



2026 Oak Bay Community Emergency Preparedness Survey

Detailed Report on Findings

Prepared For: *District of Oak Bay*

Prepared By: *Discovery Research*

Date: *April 2026*

Executive Summary

In March of 2026, the District of Oak Bay conducted a comprehensive mail survey with a random sample of 1600 Oak Bay Residents. Residents were asked to rate their level awareness and satisfaction with Emergency Preparedness programs and services provided by the District. The survey is an important step in the process to include input from Residents when the District is making operational, service and budgeting decisions related to Emergency Preparedness programs.

Majority were not familiar with the Emergency Program

Only 37% are familiar with one or more aspects of the District of Oak Bay's Emergency Program. Among the people that were aware of some aspect of the program, most were satisfied with the programs/services offered.

We recommend the District increase communication efforts related to Emergency Preparedness programs, with the goal of reducing the 63% of Residents that are not aware of any aspect of Oak Bay Emergency Programs.

About 1-in-10 have attended a workshop

Twelve percent have attended an Emergency Preparedness workshop hosted by the District of Oak Bay. Among the people who have not attended a workshop, 75% indicated they would consider attending a workshop in the future.

We recommend the District host more education workshops because 77% would like to see more the Emergency Program offer more workshops.

Majority have over 3-7 days of supplies at home

Sixty percent of households have 3-7 days of supplies at home if a major emergency or disaster happened and 20% have over 7 days of supplies at home.

About 1-in-10 have a backup power source

Nine percent of households have a back up power source in the event of an extended power outage.

Almost half have Emergency Plan

Forty-three percent have an emergency plan if an emergency or disaster happens.

With less than half of households with no Emergency Plan, we recommend the District increase communications related to the importance of having a plan.

Alert Ready is the most popular source to get info in an emergency

Seventy-eight percent would use the provincial Alert Ready system for information during an emergency or disaster and 70% would look to local news (TV, radio) for information.

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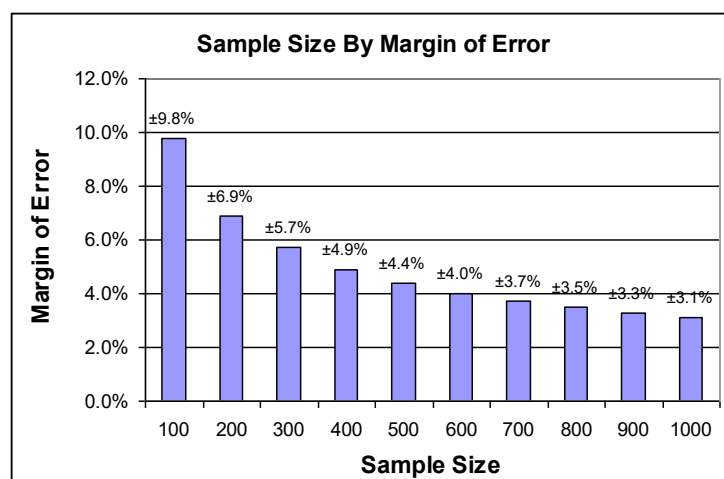
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Methodology

A random sample of 1600 Oak Bay residents were mailed a survey in March 2026. The random sample was generated such that each household in Oak Bay had an equal opportunity of being selected for the research. **260** completed surveys were received, giving a response rate of **16%**.



This bar graph displays the margin of error associated with various sample sizes.

Statistics generated from a sample size of 260 will be accurate within **±5.9%**, at the 95% confidence interval (19 times out of 20).

Public Survey

In addition to the random mail survey, the District of Oak Bay posted an online version of the survey on their website. This allowed all Residents to provide feedback. 30 respondents completed the online public survey. Public survey results can be seen in the last column of the tables provided in Appendix 2.

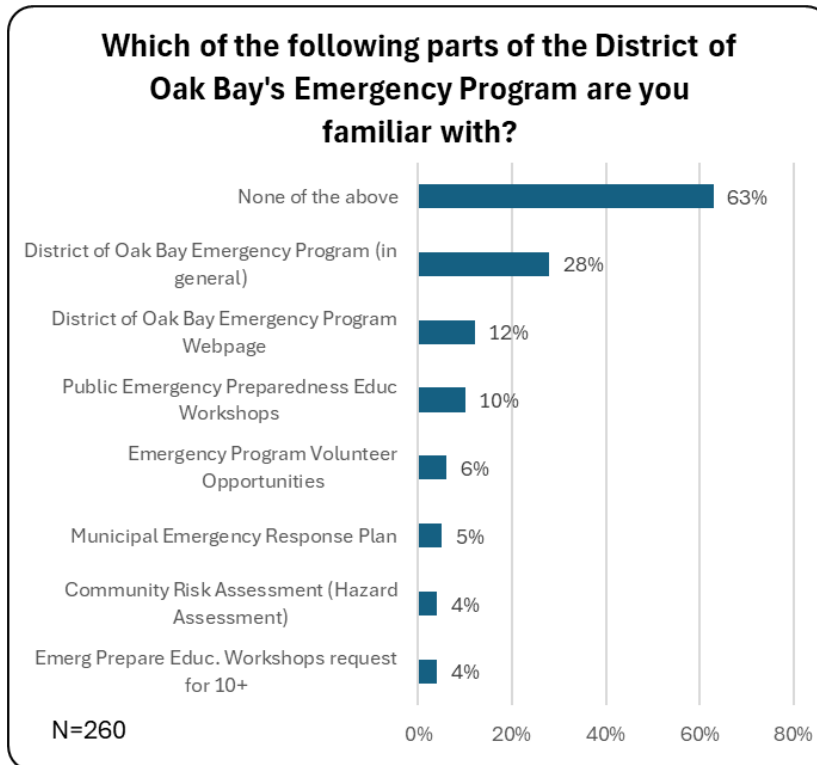
Weighting

Oak Bay's actual population distribution by age was taken from the 2021 Canadian census results. The sample statistics have been weighted to match the age distribution of the entire population of Oak Bay.

Age	Population from 2021 Census	Unweighted Sample	Weighted Sample
18-44	26.5%	7.1%	26.5%
45-64	32.6%	21%	32.6%
65+	40.9%	71.8%	40.9%

Section 1 – Emergency Program Awareness

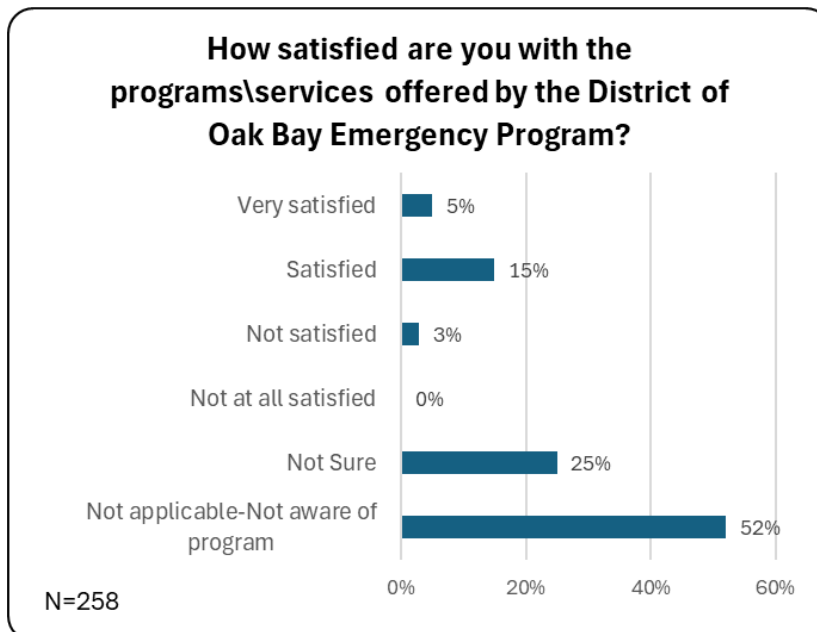
Q1. Familiarity with the Emergency Program



The majority of respondents (**63%**) were not familiar with any of parts of the Oak Bay Emergency Program.

Twenty-eight percent were familiar with the District of Oak Bay Emergency Program *in general*, **12%** were familiar with the Oak Bay Emergency Program *Webpage* and **10%** were aware of the *Emergency Preparedness Educational Workshops*.

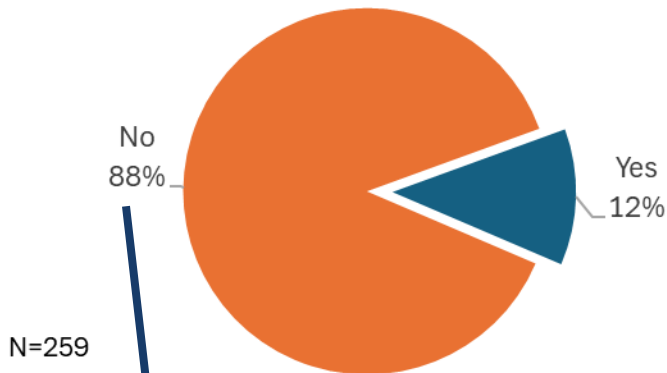
Q2. Satisfaction with Programs and Services Offered



Five percent were *very satisfied* with the programs/services offered by the Oak Bay Emergency Program and **15%** were *satisfied*.

