

From the outset, this survey was intended to gather general feedback about islanders' quality of life. The survey contains questions across a wide variety of topics and does not delve deeply into any one of them. Also, the free survey software limited us to a total of 30 questions, which reduced our ability to “dig deep” into any particular topic. The survey was distributed on April 15, 2023 and was shut down on May 13, 2023 to avoid both summer/winter time periods for island residents.

This report contains:

- Charts and tables of data
- Sample written comments

After this presentation, the following will be made available:

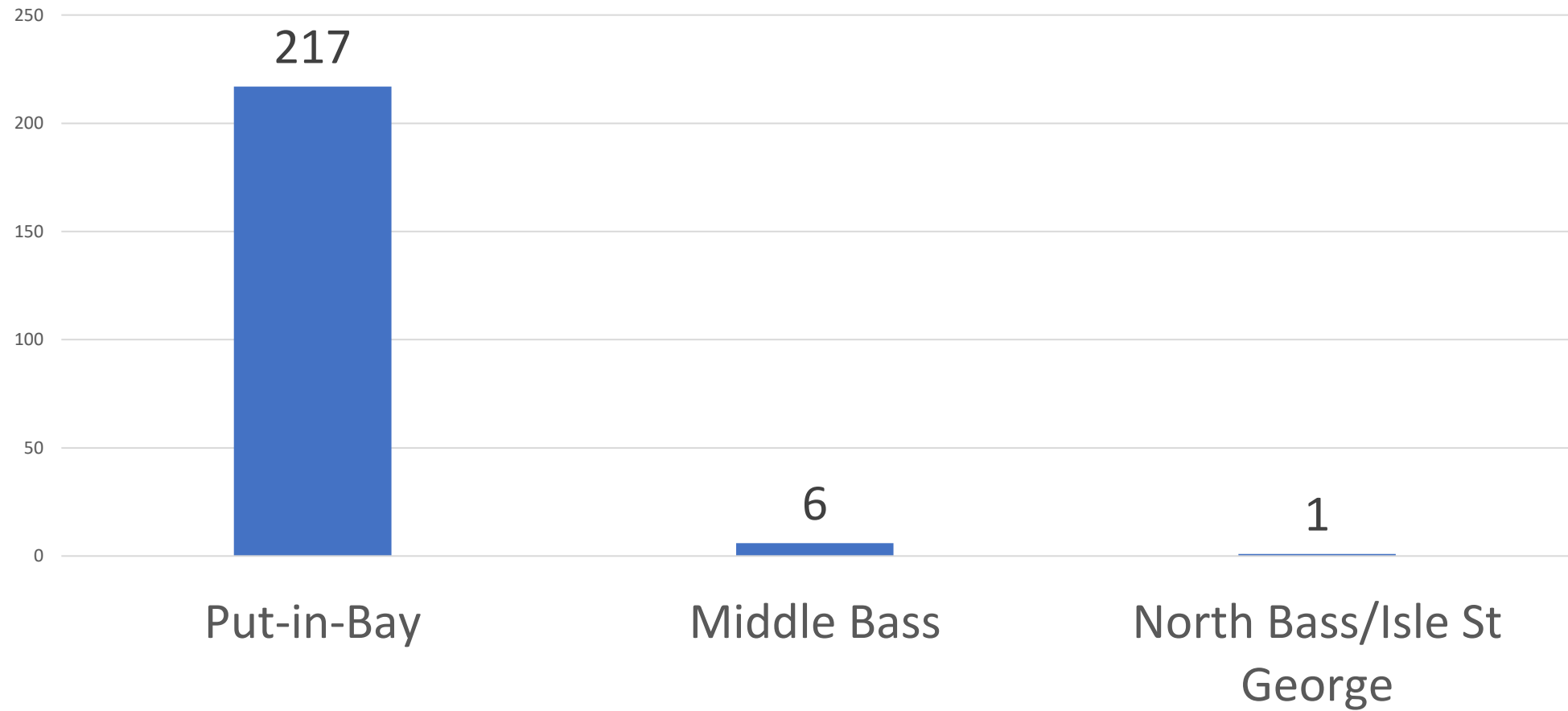
- This deck with the charts and tables
- A file with every written comment from the survey
- A copy of the survey

Put in Bay Survey Results

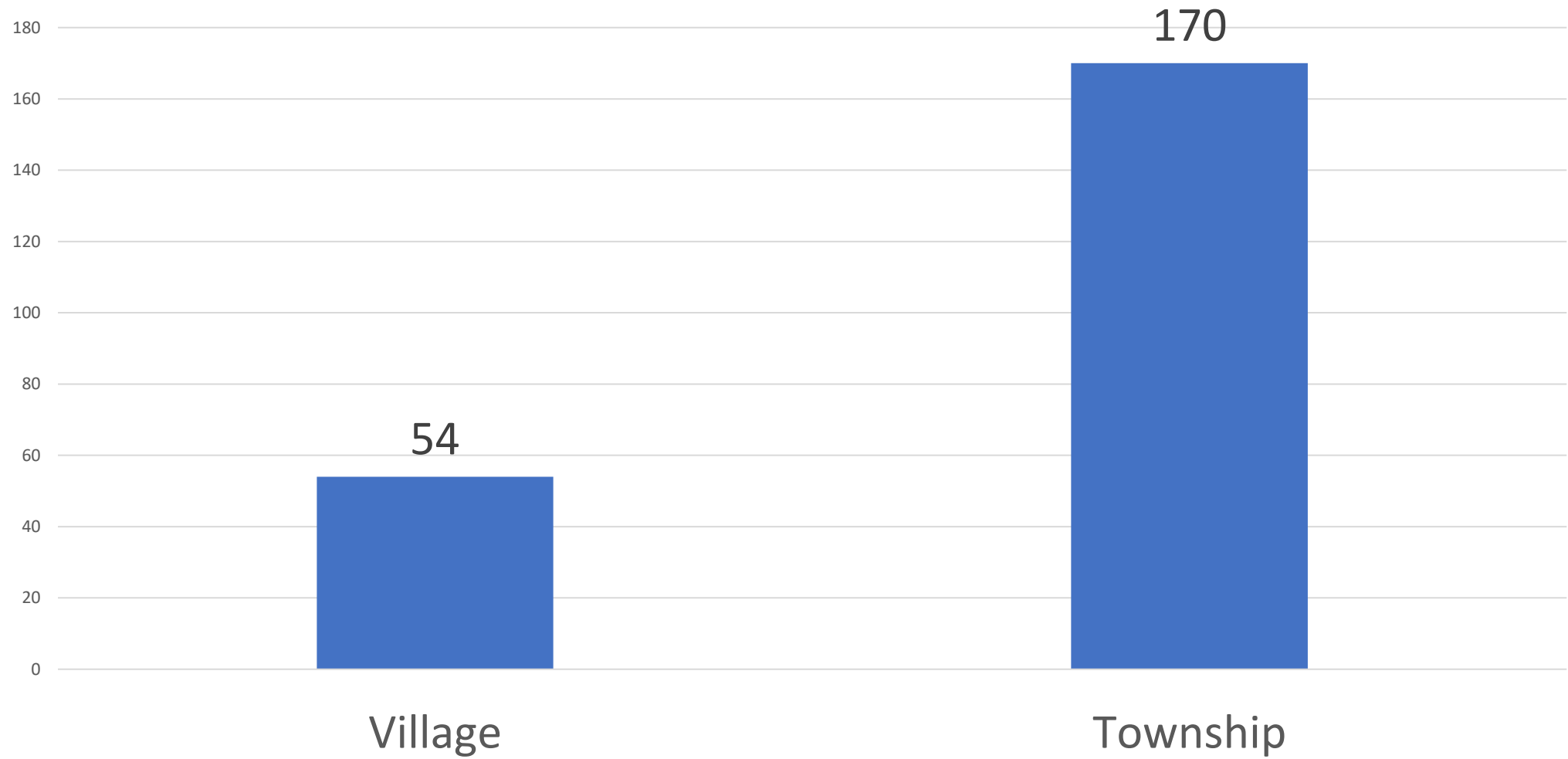
Base=224

Surveys were emailed to the mailing list for the Property Owners Association as well as anyone who contacted us and requested to be included. A total of 356 emails were distributed, and with 224 responses we have a response rate of 63%, which is considered very high.

