

Protest By-law Resident Questionnaire

Quantitative Report

Town of Oakville

April 2025



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Methodology

Method	Telephone (Random Digit Dialing) and Online (Open-Link)
Criteria for Participation	Residents of Oakville who are 18 years of age or older
Sample Size	Telephone: 400 respondents / Online: 1,098 respondents
Average Length	Telephone: 5 min / Online: 3 min
Margin of Error*	Telephone: $\pm 4.9\%$ / Online: Not applicable
Fieldwork Dates	February 12 th – February 22 nd (Telephone) / March 5 th (Online), 2025

*Margin of error represents the range within which the true population value is expected to fall, based on the sample data collected. For example, with a value of 60%, this means the true value in the population is likely between 55.1% and 64.9%, 19 times out of 20.

Reporting Considerations

Telephone Vs Online: Differences in Data Collection

Telephone sample was drawn using random digit dialing (RDD) among Town of Oakville residents and a mix of landline and cell phone sample was used (60% cellphone / 40% landline). Telephone results throughout this report have been statistically weighted by age and gender to ensure that the sample reflects the target population according to 2021 Census data. The telephone questionnaire's random sampling method ensure its results provide an unbiased representation of Oakville residents' thoughts and opinions. As a result, the telephone findings more accurately reflect the general population.

The online open-link questionnaire allowed Oakville residents who were not part of the telephone sample to share their thoughts and experiences regarding protests and regulations. Online data was collected through an open link hosted on the Town of Oakville's website. The sample from the online data consists of only self-selected respondents, who have chosen to take part in the questionnaire on their own accord, and all having computer access and internet connection. Due to this fact, online data is reported separately as it is affected by self-selection bias and cannot be representative of Oakville demographics.

While the telephone results serve as the statistically valid representation of the town's population, the online questionnaire allowed all residents an opportunity to contribute. For this reason, online results are included throughout this report alongside the telephone results for consideration.

Reporting Considerations (cont'd)

Telephone Vs Online: Screening Criteria

Regardless of data collection method, respondents were asked a screening question to confirm that they live within the Town of Oakville prior to completing the survey.

As respondents were asked a screening question to confirm that they live within Oakville, and there are statistically valid telephone results available, implementing and maintaining additional screening measures, such as geofencing technology, would add unnecessary expense and complexity, increase timelines for data collection, and risk potentially screening out otherwise eligible residents.

One of the ways that the use of additional screening measures, such as geofencing, poses the risk of excluding otherwise eligible residents is by requiring residents to enable location services on their device to complete the questionnaire. Some residents may be hesitant to do so, resulting in a lower volume of responses. Another factor to consider is limitations in precision, as geofencing typically relies on IP addresses, GPS data, or Wi-Fi triangulation to identify location. These limitations may lead to eligible residents being incorrectly included or excluded (e.g., residents that live near the town's border). Geofencing also risks excluding genuine residents that are temporarily located outside of Oakville (e.g., travelling, or at work) or residents whose internet service provider or network has an IP address that is incorrectly registered to another location.

Reporting Considerations (cont'd)

Rounding

Due to rounding, numbers presented throughout this report may not add up to the totals provided. For example, in some cases, the sum of all question values may add up to 101% instead of 100%.

Multi-mentions

In some cases, more than one answer option is applicable to a respondent. Multiple mention questions allow respondents to select more than one answer category for a question. For questions that ask for multiple mentions (e.g., “*What concerns, if any, did you have regarding the protest at the....*”) it is important to note that the percentages typically add to over 100%. This is because the total number of answer categories selected for a question can be greater than the number of respondents who answered the question.

Terminology

Throughout this report, mentions of protests at Vulnerable Social Infrastructure (VSI) include protests at places of worship, hospitals, schools, daycares, and libraries, and excludes labour union strikes.

Sample Size

The sample size represents the number of respondents who answered a given question. These figures are noted in the footer of each slide. Results based on fewer than 30 responses should be interpreted with caution, as smaller sample sizes can result in greater variability.

Data Collection and Storage

This project was conducted in accordance with the standards and ethics of the Canadian Research Insights Council (CRIC). Regardless of data collection method, all data is collected and stored on Canadian servers.



Key Findings

Key Findings

- 61% of telephone respondents and 58% of online respondents think that **Oakville needs a by-law** to regulate protests around certain VSI to ensure public access, while 39% of telephone respondents and 42% of online respondents think that **Oakville does not need a by-law** to regulate protests around certain VSI to ensure public access. *(Slide 17)*
- 10% of telephone respondents and 15% of online respondents said they have **participated in a protest** in Oakville. *(Slide 21)*
- 16% of telephone respondents and 43% of online respondents said they **remember at least one protest** happening during a time when they were **planning to go to or access any vulnerable social infrastructure** within the past year, while 84% of telephone respondents and 57% of online residents said they **did not**. *(Slide 10)*
 - Regarding the protest they encountered, 26% of telephone respondents and 41% of online respondents had **safety concerns**, while 34% of telephone respondents and 16% of online respondents had **no concerns**. *(Slide 15)*
- 48% of telephone respondents and 31% of online respondents that remembered **at least one protest** happening during a time they were planning to go to or access a type of VSI said the **protest was taking place at the hospital**, while 8% of telephone respondents and 54% of online respondents remembered a **protest at a place of worship**. *(Slide 11)*
 - 19% of telephone respondents and 8% of online respondents that **encountered a protest while attempting to visit the hospital** were **unable to enter** due to the protest, while 70% of telephone respondents and 37% of online respondents said the protest had **no impact** on their decision or ability to enter the hospital. *(Slide 13)*
 - Of respondents that said they remember a protest happening during a time when they were planning to go to or access **more than one VSI** within the past year, 38% of telephone respondents and 12% of online respondents said that a **protest at the hospital** had the **greatest impact** on their **decision or ability to enter**, while 14% of telephone respondents and 45% of online respondents said the same about a **protest at a place of worship**.* *(Slide 12)*

