

Survey Snapshots: Sustainable Development Goals and the NS Quality of Life Survey Results

Engage Nova Scotia • February 2022



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Acknowledgment

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The opinions and interpretations in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Government of Canada.

Overview

What this is:

You're looking at a series of survey snapshots – sort of like a photo album. The snapshots are a sample of the 2019 NS Quality of Life Survey results relevant to and framed by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Most simply, the SDGs are 17 interconnected global goalposts and calls to action. They were decided on by the United Nations General Assembly (the main policy-making arm of the UN) to advance a more inclusive, sustainable, and just future for people and the planet.



Why we made it:

When we set out to make something that shows the SDGs through a provincial perspective, at the forefront was the way the SDGs are related to our everyday lives. Advancing the SDGs needs all of us. And all our efforts are made stronger when we have information about where we are now, which is how you can use this. We can use local data to inform decisions and actions that get us where we're going, and that don't leave anyone behind.

Viewed all together, the survey snapshots show the interconnectedness of the SDGs and the overlap between them and the NS Quality of Life Initiative. Plus, it provides a baseline when looking at Nova Scotia's progress towards the SDGs.

Where you are:

- The 'start' of what we made – a series of graphs and information about the quality of life of Nova Scotia residents framed by the SDGs
- An opportunity to learn more about the SDGs in Nova Scotia
- An example of new ways to use local data
- Maybe somewhere new and are hearing about the SDGs or the NS Quality of Life Initiative (or both) for the first time.
- One starting point of many you can use to support actions that improve quality of life in Nova Scotia for all.

How we got here:

Before the SDGs, there were the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). MDGs guided global development efforts from 2000 to 2015. The SDGs have succeeded them and are at the heart of the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The purpose of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs are to guide global, national, and local actions towards sustainable development from 2015-2030. The SDGs aspire us to a future of peace and prosperity for people and the planet achieved through partnership (the 5 Ps – and pillars – of sustainable development).

The SDGs are where we want to be, and the 2030 Agenda is a map and plan for how to get there.

In Canada, the 2030 Agenda has been taken up in a national strategy called *Moving Forward Together*. This strategy was written to accelerate progress towards the SDGs in Canada, and it emphasizes leaving no one behind as we all work on these goals together.

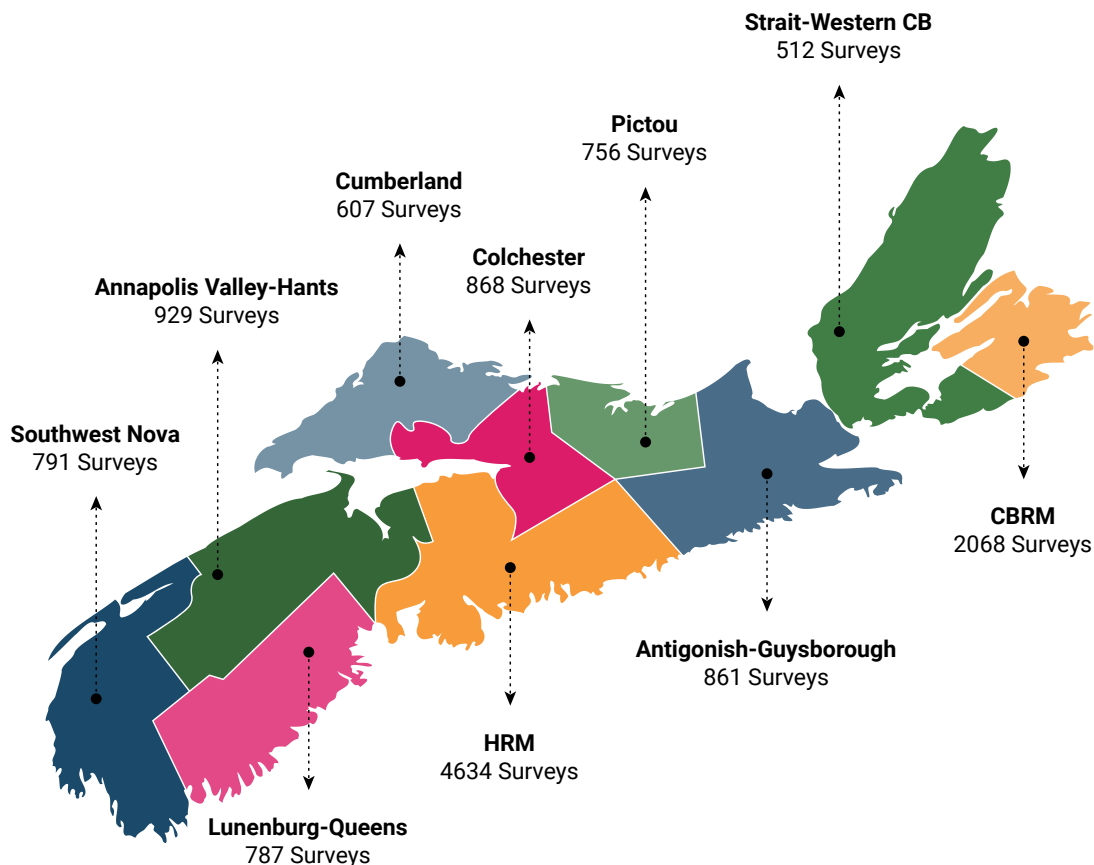
With our 3-year initiative, "*Igniting Canada's 2030 Agenda in Coordination with the Nova Scotia Quality of Life Initiative*," Engage Nova Scotia is one of many organizations working towards the SDGs across the province. Our SDG-related work is focused on strengthening awareness of the SDGs locally and supporting Nova Scotians to be part of the global movement.

How we made this:

Members of the Engage NS team mapped the NS Quality of Life Survey's 230 indicators onto the 17 SDGs. Whether a particular survey indicator and SDG were aligned was decided on by Engage NS team members - these decisions were also informed by the 76 indicators of the Canadian Indicator Framework for the Sustainable Development Goals. (The Canadian Indicator Framework accompanies *Moving Forward Together* – Canada's national strategy mentioned above). Once the team decided which survey indicators fit best under each SDG, graphs were made to visualize a sample of available data.

The 2019 NS Quality of Life Survey data includes 12,826 completed 230-question surveys. The breakdown of the completed surveys by region is illustrated in the figure below (the province is broken up according to functional economic regions). The data has been weighted based on region, sex, and age. Weighting is a process undertaken in statistical analyses to ensure representative results. The weighted sample equates to 787,120 people represented by the data and the margin of error is $\pm 1.0\%$. This means that the survey is reliable to within plus or minus 1 per cent, 19 times out of 20, had all Nova Scotians been surveyed.

For more details on survey respondents after weighting, check out [the survey summary results published in 2020](#).



A note on the data

Each survey response is a part of a person's life story. And, for many reasons, survey findings can't tell the whole story – an inherent limitation of survey research – even though aggregating responses (combining them) can tell us a lot.

The data shared here won't tell you things about people's lived experience who responded to the survey question about their gender with a response outside the limited gender binary because the sample wasn't statistically reliable. Disabilities and chronic diseases were not disaggregated (separated) because the survey did not ask for this level of detail. And, with the knowledge of the NS Assembly of Mi'kmaq Chiefs, the 2019 NS Quality of Life Survey was not undertaken on reserve, so the results do not include the experiences of anyone living on reserve at the time of surveying.

Overall, while you'll see data shared along some demographic lines and characteristics like gender (limitation in mind), age, and income, you won't see results broken down by all the ways respondents might identify themselves.

The NS Quality of Life Initiative and the Canadian Index of Wellbeing

The Canadian Index of Wellbeing (CIW) is based at the University of Waterloo and are Engage Nova Scotia's primary academic partners in the NS Quality of Life Initiative. The CIW regularly reports on the quality of life of Canadians – nationally, provincially, and locally – and advocates for change that reflects our values and places wellbeing at the heart of policy. They are recognized nationally and globally as one of the leading organizations measuring wellbeing. The NS Quality of Life Survey is modelled after the CIW's *Community Wellbeing Framework's* national survey that has been administered in over a dozen communities across Canada.

The collaboration with the CIW includes the release of the NS Quality of Life Index in 2018 followed by undertaking the NS Quality of Life Survey in 2019. The summary results of that survey were released in March 2020 and are organized by domain, according to the CIW's Eight Domains of Wellbeing Framework. Additionally, a supplementary analysis was released in Fall 2020 that shares high-level information about demographic groups that caught the attention of the CIW, insights about the eight domains of wellbeing, and analysis related to six areas of focus: social isolation, sense of community, feelings of trust, experiences of discrimination, poverty, and health. These resources can be found on our [website](#).

How do I cite this document?

Hill, T. & Holland, C. (2021). *Survey Snapshots: Sustainable Development Goals and the NS Quality of Life Survey Results*. Halifax, NS: Engage Nova Scotia.

About Engage Nova Scotia

Engage Nova Scotia is a non-profit organization whose vision is a more vibrant, inclusive, and resilient province.

Our work sits at the intersection of public, private, non-profit, and academic sectors and our primary focus has been the NS Quality of Life Initiative since 2017.

It's our goal that, together, we can better understand the opportunities, advantages, and challenges faced by Nova Scotians, foster meaningful solutions, and help empower and drive outcomes that improve quality of life provincially.



1 NO POVERTY



End Poverty in All Its Forms Everywhere

At least once during the 12 months before the survey,

1 in 5 Nova Scotia residents were **UNABLE** to pay their bills on time (19.3%)



1 in 5 Nova Scotia residents were **UNABLE** to afford the things that they need (20%)

5.9%

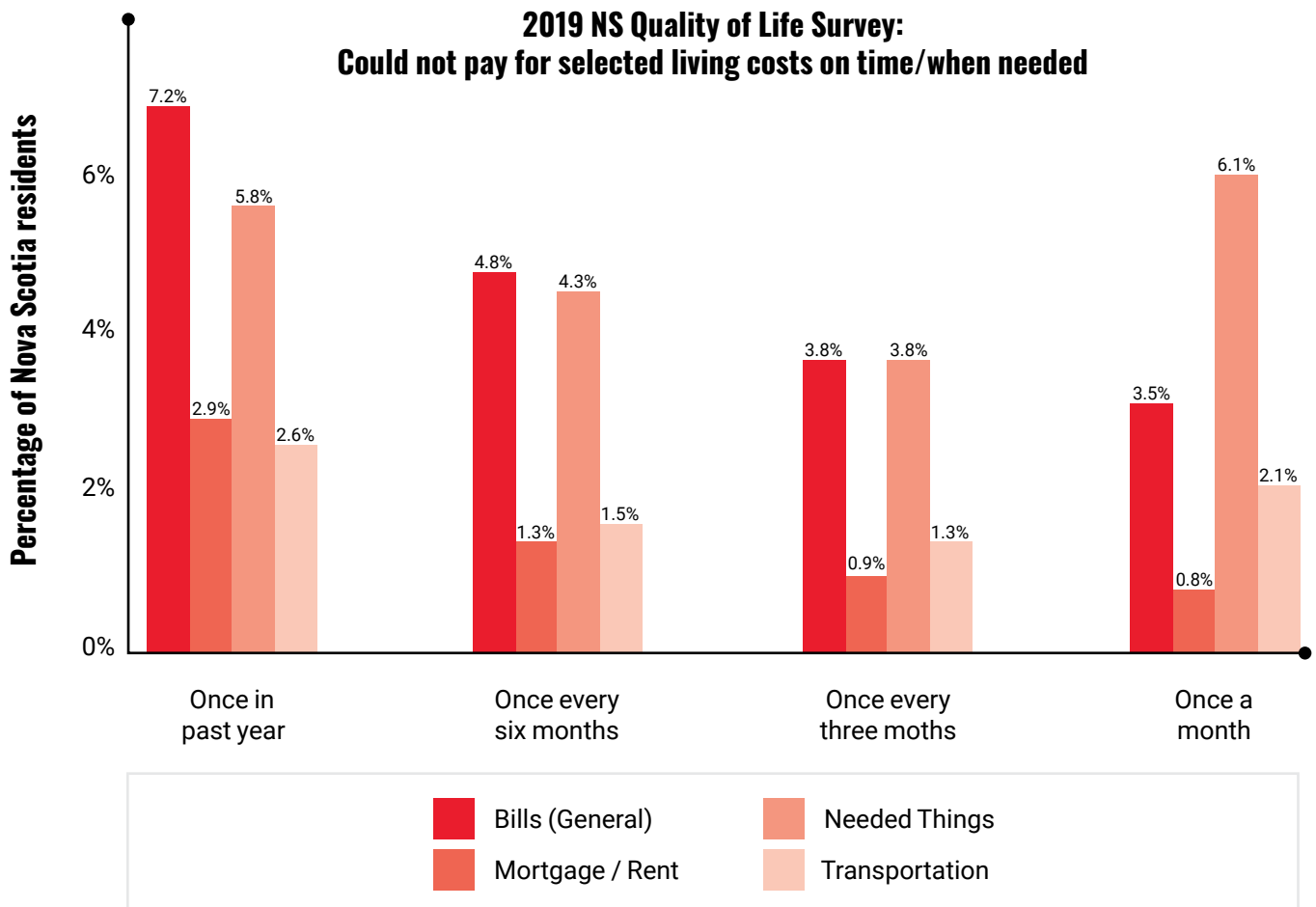
of Nova Scotia residents were unable to pay their mortgage/rent on time

7.5%

of Nova Scotians were unable to afford necessary transportation

FOCUS

2019 NS Quality of Life Survey:
Could not pay for selected living costs on time/when needed

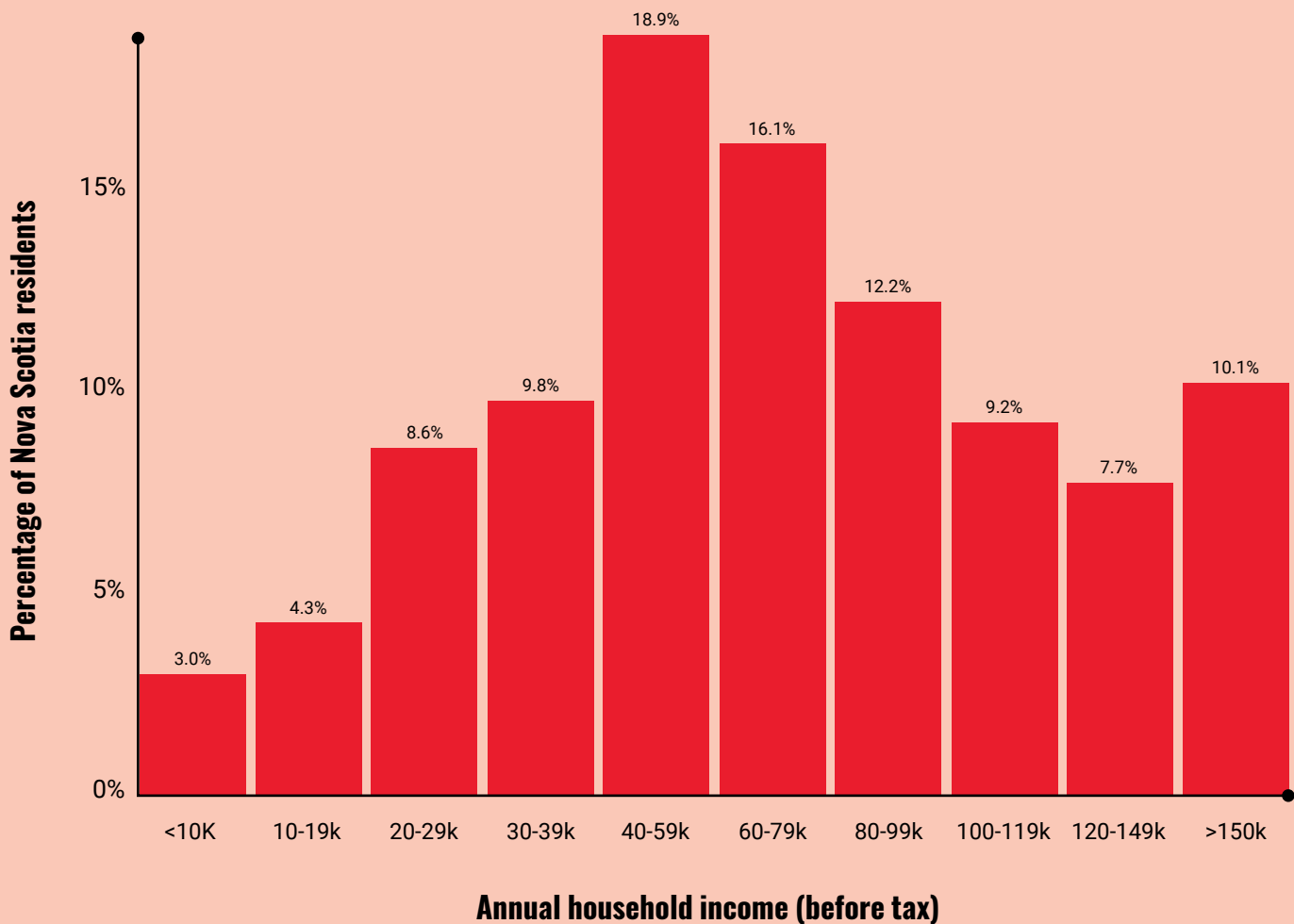


About one quarter of Nova Scotia residents (25.7%) reported annual household incomes less than \$40,000 and just over one quarter of Nova Scotia residents (27%) reported annual household incomes more than \$100,000.

The rest of the population fell somewhere in between with the greatest proportion (18.9%) with incomes between \$40,000-\$59,000.¹

FOCUS

2019 NS Quality of Life Survey: Annual household income



¹ An annual income of \$40,000 is used here based on the poverty threshold assessed against the Market Basket Measure in the 2019 Canadian Income Survey: "The income required for a reference family (2 adults, 2 children) to afford a basic standard of living ranged from \$42,405 in Cape Breton Regional Municipality to \$46,147 in Halifax." (Government of Nova Scotia, 2021).

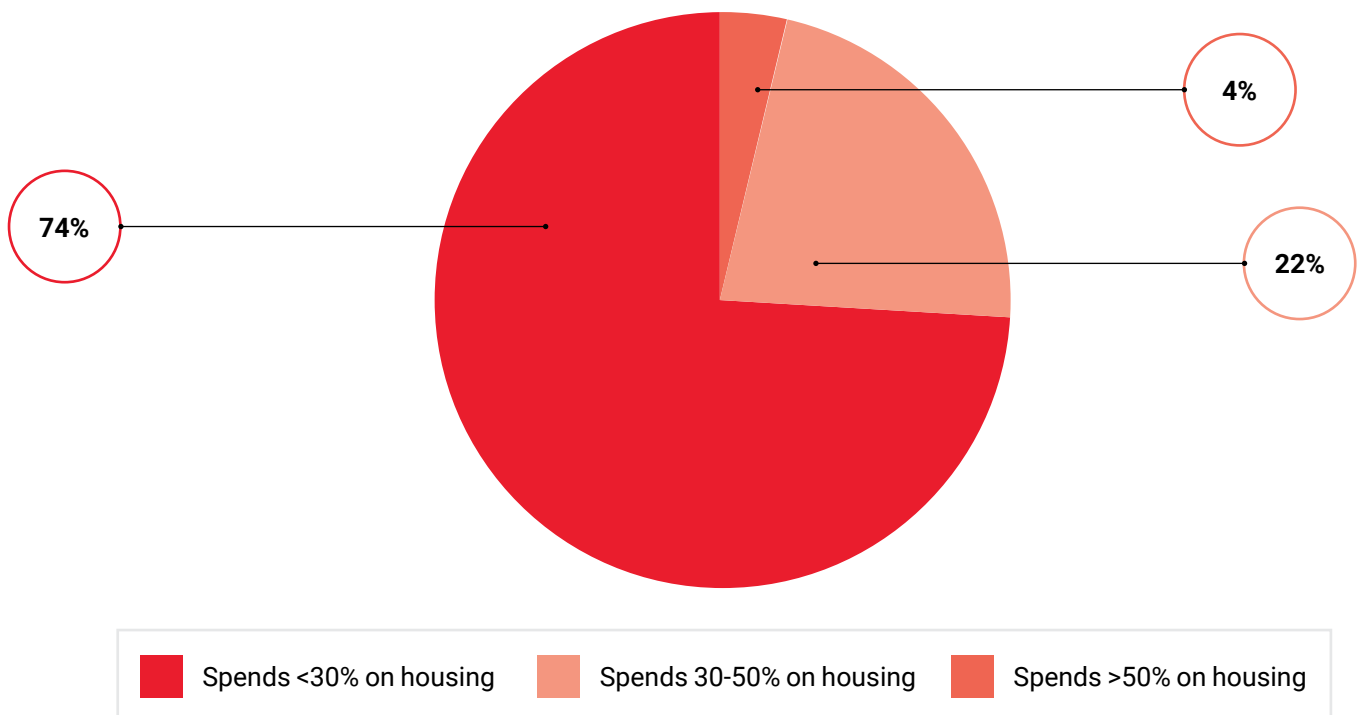
Almost a quarter of Nova Scotia residents (22%) spent between 30-50% of their annual household incomes on housing.²

4% of Nova Scotians **spend over 50%** of their annual household **income on housing.**

Within that 4%, over one in five Nova Scotia residents had annual household incomes below \$10,000 and were more likely to have had incomes below \$30,000 (Smale & Gao, 2020).

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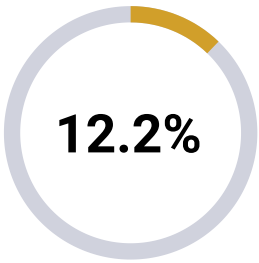
**NS Quality of Life Survey:
Proportions of annual household incomes spent on housing**



²The 30% threshold is used here based on the shelter-cost-to-income-ratio agreed upon by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation in 1986. The shelter-cost-to-income-ratio is an indicator for housing affordability, and whether the occupants of a dwelling paid 30% or more of household total income towards shelter costs has been determined as the threshold to measure affordability. (Statistics Canada, 2021).

