



Bronzeville Food Co-op *Community Survey*

Key Findings

2025

Who we are.

Bronzeville Food Co-op is a group of **community members and local nonprofits** working to establish a co-op grocery store **in the Near East Side** neighborhood. This community-owned store will focus on high-quality local food and reinvest profits into our neighborhood.



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The image features a dark brown background with abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in lighter shades of brown. In the top left corner, there is a horizontal bar composed of five colored segments: white, light yellow, yellow, dark green, and maroon. To the right of this bar, a cluster of fresh vegetables is visible, including a yellow bell pepper, a green bell pepper, and several red tomatoes, some on the vine.

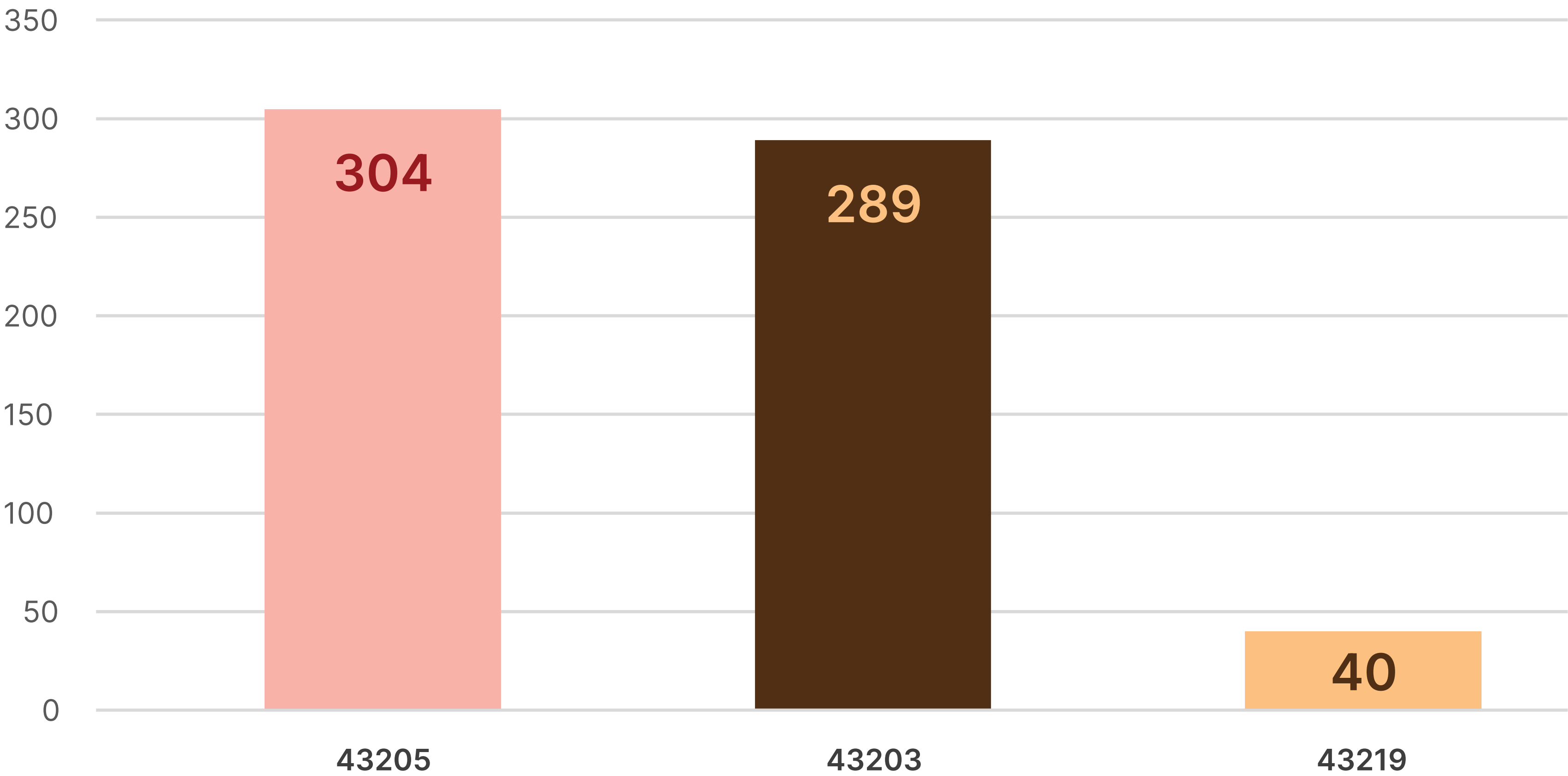
Who Participated in the Survey

Who Participated in this Survey?

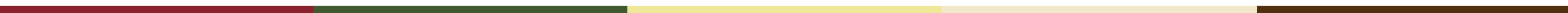


There were **956 responses** to the survey from 53 zip codes across Columbus. The majority (**66%**) of the responses were received from the **Bronzeville community and NES Service Area**.

The NES Service Area zip codes (43203, 43205, and 43219) received the most responses as shown below. No other zip code received more than 30 responses.



Of the 633 (66%) responses that came from the three zip codes that include the NES Service Area, 304 (32%) came from 43205, 289 (30%) from 43203, and 40 (4%) from 43219.



Who Participated in this Survey?

