

Community Engagement Meeting

Indoor Municipal Pool



Agenda

- Background
- Survey
- Public Comments

Who uses an indoor pool?

- *All* ages
- *All* fitness levels
- For therapy
- For safety in a water environment
- For development and physical conditioning
- For competition (Dambusters can train all year)
- For fun and recreation



A Long Time Coming

- Early 80's, Bowater set aside funds for pool
- 1996 Needs Assessment, pool high priority
- 2001 RecPlex found 80% responders wanted pool; 2005 Final report included pool
- 2007 Needs assessment:
 - **91% wanted pool**
 - After walking, swimming was the most common activity
 - Adults AND children listed swimming as top priority (91% high or medium high priority)
- 2010 No pool, but designed to accommodate future pool at Queens Place Emera Centre

From 2007 Needs Assessment report

- Recreational swimming continues to be one of the most popular leisure activities for all ages.
- 2000 Physical Activity Monitor reports:
 - Swimming - #1 sport for Children & Youth
 - 87% participation rate in NS
 - #1 sport for facility based participation among adults
- As population ages, older adults want to remain active in low-impact, aerobic activity

2015 Concept: Queens Aquatic Society

- \$5 million project
 - \$2 million to construct
 - \$3 million for operating endowment



2016: Region of Queens Municipality

- Life Cycle Analysis suggested over a period of time that a fixed structure would be more economical
- Slight dispute over RQM's #'s and QCAS #'s

Kept talking...

- Council asked staff to work with QCAS to perform a public survey
- QCAS has continued to work on file opening new options and approaches

Queens Community Aquatic Society

Survey on Pool and Other Activities

Why and How the Survey was Done

- Spring of 2016, then Mayor Clark and Council asked for an update of opinions about pools
- QCAS worked with Dr. Pat McGrath, VP Research and Innovation at NSHA
- Developed questionnaire that covered areas:
 - Demographics
 - Opinion about pool, pool usage, pool facilities
 - Current activities
 - Health status

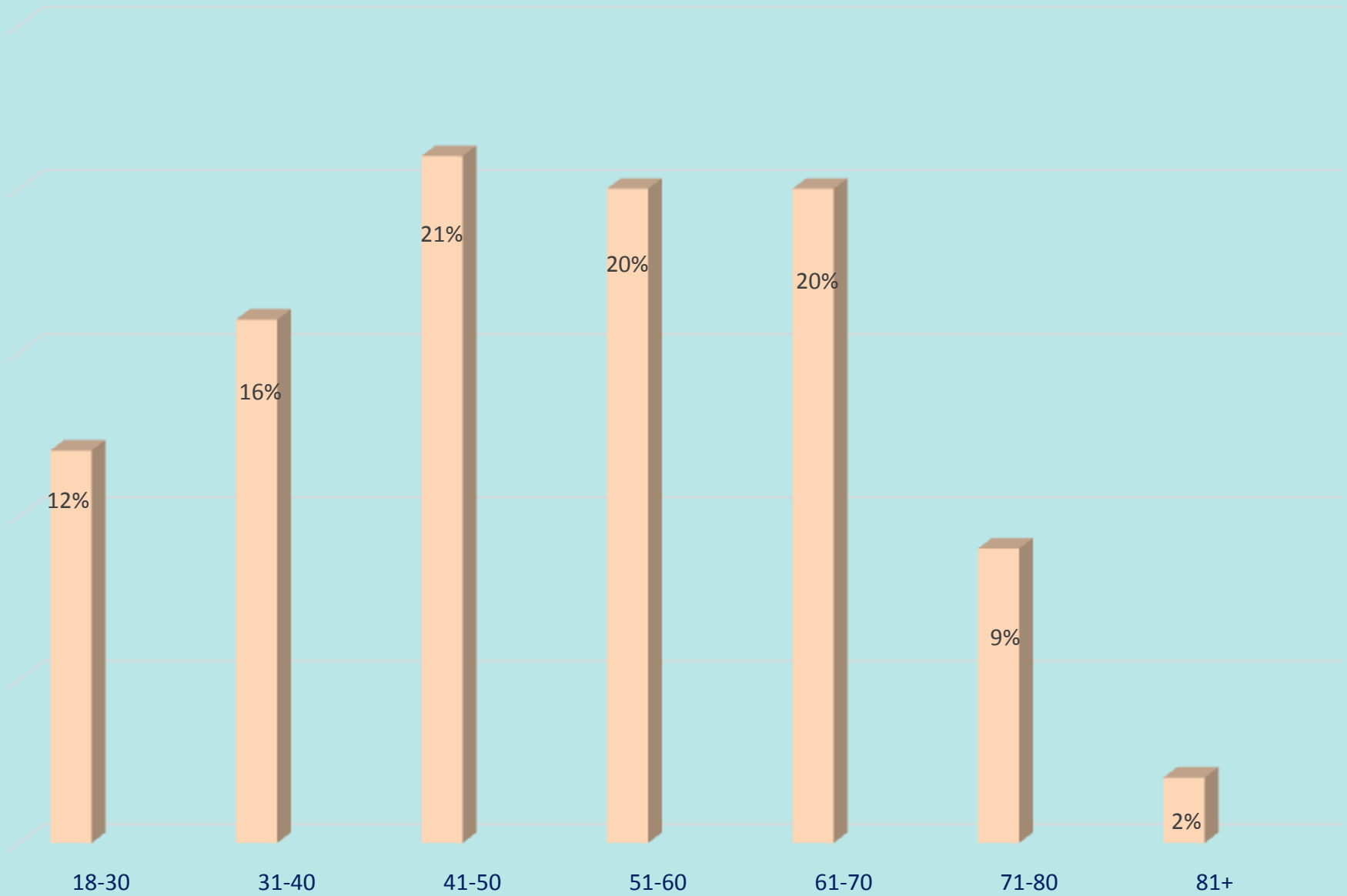
Questionnaire

- One for adults, one for youth
- Online and Paper versions
- Advertised in Advance, QCCR, on Region website
- Sent to School principals
- Paper ones distributed in PO's, shops on Main St, QPEC, Manor, and in person by board members at Superstore, Sobeys
- Data collection mid-September to mid-November

Who Participated?

