



RACE & SOCIAL JUSTICE
INITIATIVE

ADVANCE OPPORTUNITY.
ACHIEVE EQUITY.

City of Seattle Racial Equity Community Survey

A Project of the Race and Social Justice Initiative

March 2014

Executive Summary

The Race and Social Justice Initiative (RSJI) is an effort of Seattle City government to realize the vision of racial equity. The Initiative works within City government and with community leaders to get to the root cause of racial inequity: institutional racism.

As part of its 2012-14 strategic plan, RSJI has created working partnerships with key institutions, organizations and the community to achieve equity in education, criminal justice, community development, jobs, housing, health, the environment and arts and culture. As part of these efforts, RSJI committed to survey the Seattle community to measure residents' attitudes toward issues related to racial equity.

In November 2013, RSJI fielded the first biennial survey to track Seattle community perspectives on race and equity. The survey included several components: a random phone survey of 400 residents and a web-based survey that reached more than 3,100 people, who live, work or go to school in Seattle. The survey asked questions about the community's satisfaction with various city services and neighborhood quality, feelings about the state of racial justice in the city, and the role of government in addressing racial inequities.

While the survey revealed information in a number of areas, the following findings stand out:

- 1. There is overwhelming support for government to prioritize addressing racial equity gaps in jobs, health, housing and other areas.** A combined 70% of respondents feel this should be a high priority of government. White people and people of color alike share a consensus that it should be a priority of government to address racial equity gaps.
 - **Our conclusion:** The City of Seattle should continue to focus on achieving racial equity in the community. In 2014 RSJI will develop a new strategic plan aimed at reducing racial inequities in education, housing, criminal justice, health, community development, the environment and arts and culture.

- 2. Seattle's economy is on the rise. Yet, the benefits of a strong economy are not felt equally by all.**
 - **Community members listed housing affordability highest on a list of concerns.** Respondents across all demographics spoke to the need for greater housing affordability. At the same time, race continues to play a factor in housing inequity. In King County, people of color are more likely than whites to pay more than 30% of income for housing.¹
 - **People of color rate economic opportunities lower than their white counterparts,** even while the majority of people felt positive about the economy.
 - **Youth of color lack access to economic opportunities.** Less than 5% of youth of color who responded to the web survey rated opportunities as very good.
 - **Only about half of all respondents rated ability to get around by public transportation as good or very good.** In Seattle, people of color use public transit at slightly higher rates than white residents.
 - **Our conclusions:** While we work as a city to support housing affordability for all, we must use strategies that address current racial inequities. As part of the Race and Social Justice Initiative, the City has committed to working to eliminate racial inequity in housing cost burden (paying more than 30% income on housing) by race ; achieve racial equity in access to safe and fair housing; and achieve equitable home ownership across race/ethnicity.

¹ 2008-2010 American Community Survey data as posted 4/2012 in Communities Count.
<http://www.communitiescount.org/index.php?page=race-ethnicity-2>

- Communities of color continue to experience racial inequities in economic opportunity, unemployment, income and poverty rates. The City has committed to ending racial disproportionality in access to living wage jobs, unemployment, career advancement and barriers to employment. City departments are developing actions to help achieve these outcomes. Partnerships with the community and other institutions will be critical if we are to make this a reality.
 - Attention must be placed on creating greater economic opportunities for youth of color. Less than 5% of youth of color who responded to the web survey rated opportunities as very good, compared to 10% of white youth.
 - Public transit and the infrastructure to support it are key components to a community where economic opportunity is felt by all. As part of the City's commitment to racial equity, departments are working on meeting or exceeding City goals and objectives for providing infrastructure, e.g. parks, transportation, sidewalks, access to technology, public art, etc. in all neighborhoods and achieving racial equity in transit commute times, availability of transit service, and transit fares.
- 3. A sizeable portion of Seattleites are distrustful of the Police Department.** Over 70% have only a little or just some confidence in their local police to treat blacks and whites equally.
- African Americans were the least likely to have confidence in police officers to do a good job enforcing the law, and the least likely to have confidence that police officers will treat blacks and whites equally.
 - The data from survey respondents closely mirror the overall data found in recent surveys by the Seattle Police Department and the Seattle Community Police Commission.²
 - **Our conclusion:** The City of Seattle must ensure that community confidence is a key measure of success for the City's current police reform actions. City departments, including the Seattle Police Department, are working on specific actions to reduce racial disparities in arrest, sentencing and incarceration. The work in 2014 and beyond will focus on bringing community together with City government to address these issues head on.
- 4. The City of Seattle's outreach efforts, though highly valued, are not felt equally across communities.**
- The City of Seattle conducts outreach to engage residents on City projects, programs and issues. These outreach efforts reach about half of residents. Among those who participate, the majority felt that their participation was highly valued. Yet this was not felt equally across communities. African Americans were least likely to feel their participation is valued.
 - **Our conclusion:** The City of Seattle must continue to implement inclusive outreach and public engagement strategies to ensure participation by communities who have been historically marginalized from City decision-making processes. While these efforts have gained traction, it is clear that we have more work to do to reach all our communities and reflect their contributions in decision-making.
- 5. Concern about the growth and economic development in Seattle is the most important issue facing community members.**
- The survey asked respondents what is the most important issue facing the community today. A major theme in the open-ended responses was concern about growth and economic development that lead to an

² Among CPC Survey respondents, 68% do not believe the SPD treats people of different races and ethnicities equally. Seattle Community Police Commission Community Outreach Report, January 2014.

increased cost of living, which pushes out longstanding communities of color. Many respondents are concerned that Seattle is becoming a white, wealthy city inaccessible to the diverse populations who helped build it. Further, survey respondents expressed concern that City government is not doing an adequate job of keeping up with infrastructure and provision of services: from services for the homeless, to public transportation for those who live in the outer reaches and commute to the urban core.

- **Our conclusion:** The City of Seattle’s short- and long-term planning for economic development should continue to use a racial equity lens to ensure we address the concerns and needs of communities of color.

6. Across Seattle, there is consensus that racial problems continue and we have more work to do.

- Community attitudes and perceptions about racial equity matter. Ninety-four percent of respondents agreed that we have more work to do to address racial inequities in Seattle.
- **Our conclusion:** We cannot continue with business as usual when race continues to have such significant impacts on the lives of Seattle residents. Seattle residents have expressed their support for City government to address racial equity gaps in key indicators for a healthy community, including education, criminal justice, housing and other areas. The RSJI Community Survey provides the City with baseline data to measure our efforts to achieve racial equity and create opportunities for all.

“What is the greatest community need? Gentrification in the South End; lack of accessible, efficient public transportation; failing schools that are not meeting the needs of low income communities and communities of color.”

