

Parkland County

Social Development Plan

“Our Communities, Our People”

What We Heard Report

April 2018



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Process

The Parkland County Social Development Plan engagement process ran for 5 weeks and used a number of channels to communicate the process to and collect input from Parkland residents.

Communications and Participation Methods

Focus Groups

Aboriginal Days Group (x2)
Critical Connections
Internal County Staff (x2)
Presidents Forum
School Sessions (x3)
Seniors Centre Sessions (x2)
Sustainability Committee

Posters

Across County Facilities

Print Media

Community Voice
Devon Dispatch
Parkland Communicator
Pembina Post
Spruce Grove Examiner
Stony Plain Reporter

Radio

CKSS FM "88.1 The One"

Community Events

Blueberry Hall Bird House Event
Brightbank Bird House Event
Community Dinner Project
Elder Abuse Meeting
First Five Forever
Group Pastors Luncheon
Hubble's Lake
Mayatan Lake
Muir Lake Community Hall
Neighbours Meeting Neighbours
Parkland Dayhomes
Parkland Village Moms & Tots
Seniors Interagency
Smithfield Community Hall
Tomahawk Easter Egg Hunt

Community Open Houses

Entwistle Community Hall
Parkland County Centre

Online Surveys

General Survey
Seniors Survey
Youth Survey
Key Stakeholders Survey

Social Media

Parkland County Facebook Page
Parkland County Twitter
Community Association Facebook Page

Website

www.parklandcounty.ca/sdp
12,246 Impressions

Sounding Boards

Duffield Public Library
Entwistle Public Library
Keephills Public Library
Tomahawk Public Library
Magnolia Hall Annual General Meeting
Internal County Staff Workshop

Interviews

Alberta Health Services Home Care
Parkland County Economic Development
Parkland County Enforcement Services
FCSS Partners (x5)
Parkland School Division
Parkland County Parks, Recreation & Culture (x3)
Parkland County Transportation
Pioneer Centre
Smart Parkland
Specialized Transit Service
Stony Plain RCMP Detachment

Participation

The Parkland County Social Development Plan engagement process garnered feedback from nearly 600 respondents.

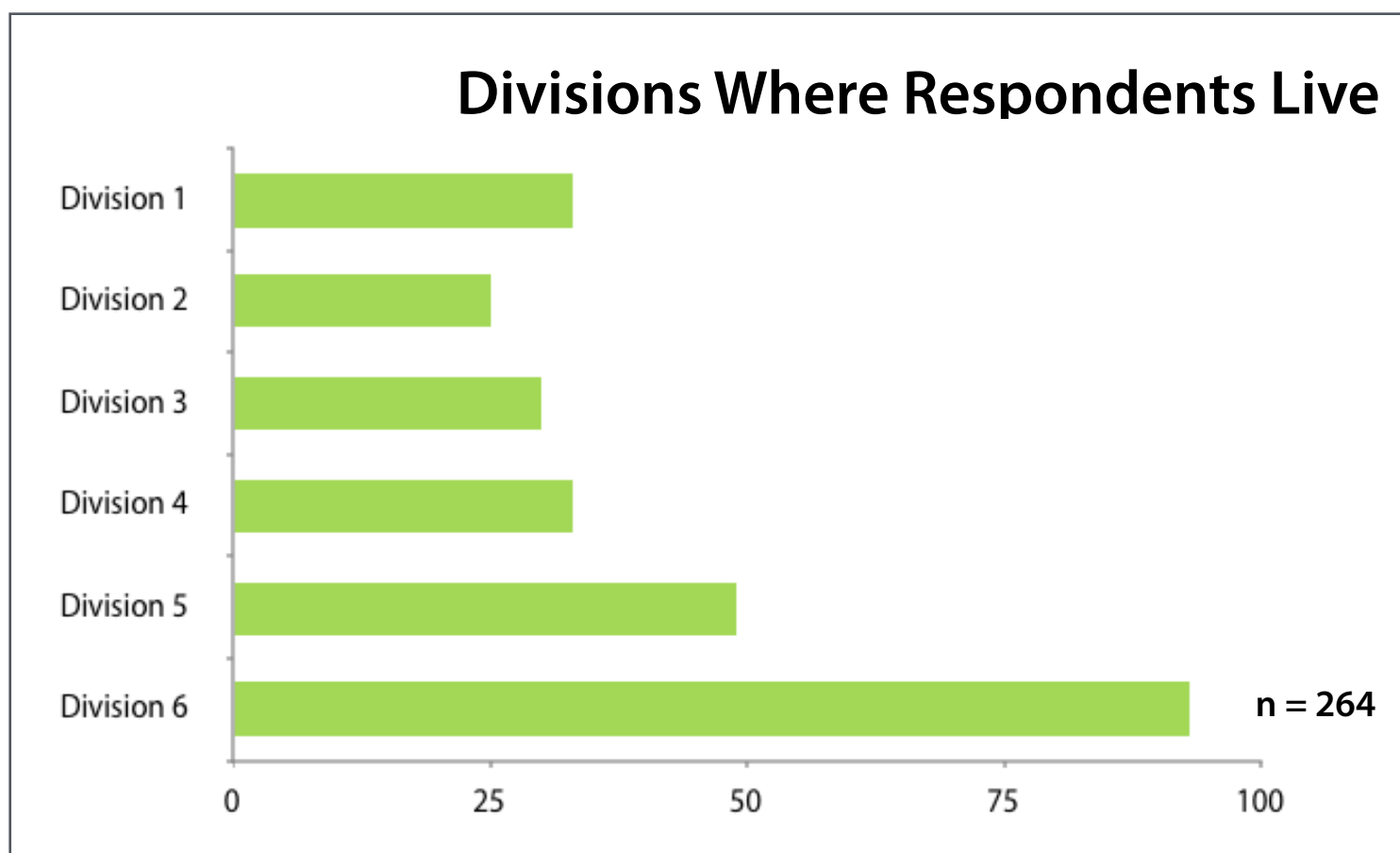
Feedback Channel	Participants	Breakdown of Respondents by Feedback Channel
Focus Groups	248	School Sessions (x3) - 89 Presidents Forum - 70 Internal County Staff (x2) - 31 Aboriginal Days Group (x2) - 25 Seniors Centre Sessions (x2) - 16 Critical Connections - 11 Sustainability Committee - 6
Survey (online and paper) <small>*including partial survey completion</small>	287	General - 165 Youth - 52 Seniors - 47 Key Stakeholders - 23
Event Attendance	330	Various Community Events Across the County
Sounding Boards	6	Duffield Public Library Entwistle Public Library Keephills Public Library Tomahawk Public Library Magnolia Hall Annual General Meeting Internal County Staff Workshop
Key Informant Interviews	17	Various Organizations Across the County
Open Houses	21	Entwistle Community Hall - 19 Parkland County Centre - 2
Total	909	562

Participant: A person who has actively sought out information regarding the project OR engaged in two- way conversations, by providing a response on the project.

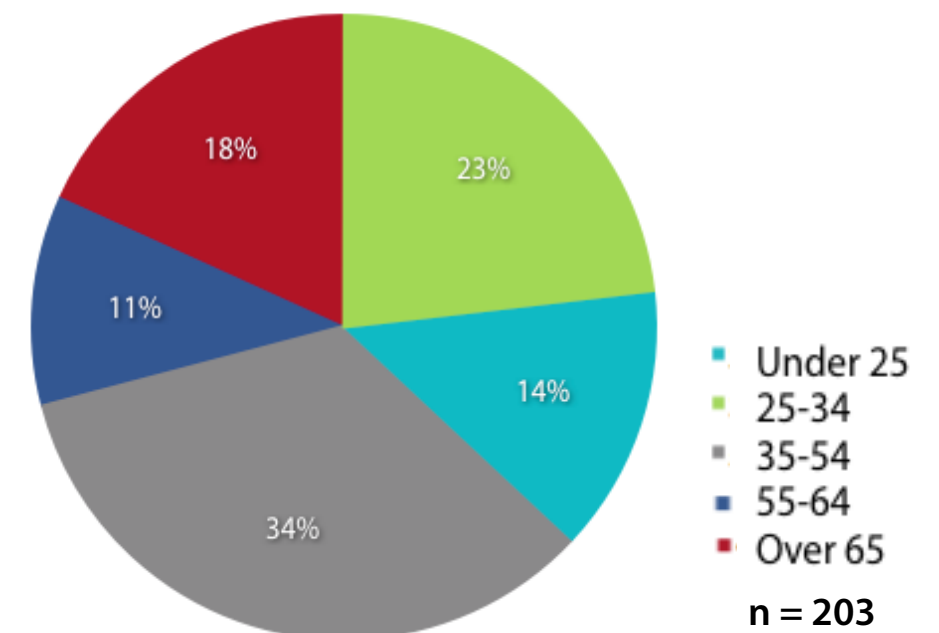
Response: A comment received by one individual for one particular request for feedback (e . g . survey, post it note comment).

Who We Heard From

In the Social Development Plan survey participants were asked to answer a number of demographic questions. The following highlights the responses we heard to these questions in the general, seniors and youth public surveys. The majority of general survey respondents were from Division 6, which also held true in the seniors survey. In the youth survey, Division 1 was the most common community respondents were from.

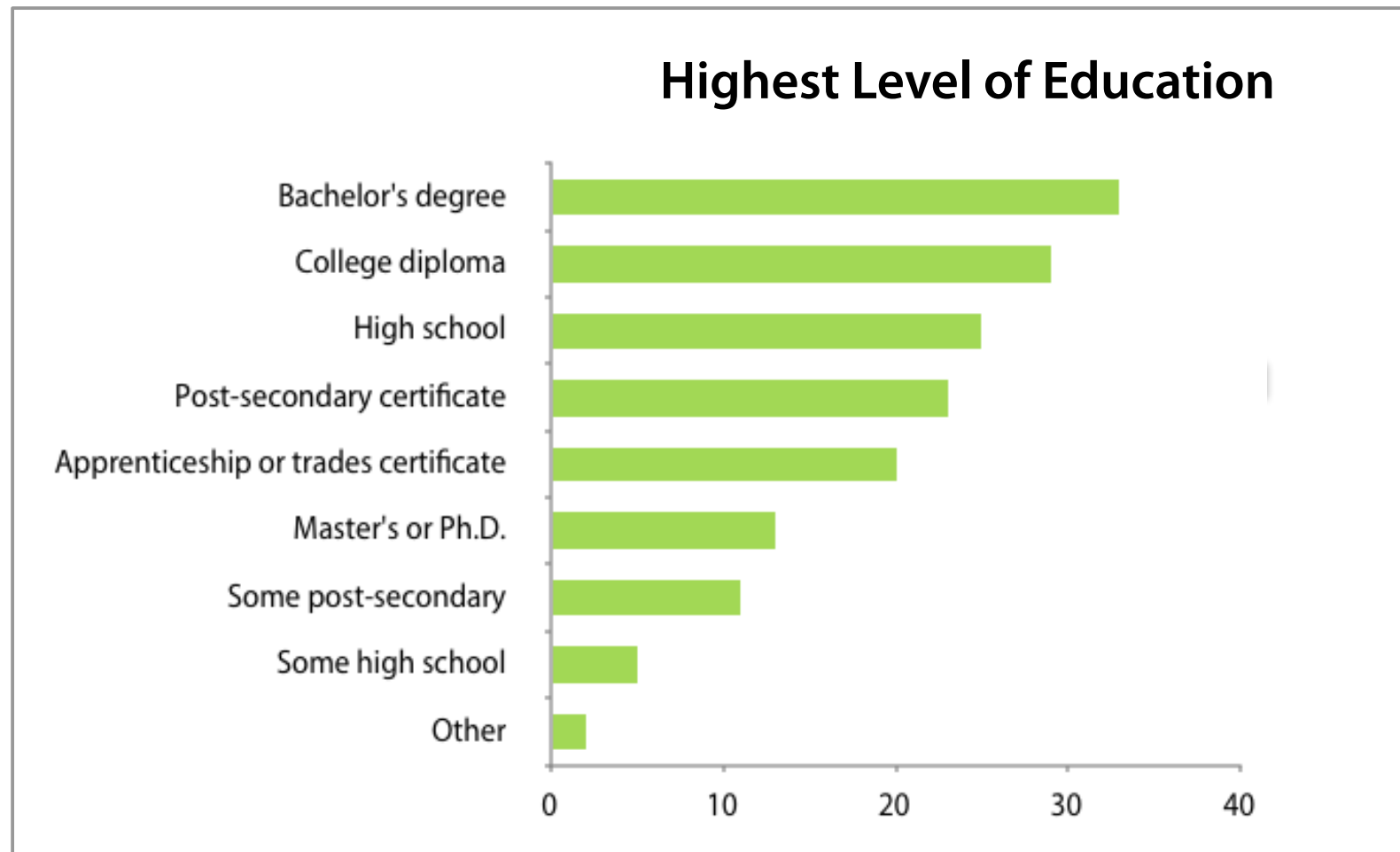


Age Group of Respondents



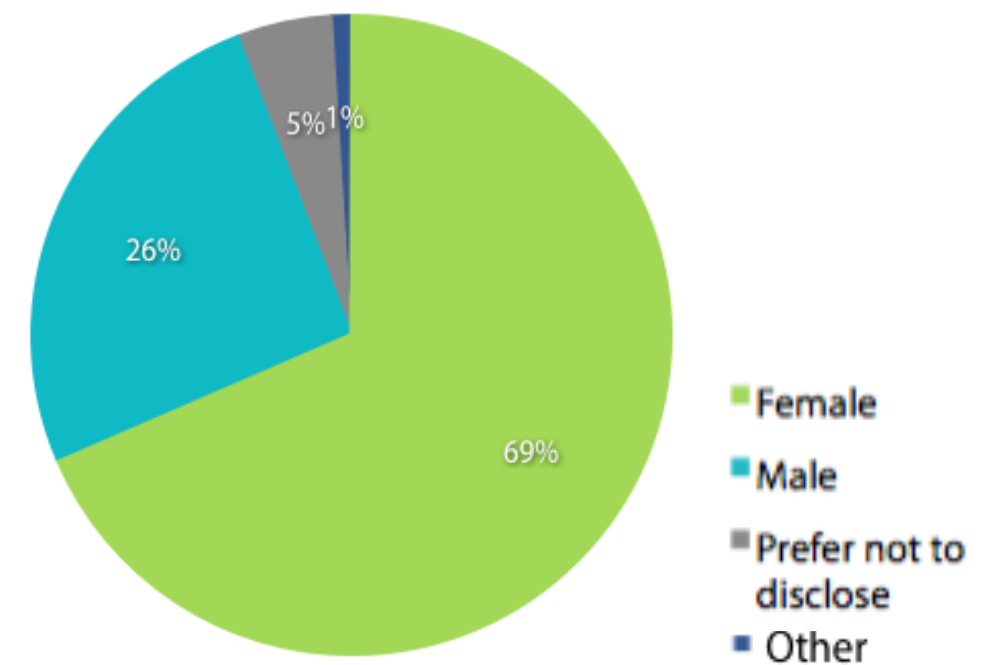
Who We Heard From

Participants with education beyond high school made up 80% of the total responses to this question. The majority of survey respondents identified as female (69%).



n = 161

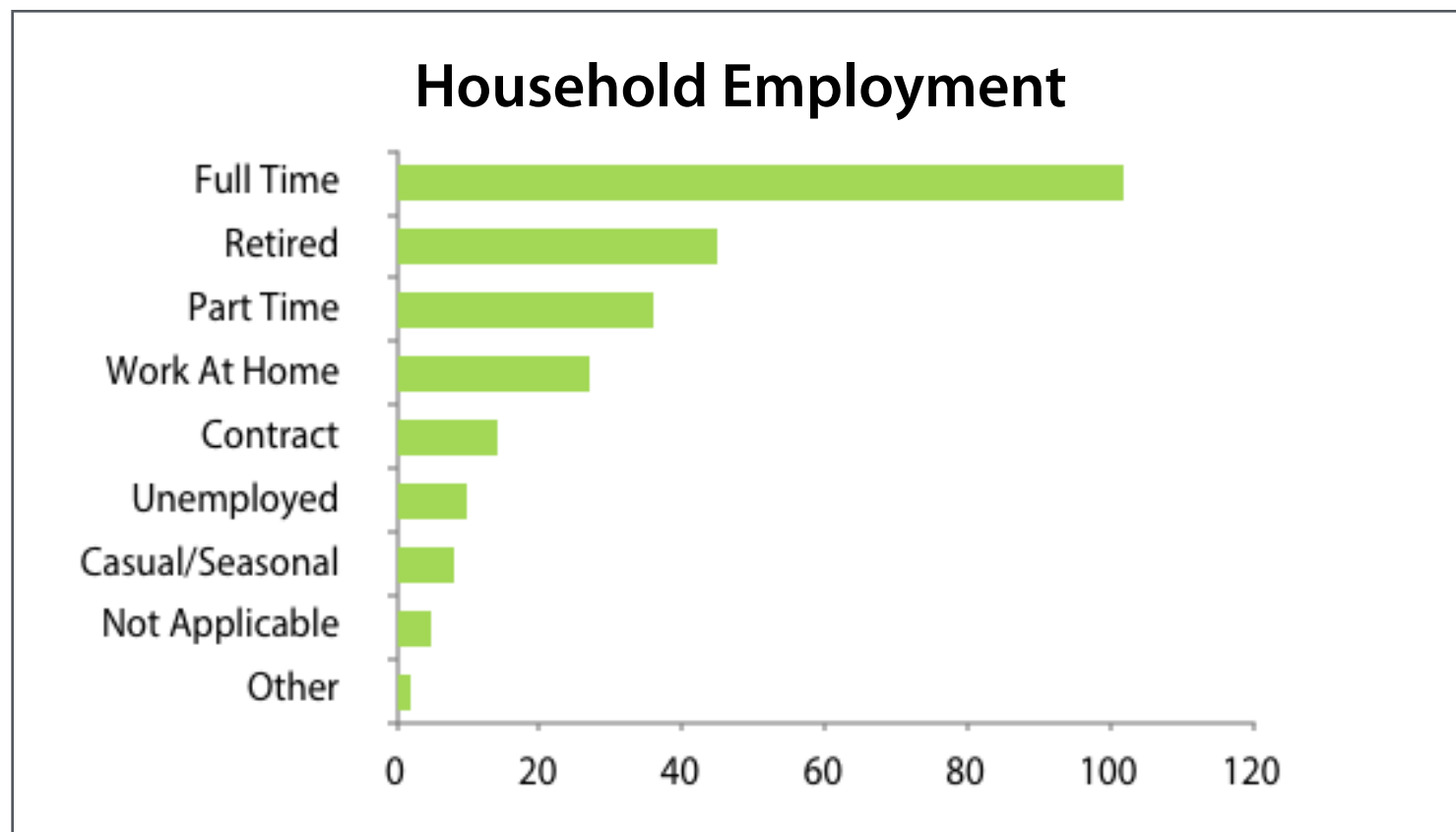
Gender of Respondents



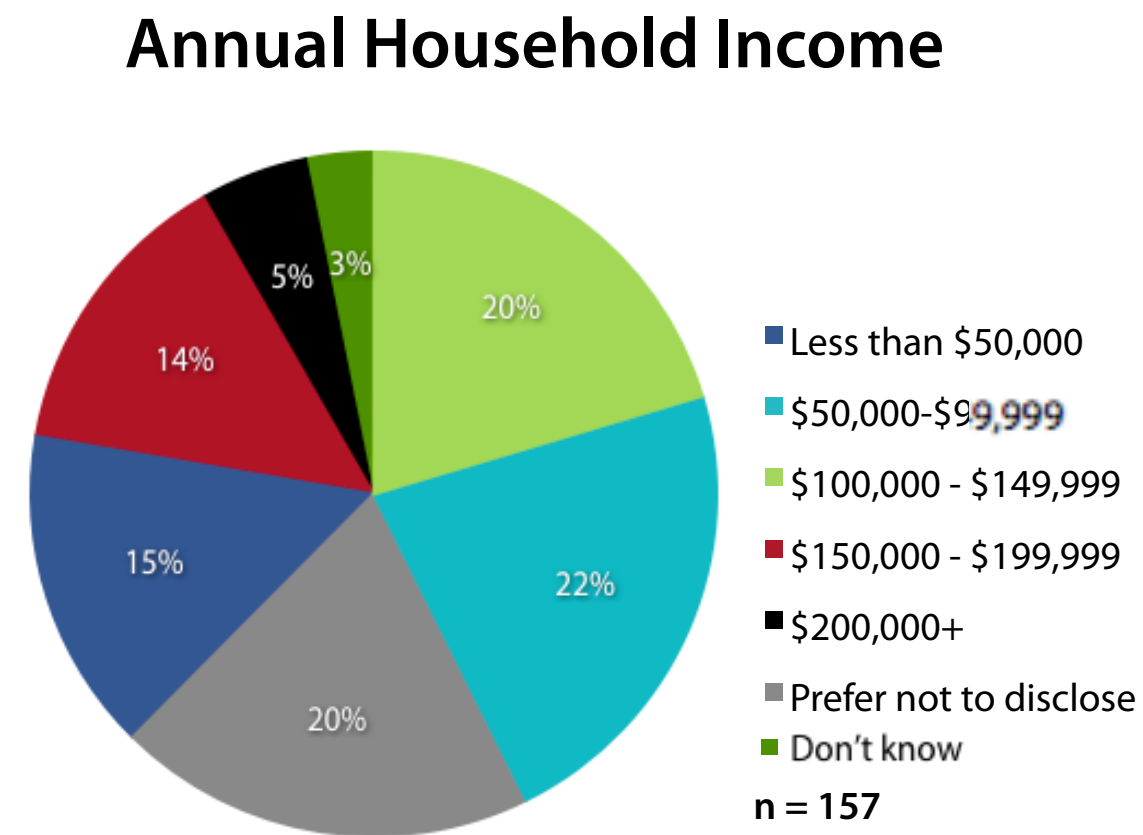
n = 210

Who We Heard From

Nearly 57% of survey respondents were employed full-time. There were 32% who identified as retired. Number of responses by annual household income were relatively balanced. The largest segment of annual household incomes were between \$50,000-\$99,999.



n = 247





Feedback & Findings



Introduction

The following pages explore the key themes and comments to emerge from engagement with residents and stakeholders on the Parkland County Social Development Plan.

Each tactic and tool allowed for various levels of depth of conversation. The survey allowed for the most breadth of exploration of community assets and needs. This was followed by the focus groups and interviews, which allowed us to dive deep and explore the prominent themes being heard. The sounding boards and data boards at events enabled us to meet people where they were at to ask them the highest level questions.

The high-level scan of responses indicated that participants see many strengths in living in Parkland County. On the flip side, respondents also want to see more investment made in areas like transportation, programming and services, mental health care, and job training supports. The following pages highlight what was shared in response to key questions. To dive deeper into the issues and areas for improvement each theme is broken down by most prominent sub-themes and potential actions shared by participants. Each theme page includes verbatim quotes directly from the feedback.

Snapshot of Satisfaction and Service Use

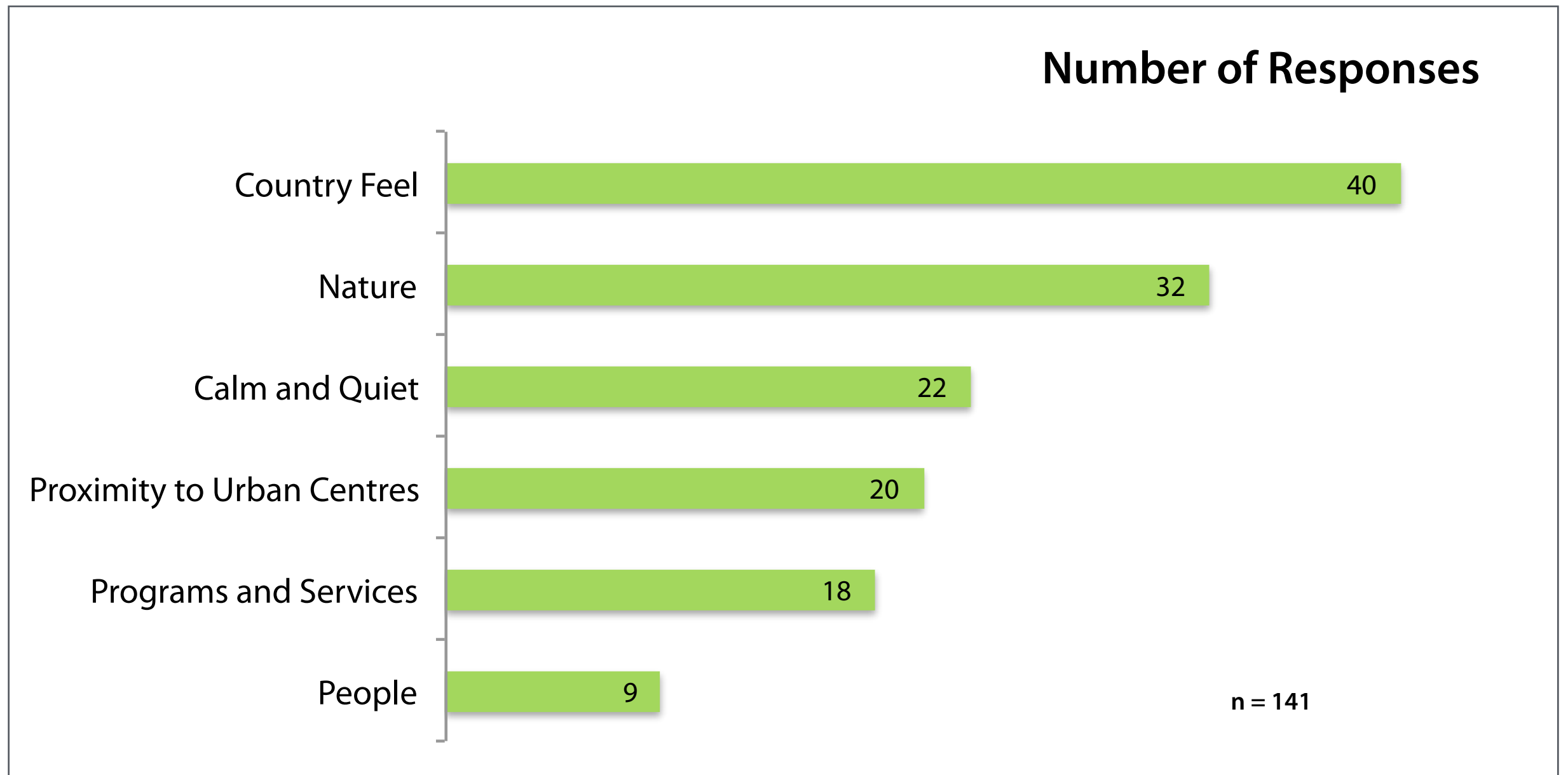
The following section outlines what was shared in response to the levels of satisfaction with the quality of life in Parkland County. This includes the existing support services, and what programs are already being accessed by residents of all ages.

Each page responds to one of the following questions that was asked in our engagement process.

- What do you like about living in Parkland County?
- How satisfied are you with the overall quality of life in Parkland County?
- How satisfied are you with social supports available in the community?
- Have you or someone in your household accessed any of the following social programs and services in the last 12 months? (Check all programs/services that apply and specify program/service names.)
- Where have you or someone in your household accessed any of the following social programs and services in the last 12 months? (Specify location of those programs/services that apply.)
- What programs and services are most helpful to your life in Parkland County?
- In times of stress or need, what are your top three networks of support? (Please rank them from 1-3.)
- What additional programs and services would help support you and your household?
- How long are you willing to travel from home for the following?
- Do you have the supports you need if you or others close to you face discrimination on the basis of any of the following?

What do you like about living in Parkland County?

