Alameda County Government Services & Operations Climate Action Plan

Public Survey Summary | December 15, 2021

Survey Objective

Alameda County released an online survey designed to gauge public opinion and priorities regarding how Alameda County government operations and services can prepare for and address climate change. This was the first survey in a series of two surveys meant to solicit input for the Government Services & Operations Climate Action Plan (GOCAP).

Methodology

This summary reflects the following survey data post-processing:

- Removed duplicative responses (i.e., those who submitted identical answers across all questions and from similar time stamp). Responses with a few similarities with others, but otherwise different, were kept.
- Removed responses from people who do not live NOR work in Alameda County.
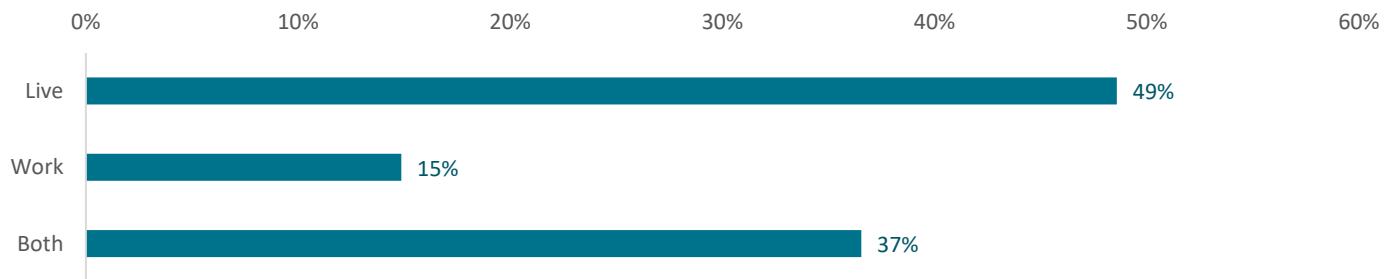- Review and removed, if needed, any response that seemed suspicious (e.g., indicated zip code as letters).
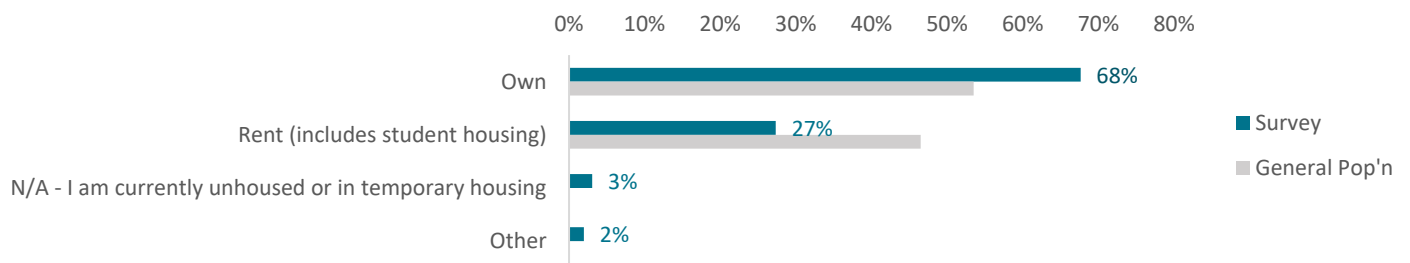
Survey Details

- **Duration:** September 3 to 30, 2021
- **Unique Clicks:** 1,900 (English), 870 (Spanish), 856 (Chinese),
- **Responses:** 1,158 (English), 45 (Chinese), 14 (Spanish)
- **Average time to complete survey:** 13 minutes (English), 21 minutes (Spanish), 12 minutes (Chinese)
- **Average percent completion:** 78% (English), 79% (Spanish), 98% (Chinese)

Demographic Summary

Relationship to Alameda County

Live	49%
Work	15%
Both	37%

Home Ownership

	Survey	General Pop'n
Own	68%	
Rent (includes student housing)	27%	
N/A - I am currently unhoused or in temporary housing	3%	
Other	2%	

Age

	Survey	General Pop'n
19 or younger	15%	
20-44 years	49%	
45-64 years	22%	
65 or over	14%	

Income[1]

Chart showing Survey vs General Pop'n percentages by income bracket:

Income	Survey
Less than $25,000	6%
$25,000-$49,999	13%
$50,000-$74,999	16%
$75,000-$99,000	16%
$100,000-$124,999	12%
$125,000-$149,999	9%
Over $150,000	28%

Legend: Survey, General Pop'n

Race/Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	Survey
Asian or Asian American – South Asian	6%
Asian or Asian American – East Asian	8%
Asian or Asian American – Southeast Asian	5%
Asian or Asian American – Other	3%
Black or African American	6%
Hispanic, Latino, Latina, or Latinx	11%
Middle Eastern, North African, or Arab American	2%
Native American, American Indian, or Alaska Native	4%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	2%
White or Caucasian	51%
I prefer not to say	5%
Other (please specify):	2%

Legend: Survey, General Pop'n

Sector Representation

Sector	Survey
Energy	8%
Manufacturing	6%
Education, health care, and social assistance	21%
Tech	8%
Faith/religious based groups	7%
Environmental advocacy	13%
Public transit, walking, cycling	7%
Design, development, or construction	4%
Real estate	2%
Agriculture	4%
None	13%
Other	7%

[1] Census data combines all income levels above $100,000, so the chart only reflects comparison with the general population for incomes below $100,000.

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Overarching Feedback and Takeaways

Respondents were asked questions regarding climate awareness and impacts, GOCAP priorities, vision, challenges, concerns, and County services. Key themes are summarized below and in the table that follows:

- Most respondents where either **well-informed** or **familiar** with climate issues and believe Alameda County's **emission reduction goals and climate preparedness efforts** should be either **more ambitious** or **on par** with other Bay Area local governments.
- Most respondents think it is **very important** for the GOCAP to prioritize actions that support social equity and vulnerable community members.
- Most respondents are **very concerned** about most climate impacts, have **experienced discomfort,** had to **change their daily routine,** and/or had their **health** affected by climate impacts.
- Respondents believe the **most valuable GOCAP strategies** are 1) sustainable County lands that provide shade and trees, 2) green, efficient, clean-powered County buildings, 3) resilient County services in the face of climate impacts, and 4) low-emissions and electric County fleet.
- The most important **Vision 2026 goals** among respondents are eliminating homelessness, eliminating poverty and hunger, and healthcare for all.

Topic	Key takeaways
County services - adaptation	Key County services to address climate preparedness: - **Information and technical assistance**, especially through County email and community organizations. - **Funding** - **Air filters** - **Resilience hubs and shelters**
County services - mitigation	Key County services to address climate mitigation needs: - Transition to **electric vehicles** and **clean energy sources** - **Education** to raise awareness about climate change - **Tree planting** and **green space** - Clear **guidance and incentives** (e.g., for waste & energy management)
Climate impacts	Top climate impact concerns: - **Smoke, heat, and air quality** - **Health concerns** - **Evacuation and wildfire impacts to infrastructure** - **Drought and food security**
Priorities for the County	Key priorities include: - **Health** and **poverty** - **Ambitious GOCAP** strategies - Supporting **vulnerable communities** - **Education and outreach** to support climate mitigation and adaptation
Challenges & barriers	Key challenges and barriers: - **Unhoused population** - **Cost of living** - **Transportation and access**
Other comments & feedback	Other comments and feedback include: - Respondents would like to **more reliable communication channels** with County staff and services - **Electrification, EVs, and general resilience** were reoccurring themes - Public is very happy with the **election process** - **Email** and **social media** are preferred forms of communication

Survey Results

This section provides summaries of each survey question combined for all three surveys (English, Chinese, and Spanish). Trends from the Chinese and Spanish surveys are provided when answers to a question deviate notably from the total combined responses. Note that some are presented out of original survey order to organize the document thematically.
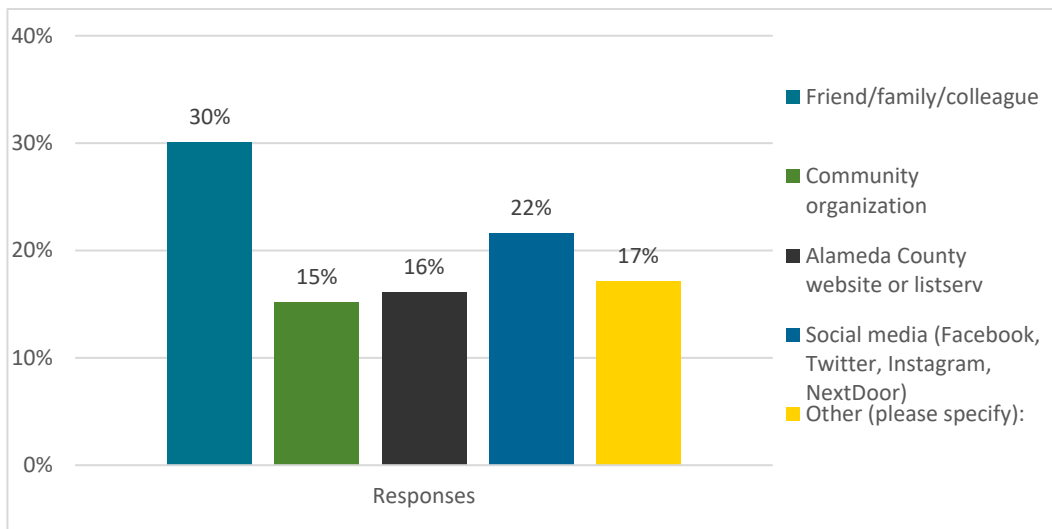
Contents

Q1. How did you hear about this survey? Select all that apply.

Answered: 1,198; Skipped: 18

Respondents heard about the survey from a variety of sources, most frequently from **friends/family/colleagues** and **social media**. Themes from the "Other" include school/teacher and newsletters/emails from leadership and neighborhood listservs.

Chinese survey respondents heard from the Alameda County website (44%) or a friend/family/colleague (44%) more than social media (42%) while **Spanish survey** respondents primarily heard from community organizations (57%). **English survey** respondents follow the trends in the chart above.

Q2. Do you live or work in Alameda County?

