

City of Huntington Park

Public Opinion Survey

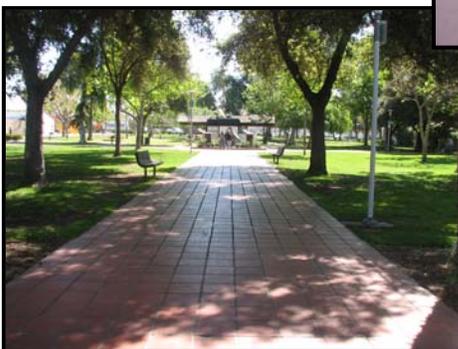
**Prepared as part of the City of Huntington Park
Parks & Recreation Master Plan
May 2008**

Public Opinion Survey

A Public Opinion Survey was refined by the Consultant, and reviewed and approved by the Parks & Recreation Staff. The Survey was provided in both an English and Spanish version.

Due to the minimal volume of responses in the initial 4-week window of survey distribution and collection, the process was continued for an additional 4-week period. A total of 155 surveys were returned to the Parks & Recreation Department, which were summarized by English edition, Spanish edition, and comprehensive summary of responses.

Immediately following, please find the Notice to Residents regarding the Survey, followed by the Summary of Survey Responses. A breakdown of the Survey responses in English and in Spanish can be found in the APPENDIX of this document.



City of Huntington Park • Department of Parks & Recreation

3401 E. Florence Ave. • Huntington Park, CA 90255 • 323-584-6218 • FAX 323-584-6310 • www.huntingtonpark.org

Dear Resident:

The city of Huntington Park is preparing a Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

The purpose of the Master Plan is to set a long term vision and short term goals for the improvement of city park facilities and recreation programs.

An important part of the Master Plan is receiving community input about your views of current park and recreation offerings as well as your ideas about improvements you would like to see.

In order to hear from you, the city has prepared the attached survey for you to complete. Your comments are very important to us.

Please complete the survey and submit it to Parks & Recreation staff at any of the following parks **BY THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 2007:**

- **Salt Lake Park recreation center (3401 E. Florence Ave.)**
- **Freedom Park recreation center (3801 E. 61st St.)**
- **Westside Park recreation center (2061 Gage Ave.)**

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

If you have any questions or comments please contact Danny Bueno or me at (323) 584-6218.

Thank you for your participation.

Josette Espinosa
Director of Parks & Recreation

City of Huntington Park Combined English and Spanish Recreation and Parks Community Survey Responses

1. Do you live in the boundaries of the City of Huntington Park?

Yes - 136

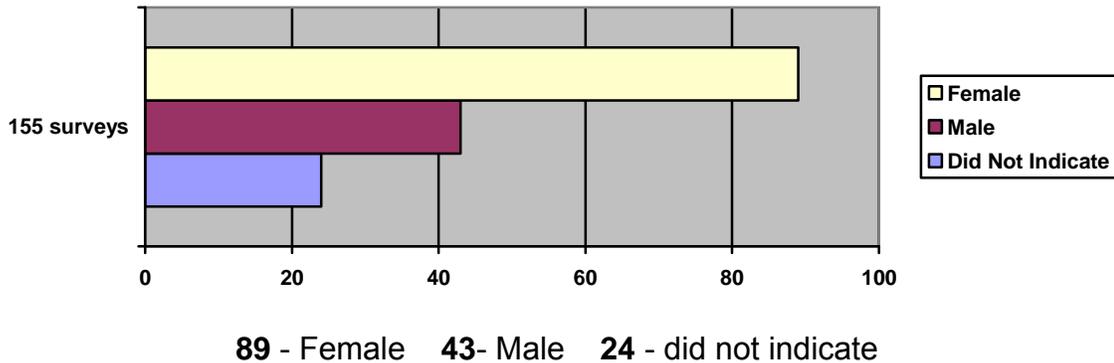
No - 20

2. What is your zip code?

3	90001	1	90063	1	90262
3	90002	3	90201	5	90280
2	90037	1	90242	1	90640
2	90044	113	90255	1	92481

(Note: 30 respondents did not indicate zip code)

