthy homes; and involving local residents in the discussion of affordable housing crisis and preservation of affordable units.



Partnerships. Develop partnerships, share data, and incorporate key healthy housing concepts and skills training/cross referrals into housing programs (affordable housing programs, housing authorities, non-profit housing developers, childcare facility organizations, rental property owner groups, tenant organizations) and medical practices, health agencies and in-home visiting programs.



Safe and Clean Homes. Policies focus on creating mold and lead inspection guidelines and reporting systems, enforcing smoke free housing ordinance, funding air purifiers and indoor air monitors, creating energy efficiency incentives/regulations, passing pro-active rental inspection ordinances, adopting an international property maintenance code and embracing a cooperative compliance model.

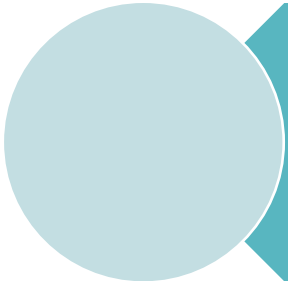


Safe and Clean Communities/Streets. Policies focus on developing a Cleaner Communities Program, increasing investments in sidewalk infrastructure with a focus on areas that do not have sidewalks and areas that need repair, caring for street trees, and proactively controlling vectors.

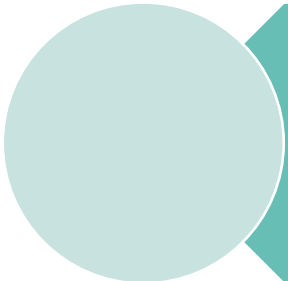
Policy Solutions from ACHCC Cont.

Issue Topics

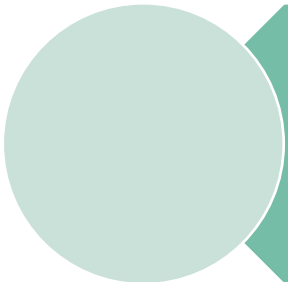
- Perception of increased crime
- Lack of clean, safe neighborhoods
- Home maintenance and pest control
- Cost of housing
- Gentrification and displacement



Anti-Displacement & Gentrification. Policies focus on create and implement anti-displacement policies that mitigate gentrification; prohibiting short-term or month-to-month lease agreements.



Tenant and Landlord Resources. Policies focus on adopting tenant eviction and harassment protections, preventing rent increases, creating a tenant resource line, creating a rental registry program, creating a loan fund and remediation incentives to cover a range of needs, especially for low-income owner occupants and small property owners.



Affordable Housing Development. Policies focus on establishing a community land trust, setting up a permit concierge to help homeowners navigate permitting process, streamlining application process for residential improvements, providing pre-approved ADUs, and creating clear roles for inspecting housing units.

Community Concerns to Address

No identified gaps in policy solutions



Public Facilities

Community Comments and Zoom Poll

- Just under 90% of the participants live within a ten-minute walk from a park.
- Approximately 70% of the participants stated that **affordability and walkability are barriers to the use of public transportation.**
- A participant stated that the “**Upper Grove neighborhood of Castro Valley has ZERO access to parks and schools:** We have no schools or parks, and we are one of the highest density populations in the unincorporated area. It is a **huge issue.**”
- “There is a lack of green space in the unincorporated areas. **Ashland really needs parks.**”
- “The **closing of schools in primarily Black and brown schools** is happening all over the Bay Area. Hayward and Oakland School Districts are some examples. It is completely unacceptable and a shame.”
- ***“A school opened in my community 2 years ago. The problem is that there is no safe area for students to ride bikes, walk, or skate.** Maybe adding crosswalks or bike lanes and signs could organize the street better, improving the flow and safety.”

Community Comments and Zoom Poll Cont.

- ***“Pathways need to be paved** to prevent injury. **Neighborhood Ordinance is not enforceable** for potholes and cracked pavement.”
- ***“Speed bumps are needed** in many places to reduce vehicle speed.”
- *We **need better lighting** in public areas at night.”
- ***“There needs to be more security cameras** to help reduce crime.”
- *A Cherryland resident/participant expressed that she believes there **should be a police station in Cherryland.**

