

# CSDD Evanston Reparations Survey: Overview of Key Findings

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# Northwestern

Center for the Study of

# Diversity and Democracy

WEINBERG COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES



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**Mission:** Founded in 2017 to provide translational research and pedagogies about diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) to corporations, governments, and non-profits.

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**Executive Education:** Partnered with [2U, Inc](#) to develop on-line executive education courses on “Leading, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion” and “Leading Racial Equity in Organizations.” We have trained 5,000 leaders since 2019.

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**Public Engagement:** CSDD has partnered with the City of Evanston’s government and key stakeholders in the community to conduct a multi-phase study of the city’s first in the nation local reparations program.

# Background of the Study

- **January 2023:** The City of Evanston and the Center for the Study of Diversity and Democracy (CSDD) at Northwestern University form a research collaborative to study public attitudes toward the City's first in the nation reparations program.
- **January 2023:** Professors Alvin Tillery and Tabitha Bonilla work in consultation with Alderman Robin Rue Simmons and Mayor Daniel Biss to design the survey instrument. Researchers for the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) play a consultative role in the study design.
- **February to June 2023:** The CSDD and NORC deploy a web-based survey on city distribution lists, through post-cards, and face-to-face recruitment.
- **July 2023:** The survey closed having gathered 3,367 responses.

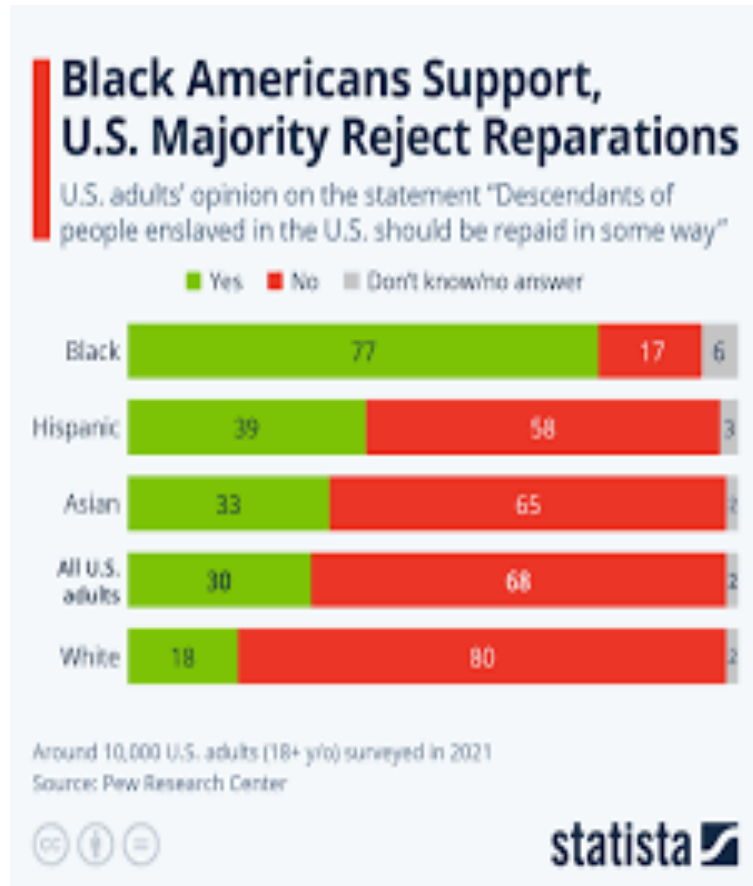


# The Goals of the Study

- The survey wanted to determine if Evanston residents believed that reparations was good public policy for the City of Evanston.
- The survey wanted to ascertain how the City Council's decision to pass the reparations ordinance affected residents' trust in local government.
- The survey sought to understand if there were any significant racial gaps in public opinion about the reparations program.
- The survey wanted to determine how public opinion in Evanston lined up with the findings of national surveys on the reparations question.



