

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	24-OPT-05
Project Title:	Corby Battery Energy Storage System Project
TN #:	267636
Document Title:	Jhauna Dyer Comments - Corby BESS project opposition
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Jhauna Dyer
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	11/19/2025 11:32:44 AM
Docketed Date:	11/19/2025

*Comment Received From: Jhauna Dyer
Submitted On: 11/19/2025
Docket Number: 24-OPT-05*

Corby BESS project opposition

Good day, I am attaching the Moss Landing Battery Storage Facility Fire Community Survey Results. As your team can read, public safety, food safety, and environmental safety are the top concerns. These are not just catchy words. Vacaville has long since been an agricultural town with prime farmland that is needed to sustain the livelihood of the residents of this town and beyond. These are actual human lives, people's actual long term health and ability to provide for their families and contribute to their society that will be affected if this proposal is approved. As a licensed public health nurse for the state of CA, the health and safety of the members of this state is a passion of mine. A responsibility I do not take lightly. Ensuring the protection of public health is of the utmost importance, and must be considered a top priority when making a decision regarding this proposed facility.

I beseech your team to research the vast array of negative effects a facility like this would have in the proposed location. The residents of this county spoke loudly a couple years back and their elected representatives listened. The county created an ordinance in response to the substantiated concerns of the population. Ignoring these concerns and allowing the great risk and loss of agricultural land this facility would impose erodes the trust that our government is founded on. Elected officials acting in the best interest of the communities they serve and fulfilling the decision that community almost unanimously has come to is required of its leaders.

Please accept this comment and its attachment as clear opposition to the proposed Corby project in its current location. The residents, animals, and future generations of this town rely on you to keep it safe.

Very Respectfully,
Jhauna Dyer, RN, MSN, PHN
Vacaville resident

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

Moss Landing Energy Storage Facility (Battery) Fire Community Survey Results

May 30, 2025

County of Monterey Health Department and County of
Santa Cruz Health Services Agency



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Health Departments of the Counties of Monterey and Santa Cruz express their sincerest gratitude to the community members who completed the community survey and shared their experiences and concerns. The Health Departments also wish to thank the many community organizations who assisted with the survey's distribution and encouraged residents to participate, as well as the California Department of Public Health for their technical guidance.

Questions about this document may be directed to:

County of Monterey Health Department
Public Health Bureau, Epidemiology & Surveillance Unit
Email: PHBCommunitySurvey@countyofmonterey.gov
Phone: 831-755-4549

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Community Participation

- Most responders (64.6%) lived or worked in Monterey County, followed by 24.5% from Santa Cruz County.
- Nearly all responses were completed in English.
- There were survey responses from all zones included in the survey (Zones 1-16), with the highest response rate in Zone 1, the area where the battery facility is located.

Health Impacts

- 1,275 responders (82.8%) reported experiencing at least one symptom following the fire, particularly those located in Zone 1 at the time of the incident.
- Among the 286 respondents who sought care for their symptoms, the majority contacted or visited their primary care provider.
- Concerns about both environmental and health impacts were equally noted, though 62.6% of responses expressed specific concerns about their physical health.

Emergency Communication

- Respondents learned about the incident through various sources, with most reporting that they received information from the news, social media, and from family and friends.
- In both counties, many individuals reported not receiving notifications through the county alert systems.

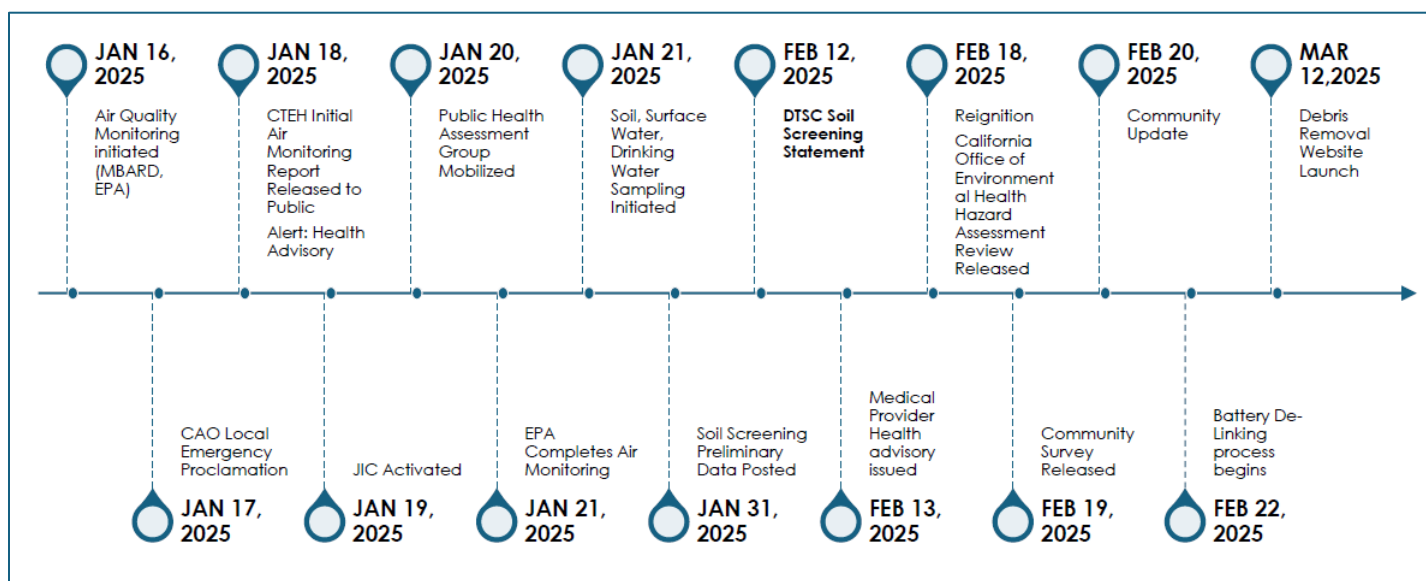
Public Health Use of Survey Information

- Understand better the health concerns related to the battery facility fire.
- Improve readability of health information for diverse populations.
- Encourage public enrollment in emergency alert systems.
- Increase local medical provider participation in health advisory systems.

BACKGROUND

On January 16, 2025, lithium-ion battery equipment ignited at the Moss Landing Energy Storage Facility (Moss 300) operated by Vistra Energy, prompting emergency response by local agencies. Initial response agencies included the County of Monterey Sheriff's Office, Environmental Health Bureau, and Department of Emergency Management, in addition to the North County Fire Protection District. Residents closest to the fire were ordered to evacuate and were directed to emergency shelters. Roads near the fire were closed. A Health Advisory was issued recommending that residents follow evacuation orders, that sensitive groups that see or smell smoke remain indoors with windows closed to reduce smoke exposure, and that residents with health concerns or symptoms contact their medical provider or seek medical attention. Additional response activities are summarized in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1: Initial Response and Recovery Overview, Provided by the County of Monterey Department of Emergency Management



Responding agencies in Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties received comments from the public and from local medical providers concerning potential toxins and chemicals in the smoke from the battery fire, as well as

concerns about health-related issues for humans, pets and livestock. Public comment also suggested that some affected individuals may not have received evacuation notices and health-related guidance.

In response to public comments, the Health Departments of the Counties of Monterey and Santa Cruz developed and conducted a community survey. The objective of the survey was to gather information about what concerns individuals may have had about their health during and following the fire and information about how individuals may have received notifications and guidance. The purpose of the survey was to inform current and future public health response strategies.

METHODS

An electronic survey was created in Qualtrics, a data management software, by the Health Departments of Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties, in consultation with the California Department of Public Health. The survey included questions about symptoms an individual may have experienced during the event. Symptoms commonly experienced by individuals exposed to wildfire smoke as well as symptoms reported by the local community during the battery fire were used to refine the list of symptoms included in the survey. The survey included additional questions that reflected the community's concerns about the fire and questions that gauged the effectiveness of the County alert systems.

To better understand where people were during the event, the respondents were asked to select a zone that best represents their location, either work or residence, during the fire. The zones were categorized as:

- Zone 1: Moss Landing (evacuation zone)
- Zone 2: Castroville
- Zone 3: North of Moss Landing & West of Highway 1 in Monterey County
- Zone 4: East of US 101
- Zone 5: Royal Oaks
- Zone 6: Las Lomas
- Zone 7: Aromas
- Zone 8: Salinas and Spreckels
- Zone 9: Marina
- Zone 10: Seaside, Monterey, and Pacific Grove
- Zone 11: Pebble Beach and Carmel
- Zone 12: Toro Park, Fort Ord, and along Highway 68
- Zone 13: South Coast of Santa Cruz County West of Watsonville
- Zone 14: Watsonville and Pajaro
- Zone 15: Johnston Corner and Interlaken
- Zone 16: Along Gabilan Range and West of Hollister

See Appendix A for a map of these zones.

Census-based population estimates for each zone were used to calculate rate estimates to compare findings between zones.

Anyone living, working, or visiting Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties during the fire was invited to participate. Responses from individuals outside these counties were not excluded. More than one household member could complete the survey. Parents and guardians were asked to submit responses on behalf of their dependent children. The survey was available online in English and Spanish and in multiple languages via telephone from February 19, 2025, through March 16, 2025 (25 days).

To encourage community response, public health professionals conducted in-person outreach at locations such as laundromats and food banks to facilitate additional survey responses from community members.

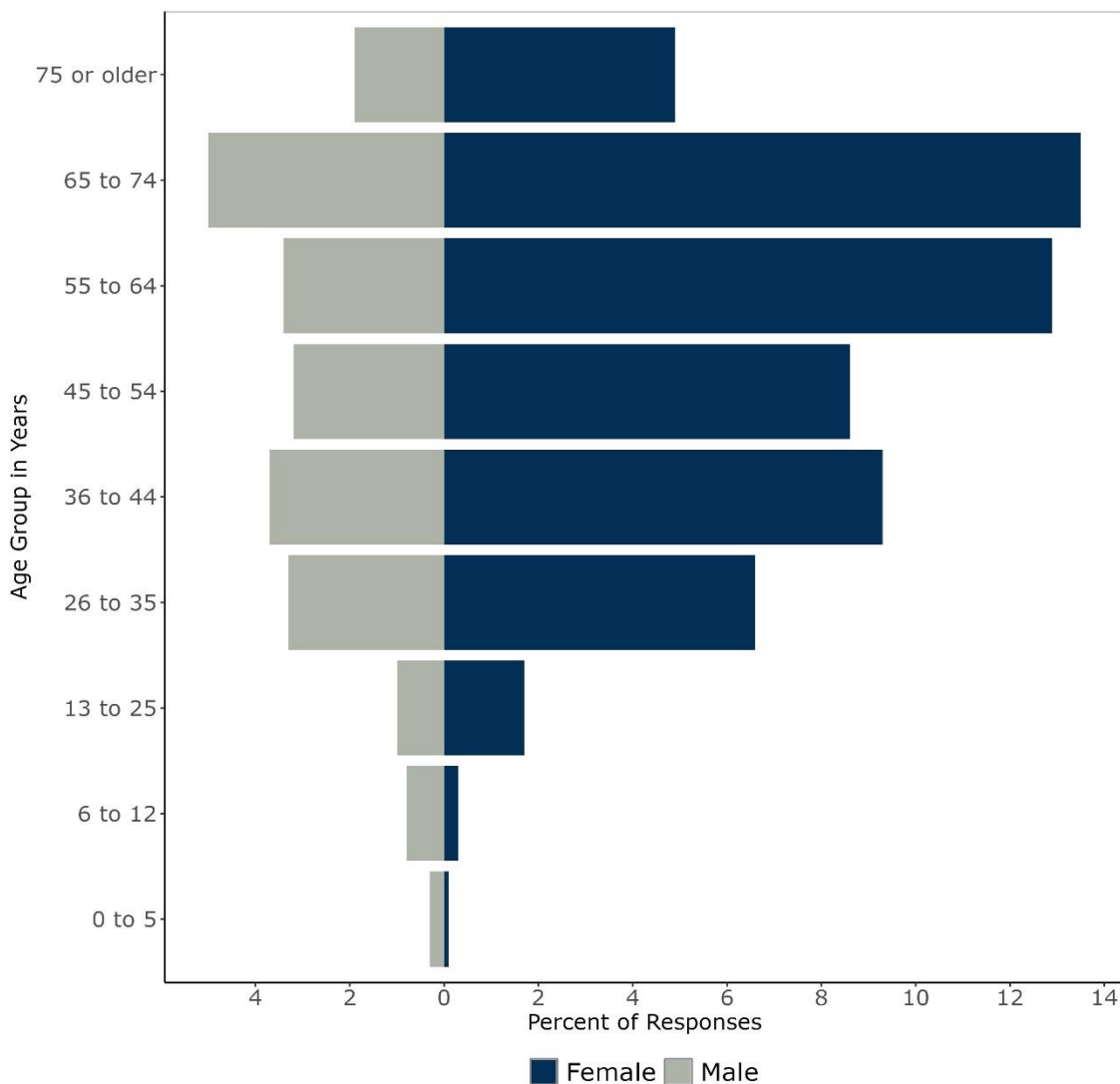
Information about the survey and how to access it was circulated widely in traditional media, social media, and on flyers posted throughout the bi-county area. Information about the survey was also distributed to local partner agencies and community groups to redistribute.