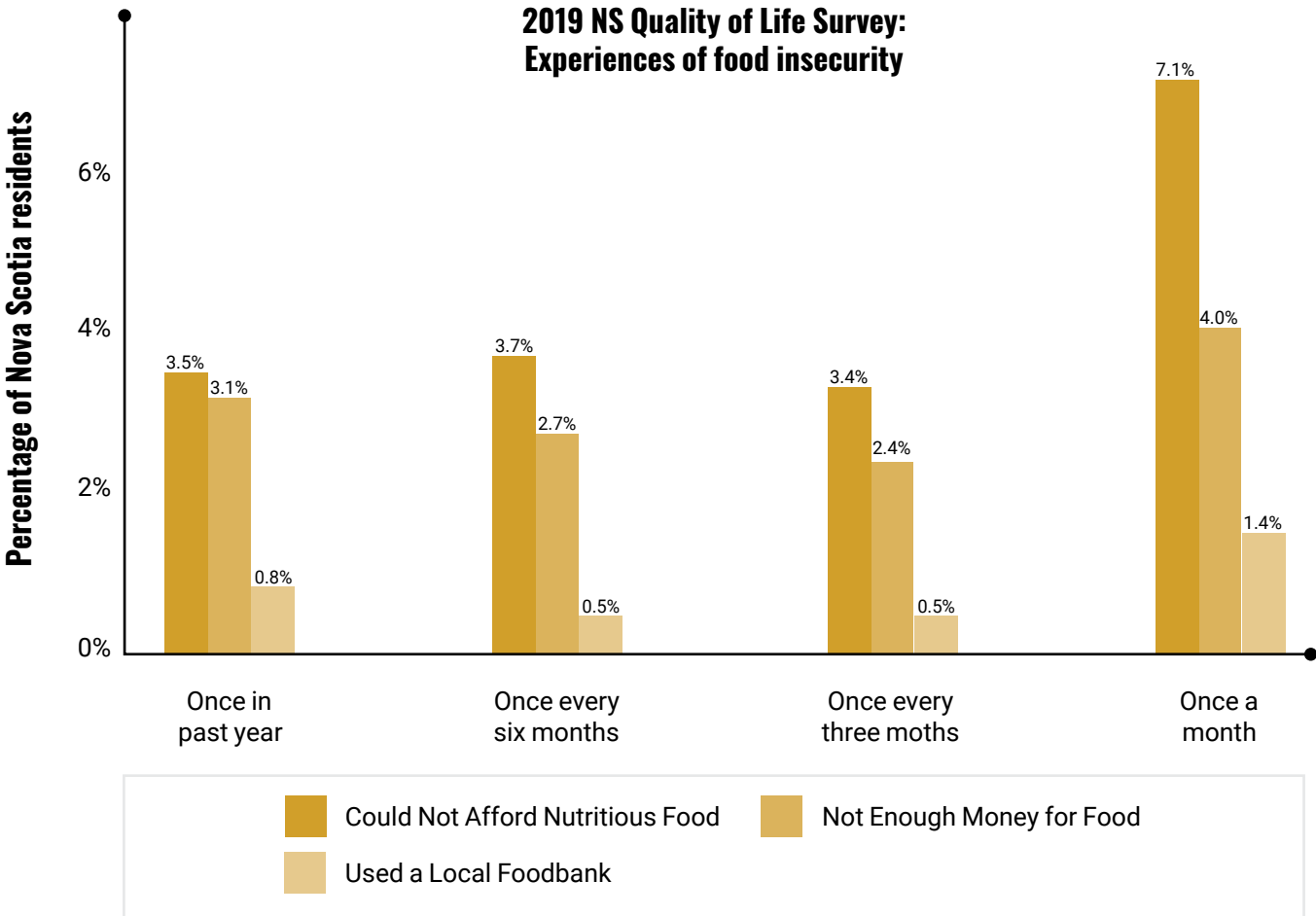


End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture



Just over 1 in 10 Nova Scotia residents (12.2%) did not have enough money for food at least once in the last year leading up to the survey and 2.9% used a local foodbank. Almost 1 in 5 Nova Scotia residents (17.7%) could not afford nutritious food at least once in the past year – just over 7% could not afford nutritious food once a month.

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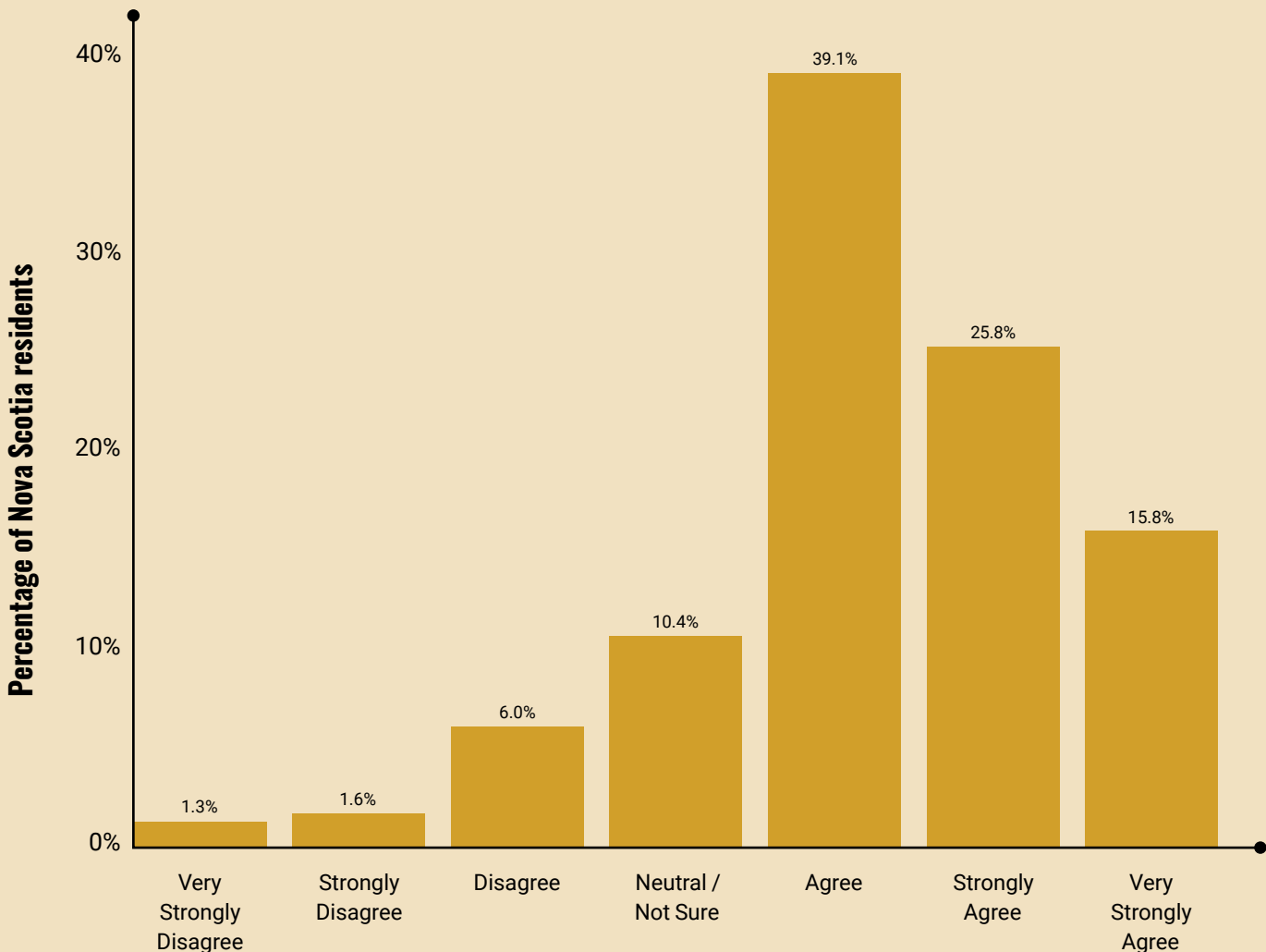


When asked, most Nova Scotia residents (80.7%) agreed to some degree that they regularly ate healthy meals in the last week.

Almost **1 in 10** NOVA SCOTIANS (8.9%) disagreed

FOCUS

**2019 NS Quality of Life Survey:
Agreement with the statement: 'I regularly ate healthy meals during the last week'.**





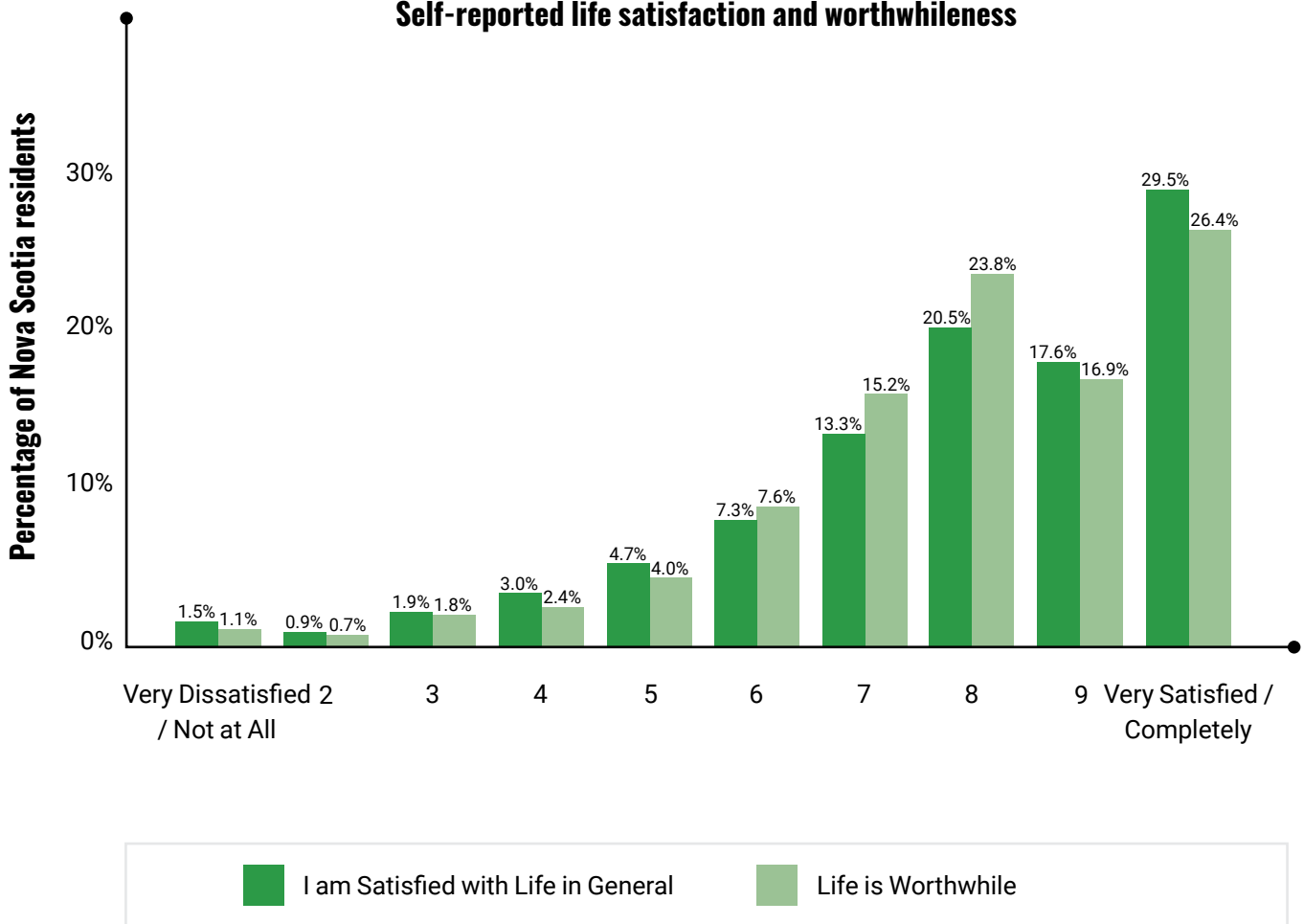
Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Most Nova Scotia residents were satisfied with life in general (88.2%) and found life to be worthwhile (89.9%).

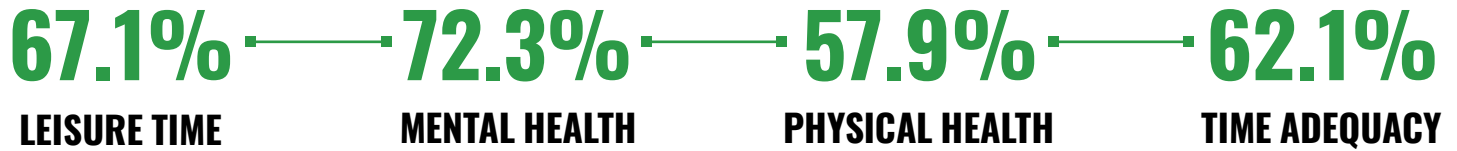
These percentages represent those who rated their life satisfaction and worthwhileness between 6 and 10 on scales of 1-10 with 10 being “very satisfied” and “completely worthwhile.”

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**2019 NS Quality of Life Survey:
Self-reported life satisfaction and worthwhileness**

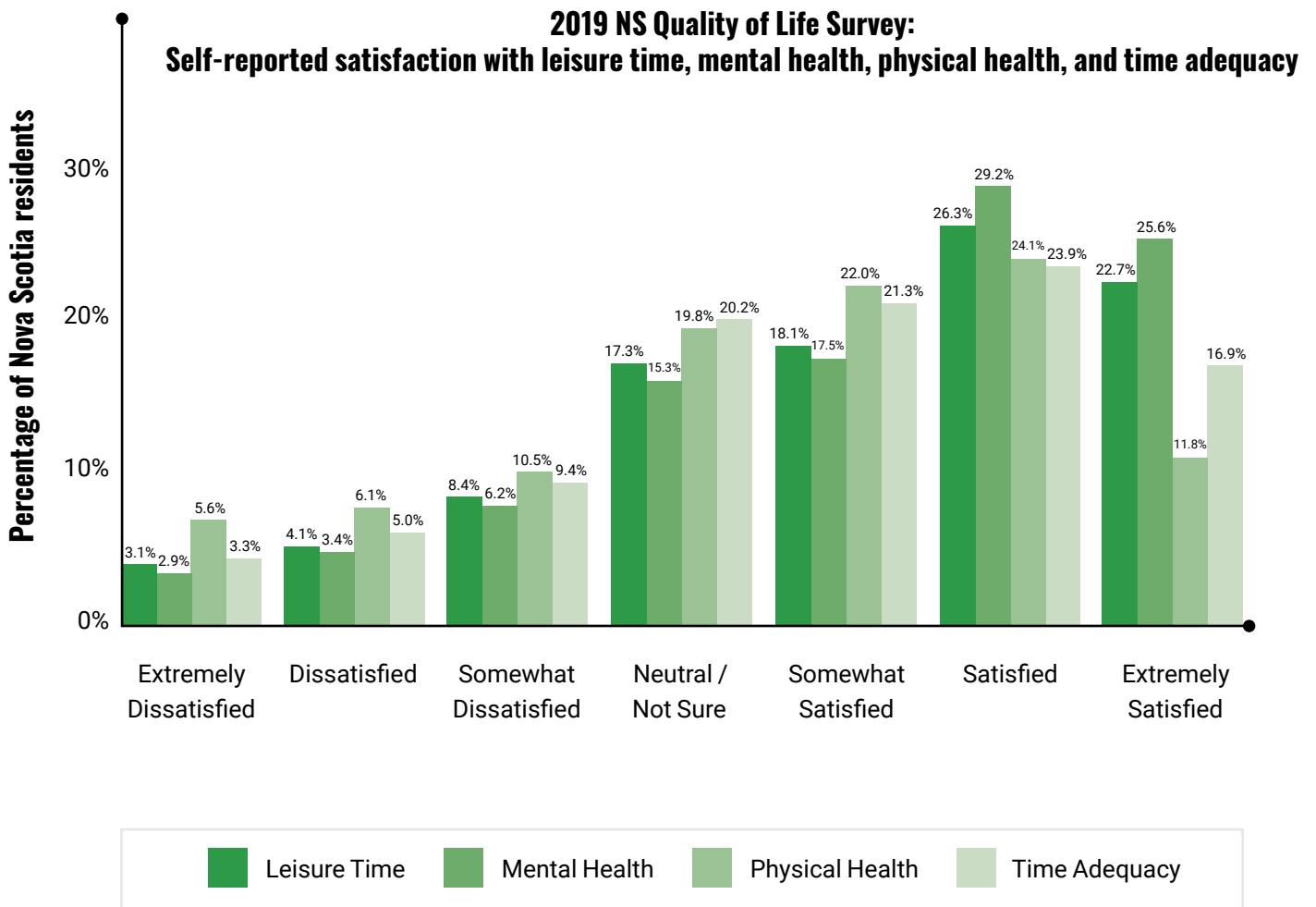


Most Nova Scotia residents were satisfied to some degree with their:



Alternatively, some Nova Scotia residents were dissatisfied to some extent with their leisure time (15.6%), mental health (12.5%), physical health (22.2%), and time adequacy (17.7%).

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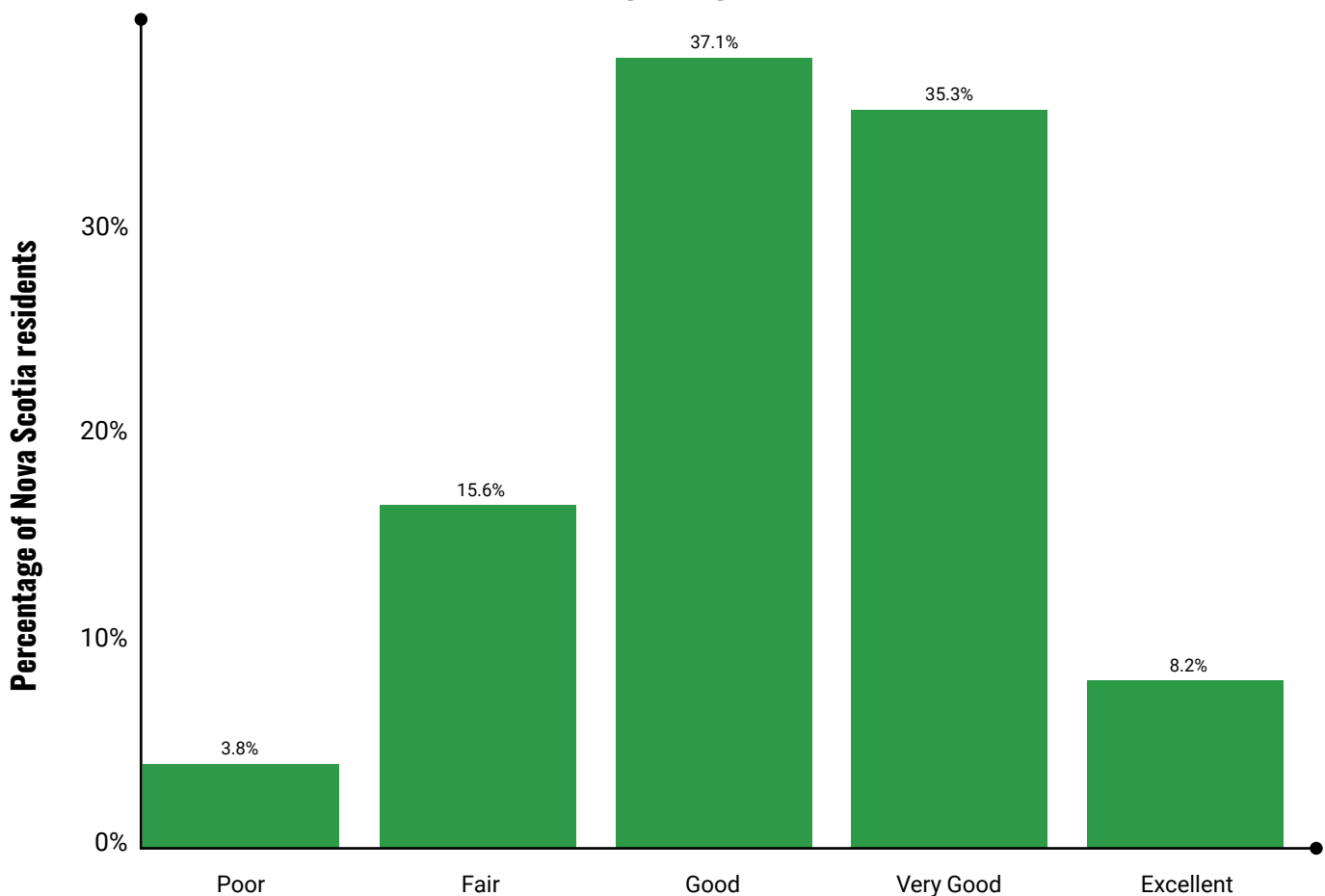


A majority of the population (80.7%) rated their physical health as good, very good, or excellent.

Nearly 1 in 5 Nova Scotia residents (19.4%) rated their physical health as poor or fair.

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2019 NS Quality of Life Survey:
Self-reported physical health

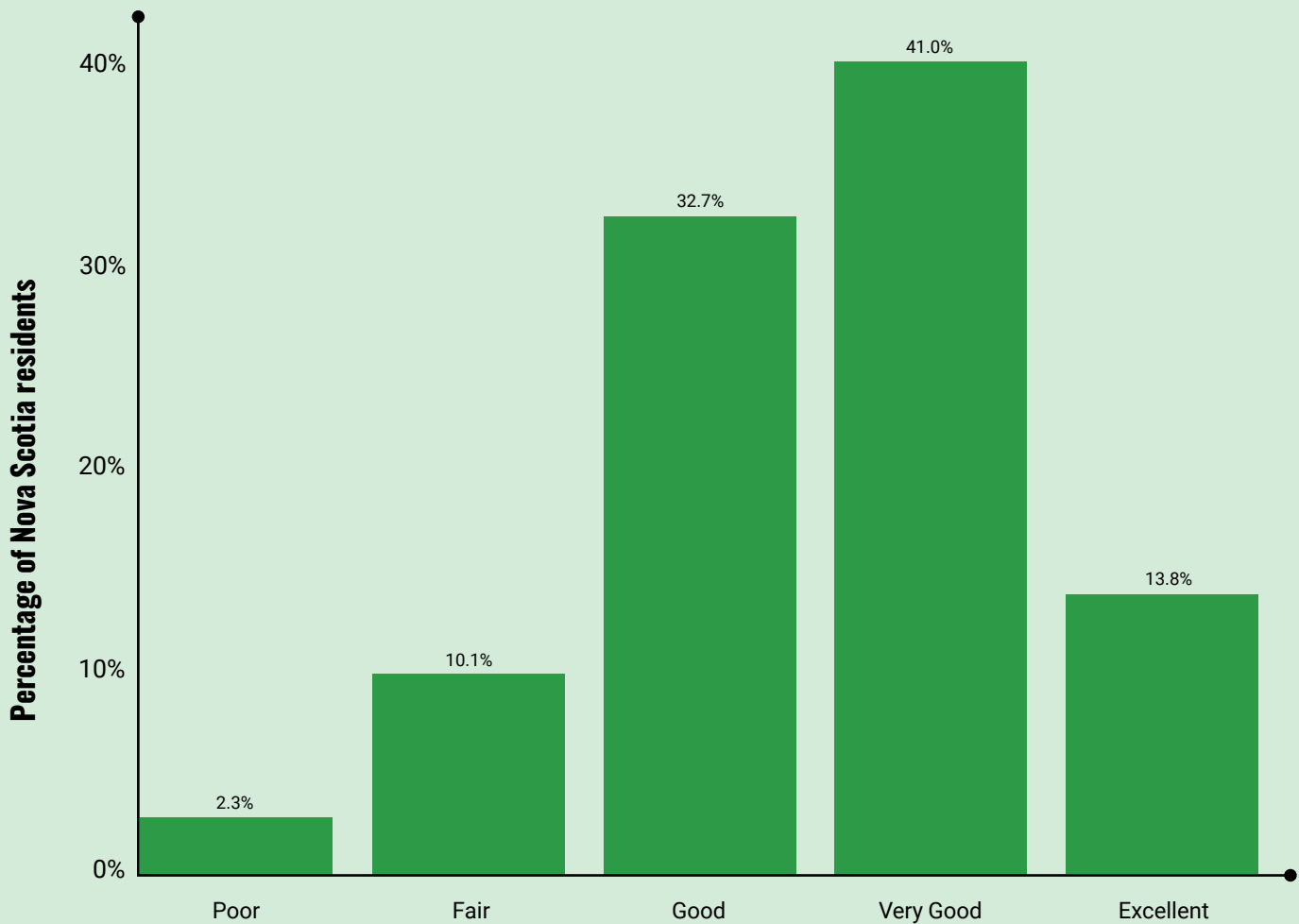


Most Nova Scotian residents (87.5%) rated their mental health as good, very good, or excellent.

