

# RESULTS OF HOUSING SURVEY

## Overview

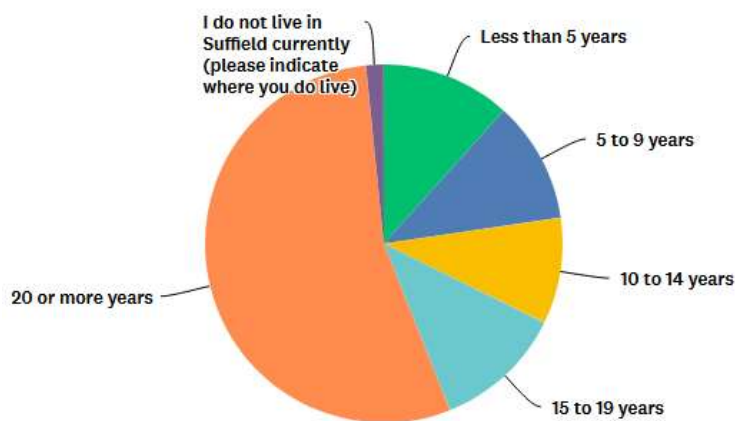
The Town of Suffield is preparing an “affordable housing plan” as required by CGS Section 8-30j. As part of this effort, the Affordable Housing Working Group conducted an on-line survey in June and July. Overall, 565 responses were received.

This booklet summarizes the survey results. Throughout this report, some table totals may not add due to rounding.

## Q1 – Length Of Residency

How long have you lived in Suffield?

Answered 564  
Skipped 1



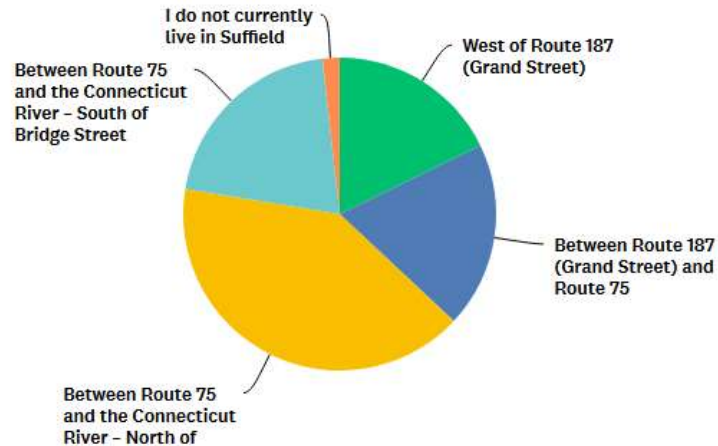
***Most survey participants have lived in Suffield for 20 or more years.***

Less than 5 years	12%	56
5 to 9 years	11%	62
10 to 14 years	10%	54
15 to 19 years	12%	66
More than 20 years	54%	307
Do not live in Suffield	2%	9

## Q2 – Neighborhood / Area

How would you describe the general area where you live?