- 761 Adults:
 - 557 online
 - 204 on paper
- 188 Youth online
- 946 Total

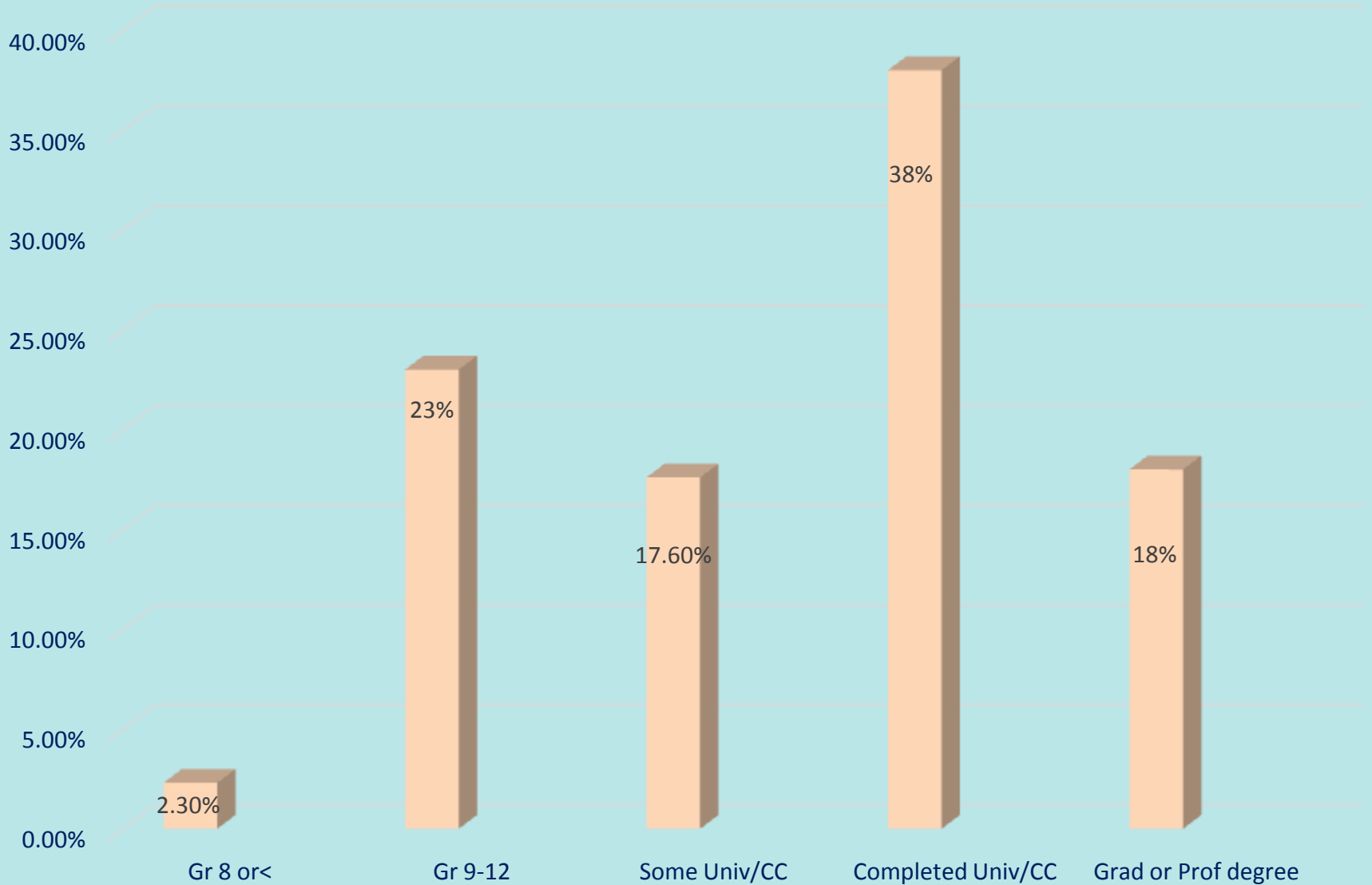
AGE in decades