Answered: 1,204; Skipped: 12

Most respondents either just **live** (49%) or **both live and work** (37%) in Alameda County.
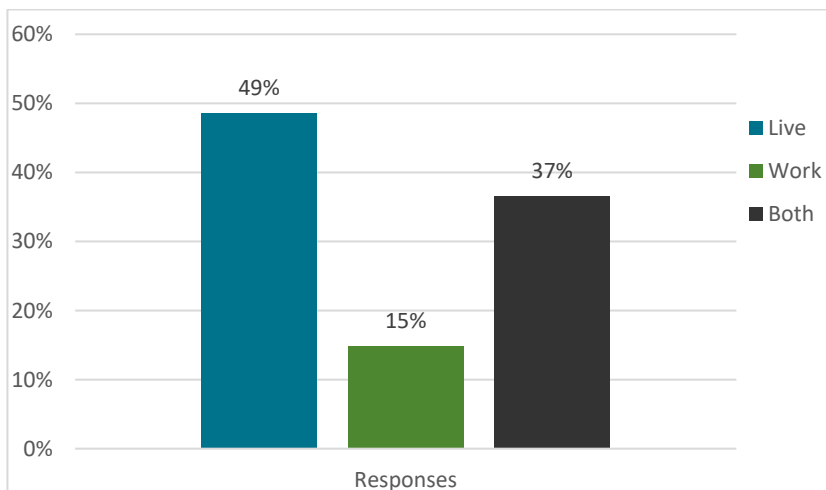
A higher proportion of respondents from the **Chinese survey** only work in Alameda County (35%) while more respondents from the **Spanish** survey live and work in the County (50%). **English survey** respondents follow the trends in the chart above.

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Q3. Do you work for a business or non-profit organization in Alameda County?

Answered: 606; Skipped: 610

Forty six percent of survey respondents indicated that they either work for a business, government entity, or non-profit organization in Alameda County. Of those respondents, 37% work for a **business** and 34% work for a **government or public entity**. Themes from the "Other" choice included self-employed and retired individuals.
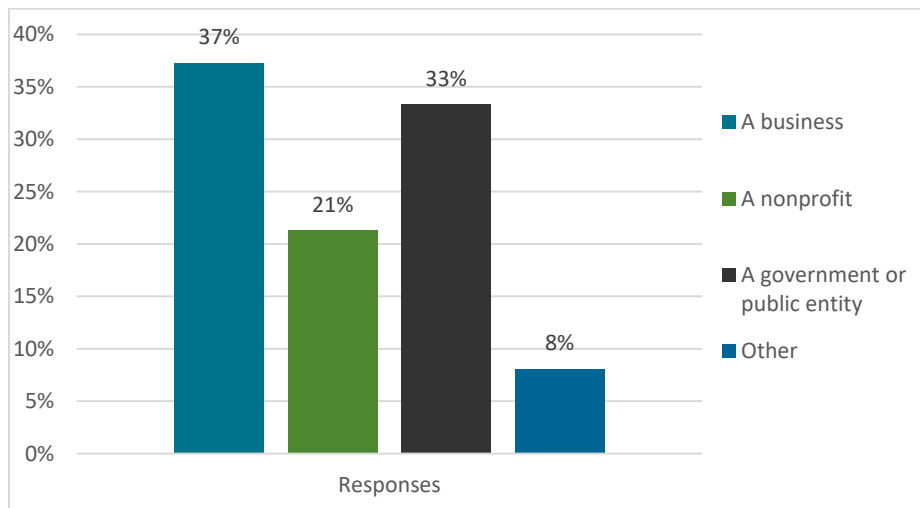
A higher proportion of respondents to the **Spanish and Chinese surveys** work for a non-profit (37% and 36%, respectively). English survey respondents follow the trend in the chart above.

Q4. Would you like to answer some additional questions from the perspective of your organization? These questions will ask about your experience as an organization.

Answered: 608; Skipped: 608

A total of 370 respondents chose to answer additional questions from the perspective of their organization.
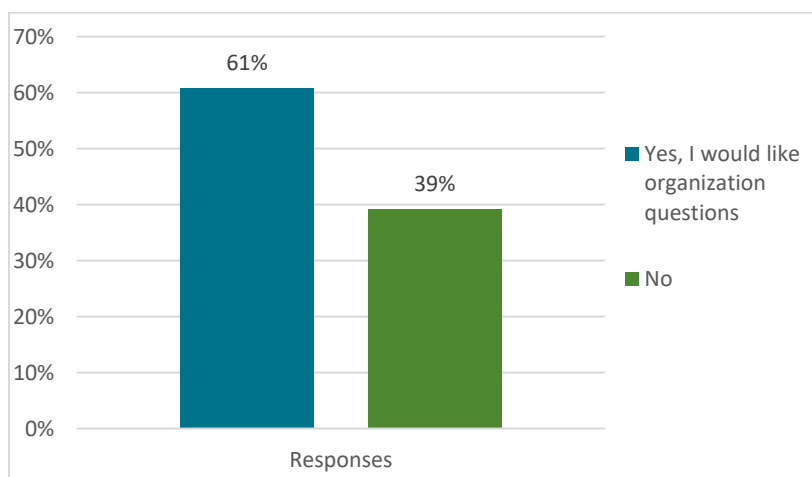
Q5. Is the business you work for a small business?

Answered: 221; Skipped: 995

Most respondents (65%) work for a **small business**.
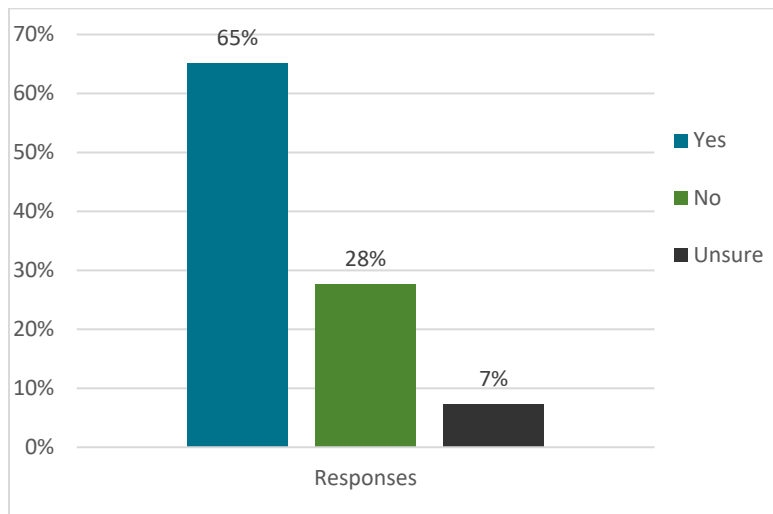
A higher proportion of respondents in the **Chinese survey** work for a small business (100%).

Q6. Are you a business owner in Alameda County?

Answered: 247; Skipped: 969

Most respondents (66%) are **not a business owner**.
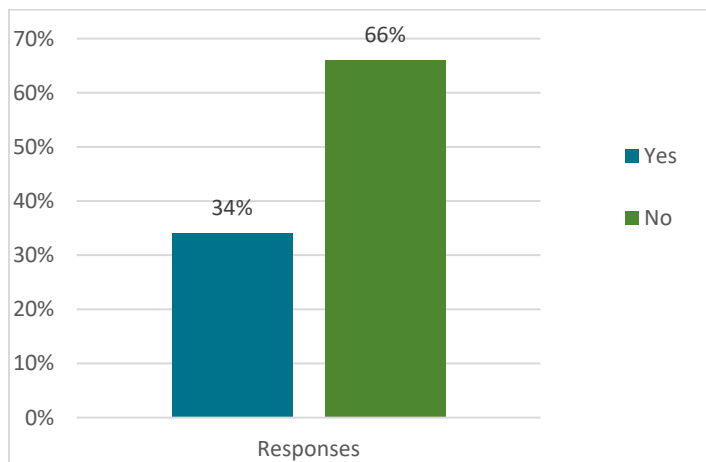
A higher proportion of respondents to this question in the **Chinese survey** are business owners (55%) while no respondents to the **Spanish survey** were small businesses. The trend in the graph above is consistent with **English survey** responses.

Q7. What is your zip code?

Answered: 1,167; Skipped: 49

Respondents indicated 278 zip codes (note that some respondents may only work in Alameda County and so may not be associated with an Alameda County zip code).

City	# of Responses	% of Responses
Livermore	220	17%
Oakland	154	12%
Berkeley	78	6%
Piedmont & Oakland	62	5%
Hayward	45	4%
Castro Valley & Hayward	40	3%
San Leandro	39	3%
Emeryville	31	2%
Pleasanton	31	2%
Fremont	22	2%
Albany	15	1%
San Lorenzo	15	1%
Dublin Pleasanton	8	1%
Newark	7	1%
Union City	6	0.5%

The highest represented zip codes across surveys included Livermore (94550 and 94551) and Alameda (94501). The table below shows the top 10 most frequent zip codes among respondents across all surveys.

Zip code	City/Neighborhoods	# of Responses	% of Responses
94550	Livermore	165	14%
94501	Alameda	99	8%
94551	Livermore	55	5%
94546	Castro Valley	36	3%
94608	Emeryville	31	3%
94612	Oakland	31	3%
94541	Hayward	28	2%
94610	Piedmont & Oakland	26	2%
94577	San Leandro	25	2%
94611	Piedmont	25	2%

The most common zip codes for English survey respondents are 94550 and 94551 (Livermore) and 94501 (Alameda), for Chinese survey respondents is 94501 (Alameda) and for Spanish respondents is 94541 (Hayward).

Q8. How would you best describe your awareness and understanding of climate change issues?

Answered: 1,150; Skipped: 66

Most respondents where either **well-informed** (43%) or **familiar** (34%) with climate issues.
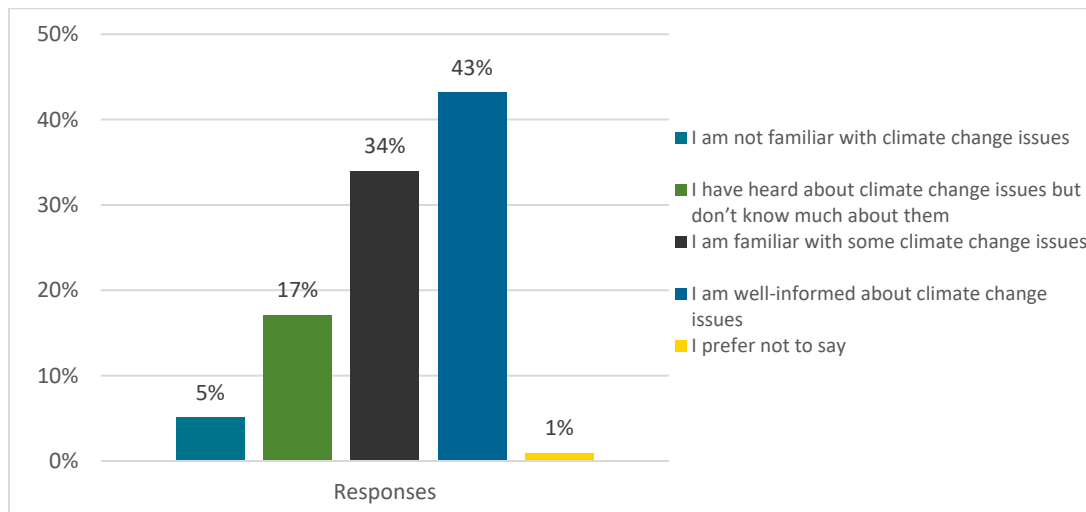
Respondents of the **Chinese survey** are generally less informed about climate issues, with 23% of respondents not familiar with climate change issues. Respondents of the **Spanish survey** are also generally less informed about climate issues, with 29% having only heard about climate issues. Respondents of **English survey** follow the trends in the chart above.