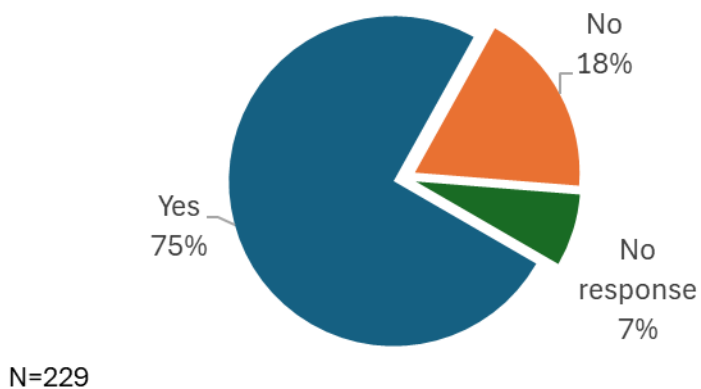
Q3. Emergency Preparedness Workshops

Have you attended an Emergency Preparedness Education Workshop hosted by the District of Oak Bay Emergency Program?



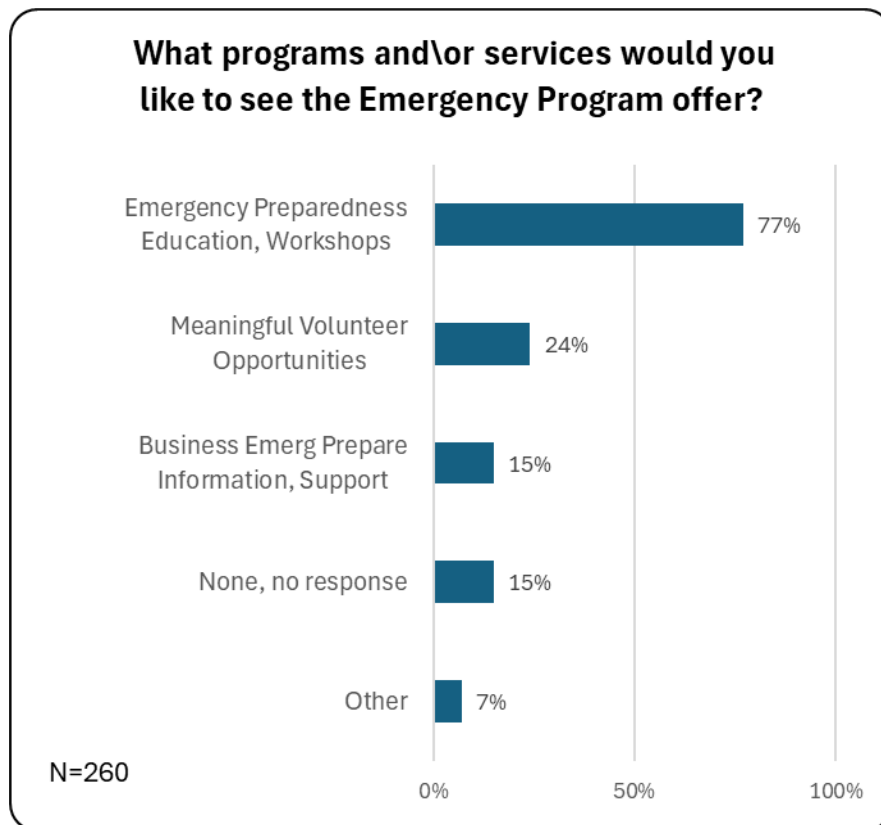
Twelve percent *have attended* an Emergency Preparedness Education Workshop hosted by the District of Oak Bay Emergency Program.

Would you consider attending a workshop in the future?



Among the 229 people that have not attended an Emergency Preparedness Education Workshop, **75%** *would* consider attending a workshop in the future, and **18%** *would not* consider attending.

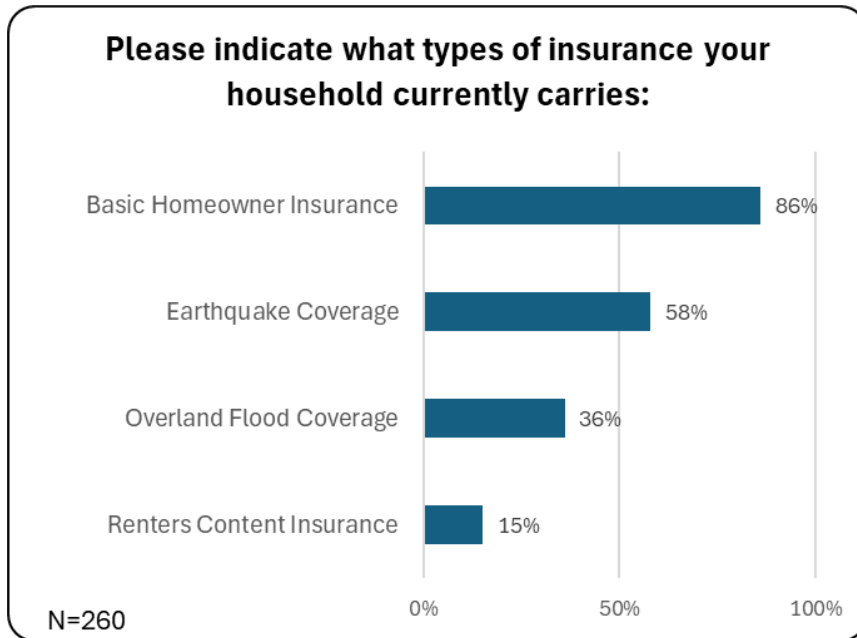
Q4. Programs and Services



Seventy-seven percent would like to see *emergency preparedness education/workshops* offered by the Emergency Program and **24%** would like to see *meaningful volunteer opportunities*.

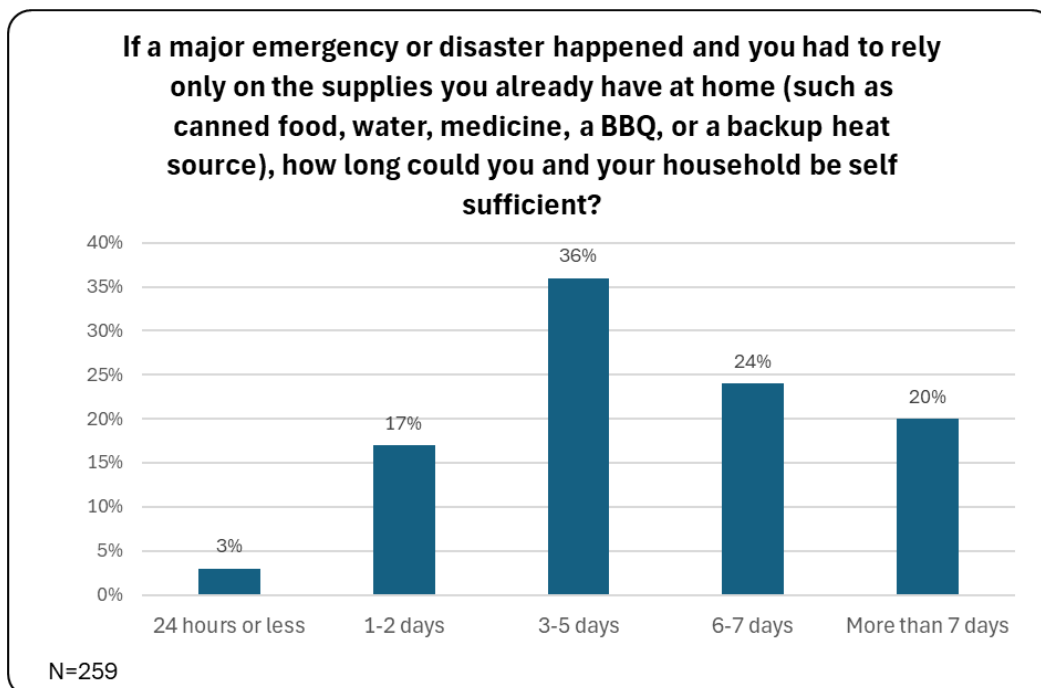
Section 2 – Your Household Emergency Preparedness

Q5. Types of Insurance



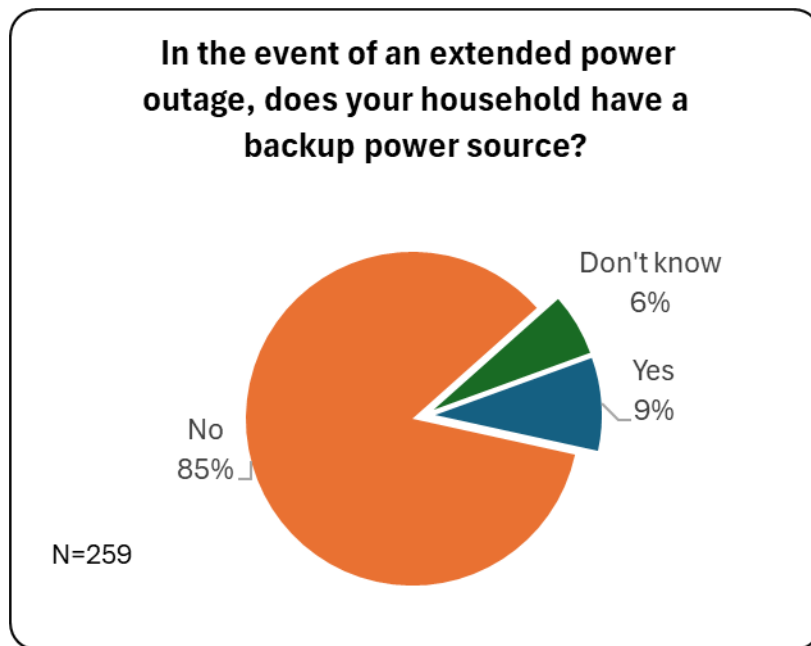
Eighty-six percent said they carry *basic homeowner insurance*, **58%** currently have *earthquake coverage* and **36%** currently carry *overland flood coverage*.

