

Dear Yuba City Council,

My name is Roberto and I am a representative of Equity 4 Yuba City using these three minutes to discuss the importance of allocating funds towards mental health services. While there are many important services to Yuba City's daily operations, mental health services must be funded with greater emphasis to avoid having the wrong people respond to those in need, especially to people living in poverty. As Yuba City's poverty rate is about 16.0% according to census.gov's 2019 data, children in poverty are at "greater risk of mental health and behavioral health issues, such as impulsiveness, aggressiveness, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and conduct disorder. Common emotional problems include feelings of anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem, which may lead to risky behaviors, such as smoking, using alcohol and drugs. The chronic stress of living in poverty has been shown to affect concentration and memory, which may affect the ability to learn and succeed in school. Thus, children living in poverty are more likely to have difficulty in school and drop out." This is directly quoted from the Sutter-Yuba Mental Health Plan. Why am I mentioning poverty and schooling? This directly affects those with mental health disorders that need proper attention and care. Our schools serve as safe havens for students, our city must provide adequate services for struggling students. We must avoid students resorting to such measures of drug abuse, rather than having them neglect issues in their lives.

Although Yuba-Sutter has spent more for crisis counselors and staff overall for mental health support, it's not enough. These mental health services need to be spread to our schools to best support students with the right counselors, and not overwhelm those school counselors that juggle multiple students with high pressures. Our area sees 11.9% of hospital stays are from mental diseases and disorders among those under 18. This number may seem insignificantly small, however, it is one of the top 5 diagnoses in Sutter County. While I may not have time to show data and statistics, I hope this brings awareness to the importance of providing more funding for mental health services in our area. We are all collectively responsible for shaping our next generation of successful people in Yuba City.

Thank you.
Roberto A.

DEFUNDING THE POLICE

IS A MOVEMENT TO

**ABOLISH
POLICE**



peoplesbudgetla.com

Equity for Yuba City
July 7th, 2020
Yuba City Council



A QUICK GUIDE TO

REIMAGINING PUBLIC SAFETY



Reimagining Public Safety involves following a ***community-led safety model*** that includes investing in mental health and harm reduction approaches.

Rather than funding police that bring violence and harm into our communities, we want to ***invest in communities themselves*** to determine what they need and offer them support in executing those programs.

Specific initiatives that could be included in this category:

- Family counseling
- Restorative justice programs
- Gang prevention/intervention/recovery without police involvement
- Domestic violence prevention/intervention/recovery without police involvement

This category also includes building stronger connections among neighbors through investing in community-led events.

Why Defund the Police?

By defunding the police we can **reassess resources** currently being invested in policing and the overall system of incarceration, and put that money towards services that actually work to keep our communities safe.

It's a divest/invest model: **DIVEST** from policing, **INVEST** in our communities.

If we don't need more police, what do we need?

We need ***affordable housing***
to combat/end racist gentrification
in our neighborhoods.

We need ***jobs*** for young people
in communities of color.

We need to solve the growing
problem of ***homelessness*** in the city.

We need ***unarmed, non-law enforcement*** to respond to calls.

This means utilizing ***people with specialized training*** who are better equipped than the police to handle situations dealing with mental health, medical emergencies, domestic violence, homelessness, and more.

Defunding the police isn't the end goal, but a first step.

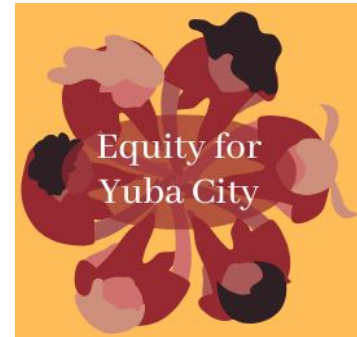
Defunding the police is the first step in a ***transformative new approach*** that involves funding grassroots initiatives for restorative justice, housing, healthcare, employment, and other services.

When people say “defund the police”, they are calling on city leaders to ***recognize their citizens as people*** who deserve to live in safe, abundant communities free from violent policing.

The Voices of Yuba City

Part 1 of 4

Equity for Yuba City
July 7th, 2020
Yuba City Council Meeting



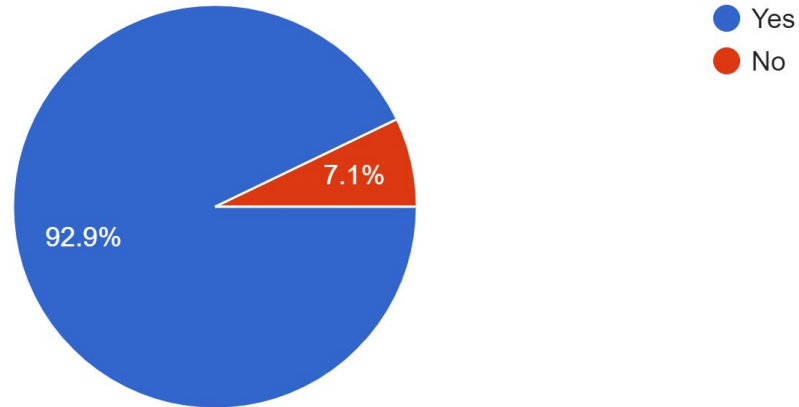
We surveyed the Yuba City community recently and we have compiled some statistics about what people are thinking.

- All data has come from google surveys sent via social media and email.
- There is a sample of 84 people who took this survey.
- Testimonials/ opinions were directly copy pasted and were not altered.
- From our data, we can conclude that there is a great amount of support for more resources to be allocated to programs such as education, healthcare, environment, mental health, etc.
- In the following slides, there demographics of the people who took the survey
- Most people who took the survey are between the ages 18-25 and have attended a YCUSD public school, so it can be concluded that they have experience with the education system in Yuba City.

Demographics: Inhabitant status

Are you an inhabitant or have you been an inhabitant of Yuba City? (inhabitant includes undocumented people, residents, and citizens)

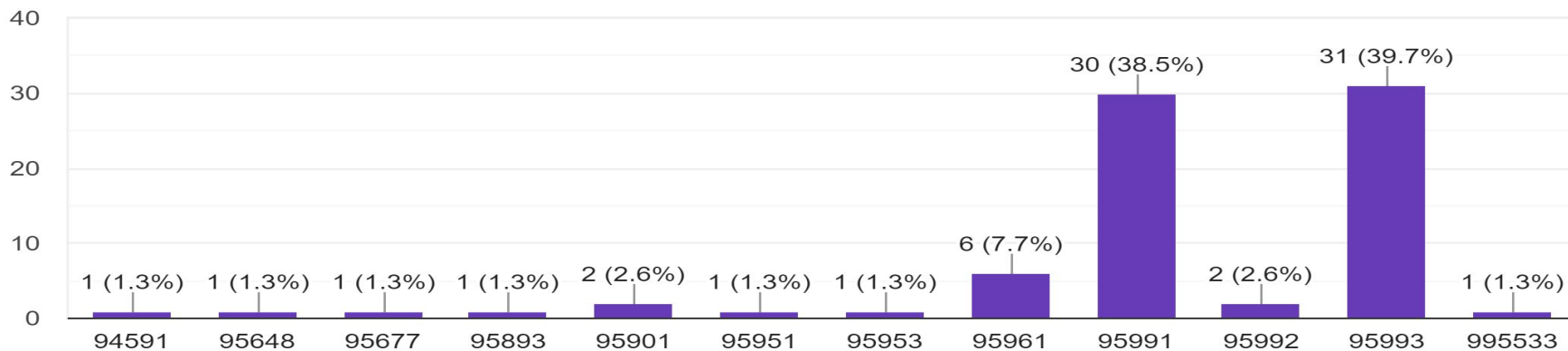
84 responses



Demographics: Zip Code

What is your zip code?