# Putting the Study in Context



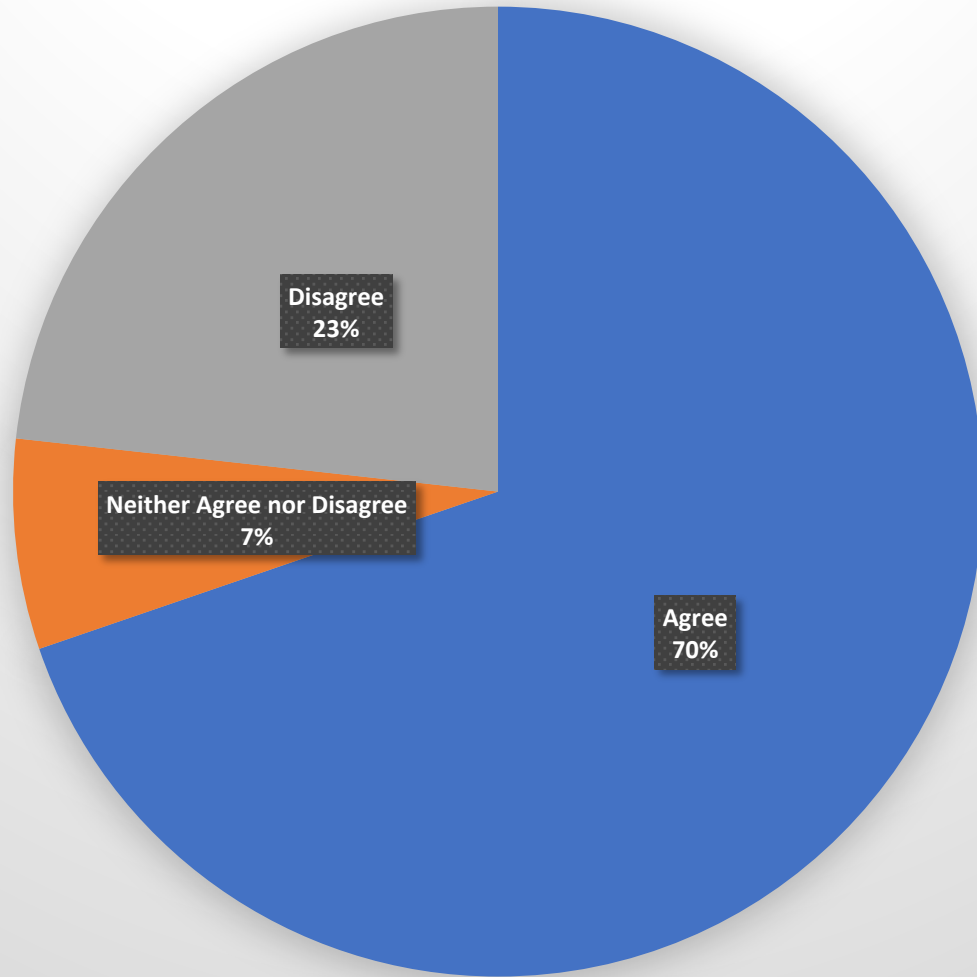
- The Evanston Reparations Survey is the first to collect public opinion data on an actual program.
- Prior surveys (Dawson and Popoff, 2004; Pew Research, 2021) have focused on the concept of reparations for slavery.
- The previous surveys have found large and stable racial gaps in public opinion on reparations—with White respondents overwhelmingly opposed and Black respondents overwhelmingly in favor of these programs.



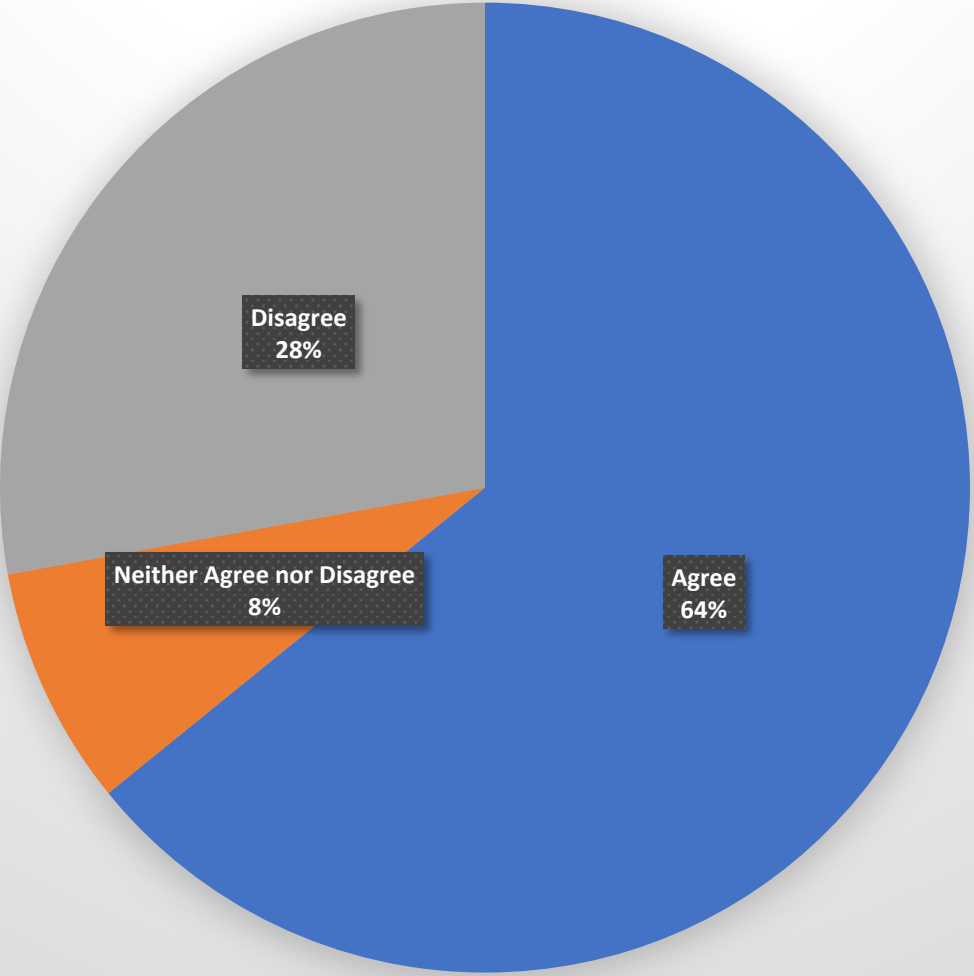
## Segmented Responses to Question 11:

Do you think that the  
Evanston Reparations  
Program is good public  
policy?

