



# DEPARTMENT ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT

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Prepared for:



Prepared by:



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## Executive Summary

The Department on the Status of Women's (DOSW) efforts encompass three key "pillars" of well-being for women, girls and nonbinary people in San Francisco: Health and Safety, Economic Security, and Civic Engagement and Political Empowerment. How are San Francisco community members faring in these domains? Are there particular groups within the community in need of greater attention and support? To investigate these questions, Clarity Social Research Group conducted a community needs assessment project on behalf of DOSW. In the first phase of this project, population-level data were gathered to better understand the strengths and needs of the San Francisco community – and to identify where existing data were found to be incomplete or lacking. In the project's second phase, a community survey was conducted with people 18 and older who were living, working, and/or attending school in San Francisco to extend, complement, and enrich the information gathered in Phase 1. This report summarizes findings from the Phase 2 community survey, with a focus on women and nonbinary community members.

The experiences of 863 women and 45 nonbinary respondents to the San Francisco Community Survey presented in this report begin to illustrate women and nonbinary individuals' resources and struggles in each of DOSW's three core service areas. Because women and nonbinary community members have diverse experiences and perspectives that vary as a function of many personal, social, and structural factors, this report examines findings by age, race/ethnicity, income, and disability status to better understand

respondents' strengths and needs in the three DOSW focus areas. Cross-tabulated survey results for all respondents (including men), across all variables examined in the report are included in the appendices.<sup>1</sup>

Key findings for each of the DOSW core service areas are summarized below.

## Health and Safety

*"A healthy life isn't simply a checked box at an annual checkup; it's so much more, including what we eat, how we move and the practices and tools we use to strengthen not just our minds and bodies, but our souls too. At the Department on the Status of Women, we recognize our responsibility to take a more holistic approach as it relates to providing San Francisco's women, girls and nonbinary people with the information, tools and resources they need to live their best and healthiest whole lives possible." - DOSW*

- Respondents most often report their health is good or very good, though few consider their health to be excellent.
- Most get regular preventive healthcare and know at least a moderate amount about fertility, birth control, and when to get recommended health screenings. Respondents know less about menopause and aging-related changes in reproductive health.
- About two-thirds of respondents needed mental health services in the past two years, with 64% of those receiving services. Respondents report a variety of barriers to receiving needed mental healthcare.
- Most feel safe walking alone in the city during the day, but few do at night. Less than half feel safe using public transportation.
- Experiences of harassment are very common. Most respondents have experienced several types of harassment. 45% of have experienced intimate partner violence.
- About one-third of respondents do not know how to find resources for people facing gender-based violence.
- Some groups of respondents report consistently higher levels of need with regard to health and safety issues. Key differences in reported well-being, knowledge about women's health issues and resources for gender-based violence, and harassment experiences emerged as a function of respondents' gender identity, age, income, race/ethnicity, and disability status.

<sup>1</sup> When sample sizes allow.

# Economic Security

*“Financial empowerment and independence have been the greatest drivers of gender equity around the world. DOSW has expanded its focus to include services that support financial stability, security and mobility around jobs and employment, housing, financial literacy, subsidized childcare, paid family and dependent leave, saving and investing, entrepreneurship and other avenues to economic success.” - DOSW*

- Job satisfaction among respondents is fairly high, but about one out of three do not feel their job offers opportunities for growth, promotions, or advancement.
- Slightly less than half of respondents (45%) are satisfied with their personal financial situation.
- Retirement saving is the biggest financial concern; 56% worry about this often or very often. More than one third worry often or fairly often about healthcare costs, their debt, and paying their bills.
- A small but consistent subset of respondents have struggled with basic needs. In the past year, about one in five has reduced meals or cut back on food to save money, received financial help from friends or family, and/or put off getting healthcare or medications for financial reasons.
- 59% of respondents are spending 30% or more of their income on housing. About three out of ten respondents feel their housing costs are a moderate or major problem for them.
- The 35% of respondents who are parents or guardians of children under 18 face substantial costs for childcare, with more than one third paying \$1,000 or more in monthly childcare costs. Forty-four percent of these caregivers worry about childcare costs often or very often. An even larger percentage (67%) worry often or very often about whether they can save enough for their child’s college education.
- The economic circumstances of different groups of survey respondents varied widely on some survey measures, with some large differences across respondents based on gender identity, age, income, race/ethnicity, and disability status.



# Civic Engagement and Political Empowerment

*“Benefiting from democracy only occurs if citizens and residents are active, engaged, and educated to leverage the tools available to make an impact in their communities. This service area will include a host of trainings, educational workshops, and public service campaigns, with the goal of getting women, girls, and nonbinary people organized, registered to vote, educated on critical issues and actively participating in all levels of government.” - DOSW*

- About half of respondents are satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of life in their community and their ability to participate in community activities that are important to them. However, most respondents do not feel a strong connection to their community.
- When asked about the extent to which different groups and leaders represent their interests and values, respondents do not strongly align themselves with any of the groups listed. Overall, respondents feel that advocacy-based nonprofit groups, labor unions, and the Democratic Party represent them the best, although the percentage of respondents saying these groups represent them “very well” is small.
- About two-thirds of respondents have done some form of volunteering in the past year. Other types of civic and political engagement that a large portion of respondents have done in the past year include signing an online petition or liking/following a campaign or organization, changing their purchasing behavior, and donating money to a campaign or cause.
- Among civic engagement activities that require more sustained commitments, 37% of respondents have ever organized a group for civic or political action, and 10% have ever run for a local office or school board.
- When asked about the power of their vote, about one third of respondents (34%) feel their vote matters a lot.
- Community engagement and participation in civic and political activities are driven by a complex combination of structural, social, demographic, and psychological factors. In this survey, respondents’ gender identity, age, income, race/ethnicity, and disability status were all related to different types and levels of community and political engagement.



## Project Overview

The Commission on the Status of Women was created in 1975 by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to ensure that women and girls in the City and County of San Francisco have equal opportunities in social, political, economic, and education domains. In 1994, San Francisco voters approved a proposition to create the City's Department on the Status of Women (DOSW), a permanent city department that would work to realize the Commission's goal to create a gender-equitable city.

### THE CURRENT PROJECT

As part of their work to promote gender equity in San Francisco, DOSW engaged Clarity Social Research Group to conduct a multi-phase community needs assessment to better



understand the experiences and standing of women, girls, and nonbinary residents of San Francisco. Consistent with DOSW's recent re-launch and updated strategic plan, the assessment focuses on three "pillars" of well-being for women, girls, and nonbinary San Franciscans, which are also DOSW's core service areas:

- Health and Safety
- Economic Security
- Civic Engagement and Political Empowerment

This community needs assessment was comprised of two phases. First, **existing population-level data** were mined to provide a portrait of how women, girls, and (where available) nonbinary residents of San Francisco are doing in the areas of health and safety, economic security, and civic and political domains. Those results were summarized in a 2023 ("Phase 1") report summarizing the existing population level data for San Francisco. This Phase 1 report identified areas of strengths and potential needs in each of DOSW's core focus areas. That report also highlighted issues for which more data were needed to enhance our understanding of women's well-being. After the Phase 1 report was published, DOSW convened a Steering Committee to review the findings and suggest additional areas for exploration.

In a second phase of the project, Clarity used the learnings from the Phase 1 report and feedback from the Steering Committee to **develop and conduct a 2024 community survey** of people living, working, and/or attending school in San Francisco. The community survey sought to learn about individuals' experiences and challenges in the content areas where existing data were found to be incomplete or lacking, or where existing population-level data pointed to potential needs for women and nonbinary community members. In doing so, the community survey complements the secondary data collected in the first phase of the project and provides a richer portrait of the status and needs of women and nonbinary individuals in San Francisco.

## HOW THIS REPORT IS ORGANIZED

The report begins with a summary of survey respondent characteristics, focusing on two priority populations for DOSW: women and nonbinary individuals.<sup>2</sup> This is followed by report chapters for each of DOSW's three core service areas – Health and Safety, Economic Security, and Civic Engagement and Political Empowerment. Each of these chapters includes a brief review of the findings from the Phase 1 report along with Steering Committee guidance on priority gaps and information needs. This is followed by overall results from the community

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<sup>2</sup> Results for men are not included in the main body of this report, but their data are available in Appendix B.

survey respondents, with comparisons of women and nonbinary individuals' survey responses (where sample sizes for the smaller group of nonbinary respondents allow). Throughout the report, comments are included that survey respondents shared about the challenges they experience living, working, and/or attending school in San Francisco.

Importantly, women and nonbinary community members have diverse experiences and perspectives that vary as a function of many personal, social, and structural factors. Consequently, this report also includes results showing how a set of key factors – specifically age, race/ethnicity, income, and disability status – are related to respondents' strengths and needs in the three DOSW core service areas. First, the main report text briefly highlights important (and statistically significant) differences in the survey results that were found across these different groups. To supplement this, an appendix (Appendix B) provides a complete set of cross-tabulated survey results for all of the variables examined in the report, for each of the four subgroups noted above.<sup>3</sup> Results for men who completed the survey are also included in this appendix.

To complement the quantitative survey data, a final report section summarizes the key themes of responses to the one open-ended question from the community survey, which asked respondents to write about the most challenging thing for them about living, working, or going to school in San Francisco.

Appendix A provides a thorough description of the survey methodology and completion metrics.

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<sup>3</sup> When sample sizes allow. Appendix B is provided as a separate attachment due to its length.



## Survey Respondent Characteristics



## Key Findings: Respondent Characteristics

- Of the 908 women and nonbinary survey respondents completing the community survey, 95% identified as women.
- The average age of respondents was 44 years old.
- The most common race/ethnicity among respondents was White, followed by Hispanic/Latinx and Asian respondents.
- About three fourths of respondents had a bachelor's degree or higher, and about half of respondents earned more than \$100,000 per year.
- Slightly more than one quarter of respondents had a disability, a chronic health condition that limited their daily activities, and/or used some type of adaptive equipment.
- Among the 84% of respondents who lived in San Francisco, about half had lived in the city for more than 20 years.
- About three fourths of respondents were working in full-time or part-time jobs.
- Women differed significantly from nonbinary respondents on several demographic, socioeconomic, and background variables, including age, education, marital and parenting status, sexual orientation, disability status, and time living in San Francisco. Any of these factors (or others) could explain survey response differences between these two groups.

## INTRODUCTION

DOSW's primary populations for programming and advocacy are women, girls, and nonbinary individuals. Although San Franciscans 18 and older of any gender were invited to complete the community survey, findings presented in the main report focus on women and nonbinary respondents, with findings for men included in Appendix B. To maximize the number of respondents who could be included in the findings, this report employs a broad definition of nonbinary individuals that includes those identified as any one of the following: nonbinary, genderqueer, transgender female, or transgender male.<sup>4</sup>

Importantly, due to our nonrandom sampling procedures, the survey respondents cannot be considered to be representative of the San Francisco community as a whole. (For more information on the survey outreach and recruitment, please see Appendix A.) In addition, particular caution should be used in interpreting results from the group of nonbinary respondents, as there were only 45 survey respondents in this group.

This section includes the demographic, socioeconomic, residence and employment characteristics for women and nonbinary survey respondents who met the following inclusion criteria: (1) they were at least 18 years old; and (2) they were living, working, and/or attending school in San Francisco at the time they completed the survey. Results are presented for the full sample of women and nonbinary respondents. At the end of the section, we describe how these two groups of respondents differed on key background factors, where sample sizes allow.<sup>5</sup>

## DEMOGRAPHICS

As Table 1 shows, of the 908 women or nonbinary survey respondents, 95% of the sample identified as women, and 5% identified as nonbinary (which includes those who identify as nonbinary, genderqueer, or transgender). Overall, respondents' average age was 44 years old. Just under half of participants (45%) were 36 to 55 years old, and 33% were 18 to 35 years old.

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<sup>4</sup> Throughout this report, we use the term nonbinary to refer to this larger group of nonbinary, genderqueer, or transgender respondents.

<sup>5</sup> Data are suppressed when there are 10 or fewer cases within any subgroup.



Table 1. Respondents' gender and age

Demographics	Number	Percent
<b>Gender</b>		
Woman/female	863	95%
Nonbinary	45	5%
<b>Age (mean = 44 years old)</b>		
18 to 35 years old	296	33%
36 to 55 years old	408	45%
56 to 65 years old	112	12%
66 or older	92	10%

N = 908.

Respondents were asked to indicate all of the racial/ethnic groups that described them. The table that follows displays these responses in two ways. First, breakdowns are shown for those who only selected one race/ethnicity (with the category “Two or more races” encompassing all respondents who selected more than one category). The second breakdown shows all of the race/ethnicity responses that were selected by respondents, regardless of how many they chose.

The most common race/ethnicity among respondents was White, followed by Hispanic/Latinx and Asian respondents. Ten percent of respondents indicated that they were members of two or more racial/ethnic groups.

Table 2. Respondents' race/ethnicity

Race/ethnicity	Number Percent selecting or belonging ONLY to this group	Number Percent selecting this option (multiple selections possible)
White	377 42%	462 52%
Hispanic/Latinx	159 18%	185 21%
Asian	154 17%	199 19%
Black or African American	66 7%	102 11%
American Indian/ Alaska Native/ Indigenous	7 1%	27 3%
Middle Eastern or North African (MENA)	9 1%	19 2%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	1 <1%	9 1%
Other	27 3%	49 5%
Two or more	93 10%	--

N = 892.

Note: Until a [recent change](#) in early 2024, US Census Bureau data collection for race/ethnicity separately asked about race and ethnicity, and Hispanic/Latinx-identifying individuals were also asked to identify a race. In recognition that many respondents may be aware of and using that convention in this survey, in this sample, Hispanic/Latino individuals who also chose only "White or Caucasian" were included in the single race/ethnicity category of Hispanic/Latino.

Respondents were highly educated. About three-fourths (77%) had a bachelor's degree or higher. Household incomes varied considerably – 20% of respondents lived in households earning less than \$50,000 per year, and 29% were in households earning \$150,000 or more per year.

About half of respondents (48%) were married or in a domestic partnership, and more than one third (36%) had never been married. About three fourths of respondents (76%) were heterosexual, 11% were bisexual, and 7% were gay/ lesbian/ same-gender loving.

Table 3. Education, income, marital status, and sexual orientation

Characteristic	Number	Percent
<b>Education</b>		
Less than high school	18	2%
High school diploma or equivalent	54	6%
Some college or associate's degree	135	15%
Bachelor's degree	346	39%
Graduate or professional degree	336	38%
<b>Household income</b>		
Under \$50,000 per year	155	20%
\$50,000 to \$99,999 per year	223	28%
\$100,000 to \$149,999 per year	180	23%
\$150,000 or more per year	231	29%
<b>Marital status</b>		
Married or domestic partner	436	48%
Separated	28	3%
Divorced	88	10%
Widowed	24	3%
Never married	324	36%
<b>Sexual orientation</b>		
Straight/ heterosexual	649	76%
Bisexual	98	11%
Gay/ lesbian/ same-gender loving	61	7%
Questioning/ unsure	14	2%
Other	33	4%

N = 889 , 789, 900, 855.

Respondents typically lived in household sizes comprised of one to three people. Most households did not have children under 18. Overall, 35% of survey respondents reported that they were a parent or guardian of one or more children under 18 years old.

Table 4. Household composition

Type of resident	Average	Median	Range of responses
Adults in household	2.13	2	1-10
Children in household	0.60	0	0-5
Total people in household (Adults and children)	2.73	2	1-10

N = 886, 891, 886.

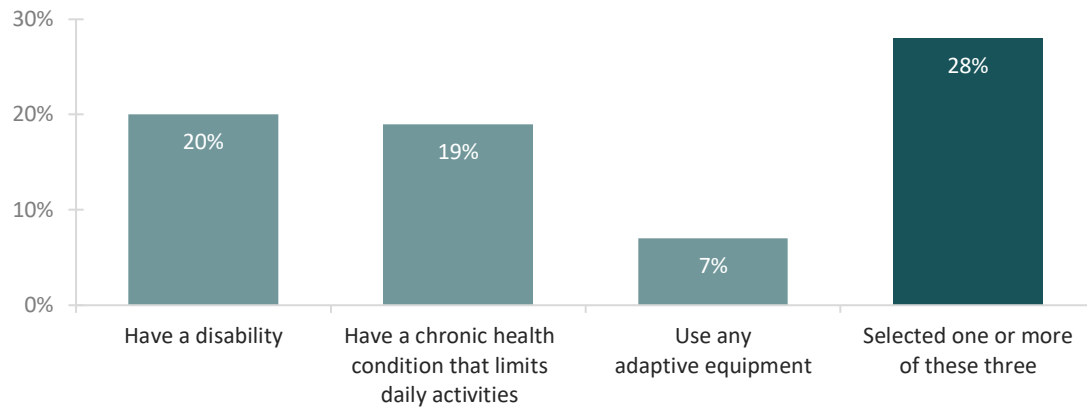
## DISABILITY STATUS

There are diverse perspectives on how best to measure a person's disability status, with different approaches yielding different rates of disability in a community. In this survey, we asked three questions to ascertain disability and/or conditions that may affect activities of daily living:

- Do you have a disability?
- Do you have a chronic health condition that limits your daily activities (such as your ability to move around, see, hear, speak or learn, remember, or concentrate)?
- Do you use any adaptive equipment (e.g., wheelchair, walker, cane, hearing aids, prosthetics, etc.)?

The percentage of respondents answering "yes" to each of these items is shown in Figure 1. Twenty percent of respondents indicated they have a disability, but under the broader definition, 28% of respondents have some condition that limits daily activities or requires the use of adaptive equipment.

Figure 1. About one in four respondents has a disability or chronic health condition or uses adaptive equipment

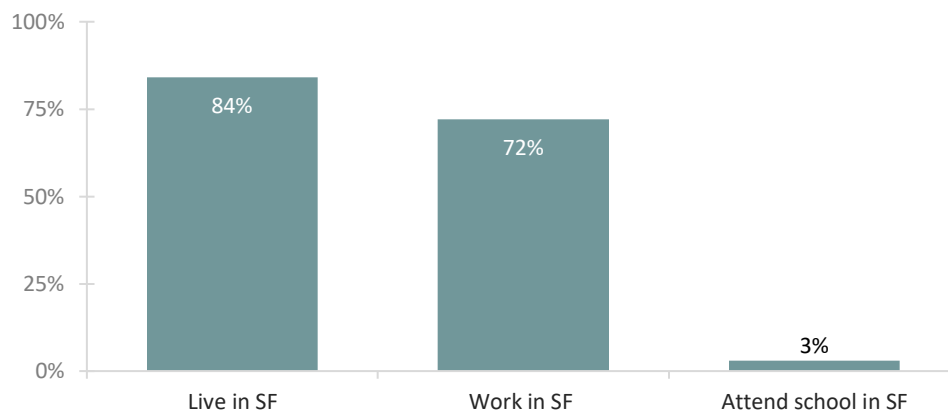


N's: 850, 848 871, 841.

## CITY OF RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT/EDUCATION STATUS

Respondents were eligible for the survey if they lived, worked, or went to school in San Francisco. As Figure 2 shows, most respondents both lived and worked in San Francisco. A small number attended school in San Francisco.

Figure 2. Most respondents live and work in San Francisco

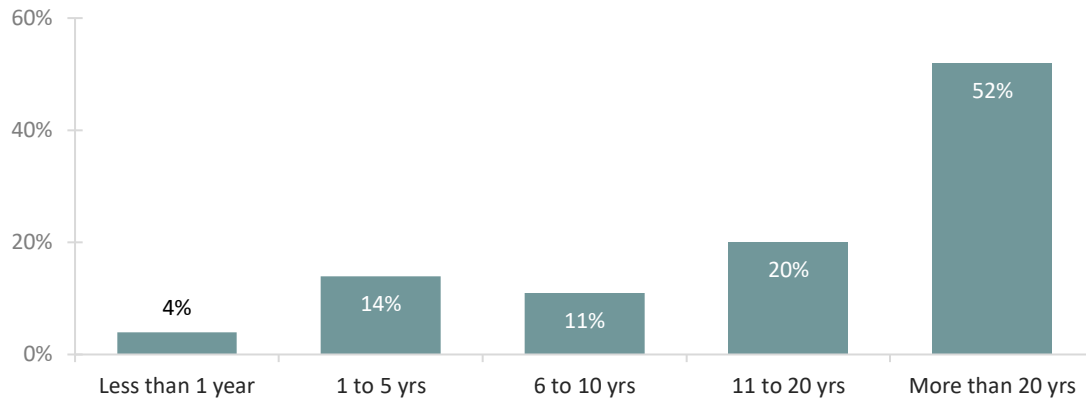


N: 908.



Among residents, most had been living in San Francisco for more than 20 years.

Figure 3. About half of San Francisco respondents have lived in the city more than 20 years



N's: 760.

Most respondents were working full-time or part-time, while 5% were looking for work. Four percent of respondents were current students, and 8% were retired.

Table 5. About two thirds of respondents were working full-time

Employment/ education status	Number	Percent
Working full-time	599	66%
Working part-time	107	12%
Homemaker or stay-at-home parent	25	3%
Retired	73	8%
Student	35	4%
Unemployed, looking for work	42	5%
Unemployed, not looking for work	5	1%
Unemployed, on a temporary layoff from a job	1	<1%
Not working due to disability	21	2%

N = 908.

## COMPARING WOMEN AND NONBINARY COMMUNITY SURVEY RESPONDENTS

Women differed significantly from nonbinary respondents on several demographic, socioeconomic and background variables, including the following:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| • <b>Age</b>  | Nonbinary survey respondents were <b>significantly younger</b> than respondents who identified as women.  |
| • <b>Education</b>                                  | Nonbinary respondents were significantly <b>less likely to have a graduate or professional degree</b> than women respondents.   |
| • <b>Marital status</b>                             | Nonbinary respondents were significantly <b>less likely to currently be married</b> or in a domestic partnership and <b>more likely to be never-married</b> .   |
| • <b>Sexual orientation</b>                         | Nonbinary respondents were significantly <b>less likely to be heterosexual</b> and <b>more likely to be bisexual, gay/lesbian/ same-gender loving, or another sexual orientation</b> .  |
| • <b>Household composition and parenting status</b> | Nonbinary respondents were <b>living with significantly fewer people in their household</b> , which was mostly driven by living with fewer children under 18. Nonbinary respondents were <b>less likely to be a parent or guardian</b> to one or more children under 18 than women. |
| • <b>Time in San Francisco</b>                      | Nonbinary respondents were <b>half as likely as women respondents to be long-time (20+ year) San Francisco residents</b> .  |
| • <b>Disability</b>                                 | Nonbinary respondents were <b>more than 2 ½ times more likely to report having a disability, chronic health condition, and/or use adaptive equipment</b> than women respondents.  |

Table 6. Women and nonbinary respondents differed significantly on several key demographic, socioeconomic, and background characteristics

Statistically significant sample differences	Women	Nonbinary
Average age	44 years, 5 months	36 years, 10 months
Has a graduate or professional degree	39%	23%
Marital status:		
Married/ in a domestic partnership	50%	25%
Never married	34%	66%
Is heterosexual	79%	17%
Average number of people in household	2.75	2.29
Is a parent of a child under 18	36%	16%
Has a disability, chronic health condition, or use adaptive equipment	26%	71%
Has lived in San Francisco more than 20 years	54%	26%

Base N: Women = 863; Nonbinary: 45.

In the sections that follow, it is important to keep these differences in mind when interpreting comparisons of women and nonbinary respondents.

On several other measures, there were **no** significant differences between nonbinary and women respondents, including:

- Race/ethnicity
- Household income
- Current employment/education status

## SECTION SUMMARY

Although men were invited to participate in the community survey, this report's results focus on women and nonbinary respondents only. As a reminder, due to the use of nonrandom sampling procedures, the survey respondents described here cannot be considered to be representative of the San Francisco community as a whole.

To be eligible for the survey, respondents had to live, work, or attend school in San Francisco, and they had to be at least 18 years old. Most respondents were both living and working in the city. Those who were residents had generally been in the city for a long time – 52% for more than 20 years. Most respondents (78%) were 18 to 55 years old.

The respondents came from diverse racial and ethnic groups, with sample sizes that allow for more detailed data comparisons for Hispanic/Latinx, Asian, African American, and White respondents.

There were relatively few respondents with low levels of education, although respondents from all income levels were well-represented in the survey. As with the general San Francisco population, most respondents had a bachelor's degree or a graduate or professional degree. About half of respondents (48%) were married or in a domestic partnership, and about one fourth (24%) describe their sexual orientation as something other than heterosexual.

Household sizes were fairly small. Most people were living in households of one to three people, and only about a third (35%) were a parent or guardian of children under 18. Slightly more than one in four (28%) endorsed one or more survey item indicating that they had some kind of disability or chronic health condition limiting their daily activities, or they used adaptive equipment.

Throughout this report, results are shown separately for women and nonbinary respondents when sample sizes allow and statistically significant differences emerge. Particular caution should be used in interpreting results from the group of nonbinary respondents, as there were only 45 survey respondents in this group.

Importantly, women and nonbinary survey respondents differed in other ways besides their self-identified gender, and any of these differences (or others not measured) could account for the observed differences between these two groups of respondents. Specifically, compared to women respondents, nonbinary respondents were younger, much more likely to have a disability, less likely to have a graduate or professional degree, less likely to be married, less likely to be a parent, and were much less likely to have been long-time San Francisco residents.



## Health and Safety





## Key Findings: Health and Safety

- Respondents most often report that their health is good or very good. Relatively few respondents consider their health to be excellent.
- Most respondents are getting regular preventive healthcare and know at least a moderate amount about fertility and birth control and when to get recommended women's health screenings; respondents know less about menopause and aging-related changes in reproductive health.
- About two thirds of respondents report they needed mental health services in the past two years, with 64% of those receiving those services. Among those who did not receive needed services, there were a variety of barriers to receiving care.
- Most respondents report feeling safe or very safe walking alone in the city during the day, but few did at night. Many respondents are wary of public transportation, with less than half feeling safe or very safe using it.
- Experiences with harassment are common. Hearing offensive remarks is the most common type of harassment. Most respondents have been contacted or harassed repeatedly by someone, had someone try to coerce them into sexual activity, or had someone touch or force them sexually. 45% of respondents have experienced intimate partner violence.
- About one third of respondents feel it is not at all or a little true that they know how to find resources for people facing gender-based violence. About one in four feel it is not at all or a little true that they could contact an organization for help with gender-based violence.
- Some groups of survey respondents report consistently higher levels of need with regard to health and safety issues. Key differences in reported well-being, knowledge of women's health issues, resources for gender-based violence, and harassment experiences emerged as a function of respondents' gender identity, age, income, race/ethnicity, and disability status.

## INTRODUCTION

Broadly defined, DOSW's Health and Safety program area encompasses measures that together represent a holistic approach to women and nonbinary people's health and well-being. The Phase 1 secondary data report identified several strengths related to health and safety for women in San Francisco. These included being in good physical health, having high levels of healthcare coverage, having access to medical and dental care, and having access to abortion services.