Open-ended question



n is the total number of survey respondents who answered this question

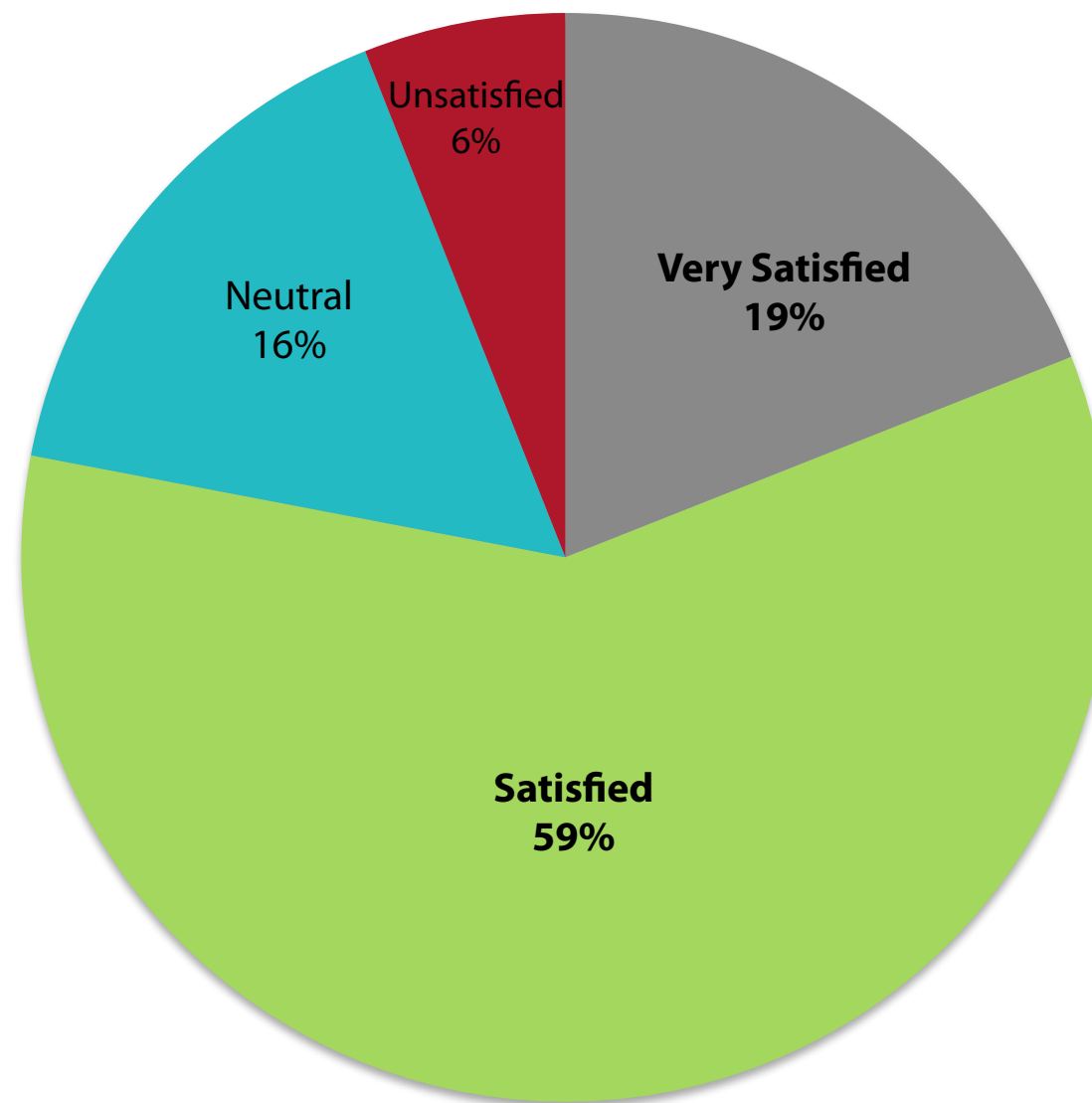
What do you like about living in Parkland County?

Open-ended question

The most common response heard from participants was the country-feel of Parkland. This was followed closely by the very similar attribute of nature. Although there was some overlap, those speaking to country feel expanded beyond to identify rural living and peacefulness, and spoke to the notion of there being a strong community of neighbours. We heard that while there is not the congestion of people found in more urban areas, access to those urban centres is close. In terms of nature, features like trees, air, and sheer space were key. Access to the natural environment was said to meet people's recreational and relaxation needs.

Comments around proximity were primarily in reference to urban centres such as Stony Plain, Spruce Grove, and Edmonton.

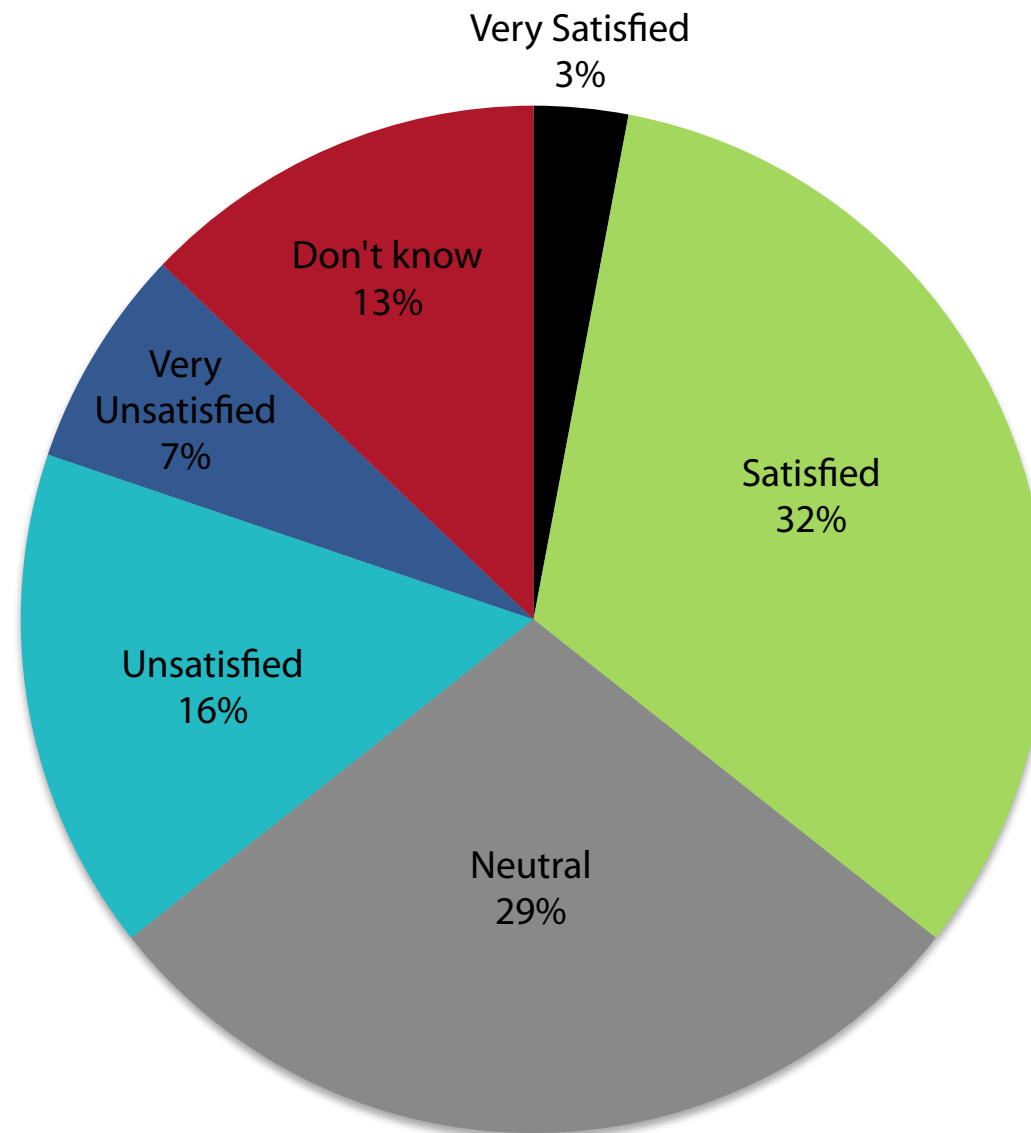
How satisfied are you with the overall quality of life in Parkland County?



How satisfied are you with the overall quality of life in Parkland County?

Overall, the level of satisfaction with quality of life in Parkland County is high. Nearly 80% of respondents ranked their satisfaction as satisfied or very satisfied. Six percent of respondents stated they are unsatisfied with the quality of life. No one indicated they were very unsatisfied.

How satisfied are you with social supports available in the community?

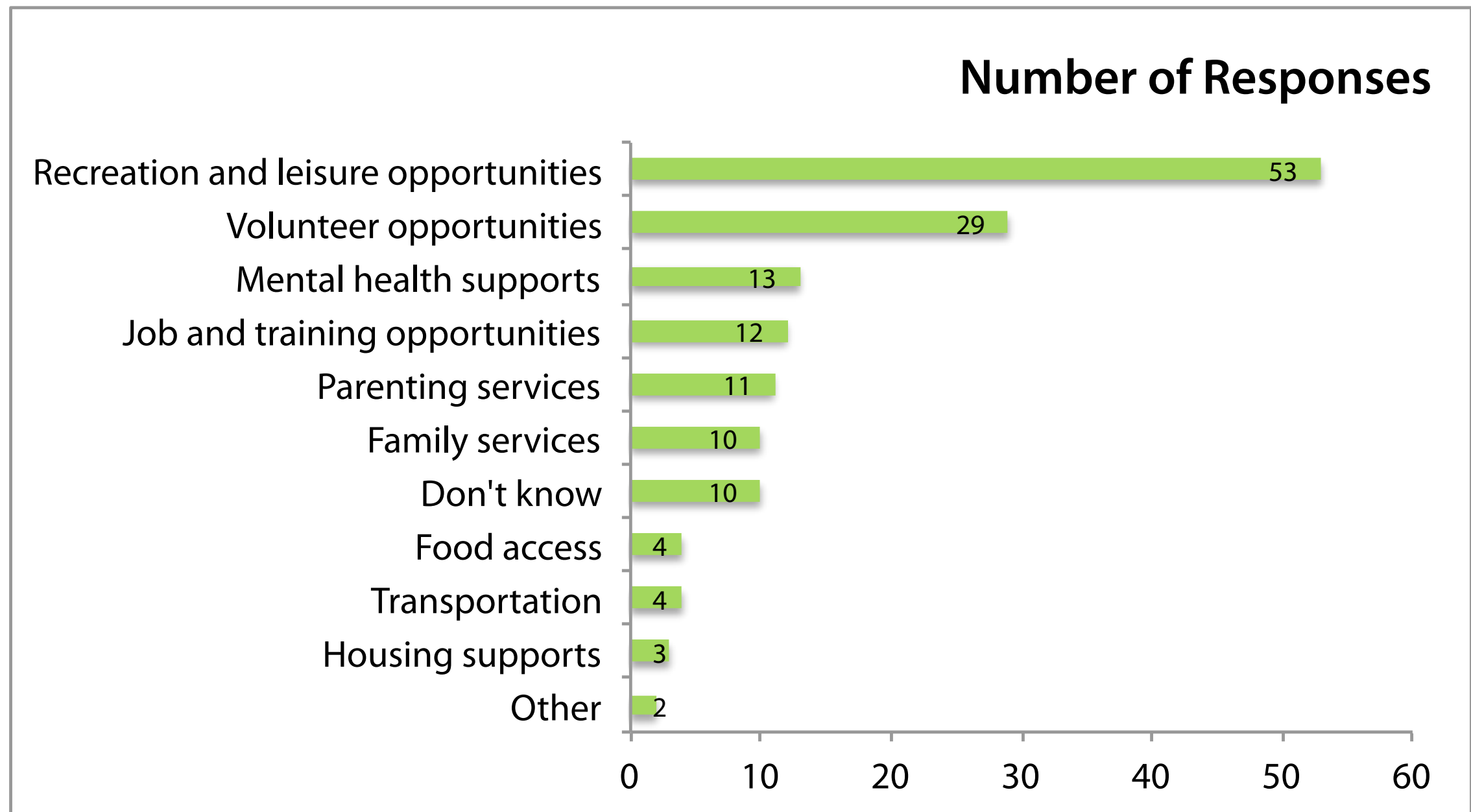


How satisfied are you with social supports available in the community?

The satisfaction with County social supports was less than satisfaction with quality of life overall. Only 36% of participants indicated they were satisfied or very satisfied with supports. Nearly a quarter of respondents reported being unsatisfied or very unsatisfied. The second largest segment overall was neutral with 29% of the response. It is unknown whether this neutrality is do to a lack of information about social supports or if those who responded are not affected by social supports. Those respondents that reported being very unsatisfied with the social supports available in the community mentioned the following key issues:

- Loss of employment with the coal closure.
- Lack of long term care and extended care facilities to keep families together in the community.
- Poor sidewalk/road conditions.
- Too much development on prime agricultural land.
- Lack of adequate internet connectivity for work/school.

Have you or someone in your household accessed any of the following social programs and services in the last 12 months? [check all that apply]



Have you or someone in your household accessed any of the following social programs and services in the last 12 months?

Programs and services most used by residents in the past year included recreation and leisure opportunities as well as volunteer opportunities. To a lesser extent, folks have also been using mental health supports, job and training opportunities, parenting services, and family services. The Other responses were indicated as being “none” or “no services”.

Where have you or someone in your household accessed any of the following social programs and services in the last 12 months?

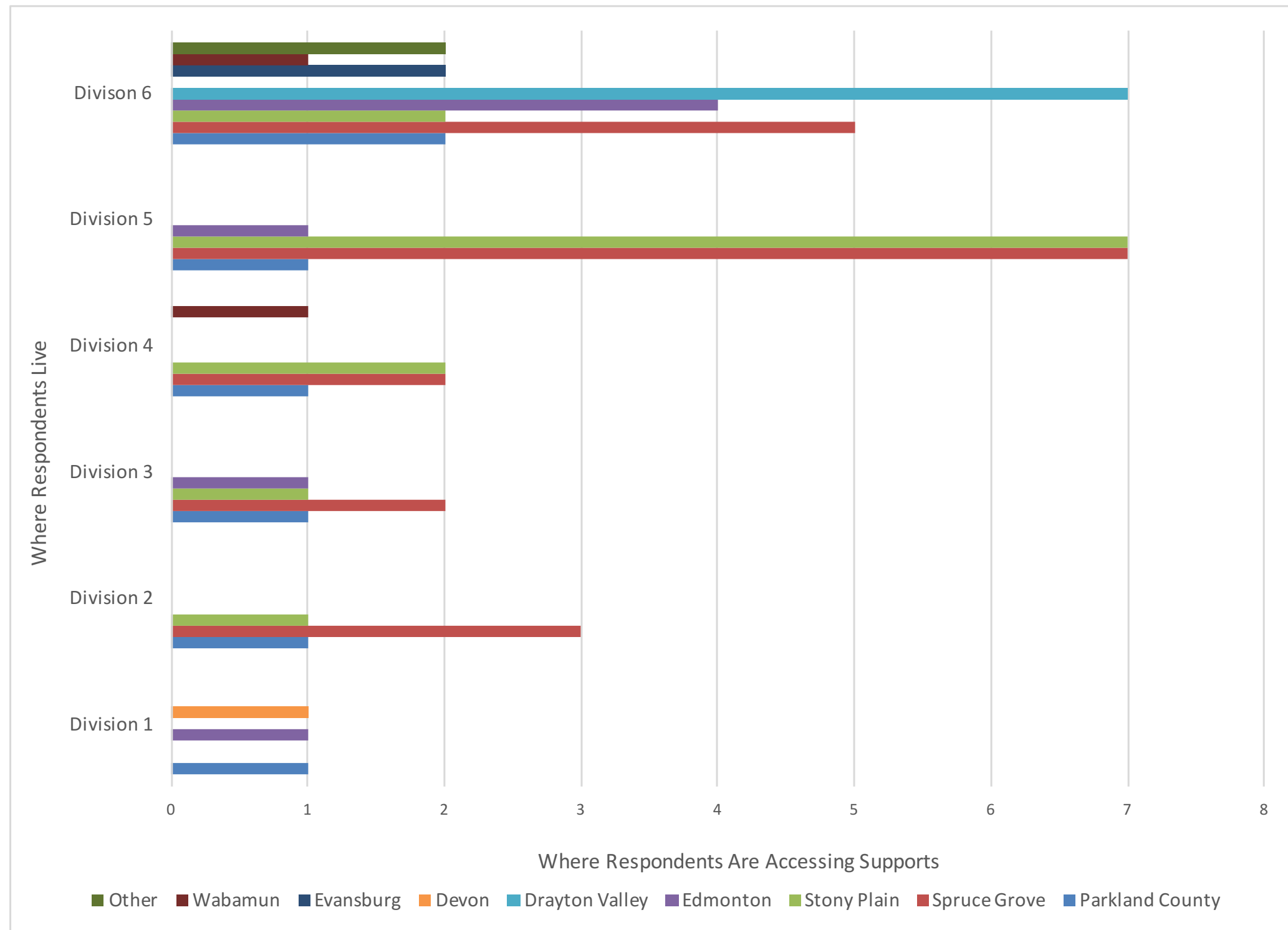
	Parkland County	Spruce Grove	Stony Plain	Edmonton	Drayton Valley	Devon	Evansburg	Wabamun	Other	Total
Family services	7	20	13	8	7	1	2	2	2	62
Food access	2	15	7	7	8	0	3	2	2	46
Housing Supports	2	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	1	8
Jobs and training	7	10	6	15	8	0	3	1	4	54
Mental health supports	2	10	7	11	6	0	2	0	2	40
Parenting services	5	7	4	2	5	1	4	0	0	28
Recreational and leisure	28	53	24	24	19	4	11	7	10	180
Transportation	1	8	1	13	0	0	1	0	0	24
Volunteer opportunities	35	7	10	10	7	0	2	3	2	76
Total	89	130	75	90	62	6	28	15	23	518

Where have you or someone in your household accessed any of the following social programs and services in the last 12 months? [continued]

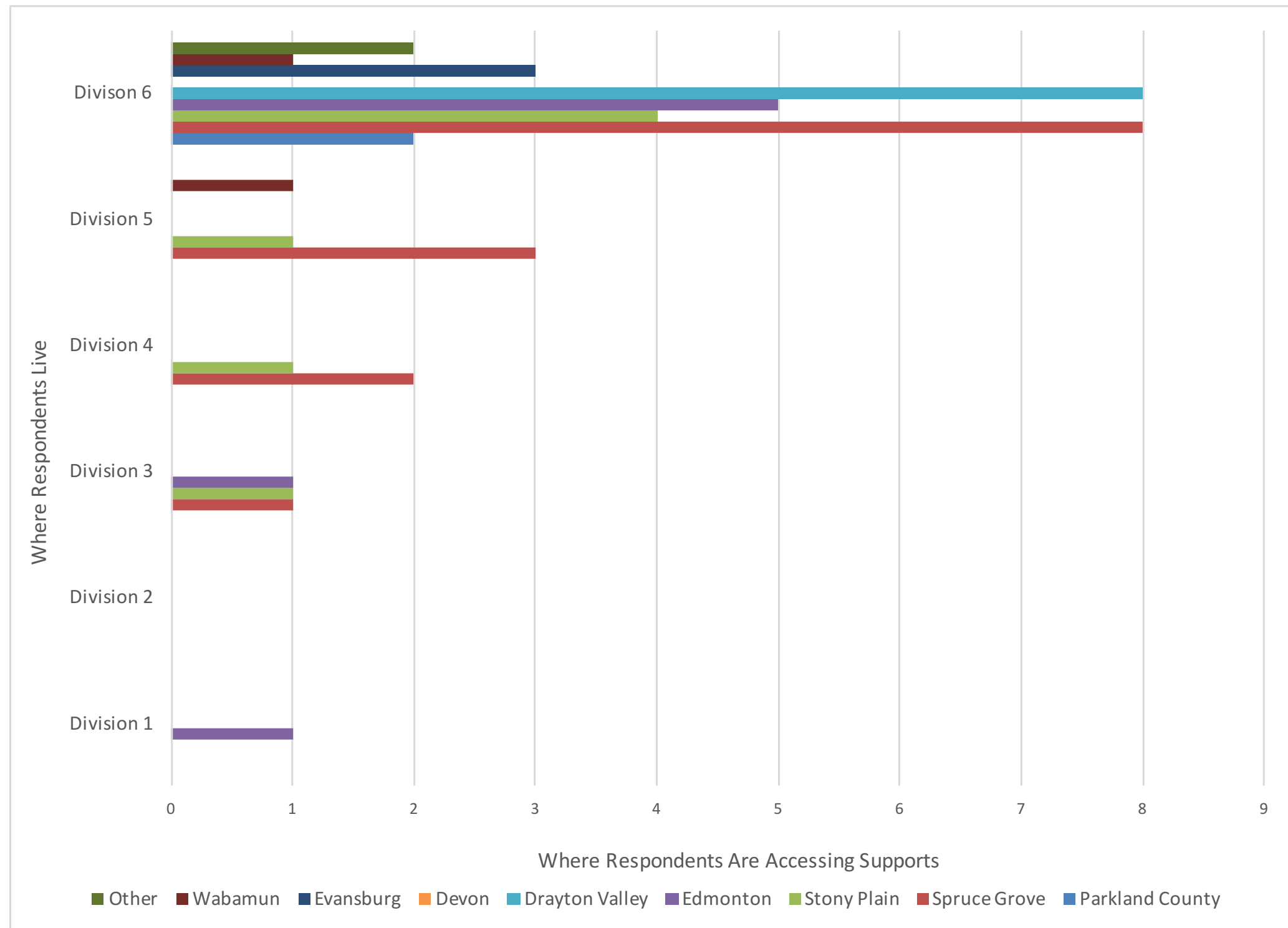
When it comes to the location of services accessed by Parkland County residents, Spruce Grove and Edmonton were the most popular responses. Accessing services from Parkland County was the third most popular choice with Stony Plain and Drayton Valley rounding out the top five. Evansburg, Wabamun, and Devon were the least accessed by place.

The following section identifies the location of where respondents live and where respondents are accessing supports.