Q6. Emergency Supplies at Home



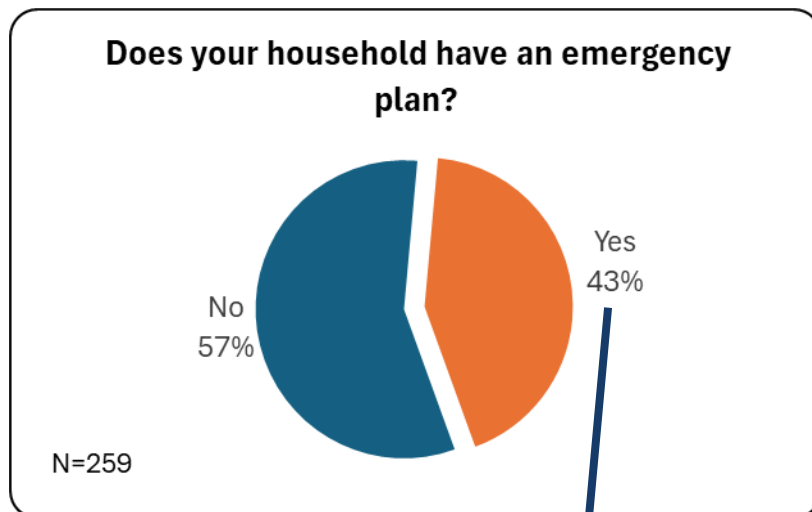
In the event of a major emergency or disaster, **36%** said their household would be self-sufficient for *3-5 days*, **24%** believe they could self-sustain for *6-7 days*, and **20%** could last *7+ days*.

Q7. Backup Power

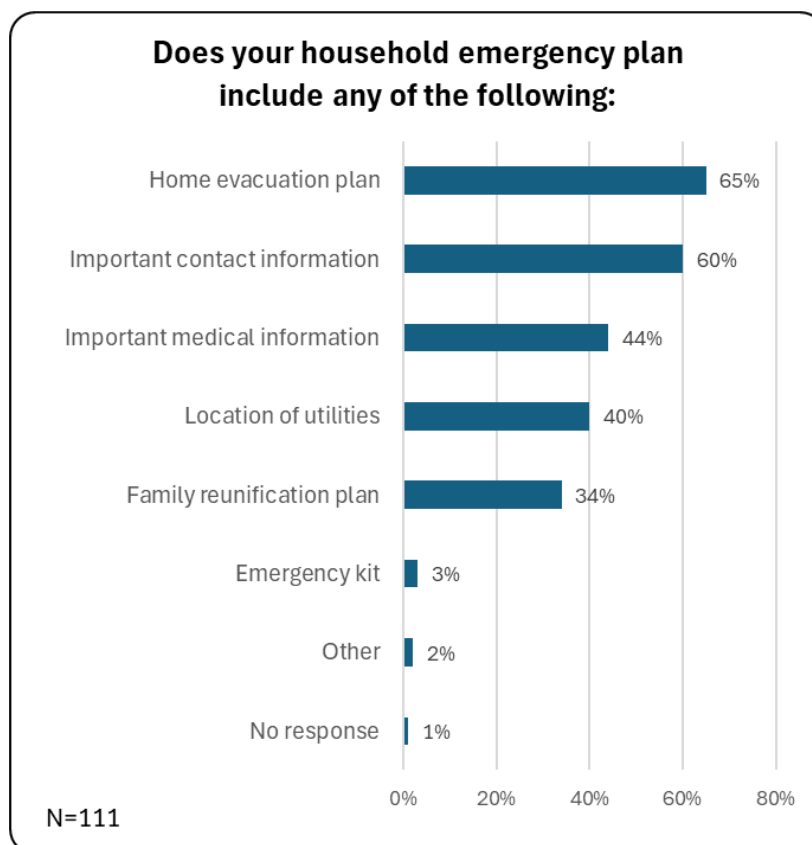


Eighty-five percent said they *do not* have a backup power source for their home.

Q8. Emergency Plan

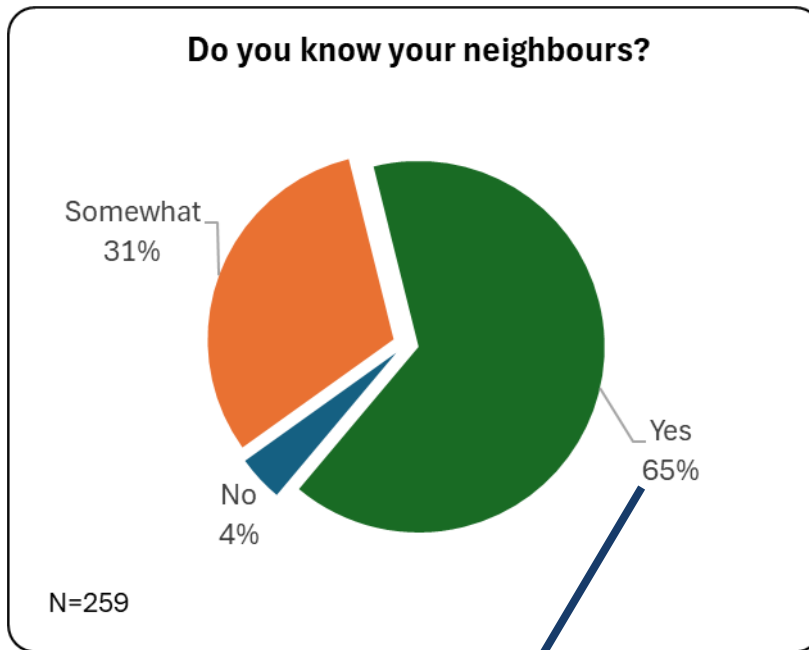


Forty-three percent stated their household *does have a plan* in the event of an emergency.

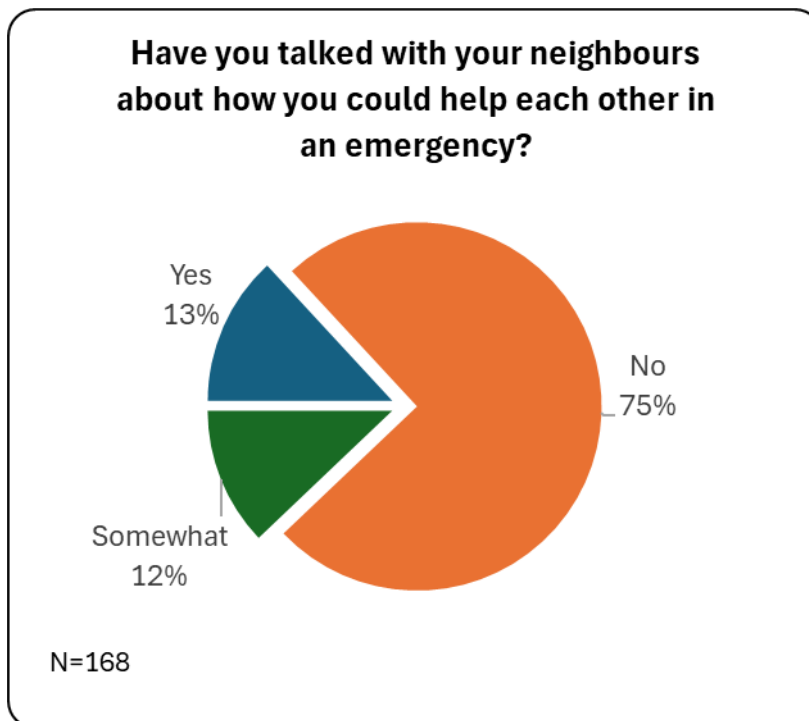


Among the 111 respondents that have an emergency plan, **65%** have a *home evacuation plan*, **60%** have *important contact information* in their emergency plan and **44%** have *important medical information*.

