

## AFFH Appendix.

# Community Engagement

This section reports the findings from the resident survey conducted of San Mateo County residents to support the AFFH analysis of Housing Elements. It explores residents' housing, affordability, and neighborhood challenges and experiences with displacement and housing discrimination. The survey also asks about residents' access to economic opportunity, captured through residents' reported challenges with transportation, employment, and K-12 education. The survey was offered in both English and Spanish.

The resident survey was available online, in both Spanish and English, in a format accessible to screen readers, and promoted through jurisdictional communications and social media and through partner networks. A total of 2,382 residents participated.

The survey instrument included questions about residents' current housing situation, housing, neighborhood and affordability challenges, healthy neighborhood indicators, access to opportunity, and experience with displacement and housing discrimination.

**Explanation of terms.** Throughout this section, several terms are used that require explanation.

- “Precariously housed” includes residents who are currently homeless or living in transitional or temporary/emergency housing, as well as residents who live with friends or family but are not themselves on the lease or property title. These residents may (or may not) make financial contributions to pay housing costs or contribute to the household in exchange for housing (e.g., childcare, healthcare services).
- “Disability” indicates that the respondent or a member of the respondent’s household has a disability of some type—physical, mental, intellectual, developmental.
- “Single parent” are respondents living with their children only or with their children and other adults but not a spouse/partner.
- “Tenure” in the housing industry means rentership or ownership.
- “Large households” are considered those with five or more persons residing in a respective household.
- “Seriously Looked for Housing” includes touring or searching for homes or apartments, putting in applications or pursuing mortgage financing.

**Sampling note.** The survey respondents do not represent a random sample of the county or jurisdictions' population. A true random sample is a sample in which each individual in the population has an equal chance of being selected for the survey. The self-selected nature of the survey prevents the collection of a true random sample. Important insights and themes can still be gained from the survey results, however, with an understanding of the differences among resident groups and between jurisdictions and the county overall. Overall, the data provide a rich source of information about the county's households and their experience with housing choice and access to opportunity in the communities where they live.

Jurisdiction-level data are reported for cities with 50 responses or more. Response by jurisdiction and demographics are shown in the figure below. Overall, the survey received a very strong response from typically underrepresented residents including: people of color, renters, precariously housed residents, very low income households, households with children, large households, single parents, and residents with disabilities.

**Figure 1.**  
**Resident Survey Sample Sizes by Jurisdictions and Selected Characteristics**

	County	Belmont	Brisbane	Burlingame	Daly City	East Palo Alto	Foster City	Half Moon Bay	Hillsborough	Milbrae	Pacifica	Redwood City	San Bruno	San Mateo	South San Francisco
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>2,382</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>832</b>
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>															
<b>African American</b>	134	5	7	4	9	8	10	6	4	4	5	14	4	17	15
<b>Hispanic</b>	397	7	9	14	26	27	13	8	1	8	12	59	13	31	149
<b>Asian</b>	500	18	9	26	43	6	32	6	8	13	14	11	19	23	249
<b>Other Race</b>	149	7	10	6	8	3	14	3	3	3	3	9	7	13	47
<b>Non-Hispanic White</b>	757	41	35	89	27	4	44	27	27	15	35	54	36	58	195
<b>Tenure</b>															
<b>Homeowner</b>	1,088	39	51	96	39	9	89	26	46	18	42	37	48	58	409
<b>Renter</b>	1,029	40	30	65	67	36	43	28	7	33	38	105	41	88	324
<b>Precariously Housed</b>	309	10	8	12	26	12	17	14	5	7	13	23	16	29	87
<b>Income</b>															
<b>Less than \$25,000</b>	282	14	11	12	21	15	12	11	5	6	7	40	11	29	61
<b>\$25,000-\$49,999</b>	265	13	9	10	22	9	8	6	3	6	7	28	5	20	97
<b>\$50,000-\$99,999</b>	517	10	14	38	43	10	26	11	3	10	17	37	22	40	206
<b>Above \$100,000</b>	721	38	24	69	16	8	64	12	30	14	32	31	40	40	251
<b>Household Characteristics</b>															
<b>Children under 18</b>	840	38	24	53	50	26	44	17	18	20	29	61	37	64	287
<b>Large households</b>	284	5	7	11	20	18	8	3	5	7	8	20	13	15	133
<b>Single Parent</b>	240	14	8	15	19	11	12	9	3	7	7	30	9	21	49
<b>Disability</b>	711	28	25	41	38	22	40	22	13	17	29	62	34	65	210
<b>Older Adults (age 65+)</b>	736	25	27	66	37	11	54	25	25	18	33	44	32	37	248

Note: Numbers do not aggregate either due to multiple responses or that respondents chose not to provide a response to all demographic and socioeconomic questions.

Source: Root Policy Research from the 2021-2022 21 Elements AFFH Resident Survey.

## Primary Findings

The survey data present a unique picture of the housing choices, challenges, needs, and access to economic opportunity of San Mateo County residents.

Top level findings from residents' perspectives and experiences:

- The **limited supply of housing** that accommodates voucher holders presents several challenges. Specifically,
  - Eight out of 10 voucher holders represented by the survey find a landlord that accepts a housing voucher to be “difficult” or “very difficult.”
  - According to the survey data, vouchers not being enough to cover the places residents want to live is a top impediment for residents who want to move in San Mateo County, as well as for African American, Asian, and Hispanic residents, households with children under 18, single parents, older adults, households with a member experiencing a disability, and several jurisdictions.
- **Low income is a barrier** to accessing housing. The impacts are highest for precariously housed respondents, large households, Hispanic households, and residents in Daly City and Redwood City.
- **Nearly 4 in 10 respondents who looked for housing experienced denial of housing.** African American/Black respondents, single parent households, precariously housed respondents, and households with income below \$50,000 reported the highest denial rates.
- **1 in 5 residents have been displaced** from their home in the past five years. One of the main reasons cited for displacement was *the rent increased more than I could pay*. African American households, single parents, households that make less than \$25,000, and precariously housed respondents reported the highest rates of displacement.
- For households with children that were displaced in the past five years, **60% of children in those households have changed schools.** The most common outcomes identified by households with children who have changed schools include *school is more challenging, they feel less safe at the new school, and they are in a worse school.*
- **Nearly 1 in 5 residents reported they have experienced discrimination** in the past five years. African American, single parent, and precariously housed respondents reported the highest rates of discrimination. The most common actions

in response to discrimination cited by survey respondents were *Nothing/I wasn't sure what to do* and *Moved/found another place to live*.

- Of respondents reporting a disability, **about 25% report that their current housing situation does not meet their accessibility needs**. The three top greatest housing needs identified by respondents included installation of grab bars in bathroom or bench in shower, supportive services to help maintain housing, and ramps.
- On average, respondents are **fairly satisfied with their transportation situation**. Groups with the highest proportion of respondents somewhat or not at all satisfied with their transportation options included African American, single parents, precariously housed, and Brisbane respondents.

There are some housing, affordability, and neighborhood challenges unique to specific resident groups. These include:

- **Would like to move but can't afford it**—Most likely to be a challenge for Daly City, East Palo Alto, and Redwood City respondents, as well as Hispanic, renter, precariously housed, households making less than \$50,000, and large household respondents.
- **My house or apartment isn't big enough for my family**—Most likely to be a challenge for East Palo Alto respondents, as well as Hispanic households, large and single parent households, and households with children under 18.
- **I'm often late on my rent payments**—Most likely to be a challenge for East Palo Alto and renter respondents, as well as households that make less than \$25,000.
- **I can't keep up with my utility payments**—Most likely to be a challenge for East Palo Alto, Daly City, and San Mateo respondents, as well as African American and Hispanic respondents, single parent households, households with children under 18, and households that make less than \$50,000.
- **Bus/rail does not go where I need to go or does not operate during the times I need**— Most likely to be a challenge for African American, precariously housed, single parent households, Brisbane and Pacifica respondents.
- **Schools in my neighborhood are poor quality**—Most likely to be a challenge for East Palo Alto, Redwood City, San Bruno and South San Francisco respondents, as well as Hispanic respondents and households with children under 18.

## Resident Survey Findings

Of survey respondents who reported their race or ethnicity, nearly 40% of survey respondents identified as non-Hispanic White, followed by Asian (26%), Hispanic (20%), African American (7%), and Other Minority (8%) residents (Figure 2). Overall, 45% of the survey respondents were homeowners, followed by 42% of renter respondents. Thirteen percent of respondents reported they are precariously housed (Figure 3). Four in ten respondents reported having household income greater than \$100,000. Nearly 30% of respondents reported a household income between \$50,000-99,999, followed by 15% of respondents who made between \$25,000-49,999 and 16% of respondents making less than \$25,000 (Figure 4).

The survey analysis also included selected demographic characteristics of respondents, including those with children under the age of 18 residing in their household, adults over the age of 65, respondents whose household includes a member experiencing a disability, those who live in large households, and single parents. Thirty five percent of respondents indicated they had children in their household, while 31% indicated they were older adults. Thirty percent of respondents indicated they or a member of their household experienced a disability, 12% of respondents reported having large households, and 10% were single parents (Figure 5).

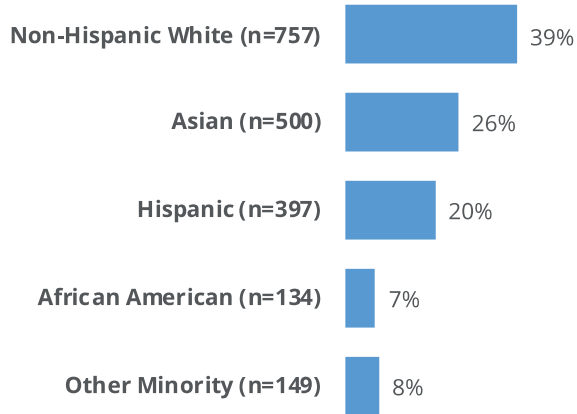
**Figure 2.**  
**Survey Respondents**  
**by Race/Ethnicity**

Note:

n=1,937; 535 respondents did not indicate their race or ethnicity.

Source:

Root Policy Research from the 2021-2022 21 Elements AFFH Resident Survey.



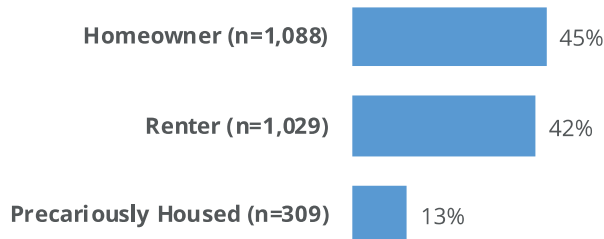
**Figure 3.**  
**Survey Respondents**  
**by Tenure**

Note:

n=2,426.

Source:

Root Policy Research from the 2021-2022 21 Elements AFFH Resident Survey.



