

Inspiring Communities Digby Community Consultation

February 20, 2019

Welcome!





What if there was a better way to build stronger communities across Nova Scotia?

Theory of Change



Inspiring Communities Change Process



The Survey



Digby Engagement Plan

To deeply understand:

- Issues facing Digby
- strengths in the community
- people's role in building solutions

PRINCIPLES

- Everyone has an opportunity
- Meet people where they are at
- Agile Thoughtworks
- Transparent
- Co-creation by Community

GUIDANCE TEAM

To Enrich, Endorse, Deliver

- Insight Team
- Partners
- Digby Backbone



Background



First step in community engagement process, which informs the 'shared agenda'



Built on experience of other communities



Developed with Insight Team



Conducted by RAs with relationships and trust across the community



Set targets to ensure proportionate representation of different groups



We decide on the next steps together

The Questions

How connected do you feel to your community?

What do you like most about living here?

When it comes to your town and life, what are you most worried about?

How can your community be better?

What good things are already happening?

Demographic questions

Survey Participants



Area 1 (37.1%)

Acacia Valley
Hillgrove
Acaciaville
Jordantown
Town of Digby
Conway
Municipality of
Digby

Area 2 (19.4%)

Hwy 1
Marshalltown to
Ashmore
North Range
South Range
Plympton
Barton
Doucetteville

Area 3 (18.7%)

Smith's Cove
Village of Bear
River
Bear River First
Nations
Annapolis County

Area 4 (9.6%)

Digby Neck
Sandy Cove
Village of
Freeport
Village of
Tiverton
Village of
Westport

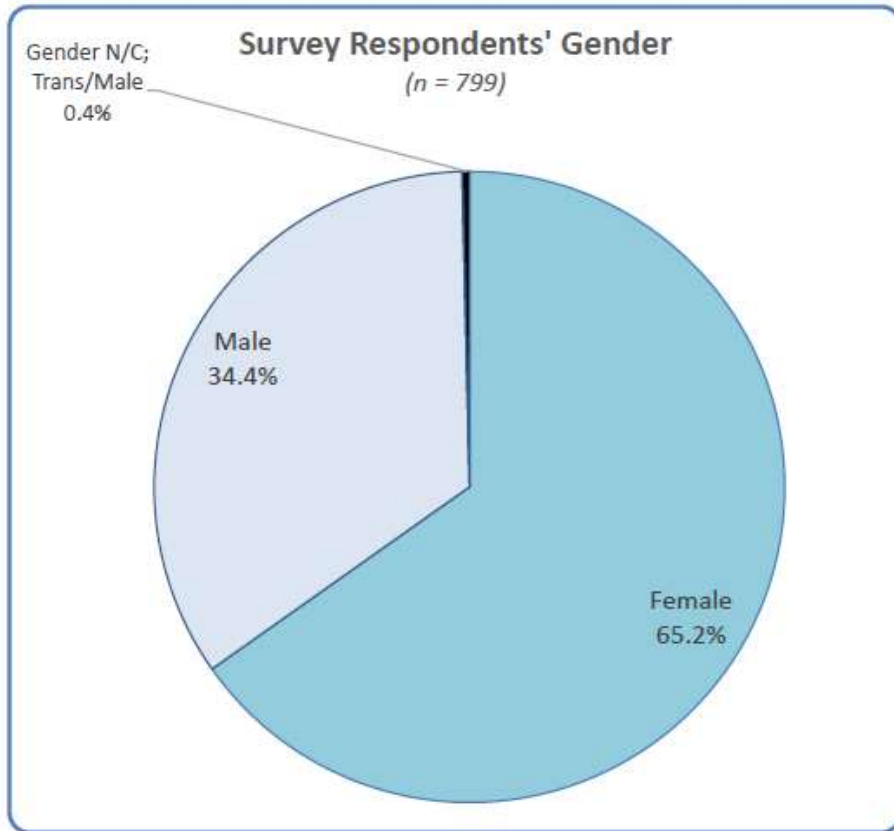
Area 5 (15.2%)

Village of
Weymouth
Weymouth Falls
Municipality of
Clare
Hassetts
Danvers
Lansing
Weaver
Settlement
Riverdale
Southville

Survey Participants (Where do you live?)

