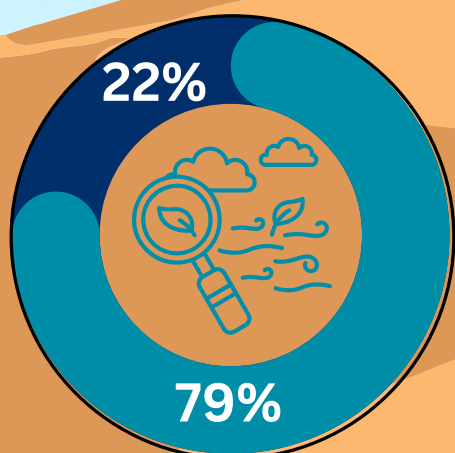


# COACHELLA VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACT COMMUNITIES THAT ARE UNDERSERVED AND HISTORICALLY MARGINALIZED. THE COACHELLA VALLEY EPITOMIZES THIS, WITH REPORTS OF POOR AIR QUALITY CONCENTRATED AMONG RESIDENTS WHO ARE HISPANIC, YOUNGER, AND LOW-INCOME.

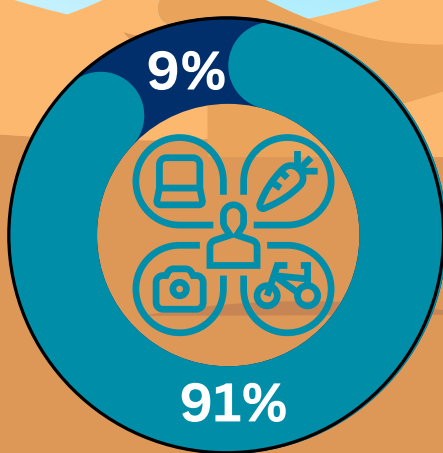
EASTERN COACHELLA VALLEY RESIDENTS ALSO HAVE REPORTED OTHER CONCERNS, SUCH AS THE HEALTH IMPACTS FROM PESTICIDES AND UNSAFE DRINKING WATER. THIS PROVIDES FINDINGS FROM A SURVEY AND INTERVIEWS ABOUT RESIDENTS' OPINIONS ON THE ENVIRONMENT.

## Environment Perceptions



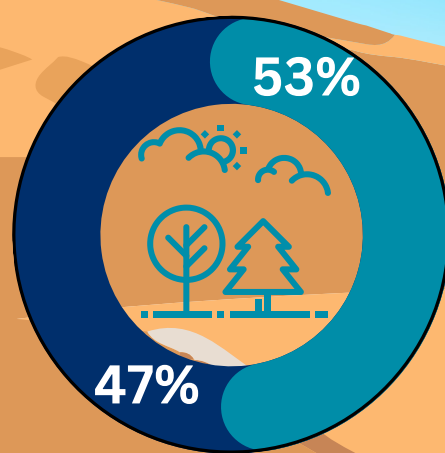
### Air quality in neighborhoods

MORE THAN THREE-QUARTERS (79%) OF ADULTS REPORTED THAT THE AIR QUALITY IN THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD IS GOOD, VERY GOOD, OR EXCELLENT.



### Willingness to change lifestyle

MAJORITY (91%) OF ADULTS REPORTED, THEY ARE SOMEWHAT, VERY, OR EXTREMELY WILLING TO CHANGE THEIR LIFESTYLE.

