



**Commission ^{on} the
Status of Women
SLO County**

Report of 2018 Activities

Presented to the San Luis Obispo County
Board of Supervisors

April 23, 2019

By

Christine Noffz, Chair

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Commission History

Established on May 5, 1975 by Board of Supervisors Heilman, Willeford, Kupper, Mankins and Krejsa. The San Luis Obispo County Commission on the Status of Women is an advisory board to the County Board of Supervisors. Our charge is to help understand the issues facing women and girls in our county and to share that information with the Board of Supervisors. The primary way we do this is through our Women's Issues Survey.

Mission Statement

Advocate for equal rights and for the agencies and programs that support the health, socioeconomic, and professional wellbeing of women and girls in our communities.

Enhance the quality of women's lives by identifying key issues that face women in our County and recommend solutions for those issues.

Facilitate action by sponsoring projects and by serving as the coordinating body for the various community organizations that are dedicated to women and girls.

Our goal is to increase collaborative efforts among County groups to influence public policy.

45th Anniversary

In the year 2020, the Commission will be celebrating its 45th year of representing the needs of women and girls within our County and reporting those needs to the County Board of Supervisors. A committee of Commissioners is being created to celebrate our 45th year through community outreach and putting on free events that support survey results indicating current issues affecting women.

Current Roster

District 1: Joeli Yaguda, Nancy Fiske, one vacancy

District 2: Paulla Ufferheide, Elaina Cano, one vacancy

District 3: Christine Noffz, Rosemary Wrenn, Andrea Devitt

District 4: Kathy Veder, Deanna Teixeira, Robyn DeRohan

District 5: Shawna Scott, Shirley Summers, one vacancy

- **Chair** = Christine Noffz, District 3
- **Vice-Chair** = Paulla Ufferheide, District 2
- **Treasurer** = Shirley Summers, District 5
- **Secretary** = Shawna Scott, District 5

Commissioner Status

- Amanda King - District 3, resigned November 2018
- Three new Commissioners gained early 2019
 - Elaina Cano - District 3
 - Nancy Fiske - District 1
 - Andrea Devitt - District 2
- Commissioners needed in
 - District 1, District 2, District 5

2018 Activities

Website – www.slowomen.org

- Online access to our survey available both in English and Spanish
- Printable surveys are also available in English and Spanish
- Links to local governmental and health and human services website
- Outreach/partnerships/events linked on home page
- Women’s Wall of Fame forms, nominees, and winners are located on the site

Social Media

- Shared our survey and access to information, articles, data, and tools that relate to survey responses and women’s issues on:
 - Facebook
 - LinkedIn
 - Twitter
 - Instagram
 - NextDoor
- Shared local free and low fee seminars related to women’s issues with followers

Community Outreach

- Guest speakers attended meetings throughout the year. Speakers are used to educate the Commissioners, leverage partnerships with other community agencies and businesses, and to open up dialogue and gain data and details on the needs of women and girls in our communities.
- Hosted a booth at the *SLO Women’s March / Call to Action Alley* where we successfully captured 200 surveys from a wide variety of ages, socioeconomic backgrounds, and ethnicities of women and girls in our County.
- Hosted a table at Cal Poly’s *Women in Business Defining Her Future* Conference where we educated students and attendees on the Commission, the resources that are available to them throughout the County.
- Honored fourteen women from throughout the County at our 5th Annual Women’s Wall of Fame. One of the winners is now a Commissioner. This is the second year in a row where our event inspired already very busy community-oriented women to volunteer their time and knowledge to the Commission.
- Partnered with ECHO to hold a “drive by” feminine hygiene drive for homeless women and girls benefiting ECHO. The event was such a success, ECHO shared products with the other homeless shelters throughout the County. They now have a year’s supply of feminine hygiene products.

Award

The Commission was awarded NACW's Achievement Award for our Women's Way to Wealth forum held in 2017. This award was provided to the Commission for providing a free event that educated and empowered women to manage their finances, credit report, insurance, and legal needs.

2018 Commission Events

- **5th Annual Women's Wall of Fame** – March 10, 2018.
 - Theme was "Stronger Together."
 - Keynote speaker was SLO's Police Chief Deanna Cantrell.
 - Over 140 women and men attended, including Supervisor Gibson.
 - 14 women were nominated. One winner in each of three categories was chosen by Commissioner's from Contra Costa County Commission on the Status of Women.