1 in 10 residents (12.4%) rated their mental health as poor or fair.

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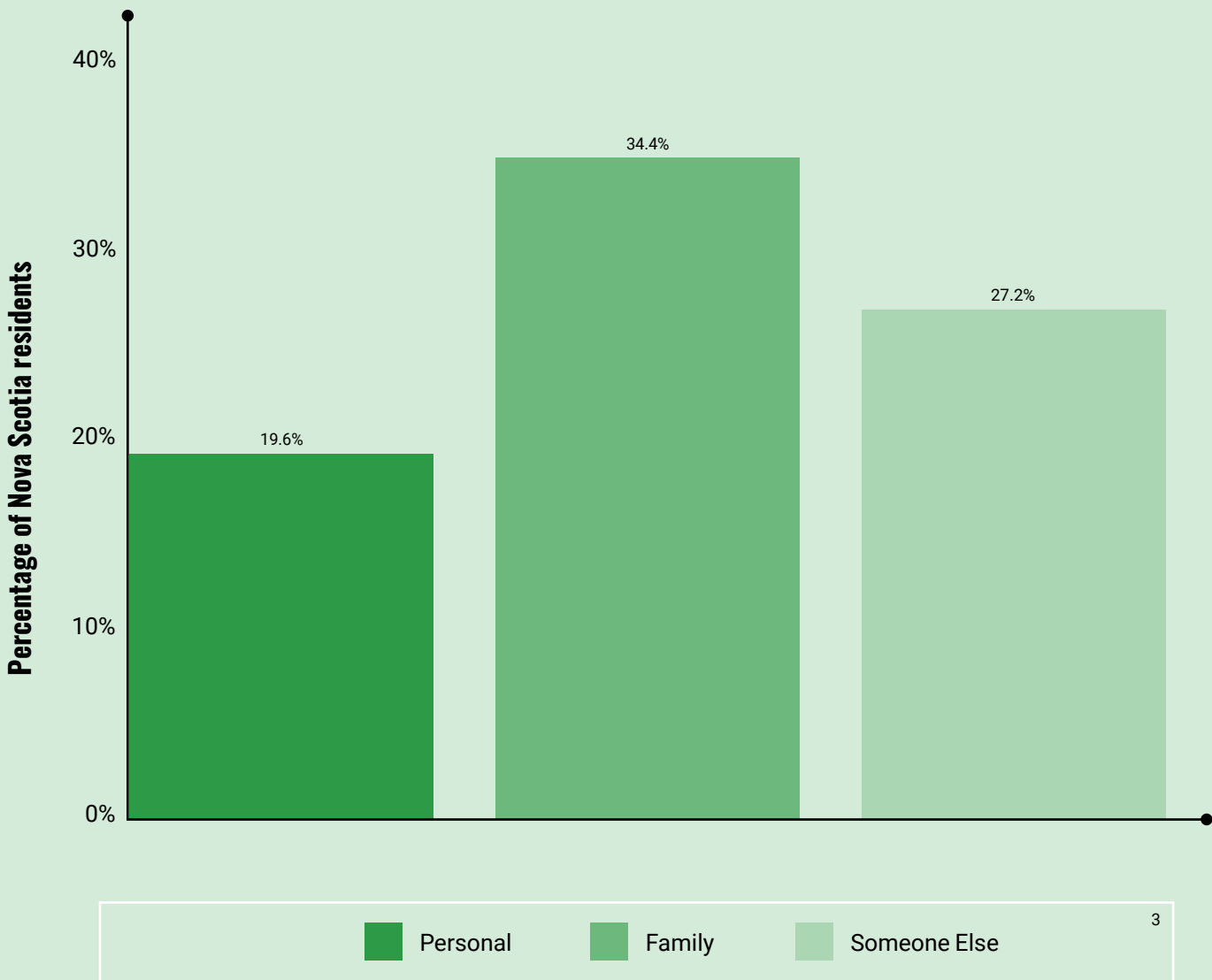
**2019 NS Quality of Life Survey:
Self-reported mental health**



Some Nova Scotia residents experienced negative impacts because of their own mental health challenges (19.6%), a family member's (34.4%), and/or someone else's – like a friend (27%).

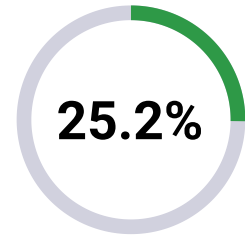
FOCUS

**2019 NS Quality of Life Survey:
Negative impacts due to personal and others' mental health**



³ Note: Respondents were able to select yes or no to all three of the options (personal, family, someone else) and therefore may be experiencing negative impacts because of one or more instances.

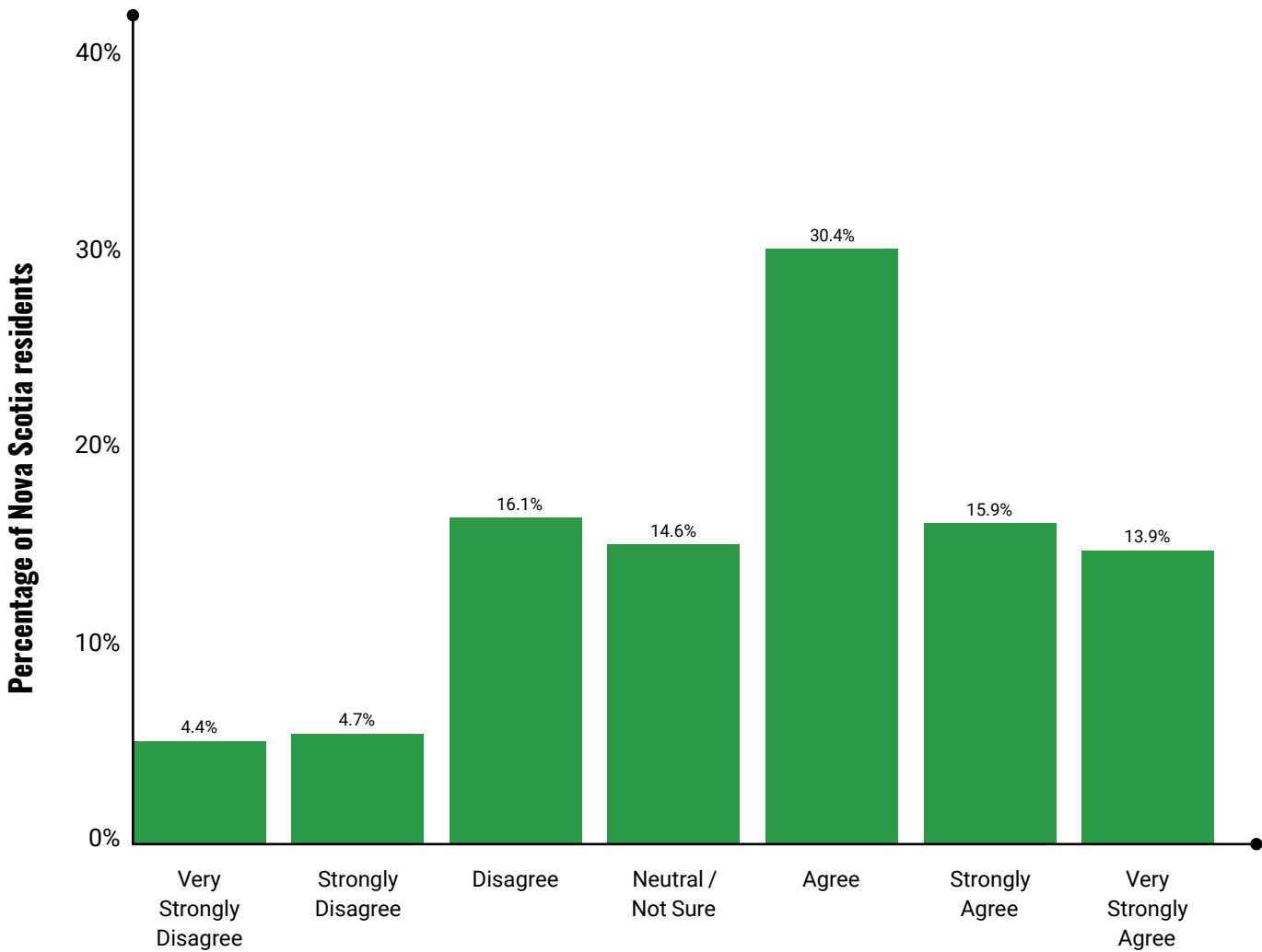
A majority of Nova Scotia residents (60.2%) agreed to some degree that they regularly engaged in good quality exercise.



A QUARTER OF THE POPULATION DISAGREED.

FOCUS

**2019 NS Quality of Life Survey:
Agreement with the statement: 'I regularly engage in good quality exercise'**



Almost two thirds of Nova Scotia residents assessed access to healthcare services as poor or fair (64.1%) and just over a half assessed quality of healthcare services as poor or fair (51%).

64.1%

assessed access to healthcare as poor or fair

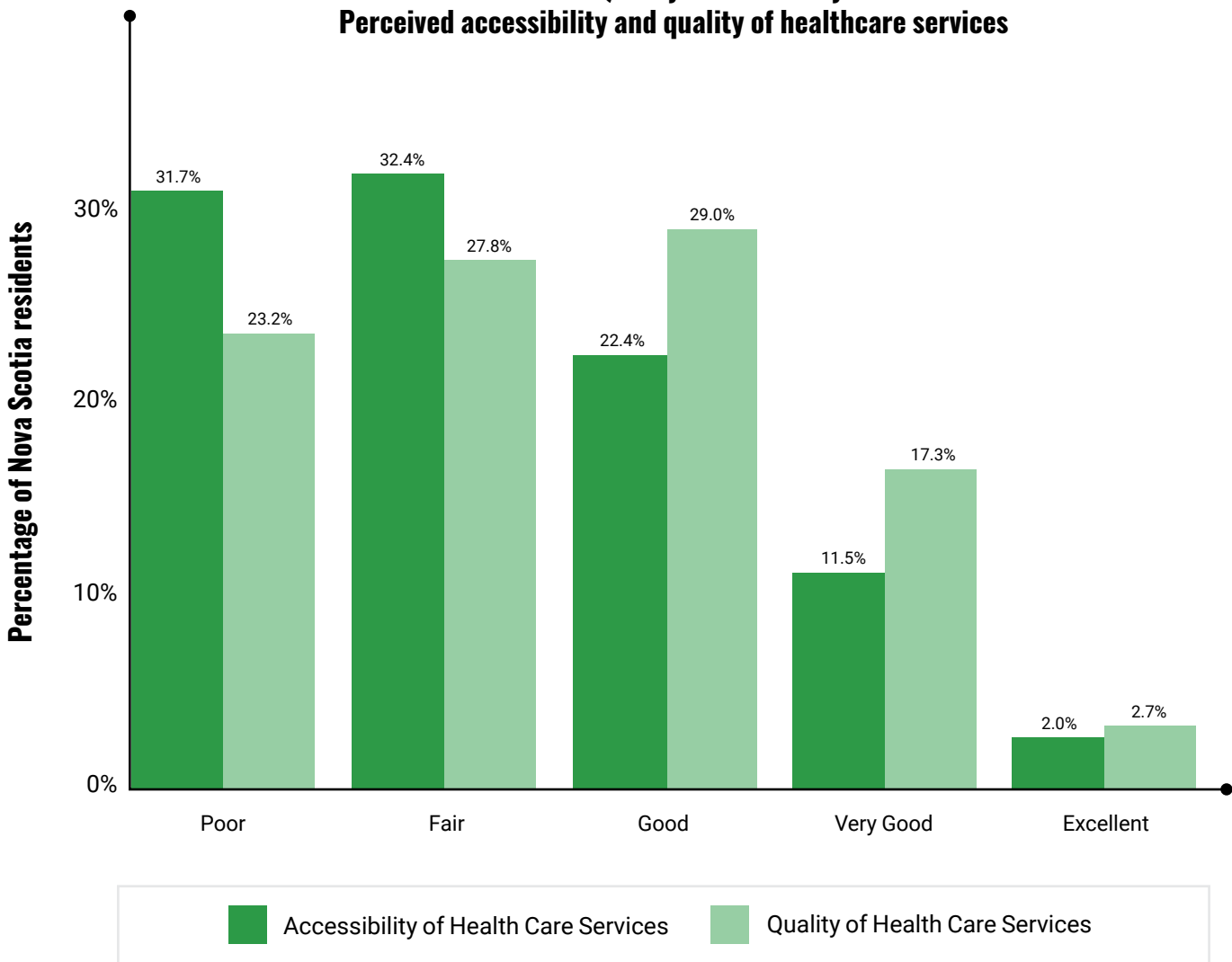
51%

assessed quality to healthcare as poor or fair

Over 1 in 5 Nova Scotia residents (22.4%) found access to healthcare services as good and 29% found quality of healthcare services to be good. Far fewer found either to be very good (11.5% and 17.3% respectively) or excellent (2% and 2.7% respectively).

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**2019 NS Quality of Life Survey:
Perceived accessibility and quality of healthcare services**



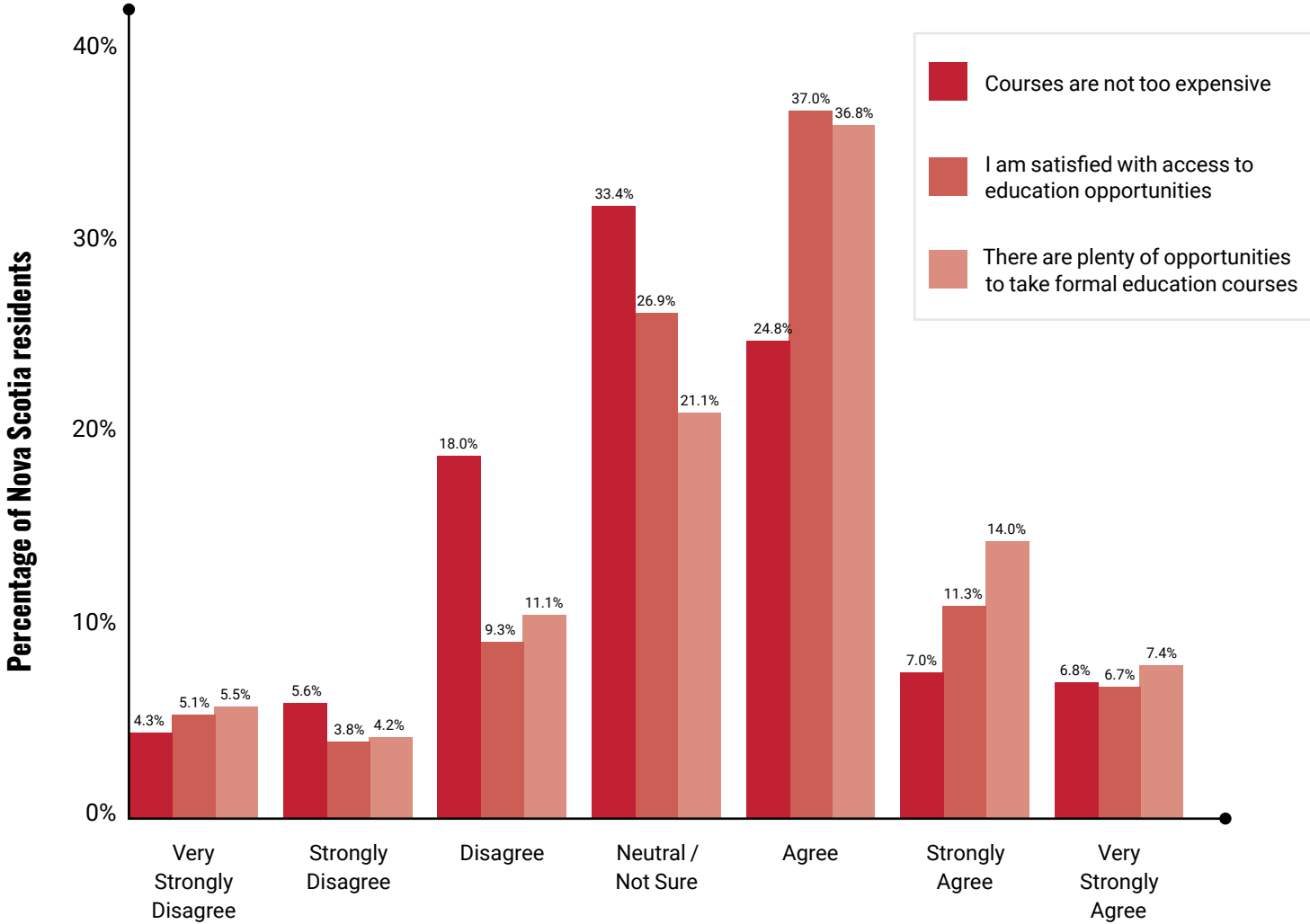


Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Almost 2 in 5 Nova Scotia residents agreed to some degree that local educational courses weren't too expensive (38.6%), and most agreed in some way that they were satisfied with the accessibility (55%) and availability of (58.2%) educational opportunities. Still, over a quarter (27.9%) did not agree to some extent that local education opportunities were affordable, and about 1 in 5 residents were not satisfied with access (18.2%) and availability (20.8%).

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**2019 NS Quality of Life Survey:
Agreement levels with affordability, accessibility, and availability of local education opportunities**





Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

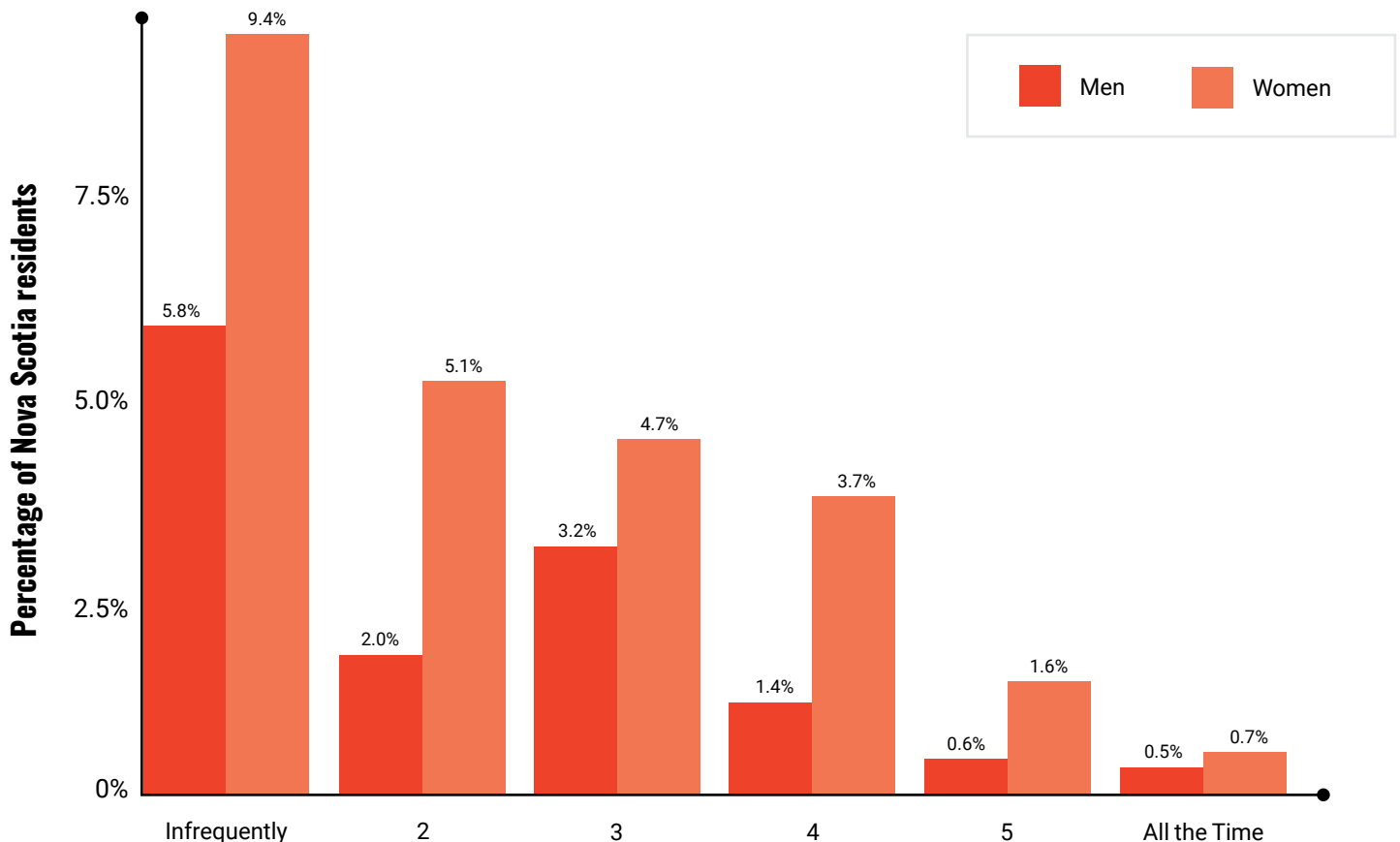
25.2% The percentage of women who ever felt discriminated against because of their gender

was nearly double

13.5% The percentage of men who ever felt discriminated against because of their gender

FOCUS

2019 NS Quality of Life Survey:
Frequency of feeling discriminated against because of gender

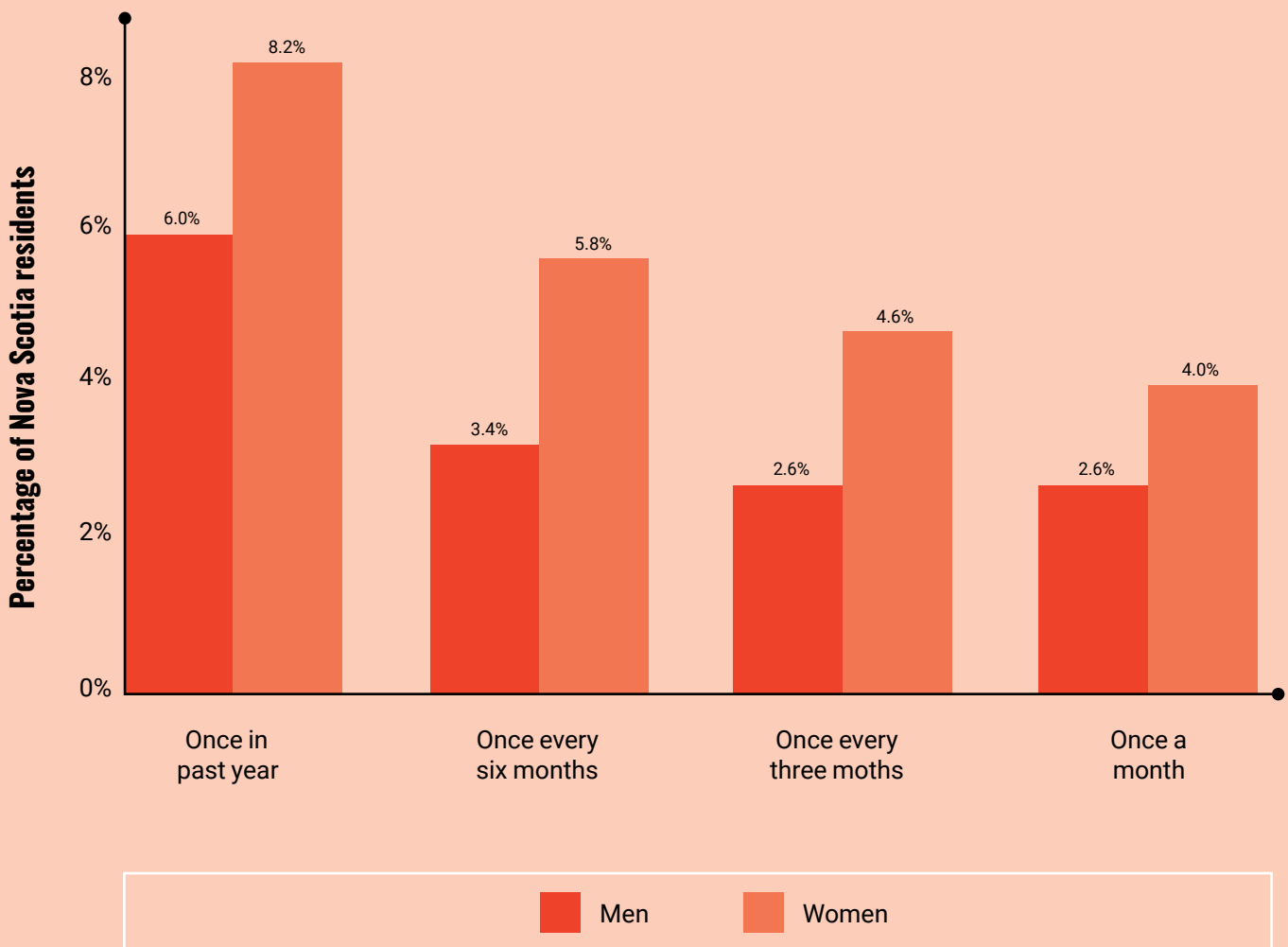


Over **1 in 5 women (22.6%)** in Nova Scotia couldn't pay their bills on time at least once in 2019

compared to a lower percentage of men (14.6%).