Q9. Your Neighbors

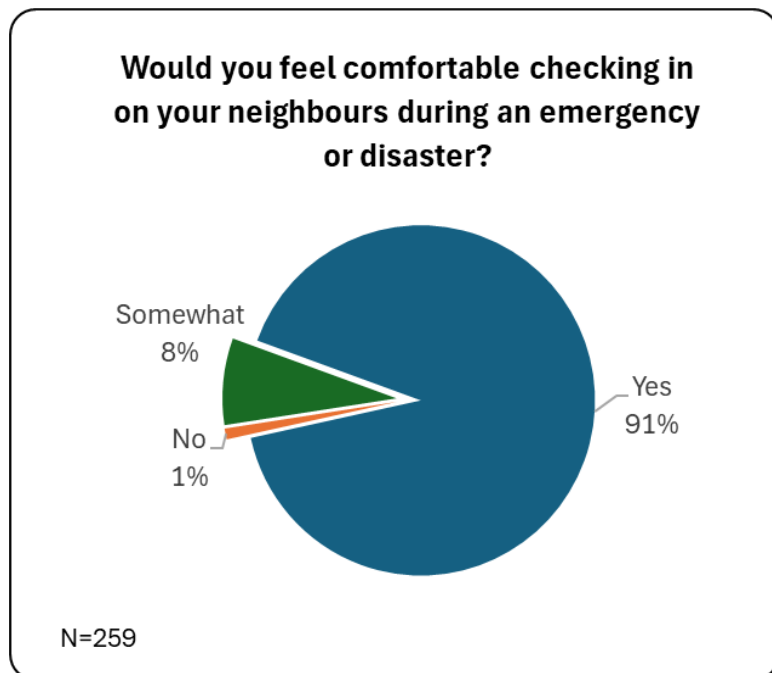


Sixty-five percent say *they know their neighbours*, and **31%** know their neighbours *somewhat*. Only **4%** *do not* know their neighbours



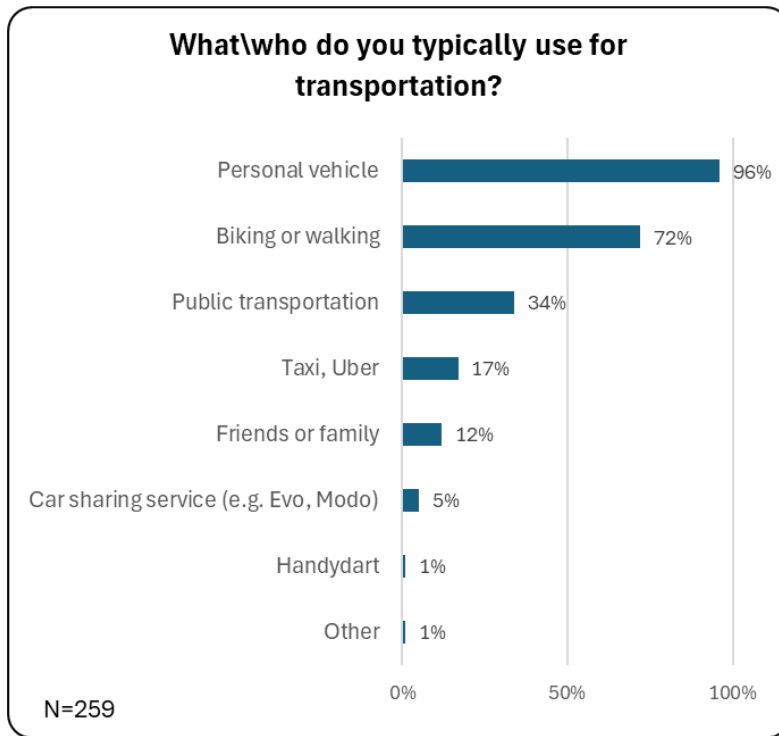
Among the 168 people that know their neighbours, **75%** have *not* talked with their neighbours about helping each other in the event of an emergency.

Q10. Checking in on Others



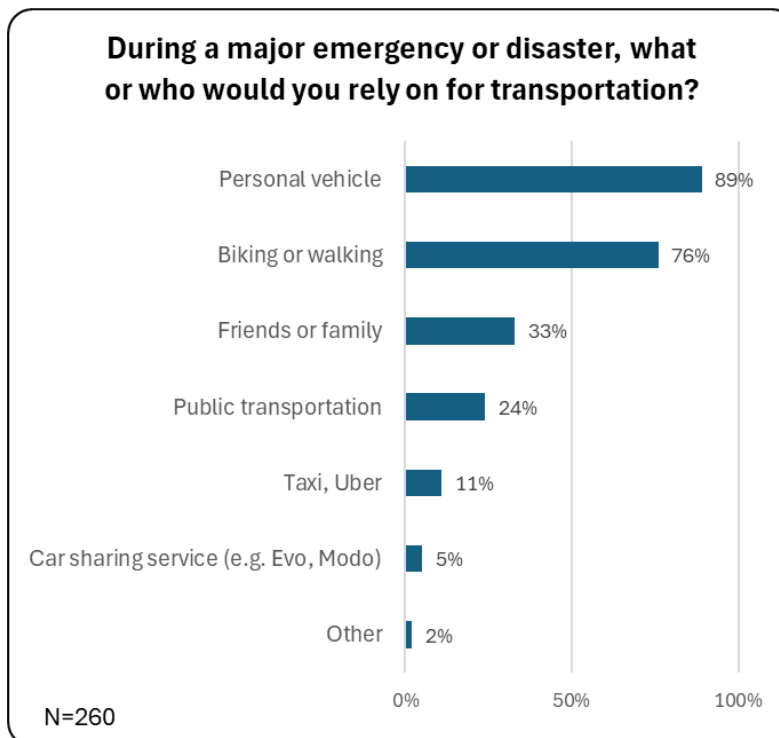
Ninety-one percent *feel comfortable checking on their neighbours during an emergency or disaster.*

Q11. Modes of Transportation



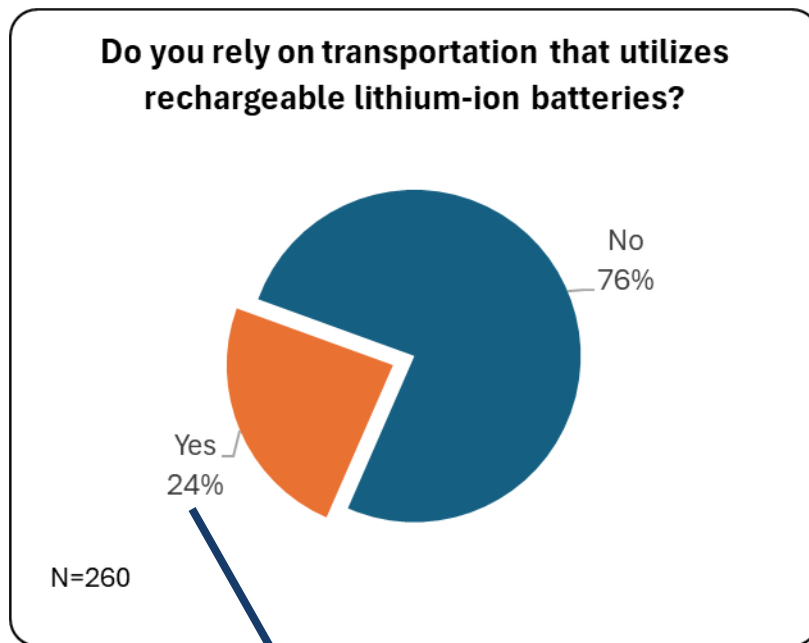
Ninety-six percent typically use their *personal vehicle* for transportation, **72%** bike or walk and **34%** use *public transport*.

Q12. Transportation During a Disaster

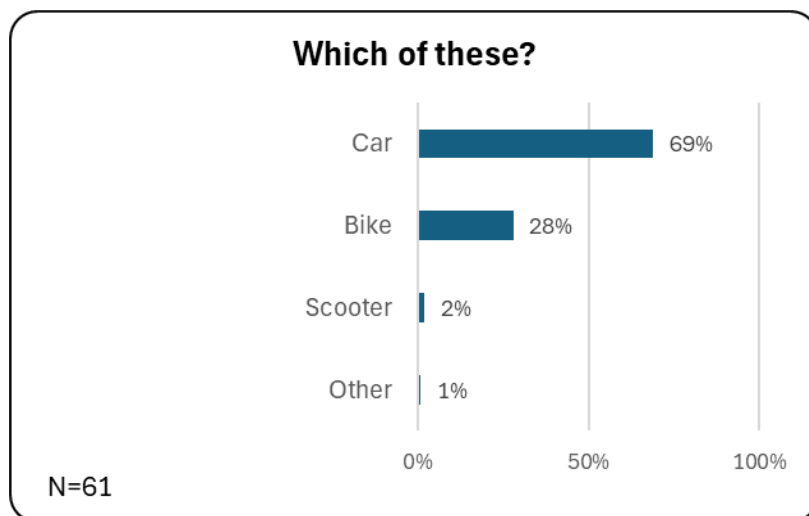


During a major emergency or disaster, **89%** would rely on their *personal vehicle* for transportation and **76%** would rely on *biking or walking*.

