

# Street Space Allocation And Active Travel: Will COVID-19 Change Anything?

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# Activity during the Pandemic

- Local walking activity increased during the early stages of the pandemic
- Many cities responded by closing off streets to accommodate walking, cycling, and outdoor dining
- **Research Questions:**
  - *Have people increased their active travel as a result of COVID-19-related street changes?*
  - *Do people generally approve or disapprove of COVID-19-related street changes?*
  - *Is there any indication that people would like to see these changes made permanent?*



# Slow Streets



*Jersey Avenue, Jersey City, NJ*

# Outdoor Dining



*George Street, New Brunswick, NJ*



*Witherspoon Street, Princeton, NJ*



# Temporary Closure

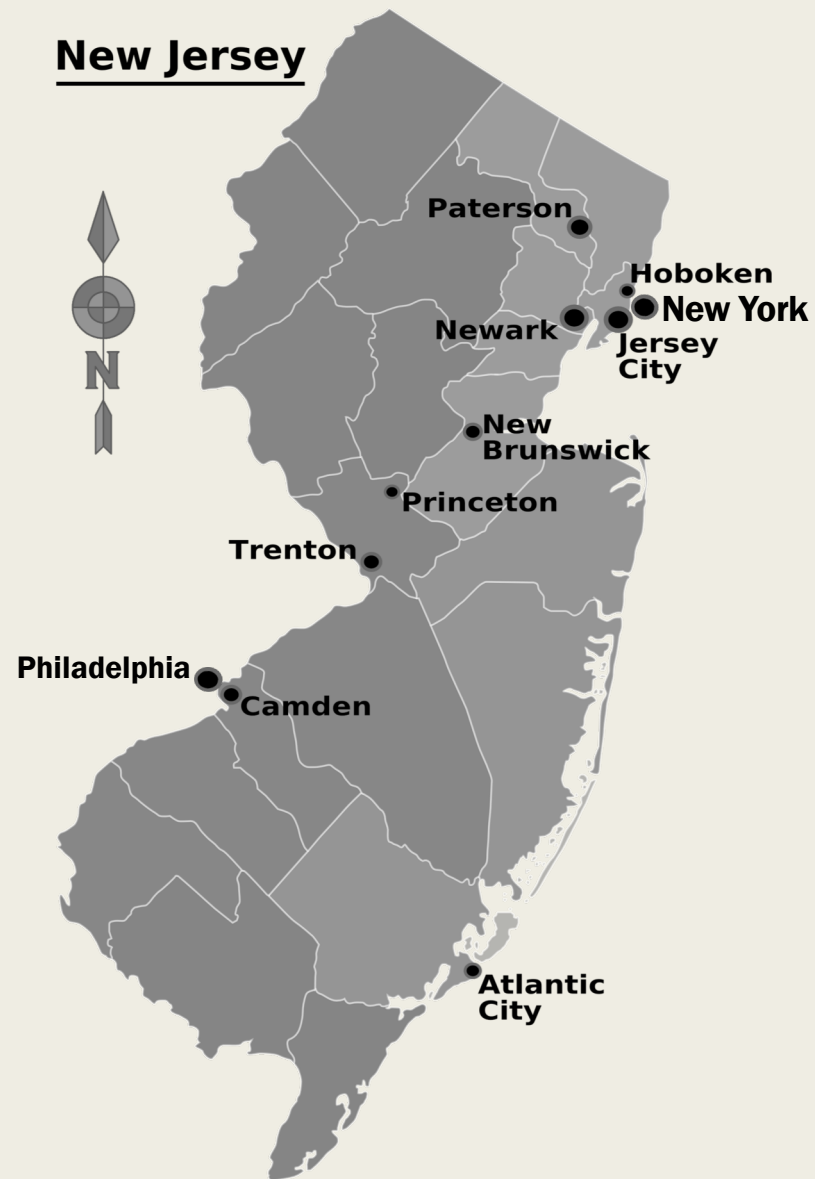


*3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Highland Park, NJ*

# Representative Survey

- Representative of New Jersey population based on Age, Gender, Income, and Race
- Participants recruited via Qualtrics online panel
  - *Length: 18 minutes* (mean)
  - *Time period: Nov. 30, 2020 – Feb. 25, 2021*
  - *Sample size: n = 1,450*
- Some questions compatible with concurrent survey at Arizona State University, University of Illinois at Chicago ([covidfuture.org](https://covidfuture.org))

# Setting:



# Survey covered a broad scope of COVID behavioral impacts

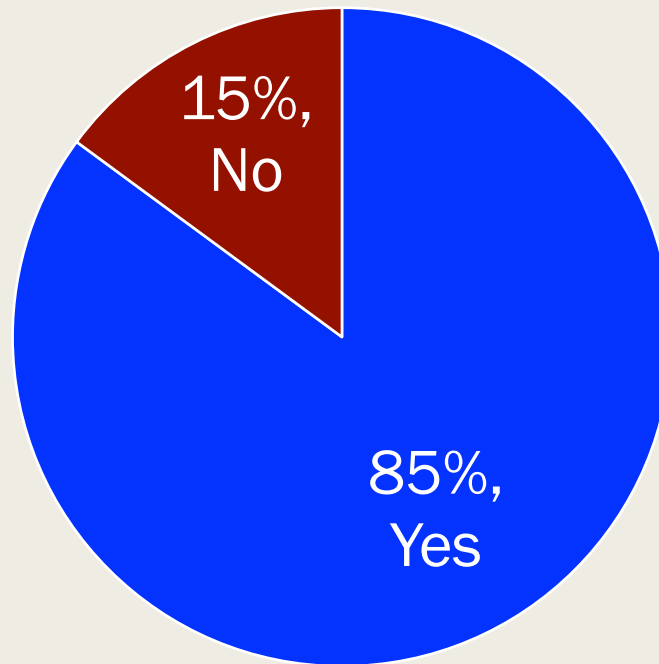
1. Working and Studying
2. Shopping and Dining
3. Street Closures and Outdoor Dining
4. Active Transportation and Perceptions
5. Daily Transport
6. Attitudes
7. Demographics and Geography



