

Local Government Committee

Census Data Survey Results

Debbie Brannan, LGC Chair

May 6, 2020



Survey Background

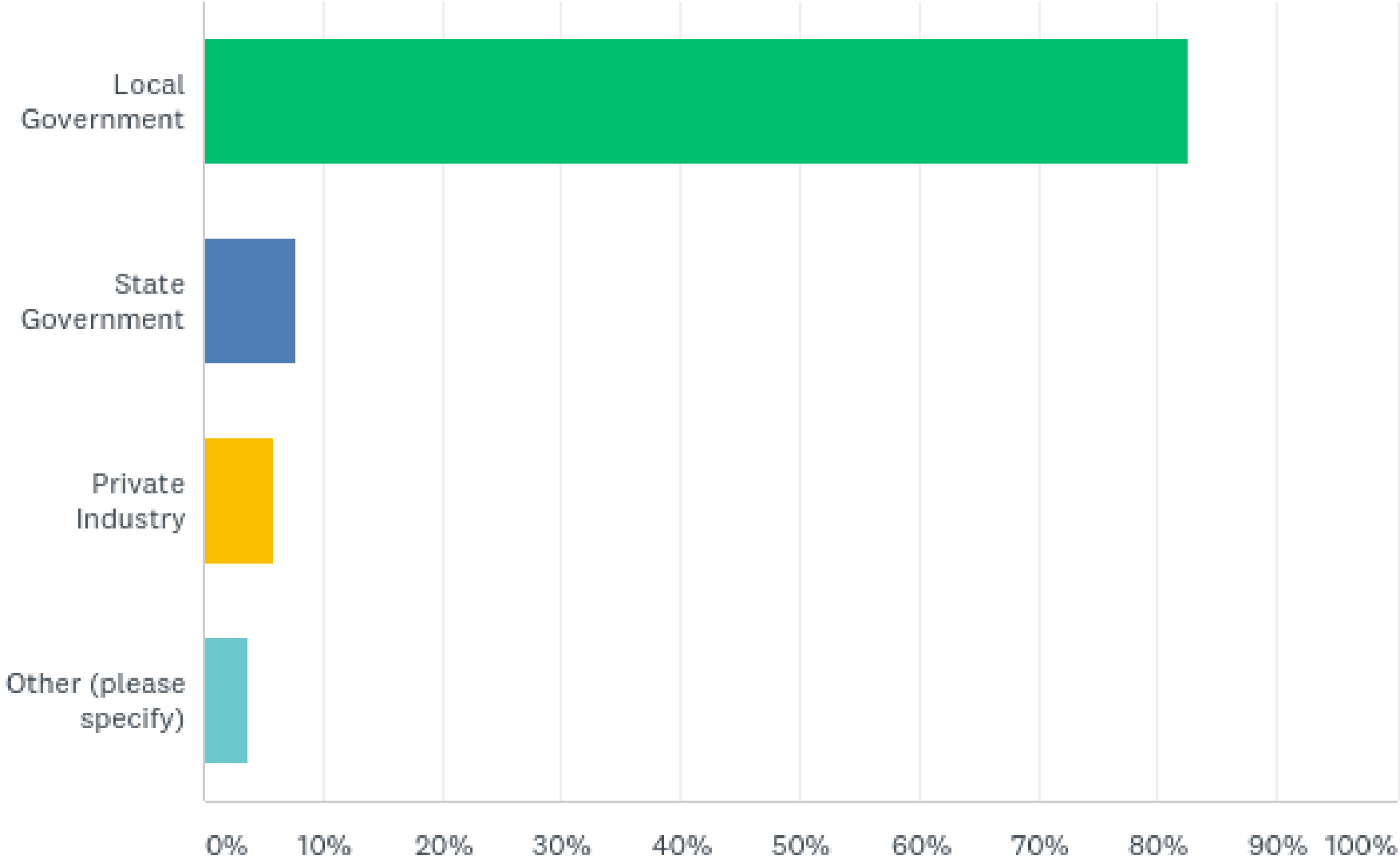
- **Following last GICC Meeting,**
 - **LGC and SGUC drafted 10 survey questions**
 - **Type of census-related data used**
 - **Scale of use**
 - **Decisions based on census-related data**
 - **Funding based on census-related data**
 - **Survey sent to various listservs at the end of February with March 11th as deadline to respond.**
 - **Total of 52 response collected.**