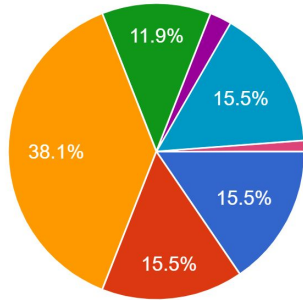
78 responses



Demographics: YCUSD schooling & education level

Highest level of Education Completed

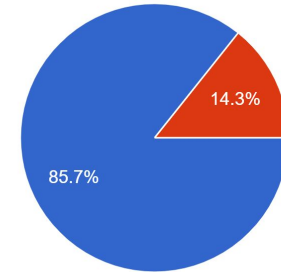
84 responses



- Some high school
- High school diploma or equivalent (GED)
- Some College
- Associates Degree
- Vocational/technical degree or certification
- Bachelor's Degree
- Graduate/Professional Degree

Have you attended Yuba City's public schools?

84 responses

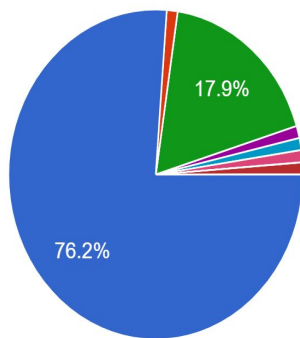


- Yes
- No

Demographics: Gender & sexual orientation

How would you self-describe your gender?

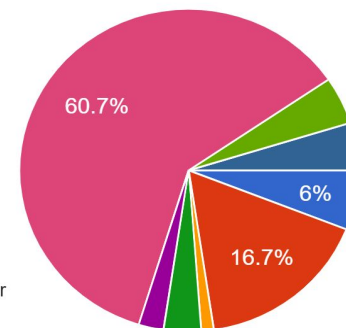
84 responses



- Female
- Gender non-conforming
- Intersex
- Male
- Non-binary
- Transgender
- Two-spirit
- Other
- I do not wish to answer

How would you self-describe your sexual orientation?

84 responses

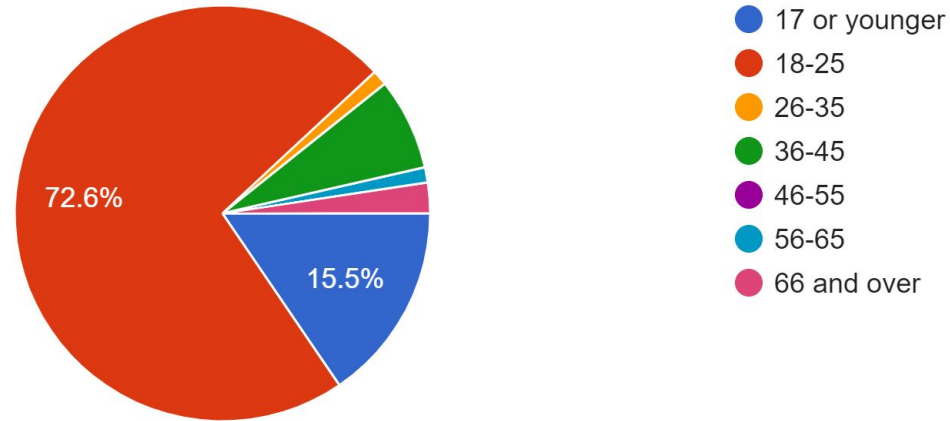


- Asexual
- Bisexual
- Gay
- Lesbian
- Pansexual
- Queer
- Straight/Heterosexual
- I am not sure
- Other
- I do not wish to answer

Demographics: Age

Select a category below that describes your age

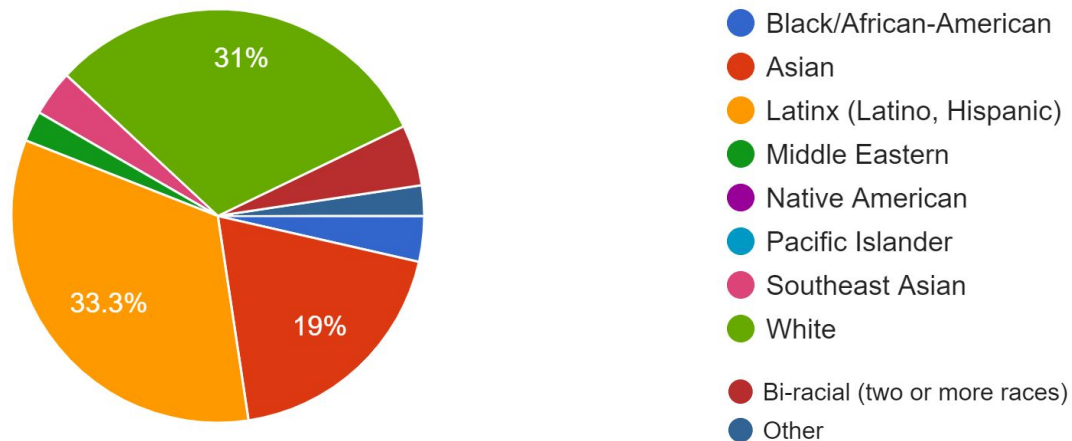
84 responses



Demographics: Race/ethnicity

Please select which racial and ethnic categories you identify with?

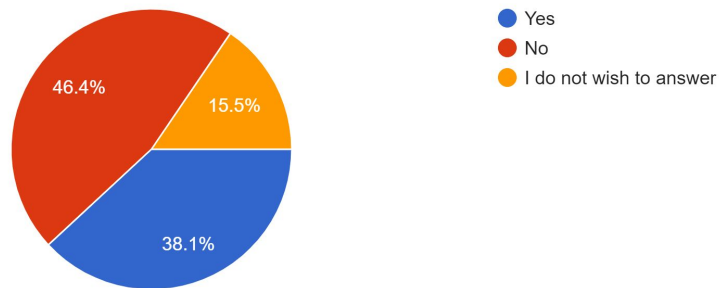
84 responses



Financial Insecurity

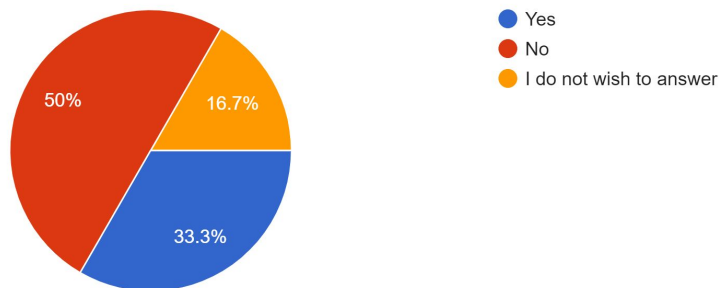
Are you experiencing financial insecurity? (e.g., going through a rough patch of little to no income)

84 responses



If you responded yes to experiencing financial insecurity, is it because of the COVID-19 Pandemic?

