



# Southwest Mesa Community Planning Area (CPA) Pre-Assessment Survey Results



## Summary

The Planning Department promoted a Pre-Assessment Survey from January 21<sup>st</sup> 2021 to December 15<sup>th</sup> 2022 to gather input on the priorities of Southwest Mesa residents. This survey allows residents throughout the city can respond at any time to communicate their priorities to the Long Range team. Near the halfway point of each assessment, the responses related to the corresponding CPA are downloaded and analyzed to inform engagement activities, community priorities, and the assessment report.

The Pre-Assessment Survey helps the CPA team identify high-level community priorities in each CPA. This survey was the first opportunity for people to give input and helps clarify some community priorities. The survey asks respondents to identify their top three priority topics from the ten elements in the Comprehensive Plan along with additional priorities, reasons, and suggestions. The relatively open format of the questions allows for a broad range of responses.

Two versions of this survey were created during the engagement process. The second version of the survey features slight revisions to the demographic questions, which were updated to reflect demographic questions used by the City's Office of Equity and Inclusion. Both versions of the Pre-Assessment Survey are otherwise identical. The first version of this survey was closed in April 2022, which is when the second version of the survey was created.

Some of the key take-aways for the Southwest Mesa are the importance of Infrastructure, Community Facilities & Services, Housing, Parks & Open Space, and Transportation. Residents have many ideas for improving their area. Regarding the survey respondents, more outreach is needed to engage people of color, people who speak languages other than English, and young people.

## Survey Distribution

The current (second) version of the survey is posted to the project webpage (<https://cpa.abc-zone.com/going-engagement>) and the first version was emailed to a distribution list of approximately 10,000 email addresses on January 29 and March 9, 2021. These email addresses were collected by the City of Albuquerque Planning Department from people that [signed up via the website](#), attended events, and/or became Neighborhood Association representatives. The link to the survey was posted on the ABC-Z Facebook page and was shared on the City of Albuquerque Twitter account. The link to this survey was also sent to an email distribution list associated with the Southwest Mesa, which included 83 addresses on March 3 and 621 addresses on April 9.

This first version of this survey was primarily promoted online, while the second version was promoted both online and during in-person outreach opportunities. For example, the survey was promoted at the

Roadrunner Food Bank in November 2022. Forty (40) surveys were filled out during this outreach opportunity, which accounts for slightly less than half of the total survey responses.

Ninety-five (95) people completed this survey overall, including 41 respondents to the first version and 54 responses to the second version. While this is not a statistically valid sampling of the Southwest Mesa CPA, it is useful as a source of input and is one of many ways input is being given during the Southwest Mesa CPA assessment.

## Findings

The survey consists of 12 questions. Eight (8) questions were related to demographics and location and are discussed below. Four (4) questions asked about community priorities based on [Comprehensive Plan Elements](#), and three (3) questions were open-ended prompts.

### What are the 3 most important topics to you?

Participants are first asked to pick their top 3 priorities. The topic of infrastructure, community facilities, and services was the most common priority noted by community members, with 46% of respondents including it in their top three most important topics. Housing (40%), Parks & Open space (36%), and Transportation (35%) were also highly-mentioned priorities. See Figure 1 and Figure 2 below for results from both versions of the survey.

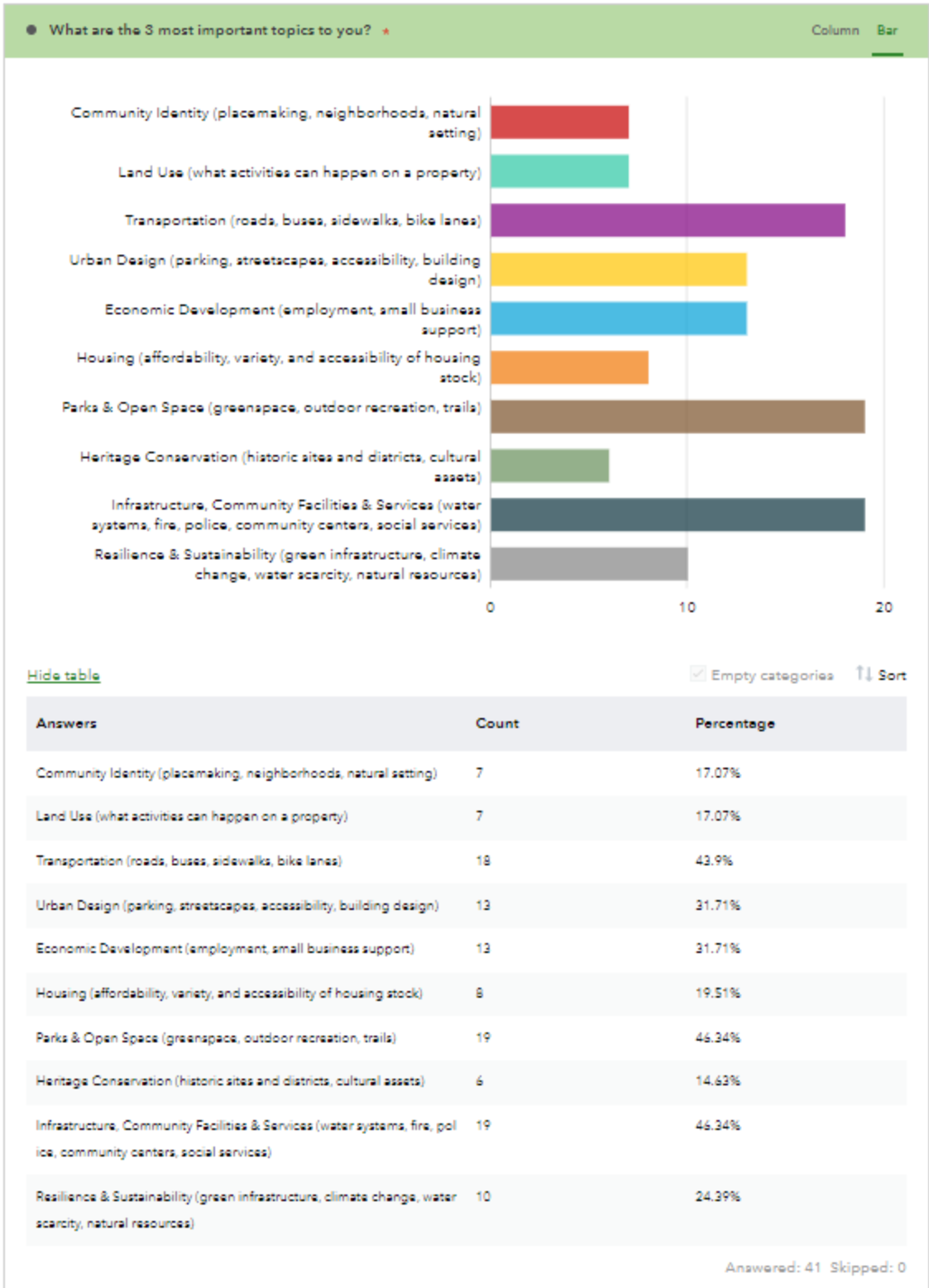


Figure 1: Three Most Important Topics (first version of survey)