- Survey respondent

We thank every person who took the time to participate in the 2013 City of Seattle Racial Equity Community Survey.

Acknowledgements

The RSJI Community Survey is the result of many months of collaboration between academics, community organizations and the City of Seattle. We thank the Steering Committee for guiding the development of the survey questions, outreach and analysis.

Outreach was possible with the support of our Community Survey Partners, students from University of Washington and the following City of Seattle employees who volunteered their time with survey administration: Steve Sneed, Brenda Sevilla, Kara Bensley, Alyssa Shinto, Marial Boyarsky, Tracy Yeung, Maria Ponz, Liz Stein, Erin Bouldin, Monica Ng, and Veronica Leigh Bechtold.

The phone survey was fielded by Pacific Market Research, whose suggestions were helpful in navigating the world of data collection to ensure inclusive demographic representation.

Special thanks to Hannah Walker of the University of Washington Political Science Department. Her work analyzing data and compiling this report has been invaluable.

Questions or comments about this report? Please contact elliott.bronstein@seattle.gov or 206-684-4507. Visit www.seattle.gov/rsji to view the report, the full Appendix and other documents.

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- Chinese Information Service Center
- Freedom Church of Seattle
- King County Equity Initiative
- Orion Center
- Puget Sound Sage
- School's Out Washington
- Seattle LGBT Commission
- Seattle Times
- Solid Ground
- Southeast Seattle Education Coalition
- Seattle Public Library
- United Way King County
- UW School of Social Work
- Washington Community Action Network

Research Methodology

The Race and Social Justice Community Survey was developed in partnership with a steering committee of academics, community based organizations and local government. Steering Committee members met from June 2013 through January 2014 to guide question development, outreach and analysis. In addition to the Steering Committee, community partners (including media, social service agencies and faith based groups) assisted with survey outreach.

Survey data was collected via phone and internet. The phone sample included 400 respondents; the web sample included 3,127 for a total of 3,527 respondents. Phone and web samples differed in a few key ways: the phone sample was collected using random digit dialing, while the web sample is composed of self-selected respondents who saw the survey advertised, or who were contacted through a variety of outreach efforts.

Outreach efforts included (but were not limited to):

- Visiting homeless shelters and community centers;
- Posting information at libraries;
- Placing ads on King County Metro buses; and
- Developing a Seattle Times web blog.

The phone sample reflects the broader population of Seattle and the findings are more generalizable. The web survey, while limited in its ability to generalize findings, reached populations generally beyond the reach of standard phone survey methods, such as immigrant and refugee communities and people who are homeless.

These differences are reflected in the demographic distribution of each sample. The phone sample is 78.86% white, while the web sample is only 61.85% white. The phone sample is generally older, with 26.45% of respondents over the age of 65, compared to only 7.7% in the web sample. The phone sample does not include any of the homeless population, while 2.23% of the web sample (63 respondents) is currently homeless. In contrast, 49.37% of the phone sample is employed full time, while 66.17% of the web sample is in the same employment category.³

Further, the survey measured sexual orientation and gender identity beyond the male/female dichotomy. Fully 90% of phone respondents identified as straight, compared to the web survey, in which 21% of the sample identified as LGBTQ. In terms of gender identity, only two people in the phone survey identified as a gender other than male/female. In contrast, 3% (95 respondents) identified as transgender or other in the web sample.

Key differences in the composition of the samples are reflected in differences in responses to survey questions, even after weighting.⁴ Thus, the findings are presented by mode of data collection, instead of pooling the data. Responses to the phone survey can be considered generalizable to the general population, except when considering key populations missed by the phone, including (but not limited to) gender identity beyond male/female, sexual orientation, and the homeless population. For a more accurate reflection of attitudes held by these groups, the data collected via the web is of particular interest. Because outreach was conducted through social service and advocacy organizations, the web sample is potentially more aware of and committed to the needs of economically and socially vulnerable populations than the at large population. Finally, while the phone survey is generalizable due to the fact that the sample was random, the comparatively low number of respondents (400) raises the need for caution when conducting subgroup analyses.⁵

³ See Appendix A for tables displaying the demographic distribution of the survey by mode.

⁴ Both samples are weighted on gender, age, race and income to reflect the overall distribution of Seattle.

⁵ For example, although respondents were asked their race/ethnicity, the number of individuals in each nonwhite racial/ethnic group is quite small – only 10 respondents were Latino and only 10 were Asian. In the case of race, it is most appropriate to pool the nonwhite population. Thus, when looking at subgroups within the sample, the phone data should be analyzed with caution. As a general rule of thumb, the report refrains from highlighting groups in the sample where fewer than 30 respondents are included. Throughout the report, we refer to subgroups in the web sample only.

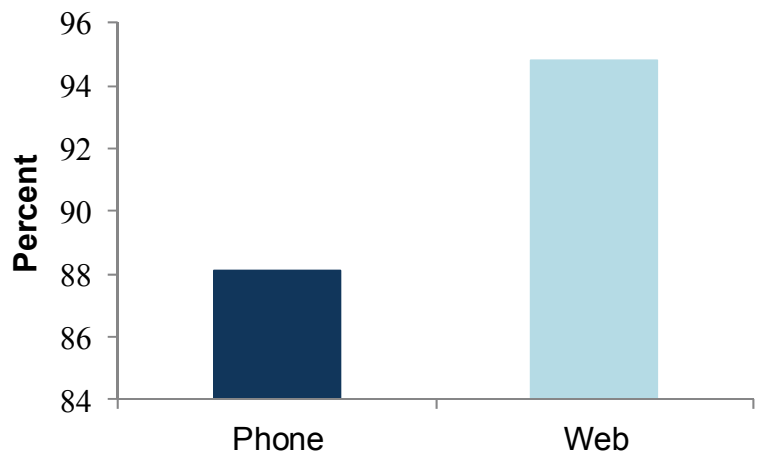
Survey Results

Support for City government's efforts to increase racial equity

When asked how high of a priority it should be for government to address racial equity gaps in jobs, health, housing and other areas, respondents were overwhelmingly supportive.

- ◆ 90 percent of phone respondents and 95 percent of web respondents said addressing racial equity gaps should be somewhat or a high priority for government (Figure 1) (Table 9).⁶
- ◆ Seattle's youth (ages 15 to 25) stood out as proponents of government efforts to increase racial equity.
 - 97% of youth who took the web and 94% of youth who took the phone survey rated it as a priority for government to address the gaps (Tables 14-15).
- ◆ Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and queer (LGBQ), and transgender respondents also recognized the importance of government's role in achieving racial equity.
 - In the phone sample, 54% of LGBQ respondents agreed compared to 43% of straight respondents; in the web sample, 80% of LGBQ respondents compared to 72% of straight respondents agreed (Tables 16-17).
 - Over 90% of transgender web respondents said so, compared to only 66 percent of women and 79% of men who agreed (Tables 18-19).