**Q11: Do you think reparations is good public policy?  
(White Respondents)**

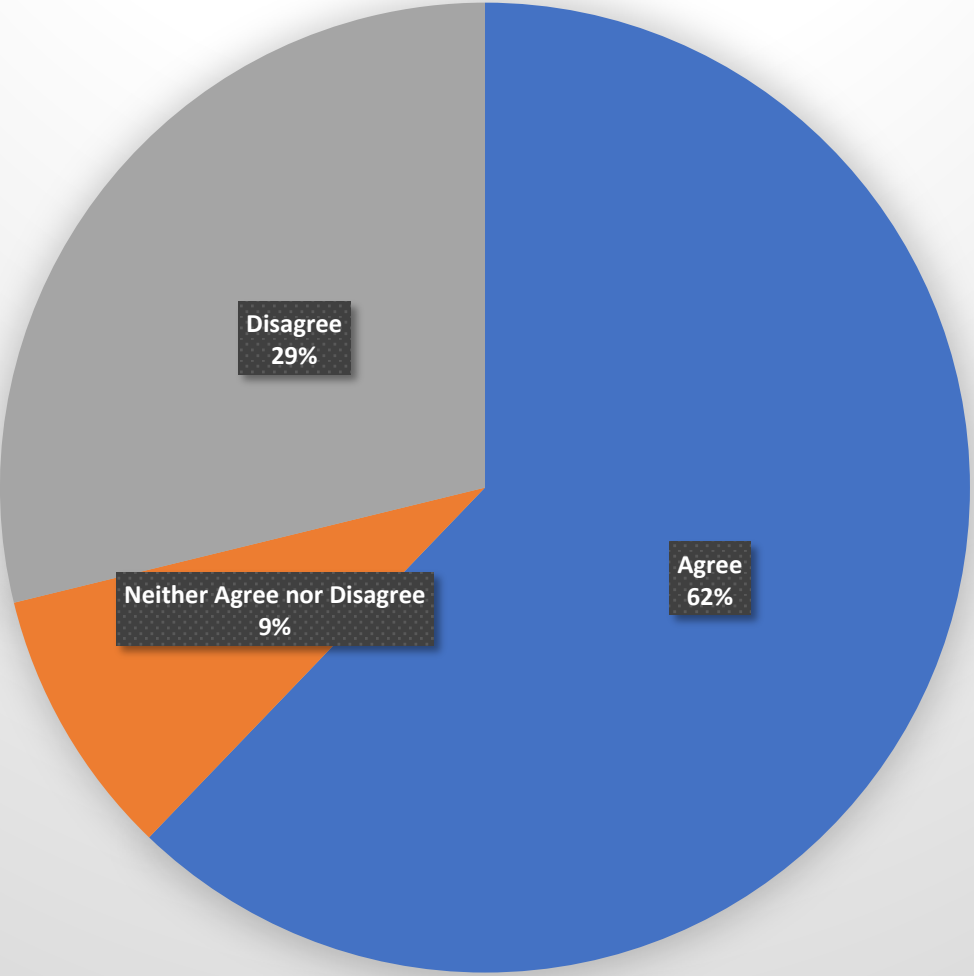


**Q11: Evanston Reparations Program is Good Public Policy?  
(Black Respondents)**