The Phase 1 report findings and Steering Committee feedback also identified issues related to health and safety that warranted further follow-up in the Phase 2 community survey. For example, the Phase 1 report data revealed that women in San Francisco were slightly less likely than women statewide to have seen a doctor in the last year, and many of those who felt they needed mental health services did not receive help for those. To investigate this, the Phase 2 survey explored community members' use of physical and mental health services and their barriers to service use.

The Phase 1 report also noted several topic areas related to health and safety where more data are needed, such as feeling safe in one's community, experiences of harassment, and community members' awareness of and ability to access resources and support for gender-based violence. The Phase 2 community survey explored each of these issues to better understand the status of women and nonbinary people in San Francisco.

Finally, a central Phase 2 goal was to collect more data reflecting the experiences and needs of nonbinary people because very little data are collected and made available about this group. The community survey sought to include these community members in its sampling, and findings for this group are presented (here and in all chapters) separately from those of women, whenever sample sizes allow. In addition, when major statistically significant differences emerged as a function of race/ethnicity, age, income level, or disability status, those results are noted in this section, with specific findings presented in Appendix B.

## SURVEY FINDINGS REVIEWED IN THIS SECTION

### Health:

- Physical health status, healthcare access and use, and knowledge of women's health issues
- Life satisfaction, mental health status, and mental healthcare access and use

### Safety:

- Feelings of safety
- Experiences of harassment
- Knowledge of gender-based violence resources

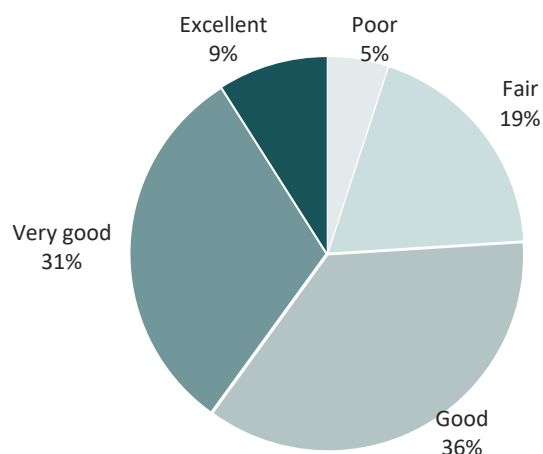
## PHYSICAL HEALTH

The community survey asked respondents about their physical health status, whether they have health insurance coverage, their use of routine medical care, and any barriers they face in receiving routine medical care.

### Physical Health Status

As the following figure shows, overall, two thirds of women and nonbinary respondents report that their health is good or very good. Nine percent of respondents feel that they are in excellent health, and about one in four only rate their health as fair or poor.

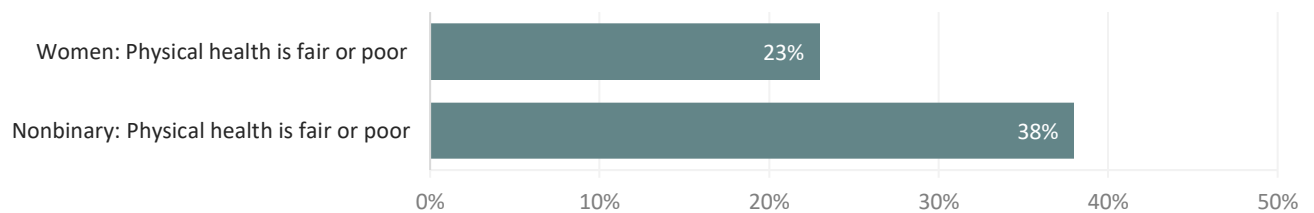
Figure 4. Most respondents believe they are in “good” or “very good” health



N: 907.

Perceptions of physical health differed significantly for women and nonbinary respondents. Nonbinary respondents perceive their health to be worse than women do; they were significantly more likely than women to characterize their health as being poor or fair.

Figure 5. Nonbinary respondents perceive their health status to be worse than women respondents do



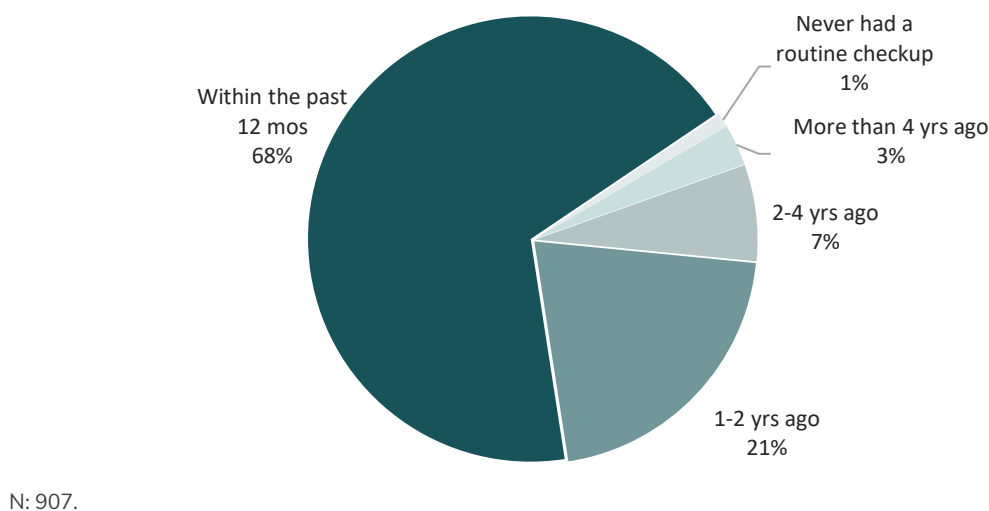
N's: Women = 862; Nonbinary = 45.

These findings for nonbinary respondents may in part be due to the fact that about 7 in 10 of these individuals report having a disability (compared to 26% of those identifying as women), and having a disability was also significantly associated with poorer health status among survey respondents. Other statistically significant group differences in health status emerged as well. Specifically, being younger and having higher income was associated with better perceived physical health. Hispanic/Latinx and African American respondents report being in significantly worse health than White respondents do. (Groups differences by age, income, race/ethnicity, and disability status are available for all reported measures in Appendix B.)

### Healthcare Coverage and Usage

Almost all survey respondents (95%) report having health insurance coverage. About two thirds of respondents (68%) have had a routine checkup in the past 12 months, and 21% have had a checkup one to two years ago. Eleven percent of respondents have not had a routine checkup in the last two years. Women and nonbinary respondents were similar in how recently they had their last routine checkup.

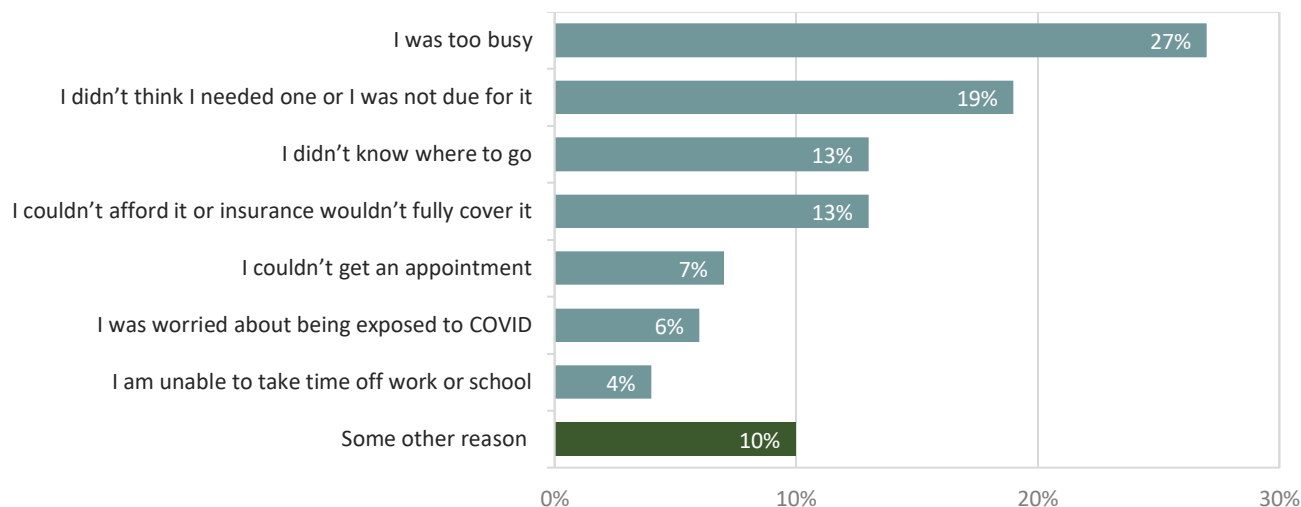
Figure 6. Two thirds of respondents had a routine checkup in the past 12 months



Respondents who had not had a checkup in the past two years were asked about their main reason for not doing so. The most common reasons were not due to access issues: 27% felt they were too busy, and 19% felt they did not need it. Only about one third of respondents who had not had a checkup in the past two years indicated barriers related to information needs (13%, or 13 people), cost (13%, 13 people), or access (7%, 7 people).

*"It would be a relief to be able to see a health provider within a couple of days, as opposed to a couple of months."*

Figure 7. Being too busy is the most common reason for not getting a routine check-up in the past two years



N: 97.

### Knowledge of Women's Health Issues

Current conditions in the United States have set the stage for the growth of misinformation about women's health issues. Recent research has shown that social media can distort women's perceptions of risks related to contraceptive use, for example.<sup>6</sup>

Survey respondents were asked to rate their own knowledge of three aspects of women's health, including fertility and birth control, when to get recommended women's health screenings, and menopause and aging-related changes in women's reproductive health.<sup>7</sup> Respondents report knowing the most about fertility and birth control, with about half of

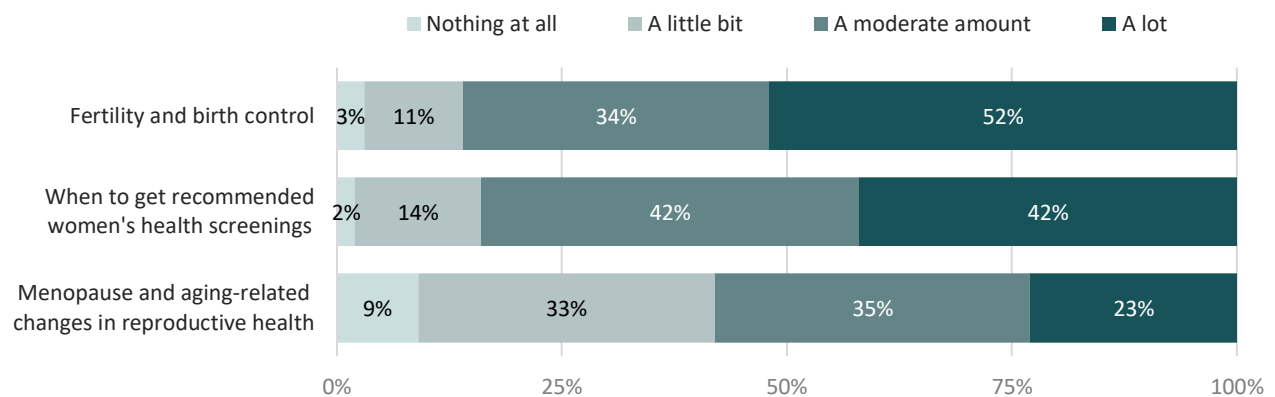
<sup>6</sup> Schneider-Kamp, A., & Takhar, J. (2023). Interrogating the pill: Rising distrust and the reshaping of health risk perceptions in the social media age. *Social Science & Medicine*, 331, 116081.

<sup>7</sup> Survey results for this section focus only on respondents who identify as women.



respondents (52%) indicating they know a lot about this topic. In comparison, 42% of women feel they know a lot about when to get recommended women's health screenings. Respondents know the least about menopause and aging-related reproductive health. On that item only about one quarter of respondents (23%) feel they know a lot.

Figure 8. Respondents know much less about menopause than they do about other women's health issues



Ns: 886, 889, 876. Responses are based on those identifying as women only.

There were substantial statistically significant differences in knowledge of women's health among subgroups of women, as shown in the following set of figures. Groups that tend to know the least about women's health issues are younger women and those with lower incomes.

All groups know the least about menopause and aging-related changes in reproductive health. Based on the pattern of findings, the primary driver of knowledge about menopause appears to be experiencing it, as older women are the only group with average knowledge levels of moderate or higher in this area.

African American and White women report the highest average knowledge levels about women's health issues. Asian respondents consistently report the lowest knowledge levels among the different racial/ethnic groups.

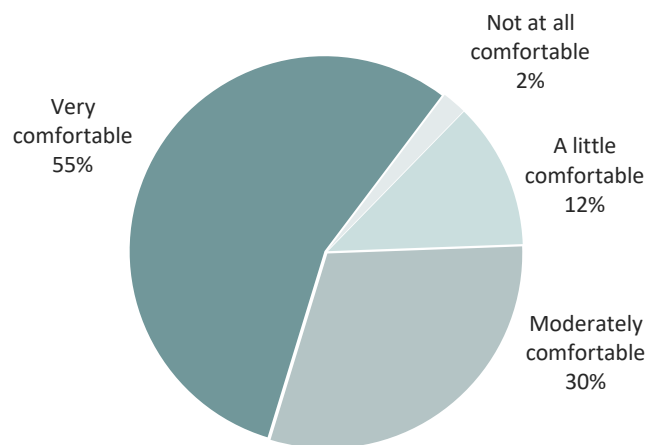
Figure 9. Knowledge of women's health issues differed across age, race/ethnicity, and income



For Ns, see Appendix B. All overall group differences were significantly different except income groups' knowledge of menopause, according to oneway ANOVAs. Results of post hoc comparisons of group means are available by request.

More than half of respondents (55%) feel very comfortable talking about women's health issues with their healthcare provider, and 30% feel moderately comfortable doing so. Young women were the least comfortable talking to their providers about women's health topics.

Figure 10. More than half of respondents are very comfortable discussing women's health topics with their healthcare provider



N: 902. Responses are based on those identifying as women only.

## MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

### Life Satisfaction

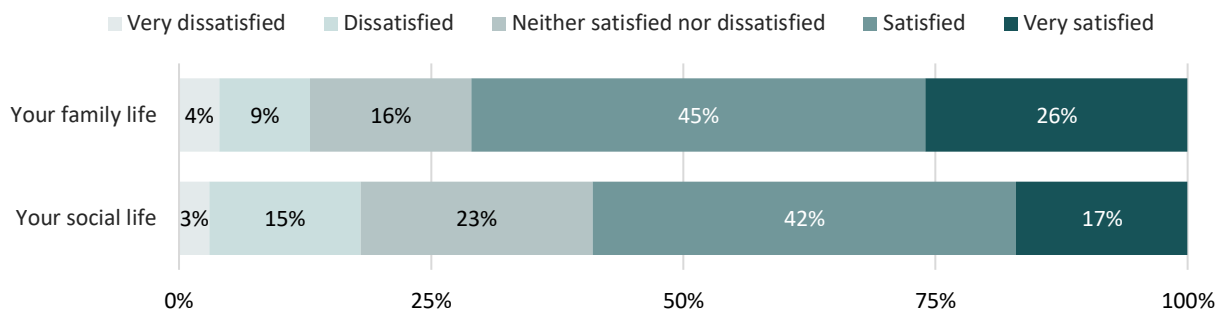
Positive family and social connections are well-documented predictors of mental health.<sup>8</sup> The community survey measured respondents' satisfaction with two types of social connections: their family life and their social life.

As the following figure shows, respondents are more satisfied with their family lives than their social lives. Seventy-one percent are satisfied or very satisfied with their family lives, and 59% are satisfied or very satisfied with their social lives.

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<sup>8</sup> Kawachi, I., & Berkman, L. F. (2001). Social ties and mental health. *Journal of Urban Health*, 78, 458-467.

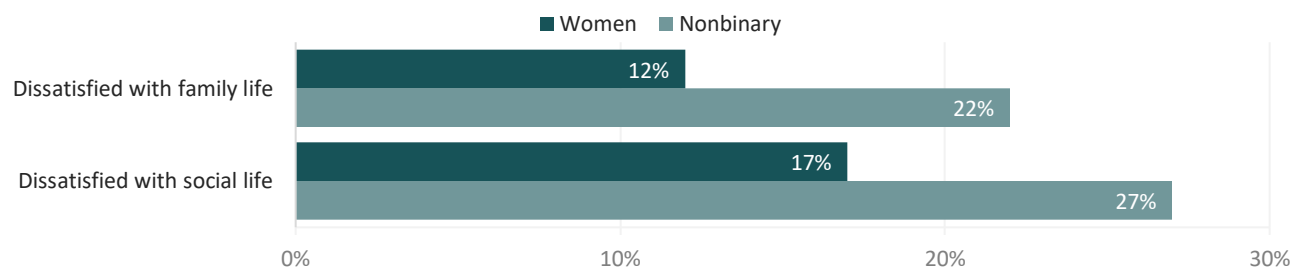
Figure 11. Respondents are generally satisfied with their family life and social life



N's: 904, 903.

On average, nonbinary respondents are significantly less satisfied than women respondents with both their family and social lives.

Figure 12. Nonbinary respondents are more likely than women respondents to be “dissatisfied” or “very dissatisfied” with their family and social lives.



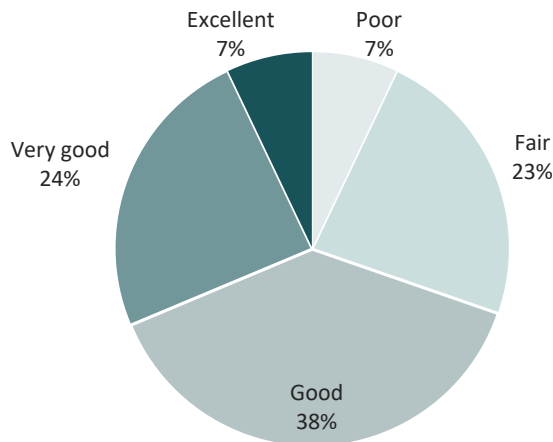
N's: Family (Women: 859; Nonbinary: 45); Social (Women: 858; Nonbinary: 45).

Importantly, however, disabled respondents also report significantly lower levels of satisfaction with their family life and social life, and most of the nonbinary respondents in this survey reported having a disability. In addition, respondents earning less than \$50,000 per year are significantly less satisfied than other respondents on these two dimensions.

## Mental Health Status

As the following figure shows, overall, close to one third of respondents report that their mental health is excellent (7%) or very good (24%). A similar percentage report that their mental health is only fair (23%) or poor (7%).

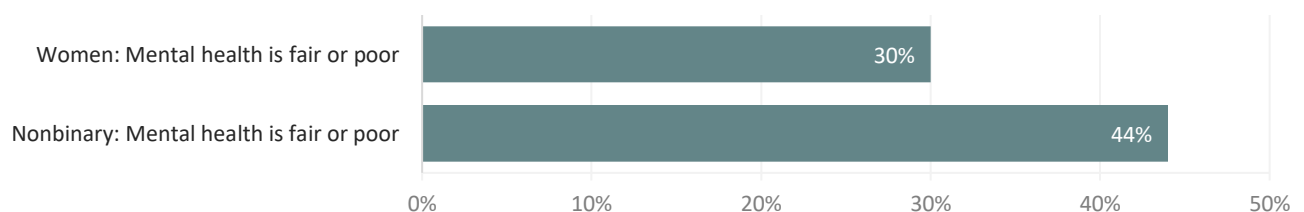
Figure 13. The largest percentage of respondents rate their mental health as good



N: 907.

Once again, average mental health levels for nonbinary respondents are lower than those of women respondents. Forty-four percent of nonbinary respondents feel their mental health is poor or fair, as compared with 30% of women (although this may be due to other differences in these groups).

Figure 14. Nonbinary respondents are significantly more likely than women to say their mental health is poor or fair



N's: Women: 862; Nonbinary/genderqueer/trans: 45.

As with findings for family and social life satisfaction, having a disability is associated with poorer mental health. In addition, respondents over 55 report better mental health status than younger respondents.

## Mental Healthcare Access

Although most respondents rate their mental health as good, very good, or excellent, most people also indicate that they needed mental health services in the past two years. Among those needing those services, almost two thirds received them, but 36% did not, which corresponds to an unmet need for services of about 24% of the full respondent group.

Figure 15. Mental health services needs and access in the past two years



N's: 862; 608; 862. Unmet need is calculated as: number needing but not receiving services/ total N for mental health needs question.

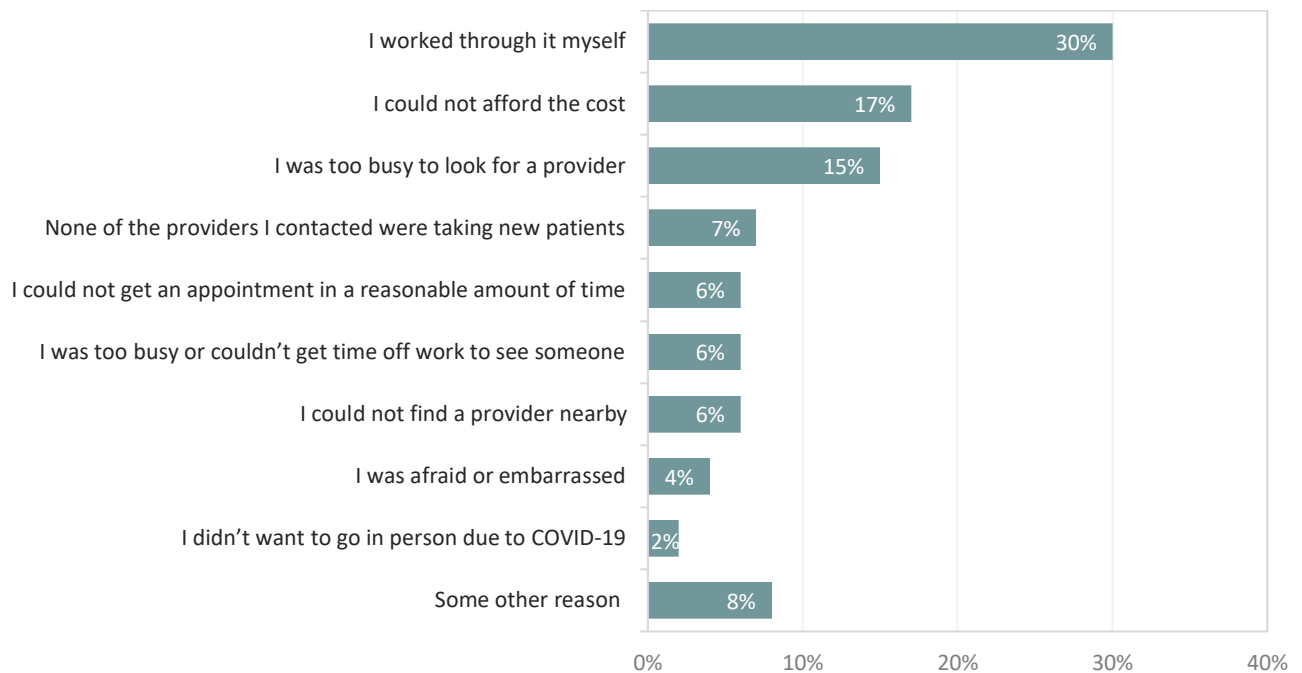
Nonbinary respondents are significantly more likely than women to have indicated that they needed mental healthcare in the past two years. Fortunately, they received needed care at similar rates as women respondents.

Younger and disabled respondents are significantly more likely than other respondents to report needing mental health services in the past two years. Use of mental health services was the highest among those 18 to 35 years old.

Among the respondents who did not receive needed mental health services, 30% worked through their difficulties on their own. Some respondents were prevented by access issues, such as cost (17%), difficulty finding an open provider (7%), difficulty getting an appointment in a reasonable amount of time (6%), or not finding a nearby provider (4%).

*"I live with mental health issues. There used to be a lot more community programs available for low income people- day treatments, PHPs, residential treatment places, halfway houses. Almost all of that is gone."*

Figure 16. About 3 in 10 respondents needing but not receiving mental health services in the past two years worked through things on their own



N: 218.

## FEELINGS OF PHYSICAL SAFETY

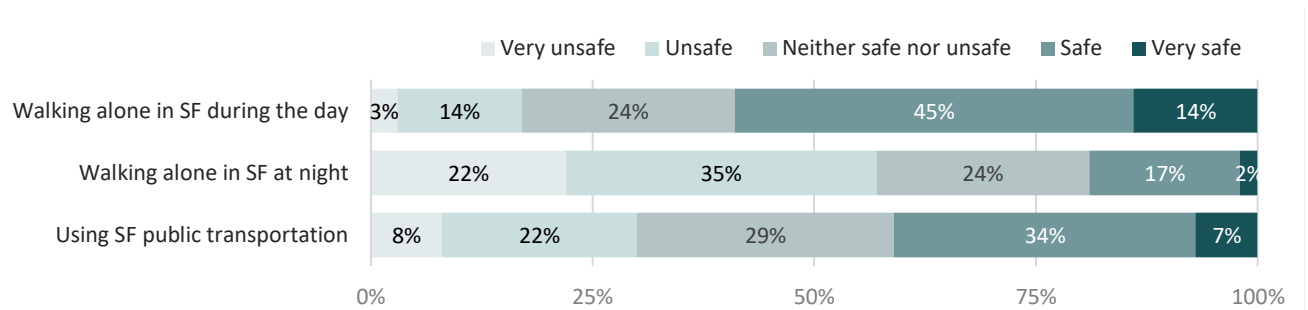
The community survey measured three aspects of feeling safe in San Francisco. Two of these survey questions – walking alone during the day and walking alone at night – are taken from the 2023 City Survey conducted by the San Francisco Office of the Controller. A third item – feeling safe on San Francisco public transportation – was also assessed.

*"I constantly get approached or talked to when I have not engaged in conversation with anyone. I would not feel safe anymore walking outside without pepper spray."*

Fifty-nine percent feel safe or very safe walking alone in San Francisco during the day. In contrast, almost the same percentage (57%) feel unsafe or very unsafe walking alone in San Francisco at night. Respondents' feelings are mixed on safety while using public transportation; although 41% feel safe or very safe, 30% feel unsafe or very unsafe.



