

ΕΤΗΕΛΟ



WHEATLAND
COUNTY

Wheatland County Budget 2021

Introduction

From October 16 to November 8 2020, the County of Wheatland used a budget simulation exercise called Citizen Budget for their 2021 Operating and Capital Budget. The purpose of this program was to show residents where their tax dollars are being spent and allow them to increase or decrease the levels of service provided by the County. In addition, the program allowed residents to see these changes in service levels would raise or lower their taxes.

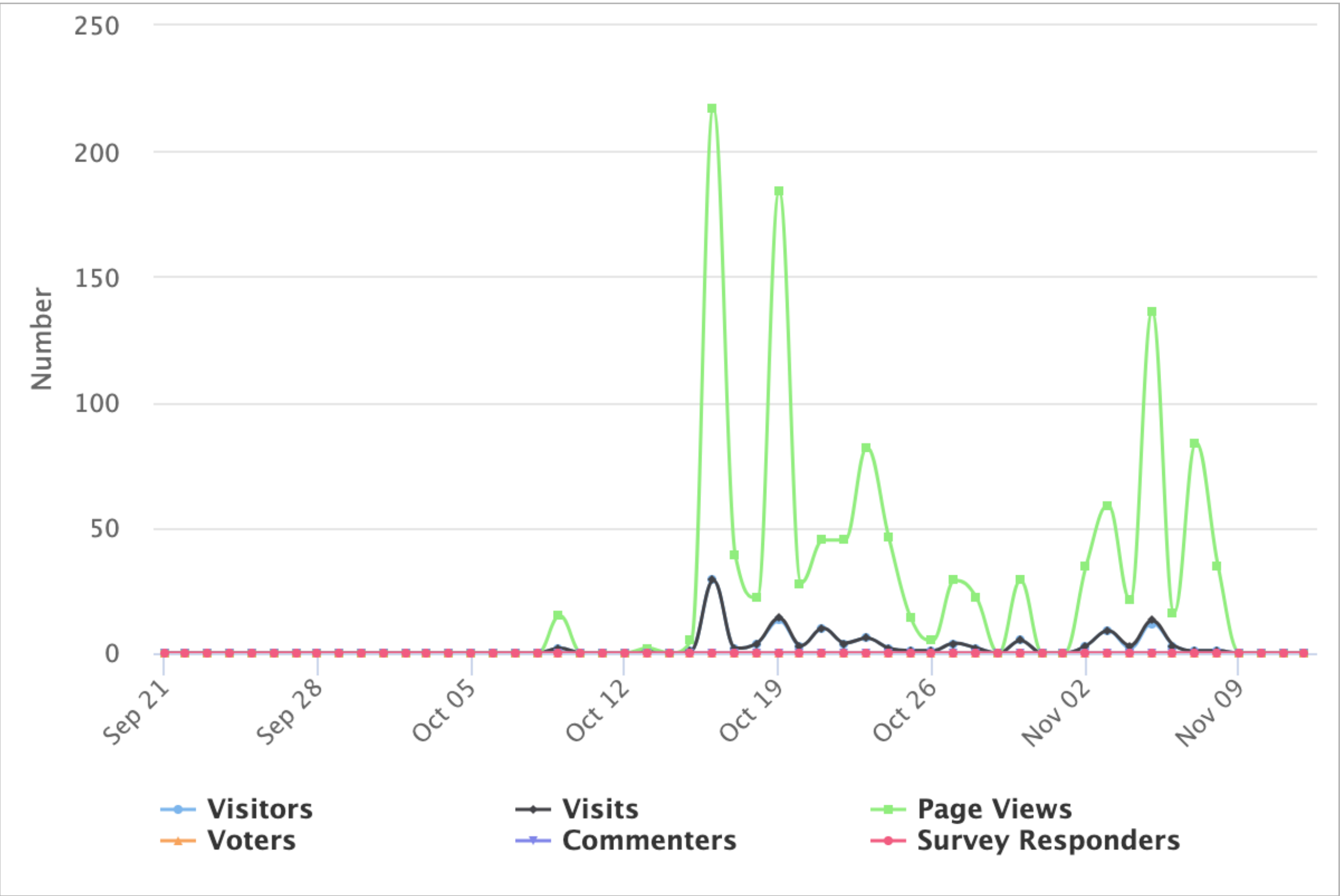
- The process educated residents on the County's various services, while asking them to provide feedback based on the County's current service levels and budget.
- Ethelo used the results to generate a particular set of funding changes that are predicted to have the most community support.



Participation

Participation

- Number of visitors: **113**
- Number of respondents: **64**
- Comments gathered: **12**
- Page views: **1,215**
- Average time on platform: **3.5 minutes**



Key Findings

Funding Area	Percent Change	% Approval
Funding Community Peace Officers	Keep the Same	66%
Funding Fire Services	Keep the Same	75%
Funding Agriculture and Environment	10% Decrease	64%
Funding Roads	Keep the Same	75%
Funding Parks and Recreation	10% Decrease	71%

Current (Average) Tax Bill: \$632.00
Adjusted (Average) Tax Bill: \$644.00
Tax Difference (%): -1.86%

