

Anne Arundel County Hate Crimes Prevention Program

Survey Results

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Survey Logistics

Methodology and Response Rates

The second annual **Anne Arundel County Hate Crimes Prevention Program survey** was hosted online and open for participation from **May 1, 2026, through July 31, 2026**.

- **Participation Metrics:** A total of **264 respondents** completed the survey.
- **Data Cleaning:** **16 respondents** were excluded from the final dataset because they provided zip codes outside of Anne Arundel County.
- **Final Sample Size:** This data cleaning resulted in a baseline analytical sample size of **243 residents**.

Key Improvements and Ongoing Challenges

The program implemented strategic adjustments for this iteration, though systemic outreach challenges persisted:

- **Language Accessibility:** While the inaugural survey was strictly restricted to English (relying on browser-based translations), this year's survey was professionally translated into **Spanish and Korean** to expand community outreach.
- **Sample Size Limitations:** Despite extensive team presence and engagement efforts at community events, the survey **did not achieve a statistically representative sample size**.
- **Contributing Obstacles:** The team attributes the lower-than-expected turnout to a combination of **survey fatigue** and the **inherent complexity and fear** surrounding the topics of hate bias and hate crimes. Moving forward, the program will refine its outreach strategies to meet target sample sizes in future iterations.

Executive Summary

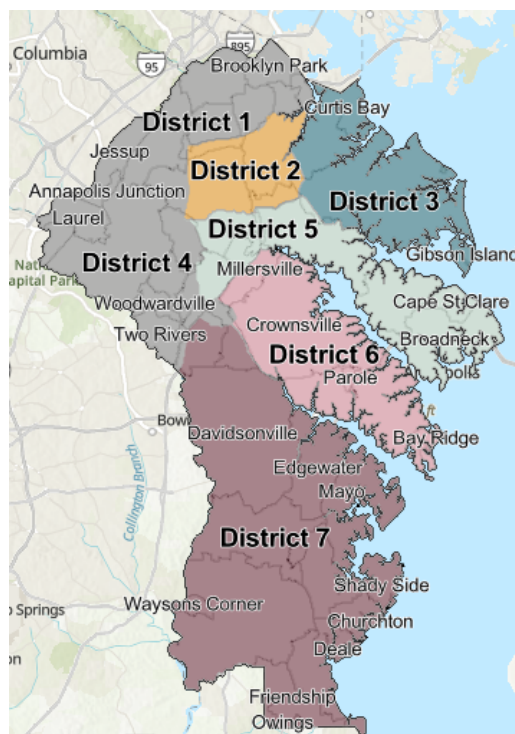
The **Hate Crimes Prevention Program survey** was conducted for a second consecutive year to track changes in residents' knowledge and experiences regarding hate bias incidents and hate crimes.

Key Survey Demographics:

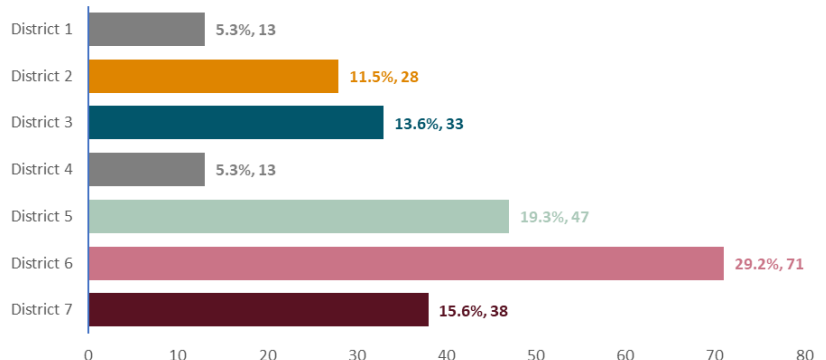
- **Race & Ethnicity:** Respondents were predominantly White (70.0%) and Black (14.0%), closely reflecting the county's broader demographics (63.4% White and 17.9% Black).
- **Sexual Orientation:** The vast majority of participants identified as heterosexual (76.1%).
- **Gender Disparity:** Women were significantly overrepresented, accounting for 63.4% of survey respondents despite making up only 50.3% of the county's total population.
- **Geographic Distribution:** Participation was heavily concentrated in three specific areas, with Districts 6, 5, and 7 comprising 29.2%, 19.3%, and 15.6% of total respondents, respectively.

