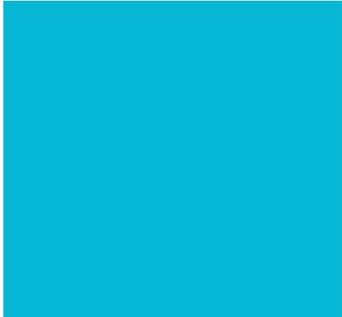
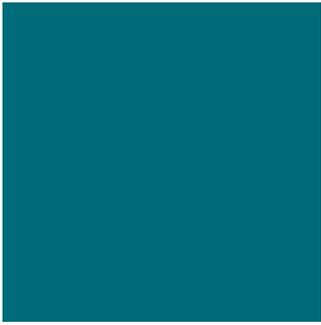


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Cotati Resident Views of Public Safety and Policing

*Key Findings of a Survey of Cotati Residents
Conducted November 14-24, 2020*



OPINION
RESEARCH
& STRATEGY

Methodology



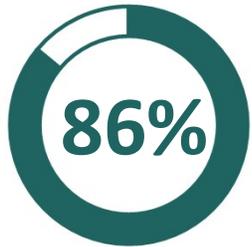
- 354 interviews with randomly selected Cotati adults within households with a registered voter
- Conducted November 14-24, 2020, online and via landline and cell phones (English and Spanish)
- Margin of sampling error of $\pm 5.2\%$ at the 95% confidence level
- Due to rounding, some percentages do not add up to 100%

Respondent Demographics

- The sample was designed to reflect US Census data for Cotati adults (ages 18+) by age, gender, race/ethnicity and level for formal education
- When response rates were slightly higher for any particular group (such as college-educated residents), data were weighted to match the demographics of residents 18+ in the community.

Demographic Group	Survey Respondents
Men	44%
Women	54%
<i>Ages 18-50</i>	<i>58%</i>
<i>Ages 50+</i>	<i>38%</i>
White Residents	79%
Latino Residents	10%
<i>Residents without a college degree</i>	<i>62%</i>
<i>College+ residents</i>	<i>36%</i>

Four Overall Key Findings



Felt safe in Cotati generally



Approved of the Cotati Police Department



Observed racism in Cotati frequently or occasionally



Believed there is a positive relationship between Cotati residents and the police department

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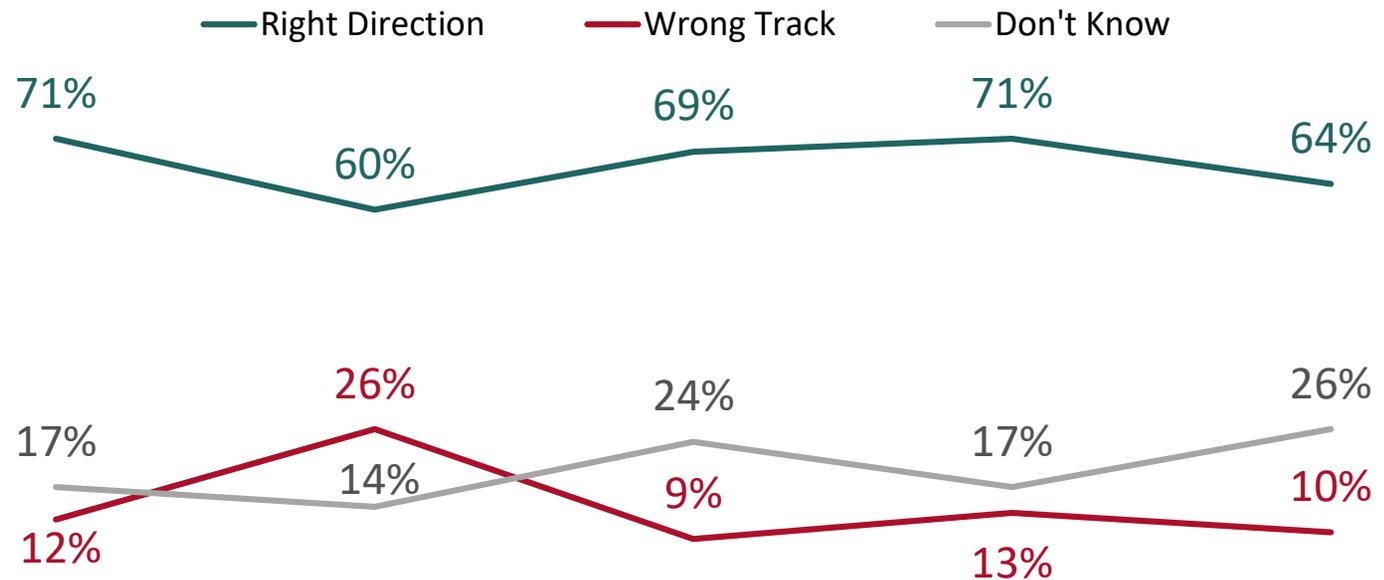


Community Context



About two-thirds believed that things in the City were headed in the right direction.

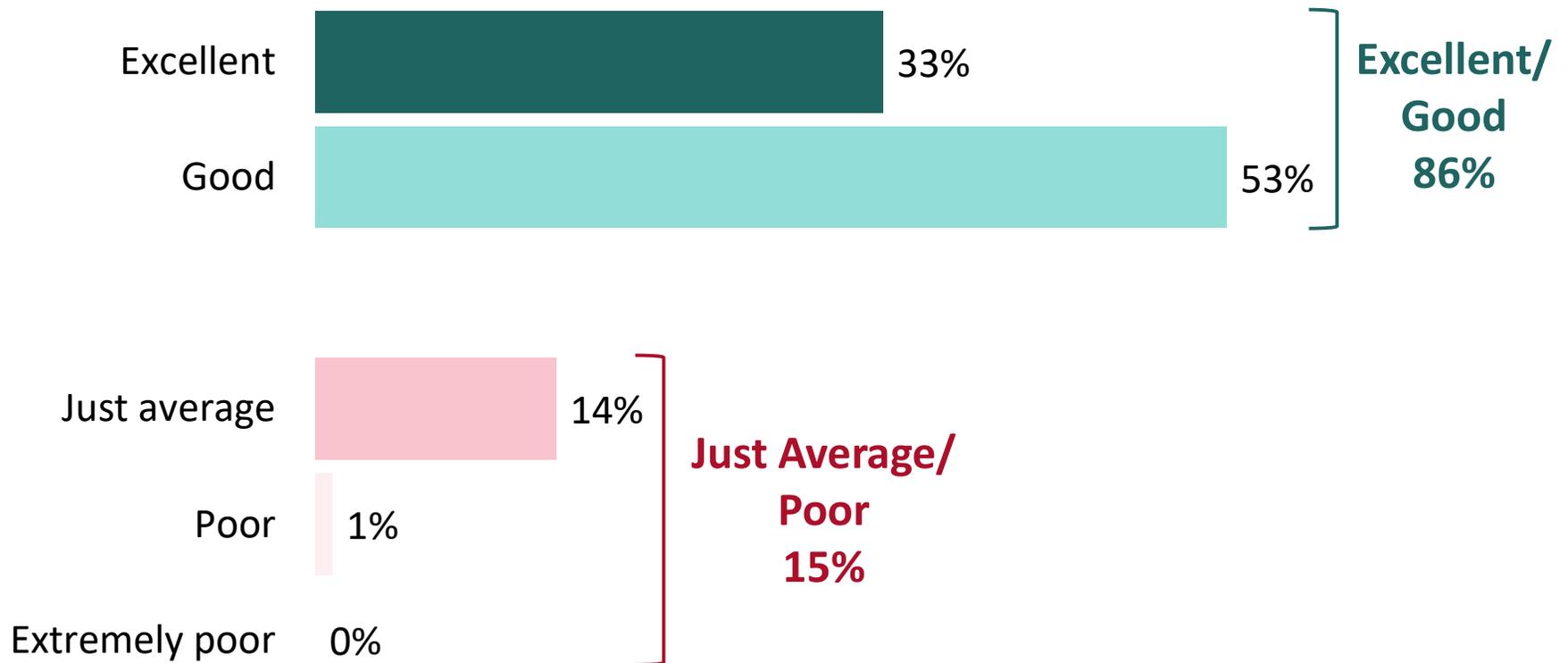
Would you say that things in the City of Cotati are generally headed in the right direction or are they off on the wrong track?



	2009	2013	2019	Mar. 2020	Nov. 2020
Right Direction	71%	60%	69%	71%	64%
Wrong Track	12%	26%	9%	13%	10%
Don't Know	17%	14%	24%	17%	26%

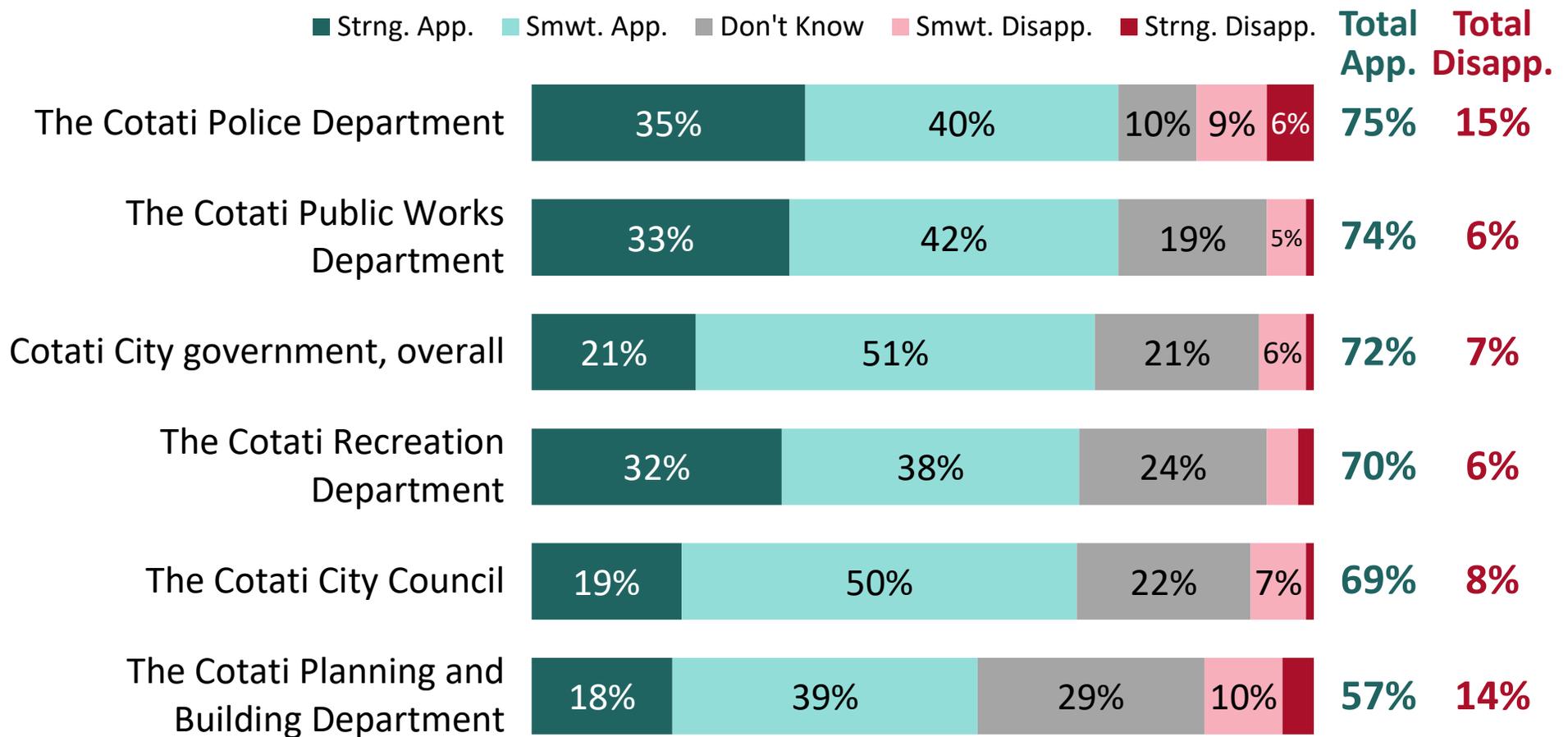
Four in five rated life in the City as "excellent" or "good."

