

# Survey Report

07 July 2019 - 22 August 2019

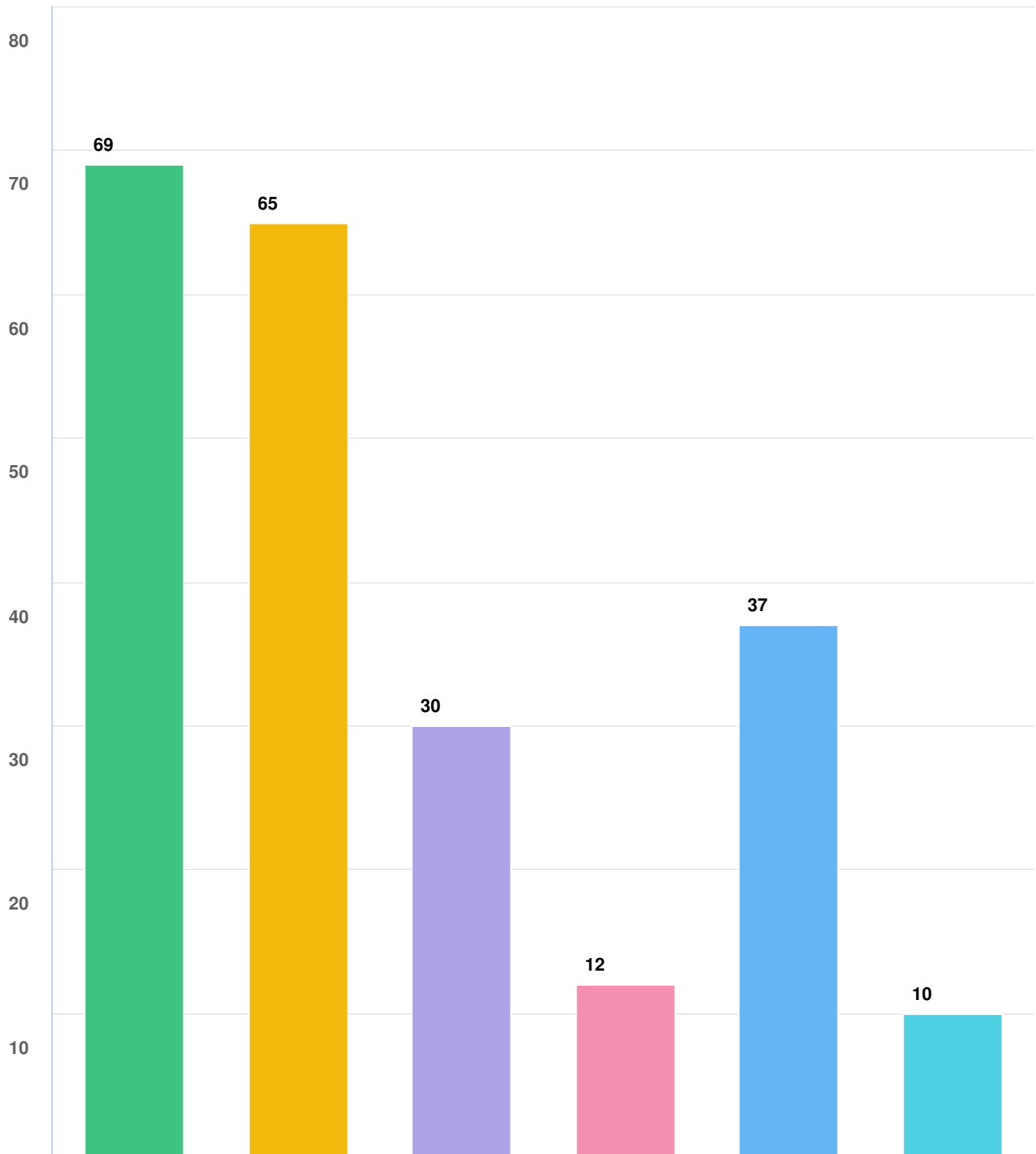
# Business Survey: Single-Use Disposable Bags and Containers

PROJECT: Single-Use Plastics Regulation Survey

**Speak Up Fayetteville**



**Q1** What type of bags do you offer to customers at checkout? (Check all that apply.)

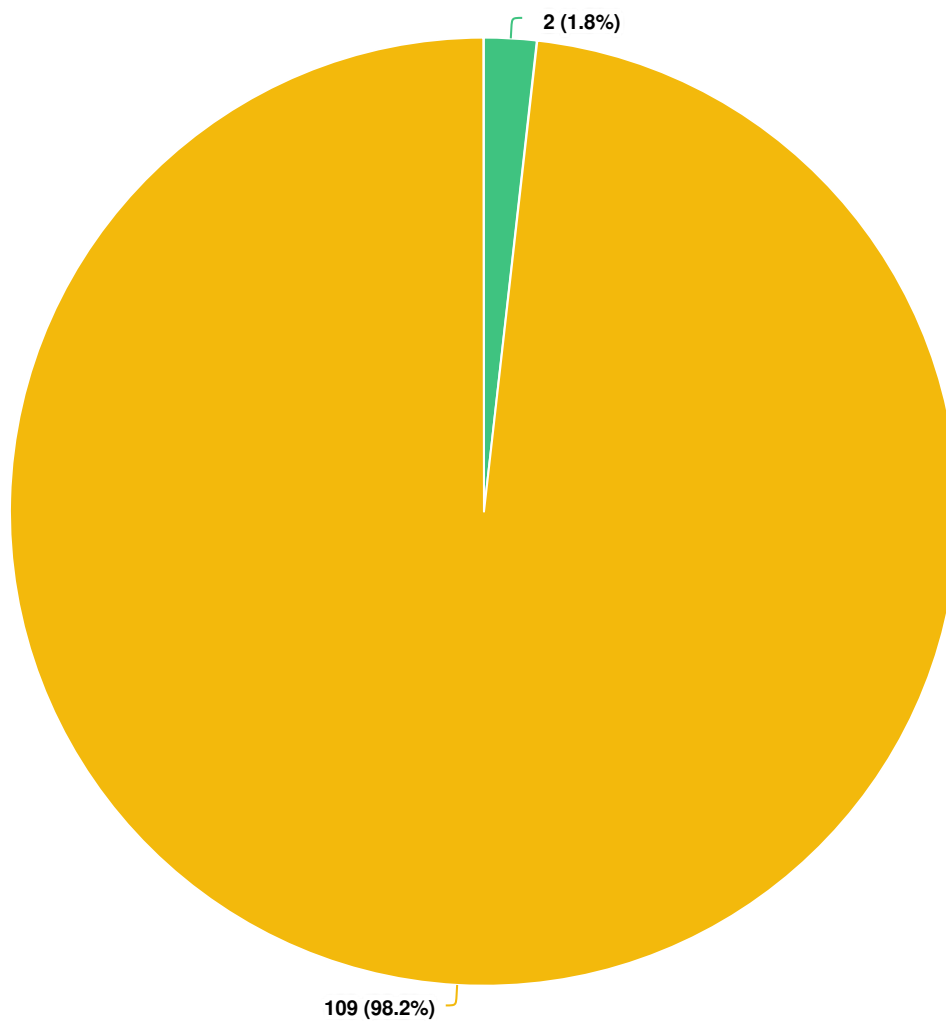


**Question options**

- Plastic
- Paper
- Cardboard box
- Other
- We do not offer bags
- We offer reusable bags for sale

