

**HIGH LEVEL SUMMARY
OF THE
BELLE ISLE COMMUNITIES COASTAL ADAPTATION SURVEY**

By

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With the goal of community-engaged research and equitable climate adaptation under the Belle Isle MVP project, this study was conducted. Four questions examined were:

1. Do community members' perceptions of flood risk and their perception of likelihood of risk vary by community?

FINDINGS:

- 60% of respondents have experienced flooding from flood or tides, either in East Boston, Revere or Winthrop, or somewhere else.
- Proportionally, most of the flooding experienced was in the local Winthrop area (79%), followed by East Boston (44%), then Revere (29%).
- Most respondents from the three communities indicated concern about future flooding, unable to reduce their risk no matter what they do.
- Most respondents (53%) were uncertain about the relationship between the marsh health and flooding in their communities, and of those that were certain of a relationship, 32% believed that marsh health and their flood risk were related.

2. What are communities doing to adapt?

FINDINGS:

- When flooding occurs a diverse range of strategies are used to cope and adapt
- Proportionally, respondents from Revere and East Boston employ a wider range and combination of flooding adaptation responses including strengthening the physical structure, elevating homes or structures or moving to another home.
- The most common response across all communities was NO ACTION.
- The uptake of flood insurance was the least common response.
- Respondents from Winthrop and East Boston would like flood adaptation to be consciously mainstreamed into town governance and decision-making.

3. What motivates/demotivates communities to take adaptive actions?

FINDINGS:

- Most respondents have lived in these communities for more than 15 years, and like living in the Belle Isle area because of their proximity to the coast (19.5%), growing up there (10.5%), its safety (10.5%), and proximity to friends and family (9%).
- Under current conditions over 75% of respondents would not move from the Belle Isle Area within the next 10 years, and of these 65% expect to experience flooding several more times within the next 10 years.
- Most respondents across communities felt that their families will be unable to cope with a major flooding event without government intervention, feel that their own efforts are insufficient, and should flooding become severe do not have the resources to move even if they wanted to.

4. What would communities like to see going forward as plans are made to adapt to climate change impacts in the area?

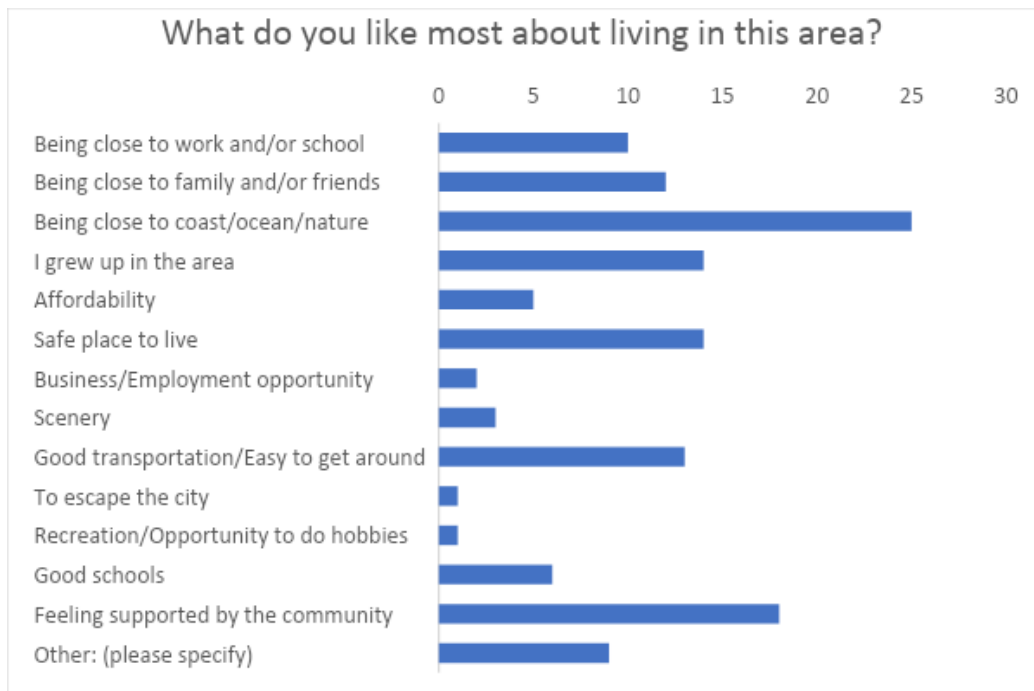
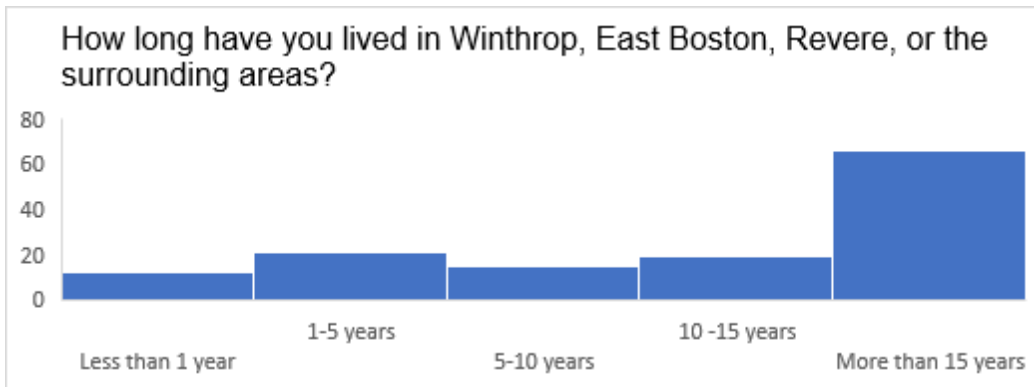
FINDINGS:

- There is the perception that development in the area is driving increased flood risks, especially to areas such as East Boston, but there is limited information being shared with