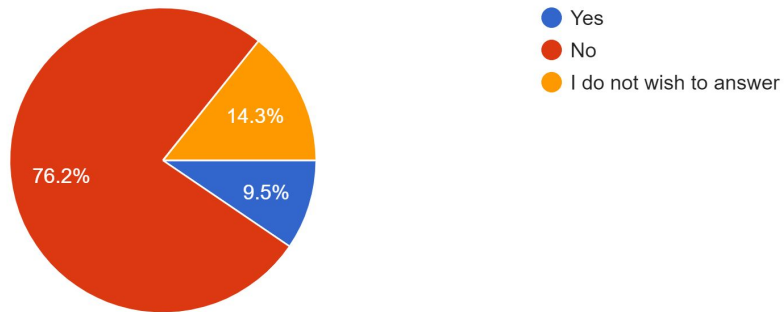
60 responses



Housing Insecurity

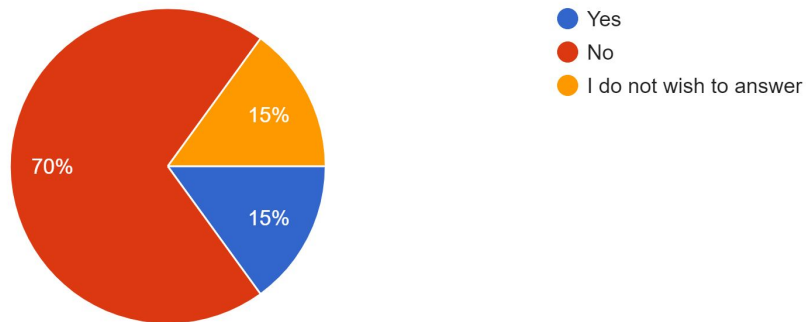
Are you experiencing housing insecurity? (e.g., your rent/mortgage is late or delinquent, you're currently staying with relatives or a friend, etc.)

84 responses



If you responded yes to having housing insecurity, is it because of the COVID-19 Pandemic?

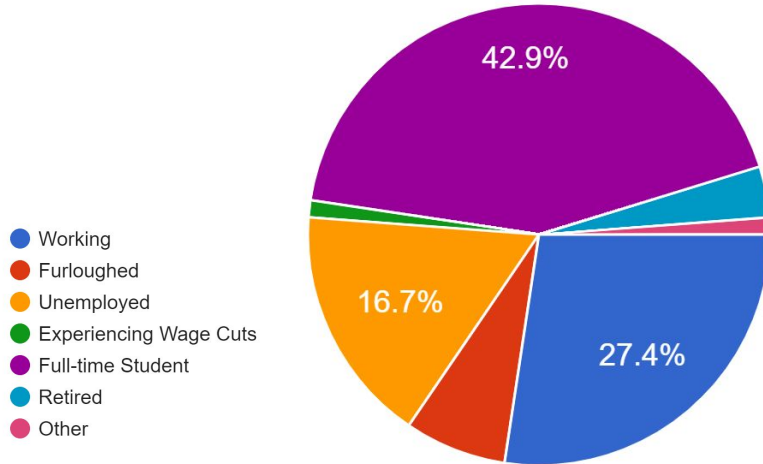
40 responses



Employment

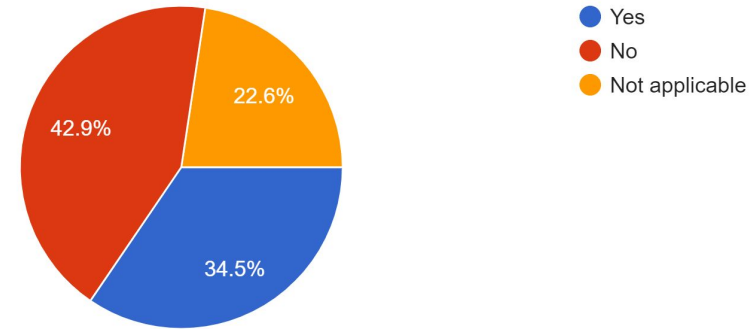
Employment status: I am currently

84 responses



Has your work been classified as "essential" in any way?

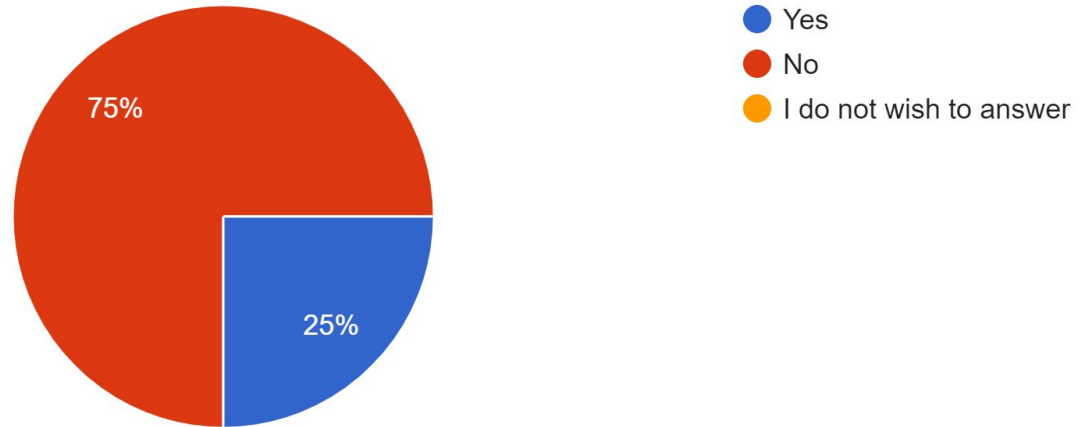
84 responses



Food insecurity

Do you receive or have you applied for Food Stamps, Section 8, and/or CalWorks?

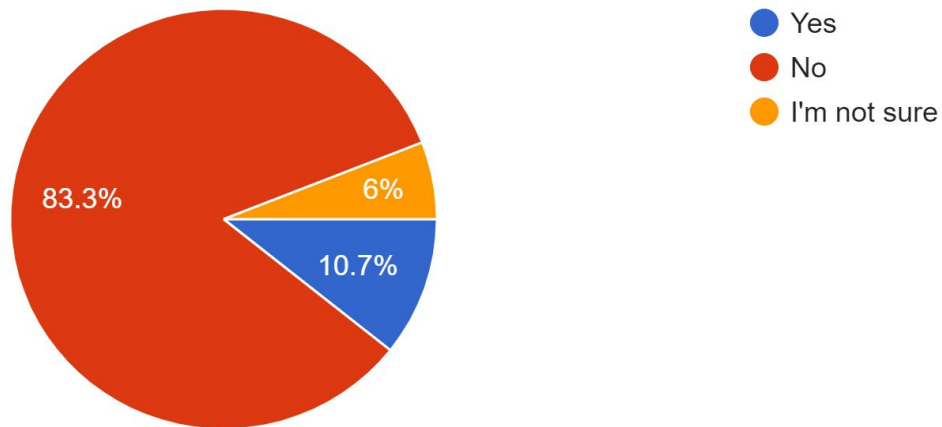
84 responses



Immunocompromised

Are you immunocompromised, elderly, otherwise more susceptible to COVID-19?

