



***Perspectives on Crime and Policing***  
***in Toronto, Edmonton, Calgary, and Vancouver for*** **CityNews**  
*Everywhere*

**September 26, 2024**—A poll conducted by Maru Public Opinion for CityNews in the cities of Toronto, Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver, reveals an average of three quarters (74%) of citizens across those four cities worry that if they personally need their local police, the response time will be too slow, with two thirds (66%) afraid of being the victim of violence on public transit. Despite this, an average of just over one third (37%) of residents opt for increasing the police budget in their jurisdiction – notably, more so in Edmonton.

The wide-ranging survey covered topics including performance assessments of their Metropolitan chief of police, the ranking of various crimes that their local constabulary should be spending the most time and resources on, how safe they feel in their neighborhood's if they are walking about after dark, repeating violent offenders being offered bail, managing recent protests, and the increased use of photo radar.

## **Crime and policing as a top issue in the city**

When asked what the top three issues that are facing their city right now (21 options were given to choose from), a four cities average found one in five (21%) listing “crime and policing” as one of their top issues (Toronto 24%/Calgary 23%/Vancouver 19%/Edmonton 16%). In three cities (Toronto, Vancouver, and Calgary) “crime and policing” was the fifth ranked issue while it was the eighth ranked in Edmonton.

## **Top ranked crime issues**

Citizens in each city were asked to rank their top three crimes (from fourteen separate categories) that they believe their local police should be spending the most time and resources on. The top three for each city are as follows:

- **Vancouver** – drugs (52%), gang violence (49%), and assaults (32%).
- **Toronto** – gun violence (47%), vehicle thefts (46%), and home invasion/robberies (29%).
- **Edmonton** – drugs (44%), gang violence (35%), and homicide/murder (32%).
- **Calgary** – drugs (43%), gang violence (36%), and homicide/murder (30%).

A fully ranked listing of crimes citizens in each city believe their local police should be spending the most time and resources on can be found on page 6 of this release.

## **Top cop performance reviews**

Residents in each city were asked to provide an assessment as to whether or not their Metropolitan Police Chief is doing either a good job or a bad job. A four cities average finds two thirds of citizens believing that their top cop is doing a good job (67%/12% strongly) compared to the remaining one third who say they are doing a bad job (33%/17% strongly).

On a city-by-city basis, the ranked job performance of each police chief is as follows:

- **Calgary police chief Mark Neufeld** – doing a good job 72% (16% strongly) versus doing a bad job 28% (6% strongly).
- **Edmonton police chief Dale McFee** – doing a good job 70% (14% strongly) versus doing a bad job 30% (7% strongly).
- **Vancouver police chief Adam Palmer** – doing a good job 65% (11% strongly) versus doing a bad job 35% (9% strongly).
- **Toronto police chief Myron Demkiw** – doing a good job 60% (8% strongly) versus doing a bad job 40% (12% strongly).

## Police budget allocations

When citizens were asked what should be done with the police budget in their city, a four cities average found half (52%) believing the budget should be held at the same level but with each force needing to be more efficient and less wasteful, followed by those who say the police budget should be increased because their police force is under resourced to be effective for their community (37%), and just one in 10 (11%) who contend the budget should be reduced with savings diverted to other city services and needs. It should be noted that Edmonton was the only city where there was a significant difference in allocations compared to the other cities – especially with the choice of increasing the budget for more local police resources. Coincidentally, Edmonton is also the city that topped concerns with respect to personal safety in their neighbourhood after dark and being a victim of violence on public transit.

The following is how each set of city residents offered their input on how their local police budget should be allocated:

- **Toronto** – held at the same level and they need to be more efficient and less wasteful (56%), increased because they're under resourced to be effective for their community (29%), and reduced with the savings diverted to other city services and needs (15%).
- **Vancouver** – held at the same level and they need to be more efficient and less wasteful (52%), increased because they're under resourced to be effective for their community (37%), and reduced with the savings diverted to other city services and needs (11%).
- **Calgary** – held at the same level and they need to be more efficient and less wasteful (52%), increased because they're under resourced to be effective for their community (38%), and reduced with the savings diverted to other city services and needs (10%).
- **Edmonton** – held at the same level and they need to be more efficient and less wasteful (46%), increased because they're under resourced to be effective for their community (45%), and reduced with the savings diverted to other city services and needs (9%).

## Feeling safe in their neighbourhood

A four cities average found two thirds (64%/22% strongly) of residents agreeing that they feel safe walking around their own neighbourhood when it's dark. This contrasted with the remainder (36%/11% strongly) who disagreed with that perspective. Each set of city citizens assessed their safety in their neighbourhood after dark in the following ways:

- **Calgary** – agree 68% (23% strongly) versus disagree 32% (11% strongly).
- **Vancouver** – agree 67% (25% strongly) versus disagree 33% (7% strongly).
- **Toronto** – agree 65% (22% strongly) versus disagree 35% (10% strongly).
- **Edmonton** – agree 57% (18% strongly) versus disagree 43% (14% strongly).

## Becoming a victim of violence on public transit

A four cities average found two thirds of residents in agreement (66%/27% strongly) that they are afraid of being the victim of violence on public transit compared with the remaining third (34%/8% strongly) disagreeing with this sentiment. Each set of city citizens assessed their fear of being a victim of violence on public transit as follows:

- **Edmonton** – agree 75% (36% strongly) versus disagree 25% (5% strongly).
- **Calgary** – agree 68% (30% strongly) versus disagree 32% (6% strongly).
- **Toronto** – agree 64% (24% strongly) versus disagree 36% (9% strongly).
- **Vancouver** – agree 58% (19% strongly) versus disagree 42% (14% strongly).

## Worry over police response time

A four cities average finds three quarters of residents who agree they worry that if they personally need their local police, the response time will be too slow (74%/26% strongly), with the remainder in disagreement with this view (26%/4% strongly). The following examines residents of each city and their level of worry about the response time being too slow if they require their local police:

- **Toronto** – agree 77% (30% strongly) versus disagree 23% (4% strongly).
- **Edmonton** – agree 76% (31% strongly) versus disagree 24% (4% strongly).
- **Vancouver** – agree 73% (28% strongly) versus disagree 27% (4% strongly).
- **Calgary** – agree 69% (24% strongly) versus disagree 31% (5% strongly).

## Too many repeat offenders

A four cities average reveals a vast majority of residents in agreement that there are too many repeating violent offenders being offered bail (87%/53% strongly) versus those who disagree (13%/3% strongly). The following provides insight as to how many citizens of each city agree with this perspective:

- **Toronto** – agree 88% (51% strongly) versus disagree 12% (2% strongly).
- **Edmonton** – agree 88% (56% strongly) versus disagree 12% (2% strongly).
- **Vancouver** – agree 87% (58% strongly) versus disagree 13% (3% strongly).
- **Calgary** – agree 85% (48% strongly) versus disagree 15% (3% strongly).

