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REPORT PREPARED FOR
THE CITY OF TORONTO

City of Toronto Noise Bylaw Implementation Review: Report

August 21, 2023

Attachments to Implementation Review of the Noise By-law
Attachment B: Summary of Public Opinion Research

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ABOUT THE RESEARCH

OBJECTIVES

- The overall purpose of the research is to understand the opinions and attitudes of Toronto residents as they relate to noise and the City of Toronto Noise By-law. Specific objectives are:
 - To obtain an understanding of residents’ awareness and understanding of the City of Toronto Noise By-law;
 - To gain an understanding of which types of noise are most disruptive to residents of Toronto; and
 - To learn about residents’ expectations as they relate to the enforcement of the City of Toronto Noise By-law.

Note: If the data were collected through a random sample, the margin of error would be ±3.0%, 19 times out of 20, for a City of Toronto residents’ sample of 1,000.

METHODOLOGY



A total of n=1,003 Toronto residents completed the survey online. Respondents were drawn from an online panel.



The survey was undertaken between July 12th and July 23rd, 2023.



A sampling plan was developed to ensure a representative cross section of Torontonians by age, region and gender, reflective of the 2016 Census data from Statistics Canada. The data was weighted by region back to the 2016 Census. 2016 Census data was used in order to conduct regional analysis, which was not possible with the 2021 data.

Region	2016	2023	2023
	Census %	Unweighted Sample* n	Weighted Sample** n
Toronto/East York	31.7	337	317
Etobicoke/York	21.6	144	216
North York	23.6	256	236
Scarborough	23.1	266	232

*Surveys conducted across the City of Toronto by region.

**Weighted sample used in the reporting of findings.

Note To Reader: Statistical Significance Testing

- Respondents to a survey questionnaire are a sample of the total population that are eligible to take part in a survey. All results are therefore subject to sampling tolerances, which means that not all differences between results are statistically significant.
- In order to see whether a difference between segments is actually significant, significance tests are applied to determine whether or not a finding is a result of a genuine difference between two (or more) items, or whether it is just due to chance.
- Coloured boxes indicate a percentage is significantly **higher**/**lower** than others in segment.

KEY FINDINGS

Key Findings

1 OVERALL POINT OF VIEW ON NOISE IN THE CITY OF TORONTO

Residents are almost evenly split in regard to whether they feel noise levels in the city are reasonable.

- Overall, 51% believe that noise is a normal part of living in a big city and current noise levels are reasonable, and 49% believe more should be done to restrict the level of noise created as it is negatively impacting the quality of life of residents.
- However, there are differences by region. Residents living in Toronto-East York are significantly more likely to believe that more should be done to restrict noise levels (54%) than believe noise is a normal part of living in a big city (46%). The reverse is true in Scarborough (46% and 54%, respectively). In Etobicoke-York, there is an 18-point difference between those believing more should be done to restrict noise levels (41%) and those that believe it is a normal part of city life (59%). In North York, results are 50%/50%.
- Just over half of respondents (53%) identify reducing noise pollution as an area of concern in the City of Toronto.

2 OVERALL PERSPECTIVE ON NOISE IN THE CITY OF TORONTO

When asked on a more granular level, the majority of residents agree that loud noise is acceptable sometimes (78%) and accept it as normal part of living in a big city (73%).

- That said, six-in-ten agreed that Toronto should do more to restrict excessive noise (60%) and that they had concerns about the negative health impacts of noise (59%).
- Half (51%) believe that noise levels in the City of Toronto have increased in the past year - with almost one-in-five (16%) indicating they increased 'substantially' – while 44% believe that they have remained about the same.

Key Findings

AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE NOISE BYLAW

3 There is an opportunity to increase awareness and understanding of the City of Toronto Noise Bylaw.

- Residents appear to have a limited understanding of noise rules in the City of Toronto, as well as specific provisions of the Noise Bylaw.
- For example, while false, nearly three-quarters (73%) of residents believe that businesses and residences can produce amplified sound until 11 pm, and 63% believe that bylaw enforcement officers can stop vehicles that are unnecessarily noisy.
- Just six-in-ten (61%) know about the unreasonable and persistent provision in the Bylaw.
- Moreover, only 39% agree that they are familiar with noise rules in the City of Toronto – with only 8% ‘strongly’ agreeing.

MOST IMPORTANT TYPES OF NOISE TO RESTRICT

4 Noise related to construction and traffic were the most frequently cited as the most important noises for the City of Toronto to restrict and minimize in their neighbourhood.

- Specifically, building construction noise and noise from motorcycles are most frequently identified as the noises that are the most bothersome, with one-third of residents citing each of these types of noises. Other types of noise most often found to be bothersome include home construction noise, traffic noise, and noise from residences.
- Of note, those living in Toronto-East York are significantly more likely to identify building construction noise (41%) than residents in the other regions.

Key Findings

NOISE EXEMPTIONS FOR WASTE COLLECTION

5 Many Toronto residents are willing to accept an exemption in the Noise Bylaw for waste collection noise.

- Two-thirds (67%) of residents feel it is acceptable to continue to allow noise from waste collection trucks at all hours, with 24% indicating it is 'completely' acceptable.
- Again, there are differences by region with those living in Toronto-East York the least likely to find waste collection noise exemptions acceptable.
- There are also differences in opinion by type of housing they live in. Residents living in apartments or condos are less likely to agree that it is acceptable to continue allowing noise from waste collection trucks at all hours than are those living in other housing types, particularly single-family detached houses.

NOISE START AND END TIMES

6 On weekdays, a majority believe that it is acceptable for noise to begin in their neighbourhood at 8:00 am (34%) or 9:00 am (30%). Less (18%) agree with it starting at 7:00 am.

- For ending times, there is a broader range of times considered acceptable with the majority selecting between 5:00 pm and 8:00 pm.
- Overall, residents felt that noise should begin later on weekends than on weekdays with 9:00 am (34%) and 10:00 am (26%) the most cited times. Again, a majority believe noise in their neighbourhood should end between 5:00 pm and 8:00 pm, although later ending times were more acceptable on weekends than on weekdays.

Key Findings

STANDARDS INCLUDED IN THE NOISE BYLAW

The majority of residents agree with using sound level limits (decibels) to enforce the Noise Bylaw, with 70% agreeing that they should be used to measure how loud an event or object is, and 68% agreeing they should be measured from the location of the complainant.

- Two-thirds (65%) of City residents agree that a sound level limit for motor vehicle noise should be included in the Noise Bylaw.
- In terms of exemptions, six-in-ten (63%) agree that exemption permits should be divided into categories based on their impact with additional application requirements for high-impact events.
- Of note, the majority of residents also indicate they are willing to let a bylaw enforcement officer enter their house if they make a complaint (67%) and that they would be willing to testify in court to support charges (63%).

NOISE BYLAW ENFORCEMENT

Residents expect rapid response times to noise complaints, with about half (47%) believing that a bylaw enforcement officer should respond to a noise complaint in one day (18%) or less (29%).

- A further 20% believe 1-3 days is acceptable. About one-in-five (17%) indicate they don't care as long as the problem gets resolved.
- However, only about one-third (35%) believe that there are sufficient resources to enforce the Noise Bylaw. Residents in Toronto-East York (25%) are significantly less likely than those in the other regions to agree there are sufficient resources.

Key Findings

IMPORTANCE OF NOISE RELATIVE TO OTHER ISSUES IN THE CITY OF TORONTO

While a majority of residents are concerned about reducing noise pollution (53%), it ranks relatively low on the list of top issues for Torontonians.

- Greater levels of concern were expressed about improving housing affordability (83%), improving public safety (83%), reducing traffic (76%), improving the environment (70%), reducing overcrowding on public transit (69%), and reducing property taxes (64%).
- Just two issues were ranked as lower priorities: improving recreation activities (50%) and improving arts and culture (41%).
- Though reducing noise pollution is an important issue to a majority of Torontonians, there are a number of other issues that are viewed as more important.

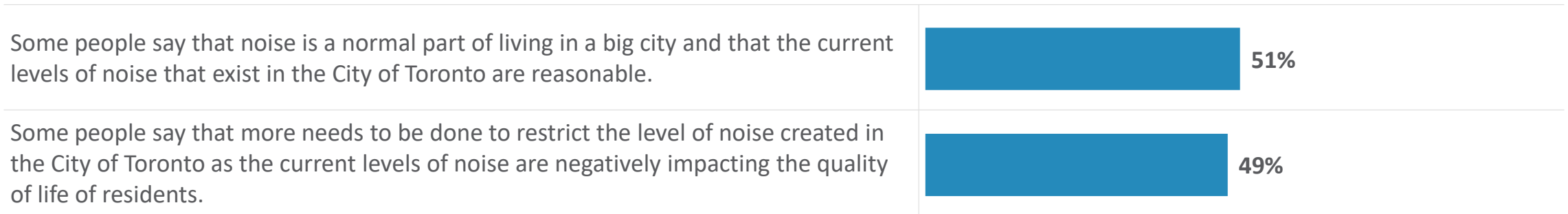
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ATTITUDES AND OPINIONS TOWARDS NOISE IN THE CITY OF TORONTO

POINT OF VIEW ON NOISE IN THE CITY OF TORONTO

Residents are divided on their point of view regarding noise in the City of Toronto. Overall, 51% have the perspective that noise is a normal part of living in a big city and current noise levels are reasonable, and 49% believe more should be done to restrict the level of noise created as it is negatively impacting the quality of life of residents.

