

Community Survey on Policing and Law Enforcement

Summary Data from Structured Questions

Village of Irvington

Committee on Police Reform and Reimagining

March 2021

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Acknowledgements

The Village of Irvington's Policing Policy Committee extends its heartfelt thanks to all of those who supported this effort to obtain meaningful input from our community members.

We are especially grateful to Mayor Smith and the Village Trustees for their commitment to this project, to the members of the Irvington Police Department who have generously devoted their personal time to contribute to the Committee's work, to Larry Schopfer, Mayo Bartlett and Maria Imperial for facilitating the survey design and development process, to Karen Buccheri for her very helpful administrative support, and to Kristopher Harrison and Juliet Gevargis-Mizimakoski for their invaluable assistance with outreach to the school community.

Most importantly, the Committee wishes to thank every individual that took time and effort to complete the survey. The input of our entire community has been and will continue to be essential to the success of this project.

Background and Description

Background

The Village of Irvington had begun to reexamine its policing policies in the spring of 2020 in the aftermath of the murder of George Floyd. That reexamination took on greater urgency when Gov. Cuomo issued Executive Order 203 (“New York State Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative”) mandating that all New York State municipalities perform “a comprehensive review” of current policing policies and practices and “develop a plan to improve” them “for the purposes of addressing the particular needs of the communities served by such police agency and promote community engagement to foster trust, fairness, and legitimacy, and to address any racial bias and disproportionate policing of communities of color.”¹

The Village responded to the Governor’s mandate by announcing the formation of the Police Policy Review Committee. Numerous public notifications resulted in the recruitment of dozens of volunteers, all of whom were appointed to serve on the committee.

Project Description

The Community Survey – whose findings are elaborated in this report – along with several public listening sessions, will be essential for informing the Committee’s recommendations, in addition to ensuring compliance with EO 203 which stipulates that reviews of policing policies and practices be undertaken “in consultation” with members of the community and other stakeholders.

The survey questionnaire – adapted from the DOJ’s *Community Survey on Public Safety and Law Enforcement*² – is designed to meet three of the Committee’s primary objectives: 1) To assess the community’s policing priorities, 2) to evaluate the Irvington Police Department’s current performance in a number of areas from the public’s perspective, 3) to collect some specific information on police-public interaction to inform future policy decisions.

The survey was launched on January 29, 2021. By the close of the survey on February 28 a total of 1,081 individuals, including Village residents and visitors, had responded to the survey. Of those respondents, 805 were Village residents resulting in a response rate of approximately 16 percent among Village residents ages 14 and over.³ An additional 59 respondents were school district residents residing outside the Village.

Survey topics include:

- Satisfaction with the Irvington Police Department (IPD)
- Evaluation of the IPD on multiple dimensions
- Priority ranking of various policing functions
- Number and type of contacts with officers and satisfaction with those contacts
- Communication between the IPD and the community
- Experience with filing complaints

¹ “No. 203: New York State Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative.” *Governor Andrew M. Cuomo*, 12 June 2020, <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/no-203-new-york-state-police-reform-and-reinvention-collaborative>.

² Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. *Community Survey on Public Safety and Law Enforcement*. 2014, <https://cops.usdoj.gov/RIC/Publications/cops-w0743-pub.pdf>.

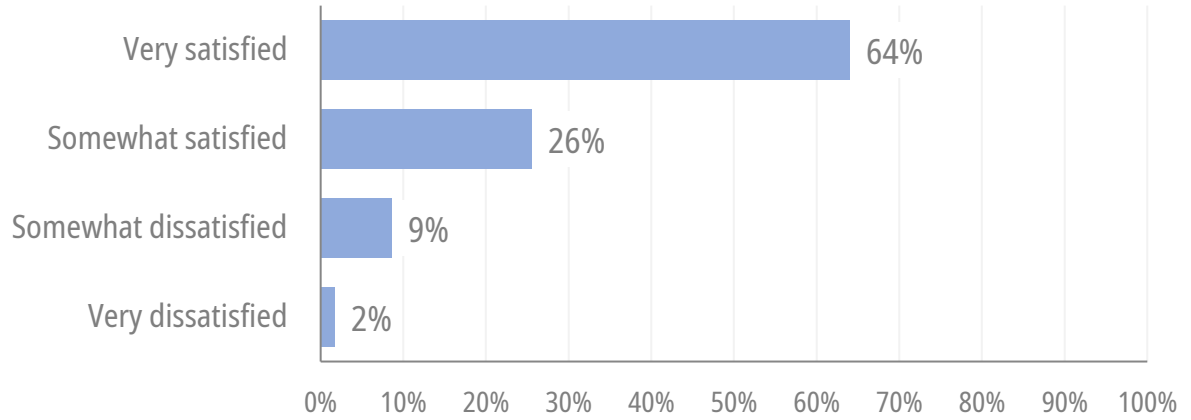
³ The most recent statistics available from the US Census Bureau’s American Community Survey estimated that the Village had 5,105 residents ages 15 and over between 2015 and 2019. We did not attempt to calculate a response rate specific to IUFSD residents due to difficulties establishing an accurate base population for the school district.

There were four target populations for the survey: Irvington residents, current Irvington high school students, local business owners and employees, other visitors to the village, including those who attend religious services locally. Unfortunately, due to time constraints and low response rates among some groups this report will only reflect the responses of Village and IUFDS residents ages 14 and over. However, the committee remains committed to conducting an analysis of all responses by all respondents at a later date. See Appendix for additional information on the survey design and response rate.

Responses to Structured Survey Questions

Q4 Overall, how satisfied are you with the Irvington Police Department?

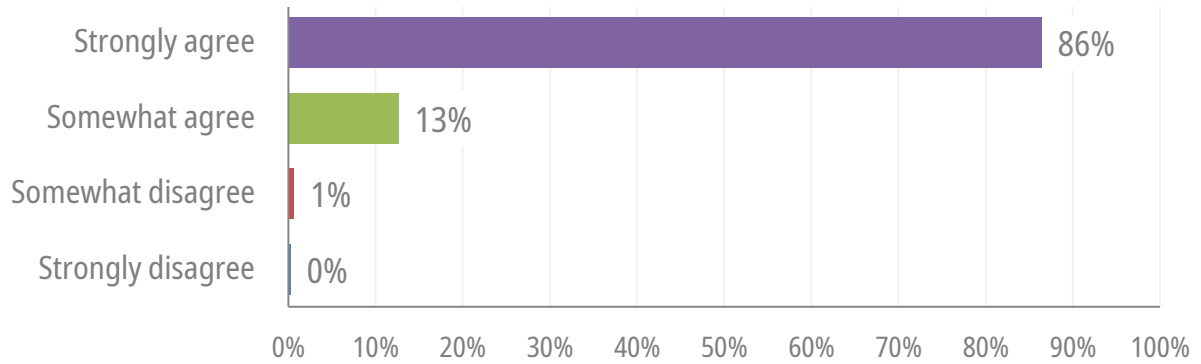
Answered: 846 Skipped: 16



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very satisfied	64%	513
Somewhat satisfied	26%	205
Somewhat dissatisfied	9%	69
Very dissatisfied	2%	14
TOTAL		801