Q9. In the Climate Action Plan, the County will set goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (the heat-trapping pollution that causes climate change). Compared to other Bay Area county and city governments' climate action goals, Alameda County's emissions reductions goals should be…

Answered: 1,123; Skipped: 93

Most respondents think Alameda County's emission reduction goals should be either **more ambitious** (54%) or **on par** (34%) with other Bay Area local governments.
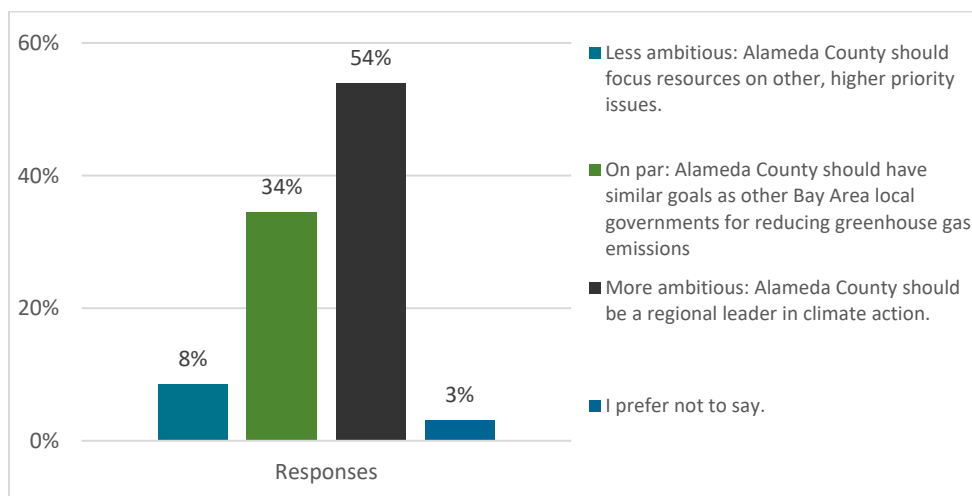
More respondents in the **Spanish survey** preferred not to share their perspective (23%). Responses to the **Chinese and English surveys** followed the trends in the chart above.

Q10. Compared to other Bay Area county and city governments' efforts to prepare for climate change impacts (such as sea level rise and increased extreme weather), Alameda County's climate preparedness efforts should be…

Answered: 1,122; Skipped: 94

Most respondents think Alameda County's climate preparedness efforts should be either **more ambitious** (54%) or **on par** (34%) with other Bay Area local governments.
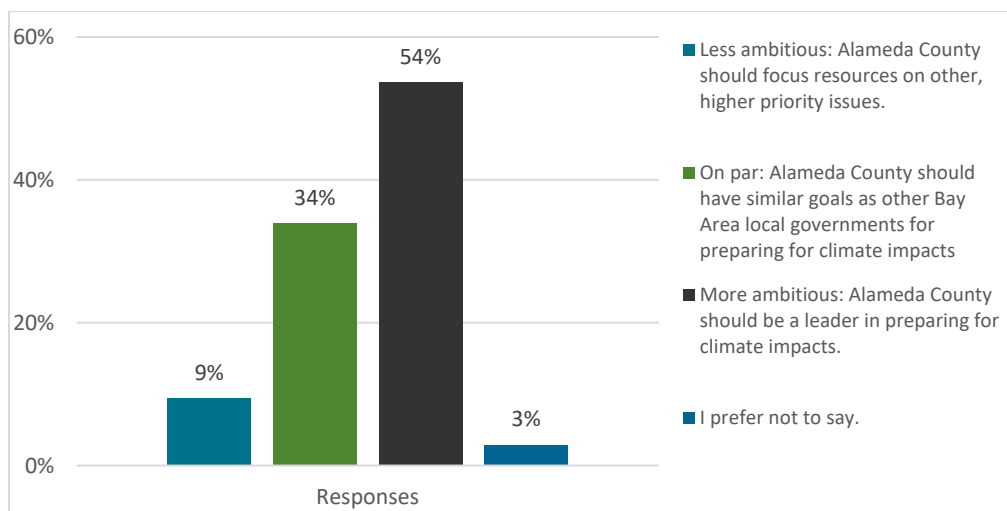
More respondents to the **Chinese survey** thought Alameda County should be more ambitious (65%). Responses to the **Spanish and English surveys** followed the trends in the chart above.

Q11. We would like to understand your priorities and vision for the County's future. Please fill in the blank: "In 10 years, I would like my community to be/have: _____."

Answered: 821 Skipped: 395

Themes from responses indicate that respondents would like their community to be/have:

- A **climate leader** that is **prepared** for climate emergencies
- **Affordable** and **clean** housing **for all**
- **Public parks** and **green spaces**
- **Zero** carbon
- **Clean air** and **water**
- **Equitable** solutions for **most vulnerable**
- Clean **alternatives** to cars (improved **public transit**, greater **bikeability**, safer **pedestrian** options)
- Climate **education** and **awareness**
- **Localized** and **distributed** clean electricity generation

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Select quotes that reflect these themes are provided below:

- *"A leader in climate resilience, equity, food/water/energy security and justice"*
- *"Walkable communities with enough affordable housing for everyone, renewable energy options for everybody, more localized renewable generation and agriculture (rooftop solar and gardens), energy efficient homes for all"*
- *"Climate change mitigation plans for our most vulnerable communities, a robust electric car charging infrastructure, almost complete reliance on renewable energy, and abundant trees and green spaces in all parts of the county (especially low-income areas)"*
- *"All electric buses and government vehicle fleets. Funding for low-income residents and renters to switch to electric home appliances."*
- *"The government fleet service has been improved"*
- *"All county vehicles to be electric; all County buildings to be 100% clean renewable energy"*
- *"Robust transit, community gardens, no food deserts, universal basic income, well-funded arts in schools, municipal internet, housing for all"*

Q12. What is a challenge that you currently face in your community? Please list a top challenge you experience, even if you are not sure it's related to climate change.

Answered: 805; Skipped: 411

Challenges faced by respondents include:

- **Litter**
- Lack of **affordable housing** and **high energy bills**
- **Homelessness**
- Poor **air** and **water quality**
- Extreme **heat** and **fires**
- Climate **denial** and **apathy**
- Lack of **public transit**
- **Unsafe roads**
- **Racism** and **socioeconomic inequity**
- **Inaccessible information**

Select quotes that reflect these themes are provided below:

- *"Littering; non-recycling ; non-composting"*
- *"Rising temperatures, high energy costs, drought, poor air quality, traffic, lack of affordable housing options"*
- *"Public transit access is still too irregular to convince car users to make the switch. If the County can increase bus and train frequency and expand routes covered by zero-emission vehicles, traffic and emissions can be cut while still providing Oaklanders the mobility solutions they need to get around town."*
- *"Many intersecting challenges such as housing affordability, racism, lack of education on climate change impacts and solutions make it challenging to make significant behavior changes and investments"*
- *"My neighborhood is neglected and polluted. We experience emissions and fumes from a foundry, and pollution from the trains, illegal dumping, heavy traffic on the freeway, and neglected city streets and humans trying to survive while having to live in tents and homemade shelters along railroad tracks."*
- *"En las áreas no incorporadas, no tenemos lugares de enfriamiento en caso de olas de calor y no sabemos a dónde ir. Aparte no hay mucha información en español"* [In the unincorporated areas, we do not have cooling centers to go to during heat waves, and we don't know where to go. Also, there is not much information in Spanish]

Q13. How important is it for this Climate Action Plan to prioritize actions that support social equity and vulnerable community members who are most affected by climate impacts? Vulnerable community members could include individuals with health conditions that make them more sensitive to smoky air or jobs which expose them more to smoky air, for example.

Answered: 1,010; Skipped: 206

Most respondents (65%) think it is **very important** for the GOCAP to prioritize actions that support social equity and vulnerable community members. Themes from "Other" responses included 1) not knowing or understanding what it means and 2) making the point that addressing equity has to be a part of the solution and that the underlying systems that created inequity must be addressed.

A higher proportion of respondents to the **Spanish survey** (91%) indicated that it is **very important** for the GOCAP to prioritize actions that support social equity and vulnerable community members. Responses to the **Chinese** and **English surveys** were consistent with the trends in the above chart.

Q14. Please share any climate-related initiatives your organization is leading. If you have a link to a website or document, please indicate.

