

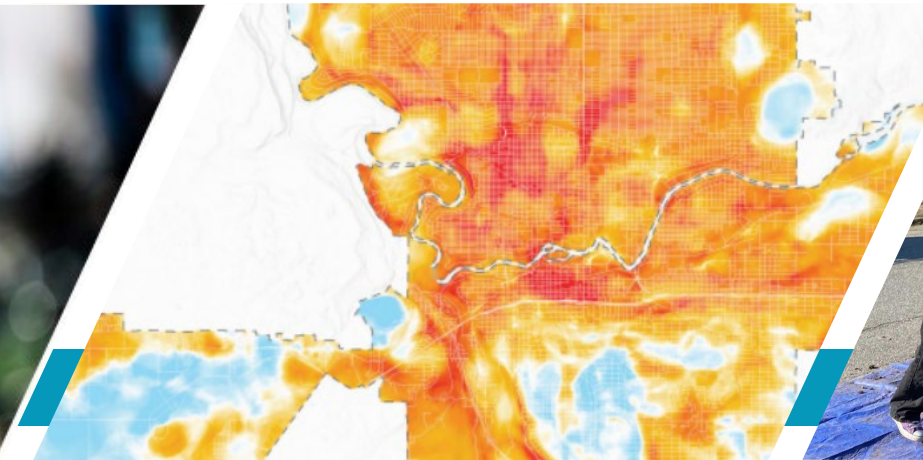


Climate Planning

CRSB Workshop
March 13, 2025

PLAN **SPOKANE**
Resilient | Connected | Livable | 2046

FUNDED BY WASHINGTON'S
**CLIMATE
COMMITMENT
ACT**



Agenda: Community Input

- Brief Background Reminder
- Survey Results and Analysis
- Engagement Next Steps



Climate Resiliency - Phase 1 Tasks

Steps and Pathways to Integrate Resilience into Comprehensive Plan





Community Climate Planning Survey



- Ran from December 5, 2024, through January 31, 2025
- 1,573 total responses

The Value of the Lived Experience

The Community Climate Planning Survey focused on the *lived experiences* of Spokane’s community members. Other elements of the Climate Planning effort have completed deep dives of local, state, and national data points to understand the *science and statistical trends* behind climate impacts and resiliency.



Local Understanding: Provides insight into how individuals perceive and navigate their world here in Spokane



Contextual Relevance: Uncovers nuances of culture, environment, and social factors influencing behaviors and decisions



Human-Centered Insights: Highlights personal stories, empowering participants by valuing their voices



Actionable Data: Reveals hidden needs, challenges, and opportunities that may not be immediately visible through numbers alone



Community-Based “Pilot Testing”: Tests data to see if it matches what the community has to say

Who Did We Hear From?



Why Do We Collect Demographic Information?

Knowing who was reached through the survey allows for more accurate analysis and better-informed conclusions by:

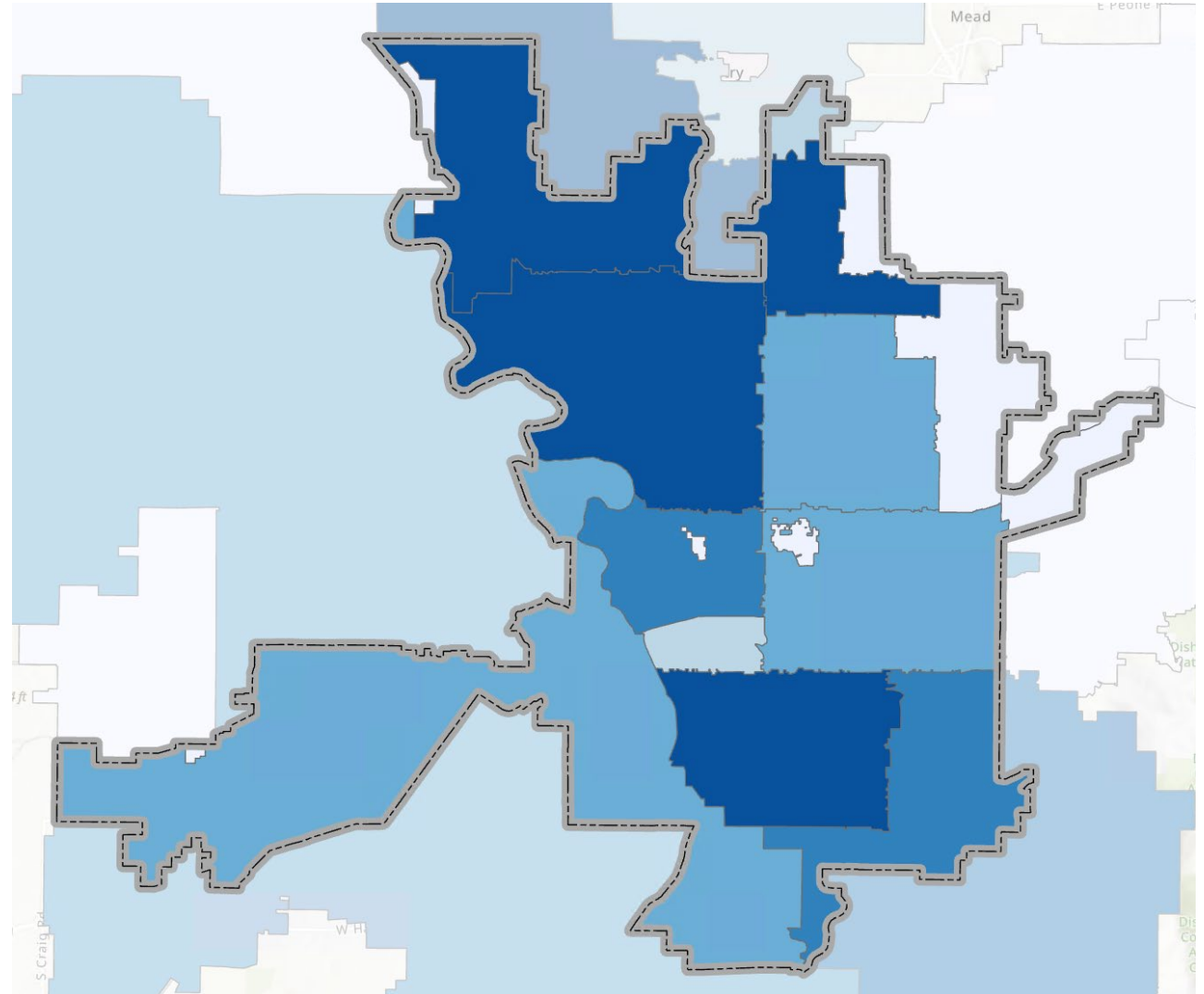
- **Understanding different needs:** Identify patterns and trends within specific age, income, or other groups
- **Improving decision-making:** Support targeted strategies based on the characteristics of different respondents
- **Ensuring Representation:** Ensure the survey is inclusive and representative of various segments in the population. Who is missing?



