



MOVING TO OPPORTUNITY

Evaluation of HOME's Move to Opportunity Program

MOVE TO OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

Housing Opportunities Made Equal's Move to Opportunity Program began in 2014 and works to give families with Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV) the chance to move to a low-poverty neighborhood. The program uses counseling, tenant education, and landlord recruitment services to assist households find housing of their choice. The program was established based on research that shows that children in low-income families have better lifetime outcomes if they live in low-poverty neighborhoods. With essential supports, the move to high-opportunity (low-poverty) environments transforms the lives of families and provides access to better educational, employment, and social opportunities.

This report was made possible with the support of the Robins Foundation.

In early 2018, HOME administered a survey to better understand the impact its mobility counseling program has on families with children. In total, the survey was sent to the entire population of families with children that have participated in HOME's mobility program, i.e., those that have received counseling and moved to a new location of their choice. 96 surveys were sent out; 44 surveys were returned. Given a 46% response rate, the results have a margin of error +/- 8% at the 85% confidence level.

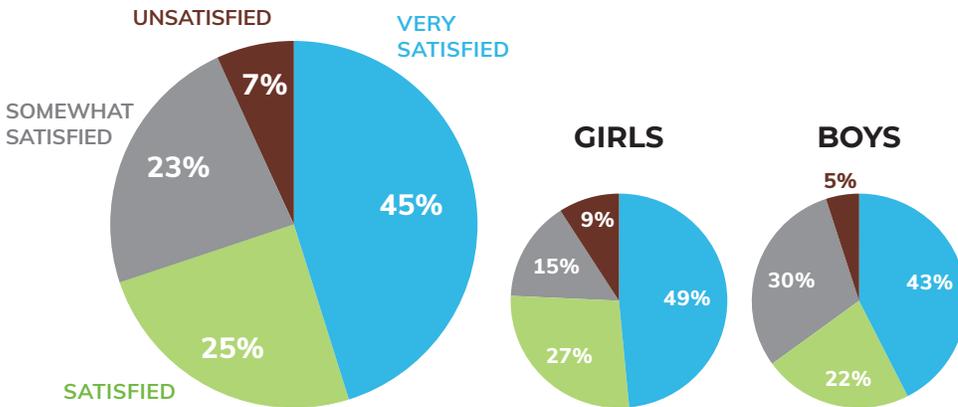


EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY

Research has shown that moving to higher-opportunity areas significantly boosts the later earnings of children provided that they move at a relatively young age^[1]. The 44 households that responded to the survey had a total of 73 school-age children.

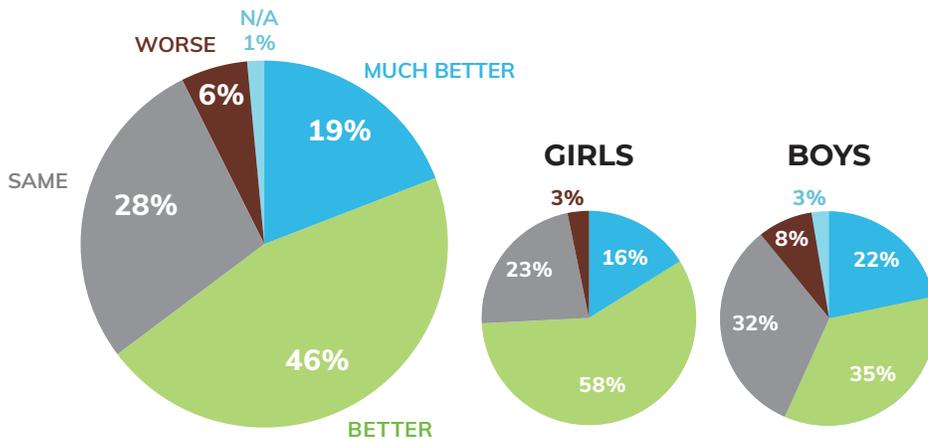
[1] Chetty, Raj, Nathaniel Hendren and Lawrence F. Katz. 2016. The Effects of Exposure to Better Neighborhoods on Children: New Evidence from the Moving to Opportunity Experiment. American Economic Review 106, no. 4: 855-902. DOI: 10.1257/aer.20150572

OVERALL, HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH YOUR CHILDREN'S SCHOOLS?



