

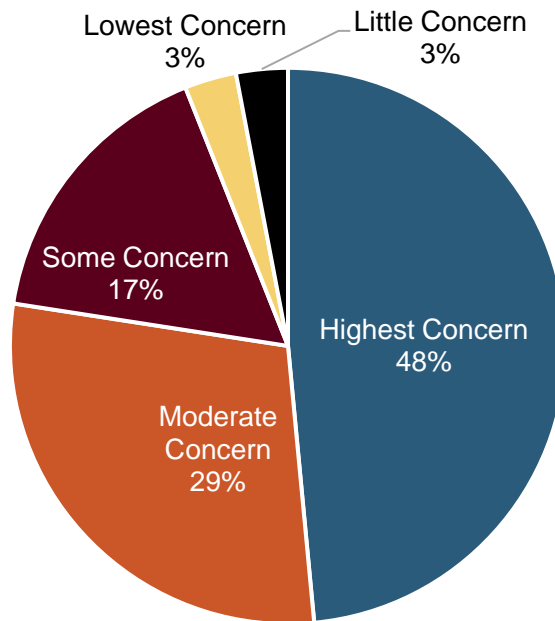
Appendix A

Public Survey Summary

The following qualitatively summarizes responses to the Ouray County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) public survey. The survey was available from November 14th, 2024, to November 30th, 2024. The public survey received 266 responses during this time and was made available online and in physical form at the county courthouse and Land Use Office. A postcard was mailed to all residents and businesses in Ouray County. The following is an analysis of responses collected through the online survey and handwritten responses collected during the comment period. Not all questions were required, and the response rate varied from 239 responses to 266 responses for each question.

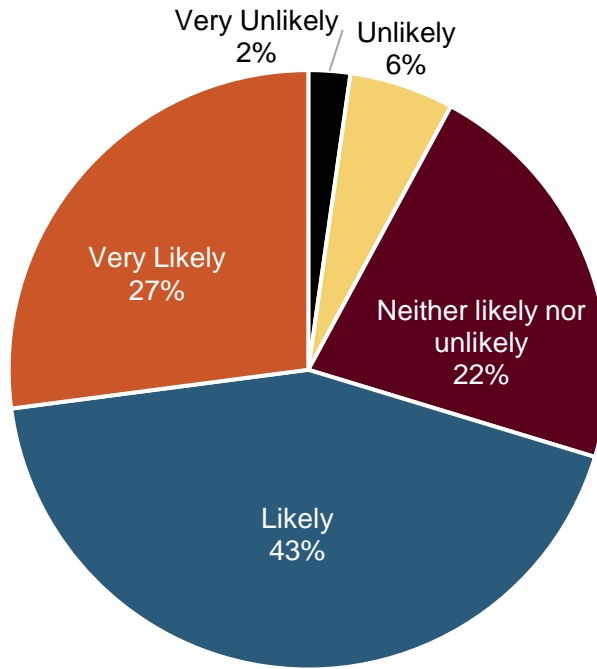
Rank the level of concern that wildfire will impact you or the values that you care about.

Most respondents ranked the impact of wildfires on their values as high or the highest concern. 77% of respondents indicated that they have moderate or the highest concern that a wildfire would impact their values.



In your opinion, how likely is it that a major wildfire will occur in Ouray County in the next 5 years?