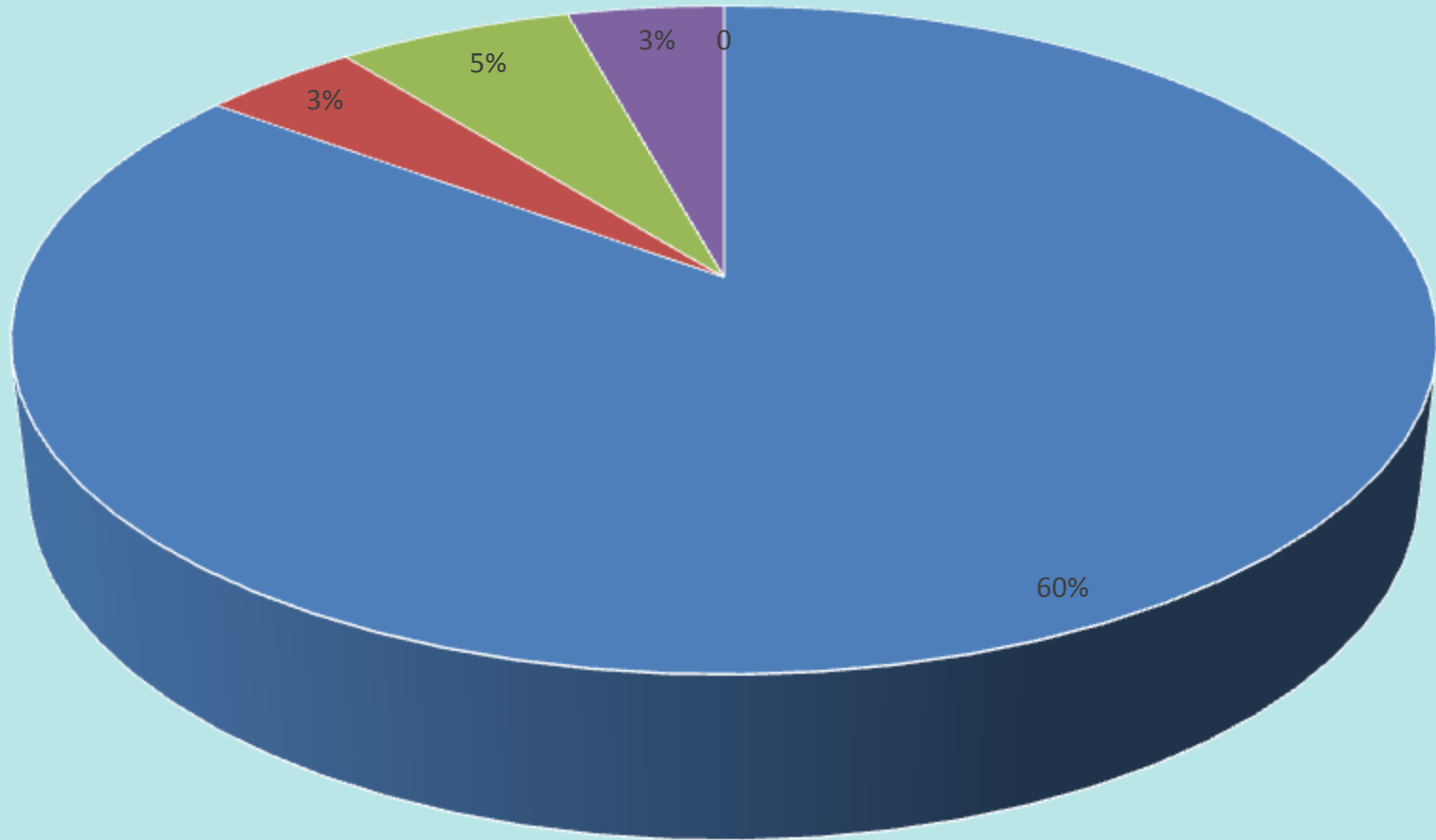
Gender

- 32% male
- 68% female

Education Level

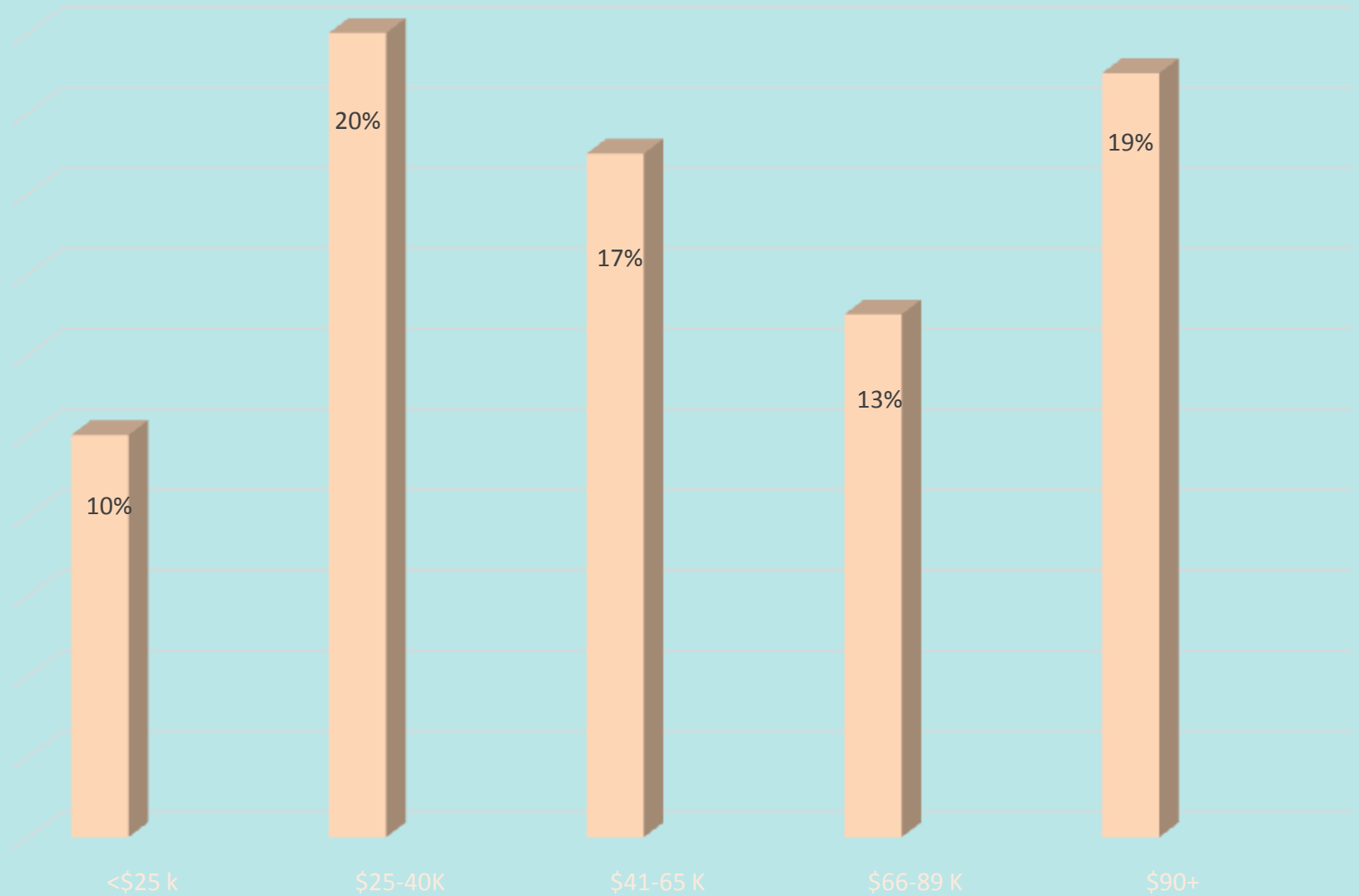