FOCUS

**2019 NS Quality of Life Survey:
Frequency of unpaid bills by gender**

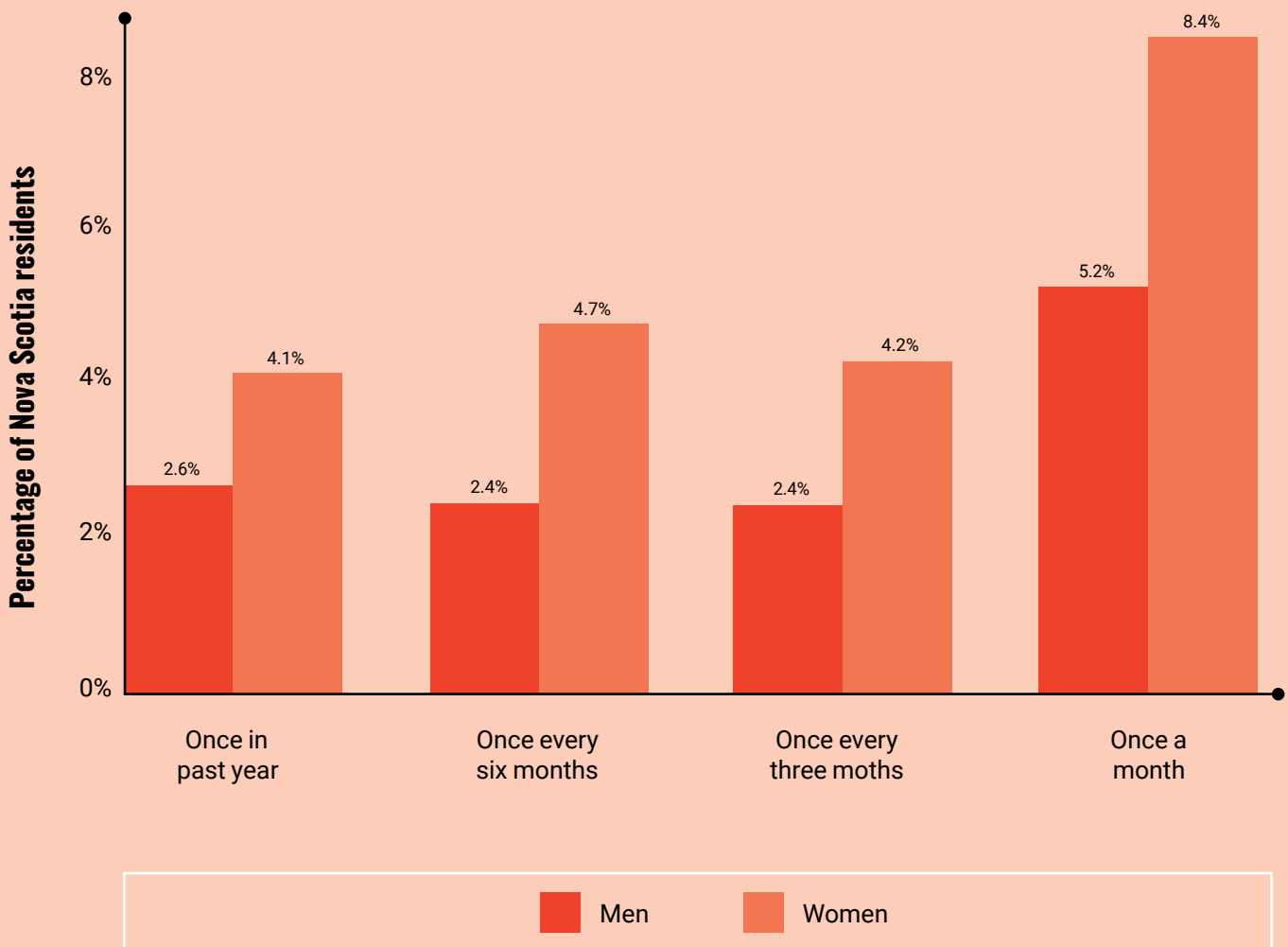


Just Over **1 in 5 women (21.4%)** in Nova Scotia were unable to buy nutritious food at least once in 2019

compared to a lower percentage of men (12.6%).

FOCUS

**2019 NS Quality of Life Survey:
Frequency of being unable to buy nutritious food by gender**



Over **1 in 2 women (56.4%)** in Nova Scotia reported zero to low confidence in the health care system

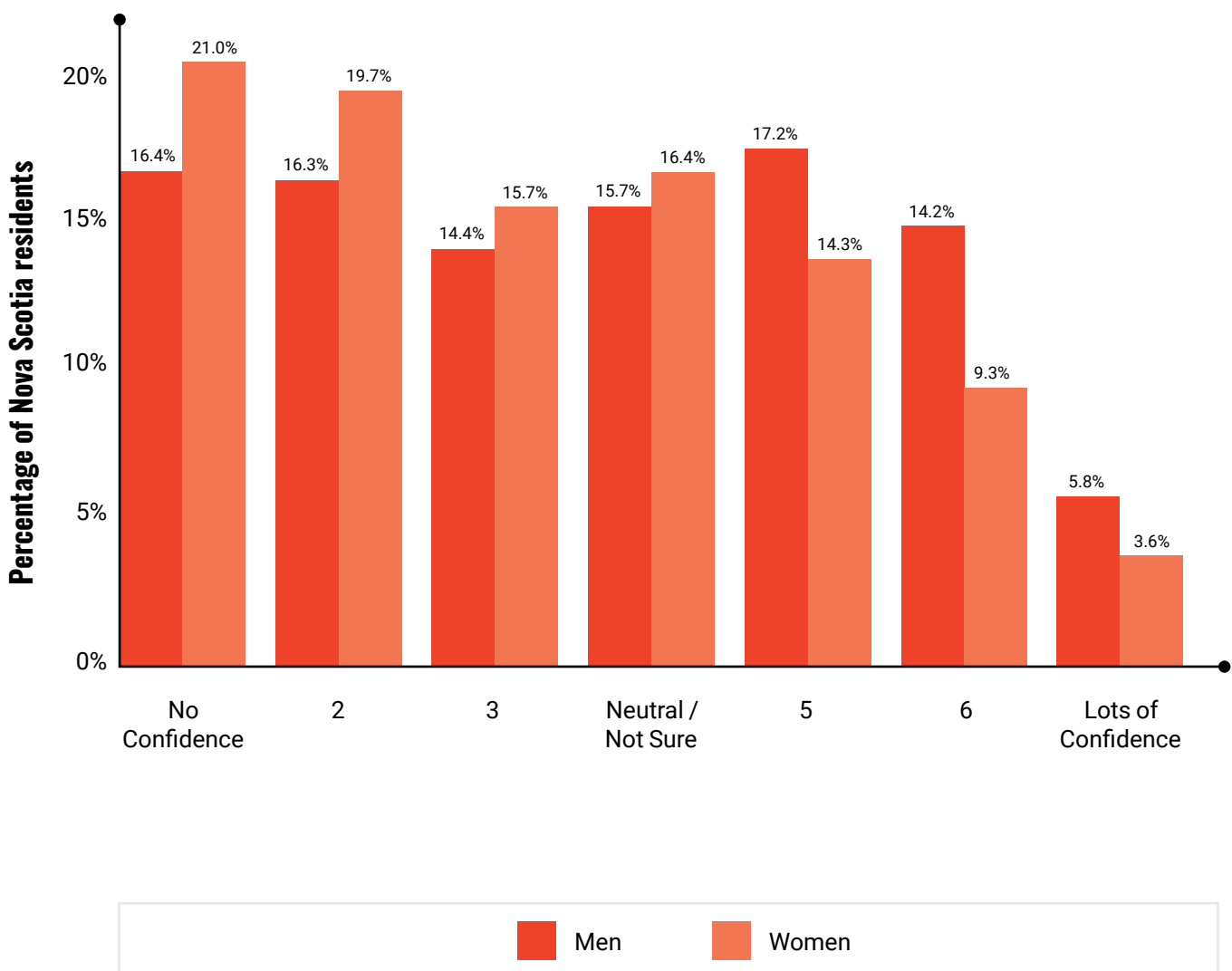
Over **1 in 4 women (27.2%)** in Nova Scotia reported high confidence in the health care system

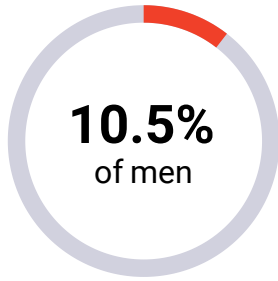
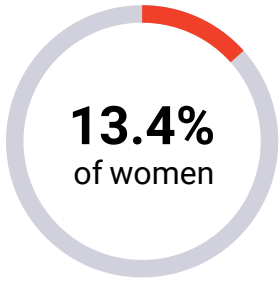
Just Under **1 in 2 men (47.1%)** in Nova Scotia reported zero to low confidence in the health care system

Over **1 in 3 men (37.2%)** in Nova Scotia reported high confidence in the health care system

FOCUS

2019 NS Quality of Life Survey:
Confidence in health care system by gender



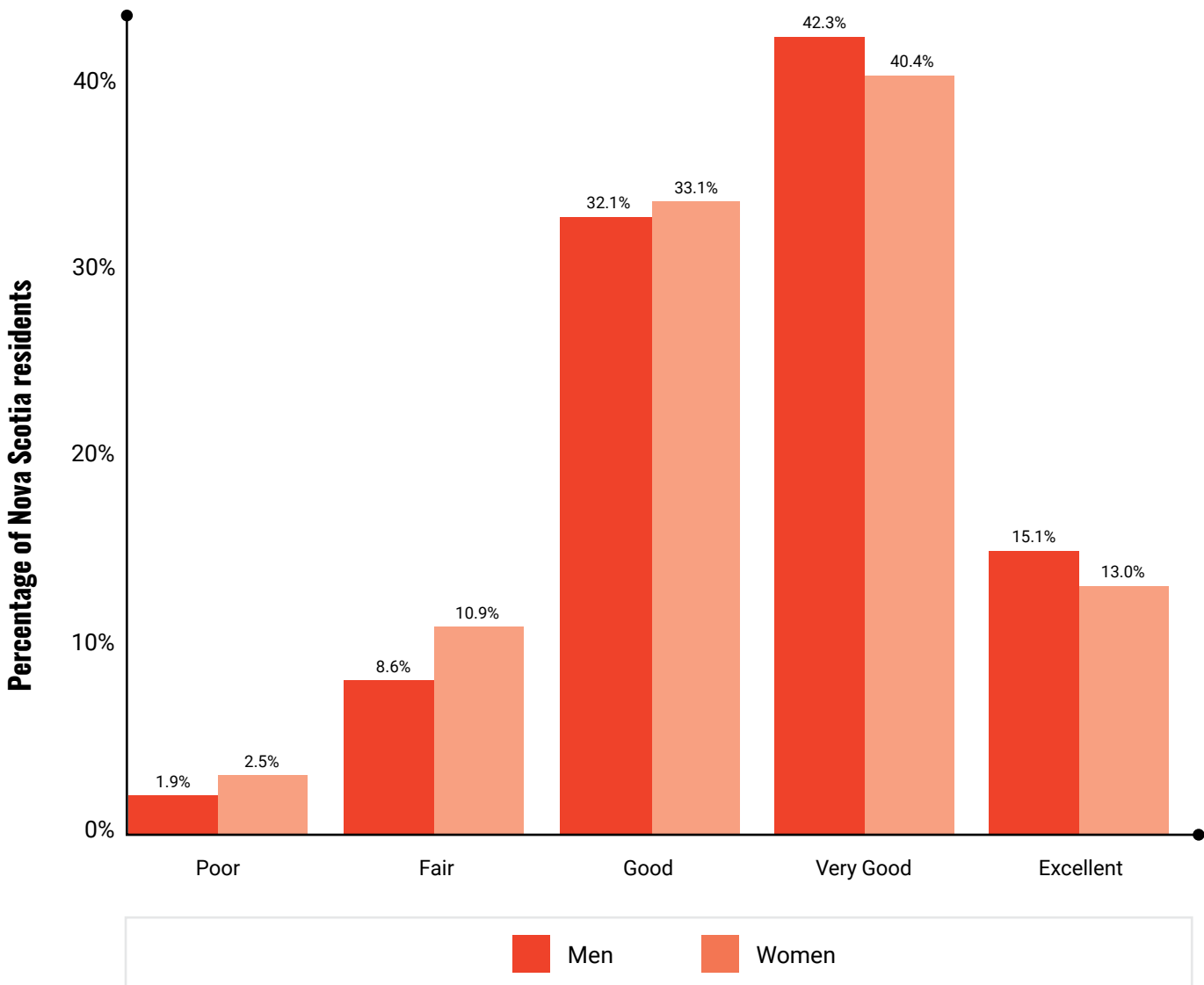


Most women (86.5%) and men (89.5%) rated their mental health as good, very good, or excellent;

however, 13.4% of women and 10.5% of men rated their mental health as poor or fair.

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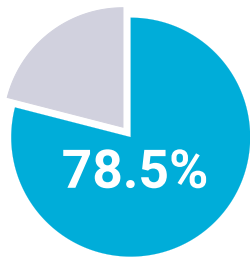
**2019 NS Quality of Life Survey:
Perceived accessibility and quality of healthcare services**



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



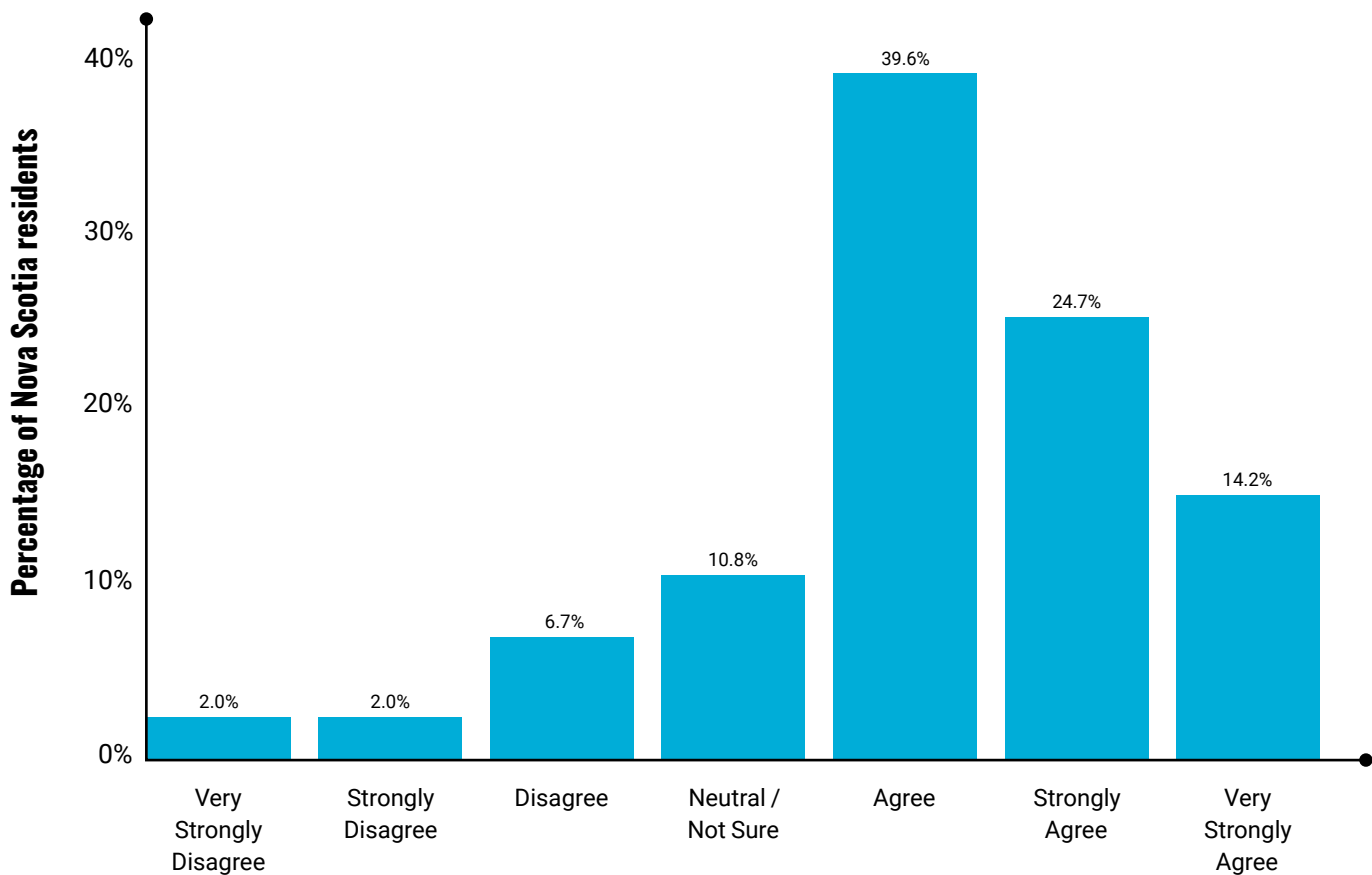
Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



Over three quarters of Nova Scotia residents (78.5%) agreed to some extent that their local water quality was good. Just over 1 in 10 residents (10.7%) disagreed with that.

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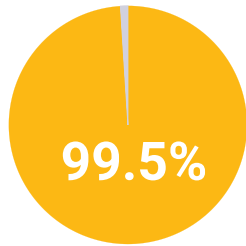
**2019 NS Quality of Life Survey:
Agreement levels with the statement: 'The water quality in my community is very good'**



**7 AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY**



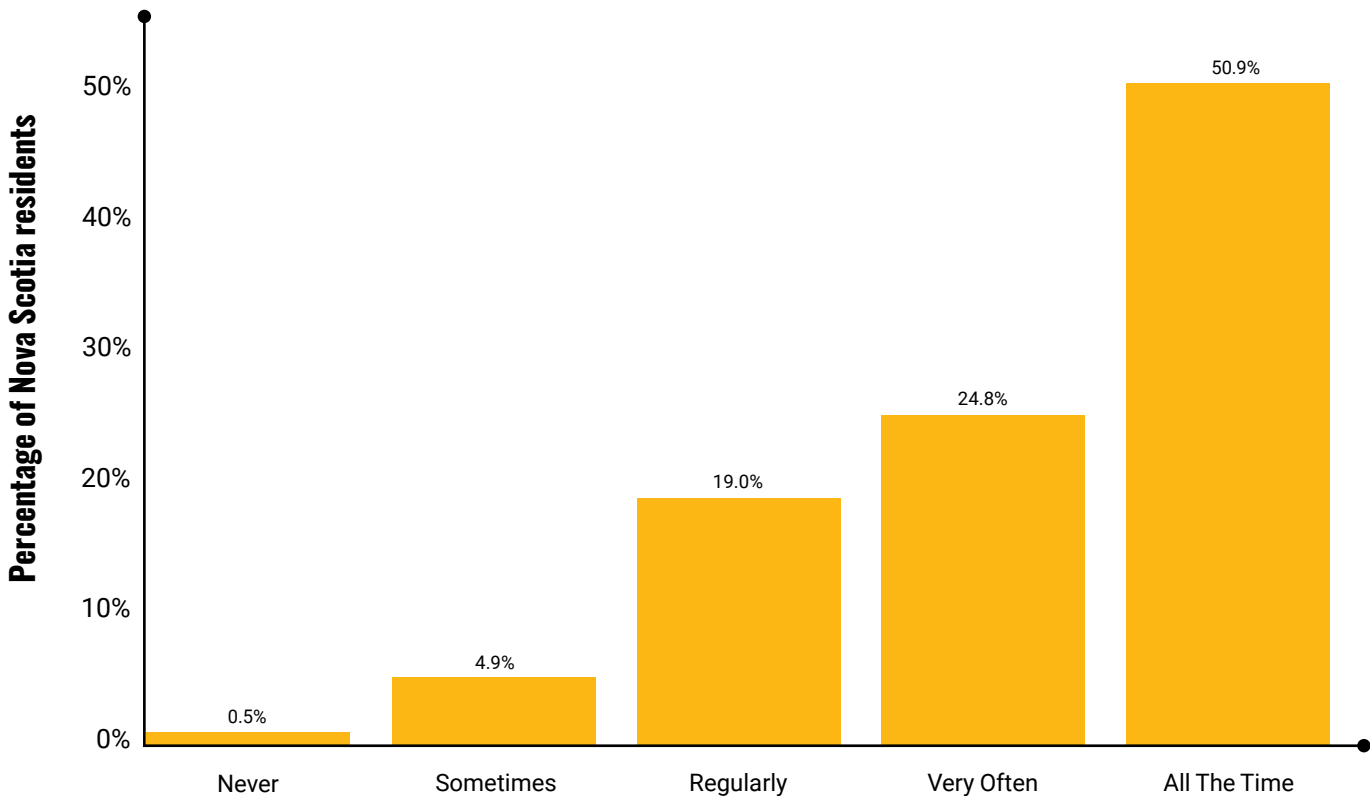
Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all



Most Nova Scotia residents (99.5%) were mindful of their energy consumption and made some attempt at conserving energy in the last year (0.5% reported never conserving energy).