Data Limitations:

- **Low Response Rates:** Low participation among Hispanic, non-binary, and religious minorities (excluding Christian, Atheist, and Jewish individuals) prevented statistically sound analytical conclusions for these subgroups.
- **Comparative Limitations:** Due to a limited overall sample size, a year-over-year comparative analysis with the previous year's survey could not be performed.



Respondents by County Council District: Most Respondents were from County Council Districts 5, 6 and 7



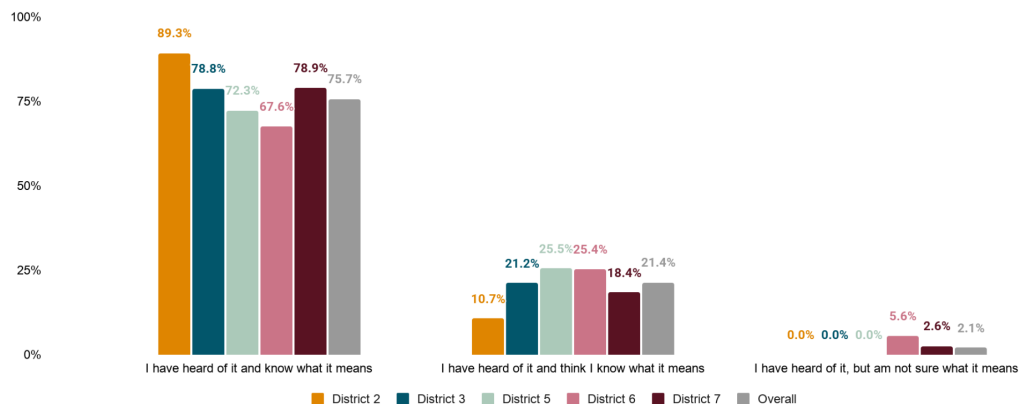
Survey Results

Understanding Hate Crimes vs. Hate Bias Incidents

While most respondents can define a hate crime, significantly fewer understand how it differs from a hate bias incident.

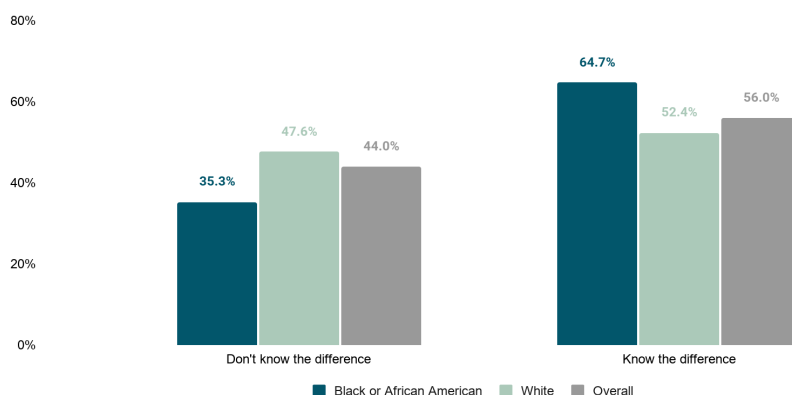
- Hate Crime Awareness:** A strong majority of respondents (**75.7%**) reported that they had heard of the term “hate crime” and understood its meaning.
 - Demographic High:* Residents in **County Council District 2 (Glen Burnie area)** expressed the highest confidence in their understanding (**89.3%**), compared to **67.6%** of District 6 residents.
 - Demographic Low:* **Spiritual** respondents reported the lowest understanding (**59.3%**).