Answered: 141; Skipped: 1,075

Climate-related initiatives led by respondent organizations in the area of Community Resilience include:

- Friends of Lincoln Square Park working towards Lincoln Square Park Recreation Center Expansion; it will double as an emergency shelter
- Supporting resilience hubs and urban agriculture
- Albany Department of Sustainability
- UCOP collaborating with Oakland and Alameda on climate resilience workshops
- Physicians, Scientists, and Engineers for Healthy Energy
- Sanleandro2050.org

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- Achieving Resilient Communities

Climate-related initiatives led by respondent organizations in the area of Transportation include:
- Tax credits for public transportation
- Walk Bike Berkeley (funded by Bike East Bay) is integrating social equity into reimagining Berkeley's transportation system; one of their initiatives is to increase e-bike use
- Albany Department of Sustainability
- https://www.csueastbay.edu/sustainability/
- Gillig builds electric transit buses with union buses

Climate-related initiatives led by respondent organizations in the area of Built Environment include:
- Friends of Lincoln Square Park working towards Lincoln Square Park Recreation Center Expansion; it will double as an emergency shelter
- Supporting resilience hubs and urban agriculture
- Solar panels
- Preserving libraries, archives, and museums; podcast here
- Reach codes for existing residential buildings
- https://www.csueastbay.edu/sustainability/
- https://www.saverubymeadow.org/

Climate-related initiatives led by respondent organizations in the area of Sustainable Materials Management include:
- Berkeley Public School's Sustainability Plan includes zero-waste commitment
- Albany Department of Sustainability
- Supporting implementation of SB 1383
- Stopwaste.org
- https://www.csueastbay.edu/sustainability/

Climate-related initiatives led by respondent organizations in the area of Green Economy & Recovery include:
- Albany Department of Sustainability
- East Bay Community Energy Local Development Business Plan

Climate-related initiatives led by respondent organizations in the area of Climate Action Leadership include:
- Berkeley Public Schools's Sustainability Plan
- Facilitating En-ROADS Workshop; networking with climate organizations; reaching out to youth clubs; serving on Livermore Climate Action Plan Advisory Committee
- Albany Department of Sustainability
- Participating in national low carbon days
- Physicians, Scientists, and Engineers for Healthy Energy
- Hayward Environment
- https://www.csueastbay.edu/sustainability/
- Fremont Climate Action Plan

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Q15. How concerned are you about the following in Alameda County?

Answered: 1,006; Skipped: 210

Respondent themes regarding climate impact concerns include:

- Most respondents are **very concerned** about most climate impacts.
- Impacts of **most concern** are drought/water supply and smoky air.
- Impacts of **least concern** are extreme precipitation & inland flooding and sea level rise & storm surge.

	Not concerned	Somewhat concerned	Very concerned	Not sure	Total
Extreme Temperatures & heat waves	71	281	634	16	1002
	7%	*28%*	*63%*	*2%*	
Wildfires	43	262	678	14	997
	4%	*26%*	*68%*	*1%*	
Smoky air	34	220	723	15	992
	3%	*22%*	*73%*	*2%*	
SLR & storm surges	120	411	442	29	1002
	12%	*41%*	*44%*	*3%*	
Extreme precipitation & inland flooding	223	396	340	44	1003
	22%	*39%*	*34%*	*4%*	
Drought & water supply	28	192	764	15	999
	3%	*19%*	*76%*	*2%*	
Changes in or loss of habitat & species	73	317	585	27	1002
	7%	*32%*	*58%*	*3%*	

English survey responses are consistent with the trend in the table above. Respondents to the **Chinese survey** are more concerned about sea level rise & storm surges and extreme precipitation and inland flooding compared to **English survey** respondents and total combined survey responses, and also very concerned across other climate impacts. Respondents to the **Spanish survey** are more concerned across all climate impacts— particularly smoky air (90% "very concerned"), extreme heat (90% "very concerned), and drought and water supply (90% "very concerned").

Q16. Are there any other climate impacts you are concerned about?

Answered: 564; Skipped: 654

Many respondents did not have other climate impacts they were concerned about. Additional climate impacts of concern by respondents included:

- **Food insecurity** and impacts of drought/fires on food production and soil loss
- **Species** and **habitat loss**
- Impacts to **housing market** and **affordability**
- **Economic decline** and **price increases**
- **Climate refugees**
- **Vector-borne illnesses**
- **Grid reliability** and **power outages**
- **Earthquakes** and **tsunamis**

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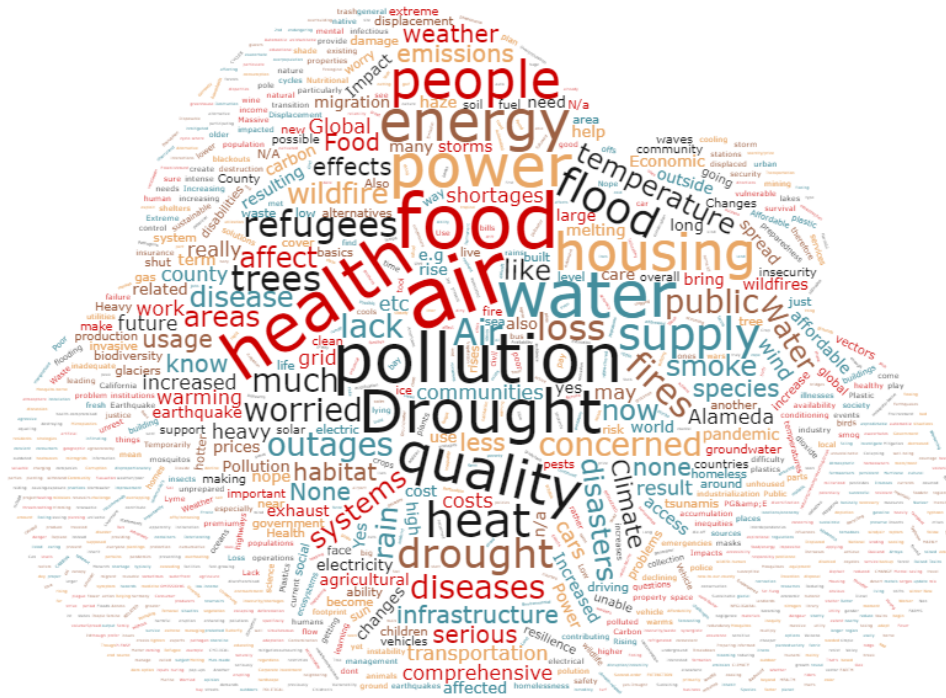
Select quotes that support these themes are provided below:

- *"Mitigating wildfire smoke in older buildings will be a challenge."*
- *"Availability of infrastructure to support alternative energy usage such as electric car charging stations, solar collection sites"*
- *"Housing people fleeing uninhabitable geographic regions"*
- *"Invasion of tropical diseases and pests as the climate warms. Food and power shortages in Alameda County that result from extreme heat, wildfires, flooding and drought elsewhere in California and beyond."*
- *"Species displacement due to climate change and habitat encroachment by humans."*
- *"The ability of families who to find affordable housing close to services"*
- *"All of the above affect the unhoused much more, so I'm very concerned about housing justice and accessibility."*
- *"I am concerned that communities of color are disproportionately affected by climate change."*
- *"Impact of extreme weather/poor air quality on public health, impacts to housing market."*

Q17. How have climate impacts (such as heat waves, smoky air, drought, sea level rise, storms and flooding, and the spread of insects) affected you in the past few years? Select all that apply.

Answered: 991; Skipped: 225

Most respondents **experienced discomfort** (62%), had to **change their daily routine** (50%), and/or had their **health** affected (42%) by climate impacts.

Less frequently experienced impacts among respondents included flooding (5%), crop/property loss from fires (8%), and evacuation (12%).

A minority of respondents (9%) experienced **none** of the listed climate impacts.

Themes from the "Other" responses included:

- **Poor air quality**
- Inability to go **outside**
- Lack of **outdoor recreation**
- **Stress**
- **Power outages**
- **Negative health impacts** on self and family

Chart with the following data:
- I experienced discomfort: 62%
- My household or I had to change my daily routine: 50%
- My health was affected: 42%
- I have missed school or work, or could not do school or work as normal: 34%
- I had to find cool places outside my home: 24%
- My child's school was closed: 19%
- I was evacuated or put on evacuation alert due to wildfires: 12%
- I have lost crops or property due to droughts or fires: 8%
- I have experienced flooding: 5%
- Other (please specify): 10%
- None of the above: 9%

(x-axis labeled "Responses")

Responses from the **English survey** follow the trend shown in the graph above. In the **Chinese survey,** respondents experienced discomfort (49%) almost as much as changes to their or their household's daily routine (46%). More respondents to the **Spanish survey** experienced changes to their (or their household's) daily routine (80%) than other impacts.

Q18. In more detail if applicable, please share how the above climate change impacts or any others have affected you, your family, your workplace, or your community.

Answered: 485; Skipped: 731

Themes from responses regarding impacts to respondents, their family, workplace, or community include:

- **Heat, air quality, and health impacts**, including having to stay inside and inability to exercise, work, or go to school
- Reductions in **water usage** due to drought
- **Fear and anxiety**
- **Power outages** and impacts to work and daily life
- **Evacuation** or having to prepare to evacuate at any time

Select quotes that reflect these themes are provided below:

- *"I live in rental housing and cannot make changes that make the unit less permeable to outdoor air quality."*
- *"Concerned about spending so much money on a house only to have it flood or burn within 5 years."*
- *"I cry often about how dire things have become."*
- *"We have reduced water usage due to drought, have to rethink garden planting (lawn was already gone). Smoke from fires keeps us inside and impacts our breathing."*
- *"Air quality is a major issue if it persist for several days. Some of my families houses, which are older building complexes, are not able to filter out smoky air."*
- *"We're going to need to retrofit our home with a cooling system to keep our children from overheating during heat waves. And we are considering a back-up power system to contend with all the power outages."*
- *"I have seriously considered leaving California to avoid wildfires, despite being a lifelong Californian."*
- *"I limited exercise due to poor air quality. Has been difficult to remain at home during the pandemic. Concerned for my child's health on poor air days and for those without purifiers or A/C."*
- *"My workplace has been closed due to smoke, and my daily routine of exercise is completely disrupted due to smoke. We feel trapped inside our house. Then when it gets too hot, we feel trapped outside our house! My most beloved places on earth have burned in recent fires."*
- *"Children's mental well being are adversely affected, with schools closing or not being allowed to go out due to poor air quality. Family always in "in flight" mode with emergency backpacks and supplies ready. Home insurance was dropped and had to find a different place to insure our home, which is not in the wildfire hazard zone but was included by the insurance company anyway. All family members affected in one way or another, physically, emotionally, or financially."*
- *"Smoke is harming our library collections through poor HVAC. I'm concerned about the risks to cultural heritage institutions in Alameda County & would love to be involved more."*

Answered: 160; Skipped: 1,056

Key services indicated by respondents include:

- **Information and technical assistance** (included classes), especially during an emergency
- **Funding**
- **Air filters**
- **Resilience hubs and shelters**
- Better **public transportation**

Select quotes that reflect these themes are provided below:

- *"Community-wide, community-driven preparedness and resilience planning; resilience hubs for cooling, heating, community building, and safety in extreme events; require climate science be taught in every level of education curriculum; innovation hubs to test new technologies, behavioral changes, and projects; divest from fossil fuels; hire more diverse candidates that represent our community."*
- *"All Community Centers should offer quarterly prep classes to prepare people for the seasonal crises which occur. Also Emergency preparedness courses should be offered on line free of charge to all county residents."*
- *"Community level earthquake and climate change catastrophes emergency plans and Resilient hubs. More urban ag food sites that have urban forest that help mitigate and adaptation to climate change."*
- *"Information for new residents on what climate-related events to expect and how to prepare and respond."*
- *"Guidance for businesses and government institutions on preparedness and especially on protecting workers and residents. Often workplaces are reluctant to let people work from home or better locations in a way that minimizes smoke inhalation."*
- *"Getting the information out is so key. Not everyone has computers. Libraries and other public facilities would be good places for assistance to the public, but they are not always open."*
- *"Better public transportation, currently BART from Antioch BART to Dublin BART is 2.5hrs whereas a vehicle commute is only 1.5hrs. So I still drive as a single occupancy vehicles. I am unable to afford to live in Alameda County and am left to do this commute."*

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- *"Community-wide, community-driven preparedness and resilience planning; resilience hubs for cooling, heating, community building, and safety in extreme events; require climate science be taught in every level of education curriculum; innovation hubs to test new technologies, behavioral changes, and projects; divest from fossil fuels; hire more diverse candidates that represent our community."*
- *"When there are weather or emergency events, they should be announced in Spanish since alerts are usually in English."*

Q20. The County's climate actions can have benefits beyond addressing climate change. How important are the following additional benefits to you?