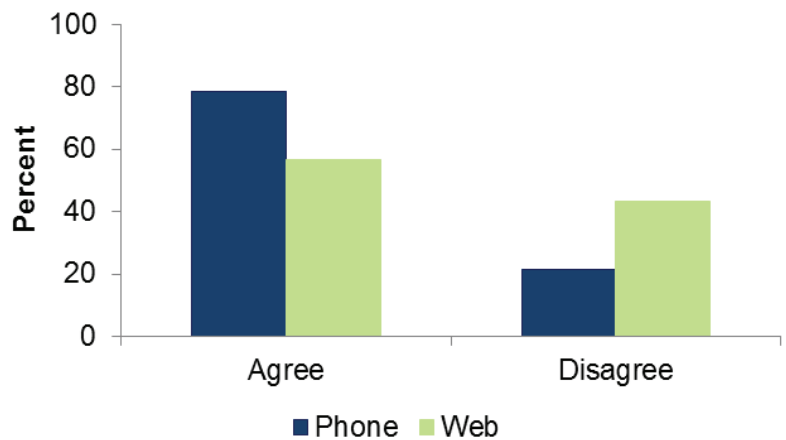
Figure 1: Addressing racial equity gaps should be a high/somewhat high priority of government



When asked whether or not they agree with the statement, **Seattle is making progress at eliminating racial inequity**, most respondents agreed somewhat or strongly, but responses varied by race. People of color were more likely to disagree than their white counterparts.

- ◆ More than half of all respondents said Seattle is making progress at eliminating racial inequity (79% of phone respondents and 57% of web respondents) (Figure 2) (Table 24).

Figure 2: Seattle is making progress at eliminating racial inequity



⁶ Tables listed throughout the report displaying question responses by selected demographic categories are found in Appendix B.

- ◆ Yet, half of people of color who responded to the web survey disagreed with the statement (Figure 3) (Table 28). African American respondents were most likely to strongly disagree with the statement – 31% of those in the web sample said so, compared to 11% of whites who strongly disagree (Table 26).

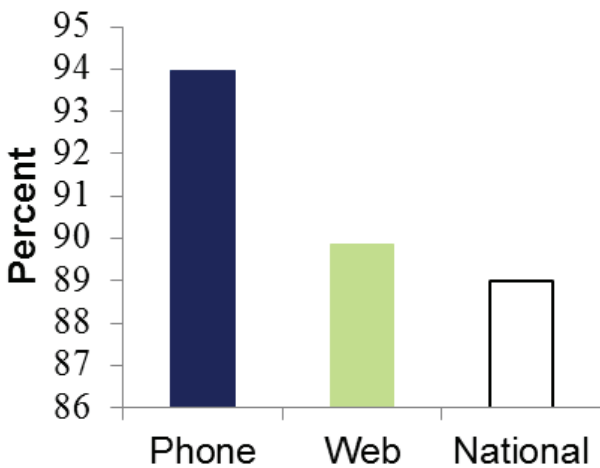
Measuring Community Needs

Neighborhood Satisfaction

Respondents were asked how satisfied they were with the neighborhood in which they lived. By this general measure, the majority of respondents felt positively about their neighborhood.

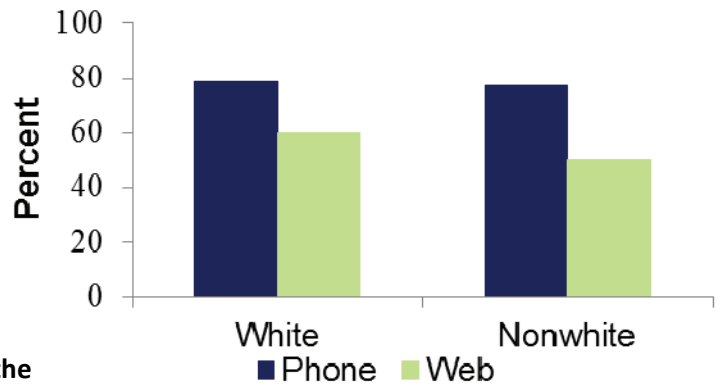
- ◆ 94% of phone respondents and 88% of web respondents said they were satisfied/very satisfied with their neighborhood as a place to live (Figure 4) (Table 64).

Figure 4: Seattleites are satisfied/very satisfied with their neighborhoods



- Comparatively, a recent national Pew survey asked a similar question, and found that 89% of respondents in a national sample felt the same, suggesting that Seattleites are at least as satisfied with their neighborhoods as the rest of the nation (Figure 7).
- Further, the Pew survey data, when disaggregated by race, suggests that 90% of whites feel this way, compared to 80% of African Americans and 81% of Latinos. Yet in Seattle, almost 95% of whites in both the phone and web samples feel satisfied,

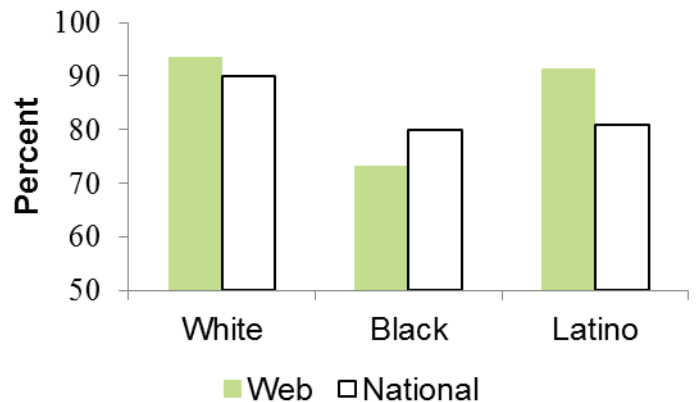
Figure 3: Seattle is making progress at eliminating racial inequity: Agree by race



compared to only 73% of African Americans and 91% of Latino respondents in the web sample. This suggests that while Seattle trends generally alongside the rest of the nation, not all communities are experiencing the same satisfaction (Fig. 5) (Tables 65-66).

- While neighborhood satisfaction was rated generally high, the responses to specific community need questions reveal a city that continues to face racial inequities in nearly every indicator.