Generally speaking, how would you rate the City of Cotati as a place to live: is it an excellent place to live, a good place to live, just average, poor, or an extremely poor place to live?



Broad majorities approved of each City department, with three-quarters approval for the Police Department.

I am going to read you the names of a few departments in the City of Cotati. Please tell me if you approve or disapprove of the job being done by that department.



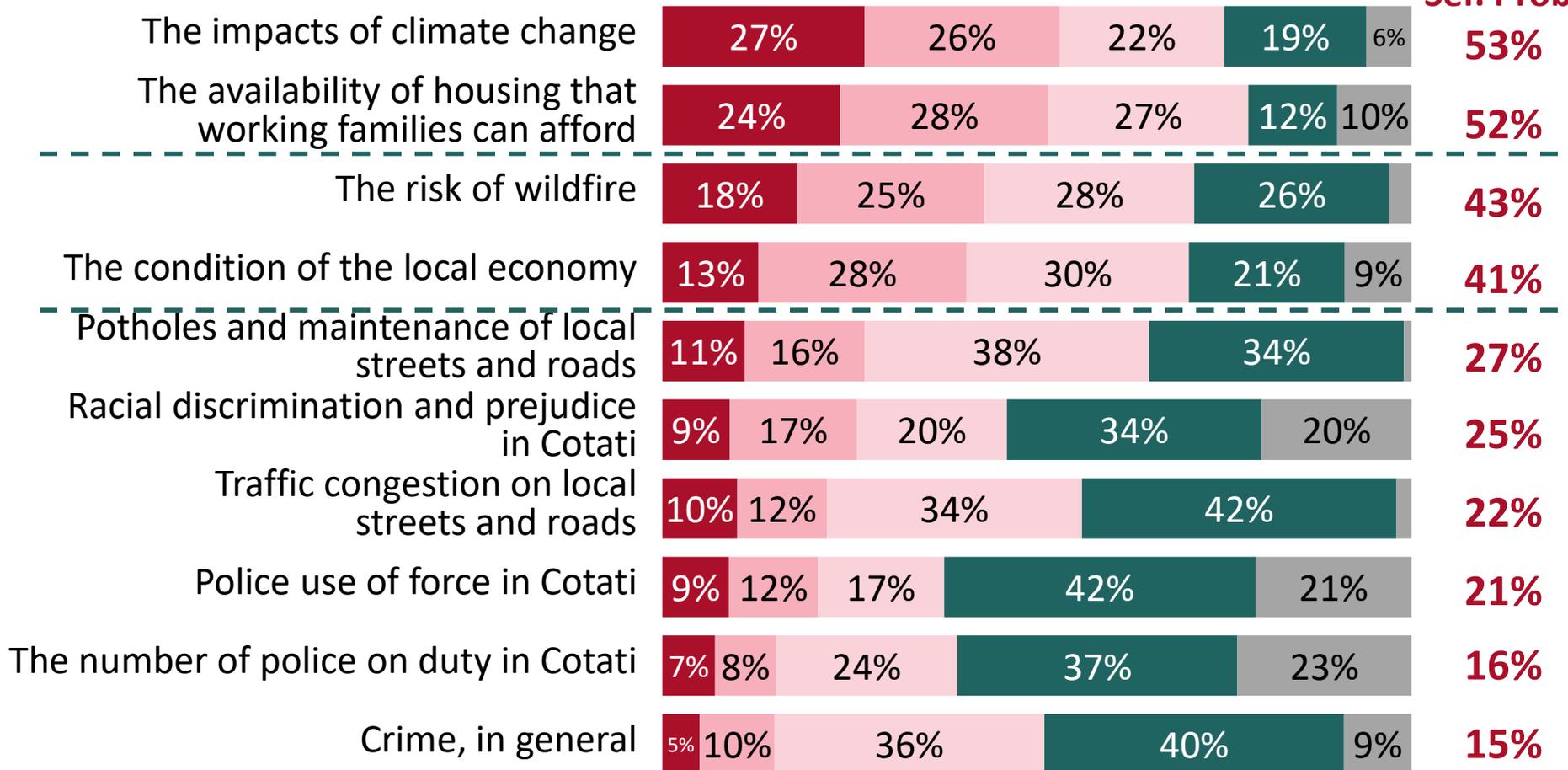
Approval ratings are mostly similar to prior years, with a slight decrease for police and recreation departments.

Department (Total Approve)	2009	2013	2019	Mar. 2020	Nov. 2020	Mar. 2020- Nov. 2020 Difference
The Cotati Public Works Department	--	--	72%	73%	74%	+1%
The Cotati City Council	83%	55%	61%	70%	69%	-1%
The Cotati Planning and Building Department	--	--	49%	61%	57%	-4%
Cotati City government, overall	81%	65%	67%	77%	72%	-5%
The Cotati Police Department	85%	81%	82%	81%	75%	-6%
The Cotati Recreation Department	--	--	71%	79%	70%	-9%

Climate change and housing ranked as top concerns; fewer saw issues related to police and racial discrimination as pressing.

■ Ext. Ser. Prob. ■ Very Ser. Prob. ■ Smwt. Ser. Prob. ■ Not Too Ser. Prob. ■ Don't Know

Ext./Very Ser. Prob.



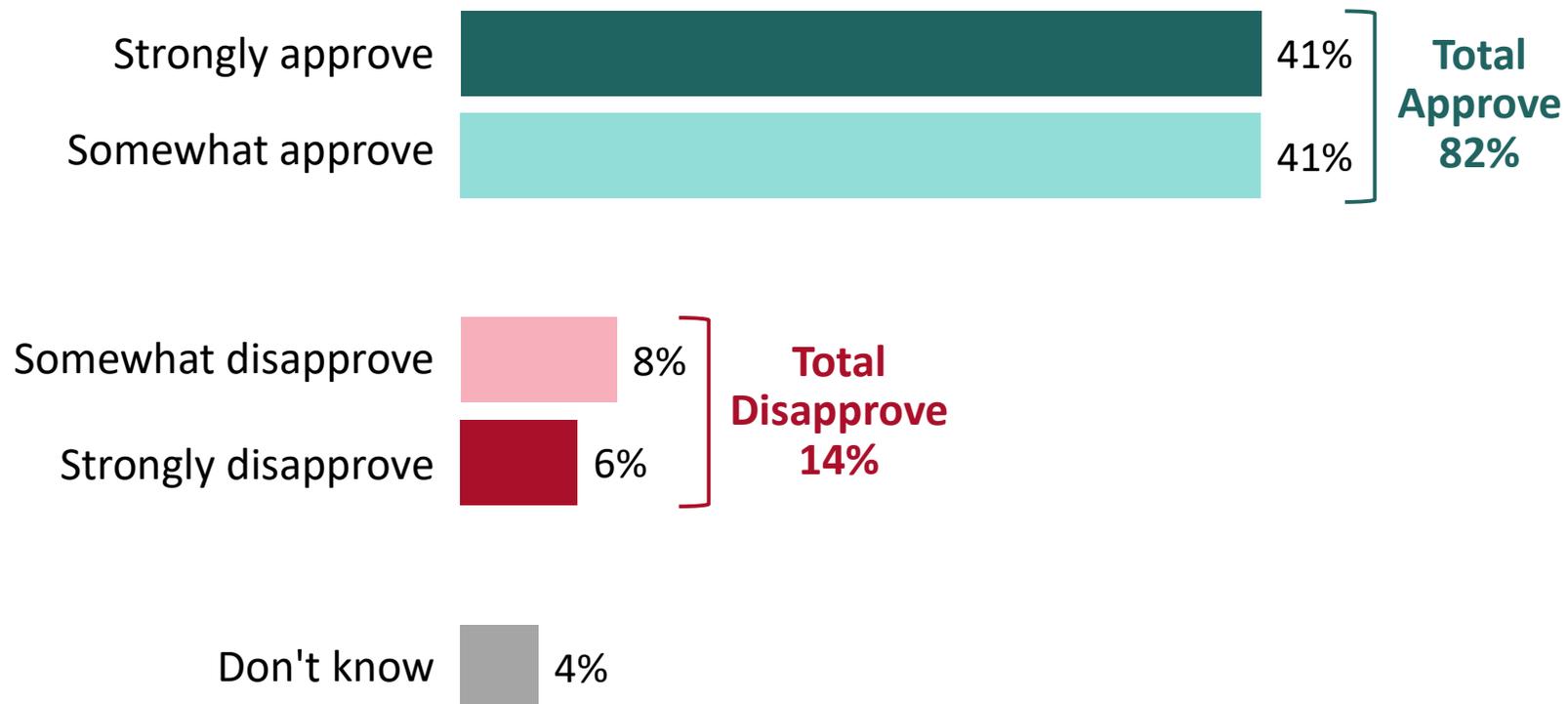
The economy and crime were more concerning than a year ago.

(Extremely/Very Serious Problem)

Problem	2009	2013	2019	Nov. 2020	2019- Nov. 2020 Difference
The condition of the local economy	45%	35%	22%	41%	+19%
Crime, in general	14%	10%	5%	15%	+10%
Potholes and maintenance of local streets and roads	--	36%	26%	27%	+1%
The number of police on duty in Cotati	--	31%	15%	16%	+1%
The availability of housing that working families can afford	--	--	55%	52%	-3%
Traffic congestion on local streets and roads	25%	20%	26%	22%	-4%

For broader context, more than four in five generally approved of police officers generally.

In general, do you approve or disapprove of police officers?



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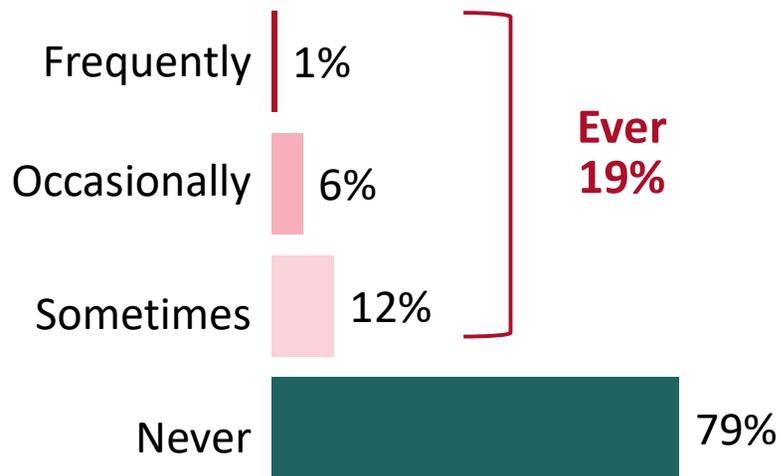


Experiences of Racism in Cotati

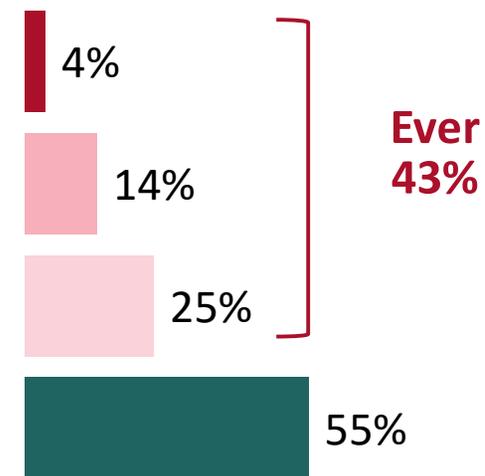


About two in five reported observing racism Cotati in the last five years, and about one in five said they experienced it themselves.

Within the last 5 years, have you personally experienced racism in Cotati frequently, occasionally, sometimes, or never?



Within the last 5 years, have you observed racism in Cotati frequently, occasionally, sometimes, or never?

