

LANEY WALKER-HARRISBURG CHOICE NEIGHBORHOOD SURVEY



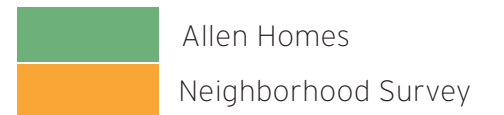
We did it!

During the summer of 2022, volunteers from Paine College, the City of Augusta, and many local organizations administered a comprehensive Assets & Needs Assessment of residents of Allen Homes and the Laney Walker-Harrisburg Choice Neighborhood. The findings of these two surveys will help us understand the needs and aspirations of the community so that together, we can explore ways to shape a brighter future.

From July - August 2022, we reached:

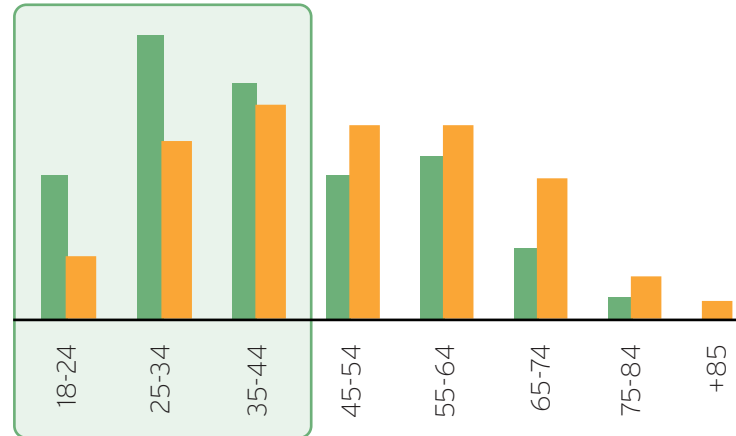
- 92 Allen Homes Households (66% percent of households)
- 441 individuals who live, work, or play in the Choice Neighborhood (3.5% percent of the neighborhood)

WHO TOOK THE SURVEY.

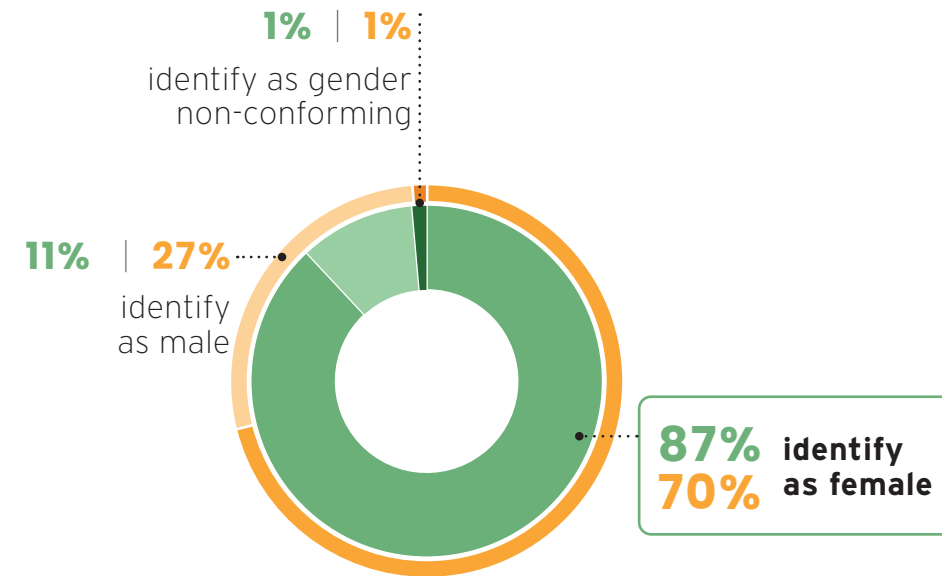


"WHAT AGE CATEGORY BEST DESCRIBES YOU?"

The majority of residents we heard from were under 44.



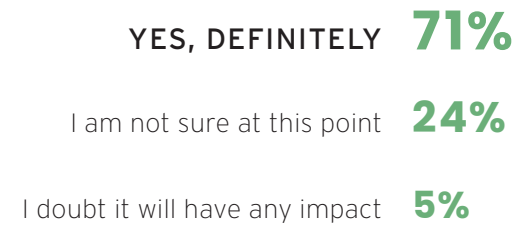
"WITH WHICH GENDER DO YOU IDENTIFY?"



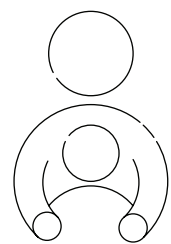
"WHAT IS YOUR MARITAL STATUS?"

	Allen Homes	Choice Neighborhood
Single	92.1%	56.7%
Married	0%	23.6%
Separated or Divorced	5.3%	12.7%
Widowed	2.6%	7%

DO YOU FEEL THE LANEY WALKER-HARRISBURG CHOICE NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING PROCESS WILL HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?



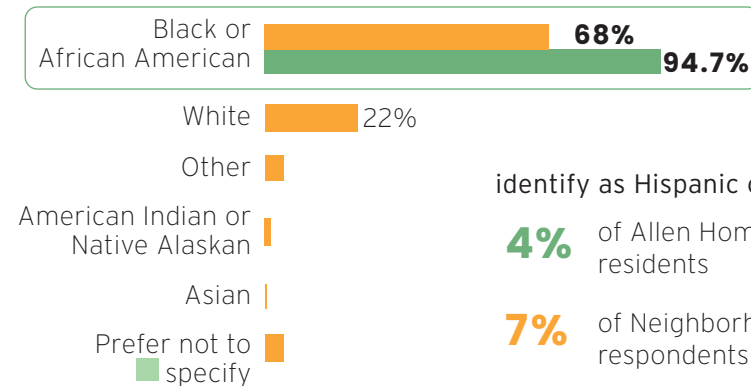
TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY:



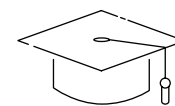
62% of residents have at least 1 child under 18 vs. **34%** of neighborhood survey respondents

only **14%** are over age 65 vs. **23%** of neighborhood survey respondents

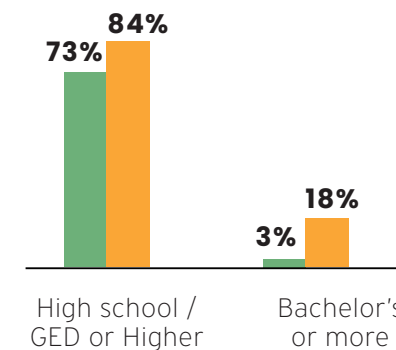
"WHAT RACE BEST DESCRIBES YOU?"



4% of Allen Homes residents identify as Hispanic or Latinx
7% of Neighborhood respondents

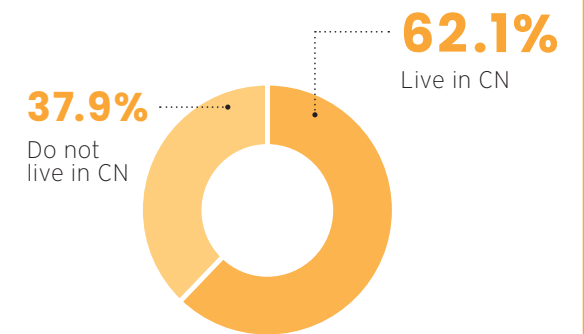


"WHAT IS THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION FOR ALL OF THE ADULTS IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD?"

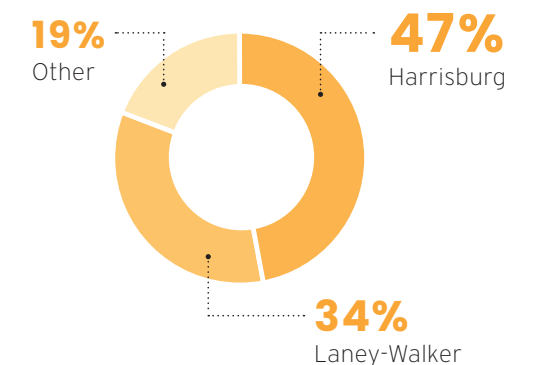


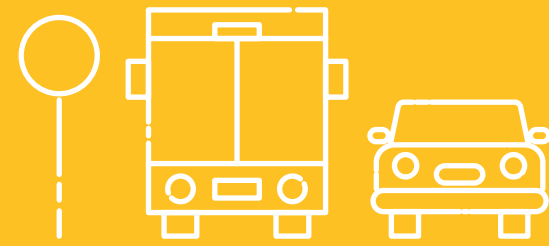
"DO YOU LIVE IN THE CHOICE NEIGHBORHOOD?"

(Neighborhood Survey Participants)



"WHICH NEIGHBORHOOD DO YOU LIVE IN"





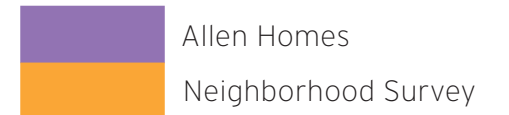
What Do People Value

Residents of the Choice Neighborhood and Allen Homes think that the **affordability, community, and history and culture** are the greatest strengths of the Laney Walker-Harrisburg neighborhood. They are proud of their neighborhood and would like it to be known as a **safe, stable, and family-friendly community**.