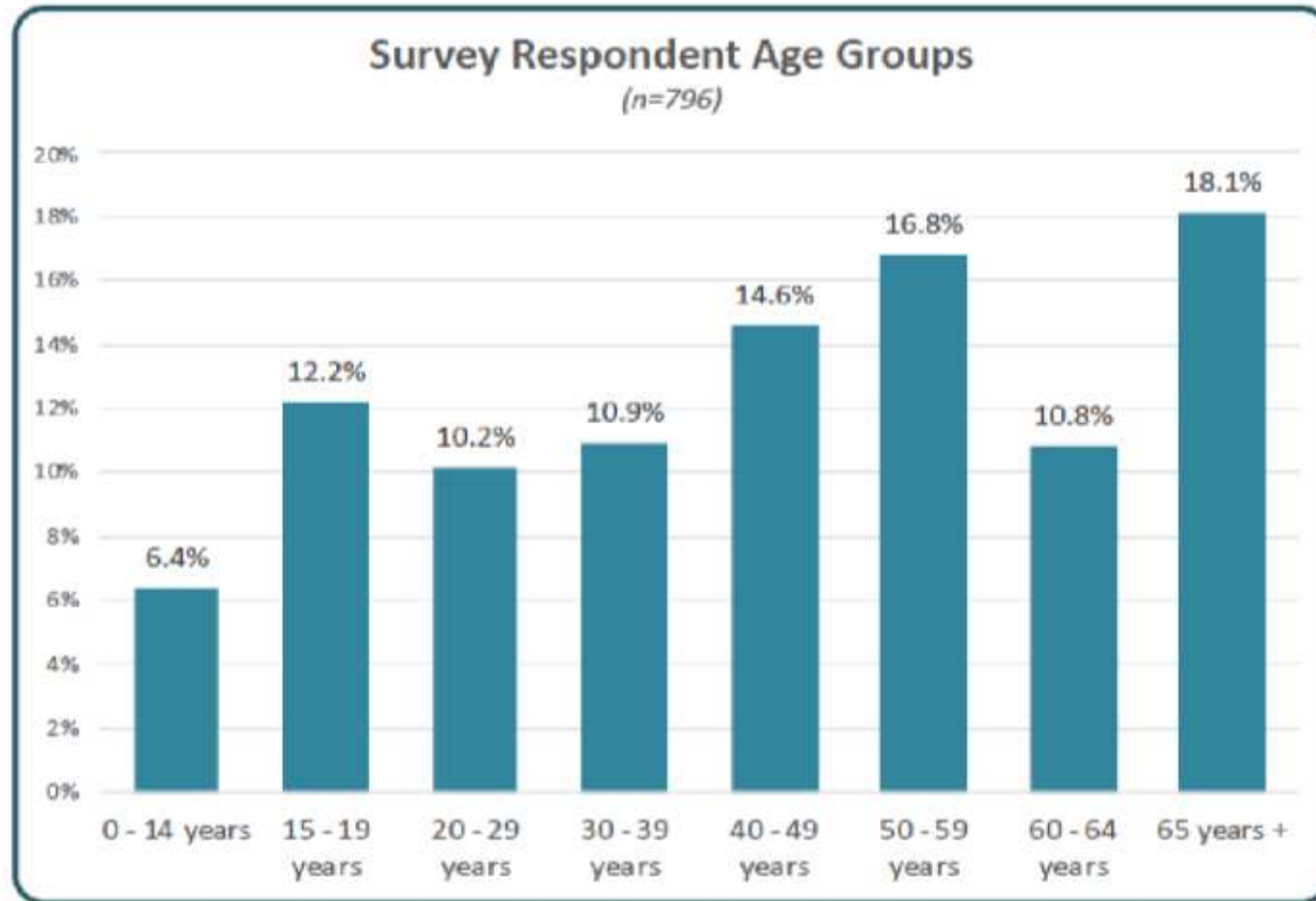
Survey Participants (Length of Time in Area)

0-10 years	22.9%
11-20 years	23.5%
21-30 years	13.8%
31-40 years	11.2%
41-50 years	11.5%
51+ years	17.1%



Survey Participants (Gender)

Survey Participants (Age)



Survey Participants (Background)

Acadian	11.9%
Caucasian	67.3%
African Descent	7.9%
First Nation	6.3%
Other backgrounds	6.3%
Don't know/not sure	0.3%
Dislike the question	0.2%

Survey Participants (Lived Experience)

I have a disability	11.7%
I struggle with paying for basic needs	11.1%
I am a single parent	5.5%
I am a member of the LGBTQ community	2.0%
I am an immigrant/refugee	1.6%
None of the above	68.0%

Survey Participants (Plan to Live Here 10 Years from Now)

Yes	65.5%
No	10.8%
Don't know	23.7%

Survey participants under 20 years of age were less likely to say they would be living in Digby in ten years; and they were more likely to say they would not be living here, or didn't know if they would be living here

The proportion of respondents who say they will be living in Digby increases with age, rising from 27% among those under 20, to 77% for those 40 and older

Survey Findings



Connectedness to Community

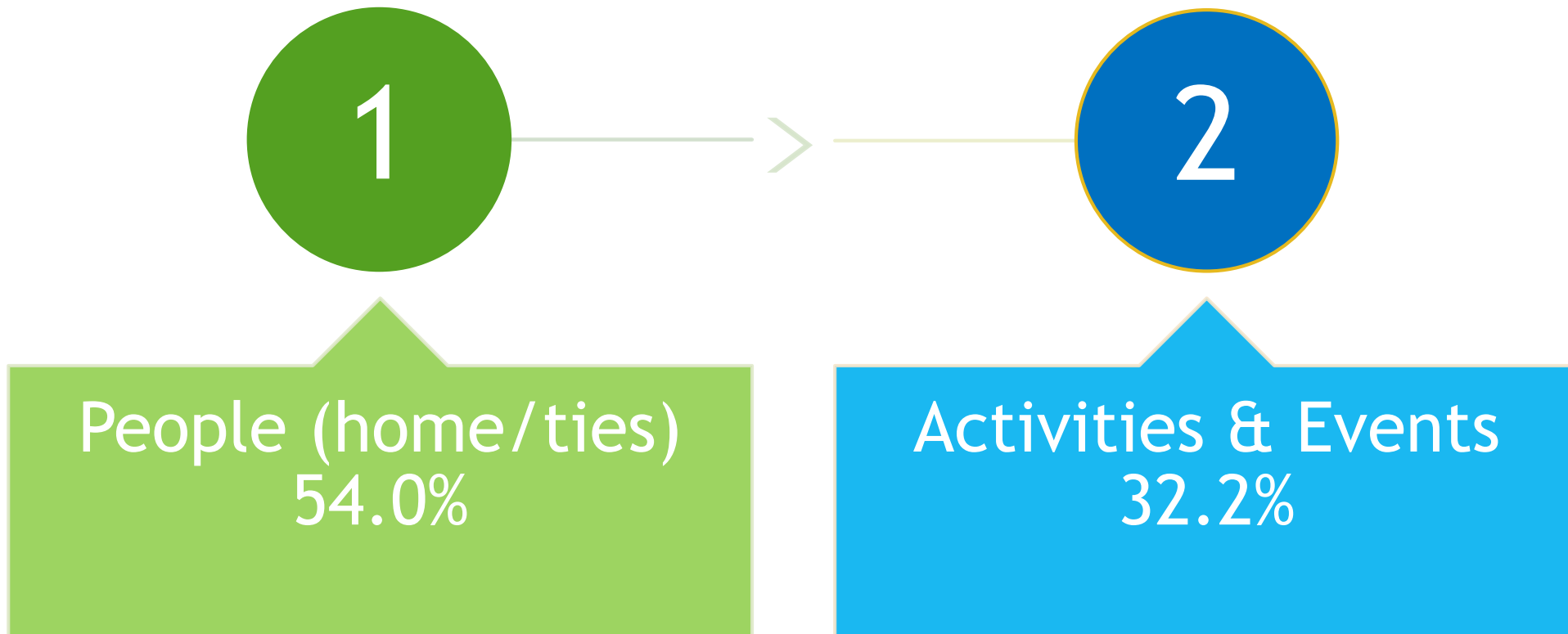
77% are 'somewhat' or 'very' connected to their community