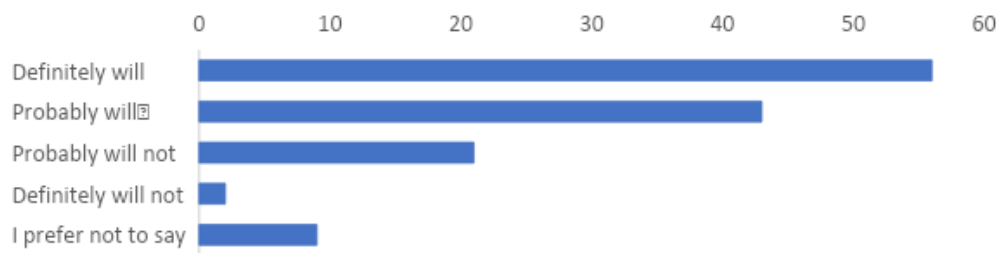
the communities (especially among immigrant communities) on how these developments might affect their climate resilience.

- Most respondents from East Boston wanted to see more emergency plans, barriers to keep out the water and less development along the coast.
- Residents from Revere indicated a desire to see greater wetland protection, safe housing, greater emergency housing during flooding and more natural spaces.
- Winthrop residents would like to see greater protection and restoration of the marsh, as well as better building codes to mitigate flooding impacts.

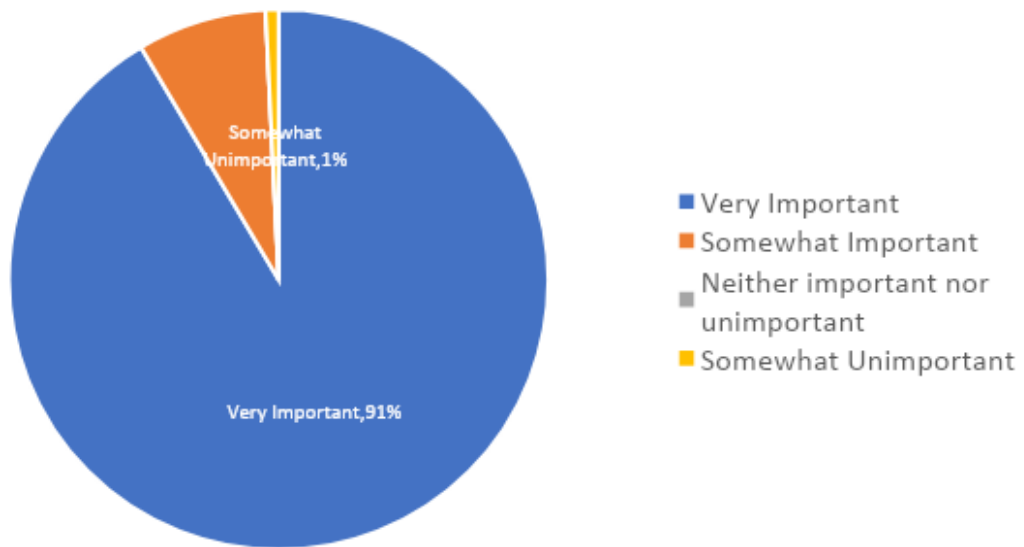
APPENDIX



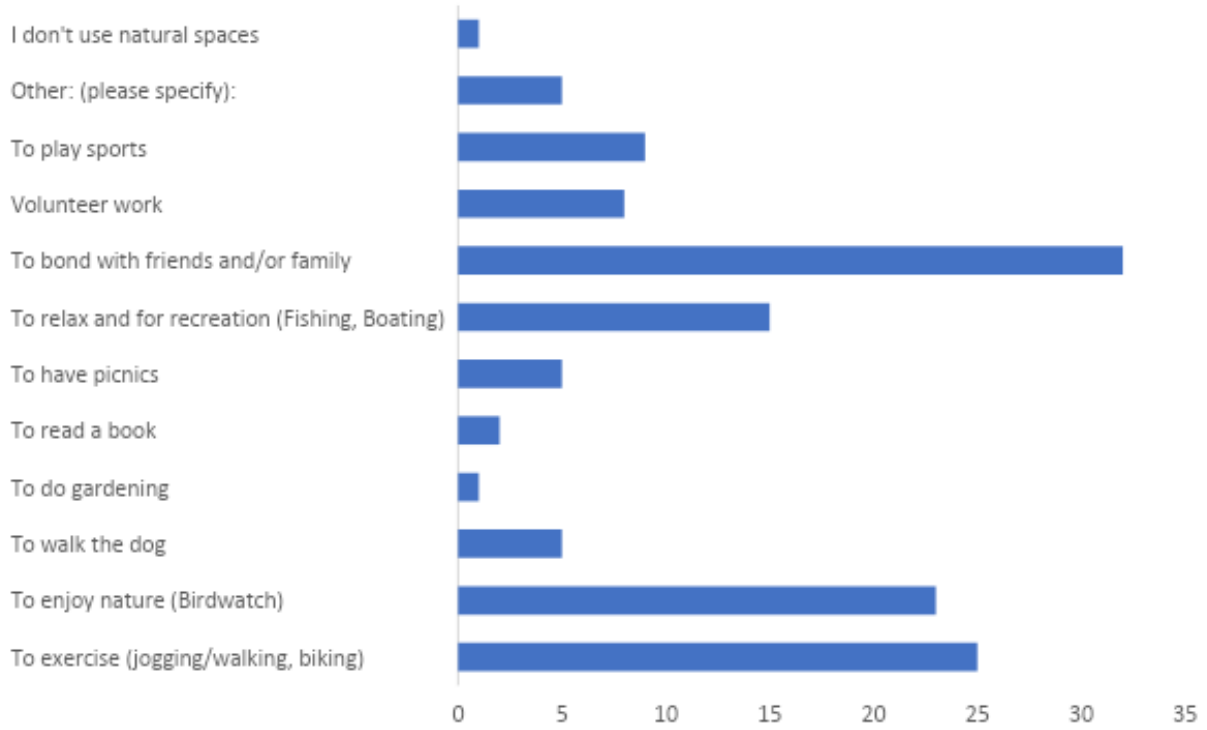
How likely are you to continue living in this area for the next 10 years?