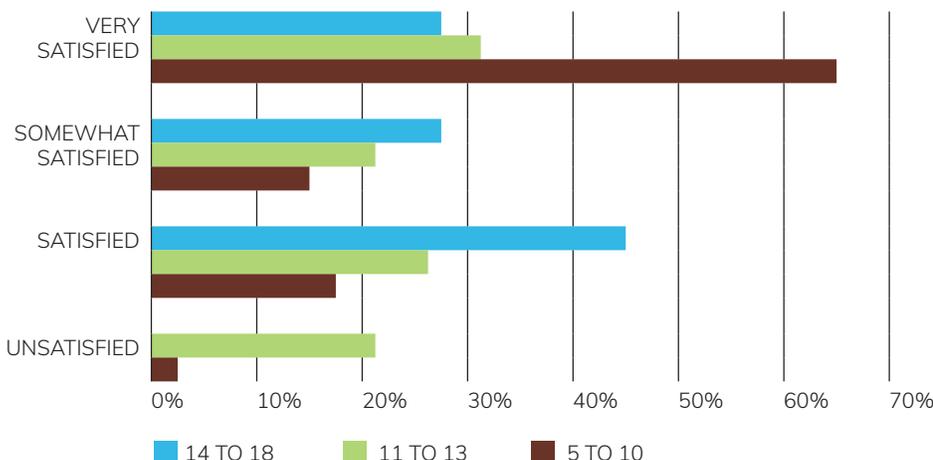
70% of respondents indicated that they were satisfied or very satisfied with the school(s) their child(ren) were attending after they moved.

HOW WELL ARE YOUR CHILDREN LEARNING IN THEIR CURRENT SCHOOL(S)?



65% of respondents indicated that their child(ren) were learning better or much better than previously; 19% indicated that their child(ren) were learning much better; and 46% were learning better than previously.

HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH YOUR CHILDREN'S SCHOOLS?



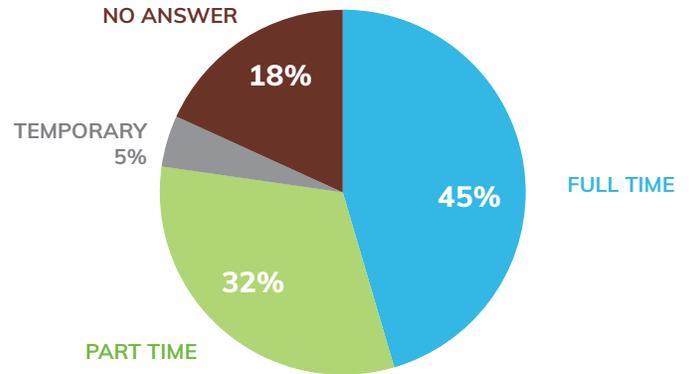
Parents of 5- to 10-year-olds expressed the highest levels of school satisfaction with 65% indicating that they were very satisfied with their schools. 32% of parents of 11- to 13-year-olds were very satisfied.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Employment is a primary determinant of housing stability. We asked several employment related questions to better understand how employment relates to the mobility counseling program. Half of the 44 respondents indicated that the head of household is employed.

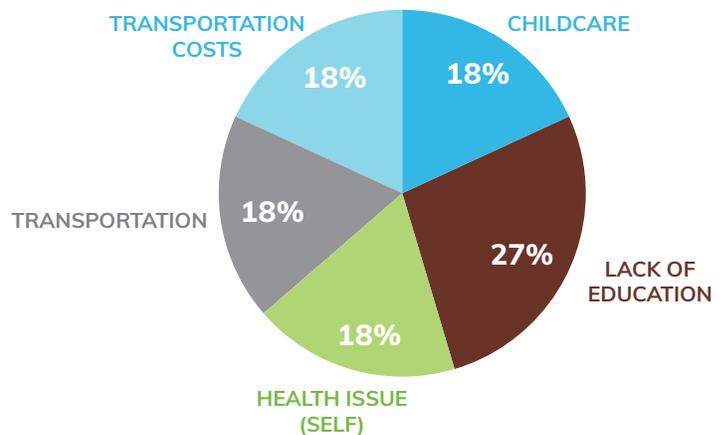
EMPLOYED

50% of respondents indicated they were employed. 45% are employed full time and 32% are employed part time.