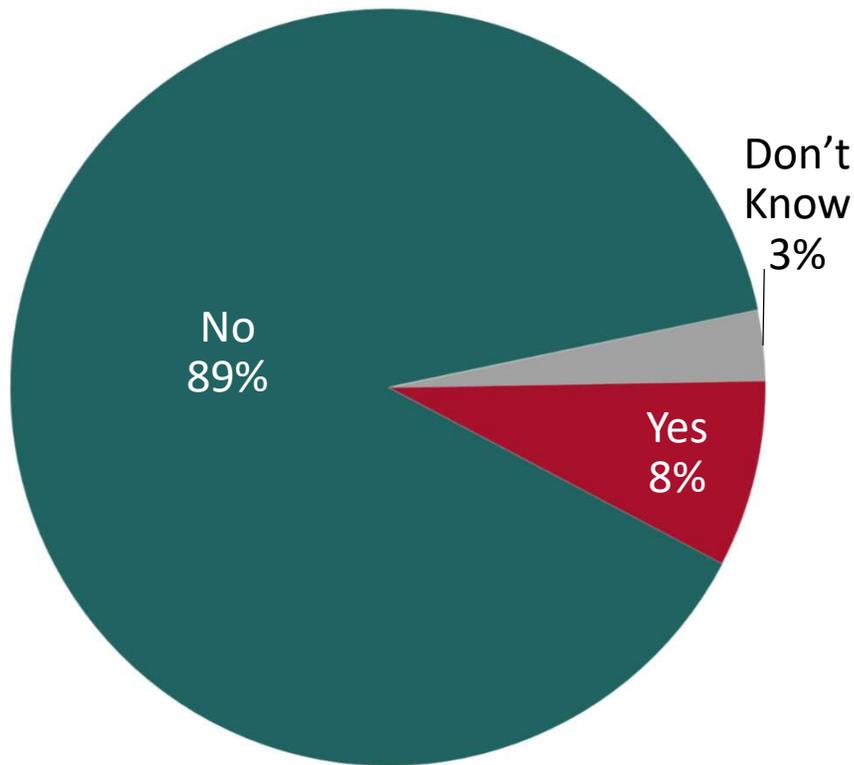


Don't know 2%

3%

Nine in ten said they had not experienced or observed racism involving a City of Cotati service or employee.

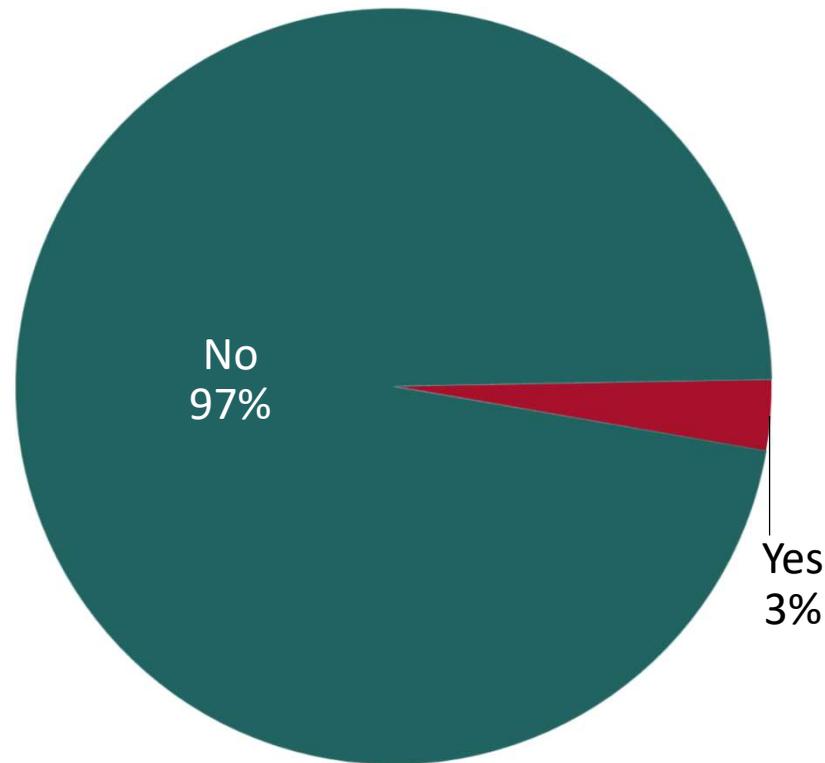
Have you experienced or observed racism involving a City of Cotati service or employee?



Of the 28 people who experienced or observed racism with a City of Cotati service or employee, 20 said this was an issue with the police department. The rest described experience not involving City employees or declined to answer.

Among those who speak a language other than English at home, a few had experienced a barrier to participation in City meetings.

*Have you or a household member experienced a language barrier that prevented you from participating in City meetings?
(Asked of Those Who Speak a Language Other Than English at Home, n=57)*



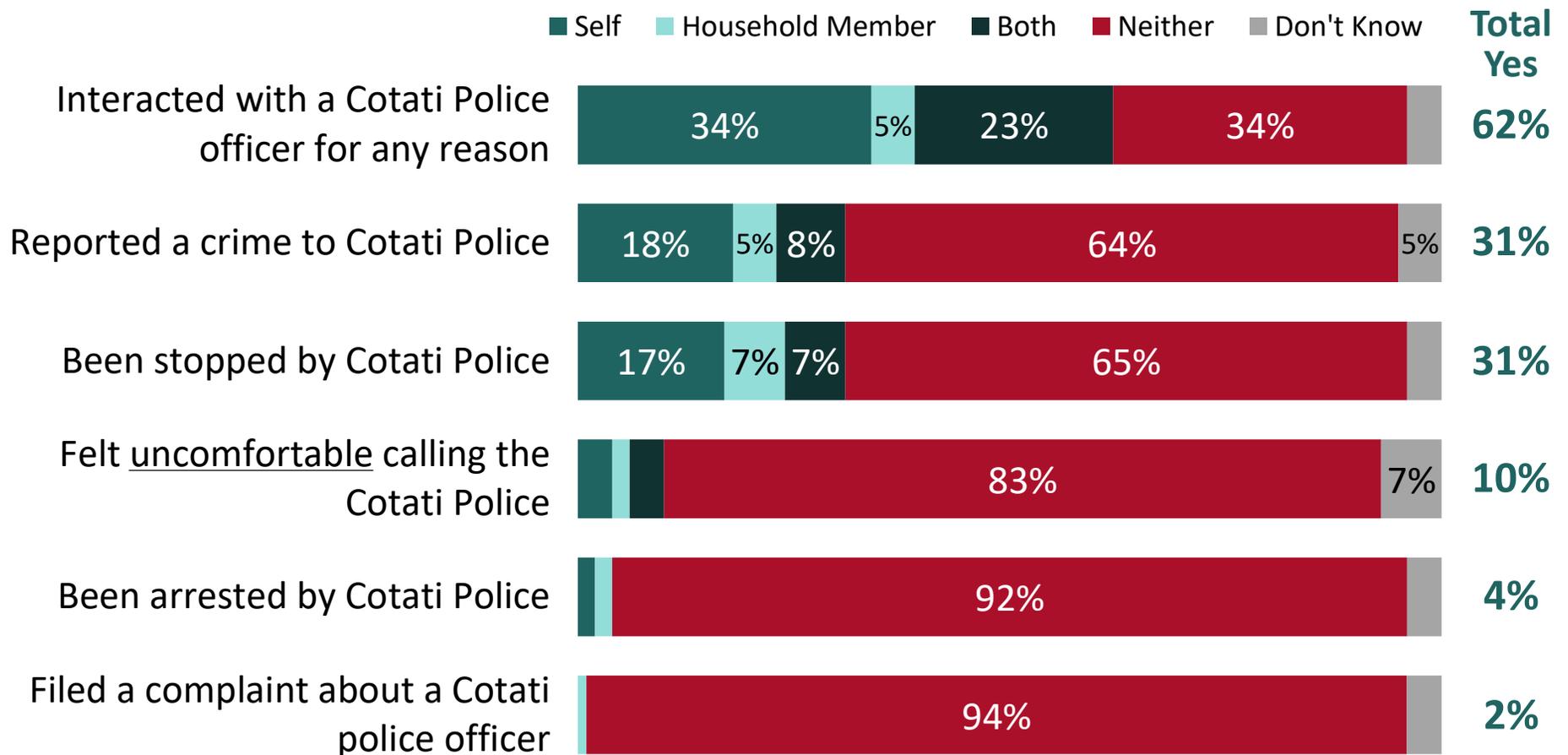
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Experiences with Policing



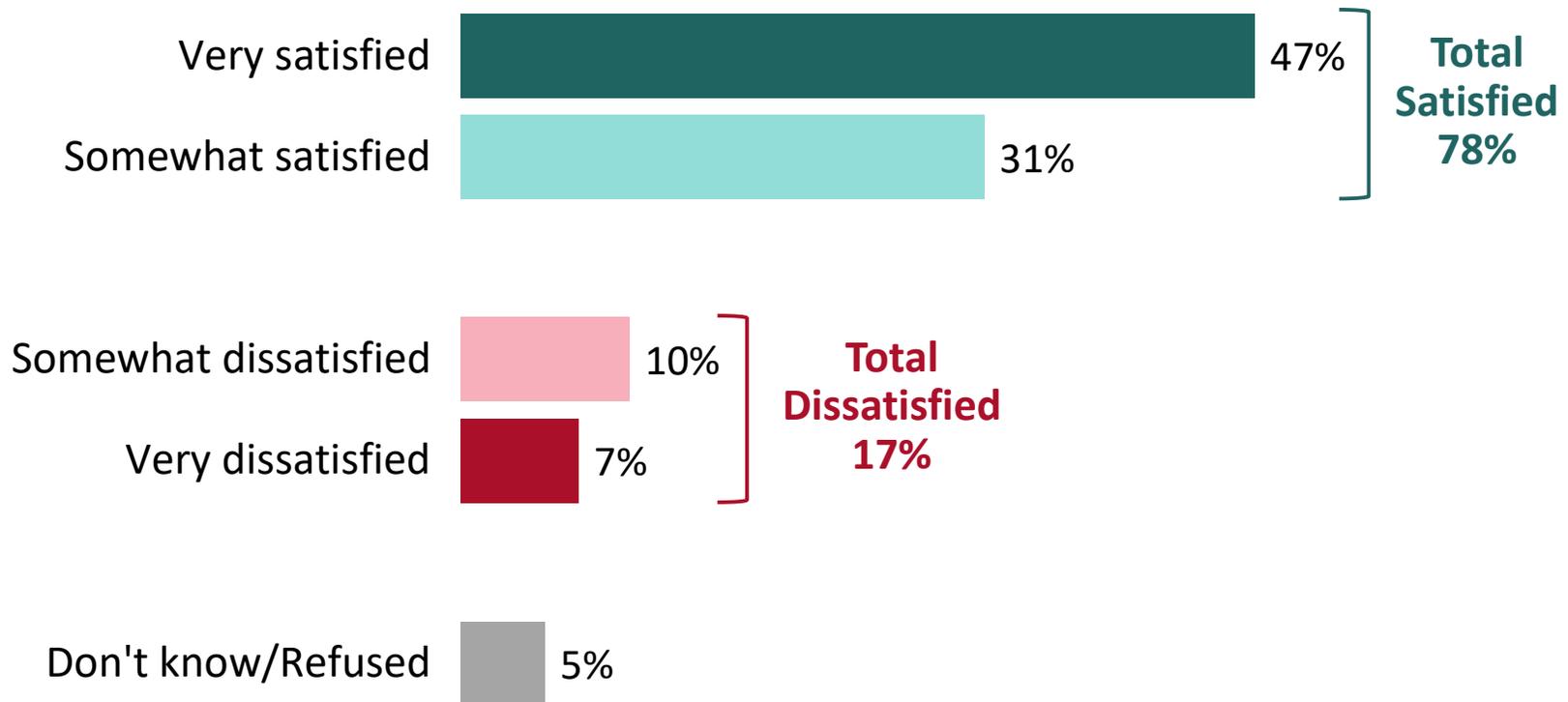
Three in five have interacted with a Cotati Police officer in the last five years or are in a household with someone who has.



Among those with an experience with an officer, nearly four in five were satisfied with the experience they had.

