

Winnipeggers' Views on Homelessness

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The Story

When we ask Winnipeggers about their biggest community concerns, homelessness routinely tops the list. However, it's not clear whether residents see any evidence the problem is getting better or that solutions proposed by governments and social service agencies are working.

Meanwhile, politicians and community leaders continue to visit the city of Houston to understand that community's model for addressing homelessness, and frontline outreach agencies occasionally disagree on how best to deal with people living in encampments.

The results of our survey suggest Winnipeggers are becoming increasingly impatient with progress tackling homelessness and are generally unimpressed with how governments are approaching the issue. And, while Winnipeggers agree it's difficult to reduce encampments without additional housing, they're also not convinced people have a right to remain in encampments over the long term.

Key Findings

Winnipeggers think both the Manitoba government and the City of Winnipeg are doing a poor job dealing with homelessness. One-half rate the performance of both governments as poor on this issue, and three-quarters agree that efforts to reduce homelessness aren't really working.

Social service and street outreach agencies are seen as doing somewhat better, but even here a plurality (36%) feel these agencies are doing only a fair job tackling homelessness. Only about one-third say social service and outreach agencies are doing at least a good job tackling Winnipeg's homelessness crisis.

A sense of impatience with progress dealing with the root causes of homelessness is also evident. More than one-half agree that tackling the causes of homelessness seems to be taking too much time. As well, three-quarters say we need to be more aggressive in finding homes for people on the street.

When it comes to encampments, more than two-thirds of Winnipeggers agree progress can't really be made eliminating encampments until there's much more affordable housing for people to move into.

On the other hand, most Winnipeggers stop short of saying people have a right to remain in encampments undisturbed. About one-half of Winnipeggers, particularly men and older people, disagree that those experiencing homelessness have a right to stay in encampments for as long as they wish.

Methodology

Probe Research surveyed 480 adults residing in Winnipeg from August 1st to 9th, 2024.

Those who responded to the online survey are members of Probe Research's proprietary panel, as well as members of another national online panel.

Because an online panel is a non-probability sample, no margin of error can be ascribed. For the purposes of comparison, a probabilistic sample of N=480 Winnipeg adults would have a margin of error of ± 4.47 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. The margin of error will be higher within each of the survey's population sub-groups.

Minor statistical weighting has been applied to this sample to ensure that age, gender and regional characteristics properly reflect known attributes of the city's population. As well, the data has been weighted to reflect voting patterns in the last provincial election. All data analysis was performed using SPSS statistical analysis software.

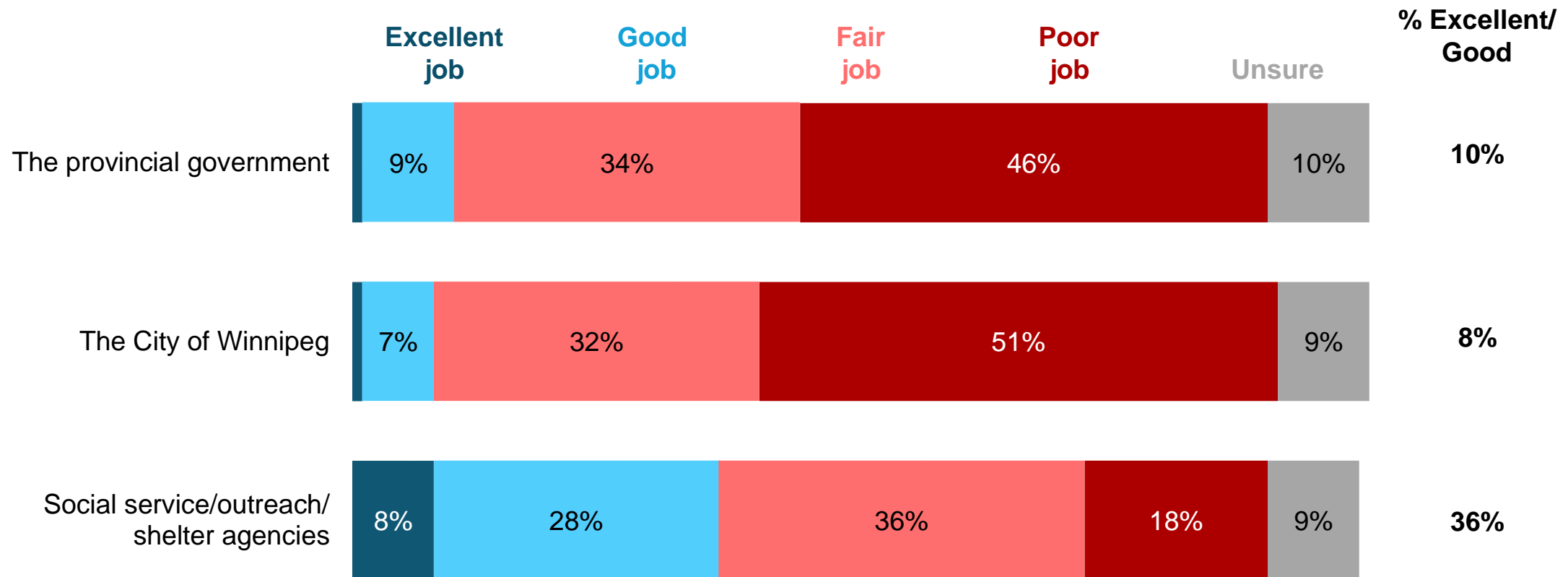
The survey questions were designed by Probe Research alone and not for a client.