## Managing protests

A four cities average finds a majority of citizens in agreement that their city police force has done a good job in managing the recent protests that have occurred (71%/16% strongly) versus those who disagree (29%/9% strongly). The following ranks how residents of each city view the performance of their police in responding to those situations:

- **Edmonton** – agree 75% (14% strongly) versus disagree 25% (6% strongly).
- **Calgary** – agree 72% (17% strongly) versus disagree 28% (10% strongly).
- **Vancouver** – agree 72% (16% strongly) versus disagree 28% (9% strongly).
- **Toronto** – agree 64% (15% strongly) versus disagree 35% (9% strongly).

## More photo radar cameras

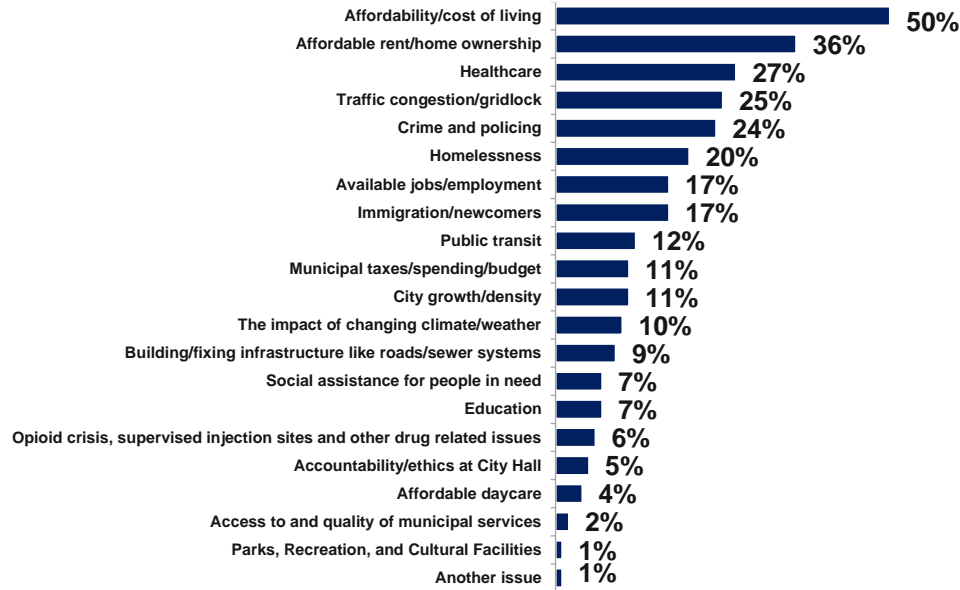
A four cities average finds a majority residents in agreement that they need photo radar cameras in more places, especially school zones (69%/33% strongly) versus those who disagree (31%/13% strongly). The following ranks how citizens of each city weigh in on this issue:

- **Toronto** – agree 76% (36% strongly) versus disagree 24% (9% strongly).
- **Vancouver** – agree 70% (33% strongly) versus disagree 30% (8% strongly).
- **Calgary** – agree 68% (16% strongly) versus disagree 32% (19% strongly).
- **Edmonton** – agree 63% (30% strongly) versus disagree 37% (16% strongly).

## Surrey police service

On November 29, 2024, the Surrey Police Service will become the official police service for that area and assume responsibility for policing and law enforcement. The survey of Vancouver residents finds a majority (63%) don't believe this initiative will reduce crime in the area versus the remainder (37%) who believe it will do so.