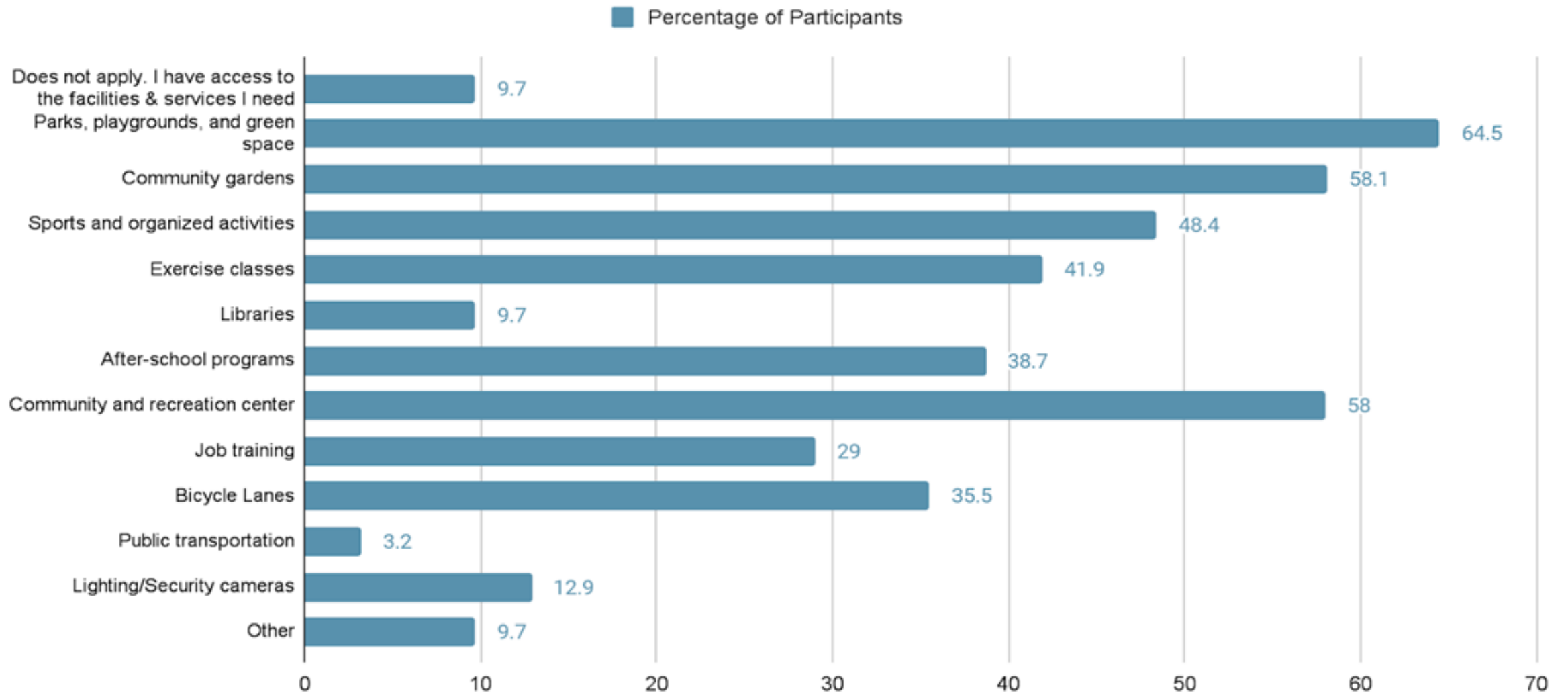
Survey Results

Question: What do you need better access to or what needs improvement?

The community's top concerns (ranked most to least):

1. Parks, playgrounds, and green space (64.5%)
2. Community gardens and recreation center (58%)
3. Sports and organized activities (48.4%)
4. Exercise classes (41.9%)
5. After school programs (38.7%)
6. Bicycle Lanes (35.5%)
7. Job Training (29%)

What do you need better access to or what needs improvement?



Policy Solutions from ACHCC

Issue Topics

- Limited walkability
- Affordability of public transportation
- Limited access to parks and green space
- School closures in black and brown neighborhoods

Public Transportation/Connectivity: Policies focus on increasing public transportation routes or adding shuttles that connect to other public transportation, multimodal connectivity between El Cerrito and Fremont, reducing vehicle idling and supporting Alameda CTC multi-modal facilities-working with PWA to close the gap between E 14th and San Leandro border.

Pedestrian Amenities/Infrastructure. Policies focus on funding safety and rethinking streetscapes to prioritize activating spaces for those who live, work and shop rather than emphasizing throughput and speed of vehicles (e.g., pedestrian-scaled streets with tree strips, wide sidewalks, lighting and speed bumps)

Green Space/Placemaking. Policies focus on making quantitative goals for annual tree planting, and working with communities and businesses to create placemaking.