Work Status



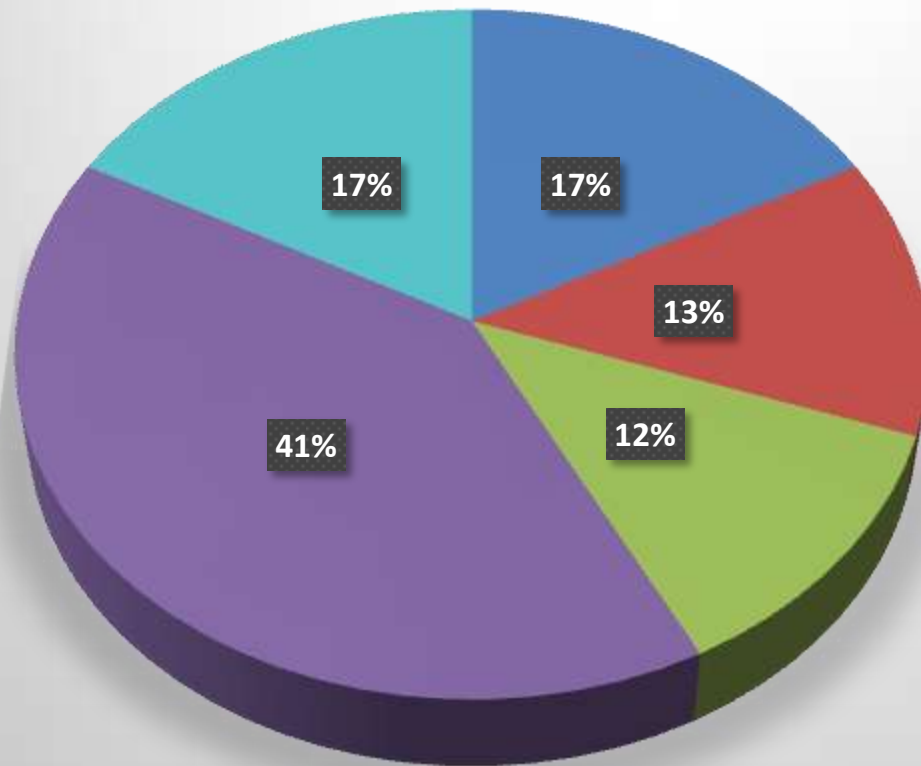
■ Employed ■ School ■ Unemployed ■ Disability ■ Retired