Figure 5: Seattleites are satisfied/very satisfied with their neighborhood: national comparison by race

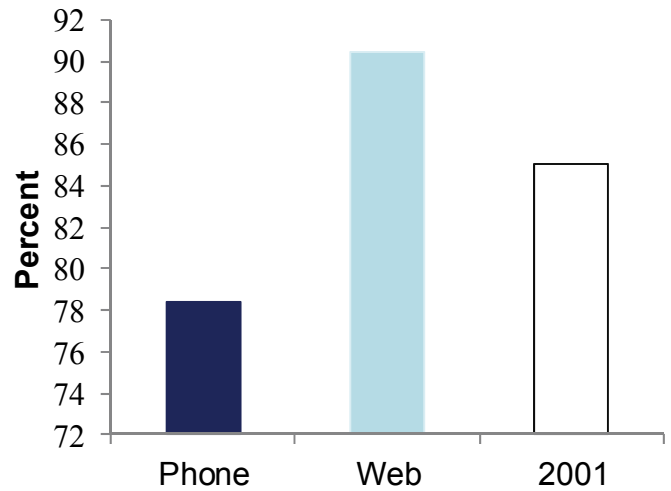


Affordable Housing

When asked how they rate housing affordability in Seattle, respondents were clear that housing in Seattle is no longer within most people's reach.

- ◆ Fully 78% of phone respondents rated affordability as only fair or poor, and 90% of web respondents said the same (Figure 6) (Table 74).
 - Comparatively, in a survey of Seattleites from 2001, 85% said the same, rating housing affordability as only fair or poor, suggesting this is an ongoing issue for the City (Figure 9).
 - 42% of those phone respondents with a disability rated housing affordability as poor, compared to only 29% of their non-disabled counterparts. This trend held in the web data as well (Tables 79-80).

Figure 6: Housing affordability rated as only fair/ poor



Economic Opportunity

The majority of respondents were positive about economic opportunities in Seattle, yet the benefits of a strong economy are not felt equally by all, and economic inequity and cost of living are a major concern for respondents.

- ◆ 80% of phone and 66% of web respondents rated Seattle's economic opportunities as good to very good (Figure 7) (Table 81).
 - Comparatively, a 2001 City of Seattle survey found that 86% of respondents felt positively about the economy, suggesting a current decrease in confidence in the economy (Figure 10).

Figure 7: Economic opportunities rated as good/very good

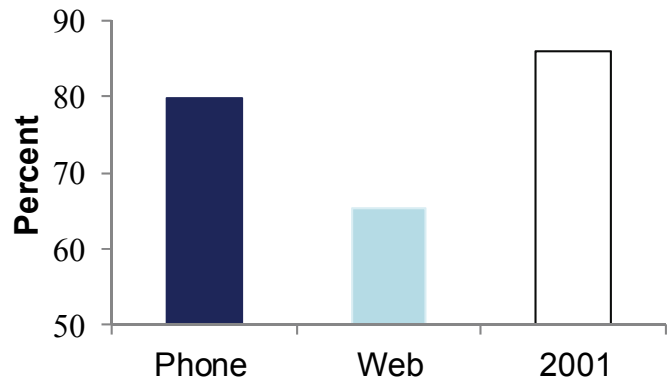
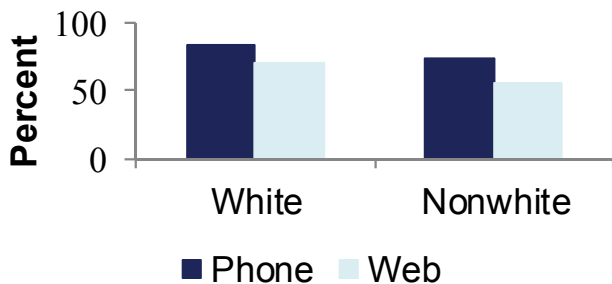


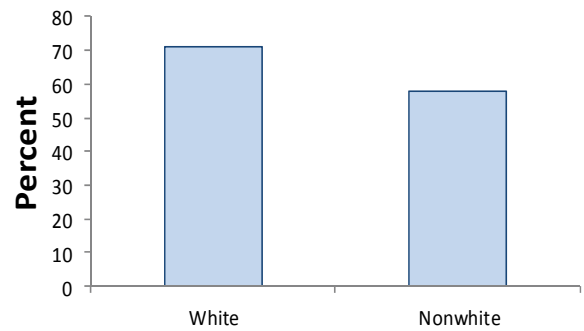
Figure 8: Economic opportunities rated as good/very good: Race



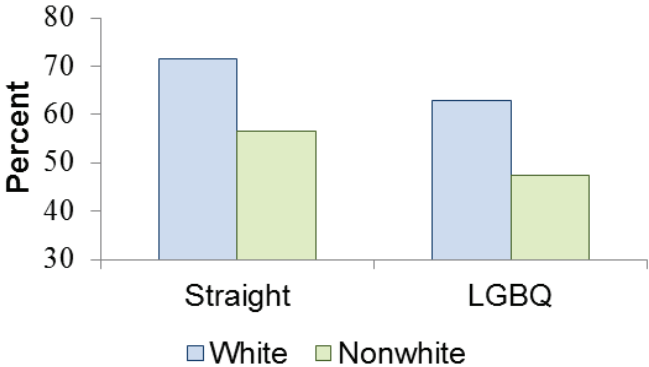
- White respondents were more likely than people of color to rate economic opportunities as good or very good. About 85% of whites in the phone sample agree, compared to 75% of people of color. In the web sample, 70% of whites and only 56% of people of color agreed (Figure 8) (Tables 84-85).
- Among the web sample, women of color are more likely than men of color and white women to rate economic opportunities as poor. 8% of women of color say so, compared to 5% of men of color and 2% of white women (Tables 92-95).
- Fifty-eight percent of youth of color who responded to the web survey rated opportunities as good or very good, compared to 71% of white youth (Figure 9) (Tables 86-87).

- LGBQ people of color were less likely than both their straight counterparts and white LGBQ counterparts to rate Seattle’s economic opportunities as good or very good. Amongst whites, 63% of LGBQ web respondents agreed, while among people of color 56% of straight respondents and only 48% of LGBQ people of color said the same (Figure 10) (Tables 88-89).
- Among the web sample, over half (56%) of transgender respondents rated economic opportunities as only fair or poor, compared to around 35% of non-transgender respondents (Table 91).
- Thirty-one percent of phone respondents with a disability rated economic opportunities as poor, compared to 18% of non-disabled respondents. The trend held in the web survey (Tables 96-97).
- Thirty-four percent of those phone respondents making less than \$20k a year rated economic opportunities as only fair to poor, compared to 21% of phone respondents overall. The trend held in the web sample (Tables 98-99).

**Figure 9: Economic opportunities rated as good/very good:
Web sample by race (ages 15-25)**



**Figure 10: Economic opportunities rated as good/very good:
Web sample by race and sexual orientation**



“Public transit is crumbling. People of lower economic means, the very population that should be served by public transportation, are being forced off of public transporting by increasing fees and diminished services.”

