

2012



**KANKAKEE COUNTY  
COMMUNITY THEMES AND  
STRENGTHS ASSESSMENT**

# **Kankakee County Community Health Status Assessment**

prepared for

**Kankakee County Health Department**

**Provena St. Mary 's Hospital**

**Riverside Medical Center**

**United Way of Kankakee County**

by the



## PARTNERSHIP FOR A HEALTHY COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

John Avendano	<i>Kankakee Community College</i>
Greg Carrell	<i>United Way of Kankakee County</i>
Torrie Carter	<i>Provena St. Mary's Hospital</i>
Carole Franke	<i>Kankakee County NAACP</i>
Margaret Frogge	<i>Riverside Medical Center</i>
Pastor Lawrence Garcia	<i>New Life Pentecostal Church; Kankakee County Hispanic Partnership</i>
Pam Gulczynski	<i>Provena Home Health Care</i>
Jackie Haas	<i>The Helen Wheeler Center for Community Mental Health</i>
Greg Harris	<i>Catholic Charities</i>
Sister Anne Jaeger	<i>Provena St. Mary's Hospital</i>
John Jurica	<i>Riverside Medical Center</i>
Carl Leth	<i>Olivet Nazarene University</i>
Theodis Pace	<i>Kankakee County NAACP</i>
Bonnie Schaafsma	<i>Kankakee County Health Department</i>
Houston Thompson	<i>Olivet Nazarene University</i>

*\*Denotes Kankakee County Community Themes and Strengths Sub-Committee Member*

# Table of contents

Introduction	p5
Executive Summary	p6
Community Survey	p9
Sample & Methods	p12
Summary of Key Issues	p14
Community Ratings	p16
Resident Ratings	p27
Health Specific Questions	p39
Demographics	p60
Over 65 Focus group	p62
Hispanic/Latino Focus Group	p71
NAACP Focus Group	p80
Teen Court/Youth Focus Group	p89

# INTRODUCTION

In Spring 2011, a broad array of public health stakeholders from Kankakee County convened as the *Partnership for a Healthy Community*, a collaborative whose vision is to build a strong, healthy and safe community. In the following months, *Partnership for a Healthy Community* worked towards its mission to create “a healthy community through comprehensive assessments and the implementation of effective action plans” by conducting a [Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships \(MAPP\)](#) process.

MAPP is a community-driven strategic planning framework that assists communities in developing and implementing efforts around the prioritization of public health issues and the identification of resources to address them as defined by the [10 Essential Public Health Services](#). The MAPP process includes four assessment tools, including the *Community Themes and Strengths Assessment*.



MAPP Model, *Achieving Healthier Communities through MAPP User's Handbook*  
[http://www.naccho.org/topics/infrastructure/mapp/upload/MAPP\\_Handbook\\_fnl.pdf](http://www.naccho.org/topics/infrastructure/mapp/upload/MAPP_Handbook_fnl.pdf)

The Kankakee County Community Themes and Strengths Assessment (CTSA) is focused on gathering the thoughts, opinions and perceptions of community members. The CTSA helps the *Kankakee County Partnership for a Healthy Community* to develop a meaningful understanding of community health issues that are important to residents across the county, residents' perceptions about quality of life, and an inventory of community assets.

The CTSA was conducted between January 2012 and March 2012 and focused on answering the following questions:

- What health-related issues are important to community residents in Kankakee County?
- What issues disproportionately affect underserved communities in Kankakee County?
- How is quality of life perceived in Kankakee County communities?
- What assets exist in Kankakee County that can be used to improve community health?

To answer these questions, the *Partnership for a Healthy Community* used three assessment methods:

- (1) Kankakee County Community Health Survey
- (2) Focus Groups
- (3) Asset Inventory

## Executive Summary

Input from the community was gathered through a random sample survey of households in the community and four focus groups. The community survey explored people's perceptions of issues surrounding quality of life, health, and social factors, as well as illuminating key demographics. The survey evaluated similarities and differences at the county, community, and household levels and among the different cities. Focus groups were targeted to reach special populations in the community that either have unique needs or are often under-represented in community surveys. These focus group participants completed a condensed survey and participated in open-ended discussion. The focus groups were composed of senior citizens, NAACP members, African Americans, Hispanic/Latinos, and youth. Pembroke, Illinois was identified as a priority study location, and an extra effort was made to reach these residents via the condensed survey however, this group did not participate in an open-ended discussion. Taking into account responses from both the community survey and the focus groups, jobs, cultural activities, and safety were identified as the top priorities of respondents across all demographic/community groups. In the sample, the need for "good jobs" was identified by at least a 30 vote margin for residents in the county as a whole, the community, and in the respondents' homes, while the other issues were separated by only one or two points. It is interesting to note that for all population levels (home, community, and county), religion and spirituality were seen to be present in Kankakee—few participants perceived residents as rarely or never finding importance in religious or spiritual values (3-10%).

Survey administrators anticipated differences in responses among survey participants with different insurance statuses and therefore delineated some results along this category. Surprisingly, insurance status was not found to predict ratings for most of the concerns presented in the survey.

### Employment and Financial Resources:

Survey respondents expressed varying outlooks regarding Kankakee County's employment opportunities. Although on average respondents identified the difficulty in finding good jobs as the top issue, several sub-groups were positive about employment prospects in Kankakee County. Youth and Hispanic/Latino respondents were the most optimistic about employment, with 53% of youth and 59% of Latinos rating Kankakee as good or better as far as opportunities for employment. On the other hand, only 17% of African Americans participants gave ratings as very good/excellent and 77% rated Kankakee County as fair/poor for employment.

A substantial proportion of residents in the sample reported not having the financial resources they needed. For instance, only 88% of community survey participants always/most of the time were able to buy food in their own home. Similarly, 95% of seniors, and 83% of African-Americans had money for "the things they really need." However, only 51% of Hispanics surveyed reported similar results. While many overall respondents stated they had the financial resources to get what they needed, 22% still reported not being able to afford healthcare.

### Safety:

In terms of safety, just over half of respondents rated Kankakee County as “good” or better (58%). With only twenty-three percent rating Kankakee’s safety as “good” or better, youth participants were least likely to consider Kankakee a safe community. Of the survey respondents, 23% of seniors, 32% of Hispanics/Latinos, 18% of NAACP and 56% of youth identified a need for safe places to play, live and work as the most important community safety need.

### Community Resources:

Participation in arts and cultural events was identified as one of the top three issues by respondents at the home, county, and community level. While 75% of participants reported that people in their household participate in recreation or visit parks “always/most of the time”, recreational activities were also a widely identified need. For instance, senior centers were seen as the most important resource among senior citizens but it was also identified as the third most common need for their community by the general surveyed population. Art and cultural activities were among the top programs that the Hispanic/Latino community perceived as beneficial to the community.

The top need identified in the NAACP focus group for the county was community involvement and safe spaces/activities for youth for the community. Teens identified church groups, community organizations, and sports as important existing resources, but the need for safe spaces and activities was still a top concern. Public transportation was also often identified as a need, especially for the senior citizen and Hispanic/Latino focus groups, noting a need for extended transportation routes and hours of operation to accommodate their needs.

### Place for Growing Up & Growing Old:

Overall, 64% of residents in the sample ranked Kankakee County “good” or better as a place to raise children. Youth and NAACP members had the lowest “good or better” ratings, with only 24% and 34%, respectively.

While 59% of general residents in the sample rated Kankakee County as a “good” or better place to grow old, 67% of the senior citizens surveyed rated it “good” or better.

### Quality of Life:

Overall, resident respondents felt the quality of life in Kankakee County was good. However, almost a quarter of residents in the community survey felt that Kankakee life was only fair/poor. Senior citizens had the best outlook, with 52% rating it good and 31% as very good/excellent. Youth rated the quality of life lowest with only 29% rating it good and 12% very good/excellent. No NAACP participant rated the quality of life as very good/excellent, and 45% rated it as fair /poor. Residents in Manteno had the highest positive ratings in the sample, while Kankakee and Momence had the lowest.

### Quality of Healthcare:

Participants viewed the quality of healthcare more favorably than the quality of life in Kankakee County, with 42% rating it very good/excellent, 34% rating it as good, and 24% as fair/poor. Bradley and St. Anne had generally low ratings for healthcare compared to other cities in the county. In St. Anne, only 21% reported very good/excellent care, while 34% reported it fair/poor. Bradley residents reported the highest rates of poor care, at 19%. Among the different insurance types, Medicare recipients had the highest percent reporting very good/excellent care, at 53%, and 48% of self-pay respondents reported having very good or excellent care. On the other hand, Medicaid recipients reported the highest levels of fair/poor care at 32%, though 39% reported very good/excellent care.

### Health Concerns:

Across all health concerns, participants reported fewer problems in their own home than at the community or county level. The most commonly reported problems in their own home were heart health (28%), elder health issues (28%), diabetes (21%), and cancer (18%). At the county level, the biggest concerns were drug abuse (70%), weight (61%), underage drinking (67%) and youth violence (62%). It is noteworthy that despite there being significant differences in issues identified at the different regional levels, the obesity/overweight population and drug abuse were identified as the top two health concerns at both the community and county levels.

### Sources of Health Information:

The most common source for health information identified by survey respondents was the newspaper (71%), followed by doctor (64%), internet (43%), family (41%) and news (41%). Only 36% got information from a hospital, 20% from their workplace, 19% from the health department and 15% from school.



# COMMUNITY SURVEY

# COMMUNITY SURVEY

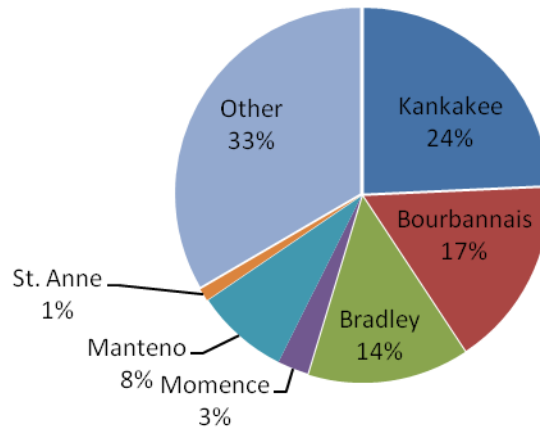
A random sample of 5,000 surveys were distributed by mail to a random sample of home throughout Kankakee County. 395 households, including 404 individuals, responded to the survey.

<b>Demographics of Survey Respondents Compared to Kankakee County</b>		
	<b>Survey Sample</b>	<b>Kankakee County, Census 2010</b>
<b>Gender</b>	Men 32.3% Women 67.7%	Men 49.1% Women 50.9%
<b>Age</b>	0-25: 0.5% 26-39: 13.7% 40-54: 27.1% 55-64: 22.7% 65+: 35.9%	0-24: 35.7% 25-39: 18.7% 40-54: 20.4% 55-64: 11.8% 65+: 13.5%
<b>Race / Ethnicity</b>	White: 95% African American: 3.3% Hispanic: 0.8%	White: 77.6% African American: 15.1% Hispanic: 9.0%
<b>Educational Attainment</b>	Less than HS: 2.2% HS Diploma: 28.5% Some College: 29.6% College Degree + : 39.6%	Less than HS: 15.6% HS Diploma: 35.9% Some College: 24.6% College Degree + : 15.0%

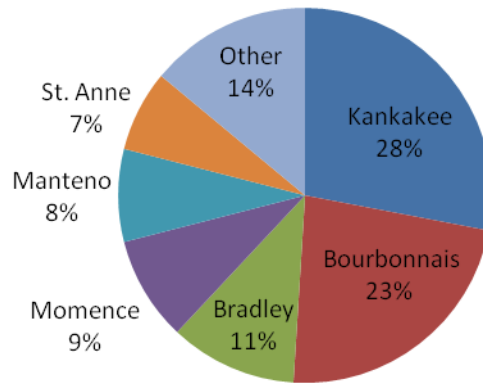
28% Kankakee	8% Manteno	2% Bonfield
23% Bourbonnais	7% St. Anne	2% Aroma Park
11% Bradley	3% Grant Park	1.5% Essex
9% Momence	3% Herscher	

# COMMUNITY SURVEY

## Census Population Distribution



## Community Survey Sample



28% Kankakee	8% Manteno	2% Bonfield
23% Bourbonnais	7% St. Anne	2% Aroma Park
11% Bradley	3% Grant Park	1.5% Essex
9% Momence	3% Herscher	

# COMMUNITY SURVEY

## Methods:

The community input survey was designed by the Steering Committee with Illinois Public Health Institute consultation. The survey was based on past surveys used by other communities in Illinois and adapted to meet the needs of Kankakee county. The distribution process was designed in collaboration with FMP Direct. 5000 surveys were mailed to a random sample of Kankakee County households. With 404 surveys returned, the survey had a response rate of 8%. Of the surveys received, none were excluded.

The community survey consisted for three types of questions. Community rating questions (questions 1-5) asked about the overall quality of life in Kankakee County; responses were poor, fair, good, very good, excellent. Resident ratings questions (questions 9-22) asked how often residents were able to do certain activities, such as buy food or go the park; the possible responses were never, rarely, sometimes, most of the time or always. These questions were asked three times each, for the county level, community level and within the respondent's home. Specific health questions (questions 23-45) were also asked for the county level, community level and within the respondent's home. Participants indicated whether a particular health problem, such as smoking or heart diseases, was "a large problem", "somewhat a problem", "a small problem", "not a problem", "don't know/not applicable".

In comparison to the general population, survey respondents were majority female and white with both age and educational attainment positively skewed. The survey data were further examined by city; there were 102 responses from Kankakee, 87 from Bourbonnais, 42 from Bradley, 29 from Manteno, 33 from Momence and 24 from St. Anne. Responses from other cities were not included in the city breakdown.

The survey data was also examined by insurance status. The categories were Medicare (n=140), Medicaid/Uninsured (n=75), Health Insurance through employer (n=209), and Health Insurance self-pay (n=86). VA and other were not included. Participants could select more than one type of health insurance.

The results of the surveys administered at the four focus groups are presented separately in the report and are not incorporated into the results from the larger community survey.

# COMMUNITY SURVEY

## **Research Limitations:**

The majority of respondents were from Momence and St. Anne, thus affecting the demographic distribution for all towns in Kankakee. Eighty-six percent of respondents were from six cities, whereas these six cities account for only 69% of the total Kankakee County population. Furthermore, the sample reflects lower representation of residents with low-educational attainment, low-income residents, and residents from communities of color than exist in the county. This is typical of most community surveys, especially those disseminated through mail surveys.

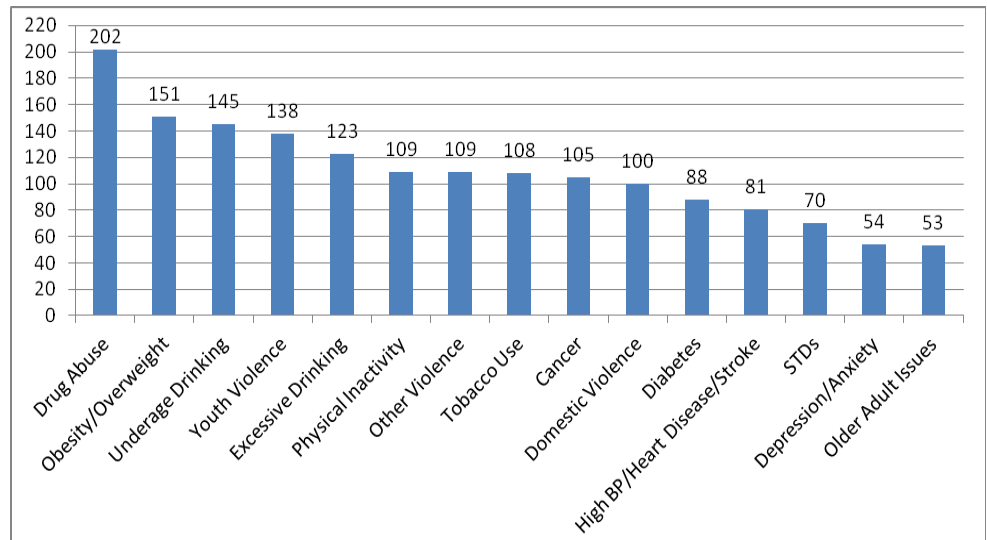
Because respondents were encountered through a survey distributed to peoples' homes, it may not be entirely representative of the total population. It is documented in social science literature that certain demographic groups are more likely to respond to this type of survey than others. This may have significant implications for the response rate by certain groups. Efforts were made to reduce this potential limitation in the data by targeting focus groups toward priority populations that are usually missed in surveys.

For certain demographic and geographic categories, the small sample size may have allowed for more extreme findings. For example, only .5% of the surveyed populations were youth, so that youth data is susceptible to being skewed by outliers. Therefore this data should not necessarily be seen as representative of all youth in Kankakee County.

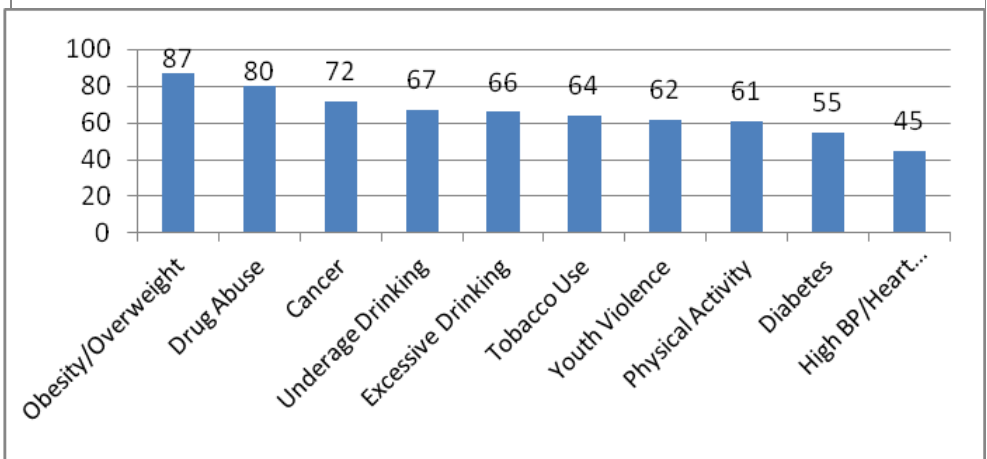
In general, people were more likely to judge their homes as better than both the community and county in which they live. For example, people rate highly the finances, safety, and access to schools of residents in their home compared to at the community and county level. At the same time, people are more likely to perceive drug, violence, and mental illness problems in the county and community than in their home. This disparity could be attributed to illusory superiority or to the sampling bias discussed above. Efforts were made to reduce these sources of error by targeting population groups missed in the community survey for participation in the focus groups.

## Summary of Health Issues Perceived as "Large Problem" (Qs 24-45)

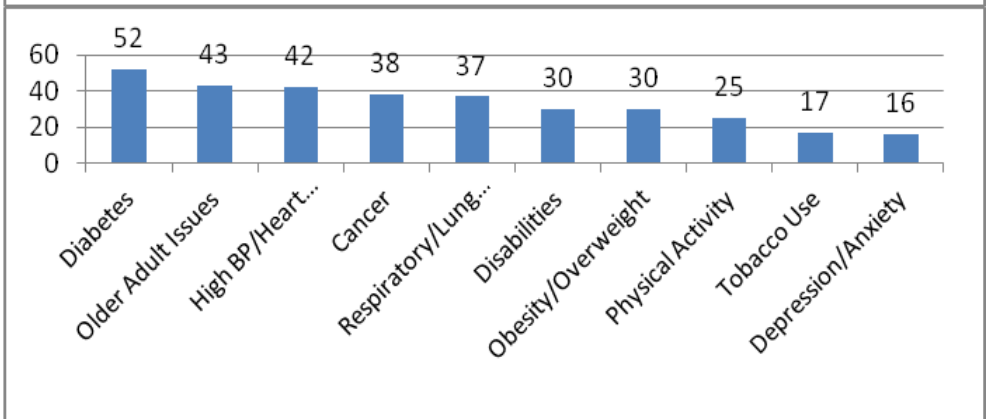
In Kankakee County...



in your community...



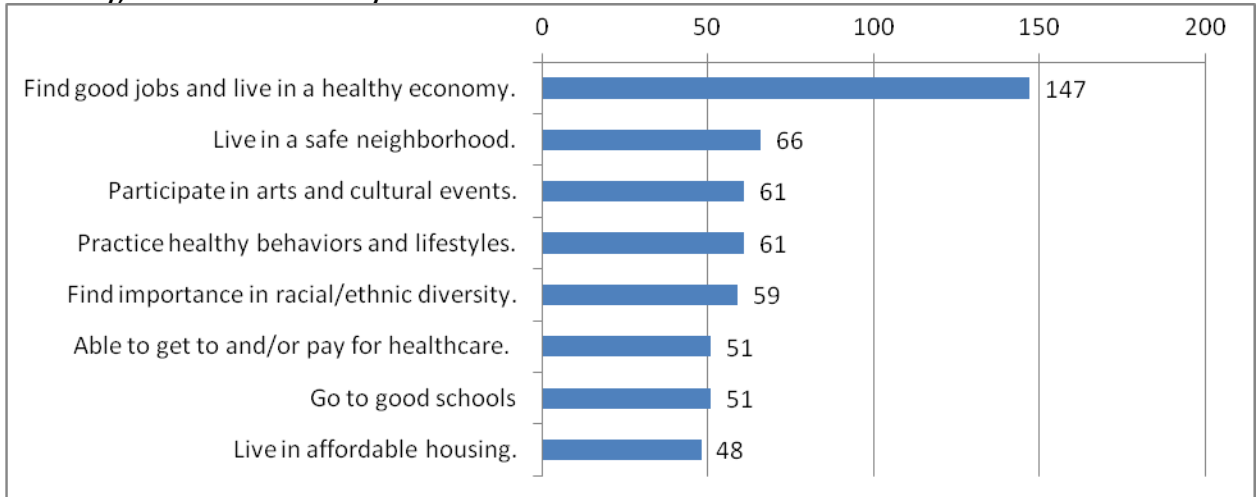
In your home...



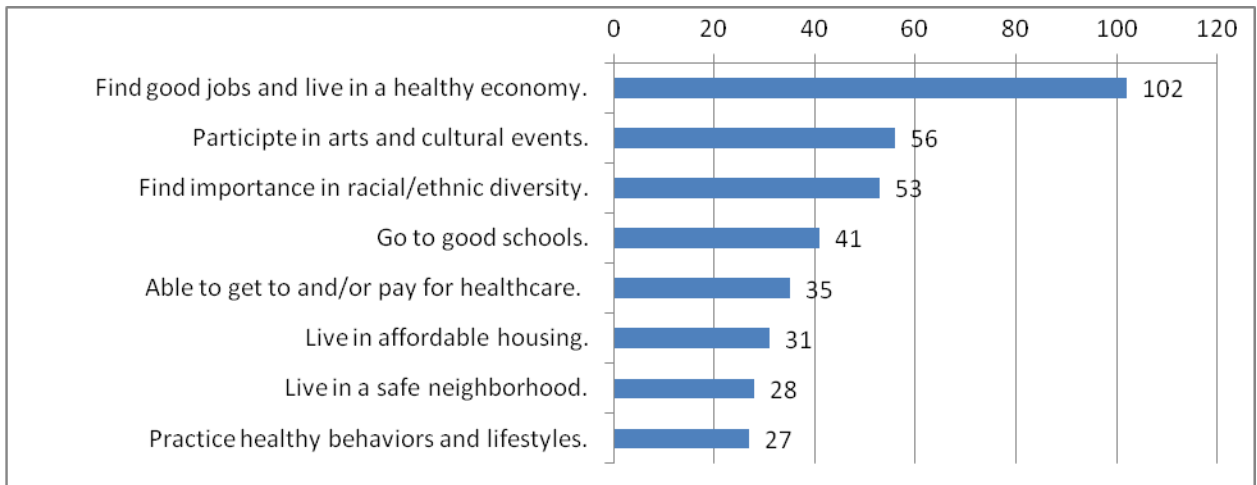
Out of the 20 specific health conditions that were on the survey, drug abuse, obesity, underage drinking and youth violence were perceived as the largest problems at the county level. At the community level, the concerns were similar, with cancer replacing youth violence. However, at the home level, the top concerns were diabetes, elder care, high BP/heart disease and cancer.

## Summary of Top Issues (Qs 9-22)

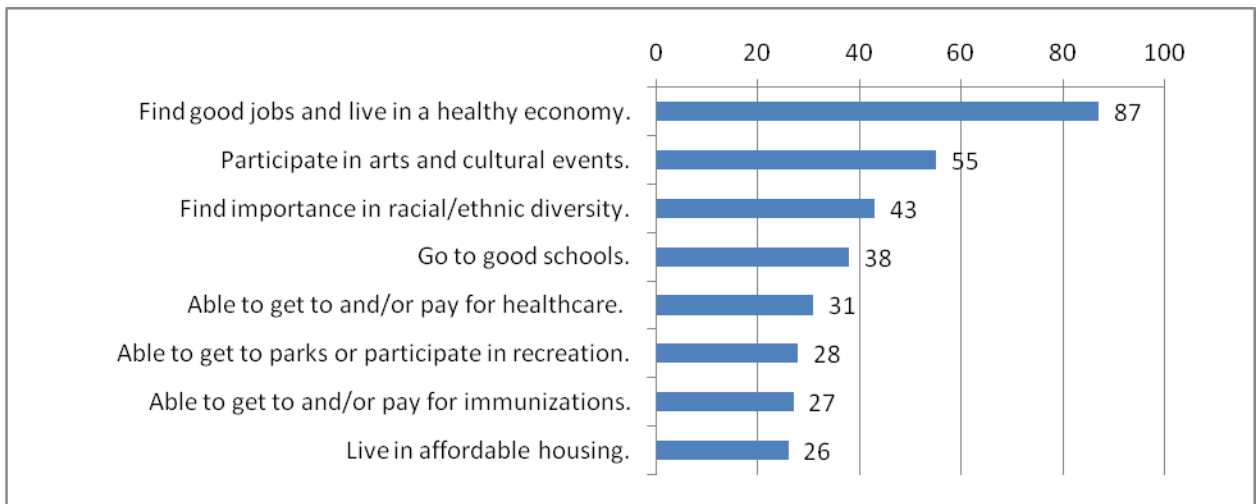
In Kankakee County, residents “rarely” or “never”...



In your neighborhood/community, residents “rarely” or “never”...

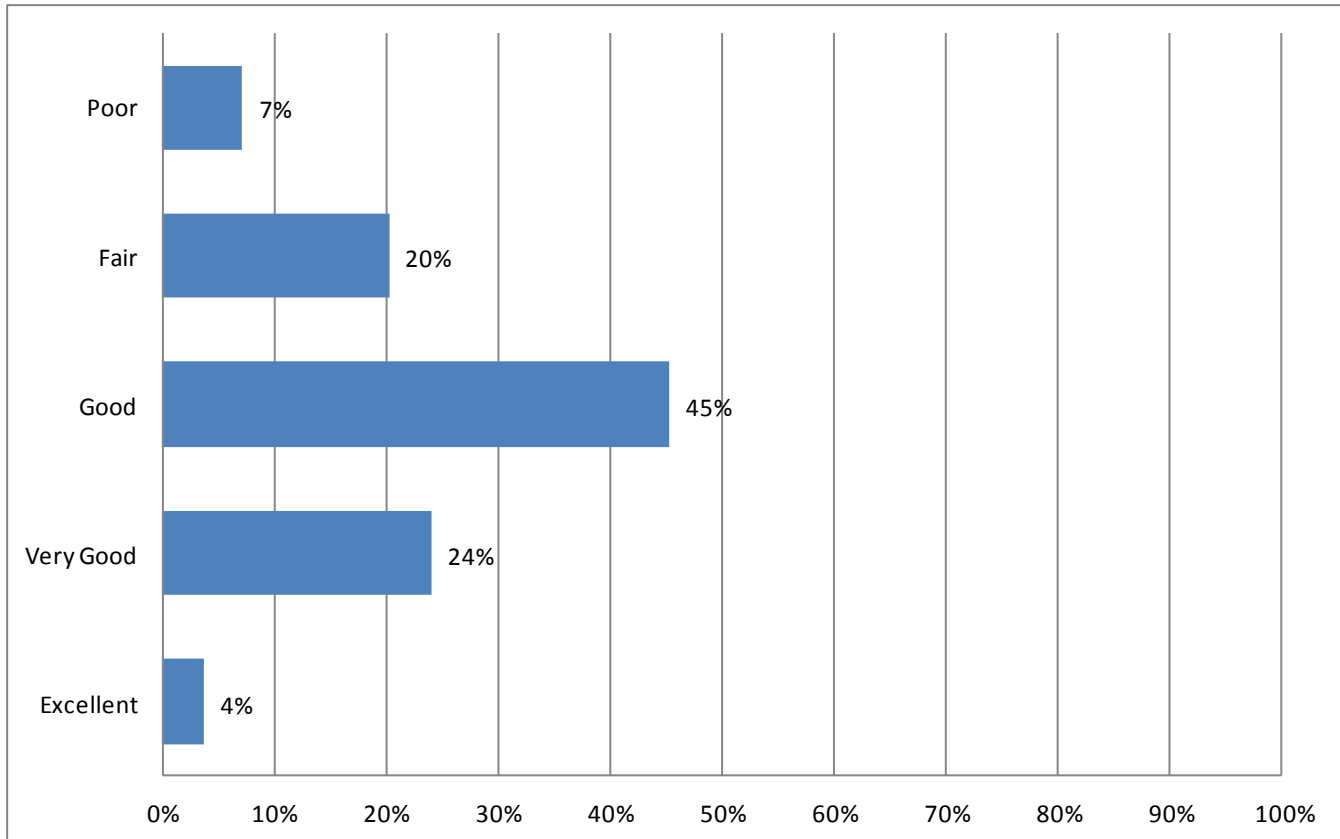


In your home, residents “rarely” or “never”...



Of the social issues included on the survey, jobs/economy was the top concern at all levels. At the county level, it was followed by safe neighborhood, participating in art/culture and health behaviors/lifestyles, while at the community and home levels, the other top concerns were arts/culture, importance of racial/ethnic diversity and good schools.

## Q1:How would you rate the overall quality of life in Kankakee County?



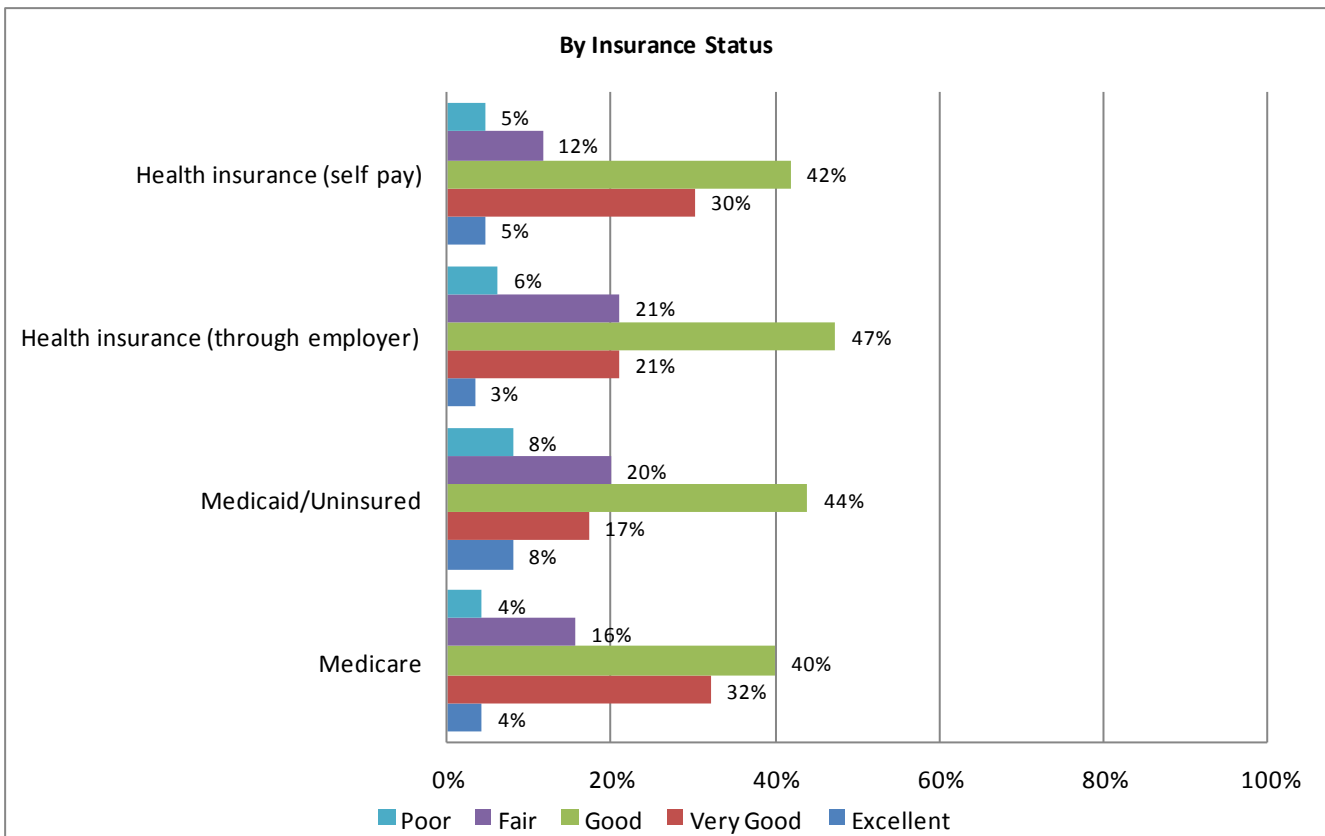
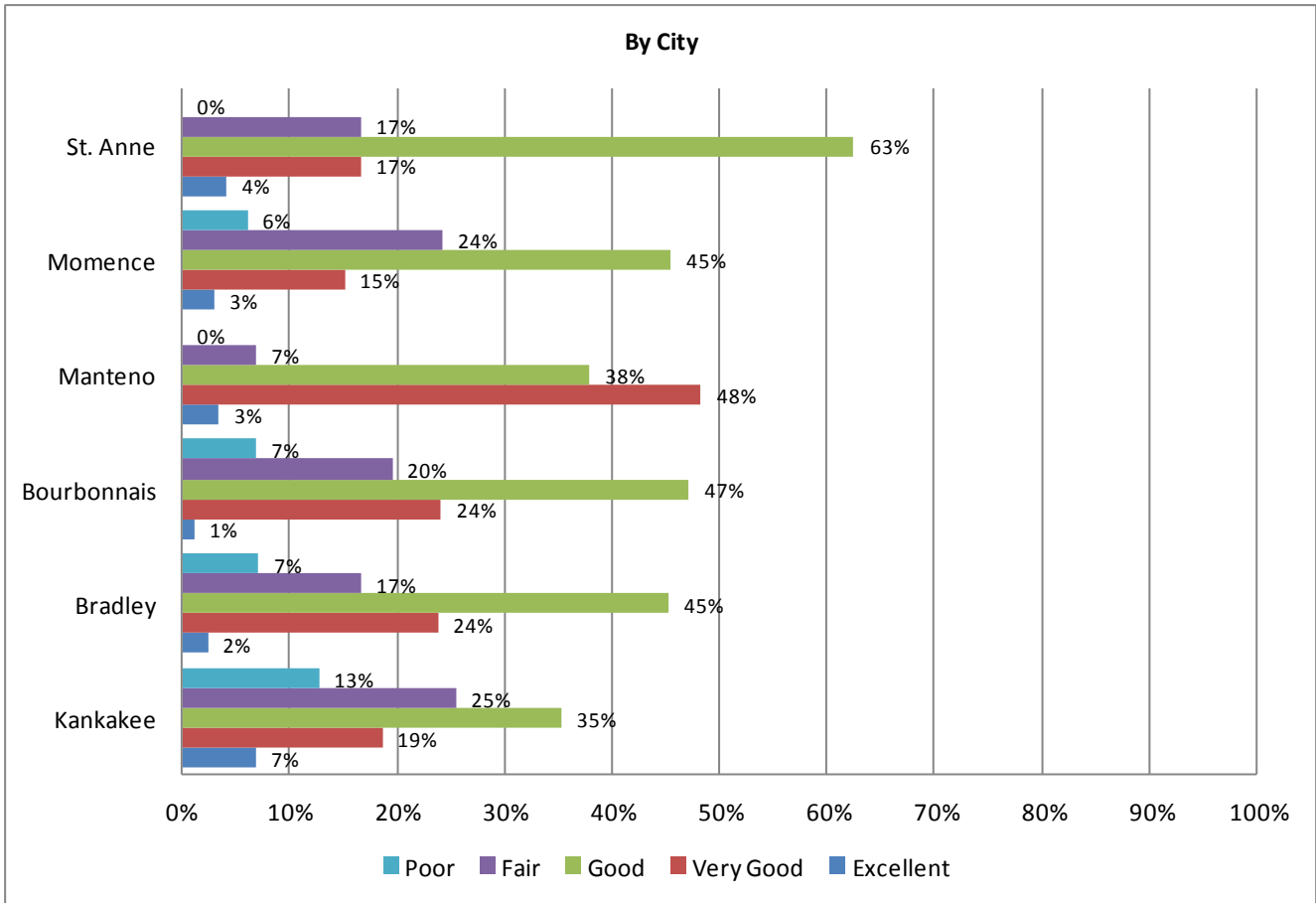
Overall, 45% of the participants rated the quality of life in Kankakee County as good. This was similar across breakdowns, with city-specific rates ranging from 35%-63% and insurance-status rates ranging from 40%-42%. Twenty-eight percent of the total respondents rated life as very good/excellent and 27% as fair/poor.

Among different breakdowns, the most variation was by city. Manteno had significantly higher percent of very good/excellent ratings at 51%, while at 30% of respondents from Momence has the highest percent of respondents rating quality of life fair/poor

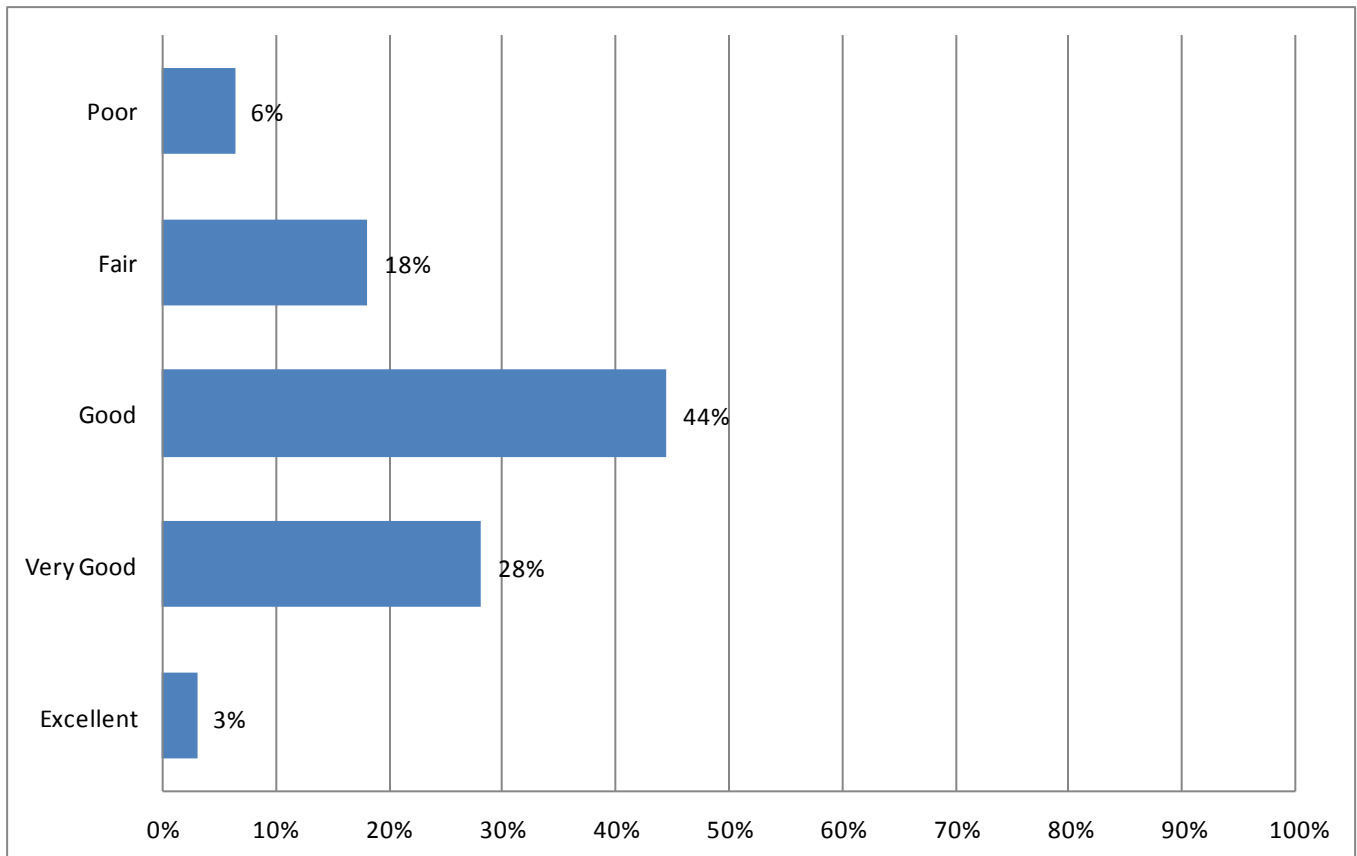
By insurance status, Medicare beneficiaries and self-pay patients had the highest percentage of very good/excellent ratings and the fewest fair/poor ratings, but there was little variation otherwise.



# Q1:How would you rate the overall quality of life in Kankakee County?

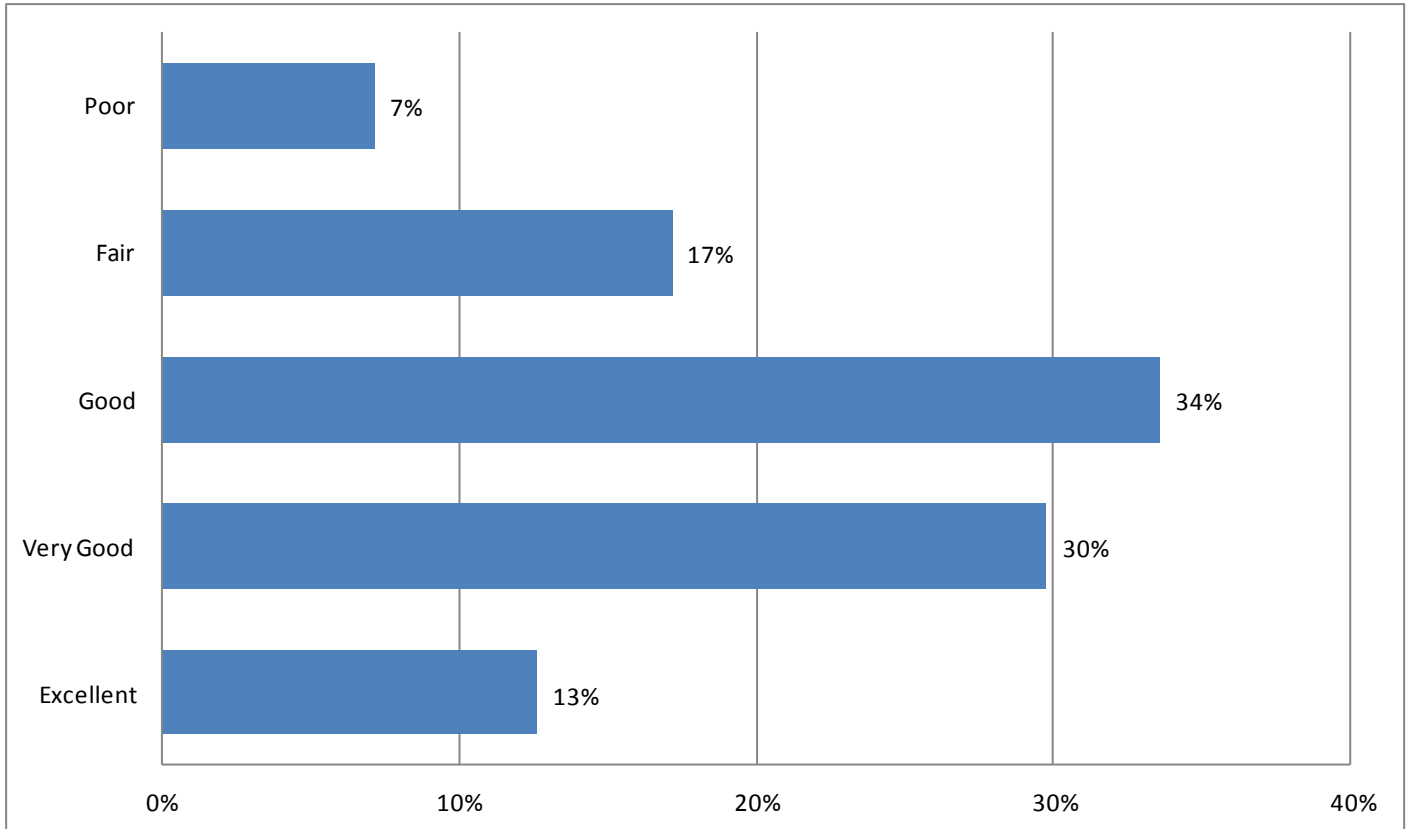


## Q2: How would you rate the overall quality of the environment in Kankakee County?



The distribution of ratings for the quality of the environment was similar to that of ratings for quality of life in Kankakee County with 44% of all participants rating the environment as good, 31% as very good/excellent and 24% as fair/poor.

### Q3:How would you rate the quality of the healthcare system in Kankakee County?

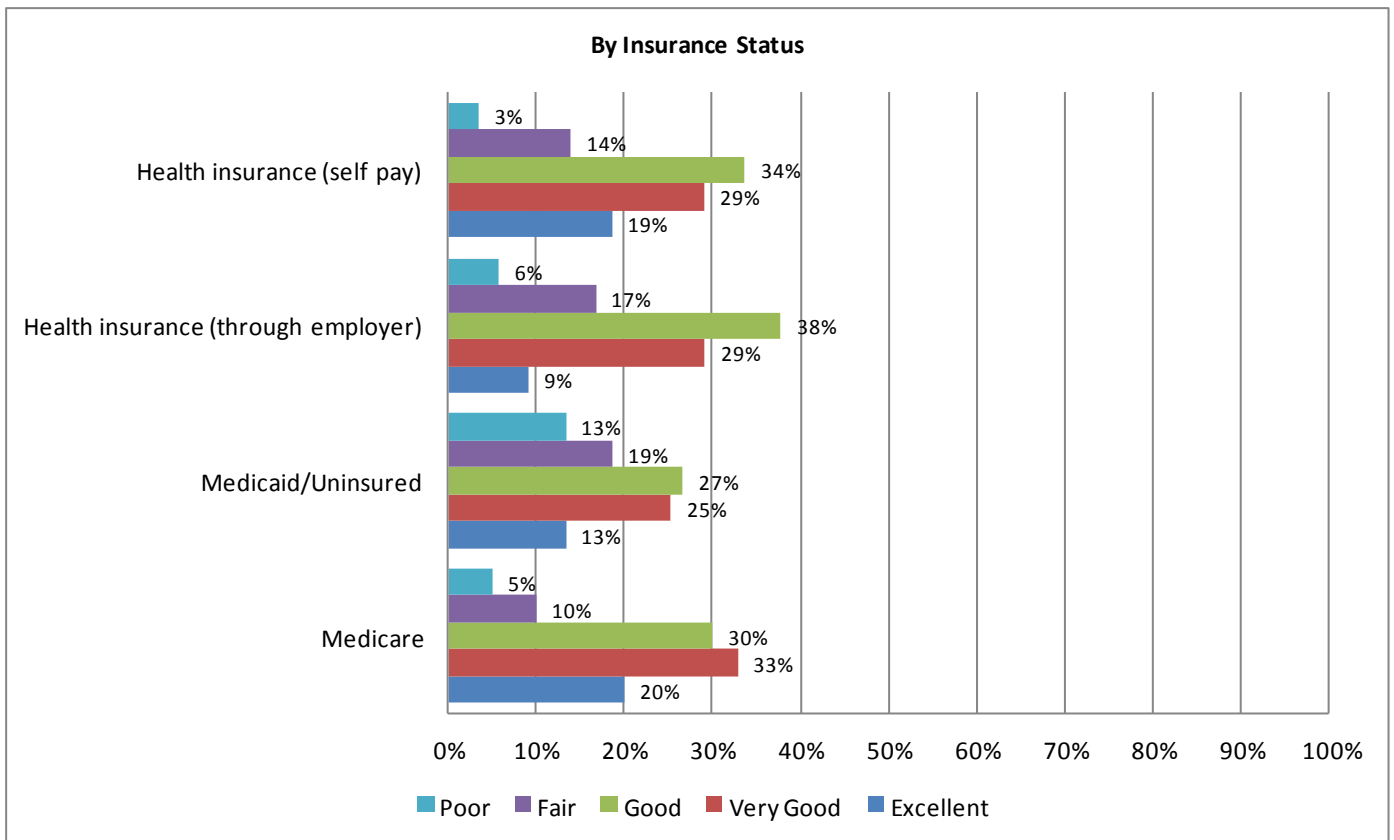
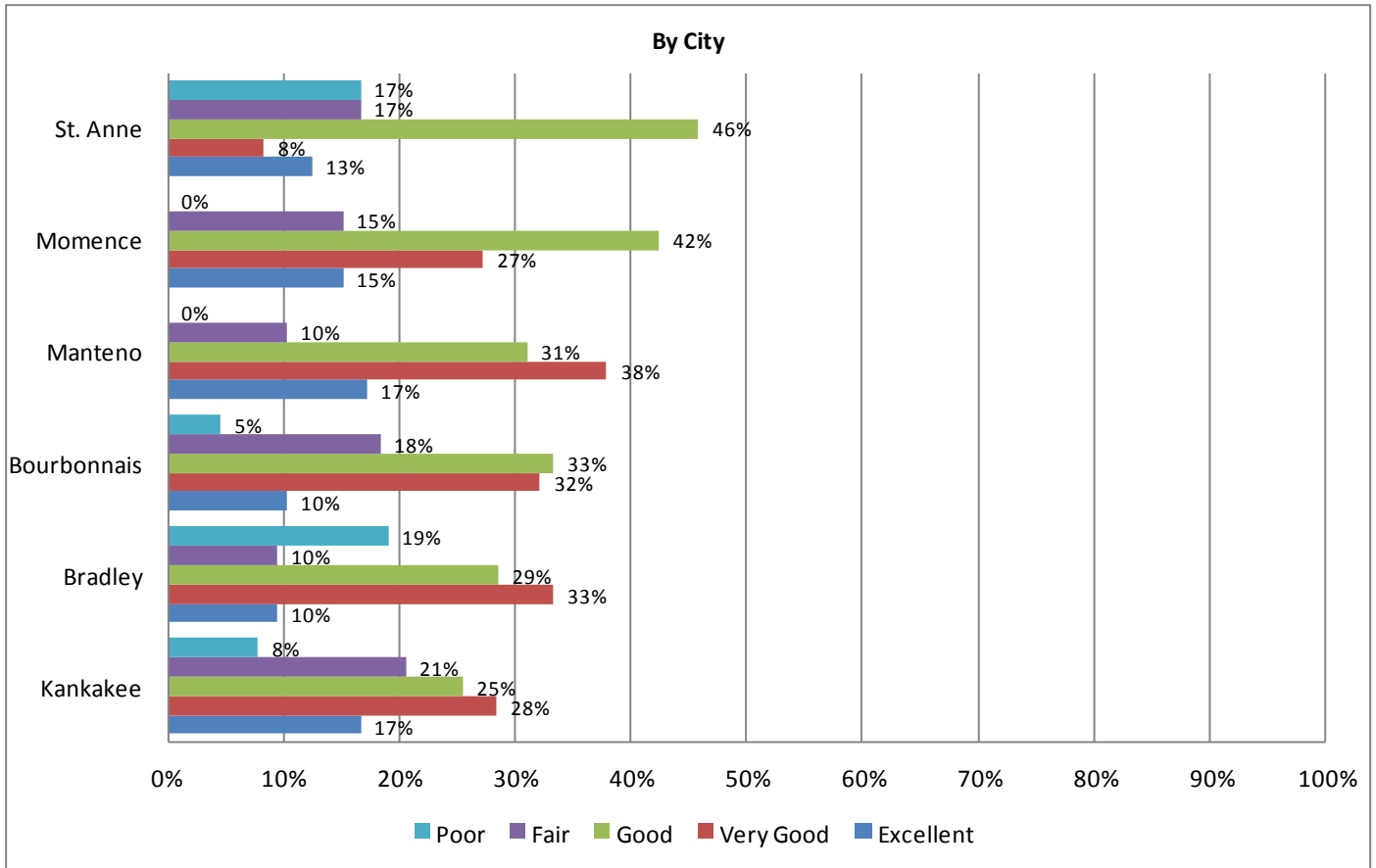


Participants viewed the quality of healthcare more favorably than the overall quality of life in Kankakee County, with 42% rating it very good/excellent and only 24% rating it as fair/poor.

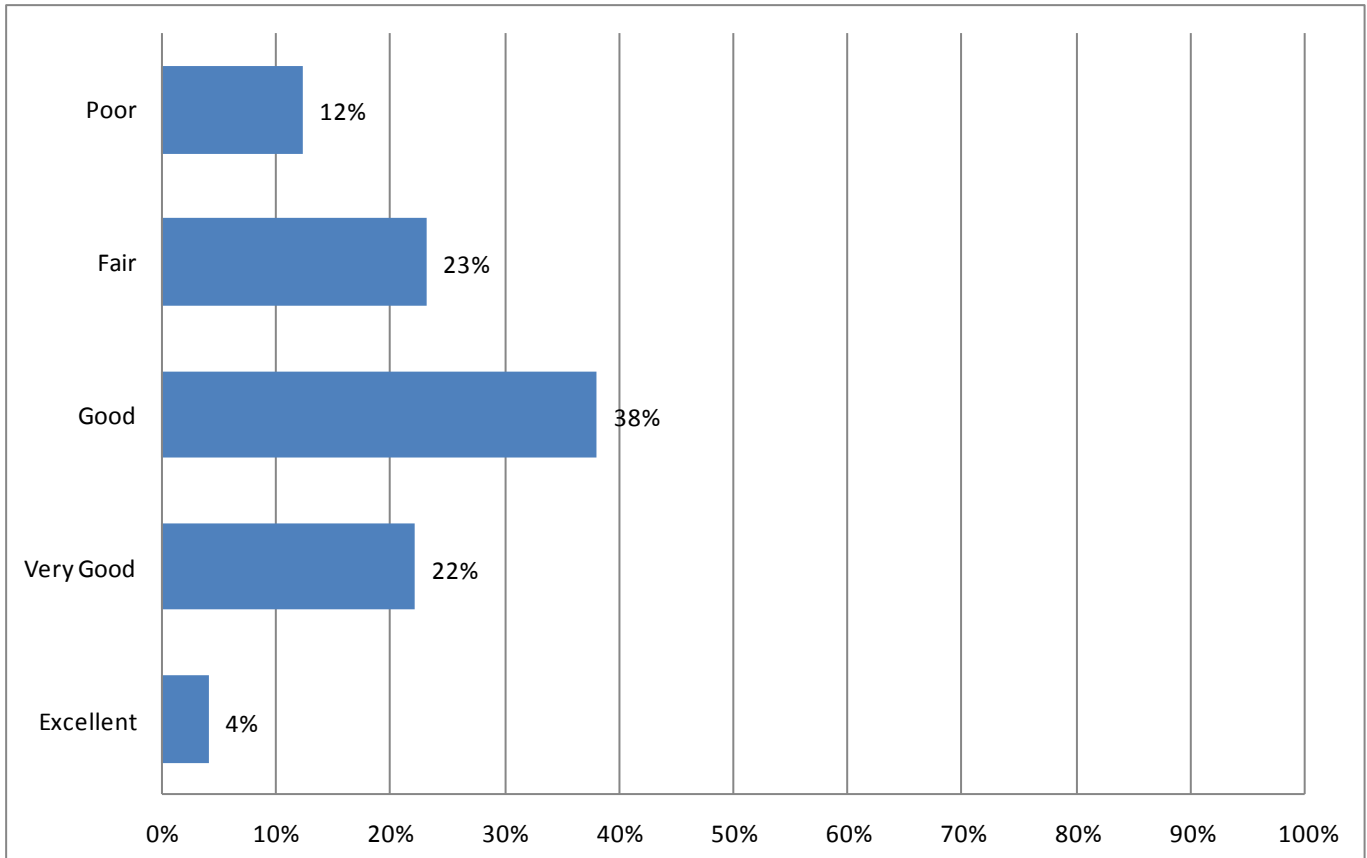
There was considerable variability by location related to healthcare quality. Residents in Manteno had the highest percent of very good/excellent ratings, at 55% for?. With the exception of St. Anne, participants from all cities rated the quality of healthcare “very good/excellent” at higher percentages than they rated it “fair/poor.” On the other hand, St. Anne residents had the highest percent of poor/fair ratings, at 34%.

At 53%, Medicare beneficiaries had the highest percent reporting very good/excellent care, but were closely followed by self-pay respondents, of whom 48% reported having very good or excellent care. Medicaid beneficiaries reported the highest levels of fair/poor care at 32%, however 39% reported very good/excellent care.

