



# RESILIENT NORTHEAST GEORGIA

## **DATA REPORT**

**STRONGER TOGETHER: BUILDING  
A TRAUMA-INFORMED  
NORTHEAST GEORGIA SUMMIT**

June 28, 2022

# REPORT BACKGROUND

## About the Grant and Partners



## RESILIENT NORTHEAST GEORGIA

A Fund at the Athens Area Community Foundation

**Resilient Northeast Georgia** is a special project fund at the Athens Area Community Foundation and is made possible through the generous support of **Resilient Georgia**. As a coalition, Resilient Northeast Georgia works to prevent and mitigate Adverse Childhood Experiences across through 1) coordinated cross-sector initiatives, 2) trauma-informed workforce development, 3) creation of a common language around trauma, adversity, and resiliency, 4) promotion of policy, program, system, and environment change through the lens of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion, and 5) creation of a regional collaborative model.

Administration of the fund is managed out of the **Athens Area Community Foundation**, a public grantmaking organization working to shape effective responses to community needs and serving as a trusted leader, partner, and guide for local donors, nonprofits, and community institutions across the region.

Athens Area Community Foundation's Resilient Northeast Georgia fund works in direct partnership with **Georgia Family Connection Partnership's** region 5, brokering relationships with the coordinators of each of the twelve counties (Barrow, Clarke, Elbert, Greene, Jackson, Jasper, Madison, Morgan, Newton, Oconee, Oglethorpe, and Walton counties) to effect trauma-informed initiatives, trainings, and collaborative events across the entirety of the northeast Georgia region. The **Athens Wellbeing Project** provides evaluation services through the collection and utilization of primary and secondary regional data sources.



GEORGIA  
family connection  
PARTNERSHIP



Resilient  
GEORGIA

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Stronger Together Survey Results

On June 28th, 2022, the Athens Area Community Foundation's Resilient Northeast Georgia grant project, in partnership with Georgia Family Connection Partnership's region five, hosted Stronger Together: Building a Trauma-Informed Northeast Georgia, a summit that gathered together 151 individuals from across all twelve counties of the region-of-service for a day of trauma-informed learning and networking. From this event, pre- and post- summit surveys were used to measure changes in knowledge and attitudes, useful regional resources, and ways that the Resilient Northeast Georgia Coalition can lead and support trauma-informed efforts.

The results of both surveys, compiled in this report, serve as a guide for future regional action, leveraging the insights and requests of those working on the ground around the region to inform the direction of the coalition throughout the remainder of this grant cycle and beyond. As we continue working to create a trauma-informed and resilient northeast Georgia, the findings of this report will help determine our next steps as a region and at the county level, working in tandem with existing strategic plans and qualitative data sets to provide a snapshot of the region and its potential for growth.

**Summit Attendance** Summit attendees represented all 12 counties from the region, although with marked inequity in the number of participants that attended per county. The average number of attendee per county was 7, with outliers ranging from 2 to 19. Sector representation was more uniform, with most attendees representing public and social service entities, youth-serving organizations, and the community-at-large.

**Changes in Knowledge** Summit attendees reported higher confidence in their knowledge of the concept of trauma and resiliency as a result of attending the summit, marking a respective 27.4% and 34.0% increase in their perceived feelings of understanding from the beginning to the end of the summit.

**Changes in Attitudes** Summit attendees were surveyed about their perceptions of regional connectivity, having enhanced strategies for trauma prevention and mitigation, and having tangible next steps for carrying out trauma-informed work in their communities. Feelings of regional connectivity increased by 319.4% by the end of the summit, with corresponding gains in having enhanced strategies (+657.7%) and tangible next steps (+796.9%) reported. Overall, attendees reported increased confidence in their own capacity to effect and lead change in trauma-informed community work, noting requested resources and support from Resilient Northeast Georgia and regional partners. Attendees were also asked to rank the coalition's aims in terms of importance and relevance to their communities. From these rankings, building a common language and awareness around trauma, adversity, and resiliency emerged as the most pertinent aim, although all aims were ranked at the highest importance by attendees to within three percentage points of each other. The second aim, which deals with trauma-informed economic development activities, saw the largest percent change from the pre to post surveys with a 72.71% increase by the end of the summit.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Stronger Together Survey Results

**Sessions and Content** To ascertain the relevance, engagement levels, and resonance of the summit's topics, participants provided feedback on the event, speakers, breakout sessions, and topics covered. At the end of the summit, 77.2% indicated that the information presented was very relevant to their current job, with 80.2% finding the content relevant overall. 74.3% of attendees found the sessions and speakers to be very engaging and interactive. Looking ahead to the possibility of planning another summit, 91.1% of participants rated session length as "just right", with the remaining 8.9% indicating a desire for longer breakout sessions in the future. Overall, 98% of surveyed participants indicated willingness to attend a similar regional summit in the future.

**Connectivity and Next Steps** Leveraging qualitative feedback, this section of the report provides possible future directions for the region from the perspective of the summit attendees. Attendees intend to building and maintain connections made at the summit, engage with trainings and community events, find and utilize implementation tools in their own communities, and leverage trauma-informed strategies in their own communities. To support these efforts, respondents requested access to additional trainings, connections, and resources from Resilient Northeast Georgia.

### Key Takeaways

After conducting an analysis of trends in participant responses from the pre- and post-surveys, the following themes emerged related to desired next steps and resources;

- 1. Building social capital across county lines.** Summit attendees expressed a desire to engage in conversations and form deeper relationships with people from other sectors of the community as well as from different counties across the region.
- 2. Connection to resources to enhance county-level approaches.** Summit participants expressed a desire to take a more active role in local trauma-informed work. Finding ways to go beyond trauma awareness by learning to leverage data from local and regional sources, communicate with and build coalitions more effectively, and engage stakeholders in innovative and meaningful ways ranked highly.
- 3. Strategies for implementing training, interventions, and approaches to trauma.** Survey respondents are seeking peer-to-peer guidance in implementation, both from Resilient Northeast Georgia and from other regional partners. Trends in the data suggest that respondents are looking for practical applications for the information and resources they're amassing related to trauma-informed community efforts.
- 4. Building skills related to policy and advocacy activities.** Communities and organizations are actively seeking strategies and skills for influencing legislators and policymakers through advocacy, both locally and regionally.

# OVERVIEW OF FINDINGS

## Stronger Together Survey Results

151

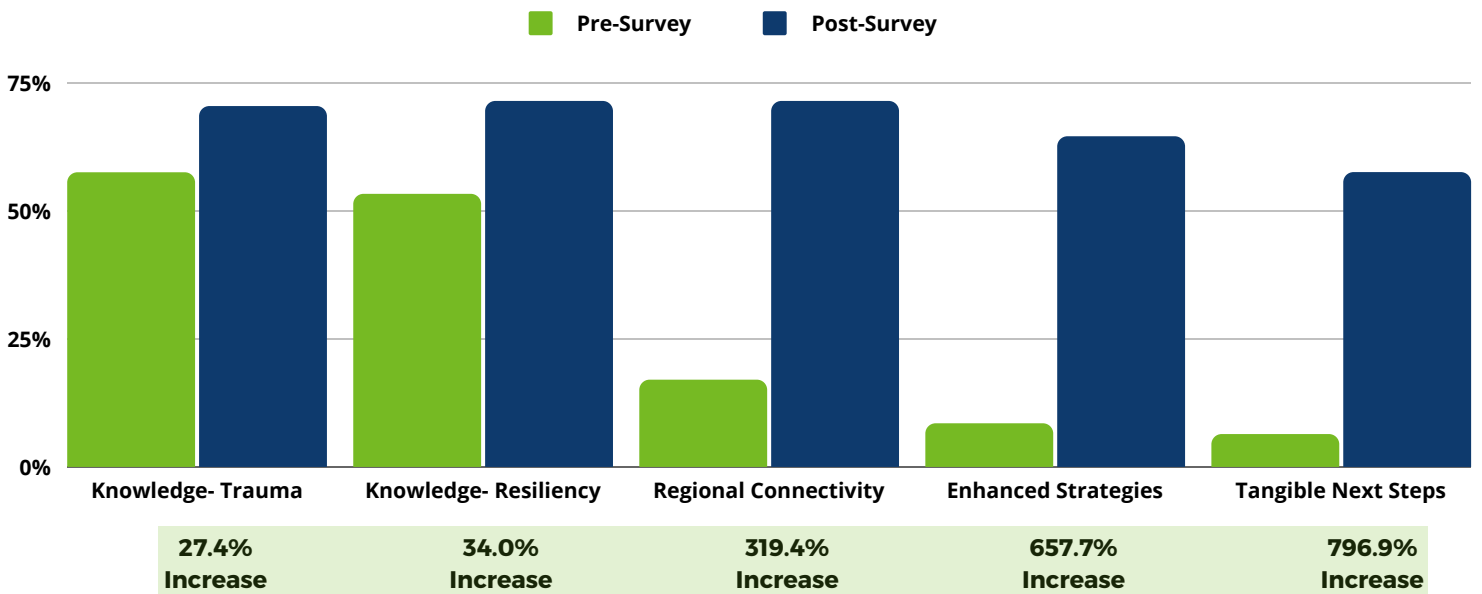
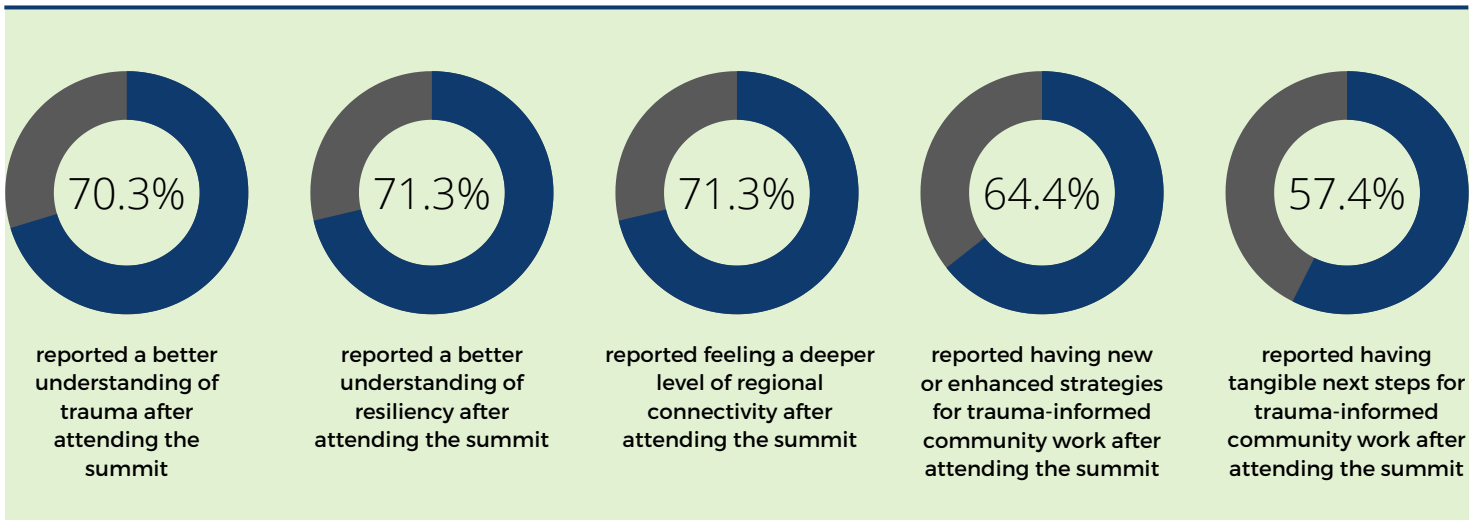
Summit  
Attendees