- **Helping Women & Girls PERIOD** "drive by" feminine hygiene drive
 - Held in leu of our Annual Holiday Reception
 - Benefited El Camino Homeless Organization (ECHO)
 - Brought light to the subject of menstruation, which is unfortunately still considered taboo today, and is experienced by half of our population.
 - Collected 245 Boxes of tampons which equals 9,154 individuals
 - Collected 236 Boxes of pad which equals 7,379 individuals
 - Out pouring of support was so great that ECHO shared products with the other homeless shelters in our County
 - Products will cover a year of need within ECHO shelters

About the Women's Issues Survey

The survey was created to collect data and information regarding the needs and challenges facing women and girls in our County to share with the Board of Supervisors. Since 2015, we have used Survey Monkey to make it easier to compile survey response details to the Board. Responses can now be broken down by District and depicted in graph format for each of each Supervisor's use.

As Commissioners attend events, volunteer, and interact with others, they share the power of letting their Board of Supervisors know their needs by sharing their voice and perspectives through the completion of our survey.

For the last two years, we have seen an increase in surveys primarily due to: 1) having a booth at *SLO Women's March Call to Action Alley* and; 2) through social media posts through multiple channels.

Free events are created in support of the top issues women and girls are facing within our County. Examples include:

- Women's Way to Health:
 - Experts in their field are assembled to help attendees understand the resources available for them throughout the County such as:
 1. Health care related agencies and non-profits
 2. Mental health agencies
 3. Nutrition
 4. Dental
 5. Physical Fitness

- Women's Way to Wealth:
 - Experts in their field are assembled to share best practices and practical tools attendees can implement immediately such as:
 1. How to Take Good Care of Your Credit
 2. Wills, Trust, and How to Care for Your Family
 3. Budgeting and Investments
 4. Life, Disability, Long-Term Care and Rental/Home Insurance

National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW)

NACW assists and supports Commissions for women to ensure that they not only survive but thrive. They provide valuable programs, meaningful activities, relevant resources and available expertise to member Commissions. Their network of state and local Commissions across the country exchange information, ideas, and best practices to support and guide Commissions.

The San Luis Obispo County Commission on the Status of Women is a member of NACW. We have formed alliances with national partners and built relationships among other Commissions who are looking to promote equality and justice for all women and girls and to ensure they are represented and empowered in their communities.

Each year they hold an annual conference where national and local women's issues are reviewed and discussed, and practical tools and resources are provided. Last year's event was held in Los Angeles, where the Commission networked with other National Commissions, learned ways to advocate effectively for women, and were provided tools and briefings on key women's issues.

Currently Commissioner Kathy Veder, District 4, sits on NACW's Board.

Association of California Commissions for Women (ACCW)

ACCW promotes viability, strength, and effectiveness of Commissions by encouraging them to advise elected officials about key issues and initiatives that affect women and girls within their local area and within the State of California. They strive to help Commissions to be funded by local Government and to give the women and girls of California a voice. Their objective is to develop a Statewide agenda on issues of concern and to ensure implementation of key policy and legislative changes to address those concerns.

ACCW holds a conference yearly where local and statewide women's issues are reviewed and discussed and tools and resources are provided. Last year's meeting was held in Los Angeles where two Commissioners attended.

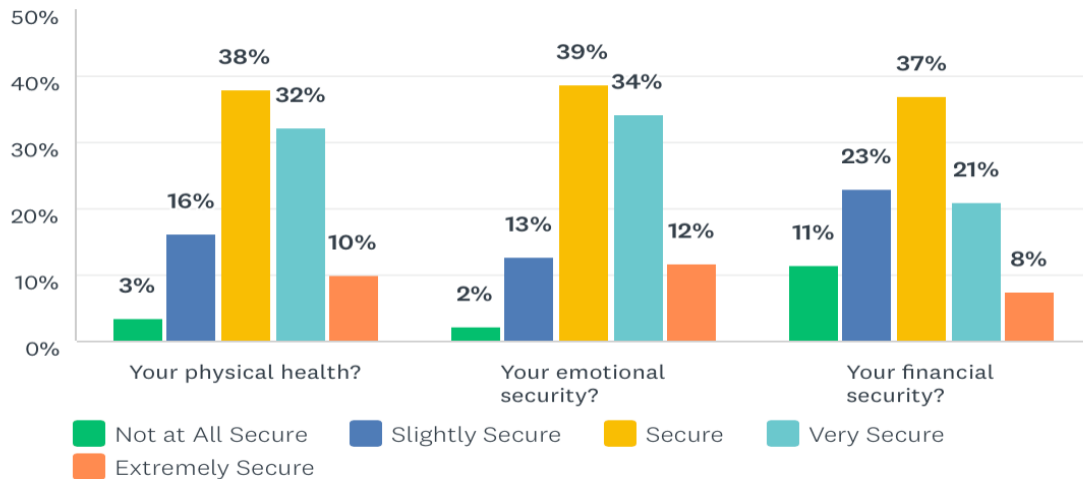
Currently Commissioner Shawna Scott, District 5, sits on ACCW's Board.