Your Priorities

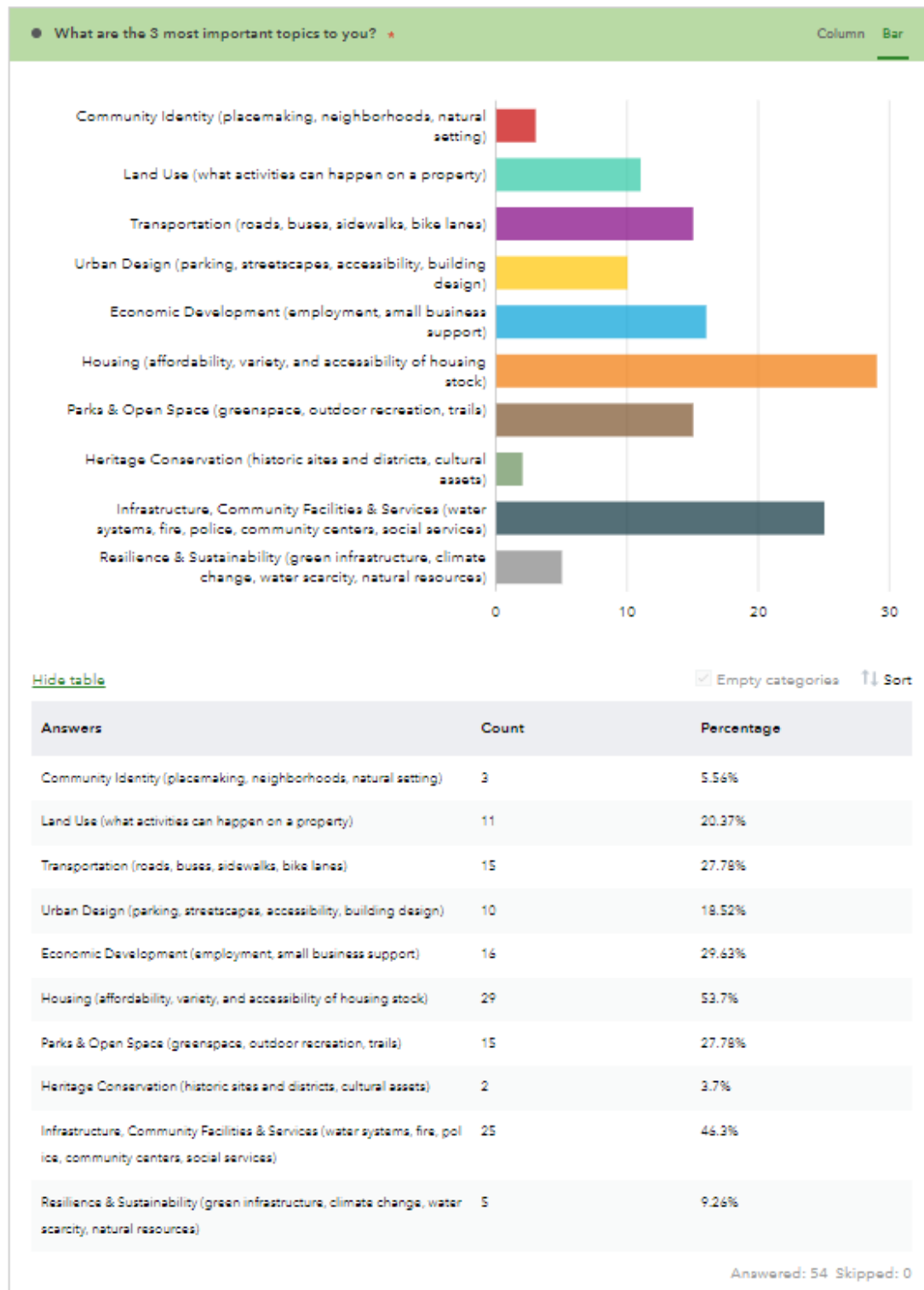


Figure 2 Three Most Important Topics (second version of survey)

Of the 3 that you chose, which is most important and why?

This is an open-ended question. The responses are summarized by topic and listed in order of how many respondents identified that topic as a priority. Twenty-two (22) respondents answered this question in the first version of the survey while 4 skipped it. Forty-five respondents answered this question in the second version of the survey while 9 skipped it. See Figures 3 and 4 below. Direct responses to this question are included below Figures 3 and 4.

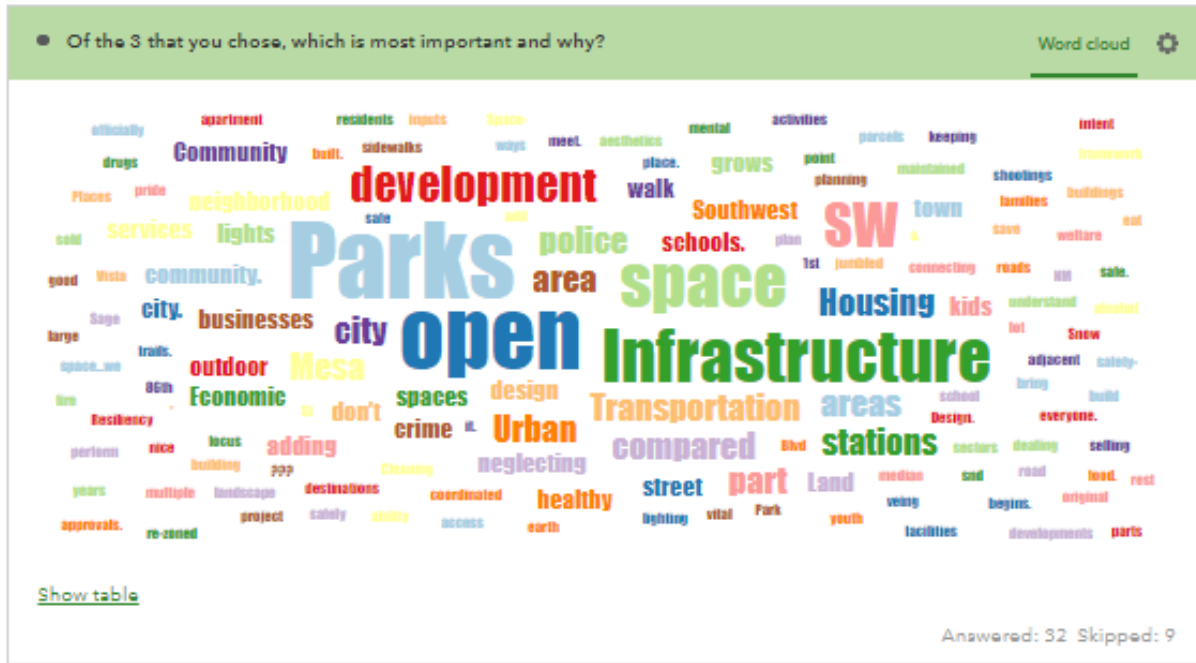


Figure 3: Most Important Topic (first version of survey)

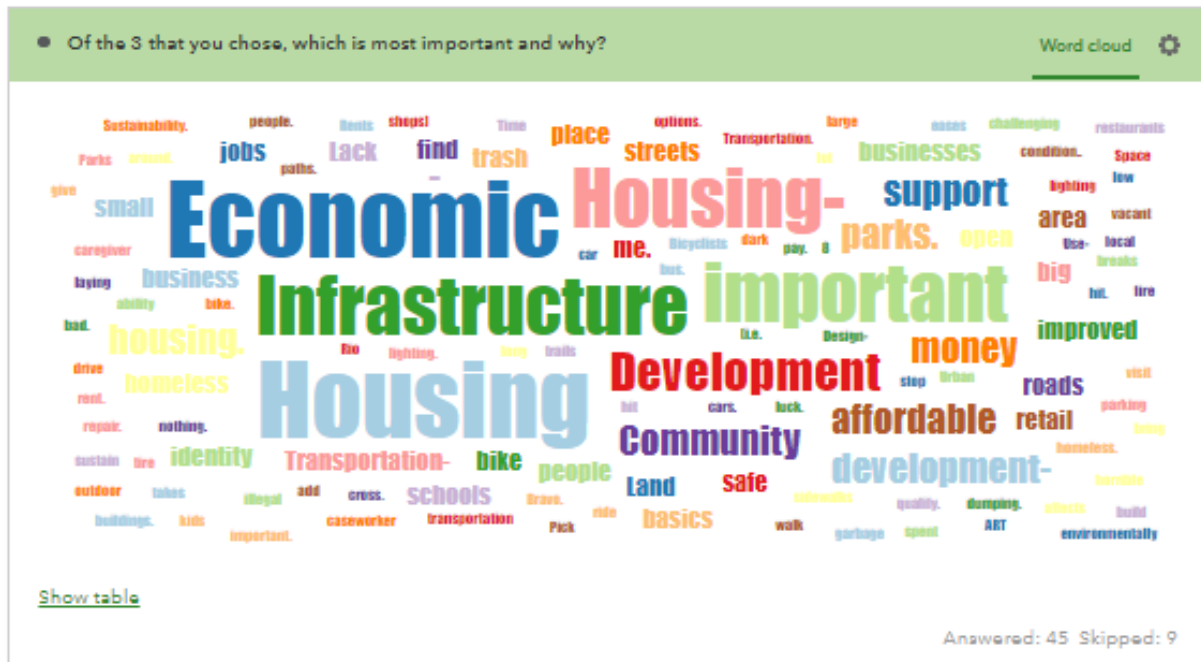


Figure 4 Most Important Topic (second version of survey)

### Infrastructure, Community Facilities & Services (Direct Responses)

- More sidewalks for kids to walk to school, few existing
- Infrastructure because this part of town need more police stations, better water pressure above “42psi”and crime control
- More infrastructure, little existing
- Better infrastructure, more sidewalks, and public services
- More schools
- Infrastructure...we have NONE
- More public emergency services and water infrastructure
- Infrastructure for police and street lights
- Infrastructure needs to happen before community gets to big
- The streets need repair. There needs to be more lighting in parks.
- There is too much trash laying around. Pick up the garbage and trash on streets and stop the illegal dumping.
- We need more lighting. Especially on Rio Bravo. It's too dark and people get hit trying to cross. There aren't any sidewalks or bike paths. Bicyclists are getting hit.
- There needs to be improved street maintenance on residential streets. Time the traffic lights better for turning.
- Schools are most important to me.
- Infrastructure is the most important to me because I have a disability.
- Infrastructure because we need improved schools, libraries, safe spaces for children.
- Infrastructure because it affects everything.
- Infrastructure because the basics need to be covered. No development should take place without the proper basics like fire and police
- Infrastructure community facilities and services would be most important having police stations and fire stations and other public services available and nearby neighborhoods reduce his crime increase his property values desirability and ensures our neighborhood is safe. This part of town is lacking in nearly all things when compared to the rest of the city. Is this part of the city grows we need the city of Albuquerque to ensure that it grows properly uniformly and has the proper infrastructure.
- Infrastructure
- We need schools.