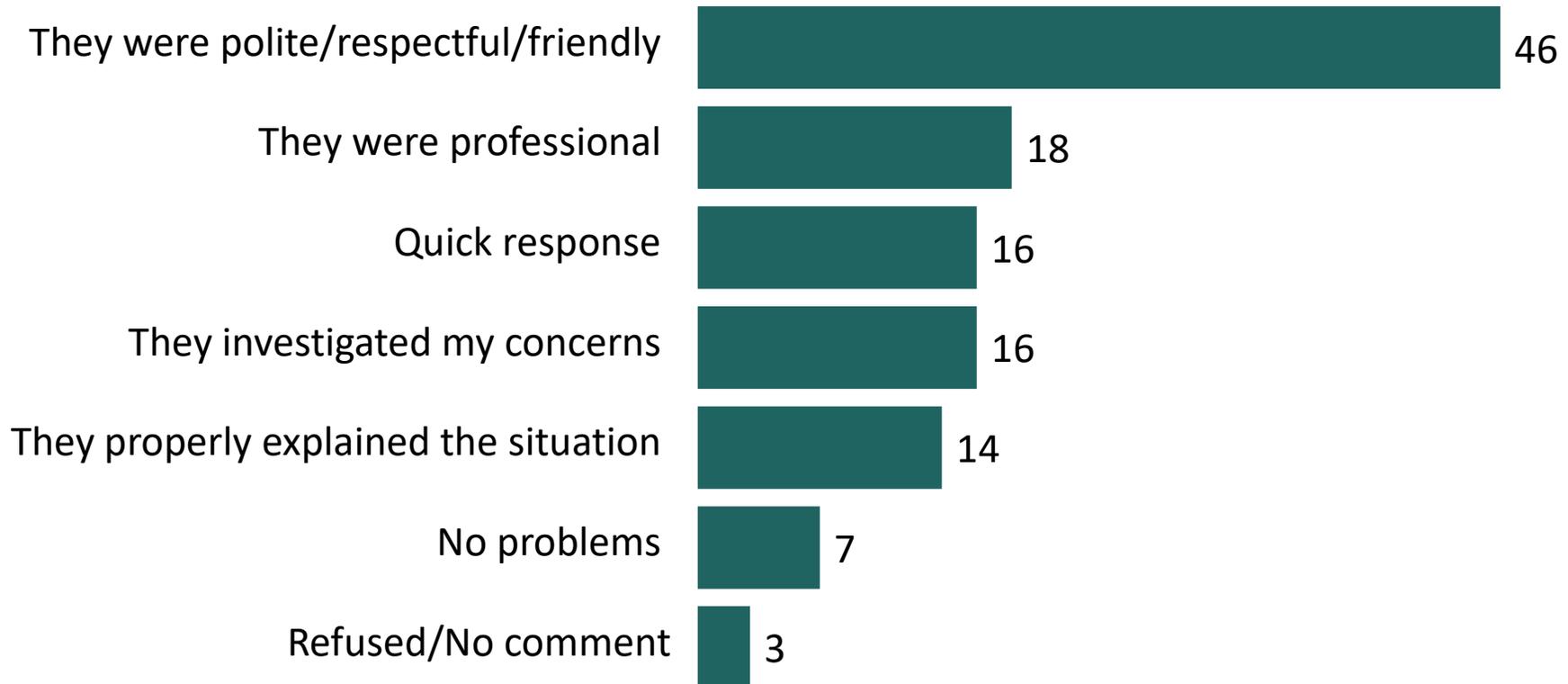
In general, were you or the household member satisfied or dissatisfied with that interaction with the Cotati Police officer?

(Asked of Those with an Experience with Cotati Police Only, n=139 of 354 respondents)



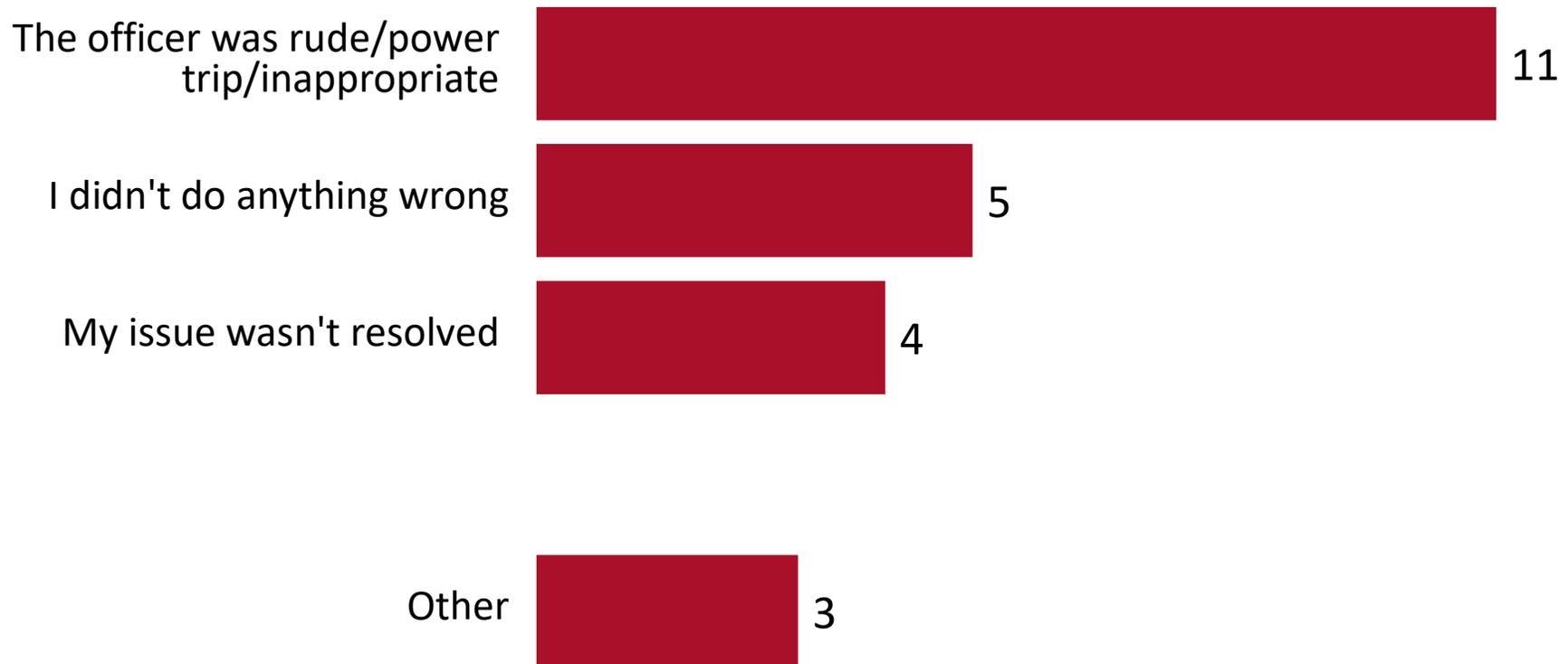
Those satisfied with their experience said the officers were polite, professional and quick.

*In a few words of your own, why were you **SATISFIED** with that interaction?
(Open-ended; Asked of those Satisfied Only, n=109 of 139 respondents,
Multiple Responses Accepted)
n size, Not Percentage, Displayed*



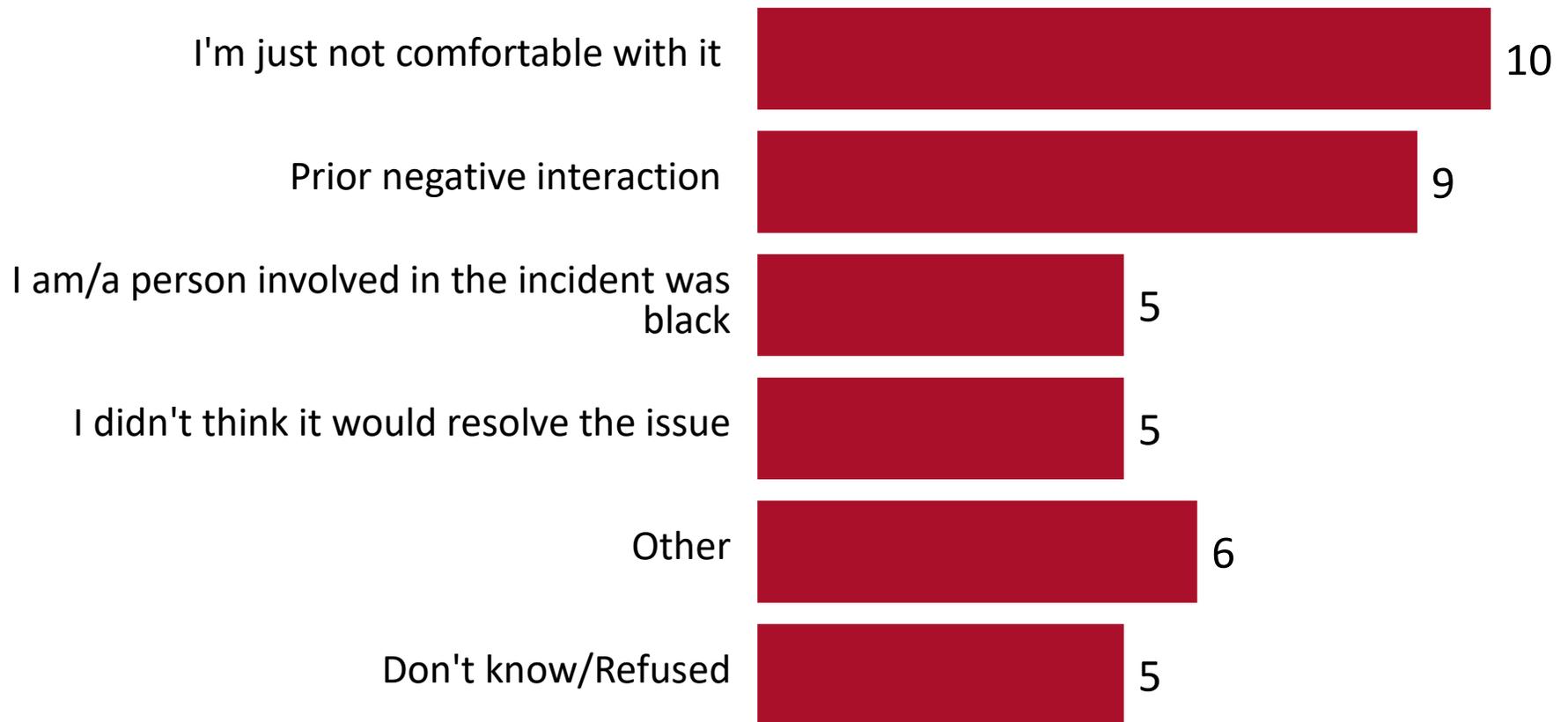
The number who were dissatisfied cited officer behavior.

*In a few words of your own, why were you **DISSATISFIED** with that interaction?
(Open-ended; Asked of those Dissatisfied Only, n=23 of 139 respondents,
Multiple Responses Accepted)
n size, Not Percentage, Displayed*



Those uncomfortable calling the police cited a variety of reasons.

