



What We Heard Report: Heritage Valley Neighbourhood 14 Plan **Public Engagement**

Alberta

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Edmonton

What We Heard Report: Heritage Valley Neighbourhood 14 Plan Public Engagement

Executive Summary

The City of Edmonton and the Government of Alberta are developing a plan for a neighbourhood in the Heritage Valley area. A neighbourhood plan provides a vision of how a neighbourhood is to be developed and sets out objectives to achieve the vision and policies to reach those goals. When designing a neighbourhood plan, there are many components which are considered including what is currently existing on the lands, any future planned infrastructure such as LRT and major roadways, as well as what is needed to create a community and bring services to the area.

This neighbourhood plan is unique because it includes both a future hospital and health campus as well as an LRT Station, which provides an opportunity to design the neighbourhood as a healthy community. As part of developing this plan, the City of Edmonton and Government of Alberta engaged the public. The role of the public was to 'ADVISE' on the healthy community vision for the plan. The feedback received from the public was considered to inform changes to the plan. All feedback received is weighed against other factors such as city policies, land use planning practices and supporting technical studies (i.e. transportation and servicing studies). All of the information is incorporated into the neighbourhood plan as part of a pre-submission report that is provided to the City's Planning Coordination section.

What We Did

Drop-in Public Engagement Session

**NOV
28** 2018

Wednesday, 5 – 8 pm
Ellerslie Rugby Club
11004 Ellerslie Rd SW Edmonton



83

Drop-in workshop participants



399

Online respondents

Engagement with the community consisted of a drop-in engagement session and online survey to understand public and stakeholder perspectives on the Healthy Community approach and preliminary contextual information to inform the policies of the Neighbourhood Plan. Literature suggests that a healthy community is one in which residents have the opportunity to live to their full potential, where there are opportunities to interact and create dialog, embrace diversity, and where options are available in terms of types of housing, how people travel, where they work and play. Those who participated in engagement opportunities were generally interested in seeing a mix of land uses to be provided within the neighbourhood. This included:

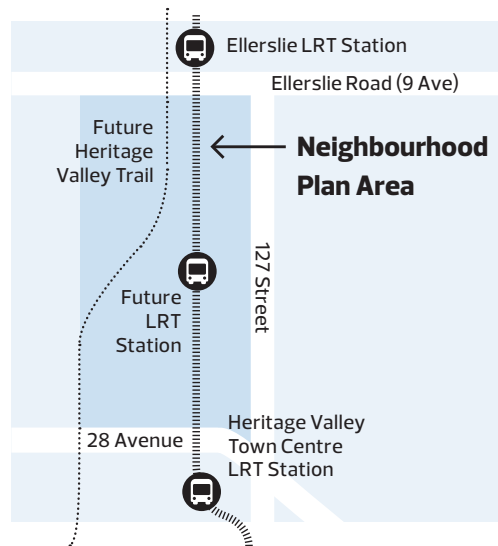
- + A mix of different types of housing;
- + Opportunities for schools and parks, and for natural areas to be preserved; and
- + Opportunities for commercial uses that would allow for employment and amenities such as coffee shops and retail.

This report provides additional details and summarizes what we heard from both the engagement session and the online survey.

Project Background

Context

A new Neighbourhood Area Structure Plan (neighbourhood plan) is being developed for lands in southwest Edmonton, for an area presently known as Heritage Valley Neighbourhood 14. The plan area is located just south of Anthony Henday Drive and just west of 127 Street. It is the last neighbourhood to be planned in the Heritage Valley area and the land is wholly owned by the Government of Alberta. The City of Edmonton and the Government of Alberta are partnering to create this neighbourhood plan.



Objectives

Once completed and approved by City Council, the neighbourhood plan will outline the future land uses, transportation network, ecological network, and servicing for this area. With a future hospital and health campus and LRT station located within this neighbourhood as well as direction through the City's Vision 2050 Goals, it is a great opportunity to design the neighbourhood as a healthy community. When creating this neighbourhood plan, a variety of factors must be considered as shown in the diagram below. The neighbourhood plan will also aim to reflect a Healthy Community approach. The neighbourhood plan has interpreted healthy communities based on research and best practice into the themes of: social inclusion & safety, environmental health, accessibility & well-being and local economic vitality.



Drop-in Public Engagement Session

November 28, 2018

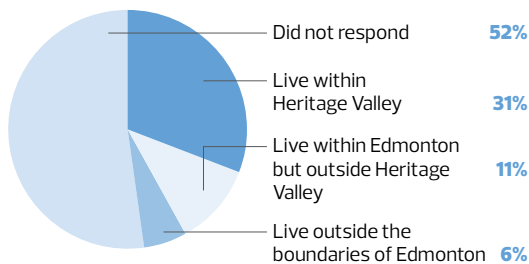
Who participated?



83

Drop-in workshop participants

Below is an overview of where attendees live in relation to the plan area. This helped to identify what services and amenities were important to residents in the area.



Promotion

The Engagement Session was advertised to the public through:

- + newspaper ads
- + social media
- + a public service announcement
- + circulation via community leagues and stakeholder groups in the area
- + road signs
- + postcard invitations sent to residents within 200 m of the proposed neighbourhood

Session Format

The engagement session provided participants the opportunity to learn about what a neighbourhood plan is, the vision and themes for this neighbourhood plan, the healthy community approach, and the future LRT extension through a mixture of boards, presentations, discussion with project team members and facilitated tables.

Facilitated table sessions included a discussion with participants about what a healthy community meant for people in different stages of life. Participants were asked to assume a "profile" (ex. teenager, retired person, family, etc.) and respond to questions related to social inclusion, physical health and overall well being. Staff from the City of Edmonton, Government of Alberta and project consultants were on hand to answer any questions from the public as well as record feedback. Participants were encouraged to provide feedback through comment sheets, an online survey, sticky notes on boards, and to staff in attendance.



Online Survey

November 28 – December 16, 2018

Who participated?



399

Online respondents

Promotion

The survey was advertised through the City's website on the NASP 14 Neighbourhood Plan webpage and was sent to interested Insight Community members.

Survey Format

To provide an opportunity for participants to provide feedback at their own convenience, an online survey was available to the public. In keeping with the Healthy Communities theme of the neighbourhood, participants were asked questions about designing a neighbourhood that supports physical, social, mental, and environmental health.

What We Heard

Engagement Session Feedback

The results of the facilitated table sessions indicated common themes of wanting access to recreation centres and transit regardless of which scenario was discussed.

Although most comments were provided through the facilitated tables and the online survey, participants also provided feedback through sticky notes on the display boards. There were no common themes found amongst the comments. Comments included:

- + A desire for the LRT and the hospital to be built as soon as possible.
- + Incorporation of public art with the LRT station design.
- + Concern regarding the impact to property values and potential increase in crime with further development, the LRT and the new hospital.
- + A desire to preserve the tree stands.
- + Desire for amenities such as recreation centres, police stations and sit down restaurants.
- + A desire for local food infrastructure, such as community gardens.
- + More dog parks within walking distance.
- + Concerns with too much density and the potential for traffic congestion.
- + Residents of the Rutherford neighbourhood were concerned with the land uses which would be proposed closer to the Rutherford Neighbourhood.
- + A desire for a range of residential land uses with densities that are realistic, marketable and achievable.



Online Survey Feedback*

Participants responded to questions that focused on incorporating healthy community themes within neighbourhood design. Participants had multiple choice options, so the results below are not intended to add up to 100% for each theme.

When participants were asked what features of a neighbourhood make them **feel like they are a part of it**, the most popular responses were:

- + having businesses or restaurants/cafes to connect with people in the neighbourhood (approximately 80%);
- + outdoor parks and open spaces to connect with people (80%); and
- + being able to walk or bike to destinations in their neighbourhood (77%).

Participants were then asked what three types of **amenities** they would like **to live close to**. This was broken out into a general category for all households, one for households with children under 18 and one for households without children.

All Households

- + 58% Park/Open Space
- + 52% Grocery Store
- + 50% Coffee Shop/Restaurants

Households with Children

- + 56% Park/Open Space
- + 51% School
- + 45% Community Services (recreation centre, library)

Households without Children

- + 58% Park/Open Space
- + 58% Grocery Store
- + 53% Coffee Shops/Restaurants

The results show that in all three categories, proximity to parks and open space was important to respondents. While households with children also valued having a school in the neighbourhood, all respondents wanted to be near amenities such as grocery stores, shops and community facilities.

One of the healthy community themes related to social inclusion is that future residents have the opportunity to remain in the same neighbourhood as they age. Participants were asked to think about getting older and what elements would help them to **continue living in the neighbourhood**. The majority of participants wanted daily services in close proximity to their homes. Important amenities and features included:

- + 59% Daily services in close proximity to their home (uses included groceries, corner stores, banking and pharmacies)
- + 39% Full range of transit options within walking distance
- + 31% Health services such as doctors, clinics, specialists, etc.

The design of commercial areas is important in determining how people will use the spaces and if they will use the spaces. Participants were asked how the design of commercial areas could be **more welcoming or promote social connection**. The most popular responses were to have:

- + stores and businesses include spaces to gather and linger like seating areas, plazas and landscaped areas (55%) and for
- + stores and businesses to be located in areas that feel safe and comfortable to walk in (50%).

*See appendix for full online survey results.

Participants were then asked a similar question but in relation to open spaces and parks: How can we design different types of development (such as residential or commercial areas) that surrounds **open spaces and parks to be more welcoming** and promote social connection? The most popular responses included:

- + walkways leading into parks/open spaces are wide, open, and highly visible (66%), and
- + that paths are provided to connect parks/open spaces to the rest of the neighbourhood (65%).