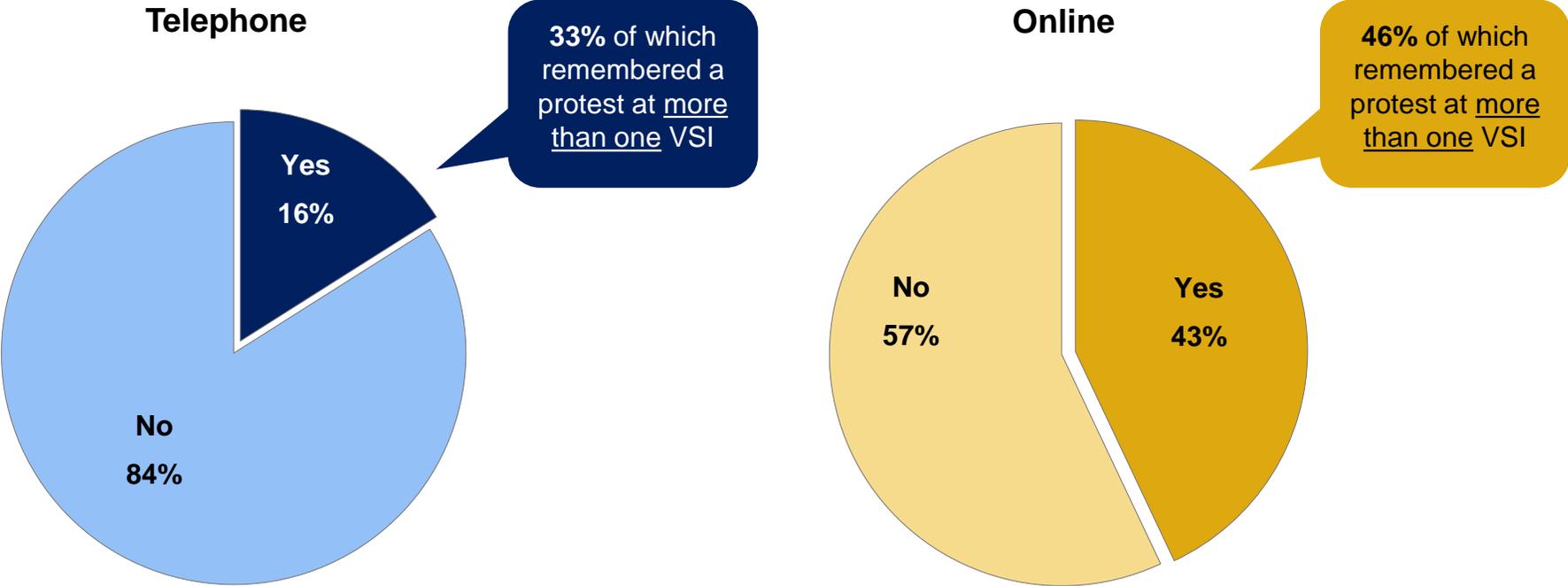
*Sample size less than 30 respondents. Interpret with caution.



Detailed Findings: Protests and VSI

Protests When Accessing VSI

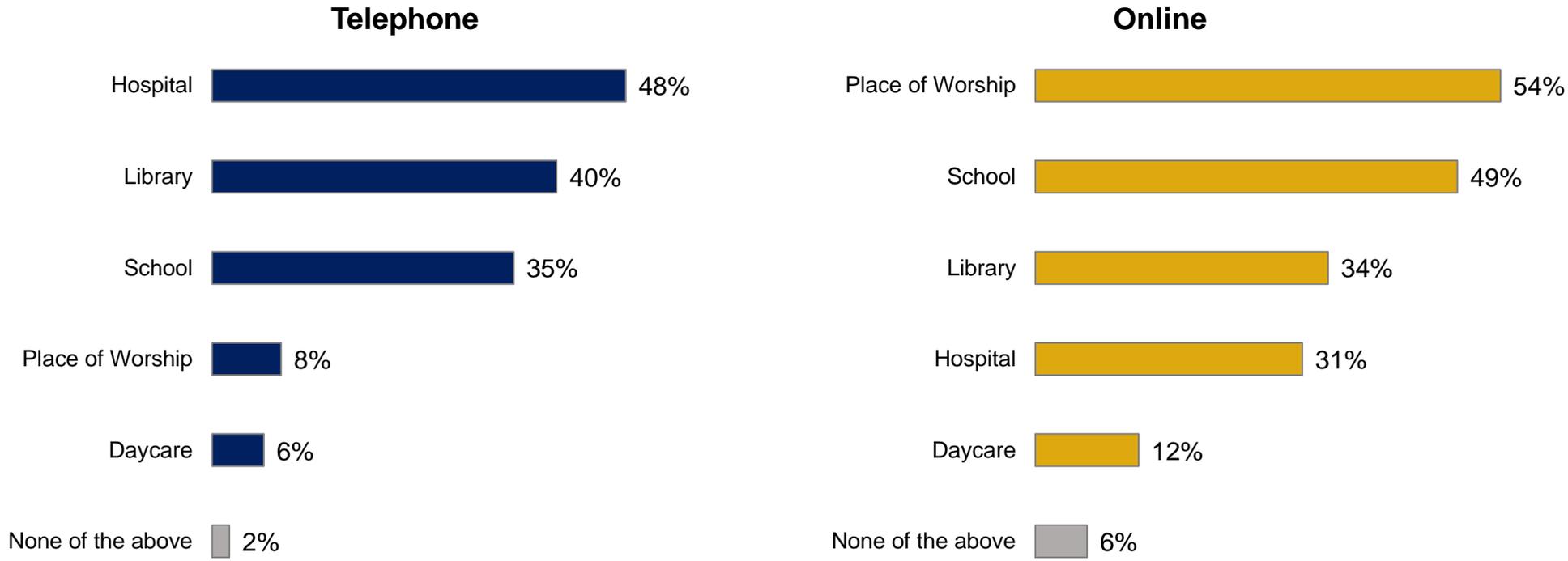
16% of telephone respondents and 43% of online respondents said they remember at least one protest happening during a time when they were planning to go to or access any vulnerable social infrastructure within the past year, while 84% of telephone respondents and 57% of online residents said they did not.



Q. Within the past year in the Town of Oakville, do you remember a protest happening during a time when you were planning to go to or access any vulnerable social infrastructure? | **Q.** Were you trying to access... (Multiple Select)
Sample Size: Telephone: 391 respondents / Online: 936 respondents | Telephone: 61 respondents / Online: 398 respondents
Base: All respondents, excluding "Don't know / Not Sure" responses. | Respondents that remembered a protest happening during a time when they were planning to go to or access a VSI.