*Optional question (152 responses, 2 skipped)*

**Q2** | Do you offer customers a discount or other incentive for bringing their own reusable bags?



**Question options**

- Yes
- No

*Optional question (111 responses, 43 skipped)*

**Q3** | If yes, please describe.

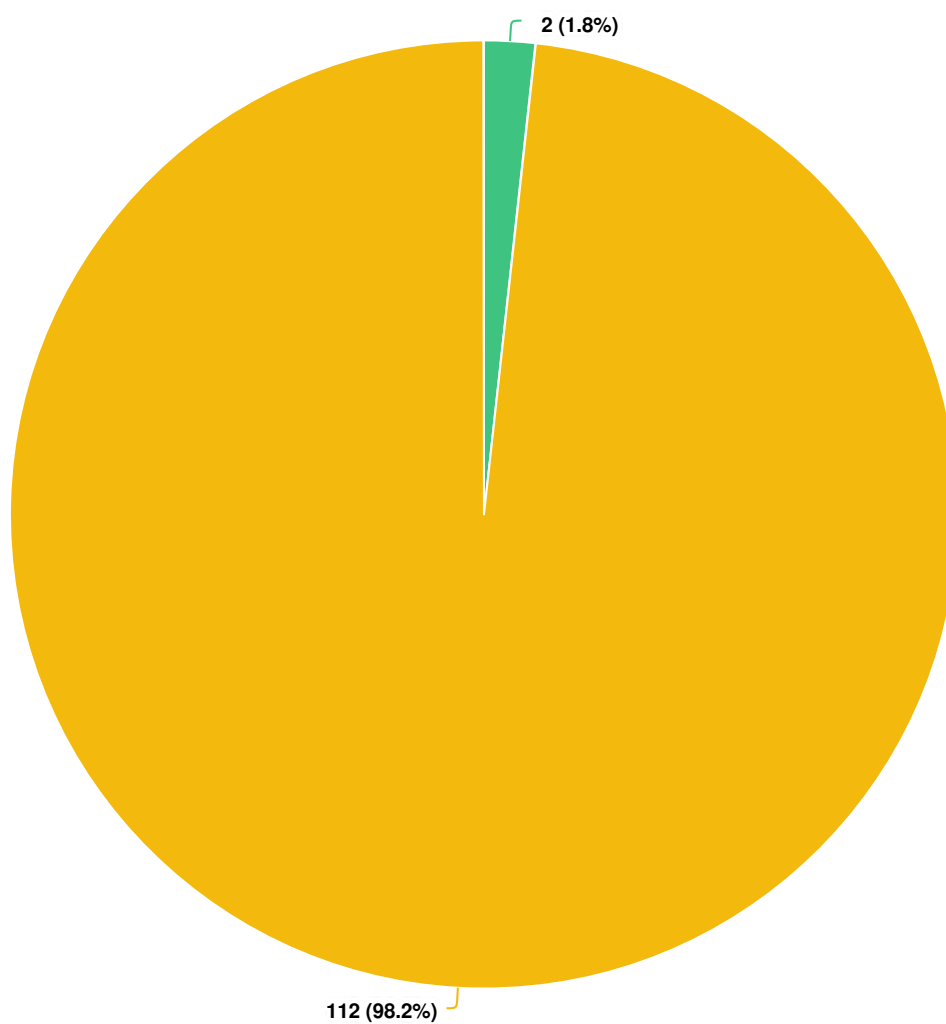
Anonymous

5 cent donation to NWA Food Bank

7/15/2019 08:41 AM

**Optional question** (1 responses, 153 skipped)

**Q4** | Do you currently charge customers a bag fee at checkout?



**Question options**

- Yes
- No

*Optional question (114 responses, 40 skipped)*

**Q5** | If yes, how much?

Anonymous .50

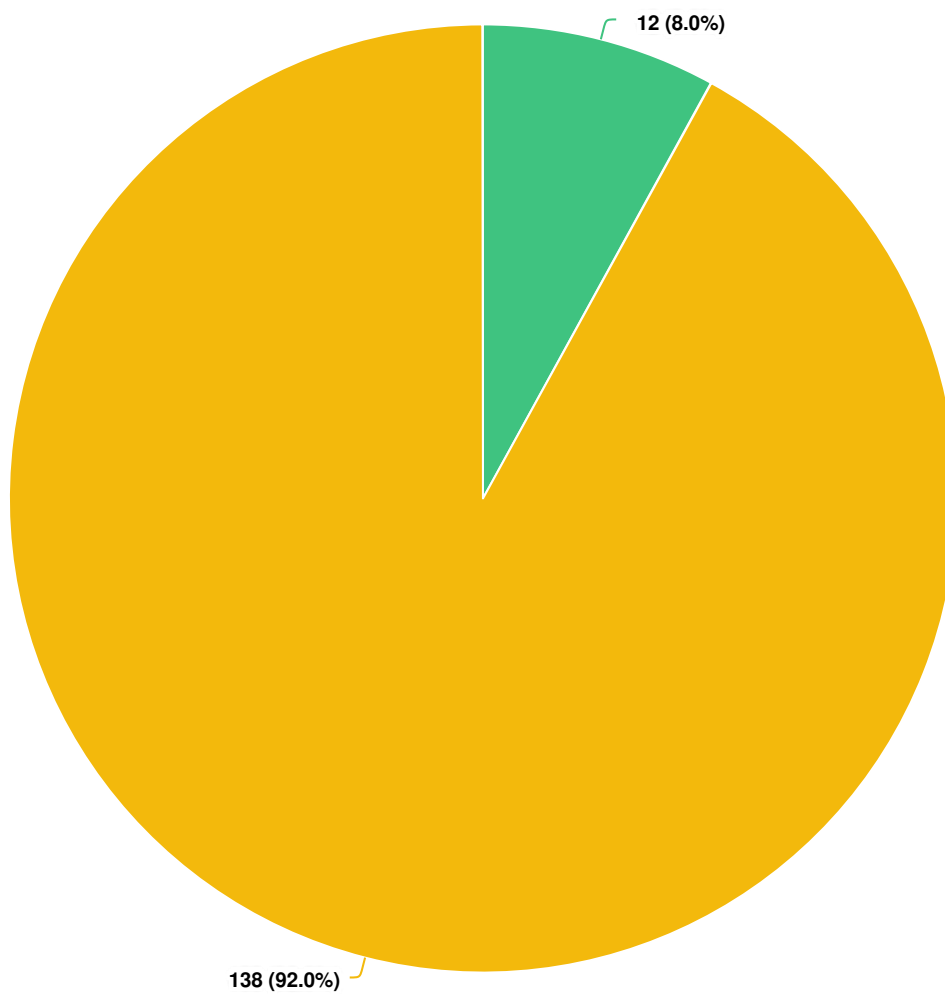
7/23/2019 09:53 AM

Anonymous .15

8/11/2019 09:12 AM

**Optional question** (2 responses, 152 skipped)

**Q6** | Do you have a take-back program for recycling single-use plastic bags?

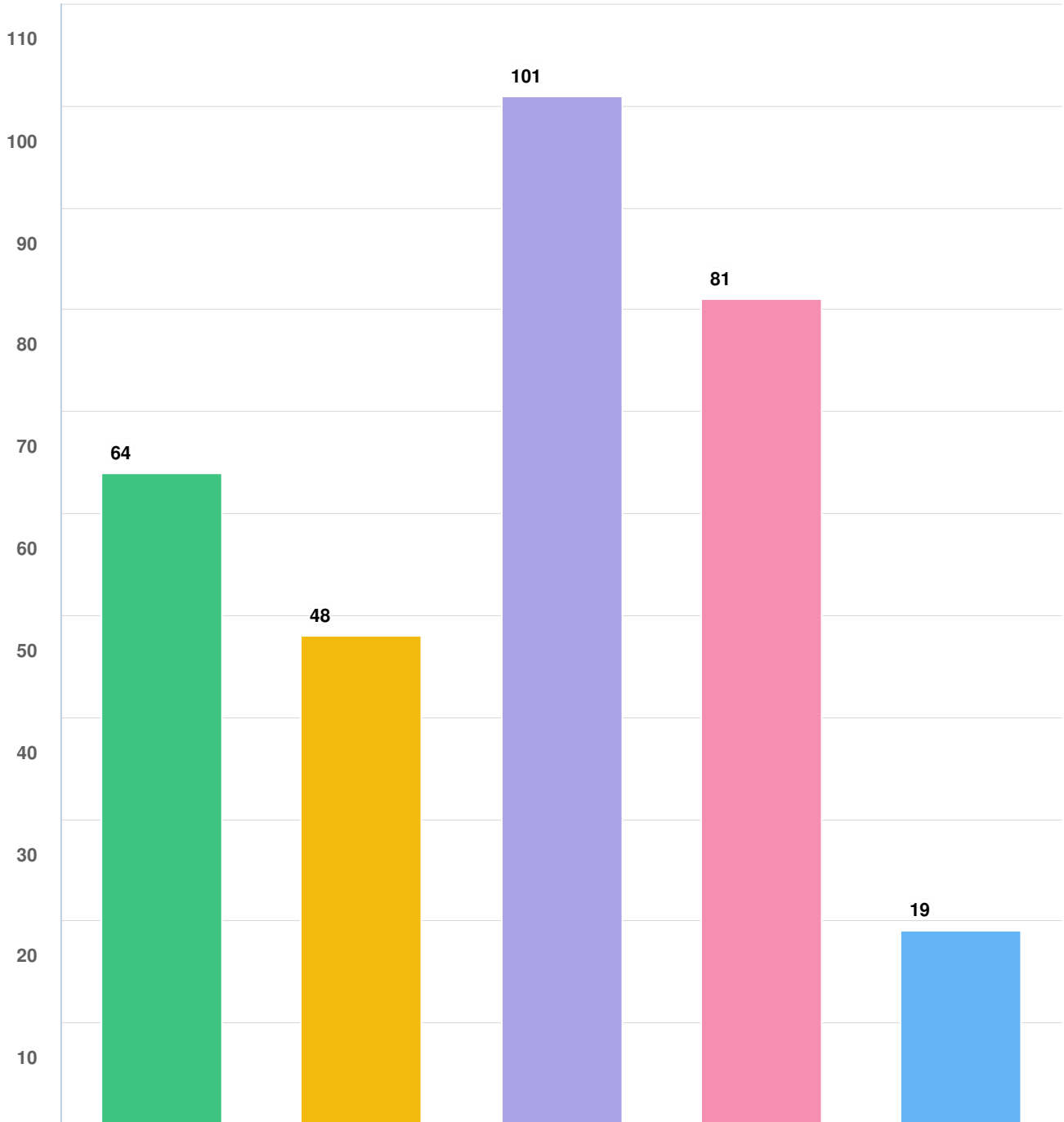


**Question options**

- Yes
- No

*Optional question (150 responses, 4 skipped)*

**Q7** | The City of Fayetteville is interested in reducing litter and waste generated from disposable bags. What programs or policies do you support in furthering this effort? (Check all that apply.)



**Question options**

- Citywide ban on plastic bags
- Checkout fee of 5 or 10 cents for each disposable paper or plastic bag used (retailer keeps a portion of the fee)
- Additional drop-off locations for plastic bag recycling
- Greater customer access to reusable bags
- Other

*Optional question (150 responses, 4 skipped)*



**Q8** Please specify

Anonymous

7/08/2019 07:54 PM

Leave us alone!!!

Anonymous

7/17/2019 07:46 AM

for business it comes down to cost. plastic and stryo is cheaper by more than 100%. with rising costs i.e. min wage, shortage of workers, extra cost should be avoided.

Anonymous

7/23/2019 08:08 AM

I read that banning plastic bags in CA led to more paper bag use, and that paper bags are a bigger environmental drain than plastic in some ways.