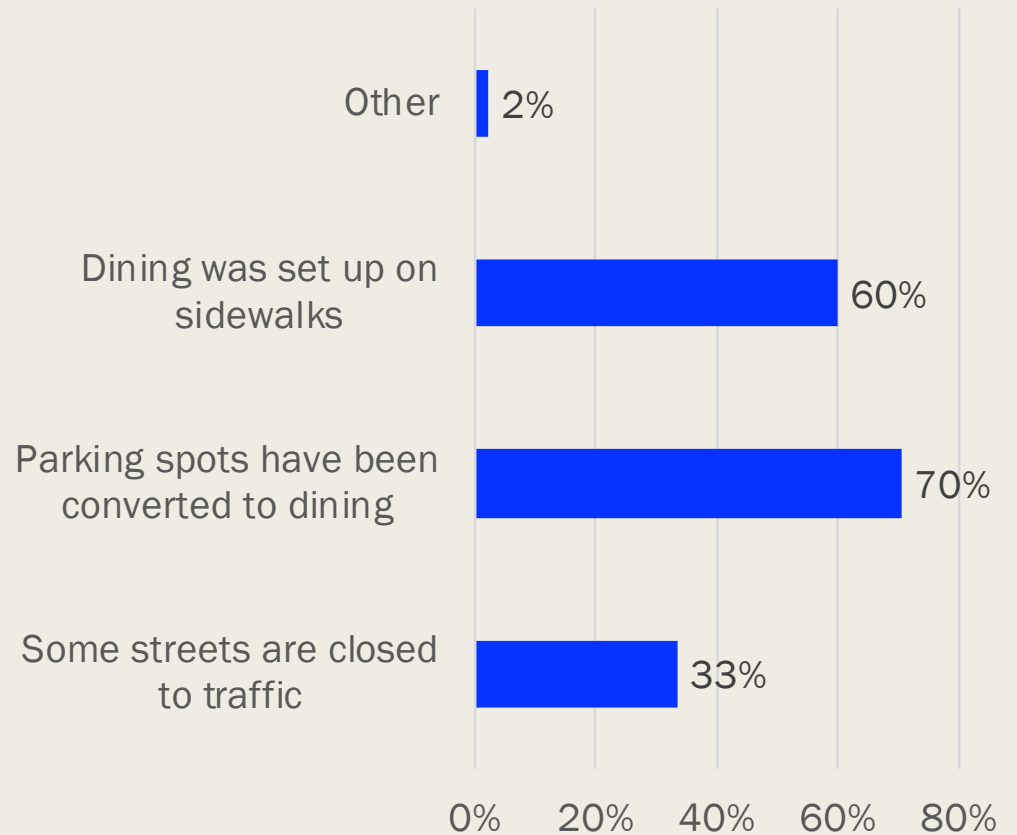
# EARLY RESULTS

Outdoor Dining

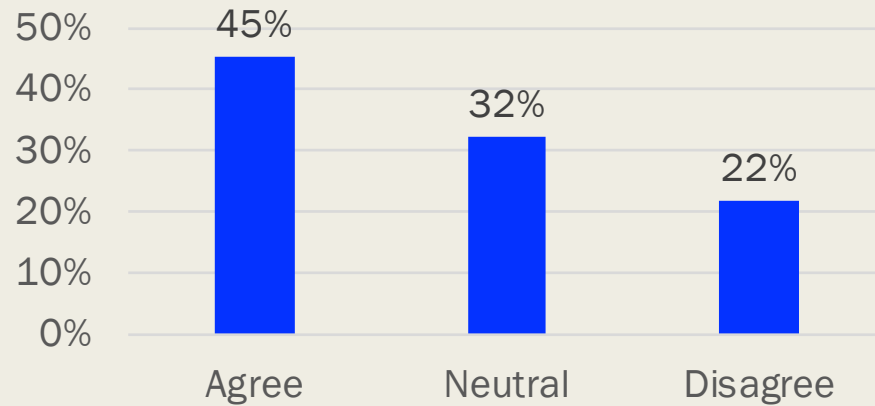
Has your area made  
arrangements for outdoor  
dining? (n=1,335)



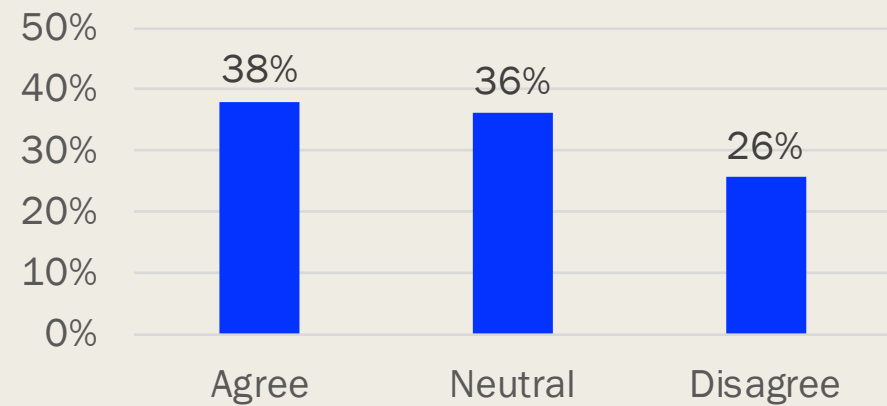
What arrangements have been  
made? (n=1,136)



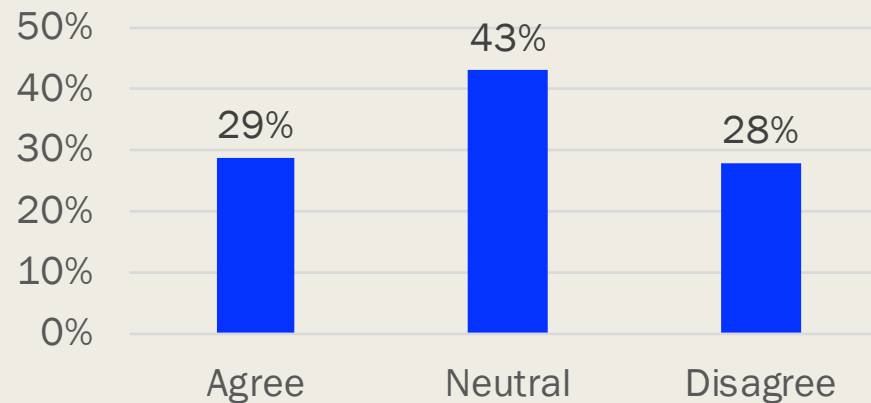
Outdoor dining arrangements have made the area more interesting and lively  
(n=1,447)



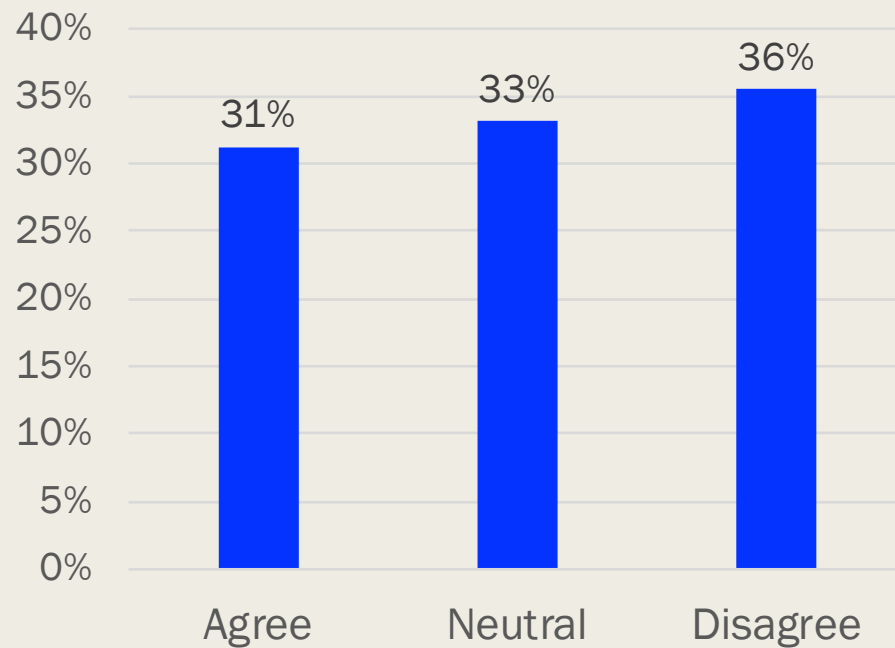
Outdoor dining arrangements have brought more people to the town center  
(n=1,446)



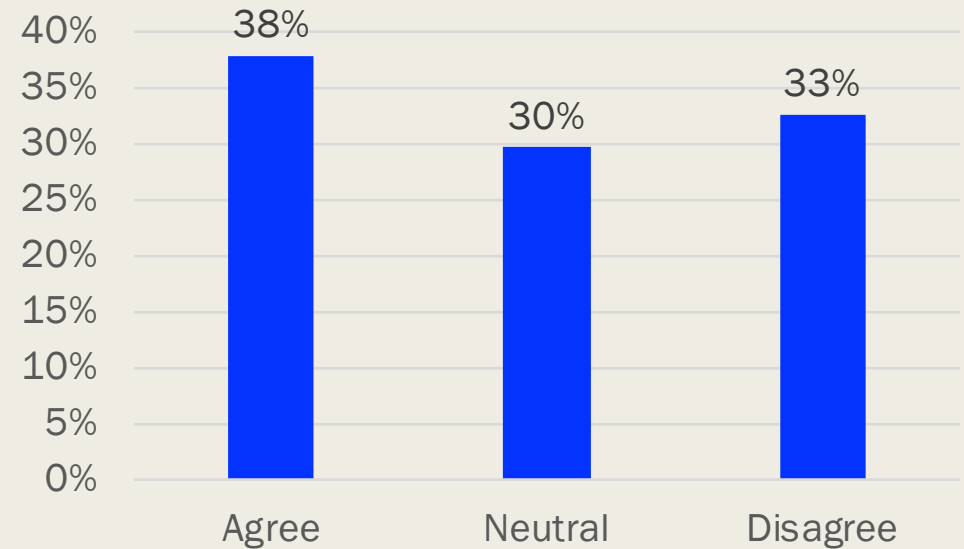
Outdoor dining arrangements have made it safer to walk in the town center  
(n=1,448)