12

Counties  
Represented

65

Organizations  
Present



# ATTENDANCE

## Organizations Represented

Athens Community Council on Aging

ACTS(Area Churches Together Serving)

Advantage Behavioral Health Systems

Adventure Bags

Athens Clarke County Library

Barrow County Family Connection

Boys And Girls Club of North Central Georgia

Brightpaths (Prevent Child Abuse Athens)

CareSource

Chico's FAS

Clarke County School District Early Head Start / Head Start

Clarke/Oconee County DFCS

Commerce City Schools

Community Christmas

Community Partnership of Elbert County

CPEC- PARENTS AS TEACHERS

DECAL

Department of Juvenile Justice

Department of Public Health

Dept of Community Supervision

DFCS

Easter Seals of North GA

Elbert County Primary School

Envision Athens

Family Connection-CIS of Athens

Ferst Readers of Greene County

GA Department of Public Health

Georgia Family Connection Partnership

Georgia Power / Madison County Chamber

Georgia State University

GNR Public Health

Greene County School System

Greene/Jasper Family Connection

Harmony House

Jasper County Preschool

Jasper County School System

Jubilee Partners

JustServe

Katie Deans Counseling LLC

Madison Area Resource Team/FC

Madison County Library

Madison County Mentor Program

Morgan County First Steps Program

Morgan County Parents as Teachers

Newton County Family Connection

Newton County Juvenile Court

Newton County Schools

Oconee Chamber

Oglethorpe County Emergency Services

Oglethorpe County School System

Oglethorpe County Sheriff Office

Parent Mentor Greene County

Peace Place

Piedmont CASA

Project Safe

Reboot Jackson

Ridgeview Institute Monroe

Social Empowerment

Spread Love of Georgia/ Madison City Council

The Tree House Inc

UGA Extension

View Point Health

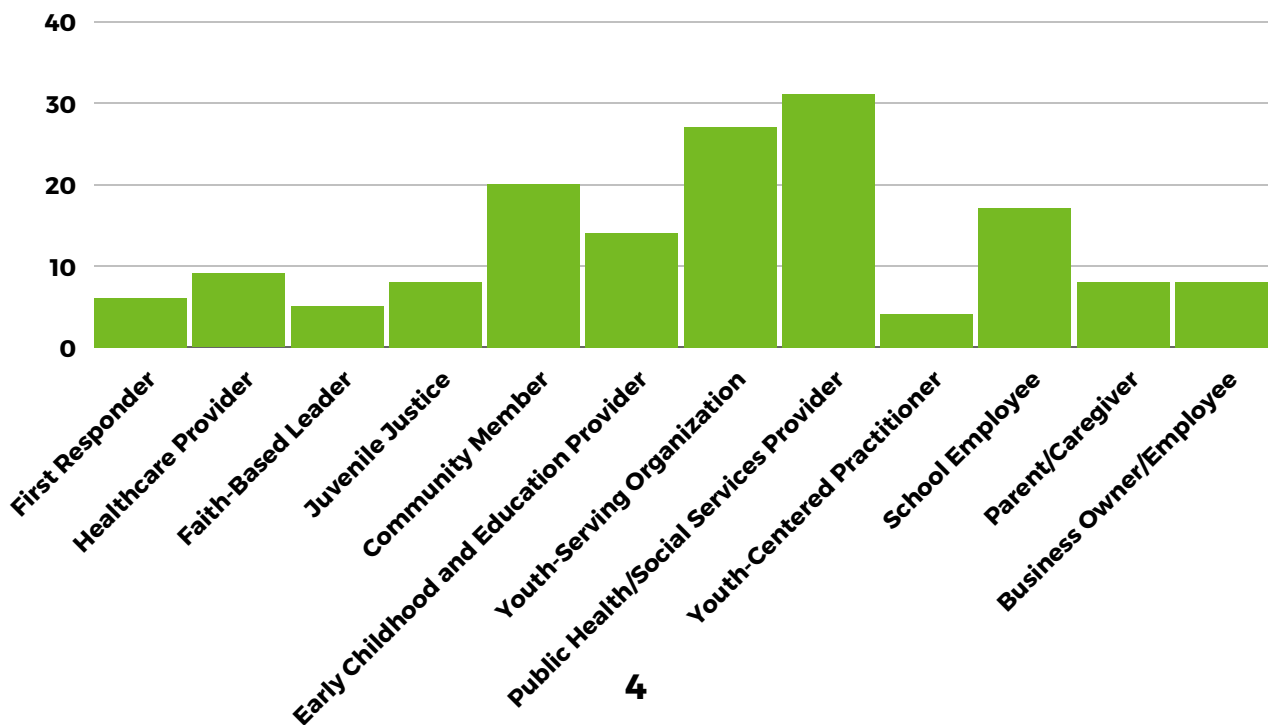
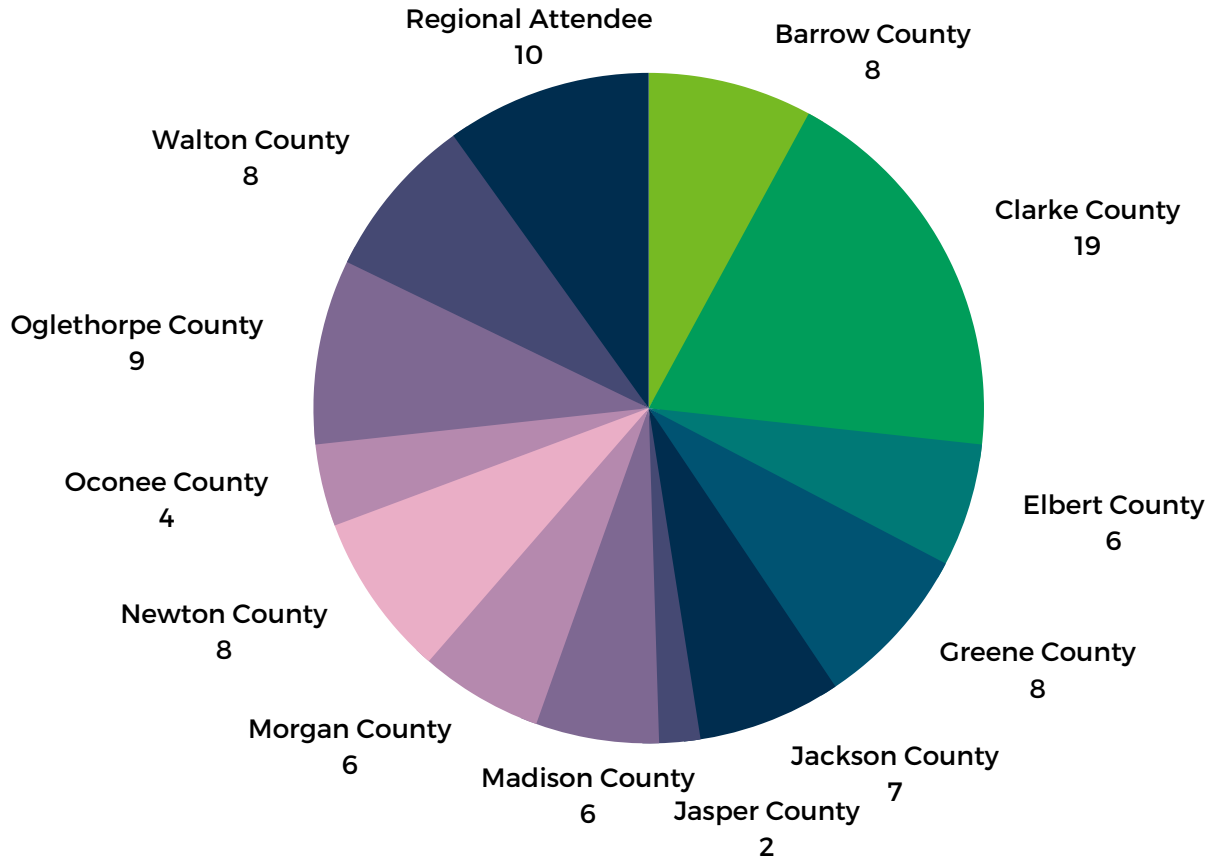
Walton County School District

Western Circuit Juvenile Court

Western Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office

# ATTENDANCE

## County and Sector Representation





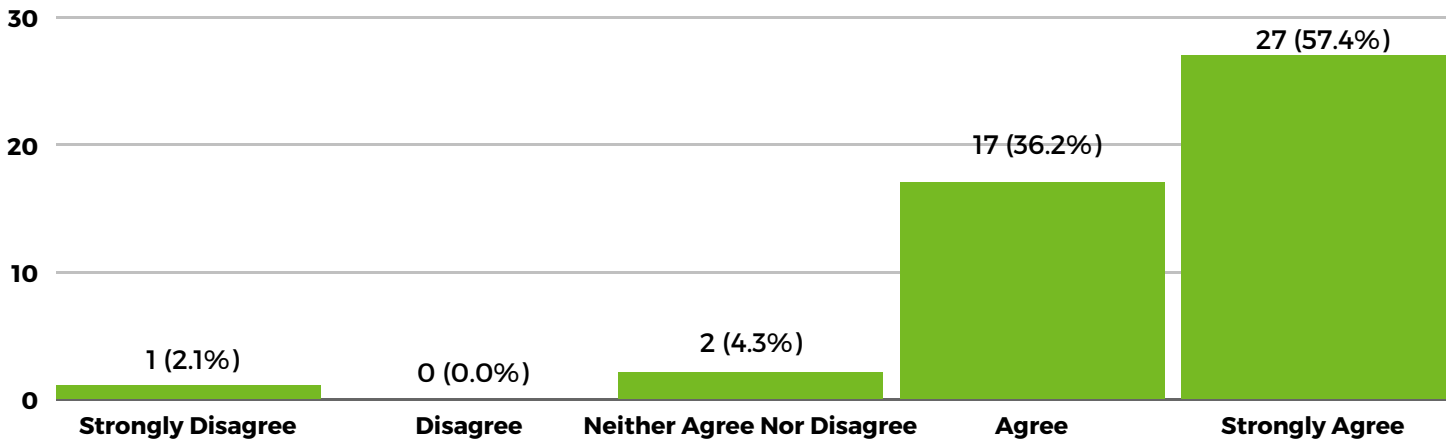
# CHANGE IN KNOWLEDGE

## Trauma

### Pre-Summit

I know what the word "trauma" means.

