2024
Larimer Community Resilience Survey

LARIMER COUNTY
COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE

Outcomes from 2024 Survey

Below are themes of the responses of the 2024 Community Resilience survey. The Larimer County Office of Emergency Management has prioritized the following to advance social connectivity and community preparedness for increased resilience and disaster outcomes.

Actions being taken from survey responses:

- We found that 40% of respondents never interact with their neighbors. Additionally, more people feel connected in their broader community than in their individual neighborhood. In fact, the most dominant theme about neighborhood experiences is a lack of connection and social interaction. Larimer OEM will continue our efforts to bring resources to neighborhoods to build connections. This includes enhancing the number of Connecting Our Communities Micro-Grant opportunities each year to continue fostering community connectedness.

- Since the 2022 survey, a majority of respondents report each year that they do not believe OEM has systems in place for people with disabilities. OEM has made this a priority area, and we have seen an overall improvement in responses since that time. We will continue our efforts in this area. We have developed an Access and Functional Needs (AFN) Working Group to support systems for people with disabilities in emergencies. Current activities include the development of an Emergency Sheltering Checklist for AFN in coordination with the American Red Cross, development of a Shelter and Evacuation Plan that includes heating and cooling center thresholds, and increased coordination with power providers and other utilities to ensure timely and accurate messaging for outages and emergency shutoffs.

- 57% of respondents would like more information about emergency planning and 50% would like more information about access to community events. OEM will work on expanding the ways in which the office reaches the public about community events and training opportunities to reach the highest number of community members possible.

- While some appreciate the diversity of Larimer County, others perceive a growing division within the community. Political differences, socioeconomic disparities, and a lack of inclusivity for certain groups (singles, LGBTQ+, minorities) are cited as contributing factors. As a growing concern, OEM will work on ways in which the office can decrease divisiveness and increase diversity of ideas.

Survey Demographics
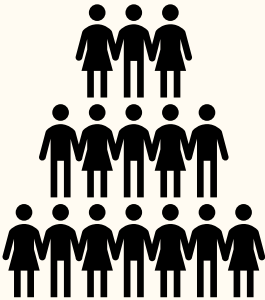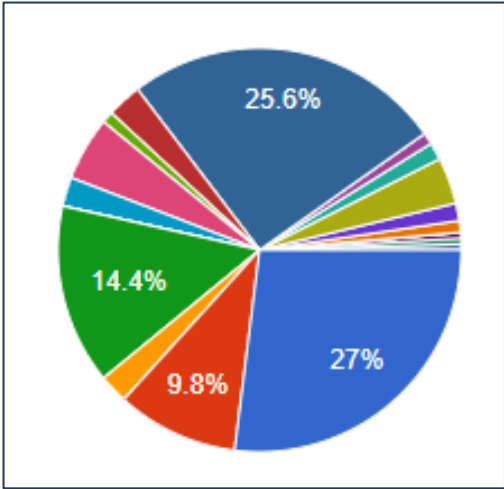
Over half the response were from people aged 51 or older. Seventeen responses for people under 28 years old.

Out of 242 survey responses, 75% were submitted by women

84% of respondents were Caucasian

10% were Hispanic

6% were Asian/Pacific, American Indian / Alaska Native, African American

	25.6%	27%	14.4%	9.8%

Fort Collins	102	%
Loveland	42	%
Berthoud	5	%
Estes Park	21	%
Johnstown	1	%
Timnath	6	%
Wellington	23	%
Windsor	4	%
Laporte	11	%
Red Feather Lakes	6	%
Bellvue	3	%
Drake	11	%
Glen Haven	0	%
Livermore	2	%
Masonville	4	%
Virginia Dale	1	%
Waverly	0	%

242 Survey Responses

Why study community resilience?