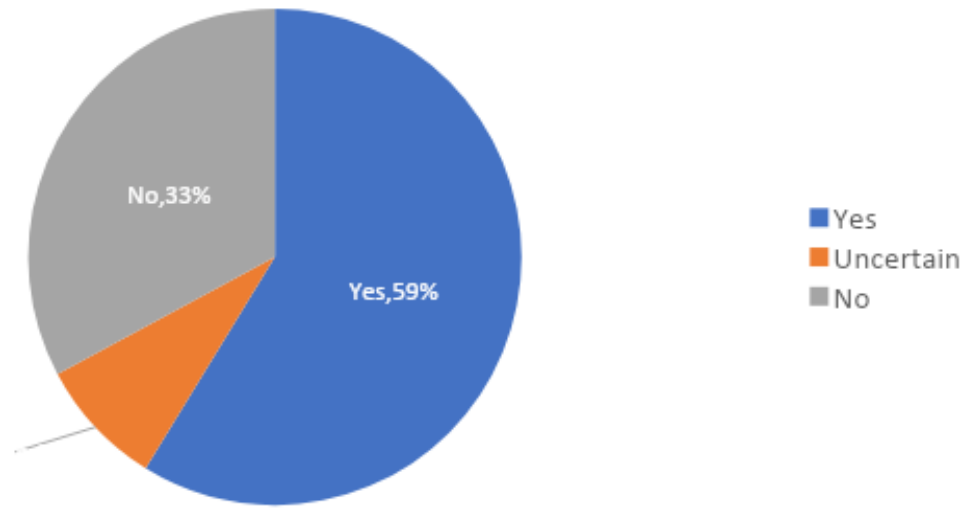
How important is it to have natural spaces in your community?



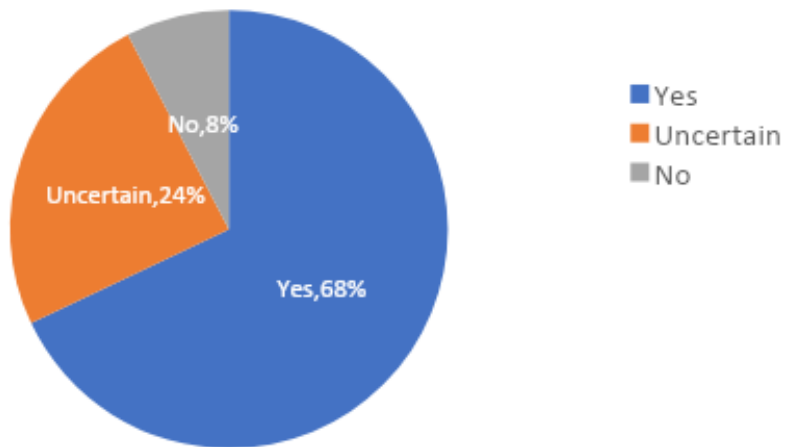
How do you usually use natural spaces in your community?



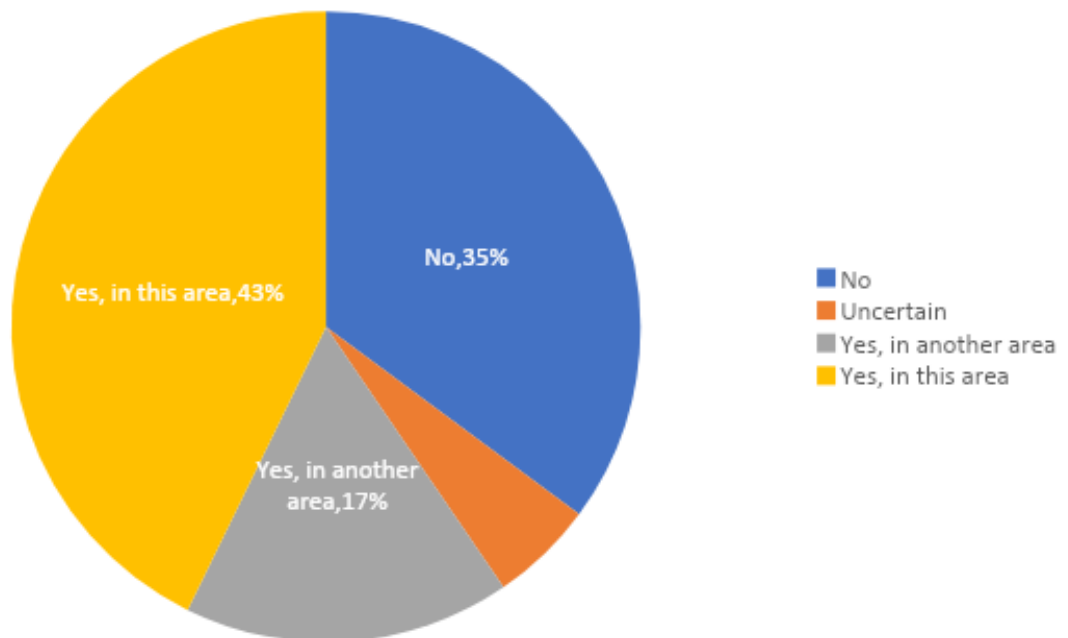
Have you ever used the Belle Isle Marsh?