Results may not add up to exactly 100% due to rounding. Numbers smaller than 2% are not shown in the graphs.

Assessing the Government Response to Homelessness

One-half say governments are doing a poor job, and social service agencies don't fare much better

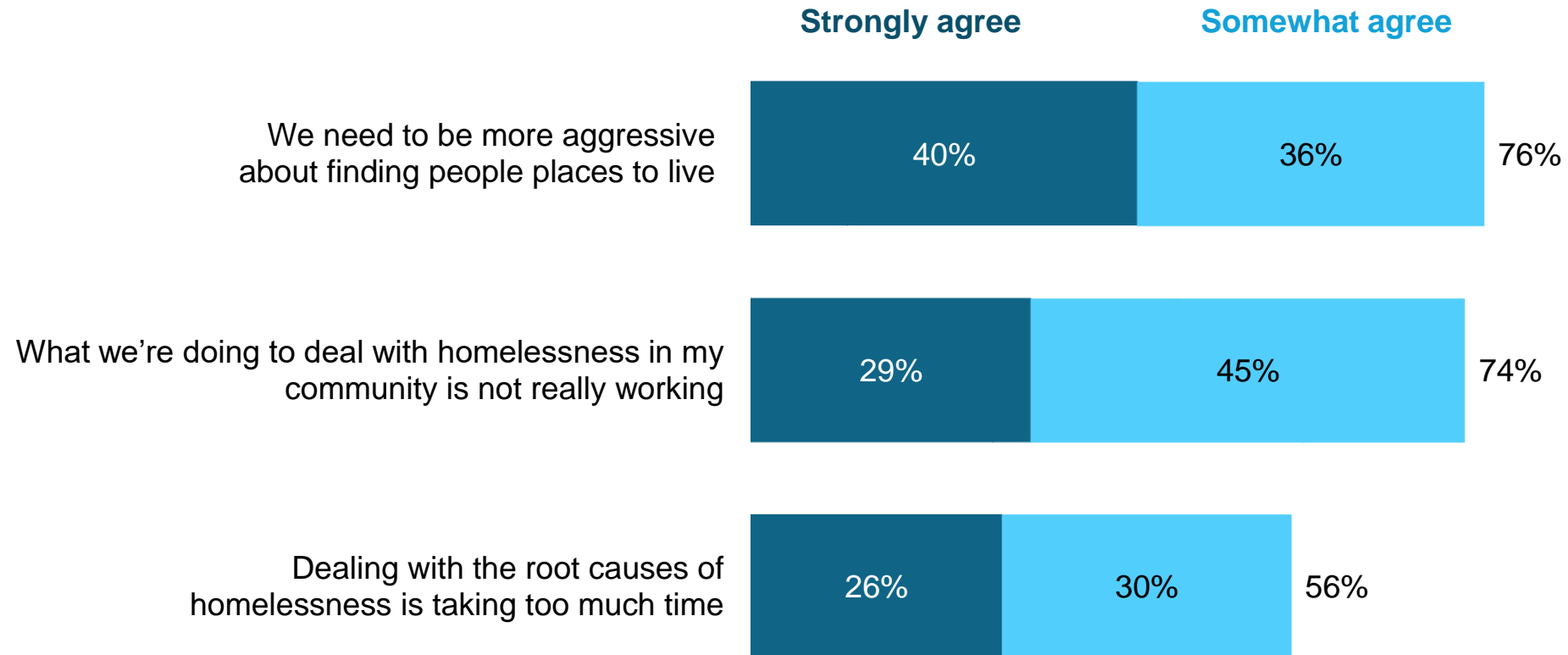
Q. When it comes to dealing with homelessness, are the following doing an excellent job or a poor job, based on what you know? (Base: All Winnipeg respondents, N=480)



