

# What We Learned About Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, And Transgender Missouri Residents

The 2025 Speak Up MO poll surveyed Missourians from all walks of life across the state's big cities and small towns. Out of 1,883 total survey respondents, 209 identified as lesbian, gay, or bisexual. A total of 85 participants identified as transgender, and 17 as both transgender and lesbian, gay, or bisexual.



## Population snapshot



29% urban, 31% suburban, 39% rural



55% women, 45% men



45% lived with a disability



78% had some college education



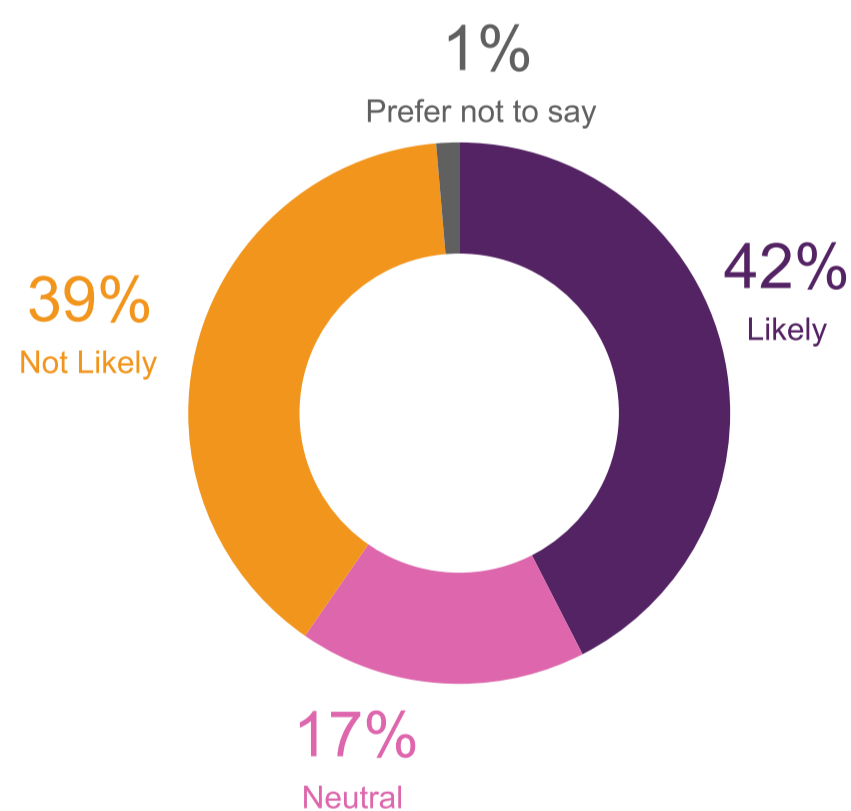
Diverse incomes and occupations



13% were retirement age

## Community Perspectives

How likely would you be to recommend Missouri to a friend or family member as a place to live?