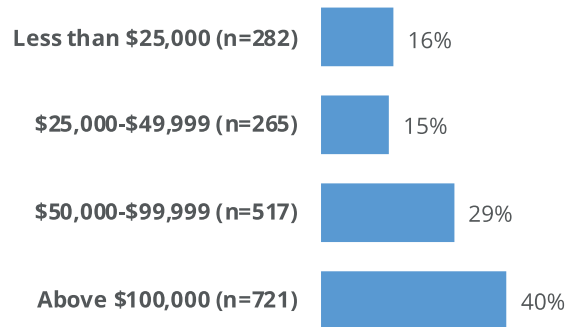
**Figure 4.**  
**Survey Respondents**  
**by Income**

Note:

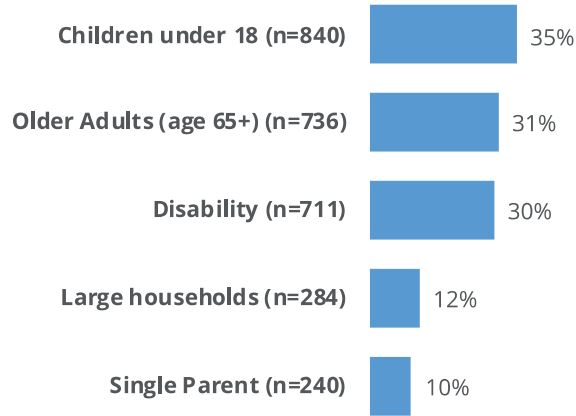
n=1,785.

Source:

Root Policy Research from the 2021-2022 21 Elements AFFH Resident Survey.



**Figure 5.  
Survey Respondents  
by Selected  
Household  
Characteristics**



Note:

Denominator is total responses to the survey (n=2,382)

Source:

Root Policy Research from the 2021-2022 21 Elements AFFH Resident Survey.

## Housing, Neighborhood and Affordability Challenges

**Housing challenges: overall.** Survey respondents were asked to select the housing challenges they currently experience from a list of 34 different housing, neighborhood, and affordability challenges. Figures 6a through 8c present the top 10 housing and neighborhood challenges and top 5 affordability challenges experienced by jurisdiction, race/ethnicity, tenure, income, and selected household characteristics.

**These responses allow a way to compare the jurisdictions to the county for housing challenges for which other types of data do not exist.** In this analysis, “above the county”—**shaded in light red or pink**—is defined as the proportion of responses that is 25% higher than the overall county proportion. “Below the county”—**shown in light blue**—occurs when the proportion of responses is 25% lower than the overall county proportion.

As shown in Figure 6a, residents in Redwood City and East Palo Alto experience several housing challenges at a higher rate than the county overall. Conversely, Foster City and Hillsborough residents experience nearly all identified housing challenges at a lower rate than the county.

Notable trends in housing, neighborhood, and affordability challenges by geographic area include:

- Residents in Daly City, East Palo Alto, and Redwood City are less likely to move due to the lack of available affordable housing options.
- East Palo Alto, Redwood City, and San Mateo residents report living in housing that is too small for their families.
- Millbrae, Belmont, and Redwood City residents report being more reticent to request a repair to their unit in fear that their landlord will raise their rent or evict them.
- Nearly 1 in 5 Pacifica survey respondents report that their home or apartment is in bad condition.



- Brisbane and East Palo Alto residents are more likely to experience a landlord refusing to make repairs to their unit.
- Residents in Daly City and Millbrae are more likely to report that they don't feel safe in their neighborhood or building.
- Half Moon Bay and East Palo Alto respondents expressed the greatest need for assistance in taking care of themselves or their home.

When compared to the county overall, **the most common areas where respondents' needs were higher than the county overall** were:

- Overall, half of the jurisdictions' respondents reported *I need help taking care of myself/my home and can't find or afford to hire someone* at a higher rate than the county.
- Over 40% of jurisdictions' respondents reported a higher rate than the county for the following housing challenge: *My home/apartment is in bad condition.*
- Nearly 40% of jurisdictions' respondents reported a higher rate than the county for the following housing challenges: *My landlord refuses to make repairs despite my requests* and *I don't feel safe in my neighborhood/building.*

**Figure 6a.**  
**Top 10 Housing Challenges Experienced by Jurisdiction**

■ 25% Above County average  
■ 25% Below County average

Housing or Neighborhood Condition	County	Jurisdiction													
		Belmont	Brisbane	Burlingame	Daly City	East Palo Alto	Foster City	Half Moon Bay	Hillsborough	Milbrae	Pacifica	Redwood City	San Bruno	San Mateo	South San Francisco
Valid cases	2,159	82	73	158	118	49	135	59	50	53	79	151	93	163	738
I would like to move but I can't afford anything that is available/income too low	31%	27%	12%	20%	51%	41%	16%	25%	4%	32%	28%	43%	30%	38%	35%
My house or apartment isn't big enough for my family	20%	22%	11%	14%	24%	35%	10%	12%	4%	21%	11%	26%	20%	26%	21%
I worry that if I request a repair it will result in a rent increase or eviction	14%	21%	10%	13%	17%	14%	9%	10%	2%	23%	15%	20%	11%	15%	13%
My home/apartment is in bad condition	11%	15%	14%	9%	15%	12%	3%	7%	0%	11%	18%	14%	5%	15%	10%
My landlord refuses to make repairs despite my requests	6%	6%	14%	3%	5%	12%	4%	5%	2%	2%	9%	9%	5%	10%	5%
I live too far from family/friends/my community	6%	6%	5%	4%	8%	4%	5%	8%	6%	6%	3%	8%	4%	7%	5%
I don't feel safe in my building/neighborhood	6%	7%	5%	5%	13%	8%	0%	7%	6%	11%	10%	8%	3%	6%	3%
I need help taking care of myself/my home and can't find or afford to hire someone	5%	2%	7%	7%	7%	10%	2%	14%	2%	8%	9%	3%	4%	8%	4%
I have bed bugs/insects or rodent infestation	5%	10%	5%	4%	3%	16%	2%	3%	4%	6%	9%	11%	6%	4%	3%
The HOA in my neighborhood won't let me make changes to my house or property	4%	2%	5%	1%	3%	8%	11%	3%	2%	4%	5%	3%	3%	4%	2%
None of the above	42%	37%	48%	50%	20%	33%	55%	44%	76%	36%	47%	28%	45%	35%	46%

Source: Root Policy Research from the 2021-2022 21 Elements AFFH Resident Survey.

The following two figures segment the answers by:

- Housing affordability challenges only; and
- Neighborhood challenges only.

**Housing affordability challenges.** As shown in Figure 6b, residents in San Mateo, Daly City, East Palo Alto, and Pacifica experience affordability challenges at a higher rate than the county overall. Conversely, Belmont, Hillsborough, Burlingame, and South San Francisco residents experience affordability challenges at a lower rate than the county.

The most significant geographic variations occur in:

- San Mateo city residents experience all five affordability challenges at a greater rate than the county overall. In addition to being less likely to pay utility bills or rent on time, San Mateo residents are more than twice as likely than the average county respondent to have bad credit or a history of eviction/foreclosure that impacts their ability to rent.
- East Palo Alto, San Mateo, and Daly City residents are most likely to experience difficulty paying utility bills.
- Residents in East Palo Alto and Redwood City are most likely to be late on their rent payments.
- Millbrae residents experience the greatest difficulty paying their property taxes among jurisdictions in San Mateo County.
- Respondents from Brisbane, Half Moon Bay, and Pacifica are also more likely to have trouble keeping up with property taxes.
- Daly City, City of San Mateo, and Redwood City respondents are more likely to have bad credit or an eviction history impacting their ability to rent.

Overall, over a third of jurisdictions' respondents experienced the following affordability challenges at a higher rate than the county: *I can't keep up with my property taxes* and *I have bad credit/history of evictions/foreclosure and cannot find a place to rent*.

**Figure 6b.**  
**Top 5 Affordability Challenges Experienced by Jurisdiction**

■ 25% Above County average  
■ 25% Below County average

Affordability Challenges	County	Belmont	Brisbane	Burlingame	Daly City	East Palo Alto	Foster City	Half Moon Bay	Hillsborough	Milbrae	Pacifica	Redwood City	San Bruno	San Mateo	South San Francisco
Valid cases	2,130	83	73	157	115	51	134	58	50	50	77	147	93	160	728
I can't keep up with my utilities	10%	6%	5%	6%	15%	16%	5%	12%	4%	12%	8%	12%	9%	15%	9%
I'm often late on my rent payments	8%	6%	5%	6%	10%	20%	3%	7%	2%	8%	4%	12%	4%	11%	7%
I can't keep up with my property taxes	6%	2%	10%	4%	3%	2%	8%	10%	0%	16%	10%	3%	5%	9%	5%
I have bad credit/history of evictions/foreclosure and cannot find a place to rent	4%	1%	4%	2%	13%	6%	0%	0%	2%	0%	5%	8%	4%	10%	2%
I have Section 8 and I am worried my landlord will raise my rent higher than my voucher payment	4%	2%	7%	3%	3%	2%	7%	3%	4%	4%	5%	3%	3%	6%	2%
None of the above	73%	73%	68%	80%	65%	59%	78%	66%	88%	64%	71%	70%	77%	63%	80%

Source: Root Policy Research from the 2021-2022 21 Elements AFFH Resident Survey.

**Neighborhood challenges.** As shown in Figure 6c, residents in East Palo Alto, Brisbane, Daly City, and Pacifica experience neighborhood challenges at a higher rate than the county. Burlingame and Foster City both experience neighborhood challenges at a lower rate than the county.

Hillsborough and Belmont residents report divergent experiences related to neighborhood challenges — respondents identified more challenges around neighborhood infrastructure and access to transit but fewer challenges around school quality and job opportunities.

**There are a handful of jurisdictions who experience specific neighborhood challenges at a disproportionate rate compared to the county.**

- For instance, East Palo Alto and Belmont residents experience neighborhood infrastructure issues (e.g., bad sidewalks, no lighting) more acutely than county residents overall.
- Brisbane residents experience transportation challenges in their neighborhoods.
- East Palo Alto, Redwood City, San Bruno, and South San Francisco experience challenges with school quality in their neighborhoods.
- Residents in Brisbane, Hillsborough, Pacifica, Belmont, and Half Moon Bay report the highest rates of difficulty accessing public transit.
- Daly City, Millbrae, San Mateo, and East Palo Alto residents were more likely to identify the lack of job opportunities available in their neighborhoods.