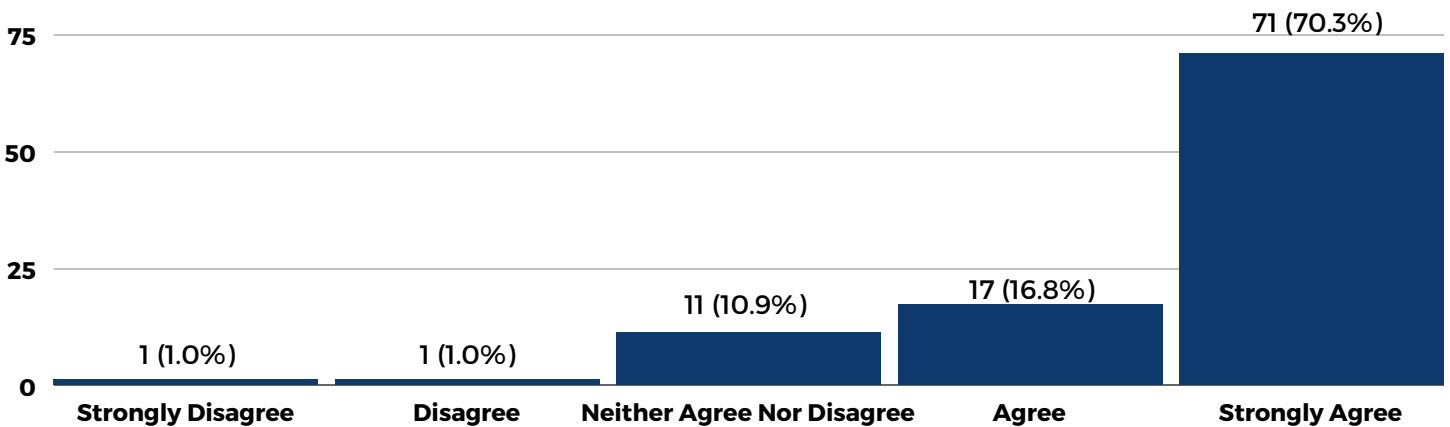
47 Responses



### Post-Summit

I have a better understanding of trauma after attending the Stronger Together summit.

101 Responses



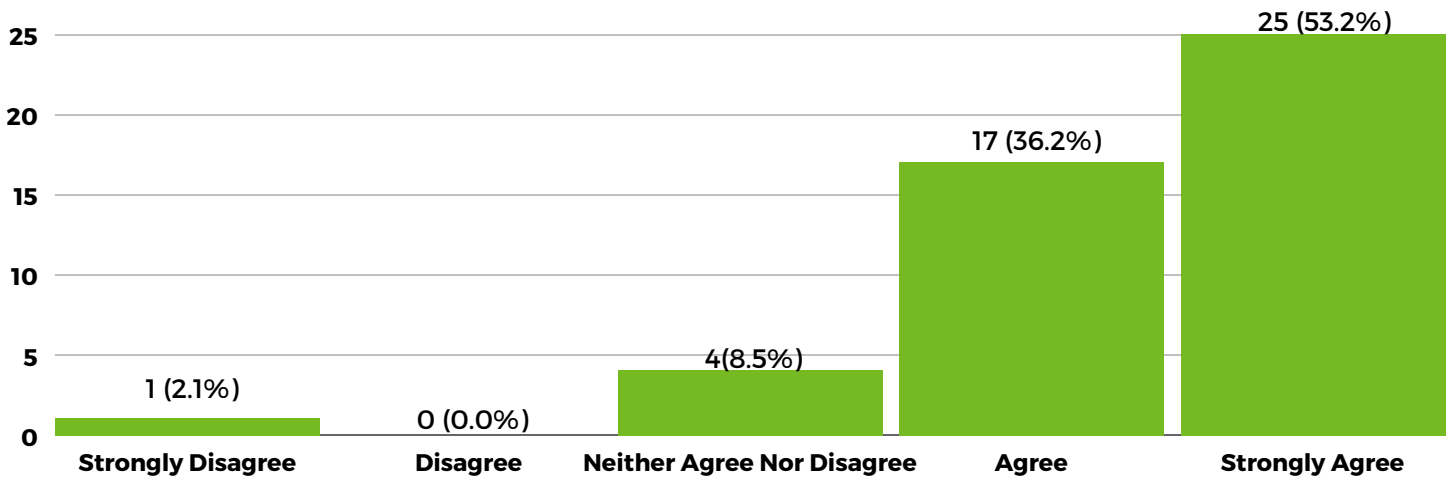
# CHANGE IN KNOWLEDGE

## Resiliency

### Pre-Summit

I know what the word "resiliency" means.

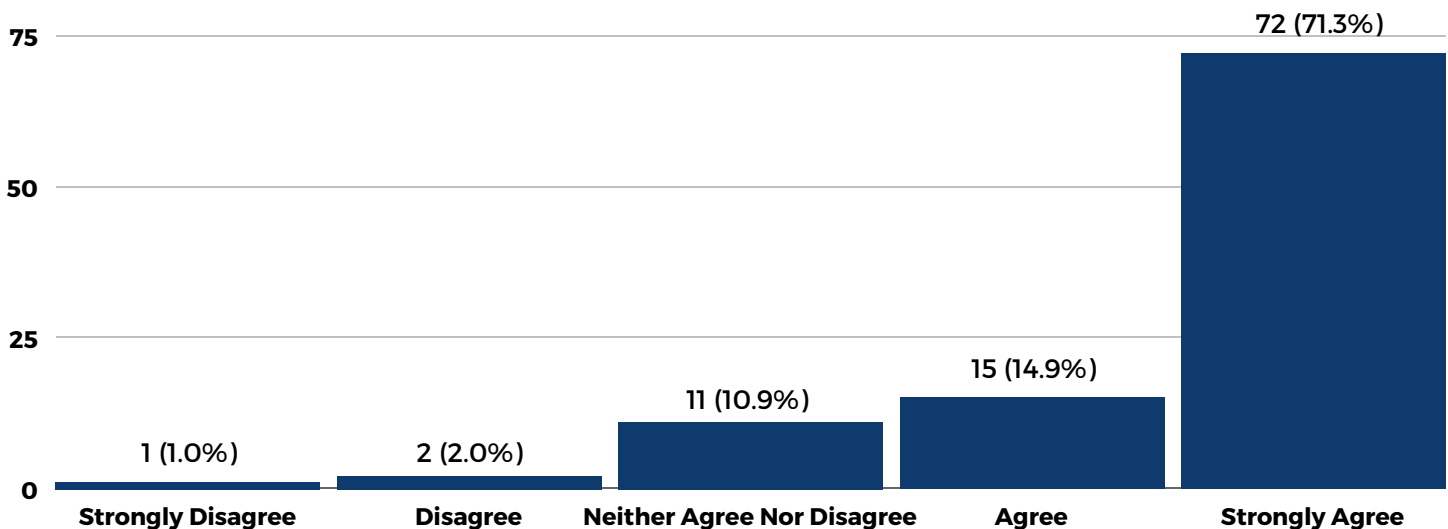
47 Responses



### Post-Summit

I have a better understanding of resiliency after attending the Stronger Together summit.

101 Responses

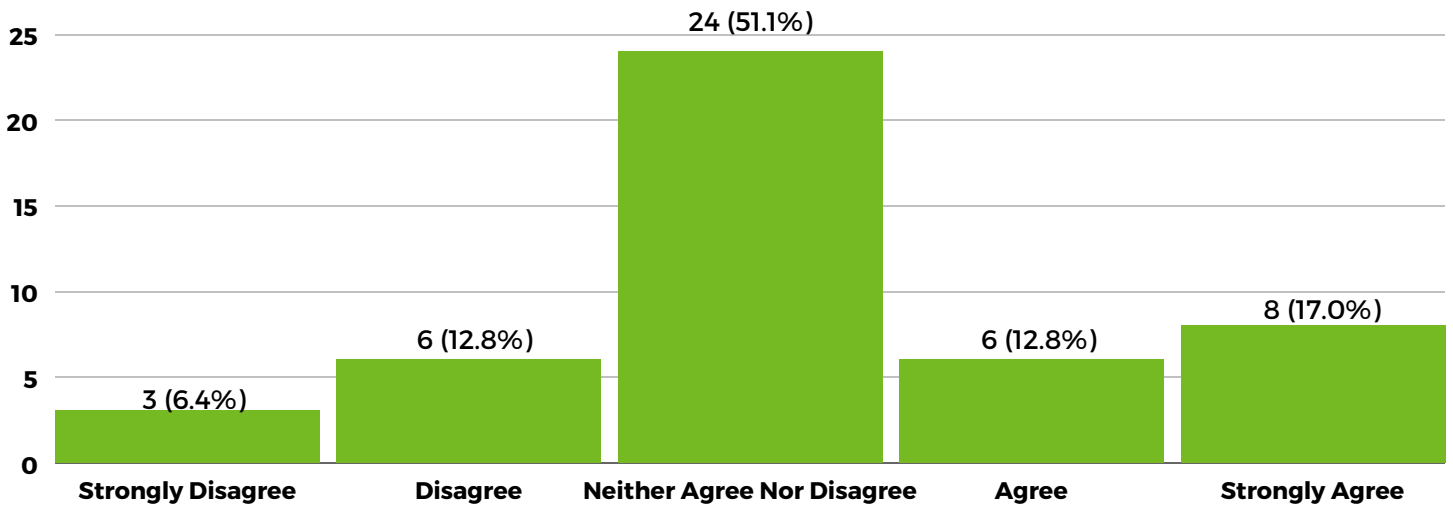


# CHANGE IN ATTITUDES

## Regional Connectivity

### Pre-Summit

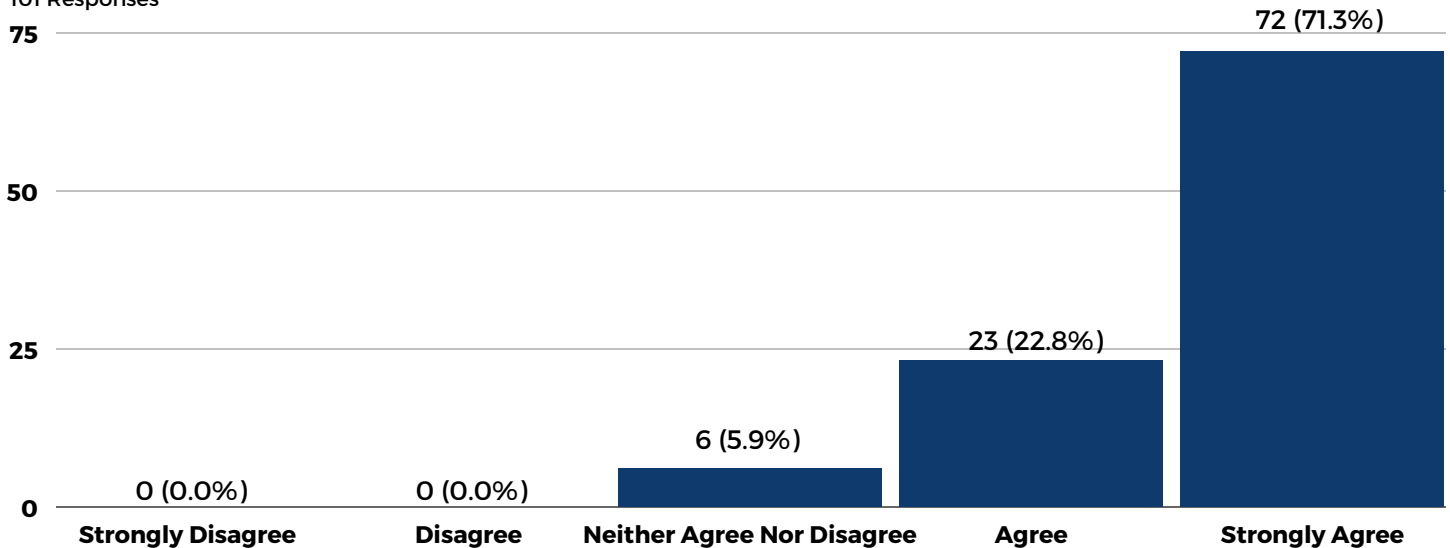
I feel connected to people in other counties who are doing similar work with trauma prevention.  
47 Responses