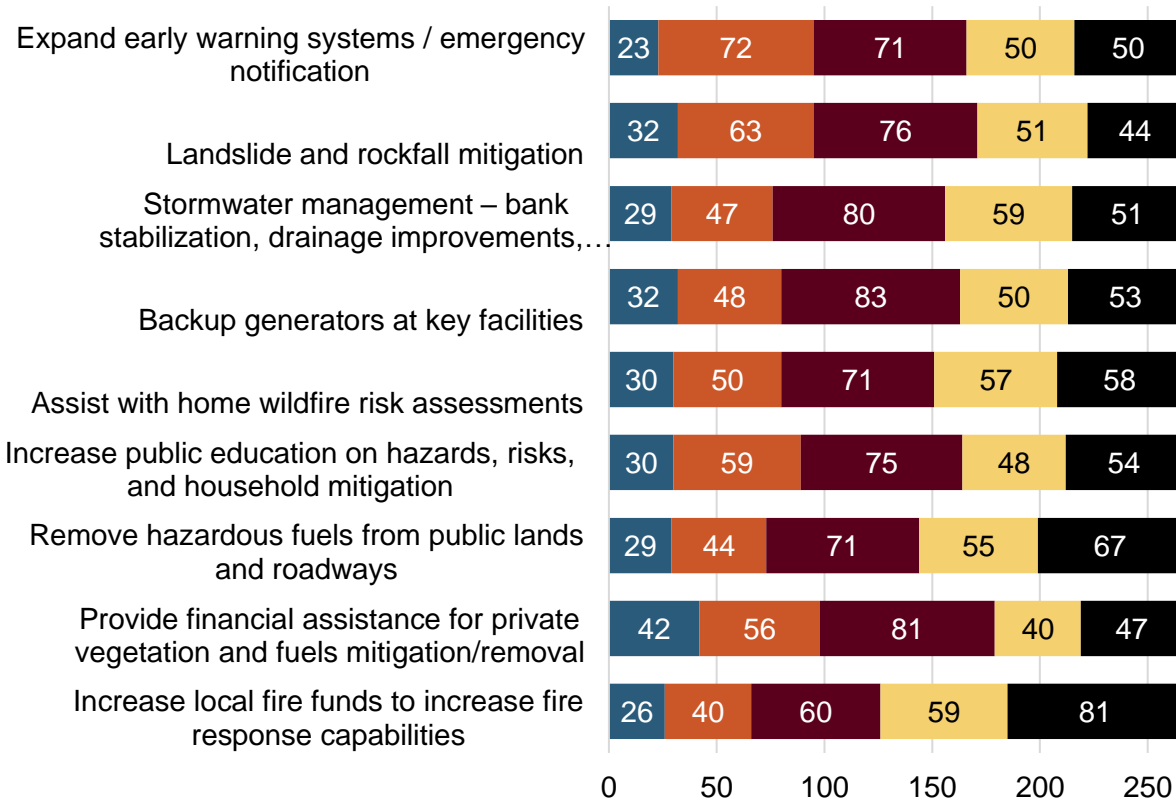
Seventy percent of respondents indicated that they thought a major wildfire would likely or very likely occur in Ouray County within the next five years.



What would you like to see the county, communities, and fire authorities do in the future to protect people, resources, and infrastructure from future hazard events? (Circle each option 1-5, 1 = Not Important, 5 = Very Important)

Residents identified that they would like to see most of the actions taken. “Increase local fire funds to increase fire response capabilities” received the highest average score of 3.48 out of 5. “Provide financial assistance for private vegetation and fuels mitigation/removal” received the lowest average score of 2.98 out of 5.

■ 1 (Not Important) ■ 2 ■ 3 ■ 4 ■ 5 (Very Important)



Action	Weighted Average Importance
Expand early warning systems/emergency notification	3.12
Landslide and rockfall mitigation	3.05
Stormwater management – bank stabilization, drainage improvements, culverts	3.21
Backup generators at key facilities	3.17
Assist with home wildfire risk assessments	3.24
Increase public education on hazards, risks, and household mitigation	3.14
Remove hazardous fuels from public lands and roadways	3.33
Provide financial assistance for private vegetation and fuels mitigation/removal	2.98
Increase local fire funds to increase fire response capabilities	3.48