Interaction with your neighbours is an important component to building a healthy community. Connecting people helps to create a sense of community as well as pride and ownership of one's neighbourhood. Participants were asked **how they connect with their neighbours**. The most popular responses were:

- + 79% saying hi while walking or biking,
- + 73% seeing each other across the fence, while working in the yard,
- + 58% seeing each other at local parks, and
- + 55% attending community events such as farmers markets and festivals.

Building on the accessibility & well-being theme of a healthy community, is the importance of accessibility by different modes of transportation. The ability to walk to amenities provides physical, social, mental and environmental benefits. The majority of respondents, 76%, use active modes of transportation at least sometimes in their day to day life. Participants were asked **why they do not use active transportation modes**. The reasons they gave were:

- + 54% The places they want to go are too far away
- + 44% Snow and ice are not cleared in the winter
- + 37% Have to transport too many goods and therefore it is not feasible

A future LRT line and station are located within the future neighbourhood. This will provide residents with an alternative mode of transportation. With no park and ride proposed for this station, respondents were asked what would help them to **access the LRT without having to drive**. They said:

- + 60% Live within walking distance from the LRT
- + 55% Frequent bus service to LRT
- + 50% Direct bus route to LRT
- + 47% Direct paths/sidewalks to LRT

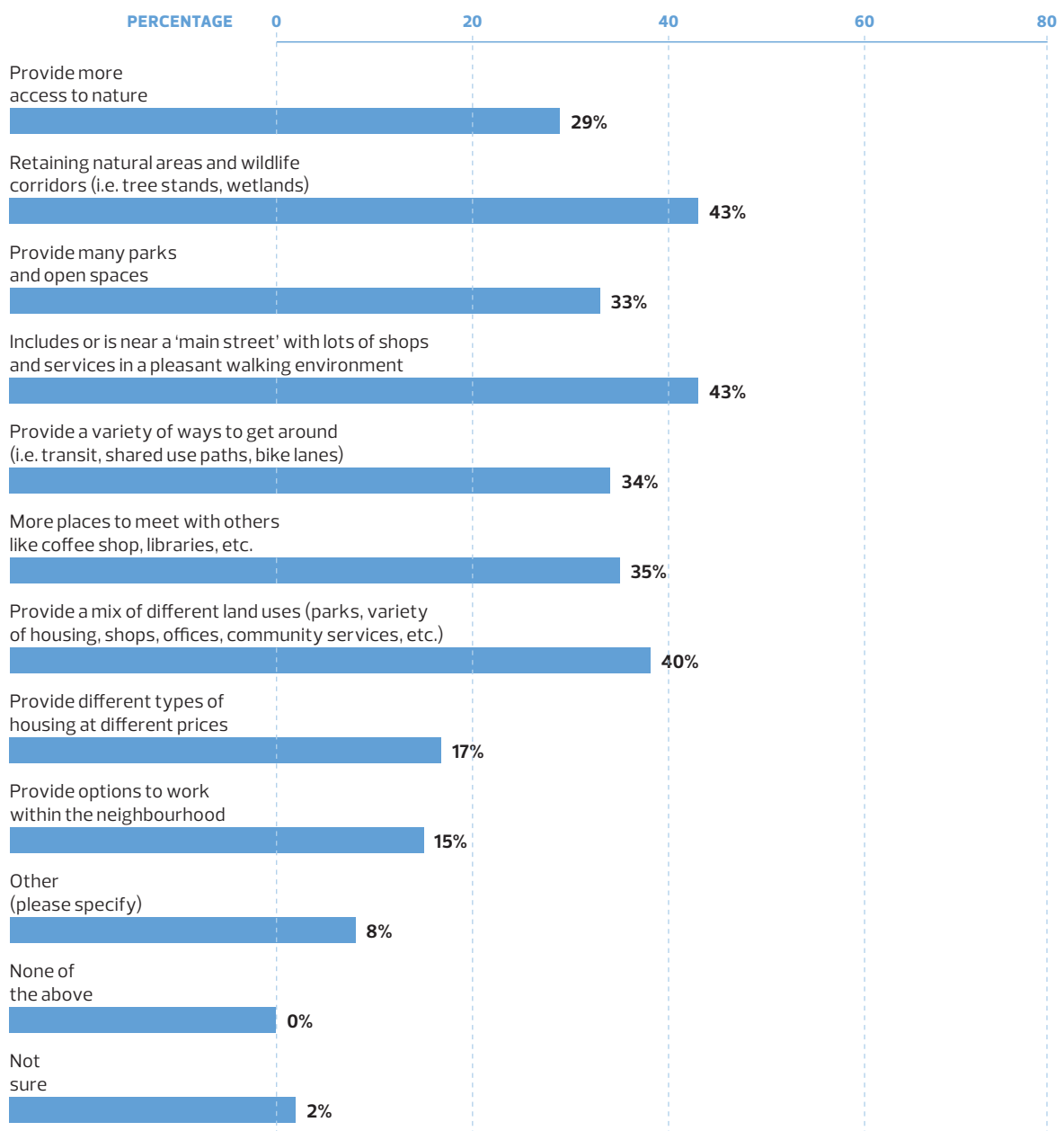
The public was generally supportive of the **healthy community themes**. When thinking of building a healthy community, respondents were asked to select from a list of amenities and features, what they would like in their neighbourhood. A large percentage of respondents were:

- + favourable to retaining natural areas and wildlife corridors;
- + Living near a 'main street' where they could walk to shops and services; and
- + having a mix of land uses within the neighbourhood such as parks, a variety of housing, shops, offices, etc.

Responses

The below chart provides a total breakdown of the responses from the online survey:

Thinking about a healthy community that is designed to promote social, physical, environmental, and mental well-being, how can a neighbourhood create more opportunities for overall well-being?



What We Will Do With the Feedback Provided

As the neighbourhood plan is developed, opportunities for these preferences or ideas will be considered and incorporated where possible. While the plan will not be able to dictate where a specific use such as a grocery store may be located, the plan can create areas for commercial uses where there is an opportunity for a developer to submit a proposal to develop a grocery store or coffee shop in this location.

As the development concept and plan are prepared, the information from the engagement session and online survey will be considered along with further technical studies like the Neighbourhood Design Report (stormwater management design), Transportation Impact Assessment, and City policies like the Transit Oriented Design Guidelines or Affordable Housing Policy. **Information which has been considered or incorporated includes:**

FEEDBACK THEMES	INCORPORATION INTO NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN
Provide the opportunity for a mix of different land uses.	The plan will include a mix of residential, commercial, open space and institutional uses.
Provide the opportunity for a mix of different housing types	The plan will include opportunities for single family homes, semi-detached homes, row housing and apartments of varying heights.
Preservation of the natural area	The large natural area in the northwest portion of the plan will be preserved.
Places to work, meet and shop	The plan will include opportunities for commercial and mixed uses and will be home to a hospital and health campus.
Ability to walk or bike to destinations in the neighbourhood.	The plan will include a well connected network of shared use paths and sidewalks which provide options for people to walk or bike to different destinations in the neighbourhood.
Connections to the LRT	The plan will support a variety of options available to residents to access the LRT, including shared use paths which allow individuals to walk or cycle, and roadways to allow for drop off.
Proximity to parks and open space	All residential uses will be within 400 m of a park or open space. This would be approximately a 5 to 10 minute walk.

Feedback that was provided that was not incorporated includes:

FEEDBACK THEME

REASON FOR NOT INCORPORATING

Inclusion of amenities such as coffee shops, a grocery store, and restaurants in the plan area.

The neighbourhood plan will designate land for commercial use and provide language that encourages these types of amenities. The types of businesses that occupy the commercial space is designated at later stages as zoning and development permit progresses.

Parks and open spaces to be developed with recreation centres, libraries, sports, community gardens, etc.

Parkland may be designated through the neighbourhood plan and programming may be encouraged in the text of the neighbourhood plan however the programming of park sites is determined by the City at later stages of development through open space master planning. It is at this stage that the public may have the opportunity to provide feedback on the type of programming.

Provide many parks.

Park land will be designated in the neighbourhood plan within the range described in the Municipal Government Act (Provincial legislation). Each titled parcel is to provide 10% of the land (after all non-developable areas are removed) as Municipal Reserve which can be provided as parks or natural areas.

The neighbourhood plan will align with Breathe – Edmonton's Green Network Strategy by encouraging connection and integration of open space at the site, neighbourhood, city and regional levels through spaces within the neighbourhood and connections to adjacent neighbourhoods



What's Next

The Project Team, consisting of the Government of Alberta, City of Edmonton, and consultants will finalize the neighbourhood plan by:

- + incorporating public engagement feedback;
- + ensuring that the plan is in alignment with healthy community goals and objectives, which includes social inclusion, safety, environmental health, accessibility and well-being, and local economic vitality;
- + ensuring alignment with applicable City Policies, and
- + incorporating information from supporting technical studies, including transportation and how the neighbourhood will be connected to services such as water and sanitary.

The neighbourhood plan along with the supporting technical studies will then be submitted to the City of Edmonton's Planning Coordination section for formal review in early 2019.

Future Opportunities for Public Engagement

Once the neighbourhood plan is submitted to the City of Edmonton for formal review, the City of Edmonton's Planning Coordination section will hold future engagement sessions where Edmontonians will have an opportunity to learn more about the plan and provide their feedback. Throughout the process, the public is also welcome to contact the project team directly at any time to provide feedback or obtain further information on the neighbourhood plan and process.

Feedback will be summarized in a report to City Council so that they can understand the opinions of residents and businesses impacted by the plan before making a final decision at a future Public Hearing. The Public Hearing is an important part of the engagement process. Edmontonians will have an opportunity to register to speak at the Public Hearing or listen to the proceedings.