Over a third of jurisdictions' respondents experienced the following neighborhood challenges at a higher rate than the county: *I can't get to public transit/bus/light rail easily or safely.*

**Figure 6c.**  
**Top 5 Neighborhood Challenges Experienced by Jurisdiction**

■ 25% Above County average  
■ 25% Below County average

Neighborhood Challenges	County	Jurisdiction													
		Belmont	Brisbane	Burlingame	Daly City	East Palo Alto	Foster City	Half Moon Bay	Hillsborough	Milbrae	Pacifica	Redwood City	San Bruno	San Mateo	South San Francisco
Valid cases	2,079	80	72	153	116	48	130	56	53	46	75	145	91	151	712
My neighborhood does not have good sidewalks, walking areas, and/or lighting	17%	31%	18%	13%	25%	40%	4%	18%	23%	20%	15%	21%	14%	12%	16%
Schools in my neighborhood are poor quality	15%	6%	18%	3%	17%	25%	4%	14%	2%	7%	13%	20%	20%	15%	20%
Bus/rail does not go where I need to go or does not operate during the times I need	15%	14%	24%	8%	14%	15%	21%	18%	9%	15%	24%	17%	14%	17%	10%
I can't get to public transit/bus/light rail easily or safely	14%	19%	29%	7%	9%	10%	14%	18%	25%	17%	21%	12%	13%	15%	10%
There are not enough job opportunities in the area	12%	9%	8%	7%	20%	17%	8%	14%	0%	20%	13%	11%	11%	18%	12%
None of the above	50%	41%	28%	69%	45%	33%	62%	46%	57%	50%	52%	41%	52%	52%	55%

Source: Root Policy Research from the 2021-2022 21 Elements AFFH Resident Survey.

**Differences in needs by race and ethnicity and housing tenure.** As shown in Figure 7a, and compared to the county overall:

- African American, Hispanic, and Other Race respondents, as well as Renters and those who are precariously housed experience several housing challenges at a higher rate than the county overall.
- Conversely, non-Hispanic White residents and homeowners are less likely to experience housing challenges.

Specifically,

- Black or African American residents are more than three times as likely to have a landlord not make a repair to their unit after a request compared to county residents overall. Renters, Hispanic, Other Race, and Precariously housed residents are also more likely to experience this challenge.
- African American, Asian, Hispanic, Renter, and Precariously Housed households are more likely to experience bed bugs or rodent infestation in their homes.
- African American, Other Race, Renter, and Precariously Housed households are also more likely to live further away from family, friends, and their community.
- African Americans are three times more likely than the average county respondent to be told by their HOA they cannot make changes to their house or property. Asian households are twice as likely to experience this challenge.
- Renter, Hispanic, and Other Race respondents are more likely to worry that if they request a repair it will result in a rent increase or eviction and to report that their homes are in bad condition.

**Figure 7a.**  
**Top 10 Housing Challenges Experienced by Race/Ethnicity and Tenure**

■ 25% Above County average  
■ 25% Below County average

Housing or Neighborhood Condition	County	Race/Ethnicity and Tenure								
		African American	Asian	Hispanic	Other Race	Non-Hispanic White	Homeowner	Renter	Precariously Housed	
Valid cases	2,159	132	489	392	144	734	986	974	301	
I would like to move but I can't afford anything that is available/income too low	31%	30%	32%	50%	31%	20%	7%	48%	56%	
My house or apartment isn't big enough for my family	20%	16%	21%	35%	22%	11%	12%	29%	18%	
I worry that if I request a repair it will result in a rent increase or eviction	14%	17%	13%	23%	19%	11%	2%	28%	13%	
My home/apartment is in bad condition	11%	12%	9%	16%	17%	10%	6%	17%	10%	
My landlord refuses to make repairs despite my requests	6%	20%	7%	10%	10%	5%	2%	13%	10%	
I live too far from family/ friends/my community	6%	15%	6%	6%	13%	6%	5%	8%	9%	
I don't feel safe in my building/ neighborhood	6%	13%	6%	6%	9%	5%	4%	8%	7%	
I need help taking care of myself/my home and can't find or afford to hire someone	5%	14%	7%	5%	6%	5%	5%	6%	11%	
I have bed bugs/insects or rodent infestation	5%	14%	8%	7%	5%	4%	4%	9%	9%	
The HOA in my neighborhood won't let me make changes to my house or property	4%	14%	8%	4%	3%	3%	5%	3%	7%	
None of the above	42%	18%	37%	24%	38%	58%	68%	21%	13%	

Source: Root Policy Research from the 2021-2022 21 Elements AFFH Resident Survey.



The above trends are similar for the **most acute housing affordability challenges**. As shown in Figure 7b, African American and Hispanic households, as well as renters and those precariously housed, experience affordability challenges at a higher rate than the county overall. Non-Hispanic White residents and homeowners experience these same challenges at a lower rate than the county.

- African American residents experience all five affordability challenges at a greater rate than the county overall.
- In addition to being more likely to not pay utility bills or rent on time, African American residents are more than four times as likely than the average county respondent to have a Section 8 voucher and worry that their landlord will raise their rent more than the voucher payment.
- Along with African American residents, Hispanic households, renters, and precariously housed households are most likely to experience difficulty paying utility bills, as well as have bad credit or eviction/foreclosure history impacting their ability to find a place to rent.
- These groups, with the exception of those precariously housed, are also more likely to be late on their rent payments.

**Figure 7b.**  
**Top 5 Affordability Challenges Experienced by Race/Ethnicity and Tenure**

■ 25% Above County average  
■ 25% Below County average

Affordability Challenges	County	African American	Asian	Hispanic	Other Race	Non-Hispanic White	Homeowner	Renter	Precariously Housed
<b>Valid cases</b>	<b>2,130</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>739</b>	<b>983</b>	<b>953</b>	<b>293</b>
<b>I can't keep up with my utilities</b>	<b>10%</b>	22%	11%	17%	14%	5%	5%	15%	15%
<b>I'm often late on my rent payments</b>	<b>8%</b>	13%	6%	12%	12%	4%	1%	15%	8%
<b>I can't keep up with my property taxes</b>	<b>6%</b>	16%	8%	4%	5%	7%	9%	5%	14%
<b>I have bad credit/history of evictions/foreclosure and cannot find a place to rent</b>	<b>4%</b>	5%	3%	8%	4%	2%	1%	6%	11%
<b>I have Section 8 and I am worried my landlord will raise my rent higher than my voucher payment</b>	<b>4%</b>	18%	5%	6%	7%	2%	2%	7%	8%
<b>None of the above</b>	<b>73%</b>	32%	70%	63%	64%	83%	84%	61%	54%

Source: Root Policy Research from the 2021-2022 21 Elements AFFH Resident Survey.

As shown in Figure 7c, African American and precariously housed residents experience neighborhood challenges at a higher rate than the county. These two groups experience neighborhood issues related to transportation more acutely than county residents overall. In addition to Other Race respondents, they are also more likely to identify the lack of job opportunities in their respective neighborhoods.

Additionally, Hispanic residents are more likely to live in neighborhoods with poor performing schools than the average county respondent. Homeowners are also more likely to report that they cannot access public transit easily or safely.

**Figure 7c.**  
**Top 5 Neighborhood Challenges Experienced by Race/Ethnicity and Tenure**

■ 25% Above County average  
■ 25% Below County average

Neighborhood Challenges	County	Race/Ethnicity and Tenure							
		African American	Asian	Hispanic	Other Race	Non-Hispanic White	Homeowner	Renter	Precariously Housed
Valid cases	2,079	133	486	389	146	737	975	918	284
My neighborhood does not have good sidewalks, walking areas, and/or lighting	17%	14%	17%	19%	16%	18%	18%	15%	18%
Schools in my neighborhood are poor quality	15%	13%	18%	20%	17%	13%	18%	13%	13%
Bus/rail does not go where I need to go or does not operate during the times I need	15%	33%	16%	13%	17%	17%	17%	14%	24%
I can't get to public transit/bus/light rail easily or safely	14%	24%	15%	11%	16%	16%	18%	11%	19%
There are not enough job opportunities in the area	12%	22%	14%	12%	19%	9%	9%	15%	20%
None of the above	50%	23%	46%	48%	45%	53%	49%	51%	36%

Source: Root Policy Research from the 2021-2022 21 Elements AFFH Resident Survey.

**Differences in needs by household status.** As shown in Figure 8a, single parents, households making less than \$50,000, households with children under 18 and households with a member experiencing a disability are more likely to experience housing challenges. Conversely, households making more than \$100,000 experience nearly all specified housing challenges at a lower rate than the county.

Single parents experience all ten housing challenges at a greater rate than the county overall.

Households making less than \$25,000 also experience every challenge at a higher rate, with the exception of *I worry that if I request a repair it will result in a rent increase or eviction.*

Households making less than \$50,000, single parents, and households with children under 18 are more likely to experience the following challenges:

- My house or apartment isn't big enough for my family;
- My house or apartment is in bad condition;
- My landlord refuses to make repairs despite my request;
- I live too far from family/friends/my community;
- I don't feel safe in my building/neighborhood;
- I need help taking care of myself/my home and can't find or afford to hire someone; and
- I have bed bugs/insects or rodent infestation.

Households with a member experiencing a disability are also more likely to experience landlords refusing their requests to make repairs, living further away from family/friends/community, and not being able to find or afford someone to help take care of themselves or their homes. These households are also more likely to experience bed bugs, insects, or rodent infestation, as well as HOA restrictions impacting their ability to make changes to their home or property.

Additionally, large households have the highest proportion of respondents among the selected groups that would like to move but can't afford anything that is available.

**Figure 8a.**  
**Top 10 Housing Challenges Experienced by Income and Household Characteristics**

■ 25% Above County average  
■ 25% Below County average

Housing or Neighborhood Condition	County	Less than \$25,000	\$25,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	Above \$100,000	Children under 18	Large Households	Single Parent	Disability	Adults (age 65+)
Valid cases	2,159	280	260	505	701	827	278	240	701	709
I would like to move but I can't afford anything that is available/income too low	31%	47%	48%	37%	16%	35%	51%	40%	36%	25%
My house or apartment isn't big enough for my family	20%	25%	25%	23%	16%	34%	43%	32%	20%	13%
I worry that if I request a repair it will result in a rent increase or eviction	14%	16%	18%	19%	9%	19%	19%	28%	16%	11%
My home/apartment is in bad condition	11%	15%	20%	12%	6%	15%	17%	17%	12%	9%
My landlord refuses to make repairs despite my requests	6%	13%	13%	8%	2%	9%	8%	14%	10%	6%
I live too far from family/ friends/my community	6%	9%	9%	6%	5%	10%	5%	10%	8%	6%
I don't feel safe in my building/ neighborhood	6%	9%	9%	6%	3%	8%	4%	10%	7%	5%
I need help taking care of myself/my home and can't find or afford to hire someone	5%	9%	9%	5%	3%	7%	6%	12%	11%	6%
I have bed bugs/insects or rodent infestation	5%	10%	9%	5%	3%	9%	4%	15%	9%	6%
The HOA in my neighborhood won't let me make changes to my house or property	4%	7%	3%	4%	3%	7%	4%	11%	6%	5%
None of the above	42%	21%	21%	37%	61%	28%	26%	12%	32%	49%

Source: Root Policy Research from the 2021-2022 21 Elements AFFH Resident Survey.