Where do you live or otherwise engage in Spokane?

Key Take Away

When asked the zip code of where they live, work, go to school, or otherwise engage in Spokane, the northwest and some southern portions of the City saw the most responses

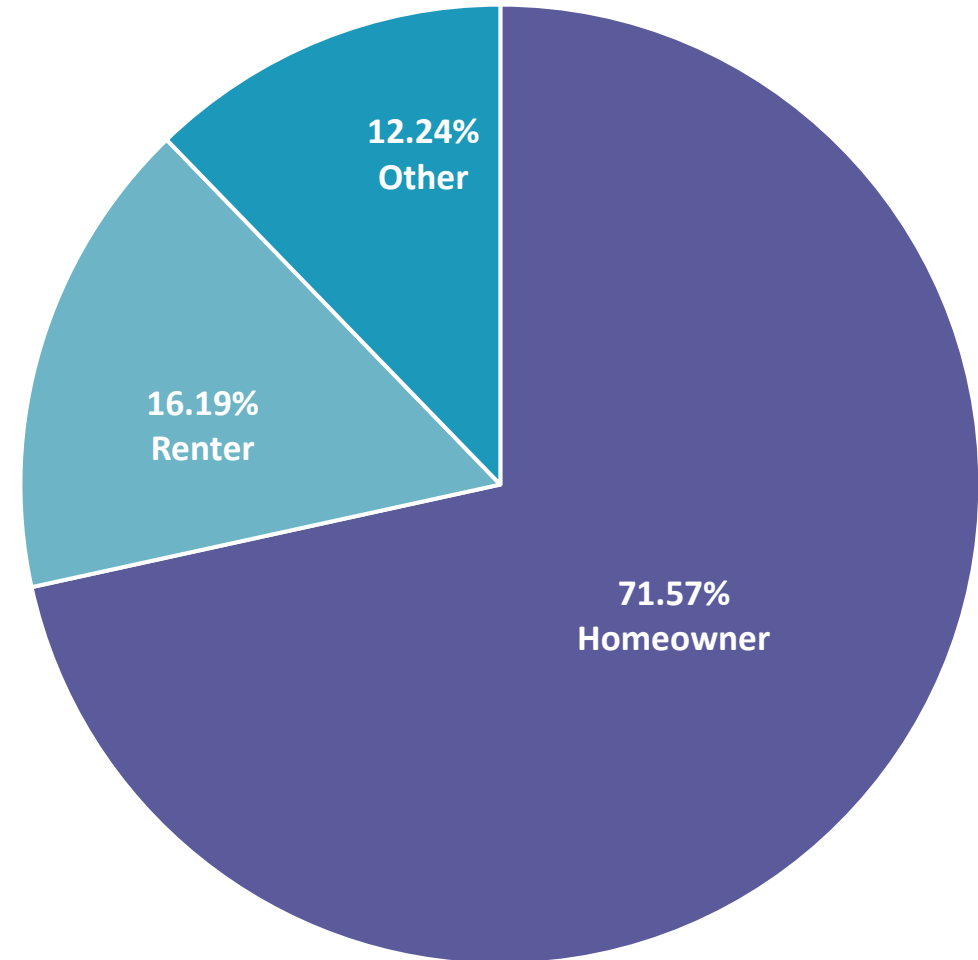


Homeowner vs. Renter

Key Take Away

Of those who answered this question, a higher percentage of survey takers are homeowners than the City of Spokane population as a whole (approx. 64%)

While not directly asked, the difference after removing homeowners and renters would point towards 12.24% of responders living with others/not paying rent or not living within the City of Spokane



Other Roles Within Spokane



Work in Spokane: 30.02%



Student: 6.88%



Business Owner: 8.16%



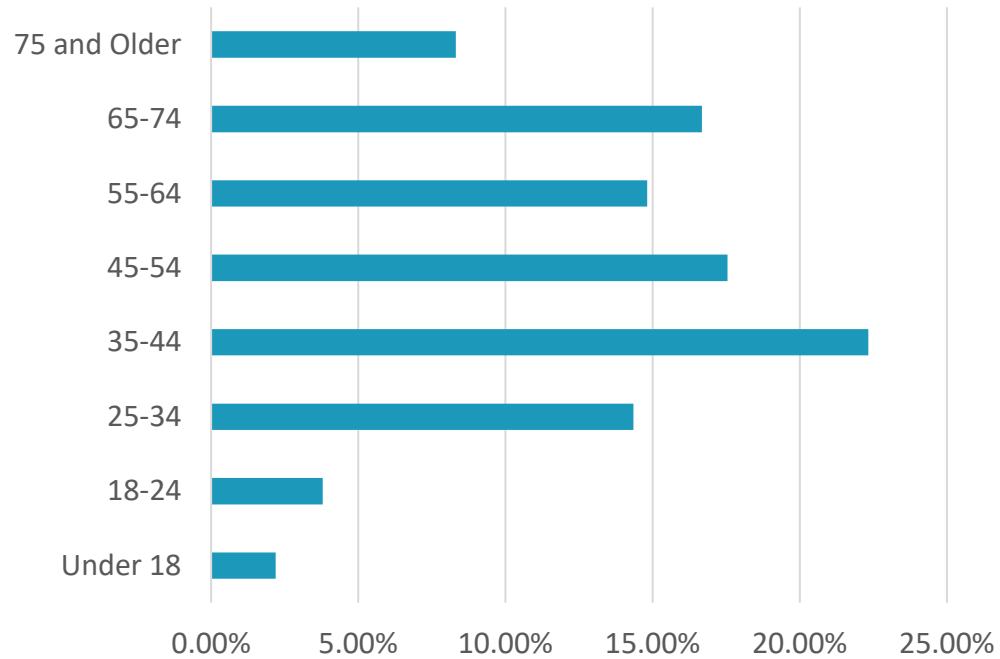
Commercial Landowner: 1.47%



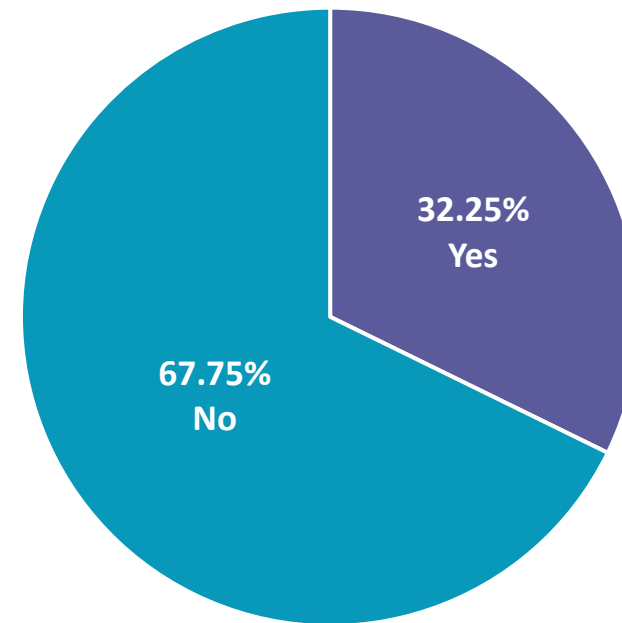
Residential Landlord: 4.53%

Household Age Groups

What is your age group?