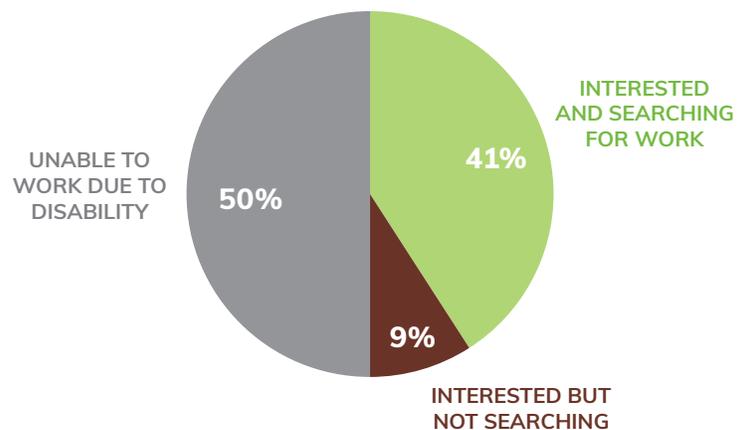
CURRENT BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT

Barriers to finding employment for the relatively small percentage of mobility clients who are currently unemployed are varied with no single predominant issue. Many of these barriers were also found to be negative aspects of their new neighborhood.



UNEMPLOYED

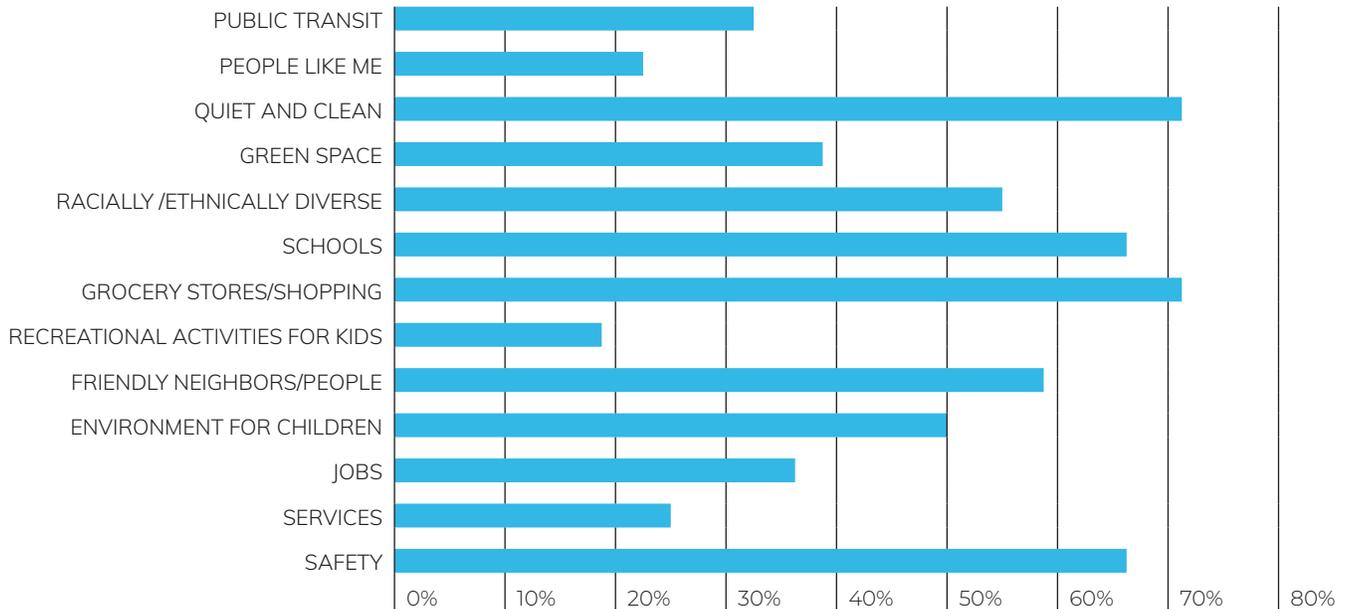
50% of those that are unemployed indicated that they are unable to work due to a disability and 40% are searching for work. Just two respondents indicated that they were not currently searching for work. Reasons for not currently searching for employment included a recent accident and the cost of child care.



COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY

We were also interested in learning more about neighborhood-level characteristics that clients found to be both positive and negative. 32% of respondents indicated that their current neighborhood was too expensive and 25% indicated that public transportation was inadequate to meet their needs.

WHAT, IF ANY, ASPECT OF YOUR CURRENT COMMUNITY DO YOU FIND TO BE POSITIVE?



"Now that I have a voucher, I feel more secure. I just needed a chance and HOME helped make this happen for me and my family."