As shown in Figure 8b, households making less than \$50,000, as well as large households, single parents, households with children under 18, and households with a member experience a disability, experience the most acute affordability challenges at a higher rate than the county overall. Households making more than \$50,000 and adults over the age of 65 are less likely to experience affordability challenges.

Households making between \$25,000-\$50,000, single parents, and households with children under 18 experience all five affordability challenges at a greater rate than the average county respondent.

Of households experiencing major affordability issues, **single parent households are most acutely impacted.** These households are more than three times as likely to have a Section 8 voucher and fear their landlord will raise the rent impacting the viability of their voucher, more than twice as likely to miss utility payments and have bad credit/eviction or foreclosure history impacting their ability to rent, and twice as likely to have trouble keeping up with their property taxes.

**Figure 8b.**  
**Top 5 Affordability Challenges Experienced by Income and Household Characteristics**

■ 25% Above County average  
■ 25% Below County average

Affordability Challenges	County	Less than \$25,000	\$25,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	Above \$100,000	Children under 18	Large Households	Single Parent	Disability	Adults (age 65+)
Valid cases	2,130	276	260	509	703	830	279	239	699	716
I can't keep up with my utilities	10%	16%	16%	12%	3%	16%	14%	23%	15%	8%
I'm often late on my rent payments	8%	19%	16%	6%	1%	11%	12%	15%	11%	4%
I can't keep up with my property taxes	6%	7%	9%	8%	5%	9%	4%	12%	8%	7%
I have bad credit/history of evictions/foreclosure and cannot find a place to rent	4%	8%	7%	4%	1%	5%	6%	10%	6%	3%
I have Section 8 and I am worried my landlord will raise my rent higher than my voucher payment	4%	11%	6%	4%	1%	7%	3%	14%	8%	5%
None of the above	73%	46%	56%	72%	90%	59%	70%	32%	59%	75%

Source: Root Policy Research from the 2021-2022 21 Elements AFFH Resident Survey.



As shown in Figure 8c, households with children under 18, as well as single parents, households with a member experiencing a disability, and households making less than \$25,000 are more likely to experience neighborhood challenges. These households are most likely to report that *the bus/rail does not go where I need to go or does not operate during the times I need*. In addition to households that make between \$25,000-\$100,000, these groups are more likely to identify the lack of job opportunities in their respective neighborhoods.

Households with children under 18 are more likely to live in neighborhoods with poor quality schools. Large households are more likely to report issues with neighborhood infrastructure (e.g., bad sidewalks, poor lighting) and households with a member experiencing a disability are more likely to report they cannot access public transit easily or safely.

**Figure 8c.**

**Top 5 Neighborhood Challenges Experienced by Income and Household Characteristics**

■ 25% Above County average  
■ 25% Below County average

Neighborhood Challenges	County	Less than \$25,000	\$25,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	Above \$100,000	Children under 18	Large Households	Single Parent	Disability	Adults (age 65+)
Valid cases	2,079	273	259	503	709	824	277	234	692	714
My neighborhood does not have good sidewalks, walking areas, and/or lighting	17%	17%	15%	18%	17%	19%	22%	16%	19%	14%
Schools in my neighborhood are poor quality	15%	17%	14%	11%	19%	24%	19%	17%	14%	9%
Bus/rail does not go where I need to go or does not operate during the times I need	15%	19%	16%	15%	16%	19%	11%	28%	19%	16%
I can't get to public transit/bus/light rail easily or safely	14%	15%	12%	14%	14%	15%	12%	15%	19%	17%
There are not enough job opportunities in the area	12%	21%	17%	16%	6%	17%	12%	19%	15%	11%
None of the above	50%	40%	45%	51%	53%	38%	48%	31%	41%	53%

Source: Root Policy Research from the 2021-2022 21 Elements AFFH Resident Survey.

## Experience Finding Housing

This section explores residents' experience seeking a place to rent or buy in the county and the extent to which displacement—having to move when they do not want to move—is prevalent. For those respondents who seriously looked for housing in the past five years, this section also examines the extent to which respondents were denied housing to rent or buy and the reasons why they were denied.

**Recent experience seeking housing to rent.** Figure 9 presents the proportion of respondents who seriously looked to rent housing for the county, jurisdictions, and selected respondent characteristics, as well as the reasons for denial.

Over half of county respondents (56%) have seriously looked for housing in the past five years. The **most common reasons for denial** included:

- Landlord not returning the respondent's call (26%),
- Landlord told me the unit was available over the phone but when I showed up in person, it was no longer available (22%), and
- Landlord told me it would cost more because of my service or emotional support animal (14%).

Jurisdictions with the highest percentage of respondents who seriously looked for housing include Millbrae (74%), San Mateo (73%), and Redwood City (72%). While all three jurisdictions reported that *landlord not returning the respondent's call* was one of their main reasons for denial, 18% of Redwood City respondents identified *landlord told me they do not accept Section 8 vouchers* as a main reason for denial.

Among respondents by race/ethnicity, 80% of African American respondents reported that they had seriously looked for housing in the past five years while the lowest percentage of respondents who reported seriously looking for housing were non-Hispanic White (46%). The main reasons for denial experienced by African American respondents included *landlord told me the unit was available over the phone but when I showed up in person, it was no longer available* (39%), *landlord told me it would cost more because of my service or emotional support animal* (34%), and *landlord told me I couldn't have a service or emotional support animal* (28%).

Among respondents by tenure, renters (75%) and precariously housed (74%) respondents reported the highest rates of seriously looking for housing.

Among respondents by income, households making less than \$25,000 (71%) had the highest rate. The main reasons for denial reported by these households were *landlord told me I couldn't have a service or emotional support animal* (36%) and *landlord told me it would cost more because of my service or emotional support animal* (30%).

Single parents (79%) and households with children under 18 (66%) also reported the highest percentage of those who seriously looked for housing in the past five years among the selected household characteristics respondent groups. In addition to sharing the top two reasons for denial with the county, 25% of single parent household respondents also reported they were denied housing because the *landlord told me I can't have a service or emotional support animal.*

**Figure 9. If you looked seriously for housing to rent in San Mateo County in the past five years, were you ever denied housing?**

	Overall Percent Seriously Looked for Housing	Reason for Denial								None of the Above	n
		Landlord did not return calls and/or emails asking about a unit	Landlord said unit was available over phone, but when I showed up in person, it was no longer available	Landlord told me it would cost me more for my service or emotional animal	Landlord told me I can't have a service or emotional support animal	Landlord told me it would cost me more to rent because I have children	Landlord told me they don't rent to families with children	Landlord told me they do not accept Section 8 vouchers	Landlord told me they couldn't make changes to the apartment/ home for my disability		
<b>Jurisdiction</b>											
County	56%	26%	22%	14%						45%	928
Belmont	62%	33%	27%							31%	49
Brisbane	59%		41%			22%				26%	27
Burlingame	48%	19%	23%							54%	57
Daly City	63%	33%	16%			16%				44%	61
East Palo Alto	58%	35%	30%							26%	23
Foster City	50%	12%		16%	14%					55%	51
Half Moon Bay	68%					17%	17%			48%	29
Hillsborough	42%		14%	29%	14%					57%	14
Milbrae	74%	25%	46%							36%	28
Pacifica	51%	16%	26%						16%	55%	31
Redwood City	72%	31%						18%		40%	99
San Bruno	57%			22%		22%				39%	36
San Mateo	73%	30%	34%							39%	98
South San Francisco	47%	24%	13%							56%	248
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>											
African American	80%		39%	34%	28%					15%	101
Asian	56%	19%	29%							40%	199
Hispanic	63%	32%	22%							41%	230
Other Race	70%	29%	22%							45%	91
Non-Hispanic White	46%	29%	20%							48%	263
<b>Tenure</b>											
Homeowner	36%		25%						15%	54%	183
Renter	75%	29%	22%							43%	641
Precariously Housed	74%	23%	32%							26%	188
<b>Income</b>											
Less than \$25,000	71%			30%	36%					29%	182
\$25,000-\$49,999	60%	39%	32%							27%	149
\$50,000-\$99,999	58%	24%		20%						45%	251
Above \$100,000	48%	19%	14%							64%	216
<b>Household Characteristics</b>											
Children under 18	66%	30%	29%							33%	447
Large Households	60%	33%	19%			18%				44%	139
Single Parent	79%	25%	35%		25%					19%	173
Disability	63%	24%	24%							34%	386
Older Adults (age 65+)	48%	20%	29%							39%	282

Note: The "Percent Seriously Looked for Housing" column includes all respondents, not just those who indicated they rent.

Source: Root Policy Research from the 2021-2022 21 Elements AFFH Resident Survey.

**Recent experience seeking housing to buy.** Figure 10 presents the proportion of respondents who seriously looked to buy housing in the county, by jurisdiction, and selected respondent characteristics, as well as the reasons for denial. As noted above, 56% of county respondents have seriously looked for housing in the past five years.

The most common reasons for denial included:

- Real estate agent told me I would need to show I was prequalified with a bank (29%) and
- A bank would not give me a loan to buy a home (23%).

For the jurisdictions with the highest percentage of respondents who seriously looked for housing (Millbrae, San Mateo and Redwood City), all three cities shared the same top two reasons for denial as the county. Additionally, 21% of Millbrae respondents reported that *the real estate agent would not make a disability accommodation when I asked*.

For African American respondents who looked to buy housing in the last five years, the most common reason for denial was *the real estate agent would not make a disability accommodation when I asked* (47%). African Americans, along with Other Races, also most commonly reported that they needed a loan prequalification before real estate agents would work with them. While between 43-54% of respondents from other racial/ethnic groups reported they did not experience any reason for denial when seriously looking to buy housing over the past five years, 12% of African American respondents reported similarly.

Among respondents by income, the main reasons for denial for households making less than \$25,000 were *the real estate agent told me I would need to show I was prequalified with a bank* (32%) and *real estate agent only showed me or only suggested homes in neighborhoods where most people were of my same race or ethnicity* (26%).

Among the selected housing characteristics category, single parent households and households with children under 18 reported shared the same top two reasons for denial as the county. Additionally, 36% of single parent household respondents reported that *the real estate agent would not make a disability accommodation when I asked*, as well as 25% of respondents over the age of 65.

Residents in Redwood City, Millbrae, and South San Francisco, as well as large households, also reported that *a bank or other lender charged me a high interest rate on my home loan* as a reason for denial.