### Q3:How would you rate the quality of the healthcare system in Kankakee County?

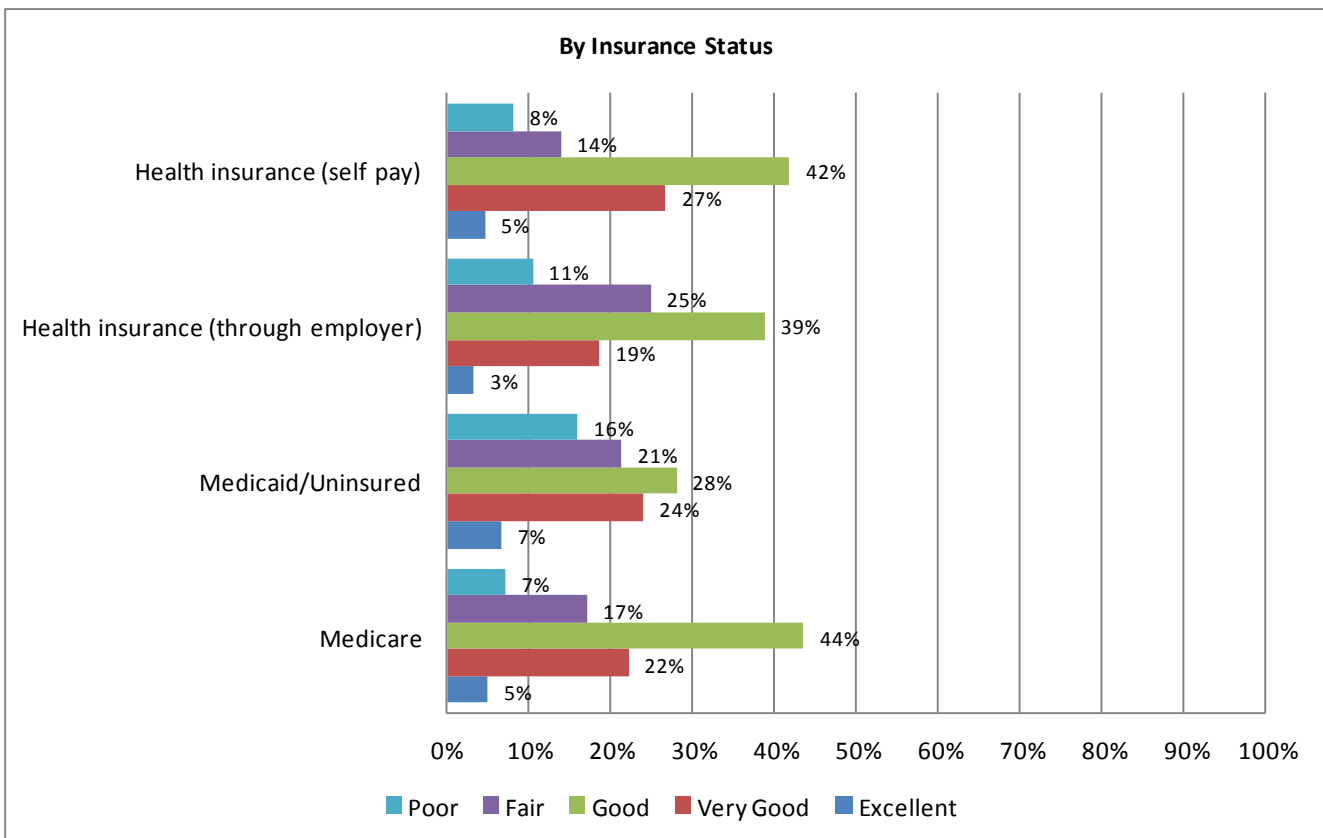
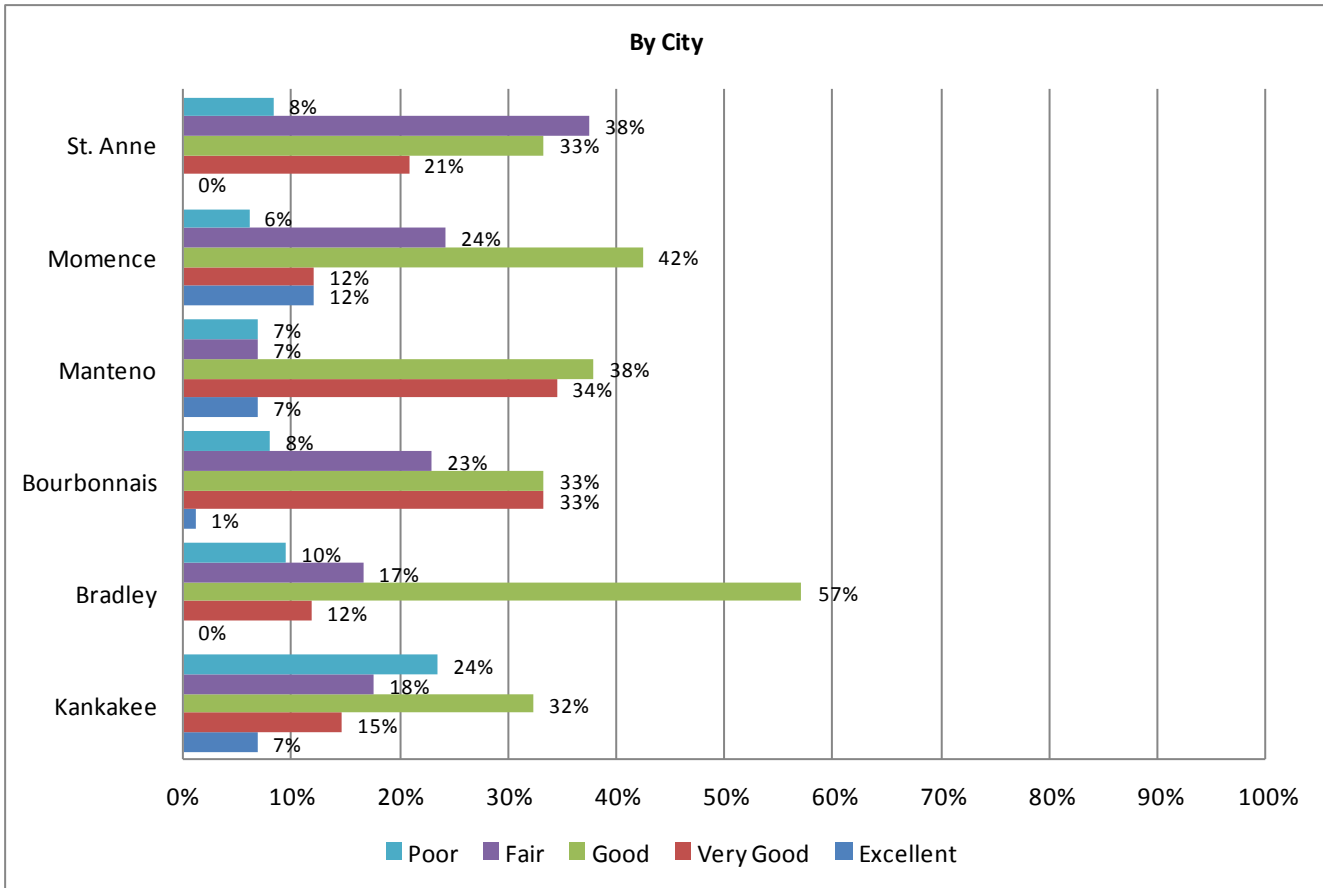


#### Q4: How would you rate Kankakee County as a place to raise your children?

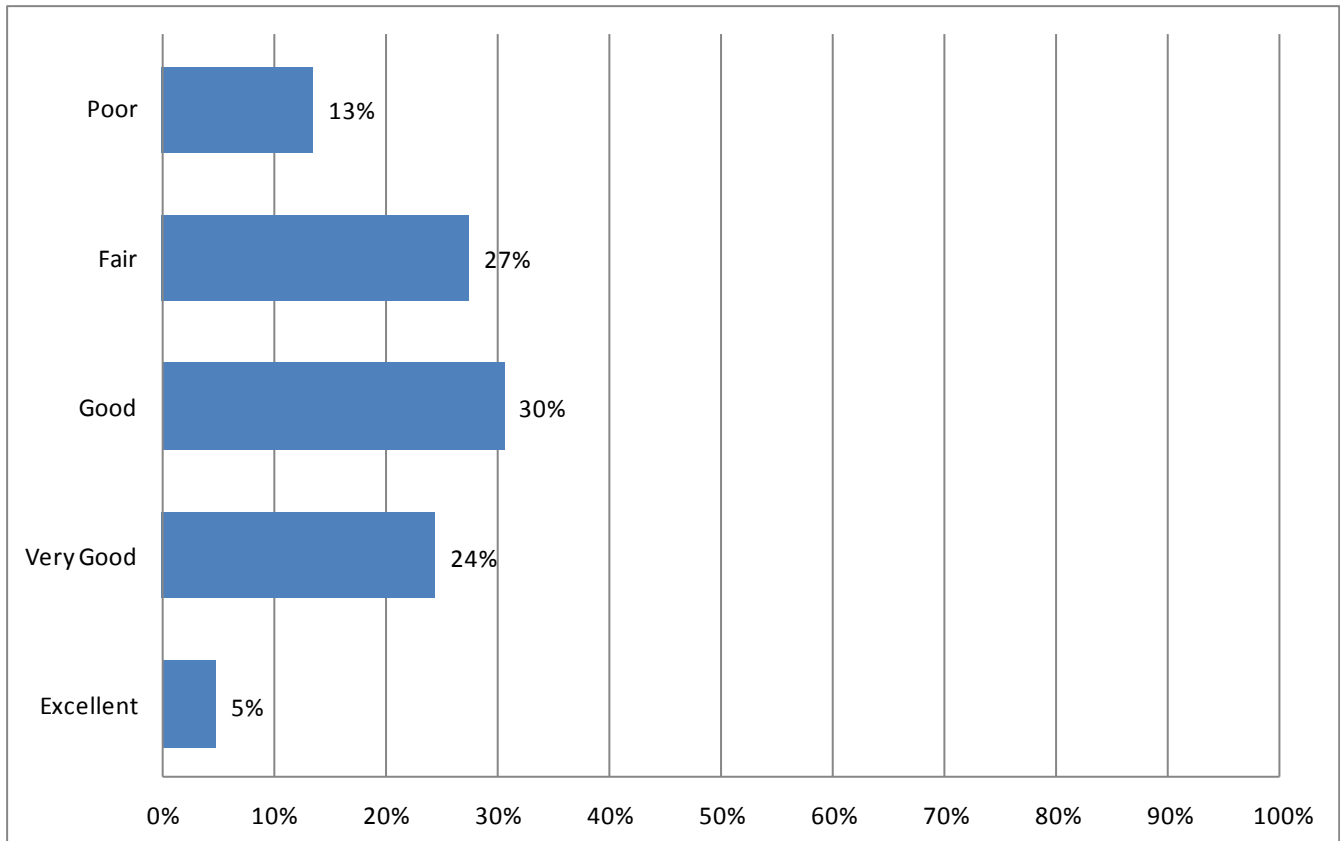


Thirty-eight percent of all participants reported Kankakee County as a good place to raise children. As a place to raise children, more respondents rated it as fair/poor (35%) than rated it good/excellent (26%). Again, Manteno had the highest percent of very/good excellent ratings, at 41%. St. Anne and Kankakee had the highest percent of fair/poor ratings, at 46% and 42%, respectively. Momence and Bradley had the greatest disparity of opinion with the percent of respondents rating very good/excellent and the percent rating fair/poor split pretty evenly. There was less variation by insurance status.

## Q4: How would you rate Kankakee County as a place to raise your children?

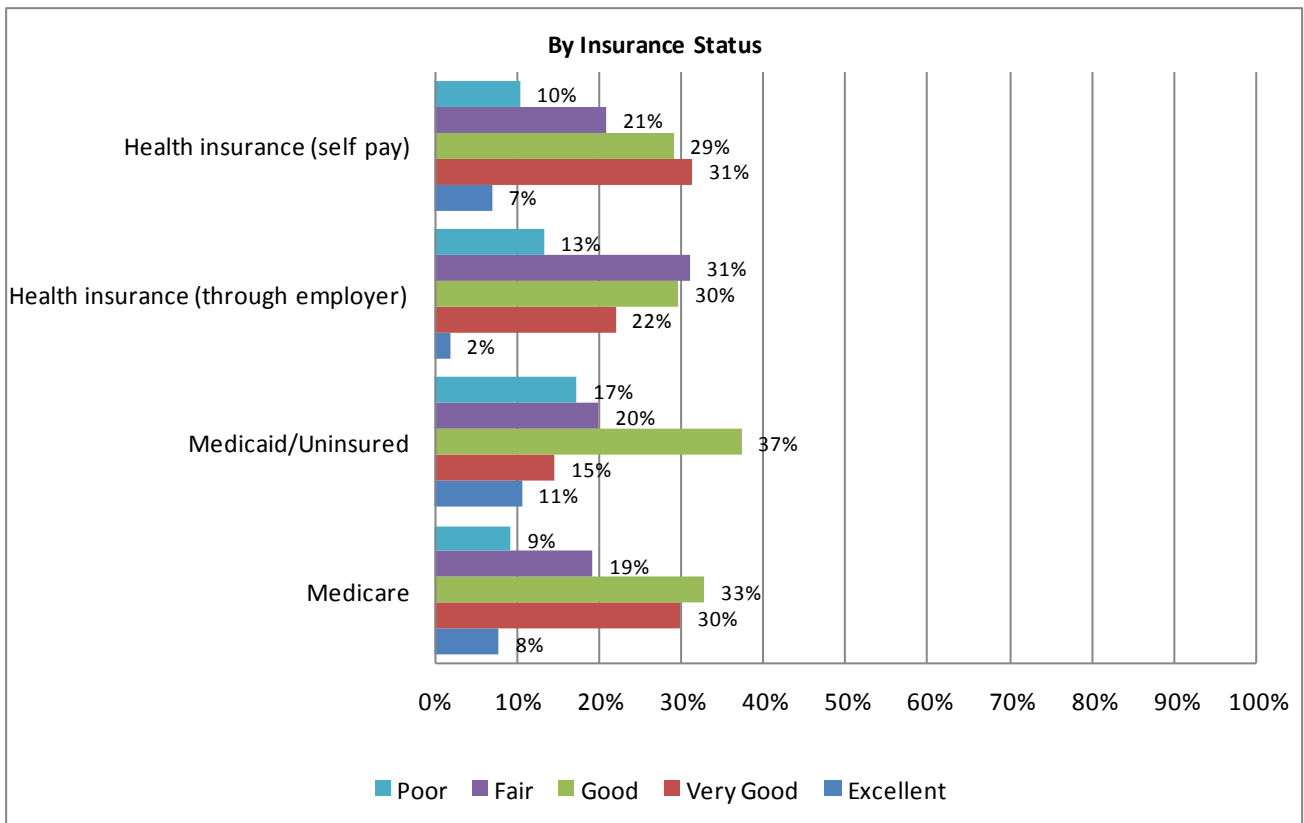
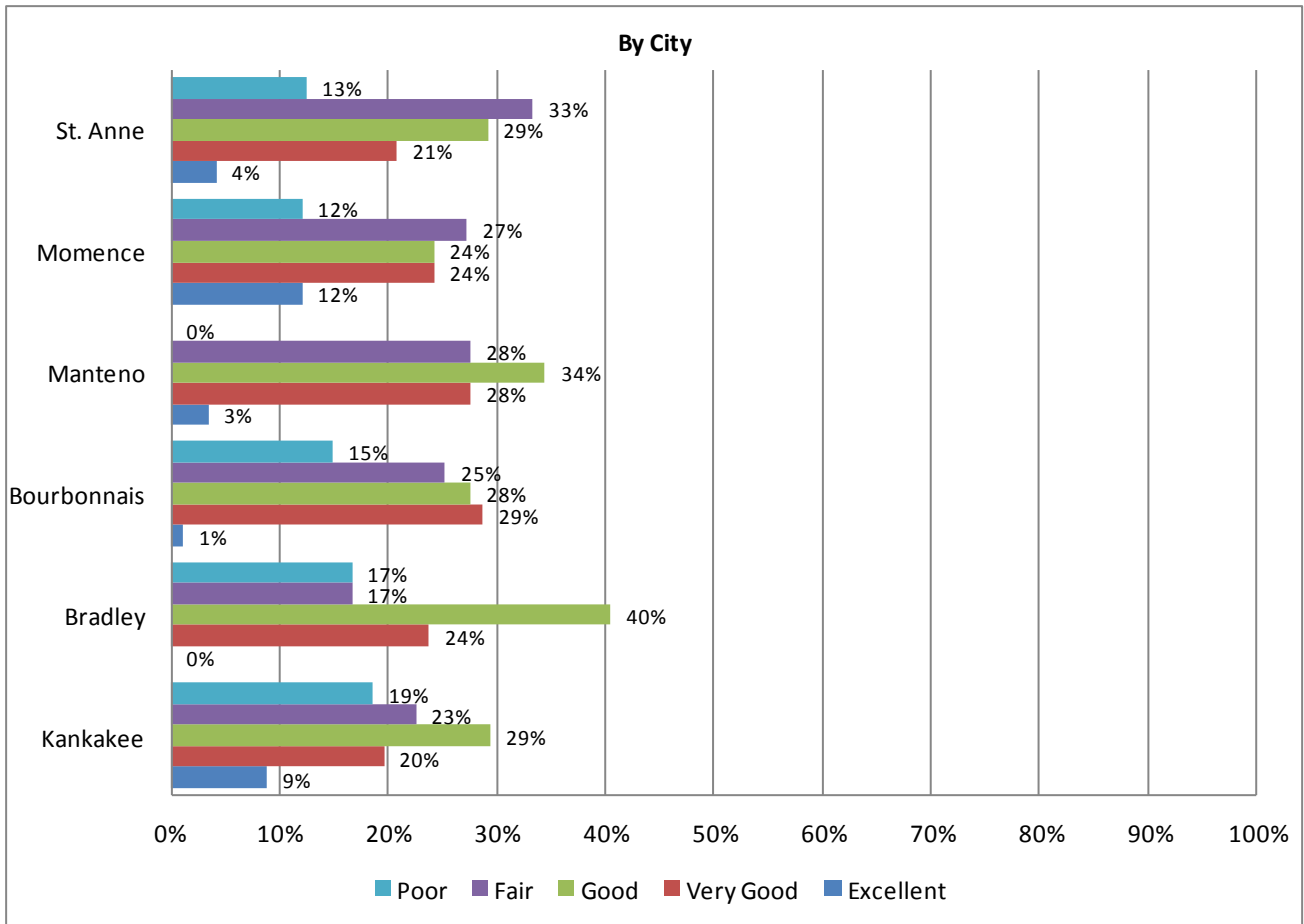


## Q5:How would you rate Kankakee County as a place to grow old?



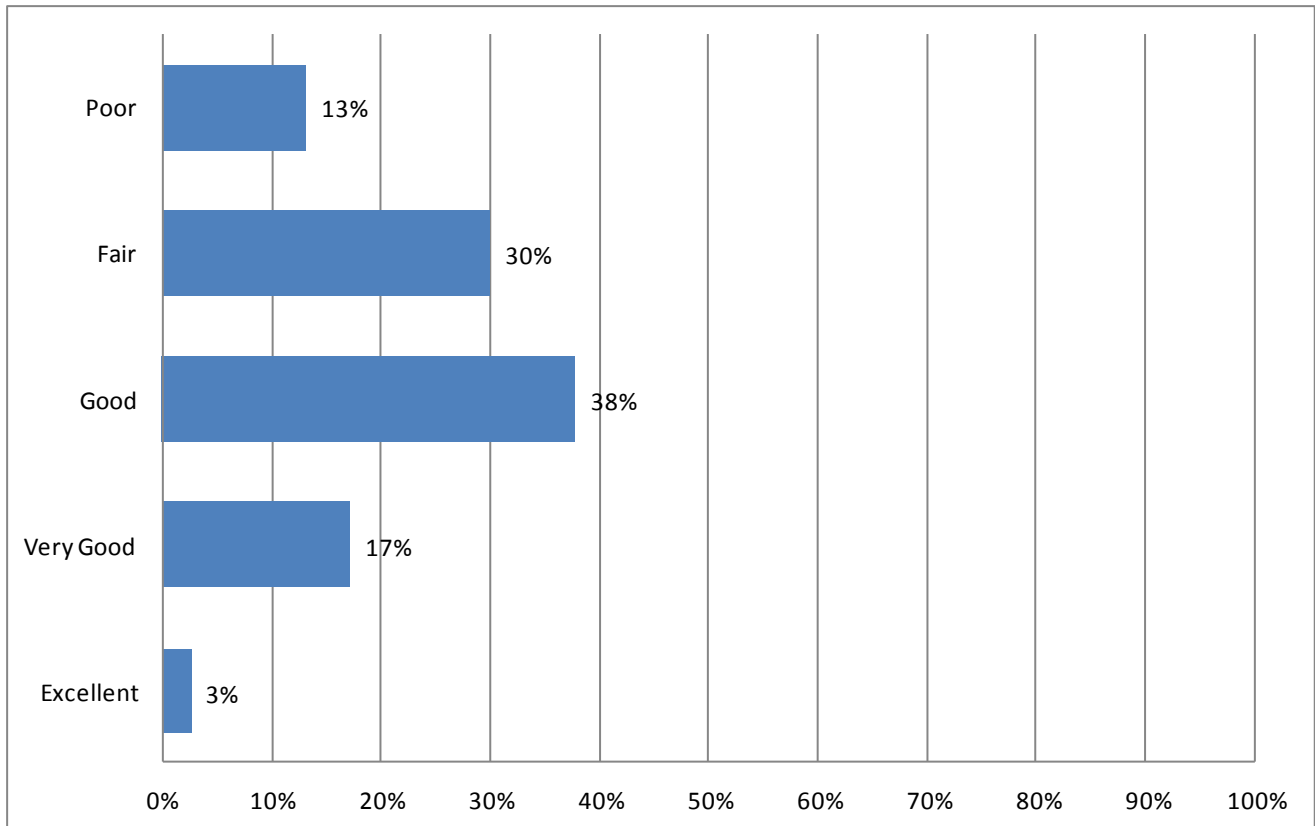
Overall, 30% of all participants rated Kankakee County as a good place to grow old. However, over 10% more people rated it fair /poor (41%) than rated it very good/excellent (29%). Momence residents gave the highest percent of very good/excellent scores, 36%. Even so, more rated it fair/poor (39%) than rated it good/excellent. St. Anne and Kankakee residents had the highest percent of fair/poor scores, 46% and 42% respectively. By insurance status, those with self-insurance and those on Medicare had the highest rates of very good/excellent, at 38% for both. Those with employer-based health insurance and Medicaid/uninsured had the highest rates of fair/poor(44% and 37%, respectively).

# Q5:How would you rate Kankakee County as a place to grow old?





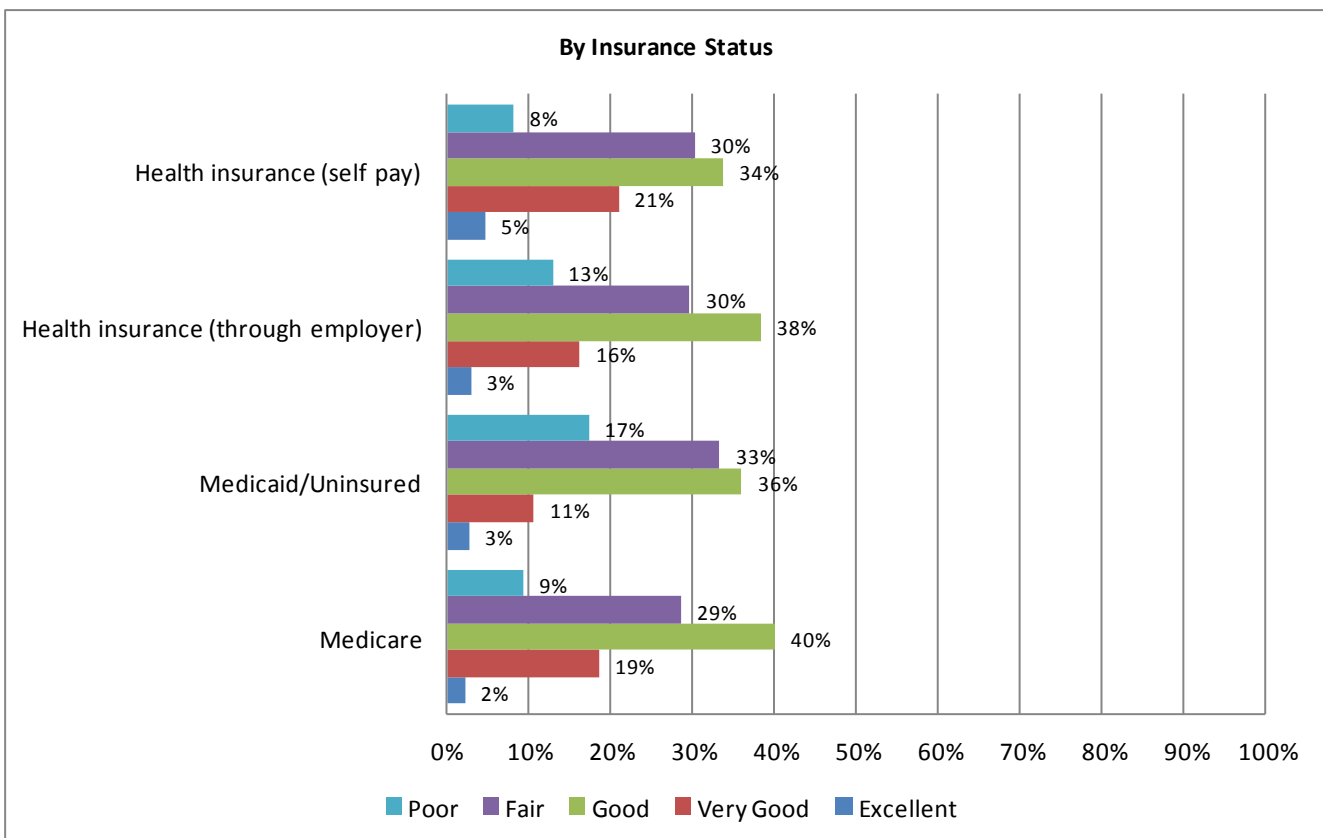
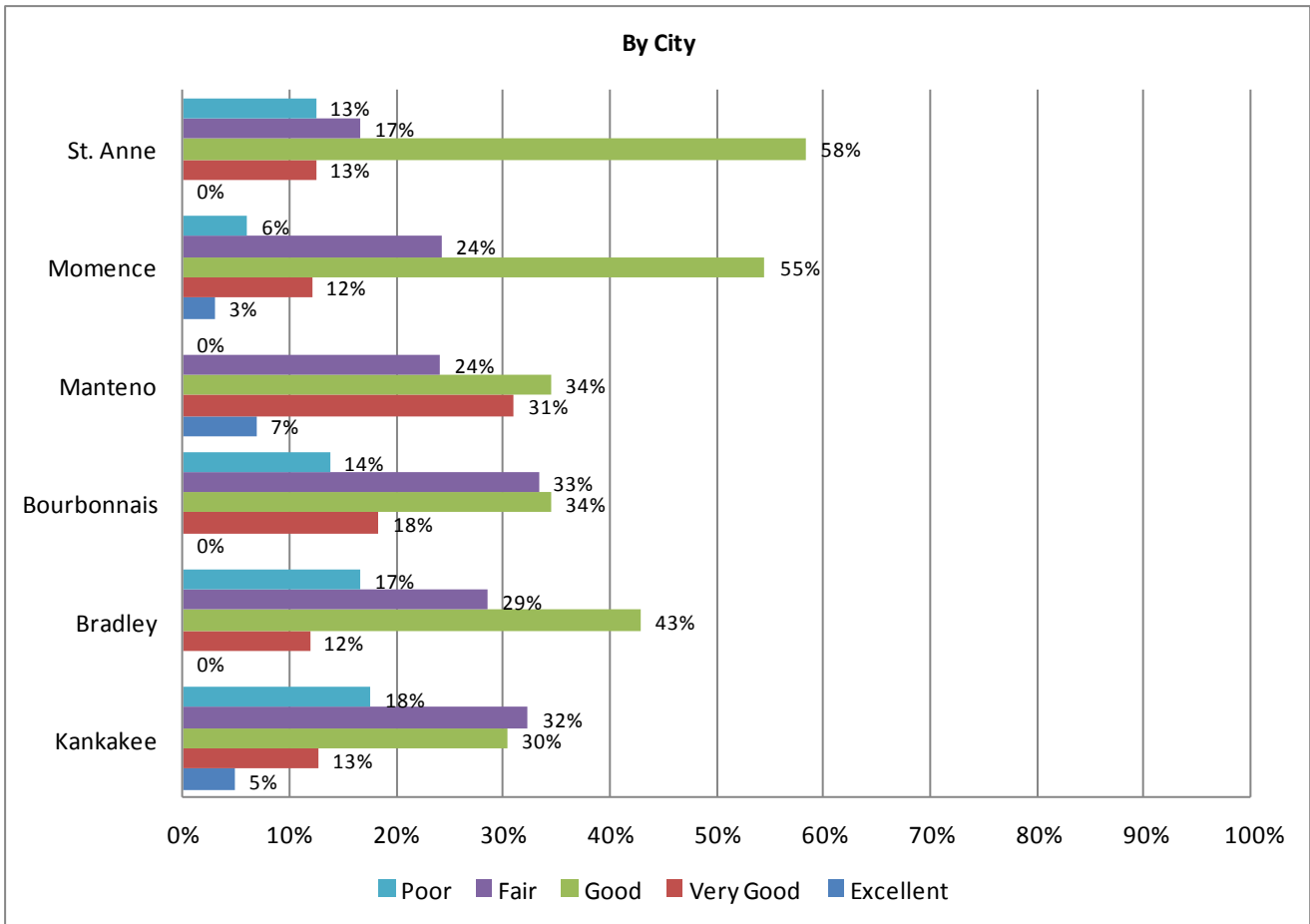
## Q6: How would you rate Kankakee County as a safe community?



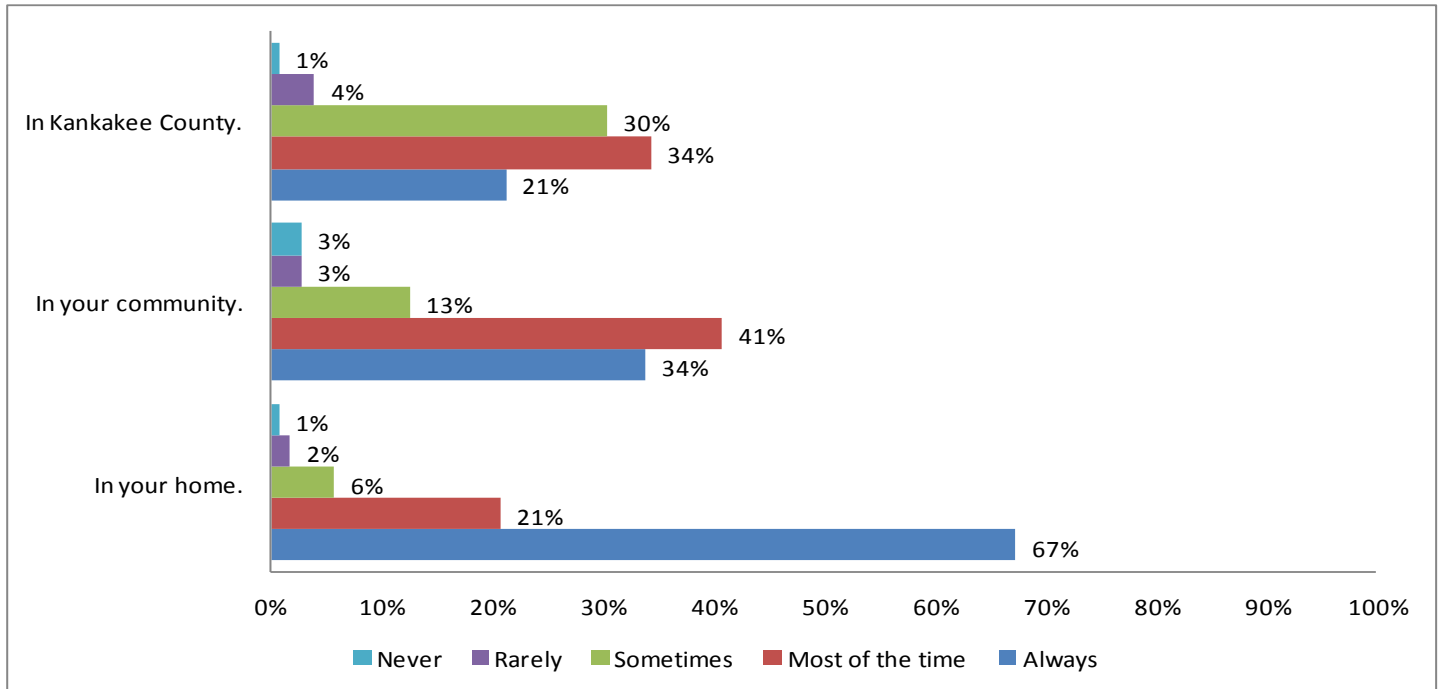
Thirty-eight percent of all participants rated Kankakee County as a good place in terms of safety; only 20% rated it very good/excellent, while 41% rated it poor/fair.

Kankakee, Bourbonnais and Bradley had the highest rates of poor/fair ratings, at 50%, 47% and 46% respectively. Manteno had the highest rates of very good/excellent ratings, at 38%. Respondents from all cities assessed safety as fair/poor at a higher rate than as very good/excellent.

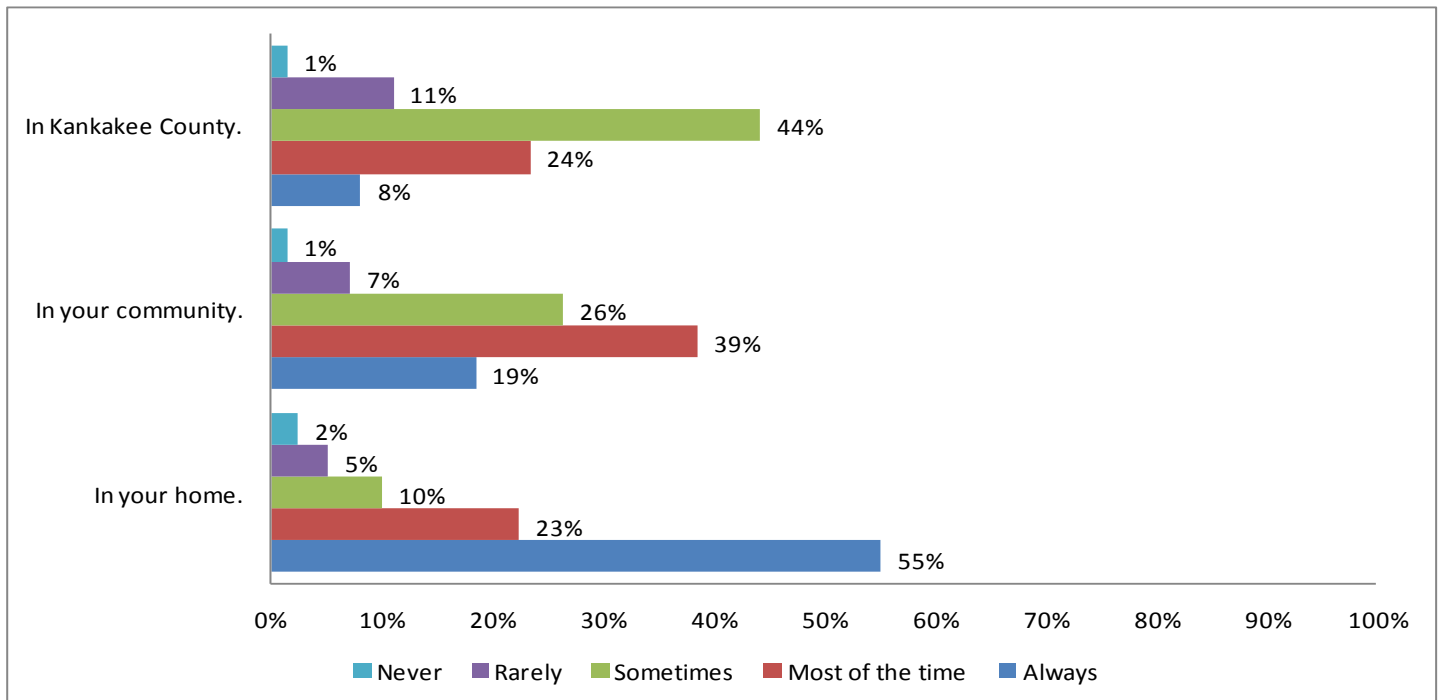
## Q6: How would you rate Kankakee County as a safe community?



## Q9: Residents are able to get or buy food.



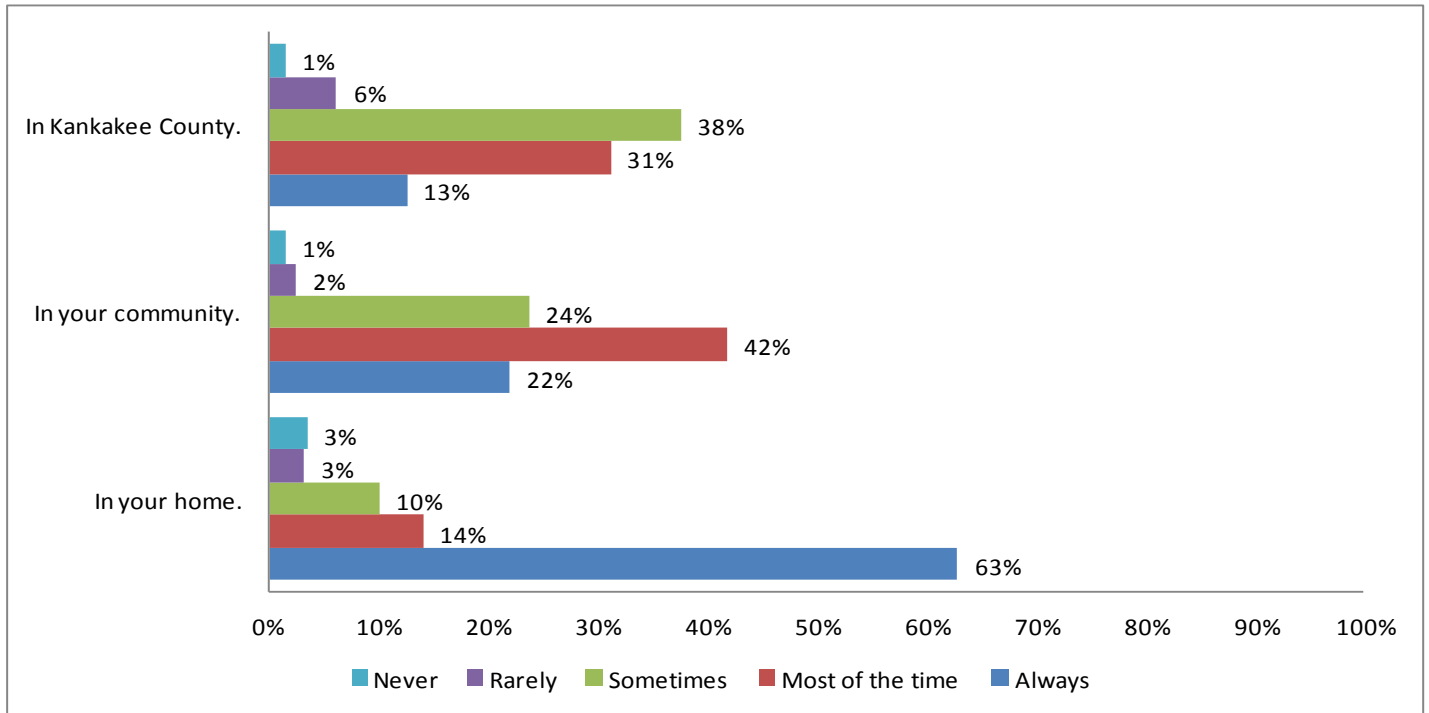
## Q10: Residents are able to get to or pay for healthcare.



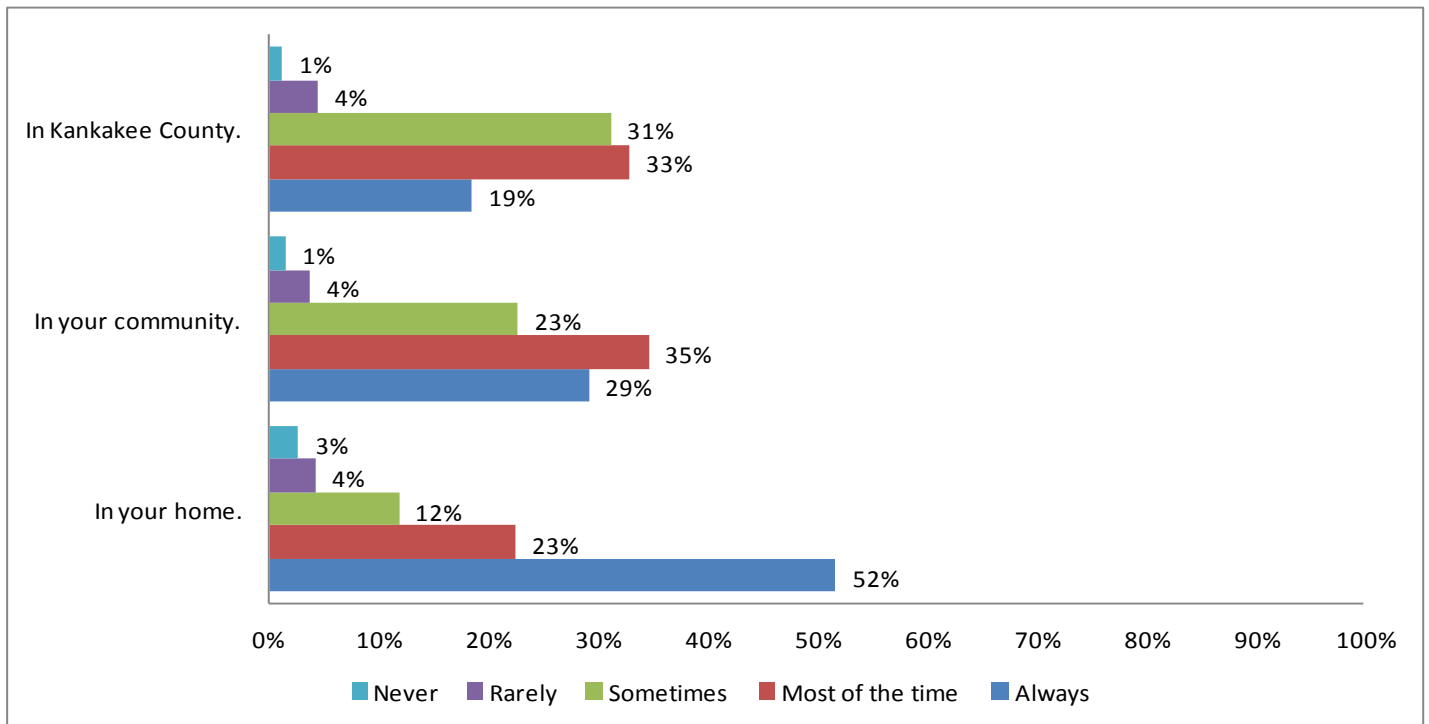
When stratified by population level, 55% of respondents perceived that Kankakee County residents were able to get food always/most of the time. This rose to 75% in their community; 88% reported that people in their own home were able to afford food.

On the other hand only 32% of participants thought that in Kankakee County, residents could pay for healthcare always/most of the time. Fifty-eight percent said residents in their community could pay for healthcare always/most of the time. Seventy-eight percent responded that residents within their home could pay for healthcare always/most of the time. With 7% rating rarely/never, residents in the sample identified ability to pay for healthcare as one of the top five issues in their homes and in their communities.

### Q11: Residents are able to get to or pay for immunizations/vaccinations.



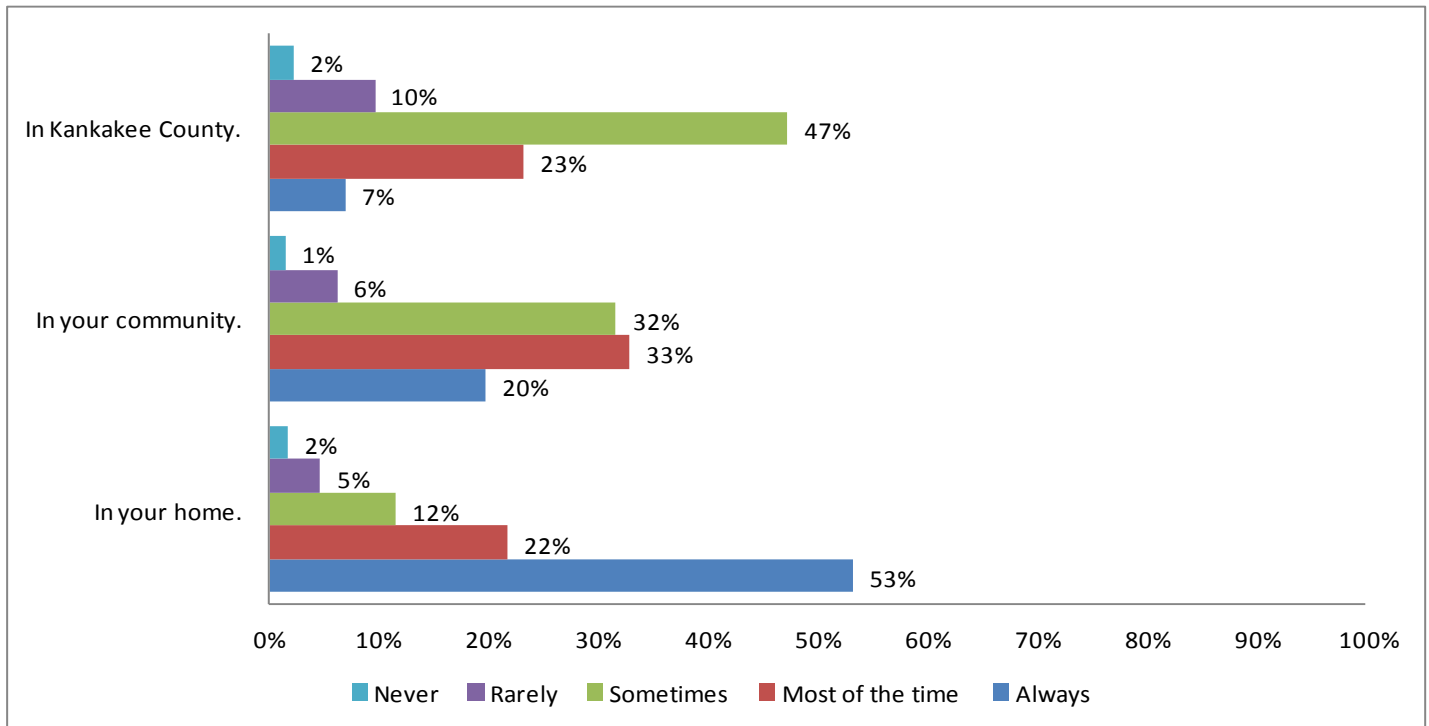
### Q12: Residents are able to get to parks or participate in recreation.



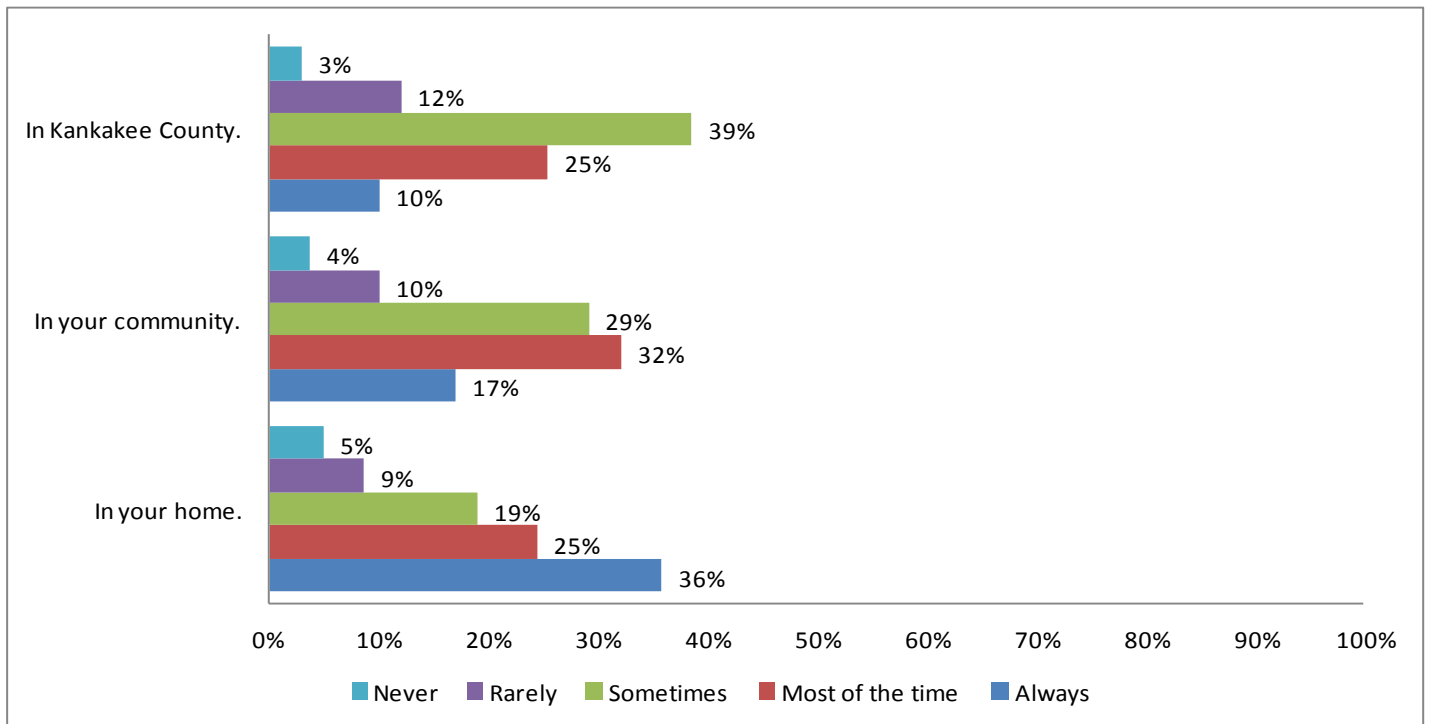
Regarding residents' ability to pay for vaccinations, 44% responded that residents could pay for their vaccinations always/most of the time at the county level, 64% at the community level and 77% in their home. Interestingly, respondents perceived the least difficulty in paying for vaccinations in their communities, with county percentages and percentages in the home relatively equal.

Participants felt that at the county level, 52% of residents can participate in parks/recreation always/most of the time. This increased to 64% at the community level and 75% at the home level.

### Q13: Residents are able to live in affordable housing.



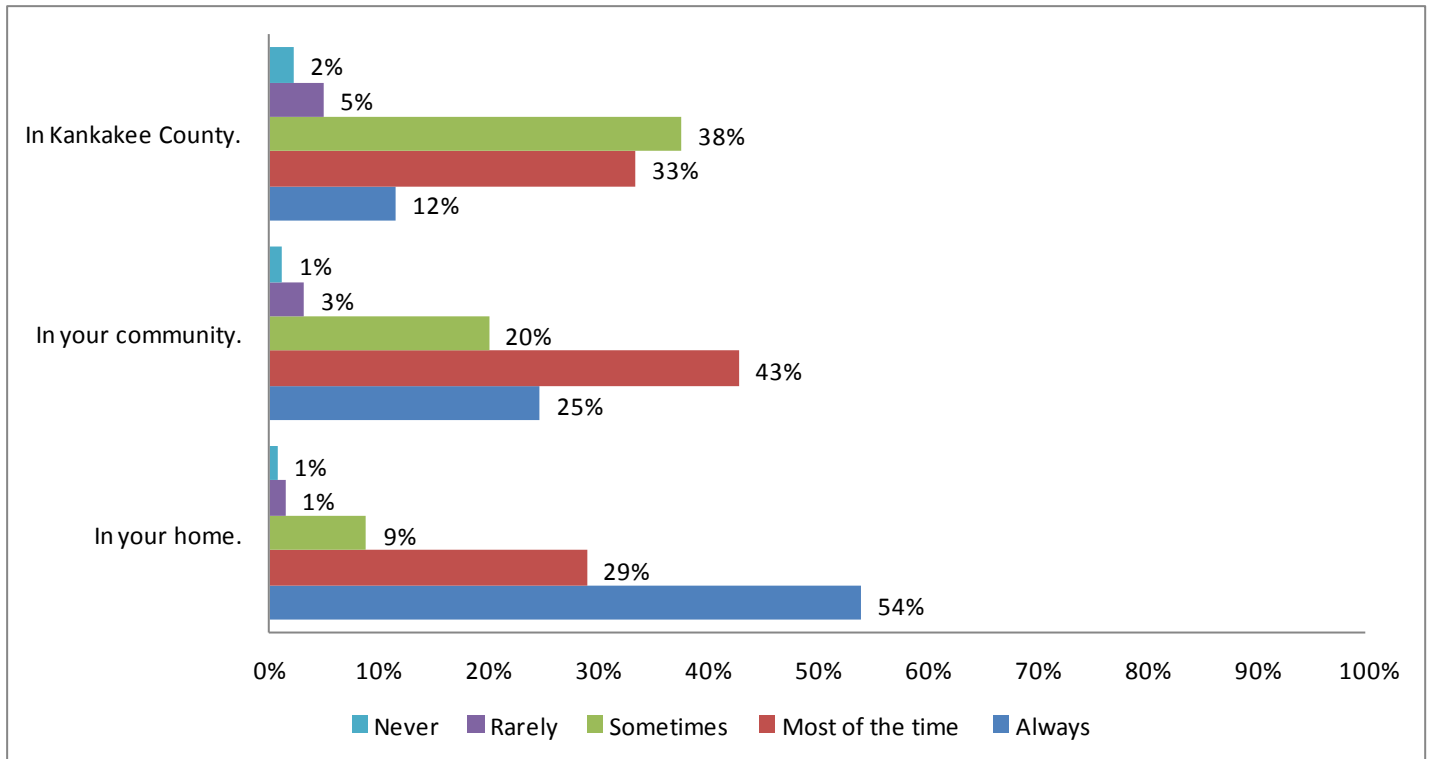
### Q14: Residents are able to get to or participate in arts and cultural events.



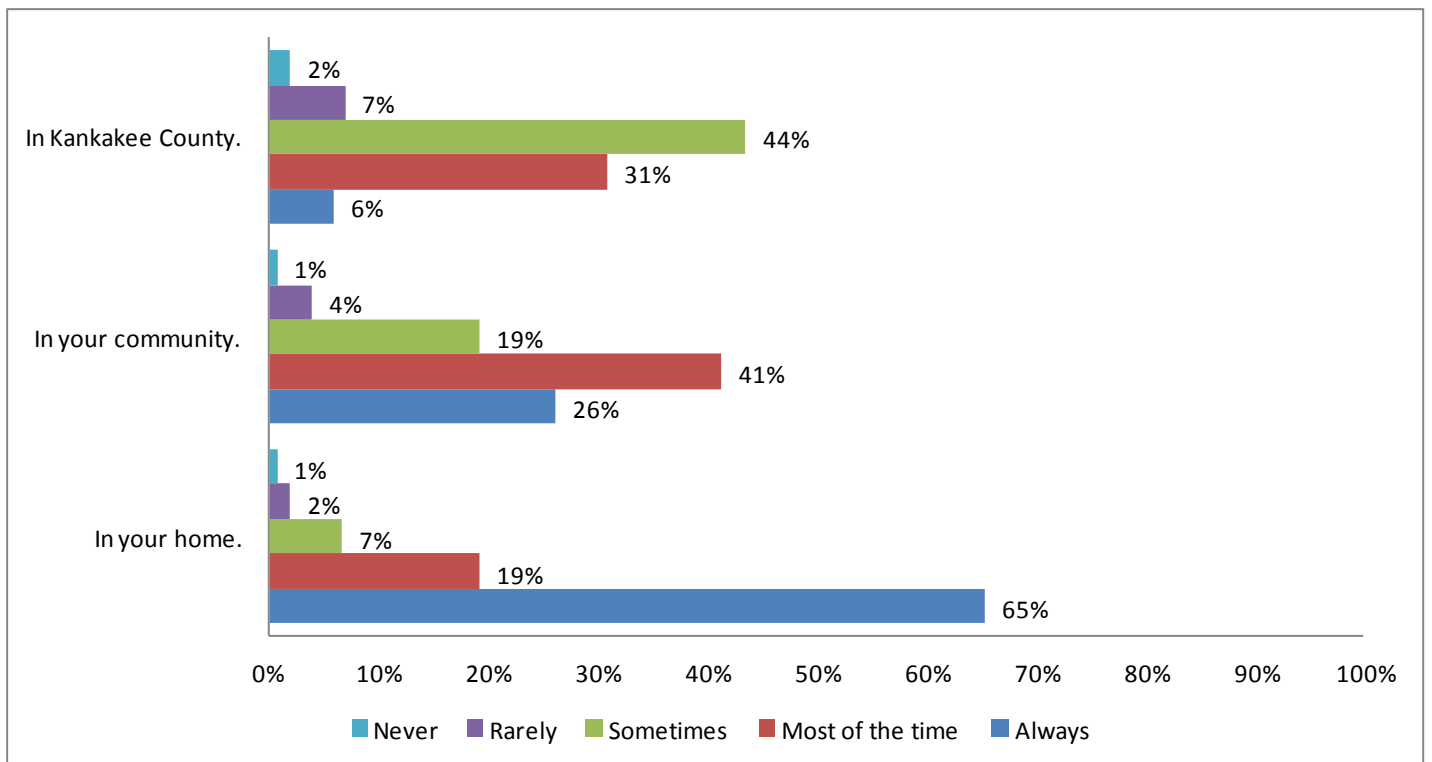
Seventy percent of survey respondents perceive that Kankakee County residents cannot afford housing most of the time. However, when asked about their own household, 75% responded that they could almost always afford housing.