Seems like getting people to bring their own reusable bag is the best goal.

Anonymous

7/23/2019 05:19 PM

I've been exploring switching all of my products to green sustainable products, but every product that I found was, in every case at least triple the cost of what I use now. At this time it's just not cost efficient, and if I raise my prices ppl complain

Anonymous

7/24/2019 05:58 AM

I use compostable bags but the cost to a business is HUGE compared to plastic. a return for businesses to help cover costs would help. My bags are \$.23 each, a plastic bag is about \$.05.

Anonymous

7/25/2019 11:17 AM

1. I think we need to figure out how to recycle they stuff that the UOFA is having trouble with before we take on more recycling rules.

Anonymous

7/29/2019 04:09 PM

Anything to reduce plastic usage!

Anonymous

8/06/2019 05:47 PM

None

Anonymous

8/08/2019 08:31 PM

Leave it alone

Anonymous

8/09/2019 03:10 PM

Make recycling single stream and offer it at all businesses and multi family apartments. This ban is dumb.

Anonymous

8/09/2019 03:18 PM

City needs to expand what they can recycle from residents and businesses alike. City cannot take all recyclables as it stands. Once again, get the government involved and it will screw it up worse and have a bigger problem.

Anonymous

8/10/2019 07:13 AM

Ban single use plastic bags. Offer paper bags.

Anonymous

8/10/2019 12:14 PM

Positive incentive (credits?) for businesses to reduce plastic usage

Anonymous

8/11/2019 05:06 AM

Please do not BAN plastic bags. Customers purchase less when they run out of space to carry things. Sales will be less for customers who have already filled their reusable bags.

Anonymous

8/18/2019 06:37 AM

bag fees are a hidden TAX. bans are showing legislators feel they have superior intelligence over the common man.