**Figure 10. If you looked seriously for housing to buy in San Mateo County in the past five years, were you ever denied housing?**

	Percent Seriously Looked for Housing	Reason for Denial					None of the Above	n
		The real estate agent told me I would need to show I was prequalified with a bank	A bank or other lender would not give me a loan to buy a home	The real estate agent would not make a disability accommodation when I asked	Only showed homes in neighborhoods where most people were same race/ethnicity	A bank or other lender charged me a high interest rate on my home loan		
<b>Jurisdiction</b>								
<b>County</b>	56%	29%	23%				50%	870
<b>Belmont</b>	62%	21%			15%		35%	48
<b>Brisbane</b>	59%	36%			30%		42%	33
<b>Burlingame</b>	48%	22%	14%				61%	51
<b>Daly City</b>	63%	19%	27%				56%	52
<b>East Palo Alto</b>	58%	24%	33%				48%	21
<b>Foster City</b>	50%	25%	20%				49%	51
<b>Half Moon Bay</b>	68%	35%	23%	23%			50%	26
<b>Hillsborough</b>	42%	18%		23%			59%	22
<b>Milbrae</b>	74%	25%	29%	21%		21%	54%	28
<b>Pacifica</b>	51%	35%	35%				42%	31
<b>Redwood City</b>	72%	30%	22%			27%	50%	64
<b>San Bruno</b>	57%	14%	21%				62%	42
<b>San Mateo</b>	73%	40%	32%				38%	82
<b>South San Francisco</b>	47%	26%	18%			16%	57%	251
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>								
<b>African American</b>	80%	40%	38%	47%			12%	89
<b>Asian</b>	56%	30%	25%				43%	223
<b>Hispanic</b>	63%	29%	28%				49%	174
<b>Other Race</b>	70%	36%	21%			21%	50%	90
<b>Non-Hispanic White</b>	46%	29%	23%				54%	250
<b>Tenure</b>								
<b>Homeowner</b>	36%	29%	17%				54%	332
<b>Renter</b>	75%	32%	27%				46%	467
<b>Precariously Housed</b>	74%	36%	36%	30%			30%	154
<b>Income</b>								
<b>Less than \$25,000</b>	71%	32%	25%		26%		41%	131
<b>\$25,000-\$49,999</b>	60%	42%	40%				29%	106
<b>\$50,000-\$99,999</b>	58%	35%	30%				38%	216
<b>Above \$100,000</b>	48%	22%	13%			10%	64%	296
<b>Household Characteristics</b>								
<b>Children under 18</b>	66%	33%	28%				40%	443
<b>Large Households</b>	60%	33%	25%			25%	49%	126
<b>Single Parent</b>	79%	38%	43%	36%			24%	143
<b>Disability</b>	63%	35%	26%				38%	330
<b>Older Adults (age 65+)</b>	48%	35%	29%	25%			38%	252

Note: The "Percent Seriously Looked for Housing" column includes all respondents, not just those who indicated they buy.

Source: Root Policy Research from the 2021-2022 21 Elements AFFH Resident Survey.

**Denied housing to rent or buy.** Figure 11 presents the proportion of those who looked and were denied housing to rent or buy for the county, jurisdictions, and selected respondent characteristics, as well as reason for denial. As shown, nearly 4 in 10 county respondents who looked for housing experienced denial of housing. African American/Black respondents, precariously housed respondents, households with income below \$50,000, and single parent respondents have denial rates of 60% or higher. African American (79%) and single parent (74%) respondents report the highest rates of denial.

Among the reasons for denial:

- **Income too low was a major reason for denial for all groups** except homeowners and households with incomes above \$100,000. Additionally, all jurisdictions report this as a common reason for being denied housing with the exception of Foster City, Hillsborough, and San Bruno.
- *Haven't established a credit history or no credit history* was also a common reason of denial for most groups. The impacts are higher for Asian, Hispanic and African American households, along with renter and precariously housed respondents, households with income below \$50,000, and single parent households, households with children under 18, households with a member experiencing a disability, and several jurisdictions.
- Another top denial reason among certain groups is the *landlord didn't accept the type of income I earn (social security or disability benefit or child support)*. **Source of income was the most common reason for denial among African American households** (28%). Other groups with denial rates of 25% or higher for this specific issue include precariously housed respondents, single parent households, and households with a member experiencing a disability, as well as Foster City and San Bruno residents.
- *Bad credit* is another barrier for accessing housing, particularly for Hispanic and Other Race households, households with income between \$50,000-\$100,000, and large households. This also impacts East Palo Alto, San Mateo, Daly City, Redwood City, Burlingame, and South San Francisco residents at a higher rate.



**Figure 11. If you looked seriously for housing to rent or buy in San Mateo County in the past five years, were you ever denied housing?**

	Percent Denied Housing	Total n	Reason for Denial											n	
			Bad Credit	Eviction history	Income too low	Too many people in my household	Other renter/ applicant willing to pay more for rent	Haven't established a credit history/no credit history	Don't have a regular/ steady job/ consistent work history	Landlord didn't accept the type of income I earn (social security or disability)	Lack of stable housing record	Real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity	I had/ have COVID		Foreclosure
<b>Jurisdiction</b>															
<b>County</b>	39%	1154	18%		44%		19%	21%							449
<b>Belmont</b>	52%	50			38%		27%	27%							26
<b>Brisbane</b>	42%	38			25%			19%				31%			16
<b>Burlingame</b>	30%	71	24%		29%										21
<b>Daly City</b>	49%	73	28%		53%		28%		19%						36
<b>East Palo Alto</b>	55%	29	38%		44%			25%							16
<b>Foster City</b>	30%	63							25%	40%	30%				19
<b>Half Moon Bay</b>	41%	34			29%			29%							14
<b>Hillsborough</b>	23%	22										40%			5
<b>Milbrae</b>	36%	33			67%	25%		33%						25%	12
<b>Pacifica</b>	38%	39			47%			27%	33%						15
<b>Redwood City</b>	41%	105	28%		63%	26%		26%							43
<b>San Bruno</b>	25%	51		31%						31%	38%				13
<b>San Mateo</b>	48%	112	30%		38%						28%				53
<b>South San Francisco</b>	30%	331	19%		58%		28%			17%					98
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>															
<b>African American</b>	79%	107		25%	25%			25%		28%		27%			85
<b>Asian</b>	42%	281			38%			28%		21%		21%			117
<b>Hispanic</b>	49%	253	28%		60%		26%	26%							125
<b>Other Race</b>	43%	105	22%		49%		24%								45
<b>Non-Hispanic White</b>	31%	351			40%			19%	23%		25%				108
<b>Tenure</b>															
<b>Homeowner</b>	26%	348								24%	22%	23%			91
<b>Renter</b>	45%	687			48%		20%	24%							310
<b>Precariously Housed</b>	61%	208			42%			22%		25%					126
<b>Income</b>															
<b>Less than \$25,000</b>	64%	199			47%			31%	29%						127
<b>\$25,000-\$49,999</b>	65%	158			48%			21%		20%	20%				103
<b>\$50,000-\$99,999</b>	38%	302	21%		51%	24%									114
<b>Above \$100,000</b>	18%	346				27%	16%			20%				16%	64
<b>Household Characteristics</b>															
<b>Children under 18</b>	51%	558			42%			26%		19%					283
<b>Large Households</b>	43%	171	27%		64%	41%									74
<b>Single Parent</b>	74%	189			41%			27%		25%					138
<b>Disability</b>	54%	446			39%			21%		25%					239
<b>Older Adults (age 65+)</b>	44%	350			35%					22%		21%			153

Source: Root Policy Research from the 2021-2022 21 Elements AFFH Resident Survey.

**Experience using housing vouchers.** It is “difficult” or “very difficult” for eight out of 10 voucher holders to find a landlord that accepts a housing voucher (Figure 13).

As shown in Figure 12, this is related to the amount of the voucher and current rents and the lack of supply (inability to find a unit in the allotted amount of time). Over half of voucher holders (53%) who experienced difficulty indicated the *voucher is not enough to cover the rent for places I want to live* and almost half of voucher holders (49%) who experienced difficulty indicated there is *not enough time to find a place to live before the voucher expires*.

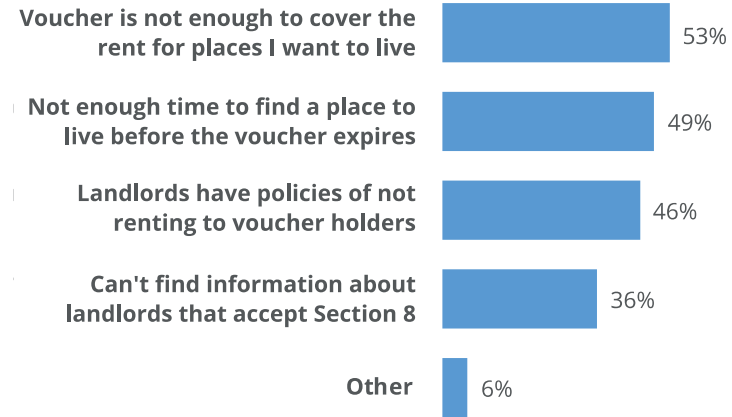
Other significant difficulties using vouchers identified by respondents included *landlords have policies of not renting to voucher holders* (46%) and *can't find information about landlords that accept Section 8* (36%).

Among respondents by race/ethnicity, African American respondents had the greatest proportion of those with a housing choice voucher (60%). Of those respondents, 76% found it difficult to find a landlord that accepts a housing voucher. While 13% of Hispanic respondents have a housing voucher, 85% have found it difficult to use the voucher. Fourteen percent of Asian respondents have housing vouchers—nearly three quarters of these respondents reported that the *voucher is not enough to cover the rent for the places I want to live*.

Other groups of respondents with higher proportions of voucher utilization include single parent households (43%), precariously housed respondents (30%), and households with income below \$25,000 (29%). For each of the aforementioned groups, more than 75% of their respective respondents reported difficulty in utilizing the housing choice voucher. The *voucher is not enough to cover the rent for places I want to live* was one of the main reasons cited for not using the voucher.

**Figure 12.**  
**Why is it difficult to use a housing voucher?**

Source:  
Root Policy Research from the 2021-2022 21 Elements AFFH Resident Survey.