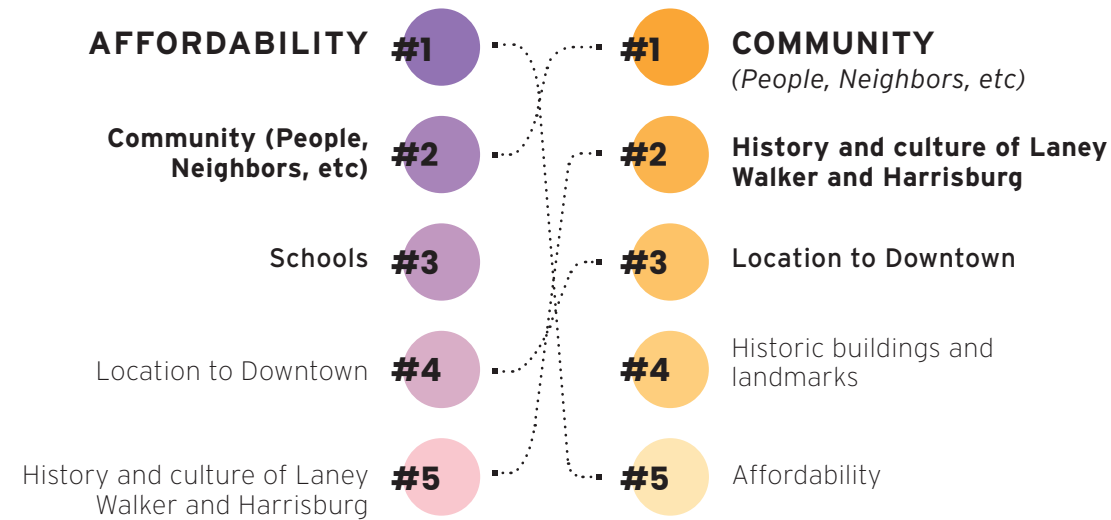
The majority of residents feel a **full-service grocery store** is missing from the neighborhood, as well as other amenities like **places to eat and pharmacies**.

In the future, residents would like to see more **activities for younger children, safe places for teens to meet, and improvements to the neighborhood parks, streets, and street crossings**.

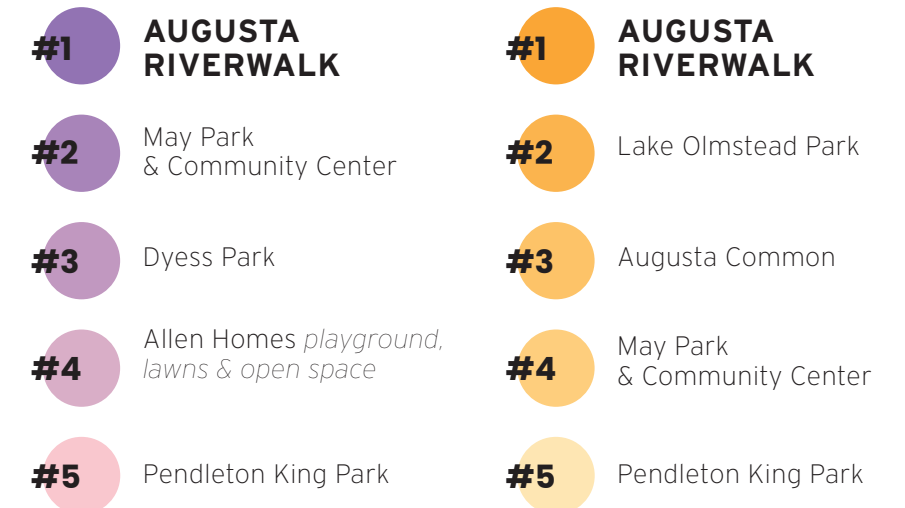
NEIGHBORHOOD.



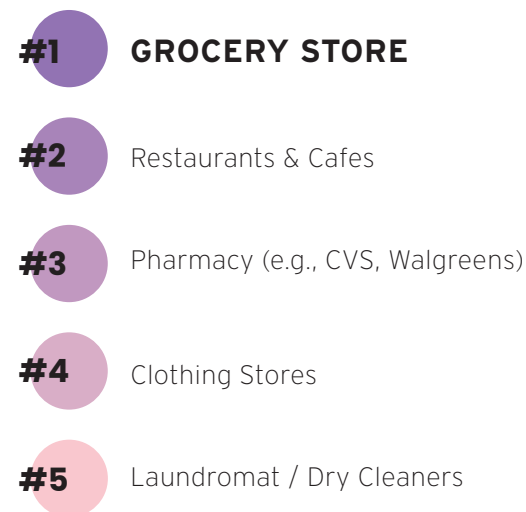
"WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE NEIGHBORHOOD'S GREATEST STRENGTHS?"



"WHAT PARKS DO YOU FREQUENTLY USE?"



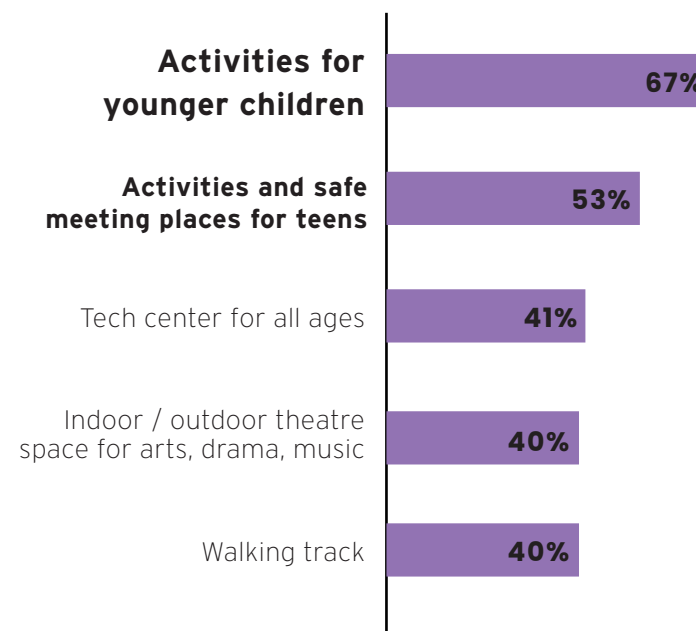
"WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE WITHIN A 15-MINUTE WALK FROM YOUR HOME?"



Where do most people shop for groceries?

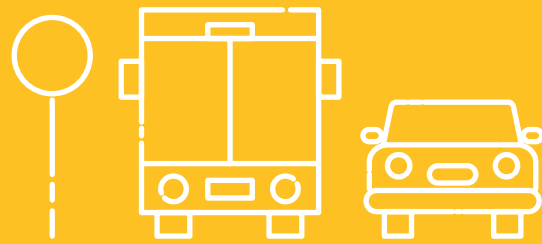
- Harvey's Supermarket
- Family Dollar
- Dollar Tree

"WHAT SORT OF SOCIAL ACTIVITIES OR ORGANIZATIONS DO YOU FEEL ARE MISSING IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD?"



"WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE THIS NEIGHBORHOOD TO BE KNOWN FOR AFTER IT HAS BEEN REDEVELOPED AND INVESTED IN?"





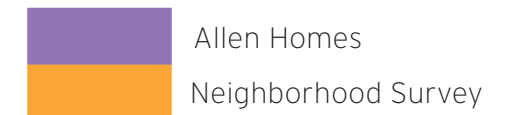
Do People Feel Safe

A top concern and challenge in residents' daily lives is **crime and safety, housing quality, and litter in public areas.**

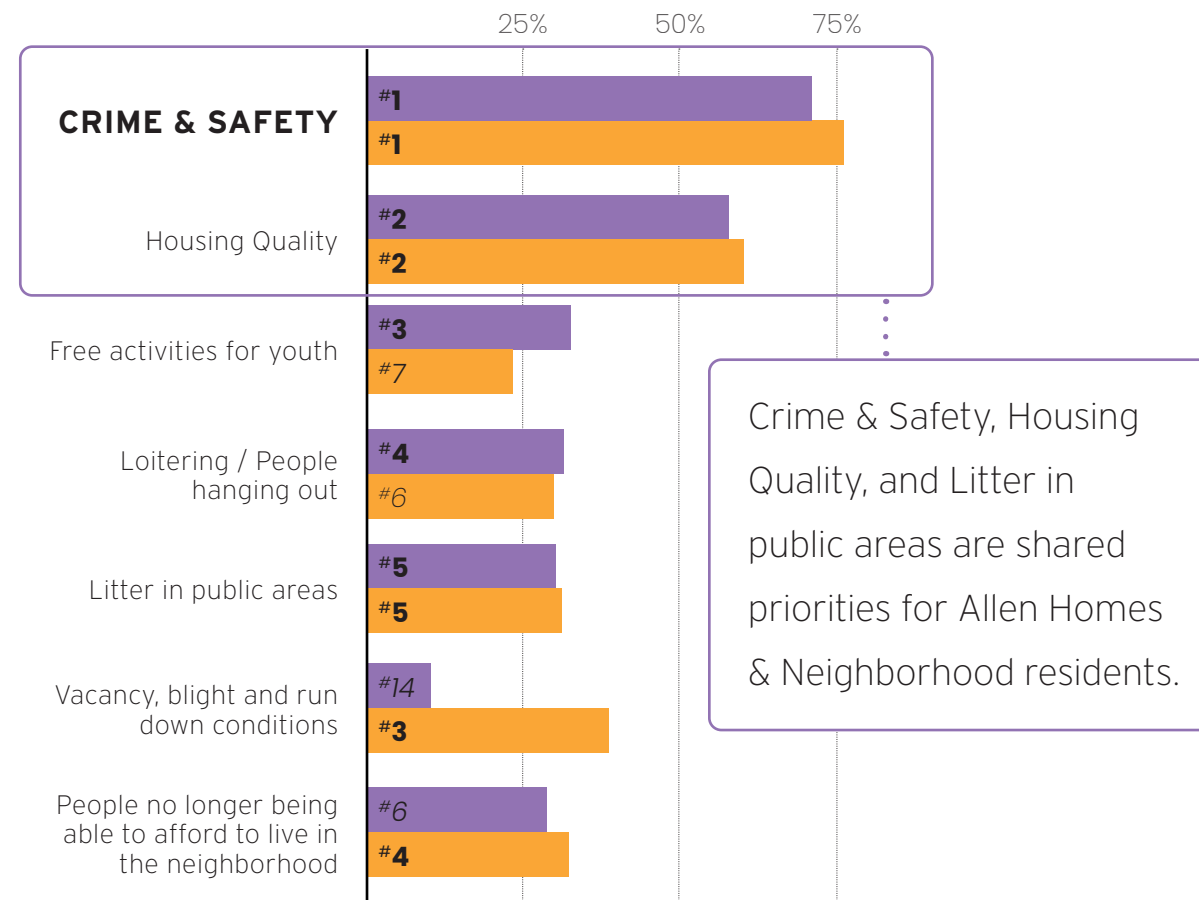
Allen Homes residents' top concern is **gun shots / gun violence and gang activity.** While almost half of Allen Homes residents said they feel safe at Allen Homes, **many don't feel safe with their children playing outside unsupervised or walking around at night.**

Choice Neighborhood residents top concerns are run-down buildings, squatters, and homelessness. All residents agree that better emergency response and assistance services would help them feel safer in the neighborhood.