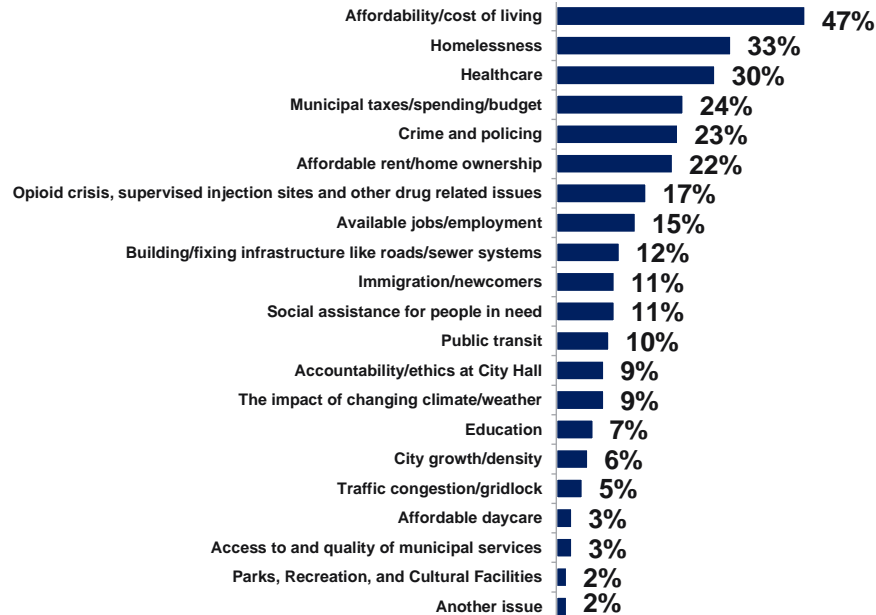
## Top Three Issues Toronto



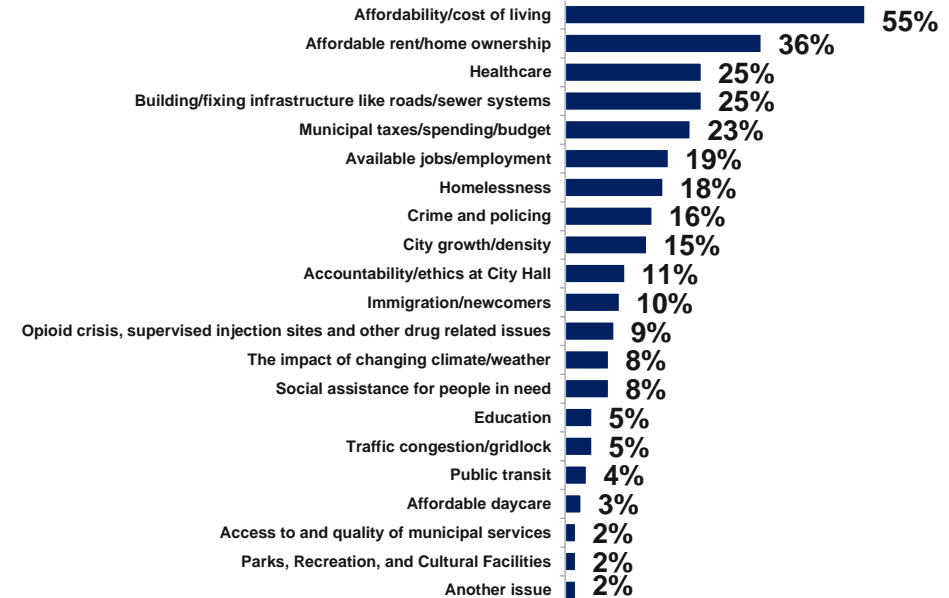
## Top Three Issues Vancouver



## Top Three Issues Calgary

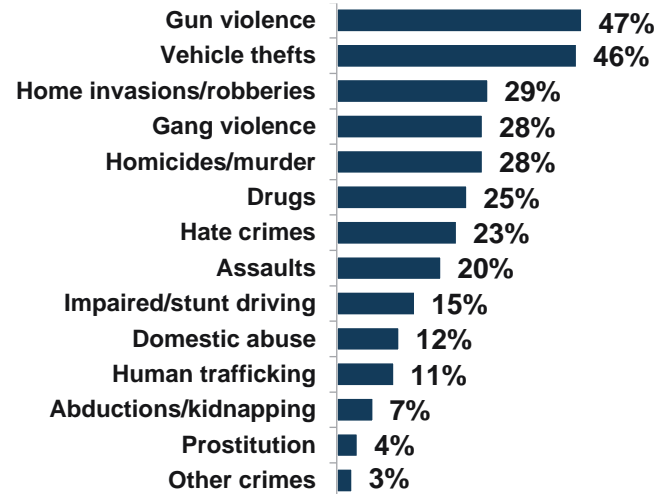


## Top Three Issues Edmonton

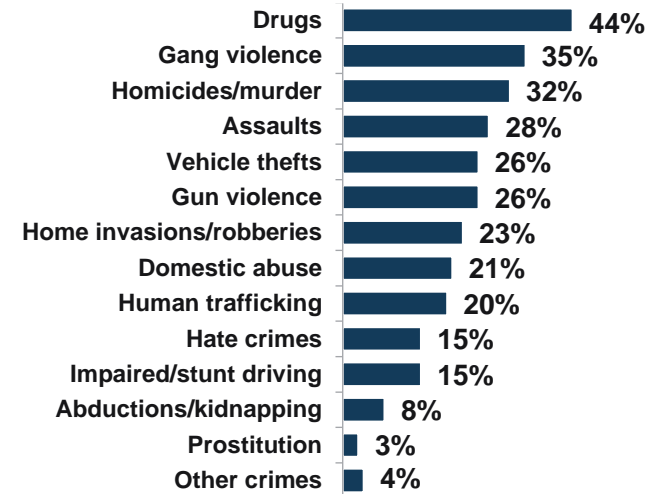


# Top three crimes local police should be spending the most time and resources on.

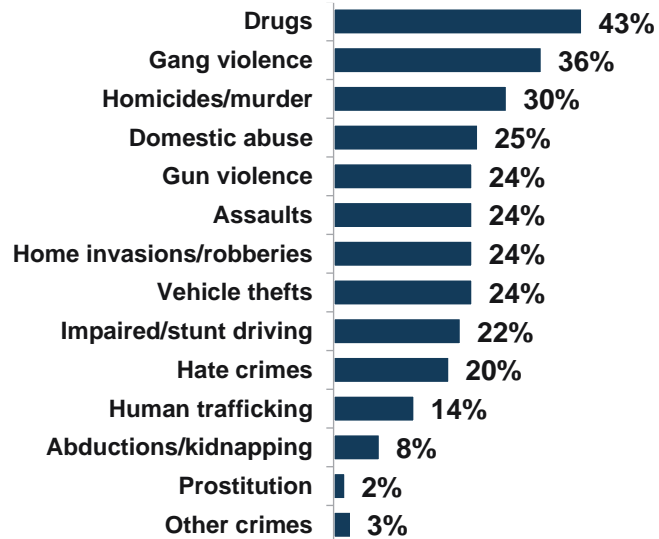