SOCIAL CAPITAL

Connections
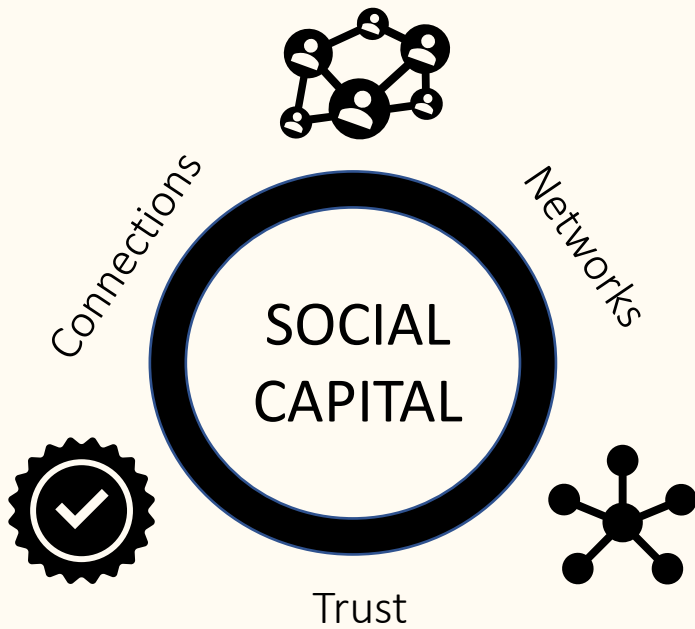
Networks

Trust

Social Capital includes connections within communities, networks between communities and trust in informal and formal structures.

Disaster research overwhelmingly shows that communities with higher social capital are more resilient both before and after disaster.

Community Trust and Connectedness

More respondents indicated they had people in their neighborhoods that they trust this year over last year's results by **15%**

A whopping **40%** of respondents never interact with their neighbors. This is an increase of 5% points since last year.

Within the Spanish-speaking population, we saw a trend of higher social connectivity than with the English-speaking population.

Did You Know?

Larimer Office of Emergency Management has a Community Micro-Grant Program that provides funding of $200 to communities to hold events that connect people. Grants are on a rolling basis while funds last each year.

For more information, go to: https://www.larimer.gov/emergency/larimer-connects/connecting-our-communities-micro-grant
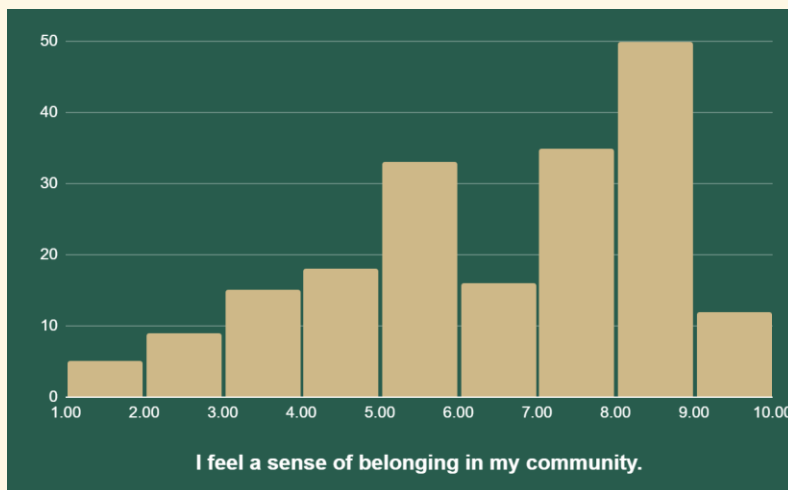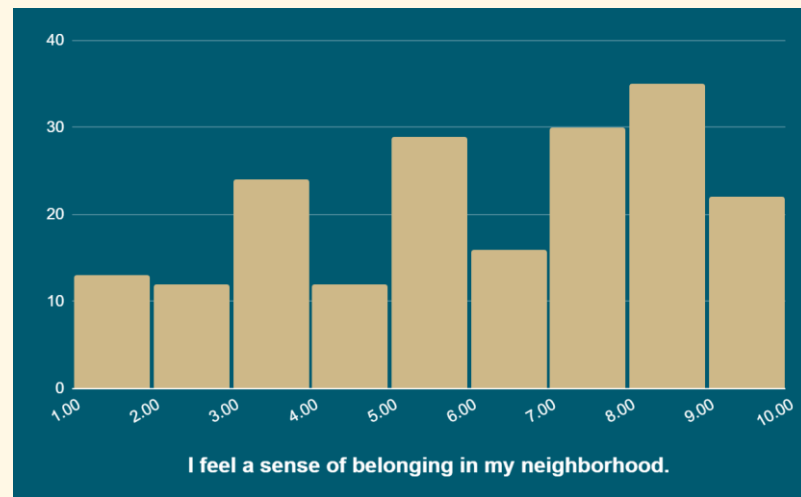
Get out those BBQ grills people!