### Post-Summit

I have a deeper connection to members of the regional community after attending the Stronger Together summit.

101 Responses



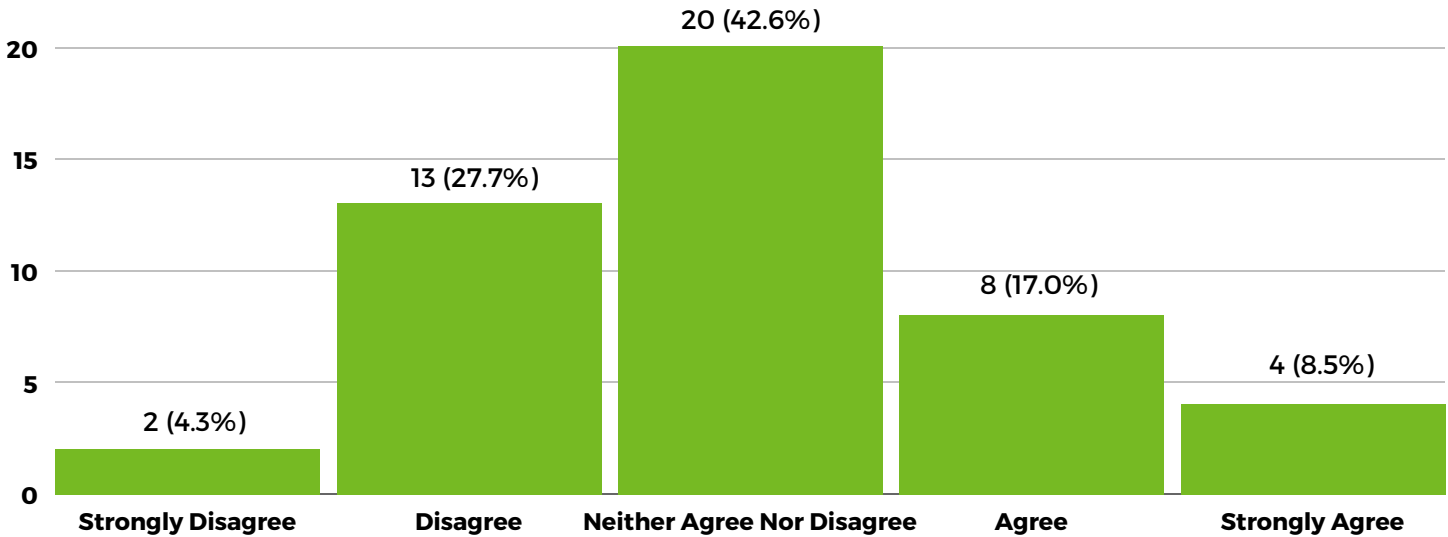
# CHANGE IN ATTITUDES

## Community Approach to Trauma

### Pre-Summit

I feel that my community has a strong existing approach to preventing trauma..

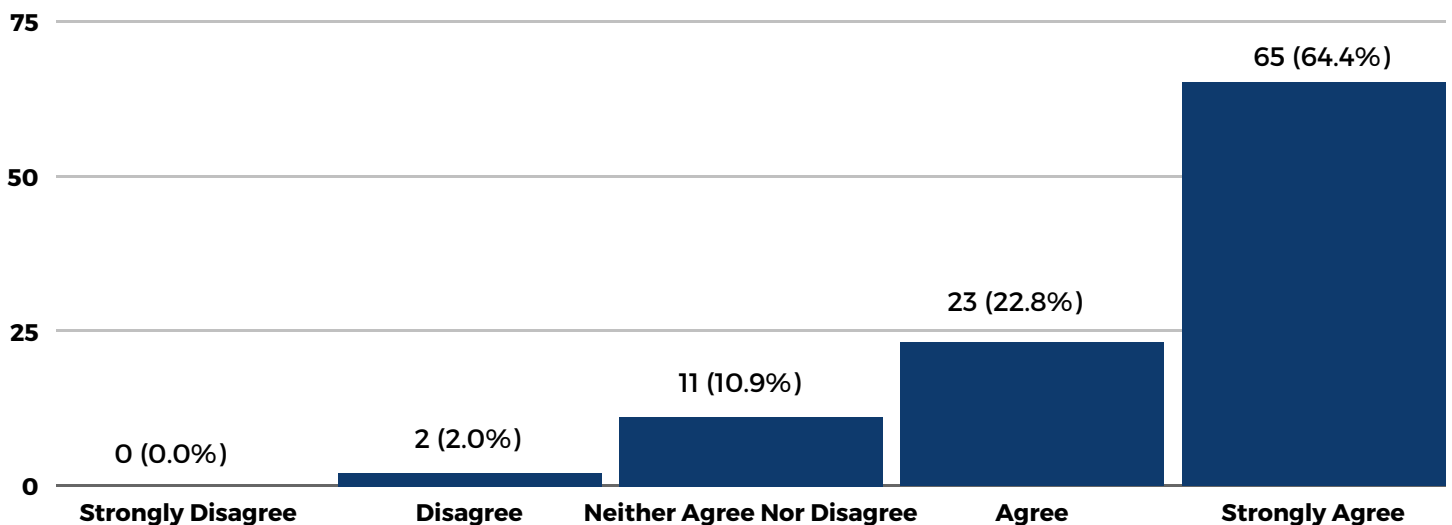
47 Responses



### Post-Summit

I have new or enhanced strategies and resources for trauma-informed community work after attending the Stronger Together summit.

101 Responses



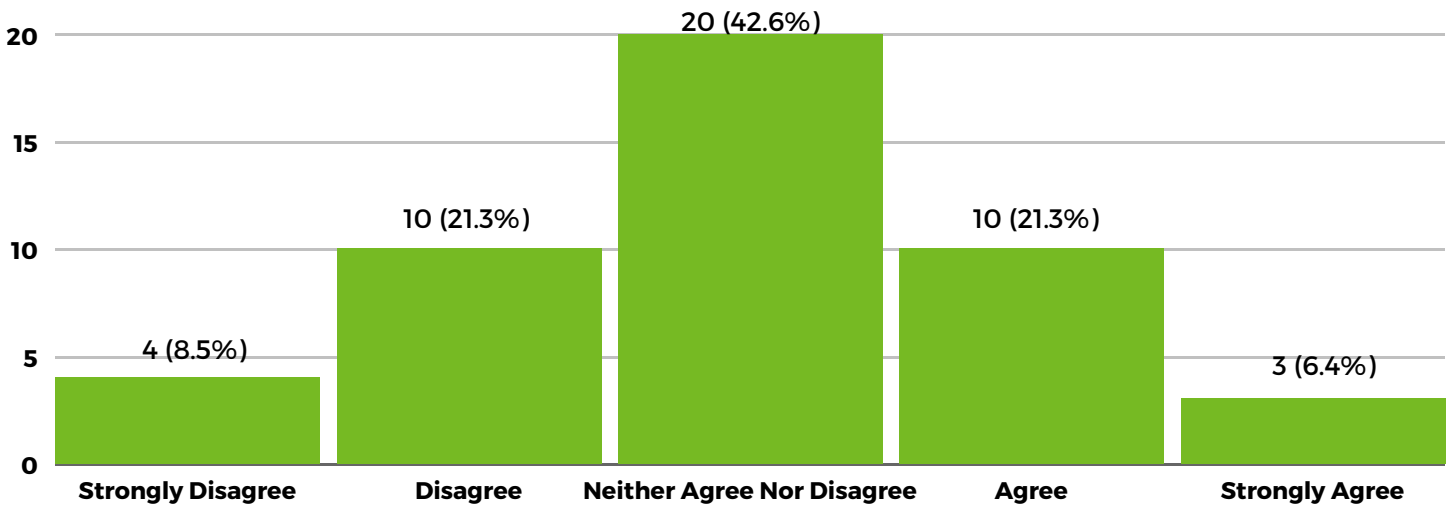
# CHANGE IN ATTITUDES

## Tangible Next Steps

### Pre-Summit

I feel that my community has tangible next steps for preventing trauma.

