

Preventing Waste Outside the Home **Public Engagement Survey Summary**

April 23, 2024 - July 23, 2024

Prepared for:
Ministry of Environment and Parks

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Citizens' Services

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Preventing Waste Outside the Home

Total responses:

615

Overview

In spring and summer 2024, the Ministry of Environment and Parks sought feedback on how to prevent packaging waste from non-residential sources, also known as the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) sector. This includes plastic and paper packaging, as well as other materials such as glass, metal and wood used in packaging in institutions, businesses and industry (e.g., schools, healthcare setting, offices, restaurants, and job sites).

The ministry received feedback through information sharing sessions, workshops, written submissions, public survey, and Indigenous roundtables. The public survey to gather feedback was conducted from April 23 to July 23, 2024, receiving a total of 615 responses.

An Engagement Summary Report [\[LINK\]](#) compiles the engagement findings, including the survey responses and comments. This report summarizes the public survey selections, with free-text comments included in the overall engagement report.

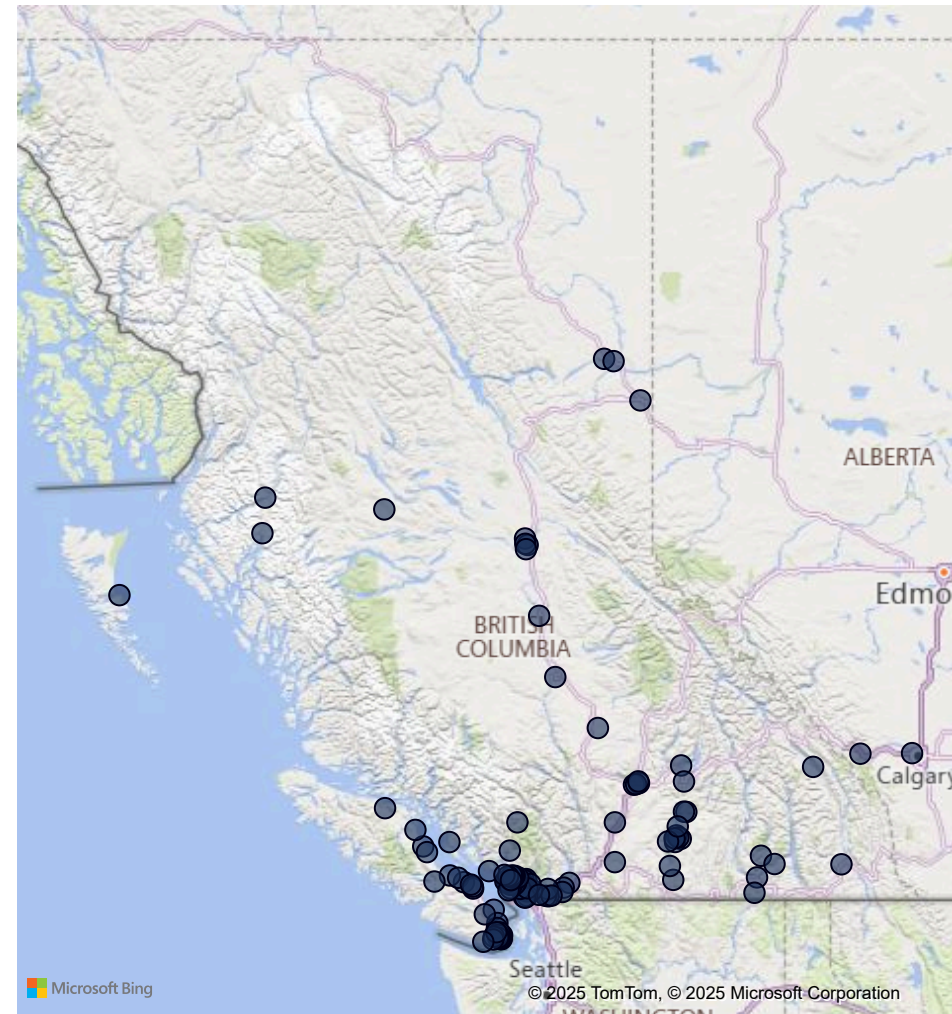
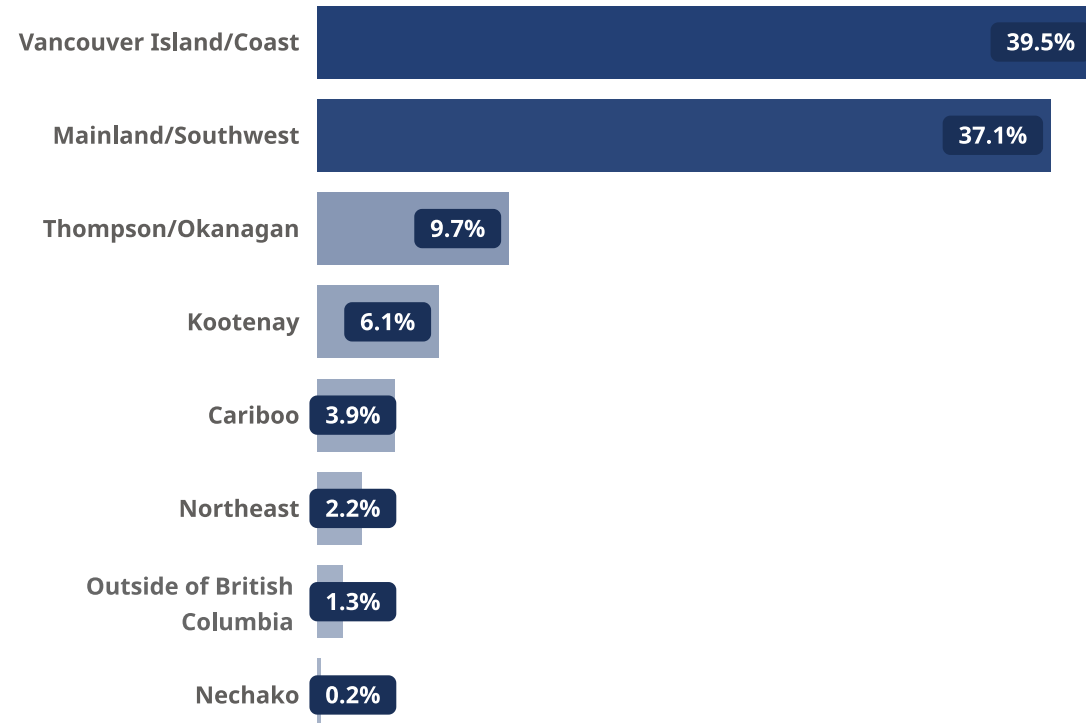
This feedback will be used to work towards identifying policy approaches to keep packaging materials out of our landfills and the environment.