Answered: 969; Skipped: 247

Importance of additional benefits include:

- The **most important benefits** are 1) improving air and water quality, 2) improving disaster preparedness, safety, and resilience, and 3) increasing green space and tree canopy cover
- The **least important benefits** are 1) reducing costs and utility bills and 2) improving the economy and creating jobs
-

	Not Important	Somewhat Important	Very Important	Not Sure	Total	Weighted Average
Improving air and water quality	1.98% 19	16.48% 158	80.08% 768	1.46% 14	959	2.81
Increasing green space and tree canopy cover	3.44% 33	22.81% 219	71.77% 689	1.98% 19	960	2.72
Improving disaster preparedness, safety, and resilience	3.22% 31	22.93% 221	71.99% 694	1.87% 18	964	2.73
Improving the economy and creating jobs	5.82% 56	31.88% 307	60.54% 583	1.77% 17	963	2.58
Improving social equity and supporting historically underserved communities	6.43% 62	22.41% 216	68.26% 658	2.90% 28	964	2.68
Reducing costs and utility bills	9.40% 90	35.53% 340	51.93% 497	3.13% 30	957	2.49
Supporting seniors and other vulnerable populations	3.52% 34	25.44% 246	69.39% 671	1.65% 16	967	2.69

Respondents from the **English survey** follow the trends in the table described above. Responses from the **Chinese survey** indicated improving the economy as more important compared to the **English survey** and **all survey responses combined**. Respondents of the **Spanish survey** indicated that more benefits are "very important" compared to Chinese, English, and total survey respondents.
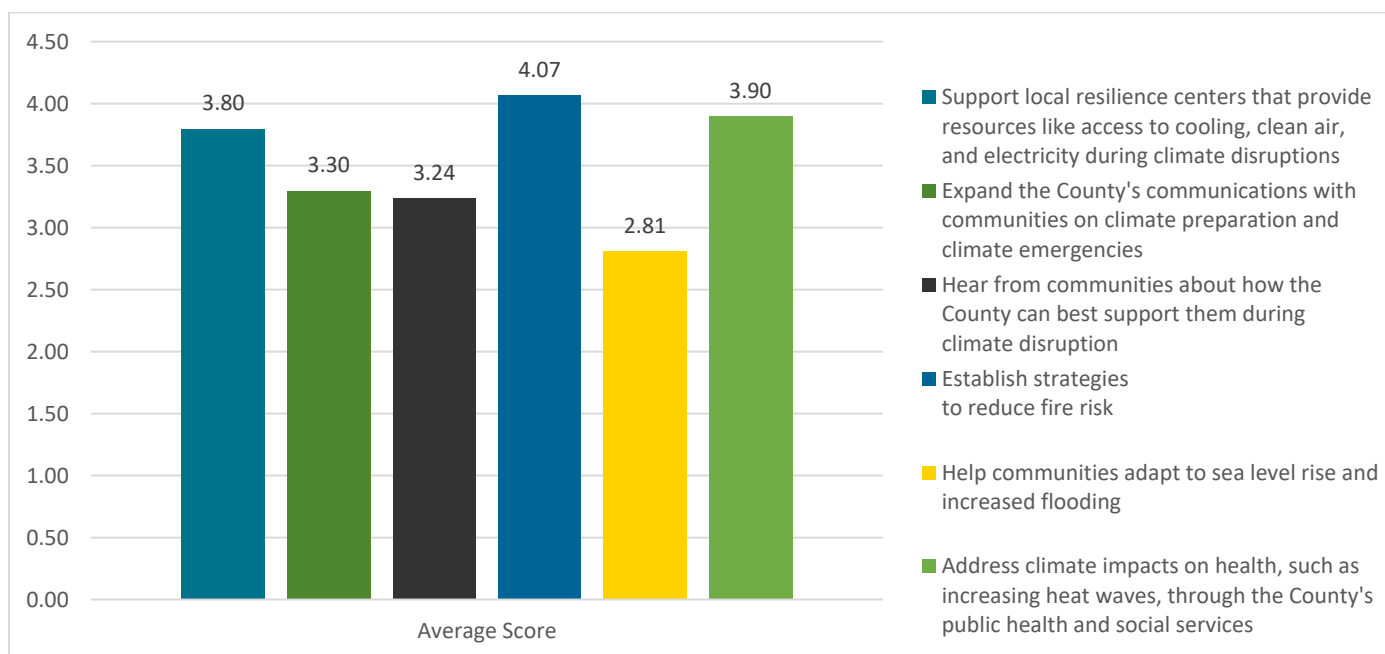
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Q21. Which of the following priorities would be most valuable for the County to focus on in the next 3-5 years? Please rank the below answer choices from 1 (least valuable) to 6 (most valuable).

Answered: 927; Skipped: 289

Respondent priorities include:

- The **most valuable priorities** are 1) establishing strategies to reduce fire risk, 2) addressing climate impacts on health, and 3) supporting local resilience centers.
- The **least valuable priority** is helping communities adapt to sea level rise and increased flooding.

In the graph below, higher average scores indicate more valuable priorities.

Legend:
- Support local resilience centers that provide resources like access to cooling, clean air, and electricity during climate disruptions
- Expand the County's communications with communities on climate preparation and climate emergencies
- Hear from communities about how the County can best support them during climate disruption
- Establish strategies to reduce fire risk
- Help communities adapt to sea level rise and increased flooding
- Address climate impacts on health, such as increasing heat waves, through the County's public health and social services

Bar values (Average Score): 3.80, 3.30, 3.24, 4.07, 2.81, 3.90

Respondents of the **Chinese survey** indicated increased importance of "establish strategies to reduce fire risk" and "help communities adapt to sea level rise and increased flooding" and decreased importance of "address climate impacts on health" compared to the total survey responses. (Note: English survey responses follow the trends in the graph above.)

Respondents of the **Spanish survey** indicated higher level of importance for "support local resilience centers", "establish strategies to reduce fire risk," and "hear from communities" with lesser importance placed on "expand the County's communications," "help communities adapt to sea level rise and increased flooding" and "address climate impacts on health" compared to English and Chinese survey respondents.

Q22. How would you prefer to receive information about preparing for climate impacts? Select all that apply.

Answered: 958; Skipped: 258

Most respondents prefer to receive information via **emails from the County** (65%), a **local newspaper or news website** (45%), and from **neighborhood or community organizations** (38%).

Few respondents prefer to receive information from their place of worship (9%).

Themes from "Other" responses included from schools, local television news shows, radio/internet ads, and text messages.
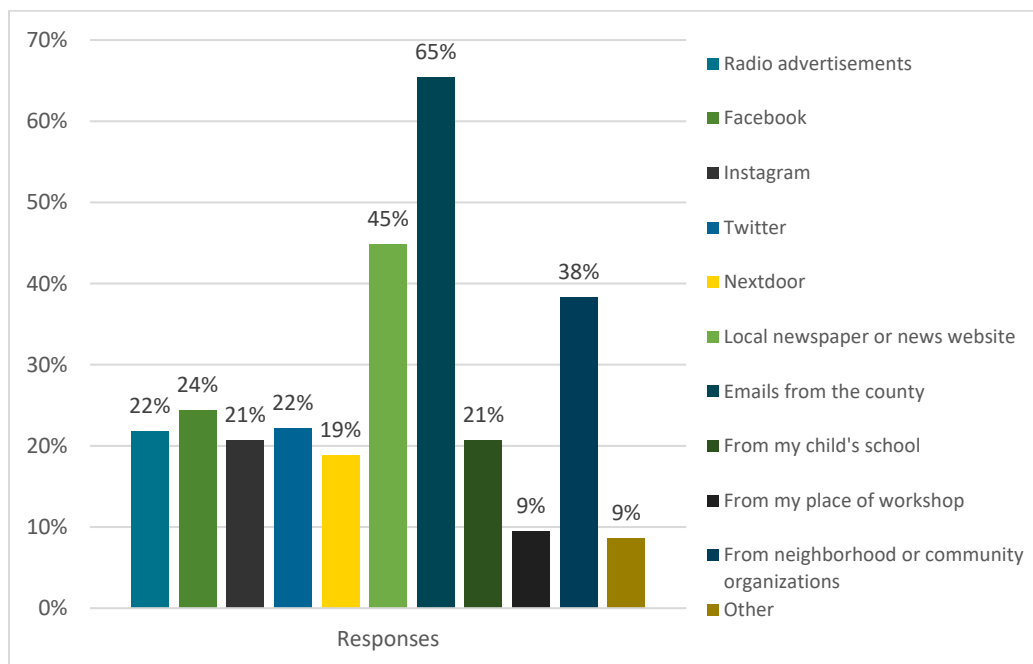
Respondents to the **Chinese survey** prefer radio advertisements (49%) and Facebook (57%) more than all survey respondents. Respondents to the **Spanish survey** prefer Facebook (67%), radio (55%), Twitter (55%), and from neighborhood or community organizations (67%) more than all survey respondents. Respondents to the English survey follow the trends in the graph above.

Q23. In your opinion, how important are the following strategies for Alameda County to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with County operations and prepare for climate impacts in the next 3-5 years?