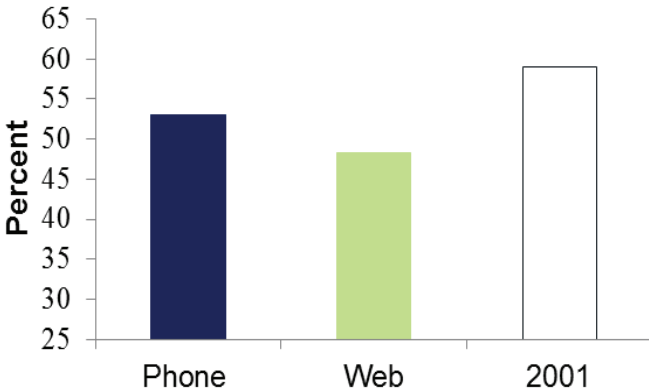
- Survey respondent

Public Transportation

Public transit was a universal concern for respondents.

- ◆ Only about half of all respondents rate their ability to get around in Seattle by public transportation as good or very good, with 53% of phone and 49% of web respondents saying they agreed (Figure 14) (Table 100).
- In comparison, a City of Seattle survey fielded in 2001 found that 59% of respondents rated public transportation as good or very good (Figure 11).
- In Seattle, people of color use public transit at slightly higher rates than white residents: 26% of Latino residents, 24% of African Americans, 21% of Asian residents and 17% of white residents.⁷

Figure 11: Public transportation rated as good/very good



⁷ American Community Survey 2007-2009.

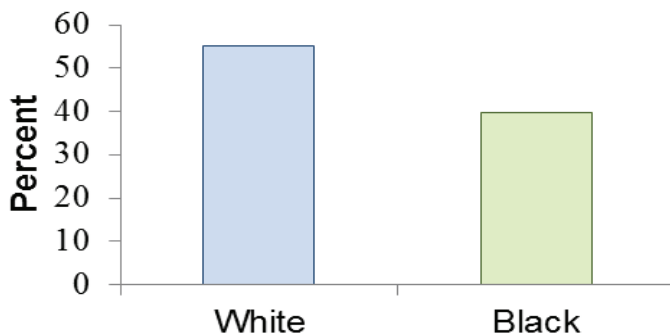
Note: With ACS data margins of error can be large relative to population/subpopulation size.

Police

Public safety requires the community's confidence in the police to enforce the law fairly. While over half of all respondents say they have a fair amount to a great deal of confidence in the police to enforce the law, responses varied by race, sexual orientation, gender identity, age and neighborhood.

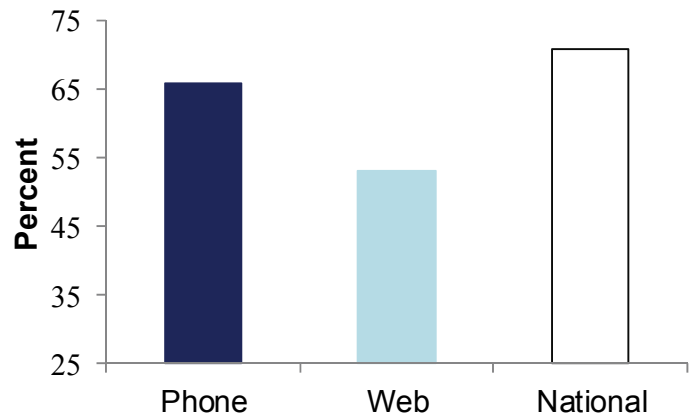
- ◆ 66% of phone and 53% of web respondents said they have a fair amount to a great deal of confidence in police to enforce the law (Figure 12) (table 109).
- In comparison, the national Pew survey asked questions regarding feelings towards local police, and found that 71% of respondents had a great deal of confidence in police to enforce the law, suggesting that Seattle lags behind the nation regarding confidence in local police (Figure 15).

Figure 13: A great deal/fair amount of confidence in police officers to enforce the law: Web sample by race



- In the web sample, about 55% of whites and 40% of African Americans said they had a fair amount or a great deal of confidence in police. This pattern holds for the phone sample, in which over 70% of whites and 25% of African Americans said the same (Figure 13) (Table 111).
- Members of the LGBTQ community view police differently than their straight counterparts. In the phone sample, about 68% of straight respondents have a fair amount or a great deal of confidence in the police, compared to only 45% of LGBTQ respondents. In the web sample, about 36% of LGBTQ respondents said the same, compared to 57 percent of straight respondents (Table 114-115).

Figure 12: A great deal/fair amount of confidence in police officers to enforce the law

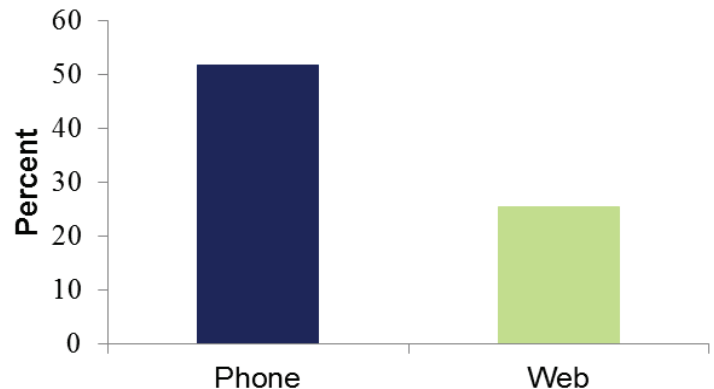


- Those making less than \$20K were more likely than people in higher income brackets to say they felt just some to only a little confidence (44% of phone respondents 59% of web respondents) in the police to do a good job enforcing the law (tables 116-117).

When asked how much confidence they had in police officers to treat blacks and whites equally, only about half shared a positive perspective on the police.

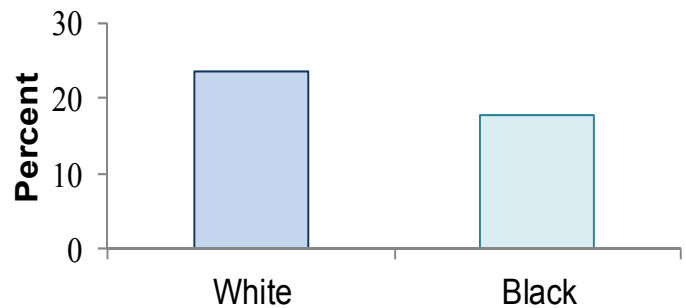
- ◆ A little over 50% of the phone sample answered at least a fair amount, compared to only 25% of the web sample (Figure 14) (Table 122).
- In terms of race, about 55% of whites gave a favorable response, compared to only 21% of blacks (phone sample, Table 123). Among the web sample, only 22% of whites were favorable and 17% of blacks (Figure 15) (Table 124).