Q13. Lithium-Ion Reliant Transport



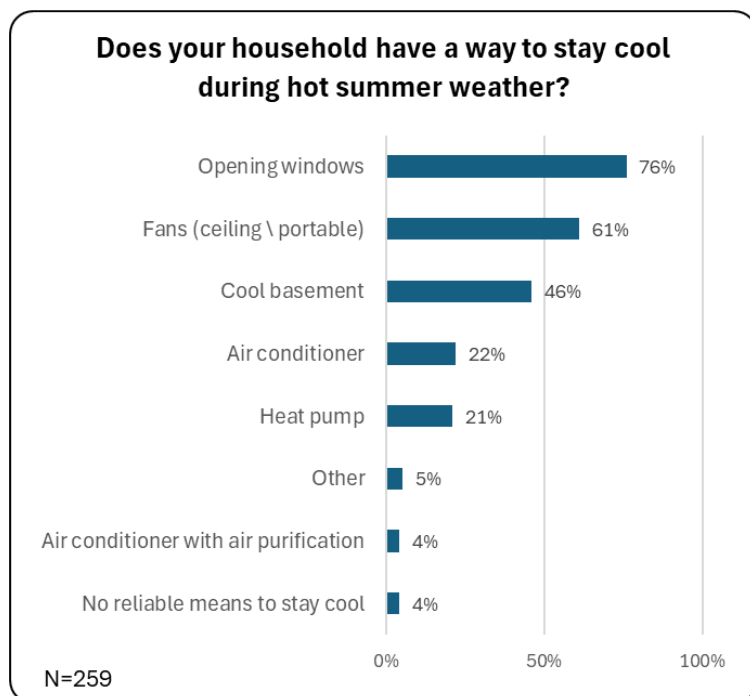
Seventy-six percent said they *do not* rely on rechargeable batteries for transport.



Of the 24% that rely on rechargeable batteries, **69%** use an *electric car* and **28%** use an *electric bike*.

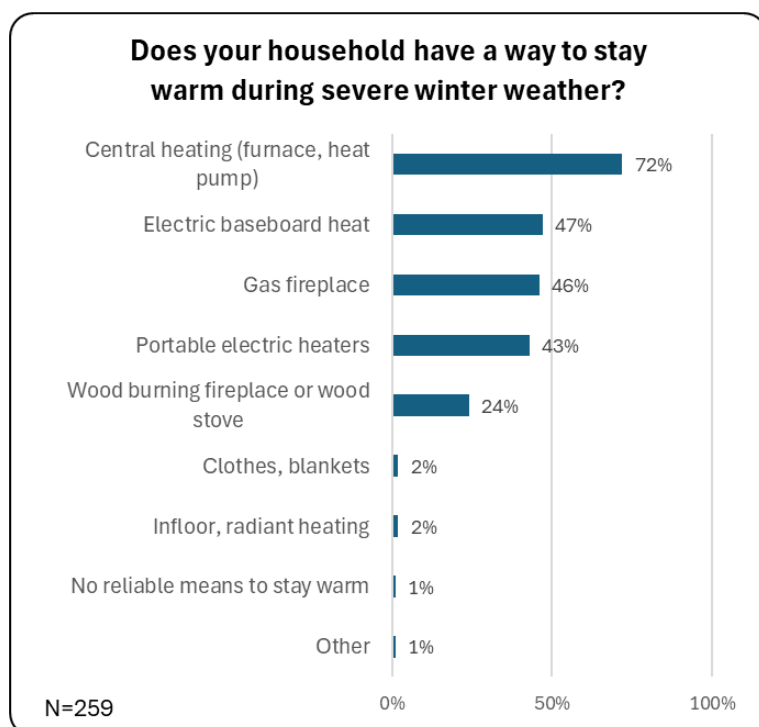
Section 3 – Household Preparedness in Extreme Weather

Q14. Staying Cool in the Summer



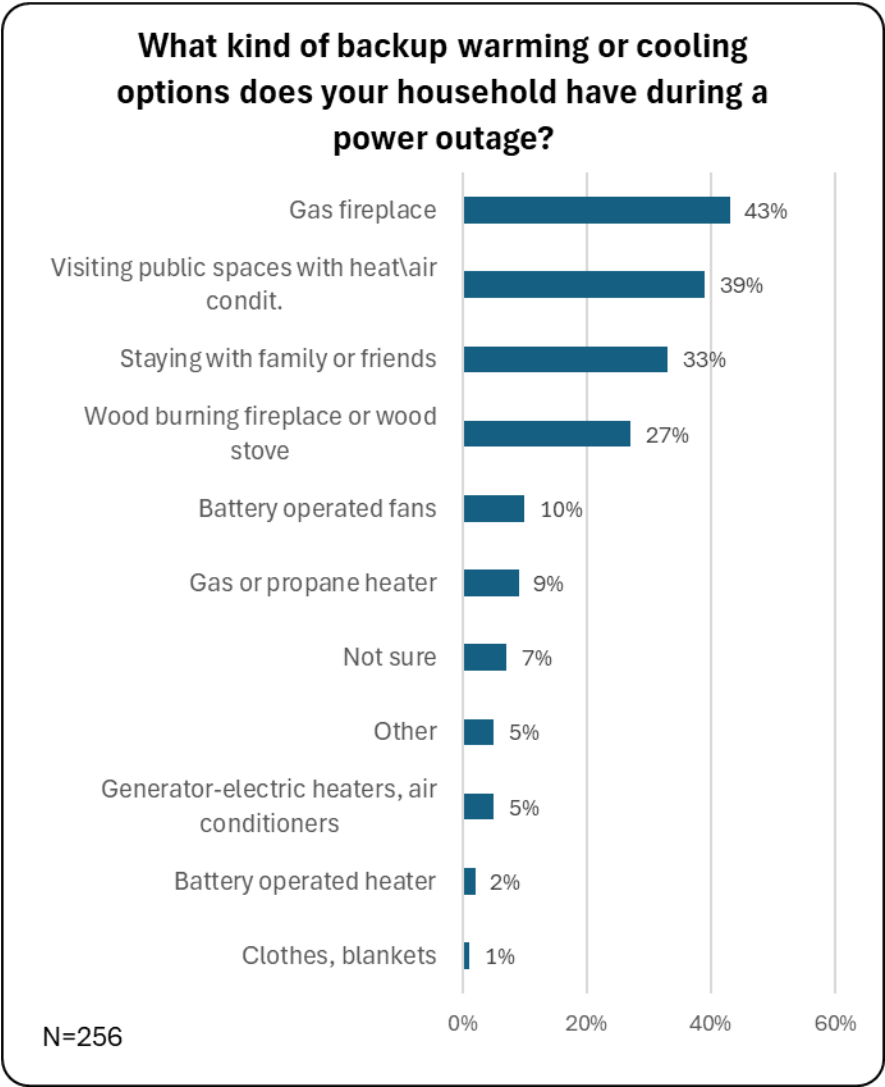
Seventy-six percent said they *open their windows* in the summer to stay cool, **61%** use *fans*, and **46%** use their *cool basement*.

Q15. Staying Warm in Severe Weather



Seventy-two percent use *central heating* to stay warm in the winter, **47%** use *electric baseboard heat* and **46%** rely on their *gas fireplace*.

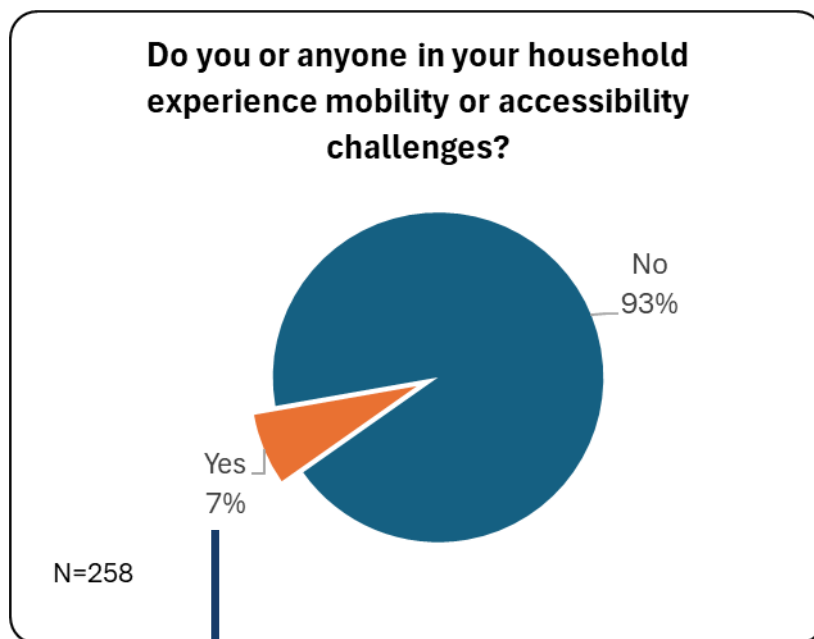
Q16. Backup Warming and Cooling



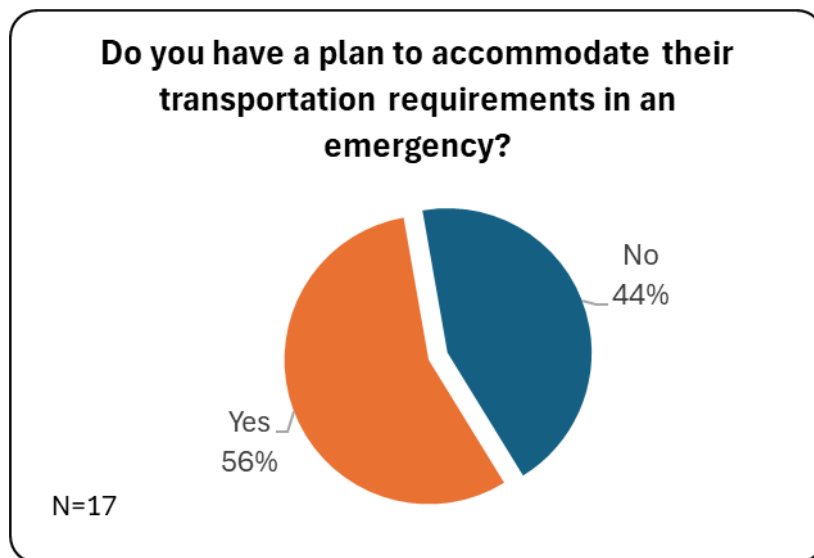
Forty-three percent have a *gas fireplace* for backup heat during an outage, **39%** would rely on *visiting a public space with heat/air conditioning* and **33%** would *stay with family or friends*.