2018 Survey Results

1. How do you rate the overall quality of life for you and your family here in San Luis Obispo county? (On a scale of 1 = Poor and 10 = Excellent.)

<u>Rating:</u>	<u>Percentage of Responses:</u>
10	22%
09	23%
08	27%
07	15%
06	05%
05	03%
04	01%
03	01%
02	01%
01	01%

2. How secure do you feel about:



3. Which of the following issues are you dealing with right now? (Top 5)

<u>Answer:</u>	<u>Percentage:</u>
Financial Security	34%
Health Issues	29%
Affordable Housing/Lack of Housing	24%
Mental Health	19%
None	24%

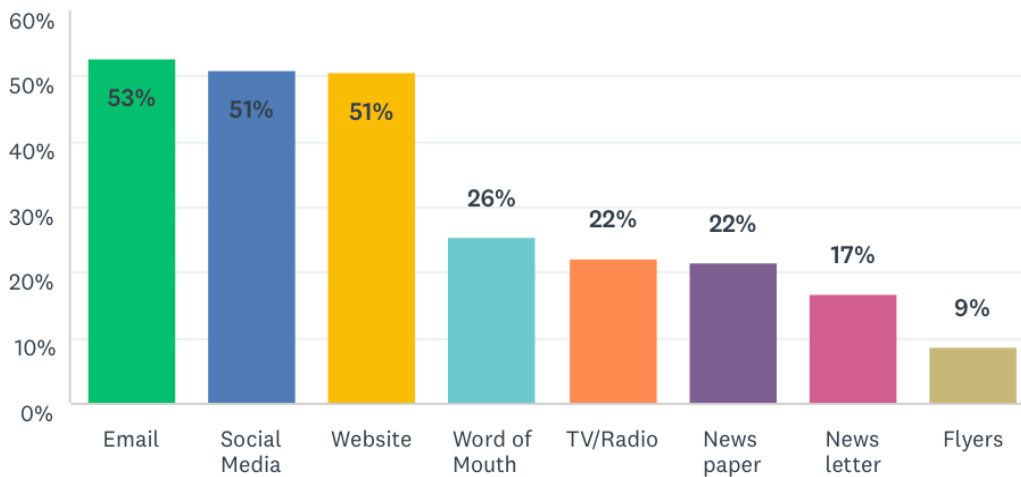
4. What type of programs and services would you like? (Top 5)

<u>Answer:</u>	<u>Percentage:</u>
Senior Issues	38%
Health Issues	37%
Financial Planning	30%
Education	25%
Birth Control	23%

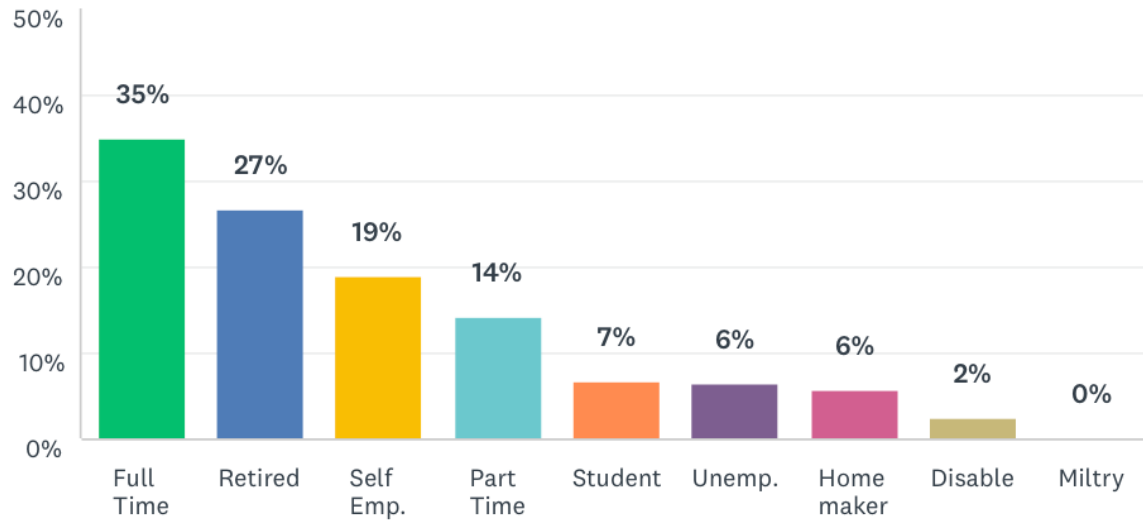
5. What are the barriers, if any, preventing you from getting help you may need? (Top 5)