DATA SUMMARY

Survey Respondents

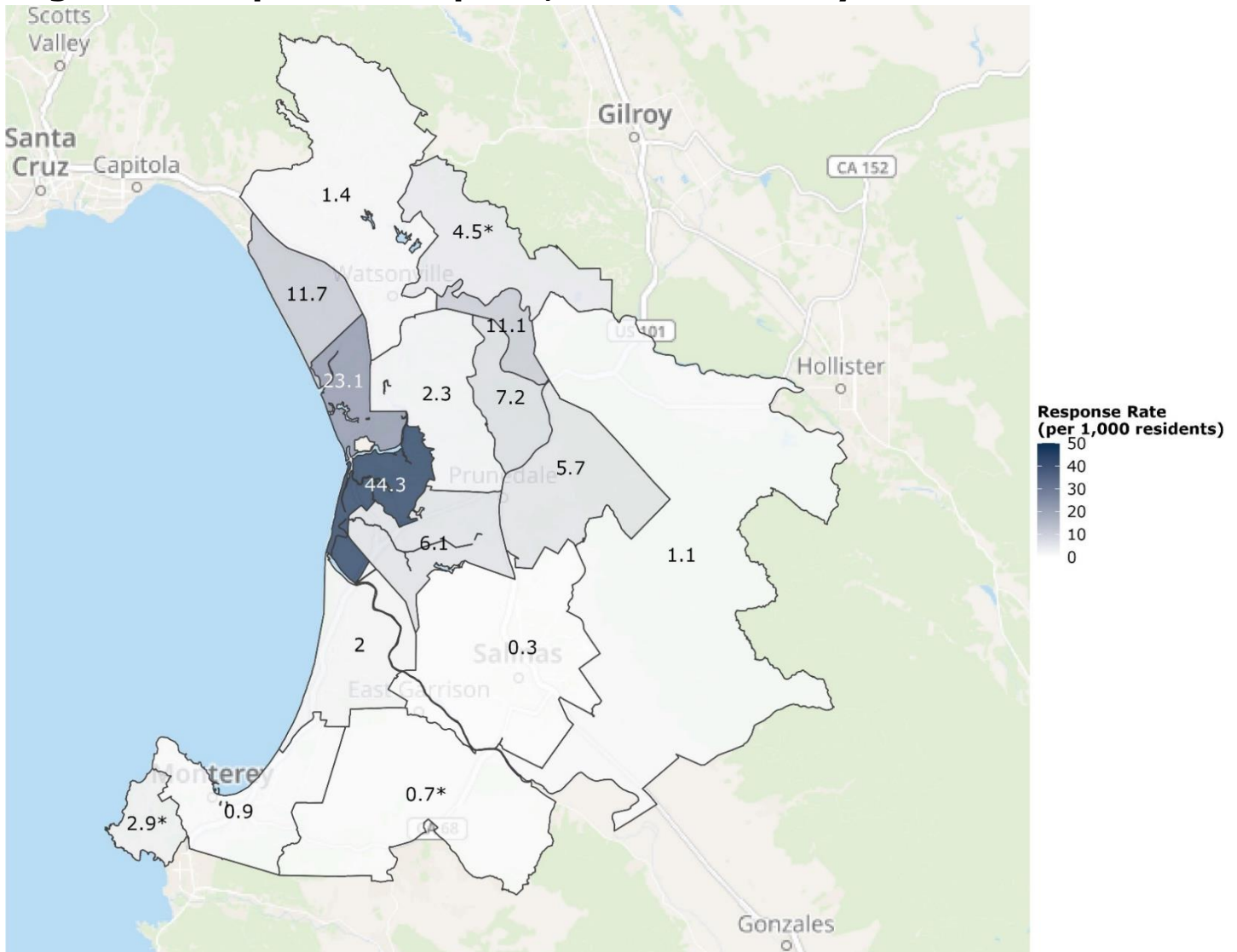
The Counties received **1,539** completed surveys, 96% (1,491) of which were completed in English. 48 responses were received in Spanish. 64.6% (994) of completed surveys represented individuals who lived or worked in Monterey County and 24.5% (377) lived or worked in Santa Cruz County. 6.8% of responses reported living or working in another county. County of residence or work could not be determined for 63 responses. Of the 1,539 total responses 898 individuals (58.3%) self-identified as female, and 22.7% as male. There were 8 respondents (less than 1%) who identified as non-binary or third gender (not included in Figure 2 below).

Figure 2: Percent of Survey Responses by Age Group



Of the 1,539 responses, 1,296 worked or resided within Zones 1 through 16. Of these responses, the highest rate of response (44.3 per 1,000) was from Zone 1, the area immediately surrounding the Moss Landing battery storage facility.

Figure 3: Response rate per 1,000 residents by selected zones



**Rate is statistically unstable due to small numbers.*

There were 243 additional responses from individuals living or working outside of Zones 1 through 16. Fifteen (15) were within Monterey County. Eight of these 15 responses were associated with the Peninsula or Big Sur region. Two responses were from individuals living or working in the Salinas Valley. Five other responses were from other locations in Monterey County. One hundred seventy-nine (179) individuals responded from areas outside Zones 1 through 16 in Santa Cruz County. The locations reported are summarized below. Lastly, 10 responses represented areas outside the bi-county area and/or did not include enough information to be grouped in the above categories. These 243 responses from individuals outside of zones 1 through 16 were included throughout the analysis but were excluded in the population-based rate calculations, specifically from Figures 5 and 22.

Table 1: Responses from Individuals Living or Working in Santa Cruz County Who Were Not Working or Residing in Zones 1 through 16

Santa Cruz County Responses Not Included in Zones 1-16	Number of responses
Capitola, Soquel, Live Oak	52
Santa Cruz City	34
Scott Valley, Ben Lomond, Felton	22
Aptos, Rio Del Mar	36
Other Location	35

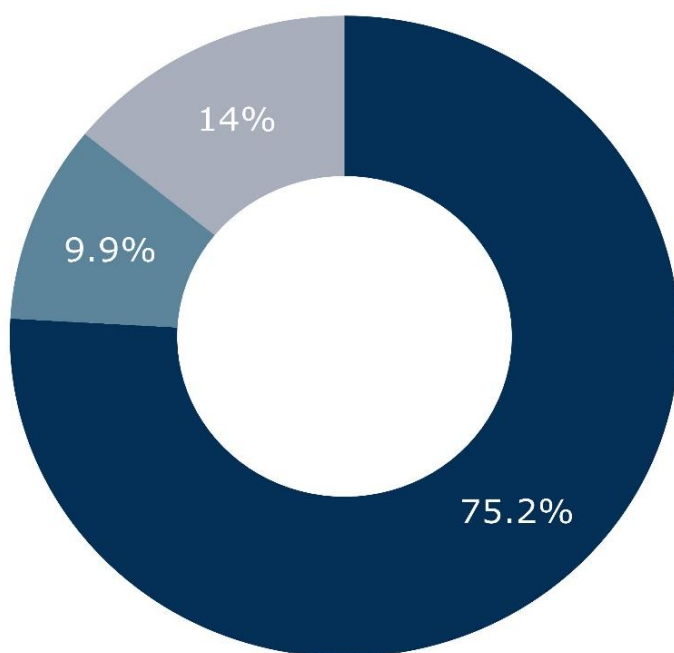
Health Topics

This section summarizes the health-related information gathered from the survey.

Saw or Smelled Smoke

Three out of four respondents (75.2%, or 1,157 out of 1,539) indicated that they saw or smelled smoke from their home after the fire started on January 16. About one in ten (10%) smelled or saw smoke while at work. Another 14% (215) said they did not see or smell smoke at all.

Figure 4: Percent of Responses that Reported Seeing or Smelling Smoke After the Fire Started on January 16, 2025

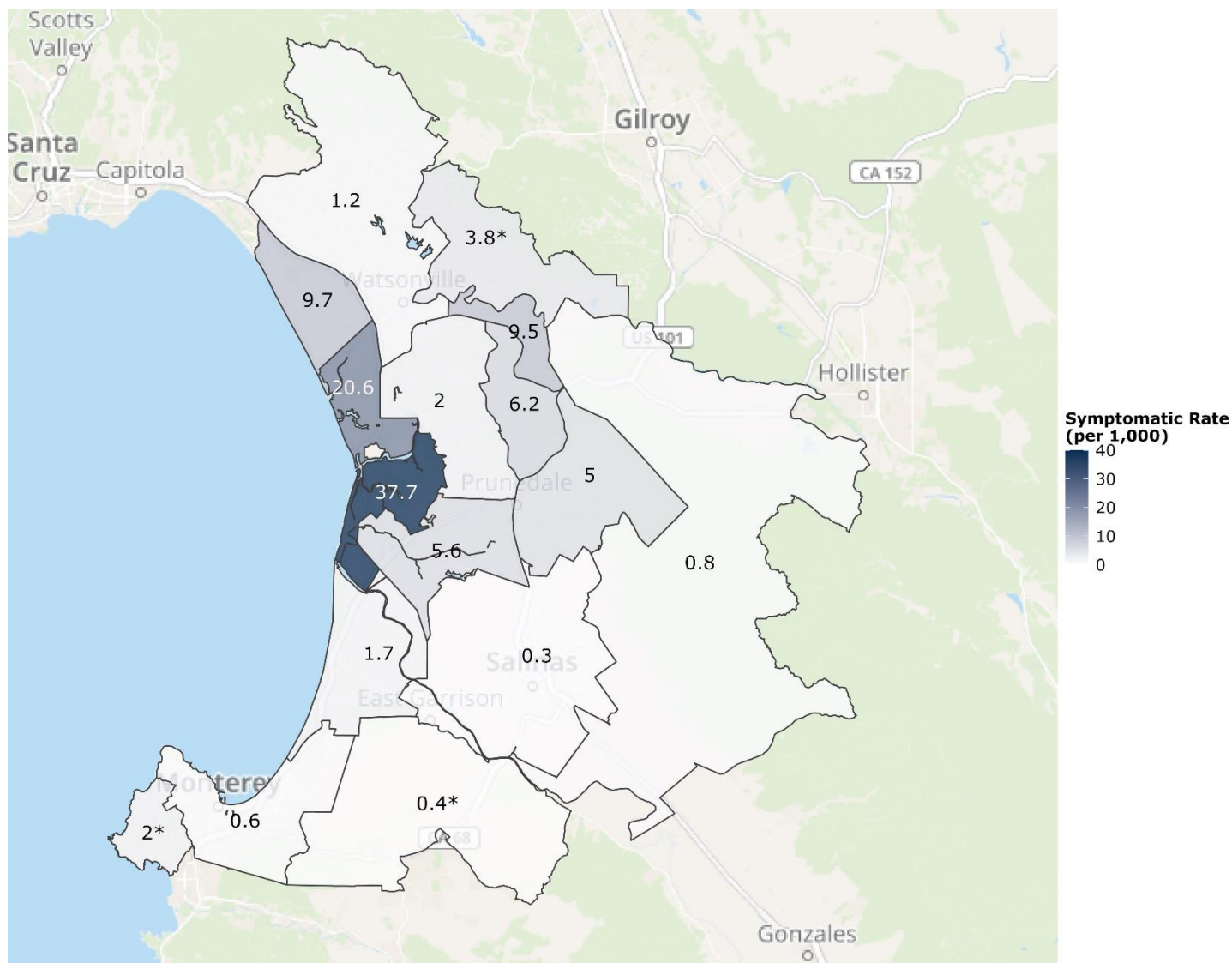


Response: ■ Yes, from my home ■ Yes, from my work ■ No

Reported Symptoms

1,275 of all 1,539 survey responses (82.8%) included one or more symptoms. Like the overall response rate for the survey, responses that included report of at least one symptom were highest in the area around Moss Landing.

Figure 5: Rate of Reported Symptoms per 1,000 Residents by Zone



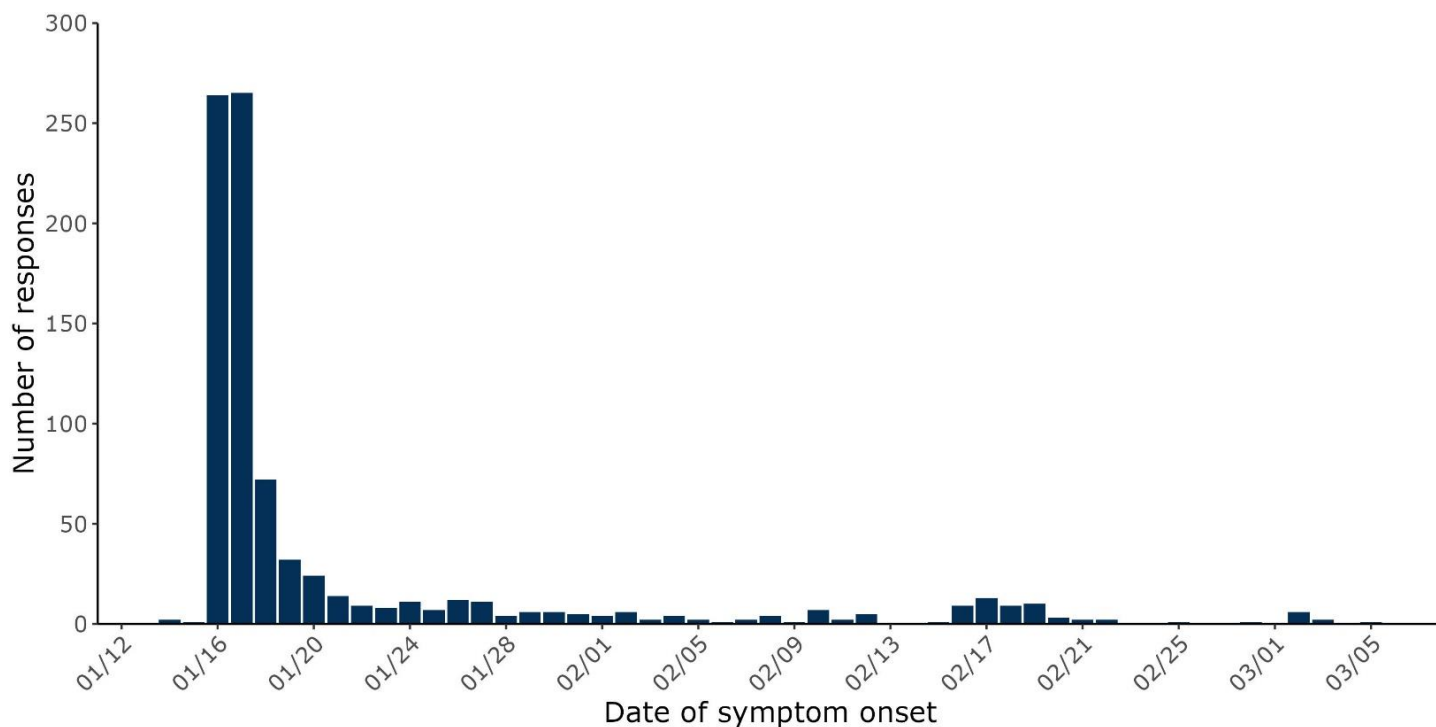
**Rate is statistically unstable due to small numbers.*

Symptom Onset

Most respondents with symptoms reported that their symptoms began in a four-day window starting immediately after the fire first began, from January 16 through 19 (49.6%). There was a slight increase in reported onset of symptoms coinciding with re-ignition of the fire on February 18.

A few responses (5) indicated a symptom onset date that preceded the fire. This could represent typographical errors. Because the true intent of the responder was unknown, responses were recorded as entered.

Figure 6: Count of Survey Responses by Reported Symptom Onset Date



Symptom Description

More than half of the respondents reported headache (59.5%) and sore throat (54.5%) as a symptom they or their family members experienced following the fire. Over a third of respondents reported cough (48.7%), itchy eyes (44.4%), a metallic taste in their mouth (38.7%), fatigue (34.4%), or congestion (32.9%), either alone or in combination with another symptom.