Point of View



Q15. Which one of the following statements is closest to your point of view?

Base: Total sample

POINT OF VIEW ON NOISE IN THE CITY OF TORONTO

Residents of Etobicoke-York and Scarborough are more likely to say that noise is a normal part of living in a big city (59% and 54%, respectively) than residents of Toronto-East York (46%).

	TOTAL	GENDER		AGE			REGION			
		Men	Women	18-34	35-54	55+	Toronto/ East York	Etobicoke/ York	North York	Scar- borough
		B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
n=	1000	499	500	365	360	275	317	216	236	232
Point of View	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Some people say that noise is a normal part of living in a big city and that the current levels of noise that exist in the City of Toronto are reasonable.	51	53	49	52	54	46	46	59	50	54
Some people say that more needs to be done to restrict the level of noise created in the City of Toronto as the current levels of noise are negatively impacting the quality of life of residents.	49	47	51	48	46	54	54	41	50	46

Q15. Which one of the following statements is closest to your point of view?

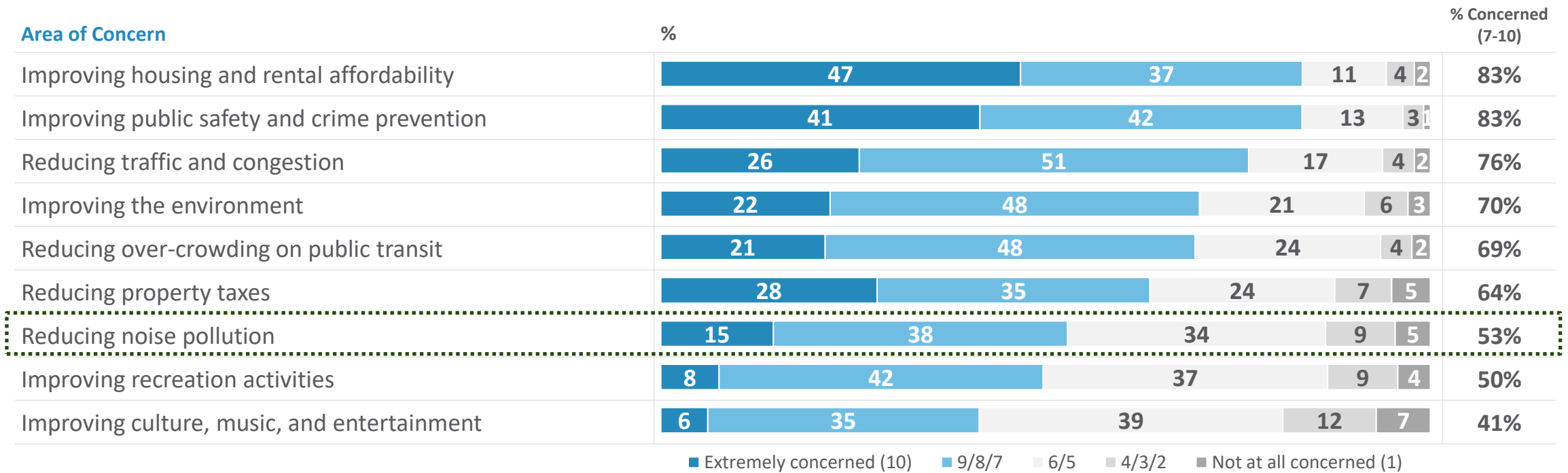
Base: Total sample

Coloured boxes indicate a percentage is significantly higher/lower than others in the segment

MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES IN THE CITY OF TORONTO

Just over half of respondents (53%) identify reducing noise pollution as an area of concern in the City of Toronto.

- Improving housing and rental affordability, improving public safety and crime prevention, and reducing traffic and congestion are the top concerns of residents of the City.
- Women (58%) have higher levels of concern about reducing noise pollution than men (47%), an 11-point difference.



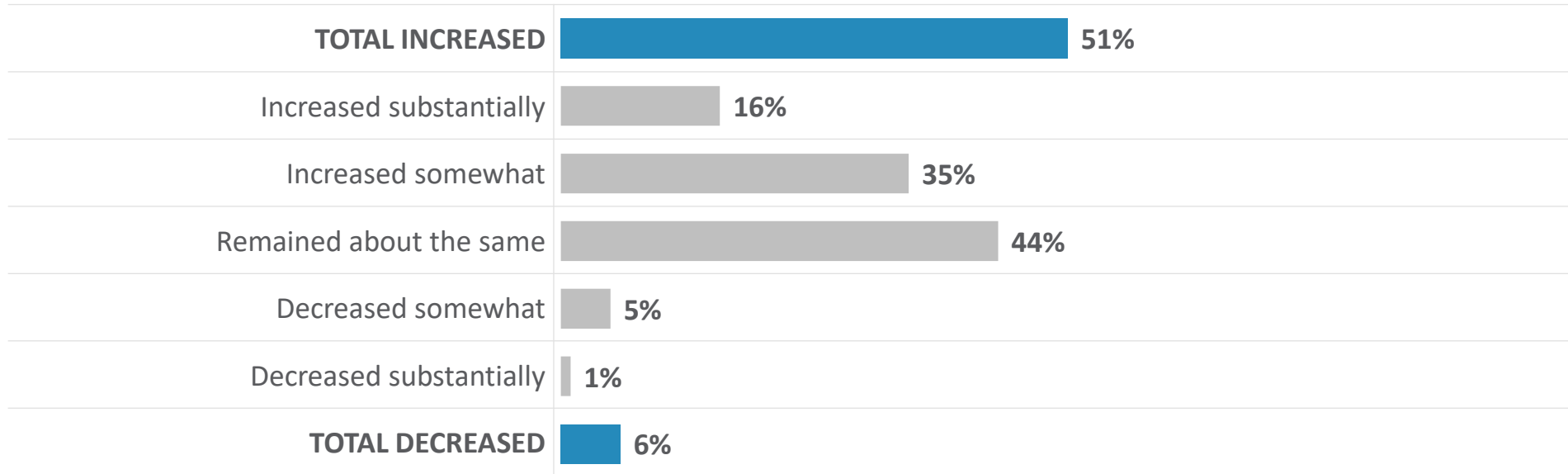
Q1. How concerned would you say that you are with the following in the City of Toronto, using a scale from 1 to 10 where 1 is not at all concerned and 10 is extremely concerned.

Base: Total sample (n=1000)

PERCEPTION ON NOISE LEVELS OVER THE PAST YEAR

Half (51%) believe that noise levels in the City of Toronto have increased in the past year - with almost one-in-five (16%) indicating they increased 'substantially' - while 44% believe that they have remained about the same.

- Few (6%) feel that noise levels have decreased.



Q2. Over the past year, I feel that noise levels in the city have...

Base: Total sample

PERCEPTION ON NOISE LEVELS OVER THE PAST YEAR

As well, women (56%) are 10-points more likely to feel noise levels have increased over the past year than are men (46%).

- One-in-five (21%) residents aged 55+ believe that noise levels have increased ‘substantially’ over the past year.

	TOTAL	GENDER		AGE			REGION			
		Men	Women	18-34	35-54	55+	Toronto/ East York	Etobicoke/ York	North York	Scar- borough
		B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
n=	1000	499	500	365	360	275	317	216	236	232
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL INCREASED	51	46	56	49	50	54	55	46	51	49
Increased substantially	16	14	18	13	16	21	16	19	15	15
Increased somewhat	35	32	37	36	35	33	39	28	37	34
Remained about the same	44	46	41	41	45	44	41	46	42	47
Decreased somewhat	5	6	3	8	3	2	3	7	6	4
Decreased substantially	1	2	<1	1	1	<1	1	1	1	1
TOTAL DECREASED	6	8	3	10	4	2	4	7	7	5

Q2. Over the past year, I feel that noise levels in the city have...