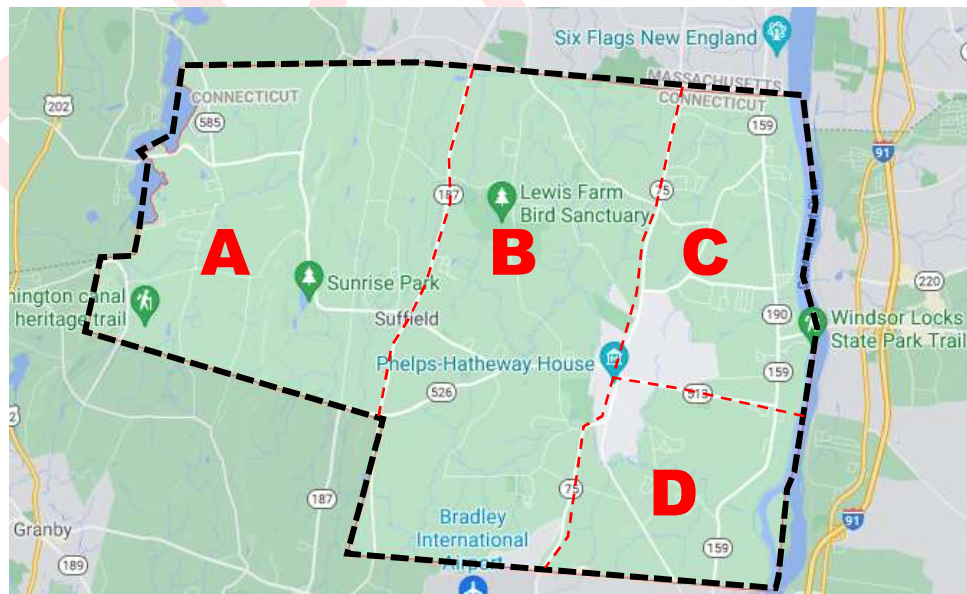
Answered 562  
Skipped 3



**Area C was over represented in the surveys (+33%).**

**Area D was under represented in the surveys (-28%).**

A.	West of Route 187 (Grand Street)	18%	100
B.	Between Route 187 (Grand Street) and Route 75	19%	108
C.	Between Route 75 and the CT River – North of Bridge Street	41%	228
D.	Between Route 75 and the CT River – South of Bridge Street	21%	116
E.	I do not currently live in Suffield	2%	10



## Q3/4 – Housing Past / Present

Q3 - Which of the following housing types have you lived in at any time in the past? (PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

Answered 540  
Skipped 25

Q4 - Which of the following housing types do you live in today (PLEASE CHECK ONE)

Answered 541  
Skipped 24

	Lived in at any time in the past?	Live in today
Single-Family Detached House	94%	86%
Single-Family Attached (Townhouse)	16%	3%
Two-Family Building (Duplex )	19%	2%
3-4 Family Building	10%	<1%
5+ Unit Apartment Building	32%	3%
5+ Unit Condominium Building	15%	3%
Other	3%	3%

### Sampling Of "Other" Responses

#### LIVED PAST - Other

- Apartment in a house
- Detached condo
- Dormitory
- Farm
- Public housing
- Studio apartment
- Senior Housing
- Trailer

#### LIVE TODAY - Other

- Apartment in a house
- Townhouse condo
- Detached condo
- Room rental
- Single family / in-law apartment
- Apartment attached to a business
- Senior Housing
- Two family

***While participants had lived in a variety of housing types in the past, most currently lived in single-family detached homes.***

**Larger Or Smaller?**

Larger	30%	165
Smaller	70%	372

**Own Or Rent?**

Def. Own	70%	381
Prob. Own	16%	85
Not Sure	10%	53
Prob Rent	2%	10
Def. Rent	2%	12

***Most participants felt that their next housing choice might be a smaller single-family home they would purchase.***

**Q5/6/7 – Future Housing Type**

Q5 - If your next housing choice was going to be in Suffield, which of the following housing types would you seek as your first choice?

Answered 538  
Skipped 27

Q6 - Do you think your next housing option will be larger or smaller than where you live today?

Answered 533  
Skipped 32

Q7 - Do you think you would prefer to own or rent your next housing option?

Answered 541  
Skipped 24

	Seek As Next Choice In Suffield	Larger / Smaller	Likely Own / Not Sure / Likely Rent
Single-Family Detached House	83%	149 / 293	521 / 37 / 5
Single-Family Attached (Townhouse)	5%	4 / 23	22 / 4 / 1
Two-Family Building (Duplex )	1%	1 / 4	0 / 3 / 2
3-4 Family Building	<1%	1 / 0	1 / 0 / 0
5+ Unit Apartment Building	3%	4 / 10	1 / 5 / 8
5+ Unit Condominium Building	4%	2 / 21	13 / 7 / 3
Other	4%	2 / 17	12 / 5 / 3