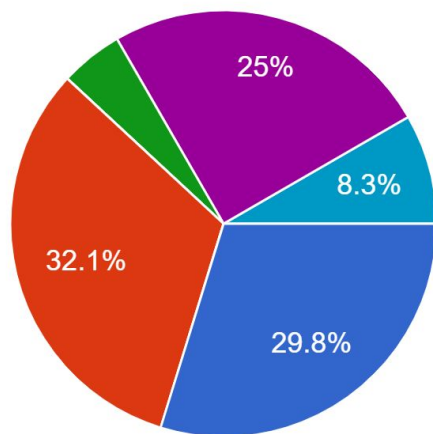
84 responses



Place of Residence

Place or residence: Do you...

84 responses

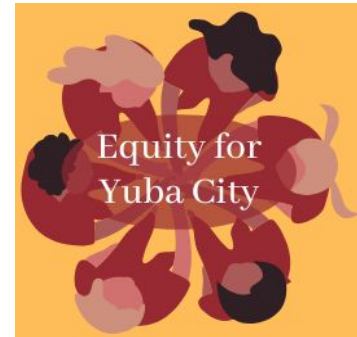


- Own your home
- Rent your home/apartment
- Rent your home AND own rental property
- Own your home AND own rental property
- None of the above
- I do not wish to answer

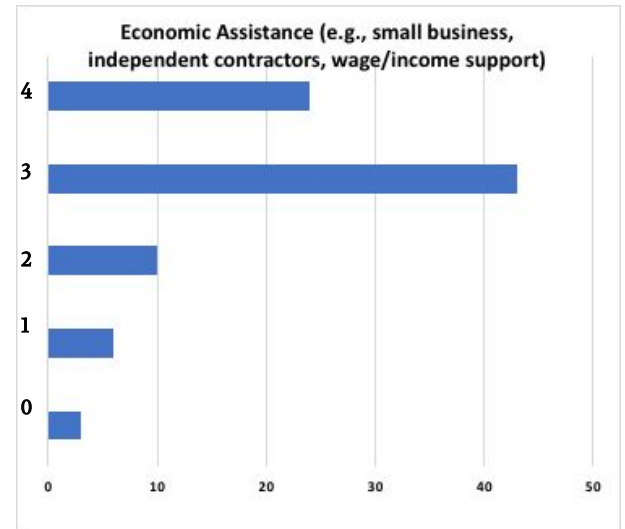
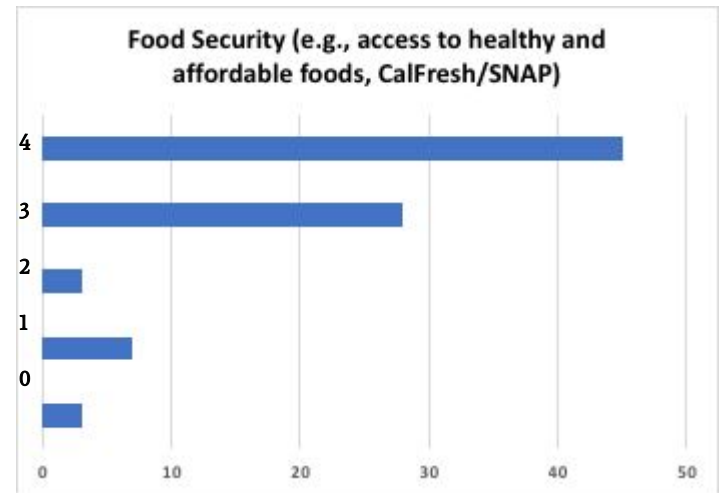
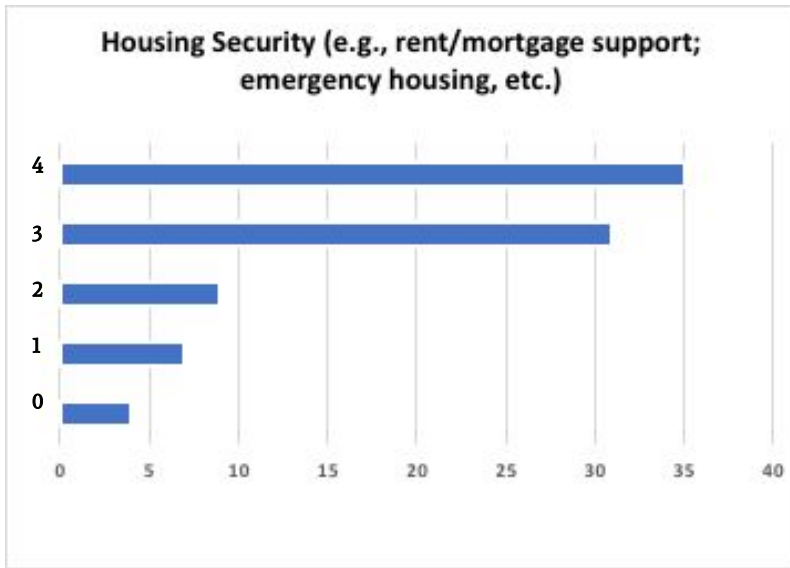
The Voices of Yuba City