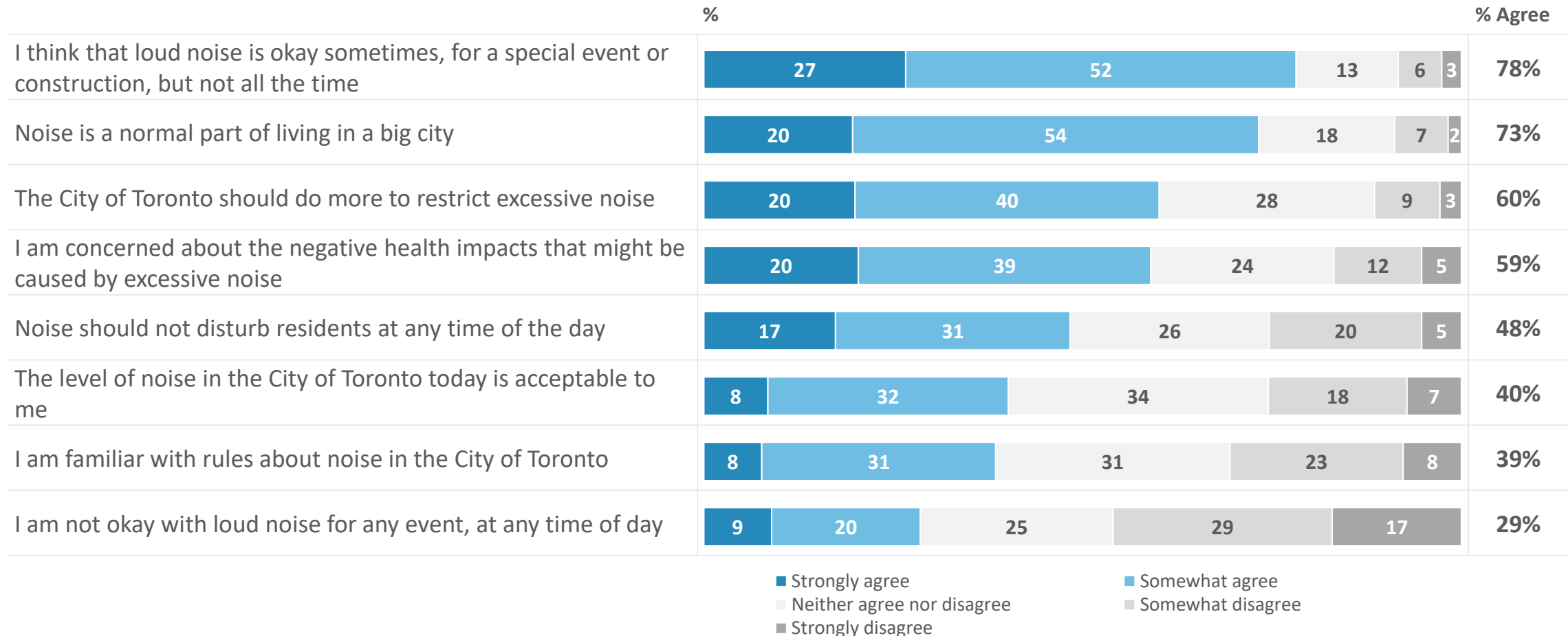
Base: Total sample

Coloured boxes indicate a percentage is significantly higher/lower than others in the segment

OPINIONS ON NOISE

The majority of residents agree that loud noise is acceptable sometimes for a special event or construction (78%) and accept it as normal part of living in a big city (73%). That said, six-in-ten (60%) agreed that Toronto should do more to restrict excessive noise and indicated that they had concerns about the negative health impacts of noise.

- Only four-in-ten (39%) residents strongly or somewhat agree they are familiar with rules about noise in the City of Toronto.



Q4. Please indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

Base: Total sample

OPINIONS ON NOISE

Opinions on noise are similar by gender, although men (44%) are more likely to agree than women (37%) that the level of noise in the City today is acceptable.

- There exists some difference by region, including that those in Etobicoke-York are significantly more likely to feel that noise is okay sometimes (81%), and those in North York and Scarborough are more likely than those Toronto-East York and Etobicoke-York to feel that noise should not disturb residents at any time of day.

% STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT AGREE

	TOTAL	GENDER		AGE			REGION			
		Men	Women	18-34	35-54	55+	Toronto/ East York	Etobicoke/ York	North York	Scar- borough
		B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
n=	1000	499	500	365	360	275	317	216	236	232
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
I think that loud noise is okay sometimes, for a special event or construction, but not all the time	78	77	80	76	79	81	78	81	76	78
Noise is a normal part of living in a big city	73	72	75	73	71	77	73	82	68	71
The City of Toronto should do more to restrict excessive noise	60	61	60	59	60	61	60	53	63	64
I am concerned about the negative health impacts that might be caused by excessive noise	59	58	60	60	57	60	60	55	62	59
Noise should not disturb residents at any time of the day	48	51	46	57	44	43	43	41	54	58
The level of noise in the City of Toronto today is acceptable to me	40	44	37	46	38	36	38	41	41	41
I am familiar with rules about noise in the City of Toronto	39	37	40	37	41	37	33	37	44	41
I am not okay with loud noise for any event, at any time of day	29	31	26	35	25	26	26	30	32	28

Q4. Please indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

Base: Total sample

Coloured boxes indicate a percentage is significantly higher/lower than others in the segment

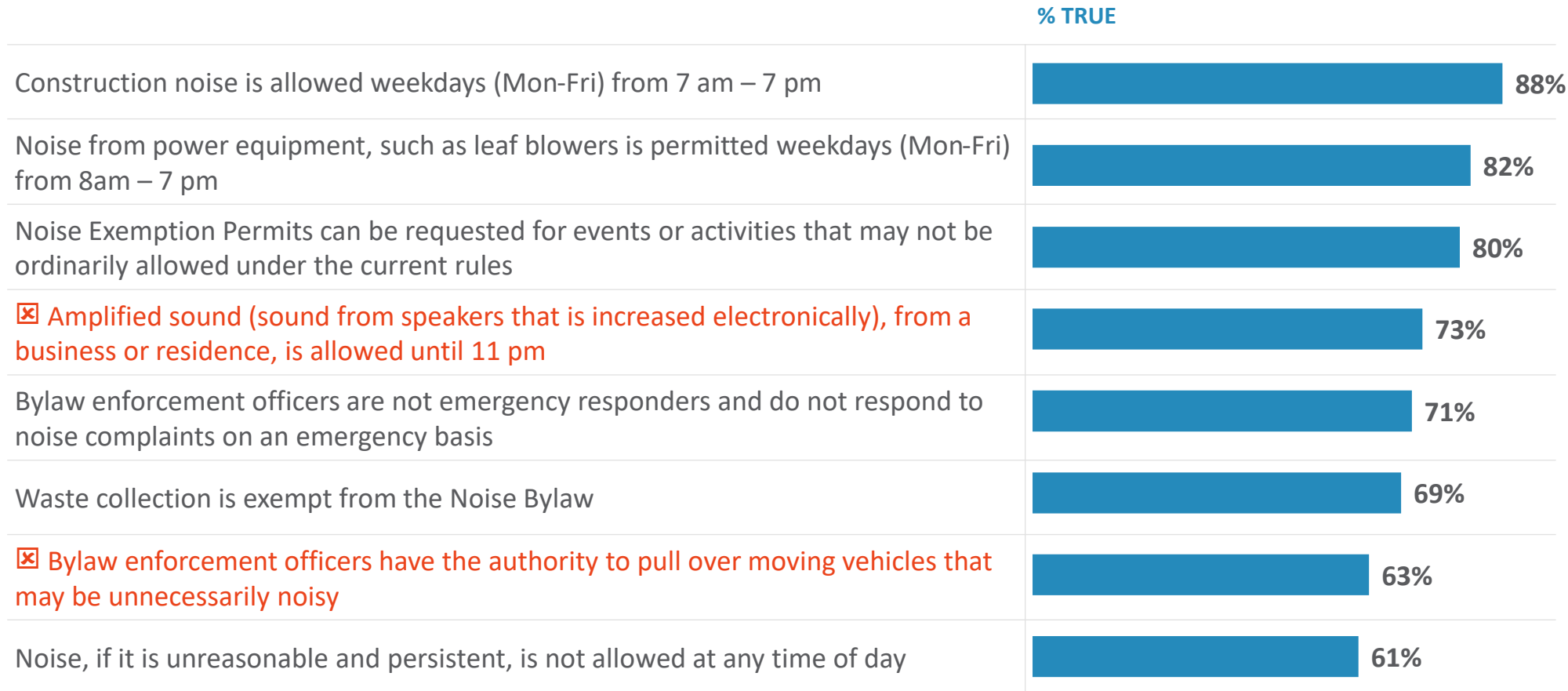
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AWARENESS AND ATTITUDES REGARDING THE NOISE BYLAW AND NOISE REGULATION

UNDERSTANDING OF NOISE RULES IN THE CITY OF TORONTO (TRUE/FALSE)

There appears to be some lack of awareness or understanding of the noise rules in the City of Toronto among a proportion of the residents surveyed.