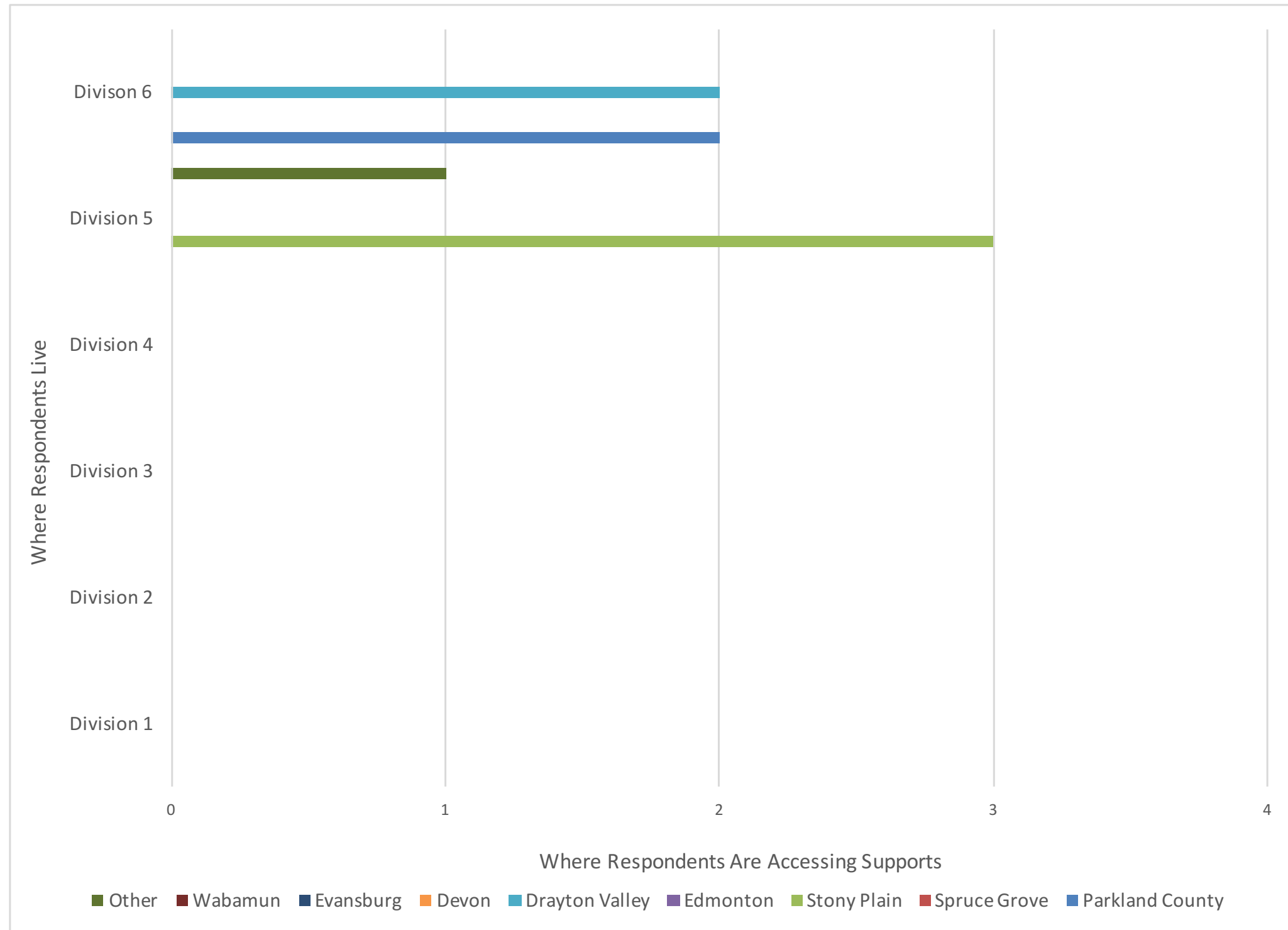
Accessing: Family Services



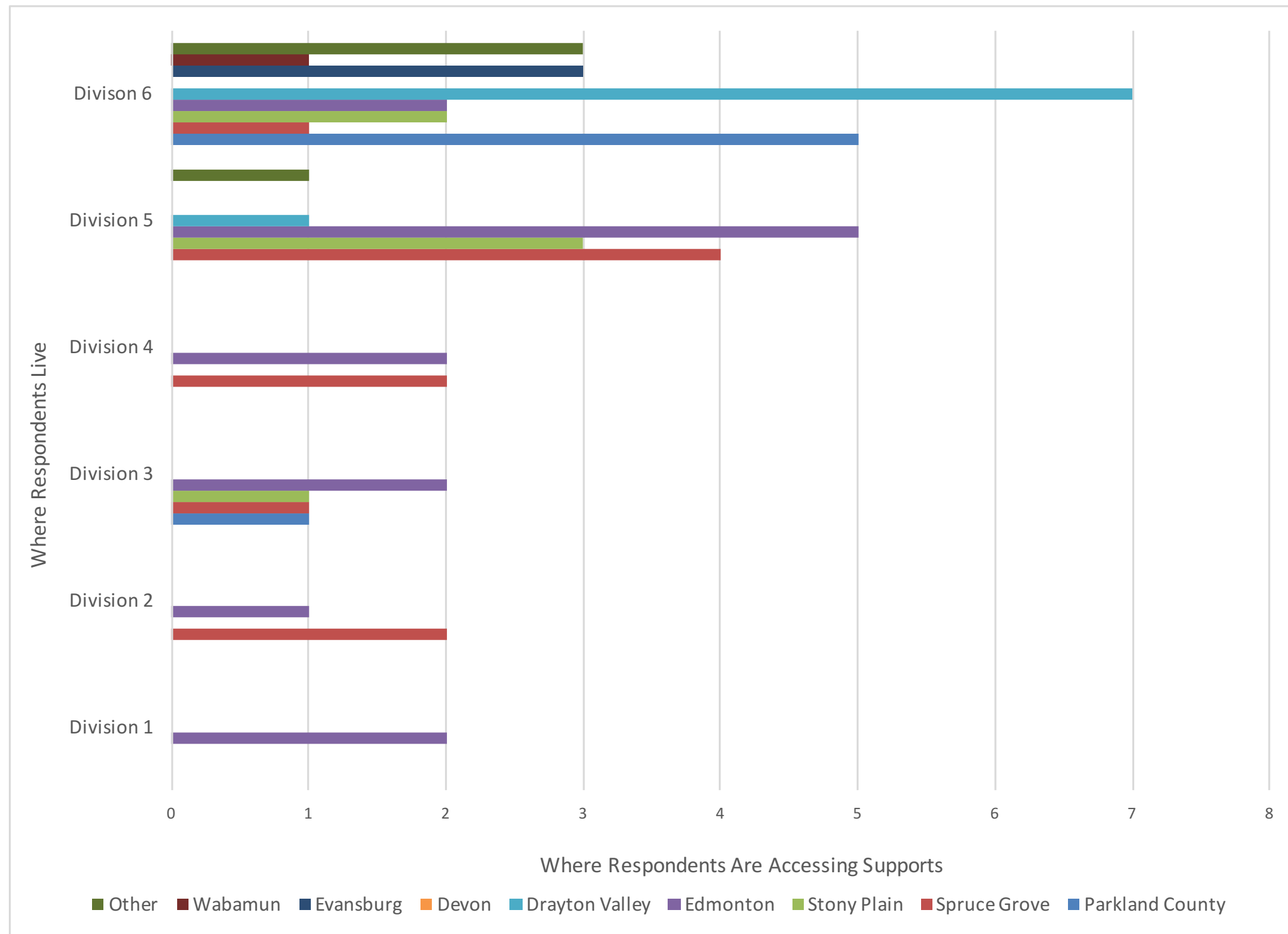
Accessing: Food Access



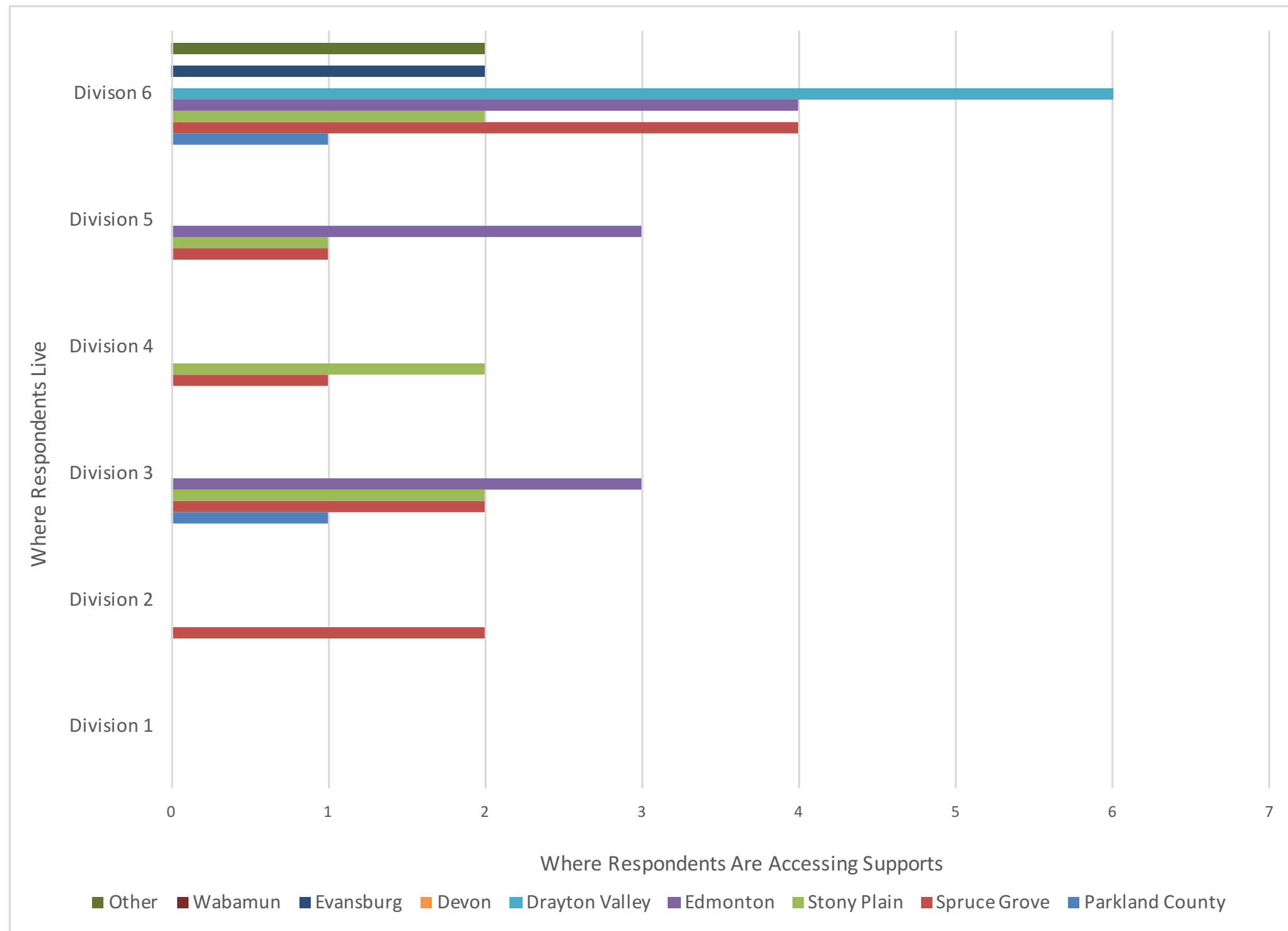
Accessing: Housing Supports



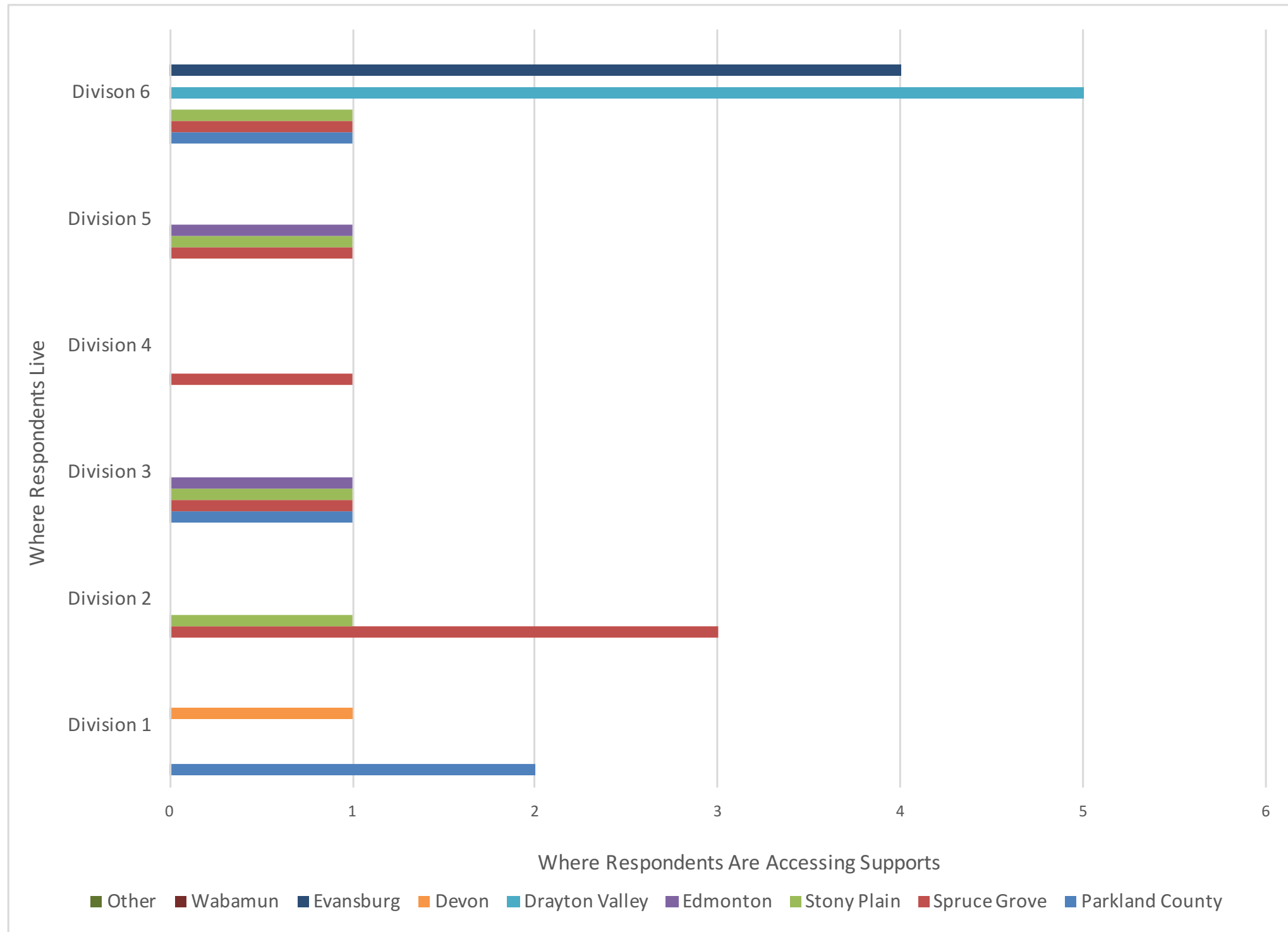
Accessing: Jobs and Training Opportunities



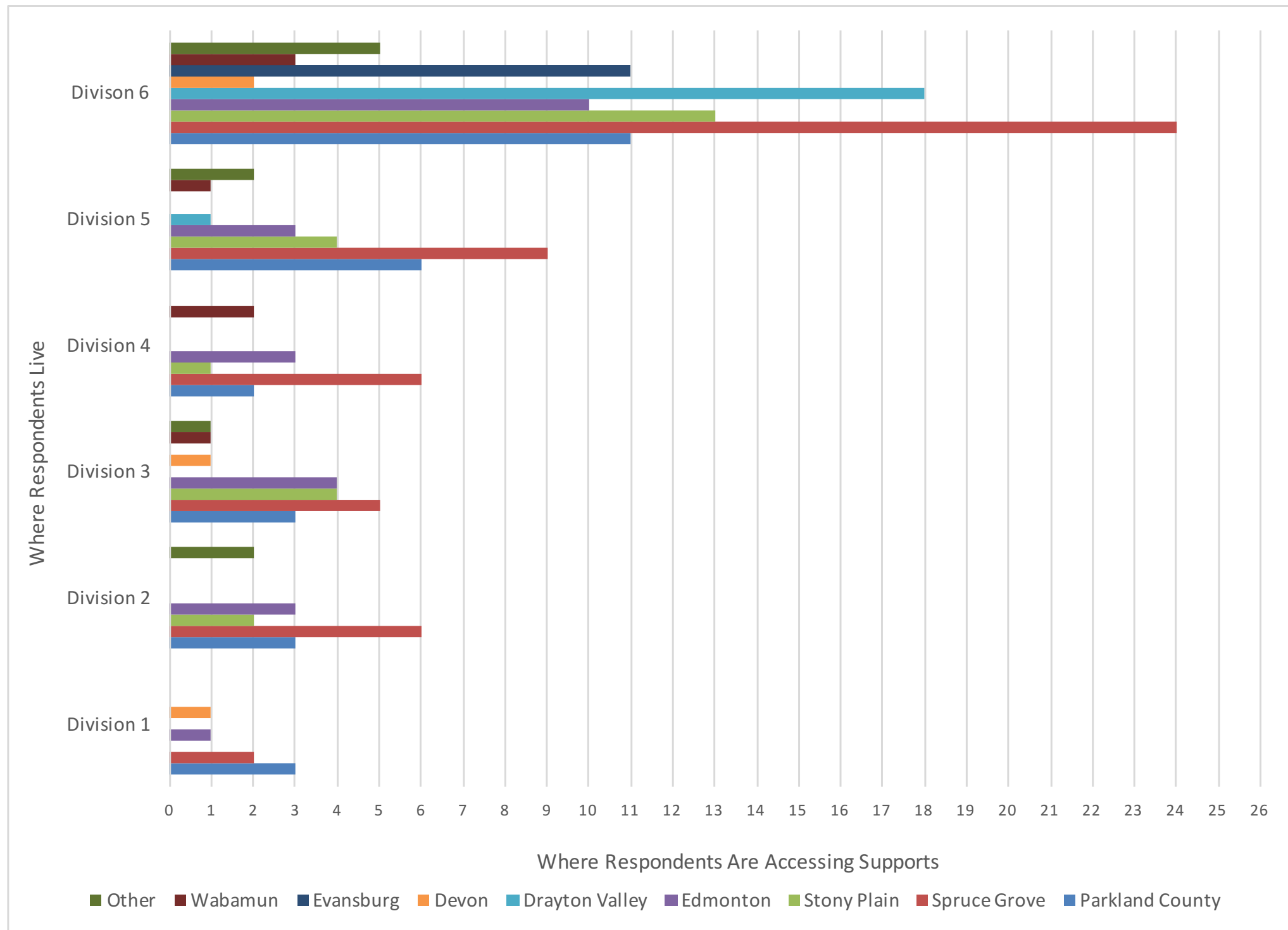
Accessing: Mental Health Supports



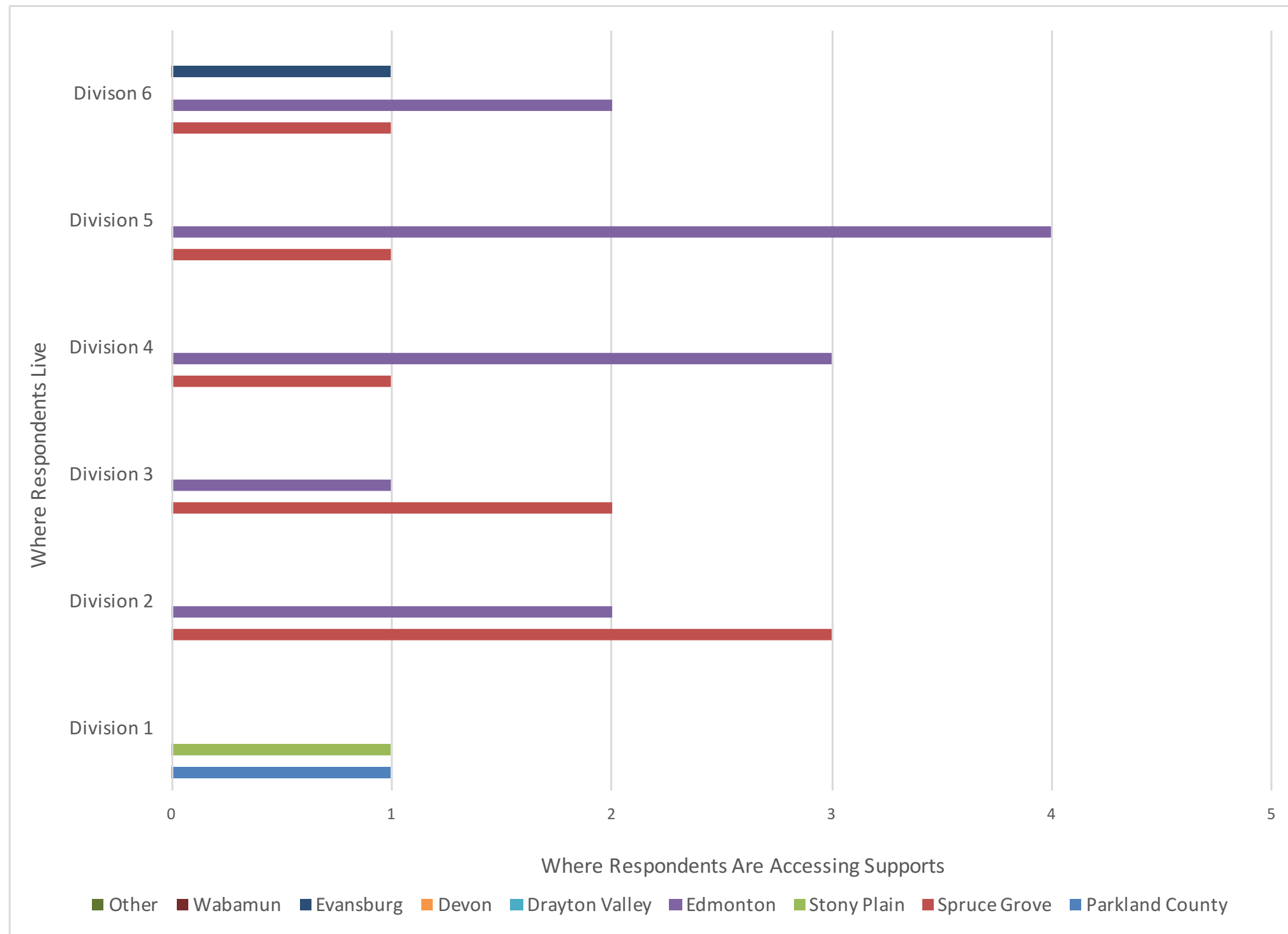
Accessing: Parenting Services



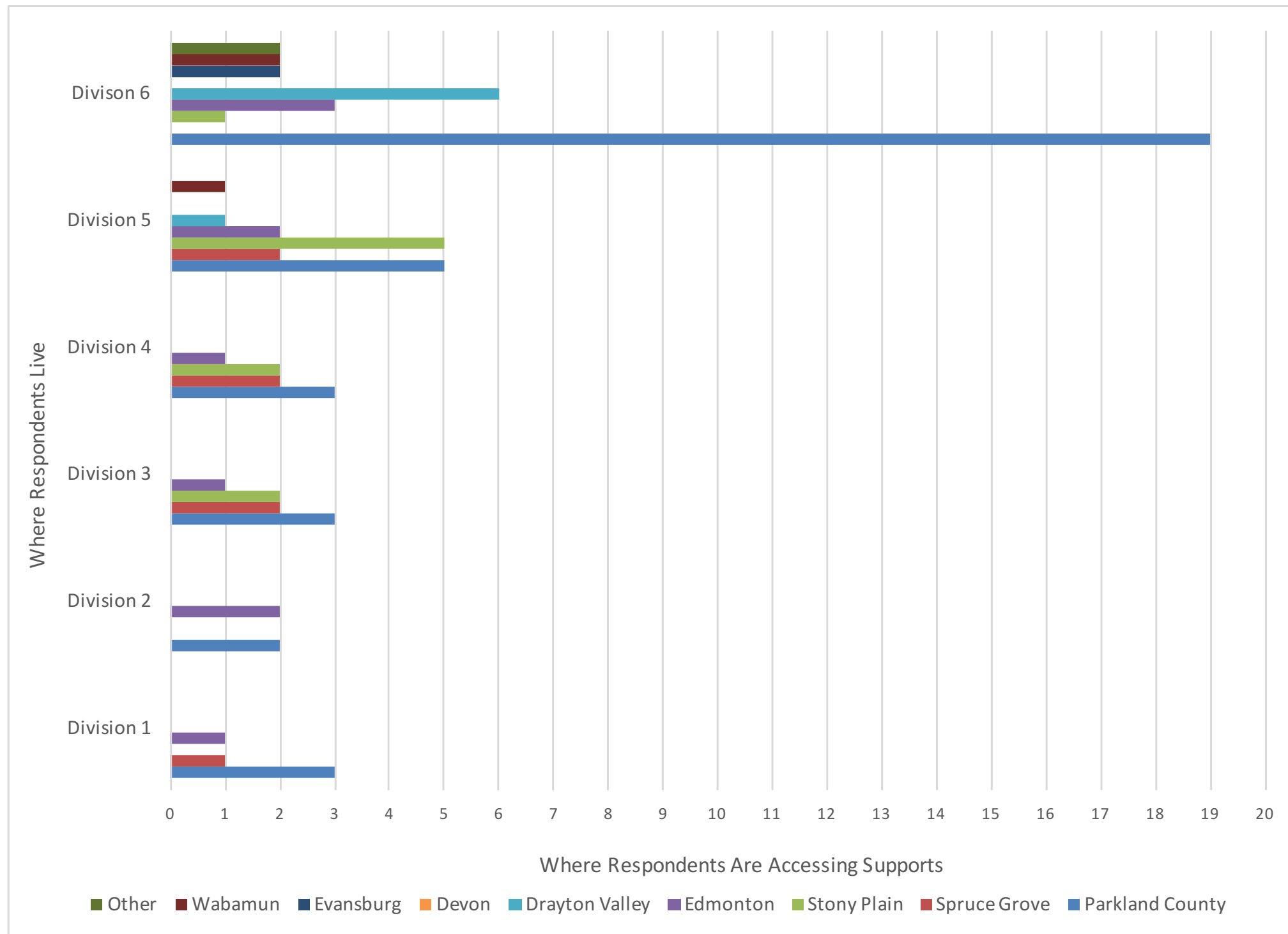
Accessing: Recreational and Leisure



Accessing: Transportation



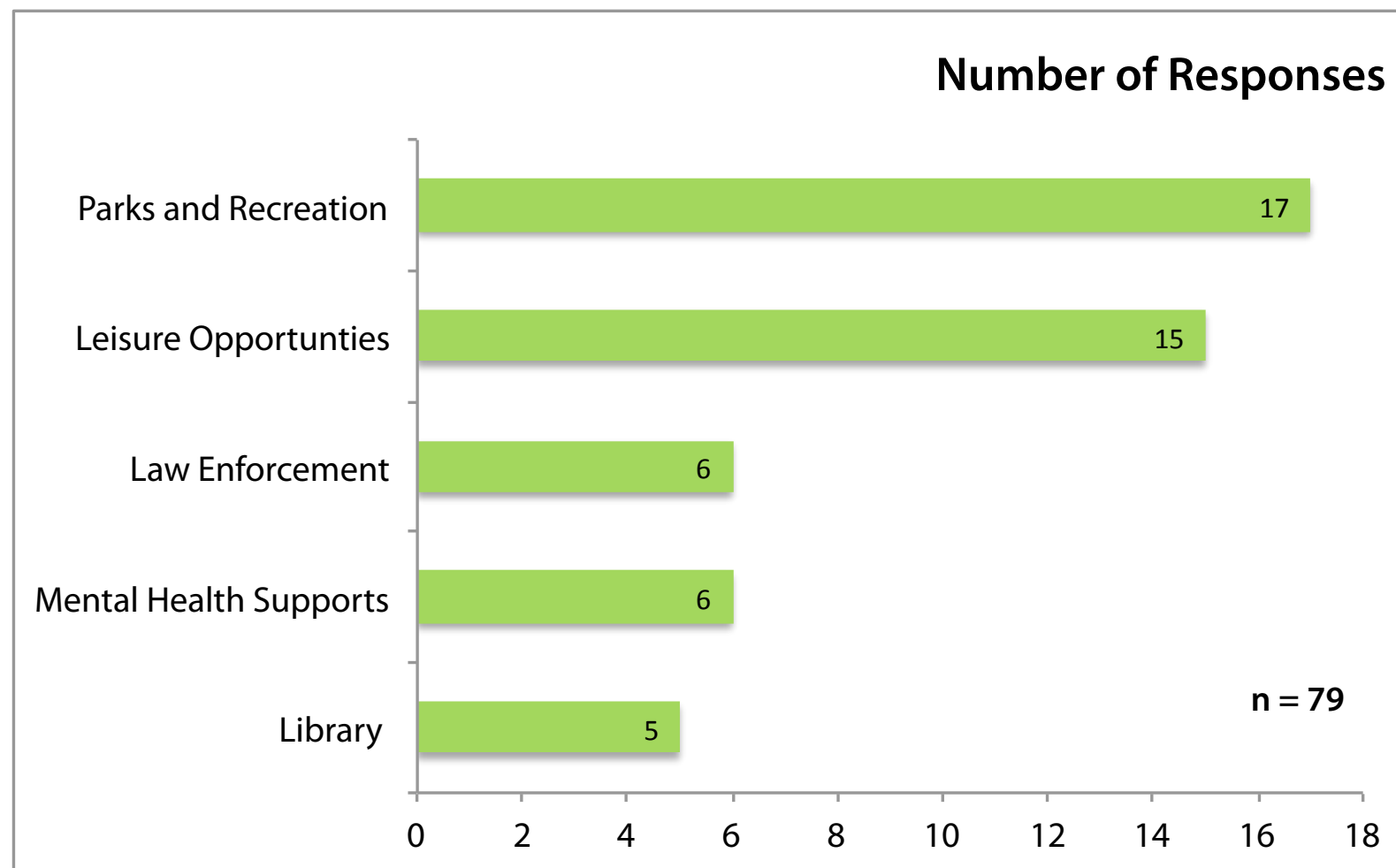
Accessing: Volunteer Opportunities



What programs and services are most helpful to your life in Parkland County?

Open-ended question

The top responses to what programs and services are most helpful included Parks and Recreation and Leisure Opportunities. Participants speaking to recreation made mention of the Tri-Leisure centre, swimming pools, and trails. Those who said leisure opportunities listed things such as play groups, yoga, gardening, and kids programs.

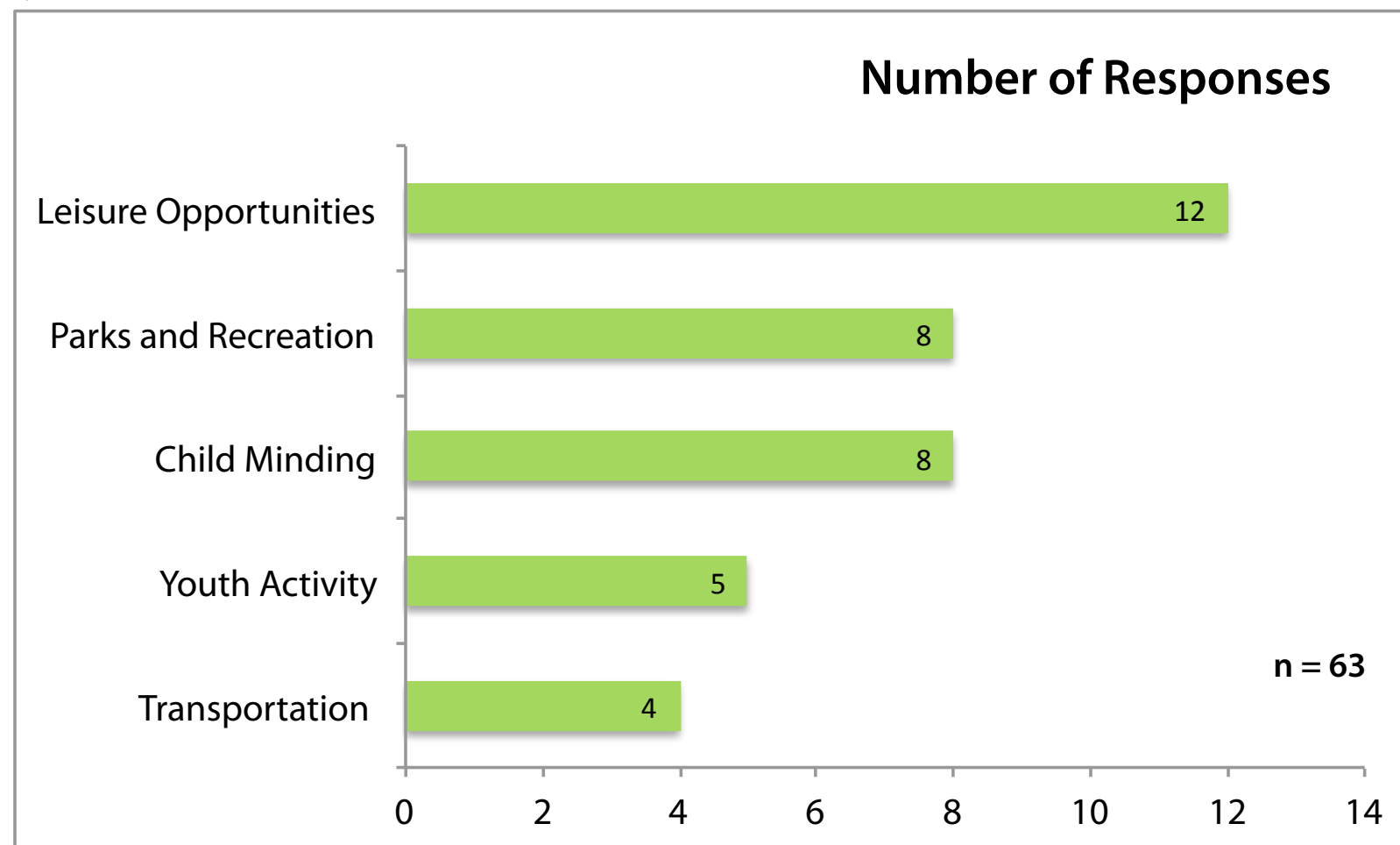


What additional programs and services would help support you and your household?