Figure 14: A great deal/fair amount of confidence in police officers to treat blacks and whites equally



- Around 56% of straight respondents to the phone sample view the police favorably in treating blacks and whites equally, compared to only 27% of LGBQ respondents. Among web respondents, 26% of those who are straight have a fair amount or a great deal of confidence in the police, compared to 15% of LGBQ respondents (Tables 127-128).
- Socio-economic status also played a role. People in lower income brackets were more likely than people in higher income brackets to say they had only a little confidence in police to treat blacks and whites equally (Tables 129-130).

Figure 15: A great deal/fair amount of confidence in police officers to treat blacks and whites equally: web sample by race



Public Schools and Community Services

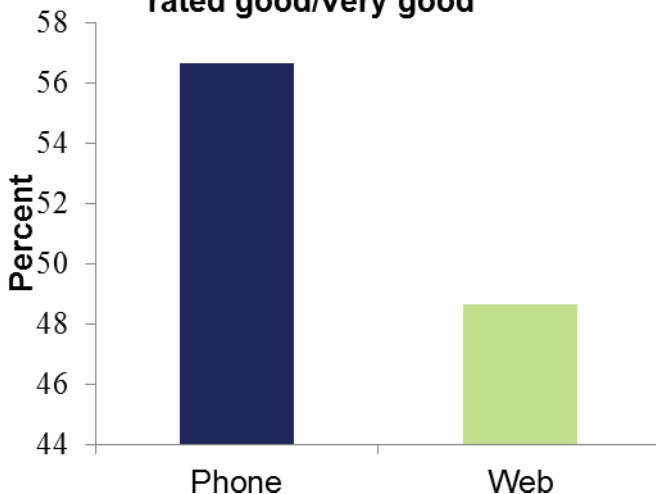
Respondents were asked to rate public schools and community services. Approval of public schools hovered around 50%. While community services were rated generally high across the board, people of color were less satisfied with services than white people.

- ◆ 57% of phone and 49% of web respondents rated public schools as good or very good (Figure 16) (Table 131).
- ◆ Among the web sample, 7% of white respondents rated Seattle public schools as poor, compared to 16% of nonwhite respondents who said the same (table 135).

“I live in the Lake City area. There are a high percentage of low-income, disabled and children in the area. However, there are very few sidewalks, accessible pathways and lights on many streets are few and far in between.”

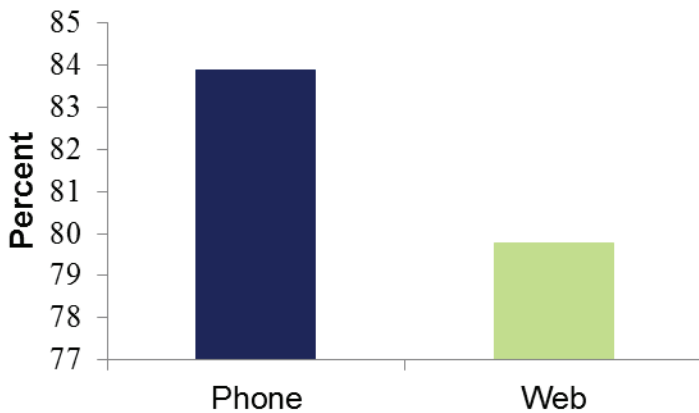
- Survey respondent

Figure 16: Public schools rated good/very good



- 84% of the phone sample and 80% of the web sample rated community services as good or very good (Figure 17) (Table 136).
- People of color were less likely than white respondents to rate neighborhood services as good or very good. Seventy-seven percent of people of color in the phone sample said so, compared to 89% of white respondents, and the trend holds in the web survey (Figure 18) (Tables 139-140).
- Those born outside the U.S. were also more likely to respond only fair or poor, where 25% of both the phone and the web survey agreed, compared to 13% of phone respondents and 18% of web respondents born in the U.S. who said the same (Tables 141-142).

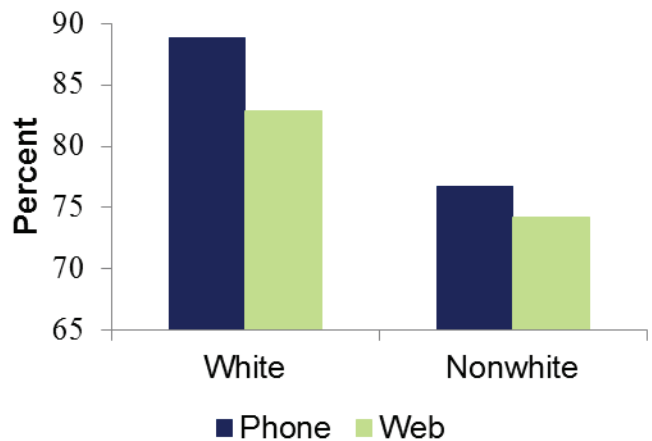
Figure 17: Community services rated as good/very good



"I'm very concerned about public transportation and the management of gentrification and rent increases. I think those issues all go hand-in-hand."
 - Survey respondent

"As rents continue to skyrocket, low and middle income people will continue to be pushed further away from the most vibrant and walkable neighborhoods, decreasing diversity in our city center."
 - Survey respondent

Figure 18: Community services rated as good/very good: Race



What is the most important issue facing your community today?

Survey takers were asked about the most important issue facing their community. A major theme in the open-ended responses was a concern about growth and economic development in Seattle, leading to an increased cost of living, which is pushing out longstanding communities of color. For many, Seattle is becoming a white, wealthy city inaccessible to the diverse communities who built it. Survey respondents also expressed concern that the City is doing an inadequate job of keeping up with infrastructure and provision of services: from services for the homeless, to public transportation for those who live in the outer reaches and commute to the urban core to work.

Accordingly, affordable housing, economic inequality, public transportation and crime/safety are of top priority. Among those who stated these areas as their top concern, the most popular responses were the following (Table 69):

- ◆ Eleven percent of phone and 17% of web respondents mentioned affordable housing.
- ◆ Six percent of phone and 9% of web respondents mentioned economic inequality.
- ◆ Four percent of phone and 9% of web respondents mentioned public transportation.
- ◆ About 20% of phone and 10% of web respondents mentioned crime and safety.

"We need family-wage jobs, housing that working class people can afford and a convenient, affordable transportation system that doesn't require a person to own a car."
 - Survey respondent

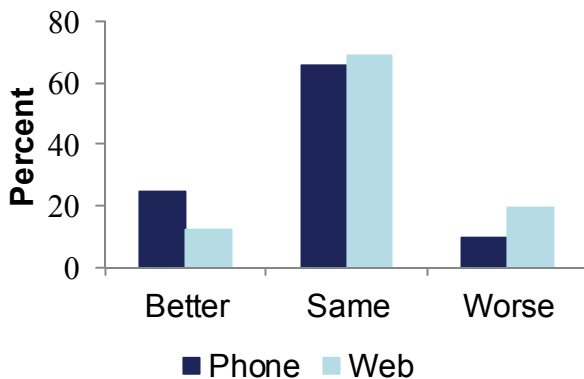
Among the full sample, an additional 5% mentioned the cost of living, and 17% mentioned some type of infrastructure concern, including traffic, parking, and community walkability.