Community Hubs/Gathering. Policies focus on strengthening existing facilities into hubs and supporting resilience hubs run by the community, including school-based hubs in collaboration with the community, and investing in and building out additional beautiful outdoor gathering space.

Policy Solutions from ACHCC Cont.

Issue Topics

- Affordability of public transportation
- Limited access to parks and green space
- School closures in black and brown neighborhoods

School Closures/Collaboration. A policy focuses on putting pressure on school districts that are eliminating schools in PCs to either rethink their choices or convert former schools to public facilities that will meet the needs of PCs, such as addressing ACES spots for children of formerly incarcerated (whole family care).

Mental Health. Policies focus on educating decision-makers about the extreme need for institutional mental health and substance addiction; that the community care model is inadequate; and that affordable housing must be linked to supportive services including mental health services.

Services for Vulnerable Populations. Policies focus on exploring the ability of mixed-use housing to support vulnerable populations, using existing hubs for re-entry populations with dedicated space/time, creating one-step welcome hubs similar to REACH for adult populations, opening up in Ashland/Cherryland a similar center as Fremont Family Resource Center, and creating opportunities for home-based healing models (e.g., family homes to support reentry, homeless, etc.).

Prioritizing PCs. Policies focus on defending public facilities and open space in areas with a significant deficit from densifying in areas that already lack amenities,

Community Concerns to Address

Community concerns that lack ACHCC policy solutions:

1. Affordability and accessibility of public transit



Food Access

Community Comments and Zoom Poll

- 56% of the participants do not live within a ten-minute walk to a grocery store or farmer's market.
- 25% of the participants lack sufficient access to food resources such as a food bank.
- Participants mentioned that **Cherryland does not have a supermarket**
 - “The only 'supermarket' that anyone can be referring to in Cherryland is the 99-cent store!”
- “Often **food is overpriced**, I do not have enough income, especially when food and everything else is really expensive.”
- “Stores need to **do a better job advertising their fresh produce**. The storefront always has unhealthy items such as soda, cigarettes, and candy displayed first. I think if fresh produce was more visible, it would attract families or the youth to buy more of it.”
- “**School lunches need to be evaluated**. The majority of the food is thrown away, uneaten. There needs to be a better understanding of what the students would want to eat in order to minimize food waste and feed more students.”

Survey Results

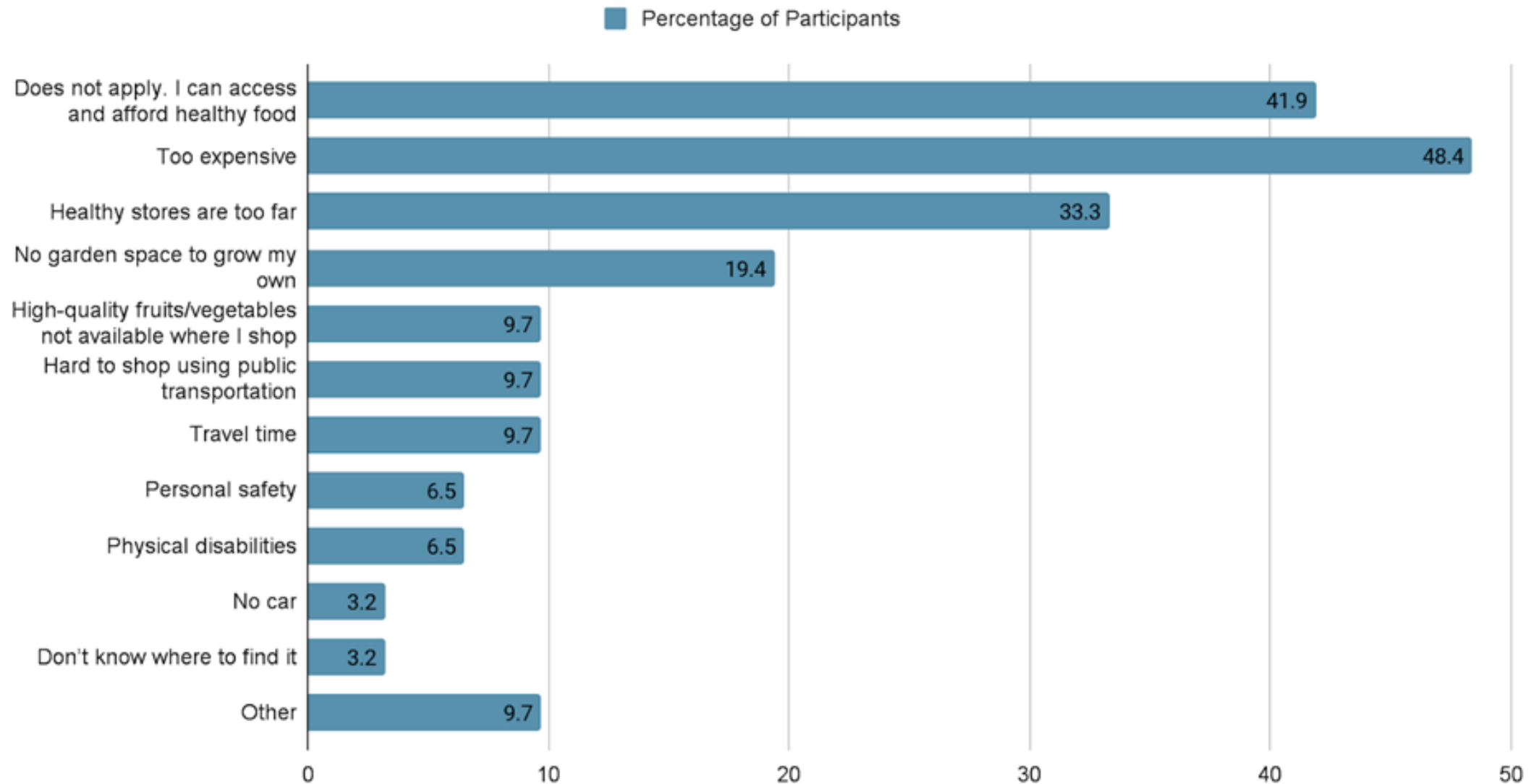
Question: Is it hard for you to get fresh fruits and vegetables and other healthy food?