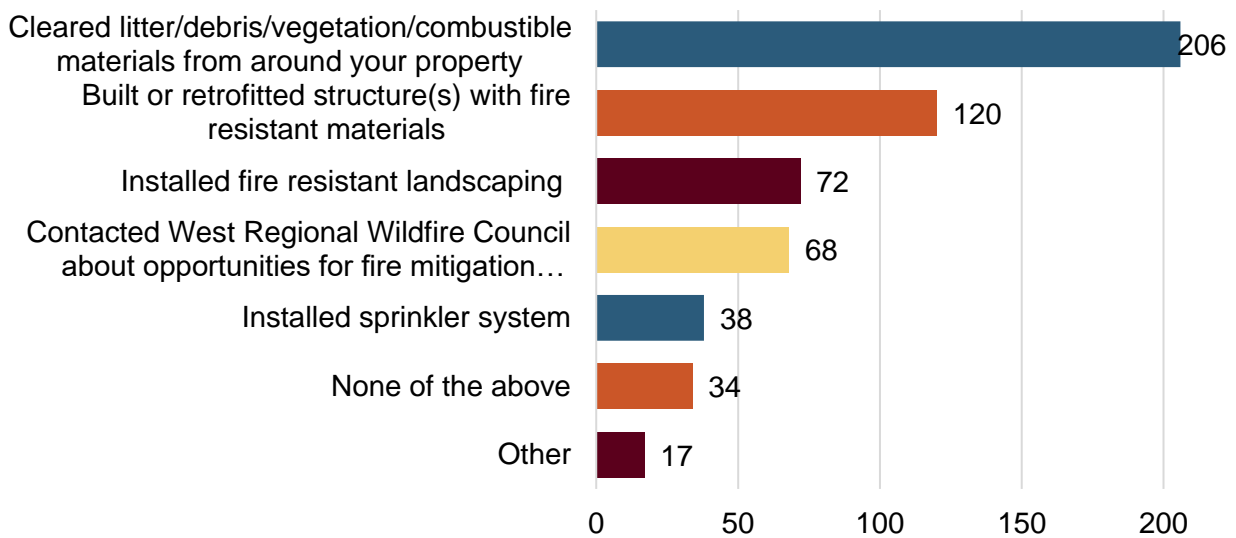
Please indicate how important it is to protect the following from hazard events (Circle 1-5, 1 = Not Important, 5 = Very Important)

The highest-ranked value was Human Life, followed closely by Water Quality. The following table shows the values ranked by weighted average importance.

Values	Weighted Average Importance
1) Human Life	4.56
2) Water Quality	4.42
3) Infrastructure (communication, power, roadways, water)	4.23
4) Forest Health	3.99
5) Emergency Response & Government Services	3.83
6) Wildlife	3.70
7) Air Quality	3.52
8) Buildings	3.32
9) Historical Sites	3.32
10) Cultural Areas	3.06
11) Livestock	3.00
12) Recreation	2.85

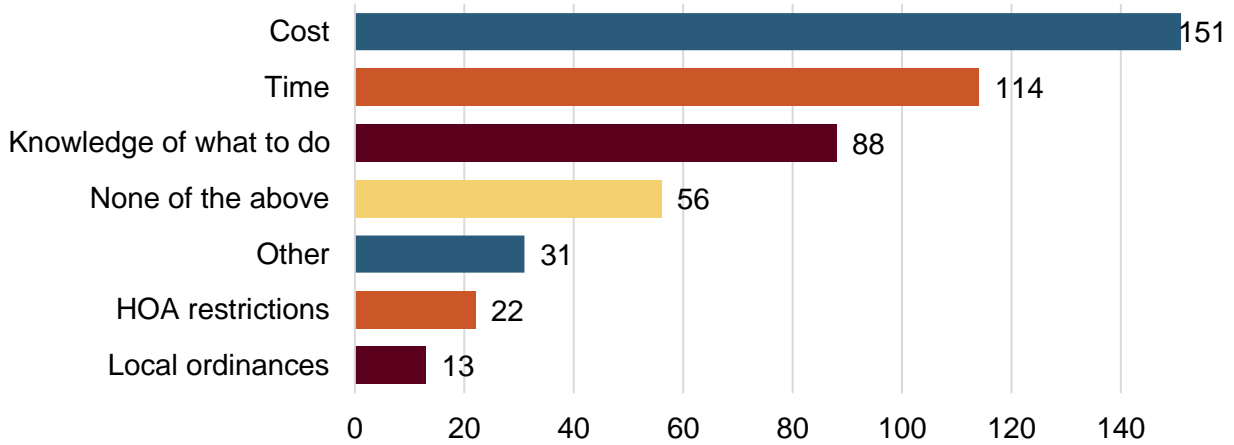
What measures have you taken to protect your home or property from wildfire? (Select all that apply)

Only 13% of the respondents reported not taking any measures to protect their homes. Respondents who selected “other” reported engaging in various activities to protect their property, including purchasing equipment and discussing wildfire risk with neighbors.