Do you have children under 18 in your immediate household?

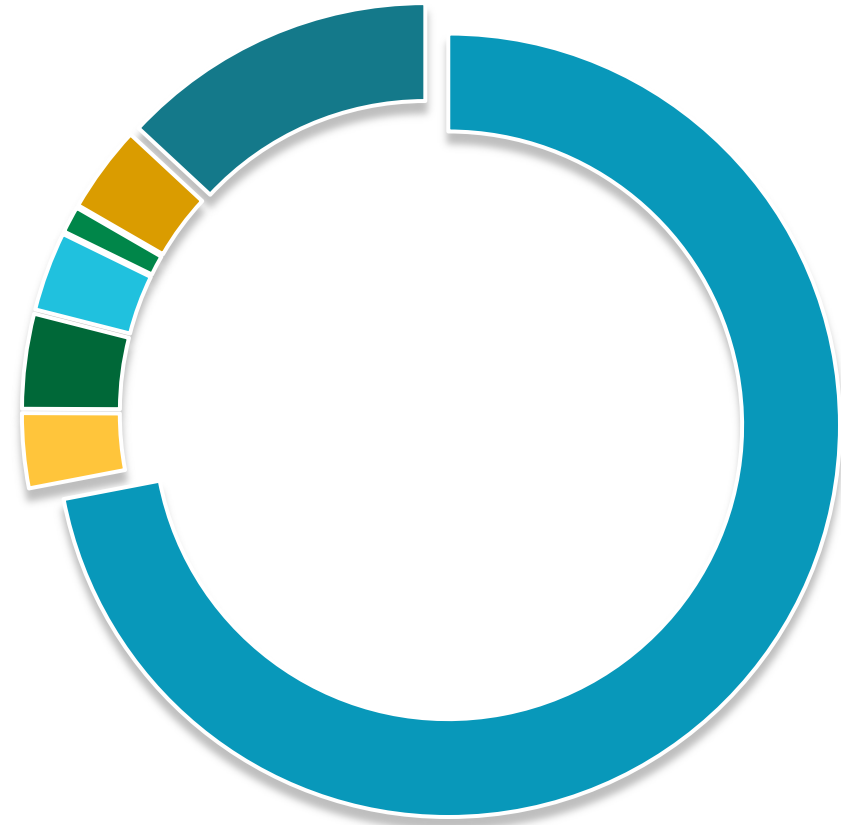


Race and ethnicity

Key Take Away

Of those who provided their race and ethnicity, a higher percentage of survey takers are members of identified vulnerable populations than the City of Spokane population as a whole

e.g., 1.9% of the City of Spokane's population is Black or African American, compared to 3.21% of survey responders



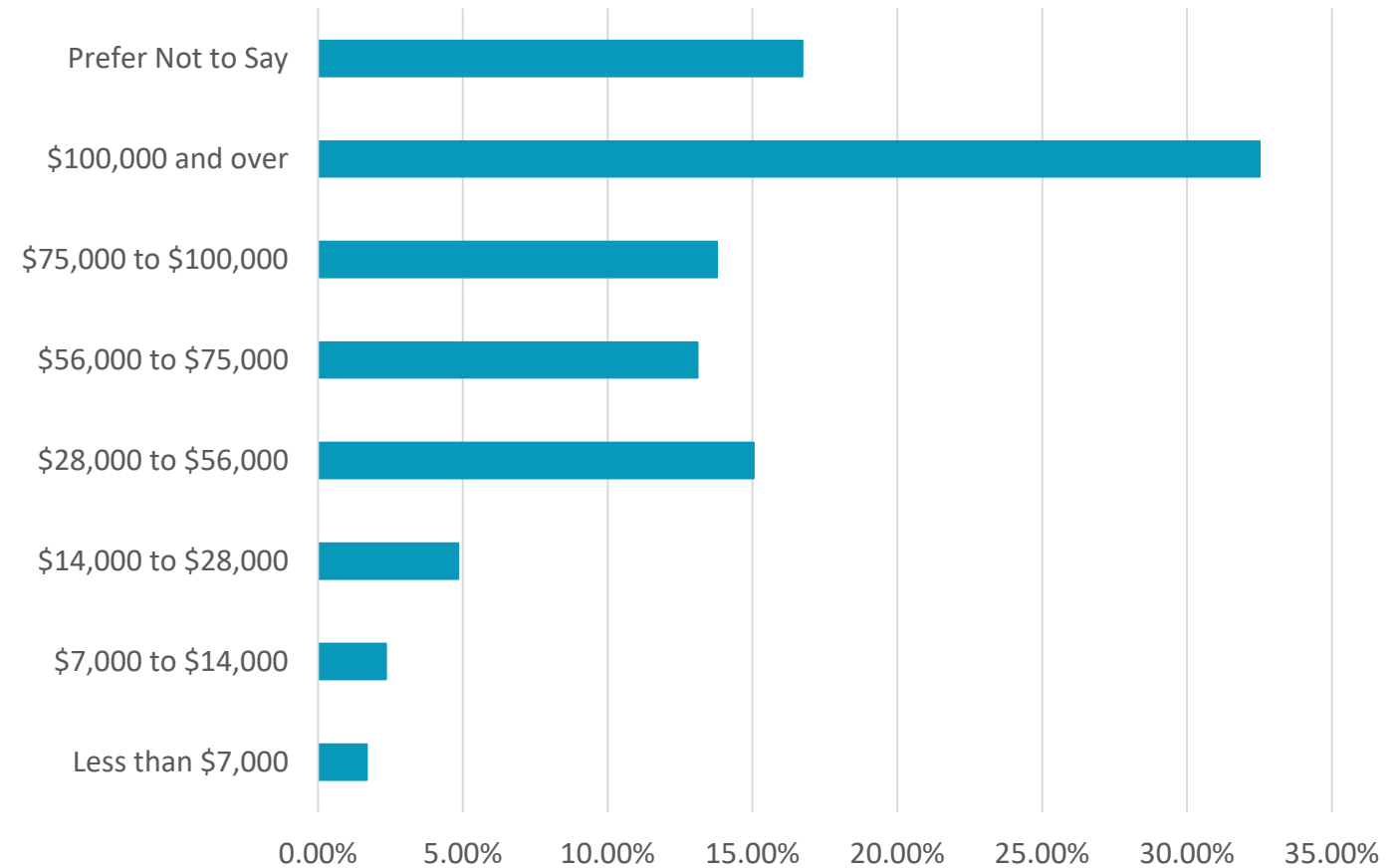
- White or Caucasian (75.02%)
- Black or African American (3.21%)
- Native American, Am. Indian, or Alaska Native (4.07%)
- Asian or Asian American (3.41%)
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (1.14%)
- Other (3.74%)
- Prefer Not to Say (13.63%)