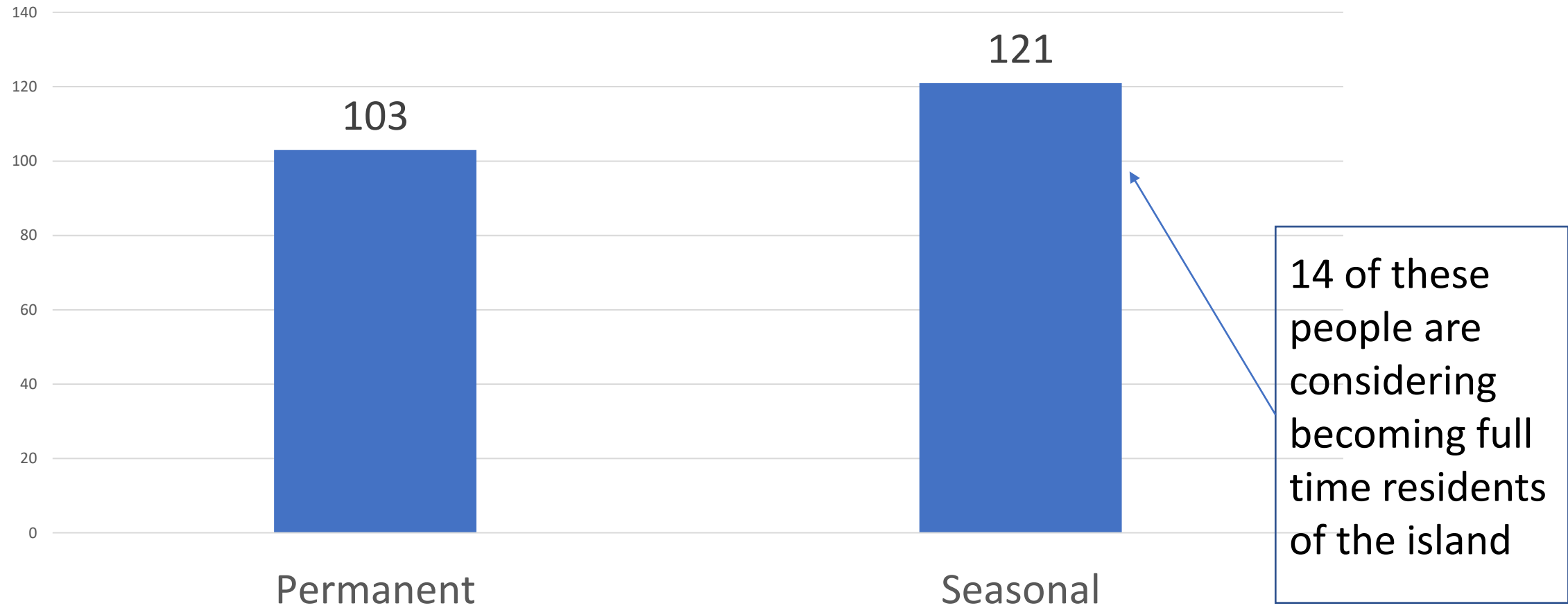
On which island do you live?



Is your home in the Village or the Township?



Please tell us what type of island resident you are:



Sample Comments from Seasonal Residents about Why They Won't Move Here:

A great deal of family in the Cincinnati area.

As I get older and we have much less seasonal ice on the lake I enjoy spending more Winter time in Florida.

Extended family does not live on the island. Access to health care, shopping is not available

Florida residents

Have Florida residence and one in Wood County

Health reasons dictate I some live on the mainland for easier access to medical care.

House is a cottage not a year round home.

I don't want to live here. There is to little respect for owners and to much catering to the tourists.

I have another home in Florida and winter there.

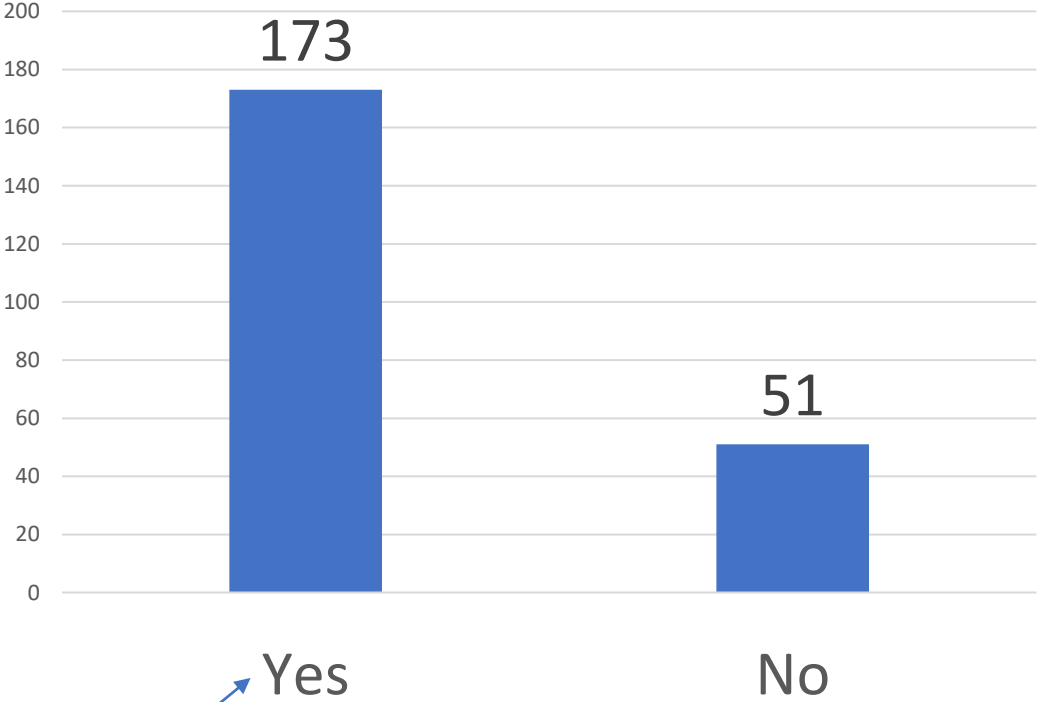
I like having my current home as my residence.

I will winter in Florida.

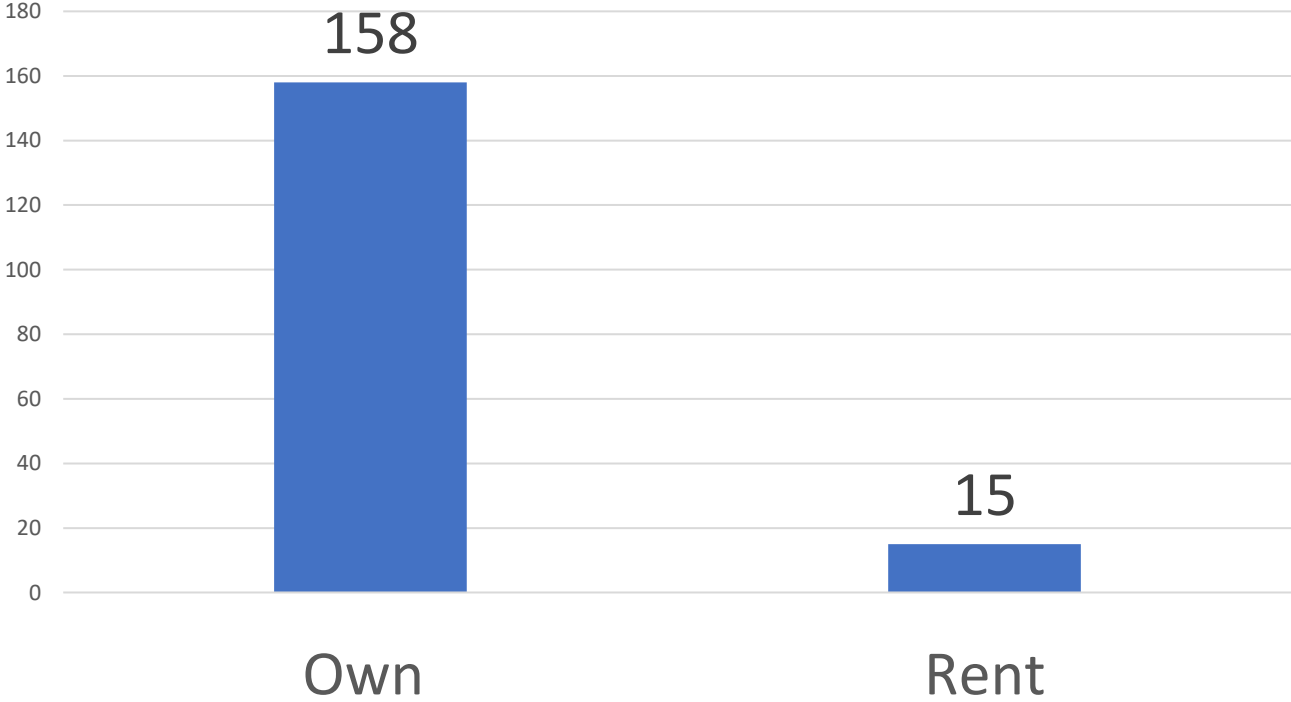
Jobs on the main land.

Head of Household Information-Part 1

Are you considered to be the **HEAD** of your household?