3. Gender

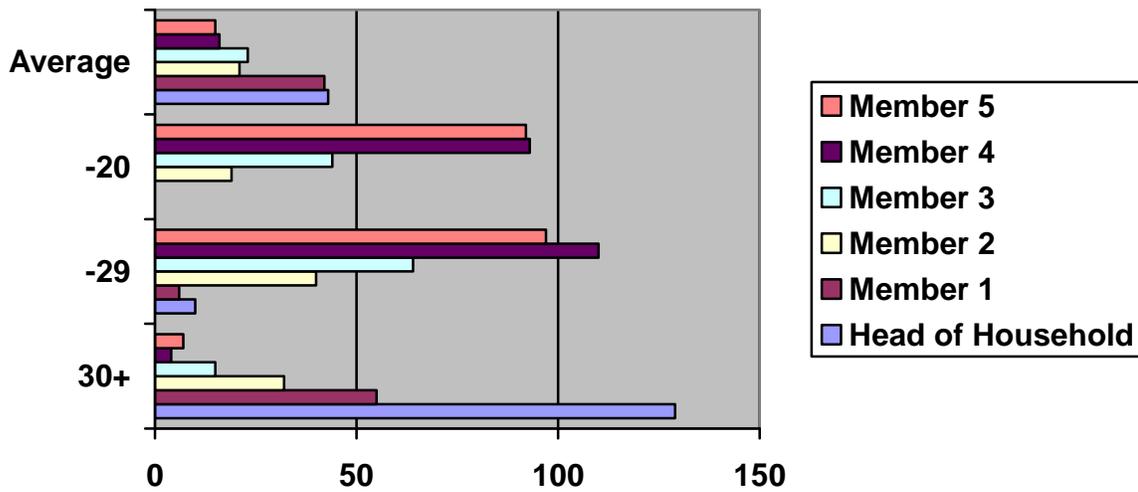


This is not an indication that more females than males participate in Recreation and Parks programs. It probably is more of an indicator that more women than men bring their children to the recreation programs and facilities and therefore had a greater opportunity to fill out a survey. The surveys were available at several of the classes and facilities.

In our field observations, more women were seen in the halls of the facilities waiting for children who were participating in classes or programs.

More women were also observed in the parks sitting on benches, watching children who were using playgrounds.

4. Beginning with yourself, please list the age of each resident living in your household.



	(30+)	(-29)	(-20)	Average Age
Head of Household:	129	10	0	43
Other Member (1)	55	6	0	42
Other Member (2)	32	40	19	21
Other Member (3)	15	64	44	23
Other Member (4)	4	110	93	16
Other Member (5)	7	97	92	15

5. Which of these categories best describes your household? (Please check one)

- 31 % Two or more adults without children under 18 years
- 29 % Three or more adults with children under 18 years
- 14 % Two adults with children over 18 years
- 7 % One adult without children under 18 years
- 4 % Three or more adults with children over 18 years
- 2 % One adult with children over 18 years

The resulting percentages from this survey question indicate that 60% of the households have two or three adults with children under the age of 18 years old. This is an indicator that many of the families could be extended families with grandparents or other family members living in the home.

Only 7% of the households who completed this survey have one adult with children under the age of 18 years old. That is not very many single parent homes.

6. How long have you lived in Huntington Park? **Average number of years: 19.7**

The average length of residency of 19.7 years implies that many residents have lived in Huntington Park longer than 20 years. This can be an indication that they have a vested interest in the long range goals of the City.

7. Thinking about the past year, what best describes how often you or other members of your household used parks and recreation **facilities** in or outside of Huntington Park?

	Total
Frequent Users	
More than once a week	38%
Once a week or 3 to 4 times per month	<u>20%</u>
	58%
Moderate Users	
Once or Twice a Month	6%
Several Times a Year	<u>25%</u>
	31%
Light/Non-Users	
Once a Year	6%
No Use	<u>6%</u>
	12%

(Note: May not sum due to rounding)

The high percentage of Frequent and Moderate users (89%) could be because the survey was available at Recreation and Park programs and facilities, so many of the respondents filled them out while at either a facility or a program. This can also be an indicator that several individuals from one family were involved in more than one program.

The Light / Non-users were probably from individuals who participated in the Community Focus group.