Section 4 – Accessibility Needs During Emergencies

Q17. Accessibility Challenges

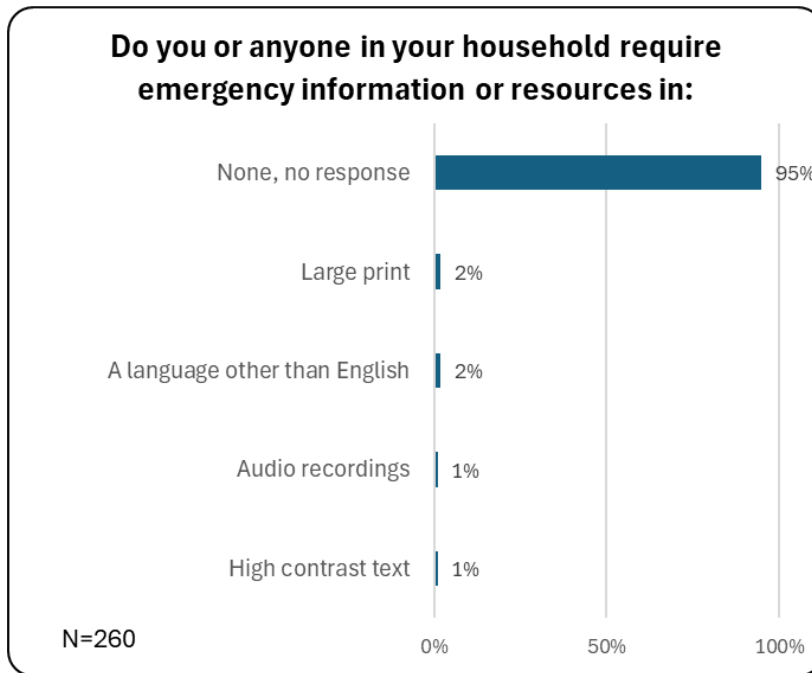


Only **7%** of households have people that *experience mobility or accessibility challenges*.



Of the 17 households that face mobility challenges, **56%** *have a plan* to accommodate their transportation requirements in an emergency.

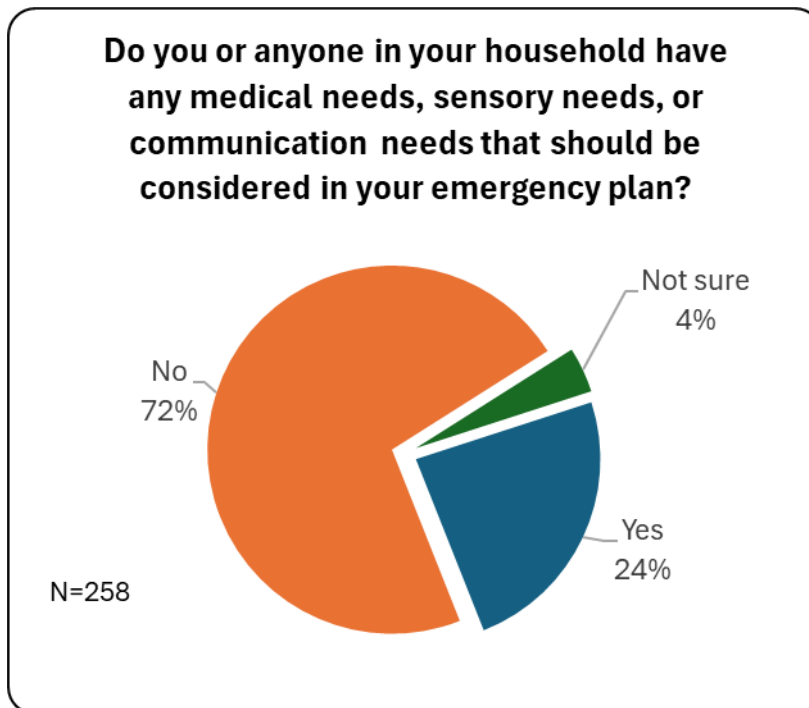
Q18. Emergency Information or Resources



Ninety-five percent of respondents *do not* require emergency information or resources.

Two percent would like emergency information or resources in *large print*, and **2%** would like *a language other than English*

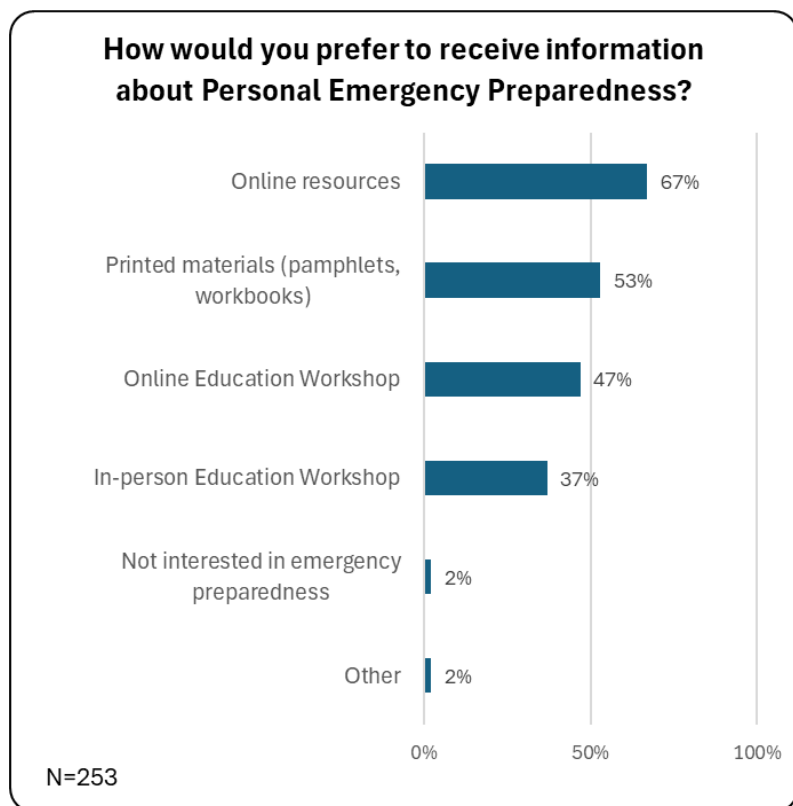
Q19. Medical, Sensory or Communication Needs



Seventy-two percent of *households don't* have medical, sensory or communication needs that should be considered in their emergency plans, and **24%** *do*.