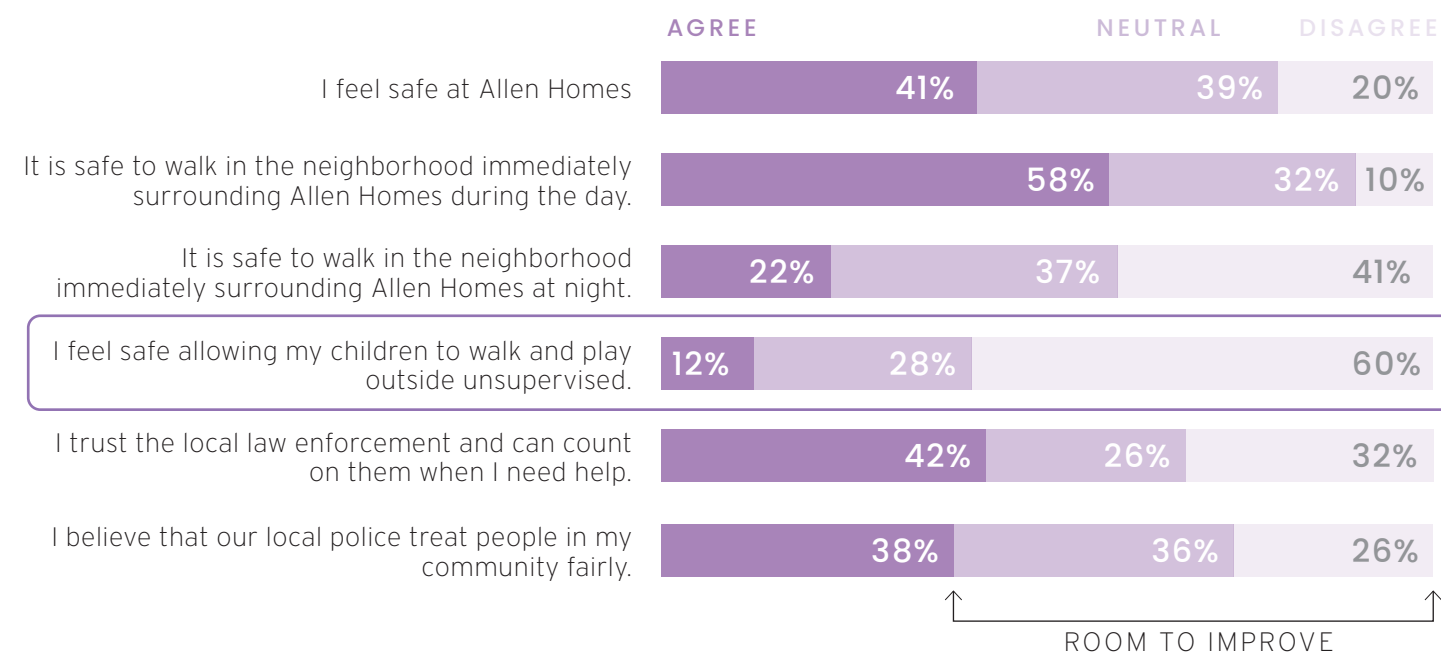
SAFETY.



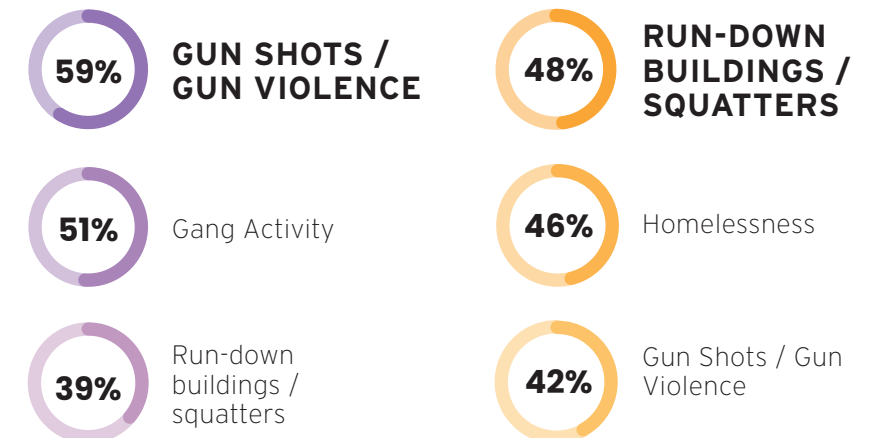
"WHAT NEIGHBORHOOD CHALLENGES NEED TO BE IMPROVED IMMEDIATELY?"



Crime & Safety, Housing Quality, and Litter in public areas are shared priorities for Allen Homes & Neighborhood residents.



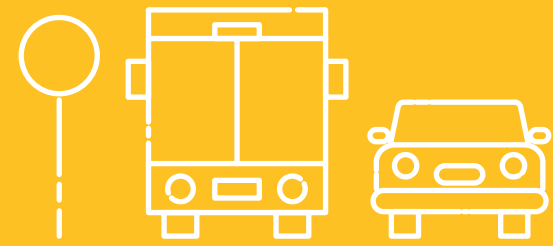
"WHAT ARE THE TOP THREE SAFETY CONCERNS FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY?"



"WHAT WOULD MAKE YOU FEEL SAFER IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD?"



The top activities that Allen Homes residents feel could improve relationships with the Sherriff's Department are monthly or quarterly meetings at/or near Allen Homes.



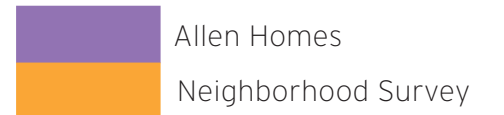
How Are People Getting Around

Although the Choice Neighborhood is located in the urban core with walkable streets and a bus network in place, the **majority of residents typically get around by car** (either their own or with friends / family).

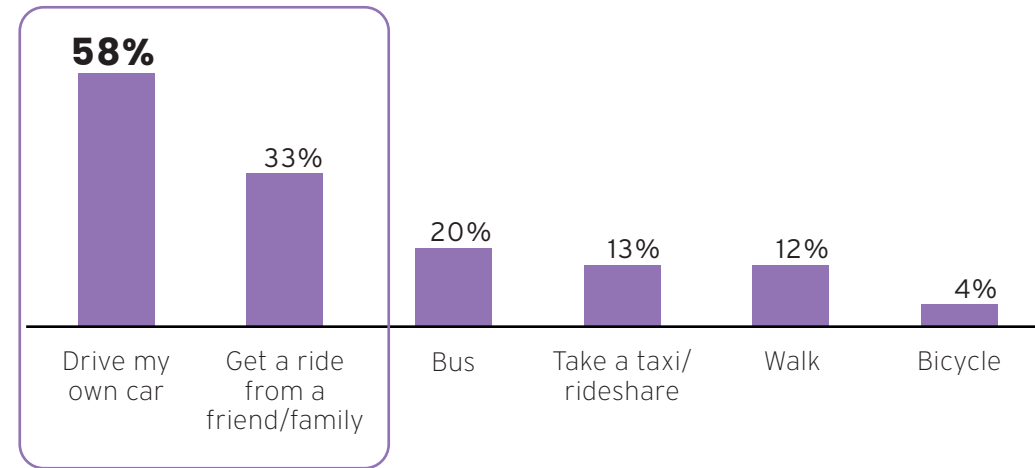
Only about a quarter of residents **use the bus, most often to run daily errands, receive medical services, and to get to school or daycare.** The lack of transit options presents issues for residents particularly with regard to finding employment, getting to medical services, and accessing a grocery store.

Desired improvements are primarily focused on **road conditions / potholes and pedestrian safety.**

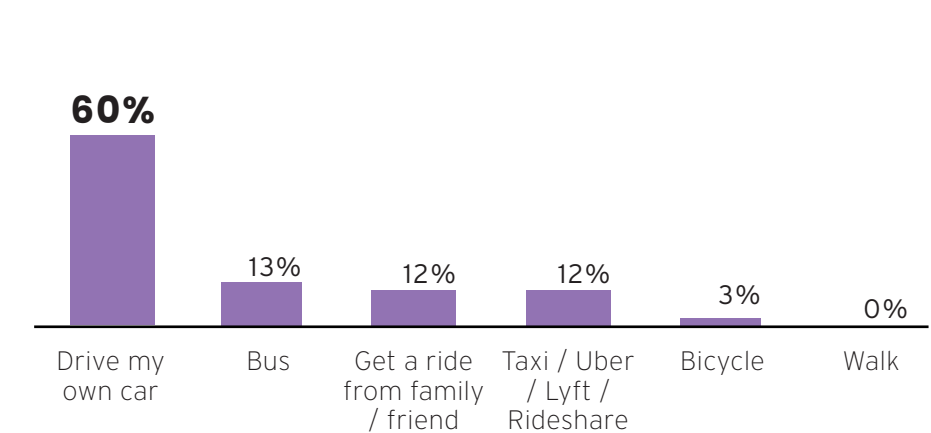
MOBILITY.



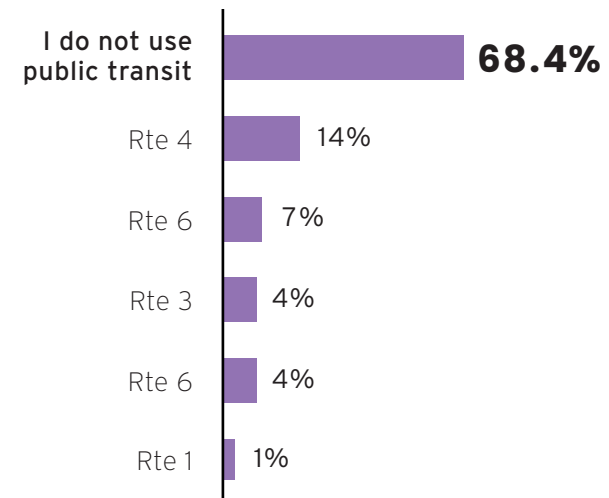
"WHAT TYPE OF TRANSPORTATION DO YOU USE MOST OFTEN?"