Only 35% of participants thought that county-level residents were able to participate in art/cultural events always/most of the time. This increased somewhat to 49% at the community level and 61% in their home at the household level. For the household level, community level, and county level, around 14% of residents felt they were rarely/never able to participate in arts and cultural events.

## Q15: Residents live in a clean environment.



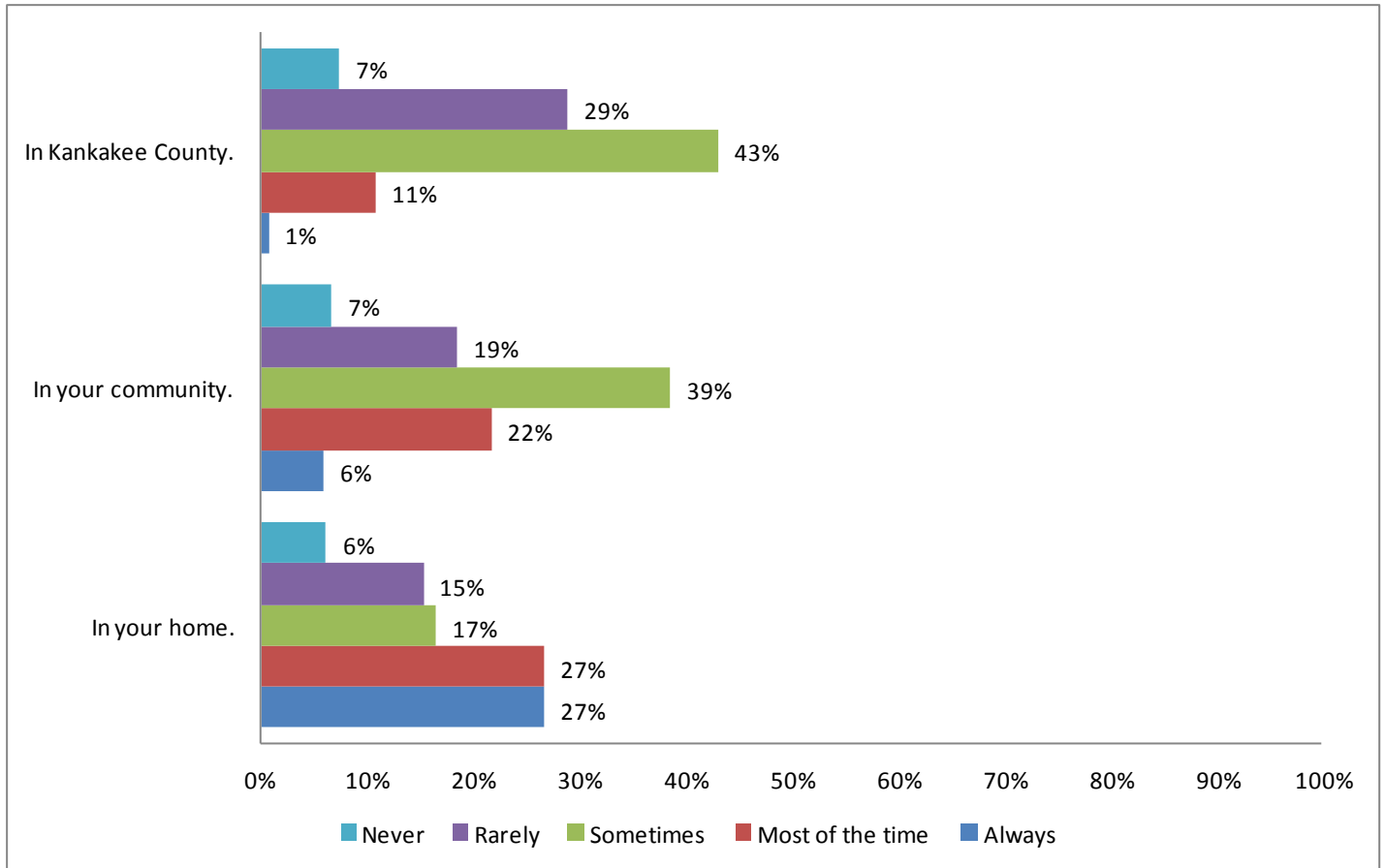
## Q16: Residents live in a family-friendly environment.



Forty-five percent of participants felt residents county-wide lived in a clean environment always/most of the time, compared to 69% at the community level and 83% at the home level.

Only 37% of participants felt that county residents live in a family-friendly environment always/most of the time. This increased to 67% at the community level and 84% at the home level.

## Q17: Residents are able to find good jobs and live in a healthy economy.

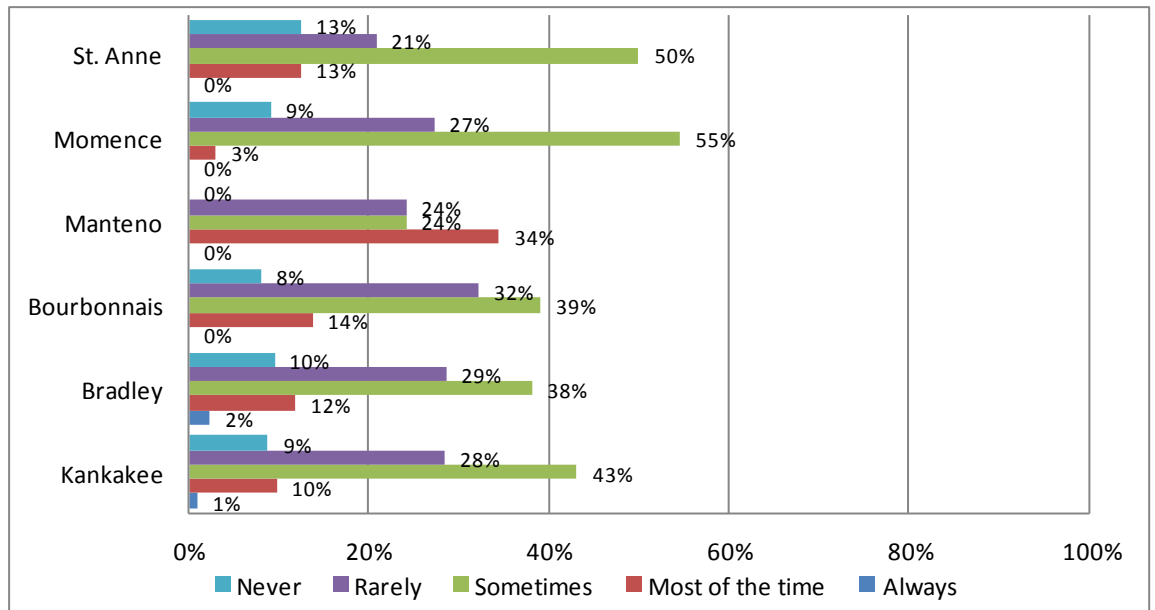


Only 12% of participants felt that residents could find jobs always/most of the time at the county level. This increased to 28% at the community level and 54% at the household level.

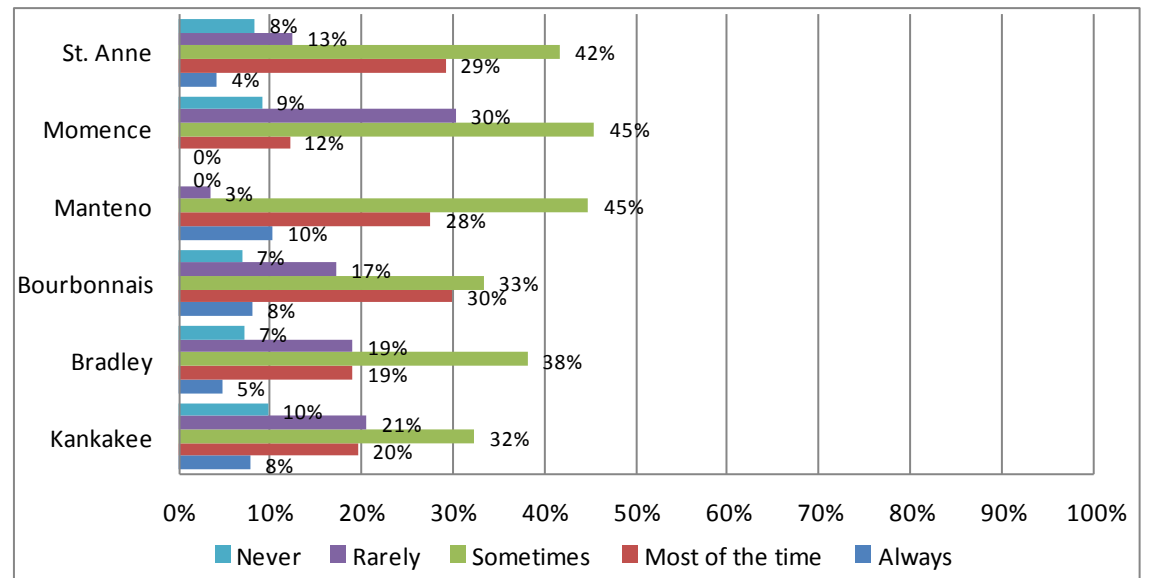
Manteno had a higher percent (34%) reporting always/most of the time at the county level, while Momence had a lower percent (3%).

# Q17: Residents are able to find good jobs and live in a healthy economy, by city.

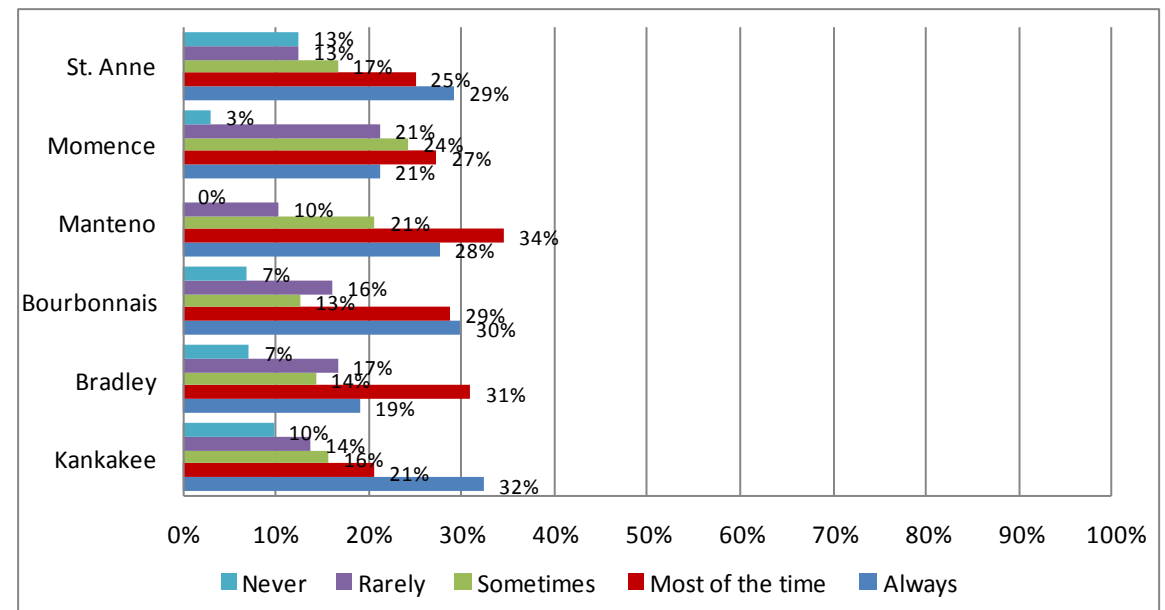
In Kankakee



In your com-

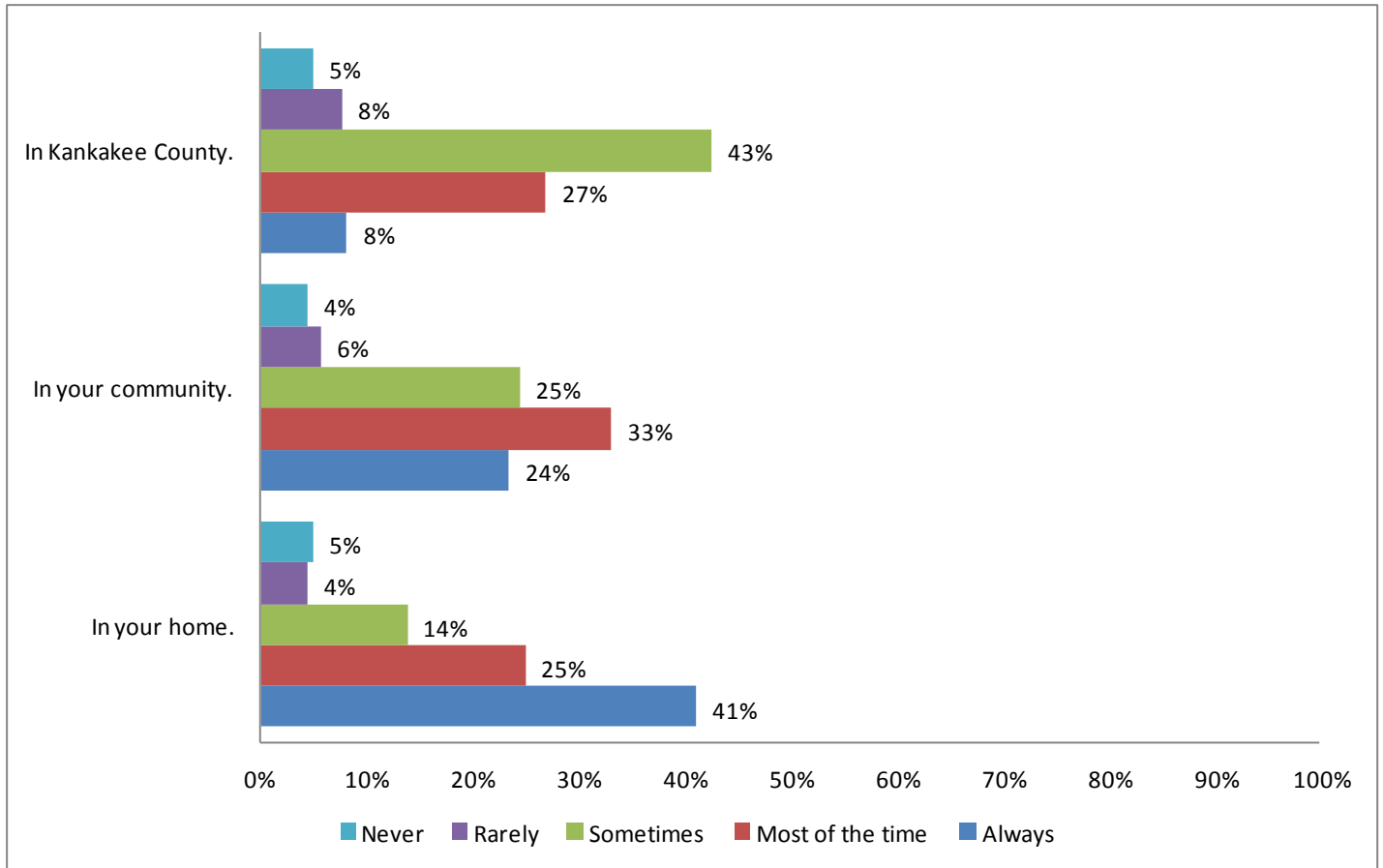


In your





## Q18: Residents are able to go to good schools

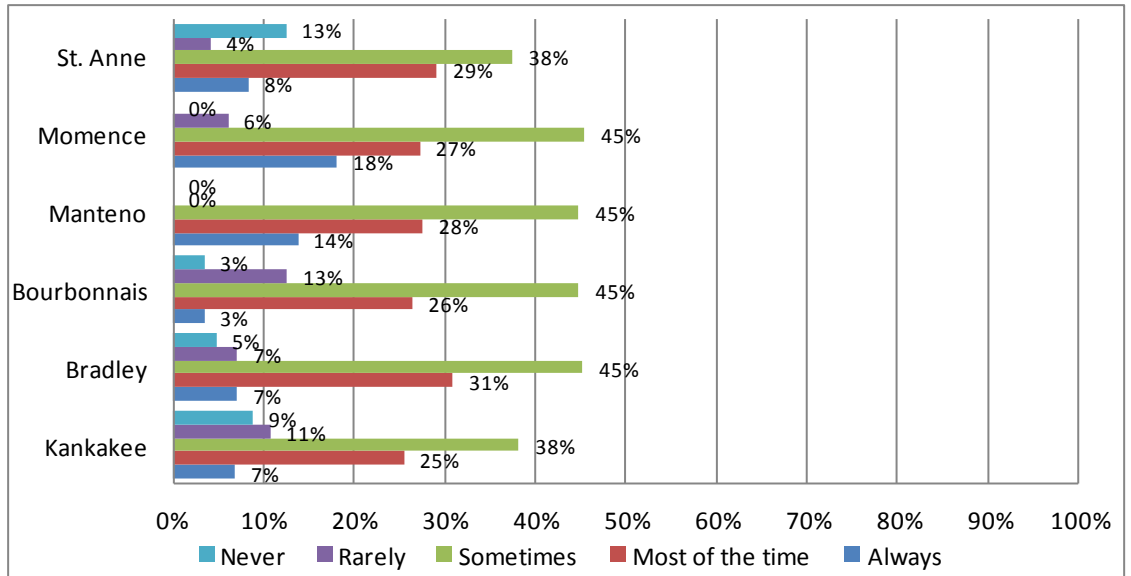


Thirty-five percent of participants felt that residents throughout the county had access to good schools always/most of the time. This rose to 57% at the community level and 66% at the home level.

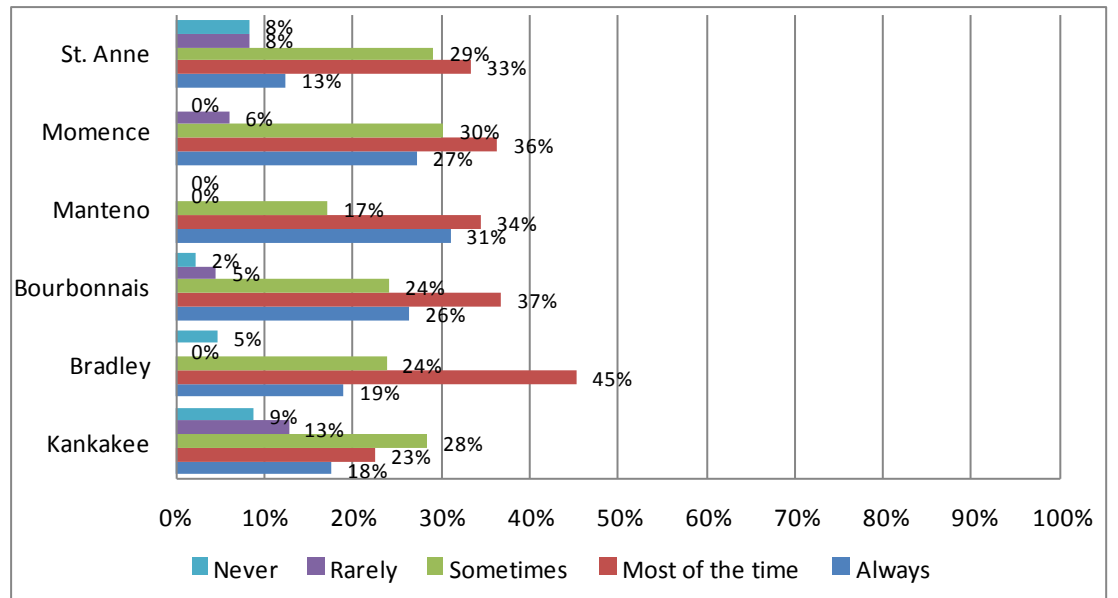
In terms of access to good schools for residents at the household level, Manteno, Bradley and Momence at the highest rate of always/most responses, at 79%, 73% and 72% respectively. On the other hand, Kankakee and St. Anne had the highest ratings of never/rarely having access to good schools for residents, at 15% and 12% respectively.

# Q18: Residents are able to go to good schools, by city.

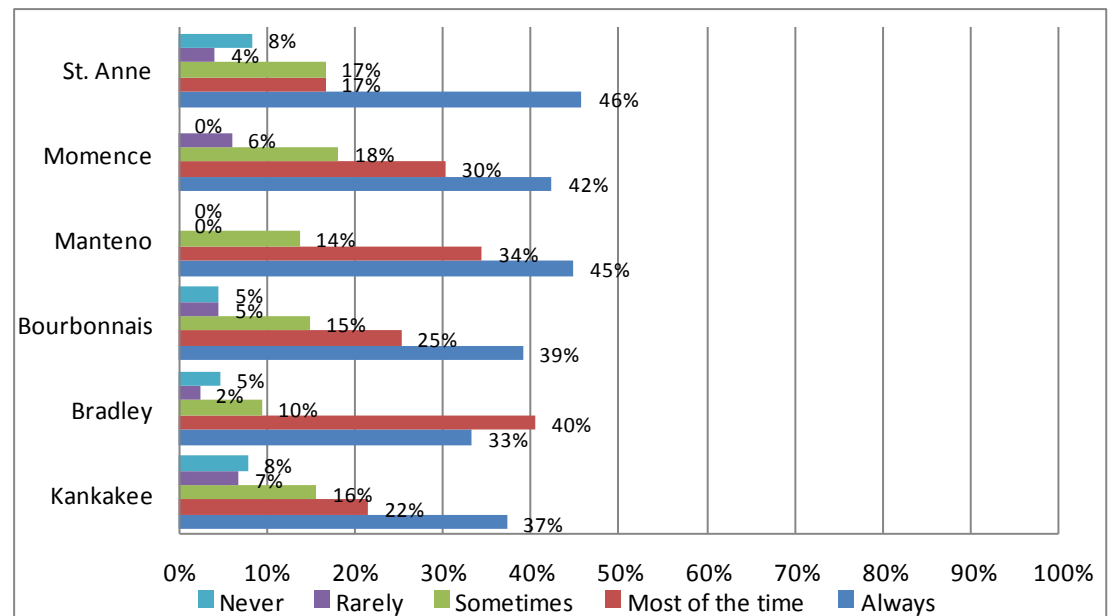
## In Kankakee



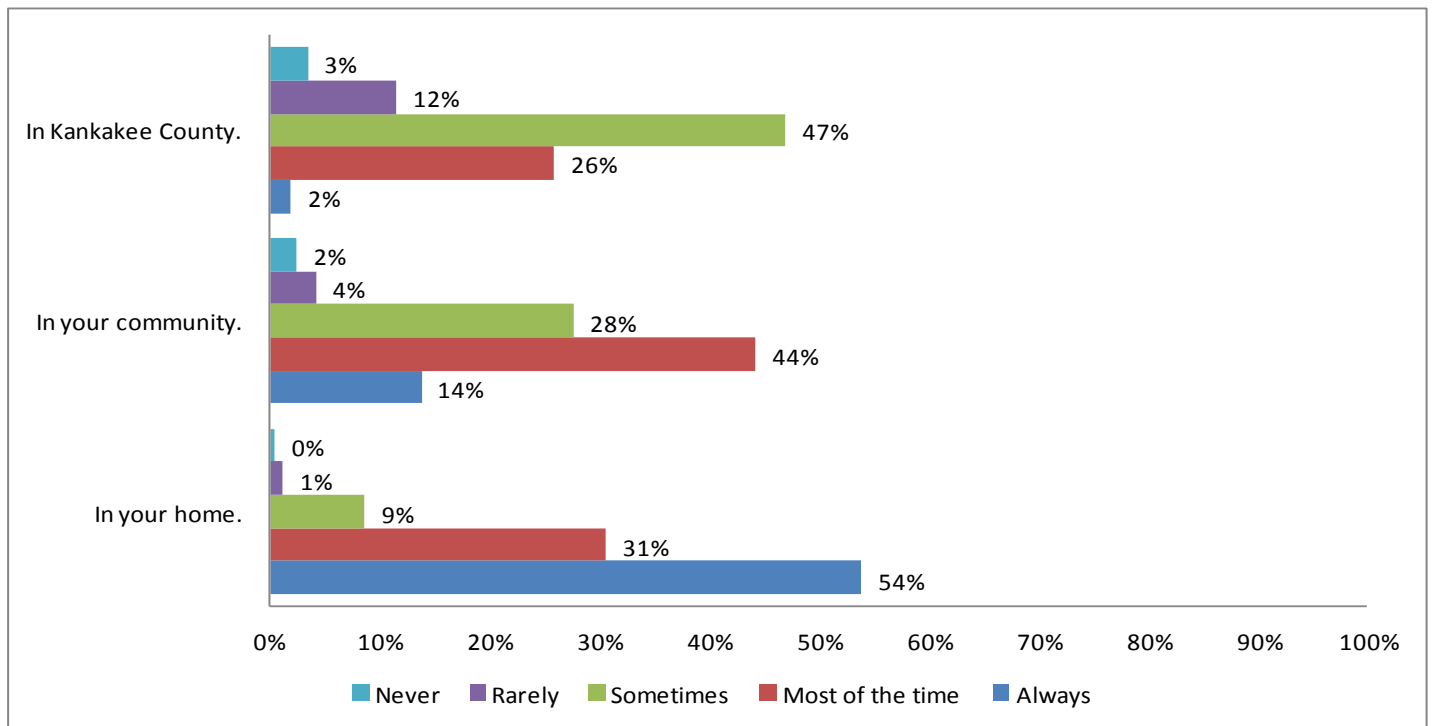
## In your com-



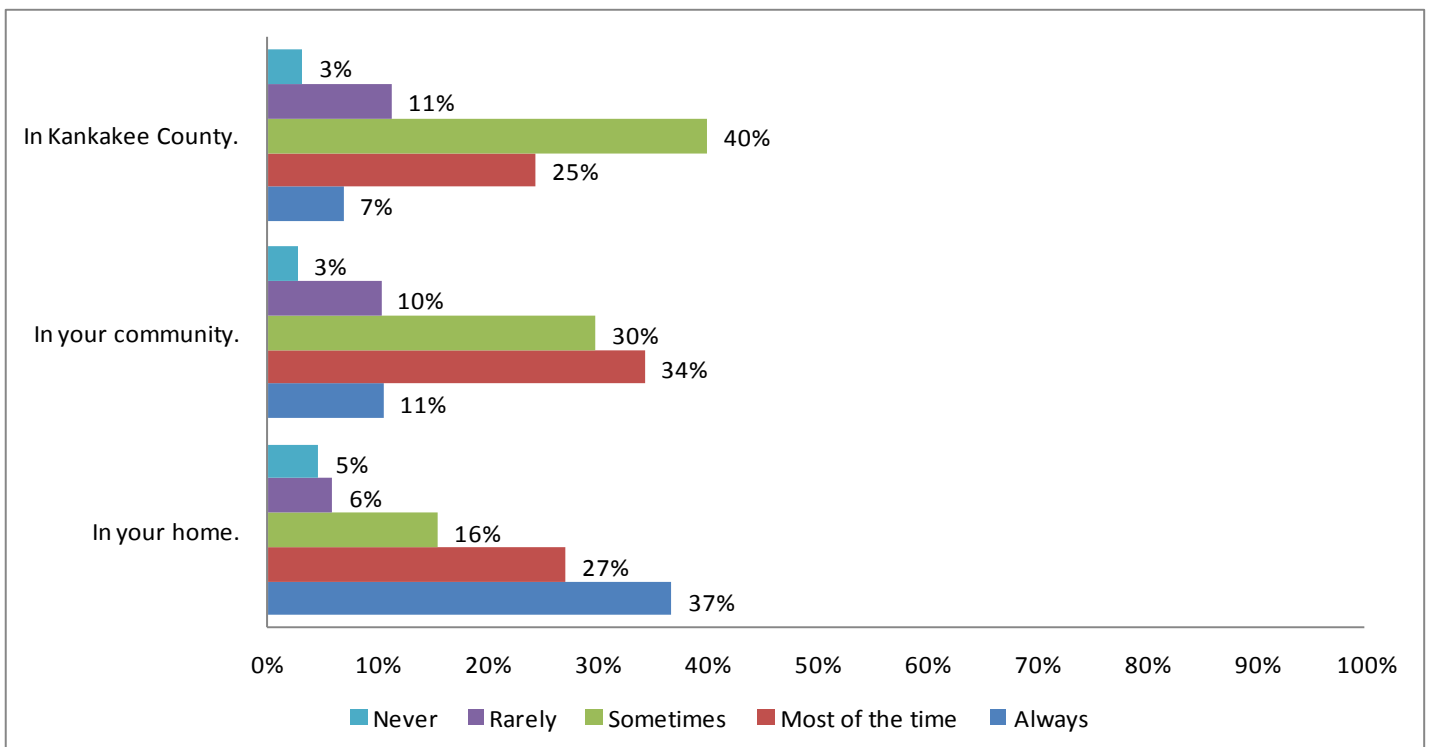
## In your



## Q19: Residents practice healthy behaviors and lifestyles.



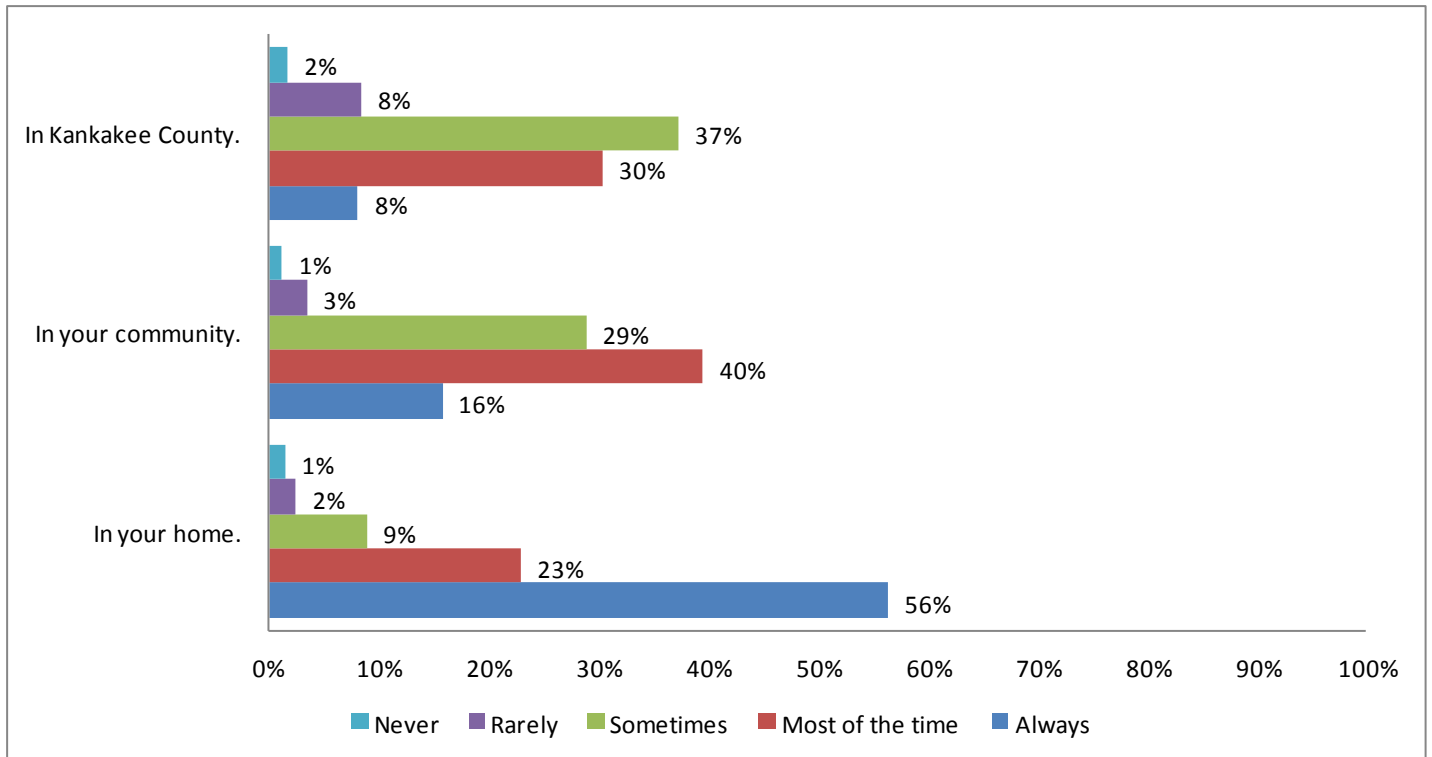
## Q20: Residents find importance in racial/ethnic diversity.



Twenty-eight percent of participants felt that county residents practiced healthy behaviors always/most of the time, compared to 58% in their community and 85% in their home . While over half of respondents claimed to always practice healthy behaviors in their household, only 2% believed that most residents in the county do.

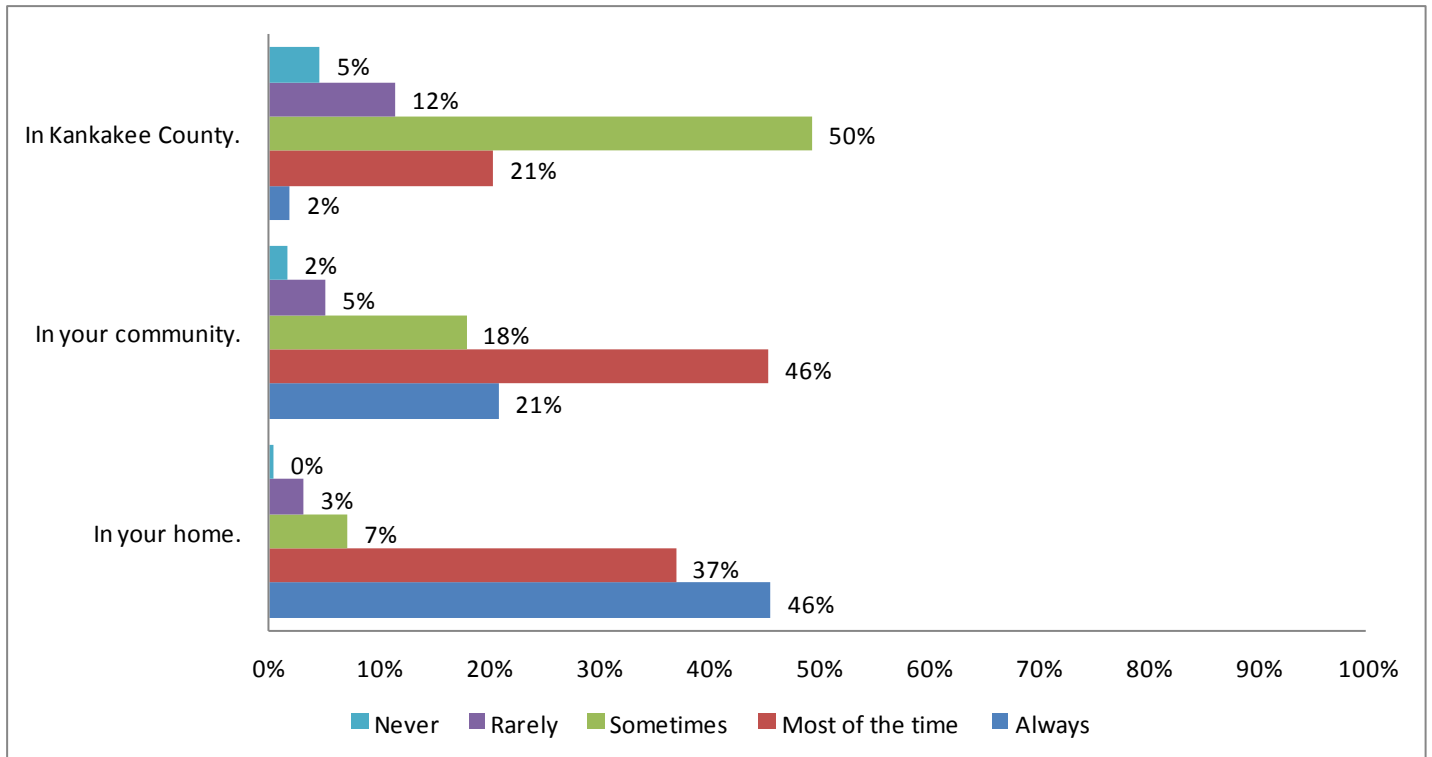
Only 32% felt that county residents found racial/ethnic diversity important always/most of the time. This increased to 45% in their community and 64% in their home.

## Q21: Residents find importance in religious or spiritual values.



Thirty-eight percent of participants felt that county residents found importance in religion/spirituality always/most of the time, compared to 56% in their community and 79% in their home. It is interesting to note that for all levels (home, community, and county), religion and spirituality were seen to be present in Kankakee—few participants perceived residents as rarely or never finding importance in religious or spiritual values (3-10%).

## Q22: Residents live in a safe neighborhood.

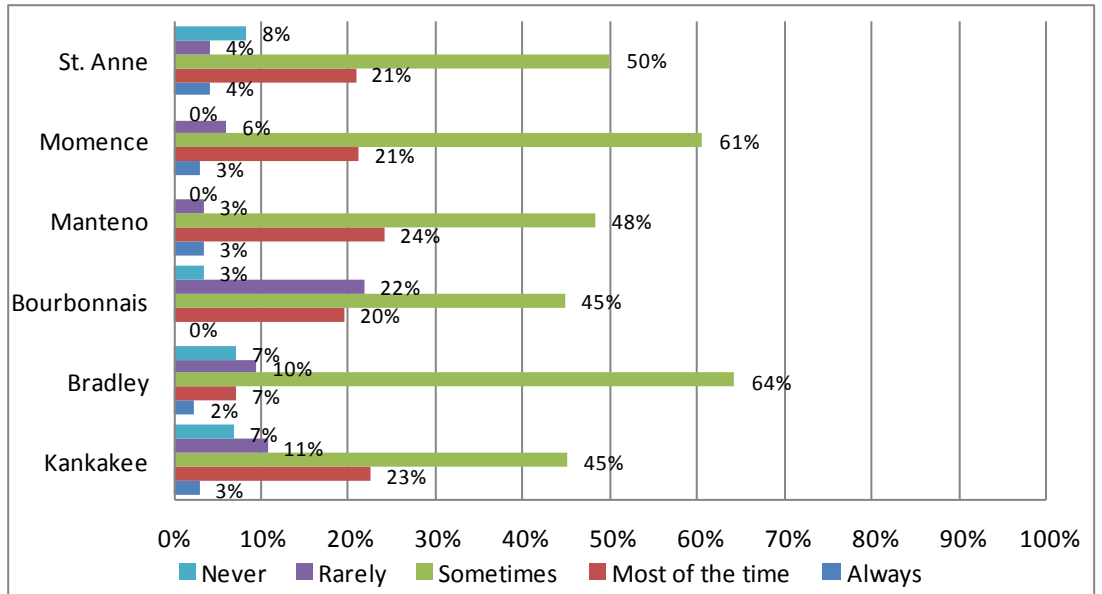


Only 23% of participants felt that county residents lived in a safe neighborhood always/most of the time. This increased to 67% in their community and 83% in their home.

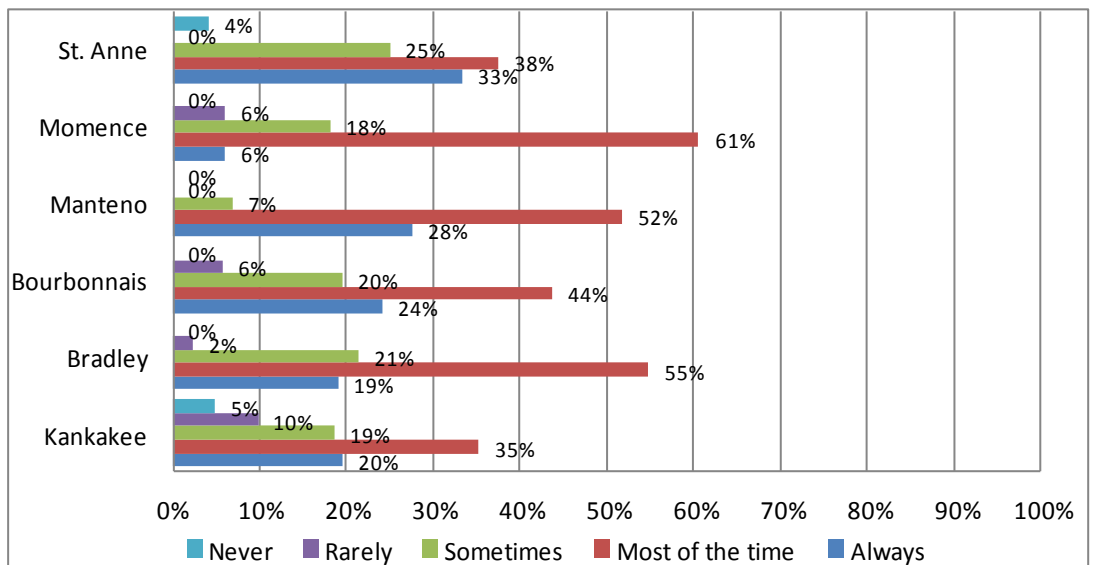
Kankakee residents had the lowest percent (75%) reporting always/most of the time safe at the home level, while Manteno had the highest percent (93%).

## Q22: Residents live in a safe neighborhood, by city.

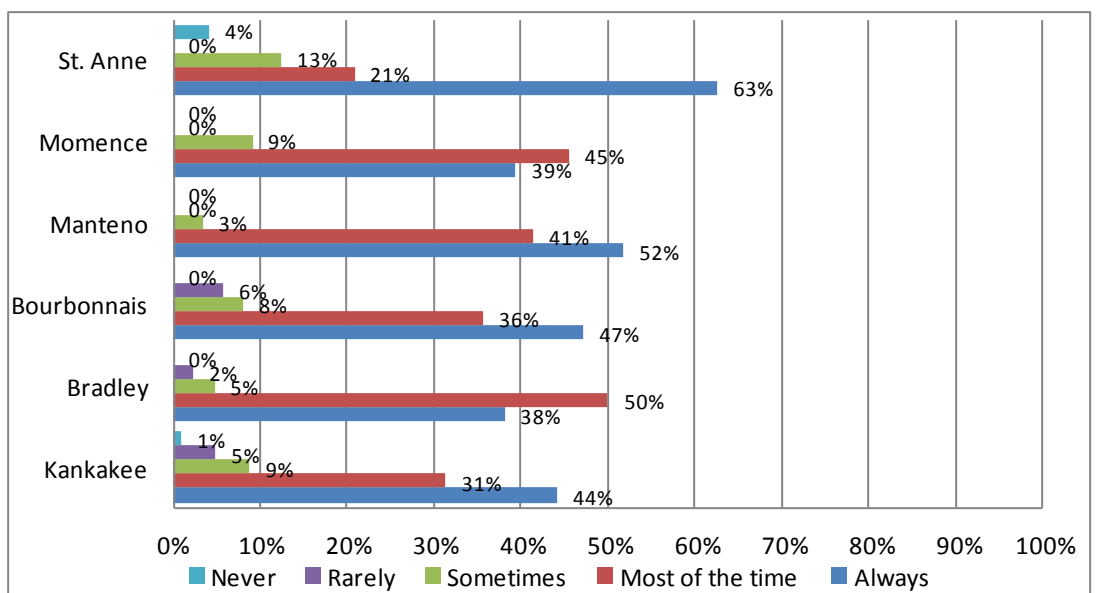
### In Kankakee



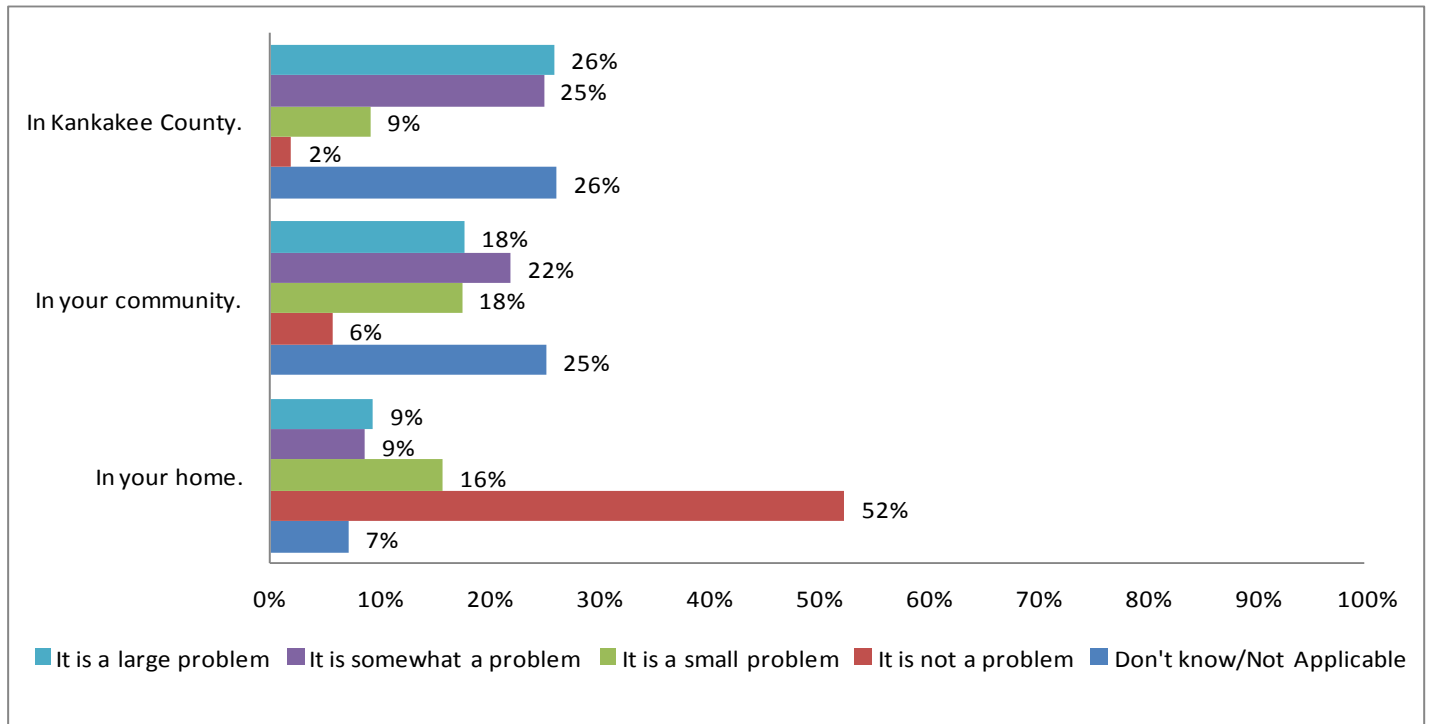
### In your com-



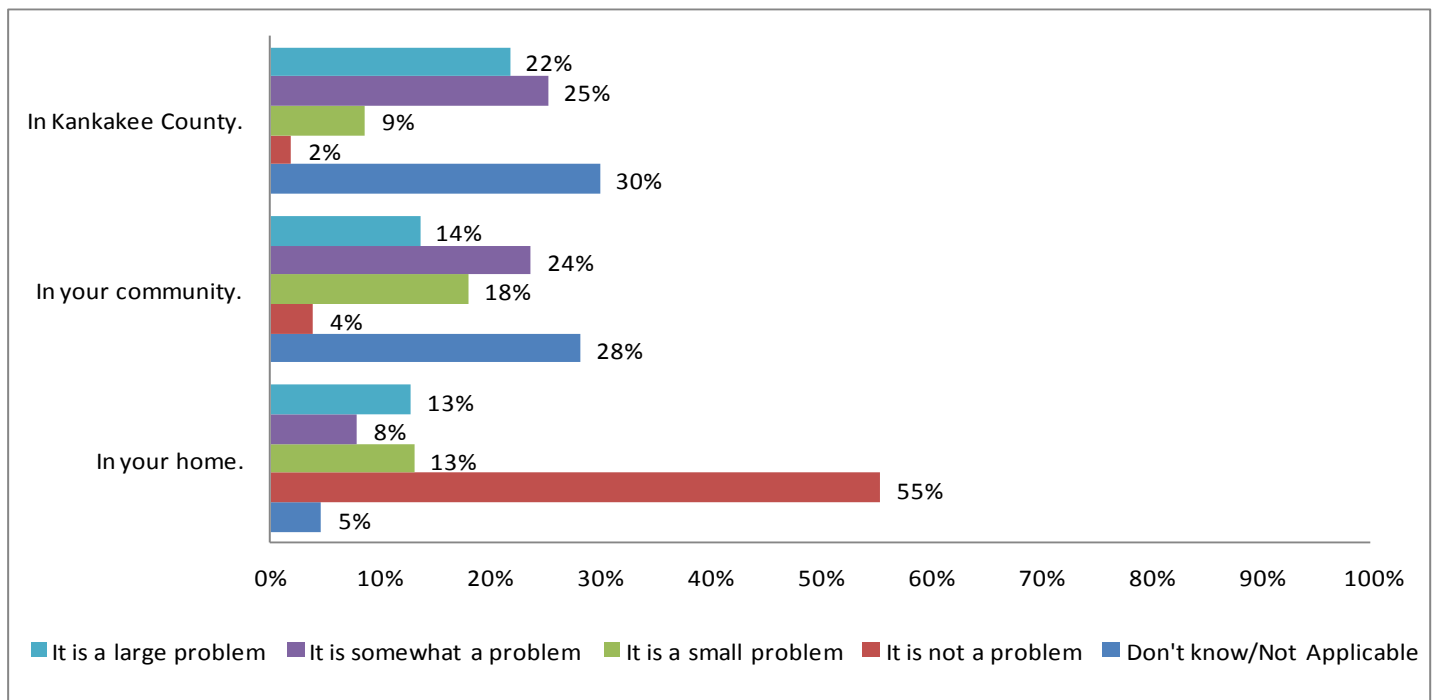
### In your



## Q24: Cancer(s)



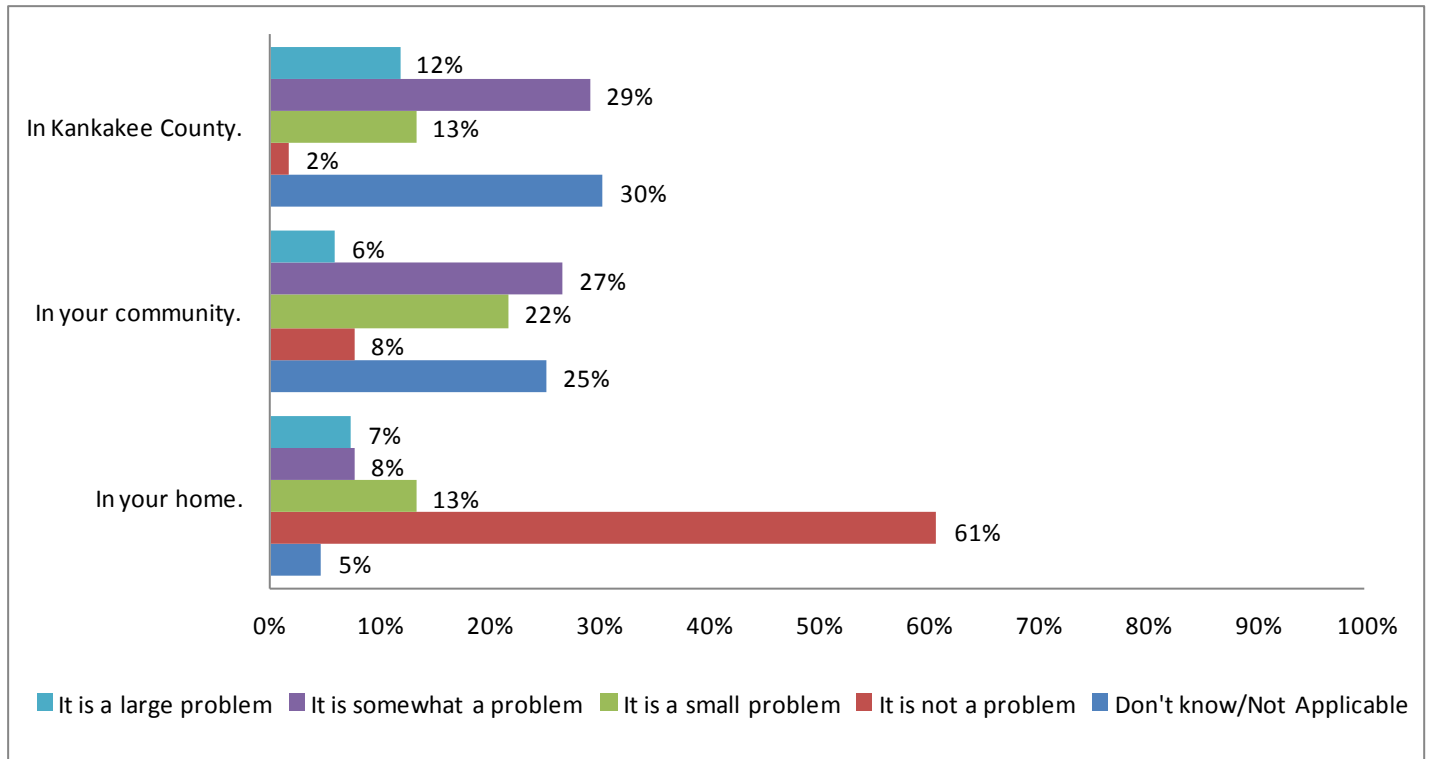
## Q25: Diabetes



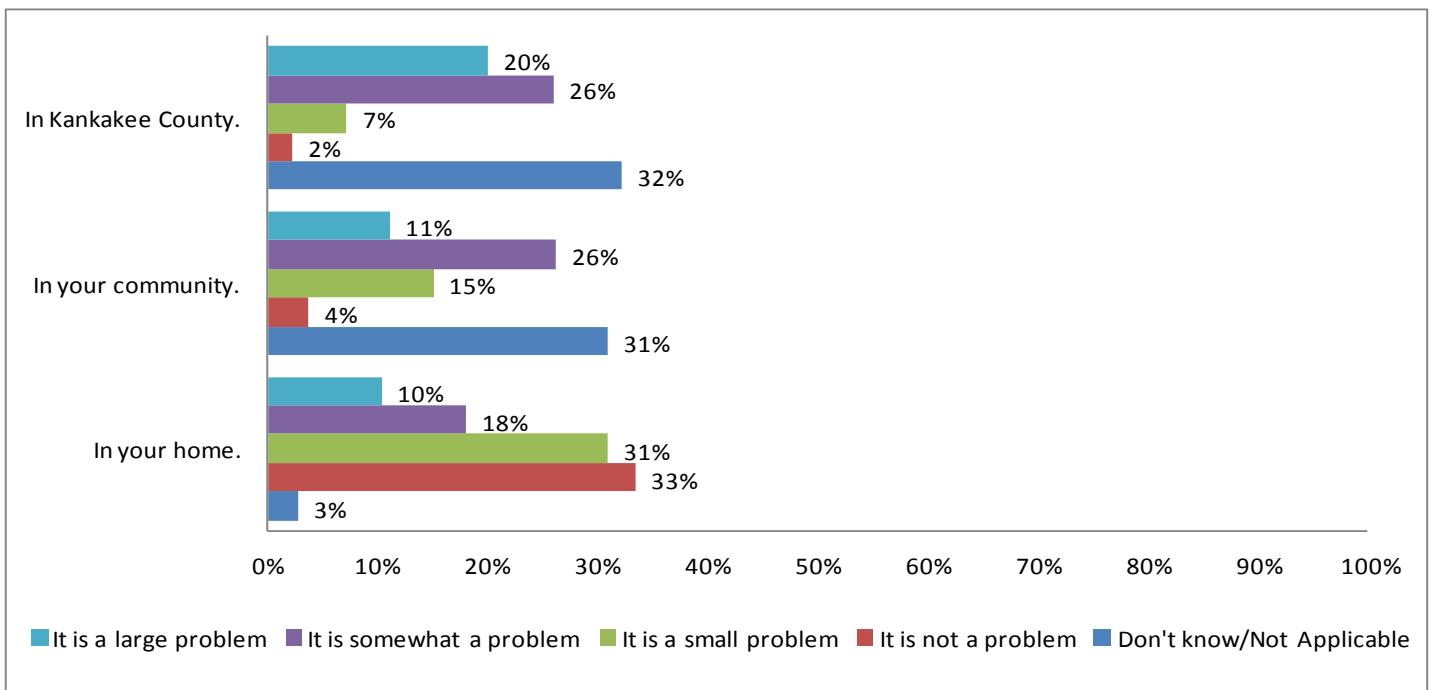
Fifty-one percent of participants felt that cancer was a problem at the county level. This dropped to 40% at the community level and 18% at the home level. It is noteworthy that nearly 20% identified cancer as a problem in their household when the cancer prevalence nationally is only 4% (<http://www.cancer.org/Cancer/CancerBasics/cancer-prevalence>).

Fifty-seven percent of participants felt that diabetes was a problem at the county level. This decreased to 38% for the community level and 21% at home. Nonetheless, this prevalence is high considering that the Kankakee County CHSA report revealed a county diabetes prevalence was 8.6%.