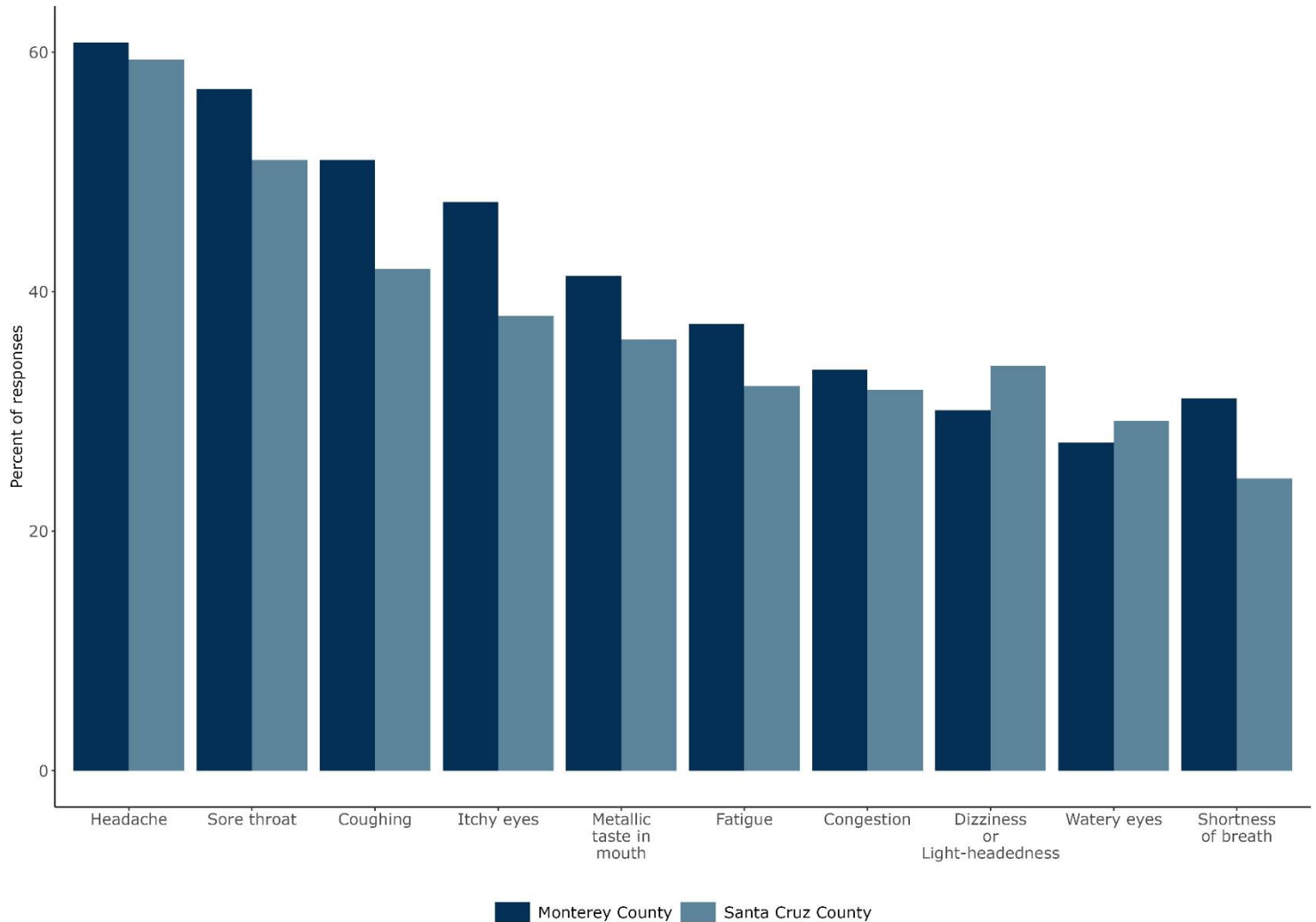
Table 2: Reported Symptoms

Symptom	Percentage
Headache	59.5%
Sore throat	54.6%
Cough	48.7%
Itchy Eyes	44.4%
Metallic Taste in Mouth	38.7%
Fatigue	34.4%
Congestion	32.9%
Dizziness or Light-headedness	30.7%
Shortness of Breath	28.9%
Watery Eyes	27.9%
Difficulty Breathing	23.3%
Difficulty Sleeping	22.9%
Nausea	22.6%
Chest Tightness	20.5%
Skin irritation or rash	16.5%
Wheezing	16.5%
Blurred vision	13.3%
Chest Pain	13.1%
Bloody nose	11.7%
Racing heartbeat	11.6%

Muscle weakness, muscle spasms, vomiting, nasal irritation, anxiety, and 'Other' symptoms were reported by less than 10% of responders.

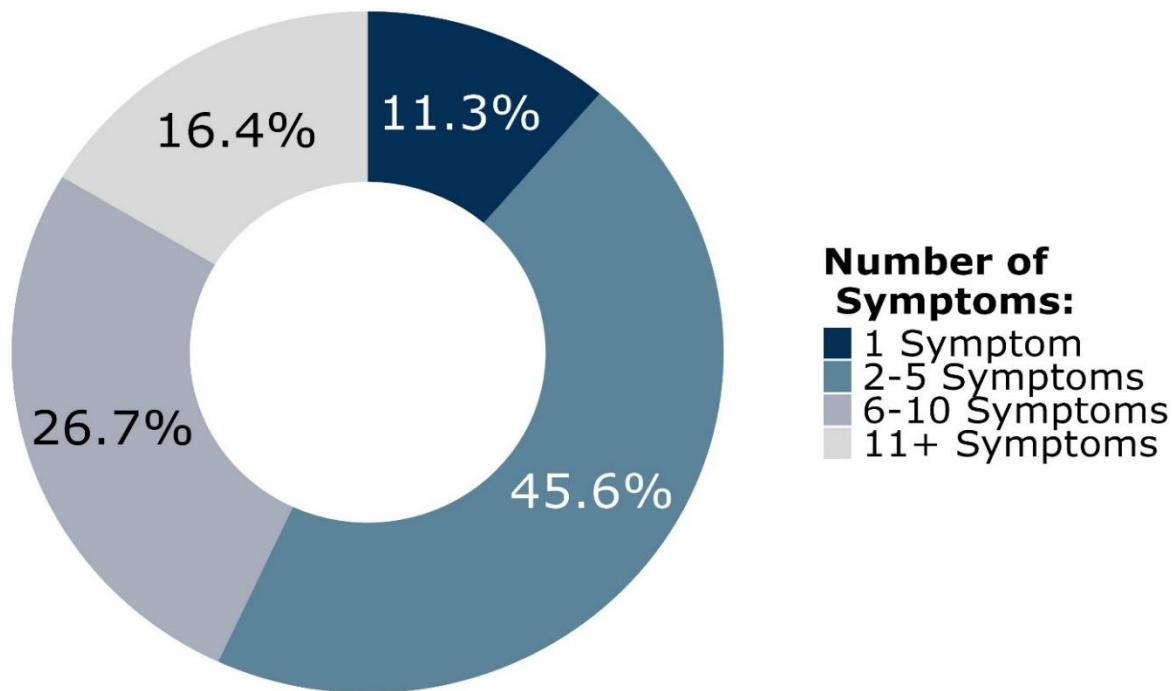
This information is displayed by county of residence or work location in Figure 7 below. The symptoms presented in Figure 7 represent 71.4% of all reported symptoms.

Figure 7: Most Commonly Reported Symptoms by County of Residence or Work Location



Among those reporting symptoms, 11.3% (144 out of 1,275) reported experiencing one symptom. Another 45.6% (581 out of 1,275) reported 2 to 5 symptoms. 26.7% (341 out of 1,275) reported 6 to 10 symptoms, and 16.4% (209 out of 1,275) reported 11 or more symptoms.

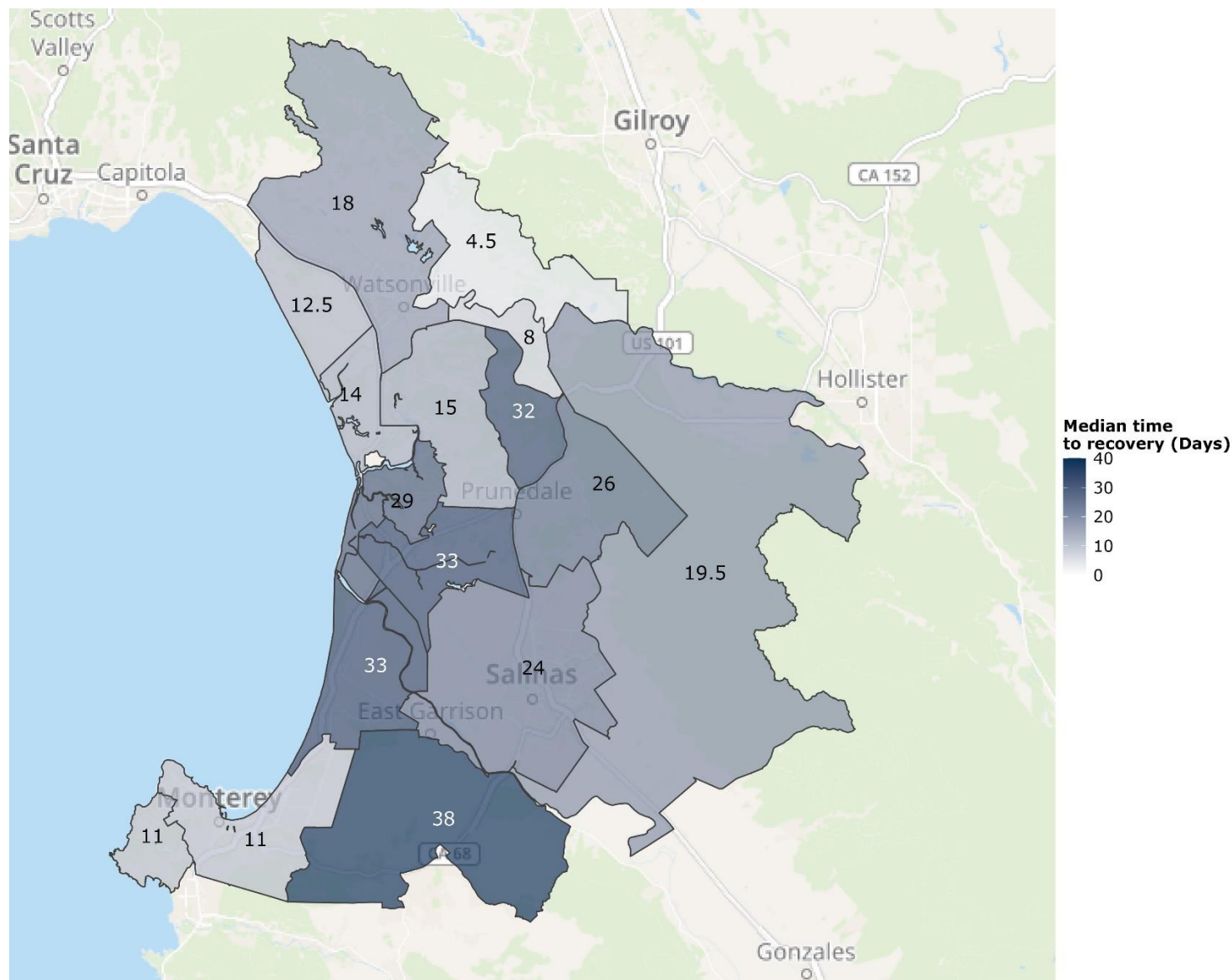
Figure 8: Percentage of responses by number of symptoms reported



Duration of Symptoms

The median time from start to stop of reported symptoms among survey responses was 27 days. For most people (the middle 50%, called the interquartile range), symptoms lasted between 7 to 35 days. 43.3% (666 out of 1,539) or responders were still experiencing symptoms at the time they completed the survey. There was no clear pattern in duration of symptoms across geographic zones.

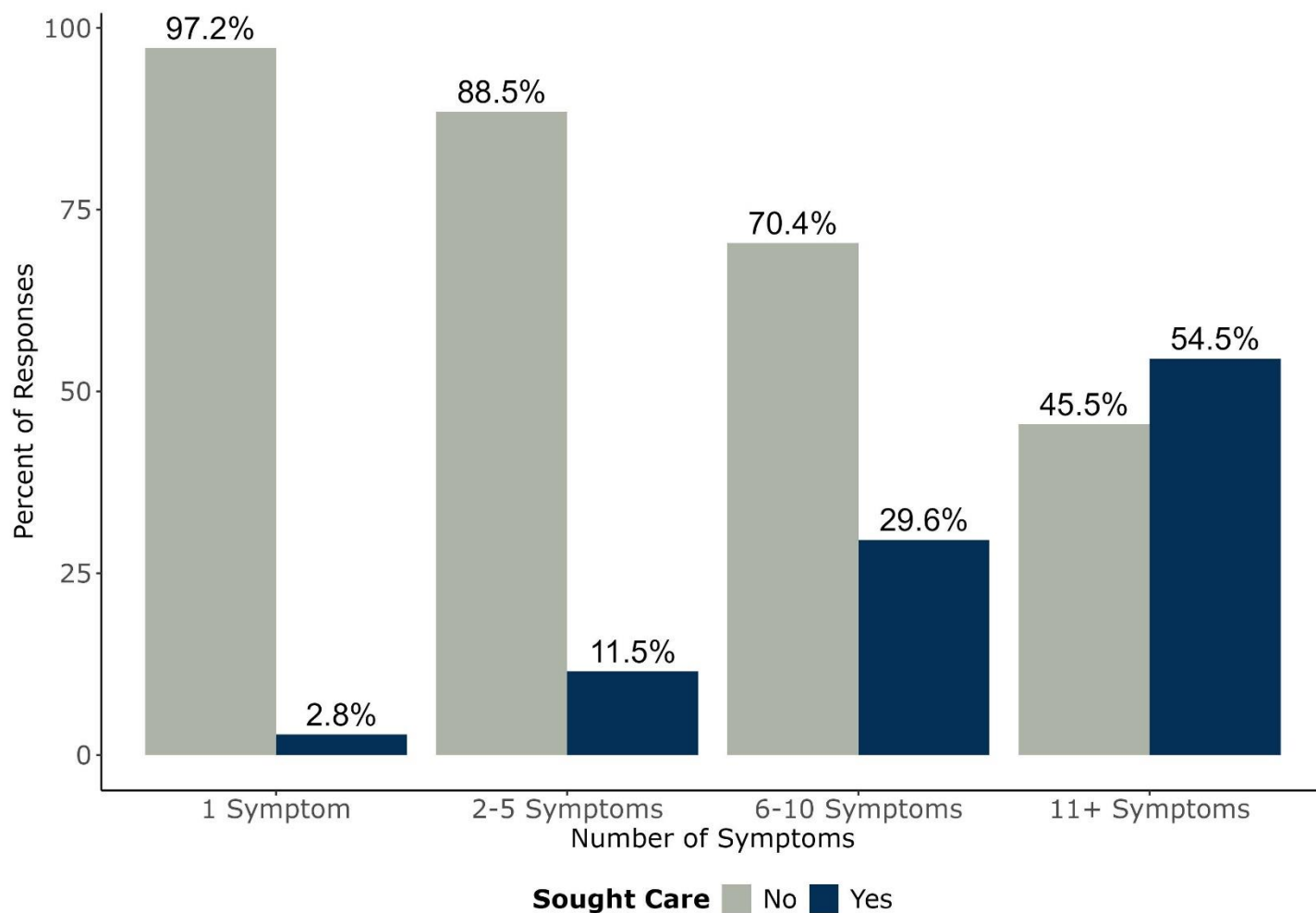
Figure 9: Duration of symptoms (days)



