

Welcome!

Stakeholder Advisory
Committee for the
Justice Project

Meeting #5

www.whatcomcounty.us/justice

The meeting will begin at 10:00 am

Zoom Logistics:

- Keep your video on as much as possible.
- Make sure your full name is showing by your image.
- Keep yourself muted except when speaking.
- These are Open Public Meetings and will be recorded.
- Whenever we are in an open discussion mode, use the **raise hand** button to be recognized to speak by the facilitator.
- “Stay in the room” (avoid reading email, texting, etc.)



Justice Project

PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND JUSTICE FACILITY
NEEDS ASSESSMENT

SAC MEETING #5 – SEPTEMBER 15, 2022

www.whatcomcounty.us/justice

PROCESS OVERVIEW

Meeting	Dates	Focus Topic
1	January 20, 2022	Foundation
2	April 7, 2022	Criminal Justice Data
3	June 8, 2022	Behavioral Health
4	July 14, 2022	Work Session: Integrating Information and Identifying Needs/Gaps
5	Sept. 13, 2022 10 am – 12 noon	Facilities
6	Sept. 29, 2022 11:30 – 12:30	Work Session (optional): Facilities
7	October 13, 2022 10 am – 12 noon	Preliminary Needs Assessment
8	November 17, 2022 10 am – 12 noon	Final Needs Assessment

AGENDA

- **Call to Order**
- **What We Are Doing Today**
- **Introduction of Presenters**
- **Facilities Presentations**
- **Group Discussion**
- **Summarize Themes from Discussion**
- **Final Announcements & Next Steps**
- **Adjourn**

Remembering What We are Doing

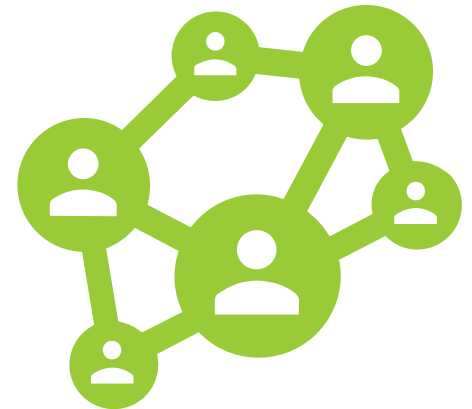
Be Informed	Be informed by subject matter experts on major needs and gaps within the criminal legal system.
Collaborate	Work with IPRTF to determine priorities for facilities and services that will address needs & gaps.
Report	Prepare a report presenting recommendations for County Council.
Vote	This work will be a foundation for a Nov. 2023 ballot initiative.

Public Engagement Plan

The Vida Agency (TVA) has been hired to do Public Engagement over the next three months.

TVA will take what the SAC has been working on so far, and figure out how to share that with the community at large to:

- Build broad community understanding
- Get meaningful feedback that will inform the final Needs Assessment



Feedback on Draft Values & Goals

Preliminary Results



26 Responses



38 members (+ 4
who share seats)



~65% Response Rate

Agreement with Values Statements

- ❖ Over 90% agreement with all but 1 draft value
- ❖ Over 80% agreement with all but one draft goal
- ❖ **Next Step: Form sub-committee to re-work values & goals statements and draft vision statement**
 - **To join: Email SAC@co.whatcom.wa.us**
- ❖ SAC input via survey prior to October 13 meeting
- ❖ Final approval at October 13 meeting

Facilities Overview

About the Jail & Work Center

Civic Center Facility

- Designed and built in 1982-1983
- Opened in 1984
- Linear design
- Concrete construction with 28 units for 148 inmate beds
- All classifications

About the Jail & Work Center

Civic Center Facility

- Remodeled in early 2000's to change functions in booking, trusty tank etc...
- Retrofitted in 2013 to replace all electronics
- Retrofitted in 2020 to replace almost all security doors and locks.

About the Jail & Work Center

Interim Work Center

- Designed and constructed 2004-2005
- Opened in 2006
- All open dormitory in an industrial steel building with sheetrock walls
- Minimum and low medium classifications only
- Alternative sentencing programs center of operations

About the Jail & Work Center

Civic Center Jail

Pros

- + Limited housing options for higher classification inmates

Cons

- All systems are in disrepair
- Little natural light
- Linear design
- Bring inmates to services
- Multiple floors