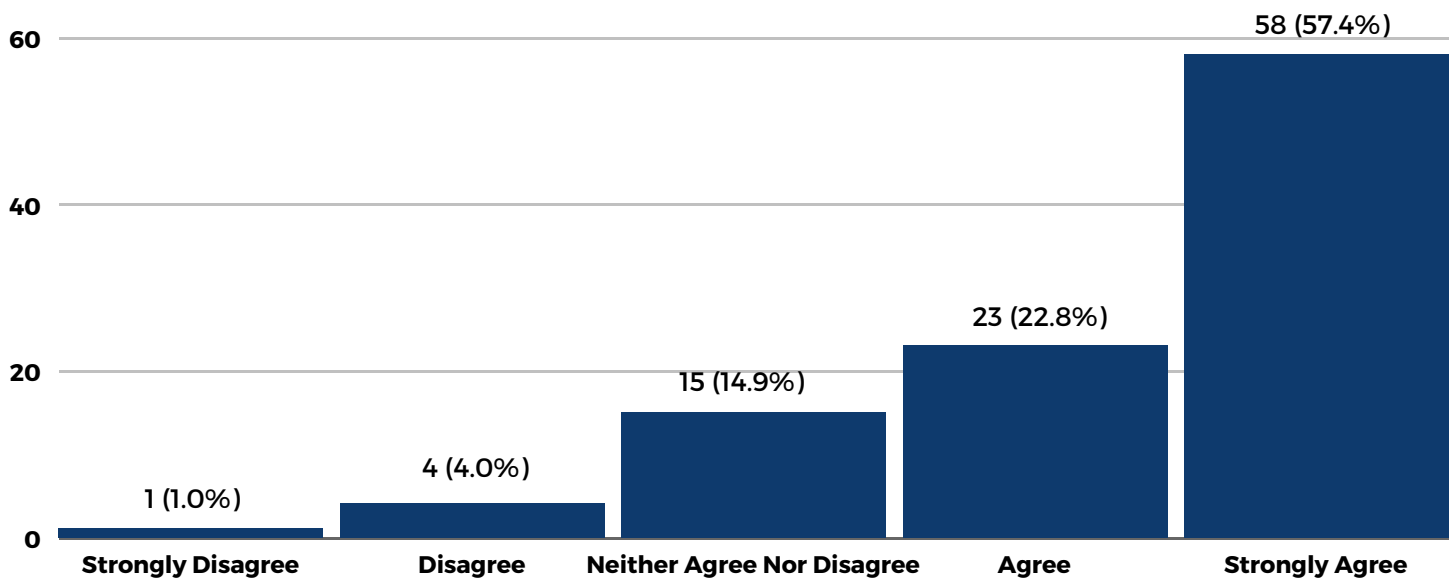
47 Responses



### Post-Summit

I have tangible next steps to begin the work of preventing and mitigating trauma in my community after attending the Stronger Together summit.

101 Responses



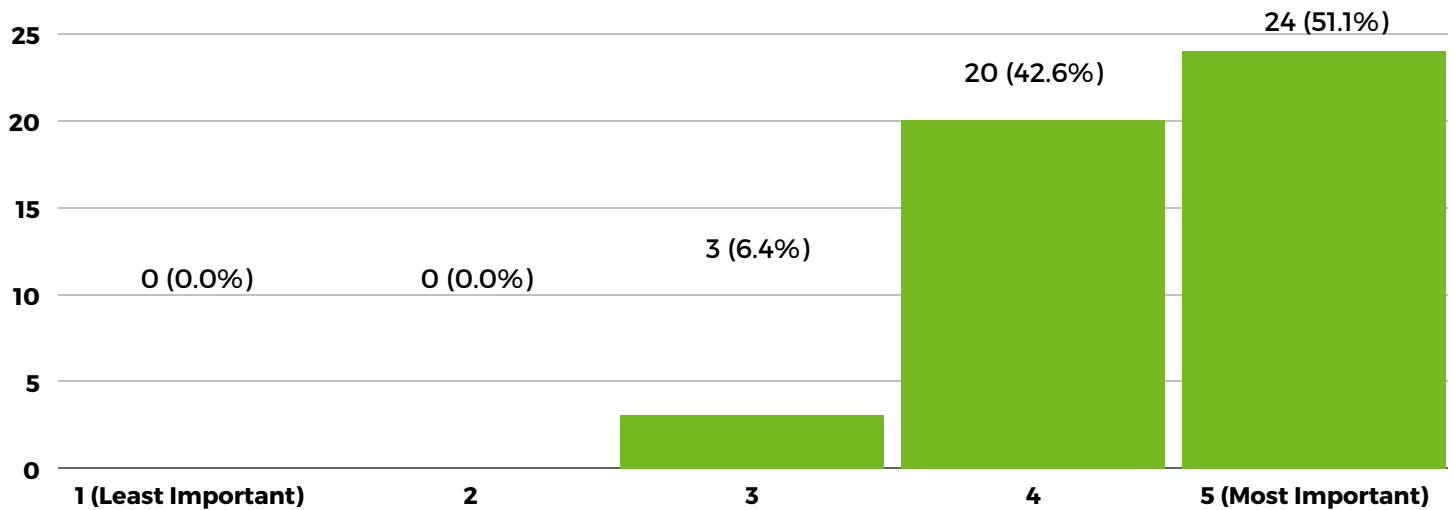
# CHANGE IN ATTITUDES

## Importance of Coalition Aims

### Pre-Summit

Please indicate how important the following approach to trauma prevention is to your community: Promoting coordinated trauma-informed practices across systems.

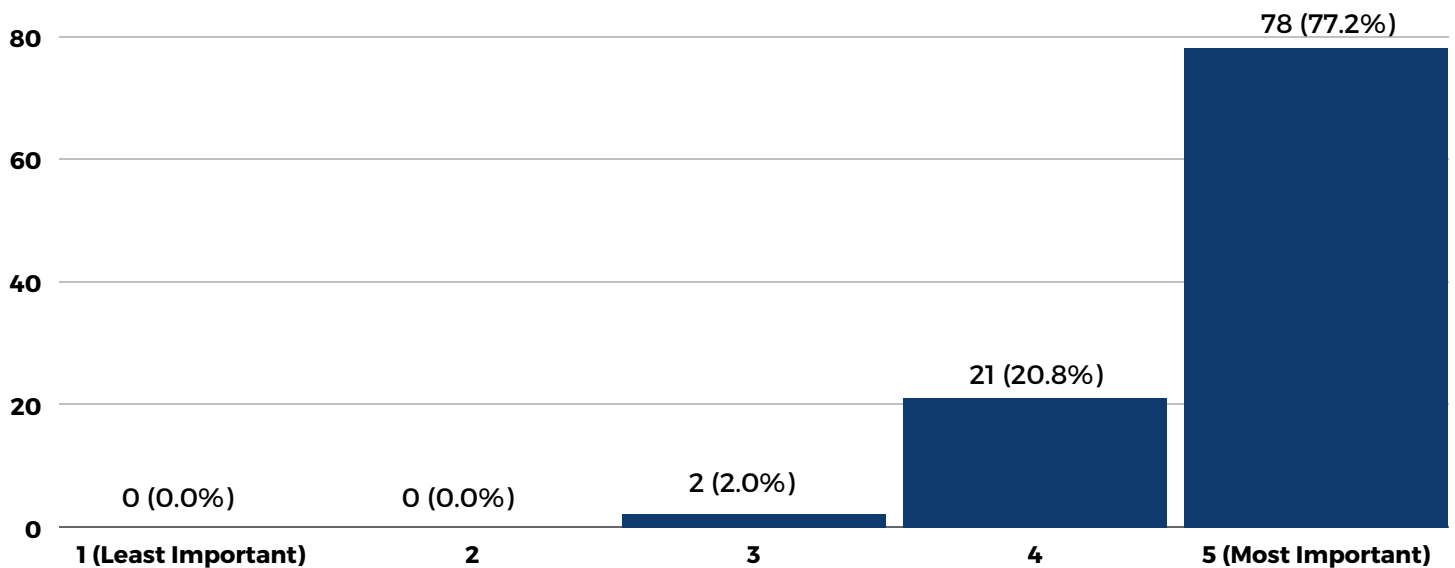
47 Responses



### Post-Summit

Please indicate how important the following approach to trauma prevention is to your community: Promoting coordinated trauma-informed practices across systems.

101 Responses



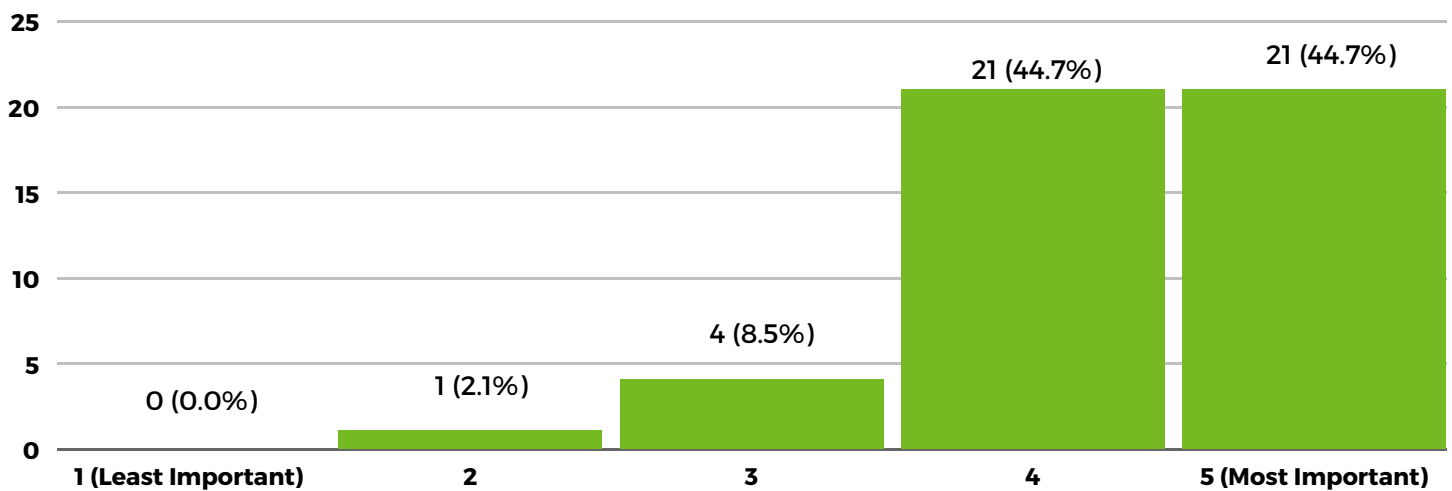
# CHANGE IN ATTITUDES

## Importance of Coalition Aims

### Pre-Summit

Please indicate how important the following approach to trauma prevention is to your community: Advancing the workforce through recruitment, development, and trauma-informed education.

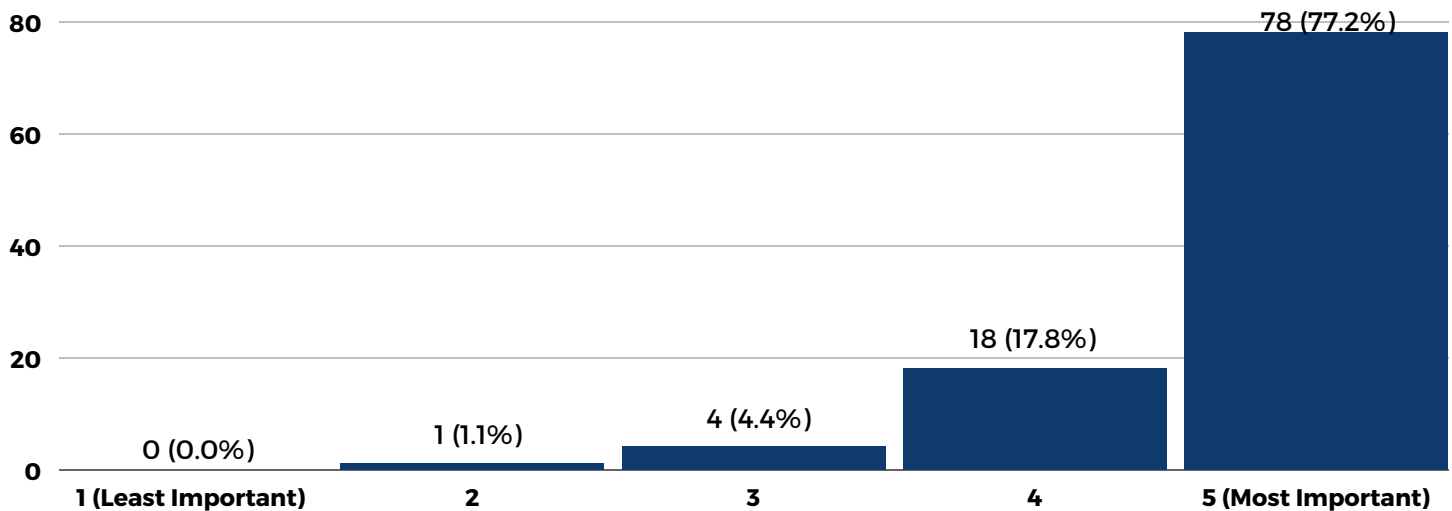
47 Responses



### Post-Summit

Please indicate how important the following approach to trauma prevention is to your community: Advancing the workforce through recruitment, development, and trauma-informed education.