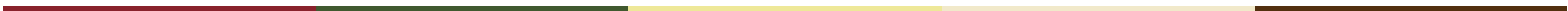
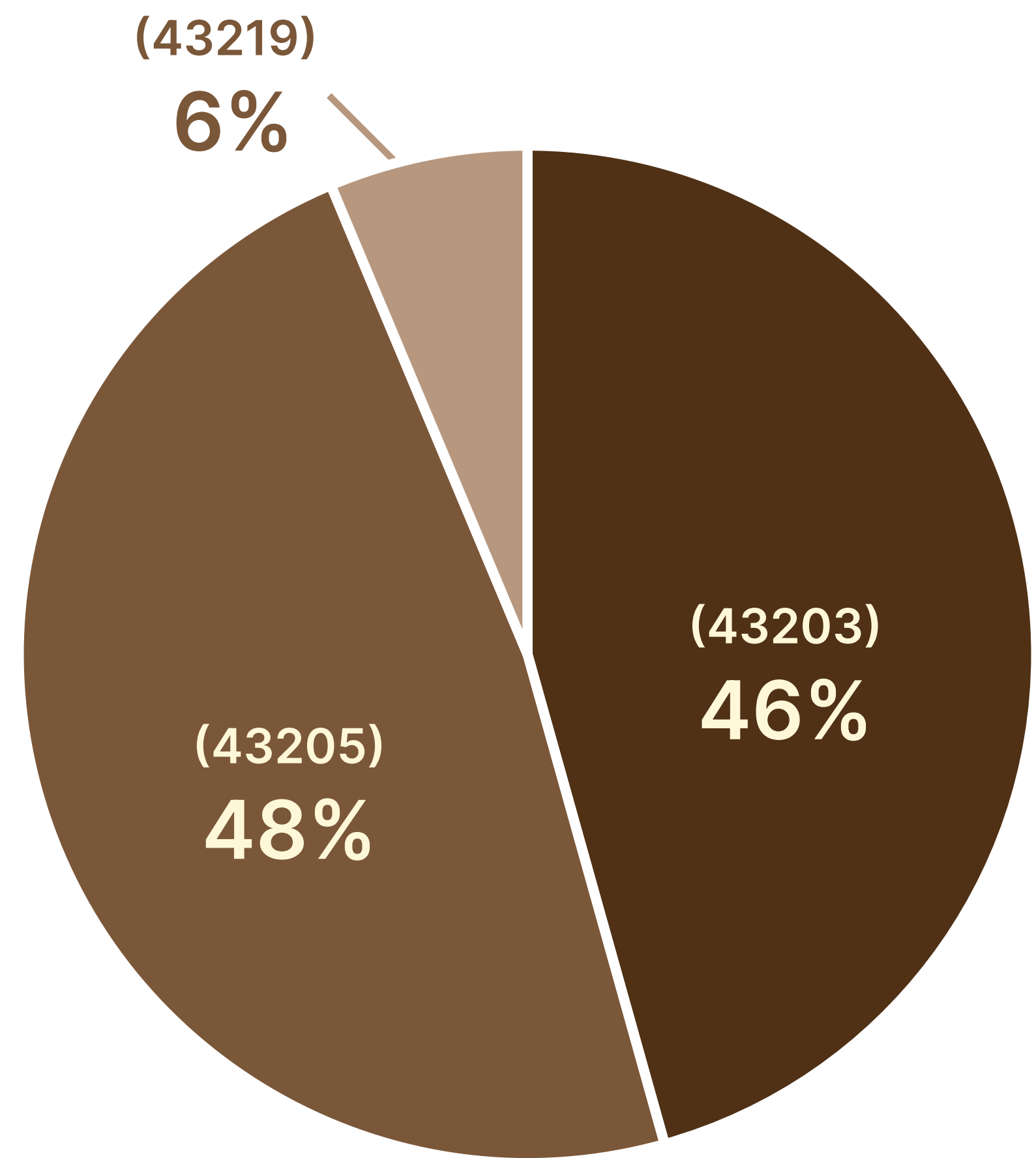
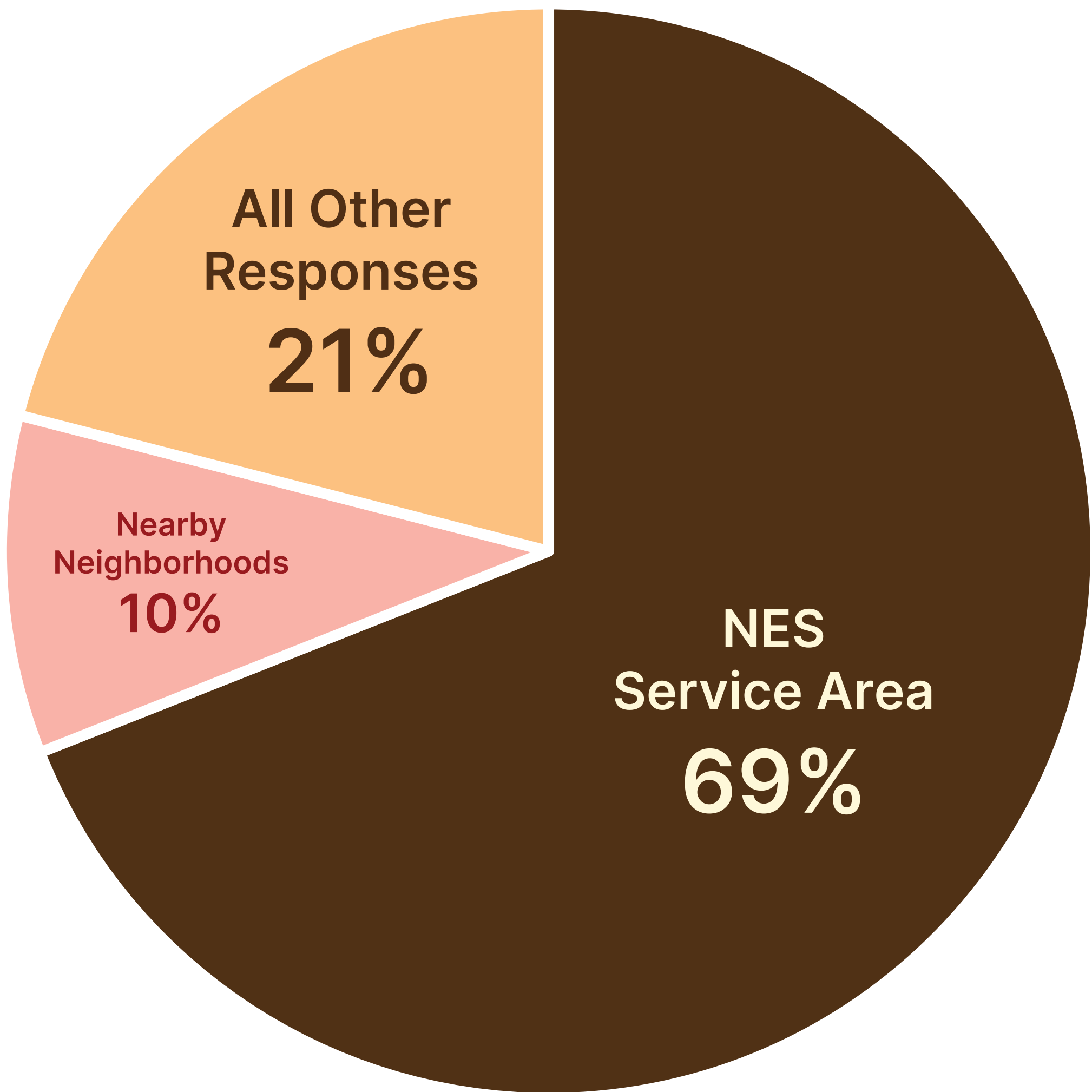


Responses were separated into 3 categories to better understand how survey participants answered questions based on where they live. Much of the following analysis will focus on responses from NES Service Area respondents as, given their geographic proximity, are most likely to utilize a Bronzeville co-op.

NES Service Area	Nearby Neighborhoods	Additional Neighborhoods
43203 (Bronzeville, Woodland Park)	43201 (Short North/Driving Park)	All other zip codes
43205 (Olde Towne East, Franklin Park, South of Main)	43206 (South Side/German Village)	
43219 (Eastgate)	43209 (Bexley)	
	43215 (Downtown)	



Who Participated in this Survey?