You can stay up to date with the project and reach out to the project team by going to the project website and signing up for newsletter updates:

edmonton.ca/heritagevalleyneighbourhood14

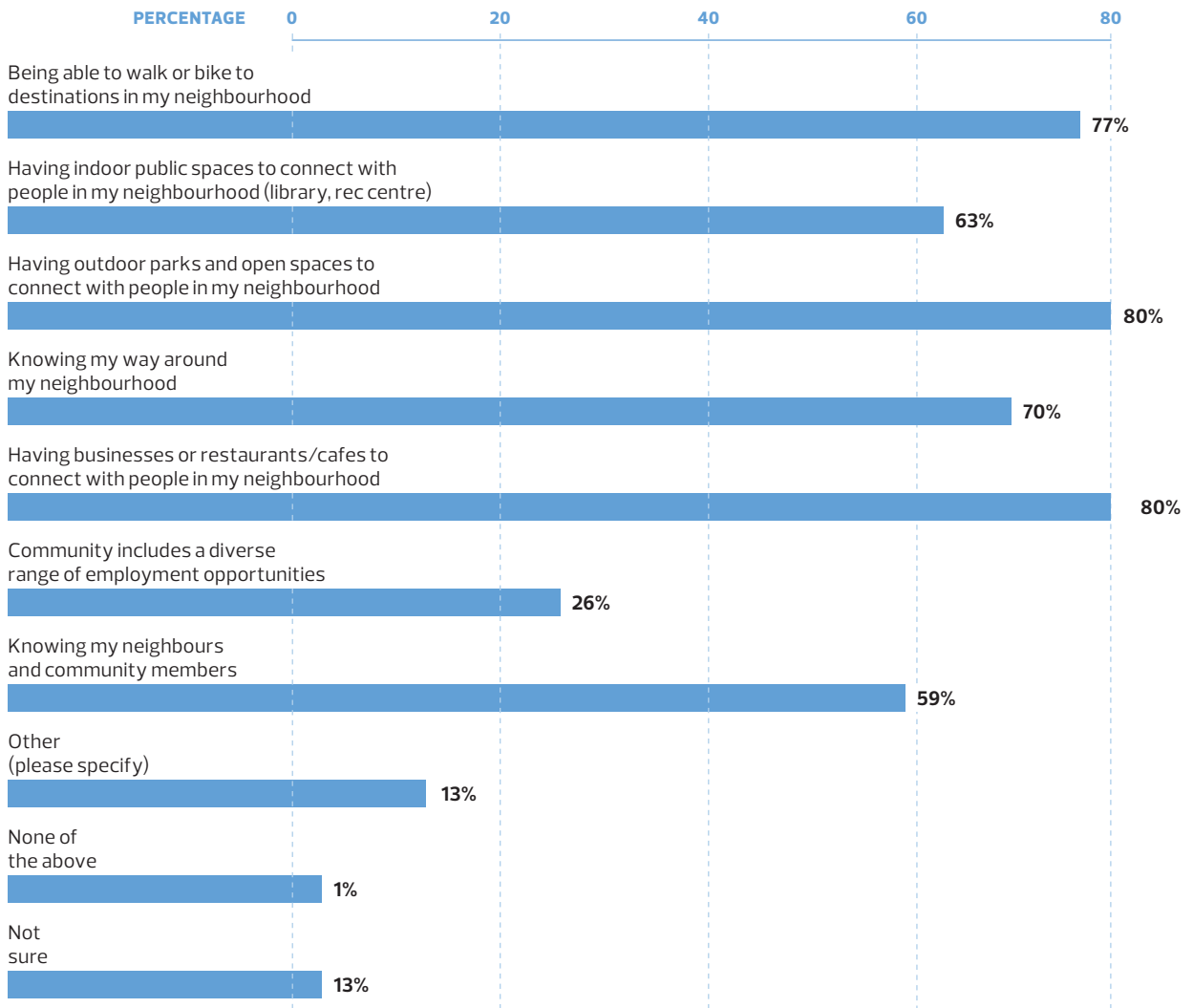


Appendix:

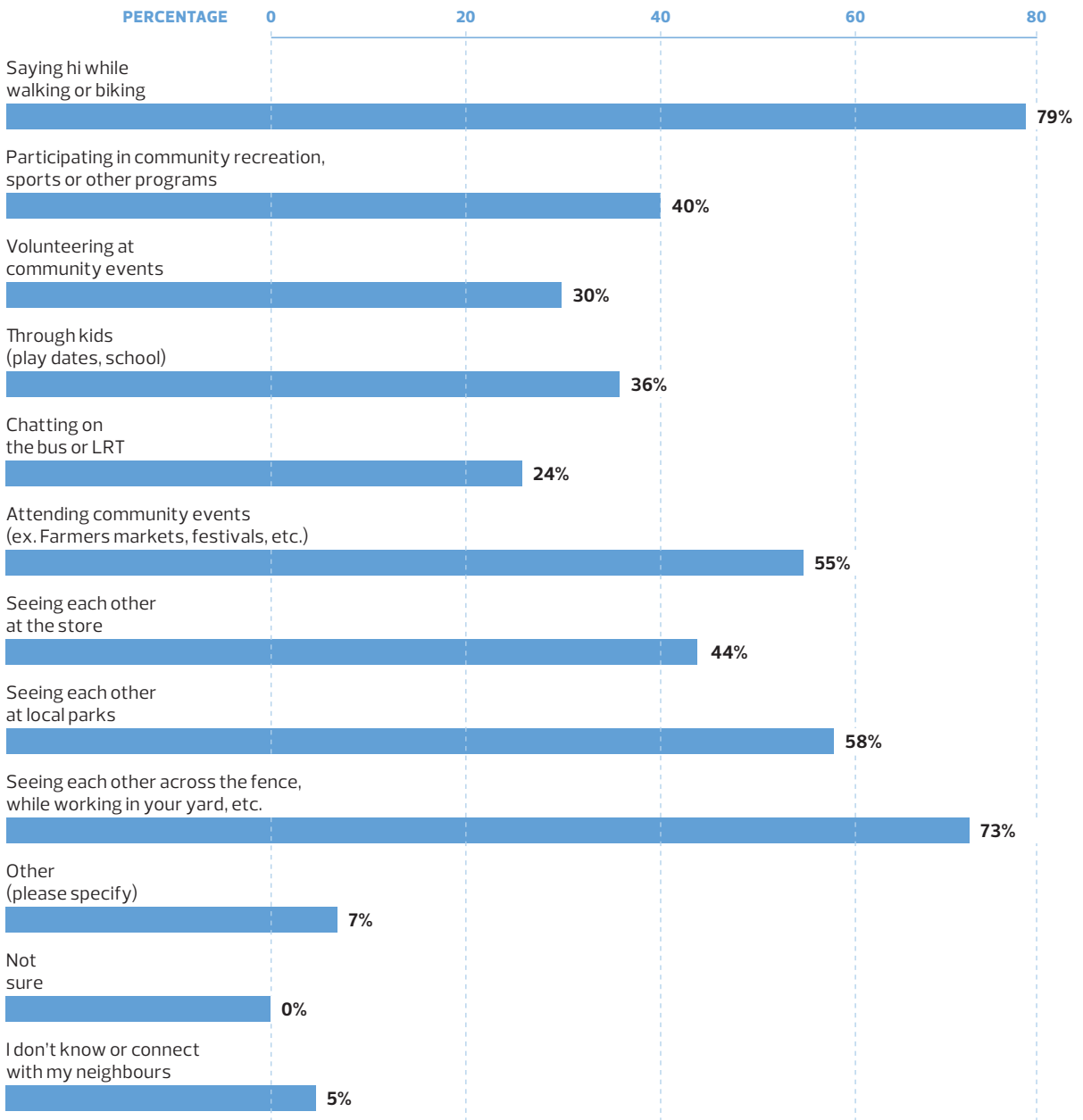
Online Survey Results

Survey Responses:

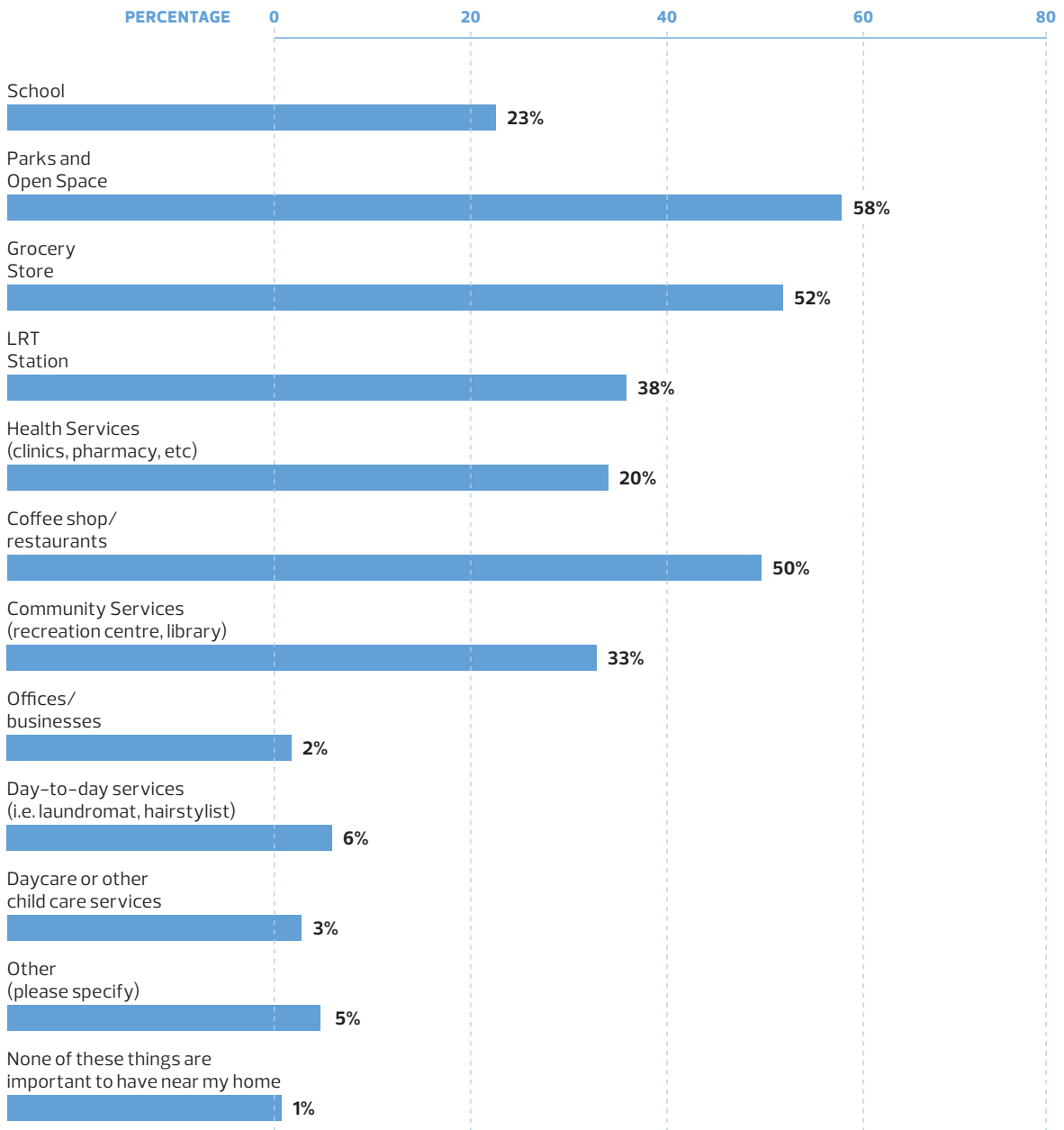
Q.1 What features of a neighbourhood make you feel like you're part of it?