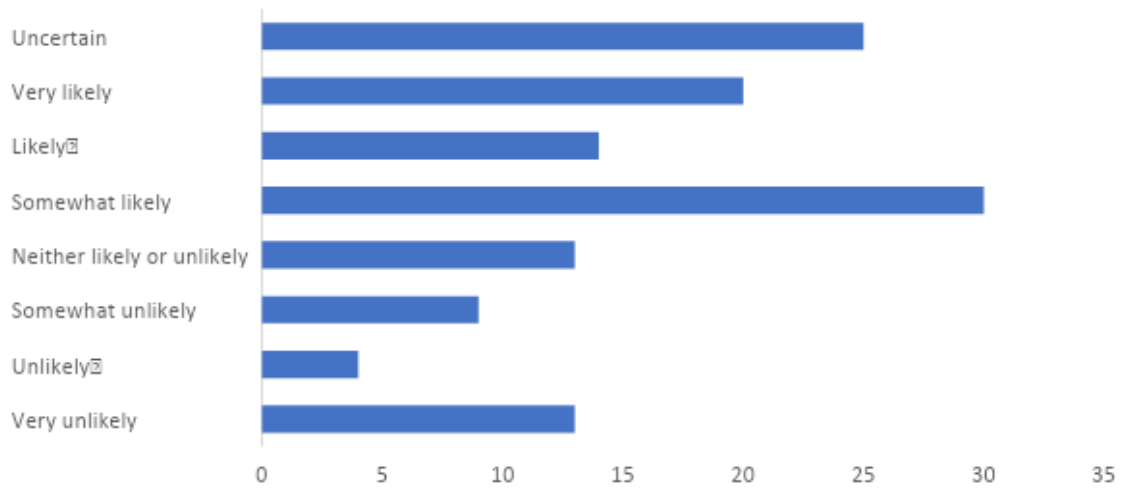
Do you think the health of the marsh and your own well-being are connected in any way?



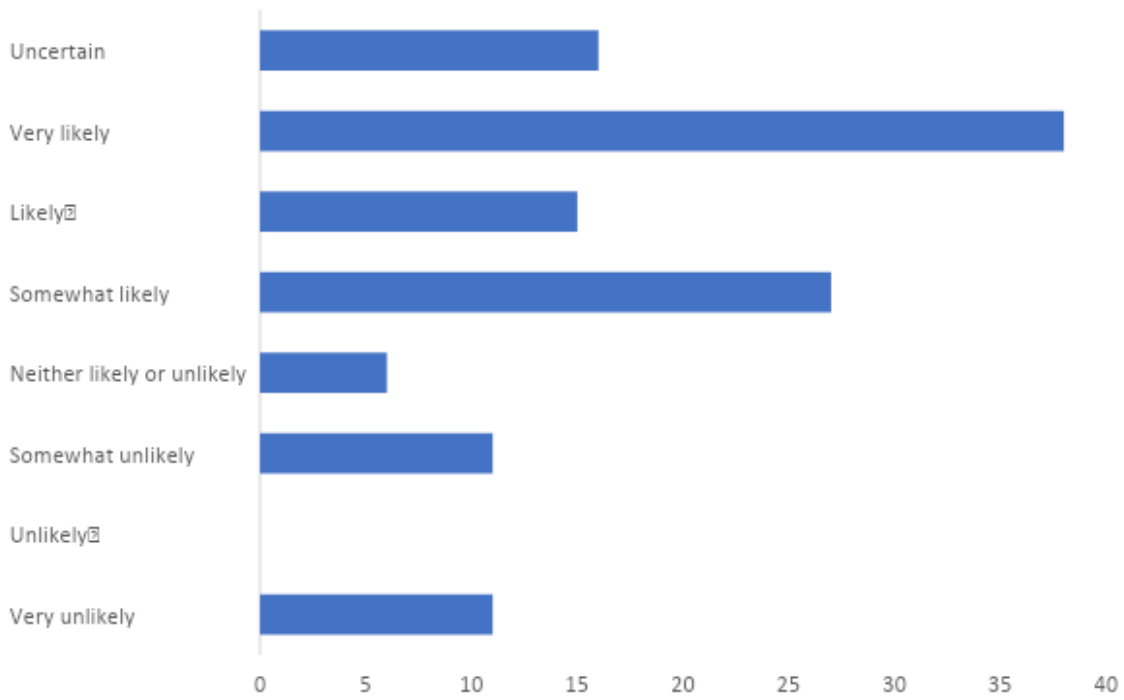
In your experience, have you or your community ever experienced flooding from storms or tides?



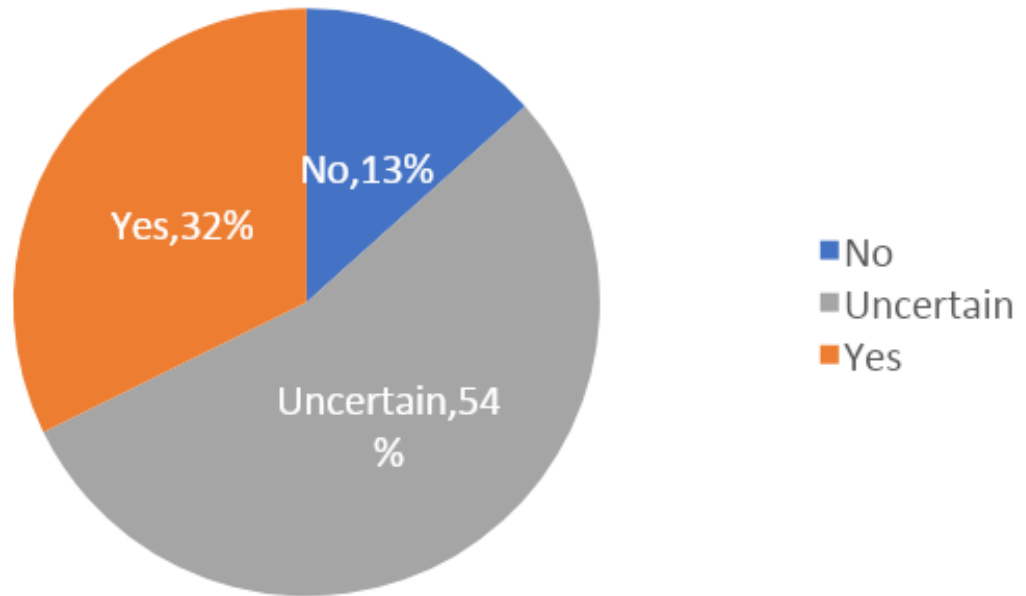
What do you think is the likelihood of flooding occurring again this year, in your community?