Older survey participants feel more connected to their community than younger survey participants

Female survey participants feel more connected to their community than male survey participants

Average connectedness rating of 2.97 (on a four point scale)

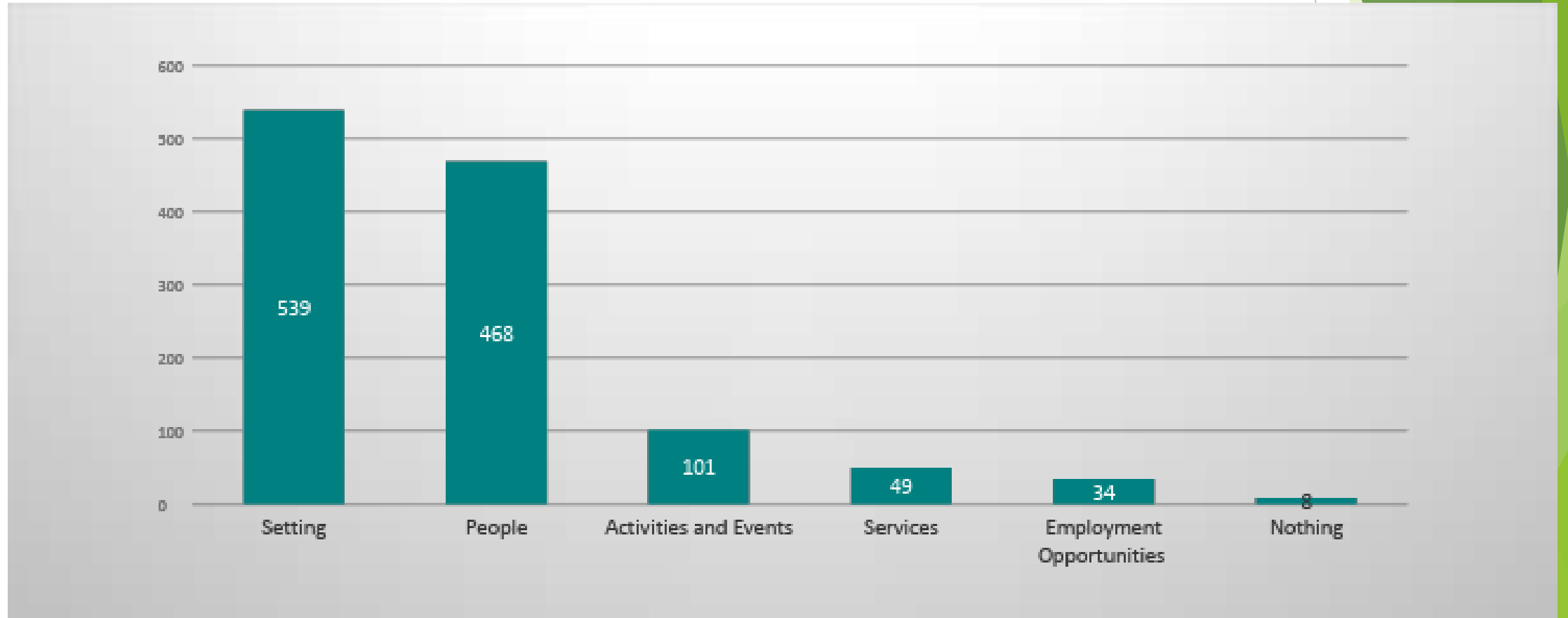
Top Reasons People Feel Connected



What do You like most about Your Community?

“We enjoy the slower pace of life here in Digby. The people are friendly and always willing to help each other out. The rural setting and the beautiful scenery are something that stole my heart immediately about this area. The people I've since met and grown to love were just the added bonus.”

What Do You Like Most About Your Community?



What Do You Like Most About Your Community?

Setting – 69%

Quiet, slow paced rural lifestyle

Physical setting

Safety

Accessibility

Weather

Connections with history, culture, traditions and heritage

Seafood

People – 59%

Friendliness and good neighbours

Family ties

Knowing lots of people in the community

Sense of community and helpfulness

Feeling of “home”

What are you most worried about?

“I'm worried about lack of employment and economic development. There is nothing to entice our youth once educated to return home. This is an aging community.”

“Jobs for my kids. I pay the bills working at the mill but I want my kids to do better.”

“Issues around poverty, housing, job opportunities... missed opportunities of companies moving to our area that require high capacity of both power and internet, have not attitudes.”

“The loss of "hope" and the feeling of frustration in the community - that if we don't come together and change the narrative we will continue to decline.”

What are you most worried about?