Race Relations in Seattle

The survey included a series of questions regarding race relations in Seattle. Responses were mixed with some saying they had gotten worse over the last two years. The majority of respondents felt it was important to talk openly about issues relating to race.

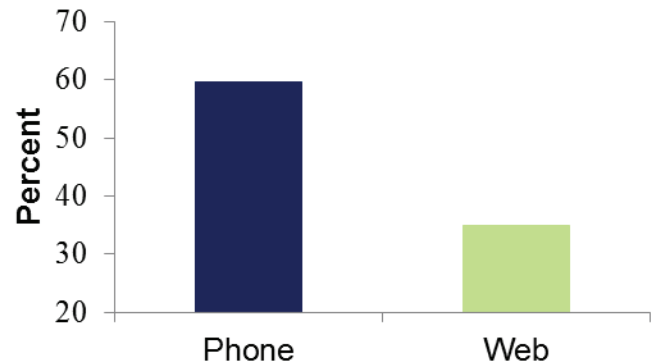
- ◆ Fifty-nine percent of the phone sample rated race relations as good or very good, and 34% of the web sample said the same (Table 143). Feelings about the quality of race relations were fairly evenly distributed across subgroups (Figure 19).
- ◆ Respondents were then asked whether or not Seattle has gotten better, stayed the same, or gotten worse over the last two years in terms of race relations. Most respondents (66% of the phone sample, 69% of the web sample) said that they had stayed the same. Even so, a sizeable portion said they had gotten worse (9% of the phone sample and 18% of the web sample) (Figure 20) (Table 148).

Figure 20: Perceived change in race relations over the last two years



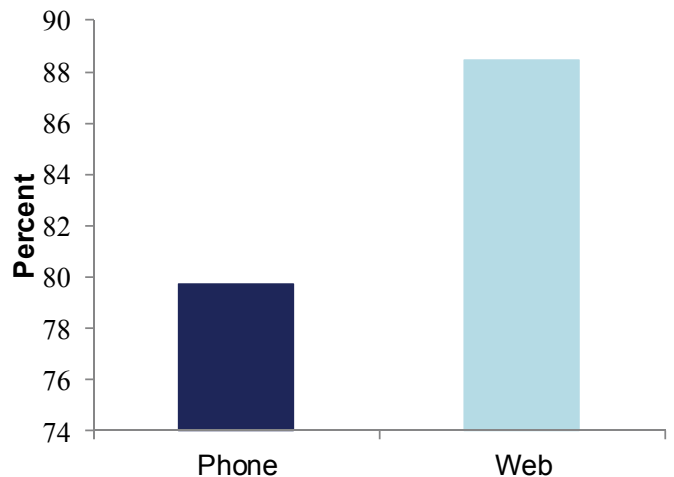
- ◆ People of color were more likely than their white counterparts to say that race relations had gotten better in Seattle over the last two years. However, they were also more likely to say that things had gotten worse (tables 151-152).
 - In the phone sample, 28% of people of color said things had gotten better, compared to 22% of whites. In the web sample 13% of people of color and 11% of whites said the same.
 - In the phone sample, 12% of people of color and 7% of whites said that things had gotten worse. In the web sample, 24% of people of color and 16% of whites said the same.

Figure 19: Race relations rated as good/very good



- ◆ Those who identify as LGBTQ were more likely to say race relations had gotten worse than their straight counterparts. Almost 17% of LGBTQ respondents in the phone poll, compared to 8% of straight respondents agreed (Tables 153-154).
- ◆ Respondents overwhelmingly felt it was important to talk to others openly about race. 80% of phone respondents and 88% of web respondents said talking openly about race held a fair amount to a great deal of importance to them. (Figure 21) (Table 159).

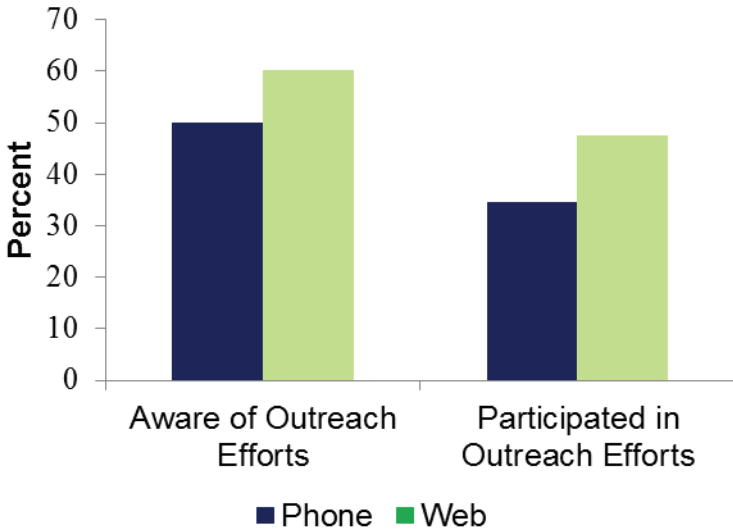
Figure 21: Talking about race openly with others given a fair amount/great deal of importance



Outreach by the City of Seattle

Respondents were asked if they had heard of outreach efforts conducted by the City of Seattle, and if they participated, whether or not they felt their participation was valued. About half of all respondents were aware (50% phone/60% web) (Figure 22) (Table 38). Yet as with other areas, race played a factor in whether respondents felt their participation was valued.