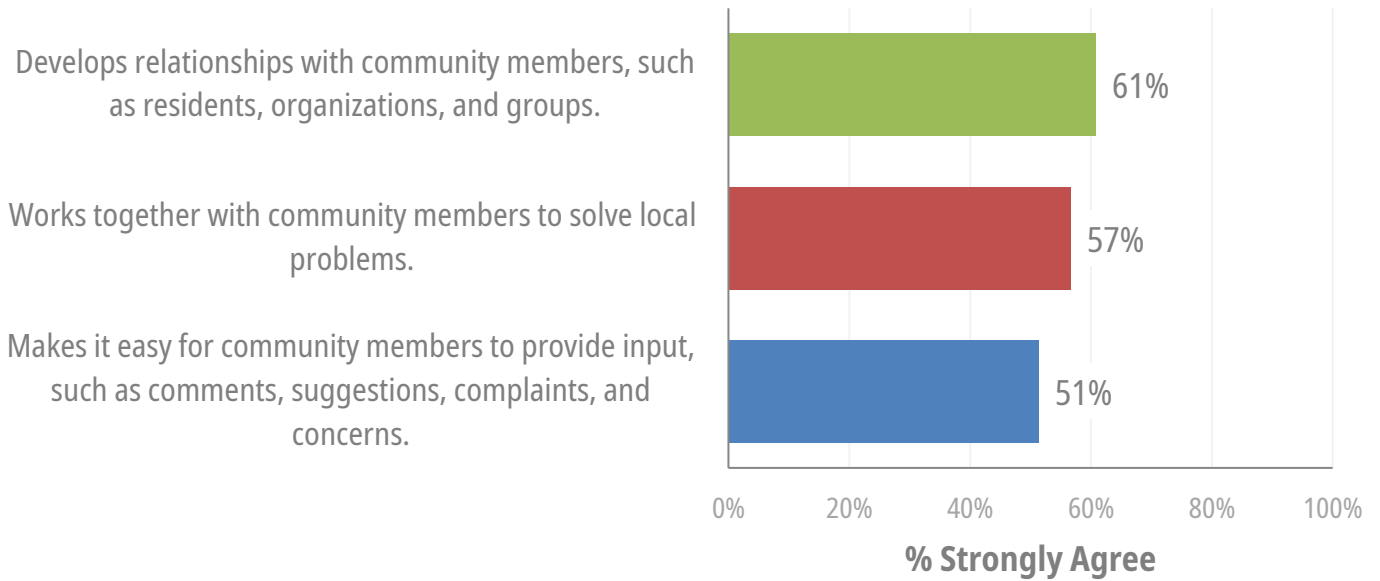
Q6 How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? “I feel safe in Irvington”

Answered: 754 Skipped: 108



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	86%	649
Somewhat agree	13%	95
Somewhat disagree	1%	5
Strongly disagree	0%	2
TOTAL		751

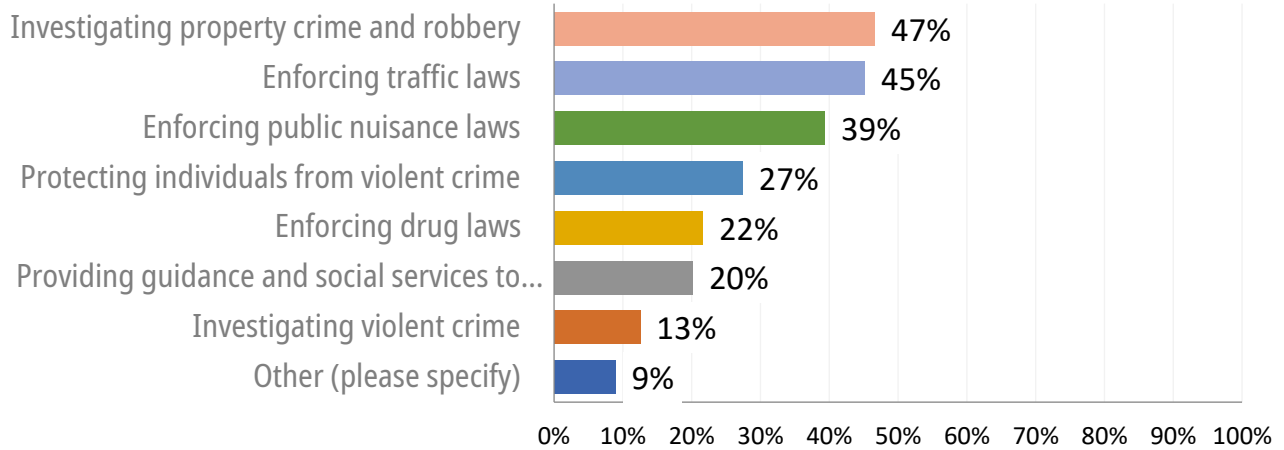
Q7 How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about the Irvington Police Department?
The Irvington Police Department ...



	STRONGLY AGREE	SOMEWHAT AGREE	SOMEWHAT DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Develops relationships with community members, such as residents, organizations, and groups.	61% 386	27% 169	11% 67	2% 13	635	3.46
Works together with community members to solve local problems.	57% 335	29% 173	10% 60	4% 23	591	3.39
Makes it easy for community members to provide input, such as comments, suggestions, complaints, and concerns.	51% 279	29% 158	12% 63	8% 43	543	3.24

Q8 What are the most serious policing concerns affecting Irvington?

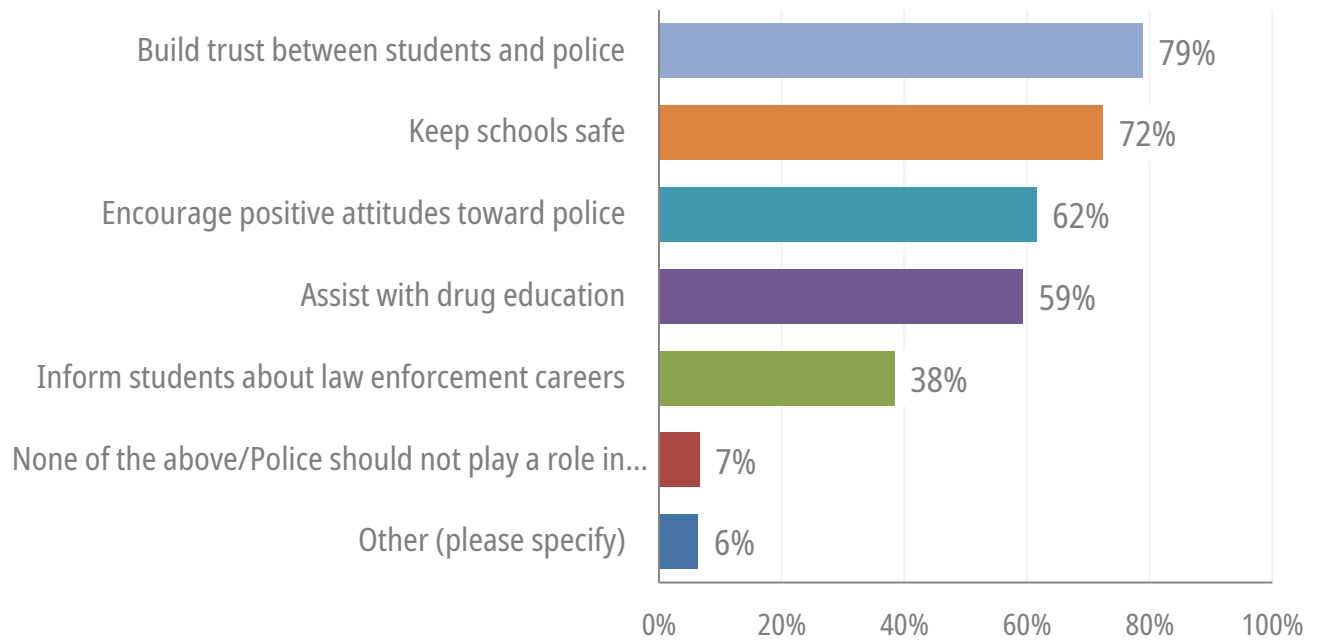
Answered: 759 Skipped: 103



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Investigating property crime and robbery	47%	354
Enforcing traffic laws	45%	343
Enforcing public nuisance laws, such as noise, loitering and disorderly conduct	39%	299
Protecting individuals from violent crime	27%	208
Enforcing drug laws	22%	164
Providing guidance and social services to troubled people	20%	153
Investigating violent crime like murder, assaults, and domestic violence	13%	95
Other (please specify)	9%	68
Total Respondents: 759		

Q9 Which, if any, of the following roles should the Irvington Police play in public schools?