“I'm also worried about lack of Doctors. My mom's health is starting to deteriorate and getting her to appointments is challenging.”

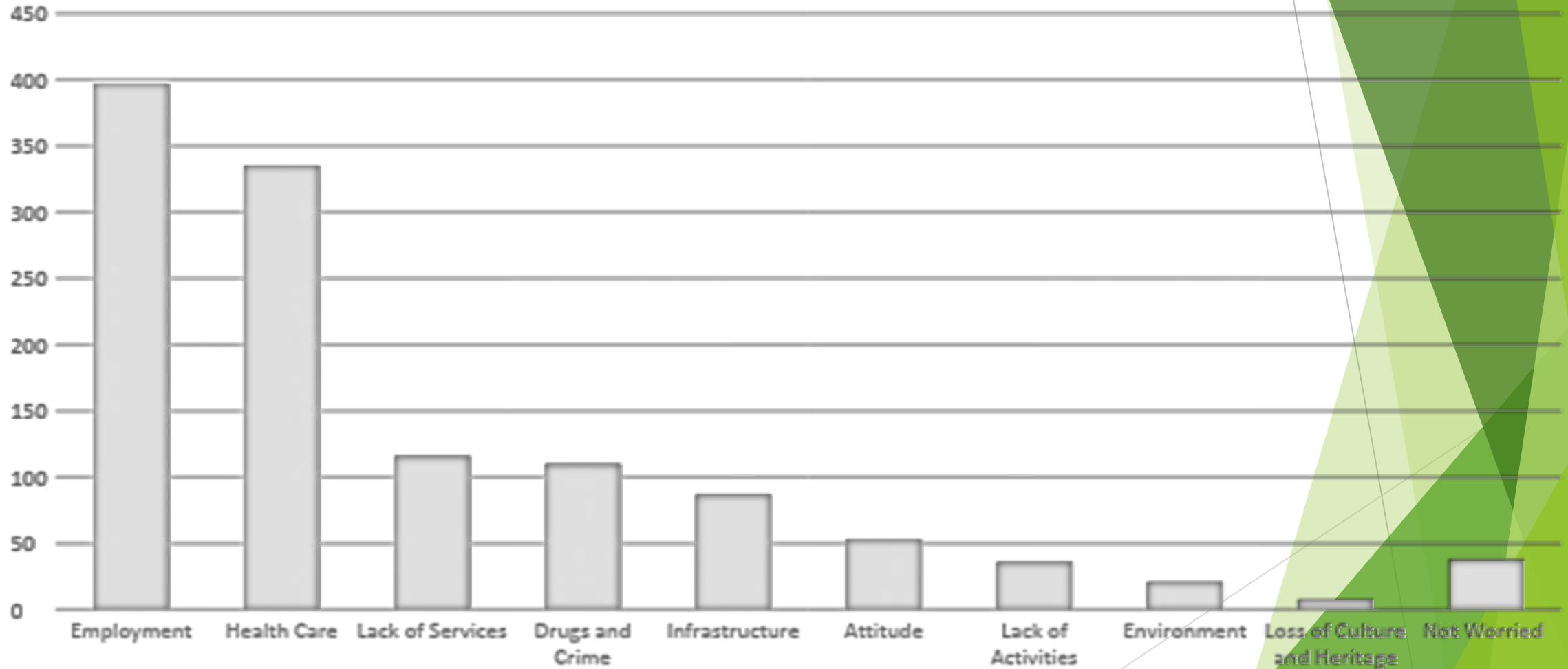
“...availability of healthcare and help with travel to appointments that are out of town (especially pre/postnatally).”

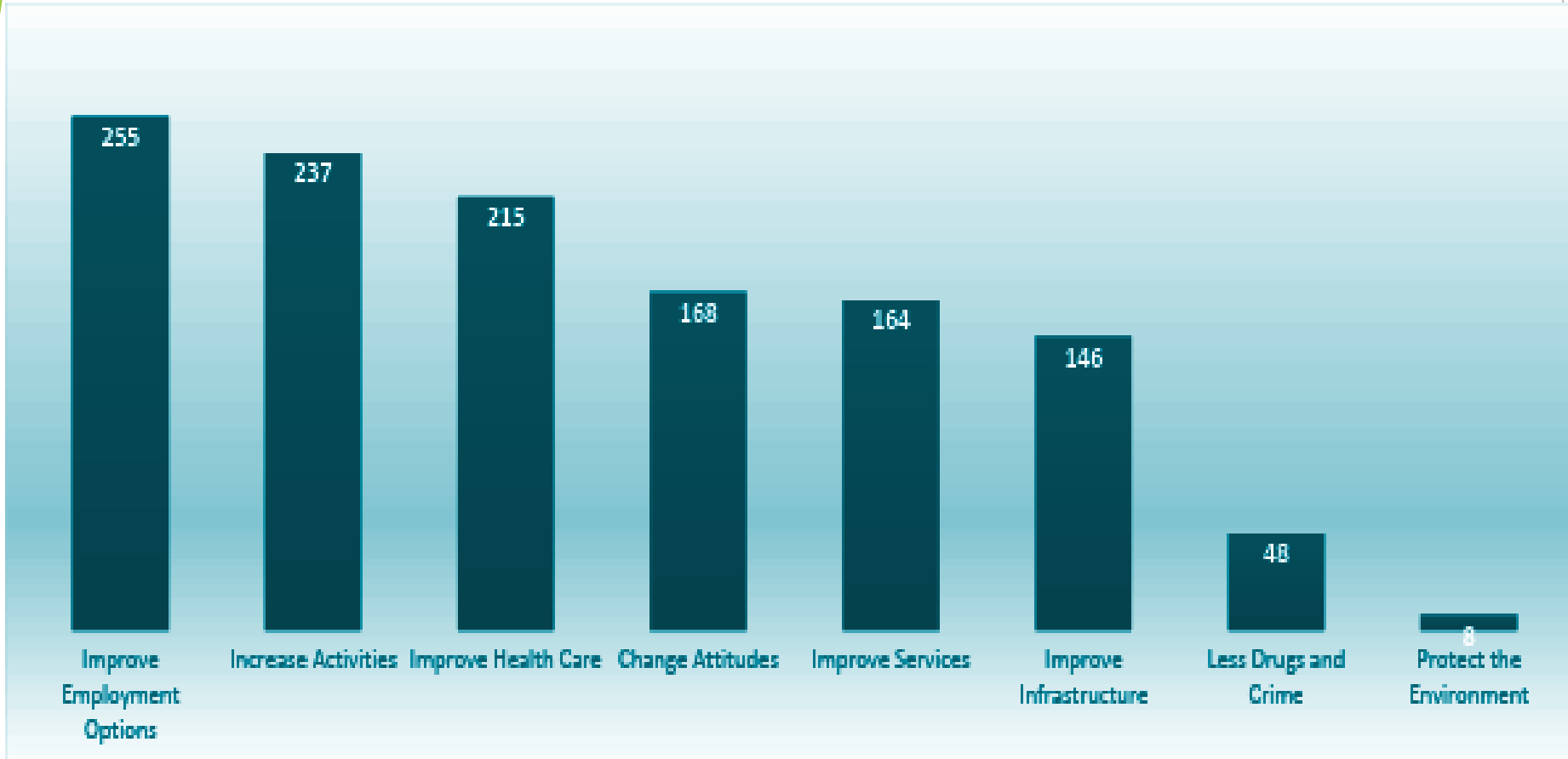
“Lack of affordable safe housing... and food security.”