Council District 2 Residents most familiar with the term hate crime; District 6 residents least familiar



- Distinguishing the Difference:** A smaller majority (**56.0%**) stated they knew the specific difference between a “hate bias incident” and a “hate crime.”
 - Demographic High:* **Black** respondents were the most likely to know the difference (**64.7%**), compared to **52.4%** of White respondents.
 - Demographic Low:* **Spiritual** respondents were the least likely to know the difference (**44.4%**), compared to **58.8%** of Christian respondents.

Black respondents more likely to say they know the difference between a hate bias incident and a hate crime

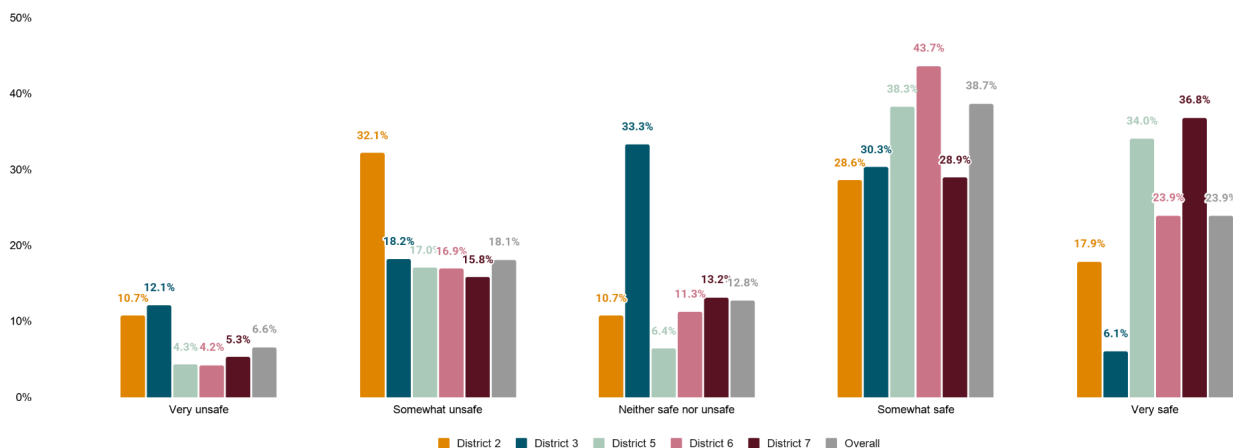


Perceptions of Safety in Anne Arundel County

The majority of respondents report feeling safe in the county, though notable safety concerns exist among younger residents and specific districts.

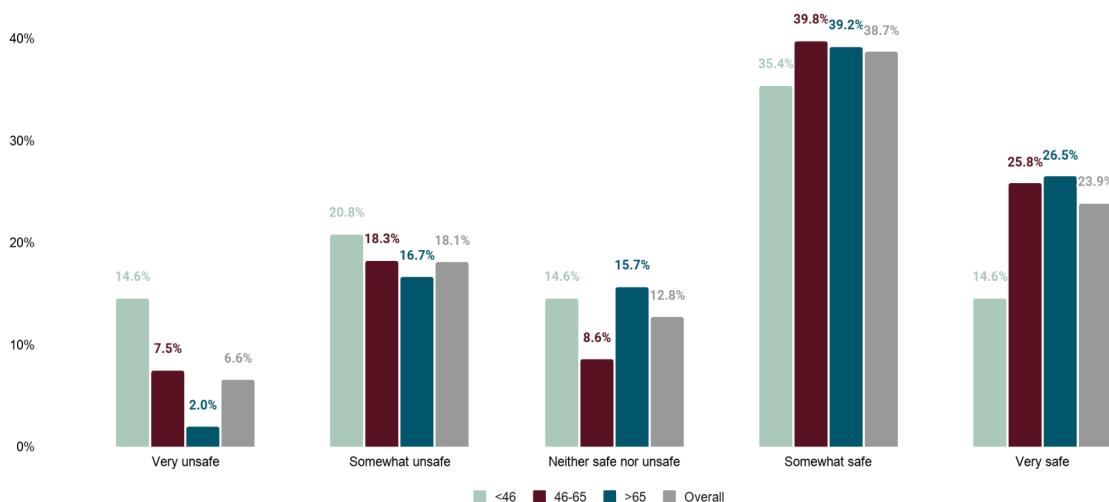
- Overall Safety Feelings:** A combined **62.6%** of respondents feel secure in the county, with **38.7%** feeling “somewhat safe” and **23.9%** feeling “very safe.”
 - Geographic Highlight:* **District 7 (South County)** residents are the most likely to feel “very safe” (**36.8%**), compared to only **23.9%** of **District 6** residents.