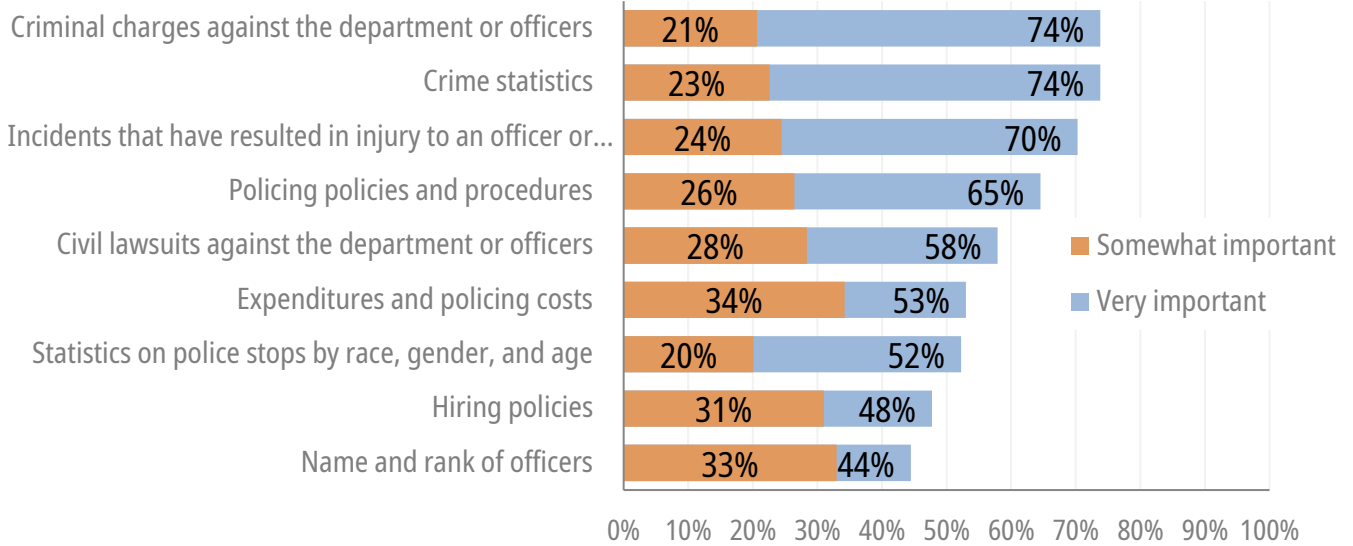
Answered: 756 Skipped: 106



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Build trust between students and police	79%	596
Keep schools safe	72%	547
Encourage positive attitudes toward police	62%	465
Assist with drug education	59%	448
Inform students about law enforcement careers	38%	290
None of the above/Police should not play a role in schools	7%	50
Other (please specify)	6%	48
Total Respondents: 756		

Q10 How important is it that the Irvington Police Department make available information on the following:

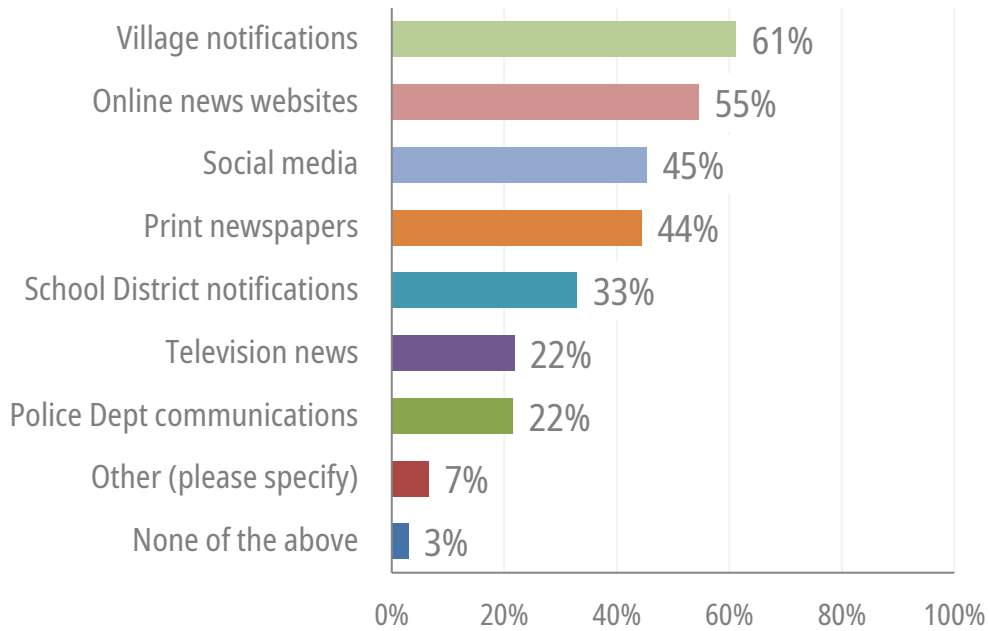
Answered: 745 Skipped: 117



	VERY IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	NOT VERY IMPORTANT	NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Crime statistics	74% 535	23% 164	3% 19	1% 7	725	3.69
Criminal charges against the department or officers	74% 533	21% 149	3% 25	2% 15	722	3.66
Incidents that have resulted in injury to an officer or member of the public	70% 506	24% 176	3% 23	2% 15	720	3.63
Policing policies and procedures	65% 464	26% 190	7% 48	2% 17	719	3.53
Civil lawsuits against the department or officers	58% 414	28% 203	9% 65	5% 33	715	3.40
Expenditures and policing costs	53% 381	34% 246	10% 75	2% 17	719	3.38
Statistics on police stops by race, gender, and age	52% 374	20% 144	12% 87	16% 111	716	3.09
Hiring policies	48% 339	31% 220	16% 111	6% 40	710	3.21
Name and rank of officers	44% 317	33% 235	17% 121	6% 40	713	3.16

Q11 Which of the following sources do you rely on for information about crime and police activities in Irvington?

