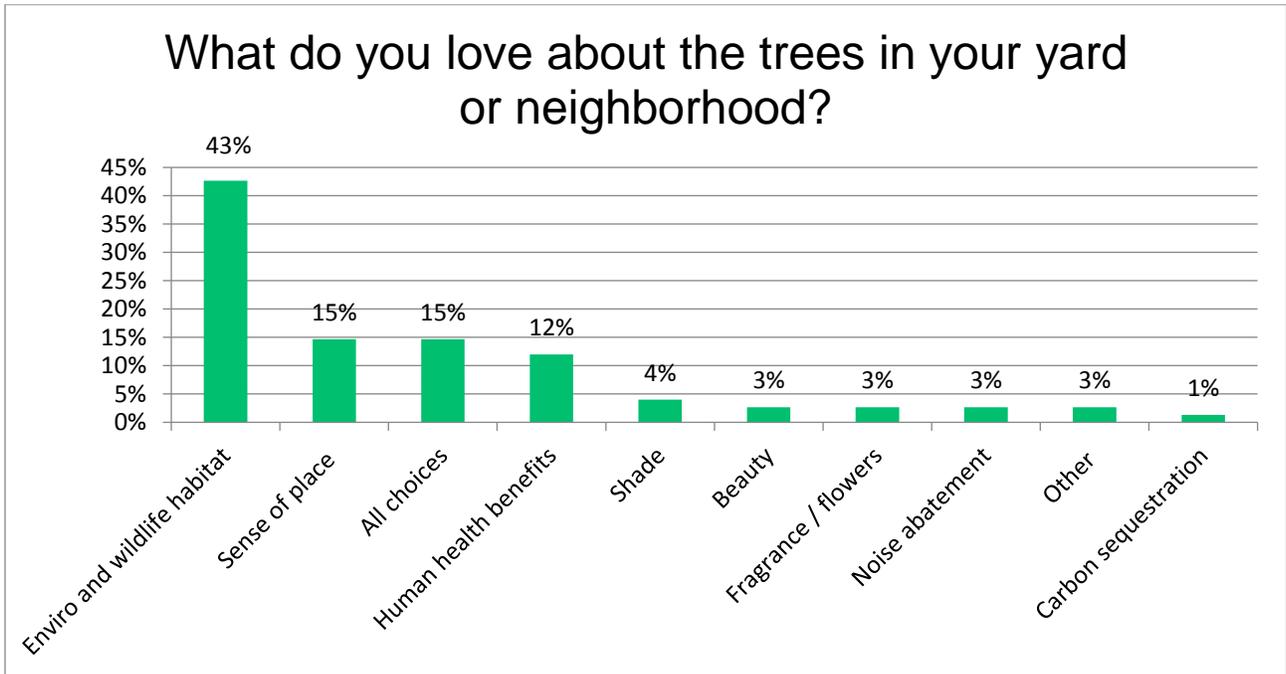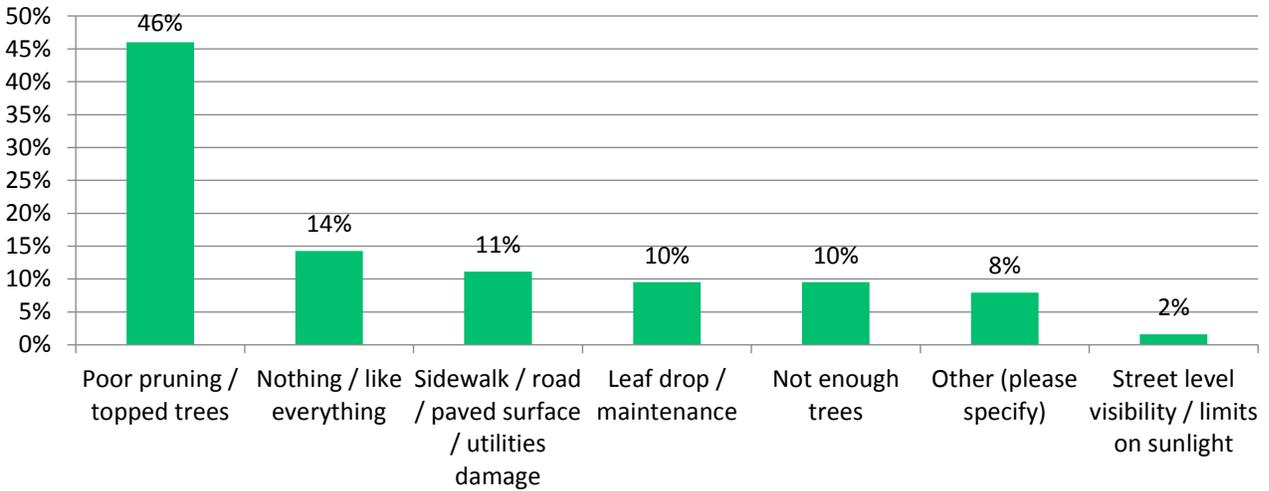64 respondents