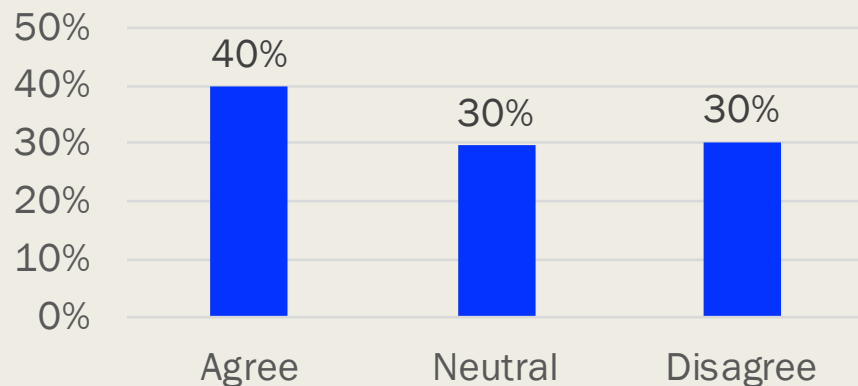
Outdoor dining arrangements  
have caused traffic congestion  
on other streets (n=1,447)



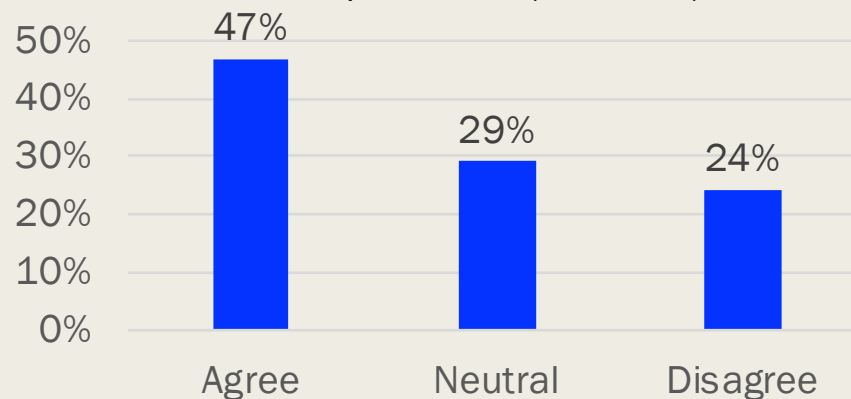
Since restaurants and  
businesses have taken over  
sidewalk space, it has become  
difficult to walk in places  
(n=1,447)



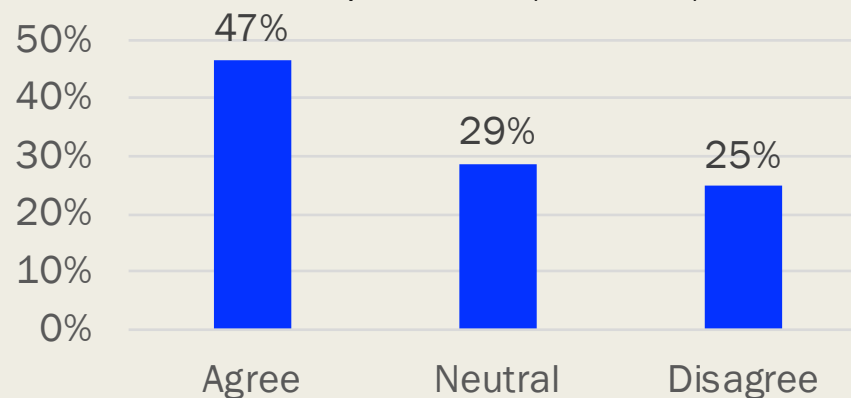
Some streets should remain closed to support outdoor dining after the pandemic (n=1,448)



Some parking spots should remain dedicated to supporting outdoor dining after the pandemic (n=1,448)



Outdoor dining should continue to be set up on sidewalks in new locations after the pandemic (n=1,448)