Family Income



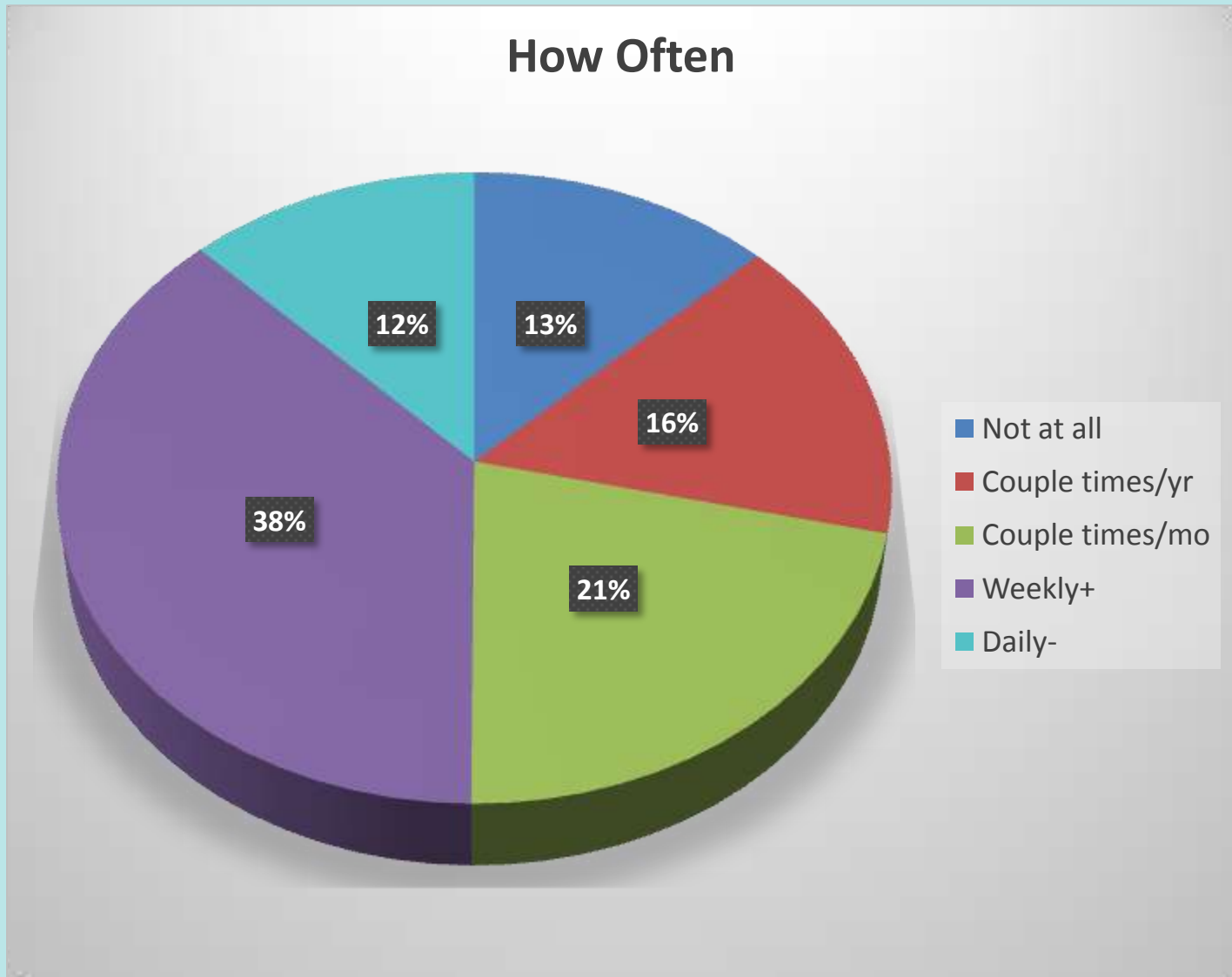
How Important is Year Round Pool

Percent

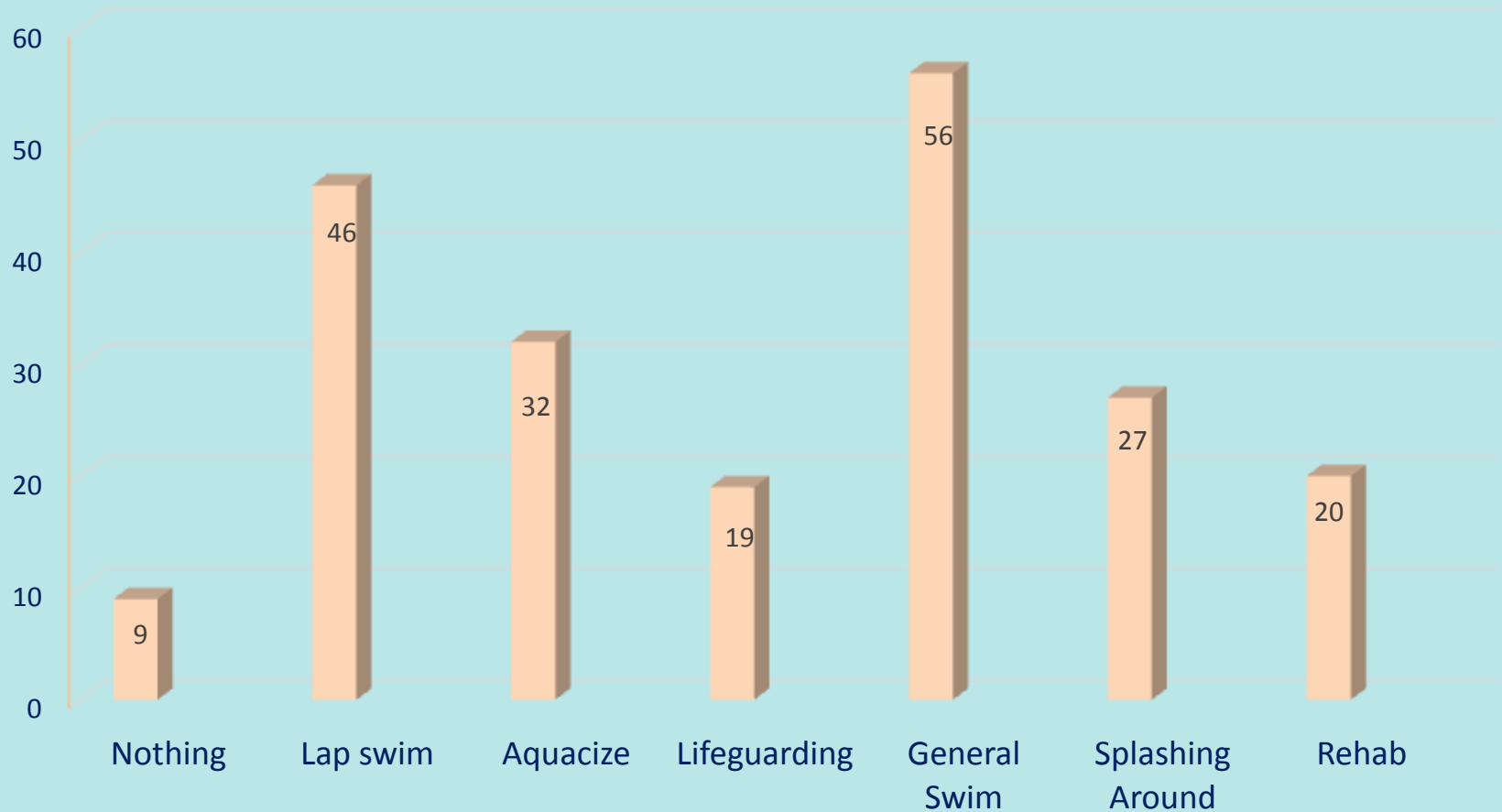


- Not at all
- Somewhat important
- Quite Important
- Very Important
- Crucial

How Often Would you Use Pool ?



