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University of Nebraska at Omaha

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Support for an Outdoor Pool in Papillion

**Conducted by the
Center for Public Affairs Research
College of Public Affairs and Community Service
University of Nebraska at Omaha**

for the

City of Papillion

January 1992



Support for an Outdoor Pool in Papillion

This report summarizes findings from a December 1991 telephone survey that was conducted by the Center for Public Affairs Research for the city of Papillion. The survey was designed to determine voter support for the construction of an out-of-doors swimming pool.

Survey Methodology

To conduct the survey, 1571 phone numbers were selected from the U.S. West "Catalist: Business and Household Digest of Omaha and Vicinity." This list of phone numbers was comprised of every other resident phone number and covered all areas of Papillion. Only numbers from addresses falling within the incorporated city limits of Papillion were selected. The list of numbers was randomized by sorting on the last four digits of the numbers.

The telephone survey was conducted by professional interviewers employed by an Omaha survey research firm. Interviews were only completed with adult residents who were currently registered to vote in Sarpy County or who planned to register before the next election. Registered voters were selected for two reasons. First, if the issue is to be voted on, then registered voters are the relevant population. Second, by only interviewing registered voters, the mobile population who may live in Papillion for only a short time is excluded. All interviews were completed during the period December 2-5, 1991.

A total of 400 interviews were completed. With a sample size of 400, it is possible to state with 95 percent confidence that response patterns are within +/- 5.0 percent of what would have been found if all the registered voters of Papillion had been interviewed. In other words, if the sample shows that 70 percent of the respondents favor the pool, then we can be reasonably certain that between 65 and 75 percent of all registered voters favored the pool at the time of the survey.

A copy of the survey and screening questions are in Appendix A. Responses to survey questions are summarized in Appendix B.

Key Findings

The following key findings are based upon tables contained in Appendix B.

Support for the Pool

- When asked "Do you favor building an out-of-doors public swimming pool in Papillion?," 279 persons responded yes; 77 responded no; and 44 did not know or refused to answer. On a percentage basis 69.8 percent favored the pool, 19.3 percent did not favor the pool, and 11.0 percent did not know or refused to answer. Looking at respondents who expressed an opinion (excluding those who did not know or refused), 78.4 percent responded favorably and 21.6 percent responded unfavorably.
- Although the majority of all demographic groups favored the pool at a level of 70 percent or more, there are some differences within the groups. The following

analysis includes only those people who expressed an opinion -- persons who did not know or refused to answer are excluded.

- Longtime residents of Papillion favored the pool less than more recent residents (72.5 percent compared to 87.1 percent).
- Younger respondents favored the pool more than older respondents. All the respondents under 21 and 84.1 percent of those 21 to 44 favored the pool while 71.0 percent of the respondents 45 to 64 and 77.5 percent of those 65 and older favored the pool.
- Respondents with children expressed more support for the pool than those without children. The highest support came from respondents with 2 children (90.5 percent).
- Renters (84.7 percent) favored the pool more than owners (77.1 percent).
- Women (84.3 percent) supported the pool more than men (71.5 percent).

Summary of Respondents Who Favor the Pool

- When asked how they preferred to pay for the pool, respondents who originally said they favored the pool mentioned special bond issue (34.8 percent), tax dollars (34.1 percent), and user fees (30.5 percent). Sale of memberships and private donations were each mentioned by approximately 10 percent of the supporters. (Respondents were allowed multiple answers.)
- Almost three-fourths of the respondents who mentioned how much they would be willing to pay in increased tax dollars said less than \$50. Only 9.8 percent said they would be willing to pay \$100 or more.
- A majority (57.4 percent) of the respondents favoring a pool did not have a preferred location for the pool site. For those mentioning a specific location, Halleck Park ranked first and was followed by “a central location.”
- People who support the pool want it to be built as soon as possible, with 46.7 percent saying that it should be built within one year and an additional 42.0 percent saying it should be built within two years.
- Persons who favor the pool also support a comprehensive plan that includes facilities in addition to a pool, as 60.8 percent said they would support such a plan.

Reasons for not Favoring the Pool

- A total of 77 respondents (19.3 percent) said they did not favor a pool. Of these, 35.1 percent said they would not use it; 32.5 percent said it was not needed; 28.6 percent said taxes were already too high; 15.6 percent said they had access to a private pool, and 6.5 percent said the money was needed for other priorities. (Respondents were allowed multiple answers.)