## Top Crime Issues Toronto



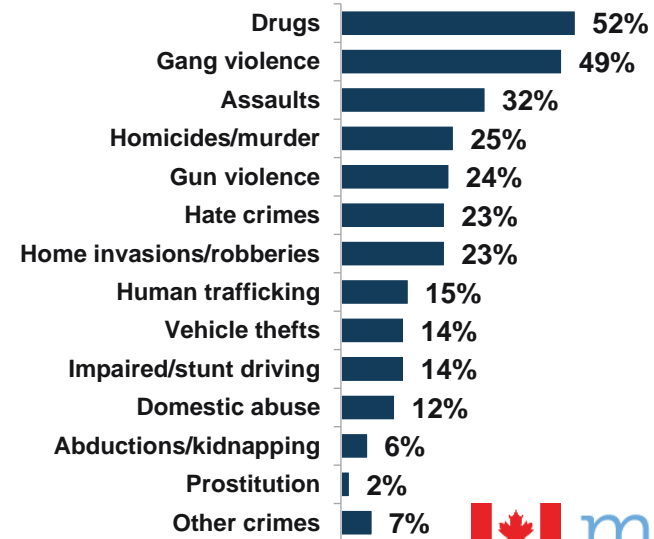
## Top Crime Issues Edmonton



## Top Crime Issues Calgary

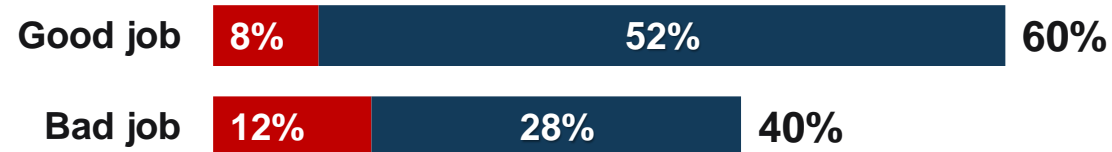


## Top Crime Issues Vancouver

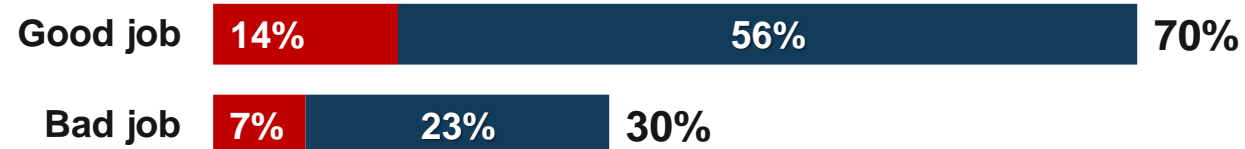


# Doing a good job or a bad job for our city: Police Chief

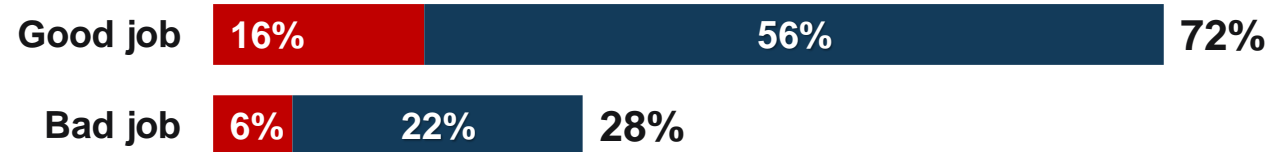