*What made you or your household member uncomfortable calling the police?
(Open-ended; Asked of Those Uncomfortable Calling Police Only, n=36 of 354 respondents,
Multiple Responses Accepted)
n size, Not Percentage, Displayed*



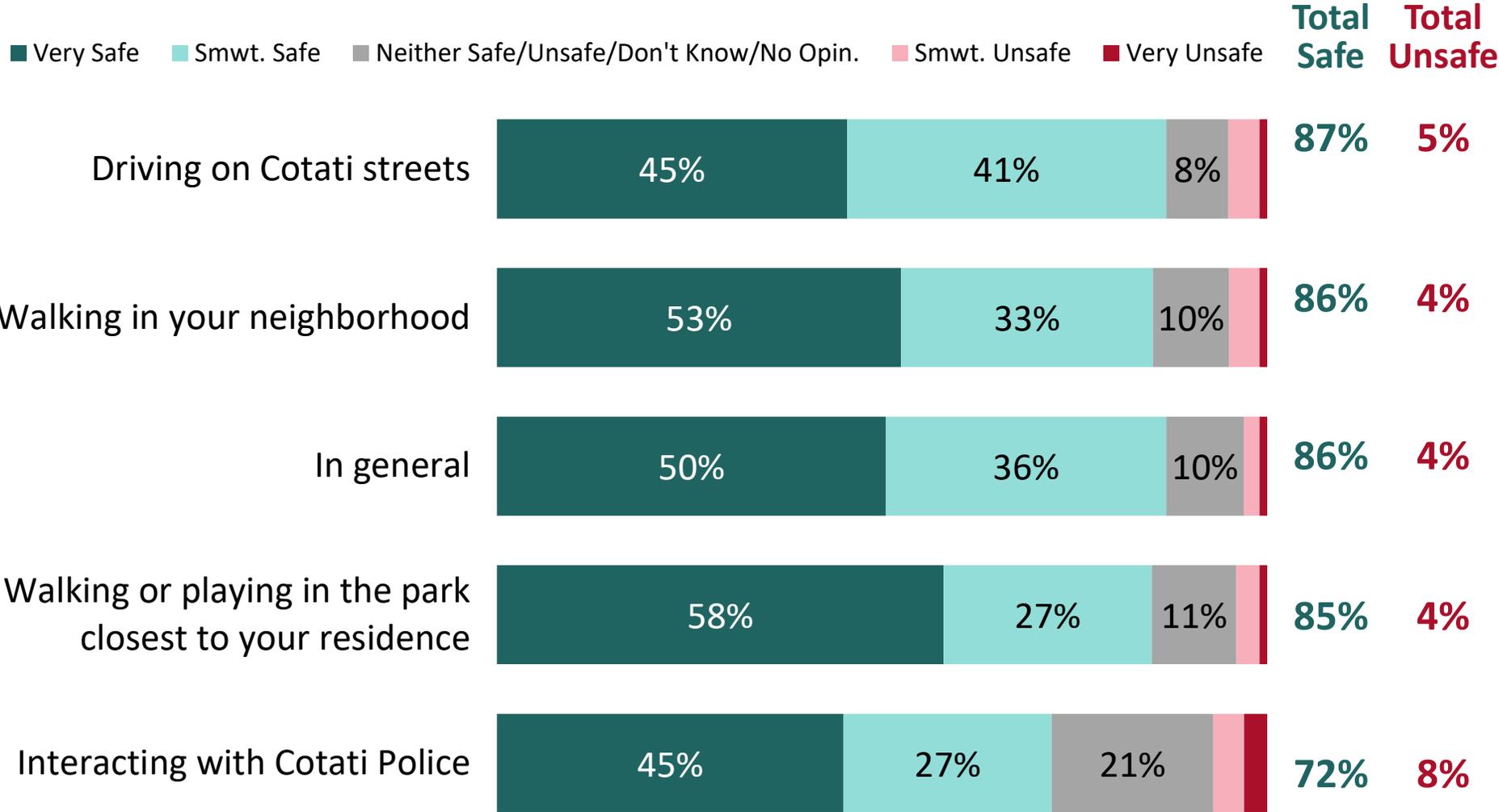
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Views of Public Safety and Policing



Majorities reported feeling safe generally, in parks, driving and walking in Cotati.



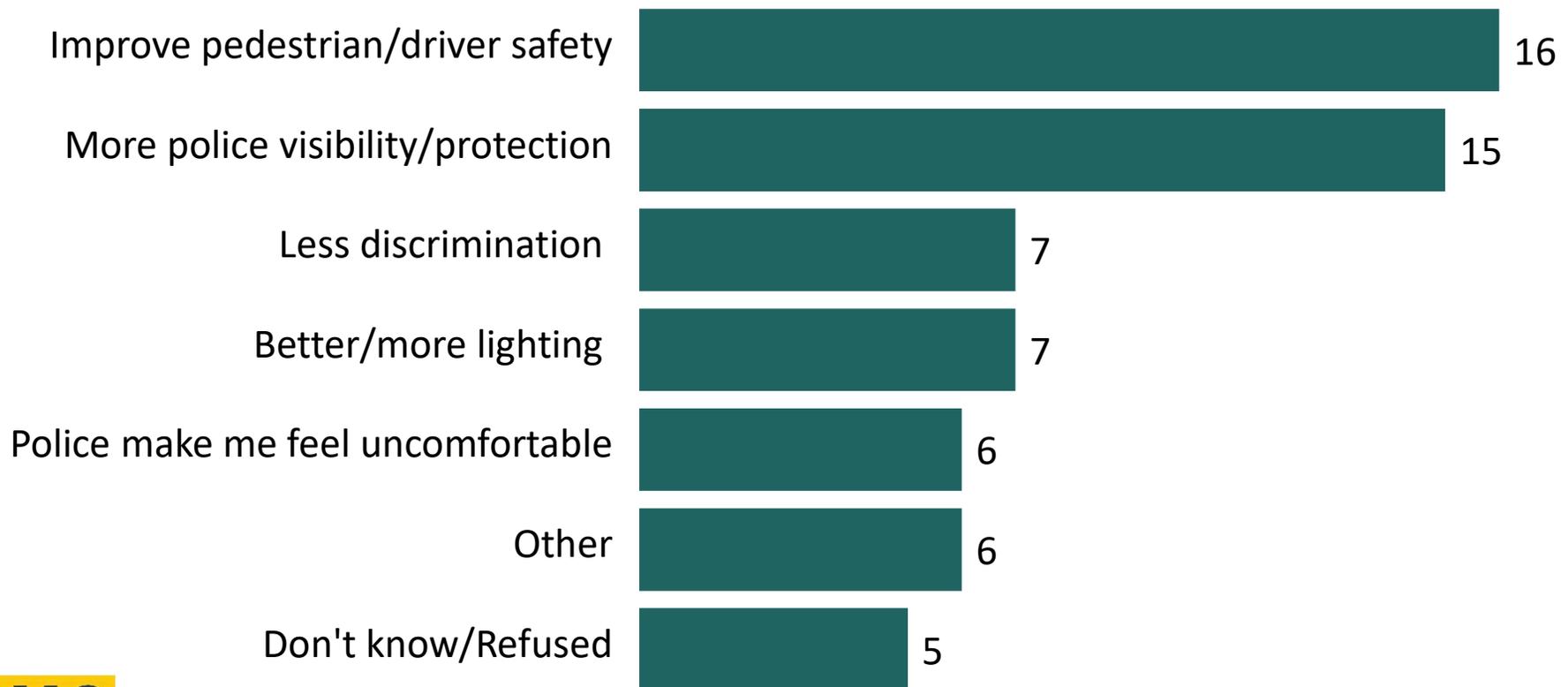
Those with safety concerns wanted more police visibility or improvements to traffic safety; one in ten wanted “less discrimination.”

Earlier you said that you feel unsafe at times in Cotati.

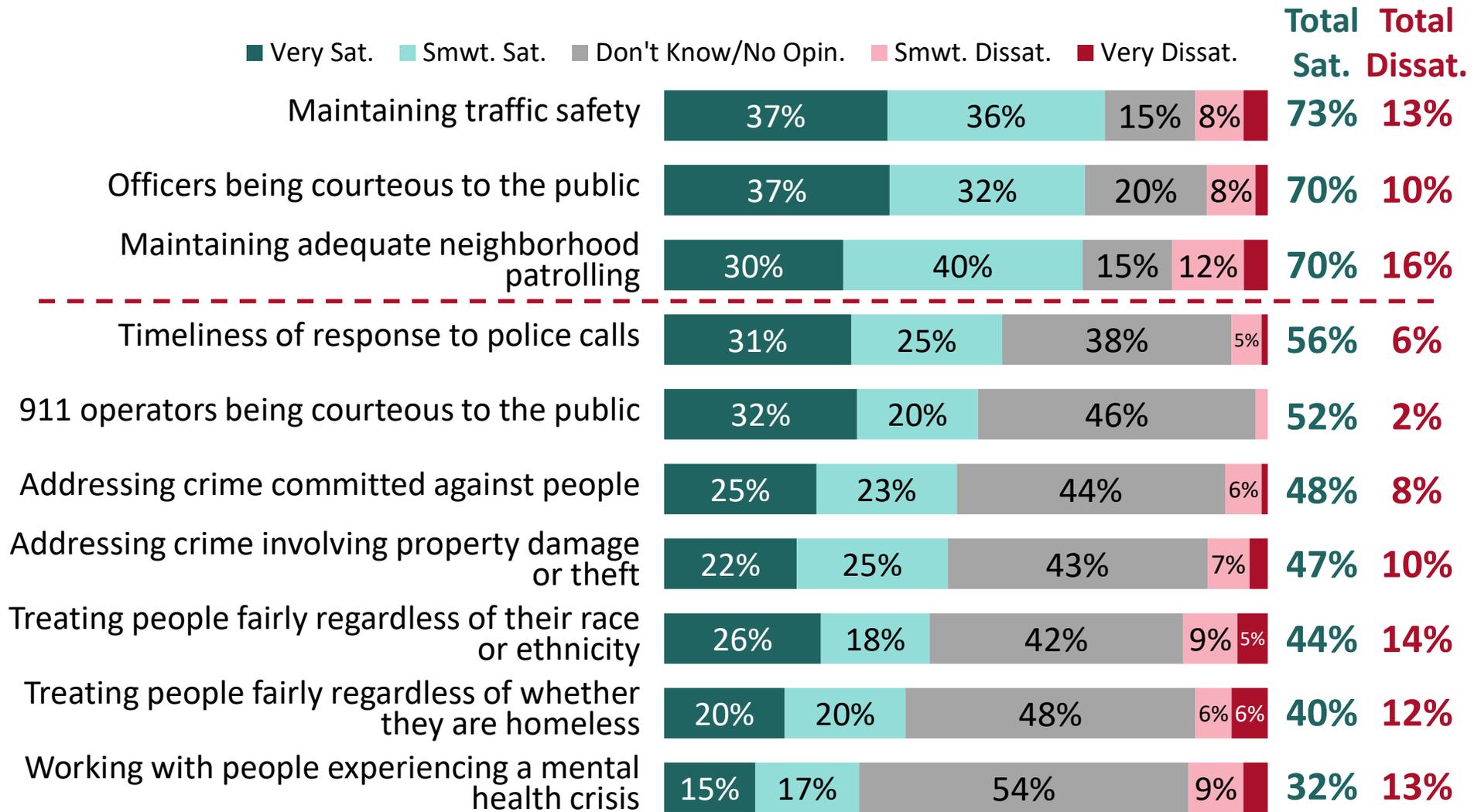
In a few words of your own, what would make you feel safer in Cotati?

(Open-ended; Asked of Those Who Feel Unsafe in Any Area, n=52)

n size, Not Percentage, Displayed



Residents were broadly satisfied with traffic safety, officer courtesy and patrols.

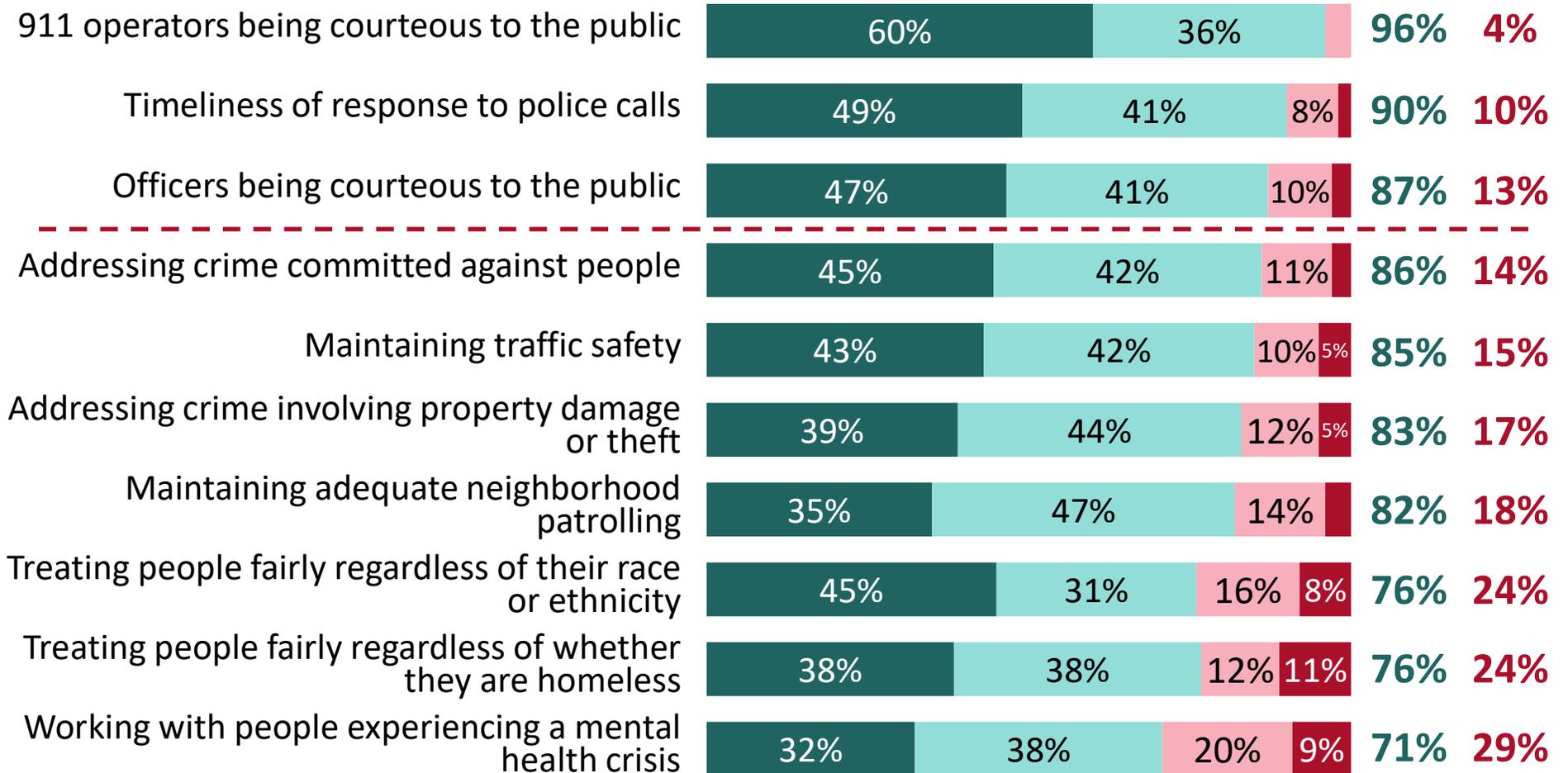


Removing the share who didn't know enough to rate it, satisfaction levels were higher.