Answered: 945; Skipped: 271

Importance of the strategies to respondents include:

- The **least valuable** strategies are 1) low-emissions County employee commuting or telecommuting and 2) zero waste in County operations
- The **most valuable strategies** are 1) sustainable County lands that provide climate benefits such as shade and trees, 2) green, efficient County buildings that use clean power, 3) resilient County services that continue to operate in the face of climate impacts, and 4) low emissions County employee fleet cars and trucks
-

	Not Important	Somewhat Important	Very Important	Not Sure	Total
Green, efficient County buildings that use clean power	4.67%	26.51%	67.23%	1.59%	943
	44	250	634	15	
Resilient County services that continue to operate in the face of climate impacts	4.68%	27.13%	64.79%	3.40%	940
	44	255	609	32	

Support for local County vendors to be more sustainable and resilient	4.81% 45	39.89% 373	51.98% 486	3.32% 31	935
Zero waste in County operations	5.01% 48	34.97% 335	56.37% 540	3.65% 35	958
Low-emissions County employee commuting or telecommuting	5.88% 55	31.30% 293	59.62% 558	3.21% 30	936
Low-emissions, electric County fleet cars and trucks	5.12% 48	25.61% 240	65.96% 618	3.31% 31	937
Sustainable County lands that provide climate benefits such as shade and trees	3.51% 33	21.81% 205	71.49% 672	3.19% 30	940

Respondents to the **Spanish survey** assigned higher importance rankings to several strategies—particularly sustainable County lands; green, efficient County buildings; resilient County services; and support for local vendors—than English survey respondents.

Q24. What specific actions or changes do you feel would most help Alameda County government operations and services best reduce greenhouse gas emissions and/or prepare for climate change?

Answered: 499; Skipped: 717

Specific changes or actions indicated by respondents include:

- **Electric vehicles**
- **Carpooling**
- **Electrification**
- **Tree planting** and **green space**
- **Clean energy** facilities
- **Collaborations** with local organizations
- **Affordable housing**
- **Accessibility**

Select quotes that reflect these themes are provided below:

- *"Go electric, go solar and net zero on all new private and public construction, require solar when re-roofing, ban natural gas on new construction, fund neighborhood park improvements, coordinate sea level rise preparations along bay, ban single use plastic, buy from sustainable sources, encourage traffic roundabouts, electric bikes and trails. Reduce, reuse and recycle. Encourage meaningful state and federal legislation."*
- *"Limit use of fossil-fueled vehicles; more carpooling of crews/teams instead of individual cars and trucks parading around."*
- *"Opening up county land for community land stewardship for urban greening and serving as resilient hubs. These actions have longer term and serve more people rather than really expensive smaller CO2 emissions. More green. mainly tree/plants and water harvesting/shed not just energy CO2 'sustainable', buildings."*
- *"Convert to low-emission operations in transportation and provide climate mitigation measures in low-income neighborhoods."*
- *"Transportation including all-electric buses, separate streets for biking to increase safety (look at Denmark for ideas), all-electric fleet for government agencies including schools."*
- *"Collaborate with EBCE to make all County facilities all-electric with islandable storage so that they can be safe shelters in a heat wave and/or PSPS shutoff &/or wildfire loss of power and/or earthquake. Support all county municipal facilities to do the same with priority on decentralized facilities like libraries and community centers). Collaborate with BayREN to use all of these as demo projects in PR blitz to encourage all commercial and residentials to do the same. Prioritize making a highly functional transportation system across the County (and interacting with other Counties) that integrates transit and micromobility to work together and replace most car trips. Encourage not only electrification of fleet vehicles, but also appropriate scaling to use e-bikes where appropriate. https://www.climateaction.center/e-bike-fleets."*
- *"For the county to serve as the model for efficient energy use and provide easy ways for residents to use, such as plugs for electric cars, masks, purifiers, rebates for energy efficient appliances."*
- *"Changing your county vehicles to electric vehicles, using solar at all county admin buildings, assessing what changes to communities are needed for the inevitable sea level rise, and establishing a plan to combat those changes."*
- *"Incorporate transportation alternatives into ALL road planning, maintenance, and repair. Build protected-and-connected bike networks using existing funds. Deprioritize car-focused projects and prioritize alternatives."*
- *"Use electric landscaping equipment; convert fleet to electric vehicles, ensure building energy efficiency, incentivize businesses and residents creating and using renewable energy, and building energy efficiency."*
- *"Support affordable housing and affordable public transit so that people don't need to commute from far away to work in our county. Supporting telecommuting/remote work is great too but the reality is that the folks who live outside our county and drive in hold jobs that cannot be done remotely."*
- *"Improving public transit systems and encouraging walking/biking to access services. Additionally, creating shade cover with trees and reducing the amount of asphalt in newly constructed buildings could be another step in creating cooler areas."*
- *"Providing the community with the education, tools and resources to implement their own actions at home to reduce their carbon footprint. Provide incentives for families to utilize such methods, as they are expensive, which is a major reason more people are not buying hybrid cars or installing solar panels."*
- *"Electrify Everything! Switch to 100% renewable power Now! Ban Natural Gas in all new buildings Now! Ban any new fossil fuel infrastructure (e.g. power plants, gas stations, NatGas lines, etc.)."*
- *"Since 60% of our greenhouse gases in Alameda County come from cars, we need to reduce driving. We need better public transit, county bldgs better situated to public transit, electric vehicles for county, incentives for employees to ride bike/transit/walk, better bicycle facilities that people want to use (protected bike lanes). Bikes and ebikes are most practical since they cover larger distances than walking, especially when combined with public transit like BART. Continuous education, everywhere the employee looks, could at least raise some awareness and create a little guilt. Right now, nobody I know is planning changes in commutes or car use. Everyone is waiting for someone else to take action."*

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Q25. What services (e.g., information, technical assistance, other) could the County provide to help your business or organization reduce waste, save energy, transition to clean and renewable electricity for fuel, serve climate-friendly foods, or other actions to minimize greenhouse gas emissions?

Answered: 145; Skipped: 1,071

Services indicated by respondents include:

- **Education**
- **Guidance and incentives** (e.g., ordinances, cost benefit analysis, technical support)
- Organized **collaborations**

Select quotes that reflect these themes are provided below:

- *"Give clear guidelines about recycling and composting, what goes in what can be confusing because some things labelled compostable aren't accepted and not all plastics are."*
- *"I would like to see a county Green Business Network/Directory that we could promote. You should create an Alameda County account in the Climate Action Now app. Promote the Community Challenge website (carbon calculator). Make mass transit feel safer and more convenient."*
- *"County wide standards and programs that can scale up efficiently. Example ordinances"*
- *"Examples of the use of clean energy and environmentally friendly products, testimony of the benefits from them, and detailed explanations of the costs."*
- *"I'd love to see cross-institution collaboration on preparing for climate risks, backed by county resources when possible. Every resident, worker, or institution making their own plans is exhausting."*
- *"Develop and maintain a website to address these issues; make the website user friendly and a spin other langue; make videos available to those who cannot read."*
- *"Information on recycling in our language (Spanish); informative workshops."*

Q26. The County's Vision 2026 (vision2026.acgov.org) is a set of goals to address challenges and meet community needs into the future. If you had to pick one, which of the Vision 2026 goals below is most important to you for the next 3 to 5 years?

Answered: 916; Skipped: 300

The **most important** Vision 2026 goals among respondents are eliminating homelessness (25%), eliminating poverty and hunger (26%), and healthcare for all (21%).

Least important Vision 2026 goals among respondents are accessible infrastructure (6%), employment for all (12%), and crime-free county (11%).
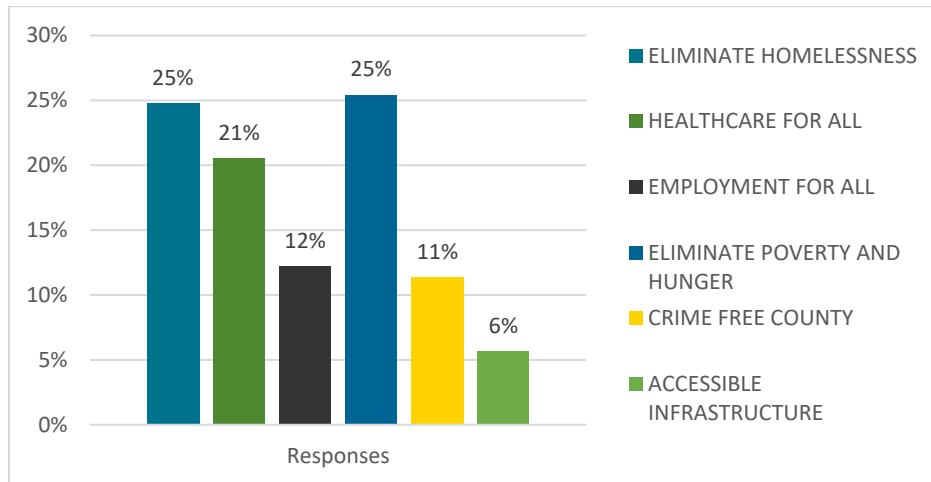
Respondents to the **Chinese survey** prioritized employment for all (23%) and healthcare for all (23%) more highly than English survey respondents (12% and 21%, respectively). Respondents to the **Spanish survey** prioritized eliminated homelessness (55%) more than **English survey** respondents (25)%.

Q27. What makes your chosen goal important to you? How might your chosen goal relate to climate action?