101 Responses



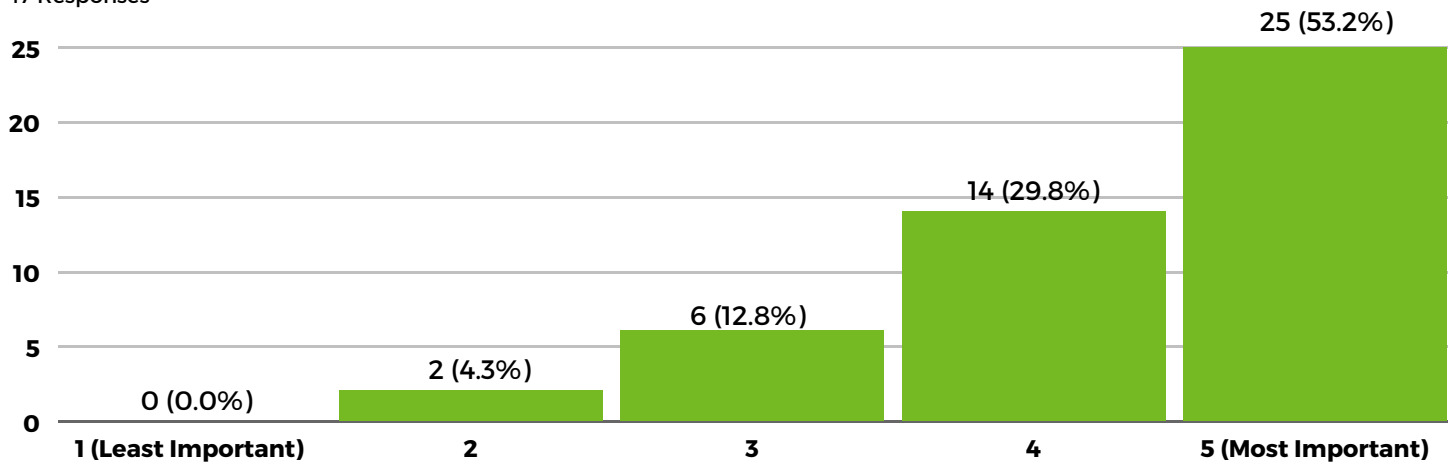
# CHANGE IN ATTITUDES

## Importance of Coalition Aims

### Pre-Summit

Please indicate how important the following approach to trauma prevention is to your community: Building a common language and awareness surrounding trauma, adversity, and resiliency.

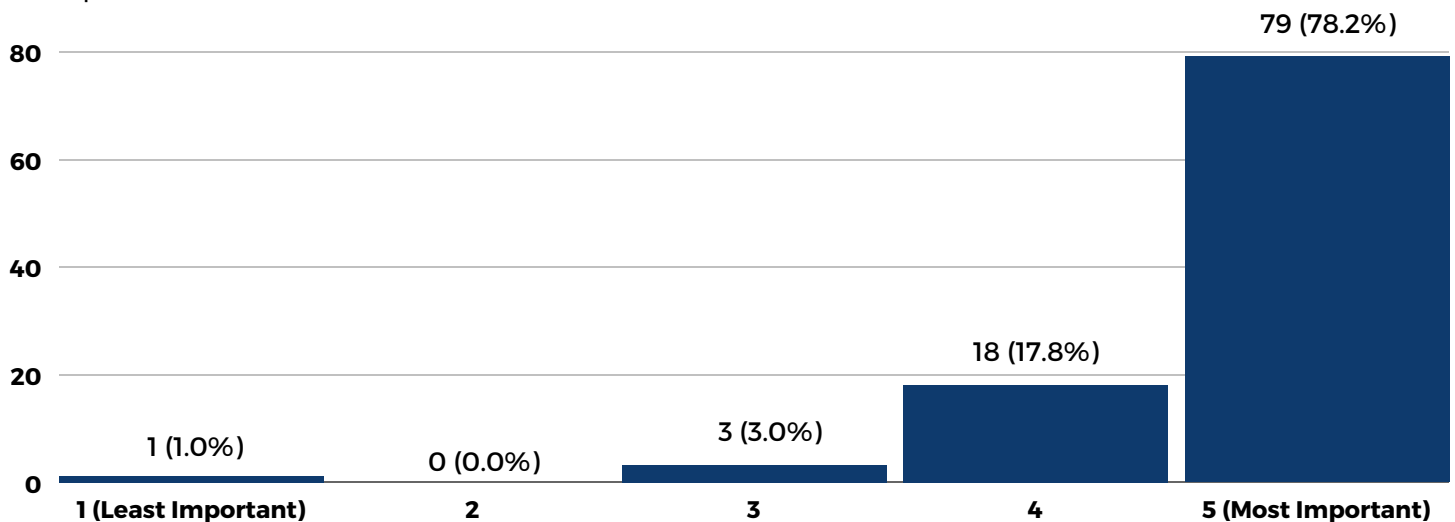
47 Responses



### Post-Summit

Please indicate how important the following approach to trauma prevention is to your community: Building a common language and awareness surrounding trauma, adversity, and resiliency.

101 Responses





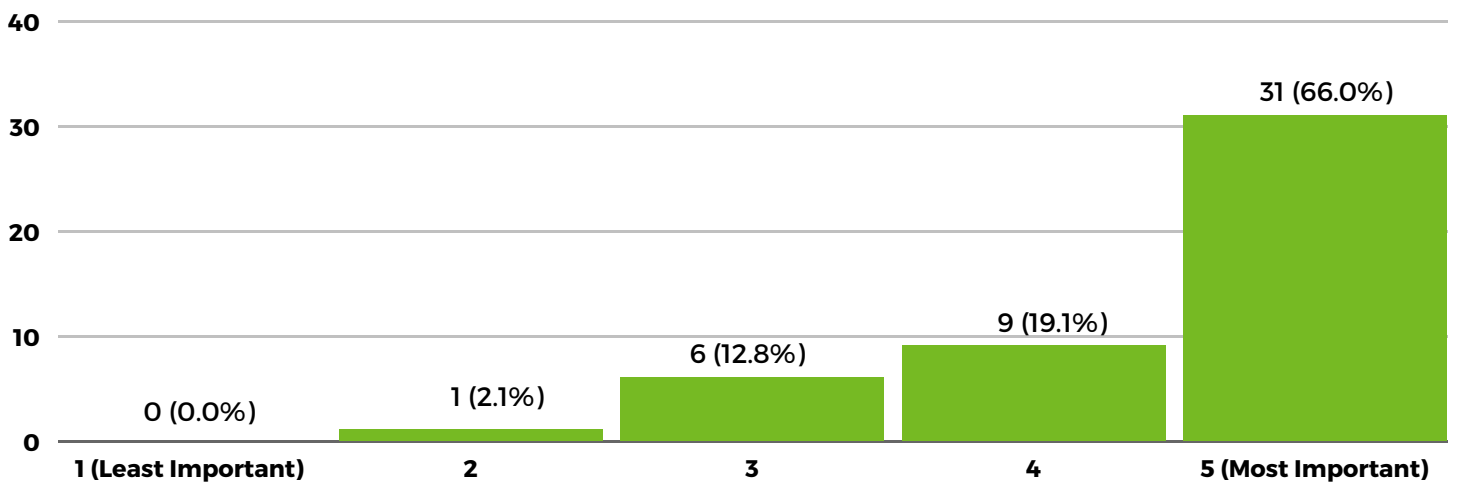
# CHANGE IN ATTITUDES

## Importance of Coalition Aims

### Pre-Summit

Please indicate how important the following approach to trauma prevention is to your community: Advocating for changes to policies, programs, systems, and environments that incorporate a Justice, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (JEDI) lens.

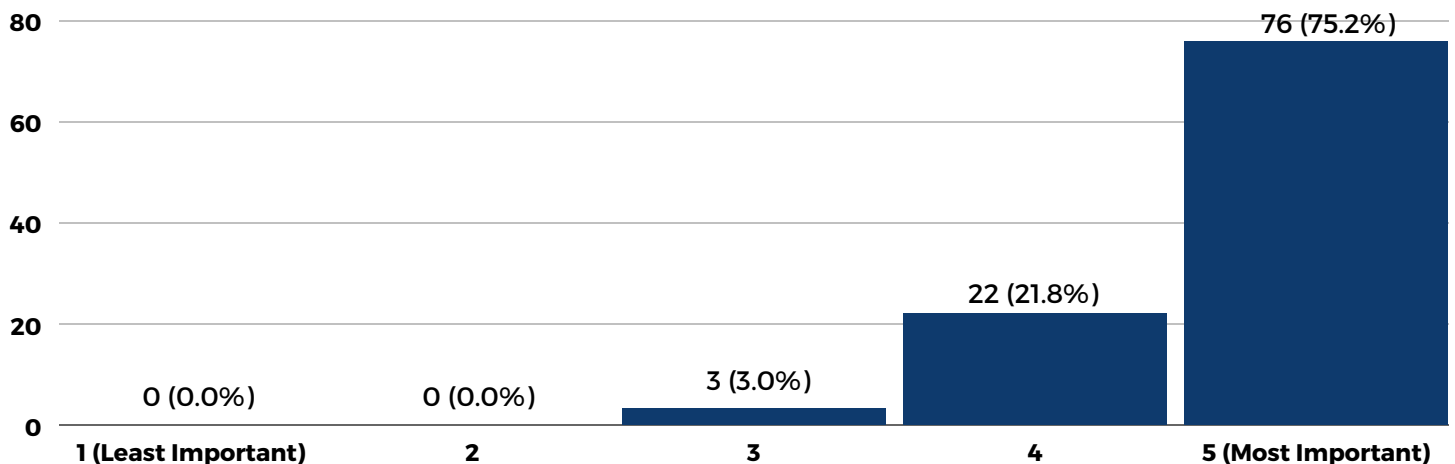
47 Responses



### Post-Summit

Please indicate how important the following approach to trauma prevention is to your community: Advocating for changes to policies, programs, systems, and environments that incorporate a Justice, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (JEDI) lens.