Survey Solicitation

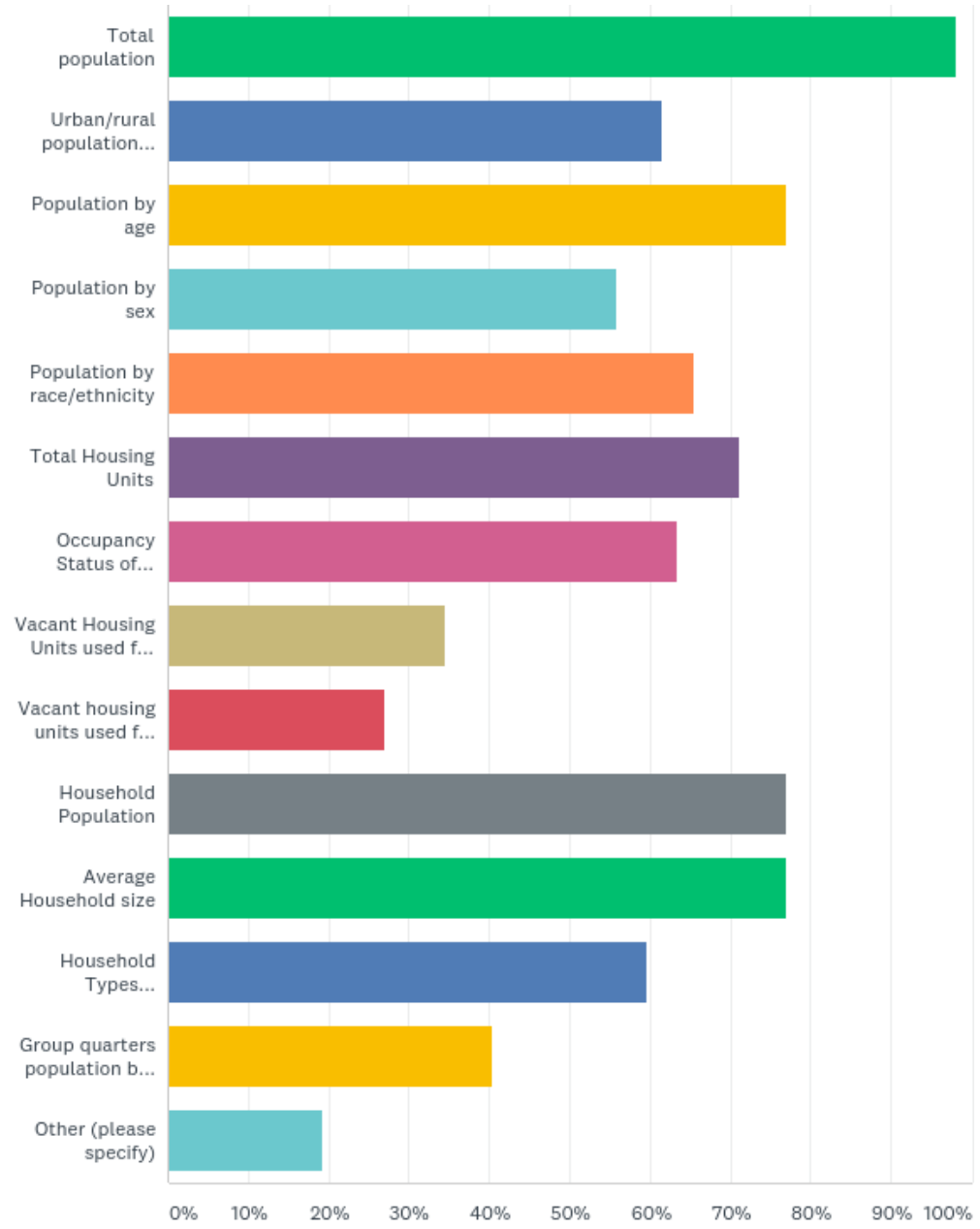
Sent through the following listservs:

- **NC City / County Managers**
- **NCGIS**
- **NC Local Government Information Systems Association**
- **NC Property Mappers Association**
- **GICC Local Government Committee**
- **GICC State Government GIS User Committee**