(Informed Satisfaction)

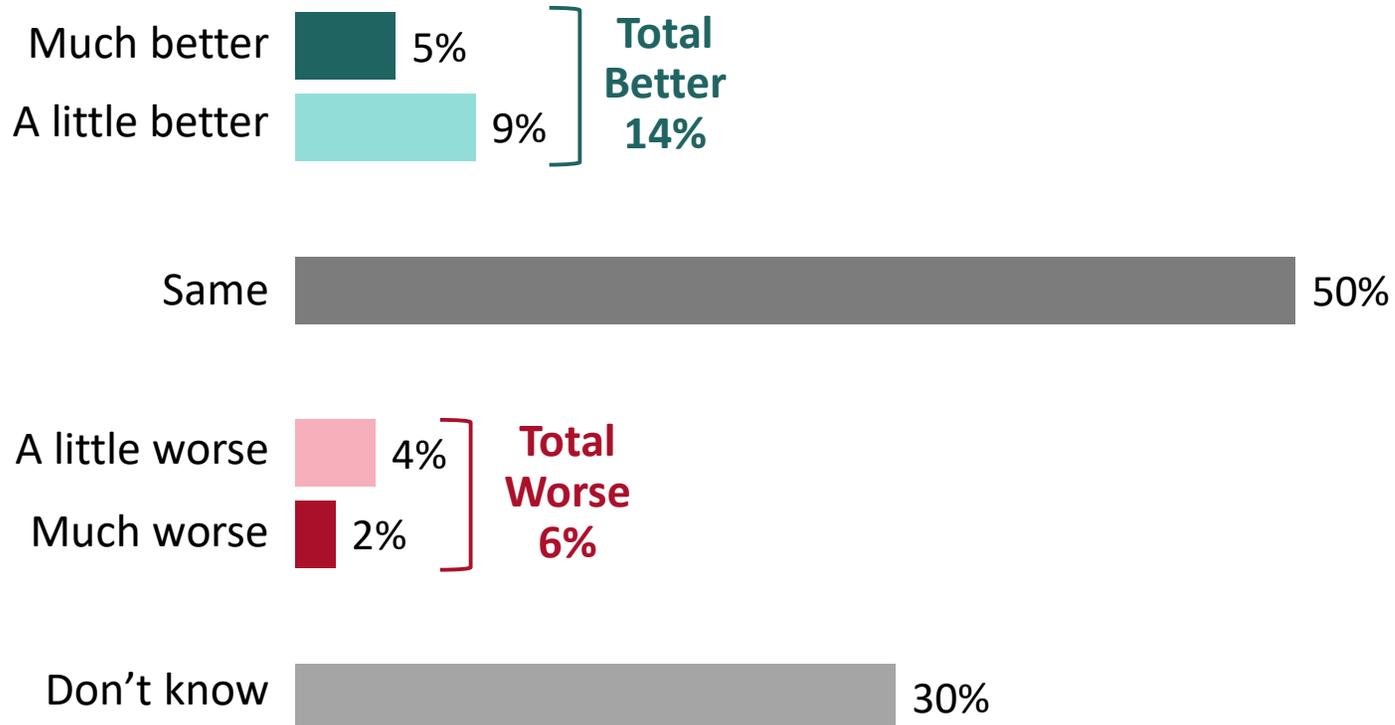
Very Sat. Smwt. Sat. Smwt. Dissat. Very Dissat.

Total Sat. Total Dissat.



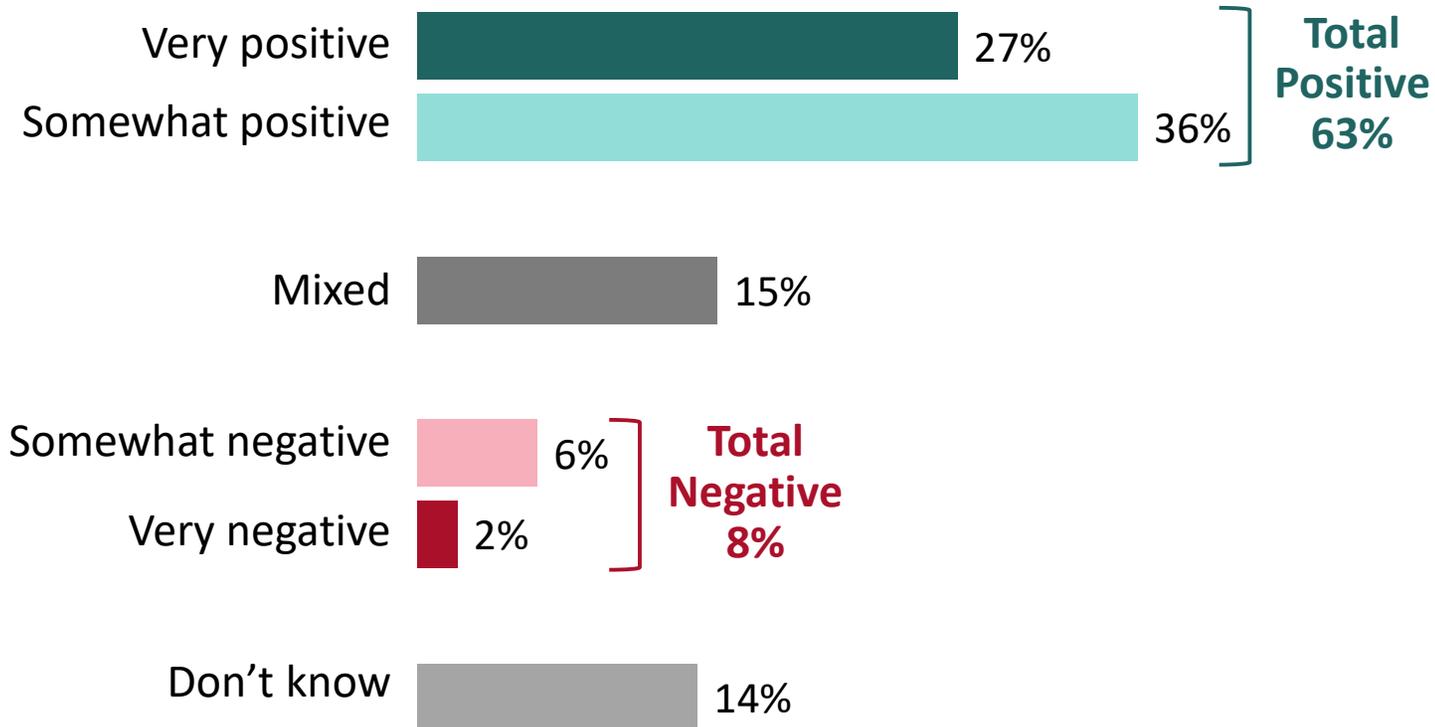
Half believed the relationship with Cotati Police has not changed over the last five years.

Has this relationship gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed about the same over the last 5 years?



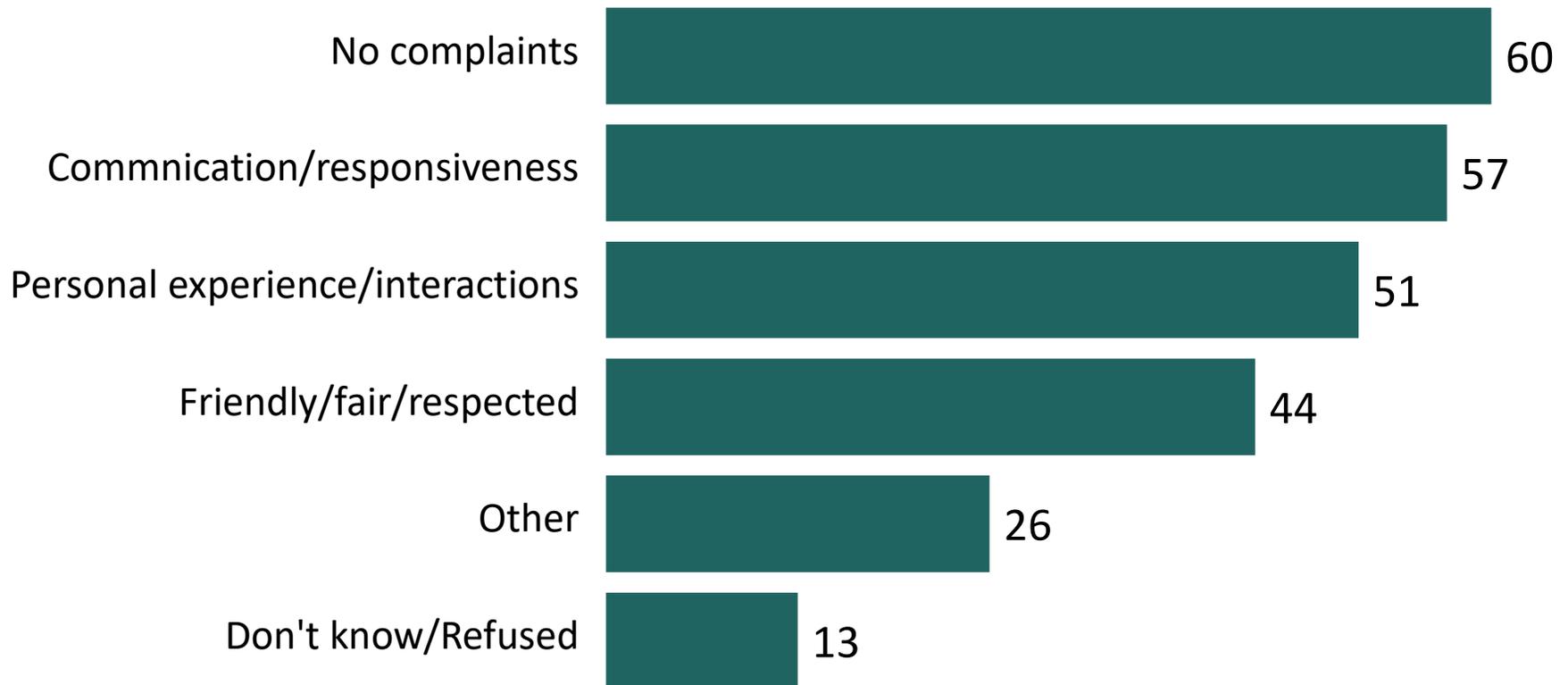
Nearly two-thirds of residents believe the police in Cotati have a positive relationship with residents; three in ten feel it's mixed or don't know.

Do you believe the relationship between the Cotati police and Cotati residents generally is a positive or a negative one?