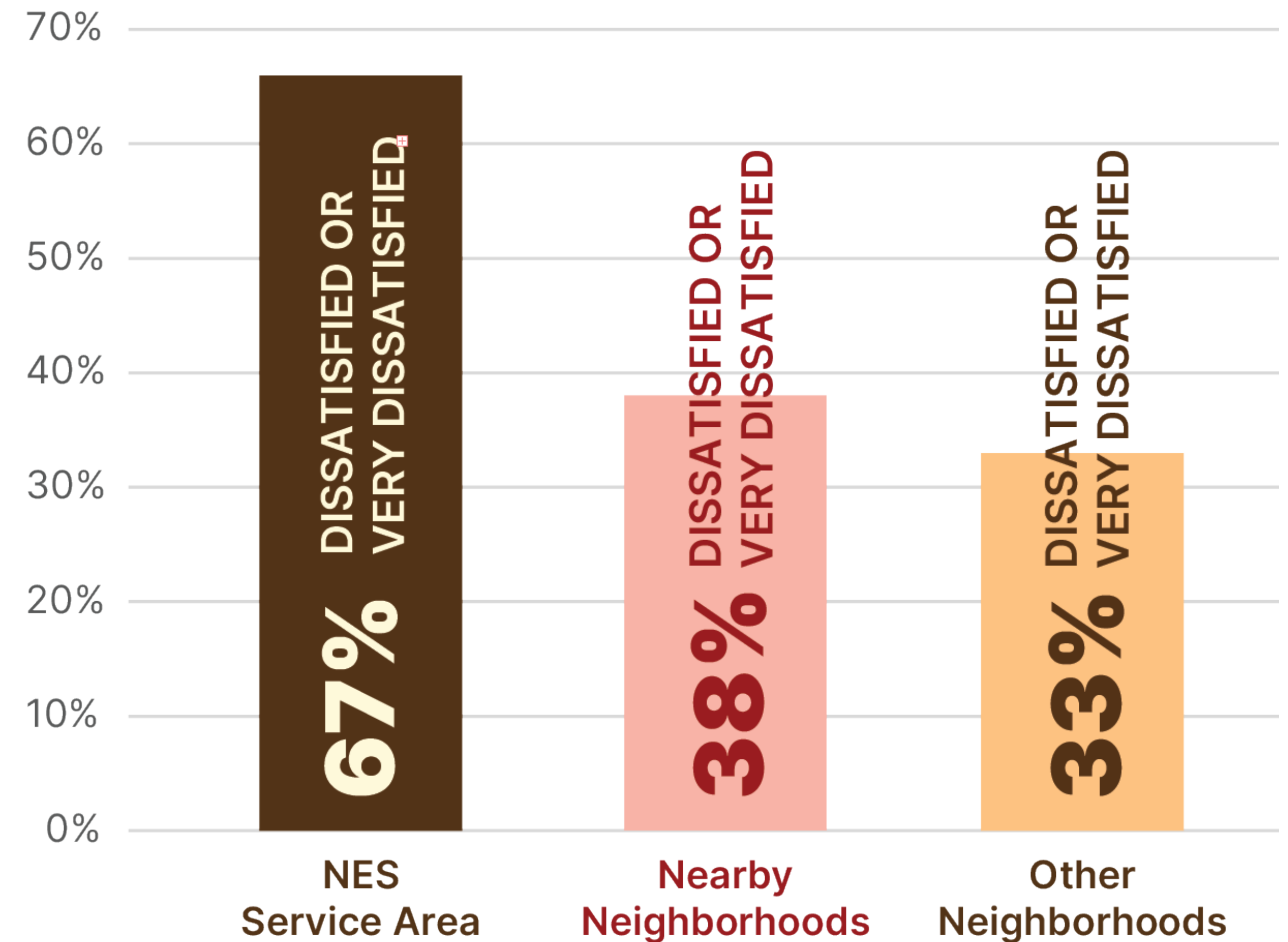
*Demand for a
Grocer*

Demand for a Grocer

67% of NES Service Area respondents **indicated dissatisfaction with their current grocery** options while only 10% indicated satisfaction.

Community members lack access to grocery choices when compared to neighboring areas of the city, and they also voiced concern with the overall quality of grocers that they travel to outside of the area.

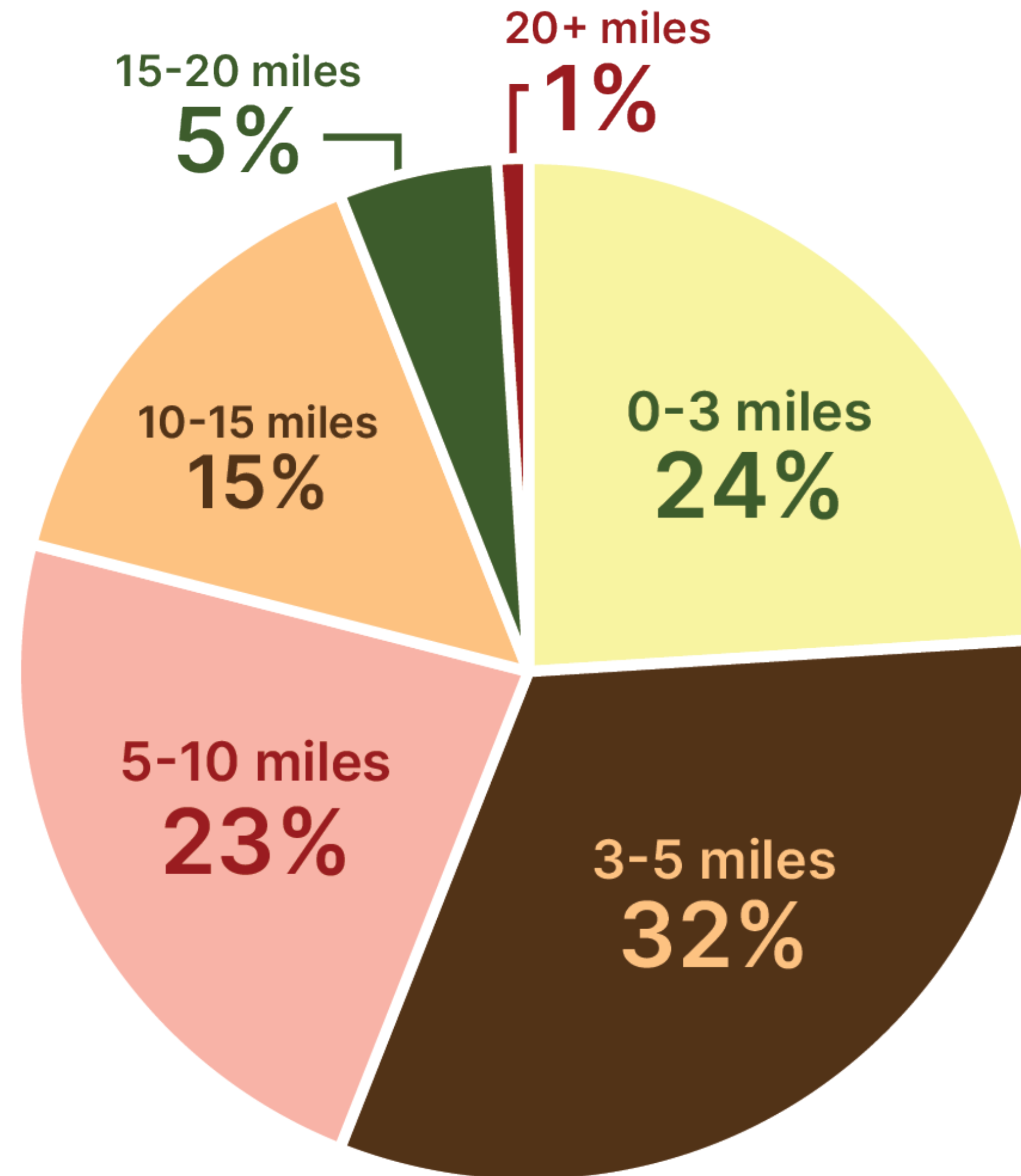
The concern with the quality of grocery choices surrounding the community likely heightens their dissatisfaction with the lack of a neighborhood grocery and indicates that a future co-op in the community needs to emphasize a quality experience to its shoppers.



Demand for a Grocer

76% of respondents **travel more than 3 miles to shop for groceries** for their homes.

Respondents in NES service area zip codes are more likely to travel further than other zip codes, with 79% travelling more than 3 miles to shop for groceries.



“A quick way to lose my business is if the store is out of key items often so that my trip was a waste of time/gas.”

“Want things to not be expired or rotting, I find that a lot at Kroger.”