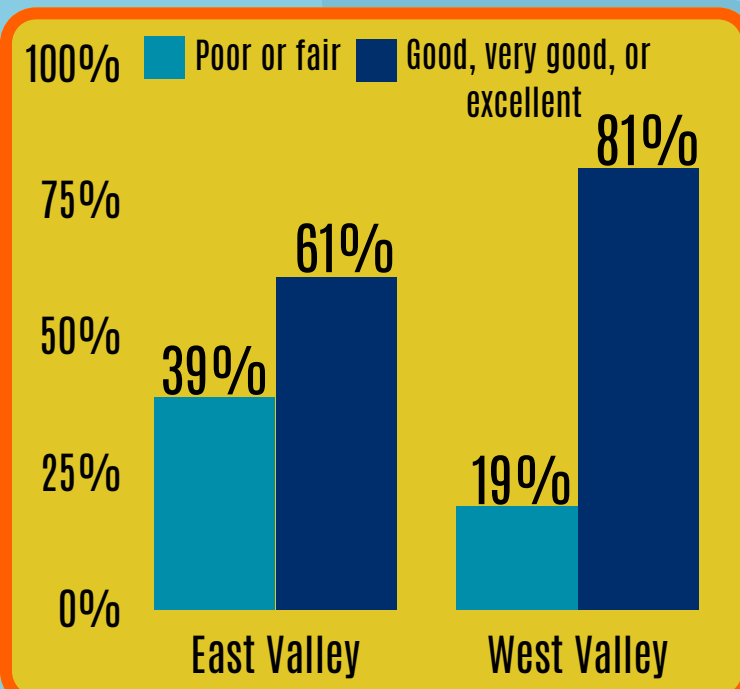


### Poor air quality outdoors

ABOUT HALF (47%) OF RESPONDENTS REPORTED THAT POOR AIR QUALITY DOES INDEED STOP THEM FROM DOING OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES IN THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD.

## Air Quality By Region

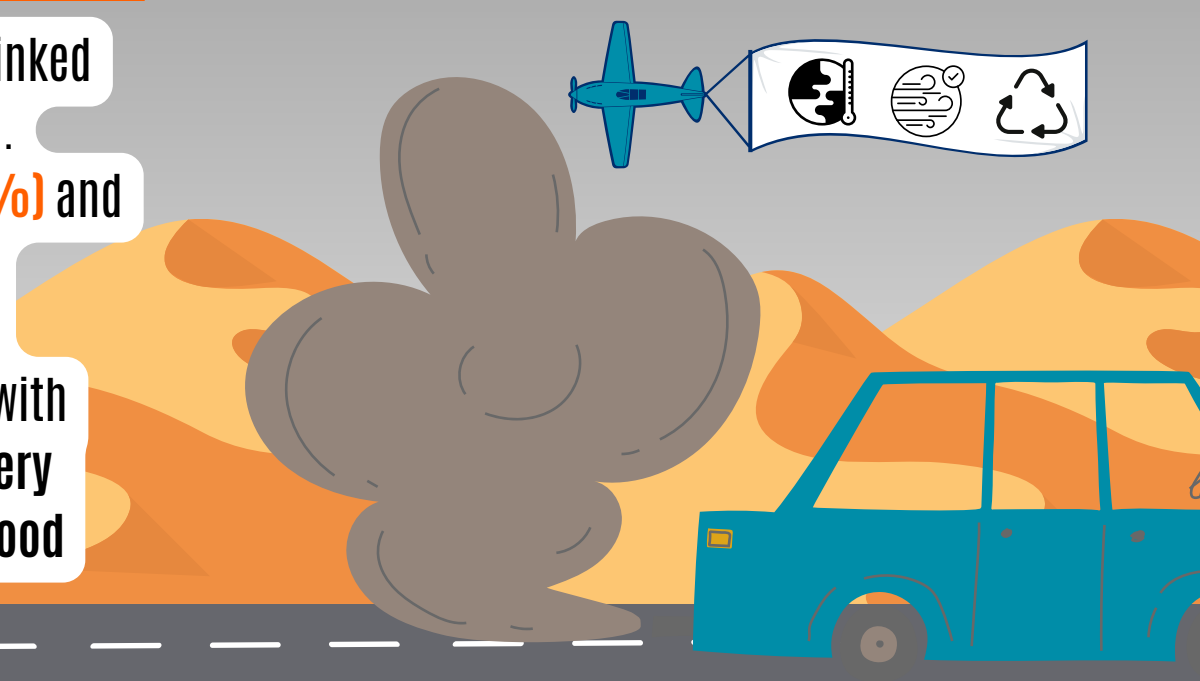
Air quality perceptions vary by region. In the Eastern Coachella Valley, 39% noted poor/fair air quality, compared to 19% in the Western Coachella Valley. This aligns with the proximity to the Salton Sea and the presence of agriculture and unpaved roads.