When you look around your Seattle neighborhood (either where you live, study, work, or play) are trees in the area overall improving your quality of life?					
1: no improvement	2	3	4	5: great improvement	Total
0 (0%)	1 (1.6%)	3 (4.8%)	9 (14.5%)	49 (79.03%)	62 responses Average 4.7

What do you love about the trees in your yard or neighborhood?

	%
Enviro and wildlife habitat	43%
Sense of place	15%
All choices	15%
Human health benefits	12%
Shade	4%
Beauty	3%
Fragrance / flowers	3%
Noise abatement	3%
Other	3%
Carbon sequestration	1%

Other: relief from concrete & dense buildings, oxygen

What do you dislike about trees in your yard or neighborhood?

Chart values (left to right):
- Poor pruning / topped trees: 46%
- Nothing / like everything: 14%
- Sidewalk / road / paved surface / utilities damage: 11%
- Leaf drop / maintenance: 10%
- Not enough trees: 10%
- Other (please specify): 8%
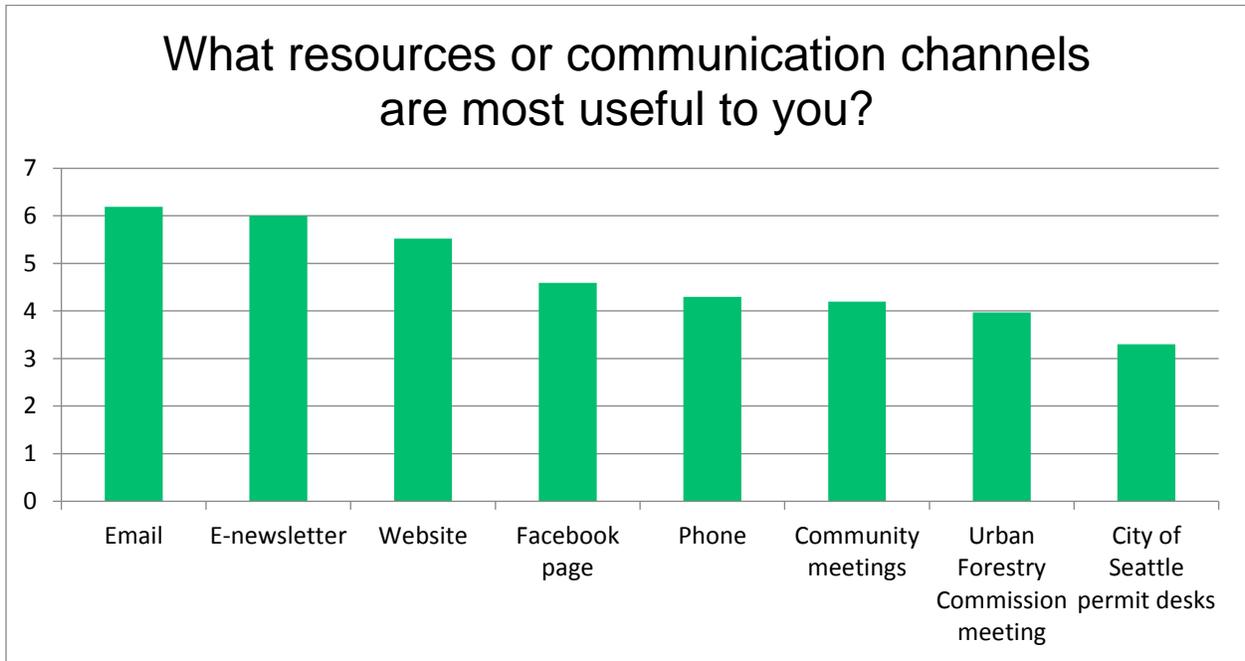- Street level visibility / limits on sunlight: 2%

Other: natural areas converted to recreational use, unwatered trees, tree pits instead of open areas to absorb stormwater, invasive species, dropped fruit / nuts

What can the City do to address any tree-related problems or improve the trees in your neighborhood or yard?