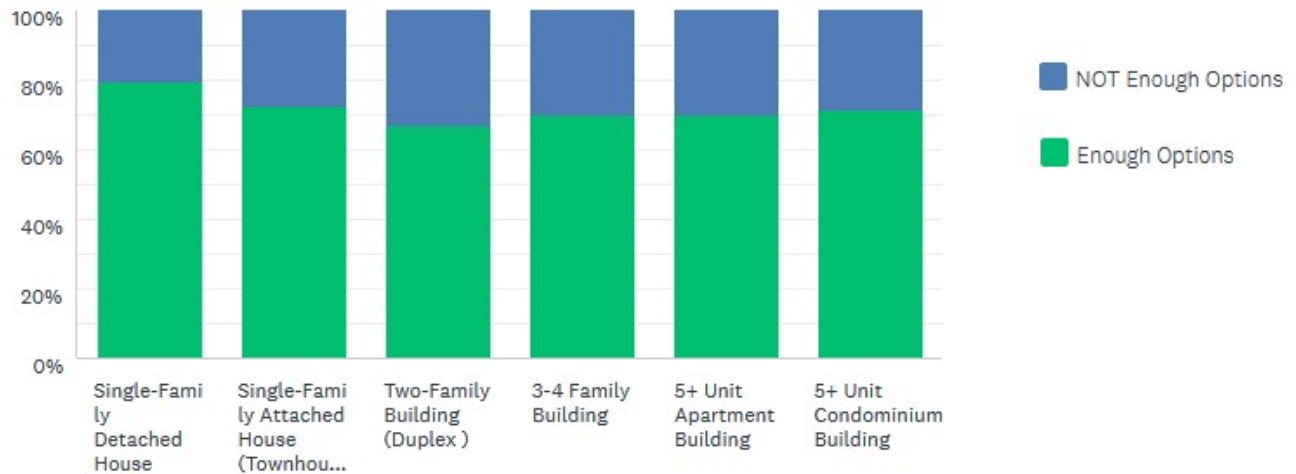
**Sampling Of "Other" Responses**

- Detached condo unit
- 2000 SF detached ranch
- Ranch homes that share communal space
- 55+ condominium
- 55+ one floor house
- 55+ community
- One floor unit in senior living community
- Senior housing
- Affordable elderly
- Assisted living facility
- Nursing home
- Retirement housing
- Subsidized elderly apt.
- This is my last house
- Place other than Suffield.
- I would not leave my house until I die

## Q8 – Amount Of Housing

Q8 - Now, for each of the following housing types, do you think Suffield currently has enough options of such housing type or NOT enough options of such housing type?

Answered 534  
Skipped 31



	Enough Options	Not Enough Options(%)	Not Enough Options (#)
Single-Family Detached House	79%	21%	109
Single-Family Attached (Townhouse )	73%	27%	137
Two-Family Building (Duplex )	67%	33%	165
3-4 Family Building	70%	30%	146
5+ Unit Apartment Building	70%	30%	149
5+ Unit Condominium Building	71%	29%	141

**Most participants felt Suffield had enough housing options already.**

**Some did not.**

### Sampling Of "Other" Responses

Older / Senior / Elderly	Younger / Family / Other
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Active adult</li> <li>Affordable over 55 units</li> <li>More Assisted Living units</li> <li>More options for retirees.</li> <li>Senior housing</li> <li>Senior Independent Living</li> <li>Affordable housing for elderly (what we have is sinful, living in a shoe box).</li> <li>We need more houses with in-law suites.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Affordable lower income housing</li> <li>Congregate housing for young adults with disabilities.</li> <li>Mixed-price neighborhoods of detached houses, some smaller and more affordable, and some larger.</li> <li>Co-living community</li> <li>Lower cost single family starter homes</li> <li>Housing for singles who need a smaller place.</li> <li>Smaller low maintenance affordable housing (pods)</li> <li>Smaller single family homes instead of the mini mansion</li> </ul>

## Q9 – Housing Priorities

Q9 - On a scale of 1 (low priority) to 5 (high priority), what do you feel are Suffield's greatest housing needs?