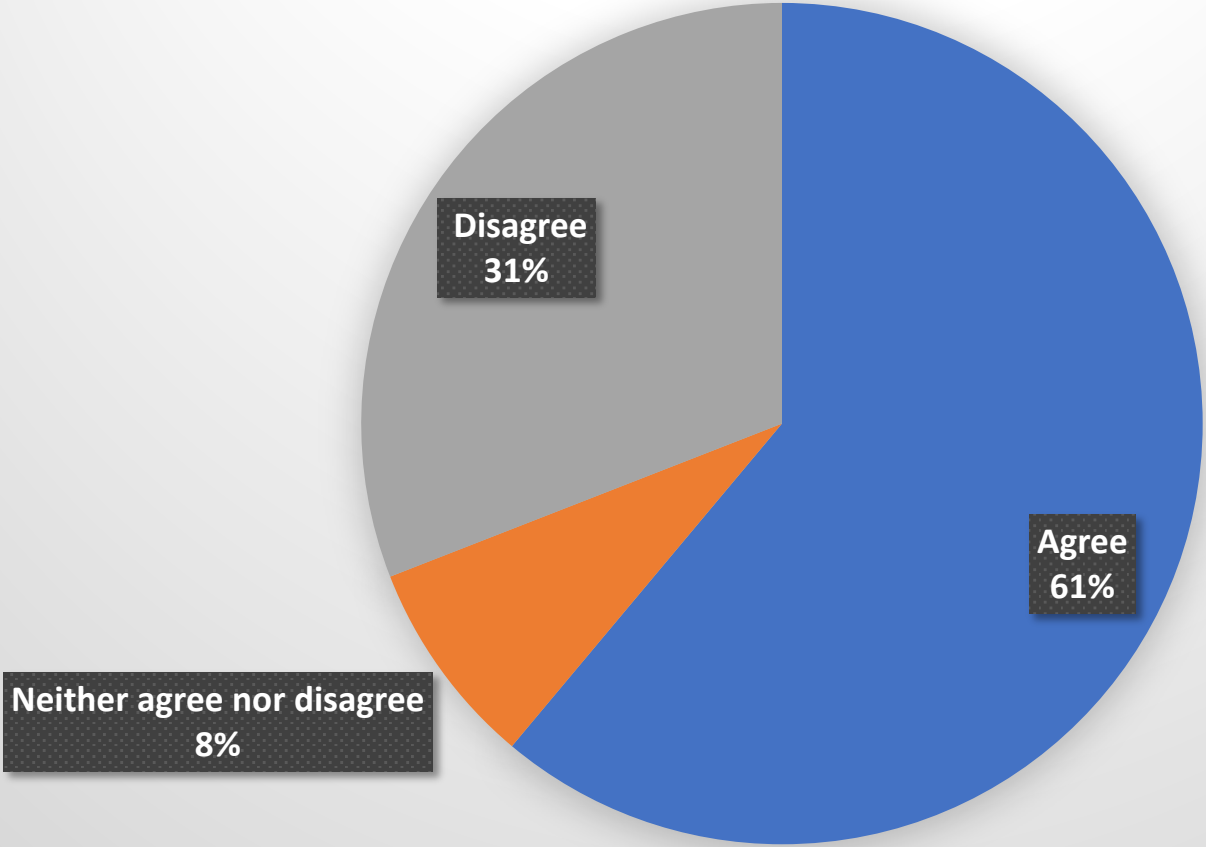




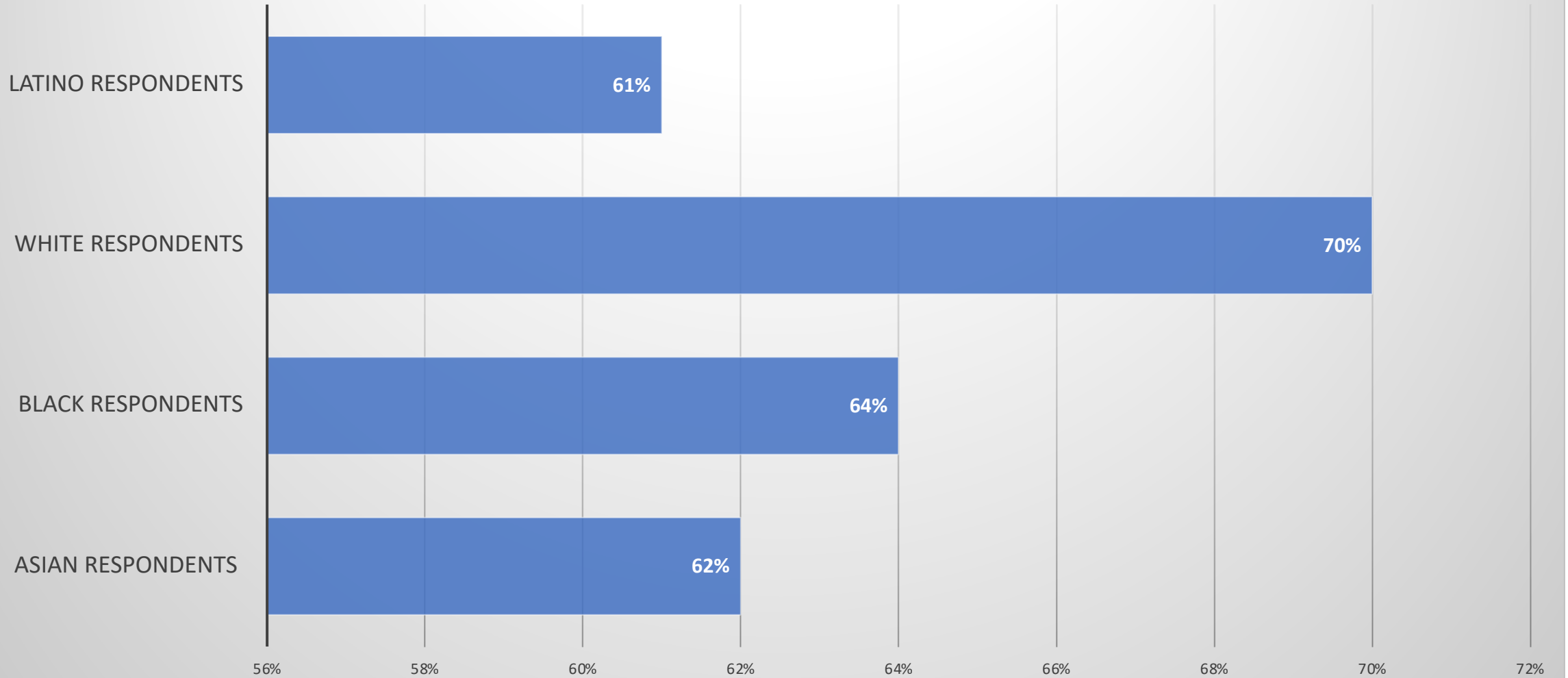
**Q11: Evanston Reparations Program is Good Public Policy?  
(Asian Respondents)**