Average time to
complete survey
(mins)

10

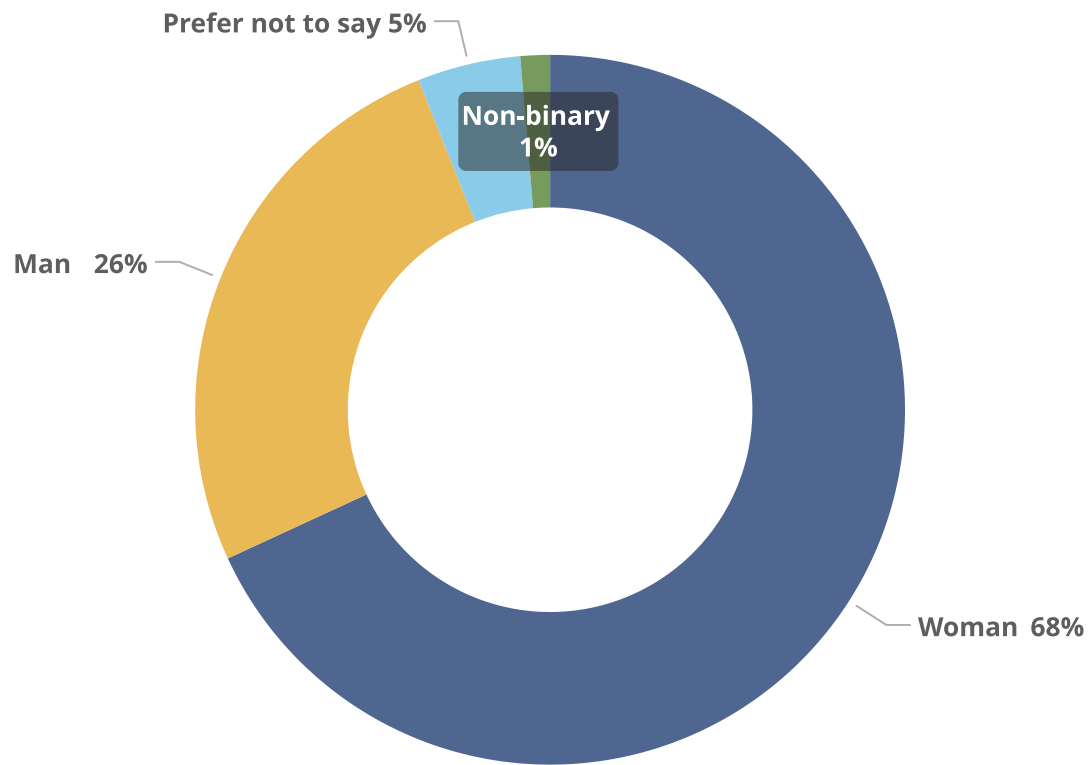
Respondent's profile: location

Where do you live? In what region do you primarily live or work? Please provide the first three digits of your postal code.