Answered 518  
Skipped 47

Weighted Average (a*5 + b*4 + c*3 + d*2 + e*1)		5	4	3	2	1
		Highest Priority		Moderate Priority		Low Priority
<b>3.01</b>	Housing options for <u>older persons</u> and households.	16%	16%	38%	13%	17%
			32%			30%
<b>2.99</b>	Housing options for <u>younger people</u> and households.	14%	22%	31%	14%	20%
			36%			34%
<b>2.94</b>	Housing options for <u>lower income elderly</u> persons.	18%	16%	30%	14%	22%
			34%			36%
<b>2.85</b>	Housing options for <u>service workers</u> (such as teachers, police, store clerks, and similar workers).	14%	16%	35%	11%	24%
			30%			35%
<b>2.67</b>	Housing options for <u>lower income disabled</u> persons.	12%	16%	33%	15%	14%
			28%			29%
<b>2.50</b>	Housing options for <u>lower income households</u> .	13%	13%	23%	14%	36%
			26%			50%

***There was more support among participants for age-related needs compared to income-related needs.***

### Sampling Of "Other" Responses

- More smaller homes / Ranches / Not McMansions
- Need more homes with farm land. We are a farming community
- Suffield needs affordable housing to attract more diverse residents and provide housing options for people who:
  - work in our town but can't afford to live here, or
  - send their kids to the Ag program, but can't afford to live here.
- Suffield has sufficient housing now
- Housing is one of several choices each household must make; ... each family has to decide how they want to "make ends meet."
- There is already plenty of low income housing in center of town
- Young adults with disabilities
- No more section 8
- Town is great as it is now

## Q10 – Possible Strategies

- A. Suffield should provide for more housing options so that people can find ways to meet their housing needs in Suffield.

Strongly AGREE	Somewhat AGREE	Not Sure	Somewhat DISAGREE	Strongly DISAGREE
20%	22%	12%	20%	25%
98	111	61	101	127
42%		12%	45%	

- B. Suffield should promote housing options where water and sewer service is available.

Strongly AGREE	Somewhat AGREE	Not Sure	Somewhat DISAGREE	Strongly DISAGREE
29%	29%	20%	9%	13%
145	145	101	44	63
58%		20%	22%	

- C. Suffield should promote housing options in all areas of the community.

Strongly AGREE	Somewhat AGREE	Not Sure	Somewhat DISAGREE	Strongly DISAGREE
18%	22%	17%	15%	27%
91	110	86	76	134
40%		17%	42%	

- D. Suffield should increase the number of units which are affordable to households with lower incomes.

Strongly AGREE	Somewhat AGREE	Not Sure	Somewhat DISAGREE	Strongly DISAGREE
17%	17%	14%	17%	35%
86	85	70	83	174
34%		14%	52%	

- E. The design of housing units in Suffield, including multi-family housing, is important.

Strongly AGREE	Somewhat AGREE	Not Sure	Somewhat DISAGREE	Strongly DISAGREE
30%	23%	15%	11%	21%
151	115	75	56	103
53%		15%	32%	

- F. Suffield should provide for more affordable housing units to meet State guidelines and avoid State over-ride of local zoning.

Strongly AGREE	Somewhat AGREE	Not Sure	Somewhat DISAGREE	Strongly DISAGREE
22%	22%	20%	10%	25%
109	111	101	32	124
44%		20%	35%	

- G. Suffield should enact a fee on development permits to help fund the creation of affordable housing units.

Strongly AGREE	Somewhat AGREE	Not Sure	Somewhat DISAGREE	Strongly DISAGREE
14%	15%	20%	13%	39%
71	74	99	65	190
29%		20%	52%	

- H. The Town has been pro-active and successful at preserving open space and the Town should devote the same level of effort to creating affordable housing.