The community's concerns (ranked most to least):

1. Fresh fruits, vegetables, and other healthy foods are too expensive (48.4%)
2. Healthy Stores are too far away (33.3%)
3. No space for personal garden (19.4%)

* 41.8% reported that they can access and afford healthy food

Is it hard for you to get fresh fruits and vegetables and other healthy food?



Policy Solutions from ACHCC

Issue Topics

- Grocery stores are not located in close proximity to community residents
- Healthy food options are expensive
- Need more food support services like food banks
- Need better advertising
- Address school lunches

Business Enforcement/Incentives. Policies focus on offering incentives to food/alcohol businesses to offer and advertise healthier food options; limiting non-healthy food distributors (e.g., fast food, liquor stores); supporting a Healthy Retail Program.

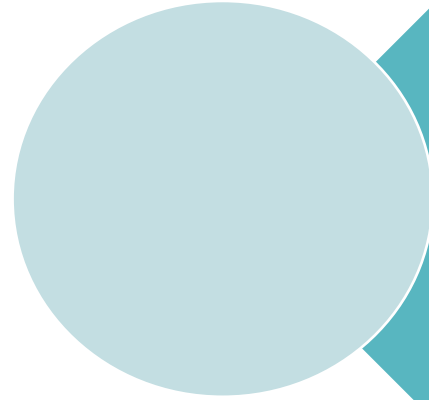
Food Distribution/Accessibility. Policies focus on mapping out the food ecosystem (strengths, gaps and opportunities); increasing food delivery to seniors/disabled; incentivizing/coordinating/subsidizing local farmers/produce markets to bring food to neighborhoods; and assessing opportunities for farm-to table initiatives

Affordable Food: Policies focus on collaborating and organizing bi-monthly open streets/farmers market style with various vendors, including SNAP and free ACCFB stand for free access to fresh produce and/or affordable organic local produce; investing in food coupons/incentives at local stores to increase community F/V intake and support local; and connecting food benefits to local farmer's markets.

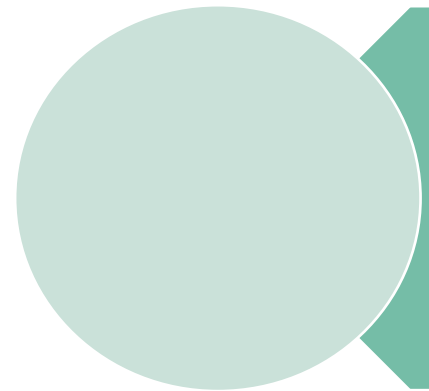
Policy Solutions from ACHCC Cont.

