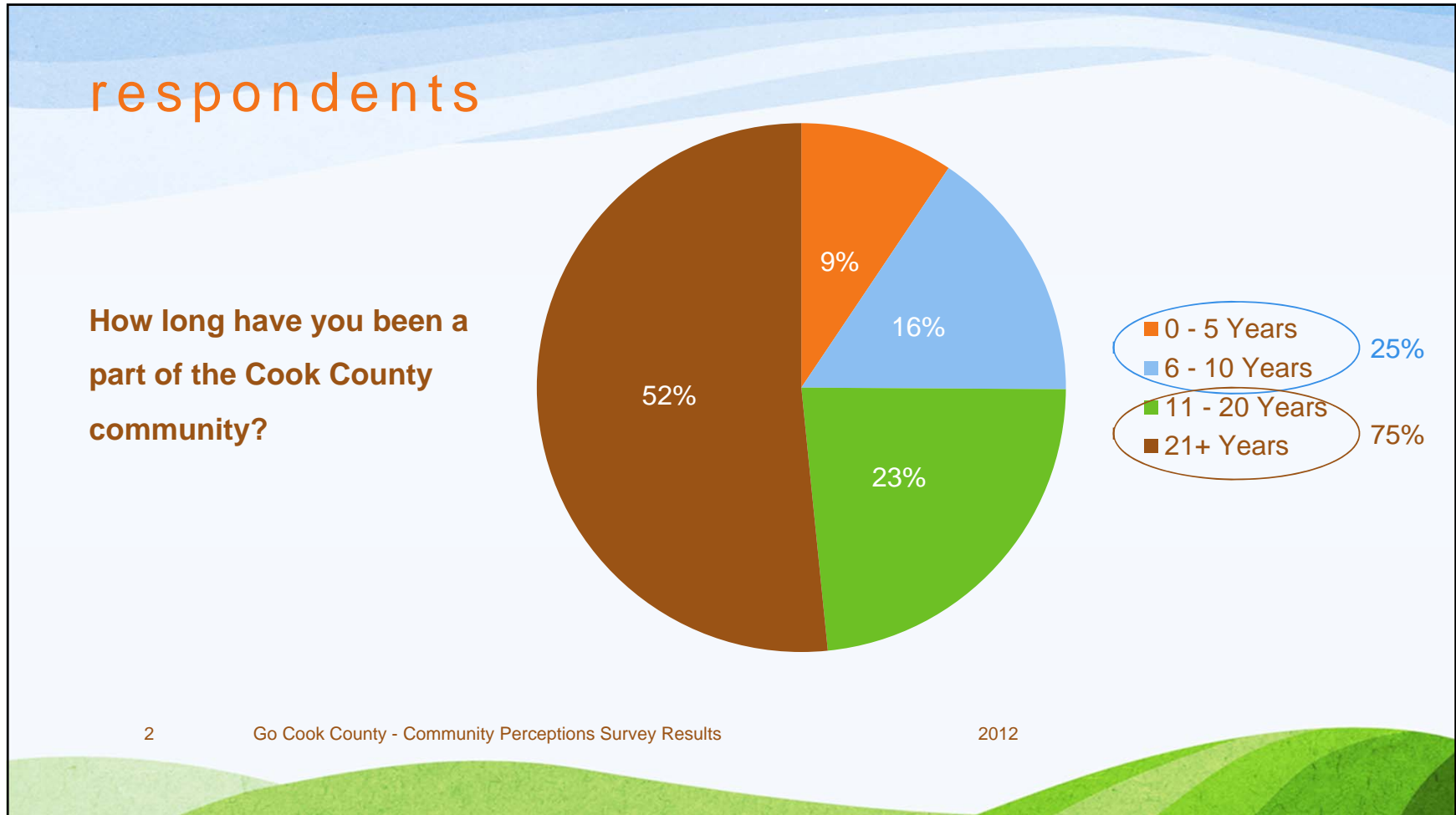




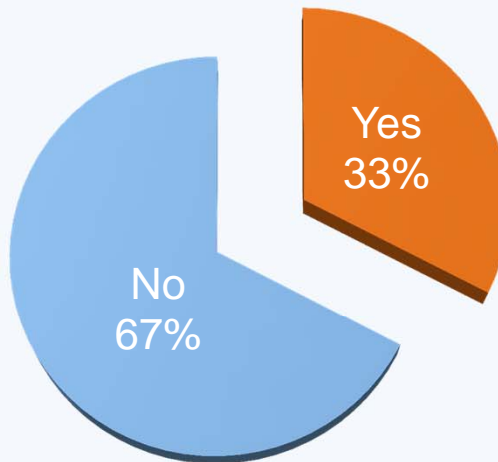
introduction

- 398 responses
- Perception of what we value
- Why is this important?
- What did we learn?
- Situation assessment
 - Economic Analysis and Comparisons of Cook County's economy
 - Interviews with businesses, government and non-profit leadership
 - Community Perceptions



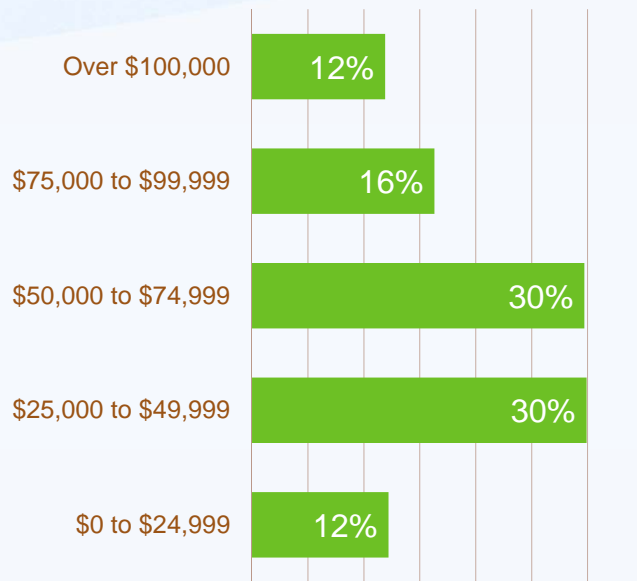
respondents

Do you own or operate a business or not-for-profit entity in Cook County?

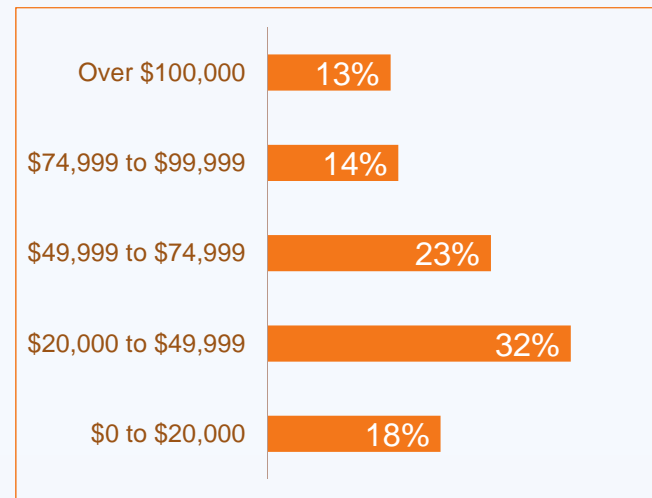


demographics

Family Income (survey respondents)



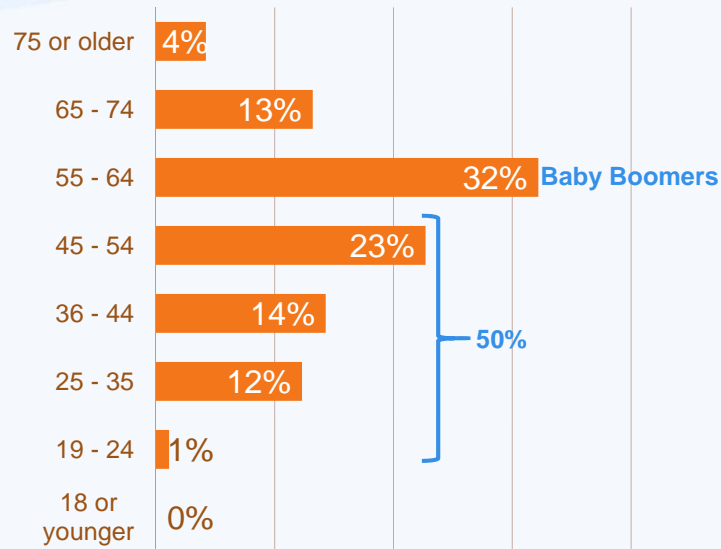
Cook County Household Income Distribution



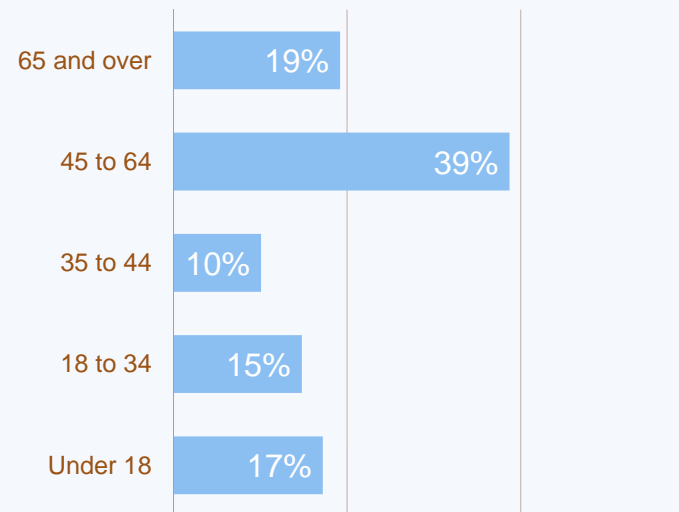
Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2006-2010

demographics

Age (survey respondents)