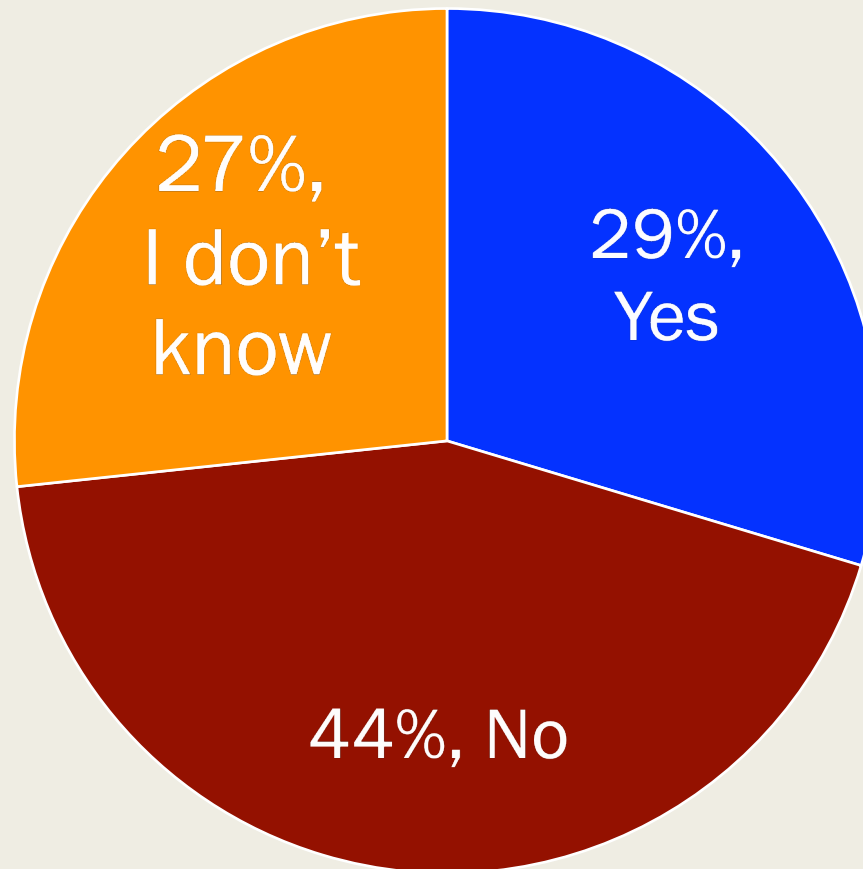


# EARLY RESULTS

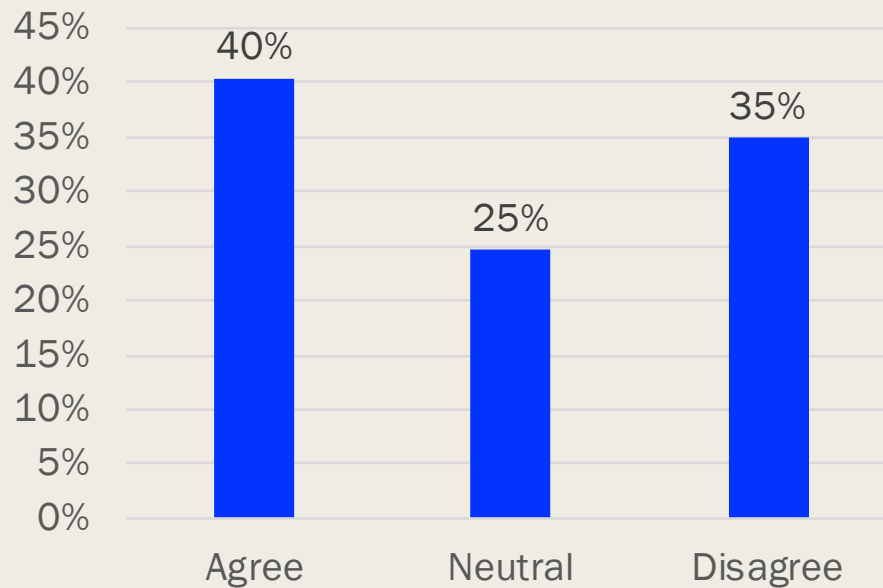
Active Travel



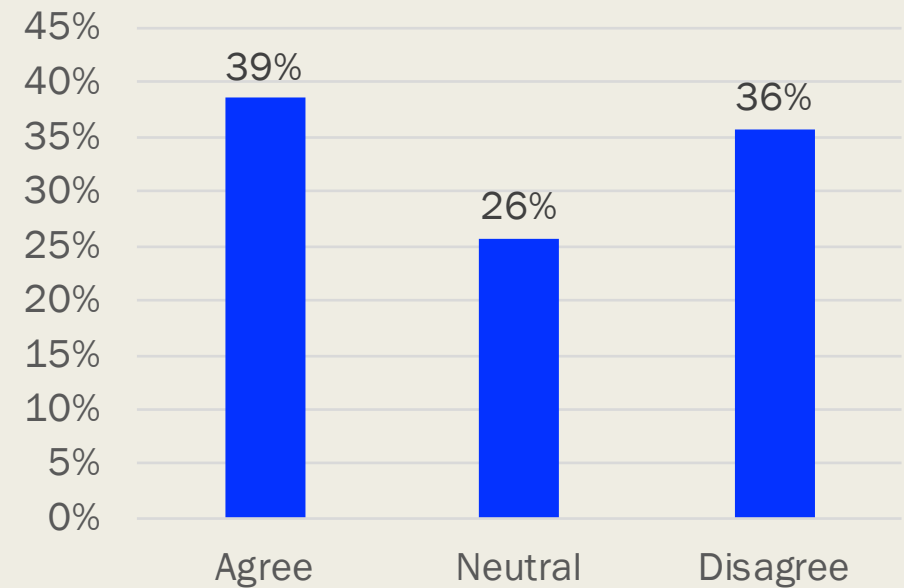
Has your area made arrangements for safer walking or bicycling? (n=1450)



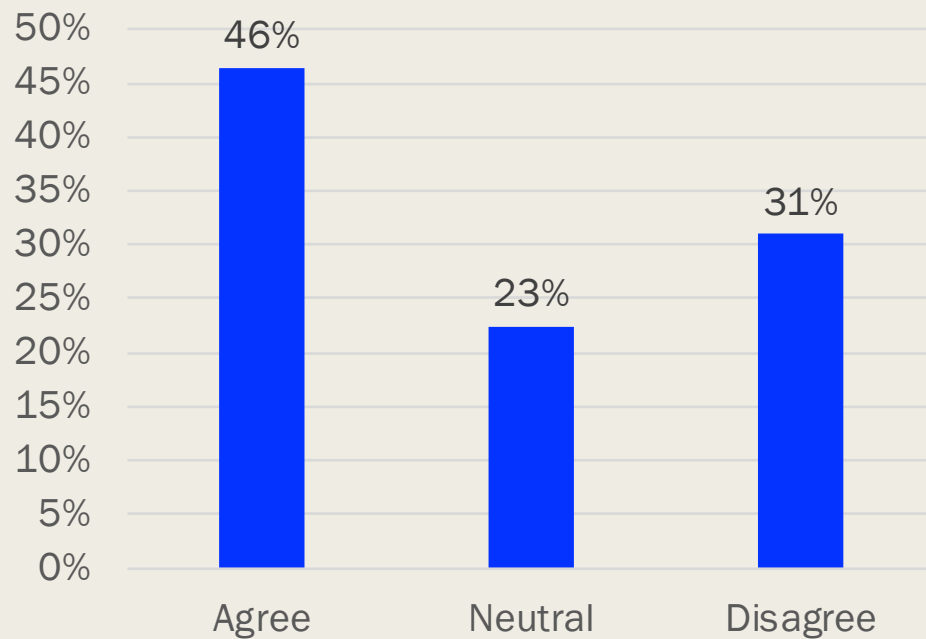
I **walk more often** in my neighborhood now than before the pandemic (n=1,448)



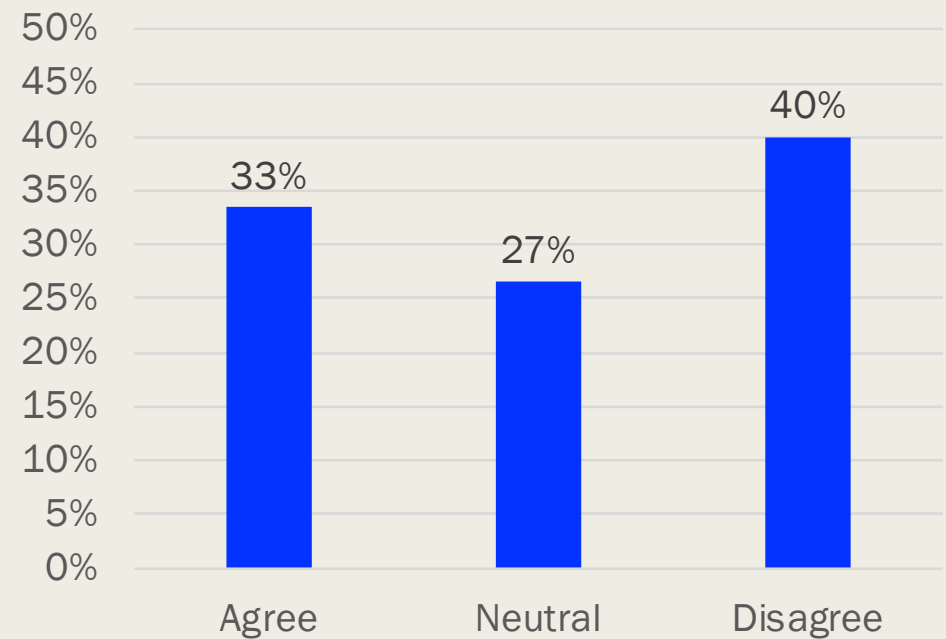
I **walk longer distances** now than I did before the pandemic (n=1,448)



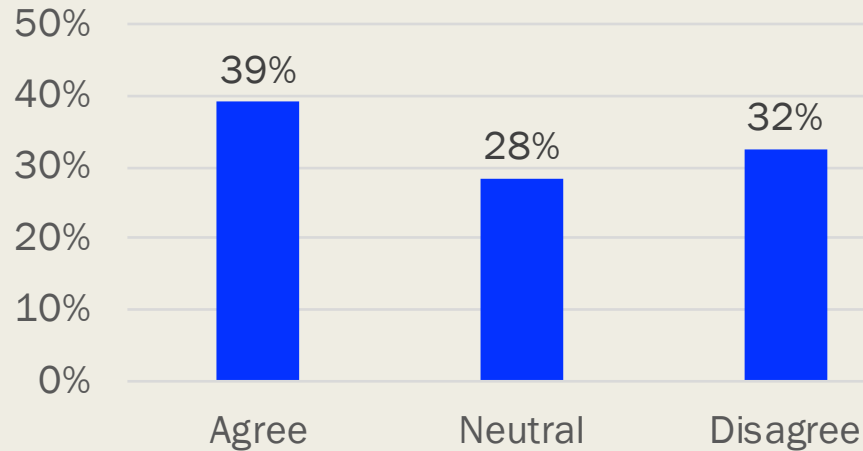
I **walk more frequently** for pleasure than I did before the pandemic (n=1,448)