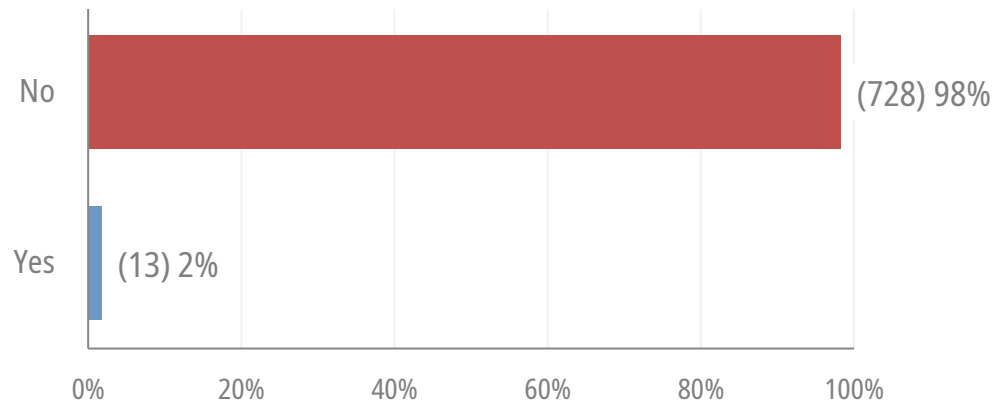
Answered: 744 Skipped: 118



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Village notifications	61%	455
Online news websites, like Lohud or News12	55%	406
Social media	45%	337
Print newspapers	44%	330
School District notifications	33%	245
Television news	22%	162
Police Department communications	22%	160
Other (please specify)	7%	49
None of the above	3%	22
Total Respondents: 744		

Q12 Have you ever filed a complaint about the Irvington Police Department or an IPD officer?

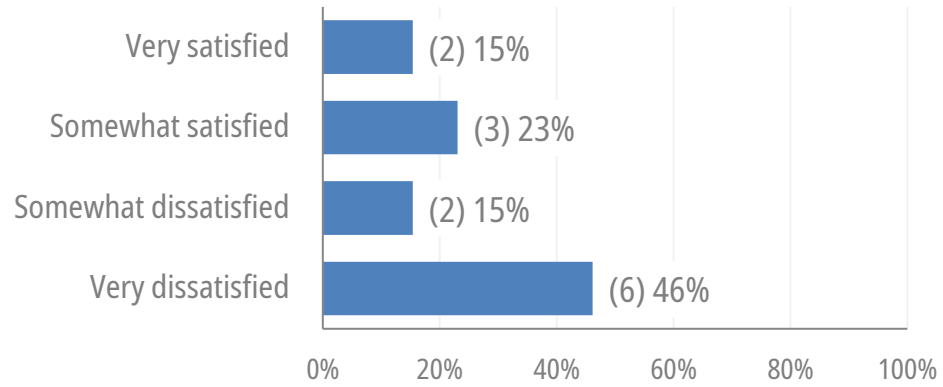
Answered: 744 Skipped: 118



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	2% 13
No	98% 728
TOTAL	741

Q14 How satisfied are you with the result of the complaint process?

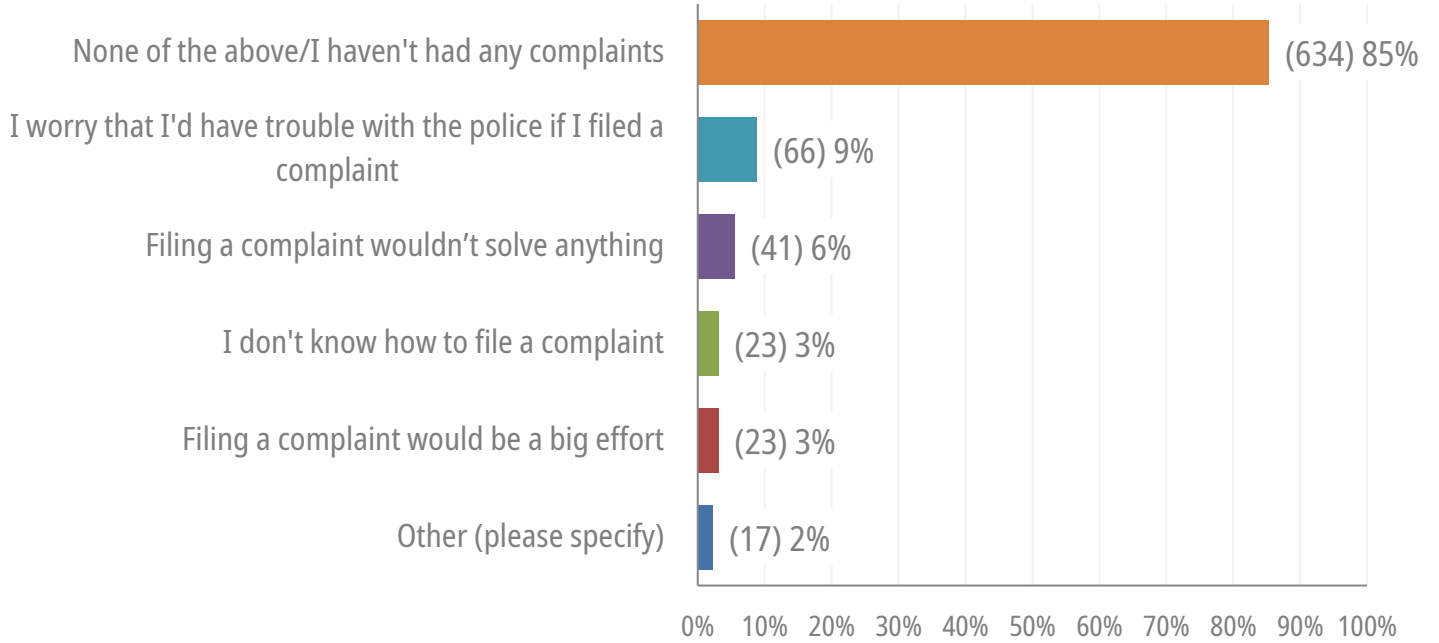
Answered: 14 Skipped: 848



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very satisfied	15%	2
Somewhat satisfied	23%	3
Somewhat dissatisfied	15%	2
Very dissatisfied	46%	6
TOTAL		13

Q16 In the past, have you decided not to file a complaint about the IPD for any of the following reasons?

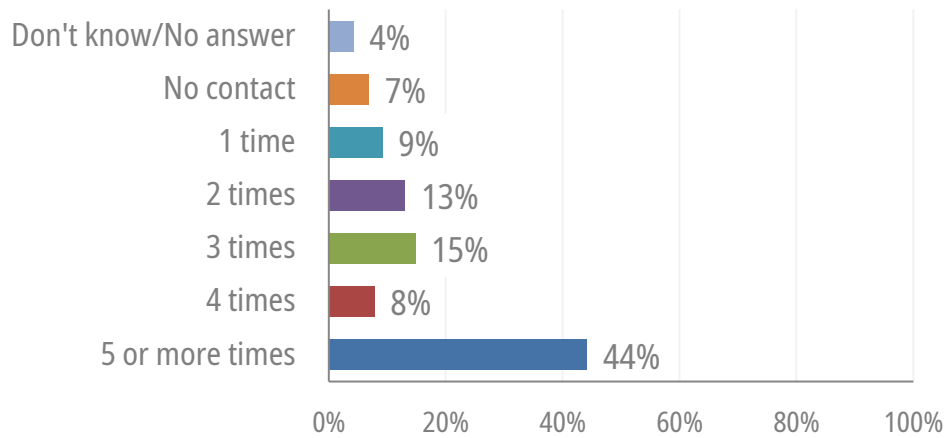
Answered: 743 Skipped: 119



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above/I haven't had any complaints	85%	634
I worry that I'd have trouble with the police if I filed a complaint	9%	66
Filing a complaint wouldn't solve anything	6%	41
Filing a complaint would be a big effort	3%	23
I don't know how to file a complaint	3%	23
Other (please specify)	2%	17
Total Respondents: 743		

Q17 How many times in the past 5 years have you had contact with a member of the Irvington Police Department?