“...and our education system is failing our children.”

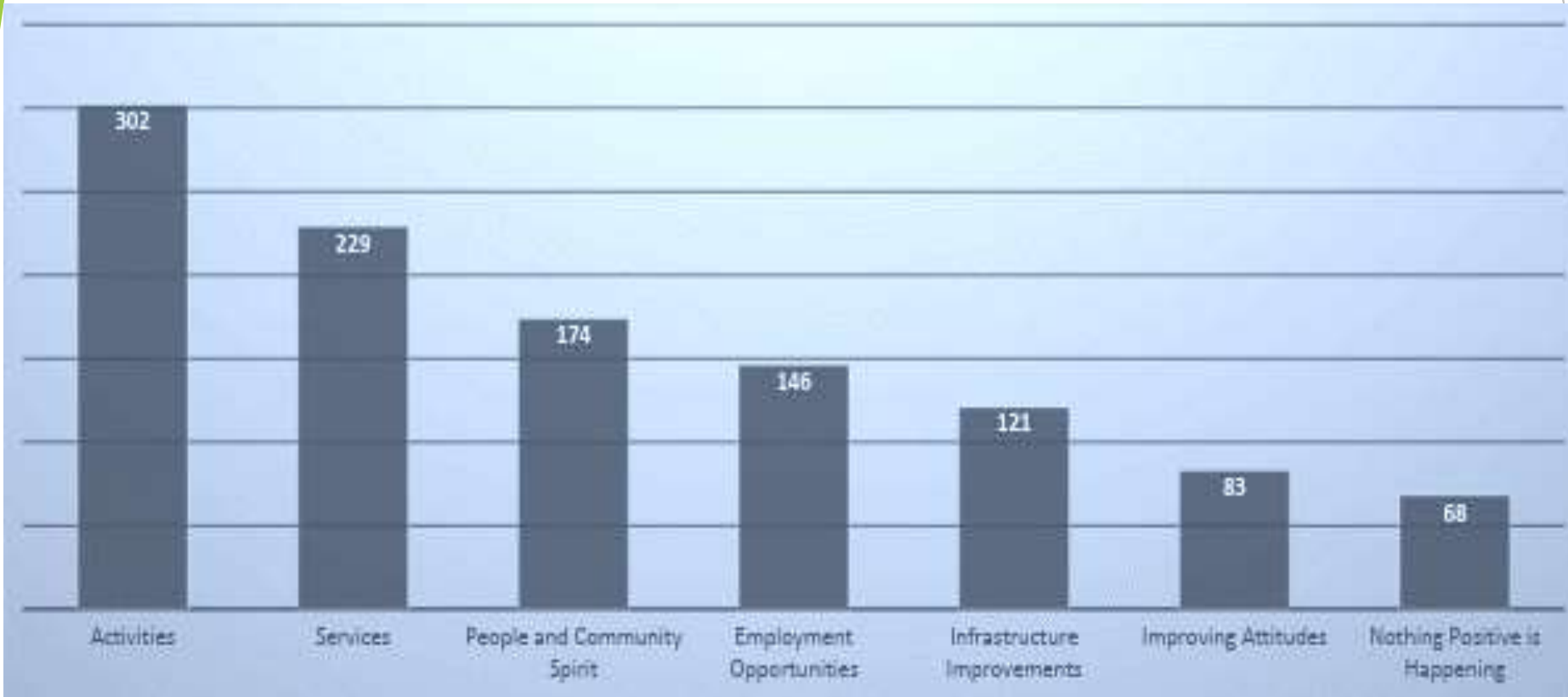
“Definitely worried about lack of healthcare.”

What are you most worried about?