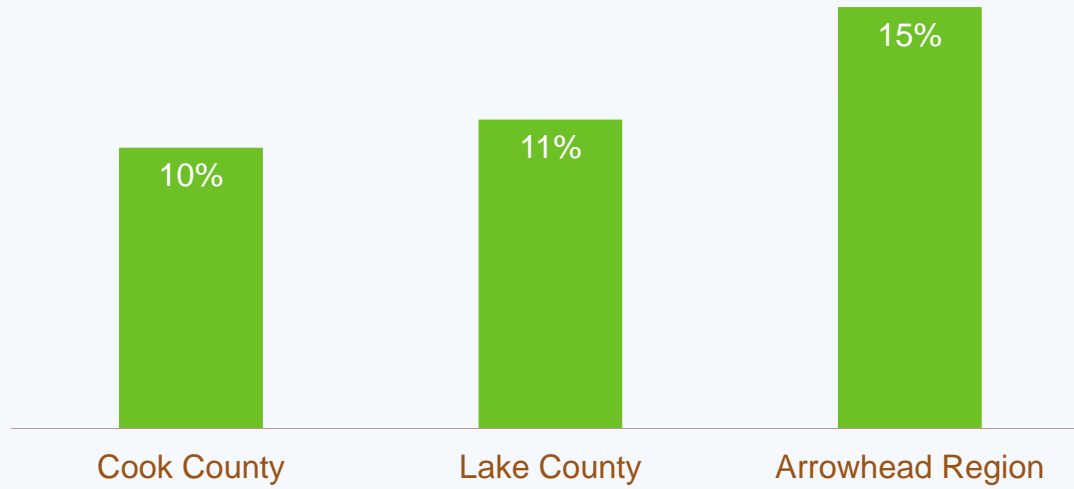
Cook County Population by Age Group, 2010



Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2006-2010

demographics

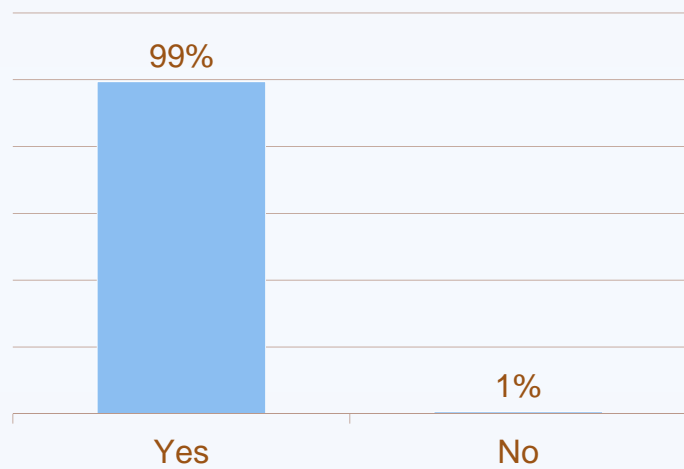
Percent of Population in Poverty, 2010



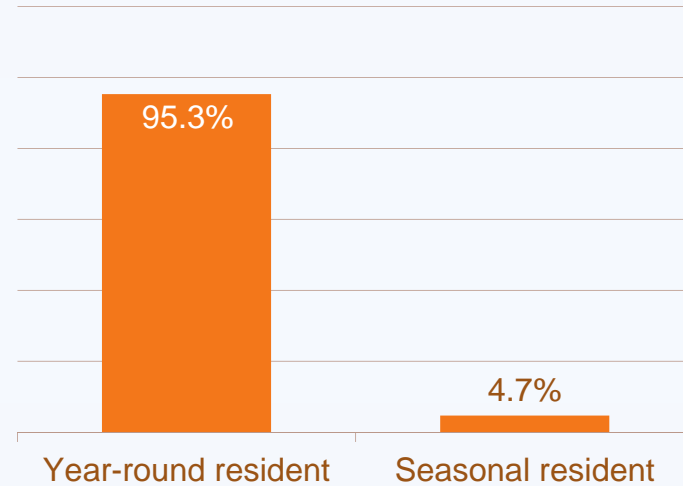
Source: US Census Bureau Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates 2011

responses

Do you live in Cook County?

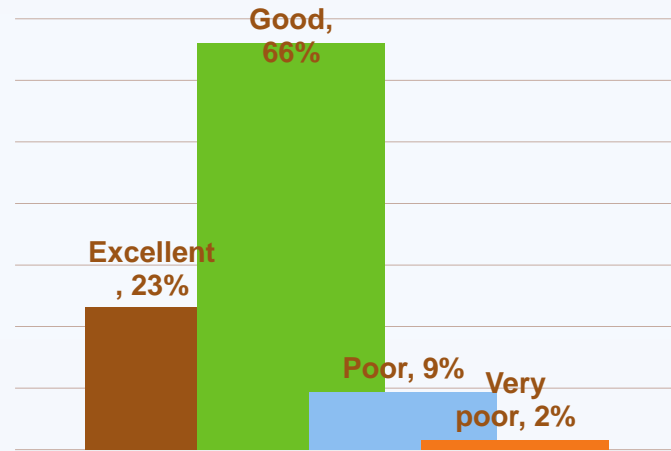


If so, are you a year-round or seasonal resident?



quality of life factors

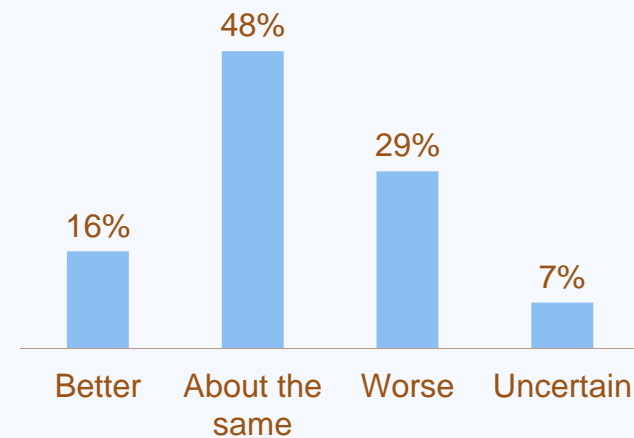
How would you rate the quality of life in Cook County today?



8

Go Cook County - Community Perceptions Survey Results

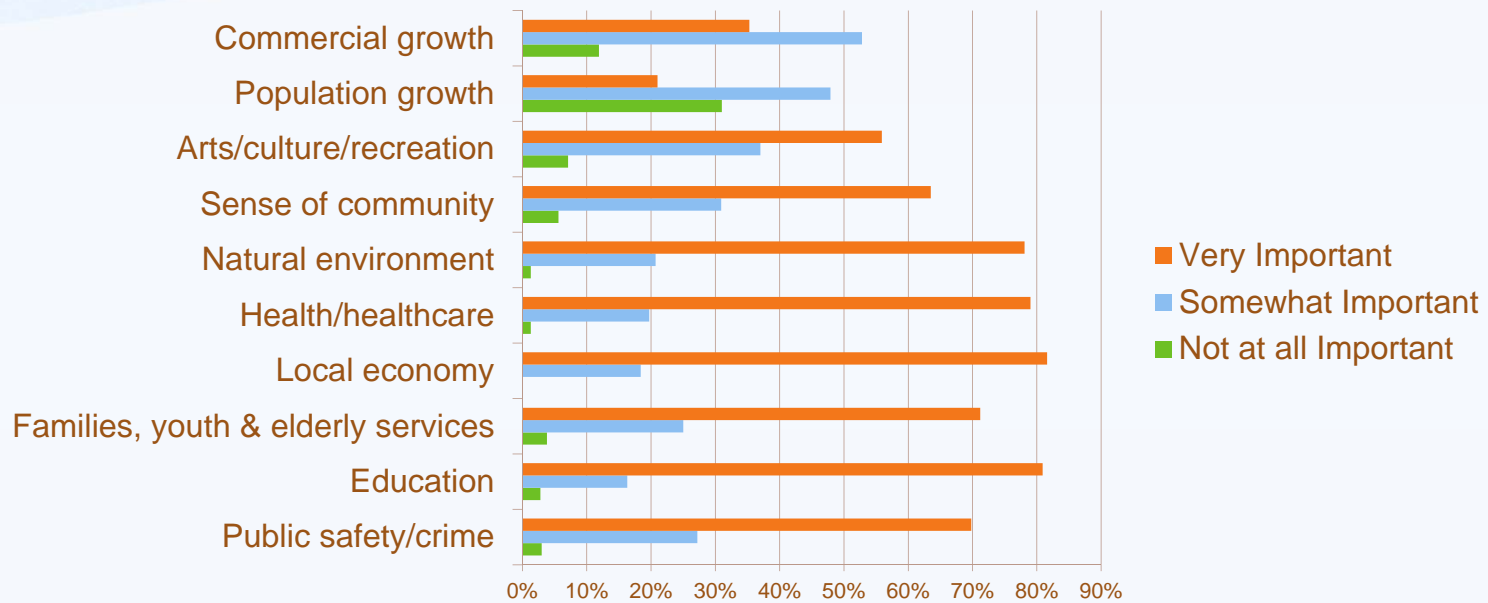
Better, the same, or worse then it was five years ago?