**Question 11: Reparations Program is Good Public Policy  
(Latino Respondents)**



## Overall Positive Sentiment on Question 11 (Segmented by Race and Ethnicity)

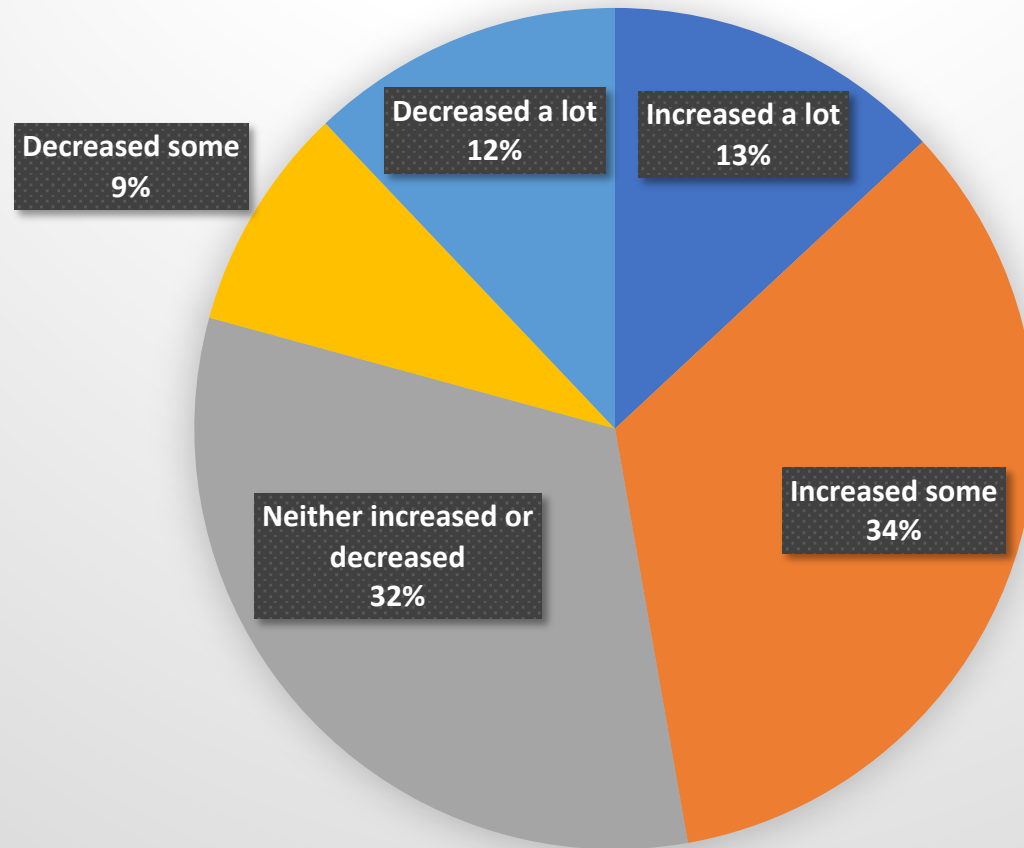




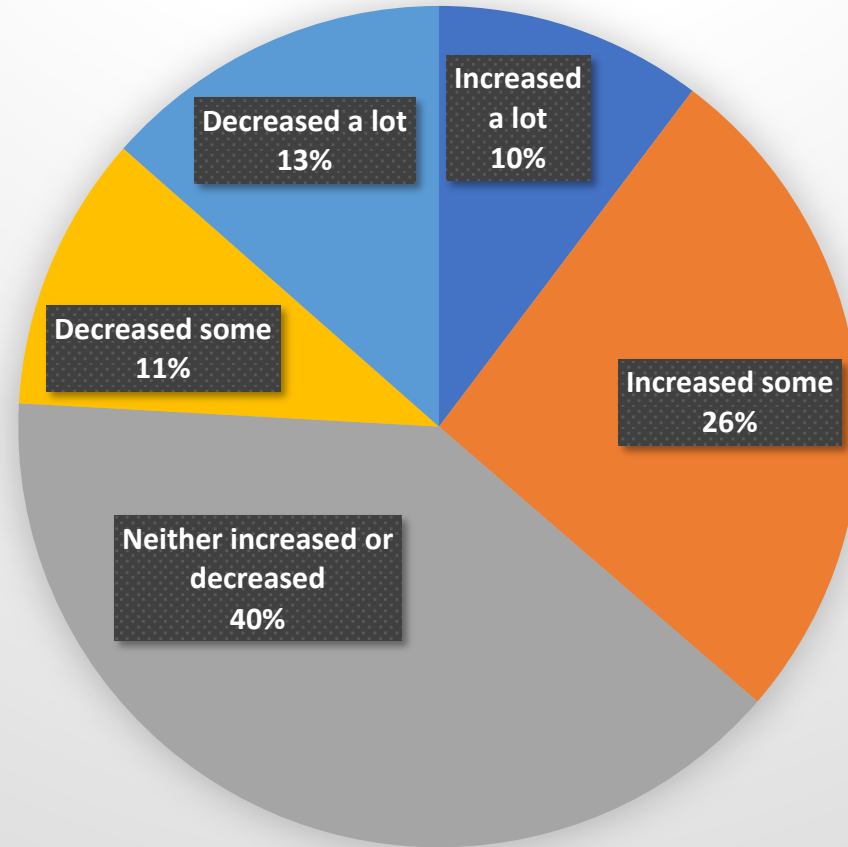