Open-ended question

The majority of responses to what additional programs would help were leisure opportunities and parks and recreation.

Specific leisure programs mentioned included art , cooking, and healthy living classes as well as programs for special needs, community gardening, and composting. Parks and recreation included mainly requests for pools and facilities in the west end of Parkland County.



In times of stress or need, what are your top three networks of support?

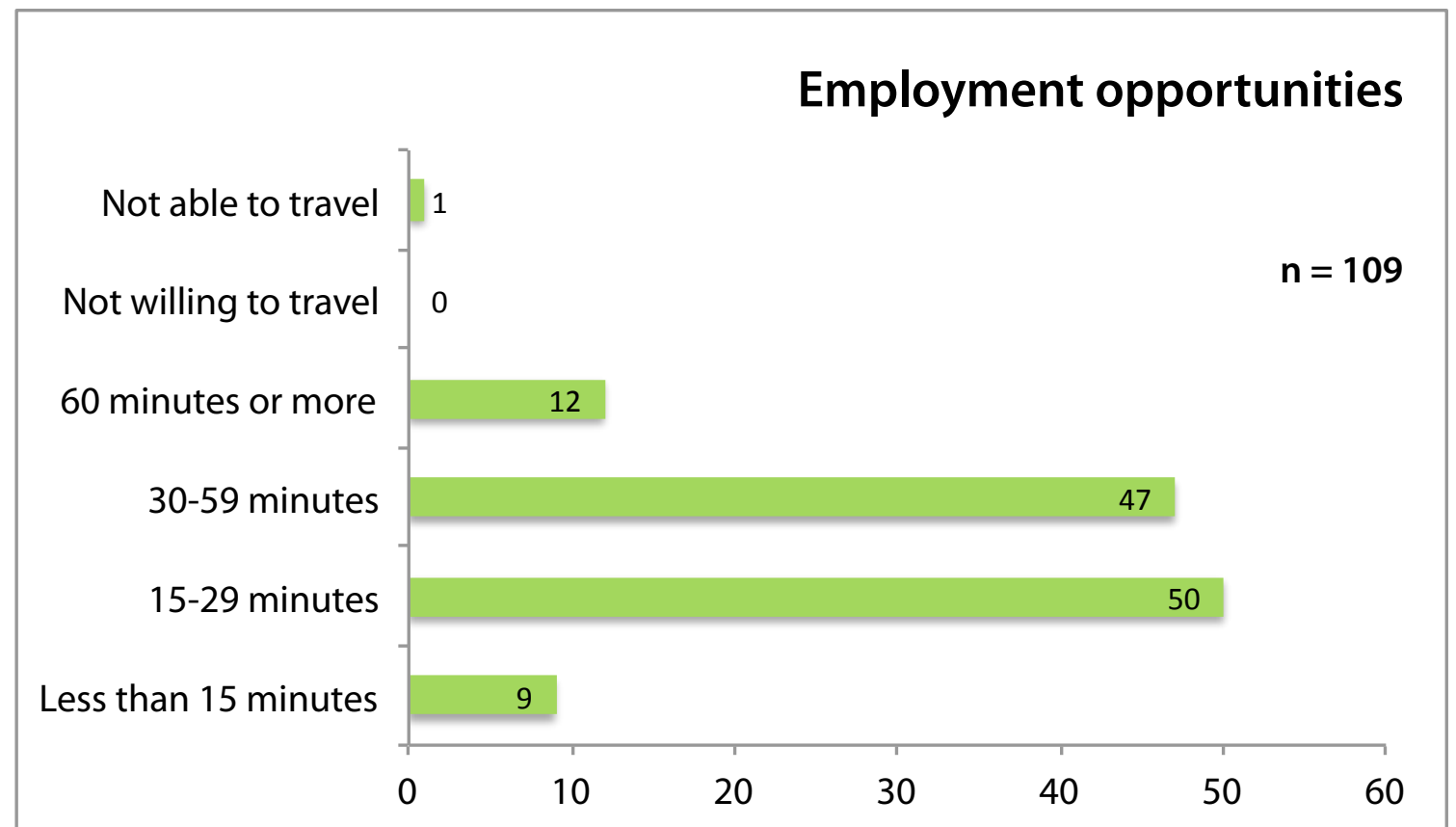
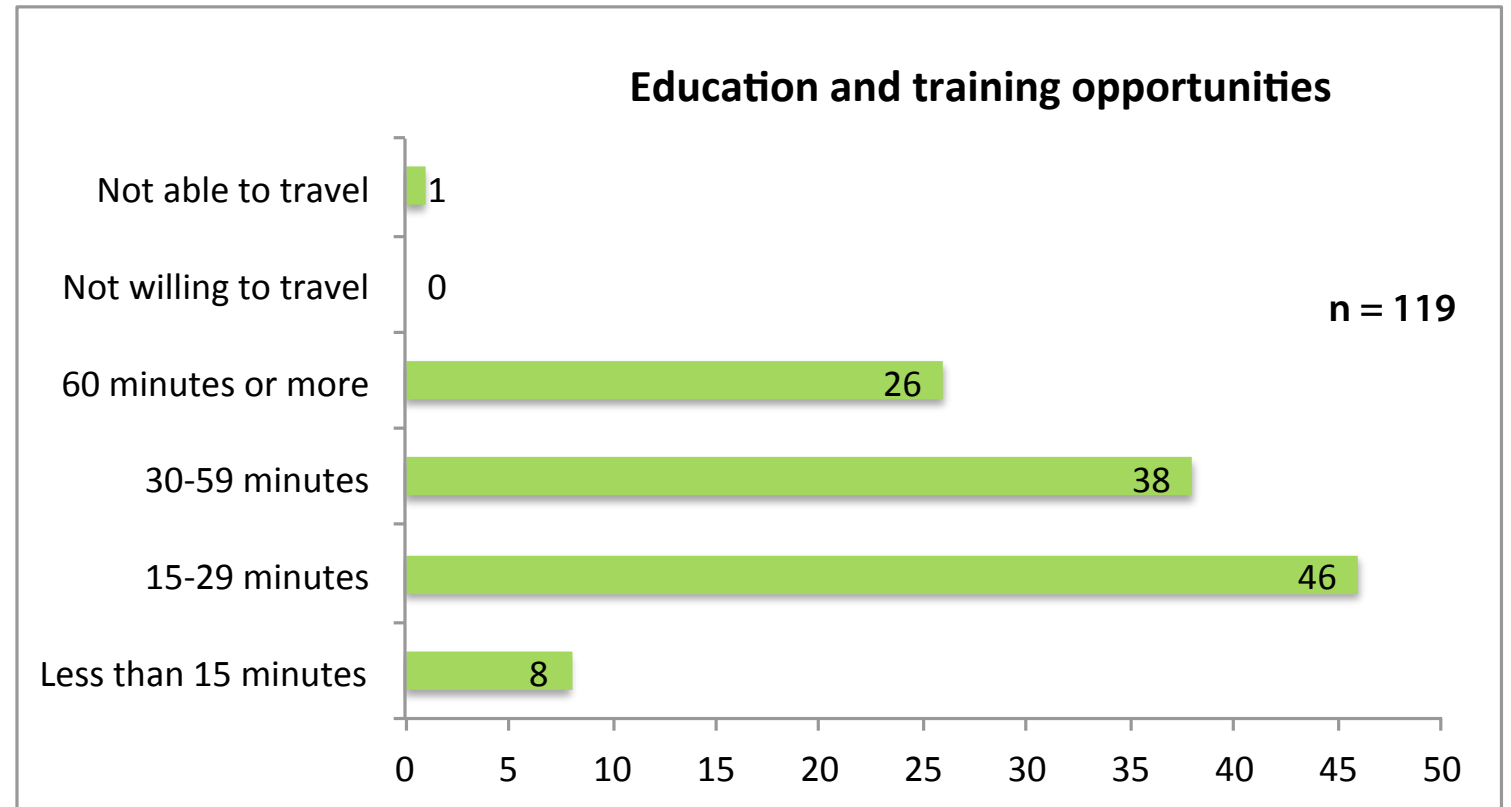
Item	Overall Rank	Rank Distribution
Family	1	
Friends	2	
Health professionals	3	
Faith groups	4	
Neighbours	5	
Employer	6	
Community agencies	7	
Support groups	8	
School	9	
Other	10	

n = 127

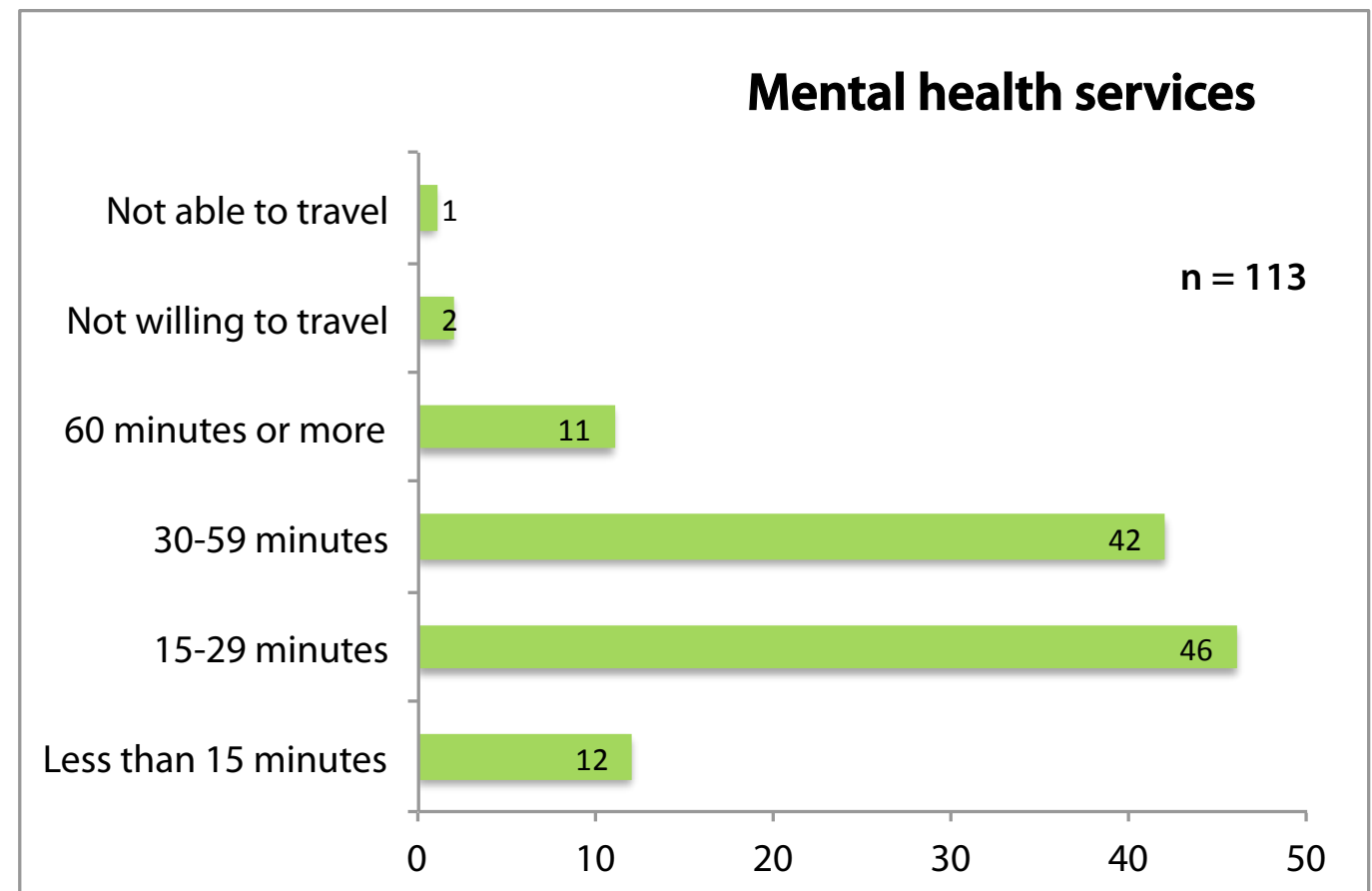
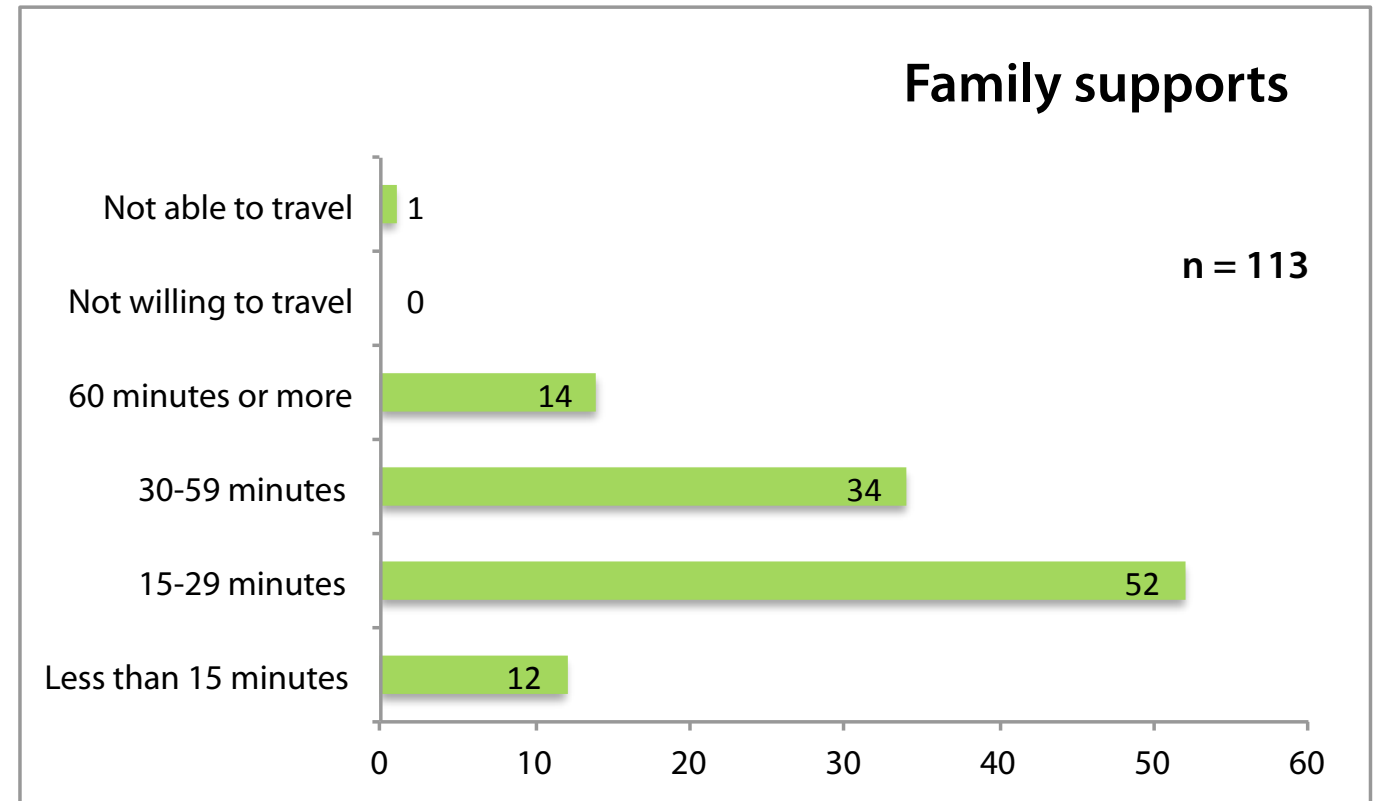
In times of stress or need, what are your top three networks of support?

Family and friends were the most accessed support networks in times of stress or need. Health professionals and faith groups ranked as third and fourth. Community agencies and support groups were listed as the seventh and eighth most accessed, respectively. When asked to identify “Other” supports, respondents listed two new networks: colleagues and the local swimming pool.

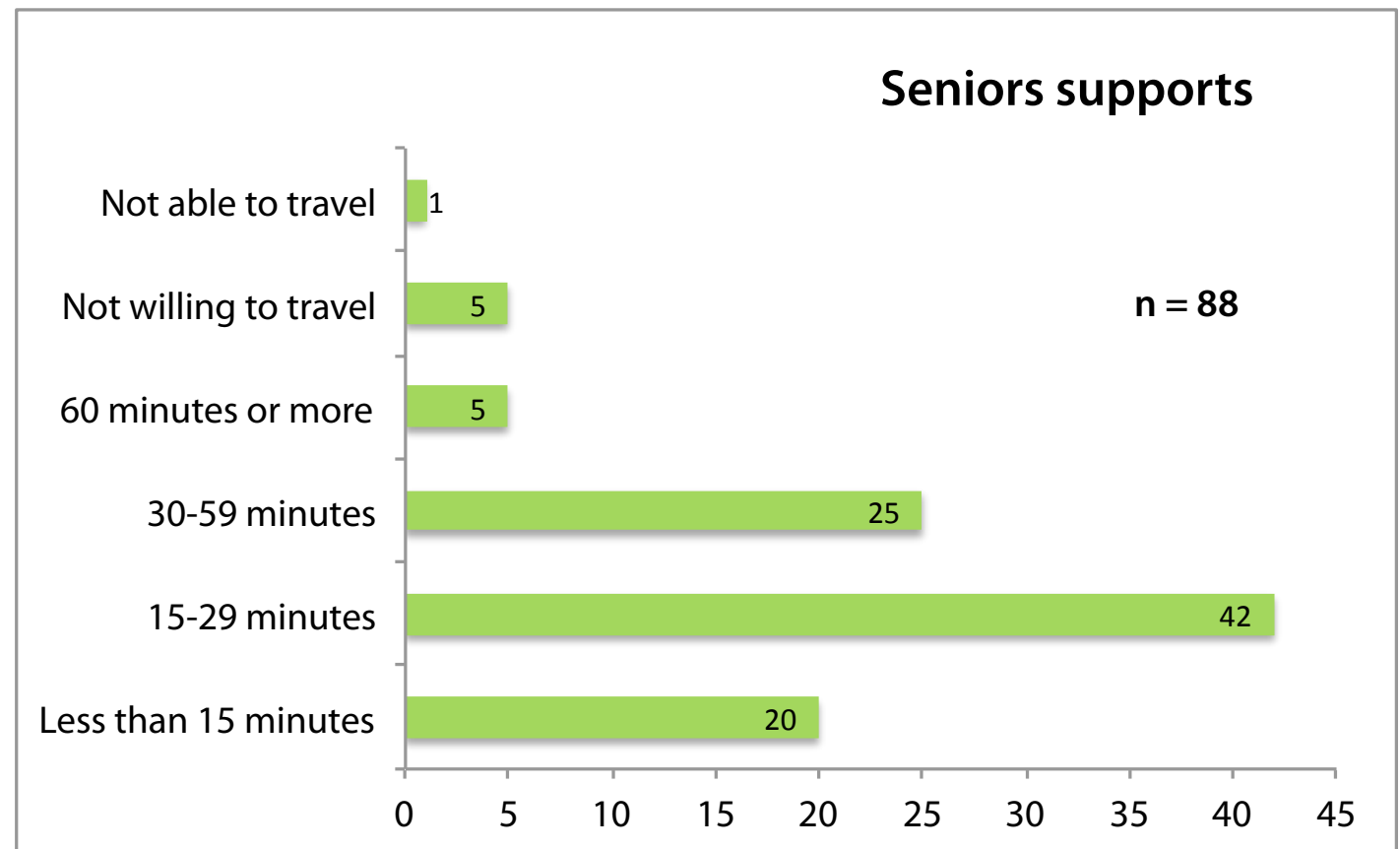
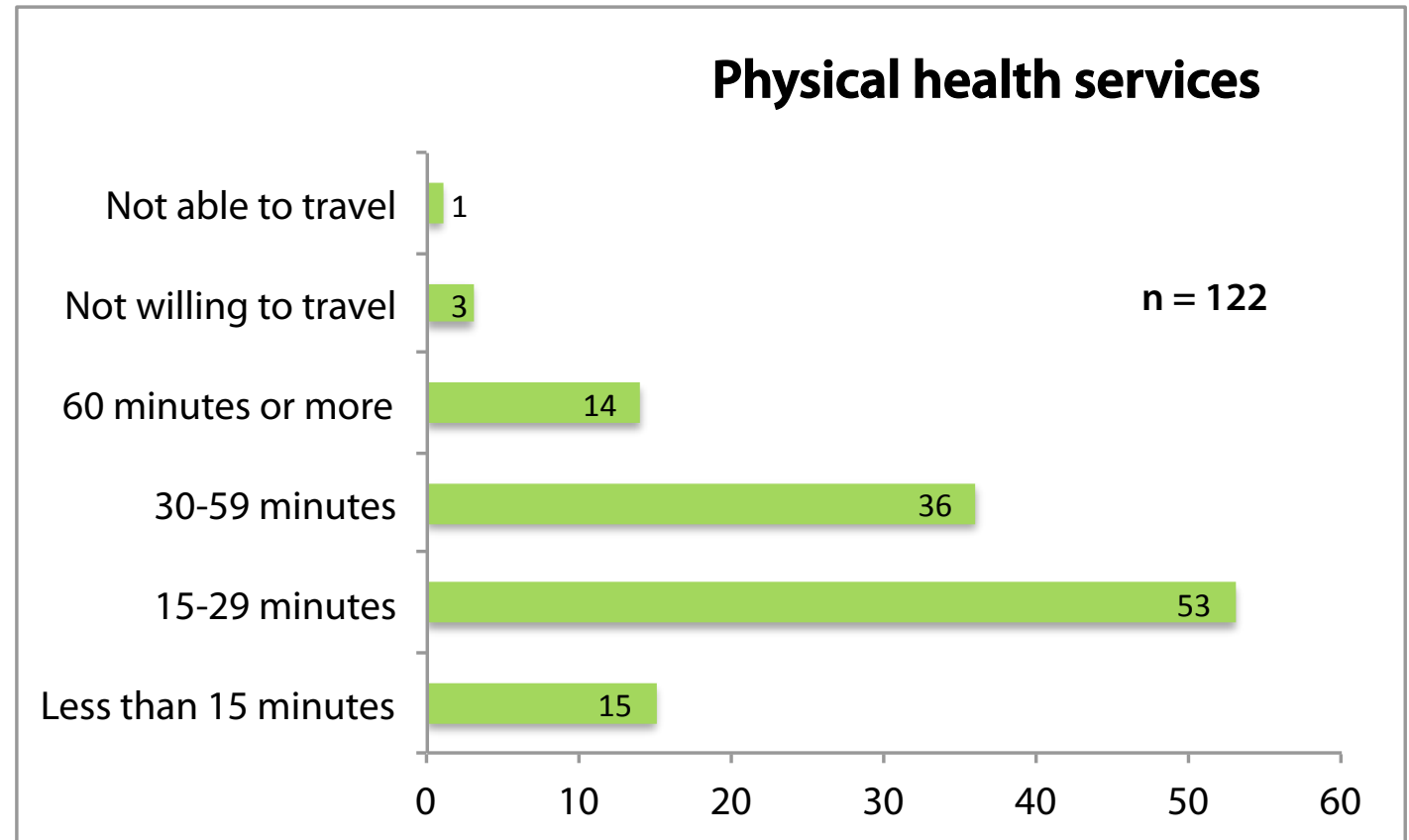
How long are you willing to travel from home for the following?