**Figure 13. How difficult is it to find a landlord that accepts a housing voucher?**

	Percent with a Housing Voucher				n	Voucher is not enough to cover the rent for places I want to live	Not enough time to find a place to live before the voucher expires	Landlords have policies of not renting to voucher holders	Can't find information about landlords that accept Section 8	Other	n
	Not difficult	Somewhat difficult	Very difficult								
<b>Jurisdiction</b>											
<b>County</b>	12%	18%	55%	27%	250	53%	49%	46%	36%	6%	203
<b>Belmont</b>	16%	14%	64%	21%	81	45%	64%	36%	27%	9%	11
<b>Brisbane</b>	22%	20%	73%	7%	15	50%	50%	42%	33%	0%	12
<b>Burlingame</b>	8%	0%	75%	25%	12	50%	50%	25%	8%	0%	12
<b>Daly City</b>	12%	14%	50%	36%	14	83%	25%	42%	17%	25%	12
<b>East Palo Alto</b>	14%	29%	57%	14%	7	20%	20%	40%	60%	0%	5
<b>Foster City</b>	12%	18%	47%	35%	17	47%	40%	27%	33%	7%	15
<b>Half Moon Bay</b>	19%	22%	56%	22%	9	71%	29%	29%	43%	14%	7
<b>Hillsborough</b>	8%	25%	75%	0%	4	67%	67%	33%	0%	0%	3
<b>Milbrae</b>	22%	50%	20%	30%	10	60%	40%	20%	40%	0%	5
<b>Pacifica</b>	11%	13%	50%	38%	8	86%	43%	43%	43%	0%	7
<b>Redwood City</b>	16%	13%	61%	26%	23	40%	50%	70%	45%	5%	20
<b>San Bruno</b>	12%	9%	64%	27%	11	40%	60%	50%	10%	10%	10
<b>San Mateo</b>	24%	24%	50%	26%	38	43%	54%	43%	39%	7%	28
<b>South San Francisco</b>	4%	11%	33%	56%	27	63%	50%	71%	63%	8%	24
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>											
<b>African American</b>	60%	24%	60%	16%	82	55%	52%	40%	31%	6%	62
<b>Asian</b>	14%	23%	63%	14%	71	73%	44%	31%	31%	0%	55
<b>Hispanic</b>	13%	15%	40%	45%	53	58%	42%	51%	49%	11%	45
<b>Other Race</b>	19%	29%	50%	21%	28	55%	45%	65%	35%	5%	20
<b>Non-Hispanic White</b>	8%	14%	61%	25%	64	43%	61%	57%	38%	4%	56
<b>Tenure</b>											
<b>Homeowner</b>	8%	23%	59%	18%	78	58%	49%	42%	31%	0%	59
<b>Renter</b>	18%	19%	52%	30%	165	55%	52%	48%	43%	6%	134
<b>Precariously Housed</b>	30%	14%	66%	20%	86	57%	54%	35%	26%	7%	74
<b>Income</b>											
<b>Less than \$25,000</b>	29%	17%	58%	25%	84	47%	41%	47%	37%	10%	70
<b>\$25,000-\$49,999</b>	18%	17%	52%	31%	48	63%	55%	63%	40%	5%	40
<b>\$50,000-\$99,999</b>	12%	23%	52%	26%	62	55%	55%	51%	37%	2%	49
<b>Above \$100,000</b>	5%	20%	57%	23%	35	43%	61%	29%	32%	4%	28
<b>Household Characteristics</b>											
<b>Children under 18</b>	21%	20%	60%	20%	179	59%	51%	44%	35%	1%	143
<b>Large Households</b>	7%	20%	45%	35%	20	63%	56%	63%	56%	6%	16
<b>Single Parent</b>	43%	17%	58%	24%	103	62%	52%	38%	33%	2%	85
<b>Disability</b>	22%	18%	58%	24%	158	57%	52%	42%	29%	5%	129
<b>Older Adults (age 65+)</b>	17%	18%	63%	19%	123	56%	53%	44%	34%	3%	102

Source: Root Policy Research from the 2021-2022 21 Elements AFFH Resident Survey.

**Displacement.** Figure 14 presents the proportion of residents who experienced displacement in the past five years, as well as the reason for displacement.

- Overall, 21% of survey respondents experienced displacement in the past five years. Among all survey respondents, the **main reason for displacement was rent increased more than I could pay** (29%).
- Respondents who are precariously housed have higher rates of recent displacement than homeowners or renters; this suggests that when displaced a unit these housing-insecure tenants are more likely to couch surf or experience homelessness for some period of time before securing a new place to live.
- Among respondents by race/ethnicity, **African American respondents reported the highest rate of displacement** (59%). The primary reason reported by African American respondents for their displacement was *housing was unsafe (e.g., domestic assault, harassment)*. Twenty eight percent also reported that they were *forced out for no reason*.
- Asian households, as well as homeowners, households that make less than \$25,000, single parent households, households that include a member experiencing a disability, and Millbrae, Brisbane and Pacifica residents are also more likely than other respondents to have been displaced due to an unsafe housing situation (e.g., domestic assault, harassment).
- Additionally, Asian, precariously housed respondents, households making less than \$25,000, single parent households, and Hillsborough residents are more likely than other respondents to have been displaced and not given a reason.

For respondents that had experienced displacements, they were asked to identify which city they moved from and which city they moved to. **The most common moves to and from cities included:**

- Moved within South San Francisco (28 respondents)
- Moved from outside San Mateo County to San Mateo (10 respondents)
- Moved from San Bruno to South San Francisco (9 respondents)
- Moved from Daly City to South San Francisco (9 respondents)
- Moved within Burlingame (8 respondents)

**Figure 14. Displacement Experience and Reasons for Displacement**

	Percent Displaced	Total n	Reason for Displacement												n	
			Rent increased more than I could pay	Personal/relationship reasons	Landlord was selling the home/apartment	Landlord wanted to move back in/move in family	Landlord wanted to rent to someone else	Landlord refused to renew my lease	Housing was unsafe (e.g., domestic assault, harassment)	Forced out for no reason	Health/medical reasons	I was behind on rent	Poor condition of property	Because of apartment rules		Utilities were too expensive/shut off
<b>Jurisdiction</b>																
<b>County</b>	21%	2066	29%	19%	18%											417
<b>Belmont</b>	26%	80	25%					25%						30%		20
<b>Brisbane</b>	24%	67				25%				31%		25%				16
<b>Burlingame</b>	22%	152	24%		30%	18%										33
<b>Daly City</b>	25%	115	35%	27%						31%						26
<b>East Palo Alto</b>	32%	50	20%	20%			20%									15
<b>Foster City</b>	11%	130			21%	21%			21%	43%						14
<b>Half Moon Bay</b>	31%	51			31%	25%										16
<b>Hillsborough</b>	12%	52				33%	33%			33%	33%	33%				6
<b>Milbrae</b>	27%	44					42%			33%	25%				25%	12
<b>Pacifica</b>	21%	75			31%				31%	31%						16
<b>Redwood City</b>	29%	146	31%								21%					42
<b>San Bruno</b>	25%	89	33%	29%					24%							21
<b>San Mateo</b>	37%	153	35%	31%							20%					54
<b>South San Francisco</b>	12%	712	42%	15%	16%											81
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>																
<b>African American</b>	59%	134				29%			30%	28%						79
<b>Asian</b>	22%	500				31%			22%	22%						109
<b>Hispanic</b>	29%	397	33%	22%								18%				115
<b>Other Race</b>	28%	149	54%						20%					24%		41
<b>Non-Hispanic White</b>	14%	757	27%	20%	31%											102
<b>Tenure</b>																
<b>Homeowner</b>	8%	975		27%		25%			31%							75
<b>Renter</b>	34%	905	32%	18%	22%											292
<b>Precariously Housed</b>	48%	280	23%				24%			23%						132
<b>Income</b>																
<b>Less than \$25,000</b>	45%	282	28%	20%					20%	20%						127
<b>\$25,000-\$49,999</b>	30%	265	31%		19%						18%					78
<b>\$50,000-\$99,999</b>	22%	517	32%	22%	18%											115
<b>Above \$100,000</b>	8%	721			27%	20%	23%									60
<b>Household Characteristics</b>																
<b>Children under 18</b>	30%	840	27%			20%	19%									249
<b>Large Households</b>	20%	284	32%		19%							18%				57
<b>Single Parent</b>	55%	240				24%			24%	20%						131
<b>Disability</b>	34%	711	26%	20%			20%		20%							241
<b>Older Adults (age 65+)</b>	22%	736	23%	22%		22%										162

Source: Root Policy Research from the 2021-2022 21 Elements AFFH Resident Survey.

**Children changing schools after displacement.** Overall, for households with children that were displaced in the past five years, **60% of children in those households have changed schools.** The most common outcomes reported among these respondents included *school is more challenging* (28%), *they feel less safe at the new school* (25%), and *they are in a worse school* (24%) (Figure 15).

Among respondents by race/ethnicity, non-Hispanic White households (44%) were the only subgroup to report that being displaced resulted in their children being in better schools. Of African American households that were displaced and have children, 87% reported that their children changed schools. Of these respondents, 32% reported that their children *feel safer at the new school* but also *have fewer activities*.

Among respondents by tenure, precariously housed (78%) and homeowner (74%) households had the highest proportion of children who changed schools. The most common outcomes for precariously housed households included *School is less challenging/they are bored* (35%) and their children *feel less safe at school* (34%). For homeowner households, 39% reported that *school is more challenging*, followed by 31% who reported that their children *feel less safe at school*.

Among respondents by selected household characteristics, older adult (77%), single parent (74%), households with a member experiencing a disability (70%), and households with children under 18 (67%) all reported high proportions of children who changed schools. The most common outcomes for these respondents included *School is more challenging* and *they feel less safe at the new school*.

**Figure 15. Children Changing Schools and Outcomes, Displaced Households**

	Percent of Children that Changed Schools	Total n	School change outcomes								
			School is less challenging/ they are bored	School is more challenging	They are in a better school	They are in a worse school	They feel less safe at the new school	They feel safer at the new school	They have fewer activities	They have more activities	Things are about the same
<b>Jurisdiction</b>											
<b>County</b>	60%	306		28%		24%	25%				183
<b>Belmont</b>	45%	20		33%		44%	33%				9
<b>Brisbane</b>	81%	16		38%			31%	31%			13
<b>Burlingame</b>	55%	22	33%	33%						33%	12
<b>Daly City</b>	41%	17	43%		29%		29%			29%	7
<b>East Palo Alto</b>	54%	13	43%	57%			29%				7
<b>Foster City</b>	62%	13								50%	8
<b>Half Moon Bay</b>	58%	12		43%			29%	29%	43%		7
<b>Hillsborough</b>	60%	5						67%			3
<b>Milbrae</b>	82%	11		33%		44%	44%	33%			9
<b>Pacifica</b>	91%	11				50%					10
<b>Redwood City</b>	52%	23			25%	33%		25%			12
<b>San Bruno</b>	67%	18	33%		33%		33%				12
<b>San Mateo</b>	66%	35	32%		32%						22
<b>South San Francisco</b>	36%	56		26%	26%					26%	19
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>											
<b>African American</b>	87%	69	30%	30%				32%	32%		60
<b>Asian</b>	73%	91	27%	32%		32%	27%				66
<b>Hispanic</b>	49%	91		23%		30%	23%		25%		44
<b>Other Race</b>	65%	31		40%		30%	25%	25%			20
<b>Non-Hispanic White</b>	60%	60	28%	31%	44%		28%				36
<b>Tenure</b>											
<b>Homeowner</b>	74%	66		39%		29%	31%				49
<b>Renter</b>	58%	213	25%	30%			25%				122
<b>Precariously Housed</b>	78%	104	35%				34%		30%		80
<b>Income</b>											
<b>Less than \$25,000</b>	65%	92	22%	32%			35%				60
<b>\$25,000-\$49,999</b>	66%	56	25%			28%		28%	25%		36
<b>\$50,000-\$99,999</b>	55%	85		30%	28%		23%				47
<b>Above \$100,000</b>	59%	44	35%	31%		38%					26
<b>Household Characteristics</b>											
<b>Children under 18</b>	67%	237		32%		23%	25%				158
<b>Large Households</b>	45%	44		32%	26%					32%	19
<b>Single Parent</b>	74%	124		32%		28%	29%				92
<b>Disability</b>	70%	188	26%	28%			30%				132
<b>Older Adults (age 65+)</b>	77%	117		35%		29%	29%				89

Source: Root Policy Research from the 2021-2022 21 Elements AFFH Resident Survey.