Answered: 600; Skipped: 616

Themes from respondents include:

- Adequate **healthcare** would help people address **health impacts** from **climate change**
- People whose **basic needs** are met will be **better equipped** to contribute to **climate solutions**
- Creation of **green jobs** will **curb poverty** and **climate change**
- The **unhoused** and other **vulnerable populations** are **not resilient** to climate impacts
- Addressing the **root causes** of **crime** through **social investment** creates a **more sustainable future**
- Lack of **affordable housing** near people's **work** contributes to **more driving** and **emissions**
- **All goals** are **interconnected** and can be **related** to **climate action**

Select quotes that reflect these themes are provided below:

- *"It's criminal that we have people living outdoors in underpasses and parks, etc. I have to think that people who have a home, or healthcare, or a job, or access to services, are more likely to care about climate change than people who don't have anything at all."*
- *"The homelessness issue is very visible, and the solutions are multi-faceted. By implementing sustainable, multi-faceted solutions in housing, services to reduce poverty, and other health infrastructure, you can accomplish several goals in the above list. It all serves to establish important infrastructure that promotes resilience in the face of climate change."*
- *"I would like to see a Climate Corps and Green Jobs Corps type program open to all ages, providing training and benefit to the community."*
- *"Everyone deserves economic stability, especially considering how wealthy we are as a county. It also gives people more choice and opportunity. They are less likely to be forced into jobs, purchases, housing, etc., that exploits the environment and them."*
- *"Impoverished folks in Alameda County are disproportionately vulnerable to climate impacts; they are more likely to live in low-lying housing, less likely to have access to air conditioning, less likely to have flexibility from their employers to deal with climate impacts, and less likely to have adequate health coverage to deal with climate impacts. Supporting these populations will help ensure the very worst human impacts of climate change are avoided."*
- *"Reducing sources and incentives to crime through social and educational programs which incorporate offenders in resilience program career training and community projects both facilitates and better uses funds and human capital for people and for greater investment in positive, sustainable outcomes."*
- *"If I could afford to purchase a home here, my commute time would be shorter which would reduce my vehicle emissions contributing to the climate crises."*
- *"Eliminating poverty and hunger would address homelessness, crime, unemployment, and healthcare. All of the above issues are interrelated, and it is a matter of how the problems are addressed. These problems stem from systemic inequities and not personal failure. Communities need to have their basic needs met in order to address climate change and have any hope for the future. Keeping people in a state of fighting for survival means they cannot focus on anything but basic needs."*

Q28. If you've used a County service recently, what feedback do you have about that/those service(s) to increase efficiency, accessibility, or quality? (Services could include social services, elections, vital records, and many others.)

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Themes from respondent feedback include:

- **Unresponsive staff**
- **Positive election process**
- **Go paperless**
- **Subsidized transit**

Select quotes that reflect these themes are provided below:

- *"Need better IT systems and online access to information."*
- *"Better listening skills and following instructions and problem descriptions residents w. self-unsolvable---at least practically, if at all---grievances said. Not what is convenient and easy to say or write to anti-constituent-well-being, in their practices, public agencies and private organizations."*
- *"I appreciate how we had our election process, mail in ballots, notifications when ballot received and counted."*
- *"I have been very pleased with the texts I've gotten that confirm that my ballot was received by the postal service, and when it was delivered and counted. It helped immeasurably to know where it was in the process."*
- *"Records should be free and open by default, and available electronically. There should not be charges for acquiring public data, and it shouldn't require requests to access in the first place."*
- *"I use public transportation often and it was so awesome to have the bus be free at the start of the pandemic. Free public transportation means more accessibility and reduction of carbon emissions."*

Q29. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about this survey or that you would like us to consider in updating the Alameda County Climate Action Plan for Government Services and Operations and supporting resilient communities?

Answered: 361; Skipped: 855

Many respondents did not have anything additional to add and several were thankful for the opportunity to participate in the survey. Of the responses shared, major themes include:

- **Affordable housing**
- **Support** for **unhoused**
- Centering of **equity** and **justice**
- Make the plan **accessible** and **transparent** with **clear implementation strategies**
- Following **Indigenous leadership**
- **Inclusion** of **communities**
- **Educate** people around climate change
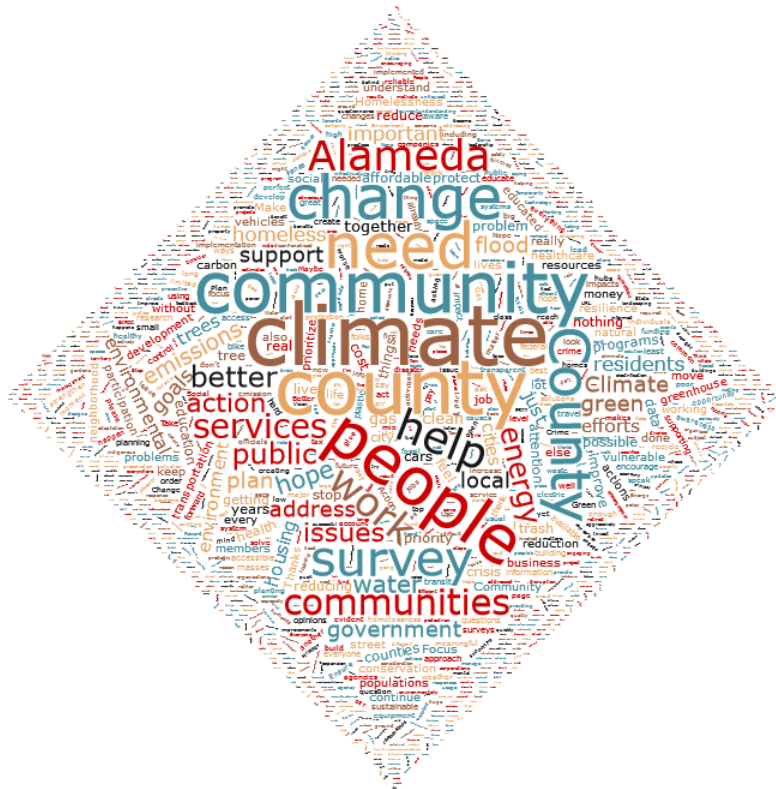
Select quotes that reflect these themes are provided below:

- *"I am part of a Resilience Hubs initiative, and I'd like to see these local resilience hubs be a big part of the climate action plan. These localized hubs build food/water/energy security and collaboration from the ground up, with full participation and leadership by community members. Finally, let us be good ancestors and create a vision that has a meaningful chance of leaving a legacy of a healed humanity and a healed land."*
- *"Please remember that legitimate resilience is not achieved through small tweaks like cutting paper use or buying EVs (though those are of course important steps), but rather through a complete reimagining of what services are provided and how. Police don't serve us or the climate, whereas good housing, accessible transit, and affordable healthcare serve both. Optimize the larger system rather than making small improvements to small components of it!"*
- *"We need environmental and socioeconomic justice. Without this, these efforts replicate colonial oppressions of laborers and disenfranchised populations. Please prioritize BIPOC disenfranchised communities and TRANSPARENTLY do a bottoms-up approach by engaging indigenous land stewards and people affected the most by climate change. If not, this will be another government led effort that primarily serves stakeholder who have the privilege and capacity to be at the table. The land/planet will regenerate as we heal one another."*
- *"Use community centers to promote practices and educate the public on how they can help prevent climate change at their level. Bring in people to talk about it, create more narrative on successes in this area."*

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Q30. Do you, or the people you live with, own or rent your home?

Answered: 915; Skipped: 301

The **largest number of survey respondents** are home owners (68%), followed by renters (27%), and individuals that are unhoused or in temporary housing (3%).

Themes from "Other" responses primarily include individuals that live with family or another individual that pays the rent or mortgage.
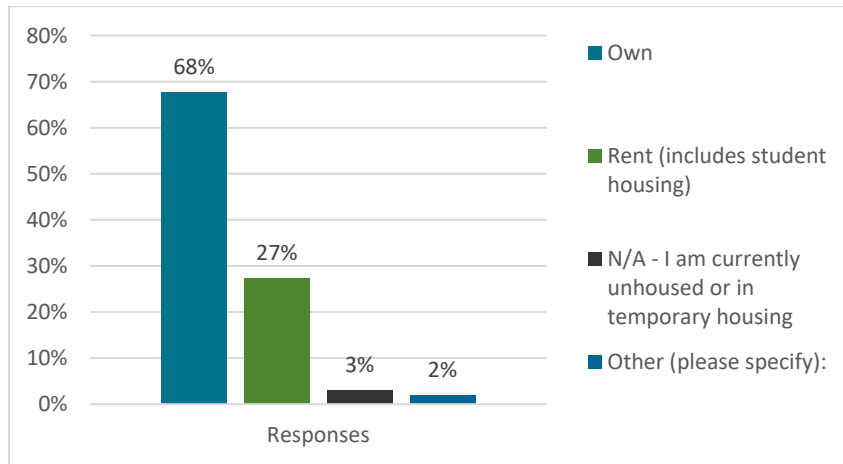
A higher proportion of respondents to the **Spanish survey** rent their home (44%) or **are in temporary housing or are unhoused** (22%).

Q31. Do you work or volunteer for an organization in any of the following sectors? Select all that apply.

Answered: 881; Skipped: 335

Most **survey respondents work or volunteers in the education, health care, and social assistance sectors**. The second largest respondent group choose **"none"** as their affiliation.

Real estate had the least amount of representation from survey respondents.

Reoccurring sectors listed in "Other" responses include:

- Artists
- Communication
- Food industry
- Government
- Housing
- Law
- Retired
- Volunteer
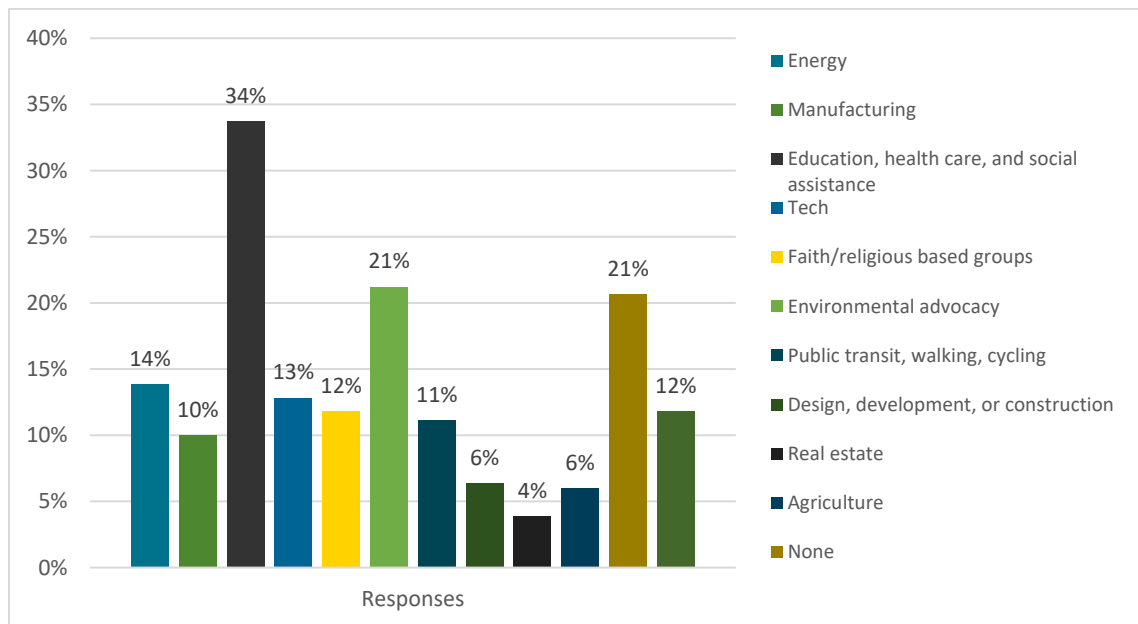
Faith/religious based groups were more highly represented by respondents to the **Spanish survey** (22%) and **Chinese survey** (20%) compared to the **English survey** (12%).