Medical Care

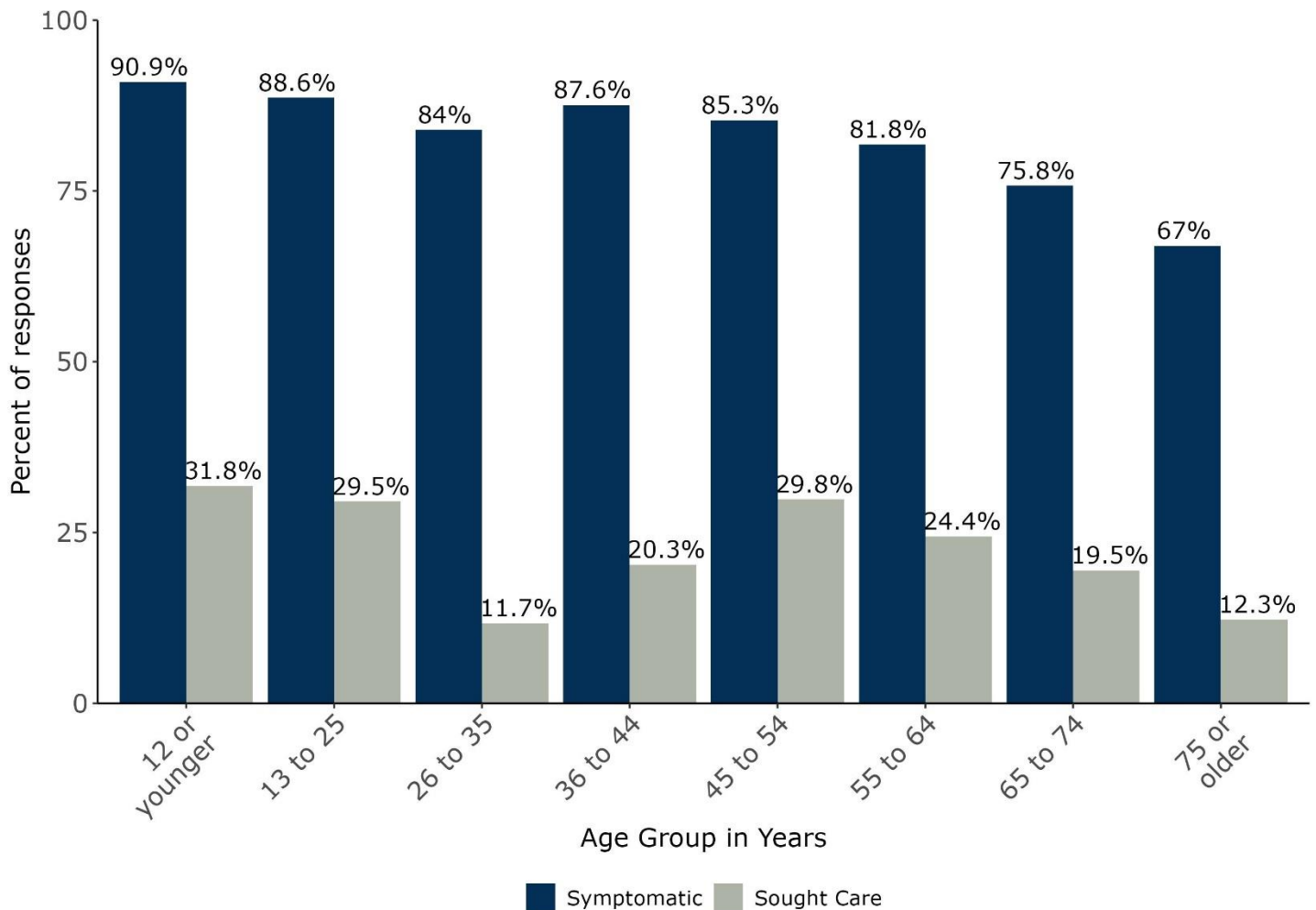
Among those who reported experiencing at least one symptom following the fire, 22.4% (286 out of 1,275) reported seeking medical care for their symptoms. Individuals who reported larger numbers of symptoms were more likely to seek medical care.

Figure 10: Care seeking by number of reported symptoms



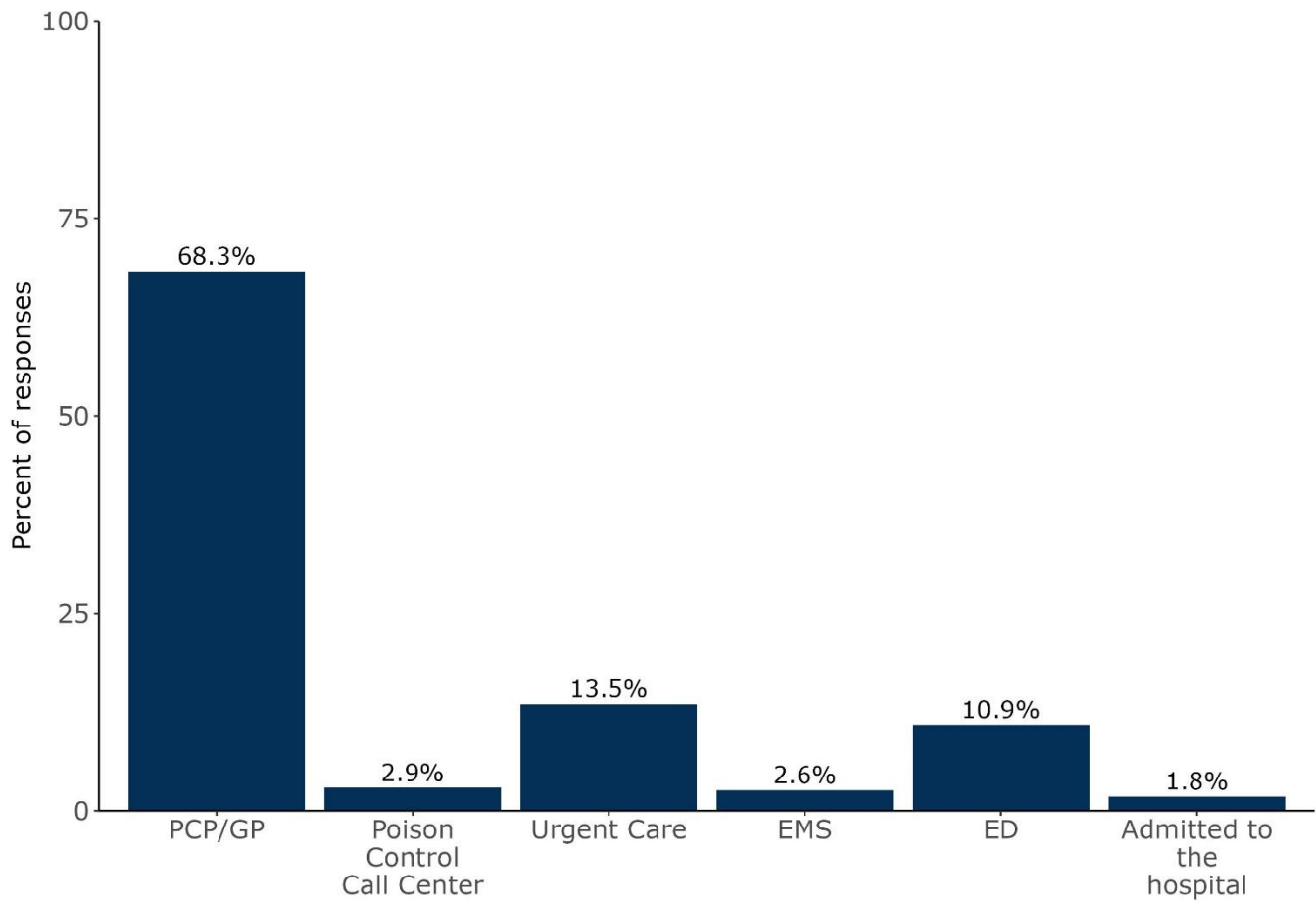
Among survey respondents, children 12 years of age and younger had both the highest percentage of reported symptoms (20 out of 22, or 90.9%) and were the most likely to seek medical care (7 out of 22, or 31.8%). Individuals 26 to 35 years of age were the least likely age group to seek medical care (19 out of 162, or 11.7%).

Figure 11: Percentage of respondents who sought care by age group



The majority of respondents (233 out of 341, or 68.3%) who reported seeking care sought care with their primary care provider. 46 out of 341 (13.5%) sought care at an urgent care center, and 37 out of 341 (10.9%) visited a hospital emergency department. Additionally, 2.9% (10 out of 341) called a poison control center, 2.5% (9 out of 341) called 9-1-1, and 1.8% (6 out of 341) reported being hospitalized for their symptoms.

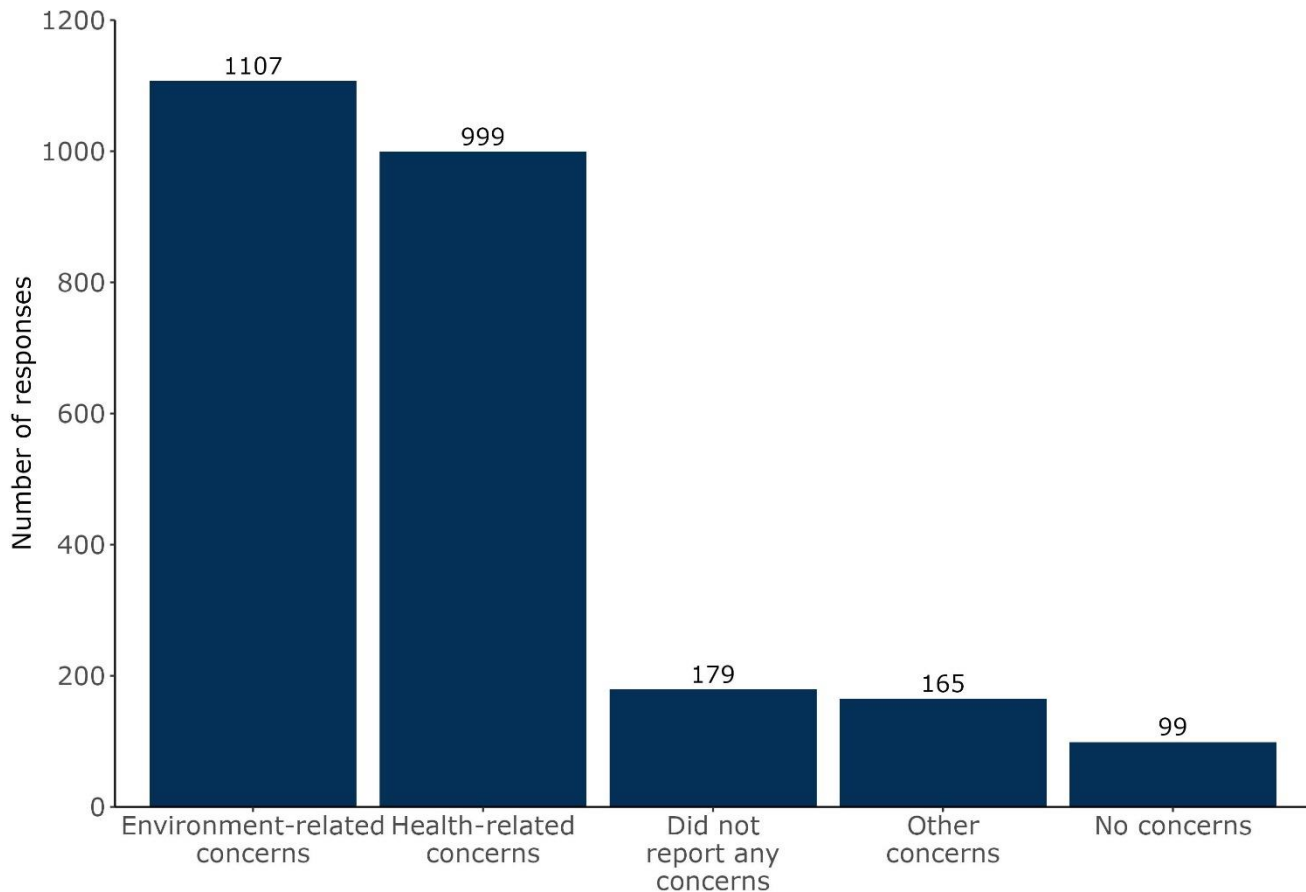
Figure 12: Percentage of respondents by location of care



Community Concerns

Survey responders were asked if, at the time they were taking the survey, they had additional concerns related to the fire. Participants were able to select multiple responses listed in the survey. Overall, the majority of survey responders shared they had environment-related concerns (1,107), followed by health-related concerns (999).