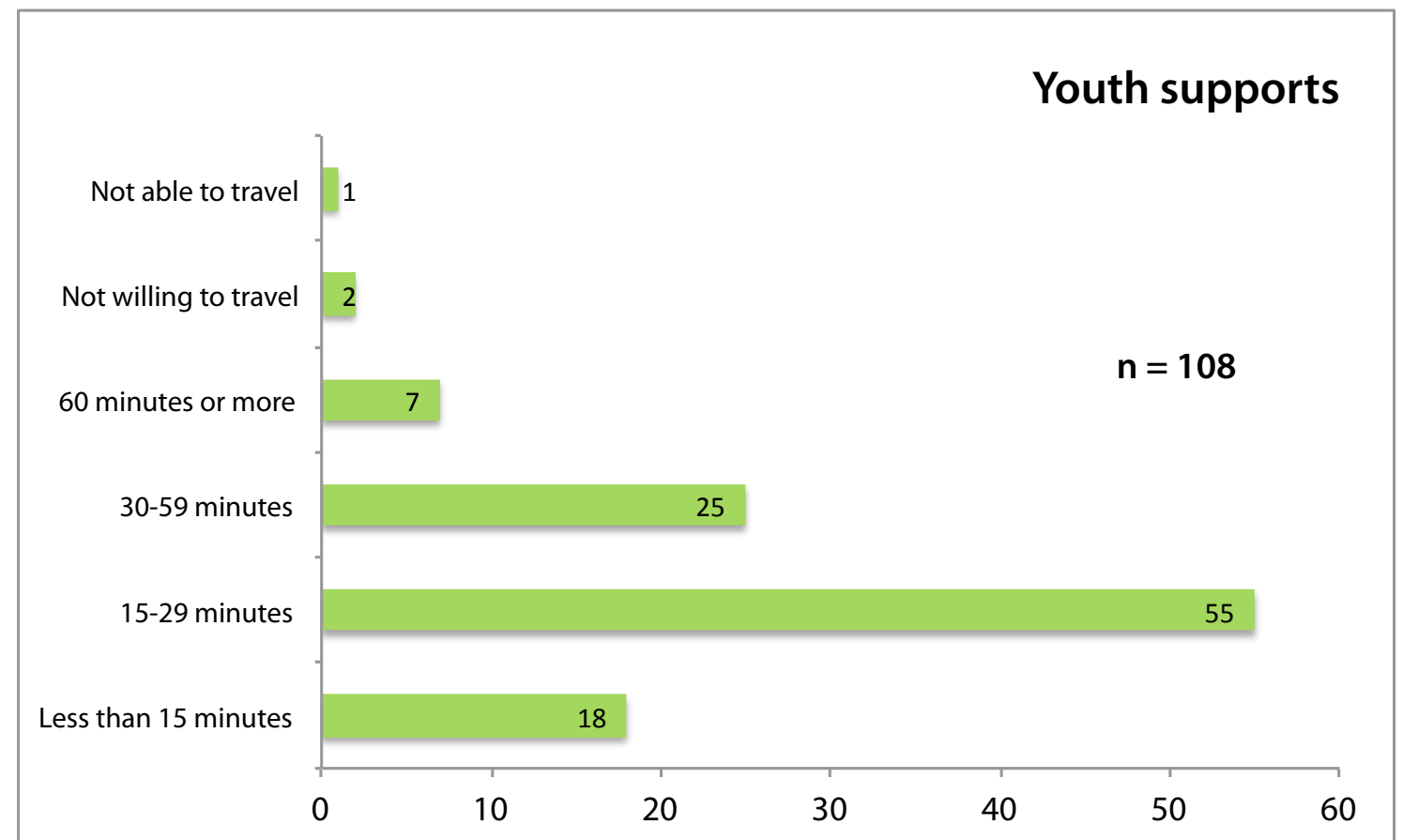
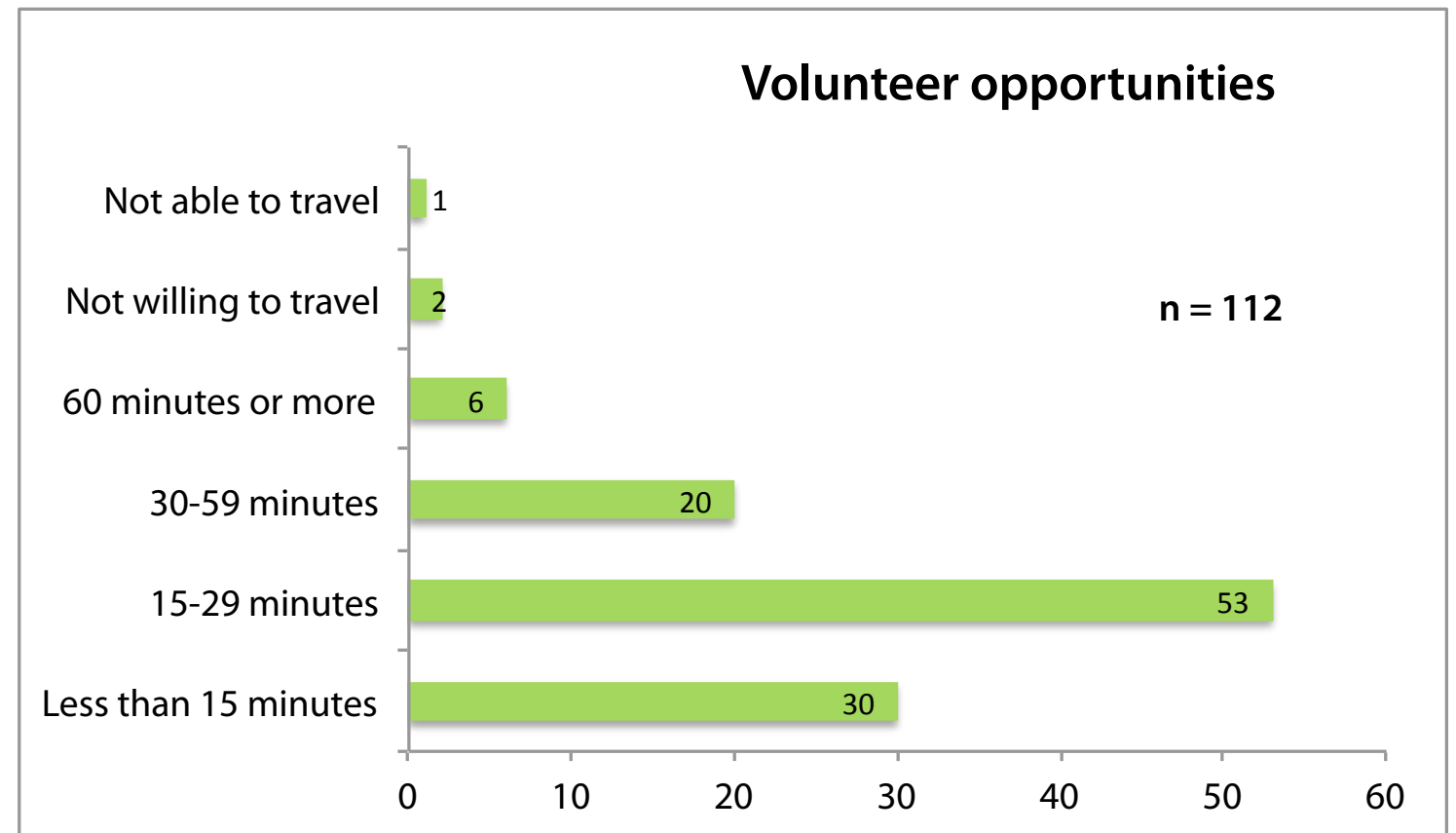
How long are you willing to travel from home for the following?
[continued]



How long are you willing to travel from home for the following?
[continued]



How long are you willing to travel from home for the following?
[continued]



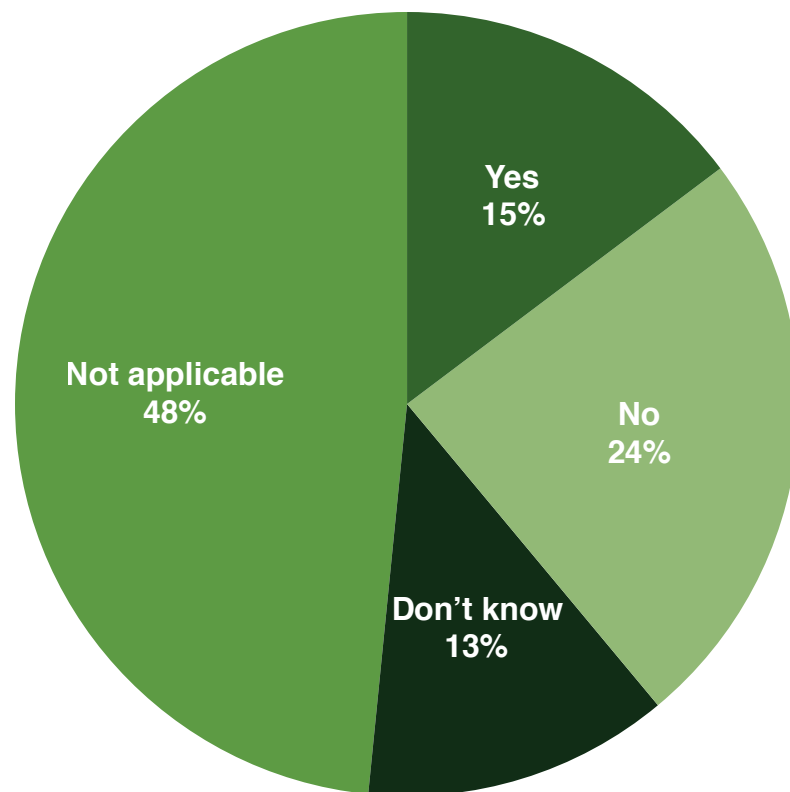
How long are you willing to travel from home for the following? [continued]

Based on the responses here are some key findings:

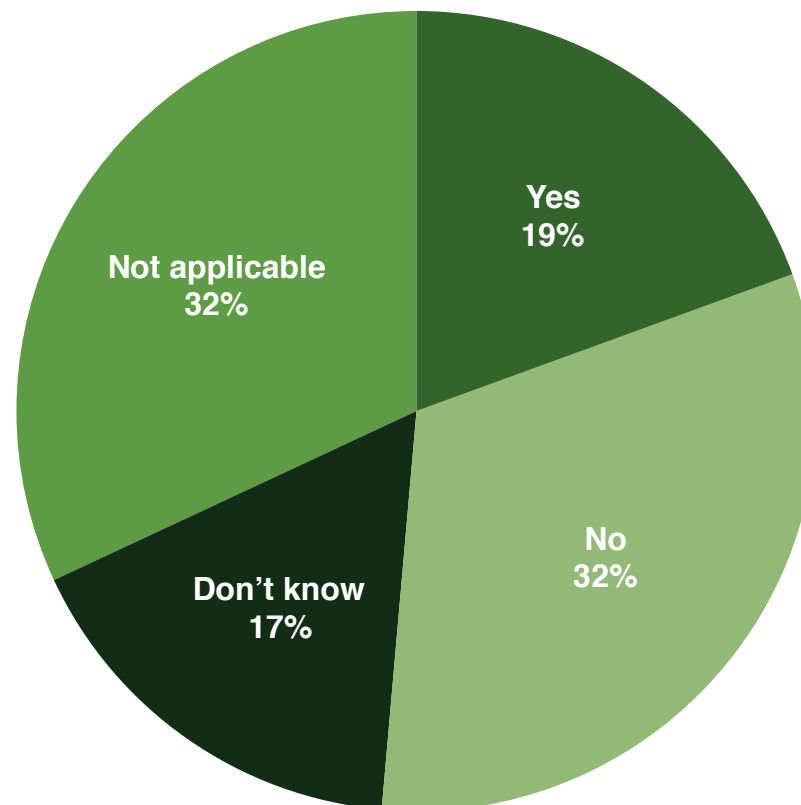
- For both employment opportunities and mental health supports a fairly equal number of respondents are willing to travel 15-59 minutes.
- For family supports and seniors supports a large number of survey respondents indicated only wanting to travel 15-29 minutes.

Do you have the supports you need if you or others close to you face discrimination on the basis of any of the following?

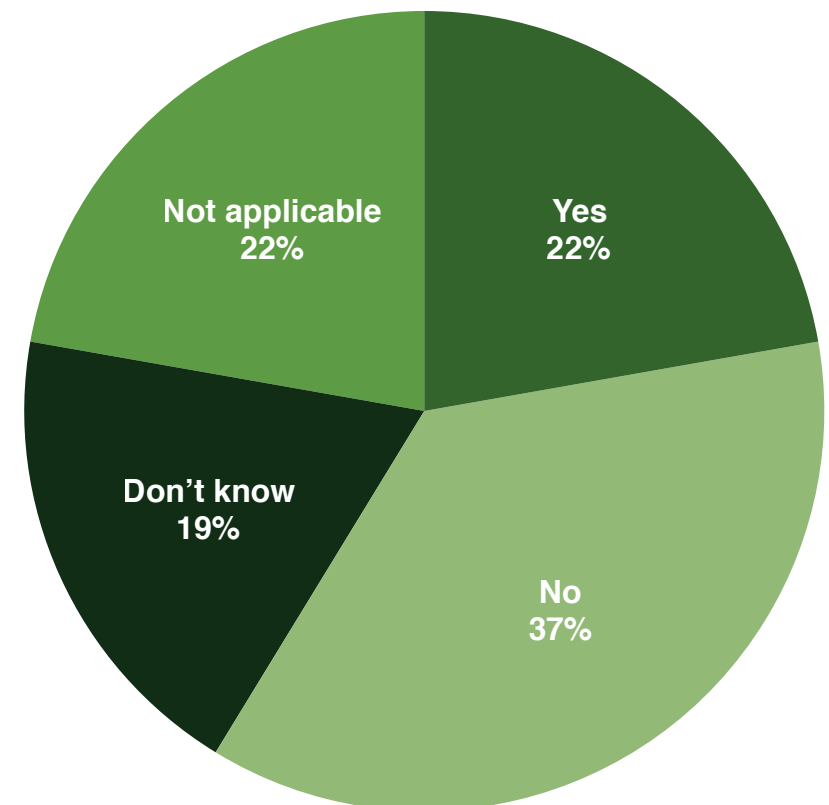
Aboriginal Identity



Age

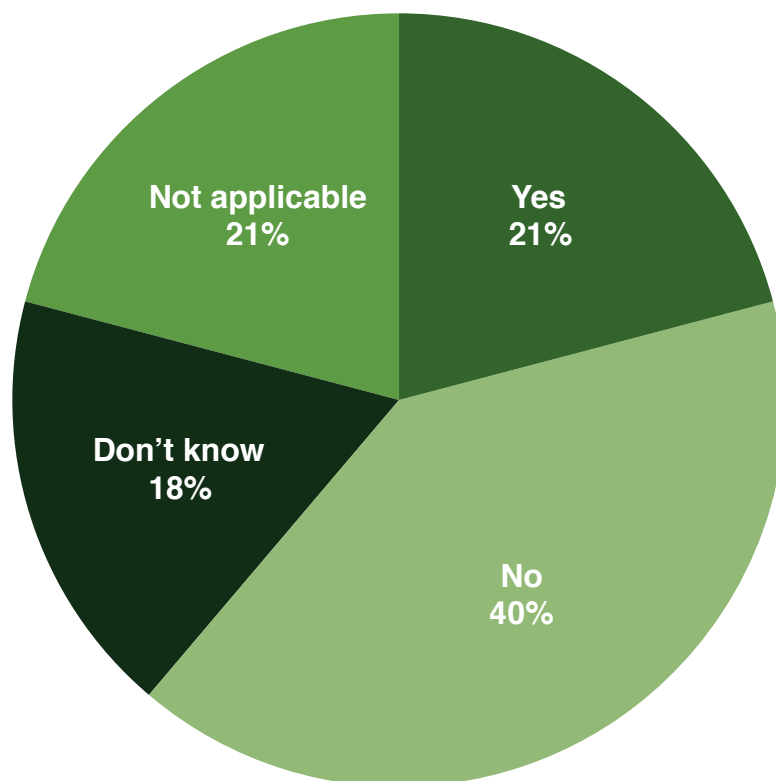


Gender Identity

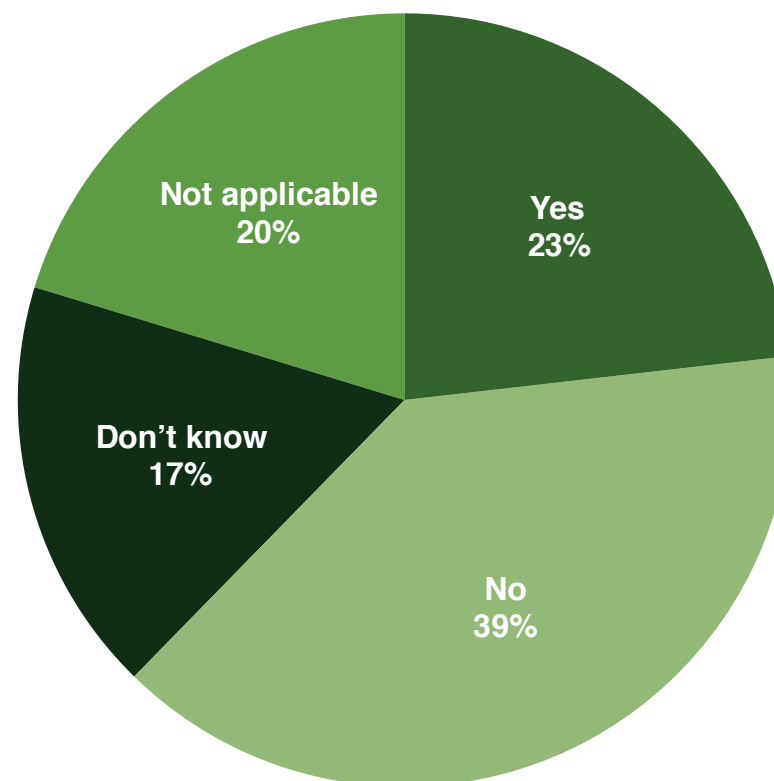


Do you have the supports you need if you or others close to you face discrimination on the basis of any of the following? [continued]

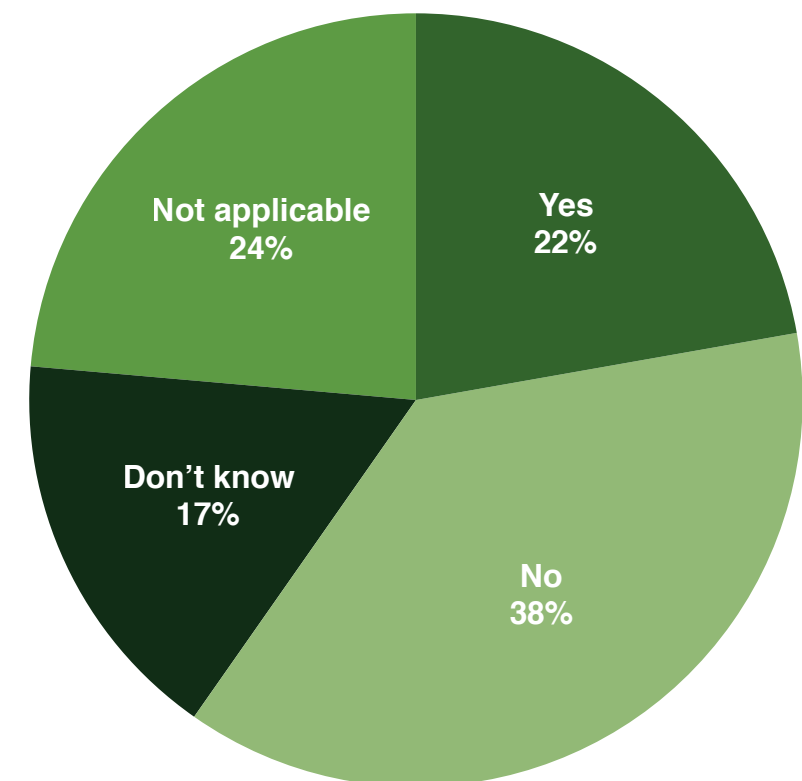
Mental or physical disability



National or ethnic origin

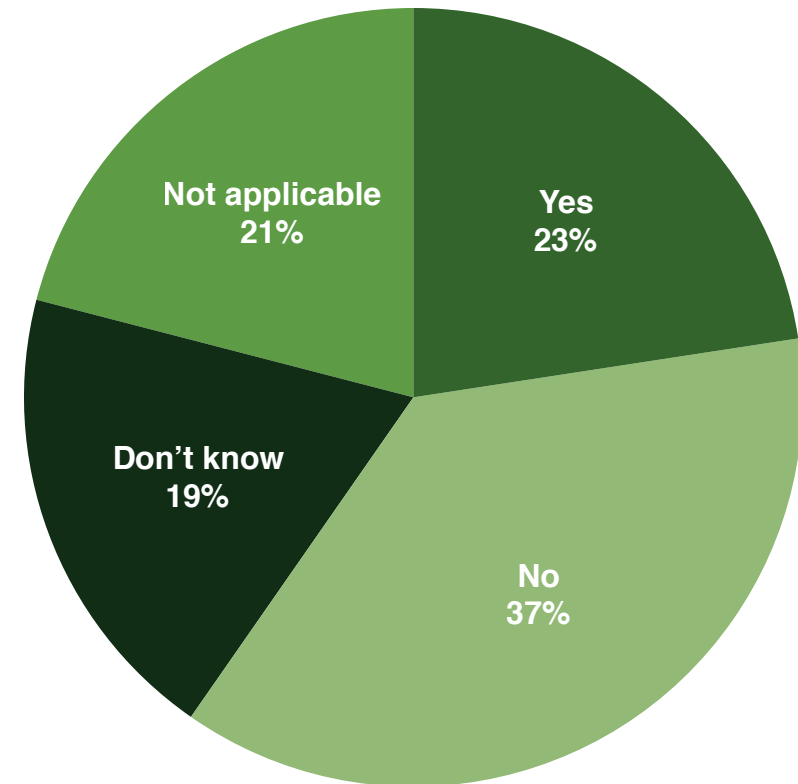


Race

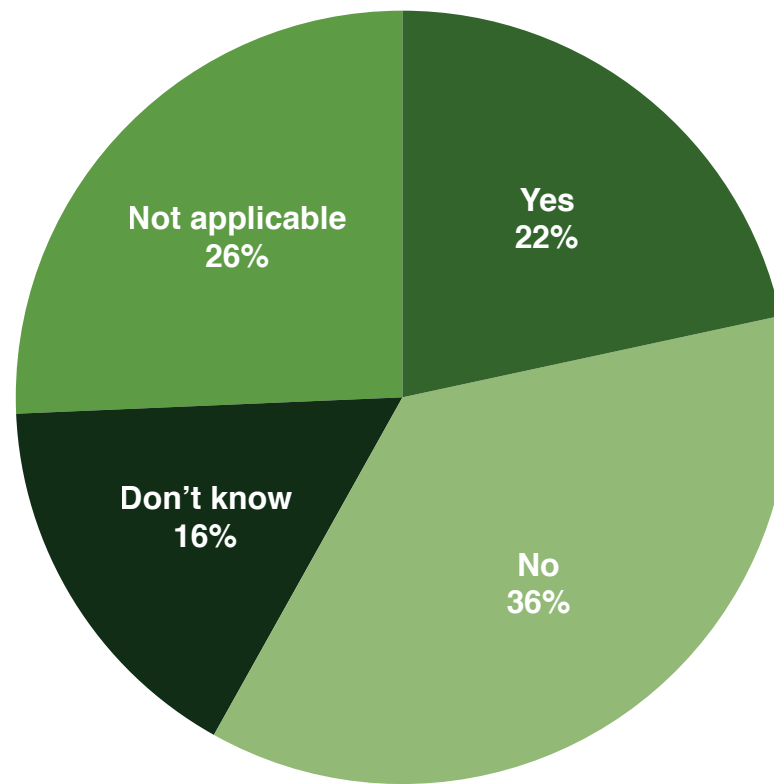


Do you have the supports you need if you or others close to you face discrimination on the basis of any of the following? [continued]

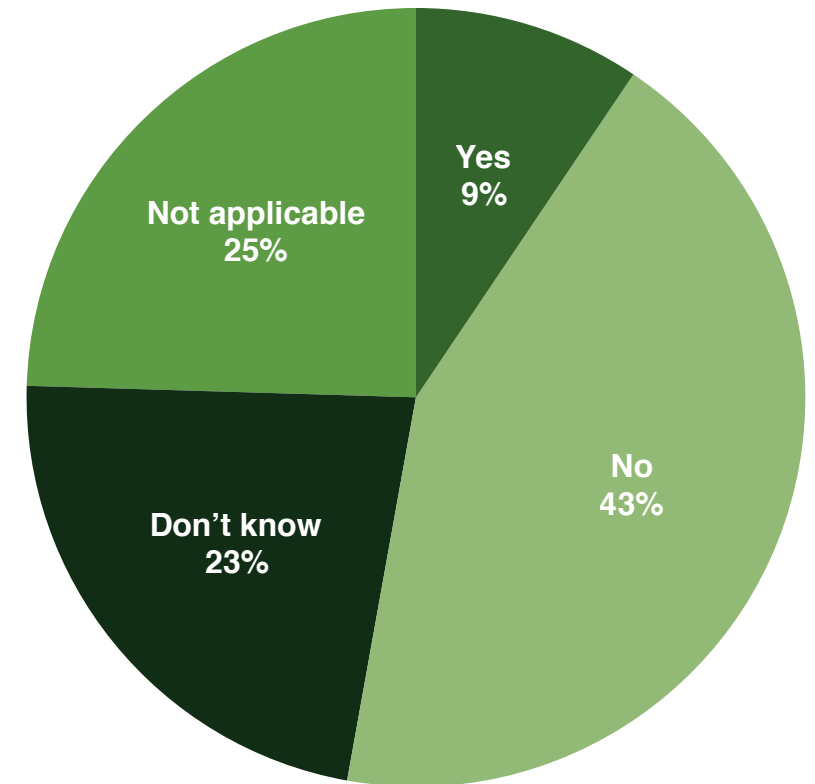
Sexual orientation



Gender



Nothing



Snapshot of Issues

Here you will find what was shared in response to the key issues facing residents and biggest barriers to accessing the services they need.

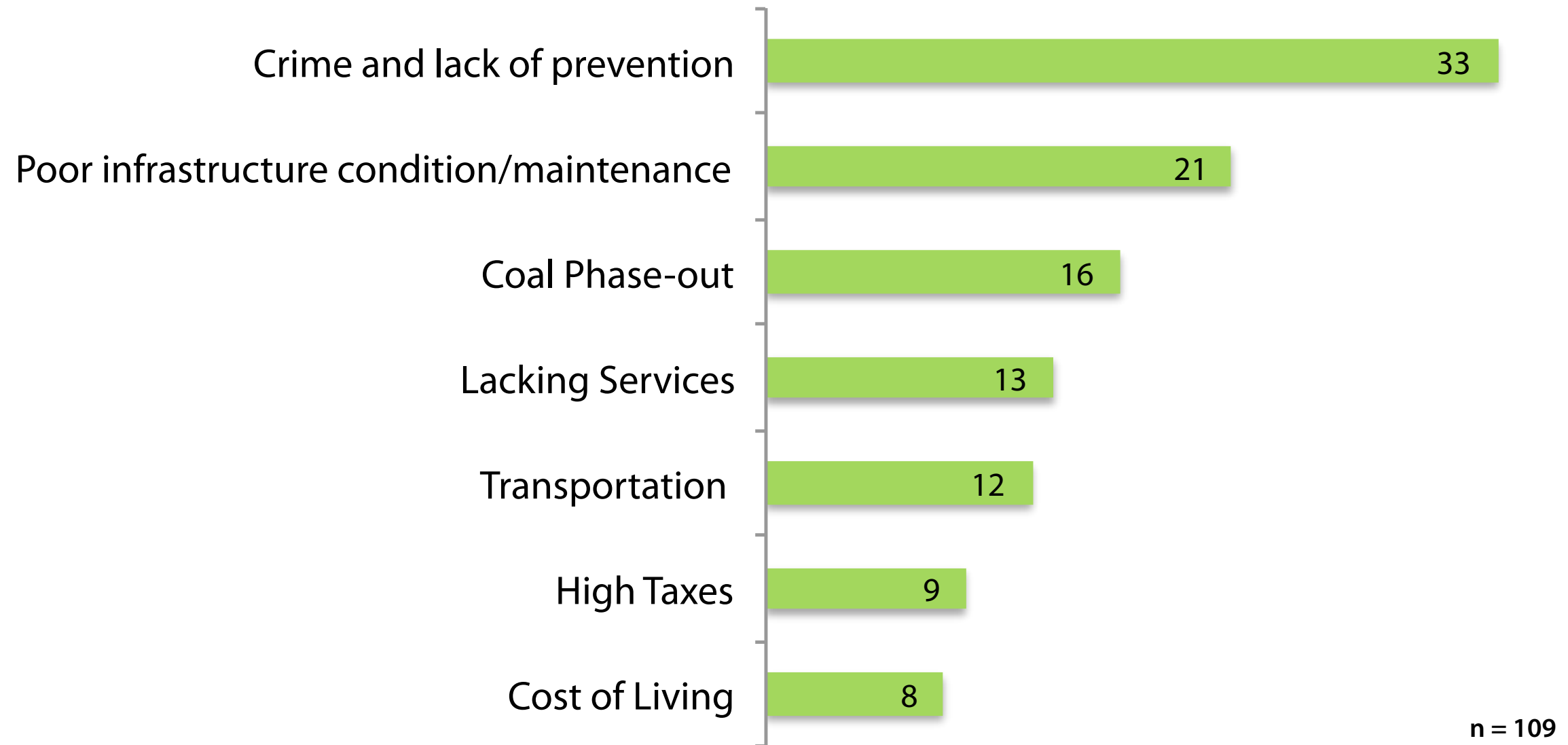
Each page responds to one of the following questions that was asked in our engagement process.

- What key issues face residents of Parkland County?
- To what degree do you believe the following issues exist in Parkland County? Other?
- What are the biggest barriers for your household to access the programs and services you need? (Check all that apply.)

What key issues face residents of Parkland County?