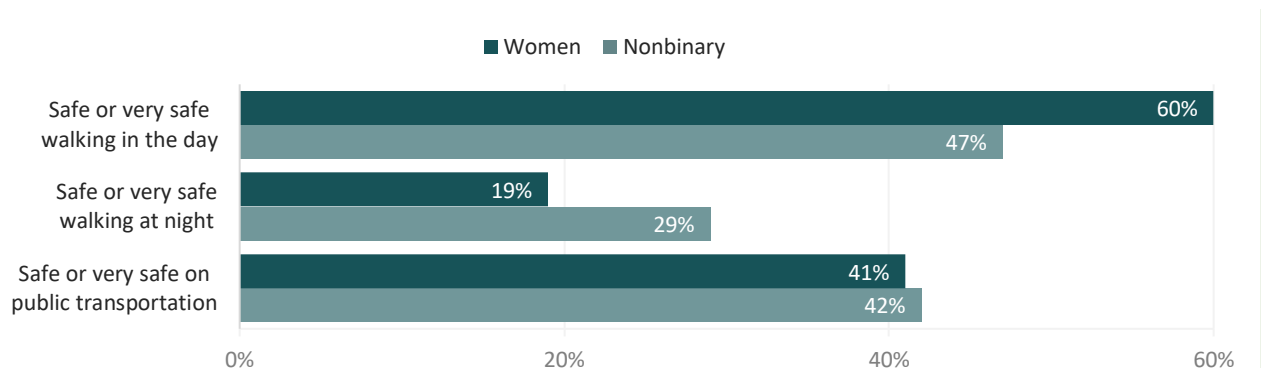
Figure 17. Respondents feel safe in San Francisco walking during the day, but are more cautious about using public transportation or walking alone at night



N's: 903, 904, 902.

The following figure separately shows the percentages of nonbinary and women respondents who feel safe or very safe in each of the three settings. Although these groups' average levels of perceived safety were not statistically different, the results suggest that women's perceptions of safety have more situational variability than do those of nonbinary respondents.

Figure 18. Nonbinary respondents have different perceptions of safety than women did



N's: Nonbinary = 45; Women = 857- 859.

There were consistent statistically significant differences in feelings of safety as a function of race/ethnicity, income, and disability status as well. White respondents tend to feel the safest on these measures, and Hispanic/Latinx and Asian respondents tend to feel the least safe. Disabled respondents feel significantly less safe than non-disabled respondents in all of these situations. Those with lower incomes feel less safe in all of these situations than those with higher incomes.

## EXPERIENCES WITH HARASSMENT

Respondents were asked to indicate how often they had experienced five types of harassment. Experiences with harassment are very common; for all of the surveyed items

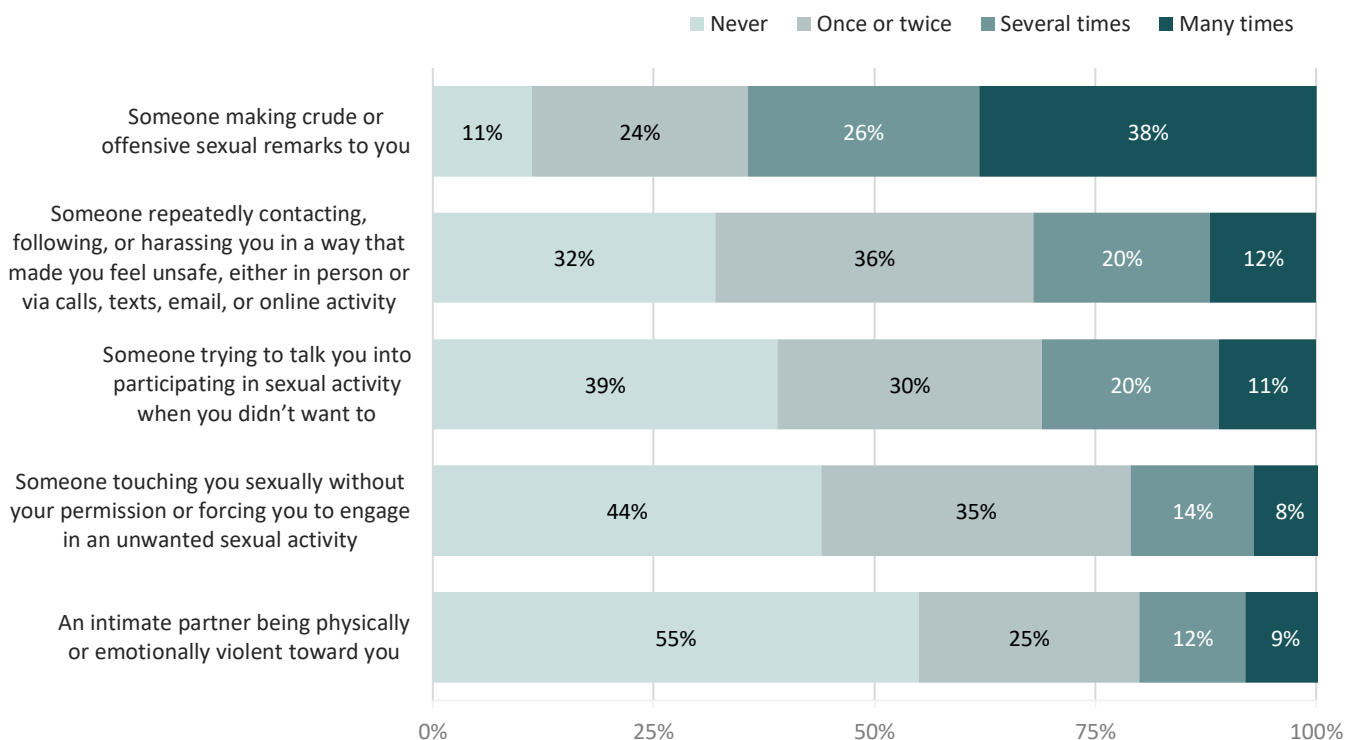
except physical or emotional abuse, more than half of the respondents had experienced the harassment at least once.

The most commonly experienced type of harassment was someone making crude or offensive sexual remarks; the vast majority of respondents have experienced this, and 38% have experienced this many times. About two thirds (68%) have been repeatedly contacted, followed or harassed in a way that made them feel unsafe, with about one third (32%) indicating this has happened several or many times.

“Catcalling and overall safety, especially at night makes it challenging to go to experience the city as a woman especially solo. It is in the back of my mind anytime I step out”

Thirty-one percent of respondents have experienced someone trying to talk them into unwanted sexual activity several or many times, and 22% have experienced someone touching them sexually without permission or forcing them into sexual activity several or many times. About 45% of respondents have had an intimate partner be physically or emotionally abusive.

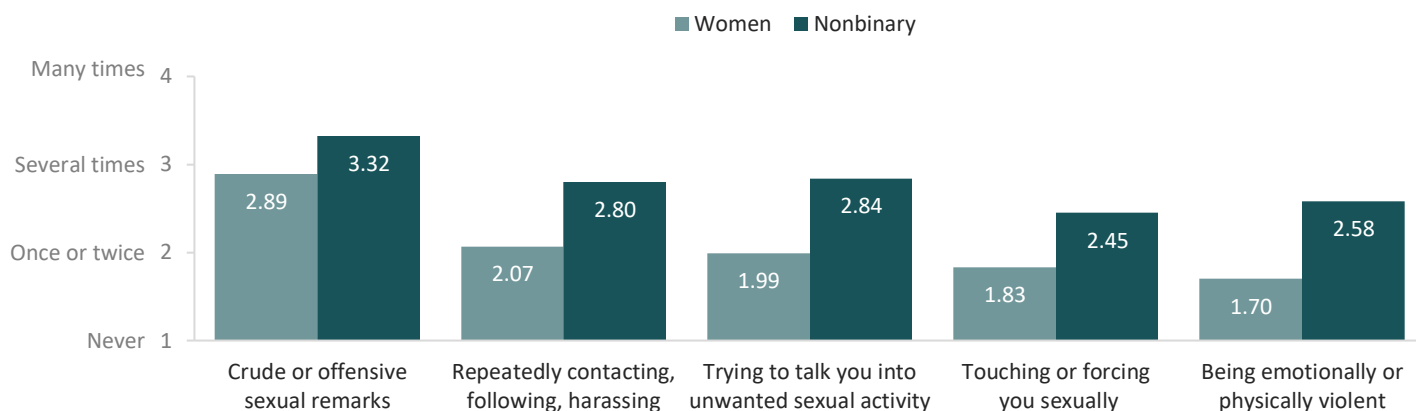
Figure 19. Respondents report that they have experienced many forms of harassment – sometimes repeatedly



N's: 862-883.

The following figure separately shows the average frequency of the different types of harassment experienced by nonbinary and women. For all of the assessed harassment types, nonbinary respondents have experienced harassment significantly more often than women have.

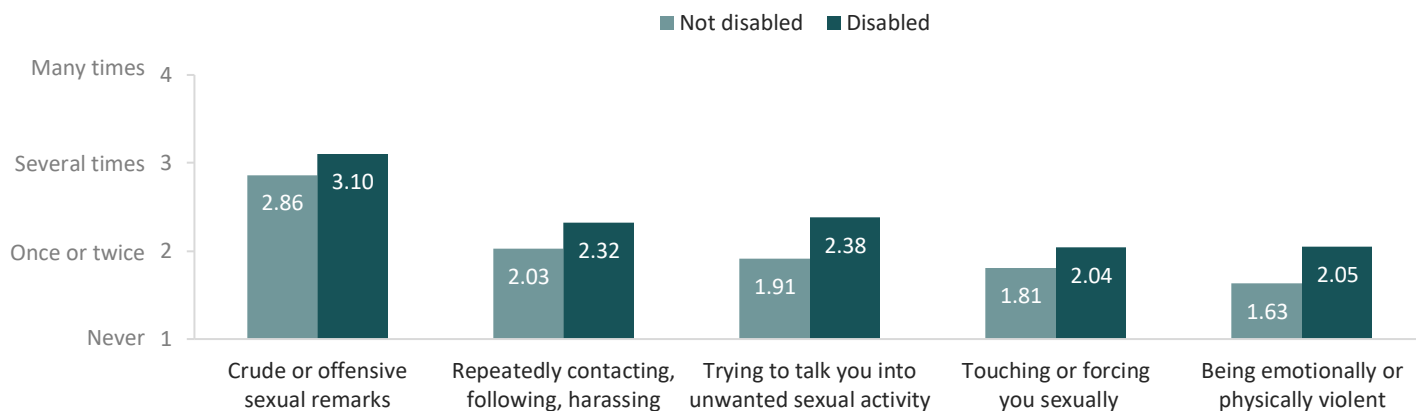
Figure 20. Nonbinary respondents have experienced every type of harassment more often than women respondents have



N's: Nonbinary = 42- 44; Women: 820-839. Mean scores for nonbinary and women respondents were significantly different for all five types of harassment, according to t-tests, all  $p < .01$ .

Notably, the nonbinary respondents are disproportionately comprised of people with a disability. As the following figure shows, disabled individuals overall also experience harassment at significantly higher rates than non-disabled people.

Figure 21. Disabled respondents have experienced every type of harassment more often than non-disabled respondents have



N's: Not disabled = 584-592; Disabled: 227-231. Mean scores for non-disabled and disabled respondents were significantly different for all five types of harassment, according to t-tests, all  $p < .01$ .

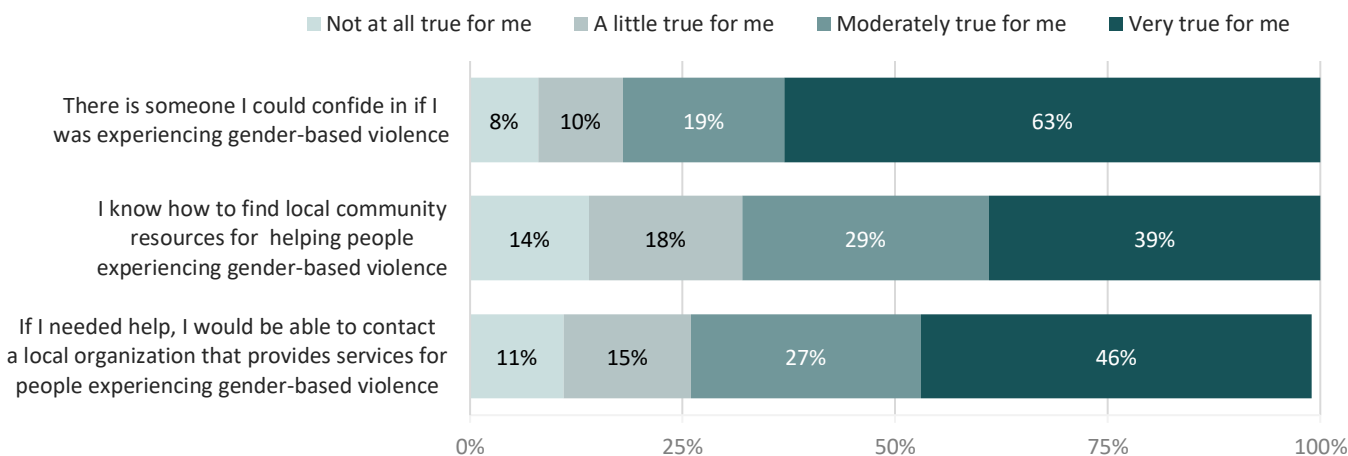
Examinations of experiences as a function of age, race/ethnicity, and income revealed additional significant trends in experiences with harassment. Older respondents report that they have experienced significantly less of some types of harassment, including someone making sexual remarks to them, someone repeatedly contacting or harassing them, and someone trying to coerce them into sexual activity. Asian respondents report the least frequent experiences with harassment. Women from the highest income levels report experiencing the least amount intimate partner violence, but they are the most likely to report receiving crude sexual remarks from others.

## RESOURCES FOR GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

The high rates of harassment and gender-based violence experienced by survey respondents underscore the need to ensure that community resources are easily accessible to San Franciscans. In the survey, respondents were asked to report on their ability to access help for gender-based violence support if they needed it.

Results showed there are needs among some respondents. Respondents have fairly high levels of personal support, with 63% percent of respondents reporting it is very true that they have someone to confide in if they were experiencing gender-based violence. However, only 39% of respondents feel it is very true that they know how to find local community resources for helping people experiencing gender-based violence. And just under half of respondents (46%) believe it is very true that they would be able to contact a local organization if they needed help for gender-based violence experiences.

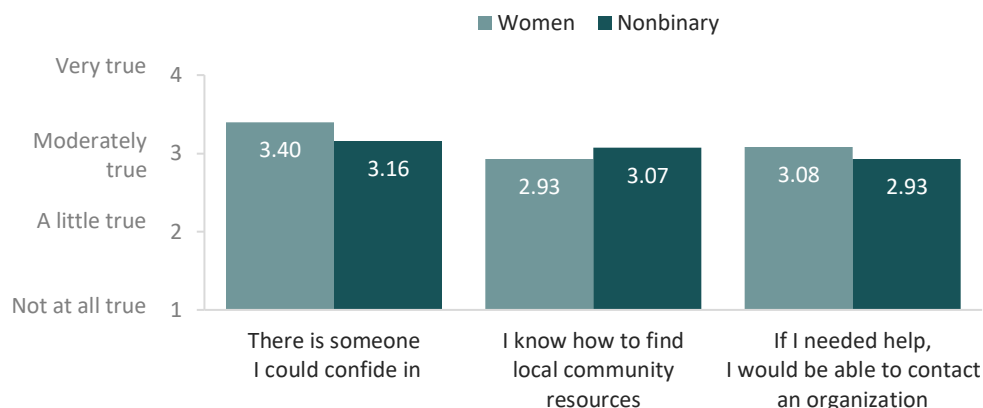
Figure 22. Fewer than half of respondents feel it is “very true” that they know about resources or could contact a local organization for gender-based violence support



N: 844, 819, 810.

The figure that follows shows mean scores for nonbinary and women respondents' connections to resources for gender-based violence. Comparisons of these groups did not reveal statistically significant differences in the degree to which they have a confidant, know how to find community resources for help with gender-based violence, or believe they could contact a local organization for help if they needed it.

Figure 23. Nonbinary respondents and women respondents did not differ significantly on their connections to gender-based violence support and resources



N's: Nonbinary: 42-45; Women: 768-799. Mean scores for nonbinary and women respondents were not significantly different for any of the items, according to t-tests.

In subgroup comparisons, Asian respondents are the least likely of the racial/ethnic groups to have someone to confide in or know how to find local community resources related to gender-based violence. Higher household income is also associated with having someone to confide in and being able to access resources for gender-based violence.

## SECTION SUMMARY

### Overall Trends

When asked about their physical health status, respondents most often report that their health is good or very good. Relatively few respondents consider their physical health to be excellent.

These respondents are staying on top of their preventive healthcare. Only 11% of them had not been to a doctor for routine care within the past two years. Among those who had delayed care, reasons were more often related to personal factors (e.g., being too busy) than access-related factors (e.g., affordability or ability to get an appointment), although there were small numbers of respondents who did report some access issues.

One issue of particular interest to DOSW was knowledge about women's health issues. More than eight in ten respondents know a lot or a moderate amount about fertility and birth control and when to get recommended women's health screenings. However, respondents know less about menopause and aging-related changes in reproductive health; 42% report knowing nothing at all or a little bit about this subject. Although more than half feel very comfortable talking to their healthcare provider about these issues, a large portion of women feel moderately, a little, or not at all comfortable doing so.

Respondents' answers to survey questions about life satisfaction and mental health status revealed a nuanced picture of respondents' well-being. Most respondents are satisfied with their family and social lives and feel that their mental health is good, very good, or excellent. However, meaningful numbers of respondents are either not satisfied with these parts of their lives, or they only rate their mental health as fair or poor.

Relatedly, about two thirds of respondents report they needed mental health services in the past two years, with 64% of those receiving those services. Among those who did not receive needed services, the largest percentage indicated they worked through their difficulties on their own. However, a variety of barriers to receiving mental healthcare were cited by those who had needed it but not accessed it.

Most respondents report feeling safe or very safe walking alone in the city during the day, but only 19% feel safe walking alone at night. Many respondents are wary of public transportation, with less than half feeling safe or very safe using it.

Survey questions about experiences with harassment ranged from hearing offensive remarks to forced unwanted sexual activity and abuse. Experiences with harassment are common among respondents. Hearing offensive remarks was the most common type of harassment, with almost nine out of ten respondents having experienced this. Additionally, more than half of the respondents have been contacted or harassed repeatedly by someone, had someone try to coerce them into sexual activity, or had someone touch or force them sexually. Slightly less than half of respondents have experienced intimate partner violence.

In light of how common these experiences are, having interpersonal and community support to deal with gender-based violence is critically important. In this area, some respondents report having or being able to access resources, but many do not. For example, about one third of respondents feel it is not at all or a little true that they know how to find resources for people facing gender-based violence. About one in four feels it is not at all or a little true that they could contact an organization for help with gender-based violence.

## *How Health and Safety Looks Different for Key Groups*

Some groups of survey respondents report consistently higher levels of need with regard to health and safety issues. Some of the key differences in reported well-being that emerged based on respondents' gender identity, age, income, race/ethnicity, and disability status follow.

### *Gender Identity*

Compared to women, nonbinary respondents are more likely to rate both their physical and mental health as only fair or poor, and, in the past two years, they needed mental health services at higher rates. Nonbinary respondents also are less satisfied with their family life and social life. In safety domains, nonbinary respondents report significantly more experiences with every type of harassment measured in the survey.

### *Age*

Younger women are in better physical health than older women, but they generally know less about women's health issues than older women – especially for menopause and aging-related changes in reproductive health – and feel the least comfortable talking about women's health issues with their providers. Respondents over 55 report better mental health than younger respondents, and older women were less likely to need mental healthcare in the past 2 years. Older women have experienced significantly less of some types of harassment, relative to younger respondents.

### *Income*

Having higher income is related to better self-rated physical health and greater knowledge of birth control and fertility and when to get recommended health screenings. Those with low incomes – less than \$50,000 per year – are much less satisfied with their family and social lives than those earning more. Higher-income respondents feel safer in San Francisco than lower-income respondents, and while they report more experiences with hearing crude remarks, they have had fewer experiences on average with intimate partner violence. Higher income is also associated with having access to gender-based violence resources and someone to confide in if experiencing gender-based violence.

### *Race/Ethnicity*

There were some race/ethnicity differences in health and safety needs as well. Hispanic/Latinx and African American respondents report significantly or marginally worse health than White respondents do, but mental health and satisfaction with family and social lives are similar across race/ethnic groups. When asked about their knowledge of women's health issues, African American and White women report knowing the most, and Asian women consistently report knowing the least. On feelings of safety, White respondents tend



to feel the safest, and Hispanic/Latinx and Asian respondents tend to feel the least safe. Asian respondents report the least frequent experiences with harassment, but they also are the least likely of the racial/ethnic groups to have someone to confide in or know how to find local community resources related to gender-based violence.

### *Disability*

Respondents with a disability have many more health and safety concerns than those without a disability. Compared to those without a disability, disabled respondents rate both their physical and mental health status much lower and are more likely to have needed mental health services in the past two years. Respondents with a disability are less satisfied with their family life and their social life than non-disabled respondents. Respondents with a disability have more safety concerns than their peers – they feel less safe in San Francisco in the day, at night, and on public transportation. These feelings may be driven by their past experiences, as they report having experienced every type of harassment in the survey more often than non-disabled respondents.



## Economic Security



## Key Findings: Economic Security

- Job satisfaction among respondents is fairly high overall, but about one out of three respondents do not feel their job offers opportunities for growth, promotions, or advancement.
- Slightly less than half of respondents (45%) are satisfied or very satisfied with their personal financial situation.
- Retirement saving is the financial concern that weighs the most heavily on respondents; 56% worry about this often or very often. Slightly more than one third of respondents worry often or fairly often about healthcare costs, their debt, and paying their bills.
- A small but consistent subset of respondents have struggled with basic needs. In the past year, about one in five has reduced meals or cut back on food to save money, received financial help from friends or family, and/or put off getting healthcare or medications for financial reasons.
- Fifty-nine percent of respondents are spending 30% or more of their income on housing. About three out of ten respondents feel their housing costs are a moderate or major problem for them.
- The 35% of respondents who are parents or guardians of children under 18 face substantial costs for childcare, with more than one third paying \$1,000 or more in monthly childcare costs. Forty-four percent of these parents worry about these childcare costs often or very often. An even larger percentage (67%) worry often or very often about whether they can save enough for their child's college education.
- The economic circumstances of different groups of survey respondents varied widely on some survey measures, with some large differences across respondents based on gender identity, age, income, race/ethnicity, and disability status.

## INTRODUCTION

DOSW's focus on economic security reflects the core importance of financial stability for ensuring the well-being of women and nonbinary individuals, particularly in a city like San Francisco where the cost of living is extremely high. Community members need to be able to work in stable jobs with fair pay. They need to be able to earn a reasonable income so that they can afford to not only cover their own and their family's needs, but also be free from debt and build assets for their own and their children's futures.

The Phase 1 secondary data report revealed a number of economic strengths among women in San Francisco. For example, relative to women statewide, women in the city enjoy higher labor participation rates, higher median earnings, and higher rates of business ownership. However, they still earn less than men in San Francisco and are slightly more likely to be cost-burdened (spending 30% or more of their income on housing).

Some issues related to women and nonbinary individuals' economic security were highlighted for further exploration in the Phase 2 community survey. For example, although we know the industries and pay of women in the working world, we know little about their working conditions, their job satisfaction, and their opportunities for advancement. We also know little about their current financial worries and the extent to which they are able to pay for basic needs, healthcare, and childcare. Additionally, there is a gap in knowledge about women and nonbinary individuals' ability to save for things like their children's college education and retirement. The Phase 2 survey explored each of these topics. As in the previous section, the findings include results for women and nonbinary respondents together and comparatively (whenever sample sizes allow). When major statistically significant differences emerged as a function of race/ethnicity, age, income level, or disability status, those results are noted in this section, with specific findings presented in Appendix B.

## SURVEY FINDINGS REVIEWED IN THIS SECTION

### Employment:

- Hours, ability to work from home, and pay structure
- Job satisfaction, fairness and stability of work, opportunities for advancement

### Money and Finances:

- Income and satisfaction with finances
- Types of accounts and debt
- Financial worries
- Affording basic and other needs

### Housing:

- Housing types and renting versus ownership
- Housing cost and affordability

### Childcare and Education Costs:

- Childcare costs
- Worries about childcare and college affordability

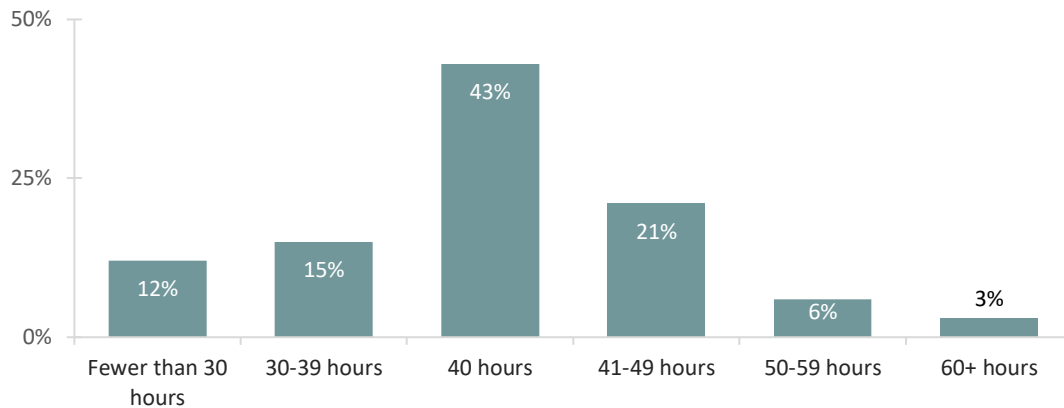
## EMPLOYMENT

As described above in the Respondent Characteristics chapter, 78% of the sample is working full- or part-time. Among this group, the largest percentage (43%) is working about 40 hours per week, and about one in five (21%) is working 41 to 49 hours per week.

Sixty-two percent of respondents work from home at least some of the time. Employment hours do not differ for nonbinary and women respondents, and the two groups are equally likely to work from home.

**62%**  
of respondents work  
from home at least  
some of the time

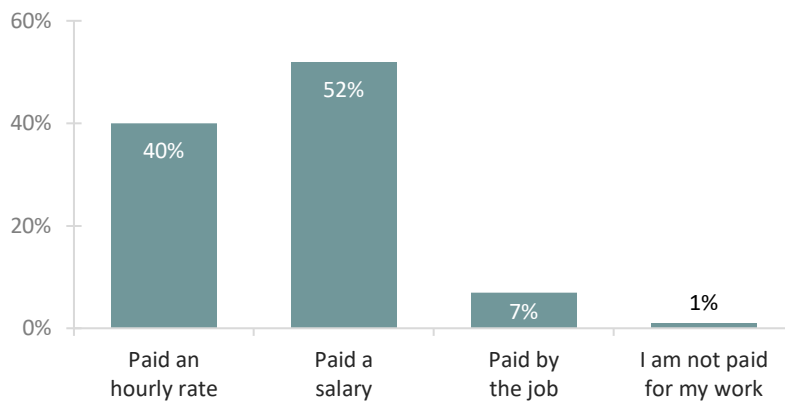
Figure 24. The largest percentage of working respondents work 40 hours per week



N: 702. Includes only those who were working full or part time.

Fifty-two percent of working respondents report that they are paid a salary for their work, and 40% are paid an hourly rate. Nonbinary and women respondents also do not differ on how they were paid for their work.