### Housing (Direct Responses)

- No affordable housing. Service profession in housing is not professional.
- The homeless.
- Housing because it needs to be affordable.
- The homelessness issue has become a big problem.
- Housing is very important because we have a large homeless population.
- It's too expensive for people. Rents are higher than mortgages.
- Housing for the homeless, build housing for people sleeping on the street.
- Housing
- My daughter can't find a place to rent. Lack of affordable options. Section 8 doesn't give enough money to find a safe apartment.
- Nobody wants to work and nobody has the ability to pay.
- We need low income housing because now we lack affordability
- We need affordable housing. Dental care is too expensive.

### Economic Development (Direct Responses)

- More commercial retail needed
- More small businesses
- Adding jobs to the area eases the burden of commuting across the river and stimulates pride and support of the Westside.
- SW area has less retail compared to other parts of the city.
- to help add more jobs, services, and opportunities for westside residents
- Southwest area has always struggled with retail and other economic opportunities.
- Need to bring in more money for services.
- What's most important is to have a job.
- Small business support for more local small businesses can open and get support
- Economic development, our community has been underserved for years
- More retail business restaurants
- Economic development because small business is the lifeblood of a community.

### Transportation (Direct Responses)

- Road lighting
- Transportation and street lights
- Sidewalks, walkways, and trails seem neglected and less prioritized than roads
- Wider roads
- I ride my bike. We need more bike trails and less cars.
- I have a caregiver and he can't get transportation to visit me. The caseworker said he didn't qualify.
- Long walk to get to the bus. If your car breaks down, you're out of luck.
- Roads are in horrible condition. Nobody takes ART and spent so much money but the roads are bad.
- Because there's no sidewalk for kids to walk to school

### Urban Design (Direct Responses)

- Urban design, because if the neighborhood has good access, lighting, and aesthetics then businesses will be more willing to come, and residents will take more pride in the community. Landscaping has been neglected along streets
- Parks and Open Space are most important. I don't want to have to drive to parks.
- Kids recreation both outdoor and indoor is important
- Urban Design- parking
- All of the development is jumbled looks to have no coordinated plan behind it. Cleaning and planning will help bring all of the other needs into place.
- Urban design, compared to other sectors of the city I see that the Southwest Mesa area seems to focus on connecting destinations by building roads while neglecting to landscape the adjacent areas or neglecting to add sidewalks, walk ways, or trails. To better understand my point look at the median on Snow Vista Blvd SW from Sage Rd SW to 86th St SW

### Parks and Open Space (Direct Responses)

- More parks, open space, and recreational facilities
- More opportunities to get outside
- Park safety- too many shootings, dealing drugs
- Parks and Open Spaces because there's many kids along this area
- More outdoor space for youth to engage in healthy activities

- Better maintained parks and open space with more lighting
- Parks, ability to get outside is vital
- Parks and open space...we need safe and well maintained outdoor areas for the mental welfare of everyone. Places where families can safely meet.
- Our youth need outdoor space to perform healthy activities
- Parks and open space because we don't have a lot of that here in the sw mesa

#### Land Use (Direct Responses)

- Development occurring but road infrastructure isn't keeping up
- Land use because large parcels are being sold and multiple apartment buildings are being built. But I don't see the road infrastructure keeping up
- Land Use because it provides a framework for project development before development officially begins. However, over the years, some areas were re-zoned from its original intent without neighborhood/community inputs and approvals. The Southwest Mesa has housing developments that outpaced commercial developments. Even certain businesses selling alcohol, etc were allowed by ??? to build near schools.
- Too many environmentally challenging businesses (i.e. tire shops) that are following the ordinances/guidelines in respect to those businesses. Saturated
- There are a lot of vacant buildings.

#### Community Identity (Direct Responses)

- Needs identity
- Community identity is most important because it's not secure and everyone needs a sense of identity

#### Resilience & Sustainability (Direct Responses)

- Limit further residential development and maintain natural feel; prioritize local food production, parks and open space
- If we cannot sustain then we have nothing.
- being natural and not adding more homes but adding farms and spaces to be active and eat healthy food. Learning
- Resiliency, let's save the earth in NM 1st



What is something that you think would benefit your community

This was an open-ended question, with wide-ranging responses, which are summarized below under broad categories. Seventy-five (75) respondents answered this question; 20 skipped it. See Figures 5 and 6 below. Direct responses to this question are included below Figures 5 and 6.

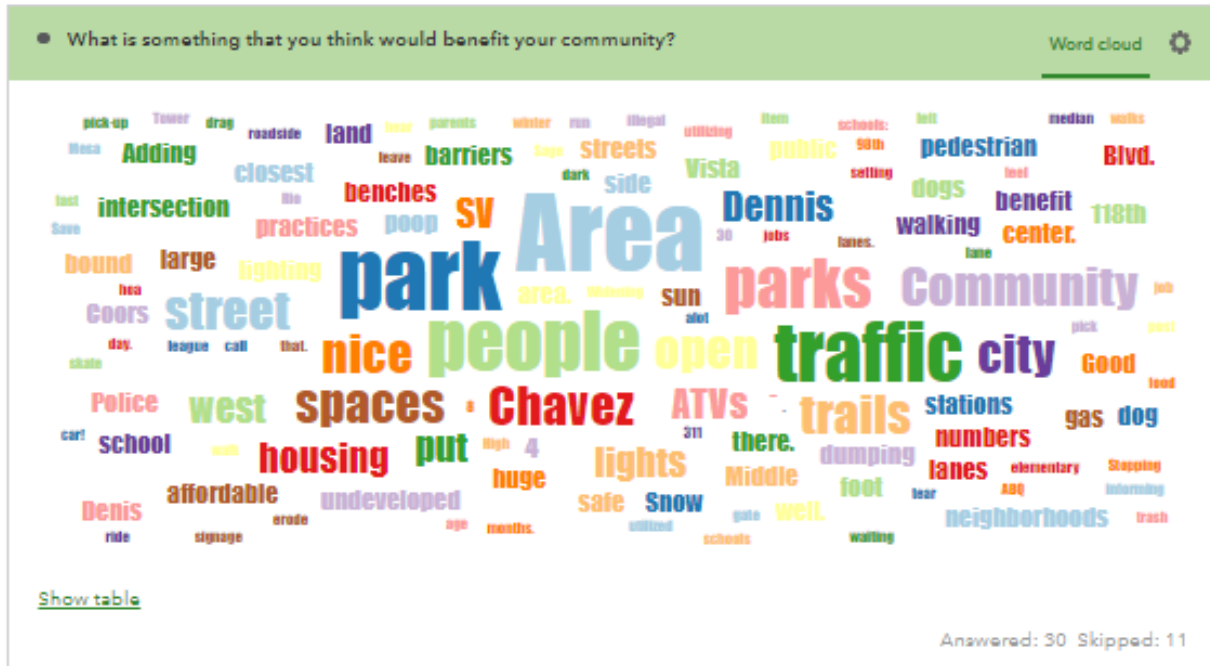


Figure 5: What would benefit your community? (first version of survey)



Figure 6 What would benefit your community? (second version of survey)

### Infrastructure, Community Facilities & Services (Direct Responses)

- More public emergency services, improved street infrastructure
- ADA compliant Infrastructure at intersections – 118<sup>th</sup> and Rio Bravo specifically
- We need law enforcement and a school zone on Dennis Chavez
- More public amenities, better conditions for people experiencing homelessness
- More schools are needed throughout area in addition to a community center
- Median landscaping needed on Snow Vista between Sage and Blake
- More police presence at parks
- Need more police, good police to prevent and crack down on crime. Crime is a huge issue. Scourge on our city effecting businesses.
- We need a community clean-up to pick up garbage and trash.
- More and improved lighting. I wish we had a park near us in the south valley near Pajarito.
- I wish we had more street lights.
- Talking to people. Giving out food.
- Word out to the people about programs that are available. Connect people with resources.
- We need better cell phone and internet accessibility. The service is terrible. Land line service is also bad. Elderly caretaker needs a land line.
- More gatherings, more stuff to do, improve the streets.
- We need afterschool programs.
- There is too much crime. Stores need security at night because there isn't anyone there at night.
- I think we need a gas station, more street lighting and for housing/rent prices to go down.
- More street lights, sidewalks and schools.
- A central information hub that brings people together to meet share ideas advertise business search for jobs. Public libraries and churches used to be but crime and homeless are driving people away from coming out.
- Our schools needs a better structure on the lunches (healthier) programs
- Additionally, an APD police substation nearby could help address lack of feeling safe.

### Housing (Direct Responses)

- Addressing the homeless and mental health issues by providing free resources to aid in their recovery.
- Be in better communication with people about affordable housing.
- The homeless encampments can stay but need to be cleaned up. Help them with their trash clean up.
- Don't tear more buildings down. The homeless need a space and a home. Don't tear down old spaces, remodel them. Veterans also need help
- Fixing homelessness. Make more affordable housing.
- Housing
- There are a lot of boarded up houses. Clean them up. Get them occupied. Build affordable housing.
- Help for the homeless. They need somewhere to go.
- We need more affordable housing in safe places in the city.
- Work on helping homeless people find a place.
- Work on support for the homeless.
- There should be more projects to address homelessness.
- We need spending for the homeless to go to appropriate places. People are in unsafe places on medians and on the side of the road.

- We need more facilities for the homeless and more services.
- We need more homeless shelters.