Predicted Budget Support: 64%

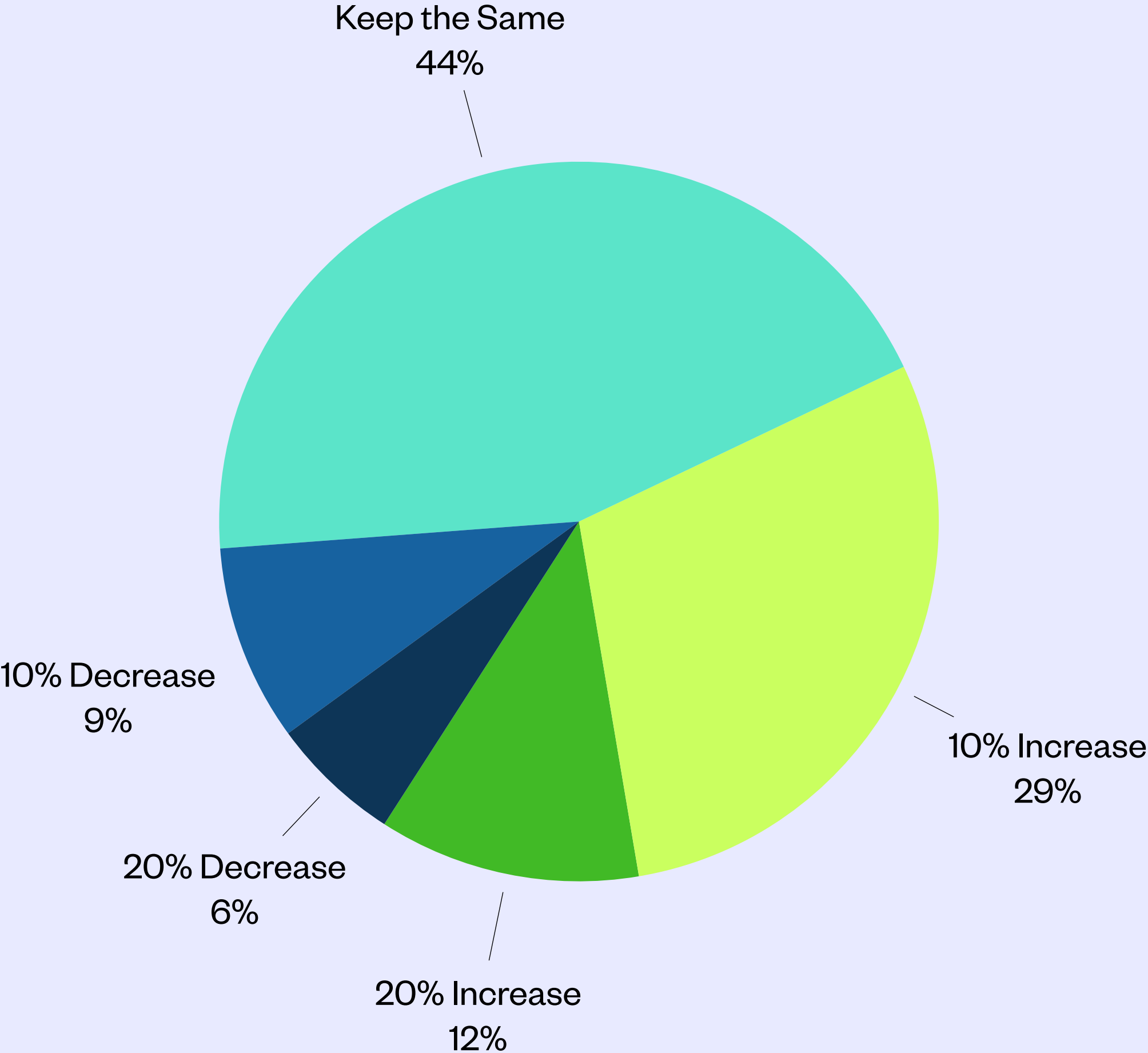


Voting Results

Funding Fire Services

Based on the current level of services provided by fire, how would you adjust your property tax funding for this service area?

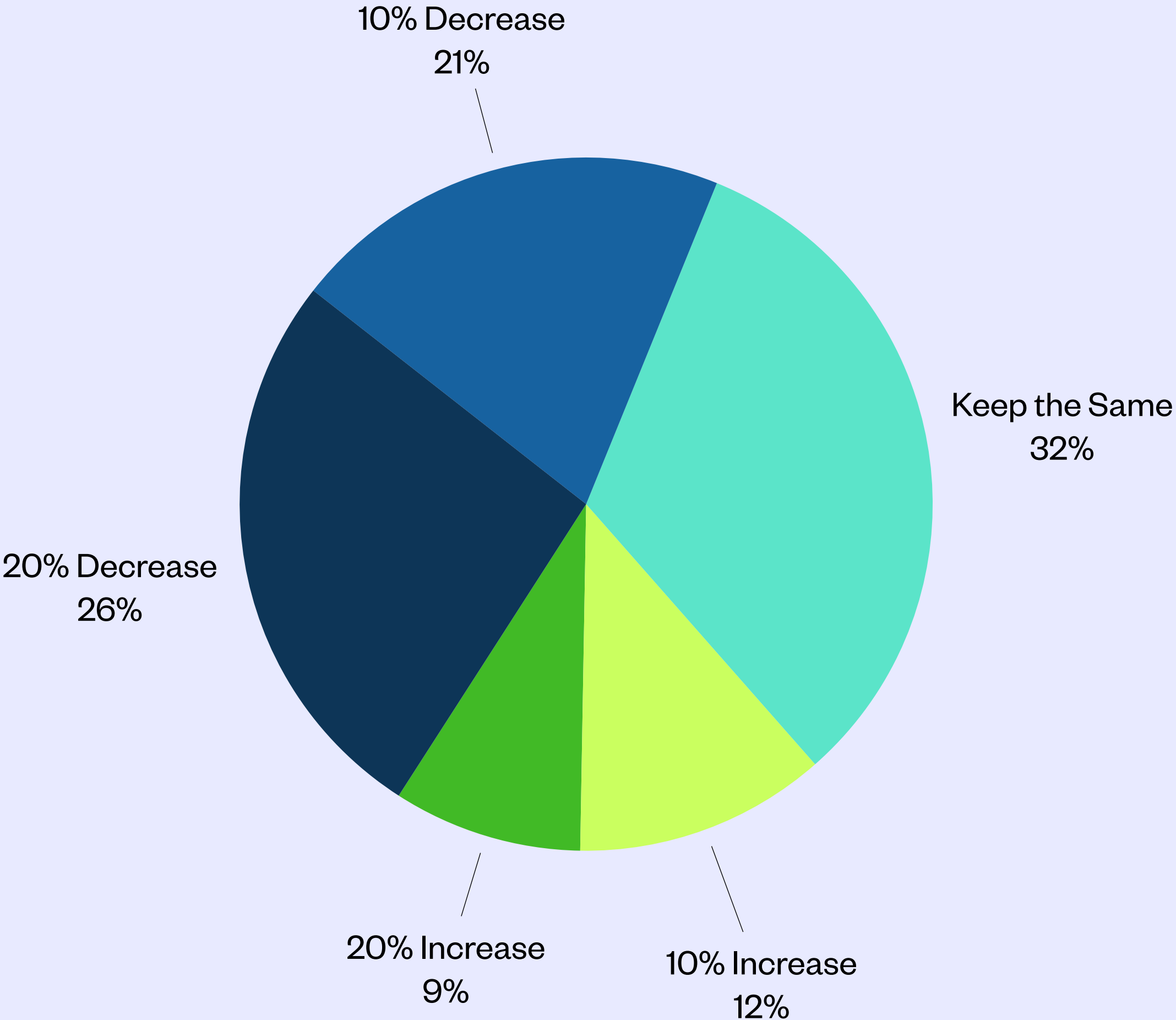
- Decrease: 15%
- **Keep the Same: 44%**
- Increase: 41%



Funding Peace Officers

Based on the current level of services provided by Community Peace Officers, how would you adjust your property tax funding for this service area?