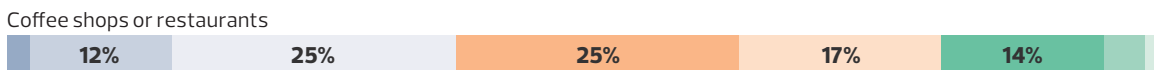
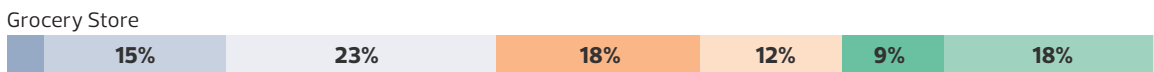
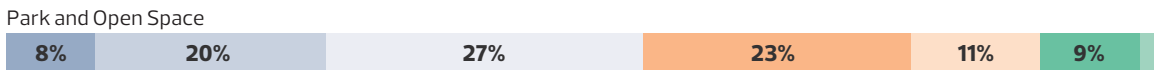
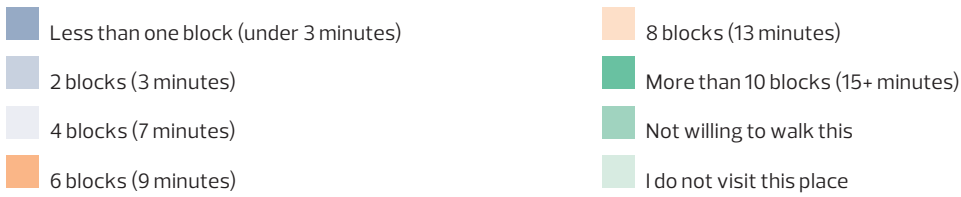
Q.2 How do you get to know and connect with your neighbours?



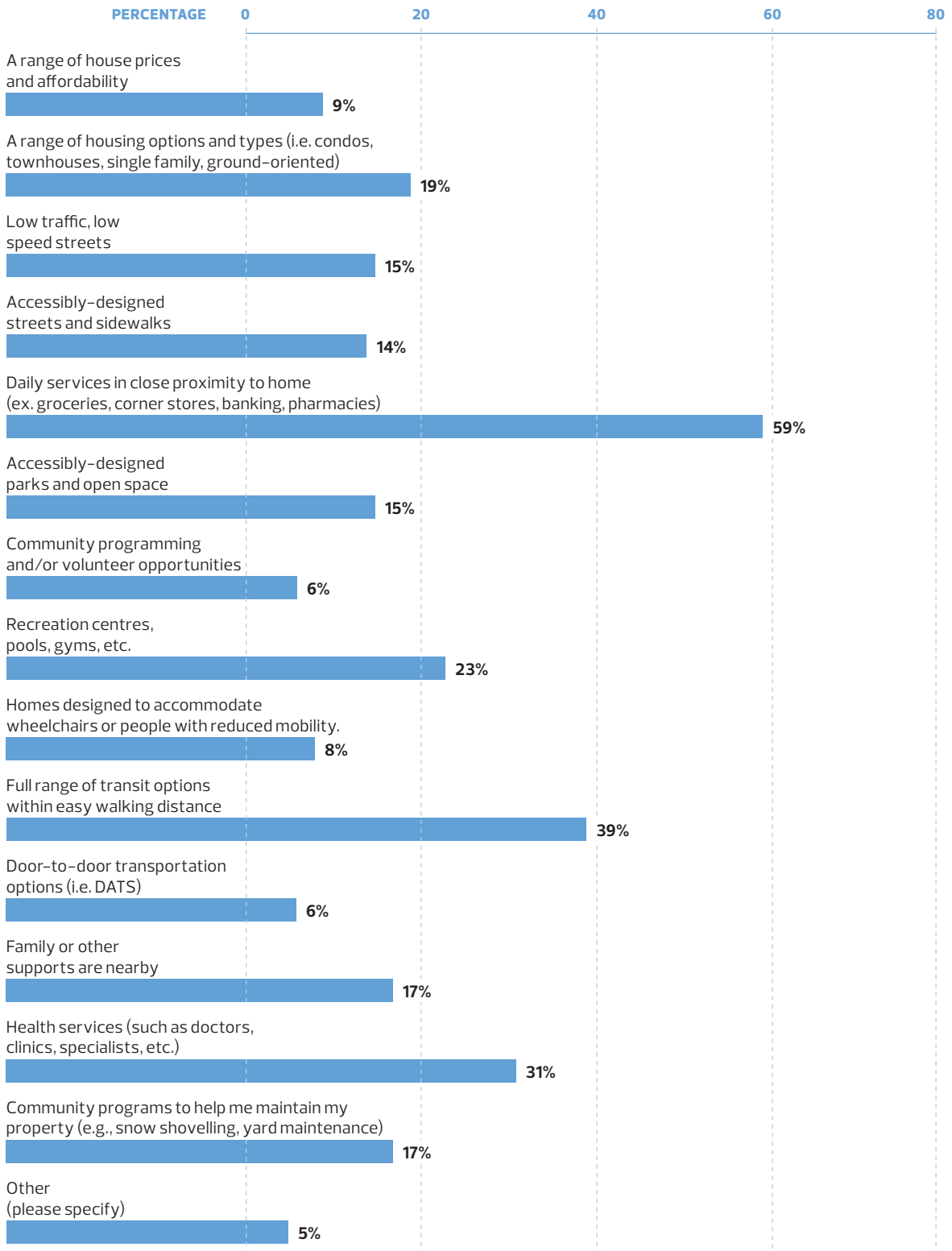
Q.3 From the list below, which three things would you most like to live close to?



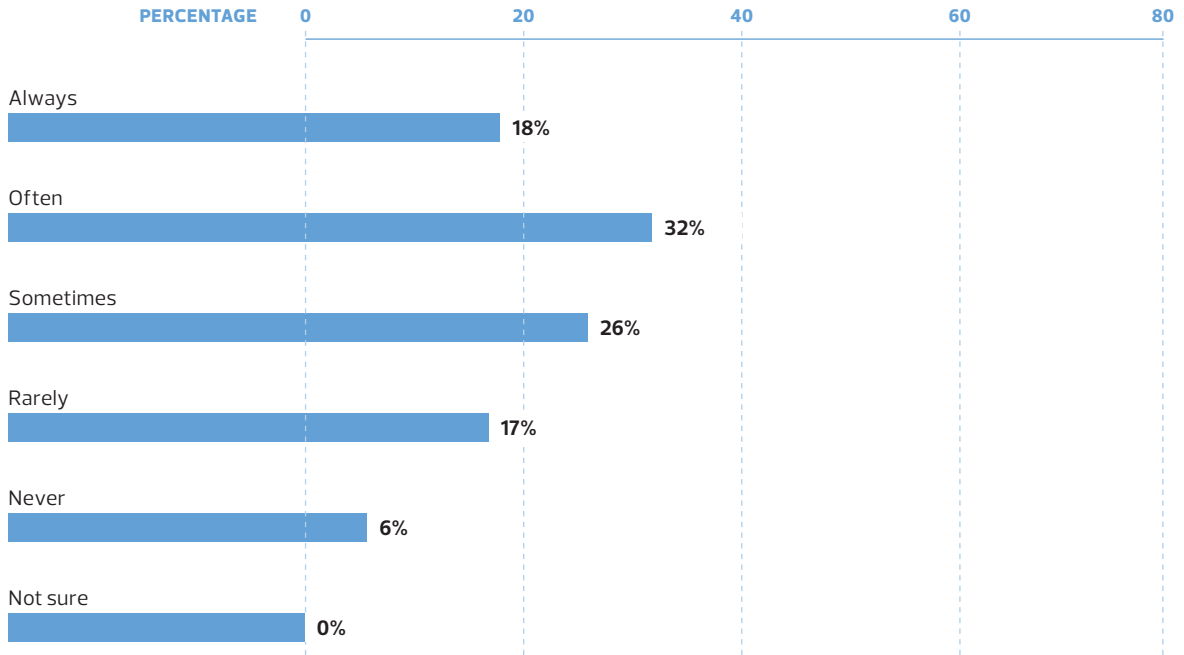
Q.4 How far would you be willing to walk to each of the following places?