Open-ended question

Number of Responses



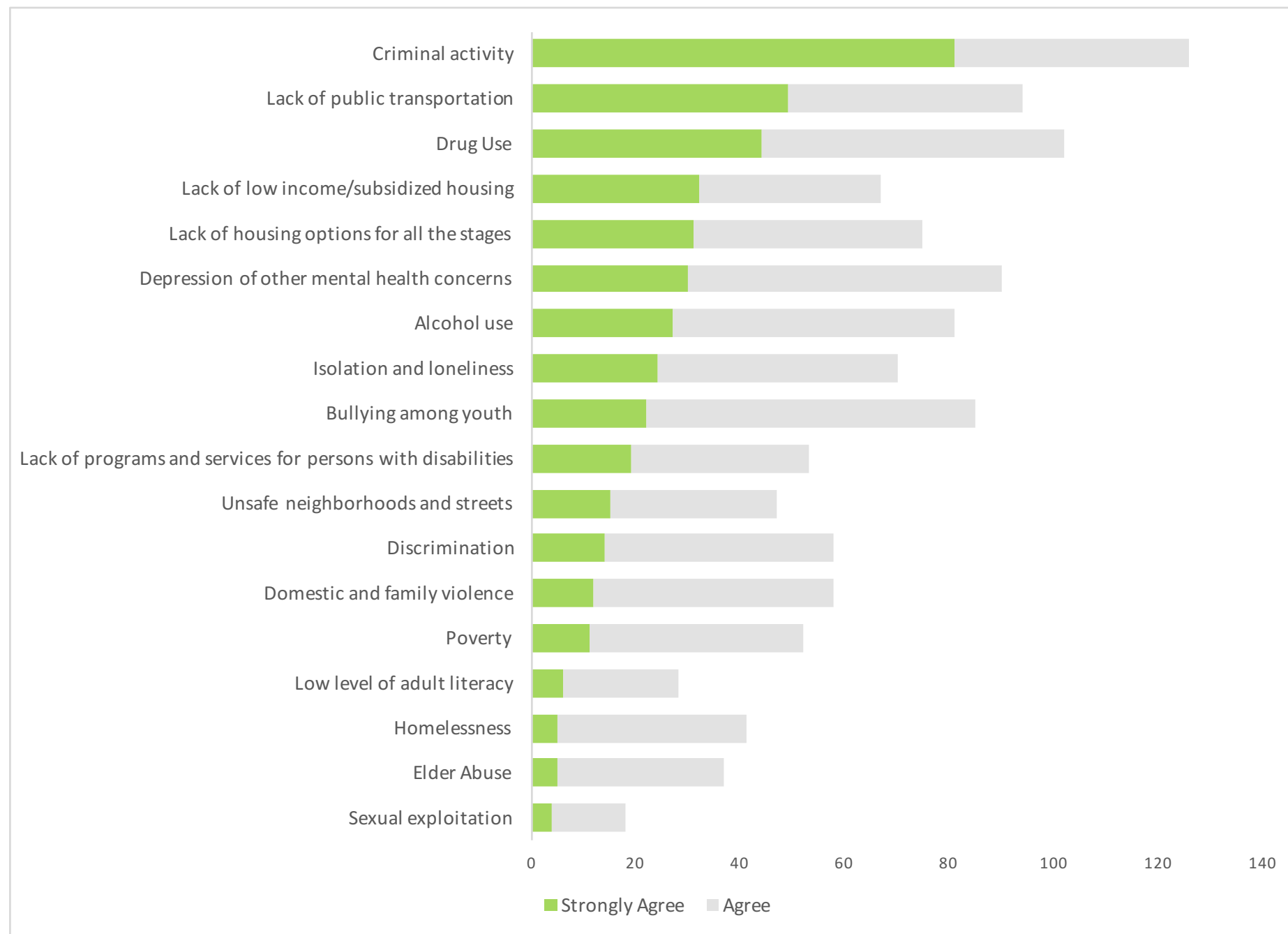
What key issues face residents of Parkland County?

Open-ended question

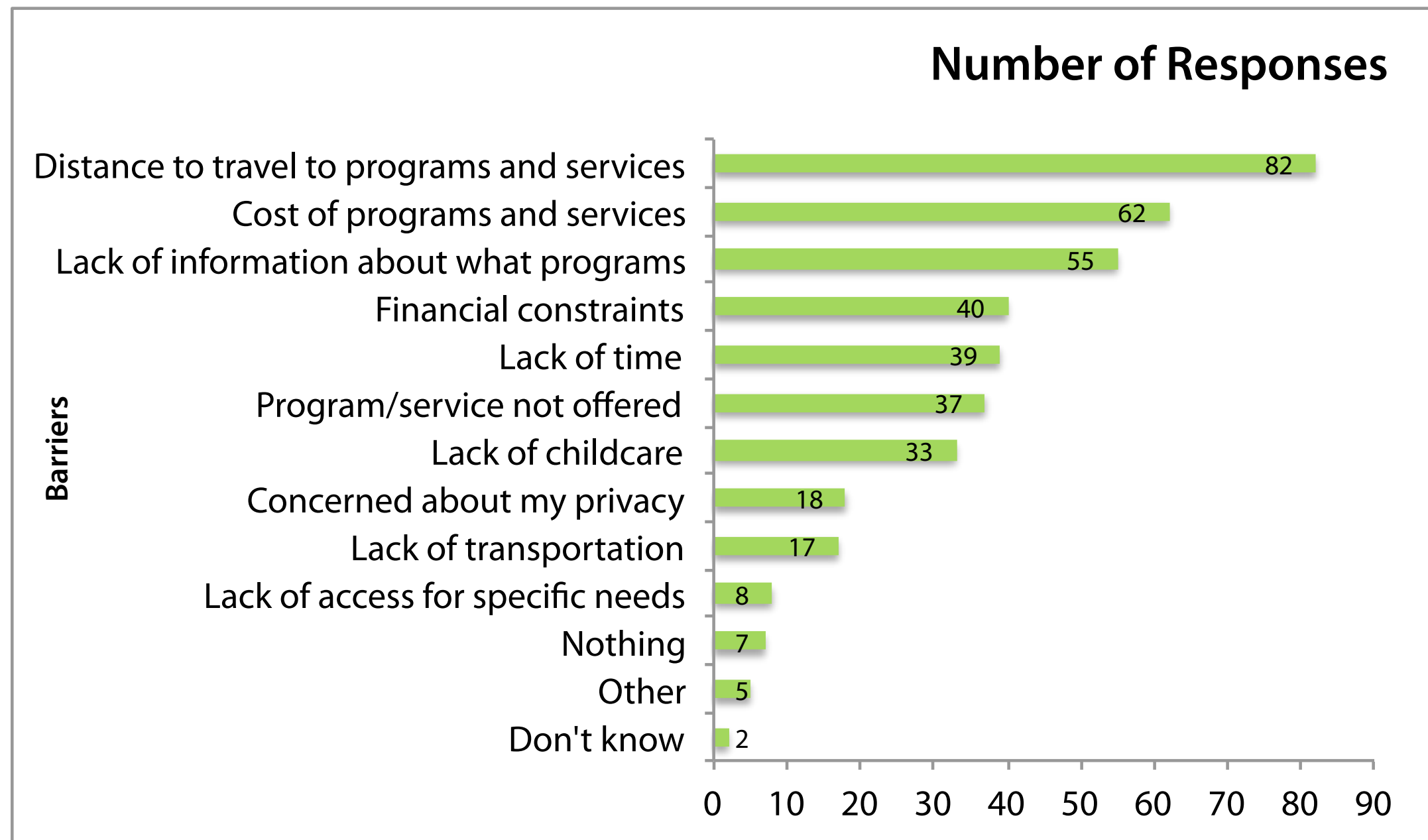
The majority of responses to what key issues face residents of Parkland County were crime and crime prevention and poor infrastructure condition and maintenance. Beyond these two categories, responses varied greatly from coal phase-out and high taxes having a big impact on residents, to the dissatisfaction with access and availability of services and transportation in the County. Key crime concerns included property theft, vehicle speeding, lack of RCMP and peace officer patrols, and slow response time to emergency calls. Poor infrastructure concerns were namely road condition (pot holes, grading, drainage), hazardous sidewalks, ditch debris, and internet connection.

The lack of services theme saw a wide spectrum of input. Feedback referenced services such as: specialized services for high needs children, fire protection, recreation, health, animal control, and general comments on misallocation of resources.

To what degree do you believe the following issues exist in Parkland County?



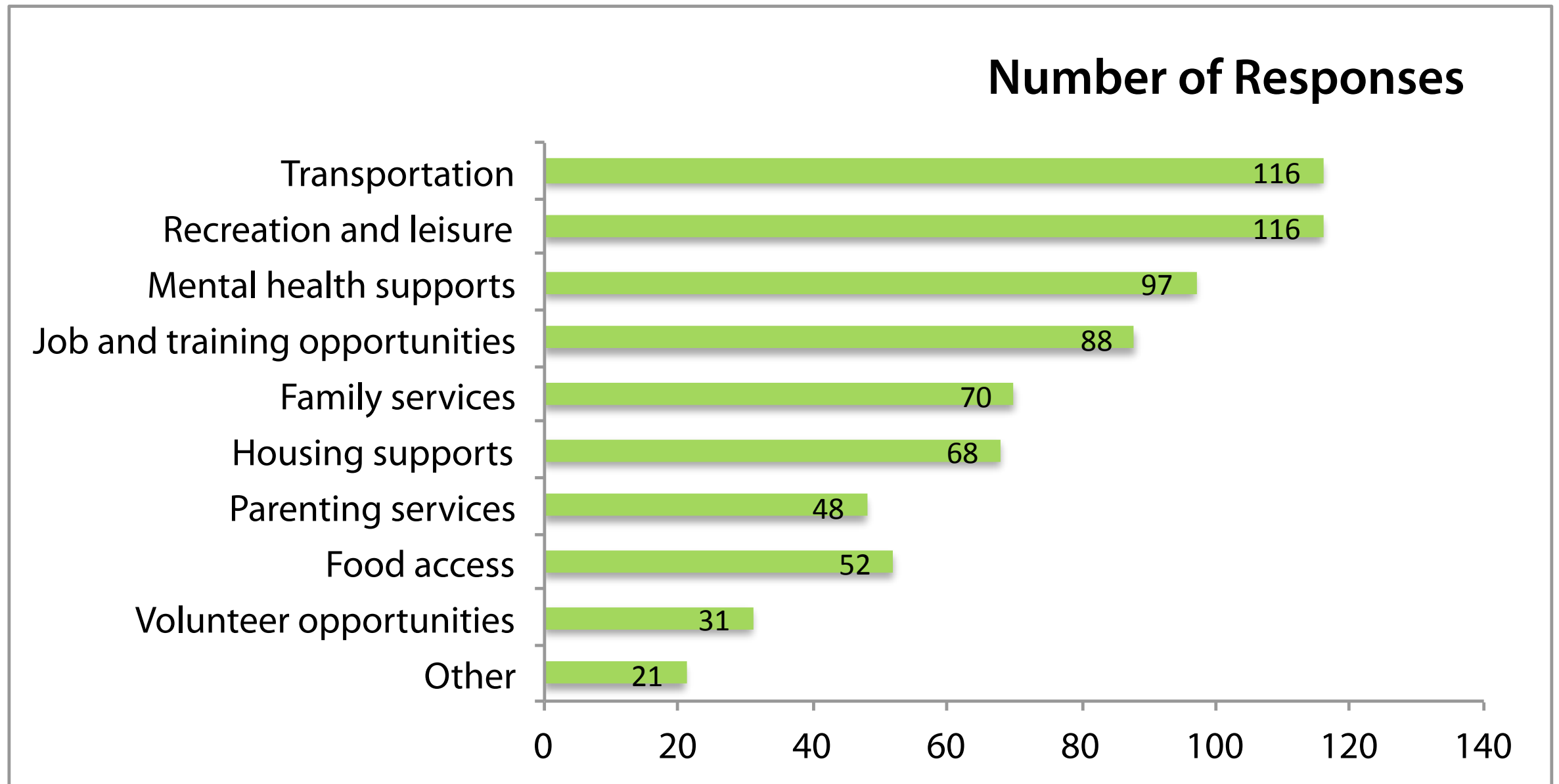
What are the biggest barriers for your household to access the programs and services you need? [check all that apply]



What are the biggest barriers for your household to access the programs and services you need?

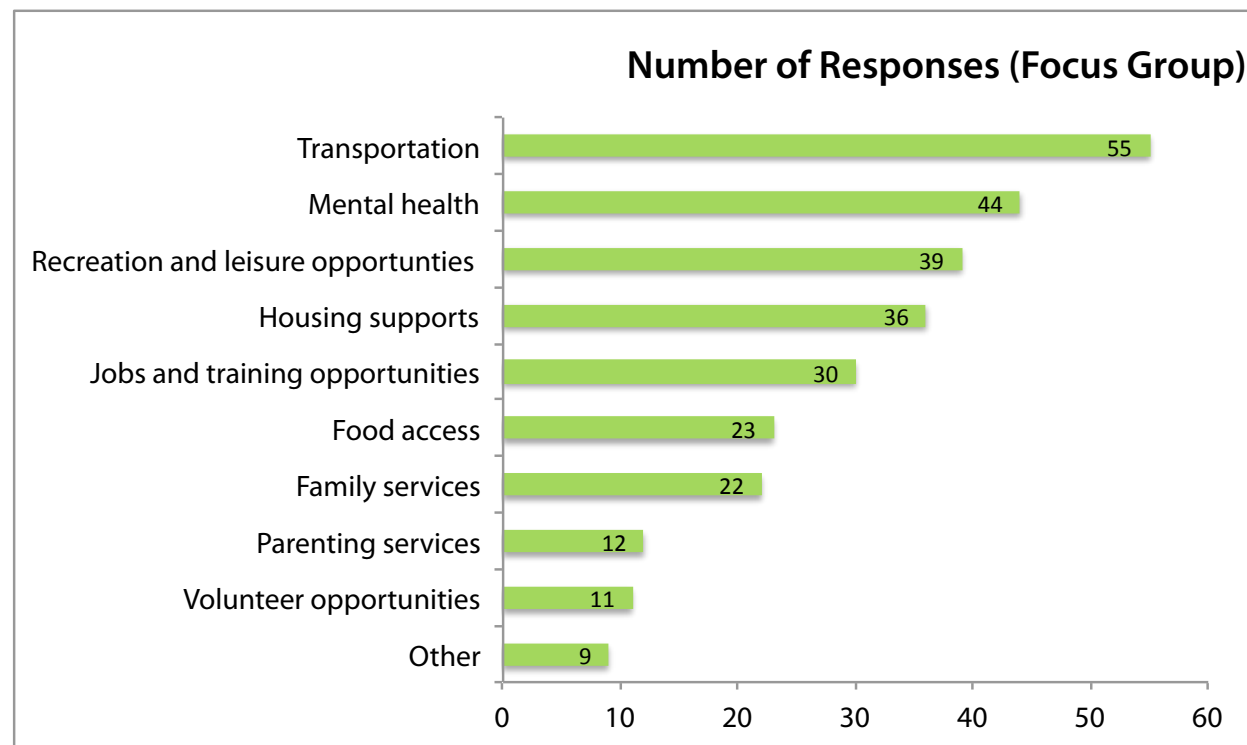
Distance to travel to programs and services was the biggest barrier identified by residents in the County. Cost of programs and services was the next greatest barrier, followed by a lack of information about what is available. To a lesser extent, respondents also mentioned financial constraints, lack of time, lack of childcare, and concern over privacy as the next biggest barriers.

Priority Supports - *for quality of life*

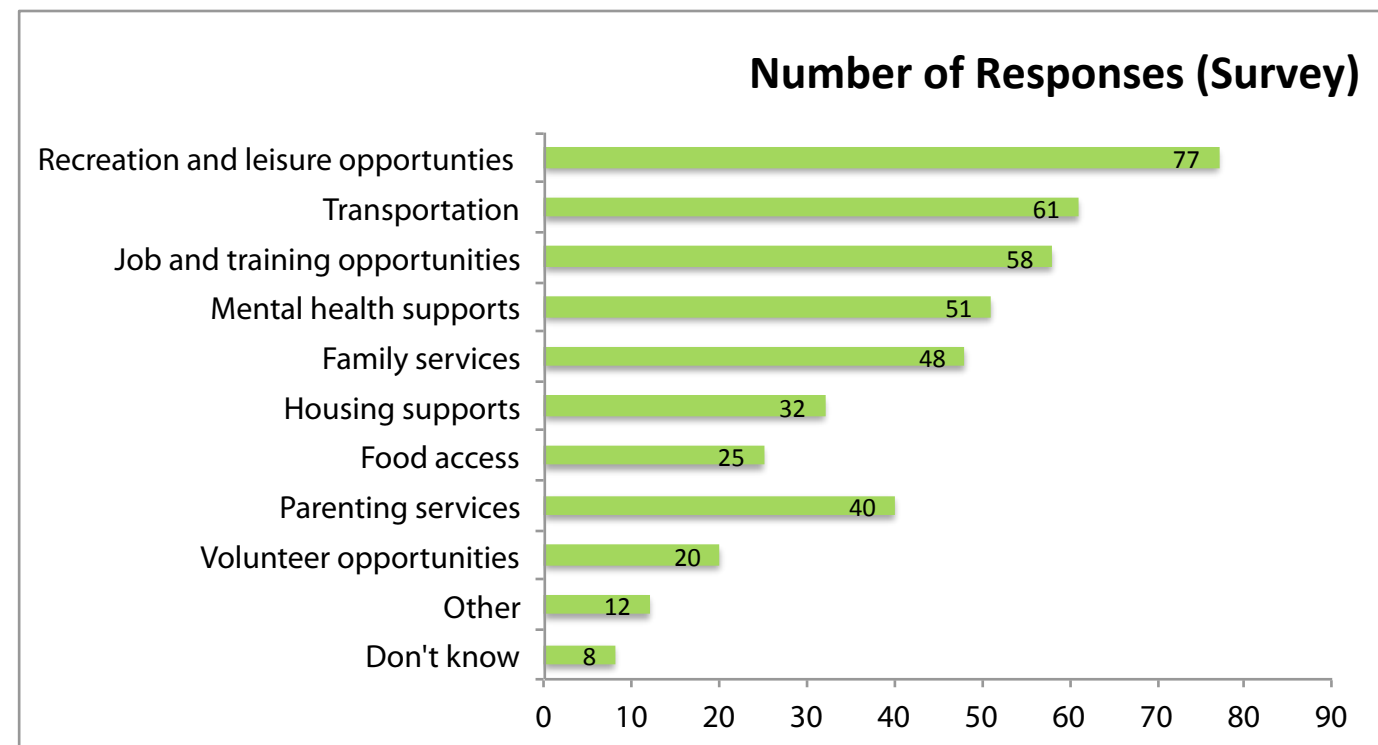


Priority Supports - *for quality of life*

Respondents from various Focus Groups who participated in a poker chip voting exercise. Groups were given 10 chips to assign priority to quality of life improving supports and services.



Survey respondents were asked to check all supports that they believe would improve quality of life for Parkland County residents.



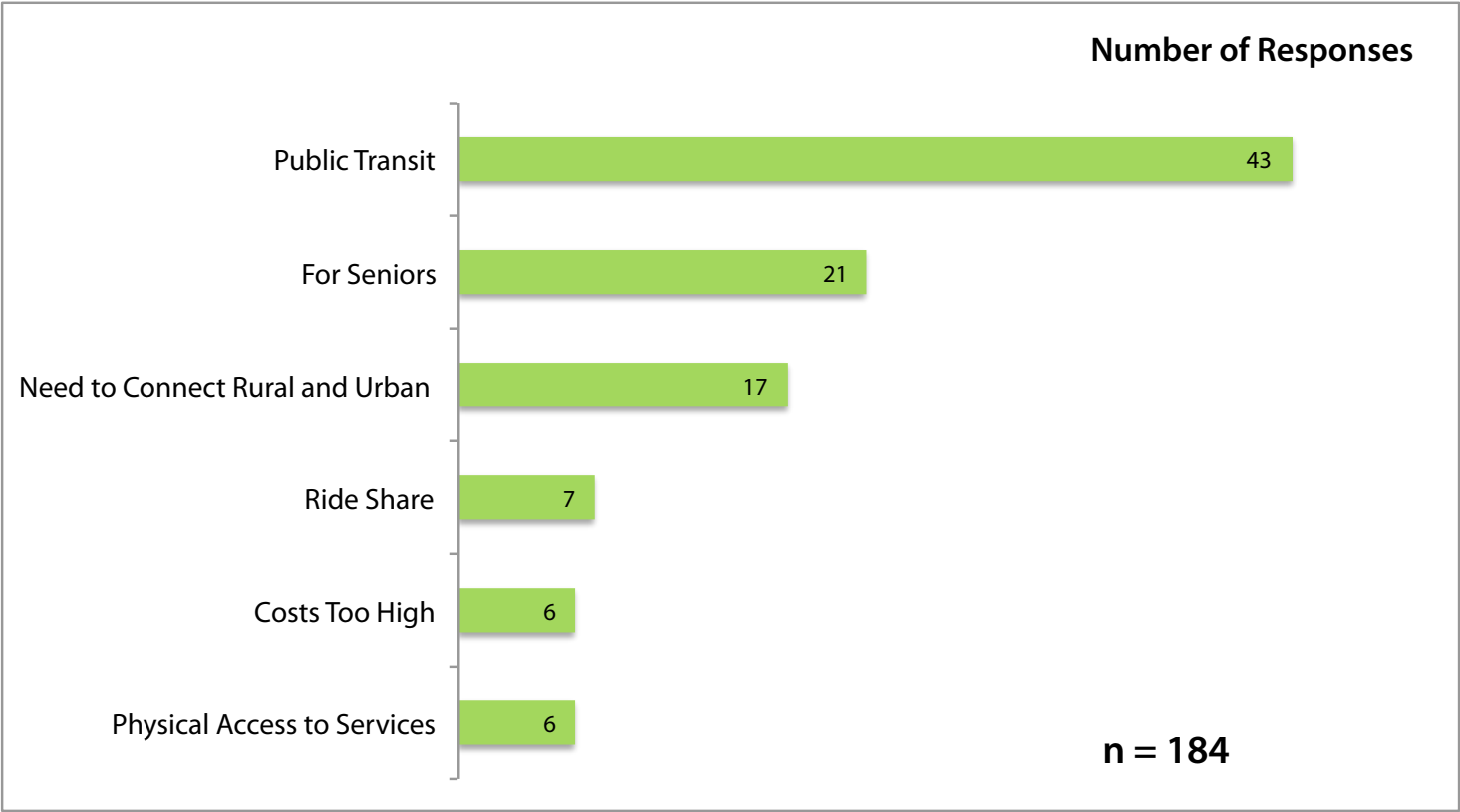
Priority Supports

This section highlights what was shared about proposed programs and services believed to improve quality of life for Parkland County residents. These suggestions came as a response to both the survey and focus group feedback. The support areas appear in this document in the order they were prioritized - across all engagement methods. Each of the following pages dives into a key support and includes a list of the most prominent sub-themes and actions generated for consideration. Each page also includes a sample of verbatim quotes from those who provided feedback.

In the survey and focus group we asked “what supports do you think would improve quality of life for Parkland County residents?” and provided a pre-set list. Respondents were encouraged to add any other support we may have missed. In this exercise, crime and preventative measures of crime came up quite frequently as other items that were discussed.

Transportation

The majority of comments heard in our engagement process were issues with or ideas for transportation in and around the County. This spanned from lack of transit to the limitation of access to services. The table below shows the six most frequently heard comments around transportation for improving Parkland County residents' quality of life.



key sub themes and actions

Public Transit

As straight forward as it sounds, many respondents believe the lack of transit impedes the quality of life of residents.

"Specialize Transit System - access to FCSS, Westview Hospitals, food access, lower incomes"

"Transportation into the City should start farther west."

For Seniors

Many respondents were concerned with addressing the mobility needs of seniors and ensuring they are not isolated or struggling without the food and services they need.

"[Seniors are] losing their license due to medical issues."

"providing of handi/seniors transportation through subsidies to private operators or shared services."

Connect Rural and Urban Areas

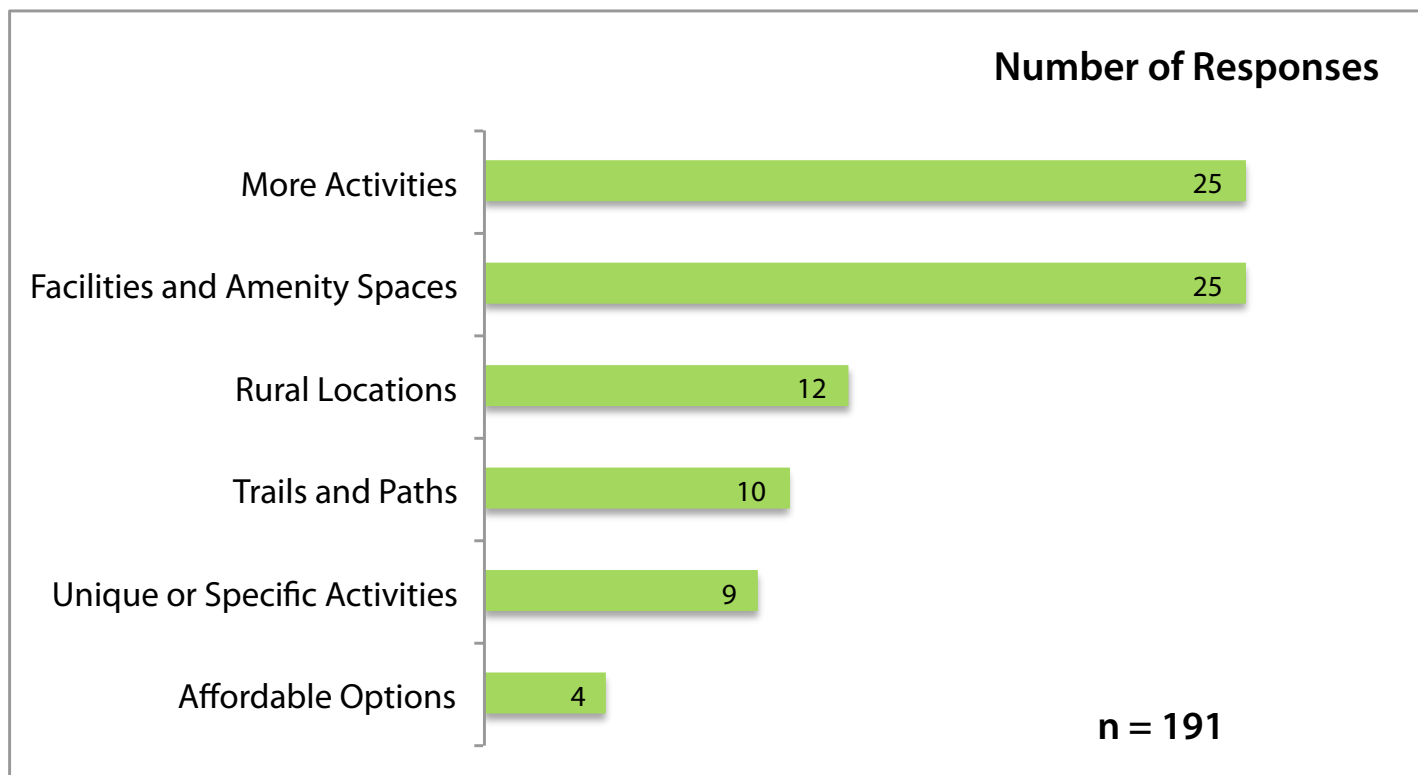
Connectivity between the vast geography of Parkland County was top of mind for many respondents. Comments focus primarily on seeking ways to get rural folks to and from urban areas.

"More convenient connections to City."

"Reliable regular transportation from rural locations to Stony, Spruce, Acheson & Edmonton."

Recreation and Leisure

The next greatest number of comments were about recreation and leisure opportunities and ideas for better programming and access to the things that keep residents active. By far the most prominent were to add more activities (passive and active) for residents and to build or expand recreational facilities and public amenity spaces.



key sub themes and actions

More Activities

Comments focused on increasing the variety and the offerings (times, dates, locations) of recreational and leisure activities in the County and Tri-Municipal Region.

"Improve access for people not on sports teams."

"More recreation in the rural area and west so families aren't always driving into town."