## Segmented Responses to Question 14:

Has the reparations program increased or decreased your trust in the City of Evanston's local government?

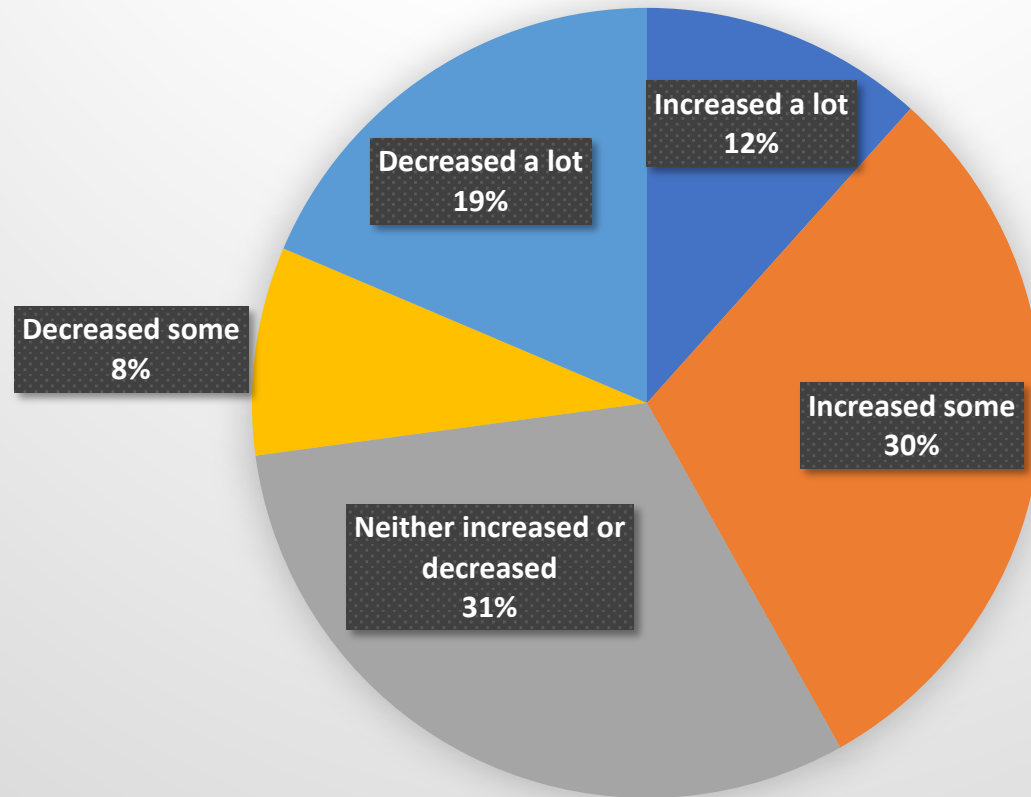
**Question 14: Has your trust in city government increased or decreased?  
(White Respondents)**