District 2 residents more likely to say they feel “somewhat” or “very” unsafe; District 5 residents more likely to say they feel “somewhat” or “very” safe



- Overall Safety Concerns:** Approximately **24.7%** (about one in four) of respondents express feeling insecure, with **18.1%** feeling “somewhat unsafe” and **6.6%** feeling “very unsafe.”
 - Age Disparity:* Respondents **under age 46** are the most likely demographic group to feel “very unsafe” (**14.6%**), contrasting sharply with only **2.0%** of residents over age 65.

Younger respondents (under age 46) most likely to say they feel “very” or “somewhat” unsafe

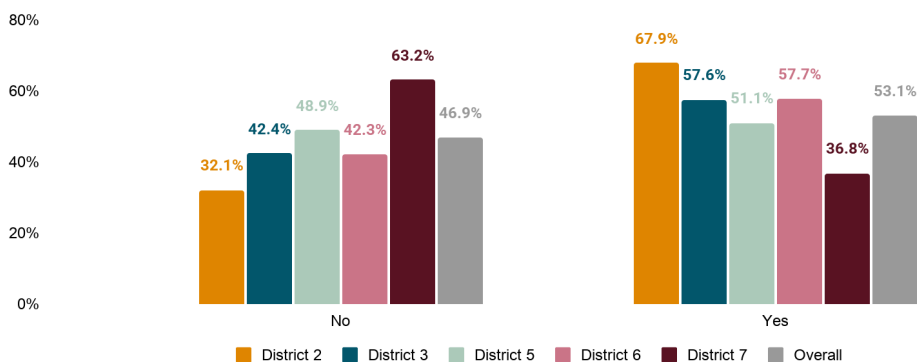


Experiences with Hate Bias Incidents and Reporting

More than half of the respondents have personal or secondary exposure to hate bias incidents or hate crimes within the county.

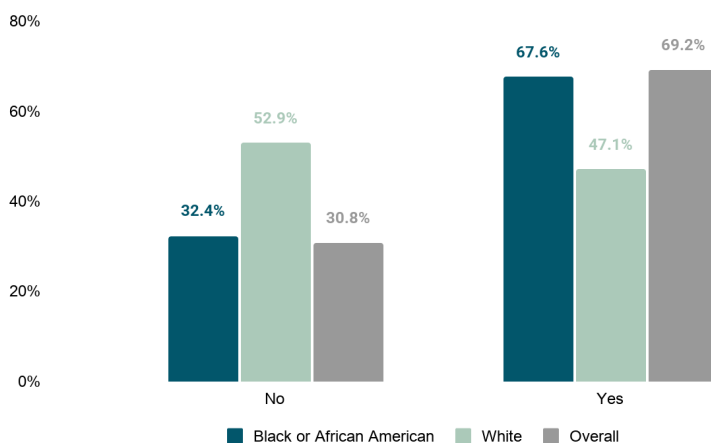
- **Prevalence of Incidents:** Over half of all participants (**53.1%**) reported that either they or someone they knew had experienced a hate bias incident or hate crime in Anne Arundel County.
- **Geographic Variations:** **District 2 (Glen Burnie area)** residents were the most likely to report exposure to an incident, with **67.9%** affected compared to **57.7%** in **District 6**.

District 2 residents most likely to say they have experienced a hate bias incident/crime; District 7 least likely



- **Racial Disparities:** **Black** respondents reported significantly higher exposure rates (**67.6%**) than **White** respondents (**47.1%**).