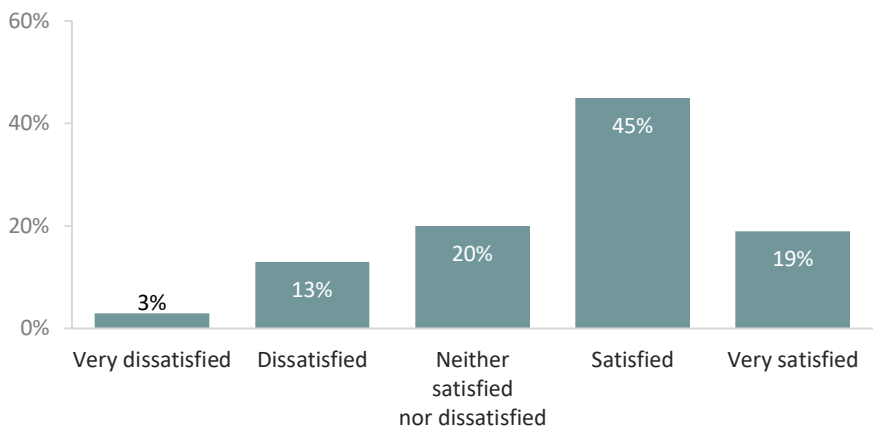
Figure 25. Half of working respondents are paid a salary



N: 703. Includes only those who were working full or part time.

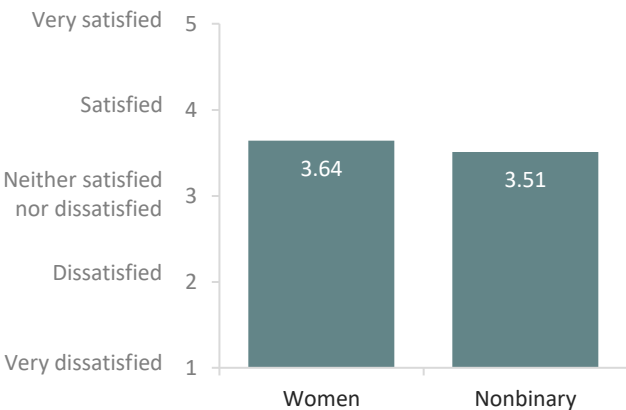
Overall, nearly half of respondents (45%) are satisfied with their current job or career, and an additional 19% are very satisfied with it. As Figure 26 shows, nonbinary and women respondents have similar job satisfaction levels.

Figure 26. Almost two thirds of respondents are satisfied or very satisfied with their current job or career



N: 704.

Figure 27. Nonbinary and women respondents have similar job satisfaction levels



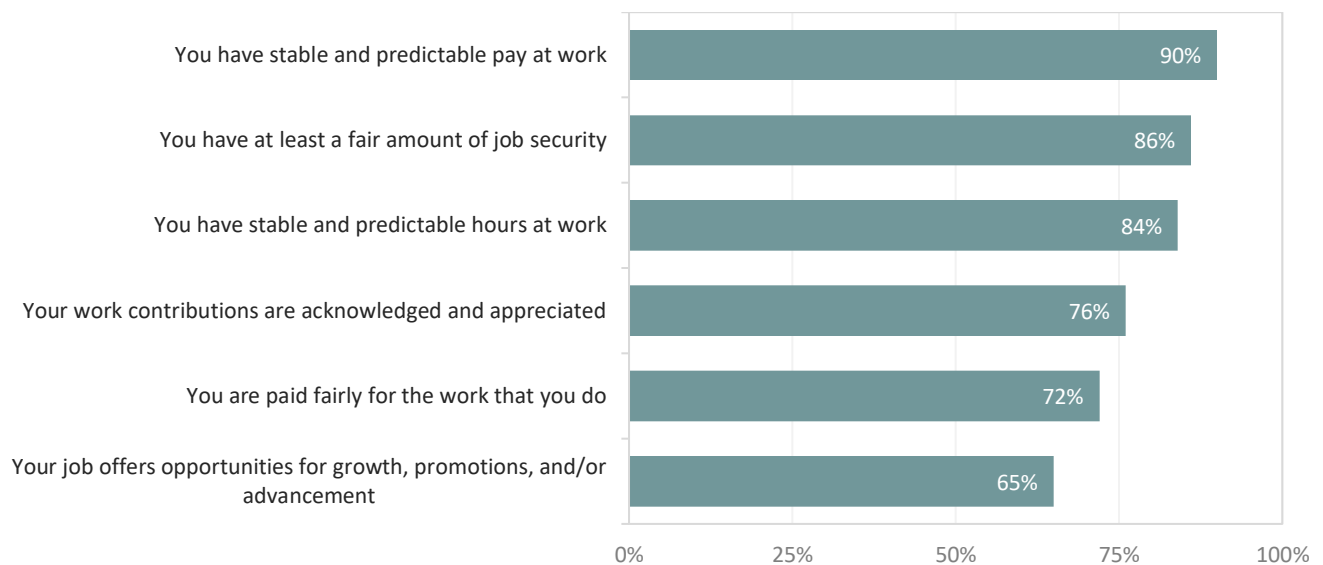
N's: Nonbinary = 37; Women = 667. Mean scores for nonbinary and women respondents were not significantly different, according to t-tests.

Job satisfaction levels are statistically similar for many respondent demographic groups; however, those with incomes of less than \$50,000 per year are significantly less satisfied with their jobs than any of the other income groups.



Working respondents' satisfaction with their jobs may be due to the fact that they generally enjoy good working conditions. As Figure 28 shows, more than eight out of ten working respondents have stable and predictable pay, have a fair amount of job security, and have stable and predictable work hours. About three fourths feel their work contributions are acknowledged and appreciated (76%) and that they are paid fairly (72%). A slightly smaller share of working respondents (65%) sees opportunities for growth, promotion, or advancement in their job. Nonbinary and women respondents perceive their jobs similarly; however, nonbinary respondents are significantly more likely than women to feel that their job gives them stable and predictable pay.

Figure 28. Most working respondents report that their jobs and pay are stable and secure

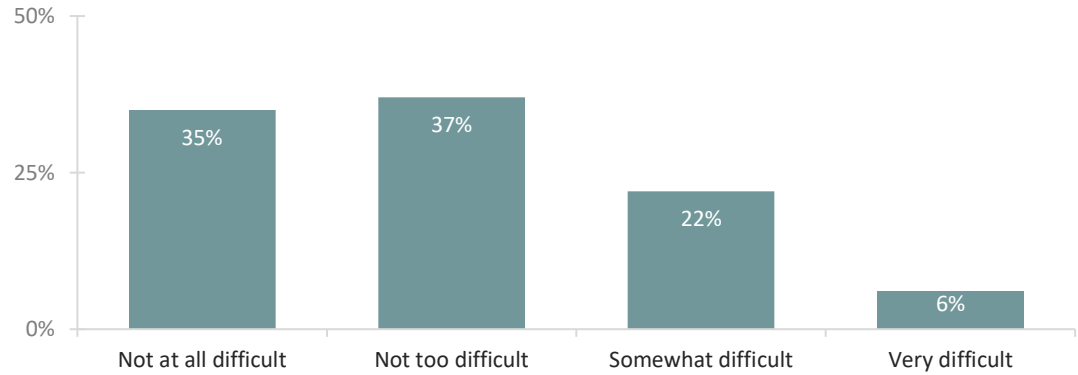


N's: 640-690.

As income increases, job conditions generally improve as well. Compared to those earning less, those with higher incomes report that their jobs have more stable pay, stable hours, fair pay, job security, and opportunities for advancement.

Most respondents feel it would not be difficult to take a day or two off to take care of personal or family matters, but for more than one quarter of respondents, doing so would be somewhat difficult (22%) or very difficult (6%). This did not differ for nonbinary and women respondents.

Figure 29. More than one quarter of working respondents find it somewhat or very difficult to take a day or two off for personal or family matters



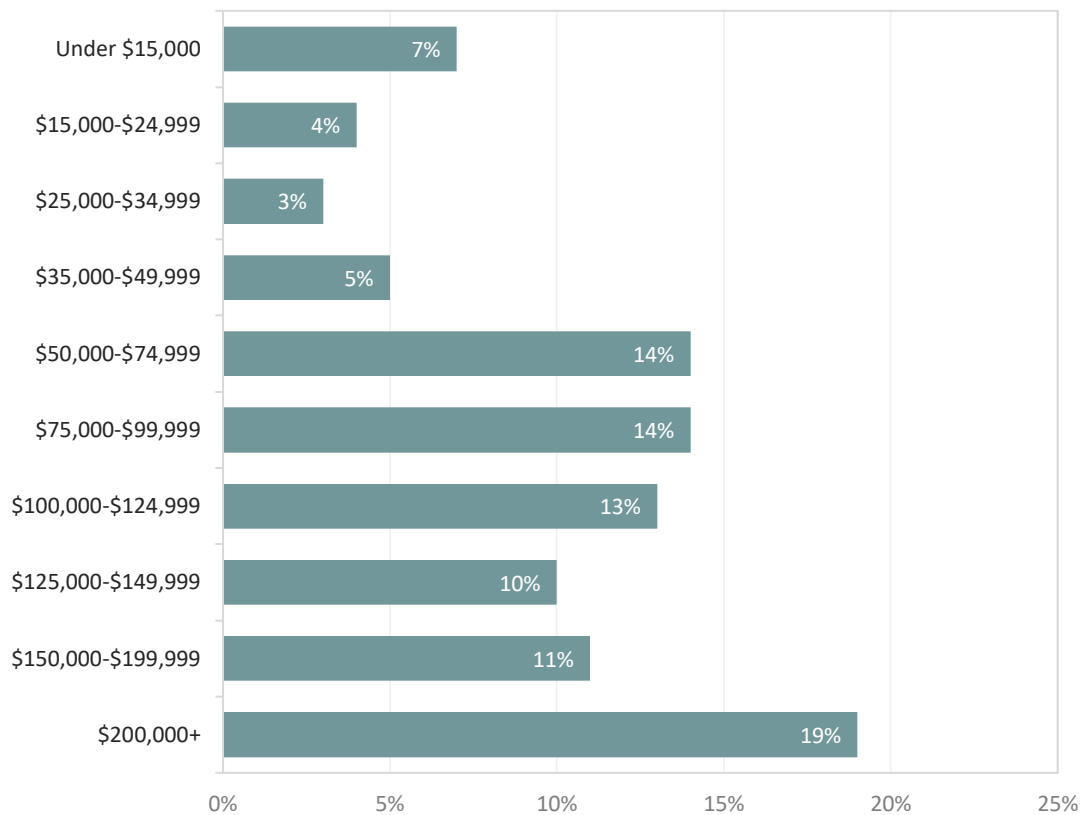
N: 705.

MONEY AND FINANCES

Survey respondents have a wide range of income levels. Twenty percent of respondents have household incomes of less than \$50,000 per year. An almost equal percentage have incomes of \$200,000 or more per year.

Comparisons of the household incomes of nonbinary and women respondents revealed that nonbinary respondents have marginally lower incomes than women do ( $p < .10$ ).

Figure 30. One in five respondents have household incomes less than \$50,000 per year



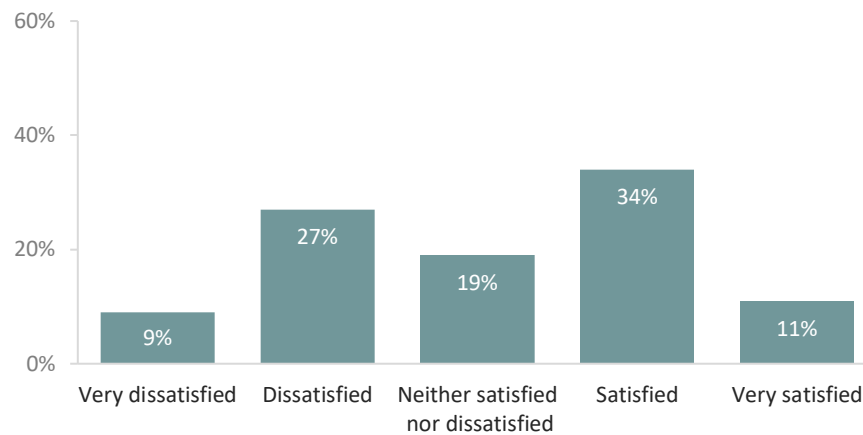
N's: 789.

Earnings differ by age, race/ethnicity, and disability status. Respondents aged 36 to 55 have significantly higher incomes than respondents in the other age groups. Asian and White respondents earn more than Hispanic/Latinx and African American respondents. Those without a disability earn more than those who had a disability.

For more than one third of respondents, their income levels translated into feelings of dissatisfaction with their financial situation: Nine percent of respondents are very dissatisfied with their finances, and 27% are dissatisfied. Slightly less than half of respondents (45%) are satisfied or very satisfied with their personal financial situation.

"The cost of living in San Francisco has skyrocketed in the last 10-15 years. I say this as a native who has lived here all my life. The income disparity is alarming. We used to have lower, upper and middle class, but it seems the middle class has disappeared and we have low-income or super wealthy."

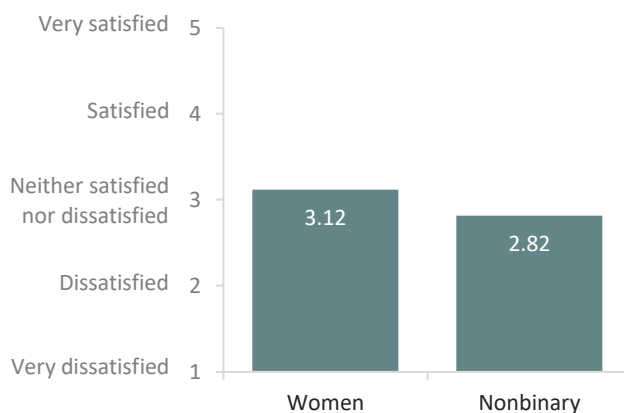
Figure 31. More than one third of respondents are dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with their personal financial situation



N: 905.

Generally, those who earn less income are less satisfied with their personal finances. Consistent with their slightly lower income levels, nonbinary respondents have marginally lower levels of satisfaction with their personal finances than women do, Hispanic/Latinx and African American respondents are significantly less satisfied than Asian and White respondents, and disabled respondents are less satisfied than non-disabled respondents. One deviation from this pattern is based on age; even though 36 to 55 year olds earn the most money, the oldest group of respondents (aged 66 and older) has significantly higher levels of satisfaction with their personal finances than respondents in other age groups.

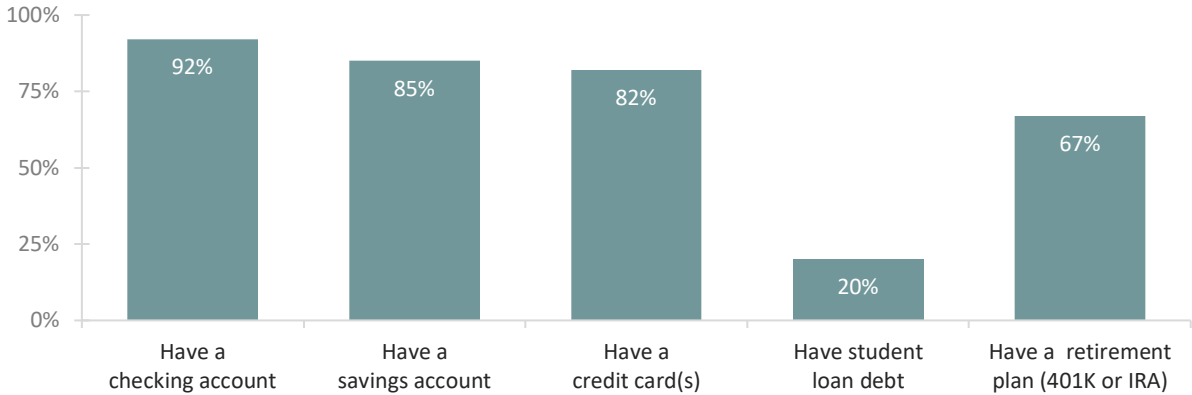
Figure 32. Nonbinary respondents are marginally less satisfied than women with their personal finances



N's: Nonbinary = 45; Women = 860. Mean satisfaction levels for nonbinary and women respondents were marginally different, according to t-tests,  $p < .10$ .

Figure 33 shows the percentage of respondents who have different kinds of savings and debt. Ninety two percent of respondents have a checking account, and more than eight out of ten have a savings account and/or one or more credit cards. Two thirds of respondents have one or more retirement accounts. One in five respondents has student loan debt.

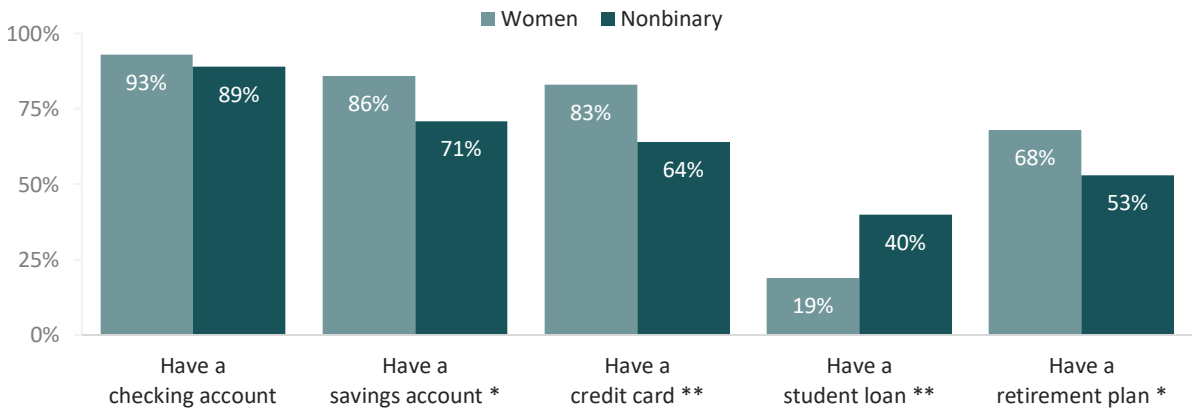
Figure 33. Some respondents do not have checking or savings accounts



N: 888.

As the following figure shows, compared to women, nonbinary respondents are significantly less likely to have a savings account, a credit card, or a retirement account. They are twice as likely as women to be carrying student loan debt.

Figure 34. Nonbinary respondents are less likely than women to have a savings account, a credit card, or a retirement account, and they are more likely to have student debt



N's: Nonbinary = 45; Women = 843. Percentages for nonbinary and women respondents were significantly different according to chi-square tests, as follows: \* p <.05; \*\* p <.01. Checking account percentages are not shown due to cell sizes of 10 or fewer nonbinary respondents.

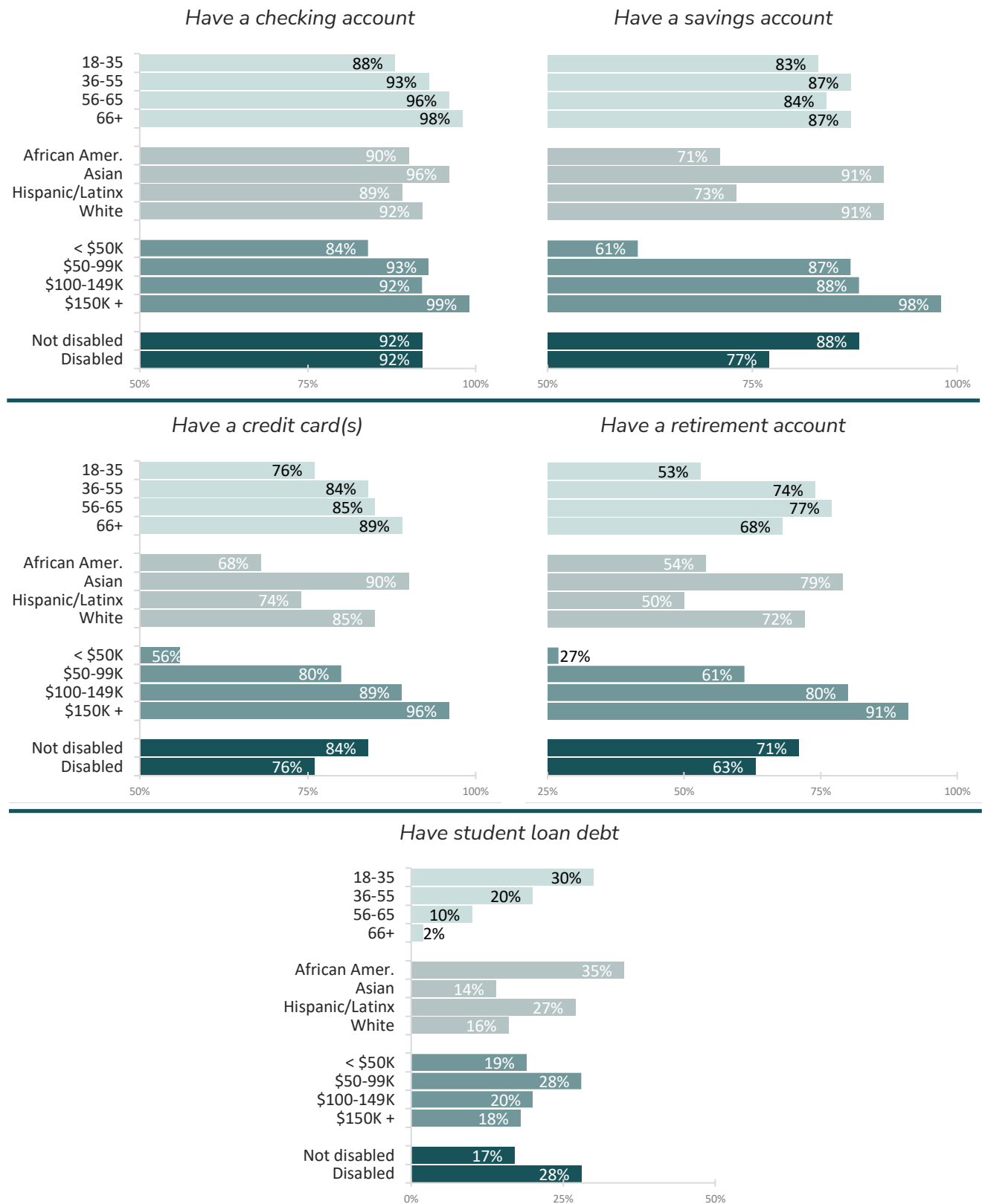
As the following set of figures show, there is substantial variability in the types of financial accounts and debt respondents have. Younger respondents are less likely than older respondents to have a checking account, a credit card, or a retirement account, and they are more likely to have student loan debt.

African American and Hispanic/Latinx respondents are significantly less likely than Asian and White respondents to have a saving account, a credit card, or a retirement account, and they are more likely to have student loan debt.

It is not surprising that income also relates to financial accounts and debt, but the differences between the lowest and highest income groups are striking. For example, among those earning less than \$50,000 per year in household income, fewer than two thirds have a savings account, only 56% have a savings account, and only about one in four (26%) have a retirement account. In contrast, almost all of those in the highest income group have these accounts.

Respondents with a disability also have lower rates of having a savings account, credit cards, or a retirement account, and they are more likely to have student loan debt than their peers.

Figure 35. Account types and debt differed across age, race/ethnicity, income, and disability

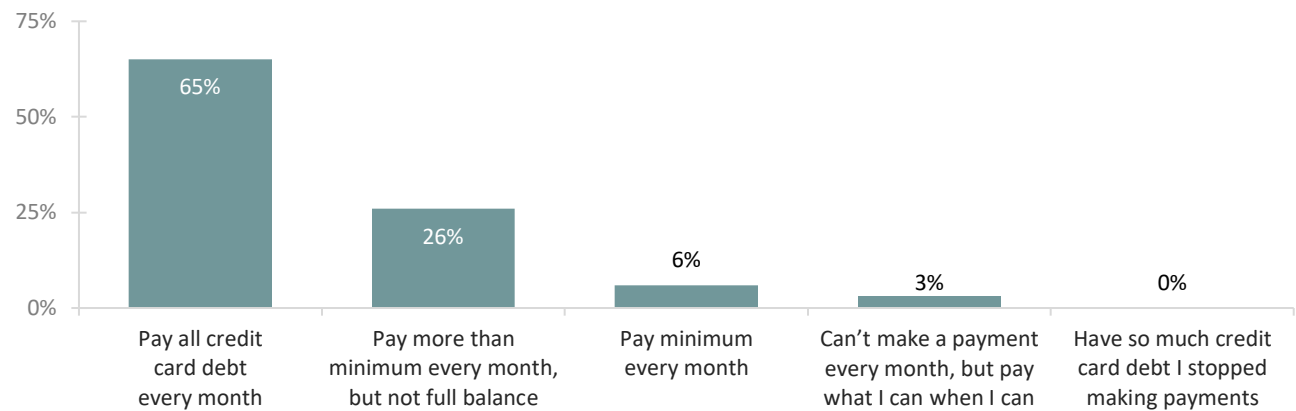


For Ns, see Appendix B. Significant overall group differences were found for the following: Checking account: Age, Income. Savings account: Race/ethnicity, Income, Disability. Credit card: Age, Race/ethnicity, Income, Disability. Retirement account: Age, Race/ethnicity, Income, Disability. Student loan: Age, Race/ethnicity, Disability.



About one third of respondents do not pay all of their credit cards balance each month. This rate is similar for nonbinary and women respondents.

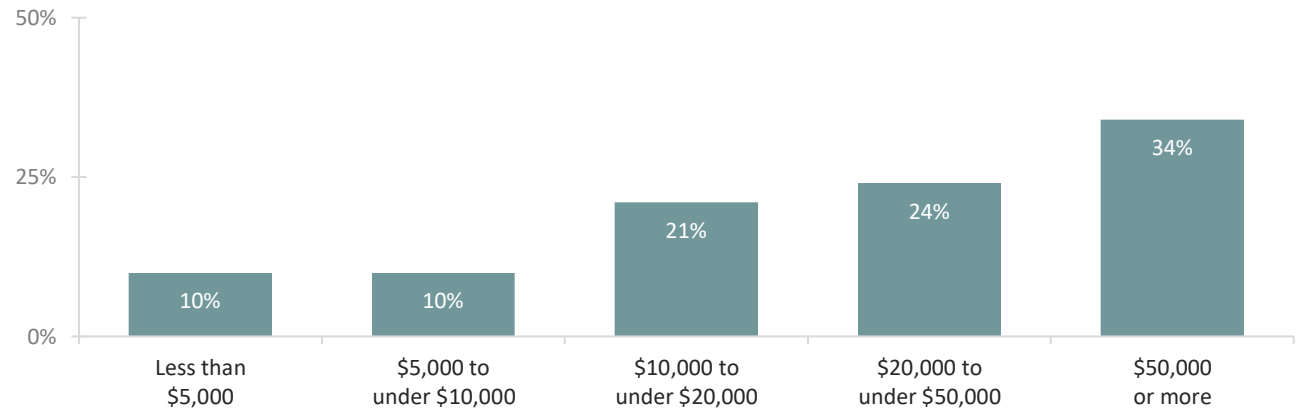
Figure 36. About two thirds of respondents pay their full credit card balance each month



N: 722.