**Experience with housing discrimination.** Overall, **19% of survey respondents felt they were discriminated against when they looked for housing** in the area.<sup>1</sup> As shown in Figure 16, African American respondents (62%), single parent households (44%) and precariously housed respondents (39%) are most likely to say they experienced housing discrimination. Residents with income above \$100,000 and homeowners are least likely (11%).

Respondents who believed they experienced discrimination when looking for housing in the county reported when the discrimination occurred. Nearly half of respondents (45%) reported that the discrimination they experienced occurred between 2 and 5 years ago. Twenty eight percent of respondents reported that the discrimination occurred in the past year, 20% reported more than 5 years ago and 7% of respondents did not remember when the discrimination occurred.

**How discrimination was addressed.** Respondents who believed they experienced discrimination when looking for housing in the county were asked to describe the actions they took in response to the discrimination. Overall, the most common responses to discrimination experienced by survey respondents were *Nothing/I wasn't sure what to do* (42%), *Moved/found another place to live* (30%), and *Nothing/I was afraid of being evicted or harassed* (20%).

Among top responses for actions taken in response to experienced discrimination, every group reported *Nothing/I wasn't sure what to do* with the exception of African American and single parent households, as well as Brisbane and Hillsborough residents. Similarly, survey respondents from Foster City and Pacifica were the only groups not to include *Moved/found another place to live* among their top responses. African American and Asian households, as well as single parent households, were more likely than other groups to contact either a housing authority, local fair housing organization, or the California Department of Housing or Civil Rights to report their discrimination incident.

**Reasons for discrimination.** Respondents who believed they experienced discrimination when looking for housing in the county provided the reasons why they thought they were discriminated against. Note that the basis offered by residents is not necessarily protected by federal, state, or local fair housing law, as respondents could provide open-ended and multiple reasons why they thought they experienced discrimination.

Examples of how respondents described why they felt discriminated against, which they provided as open-ended responses to the survey, include:

---

<sup>1</sup> Note that this question applies to all respondents, not just those who seriously looked for housing in the past five years.

## **Appearance/Characteristics**

- *"Because of my race and ethnicity"*
- *"[We] were given a subprime loan for home purchase for being Latinx, low-income and primarily Spanish-speaking; refinance last year was lower than expected."*
- *"It was clear my disability is the reason"*
- *"I have a child and a couple places told me they wouldn't rent to me due to my son."*
- *"The agent asked if I was a tech worker. When I said no, the agent said the place was just rented, even though it was on the listing as active."*
- *"I was approved for the unit and when they met my partner, who is Black, they said [the unit] was rented."*

## **Source of Income/Credit**

- *"Income was through SSDI [social security disability insurance]"*
- *"The landlord wanted an excellent credit score..."*
- *"We were not able to provide all the requirement to rent, like SSN [social security number], income proof, employment, and we don't make enough income..."*
- *"They wanted someone with income from employment not due to disability."*
- *"I was discriminated against because of my race and the fact that I had Section 8 at the time. Being African American and having Section 8 made a lot of people feel like I wouldn't take care of their property."*
- *"I am currently being discriminated against due to my need with rental help and because two of us in our household have a need for an emotional support animal."*

## **Immigration status**

- *Mi hermana llamo a los departamentos donde yo vivo y la manager le dijo que no había disponible pero no era verdad también le dijo que hablara inglés y le pidió seguro social pensando que no tenía y le dijo que tenía que ganar una cierta cantidad de dinero para poder rentar. (My sister called the apartments where I live and the manager told her that there was no one available but it was not true. She also told her to speak English and asked for social security thinking that she did not have it and told her that she had to earn a certain amount of money to be able to rent).*

**Figure 16. Percent of respondents who felt they were discriminated against and how was it addressed**

	Percent who felt they were discriminated against					n	Nothing/ I wasn't sure what to do	Moved/ found another place to live	Nothing/ I was afraid of being evicted/ harassed	Called/ emailed housing authority	Called/ emailed local fair housing organization	Called/ emailed California Department of Housing/ Civil Rights	Called/ emailed City office, County office, or human rights department/ agency	Filed a complaint	Other	n
	Percent who felt they were discriminated against	In the past year	2 to 5 years ago	More than 5 years ago	Don't remember											
<b>Jurisdiction</b>																
<b>County</b>	19%	28%	45%	20%	7%	357	42%	30%	20%							359
<b>Belmont</b>	21%	19%	56%	19%	6%	16	38%	38%	50%							16
<b>Brisbane</b>	22%	29%	36%	29%	7%	14		64%		21%			21%			14
<b>Burlingame</b>	14%	25%	50%	20%	5%	20	35%	25%		20%		20%				20
<b>Daly City</b>	15%	20%	40%	33%	7%	15	56%	25%	25%							16
<b>East Palo Alto</b>	29%	23%	54%	15%	8%	13	38%	38%	23%	23%						13
<b>Foster City</b>	18%	15%	40%	45%	0%	20	38%						24%	24%		21
<b>Half Moon Bay</b>	26%	27%	55%	9%	9%	11	27%	36%		36%						11
<b>Hillsborough</b>	15%	14%	71%	0%	14%	7		29%		57%						7
<b>Milbrae</b>	29%	36%	50%	7%	7%	14	31%	23%		38%		23%				13
<b>Pacifica</b>	21%	29%	36%	36%	0%	14	50%		21%	29%		21%			21%	14
<b>Redwood City</b>	24%	34%	34%	19%	13%	32	47%	26%	21%	21%						34
<b>San Bruno</b>	12%	30%	60%	0%	10%	10	50%	30%		30%	30%					10
<b>San Mateo</b>	30%	35%	45%	15%	5%	40	53%	26%	26%							38
<b>South San Francisco</b>	13%	30%	40%	23%	6%	82	59%	27%								83
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>																
<b>African American</b>	62%	16%	59%	25%	0%	83		36%	29%	27%	26%	27%	24%			84
<b>Asian</b>	16%	24%	50%	20%	6%	82	28%	25%	29%	29%	24%	24%				83
<b>Hispanic</b>	27%	25%	42%	24%	8%	107	52%	27%								107
<b>Other Race</b>	30%	28%	47%	14%	12%	43	47%	30%	26%							43
<b>Non-Hispanic White</b>	12%	38%	41%	14%	7%	91	44%	27%	18%							91
<b>Tenure</b>																
<b>Homeowner</b>	11%	26%	46%	20%	7%	95	32%	29%	22%							96
<b>Renter</b>	28%	26%	47%	20%	6%	232	42%	32%	23%							232
<b>Precariously Housed</b>	39%	21%	54%	20%	4%	98	24%	28%		35%		26%				100
<b>Income</b>																
<b>Less than \$25,000</b>	36%	29%	51%	11%	9%	100	39%	30%	25%							102
<b>\$25,000-\$49,999</b>	24%	31%	41%	22%	6%	64	42%	36%	25%	22%						64
<b>\$50,000-\$99,999</b>	19%	27%	45%	25%	3%	97	44%	29%			18%					97
<b>Above \$100,000</b>	11%	28%	45%	21%	7%	76	45%	22%	16%	16%						76
<b>Household Characteristics</b>																
<b>Children under 18</b>	26%	21%	57%	15%	6%	216	36%	31%	26%							218
<b>Large Households</b>	19%	26%	52%	9%	13%	54	65%	24%	15%							55
<b>Single Parent</b>	44%	13%	65%	17%	5%	106		33%	32%	27%	26%	26%				107
<b>Disability</b>	33%	27%	48%	21%	4%	215	33%	30%		22%						219
<b>Older Adults (age 65+)</b>	20%	20%	51%	20%	8%	144	24%	34%	24%	24%						146

Source: Root Policy Research from the 2021-2022 21 Elements AFFH Resident Survey.

**Experience of persons with disabilities.** Overall, 35% of respondents' households include a member experiencing a disability. Of these households, 26% said their housing does not meet their accessibility needs; 74% report that their current housing situation meets their needs. The three top greatest housing needs expressed by respondents included grab bars in bathroom or bench in shower (34%), supportive services to help maintain housing (33%), and ramps (26%). Other needs expressed by a substantial proportion of groups included *wider doorways, reserved accessible parking spot by the entrance, and more private space in the facility in which I live.*

Of respondents by jurisdiction, East Palo Alto (64%) has the lowest proportion of respondents with disabilities whose current housing situation meets their needs. Of these respondents, 63% indicated they needed supportive services to help maintain housing.

The highest proportion of respondents by group reporting that they or a member of their household experiences a disability were African American (71%), households making less than \$25,000 (59%), single parent households (58%), and precariously housed respondents (56%).