- While false, three-quarters (73%) of residents believe that businesses and residences can produce amplified sound until 11:00 pm and 63% believe that bylaw enforcement officers can stop vehicles that are unnecessarily noisy.



Note: To assess respondents' level of knowledge of Toronto's noise bylaw, respondents were asked to state whether statements were true/false. Selecting correct statements indicates knowledge of the bylaw, while selecting false statements (as indicated with red text and symbol) demonstrates a lack of knowledge.

Indicates response option is false.

Q3. Based on your current understanding of the noise rules in the City of Toronto, please state if the following statements are true or false.

Base: Total sample (n=1000)

UNDERSTANDING OF NOISE RULES IN THE CITY OF TORONTO (TRUE/FALSE)

There are differences in the understanding of noise rules in the City of Toronto by age, with younger residents aged 18-34 demonstrating lower levels of awareness of noise rules.

	% TRUE									
	TOTAL	GENDER		AGE			REGION			
		Men	Women	18-34	35-54	55+	Toronto/ East York	Etobicoke/ York	North York	Scar- borough
	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	
n=	1000	499	500	365	360	275	317	216	236	232
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Construction noise is allowed weekdays (Mon-Fri) from 7 am – 7 pm	88	87	88	82	89	94	90	89	84	86
Noise from power equipment, such as leaf blowers is permitted weekdays (Mon-Fri) from 8am – 7 pm	82	83	81	76	85	87	83	84	80	81
Noise Exemption Permits can be requested for events or activities that may not be ordinarily allowed under the current rules	80	77	83	75	83	84	82	84	74	79
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amplified sound (sound from speakers that is increased electronically), from a business or residence, is allowed until 11 pm	73	72	75	67	78	75	79	75	67	70
Bylaw enforcement officers are not emergency responders and do not respond to noise complaints on an emergency basis	71	71	70	62	71	81	72	73	65	72
Waste collection is exempt from the Noise Bylaw	69	68	70	62	74	72	73	66	68	67
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bylaw enforcement officers have the authority to pull over moving vehicles that may be unnecessarily noisy	63	64	63	66	61	63	56	59	68	72
Noise, if it is unreasonable and persistent, is not allowed at any time of day	61	64	59	58	60	67	54	65	64	65

Indicates response option is false.

Q3. Based on your current understanding of the noise rules in the City of Toronto, please state if the following statements are true or false.

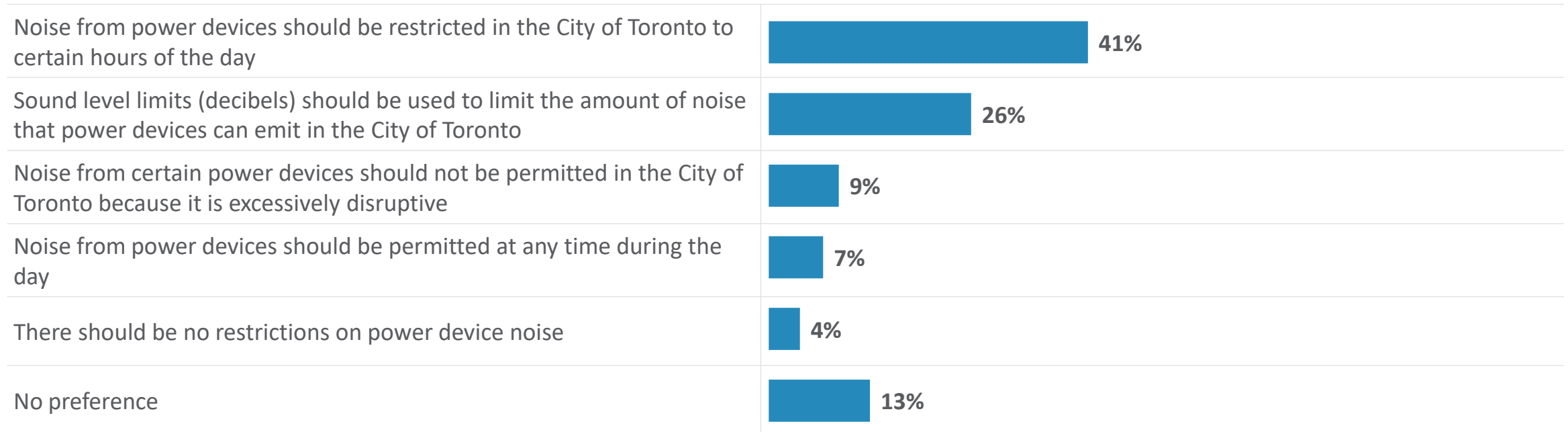
Base: Total sample

Coloured boxes indicate a percentage is significantly higher/lower than others in the segment

POINT OF VIEW ON NOISE GENERATED BY POWER DEVICES

A majority feel that noise from power devices should be restricted, either by time of day (41%) or by imposing decibel limits (26%). Only 9% of residents hold the point of view that certain power devices that are excessively disruptive should be restricted entirely.

- Women (45%) are more likely than men (38%) to have the opinion that power device noise should be restricted to certain hours of the day. By age, those aged 18-34 are less likely than to believe this noise should be restricted to certain hours of the day (36%).

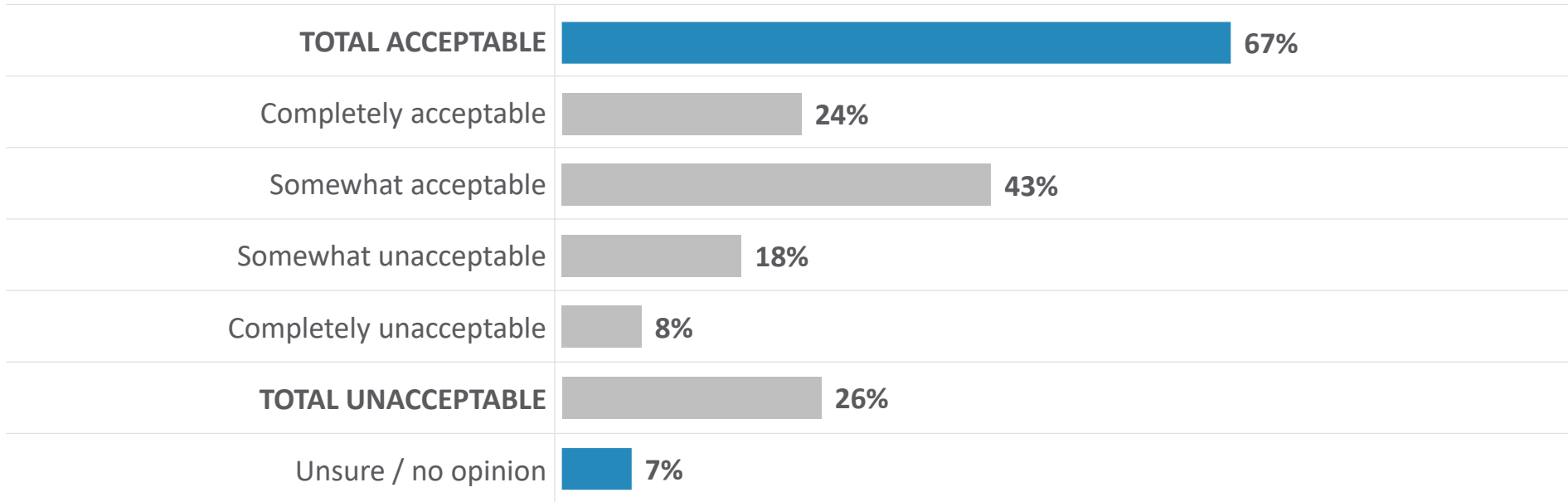


Q9. Which of the following is closest to your point of view?

Base: Total sample (n=1000)

ACCEPTABILITY OF NOISE EXEMPTIONS FOR WASTE COLLECTION

Two-thirds (67%) of residents feel it is acceptable to continue to allow noise from waste collection trucks at all hours, with 24% indicating it is ‘completely’ acceptable.



Q11. As a result of a City Council motion in July 2022, noise from waste collection was made exempt from the Noise Bylaw. The exemption applies specifically to actions by carriers to pick up or remove waste, it does not include sorting of waste or back-up beepers. How acceptable or unacceptable would it be to continue to allowing noise from garbage/waste collection trucks at all hours?