Household Income

Key Take Away

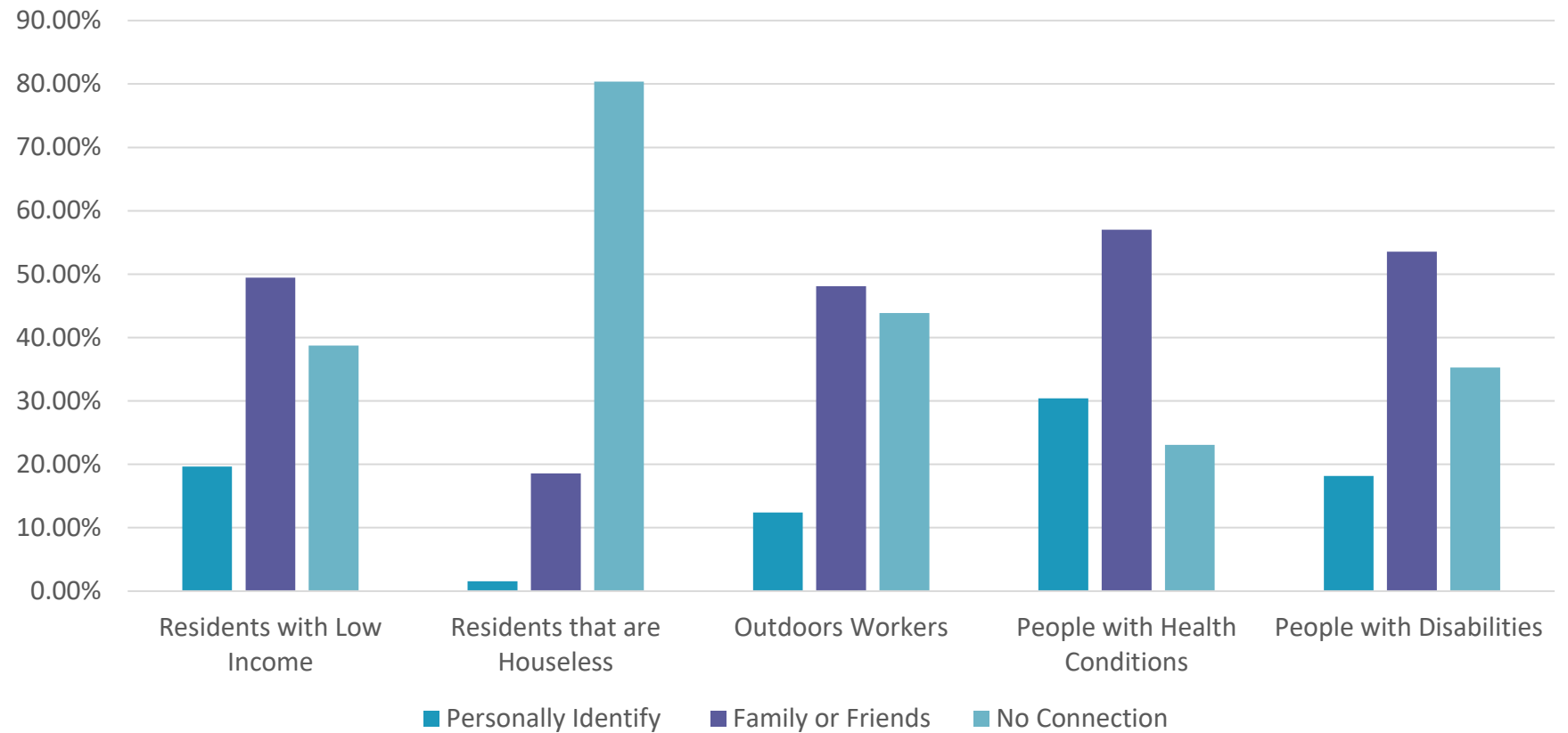
Of those who provided their household income, approximately 37% of survey takers are at or below Spokane's Median Household Income.

* These responses are not broken down by household size.



Indicate if you or your family members/friends are a member of the following communities identified as more vulnerable to extreme weather and climate impacts.

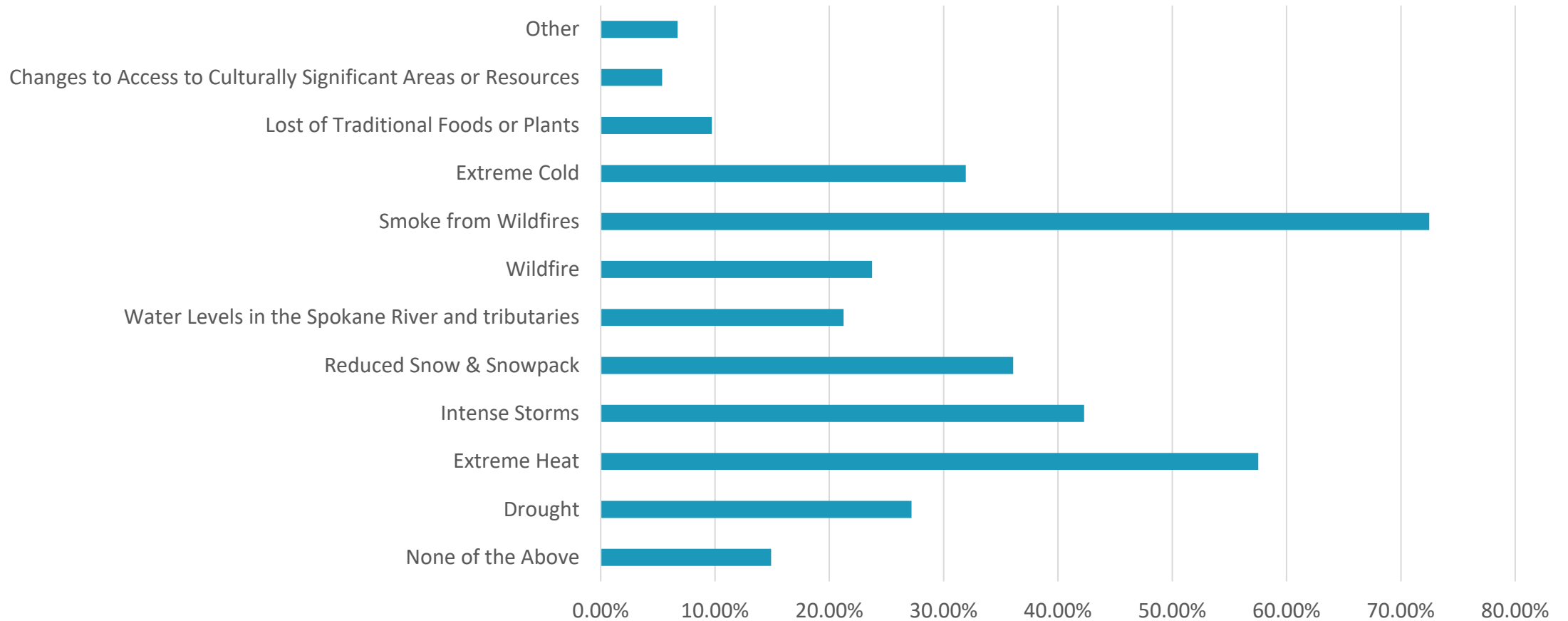
This question also asked about Native American/Tribal community members, older residents, children, Black/African American residents, and Latino/Hispanic residents. However, lack of respondents with these communities prevents useable results.