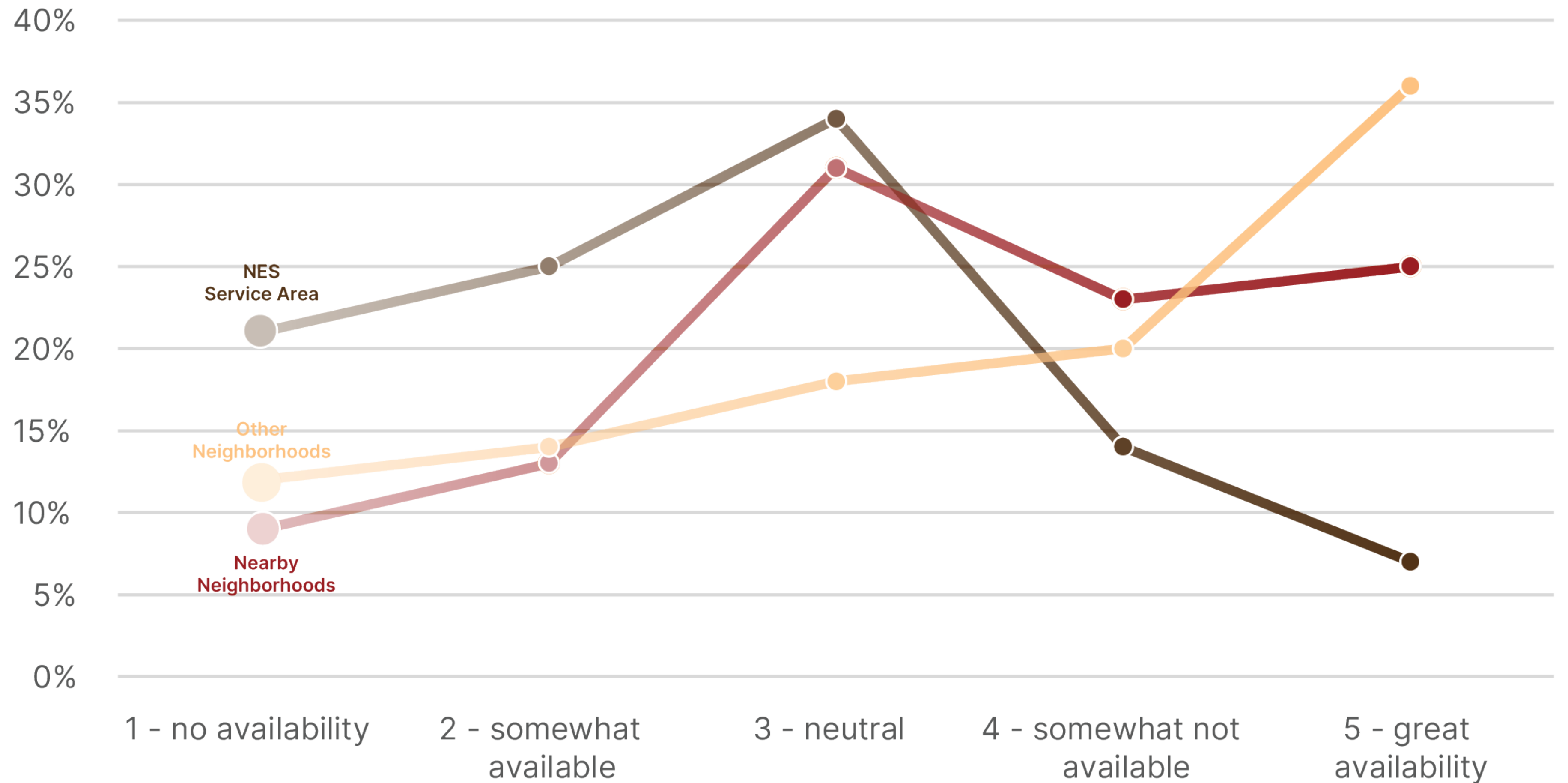


“Ideally, we’d love a grocery store we can walk to within our neighborhood, so it needs to not just have parking but have good sidewalks surrounding it, too.”

Demand for a Grocer



Only 21% of respondents in the NES Service Area felt that there was **availability or great availability for fresh foods and vegetables** in their community, compared to 48% for nearby neighborhoods and 56% of other neighborhoods.



Demand for a Grocer

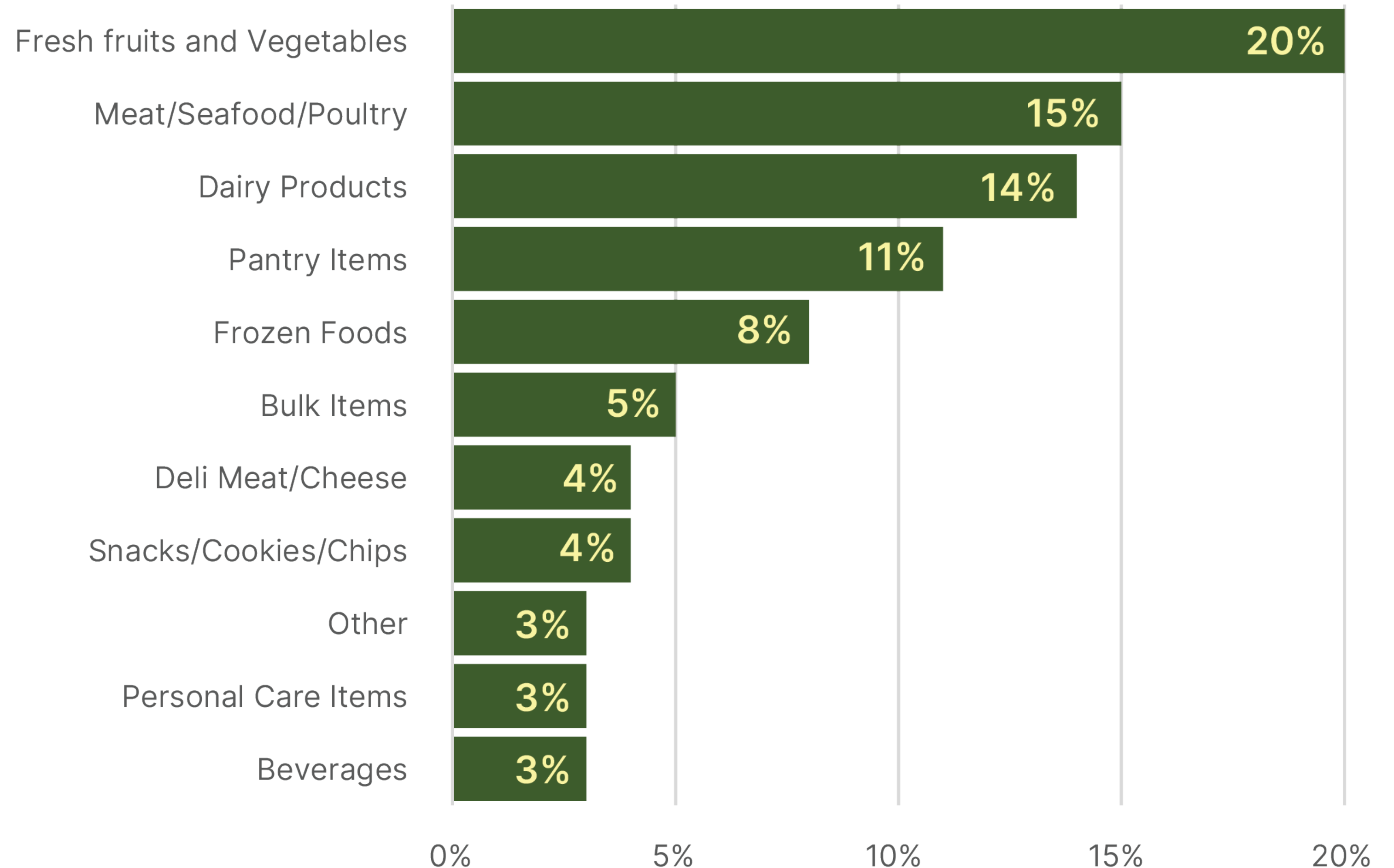
Respondents are just as likely to purchase fresh foods and vegetables regardless of the zip code that they reside in.

Many respondents also stated that the quality of products is important to them and that they would like to see more healthy food choices.

It seems that there is both a lack of healthy food choices within the area and the options that are available to them outside of the area do not meet the quality standards that they expect for fresh produce.



Which of the following do you buy most often when you go to the grocery store?



“Produce freshness, availability, and prices are my main drivers in deciding where to buy groceries. Everything else (meat, dairy, dry goods/staples are all secondary).”