Most of the respondents who have student loan debt owe \$20,000 or more, with 34% owing \$50,000 or more. Although nonbinary respondents are more likely to have student loan debt, the amounts they owe are similar to those of women respondents.

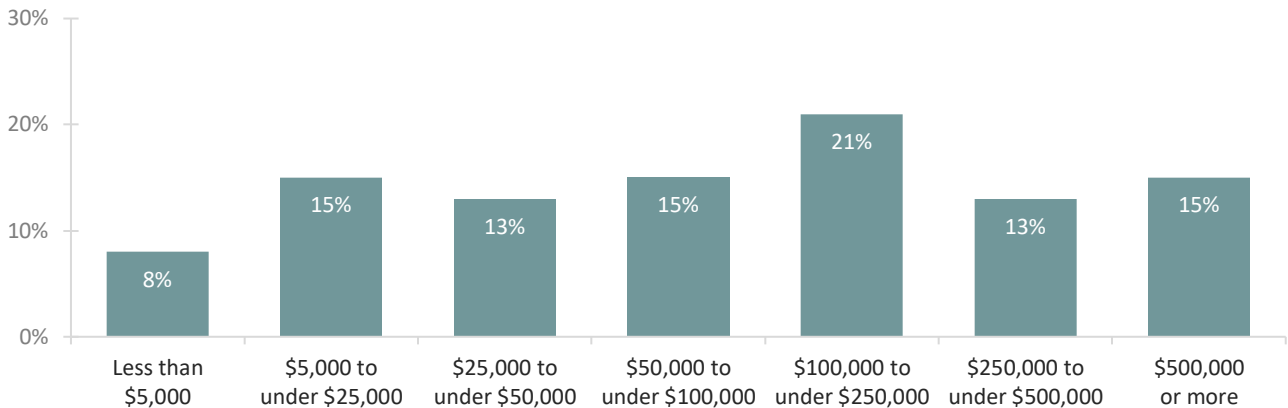
Figure 37. One third of respondents with student loan debt owe \$50,000 or more



N:180.

Among the 67% of respondents who have a retirement account, about half have saved less than \$100,000. Nonbinary respondents – who are less likely to have a retirement account than women respondents – have saved significantly less for retirement than women respondents.

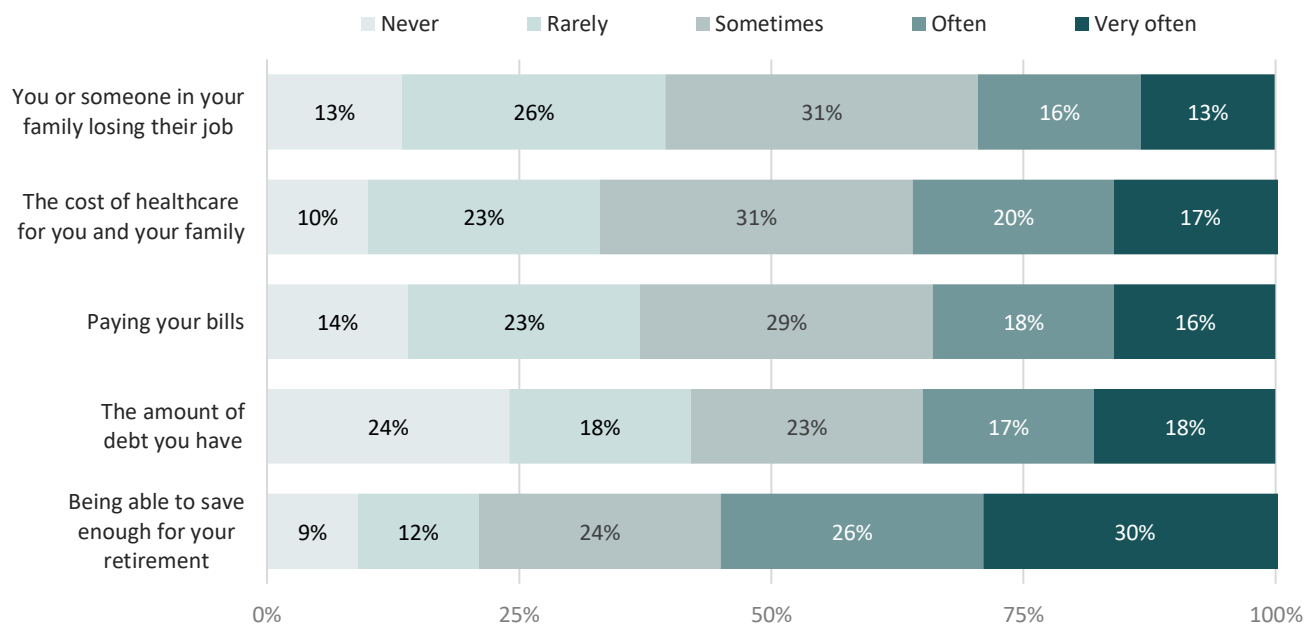
Figure 38. About half of respondents with a retirement account have saved less than \$100,000



N: 509.

As the following figure shows, many respondents worry fairly frequently about different financial concerns. They worry most often about retirement; more than half of respondents worry often or fairly often about saving enough for retirement. Thirty-seven percent of respondents worry often or very often about the costs of healthcare, and an additional 31% sometimes worry about these costs. About one third worry often or very often about the amount of debt they have (35%) and paying their bills (34%), with about one in three worrying sometimes about these issues.

Figure 39. On average, respondents worry the most about saving for retirement and the least about their jobs and debt levels



N's: 899-902.

The following figure shows average levels of financial worry separately for nonbinary and women respondents. Compared to women respondents, nonbinary respondents worry significantly more frequently about job loss, healthcare costs, paying the bills, and their debt levels. The two groups have similar levels of worry about saving for retirement.

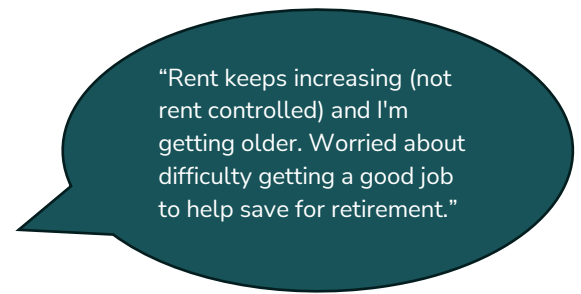
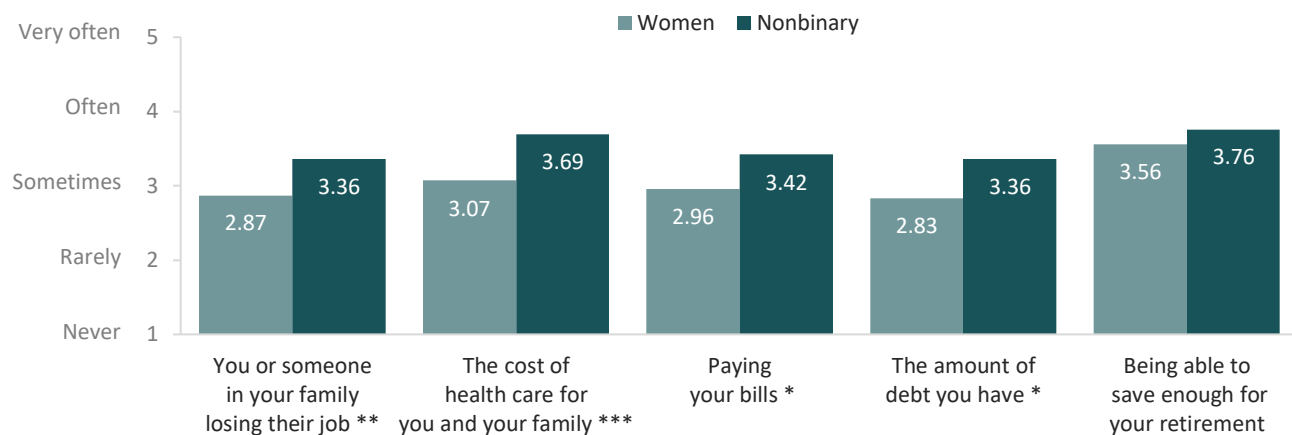


Figure 40. Nonbinary respondents have significantly higher levels of financial worry than women do

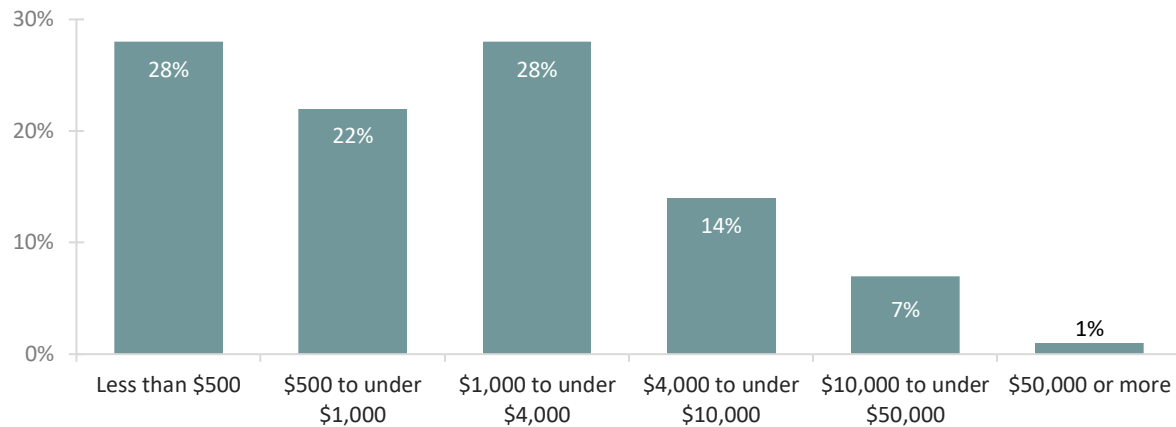


N's: Nonbinary = 45; Women = 854-857. Mean scores for nonbinary and women respondents were significantly different according to t-tests, as follows: \*  $p < .05$ ; \*\*  $p < .01$ ; \*\*\*  $p < .001$ .

Generally, respondents with larger household incomes report less frequent worries about financial issues. Comparisons of respondents as a function of age revealed that, among this survey's respondents, those aged 66 and older worry less often about their finances than any of the younger respondents. Disabled respondents report significantly more frequent worries than non-disabled respondents about all of these issues except saving for retirement. There were statistically significant trends in financial worries as a function of respondents' race/ethnicity as well. Hispanic/Latinx respondents worry the most often about losing their job, the cost of healthcare, paying their bills, their debt, and saving for retirement. On all of these measures, their average levels of worry are significantly greater than those of White or Asian respondents (who earn more on average). On two measures – worry about paying the bills and worry about debt – African American respondents report worrying more frequently than White or Asian respondents.

When asked about their out-of-pocket healthcare costs, about half of respondents had spent at least \$1,000 in the past 12 months, with about one third spending \$4,000 or more. Nonbinary and women respondents report spending equal amounts on healthcare costs.

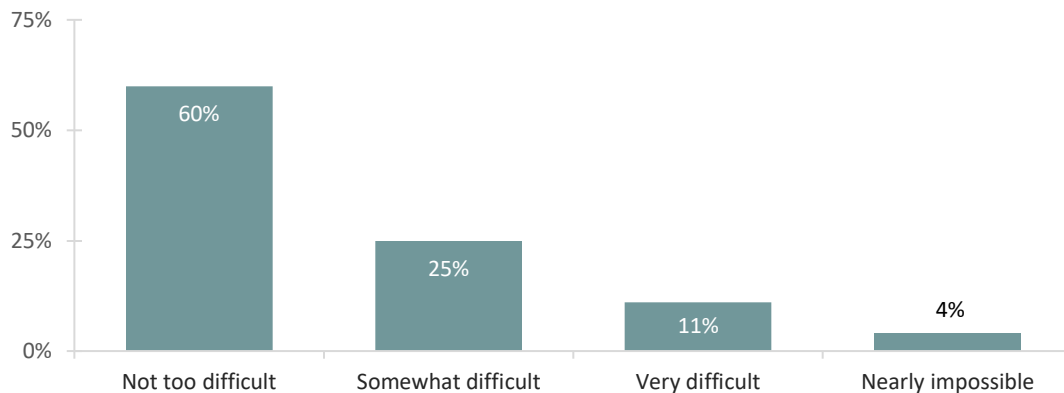
Figure 41. Half of respondents spent \$1,000 or more last year on out-of-pocket healthcare costs



N: 844.

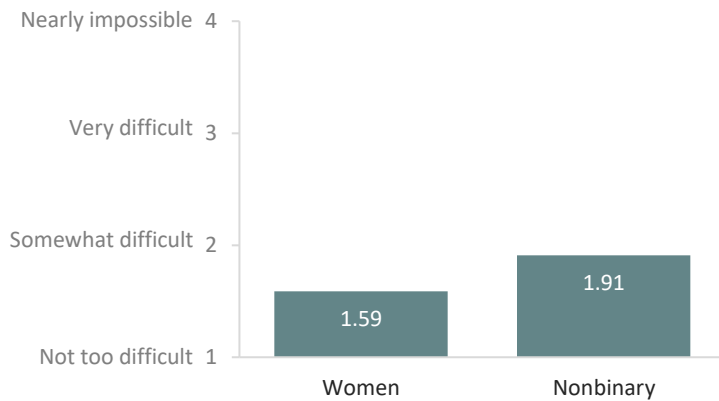
Sixty percent of respondents feel it would be “not too difficult” to afford an unexpected \$400 expense. However, nonbinary respondents feel it would be significantly more difficult than women respondents do.

Figure 42. Most respondents can afford an unexpected \$400 emergency expense without difficulty



N: 904.

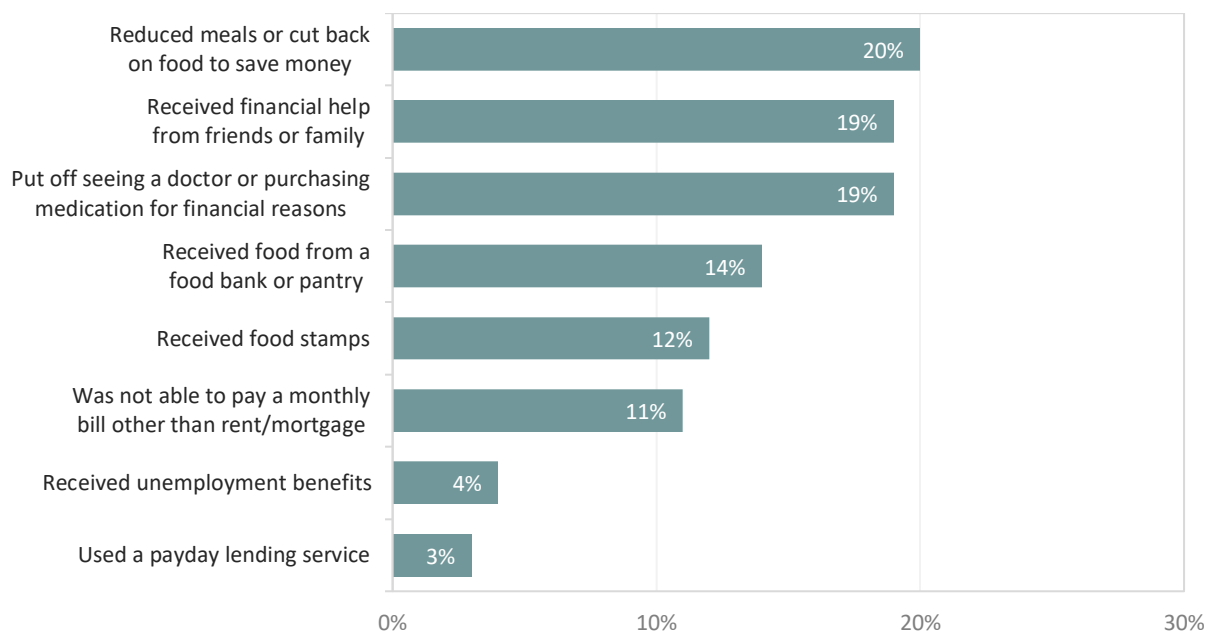
Figure 43. Nonbinary respondents would find it more difficult to afford an unexpected \$400 emergency expense



N's: Nonbinary: 45; Women: 859. Mean scores for nonbinary and women respondents were significantly according to t-tests;  $p < .05$ .

Respondents indicated whether they had difficulty meeting their basic needs in the last 12 months. While most respondents did not report struggles with meeting their basic needs, there were some who did. For example, about one in five respondents had reduced meals or cut back on food (20%), received financial help from friends or family (19%), or put off seeing a doctor or purchasing medications for financial reasons (19%).

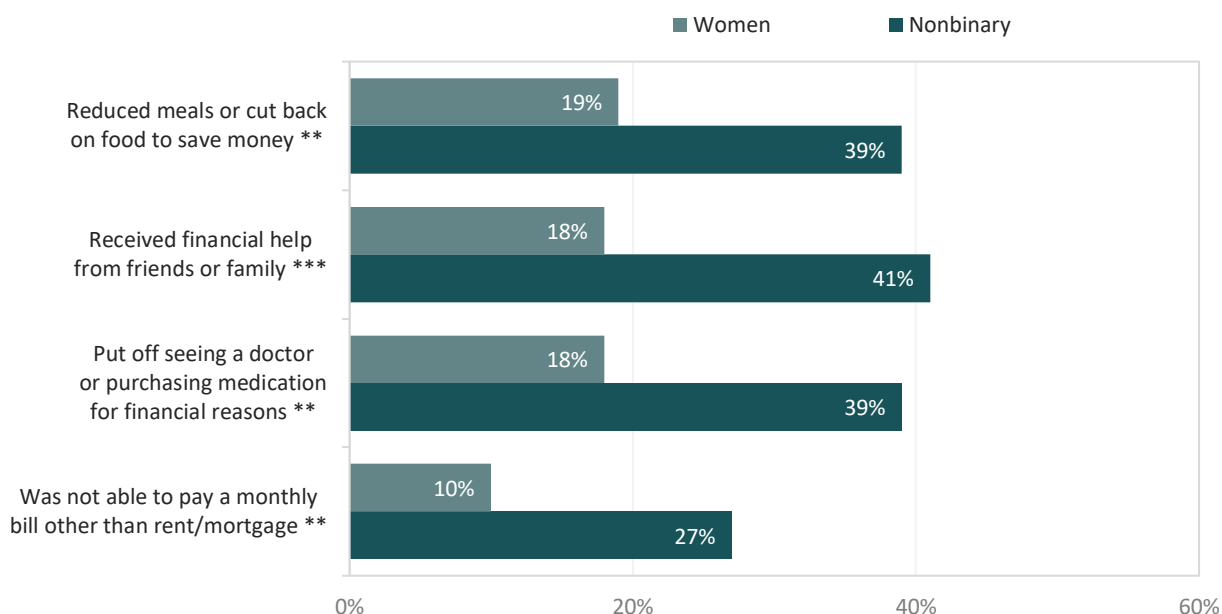
Figure 44. Financial concerns have impacted about one in five respondents' decisions about food or healthcare



N: 897.

Nonbinary respondents have experienced several of these struggles at much higher rates during the past 12 months than women respondents, as shown in Figure 45. They are more than twice as likely as women respondents to have reduced meals or cut back on food, received financial help, put off medical care or medication, or be unable to pay a bill.

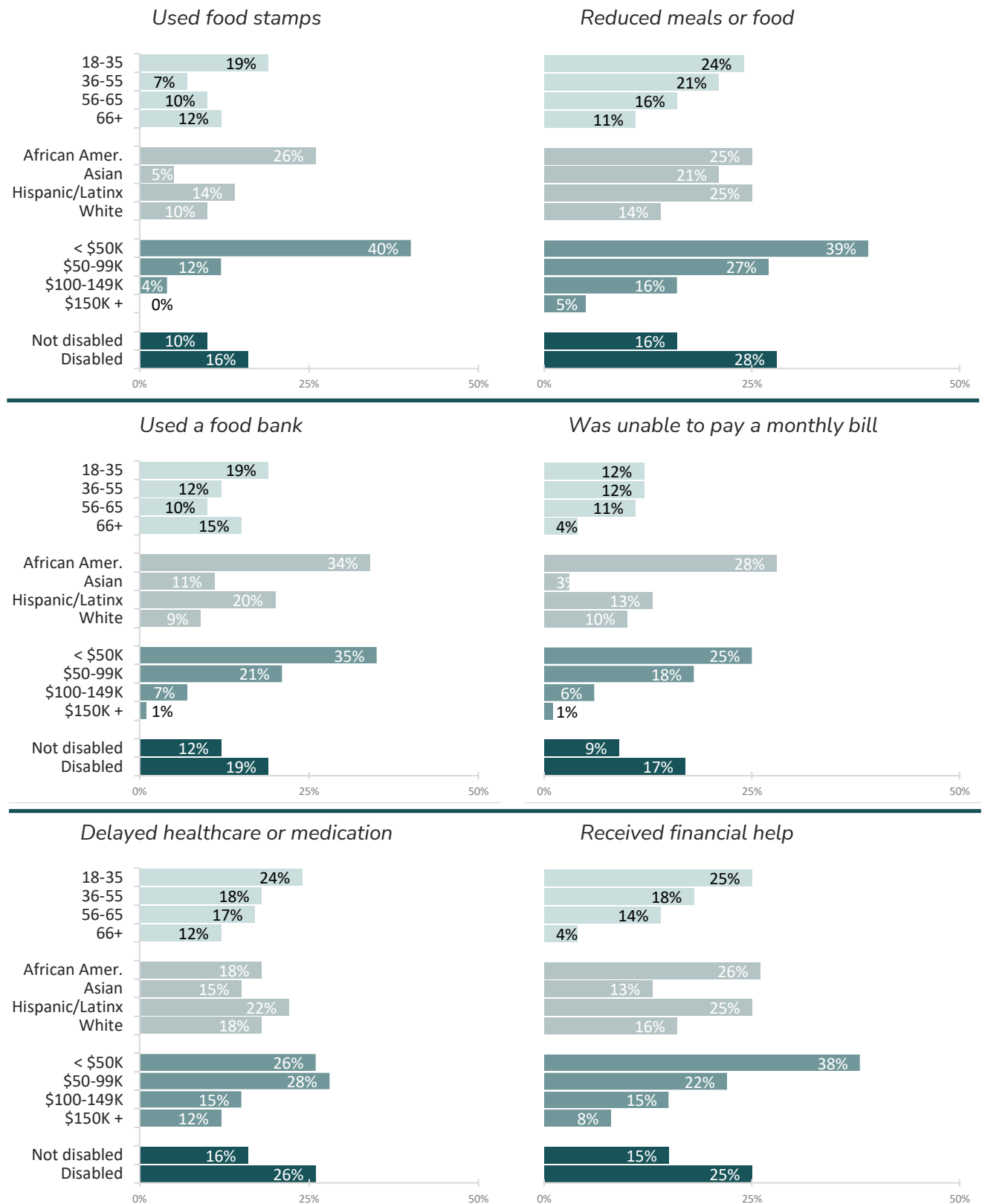
Figure 45. Nonbinary respondents are much more likely than women respondents to have had several kinds of financial struggles in the past 12 months



N: Nonbinary = 44; Women = 853. Percentages for nonbinary and women respondents were significantly different according to chi-square tests, as follows: \*\*  $p < .01$ ; \*\*\*  $p < .001$ .

The following set of figures show how respondents' ability to meet their basic needs varied by their age, race/ethnicity, income, and disability status. Not surprisingly, income is associated with difficulties meeting basic needs in all of the areas shown. In addition, the youngest survey respondents report being the most likely to have used food stamps, reduced meals or food, delayed healthcare, and received financial help from friends or family. African American respondents report significantly greater struggles than other racial/ethnic groups on several items; compared to one or more other groups, they are more likely to have used food stamps, used a food bank, or been unable to pay a monthly bill. Finally, respondents with a disability are more likely than their peers to have experienced all of these types of struggles.

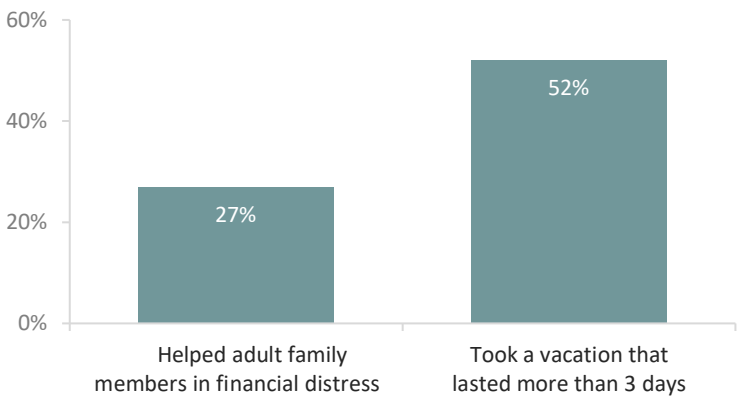
Figure 46. Ability to meet basic needs differed across age, race/ethnicity, income, and disability



For Ns, see Appendix B. Significant overall group differences were found for the following: Food stamps: Age, Race/ethnicity, Income, Disability. Reduced meals: Age, Race/ethnicity, Income, Disability. Food bank: Race/ethnicity, Income, Disability. Monthly bill: Race/ethnicity, Income, Disability. Healthcare: Age, Income, Disability. Financial help: Age, Income, Disability.

As the figure below shows, about half of respondents took a vacation of three days or more (52%) in the past 12 months, and about one in four (27%) helped an adult family member in financial distress.