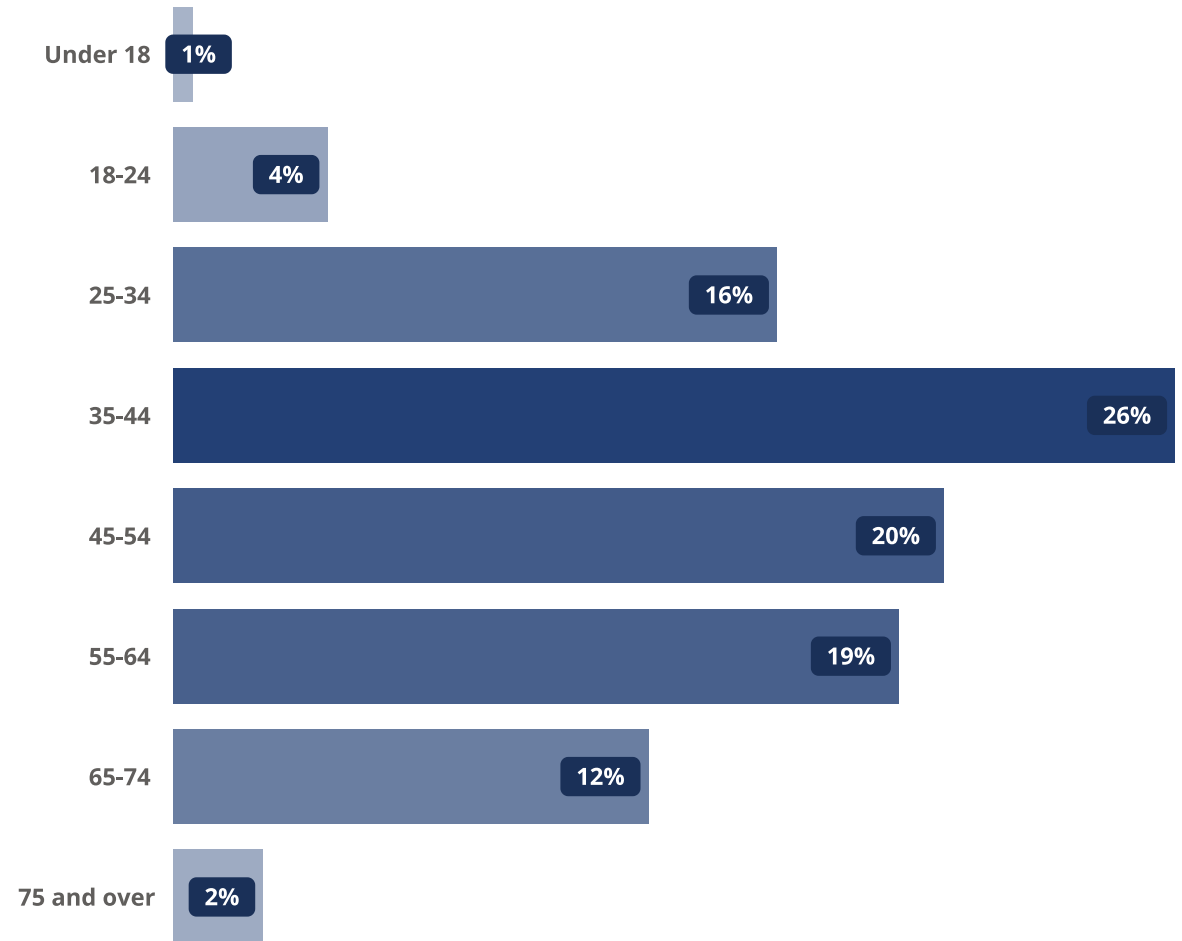


Respondent's profile: gender and age

What is your gender?



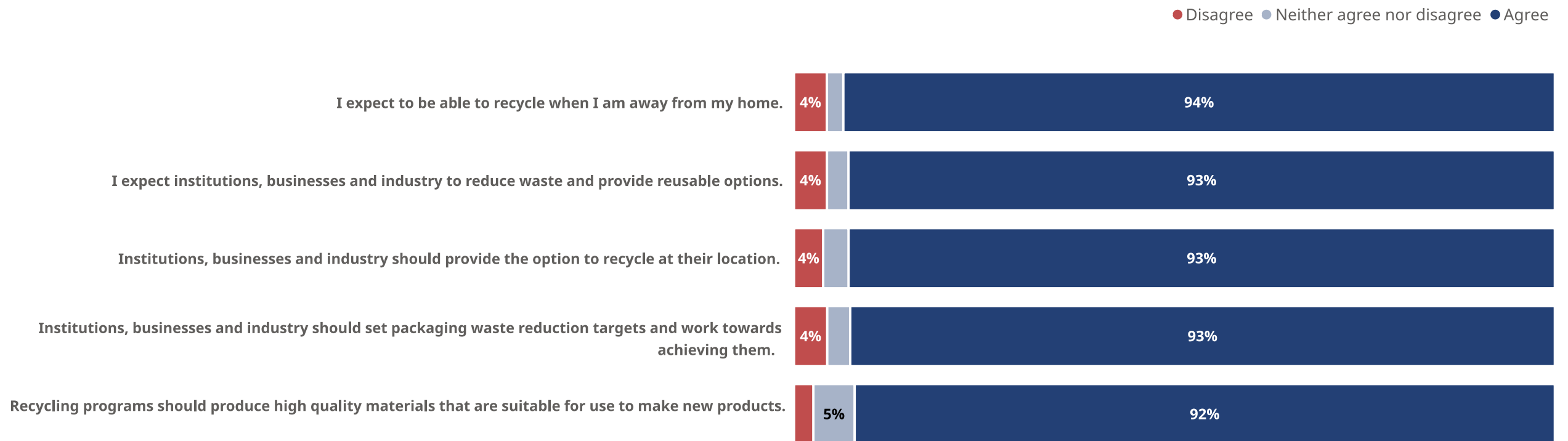
What age group best describes you?



Opinions and expectations for waste prevention

1. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.

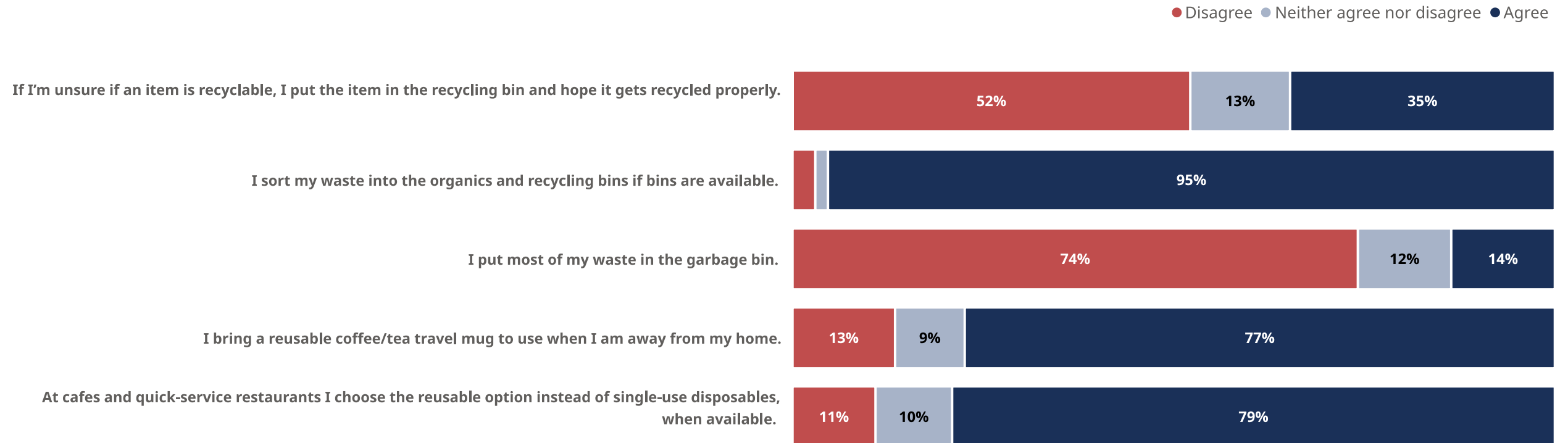
Respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement with a series of statements about their expectations for waste prevention in B.C.