Part 2 of 4

Equity for Yuba City
July 7th, 2020
Yuba City Council Meeting



Universal Needs and Crisis Management



$n = 86$

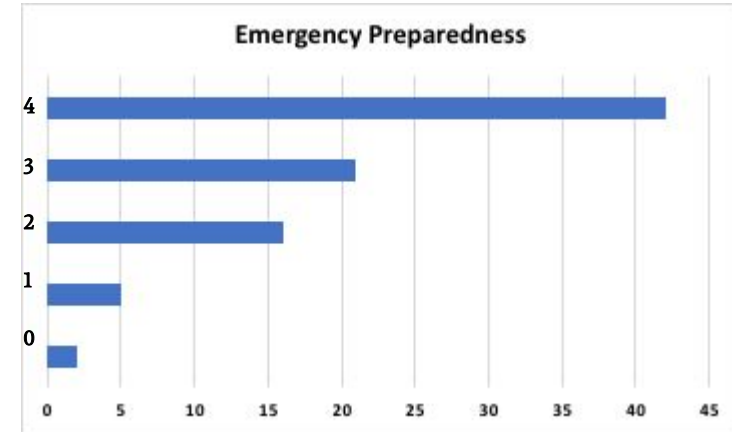
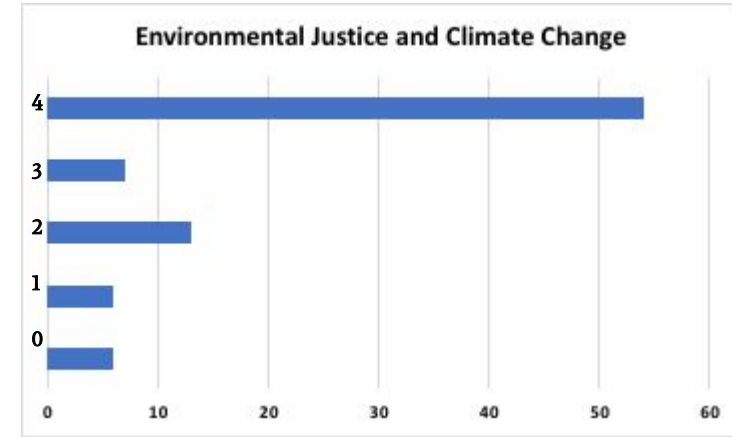
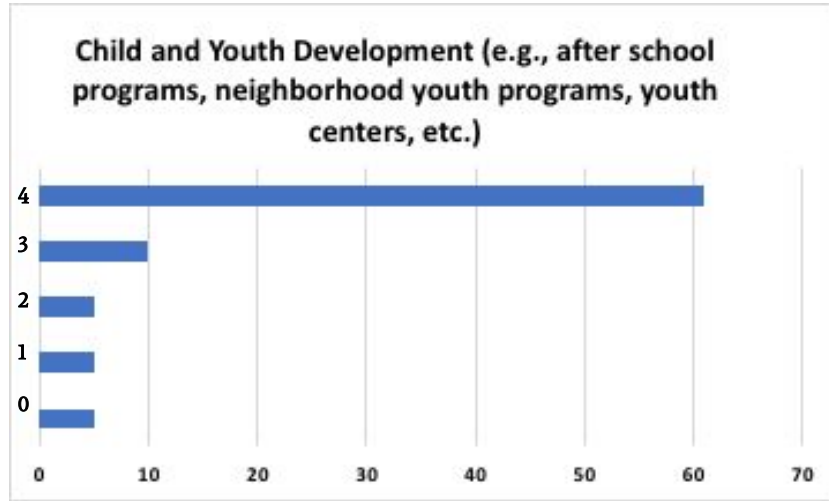
Survey respondents were asked to rank their priorities based on a scale of 0-4.

(4) Maximum possible investment (3) Moderate possible investment

(2) Minimum possible investment (1) No investment at all

(0) Take money away from this item

Universal Needs and Crisis Management



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Universal Needs and Crisis Management

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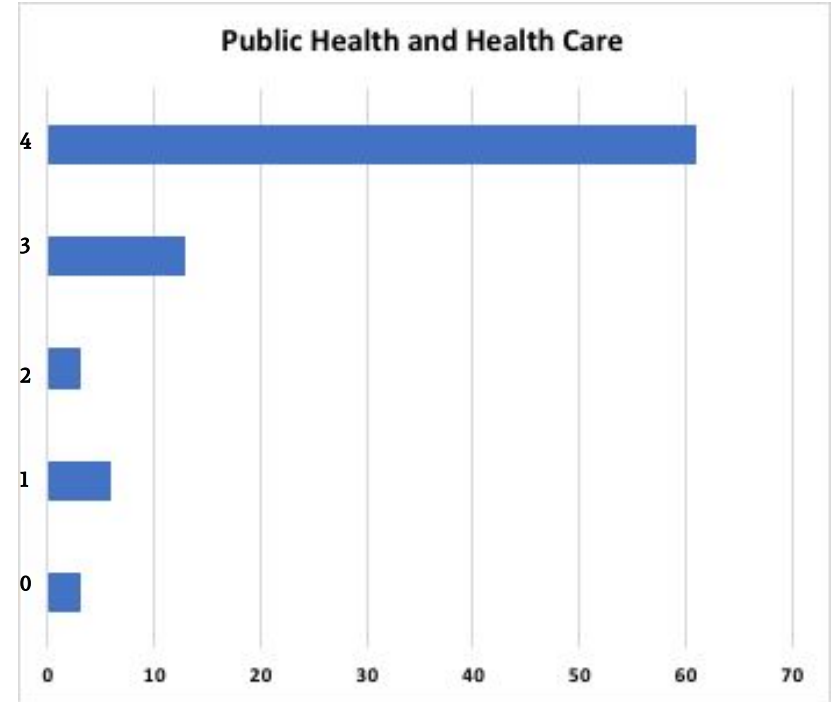
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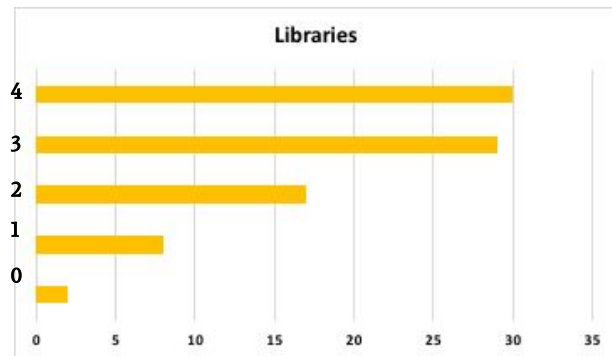
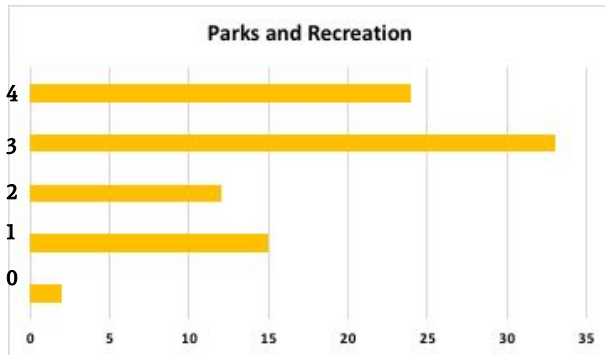
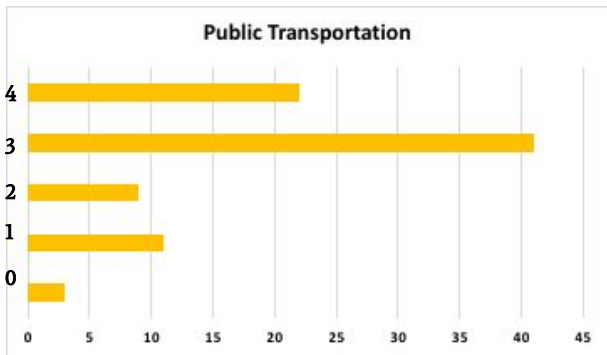
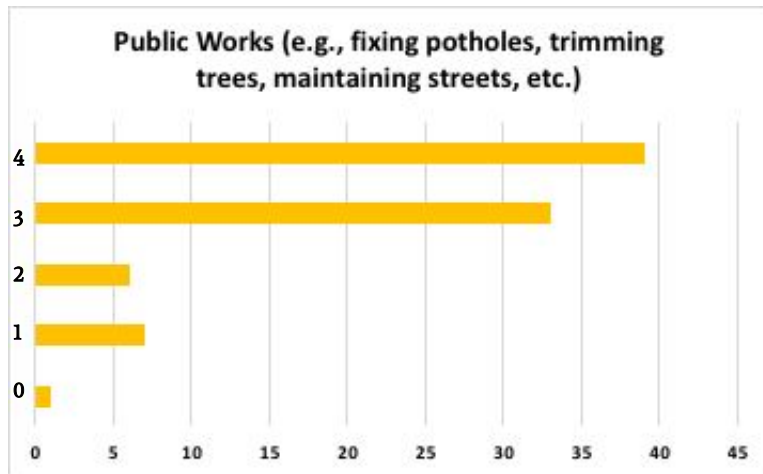