**Figure 17. Respondents experiencing a disability and their top three greatest housing needs**

Jurisdiction	Percent of respondents with a disability	Current housing situation meeting needs	Total n	Grab bars in bathroom or bench in shower	Supportive services to help maintain housing	Ramps	Wider doorways	Reserved accessible parking spot by entrance	More private space in the facility in which I live	Service or emotional support animal allowed	Would like to live alone (not with a roommate)	Fewer restrictions/ more freedom	Alarm to notify if a non-verbal child leaves the home	Fire alarm/doorbell made accessible for person with hearing disability/deaf	Better navigation for person who is blind	n
<b>Jurisdiction</b>																
<b>County</b>	35%	74%	711	34%	33%	26%										171
<b>Belmont</b>	35%	89%	28	67%	67%											3
<b>Brisbane</b>	37%	72%	25	29%	29%		29%	29%								7
<b>Burlingame</b>	27%	80%	41	63%	50%		50%									8
<b>Daly City</b>	34%	68%	38		36%		36%		45%		36%					11
<b>East Palo Alto</b>	44%	64%	22		63%											8
<b>Foster City</b>	31%	83%	40		29%		29%									7
<b>Half Moon Bay</b>	45%	68%	22	29%								29%				7
<b>Hillsborough</b>	26%	100%	13													n/a
<b>Milbrae</b>	40%	82%	17	25%					25%	25%			25%	25%	25%	4
<b>Pacifica</b>	39%	93%	29				100%									2
<b>Redwood City</b>	42%	68%	62	33%	28%	28%			33%							18
<b>San Bruno</b>	40%	82%	34	50%		33%		33%								6
<b>San Mateo</b>	43%	72%	65	41%	47%					41%						17
<b>South San Francisco</b>	30%	68%	210	35%	28%	32%										57
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>																
<b>African American</b>	71%	87%	95		40%		40%	33%								15
<b>Asian</b>	31%	77%	157	29%	34%	26%			26%							35
<b>Hispanic</b>	41%	70%	162	37%	54%				35%							46
<b>Other Race</b>	38%	71%	56	63%		50%	44%									16
<b>Non-Hispanic White</b>	32%	77%	241	33%		27%		21%								52
<b>Tenure</b>																
<b>Homeowner</b>	29%	82%	280	35%		37%		37%								43
<b>Renter</b>	39%	73%	347	41%	40%				27%							88
<b>Precariously Housed</b>	56%	71%	154		37%		26%				33%					43
<b>Income</b>																
<b>Less than \$25,000</b>	59%	71%	167		42%				27%		23%					48
<b>\$25,000-\$49,999</b>	40%	67%	107		45%	45%	45%									31
<b>\$50,000-\$99,999</b>	35%	77%	180	43%	26%	24%										42
<b>Above \$100,000</b>	23%	82%	167	52%		34%		41%								29
<b>Household Characteristics</b>																
<b>Children under 18</b>	35%	78%	293		40%		29%		32%							63
<b>Large Households</b>	35%	70%	99	41%	45%				34%							29
<b>Single Parent</b>	58%	81%	139		48%		28%		41%							29
<b>Older Adults (age 65+)</b>	46%	76%	337	44%	29%	30%										79

Source: Root Policy Research from the 2021-2022 21 Elements AFFH Resident Survey.

**Transportation.** Over 80% of respondents indicated the type of transportation used most often is driving a personal vehicle. This share was relatively similar across the majority of jurisdictions and was the number one type of transportation used across all jurisdictions and demographic characteristics.

The groups with the lowest proportion of those who primarily drive included African American (40%), households making less than \$25,000 (53%), single parents (57%), and precariously housed (57%) respondents.

As shown in Figure 18, on average respondents are fairly satisfied with their transportation situation. Those groups somewhat or not at all satisfied with their transportation options include African American (58%), Brisbane (51%), single parents (45%) and precariously housed (44%) respondents.

**Figure 18.**  
**Are you satisfied**  
**with your current**  
**transportation**  
**options?**

Source:

Root Policy Research from the  
 2021-2022 21 Elements AFFH  
 Resident Survey.

	Entirely satisfied	Mostly satisfied	Somewhat unsatisfied	Not at all satisfied	n
<b>Jurisdiction</b>					
<b>County</b>	29%	45%	20%	6%	1,903
<b>Belmont</b>	21%	42%	27%	10%	78
<b>Brisbane</b>	17%	33%	38%	13%	64
<b>Burlingame</b>	32%	45%	21%	1%	139
<b>Daly City</b>	19%	52%	20%	8%	109
<b>East Palo Alto</b>	31%	36%	24%	9%	45
<b>Foster City</b>	29%	43%	20%	9%	115
<b>Half Moon Bay</b>	30%	35%	26%	9%	46
<b>Hillsborough</b>	50%	34%	14%	2%	44
<b>Milbrae</b>	30%	45%	13%	13%	40
<b>Pacifica</b>	28%	42%	15%	15%	65
<b>Redwood City</b>	30%	36%	27%	8%	142
<b>San Bruno</b>	23%	54%	19%	4%	81
<b>San Mateo</b>	29%	52%	14%	4%	134
<b>South San Francisco</b>	34%	48%	15%	3%	666
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>					
<b>African American</b>	22%	21%	48%	10%	134
<b>Asian</b>	23%	49%	24%	4%	500
<b>Hispanic</b>	29%	43%	22%	7%	397
<b>Other Race</b>	29%	41%	21%	9%	149
<b>Non-Hispanic White</b>	32%	45%	17%	5%	757
<b>Tenure</b>					
<b>Homeowner</b>	31%	45%	18%	6%	905
<b>Renter</b>	27%	44%	23%	6%	834
<b>Precariously Housed</b>	20%	36%	35%	9%	254
<b>Income</b>					
<b>Less than \$25,000</b>	22%	39%	29%	10%	282
<b>\$25,000-\$49,999</b>	25%	42%	26%	8%	265
<b>\$50,000-\$99,999</b>	28%	52%	16%	4%	517
<b>Above \$100,000</b>	34%	44%	18%	4%	721
<b>Household Characteristics</b>					
<b>Children under 18</b>	25%	43%	25%	6%	840
<b>Large Households</b>	29%	50%	18%	4%	284
<b>Single Parent</b>	20%	36%	38%	7%	240
<b>Disability</b>	25%	40%	27%	8%	658
<b>Older Adults (age 65+)</b>	30%	43%	21%	6%	736

**Solutions offered by residents.** Respondents were asked a series of questions about how to improve their situations related to housing, employment, health, education and neighborhood.

**Improve housing security.** When asked what could improve a respondent's housing security, the top answers among respondents by jurisdiction, race/ethnicity, tenure, income, and other selected housing characteristics were *none of the above* and *help me with a downpayment/purchase*.

The highest proportion of respondents among groups that selected *None of the above* includes:

- Hillsborough residents, 71%
- Owners, 65%
- Income greater than \$100,000, 54%
- Foster City residents, 53%
- White, 51%
- Burlingame residents, 50%

The highest proportion of respondents among groups that selected *Help me with a downpayment or purchase* includes:

- Renters, 44%
- Large households, 42%
- Daly City residents, 41%
- Hispanic, 39%
- Precariously housed, 39%
- City of San Mateo residents, 37%

Other solutions to improve housing security identified by several different groups included *Help me with the housing search*, *help me pay rent each month*, and *find a landlord who accepts Section 8*. The highest proportion of respondents among groups that selected these solutions includes:

*Help me with the housing search*

- Precariously housed, 39%
- Income less than \$25,000, 34%
- Income between \$25,000-\$50,000, 29%



- Half Moon Bay residents, 27%

*Help me pay rent each month*

- Income less than \$25,000, 35%
- Single parent, 31%

*Find a landlord who accepts Section 8*

- Black or African American, 37%

**Improve neighborhood situation.** When asked what could improve a respondent's neighborhood situation, nearly every respondent group by jurisdiction, race/ethnicity, tenure, income, and other selected housing characteristics identified *Better lighting*. Other solutions flagged by multiple respondent groups to improve their neighborhood situations includes *Improve street crossings* and *none of the above*.

The highest proportion of respondents among groups that selected *Better lighting* includes:

- East Palo Alto residents, 45%
- Millbrae residents, 45%
- Other race, 42%
- Daly City residents, 41%
- Hispanic, 40%
- Income between \$25,000-\$50,000, 40%
- Income between \$50,000-\$100,000, 40%

The highest proportion of respondents among groups that selected *Improve street crossings* includes:

- City of San Mateo residents, 34%
- Single parent, 31%

The highest proportion of respondents among groups that selected *None of the above* includes:

- Foster City residents, 37%
- Hillsborough residents, 36%
- Burlingame residents, 28%

Additionally, 42% of Millbrae respondents chose *Reduce crime*, 40% of Brisbane respondents chose *More stores to meet my needs*, and Belmont (34%) and Half Moon Bay (33%) respondents chose *Build more sidewalks*.

**Improve health situation.** When asked what could improve a respondent's health situation, the majority of respondent groups by jurisdiction, race/ethnicity, tenure, income, and other selected housing characteristics selected *Make it easier to exercise*, *More healthy food* and *None of the above*.

The highest proportion of respondents among groups that selected *Make it easier to exercise* includes:

- Redwood City residents, 48%
- Hispanic, 42%
- South San Francisco residents, 41%
- City of San Mateo residents, 41%
- Asian, 41%
- Renters, 40%

The highest proportion of respondents among groups that selected *More healthy food* includes:

- East Palo Alto residents, 48%
- Precariously Housed, 47%
- Single parent, 41%
- Daly City residents, 40%
- Income less than \$25,000, 38%
- Black or African American, 37%
- Large Households, 37%

The highest proportion of respondents among groups that selected *None of the above* includes residents from:

- Hillsborough residents, 48%
- Burlingame residents, 47%
- Foster City residents, 42%
- White, 41%
- Owners, 39%

Additionally, African American (34%) and San Bruno (29%) respondents identified *Better access to mental health care* as a solution to help improve their health situations.

**Improve job situation.** When asked what could improve a respondent's employment situation, the majority of respondent groups by jurisdiction, race/ethnicity, tenure, income, and other selected housing characteristics selected *Increase wages* and *None of the above*.

The highest proportion of respondents among groups that selected *Increase wages* includes:

- Renters, 52%
- Single parents, 50%
- Hispanic, 49%
- Households with children, 49%
- Daly City residents, 49%
- Income between \$50,000-\$100,000, 49%
- Large households, 48%

The highest proportion of respondents among groups that selected *None of the above* includes:

- Hillsborough residents, 76%
- Owners, 58%
- White, 57%
- Over 65+, 53%
- Income greater than \$100,000, 53%
- Foster City residents, 53%

Additionally, 29% of households with income less than \$25K identified *Find a job near my apartment or house* as a solution to help improve their situation.

**Improve education situation.** When asked what could improve a respondent's education situation for their children, the majority of respondent groups by jurisdiction, race/ethnicity, tenure, income, and other selected housing characteristics selected *None of the above*, *Have more activities*, and *Stop bullying/crime/drug use at school*.

The highest proportion of respondents among groups that selected *None of the above* includes:

- Burlingame residents, 55%

- White, 52%
- Over 65+, 51%
- Hillsborough residents, 49%
- Foster City residents, 46%
- Brisbane residents, 45%

The highest proportion of respondents among groups that selected *Have more activities* includes:

- Single parent, 45%
- Households with children, 41%
- Large households, 41%
- Other race, 37%
- Daly City residents, 34%
- Hispanic, 34%

The highest proportion of respondents among groups that selected *Stop bullying/crime/drug use at school* includes:

- East Palo Alto residents, 38%
- Precariously housed, 31%
- Other race, 30%
- Redwood City residents, 29%
- Hispanic, 29%
- San Mateo residents, 28%

Additionally, 29% of Millbrae respondents identified *Have better teachers at their schools* as a means to improve the education situation in their respective households.