Reactions to Climate Impacts

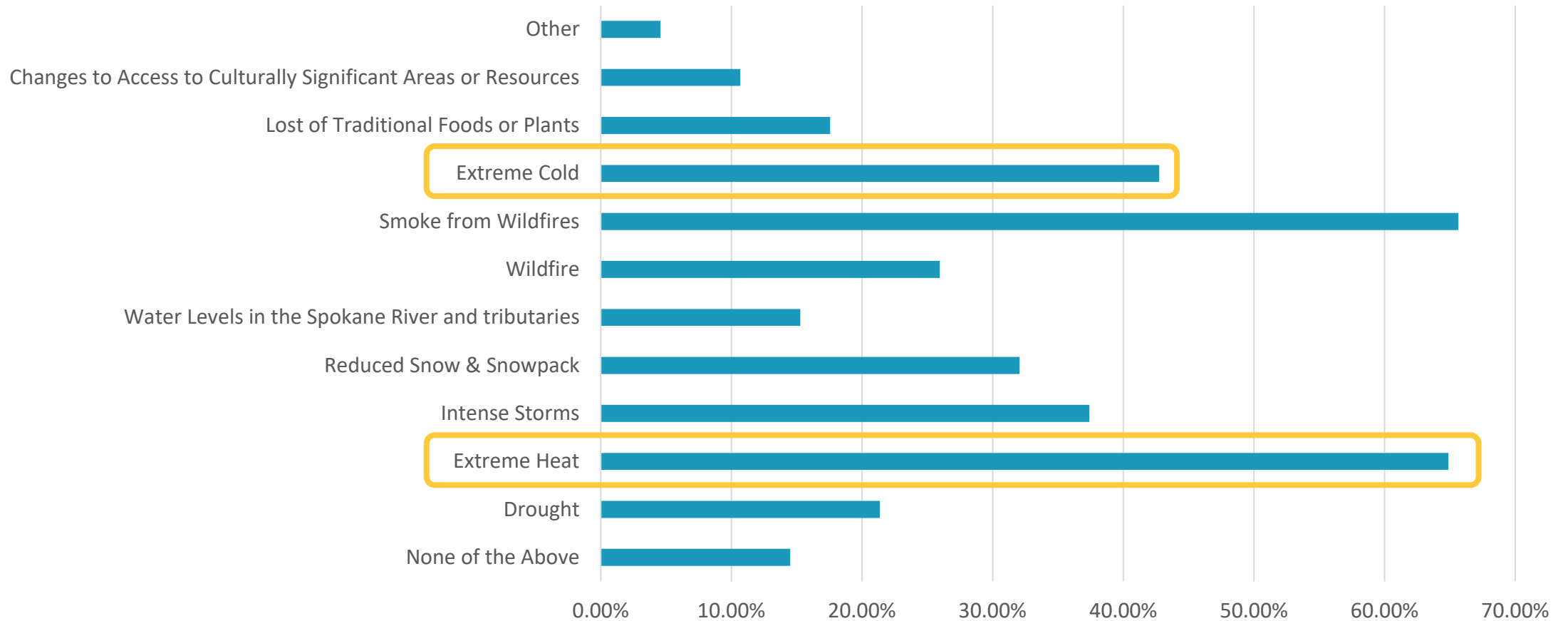


Have you been impacted by any of the following extreme weather and climate hazards in Spokane?

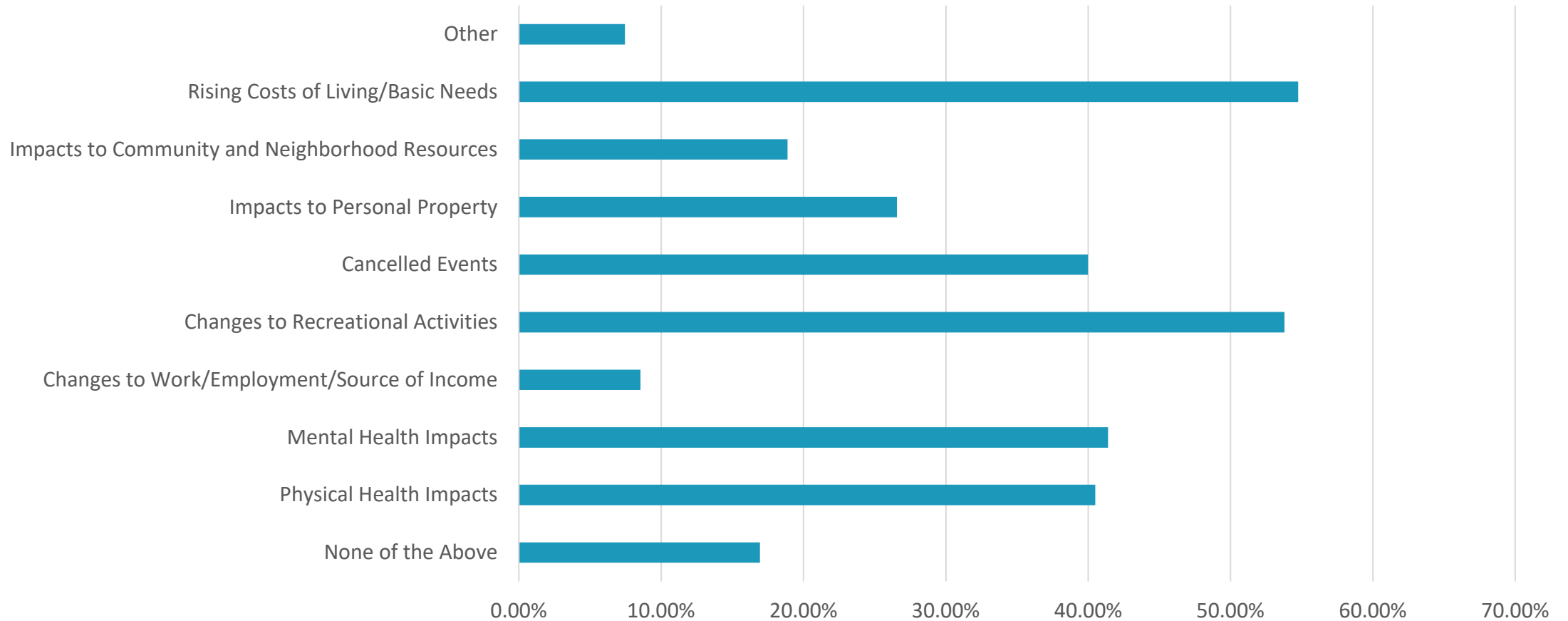


Have you been impacted by any of the following extreme weather and climate hazards in Spokane?