Respondent Profile

- More than three out of five respondents (62.5 percent) did not have access to a private pool. Although one-fourth of the respondents have lived in Papillion less than five years, the majority have lived in Papillion for 10 or more years, and 19.5 percent lived there for 25 years or more.
- The age distribution of the respondents generally reflects the age distribution of the city; 46.1 percent were aged 21 to 44, and 40.3 percent were aged 45 to 64. Although the sample has more 45 to 64 year-olds and fewer 21 to 44 year-olds, this likely resulted from interviewing only those people who were registered to vote.
- A majority (53.0 percent) of respondents do not have children 18 or younger in the household, and only 3.3 percent indicated 4 or more children. Only 18.0 percent of the households have a child under 6.
- Home owners outnumber renters by more than a 4 to 1 margin. Again some of this disparity may be explained by only interviewing persons registered to vote.
- The distribution of men to women was controlled so that there were 47.5 percent men and 52.5 percent women.

Appendix A

Survey Instrument

Appendix A contains a copy of the survey instrument. Notice that there are two screening instruments to determine the person to interview.

To ensure that we had a representative sample of men and women, we set a quota of 210 women and 190 men (roughly the ratio found from the 1990 Census). Initially the first screening instrument was used, but once the quota of 210 women was reached, we used the second screening instrument.

Interviewer: _____

Date: _____

Telephone #: _____

Time Taken: _____

Introduction

Hello, my name is _____. The City of Papillion is considering the need for a new outdoor swimming pool and would like your opinion. The study is being conducted by the Center for Public Affairs Research at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Your response will be completely confidential.

Screening Instrument

1. Are you 18 years old or more?

1. Yes GO TO QUESTION 3
2. No CONTINUE
9. Don't know/Refused CONTINUE

2. Is there anyone in your household 18 or older?

1. Yes
2. No
9. Don't know/Refused

IF YES, SAY, May I speak to that person? REPEAT INTRODUCTION.
IF NO OR DON'T KNOW, SAY Thank you, but we are only surveying people 18 and older.

3. Are you currently registered to vote in Sarpy County?

1. Yes GO TO QUESTION 4
2. No CONTINUE
9. Don't know/Refused CONTINUE

3a. Do you plan to register to vote before the next election?

1. Yes CONTINUE
2. No
9. Don't know/Refused

IF NO OR DON'T KNOW, SAY, Thank you, but we are only surveying people who are registered to vote.

Interviewer: _____

Date: _____

Telephone #: _____

Time Taken: _____

Introduction

Hello, my name is _____. The City of Papillion is considering the need for a new outdoor swimming pool and would like your opinion. The study is being conducted by the Center for Public Affairs Research at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Your response will be completely confidential.

Screening Instrument

IF FEMALE GO TO QUESTION 2; IF MALE ASK,

1. Are you 18 years old or more?

1. Yes GO TO QUESTION 3
2. No CONTINUE
9. Don't know/Refused CONTINUE

2. Is there a male in your household 18 or older?

1. Yes
2. No
9. Don't know/Refused

IF YES, SAY, May I speak to that person? REPEAT INTRODUCTION.
IF NO OR DON'T KNOW, SAY Thank you, but we are only surveying people 18 and older.

3. Are you currently registered to vote in Sarpy County?

1. Yes GO TO QUESTION 4
2. No CONTINUE
9. Don't know/Refused CONTINUE

3a. Do you plan to register to vote before the next election?

1. Yes CONTINUE
2. No
9. Don't know/Refused

IF NO OR DON'T KNOW, SAY, Thank you, but we are only surveying people who are registered to vote.