8. If “once a year” or “No Use” in question 7, why do you use parks and recreation facilities so seldom? (check as many as apply)

<u>Percentage % of responses</u>	<u>Reason</u>
19 %	Doesn't feel safe
13	Does not have nice landscaping/shade trees/nice ambience
12	No bathroom facilities/or bathrooms are locked
12	Poor parking
10	Bad neighborhood
10	Facilities are poorly maintained
8	Specific facilities I want are not available
8	Does not have nice people

<u>Percentage % of responses</u>	<u>Reason</u>
7 %	There are not enough facilities
6	Facilities not conveniently located
6	Facilities are crowded
5	No time
5	Not convenient timing
3	Do not need to use parks or facilities/Not interested

The highest percentage of respondents (19%) marked “Doesn’t feel safe”. Since the time this survey was completed, the Recreation and Parks Department has hired a private security company to patrol the facilities and programs.

The second highest response was 13% for “Does not have nice landscaping, shade trees or ambience”. This is directly related to the private contractor’s poor maintenance practices, managed by the Public Works Department.

Other (Please specify):

These were other issues that were written on the survey by responders. They have been put into categories::

Facility Issues:

- Restrooms poorly maintained
- Outside restrooms are nasty
- Need sauna
- No air conditioning in gym

Public Safety Issues:

- Too many gang members in park
- Not enough security
- Too many drugs in park
- Verbally abused by gang members
- Need police patrols

Marketing Issues:

- Not aware of programs offered
- No indoor volleyball

Misc. :

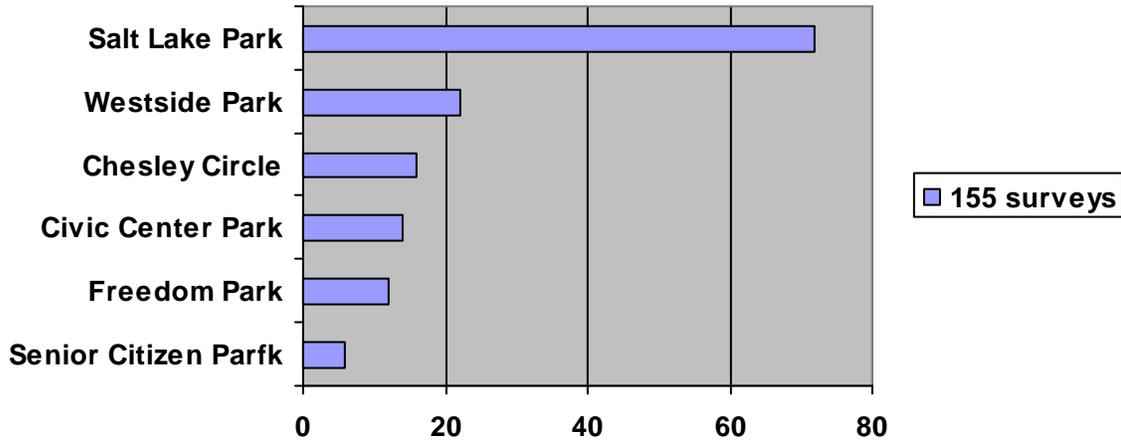
- I volunteer every day
- I live in LA

The written comments also indicated a strong concern for safety and maintenance. Both of these issues are important for the City to consider when trying to improve facilities and services for the Community. The Recreation and Parks Department have taken the first step by hiring the Security Company to patrol their facilities and programs.

9. During the past year, which park or recreation facility did you and your household most often use? (please be specific)

Salt Lake Park was the most heavily used facility, at 72%. It had more than 3 times the amount of use of the next frequently used park, Westside Park with 22%.

Huntington Park Site Usage



72 %	Salt Lake Park	14 %	Civic Center Park
22 %	Westside Park	12 %	Freedom Park
16 %	Chesley Circle	6 %	Senior Citizen Park

10. What best describes how often you or other members of your household use recreation **programs** such as classes, organized sports, dance or other types of instruction in or outside of Huntington Park?

	Totals
Frequent Users	
More than once a week	29 %
Once a week or 3 to 4 times per month	<u>16 %</u>
	45 %
Moderate Users	
Once or Twice a Month	4 %
Several Times a Year	<u>15 %</u>
	19 %
Light/Non-Users	
Once a Year	3 %
No Use	<u>28 %</u>
	31 %

(Note: May not sum due to rounding)

This is another example of Frequent and Moderate Users (64%) out numbering the Light / Non-users (31%) more than two to one. This indicates that probably more than one member of the same household participates in more than one program or class.