# Air Quality: Comparative Analysis

## General Health

Poor air quality is linked to self-rated health. Those with fair (41%) and poor health (36%) reported poorer air quality than those with excellent (19%), very good (13%), and good health (21%).



### 43%

of respondents with no health insurance reported poor or fair air quality, compared with 19% of those with health insurance.

### 32%

of those who have experienced racism reported poor or fair air quality, compared with 18% of those who haven't experienced racism.

### 30%

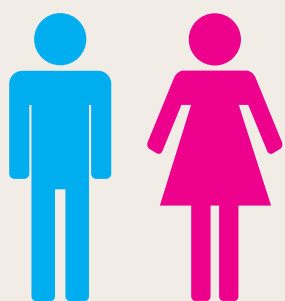
of respondents who spend less money on food to prioritize other basic needs perceive air quality as low.

### 49%

of respondents who say they do not have a safe place to walk, bike or hike report poor or fair air quality.

## Outdoor Activities Inhibited by Poor Air Quality

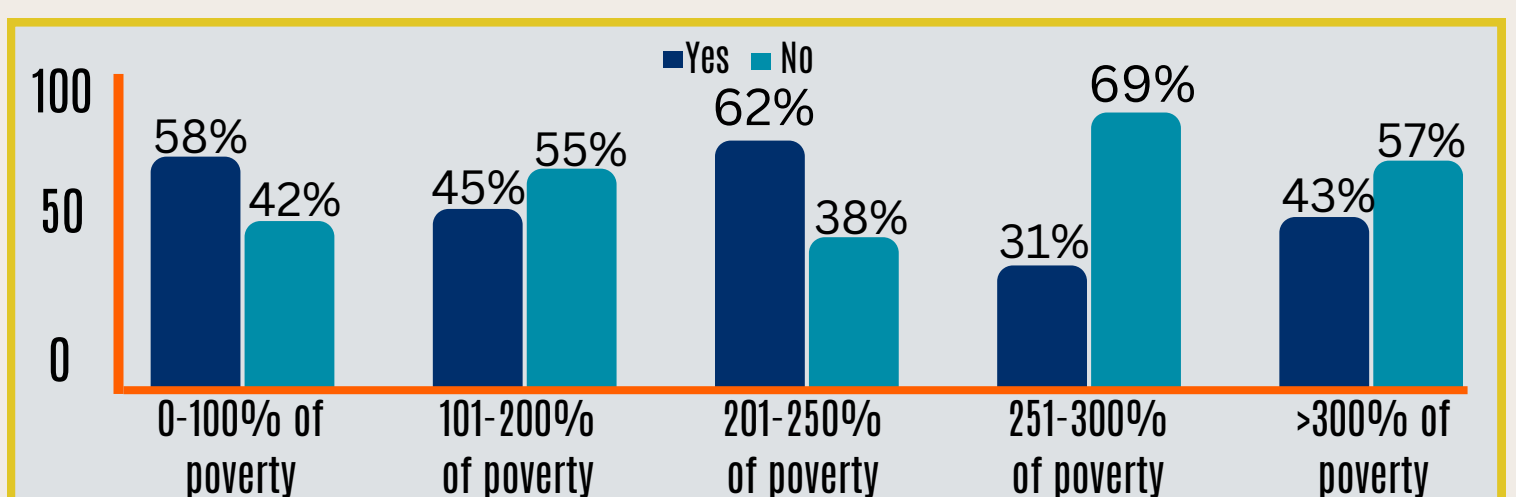
Approximately 51% of women and 44% of men indicated poor air quality inhibits their outdoor activities.