Survey Instrument

4. Do you favor building an out-of-doors public swimming pool in Papillion?
1. Yes GO TO QUESTION 5
 2. No CONTINUE
 9. Don't know/Refused GO TO QUESTION 10
- 4a. IF NO, ASK, Why don't you favor a pool?
(DO NOT READ LIST; CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY.)
01. Not needed
 02. Taxes already too high
 03. Wouldn't use
 04. Money needed for other priorities
 05. High school has a pool
 06. Have access to private pool
 07. Other (please specify) _____
 99. Don't know/Refused
- GO TO QUESTION 10
5. How do you prefer to pay for the pool? (DO NOT READ LIST; CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY; WRITE RESPONSE TO THE SIDE.)
1. Tax dollars
 2. Special bond issue
 3. Private donations
 4. Sale of memberships
 5. User fees
 6. Other (please specify) _____
 9. Don't know/Refused
6. Please tell me how much you would be willing to pay in annual taxes to pay debt and operating and maintenance expenses. Would that be less than \$50, or \$50 or more?
1. Less than \$50 GO TO QUESTION 7
 2. \$50 or more CONTINUE
 9. Don't know/Refused
- 6a. Would that be \$100 or more?
1. Yes
 2. No
 9. Don't know/Refused
7. Do you have a preferred location for the pool site?
1. Yes CONTINUE
 2. No GO TO QUESTION 8
 9. Don't know/Refused GO TO QUESTION 8
- 7A. IF YES, ASK, What part of town do you prefer? (DO NOT READ LIST.)
01. City owned land
 02. Specific location (please specify) _____
 09. Don't know/Refused

8. By when would you like to see the pool project completed?

1. Within one year (Summer '92)
2. Two years (Summer '93)
3. Three years (Summer '94)
9. Don't know/Refused

9. Would you support a comprehensive plan that includes room to grow beyond the pool to include facilities such as a Senior Citizen Center, tennis, volleyball, soccer and softball?

1. Yes
2. No
9. Don't know/Refused

10. Do you have access to a private pool?

1. Yes
2. No
9. Don't know/Refused

11. How many years have you lived in the Papillion community?

99. Don't know/Refused

12. What is your present age?

1. Under 21
2. 21 to 44
3. 45 to 64
4. 65 or older
9. Don't know/Refused

13a. How many children 18 years or younger currently live in your household?

99. Don't know/
Refused

13b. How many are under 6?

99. Don't know/Refused

14. Do you own or rent your own home?

1. Own or buying
2. Rent
3. Other
9. Don't know/Refused

THANK RESPONDENT FOR THEIR TIME AND HANG UP.

15. Sex of respondent. DO NOT ASK.

1. Male
2. Female

Appendix B

Summary of All Respondents

Appendix B contains the results of the survey. The numbers and questions that head each table refer directly to the questionnaire.

There are four separate summaries:

1. Summary of all respondents.
2. Summary of respondents who favor the pool.
3. Summary of respondents who do not favor the pool.
4. Demographics of respondents by whether they favor or do not favor the pool.

Valid percent and valid responses exclude those responses where people don't know or refused to answer.

To read the tables refer to B-1 question 10 – 37.5 percent of all respondents have access to a private pool; 38.1 percent of those who favor the pool have access to a private pool; and 35.5 percent of those who do not favor the pool have access to a private pool.

Summary of All Respondents

4. Do you favor building an out-of-doors public swimming pool in Papillion?

<u>Response</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Valid Percent</u>
Yes	69.8	78.4
No	19.3	21.6
Don't know/Refused	11.0	Not applicable
Total responses	400	356

10. Do you have access to a private pool?

<u>Response</u>	<u>All Percent</u>	<u>Favor Percent</u>	<u>Do Not Favor Percent</u>
Yes	37.5	38.1	35.5
No	62.5	61.9	64.5
Total Valid Responses	397	278	76

11. How many years have you lived in the Papillion community?

<u>Response</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Less than 5 years	25.5	29.0	15.6
5-9 years	22.3	21.5	24.7
10-14 years	14.8	15.8	15.6
15-24 years	18.0	15.	19.5
25 years or more	19.5	17.9	24.7
Total Valid Responses	400	279	77

12. What is your present age?

<u>Response</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Under 21	1.5	1.8	0.0
21 to 44	46.1	51.6	35.5
45 to 64	40.3	35.4	52.6
65 or older	12.1	11.2	11.8
Total Valid Responses	397	277	76

Summary of All Respondents (continued)

13a. How many children 18 years or younger currently live in your household?

<u>Response</u>	<u>All Percent</u>	<u>Favor Percent</u>	<u>Do Not Favor Percent</u>
No children	53.0	46.6	67.5
1 child	13.8	13.3	10.4
2 children	19.3	24.0	9.1
3 children	10.8	12.5	9.1
4 or more children	3.3	3.6	3.9
Total Valid Responses	400	279	77

13b. How many are under 6?