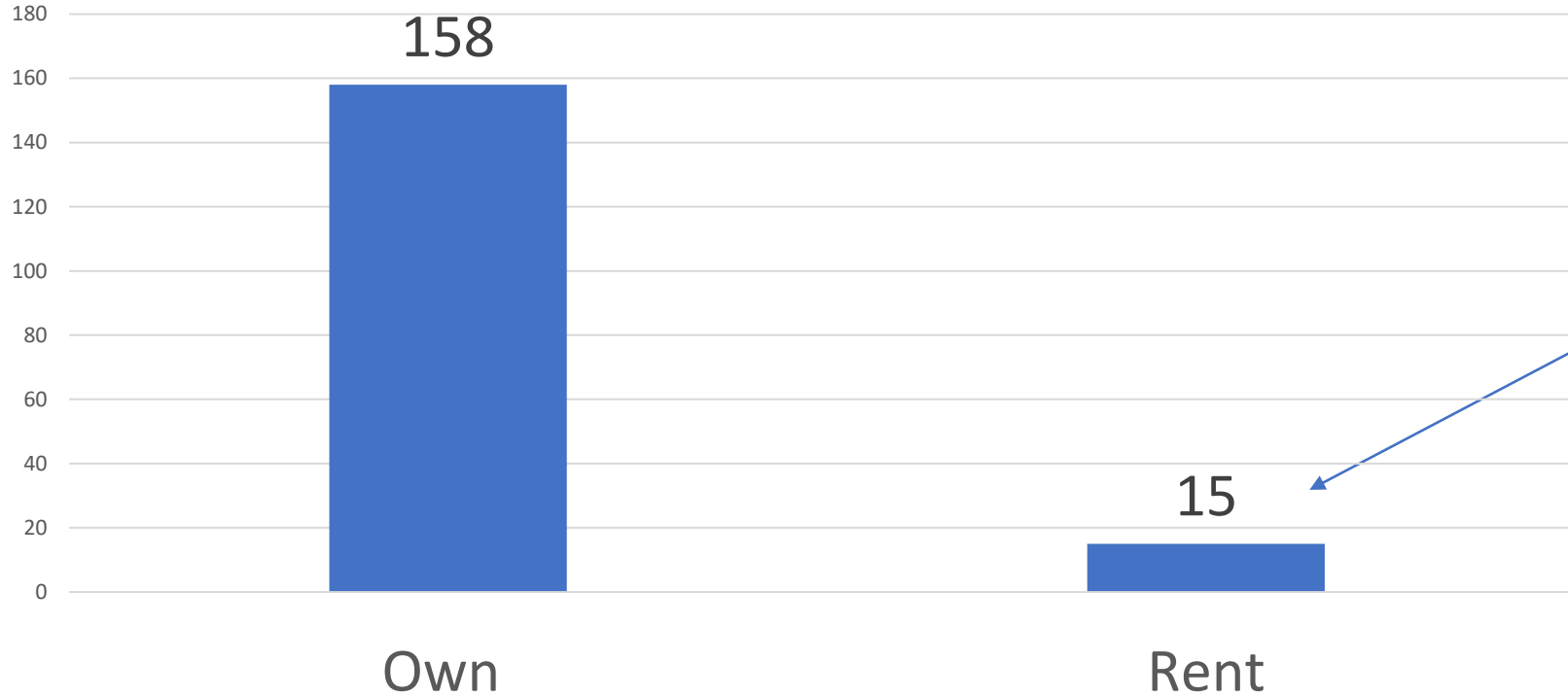
Do you own/rent your residence on the island?



36 of these households have children under age 18 in them

Head of Household Information-Part 2

Do you own/rent your residence on the island?



11 of these people intend to buy a house on the island sometime

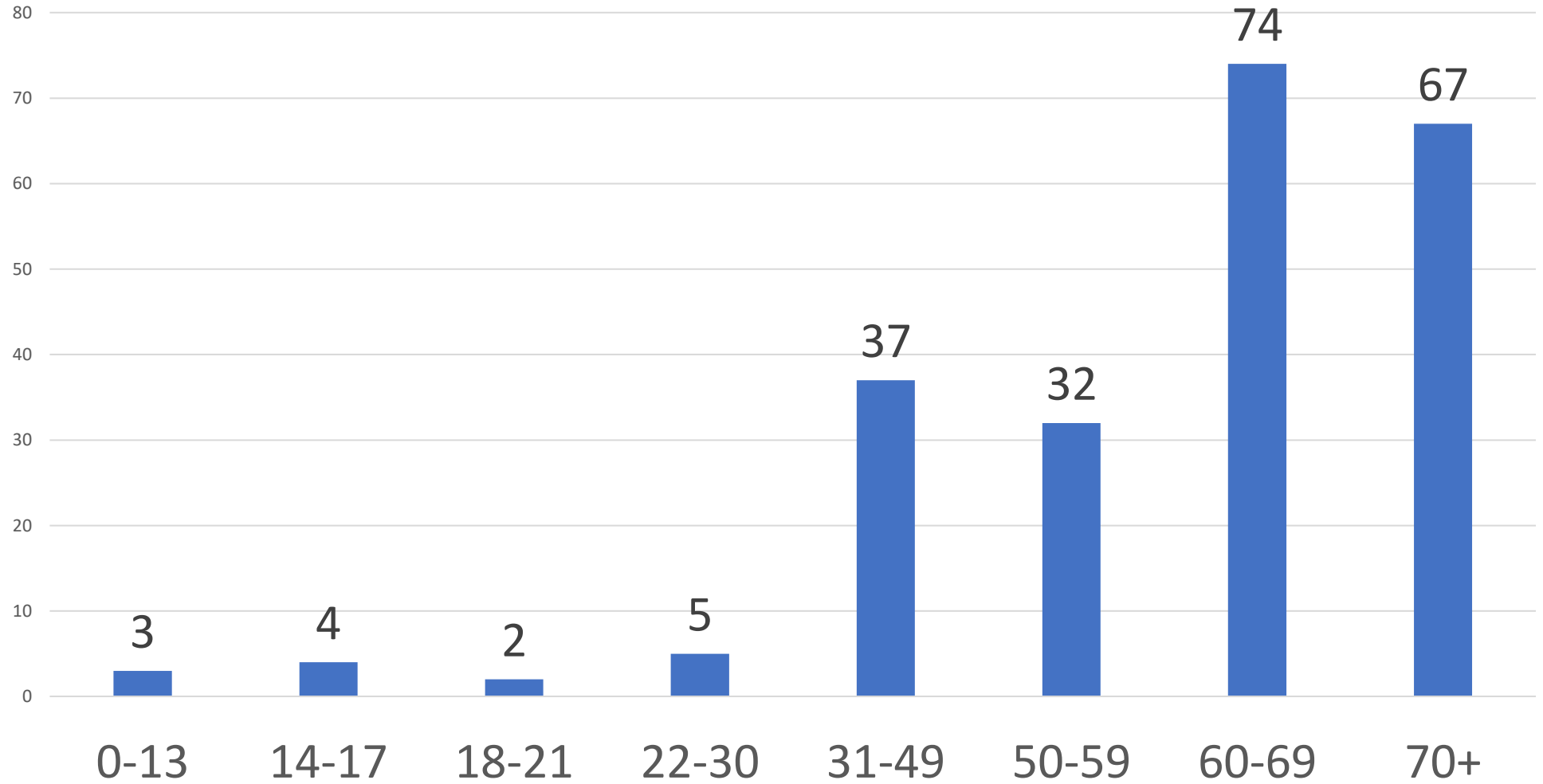
17 of these people plan to use their home for rental income at some point

6 of these people plan to sell their home in the next 5 years, while 31 are uncertain about their plans to sell.