"IF EMPLOYED, HOW DO YOU TYPICALLY GET TO WORK?"

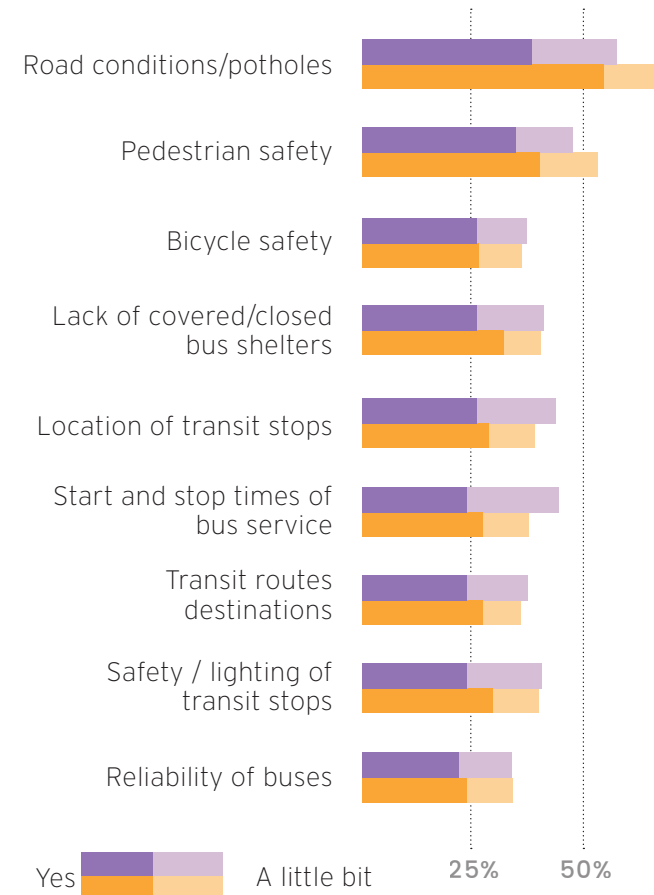


"WHICH TRANSIT STOP DO YOU USE MOST OFTEN?"



Most Allen Homes residents said they do not regularly use public transit. Respondents also cited the location of available jobs as the top reason people struggle to find employment.

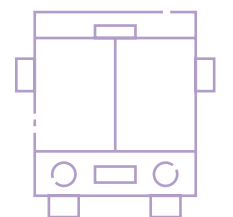
"DO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ISSUES PRESENT A CHALLENGE IN YOUR DAILY LIFE?"



NO ALLEN HOMES SURVEY RESPONDENTS and only **17% OF CHOICE NEIGHBORHOOD** respondents work in the Choice neighborhood.

"WHERE DO YOU TYPICALLY TAKE PUBLIC TRANSIT TO?"

- #1 Daily errands
- #2 Medical services
- #3 Clothing and home goods
- #4 School
- #5 Daycare



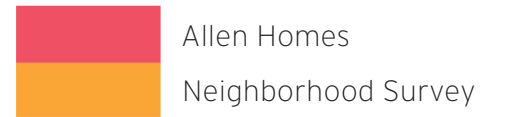


Home sweet home

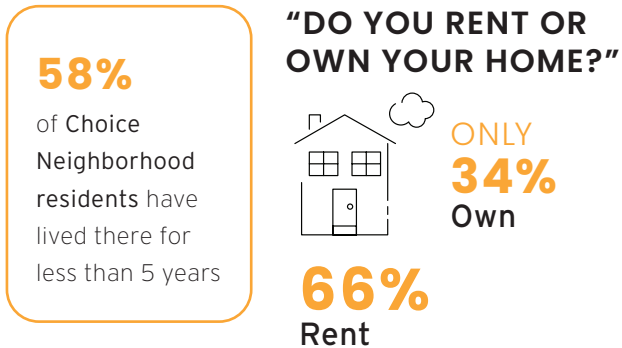
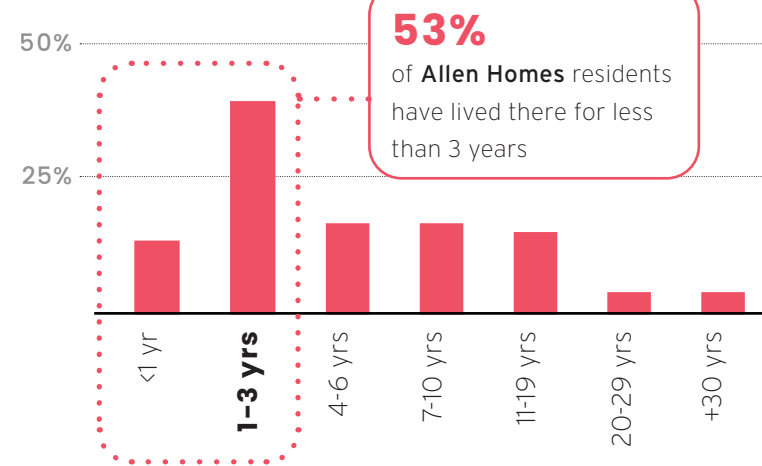
Even though Allen Homes residents are fairly new to the community, they feel that the people, neighbors, and sense of community is what they like the most about Allen Homes.

Since the current Allen Homes site is unsuitable for redevelopment, residents were asked where they would like to be relocated. While about **40% would like to remain in the Choice Neighborhood**, a large number of respondents said they wished to move outside of **Richmond County**. As the process moves forward, it will be important to explore some of these reasons further and to share with residents case studies of other communities that have been transformed through the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative.

HOUSING.

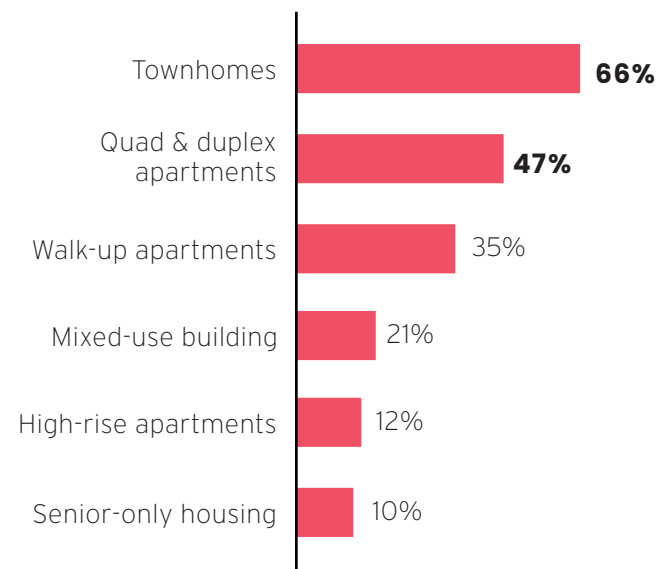


"HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED AT ALLEN HOMES?"

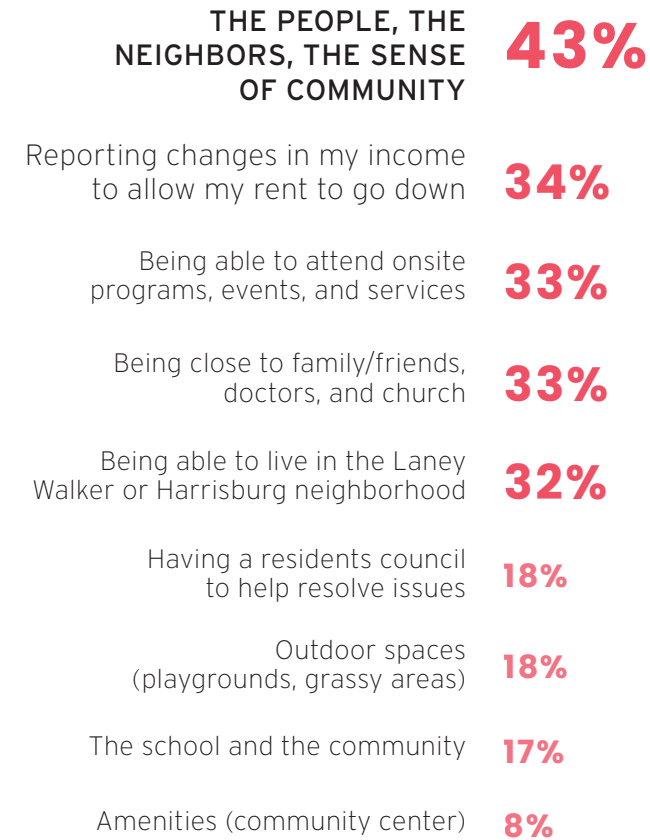


"DO YOU RENT OR OWN YOUR HOME?"

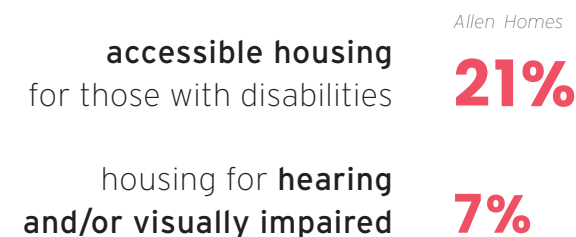
"WHAT STYLE OF HOUSING DO YOU FEEL IS MOST SUITED TO RESIDENTS AT ALLEN HOMES?"