Grocery Preference

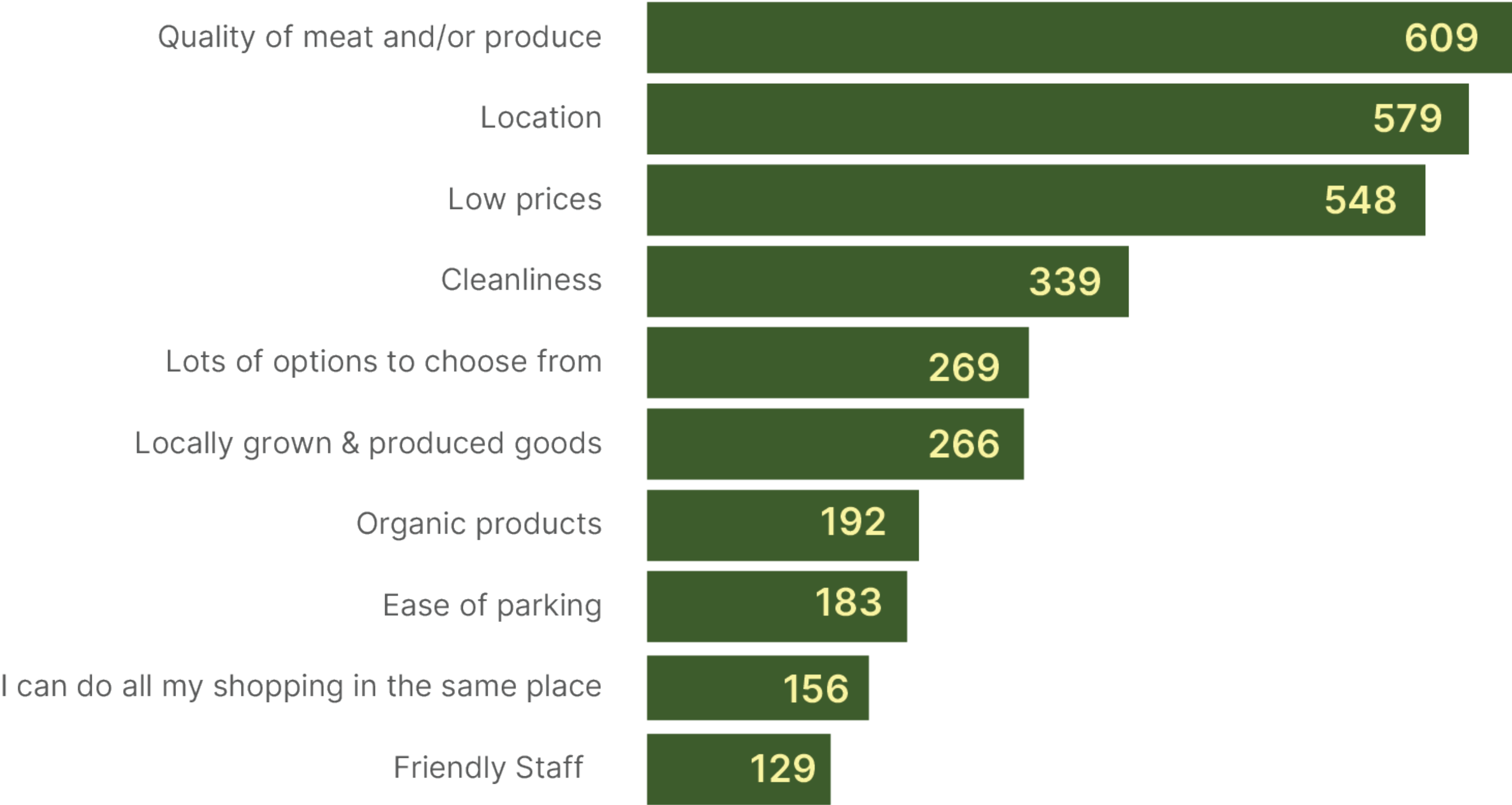
*“Meet the basic needs of the community
while offering a Trader Joe type of
experience would be great.”*

*“Keep it simple. Aldi is a good template.
Simple quality.”*

Grocery Preference



Top 10 Responses for all responses

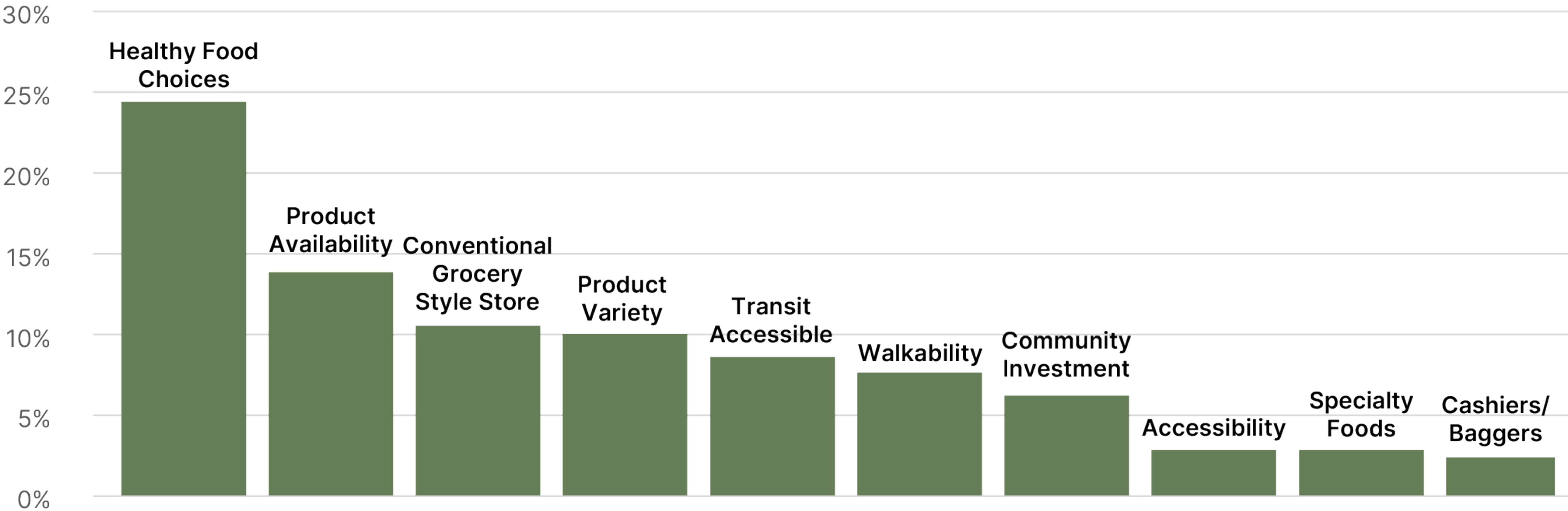


Grocery Preference



Almost one in four respondents consider healthy food choices to be a top shopping need.

Is there anything else we should keep in mind when planning our grocery co-op?