Anonymous

none

8/18/2019 07:09 PM

Anonymous

none. this survey is biased beyond belief

8/18/2019 07:15 PM

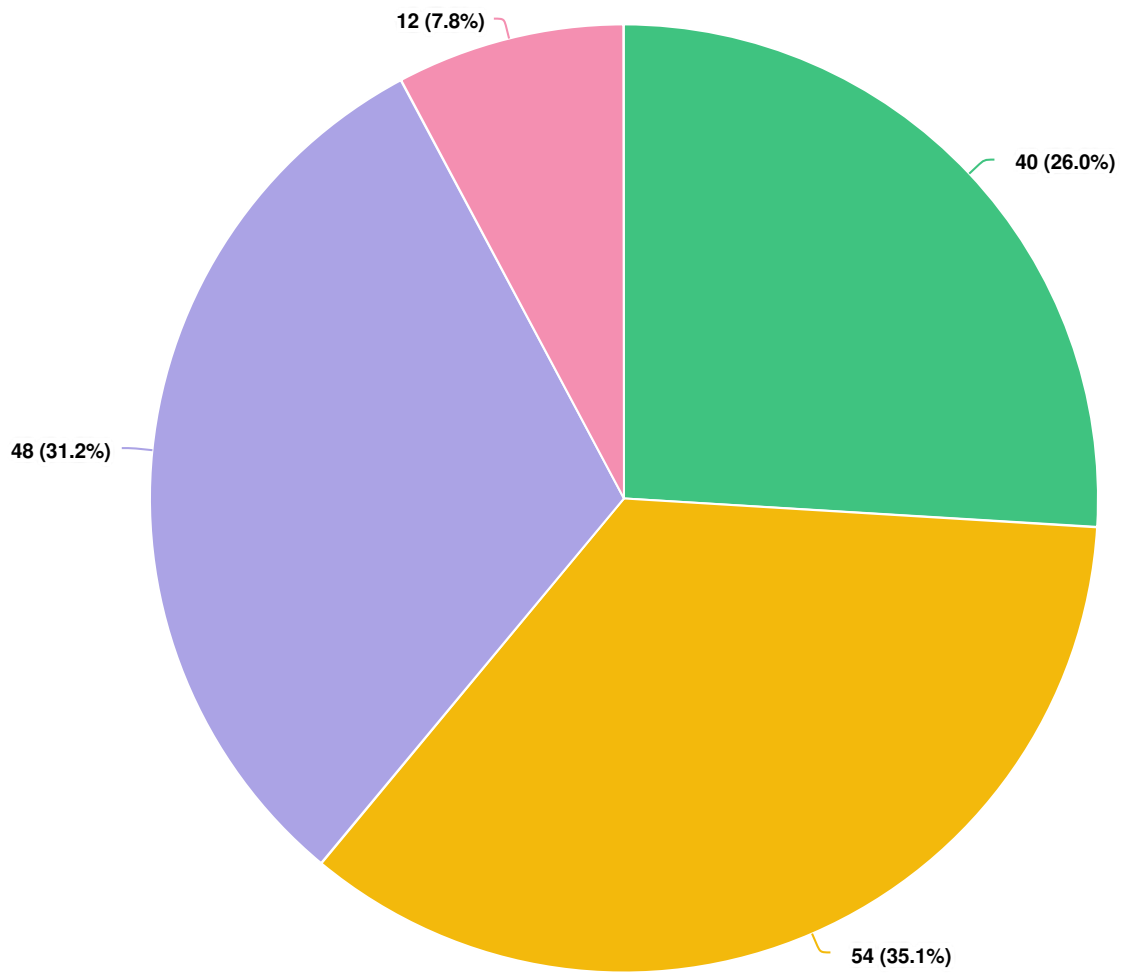
Anonymous

N/A. this is a stupid survey made by stupid people

8/18/2019 07:18 PM

**Optional question** (18 responses, 136 skipped)

**Q9** How many employees does your business have?

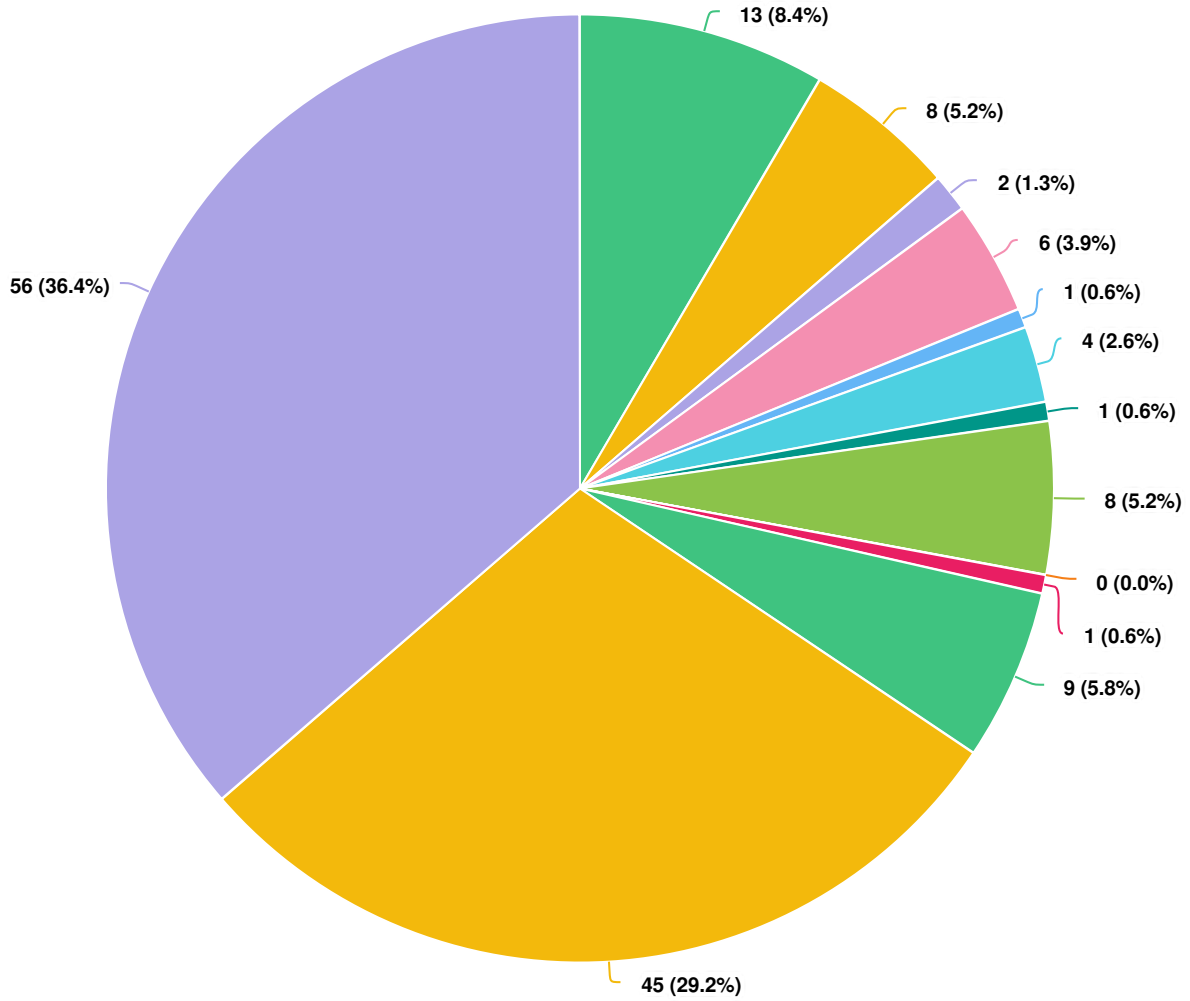


**Question options**

- Less than 5
- 5 - 20
- 21 - 100
- More than 100

Optional question (154 responses, 0 skipped)