About the Jail & Work Center

Interim Work Center

Pros

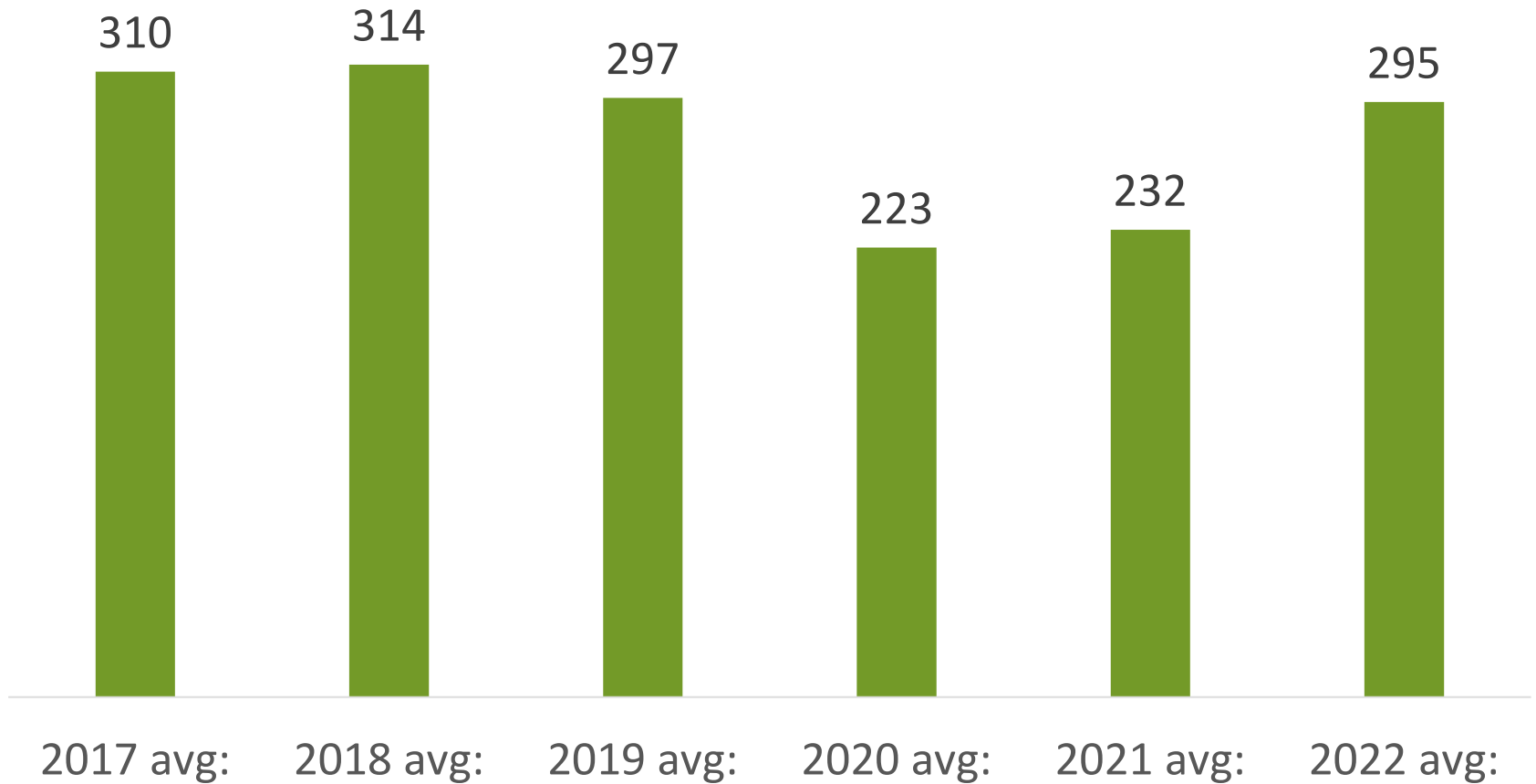
- + Relatively newer
- + One floor

Cons

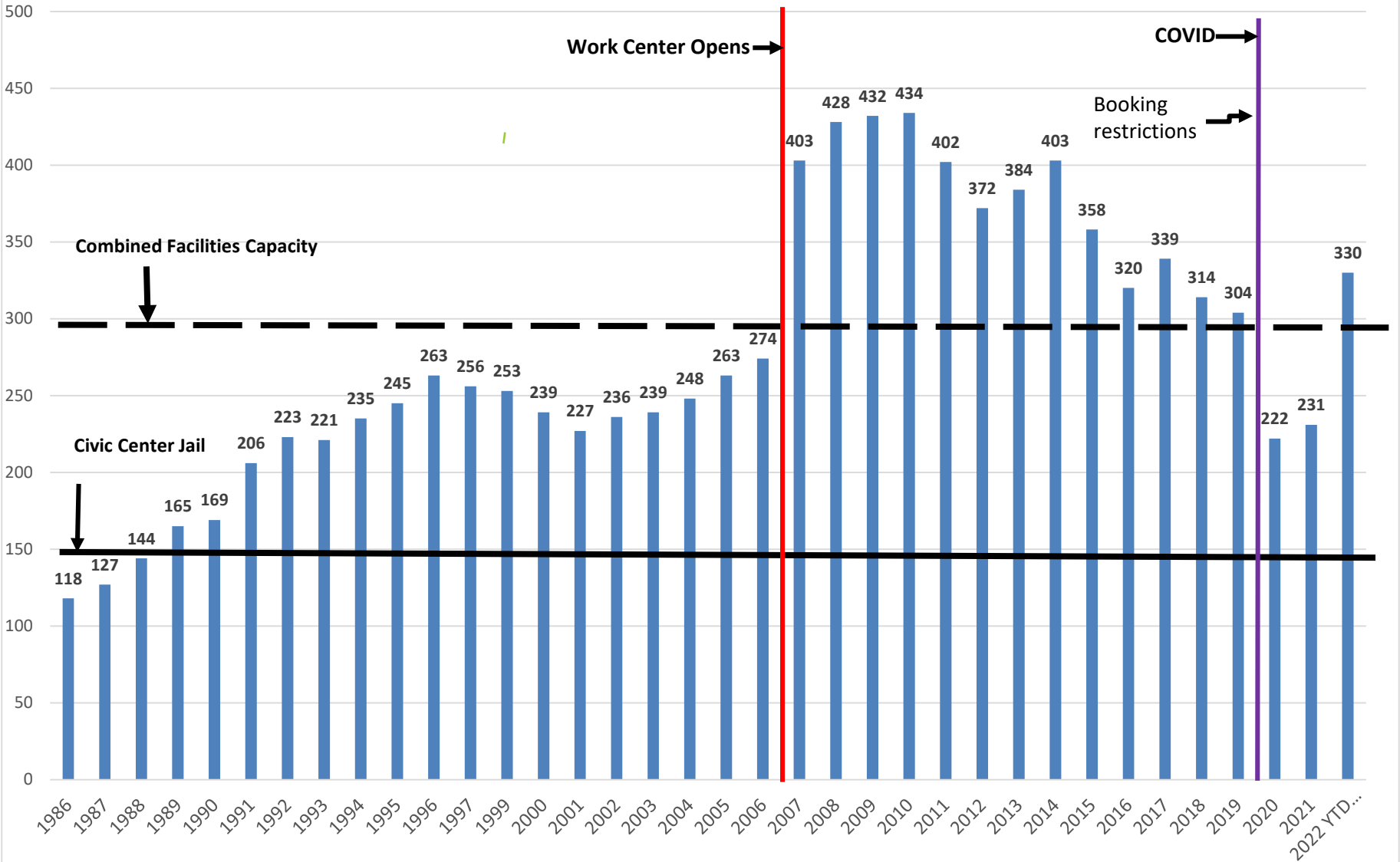
- Systems are beginning to fail
- Reliant on bringing inmates to services
- Limited programming space
- Not being used as designed