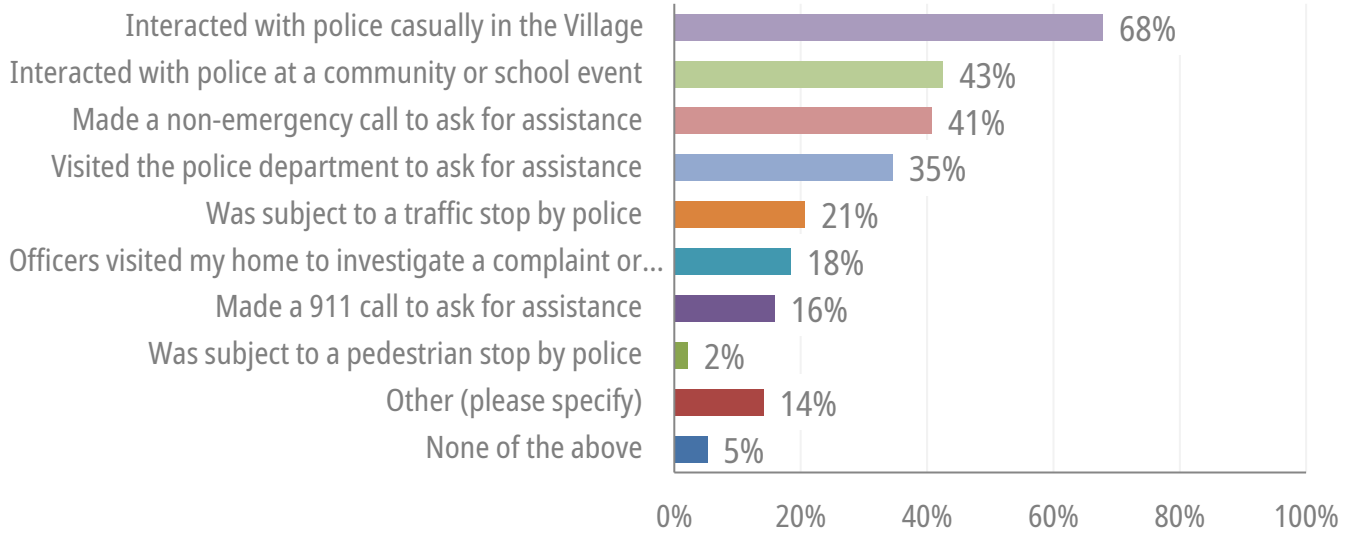
Answered: 743 Skipped: 119



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
No contact	7% 51
1 time	10% 68
2 times	14% 97
3 times	15% 110
4 times	8% 58
5 or more times	46% 328
TOTAL	712

Q18 Which types of contact did you have with the Irvington Police Department in the past 5 years?

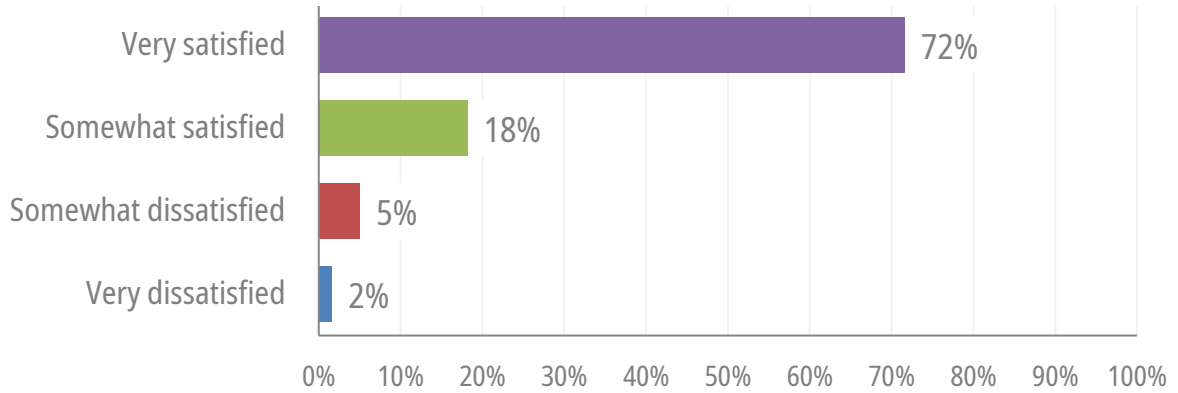
Answered: 743 Skipped: 119



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Interacted with police casually in the Village	68%	504
Interacted with police at a community or school event	43%	316
Made a non-emergency call to ask for assistance	41%	303
Visited the police department to ask for assistance	35%	257
Was subject to a traffic stop by police	21%	154
Officers visited my home to investigate a complaint or crime	18%	137
Made a 911 call to ask for assistance	16%	118
Other (please specify)	14%	105
None of the above	5%	39
Was subject to a pedestrian stop by police	2%	16
Total Respondents: 743		

Q19 Overall, how satisfied are you with your personal experiences with Irvington Police officers?