Views on Progress Addressing Homelessness

Most say homelessness reduction efforts simply aren't working, and dealing with root causes is slow

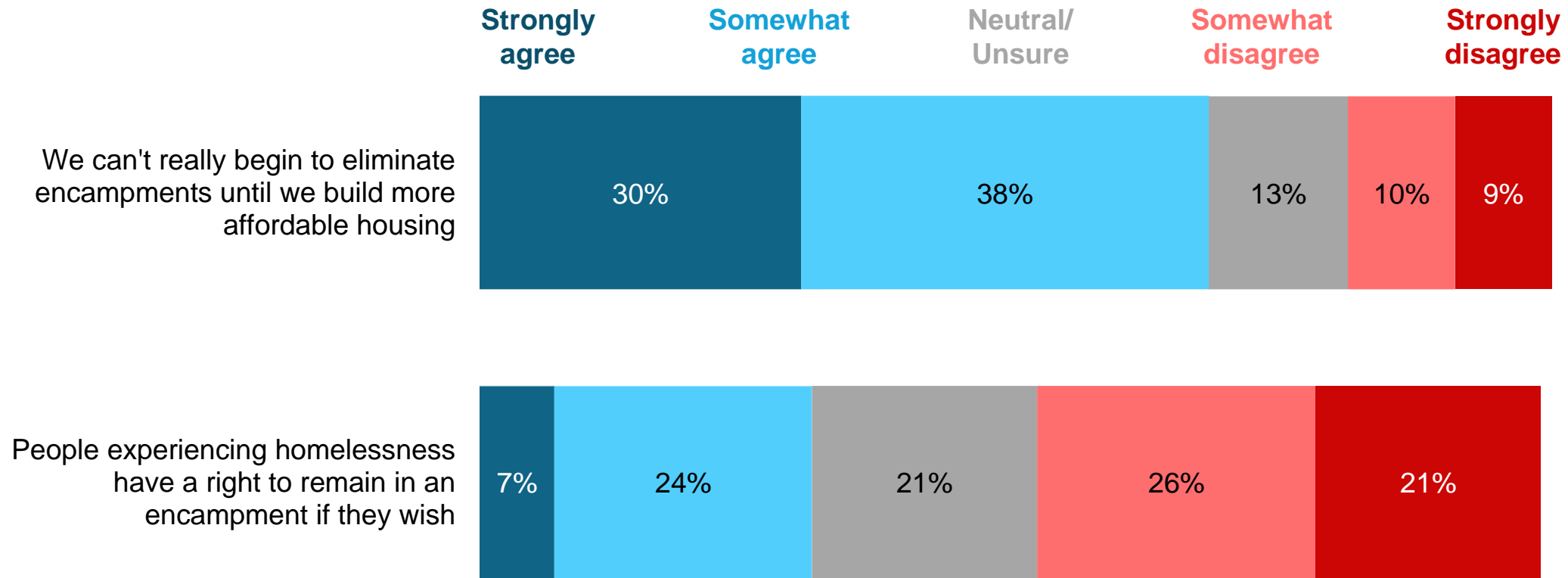
Q. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (Base: All Winnipeg respondents, N=480)



Views on Approaches to Encampments

One-half say those experiencing homelessness do not have a right to remain in encampments

Q. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (Base: All Winnipeg respondents, N=480)



Views on the Right to Remain in Encampments: By Subgroups

Older and wealthier Winnipeggers are most skeptical of the right to remain in encampments

Q. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (Base: All Winnipeg respondents, N=480)

% who disagree that people experiencing homelessness have a right to remain in encampments