101 Responses



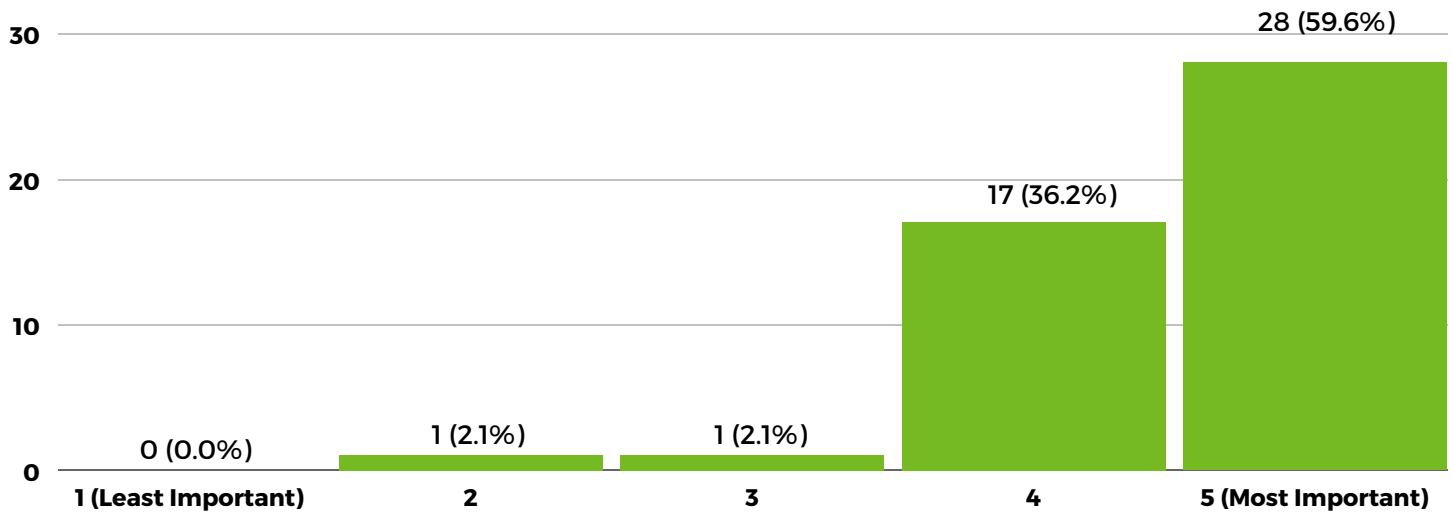
# CHANGE IN ATTITUDES

## Importance of Coalition Aims

### Pre-Summit

Please indicate how important the following approach to trauma prevention is to your community: Creating a sustainable model of collaborative action for the region.

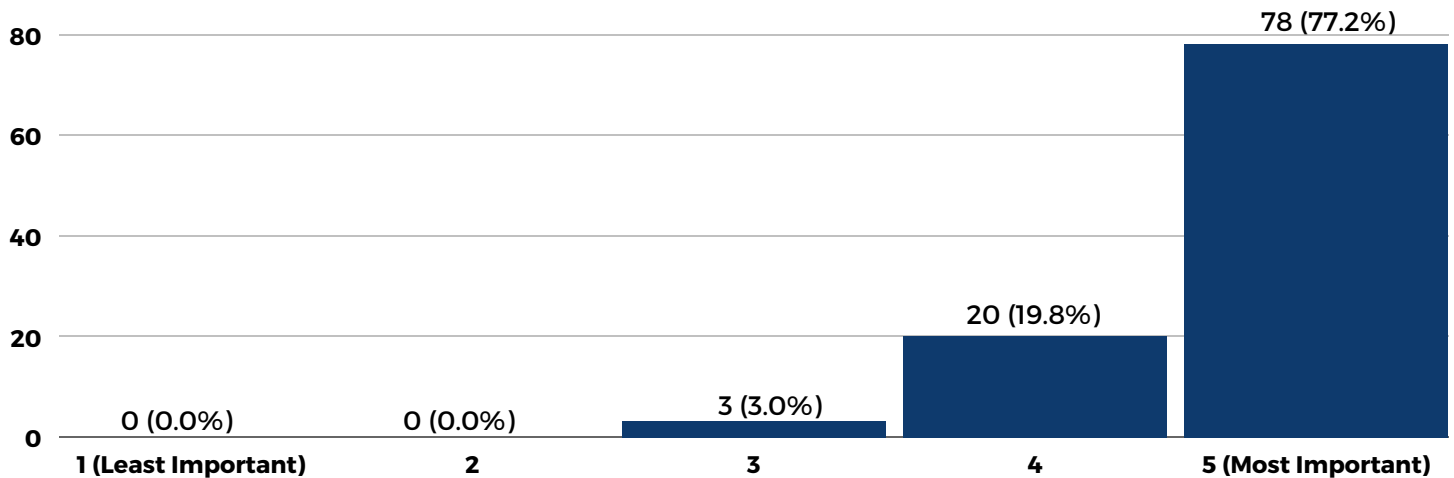
47 Responses



### Post-Summit

Please indicate how important the following approach to trauma prevention is to your community: Creating a sustainable model of collaborative action for the region.

101 Responses



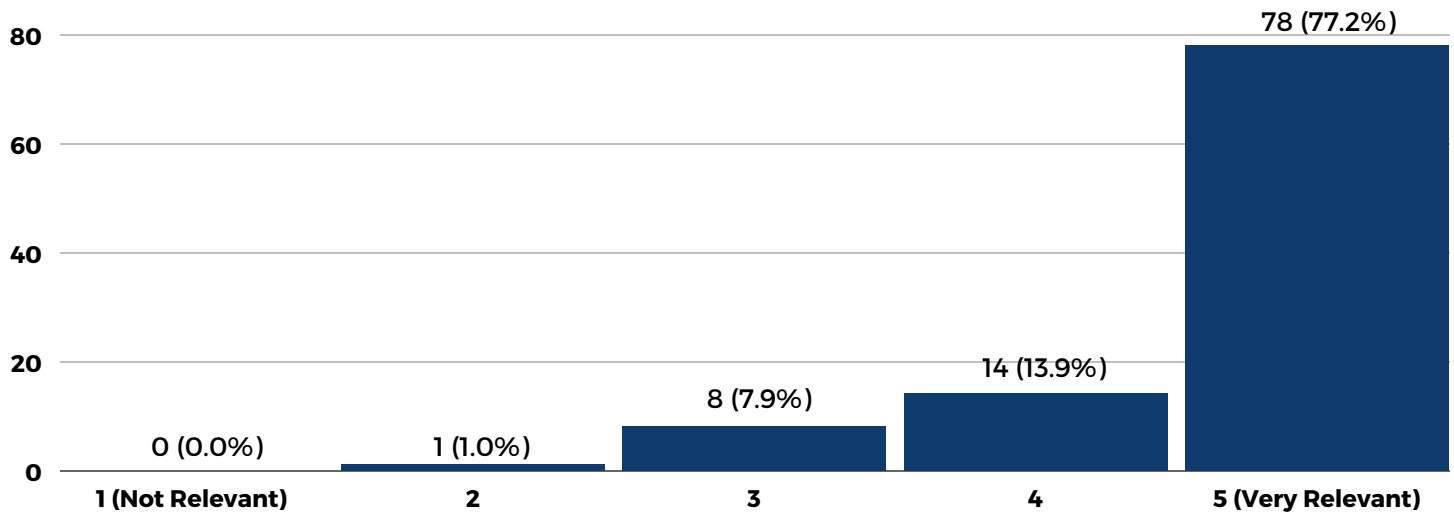
# SESSIONS AND CONTENT

## Content Relevance

### Relevance to Current Role

How relevant was the information presented today in regard to your current role/job?

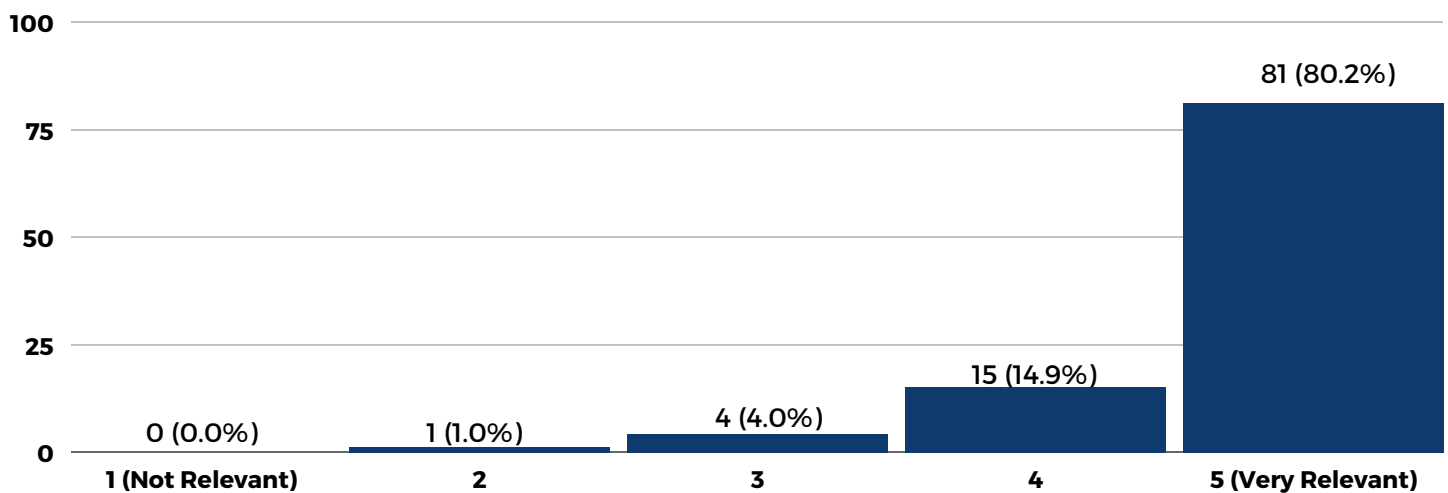
101 Responses



### Relevance of Topics and Speakers

How relevant were the sessions, topics, and speakers?