Base: Total sample (n=1000)

ACCEPTABILITY OF NOISE EXEMPTIONS FOR WASTE COLLECTION

Residents living in apartments or condos are less likely to agree that it is acceptable to continue allowing noise from waste collection trucks at all hours than are those living in other housing types, particularly single-family detached houses.

	TOTAL	GENDER		AGE			REGION				HOUSE TYPE			
		Men	Women	18-34	35-54	55+	Toronto/ East York	Etobicoke/ York	North York	Scar- borough	Single- family detached house	Semi- detached/ town- home/ duplex/ triplex	Apt/ condo 4 storeys or less	Apt/ Condo 5 storeys or more
		B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
n=	1000	499	500	365	360	275	317	216	236	232	340	159	112	350
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL ACCEPTABLE	67	68	66	67	65	70	61	70	65	75	73	71	61	62
Completely acceptable	24	23	25	21	22	30	23	27	20	26	32	23	15	21
Somewhat acceptable	43	45	41	45	43	40	38	42	45	49	42	48	46	41
Somewhat unacceptable	18	17	19	19	20	15	22	15	21	12	16	17	23	20
Completely unacceptable	8	8	7	6	8	9	10	6	8	5	6	7	7	9
TOTAL UNACCEPTABLE	26	25	26	25	28	24	32	21	29	18	22	23	30	29
Unsure / no opinion	7	7	8	8	6	7	7	9	6	7	5	6	8	9

Q11. As a result of a City Council motion in July 2022, noise from waste collection was made exempt from the Noise Bylaw. The exemption applies specifically to actions by carriers to pick up or remove waste, it does not include sorting of waste or back-up beepers. How acceptable or unacceptable would it be to continue to allowing noise from garbage/waste collection trucks at all hours?

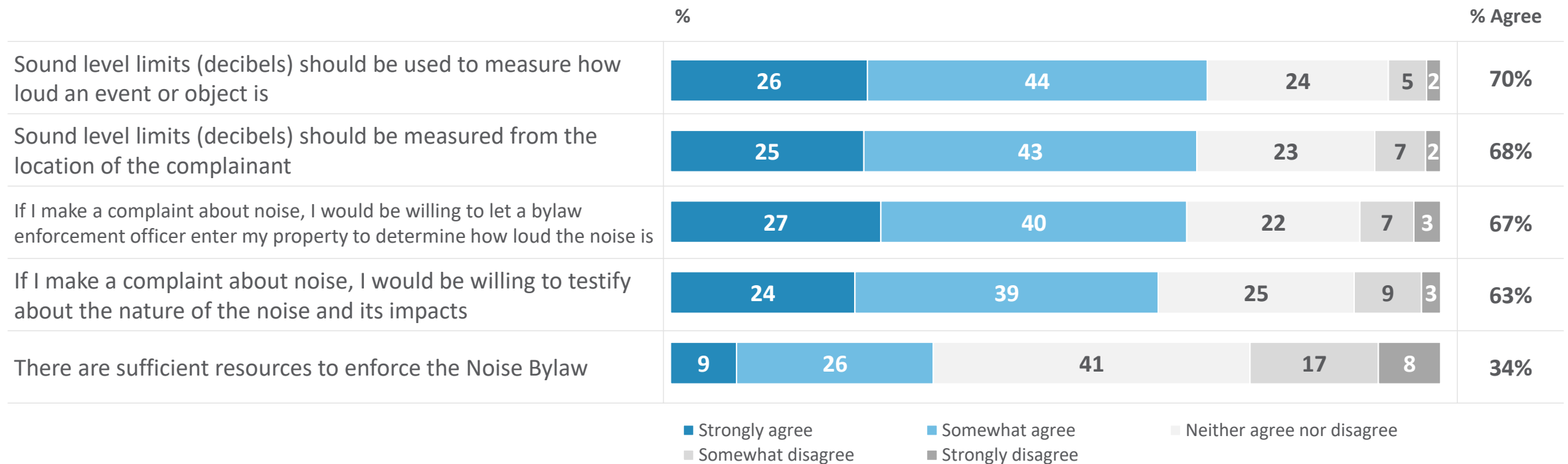
Base: Total sample

Coloured boxes indicate a percentage is significantly higher/lower than others in the segment

LEVEL OF AGREEMENT WITH NOISE BYLAW ENFORCEMENT STATEMENTS

The majority agree with using sound level limits (decibels) to enforce the Noise Bylaw, with 70% agreeing that they should be used to measure how loud an event or object is, and 68% agreeing they should be measured from the location of the complainant.

- The majority of residents also indicate they are willing to let a bylaw enforcement officer enter their house if they make a complaint (67%) and that they would be willing to testify in court to support charges (63%).
- Only about one-third (35%) agree that there are sufficient resources to enforce the Noise Bylaw.



Q12. Please indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

Base: Total sample (n=1000)

LEVEL OF AGREEMENT WITH NOISE BYLAW ENFORCEMENT STATEMENTS

By region, those living in Toronto-East York are significantly less likely to believe that there are sufficient resources to support the enforcement of the Noise Bylaw.

- And, residents of Toronto-East York (69%) and North York (68%) are more willing to testify in court to support their noise complaint than residents in Scarborough (59%) or Etobicoke/York (55%).
- By age, residents aged 18-34 are less likely to feel that sound level limits should be used to measure how loud an event or object is (64%) or that sound level limits should be measured from the location of complainant (60%) than older residents.

% STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT AGREE

	TOTAL	GENDER		AGE			REGION			
		Men	Women	18-34	35-54	55+	Toronto/ East York	Etobicoke/ York	North York	Scar- borough
		B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
n=	1000	499	500	365	360	275	317	216	236	232
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Sound level limits (decibels) should be used to measure how loud an event or object is	70	70	70	64	72	74	71	64	71	72
Sound level limits (decibels) should be measured from the location of the complainant	68	71	66	60	71	76	68	67	68	71
If I make a complaint about noise, I would be willing to let a bylaw enforcement officer enter my property to determine how loud the noise is	67	66	68	61	67	74	69	63	70	64
If I make a complaint about noise, I would be willing to testify about the nature of the noise and its impacts	63	65	62	58	65	69	69	55	68	59
There are sufficient resources to enforce the Noise Bylaw	34	35	33	39	35	28	25	38	41	36

Q12. Please indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

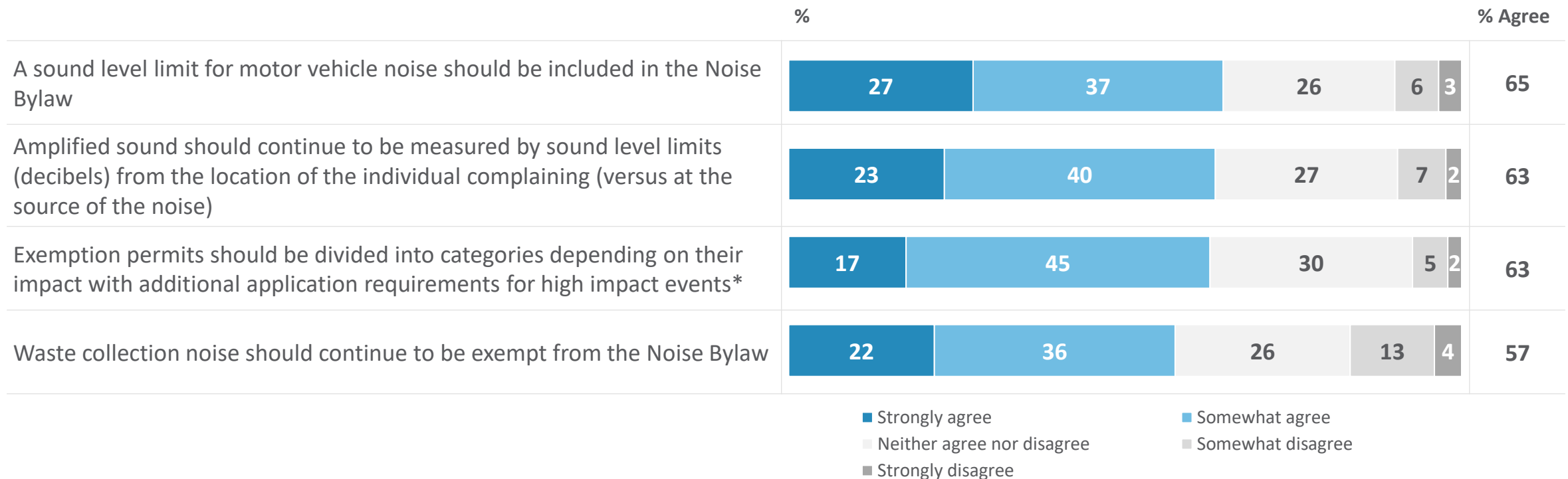
Base: Total sample

Coloured boxes indicate a percentage is significantly higher/lower than others in the segment

SOUND LEVEL LIMITS AND NOISE EXEMPTIONS

Two-thirds (65%) of City residents agree that a sound level limit for motor vehicle noise should be included in the Noise Bylaw, with 27% ‘strongly’ agreeing. A similar proportion (63%) agree that amplified sound should be measured from the location of the complainant.