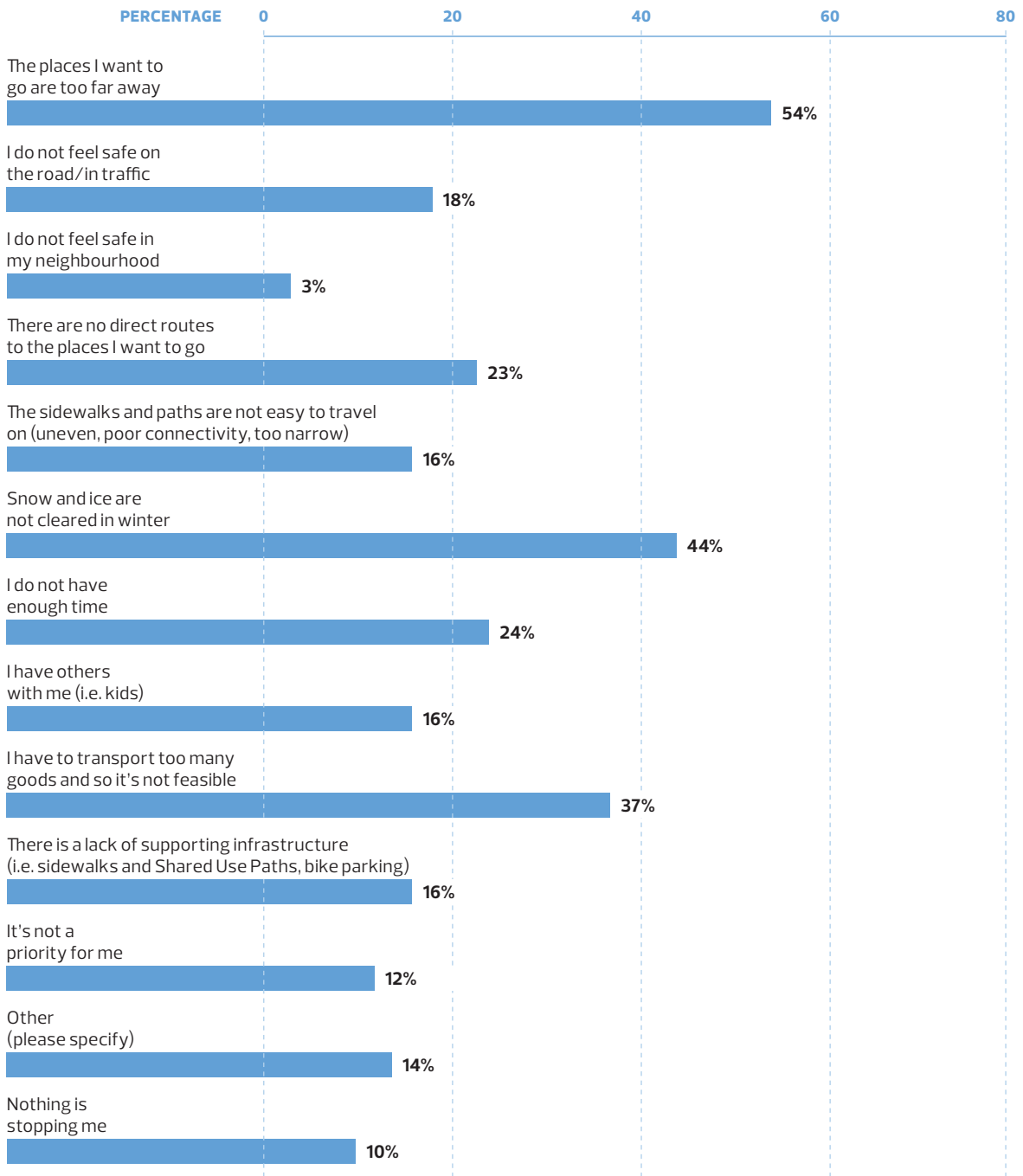
Q.5 Thinking about getting older, what elements would help you to continue to live in your neighbourhood?



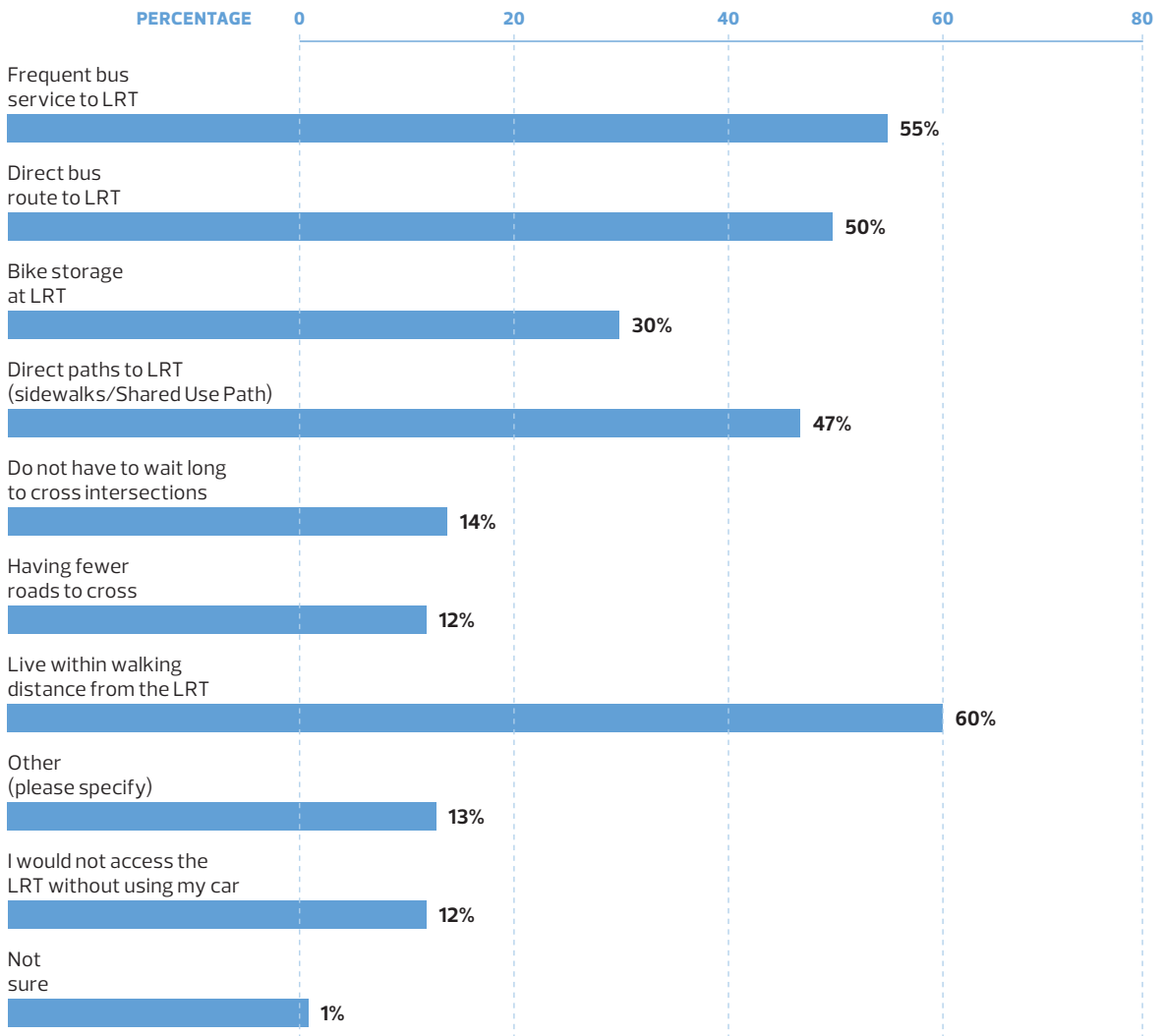
Q.6 Active transportation refers to things like walking, biking, skateboarding, or rollerblading. How often do you currently use any of these active transportation modes in your day-to-day life?



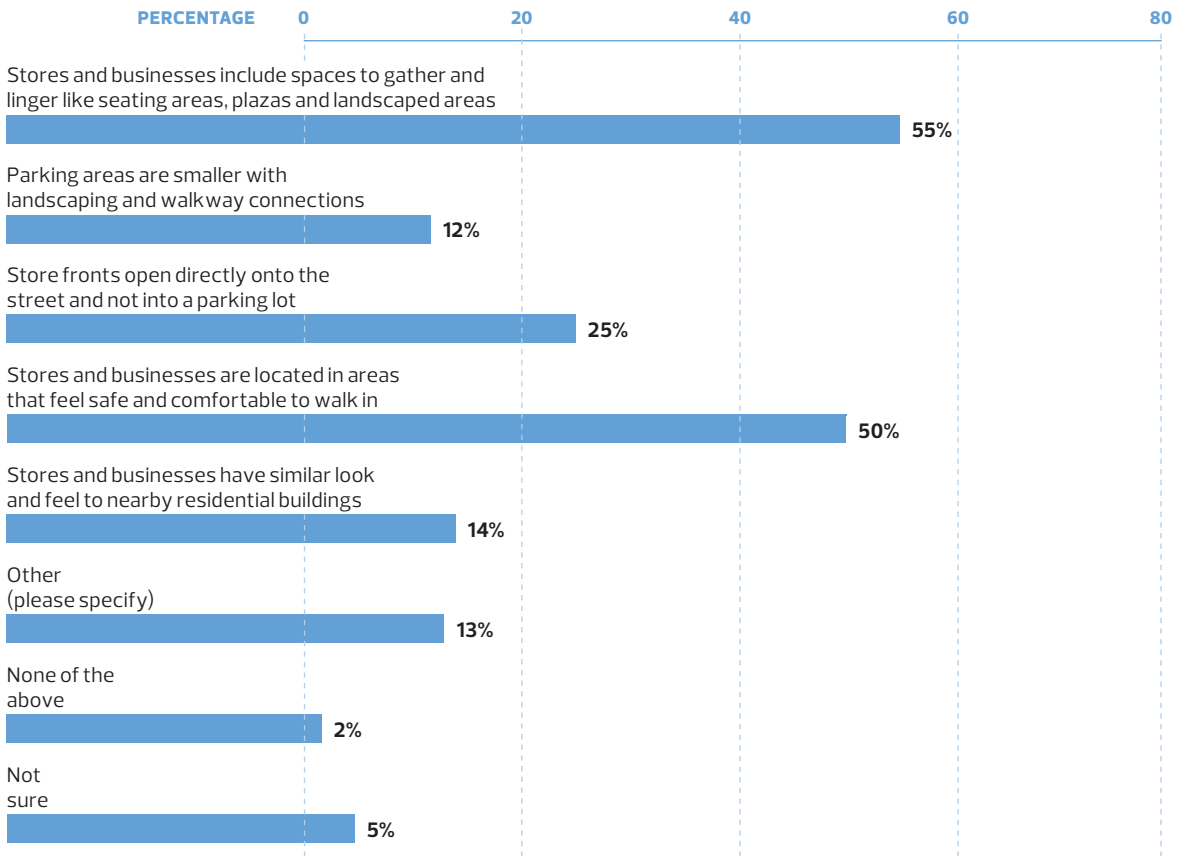
Q.7 What, if anything, is stopping you from using active transportation in your current day-to-day life?



