



SURVEY  
SUMMARY  
POVERTY

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# THE PERSPECTIVE

*“Housing in this area is a must, no need of people living in some of these slum housing, or in cars and run-down trailers. Open your eyes people, it's happening.”*

Half of the people surveyed mentioned concerns about employment, the economy and poverty.

Poverty and equity concerns are embedded within many of the responses associated with employment. Although only some of the survey participants described their concerns as related to poverty, we know from census data that the number of households living on low income in the Digby area is relatively high when compared to the rest of Nova Scotia or Canada as a whole.

Given the importance of this issue for a significant proportion of the population, it is worthwhile having a close look at the relevant survey results through the lens of those who are struggling financially.

Issues of particular importance to individuals and families who are stressed financially include:

- Employment opportunities;
- Food security;
- Removal of barriers to access to recreational opportunities;
- Affordable housing; and
- Transportation.

*“Jobs sustainability, 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.”*

## CROSSING THEMES

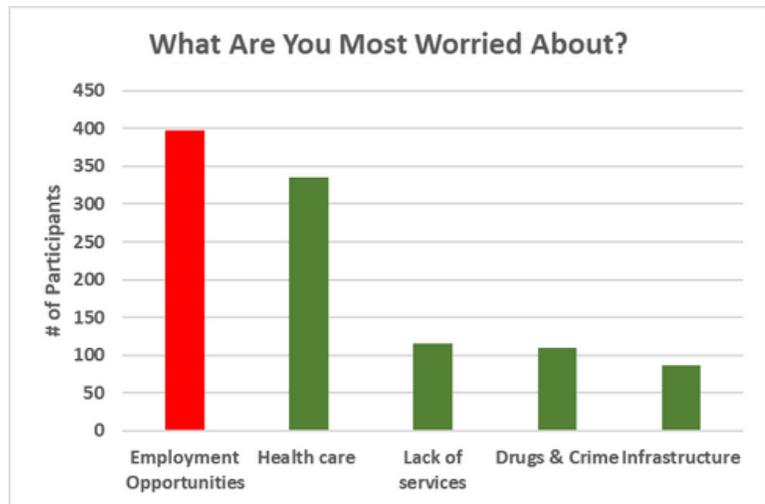
Poverty issues are closely interrelated with most other themes, including:

- Infrastructure – housing and transportation;
- Employment opportunities;
- Health care;
- Lifestyle – access to activities and opportunities;
- Success in education;
- Racism and discrimination;
- Food security and paying for basic needs;
- Personal support networks.



# WHAT ARE YOU MOST WORRIED ABOUT?

50% of the survey participants expressed concerns about issues related to employment, economy and poverty.

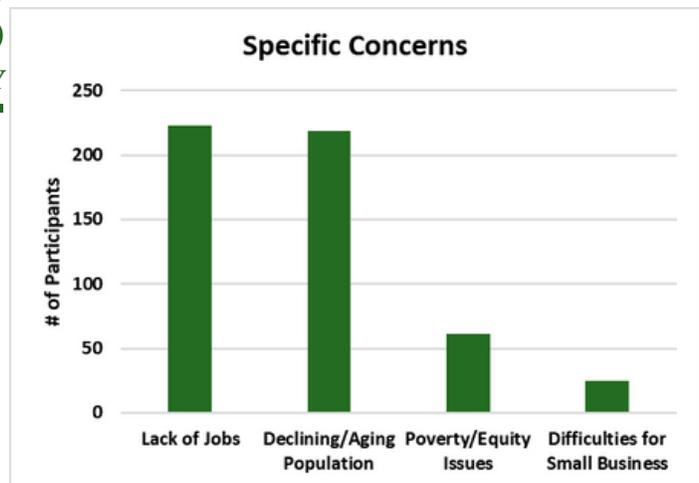


## SPECIFIC CONCERNS

EMPLOYMENT, POVERTY & ECONOMY

15% of people who expressed concerns about employment, poverty & the economy were particularly worried about poverty & equity issues. Specific concerns:

- people struggling to get ahead;
- equitable access to jobs; and
- difficulty meeting basic needs (including food security & affordable housing).



## SUGGESTIONS TO SHIFT THE THEME

INTERESTING IDEAS FROM PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED...

### Collaboration and innovative projects

*“There are many good things happening in the community. Plans for a mobile food market is inspiring, a doctor setting up practice in Weymouth and agencies all working to improve the lives of low income residents in our area”*