#### Transportation (Direct Responses)

- Expansion of Dennis Chavez and Rio Bravo; traffic is already congested, more development continues
- Widen Dennis Chavez
- A road similar to Tramway merging onto the Interstate
- Better roads, traffic lights, and street lights
- Connecting 118<sup>th</sup> Street to I-40; additional lanes on Dennis Chavez
- Side walks are needed on west side of 98<sup>th</sup> between Tower and Gibson
- More Bike trails. I'd like an overpass over Rio Bravo.
- Improve the roads.
- Better streets and crosswalks and sidewalks.
- We need to improve our streets.
- I constantly see children riding skate boards and bikes on the roads, which is unsafe due to residents driving habits. A well-lit skate park could be beneficial in this area.
- What is the schedule of the roads getting repaired or replaced around the city? If not repaired/replaced, more substantial asphalt pavement damage can occur. I hope the pothole does not become a sinkhole in the future.

#### Parks and Open Space (Direct Responses)

- Parks need protection from off-road vehicles
- More open space to preserve land from unwanted development
- More parks with paths for both walking and bicycling; more leisure areas in parks
- Dog Parks, closest one is still far away
- Existing parks and trails need more lighting and better cleanup of dog waste
- Dedicated green space/parks.
- Parks and access for people with all different abilities.
- Police presence, and a large park like those found on the N.E. such as Montgomery park, with dog park included.
- Kids play area can use some modernizing

#### Economic Development (Direct Responses)

- Restaurants, cafes, and breweries with outside spaces and patios; currently have to go to other parts of the city for this
- More jobs/work.
- In order to have resources, you need a job. that is the most important priority.
- I think a hardware store and a Costco / Sam's would be ideal
- Business for the southwest mesa. Malls, restaurants, community centers like basketball courts, recreation
- Support for small businesses

#### Land Use (Direct Responses)

- Fix up the vacant buildings and make them usable. Housing or businesses.
- I like the new developments on Unser and Dennis Chavez.

- We need more mixed shopping in the south valley
- Policing, housing, shopping, open spots on Coors that could be developed for better shopping.

#### Community Identity (Direct Responses)

- Diversity
- Helping the Southwest area have a better perception as a community.
- If we could think of developing locations that can host cultural events in the future it might help build a sense of community.

#### Resilience and Sustainability (Direct Responses)

- Stopping illegal roadside dumping
- The area with undeveloped land would benefit from farms and perhaps more farmers and artisans markets, perhaps a food truck park area as well.
- 

#### Others (Direct Responses)

- Homeowners Association
- Collaboration between Planning Department, neighborhood associations, and community
- We need more accessible health care.
- Nothing my area is perfect.

### Is there anything else you want to share with us about your priorities or Community Planning Area?

Sixteen (16) respondents answered this open-ended question in the first survey and 16 responses were gathered from the second survey. Their responses are summarized below. A word-cloud was not able to be generated for this question due to the low response rate. Direct responses to this question are included below.

#### Infrastructure, Community Facilities & Services (Direct Responses)

- Need a school zone on Dennis Chavez and more enforcement of laws
- Put in a sidewalk and ADA compliant infrastructure at Rio Bravo and 118<sup>th</sup> street
- A new police substation could help address safety concerns
- Drugs is a huge problem. Look to Maryland for example on how to treat and rehabilitate. The people need more programs and resources to help people move out of addiction and move forward.
- I hear gun shots every day. Kids are getting used to it. We need more patrol cars.
- There are a lot of drugs in the neighborhood. I can't live peacefully. I don't feel safe. I live near Coors and Arenal. There needs to be more consistency with the police because of all the theft as well.
- There is too much litter!
- More security for children- there are a lot of drunks and criminals in the street close to the schools.
- More children's programming after school in the schools.
- The residents of the South West Mesa feel like they are being neglected by the city government. We feel like the city cares more about the more affluent neighborhoods such as the North East Heights, and North West Albuquerque. All you have to do is drive around in both areas and it is obvious. In more affluent neighborhoods the medians are landscaped, the parks are pristine, there's a bigger police

presence, and you don't see piles of trash thrown out on the side of streets. It is the opposite south of I-40, for the most part. The city just needs to incorporate all of Bernalillo county on the west side because the county is, sadly, even more guilty of neglect out here. County controlled streets are in sever disrepair, no sidewalks, and have very poor lighting. We also don't know who to call in case of emergency. I've dialed 9-1-1 multiple times in various places just to be told to call the Sherriff.

#### Transportation (Direct Responses)

- Widen roads
- Release a schedule of road repairs, many roads need repaired or replaced in our area
- We need more sidewalks. There is a school nearby and the kids cannot walk to school because there aren't any sidewalks. Also we need more speed bumps.
- Speeding is a major problem in the city. We need people to slow down and stop racing

#### Housing (Direct Responses)

- No more dense housing
- Housing for the Homeless- small community laundromats and shopping centers.
- Homeless- they need rehabilitation, healthcare, mental health services, medicine. WE need to do something for them. They need transportation.
- Less expensive housing is most important.

#### Community Identity (Direct Responses)

- Cultural events could help build a sense of community identity  
South Valley is the best place in the city.

#### Parks and Open Space (Direct Responses)

- A well-lit skate park could be beneficial; many children currently ridings bikes and skateboards on roads
- Kids play areas need updated/modernized

#### Resilience and Sustainability (Direct Responses)

- A beautiful food forest would be nice and can be combined with educational classes; need more of this, not more housing or big box stores

#### Land Use (Direct Responses)

- The residents of the South West Mesa feel like they are being neglected by the city government. We feel like the city cares more about the more affluent neighborhoods such as the North East Heights, and North West Albuquerque. All you have to do is drive around in both areas and it is obvious. In more affluent neighborhoods the medians are landscaped, the parks are pristine, there's a bigger police presence, and you don't see piles of trash thrown out on the side of streets. It is the opposite south of I-40, for the most part. The city just needs to incorporate all of Bernalillo county on the west side because the county is, sadly, even more guilty of neglect out here. County controlled streets are in sever disrepair, no sidewalks, and have very poor lighting. We also don't know who to call in case of emergency. I've dialed 9-1-1 multiple times in various places just to be told to call the Sherriff.

#### Others (Direct Responses)

- Many in the area feel neglected by the City, like affluent areas are prioritized higher; City should incorporate the entire area because County neglect is even more apparent

- Get rid of the fair grounds. The state or city should use those lands for something else like a concert venue. Or consolidate all the state and city offices there for a one stop shop so people don't have to go all over the city getting paper work together.
- This area of town needs major attention and modernization.
- I grew up here, own a home and plan to stay here. I would love to find my old age full of activities here rich with history and fun activities for all ages most importantly free of crime.

## Demographics

Participants had the option to respond to 7 demographic questions. See Figures below.



Figure 7: Age of Survey Participants (first version of survey)



Figure 8 Age of Survey Participants (second version of survey)