Built Environment

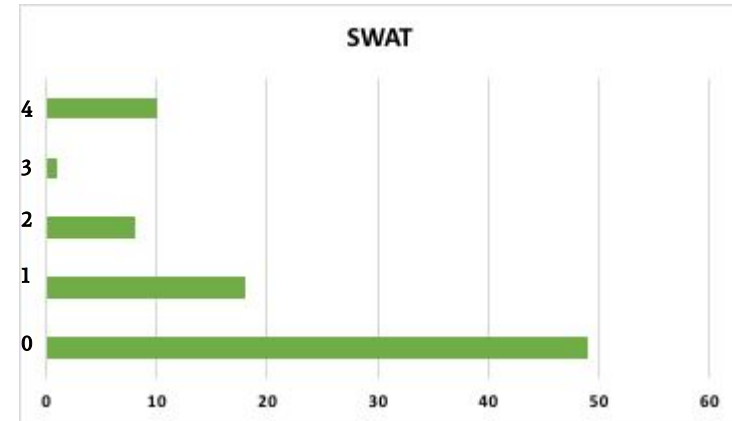
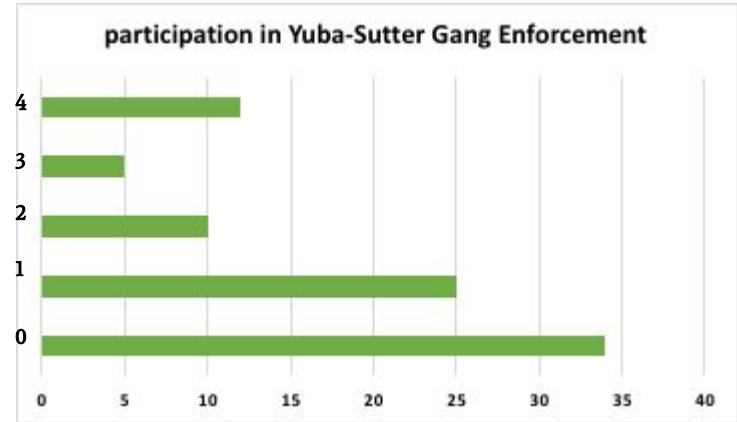
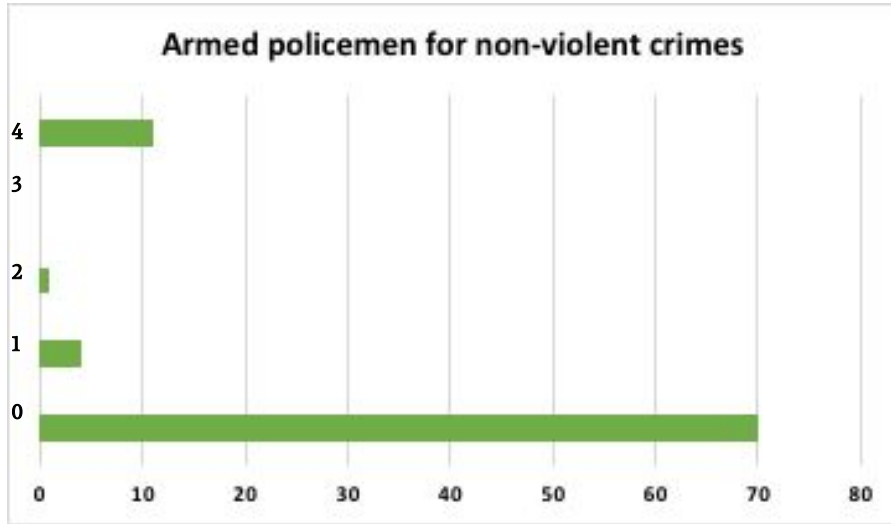
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Law Enforcement



$n = 86$

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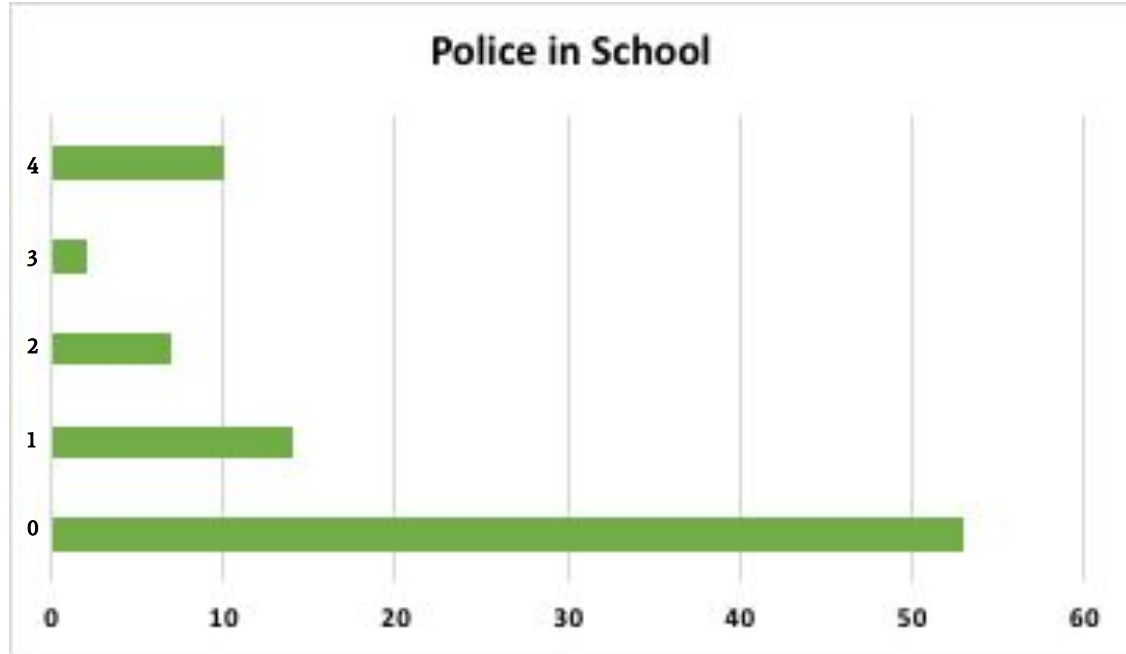
(0 at bottom) Take money away from this item