What Would you Do in Pool?

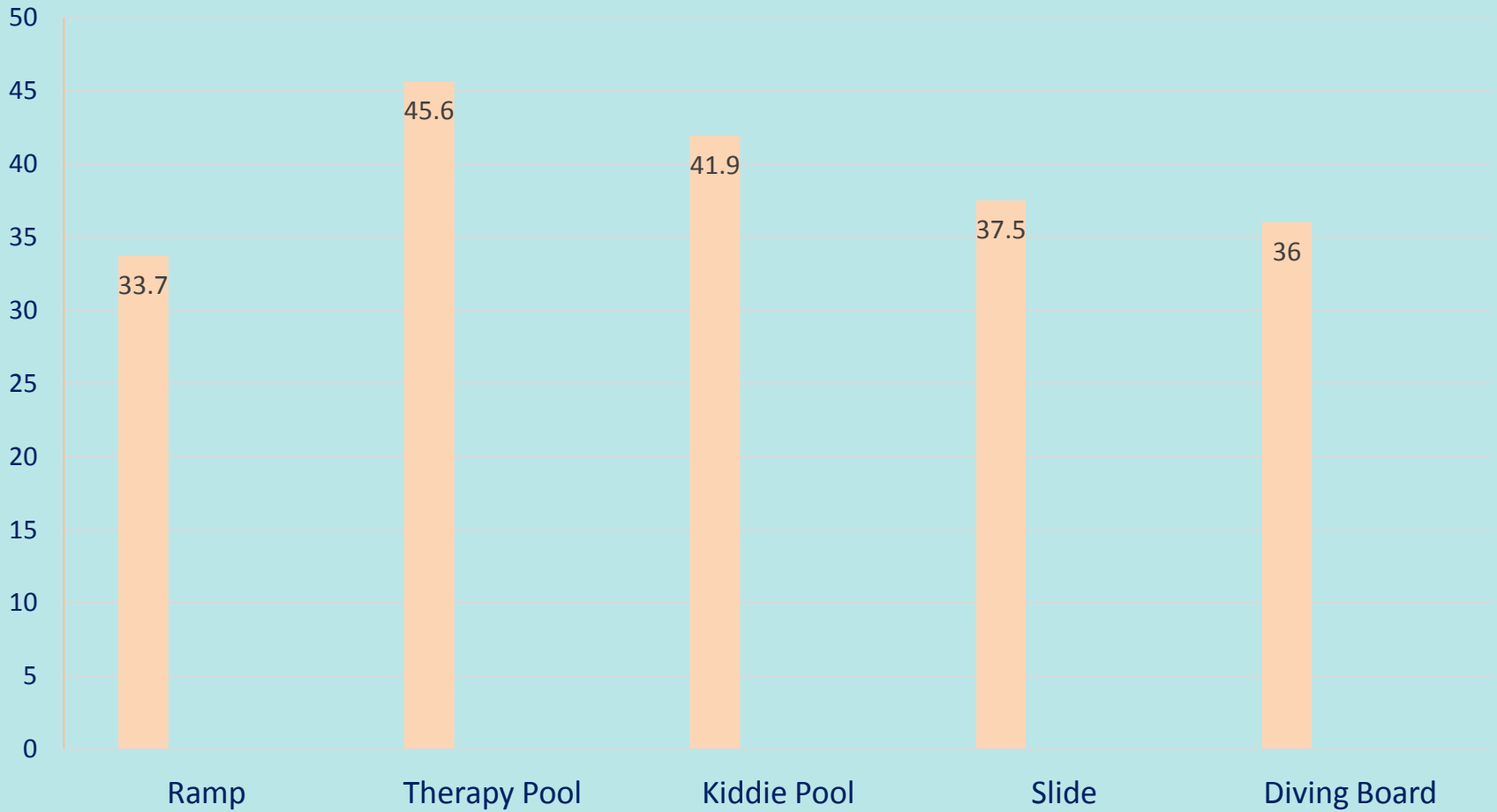


23% youth want lifesaving

A Few Comments

- Swim Lessons ++ for both adults and children and special needs
- Swim Team, youth and Masters
- Elderfit, Zumba
- Log rolling
- 1 respondent Would not use it for anything

What Would You Like to See in Pool?