Jail Data

Total Inmates

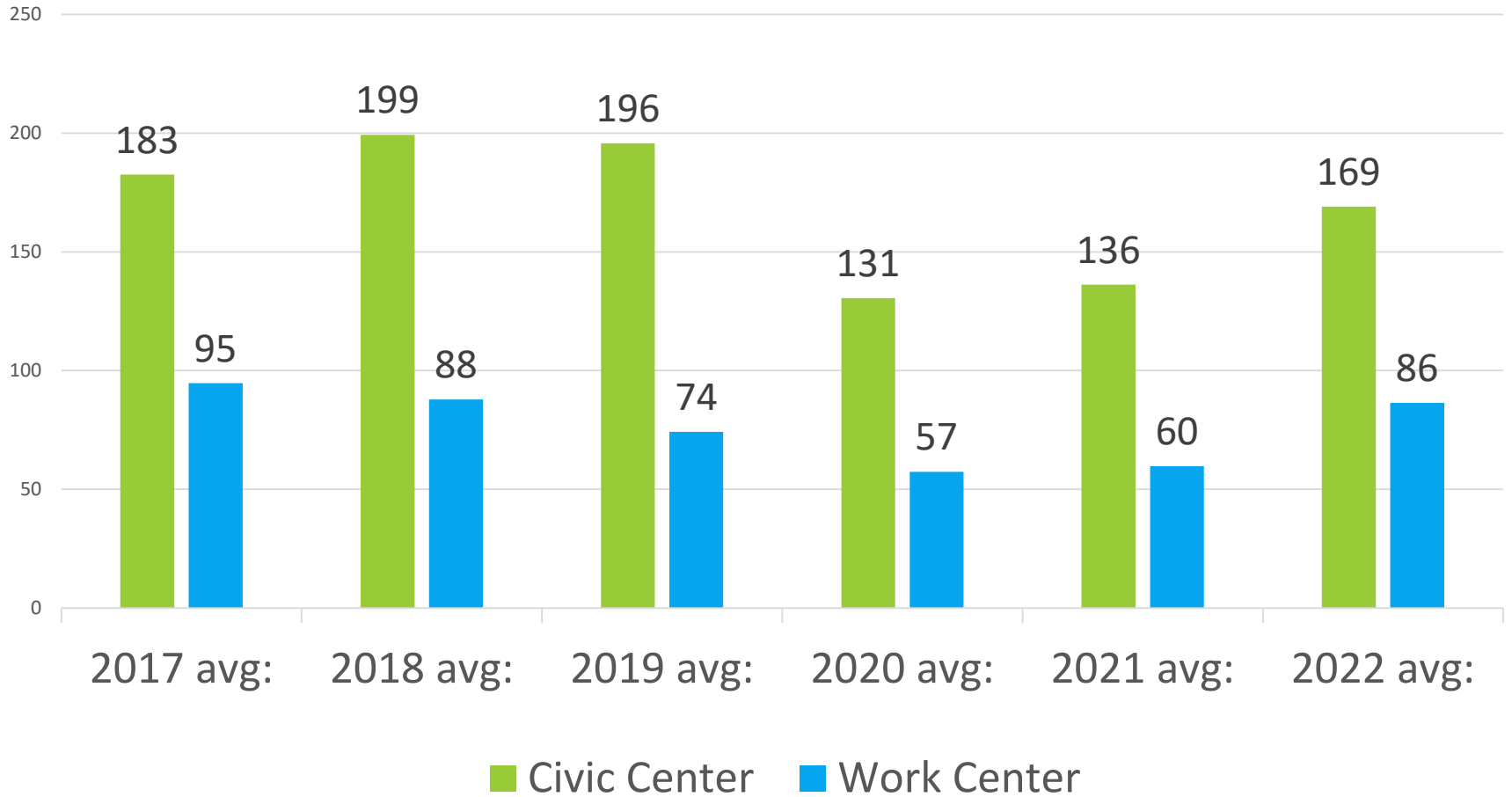


WHATCOM COUNTY CORRECTIONS ADP 1986-6/2022



Jail Data

By Facility



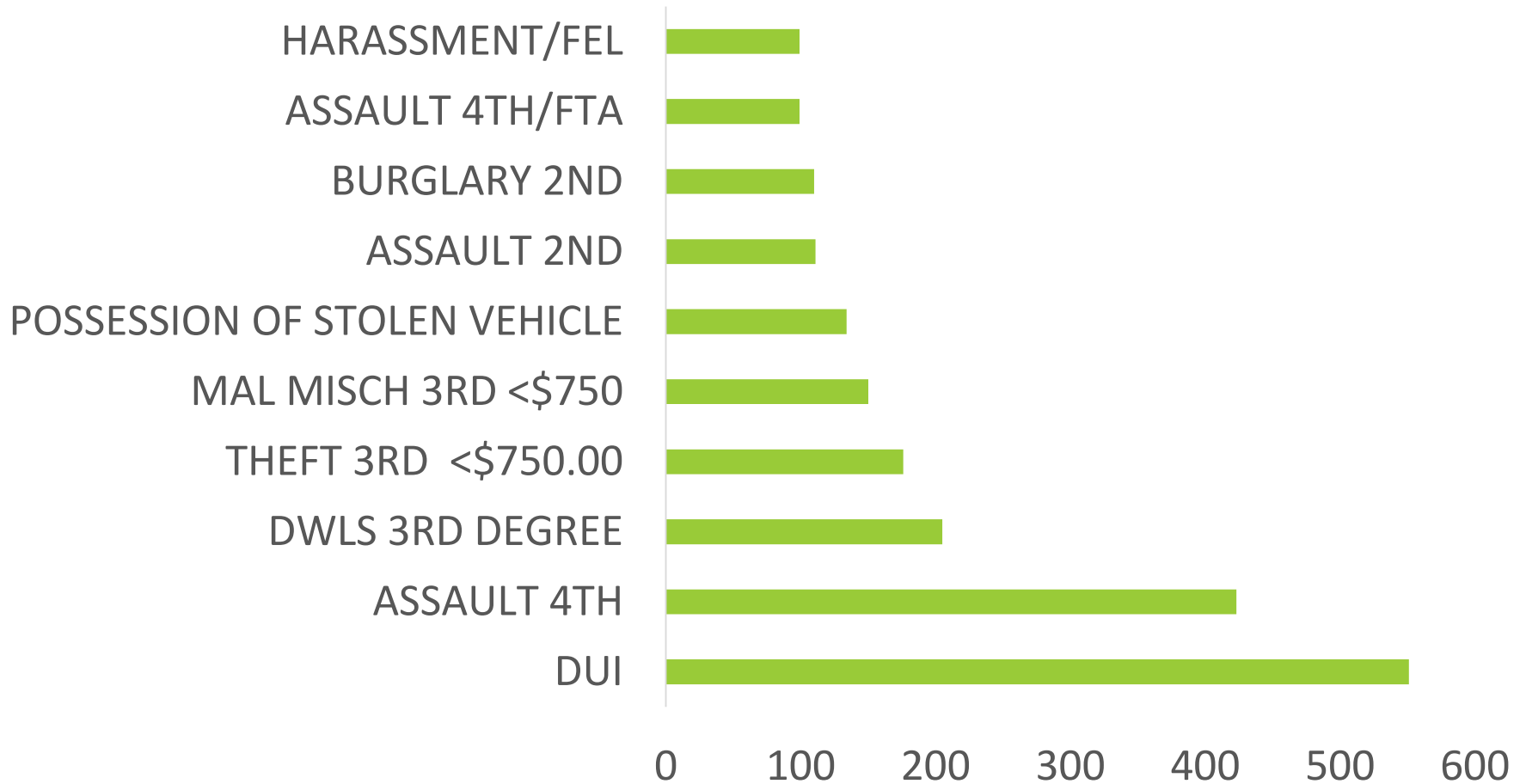
Jail Data

Booking Duration over 8 years



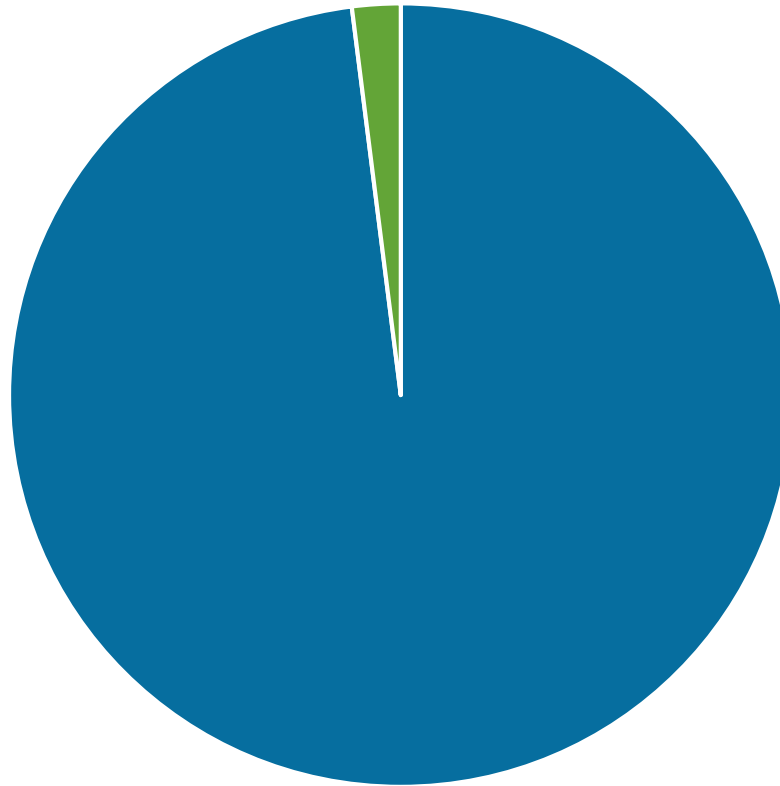
Jail Data

Most Common Offenses 2022



Jail Data

Pretrial vs. fully sentenced



■ Pretrial ■ Fully Sentenced

43%
increase in
avg. daily
population
since 2021

Why is this?

COVID ↑ Court backlog, DOC/attorneys taking longer to meet with inmates & resolve cases

↑ Longer stays in custody

Blake decision and COVID restrictions

↓ 27% decrease in jail population 2019-20

July 2021 “Blake Fix” & relaxed COVID restrictions

↑ Increased bookings 2021-22

Influx of people from other areas who already were involved with the criminal legal system

↑ Increased bookings (~20% of bookings are people from elsewhere)

Diversion Strategies (non-BH)

Non-custody:

- Cite and release
- Warrant re-issue and summons

In lieu of bail:

- Pre-trial monitoring
- Private monitoring

Alternative Sentencing options:

- Work and School Release
- Electronic Home Detention
- Work Crews
- Community Service and fine reduction

Recommendations

- Prioritize versatility
- Flexible jail spaces to respond to population increases & decreases
- Avoid dormitory style housing
- Bring services to inmates rather than inmates to services
- Honor the needs of municipalities
- Install robust, stable technologies to assist deputies in their work

Inmate Survey Results

About participants

Surveys completed:

100

Daily census:

329

% of total population:

30%

About participants

Location:

Work Center = 62%

Jail = 38%

Population:

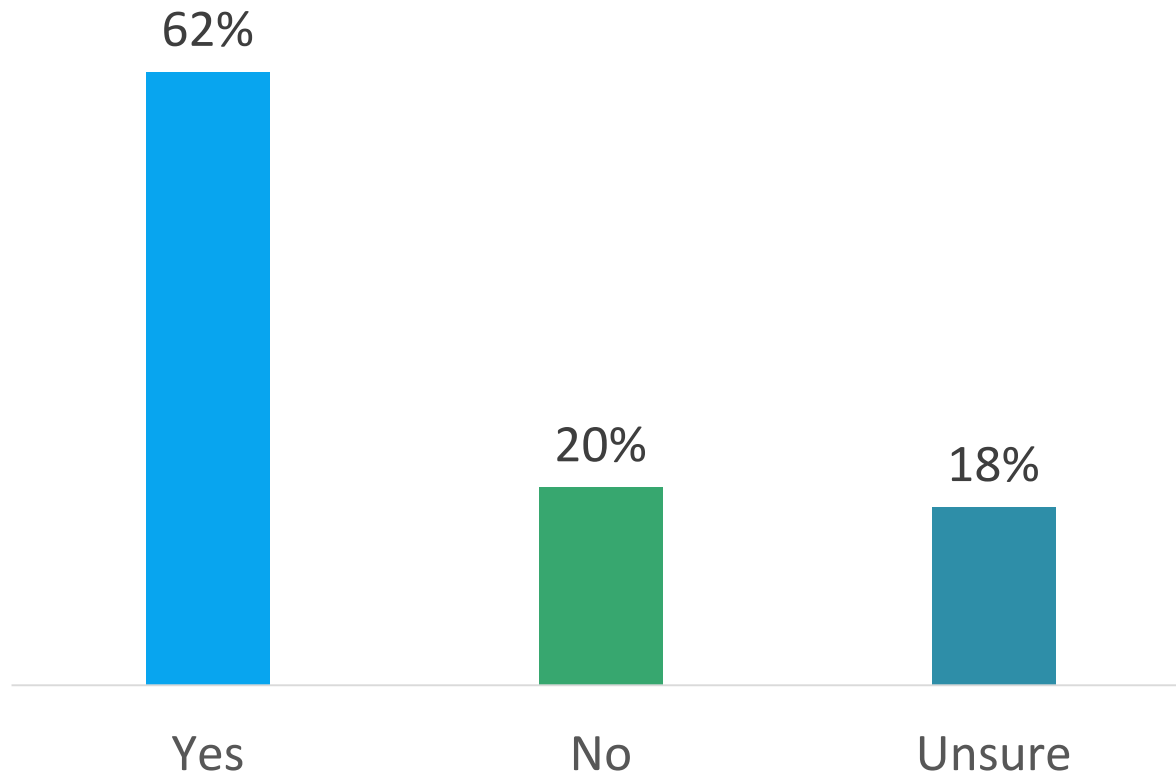
General Population = 78%

Sex Offender = 12%

Medical/Mental Health = 10%

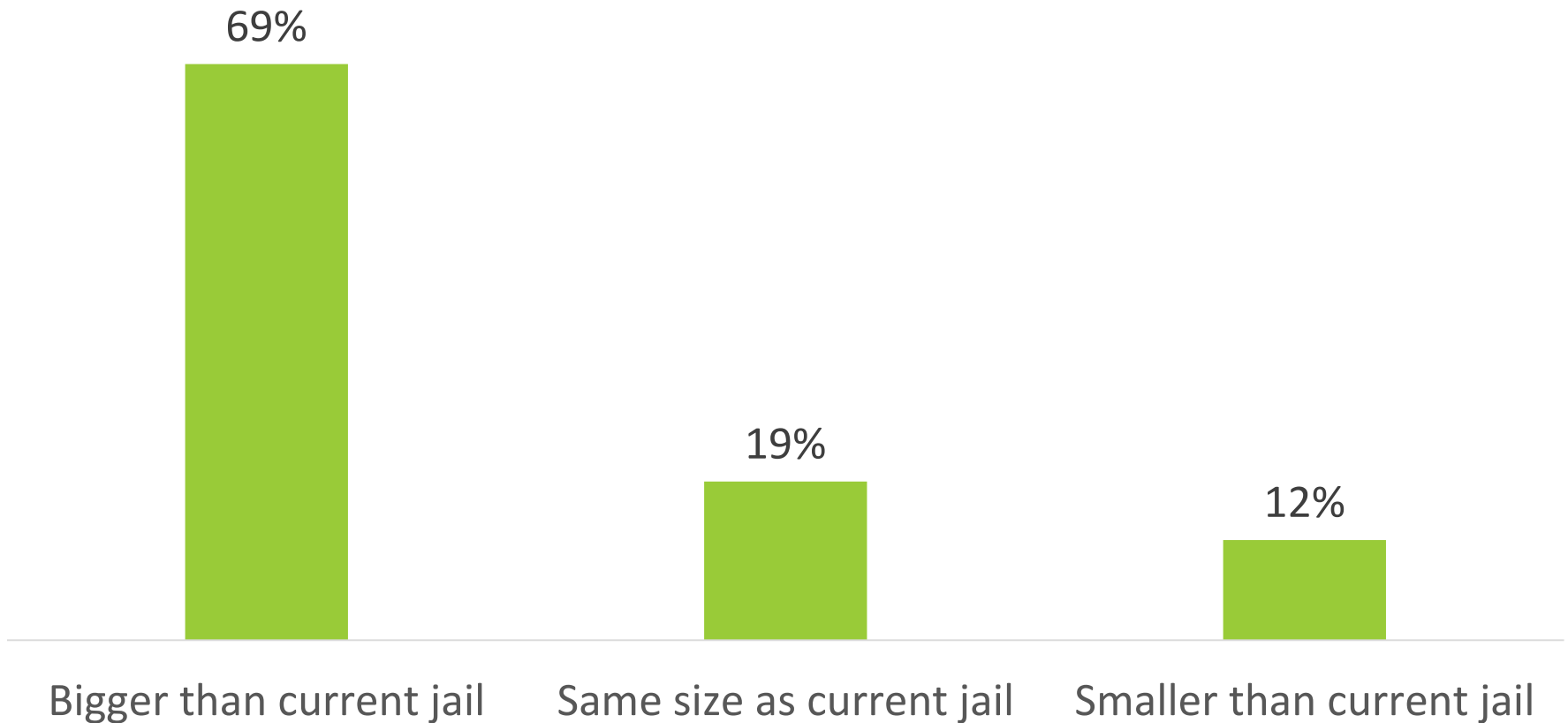
Does Our County Need To Build a New Jail?

(n=96)



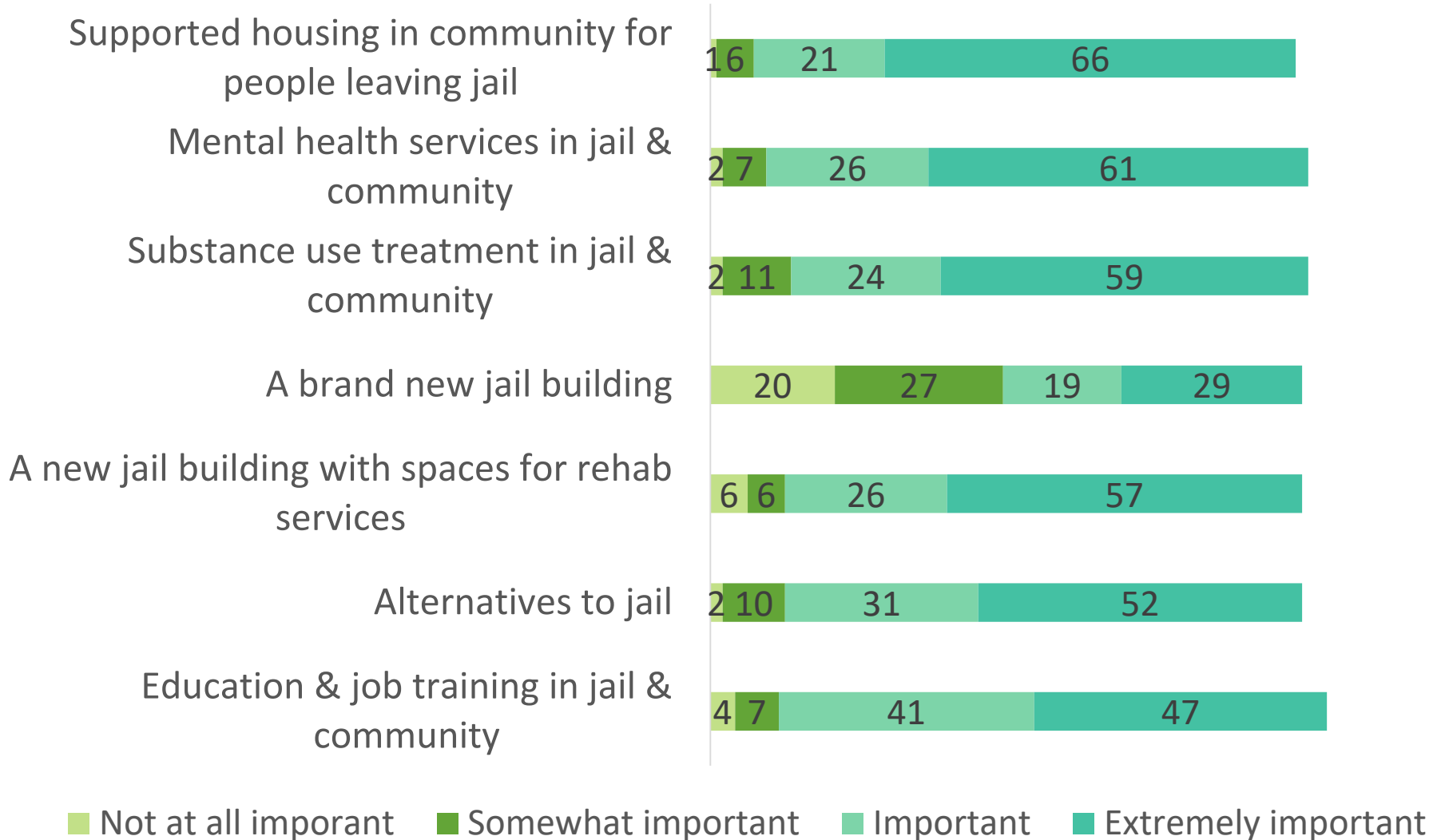
If a new jail were to be built, what size should it be?