Figure 47. Some respondents used their financial resources to help family or take a vacation

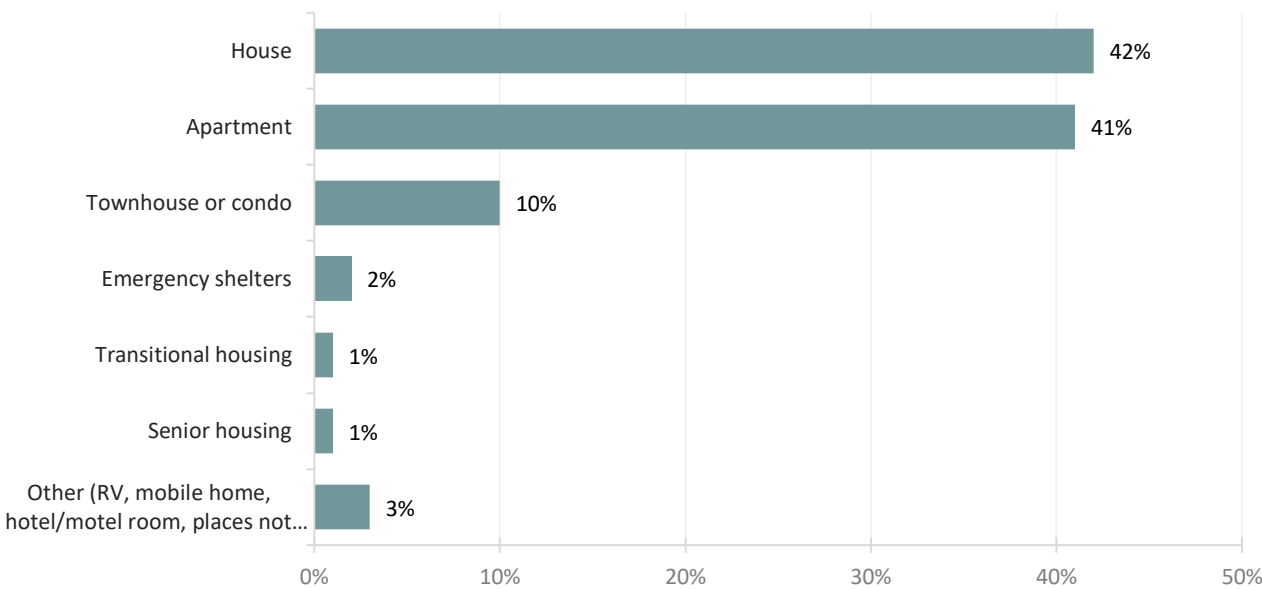


N: 897.

Housing

Survey respondents typically live in either a house or an apartment. Small percentages of respondents live in emergency shelters (2%), transitional housing (1%), or in nontraditional or nonpermanent living spaces (3%).

Figure 48. Respondents were equally likely to live in houses and apartments

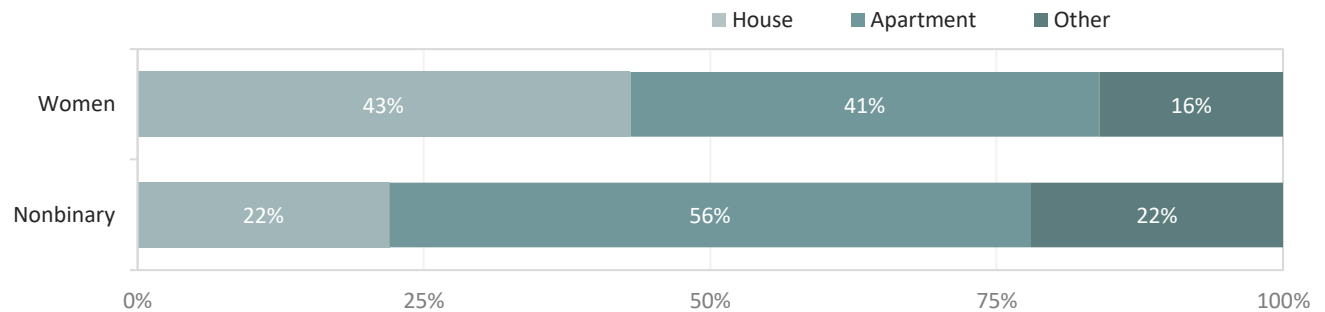


N: 907.



Nonbinary respondents are less likely to live in a house and more likely to live in an apartment than women respondents.

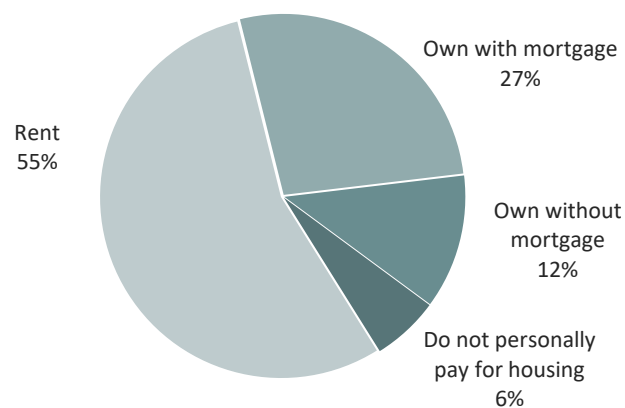
Figure 49. Nonbinary respondents are more likely than women respondents to live in an apartment



N: Nonbinary = 45; Women = 862. Percentages for nonbinary and women respondents were significantly different according to chi-square tests,  $p < .05$ .

More than half of the survey respondents (55%) are renting their homes, and 39% own their homes, either with or without a mortgage.

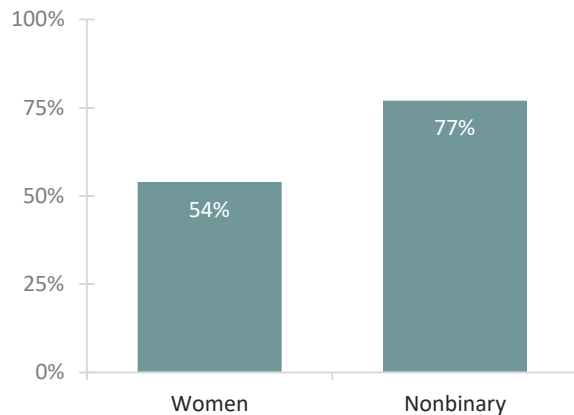
Figure 50. Most respondents rent their homes



N: 852.

Nonbinary respondents are significantly more likely than women respondents to be renting their homes.

Figure 51. About three fourths of nonbinary respondents are renters



N: Nonbinary = 39; Women = 813. Percentages for nonbinary and women respondents were significantly different according to chi-square tests,  $p < .05$ .

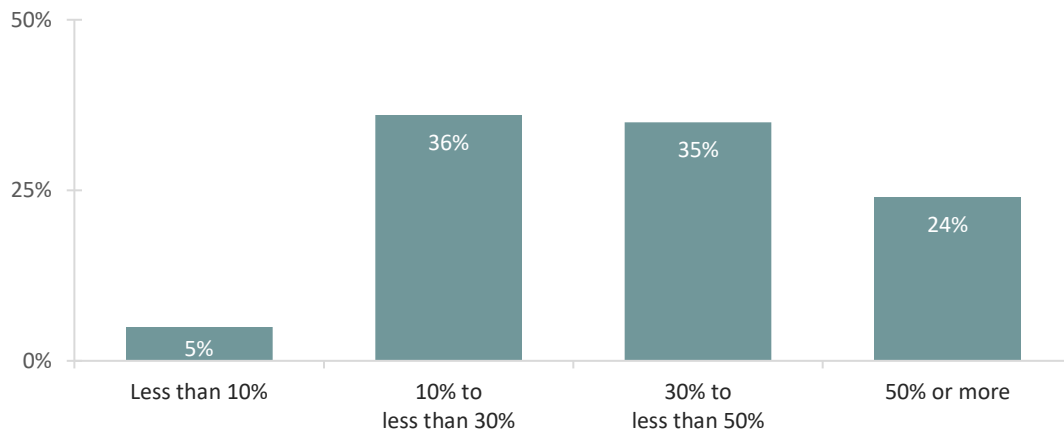
Figures 52 and 53 show how much of their income respondents are spending on housing and how difficult this is for them. Fifty-nine percent of respondents are spending 30% or more of their income on rent or mortgage. Despite this high percentage, these costs are a moderate or major problem for a smaller percentage of people – about 30%. There were no statistically significant differences for nonbinary and women respondents on these measures.<sup>9</sup>

“The high cost of rent and housing pushes engaged community members out of the city, increases the costs of everything else, and makes it difficult for many of my friends and colleagues to see a long term future living here.”

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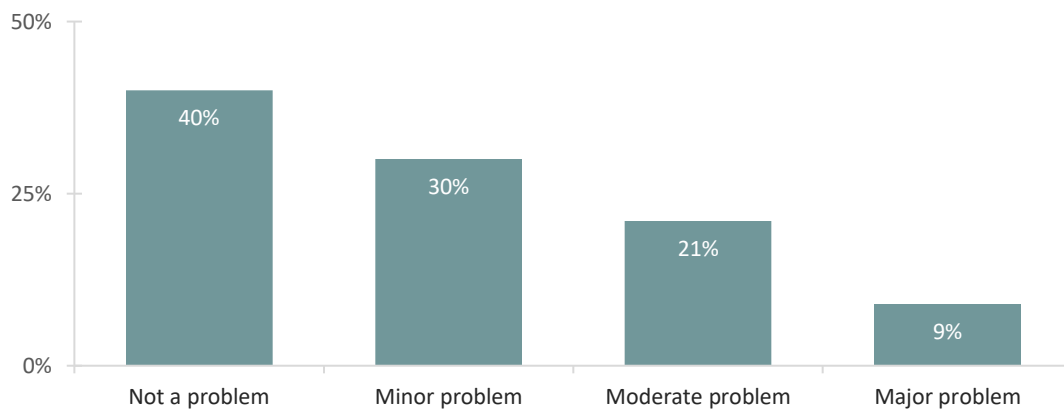
<sup>9</sup> Notably, however, the number of nonbinary respondents was reduced even further in this set of questions, due to skip patterns based on the type of housing respondents were living in. Thus, these comparisons were underpowered relative to other analyses.

Figure 52. Most respondents spend 30% or more of their income on their rent or mortgage



N: 651.

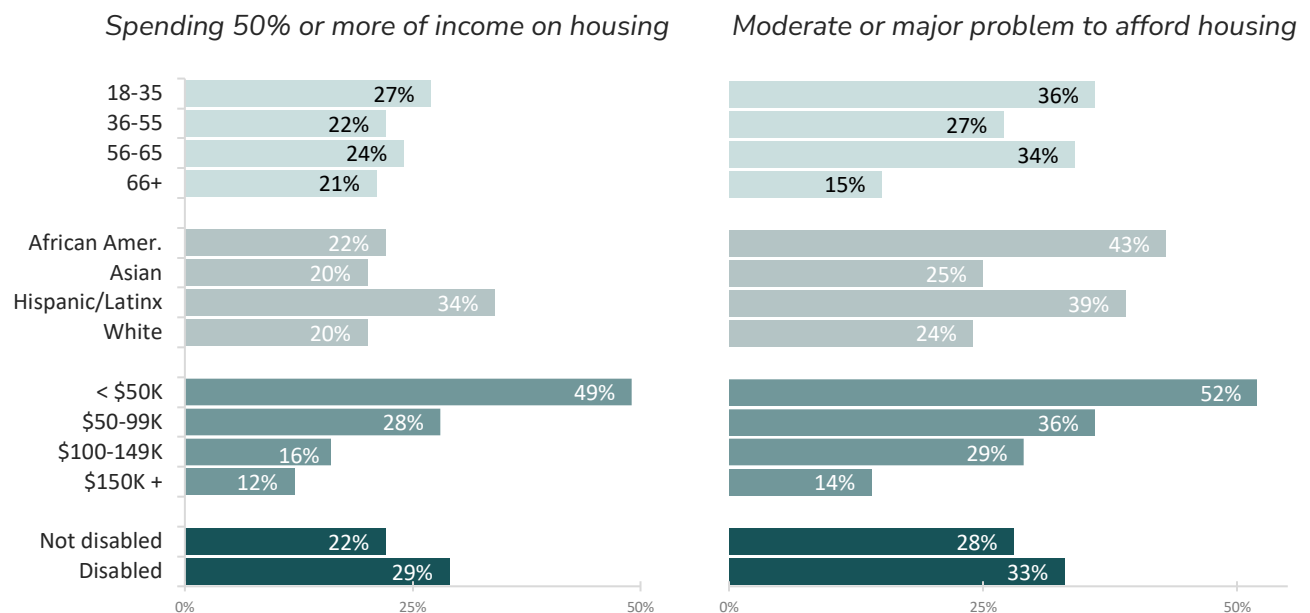
Figure 53. For about 3 in 10 respondents, affording housing is a moderate or major problem



N: 691

As the following set of figures show, Hispanic/Latinx and low-income respondents making less than \$50,000 per year are the most likely groups to be spending 50% or more of their incomes on housing. Substantial percentages of several groups report that affording their housing was a moderate or major problem, including those making less than \$50,000 per year (52%), African American respondents (43%) and Hispanic/Latinx respondents (39%).

Figure 54. Housing affordability differed across age, race/ethnicity, and income

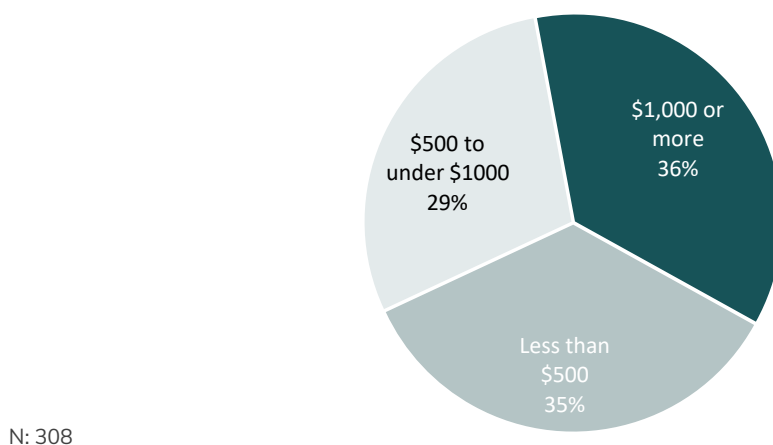


For Ns, see Appendix B. Significant overall group differences according to chi-square tests were found for the following: Percent of income: Income. Affording housing: Age, Race/ethnicity, Income.

## CHILDCARE AND EDUCATION COSTS

Thirty-five percent of the survey respondents are the parent or guardian of one or more children under 18 years old, and women respondents are more likely to be parents than nonbinary respondents.<sup>10</sup> Parents are spending significant amounts of money on monthly childcare costs, with 36% spending \$1,000 or more per month.

Figure 55. More than one third of parents are spending at least \$1,000 per month on childcare

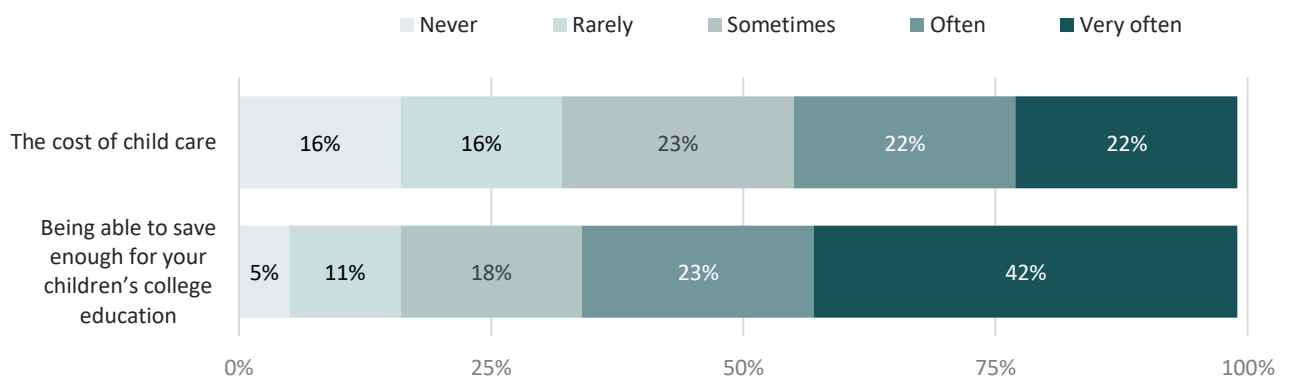


<sup>10</sup> Comparisons of nonbinary and women respondents in this section are not conducted due to sample sizes of 10 or less.

For 44% of respondents who are parents, these costs cause them to worry often or very often. However, they worry more often about saving enough for their child's college education. Forty-two percent worry about this very often, and 23% worry about it often.

"Childcare for children in the city is available only for the disadvantaged. What about parents who make enough not to qualify for childcare but yet can't afford to pay the cost of childcare."

Figure 56. Slightly less than half of parents worry often or very often about their childcare costs, and almost two thirds worry often or very often about saving for college



N's: 307, 311

## SECTION SUMMARY

### Overall Trends

More than three fourths of survey respondents (78%) are employed full-time or part-time, with about half (52%) reporting that they are paid a salary. Job satisfaction among these respondents is fairly high overall. Most respondents feel their jobs are stable and secure, and offer fair and stable pay, acknowledgement of their work contributions, and flexibility to take time off for personal or family matters. About one out of three respondents do not feel their job offers opportunities for growth, promotions, or advancement, however.

Respondents' household incomes range from under \$15,000 per year to more than \$200,000 per year. Roughly one third of respondents have household incomes of less than \$75,000 annually, another 36% make between \$75,000 and \$149,000 per year, and the remaining 30% make \$150,000 or more annually. Slightly less than half of respondents (45%) are satisfied or very satisfied with their personal financial situation.

Most respondents have basic financial accounts such as a checking account and a savings account. Among the 82% who have a credit card, about two thirds (65%) pay the full balance each month, with another 26% paying more than the minimum each month. One in five respondents carries student loan debt; about one third of those with a student loan owe \$50,000 or more.

Two thirds of respondents have a retirement account, and about half of those respondents have saved less than \$100,000 total. Retirement saving is the financial concern that weighs the most heavily on respondents; 56% worry about this often or very often. Slightly more than one third of respondents worry often or fairly often about healthcare costs, their debt, and paying their bills, but most would find it “not too difficult” to afford an unexpected expense of \$400.

Despite the general economic well-being of most respondents, a small but consistent subset have struggled with basic needs. In the past year, about one in five has reduced meals or cut back on food to save money, received financial help from friends or family, and/or put off getting healthcare or medications for financial reasons.

Housing is a major expense for most renters and homeowners. Fifty-nine percent of respondents are cost-burdened, meaning they are spending more than 30% of their income on housing, with about one quarter spending 50% or more of their income on housing. About three out of ten respondents feel their housing costs are a moderate or major problem for them.

The 35% of respondents who are parents or guardians of children under 18 face substantial costs for childcare, with more than one third paying \$1,000 or more monthly for childcare costs. Forty-four percent of these parents worry about these childcare costs often or very often. An even larger percentage (67%) worry often or very often about whether they can save enough for their child’s college education.

### *How Economic Security Looks Different for Key Groups*

The economic circumstances of different groups of survey respondents varied widely on some survey measures. Key differences based on respondents’ gender identity, age, income, race/ethnicity, and disability status are described below.

#### *Gender Identity*

Women and nonbinary respondents have similar work profiles – they work the same number of hours, have similar pay structures, and have similar levels of job satisfaction. Nonbinary and women respondents perceive their jobs in a similarly positive way as well, although nonbinary respondents are significantly more likely than women to feel that their job gives them stable and predictable pay.

Across several financial measures, nonbinary respondents appear to be struggling more than women. Nonbinary respondents have marginally lower household incomes and are marginally less satisfied with their personal finances than women. In addition, nonbinary respondents are less likely than women to have a savings account or a credit card, and they are twice as likely as women to have student loan debt. Nonbinary respondents are also less likely than women to have a retirement account, and even when they do, they have saved significantly less money than women with a retirement account. Compared to women respondents, nonbinary respondents worry significantly more frequently about job loss, healthcare costs, paying the bills, and their debt levels. They have struggled more with their basic needs in the past 12 months than women respondents have, and they also say that a \$400 emergency expense would be significantly more difficult for them to afford. In terms of housing, nonbinary respondents are more likely to be renters than women, but they are otherwise similar to women – there were no statistically significant differences in the portion of income they were spending or the perceived affordability of their housing costs.

### **Age**

Respondents who are in their prime income-earning years – those aged 36 to 55 – have significantly higher incomes than younger and older respondents. In this survey, respondents 66 and older have the lowest average earnings, but they worry significantly less often about their finances and have significantly higher levels of satisfaction with their personal finances than respondents in other age groups.

In contrast, many of the youngest survey respondents – those aged 18 to 35 – appear to be less economically stable than those who have had more time to develop financial security. These respondents are less likely than older respondents to have a checking account, a credit card, or a retirement account, and they are more likely to have student loan debt. They are the most likely age group to have used food stamps, reduced meals or food to save money, delayed healthcare or medication for financial reasons, and received financial help from friends or family.

### **Income**

Not surprisingly, household income is strongly associated with economic security and concerns about finances. Respondents with household incomes of less than \$50,000 per year are the least likely to report that their jobs have stable pay, stable hours, fair pay, job security, and opportunities for advancement. Those with the lowest incomes are significantly less satisfied with their jobs and their personal finances than all other incomes groups. As incomes decrease, worries about financial issues and difficulties with meeting basic needs increase. Housing is a huge part of the expenditures of low-income respondents. About half (49%) of those making less than \$50,000 per year were spending 50% or more of their incomes on housing.

## *Race/Ethnicity*

Among survey respondents, there are statistically significant race/ethnicity differences in household income. Asian and White respondents earn more than Hispanic/Latinx and African American respondents and are more satisfied with their personal financial situations.

In addition to having lower earnings, African American and Hispanic/Latinx respondents are significantly less likely than Asian and White respondents to have a saving account, a credit card, or a retirement account, and they are more likely to have student loan debt.

Hispanic/Latinx respondents generally worry the most often about a variety of financial concerns. In addition, African American respondents report worrying more frequently than White or Asian respondents about paying the bills and the amount of debt they have, and compared to one or more other racial/ethnic groups, they are more likely to have used food stamps, used a food bank, or been unable to pay a monthly bill in the past 12 months.

## *Disability*

Disability status is related to a host of measures related to economic security. On average, those without a disability earn more than those with a disability and are more satisfied with their personal financial situations. Respondents with a disability are significantly less likely to have a savings account, credit cards, and a retirement account, and they are more likely to have student loan debt than their peers.

Disabled respondents are more likely than their peers to have had difficulty meeting their basic needs in the past 12 months. They are more likely to have used food stamps, visited a food bank, reduced meals to save money, delayed their healthcare for financial reasons, and received financial help from friends or family. Moreover, disabled respondents worry significantly more frequently about a host of financial issues, including losing their job, healthcare costs, paying the bills, and the amount of debt they have.





## Civic Engagement and Political Empowerment



## Key Findings: Civic Engagement and Political Empowerment

- About half of respondents are satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of life in their community and their ability to participate in community activities that are important to them. However, most respondents do not feel a strong connection to their community.
- When asked about the extent to which different groups and leaders represent their interests and values, respondents are generally hesitant to strongly align themselves with any of the groups that were listed. Overall, respondents feel that advocacy-based nonprofit groups, labor unions, and the Democratic Party represent them the best, although the percentage of respondents saying these groups represent them “very well” is fairly small.
- About two thirds of respondents have done some form of volunteering in the past year. Other types of civic and political engagement that a large portion of respondents have done in the past year include signing an online petition or liking/following a campaign or organization, changing their purchasing behavior, and donating money to a campaign or cause.
- Among civic engagement activities that require more sustained commitments, 37% of respondents have ever organized a group for civic or political action, and 10% have ever run for a local office or school board.
- When asked about the power of their vote, about one third of respondents (34%) feel their vote matters a lot.
- Community engagement and participation in civic and political activities are driven by a complex combination of structural, social, demographic, and psychological factors. In this survey, respondents’ gender identity, age, income, race/ethnicity, and disability status were all related to different types and levels of community and political engagement.

## INTRODUCTION

The third pillar of DOSW's work addresses community members' civic engagement and empowerment to participate in political activities and advocacy. This topic area broadly includes both people's sense of community and their efforts to support and engage in activities that will change their communities for the better.

The Phase 1 secondary data report suggested a mixed picture of strengths and needs for women's civic engagement in San Francisco. For example, voting rates among San Francisco women were revealed to be high, as were their self-reported levels of engagement in elections. However, women were less likely than San Francisco men to feel they could definitely contact an elected or other government official who represents their community. Additionally, a recent analysis from 2023 found that women were slightly underrepresented among elected officials in San Francisco.

There is much to learn about the civic engagement and political empowerment of women and nonbinary individuals in San Francisco. Identified needs from Phase 1 include gaining a basic understanding of how connected people feel to their communities and how empowered they feel to make change. We also need a better understanding of whether women and nonbinary individuals feel that our major civic groups and leaders represent their interests and values. Additionally, we need to learn more about the kinds of political efforts the community is engaging in, and at what rates they are doing so.

The Phase 2 survey explored each of these topics, and results are described in the section that follows, for women and nonbinary respondents together and comparatively (whenever sample sizes allow). When major statistically significant differences emerged as a function of race/ethnicity, age, income level, or disability status, those results are noted in this section, with specific findings presented in Appendix B.

## SURVEY FINDINGS REVIEWED IN THIS SECTION

### Community Connections:

- Satisfaction with community quality of life and ability to participate in community activities
- Connections to community
- Feelings of representation by civic groups and leaders

### Civic and Political Engagement

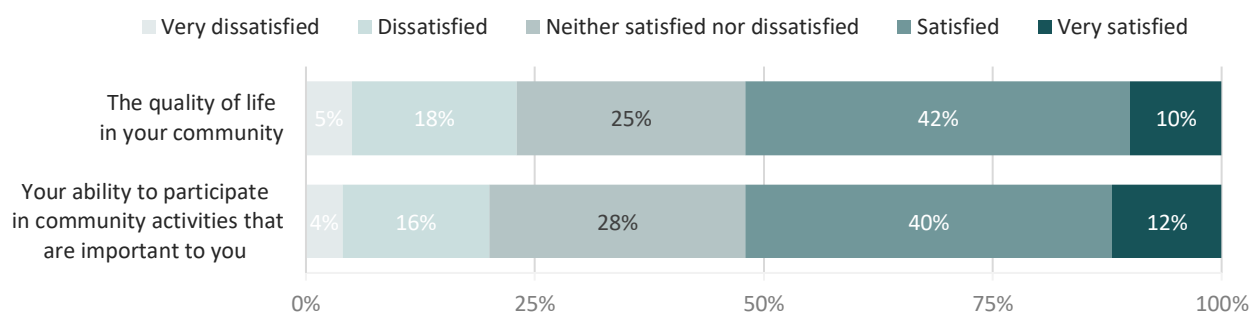
- Volunteering
- Engagement in political activity
- Impact of your vote

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Respondents were asked about the quality of life in their community and their ability to participate in community activities that are important to them. While about half are satisfied or very satisfied with these aspects of their community, 23% are dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the quality of life in their community, and 20% are dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with their ability to participate in community activities that are important to them.

"It is difficult to build a social circle. Many people are busy with work and it is difficult to find like-minded friends."