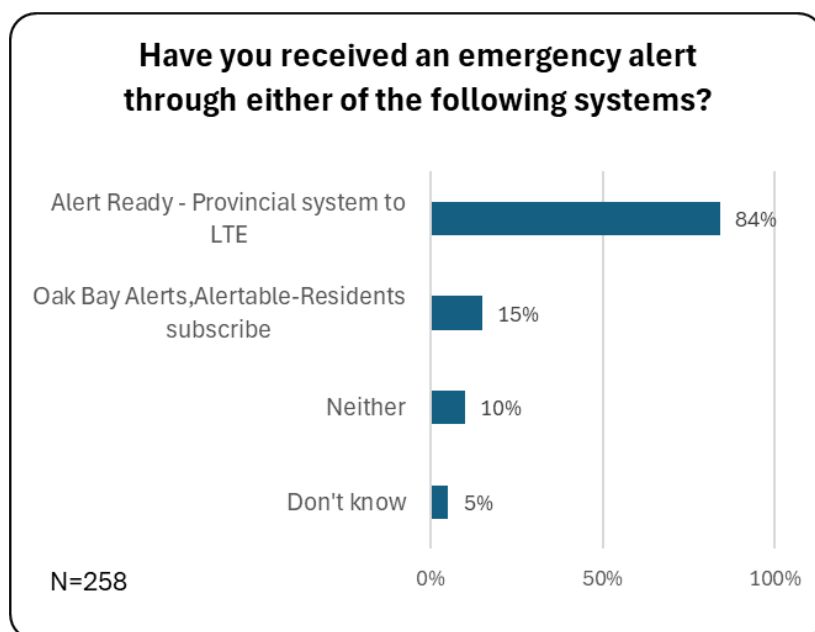
Section 5 – Communications

Q20. Receiving Information about Emergency Preparedness



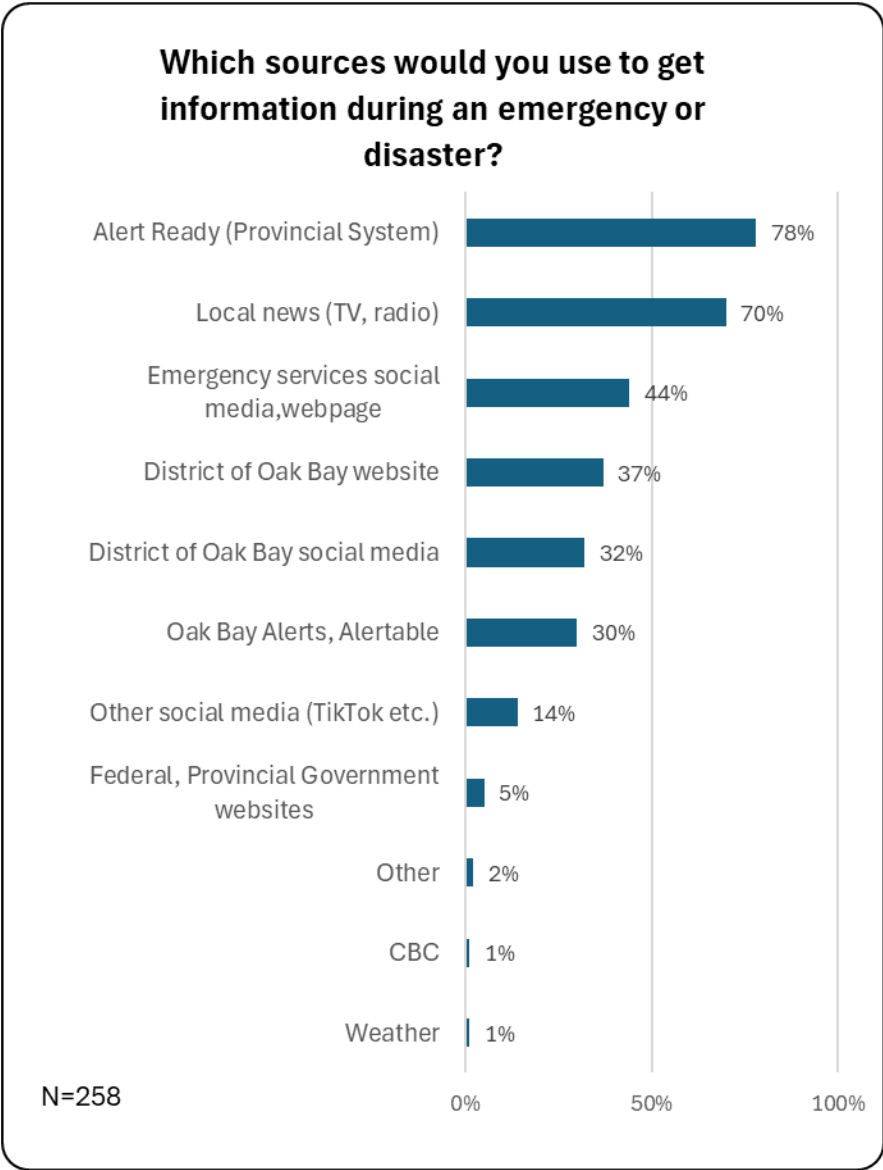
Sixty-seven percent would prefer to receive *resources online* when receiving information on personal emergency preparedness, **53%** would like *printed materials*, and **47%** would like to attend an *online education workshop*.

Q21. Emergency Alerts



Eighty-four percent have received an emergency alert through *Alert Ready*, and **15%** have received alerts from *Oak Bay Alerts / Alertable*.

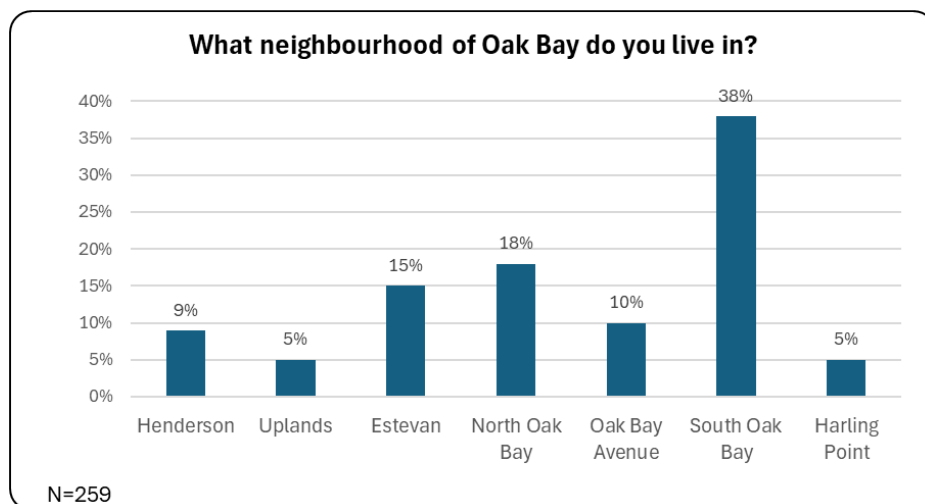
Q22. Emergency and Disaster Information Sources



Seventy-eight percent said that they would use *Alert Ready (provincial system)* during an emergency or a disaster, **70%** would rely on *local news* and **44%** would watch the *emergency services (police, fire, EMS) social media and webpages*.

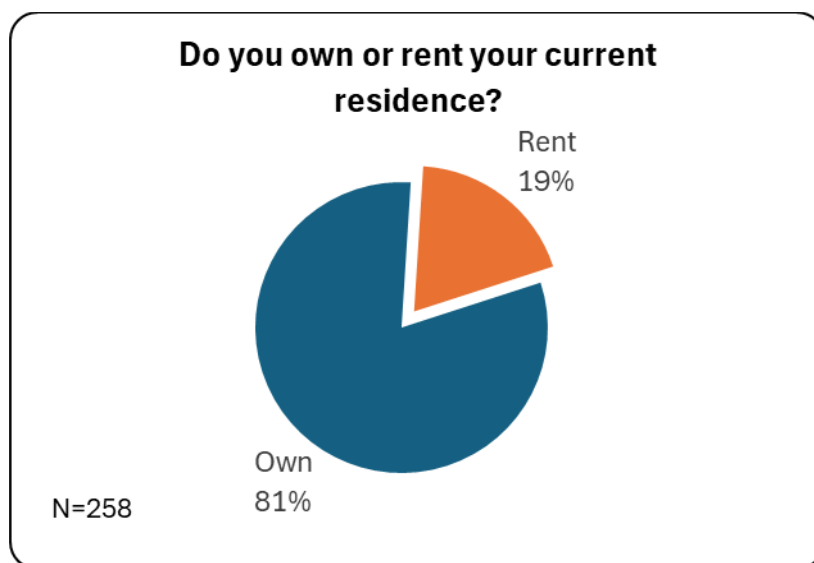
Section 6 – About You

Q23. Neighborhood



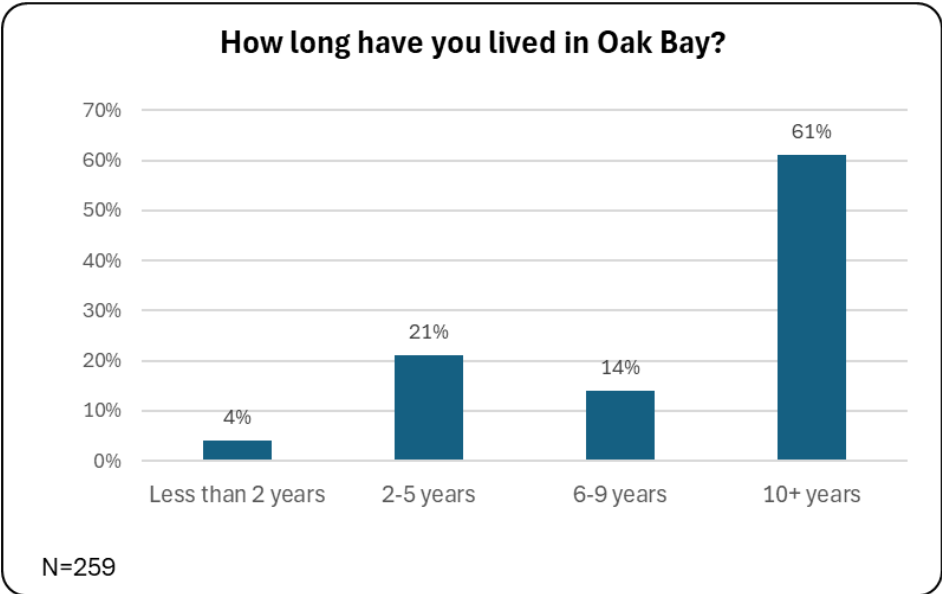
Thirty-eight percent of respondents resided in *South Oak Bay*, **18%** in *North Oak Bay* and **15%** in *Estevan*.