2012

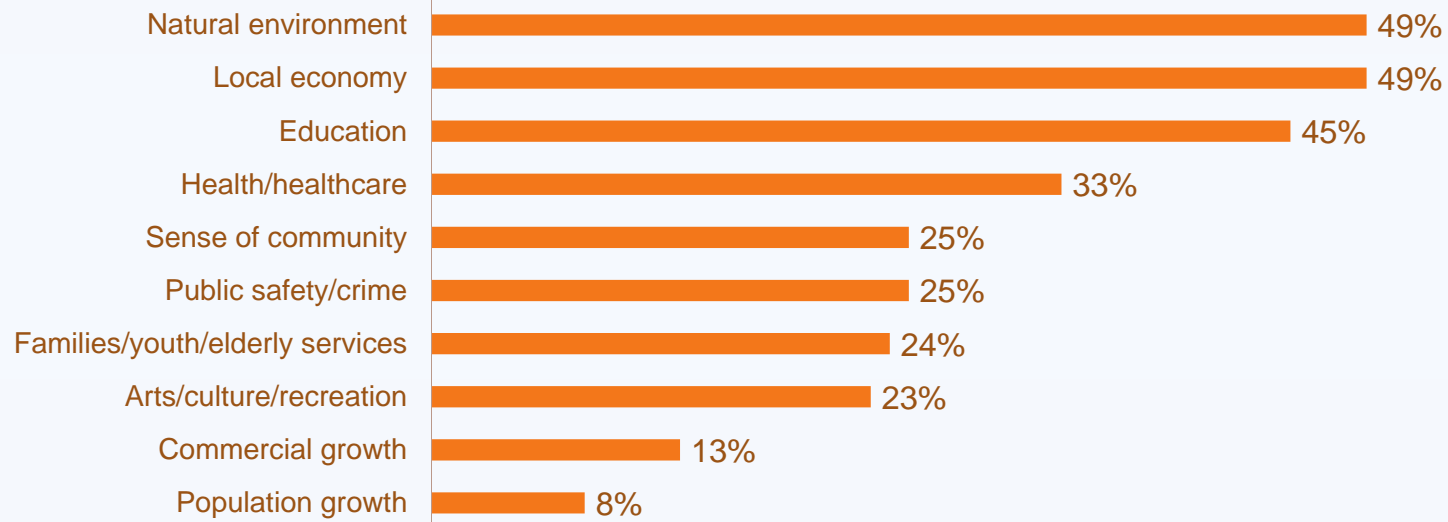
quality of life factors

How important are these quality of life factors to you?



quality of life factors

Which three quality of life factors are most important to you?



quality of life factors

Why?

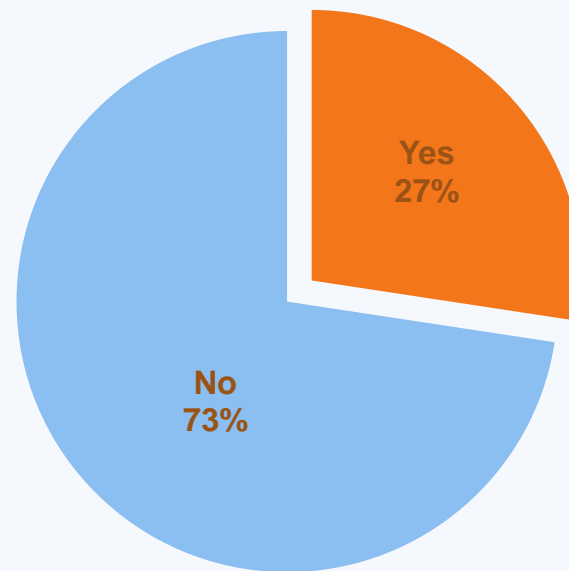
- The environment is our greatest resource/asset in Cook County and is the reason I/we live here.
- The natural environment is what makes Cook County special and wonderful...it differentiates us.
- Most of our business is based on the natural environment
- The natural environment is our responsibility; we share it, take advantage of it and ultimately share it with others.
- Need a strong local economy to be a healthy community.
- The local economy has to be healthy enough to support all the other things we desire in a community.
- We need to attract young families with year round, full time, living wage jobs that are sustainable.
- I want younger adults and families to be able to "make it" in our county
- Without business creating jobs, it is difficult to earn a living and stay in Cook County.
- Too many seasonal jobs, not enough fulltime good paying jobs.
- Lifelong education and learning is important for our youth, families and the economy
- Good education supports our ability to attract and retain young families.
- Quality education and environmental respect/sustainability allow for the long-term health and well-being of the community at large.
- Health care is essential in this remote area even with the advanced technology and transportation.

quality of life factors

If you were able to move out of Cook County tomorrow, would you do it?

7 in 10 would stay

3 in 10 would leave



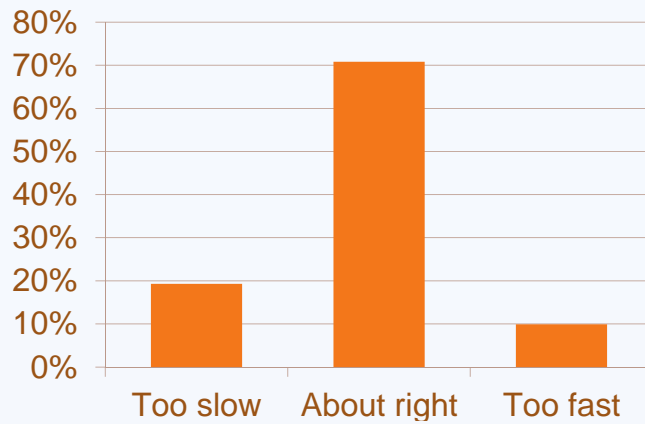
quality of life factors

Why would you move out of Cook County? (295 responses)

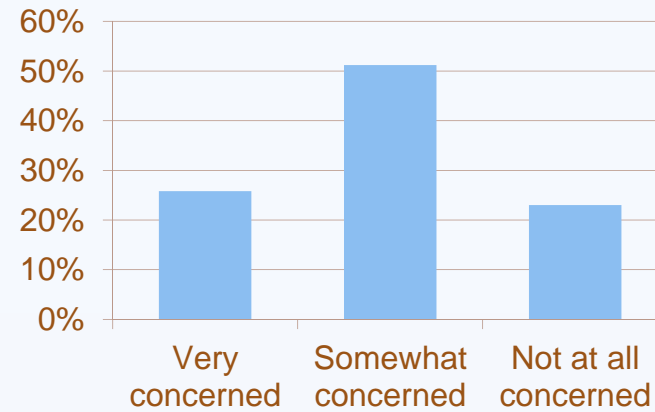
- The cost of living is so high here, wages quite low, and education appears to be suffering. There are more opportunities for young families and children in other places.
- As a professional with two full time employed adults we are barely making ends meet, even with very conservative spending habits.
- Very expensive. I have a pretty good job for our community and still cannot afford anything above and beyond the basic essentials.
- It's taken a lot of effort to stay here over the past years, and despite its hardships and shortcomings, there is no better place to live.
- I've seen many people my age (34) come and go because of lack of jobs, housing, or communications infrastructure.
- I would move because it seems to me that the tourists are the ones that are listened to. And it also seems that we have more and more people moving here from the cities that are taking control of this community. I grew up here and I can tell you that it isn't the way it used to be.

growth implications

How do you feel about Cook County's population growth...



How concerned are you about the effects of Cook County's growth on your quality of life?



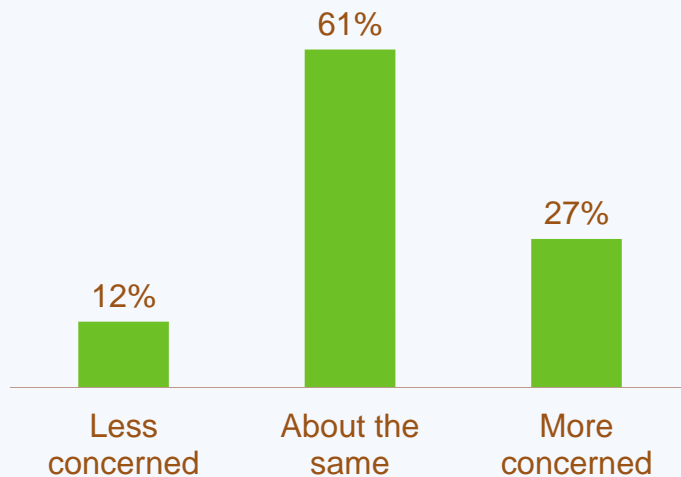
growth implications

If very concerned about growth, why? (148 responses)

- Growth is needed to sustain a healthy environment for all.
- We have passed the population level which the environment will support without degradation.
- Our retirement population is growing but we are drastically losing families with kids. We need the families to keep the community healthy
- I feel that the local economy is not producing enough quality career opportunities for young people in their 20s and 30s.
- Mostly concerned about the lack of growth in families and children and the effect that has on the school system and community overall. I value the vibrancy that diversity brings
- I feel that the older citizens who I think make up the majority of new residents do not understand what it takes for young people and families to continue to live here.
- It is important to continue to grow, however it must be done in the right manner....sustainable, respect for the natural environment.
- I think the remoteness of the county, the price of living, and the limited variety of jobs will keep our growth stagnant no matter what. As long as we live within our means, that is okay.

growth implications

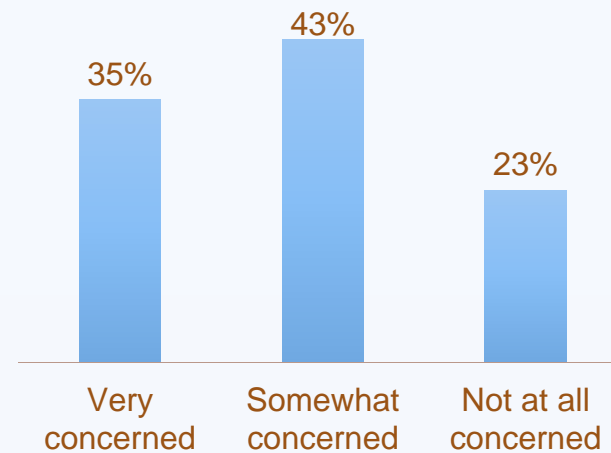
Compared to five years ago, what's your current level of concern regarding Cook County's limited growth?



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Go Cook County - Community Perceptions Survey Results

How concerned are you about the impact that development growth has on the County's aesthetics?