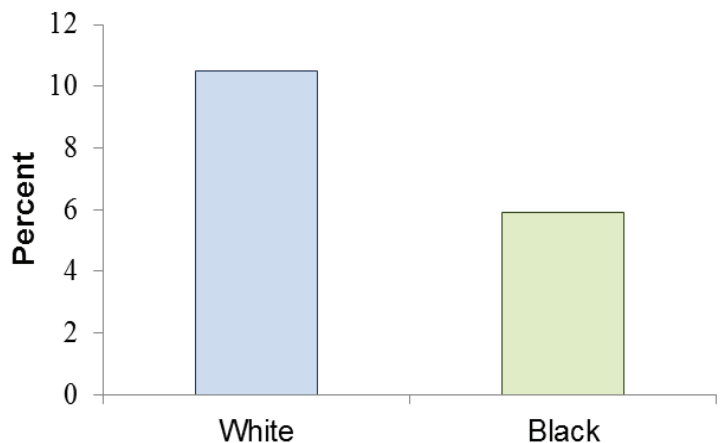
Figure 22: Awareness and participation in City of Seattle outreach efforts



- ◆ In the web sample, Native American and Pacific Islander respondents were least likely to be aware of outreach efforts conducted by the City of Seattle, where 51% and 64% respectively said the survey was the first time, compared to only 37% of whites (Table 40).
- ◆ Respondents born in another country were less likely to know about outreach efforts. Among the phone sample, only 37% of respondents born in another country were aware, compared to 53% of those born in the United States (Table 43). Similarly, among web respondents 51% of those born in another country were aware of such efforts, compared to 63% of those born in the U.S. (Table 44).
- ◆ Awareness also varied by neighborhood. In the phone sample, those most likely to be aware live in Downtown, and in the web sample, the most aware live in Southwest (79% and 70% respectively). This compares to the least aware neighborhoods in each sample: Southeast (phone, 31%) and Magnolia/Queen Anne (web, 44%) (Tables 45-48).
- ◆ Among those who participated, 62% of the phone sample felt their participation was valued either a fair amount or a great deal, and 49% of the web sample felt the same (Table 49).

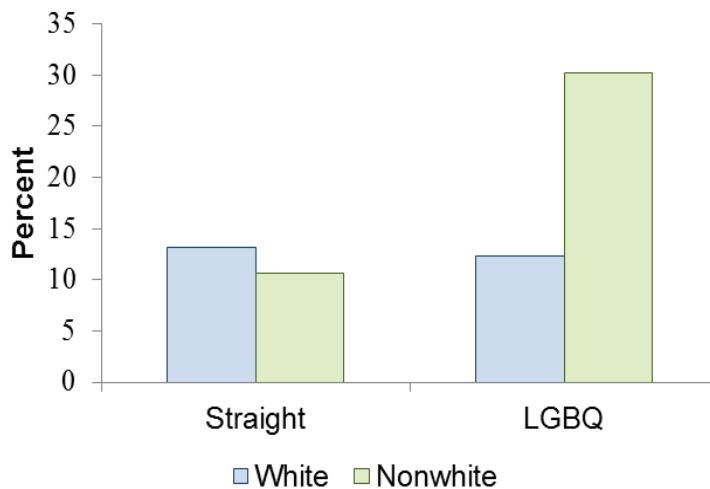
- ◆ In the phone sample, whites were just as likely as people of color to say they felt their participation was valued a fair amount or a great deal (51% across both groups) (Tables 52-53). In the web sample, African Americans were least likely to say they felt their participation was valued (6%) (Figure 23) (Table 51).
- While people of color who identify as LGBTQ were aware of and participated at about the same level as their straight counterparts, they were more likely to say they felt their participation was appreciated only a little or not at all.
- Among whites, about 13% of both straight and LGBTQ respondents agreed. Comparatively, only 10% of straight people of color they felt their participation was appreciated only a little or not at all, compared to 31% of LGBTQ people of color (Figure 24) (Tables 56-57).
- ◆ Among phone respondents, 46% of immigrant respondents said their participation was valued only a little, compared to only 4% of those born in the U.S. who said the same (Table 58). The web sample indicated a more equal distribution across those born in the U.S. and those born elsewhere (Table 59).

Figure 23: Respondents who felt their participation mattered a great deal: Web sample by race



- ◆ People with a disability and those with very low incomes were most likely to say they felt their participation was not at all valued.
 - Among phone respondents, 27% of those with a disability agreed, compared to 7% of those without a disability; the pattern holds in the web sample (Tables 60-61).
 - About 20% of those phone respondents making less than \$20k a year felt the same, compared to 10% of those making over \$100k who said the same. Among web respondents, those making less than \$20k a year also were the most likely to feel their participation was not valued (Tables 62-63).
- ◆ Those who had been engaged in City of Seattle outreach efforts also were more likely to be involved in promoting racial equity in their workplace or community. In the phone sample, 44% of those who indicated they were engaged with City of Seattle outreach efforts strongly agreed that they were active in promoting racial equity, compared to around 30% of those who were not engaged in outreach. The trend holds in the web sample (Tables 36-37).

Figure 24: Respondents who felt their participation mattered only a little/not at all: Web sample by race and sexual orientation

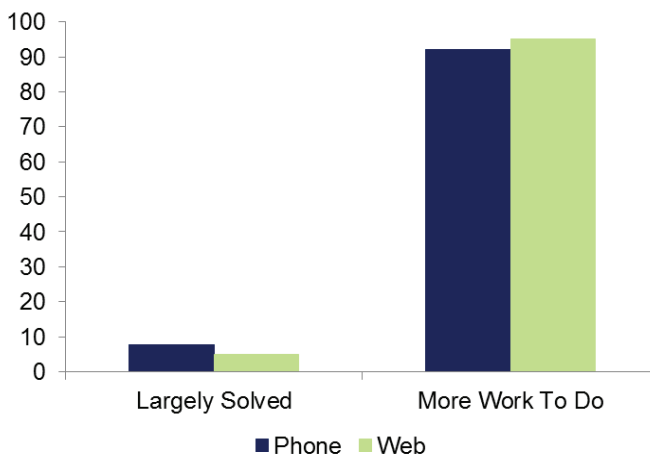


Conclusion: Seattle Must Continue to Work to Achieve Racial Equity

A consensus among survey respondents emerges from this research: we have more work to do if we are to achieve racial equity.

- ◆ Respondents were asked: *Which statement comes closer to your views, even if neither is exactly right? We have largely solved racial problems, OR racial problems continue and we have more work to do.* Most respondents selected the latter, with 92% of the phone sample and 85% of the phone sample saying there is more work to be done (Figure 25) (Table 164).

Figure 25: Racial problems continue and we have more work to do



The majority of survey respondents across subgroups think that it should be a priority of government to address racial equity gaps in education, housing, economic opportunities, and other areas. While Seattleites feels relatively positive about their own neighborhoods as places to live, the survey data also has identified several areas in which the city could improve services to residents. Primary among respondents’ concerns are the widening gap in income equality, and access to housing, transportation, and other neighborhood services. All these gaps impact residents based on race.

Race matters. Community attitudes and perceptions about racial equity also matter. The data from this survey confirms much of what we know about existing racial inequities; at the same time it provides information on how people who live, work and go to school in Seattle believe the City should prioritize its efforts. The Seattle Race and Social Justice Initiative is committed to achieving racial equity. The Racial Equity Community Survey provides the City with baseline data to measure this work. This data will inform our efforts to work with community to develop the strategies and actions needed to achieve a city where every person, regardless of race, has equitable access to opportunity.