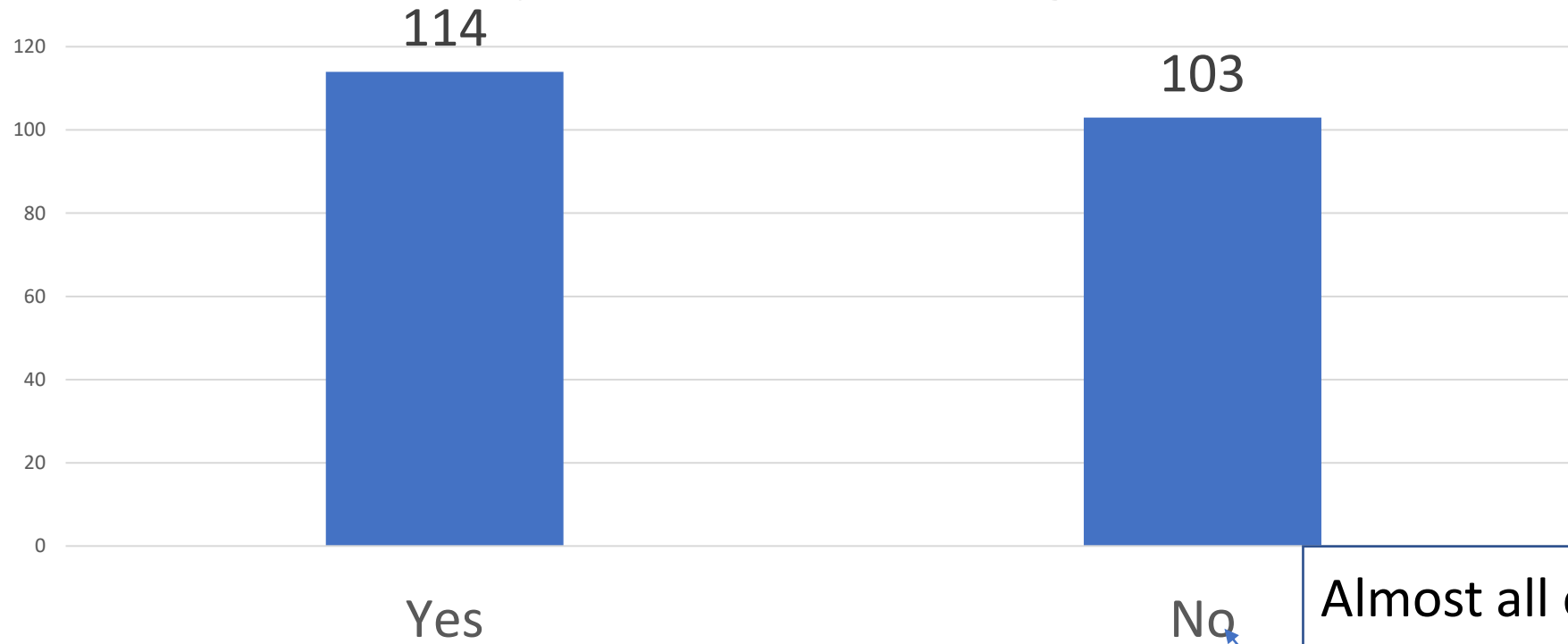
Please explain why you don't plan to purchase your own home on the island.

Cost
Homes on the island are very expensive, and I no longer wish to maintain two residences.
Too expensive. Village Council is reckless and that overflows onto the whole island. We have both owned on the island, but hate the direction the Village is steering it in.
Too expensive

What is your age?



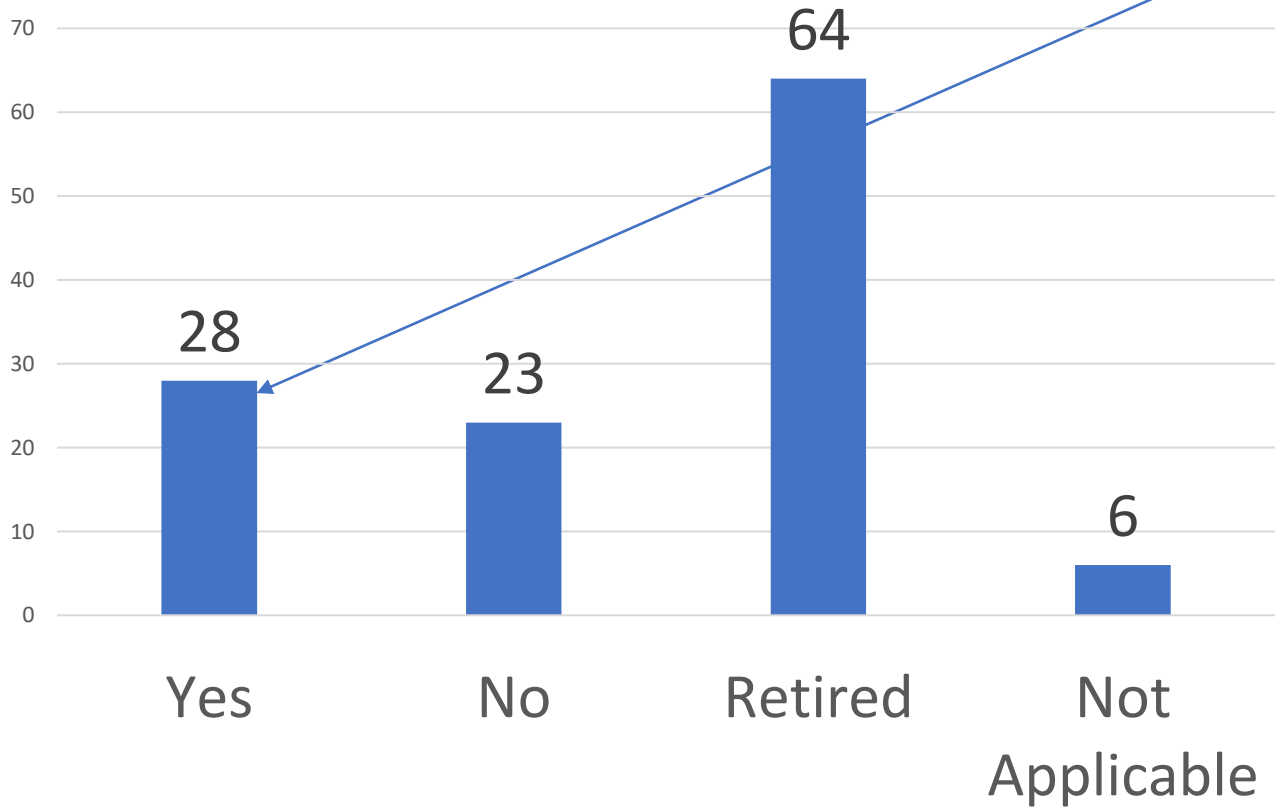
Are you registered to vote on the island?
(only asked of those over age 18)



Almost all of these people indicated that they vote in another location, however, 11 indicated that they may change this soon and register to vote on the island.

Seasonal Residents Only Part 1

Does your job allow you to work from home?



15 of these people said they would consider working full time remotely from the island

Seasonal Residents Only Part 2

Sample comments from those who would not consider working from home at the island:

Because I need to be where I am currently.

House is too small to live permanently

I can only work part time remotely per my company's policy.

I can work remote but only 2-3 days per week. I have to be in the office the other 2-3 days.

I do work remotely from the island April-November. Travel requirements and isolation issues prevent that during winter months at this time.

I have in summers past and while it is great to work there, "normal" life errands and necessities make it difficult.

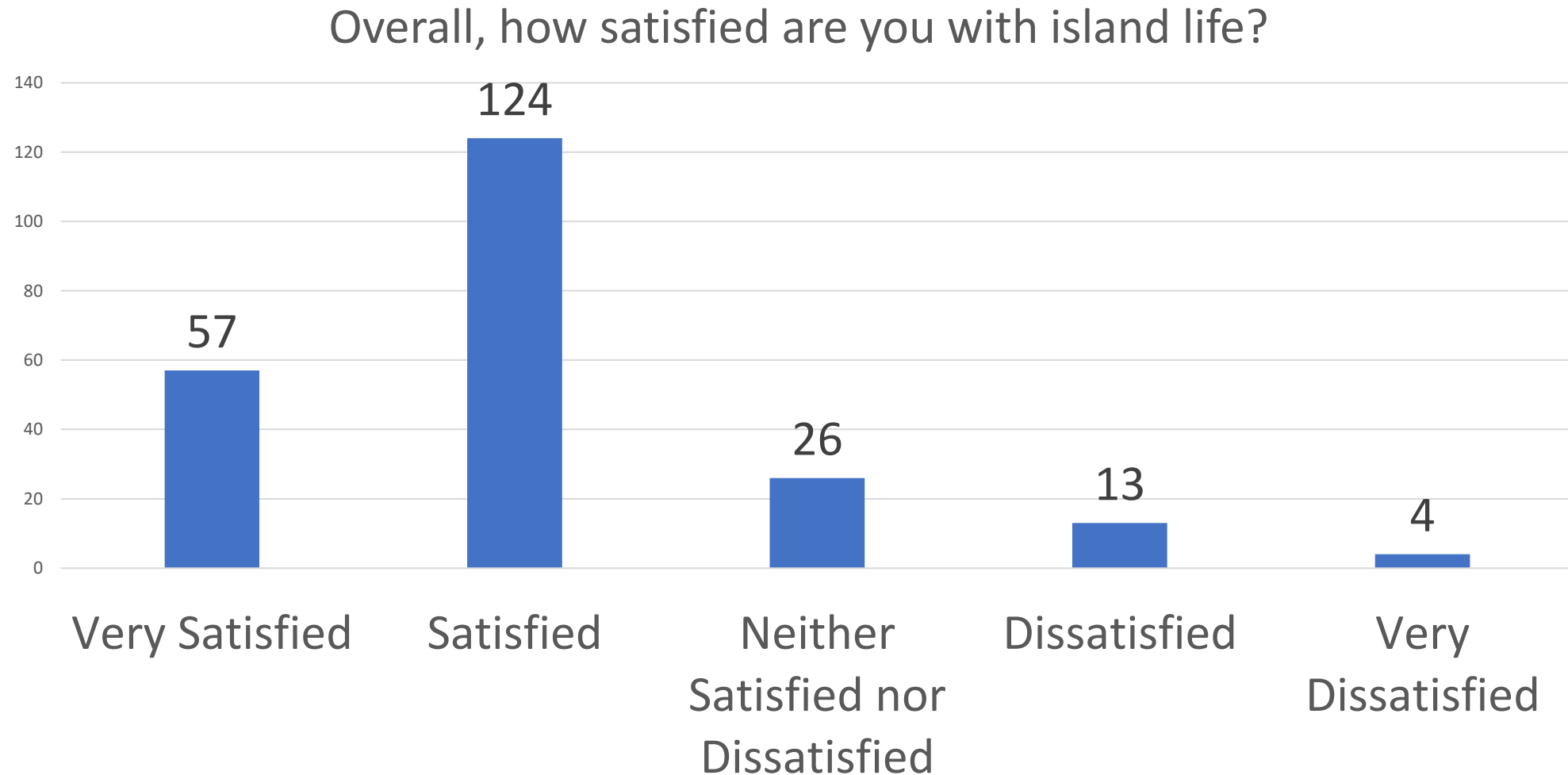
My husband is a teacher on the mainland and my kids are in school