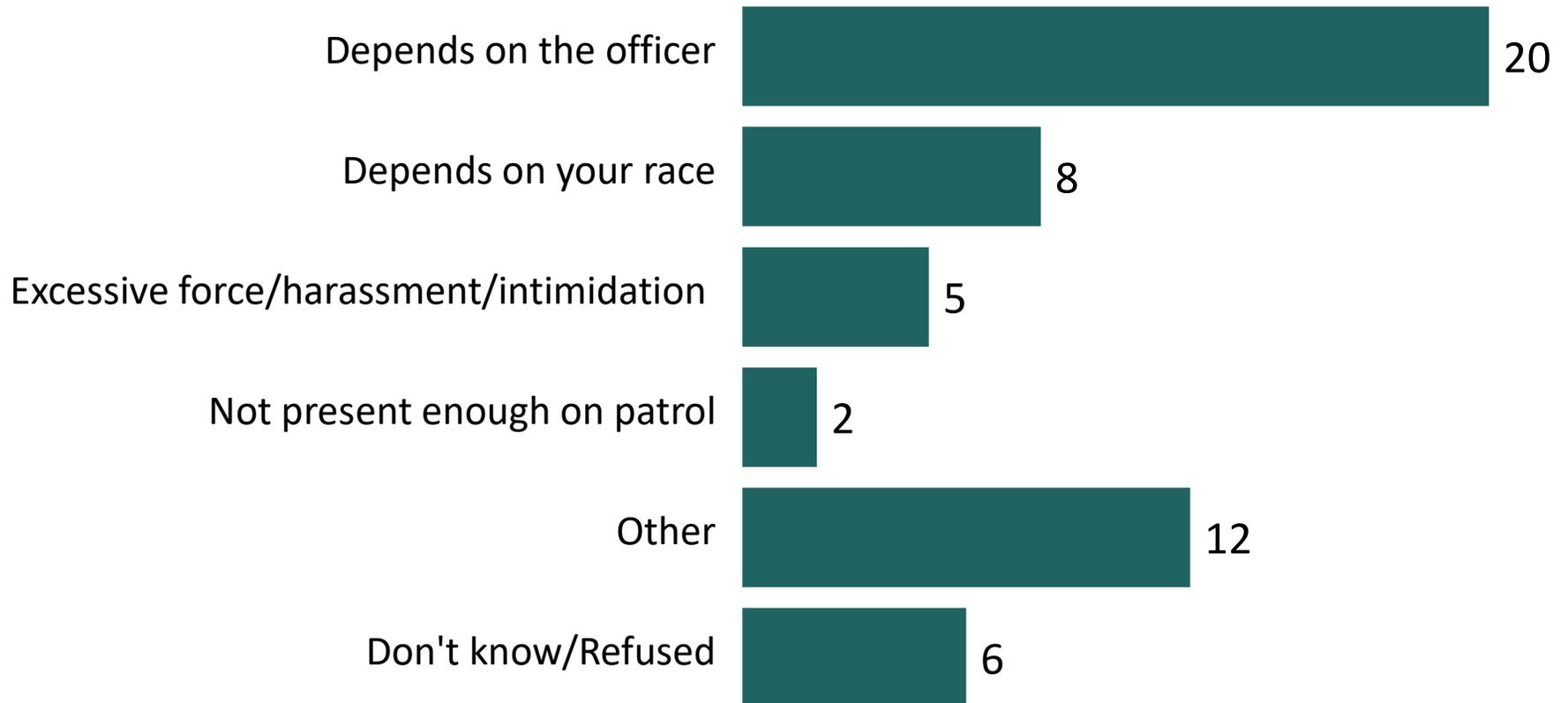
Those with positive views of Cotati Police largely cited positive interactions.

*In a few words of your own, why do you believe that relationship is **POSITIVE**?
(Open-ended; Those with Perception of Positive Relationship Only, n=224 of 354 respondents,
Multiple Responses Accepted)
n size, Not Percentage, Displayed*



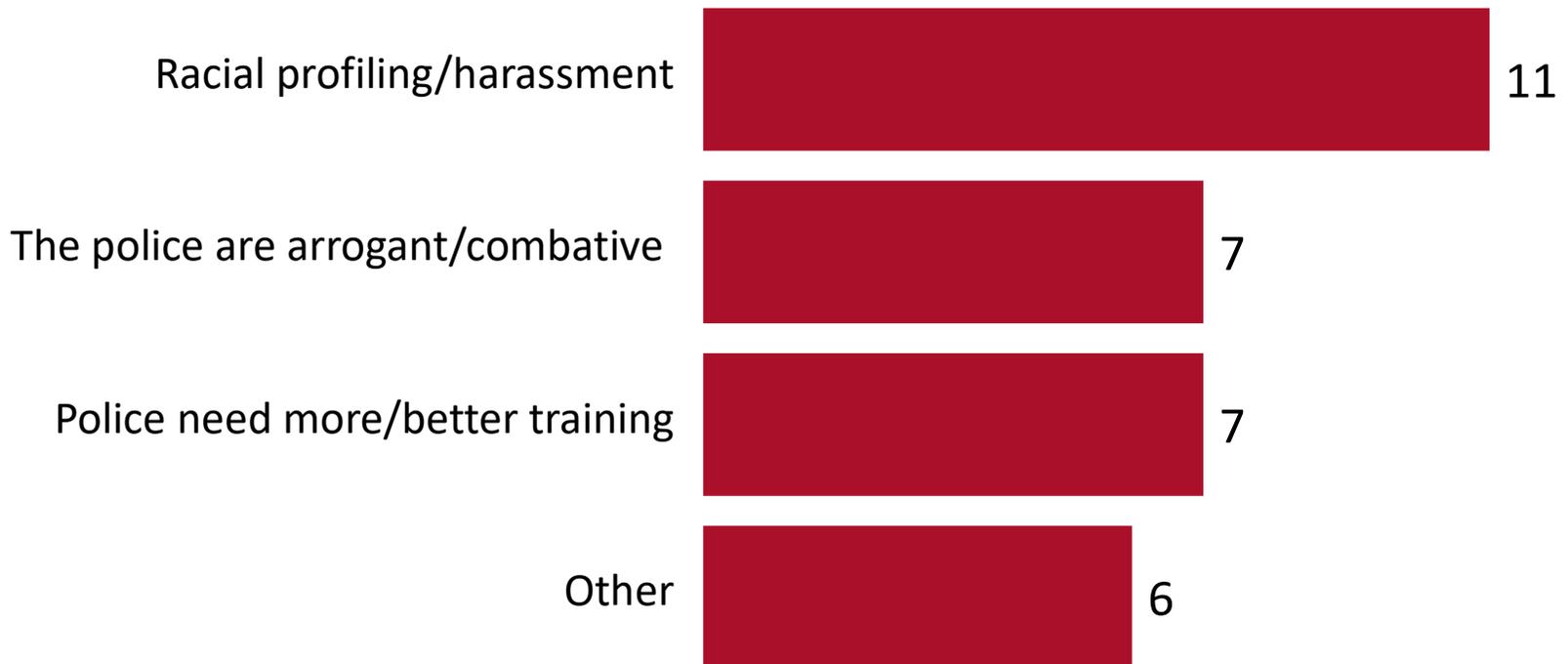
Those with a mixed view said this relationship depended on the officer.

*In a few words of your own, why do you believe that relationship is MIXED?
(Open-ended; Those with Perception of Mixed Relationship Only, n=52 of 354
respondents, Multiple Responses Accepted)
n size, Not Percentage, Displayed*



The group with a negative view of the relationship cited harassment or poor police attitudes.

*In a few words of your own, why do you believe that relationship is **NEGATIVE**?
(Open-ended; Those with Perception of Negative Relationship Only, n=28 of 354 respondents,
Multiple Responses Accepted)
n size, Not Percentage, Displayed*



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Key Demographic Differences



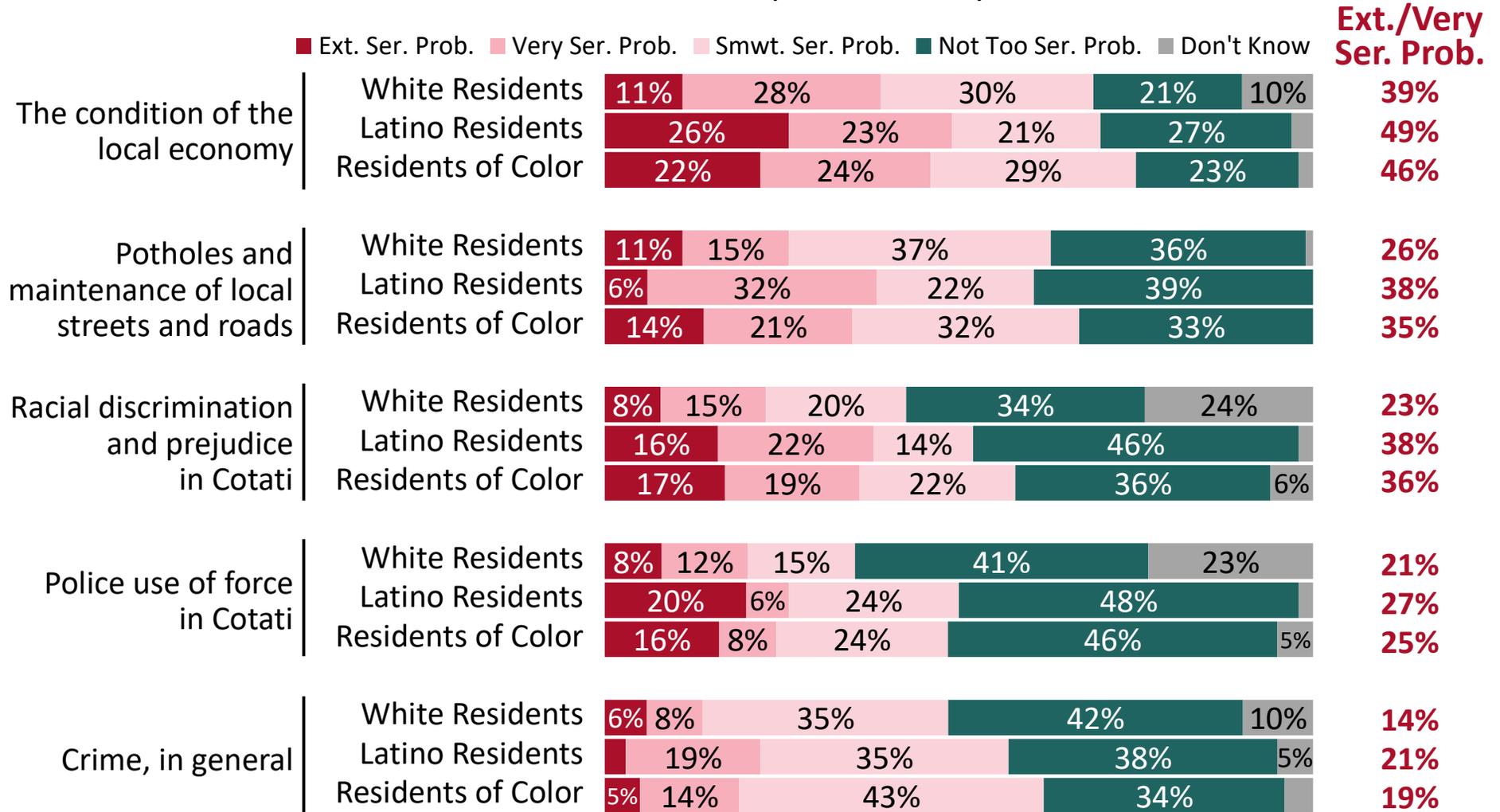
Demographic Subgroup Analysis

Subgroup	N size	MOE
White residents	280	$\pm 6.0\%$
Latino residents	35	$\pm 18.3\%$
<i>Residents of color</i>	59	$\pm 13.2\%$

- Given the small size of Cotati, we are somewhat limited in the conclusions we can draw by specific subgroups. The pattern across similar questions is more informative than individual percentages.
- Latino residents are included in “residents of color,” and shown separately as they are the second most- numerous ethnic/racial group.
- Combining a group of “residents of color” is not intended to represent the views of residents who identify as Latino, African American, Asian/Pacific Islander, multiracial and Native American as monolithic, but instead to demonstrate areas of key difference within the limits of the survey.
- People who refused to share their race/ethnicity are not included in this subgroup analysis.