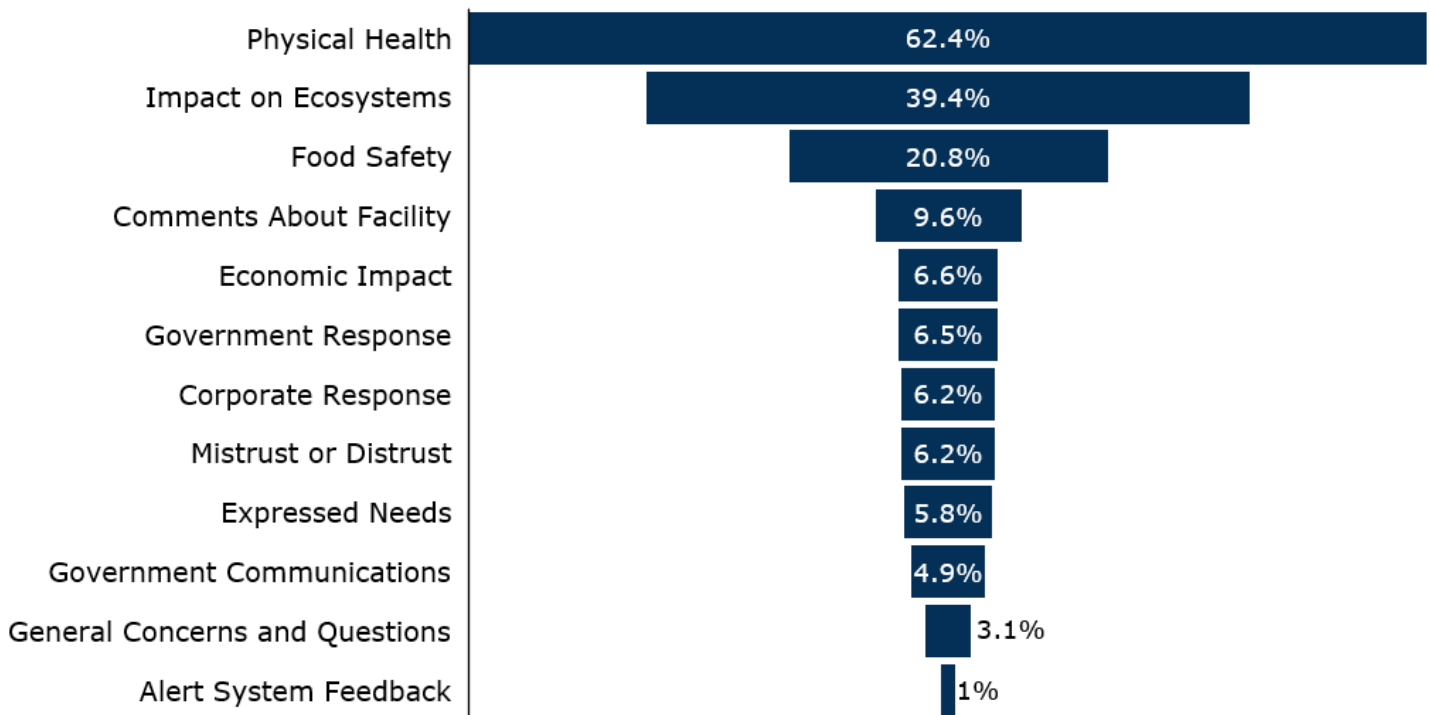
Figure 13: Number of responders reporting additional concerns



Themes

Concerns provided in the narrative responses to the survey were grouped into categories, or “themes.” The most common concern themes reported were Physical Health (961 out of 1,539, or 62.6%) followed by Impact on Ecosystems (607 out of 1,539, or 39.4%) and Food Safety (320 out of 1,539, or 20.8%). The percentages shown below do not sum to 100% because the responders could share more than one concern per response.

Figure 14: Themes of Concern



Themes by County of Residence or Work

Table 3 summarize these categories by the responder's county of residence or work. Overall, survey responders from Monterey County contributed the largest proportion of the information included below.

Table 3: Themes by respondent's county of residence or work

Themes	Monterey County	Santa Cruz County	Other or Unknown
Alert System Feedback	46.2%	23.1%	30.8%
Comments About Facility	59.8%	33.1%	7.1%
Corporate Response	62.1%	27.3%	10.6%
Economic Impact	77.5%	18.8%	3.8%
Expressed Needs	55.7%	37.1%	7.1%
Food Safety	61.1%	30.6%	8.3%
General Concerns and Questions	65.2%	19.6%	15.2%
Government Communications	55.2%	31.0%	13.8%
Government Response	63.5%	28.4%	8.1%
Impact on Ecosystems	64.3%	28.1%	7.6%
Mistrust or Distrust	59.5%	32.9%	7.6%
Physical Health	65.6%	25.9%	8.4%

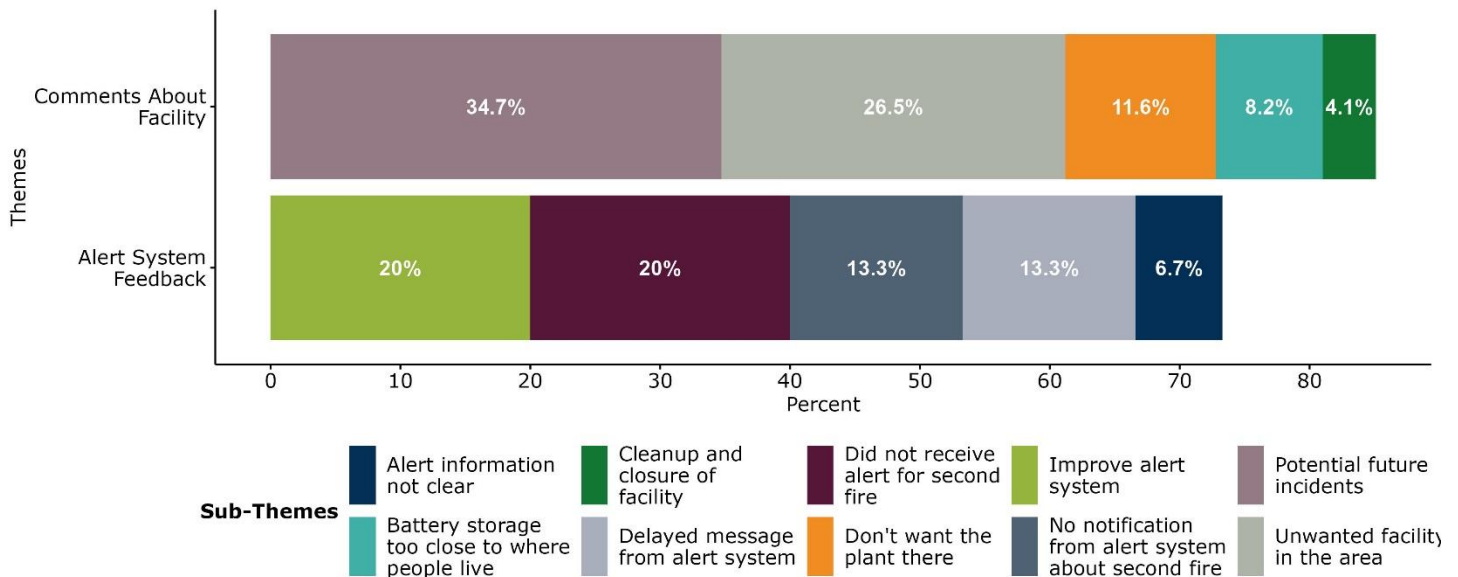
The following graphs provide additional detail about concerns shared.

Comments about Facility and Alert System Concerns

Among those providing comments about battery storage facility (9.6% of responses), 34.7% (51 out of 147) shared concerns about potential future similar events.

Among those providing feedback about alert systems (1% of responses), 20% (3 out of 15) expressed concerns about improving the alert systems. Another 20% of responders expressed concerns about not receiving an alert for the second fire.

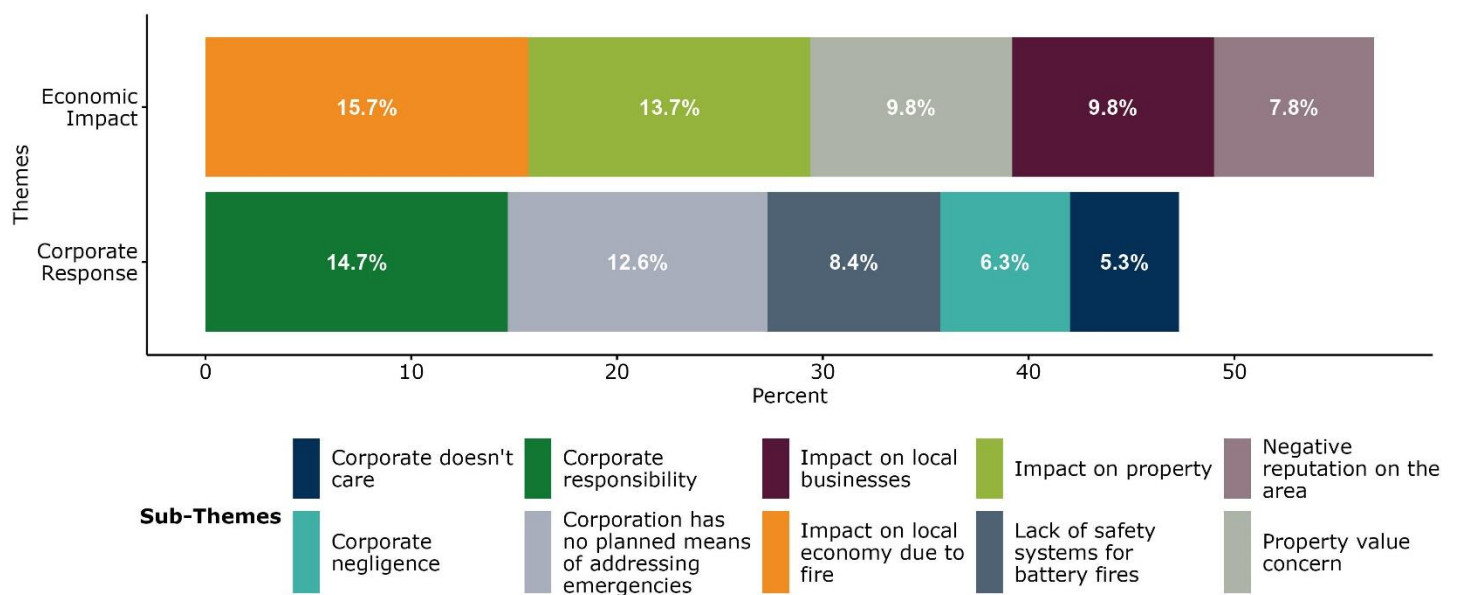
Figure 15: Comments about Facility and Alert System Theme Details



Economic Impact and Corporate Response Concerns

Among those reporting concerns related to Economic Impacts (6.6% of responses), concerns about the local economy were most commonly reported (15.7%, or 16 out of 102 responses). Other concerns included impacts on property and the area's reputation. For those reporting concerns about Corporate Response (6.2% of responses), 14.7% (14 out of 95) of responses were related to concerns about corporate responsibility. Additional concerns included lack of emergency plans and safety systems.

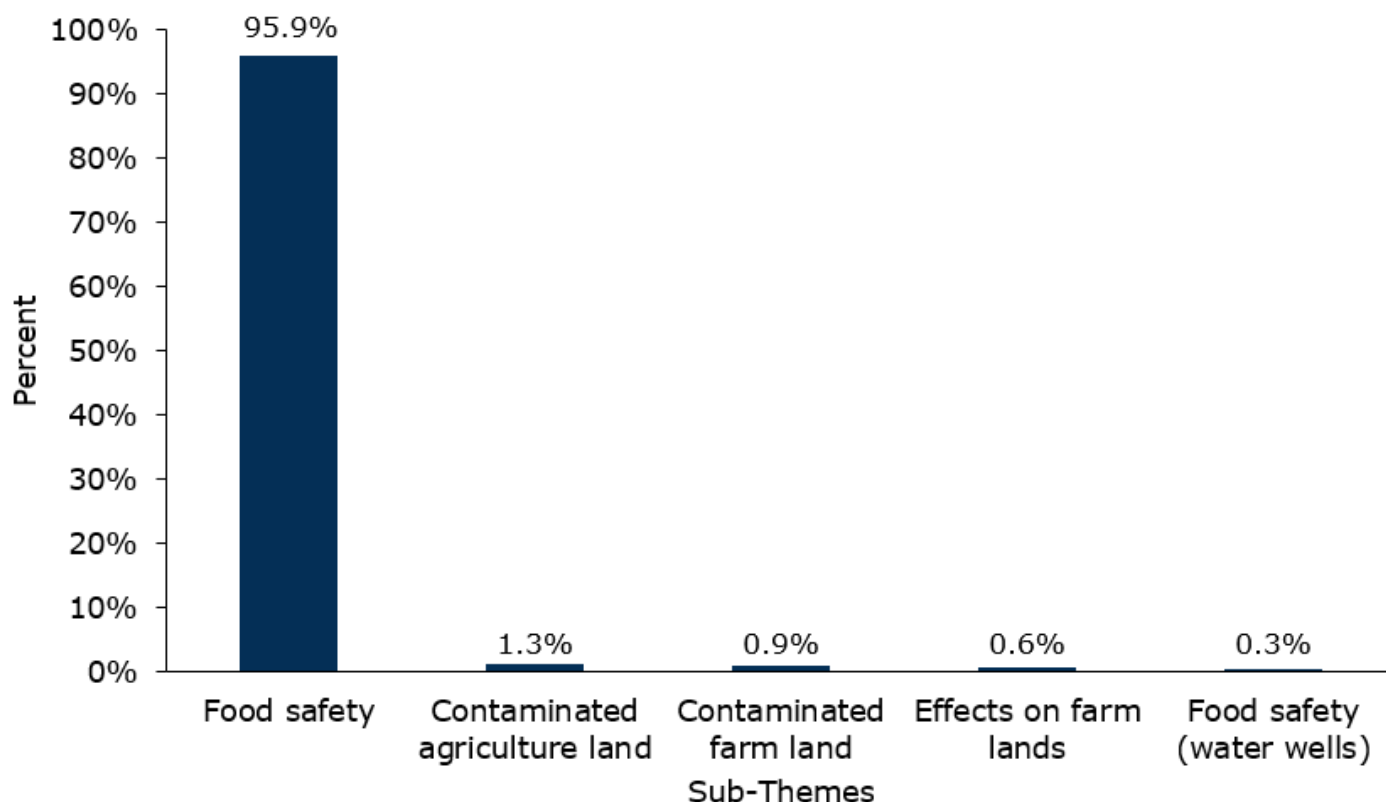
Figure 16: Economic Impact and Corporate Response Theme Details



Food Safety Concerns

With respect to the Food Safety theme comments (20.8% of responses), the majority of concerns (307 out of 320, or 95.9%) were related to contaminated produce or food. There were fewer reported concerns about agricultural land, farmland, and water wells.