## Toronto Myron Demkiw



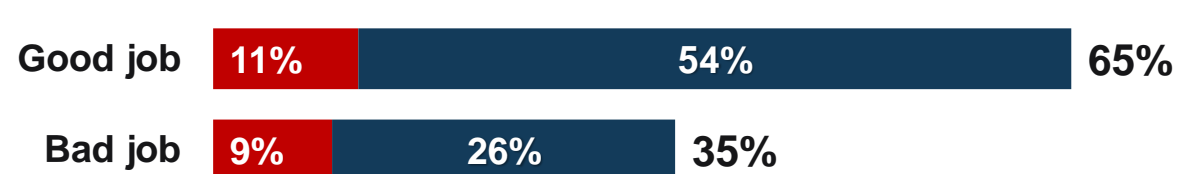
## Edmonton Dale McFee



## Calgary Mark Neufeld



## Vancouver Adam Palmer

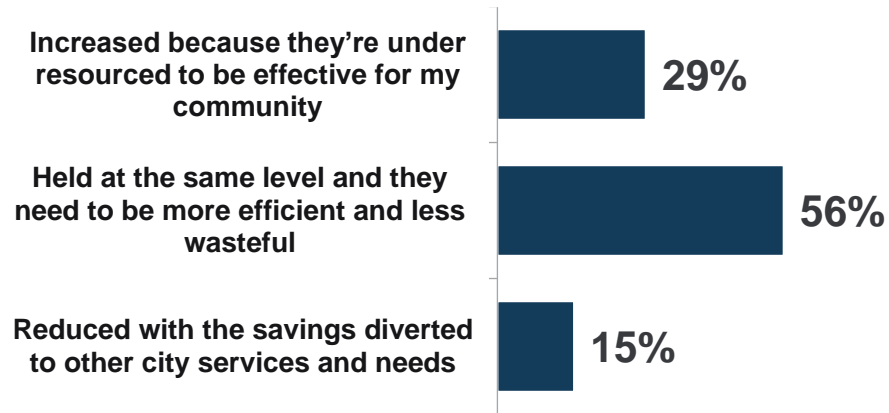


■ Very  
■ Somewhat

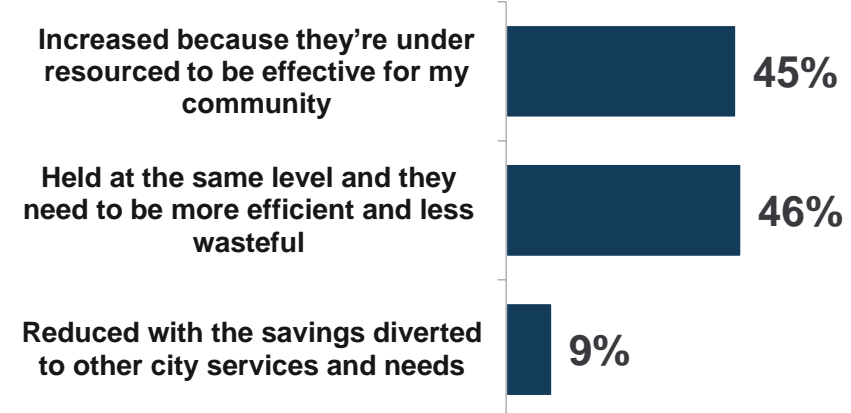


# Which of the following do you think should be done with the police budget?

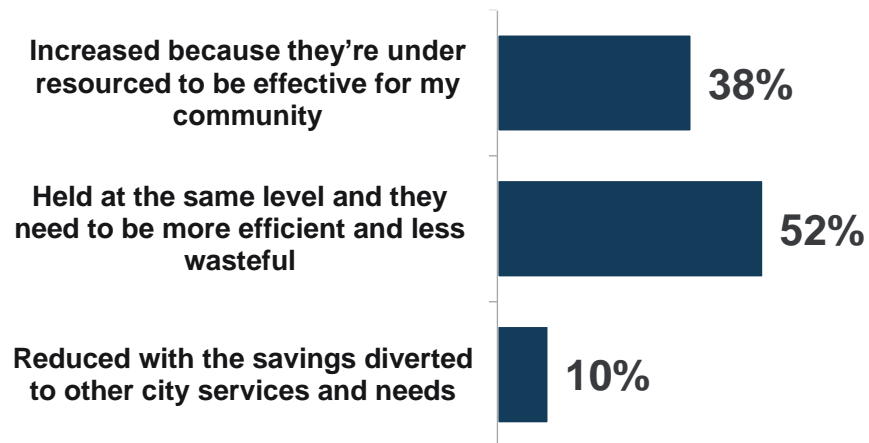