FOCUS

**2019 NS Quality of Life Survey:
Frequency of energy conservation in the last year**



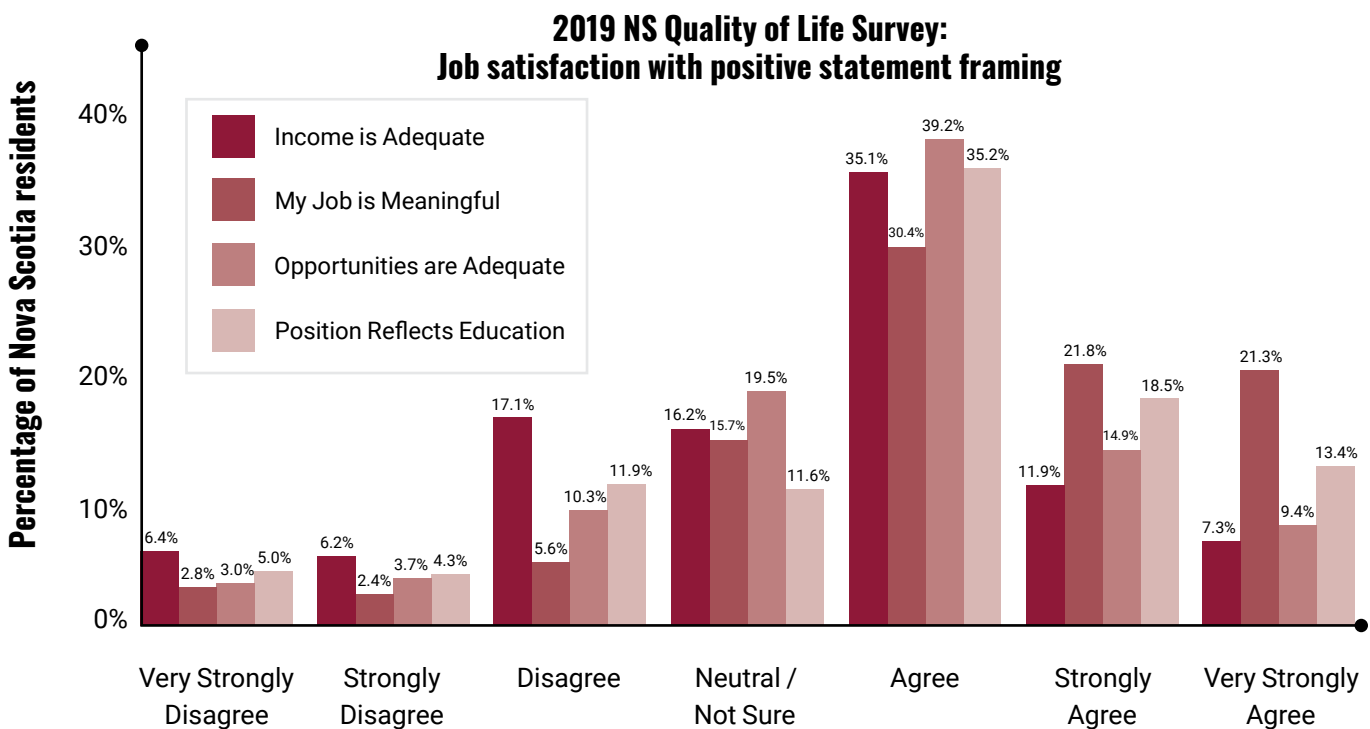


Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

The graph below illustrates Nova Scotia residents' agreement (and disagreement) with a series of positively framed statements related to job satisfaction (e.g., my job is meaningful).

A majority of Nova Scotia residents agreed to some degree that their income was adequate (54.3%), their job was meaningful (73.5%), opportunities at work were adequate (63.5%), and their position reflects their education (67.1%). Still, some Nova Scotia residents did not agree that their income was adequate (29.7%), their job was meaningful (10.8%), opportunities at work were adequate (17%), and their position reflected their education (21.2%).

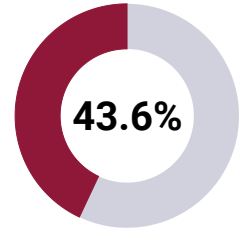
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The graph below illustrates Nova Scotia residents' agreement (and disagreement) with a series of negatively framed statements about job satisfaction.

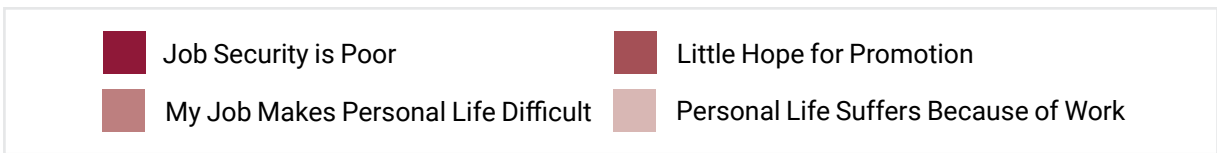
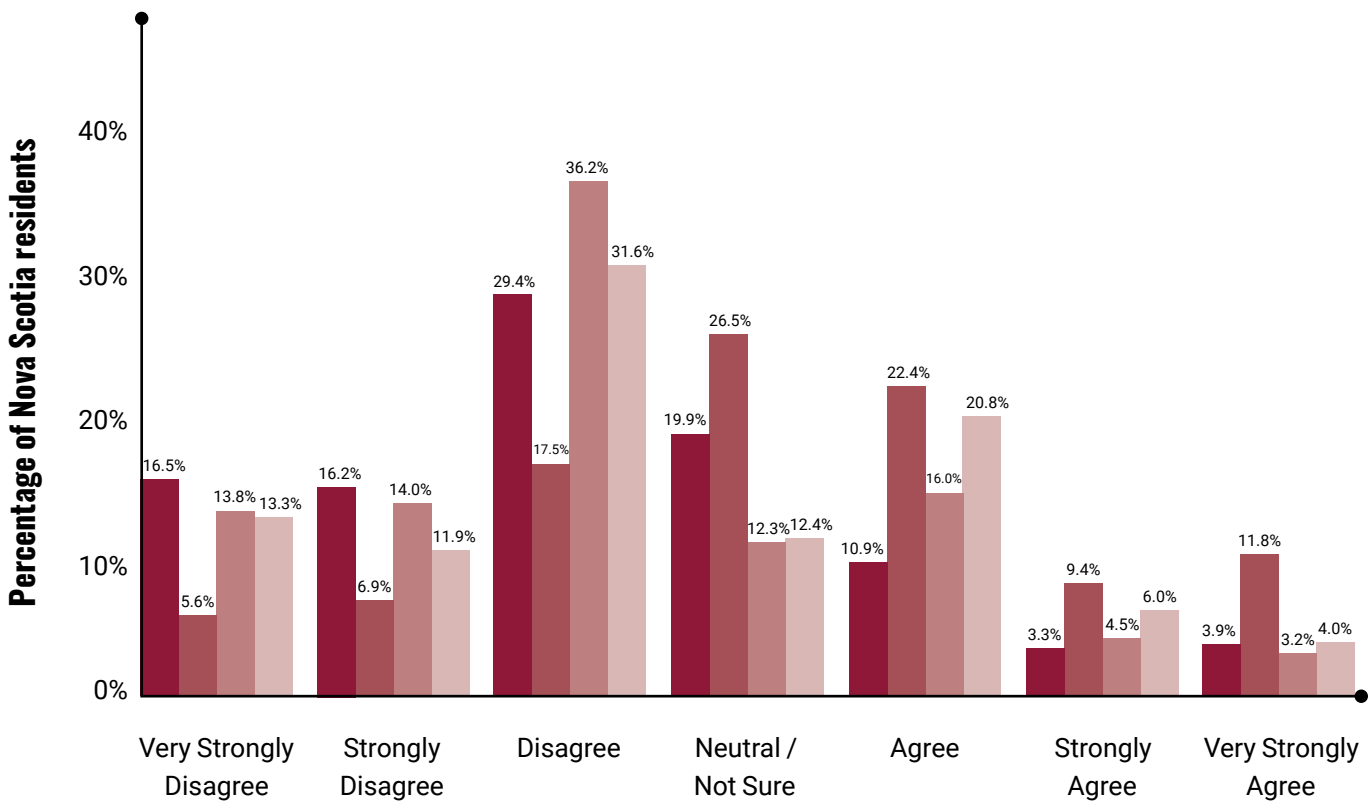
A majority of Nova Scotia residents *disagreed* to some degree that their job security was poor (62.1%), their job made their personal life difficult (64%), and their personal life suffered because of work (56.8%).

When it came to job promotion, over 2 in 5 Nova Scotia residents (43.6%) did *agree* to some degree they have little hope for job promotion.



FOCUS

**2019 NS Quality of Life Survey:
Job satisfaction with positive statement framing**



Just over 1 in 5 Nova Scotia residents (21.8%) reported some level of dissatisfaction with their financial situation, while nearly 62.3% reported being at least somewhat satisfied. When it came to their work situation, 17.2% of residents were dissatisfied to some degree while 63.5% were at least somewhat satisfied.

21.8%

some dissatisfaction with their financial situation

62.3%

at least somewhat satisfied with their financial situation

17.2%

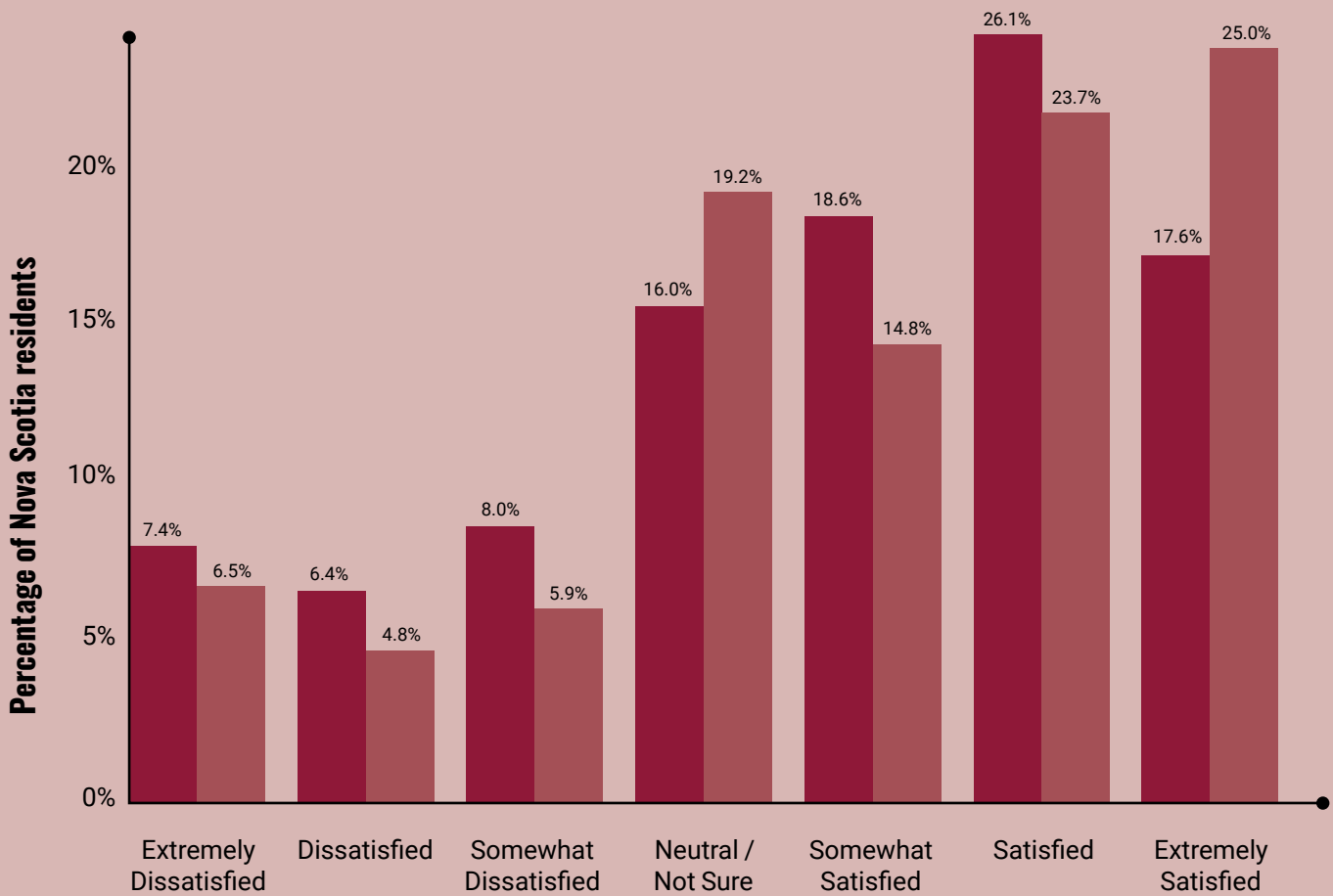
some dissatisfaction with their work situation

63.5%

at least somewhat satisfied with their work situation

FOCUS

**2019 NS Quality of Life Survey:
Satisfaction with financial and work situations**



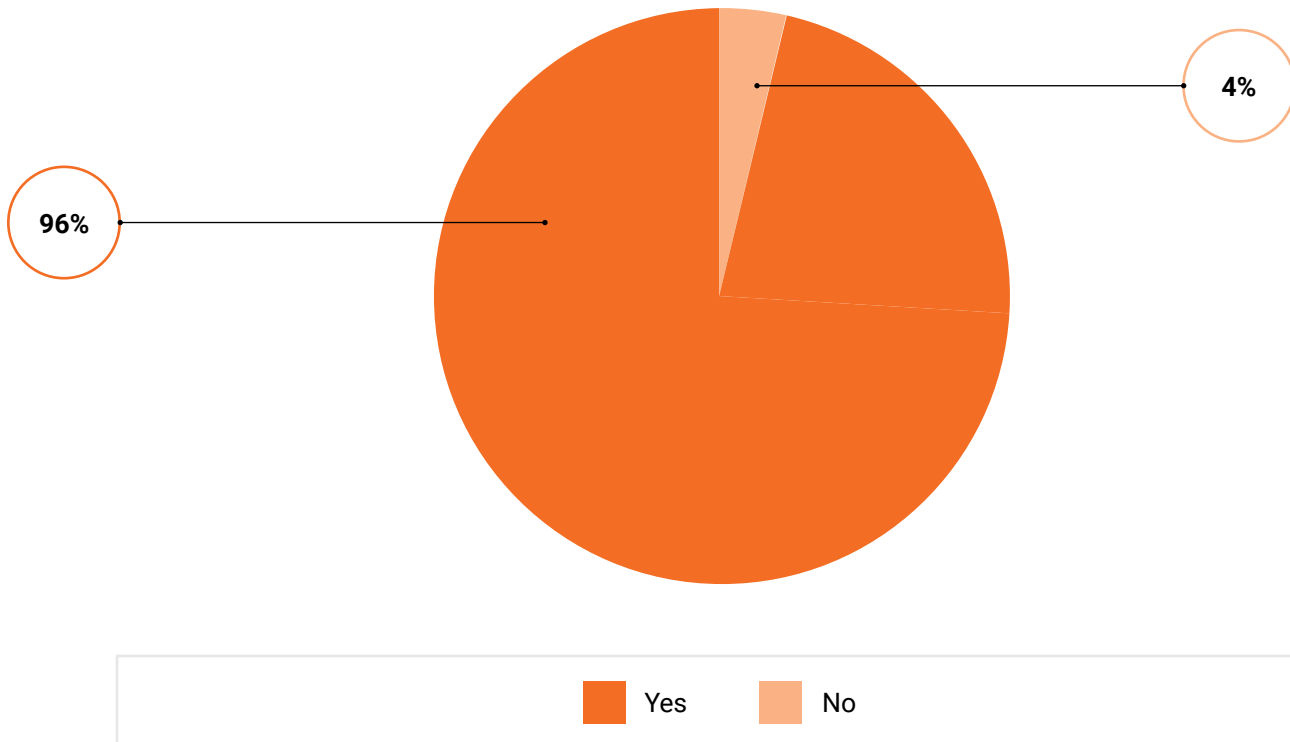


Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

4% of Nova Scotia residents reported they didn't have Internet access.

FOCUS

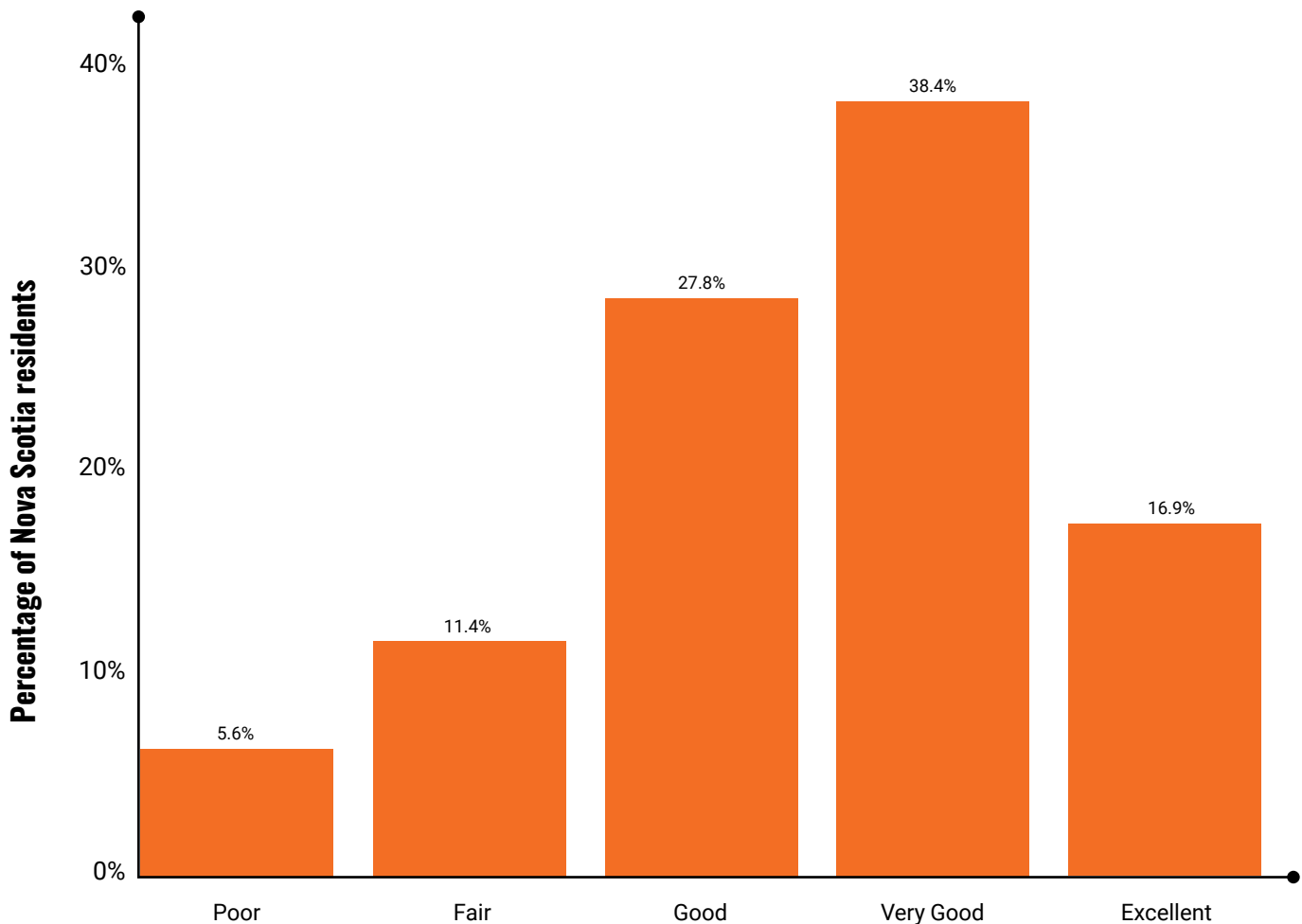
NS Quality of Life Survey:
Internet access



Most Nova Scotia residents (83.1%) rated their internet quality as good, very good, or excellent. 17% reported having poor or fair internet quality.

FOCUS

**2019 NS Quality of Life Survey:
Internet quality in Nova Scotia**

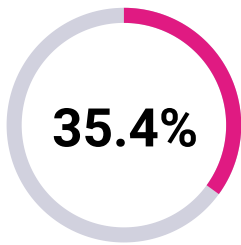


10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



Reduce inequality within and among countries

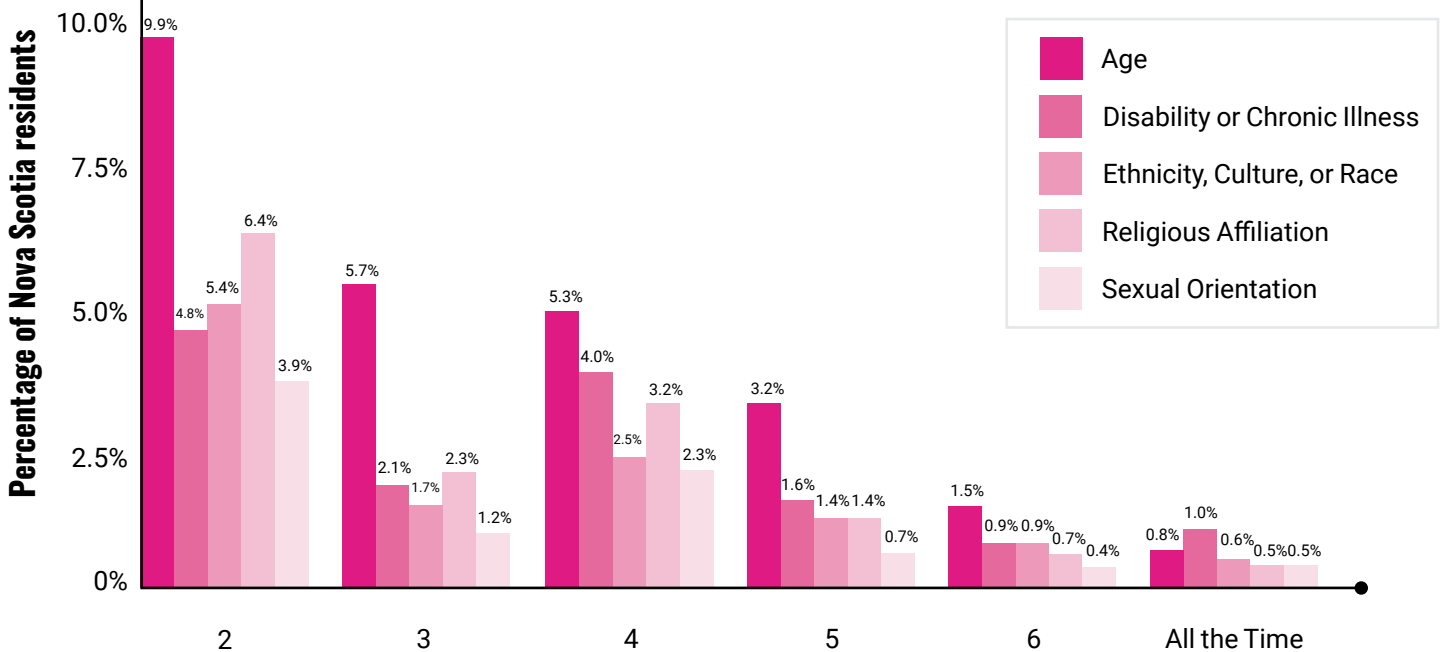
64.6% of Nova Scotia residents felt they never experienced discrimination because of who they are.



35.4% of Nova Scotia residents reported feeling discriminated against because of some aspect of their identity, including ethnicity, culture or skin colour, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, age, gender, and/or a disability (physical or mental) or chronic illness.