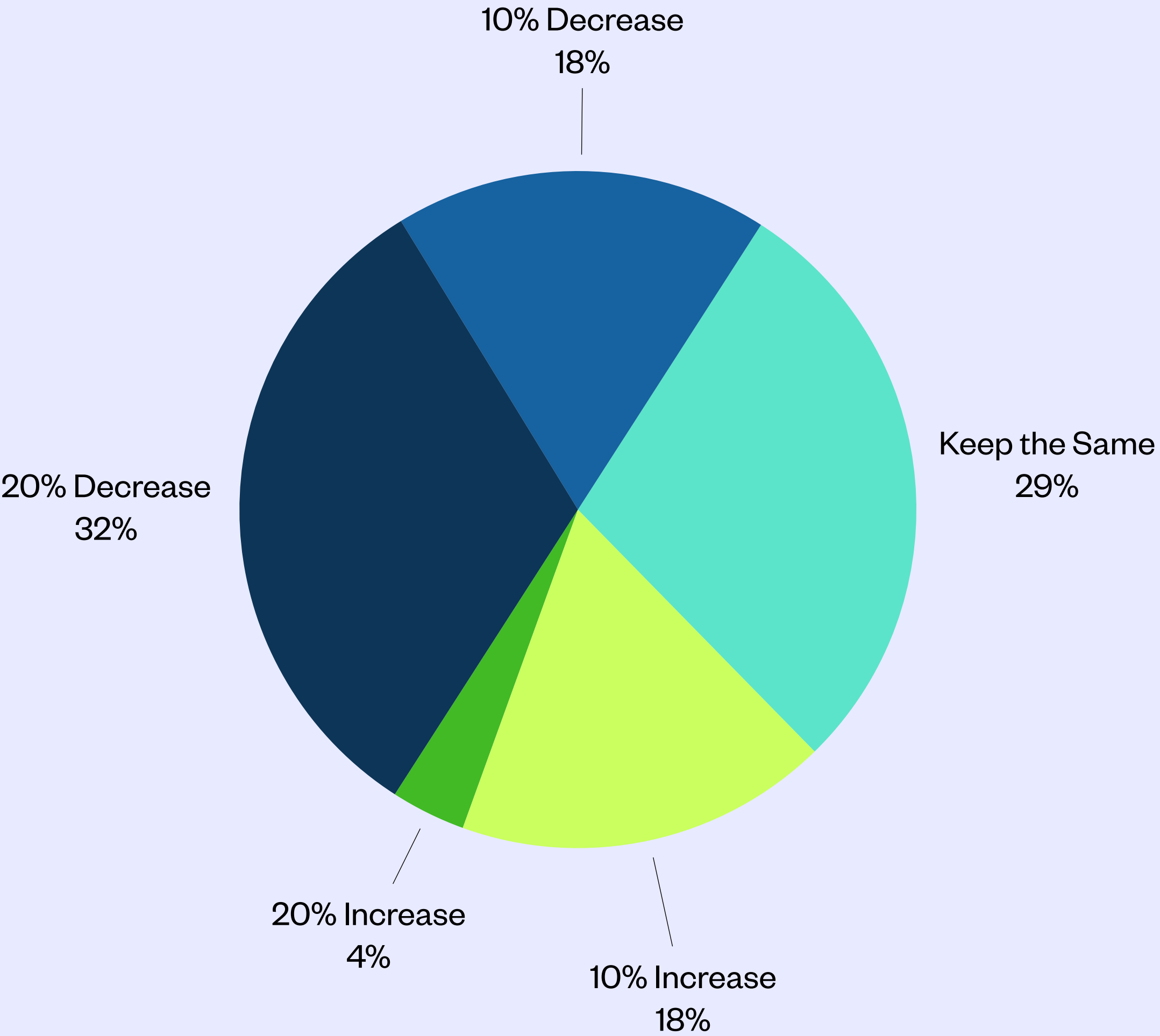
- **Decrease: 47%**
- Keep the Same: 32%
- Increase: 21%



Funding Agriculture and Environment*

Based on the current level of services provided by Agriculture and Environment Department, how would you adjust your property tax funding for this service area?

- **Decrease: 50%**
- Keep the Same: 29%
- Increase: 22%



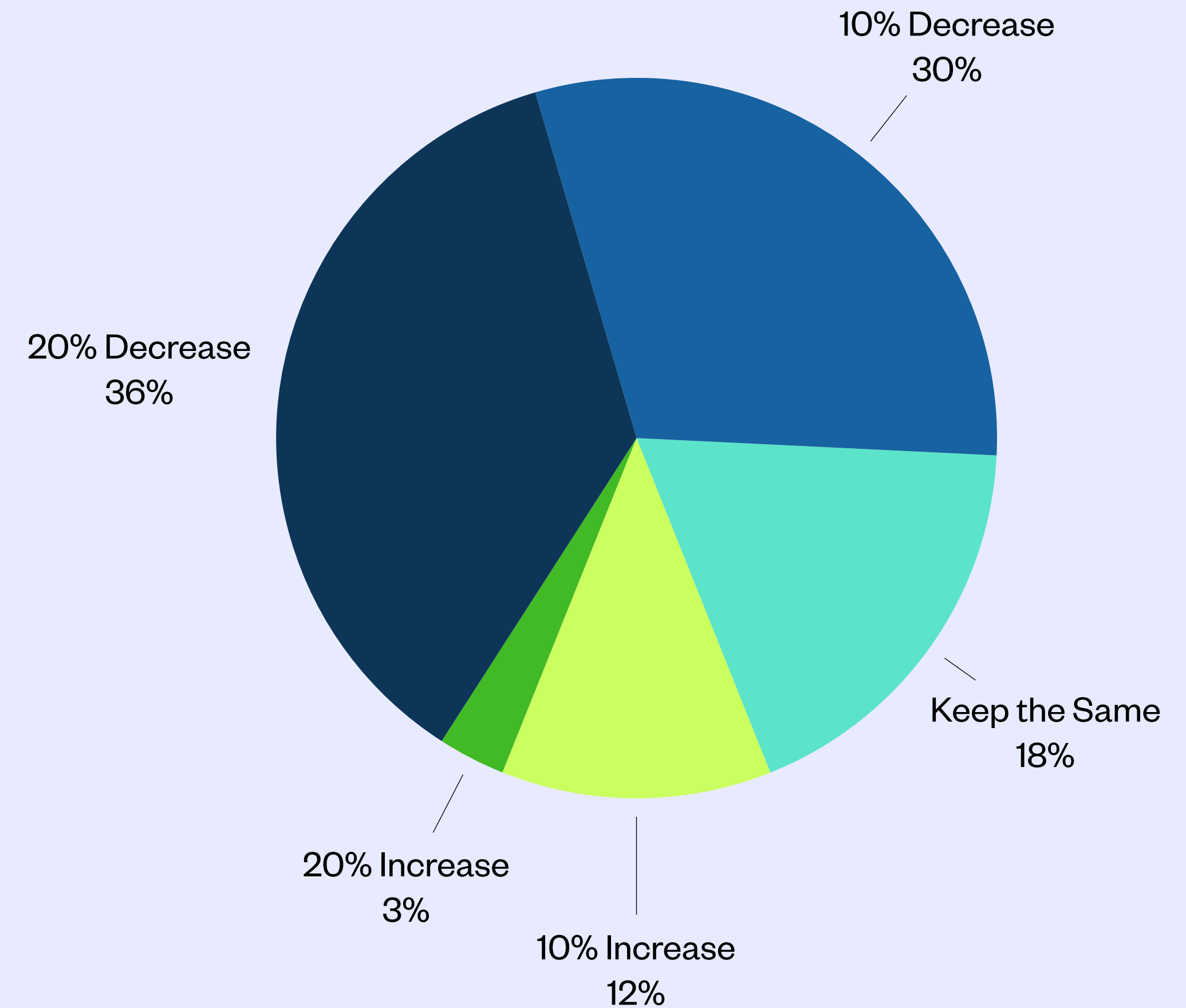
* Chart values (%) add up to ~100 due to rounding

Funding Parks and Recreation *

Based on the current level of services provided by parks and recreation, how would you adjust your property tax funding for this service area?