**Q10 | What type of business do you operate?**

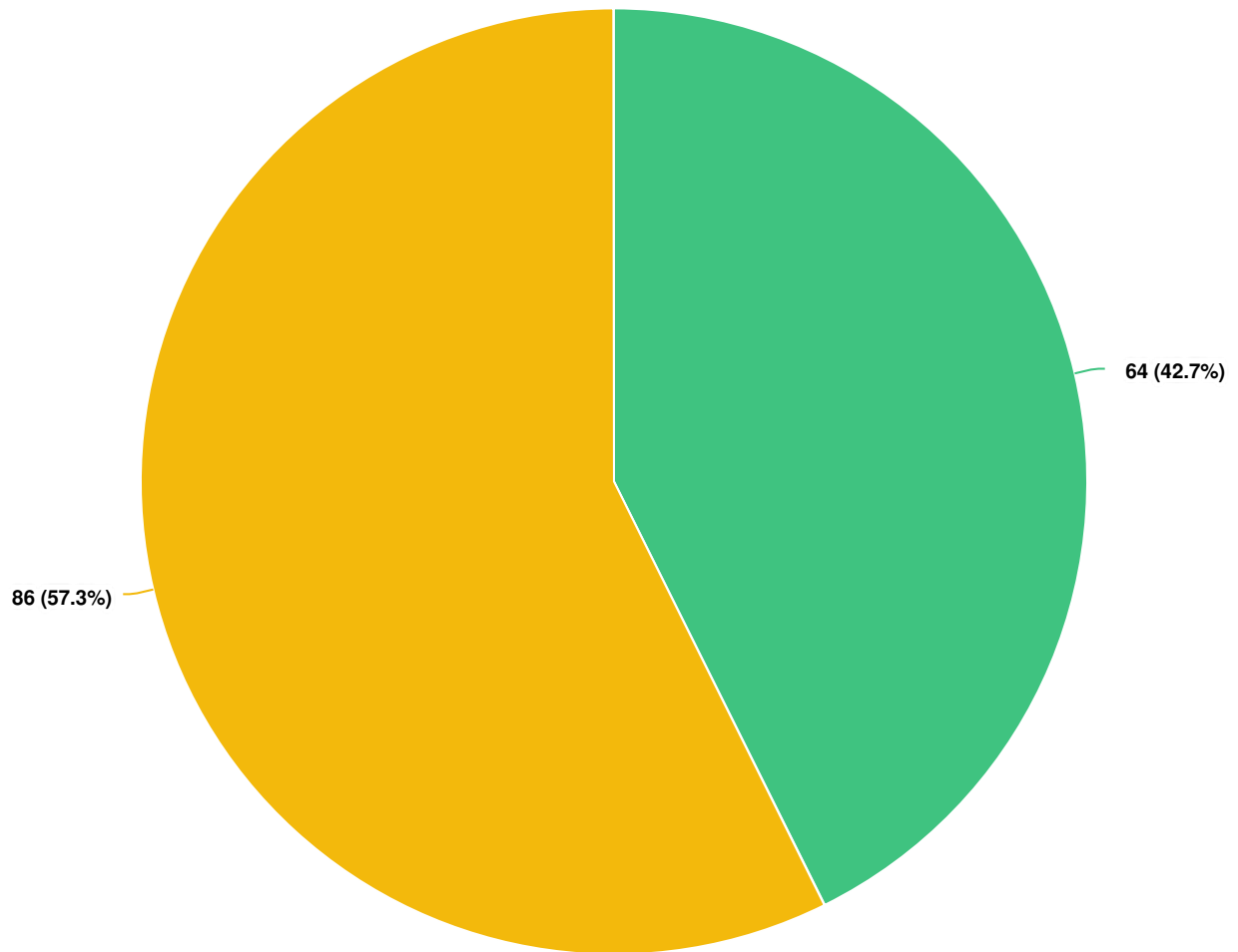


**Question options**

- Grocery Store
- Specialty Food Store
- Beer, Wine & Liquor Store
- Health and Personal Care Store
- Gas Station
- Clothing Store
- Shoe Store
- Sporting Goods, Hobby or Musical Instrument Store
- Book Store
- Department Store
- General Merchandise Store
- Restaurant
- Other

Optional question (154 responses, 0 skipped)