Place of Protest

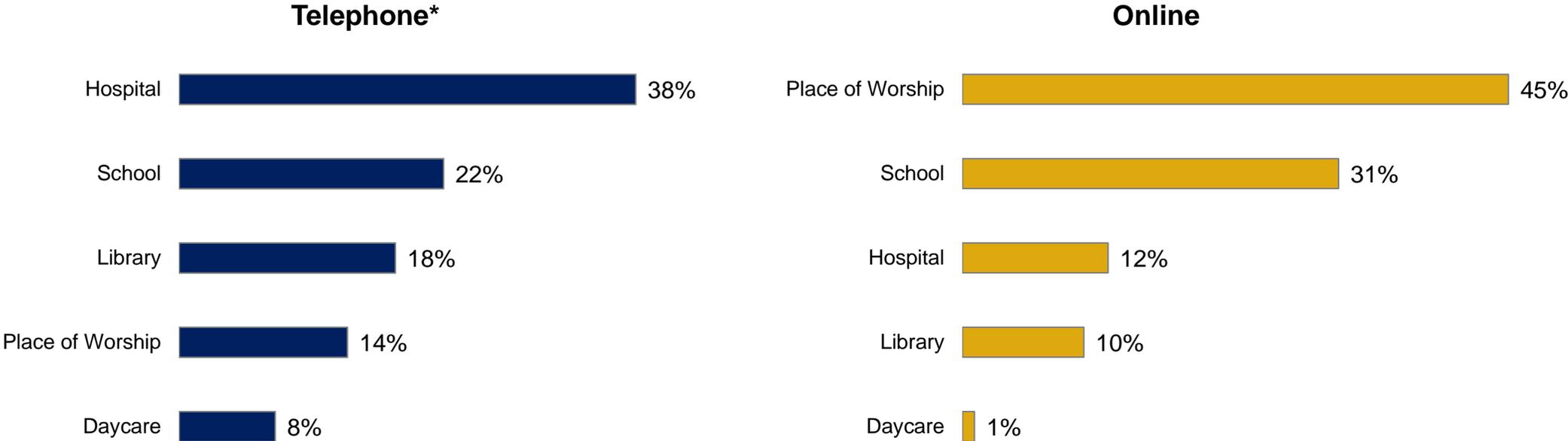
48% of telephone respondents and 31% of online respondents that remembered at least one protest happening during a time they were planning to go to or access a type of VSI said the protest was taking place at the hospital, while 8% of telephone respondents and 54% of online respondents remembered a protest at a place of worship.



Q. Were you trying to access... (Multiple Select)
Sample Size: Telephone: 61 respondents / Online: 398 respondents
Base: Respondents that remembered a protest happening during a time when they were planning to go to or access a VSI.

Protests at Multiple VSI

Of respondents that said they remember a protest happening during a time when they were planning to go to or access more than one VSI within the past year, 38% of telephone respondents and 12% of online respondents said that a protest at the hospital had the greatest impact on their decision or ability to enter, while 14% of telephone respondents and 45% of online respondents said the same about a protest at a place of worship.



Q. Of the places that you were planning or trying to access where a protest was happening, which had the greatest impact on your decision or ability to enter? Was it the protest at the...

Sample Size: Telephone: 20 respondents / Online: 194 respondents

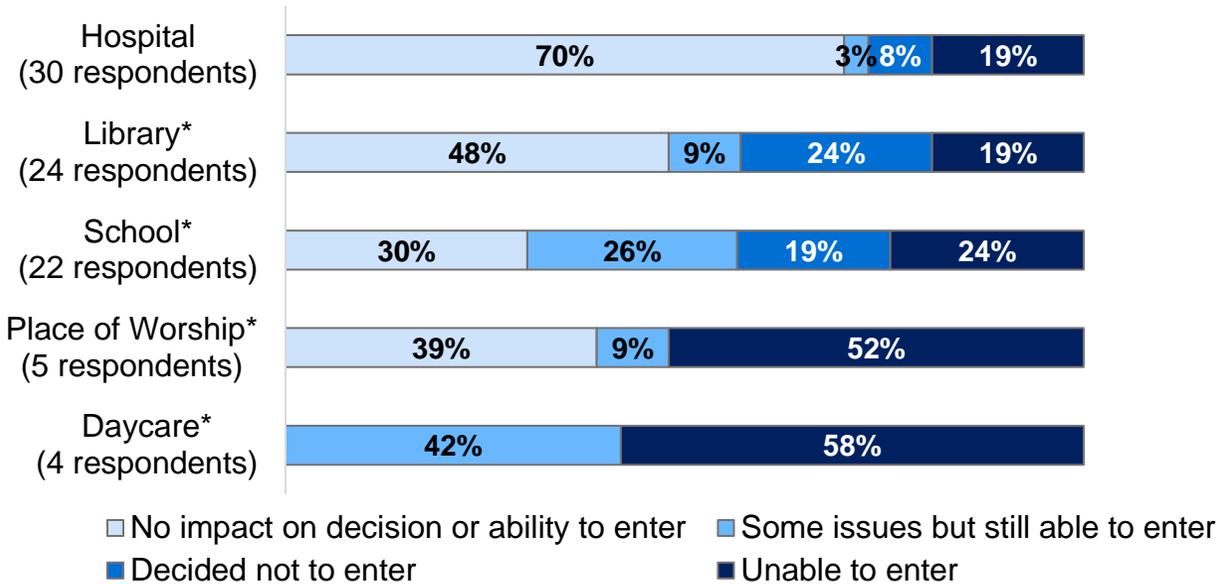
Base: Respondents that encountered a protest at multiple VSI.

*Sample size less than 30 respondents. Interpret with caution.