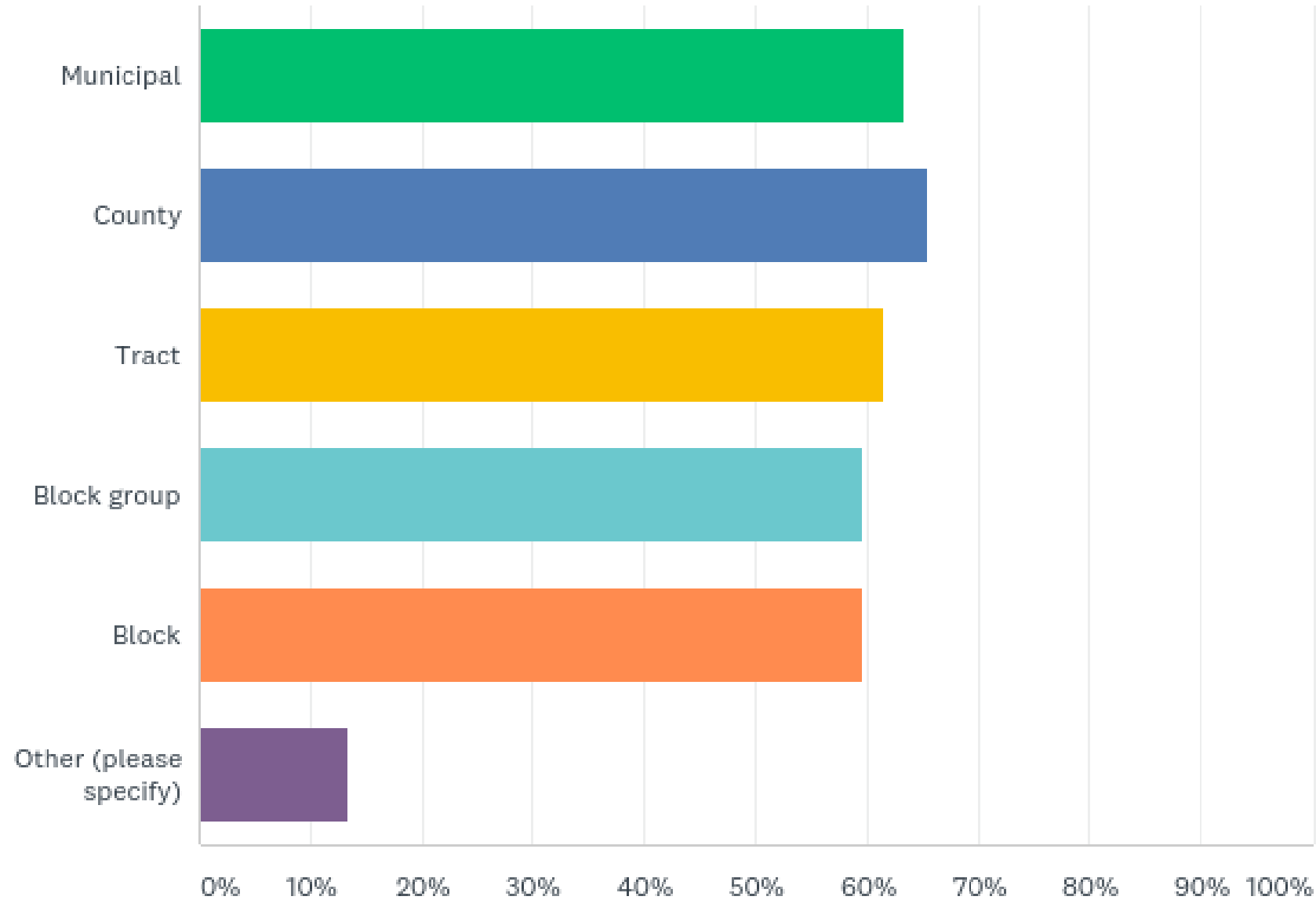
Q1: Which sector do you represent?



Q2: What census-related data do you need to do your day-to-day job?



Q3: Related to the previous question, at what geographic level are the census-related data used?