(n=85)



How important is each of these priorities?

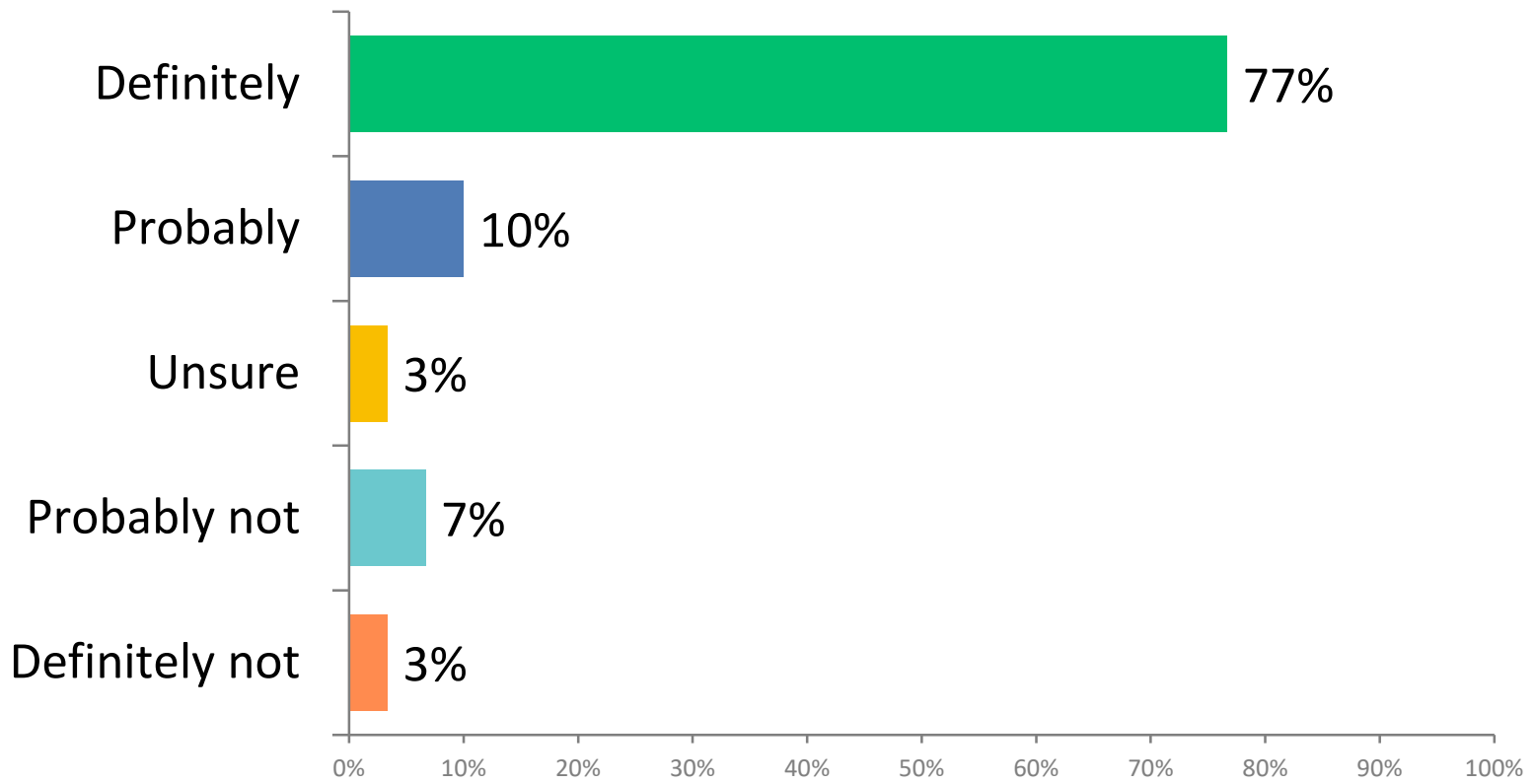
(n=95)



Facilities Discussion

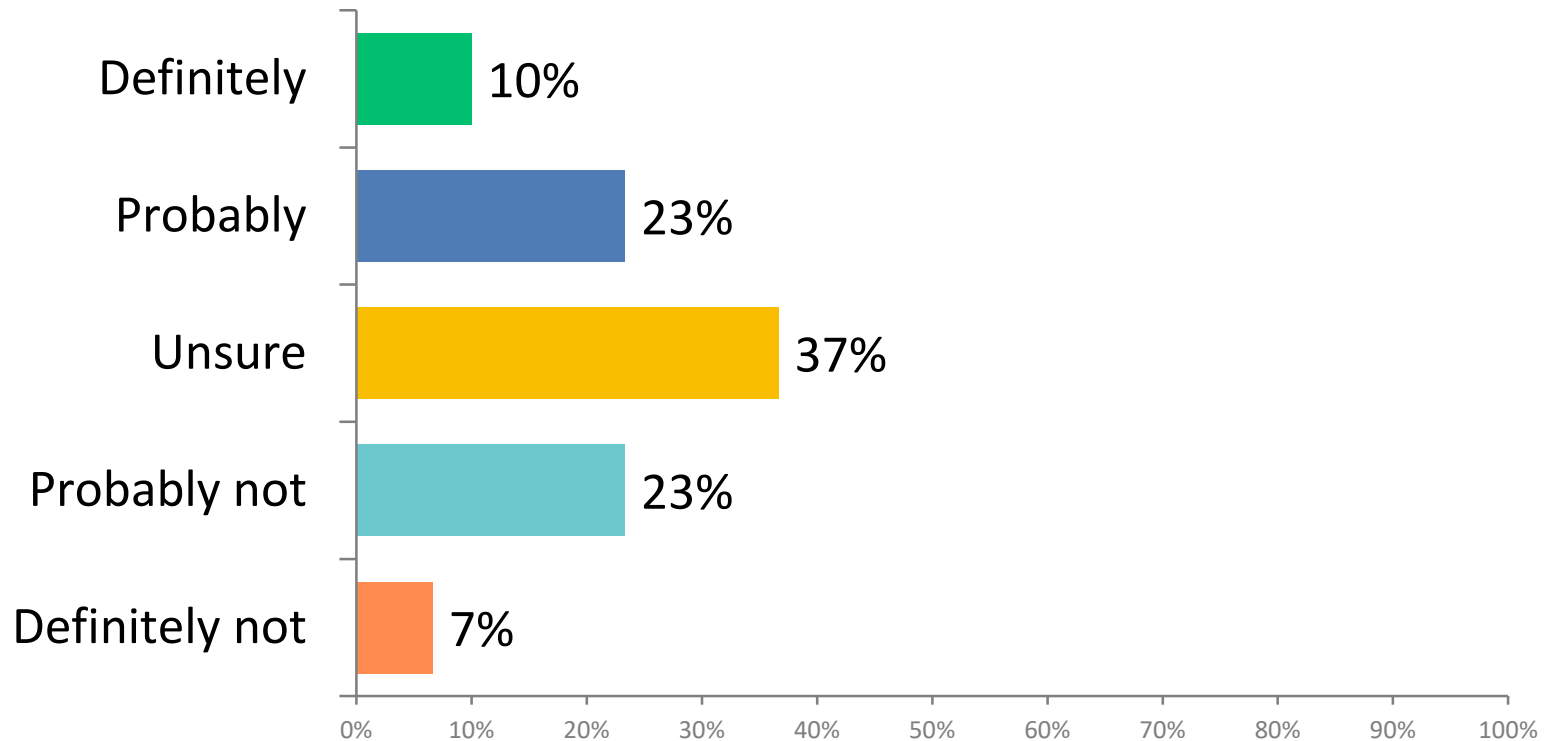
From what you know so far, do you believe the downtown jail needs to be replaced?