- **Decrease: 66%**
- Keep the Same: 18%
- Increase: 15%

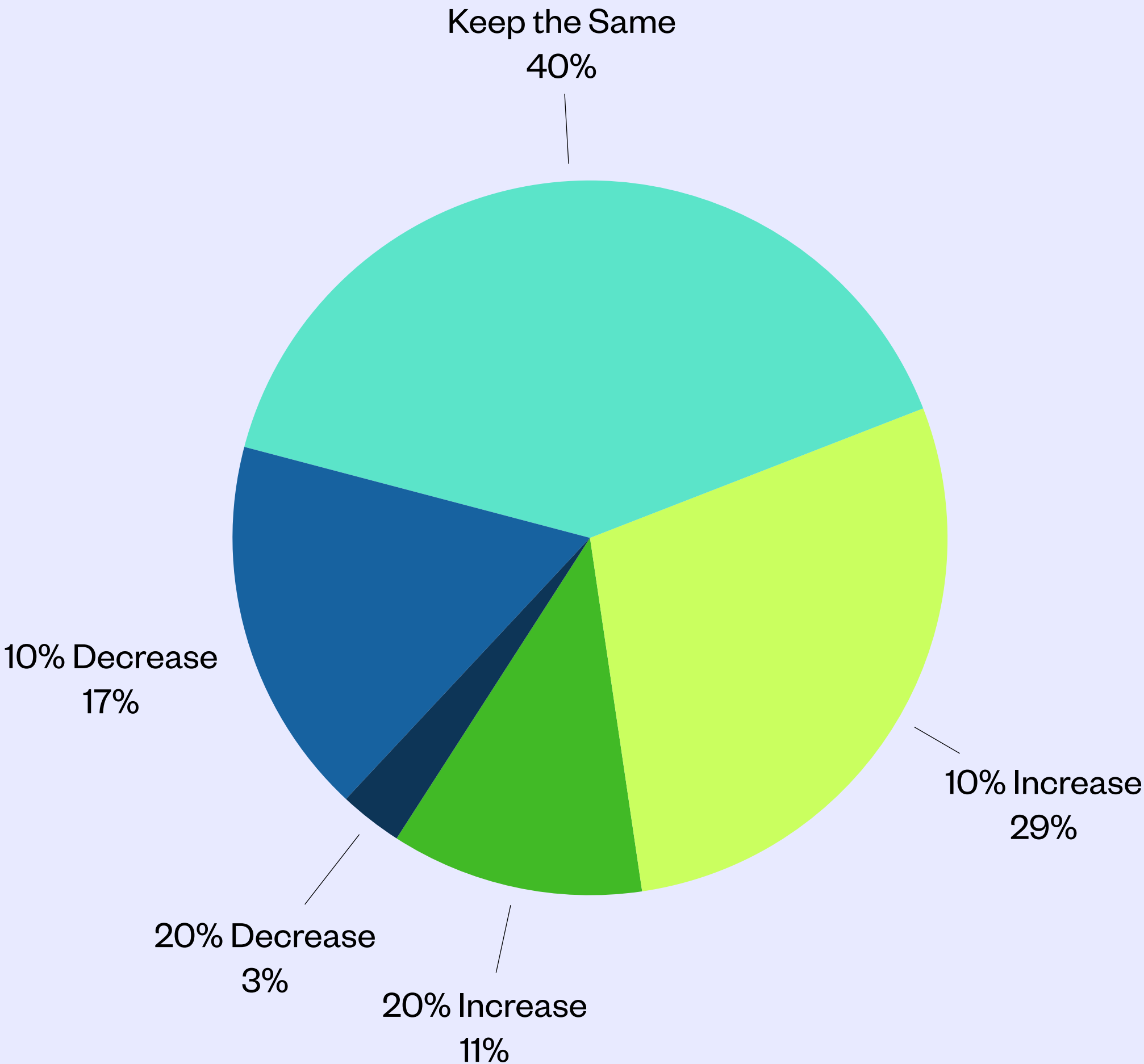
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Funding Roads

Based on the current level of services provided by roads, how would you adjust your property tax funding for this service area?

- Decrease: 20%
- **Keep the Same: 40%**
- **Increase: 40%**



Comments

Funding Parks and Recreation

"I am glad that the County has made a bigger effort to consider and provide recreation options. **I would like to see an increased emphasis on this.**"

"At least **4 new play grounds this year**. Playgrounds in Cluny and in a very odd place in Speargrass makes me think there could be better value if money was put into core services"

Funding Community Peace Officers

"It is disingenuous to suggest that taxes must be increased in order to improve service. The County had a \$3 000 000 operating surplus last year. And has an unrestricted accumulated surplus of \$19 000 000. **Taxes should not be collected from residents and then not used to provide services.**"

"Reduction in response times? Do they even respond to anything? Perhaps their role should be explained first! **They seem to be a waste of money.**"

Funding Fire Services

"The County should **complete the Carseland Fire Hall** ASAP. There is \$5000000 in capital reserves for Fire Services. It is ridiculous to play around with fund-raising when taxpayer money is sitting in the bank designated to capital projects such as this."

Comments

Funding Roads

"Taking away the grader from Dalum and making the rest of the graders make up by doing a larger area as Council has planned for March of 2021 will result in **longer wait times to get snow plowed** ...It's winter here 6-7 months of the year. School buses and people going to work should not be delayed even more."

"To have several million dollars worth of iron sitting on the side of the road this summer because they wouldn't fund wages is an abomination. If you're going to refund construction do it over time and **make up the difference with reserves** to cover deficit"

"**More dust control** would be welcome, especially during long periods of dry weather and heavier traffic"

"I would like to see **more dust control** on the busy Township Roads especially during planting & harvesting season"

"I think that **dust control should be included** in the taxes. Particularly on busier range roads."