2012

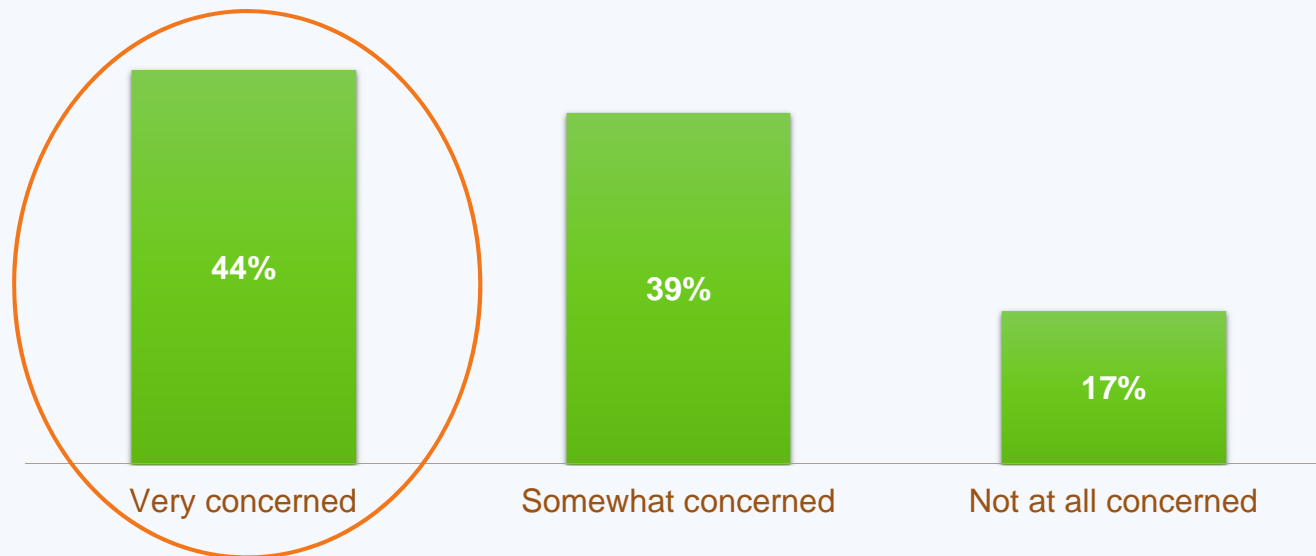
growth implications

Concern about the Impact of Development on Aesthetics (154 responses)

- If we don't conserve our natural beauty, we will never get it back.
- It is really what sets this community apart from everywhere else.
- There seems to be a rational balance of people who want huge development and those who want little change.
- The reason people are drawn to this place is because of the natural beauty and close to pristine environment. It's our biggest asset both economically and aesthetically.
- We should not change the reasons why people come here to visit and live. We should not look like every other community.
- Need to have balance.
- Development and growth will not change the county's aesthetics.
- Intelligence and balance are MUCH more important than "how much".
- Aesthetic reflect the health of our environment - natural and cultural.
- Reasonable well-planned growth must complement our most valuable asset: the scenic beauty of the area.

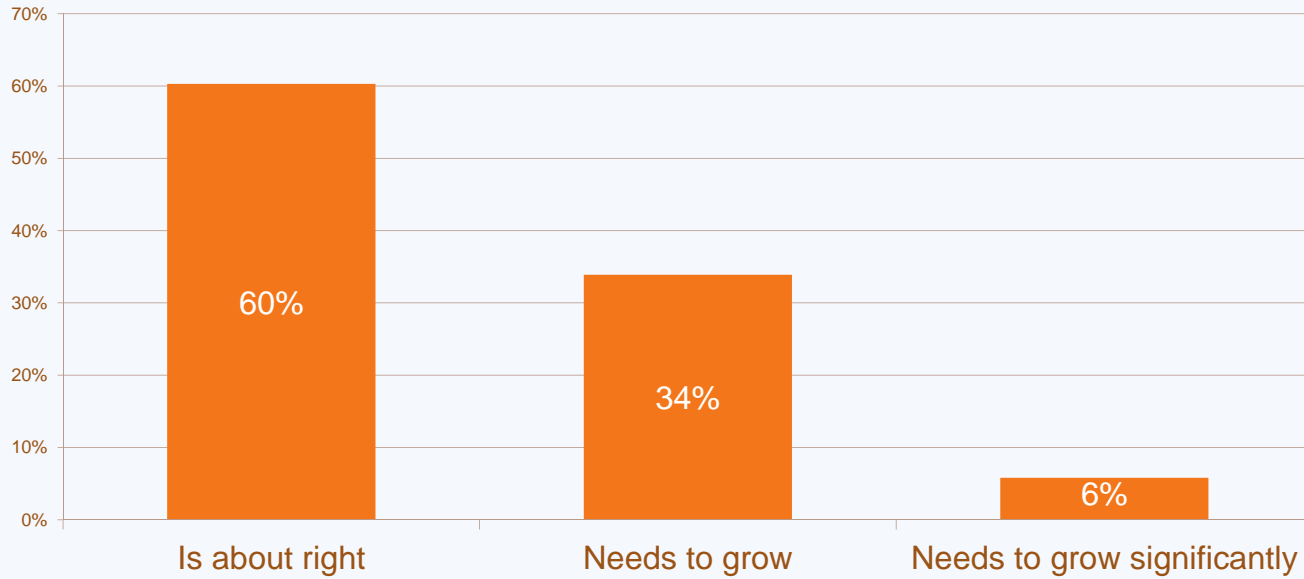
growth implications

How concerned are you about the impact future development growth and diversification has on the natural environment?



growth implications

Cook County's current population of about 5,200 . . .



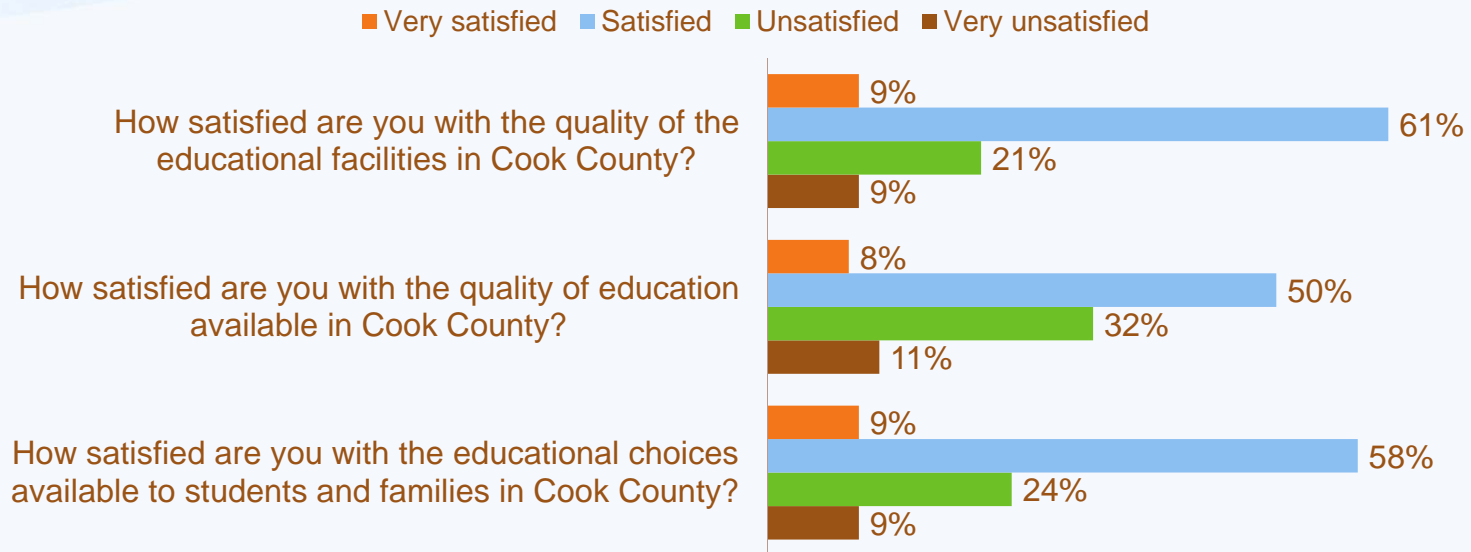
growth implications

Ideal population

- 10,000 -20,000 7%
- 8,000 3%
- 7,500 3%
- 6,500 1%
- 6,000 5%
- As is 5,200 3%
- 5,000 3%
- 4,000 or less 3%

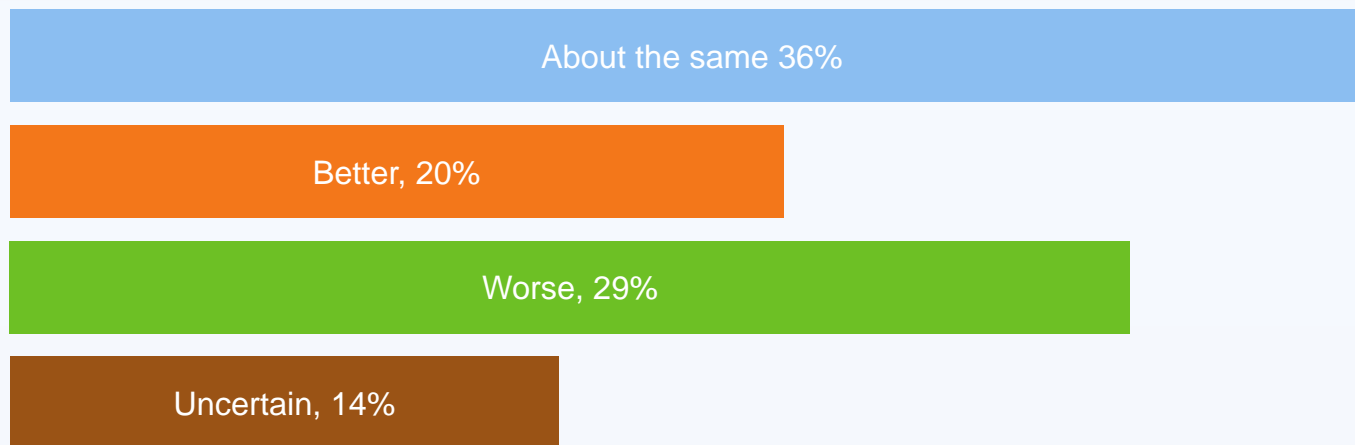
education satisfaction

Please rate the following:



education satisfaction

Do you feel the quality of education is better, about the same, or worse then five years ago?



education satisfaction

Positives:

- Higher education is great and continuing to improve
- Better choices with Charter School offerings
- Improved curriculum and distance learning options
- Good education offerings...improving overall

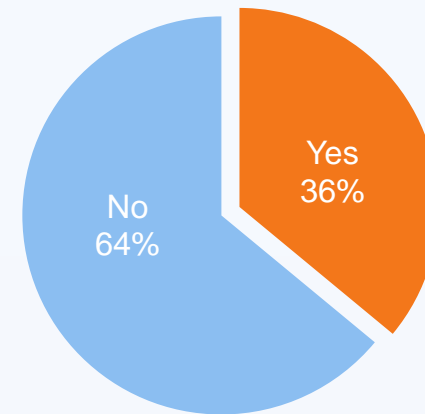
Negatives:

- Education system is broken...state and nationally
- Quality overall is declining
- Number of students is declining annually
- Too many Charter Schools dividing limited resources
- Too many buildings to be maintained
- Funding cuts every year
- Education leadership concerns
- Safety concerns
- Performance scores are down
- Teacher tenure and performance is a question
- Lack of trades training
- Lack of special education support

education satisfaction



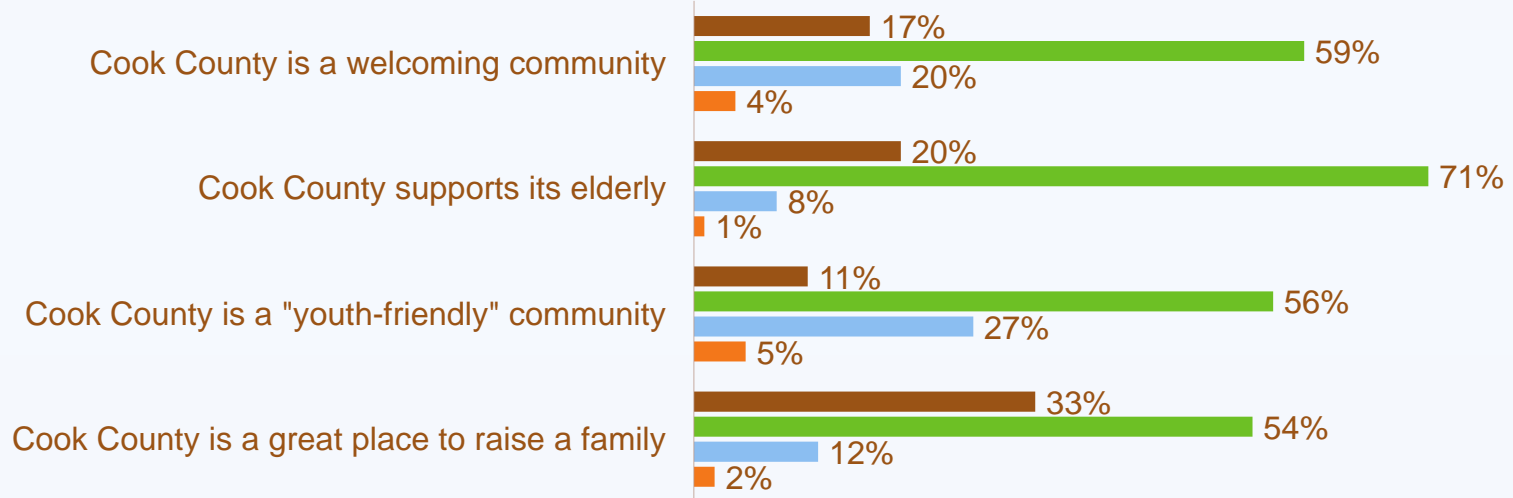
Do you have, or have you had school aged children residing in Cook County in the past five years?



family values

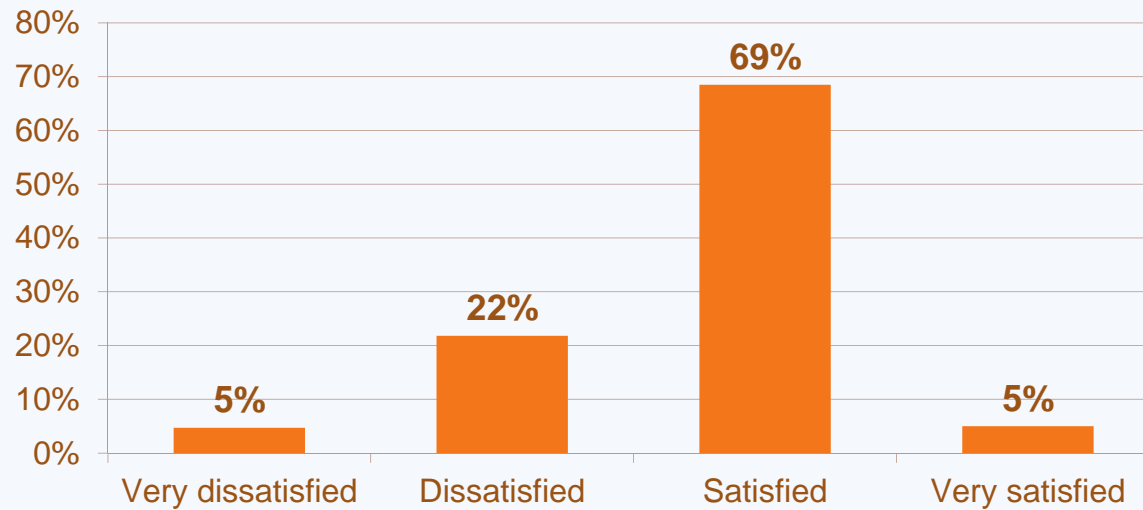
Please rate the following:

■ Strongly agree ■ Agree ■ Disagree ■ Strongly disagree



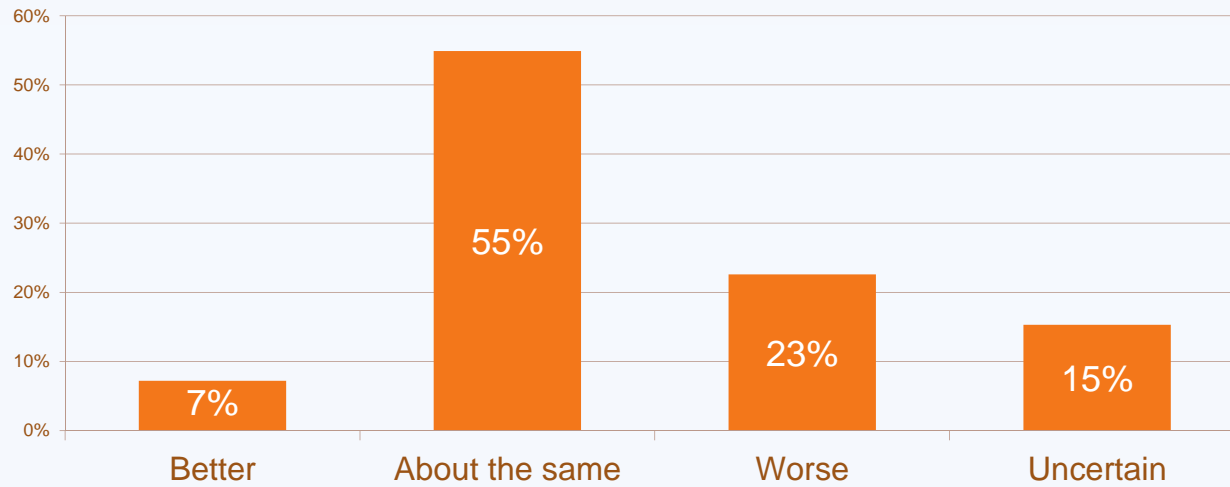
family values

How satisfied are you with the access and quality of child care services?



family values

As a place to raise a family, is Cook County today better, worse, or about the same as it was five years ago?



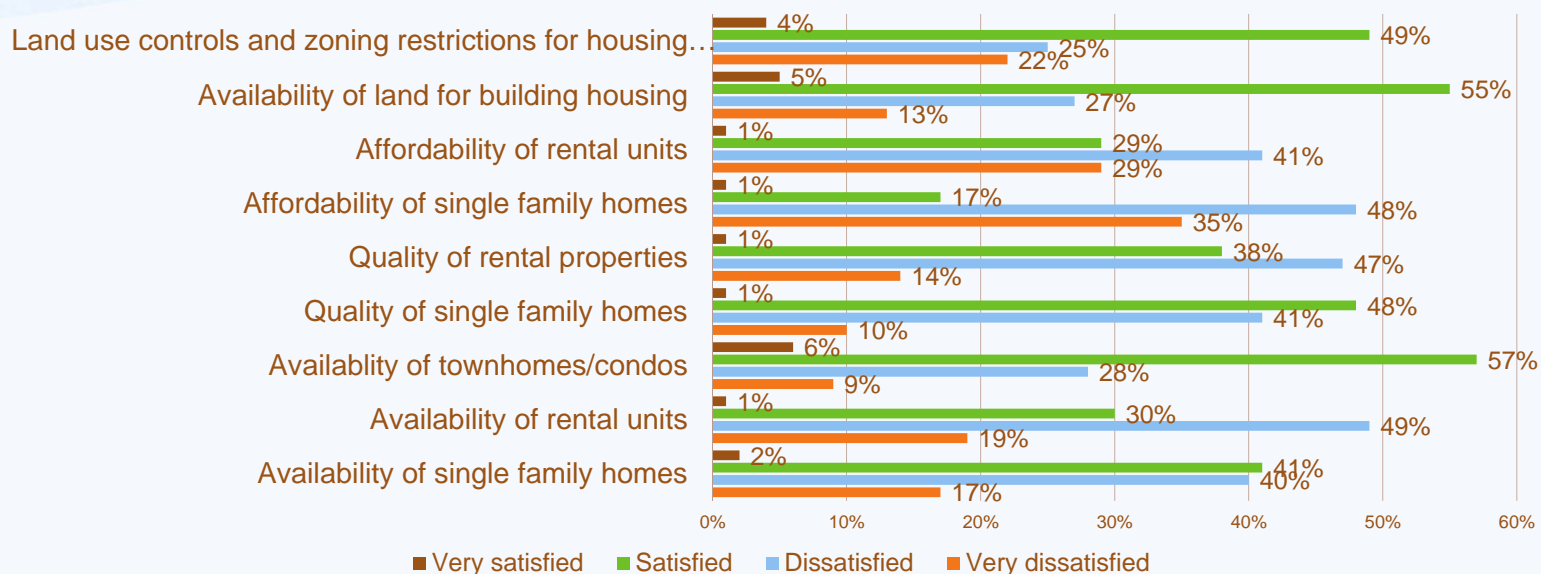
family values

Most Important Things in Making a Community a Great Place to Raise a Family

- Good schools and education options for all ages, including early childhood programs and higher education
- Safe place
- Activities and places for youth activities...year round
- Living wage jobs to support families and kids
- Afford to live here
- Affordable housing
- Cultural and recreational opportunities
- Welcoming to families
- Sense of community and caring support
- Quality health care
- Natural environment
- Churches and morals
- .
- .