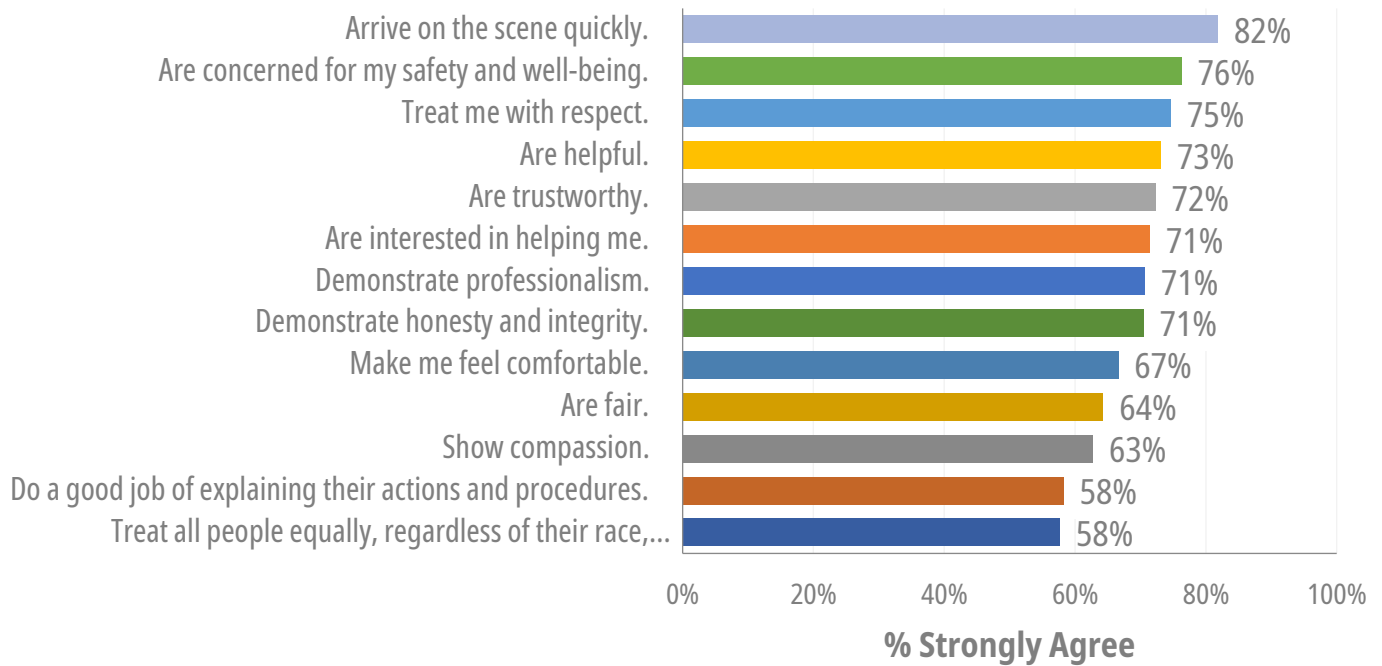
Answered: 742 Skipped: 120



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very satisfied	74%	523
Somewhat satisfied	19%	133
Somewhat dissatisfied	5%	37
Very dissatisfied	2%	12
TOTAL		705

Q20 How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Irvington Police officers?

Answered: 735 Skipped: 127



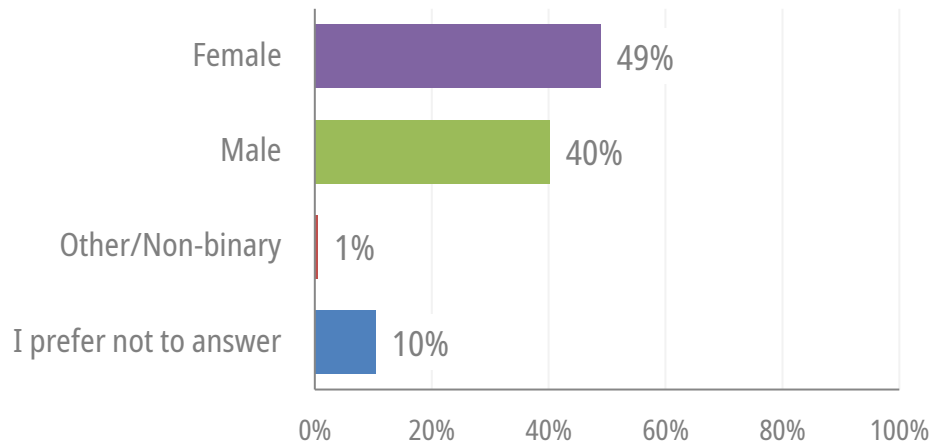
	STRONGLY AGREE	SOMEWHAT AGREE	SOMEWHAT DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
Arrive on the scene quickly.	82% 479	15% 89	3% 15	0% 2
Are concerned for my safety and well-being.	76% 499	19% 123	4% 24	1% 8
Treat me with respect.	75% 504	20% 134	5% 32	1% 5
Are helpful.	73% 501	21% 144	5% 35	1% 5
Are trustworthy.	72% 434	21% 127	5% 28	2% 11
Are interested in helping me.	71% 471	23% 150	4% 29	1% 9
Demonstrate professionalism.	71% 475	21% 141	7% 47	1% 9
Demonstrate honesty and integrity.	71% 416	22% 132	6% 38	1% 4
Make me feel comfortable.	67% 461	23% 157	9% 59	2% 15

Community Survey on Policing and Law Enforcement

	STRONGLY AGREE	SOMEWHAT AGREE	SOMEWHAT DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
Are fair.	64% 364	21% 120	12% 69	2% 13
Show compassion.	63% 379	27% 165	7% 43	3% 17
Do a good job of explaining their actions and procedures.	58% 317	26% 140	11% 62	5% 25
Treat all people equally, regardless of their race, ethnicity, income, age, religion, or sexual identity.	58% 277	16% 75	17% 80	10% 48

Q25 What is your gender?

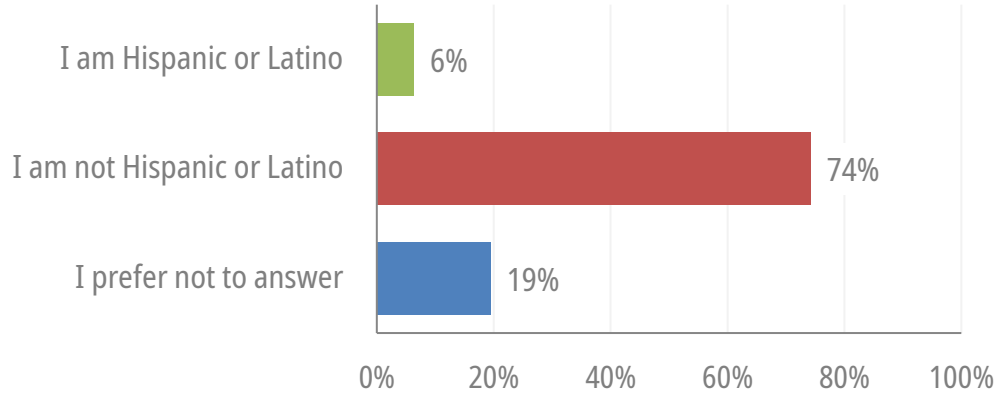
Answered: 722 Skipped: 140



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Female	49%	353
Male	40%	290
Other/Non-binary	1%	4
I prefer not to answer	10%	75
TOTAL		722

Q26 Are you Hispanic or Latino?

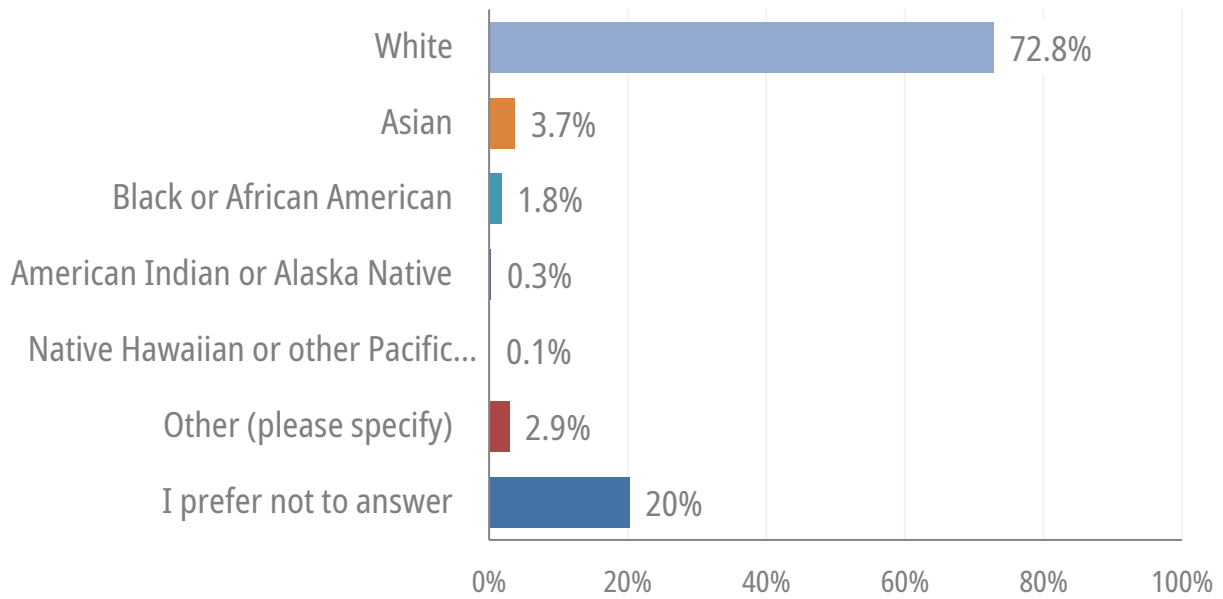
Answered: 721 Skipped: 141



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I am Hispanic or Latino	6%	46
I am not Hispanic or Latino	74%	535
I prefer not to answer	19%	140
TOTAL		721

Q27 What is your race?