"**Dust control is good** but why do we have to pay extra for it"

"Skip dust control all together"

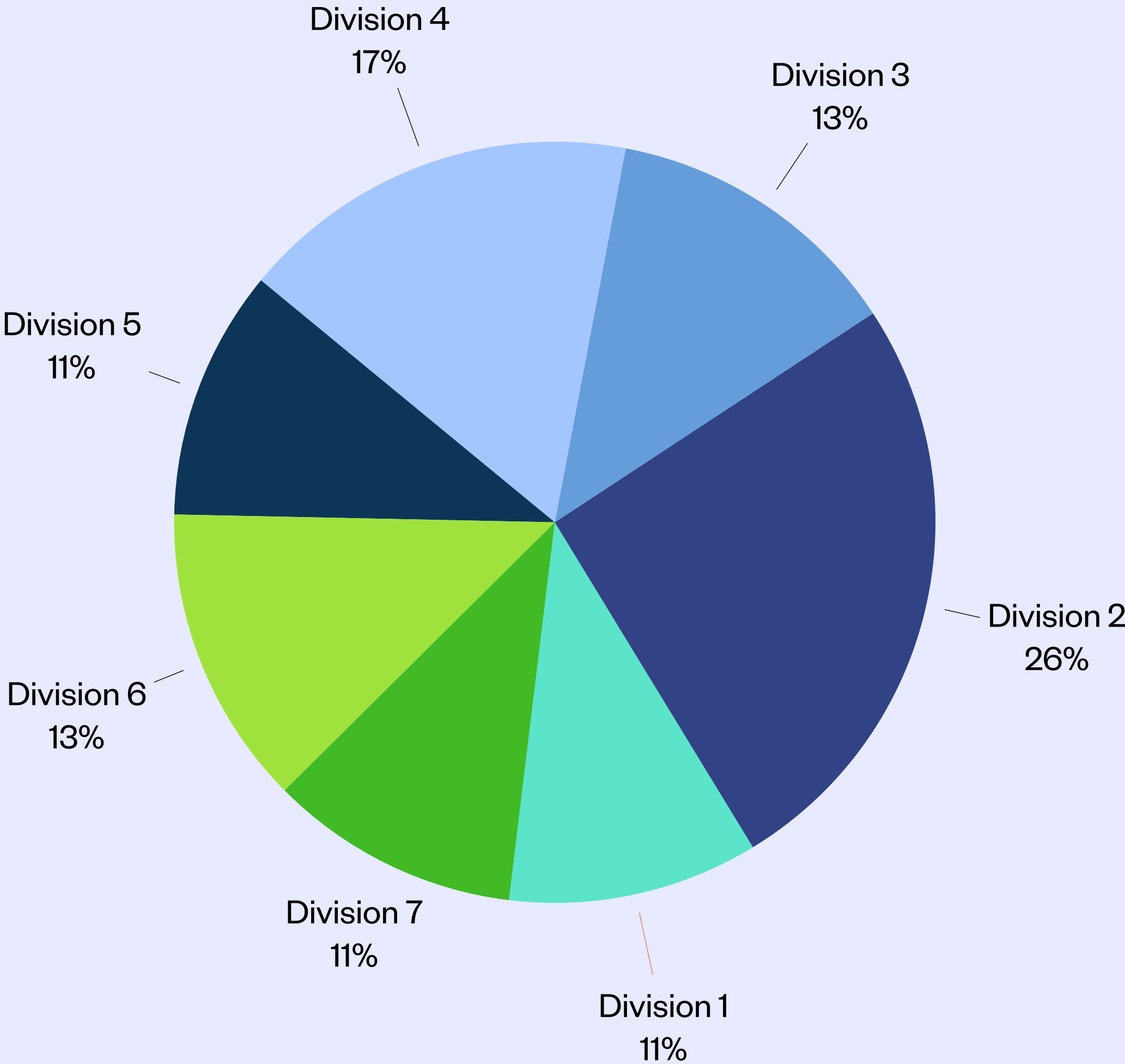


Demographic Information

Do You Live in a Hamlet/ Village or in the County?*

What division do you live or own a property in?

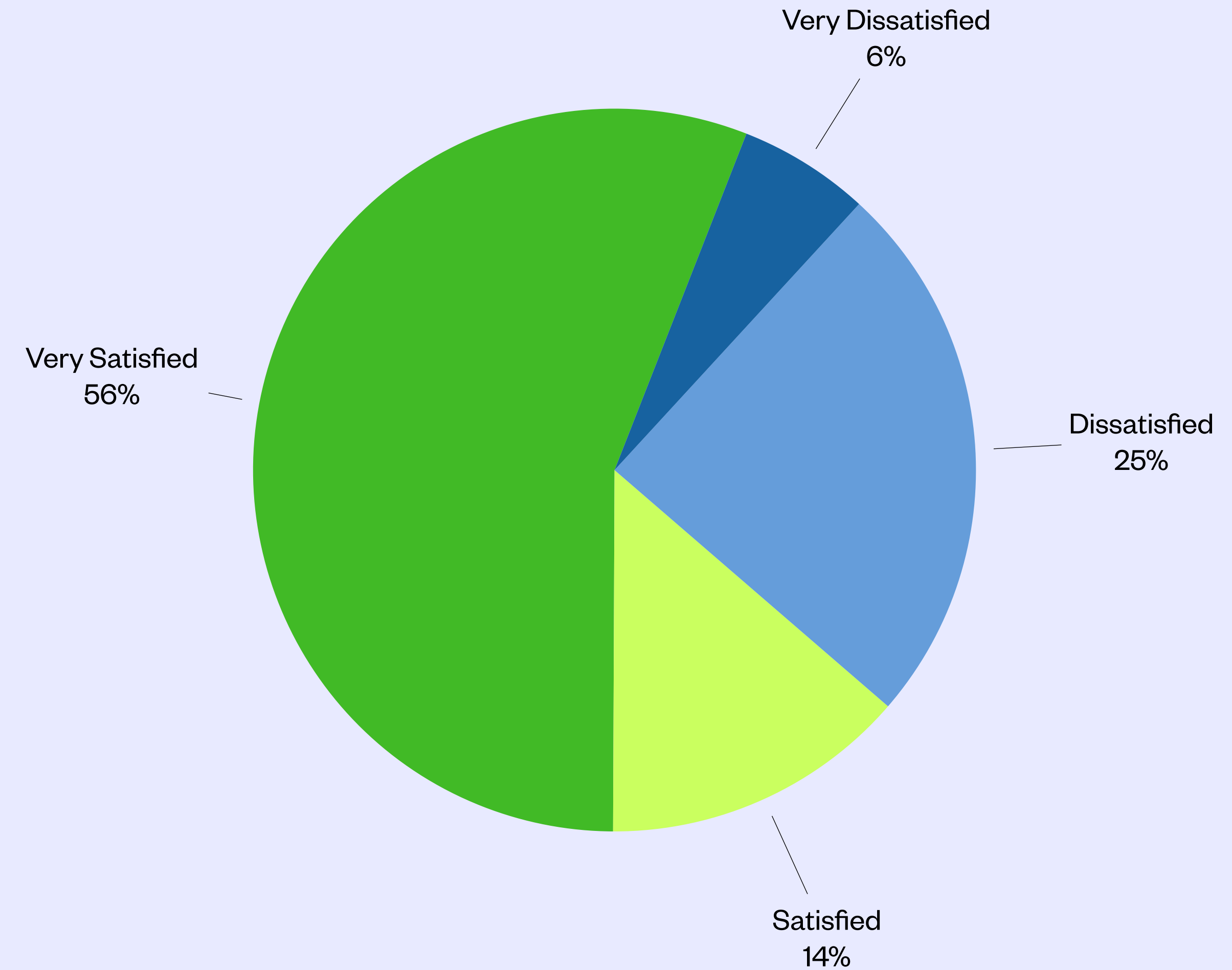
- Division 1: Councillor Wilson - Cluny and Chancellor Area
- Division 2: Reeve Link - Gleichen, Namaka, Eagle Lake Area
- Division 3: Councillor Biggar - Caresland and Speargrass Area
- Division 4: Councillor Ikert - Cheadle Area
- Division 5: Deputy Reeve Klassen - Ardenode, Nightingale and Lyalta Area
- Division 6: Councillor Koester - Redland and Rosebud Area
- Division 7: Concillor Armstrong - Dalum Area