## Q26: Disabilities (physical,developmental)



## Q27: High Blood Pressure/Heart Disease/Stroke

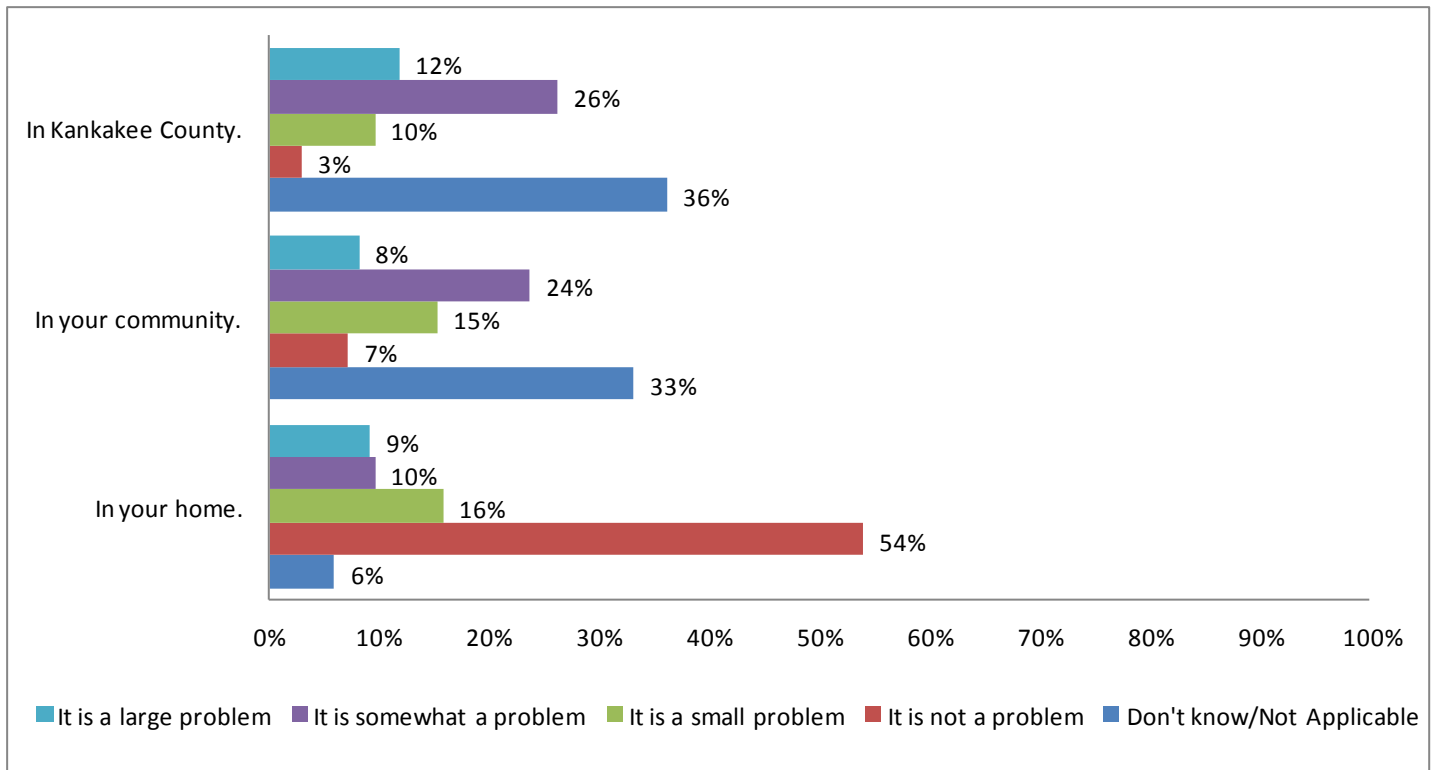


Forty-one percent of participants felt that disabilities were a problem at the county level. This changed to 33% at the community level, but only 15% at the home level.

Forty-six percent of participants felt that high blood pressure, heart disease and stroke were a problem at the county level. This decreased to 37% at the community level and 28% in their home. Interestingly, residents in the sample perceived high blood pressure in the county as less of a problem than cancer or diabetes despite the fact that it was a greater problem among residents in their household.

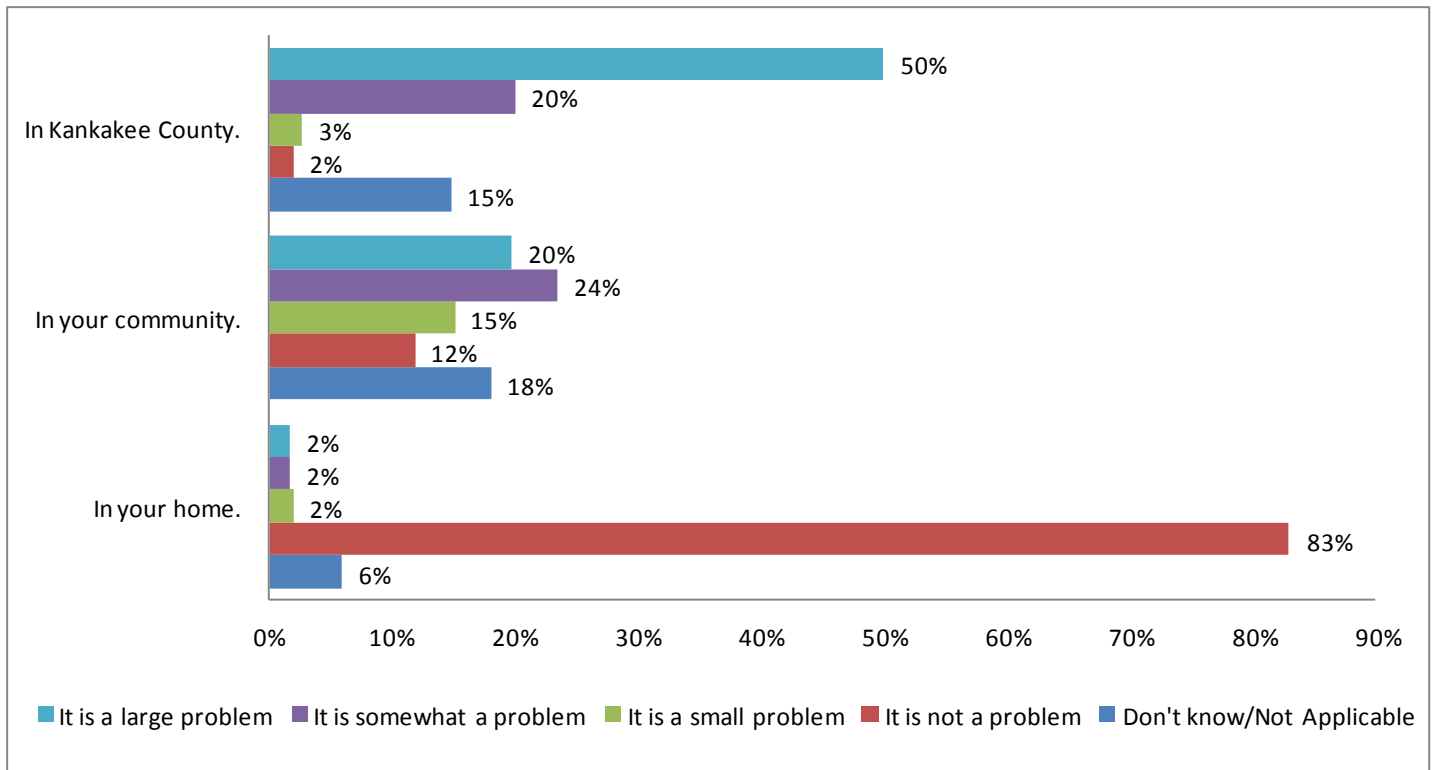


## Q28: Respiratory/Lung Diseases (e.g., asthma)



Forty-two percent of participants felt that respiratory diseases were a problem at the county level. Similarly, 32% thought it was a problem in their community, though only 19% in their home.

## Q29: Drug Abuse

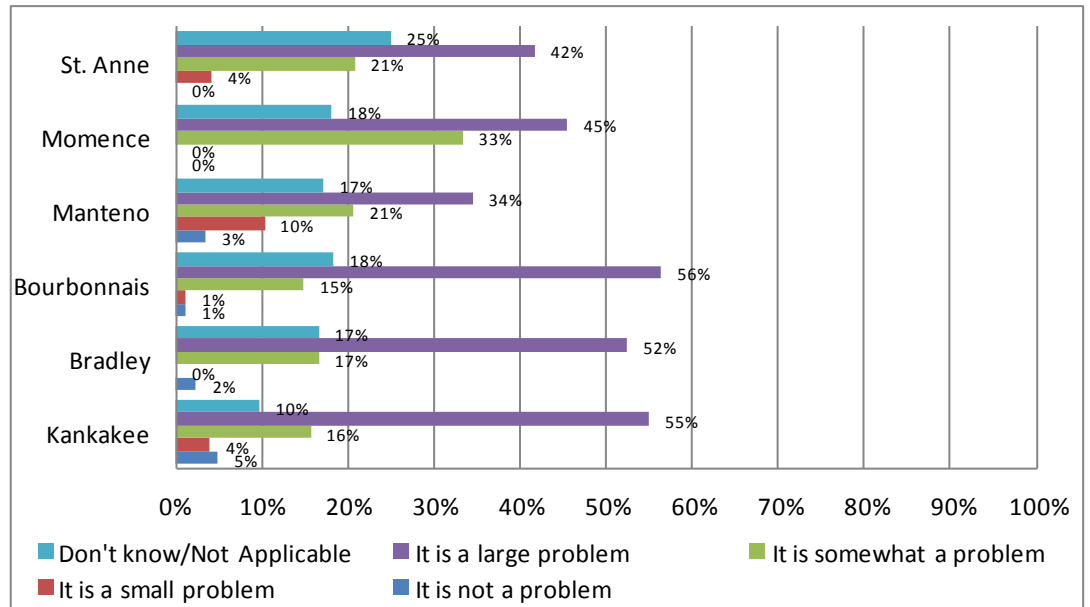


At the county level, 70% of participants felt that drug abuse was a problem. This decreased to 44% in their community and only 4% in their home.

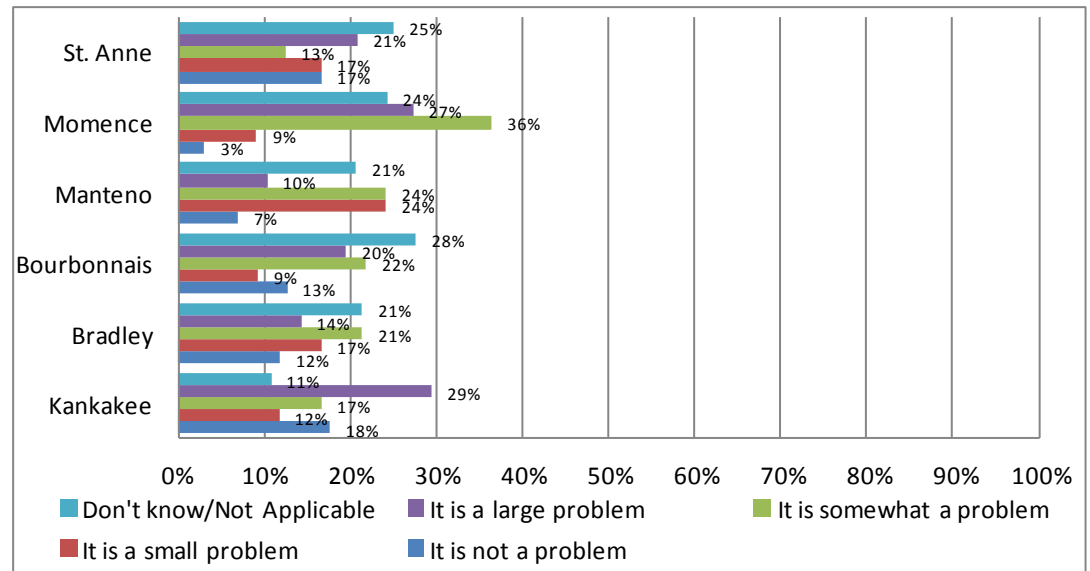
Respondents perceived drug abuse as a problem at the household level ranging from 2% to 6% depending on city. Momence residents reported the highest perception of drug abuse as a problem the household level (6%). Momence residents in the sample also reported the highest rates of drug abuse in the community (63%), while Manteno and St. Anne reported the lowest (34%).

## Q29: Drug Abuse, by city.

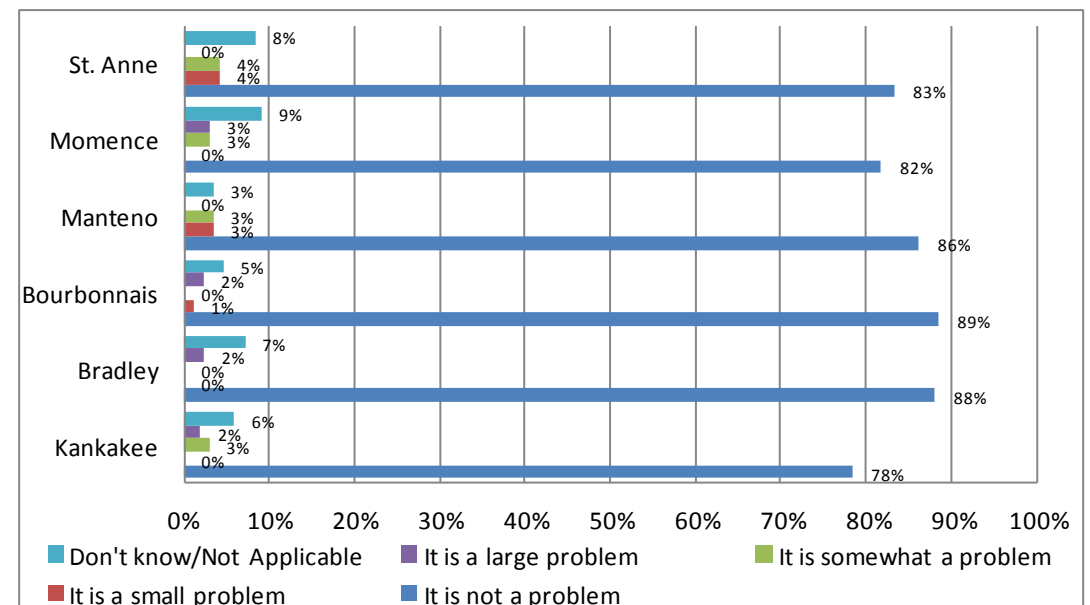
In Kankakee County...



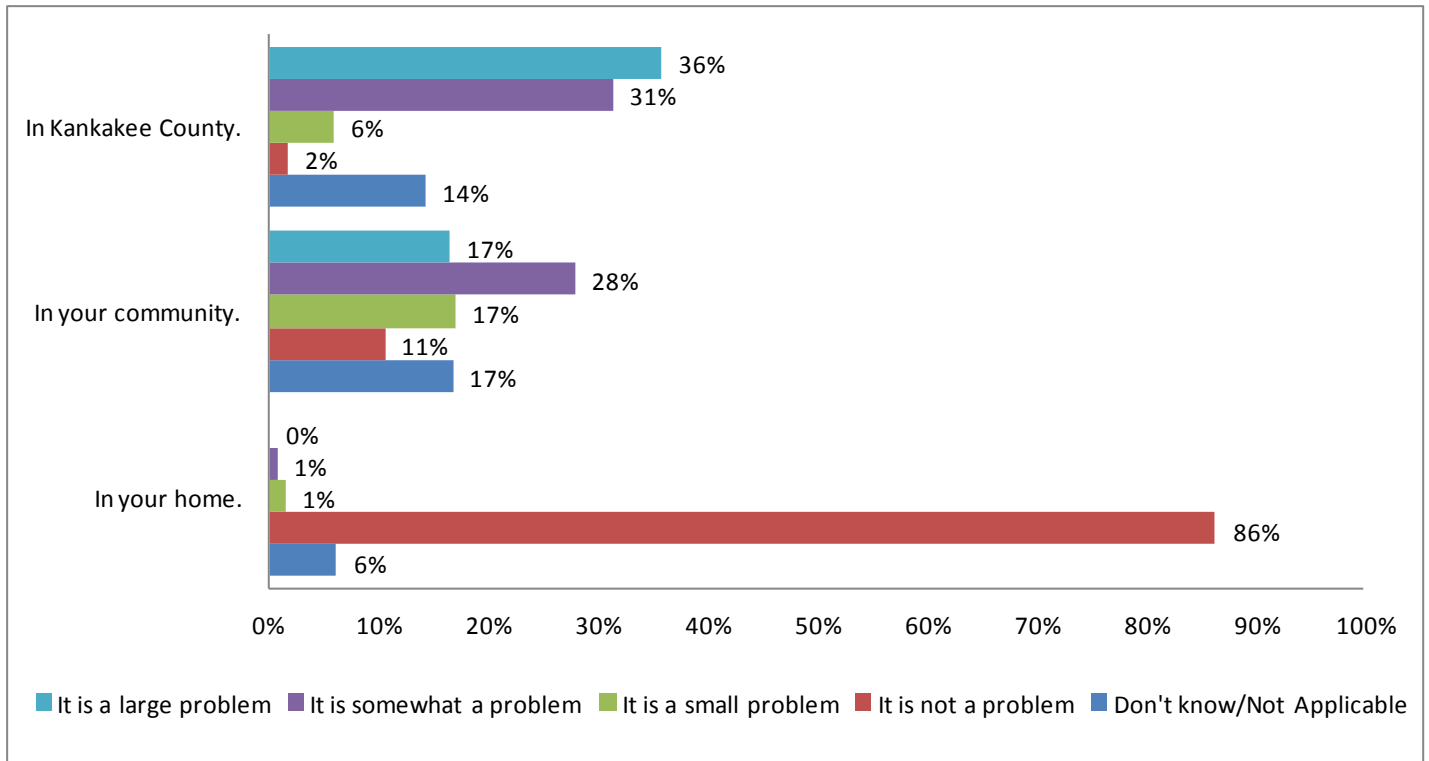
In your community...



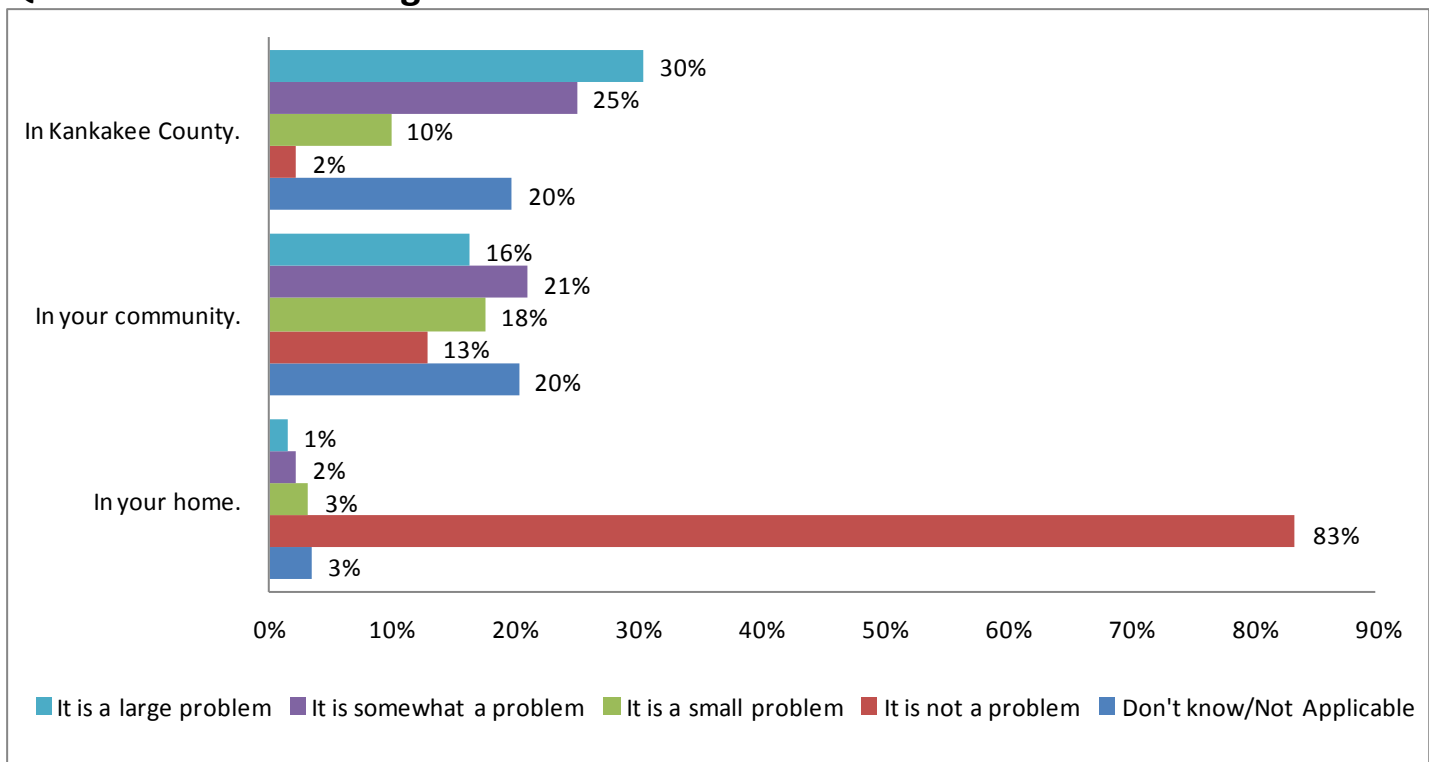
In your home...



### Q30: Underage Drinking



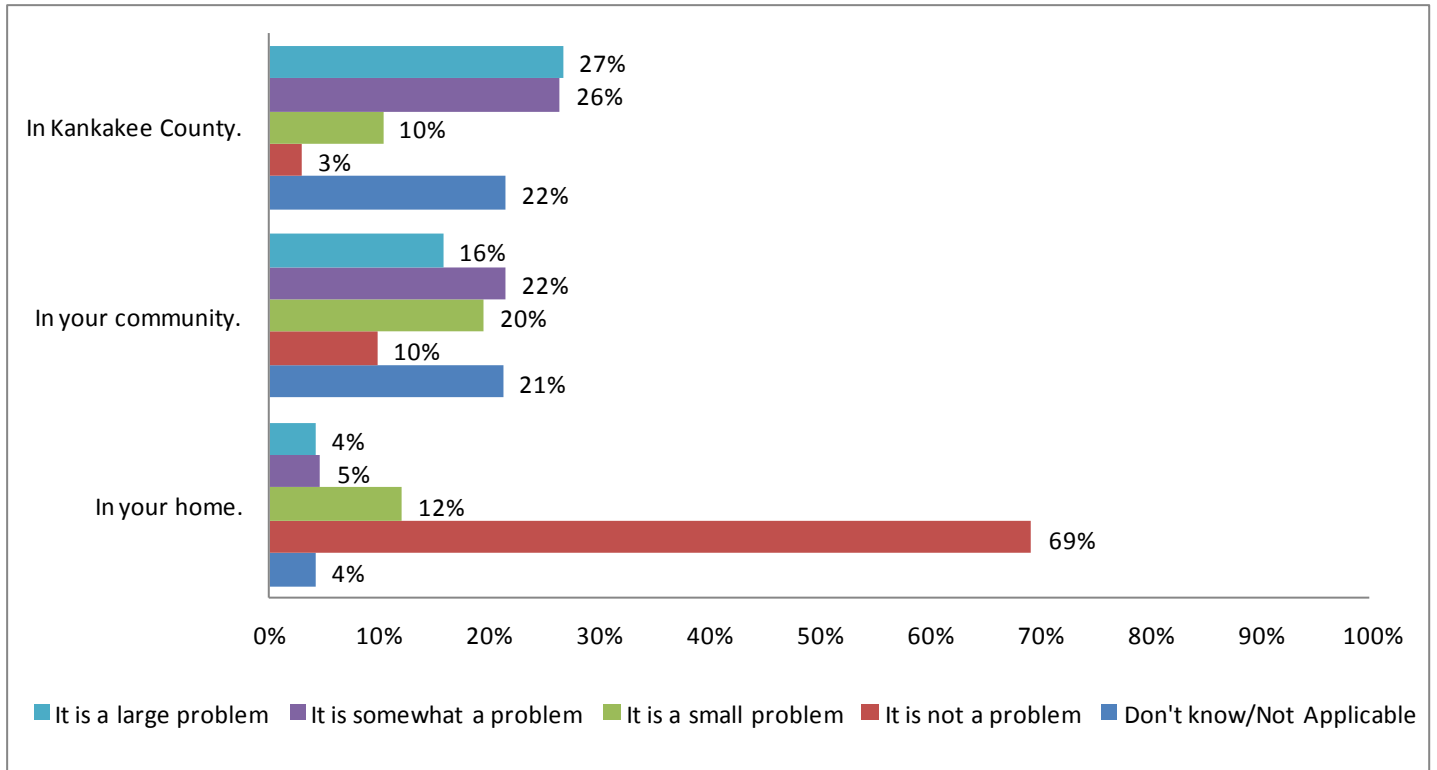
### Q31: Excessive Drinking.



Sixty-seven percent of participants felt that underage drinking was a problem in the county. This decreased to 45% at the community level; only 1% reported it a problem in their home.

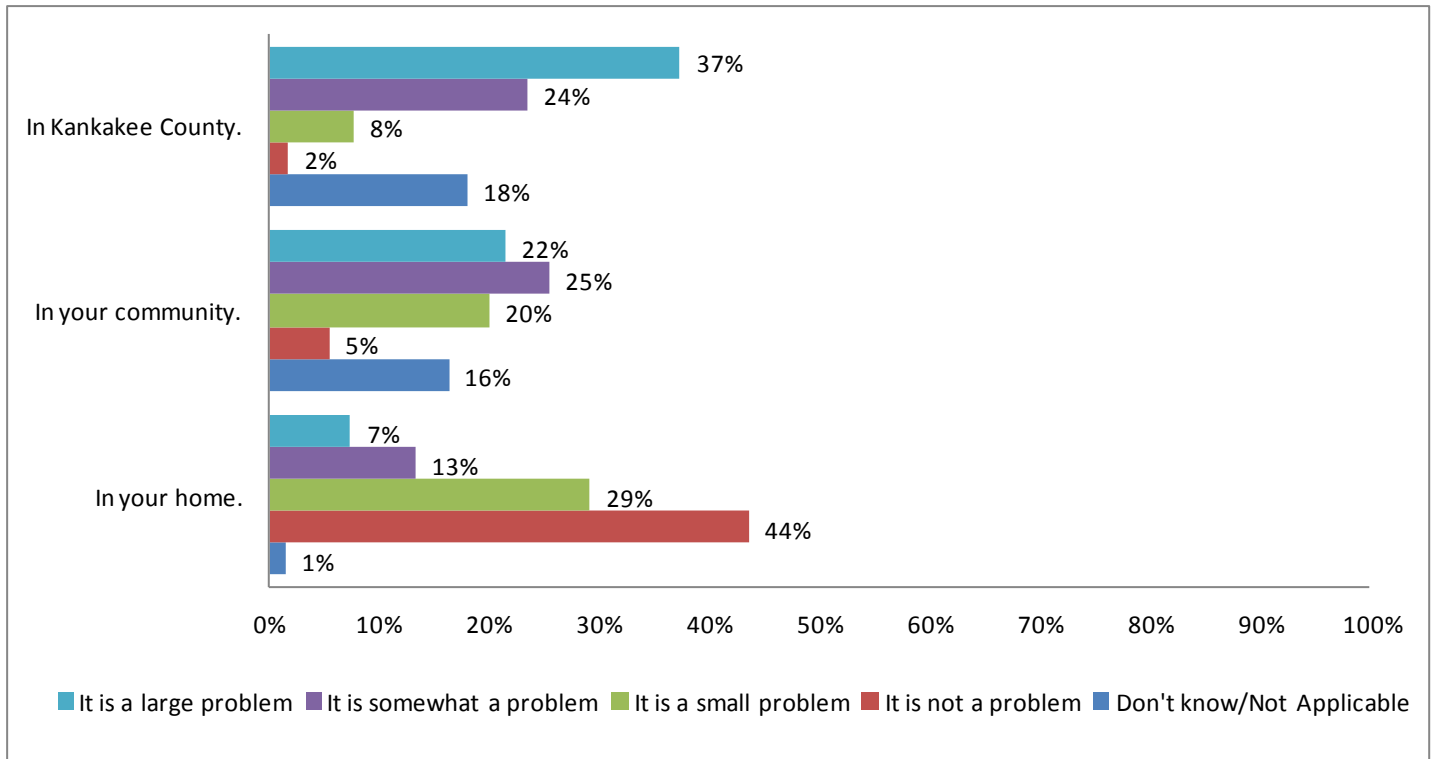
Excessive drinking was reported as a problem by 55% of participants at the county level. This decreased to 37% at the community level and to 3% in the home.

## Q32: Tobacco Use



Fifty-three percent of participants felt that tobacco use was a problem at the county level. Thirty-eight percent reported it as a problem in their community and 9% in their home.

### Q33: Obesity/Being Overweight.

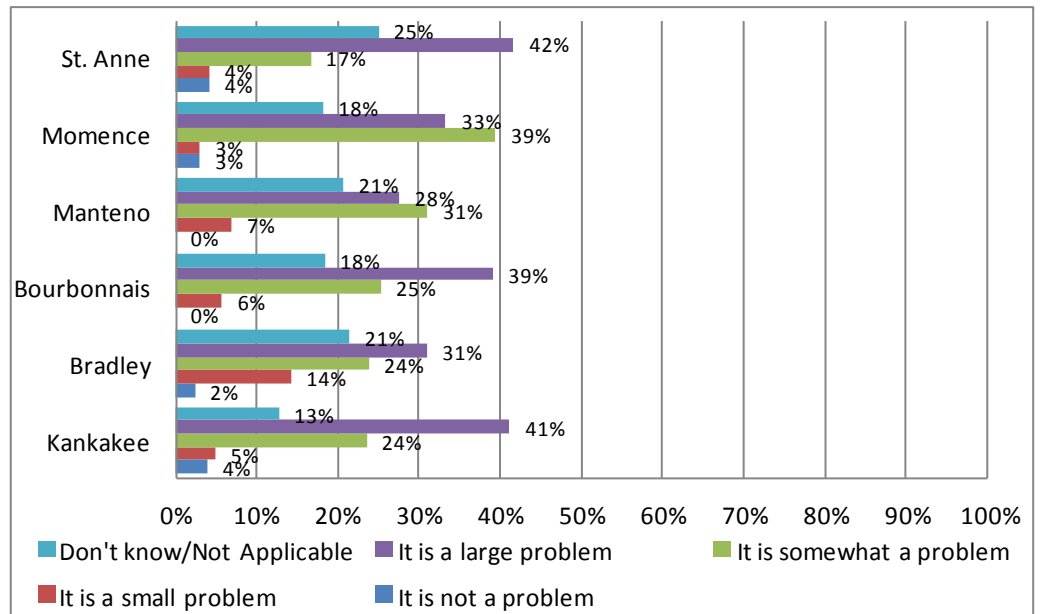


Sixty-one percent of participants felt that weight was a problem at the county level. This decreased to 48% at the community level and 20% in the home.

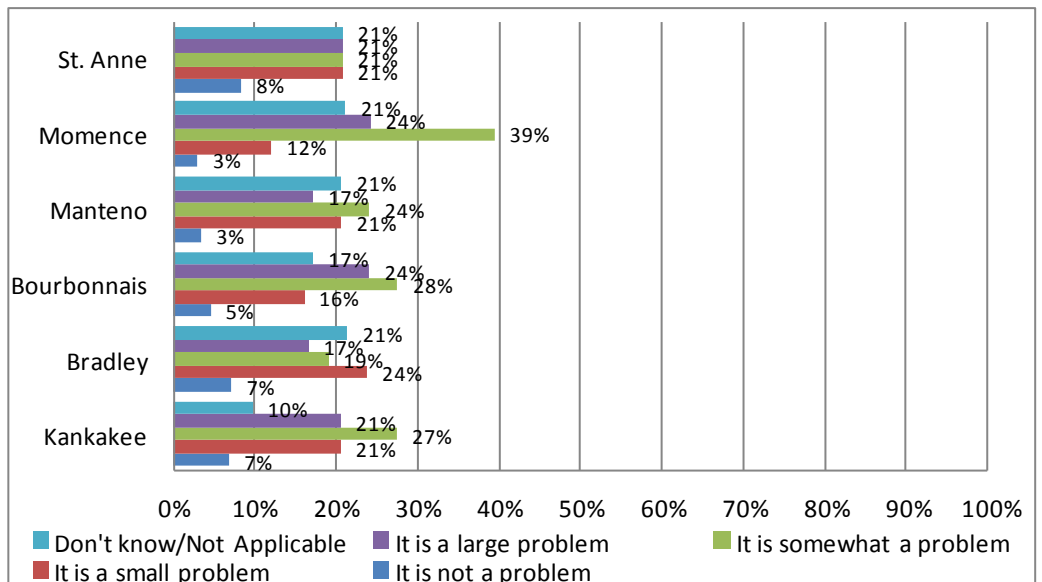
Most cities reported between 21% and 26% having weight has a problem in the home, while St. Anne reported only 12%. At the community level, Bourbonnais reported the highest weight problem at 52% and Bradley the lowest at 36%.

### Q33: Obesity/Being Overweight, by city.

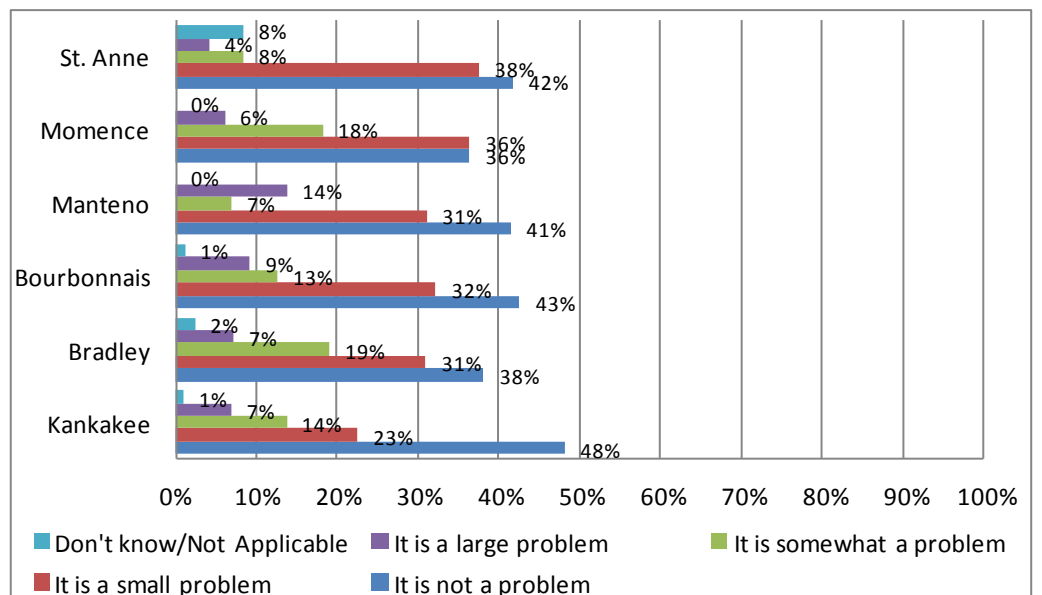
In Kankakee County...



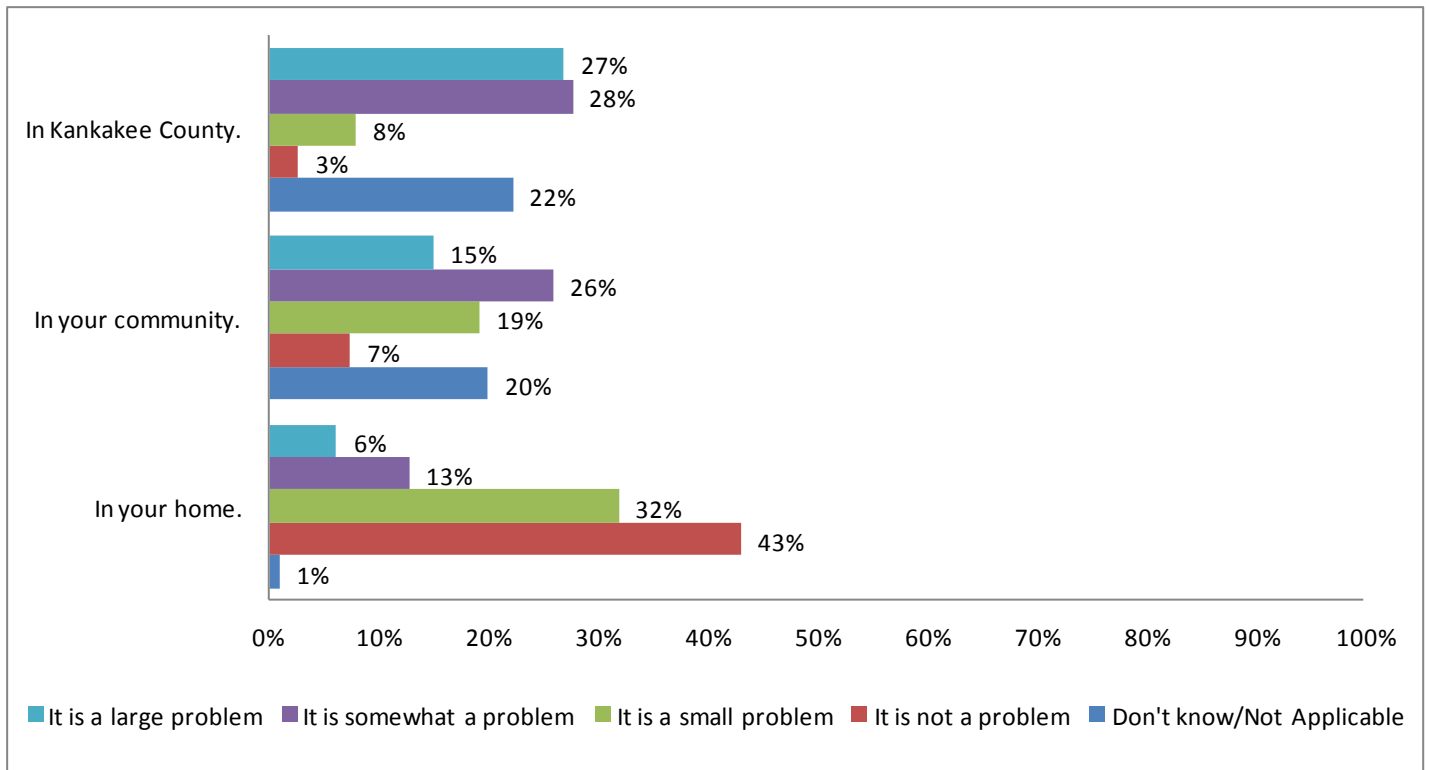
In your community...



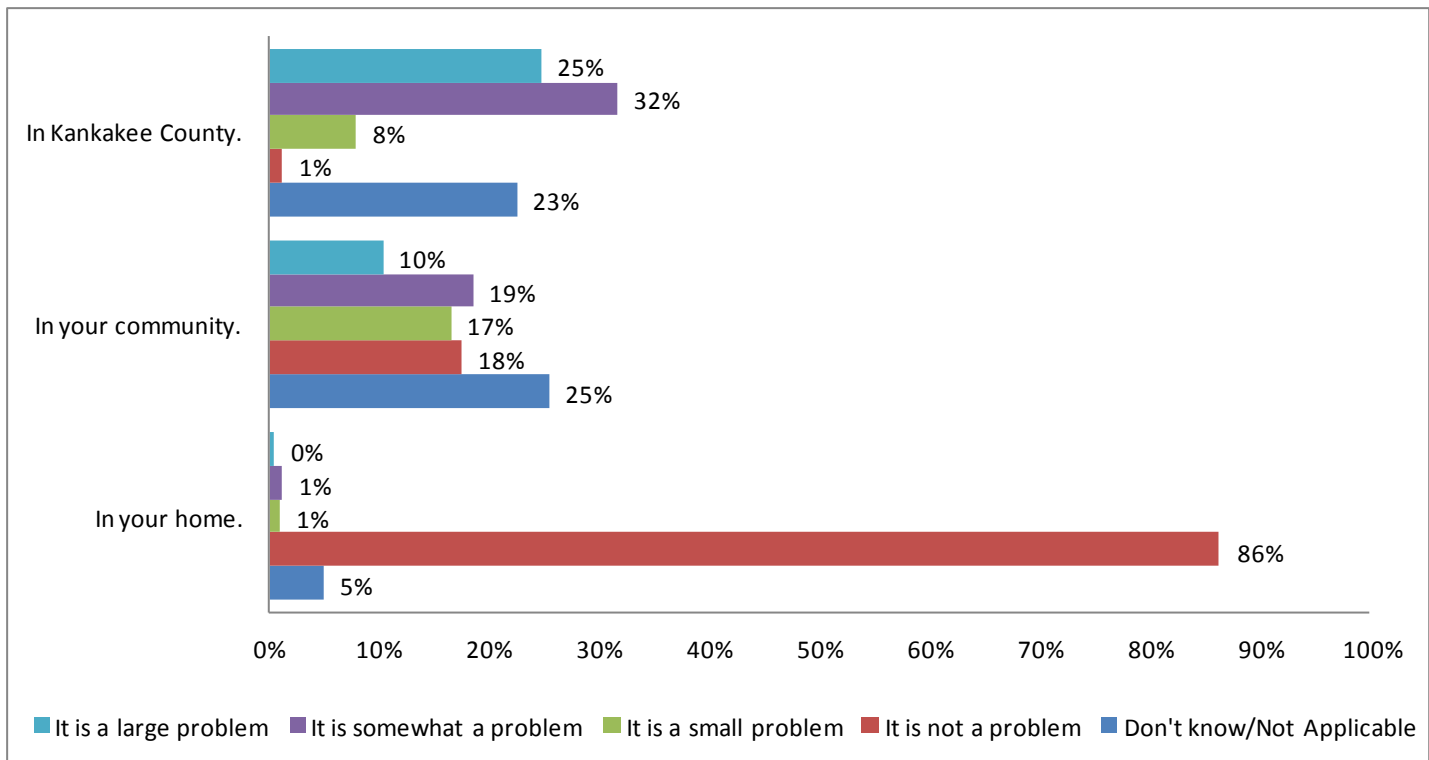
In your home...



### Q34: Physical Inactivity



### Q35: Domestic Violence

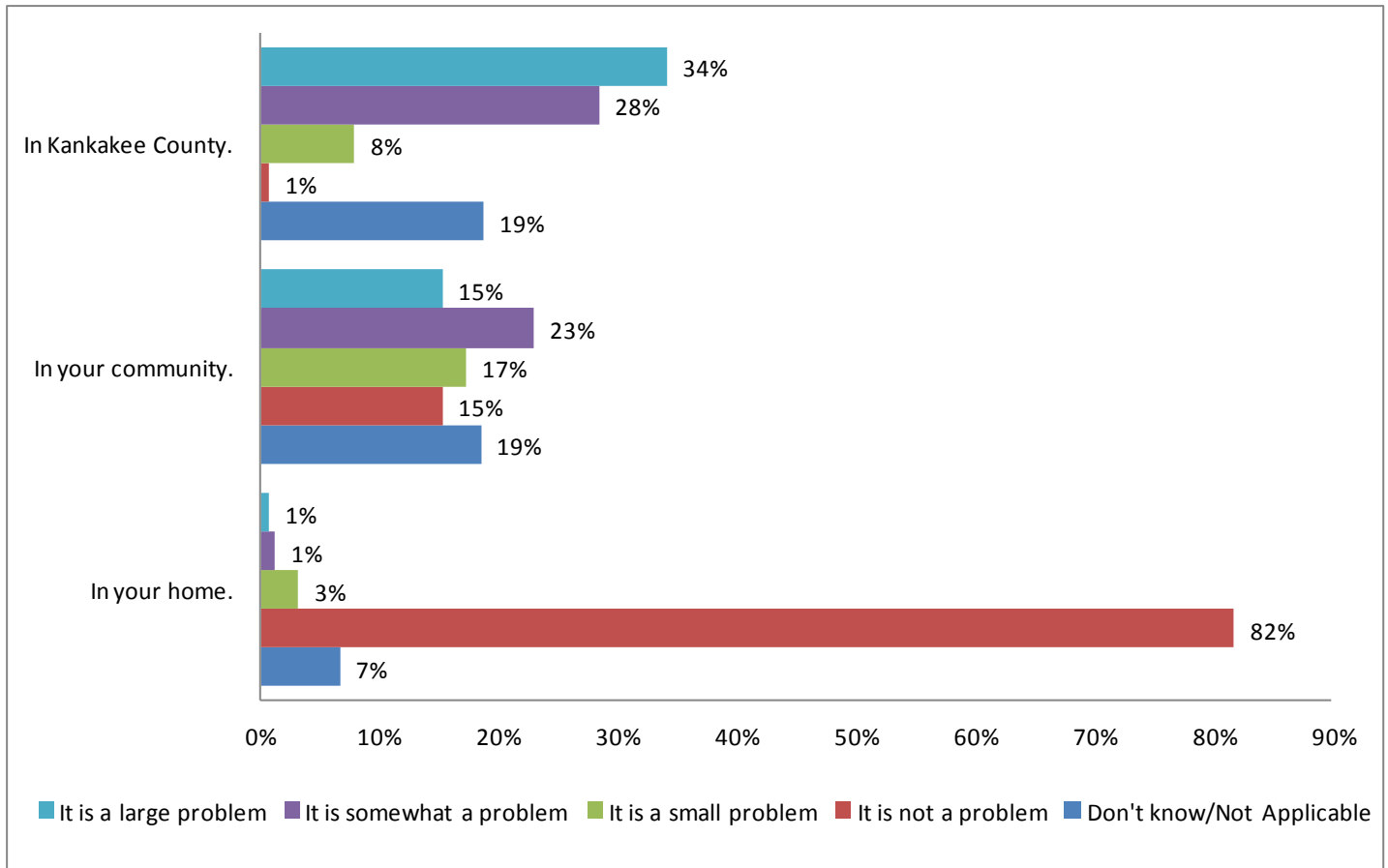


Fifty-five percent of participants felt that physical inactivity was a problem at the county level. This decreased to 41% at the community level and 19% in their home.

Domestic violence was perceived as a problem in the county by 57% of participants. This decreased to 29% in the community and 1% in their home.



### Q36: Youth Violence (e.g. bullying, gangs)

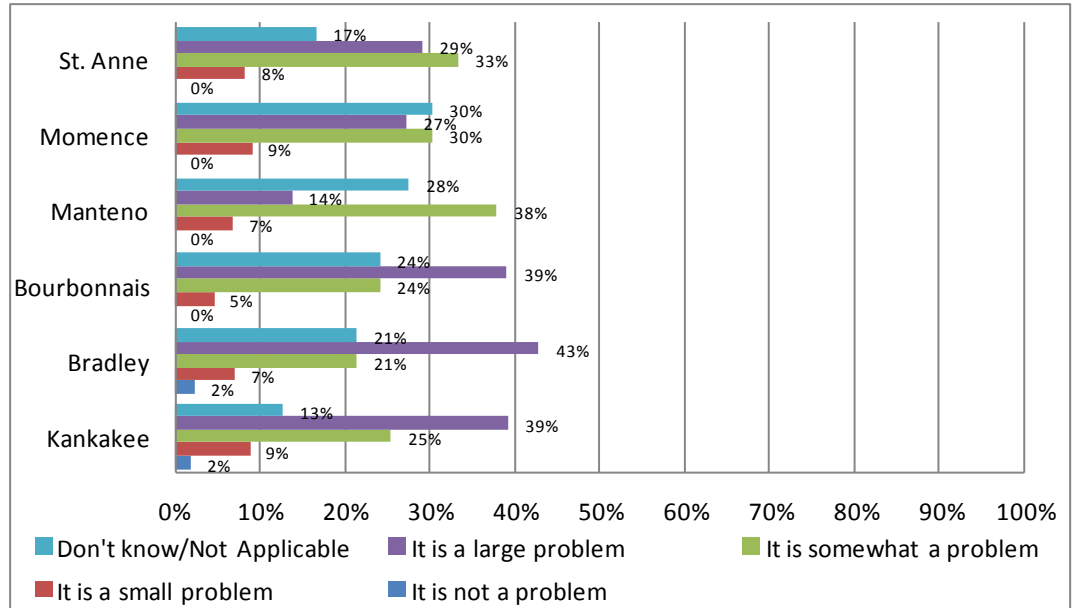


Youth violence was reported as a county problem by 62% of participants. This decreased to 38% in their community and 2% in their home.

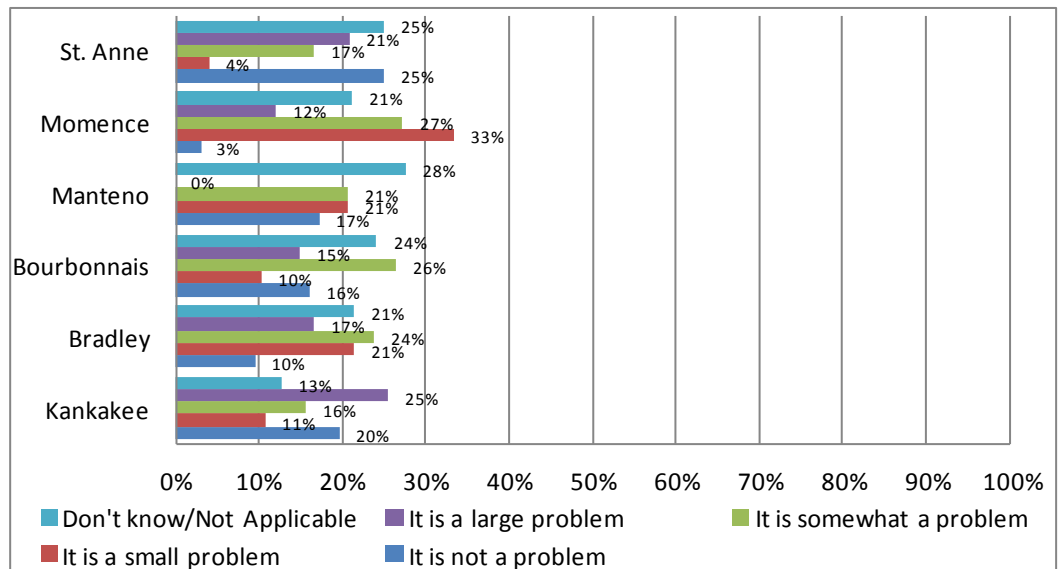
In Manteno and St. Anne 0% reported youth violence in their home, while 6% reported youth violence in Mokence. At the community level, most cities reported around 40%, although Manteno reported only 21%.

### Q36: Youth Violence (e.g. bullying, gangs), by city.

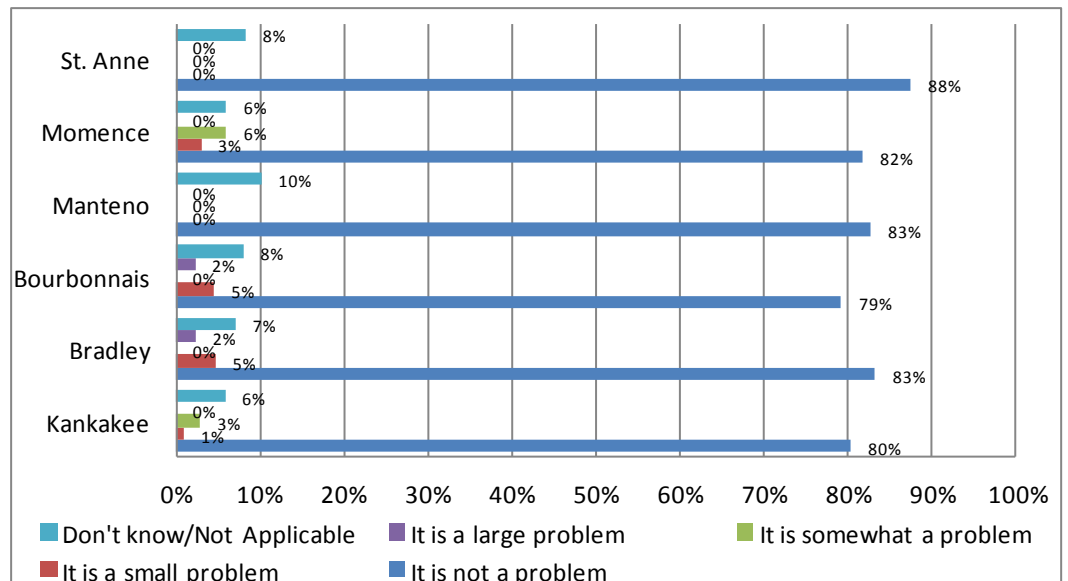
In Kankakee County...



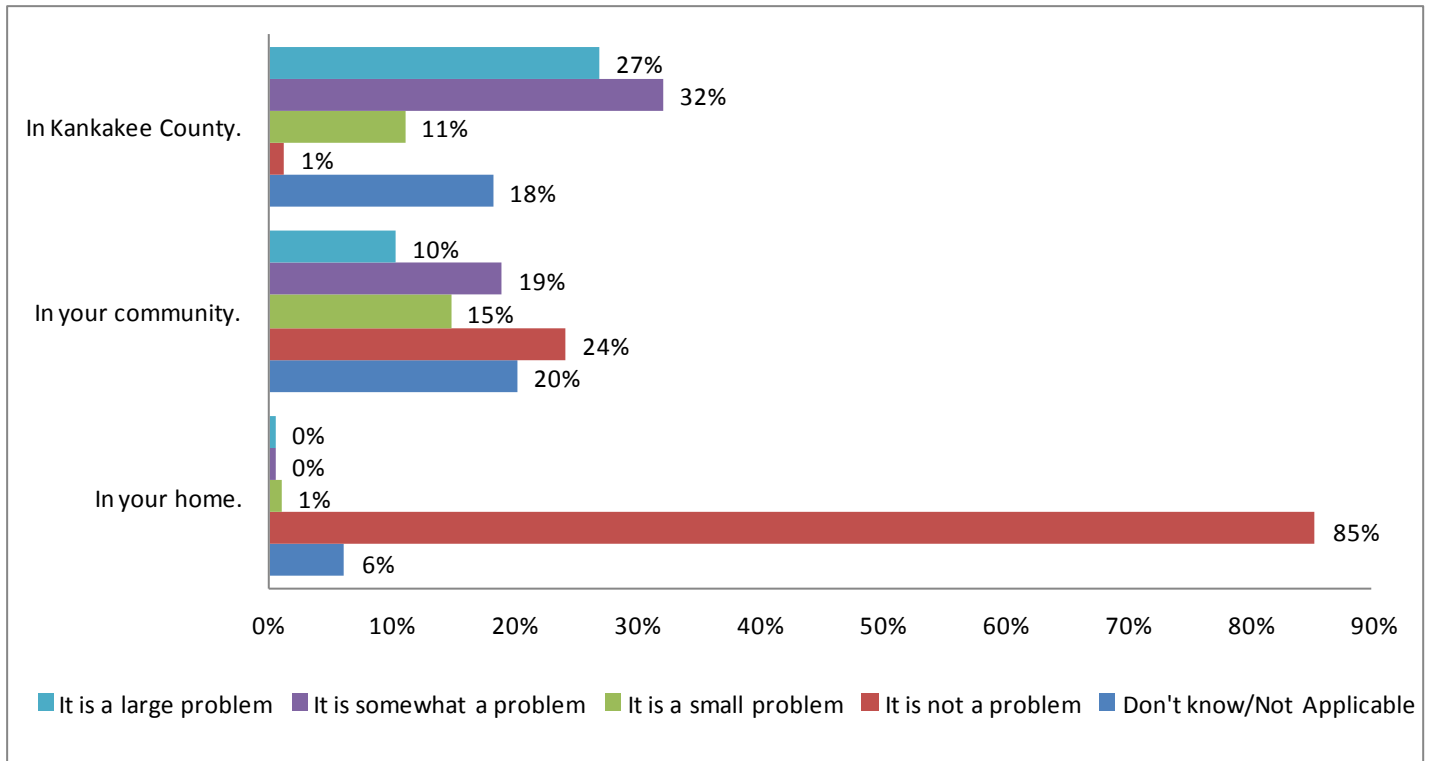
In your community...



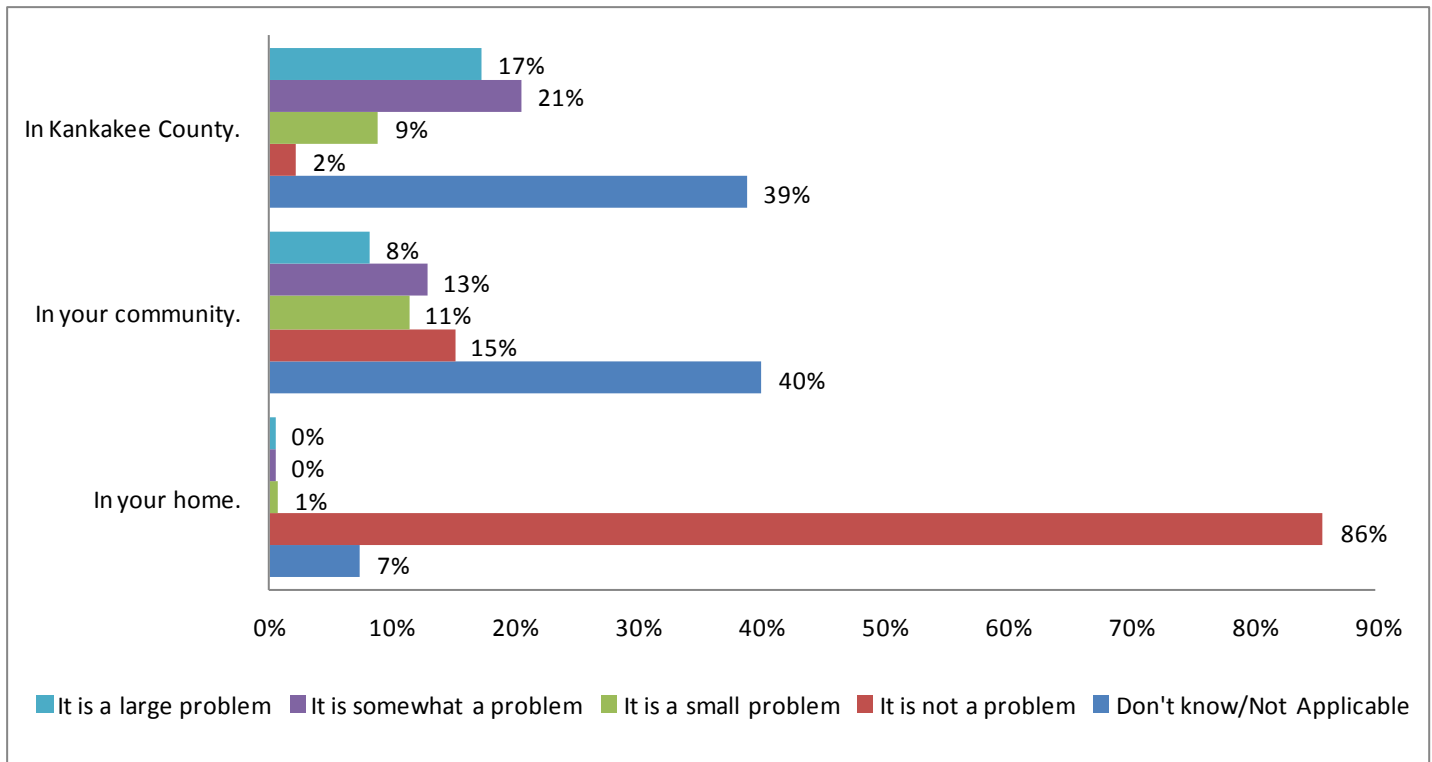
In your home...