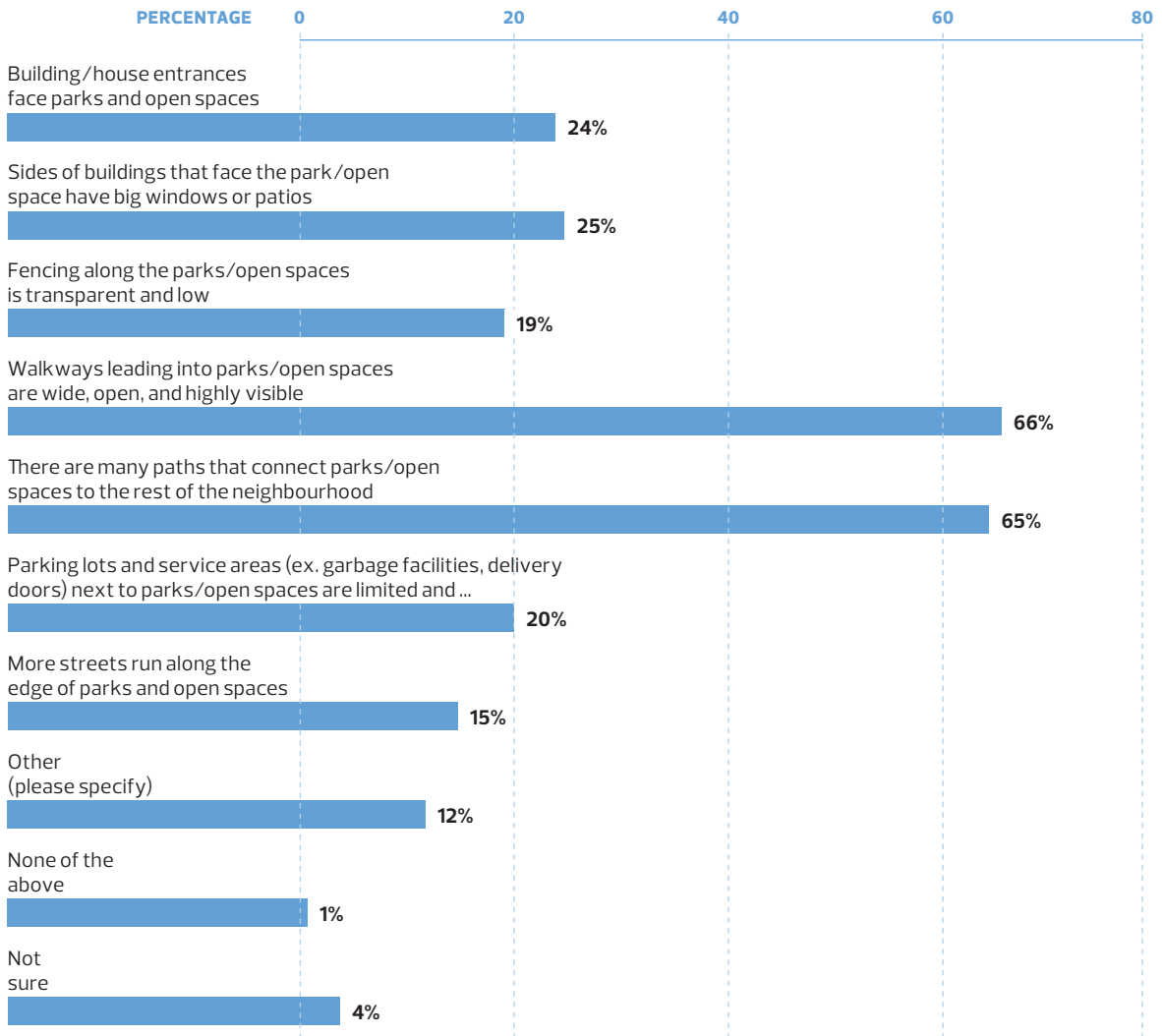
**Q.8 We would like to encourage people to access the LRT without using their car.
What would help you do that?**



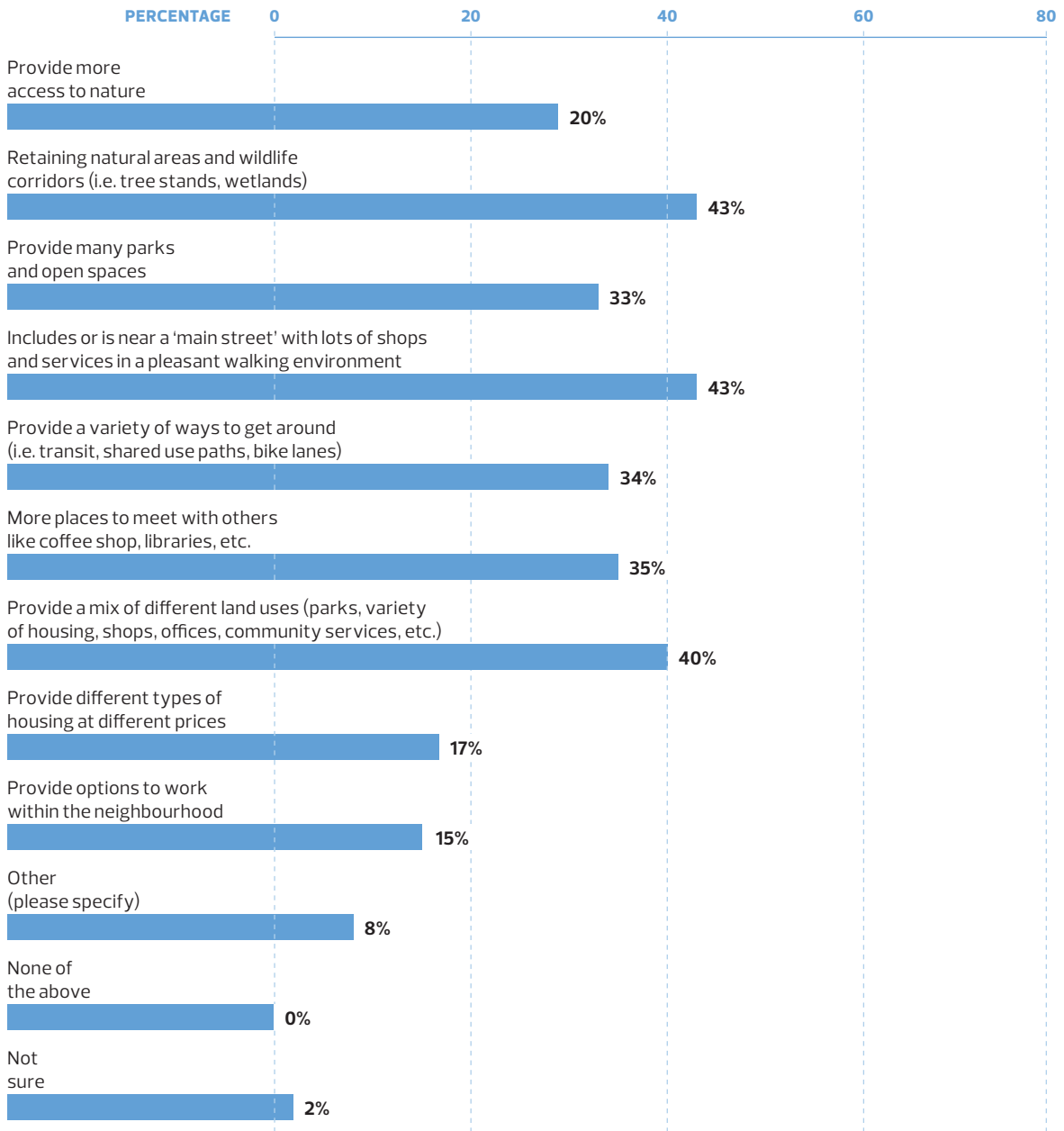
Q.9 How can we design commercial areas to be more welcoming and promote social connection?