<u>Response</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
No children	82.0	79.6	88.2
1 child	9.5	10.4	5.3
2 children	7.0	8.2	5.3
3 or more children	1.5	1.8	1.3
Total Valid Responses	399	279	76

14. Do you own or rent your own home?

<u>Response</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Own or buying	83.2	81.3	88.2
Rent	16.3	18.0	11.8
Other	0.5	0.7	0.0
Total Valid Responses	398	278	76

15. Sex of respondent.

<u>Response</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Male	47.5	42.3	61.0
Female	52.5	57.7	39.0
Total Valid Responses	400	279	77

Summary of Respondents Who Favor the Pool

5. How do you prefer to pay for the pool?

	<u>Percent</u>
Tax dollars	34.1
Special bond issue	34.8
Private donations	9.7
Sale of memberships	10.4
User fees	30.5
Other	2.9
Total Valid Responses	279

6. Please tell me how much you would be willing to pay in annual taxes to pay debt and operating and maintenance expenses. Would that be less than \$50, or \$50 or more?

	<u>Percent</u>
Less than \$50	72.4
\$50 or more	27.6
Total Valid Responses	239

6a. Would that be \$100 or more?

	<u>Percent</u>
Yes	9.8
No	17.8
Total Valid Responses	239

7. Do you have a preferred location for the pool site?

	<u>Percent</u>
Yes	42.6
No	57.4
Total Valid Responses	272

Summary of Respondents Who Favor the Pool (continued)

Preferred locations for the pool site

Light commercial zone (1)	Park at 84th and Lincoln (3)
Central location (28)	In a park (1)
Midtown (1)	Carraige Hill area (2)
Halleck Park (36)	Rogers Road and Centennial Avenue (1)
Tara Hills Golf Course (2)	1st and Washington (1)
South part of town (3)	In place of the private pool (2)
West central (1)	84th and Washington (3)
Close to the high school (4)	Hogan and Tipperary (1)
84th and Cary (1)	84th and Cornhusker (1)
North side (6)	Frick's Field (1)
Lot off of Overland Trail (1)	A newly populated area (1)
Downtown (8)	Along 72nd Street (4)
Hickory Hills (4)	Tara Plaza area on 84th Street (1)
Near Midlands Hospital (1)	Post Office (1)
Overland Hills (1)	Tara Heights (1)

8. By when would you like to see the pool project completed?

	<u>Percent</u>
One year (Summer '92)	46.7
Two years (Summer '93)	42.0
Three years (Summer '94)	11.3
Total Valid Responses	257

9. Would you support a comprehensive plan that includes room to grow beyond the pool to include facilities such as a Senior Citizen Center, tennis, volleyball, soccer and softball?

	<u>Percent</u>
Yes	60.8
No	39.2
Total Valid Responses	260

Summary of Respondents Who Do Not Favor the Pool

4a. Why don't you favor a pool?

	<u>Percent</u>
Not needed	32.5
Taxes already too high	28.6
Wouldn't use	35.1
Money needed for other priorities	6.5
High school has a pool	10.4
Have access to private pool	15.6
Total Valid Responses	77

Other reasons given for not favoring a pool

- Favors a year-round pool (2)
- There already is another pool aside from the high school pool (2)
- Have access to public pool now (1)
- Have no children to use the pool (6)
- There are enough pools around (2)
- Need a library more (2)
- Cost of pool is too high (1)
- AIDS - Pools are unsafe and unclean (1)
- Will be moving soon (1)
- It's a frivolous waste of the taxpayer's money (1)
- Need a racquetball court (1)
- Taxpayers won't support it (1)
- LaVista Public Pool is little used (1)
- There were already two pools, and one closed (1)
- There already was a pool and it went to pot (1)
- Wouldn't be used much (1)
- Have no interest (1)

Demographics of Respondents by Whether They Favor or Do Not Favor the Pool

Number of years lived in Papillion

	<u>Favor</u> <u>Percent</u>	<u>Do Not Favor</u> <u>Percent</u>
Less than 5 years	87.1	12.9
5-9 years	75.9	24.1
10-14 years	78.6	21.4
15-24 years	74.6	25.4
25 years or more	72.5	27.5

Present age

	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Under 21	100.0	0.0
21-44	84.1	15.9
45-64	71.0	29.0
65 or older	77.5	22.5

Number of children under age 18 in household

	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
No children	71.4	28.6
1 child	82.2	17.8
2 children	90.5	9.5
3 children	83.3	16.7
4 or more children	76.9	23.1

Number of children under age 6 in the household

	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
No children	76.8	23.2
1 child	87.9	12.1
2 children	85.2	14.8
3 or more children	83.3	16.7