Residents of color were more likely to feel concerned about the economy.

Problem Seriousness by Race/Ethnicity



Residents of color and younger residents were more likely to have experienced and observed racism in Cotati.

Experienced Racism in Cotati in the Last Five Years

Observed Racism in Cotati the Last Five Years

■ Frequently ■ Occasionally ■ Sometimes

■ Frequently ■ Occasionally ■ Sometimes

All Residents 6% 12% **19%**

14% 25% **43%**

White Residents 9% **13%**

13% 23% **39%**

Latino Residents 9% 23% **33%**

9% 27% 13% **49%**

Residents of Color 7% 19% 16% **42%**

8% 23% 27% **58%**

18-39 9% 14% **25%**

7% 21% 28% **55%**

Age 40-64 12% **17%**

9% 25% **37%**

65+ 5% **8%**

8% 13% **21%**

HH Income <\$100,000 8% 16% **26%**

5% 14% 27% **47%**

\$100,000+ 5% 10% **16%**

15% 24% **41%**

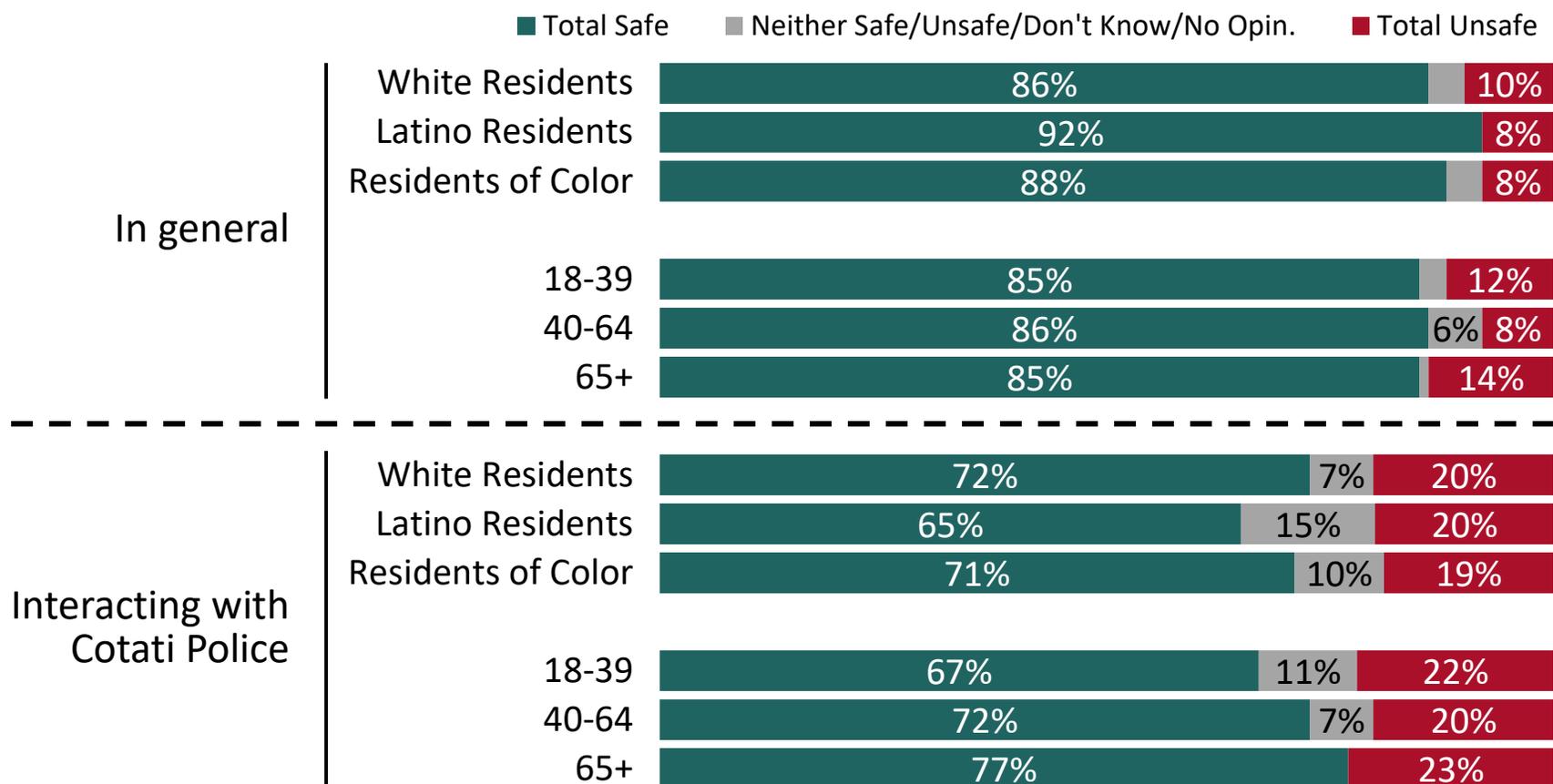
Residents of color, younger and lower-income residents were slightly more uncomfortable calling police, though there are no statistical differences in stops by race.

Interactions with Cotati Police (Total Yes)

Experience With Public Safety	All Residents	Race/Ethnicity			Age			Household Income	
		White Residents (n=280)	Latino Residents (n=35)	All Residents of Color (n=59)	18-39 (n=150)	40-64 (n=134)	65+ (n=57)	<\$100,000 (n=161)	\$100,000+ (n=146)
Interacted with a Cotati Police officer for any reason	62%	62%	69%	61%	54%	67%	67%	67%	58%
Reported a crime to Cotati Police	31%	31%	25%	29%	28%	34%	31%	34%	28%
Been stopped by Cotati Police	31%	30%	34%	37%	32%	30%	34%	40%	24%
Felt <u>uncomfortable</u> calling the Cotati Police	10%	9%	19%	16%	15%	5%	10%	13%	5%
Been arrested by Cotati Police	4%	4%	10%	9%	5%	4%	2%	7%	1%
Filed a complaint about a Cotati police officer	2%	1%	5%	4%	2%	1%	3%	3%	0%

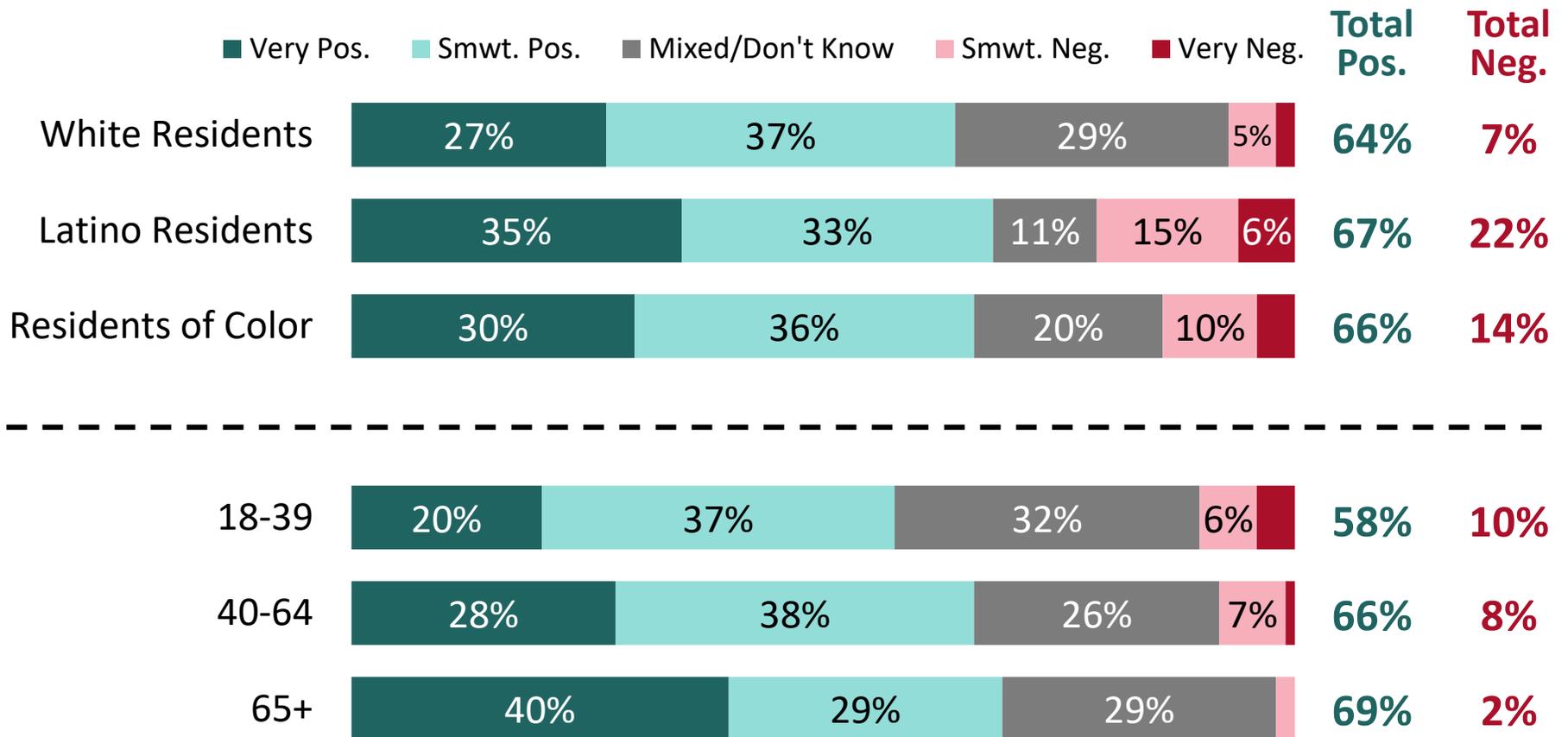
Perceptions of safety are similar across age and race and ethnicity.

Perceptions of Safety in Cotati by Race/Ethnicity & Age



Latino respondents were more likely to say that residents have a negative relationship with police – though most said it is a positive one.

Cotati Police Relationship by Race/Ethnicity and Age



There is some overlap in the groups most likely to express disapproval of police generally and CPD specifically.

- ✓ Overall, there were few statistically significant differences in attitudes and experiences across demographics; in our conclusions we highlight the differences we did find.
- ✓ The shares who disapprove of police generally (14%) and of Cotati Police Department specifically (15%) are relatively small.
- ✓ The demographic subgroups most likely to disapprove of both CPD and police generally are people of color (especially Latinos) and people under 30. However, even in those groups, disapproval rates are below 30%.
- ✓ People with law enforcement members in their family are more likely to disapprove of police generally than other Cotati residents; however, their views of CPD are no different than other residents’.
- ✓ People with household incomes lower than \$60,000 annually or who speak a language other than English at home are more likely to disapprove of CPD than other Cotati residents (though their views of police generally are similar to other residents’).

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Conclusions



Conclusions

- ✓ Cotati is perceived as a safe city overall. Broad majorities say they feel safe interacting with police, driving, walking and playing in their parks and neighborhoods.
- ✓ Residents believe Cotati is an “excellent” or “good” place to live and approve of City government generally.
- ✓ Police officers and the department are broadly viewed favorably, which is consistent with past surveys. While the Police Department continues to have the highest approval rating of City functions, the approval showed a drop between March and November 2020.
- ✓ There was a notable increase in the approval of the Building/Planning Department between 2019 and 2020, and a slight decrease in the favorability of the Recreation department between March and November 2020.
- ✓ The majority of respondents felt that the impacts of climate change and the availability of housing for working families was their top concerns, followed by the local economy and threat of wildfires.

Conclusions, Continued

- ✓ There is a distinct minority of residents with negative perceptions or experiences when it comes to general prejudice in Cotati or police conduct. This share of residents, though small, has grown since March 2020. These residents are more likely be younger, lower income, or Latinos.
- ✓ Negative perceptions appear to have more to do with discrete experiences and officer attitudes.
- ✓ Those with positive perceptions, on the other hand, mention professionalism and respect.
- ✓ Significant shares don't know enough about how CPD officers treat people with regard to race or ethnicity, housing or mental health status to rate them.

For more information, contact:



OPINION
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