11. If “Once a Year” or “No Use” in question 9, why do you use parks and recreation **programs** so seldom?

<u>Percentage % of responses</u>	<u>Reason</u>
10 %	Doesn't feel safe
10	Specific programs I want are not available
10	There are not enough programs
8	Do not have nice people
8	No Time
7	Cost of programs is too much/can't afford
6	Programs are crowded
6	Poor parking
5	Inconvenient timing
4	Programs are poorly managed
4	Not interested/No need to use programs
3	Programs not conveniently located

The first of the top three responses with 10% was in regards to safety, which again the Recreation and Parks Department has begun to address since this survey was taken.

The next two responses with 10% are interesting: “Not enough programs” and “Specific programs are not available”. When the class fee survey was conducted, Huntington Park had more programs and classes than any of the other 11 regional communities that were surveyed. Often times, the difficulty that Departments have is in getting the word out to the Community. This is a common concern and problem for many of the Communities in Southern California, where surveys like this one have been conducted.

Other (Please specify): These were written concerns that respondents gave, they have been put into categories:

Program Availability:

- Need swimming pool
- Need scrap booking class
- More women self esteem type classes

Public Safety Issues:

- Too many gang members in parks
- Don't go out after dark

Marketing Issues:

- Programs not advertised enough
- Did not know about programs
- Need program flyers mailed to homes
- Should give preference to Huntington Park Residents

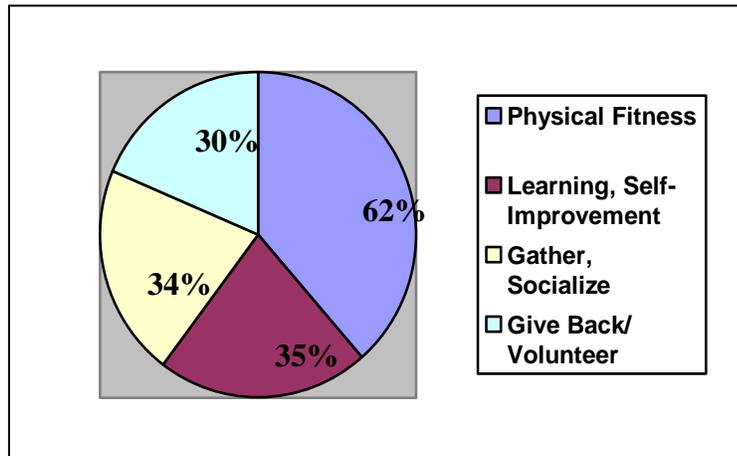
Staffing Issues:

- Do not like instructors
- Need more supervision of instructors

Affordability Issues:

- More free programs
- On fixed income

12. Reflecting upon the recreation patterns of those in your household, which of the following benefits do you feel is most important when you or the members of your household seek recreation or leisure opportunities? Would it be:



- 62 % Physical fitness, health and well-being
- 35 % Learning opportunities for hobby, self-improvement or career development
- 34 % Opportunities to give back to the community through volunteer work
- 30 % Opportunities to gather and socialize with others

** Total is greater than 100% due to some respondents marking multiple responses on their Survey

When reviewing this chart, it is not surprising that Physical Fitness is the top priority. The California Park and Recreation Society's Trends Report 1998, states that it is more important than ever for people of all ages to engage in more healthy leisure time activities. This is largely due to the fact that obesity has doubled in the United States in the last 20 years. This has resulted in Type 2 diabetes increasing by 33%.

Children are the most obese that they have been in the history of mankind, caused in part by reductions in school physical fitness programs and an increase in sedentary behavior, such as watching screens. Adults are also more obese than at any other time in history and this can lead to far reaching implications for communities and the health cost they will have to bear.

The long term effects of this issue include: cardiovascular disease, diabetes, orthopedic problems, hypertension, asthma, and poor self esteem.