Facilities and Amenity Spaces

Comments entered around increasing the variety and location of recreational infrastructure. This extended beyond buildings to include pools, parks, and trails.

"Activities at community leagues, more pools, ice rinks, rec centres"

"maximizing use - walking, fishing, quading, launches, ride trail."

Unique or Specific Activities

This theme came about as a result of the diverse interests County residents have and their desire to pursue them. Unique or specific activities identified ranged from equestrian trails and judo rings to pickle ball courts and mountain bike parks.

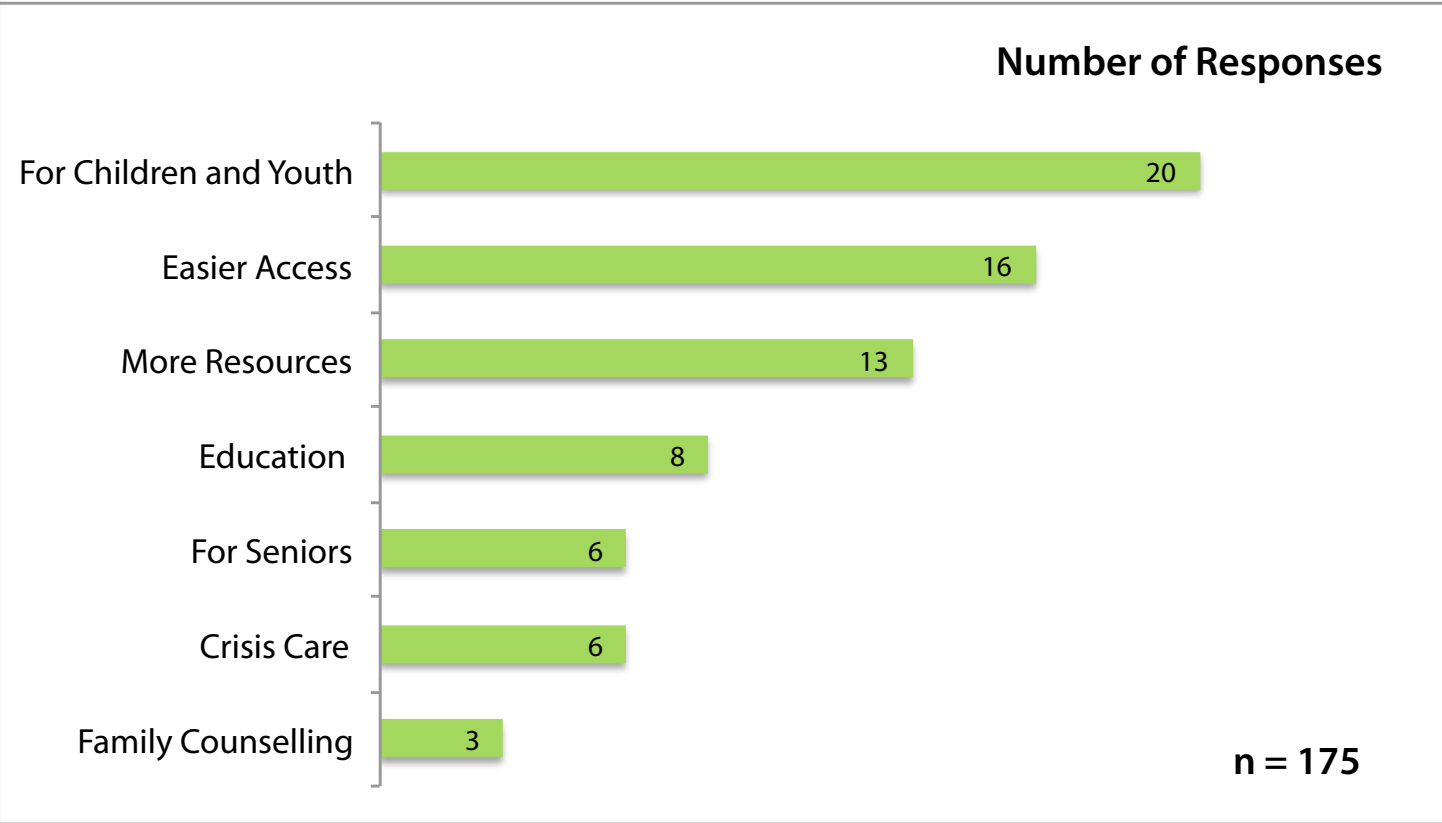
"Work with you to develop mountain bike park design."

"shortage of baseball times."

"there are not enough Equestrian trails in Parkland County."

Mental Health

In the engagement focus groups, mental health was discussed as a key issue for the County to address. Many feel this is very important in relation to quality of life, that needs to be approached thoughtfully. As a result, this priority area received the greatest variety of insights as to why it is important and how service can be enhanced.



key sub themes and actions

For Children and Youth

More access and opportunities for the County’s youngest residents was the most raised sub theme. Suggestions included both counselling and preventative programs such as youth activities, shortening wait times, and deterring isolation, to name a few.

“a lot of mental health crisis and ongoing support falls on children's services.”

“Youth gardening program.”

Easier Access

Many participants raised the idea of operating a mobile health program for residents that would bring services to their homes and community halls.

“Mobile mental health services are needed in Parkland County for children and families.”

More Resources

More resources in both the human and informational sense.

“Wait times are too long.”

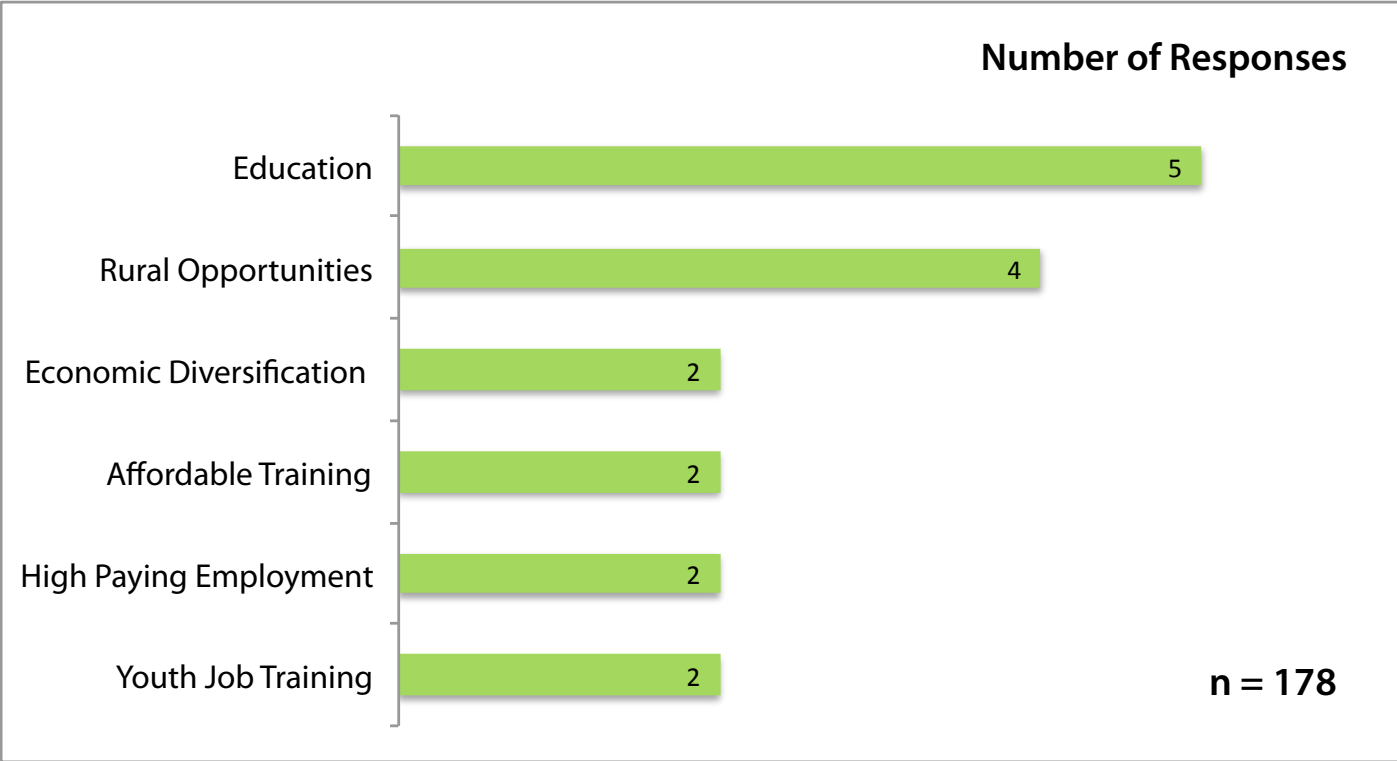
“Many people aren’t accessing services because they have to go to Edmonton.”

Education

Education was mainly in reference to building awareness of mental health and tearing down stereotypes. This also touched on connecting residents to resources.

Jobs and Training Opportunities

Job opportunities and training opportunities were addressed quite evenly in the engagement process. Education came out as the most frequent response with training, rural jobs, economic diversification, and high paying employment making up the majority of other comments. Affordable and youth-oriented job training also rose to the surface as a key opportunity.



key sub themes and actions

Education

Education comments touched on having strong (well-rated) schools, adding a secondary school , and adult skills and learning.

"access to finishing or upgrading high school for adults."

Rural Opportunities

For both training and employment, participants spoke to the desire to see more of the training and employment exist in rural areas.

"rural residents need training closer to home."

"jobs closer to home."

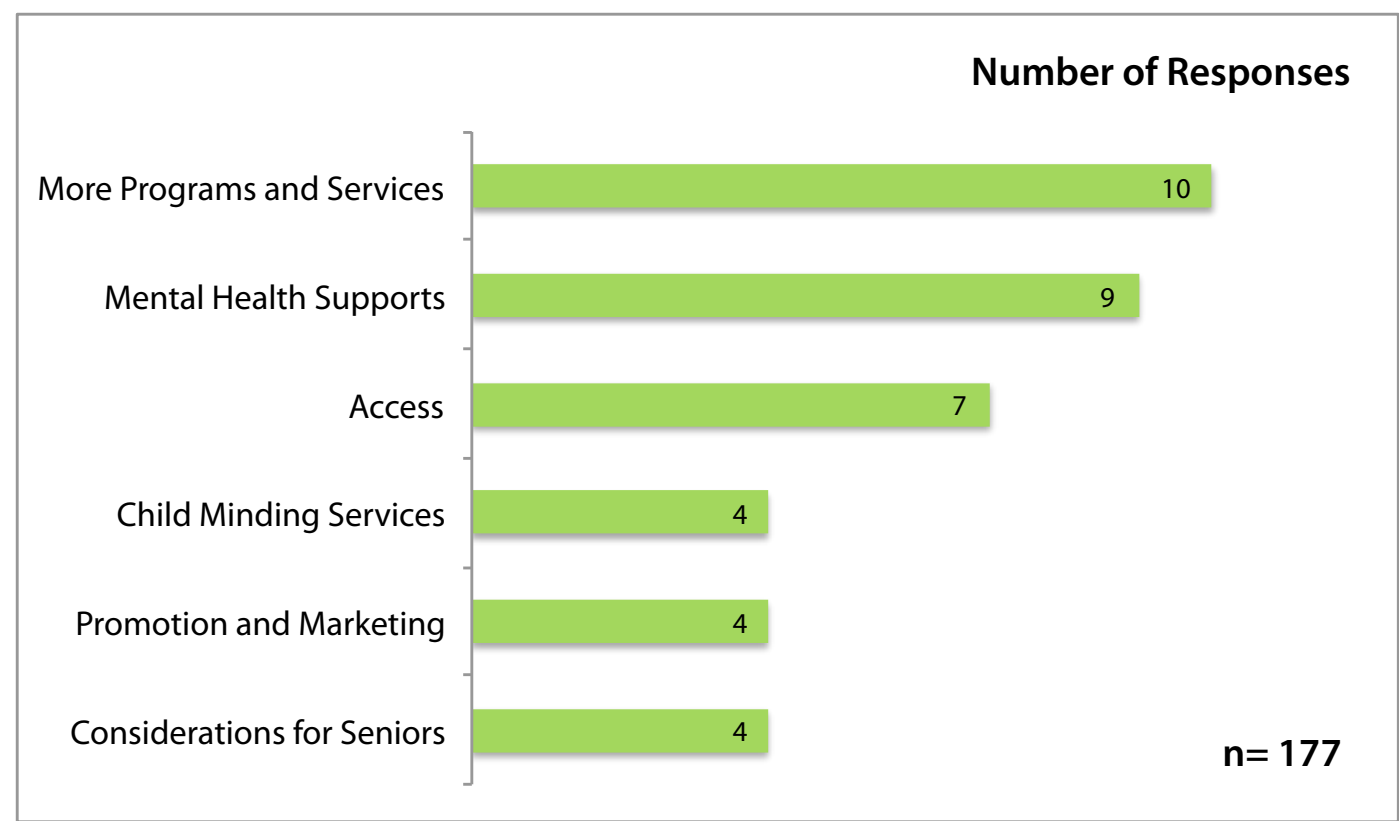
Economic Diversification

Economic diversification and development were both raised as means to bring a wider variety of jobs to the County and head off major down-turns that follow the closure or relocation of one major industry or employer.

"encourage new industries."

Family Services

Better addressing mental health issues surfaced high in the family services theme. Giving residents better physical and financial access to professionals was identified. To a lesser extent, we heard there is need for more child care service options and promotion of what is already available, as well as listening to the needs of the aging population.



key sub themes and actions

More Programs and Services

The responses to this covered a wide cross-section of suggestions for expanding old and establishing new supports. Most ideas focused on supports for the parents.

- "More support for single parents."*
- "Early childhood development services"*
- "More low cost options and outside of work hours,"*

Mental Health Supports

Mental health in the family context raised ideas around expanding services to a wider demographic of residents and having the services available when people need them most.

- "Counselling services for families, individuals and children. Waiting list is long and private services are extremely expensive so."*

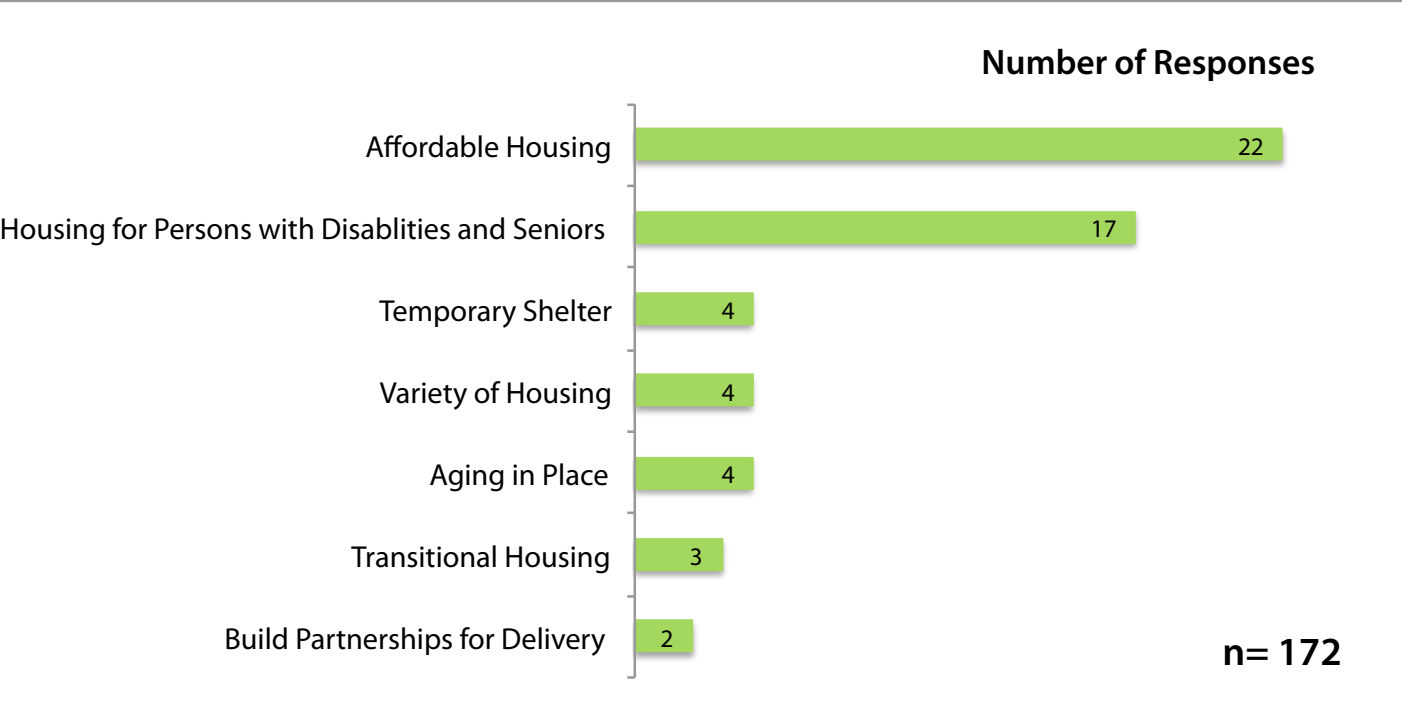
Access

Comments around access focused on having the services that residents need available in their community.

- "barriers to family services; day camps are well attended; need more access to services in community halls"*
- "Parkland Village residents and Entwistle access"*

Housing Supports

The majority of comments heard in response to housing supports were in reference to the need for affordable housing. This tied strongly to the next most common sub-theme of housing for persons with disabilities and seniors. Other suggestions for how housing could improve quality of life for residents included providing shelters for those in vulnerable situations and building systems that allow the aging population to stay in their homes.



key sub themes and actions

Affordable Housing

The comments around affordable housing spanned the housing continuum. However, comments around deep subsidy and housing for low income individuals was the most prominently heard.

"Low income housing is needed - Habitat for Humanity, subsidies." "lack of affordable housing and people struggle to access housing."

"need for low income housing options for families who have to move off reserve."

"Low income housing."

Housing for Persons with Disabilities and Seniors

A large part of the housing conversation was framed around supporting the unique needs of seniors and persons with disabilities in their housing situations.

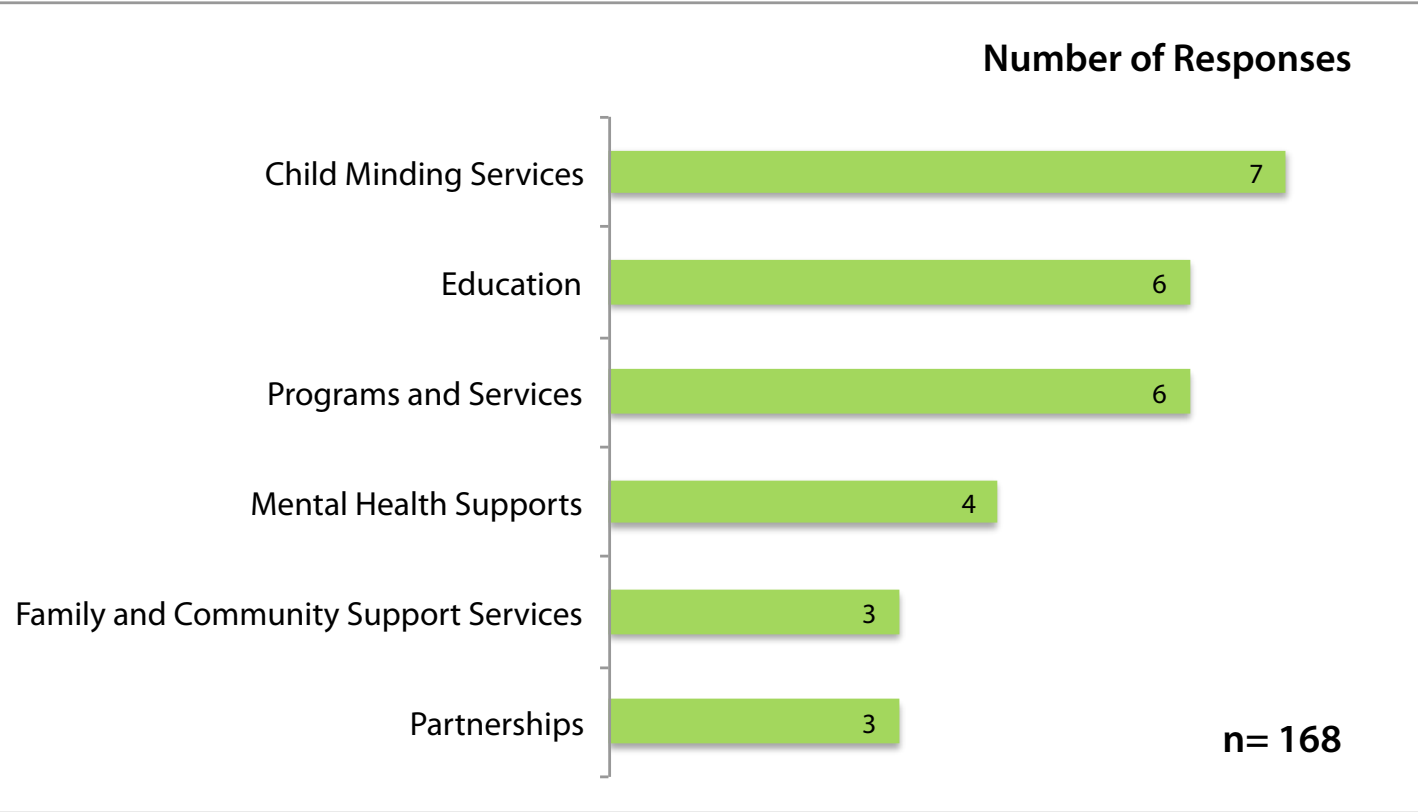
"aging in place services."

"housing for those with mental health needs."

"not enough senior housing outside of Stony Plain or Spruce Grove, we need housing in the country."

Parenting Services

Parenting services garnered responses very similar to that heard in family services, but from a slightly different lens. The top three responses included child care, parenting education, and more program and service offerings overall. The other three - mental health supports, Family and Community Support Services, and partnerships were more nuanced and are discussed here.



key sub themes and actions

Mental Health Supports

This theme spoke to the importance of ensuring all members of a family are getting the mental health supports they need. There is a desire for mental health supports to be plentiful for all and geared to all ages from childhood to youth and into adulthood.

"Help for parents struggling with children who have mental health issues."

"Affordable access to people, mental health is fundamental to overall health. There is an increasing number of people with issues. It ties in to having good programs to keep people motivated and well mentally."

Family and Community Support Services

Respondents identified the value and importance of FCSS in the community.

"Parent support through FCSS are invaluable."

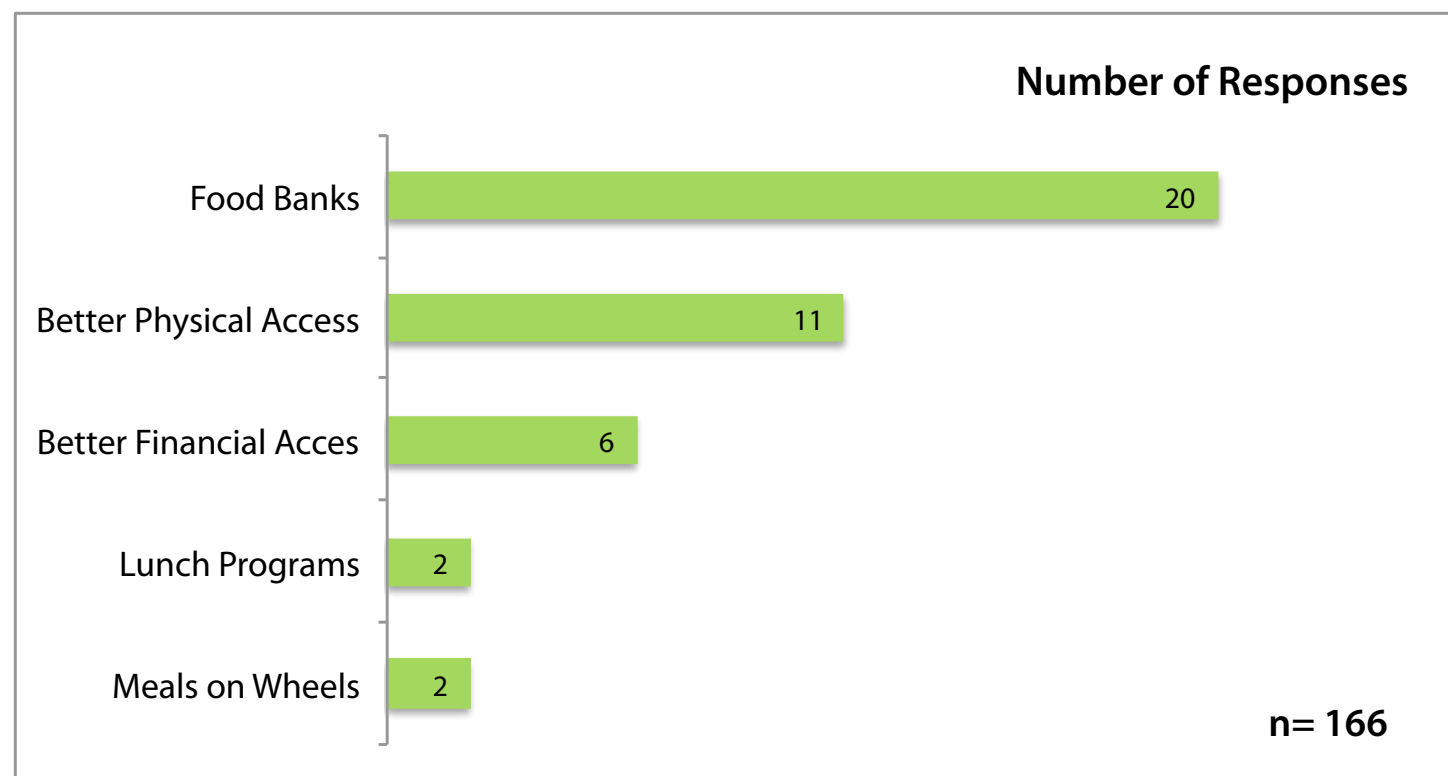
Partnerships

Partnership suggestions varied. Ideas included funding outside agencies to deliver programs, having FCSS and partner agencies cost share programs, and lobbying higher orders of government and private industry for funding.

"best delivered through others."

Food Access

The majority of comments heard in regard to food access came down to expanding existing or establishing new food banks. Other ideas ranged from better physical access to food, financial access to food, school lunch programs, and meals on wheels.



key sub themes and actions

Need for Food Bank

Respondents believe the existing food banks in the region are not supplying enough food given the high demand.

"Food bank is not enough to meet current needs."

"with this economy food banks are underfunded and often inaccessible for people without a vehicle outside of Spruce Grove or Stony."

"longer hours."

Better Physical Access

A large portion of these responses were in regard to accessing the food bank, as transportation is a major challenge for those on limited incomes. Additionally, we heard comments about rural residents, particularly seniors, being disconnected from the markets and grocery stores they rely on.

"Closest store is 20km."

"providing of handi/seniors transportation through subsidies to private operators or shared services."

Better Financial Access

The desire for low and no cost food items was strongly linked to support for expanded food bank services. Some comments spoke specifically to meeting the needs of low income and senior residents.

"More convenient connections to City."

"Reliable regular transportation from rural locations to Stony, Spruce, Acheson & Edmonton."

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer opportunities were the least pressing priority according to engagement participants. Volunteer opportunities were the most accessed service by survey respondents in the last 12 months. This speaks to why this was not as widely discussed as a pressing issue for the County. With volunteer opportunities being a real strength, key ideas about the current nature of the volunteer sector mainly focused on tips to improve the system. The following quotes highlight some these:

“need event that hosts volunteers.”

“volunteer attractions and benefits need to be better understood; assessment of resource potential.”