Which of the following would encourage you to preserve existing trees and plant more trees around your home?

Chart values (left to right):
- Easy and affordable access to professional arborist services: 26%
- Receiving free trees to plant: 18%
- Help planting new trees: 15%
- Help watering new trees: 14%
- Support removing invasive species: 12%
- Support resolving neighbor disputes about trees: 10%
- Help raking leaves in the fall: 3%
- Incentives to remove ivy: 2%
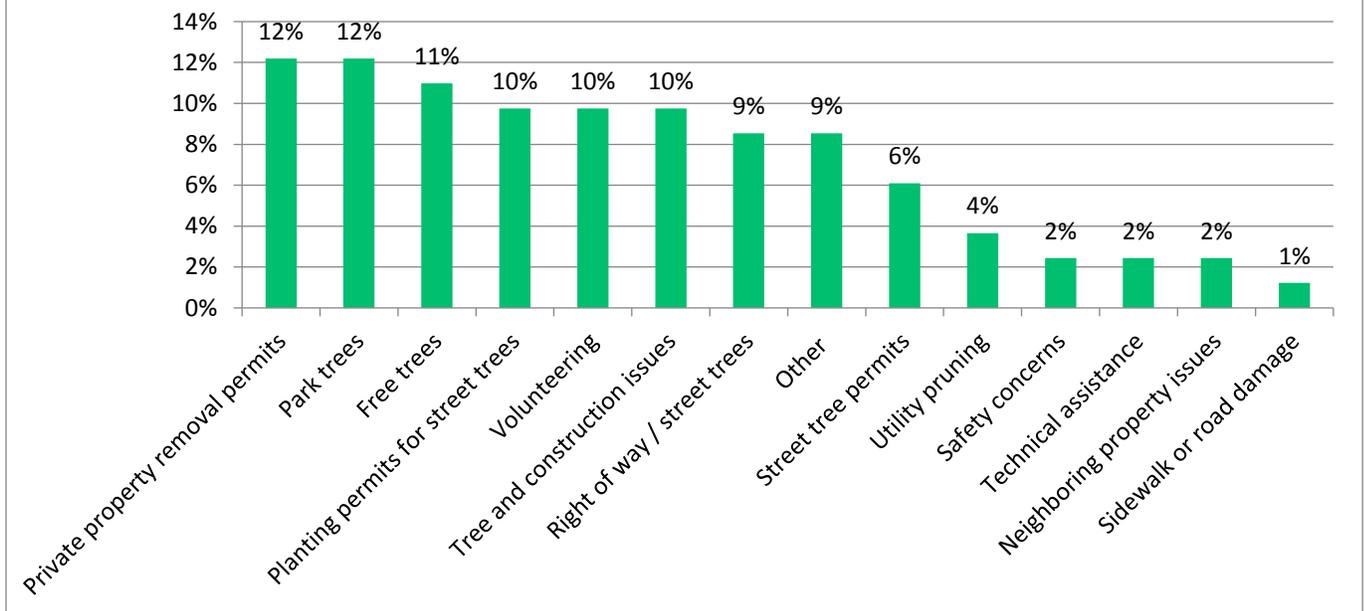- Stronger tree protection ordinance: 2%

Other: Planting and watering videos, free shrubs / ground cover / grass seeds, protection of trees from vehicles, financial assistance, incentivize retention of trees during development, enable neighborhood clusters of planting, tax breaks, education on value of trees, increase building setbacks, share responsibility for maintenance, water bags, replace nuisance trees with appropriate species, outreach on regulations, free leaf composting

What resources or communication channels are most useful to you?

Channel	Value
Email	6.2
E-newsletter	6.0
Website	5.5
Facebook page	4.6
Phone	4.3
Community meetings	4.2
Urban Forestry Commission meeting	4.0
City of Seattle permit desks	3.3

What communications channels to we NOT have available that you wish we did?