13. What is the **ONE facility** your household would **MOST** like to see added in Huntington Park?

Outdoor Facilities			
49 %	Swimming Pool – Competitive	22 %	Playground/Tot lots
41 %	Swimming Pool - Recreation	22 %	Outdoor Basketball Courts
31 %	Bike/Jogging Paths	18 %	Tennis Courts
31 %	Additional Restrooms	17 %	Skateboard Park
27 %	Soccer Fields	15 %	Softball Fields
27 %	Picnic/Group facilities	15 %	Football Fields
26 %	Band shell/Outdoor concert stage	13 %	Card/Game Tables
24 %	Water Play facility	12 %	Roller Hockey facility
23 %	Volleyball	12 %	Dog Park
23 %	Baseball Fields	4 %	Golf Course/Driving Range
Indoor Facilities			
38 %	Fitness Center	23 %	Library
37 %	Gymnasium	22 %	Senior Facilities & Programs
33 %	Teen/Youth Club facilities	21 %	Indoor Basketball Courts
33 %	Computer Labs	19 %	Fine Arts Center (gallery)
30 %	Performing Arts Center/theater	15 %	Meeting Facilities
27 %	Community Center for classes	1 %	None
Other:			
Gym needs air conditioning		Senior Center	
Indoor volleyball courts		Any extra facilities	
Sauna		Free sports programs for youth	
Indoor soccer		Affordable singing and music lessons	
Paintball facility			

The number one response (90%) to the question, " what new facility would you like to see added" is swimming pool. That is not uncommon in these types of surveys. The issue for cities is that not only are pools very expensive to build (if you have the property), but they are very expensive to operate. Staffing is another issue that communities struggle with because it is difficult to find staff members that meet the certification standards that are required for lifeguards.

Some options that the Recreation and Parks Department should consider is having family excursions to neighboring communities that have swimming pools.

Excursions to the beach are another aquatic experience that the Department could offer. Another 24% of the respondents marked Water Play Facility and this is another less expensive opportunity that the Department could offer the community. Since this survey was completed the Department has begun development of a water play area in Freedom Park.

14. Thinking about that new facility you would like to see, how interested would you be in having it located next to your home?

66 %	Very interested	4 %	Not very interested
19 %	Somewhat interested	2 %	Not at all interested

This is not a typical response to this question. In most communities, the response would be 2% “Very interested” and 66% “Not interested at all”. Southern California, and perhaps the entire Country, is experiencing a very negative reaction to new recreation facilities. Everyone wants new facilities, just not in their back yards (NIMBY).

This response is a very positive attitude on the part of the community and will make building any new facilities in the future easier to accomplish.

15. Why do you say that?

Transportation:

58 %	Convenience/can walk to park / don't need a car
15 %	Parking a problem

Public Safety Issues:

33 %	Safety / Can watch my children play there
10 %	Safety / Concerned about strangers accessing my home
5 %	Too many people a problem
4 %	Noise a problem

Aesthetics:

8 %	Like the view / open field next to my home
8 %	Better than having more houses there

Other (please specify)

- No swimming near
- We could use Maywood pool, it is already there
- More parking spaces
- Not enough security

16. If that new facility were lighted at night in a way that would make it possible to use it at night, would that cause you to be...

- 76 % More interested
- 15 % About the same level of interest
- 1 % Less interested

Again, it is very unusual to have neighbors wanting to have lighted facilities next to their homes.

17. What is the **ONE** program, class or activity your household would **MOST** like to see added in Huntington Park?

Cultural Arts			
31 %	Concerts	24 %	Arts & Crafts for adults
30 %	Performing arts/entertainment	23 %	Arts & Crafts for youth
25 %	Dance Classes for adults	22 %	Holiday/Seasonal fairs or celebrations
24 %	Dance Classes for youth		
Camps for Youth		Fitness Programs	
33 %	Summer Youth Camps	48 %	Swimming Lessons
21 %	Spring Break youth camps	32 %	Exercise Classes for youth
17 %	Winter Break youth camps	23 %	Exercise Classes for adults
Other: (Please specify)		Excursions	
• More soccer fields		• Camping trips	
• Youth sports camps		• Day bus trips for whole family	
• Paintball Course		• Round trips to Las Vegas	
• Hip Hop classes		• Day trips to other cities	
• Senior programs on Medical/Finance			
Misc. Comments:			
• No more Circuses			

18. If it became necessary to raise additional money in order to fund improvements to the City's parks and recreation facilities in Huntington Park, would you support or oppose each of the following methods of doing so?

- 65 % Spending a larger share of the annual city budget on parks and recreation
- 2 % Increasing user fees for City recreational facilities and program
- 1 % Increasing taxes to pay for parks and recreation facilities

This is a very typical response from the community, wanting the city to spend more of their general fund dollars on parks and recreation. That is until they learn that means less police and fire personal.

One of the things that Huntington Park is doing, and should continue to do, is to establish an aggressive grant program, securing funding for both facilities and programs. Grants are discussed in another section of this Master Plan.