**Q11** Do you offer "to-go" containers for food or beverage take-out?

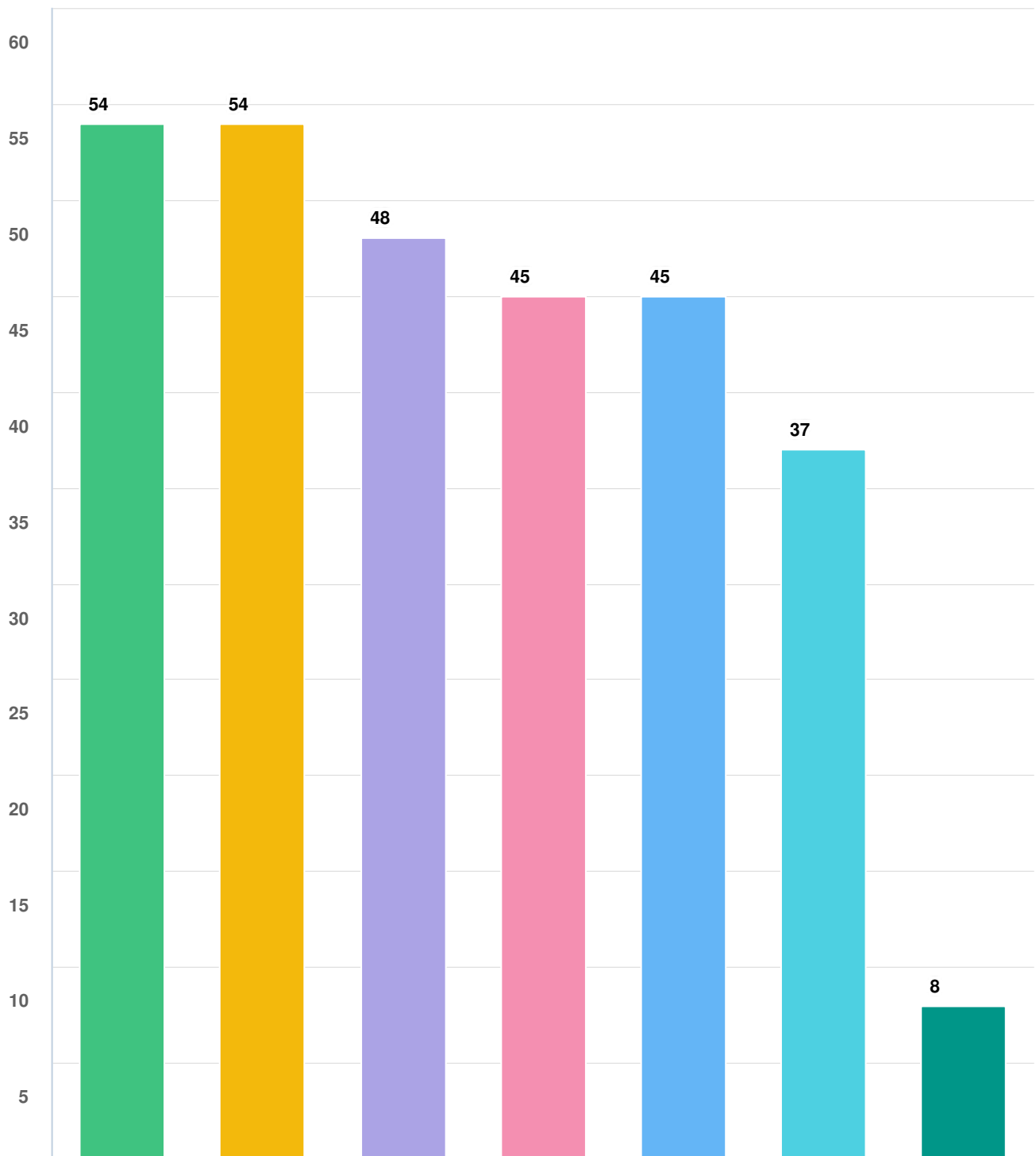


**Question options**

- Yes
- No

*Optional question (150 responses, 4 skipped)*

**Q12** What type of to-go containers or utensils do you use? (Check all that apply.)

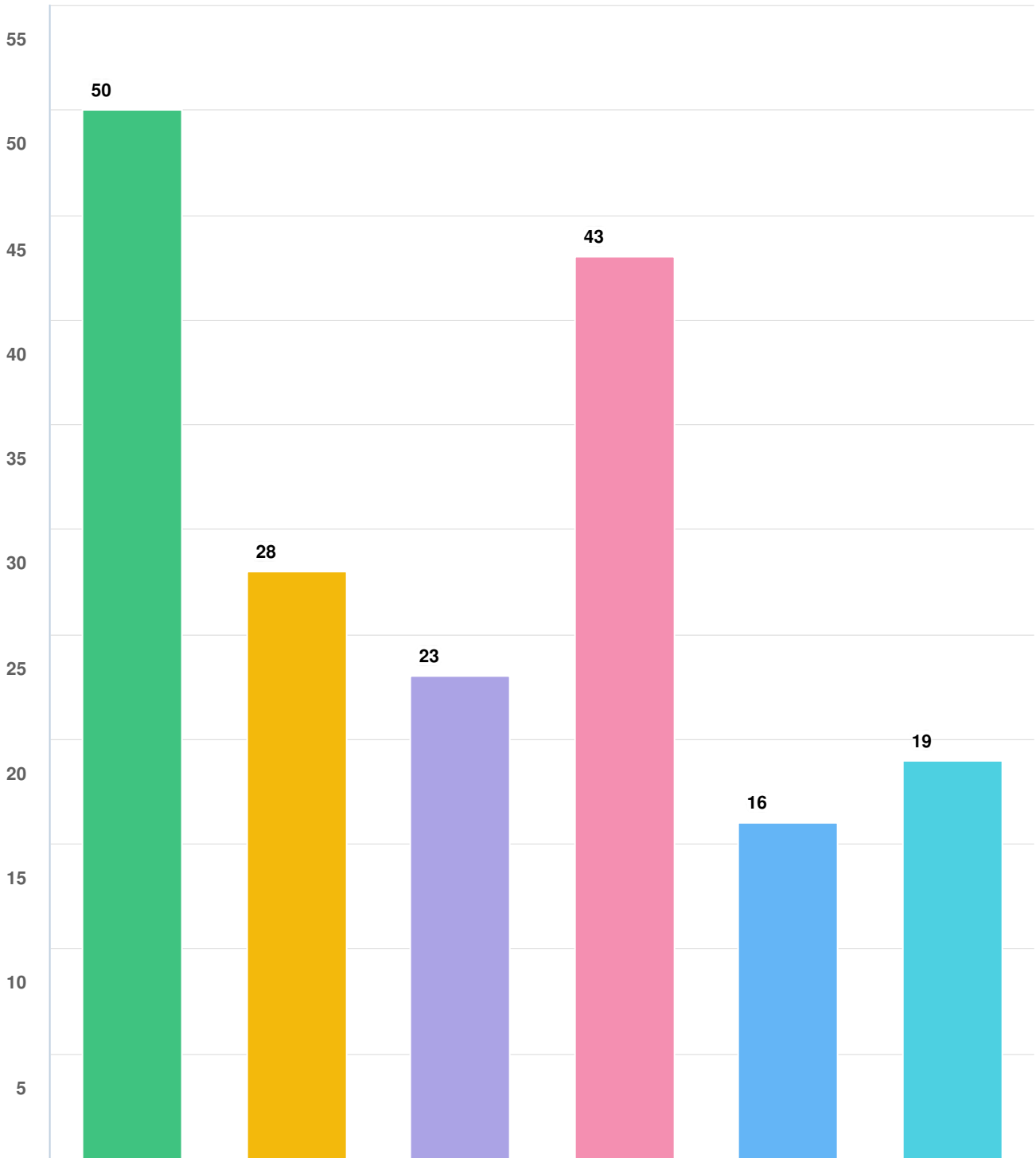


**Question options**

- Cups
- Clamshells or to-go boxes
- Silverware
- Straws
- Portion cups
- Paper bags
- Other

*Optional question (64 responses, 90 skipped)*

**Q13** What types of materials are your to-go containers made from? (Check all that apply.)

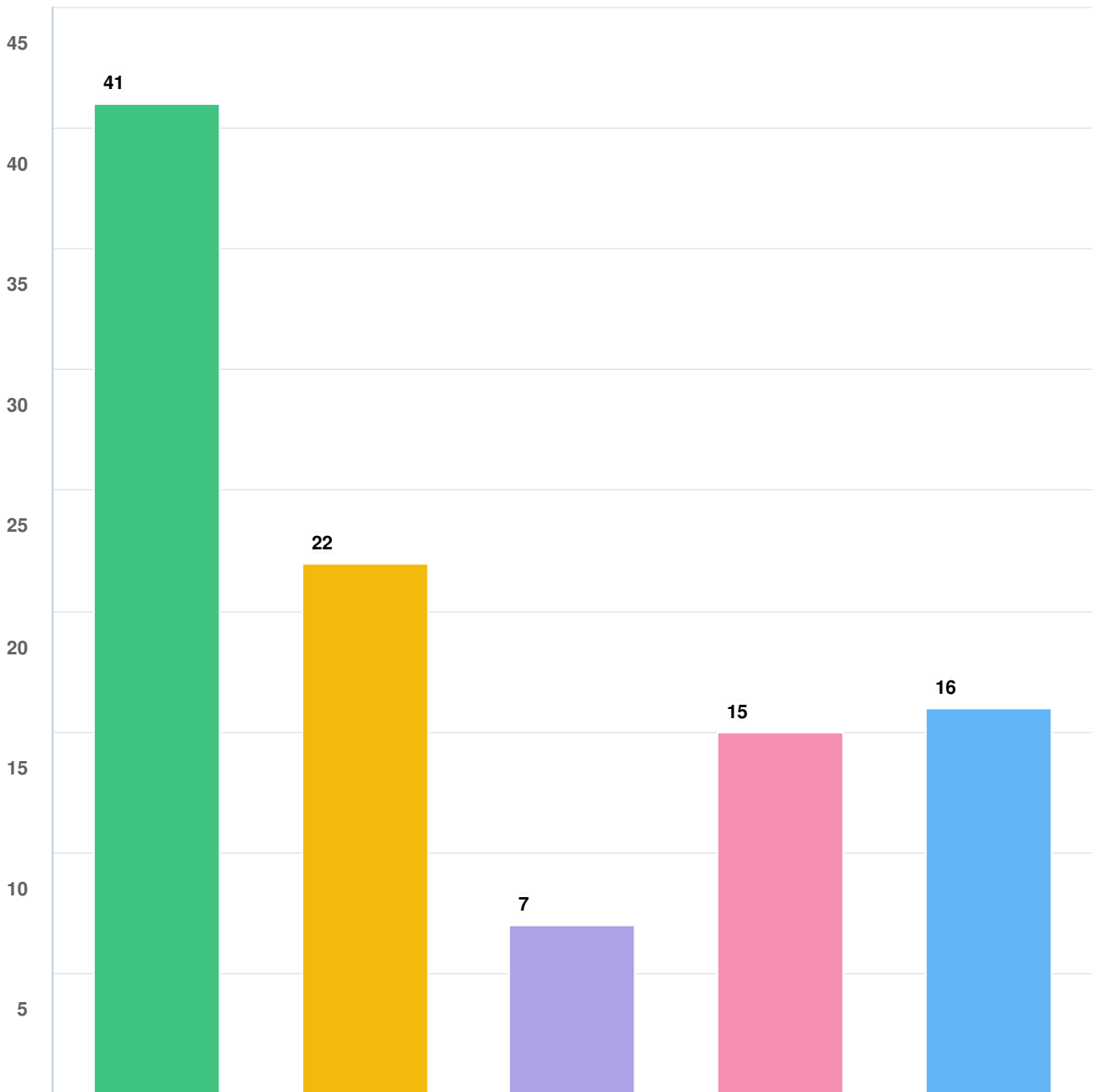


**Question options**

- Plastic
- Polystyrene / Styrofoam™
- Waxed Paper
- Paper
- Foil
- Composite material