No

seasonal resident only.

The island is declining and becoming a different place than what it used to be

When providing a “top of mind” rating for overall satisfaction with island life, many respondents provided both Satisfied and Very Satisfied ratings



To compare Overall Satisfaction ratings among sub-groups, a calculation called “Top 2 Box” was used. Across all respondents Top 2 Box ratings are 81%, and when comparing to other sub-groups there appears to be a lot of consistency in this measure. Note that the Village data has a small base size and should be viewed with caution.

Overall Top 2 Box Calculation: $(57+124)/224=81\%$

How satisfied are you with island life?

- Very Satisfied
- Satisfied

- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- Dissatisfied
- Very Dissatisfied

	Base	Top 2 Box
Permanent	103	78%
Seasonal	121	83%
Voter	114	77%
Non Voter	103	85%
Village*	54	83%
Township	170	80%

*small base size

Comments from those who gave Bottom 2 Box Ratings (to show variation in “expressiveness”)

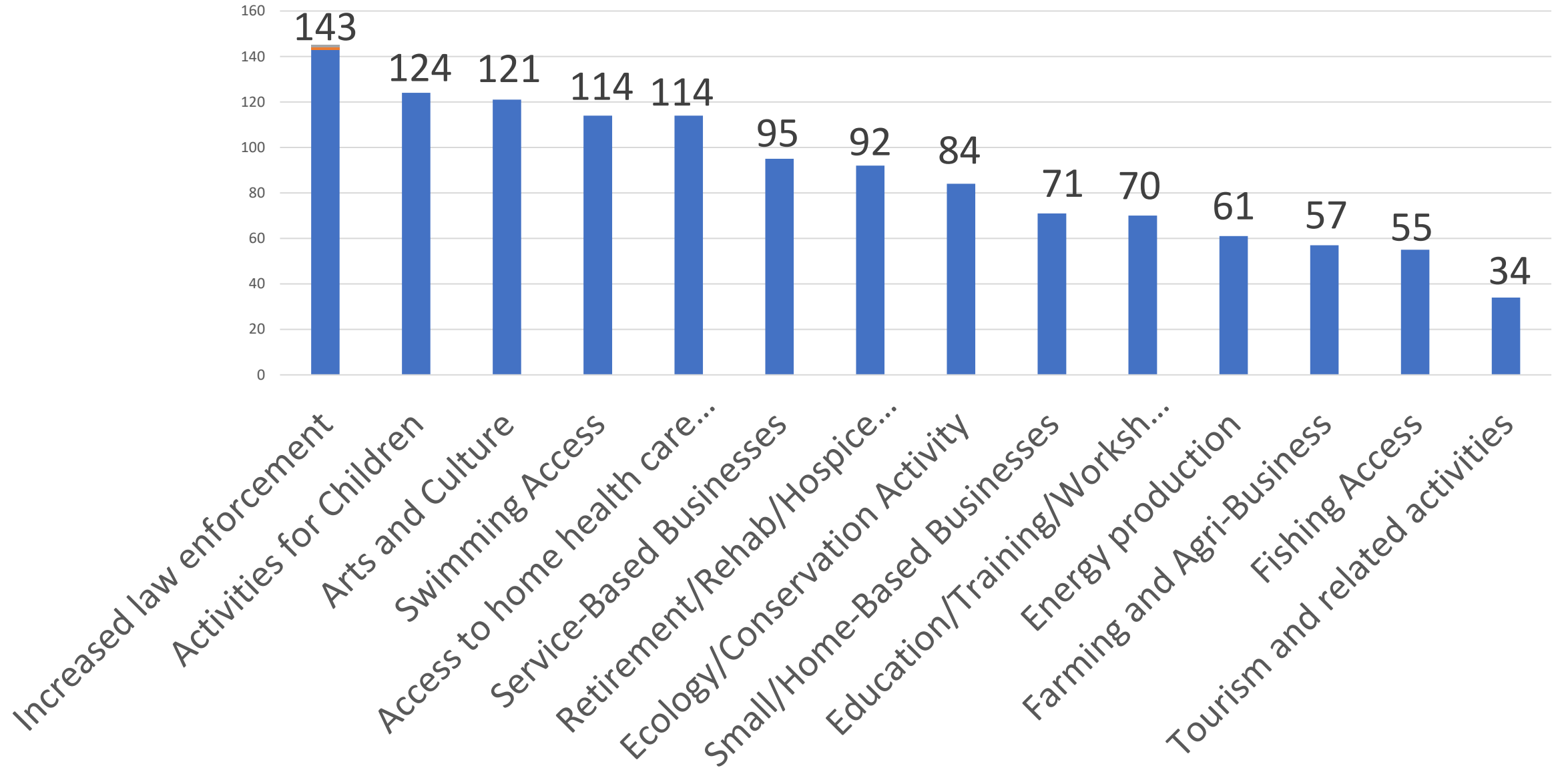
			Please explain why you are dissatisfied with island life. What could make things better for you?
Township	Permanent	Voter	Better control on what goes on ,on the island overall
Township	Permanent	Voter	Economic development and opportunities for young families is sorely lacking. Golf carts are too numerous, as well as laws against underage drivers, impaired drivers & reckless drivers are not enforced. Weekend visitors create an unsafe environment with over-indulgence, violence and vandalism. Zoning regulations hamper growth & new development of local businesses. Homes being bought and rented via Air BnB, Virbo, etc. diminish returns to the community financially and socially.
Township	Seasonal/Part-time	Non Voter	I still like to enjoy a party and a few drinks, but the alcohol emphasis and amount of excessive bars, golf carts, lack of respect for residents and their property especially on summer weekends, police dept. dysfunction and property tax increases have gotten way out of control. I do appreciate that the family friendly PR finally got more emphasis over the past 2 years, along with nature preserve area expansions, but it seems like it took way too long for that to happen and might be too late. Demolishing more history (The Crescent in town) for another bar shows that the alcohol greed still rules the island. Sure I witnessed adults doing wacky things back in the 60's when I was a child going into town and staying on our boat at the public docks. My own kids did too in the 90's, but it wasn't anything close to the stuff we see now. People tell me they would never bring their children to PIB on summer weekends now. That's very sad to me but I totally understand that. My family owned 2 homes on the island over the past 45 years. They restored a nice historical home in town. People on the street, many long time islanders, took pride in their homes too and appreciated PIB history and uniqueness. Most of those homes were demolished and the street is now mostly parking and hotels for people to drink at the large swim up bar, etc. There has never been any kind of historical preservation zoning which is a shame. Kind of ironic since the area should be on the National Register of Historic Places considering the Battle of Lake Erie and unique history of the islands. I've asked the monument rangers about that over the years, but pretty much got the answer I expected. Party image revenue is perceived to be better than a unique historical island. Mackinac Island does very well with tourism without the tropical party emphasis. Too bad PIB couldn't embrace its original identity but many of us saw where the island was heading many years ago. I still love the best sunsets of anywhere I've traveled, the best perch/walleye dinners in the country, and the gorgeous days in the fall. Our family still loves July 4th and the fireworks at PIB. We love the friendliness of many of the long time islanders we've known over the years. I understand that people need to make a living, but I wish there had been some careful long range planning done before things got so out of control with the partying, golf carts and destruction of island businesses and homes of historical character. I'm pretty sure we will not be passing on our home to our children. They've seen the changes from their childhood memories. Sometimes it's best to just keep the memories in your heart.
Township	Permanent	Non Voter	Lack of medical care and activities/opportunities for children
Township	Permanent	Voter	My first wish is that everyone be treated equally and fairly. The fact that some are 'allowed' to get away with obvious violations eg, noise ordinance, traffic, Air BnB rentals, short term rentals, conflict of interest in purchasing is what seems to be driving folks from this island. I'm not saying it any better in larger areas, but is more pronounced here and therefore more obvious.
Township	Permanent	Non Voter	Poor mental health of school kids and no one is doing anything about it. Having the feeling of entrapment when the boats do not run, so you feel as you are stuck on the island, and trapped. Constant bad weather keeping you from your friends and family on the mainland. If you don't fit in with other kids, "drinking or smoking" you are often left out, and alone.
Village	Seasonal/Part-time	Voter	Rowdy crowds make life unpleasant now.
Village	Seasonal/Part-time	Non Voter	The business owners have pushed the party atmosphere too far.
Township	Seasonal/Part-time	Non Voter	The drinking crowds we attract on the weekends is a shooting or riot waiting to happen. We don't arrest drunken golf cart drivers. Our police dept is under staffed with experienced officers. The island should evaluate one government.
Township	Seasonal/Part-time	Voter	The golf carts are out of control. There are too many. Also the police department needs over hauled. There should be one police force that is over all the islands. The sheriffs office should not be here.
Township	Permanent	Voter	The State is terminating Heineman's lease early, creating undue stress on my future here.
Township	Seasonal/Part-time	Non Voter	To many bars, bad police policies, no limit to Golf Cart rental, the taxies and drivers, the Village making decisions that effect the whole island, the Village business' not paying there fair share of the tourist costs, tourist bad behavior, no real noise limits. The Village not enforcing there own laws!
Township	Seasonal/Part-time	Non Voter	To many golf carts. Most businesses only care about making money and not the quality of life of the residents
• Village	• Permanent	• Voter	• too crowded with golf carts & drunks especially on weekends. We don't plan to leave the house on summer weekends. Summer weekends are terrible. Golf carts don't stop for stop signs, U turns right in front of you with no warning. Many parents allow their young children to operate the golf carts. The police just don't seem to care.
• Township	• Permanent	• Voter	• Too many tourists and golf carts. Have the tourists respect private property
• Township	• Permanent	• Voter	• Tourists gone wild have brought down the quality of life on PIB. Bumper to bumper golf carts and the smell of marijuana emanating from the parade of golf carts has turned PIB into a place I wouldn't want to raise children in. Limiting or banning golf carts would go a long way in alleviating the problem.