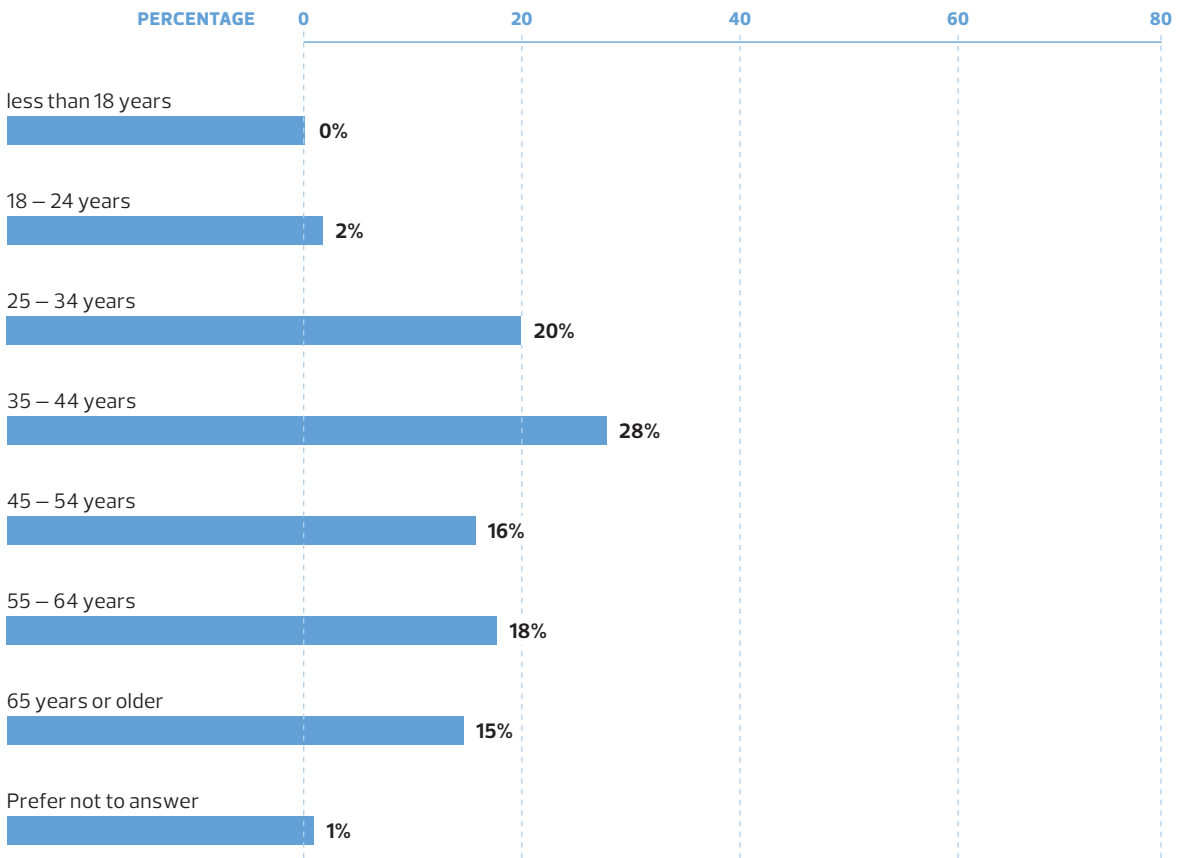
Q.10 How can we design development that surrounds open spaces and parks to be more welcoming and promote social connection?



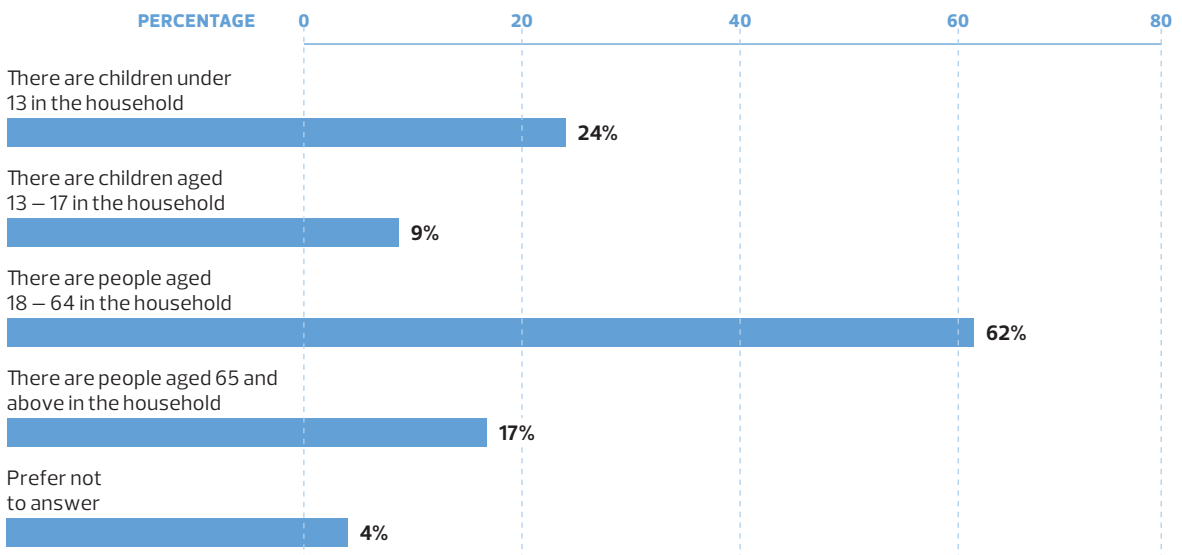
Q.11 Thinking about a healthy community that is designed to promote social, physical, environmental, and mental well-being, how can a neighbourhood create more opportunities for overall well-being?



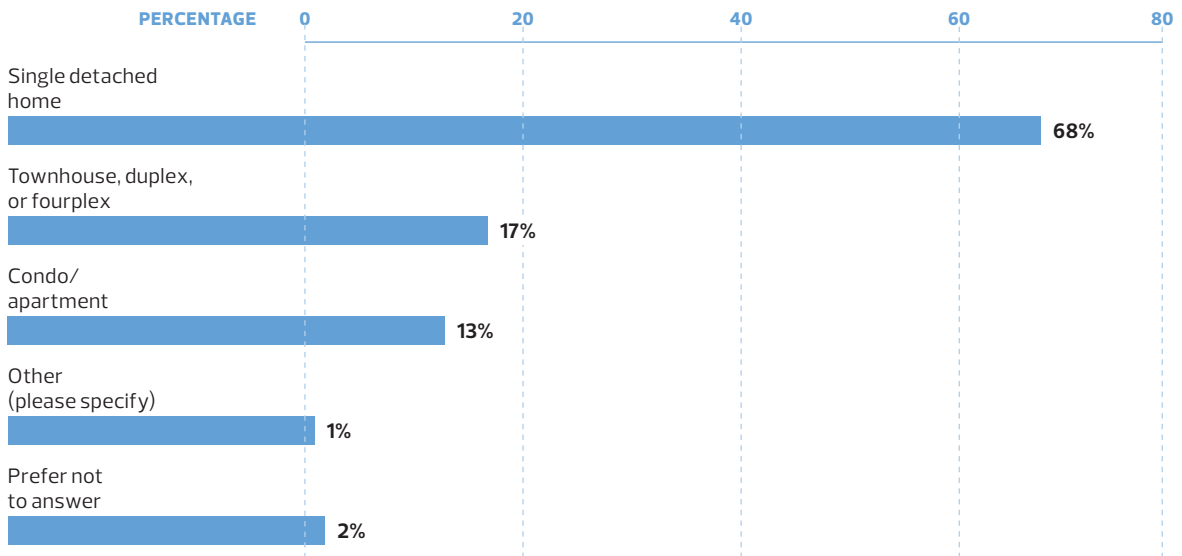
D.1 Which best describes your age?



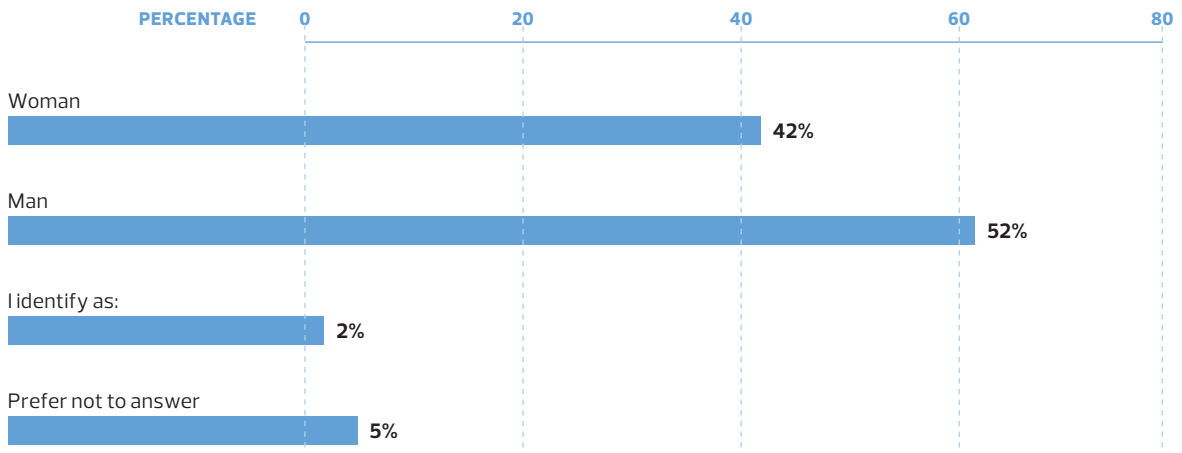
D.2 Which of the following describes your household?