Community Culture

This section dives deeper into community connection by focusing on the culture of the community and whether there is a strong sense of belonging.

Neighborhood - Street level connections (subdivision, block, filing, HOA, etc.)

55% of respondents feel some sense of belonging in their <u>neighborhood.</u>

I feel a sense of belonging in my neighborhood.

I feel a sense of belonging in my community.

Community - A group of neighborhoods closely located (Glacier View, Glen Haven, Estes Valley, etc.) or people with shared characteristics (65+, religious, LGBTQ+, BIPOC, people with disabilities, etc.)

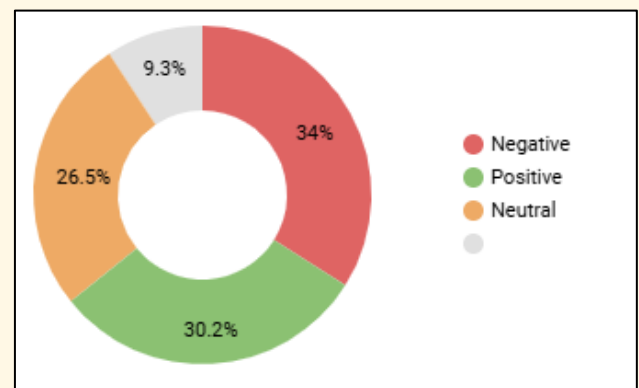**59%** of respondents feel some sense of belonging in their <u>community</u>.

52% of respondents believe that cultural diversity is celebrated and valued in their community. This is a decrease of 13.5% since last year.

Community Connectedness

This section dives deeper into community connection by focusing on the culture of the community and whether there is a strong sense of belonging.
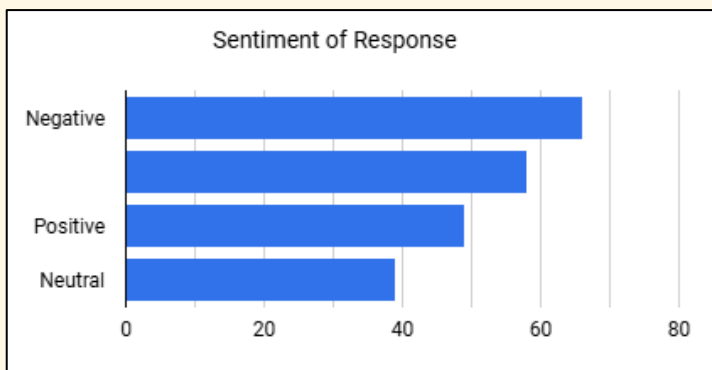
Respondents indicated that the overall sentiment of Neighborhood sense of belonging is more negative than positive.

- 34% Negative
- 30.2% Positive
- 26.5% Neutral
- 9.3%

Legend:
- Negative
- Positive
- Neutral

Sentiment of Response

- Negative
- Positive
- Neutral

Respondents also indicated that the overall sentiment of Community sense of belonging is more negative than positive.

Community connectedness is essential during and after disasters and emergencies. This is an area where we can and should place resources for better outcomes.

47% of respondents know of community leaders in their local community. This is a decrease of 26% since last year.
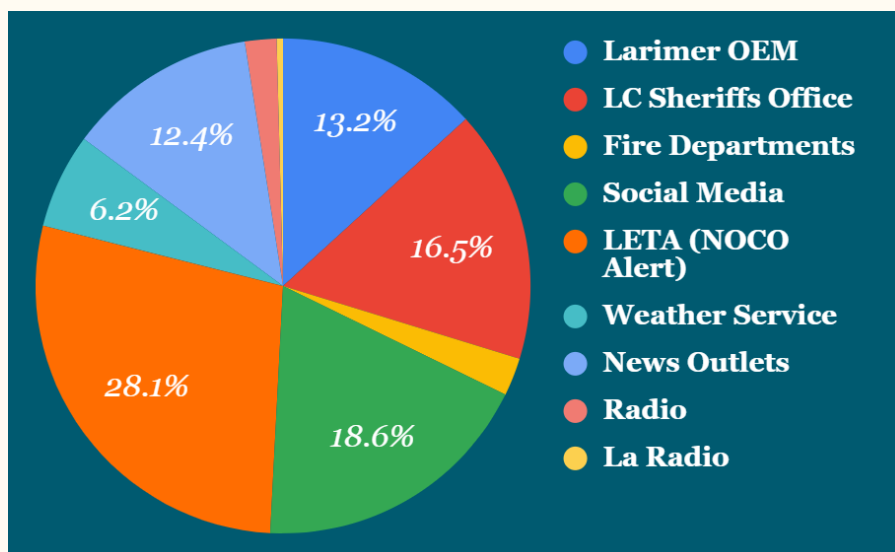
Spanish-speaking community members indicated a much higher level of leadership in their responses at **81.5%**.