Presentations at community groups and district councils (2)
Nextdoor (2)
Ads on metro bus (2)
Simplified websites - too spread out on many different pages (2)
Written information available libraries
YouTube videos of benefits of trees and instructional planting videos
Text messages
Meetings easier for working people to attend
Contact with central coordination of UF-IDT and Core Team
Designated drop-in information center
Posting on-site of tree removal prior to work
Instagram
Enough Roaming Foresters to actively reach out and engage tree owners and residents adjacent to trees
ENGAGE tree 'owners' as partners
Get serious about enforcing the rules against topping trees for a view
General forum / meeting with SDOT, Urban Forestry Commission, Parks and Trees for Seattle staff together so that folks can ask questions and know contacts within these different city departments/teams

What was the most recent tree-related issue you contacted any City department about?

Category	Percentage
Private property removal permits	12%
Park trees	12%
Free trees	11%
Planting permits for street trees	10%
Volunteering	10%
Tree and construction issues	10%
Right of way / street trees	9%
Other	9%
Street tree permits	6%
Utility pruning	4%
Safety concerns	2%
Technical assistance	2%
Neighboring property issues	2%
Sidewalk or road damage	1%

Other: GSP, removal of mature conifers, homelessness, Urban Forestry Commission, proposed private proeprty ordinance, private proprety forest restoration

What has your most recent experience been getting help on tree-related issues from the City?					
1: Terrible	2	3	4	5: Fantastic	Total
6 (16%)	4 (11%)	10 (27%)	7 (19%)	10 (27%)	37 responses Average 3.3

What can the City do to address any tree-related problems or improve the trees in your neighborhood or yard?

Category	Suggestion	Count
Private property ordinance	Improve ordinacnce to better protect trees from removal	14
	Require replacement when developer planted trees die	1
	Simplify permitting	1
Plant trees	Plant trees	5
	Plant conifers & natives	4
	Expand Trees for Neighborhoods	2
	Plant street trees	2
	Plant more in multi-family zones	1
Outreach / engagement	Educate public about trees	4
	Simplify website	1
	Hold public meetings	1
	Transparency in City urban forestry work	1
	Outreach around existing regulations	1
Power line clearance	Improve power line clearance pruning practices	7
Tree pruning	Address safety hazards of poorly pruned large trees	3
	Improve pruning	1
	Prune for driver / road visibility	1
	Prune for street light blocking	1
	Provide thinning services	1
Street trees	Remove and replace underperforming street trees	2
	Increase use of tree pit coverings / flexi-pave	1
	City owernship of all street trees	1
	Allow volunteer maintenance of traffic circles and planting strips	1
	Retain existing street trees in new development	1
Tree protection	Preserve groves	2
	Protect existing large trees	1
	Post advance notice of tree removal	1
	Maintain existing trees	1
	Help fruit trees at Meridian playground	1
Tree / sidewalk / underground utility conflicts	Protect root zones / proper root pruning	2
	Mark buckled sidewalks to prevent trips	1
	Sidewalk inspections for root buckling	1
	Prioritize trees in sidewalk conflicts – build around trees	1
Tree watering	Water street trees for 5 years	2
	Allow irrigation lines under sidewalks to water trees	1
	Free water for young trees	1
Climate change	Increase resilience to climate change	2
	Plant as a solution to climate change	1
Miscellaneous	Increase canopy goals	1
	Hire more arborists	1
	Require replacements for trees damaged in car accidents	1

Invasive species	Address ivy infested trees on private property to prevent failure	1
	Support volunteers removing invasives	1
Funding	Increase funding for urban forestry	2
Leaf drop	Clear leaves from streets	1
	Clear stormdrains	1

The City has identified the following draft values for our management of Seattle's urban forest:

1. Ecosystem and human health: maximizing the mental health and human well-being, air quality, water quality, storm water runoff reduction, carbon sequestration, recreation, wildlife habitat, beauty, and other benefits of trees
2. Commitment to equity: including diverse perspectives and equitable distribution of urban forestry resources and programs
3. Community stewardship: engaging the Seattle community, including residents and businesses, in appreciating and caring for the urban forest
4. Tree health, human safety, and property protection: keeping the urban forest healthy using best management practices with a focus on public and crew safety
5. Good governance: working in conjunction with other City and community goals such as transportation, utility provision, and housing

How would you add to or change these draft values?