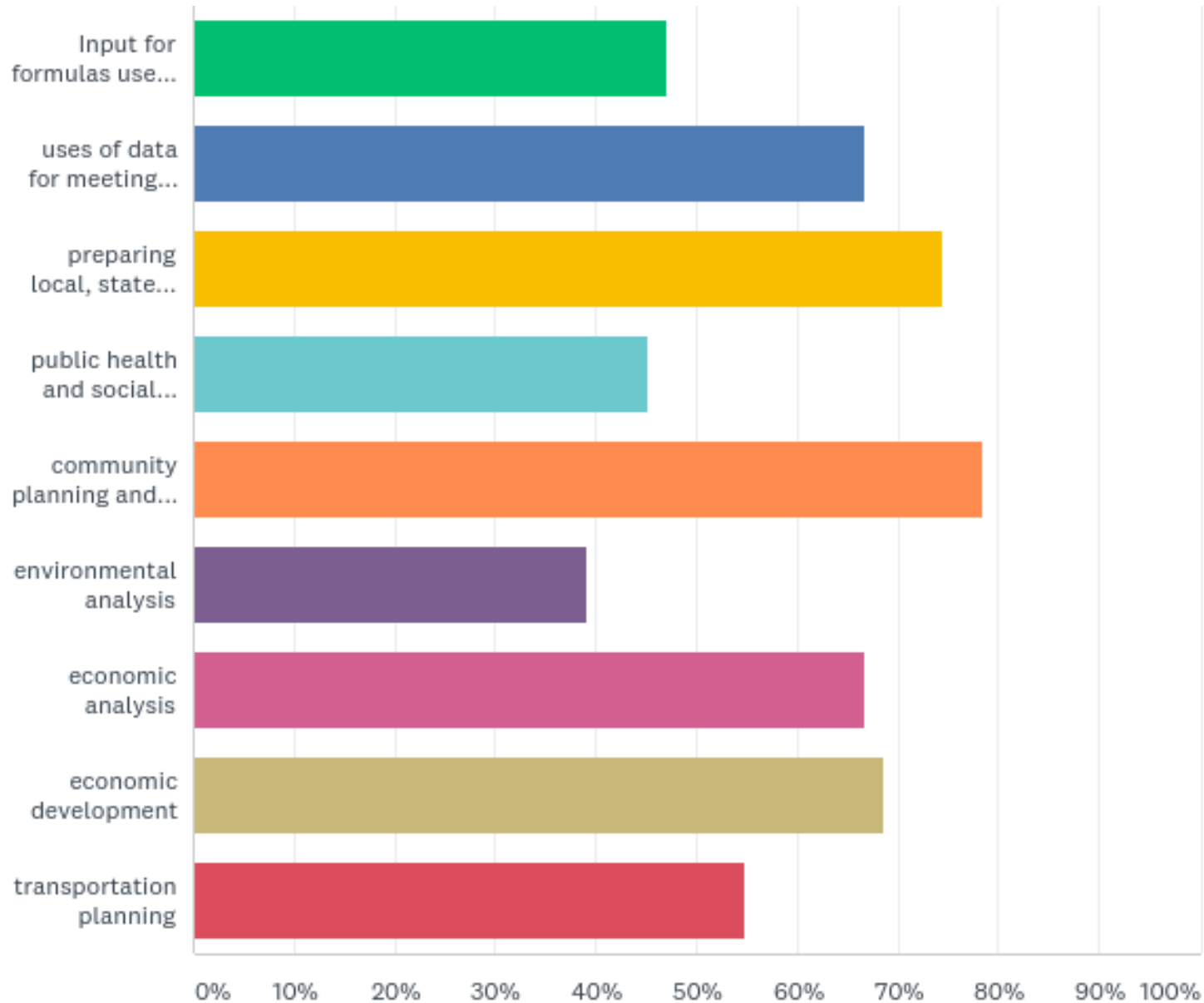


Q4: Related to Questions 2 and 3, please provide additional details below:

- At my place of work, we use census data on many subjects at many different geographic scales in many kinds of projects...The first is for redistricting. The second is for annexation...**
- For sales tax distribution use per capita formula**
- As small a level as possible is the most beneficial**
- Census tract vacancy rates and household size to estimate population between census using in house data on housing units.**
- Depending on the project, typically I am trying to acquire population and household data on the block or tract level.**
- Our city is under 10,000 population, so block group is the best unit of measure for planning, also municipal and ETJ**
- Data request range from totals for Counties and Municipalities, to Census Tracts within a county. Use Block Groups the least. Use blocks for population and housing unit totals for redistricting or for population radius analysis**
- PL94-171 data at block level used for redistricting**



Q5: How do you currently use census data to make decisions in your jurisdiction?

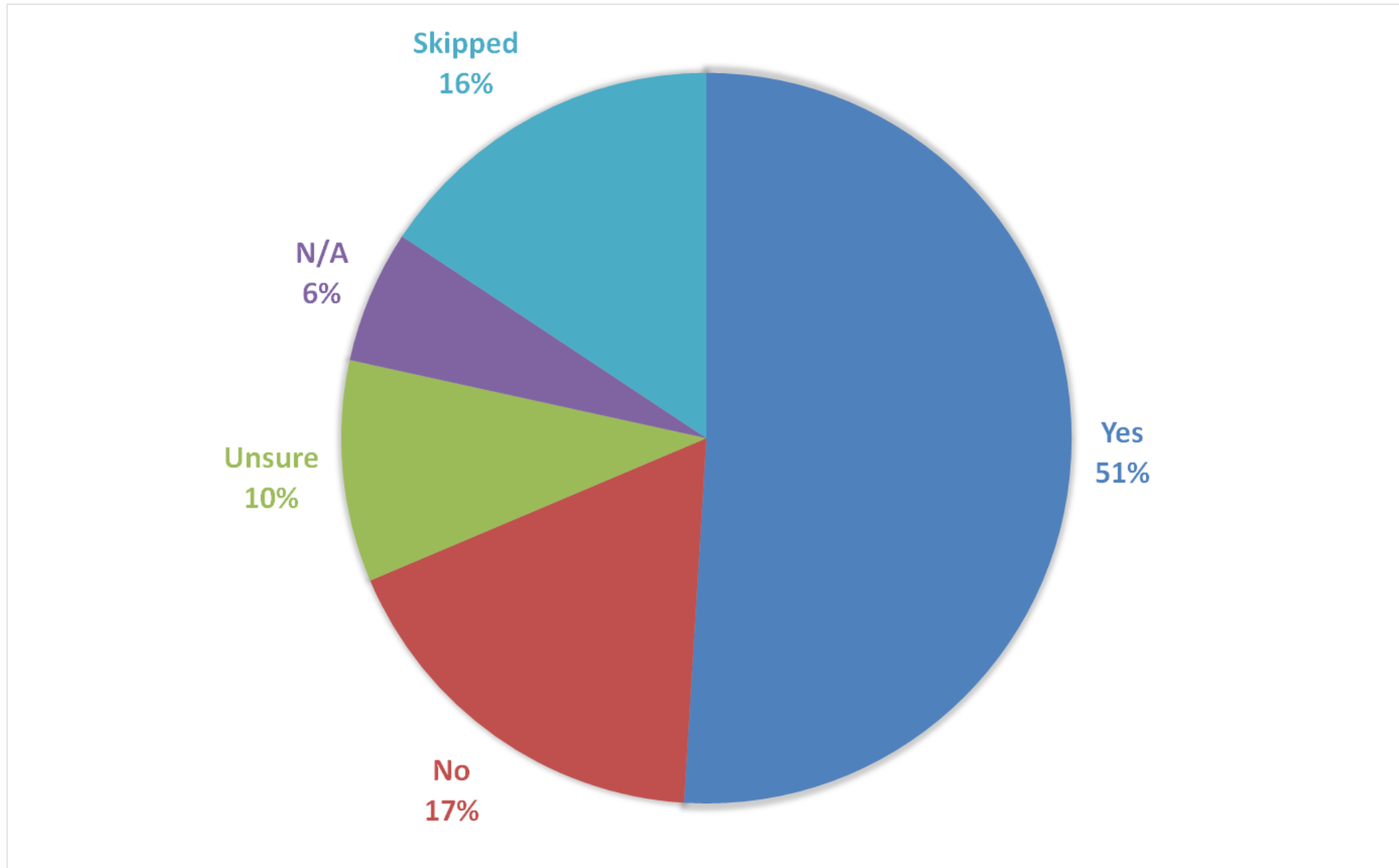


Q6: Related to Question 5, please provide additional detail below:

- Our housing and development department uses census data for all those things. They use the census data for environmental analysis/public health like LEED testing. The Planning Department uses it to see what neighborhoods use buses or own cars. We all use it to apply for grants and decided how much money needs to be allocated into which projects/areas of the city.**
- We utilize this data to create response zones for fire and EMS in our City. We also use this information to provide targeted interventions and community risk reduction tailored to the population. The planning areas should be as small as possible for accuracy.**
- We are a regional planning organization and use the Census data - general population data, business data, etc. in everything we do.**
- The information helps identify needs in the community and potential eligibility for assistance.**
- CBDG funding. Parks and transportation planning. Allocate funds and search for business opportunities.**
- Redistricting**
- Planning for future growth**



Q7: Are any of your operational costs associated with the population of your jurisdiction? (For example, software licensing fees)



Q8: List any state or federal programs in which your jurisdiction participates where funding is determined directly or indirectly through census counts.

- **School funding**
- **Transportation funding**
- **Various Grants**
- **Fire Insurance**
- **Fire Districting**
- **Justification of projects to HUD.**
- **Powell Bill**
- **Sales Tax**
- **Medicare, Medicaid**
- **Section 8**
- **HUB Zones**
- **Tax credit programs**
- **Economic Development**
- **Distribution of State Library Funding**
- **Workforce Development**
- **Area on Aging**
- **MPO**
- **COG Dues**
- **Code Enforcement**
- **Stormwater Program**
- **Regional Housing Authority**
- **RPO Funding**
- **All American City**

Q9: If possible, provide evidence for how census is used for funding or services rates.

- Per capita population is used to determine how much a county and/or a municipality will pay for services such as the local match for MPO (federal highway and transit). Code enforcement (based on per capita numbers) and the COG's stormwater program.**
- I am required by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International to utilize Census data for Community Risk Reduction in order to maintain our accredited status.**
- Most grants and programs split on population. MPO Vs RPO. Direct federal funding vs funding through a state agency. FTA vs state DOT for transit.**
- We are an interlocal agency funded by two counties, one city, the state, and the federal government. Operational funding allocations at the local and state levels are based directly on the population counts.**
- We use the population of municipalities to determine service rates for planning projects, GIS implementation, etc.**
- Help examine future projections for planning and budgeting purposes.**
- Directly for federal funding levels and poverty levels.**



Q10: With Differential Privacy, small-area census data analysis may be limited to state and local governmental agencies for descriptive analyses, assessments, and planning related to public-policy decision making, including the day-to-day decision-making process. Based on your knowledge of differential privacy, how do you think applying this to the 2020 Census data products will affect you? (As currently proposed Differential Privacy will protect confidentiality by inserting variability to data and limiting data releases for small geographic and population areas. While the implementation of Differential Privacy is still under development, there will be impacts to data availability and data quality.)

Q10 Responses

- **Denying access to data in small areas and introducing noise into the system will limit the accuracy with which I am able to create Community Risk Reduction strategies tailored for our population. It will affect the efficacy of the service provided by our department.**
- **Inhibit our ability to specifically tailor resources where they could provide the most impact.**
- **We represent a significantly rural area of the State and rely on decennial Census and ACS data being available at a detailed level!**
- **We MUST have all (or most) of the information currently available to service our citizens fairly and properly. If we do not have this data, then we will be relying on guess work and word of mouth to identify problem areas. It will also be MUCH more difficult to justify why we need money for projects for 'this' area of town without statistical data from the Census to back us up.**
- **Private sector needs this to conduct analyses for government partners and clients. Limited data availability affects ability to do a good, legally compliant job.**



Survey Summary

- **Although only 2 weeks to solicit responses, we may have received much of the same answers if the solicitation timeframe was longer.**
- **All kinds of census-related data is used for many different reasons at almost every scale.**
- **Furthermore the more detailed the scale the data is available the better for local government planning.**
- **Current funding scenarios based on census-related data may be impacted through using differential privacy in the 2020 products.**
- **Not knowing what differential privacy method will be used makes it difficult to analyze the impact.**
- **Skewed data can have an impact on needs analysis and planning resulting in less efficient and effective government operations.**

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