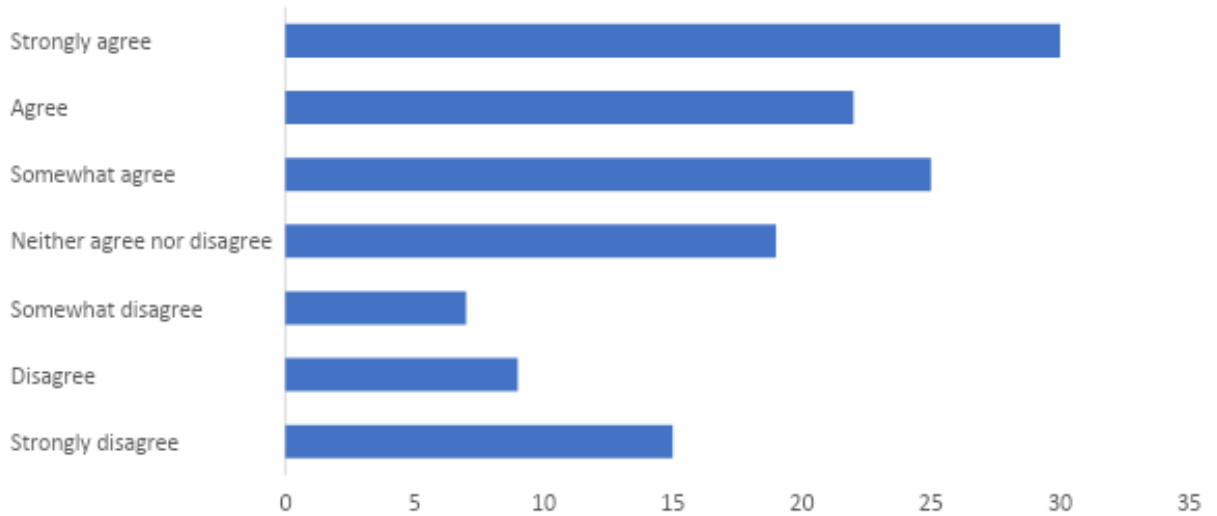
What do you think is the likelihood that you will experience flooding several times within the next 10 years (by 2033)?



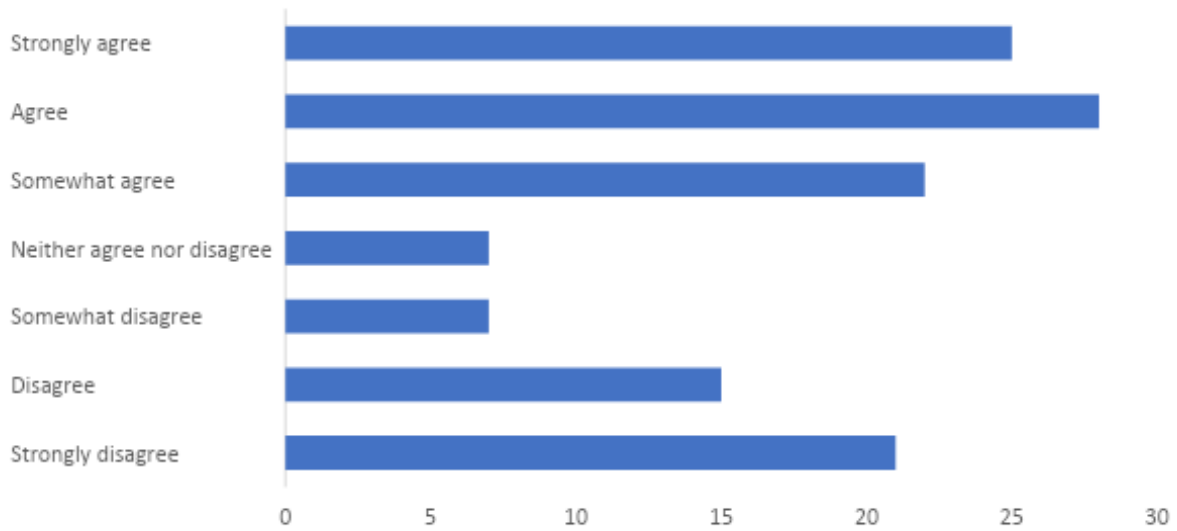
Do you see storm or flooding events as being related in any way to the marsh in the area?