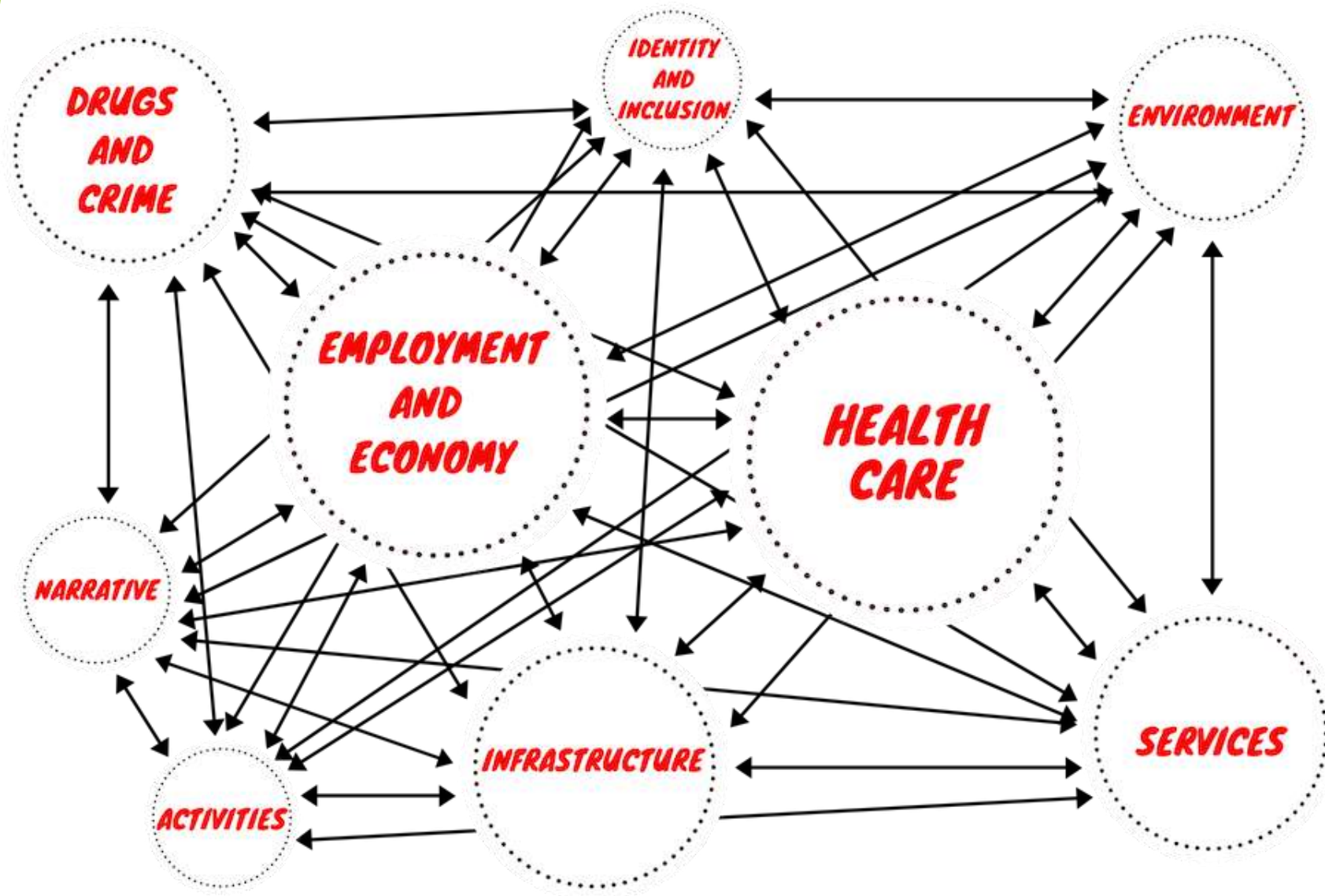




How Can Your Community be Better?



What Good Things are Already Happening?