Question 21 from the survey:

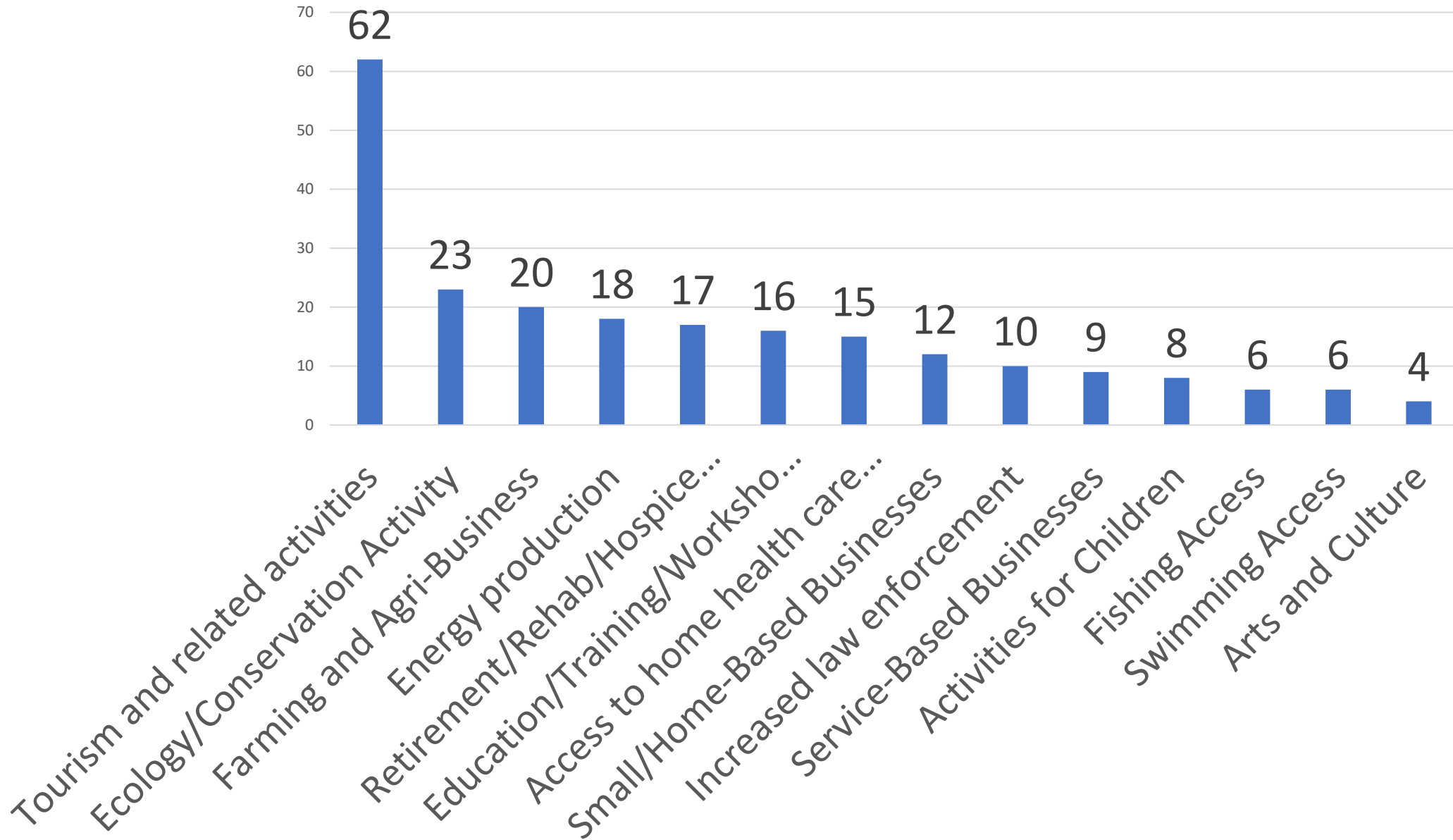
Please indicate your level of interest in the island activities shown below.

	Need More of This	Need Same Amount	Need Less of This
Ecology/Conservation Activity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Small/Home-Based Businesses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Retirement/Rehab/Hospice Facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Service-Based Businesses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Arts and Culture	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Farming and Agri-Business	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Energy production	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tourism and related activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Education/Training/Workshops/Conferences	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fishing Access	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Swimming Access	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Activities for Children	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Access to home health care that comes to your house.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increased law enforcement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Need More of This



Need Less of This



From the list below please pick your top 5 items for improving life on the island.

- High Speed Internet
- Sports Facility (soccer, baseball, tennis, pickleball, bowling)
- Restaurant ([year round](#))
- Meals on Wheels Service
- More Frequent Ferry Service
- Increased Daycare Options
- More affordable housing options
- Attracting higher income/work from home families
- More parks
- Better police coverage
- Improved fire service
- Increased focus on invasive species
- Elder Care options
- More medical facilities
- Improved lake water quality
- Supplemental credit for island housing for island workers
- [Other](#) _____