<u>Answer:</u>	<u>Percentage:</u>
Don't know what's available	39%
None	36%
Finances	21%
Don't know how to access	18%
Intimidated/Hesitant to ask for help	13%

6. What is the best way for you to receive information about future programs and services?



7. Which of the following describes your current employment status?



8. What is your current occupation? (Top 10)

<u>Answer:</u>	<u>Percentage:</u>
Retired	13%
Nurse	06%
Teacher	06%
Student	06%
Manager	03%
Business Owner	03%
Educator	03%
Assistant	03%
Engineer	02%
Sales	02%

9. If retired, what was your occupation? (Top 5)

<u>Answer:</u>	<u>Percentage:</u>
Nurse	12%
Teacher	10%
Educator	07%
Business Owner	03%
Director	02%

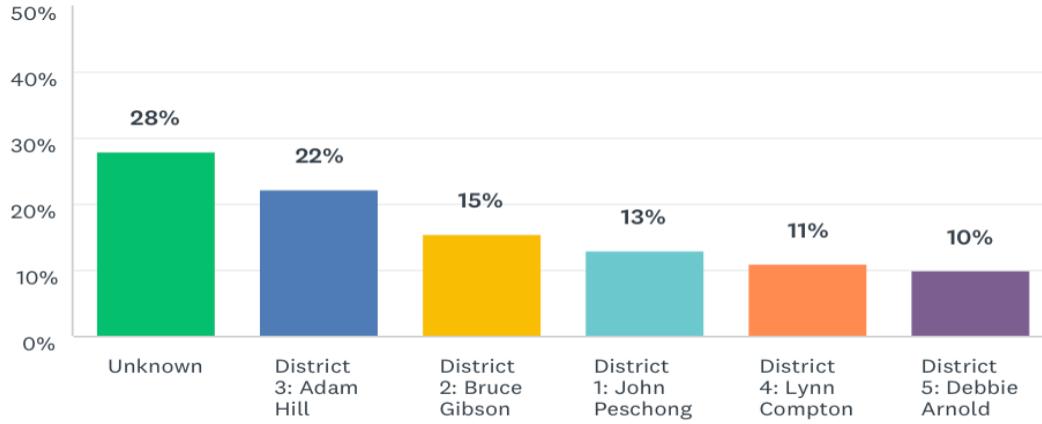
10. What are your hobbies/interests?

<u>Answer:</u>	<u>Percentage:</u>
Reading	77%
Travel	59%
Exercise	54%
Hiking	54%
Cooking	51%
Arts/Crafts	49%
Volunteering	46%
Music	44%
Gardening	40%
Camping	32%
Internet	26%
Swimming	22%
Games/Cards	22%
Writing	21%
Sewing	18%
Other (Dance, tennis, horseback riding Hunting, weaving)	13%
Golf	06%