*Chart values (%) add up to ~100 due to rounding

Satisfaction*

Please tell us how satisfied you are with the services currently provided by the County.

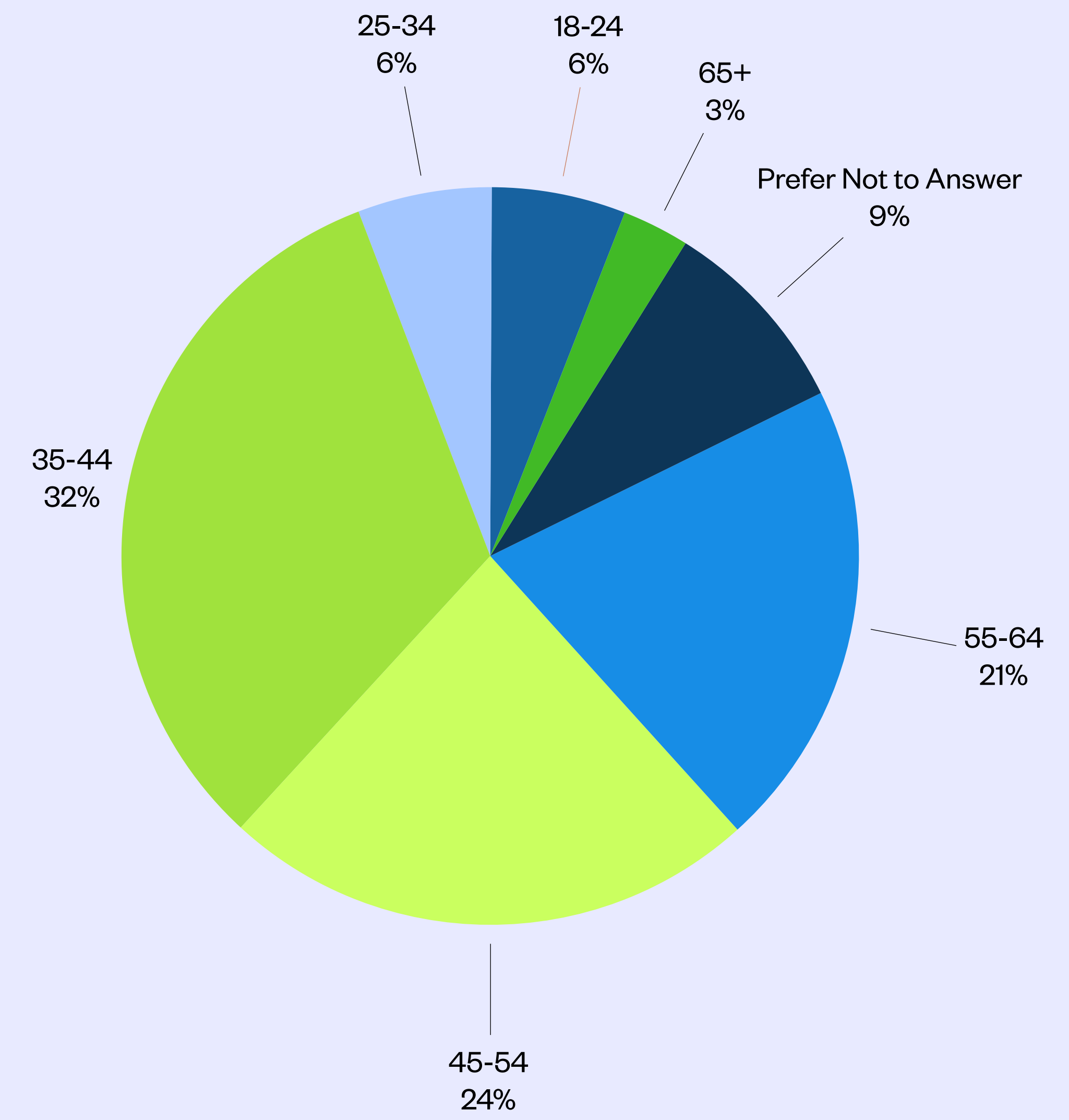


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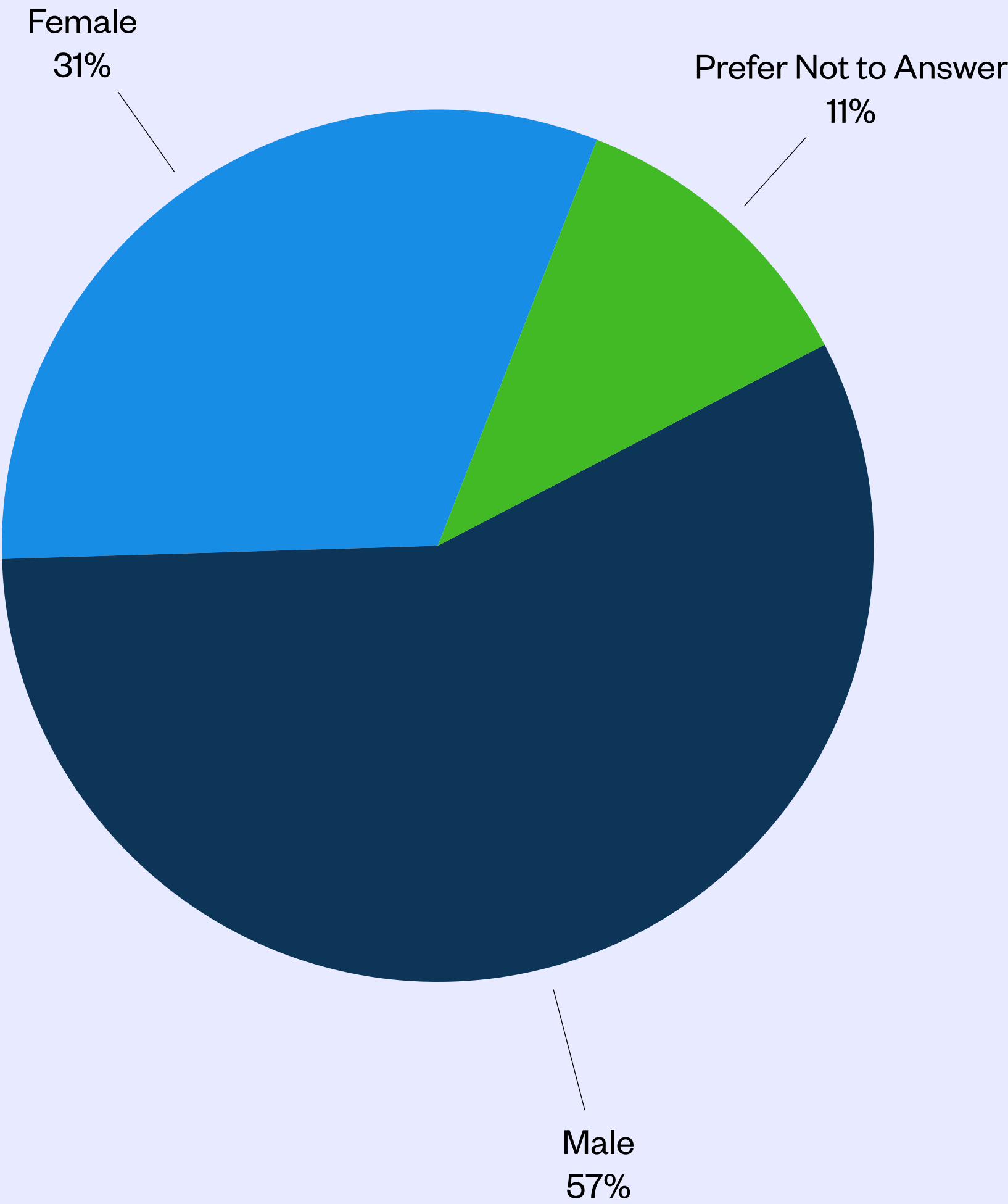
Age*