*Optional question (63 responses, 91 skipped)*

**Q14** Are there barriers that keep you from switching to compostable or recyclable to-go containers?



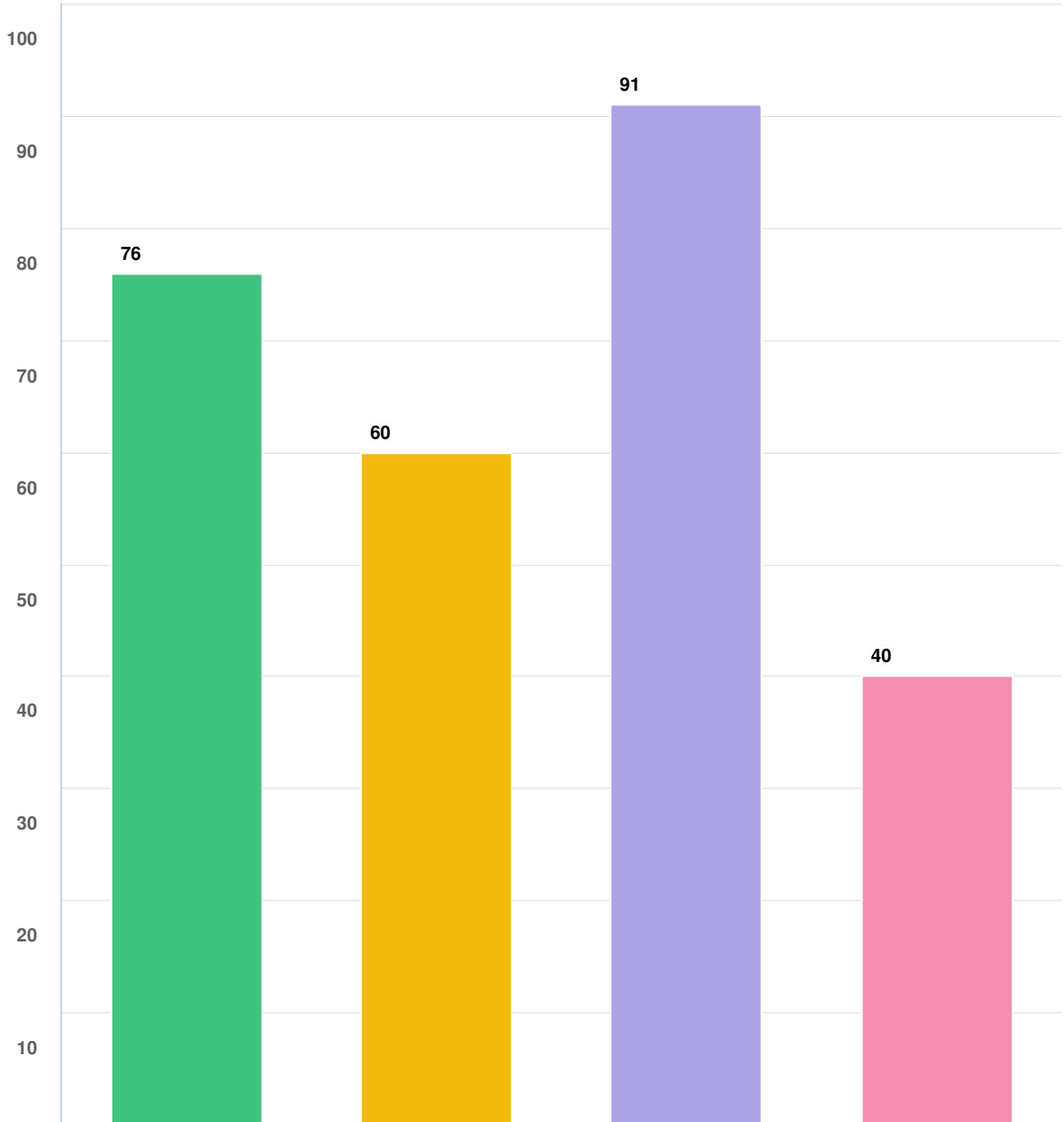
**Question options**

- Concern that compostable/recyclable containers may cost too much
- Compostable/recyclable containers will not work for my food or product.
- I don't know where to purchase compostable/recyclable containers
- My business must switch suppliers to purchase compostable/recyclable products.
- My business has already switched to compostable/recyclable products.

*Optional question (63 responses, 91 skipped)*



**Q16** The City of Fayetteville is interested in reducing litter and waste generated from single-use plastics and polystyrene/Styrofoam.™ What programs or policies do you support in furthering this effort? (Check all that apply.)



**Question options**

- Ban Polystyrene / Styrofoam™
- Ban plastic straws and stirring sticks
- Provide educational materials and resources to businesses on where to purchase cost-effective compostable/recyclable products
- Other

*Optional question (142 responses, 12 skipped)*

**Q17** | Please describe

Anonymous

7/08/2019 05:54 PM

Keep your virtue-signaling out of my business!

Anonymous

7/08/2019 07:54 PM

Let businesses choose on their own how they will regulate themselves responsibly. If people in FAYETTEVILLE really care about this which I don't think most do. They can choose to shop somewhere else if they think a business causes too much waste. This is such a waste of time! Stay in your lane city of Fayetteville and let business is run themselves without having the shit regulated out of them.

Anonymous

7/09/2019 05:55 AM

Perhaps the city could purchase alternative containers in a large bulk quantity (after having negotiated a huge discount) and then sell to local businesses at cost (no profit to city) to reduce the additional cost burden on businesses since cardboard / paper containers cost about twice what plastic / poly & styrofoam does. It should also be noted that paper & cardboard containers are not as durable and are NOT suitable for some foods / items, therefore a ban on plastic / poly & styrofoam could be a major obstacle and burden for some businesses. .

Anonymous

7/09/2019 02:42 PM

None of these

Anonymous

7/10/2019 12:54 PM

Simply "banning" products the internet has deemed bad is not the answer. It might look great in a headline, but it's simply click bait. Many small businesses in town have to save money in way possible to make ends meet with increasing rent, materials, wages and general overhead costs. Many of the "compostable/recyclable" products are FAR from cost-effective to the tune of anywhere from 10 to 100x more expensive than their counterparts, and that adds up FAST. Customers already complain about the prices of small business goods compared to Amazon/Walmart or prices at restaurants/bars. Increasing prices to the customer will only drive business to large places that can absorb the cost with volume. We did the straw thing for a while, but over time customers still wanted their straws and now we only give them by request, but sourcing consistent and cost-effective alternatives is EXTREMELY DIFFICULT. You can't go to our local restaurant supply stores or Sam's Club and purchase cost-effective alternatives and finding them online can prove difficult as many of them are back ordered, out of stock, or very very expensive. I ask the city not to just knee jerk ban something because people on Facebook are going to like it and it will make the city look cool on reddit so we hit another top places list...please think about the hard working small business people in town that are doing their best to ACTUALLY make this town great through the goods and services they provide, the sales tax / food tax / beverage tax / HMR tax that they pay and the choice they made to invest in Fayetteville.