### Q37: Other Violence (assault, homicide)



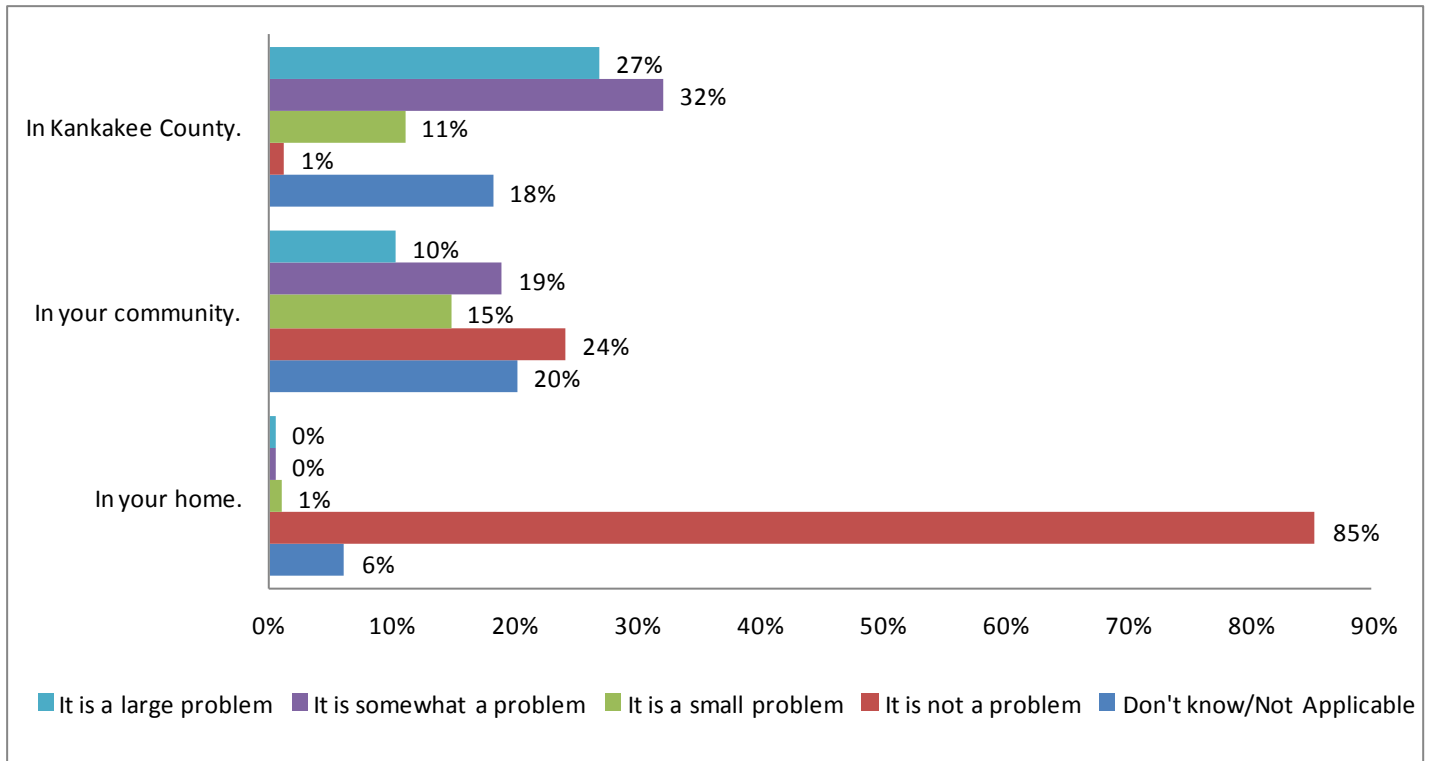
### Q38: Sexually Transmitted Diseases/Infections



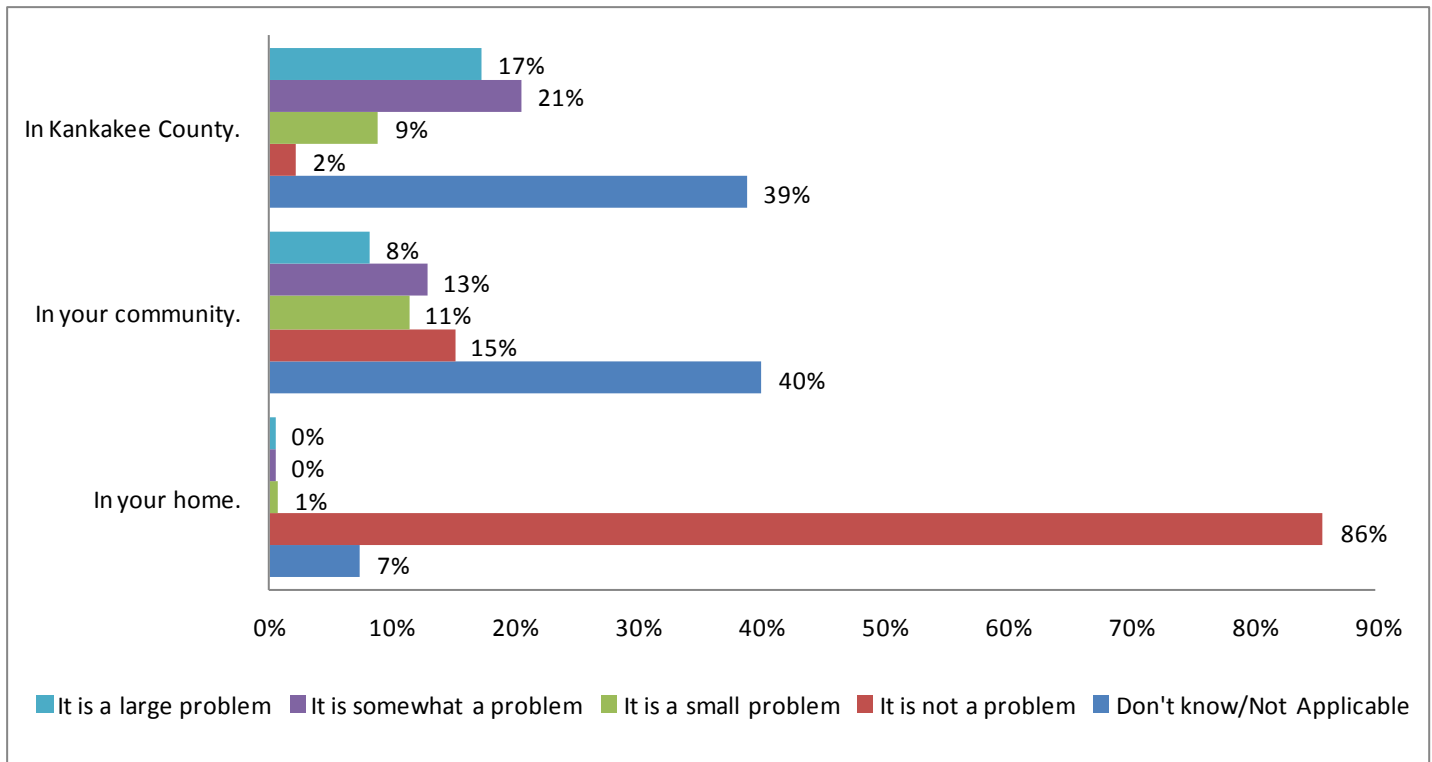
Fifty-nine percent of participants reported violence as a problem in the county. This decreased to 29% in their community and 1% in their home.

STIs were reported as a county problem by 38% of participants. This decreased to 21% in their community and to 1% in their home.

### Q37: Other Violence (assault, homicide)



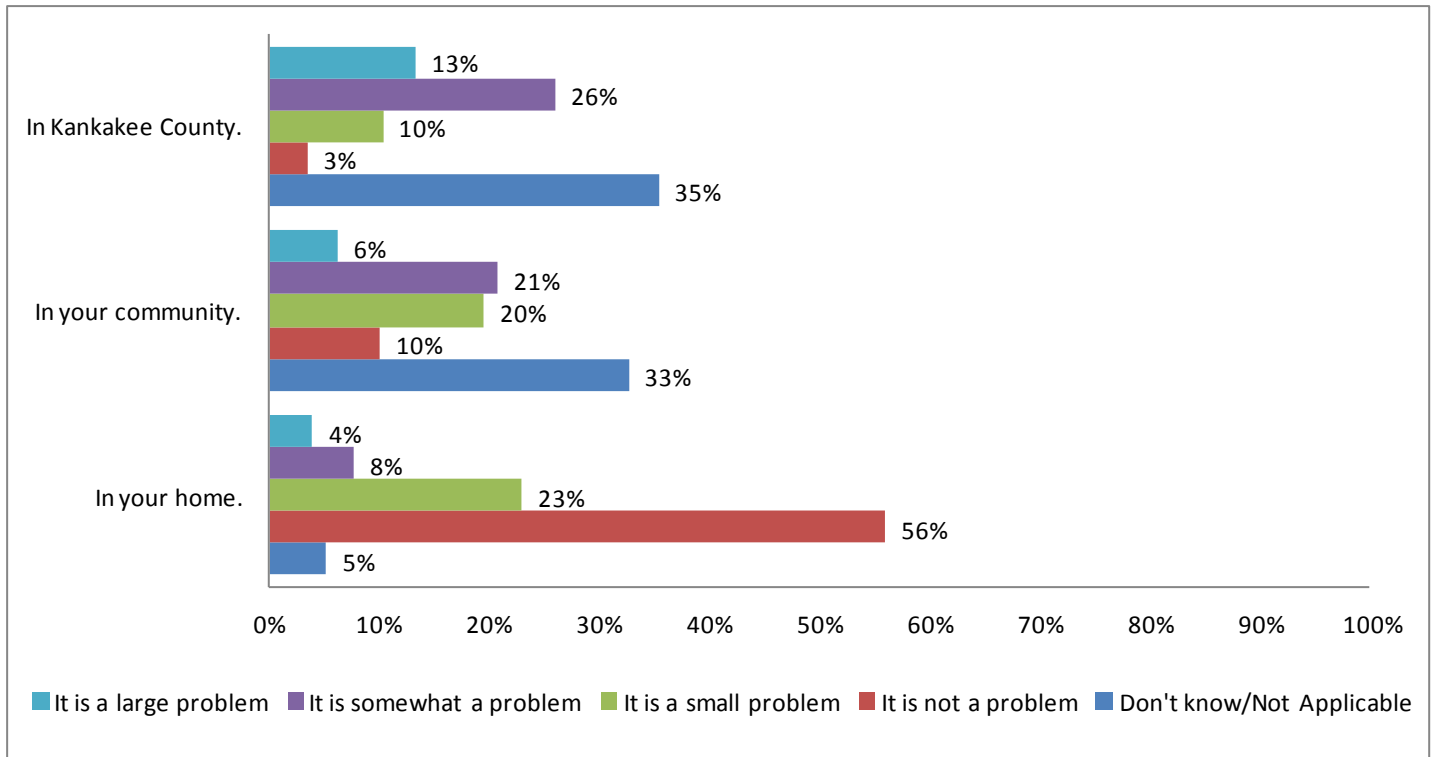
### Q38: Sexually Transmitted Diseases/Infections



Fifty-nine percent of participants reported violence as a problem in the county. This decreased to 29% in their community and 1% in their home.

STIs were reported as a county problem by 38% of participants. This decreased to 21% in their community and to 1% in their home.

## Q41: Depression/Anxiety Issues

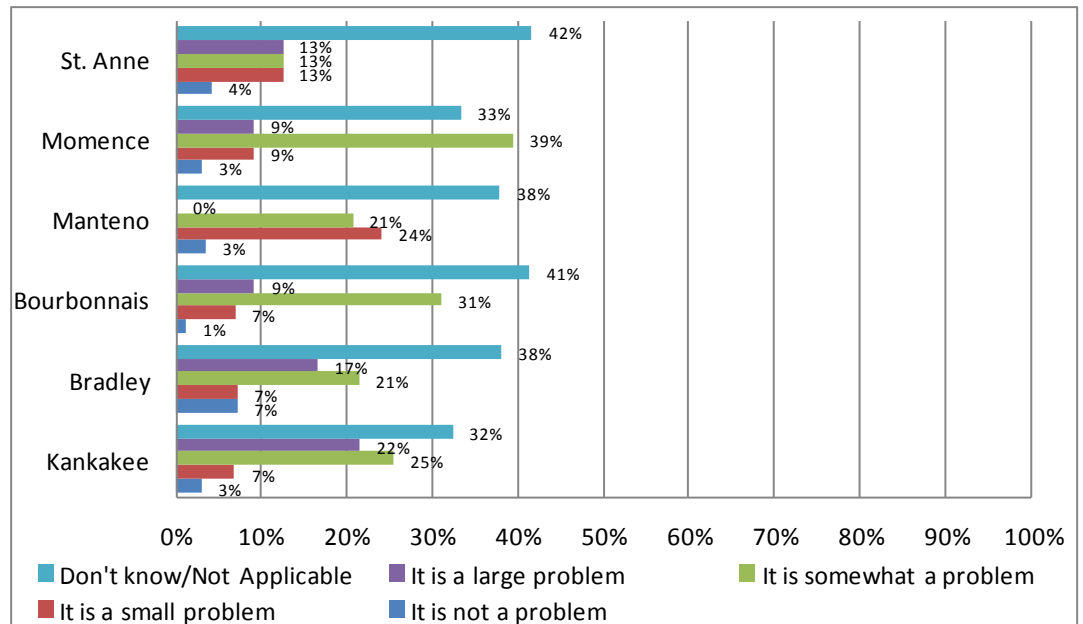


Thirty-nine percent of participants felt that depression/anxiety was a problem in the county. Twenty-seven percent considered it a problem in their community and 12% in their home.

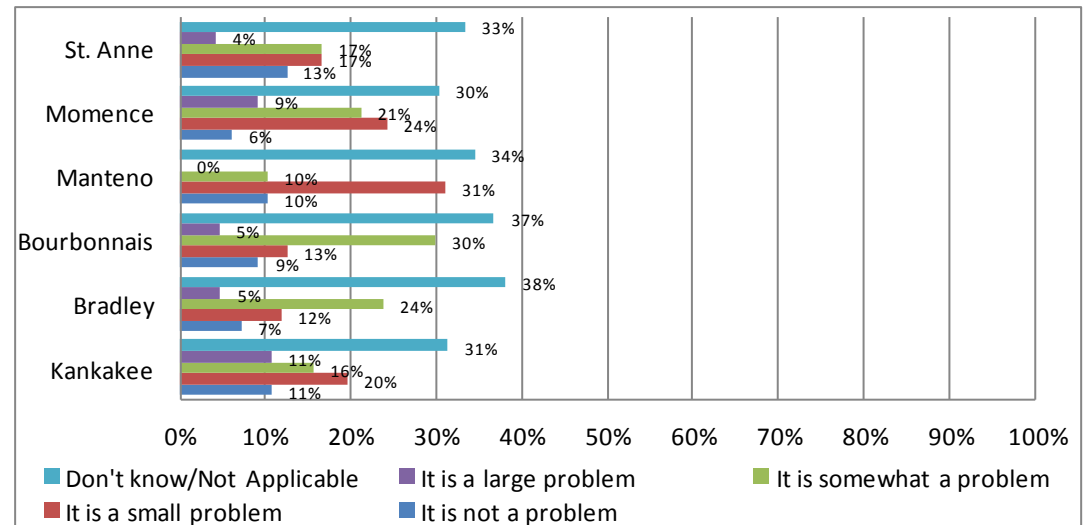
Manteno and St. Anne residents reported the lowest rates of depression/anxiety in their home (6% and 8% respectively), while Bradley residents reported the highest rate, 17%.

## Q41: Depression/Anxiety Issues, by city.

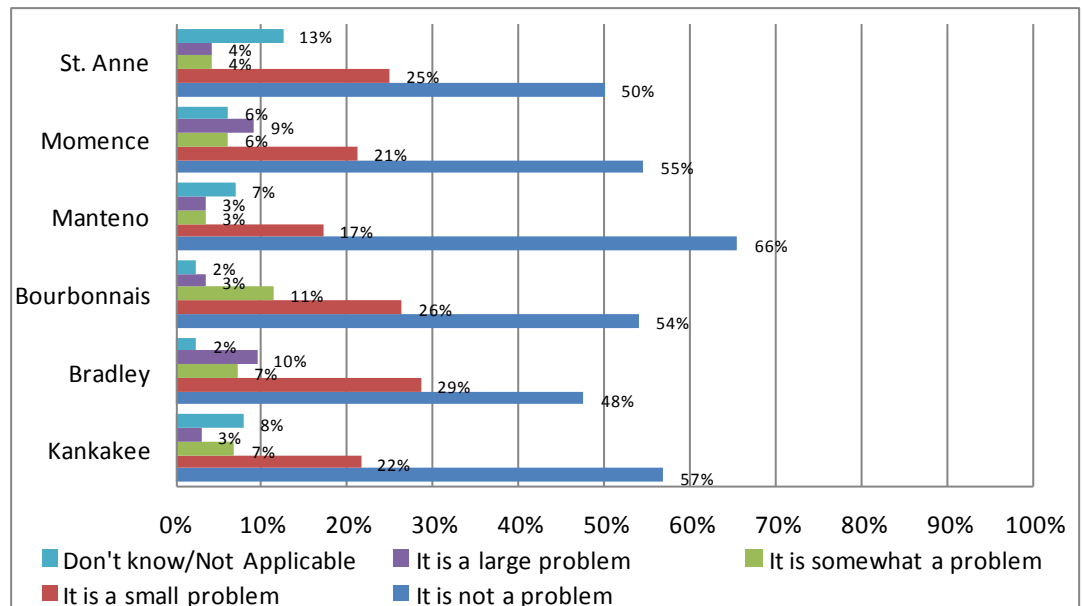
In Kankakee County...



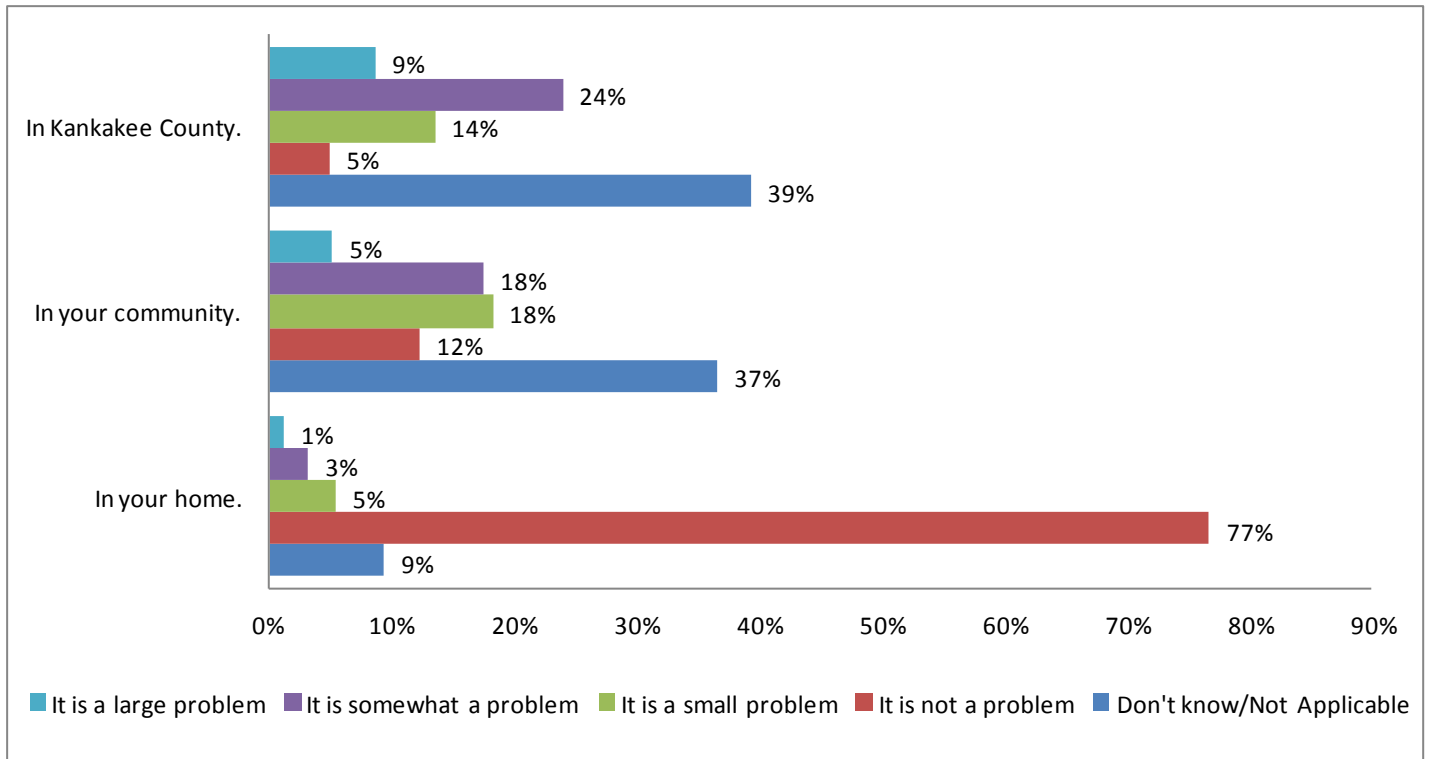
In your community...



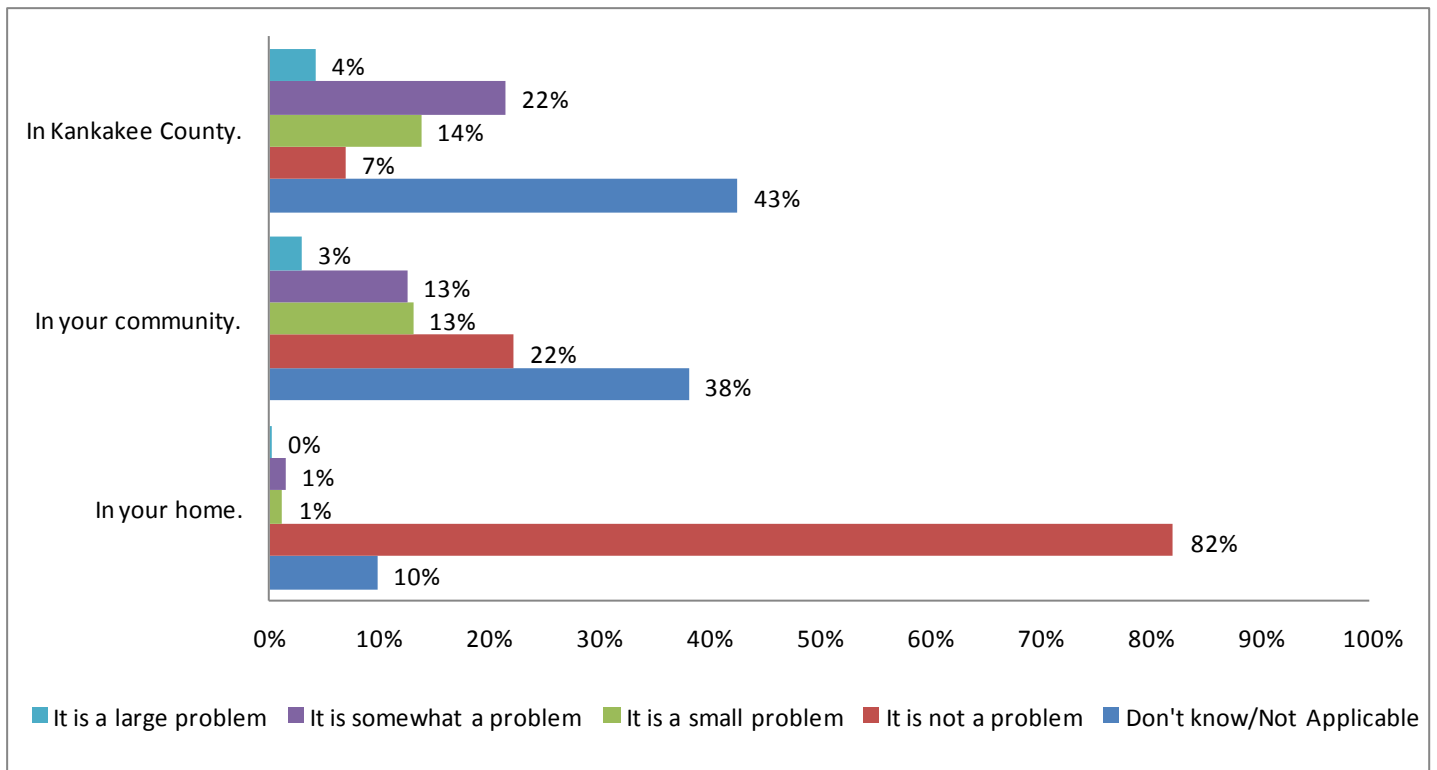
In your home...



## Q42: Dementia/Alzheimer's Disease



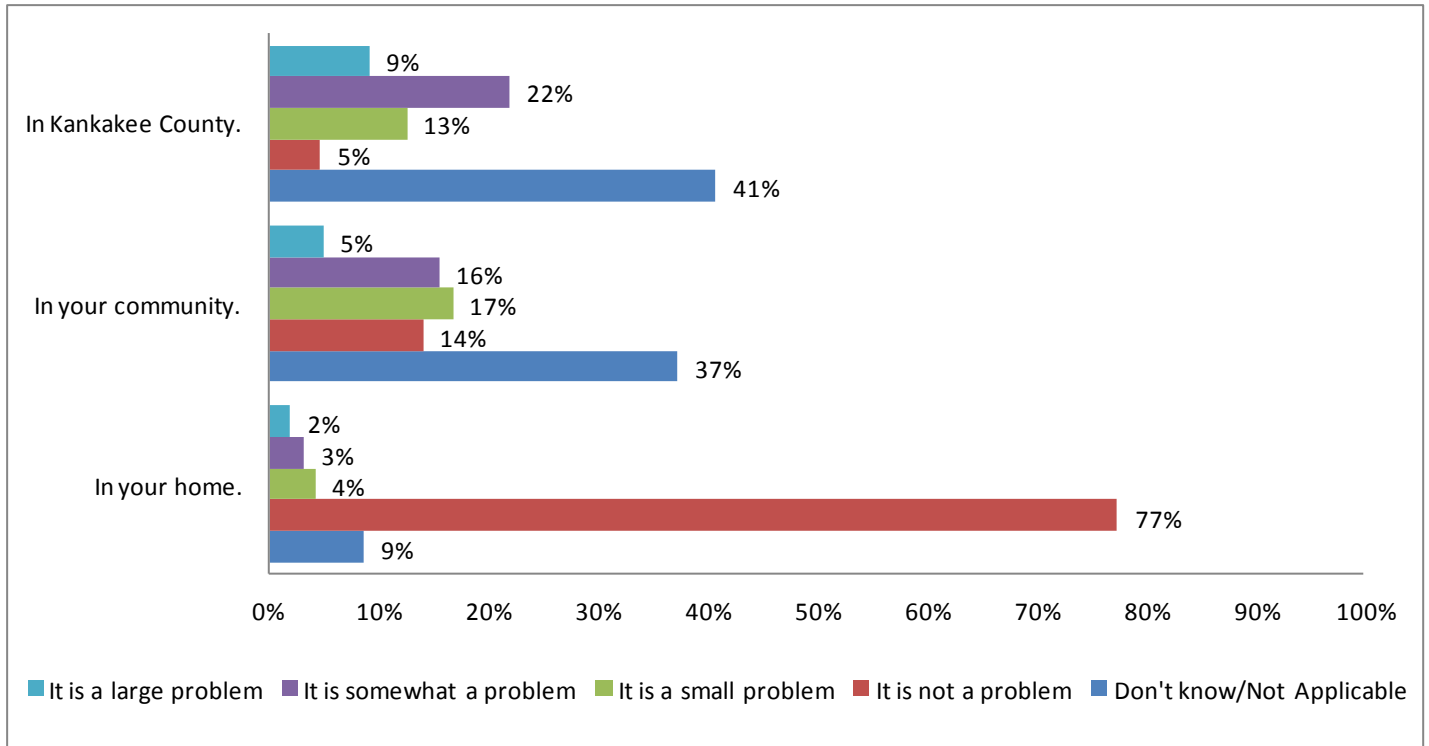
## Q43: Suicide



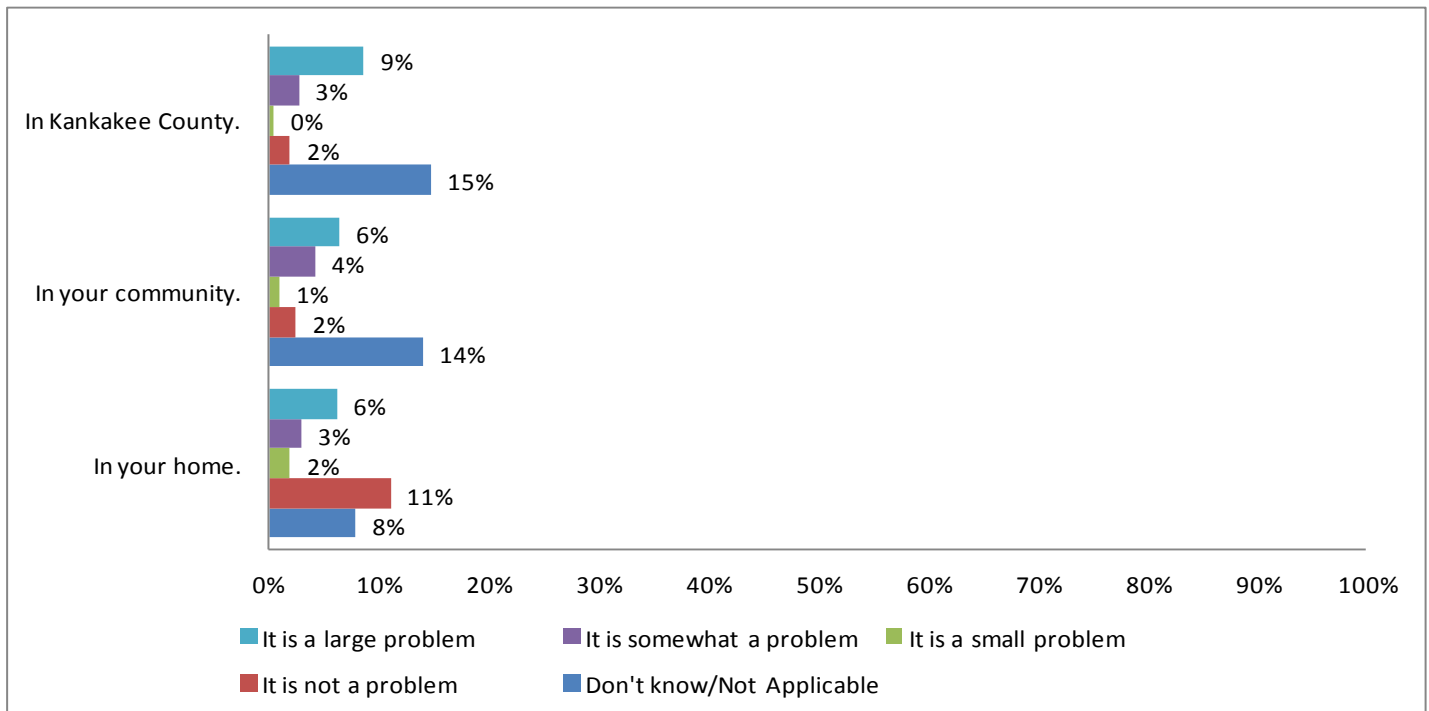
Dementia and Alzheimer's were reported as a county problem by 33% of participants. This decreased to 23% at the community level and 4% in their home.

Suicide was perceived as a county problem by 26% of participants. At the community level, 16% reported it as a problem and 1% reported it as a problem in their home.

## Q44: Other Mental Health Issues (e.g., schizophrenia, bi-polar disorder)



## Q45: Other Important Health Issue...

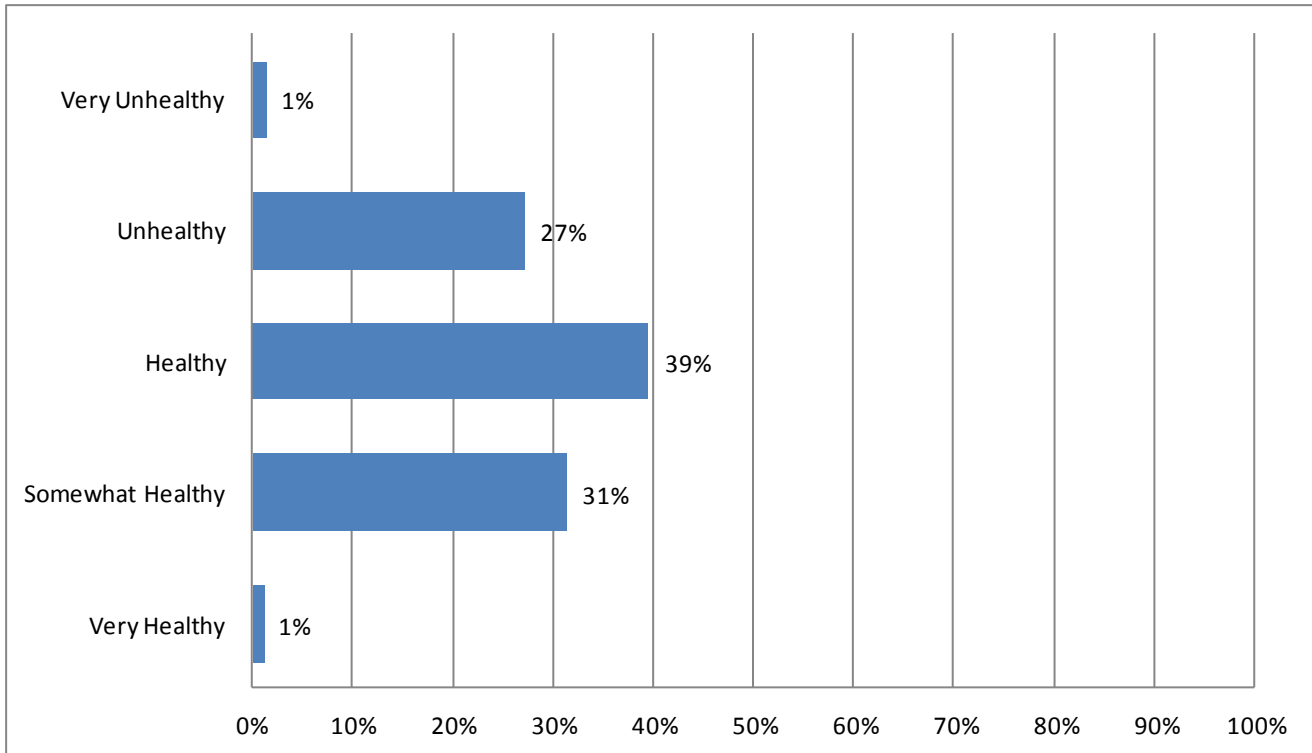


Thirty-one percent of respondents reported other mental health issues in the county as a problem. This decreased to 21% at the community level and 5% in the home.

Twelve percent of participants reported other health issues as a problem in the county. This was almost the same as the community rate, 10% and similar to the rate in their home, 9%; most participants did not respond to this question.



## Q48: How would you rate the overall health of Kankakee County?

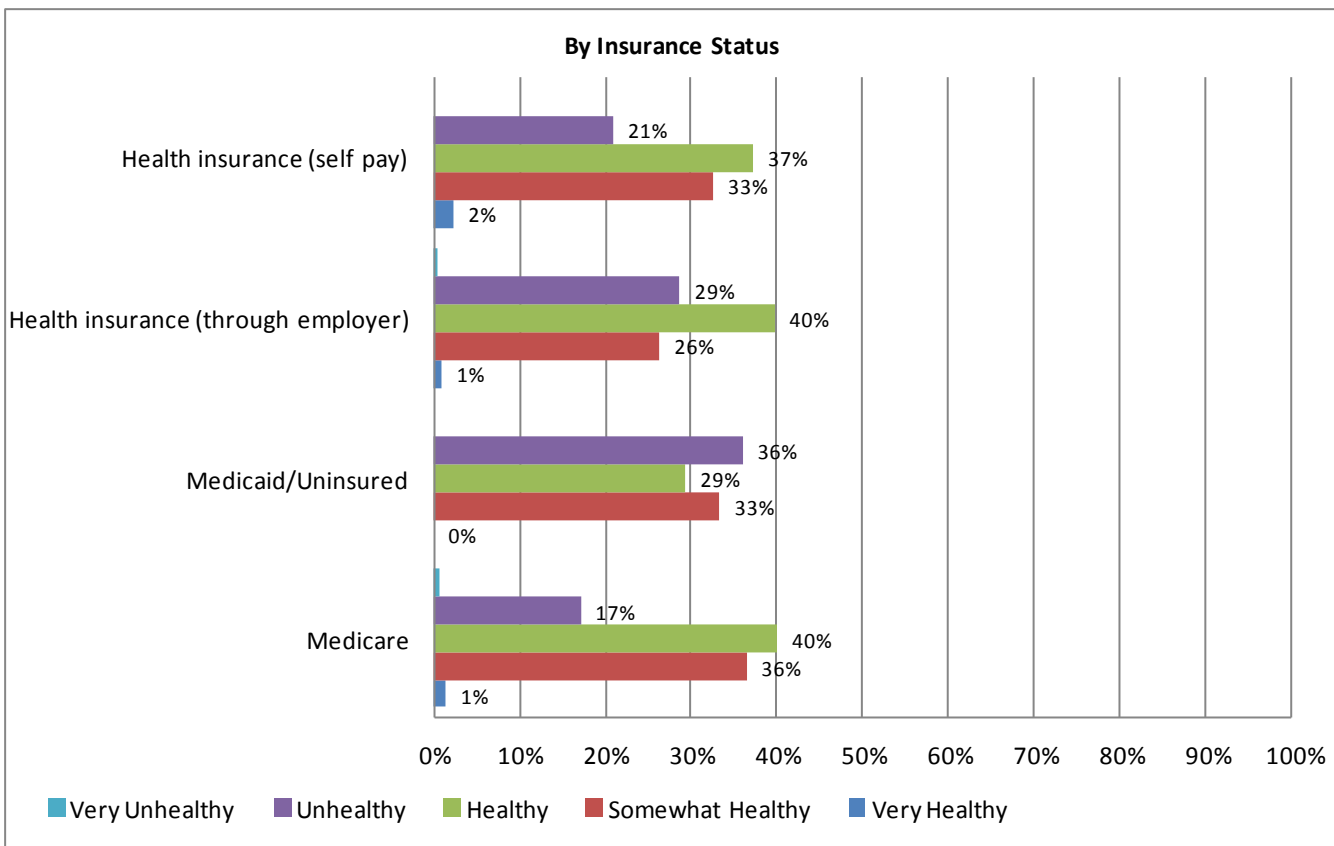
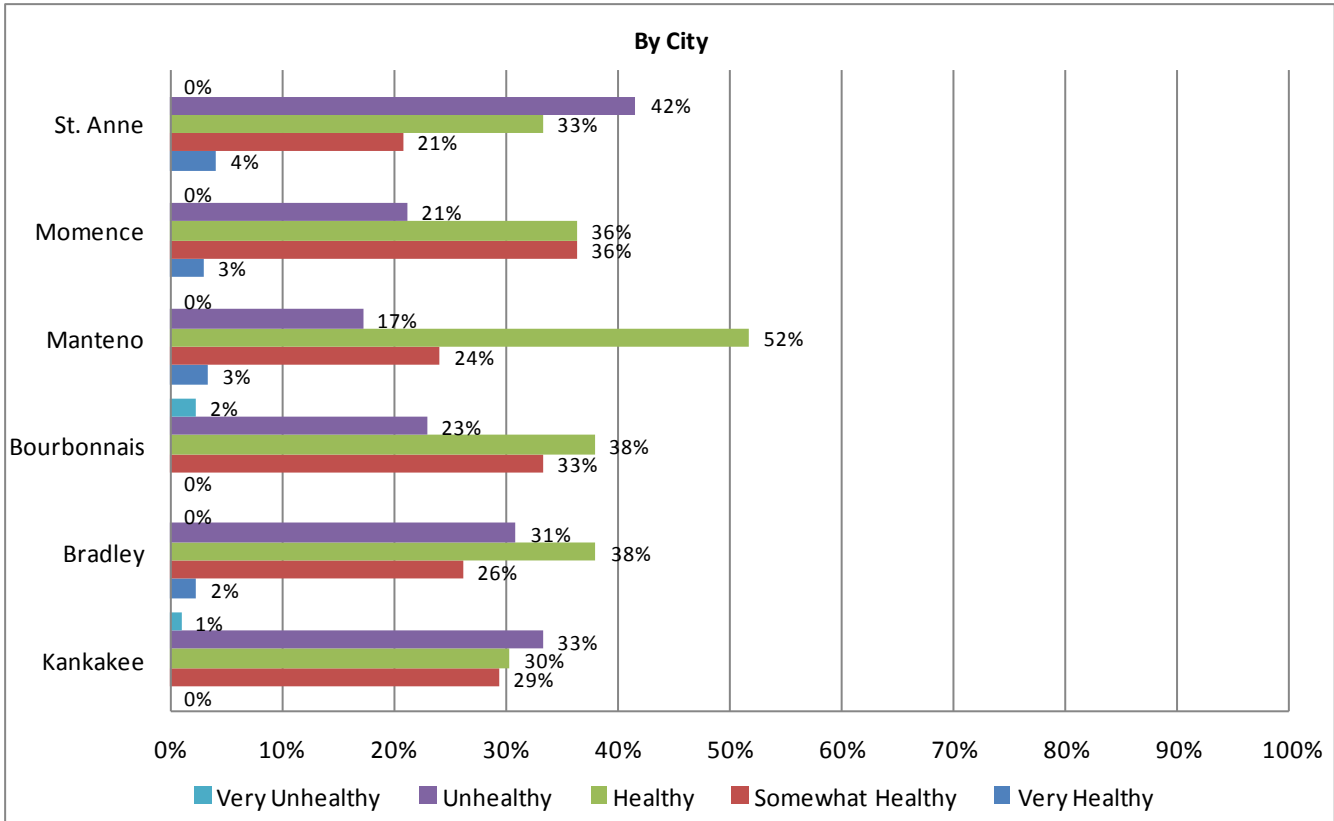


Thirty-nine percent of participants rated health in Kankakee County as good, with 32% rating it as very/somewhat healthy.

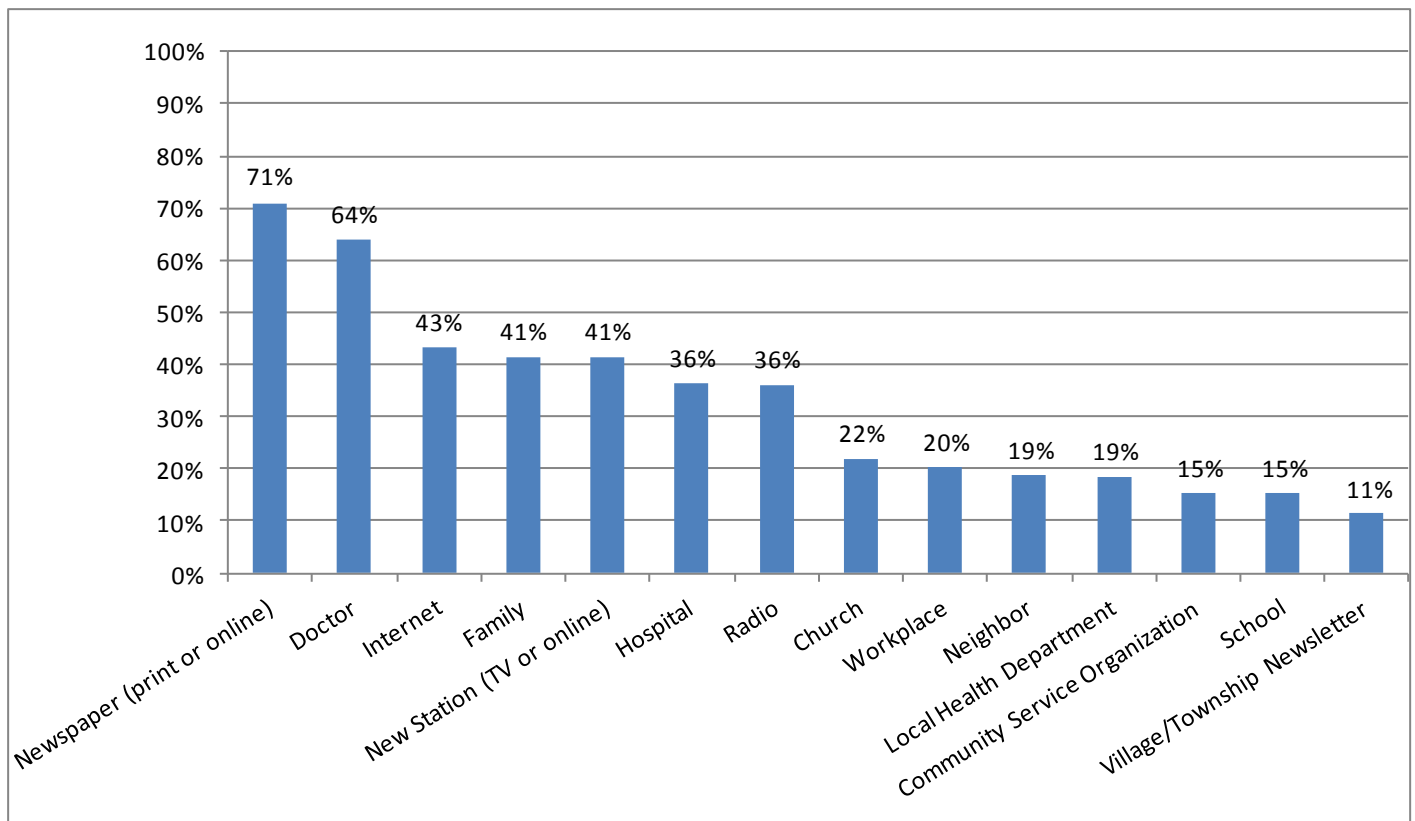
Momence and Bourbonnais residents had the highest percent rating health as very/somewhat healthy, at 39% and 33% respectively. St. Anne and Kankakee residents gave the most unhealthy/very unhealthy ratings, at 42% and 34% respectively.

By insurance status, those with self-pay insurance and Medicare had the highest very/somewhat healthy ratings, at 35% and 37% respectively. Those on Medicaid and employer insurance had the highest unhealthy/very unhealthy ratings, at 36% and 29% respectively.

## Q48: How would you rate the overall health of Kankakee County?

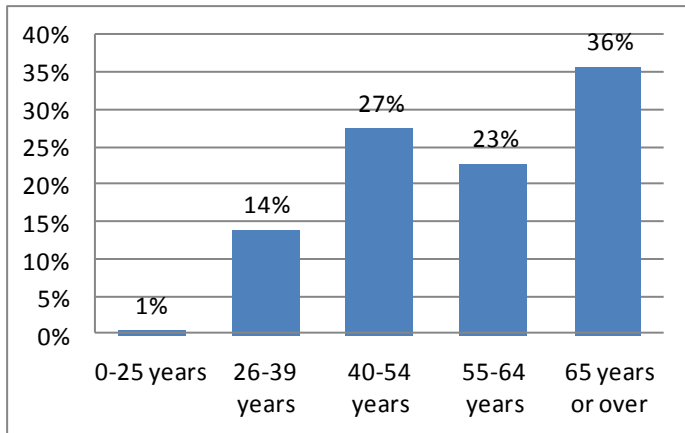


## Q49: Where do you get information about health related issues/resources in Kankakee County?

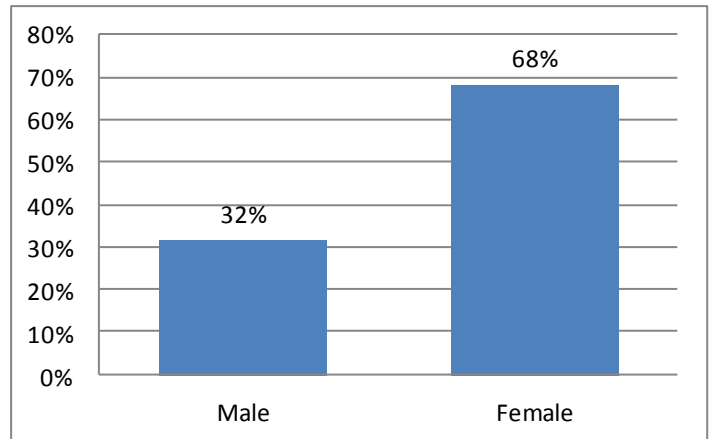


The most common source for health information was the newspaper (71%), followed by doctor (64%), internet (43%), family (41%) and news (41%). Only 36% got information from a hospital, 20% from their workplace, 19% from the health department and 15% from school.

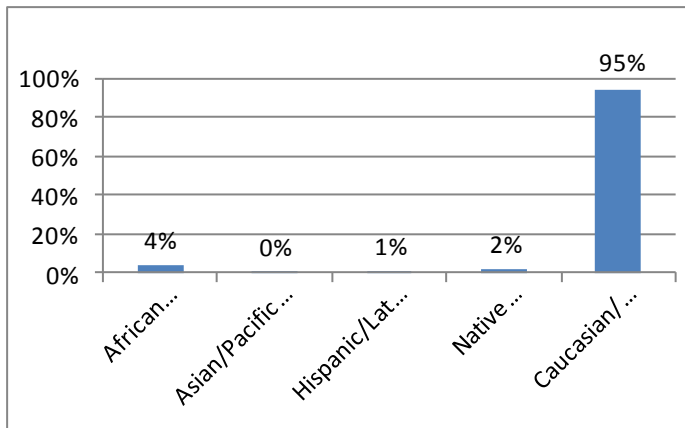
### Q52: Your Age Range



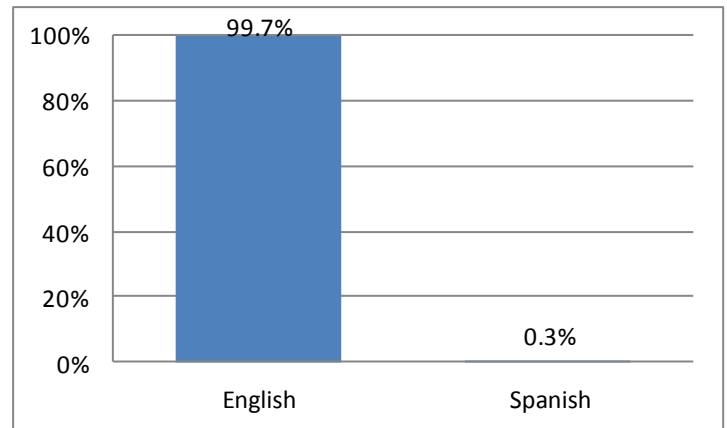
### Q53: Your Sex



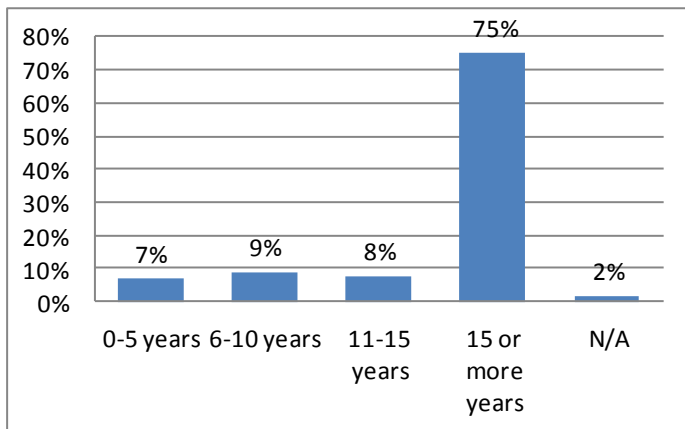
### Q54: Race/Ethnicity you most identify with:



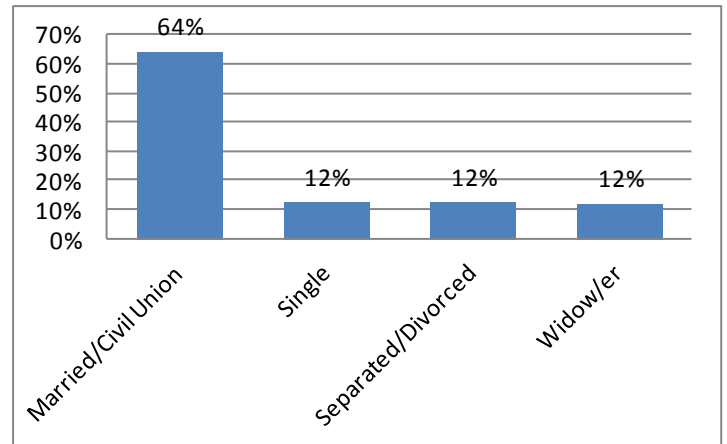
### Q55: What is the primary language you speak in your home?



### Q56: How long have you lived in Kankakee?

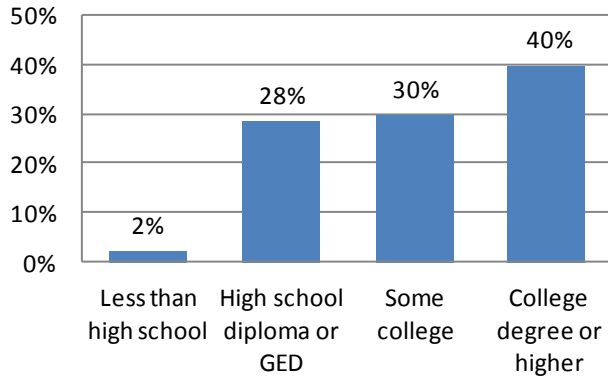


### Q57: Marital Status

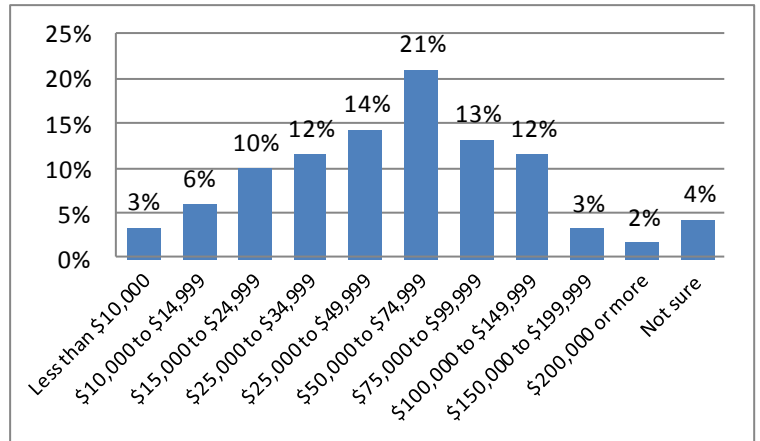


The median participant age group was 55-64 years; about a third of participants were 65 or older and less than 15% were under age 40. About two-thirds of the participants were female. Ninety-five percent of participants were white, 4% reporting as Black and 2% as Native American. Over 99% spoke English at home. Three-quarters of the participants had lived in Kankakee for fifteen years of more; only 7% had resided in Kankakee for five years or less. Sixty-four percent were married, with roughly equal proportions single, divorced and widowed.