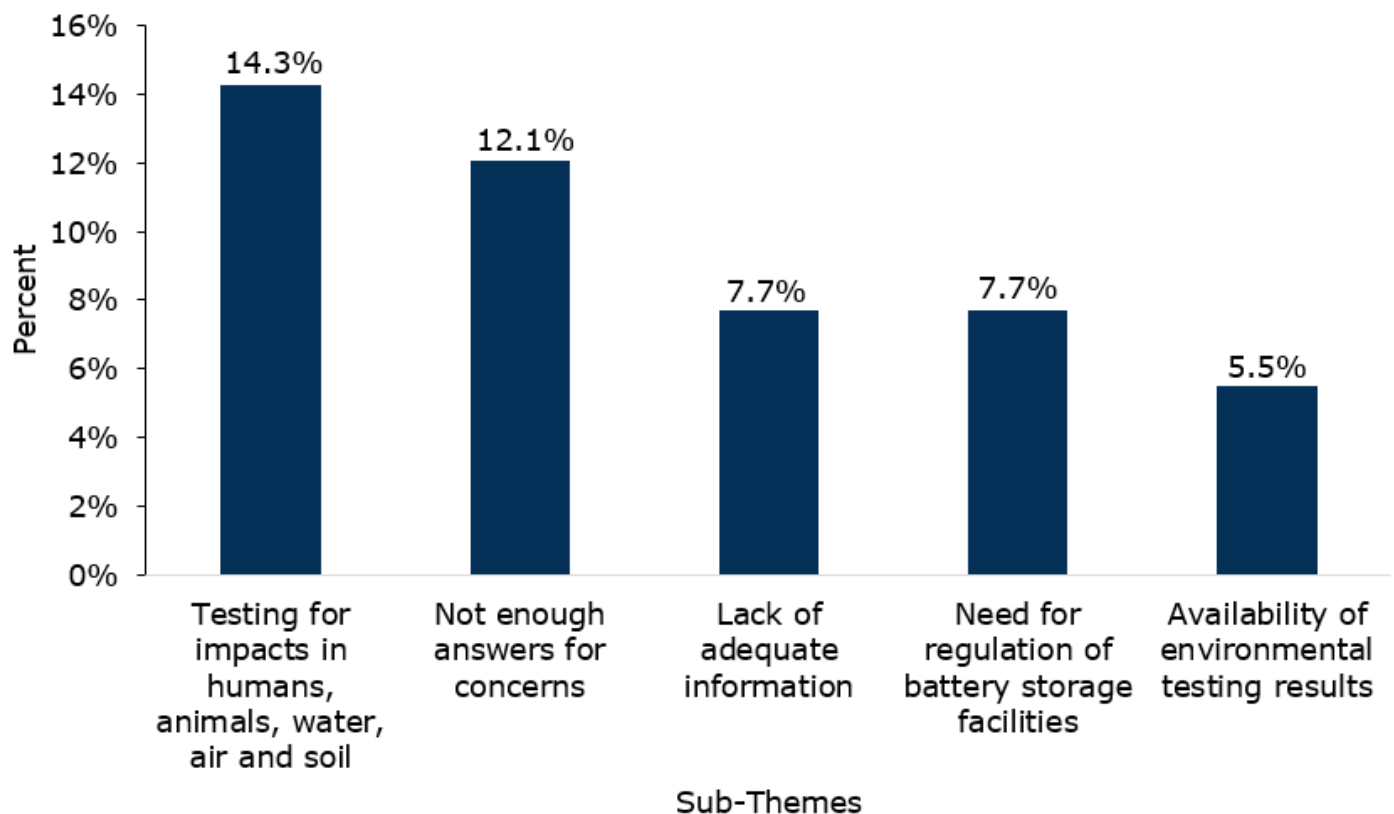
Figure 17: Food Safety Theme Details



Expressed Needs Concerns

The Express Needs category included comments about unmet community needs (5.8% of responses). Most responses in the Expressed Needs theme (13 out of 90, or 14%) related to comments about a desire for more testing of humans, animals, water, air, and soil. Other responses indicated a need for more information and regulations.

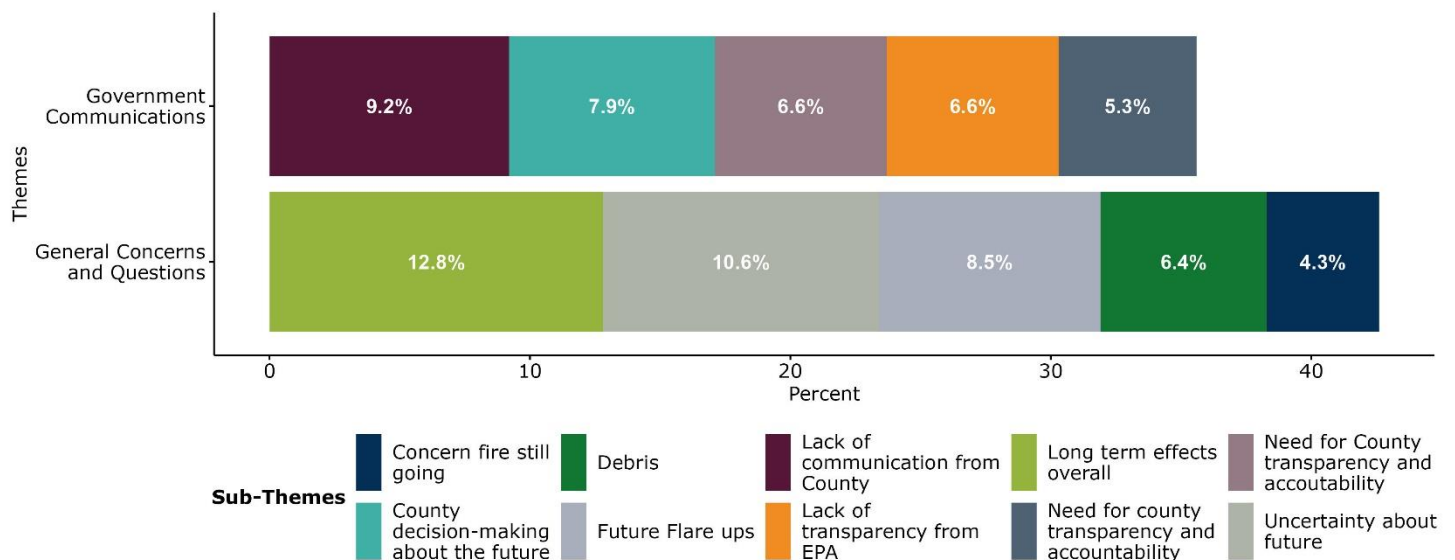
Figure 18: Expressed Needs Theme Details



Government Communications and General Concerns/Questions

Among comments related to Government Communications (4.9% of responses), the majority of sub-themes (7 out of 76, or 9.2%) lack of communication their county government. Other concerns were related to county decision making (7.9%) and transparency both from the county government and the EPA (6.6% each). General Concerns and Questions (3.1% of responses) included concerns related to long term effects (6 out of 47 responses, or 12.8%). Others indicated concerns of uncertainty about the future (10.6%) and about future fires (8.5%).

Figure 19: Government Communications and General Concerns and Questions Theme Details

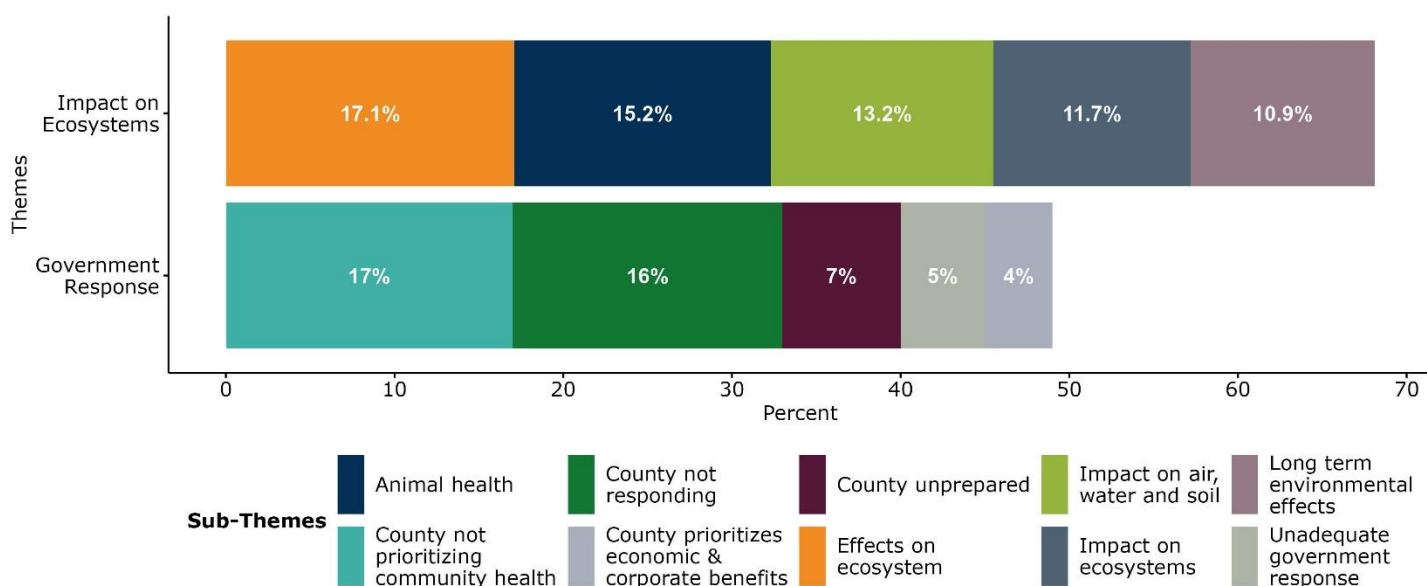


Impacts on Ecosystems and Government Response Concerns

Thirty-nine percent (39.4%) of shared concerns were related to the Impacts to Ecosystems theme. 28.8% of those responses were general concerns about effects or impacts on ecosystems. Other concerns included animal health (15.2%) and impacts on air, soil, and water (13.2%).

For the Government Response theme (6.5% of responses), the majority of responders (17 out of 100, or 17%) shared concerns about their county government not prioritizing community health. Other shared concerns included lack of response (16%) and being unprepared (7%).

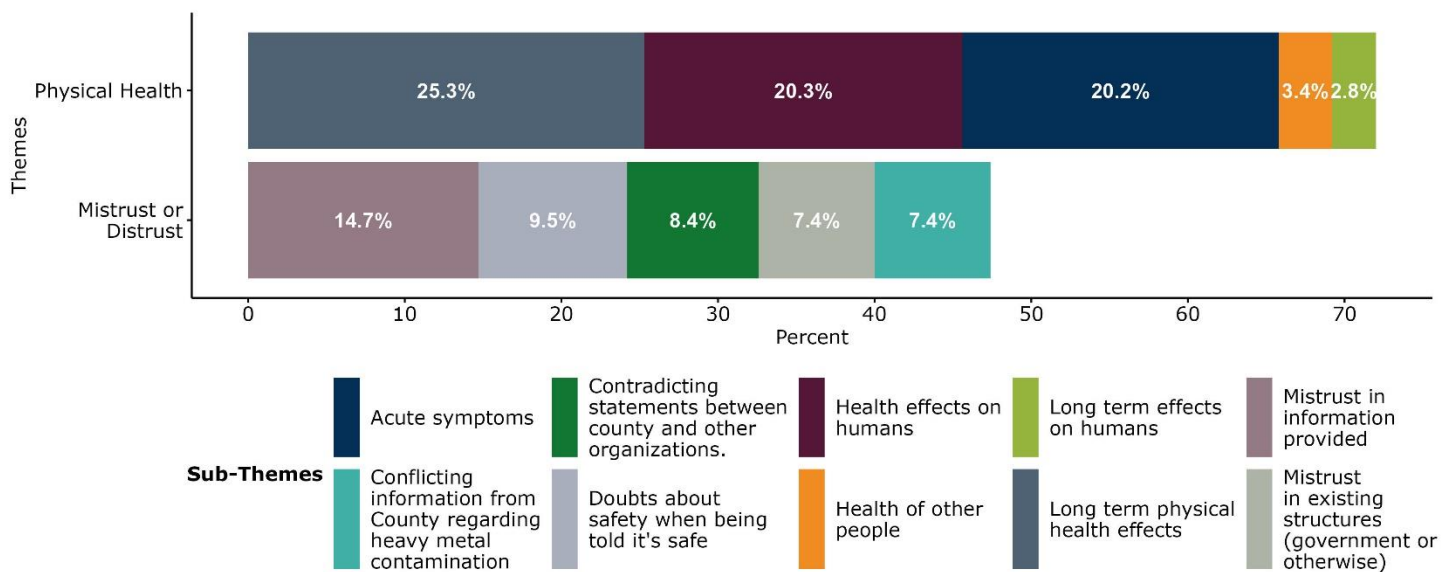
Figure 20: Impact on Ecosystems and Government Response Theme Details



Physical Health Concerns

Among responders with concerns related to the Physical Health theme (62.4% of responses), the majority of expressed concerns (28.1%) were related to long-term physical health effects. Other expressed concerns were human health effects (20.3%) and their acute symptoms (20.2%). Among those with concerns categorized as Mistrust or Distrust (6.2%), 14.7% of responders (14 out of 95) expressed mistrust in the information provided. Other expressed concerns included doubts about safety (9.5%) and consistency in messaging (8.4%).

Figure 21: Physical Health and Mistrust or Distrust Theme Details



Quotes from Responses

The following section includes examples of the narrative responses that were shared and how responses were categorized into the themes described above.