(Incomes \$28,000 or less responses)

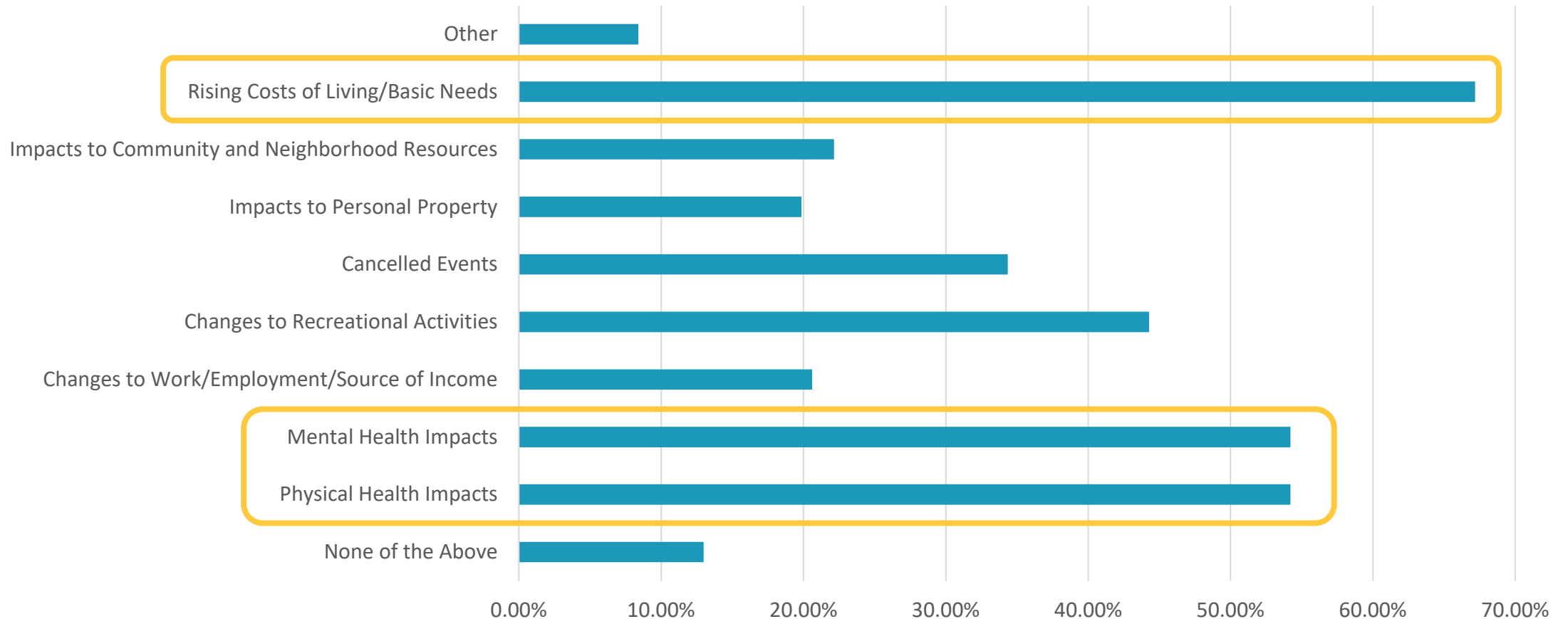


How have extreme weather and climate hazards affected you personally in the past five years?