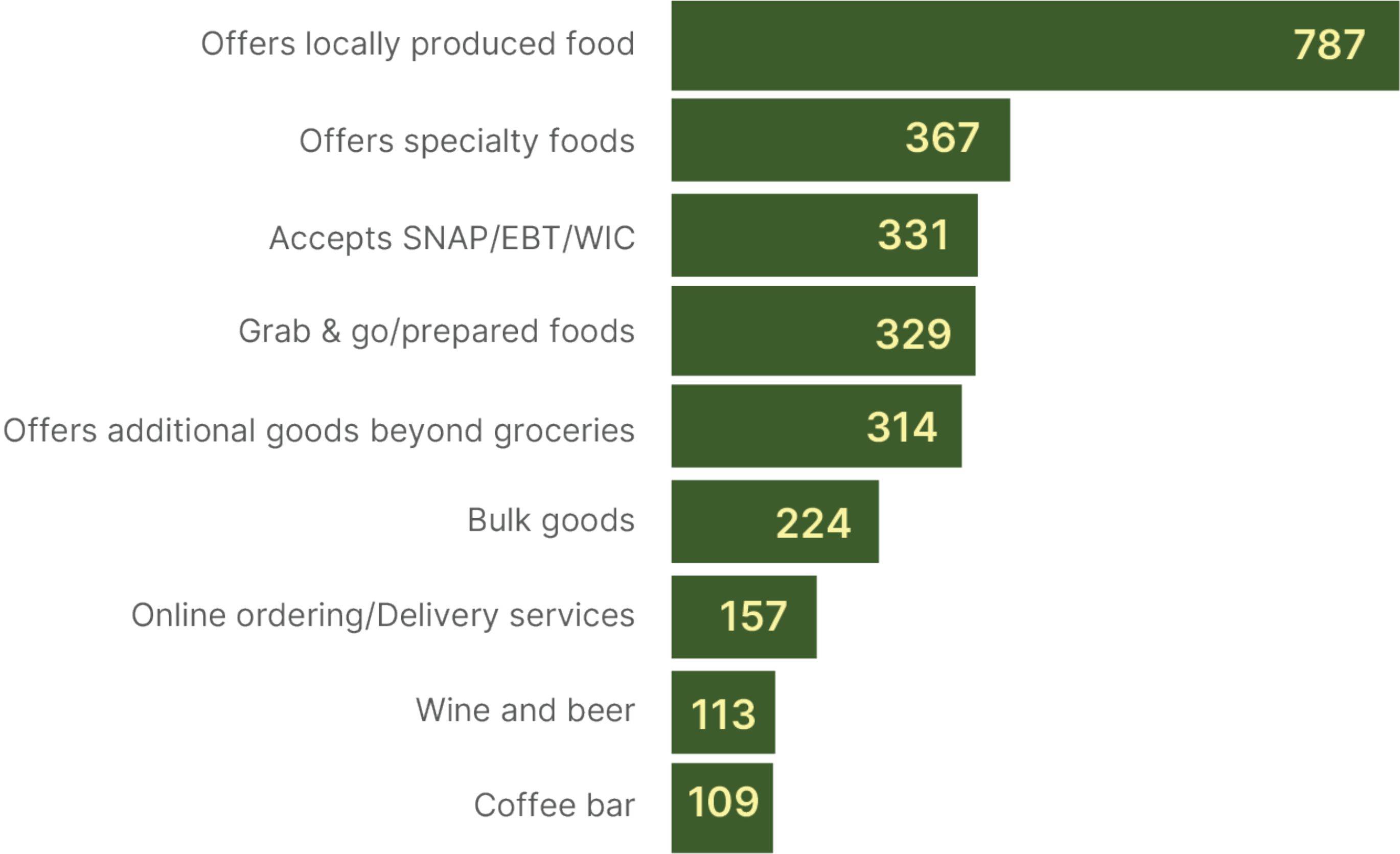
Grocery Preference

26% of respondents want a Bronzeville grocery co-op to offer locally produced food

Responses were generally consistent across demographics. The only major variation is by demographics for accepting SNAP/EBT/WIC, with 21% of respondents with incomes less than \$30,000 in favor compared to 7% for incomes of \$150,000 or more.



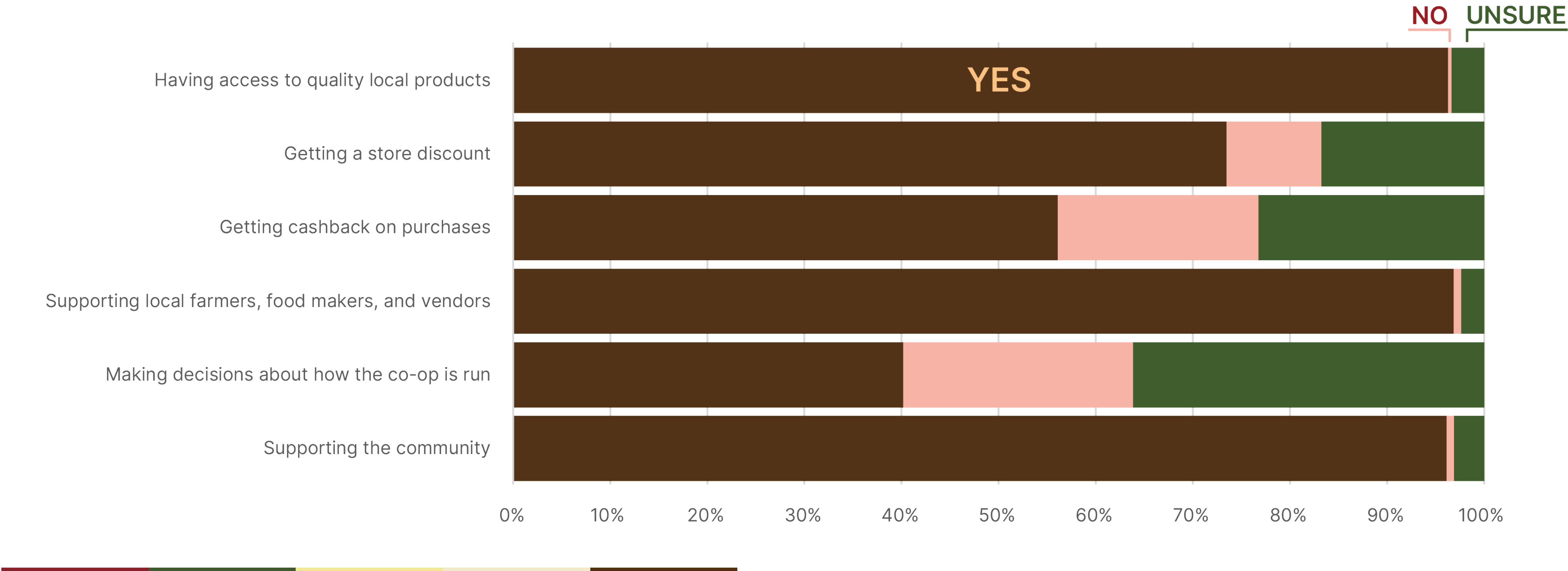
Rank for all responses



Grocery Preference



The vast majority (over 90%) of respondents favored having access to quality local products, supporting local farmers, food makers, and vendors, and supporting the community as perks they would want in co-op membership



Grocery Preference



Affordability and community investment are a top concern for respondents

Things to keep in mind when planning the co-op

Rank	Theme	Percent
1	Affordability	16%
2	Representative of Community	8%
3	Clean/Safe Environment	7%
4	Accessibility	5%
4	Parking	5%
5	Accessible Hours	4%
5	Central Location	4%
6	Bike/Ped/Transit Friendly	4%
7	Community Resources/Services	3%
8	Community Gathering Space	3%

What else would make the food co-op unique?

Rank	Theme	Count
1	Community Investment	87
2	Location	70
3	Affordable	59
4	Local Products	59
5	Highlight Neighborhood History and Culture	38
6	Addresses Food Inequality	27
7	Events/Programs	26
8	Accessible Location	21
9	Product Variety	20
10	Community Gathering Space	18%





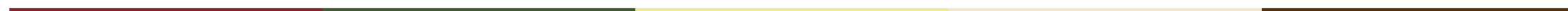
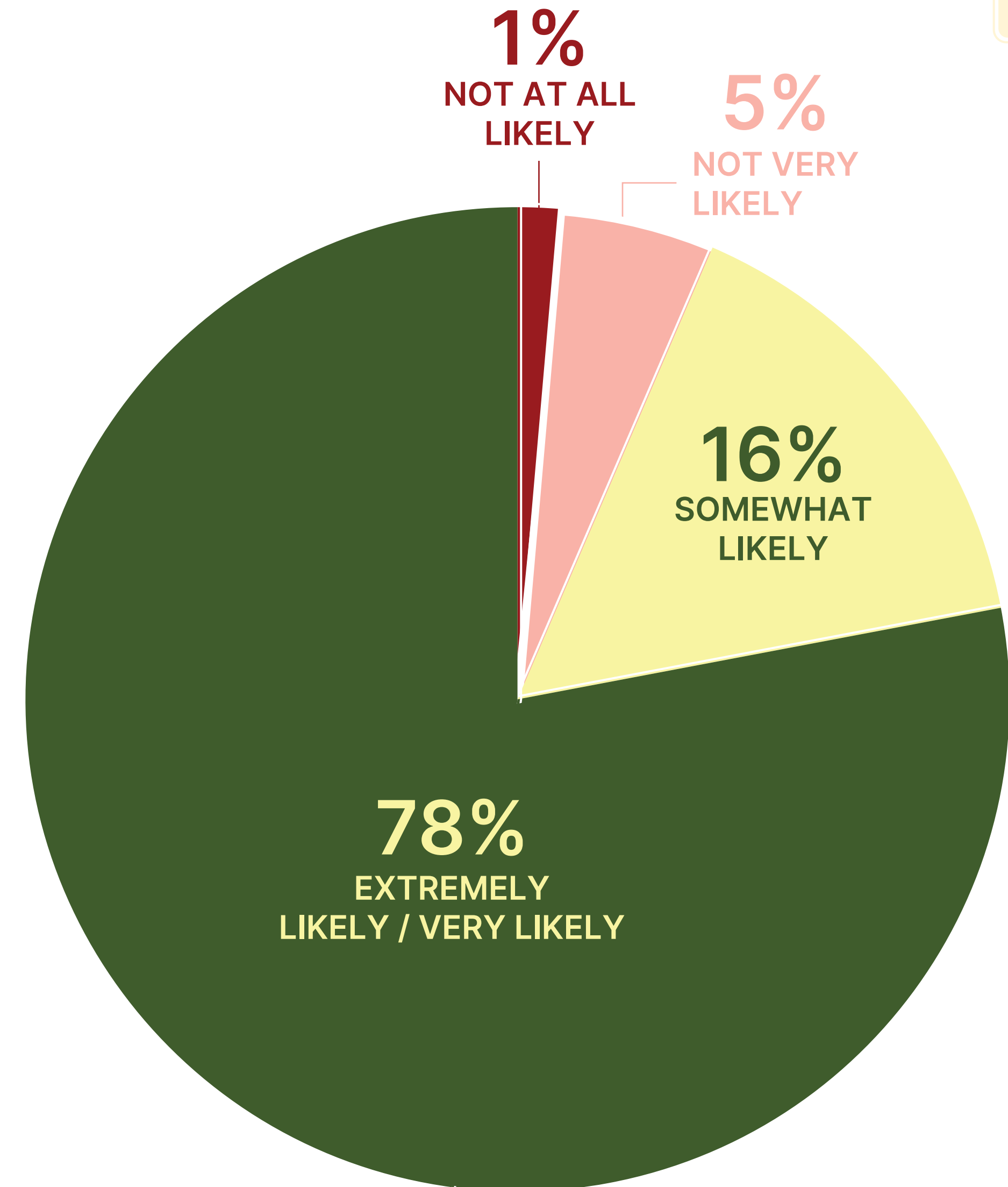
Interest in Engaging