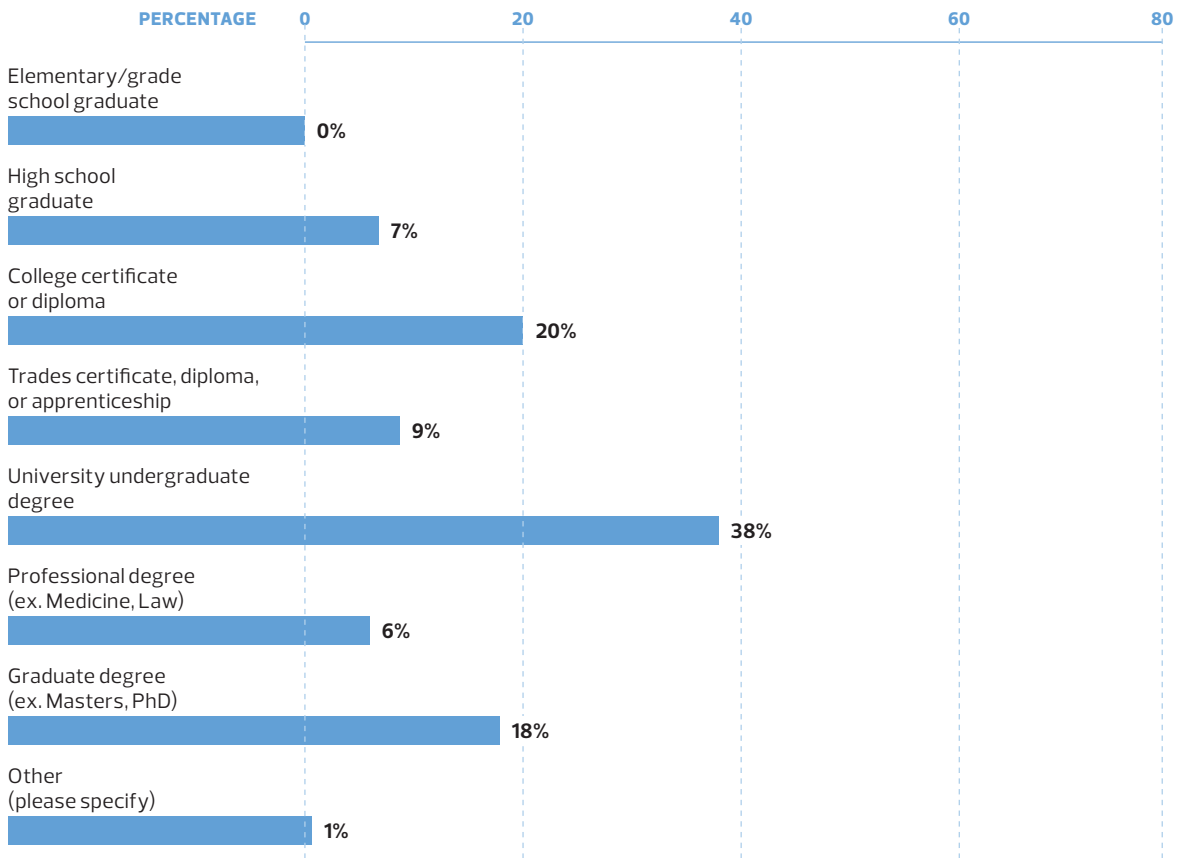
D.3 What type of dwelling do you live in?



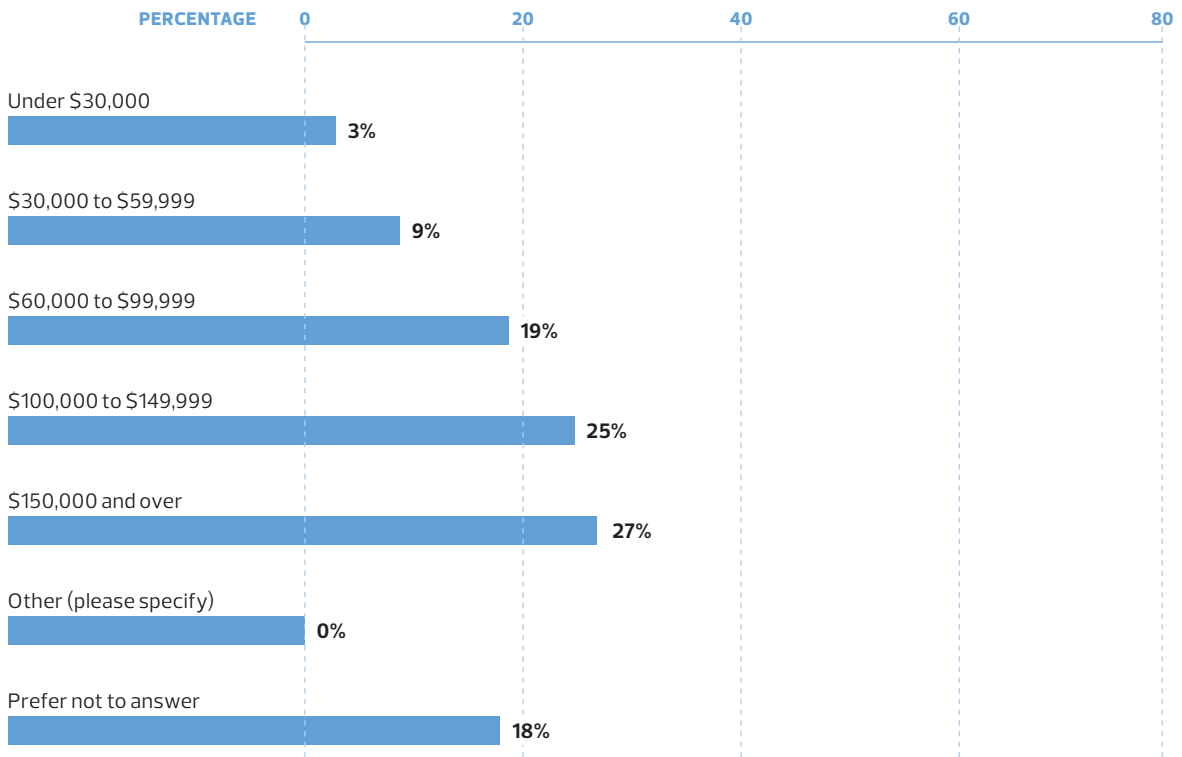
D.4 What is your gender identity?



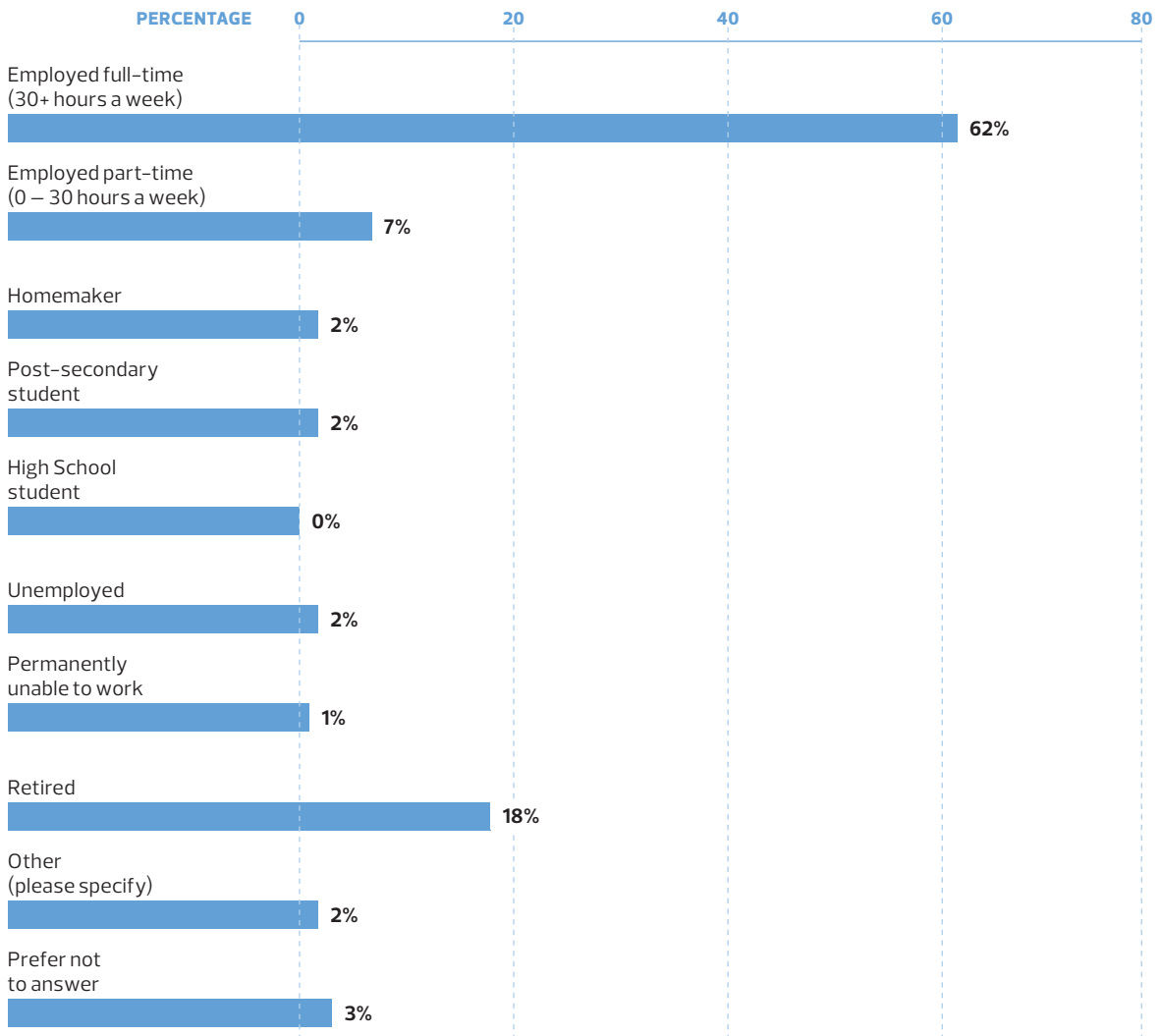
D.5 What is the highest level of education you have completed?



D.6 Which of the following categories best describes your total household income in 2017 before taxes?



D.7 What is your current employment status?





**If you have questions or comments about the project,
you can contact:**

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Email: michelle.hartlaub@edmonton.ca

Please visit edmonton.ca/heritagevalleyneighbourhood14