“Lots of opportunities, need to encourage volunteerism”

“Aging population takes from pool of volunteers”

“Funding for training”

Other

In addition to the categories mentioned in the previous section, respondents also identified “Other” priority areas. Some of these ideas include:

“Better internet and phone services”

“More community-based events”

“Investing in Smart Parkland”

“Full time firefighters”

“More Arts and Culture in Elementary Schools”

“Integration between First Nations communities and the Tri-Municipal Region”

“Later hours at medi-centre”

“Addressing Crime”

Parkland's Seniors and Youth

This section highlights what was shared about improving the quality of life for Parkland County youth and seniors. These suggestions came in as a response to either the focus groups and surveys. Each of the following pages dives into the response to key satisfaction, barriers, and issues based questions. Prominent sub themes that emerged out in regard to issues (for youth) and improvements (for seniors) are explored.

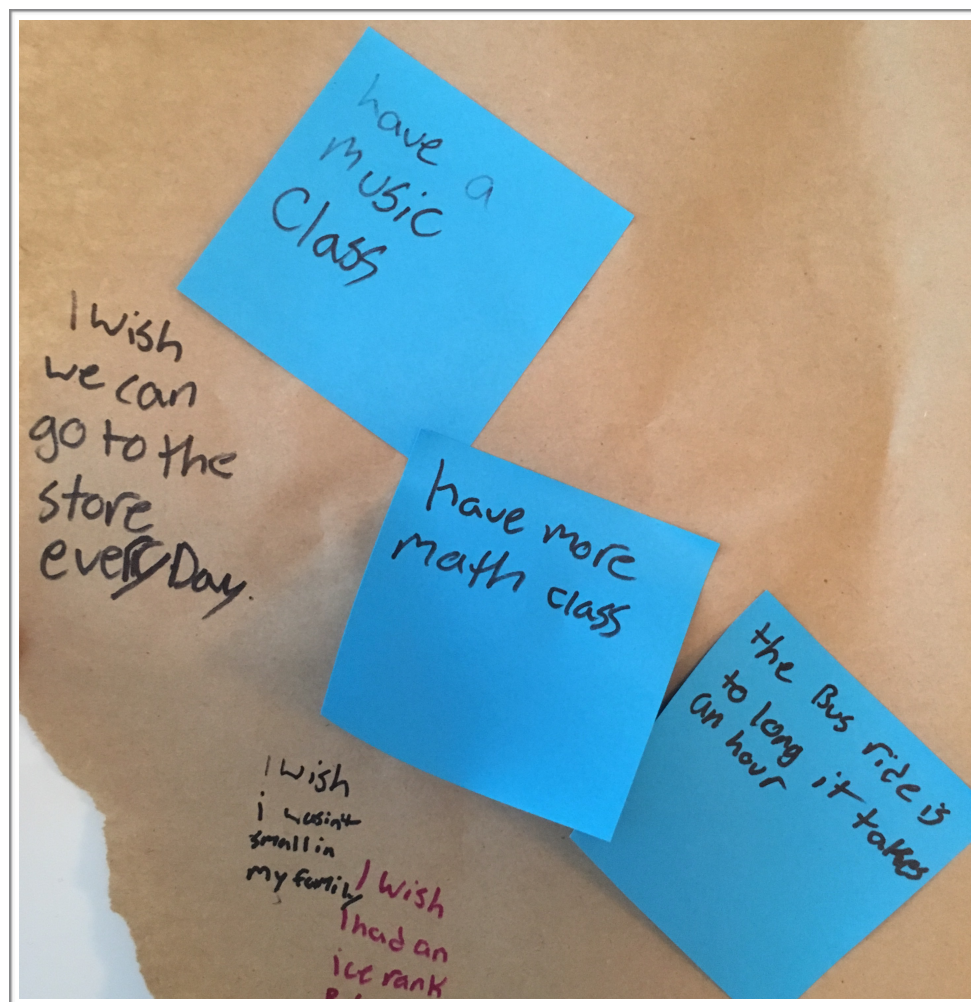


Image: ideas to better address quality of life as generated by youth.

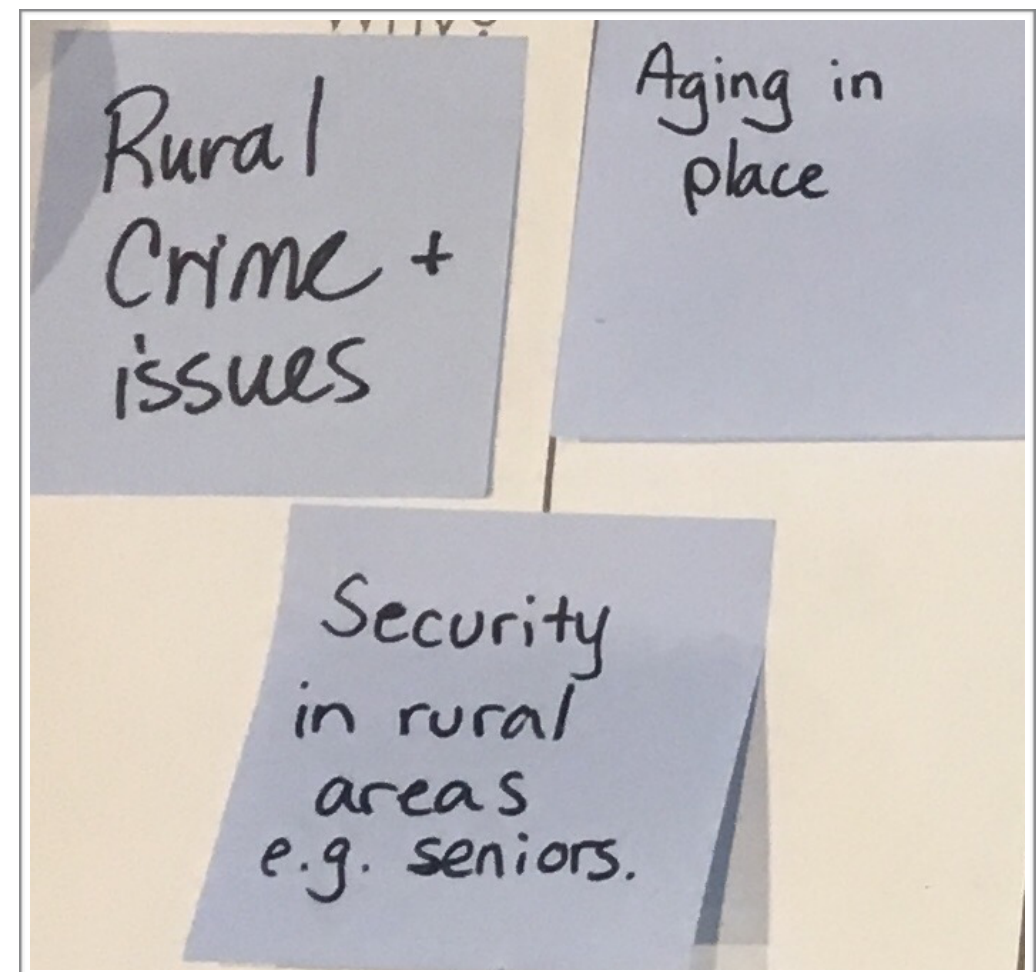
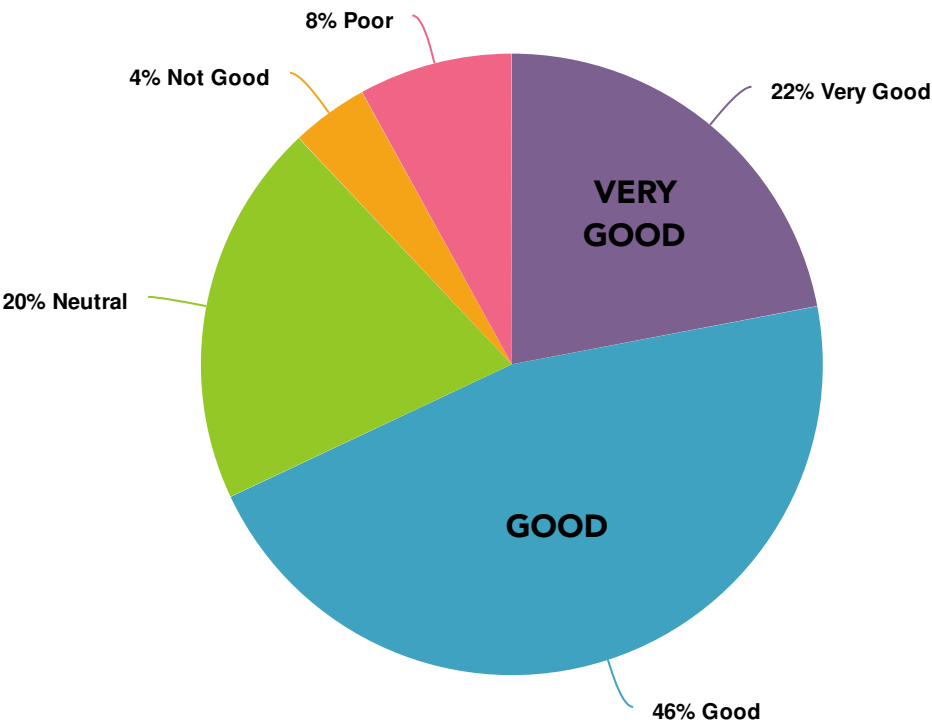


Image: ideas to better address quality of life as generated by seniors.

Key Insights From Youth

Compiled from Youth Surveys and Focus Groups

How would you rate Parkland County as a place for youth?



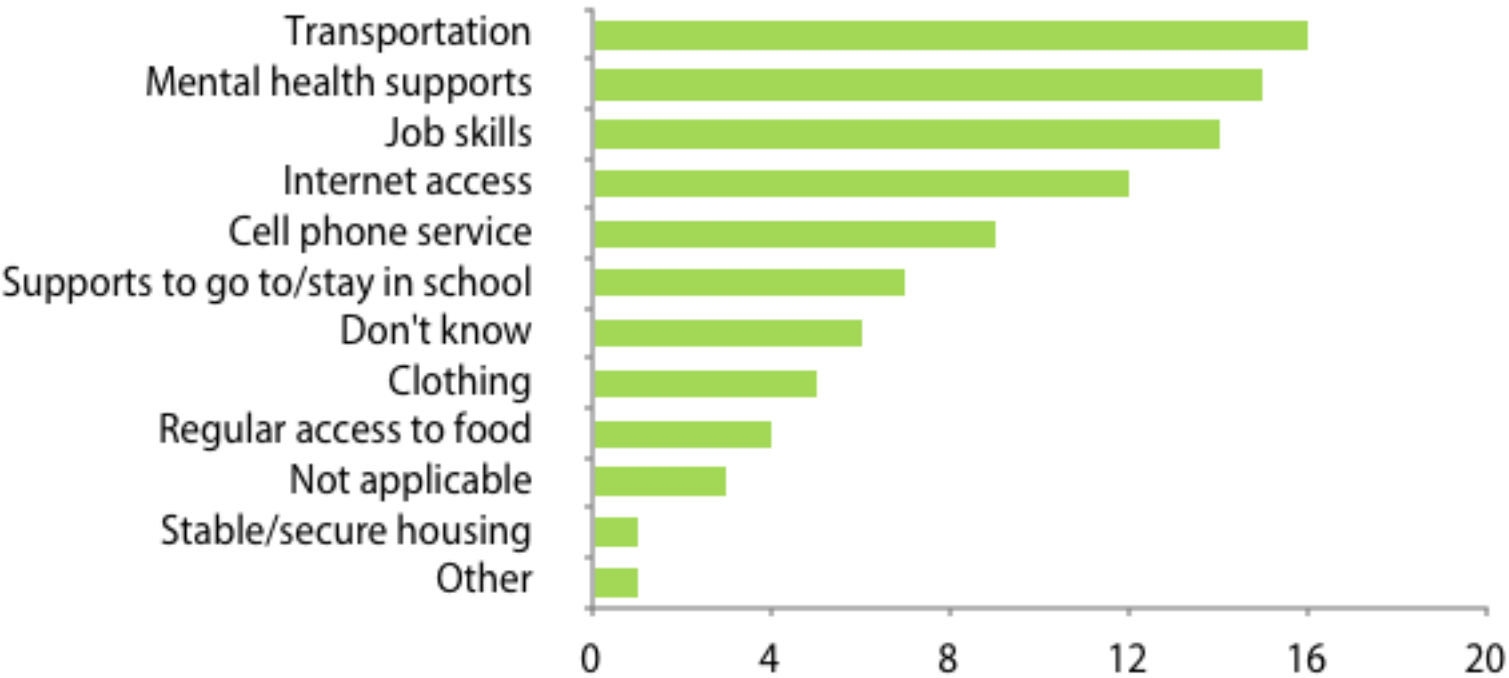
Do you plan to remain in Parkland County after high school graduation?

Yes	26%
No	51%
Undecided	23%

To what degree to believe the following issues exist in Parkland County? Top 5 major issues

- Lack of Public Transportation
- Health Concerns
- Drug Use
- Bullying
- Services for Persons with Disabilities

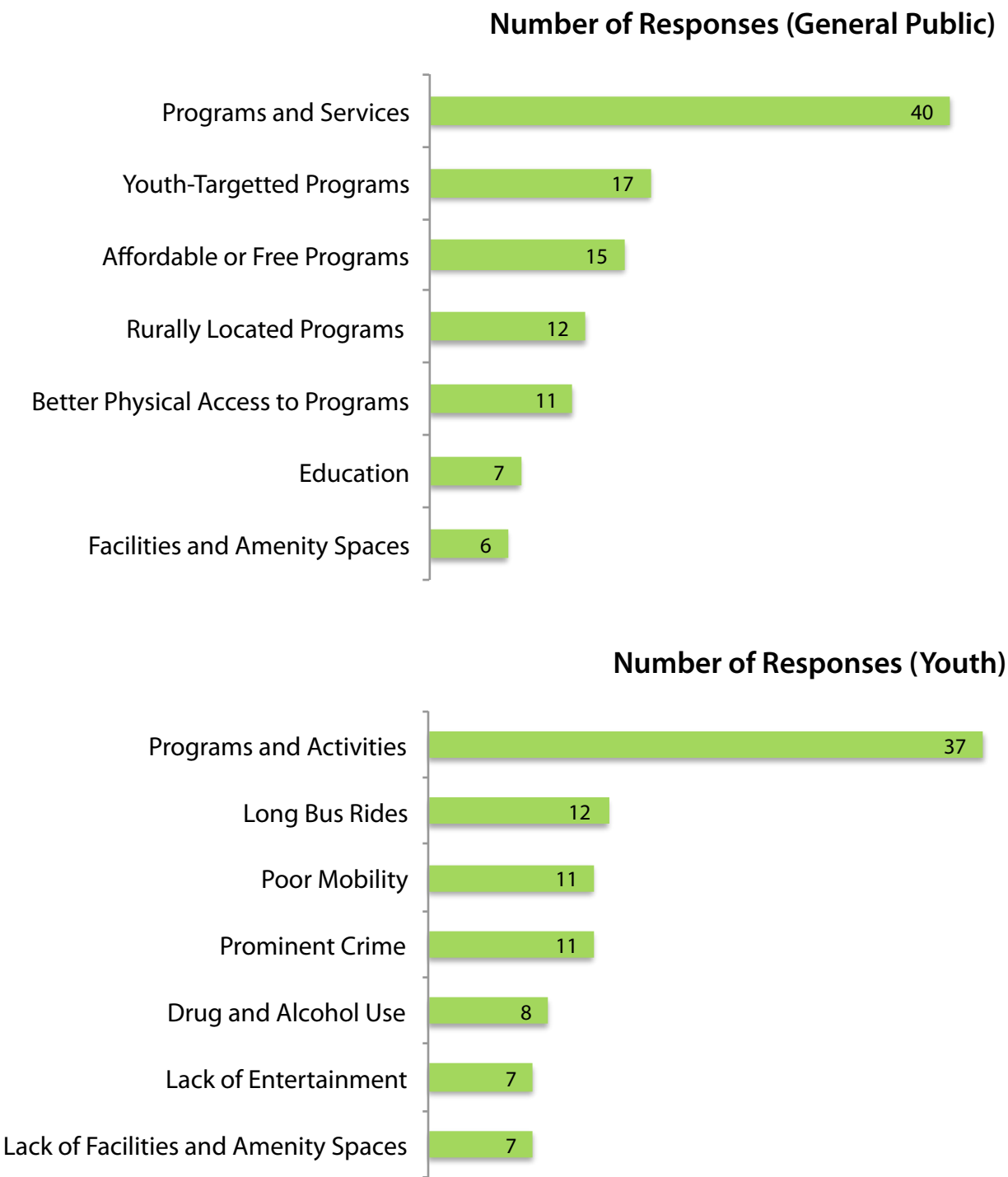
Are you or others around you in need of and lacking any of the following?



Youth Issues - youth vs. general

Programs and activities were specified as most needed for youth by both the general respondents and youth respondents. All sorts of organized groups, clubs, art programs, sports, after school programming, and cultural exchanges were listed. From the general survey there were mentions of concerns over drug use and crime among this demographic. These respondents see programming as a way to peak interest among a variety of youth to avoid the boredom that leads to illicit behaviour.

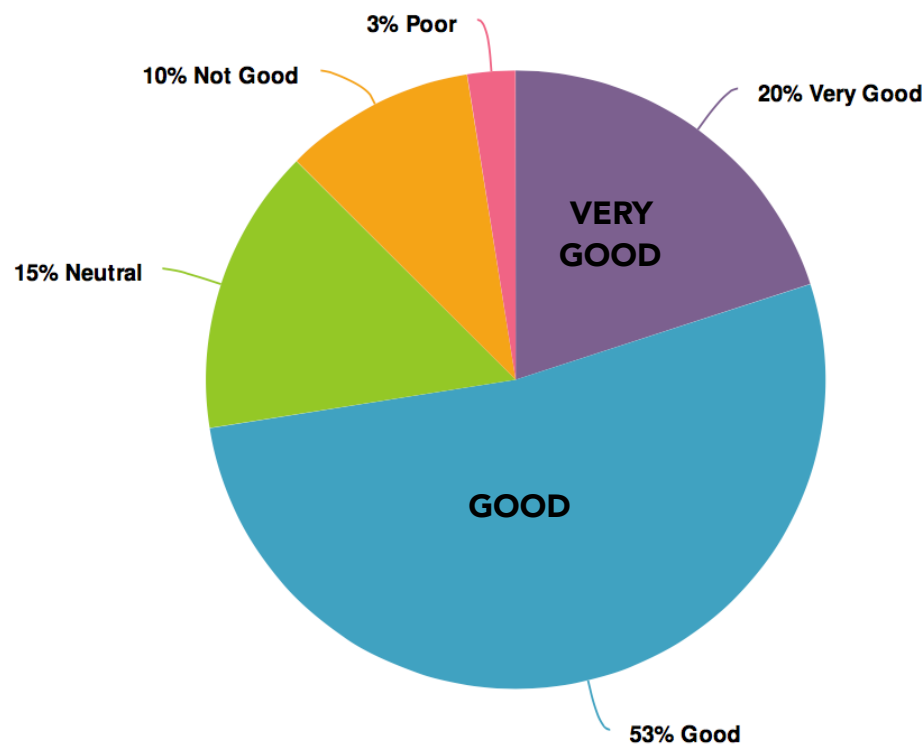
The youth themselves talked a lot about their mobility, including long bus rides, no sidewalks, buses being stuck in the Spring, and no transit to bring them to urban centres. Crime, drug use and alcohol use were the next most popular responses, validating the concerns and perspectives shared in the general survey.



Key Insights from Seniors

Compiled from Seniors Surveys and Focus Groups

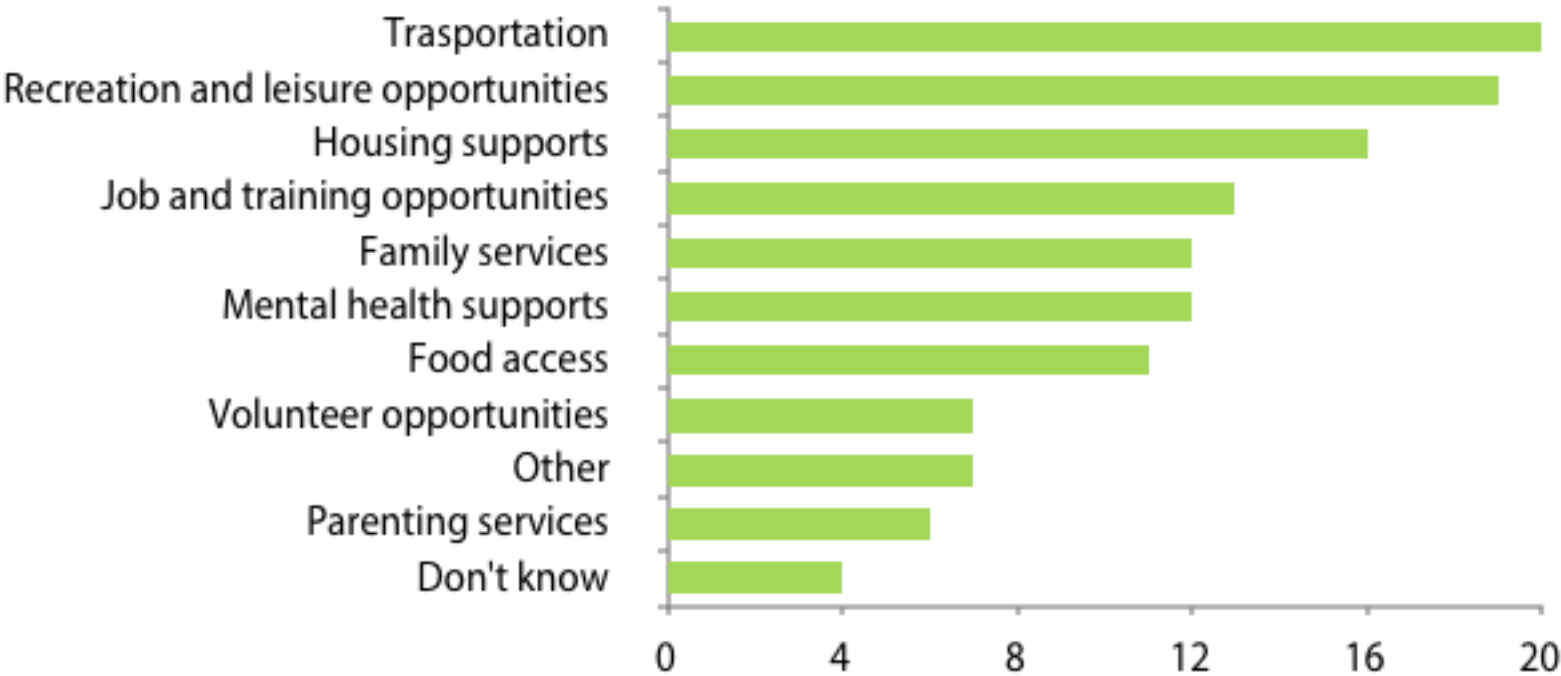
How would you rate Parkland County as a place to age?



Do you plan to remain in Parkland County as you age?

Yes	66%
No	20%
Don't Know	15%

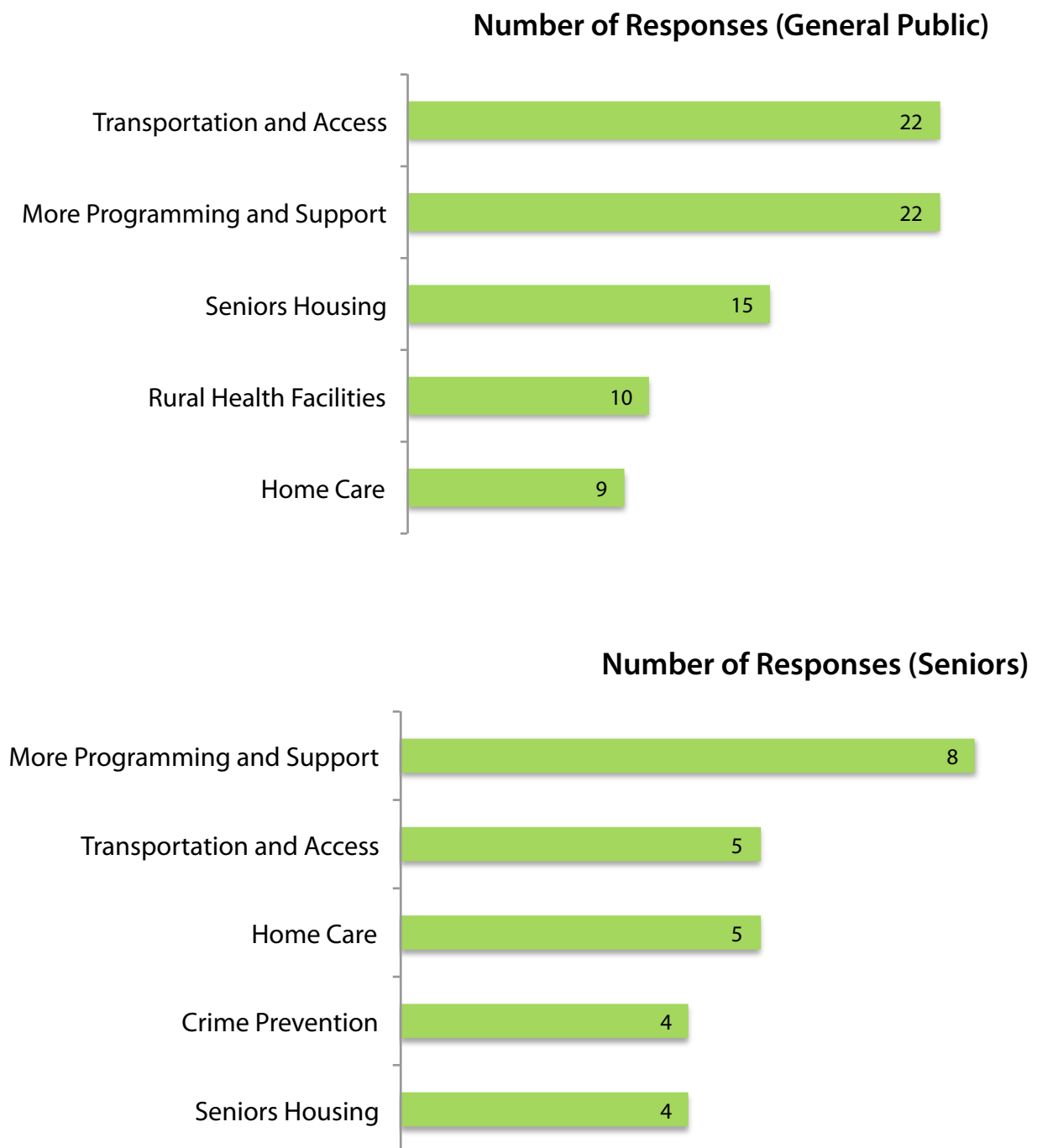
What are the biggest barriers for your household to access the programs and services you need?



Seniors Issues - seniors vs. general

In both the general and seniors survey, transportation and access as well as more programming and supports were the most frequent responses for improving life for residents as they age. From the seniors themselves, there was a stronger emphasis on programming and comments spanned from social programs like meals on wheels to recreational programs like pickle ball. Overall, seniors listed home care as a much higher priority than the general public did. However, both groups also mentioned need for seniors housing in the County that is accessible and affordable.

Road and infrastructure maintenance was a close 6th in both surveys, speaking to the need for graders and snow plows to get seniors who can drive out and about in their cars. Additionally, both surveys mentioned that in places where sidewalks exist, better snow clearing and maintenance would support seniors mobility.



Next Steps

April 2018

Prepare communication and engagement materials for next engagement phase

May 2018

Distribute public-facing What We Heard Report

June 2018

Draft Social Development Plan