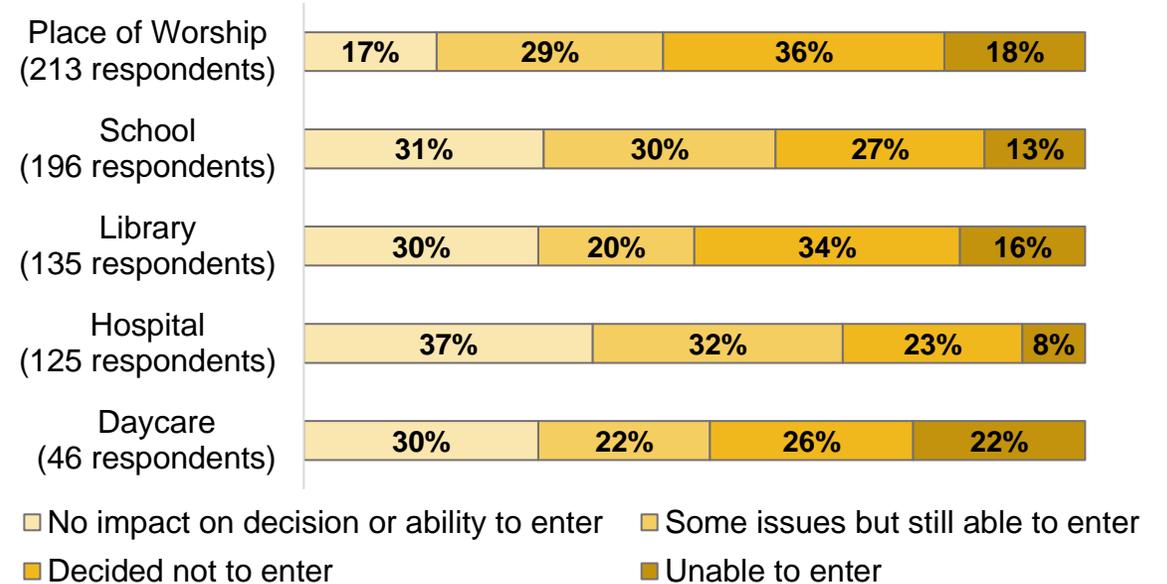
Protests and Impact on VSI Access

19% of telephone respondents and 8% of online respondents that encountered a protest while attempting to visit the hospital were unable to enter due to the protest, while 70% of telephone respondents and 37% of online respondents said the protest had no impact on their decision or ability to enter the hospital.

Telephone



Online



Q. Did the protest impact your ability or decision to enter the...

Sample Size (Unique Respondents): Telephone: 52 / Online: 376

Base: Respondents that remembered a protest happening during a time when they were planning to go to or access the VSI and opted to identify the type of VSI. Respondents may have provided an answer to multiple VSI above. Slide visuals are rank ordered by sample size, as this reflects the VSI with the largest proportion of residents impacted.

*Sample size less than 30 respondents. Interpret with caution.

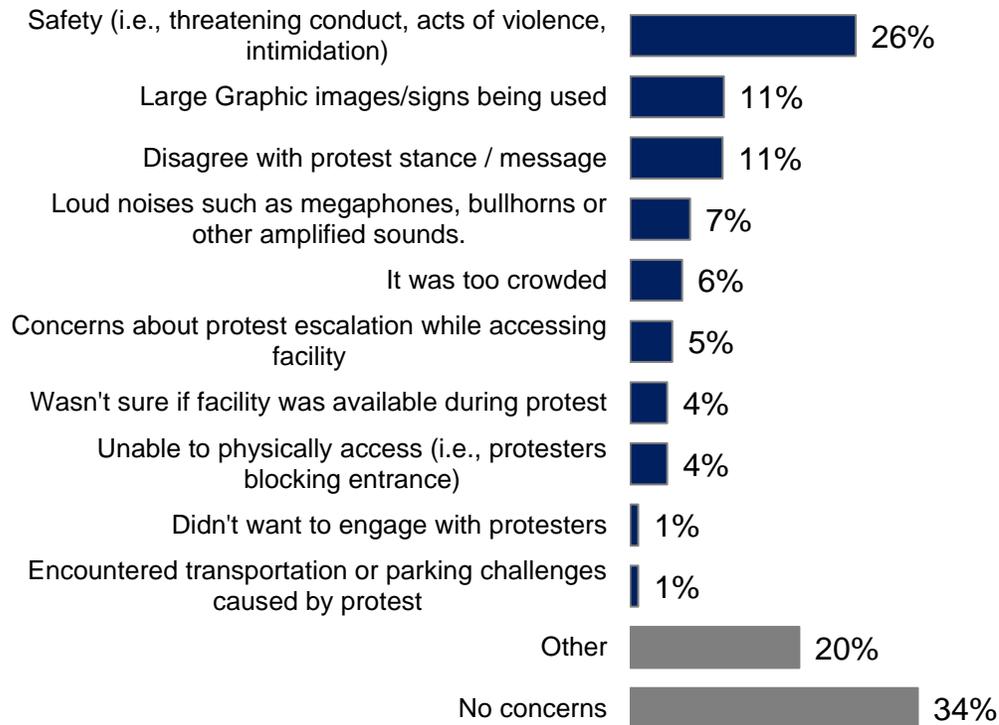


Detailed Findings: Resident Concerns

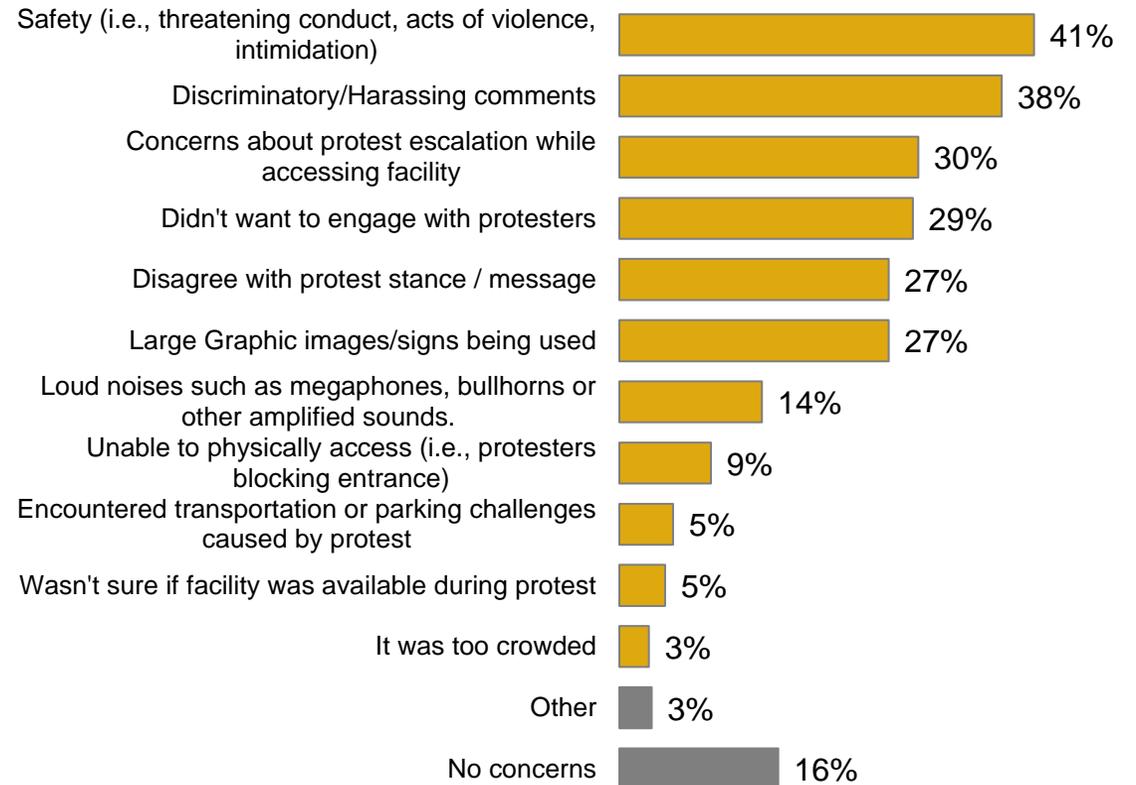
Resident Concerns

Regarding the protest they encountered, 26% of telephone respondents and 41% of online respondents had safety concerns, while 34% of telephone respondents and 16% of online respondents had no concerns.