- In terms of exemptions, a majority agree that exemption permits should be divided into categories based on their impact (63%) and that waste collection noise should continue to be exempt from the bylaw (57%).



Q13. Please indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

Base: Total sample (n=1000)

* Full statement: Exemption permits should be divided into categories depending on their impact (for example - number of attendees, type of equipment, duration, and location) with additional application requirements for high impact events

SOUND LEVEL LIMITS AND NOISE EXEMPTIONS

By region, residents of Etobicoke-York and Scarborough are most likely to agree that waste collection noise should continue to be exempt from the bylaw.

% STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT AGREE

	TOTAL	GENDER		AGE			REGION			
		Men	Women	18-34	35-54	55+	Toronto/ East York	Etobicoke/ York	North York	Scar- borough
		B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
n=	1000	499	500	365	360	275	317	216	236	232
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
A sound level limit for motor vehicle noise should be included in the Noise Bylaw	65	64	65	61	66	67	68	57	68	63
Amplified sound should continue to be measured by sound level limits (decibels) from the location of the individual complaining (versus at the source of the noise)	63	62	65	55	68	68	59	61	68	67
Exemption permits should be divided into categories depending on their impact (for example - number of attendees, type of equipment, duration, and location) with additional application requirements for high impact events	63	62	63	59	67	62	63	57	63	67
Waste collection noise should continue to be exempt from the Noise Bylaw	57	57	58	54	58	62	50	65	54	64

Q13. Please indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

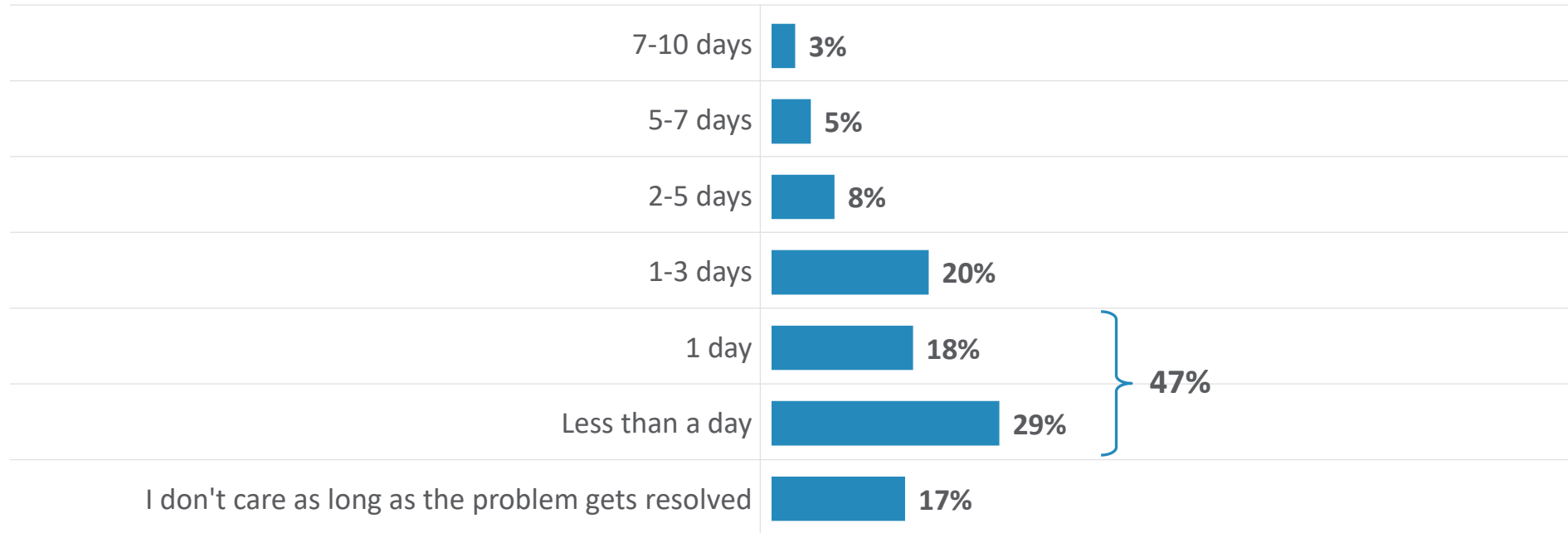
Base: Total sample

Coloured boxes indicate a percentage is significantly higher/lower than others in the segment

IDEAL RESPONSE TIME FOR NOISE COMPLAINTS

Overall, residents expect rapid response times to noise complaints, with about half (47%) believing that a bylaw enforcement officer should respond to a noise complaint in one day or less. A further 20% believe 1-3 days is acceptable.

- Of note, about one-in-five (17%) indicate they don't care as long as the problem gets resolved.



Q14. A bylaw enforcement officer should respond to a noise complaint within...

Base: Total sample (n=1000)

3

CONCERNS ABOUT NOISE (TYPES AND SOURCES)

MOST IMPORTANT TYPES OF NOISE TO RESTRICT IN RESPONDENTS' NEIGHBOURHOODS

Noise related to construction (24%) and traffic (18%) are most frequently cited as the **single most important type of noise** for the City of Toronto to restrict and minimize in residents' neighbourhoods.

- Of note, one-third (33%) of Toronto residents indicate they typically don't have noise in their neighbourhood.

Construction/renovation/drilling/excavation/construction equipment/engines	24%
Traffic/vehicle/cars/motorcycles/car racing/loud cars/cars modified to be loud/honking	18%
Music/loud music/singing	5%
Entertainment/concerts/events/parties	4%
Loud people/noisy neighbours/shouting/arguments/random people on the street yelling	3%
Yard work/lawn mower/leaf blower	2%
Amplified noises/loud speakers/sound system	2%
Fireworks/firecrackers	2%
Waste management vehicles/garbage trucks	1%
Bars/restaurants/clubbing/nightclubs	1%
Emergency vehicle sirens/ambulance/fire truck	1%
Pets/dogs barking	1%
All noises/any/anything	<1%
Commercial/noisy businesses (all others)	<1%
Other	2%
My neighbourhood does not typically have noise	33%
Don't know	16%

Q7. What type of noise is the most important for the City of Toronto to restrict and minimize in your neighbourhood?

Base: Total sample (n=1000)

MOST IMPORTANT TYPES OF NOISE TO RESTRICT IN RESPONDENTS' NEIGHBOURHOODS

By region, residents of Toronto-East York are the most likely to feel that it is important to restrict construction noise in their neighbourhood (33%), and the least likely to say their neighbourhood does not typically have noise (23%).

	TOTAL	GENDER		AGE			REGION			
		Men	Women	18-34	35-54	55+	Toronto/ East York	Etobicoke/ York	North York	Scar- borough
		B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
n=	1000	499	500	365	360	275	317	216	236	232
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Construction/renovation/drilling/excavation/construction equipment/ engines	24	24	24	23	26	22	33	20	19	21
Traffic/vehicle/cars/motorcycles/car racing/loud cars/cars modified to be loud/honking	18	19	18	17	20	18	17	20	21	16
Music/loud music/singing	5	4	6	4	7	4	5	7	3	6
Entertainment/concerts/events/parties	4	4	4	6	3	2	4	3	4	5
Loud people/noisy neighbours/shouting/arguments/random people on the street yelling	3	3	3	2	3	4	3	3	2	3
Yard work/lawn mower/leaf blower	2	2	2	1	2	4	2	1	3	2
Amplified noises/loud speakers/sound system	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	4
Fireworks/firecrackers	2	1	3	1	2	2	1	3	1	2
My neighbourhood does not typically have noise	33	33	32	34	28	38	23	36	37	39
Don't know	16	14	17	18	15	15	17	17	16	13

NOTE: results below 2% are not shown in demographic analysis – no differences to report

Q7. What type of noise is the most important for the City of Toronto to restrict and minimize in your neighbourhood?




















Base: Total sample

Coloured boxes indicate a percentage is significantly higher/lower than others in the segment

MOST BOTHERSOME TYPES OF NOISE

Building construction noise and noise from motorcycles are most frequently identified as the noises that are the most bothersome, with one-third of residents citing each of these types of noises.

- Home construction noise, traffic noise from cars, noise from residential homes, lawn maintenance equipment noise, and alarm sounds are in the next tier of noises that bother residents the most.