Demographics of Respondents by Whether They Favor or Do Not Favor the Pool
 (continued)

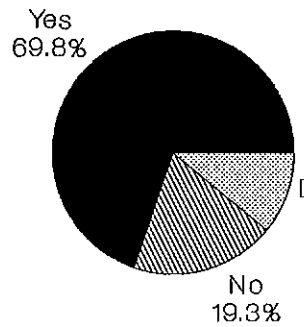
Own or rent own home

	<u>Favor</u> <u>Percent</u>	<u>Do Not Favor</u> <u>Percent</u>
Own or are buying	77.1	22.9
Rent	84.7	15.3
Other	100.0	0.0

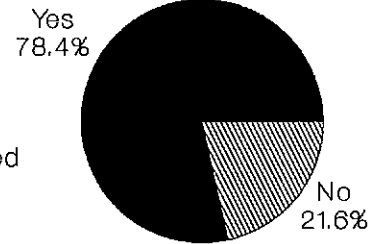
Sex of respondent

	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Male	71.5	28.5
Female	84.3	15.7

Do You Favor Building an Out-of-doors Swimming Pool in Papillion?

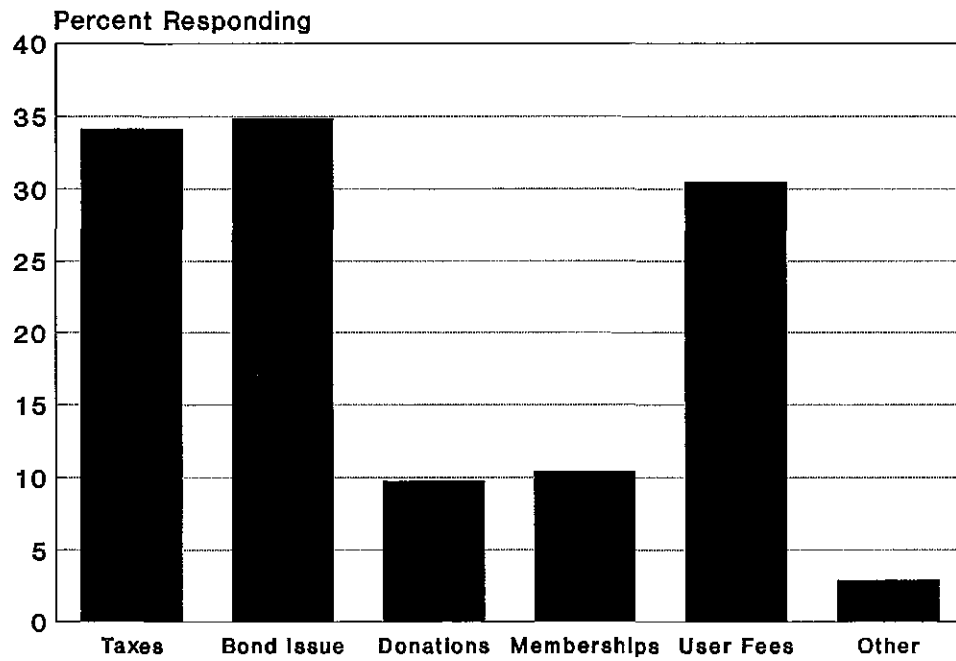


All Respondents
(n = 400)