Telephone



Online



Q. What concerns, if any, did you have regarding the protest at the [insert VSI with greatest impact]?

Sample Size: Telephone: 52 respondents / Online: 376 respondents

Base: Respondents that remembered a protest happening during a time when they were planning to go to or access a VSI, and identified the VSI.

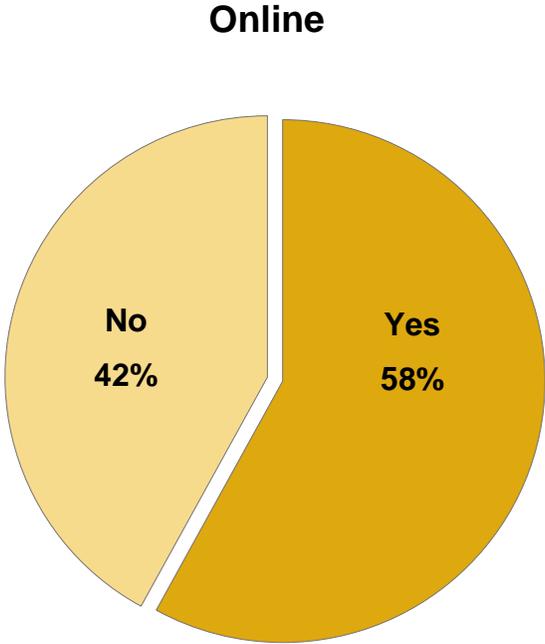
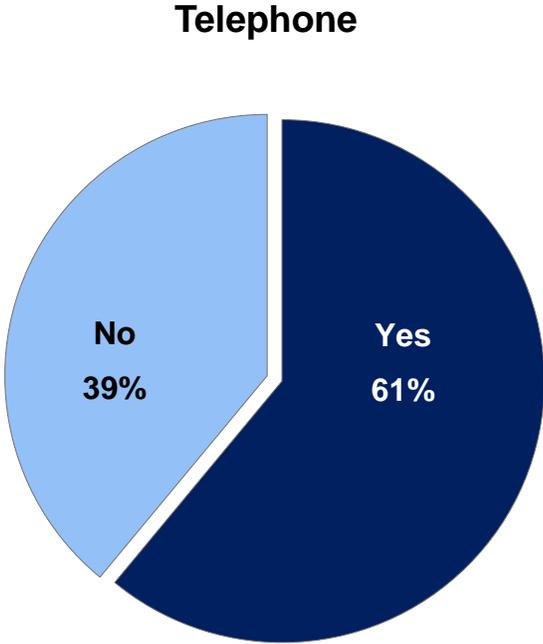
Note: Due to differences in survey methodologies, telephone respondents provided open-ended answers that were coded into predefined options as applicable, while online respondents selected from a provided list.



Detailed Findings: Protest Regulation in Oakville

Protest Regulation in Oakville

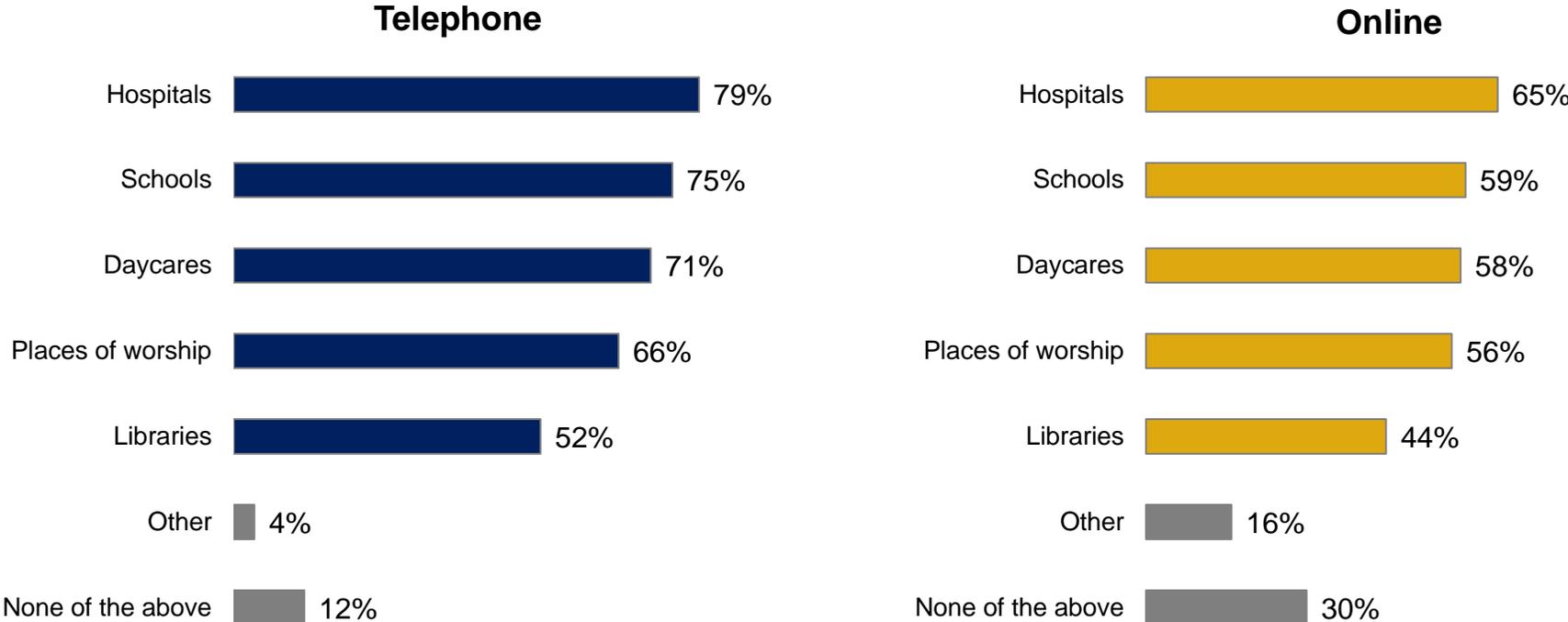
61% of telephone respondents and 58% of online respondents think that Oakville needs a by-law to regulate protests around certain VSI to ensure public access, while 39% of telephone respondents and 42% of online respondents think that Oakville does not need a by-law to regulate protests around certain VSI to ensure public access.