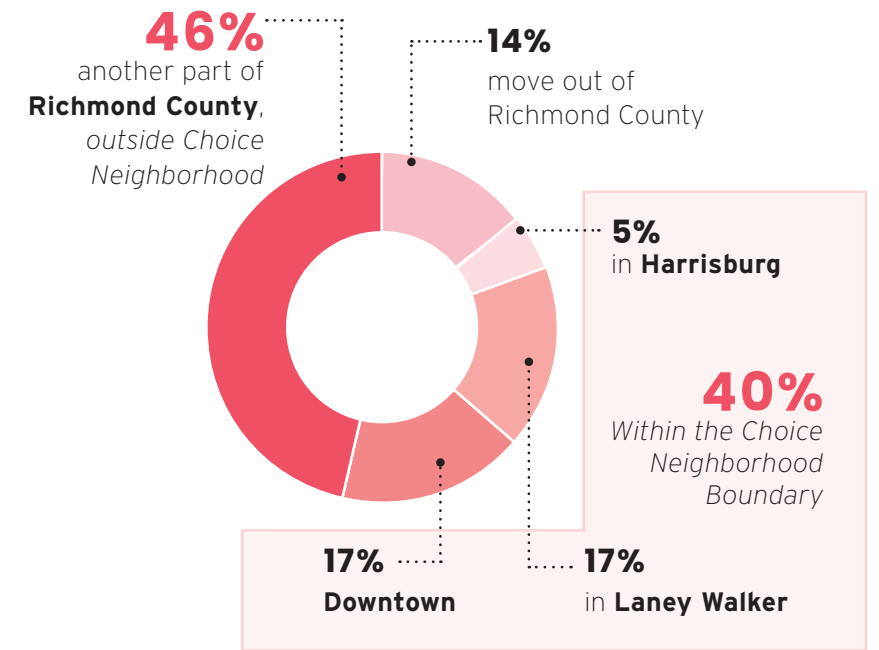
"WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT ALLEN HOMES?"



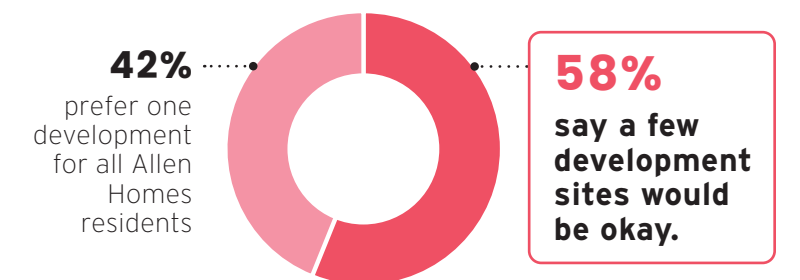
"DOES YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAVE ANY SPECIAL HOUSING NEEDS?"



"IF NEW HOUSING IS BUILT, WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO RELOCATE?"



"WOULD YOU WANT A SINGLE DEVELOPMENT FOR ALL RESIDENTS OR A FEW DEVELOPMENT SITES?"



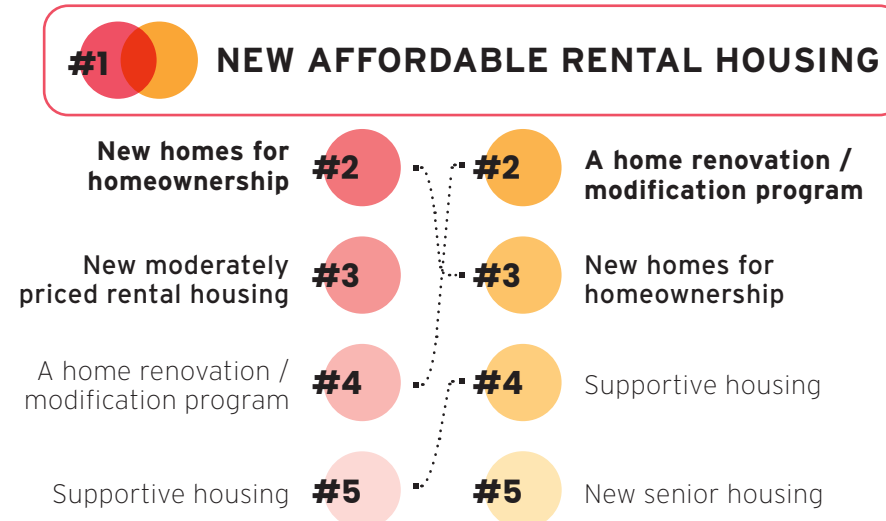


Home sweet home

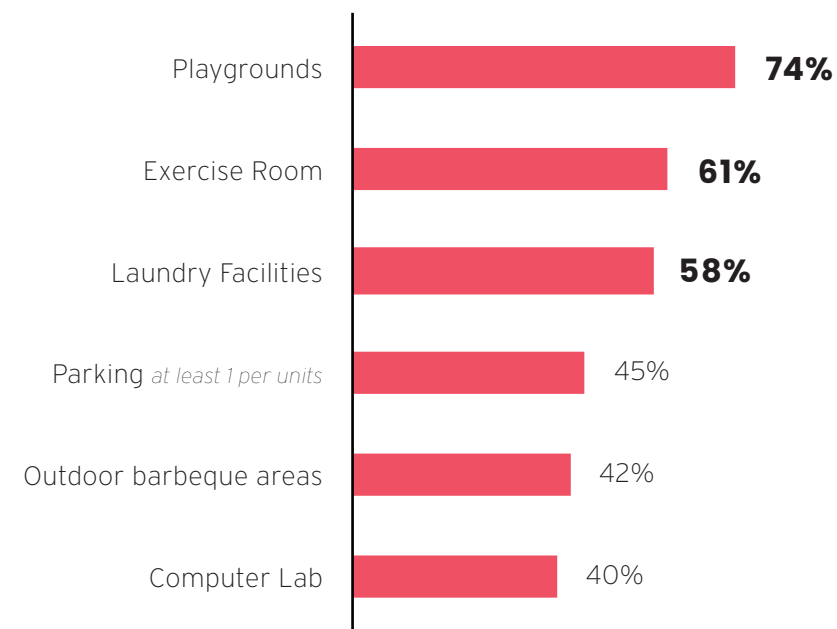
The Choice Neighborhood is constrained by blighted and vacant properties. It is therefore not surprising that the majority of neighborhood residents are renters who have lived in the neighborhood for a short time. Increasing rates of homeownership would improve the stability of the neighborhood. The **majority of Allen Homes and neighborhood respondents are interested in working towards homeownership.** Renters looking into homeownership are **struggling to find safe and affordable options in their desired neighborhood and accessing funds and other supportive programs** to help them through the process. Allen Homes residents are very interested in programs that will help them through the process.

HOUSING.

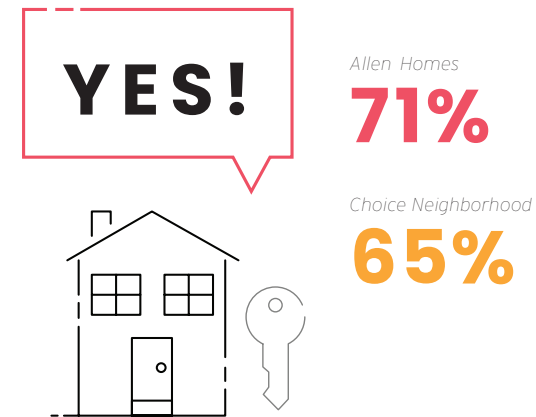
“WHAT TYPE OF HOUSING DO YOU FEEL IS NEEDED IN THE CHOICE NEIGHBORHOOD?”



“WHAT AMENITIES WOULD BE IMPORTANT TO HAVE IN ANY FUTURE DEVELOPMENT?”



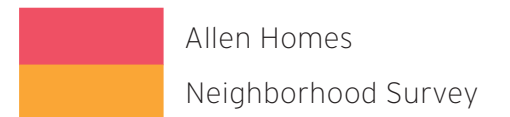
“ARE YOU INTERESTED IN WORKING TOWARD BUYING A HOME IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS?”



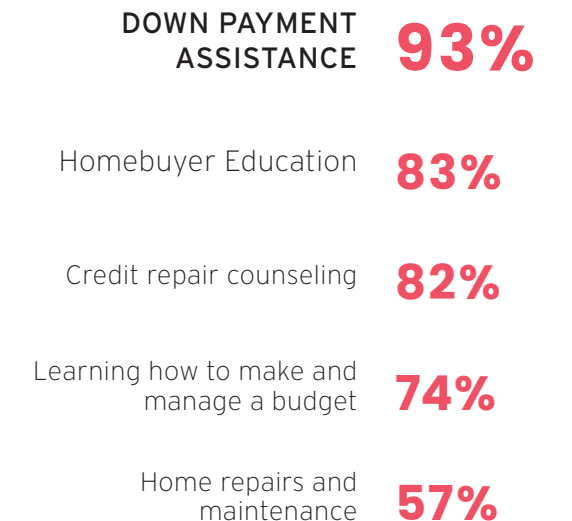
TOP CHALLENGES HOMEOWNERS HAVE FACED IN THE LAST YEAR:

- #1 Difficulty paying for necessary repairs to their home
- #2 Difficulty paying for utilities (gas, water, eating/cooling)
- #3 Difficulty paying property taxes

Supporting existing homeowners in the Choice neighborhood is critical to maintain stability and to enable them to benefit from investments. Of the homeowners surveyed, many reported difficulty in the past year affording repairs, paying for utilities, and keeping up with the mortgage.

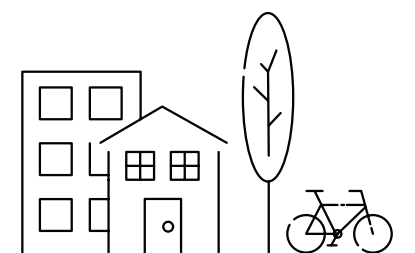


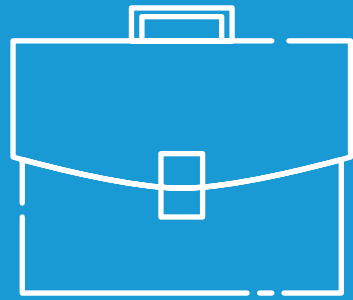
“WHAT PROGRAMS WOULD BE HELPFUL IN THE HOMEBUYING PROCESS?”