Category	Suggestion	Count
Development / tree preservation	Protect urban forest from development	8
	Grow urban forest and high density housing together	2
	Preserve existing mature trees	2
	Enforcement / awareness of current tree removal regualations	1
Education	Stronger education / engagement component	3
Climate	Integrate climate moderating effects of trees, impact on energy use, heat island reduction	2
	Plant for longevity to sequester CO2	1
	Add blue carbon (aquatic vegetation) and marine ecosystem protection	1
Goverance	More emphasis on good goverance actions	2
	Add environmental ethics to the Mayor's budget proposal	1
	Add fun of climbing trees as kids	1
	Better cooperation between City departments with strong lead with ultimate responsibility	1
Equity	Promote a thriving diversity of people and plants in the urban forest	1
	Equity	1
	Provide City / volunteer help with tree maintenance	1
	Make equity a geographical focus	

Street trees	Remove and replace under-performing trees	1
	Address sidewalk issues	1
	Make sure trees do not cause shadows at night for pedestrian safety	1
Miscellenous	Don't include tree heath, human safety, property protection, or good governance – these are covered by the other values	1
	Wildlife / bird habitat	1
	Add to community: shared responsibility and ownership	1
	Separate tree health and human safety	1
	All current City work is bad	1

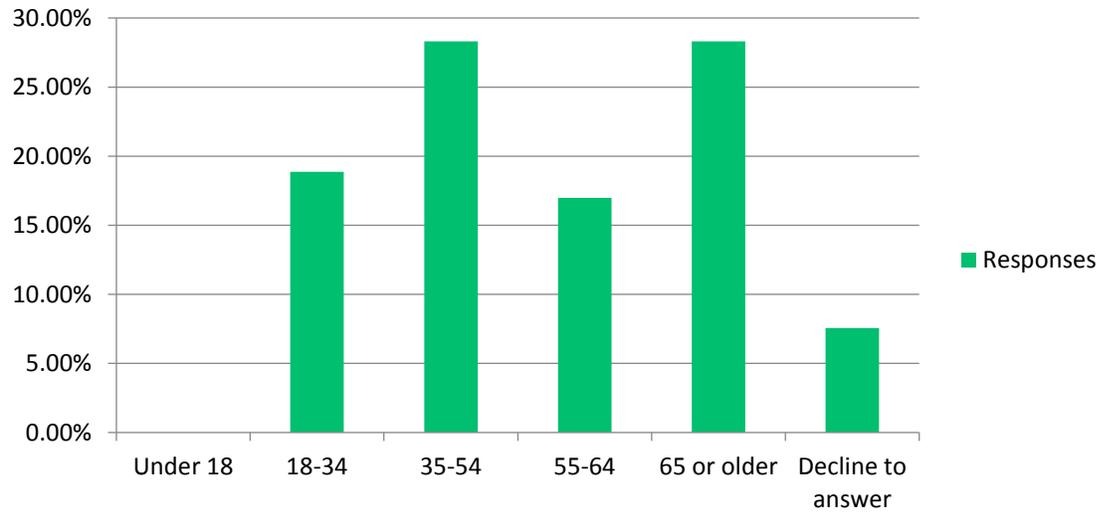What more can the City do to support trees (including on private property or volunteers caring for trees?

- Improve private property tree protection code (7)
- Educate / promote benefits (7)
- Crowd sourced regisration of exceptional trees and groves
- Increase notice of tree removal to 6 weeks instead of 2
- Invest more in watering young trees
- Funding and capacity to monitor health of urban forest
- Fudning for major tree pruning or removal on private land
- Provide pathways for youth and volunteers to get tree jobs
- Free native tree seedlings
- Require replacement of trees removed by developers
- Increase funding for tree protection and restoration of forested areas outside of Parks
- Incentive for developers that include planned space for big trees
- Building codes that include trees as part of cod; minimum tree requirements
- Educate about tree care and invasive species
- Increase landlord acceptance of trees on their property
- Be more watchful for illegal tree removal on private property
- Don't give any breaks to developers who remove trees
- Require developers to preserve native trees
- Enforce existing regulations, make sure trees are replaced
- Focus regulations on species / health of tree removed and like replacement
- Take an ecology census
- Publicize Trees for Neighborhoods
- Adult ranger programs
- Better sources of information on existing tree codes; less confusing responses from the City to tree preservation questions
- Lower property taxes based on value of trees
- Volunteers to plant on public (parks and SDOT) properties
- More free trees to residents
- Develop conservation corps to remove ivy and invasives; make program available to private property owners