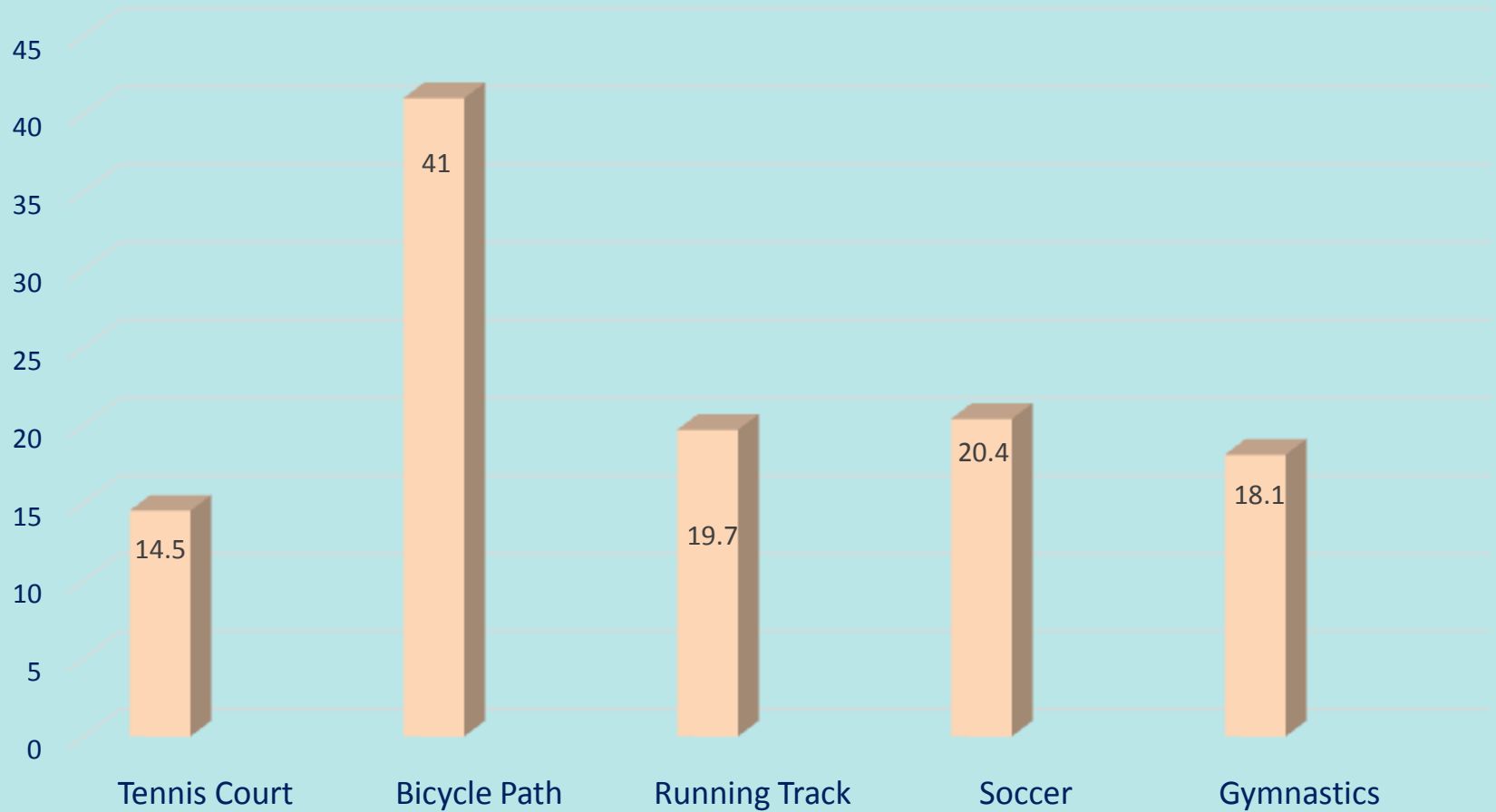


Some ideas we did not know about..





What Else Should Queens Build?



Comments re What Else Queens Should Build

- Wide range of suggestions
- More for seniors
- More for tots (eg playground at QPEC)
- More hiking trails, repair/extend Trestle Trail
- Library
- Curling Rink
- Cross country ski trails
- Visitors boating wharf
- Craft room
- Squash court
- Dog park

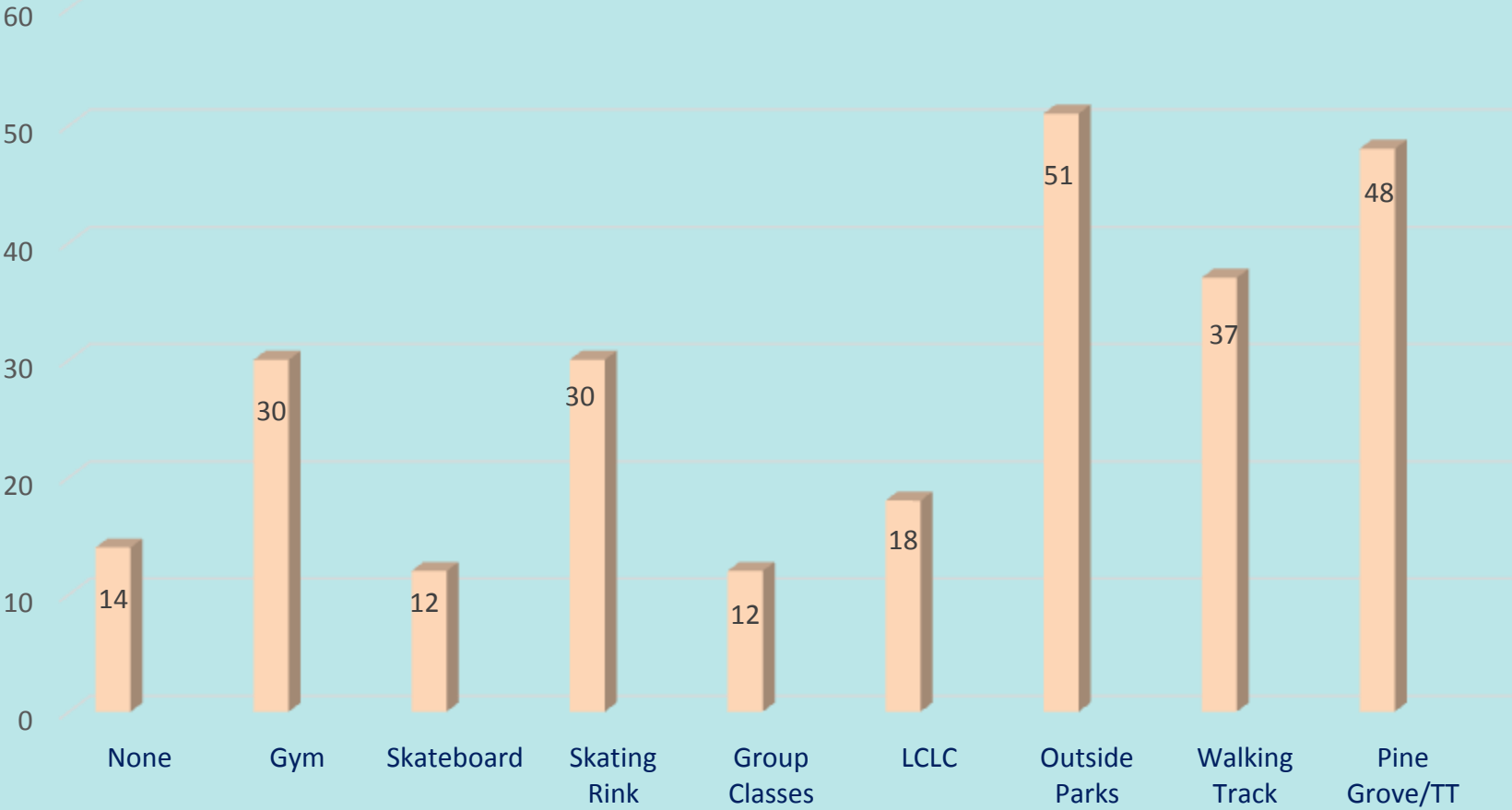
What Priority Does Pool Have?