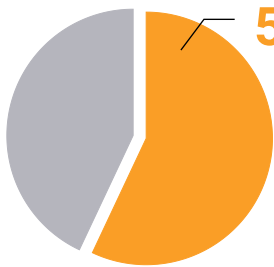
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**2019 NS Quality of Life Survey:
Frequency of feeling discriminated against**





Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

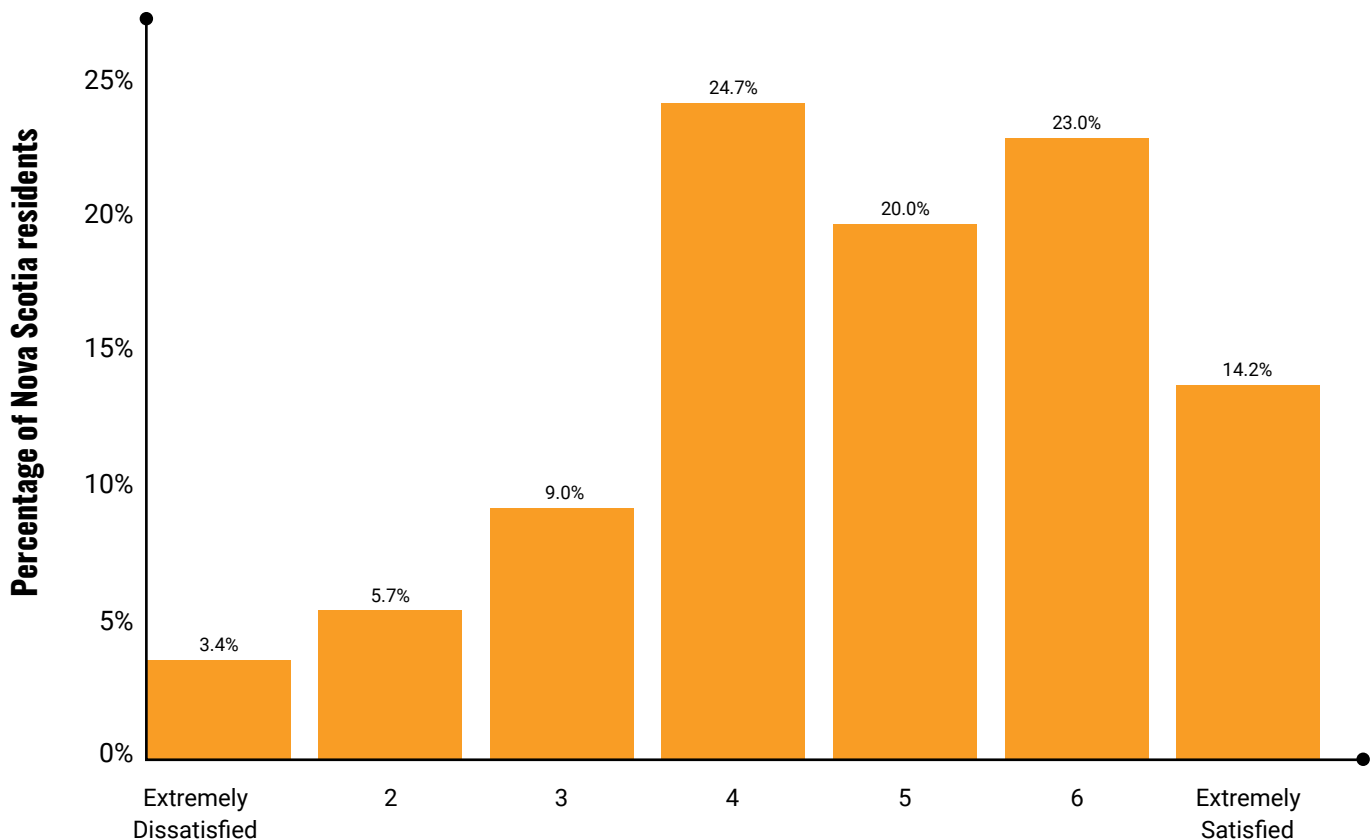


57.2%

Over half of Nova Scotia residents (57.2%) were satisfied to some degree with their sense of belonging to their community.⁴ Almost 1 in 5 Nova Scotia residents (18.1%) were not satisfied.⁵

FOCUS

**2019 NS Quality of Life Survey:
Nova Scotians sense of belonging to their community**

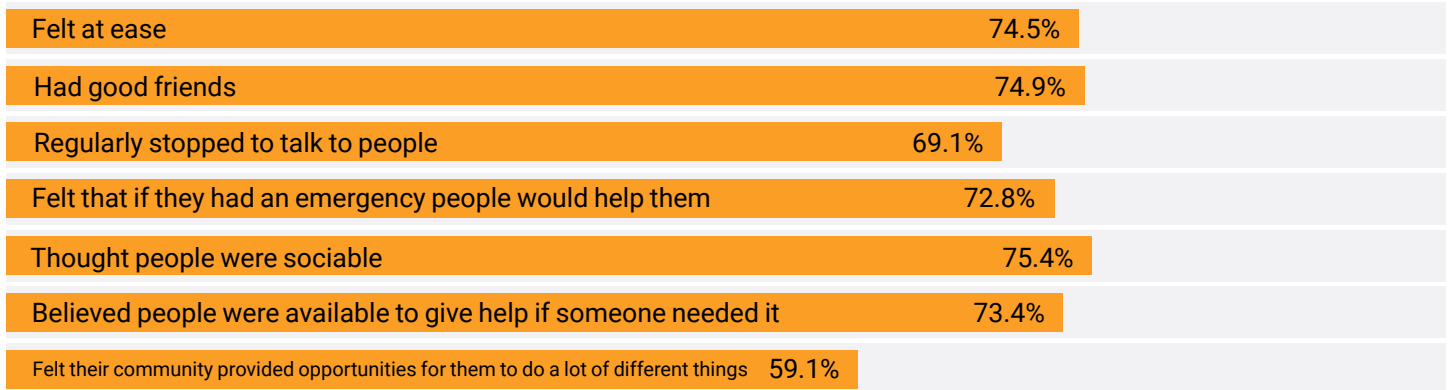


⁴ (5 to extremely satisfied)

⁵ (3 to extremely dissatisfied)

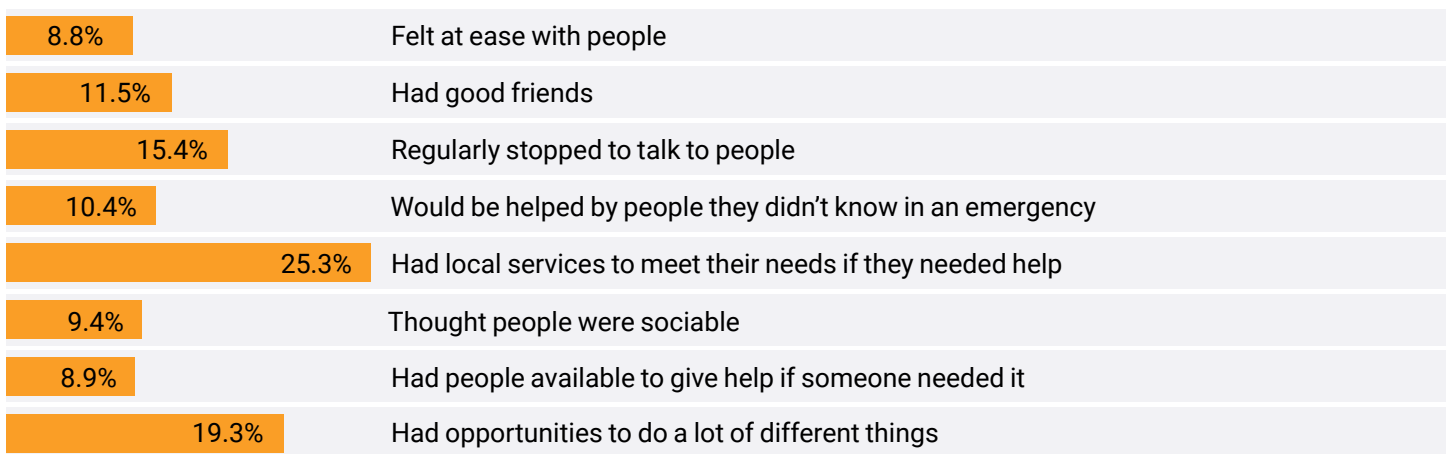
The following graph illustrates Nova Scotia residents' agreement (or disagreement) with a series of positively framed statements about sense of community (e.g., people are sociable).

In general, survey respondents agreed more often with the positively framed statements than not. When asked about their community, neighbourhood, and their relationships, most Nova Scotia residents:

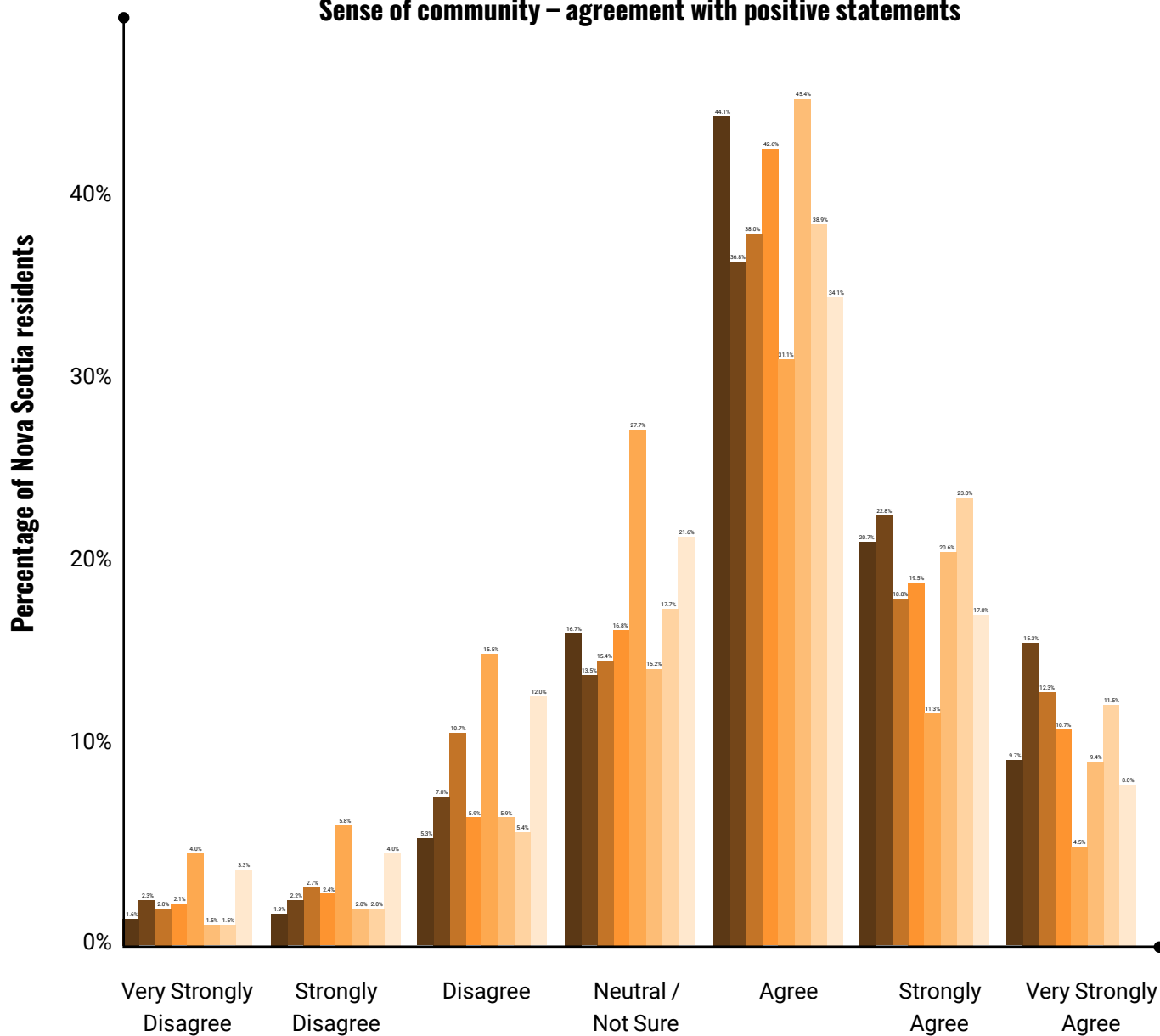


Just under half of Nova Scotia residents agreed their community could meet their needs if they needed help (46.9%).

Some Nova Scotia residents disagreed that in their communities and neighbourhoods, they:



2019 NS Quality of Life Survey: Sense of community – agreement with positive statements



- I feel at ease with the people in my community
- If I need help, this community has many excellent services to meet my needs
- I have good friends in this community
- People are sociable here
- I regularly stop and talk to people in my neighborhood
- People in this community are available to help if somebody needs it
- If I had an emergency, people I do not know would be willing to help me
- The community provides opportunities for me to do a lot of different things

The following graph illustrates Nova Scotia residents' agreement (and disagreement) with a series of negatively framed statements about sense of community (e.g., there is never much to do). In general, Nova Scotians disagreed more often with the negatively framed statements than they agreed.

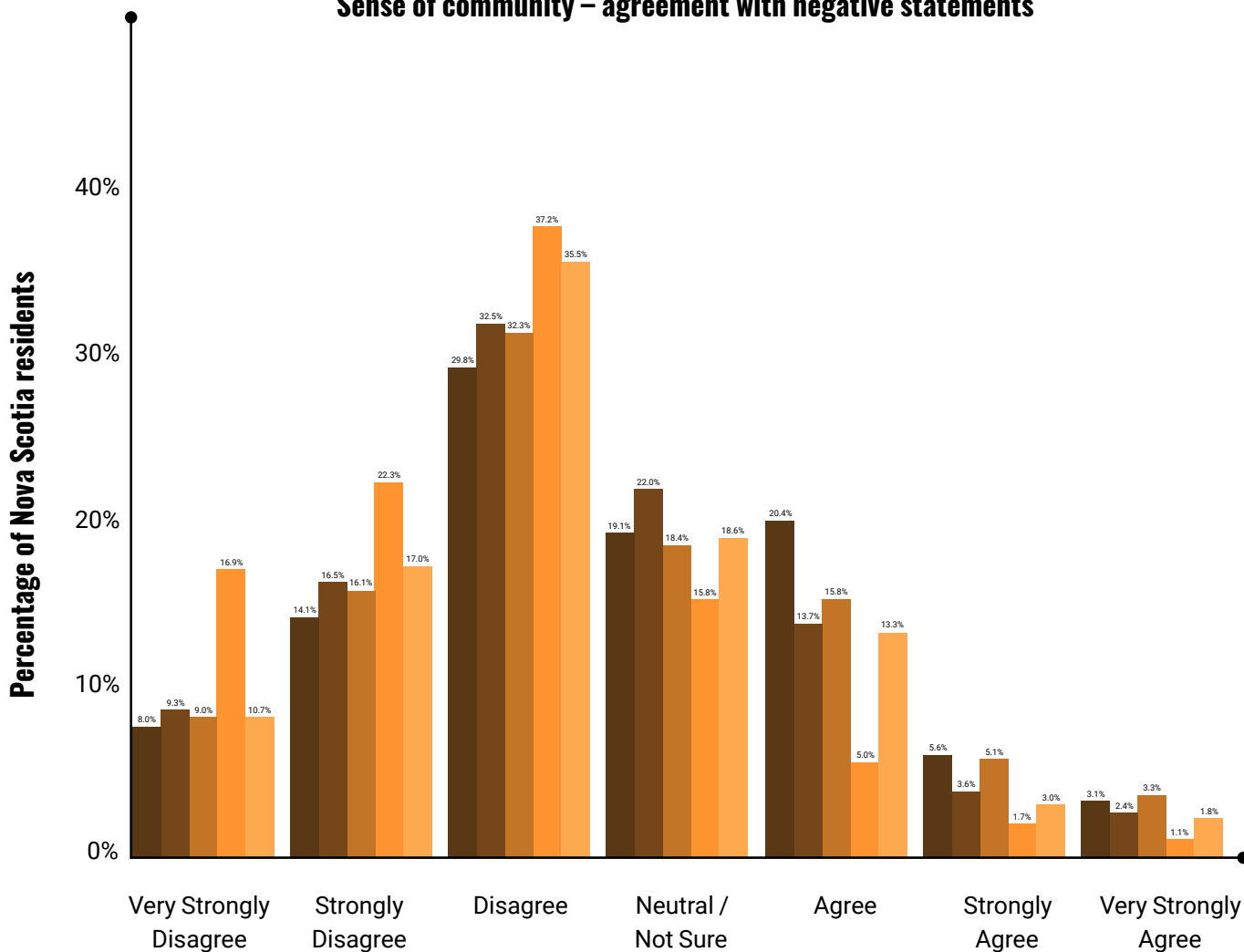
When asked about social connections in their communities, more than half of Nova Scotian residents did not agree to some degree that:

If they had a problem, few people would try to help them	51.9%
They had few opportunities to satisfy their needs	58.3%
There is never much to do	57.4%
People are not willing to help those in need	76.4%
It is difficult to connect with the people	63.2%

On the other hand, some Nova Scotia residents agreed to some extent that in their communities:

29.1%	If they had a problem, few people would try to help them
19.7%	They had few opportunities to satisfy their needs
24.2%	There is never much to do
7.8%	People are not willing to help those in need
18.1%	It is difficult to connect with the people

**2019 NS Quality of Life Survey:
Sense of community – agreement with negative statements**

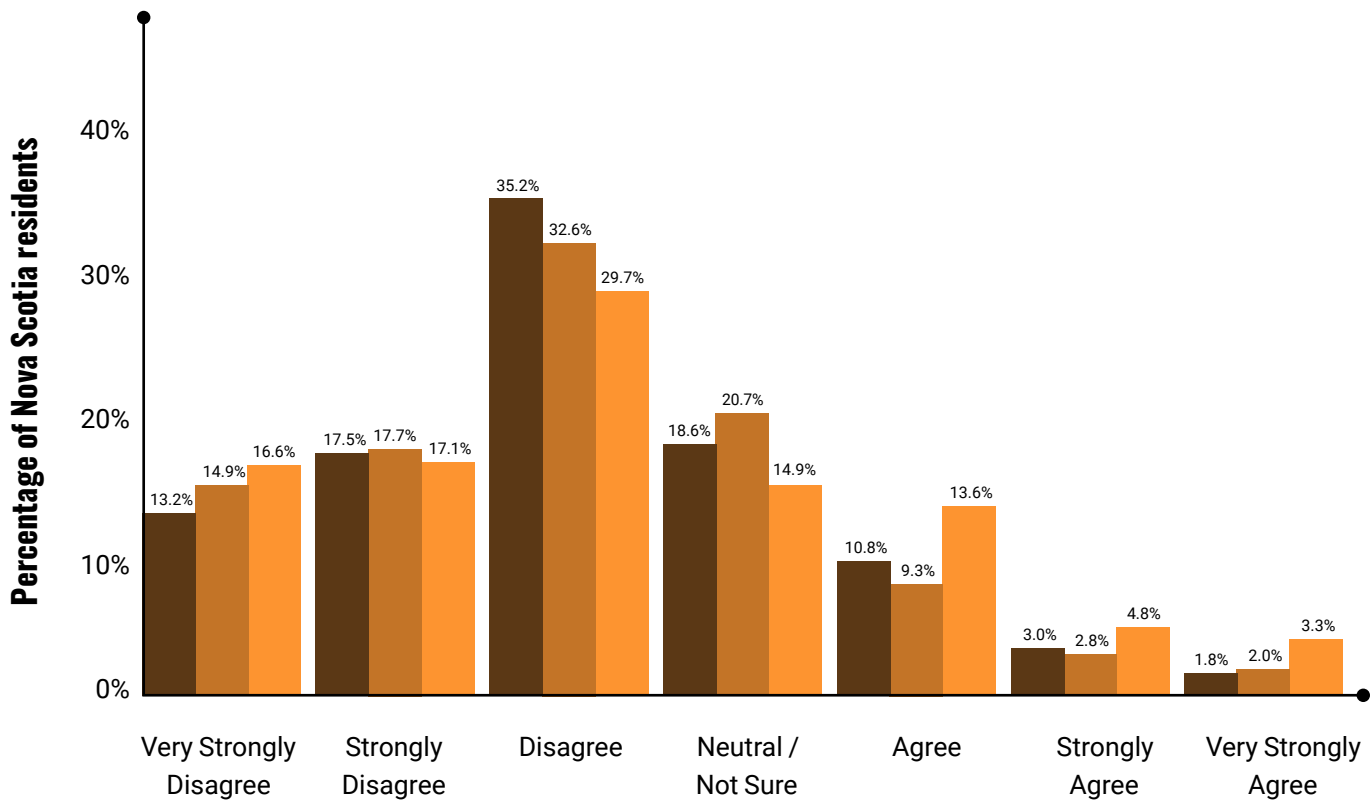


- If I had a problem, few people in this community would try to help me
- In this community, I have few opportunities to satisfy my needs
- In this community there is never much to do
- In this community, people are not willing to help those in need
- It is difficult for me to connect with the people in this community

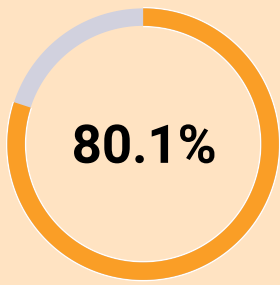
A majority of Nova Scotia residents disagreed to some degree that they felt isolated from others in their community (65.9%), often felt left out (65.2%), and often felt they lacked companionship (63.4%). Still, some Nova Scotia residents agreed to some extent that they felt isolated (15.6%), often felt left out (14.1%), and often felt they lacked companionship (21.7%).