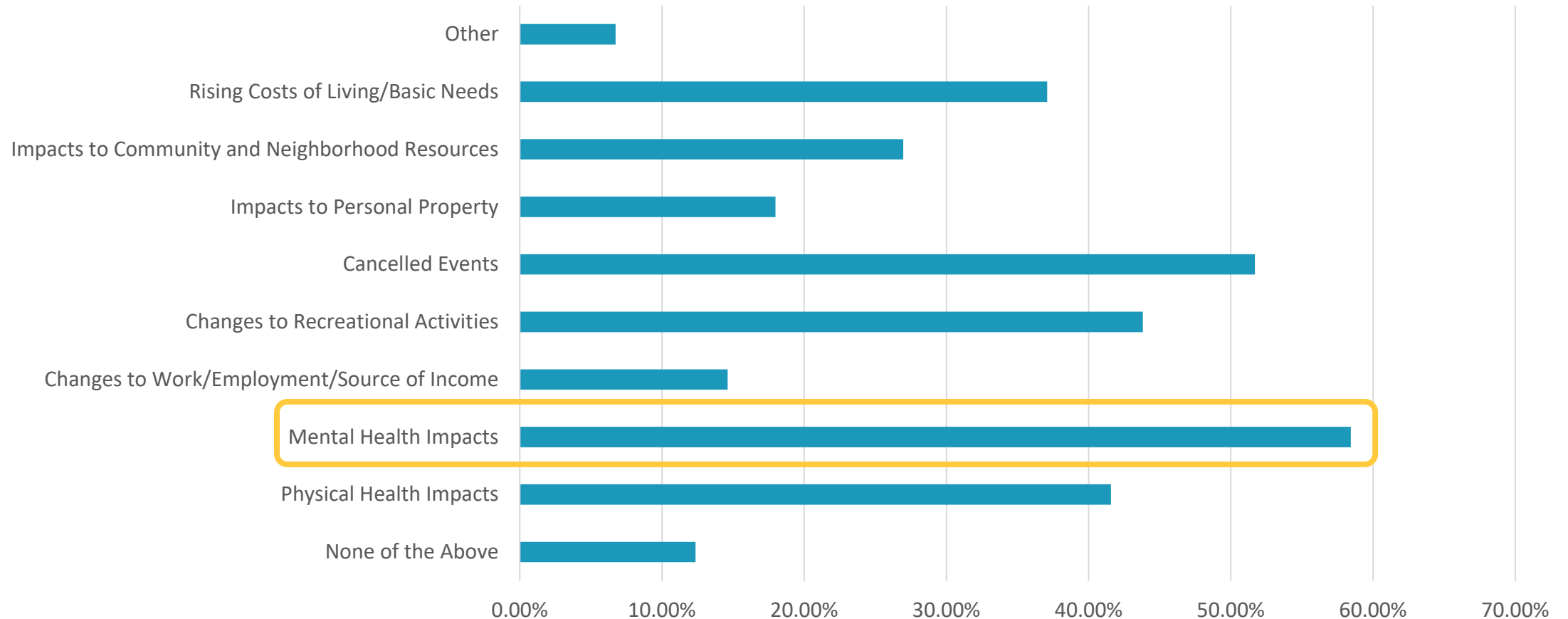
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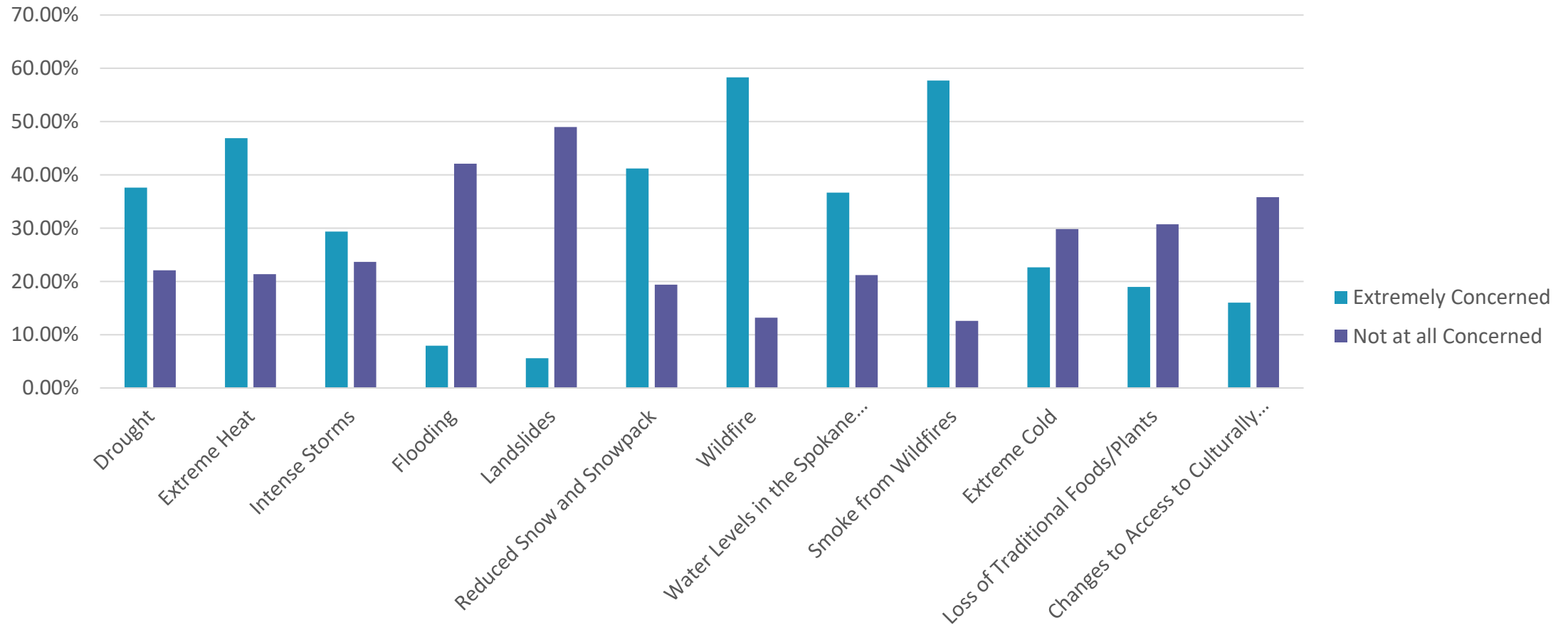


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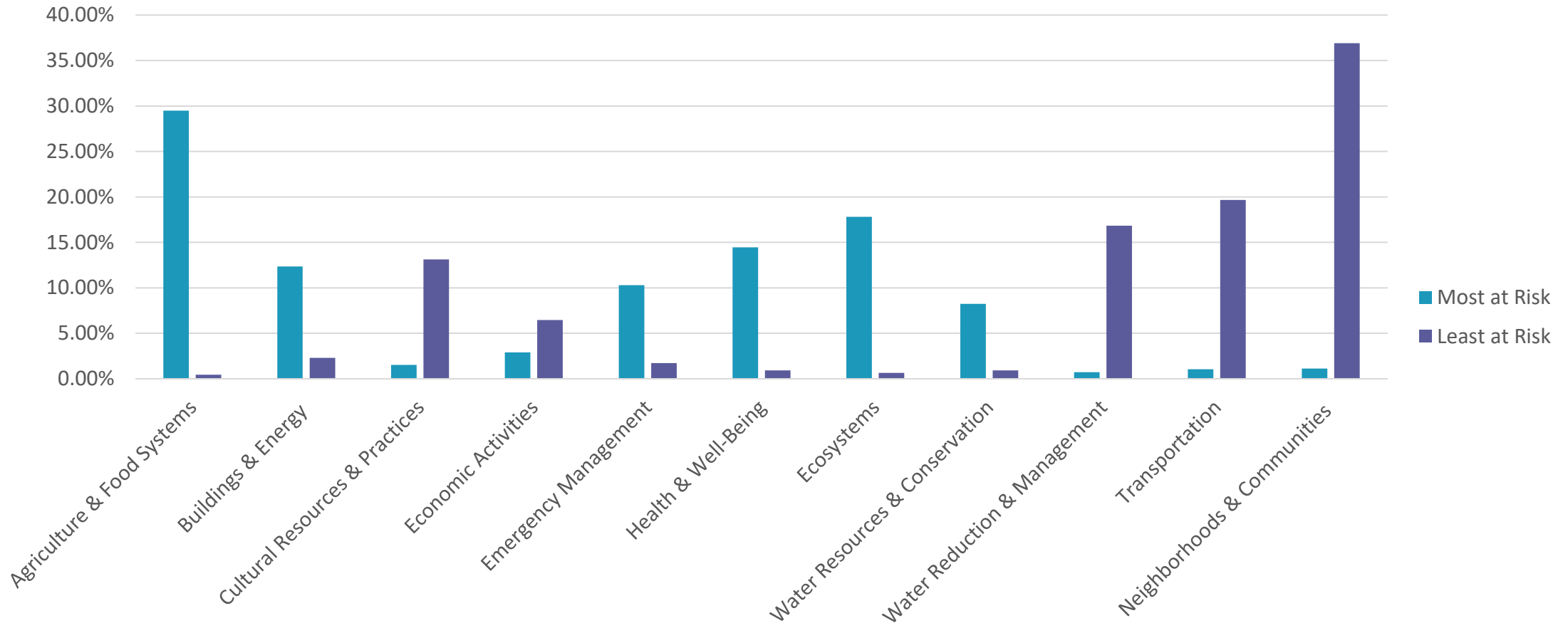
(Younger than 18, 18-24 age responses)



As you look to the future, how concerned are you with the following extreme weather and climate impacts in the City of Spokane?