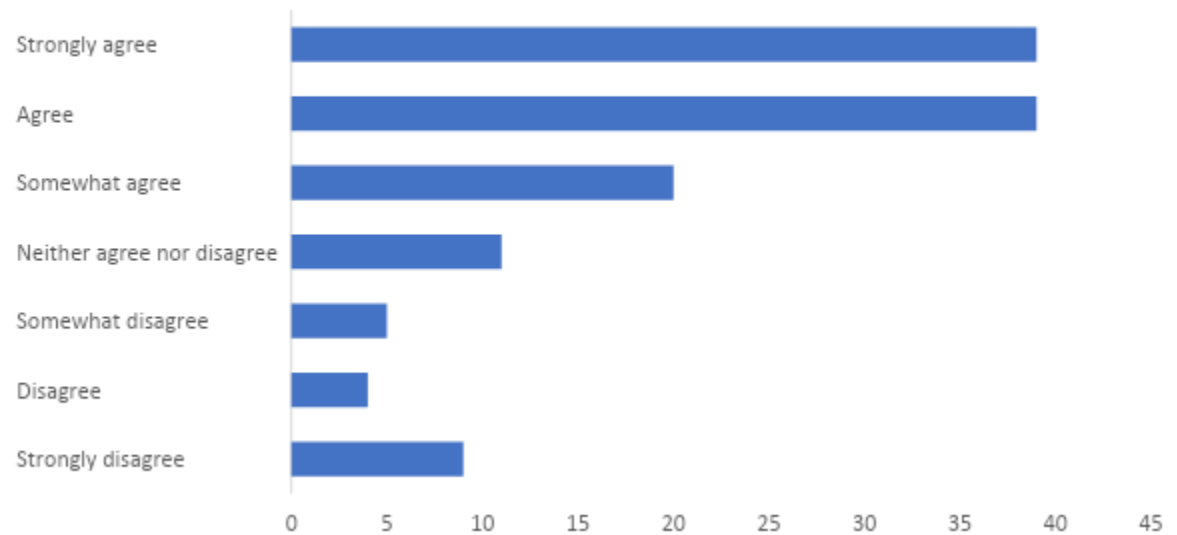
Living near the coast (ocean) is important to me

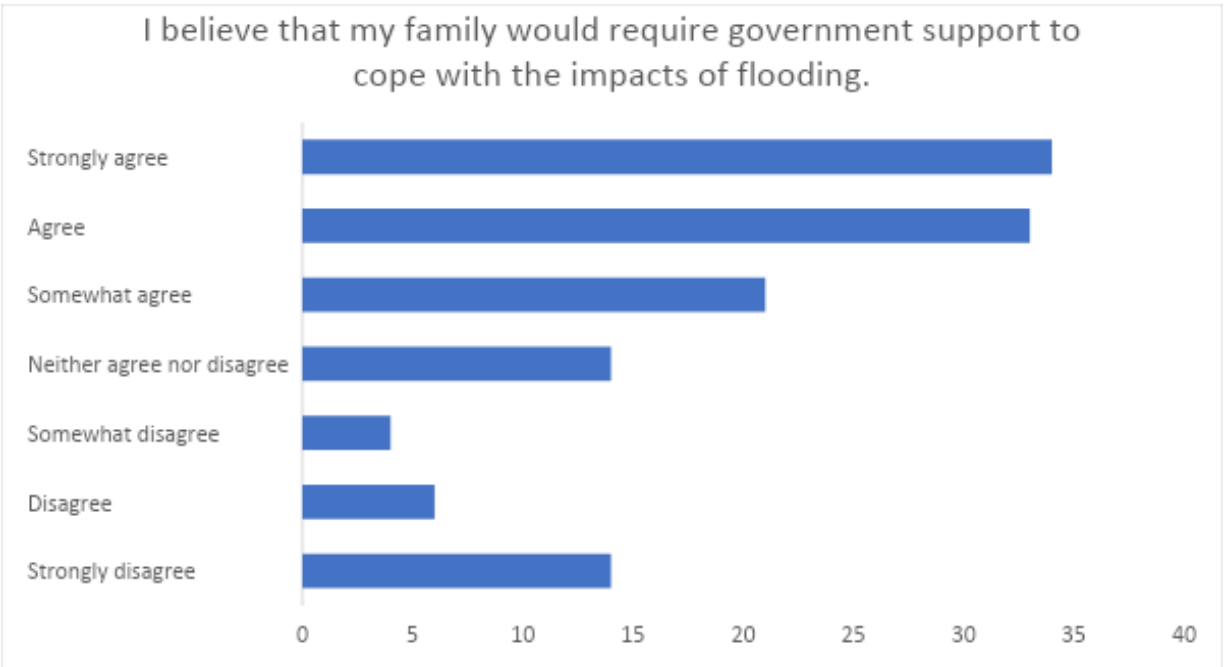
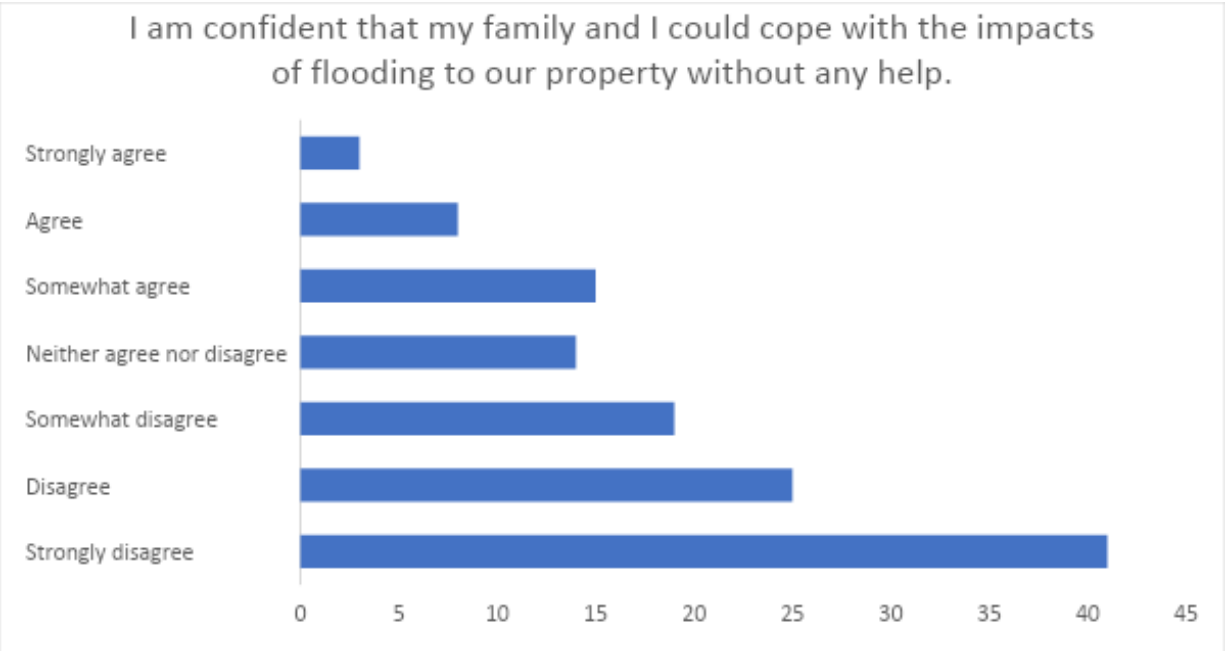