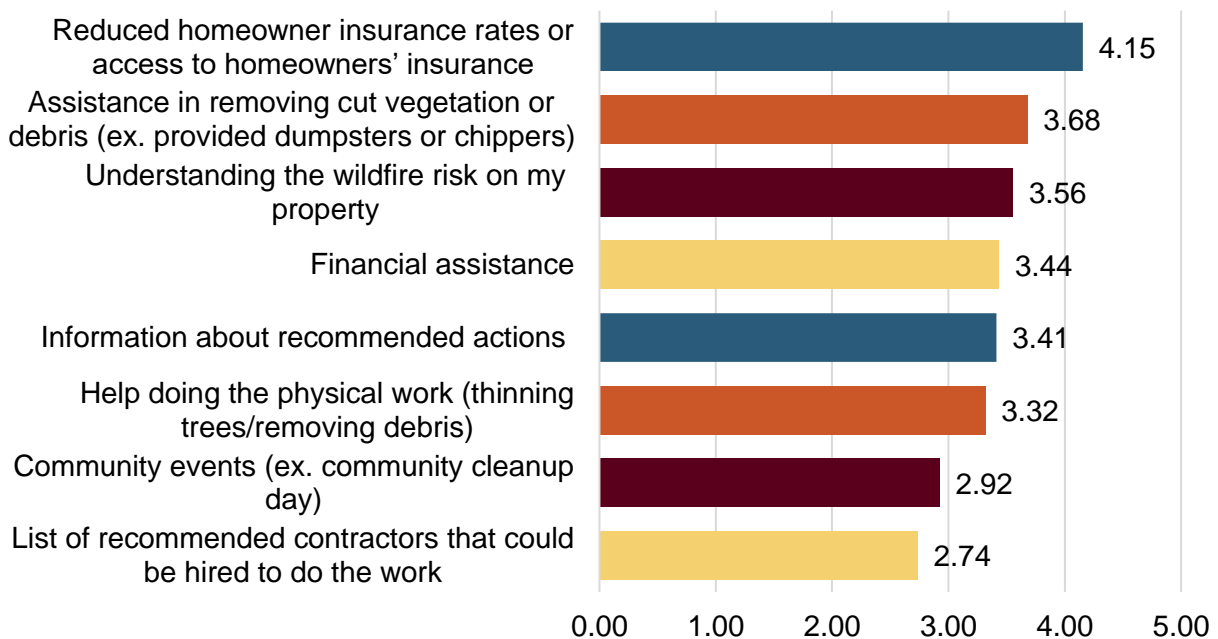
What are the barriers you face when protecting your home or property from wildfire? (Select all that apply)

Cost was the most selected barrier, with 57% of respondents identifying it, followed by Time with 43%. 21% of respondents identified that none of the barriers were a factor. Common themes among those who marked “other” included being a renter and the forest near their home being too large to manage.