Which sectors do you think are most at risk from extreme weather and climate impacts in Spokane?



Discussion



What climate challenges resonated with you?

Did the results generally follow your understanding of the Spokane Climate Impacts and Climate Justice Memo and Climate Risk and Vulnerability Index, or did you notice additional topics that should be considered in more detail?



What results were the most surprising when reading the analysis? Why?

How can these surprises be integrated into future work e.g. further analysis in the Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment or Phase 2 policy discussions?



What Did People Have to Say?



Please share any personal stories about your experiences and concerns (or lack of) about extreme weather and climate impacts.

“I would like to stay in Spokane, but I'm concerned about wildfire risk especially - where to buy and how to make the property more fire resistant...”

“Increases in cost of heating and cooling is significantly affecting our fixed income as retirees.”

“Loss of power from windstorms disabling powerlines effected my family.”

“I used to garden and grow more of my own food but I'm finding it more and more difficult with the extreme heat that can wipe the garden out in a matter of a week.”

“This past summer we noticed the water level significantly drop in the Spokane River during our regular recreational activities as well as when cleaning up trash along the river.”



Please share any personal stories about your experiences and concerns (or lack of) about extreme weather and climate impacts.

Many personal stories included concerns over smoke and wildfires, as well as extreme heat. Impacted activities include sports, camping, and gardening.

The cost of utilities due to increased heat and A/C usage was also a common story.

Some survey takers believe the weather events are not unusual, but many still acknowledge the personal or financial impact of the events.

much problem trees activities extreme weather last years
temperatures river one spend wildfires season days feel worry
conditions many lot caused especially cost keep will worse city
planning extreme heat take area reduced water low
need plants live property make issues year garden
time outside work community climate change
food home experienced concerned affected
summer things impacts drought Spokane
smoke also loss going grow due high house help
fire week increased better wildfire smoke hard
heat events now health used leave changes snow winter
freezing weather costs heating cooling well asthma S building even life us
hot family know see resources long enough way seem people extreme



Provide comments on your concerns for the various sectors reviewed (e.g. agriculture, buildings, water, emergency management, etc.)

"I'm worried about the impact if the climate gets too hot and dry. Not only will we have to deal with more fires but crop failures, drought and everything else. This will definitely have an economic impact on the area."

"We need to support our senior centers, community centers, and libraries, etc., the places where community and connections happen."

"Evacuation routes in case of a wildfire."

"The lower income sections of town are always going to be hit harder by the effects of extreme weather and climate impacts."

"I'm very concerned about accessibility to food, especially given that I frequent local farmer's markets and have seen vendors go away - according to others, partially because of climate-caused difficulties like unusually late frosts."

Provide comments on your concerns for the various sectors reviewed (e.g. agriculture, buildings, water, emergency management, etc.)

Common themes include concerns over local food production and small farms, the resiliency of the natural ecosystem and wildlife, water quality and the aquifer, how unhoused residents are move affected, the impact of trash and littering, and the support of multi-modal transportation options.

etc power river destroying see big effects lose high will impacted lack wildlife
keep parks due safe m concerned Spokane River building support
housing many homes extreme weather time focus resources
enough especially roads health energy infrastructure around
going wildfire smoke wildfires much
climate change important community live
areas systems people issues need better
Spokane aquifer concerned city
businesses will homeless water costs impact place
fires trees think environment ecosystems development
make take worry streets increase low risk less
neighborhoods put downtown events work human US crime
well year also summer planning transportation help reduce affect without
things ability changes provide None poor climate use



Describe any obstacles you face when trying to reduce your household's environmental impact

"I would love to plant trees in the grassy space between the sidewalk and the street. I don't because they would require water, increasing my cost and upkeep...I am concerned about tree roots seeking water lines and causing very expensive repairs,"

"Conserving outdoor water use also can put us at risk of fire danger."

"Trust and access to affordable ways to dispose of the right waste in the right area."

"Biggest obstacle is feeling isolated in these attempts at conservation. Like my efforts don't matter."

"The hardest part to me is that there tends to be a high up front cost to conservation. We live in an old house, which means we would have to make high cost updates to increase the energy efficiency at home."

Describe any obstacles you face when trying to reduce your household's environmental impact

Common themes including the costs and time needed to make change, lack of control over rented properties, lack of information on how to reduce their impact, not being sure individual actions make a difference, neighborhood covenants that restrict actions, businesses have more of an impact, available goods for purchase, and limited recycling of once every other week.

impact products garbage great try replace live options lawn property garden
really S love much drive conserve water put composting will
summer reduce waste keep money help packaging people don t
plastic take yard even heat places landscaping
reducing household waste work way better pay also many
make hard use high need challenge cost Lack
recycling plants water systems city think
waste one None food home us reducing difficult
lot resources Spokane etc changes energy going
watering lawn limited well things everything obstacles recycling bin
expensive less time grass house green bin area trash items due
increases trees community still want family water use cars know
upgrades requires green



What kinds of climate solution would you most like to see in Spokane?

“Add more trees in parking strips throughout the city and in our parks...Sponsor neighborhood community food gardens and have people who know about growing food guide the neighbors and teach them how to do it and share the produce.”

“Planning for urban wildfires by training individuals to preemptively protect their home.”

“Walkability in the city and creating the city around that.”

“The City should help incentivize transition to heat pumps for low income residents. Create plan to transition all city owned buildings away from methane to electric heat pumps or other renewable technologies.”

“I would like to be able to attend an ongoing series of interactive community education seminars (in person or on the web) where information is shared about [resiliency topics].”



What kinds of climate solution would you most like to see in Spokane?

Common themes include water and waste reduction, incentives for more sustainable upgrades (particularly for low-income residents), tree management, and more trees and greenspace throughout the city.

Education and formal information sharing was highlighted throughout the received comments.

way systems recycling around keep parking lots streets safe continue including
roads one housing native plants things river support downtown
neighborhoods know encourage public transit resources
create solutions especially public transportation energy
think costs Increased land community time Stop
solar panels see waste help live better None
buildings provide people water use water
water conservation use focus city green spaces need
residents Spokane education make go areas
improve reduce require climate change protect
home large plan access parks wildfires climate well trees
tree planting work impact incentives renewable energy will development
businesses funding also climate planning clean great Plant trees look
less options etc love see infrastructure fossil fuels fire many programs expand
much cars



Discussion



What suggested climate solutions stood out to you that you think should be considered for future policies?



Discussion



What ideas do you have to break through preconceived ideas around climate and climate planning to emphasize resiliency and local impacts?



How to Stay Involved



my.spokanecity.org/climateplanning



climateplanning@spokanecity.org



PlanSpokane Monthly Newsletter



Engage.Spokane.gov