CHALLENGES IN MOVING TOWARDS HOMEOWNERSHIP:

- 71% Finding an affordable, safe, well-constructed home in a location they would be to be in
- 68% Affording a down payment
- 61% Needing credit repair and financial counseling
- 35% Short-term or unstable employment





Earning a Living

Despite the high number of well-paying positions in the Choice Neighborhood, incomes and levels of employment for Allen Homes residents and neighborhood survey respondents are low.

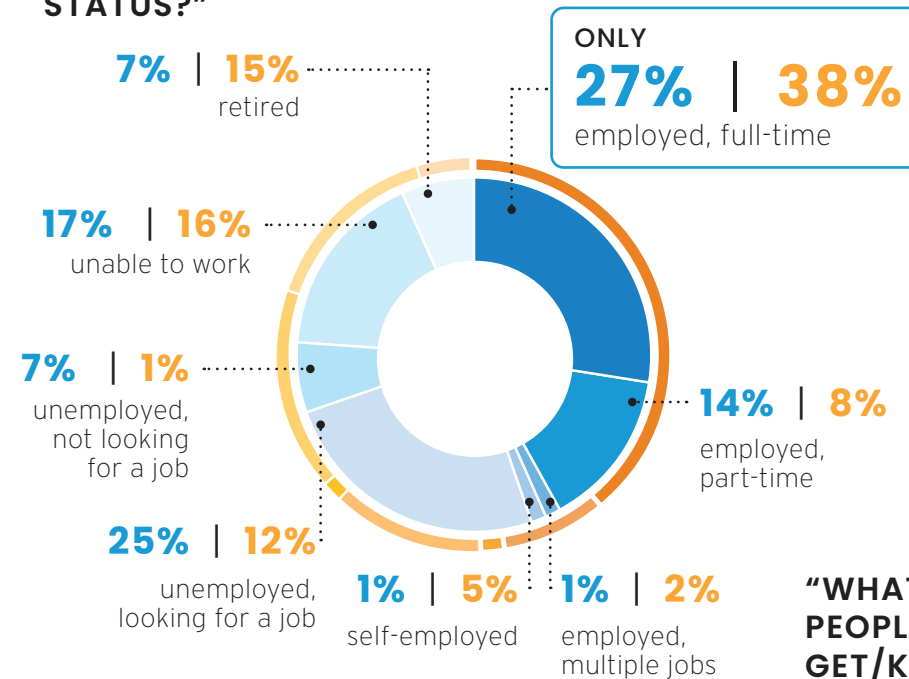
Almost half of Allen Homes and about 29% of Choice Neighborhood residents are making less than \$5,000 a year. Of Allen Homes residents, 87% earn less than \$20,000.

This corresponds to employment. **Only 27% of Allen Homes and 38% of Choice Neighborhood residents are working full time.** About a quarter of Allen Homes residents are unemployed and have been looking for a job for over a year, and many have said that the COVID-19 pandemic has affected their employment and made it difficult to find work.

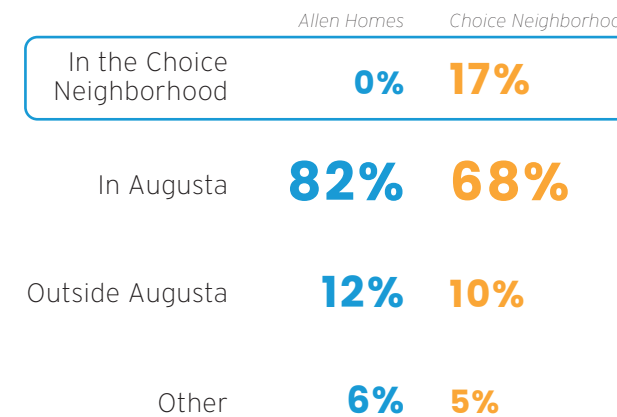
PEOPLE: EMPLOYMENT & INCOME.

Allen Homes
Neighborhood Survey

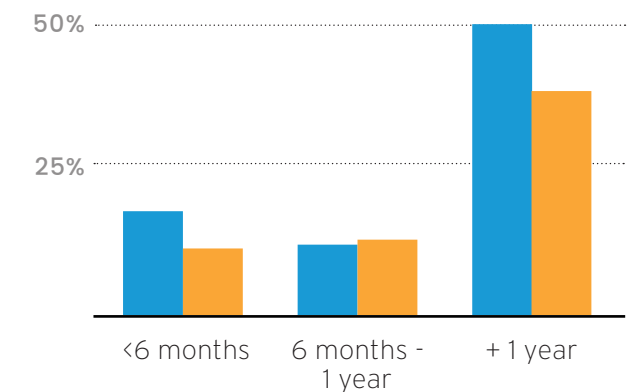
"WHAT IS YOUR CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATUS?"



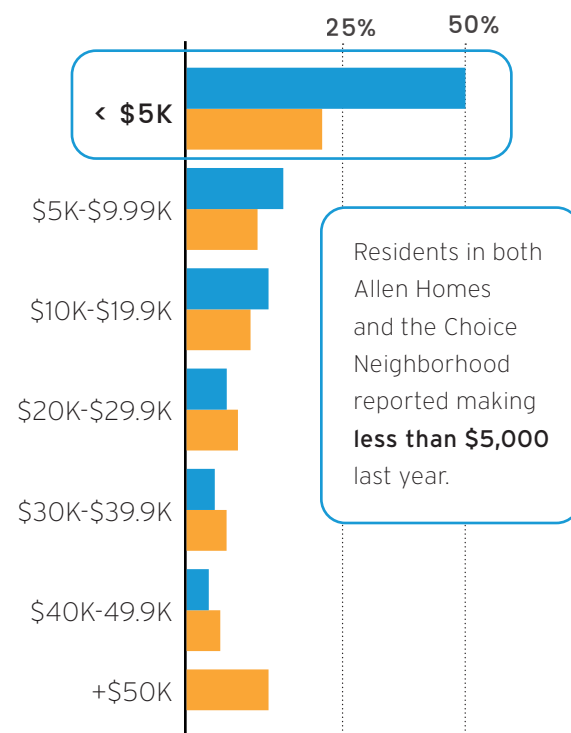
"IF EMPLOYED, WHERE DO YOU WORK?"



"IF UNEMPLOYED, HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE YOU HAD A JOB?"



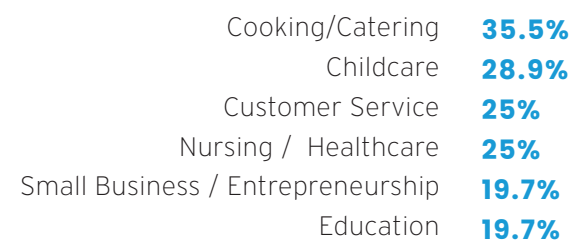
"WHAT WAS YOUR HOUSEHOLD INCOME LAST YEAR?"



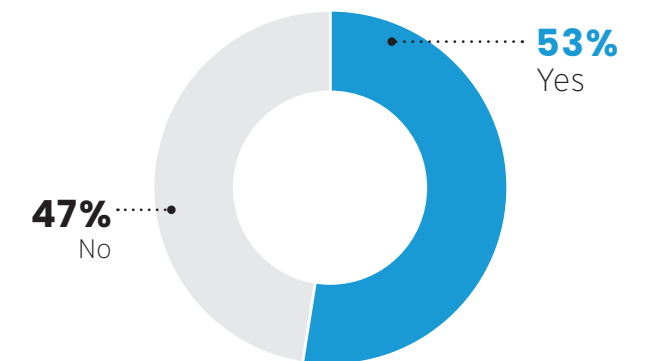
"WHAT DO YOU FEEL ARE SOME OF THE REASONS PEOPLE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD STRUGGLE TO GET/KEEP A JOB?"



MOST POPULAR JOB TRAINING PROGRAMS:

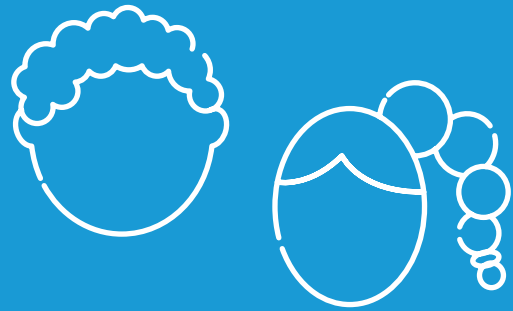


"HAS THE COVID PANDEMIC AFFECTED YOUR EMPLOYMENT?"



Most of the residents at Allen Homes are either employed full-time or actively looking for a job, and acknowledge that the COVID pandemic has impacted their employment

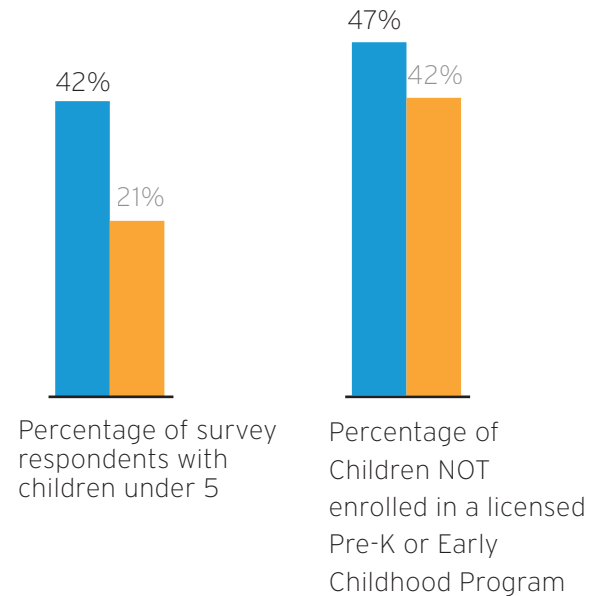
PEOPLE: EARLY CHILDHOOD.