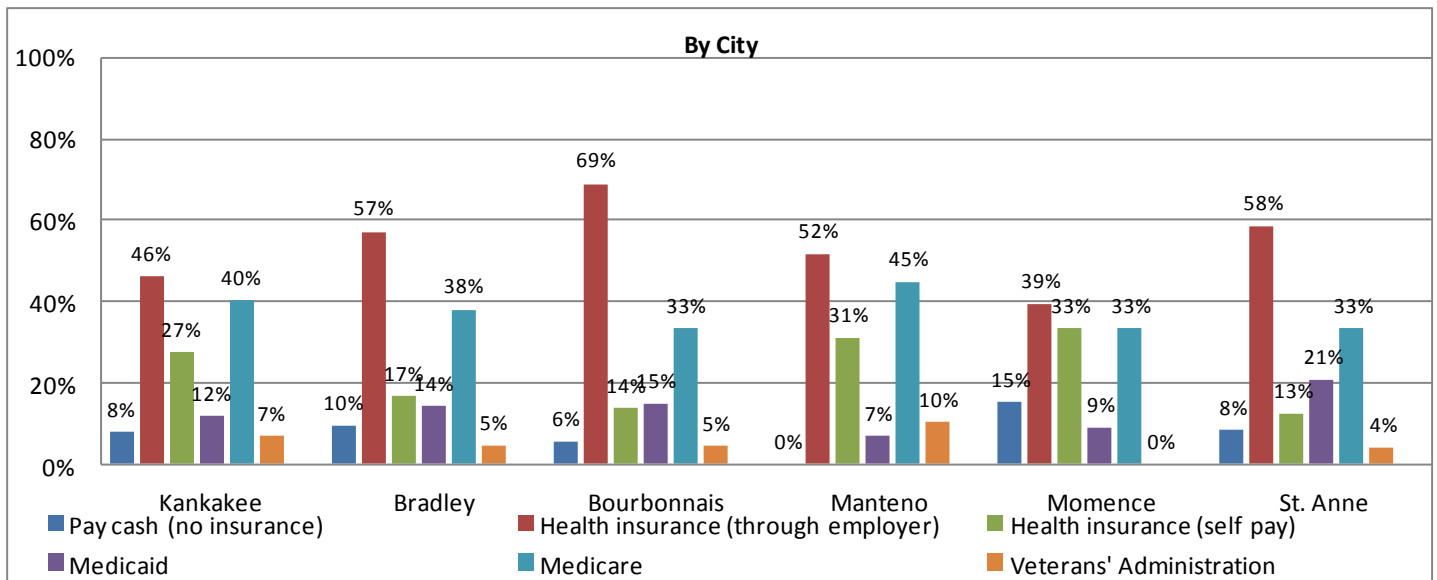
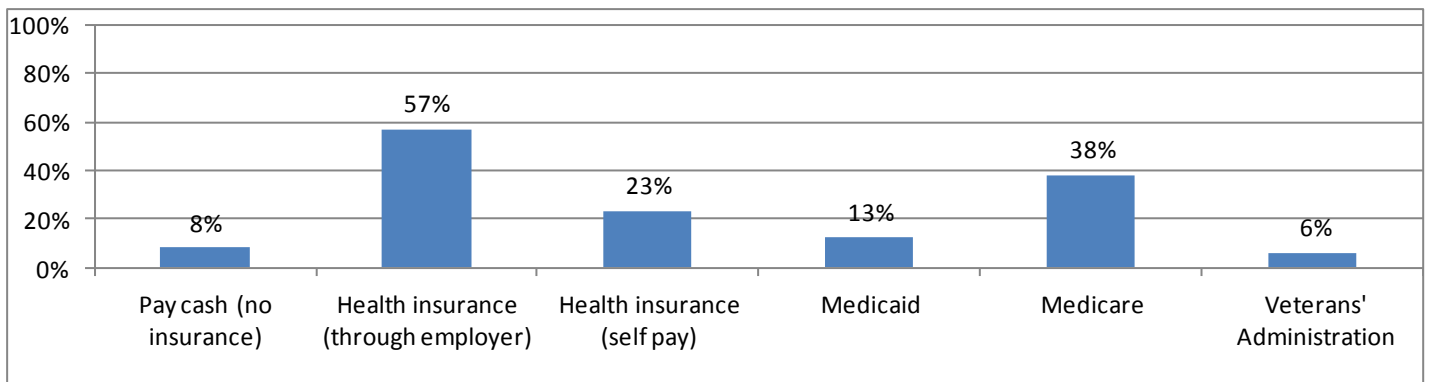
### Q58: Education



### Q59: Average Household Income



### Q60: How do you pay for healthcare?



More than 70% of participants had some college experience; only 2% had less than a high school education. The median income range was \$50,000-\$74,999; about 20% made less than \$25,000. Most participants, 57%, were insured through their employer. Thirty-eight percent were on Medicare and 21% were on Medicaid or uninsured. Employer insurance was the most common response across location. Manteno had the highest rate of Medicare use, at 45%, while Bourbonnais, Momence & St. Anne all had only 33%. St. Anne had the highest rate of Medicaid/uninsured participants, at 29%; Bourbonnais and Manteno had the lowest Medi-

## Over 65 Focus Group

A focus group was conducted on March 7, 2012 at TRIAD with 64 participants. Responses were entered into SurveyMonkey and analyzed both quantitatively and qualitatively.

# Themes from Discussion

Biggest barriers to health in your community:

- ◆ Not all insurance types are accepted by all healthcare providers
- ◆ Transportation to and from the hospital or clinic is difficult

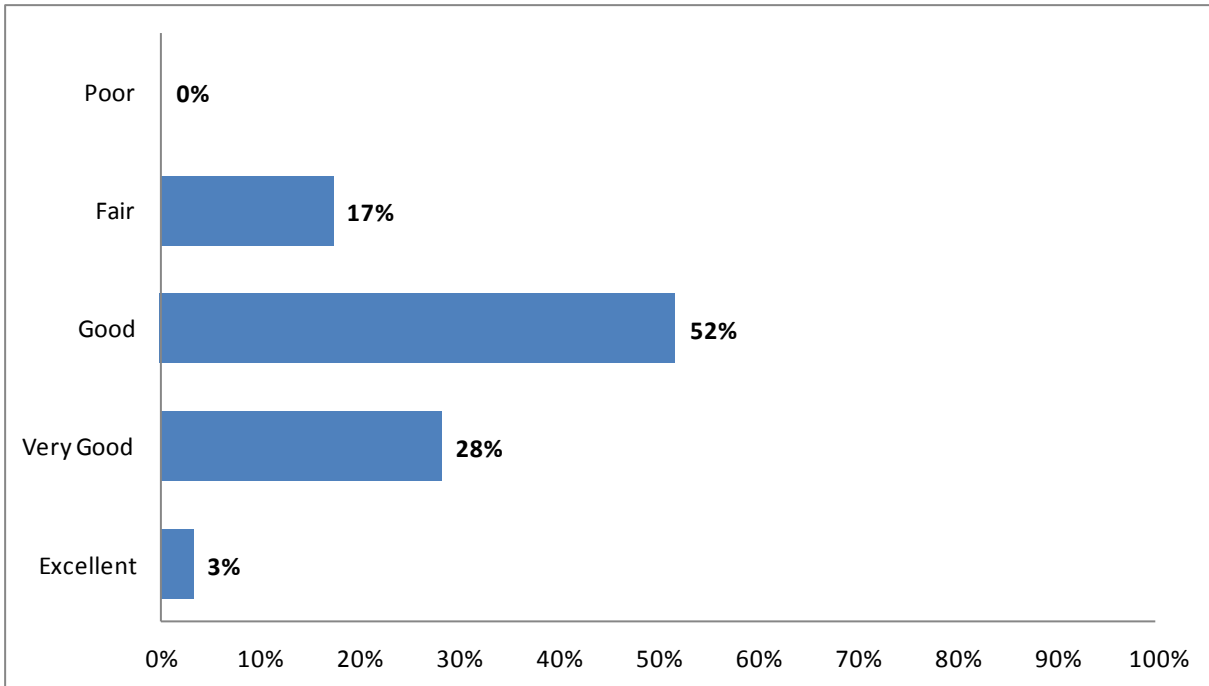
Most important assets in your community:

- ◆ Community programs such as Meals on Wheels, TRIAD, Catholic Charities, Ship program and the Riverside Senior Service
- ◆ Opportunities to be active in the community

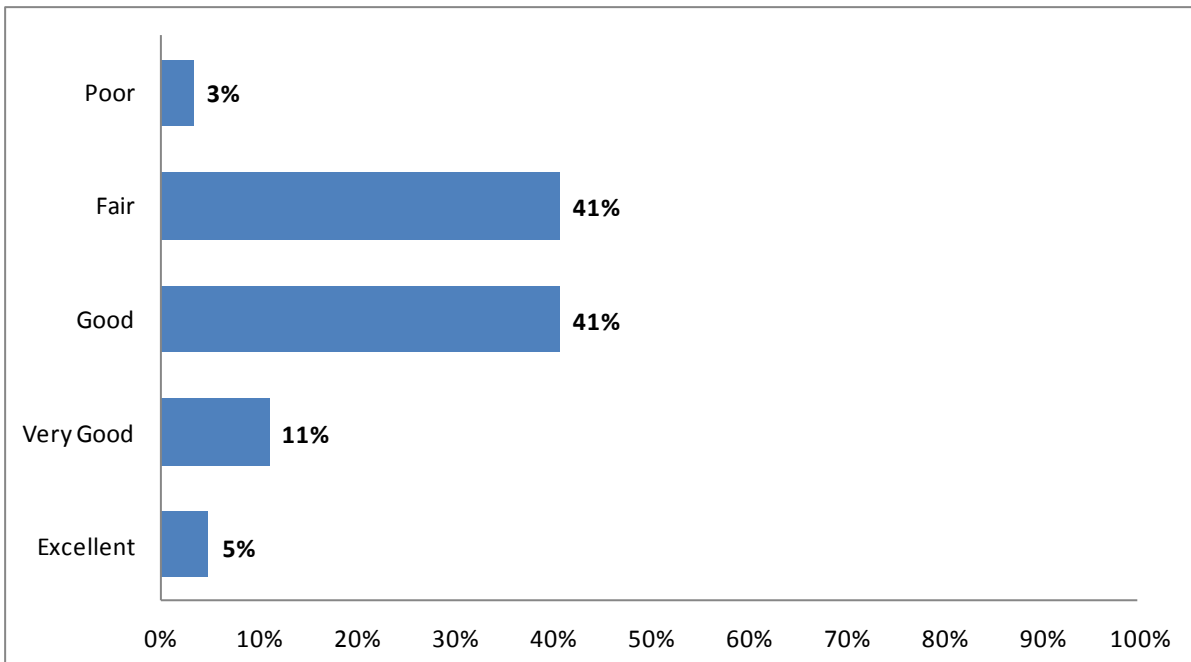
Biggest health and safety concerns:

- ◆ High cancer rates
- ◆ Not enough police, ineffective 911 system
- ◆ People are struggling due to the economy

**Q1: How would you rate the overall quality of life in Kankakee County? (Consider items such as your resources available, well-being, and participation in community life)**



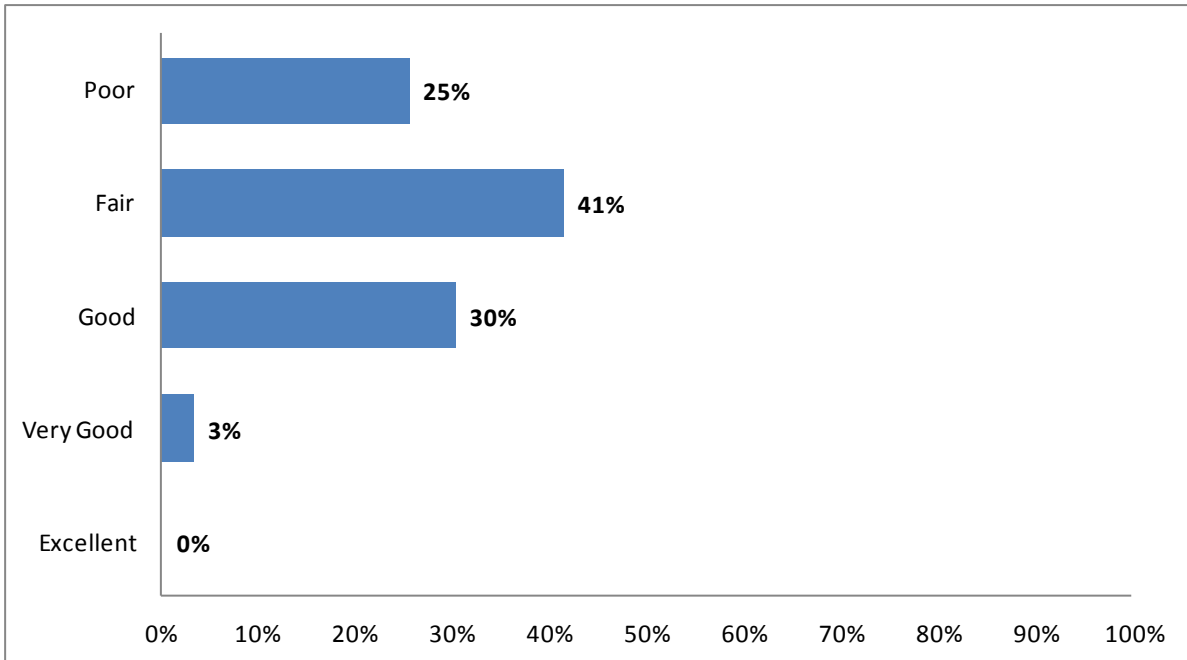
**Q2: How would you rate Kankakee County as a safe community? (Consider items such as residents' opinions of safety in the home, schools, the workplace, playgrounds, and parks. Do neighbors know and trust each other? Do they look out for each other?)**



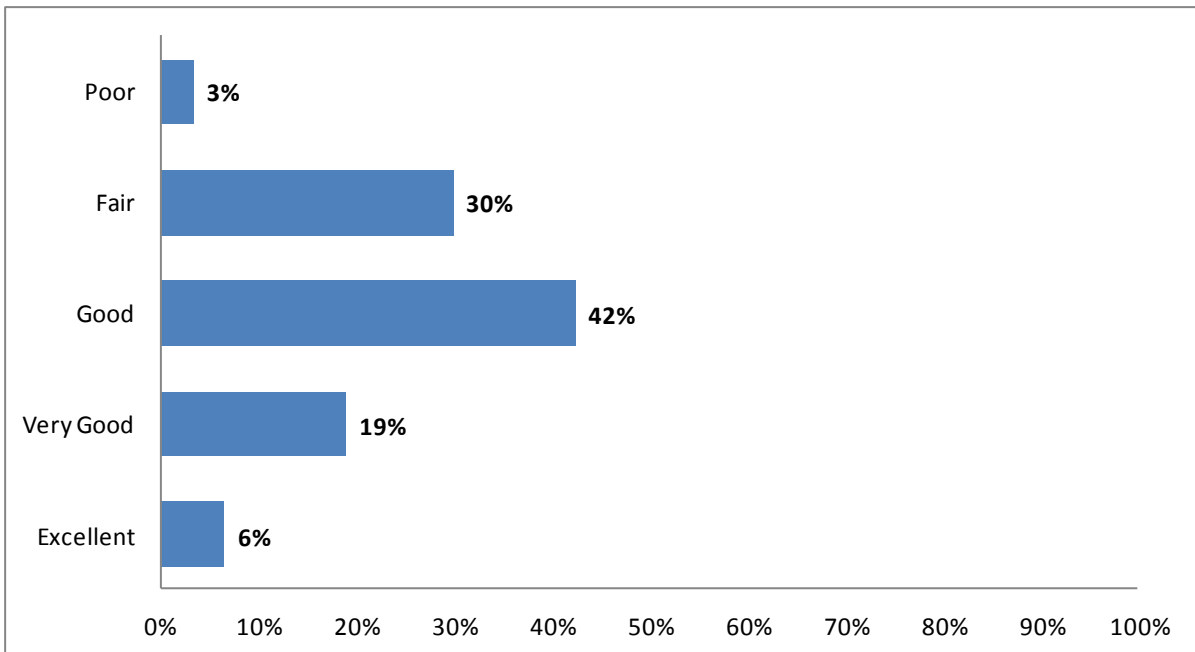
Thirty-one percent of respondents rate overall quality of life in Kankakee County as excellent/very good, with 17% rating it fair/poor. However, only 16% rated it excellent/very good in terms of safety and 44% rated it fair/poor.



**Q3: How would you rate Kankakee County in terms of stable employment opportunities available for you**

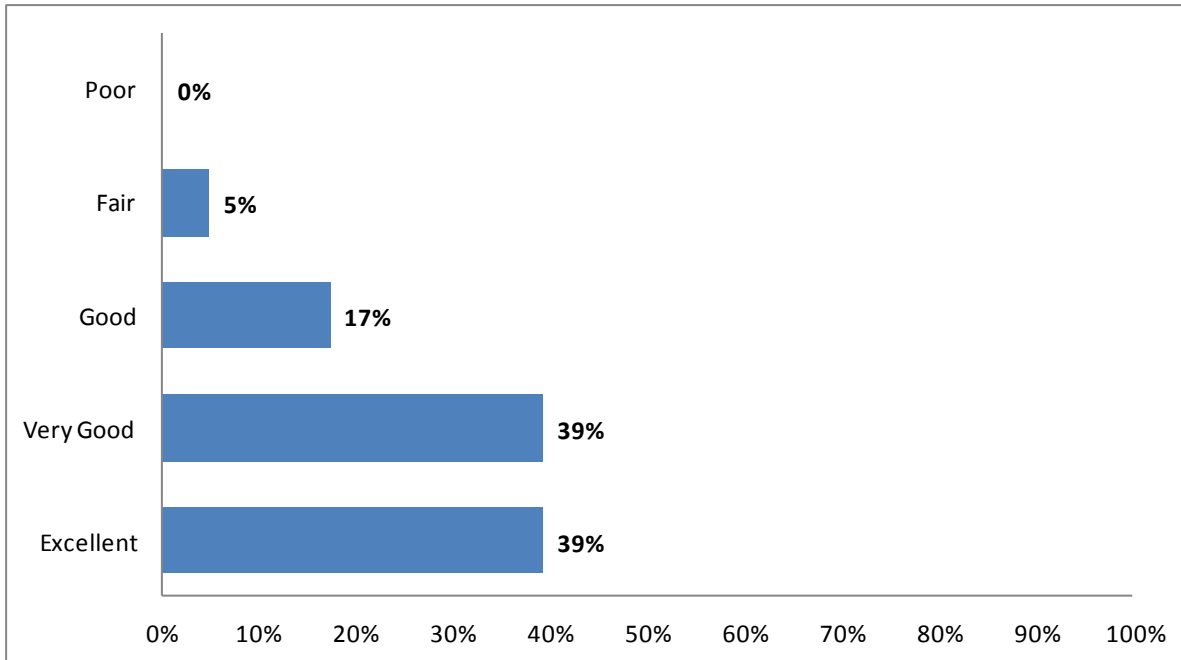


**Q4: How would you rate Kankakee County as a place to grow old? (Consider items such as elder-friendly housing, transportation to medical services, shopping, elder day care, and social support for the elderly living alone, Meals on Wheels)**

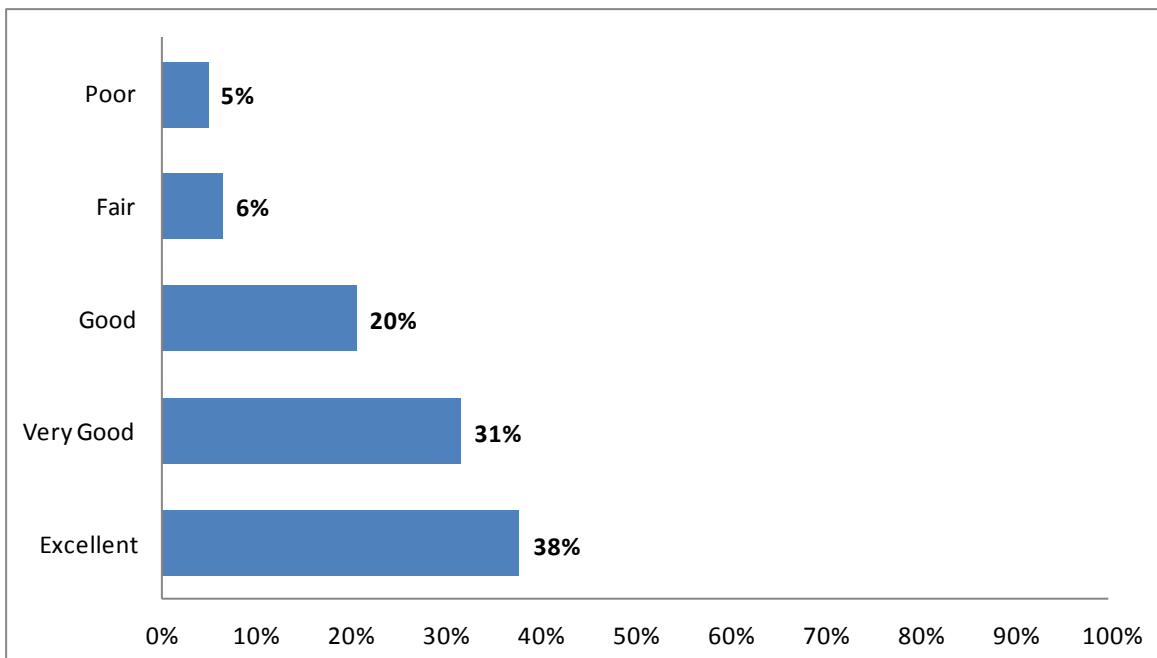


In terms of employment, only 3% rated Kankakee as excellent/very good, while 66% rated it fair/poor. In terms of a place to grow old, 25% rated is excellent/very good and 33% as fair/poor.

**Q5: I have enough money to pay for the things I really need, such as food, clothing, housing, and medicine.**

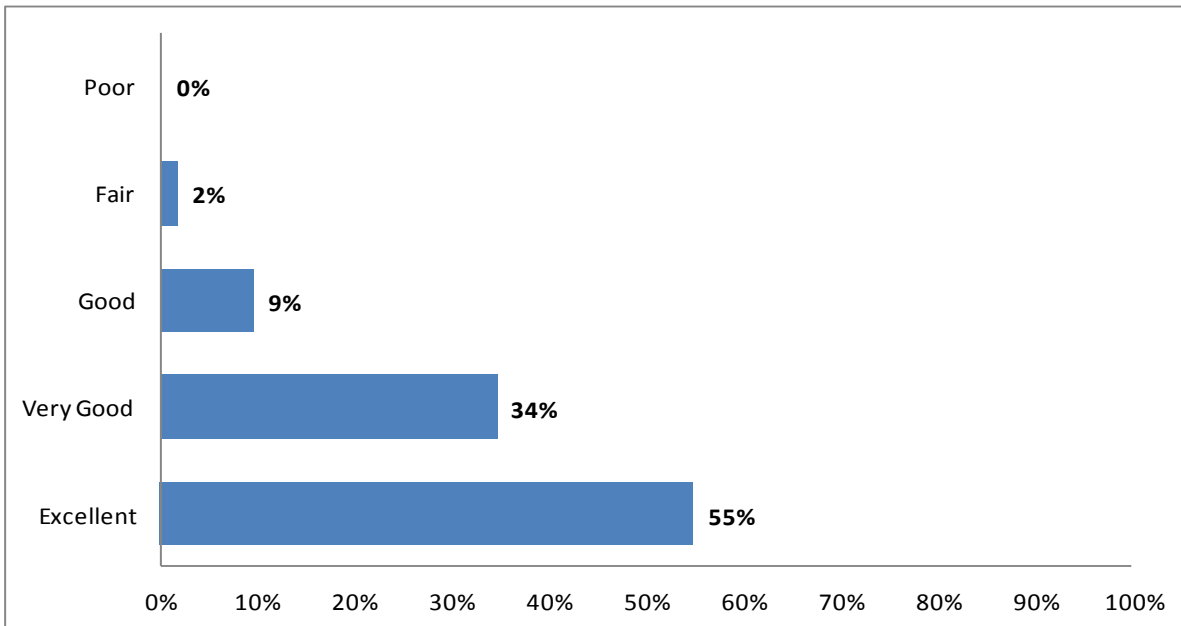


**Q6: I have people with whom I can share problems or get help when needed.**

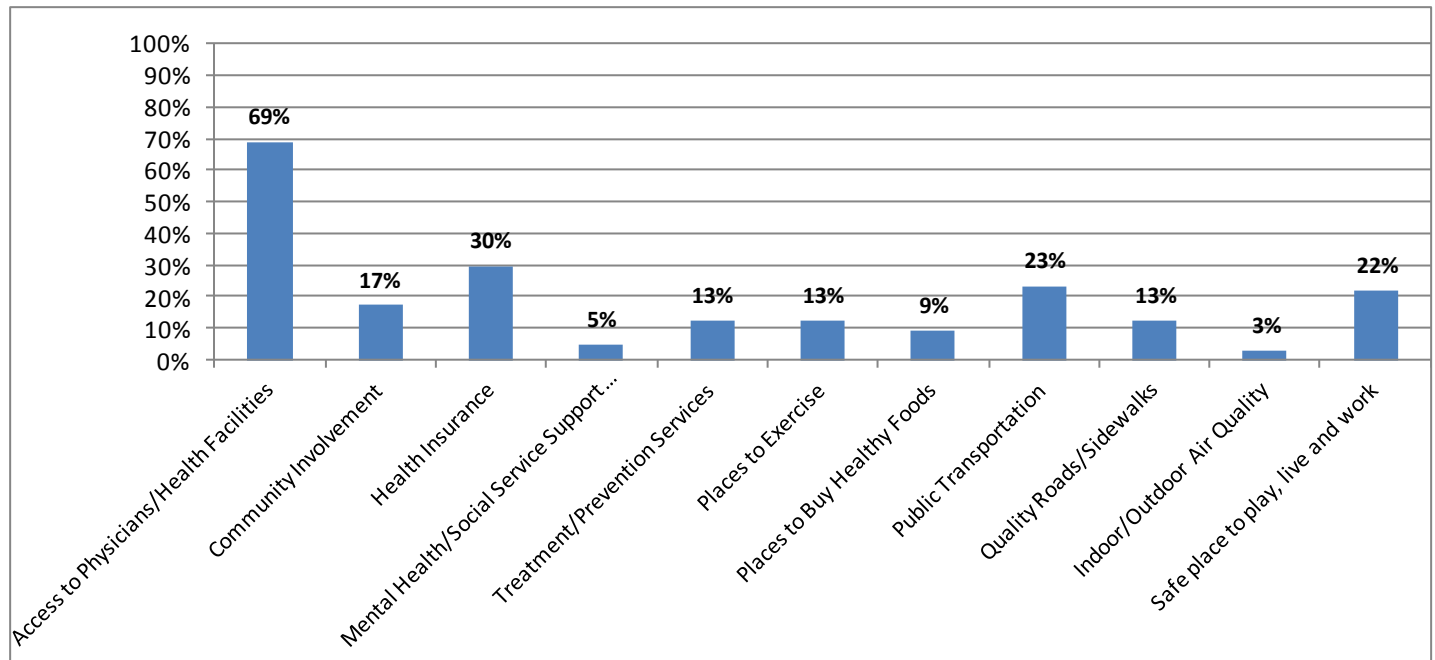


Overall, participants felt they were able to get their “needs” met. Seventy-eight percent agreed they had money for the things they need and 69% had people they can share problems with. However, 11% of respondents still reported that they lack people with whom they can share problems.

**Q7: In the past year, I was able to get the health services I needed.**

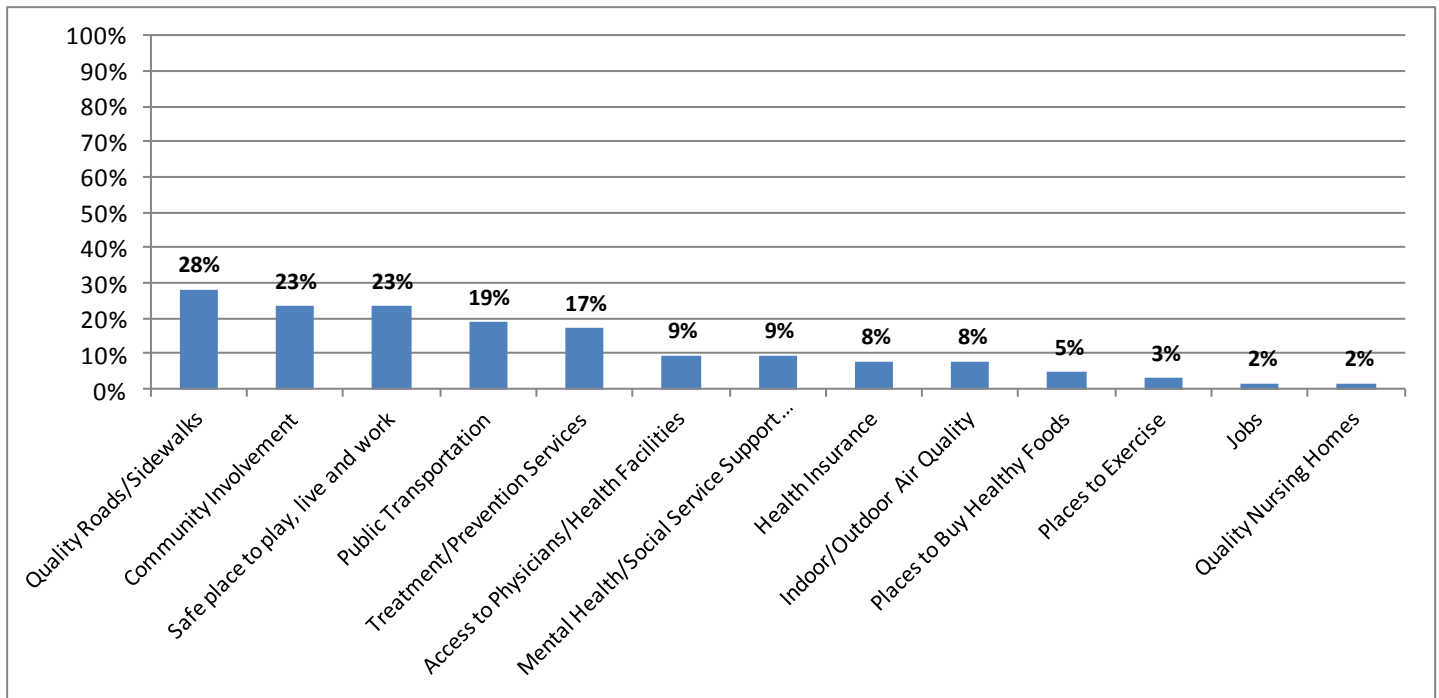


**Q8: Check the TWO most important factors for a “Healthy Community”**

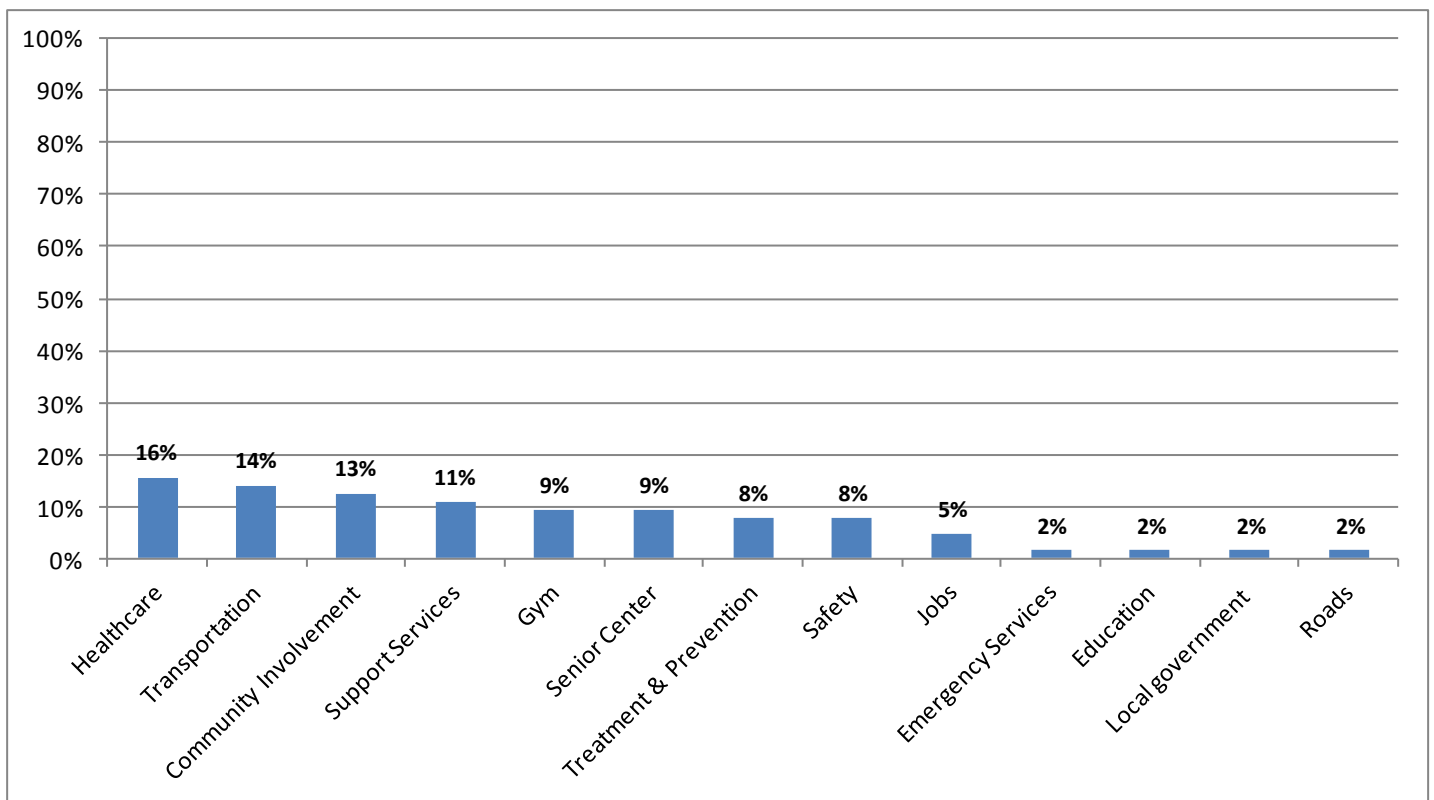


Almost all participants, 90%, were able to get healthcare services. By far the most commonly reported perceived factor for a healthy community was access to health facilities, with 69% of identifying this factor as a top-two priority followed by health insurance (30%), public transportation (23%), safe places (22%) and community involvement (17%). This response mirrored the discussion during the focus group, in which the seniors identified lack of transportation to healthcare facilities as a strong barrier to health. The open-ended discussion emphasized a priority that the survey data did not capture as fully—the participants’ concern about declining safety in the community.

**Q9: Which factors from the list above need the most improvement in Kankakee County? Please list the top TWO.**

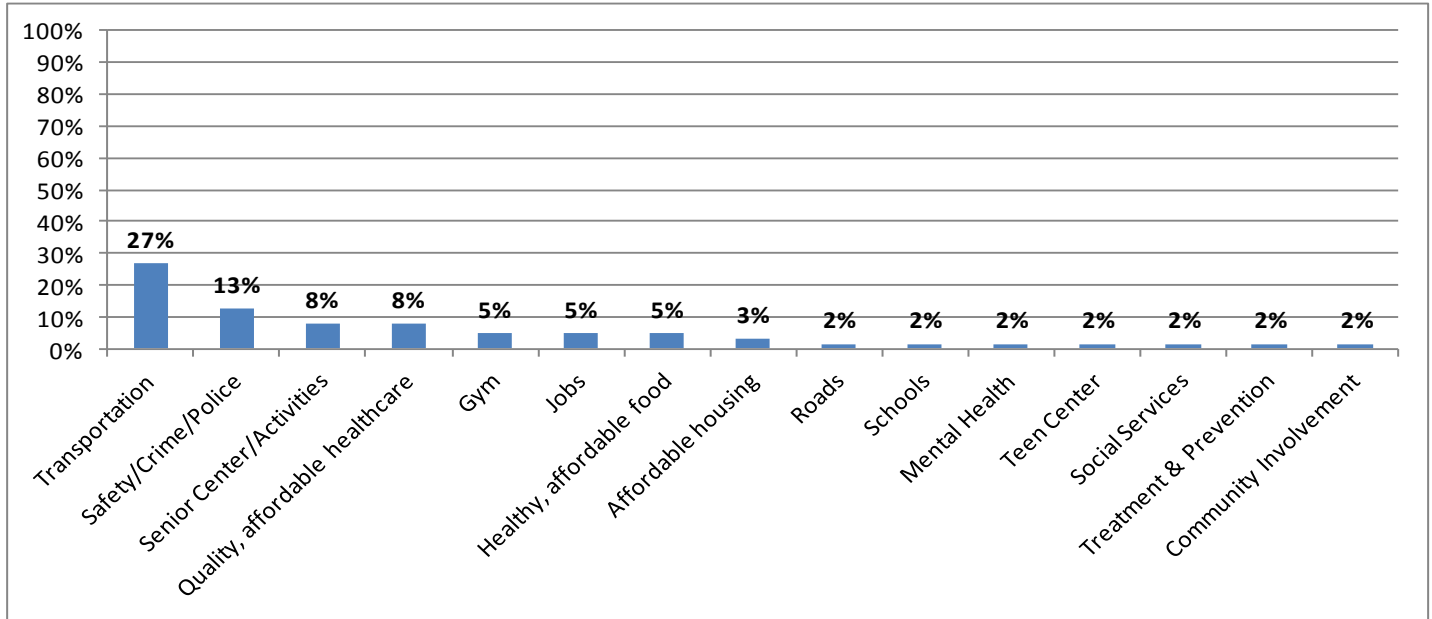


**Q10: What services or programs do you feel improve the quality of life in your community?**

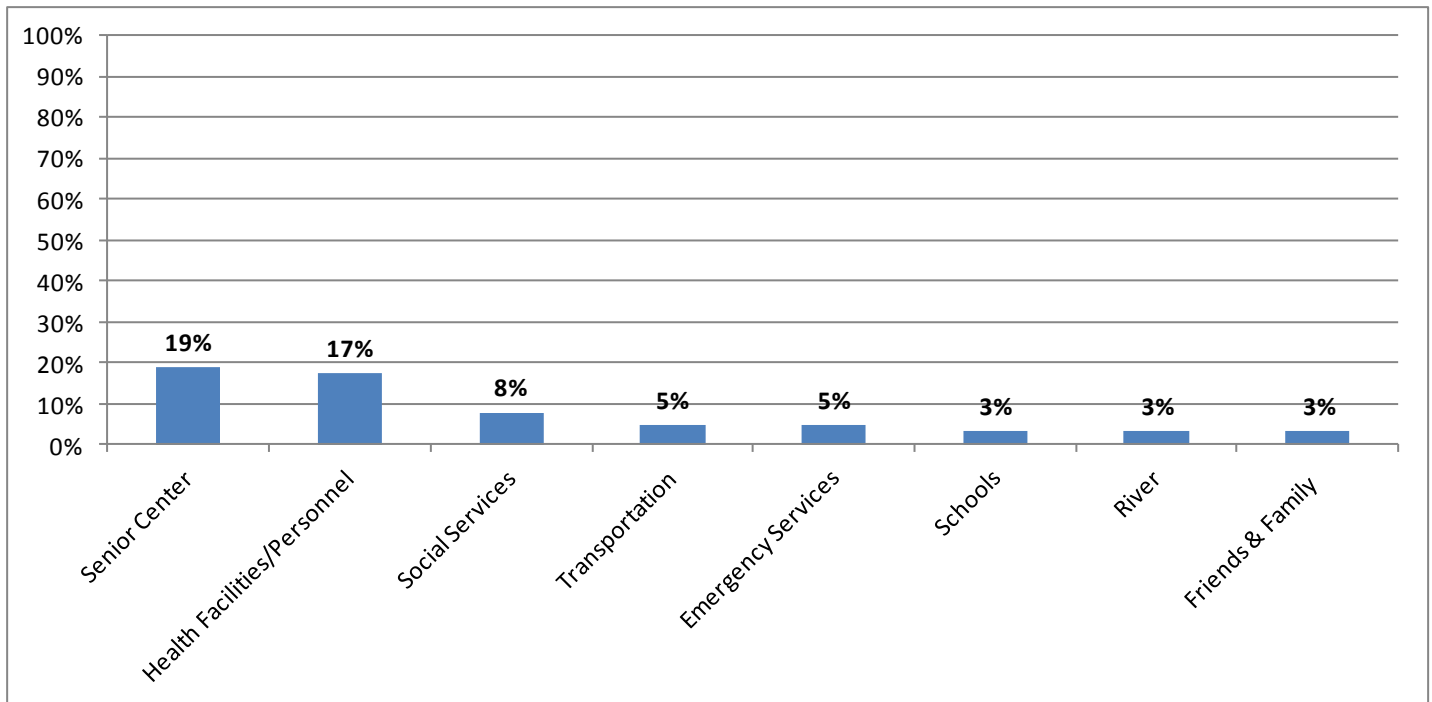


Quality roads, community involvement and safe places were the top areas that needed improvement, followed by public transportation and treatment/prevention services, although no factor dominated the rankings. Similarly, regarding areas that would improve quality of life in the community, ratings were distributed fairly evenly among healthcare, transportation, community involvement and support services.

**Q11: Please list some of the most important needs or problems you see in your community. Why are these needs?**



**Q12: List the most important assets and resources in your community.**

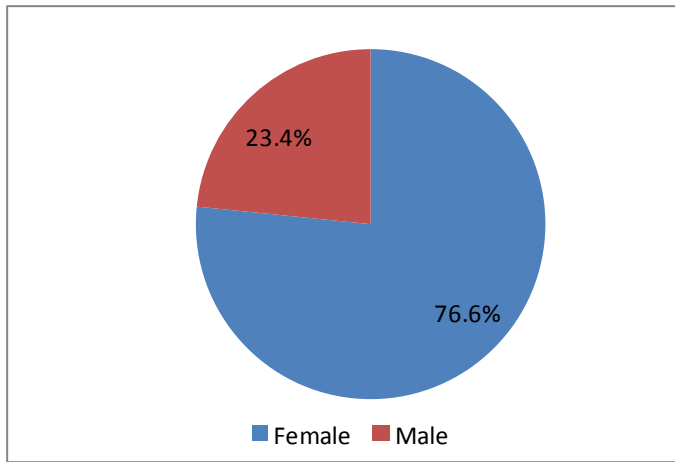


**Q13: Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your community?**

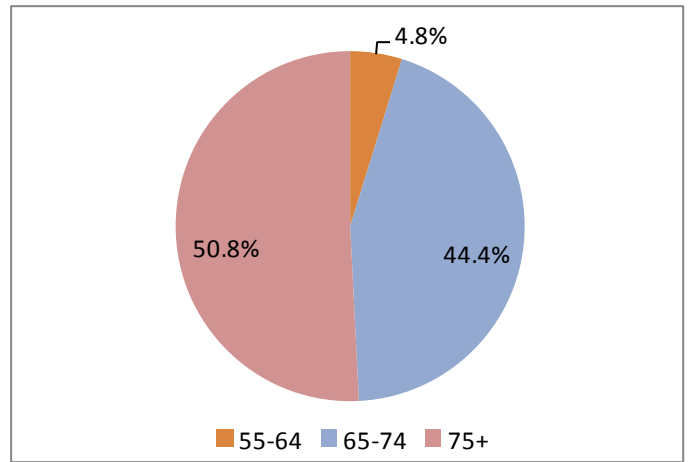
Only 13 participants responded. Four responses were general positive statements about the community. Other topics included areas for improvement such as police relations, jobs, youth engagement, community involvement, transportation, social services and activities for seniors.

Again, transportation and safety were the top two needs, followed by senior center/activities and healthcare. Interestingly, senior center was a recognized at the top asset for this community, as well as health facilities.

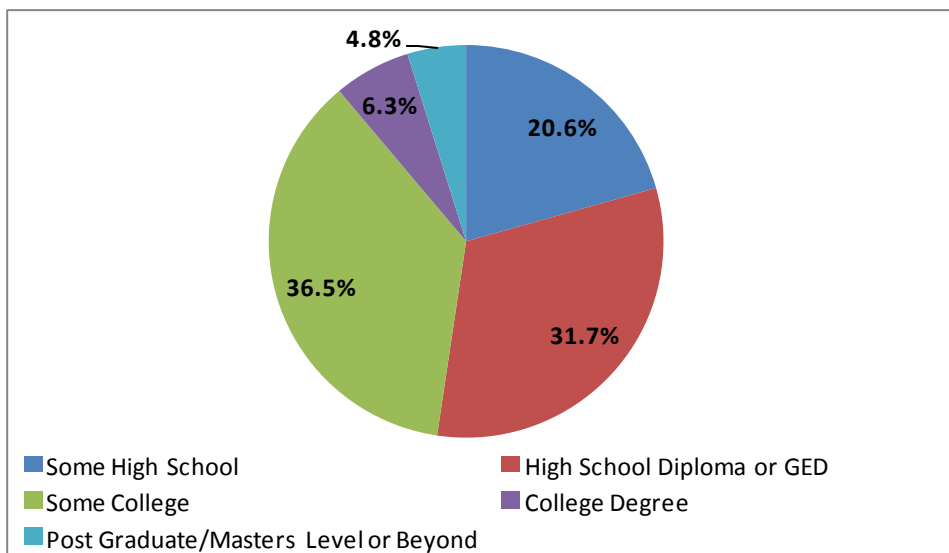
**Q14: What is your gender?**



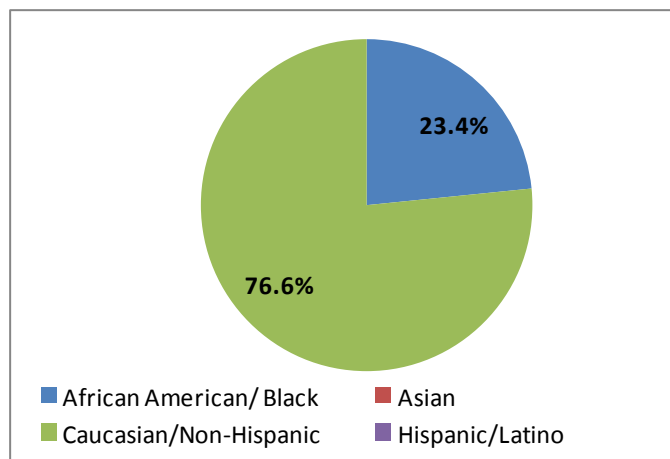
**Q15: What is your age?**



**Q16: What is your highest level of educational attainment?**



**Q17: What is your race/ethnicity?**



Three-quarters of the 64 participants were female. All the participants were 55 or older, which about half being 65 or older. Forty-eight percent had some college experience, while 21% had less than a high school degree. Three-quarters were white, with the rest Black.

# Hispanic/Latino Focus Group

A focus group was conducted on March 7, 2012 at New Life Penecostal Medical Clinic with 65 participants. Responses were entered into SurveyMonkey and analyzed both quantitatively and quali-

# Themes from Discussion

Biggest Barriers to health in your community:

- ◆ Resources are not Hispanic oriented and there are language barriers
- ◆ Cultural barriers regarding nutrition
- ◆ High drop out rate and low socioeconomic status

Most important assets in your community:

- ◆ Benefit programs such as food stamps, unemployment insurance, and TANF
- ◆ Church charities and community programs such as the Migrate Clinic and Azzereli Clinic

Biggest health and safety concerns:

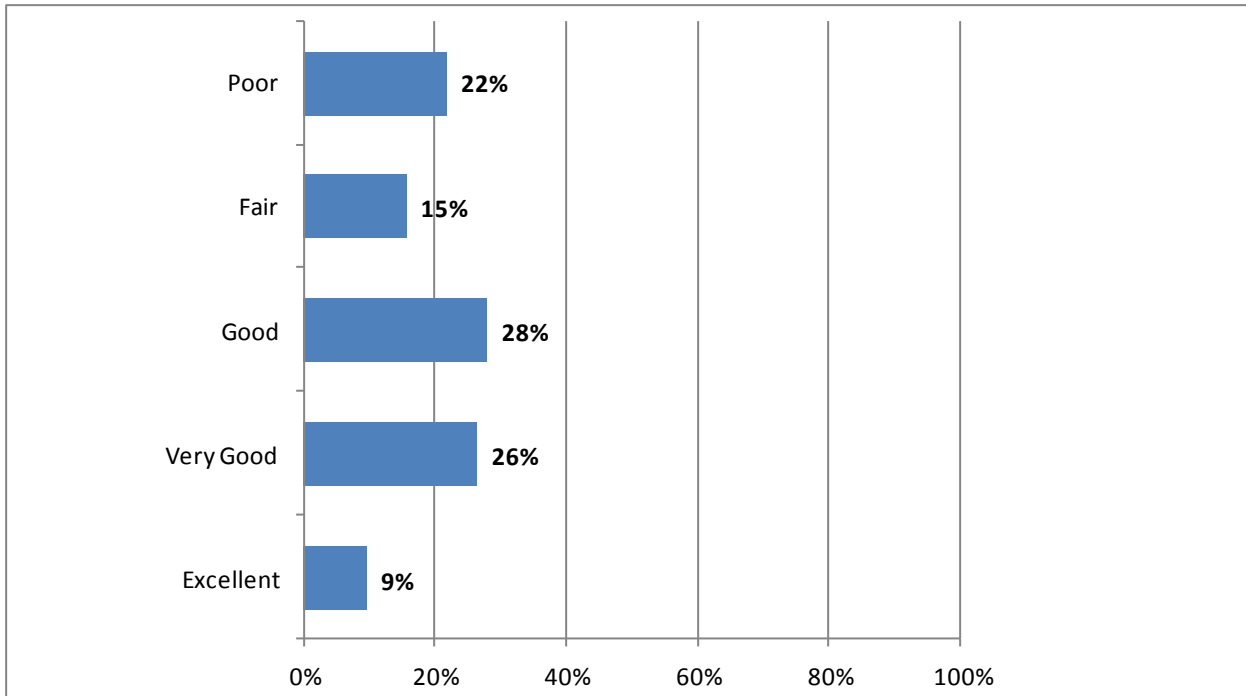
- ◆ People don't trust the police
- ◆ Hispanics often live in poor quality housing in dangerous neighborhoods

Biggest opportunities for improvement:

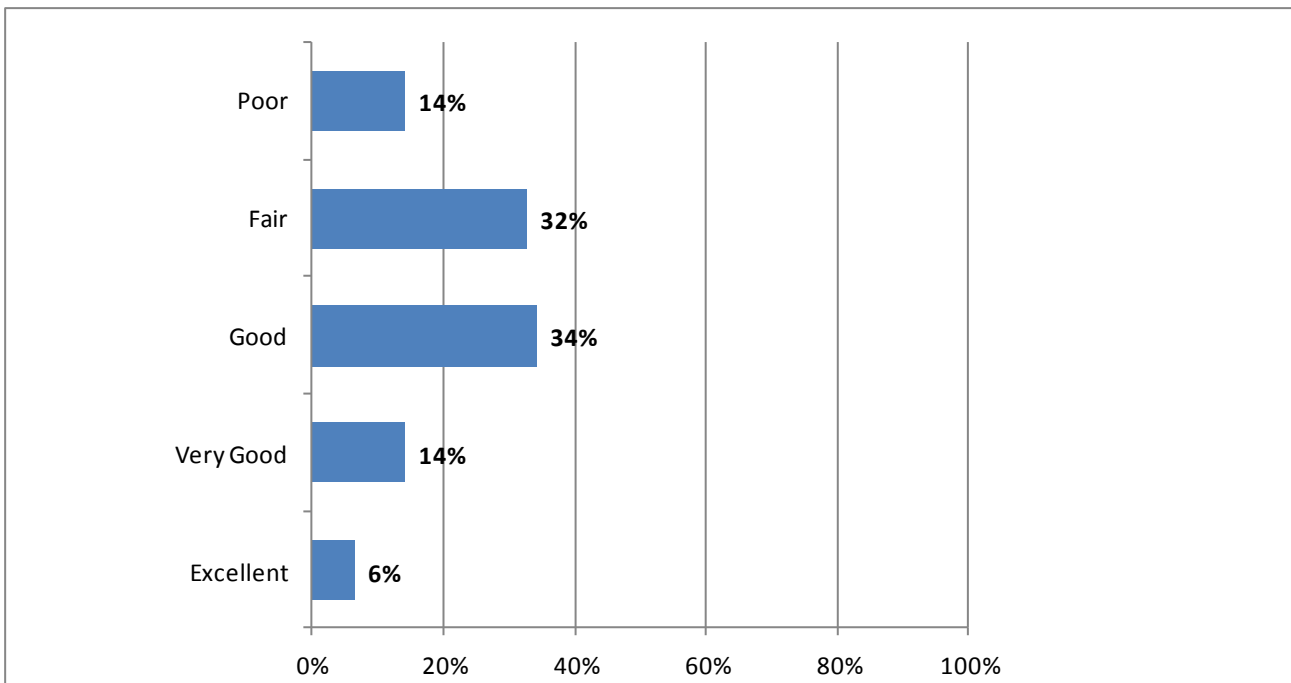
- ◆ Education
- ◆ Improve communication to Hispanic community such as through bilingual services or Spanish radio stations



**Q1: How would you rate the overall quality of life in Kankakee County? (Consider items such as your resources available, well-being, and participation in community life)**

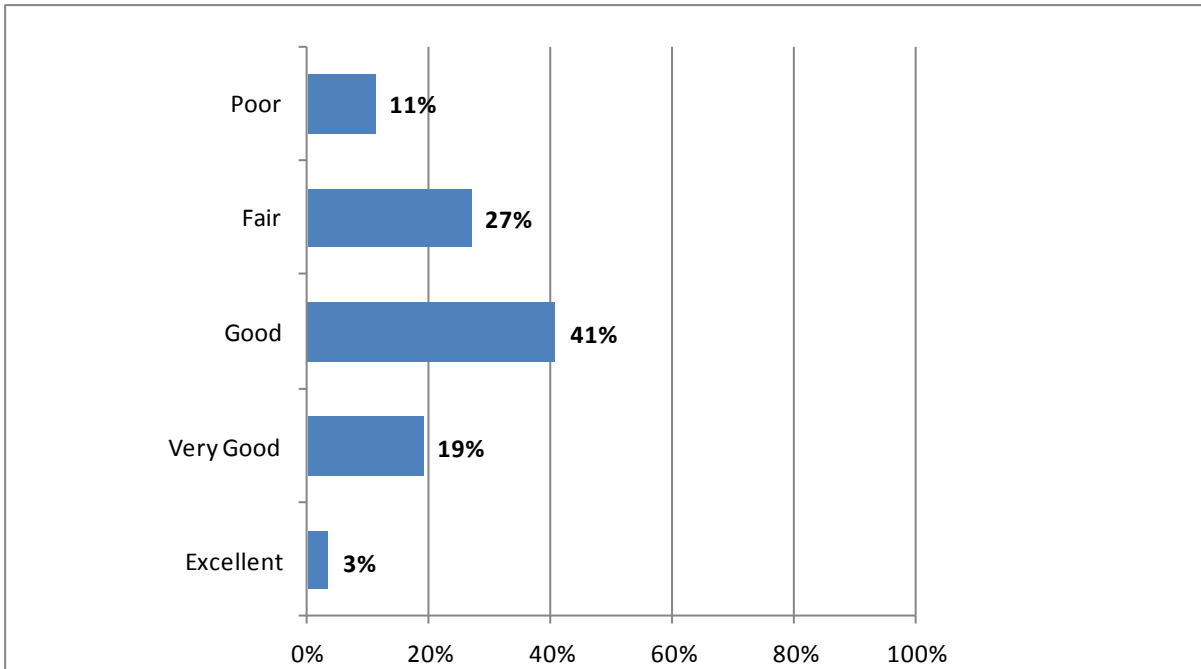


**Q2: How would you rate Kankakee County as a place for youth? (Consider items such as your resources available, well-being, and participation in community life)**

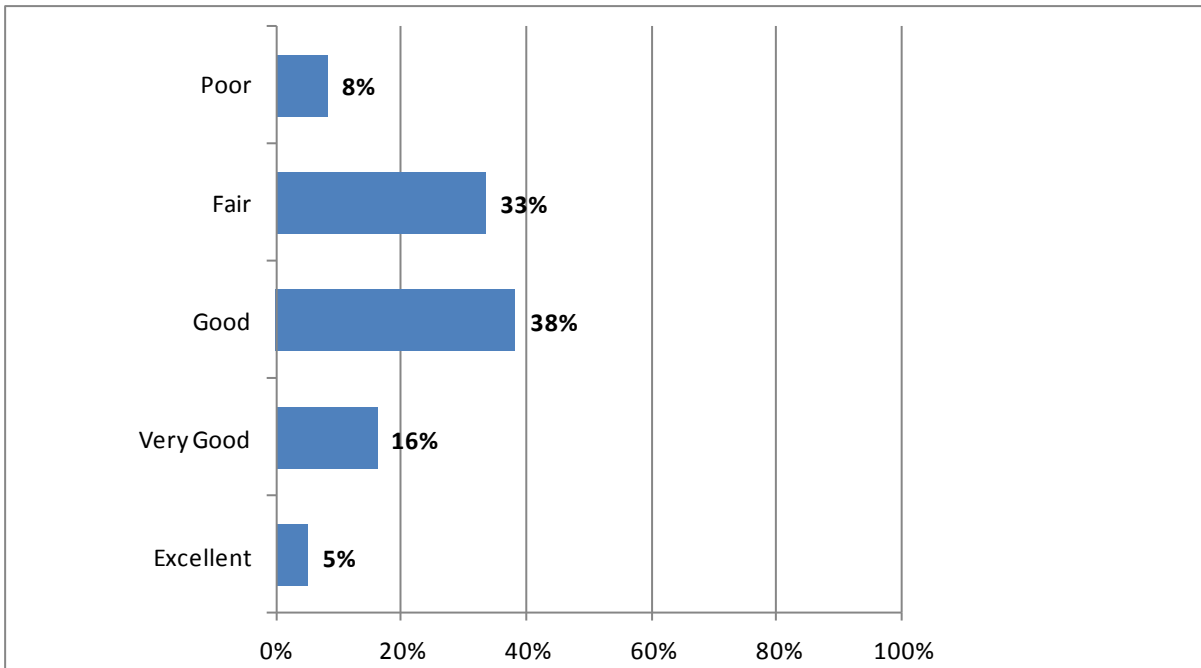


Thirty-five percent of participants rated overall quality of life in Kankakee as excellent/very good, while 37% rated it fair/poor. As a place for youth, only 20% rated it as excellent/very good and 46% as fair/poor.