Anonymous

7/13/2019 12:42 AM

mind your own damn business and stop hurting local businesses and our customers

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Anonymous<br>7/16/2019 06:34 AM | pictures of polystyrene, straws, and plastic bags clogging our local streams and roadsides use of inmate labor or community service for those receiving City citations to retrieve discarded trash on public property   |
| Anonymous<br>7/17/2019 07:46 AM | i dont support this bc majority of fayetteville will be upset with added costs that will be passed down. this is an initiative for the affluent.  |
| Anonymous<br>7/17/2019 01:19 PM | Please don't make businesses do this.   |
| Anonymous<br>7/22/2019 07:42 AM | I believe the city should expand it's recycling program to include ALL types of plastics - not just the type that they can re-sell. ;)  |
| Anonymous<br>7/22/2019 07:53 AM | NO bans. Would support a charge on plastic bags.  |
| Anonymous<br>7/22/2019 02:12 PM | I support the idea of city sponsored events or city offices/businesses no longer using the plastics and/or Styrofoam, but I don't support the idea of our city government imposing these policies on privately owned businesses. I also do not support a 5-cent or 10-cent per bag fee for using a plastic bag, both as a business owner and as a consumer. I definitely support the effort being made, but think we can come to a better solution. I suppose you could say I'm middle of the road on this initiative.                        |
| Anonymous<br>7/23/2019 08:07 AM | None  |
| Anonymous<br>7/23/2019 12:50 PM | Do not ban. There are a lot of small local business that do not the operating profit as franchises and the increase in minimum wage is affecting small local business. Keep on, there will be fewer small business in the area. Small businesses help drive the economy.  |
| Anonymous<br>7/23/2019 05:19 PM | I've been exploring switching all of my products to green sustainable products, but every product that I found was, in every case at least triple the cost of what I use now. At this time it's just not cost efficient, and if I raise my prices people complain.  |
| Anonymous<br>7/24/2019 05:58 AM | The cost of eco friendly products are excessively high compared to plastics and styrofoam. It's hard for a business to pay \$.25 for something they can get for \$.05. I use eco friendly products, glass bottle drinks, compostable materials but the costs really hurt. If businesses were offered some kind of credit or tax break for using such items it would help tremendously. Between the state and city I already give up almost 12% of the money I bring in, add on the cost of eco friendly products and it hurts my bottom line. |
| Anonymous<br>7/25/2019 11:17 AM | How would you like your steak served on a paper box? Paper straws become mush after first glass of cold tea. I'm for helping the environment. But, how much stuff is going to the landfill that we are sorting out now?   |
| Anonymous<br>7/29/2019 01:38 PM | I own franchise businesses in the area. This would be a huge expense driving the cost of business even higher for both the business and most of all the customer. I understand the request and would love to participate even begin the process but the issue is in the homes of the residence. Stop throwing your trash on the ground. I hate Styrofoam and I serve milkshakes for a living so they are a great for our product but would love to use  |

Anonymous

7/29/2019 04:09 PM

Styrofoam or plastic. I am afraid the business will be punished yet again in this great city. I am not from Fayetteville but live here and love it. The people need to take care of our city and not punish everyone that lives here, owns a business here or visits our home.

Anything to reduce this waste

Anonymous

8/03/2019 10:12 PM

get out of my business and let the market dictate what customers want. The quality of our food when consumed will be greatly adversely affected by the inferior biodegradable options you are pushing for. We attend trade shows and industry events and are extremely well aware of what is available and our food and customer experience will be negatively impacted by your proposals. Encourage change, encourage alternatives - but let us choose what is best for our business and our products and keep your nose out of our business!

Anonymous

8/05/2019 05:30 AM

There needs to be appropriate alternative bags, straws, cups, bags, utensils, packaging, etc... in order for a change to be feasible. Forcing businesses to increase their cost, and/or use inferior products is not the appropriate way for a government to act in this situation. Instead, citizens (consumers) in Fayetteville should be making their own choice. Do not force a change if the only alternative is an inferior product. Make an informed decision to be sure that responsible alternatives are available to every business first. This survey is fatally flawed in respect to gathering credible information in the way it is formed, and distributed (or lack of trackable distribution). . This is not a scientific survey. The results can obviously be interpreted in any way wanted by the government. This survey only gathers information that leads to the result the government wants. This survey CAN NOT be considered accurate in any way. Be responsible and hire a professional to do this for you.

Anonymous

8/06/2019 05:58 PM

tax cuts at city level for businesses that switch to easy to recycle "to-go" containers to help off set extra costs on costs of higher prices containers

Anonymous

8/07/2019 10:38 AM

Quit trying to enact ridiculous policies that will do nothing but cost us more money.

Anonymous

8/08/2019 02:13 PM

Stop forcing decisions on business owners without concern for that business. If consumers support avoiding plastic bags, they will make the choice to not take them and carry their own bag. What valid research does the City of Fayetteville have that proves your initiatives will have a positive outcome on our streams and lakes here in Fayetteville?

Anonymous

8/08/2019 08:31 PM

Quit being California

Anonymous

8/09/2019 05:45 AM

none

Anonymous

8/09/2019 03:10 PM

This does not appear to me to be a city issue. Provide decent streets, schools, fire protection, police protection, and parks.

Anonymous

Fayetteville needs to have recycling for all plastics and containers that are

8/09/2019 03:18 PM

potentially recyclable. As it stands now, Fayetteville does not have the capabilities to recycle some plastics and other containers. Fix that issue first before trying to impose ordinances that will not help the environment as much. Some of the options are worse than what you are trying to propose. Don't institute ordinances that make no sense when your first priority should be to accept all recyclables instead of just a few. Liberal policies or rules like your are surveying are not financially or environmentally sound. Do the research and quit being a think tank.

Anonymous

Offer recyclable/degradable replacements for all single use plastics

8/09/2019 04:51 PM

Anonymous

Provide positive reinforcement for businesses to provide waste reducing options-credits?

8/10/2019 12:14 PM

Anonymous

I support incentives for businesses to switch and works with businesses rather than trying to impose draconian policy as a solution as if somehow businesses are evil and the city of Fayetteville is righteously taking on this endeavor rather than the reality is you're trying to slim the expenses column for the city down so the "income" the city makes from taxes has more left over for raises for "directors" and city officials while the median income of the city remains stagnant relative to surrounding areas and other cities of similar size... There, I said it. Now go do something about it instead of sitting there waiting for something to come of these surveys except for the tally at the end. ;)

8/10/2019 07:55 PM

Anonymous

Customers stop shopping when their hands are full. This is why grocery carts and baskets are available. The same thing will happen if they can not efficiently carry their purchases to their car. Please DO NOT BAN anything. Customers have choices. Banning items from cities is not what governments need to do.

8/11/2019 05:06 AM

Anonymous

none

8/13/2019 11:57 AM

Anonymous

consider the affect to business before imposing a tax on bags. How will this be enforced? How much expense to small local business owners will you be adding? Please stop supporting big business over small local business.

8/13/2019 07:30 PM

Anonymous

no. people have a choice and can choose to recycle if they wish

8/18/2019 06:37 AM

Anonymous

n/a

8/18/2019 06:44 AM

Anonymous

none

8/18/2019 07:09 PM

Anonymous

none. this is a biased survey. just do whatever you want to and keep overtaxing our customers.

8/18/2019 07:15 PM

Anonymous

Don't be so jealous of other cities. Stop trying to ban everything. If you are so much smarter than everyone in Fayetteville, then you should move.

8/18/2019 07:18 PM

**Optional question** (39 responses, 115 skipped)