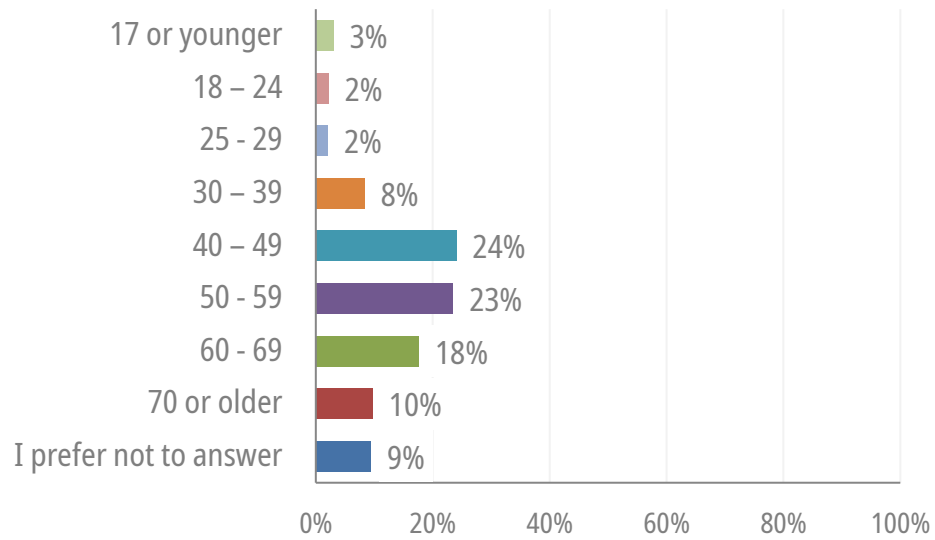
Answered: 721 Skipped: 141



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I prefer not to answer	20%	146
American Indian or Alaska Native	0%	2
Asian	4%	27
Black or African American	2%	13
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0%	1
White	73%	525
Other (please specify)	3%	21
Total Respondents: 721		

Q28 What is your age?

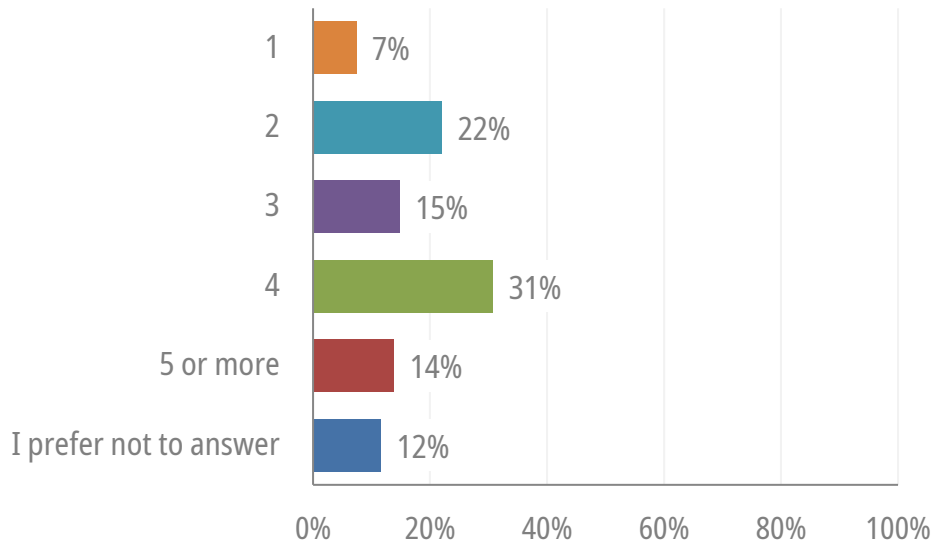
Answered: 720 Skipped: 142



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
17 or younger	3%	22
18 - 24	2%	16
25 - 29	2%	15
30 - 39	8%	60
40 - 49	24%	173
50 - 59	23%	169
60 - 69	18%	127
70 or older	10%	70
I prefer not to answer	9%	68
TOTAL		720

Q29 How many people live in your household?

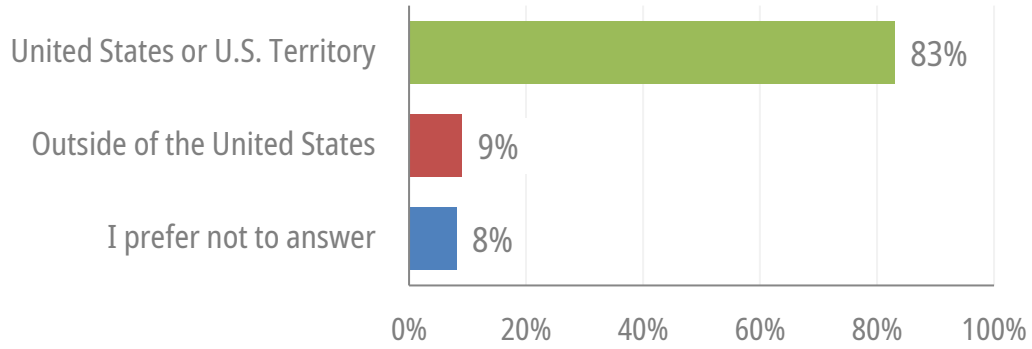
Answered: 720 Skipped: 142



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1	7%	53
2	22%	158
3	15%	106
4	31%	221
5 or more	14%	99
I prefer not to answer	12%	83
TOTAL		720

Q30 Where were you born?

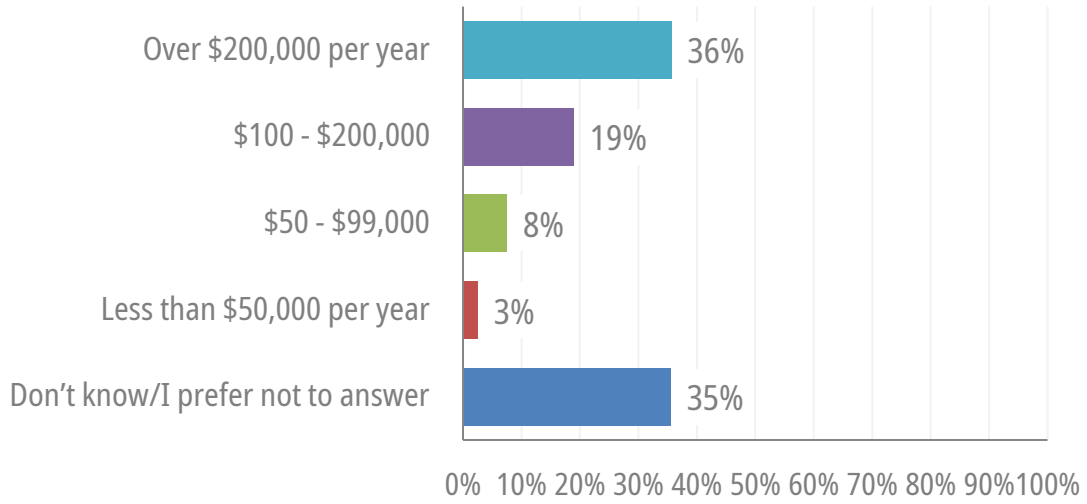
Answered: 720 Skipped: 142



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
United States or U.S. Territory	83%	597
Outside of the United States	9%	65
I prefer not to answer	8%	58
TOTAL		720

Q31 What is your family's annual income from both wages and assets?