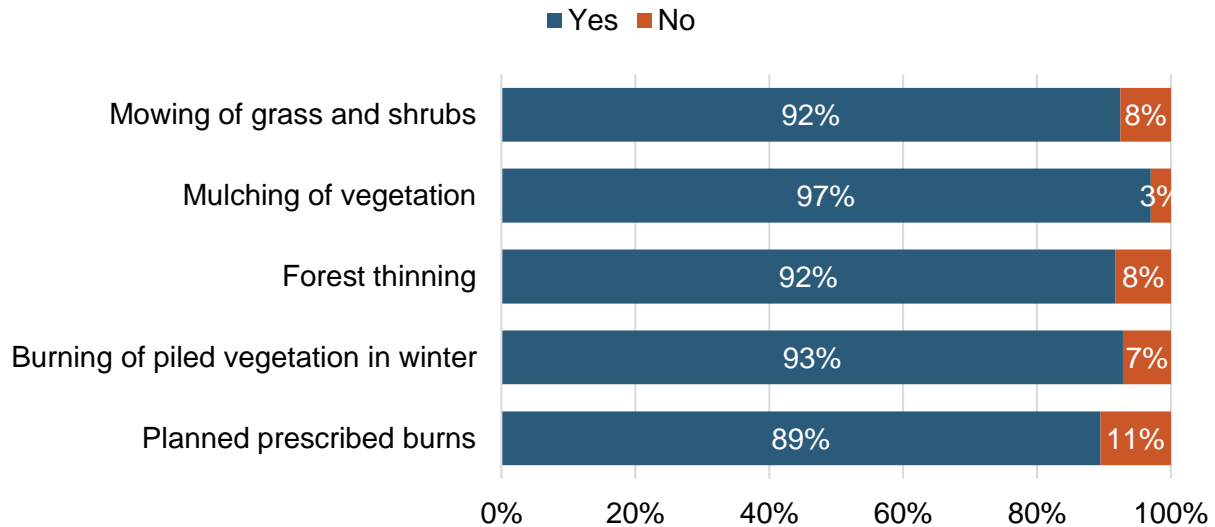
What factors/information would encourage you to reduce wildfire risks on your property? (Circle 1-5, 1=very encouraging, 5= not encouraging at all)

Survey participants indicated that lists of recommended contractors and community events would most effectively encourage them to reduce wildfire risks on their property.



Do you support the following vegetation management techniques? (Yes or No)

Most respondents supported all vegetation management. Planned prescribed burns were the least supported, with 89% agreeing with the management technique. Mulching of vegetation was the most widely supported technique, with 97% of respondents indicating their support for it.



If you selected “No” to any of the vegetation management techniques in the question above, please explain why.

The following is a summary of comments, lightly edited for clarity. The survey received 63 comments.

Mowing of grass and shrubs

Respondents who marked “No” to mowing grass and shrubs indicated that mowing can destroy habitat, be unnatural, and feel that grass does not pose as significant a threat to wildfire.

Related Comments

- Mowing damages habitat and is useless for fire mitigation with the forest types we have.
- I want my “yard” to look natural, not a manicured Kentucky Bluegrass city lawn that requires constant maintenance and watering and harmful chemicals.

Mulching of vegetation

Respondents who marked “No” to mulching vegetation felt that the vegetation was important for wildlife habitat and that mulch could become fuel for wildfires.

Related Comments

- Vegetation, grass, and shrubs are important wildfire habitat
- The mulch becomes fuel in this climate. It is too dry for traditional mulching to be effective for fire mitigation here.

Forest thinning

Respondents who marked “No” on forest thinning discussed the lack of effectiveness, expense, and the impact on forest health.

Related Comments

- Forest thinning is too massive and disruptive.
- This will affect the long-term health of the forest and wildlife habitat.
- I'm not sure the benefit would be worth the costs.

Burning of piled vegetation in winter

Respondents who marked “No” on the Burning of piled vegetation in winter are worried about air quality, issues with containing the fire and the establishment of noxious weeds after the pile is burned.

Related Comments

- Scars left by burning piles provide for noxious weed establishment.
- Adverse effects on air quality when they could be mulched instead.

Planned prescribed burns

Respondents who marked “No” on planned prescribed burns are concerned about air quality and the ability to control the fire.