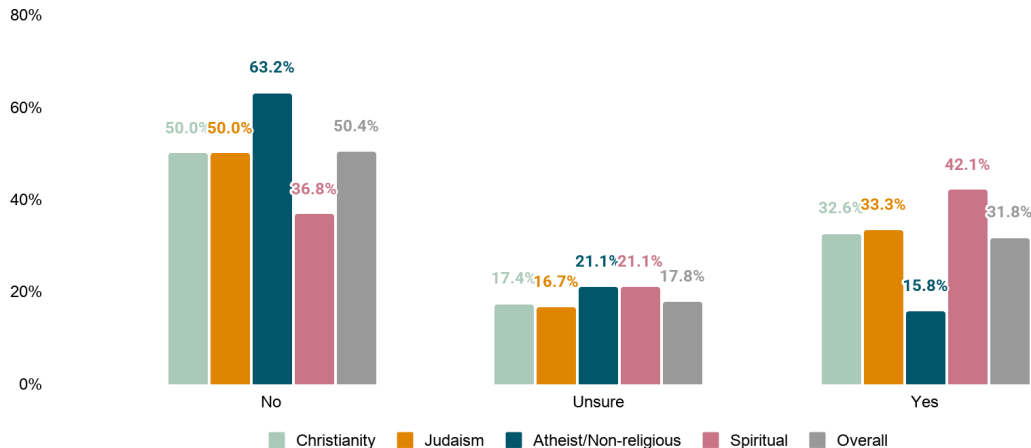
Black respondents more likely to say they have experienced a hate bias incident/crime



- **Timeline of Incidents:** Of the reported experiences, half are recent, while others occurred further in the past:
 - **50.4%** occurred within the last year.
 - **31.0%** occurred 2 to 5 years ago.
 - **18.6%** occurred 5 or more years ago.

- **Reporting Rates:** Most incidents go unreported, with **50.4%** of victims choosing not to report, **17.8%** unsure if a report was made, and only **31.8%** officially reporting the incident.
 - *Demographic High:* **Spiritual** respondents were the most likely to report an incident (**42.1%**), compared to **32.6%** of Christian respondents.
 - *Demographic Low:* **Atheist** respondents were the least likely to report (**15.8%**).

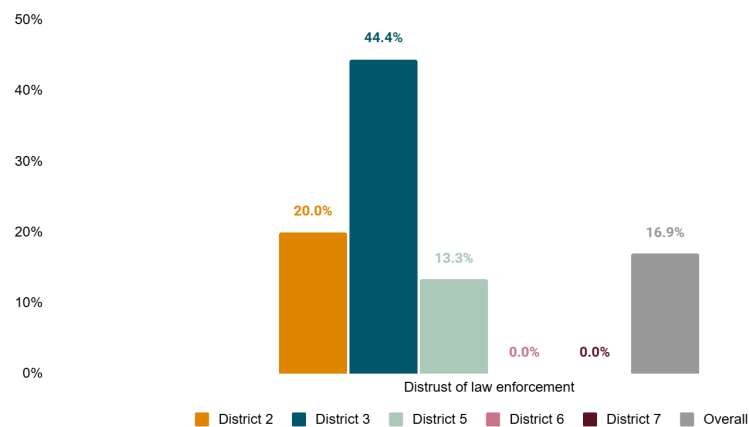
Atheist respondents least likely to report the hate bias incident/crime, and spiritual respondents are most likely to report