Interest in Engaging

78% of respondents are either **very likely or extremely likely to shop at a co-op in Bronzeville.**

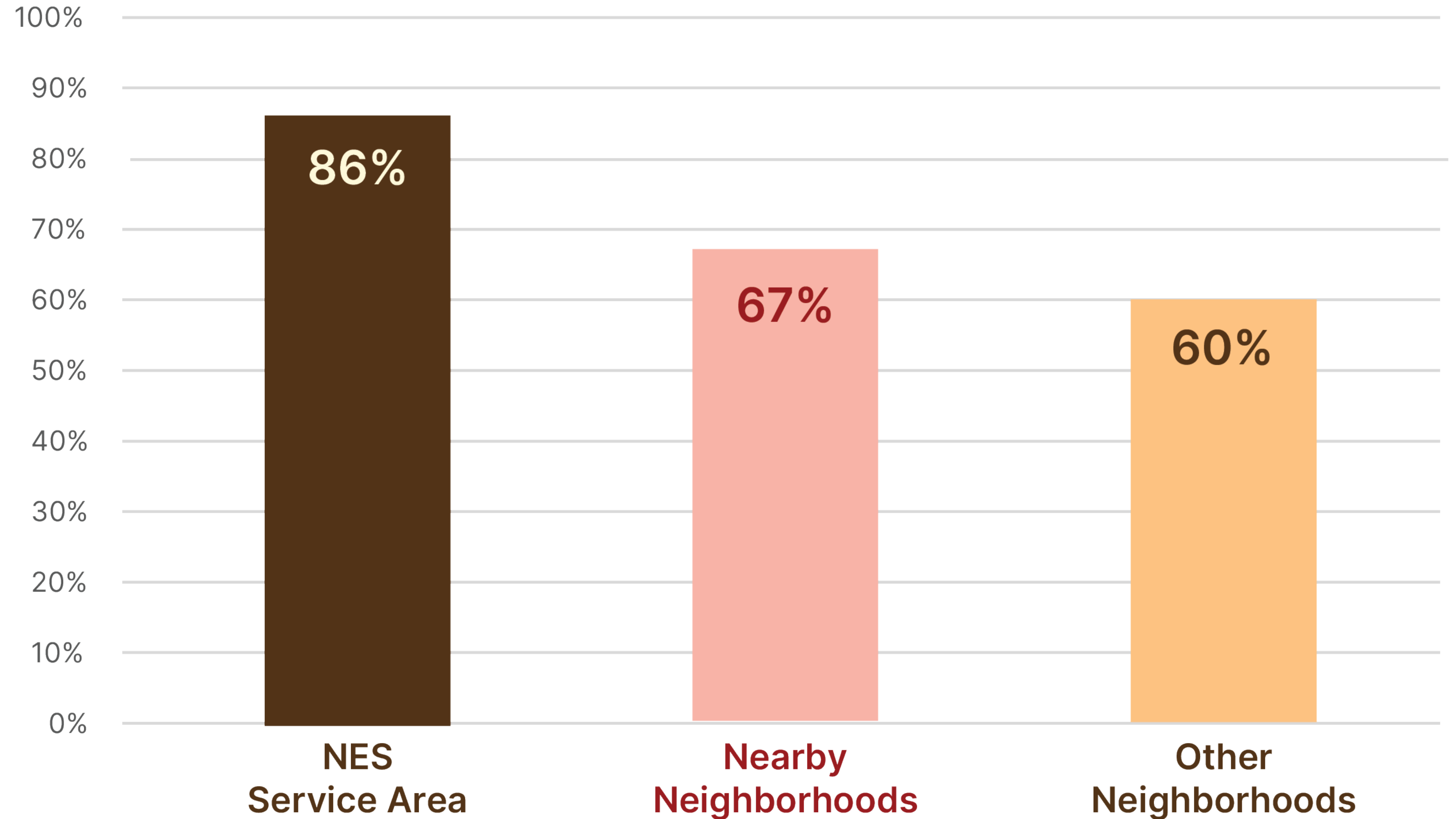
Of all respondents, **only 6% were not very likely or not at all likely to shop at a co-op** in the area.



Interest in Engaging



Responses to this question varied by respondent location. The closer the respondent lives to Bronzeville, the more likely they were to answer they are very likely to extremely likely to shop at the co-op, with 86% in the NES Service Area compared to 60% for other neighborhoods.