Answered: 719 Skipped: 143



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Less than \$50,000 per year	3%	18
\$50 - \$99,000	8%	54
\$100 - \$200,000	19%	136
Over \$200,000 per year	36%	256
Don't know/I prefer not to answer	35%	255
TOTAL		719

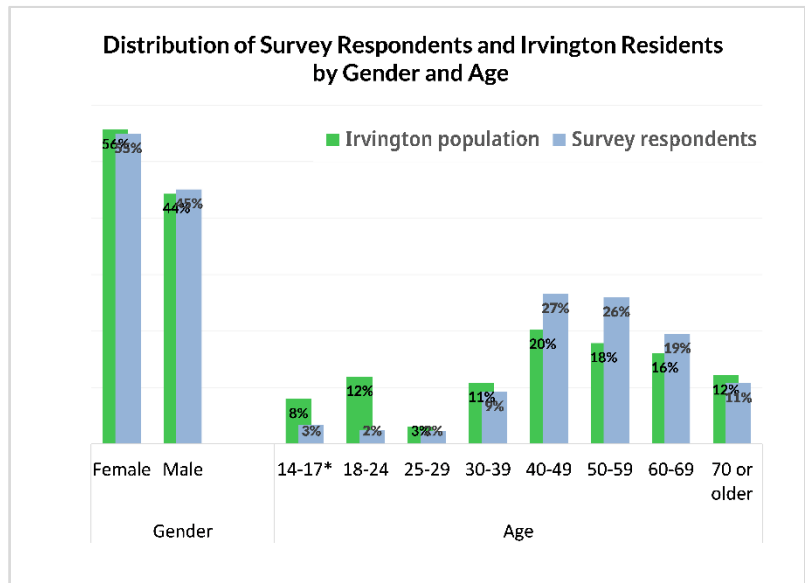
APPENDIX A - METHODOLOGY

Village residents were informed about the survey via a variety of marketing measures, including via postcards mailed to every address, posters, and social media. High school students and school district employees received multiple notifications by district email in addition to seeing posters in the school buildings. Local businesses and houses of worship were contacted directly and/or handed postcards to give to staff or congregants. All materials were available in both English and Spanish.

The survey was conducted online in both English and Spanish via SurveyMonkey. Paper surveys were also available in both languages and mailed free of charge upon request, as was indicated in all marketing materials.

Survey Response Rate Analysis

The Village population is approximately 6,500 and the survey received a total of 1,081 responses -- 1,077 in English and 4 in Spanish. 805 respondents indicated that they were Village residents -- a response rate of about 16% among residents ages 14 and over. The response rate among high school students was unfortunately too low to yield statistically significant findings (49 complete responses out of 543 students). As a result, for analytical purposes all residents of both the village and school district have been consolidated into a single group.



In the table below, the demographic characteristics of survey respondents are compared with population estimates of the Village of Irvington produced by the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey. Respondent demographics are very similar to those of Irvington’s population at large with respect to race, Hispanic ethnicity, and gender. Notably, respondents do differ from the overall population in terms of age. Survey respondents skew substantially older than the Village’s population, with individuals in their 40’s and 50’s particularly overrepresented among survey-takers.

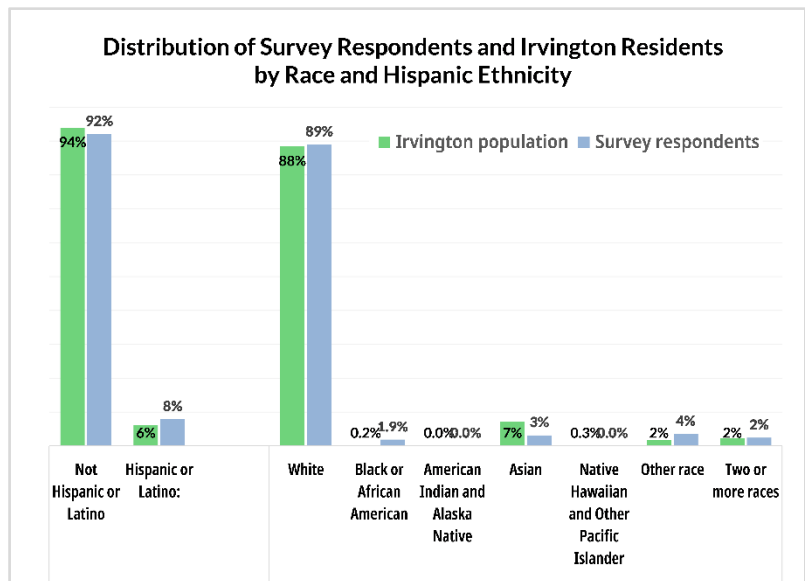


TABLE: Distribution of Survey Respondents and Irvington Residents
By Gender, Race, Hispanic Ethnicity and Age Category

	Irvington Residents			
	American Community Survey ⁴		Policing Committee Survey	
	#	%	#	%
Gender				
Female	3635	55.7%	353	54.9%
Male	2894	44.3%	290	45.1%
Other*			4	
No answer*			75	
Race				
<u>One race</u>	<u>6386</u>	<u>97.8%</u>	-	<u>526</u> <u>97.6%</u>
White	5774	88.4%		480 89.1%
Black or African American	12	0.2%		10 1.9%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0	0.0%		0 0.0%
Asian	472	7.2%		17 3.2%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	17	0.3%		0 0.0%
Other race	111	1.7%		19 3.5%
<u>Two or more races</u>	<u>143</u>	<u>2.2%</u>	-	<u>13</u> <u>2.4%</u>
Hispanic ethnicity				
Not Hispanic or Latino	6130	93.9%	535	92.1%
Hispanic or Latino:	399	6.1%	46	7.9%
No answer*			140	
Age				
	<u>5105</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	-	<u>652</u> <u>100.0%</u>
15 to 17 years* (14 - 17 years)	406	8.0%		22 3.4%
18 to 24 years	609	11.9%		16 2.5%
25 to 29 years	154	3.0%		15 2.3%
30 to 39 years	553	10.8%		60 9.2%
40 to 49 years	1033	20.2%		173 26.5%
50 to 59 years	911	17.8%		169 25.9%
60 to 69 years	820	16.1%		127 19.5%
70 or older	619	12.1%		70 10.7%
No answer*				68

⁴ Population statistics for Irvington, NY are derived from the US Census Bureau's American Community Survey 5-year estimates for 2015-2019 (U.S. Census Bureau. <https://data.census.gov>). Population estimates reflect the full Village population with the exception of the age distribution table which represents the distribution of residents ages 15 and over
* Responses of other, no answer, and prefer not to answer are excluded from percentages for greater comparability with population estimates.