## Toronto



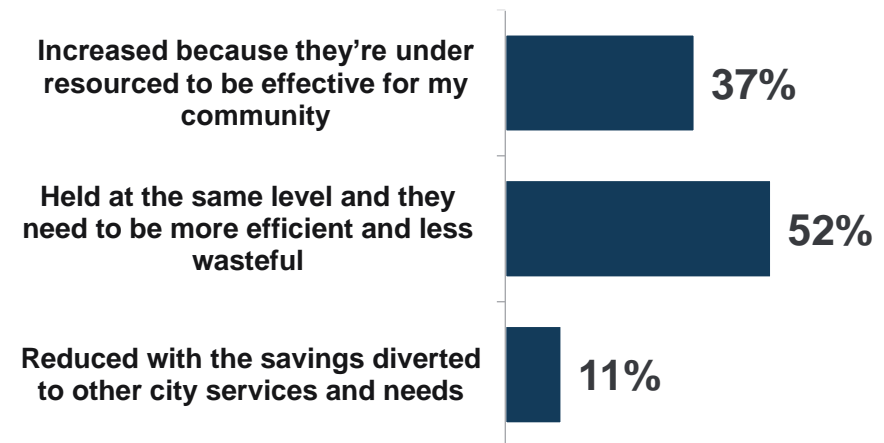
## Edmonton



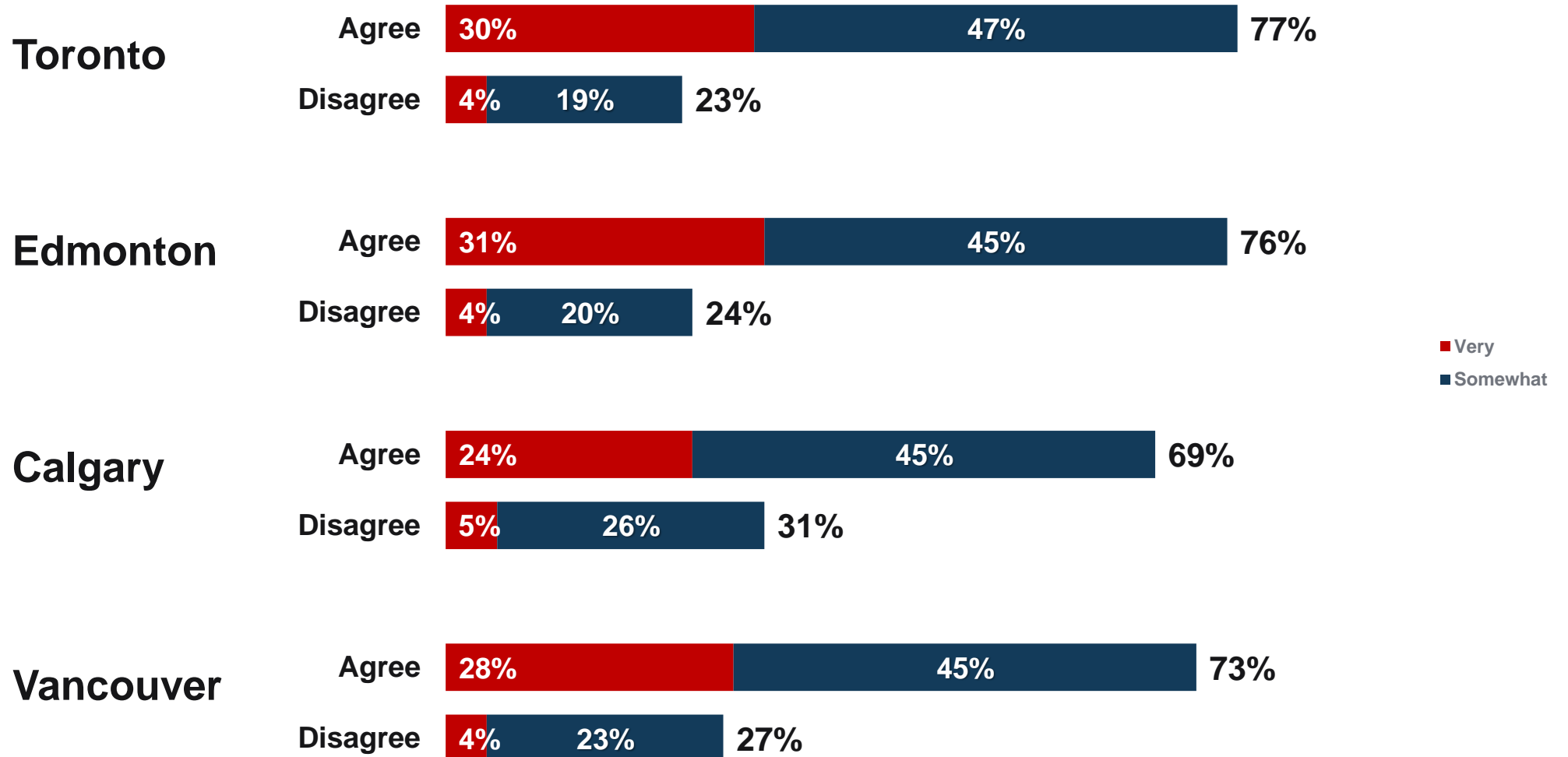
## Calgary



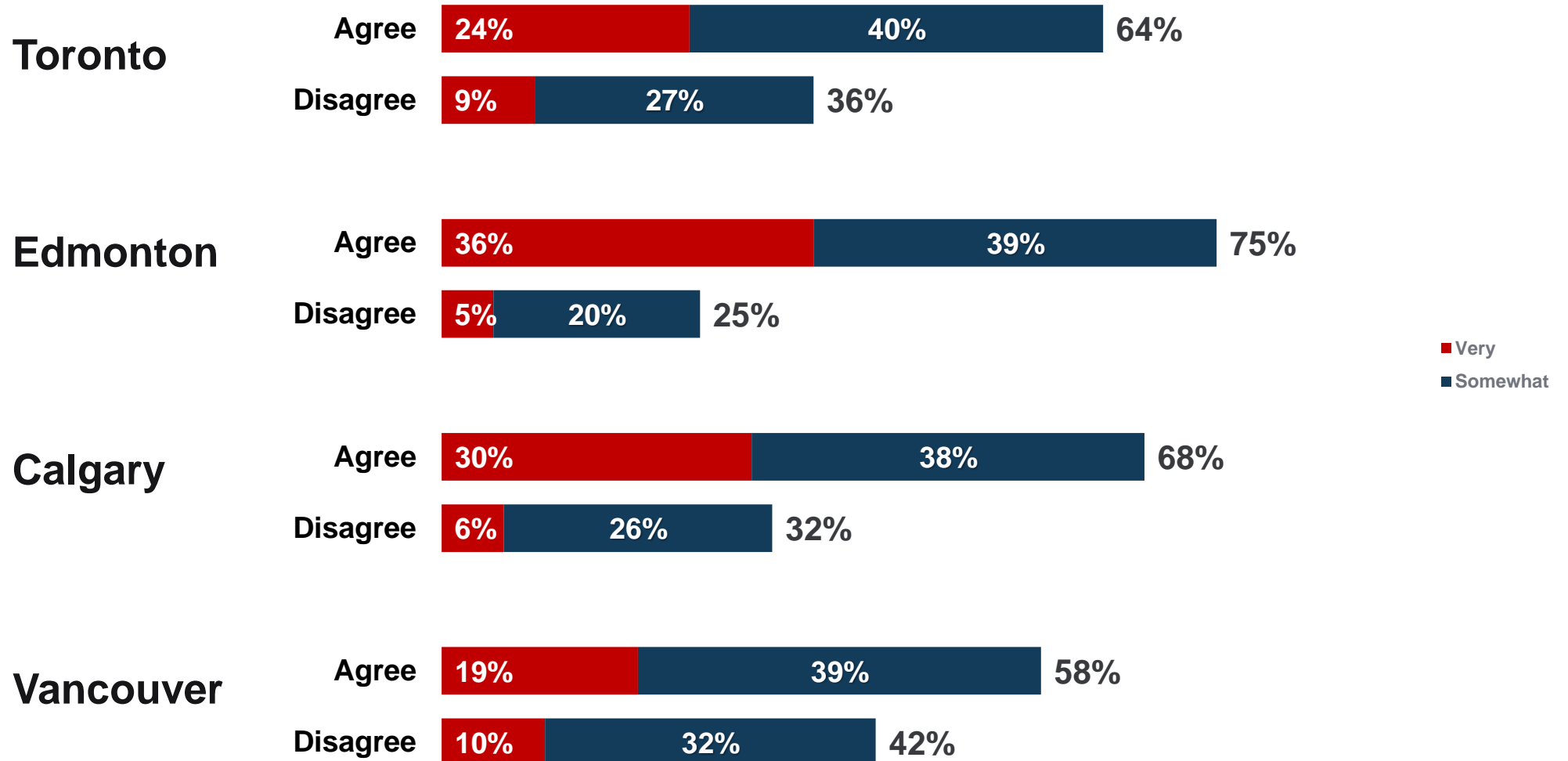
## Vancouver



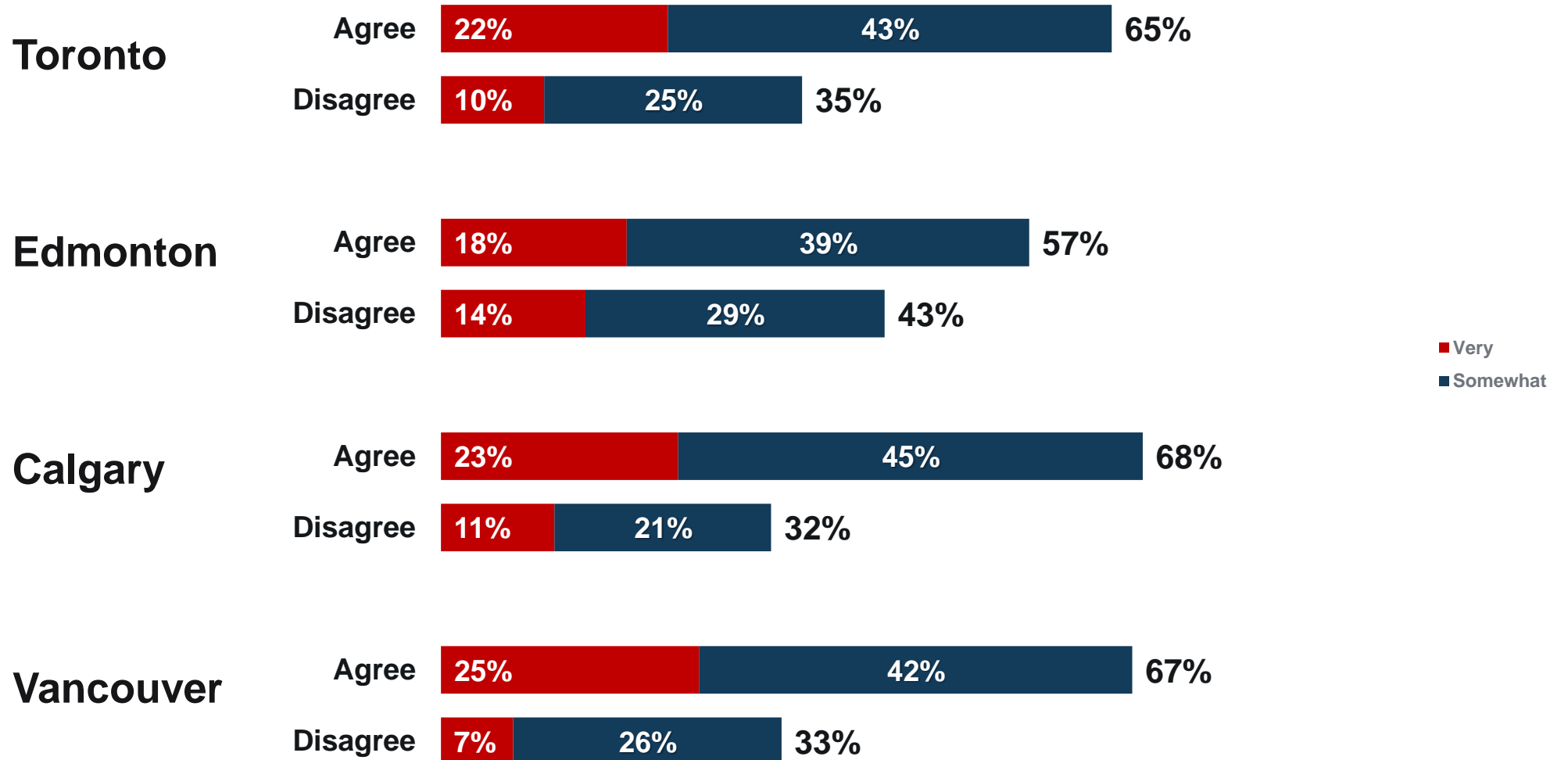
# I'm worried that if I personally need the police their response time will be too slow.