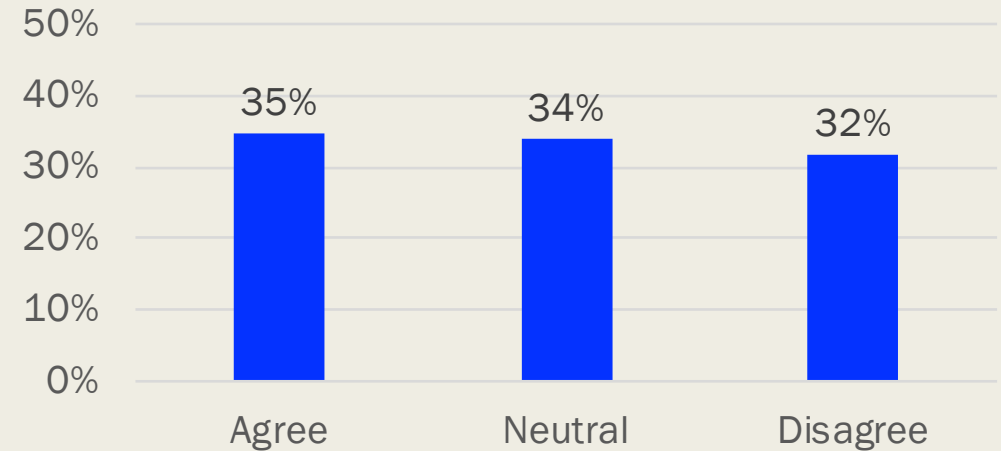
I **walk more frequently** to accomplish a task than I did before the pandemic (n=1,447)



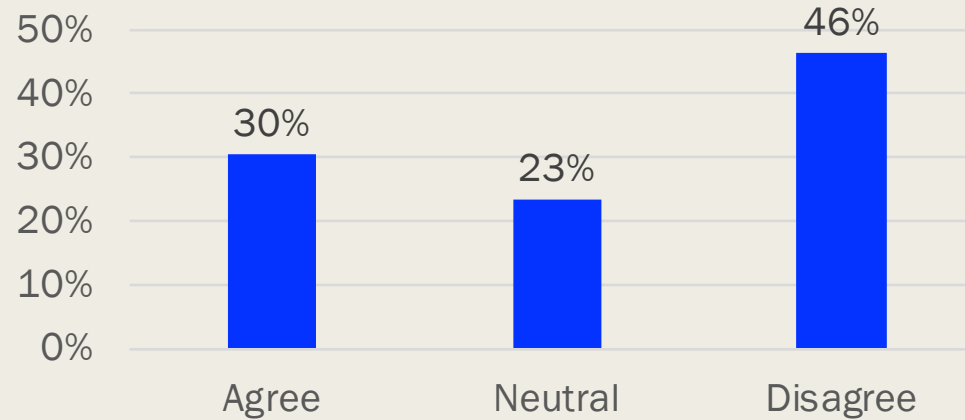
I am more familiar with my neighborhood now than before the pandemic (n=1,448)



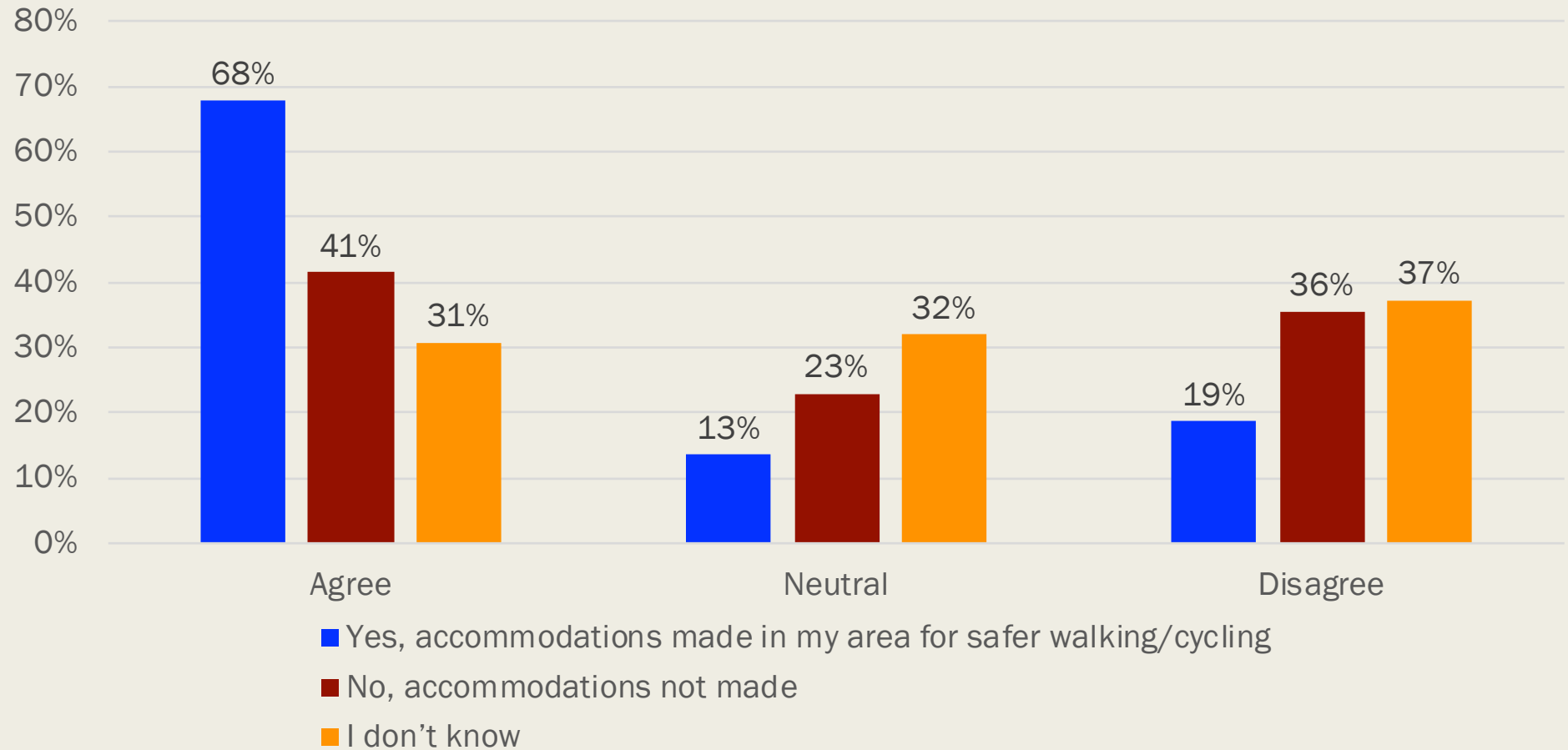
I am more comfortable walking a mile in my neighborhood now than before the pandemic (n=1,448)