What is your age group?

*Not included: Under 18 (0%)

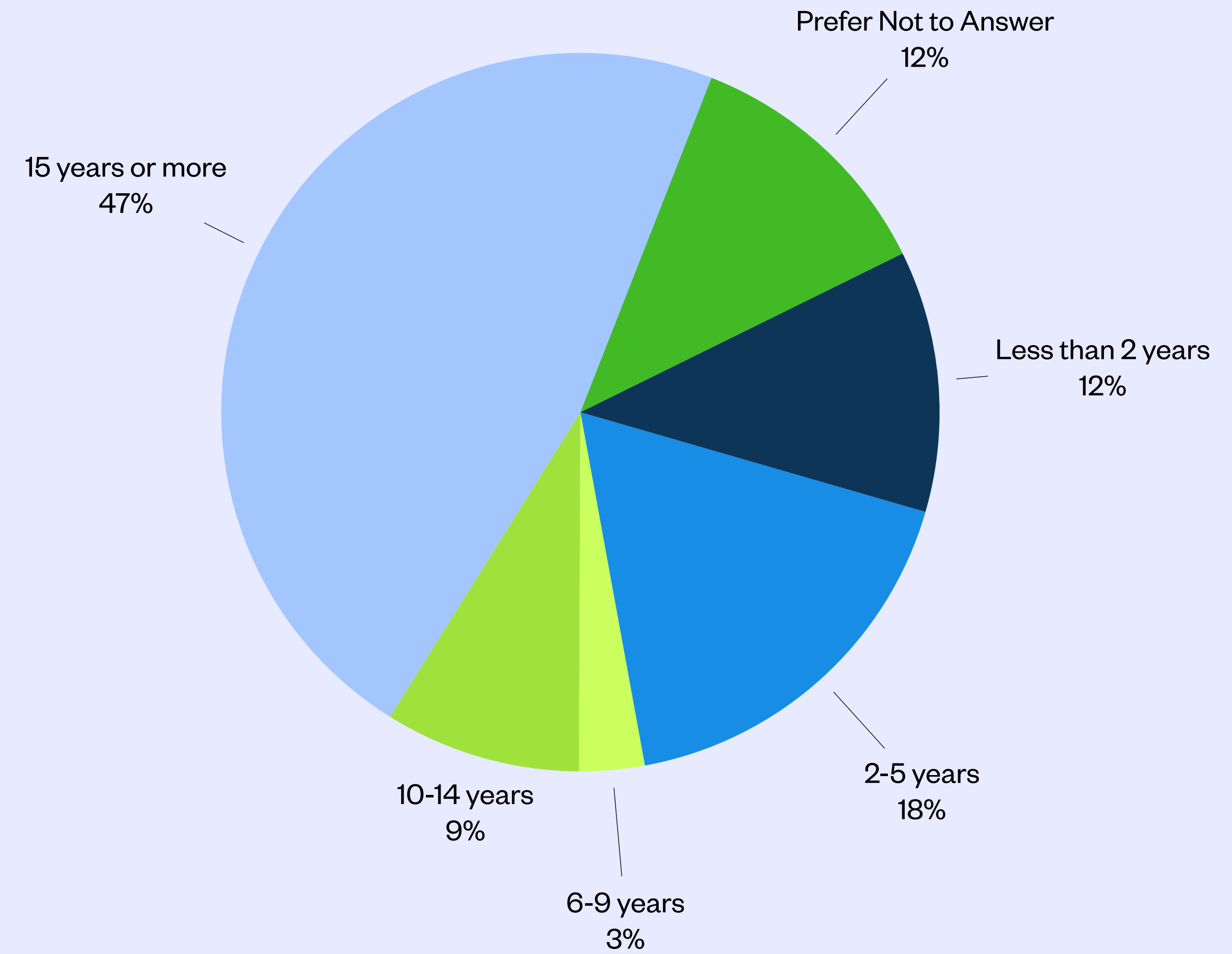


Gender*



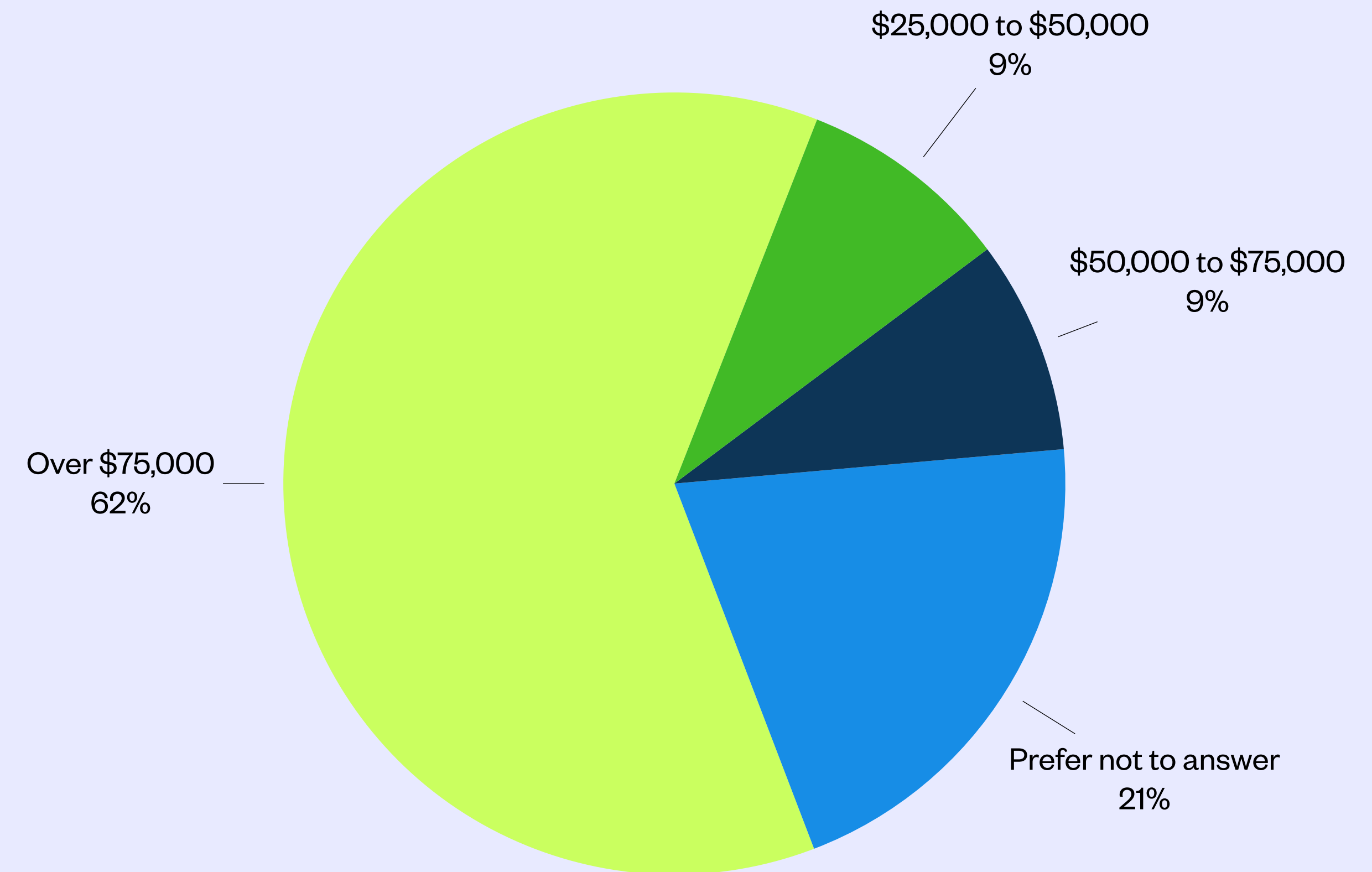
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How Long Have You Been Living In Wheatland County? *



*Chart values (%) add up to ~100 due to rounding