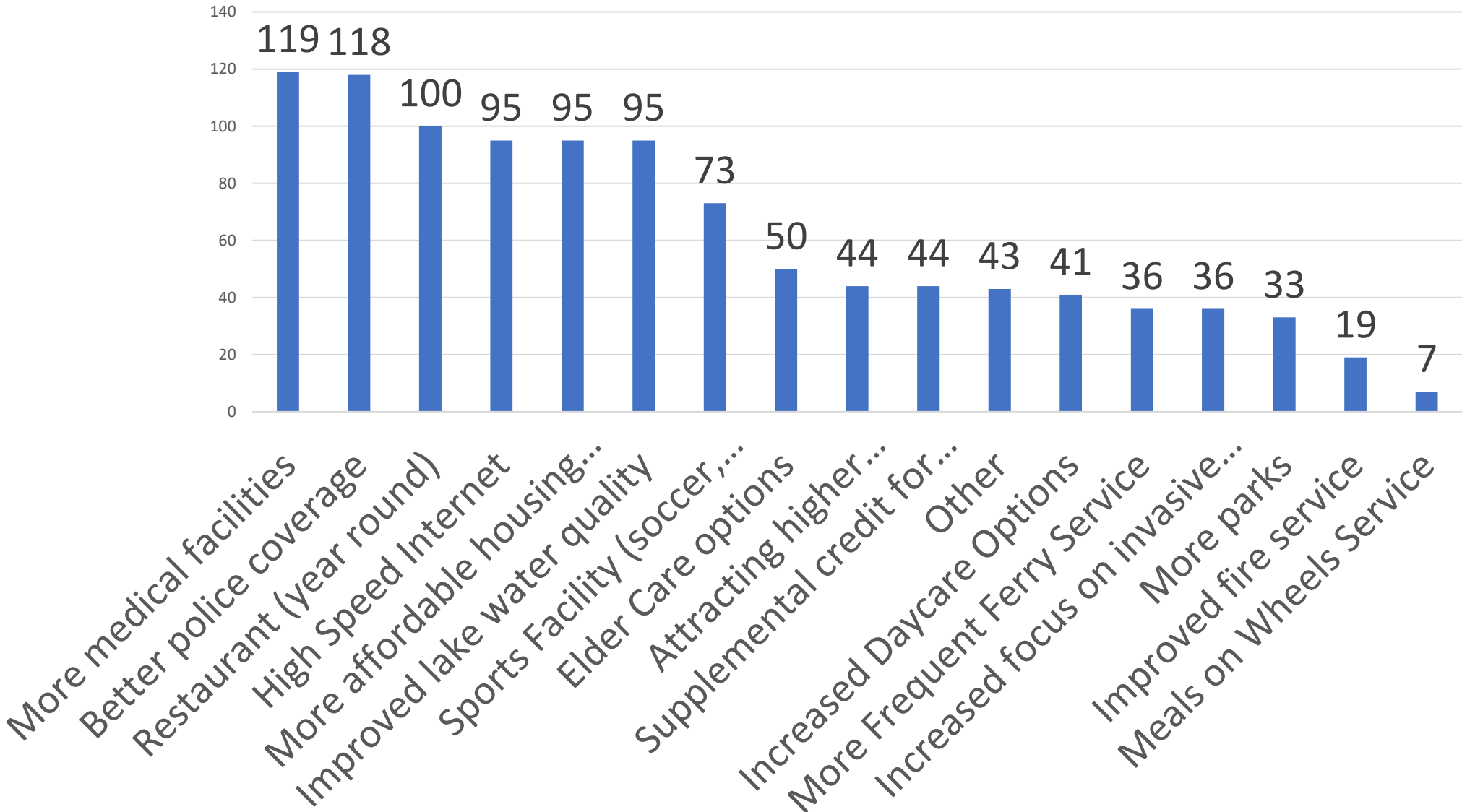
Question 22

From the list below please pick your top 5 items for improving life on the island.

Question 23

Now, please rank your top 5 items in terms of their importance to you.

When counting how often each item was selected in the top 5, More Medical Facilities and Better Police Coverage were the top 2 items.



Sample "Other" additions to the list of items.

Islanders being more welcoming to new residents, just because you were born on the island does not make you ruler of the island

Access to decent groceries especially fresh fruits and vegetables

Affordable grocery with good selection

Better ferry fees for residents

Change the culture/reputation - less trashy, more classy

Continuous zoning review and enforcement to reduce high density residential construction

Decent grocery store

Decent rentals for visitors

enforcement of rules and regulations (ie. zoning)

Fewer bars

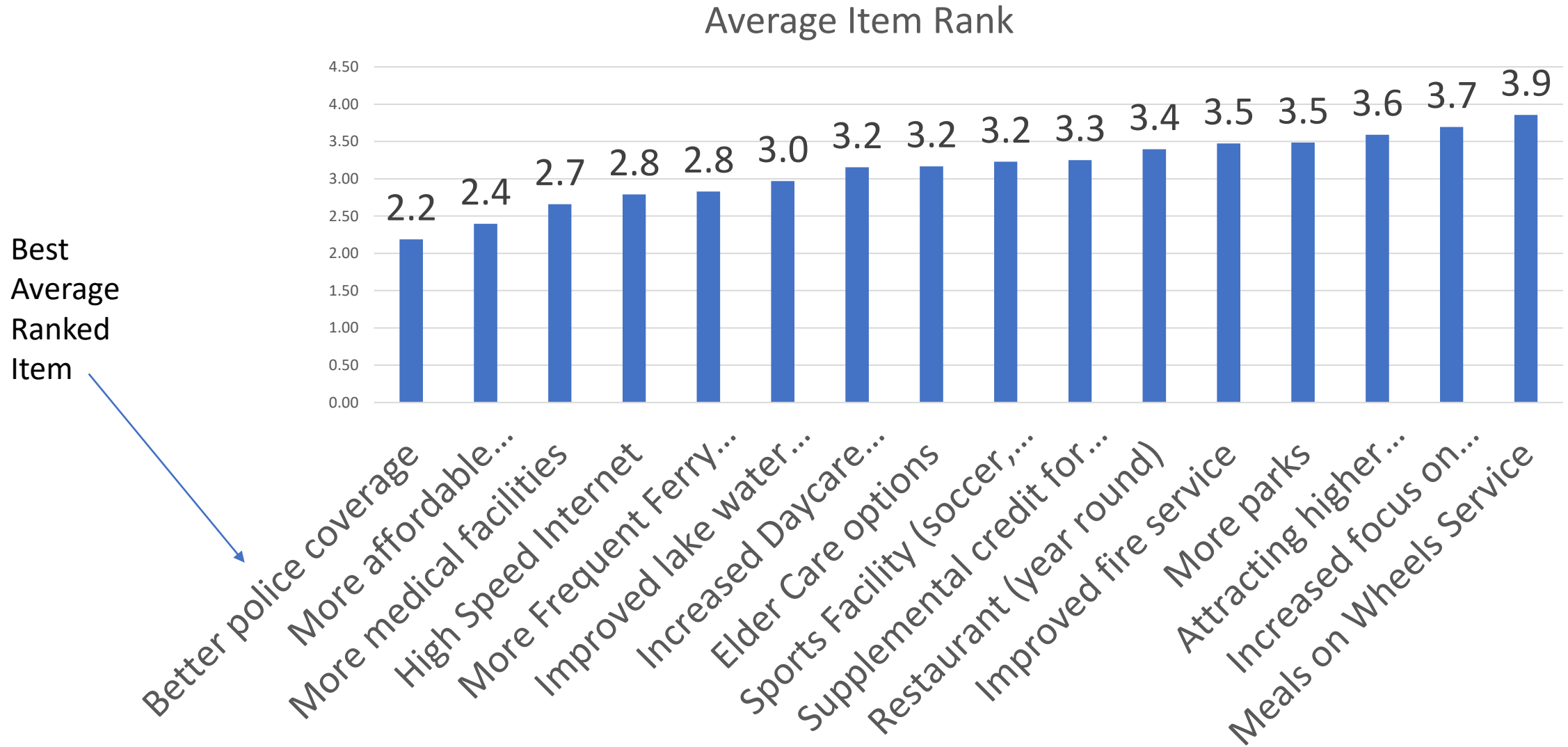
Fewer bars and restaurants

fewer golf carts

fewer golf carts

Fewer golf carts

When ranking their top 5 items, respondents gave the highest rankings to Better Police Coverage and More Affordable Housing Options



When asked what we could do for the school to help attract young families to want to live here most respondents indicated that affordable housing is the main issue to be resolved.

Comment Coding Process:

- Read all comments
- Create list of themes contained in comments (numbers are assigned to the themes for coding)
- Code each comment...some will have 1 code while others may have multiple

173 Written Comments	
Need more affordable housing	87
Need year-round jobs	39
School is great/need to promote	16
Reduce party atmosphere on island	14
Broaden educational offerings	10
Offer daycare	9
No opinion-not sure we need to expand school	7
Other	18

Q24 Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement: **I prefer a single form of government on the islands.**