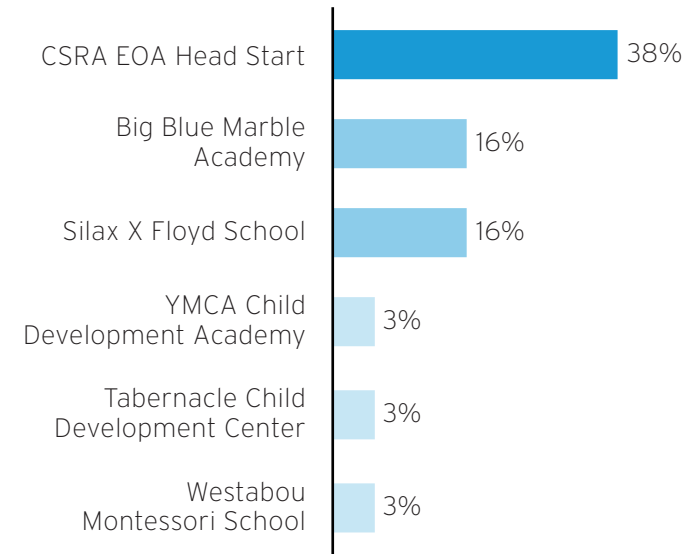
Nurturing young minds

The median age of Allen Homes residents is 14 (ACS 2019). Close to half of Allen Homes households have children under 5 and about half have school-aged children. Families at Allen Homes **struggle to enroll their children in Pre-K or early childhood programs because of limited availability and cost of the programs.**

CHILDREN AND EARLY EDUCATION



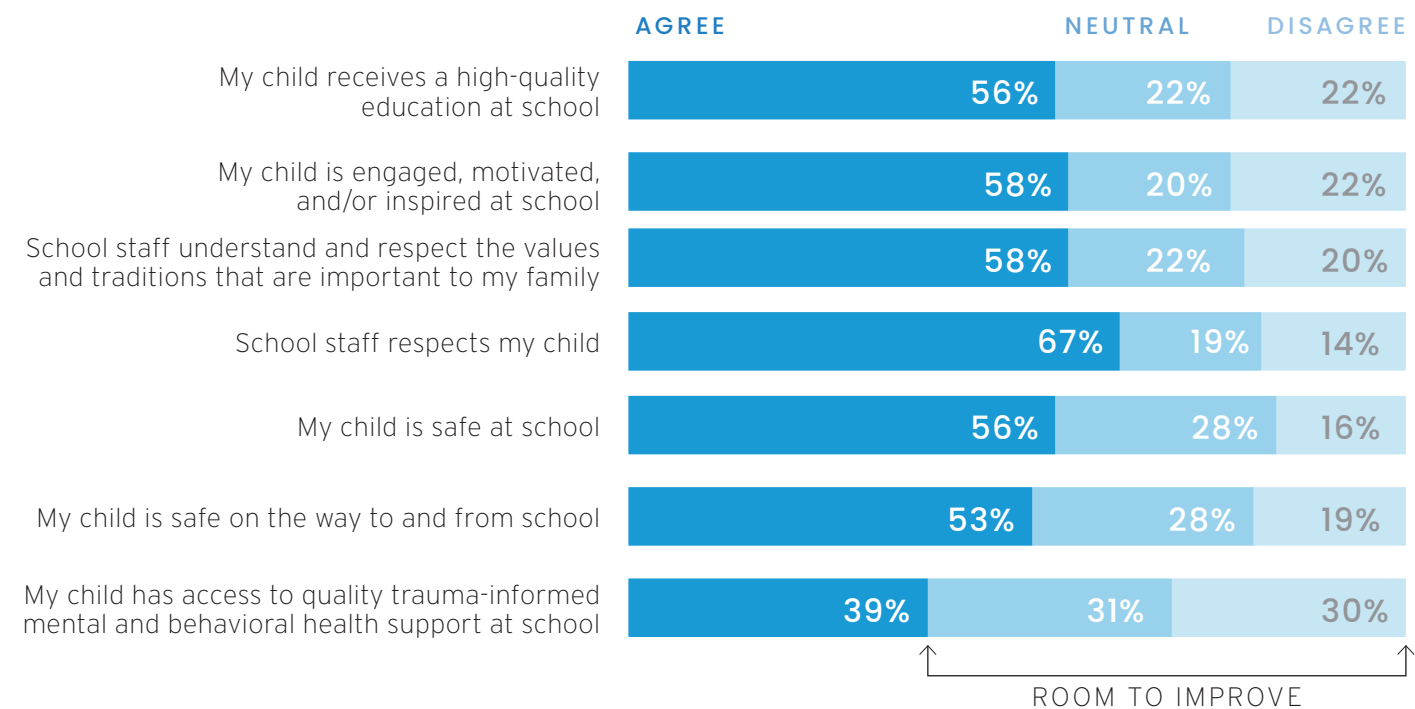
"WHICH PRE-K OR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM ARE YOUR CHILDREN ENROLLED IN?"



"WHY ARE SOME REASONS YOUR CHILDREN DO NOT PARTICIPATE IN A PRE-K OR EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM?"



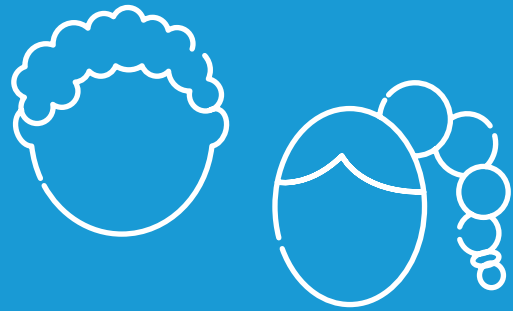
"HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE QUALITY OF YOUR CHILD(REN)'S EDUCATION?"



"WHAT DO YOU FEEL IS THE MOST PRESSING ISSUES YOUTH ARE FACING IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD TODAY?"



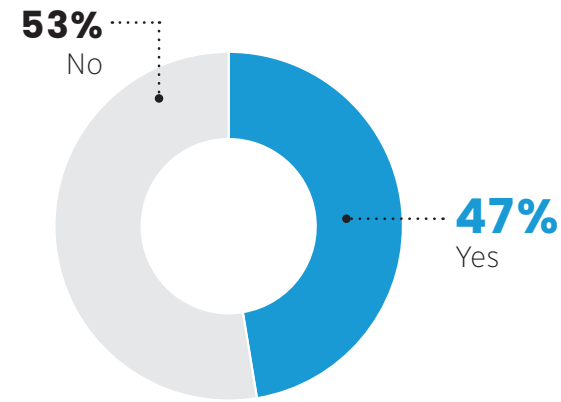
PEOPLE: YOUTH & EDUCATION.



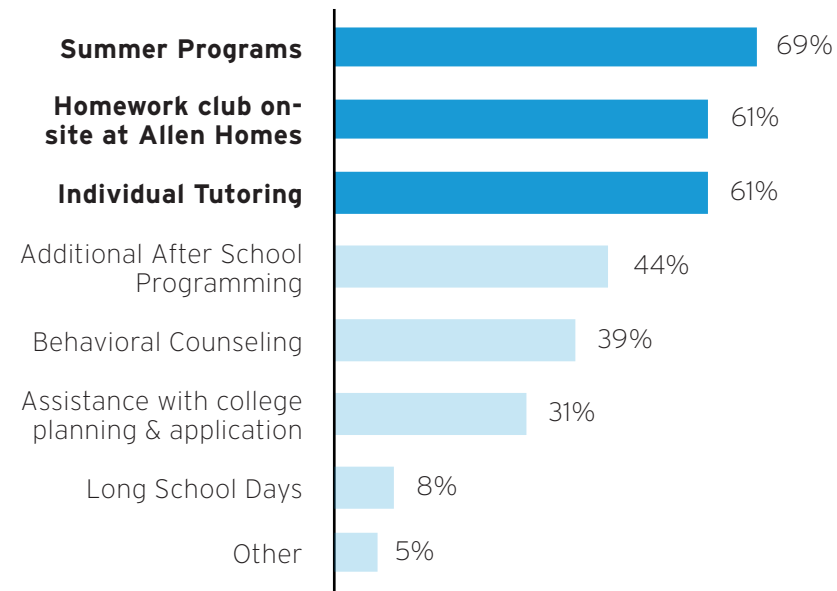
Preparing for the future

Residents generally believe **there is room to improve their children's education**, particularly by including some **summer programs, homework clubs on-site, and individual tutoring**. Many residents expressed the **need for positive activities for kids** to be engaged in offline to improve communication skills and especially to keep kids safe from violence and crime.

"DO YOU HAVE CHILDREN BETWEEN 5-19 OF AGE?"



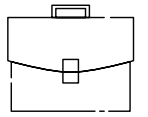
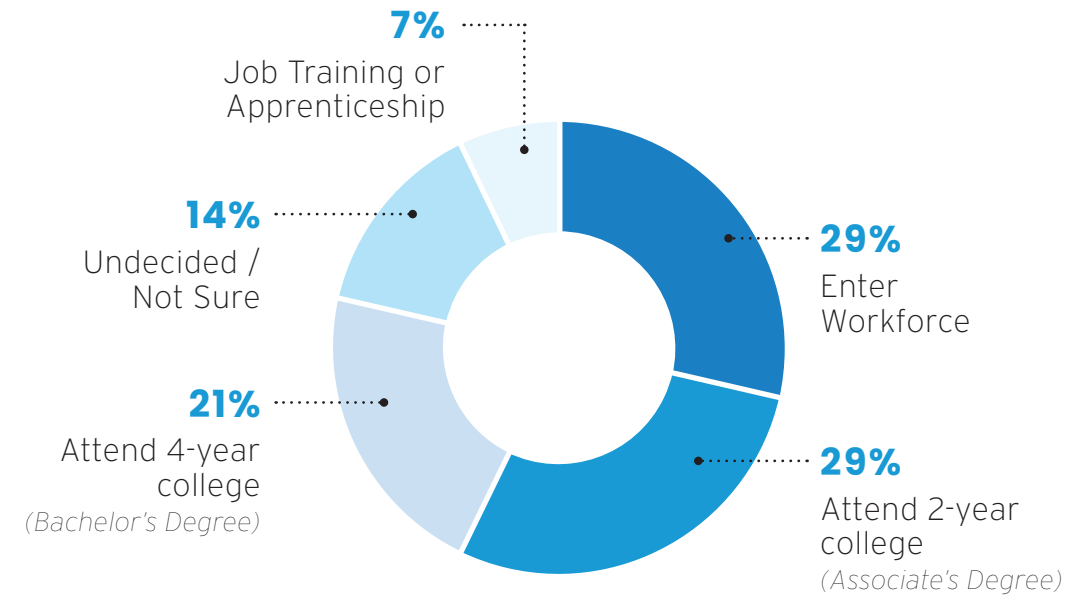
"WHAT ADDITIONAL SERVICES WOULD HELP YOUR CHILD(REN) DO WELL IN SCHOOL?"