Q. Do you think Oakville needs a by-law to regulate protests around certain vulnerable social infrastructure to ensure public access to these places?
Sample Size: Telephone: 357 respondents / Online: 1,060 respondents
Base: All respondents, excluding "Don't know / Not Sure" responses.

Protest Regulation in Oakville (con't)

79% of telephone respondents and 65% of online respondents think that if a by-law was to be created, hospitals should be included in the potential by-law, while 12% of telephone respondents and 30% of online respondents think that none of the listed VSI should be included in the potential by-law.



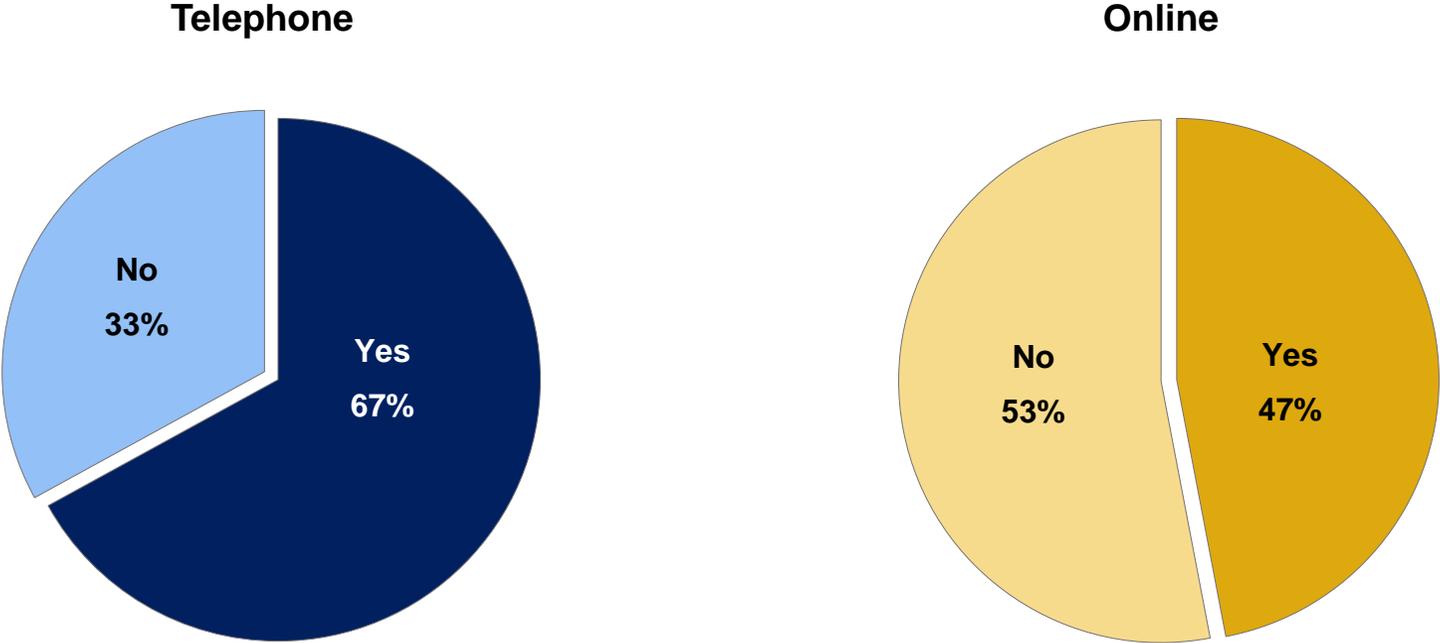
Q. If a by-law was to be created, which of the following vulnerable social infrastructure do you think should be included in the potential by-law? (Multiple Select)

Sample Size: Telephone: 400 respondents / Online: 1,098 respondents

Base: All respondents

Protest Regulation in Oakville (con't)

67% of telephone respondents and 47% of online respondents say that if a by-law was to be created, there should be certain times of day, such as during operating hours, when protests near vulnerable social infrastructure should be regulated, while 33% of telephone respondents and 53% of online respondents said that certain times of day should not be included in a by-law.



Q. If a by-law was to be created, should there be certain times of day, such as during operating hours, when protests near vulnerable social infrastructure should be regulated?

Sample Size: Telephone: 373 respondents / Online: 1,018 respondents

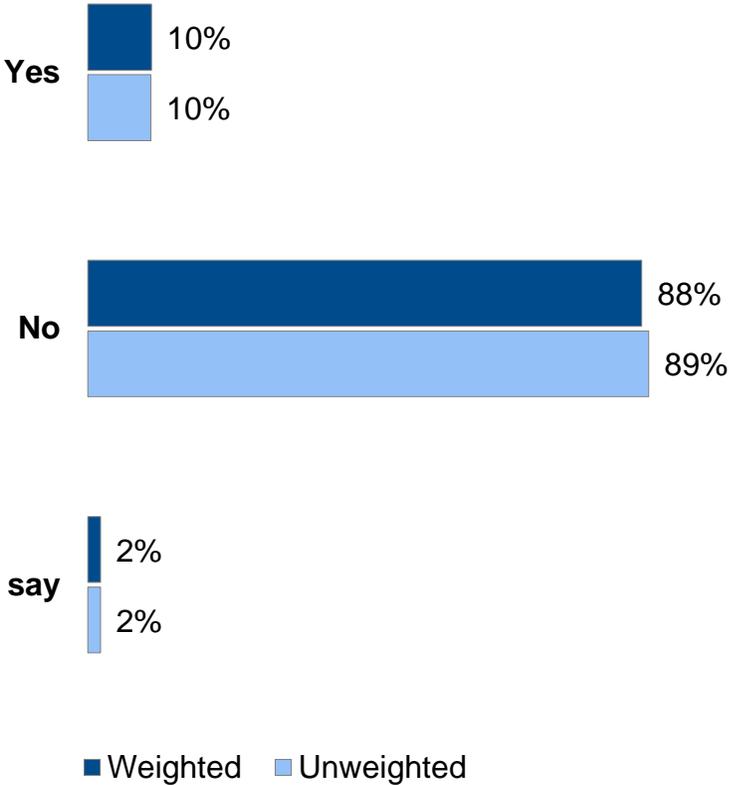
Base: All respondents, excluding "Don't know / Not Sure" responses.