I do not have the financial resources to temporarily or permanently move if flooding occurs, even if I wanted to.

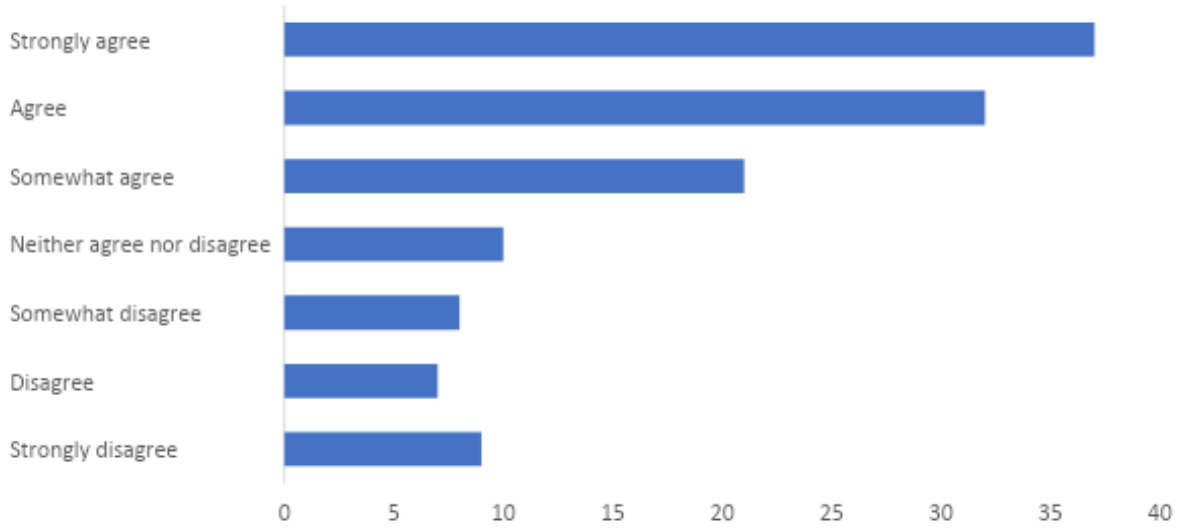


The accessibility of natural areas in my community is what I love most about living here.