**Q3: How would you rate Kankakee County as a safe community? (Consider items such as residents' opinions of safety in the home, schools, the workplace, playgrounds, and parks. Do neighbors know and trust each other? Do they look out for each other?)**

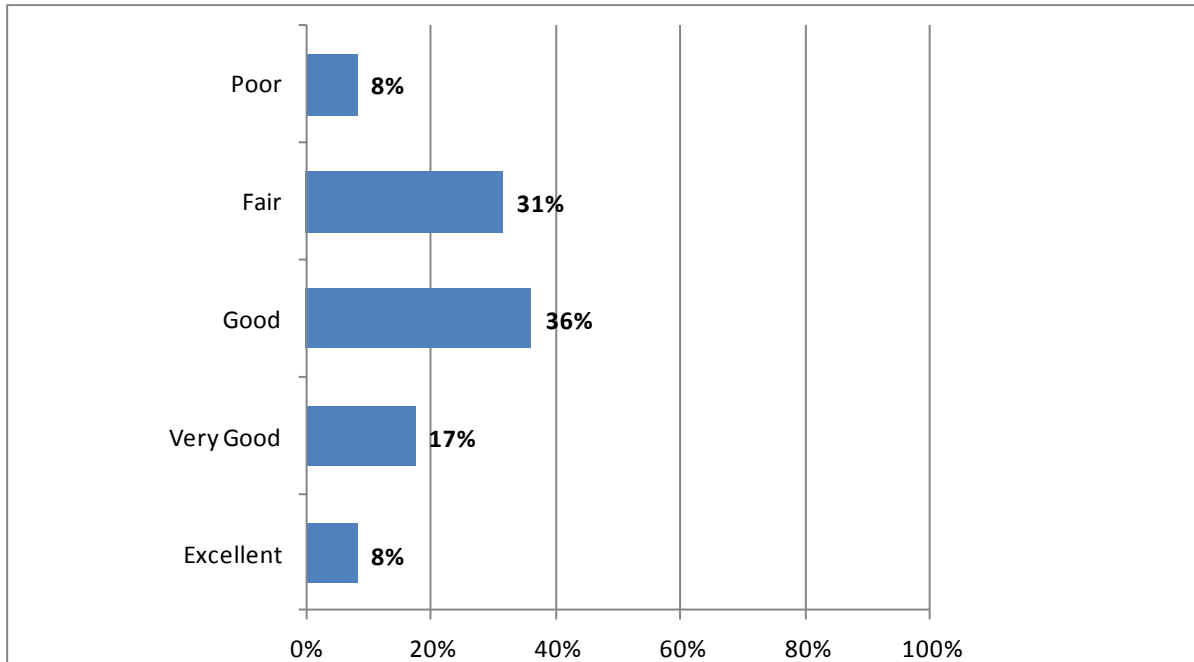


**Q4: How would you rate Kankakee County in terms of stable employment opportunities available for you and your family?**

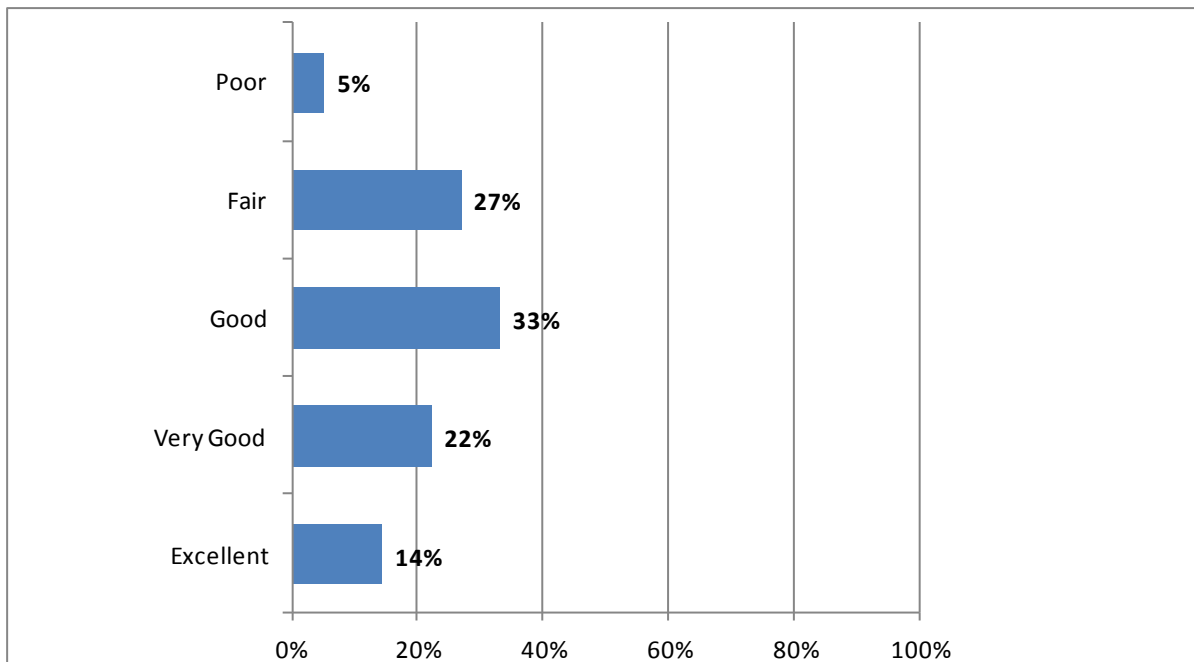


In terms of safety, only 22% rated Kankakee County excellent/very good, while 38% rated it fair/poor. In terms of employment, 21% rate the county as excellent/very good and 41% as fair/poor.

**Q5: I have enough money to pay for the things I really need, such as food, clothing, housing, and medicine. (for the focus group, participants answered based on the majority of Hispanic individuals in the community)**

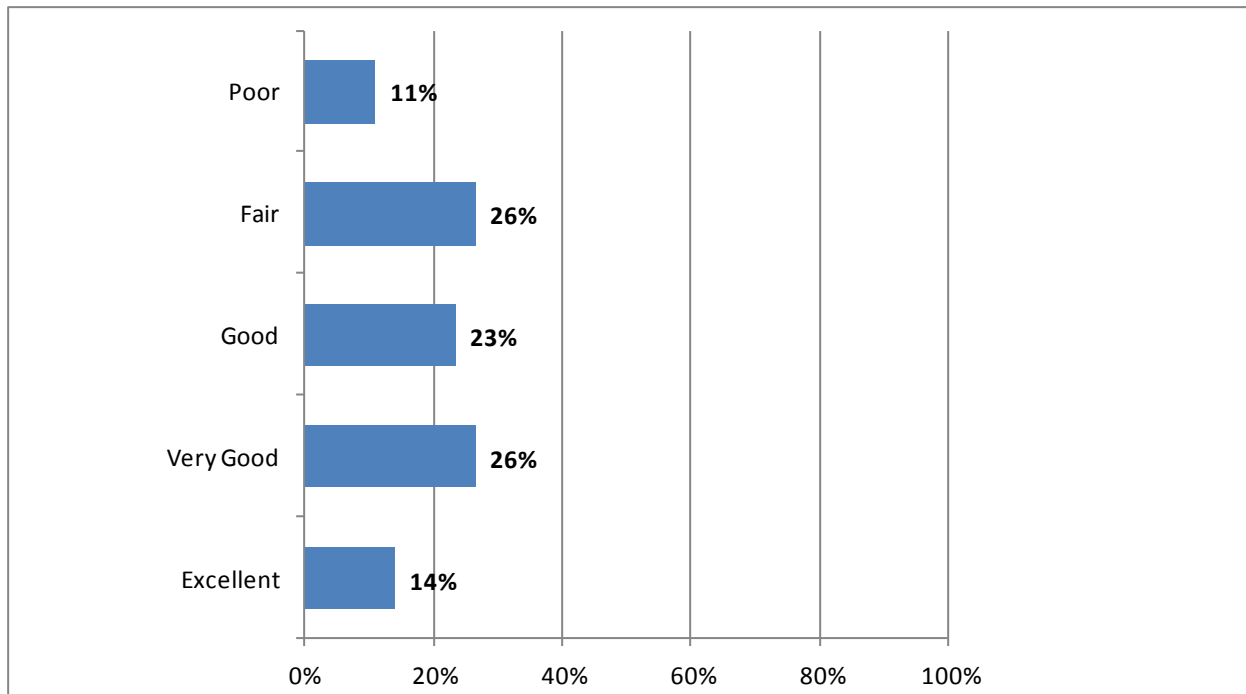


**Q6: I have people with whom I can share problems or get help when needed. (for the focus group, participants answered based on the majority of Hispanic individuals in the community)**

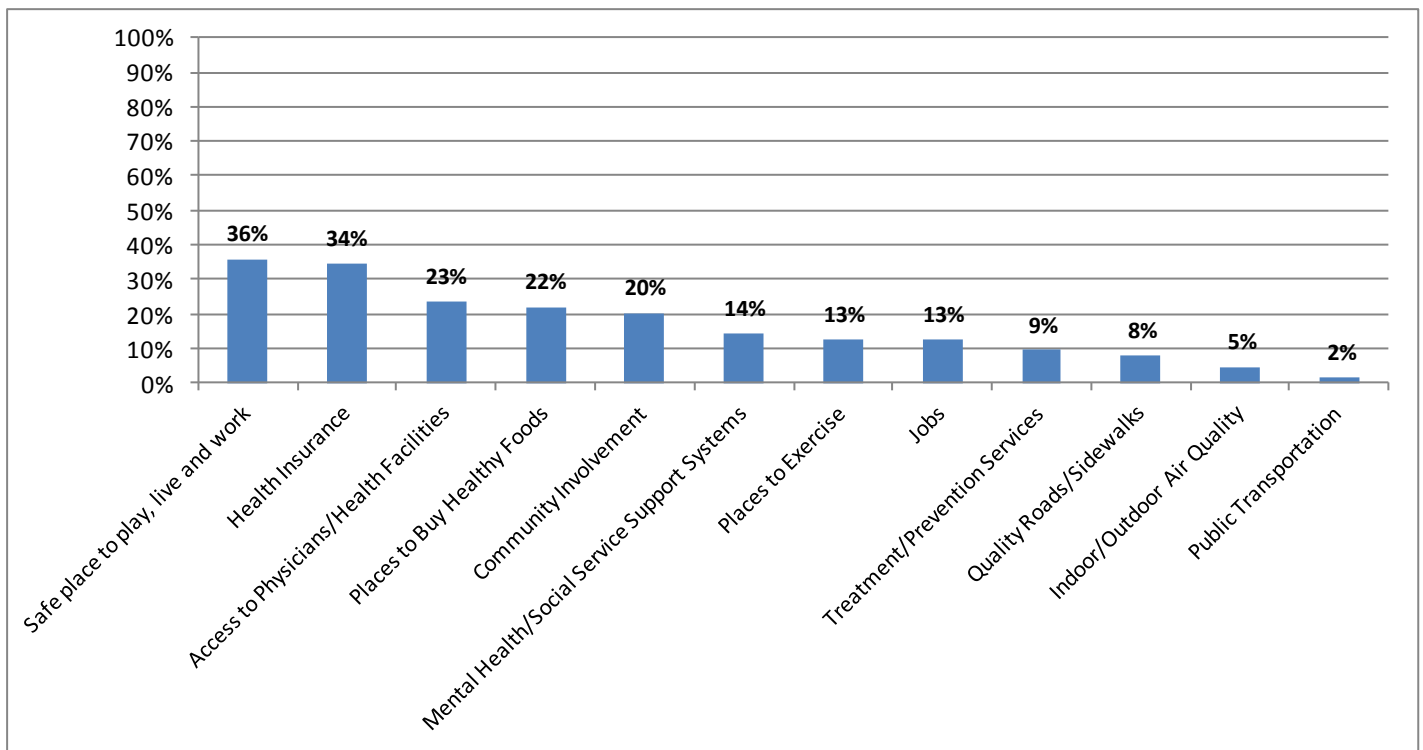


A quarter of the participants felt that Hispanics had money to pay for things they need but a greater proportion, 39%, responded that Hispanics ability to pay for the things they need is fair/poor. In terms of emotional support, a similar proportion of people said that they did have someone to share problems with as said they did not have someone: 36% and 32% respectively.

**Q7: In the past year, I was able to get the health services I needed. (for the focus group, participants answered based on the majority of Hispanic individuals in the community)**

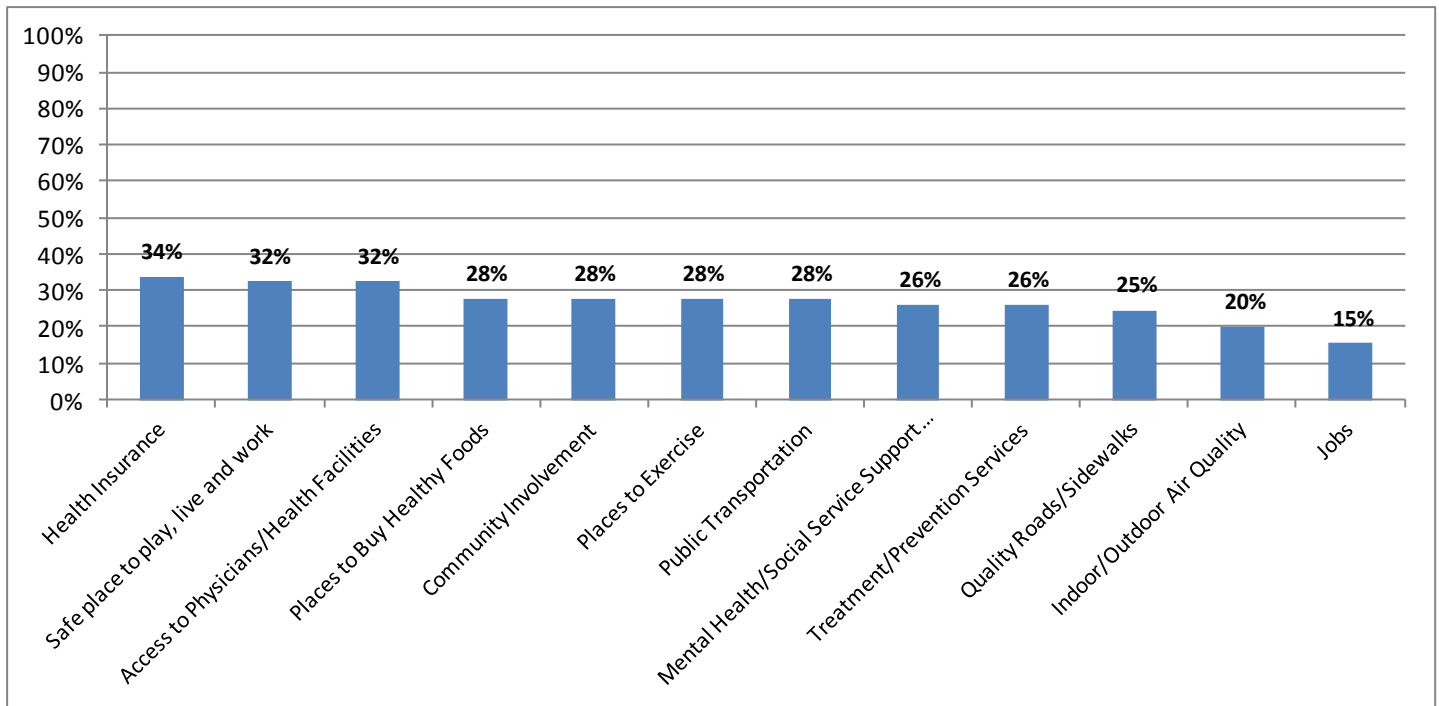


**Q8: Check the TWO most important factors for a “Healthy Community”.**

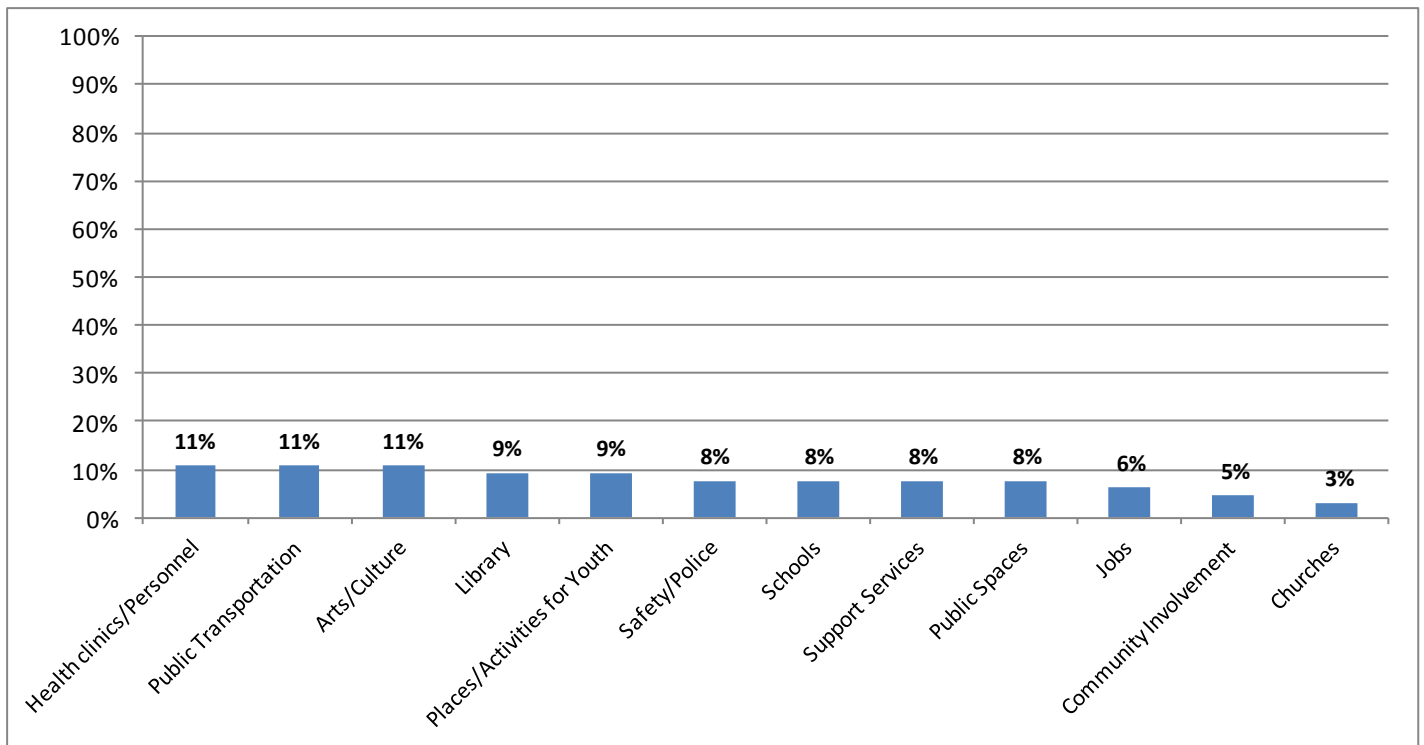


Forty percent of participants felt that Hispanics could get health services they needed. The two most important factors identified were safe places (36%) and health insurance (34%), followed by access to health facilities (23%), healthy food (22%) and community involvement (20%).

**Q9: Which factors from the list above need the most improvement in Kankakee County? Please list the top TWO.**



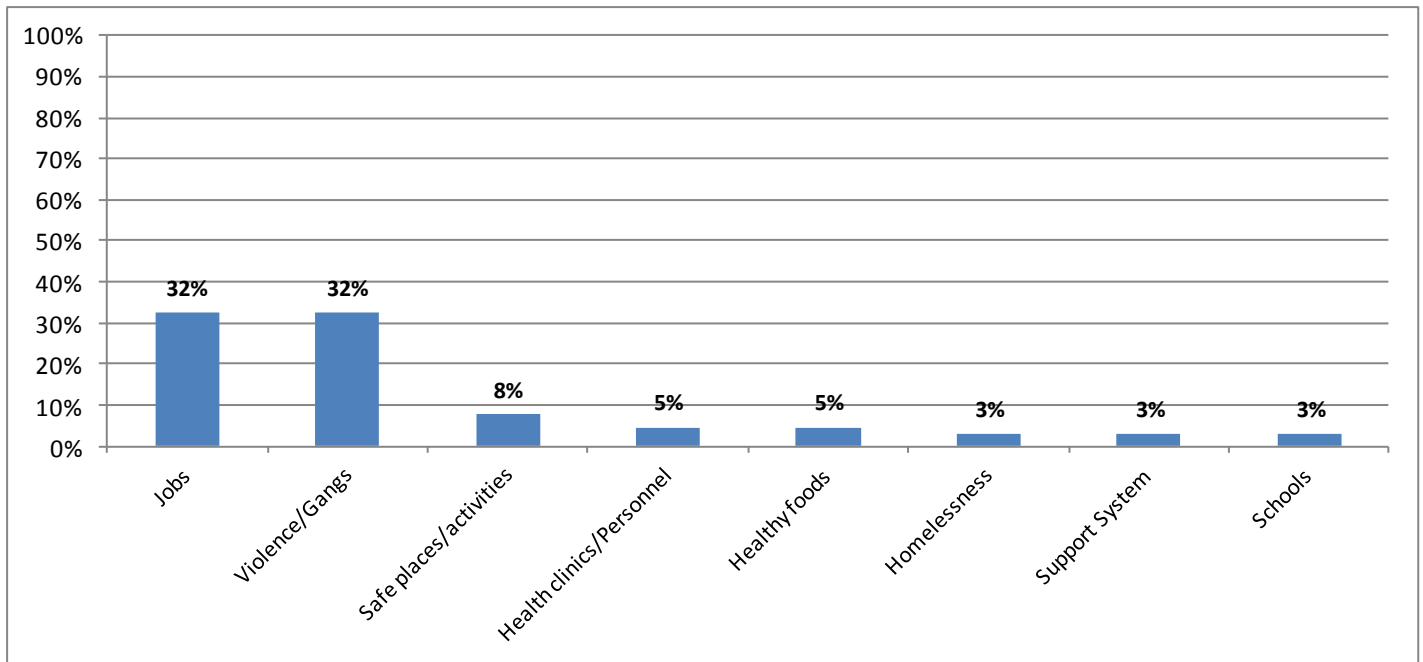
**Q10: What services or programs do you feel improve the quality of life in your community?**



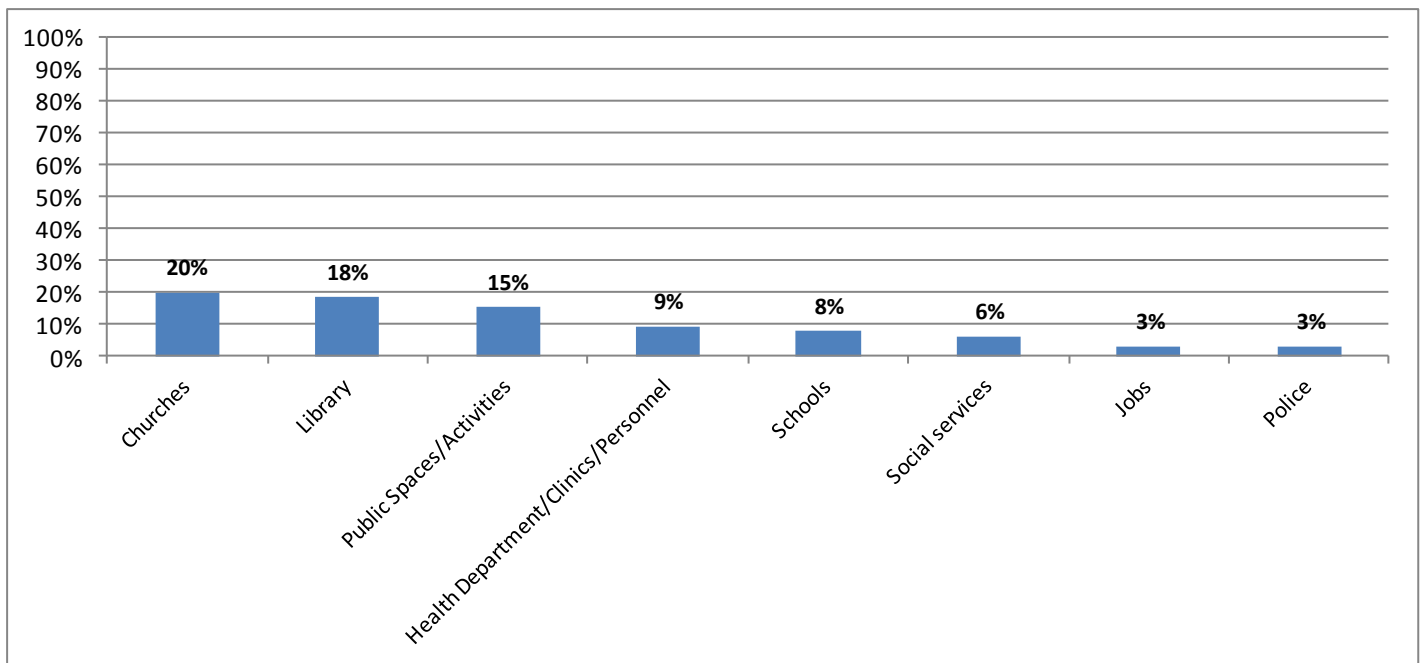
Although no factor stood out among others, the top areas identified for improvement were health insurance (34%), safe places (32%) and access to health facilities (32%). Other areas mentioned but not shown were arts, parks and affordable housing.

The top areas for improving quality of life their community were health clinics, public transportation and arts/culture, however ratings were distributed fairly evenly among the programs.

**Q11: Please list some of the most important needs or problems you see in your community.**



**Q12: List the most important assets and resources in your community.**

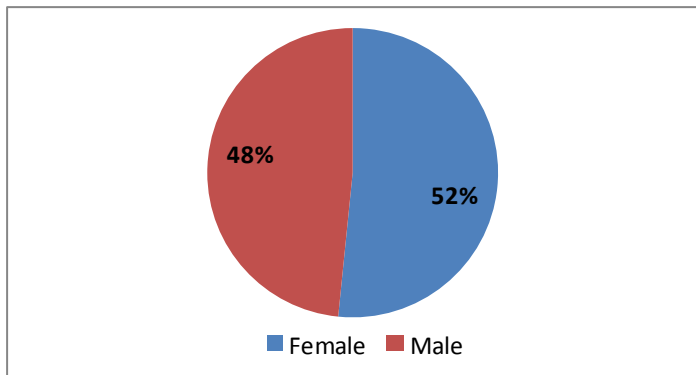


The most important needs in the community were clearly jobs and addressing violence/gangs. Other responses included teen pregnancy, police, library, racism, elder housing, art, exercise, and skills training. The most important assets were churches, libraries, and public spaces and activities. Other responses included jail,

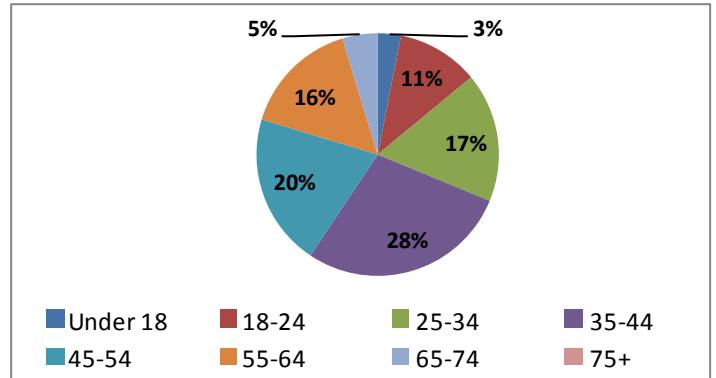
**Q13: Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your community?**

About half the participants responded. There were many general negative comments—the area is sad, feels bad to drive through, is sad, unsafe to raise children. The most common specific concerns regarded improving safety, providing youth activities/spaces, health clinics, public spaces/activities and community involvement.

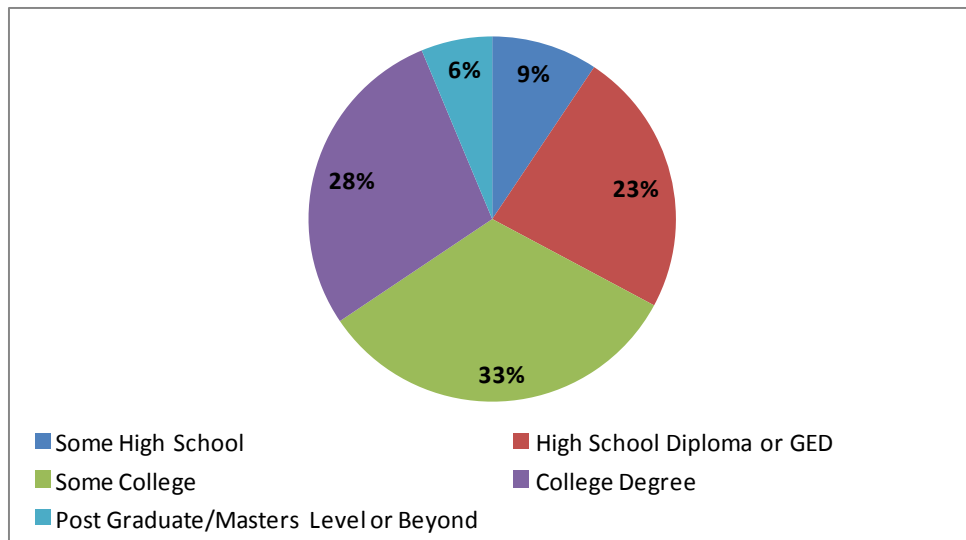
**Q14: What is your gender?**



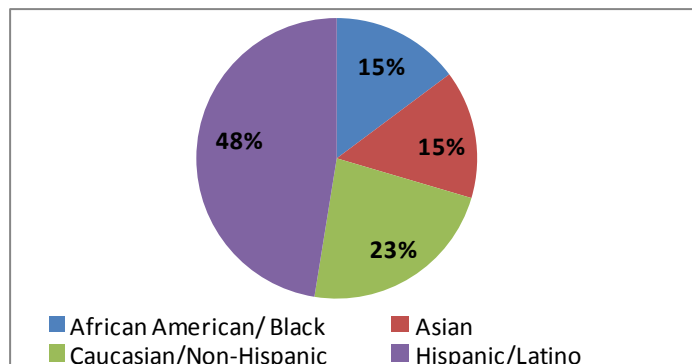
**Q15: What is your age?**



**Q16: What is your highest level of educational attainment?**



**Q17: What is your race/ethnicity?**



Just over half the participants were female. The median age group was 35-44 years old; only 5% were 65 and older. Sixty-seven percent had some college experience and only 9% had less than a high school degree. Forty-eight percent identified as Hispanic/Latino.

# NAACP Focus Group

A focus group was conducted on March 8, 2012 at the NAACP Kankakee Office with 18 participants. Responses were entered into SurveyMonkey and analyzed both quantitatively and qualita-



# Themes from Discussion

Biggest Barriers to health in your community:

- ◆ Limited access to quality, fresh, and healthy food
- ◆ Educational barriers and high drop-out rates

Most important assets in your community:

- ◆ A variety of community programs such as Welcome Wagon and Brother 2 Brother
- ◆ Parks and natural spaces such as the Kankakee River

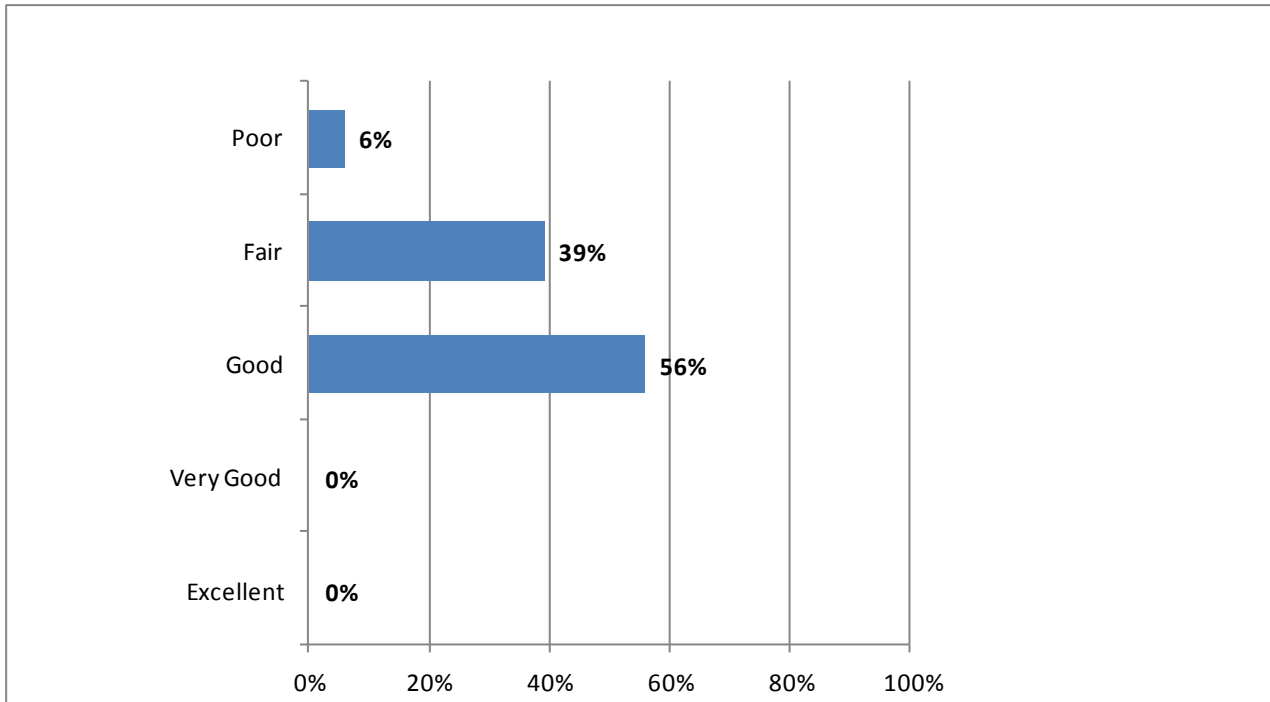
Biggest health and safety concerns:

- ◆ Parks and vacant lots are not safe

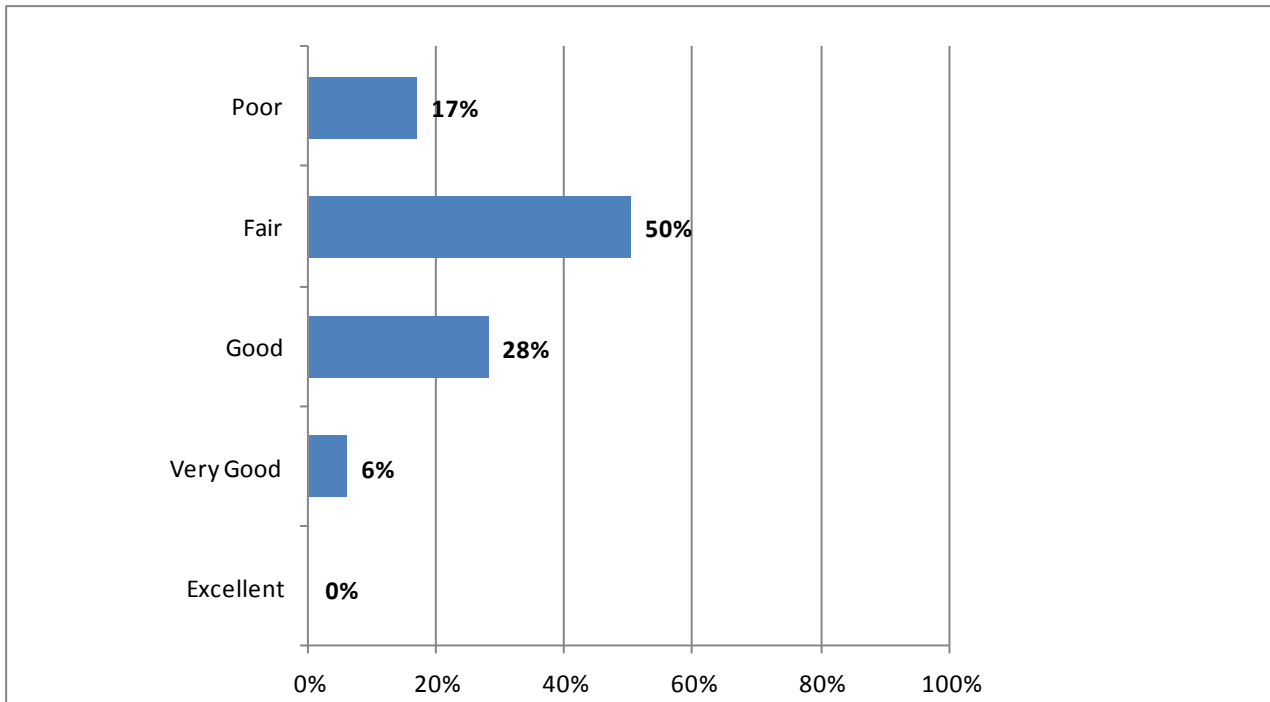
Biggest opportunities for improvement:

- ◆ Job training for youth
- ◆ Community organizing through groups and social networking
- ◆ Improve access to information about free services

**Q1: How would you rate the overall quality of life in Kankakee County? (Consider items such as your resources available, well-being, and participation in community life)**

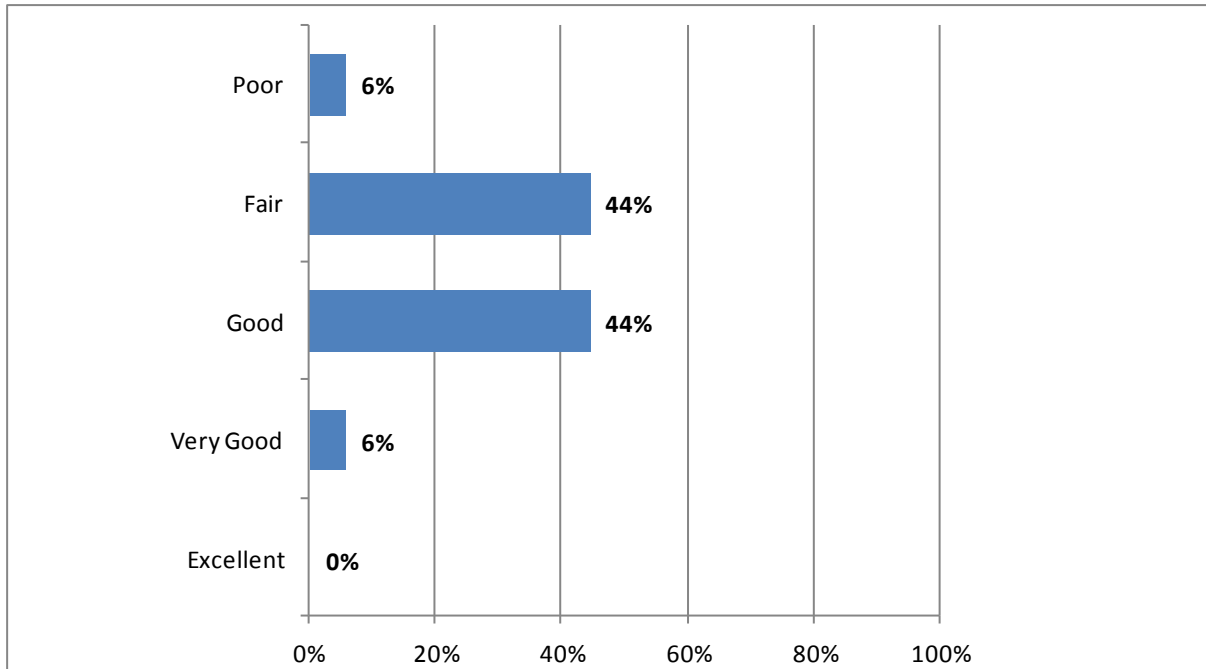


**Q2: How would you rate Kankakee County as a place for youth? (Consider items such as your resources available, well-being, and participation in community life)**

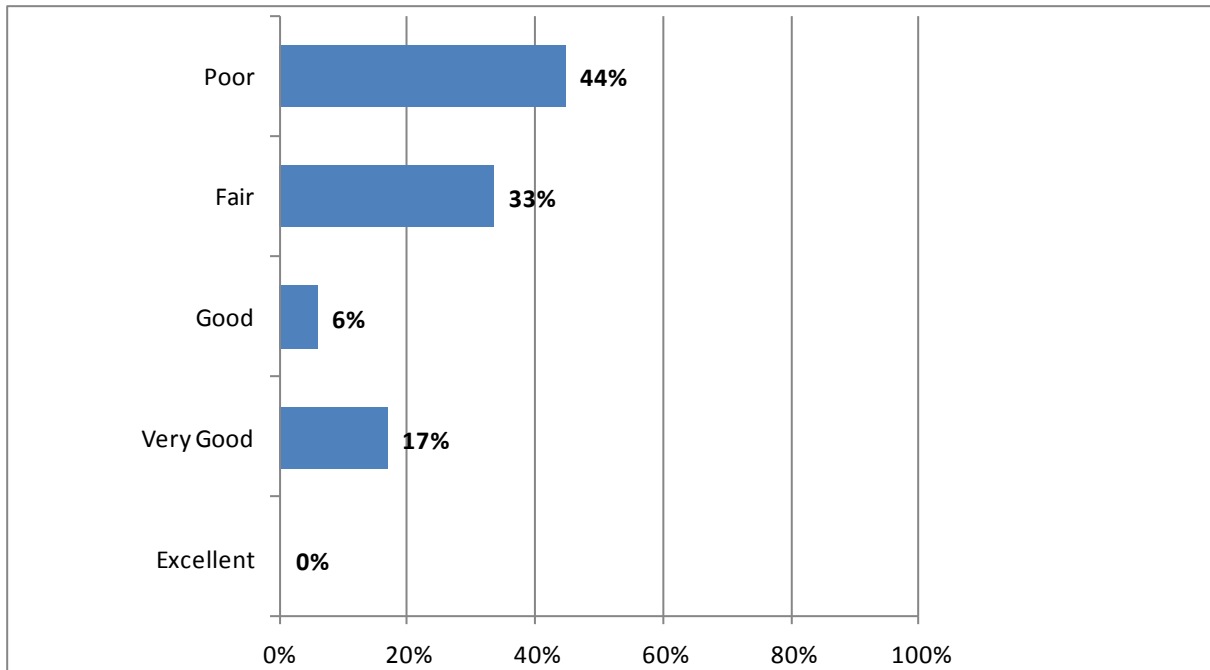


None of the participants rate the overall quality of life in Kankakee County as very good/excellent, while 45% rated it as fair/poor. As a place for youth, only 6% rated it as very good, while 67% said it was fair/poor.

**Q3: How would you rate Kankakee County as a safe community? (Consider items such as residents' opinions of safety in the home, schools, the workplace, playgrounds, and parks. Do neighbors know and trust each other? Do they look out for each other?)**

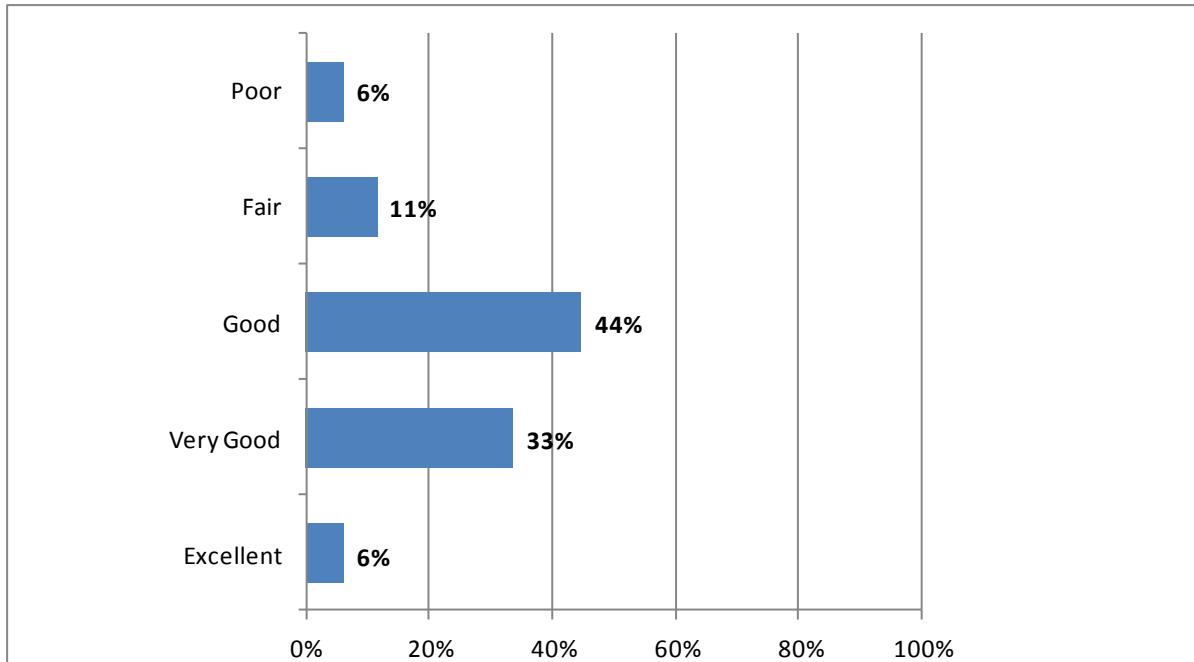


**Q4: How would you rate Kankakee County in terms of stable employment opportunities available for you and your family?**

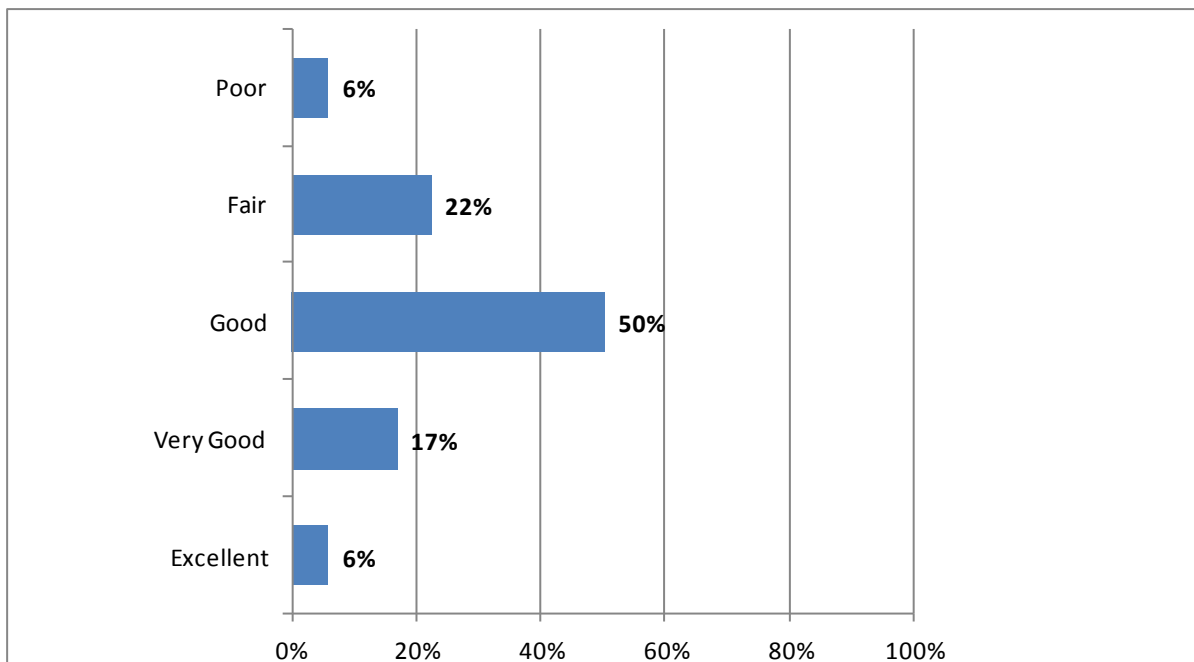


In terms of safety, only 6% rate Kankakee County as excellent/very good, while 50% say it is fair/poor. There were few extreme ratings, with nearly 90% of participants rating Kankakee County's safety as good or fair. In terms of employment, 23% rate it as very good/excellent, while 77% rate it fair/poor.

**Q5: I have enough money to pay for the things I really need, such as food, clothing, housing, and medicine. (for the focus group, participants answered based on the majority of African American individuals in the community)**

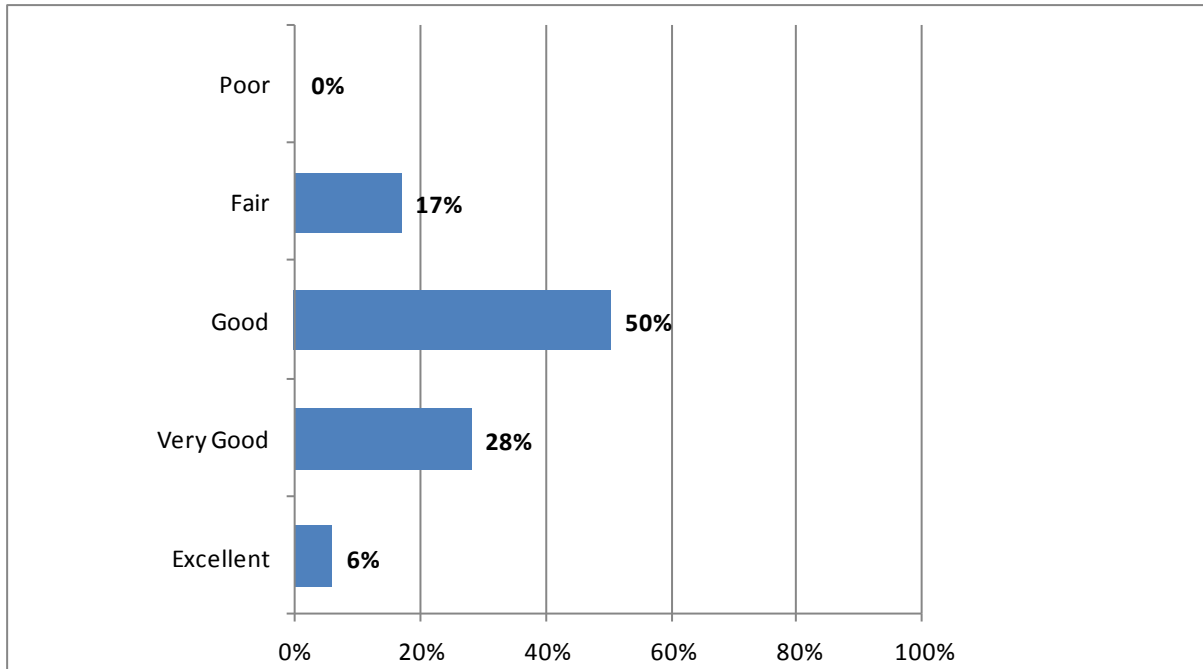


**Q6: I have people with whom I can share problems or get help when needed. (for the focus group, participants answered based on the majority of African American individuals in the community)**

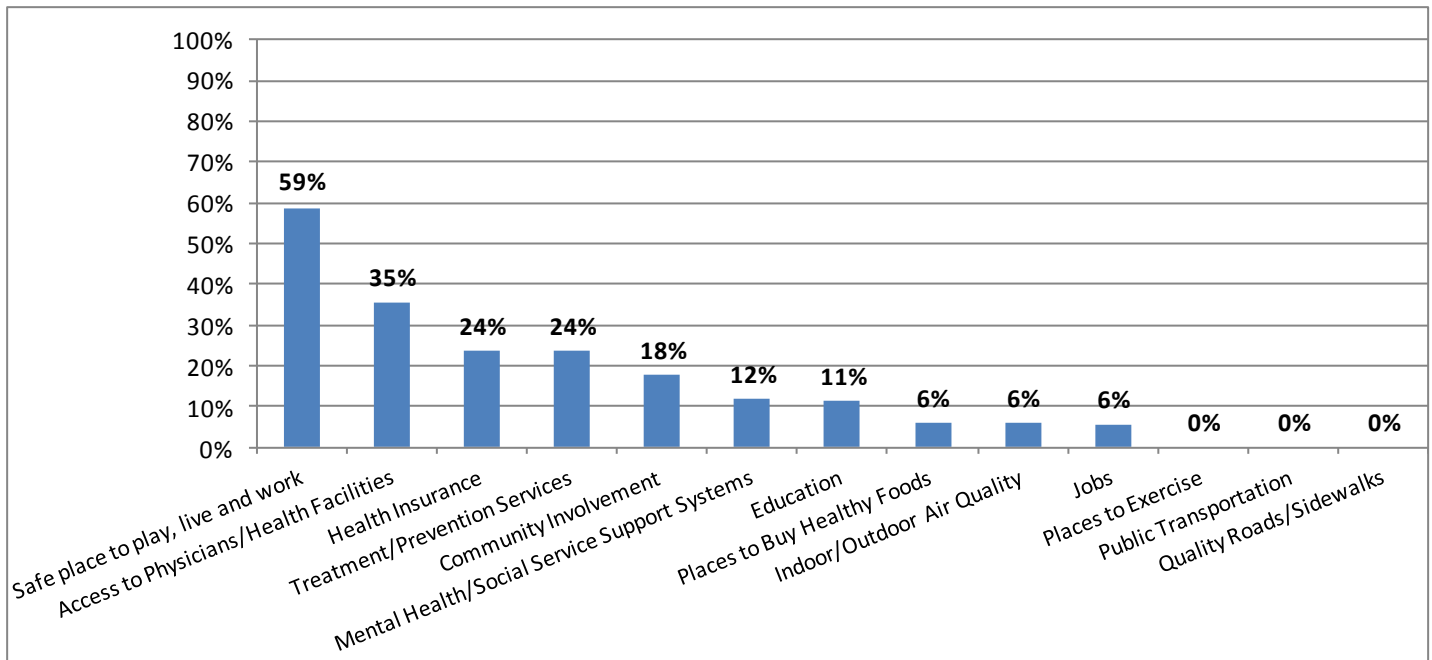


Thirty-nine percent of participants indicated that they thought African-Americans had enough money to pay for things and 23% said they had someone they could share a problem with.

**Q7: In the past year, I was able to get the health services I needed. (for the focus group, participants answered based on the majority of African American individuals in the community)**



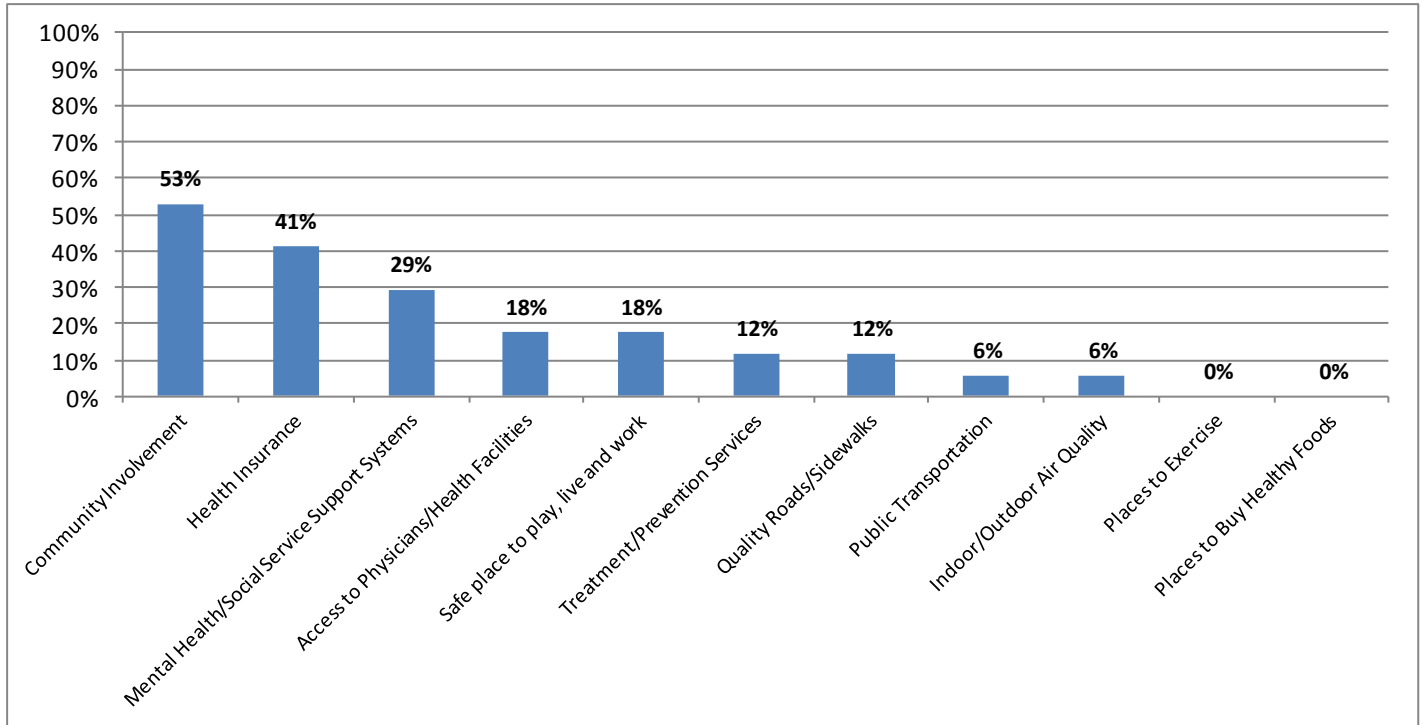
**Q8: Check the TWO most important factors for a “Healthy Community.”**



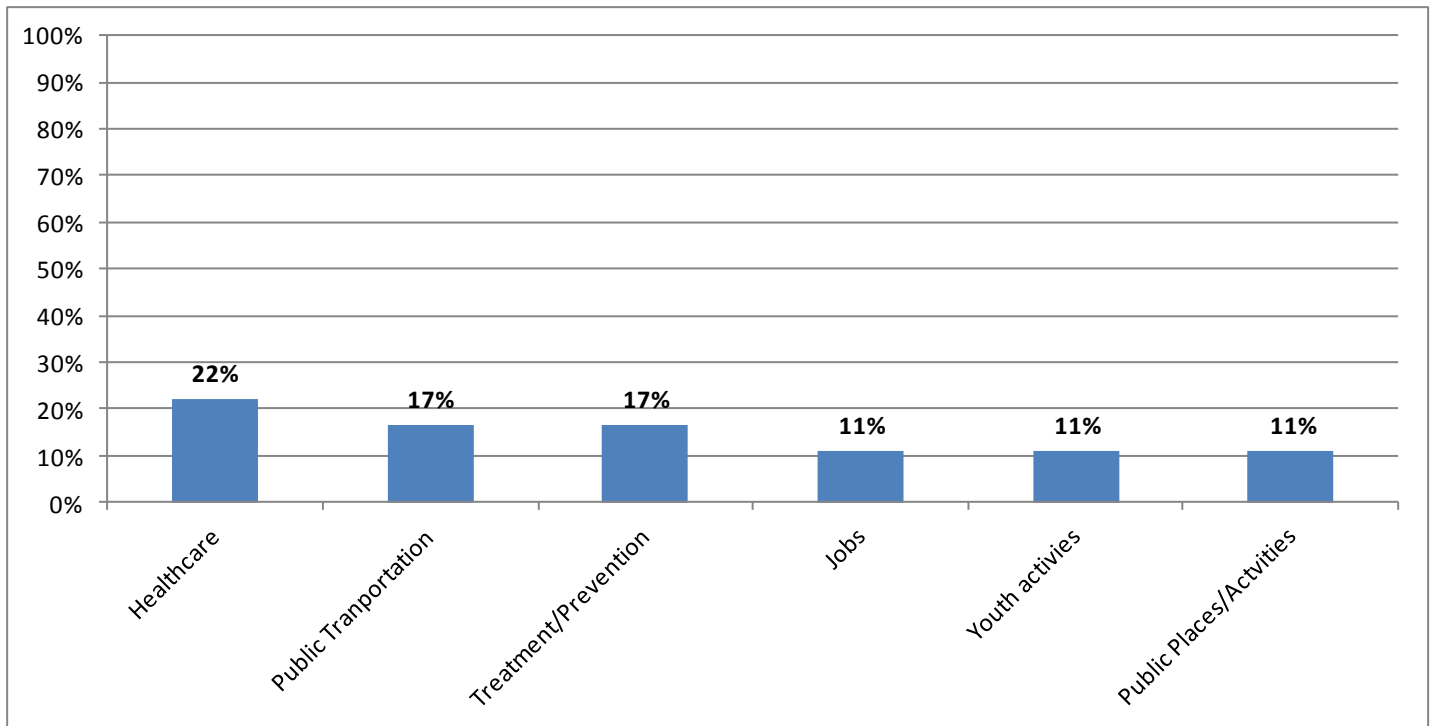
About a third of participants felt that African-Americans could get health services. With no poor ratings, this was not as big a concern as other factors.