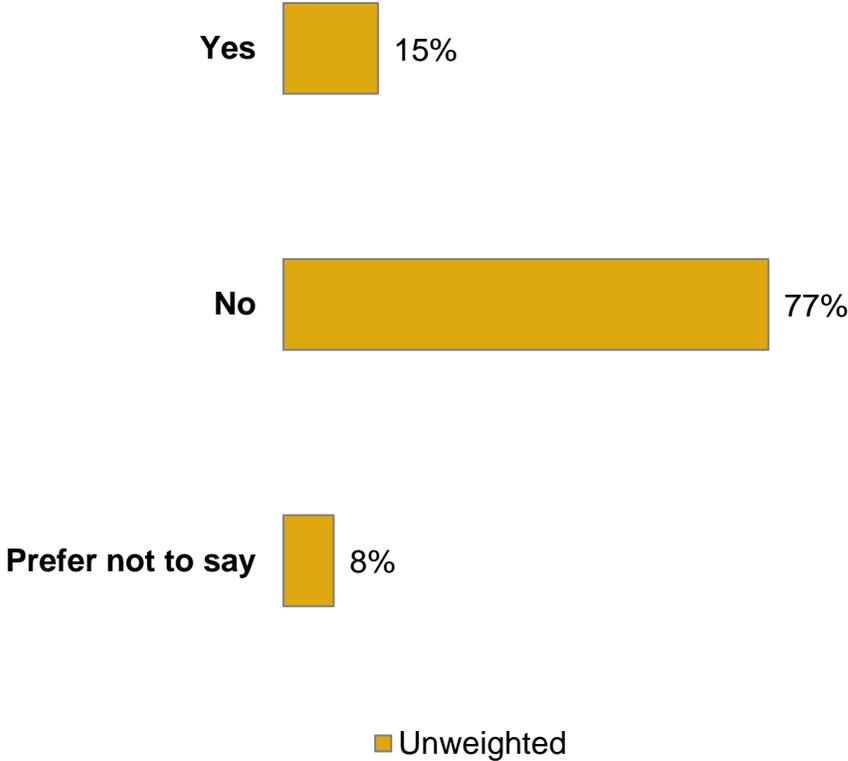
Demographics

Demographics – Protest Attendance

Telephone



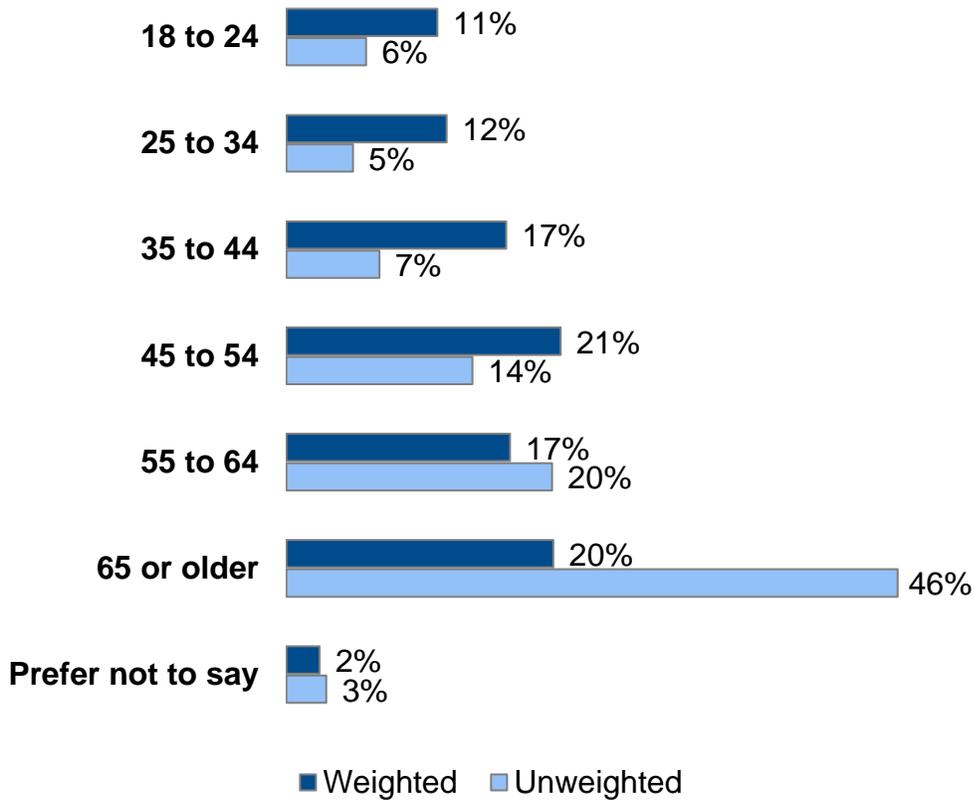
Online



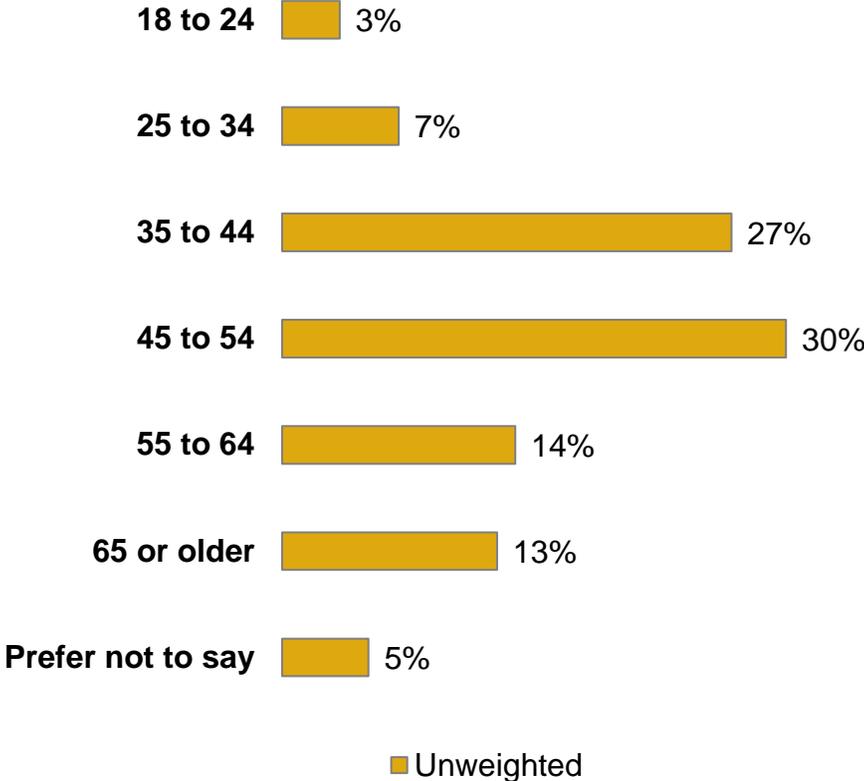
Q. Have you ever participated in a protest in Oakville?
Sample Size: Telephone: 400 respondents / Online: 1,098 respondents
Base: All respondents

Demographics – Age

Telephone