Strongly AGREE	Somewhat AGREE	Not Sure	Somewhat DISAGREE	Strongly DISAGREE
17%	19%	11%	21%	33%
63	93	55	105	162
36%		11%	54%	



## DRAFT - For AHWG Discussion

- I. The Town should set aside money in the annual budget for the creation of affordable housing units.

Strongly AGREE	Somewhat AGREE	Not Sure	Somewhat DISAGREE	Strongly DISAGREE
15%	12%	14%	15%	43%
75	60	71	76	217
27%		14%	58%	

- J. Suffield should allow accessory dwelling units within or attached to single-family homes.

Strongly AGREE	Somewhat AGREE	Not Sure	Somewhat DISAGREE	Strongly DISAGREE
21%	24%	22%	13%	20%
103	119	107	66	100
45%		22%	33%	

- K. Suffield should simplify the process of converting single-family detached homes into two-family homes.

Strongly AGREE	Somewhat AGREE	Not Sure	Somewhat DISAGREE	Strongly DISAGREE
15%	19%	22%	10%	33%
75	96	110	51	167
34%		22%	43%	

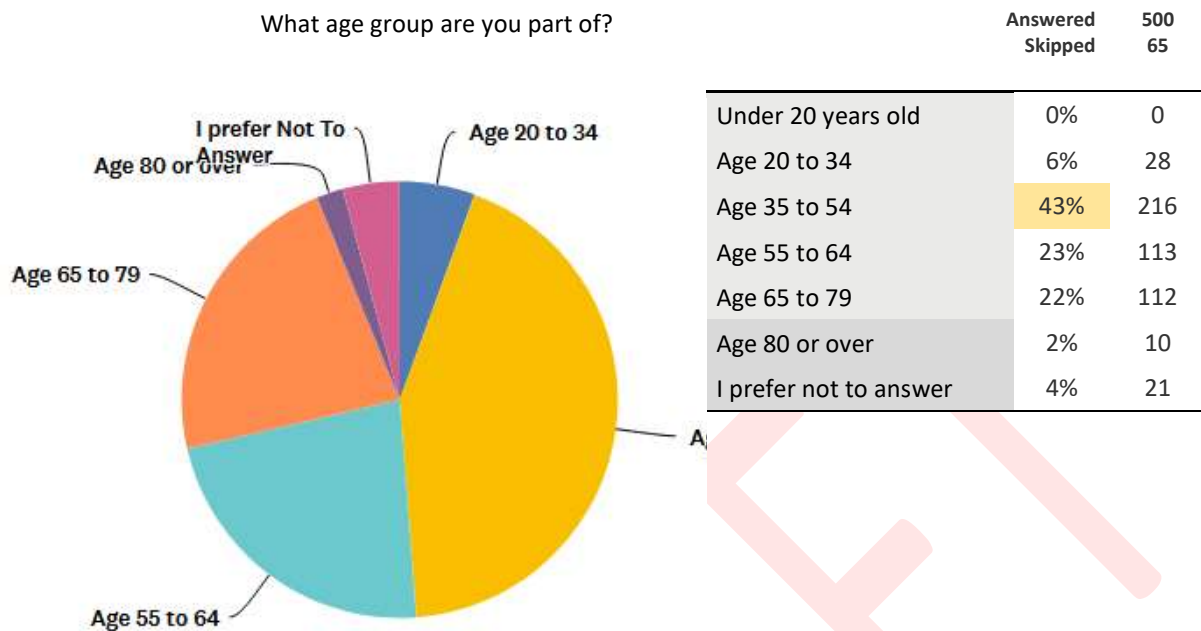
## Q11 – Other Strategies

Are there any other strategies related to housing options / choices you feel Suffield should consider?