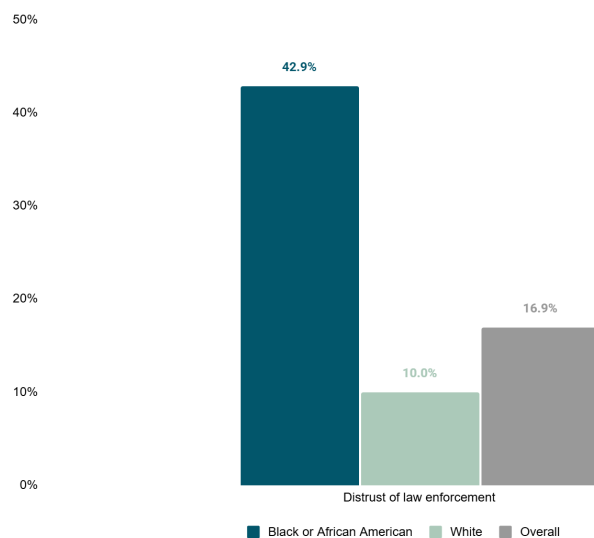
- **Primary Reporting Channels:** Among those who did file a report, the most common methods utilized were:
 - Police department (48.8%)
 - Anne Arundel County Hate Bias Incident Reporting Portal (19.5%)
 - Online reporting through independent organizations (17.1%)
 - Workplace Human Resources (HR) or management (17.1%)
- **Police Reporting Trends:** Law enforcement reporting varies widely across identity groups and geography:
 - *By Demographics:* While **queer** respondents were among the least likely to report incidents overall (**19.0%**), those who did report were the most likely of any group to go to the **police (75.0% vs. 51.6%** of heterosexual respondents).
 - *By Geography:* Residents in **District 2 (Glen Burnie)** and **District 3 (Pasadena)** were the least likely to involve the police (**20.0%** each), compared to **53.3%** of District 6 residents.
- **Primary Reasons for Not Reporting:** Among respondents who chose not to report an incident, the top motivations were:
 - **Belief that nothing would happen (47.7%)**
 - **Perceiving the incident as minor or insignificant (30.8%)**
 - *Other factors:* A lack of knowledge on how or where to report, fear of retaliation, privacy or social repercussions, uncertainty about whether the incident qualified for reporting, and distrust of law enforcement.

- **Privilege vs. Marginalization Trends:** Reasons for staying silent diverged significantly along demographic lines:
 - **Marginalized groups** were consistently more likely to avoid reporting out of a belief that **nothing would happen** (with men and Christians being the only exceptions to this trend).
 - **Privileged groups** were consistently more likely to refrain from reporting because they **did not view the incident as significant enough** (with queer respondents being the only exception).
- **Distrust of Law Enforcement:** Systemic distrust was a major barrier for specific racial and geographic groups:
 - *By Geography:* **District 3 (Pasadena area)** residents cited law enforcement distrust at **44.4%**, compared to **0.0%** of District 6 residents.
 - *By Race:* **Black** respondents cited distrust of law enforcement at a significantly higher rate (**42.9%**) than **White** respondents (**10.0%**).

District 3 Respondents more likely to cite distrust of law enforcement as reason for not reporting hate bias incidents



Black respondents more likely to cite distrust of law enforcement as reason for not reporting hate bias incidents



Preparedness and Intentions for Witnessing or Experiencing Incidents

Respondents are deeply divided on their preparedness to handle an incident, with clear demographic splits regarding who they would turn to and why they might hesitate to report.

- **Confidence Levels:** Public readiness is highly fractured into roughly equal thirds:
 - **High Confidence:** **38.3%** feel equipped, reporting they are “mostly” (**23.9%**) or “very” (**14.4%**) confident they know what to do if they witness or experience an incident.
 - **Low Confidence:** **31.2%** feel unprepared, stating they are “slightly” (**15.6%**) or “not at all” (**15.6%**) confident.
- **Preferred Reporting Channels:** If respondents chose to report a hypothetical incident, their preferred contacts vary widely:
 - **Law Enforcement:** The **police** are the most common intended reporting channel (**78.6%**).
 - **Personal Networks:** A **family member** was the second most common choice, though selected by less than half as many respondents (**38.3%**).
- **Demographic Trends in Police Reporting:** Intentions to involve law enforcement differ significantly by gender, age, and ability:
 - *By Gender:* **Men** are the most likely group to state they would report to the police (**84.8%** vs. **75.3%** of women).
 - *By Demographics:* **People with disabilities** (**65.7%** vs. **82.1%** without) and **younger respondents under age 46** (**66.7%** vs. **84.3%** over age 65) are the least likely to contact police.
- **Community vs. Personal Networks:** Alternative support structures reveal stark demographic contrasts:
 - *Community Advocacy:* Across nearly all demographic categories, **marginalized groups** are more likely to report to an advocacy group or local community organization than their privileged counterparts (with individuals with disabilities being the sole exception).
 - *Personal Privacy:* **Men** are dramatically less likely to confide in family members (**25.8%**) or friends/neighbors (**19.7%**) compared to women (**44.2%** and **35.1%**, respectively).
- **Anticipated Barriers to Reporting:** When asked why they *might* refrain from reporting an incident in the future, respondents tied for the top two concerns:
 - **Belief that nothing would happen** (**38.3%**)
 - **Fear of retaliation** (**38.3%**)
 - *Secondary Concerns:* Privacy or social repercussions (**28.8%**), a lack of knowledge on where/how to report (**25.9%**), and uncertainty about whether an incident qualifies for reporting (**24.3%**). Notably, **28.0%** of respondents claimed this was “not applicable” because they would always report an incident.