Issue Topics

- Grocery stores are not located in close proximity to community residents
- Healthy food options are expensive
- Need more food support services like food banks



Community Gardens/Growing Opportunities. Policies focus on connecting UCCE Master Gardeners to community garden coordinators; creating incentives to design rooftop gardens; incorporating community gardens in shelter/transitional housing; creating edible landscaping and parklets; and developing a local farm and garden plan, as in Alameda; coordinating with local farmers and produce markets to bring food into neighborhoods.



Education/Engagement: Policies focus on exploring resident-led co-op enterprises in all food-related activities (distribution, catering, growing); training community members/youth on how food is grown and tending community gardens; educating the community about ordinances that allow for livestock for food.

Community Concerns to Address

Community concerns that lack ACHCC policy solutions:

1. Lack of grocery stores
2. School lunch adequacy



Health & Physical Activity

Community Comments and Zoom Poll

- 80% of the participants said they **lack access to mental health facilities** in their community.
- Around 70% of the participants said they **lack access to recreational facilities** in their neighborhood.
- A participant explained that there is a **need for mental health facilities** to address the mental health crisis. “Mental health is a daily living experience of feeling comfortable in your environment.”
- **“Cardio/heart health has been terrible** in Ashland and Cherryland, leading to death because of **lack of insurance**. That means reporting to emergency services rather than preventive care.”
- *A participant commented “In the Upper Grove neighborhood kids are exposed to addicts passed out on the sidewalk and **human waste and needles** on lawns and in the street.”
- *A participant mentioned that he has observed an increase in **store robberies and car thefts**.
- ***“Robberies and thefts affect our mental health just as much as our financial stability**. Car windows are broken into and it takes money to repair, money that is not easy to obtain.”

Survey Results

Question: Are you able to walk, bike and exercise as much as you would like? If not, what are some of the reasons?

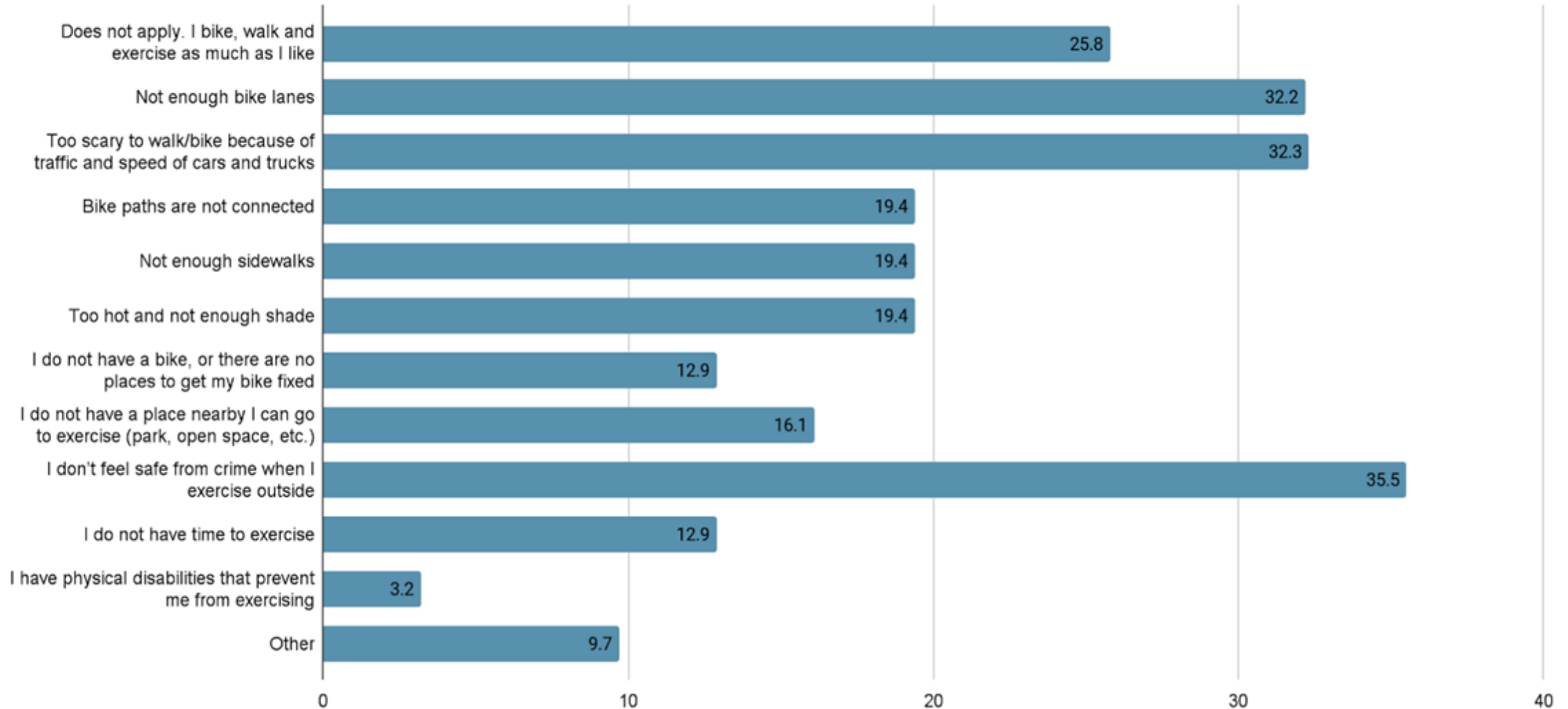
The community's top concerns (ranked most to least):