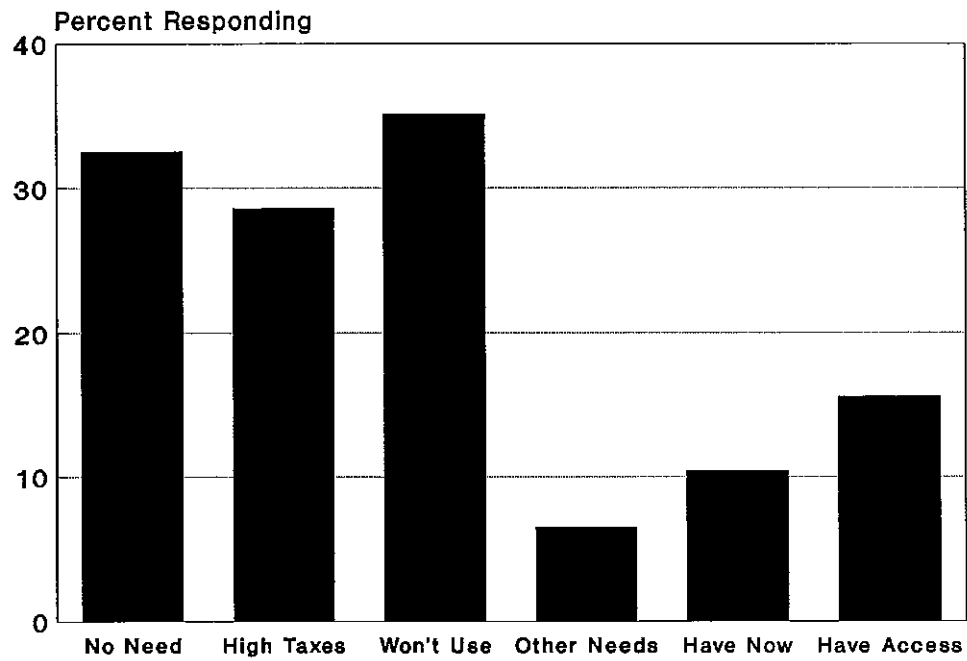
Respondents with Opinions
(n = 356)

How Do You Prefer to Pay for the Pool?



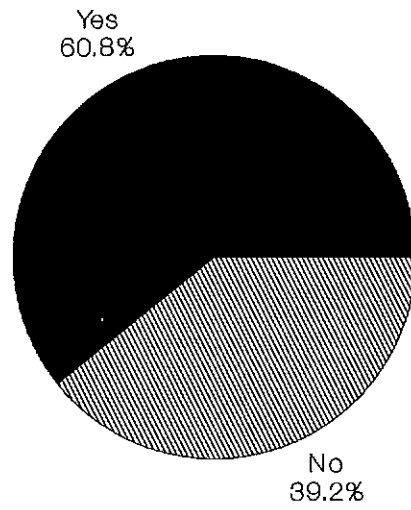
(n = 279)

Why Don't You Favor a Pool?



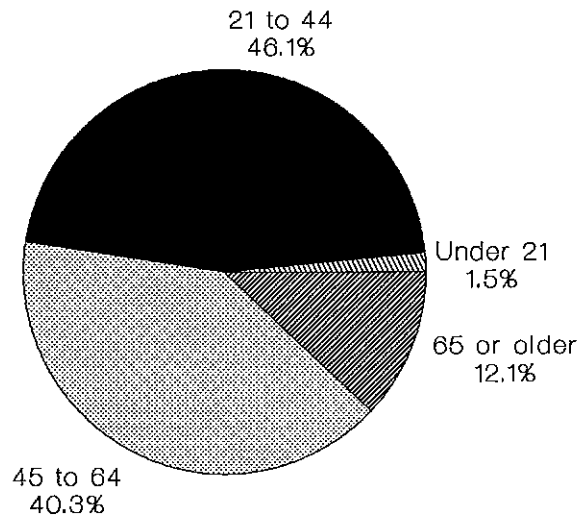
(n = 77)

Support a Comprehensive Plan Including Room to Grow Beyond the Pool?



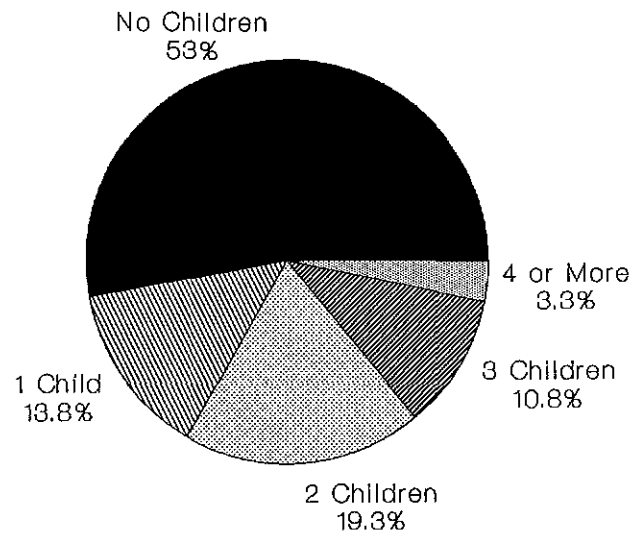
(n = 260)

What Is Your Present Age?



(n = 397)

How Many Children 18 Years or Younger Currently Live In Your Household?



(n = 400)