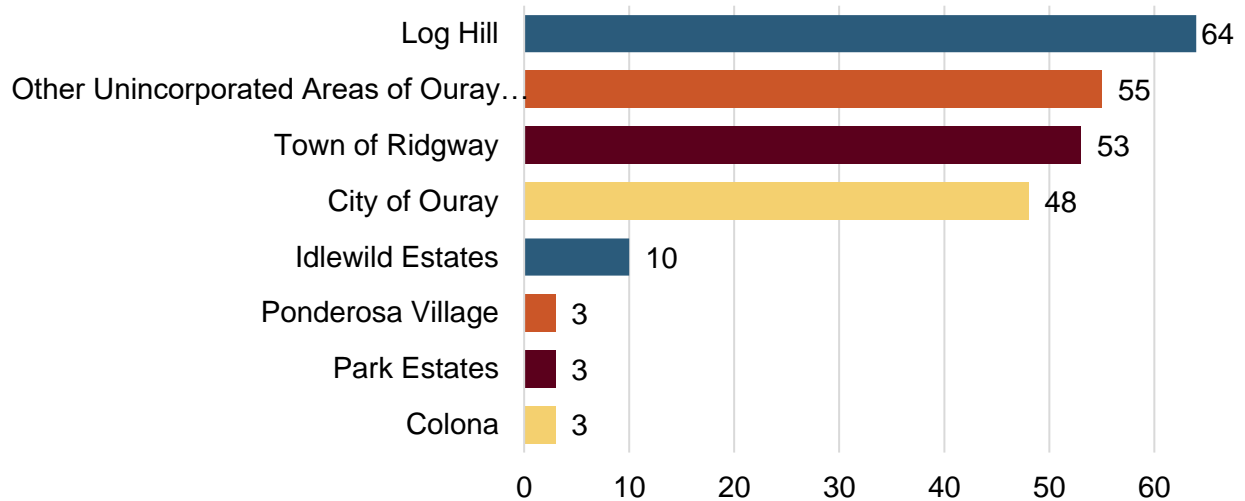
Related Comments

- Prescribed burns resulted in a fire beyond the scope of the plan
- Let nature take its course. There is no need to spend money on speculative mitigation.
- (Prescribed Burns) Harm wildlife and air quality.

Demographic Information

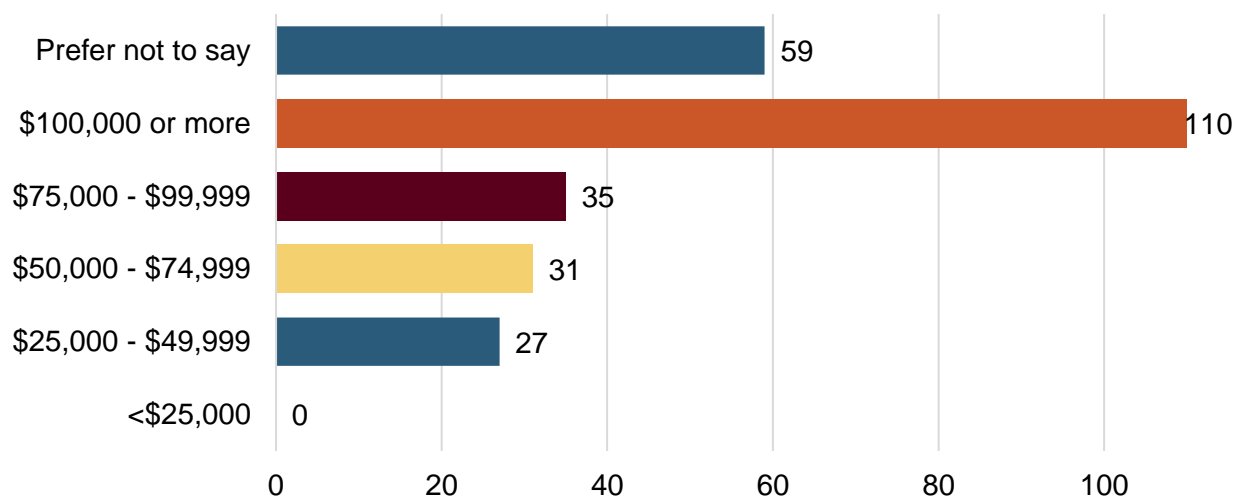
Where is your primary residence?

The largest percentage of respondents came from Log Hill, at 27%, followed by Unincorporated Areas at 23%, the Town of Ridgway at 22%, and the City of Ouray at 20%.