1. Do not feel safe from crime when exercising outside (35.5%)
2. Too scary to walk/bike because of traffic and speed of cars and trucks (32.3%)
3. Not enough bike lanes (32.2%)

* 25.8% reported that they bike, walk and exercise as much as they want

Are you able to walk, bike and exercise as much as you would like? If not, what are some of the reasons?

■ Percentage of Participants



Policy Solutions from ACHCC

Issue Topics

- Lack of mental health services
- Cardiovascular and asthma health issues
- Lack of health insurance
- Lack of safe streets to walk, bike and skate (*covered under Public Facilities*)

Education/Accessibility: Policies focus on increasing awareness of programs on an ongoing basis and how to sign up, including language access; expand health education programs (nutrition, physical activity) for families with children; and organizing trips for youth to regional parks.

Mental Health Programs/Activities: Policies focus on investing in mental health facilities and services, collaborating with local agencies to offer preventative mental health support, and passing organizational policies on health, wellness, and physical activity, similar to the Alameda County Wellness Policy.

Houseless Neighbors Support Services: Policies focus on providing support to re-entry and homeless populations to promote health and wellness for them and their families. Engage re-entry individuals by paying them to tend to open spaces, parks, and public facilities.

Adult and Senior Programs: Policies focus on supporting mixed use reentry hubs similar to REACH Ashland Youth Center, but for adults; working with local churches to organize and combine health and wellness events (e.g., senior class on health education combined with walking or yoga).

Policy Solutions from ACHCC Cont.

Issue Topics

- Lack of mental health services
- Cardiovascular and asthma health issues
- Lack of health insurance
- Lack of safe streets to walk, bike and skate (*covered under Public Facilities*)

Outdoor Activities. Policies focus on increasing outdoor recreational spaces for mixed-use activities (e.g., outdoor roller hockey rink in Pleasonton);

Organized Outdoor Events: Policies focus on organizing annual events, such as walks, runs, biking, summer block parties, including events for people with disabilities; “scaling up” local initiatives (e.g., walking group to running festival, cooking group to cook-off festival, etc.)

Programs/Opportunities for Vulnerable Populations. Policies focus on year-long affordable programs; engaging/paying re-entry individuals to care for parks and open space areas; training re-entry individuals in gardening; offering youth jobs in leading activities; and addressing whole family health for reentry and unhoused populations.

Community Concerns to Address

Community concerns that lack ACHCC policy solutions:

1. Prevalence of cardiovascular/heart disease
2. Lack of health insurance
3. Crime is a related issue (lighting in public spaces, need for more security cameras)



Civic Engagement

- 86% participants feel **insufficiently informed** about plans/projects that occur in their community.
- Over 60% of the participants feel as if **their voices do not matter** when they come to county led meetings, “We are heard, but when it comes to decision making votes at the planning department, and board of supervisors **we are ignored and damaged by harmful planning choices** that have created a built environment that results in poor health and economic outcomes”.
- Unincorporated areas are often **left out of conversations and are put last in terms of priority** for actual positive changes.
- “The **decision-makers need to take accountability** for hindering the improvement of these communities.”
- “The single biggest obstacle we face is the **lack of local governmental accountability**. We are overseen by bureaucratic agencies who have no consequences for neglecting us and making unhealthy choices on our behalf. They are **not guided by the priorities of our communities** and never will be until they can be held directly accountable to the people who live here.”
- “**Seniors are not able to do the survey**, because they don't know how to do it or they don't have smartphones or internet”.
- **“Have information in multiple languages.”**
- **“Have meetings at a location that community members feel welcomed and familiar with.”**
- **“Post workshop and survey notices in more places, like Next Door.”**