Building construction noise (for example: condo developments)	 33%
Motorcycle noise	 33%
Home construction noise (for example: renovations)	 21%
Traffic noise from cars	 21%
Noise from residential houses (for example: music, parties, etc.)	 19%
Lawn maintenance equipment noise (for example: leaf blower, lawn mower)	 17%
Alarm sounds (for example: car alarms, fire alarms)	 16%
Pet or animal noise (for example: dog barking)	 12%
Sirens from emergency vehicles	 12%
Outdoor music concerts	 8%
Noise from waste collection	 8%
Noise from bars, restaurants, or nightclubs	 7%
Airplanes	 6%
Noise from public transit	 6%
Delivery and loading of items by truck	 4%
Noise from street cleaners	 3%
Noise from air conditioners	 2%
Other	 3%
I am not typically bothered by noise in the City of Toronto	 9%

Q8. Which, if any, of the following types of noise bother you the most. Please select up to three.

Base: Total sample (n=1000)

MOST BOTHERSOME TYPES OF NOISE

Building construction noise is found to be more bothersome among those living in an apartment or condominium 5 storeys or more (44%), those living in Toronto-East York (41%), and women (37%).

- By age, residents aged 55 and older are more likely to find motorcycle noise to be bothersome (40%), and less likely to cite traffic noise from cars (16%). Younger residents aged 18-34 are more likely to find alarm sounds to be bothersome (21%) than older residents.

	TOTAL	GENDER		AGE			REGION				HOUSE TYPE			
		Men	Women	18-34	35-54	55+	Toronto/ East York	Etobicoke / York	North York	Scar- borough	Single- family detached house	Semi- detached/ town- home/ duplex/ triplex	Apt/ condo 4 storeys or less	Apt/ Condo 5 storeys or more
	n=	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Building construction noise	33	28	37	34	35	29	41	29	31	28	24	32	30	44
Motorcycle noise	33	35	30	30	29	40	30	34	38	29	34	30	31	33
Home construction noise	21	18	24	23	20	20	19	21	26	20	21	21	19	22
Traffic noise from cars	21	20	21	23	23	16	22	17	23	19	17	22	20	24
Noise from residential houses	19	17	21	19	17	21	18	23	15	19	21	22	20	15
Lawn maintenance equipment noise	17	17	16	15	17	18	18	13	18	17	20	20	17	11
Alarm sounds	16	17	16	21	15	13	17	15	18	14	11	18	18	22
Pet or animal noise	12	12	13	9	14	15	10	14	14	13	14	11	13	12
Sirens from emergency vehicles	12	15	9	12	12	12	15	9	13	10	11	10	9	15

Q8. Which, if any, of the following types of noise bother you the most. Please select up to three.

Base: Total sample

Coloured boxes indicate a percentage is significantly higher/lower than others in the segment

OPINIONS ON AMPLIFIED SOUND FROM RESIDENCES

In terms of amplified sound generated by residences, there was the most concern about the time of day that amplified noise is being produced. That said, this was only cited by 11% of residents.

- Opinions on amplified sounds from residences tend to be similar by demographic segment.

RESIDENCES

Time of day/extended hours/prolonged/past a certain time/should be restricted (e.g., 9am to 5pm, permitted until 11pm)	11%
Music/loud music	7%
Volume level/too loud/intense/noisy/should be limited to a certain decibel level	5%
It's disruptive/affects quality of life/annoying/causes anxiety/stress (when people are trying to relax)	4%
Parties/loud parties	4%
Disturbing sleep/unable to sleep	2%
Conflicts between neighbours/disrespectful/breaking communities/residents looking for somewhere quieter to live	2%
Construction/renovation	1%
Traffic/vehicles/motorcycles/mufflers	1%
Not permitted/not following the bylaws/not fined fast enough	1%
It's completely unnecessary/no need to amplify sounds/should be mindful	1%
Problematic if living in condos/apartment buildings	1%
Concerns for children/the elderly	1%
Ear damage/not good for hearing/ear health	1%
People who are loud/rowdy	1%
I live in a quieter neighbourhood/have good neighbours	1%

Mentions of 1% and above shown

Q10. What, if any, concerns do you have about amplified sound (sound from speakers that is increased electronically) in the City of Toronto, from residences and/or businesses/commercial establishments?

Base: Total sample (n=1000)

OPINIONS ON AMPLIFIED SOUND FROM BUSINESSES/COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS

Concerns related to amplified sound coming from businesses and commercial establishments were also minimal, with less than 10% expressing concerns about any single factor related to amplified sounds.

- The time of day that amplified noise was being produced by commercial establishments (i.e., noise being made too late) again received the most responses of any concern category, at 8%.

BUSINESSES/COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS

Time of day/extended hours/prolonged/past a certain time/should be restricted (e.g., 9am to 5pm, permitted until 11pm)	8%
It's disruptive/affects quality of life/annoying/causes anxiety/stress (when people are trying to relax)	3%
Volume level/too loud/intense/noisy/should be limited to a certain decibel level	3%
Construction/renovation	2%
Music/loud music	2%
Traffic/vehicles/motorcycles/mufflers	1%
Bars/clubs	1%
Parties/loud parties	1%
Not permitted/not following the bylaws/not fined fast enough	1%

Mentions of 1% and above shown

Q10. What, if any, concerns do you have about amplified sound (sound from speakers that is increased electronically) in the City of Toronto, from residences and/or businesses/commercial establishments?

Base: Total sample

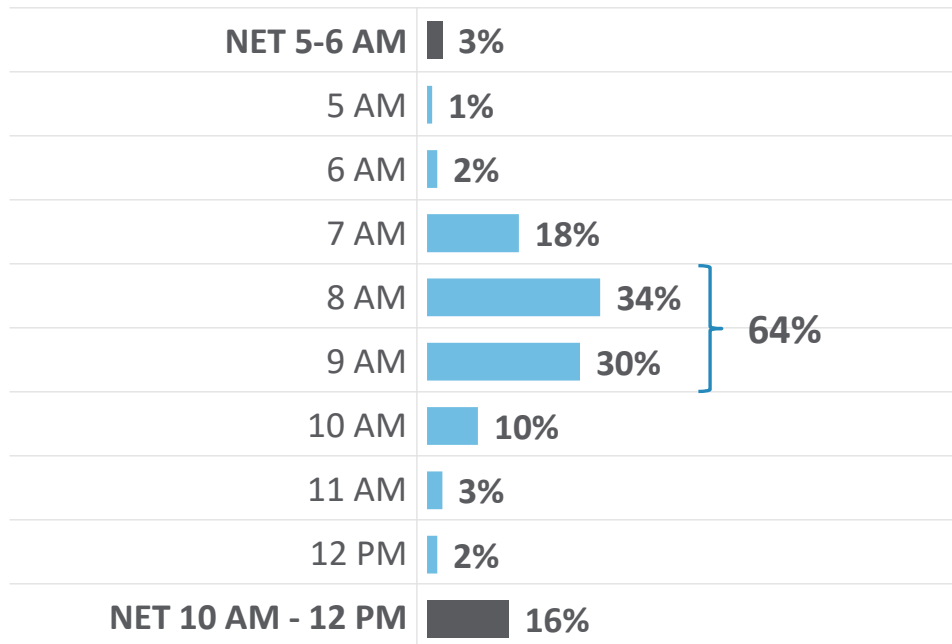
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IDEAL TIMES FOR RESTRICTING NOISE

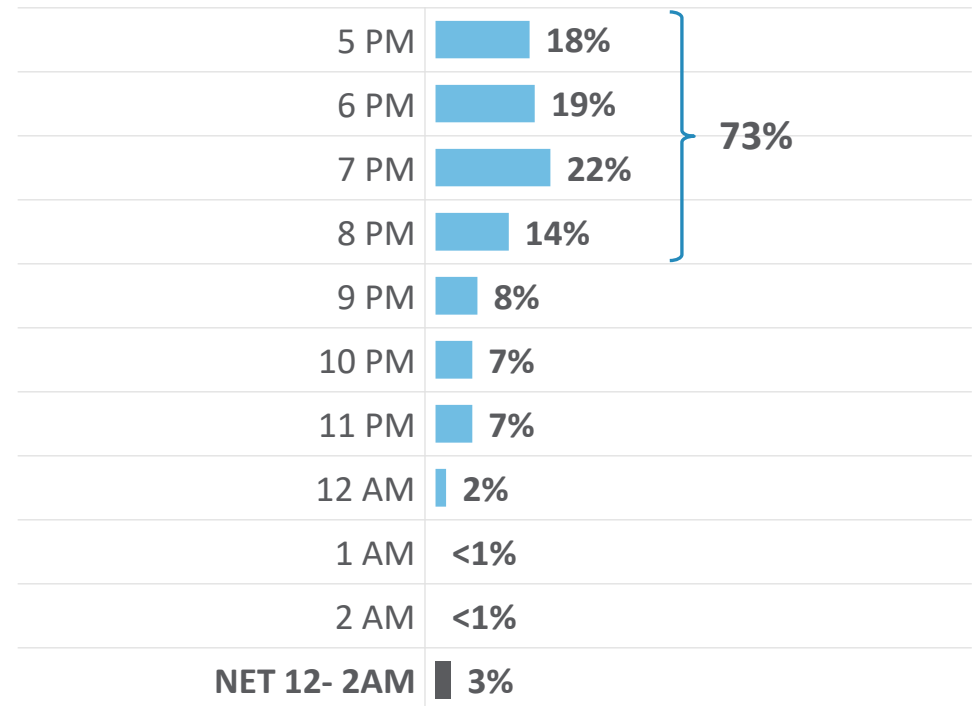
NOISE START/END TIME ON WEEKDAYS

On weekdays, a majority believe that it is acceptable for noise to begin in their neighbourhood at 8:00 am (34%) or 9:00 am (30%), while 18% find 7:00 am acceptable. For ending times, there is a broader range of times considered acceptable with the majority selecting between 5:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