- *"I'm concerned that my child could have health issues from their exposure later in life. Their reaction was very extreme, almost fainting multiple times. We have never seen anything like this from them before."* - Long term health effects on humans (Physical Health), Acute Symptoms (Physical Health)
- *"I am concerned for the well-being of the human community and the natural environment around this plant..."* - Health effects on humans (Physical Health), Effects on ecosystem (Impact on Ecosystems)
- Original concern: *"Me preocupa que los residuos tóxicos están en la tierra oh en el aire y afecten la salud de mis hijos"*. English translation: *"I am concerned that toxic waste is in the soil or air and affects the health of my children"* - Second hand exposure to chemicals (Physical Health), Health effects on humans (Physical Health)
- *"I am concerned about eating fish effected by the runoff and also fruits and veg grown in the area that was effected"* - Food Safety (Food Safety)
- *"... The vista plant is in the wrong location and should be moved away from all the delicate surroundings it has poisoned. Vista needs the leave this location."* - Don't want the plant there (Comments About Facility)
- *"Will my children, spouse, I suffer from cancer or other terminal health condition in the future? Is my property contaminated? Will my property loose value because of this event?"* - Long term physical health effects (Physical Health), Impact on property (Economic Impact), Impact on property value (Economic Impact)
- *"The County of Monterey has given mixed messages, a poor attitude, dismissive behavior, and shown incompetence."* - County messaging unclear (Government Communications), County response (poor) (Government Response)
- *"The facility should have fire suppression system that turns on automatically when the lithium batteries catch fire. Until that happens the facility should never operated again. Vistra Power Co should be able to solve their own issues before*

they operate, anywhere.” - Corporate response (Corporate Response), Improve corporate safety measures (Corporate Response)

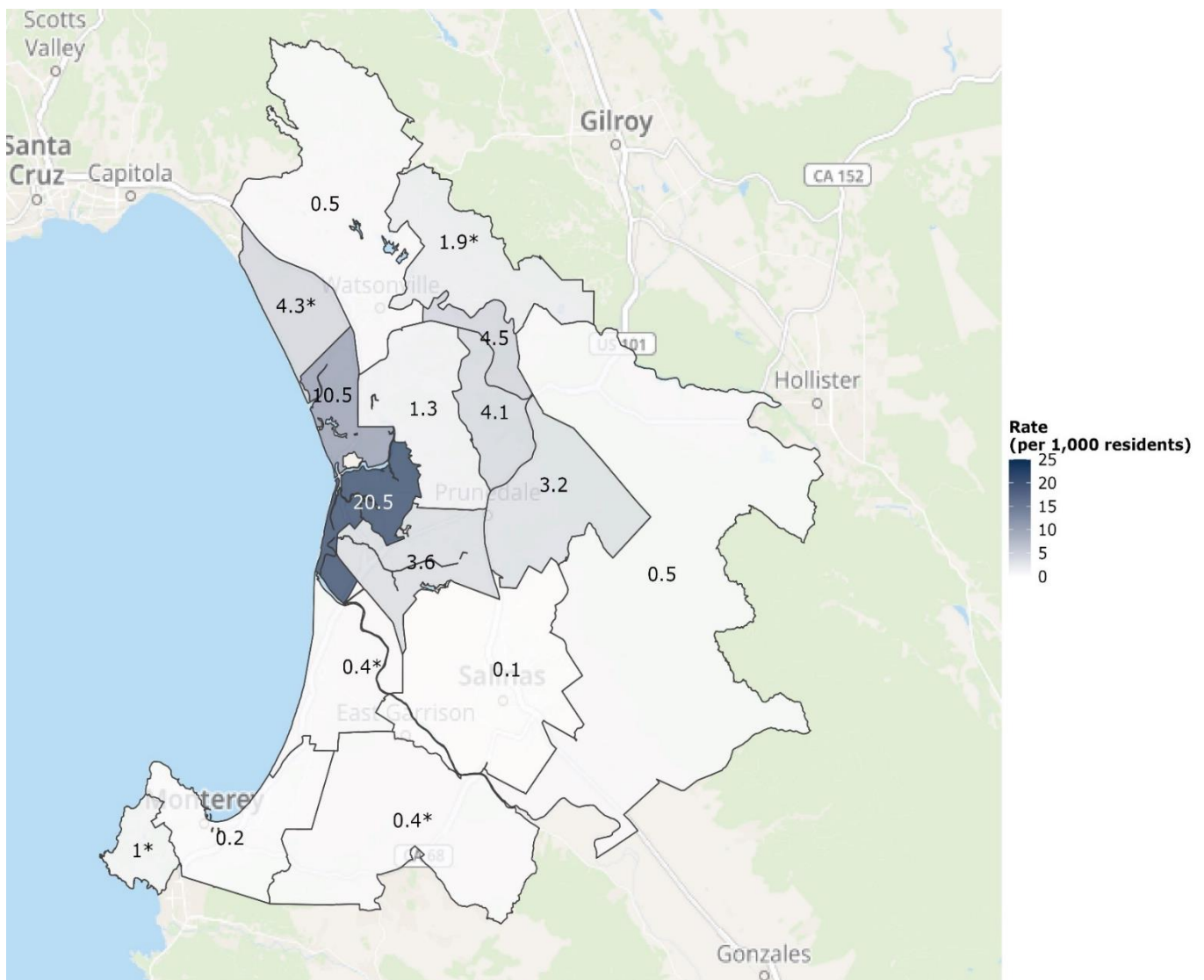
- *“Not being told the truth about how the air quality and our health safety” - Mistrust in information provided (Mistrust or Distrust)*
- *“I need daily updates regarding the state of the fire and or any smoldering to know if its in the Wind to avoid it. Also, if there are any new flare-ups, that’s very important to know.” - Need daily air quality updates shared with people (Expressed Needs), County communication fire related updates shared with people (Government Communications)*
- *“... I am on the Monterey County Emergency Alert list, but have not been notified about the fire flaring up again, & my neighborhood is in a hazard zone. The fire never went out since 1/16/25, yet the public has been in the dark about the true dangers of these chemicals continuing to burn for the past 35 days...” - No notification from alert system about second fire (Alert System Feedback)*
- *“That community is destroyed!! Forever! The reputation is now ruined, and all tourism is gone and done. No one will ever visit or stop or make plans to tour, vacation in moss landing ever again. Never gain! Nobody will even stop for gas in that town or eat or even go pee again! Shame on that vista! The world will hold their 🦷🦷 breath when they drive thru that section of the highway! Shame on vista for minimizing the seriousness of this lithium landing fire catastrophe sea lion, fish, dolphin, whale inferno!” - Impact on local economy due to fire (Economic Impact), Negative reputation on the area (Economic Impact), Corporate minimizing event (Corporate Response), Effects on ecosystem (Impact on Ecosystem)*
- *“On a Facebook group, I’ve seen too many people with wrong information and ideas in their heads. I have several family members and friends living in the surrounding areas (North County, Aromas, Watsonville, Santa Cruz, and Hollister). Some people just need to get a grip.” - Misinformation about event on social media (General Concerns and Questions), Safety of family (Physical Health)*

Emergency Alerts

Residents of Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties have the option of signing up for emergency alerts from their respective County emergency management departments. Individuals may also sign up for alerts in the counties in which they work. This survey did not distinguish between alerts received from county of residence or county of work location.

Received Alert

Figure 22: Rate of responses per 1,000 residents that received a message from a county alert system



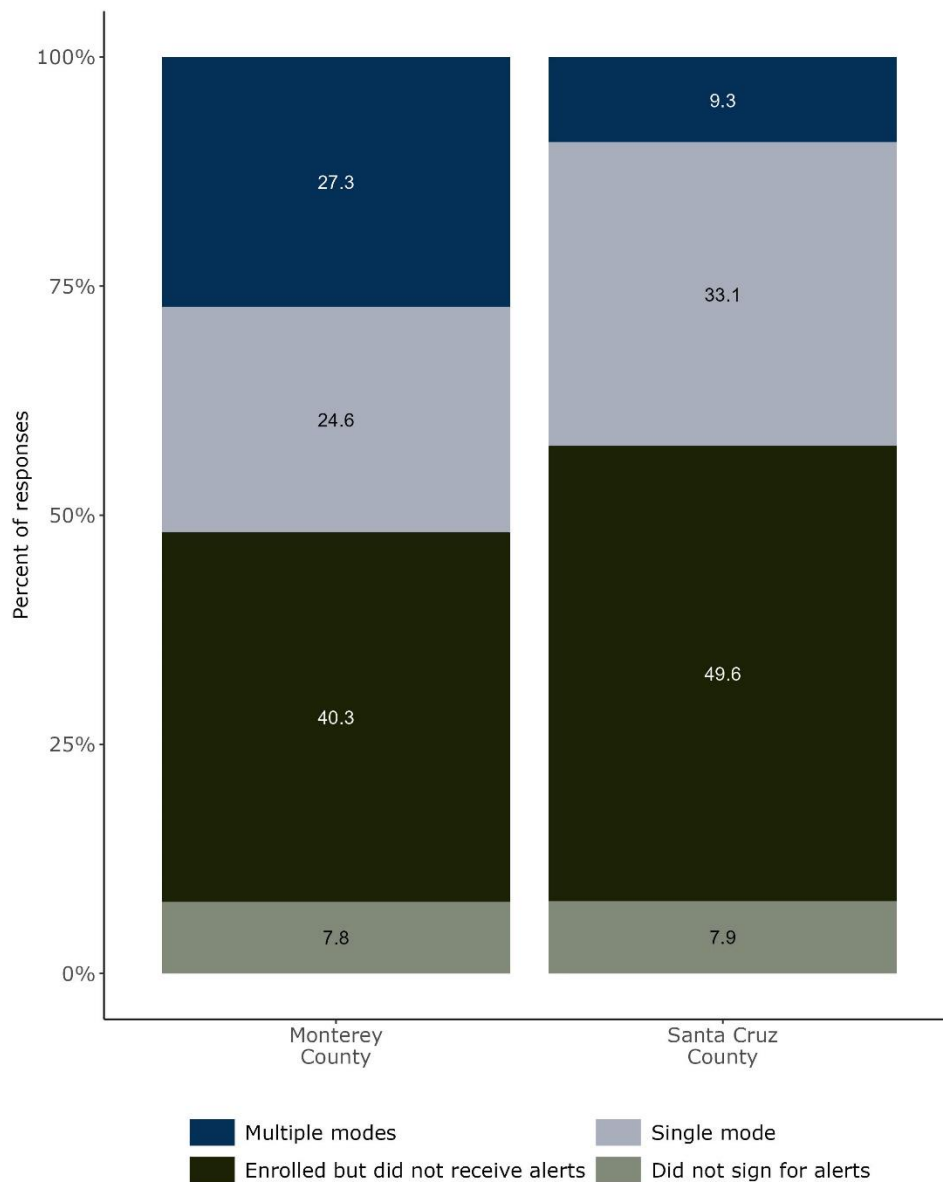
**Rate is statistically unstable due to small numbers.*

Responses from the zones by the Moss Landing area had the highest rates of receiving a message from a county emergency alert system (20.5 per 1,000). Zone 1 was the zone under an evacuation order from the County of Monterey during the first few days of the fire.

Alert Method

Many respondents (40.3% in Monterey County, 49.6% in Santa Cruz County) indicated they had signed up to receive alerts but did not get an alert following the fire.

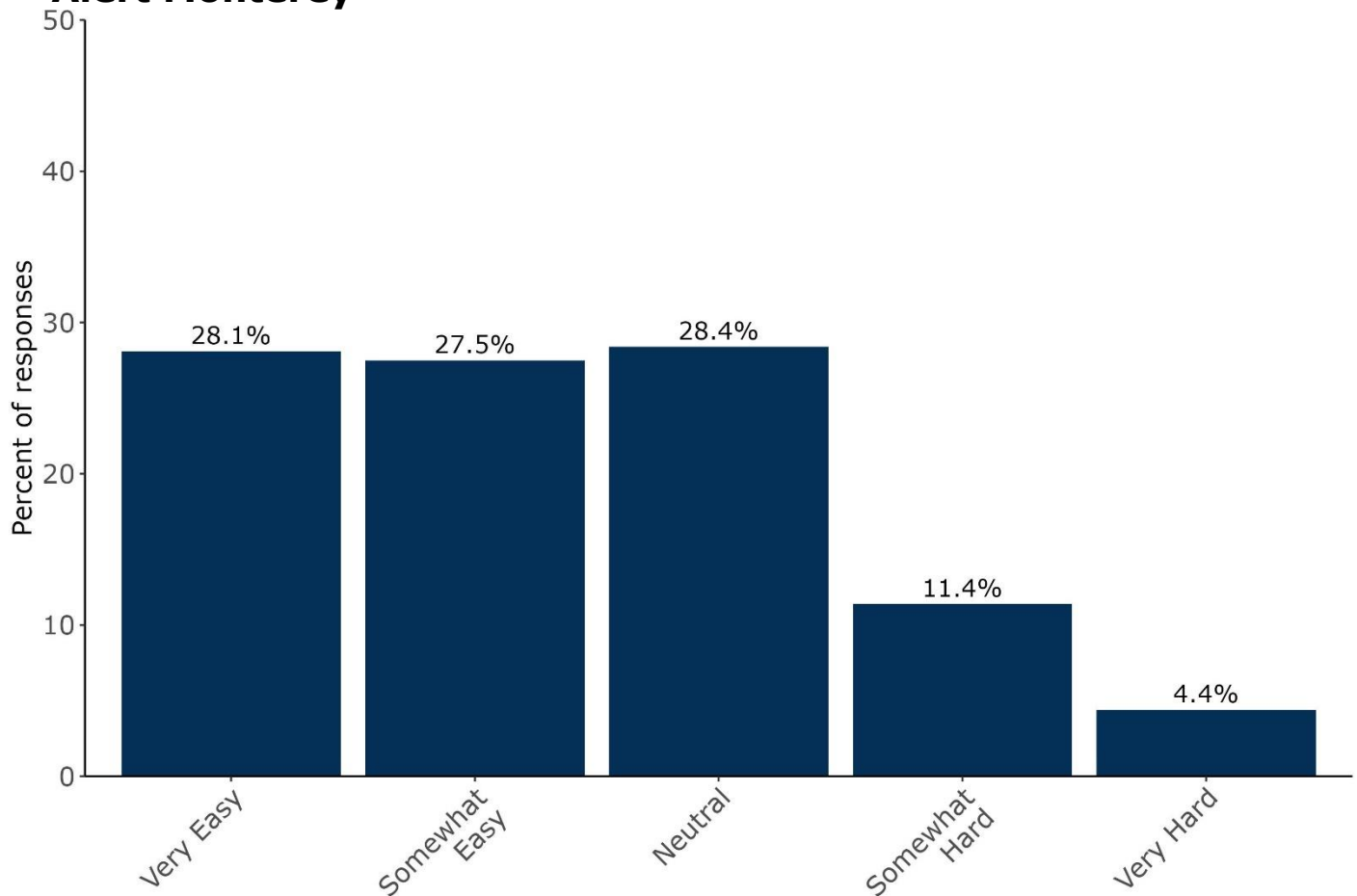
Figure 23: Percentage of respondents in each county and alert system engagement



Among those who received alerts, responses from Santa Cruz County had the highest percentage (117 out of 353, or 33.1%) of receiving the alert by a single method, for example by text or email. Among Monterey County responses that received an alert, 24.6% (218 out of 886) reported being alerted by a single method and 27.3% (242 out of 886) reported being contacted several ways.