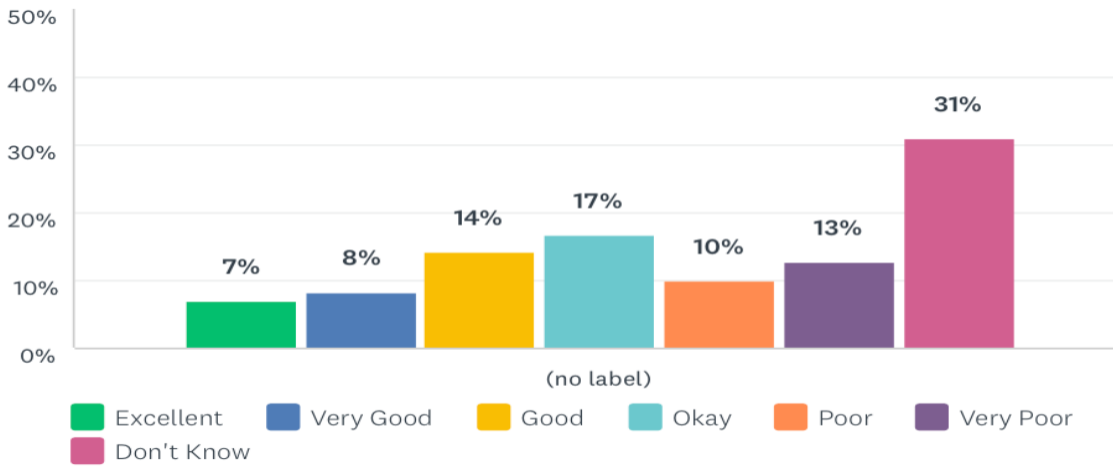
11. How is your health care funded?

<u>Answer:</u>	<u>Percentage:</u>
Employer	38%
Medicare	28%
Self-Funded	17%
Spouse/Partner	15%
Parents	08%
Affordable Care Act	06%
Medi-Cal	05%
I have None	03%
Military	02%

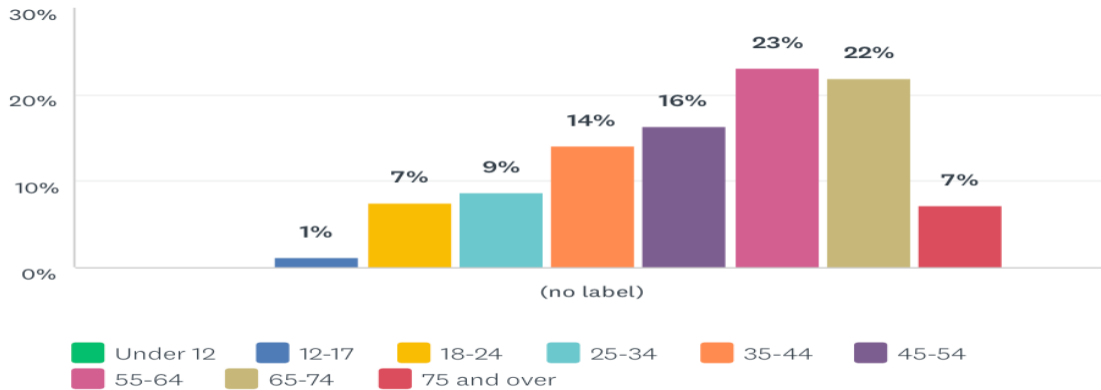
12. Please select your District's Board of Supervisor representative:



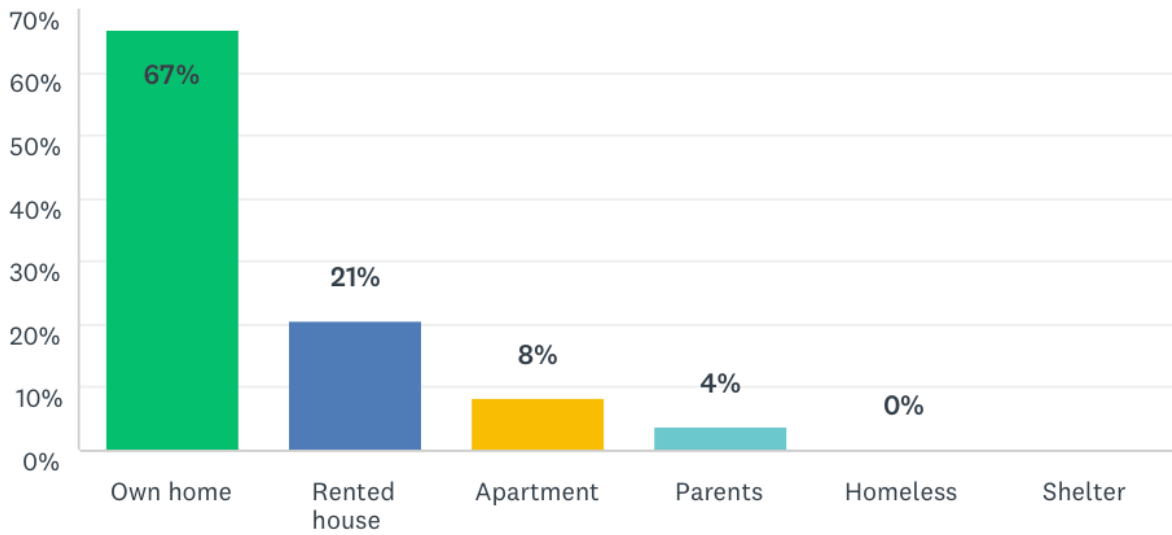
13. How well do you think your Supervisor represents you?