The dominant factor for a healthy community was identified as safe places to play, live and work, with the majority of participants ranking it as a top-two priority. This was followed by access to health facilities (35%), followed by health insurance (24%) and treatment/prevention services (24%).

**Q9: Which factors from the list above need the most improvement in Kankakee County? Please list the top TWO.**

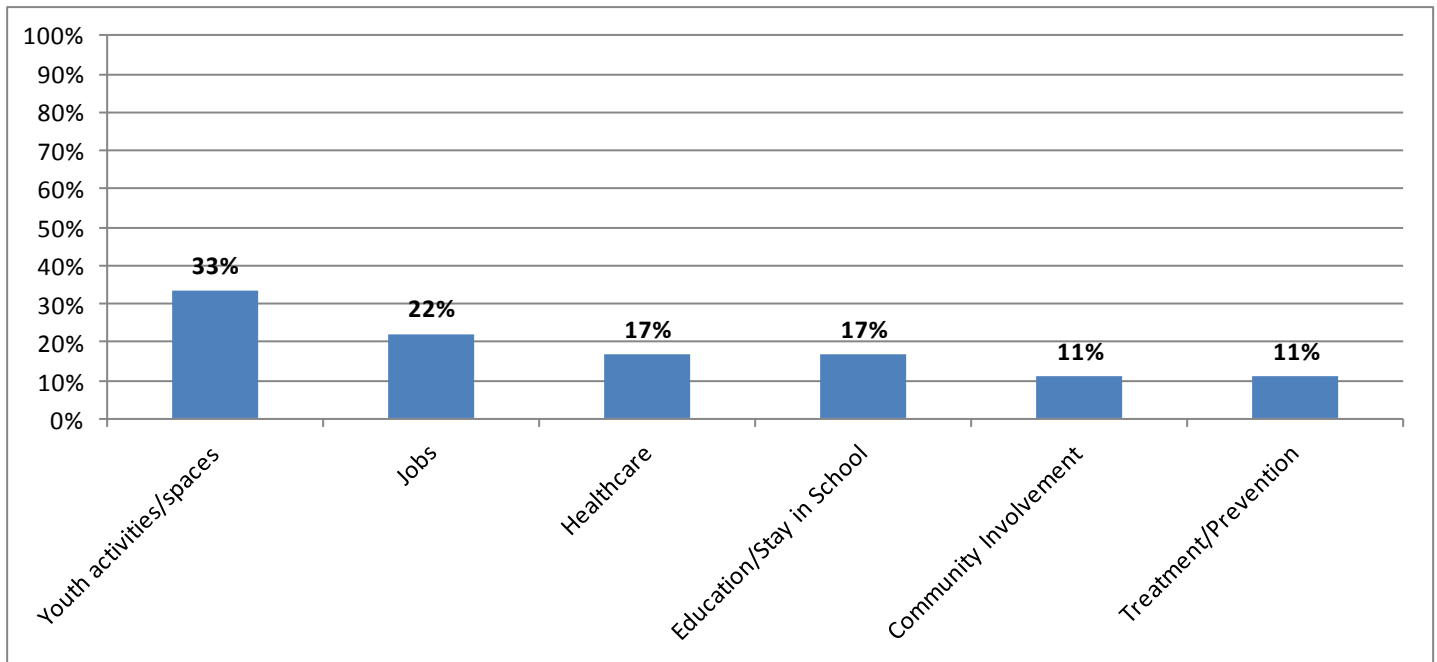


**Q10: What services or programs do you feel improve the quality of life in your community?**

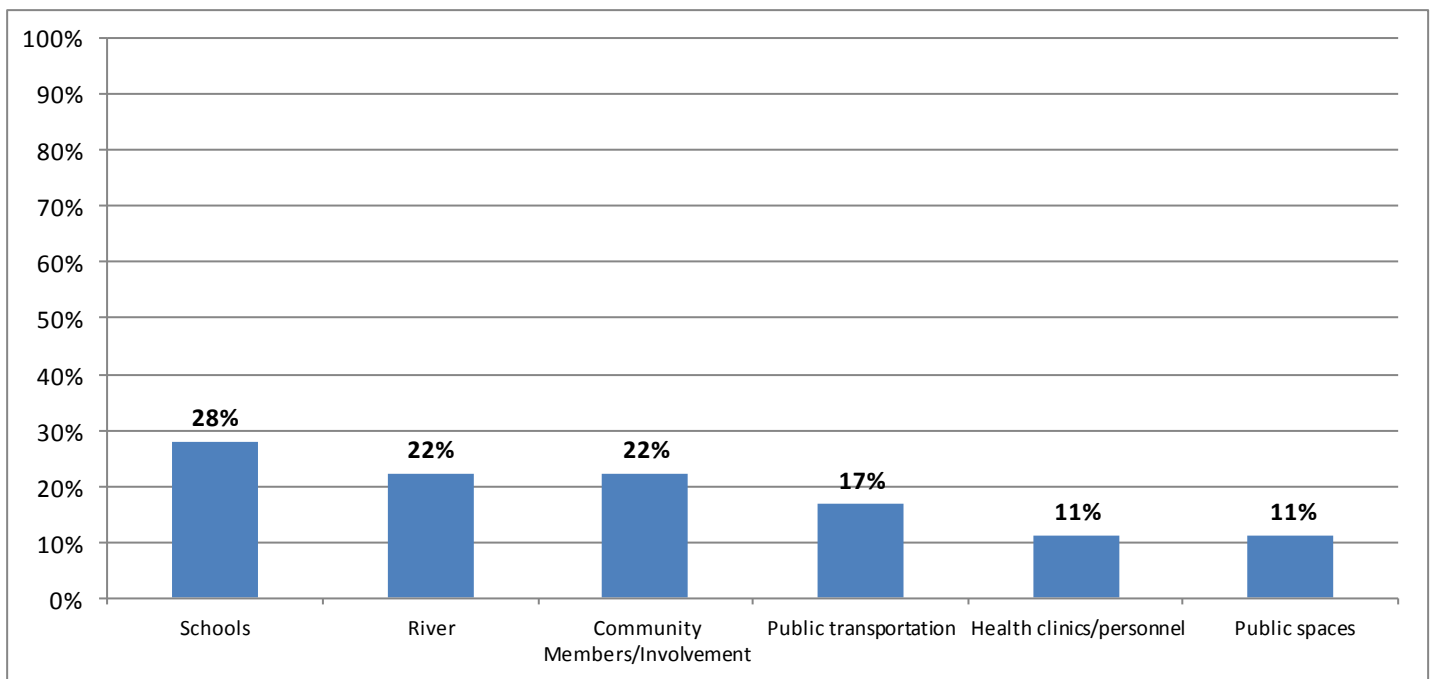


Top areas identified for improvement in the county were community involvement (53%), health insurance (41%) and mental health/social supports (29%). For the community, healthcare (22%), public transportation (17%) and treatment/prevention (17%) were priorities. Other areas mentioned were schools, parental involvement, housing, social services, drug problems, churches, community organizations, community involve-

**Q11: Please list some of the most important needs or problems you see in your community.**



**Q12: List the most important assets and resources in your community.**

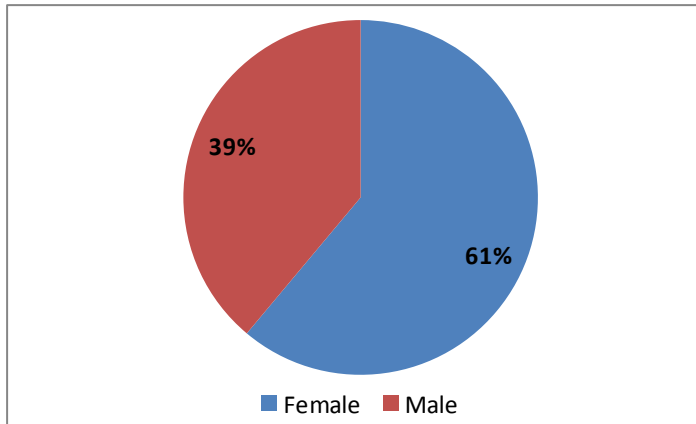


The top identified community needs were activities/spaces for youth, jobs, healthcare and education. The most important assets in the community were schools, the river, community involvement and public trans-

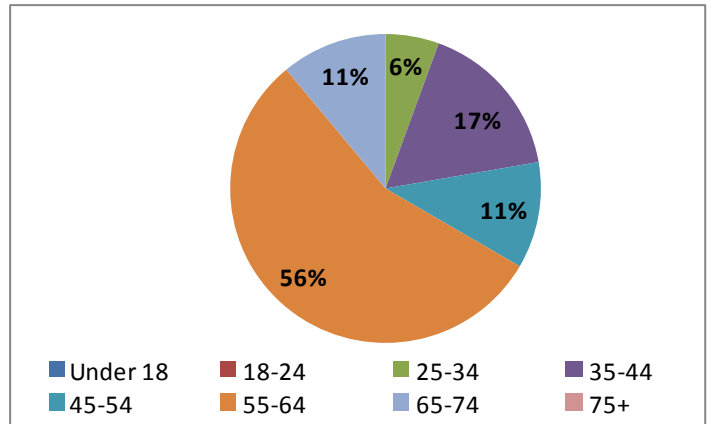
**Q13: Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your community?**

About half the participants responded. The most common issues were growing the economy/jobs in the area. A couple comments were generally positive. Other themes involved parental engagement, mental health, social services and healthy foods.

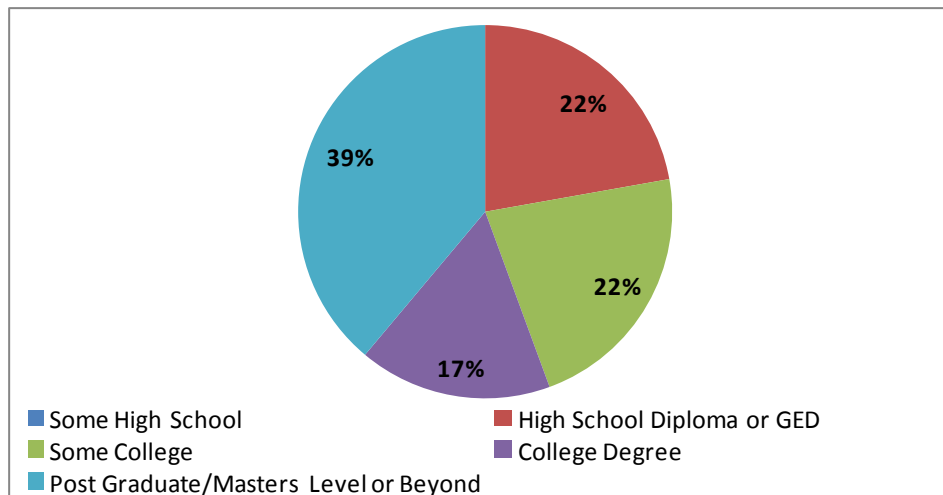
**Q14: What is your gender?**



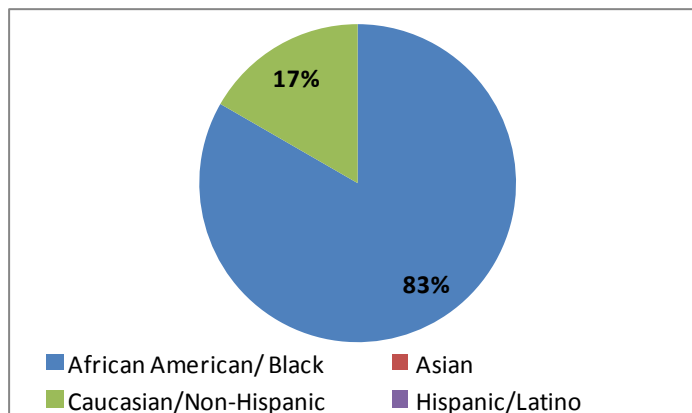
**Q15: What is your age?**



**Q16: What is your highest level of educational attainment?**



**Q17: What is your race/ethnicity?**



About 60% of the participants were female. The median age group was 55-64 years old; the youngest participants were 25-34 and the oldest were 65-74. Over three-quarters had some college experience; none reported less than a high school degree. Eighty-three percent identified as Black, with the remainder identifying as white.



# Teen Court Focus Group

A focus group was conducted on March 15, 2012 at Teen Court with 17 participants. Responses were entered into SurveyMonkey and analyzed both quantitatively and qualitatively.

# Themes from Discussion

Biggest Barriers to health in your community:

- ◆ Difficult to make good food choices
- ◆ Low-income families and lack of stability or security at home
- ◆ Technology at the home discourages participation in community activities

Most important assets in your community:

- ◆ Opportunities for exercise and youth programs
- ◆ Churches provide many services and support

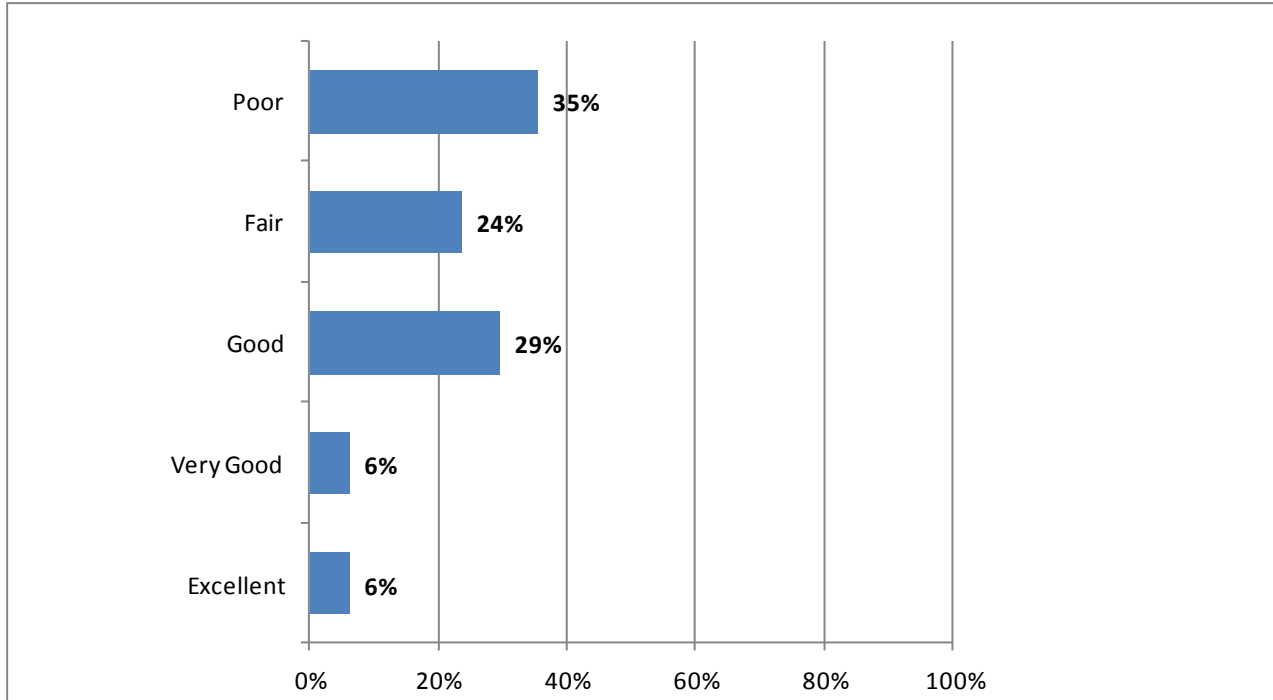
Biggest health and safety concerns:

- ◆ Crime is all over and no neighborhood feels safe (except St. Anne)
- ◆ Drugs and alcohol are easily accessible

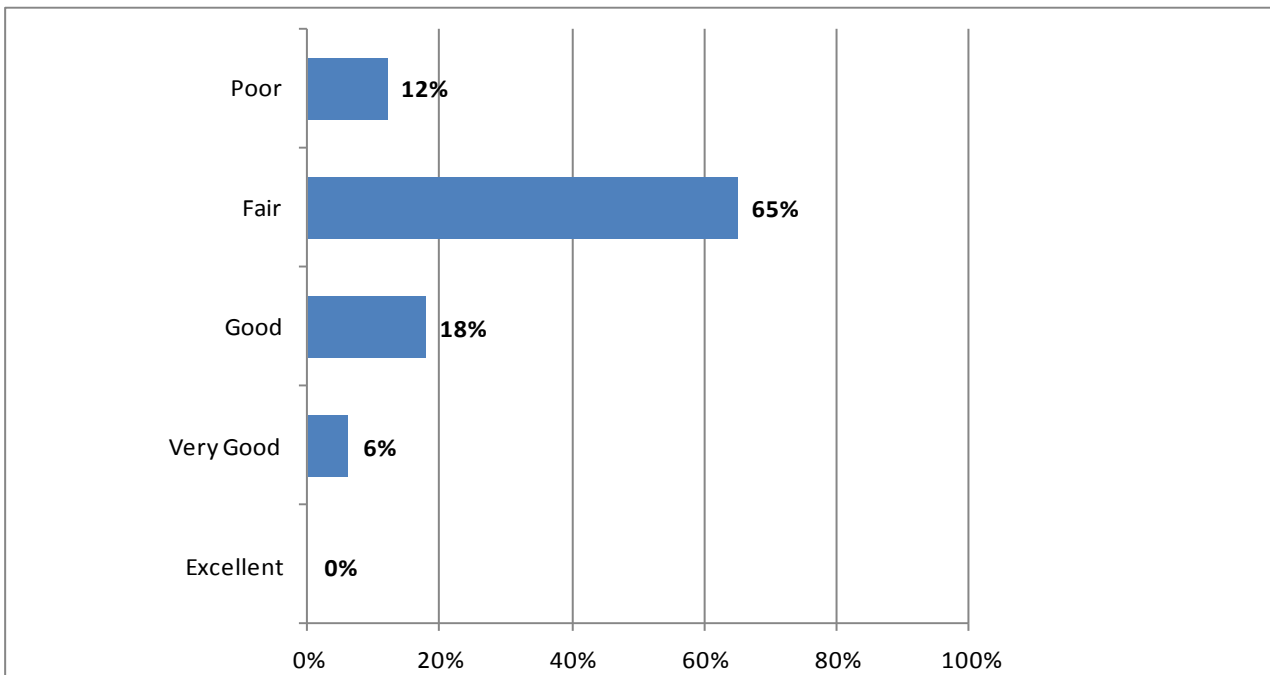
Biggest opportunities for improvement:

- ◆ Make consequences by the law and at schools the same for everyone
- ◆ Improving language and behavior among youth

**Q1: How would you rate the overall quality of life in Kankakee County? (Consider items such as your resources available, well-being, and participation in community life)**



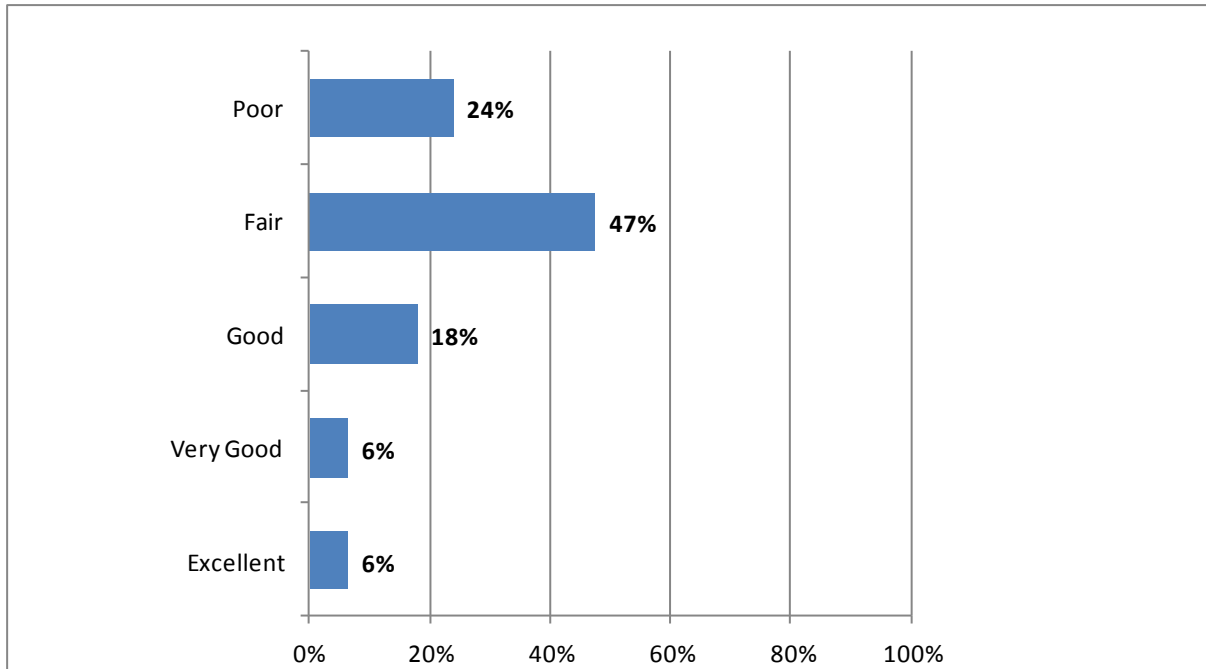
**Q2: How would you rate Kankakee County as a place for youth? (Consider items such as your resources available, well-being, and participation in community life)**



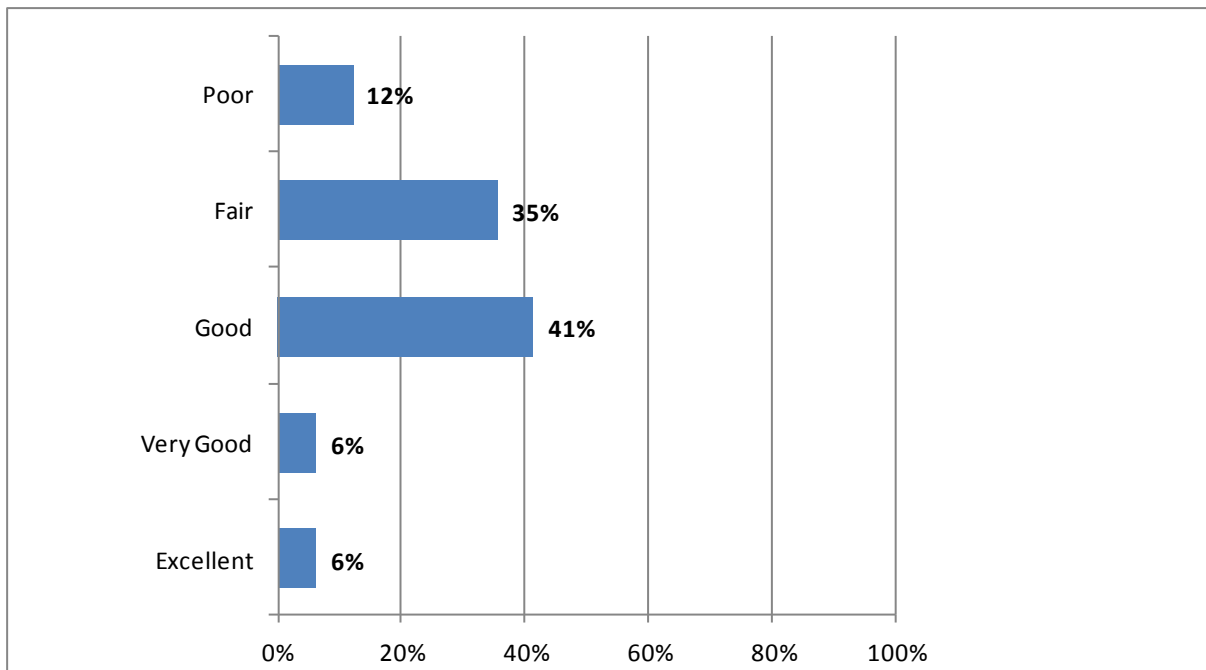
Only 12% of participants rated the overall quality of life as very good/excellent, with the majority (59%) rating it fair/poor. As a place for youth, only 6% rated Kankakee County very good/excellent, while 77% rate it fair/poor. A significant majority rated Kankakee County as a “fair” place for youth to live, as opposed to good or poor.

As with quality of life, the teens in the focus group were more negative than the general survey respondents regarding safety and employment. In terms of safety, only 12% rated Kankakee County as very good/excellent, while 71% said it was fair/poor. In terms of employment, only 12% rated it very good excellent and 47% rated it fair/poor.

**Q3: How would you rate Kankakee County as a safe community? (Consider items such as residents' opinions of safety in the home, schools, the workplace, playgrounds, and parks. Do neighbors know and trust each other? Do they look out for each other?)**

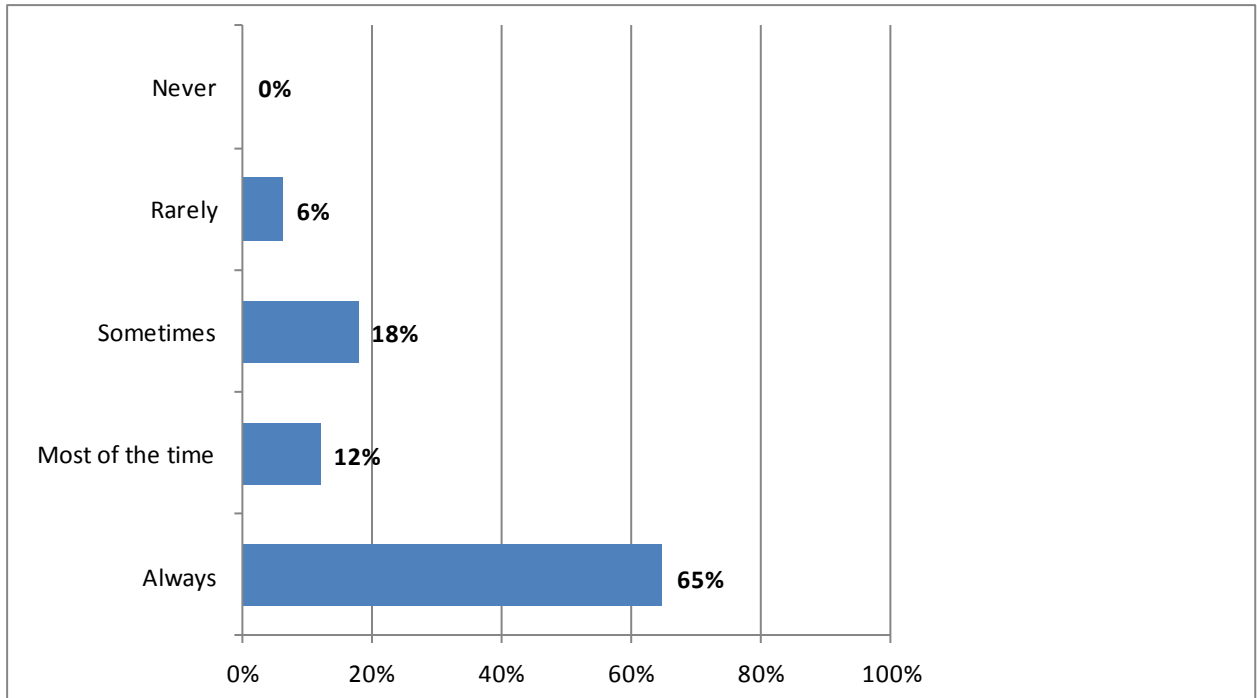


**Q4: How would you rate Kankakee County in terms of stable employment opportunities available for you and your family?**

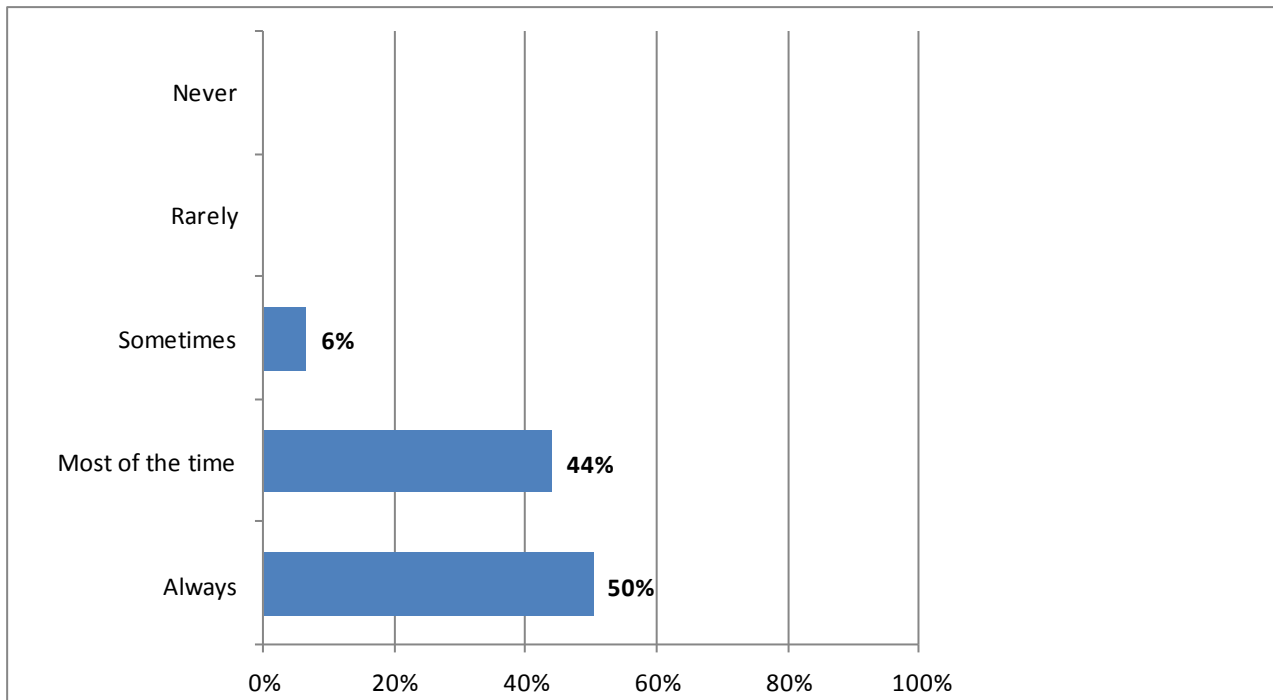


In terms of safety, only 12% rated Kankakee County as very good/excellent, while 71% said it was fair/poor. In terms of employment, only 12% rated it very good excellent and 47% rated it fair/poor.

**Q5: In the past year, I was able to get the health services I needed.**

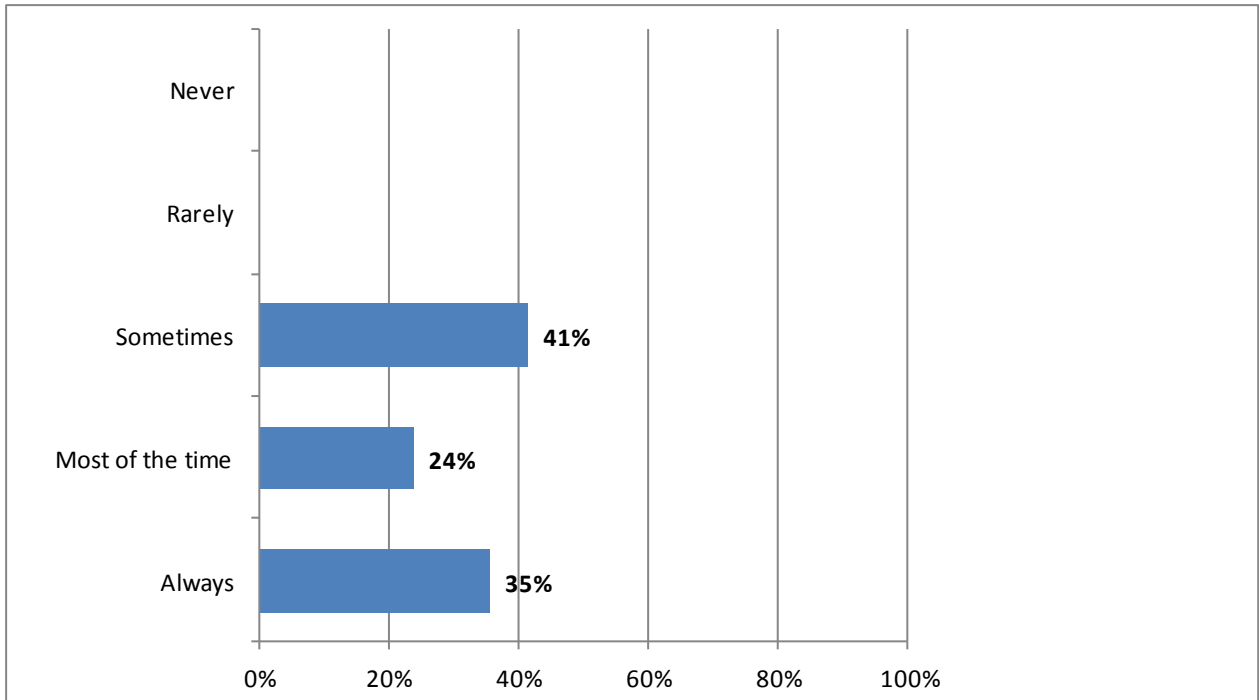


**Q6: I have people with whom I can share problems or get help when needed.**

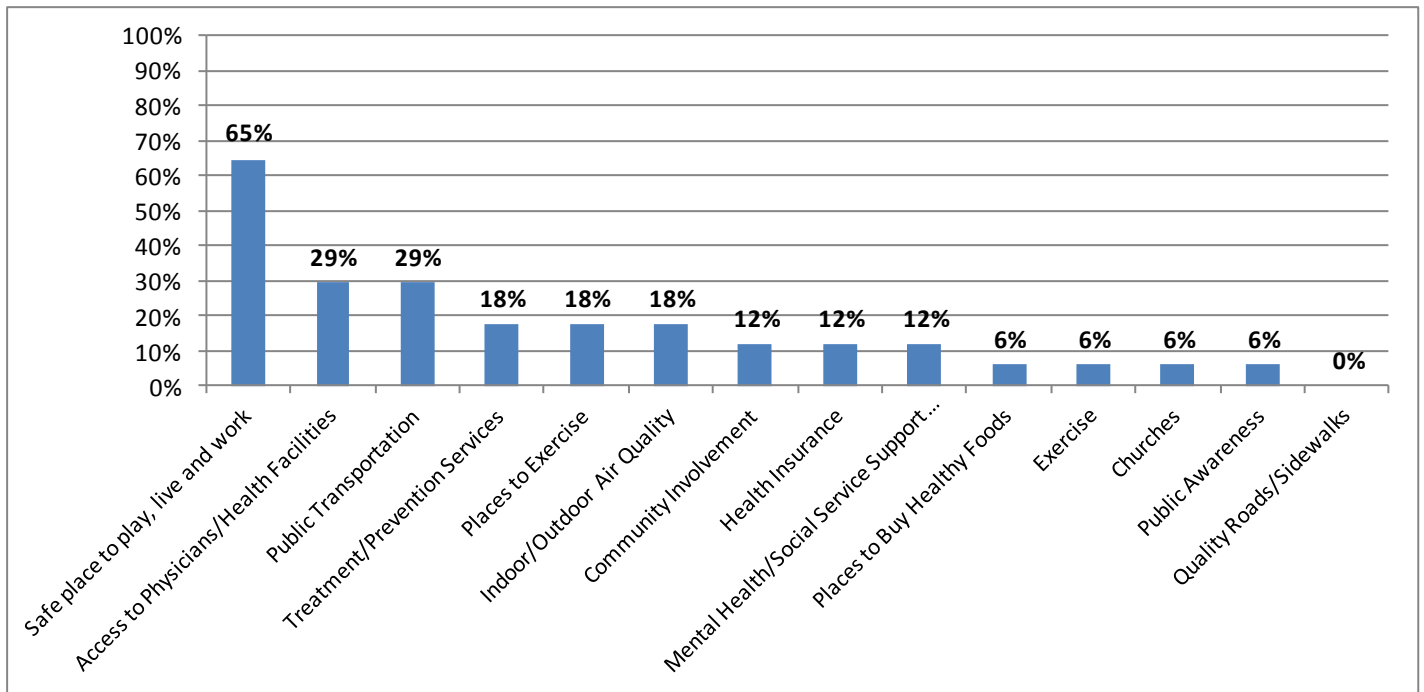


The majority of participants, 77%, were able to get health services when needed and almost all, 94%, have someone they can talk to.

**Q7: If I or a friend had a personal health issue, I know where we could go to get help.**

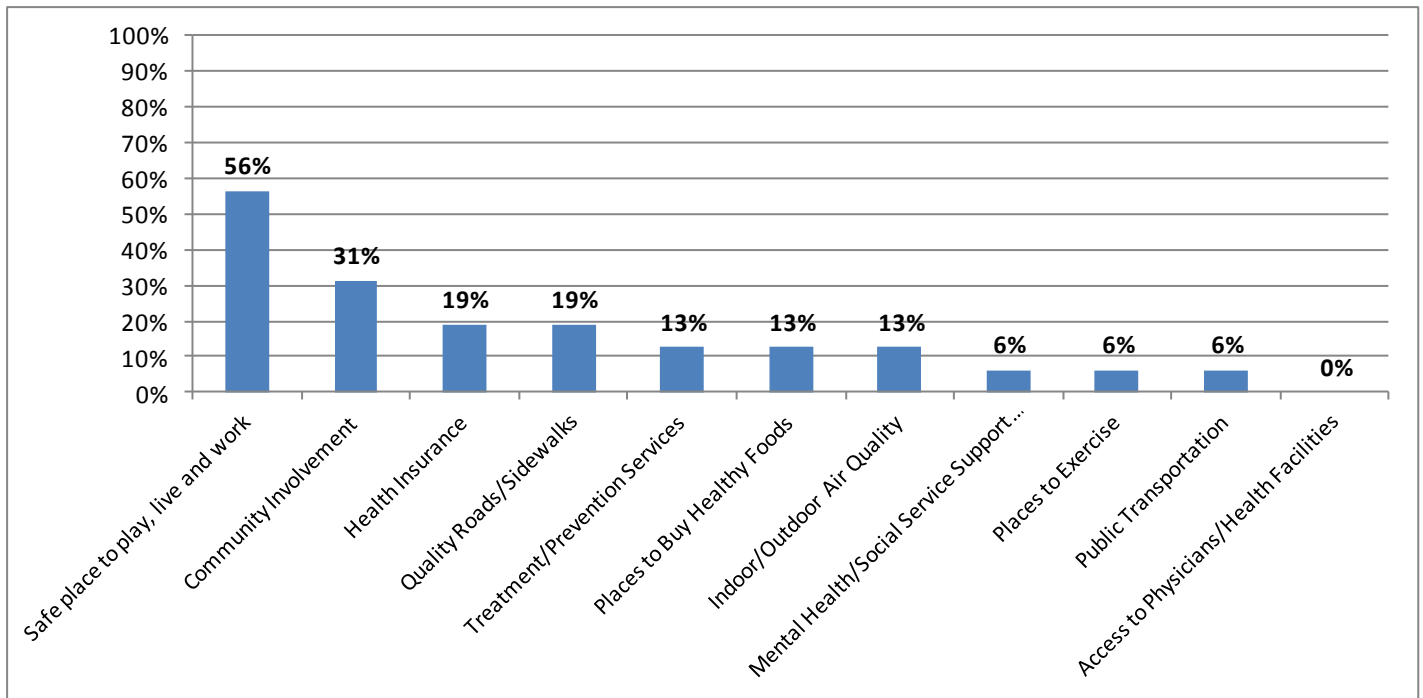


**Q8: Check the TWO most important factors for a “Healthy Community.”**

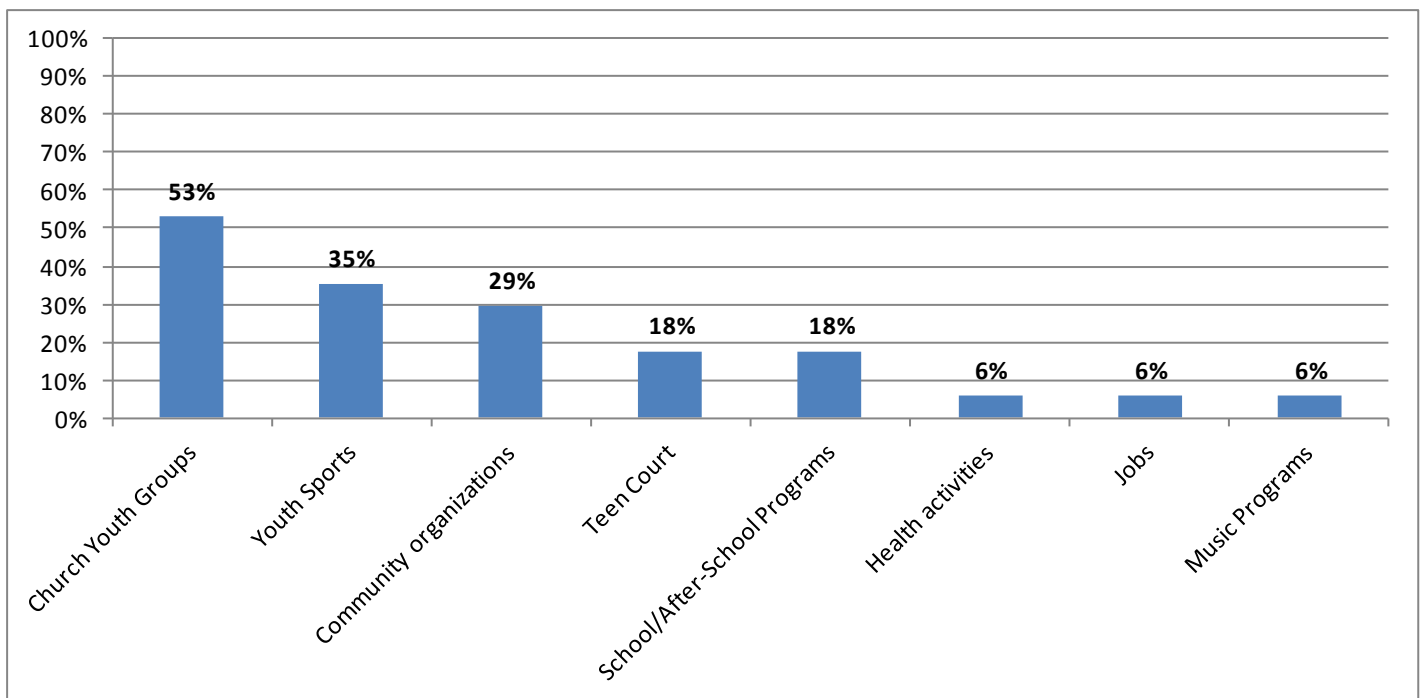


As with quality of life, the teens in the focus group were more negative than the general survey respondents regarding safety and employment. In terms of safety, only 12% rated Kankakee County as very good/excellent, while 71% said it was fair/poor. In terms of employment, only 12% rated it very good excellent and 47% rated it fair/poor.

**Q9: Which factors from the list above need the most improvement in Kankakee County? Please list the top TWO.**



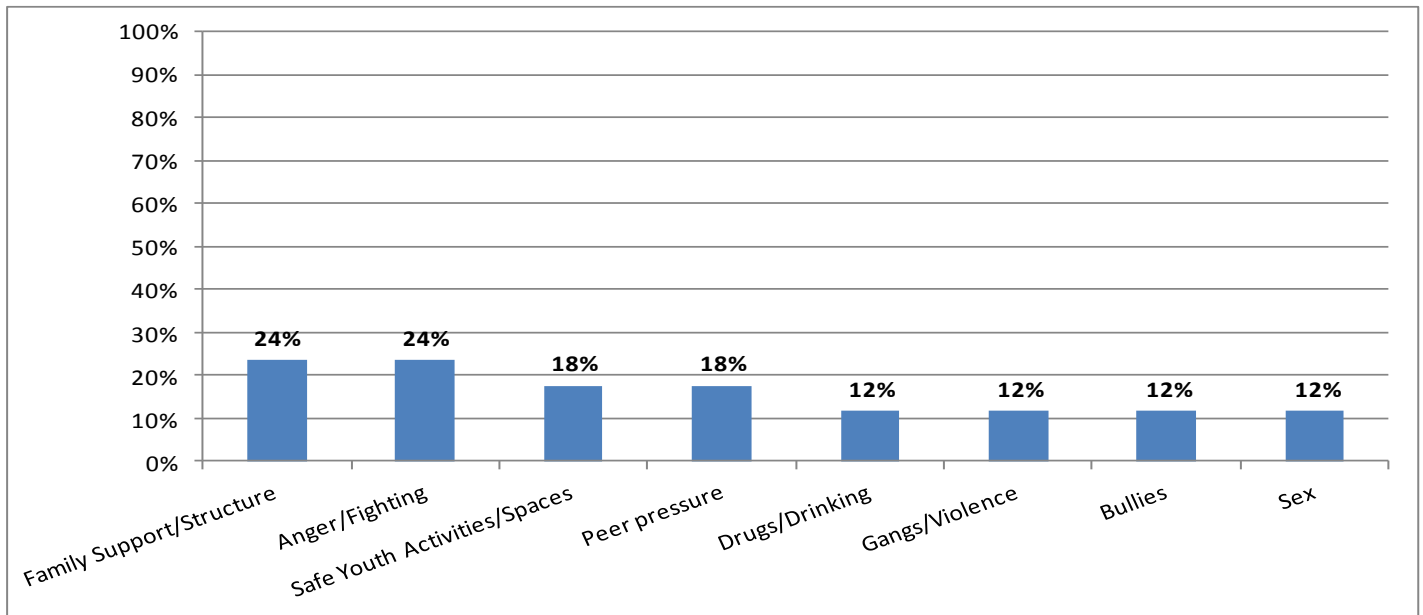
**Q10: What services or programs do you feel are available for teens in your community? (think about youth organizations, support groups, businesses and community organizations).**



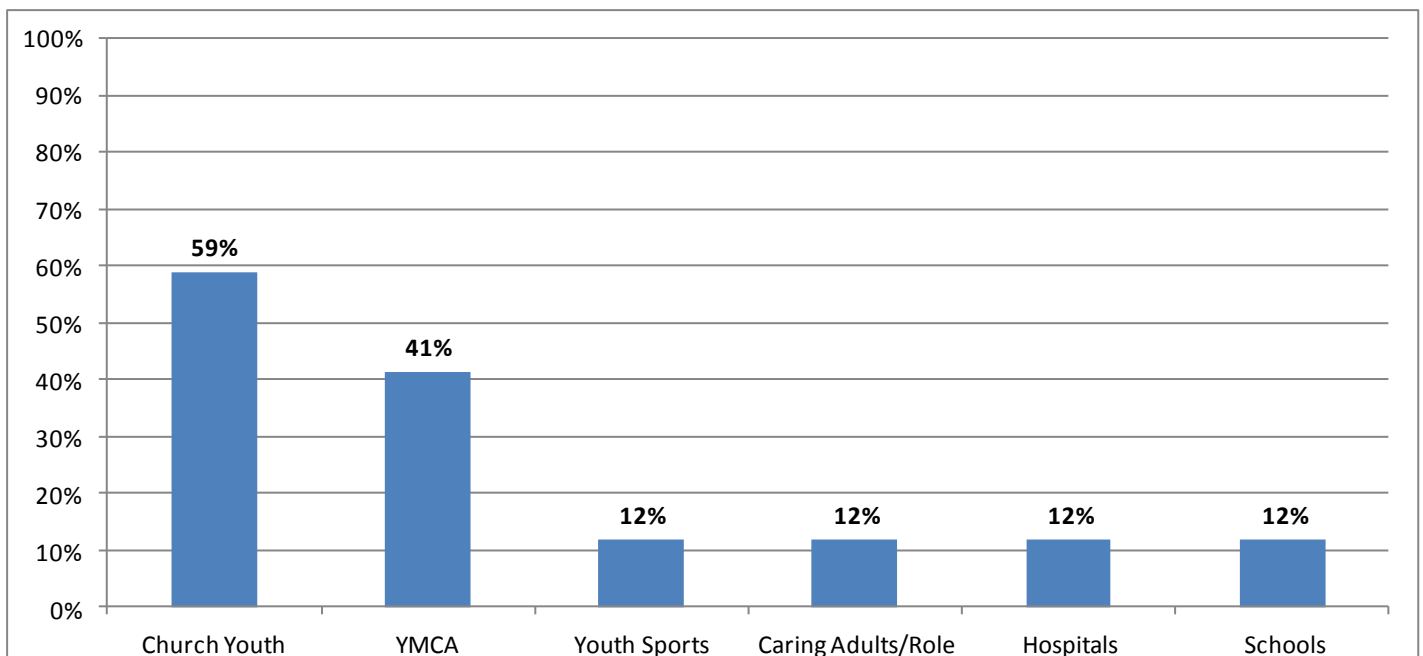
Participants identified safe places and community involvement as the top needs in their community. Other items mentioned but not shown were education, teen exercise, safe transportation and psych services.

Participants identified several resources for youth, including church youth groups, youth sports and commu-

**Q11: Please list some of the most important needs or problems you see teens having in your community.**



**Q12: List the most important assets and resources in your community.**



Participants identified dysfunctional families, anger & fighting, safe spaces & activities and peer pressure as the biggest problems in their community. Also mentioned but not shown were truancy, gossip, theft and stress.

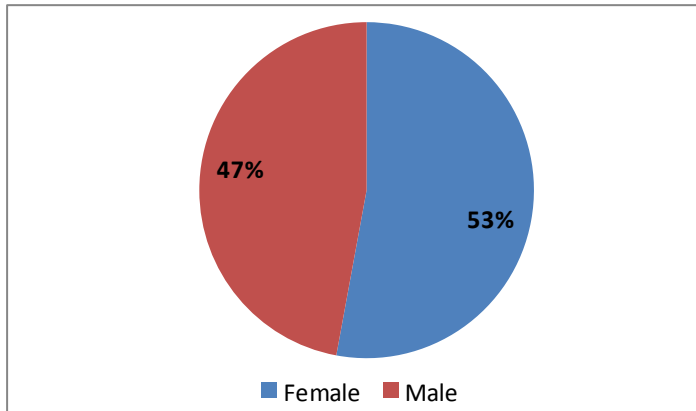
The top resources described were church youth groups and the YMCA. Also mentioned but not shown were

**Q13: Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your community?**

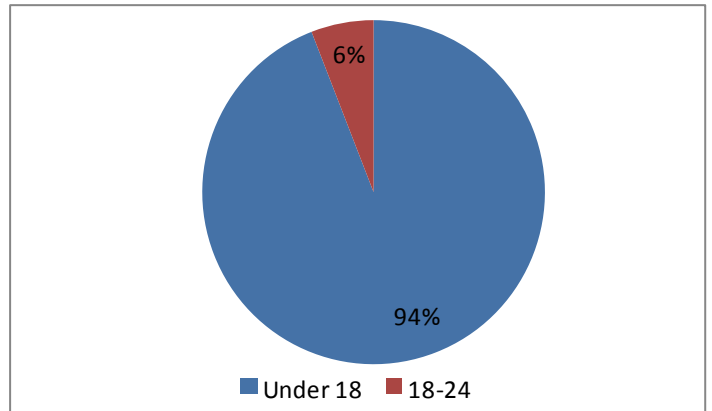
Only six participants responded. Four comments were general positive remarks. One comment regarding feeling safe, one noticed how fast Teen Court dates fill up and the need to air quality around certain industries in town.



**Q14: What is your gender?**



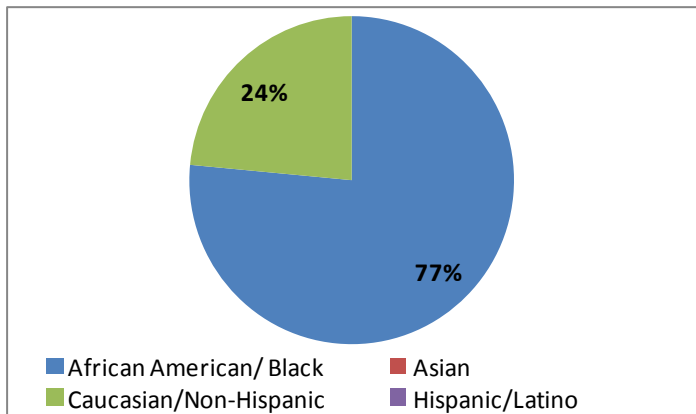
**Q14: What is your age?**



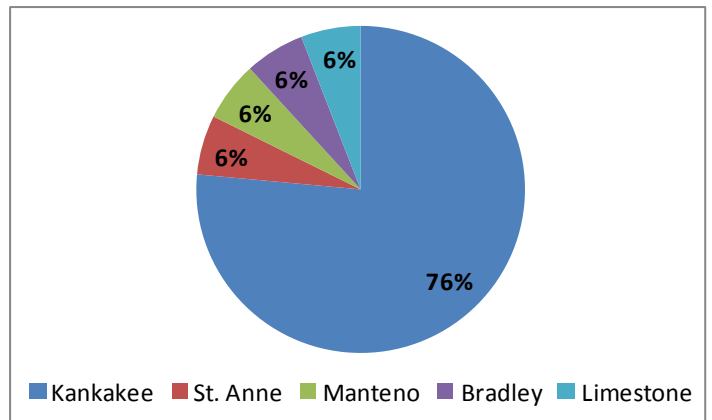
**Q16: What is your highest level of educational attainment?**

All respondents had completed some high school, but not yet graduated.

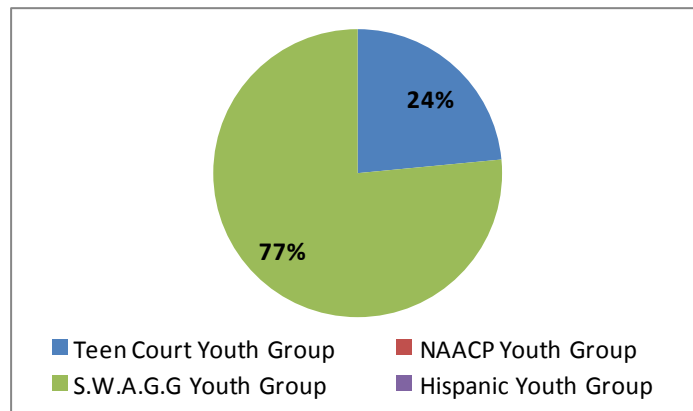
**Q17: What is your race ethnicity?**



**Q18: What city or town do you live in?**



**Q19: Data was collected from:**



Just over half the participants were female. All participants were under 25 and the majority were under 18. All have completed some high school, but not yet graduated. Three-quarters identified as Black, with the rest as white. Most were from the city of Kankakee and most were part of the SWAGG Youth Group.