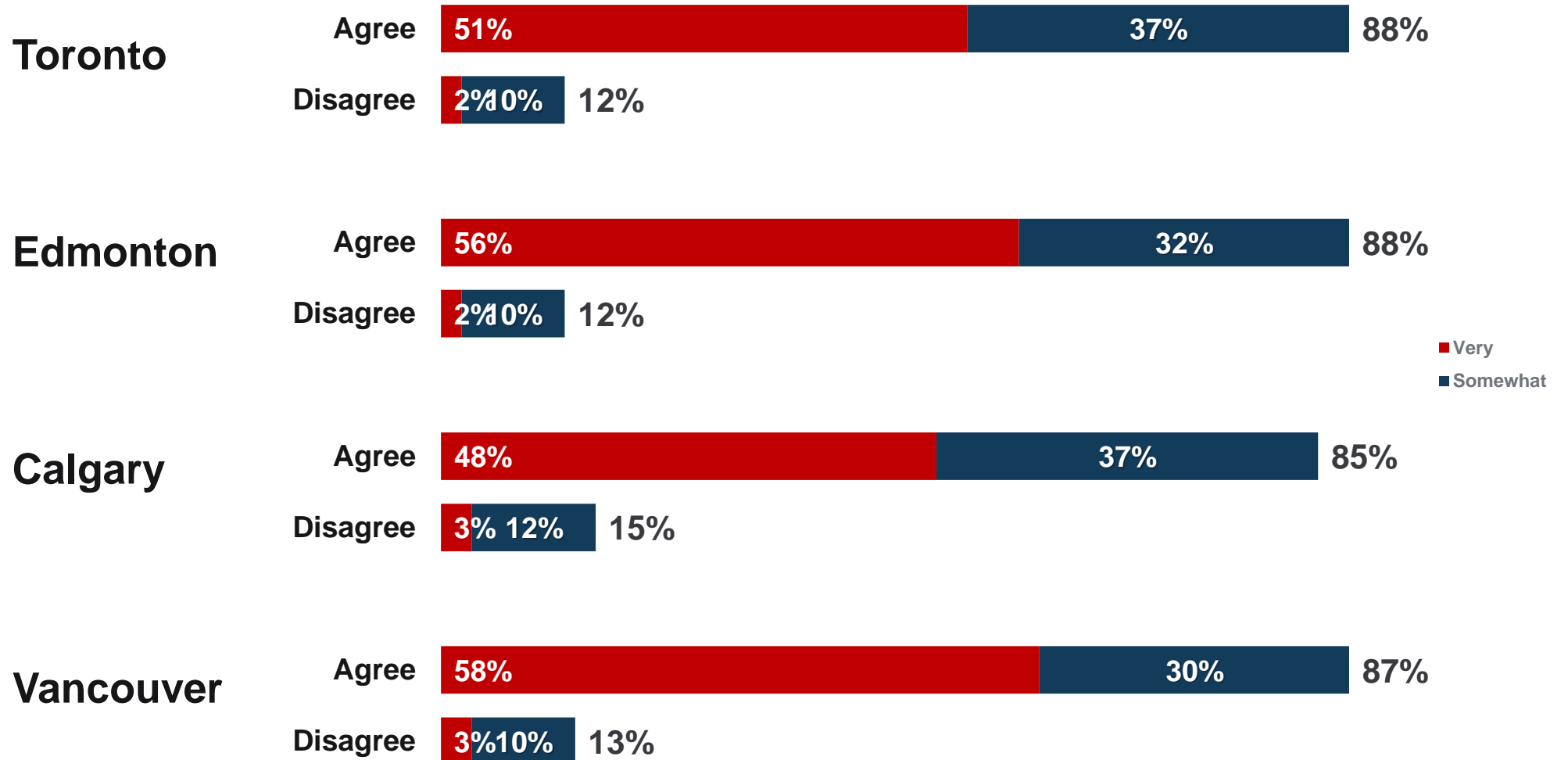
# I am afraid of being the victim of violence on public transit.



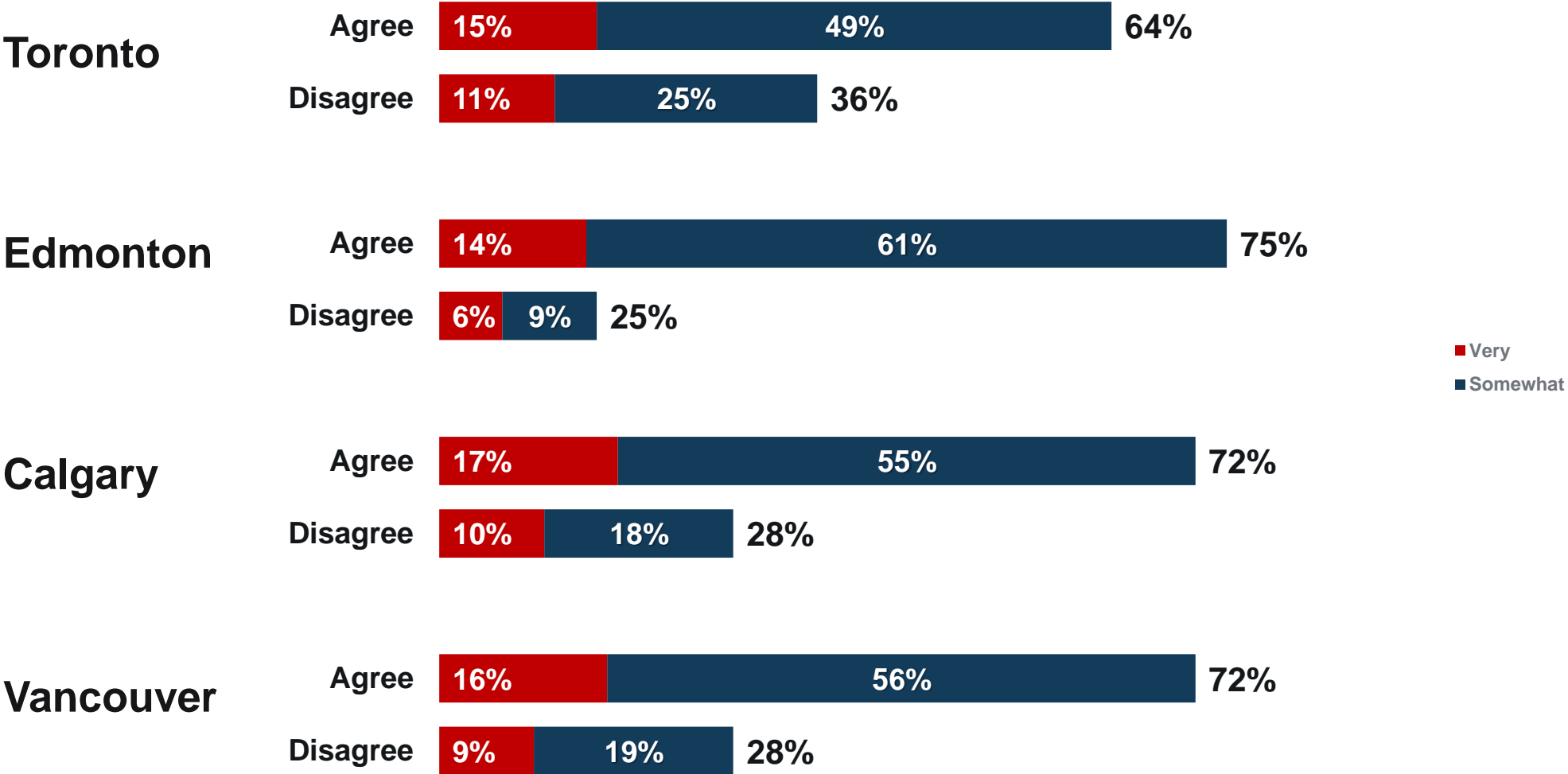
# I feel safe walking around my own neighborhood when it's dark.