14. What is your age?



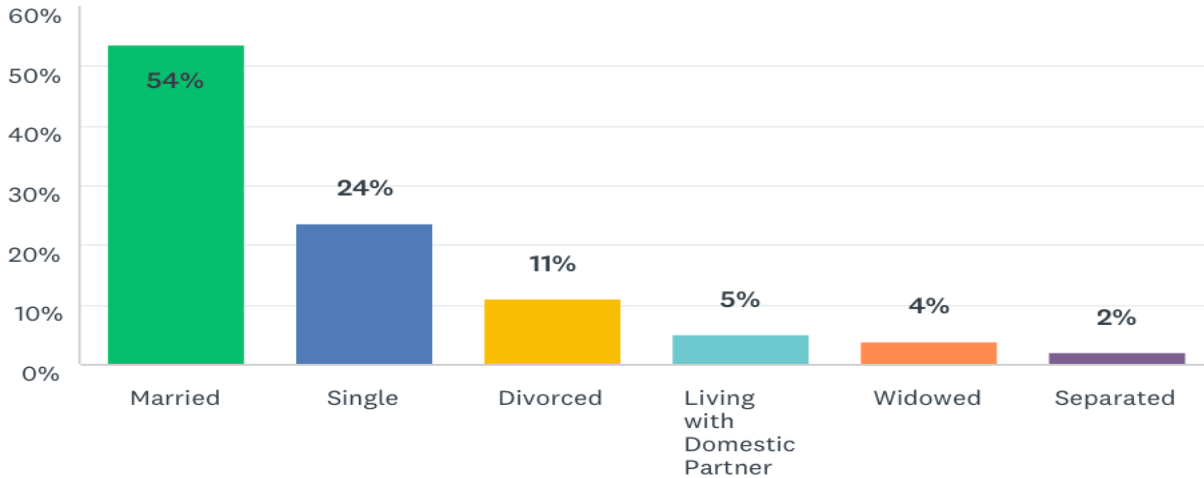
15. Where do you currently live?



16. What is your zip code?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ 93401 - San Luis Obispo	28%
▼ 93405 - San Luis Obispo	13%
▼ 93446 - Paso Robles	11%
▼ 93422 - Atascadero	9%
▼ 93420 - Arroyo Grande	8%
▼ 93402 - Los Osos	6%
▼ 93428 - Cambria	5%
▼ 93444 - Nipomo	4%
▼ 93442 - Morro Bay	3%
▼ 93449 - Pismo Beach/Shell Beach	3%
▼ 93465 - Templeton	3%
▼ 93410 - San Luis Obispo (Cal Poly)	1%
▼ 93424 - Avila Beach	1%
▼ 93445 - Oceano	1%
▼ 93430 - Cayucos	1%
▼ 93433 - Grover Beach	1%
▼ 93453 - Santa Margarita/California Valley	1%
▼ 93432 - Creston	1%
▼ 93451 - San Miguel	1%
▼ 93426 - Bradley	0%
▼ 93435 - Harmony	0%
▼ 93452 - San Simeon	0%
▼ 93461 - Shandon	0%