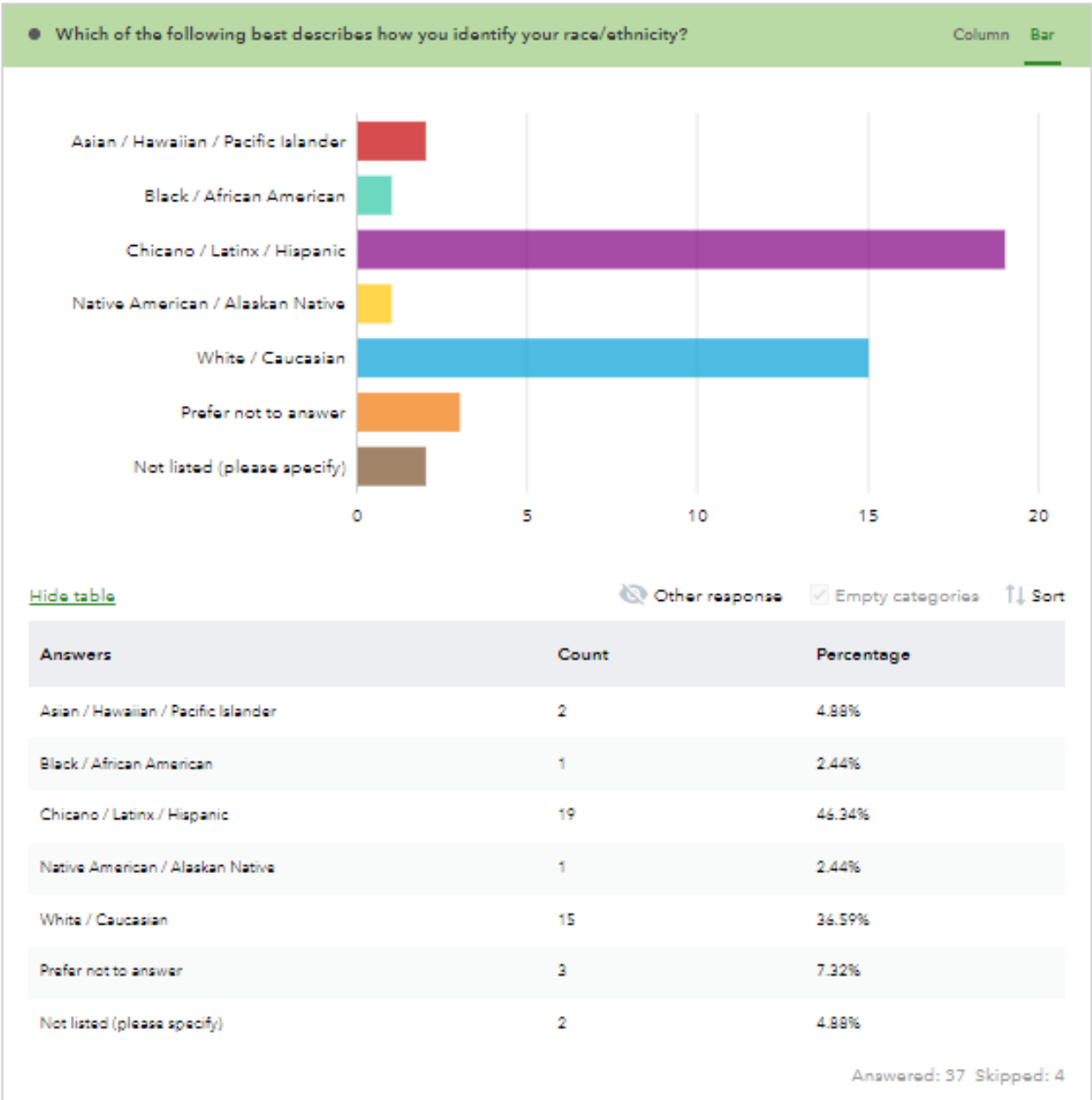


Figure 9: Race/Ethnicity of Survey Participants (first version of survey)



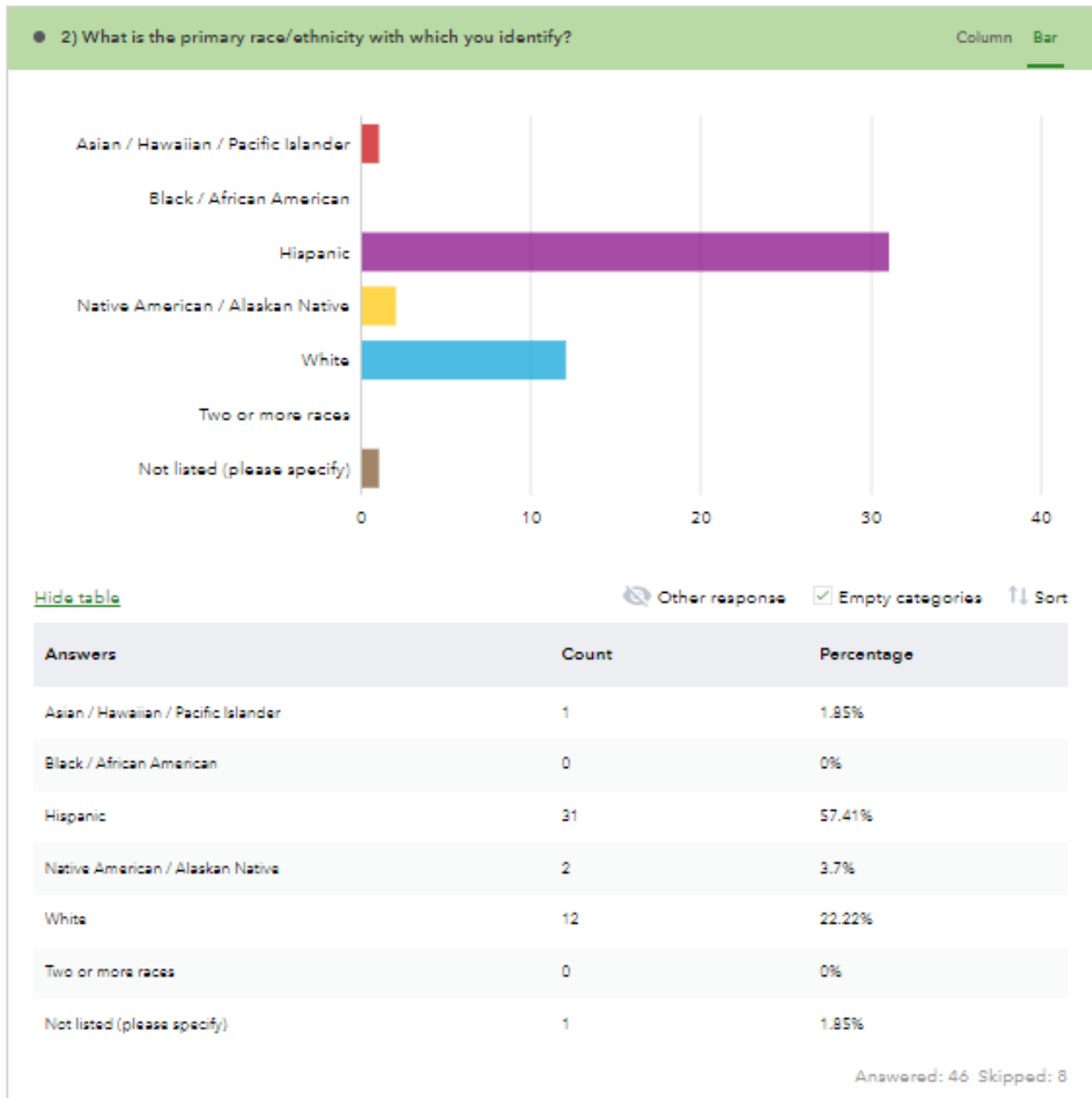


Figure 10 Race/Ethnicity of Survey Participants (second version of survey)

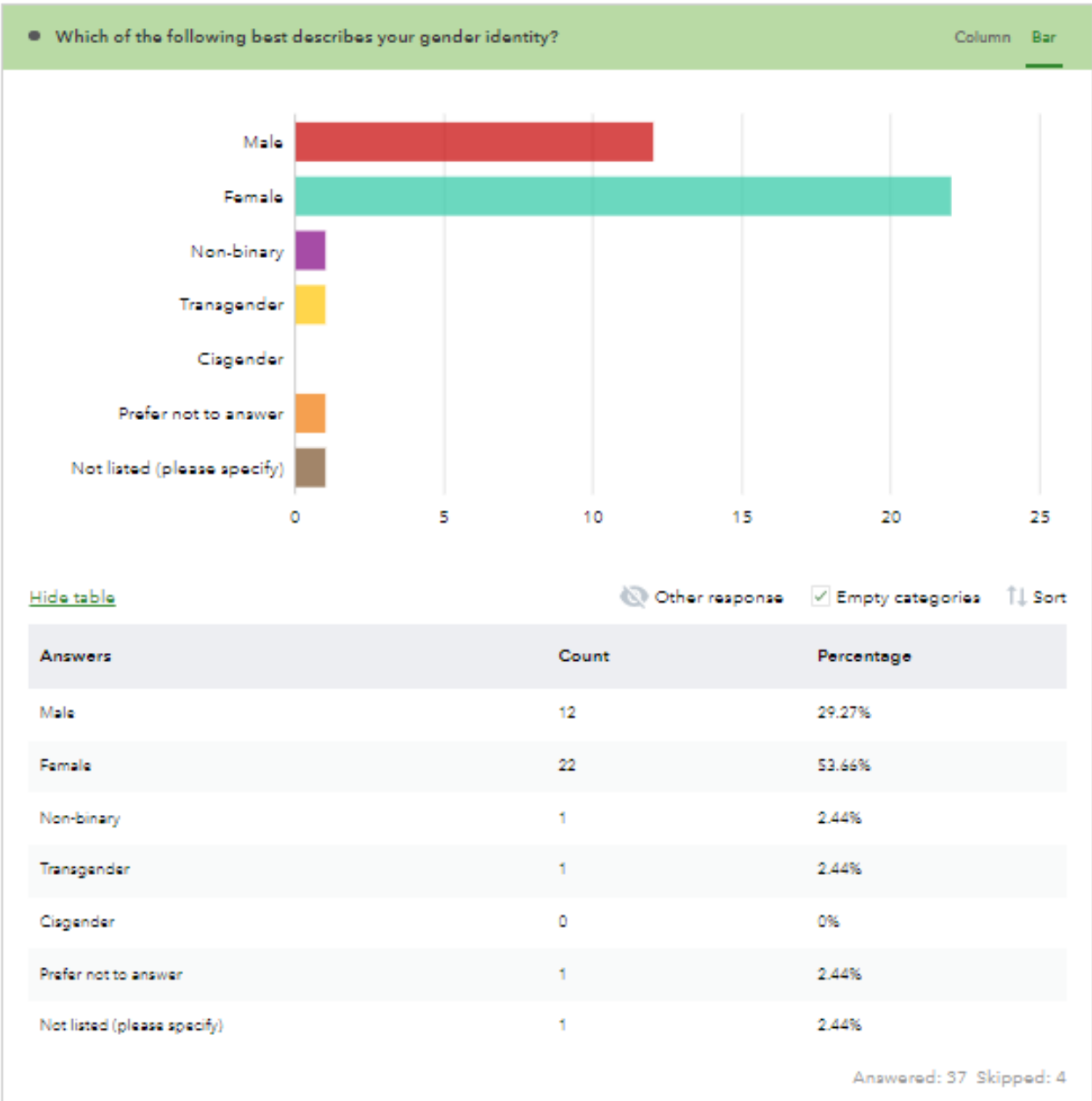


Figure 11: Gender Identity of Survey Respondents (First Survey Version)