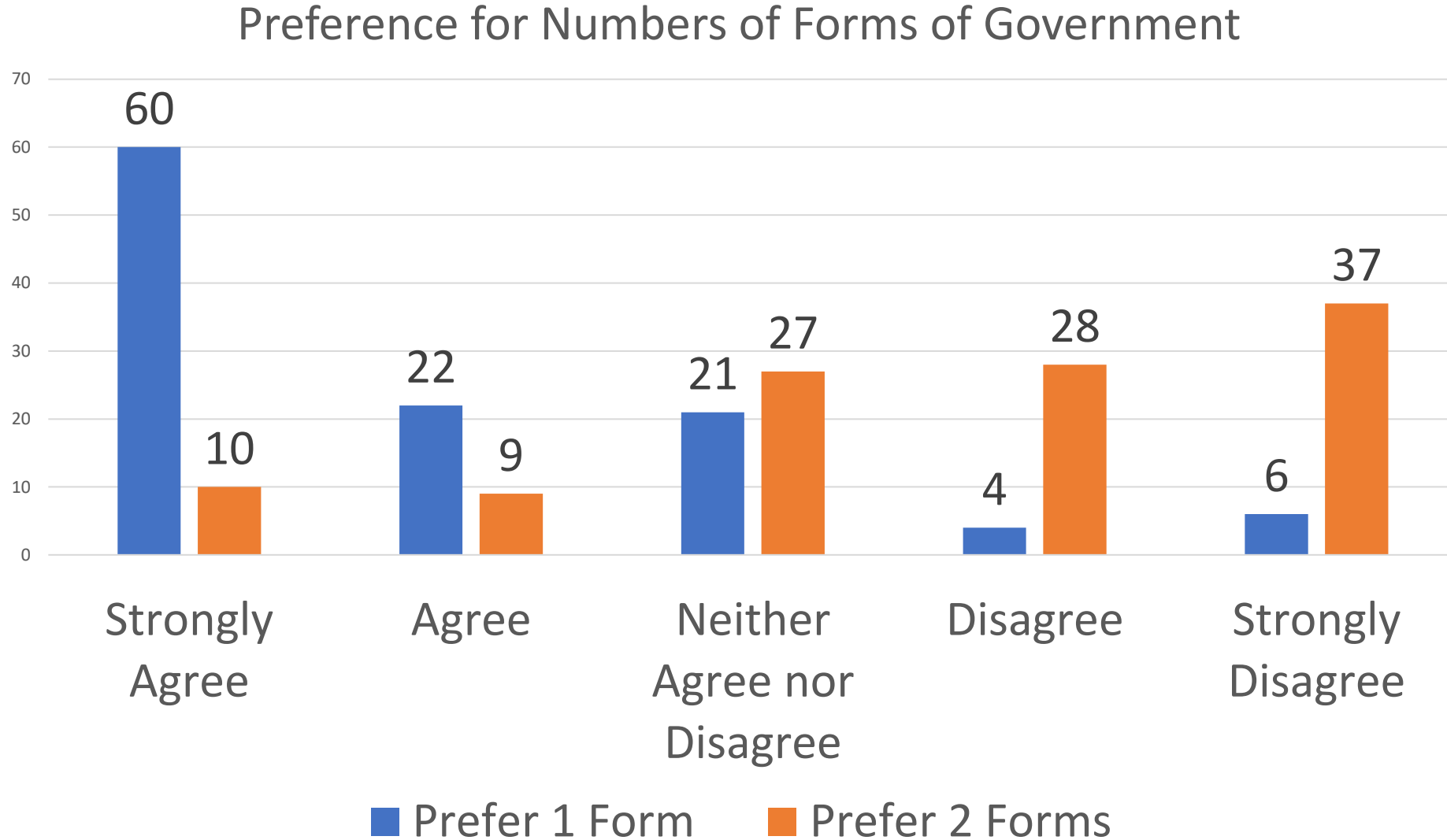
- Strongly Agree
 - Agree
 - Neither Agree nor Disagree
 - Disagree
 - Strongly Disagree
-

Q26 Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement: **I prefer two forms of government on the islands.**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Two versions of a very similar question were included in the survey. Half of the respondents saw one, and the other half saw the other. The questions are similar enough in wording and use an identical rating scale, so the results can be analyzed together.

In looking at the Top 2 Box results for “Prefer 1 Form” and the Bottom 2 Box results for “Prefer 2 Forms” it becomes clear that the majority of respondents prefer a single form of government for the island.



In reviewing results across all of the sub-groups there is a lot of consistency in the preference for a single form of government on the island.

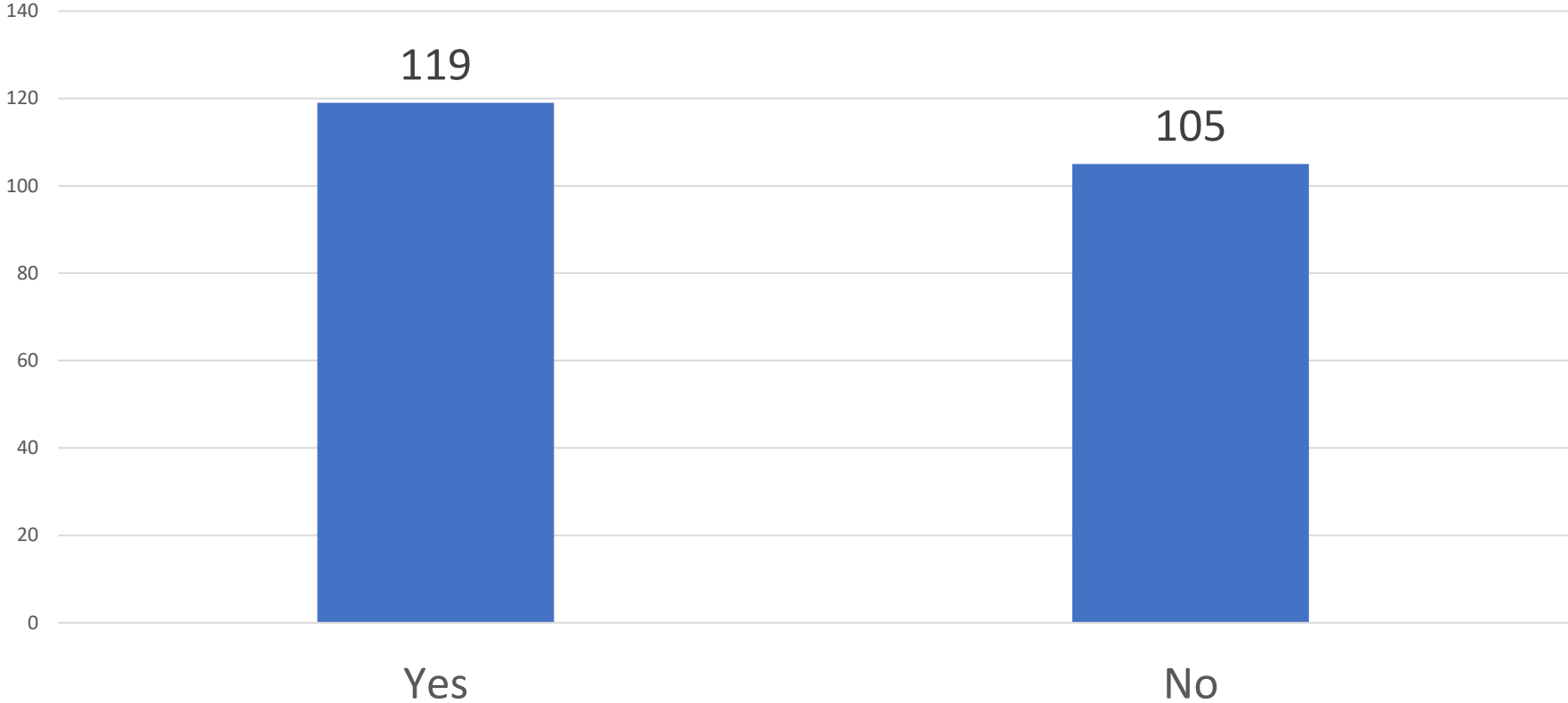
	PREFER 1 FORM	
	Top 2 Box for 1	Bottom 2 Box for 2
Overall	73%	59%
Permanent	76%	64%
Seasonal	70%	55%
Voter	76%	71%
Non Voter	75%	53%
Township	69%	52%
Village	81%	78%

	PREFER 2 FORMS	
	Top 2 Box for 2	Bottom 2 Box for 1
Overall	17%	8%
Permanent	18%	4%
Seasonal	16%	4%
Voter	18%	10%
Non Voter	15%	6%
Township	19%	11%
Village	11%	0%

Every respondent was asked to explain the rating they provided about the number of forms of government. Most of the written comments were in support of a single form of government, and they were spread across a variety of themes, such as a lack of efficiency, the island being too small for 2 governments (which includes both geography and population) and a need for everyone to have representation in local government. Those who support 2 forms of government indicated that the needs of the Village and Township are vastly different.

COMMENT CODING					
Prefer 1 (T2B for 1, B2B for 2)		Neutral		Prefer 2 (T2b for 2, B2B for 1)	
148 Written Comments		48 Written Comments		29 Written Comments	
Duplicative/Wasteful/Less Efficient	47	Don't know enough to have an opinion	24	Needs between Village and Township are different	12
Island too small to need 2 forms	35	Have additional questions	4	Am okay with how things run now	3
Need better representation	22	Actually prefer 1 form	4	Other	14
Conflict between 2 forms is harmful	20	Other	16		
Other	24				

Would you be in favor of monthly rental housing zones on the island to promote neighborhood (single family) living?



When asked if they had any additional comments about life on the island, many respondents indicated they'd like to reduce the party atmosphere on the island as well as increase police enforcement. There were many mentions of the golf carts, and none of them were positive.

140 Written Comments	
Reduce party atmosphere	22
Better police enforcement	20
Golf carts are problematic	17
Need more facilities/services	17
Life on the island is great	13
Need stronger local government	12
Unsure about monthly rental zone	11
Need improved medical care	4
Other	24