Law Enforcement

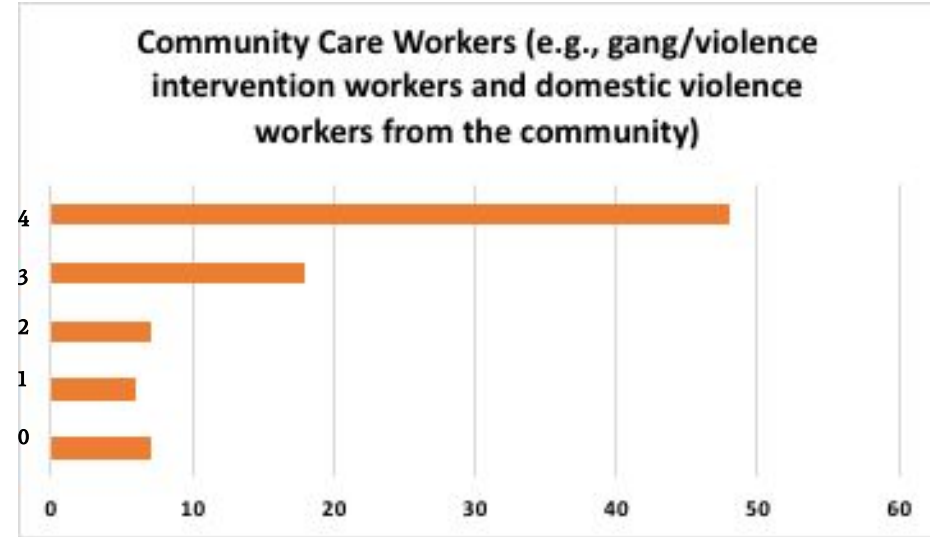
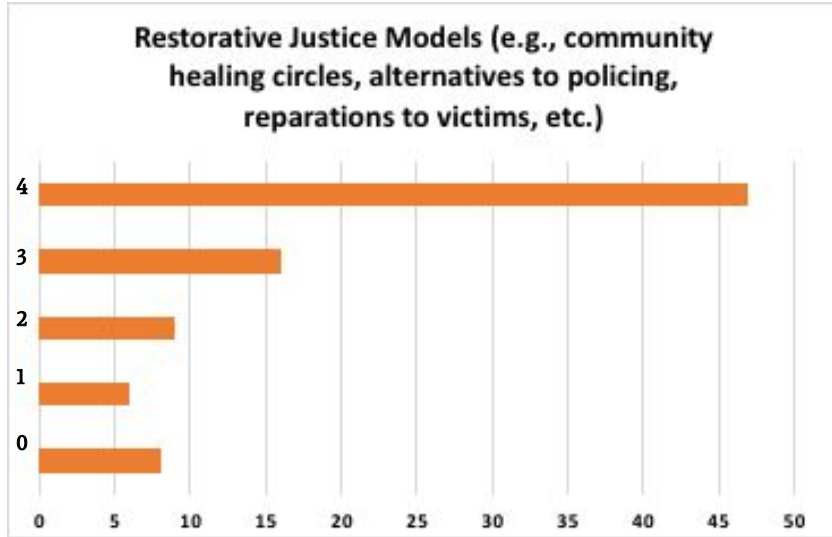
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Reimagined Community Safety



$n = 86$

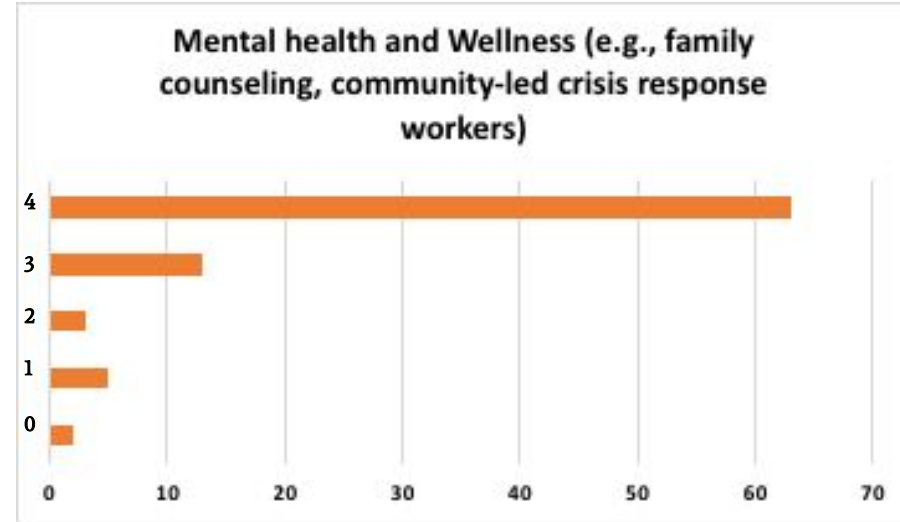
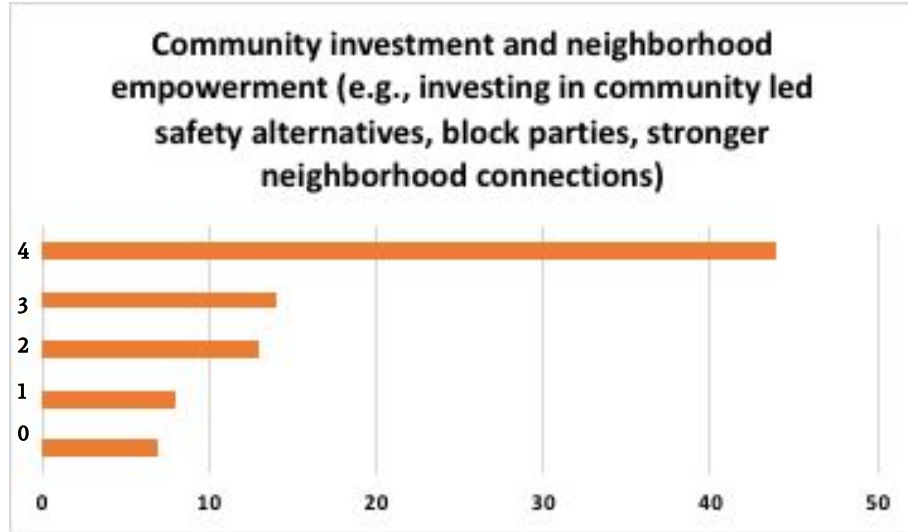
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Reimagined Community Safety



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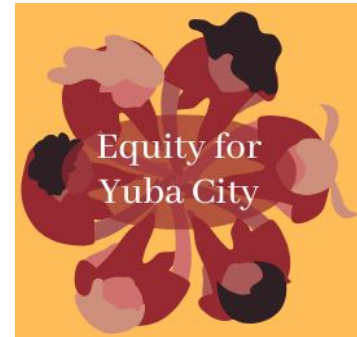
Conclusions

- As shown in the previous slides slide in slides 4-9, it can be concluded that there is unwavering support for money to be taken away from law enforcement (slide 18)
- Instead, people want more money invested in parks and recreation, public works, libraries, public transportation, and the fire department (slide 4). A huge majority of the people want more money towards public health and healthcare, environmental justice and climate change, child and youth development, and emergency preparedness (slide 5). In addition, in terms of community safety, majority of people want more money toward community care workers (e.g., gang/violence intervention workers and domestic violence workers from the community), Mental health and Wellness (e.g., family counseling, community-led crisis response workers), Restorative Justice Models (e.g., community healing circles, alternatives to policing, reparations to victims, etc.), and Community investment and neighborhood empowerment (e.g., investing in community led safety alternatives, block parties, stronger neighborhood connections) (slide 17).

The Voices of Yuba City

Part 3 of 4

Equity for Yuba City
July 7th, 2020
Yuba City Council Meeting



Opinions to the question: “Please feel free to share your thoughts on what else the budget could be used towards in the community.”