Current waste management outside the home

2. What do you currently do to manage waste in areas away from your home?

Respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement with a series of statements about their thoughts and experiences managing items they dispose of including waste, compostables and recyclables, when away from the home

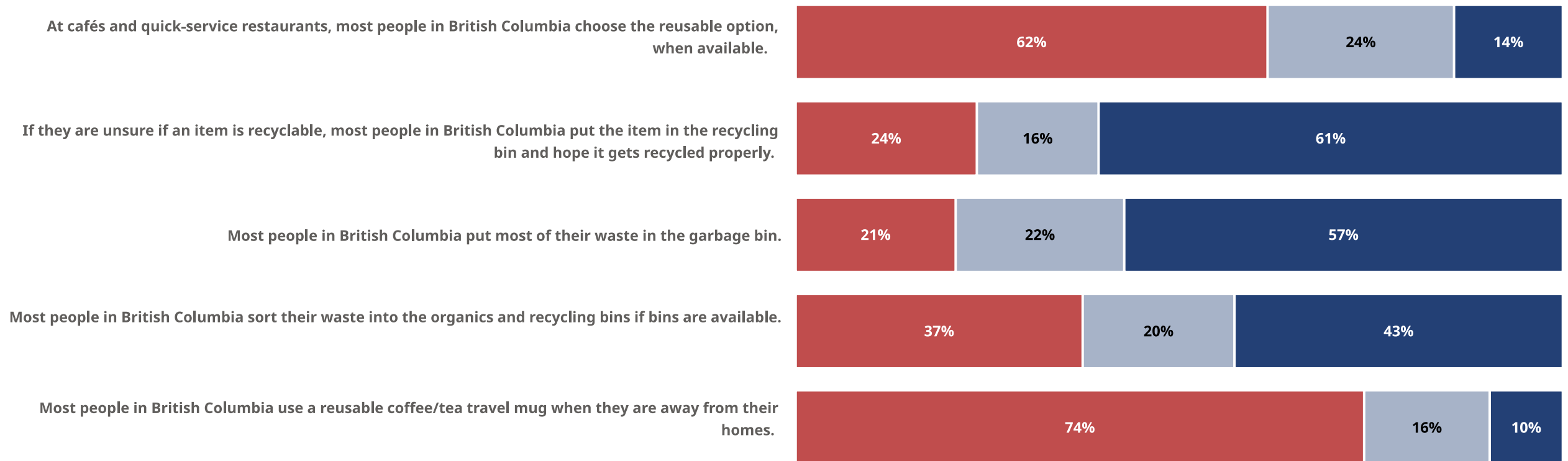


Current waste management outside the home: most people in B.C.

3. What do you believe most people in British Columbia do to manage waste in areas away from their homes?

Respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement with a series of statements about their beliefs regarding how most people in B.C. manage items including disposing waste, compostables and recyclables, when away from the home.