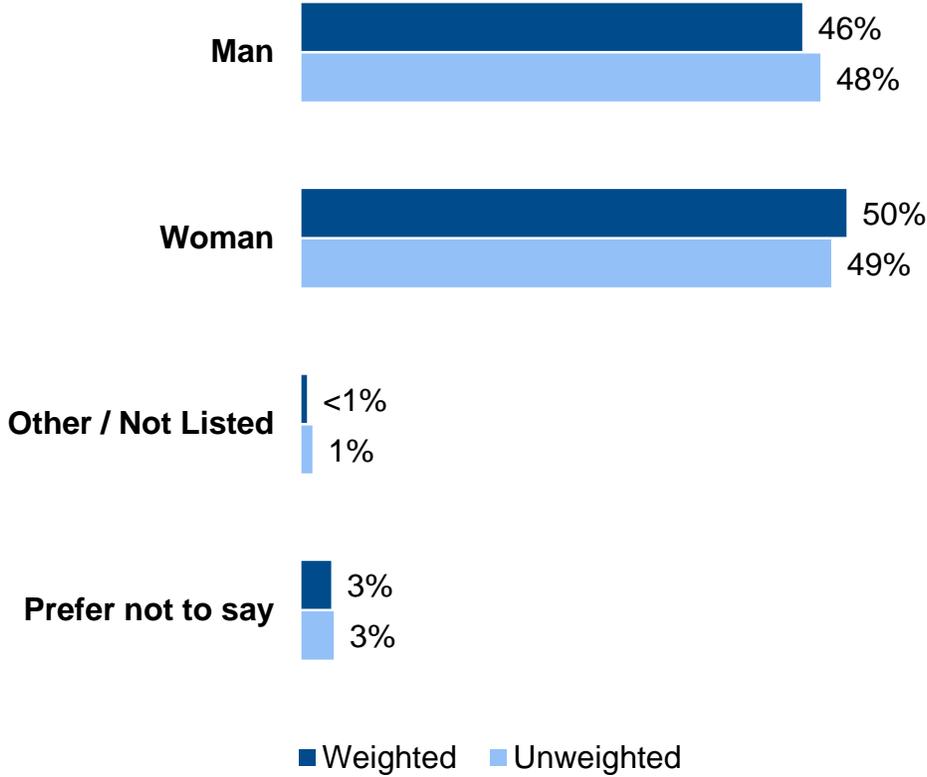
Online



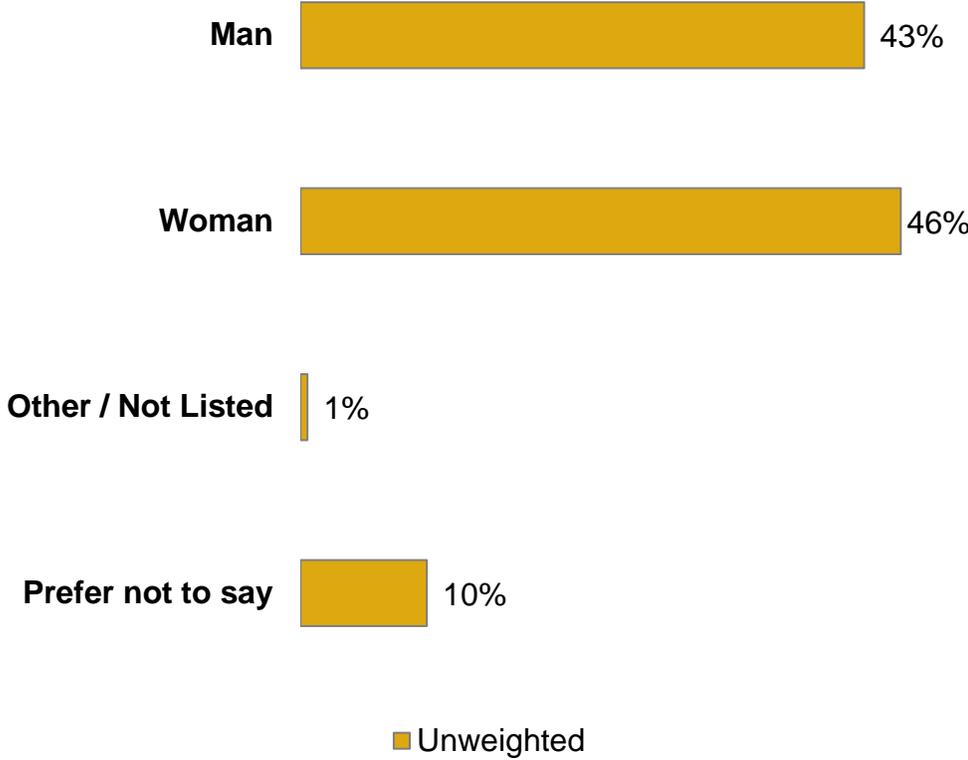
Q. Which of the following age categories do you belong to?
Sample Size: Telephone: 400 respondents / Online: 1,098 respondents
Base: All respondents

Demographics – Gender

Telephone



Online



Q. How would you describe your gender?
Sample Size: Telephone: 400 respondents / Online: 1,098 respondents
Base: All respondents