Q24. Owners and Renters



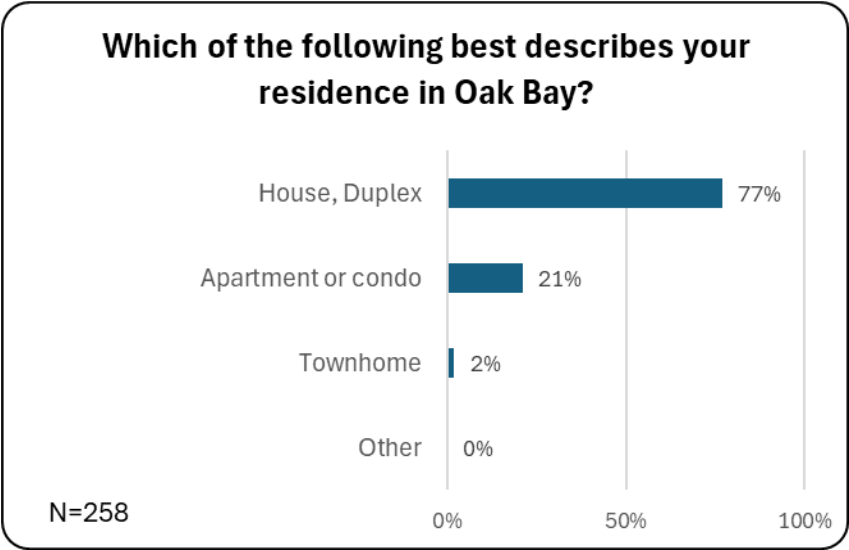
Eighty-one percent *own* their residence.

Q25. Time Resided in Oak Bay



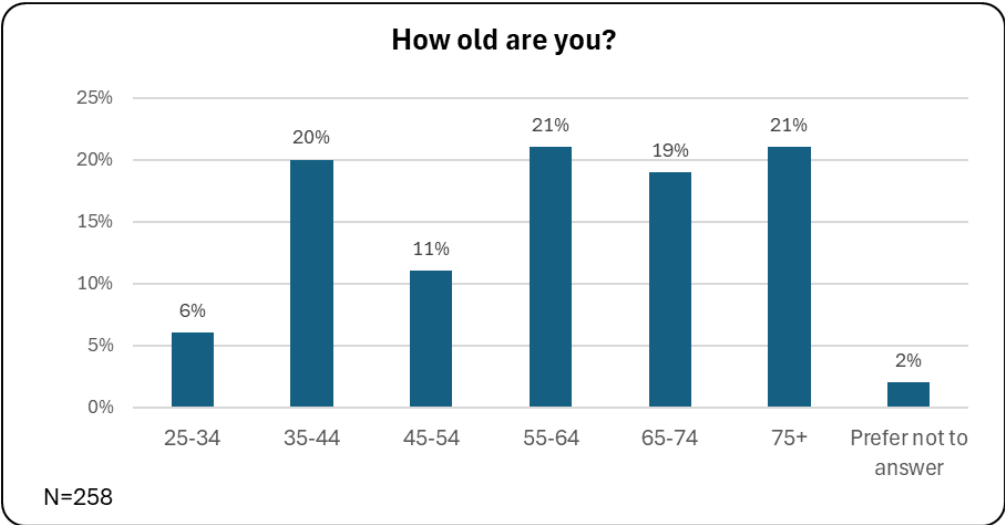
Sixty-one percent of respondents were long term residents, *living in Oak Bay 10 years or longer*.

Q26. Type Of Residence



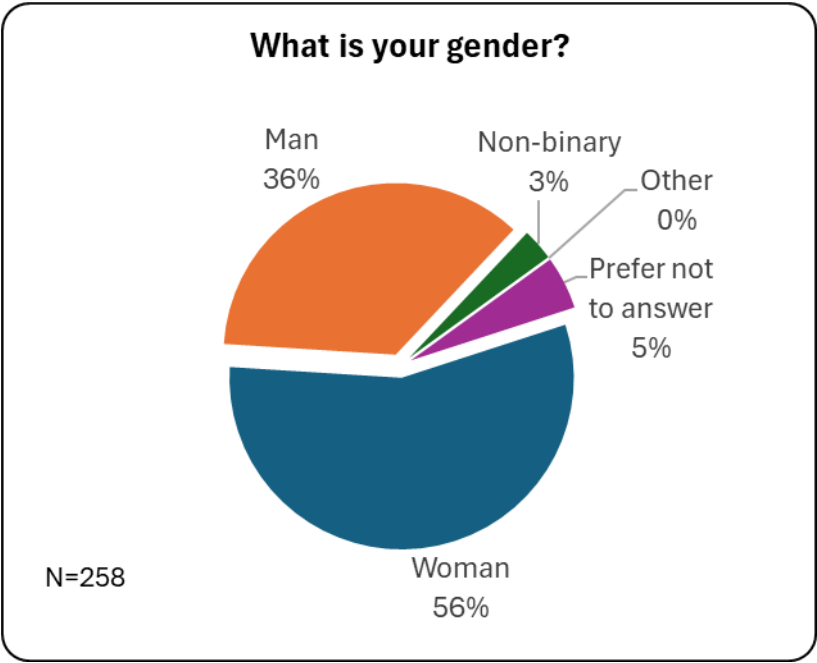
Seventy-seven percent resided in a *house* or a *duplex*, **21%** resided in an *apartment* or a *condo*.

Q27. Age



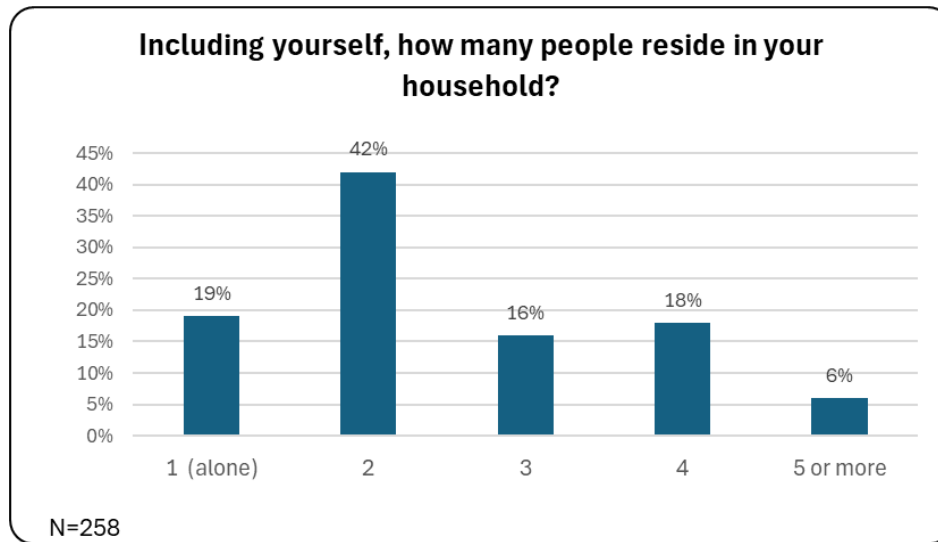
There was a very even distribution of age; **21%** of respondents were *55-64 years old*, **21%** were *75 years or older* and **20%** were *35-44 years old*.

Q28. Gender



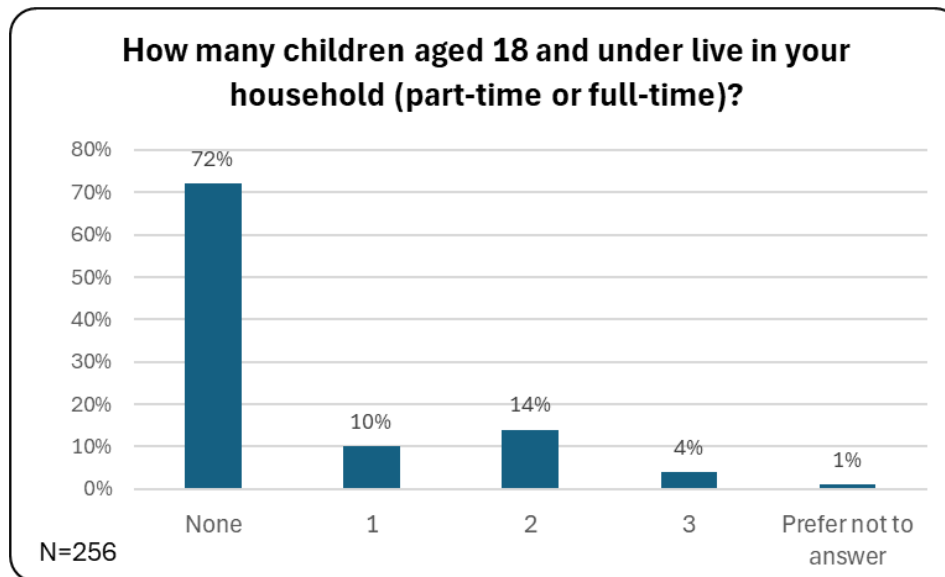
Fifty-six percent of respondents were *women*, and **36%** were *men*.

Q29. People in the Household



Forty-two percent *lived in a home with one other person*, **19%** *lived alone* and **40%** *lived in a home with 3 or more people*.

Q30. Children in the Household



Seventy-two percent of respondents had *no children 18 years or under* residing in their homes and **28%** had 1 or more kids.