housing

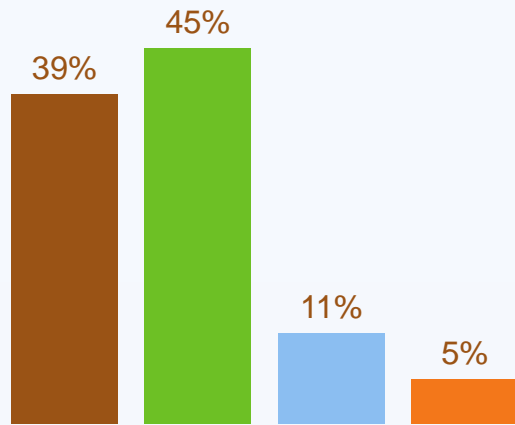
How satisfied are you with the following:



employment

How satisfied are you with your current job?

- Very satisfied
- Satisfied
- Dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied

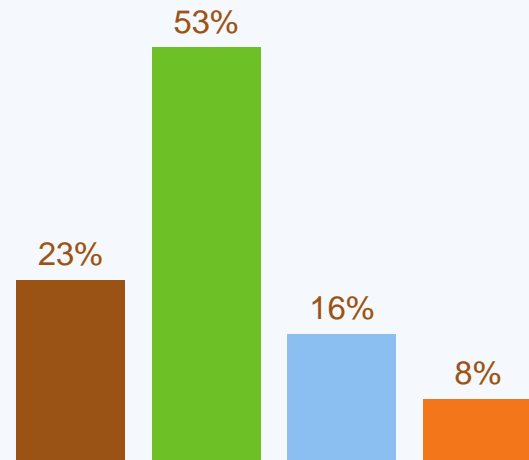


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Go Cook County - Community Perceptions Survey Results

How would you rate your current job security?

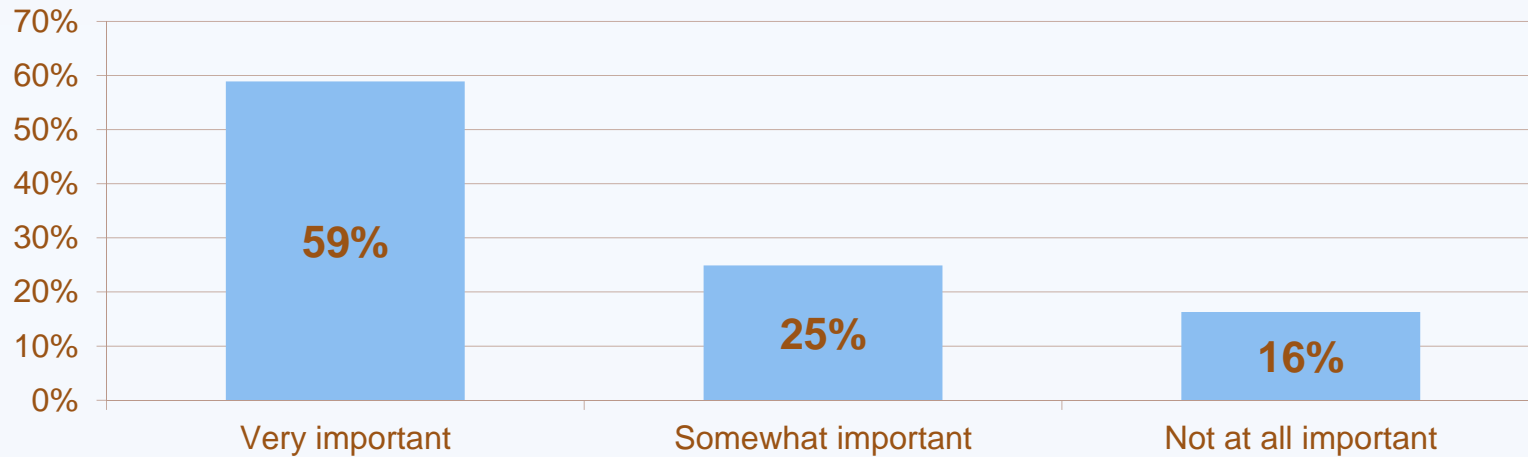
- Very secure
- Secure
- Insecure
- Very insecure



2012

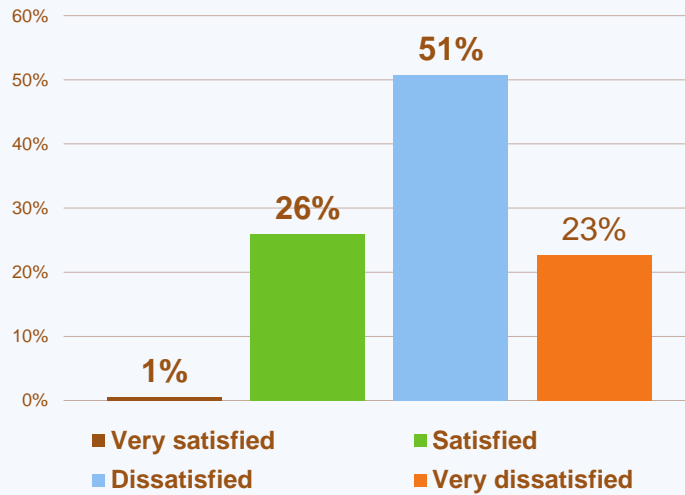
employment

How important are employee benefits, such as health insurance, in your choosing to live and work in Cook County?

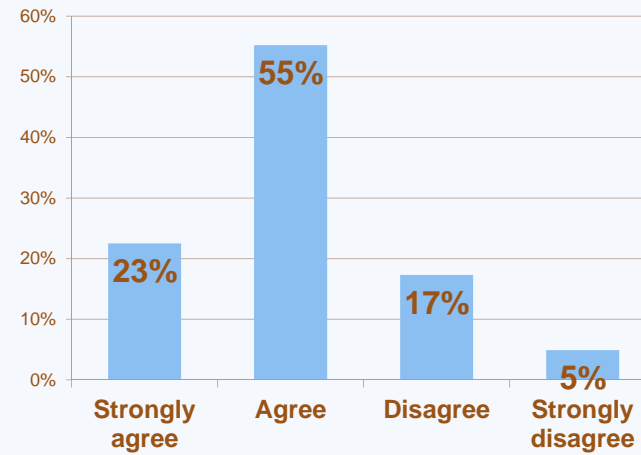


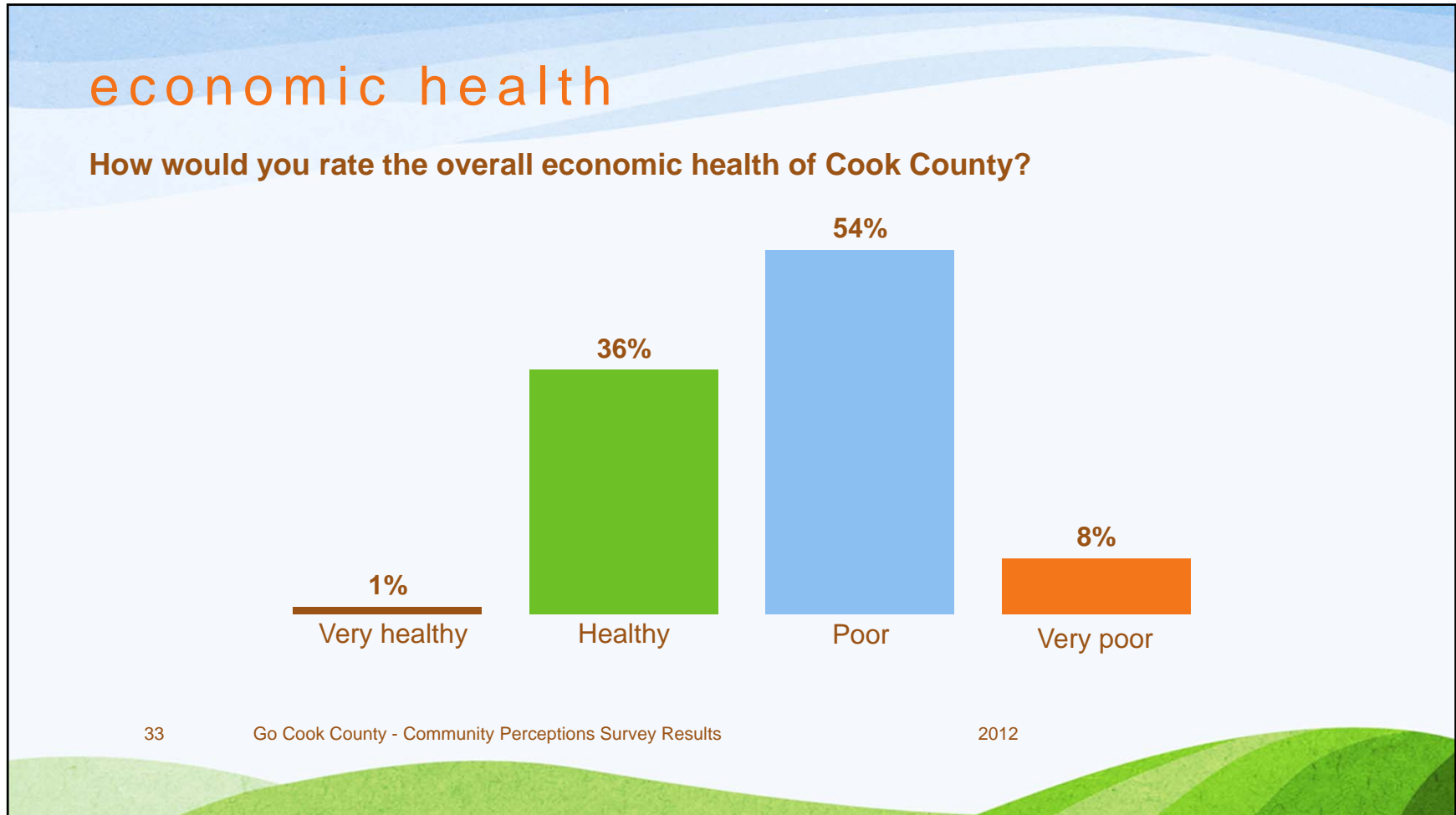
employment

How do you feel about employment opportunities in Cook County?