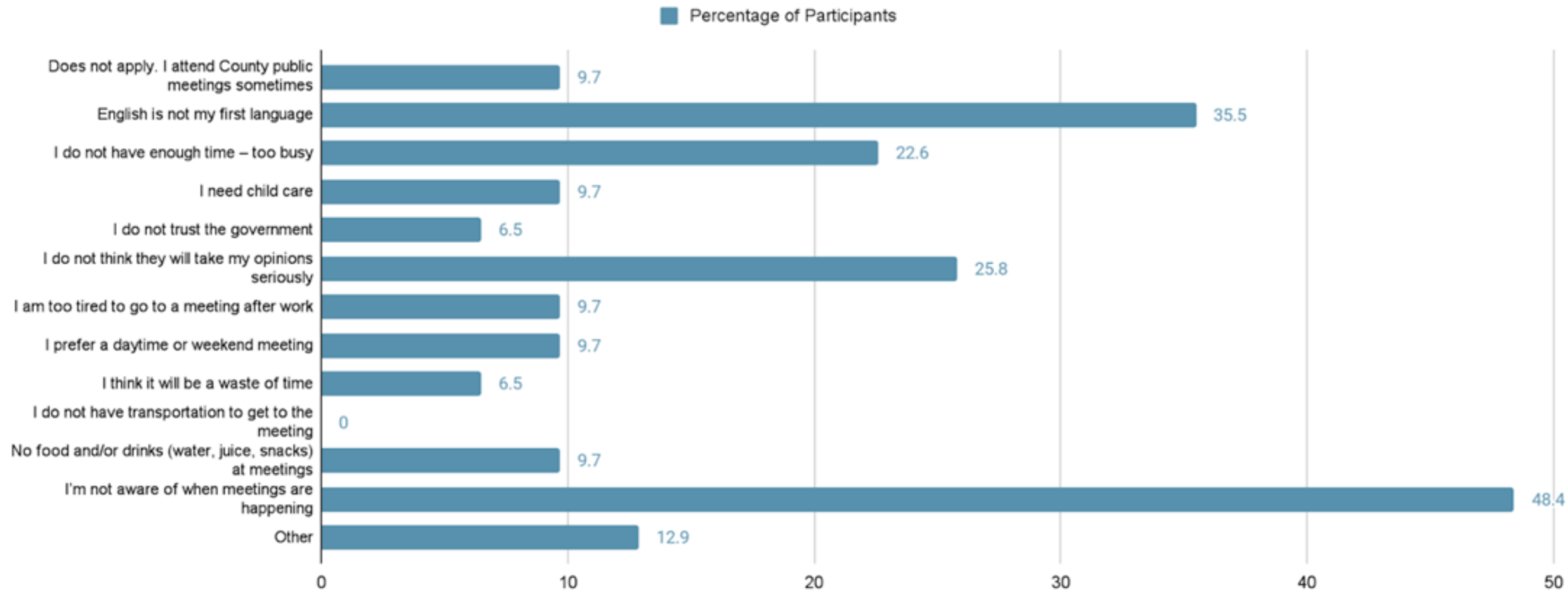
Survey Results

Question: If you do not attend County-run public meetings, why not?

The community's top concerns (ranked most to least):

1. Not awareness of when meetings are happening (48.4%)
2. English is not my first language (35.5%)
3. I do not think they will take my opinions seriously (25.8%)
4. Not enough time/too busy (22.6%)

If you do not attend County-run public meetings, why not?