Answered: 30 Skipped: 0



From what you know so far, do you believe the Work Center needs to be replaced?

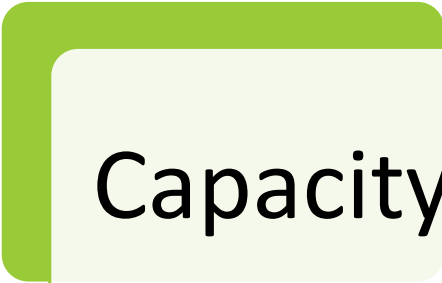
Answered: 30 Skipped: 0



Key considerations:



Services



Capacity

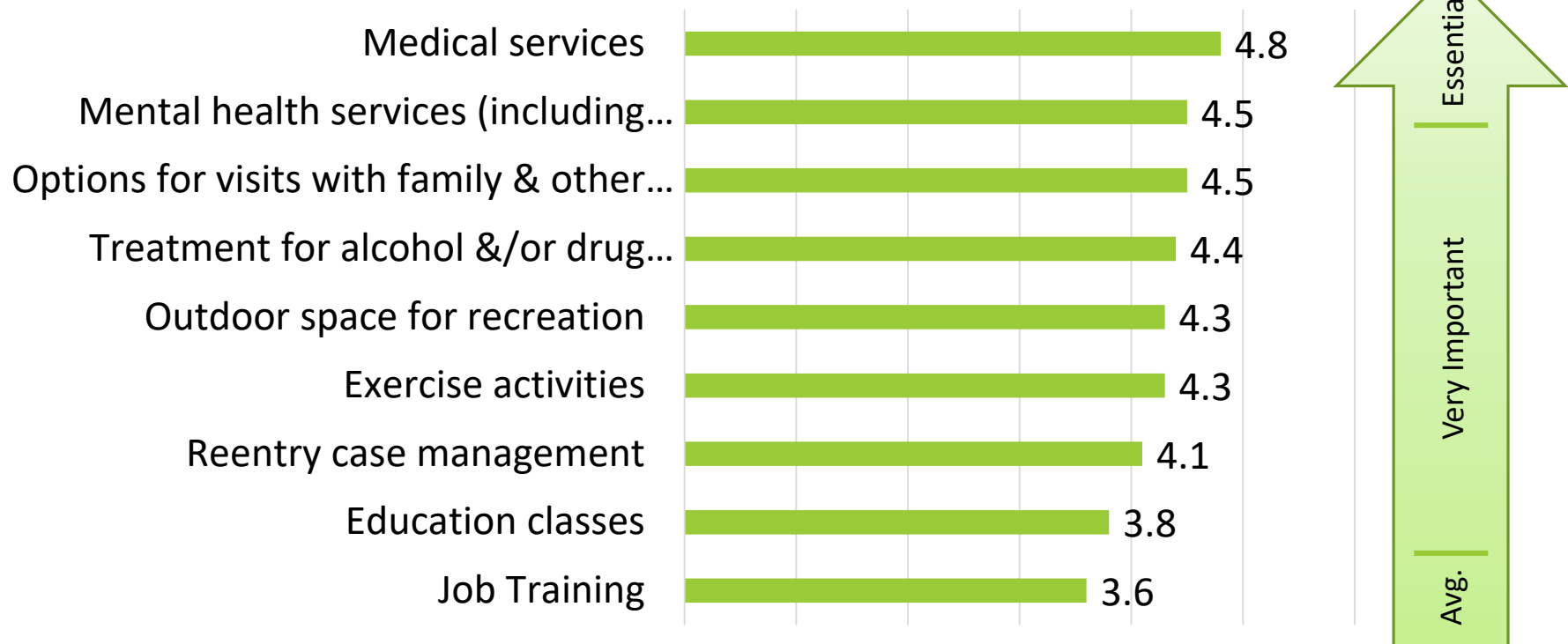


Location

Services: How important is it that these services are located within a jail facility?