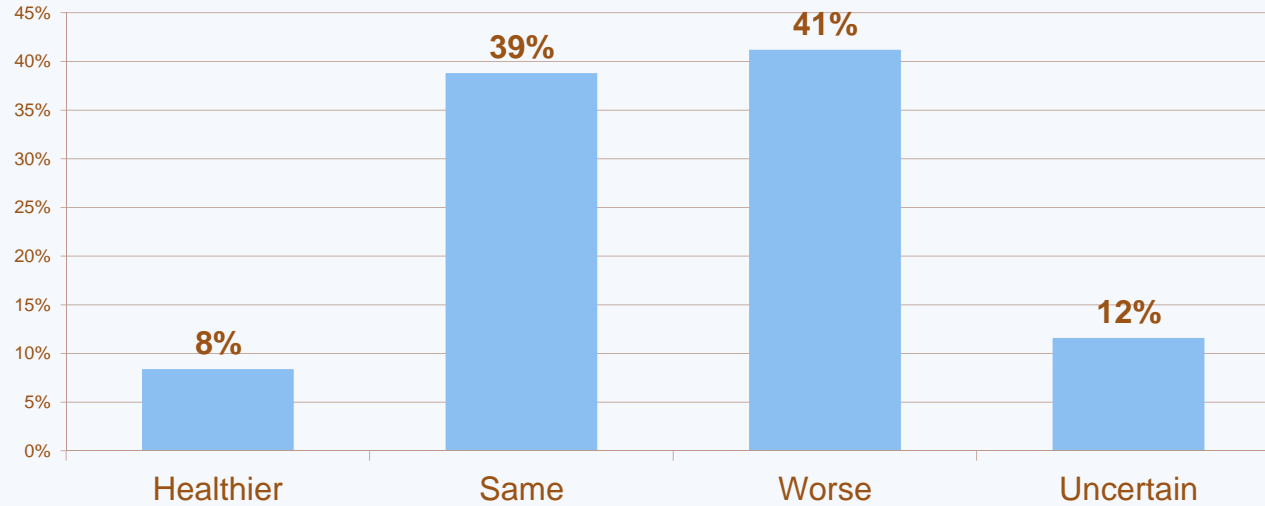
Do you agree that the commercial growth in the County is good for our quality of life?





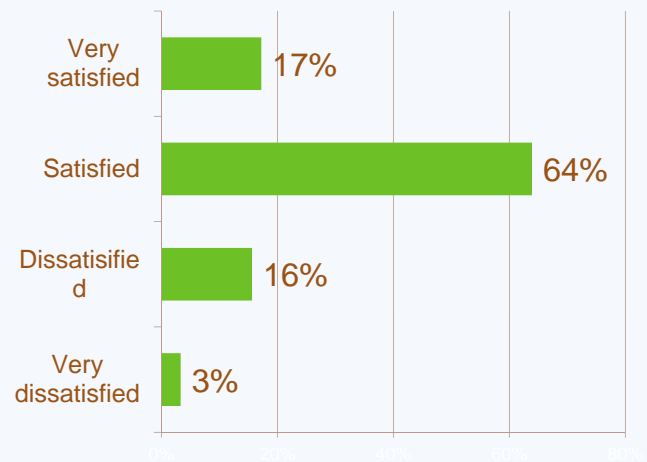
economic health

Do you believe that the economy of Cook County is healthier, the same, or worse than it was five years ago?

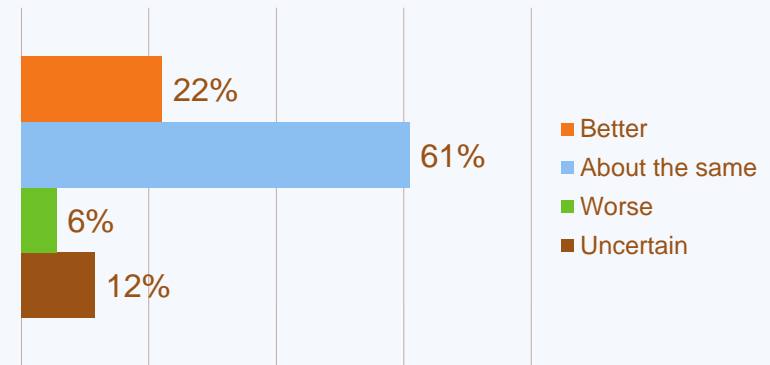


health care and wellness

How satisfied are you with the quality of health care in Cook County?

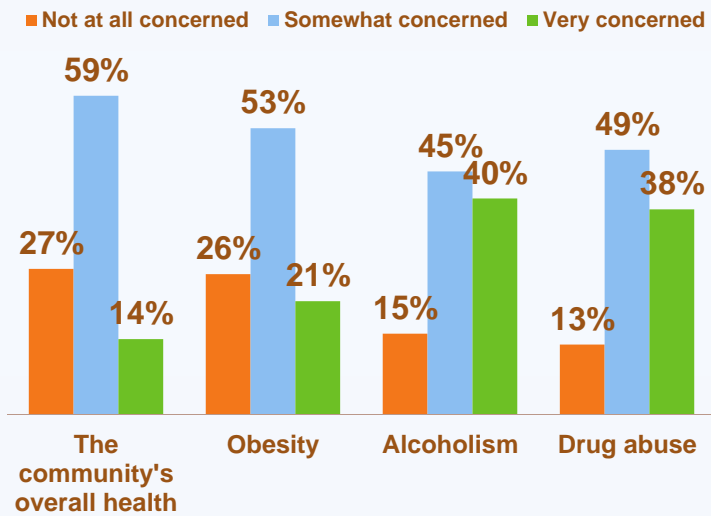


Would you say the quality of health care in Cook County is worse, better, or about the same as five years ago?

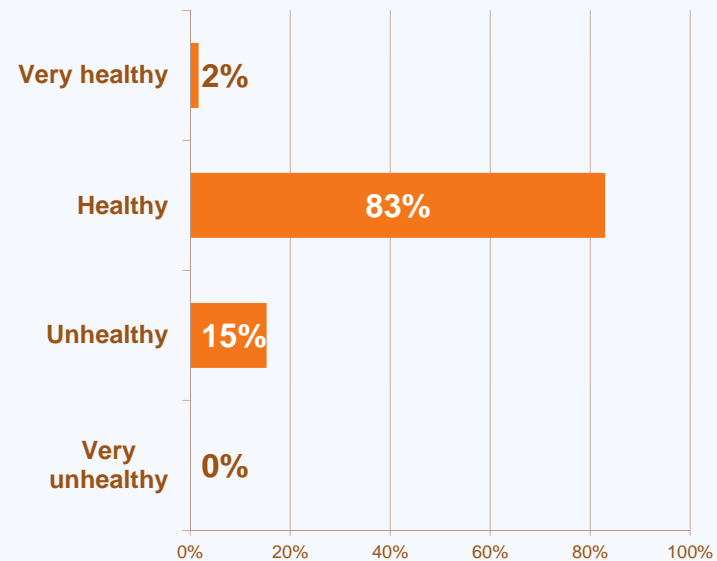


health care and wellness

How concerned are you with the following in Cook County?

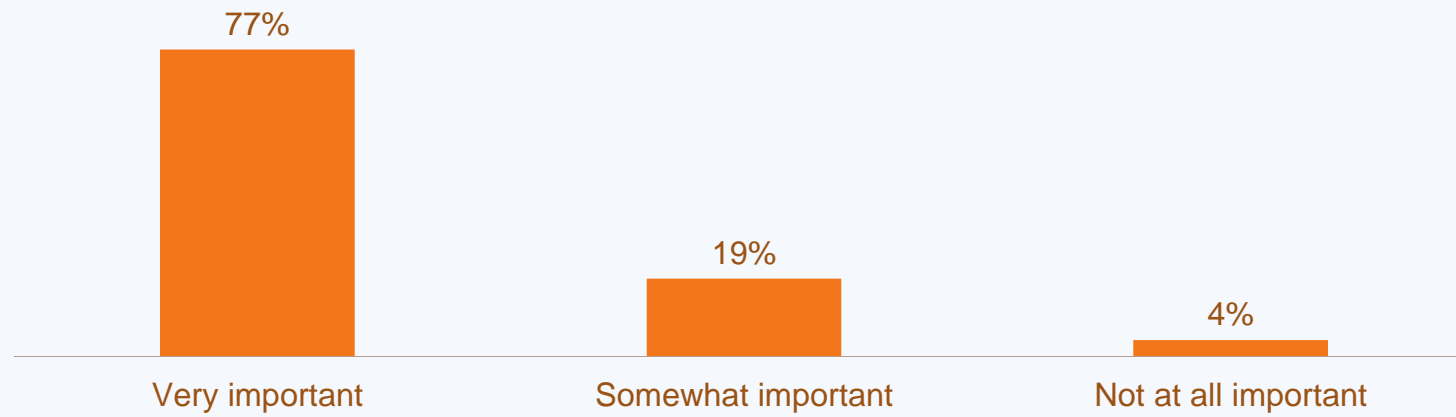


How would you rate the overall wellness of Cook County's citizens?