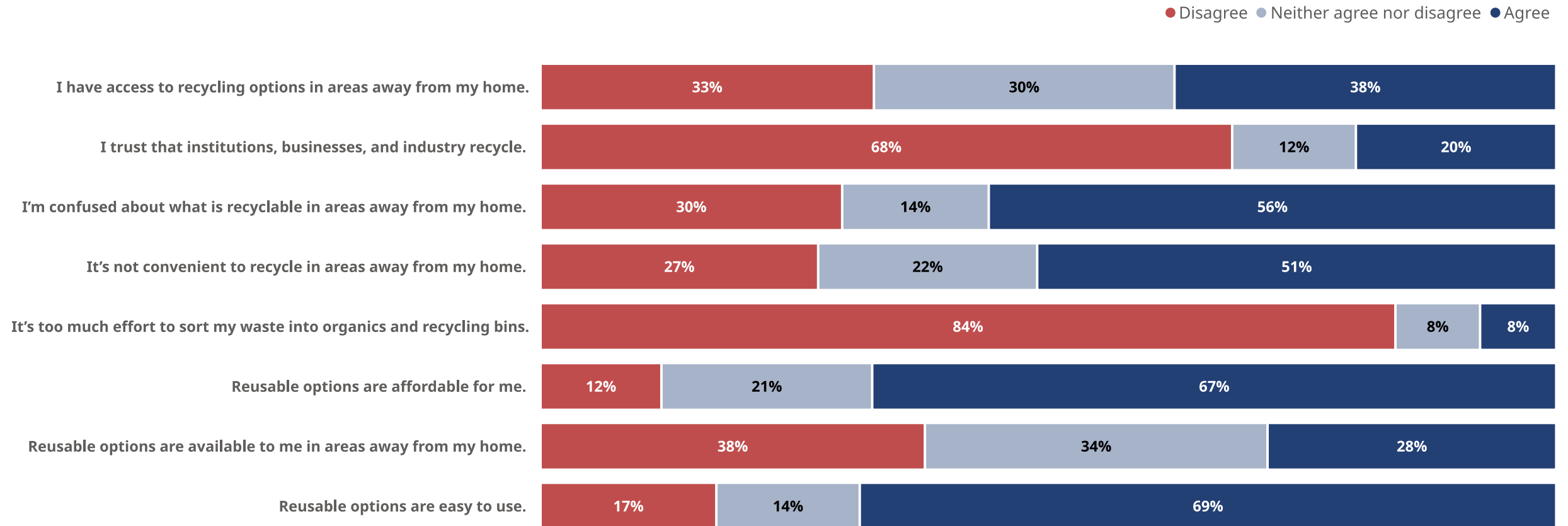
● Disagree ● Neither agree nor disagree ● Agree



Things that affect waste prevention outside the home

4. What affects your waste prevention efforts in areas away from your home?

Respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement with a series of statements regarding their experiences preventing waste outside the home including reducing, reusing and recycling materials.



Important factors in waste prevention outside the home

5. Which of the following are important to you in preventing waste away from your home?

Respondents were asked to indicate the level of importance of a series of factors in preventing waste away from the home.

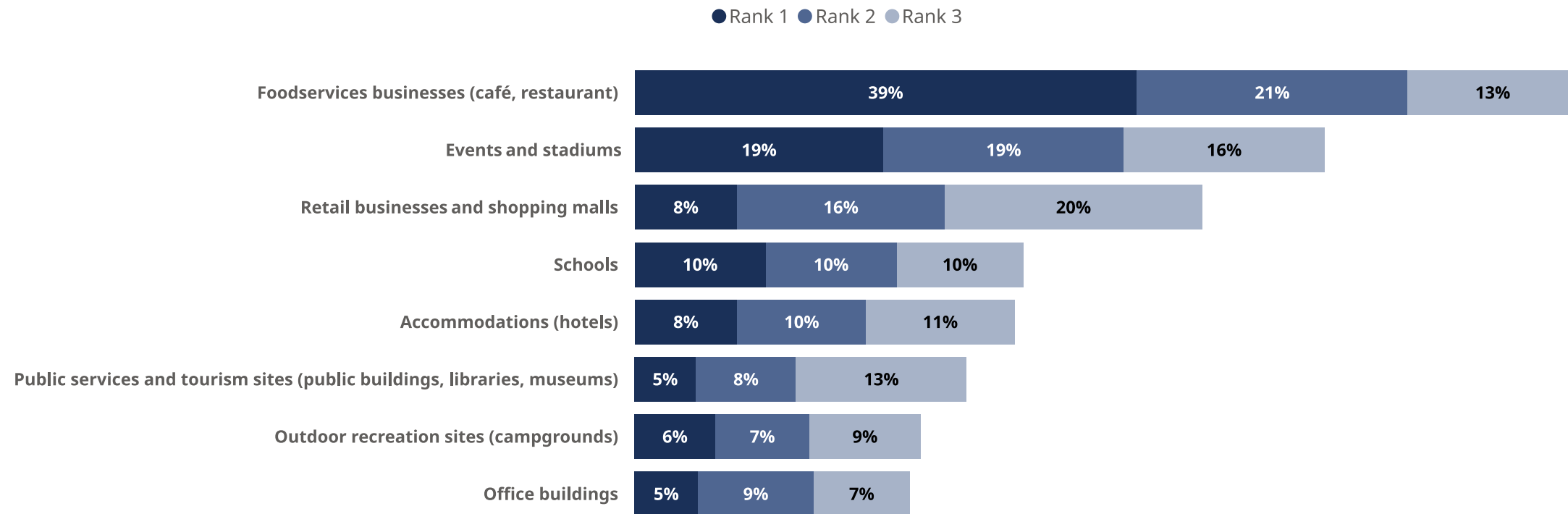
● 1. Not important ● 2. Neither important nor unimportant ● 3. Important