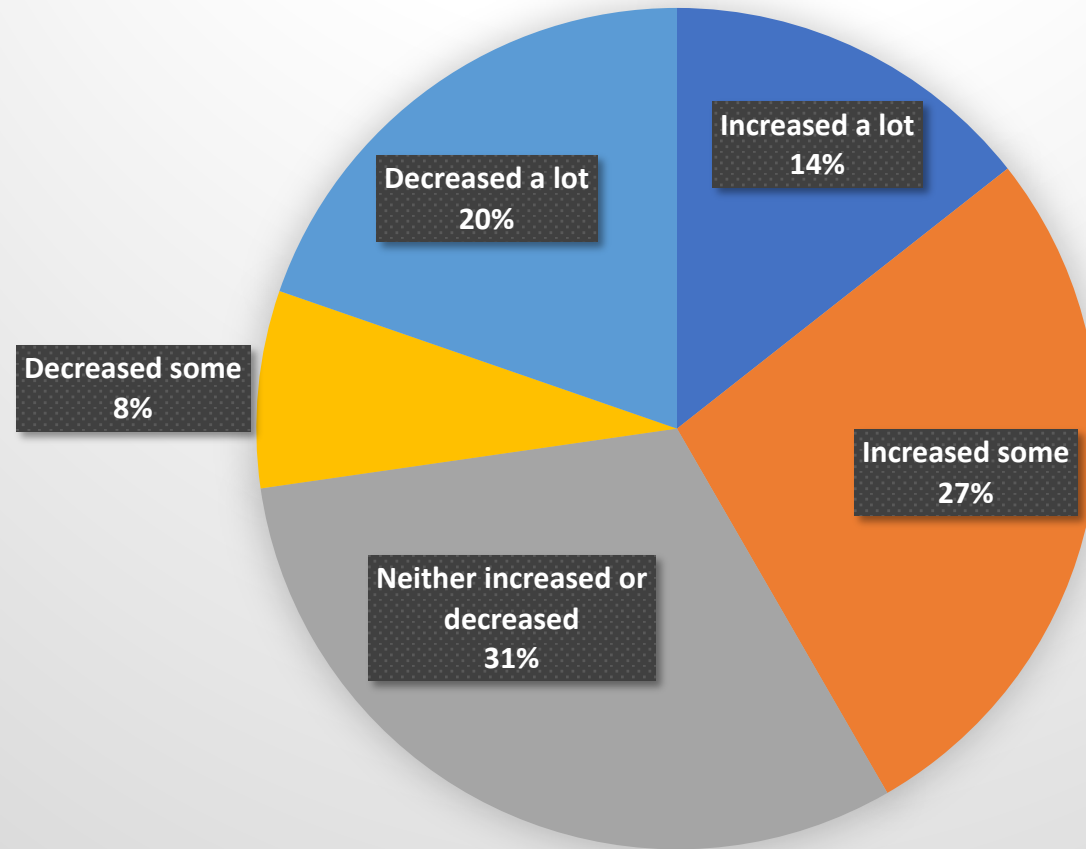
**Question 14: Has your trust in city government increased or decreased?  
(Black Respondents)**