Income*



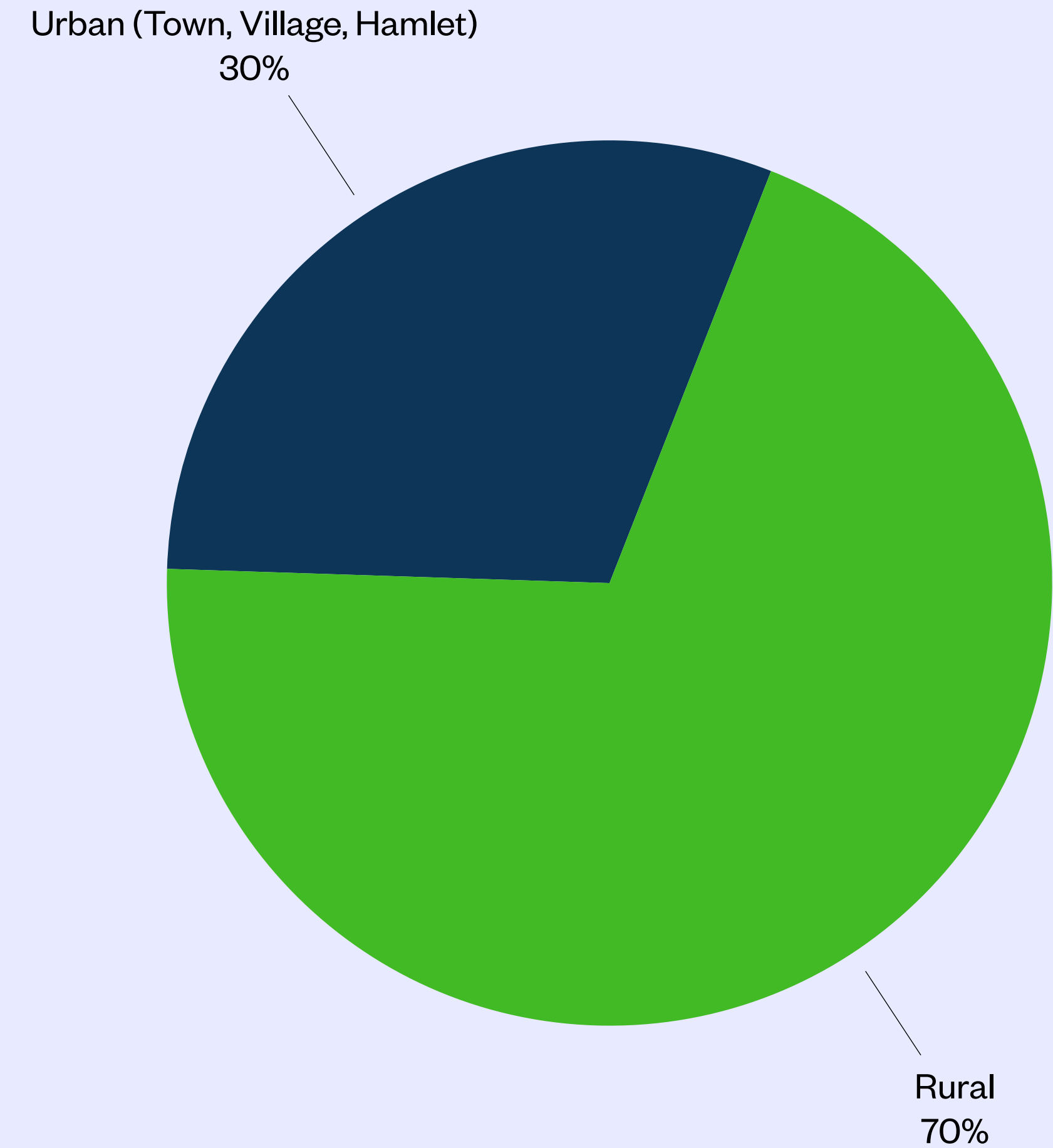
*Not included: Under \$25,000 (0%)

*Chart values (%) add up to ~100 due to rounding

Housing Status



Are You an Urban or Rural Resident?



E'THELO



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Thank you!