Respondent Demographics

Demographic Overview & Overrepresentation

The survey sample exhibited significant skewing, with **adults over the age of 65, White individuals, women, and heterosexual people** being heavily overrepresented relative to the county's actual population.

Detailed Demographic Breakdown

- **Age Distribution:** The sample skewed heavily toward older residents:
 - **42.0%** of respondents were individuals aged 66 and older.
 - **14.4%** of respondents were aged 45 and under.
- **Race & Ethnicity:** The vast majority of participants identified as White:
 - **70.0%** identified as White.
 - **14.0%** identified as Black.
 - *Other Racial Groups:* Asian American, Middle Eastern or North African, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander groups each comprised less than **5.3%** of respondents.
 - *Ethnicity:* **83.5%** identified as non-Hispanic/Latino, while **4.9%** (12 respondents) identified as Hispanic/Latino.
- **Gender Identity:**
 - **63.4%** identified as women, while **27.2%** identified as men.
 - *Other Gender Identities:* Genderfluid, genderqueer, non-binary/gender non-conforming, intersex, transgender women, and transgender men each accounted for less than **3.0%** of the sample.
- **Sexual Orientation:**
 - **76.1%** identified as heterosexual.
 - **7.8%** chose "Prefer not to answer."
 - *LGBQ+ Identities:* Bisexual (**4.1%**) and asexual (**3.7%**) individuals each made up more than 3% of the sample, with both groups seeing a year-over-year increase. Gay, lesbian, pansexual, and queer individuals each represented less than **3.0%** of responses.
 - *Analytical Note:* Due to low individual cell counts, all non-heterosexual identities were combined into a singular "non-heterosexual" group for subgroup comparisons.
- **Disability Status:**
 - **80.2%** reported not having a disability.
 - **14.4%** identified as individuals with disabilities.
- **Religious Identity:**
 - **42.0%** identified as Christian.

- **16.0%** identified as Jewish.
 - **16.0%** identified as Atheist or Non-religious/No affiliation (combined from **4.1%** Atheist and **11.9%** Non-religious for final analysis).
 - **11.1%** identified as Spiritual.
 - **9.1%** preferred not to answer.
 - **5.8%** identified with another religion (including **3.7%** Agnostic, **1.2%** Buddhist, and **0.4%** Muslim).
- **Geographic Distribution:** Participation was heavily concentrated in specific County Council Districts and zip codes:
 - **District 6** (Annapolis/Crownsville area): **29.2% (71)** of respondents.
 - **District 5** (Severna Park/Arnold/Cape St. Claire/Broadneck area): **19.3% (47)**.
 - **District 7** (Davidsonville/Lothian/Deale area): **15.6% (38)**.
 - **District 3** (Curtis Bay/Pasadena area): **13.6% (33)**.
 - **District 2** (Glen Burnie/Severn area): **11.5% (28)**.
 - **District 1** (Brooklyn Park/Linthicum area): **5.3% (13)**.
 - **District 4** (Lauren/Odenton/Gambrills area): **5.3% (13)**.
 - **Top Zip Codes:** The highest participation rates came from two Annapolis zip codes: **21401 (16.5%)** and **21403 (10.5%)**. All other zip codes fell under 10%.