17. What is your marital status?



18. What are the age range(s) of your children and how many in each range(s)?

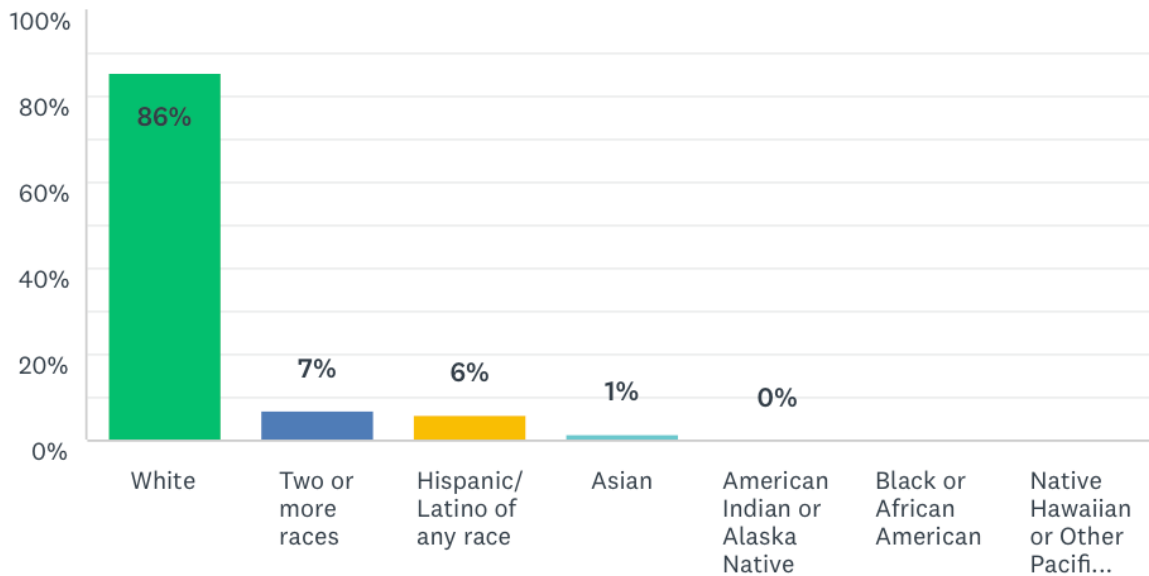
Answer:

Percentage:

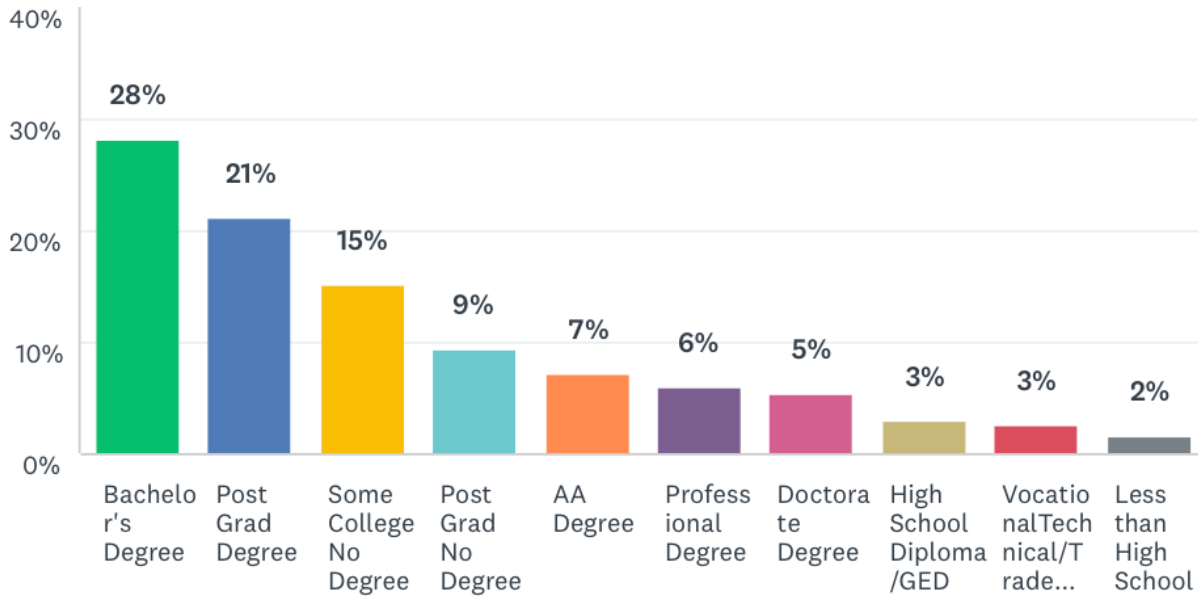
None	06%
Under 6 years old	14%
6 – 10 years old	17%
11 – 17 years old	14%
18 and older	59%

Note – These percentages may be underrepresented due to misunderstanding of the Question. Some respondents checked multiple boxes including none.

19. What is your race/ethnicity?



20. What is your highest level of education?



21. What is your personal annual income