- 80% think pool should be built before other things
- Many additional comments about the value added of an indoor pool

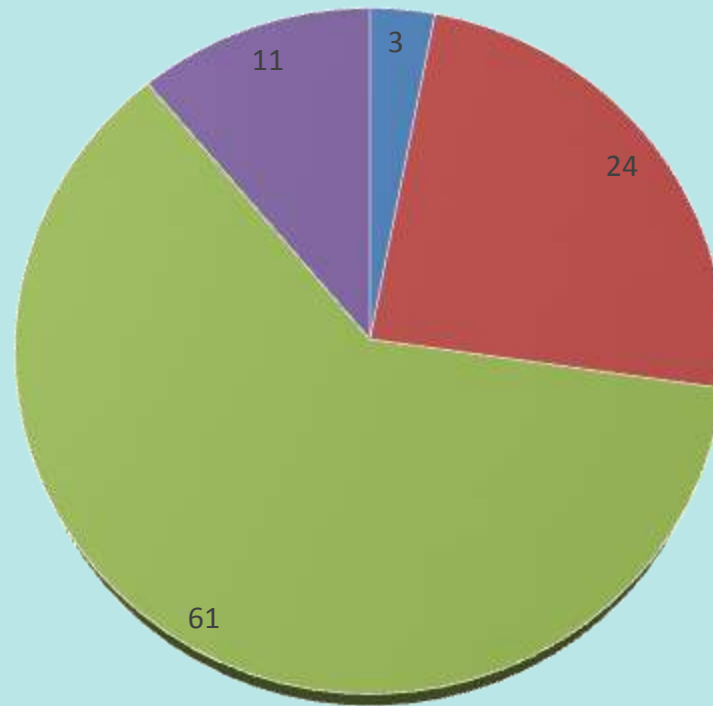
How Much Would You Pay?



What Fitness Facility Do You Use Now?



How Healthy Are You



■ Not at all ■ Little Bit ■ Quite ■ Very

Summary of Survey

- Large representative sample
- Two thirds think pool is important
- Over three quarters want to see pool over other new indoor facility
- They don't want to pay for it!

- A full report of questionnaire results is available

Proposed Next Steps

- Scan of pools across Canada re cost of construction and operation, focus on smaller communities
- Develop budget and business plan
- Put out Request for Proposals
- Seek funding from governments. Nb will most likely go with solid structure in order to be competitive for Federal funding
- Seek private/corporate funding
- (not necessarily in this order; some may be simultaneous)

Funding Possibilities

- **Federal Government**
 - Social Infrastructure Program, up to 50% of construction cost; tba **soon**
- **Federal Government**
 - Health, Infrastructure, Sport; current
- **Provincial Government**
 - Sport, recreation, youth, health
- **Region of Queens**
 - Retirement of past debt
- **Private/Corporate Sector**
- **Public Campaign**

QCAS Thanks You

- Celeste Johnston, Pres
- Deborah Spartinelli, V Pres
- Susan Higgins, Secty
- Bill Smyth, Treasurer
- Dee Kozlowski, Funding Chair
- Ian Clark
- Al Doucet
- Dave Oickle
- Kevin Page
- Bill Raine
- Kris Snarby

What's next?

- Ultimately Council needs to determine whether to progress developing a pool project or direct energy elsewhere
- This meeting is to solicit your comments and feedback, outside of the survey, for forming part of the report to Council for deliberation

All about priority

- If Region of Queens Municipality wants a pool, Region of Queens Municipality can have a pool.
- Two major questions:
 - Funding a construction project
 - Mitigating impacts to future operating costs (and pressure on tax rate)

Two questions for tonight

1. Assuming no impact to tax rate, but need to choose a priority, should we build a pool? Or what is your priority?
2. What do you want Council to consider when contemplating the priority of a pool?