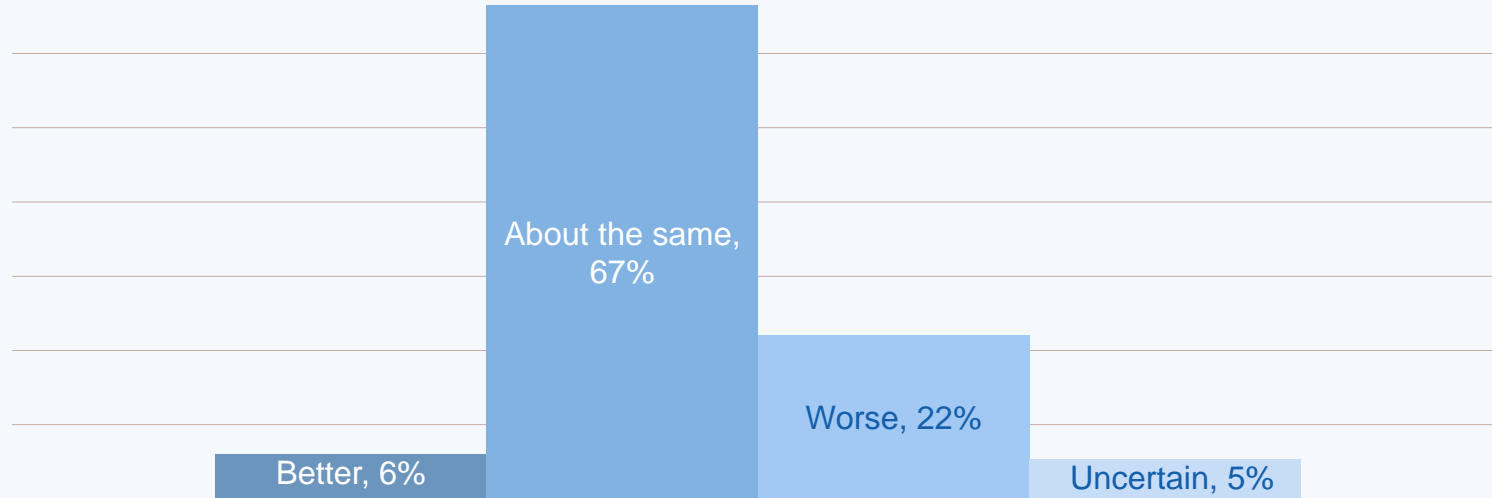
natural environment

How important is the natural environment in you choosing to live and/or work in Cook County?



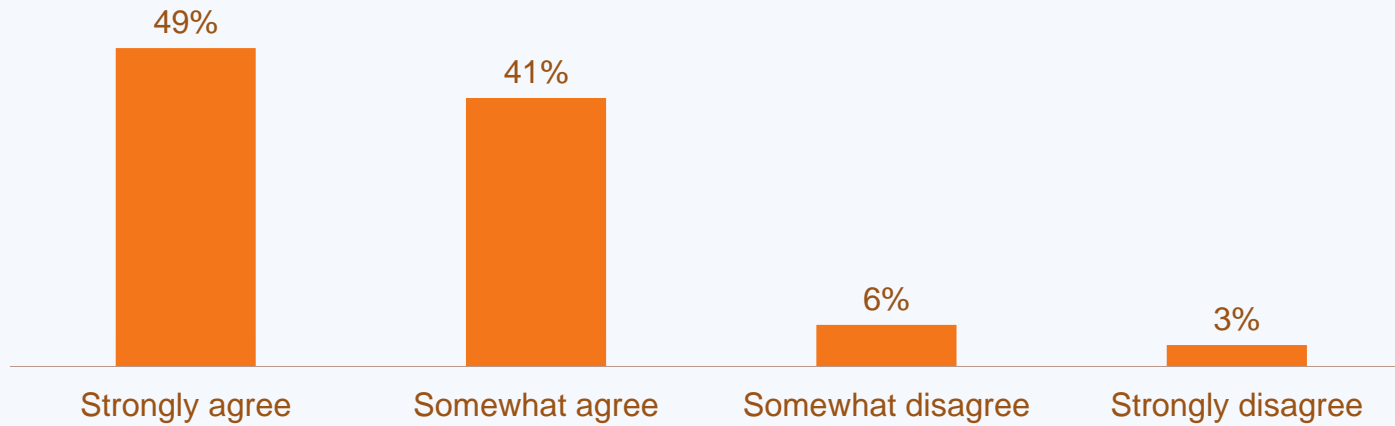
natural environment

In your view, has the quality of the natural environment in Cook County gotten better, worse, or stayed the same over the past five years?



natural environment

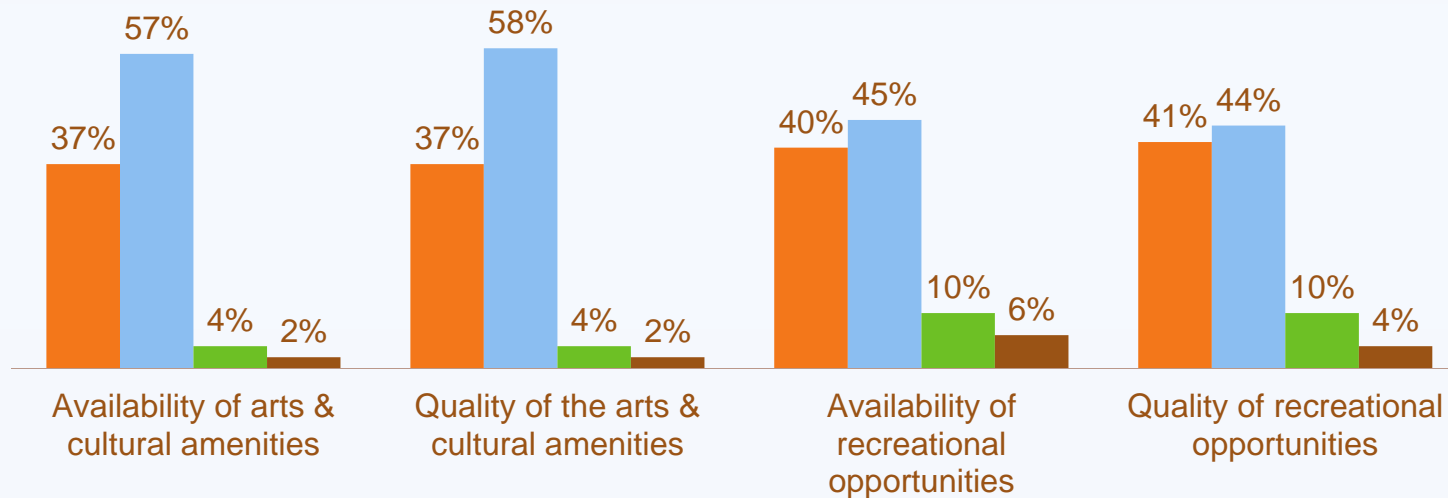
Do you agree that sustaining a quality of natural environment can be balanced with sustainable economic growth and vitality in Cook County?



arts • culture • recreation

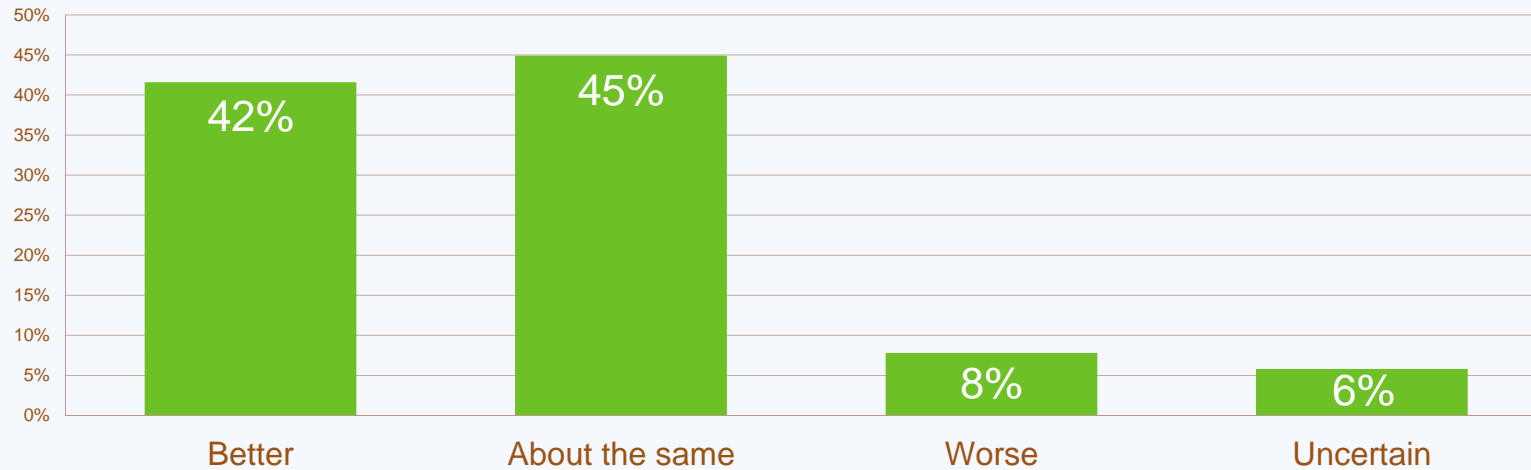
How satisfied are you with the following?

Very satisfied Satisfied Dissatisfied Very dissatisfied



arts • culture • recreation

Do you believe the arts, cultural and recreational amenities in Cook County are better, the same, or worse than five years ago?



social values • leadership • vision

Please rate the following:

