



## HOPE Collaborative Community Air Quality Survey - Final Results Summary

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### Demographics

In total, 60 Oakland residents responded to the Community Air Quality survey from April 19, 2023 to September 8, 2023. This total number includes both the English and Spanish versions of the survey. Fifty-five of the responses were from the English survey and 5 from the Spanish survey. These responses came from a diverse set of people ranging in age, race, and gender. There were 22 submissions from teenage residents, ranging from ages 13 to 19, 12 residents in their twenties, 12 in their thirties, 7 in their forties, 5 in their fifties, 1 in their sixties, and 1 in their seventies.

Race demographics (includes numbers for people who chose multiple identities)

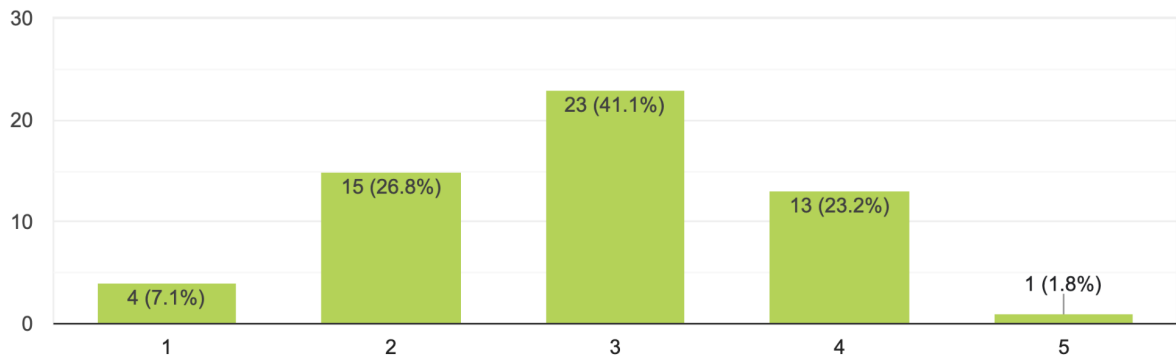
- 21 Black/African American
- 7 Asian
- 1 Pacific Islander
- 2 Indigenous
- 6 Hispanic
- 9 Latin/x
- 6 Mexican
- 6 White
- 2 Undefined Bi-racial

### Air Quality in Neighborhoods

When asked on how to rate their air quality on a scale of 1, being poorest, to 5, being great, the highest number of responses were a 3. This can be interpreted as fair. Below are the charts in both English and Spanish showing the results of this question:

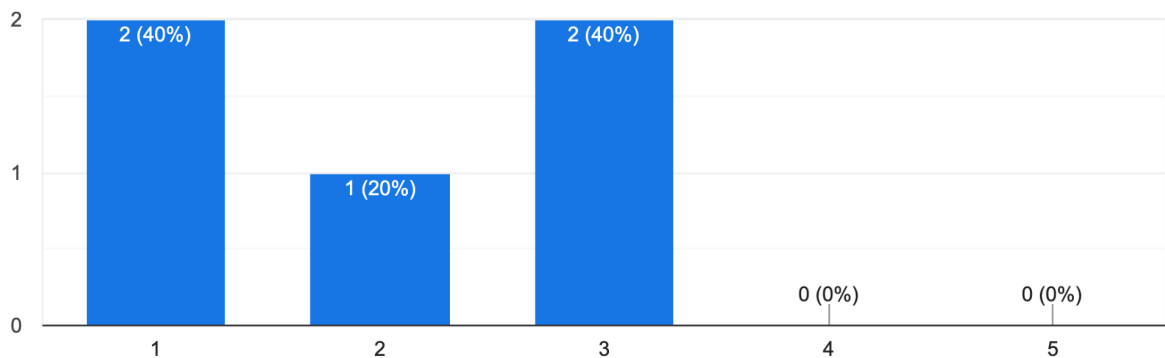
### How would you rate the air quality in your neighborhood?

56 responses



### ¿Cómo calificaría la calidad del aire en su vecindario?

5 responses

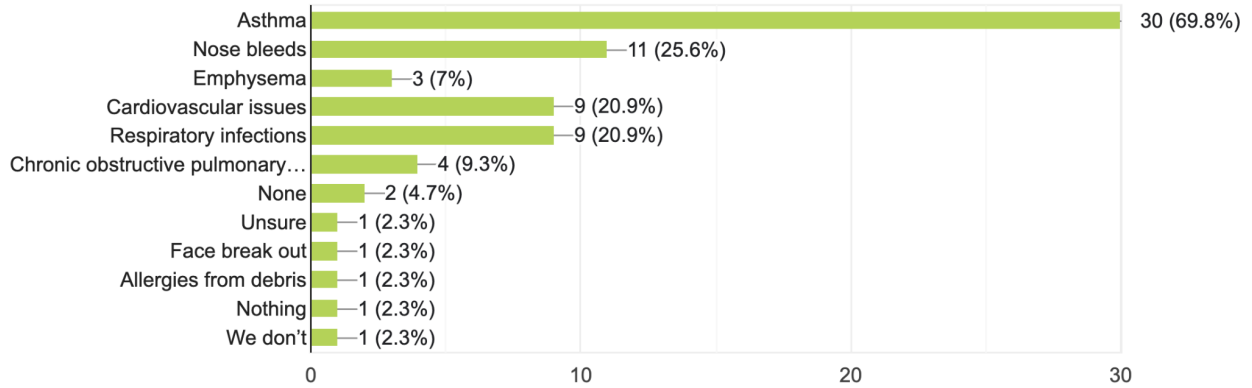


There were various responses about the causes of the air quality issues in residents' neighborhoods but there were many similarities within the range of answers. Forty-three percent of respondents identified cars and trucks, namely from the 880 freeway, as a source of pollution. Other responses included construction, traffic, sideshows, cigarette smokers, industries, fires (from encampments and larger wildfires), airplanes, and trash.

Most respondents confirmed that they or their family members experienced health concerns due to air pollution with 34 people citing asthma as a health concern. Below are the response charts in both English and Spanish to the question relating to health concerns:

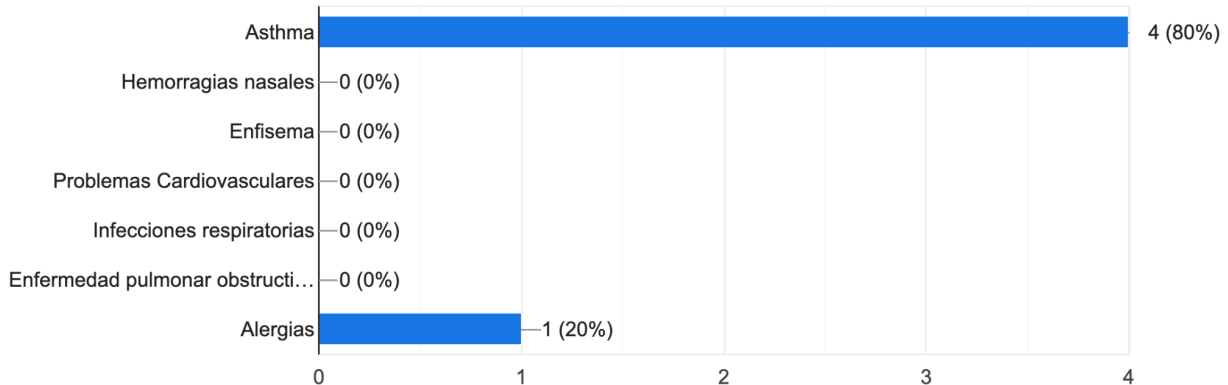
Do you or your family members who live or work in East Oakland have any health concerns related to air pollution?

43 responses



¿Usted o los miembros de su familia que viven o trabajan en East Oakland tienen algún problema de salud relacionado con la contaminación del aire?

5 responses



Residents also identified ways they actively avoid air pollution exposure. Thirty people responded that they avoid pollution by simply avoiding polluted areas of their neighborhood. Thirty-two people responded that they were closing the windows in their homes in order to keep pollution out. Seventeen respondents noted that they are avoiding basic activities such as walking or biking to stay clear of the pollution.

When asked about emissions in relation to transportation, 63% of respondents confirmed that they take emissions into account when choosing their methods of transportation. Fifty-three percent of responses to the question of what methods of transportation people use were simply

walking. However, half of responses also indicated that people generally drive alone to get around, more than the bus, BART, biking, or carpooling.

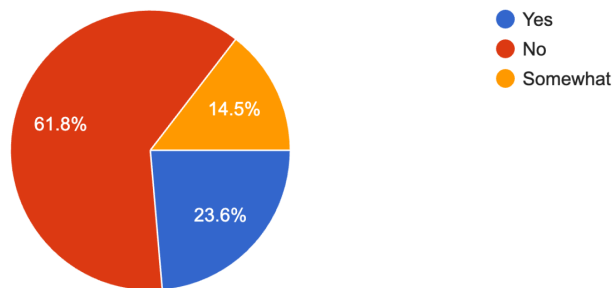
Residents identified improvements to public transportation and walkability as steps the City of Oakland can take to improve air quality. Other popular answers as to how the City can help reduce pollution included holding polluting industries accountable to their negative environmental impact, providing air purifiers, limiting construction, and increased urban greening. More systemic change-focused responses included rezoning industrial sites, moving 880 freeway out of East Oakland, and housing unsheltered folks to reduce the number of encampment fires.

### Air District

Most residents surveyed are not at all familiar with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. Most people responded that they are unfamiliar, with a small percentage saying they have heard of the Air District. The remaining respondents said they were somewhat familiar. Most residents have also never attended an Air District meeting or workshop and have not filed complaints with the Air District concerning air quality issues in their communities.

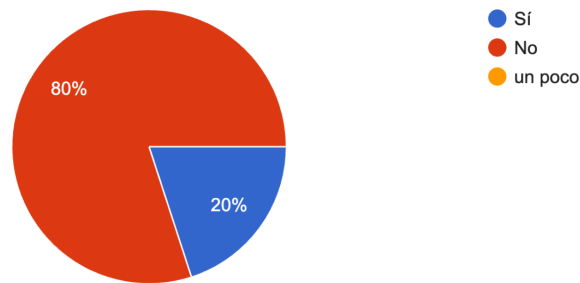
Are you familiar with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD)?

55 responses



¿Está familiarizado con el Distrito de Gestión de la Calidad del Aire del Área de la Bahía (BAAQMD)?

5 responses



Although many people were not familiar with the Air District, over half of respondents would like to become more involved with the Air District in the future.

Most residents were also not familiar with community based organizations or organizing efforts concerning air pollution and air quality. Communities for a Better Environment, Higher Ground, and the East Oakland Neighborhood Initiative were the only mentioned organizations by a small percentage of residents.

### **Other Community and Environmental Concerns**

Residents identified other issues in their community. The most popular being trash/illegal dumping, lack of greenspace and clean parks, and homeless encampments. Residents are also concerned about safety and crime, gentrification, and lack of affordable housing.

Community gardens, more greenspaces, better transit stops, community solar, community resilience hubs and spaces, and urban forests were the identified community projects and improvements that residents would like to see.

### **Recommendations**

After reevaluating the additional survey responses our recommendations remain the same. The new survey responses still show that there is a need for extensive community outreach and education to East Oakland residents about air quality and pollution, as well as a need for opportunities for civic participation, such as working with community organizations, training on how to organize fellow residents, and chances to get involved with governmental agencies such as the Air District and the City of Oakland. These results provide us with good insight into areas we need to focus on as we begin to develop our education and engagement approach. The survey responses also make clear that the community could benefit from more direct information from the Air District and the City on air quality issues and ways to file complaints. Along with the education and engagement from HOPE and other community-based organizations, support from the Air District and the City can help strengthen our initiatives and work towards our goal to

help break down the barriers that residents feel engaging with government agencies. It would be beneficial for the Air District and the City to hold these meetings in partnership with community-based organizations, in spaces that are accessible to residents who work, can not travel for meetings, have disabilities, and should offer translation services.

Many residents are not familiar with community-based organizations doing air quality related work in East Oakland. Though many of these organizations do a lot of outreach, language barriers, time constraints, and the accessibility of materials and events make it difficult to reach all residents. We plan to collaborate with other community-based organizations to ensure that our outreach and education reach as many East Oakland residents as possible. We hope that this coordination will help activate more residents to get involved in air quality advocacy through educational materials and workshops on air quality, civic engagement, and community organizing.