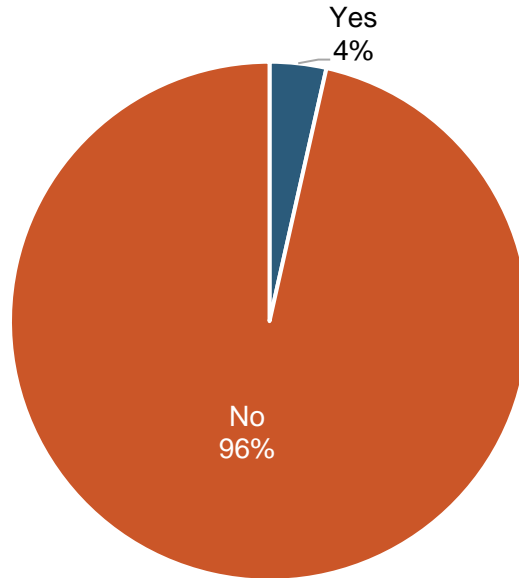
What is your household income?

54% of households earn over \$100,000 per year. 17% of households made between \$75,000 and \$100,000, and 15% of households made between \$50,000 and \$74,999—finally, 13% of households made between \$25,000 and \$49,999.



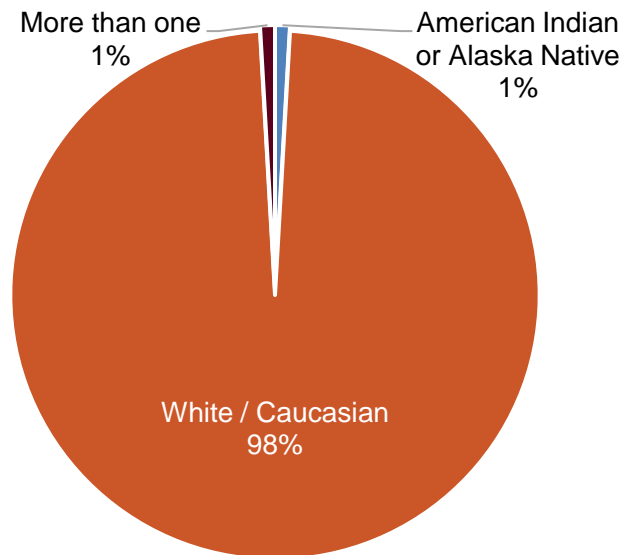
Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?

Most respondents were not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin.



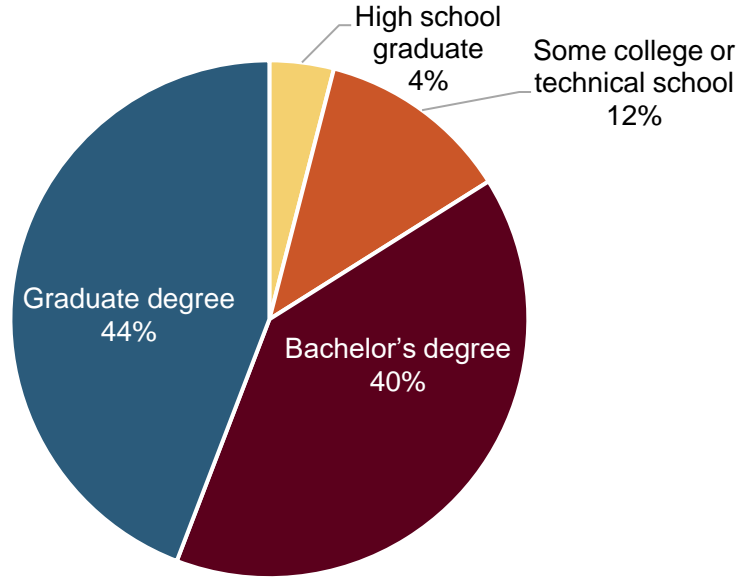
Please select your race (Select all that apply)

Two individuals identified as American Indian or Alaska Native, two identified as belonging to more than one race; the rest identified as White/Caucasian.



What is the highest level of school completed?

84% of respondents hold a bachelor's degree or higher, and no respondents did not complete high school.



What is your age?

Most respondents fell within the age range of 65 to 84, followed by those aged 45 to 64. There were no respondents between 18 and 24 in the survey.