- More finanical support for nonprofits that care for public trees
- Encourage developers to plant trees
- Provide more access to tree selection / RTRP advice
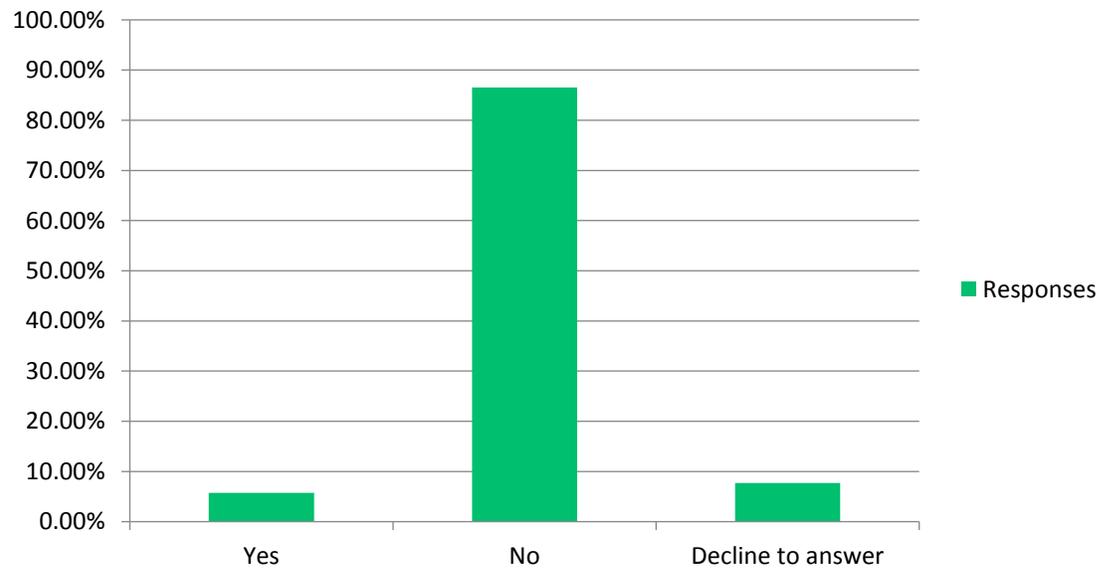- Lower water bills for home owners who care for trees