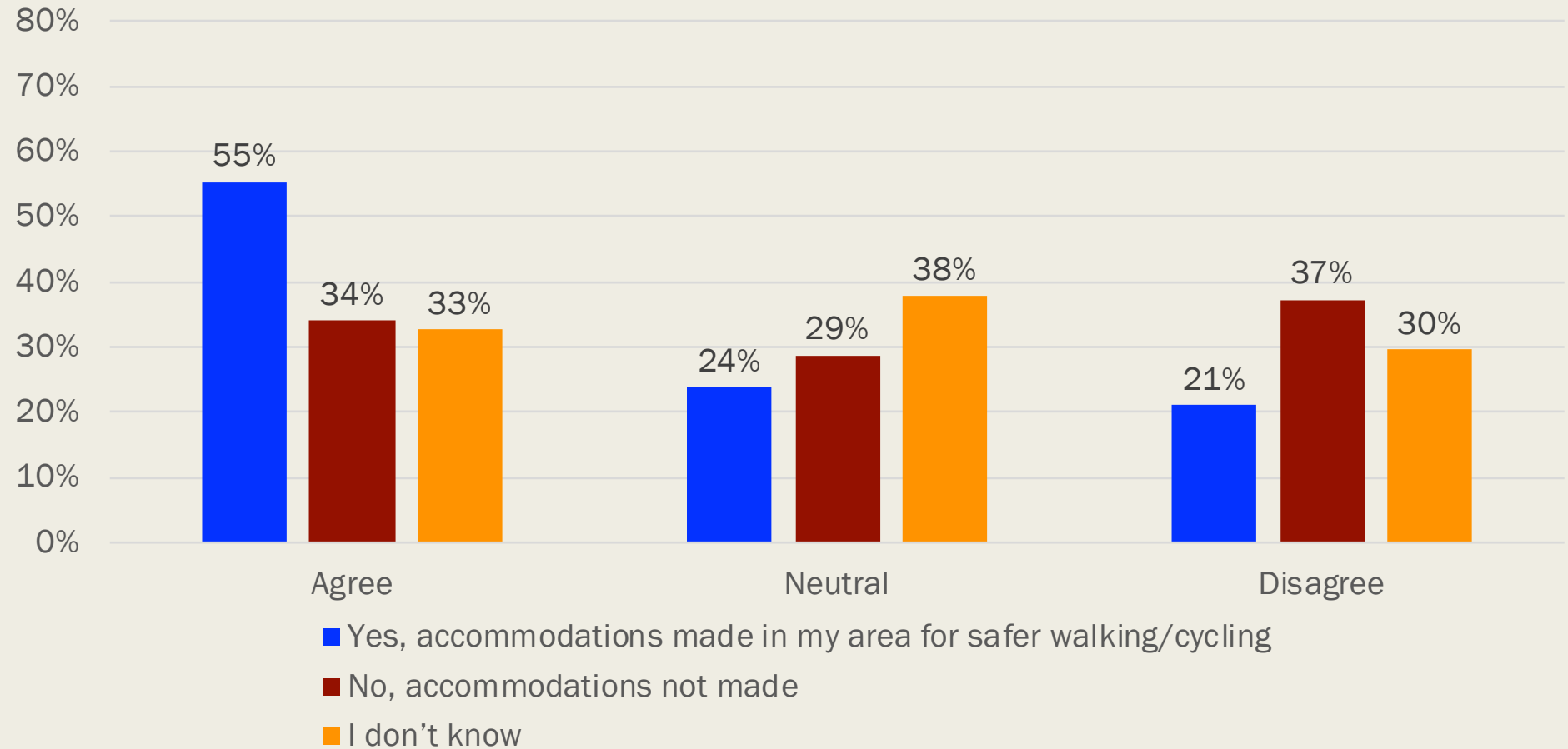
Since the pandemic, I have started to walk to shops or services that I previously only drove to (n=1,448)



## "I walk more for pleasure now than before the pandemic"



## "Some streets should remain closed for outdoor dining"





# Key Takeaways

- All things equal, people say they walk more during the survey period than they did before the pandemic started
- There is a *large* association between street changes to support active travel and self-reported walking
- There is a sizeable association between street changes to support active travel and public support for continued street closures
- Respondents seem willing to change behavior post-COVID

# Continuing Research and Analysis

- Will working at home continue?
- Will transit recover?
- Will on-line grocery shopping continue?
- How have disadvantaged communities been affected?
- Are there geographic patterns to behavior change?



# QUESTIONS?



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On days you work or study from home, have you been able to engage in other activities with the time saved by not commuting?

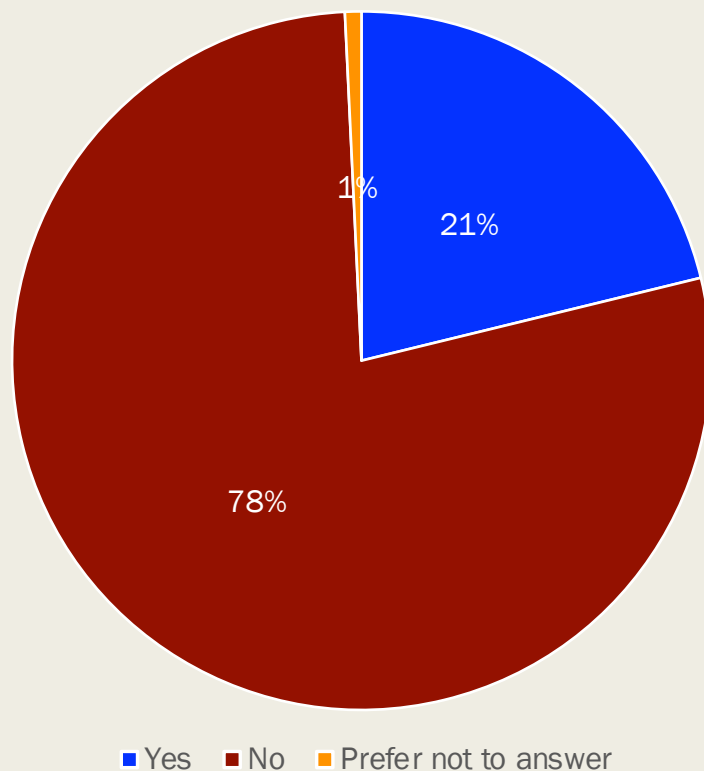
Activity	%
Spend more time with family	53.1%
Walk for exercise	43.0%
Bicycle for exercise	17.3%
Running or other exercise activities	22.6%
Watch more TV or spend more time on the internet	47.9%
Spend more time cooking or enjoying meals	37.7%
Work longer hours than before	24.4%
Wake up later in the morning	37.4%
Spend more time on household chores	32.1%
I can make my own schedule	17.0%
Other	0.5%



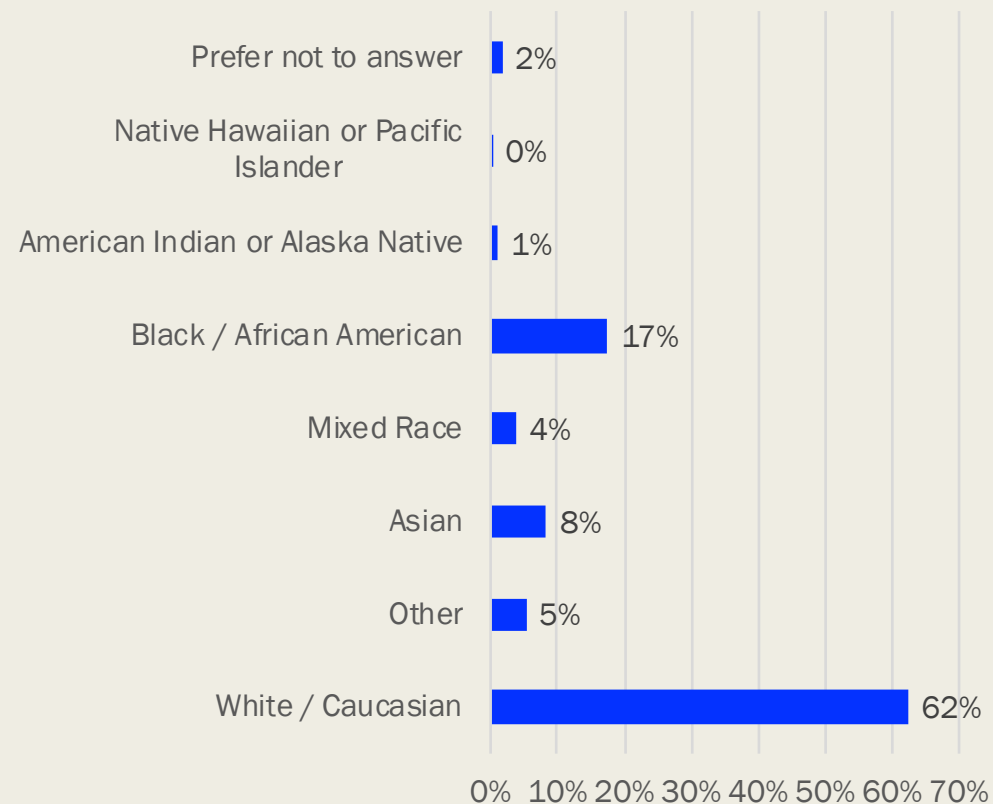
Which of the following experiences (if any) have you had during the pandemic that you would most like to continue after COVID-19 is no longer a threat?