Q32. Which of the following best represents your race/ethnicity? Select all that apply.

Answered: 910; Skipped: 306

In the **English** survey, the race/ethnicity with the **largest representation** of survey respondents is White or Caucasian (56%) and the **least represented** race/ethnicity is Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (4%), followed closely by Middle Eastern, North African, or Arab American (2%),

Of those individuals that chose "Other" as a response, race/ethnicity listed includes:

- American
- Chinese-American
- German-American
- A generally mixed family
- Human
- Indian
- Two or more races/ethnicities
- European
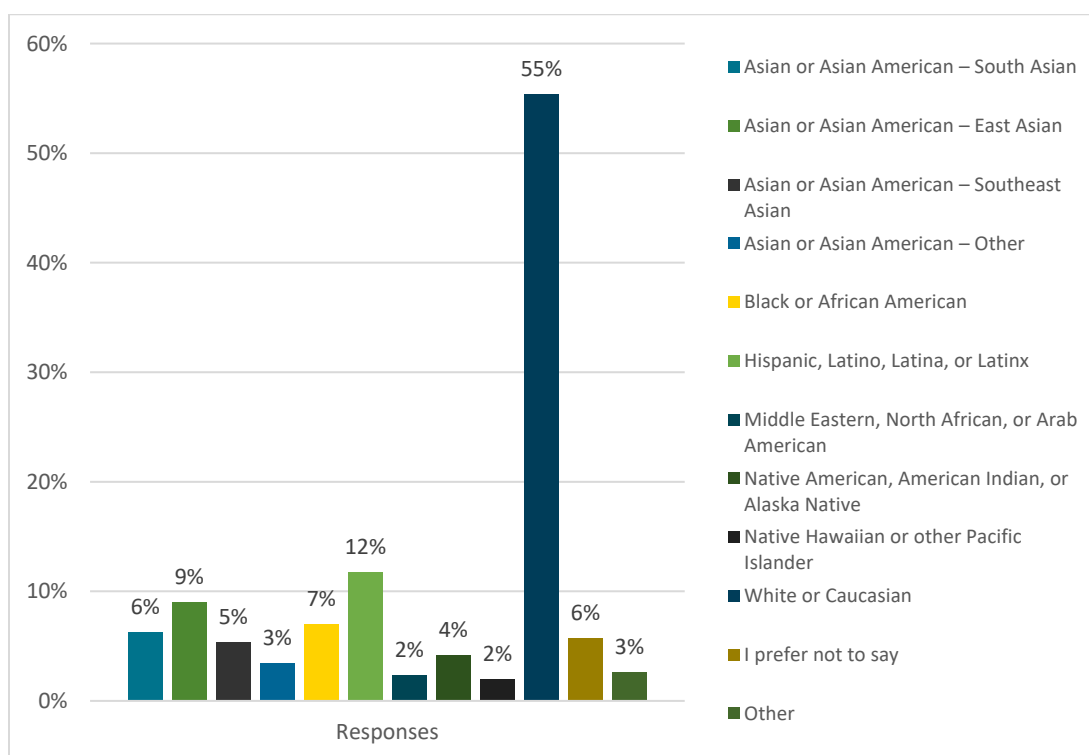
In the **Chinese survey**, the race/ethnicity with the largest representation of survey respondents is White or Caucasian (62%) followed by South Asian (12%). The race/ethnicity with the largest representation of survey respondents in the **Spanish survey** is Hispano, Latino, Latina, or Latinx (89%). For the **English survey,** White or Caucasian (56%) was the race/ethnicity with the largest representation, followed by Hispanic (Hispano?), Latino, Latina, or Latinx (11%).

Q33. What language(s) do you primarily speak at home? Select all that apply.

Answered: 911; Skipped: 305

The **majority of survey respondents primarily speak English** at home (94%), followed by Spanish (8%), and Chinese (5%).

Of those individuals that chose "Other" as a response, primary language(s) listed includes:

- Armenian
- Chinese – other
- Dutch
- French
- German
- Portuguese
- Gujarati
- Italian
- Malay
- Tamil
- Russian
- Sign language
- Tagalog
- Urdu
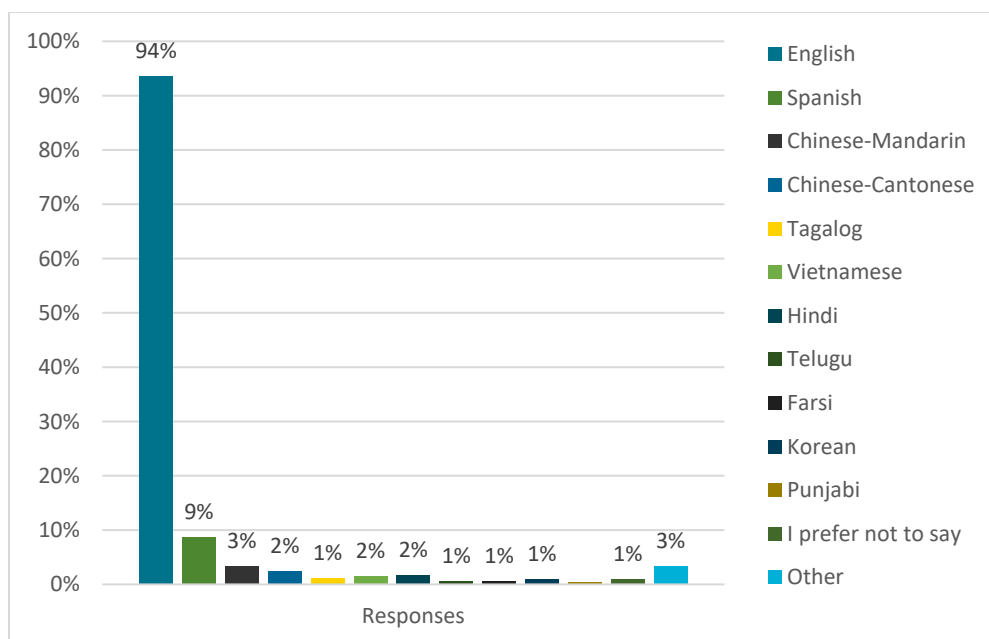
In the **Chinese survey**, 88% of respondents primarily speak English at home, followed by Mandarin (15%) and Cantonese (6%), while most respondents primarily speak Spanish (78%) in the **Spanish survey**. English was the primary language spoken (94%) in the **English survey.**

Q34. What is your age?

Answered: 909; Skipped: 307

Majority of survey respondents are between the ages of 20-44 years (48%). The age groups with the **least amount** of survey responses are 65 and over (14%) and 19 or younger (14%).
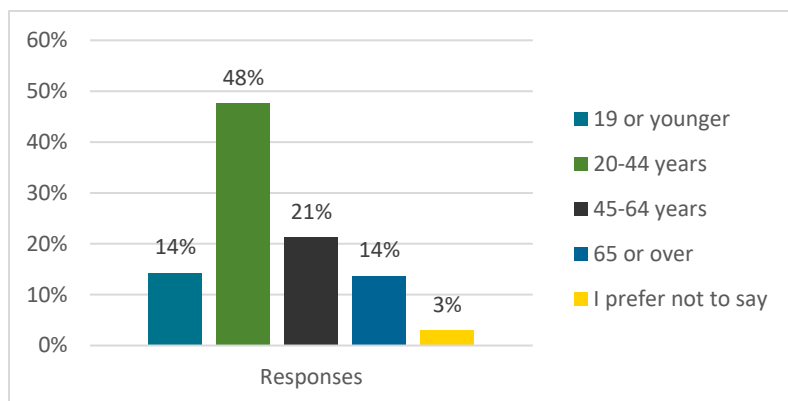

In the **Chinese survey**, a higher majority of respondents are between the ages of 20-44 years (86%), followed by 45-64 years (14%). No respondents to the Chinese survey were in other age groups. This trend is also repeated in the **Spanish survey**. The age distribution of **English survey** respondents is consistent with the chart above.

Q35. What is your household income?

Answered: 908; Skipped: 308

The income range with the **highest number of survey respondents** is over $150K (23%). The household income range with the **least responses** is less than $25,000 (4%).
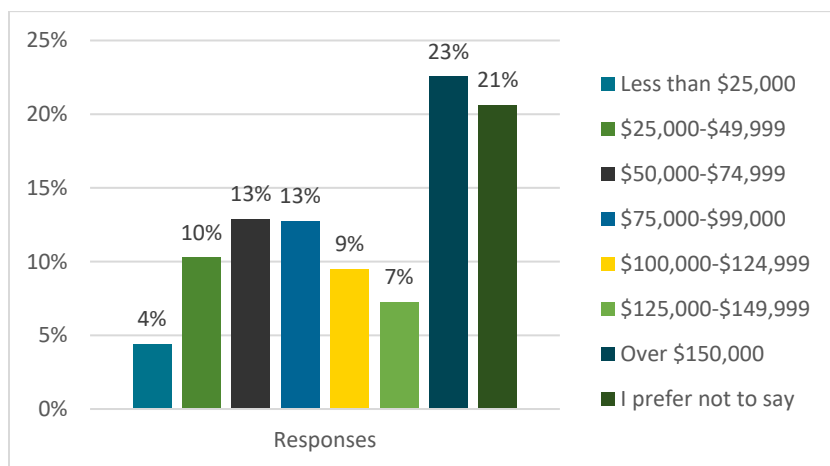
In the **Chinese survey**, the most frequently reported incomes were $50,000 to $75,000 and $75,000 to $99,000 (both 24%), $100,000 to $124,999 (18%), and $25,000 to $49,999 (12%). For **Spanish survey** respondents, the most frequently reported income was $25,000-49,000 (33%), followed by $100,000 to $124,999 (22%), <$25,000, $50,000 to $75,000, and $75,000 to $99,000 (all 11%). **English survey** respondents follow the trends in the chart above.