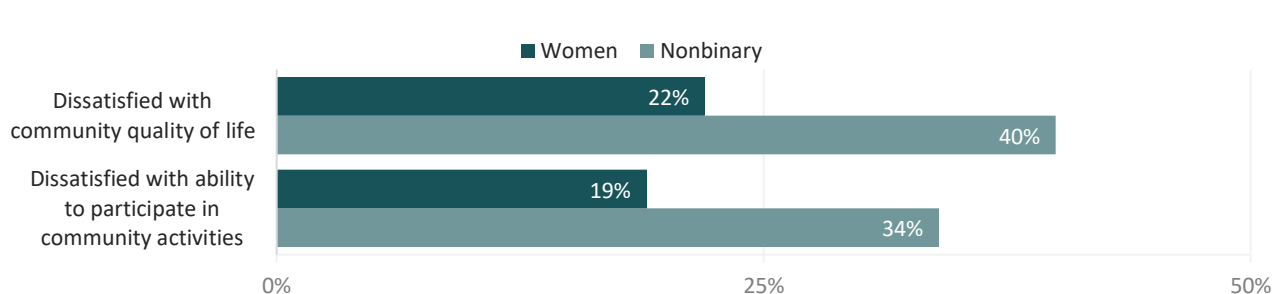
Figure 57. About half of respondents are satisfied with the quality of life in their community and their ability to participate in community activities



N: 902

Nonbinary respondents are significantly more likely than women to say they are dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with both the quality of life in their community and their ability to participate in community activities that are important to them.

Figure 58. Nonbinary respondents are more likely than women respondents to be “dissatisfied” or “very dissatisfied” with their communities and their ability to participate in them



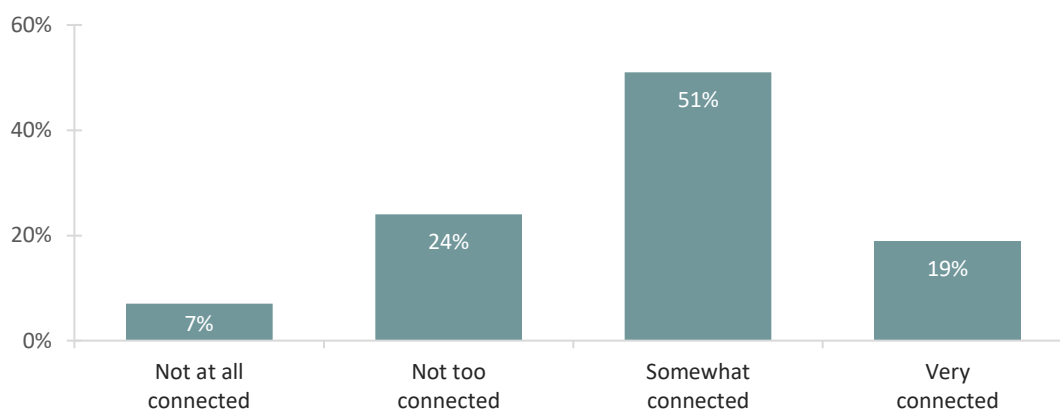
N's: Nonbinary = 44-45; Women = 857-858. Percentages for nonbinary and women respondents were significantly different according to chi-square tests,  $p < .05$ .

African American respondents are more likely than other racial/ethnic groups to report being dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the quality of life in their community and their ability to

participate in community activities, as are those with a disability. Having higher income is positively related to satisfaction with the quality of life in one's community, but income is unrelated to respondents' satisfaction with their ability to participate in community activities. Age is unrelated to respondents' satisfaction with the quality of life in their community or their ability to participate in community activities.

About half of respondents (51%) describe themselves as being “somewhat connected” to their community. Nineteen percent feel very connected to their community. Nonbinary and women respondents do not differ in how connected they feel to their community.

Figure 59. Only about one in five respondents feel “very connected” to their community

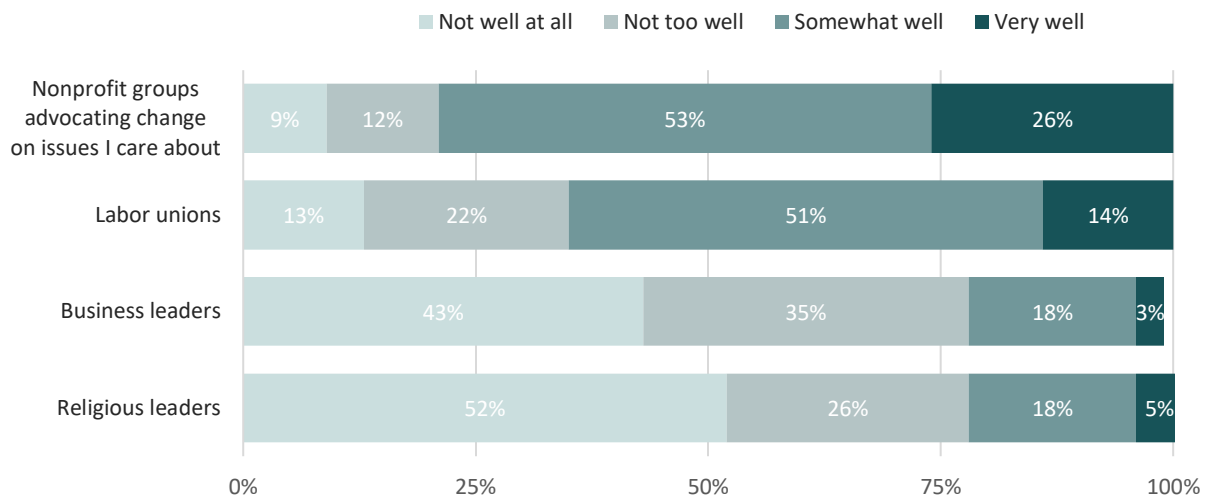


N: 904.

The concept of “community” can mean many different things. In addition to considering place-based communities, many people define their own communities according to shared interests, attitudes, and values. A series of survey questions asked respondents about the extent to which they felt that different types of civic and political entities represented their interests and values.

Figure 60 shows results for civic groups and leaders and Figure 61 shows results for political entities. Notably, none of the groups are seen by many respondents as representing them very well. However, respondents feel the most aligned with nonprofit groups advocating for change on issues they care about, followed by labor unions. Religious leaders and business leaders are perceived to be the least representative of respondents' interests and values.

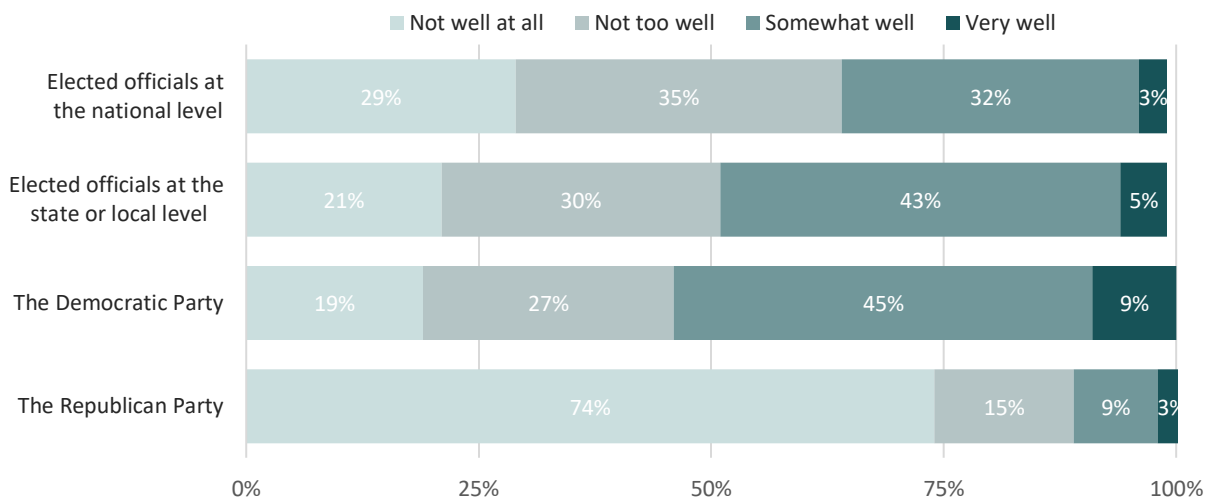
Figure 60. Most respondents feel that nonprofit advocacy groups and labor unions represent their interests and values somewhat or very well



N's: 891, 886, 891, 888.

Respondents feel that the Democratic Party and state and local elected officials are representing them better than national elected officials and the Republican Party; however, large percentages of respondents do not feel that any of these political groups are representing them well.

Figure 61. None of the political groups are seen by respondents as strongly representing their interests and values

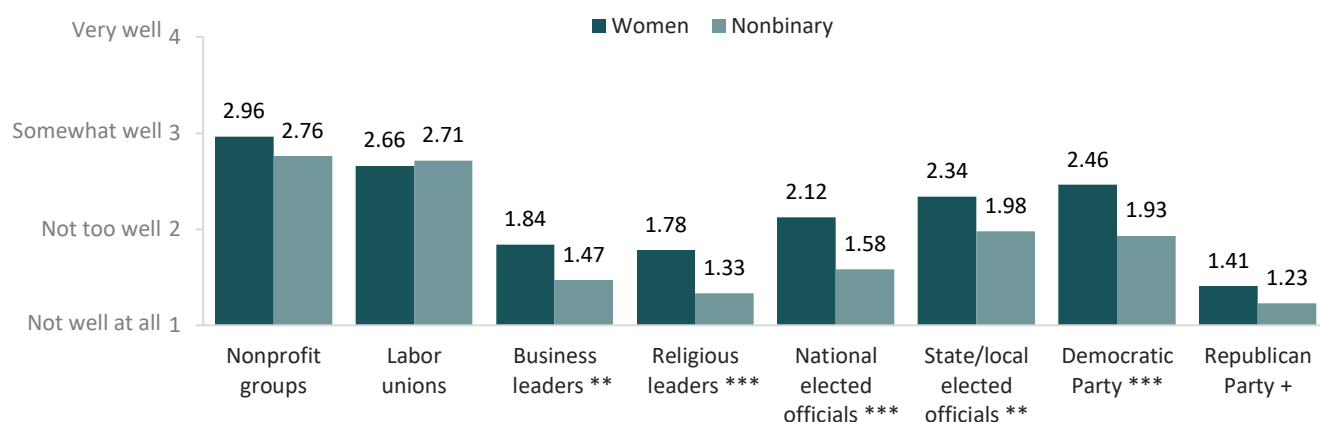


N's: 891, 893, 887, 891.



Women respondents report feeling that almost all of these groups represent their interests and values better than nonbinary respondents feel they do. Differences are especially pronounced for women and nonbinary respondents' perceptions of the Democratic Party, national elected officials, and religious leaders.

Figure 62. Compared to nonbinary respondents, women feel better represented by civic leaders, elected officials, and political parties

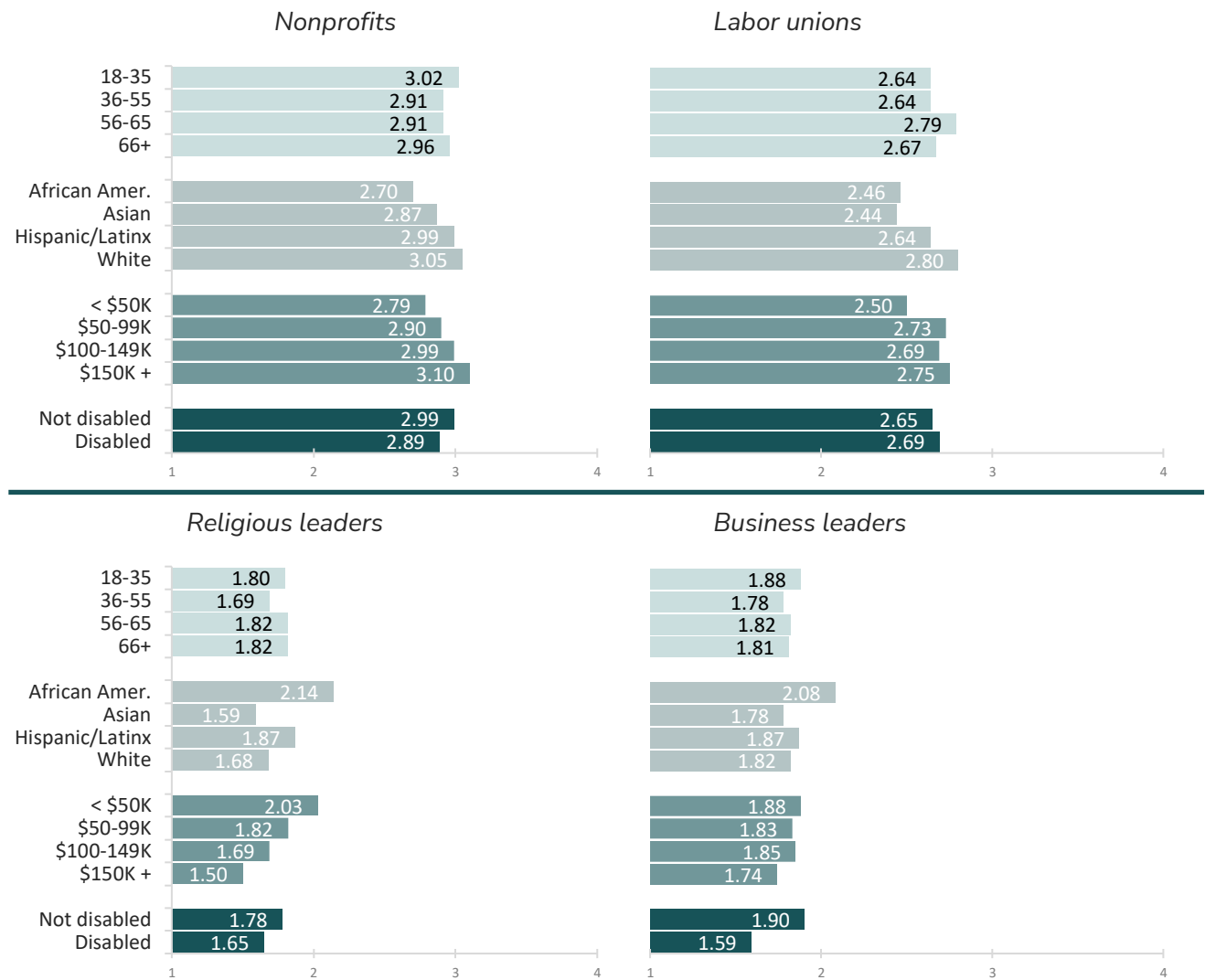


N's: Nonbinary = 42-43; Women = 845-850. Mean scores for nonbinary and women respondents were significantly different according to t-tests, as follows: +  $p < .10$ ; \*\*  $p < .01$ ; \*\*\*  $p < .001$ .

The following set of figures shows how well respondents from different age, race/ethnicity, income, and disability groups felt that the various civic entities represented their values and interests. Notably, age is not significantly related to perceptions of any of these groups. White respondents feel significantly more represented by advocacy-related nonprofits than African American do, and they feel significantly more represented by labor unions than both African American and Asian respondents do. In contrast, African American respondents feel significantly more represented by religious leaders than either White or Asian respondents. The highest-income respondents feel that advocacy-based nonprofits and labor unions represent them more than the lowest-income respondents feel they do, whereas the lowest-income respondents feel that religious leaders represent them better than the highest-income respondents feel they do. Compared to respondents with a disability, those without a disability feel that religious leaders and business leaders are (respectively) marginally and significantly better representatives of their interests and values.

"The most challenging thing is the political landscape not representing my communities' values."

Figure 63. Most respondent subgroups feel nonprofits represented them better than other civic entities did



For Ns, see Appendix B. Significant overall group differences were found for the following: Nonprofits: Race/ethnicity, Income. Labor unions: Race/ethnicity, Income. Religious leaders: Race/ethnicity, Income. Business leaders: Disability. Results of post hoc comparisons of group means are available by request.

There are more pronounced differences in how these groups perceive political groups and officials. Respondents older than 55 generally feel better represented by national leaders and the Democratic Party than respondents 55 and under do, with a similar but weaker trend for state and local officials. Although respondents generally do not feel that the Republican Party represents them well, those aged 18 to 35 felt the party represents them significantly better than any of the older respondent groups feel it does.

Compared to Hispanic/Latinx and Asian respondents, White respondents feel state and local and national elected officials represent their interests and values significantly better. (African American respondents' perceptions are not statistically different from any of the other

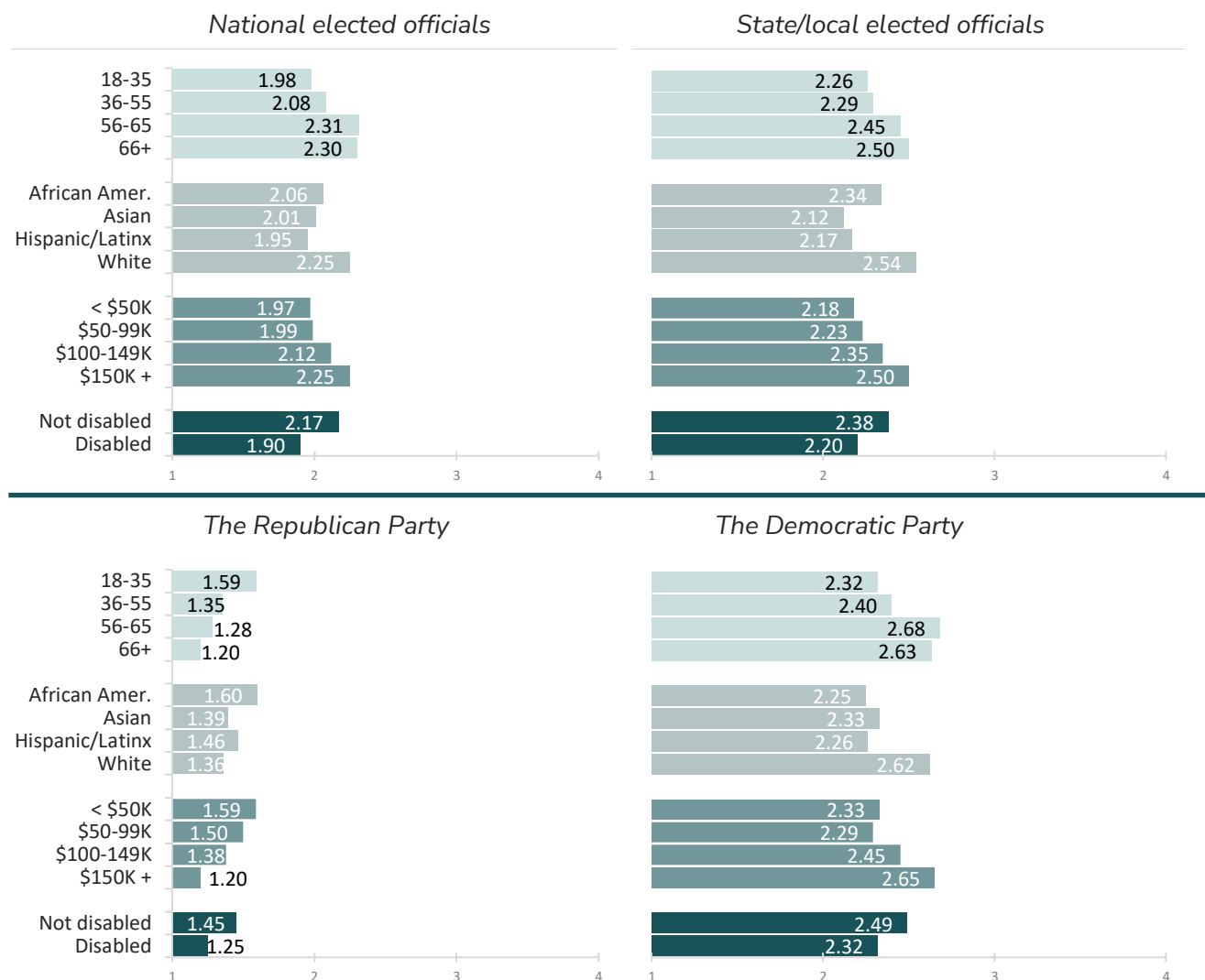


groups.) White respondents also feel significantly more aligned with the Democratic Party than any of the other race/ethnicity groups. There are no race/ethnicity differences in perceptions of the Republican Party.

Those in the highest income group feel that state and local and national elected officials, along with the Democratic Party, represent their interests and values the most. This difference is statistically significant for the two lowest-income groups. Notably, the two lowest income groups also feel that the Republican Party represents them significantly more than the highest income group feel it does.

Finally, respondents with a disability feel significantly less represented by all the political groups measured in the survey than non-disabled respondents do.

Figure 64. Age, race/ethnicity, income, and disability status were related to how much respondents felt different political entities represented them

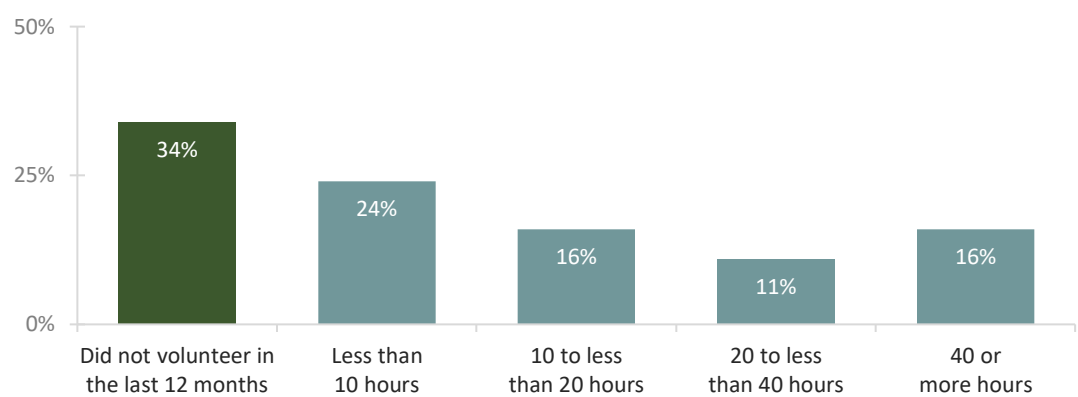


For Ns, see Appendix B. Significant overall group differences were found for the following: National elected officials: Age, Race/ethnicity, Income, Disability. State/local elected officials: Age, Race/ethnicity, Income, Disability. Republican Party: Age, Income, Disability. Democratic Party: Age, Race/ethnicity, Income, Disability. Results of post hoc comparisons of group means are available by request.

# CIVIC AND POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT

As Figure 65 shows, most respondents have volunteered some of their time during the past 12 months. The largest percentage of volunteering respondents (24%) spent less than 10 hours volunteering. Sixteen percent of respondents volunteered more than 40 hours of their time in the previous 12 months. Nonbinary and women respondents are equally likely to have volunteered in the past 12 months.

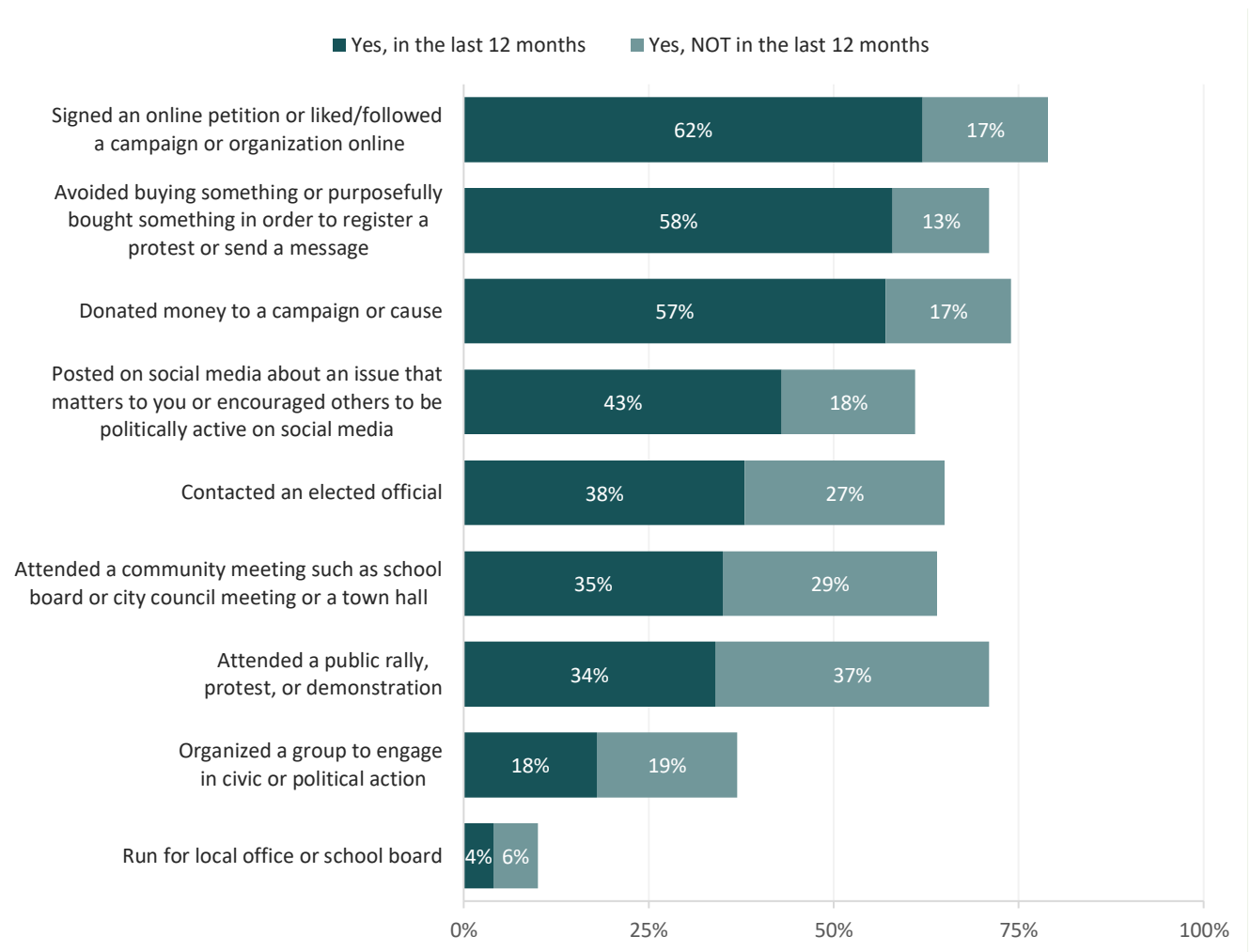
Figure 65. About two thirds of respondents volunteered in the past 12 months



N: 903.

Survey respondents engaged in a variety of civic and political activities in the past year or in prior years. The most common activities respondents engaged in during the past 12 months were online activity (signing a petition, liking or following a campaign), changing their purchasing to align with their views or values, and donating money to a campaign or cause. Eighteen percent of respondents organized a group to engage in civic or political action in the past year, and 4% ran for local office or a school board in the past year.