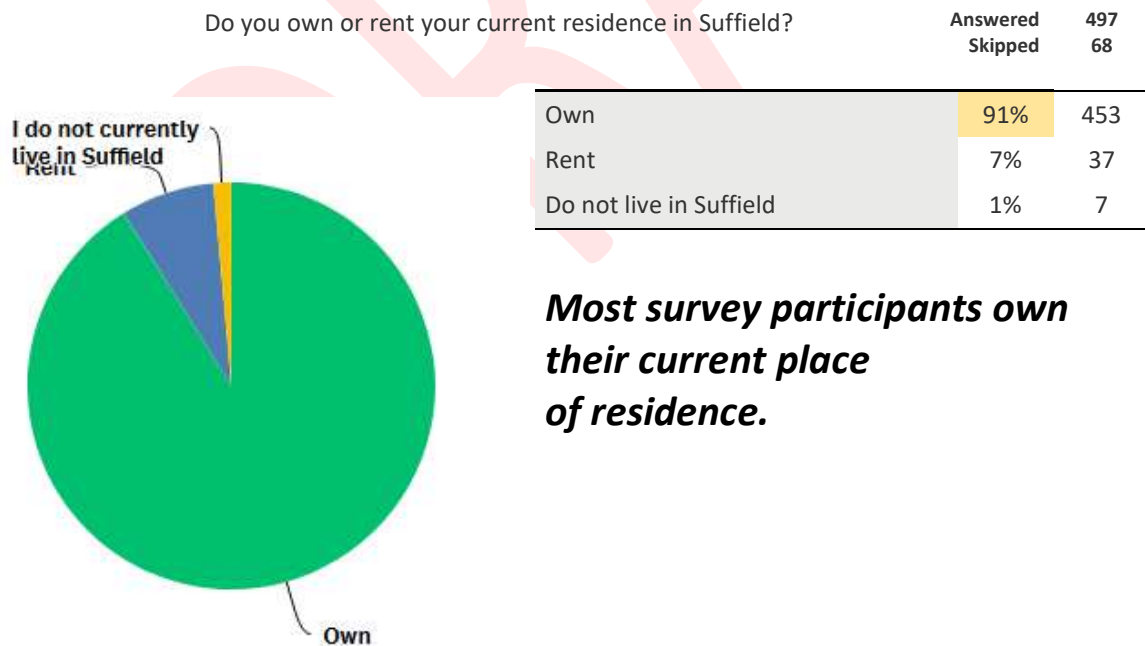
Answered 100  
Skipped 465

**OPEN ENDED RESPONSES TO Q9 PLACED AT END OF REPORT**

## Q12 – Age



## Q13 – Tenure

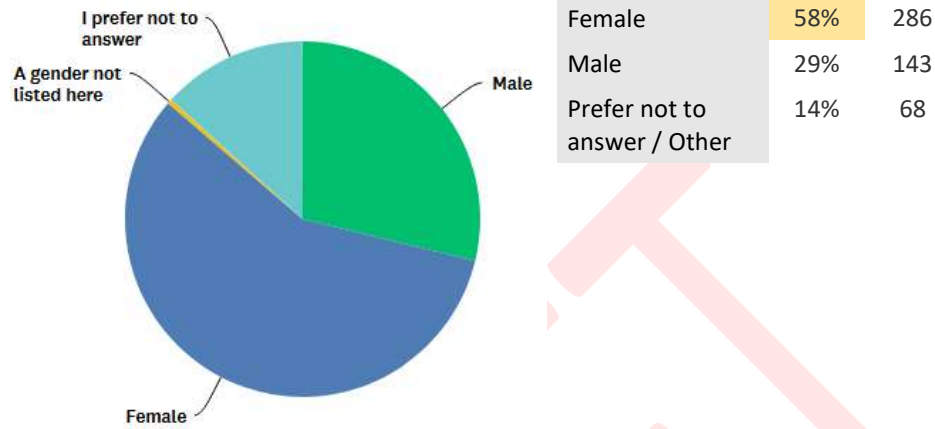


***Most survey participants own their current place of residence.***

## Q14 – Gender

What gender are you?