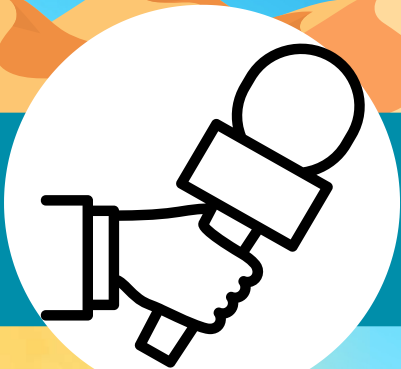


56% of adults in their 40s but only 30% adults in their 80s reported that poor air quality inhibits their outdoor activities.



58% of those living at or under the federal poverty level and only 31% of those living well above (over 2.5 to 3 times above) the poverty level reported that poor air quality inhibits their outdoor activities.





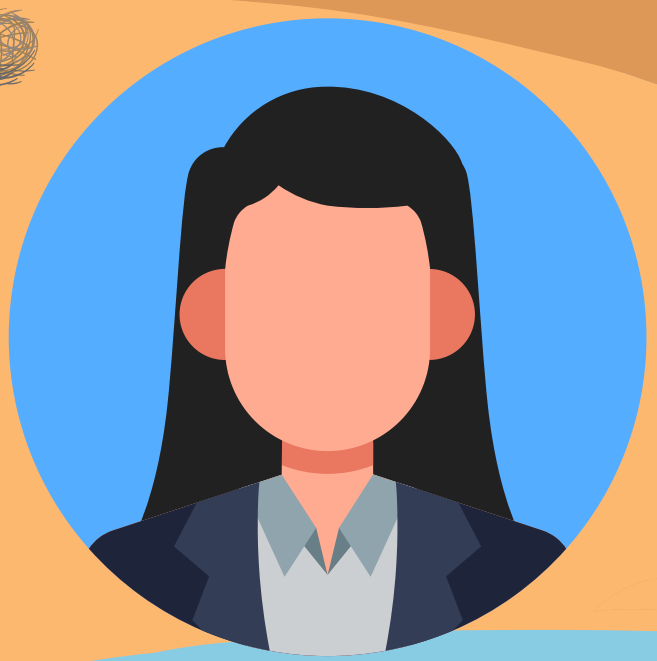
## Interview Themes: Outdoor Activity Inhibited by Poor Air Quality

Interviewees overwhelmingly stated that poor air quality hinders outdoor activities. Responses included strong winds, sandstorms, Salton Sea odor, and impacts on walking, hiking, and other outdoor leisure.



“I love being outside [in my garden], but sometimes because of the weather or the air quality it’s not possible.... Sometimes it’s hot, it’s windy, it’s cold or it smells bad—the air smells bad. The air isn’t good or it’s humid, like that.... A humidity arises and it smells bad, it smells like rotten eggs.”  
-Mecca resident

“There are a lot of allergies, a lot of asthma.... I have a daughter who ever since she was one year old, she has had asthma and allergies. She still suffers from all this. She can’t be outside for long, whether it’s cold or hot, for the same reason—the air quality.”  
-North Shore resident



“It stops me from going out—I’m trapped in my house for the same reason since because of my illness [asthma] I’m not able to have the luxury of going out when it’s windy and there’s a lot of dust and dirt, when there are strong gusts of wind—because of the dust and dirt, I’m not able to leave.”  
-North Shore resident

## Other Environmental Health Concerns

Interviewees mentioned not only air quality but also other concerns, such as pesticides, the Salton Sea odor, swarms of insects, heat exposure, child nosebleeds, and potable water.

“I think more than anything there [should] be **more control over pesticides**.... Many times they fumigate when people are near. That shouldn’t happen. That isn’t right.... It would be ideal [if] **they would fumigate when no one is [working] nearby.**”  
-Thermal resident



“Another [worry] also would be knowing if the water is potable, because it’s as if we have potable water, but **we don’t know if it is 100% potable [or whether] it has arsenic or some other chemical.**”  
- North Shore resident



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