Preventative Healthcare! We need to have stricter health measures such as no more huge public gatherings and parties or anything that will help spread the virus even more. Also, more money and resources towards schools. Teachers are literally having to pay for their own supplies and the school district is experiencing a 10 million dollar loss while the police is being funded more.

Rather than using tax dollars to fund the police force at an overwhelming rate, I would suggest that all the funds be reallocated to benefit the entirety of the Yuba-Sutter community. Investments should be inserted in the education system, parks and recreation, food and housing security for those who are less fortunate (this includes the homeless population), healthcare, emergency services (fire dept. and EMT service), public transit, mental health, public events, and upkeep of public property. This brief list would increase the overall happiness of the community as well as decrease the need for the police department. Our tax dollars should directly benefit the people that inhabit this town.

Money should be used towards education (improving teacher salaries) & improving educational opportunities and more community classes maybe (general classes about healthcare, law, etc.) considering a majority of the population doesn't have adequate knowledge of many subjects and it's often used against them.

More Opinions

A part of the budget I believe should be proceeded to gray avenue middle school. I work in there after school program and that school is probably the most underfunded school out of all the other school in the yuba city unified school district. The school is very low poverty and has many students facing everyday problems. Multiple students are homeless, there parents in prison, and are dealing with raising their siblings. Most of these kids grew up at a young age. Another part of the budget needs to go more towards the homeless people in this area. The habitat for humanity should be donated money. There is a huge homeless population here that many people do not realize. One more category that would be beneficial is for mental health. I have struggled with mental health and know it is extremely expensive and the resources are hard to find. I think people need to have easier resources and granted mental health benefits.

I believe these funds could be put into hiring more social workers to help with non violent crimes.

Mental health awareness/education
LGBTQ+ awareness/education
Housing for the homeless

We need more programs for free fitness and more money into animals at shelters. Also for low cost animal clinics to give them shots and vaccines

any other community center would be nice.
maybe some more things to do.. roller skating?!

Schools: classrooms, supplies, food,
extracurricular activities, field trips.

More opinions

- Free “English as a Second Language” classes for adults, as well as advertisement for them

Reallocation towards education, counseling, and a plethora of other community funded organizations that would provide more help in situations such as drug busts, suicide attempts, etc.

More resources to organizations that fight to house and protect domestic abuse victims (casa de Esperanza) and for housing benefits and increased jobs in lower income (especially BIPOC) communities in Yuba City.

I just mainly think money should be distributed better to schooling and for affordable housing and food

Funding a hands on stem program

Education! More programs in our schools to help students attend colleges/vocational schools sometime in their future!

I just mainly think money should be distributed better to schooling and for affordable housing and food

Education, better wages for teachers

Homeless shelters and public schools!

fixing the schools and public facilities

use for homelessness

- Free adult education classes (e.g. to earn a G.E.D.), as well as advertisement for them

Community events

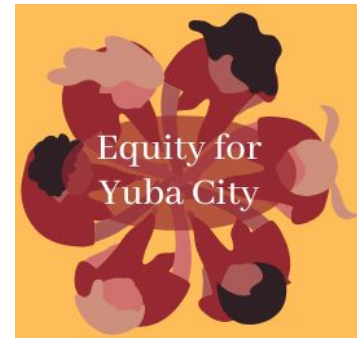
In conclusion, the Yuba City public believes that more resources and money should be allocated to:

- a. Affordable housing**
- b. Public facilities**
- c. Community centers**
- d. Healthcare**
- e. Mental health and wellness**

The Voices of Yuba City

Part 4 of 4

Equity for Yuba City
July 7th, 2020
Yuba City Council Meeting



Testimonials to the question: “Please feel free to share any experience you have had personally or witnessed in which Yuba City policemen treated you or someone else unfairly. This includes experiencing racist behavior, insults, or unnecessary force.”

Wrongfully accused members of my family for involvement in shootings, drug deals and stolen property for "fitting a description" that have had no connection other than they are Mexican men

I've been driven around by many adults in my life, but the person who gets pulled over consistently for no apparent reason is my grandfather (who wears a turban). I don't believe that's just a coincidence.

Domestic violence cases are some of the most dangerous calls in the country [REDACTED] sending social workers

I am always second priority due to the color of my skin. I am looked at as if I am illiterate.

I have been called racial slurs as well as benn racially profiled

I personally have not had a run-in with the police department that involved racial slurs, insults, etc. I try to stray away from police, as I fear for my safety when they are around. I'm sure that if I had encountered police more I would have an experience related to the prompt.

More Testimonials

I have only seen Yuba City cops be generally nice (in my experience), but that does not erase the fact that the police in this country have too much power over underprivileged groups. The duties that the cops are tasked with that don't directly respond to violent threats should be instead directed towards other trained professionals. For example, there are cops who have to attend to the homeless/drug-using population. There was a time on second street where a police officer was gently asking a drug-using homeless man to relocate. This is a common occurrence. While the cop was nice about it, there are other individuals like social workers better equipped to give these people the mental and physical help they need. It is so important to fund such initiatives. Cops have the responsibility to attend to so many different types of issues. I think it is important to divert the budget to better fund the arts in the community, such as art classes (as well as the rest of the community).

I was walking with my friend and he was wearing red and a cop pulled up over and asked us questions and for our information just because he was wearing red. Anyone should be able to wear any color clothes they want.

My sister had a dog bite her a couple years ago by yuba gardens. And it seemed like they didn't really care much or pay much attention to it. The owner was white and I felt like they took their side instead of ours

aggressive tone in voice because i had an "expired" registration (i had a dealership sticker on my car & even told him i got my car a week prior and was waiting for dealership to send me my info) proceeded to bang on my back windows because they were "too tinted" and couldn't see the back of my car yet didn't give me a fix it ticket so we're they really "too tinted"?

More testimonials

They are just very rude sometimes but not the sheriffs. Better training required.

They make me feel safe, Even one of them escorted me home when I was having a panic attack in the middle of the night, and helped me calm down, I'm a rape survivor and they were loving and caring to me, while EVERYONE ELSE IGNORED ME , they were the only ones to give a f [REDACTED] g s [REDACTED] ...

“The community needs to be kept in check after a rape incident occurred to me”
For the safety of this respondent, we've altered this comment.

I have had very positive experiences with Yuba City police. My brother was having a mental health crisis and they were able to put him on a hold and get him the help he needed and were to get him to talk to the people he needed to talk to. My brother is a hispanic male and I don not believe YCPD treated him unfairly or held any prejudice against him.

After being physically harassed by someone in my family and having the police called, (by someone in my neighborhood who I went to for help, not by myself) the police responded by calling me a “selfish brat,” who was making up a fake story even though I had the markings to prove my what happened. They did not let me leave the premises without the permission of the person who had physically harassed me.

In conclusion, the police officers have racially profiled people in our community, have harassed people in our community, and have responded to rape incidents and mental health crisis. Thus, police officers have been racially biased and have substituted for mental health professionals and healthcare responders on various occasions. It's important to note that police officers do not receive the same training or education as a mental health professional or healthcare responder; thus, they are not suitable to respond to mental health crisis or health-related emergencies.