"WHY DON'T YOUR CHILD(REN) PARTICIPATE IN ANY OF THE ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE?"

- COST **56%**
- UNAWARE **53%**
- LOCATION **25%**

"IF YOU HAVE HIGH SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN, WHAT PATH DO THEY HOPE TO TAKE AFTER SCHOOL?"

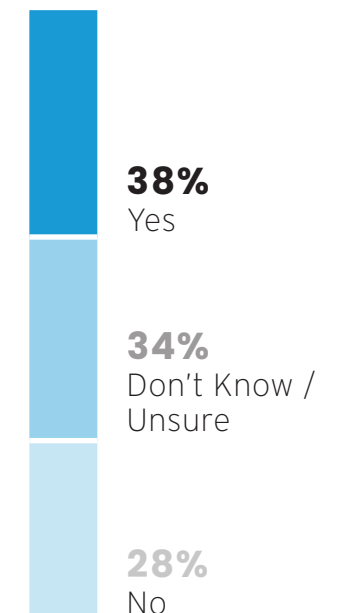


Many residents said they lack the skills and education needed for available jobs.

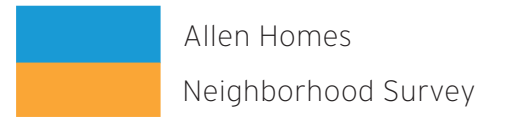
"WHAT PROGRAMS WOULD INTEREST YOUR CHILDREN?"

- #1 Dance
- #2 Arts and Crafts
- #3 Mentoring Program
- #4 Homework Help
- #5 College Prep or Computer Fluency / Programming / Coding

DO YOU FEEL YOUR CHILDREN'S CURRENT SCHOOLING IS PREPARING HIM/HER TO ACHIEVE THEIR AFTER HIGH SCHOOL PLANS?



PEOPLE: HEALTH & WELLNESS.



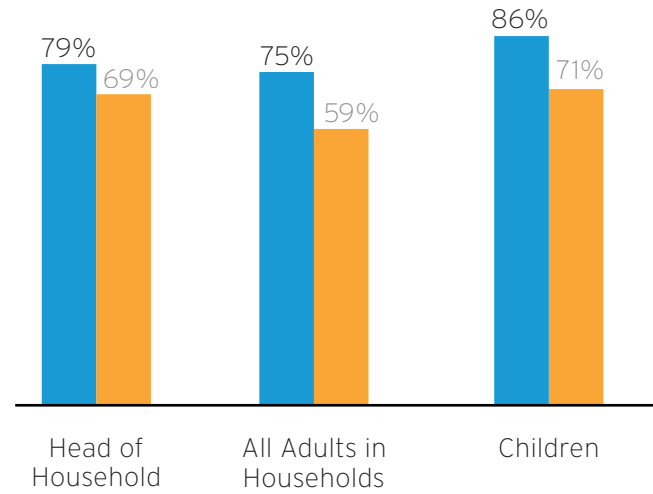
Toward a Healthy Community

Residents in Allen Homes and the Choice Neighborhood take care of their health, but may lack access to full health coverage. While **many residents lack health insurance, 95% of Allen Homes residents say they have an annual check-up** and 82% have at least one dental cleaning a year.

Residents **who do not have health insurance cite cost as the main reason why.** Respondents also cite needing more health facilities and transportation/shuttle services to medical facilities as barriers to healthcare. One reason for this may be a lack of awareness of the services available nearby.

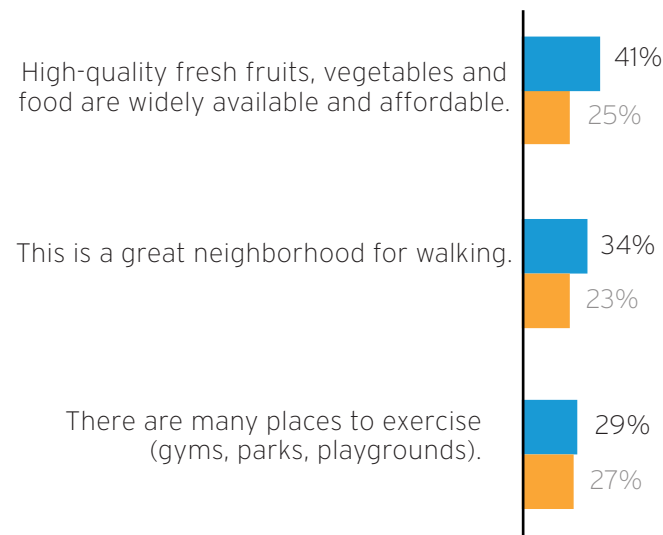
Allen Homes residents also experienced difficulty in the last year affording medical visits, co-pays, and prescriptions, as well as scheduling appointments, and finding information about physical and mental health services.

WHO HAS HEALTH INSURANCE:



The majority of respondents cited cost as the primary reason that they lack health insurance.

HEALTH IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD



FOOD ACCESS:



51.3%

of Allen Homes residents find that at least once per week there is not enough food in the house.

Reasons why:

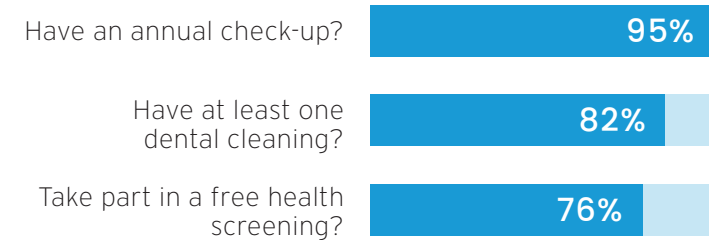
- Cannot afford it
- Too difficult to get to store
- Too busy to shop or cook



59.2%

of Allen Homes households would like to grow their own food in either the backyard or a community garden

IN A TYPICAL YEAR, DO THE MEMBERS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD...



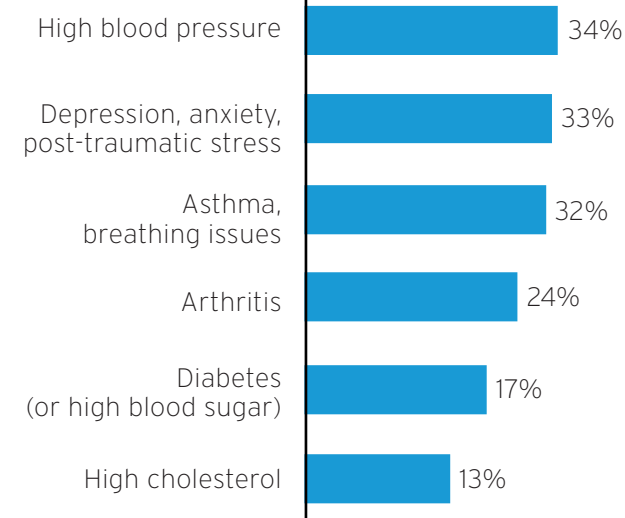
Health services

needed in the

neighborhood:

- Physical Therapy
- Reproductive health/OB-GYN services
- Mental Health
- Behavioral health

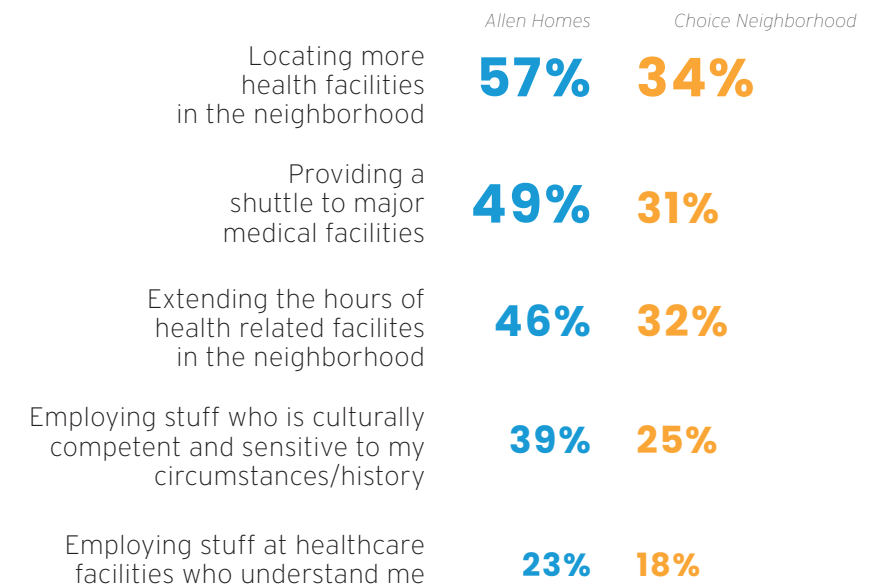
"HAVE YOU OR ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH ANY OF THE FOLLOWING HEALTH CONDITIONS?"



"WHERE DO YOU TYPICALLY GO TO RECEIVE MEDICAL CARE WHEN YOU OR YOUR CHILDREN ARE SICK?"

- #1** Augusta University Health - Family Medicine
- #2** Primary Care Doctor
- #3** Urgent Care
- #4** Women's Health of Augusta
- #5** Christ Community Health (Medical & Dental Clinic)

"HOW COULD YOUR ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTHCARE BE IMPROVED?"



In the past three years, **30-40% of Allen Homes residents** have had difficulty scheduling medical appointments, affording medical visits, and finding information about physical and mental health services.



39%

of Allen Homes residents have lost someone close to COVID-19.