Monterey County Alert System

Figure 24: Ability to understand emergency alert message: Alert Monterey

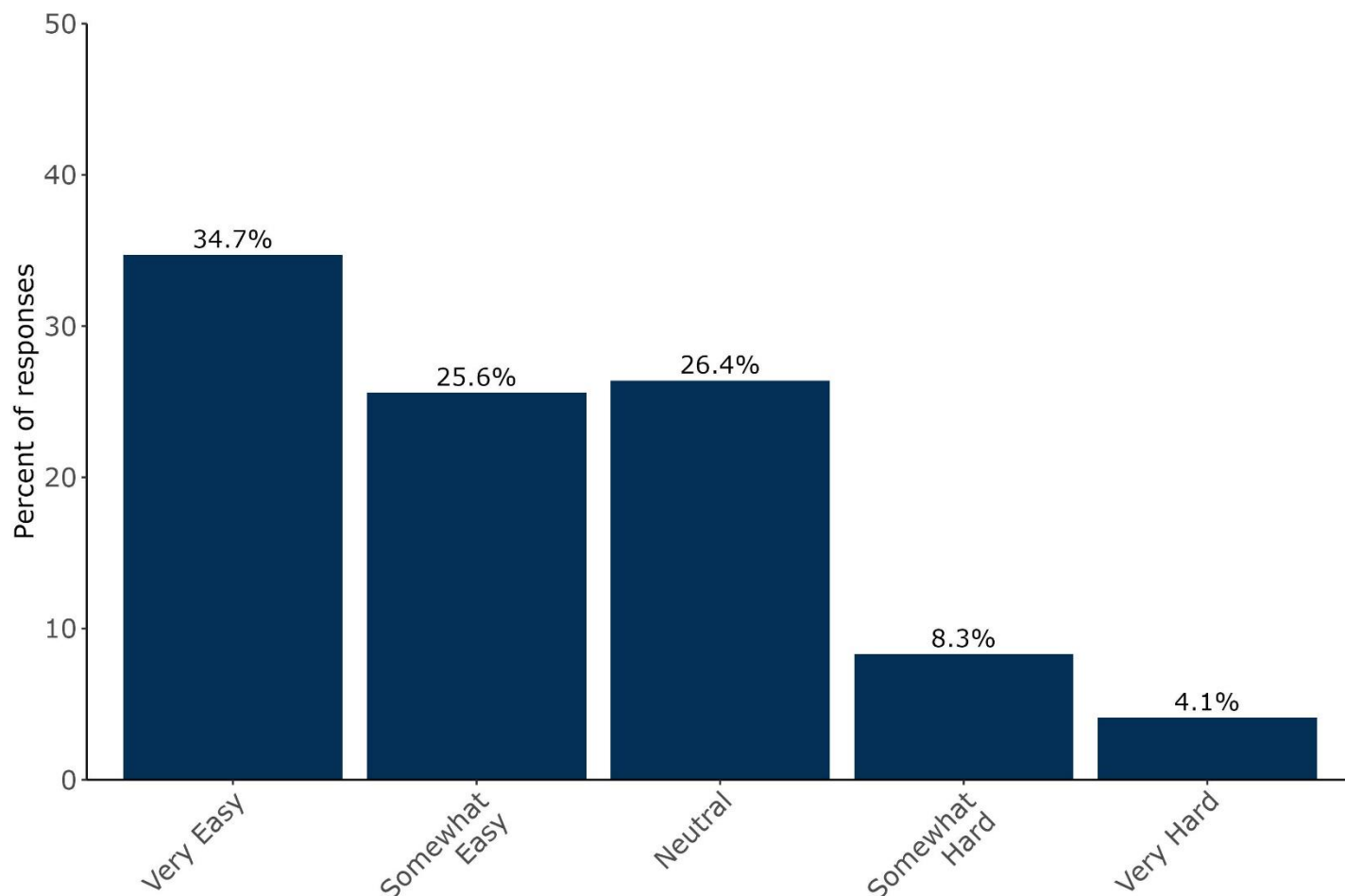


29.6% of survey responses (455 out of 1,539) indicated they received an emergency alert from Alert Monterey County, which is the County of Monterey's emergency alert system. Among those, 28.1% (128 out of 455) reported the message was "Very Easy" to understand and 27.5% (125 out of 455) "Somewhat Easy" to understand. Another 28.5% of responses were "Neutral." Eleven percent (11.4%, or 52 out of 455) reported the message

was “Somewhat Hard” to understand, and 4.5% (20 out of 455) felt the message was “Very Hard” to understand.

Santa Cruz County Alert System

Figure 25: Ability to understand emergency alert message: Cruz Alert

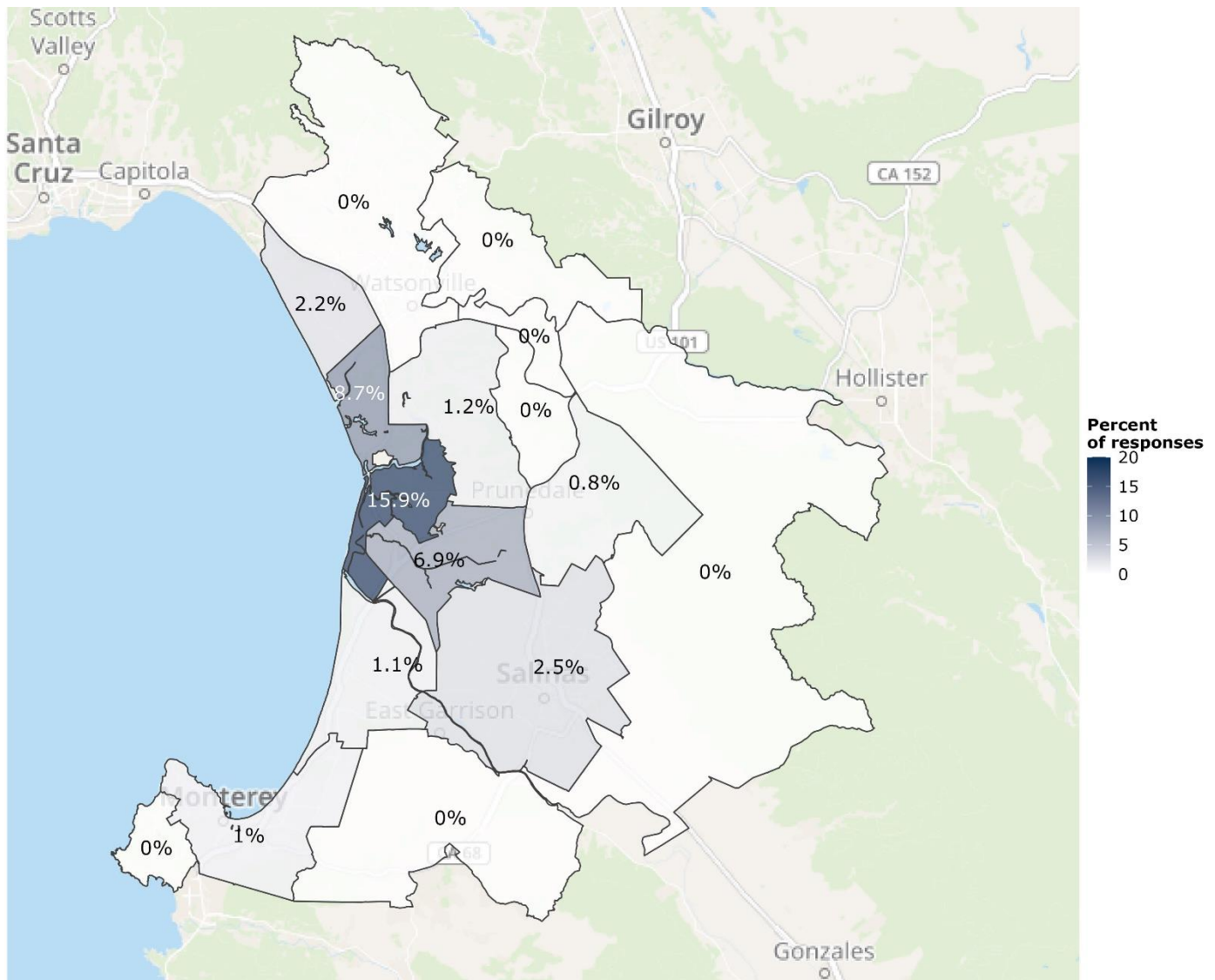


7.9% of survey responses (121 out of 1,539) indicated they received an emergency alert from Cruz Alert, the County of Santa Cruz’s emergency alert system. Among those, 34.7% (42 out of 121) reported the message was “Very Easy” to understand and 25.6% (31 out of 121) “Somewhat Easy” to understand. Another 26.4% of responses were “Neutral.” Eleven percent (8.3%, or 10 out of 121) reported the message was “Somewhat Hard” to understand, and 4.1% (5 out of 121) felt the message was “Very Hard” to understand.

Receipt and Source of Evacuation Information

31 out of the 195 (15.9%) survey responders in Zone 1 received an evacuation notice and evacuated. Of the responders in Zone 2, 6.9% (12 out of 175) reported receiving a notice and evacuating. Additionally, 8.7% of responders in Zone 3 (4 out of 46) reporting evacuating.

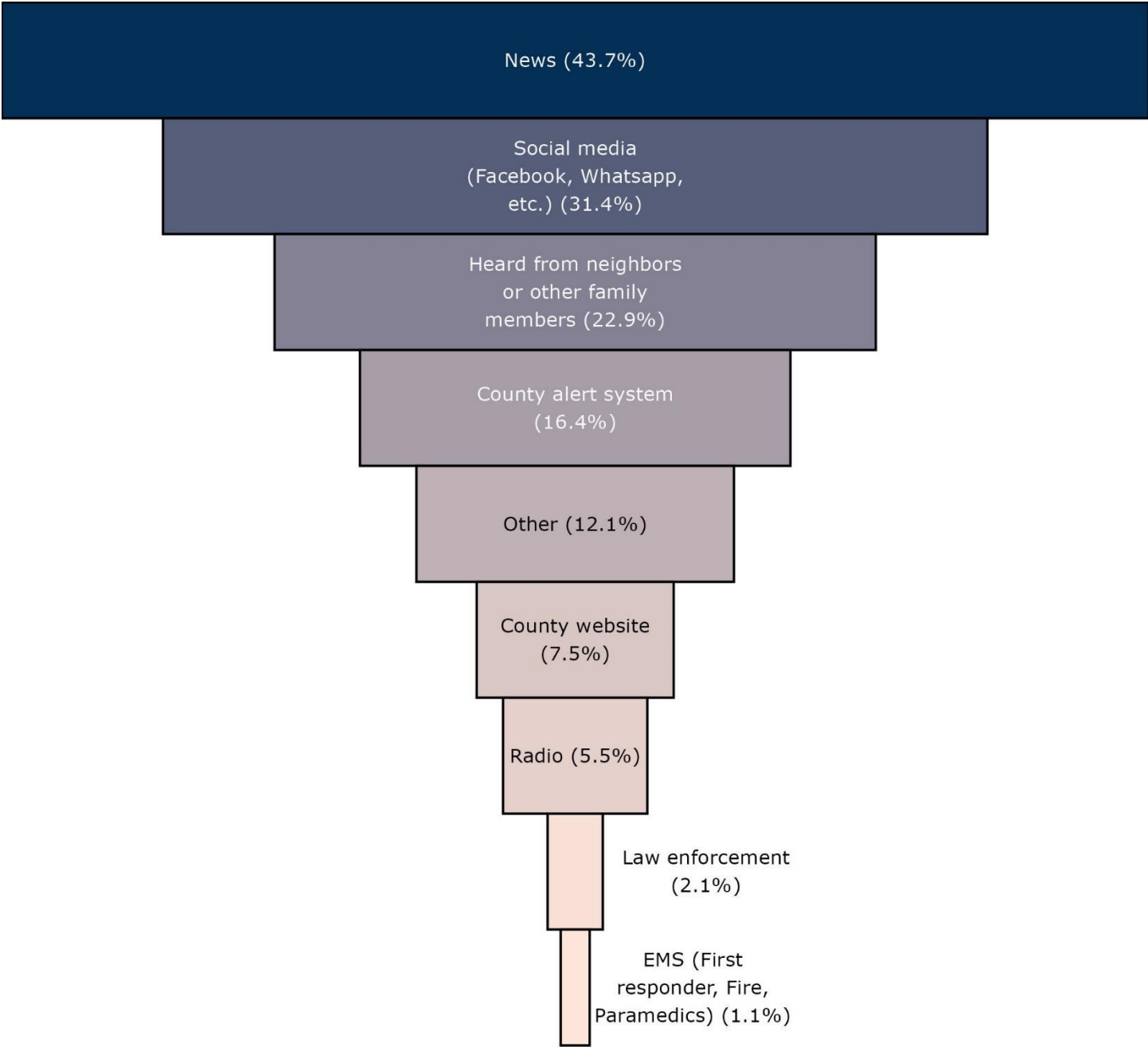
Figure 26: Percent of responders who received an alert and evacuated



1,127 out of all 1,539 survey responders (73.2%) indicated they received some communication about the fire and an evacuation notice. Among those who received communication, 43.7% (or 673 out of 1,539) received

information from the news. Another 31.4% received information from social media, 22.9% (352) from neighbors or family members, and 16.4% (252) from a county alert system. The remainder received information about evaluations from a county website (7.5%, 115), radio (5.5%, 85), law enforcement (2.1%, 33), other first responder like fire or emergency medical services (1.1%, 17). 12.1% (186) received information from “other” sources.

Figure 27: Source of Evacuation Information



DISCUSSION

The objective of the survey was to gather information about what concerns individuals may have had about their health during and following the fire and information about how individuals may have received notifications and guidance. While this objective was met, there were limitations to the survey. Some portions of the population may not have participated due to barriers accessing the survey via Internet or telephone or due to concerns about sharing information. Because the survey was anonymous, responses from more than one individual could not be identified and deduplicated. Most individuals who responded to the survey reported experiencing symptoms. Feedback from community members who did not experience symptoms were not captured well by this survey.

The survey was not designed as a research study. Information gathered in the survey cannot be used to infer cause or effect relationships. Research studies are beyond the scope and resources of most local public health departments. The Health Departments of Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively with research institutions and organizations who have interest and expertise in this area.

The purpose of the survey was to inform current and future public health response strategies. Health Officials in Monterey and Santa Cruz County will continue to use the survey findings to better understand ongoing health concerns. Communication was identified as a key area for improvement. The Health Departments will continue to work with their respective county emergency management departments to encourage community members to enroll in emergency alert systems. Other topics for consideration during future public health responses include improving timeliness and readability of health messages to the public and increasing medical provider enrollment in local health alert systems.

APPENDIX A: Map of Zones