Important areas of waste prevention outside the home

6. What areas away from the home are most important to you to see waste prevention actions, including options to reuse or to recycle?

Respondents were asked to rank their top 3 choices of areas away from the home that are most important to them.



The graph displays the percentage of respondents that ranked the location as one of their top three.

Appendix A: survey questions

1. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements. (Strongly disagree to Strongly agree + I don't know):

- I expect to be able to recycle when I am away from my home
- Institutions, businesses and industry should set packaging waste reduction targets
- I expect institutions, businesses and industry to reduce waste and provide reusable options
- Institutions, businesses and industry should provide the option to recycle at their location
- Recycling programs should produce high quality materials suitable for new products

2. What do you currently do to manage waste in areas away from your home? (Strongly disagree to Strongly agree + I don't know):

- I sort my waste into organics and recycling bins if available
- I put most of my waste in the garbage bin
- If unsure if recyclable, I put item in recycling bin and hope it gets recycled properly
- I bring a reusable coffee/tea travel mug when away from home
- At cafes/quick-service restaurants I choose reusable options when available

3. What do you believe most people in B.C. do to manage waste in areas away from their homes? (Strongly disagree to Strongly agree + I don't know):

- Most people in B.C. sort waste into organics and recycling bins if available
- Most people in B.C. put most waste in garbage bin
- Most people in B.C. put uncertain items in recycling hoping they get recycled
- Most people in B.C. use reusable coffee/tea mugs away from home
- Most people in B.C. choose reusable options at cafes/restaurants when available

4. What affects your waste prevention efforts in areas away from your home? (Strongly disagree to Strongly agree + I don't know):

- It's too much effort to sort waste into bins
- Reusable options are easy to use
- Reusable options are affordable
- I'm confused about what's recyclable away from home
- I trust that institutions/businesses/industry recycle
- It's not convenient to recycle away from home
- Reusable options are available away from home
- I have access to recycling options away from home

5. Which of the following are important to you in preventing waste away from your home? (Not important at all to Very important + I don't know):

- Clear information about what is recyclable
- Making more products recyclable
- Knowing what happens to recycled products
- Convenience
- If reusable options were more available

6. What areas away from the home are most important to you to see waste prevention actions, including options to reuse and recycle? (Select top 3 and rank 1-8):

- Accommodations
- Events/stadiums
- Foodservices
- Office buildings
- Retail/malls
- Schools
- Public services/tourism sites
- Outdoor recreation sites

7. Do you have any additional information regarding what change would make the biggest difference for you when reducing packaging and plastic waste from non-residential sources (for example in the workplace, at school, in stores or restaurants)? Open-ended question (1000 character limit). The free-text responses are not included in this report.

Demographic questions:

8. In what region do you primarily live or work? Please provide the first 3 digits of your postal code.

9. What is your gender? (Man/Non-binary/Woman/Prefer not to say)

10. What age group best describes you? (Under 18 to 75 and over)