FOCUS

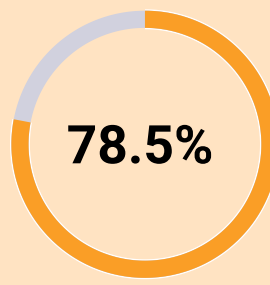
**2019 NS Quality of Life Survey:
Feelings of social isolation**



I often feel isolated from others in the community
 I often feel that lack of companionship
 I often feel left out



Most Nova Scotia residents agreed to some degree that they trusted their neighbours (80.1%)

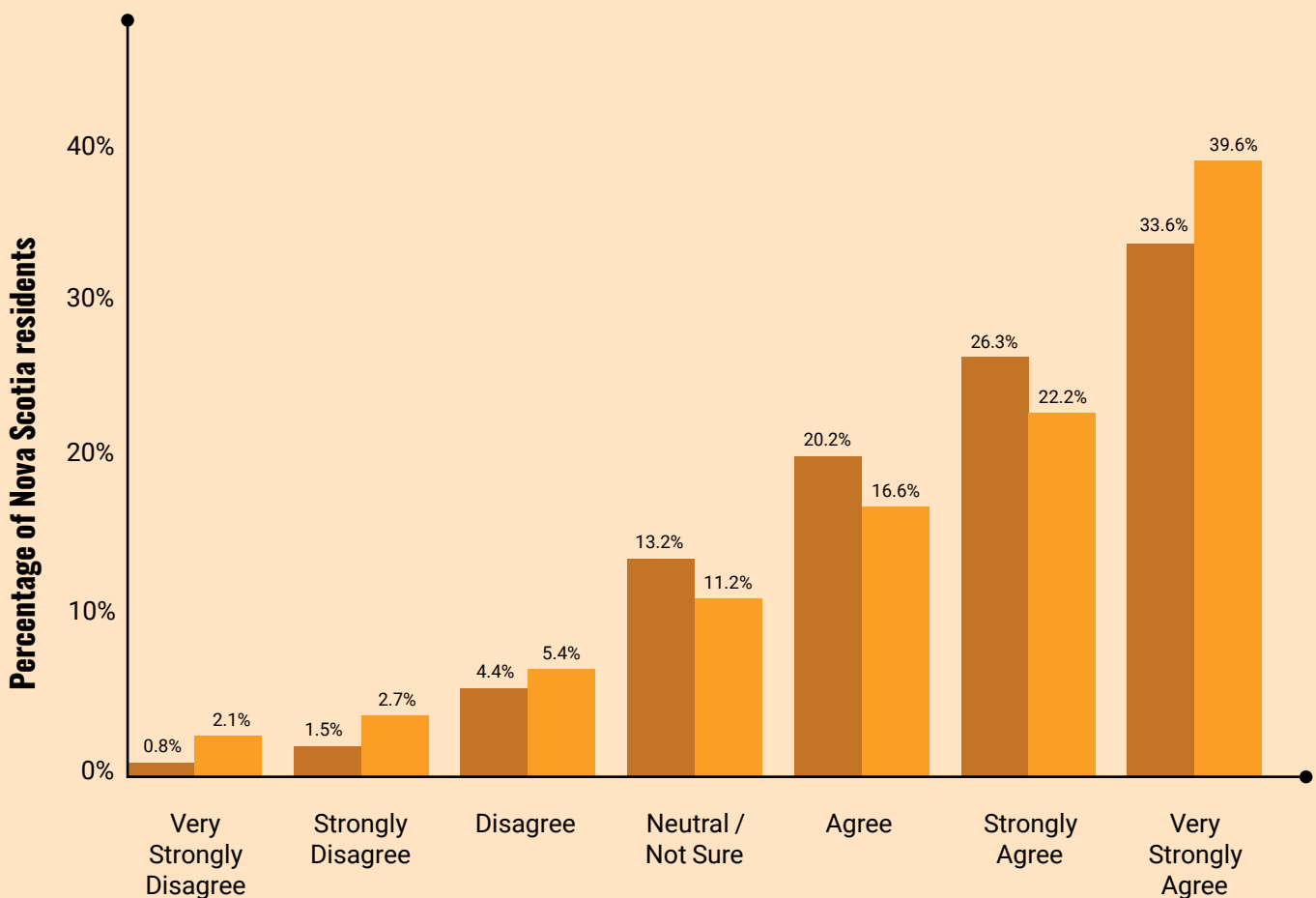


Most Nova Scotia residents agreed to some degree that they felt safe in their neighbourhood at night (78.5%).

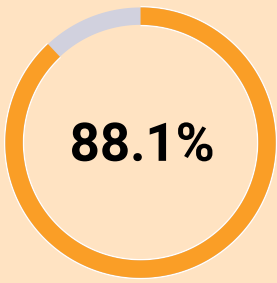
A smaller percentage of residents disagreed to some extent with that (6.7% and 10.2% respectively).

FOCUS

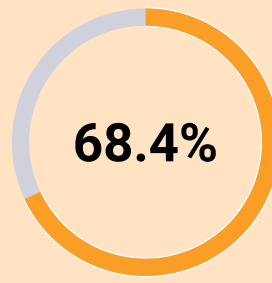
**2019 NS Quality of Life Survey:
Feelings of trust and perceived neighbourhood safety**



I trust the people in my neighborhood
 My neighborhood is safe from crime



Most Nova Scotia residents agreed to some degree that there were plenty of opportunities to enjoy nature in their community (88.1%).

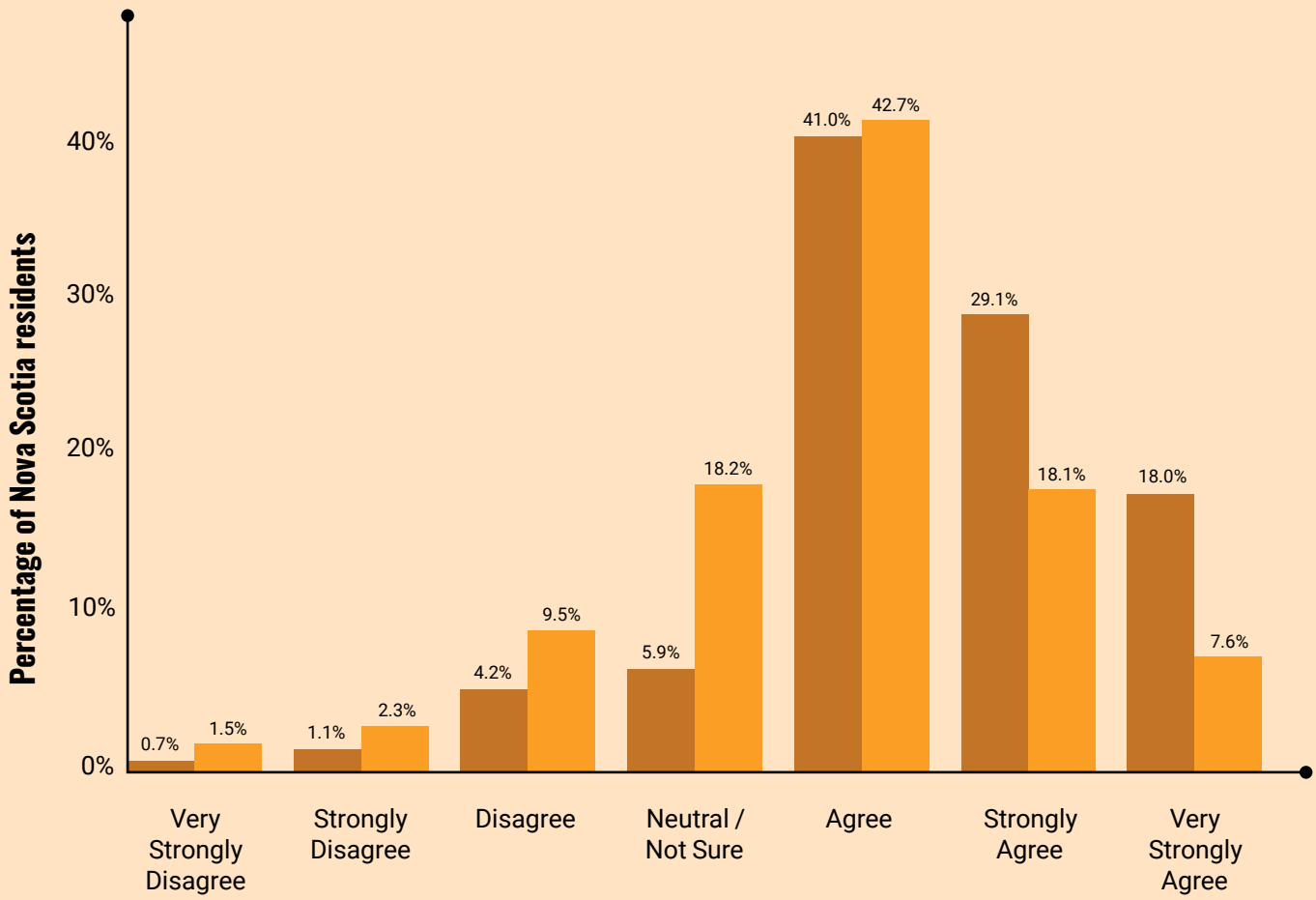


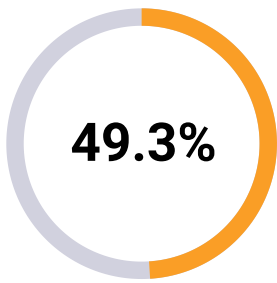
A majority agreed that the quality of the natural environment in their community was good (68.4%).

A smaller percentage of residents disagreed to some extent with both of those sentiments (6% and 13.3.% respectively).

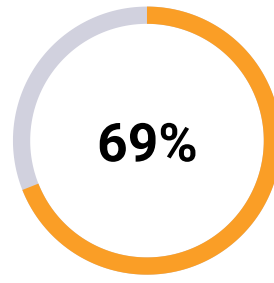
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**2019 NS Quality of Life Survey:
Perceived quality of local natural environment and opportunities to enjoy it**





Just under half of Nova Scotia residents were satisfied to some degree with access to arts and cultural facilities (49.3%)

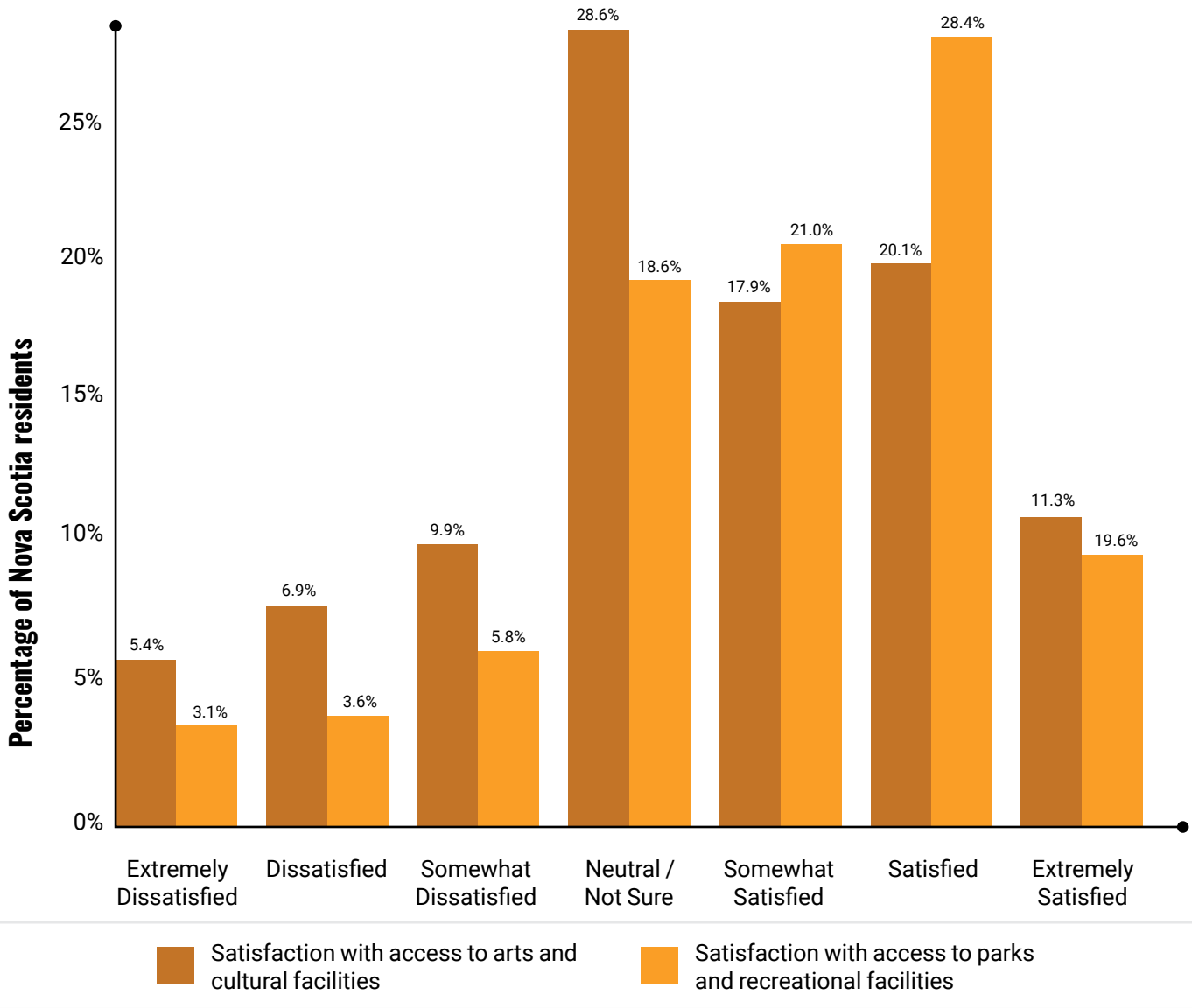


A majority were satisfied with access to parks and recreational facilities (69%).

A smaller percentage of residents were dissatisfied to some extent; a greater percentage of residents were dissatisfied with access to arts and cultural facilities (22.2%) than to parks and recreational facilities (12.5%).

FOCUS

**2019 NS Quality of Life Survey:
Satisfaction with access to parks, recreational, arts, and cultural facilities**





Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Regularly, very often or all of the time:

97.6% of Nova Scotia residents recycled materials

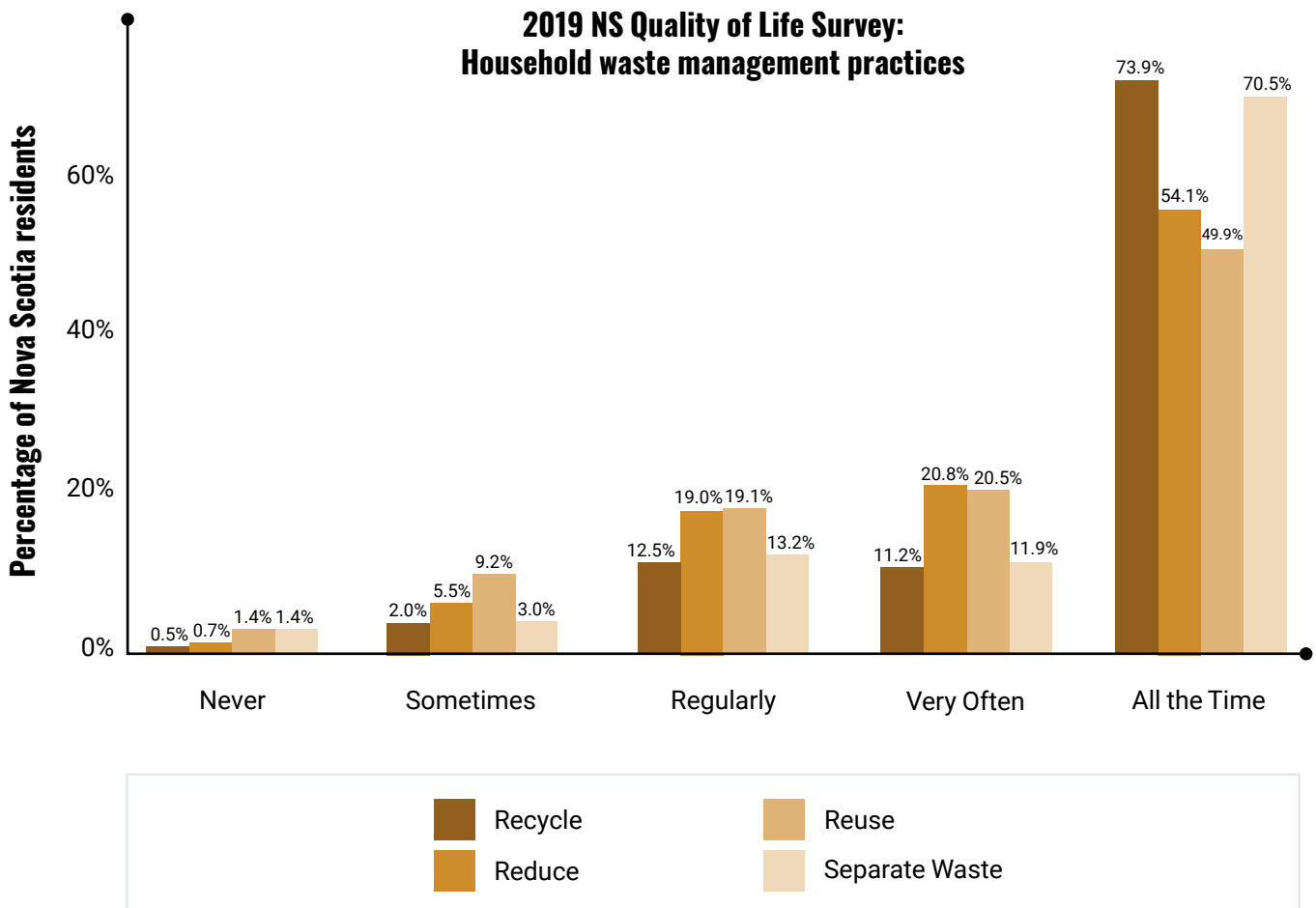
95.6% of Nova Scotia residents separated waste

93.9% of Nova Scotia residents reduced waste

89.5% of Nova Scotia residents reused materials

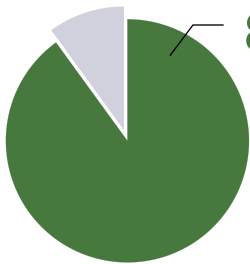
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**2019 NS Quality of Life Survey:
Household waste management practices**





Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts



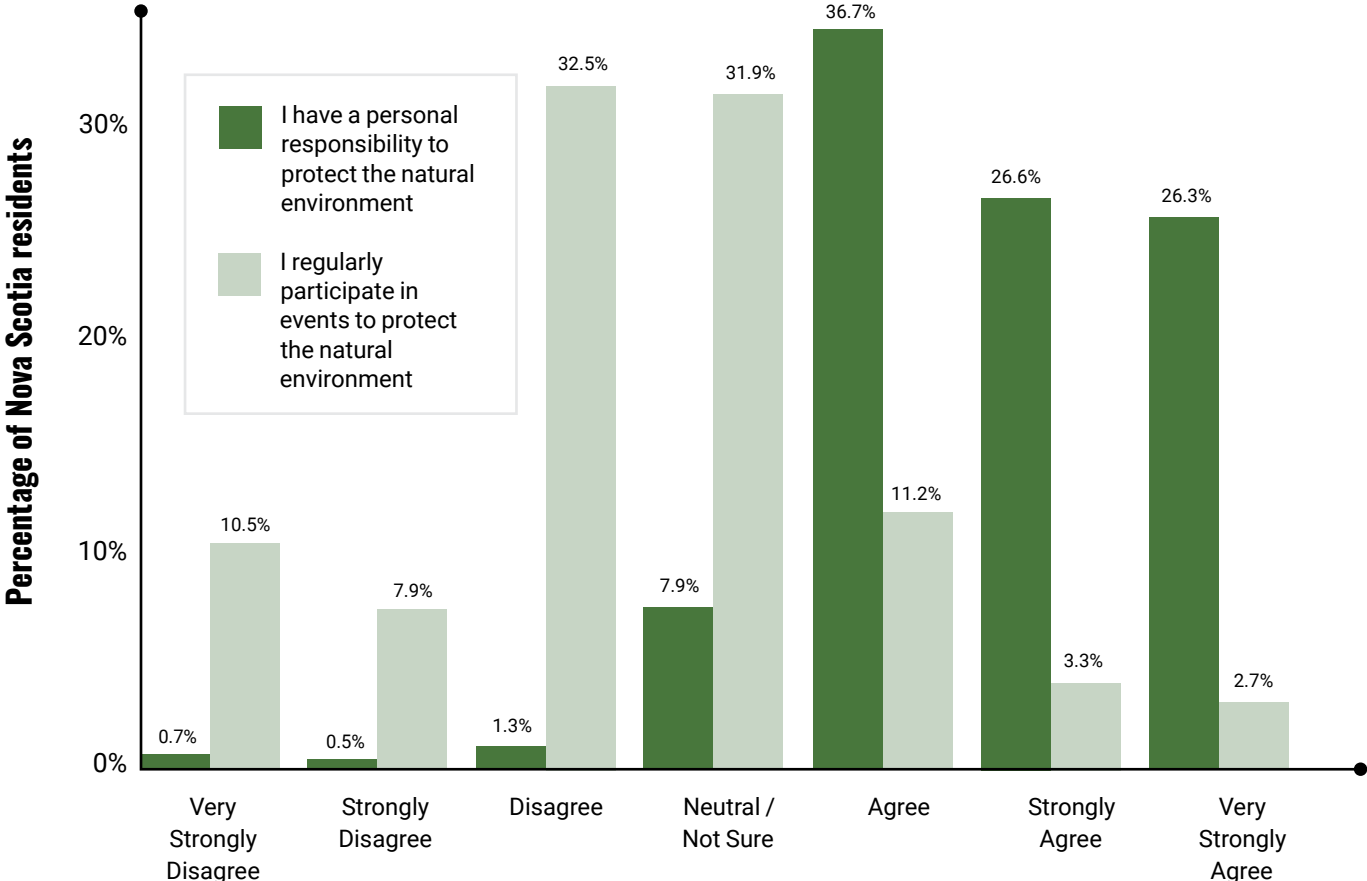
89.6%

Almost 9 in 10 Nova Scotia residents (89.6%) agreed to some extent that they had a personal responsibility to protect the natural environment (2.5% of respondents disagreed).

About half of Nova Scotia residents (50.9%) disagreed that they regularly participated in events to protect the natural environment; 17.2% of respondents agreed to some degree.

FOCUS

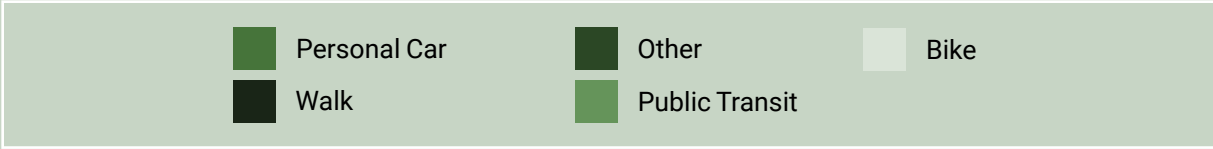
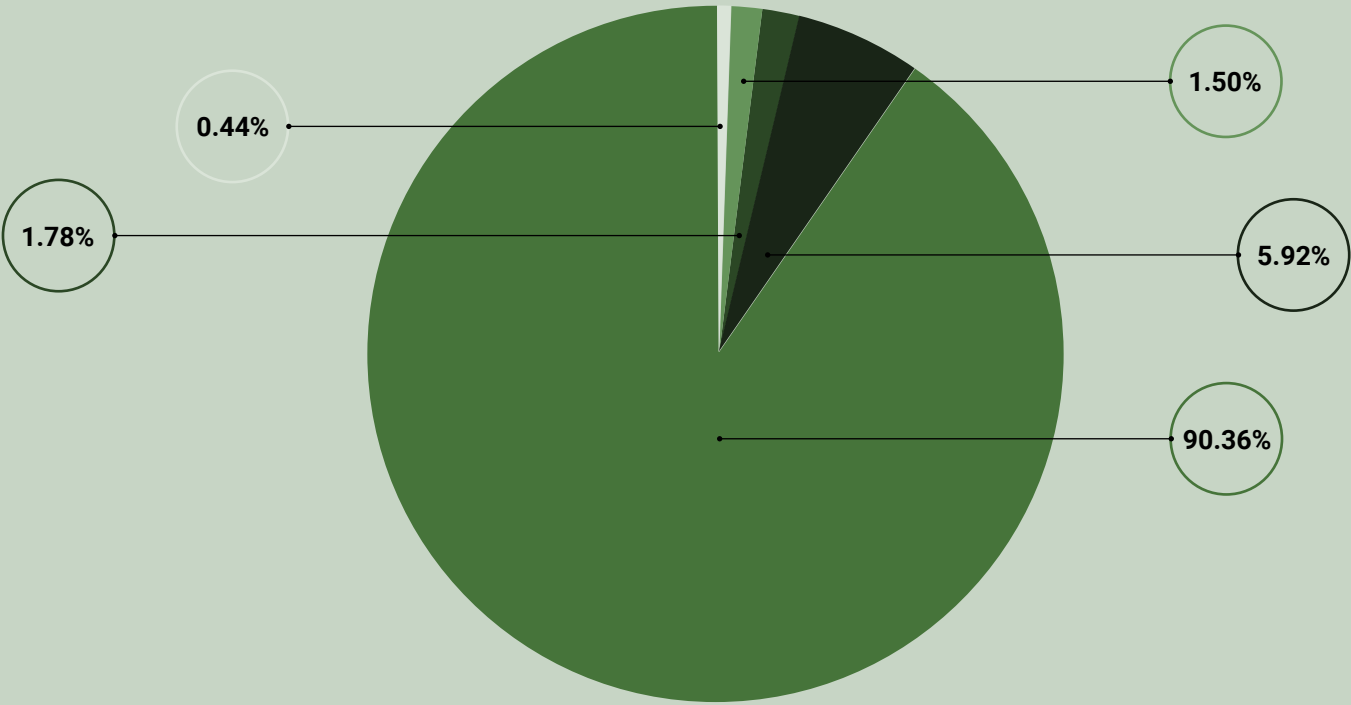
**2019 NS Quality of Life Survey:
Feelings of responsibility and participating in organized events to protect the environment**



About 10% of the population usually used active or public transportation, but the majority of Nova Scotia residents (90%) usually used personal cars.