Themes are Clearly Interconnected

*Major Themes
identified for
further
discussion*

Employment and the Economy

Health care

Environment

Infrastructure

Community Identity and Inclusion

Narratives

Poverty

Seniors

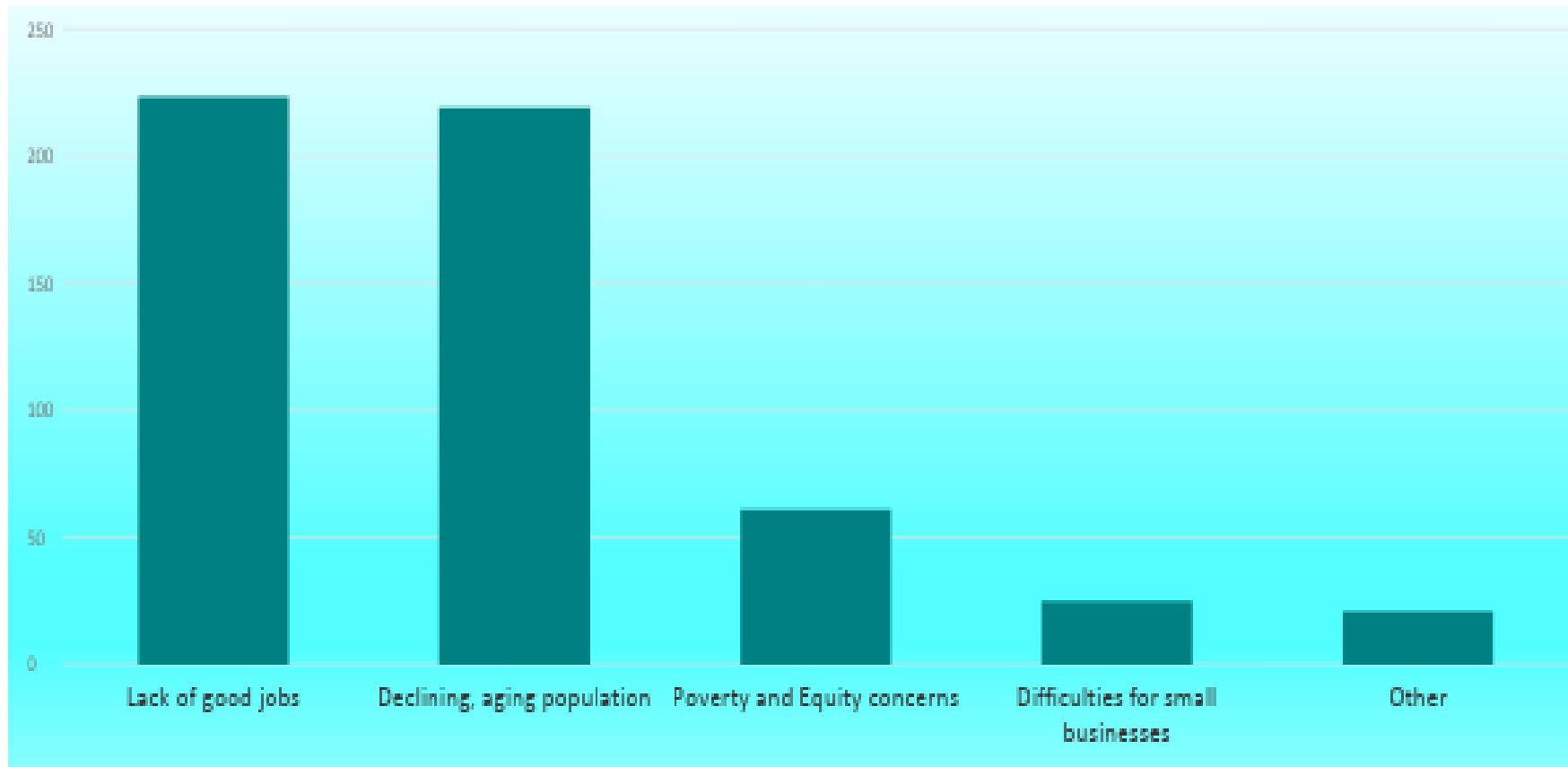
Youth

Employment and the Economy

“I'm worried about lack of employment and economic development. There is nothing to entice our youth once educated to return home. This is an aging community.”

“The economy. Where will we be in the future? I could work out West but I want to stay here. People need to be able to find work.”

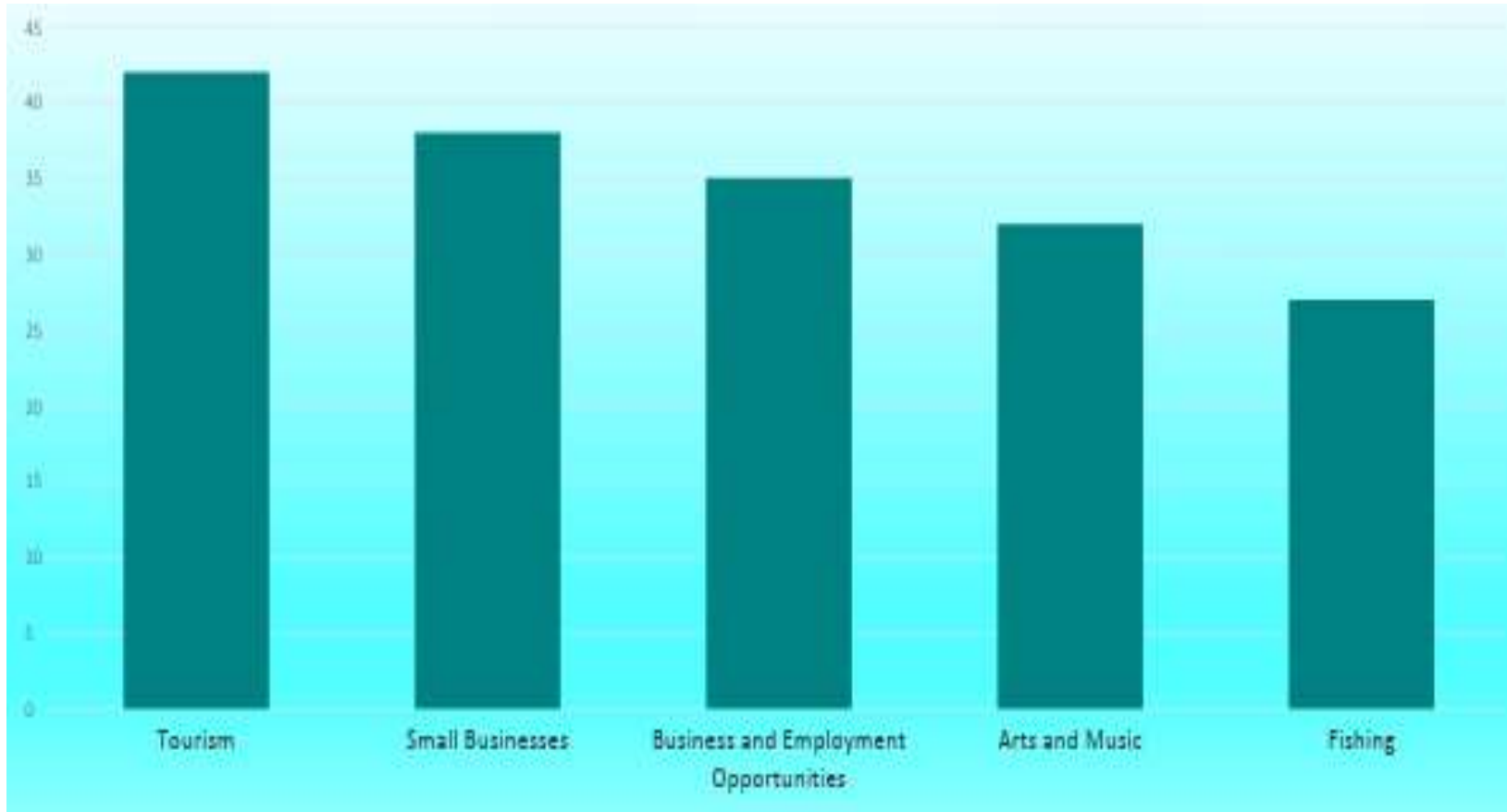
“I'm worried about the lack of jobs. In the Digby area in general there isn't many and the security of staying in my jobs is a worry because you never know when they are making cuts due to slowness.”