19. Do you believe carnivals and circuses are beneficial to the community?

Yes - 34

No - 30

How?

Positive Impacts:

- Carnivals bring families together
- Brings community together
- Raises funds for the City
- Raises money for the parks and recreation dept.
- Money wise - brings revenue as well as fun for youth - many children do not have exposure to these types of events so having them close to home exposes them to new things
- They raise funds for parks and recreation
- Keeps kids in check by giving them something to do
- Provide entertainment for the community
- Brings dollars to the parks - leaves dollars in the community
- It is a fun night out
- People from other communities come to visit our city
- Helps raise funds
- Makes money for the City
- It is another form of entertainment
- It is a way to bring the family together
- Good for families that do have transportation
- It is fun and close to home
- It helps the economy of Huntington Park

It should be noted that only one or two of the carnivals or circuses pays the City of Huntington Park any money, and the total revenue does not cover the cost of maintenance and repair to the damaged turf and playing areas.

Negative Impacts:

- Brings gangs and violence to the community
- It ruins the park for the rest of the park users
- It takes away the children's play area
- It ruins the park grass
- It brings teenaged gangs out in the evening
- Too much trash from these events

Misc. Comments:

- Should be held only once a year
- These events should turn their revenue over to the city

The Circuses and Carnivals are a difficult question that the policy makers, such as the Commissions and the City Council, are going to need to address. The Community members that responded to this survey are pretty split on this issue:

- 34 said they feel carnivals are beneficial
- 30 said no they do not feel carnivals are beneficial
- 92 did not mark anything for that question

It is important to note that the revenue generated from these events does not cover the cost to repair the damage, to the park facilities, done by them. Community members think the City makes significant revenue from these events; this is not true. The City generated an estimated \$15,000 from these events in 2007.

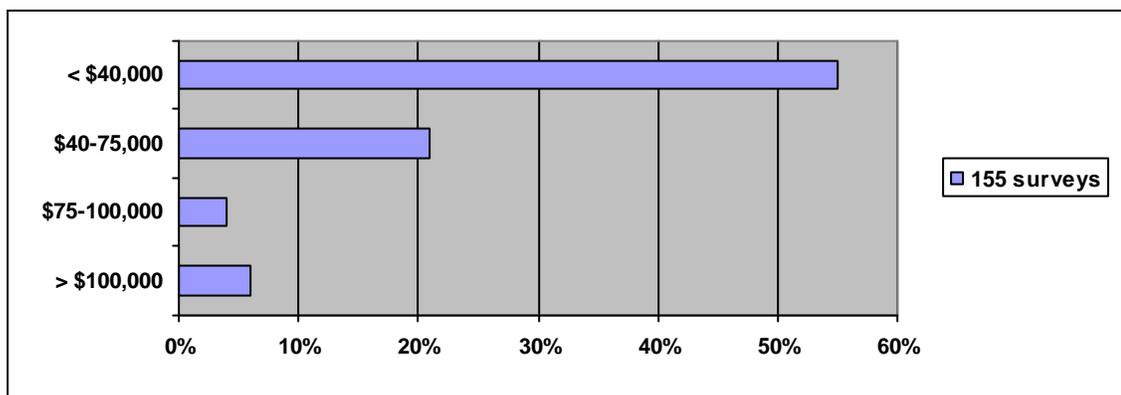
Holding these events at a location other than the park would lessen the damage and not displace park patrons. There is a church in the community that currently holds a carnival every year; perhaps other churches would be willing to hold these events.

In the Mayors interview for this Master Plan, she said that she was going to form a committee to make recommendations to the City Council regarding circuses and carnivals.

20. Please indicate what ethnic category you identify yourself as.

- 87 % Hispanic/Mexican American
- 4 % White
- 0 % Black or African American
- 0 % Asian/Pacific Islander

21. Which of the following ranges includes your households' annual income before taxes:



- | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------|-----|------------------------|
| 15% | Under \$10,000 | 04% | \$ 50,000 - \$ 59,999 |
| 12% | \$10,000 - \$ 19,999 | 07% | \$ 60,000 - \$ 74,999 |
| 13% | \$ 20,000 - \$ 29,999 | 04% | \$ 75,000 - \$ 99,999 |
| 15% | \$ 30,000 - \$ 39,999 | 04% | \$100,000 - \$ 149,999 |
| 10% | \$ 40,000 - \$ 49,999 | 02% | \$150,000 and above |