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**2019 NS Quality of Life Survey:
Main mode of transportation around the community**

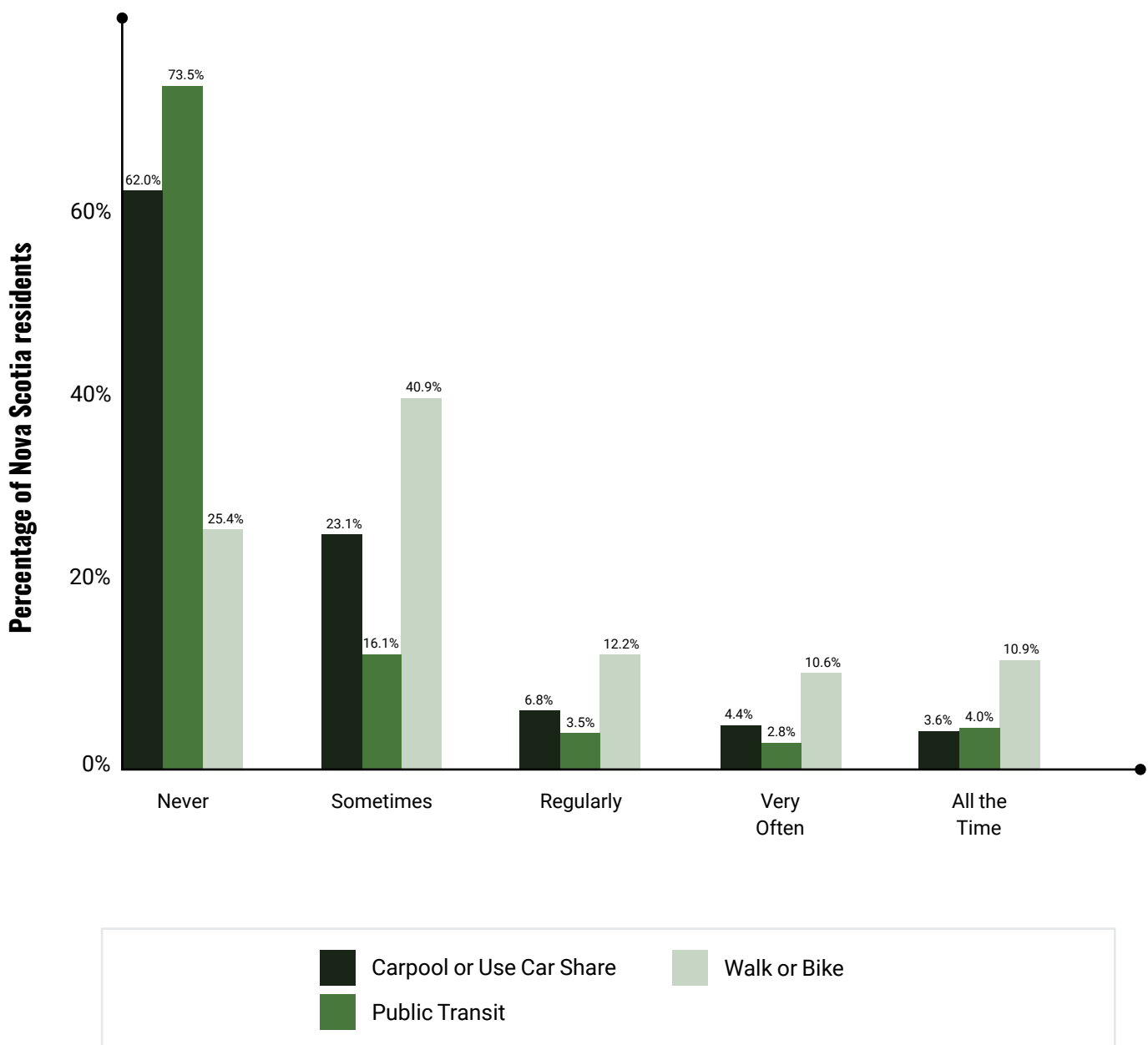


Across Nova Scotia, few residents (20%) reported using active or shared transportation regularly, often, or all of the time. Most Nova Scotia residents never used shared transportation (i.e., carpooling, carsharing (62%) and public transit (73.5%).

The most preferred active transportation tended to be walking or biking.

FOCUS

**2019 NS Quality of Life Survey:
Active, shared, and public transportation use practices**





Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development

The NS Quality of Life Survey didn't evaluate life below water but did ask a question about peoples' perceptions of the water quality in their community (see page 24).

Nova Scotia is a coastal province where many people's livelihoods and lifestyles as well as culture, traditions, and food revolve around the ocean. Life below water is tied to Nova Scotians' economic, social, cultural, and spiritual wellbeing and ensuring its health is tied to our own quality of life. To understand more about and advance this goal, datasets generated by institutions, organizations, and government departments external to the NS Quality of Life survey will be essential.

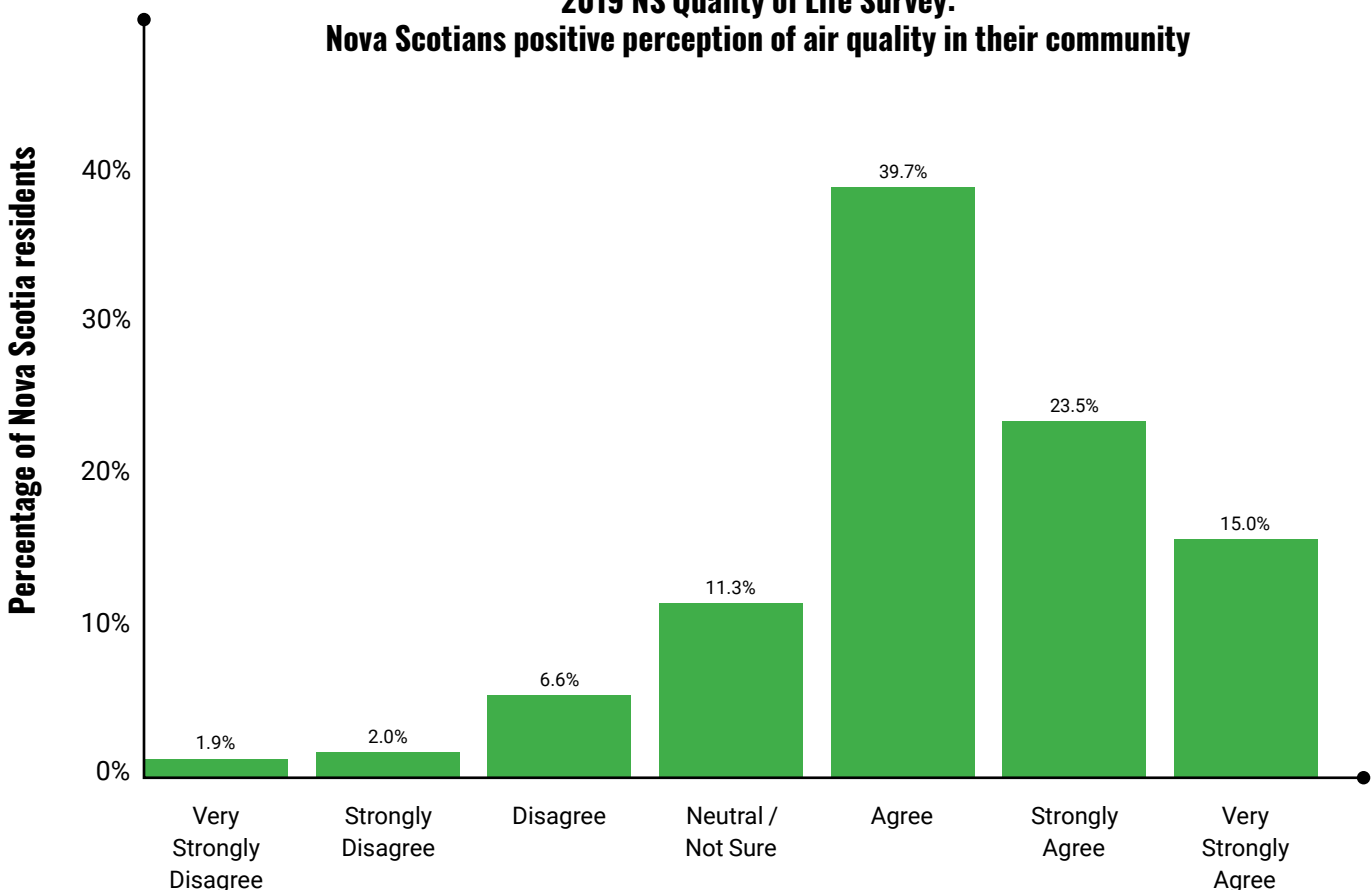


Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

A majority of Nova Scotia residents (78.2%) agreed to some degree with the statement that their community's air quality was good; 1 in 10 Nova Scotia residents (10.5%) disagreed with that.

FOCUS

**2019 NS Quality of Life Survey:
Nova Scotians positive perception of air quality in their community**



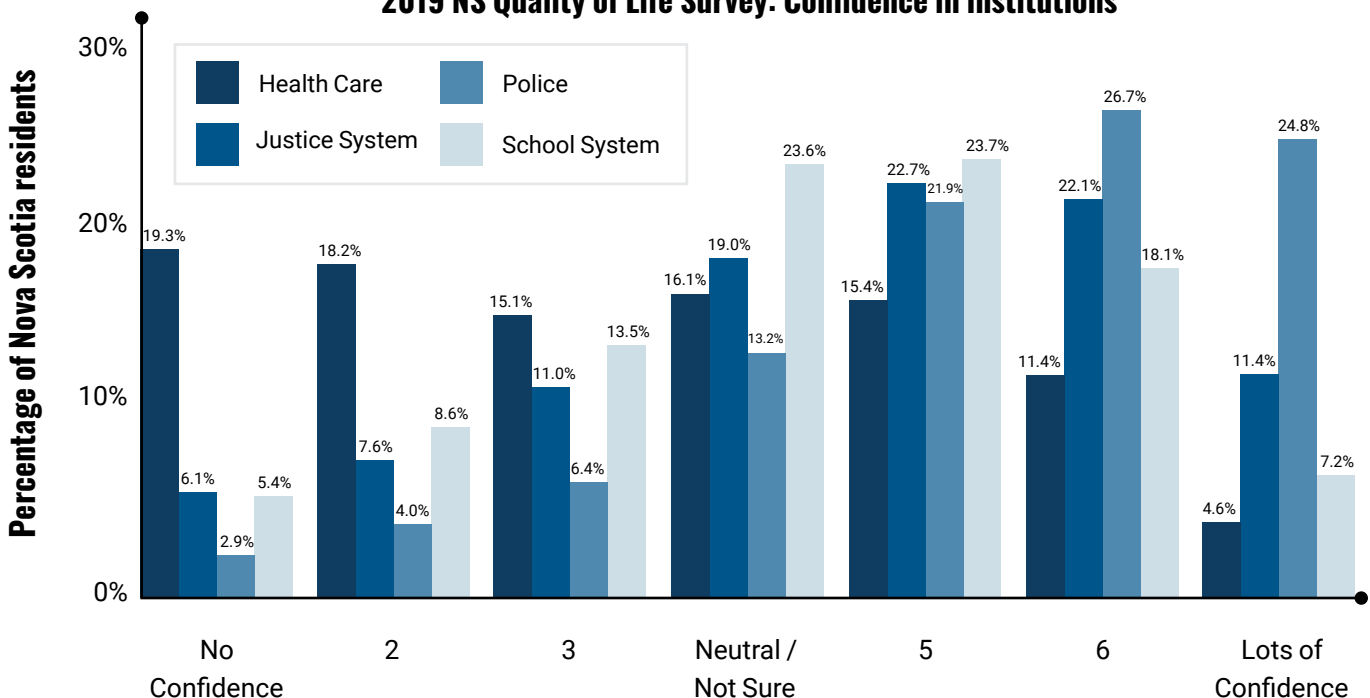


Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels

Nova Scotia residents expressed varying levels of confidence across institutions. Around half of Nova Scotia residents expressed some degree of confidence⁶ in the justice system (52.6%) and the school system (49%), and nearly two-thirds of residents (73.4%) in the police. Over half of Nova Scotia residents (52.6%) expressed low confidence⁷ in the health care system.

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2019 NS Quality of Life Survey: Confidence in institutions



⁶ (5 to lots of confidence)

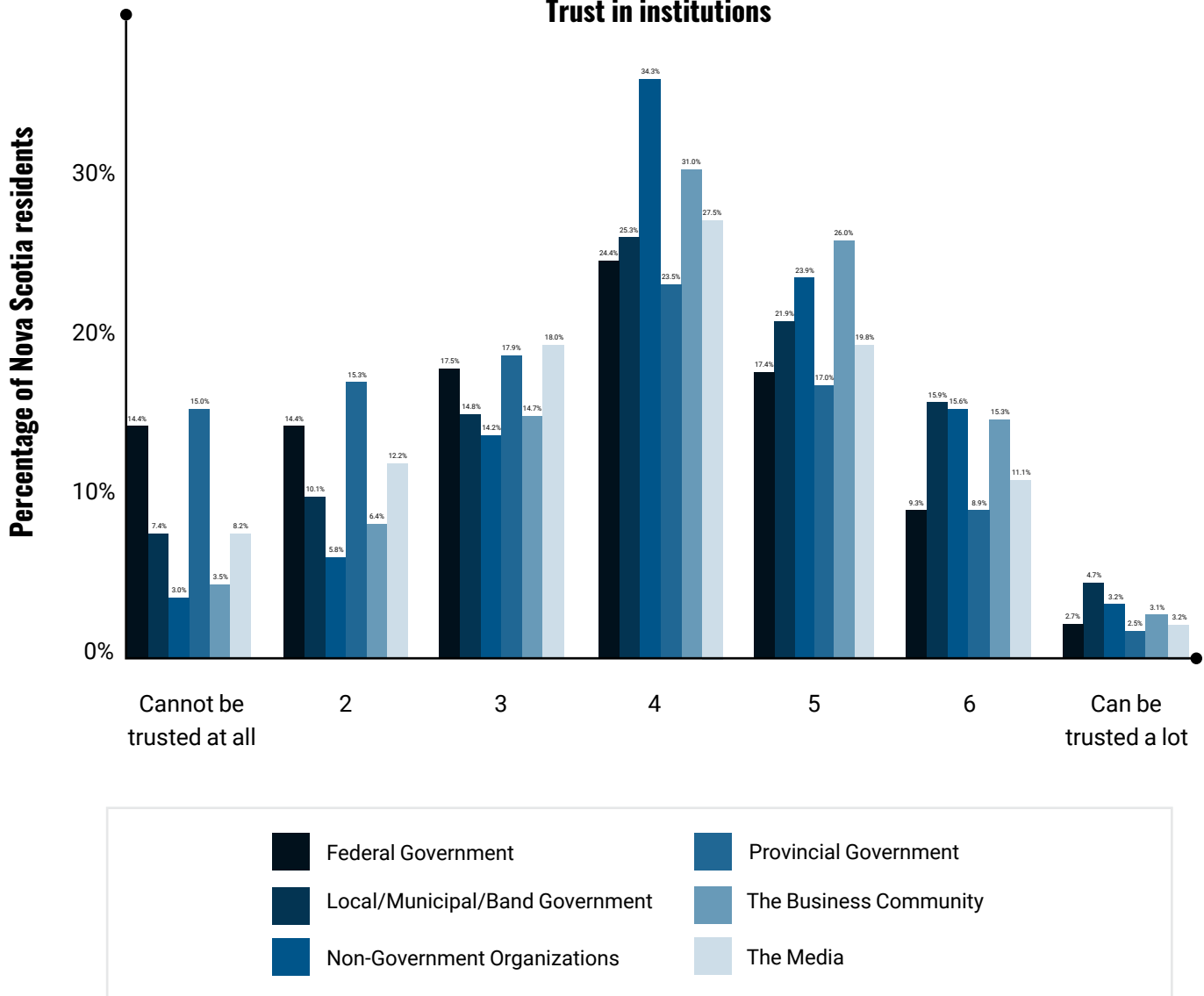
⁷ (3 to no confidence)

Nova Scotia residents expressed different levels of trust across institutions and levels of government.

Less than half of Nova Scotia residents expressed some degree of trust⁸ in local/municipal/band governments (42.5%), non-government organizations (42.7%), and the business community (44.4%). Close to half of the population expressed some degree of distrust⁹ in the federal government (46%) and in the provincial government (48.2%). Nova Scotia residents expressed similar levels of trust (34.1%) and distrust (38.4%) with the media.

FOCUS

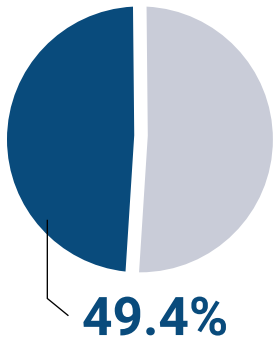
2019 NS Quality of Life Survey:
Trust in institutions



⁸ (5 to can be trusted a lot)

⁹ (3 to cannot be trusted at all)

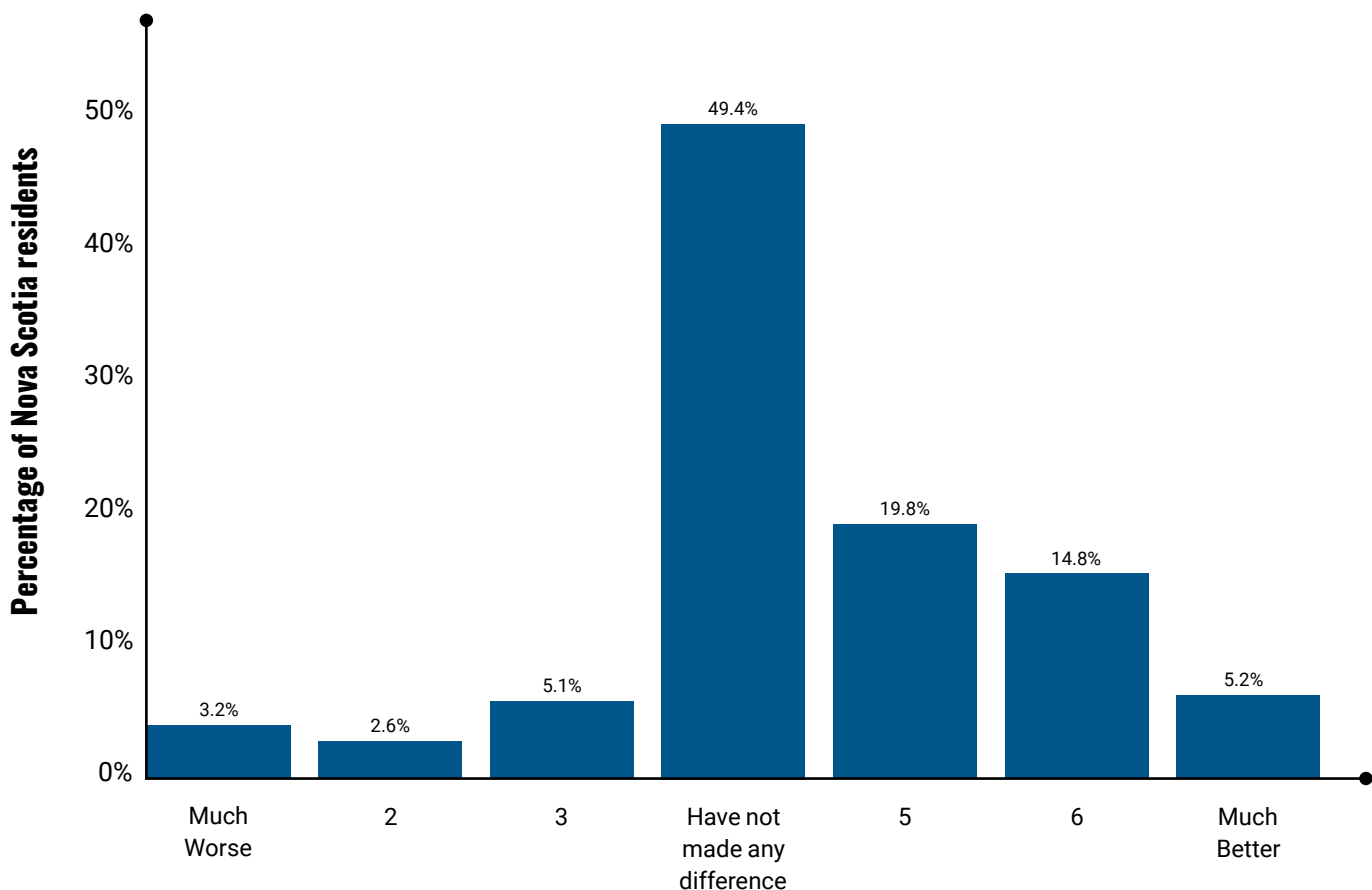
When asked if government programs and services improved their lives, 39.8% of Nova Scotia residents reported they had been made better off because of them. Just over 1 in 10 residents (10.9%) felt government programs and services had made them worse off.



Half of the population (49.4%) reported that government programs and services had made no difference in their lives.

FOCUS

**2019 NS Quality of Life Survey:
Perceived impacts of local government programs and services**





Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

The last goal of the SDGs acknowledges that achieving the first sixteen goals calls for working together at a global scale. We also think that making progress on the SDGs requires partnership and collaboration from local to global scales – and everything in between.

The NS Quality of Life Survey wasn't asking about global partnership to carry out the SDGs, but the survey itself wouldn't have happened without the support and partnership of people and organizations across the province as well as with the Canadian Index of Wellbeing, Nova Scotia Community College, all three levels of government, and many partners in the public, private, community and academic sectors.

Working with partners across the province continues to be central to improving quality of life and wellbeing in Nova Scotia and we are one of many organizations doing so by raising awareness of the SDGs and helping more Nova Scotians to feel a part of this global movement.

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