Final comments

- Increase canopy goal to 40%
- Charge impact fees to cover cost of adding trees for mitigation and access to nature
- Advocate for planting native trees adapted to changing climate
- Educate homeowners that trees aren't a nusiance
- Put more money behind urban forestry work and increasing equitable benefits from the urban forest
- Celebrate trees in the arboretum
- More street trees
- More mature conifers and native trees
- Look into carbon removal credits to help fund the tree programs
- Requiring replanting is not as good as preventing removal
- Focus on climate change
- Urban forestry is nuanced. One size fits all approaches to tree removal and replacement policies are not practical
- Increase Heritage Tree program and participate more in King County's Million Trees Campaign
- Keep public informed of trees threatened by disease or climate change and how to help
- Trees for Seattle newsletter is great
- Value trees more
- Save trees
- Make it easier to water street trees
- Widen planting strips for street trees; cut sidewalks
- Devote more resources to trees
- Keep street trees away from sidewalks
- Engage all City departments in UFMP update with equal weight
- Prioritize palnting evergreens and native trees
- More cooperation between departments
- Convert street space to tree planting space
- Make urban forestry and housing decisions go hand in hand
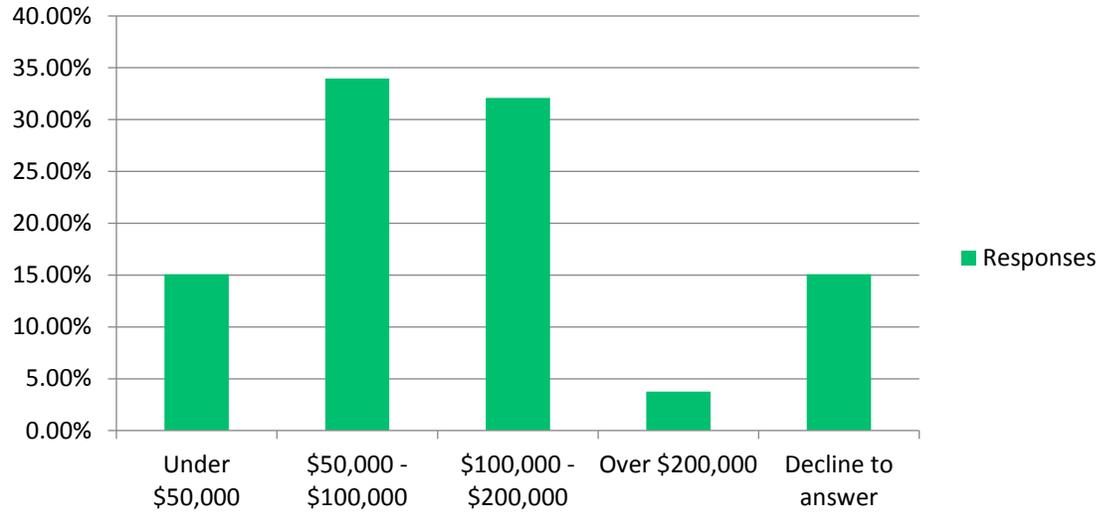- Lots of thanks for good work already being done
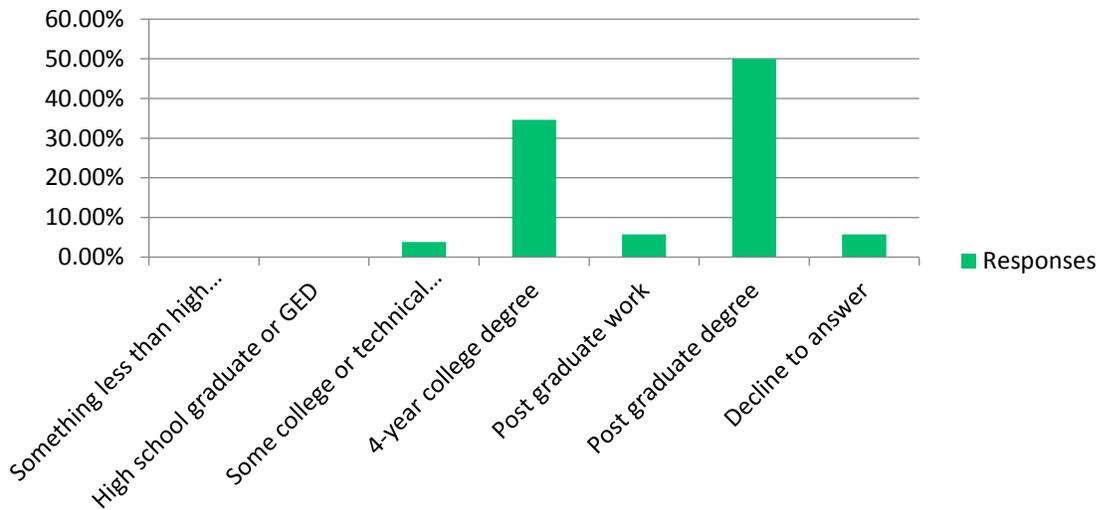
Which of the following broad ranges includes your age?

Did you immigrate to the United States?

Please identify your annual household income

Bar chart showing responses by income bracket:
- Under $50,000: ~15%
- $50,000 - $100,000: ~34%
- $100,000 - $200,000: ~32%
- Over $200,000: ~4%
- Decline to answer: ~15%

Legend: Responses

What is the highest degree or level of school you have completed?

Bar chart showing responses by education level:
- Something less than high...: 0%
- High school graduate or GED: 0%
- Some college or technical...: ~4%
- 4-year college degree: ~35%
- Post graduate work: ~6%
- Post graduate degree: 50%
- Decline to answer: ~6%

Legend: Responses

Primary language:

English – 49

Other – 1

Skipped – 15

Race / ethnicity:

African American – 1

American Indian – 1

Central or South American Indian – 1

Mexican, Mexican American – 2

White – 40

Other – 7

Zip codes

98115 – 9	98144 – 3	98109 – 2
98112 – 4	98105 – 3	98118 – 1
98125 – 4	98146 – 2	98155 – 1
98103 - 4	98119 – 2	98133 – 1
98199 – 3	98106 – 2	98116 – 1
98107 - 3	98102 – 2	
98117 – 3	98122 – 2	