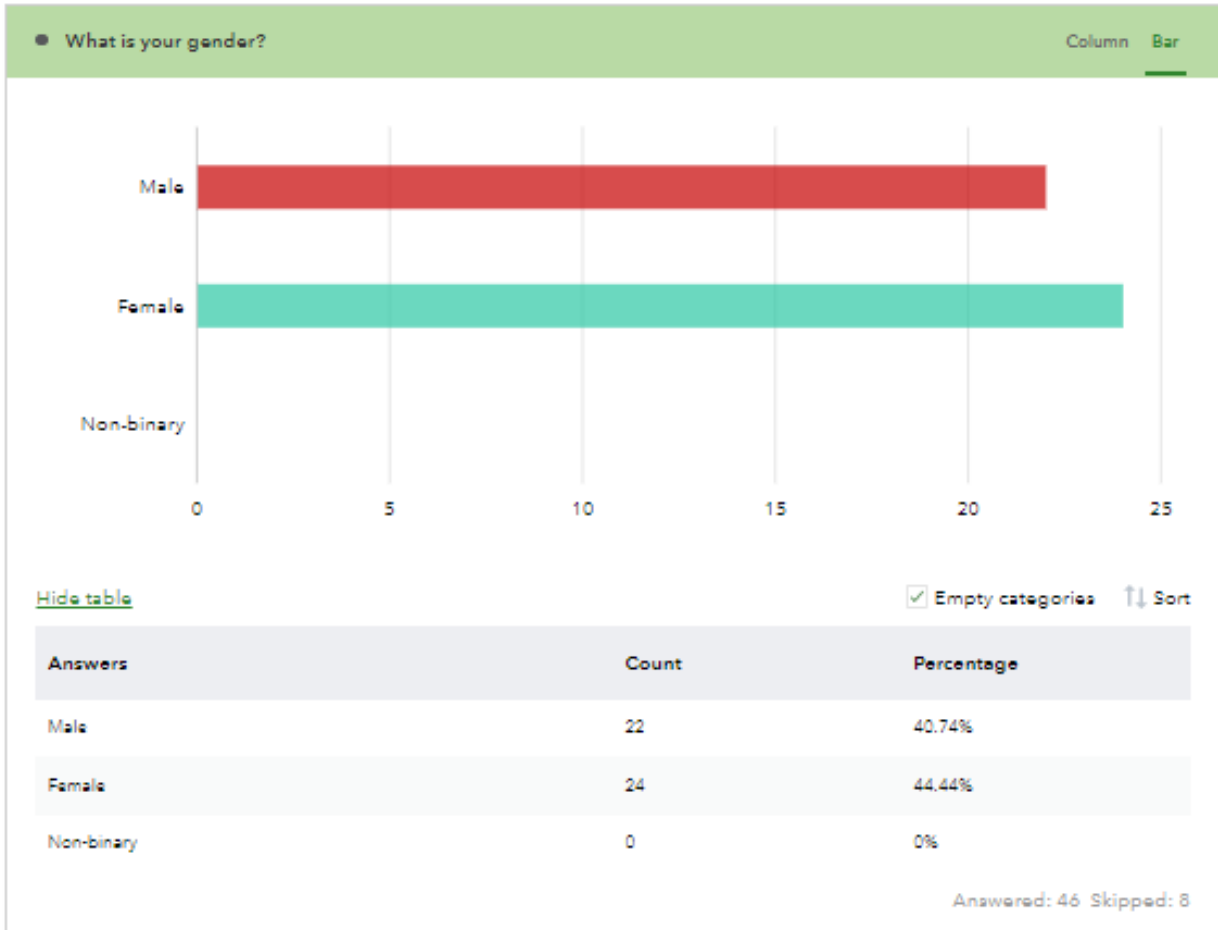


Figure 12 Gender Identity of Survey Respondents (second version of survey)



Figure 13: Sexual Orientation of Survey Participants (first version of survey)



Figure 14 Sexual Orientation of Survey Participants (second version of survey)

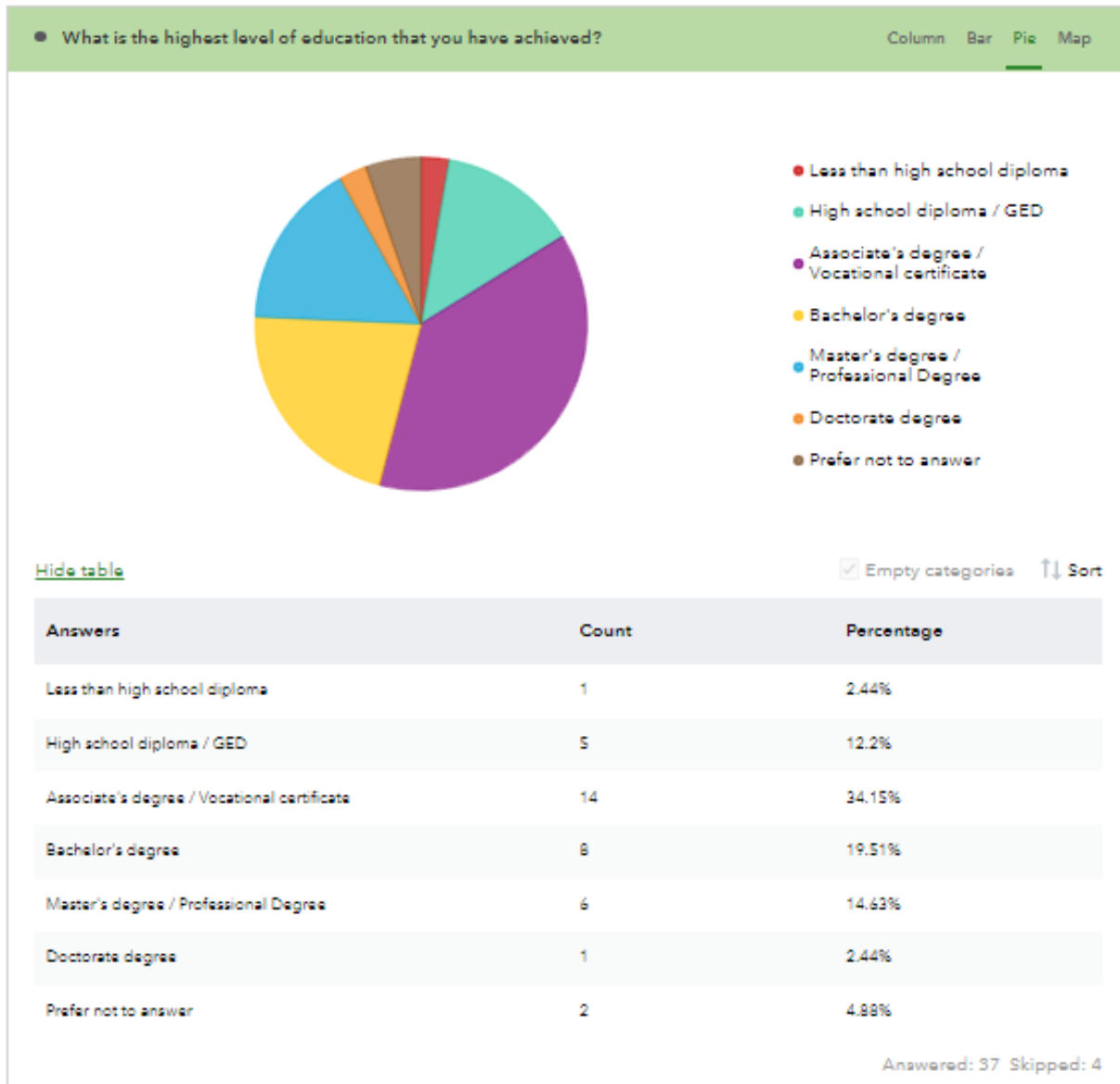


Figure 15: Education of Survey Participants (first version of survey)