**Question 14: Has your trust in city government increased or decreased?  
(Asian Respondents)**

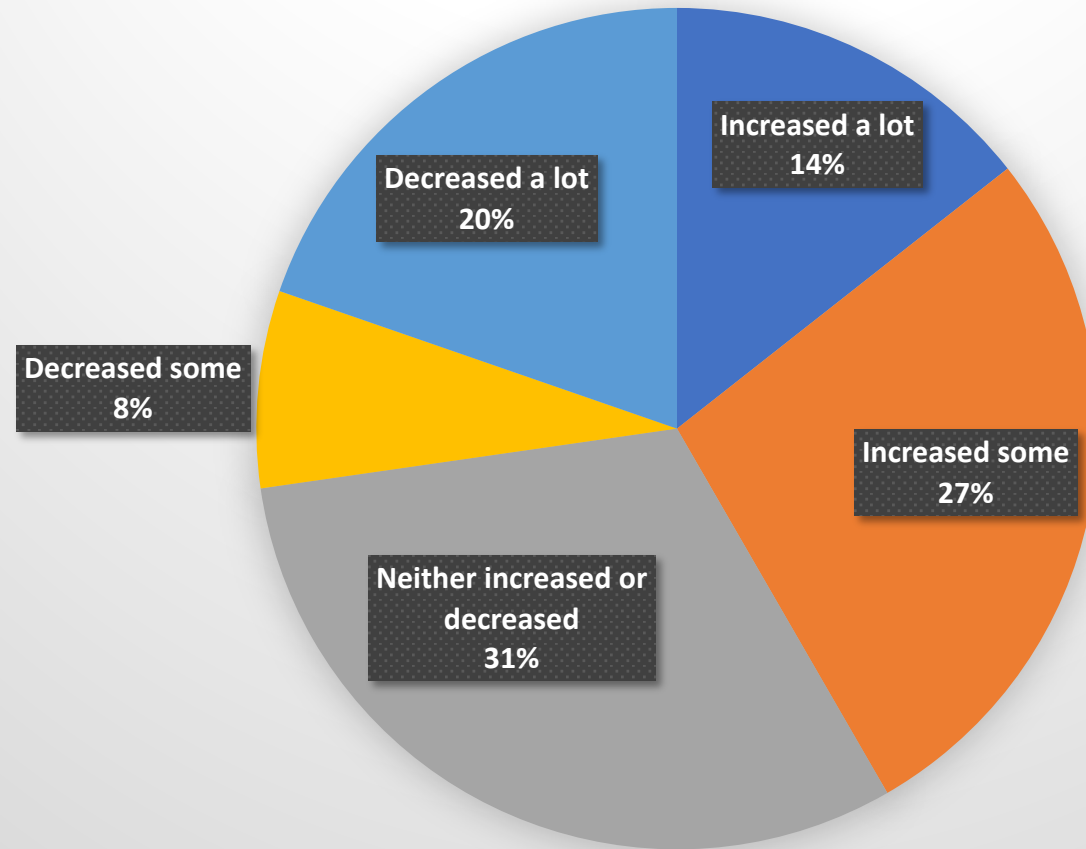


**Question 14: Has your trust in city government increased or decreased?  
(Latino Respondents)**

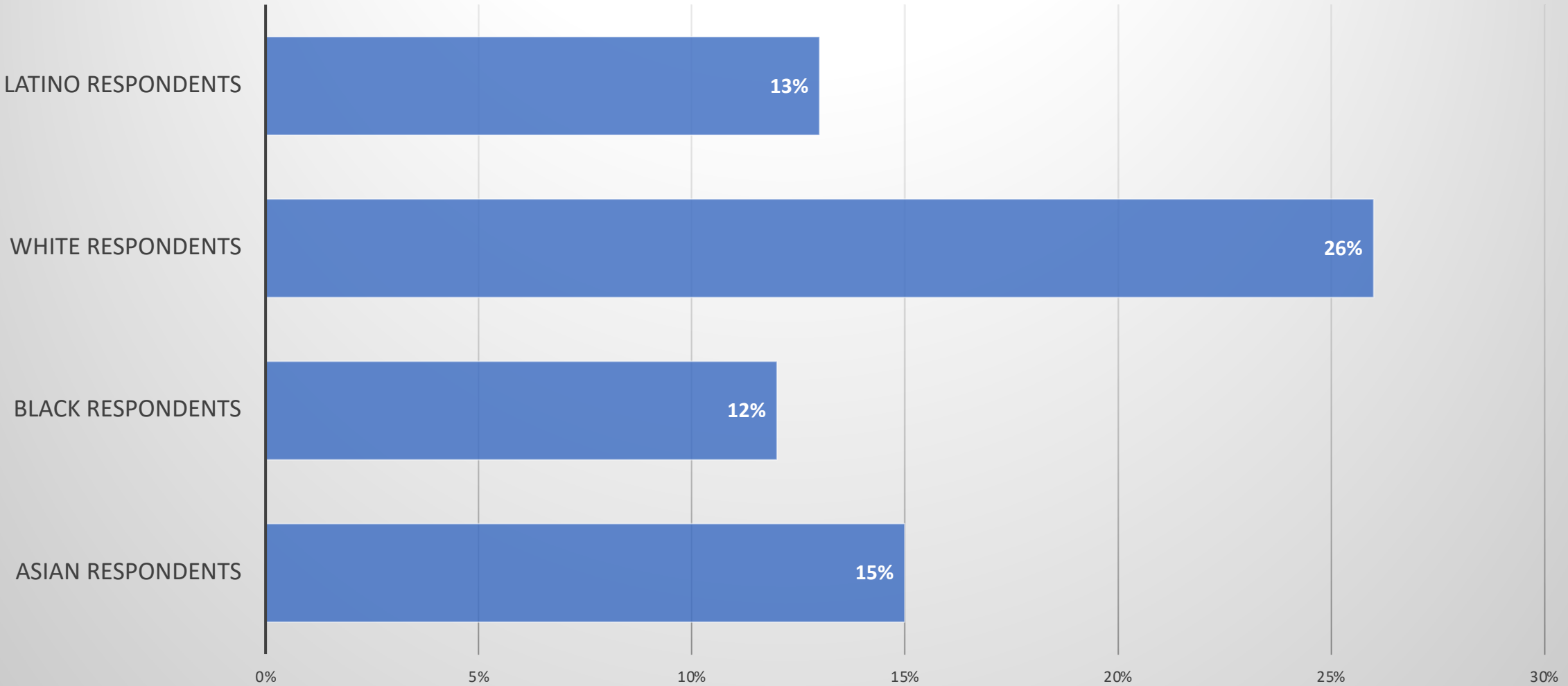




**Question 14: Has your trust in city government increased or decreased?  
(Latino Respondents)**



# Net Gains in Trust in City Government (Segmented by Race and Ethnicity)



# Key Takeaways from the Evanston Survey

- The Evanston survey is the first to collect responses in a setting where a reparations program exists as a matter of policy.
- The findings in Evanston show that it is possible to achieve widespread support for reparations across ethnic and racial divides.
- The findings from Evanston show that progressive policy-makers can accrue gains in trust and support from their constituents by making reparations a reality.