Community Leadership

32% of respondents feel that their community is a space that fosters opportunities to develop as a leader. This number rises to **67%** for the Spanish-speaking respondents.

27% of respondents feel that the community provides youth leadership development activities.

Where do community members access trusted information in times of crisis?

Pie chart legend:
- Larimer OEM
- LC Sheriffs Office
- Fire Departments
- Social Media
- LETA (NOCO Alert)
- Weather Service
- News Outlets
- Radio
- La Radio

Pie chart values: 13.2%, 16.5%, 18.6%, 28.1%, 6.2%, 12.4%

28% LETA (NOCO Alert)
18% Community Social Media
16% LC Sheriff's Office
13.2% Larimer OEM
12.4% News Outlets
6% National Weather Service
2% Local Fire Departments

Community Relationships with Institutions

71% of respondents feel comfortable and/or safe reaching out for emergency assistance when it is needed for non-law enforcement events. This is a decrease of 8% since last year.

This number increases to **81%** for law enforcement events.

64% of respondents feel the Office of Emergency Management provides opportunities and resources to alleviate disruptions during a crisis in the community. This is an increase of **16%**.


51% of respondents never engage with their local elected officials. The majority of Spanish-speaking respondents indicated they interact with their elected officials, where a majority of English-speaking respondents do not.

Community Networks

56% of respondents feel there is a strong culture of volunteerism in their community.

What partner organizations does your neighborhood work with during emergencies and disasters?
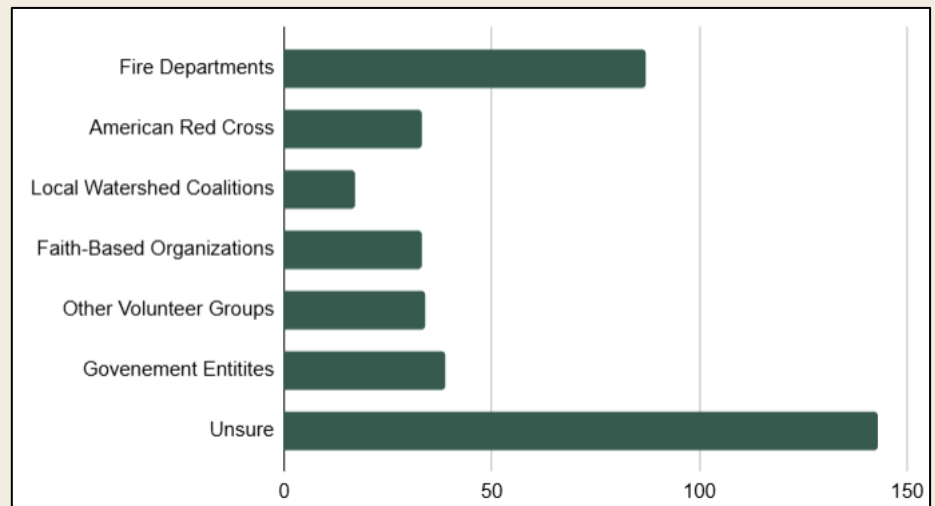
63% of respondents DO NOT believe there are adequate systems in place for people with disabilities or for those who are unable to self-evacuate in an emergency situation.