Answered: 30 Skipped: 0

Weighted Averages: 5= Absolutely essential; 4=Very important; 3=Of avg. importance; 2=Of little importance; 1=Not at all important





Discussion

Services Questions

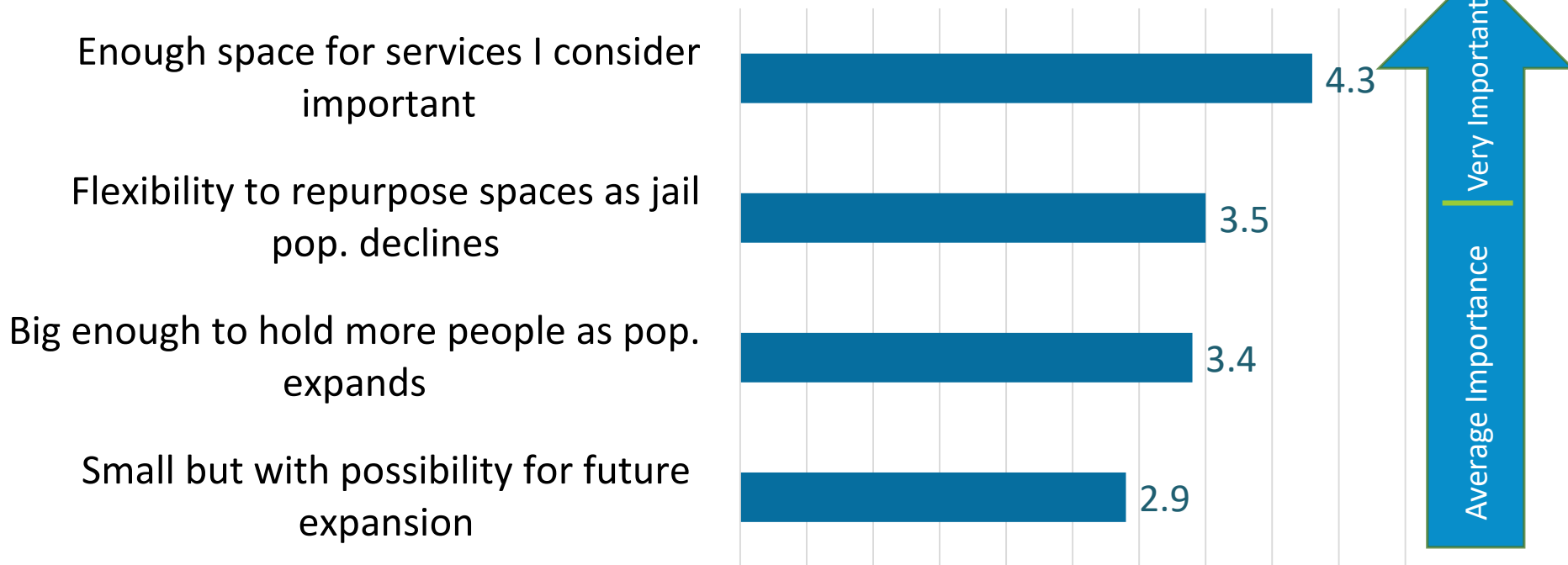
What would you like the group to be thinking about as to why a particular service would be more (or less) important for co-location within a jail facility?

What more do you need to know before we make decisions?

Capacity: When you consider the size of a new correctional facility, how important are each of these factors?

Answered: 30 Skipped: 0

Weighted Averages: 5= Absolutely essential; 4=Very important; 3=Of avg. importance; 2=Of little importance; 1=Not at all important





Discussion

Capacity Questions

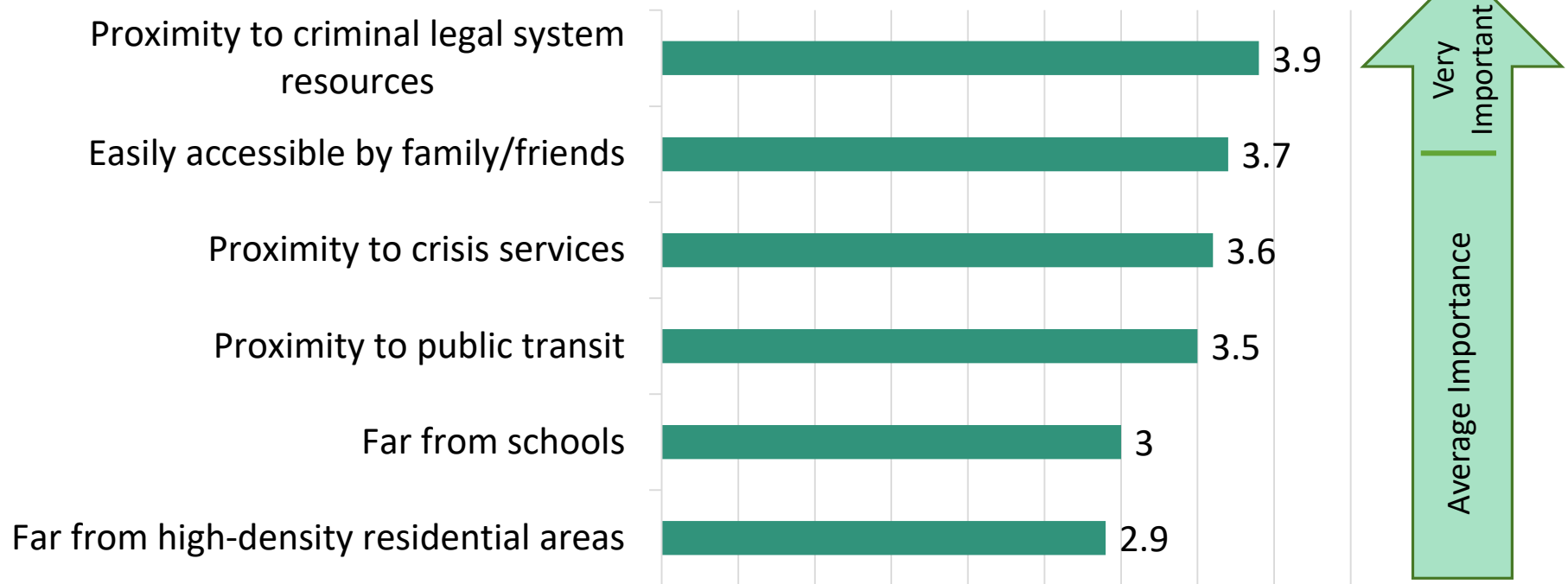
What would you like the group to be thinking about, when considering capacity?

What questions do we need to ask, to determine capacity of a facility?

Location: When you consider the location for a correctional facility, how important are the following factors?

Answered: 30 Skipped: 0

Weighted Averages: 5= Absolutely essential; 4=Very important; 3=Of avg. importance; 2=Of little importance; 1=Not at all important





Discussion

Location Question

We have 3 locations available:

- Civic Center
- Irongate
- Ferndale

What more do you need to know about these locations before we make decisions?

Wrap Up

Upcoming Meetings:

- Facilities Work Session (optional)
 - Sept. 29, 11:30-12:30
- SAC Meeting #6: Preliminary Needs Assessment
 - Oct. 13, 2022; 10:00 AM -12:00 PM

Values, Goals, and draft Vision Statement Subcommittee

- Let us know by tomorrow (Friday the 16th) if you would like to join
To join: Email SAC@co.whatcom.wa.us

SAC Information webpage: www.whatcomcounty.us/justice

- Watch meeting recordings
- Review meeting summaries and handouts