BEGIN



END



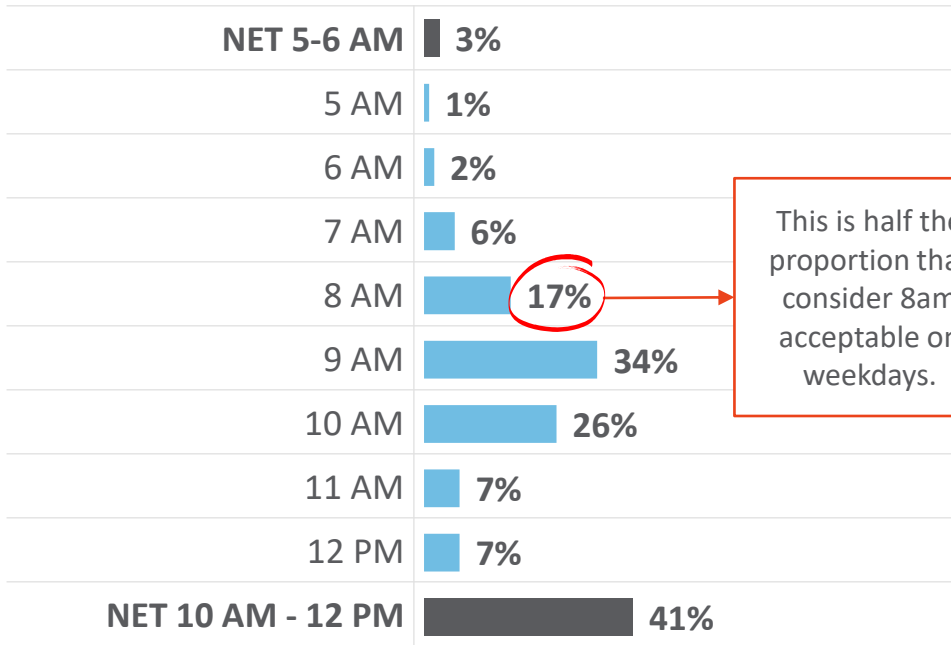
Q5. When do you believe it is an acceptable time for noise to begin and end on weekdays (Monday to Friday) in your neighbourhood?

Base: Those who indicated a preference for a specific starting time (n=798)

NOISE START/END TIME ON WEEKENDS

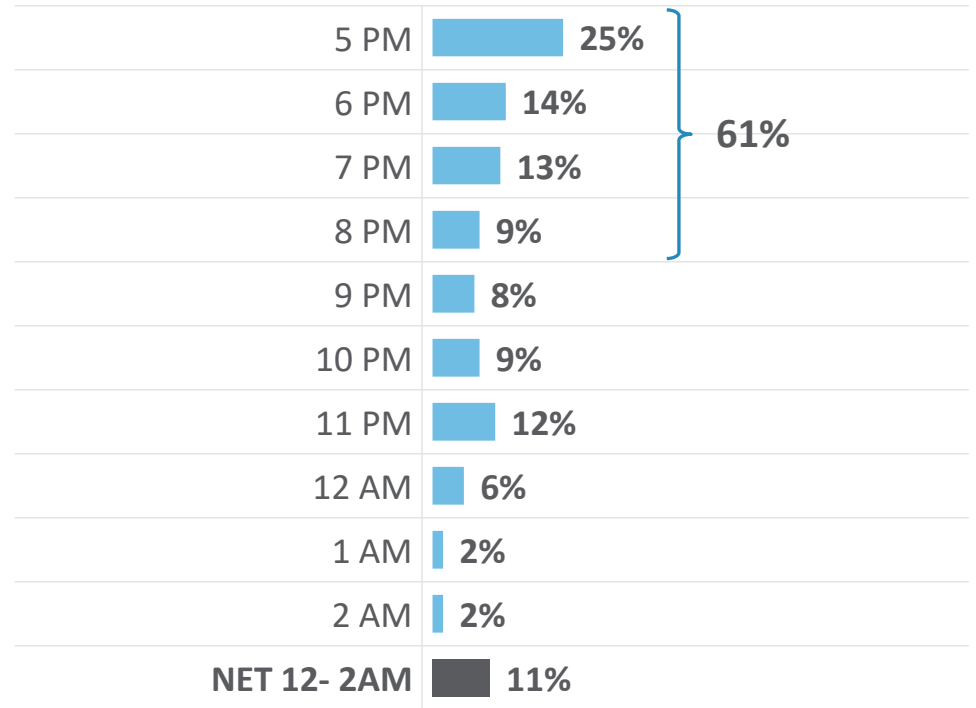
Overall, residents feel that noise should begin later on weekends than on weekdays with 9:00 am (34%) and 10:00 am (26%) being the most cited times. Again, a majority believe noise in their neighbourhood should end between 5:00 pm and 8:00 pm, although later ending times were more acceptable on weekends than on weekdays.

BEGIN



	Weekday	Weekend
7 AM	18%	6%
8 – 9 AM	64%	51%

END



	Weekday	Weekend
5 – 8 PM	73%	61%

Q6. When do you believe it is an acceptable time for noise to begin and end on weekends (Saturday and Sunday) in your neighbourhood?

Base: Those who indicated a preference for a specific starting time (n=708)

DEMOGRAPHICS

Respondent Profile

LANGUAGE DO YOU PREFER SPEAKING n=1000

90%	English
10%	NET OTHER

BORN IN CANADA n=1000

58%	Yes
41%	No
1%	Prefer not to answer

GENDER n=1000

50%	Male
50%	Female
<1%	Transgender
<1%	Prefer not to answer

AGE n=1000

12%	18-24
25%	25-34
21%	35-44
15%	45-54
17%	55-64
10%	65+

REGION n=1000

3%	EAST YORK
18%	ETOBICOKE
24%	NORTH YORK
23%	SCARBOROUGH
29%	TORONTO
4%	YORK

HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION n=1000

2%	Some high school
12%	Graduated high school
9%	Some college/CEGEP/Trade school
15%	Graduated college/CEGEP/Trade school
3%	Some university, did not finish
32%	University undergraduate degree
25%	University graduate degree
1%	Prefer not to answer

YEARS LIVED IN THE CITY OF TORONTO n=1000

4%	Under 1 year
13%	1 to just under 5 years
10%	5 to just under 10 years
14%	10 to just under 20 years
57%	20 years or more
<1%	Don't know/not sure
1%	Prefer not to answer

TOTAL HH INCOME BEFORE TAXES n=1000

17%	Under \$39,999
15%	\$40,000 - \$59,999
16%	\$60,000-\$79,999
13%	\$80,000 - \$99,999
19%	\$100,000 - \$149,999
11%	\$150,000 or more
2%	Don't know/not sure
6%	Prefer not to answer

TYPES OF HOUSING THAT BEST DESCRIBES WHERE YOU LIVE n=1000

34%	Single-family detached house
14%	Single-family semi-detached, townhome, or row house
2%	Duplex, triplex, or rooming house
11%	Apartment or condominium 4 storeys or less
35%	Apartment or condominium 5 storeys or more
1%	Other
1%	Don't know/not sure
2%	Prefer not to answer

RENT OR OWN CURRENT RESIDENCE n=1000

49%	I own my residence
45%	I rent my residence
2%	Other
1%	Don't know
3%	Prefer not to answer

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN HOUSEHOLD n=1000

22%	1
29%	2
22%	3
17%	4
6%	5
2%	More than 5
2%	Prefer not to answer

HAVE CHILDREN n=1000

41%	Yes
57%	No
2%	Prefer not to answer