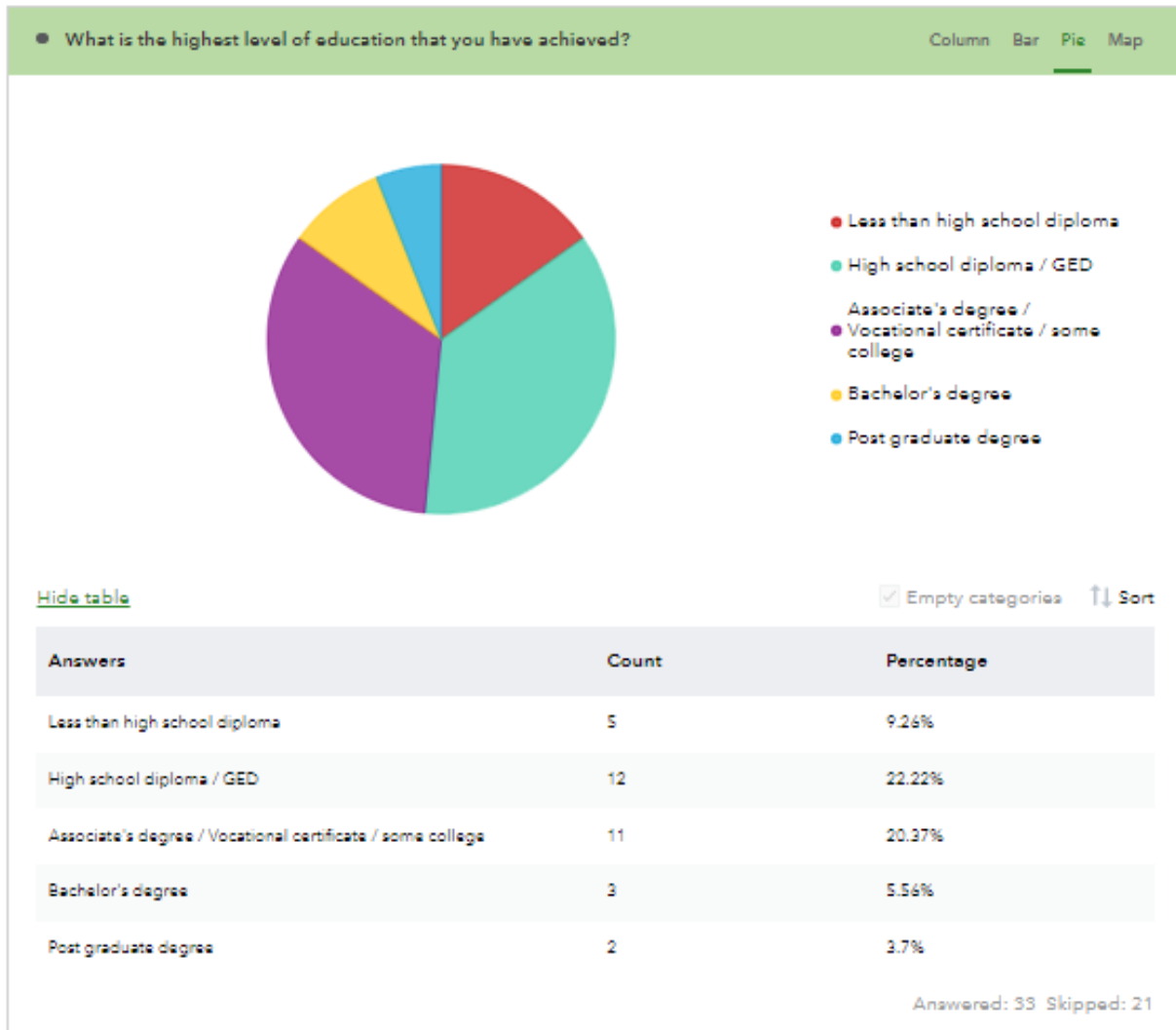


Figure 16 Education of Survey Participants (second version of survey)

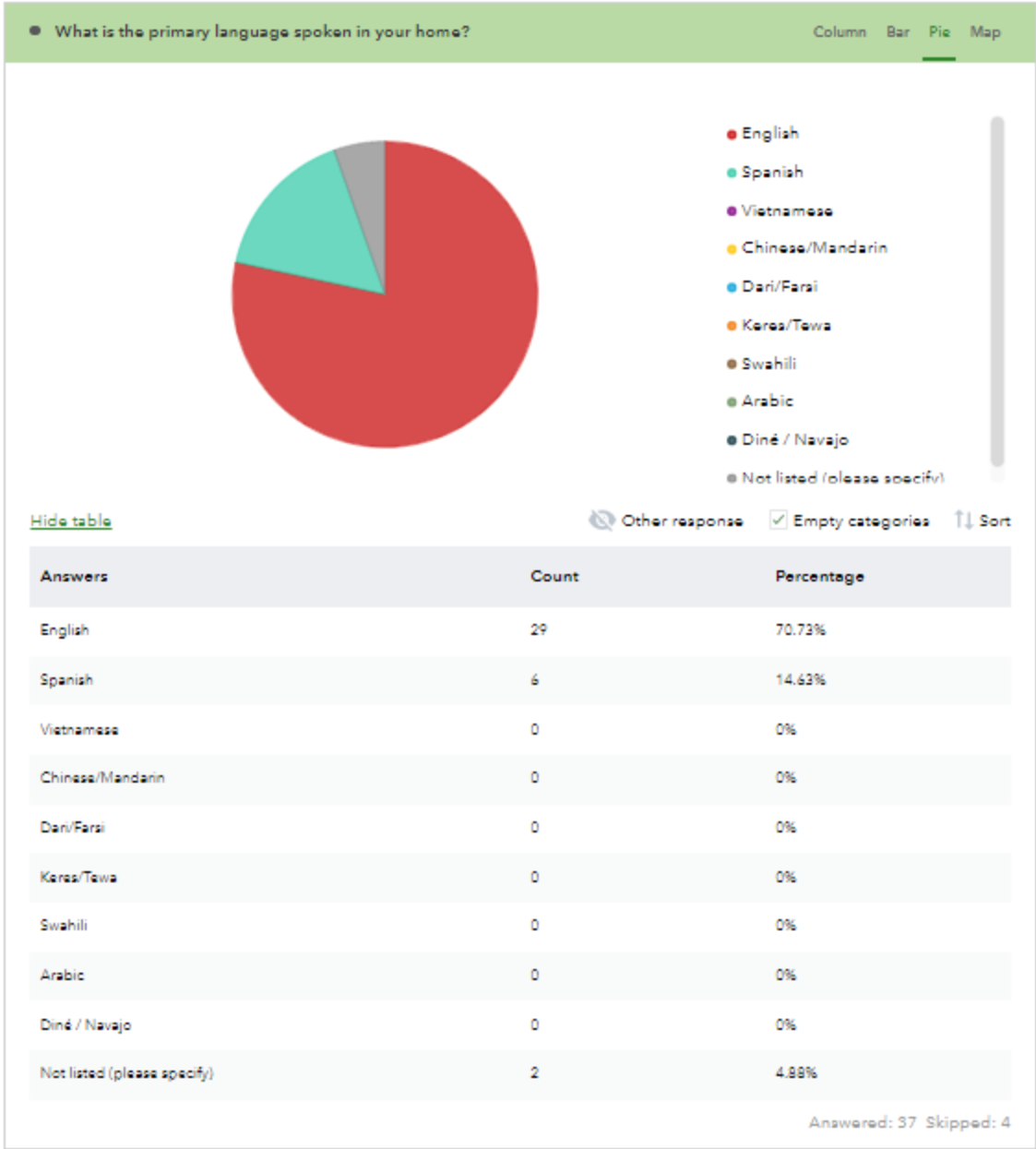


Figure 17: Primary Language of Survey Participants (first version of survey)



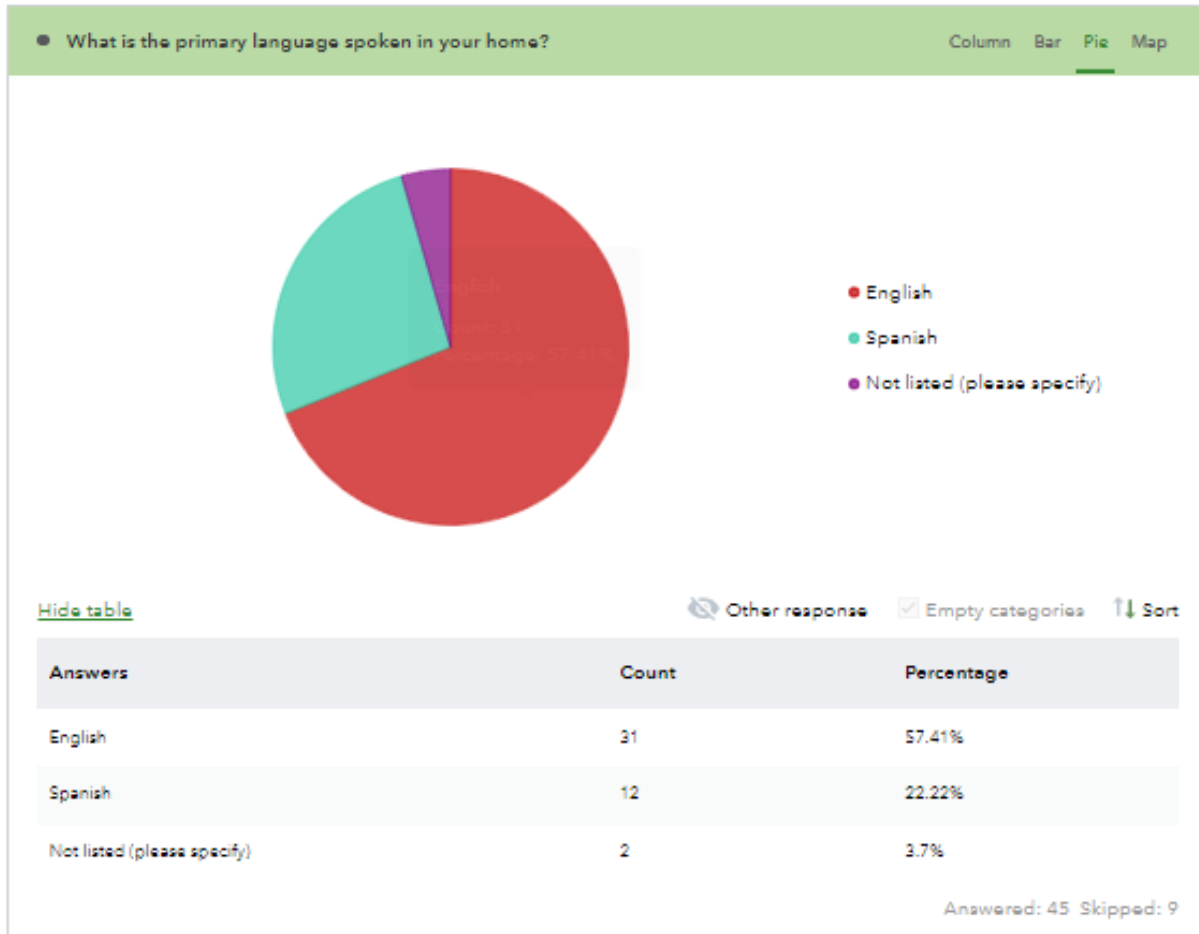


Figure 18 Primary Language of Survey Participants (second version of survey)