Activity	%
Working from home, at least some of the time	36.4%
Commuting less	25.6%
Driving less	33.0%
Traveling less	26.6%
Taking more walks	40.6%
Shopping online more	40.4%
Conducting meetings online	20.1%
Talk to family and friends using video-conferencing	28.5%
Spending more time with family	38.6%
Cooking at home more often	45.9%
Spending less money	38.8%
A slower pace of life	30.5%
More focus on cleanliness	29.5%
Other	1.5%

# Do you consider yourself Hispanic or Latino/a? (n=1,449)

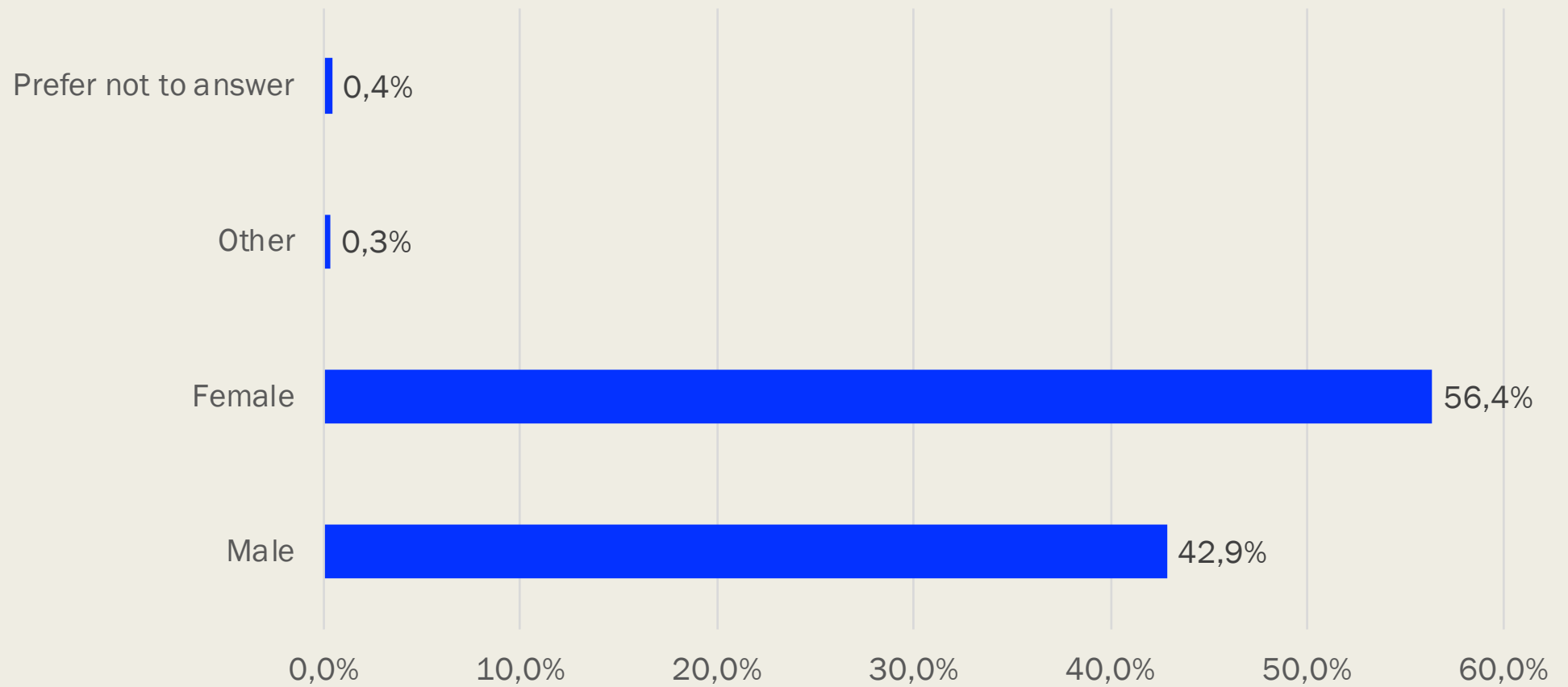


# Race / Ethnicity (n=1,450)

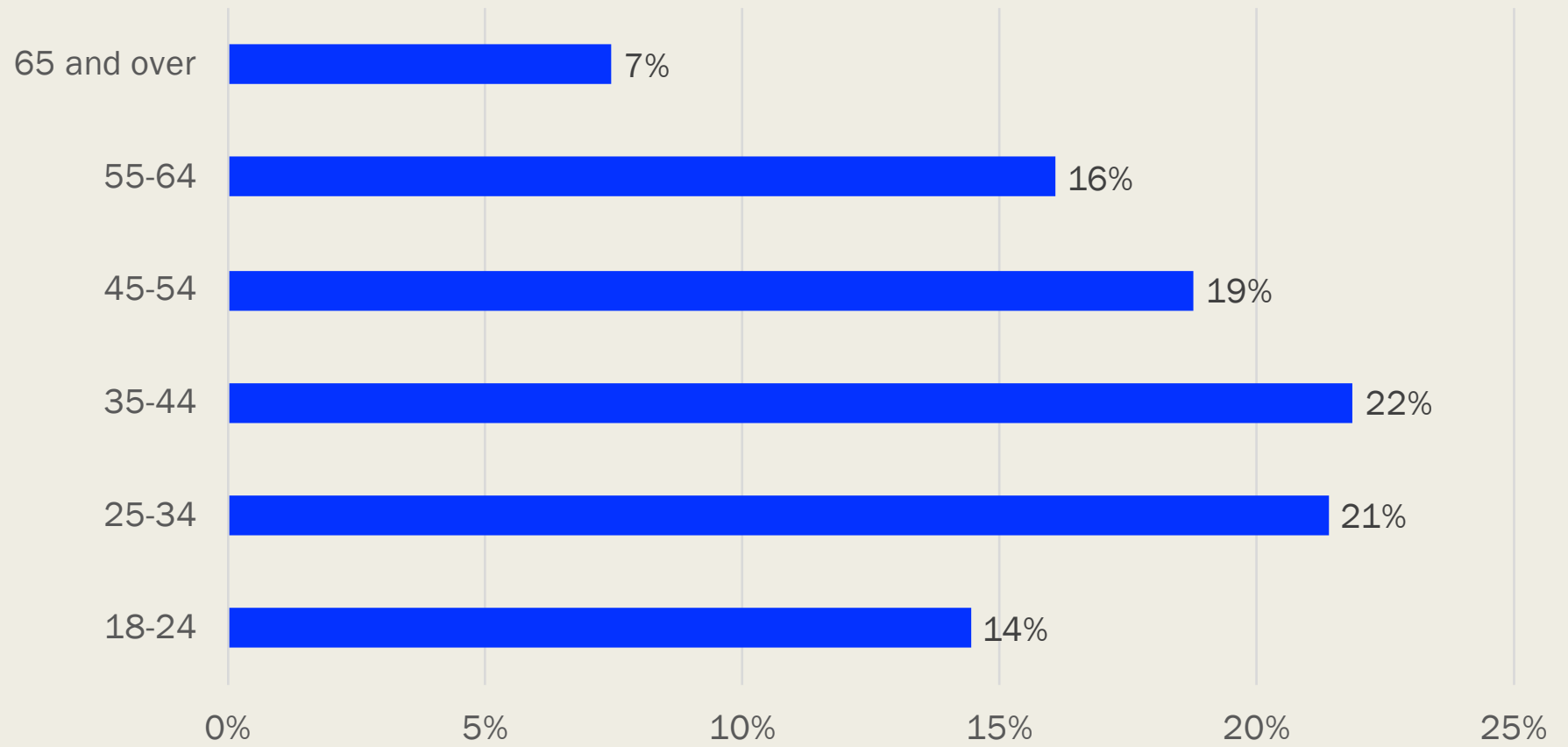




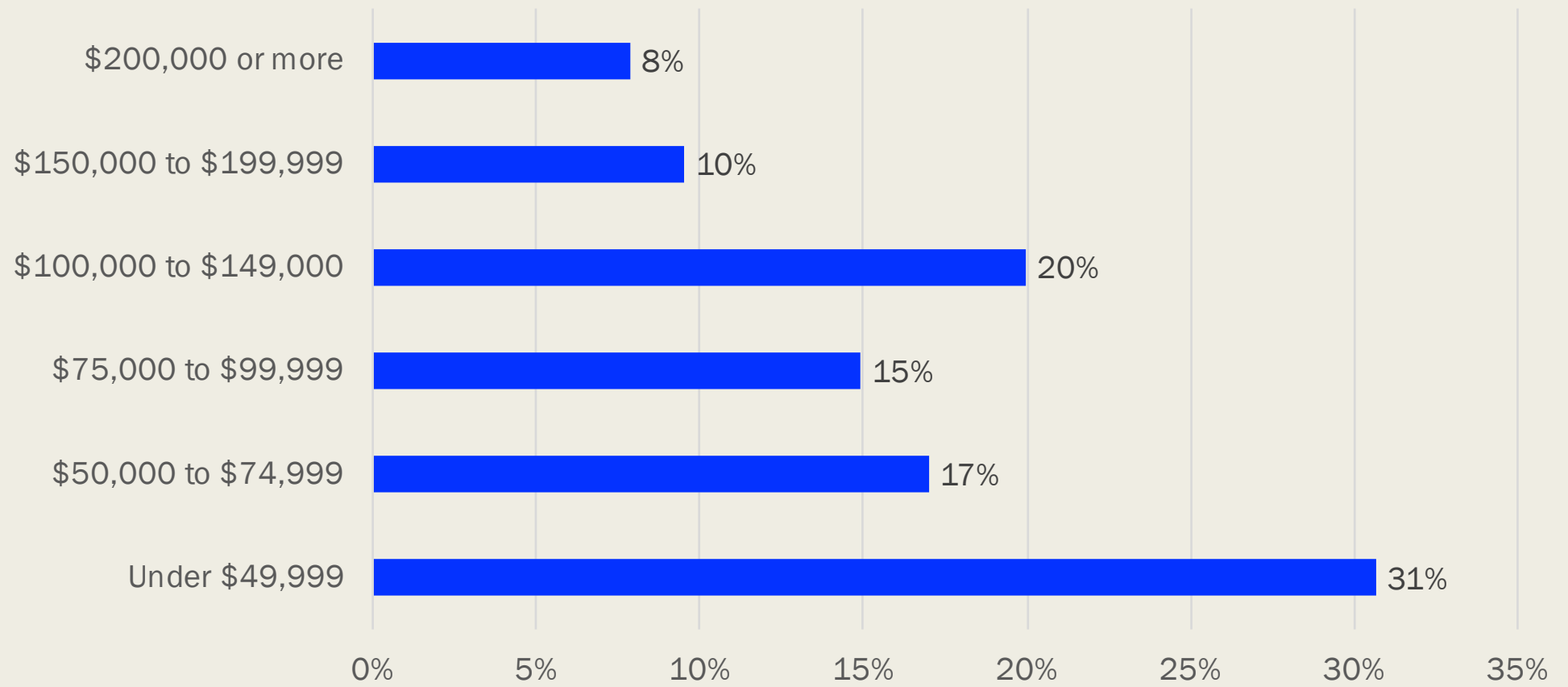
## What is your gender? (n=1,449)



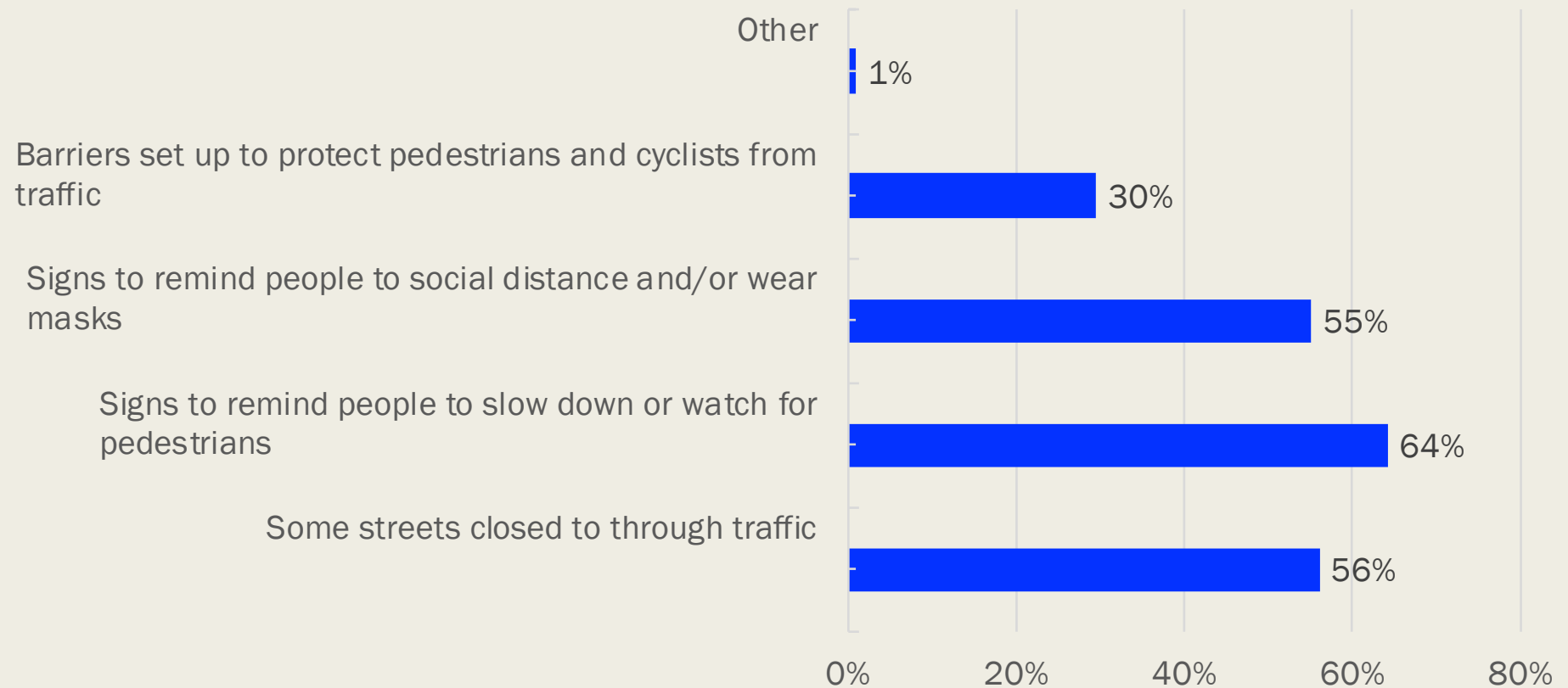
### Age group (n=1,449)



### Income level (n=1,447)



## Which arrangements have been made for safer walking or bicycling? (n=430)



### How long is your typical walk? (n=1448)