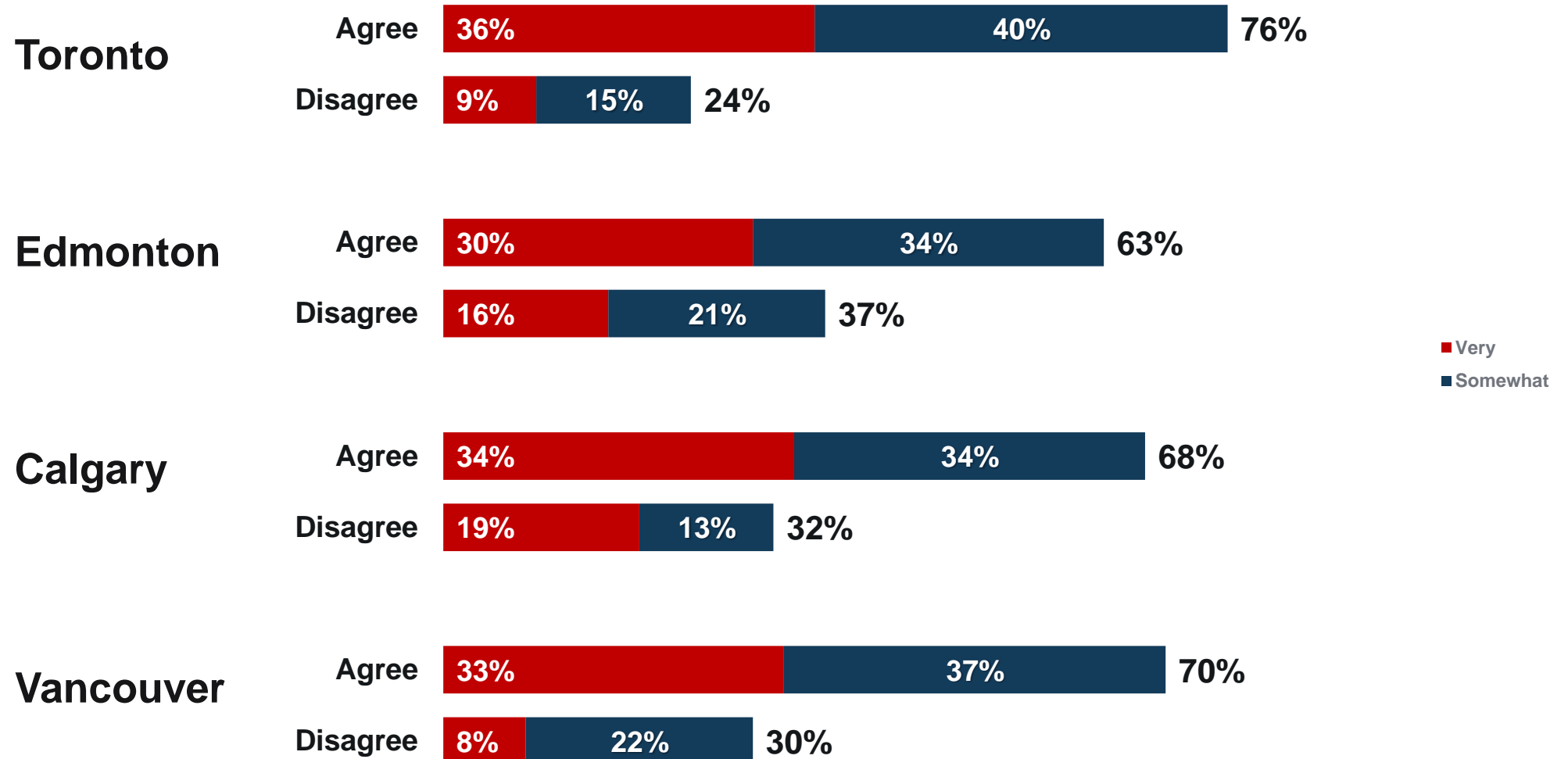
# There are too many repeating violent offenders being offered bail.



# The police have done a good job in managing the recent protests we've had.

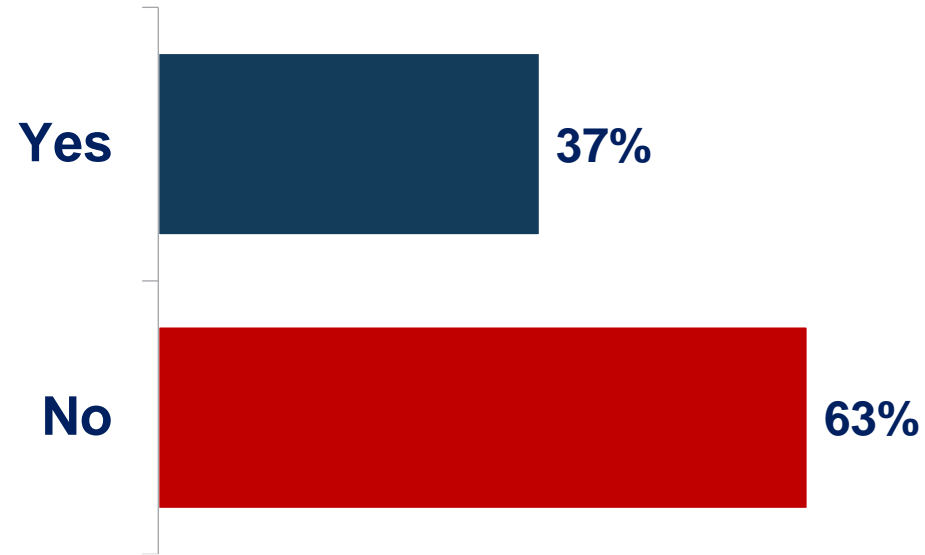


# We need photo radar cameras in more places, especially school zones.



# Vancouver

As you may know, on November 29, 2024, the Surrey Police Service will become the police of jurisdiction, assuming responsibility for policing and law enforcement for Surrey. Do you think this initiative will reduce crime in the area?





# Methodology

- These are some of the findings from a study undertaken by [Maru Public Opinion](#) and [Maru/Matchbox](#) by its sample and data collection experts at [Maru/Blue](#) on August 29-September 6, 2024, among a random selection of Canadian adults who are [Unlock Surveys](#) online panelists.
- For this study, respondents were surveyed within the specific cities of Toronto (n=500), Vancouver (n=500), Edmonton (n=400), and Calgary (n=401). For comparison purposes, probability samples of this size have an estimated margin of error (which measures sampling variability) of +/- 4.4% (n=500) and +/- 4.9% (n=400), 19 times out of 20.
- The results have been weighted by education, age, gender, to match the population according to census data which ensures the sample is representative of the entire adult population of those cities surveyed. Discrepancies in or between totals when compared to the data tables are due to rounding.
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