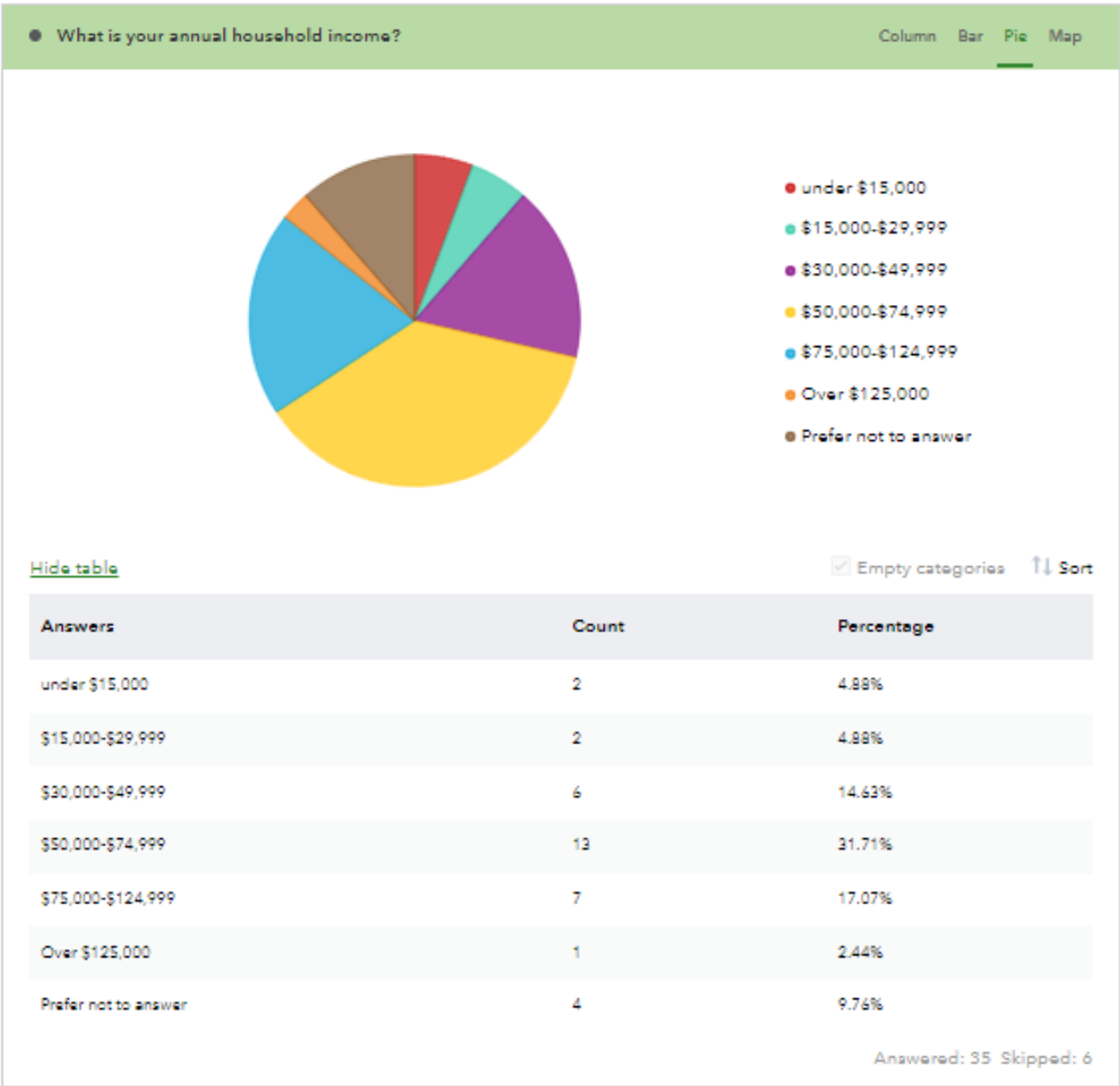


Figure 19: Household Income of Survey Participants (First Survey Version)

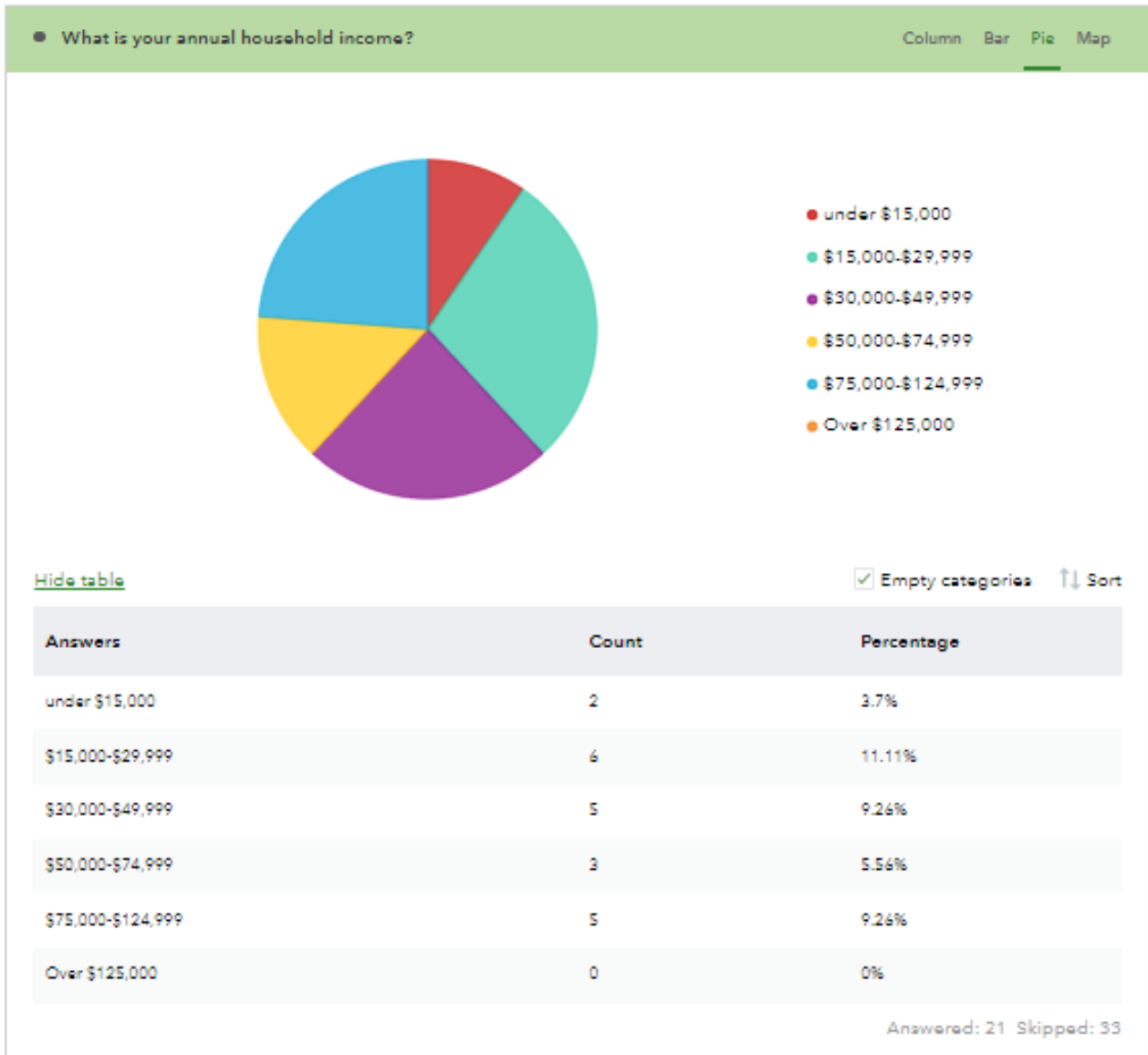


Figure 20 Household Income of Survey Participants (second version of survey)