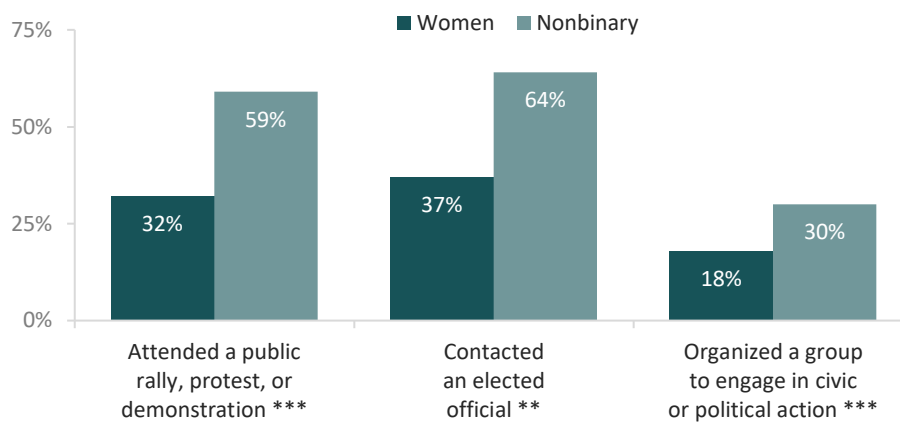
Figure 66. More than half of respondents had engaged in online political activity, changed their purchasing, or donated money to a campaign or cause in that past 12 months.



N'S: 900, 902, 902, 901, 901, 904, 903, 901, 901.

Nonbinary respondents are more likely than women respondents to have engaged in several political actions in the past year. They are almost twice as likely to have attended a rally or protest, contacted an elected official, or organized a group for civic or political action.

Figure 67. Nonbinary respondents are much more likely than women respondents to have engaged in political action in the past 12 months

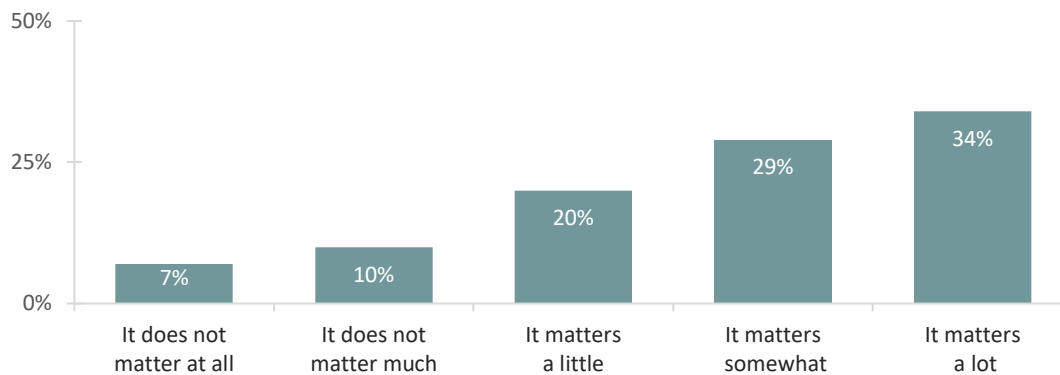


N: Nonbinary = 44; Women = 853. Percentages for nonbinary and women respondents were significantly different according to chi-square tests, as follows: \*\*  $p < .01$ ; \*\*\*  $p < .001$ .

Respondents' age is associated with different types of political engagement, but patterns varied based on the type of political activity. White respondents are significantly more likely than respondents from any of the other race/ethnicity groups to report having engaged in one or more of the following activities: signed an online petition, donated money to a campaign, changed purchasing patterns, attended a rally, attended a community meeting, contacted an elected official. Comparisons by income generally suggest that as income increases, the percentage of respondents engaging in different political activity increases as well. Compared to other respondents, those with a disability are more likely to have ever contacted an elected official or organized a group for political action, but they are less likely to have run for local office or a school board.

Respondents have differing views on the power of their vote. While about one third of respondents (34%) feel their vote matters a lot, 17% feel it does not matter at all or very much. Nonbinary and women respondents did not differ in their perceptions of how much their vote matters.

Figure 68. About one third of respondents feel their vote matters a lot



N: 868

On average, those older than 55 feel that their vote matters significantly more than younger respondents do, and those with higher incomes feel their vote mattered more than those with lower incomes do. Race/ethnicity and disability status are not significantly associated with the perceived importance of one's vote.

## SECTION SUMMARY

### Overall Trends

About half of respondents are satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of life in their community and their ability to participate in community activities that are important to them. However, most respondents do not feel a strong connection to their community. About half of respondents (51%) feel only somewhat connected to their community, and almost one third say they are not at all or not too connected to their community.

When asked about the extent to which different groups and leaders represent their interests and values, respondents are generally hesitant to strongly align themselves with any of the groups that were surveyed. Overall, respondents feel that advocacy-based nonprofit groups, labor unions, and the Democratic Party represent them the best, although the percentage of respondents saying these groups represent them very well is fairly small. In contrast, large percentages of respondents feel that the Republican Party, religious leaders, and business leaders do not represent them well at all.

About two thirds of respondents have done some form of volunteering in the past year. Other types of civic and political engagement that a large portion of respondents have done in the past year include signing an online petition or liking/following a campaign or organization, changing their purchasing behavior, and donating money to a campaign or cause. Among civic engagement activities that require more sustained commitments, about 37% of respondents

have ever organized a group for civic or political action, and 10% have ever run for a local office or school board. When asked about the power of their vote, about one third of respondents (34%) feel their vote matters a lot.

### *How Civic Engagement and Political Empowerment Looks Different for Key Groups*

Community engagement and participation in civic and political activities are driven by a complex combination of structural, social, demographic, and psychological factors.<sup>11</sup> In this survey, respondents' gender identity, age, income, race/ethnicity, and disability status were all related to different types and levels of community and political engagement. A summary of these findings is provided below.

#### *Gender Identity*

Even though they feel similar levels of connection with their community, nonbinary respondents are less satisfied than women are with both the quality of life in their community and their ability to participate in community activities. Nonbinary individuals generally feel like no major organizations or leaders represent their interests and values well, and on average, they feel less well-represented by these entities than women do.

Importantly, however, nonbinary respondents are taking political action to ensure their voices are heard. Compared to women respondents, nonbinary respondents are much more likely in the past year to have attended a rally, protest, or demonstration; contacted an elected official; or organized a group for civic or political action.

#### *Age*

Age is more strongly related to respondents' political affiliations and empowerment than with their community connections and civic engagement. Age was not related to respondents' satisfaction with the quality of life in their community or their ability to participate in community activities, and people of different ages engaged in different types of political activity. While age was not significantly related to perceptions of how well civic groups or leaders represent them, respondents older than 55 generally feel better represented by national leaders and the Democratic Party than respondents 55 and under do, with a similar but weaker trend for state and local officials. Perhaps because of this, those older than 55 feel that their vote matters significantly more than younger respondents do.

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<sup>11</sup> For example, see Barrett, M., & Brunton-Smith, I. (2017). Political and civic engagement and participation: Towards an integrative perspective. In *Framing Civic Engagement, Political Participation and Active Citizenship in Europe* (pp. 5-28). Routledge.

## *Income*

Having higher income is positively related to stronger community connections and greater levels of civic and political engagement and empowerment. As incomes increase, satisfaction with the quality of life in one's community increases as well. Respondents with the highest incomes also feel that a number of civic and political entities represent them better than lower-income respondents feel they do. These include advocacy-based nonprofits, labor unions, state and local as well as national elected officials, and the Democratic Party. In contrast, lower-income respondents are more likely than higher-income respondents to feel that religious leaders and the Republican Party represent their values and interests – although neither of these was rated as being highly representative of any of the groups examined. When looking at political engagement, comparisons by income generally suggest that as income increases, the percentage of respondents engaging in different political activity increases as well, and those with higher incomes feel their vote matters more than those with lower incomes do.

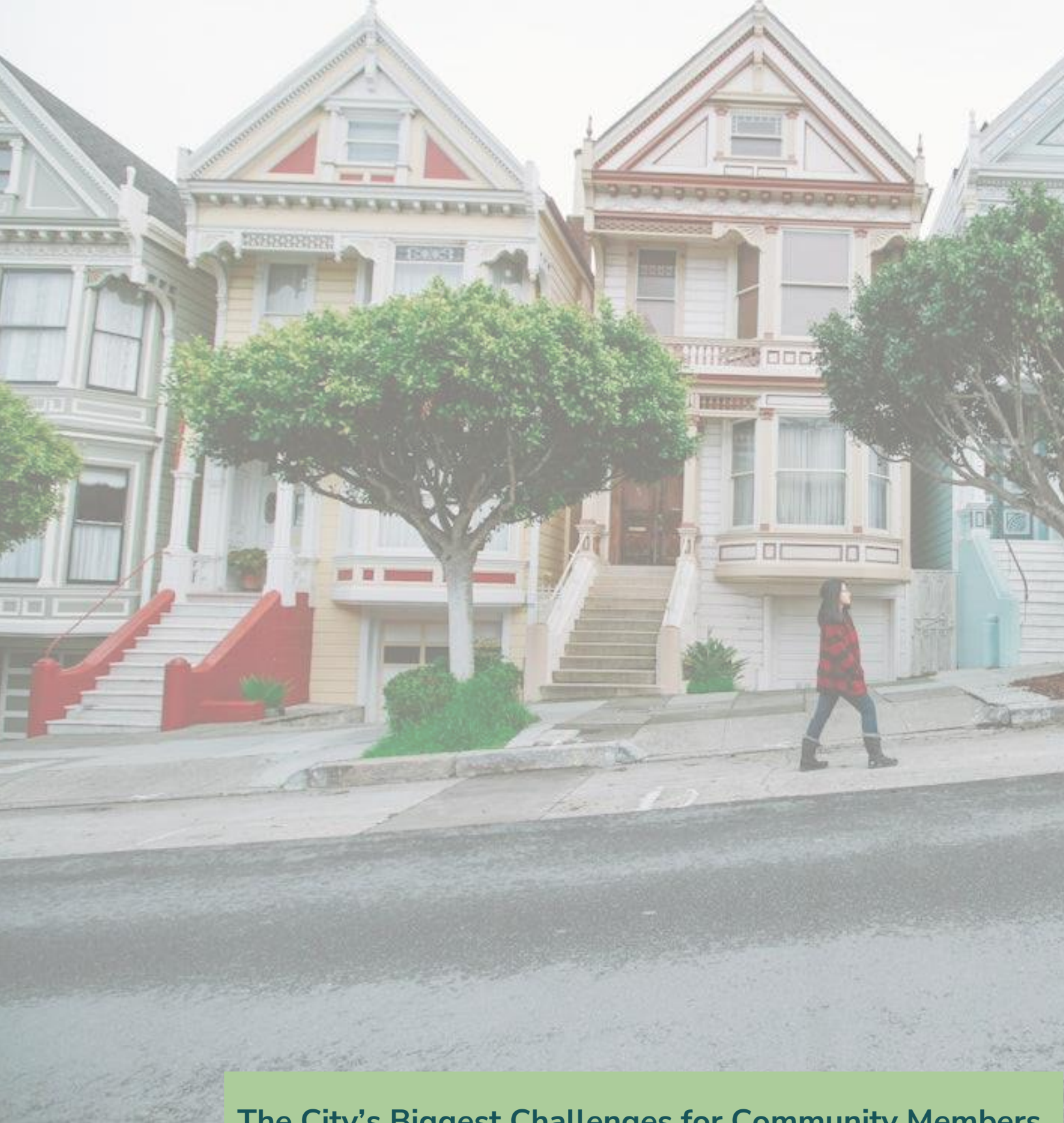
## *Race/Ethnicity*

Respondents from different racial/ethnic groups do not all share the same perspective about their community, and they report differences in their levels of civic engagement. African American respondents in this survey are more likely than other groups to be dissatisfied with the quality of life in their community and their ability to participate in community activities. White respondents feel the most well-represented by many of the core civic and political groups in this country, and they are significantly more likely than respondents from other race/ethnicity groups to engage in several types of political activities. Despite these differences in feelings of representation and levels of engagement, respondents from different race/ethnicity groups continue to have similar perceptions of the power of their vote.

## *Disability*

Compared with those who are not disabled, respondents with a disability are significantly more likely to be dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the quality of life in their community and their ability to participate in community activities. Respondents with a disability are less likely than others to feel that many major civic and political groups represent their interests and values. However, disabled respondents have engaged in some types of political activity at higher rates than non-disabled respondents have, such as contacting an elected official and organizing a group for political action, but they are less likely to have run for local office or a school board. Disability status is not significantly associated with perceptions of the importance of one's vote.





## The City's Biggest Challenges for Community Members





## Key Findings: The City's Biggest Challenges

- When asked in an open-ended format about the biggest challenges of living, working, or going to school in San Francisco, 745 respondents provided responses – and many provided passionate and lengthy answers to this question.
- Five types of challenges were named by more than 100 respondents, including:
  - The overall cost of living: Respondents noted how difficult it was to afford an array of different costs in the city.
  - Crime and safety: Concerns related to personal safety, property crime, harassment, and walking and biking safely around San Francisco were commonly mentioned.
  - Affordable housing: More specific than general cost of living concerns were comments indicating people's frustrations with their lack of suitable housing options and the low likelihood that they would be able to stay in San Francisco long-term due to high housing costs.
  - The unhoused/mentally ill/substance-addicted population: Even though almost none of the respondents are facing these issues themselves, a large number of their comments described how difficult this problem has been for their own lives and the quality of life in their community.
  - Transportation-related issues: Many respondents felt there were no good transportation options in the city, with unsafe or unclean public transportation, inaccessible public transport, or poor parking.

## INTRODUCTION

To complement and enrich the closed-ended questions in the community survey, respondents were also given the opportunity to write in their own words about the types of challenges they were having as San Francisco community members. Many wrote fairly long answers to this question. In addition, their responses often touched on multiple issues, rather than on a single issue – underscoring the interconnectedness of different aspects of community members' quality of life. For example, if someone is having trouble affording her apartment, she might have to work long hours at a very stressful job. This in turn affects her mental health, and she may find that she has little time for other things, such as exercising or participating in civic and community activities.

While a comprehensive summary of all the open-ended responses is beyond the scope of this report, this section describes the most common themes and issues that respondents felt to be challenging about living, working, and/or going to school in San Francisco. To that end, the themes that were mentioned by a large portion of respondents (operationalized as at least 100 people out of the 745 submitted responses) are briefly discussed.

### CHALLENGE #1: SAN FRANCISCO'S COST OF LIVING

By a large margin, the most common theme in respondents' descriptions of San Francisco's challenges was how expensive the city is. This was often combined with descriptions about how this challenge affected other parts of respondents' lives as well. There were some sub-themes in this concern including:

- Concerns about the prominent – and growing – income inequality in San Francisco
- Worries about the uncertainty of being able to continue living in or retire/grow old in San Francisco in the future due to high costs
- Frequent mentions of how expensive it is to be a parent in San Francisco, with several respondents pointing out that they barely make enough to get by, but their incomes are still too high to allow them to qualify for subsidized city services such as childcare.
- Comments about the loss of uniqueness, vibrancy, and character of the city due to people pursuing artistic or creative professions being priced out

Some illustrative quotes about these issues are shown in the table that follows.

Table 7. Cost of Living Concerns: Sub-Themes and Illustrative Quotes

Cost of Living Sub-Theme	Illustrative Quote
Income inequality concerns	"Extreme inequality in wealth gap between tech workers and others."
Future ability to stay in the city	"Knowing if I can continue to work and earn enough to stay here as I grow older."
Expense of parenting	"Cost of living and raising a child in San Francisco on middle class salaries (lots of support for lower income and rich, but middle class falls through the cracks)."
Loss of uniqueness/artists/creatives	"I also worry that we're creating a city of mostly restaurants, high-end boutiques, and chain stores. What is going to be unique about SF in the future, especially as the old places die out?"

## CHALLENGE #2: CRIME AND SAFETY CONCERNS

The second most frequently cited challenge about being in San Francisco for respondents dealt with crime and safety issues. These concerns varied somewhat, but most addressed one or more of the following:

- Concerns about personal safety and/or experiencing crime in areas where there are significant numbers of unhoused, mentally ill, and/or addicted people around, with many commenters describing their worries about their children seeing illegal behavior or being victimized
- Concerns about harassment and/or catcalls (also often by the unhoused, mentally ill, and/or addicted)
- Concerns about pedestrian and bicycle safety
- Comments suggesting that these safety concerns are having an impact on people's mental health or their connections to their community

Some illustrative quotes about these issues are shown in the table that follows.

Table 8. Crime and Safety Concerns: Sub-Themes and Illustrative Quotes

Crime and Safety Sub-Theme	Illustrative Quote
Safety around unhoused, mentally ill, and/or addicted	"I'm afraid of being randomly attacked by a crazy person on the street and on the bus. There are a lot of deranged people in San Francisco."
Harassment	"Public safety with harassment and catcalls on transportation and around BART stations."
Pedestrian and bicycle safety	"I feel that bicycling and walking in the city is not as physically safe as it could be. Cars are prioritized, and speeding & other dangerous driving is too often allowed."
Impact of safety concerns on quality of life	"It is very stressful to constantly be on edge/wondering if someone in crisis will lunge at me (happens constantly), impede my movement, or worse. I feel similarly every time I am on public transit, that I have to stay hypervigilant to keep myself safe."

### CHALLENGE #3: SAN FRANCISCO'S LACK OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Closely related to comments about the overall cost of living were responses that focused more specifically on the challenges of finding and affording appropriate housing in San Francisco. Some sub-themes in this set included:

- People living in housing that does not suit their needs, but being unable to afford something else
- People describing how they have or will have to move out of the city to afford housing

Some illustrative quotes about these issues are shown in the table that follows.

Table 9. Affordable Housing Concerns: Sub-Themes and Illustrative Quotes

Affordable Housing Sub-Theme	Illustrative Quote
People feel stuck in inadequate housing	"we [are] lucky can afford current rent but we live in a tiny apartment with 2 very energetic and growing kids. We are not happy about feeling stuck and unable to afford to move while being close to our community, school and neighborhood we love."
People have or will have to move away due to housing costs	"I will have to sell my home of 70 years because I cannot afford to maintain it. Contractors and handy people and materials are too expensive. I hope I don't have to leave San Francisco as I'm a proud native, but I might have to and that depresses me beyond belief."

## CHALLENGE #4: IMPACTS OF UNHOUSED, MENTALLY ILL, AND SUBSTANCE-ADDICTED INDIVIDUALS

There were well over 100 comments that mentioned the large number of unhoused, mentally ill, and/or substance-addicted people on the streets or in other public spaces as a major challenge of living, working, or going to school in San Francisco. Challenge #2 (Crime and Safety) already described many comments expressing safety concerns about these populations. However, there were additional concerns about these populations, including the following sub-themes:

- The failure of city leaders to address the crisis adequately
- The psychological effects of seeing these populations struggling in the community on a daily basis
- Concerns about the cleanliness of city streets and public transportation

Some illustrative quotes about these issues are shown in the table that follows.

Table 10. Concerns About Unhoused/Mentally Ill/Substance-Abused: Sub-Themes and Illustrative Quotes

Unhoused, Mentally Ill, Substance-Addicted Sub-Theme	Illustrative Quote
Failure of city leaders	"The SF government's continued inaction on homelessness, open drug use and dealing, covid mitigation, and climate change is the most challenging for me. The drug use/dealing create unsafe environments in many areas of the city, and it is frustrating to live in a city whose city officials have so little regard for the health and safety of its residents."
Psychological impacts	"Seeing unhoused members of our community struggling to survive, overdosing, and being kicked around by bad policies that will do anything but house people is a constant stressor for me."
Cleanliness	"Homelessness, having so many people living outside and leaving garbage and urine and feces everywhere."

## CHALLENGE #5: TRANSPORTATION-RELATED

More than 100 comments were also provided relating to challenges with transportation in San Francisco. Once again, some of these comments also overlap with other categories described previously – particularly crime and safety and unhoused/mentally ill/substance-addicted individuals. The following sub-themes were noted in this category:

- Safety issues related to public transportation
- Complaints about the lack of adequate and speedy public transportation options
- Barriers for those with a disability, both for those who use cars and those who ride public transportation
- Parking challenges

Some illustrative quotes about these issues are shown in the table that follows.

Table 11. Transportation Concerns: Sub-Themes and Illustrative Quotes

Transportation Sub-Theme	Illustrative Quote
Safety	"My 9 y/o daughter is scared of using public transportation because of the condition of the 24th street plaza and the interactions with drug users we have had on buses and trains."
Inadequate and slow public transit	"Personally, the frequency and speed of public transit is often a challenge for me as someone who doesn't own a car."
Disability-related	"I face challenges when getting on the bus in my wheelchair and people stay seated in the place for the wheelchair acting like they do not want to move."
Parking	"Sometimes I go out to do errands and wind up going home without getting anything done because there is no parking. I feel like the city's policies about driving and parking assume that everyone is 30 years old and can bike or walk everywhere."

## SECTION SUMMARY

When asked in an open-ended format about the biggest challenges of living, working, or going to school in San Francisco, many respondents provided passionate and lengthy answers to this question. While responses encompassed a very broad set of concerns, five types of challenges emerged as the most commonly cited ones. The following challenges were named by 100 or more of the respondents:

- The overall cost of living: Respondents noted how difficult it was to afford an array of different costs in the city.
- Crime and safety: Concerns related to personal safety, property crime, harassment, and walking and biking safely around San Francisco were commonly mentioned.
- Affordable housing: More specific than general cost of living concerns were comments indicating people's frustrations with their lack of suitable housing options and the low

likelihood that they would be able to stay in San Francisco long-term due to high housing costs.

- The unhoused/mentally ill/substance-addicted population: Even though almost none of the respondents are facing these issues themselves, a large number of their comments described how difficult this problem has been for their own lives and the quality of their community.
- Transportation-related issues: Many respondents felt there were no good transportation options, with unsafe or unclean public transportation, inaccessible public transport, or poor parking.



I AM A  
WOMAN ON  
A MISSION  
TO...

Sticky notes include:  
- Love yourself - you are worth it  
- Support the Arts!  
- Live my truth  
- LIVE MY BEST LIFE  
- CONFIDENT  
- THRIVE myself  
- Help people on their journey towards health  
- Bel Women  
- L's power  
- XY  
- Siempre  
- SUEN  
- Spread Love  
- CREATE BEAUTY!  
- MAKE PEOPLE FEEL GOOD.  
- Peace symbol, heart, and smiley face  
- Höyde  
- Tie  
- Ameen  
- Feliz  
- n el corazón

## Summary and Conclusions



The Commission and Department on the Status of Women seek to help San Francisco become a gender equitable city through programs and support in the areas of Health and Safety, Economic Security, and Civic Engagement and Political Empowerment. The community survey data presented in this report help to illustrate how women and nonbinary respondents are doing in these areas and what needs they have.

**Health and Safety:** The survey data reveal a number of ways that women and nonbinary respondents are thriving in San Francisco. They are well-connected to healthcare, and most generally are in good physical health. However, disparities in health outcomes exist, as nonbinary respondents tend to report lower levels of health and are more likely to have a disability.

Younger women and those with lower incomes tend to know the least about women's health issues. Asian respondents also consistently report lower levels of health knowledge than other race/ethnicity groups. Most respondents know less about menopause and aging-related changes in reproductive health than they do about other women's health issues. These findings point to fruitful avenues for focused communications and educational outreach to improve women's knowledge about their bodies and their health.

Positive family and social connections are well-documented predictors of mental health, and they are also associated with wellbeing in this set of survey results. On average, nonbinary respondents, those earning less than \$50,000 annually, and those with disabilities are significantly less satisfied with both their family and social lives than other respondents. These same groups also rate their mental health status lower.

Across the full set of respondents, about one in four had unmet mental healthcare needs in the past two years. Younger and disabled respondents are significantly more likely than others to report needing mental health services in the past two years.

While respondents generally feel safe walking alone in the city during the day, far fewer feel safe at night and most do not feel public transportation is safe. Experiences with harassment are very common; more than half of the respondents had experienced multiple types of harassment at least once. Nonbinary and disabled respondents are more likely than other women to experience harassment. Yet, fewer than half of respondents feel it is "very true" that they know about resources or could contact a local organization for gender-based violence support. Asian respondents report the least frequent experiences with harassment, but they also are the least likely to have someone to confide in or know how to find local community resources related to gender-based violence.

**Economic Security:** Respondents generally enjoy good working conditions, reporting stable and predictable pay, a fair amount of job security, and stable and predictable work hours. However, those with higher incomes report better job conditions overall.

One in five respondents report household incomes less than \$50,000 per year, and not surprisingly, those with lower earnings are less satisfied with their personal finances and worry more frequently about financial issues. Respondents earning lower incomes are far less likely to have savings or retirement accounts, which are universally held among those in the highest income group. African American and Hispanic/Latinx respondents are also less likely than others to have a savings account, a credit card, or a retirement account, and they are more likely to have student loan debt. These findings point to opportunities for focused outreach and education to support financial well-being for all.

Housing is a major expense, with 59% of respondents spending 30% or more of their income on housing, and one quarter spending half or more of their income on housing. Those earning less than \$50,000 per year are more likely to spend half or more of their income on housing and indicate greater difficulties meeting basic needs. The youngest survey respondents (ages 18-35), African American respondents, and respondents with a disability also report greater financial struggles than others.

Just over one-third of respondents are parents or guardians of children under 18 and over one-third of them pay \$1,000 or more each month for childcare. Forty-four percent of these parents worry about childcare costs often or very often and two-thirds of parents worry often or very often about saving enough for their child to go to college. Focusing resources on supporting childcare not only helps working mothers but can also provide the city's youngest residents with early education opportunities to set them up on their best developmental path for future success.

**Civic Engagement and Political Empowerment:** Roughly half of respondents feel satisfied with their quality of life in their community and their ability to participate in community activities, and most have done some form of volunteering in the past year. However, African American respondents are more likely than others to report feeling dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the quality of life in their community and their ability to participate in community activities, as are those with a disability. In addition, few respondents report feeling very connected to their community, and in open-ended feedback, many cite the expense of the city and the impacts of poverty, addiction, and mental illness as taking a toll on people's sense of community. Taken together, these findings suggest that community-building – and addressing the causes of a decline in community – need to be a priority for San Francisco leadership.

Many respondents have engaged in various forms of civic participation such as signing a petition or following a campaign or organization, changing their purchasing behavior, and donating money to a campaign or cause. Over one third of respondents have organized a group for civic or political action, and 10% have even run for a local office or school board. However, when asked about the power of their vote, only one third of respondents indicate

feeling their vote matters a lot. Moreover, while most feel that the Democratic Party and state and local elected officials are representing them better than national elected officials and the Republican Party, large percentages of respondents do not feel well-represented by any of these political groups. These findings present opportunities for DOSW to fill in these gaps to re-invigorate women and nonbinary San Franciscans' sense of political enfranchisement and engagement.

The survey data paints a complex picture of the challenges and strengths of women and nonbinary individuals in San Francisco. While many respondents enjoy positive experiences in areas such as health and employment, significant disparities persist, particularly for those who are younger, have lower incomes, are not White, or identify as nonbinary or disabled. These findings underscore the critical need for targeted interventions and support systems that address the unique needs of these groups. By acknowledging these disparities and working collaboratively to address them, San Francisco can move closer to its goal of becoming a truly gender-equitable city. This requires not only raising awareness of existing inequities but also investing in programs and policies that promote the health and safety, economic security, and civic engagement and political empowerment of all its residents.

## Photo Acknowledgements

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