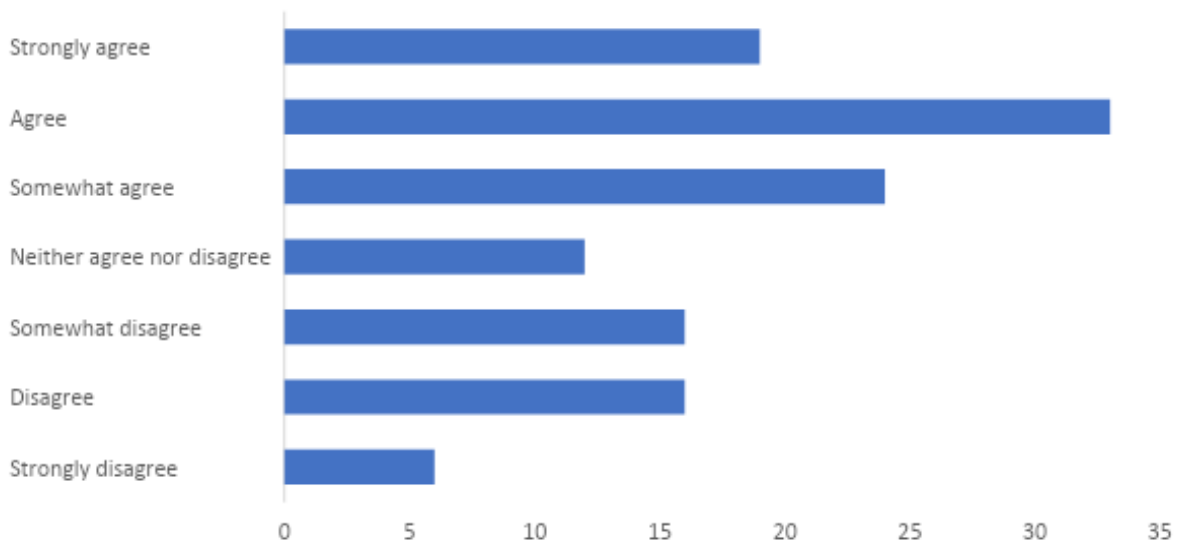




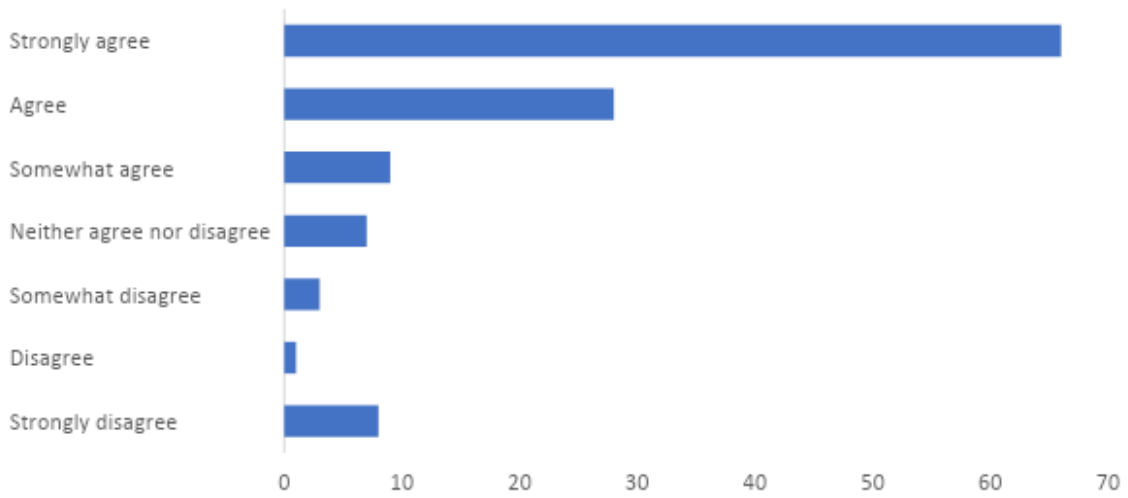
I am worried about the flooding risk I am already exposed to.



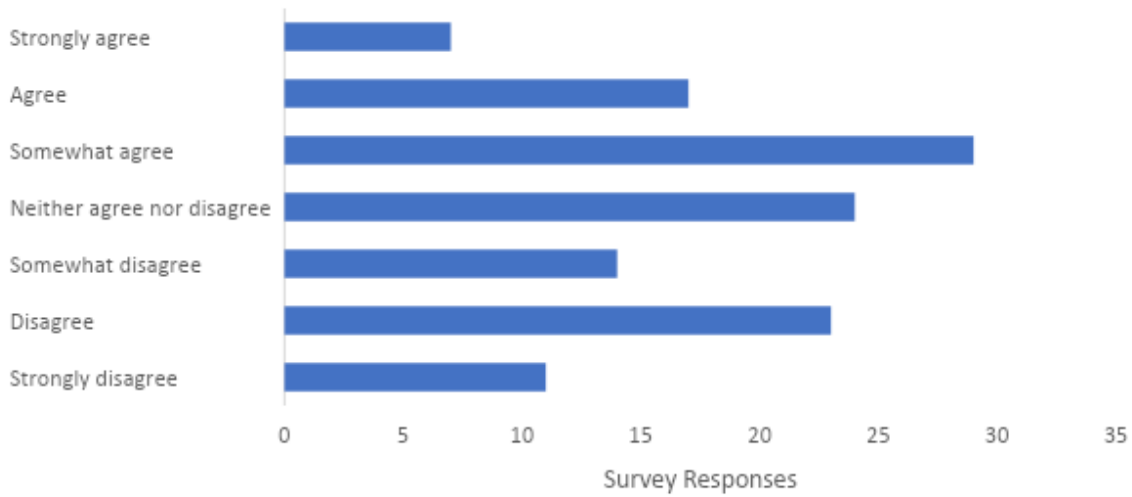
My flood risk will increase no matter what I do.



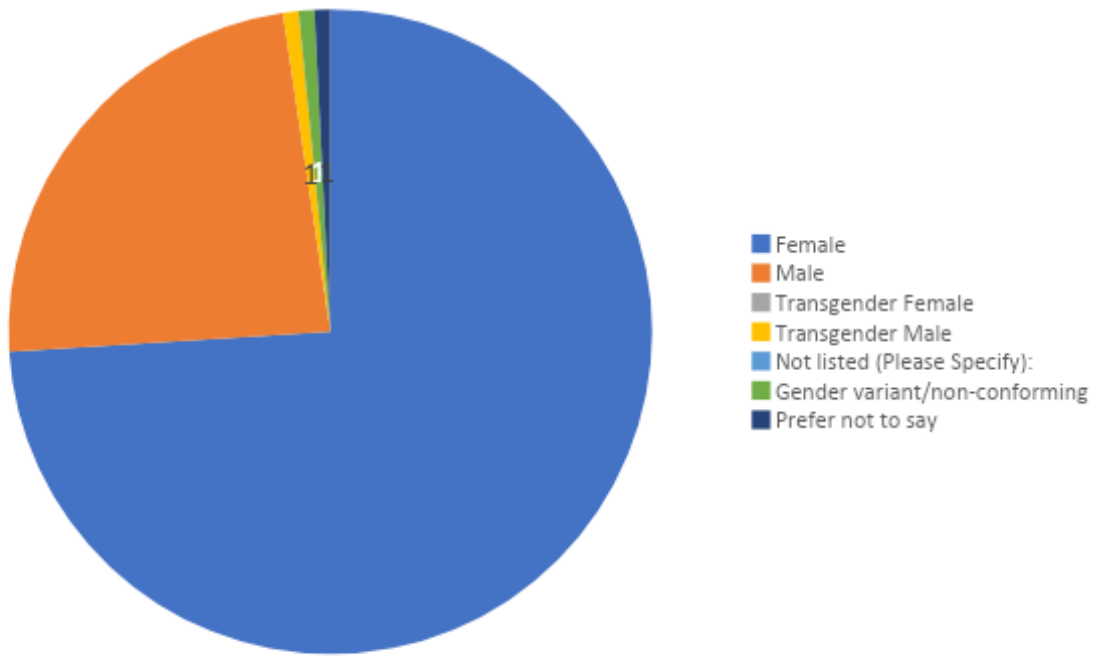
It is necessary to adapt how we build to reduce flooding impacts.



There is nothing I can do to reduce my flooding risks.



Gender



Ethnicity