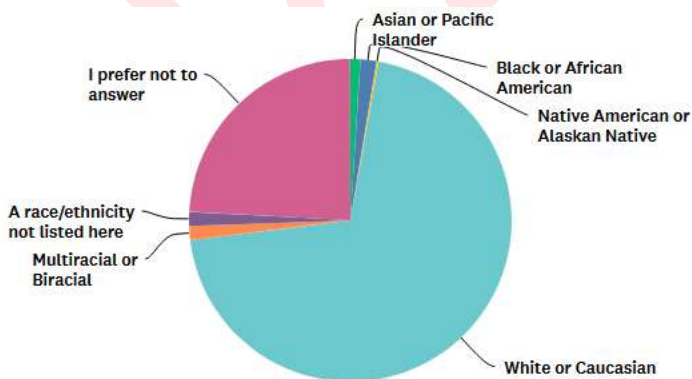
Answered 497  
Skipped 68



## Q15 – Race / Ethnicity

Which of the following best describes you? (please select one answer)

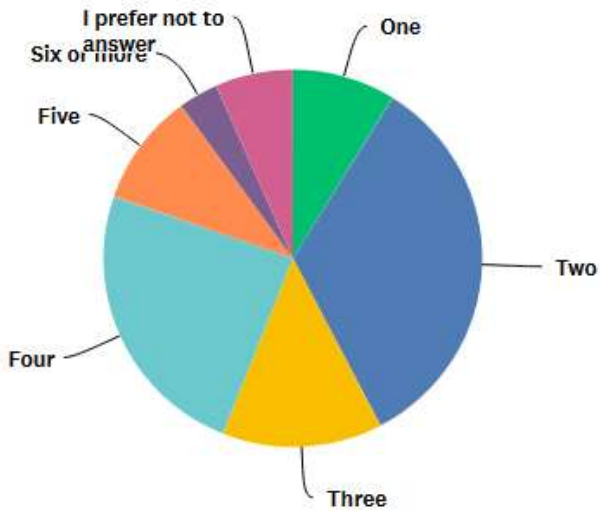
Answered 497  
Skipped 68



## Q16 – Household Size

How many people are living in your household?

Answered 997  
Skipped 170



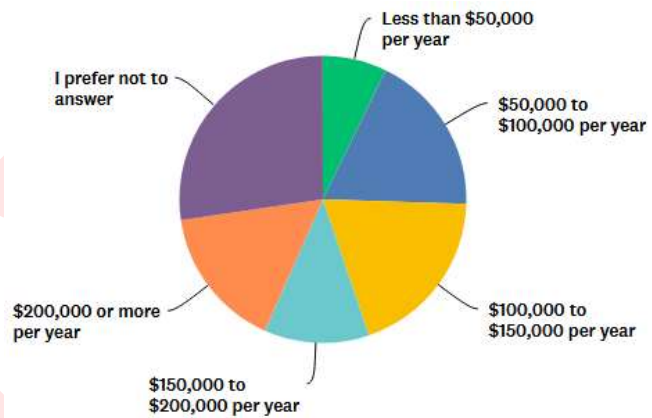
One	9%	44
Two	34%	167
Three	14%	68
Four	24%	121
Five	10%	48
Six or more	3%	17
I prefer not to answer	7%	33

## Q17 – Household Income

So that we can better understand local housing needs, please tell us which category your combined household income falls (including social security, pensions, IRA withdrawals, and other sources of income)?

Answered 498  
Skipped 67

Less than \$50,000 per year	7%	36
\$50,000 to \$100,000 per year	18%	91
\$100,000 to \$150,000 per year	19%	96
\$150,000 to \$200,000 per year	12%	59
\$200,000 or more per year	16%	80
No response / I prefer not to answer	27%	136



## Q18 – Other Thoughts

Are there any other thoughts you would like to share with us today?

Answered 82  
Skipped 483

**OPEN ENDED RESPONSES TO Q17 PLACED AT END OF REPORT**

DRAFT