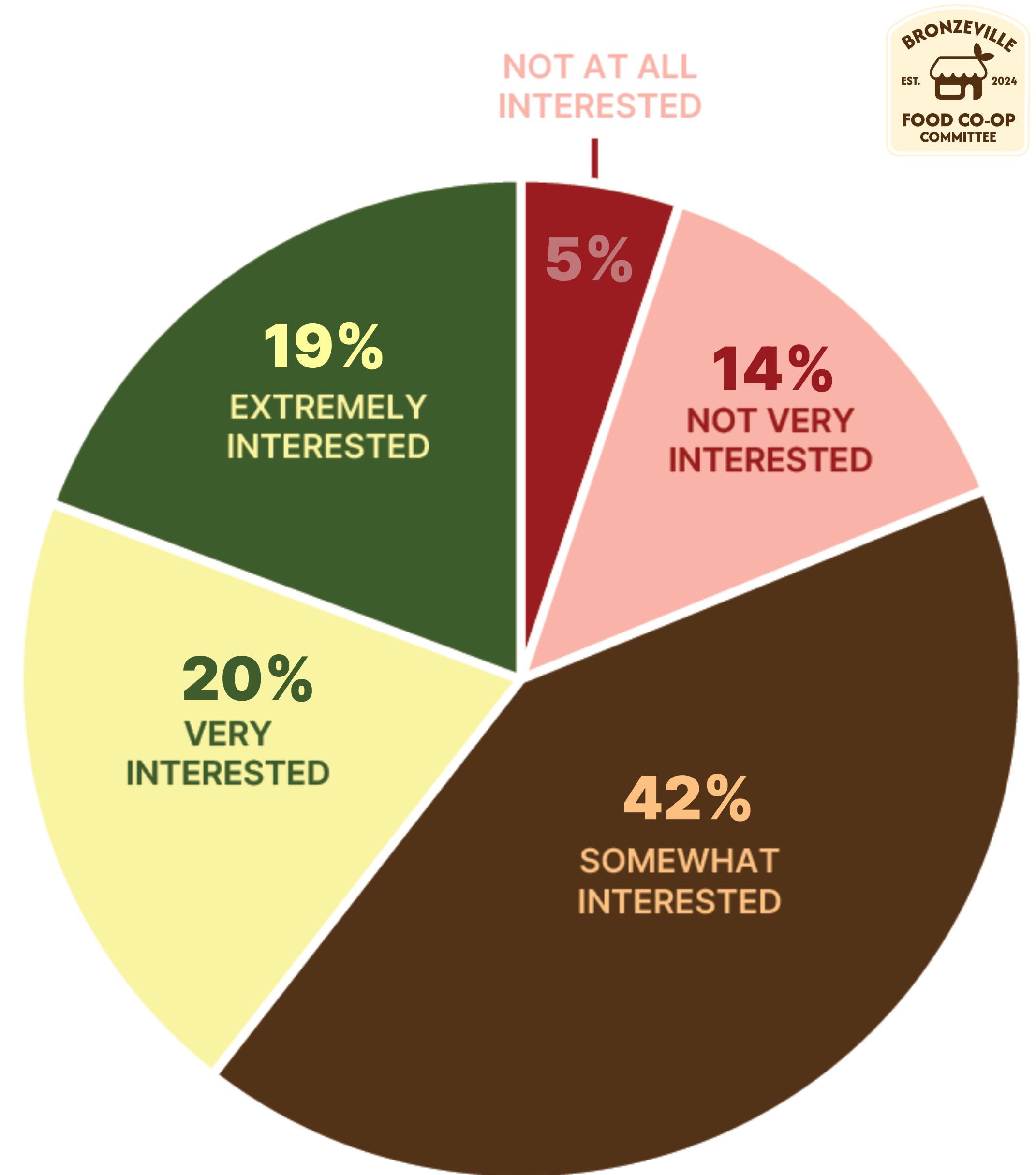


Interest in Engaging

39% of respondents indicated they are **very or extremely interested in becoming a co-op member**. Only 19% indicated they are not very or not at all interested.

Affordability was a top response for what was most important to respondents' choices on where to buy groceries. A concern with affordability could indicate that respondents are excited for the prospect of a new grocery in the community, but reluctant to pay a membership fee to utilize such a space.

A new co-op will need to consider how to make their membership appealing and accessible to all community members, and future engagement and potential surveys should ask community members what they are willing to pay for a membership.

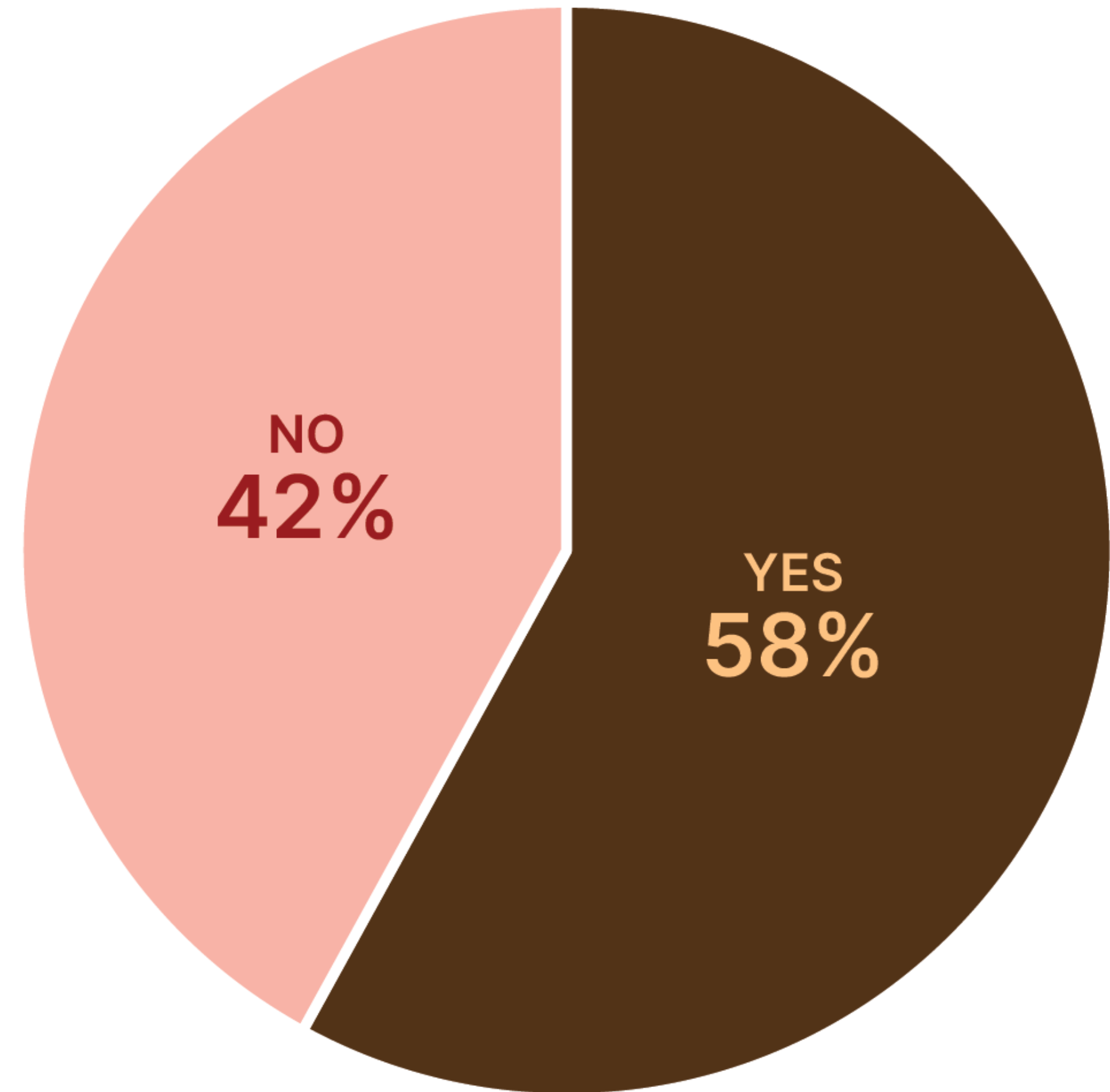


Interest in Engaging

More than half of respondents are willing to volunteer for a food co-op.

Interest in volunteering declines as ages of respondents rise. Younger respondents may generally have more free time and be more physically able to spend time volunteering.

Incorporating a volunteer quota into a membership structure that is tiered by volunteer hours allows for younger and older age groups who are less able to afford a membership to become members of the co-op.



“Black-owned and run would be amazing for this neighborhood and the city”

“Every co – op is unique if it is based on community. This is a Black Community that needs healthy foods. It would be the first of its kinds in Columbus which would be a powerful statement for the city.”



***“We could use fresh produce in the area
easily accessible and affordable to everyone”***



“My goal when grocery shopping is to go to one store to find what I need. We do not like to go to multiple stores to get what we want, so we will drive further to go to a well stocked store”



“An Aldi like atmosphere is great. Dependable products with low prices make me overlook the lack of name brands and variety”

“It would be great to have a locally owned version of Trader Joe’s – cheap, high quality food”



“I also would like to see a grocery store that caters to the needs of the neighborhood and not try to attract people here from outside.

East Market is a place I haven't been to more than 5-6 times even though it's in the neighborhood because I don't feel like it is “for us”. It feels like it is for Bexley or downtown residents.”

“Incorporating elements of the historical impact of the Bronzeville community would make the co-op unique and serve as a source of pride for the residents.”

“Being of the community and not just in the community.”



***“If it’s not accessible (location, parking,
economically) to the neighborhood it serves,
it won’t be beneficial.”***



“It should be affordable and available to ALL members of the community. This is extremely important as the neighborhood continues to gentrify, avoid alienating or pushing out current residents.”



“Cultural references, owned and operated by community members, ability to offer internships or jobs to local students and community members.”



“Integrating educational opportunities for shoppers to engage with residents on a regular basis. Will help in continuing to meet the needs of shoppers as the co-op grows and advances”



“It would aid in healthy revitalization of the area, involving that community and being done with the community in mind. It helps support local & small brands and brings unification and hopefully a lifelong resource to that area”