This is an improvement of **13%** points since last year. 21% of respondents didn't know. 8% of respondents indicated they live with a disability where they may have difficulty self-evacuating.
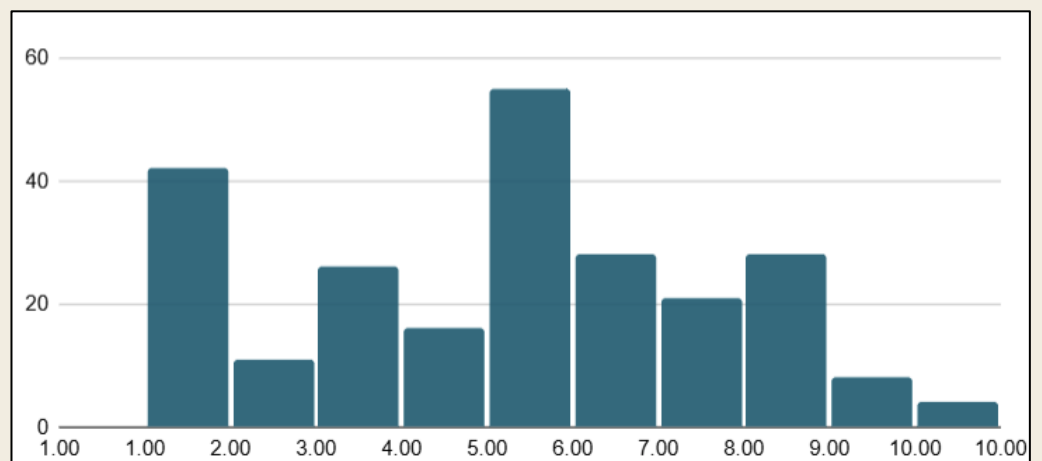
Community Preparedness

Dare to Prepare
Larimer Community Education Program

The Dare to Prepare Program was officially kicked off in 2023 with a few pilot classes to test the material. This program will be offered throughout 2024 and beyond to help to build preparedness and resilience within and between communities.

Interesting data

65% of respondents feel prepared in the case of a disaster.

60% have a personal plan in place in case of an emergency.
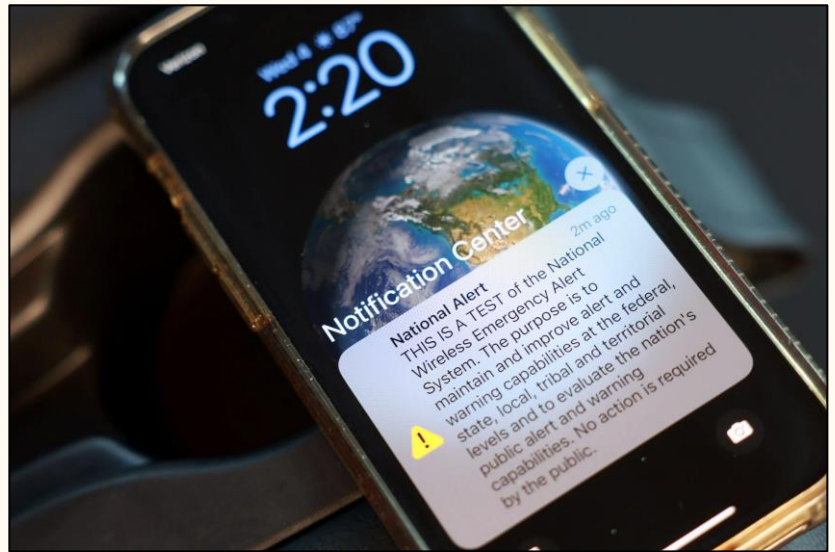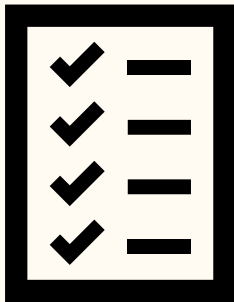
Both questions went down by approximately 20% points since last year.

"We have a go bag and have an evacuation route planned. We were here in 2013 and 2020 so experienced both fires and floods so know what to expect."

Resource Needs

Specific resources community members would like access to for emergency planning purposes:

81% of respondents indicated that they would like more information about emergency alerts and warning. The next highest resource need is for weather information at 67.7%.

Other Responses:
- 57% would like more information about emergency planning.
- 52% would like access to information regarding natural resources.
- 50% would like information about access to community events.
- 41% would like more information about forest management and wildfire mitigation.
- 33% would like information regarding services for older adults.
- 22% would like information about community hubs.

Thank You!

Larimer Office of Emergency Management
www.larimer.org/emergency

Our Emergency Management Team seeks to build programs that increase social capital and community preparedness countywide for greater resilience and better disaster outcomes.