Concerns about Employment and the Economy



How Can My Community be Better: Ideas about Employment and the Economy



Good Things Happening in My Community: Employment and the Economy

Health Care

“Health care could be MUCH better in our community. We desperately need doctors.”

“Health Care. I have a lump in my breast no one will check because I don't have a doctor/nurse practitioner and there are no walk-in clinics.”

“Lack of doctors is an issue, having to go through emergency for the smallest problem is a huge waste of time and resources.”

“I am worried about the lack of doctors and good hospital medical support here in the Digby area.”

*”The lack of doctors, the poor health care and the long wait when needing to see one. Also how you have to go out of town for most of the appointments.”*³⁵

Environment: One of Our Strengths

“I like the ocean, we are surrounded by water. I like being around the water it is peaceful and calming. If you leave the town there is some beautiful things to see.”

“I’m worried that water pollution and the other negative effects could have a negative impact on fishing, therefore, on many people living in Digby.”

“(concerned about...) Trash and garbage on the streets and beaches. But mostly, in Digby County - clearcutting - trees and fish stocks - resulting in loss of species - neither practice is sustainable.”

Infrastructure is critical for *many* other issues

“TRANSPORTATION is a big issue for me. Accessing community events is nearly impossible for folks in outlying areas such as Digby Neck, Bear River, Barton etc. We have so many activities to offer but many people cannot access these events because they cannot come in from their own area. The bus does not run these routes during most of these times as well. There is no secondary facility to host another program if someone chose to run one. It limits what can be done.”

“(concerns) around poverty, housing, job opportunities (I assume there is a direct co-relation to these issues and our current lack of power grid/internet); Missed opportunities of companies moving to our area that require high capacity of both power and internet.”

“I'd like to start a business, but I would have to live in town to have access to decent internet.”

“The road conditions in my area are really very bad, especially on the dirt roads. There are times an ambulance or fire truck would be completely unable to reach us if there was an emergency. This seems crazy in this day and age.”

Community Identity and Inclusion

“This is my roots. I love Digby. Just wish people would work together to keep people here. Be a caring community regardless of income or race.”

“We should have) more local, small rural communities, cohesiveness. We have lost the local churches and halls, with that goes the loss of community identity.”

“(Concerned about) the continued impact of racism, marginalization and the oppression of the African Nova Scotia community.”

Narratives

“Demonstrate to residents that what we do have here is good. Learn to see ourselves as others (visitors) see us and understand why they come here... What do they see!?”

“Lots of events, social activities for those who want to take part, Clare transit has been an AMAZING contributor to getting my mother to social events and appointments.”

“The loss of "hope" and the feeling of frustration in the community - that if we don't come together and change the narrative we will continue to decline.”

“...there's so much negativity here, people complain, but we live in a great town, there's plenty out there to do.”

“People's negative attitudes and complaining instead of taking the time to check out the facts or thinking of how they can help.”

Poverty

“the missing link is opportunity....need to address the economic opportunities for all citizens....lack of jobs means lack of money for healthy foods ...affects health....work for EI stamps versus full time/part time work.”

“Affordable housing, especially rental accommodations as rents have recently been significantly increased by landlords..... very large monetary gap between the rich and poor in the area”

“need for employment puts people in places where they are forced to do things that are unhealthy physically/mentallypeople with dependents work long hours for minimum wages....economy affects health....families unable to eat healthy meals... causes health issues....lack of employment creates poor choices - drugs, crimes, social aspects.”

Seniors: Concerns intersect with *many* other issues

“More support for seniors as well to be able to allow folks the dignity of being able to afford to stay in their own home if they so choose without others frowning on them.”

“More things for old people like me to do and ways to get around without feeling like a burden.”

“(I am worried about) getting old and being alone. My grandchildren leaving.”

“Loneliness - I have no family. I feel I have no support system.”

Youth

“Lack of opportunity for youth - mental health, academic health. Lack of opportunity for “decent pay” jobs/careers.”

“The education system is in fact worse than the health care system because it has for too long be mired in low expectations linked to the fragile resource economy.”

“...our education system is failing our children.”

“Our education is slowly going downhill, less population. Kids need more programs and more options for courses in school.”

“I worry the kids don't have access to programs, things to do, socialize and get themselves there.”

“Aging population. Not much for young people to do. Young people will have to leave this area eventually.”

With your
participation,
we hope to
achieve...

A better understanding of the survey results
by identifying missing pieces:

what wasn't captured in the data;

whose perspective and knowledge is
missing; and

how do we get the missing information

Questions for moving forward



What information are we missing and how do we find it?



Who needs to be part of the discussion?



How do we connect with them?



What barriers are there that may prevent their involvement and how can we overcome them?



How do other areas of discussion/themes intersect with these issues?

Breakout Discussions

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2019-02-18

45



“There is a groundswell of people wanting change.”

Sharing Theme Discussions



“I love Digby and never want to leave.”

Thank you!

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2019-02-18

49

Finally...

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2019-02-18

50

#digbyrocks!