MURAL Board Refresher

3



**Breakouts:
Policymaking Exercise**

4

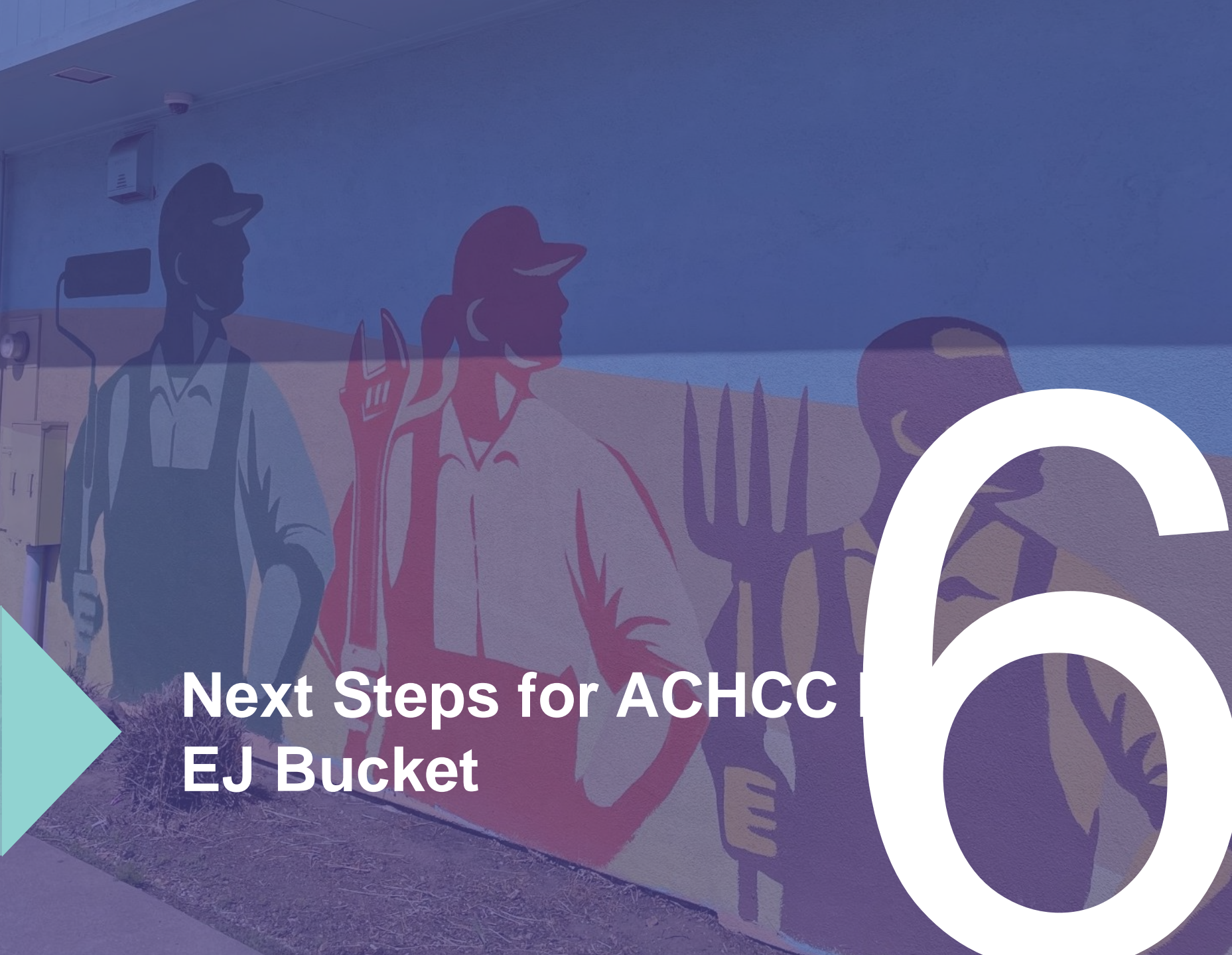
Breakout instructions:

1. 45 minutes total
2. 3 breakout rooms; participants placed randomly into a room
3. Online brainstorming/collaboration via Mural Board
 - 8 minutes average per topic
4. Facilitators will share out key recommendations for each topic



Report on Ideas

5



**Next Steps for ACHCC
EJ Bucket**



Next Steps

- ACHCC Meeting #7 – August 18th
- Community Workshop #2 – August 25th
- Draft EJ Element – End of August

Stakeholder Engagement with ACHCC

Jul – Policymaking Cont.

Aug – Civic Engagement

Sept – Implementation

Oct/Nov – Review Draft Plan

Community Engagement

Survey - *ongoing*

Aug 25 – Workshop #2 (Issues and Solutions)

Nov – Workshop #3 (Review Draft Plan)

Plan Development

Aug – Draft EJ Element

Oct – Public Review Draft EJ Element

Dec – Final Draft EJ Element

Jan/Feb – Plan Approval