101 Responses





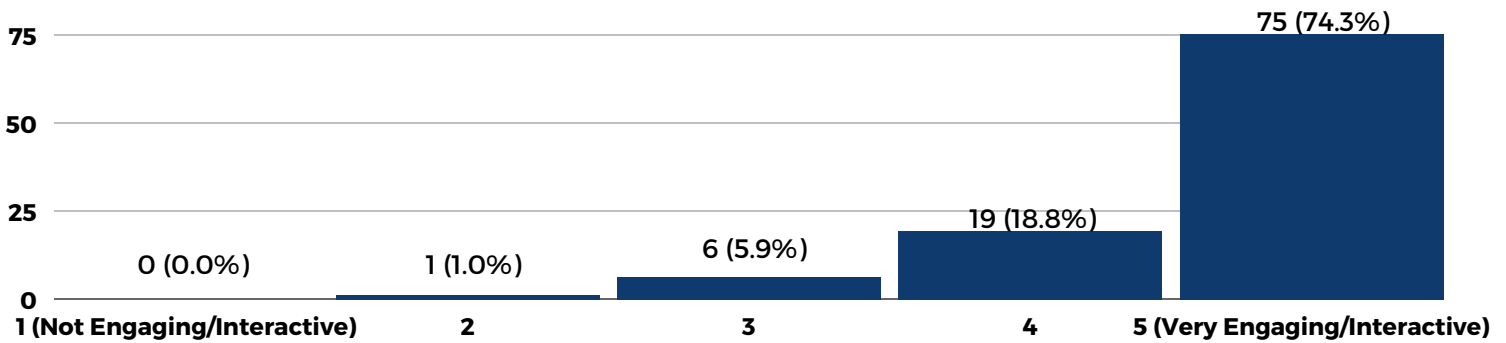
# SESSIONS AND CONTENT

## Engagement and Session Length

### Engagement Quality of Sessions

How engaging and/or interactive were the sessions, topics, and speakers?

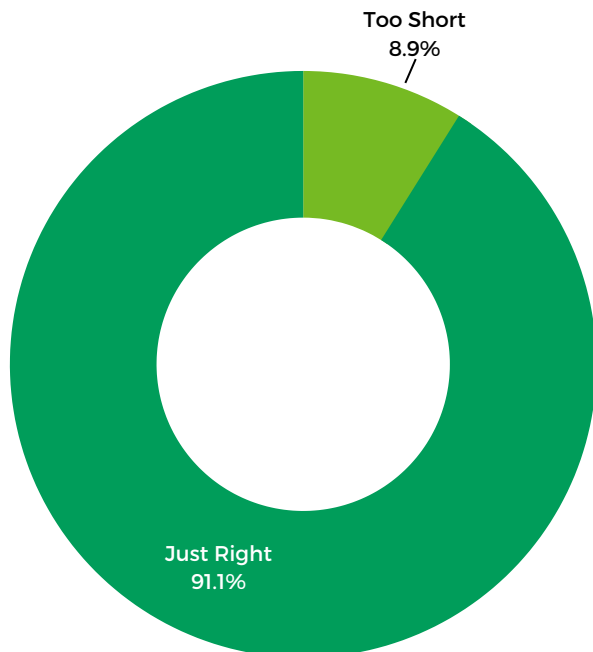
101 Responses



### Length of Sessions

How would you rate the overall length of each session?

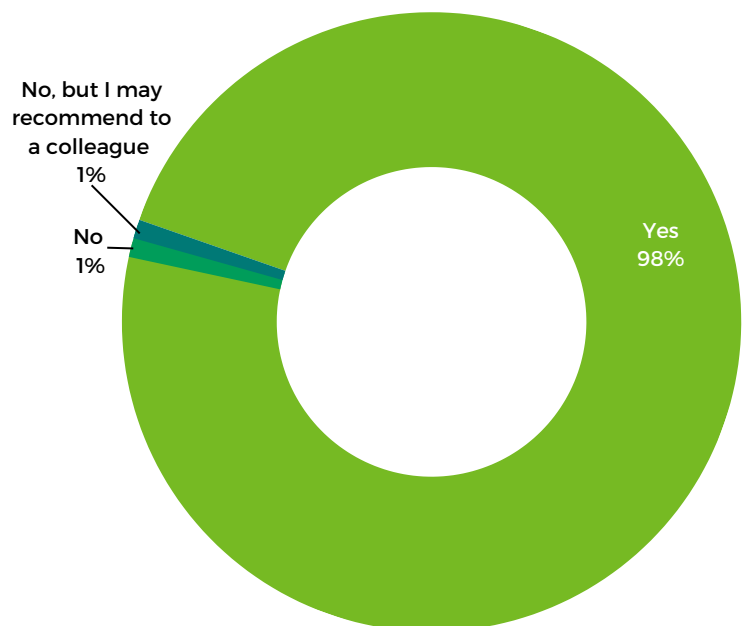
101 Responses



### Willingness to Attend a Future Summit

Would you attend another regional summit if we were to host one again next year?

101 Responses



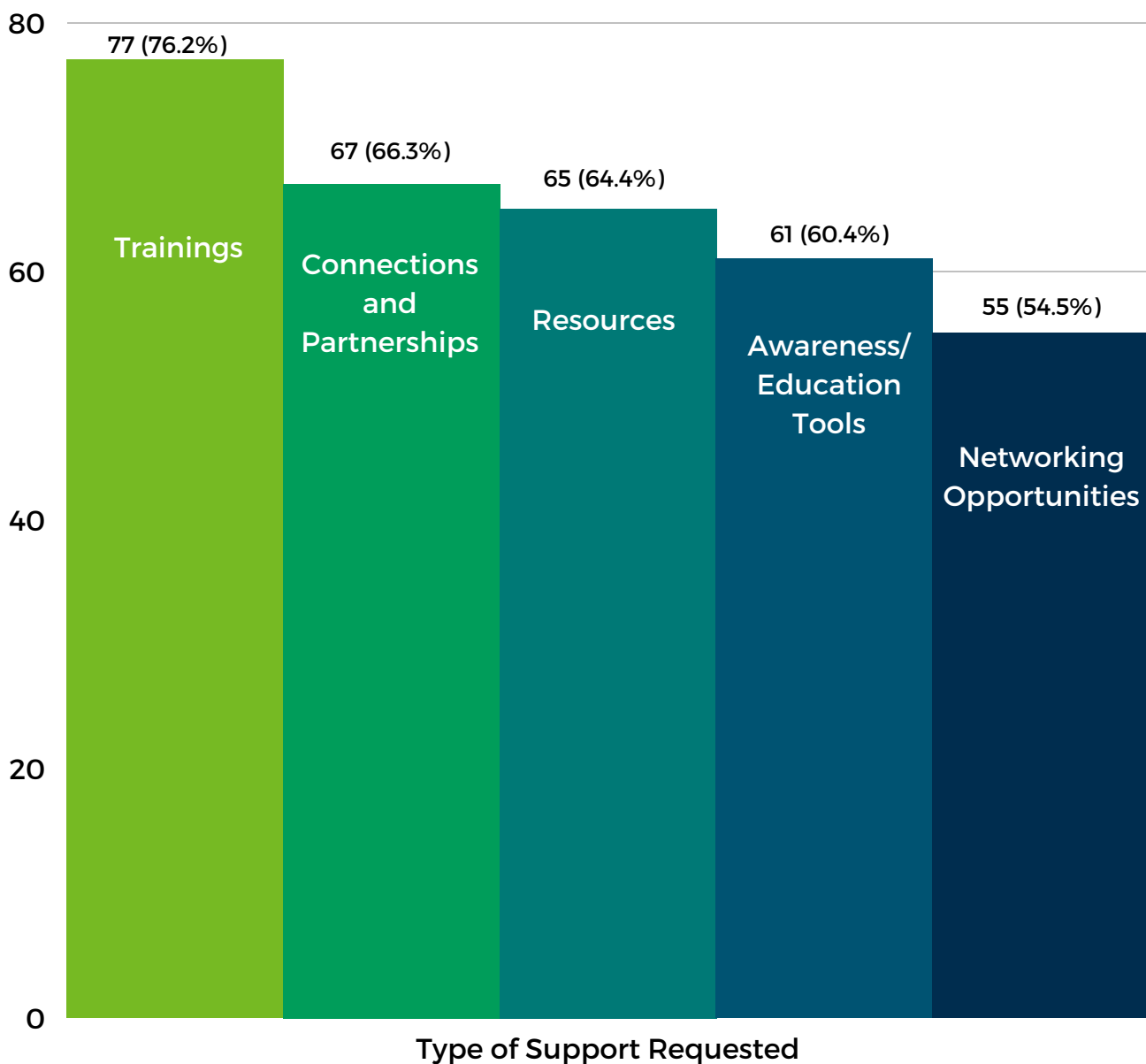
# CONNECTIVITY AND NEXT STEPS

## Opportunities for Support

### Requested Resources

What can Resilient Northeast Georgia provide to help your county's trauma-informed efforts? Select all that apply.

101 Responses



# CONNECTIVITY AND NEXT STEPS

## Additional Resources Requested

### Requested Resources

What can specific resources can Resilient Northeast Georgia connect you to in the future? Were there any topics/resources not discussed today you'd like to connect with?

- More trainings and education
- Resources that include family/child involvement
- Funding
- Policy advocacy support
- More engagement with UGA
- Mental health services
- Connection to more community partners, especially those already doing trauma-informed work in their communities
- Community-wide strategic planning events
- Resource guide/directory
- School-based information and practices to implement
- Suicide prevention resources
- Examples of what other communities are doing
- Implementation tools for agencies
- Behavioral intervention strategies
- How to disseminate information community-wide and get successful buy-in
- How to find resources
- How to get more connected
- More data about ACEs and impact in Georgia
- Learning more about solutions rather than just the problems
- How to succeed after experiencing an ACE
- How to implement a trauma-informed library
- How to get student voices involved in this work
- A list of all organizations involved in the work
- More hands-on Community Resiliency Model trainings- practical application
- How to connect existing local and regional work
- More direct steps from someone who has successfully done this work

# CONNECTIVITY AND NEXT STEPS

## Planned Next Steps

### Next Steps

What next steps could you see yourself/your organization pursuing after attending the Stronger Together summit?

- Following up with new contacts
  - Have a conversation, find next steps, develop a plan
  - Collaborating to create a common language
- Trainings- new and continued
  - Mental Health First Aid
  - Getting all levels of staff trained
  - Planning to share information/opportunities with boss/supervisor
- Community education
  - Connection and awareness of resources
  - Training teachers and school staff to identify risk factors and increased knowledge of prevention measures
- Implementation of stronger trauma-informed practices in organization
- Reaching out to key decision makers
- Connecting with community/regional resources
  - Connecting with justice system panelists for more ideas/trainings/information for parents and organizations
- Looking for solutions to prevent avoidable root causes
- Sharing information with other Family Connection regions to help model Region 5's work around trauma
- Community resource guide
- A local summit
- Community summit for service providers
- Increased collaboration with Family Connections
- Working together with partners to establish a common goal for the work
- Reaching out to UGA to educate them about how they can help
- Bringing together some of the speakers from other areas to inspire, motivate, and encourage a somewhat complacent mentality that is prevailing in our Collaborative.
- Reading and dialoguing about how to become more culturally competent and bold in conversations regarding race and inequity.