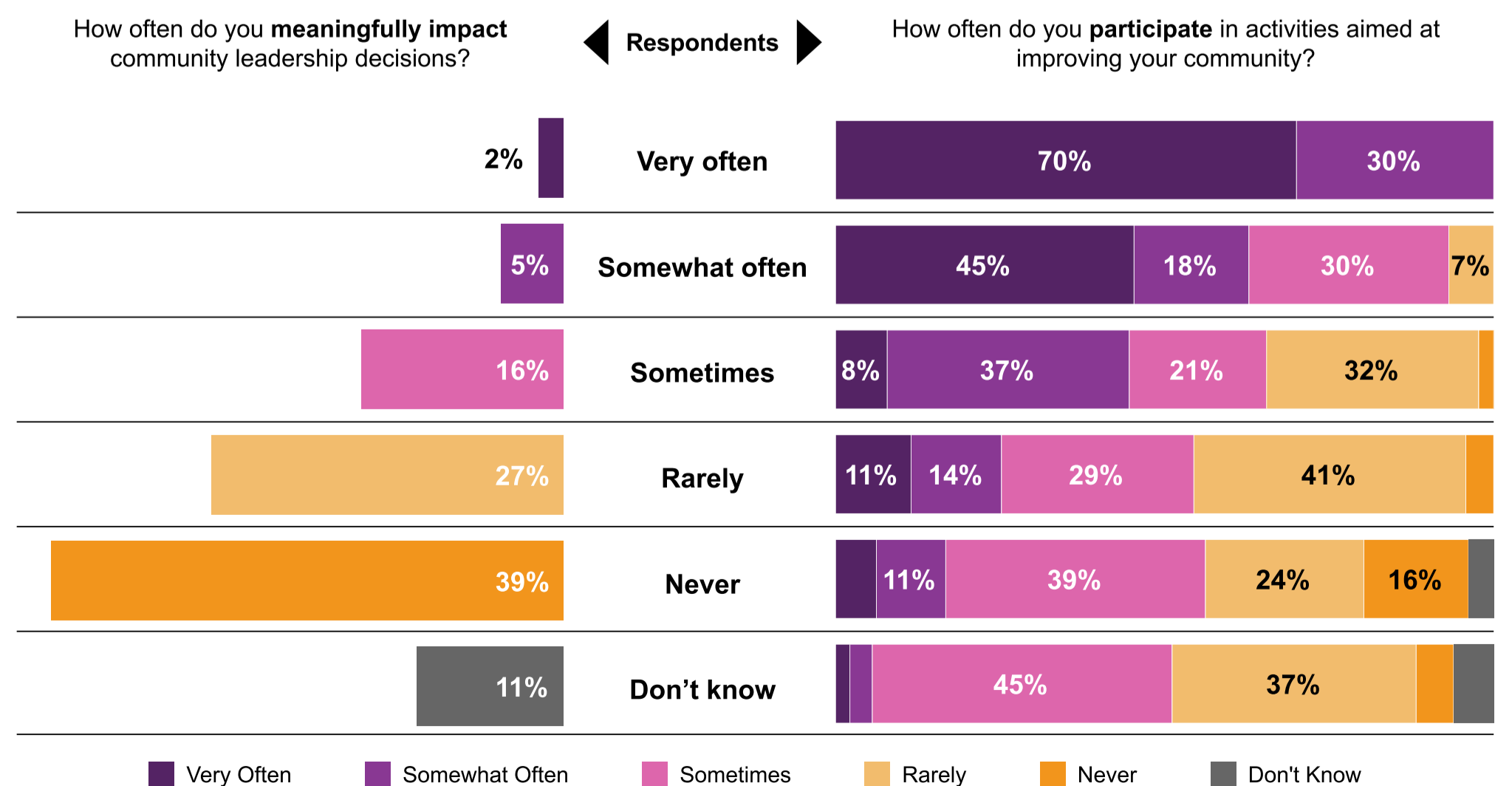


LGBTQ+ respondents were less likely overall to feel they could recommend Missouri as a place to live to friends and family members. Respondents in this group asserted they couldn't recommend Missouri at a rate of 39% – 17 percentage points higher than in the general population.

## Belonging

We found that among LGBTQ+ individuals, respondents were less likely than the general population to report that they felt included and welcomed in their communities. To a smaller degree, they were also less likely to report that they felt they truly belonged. This population was also more likely to report that they were treated worse than others in their communities, with only 51% strongly disagreeing with this statement, compared to 64% in the general population.

LGBTQ+ Missouri residents were very unlikely to report they meaningfully impact community leadership decisions – only 2% of participants in this group reported that they were “very often” able to influence community leadership decisions, compared to 3% in the general population. But 50% of those LGBTQ+ respondents who reported the lowest levels of influence on their community leaders also reported they participated in community improvement projects “sometimes.”



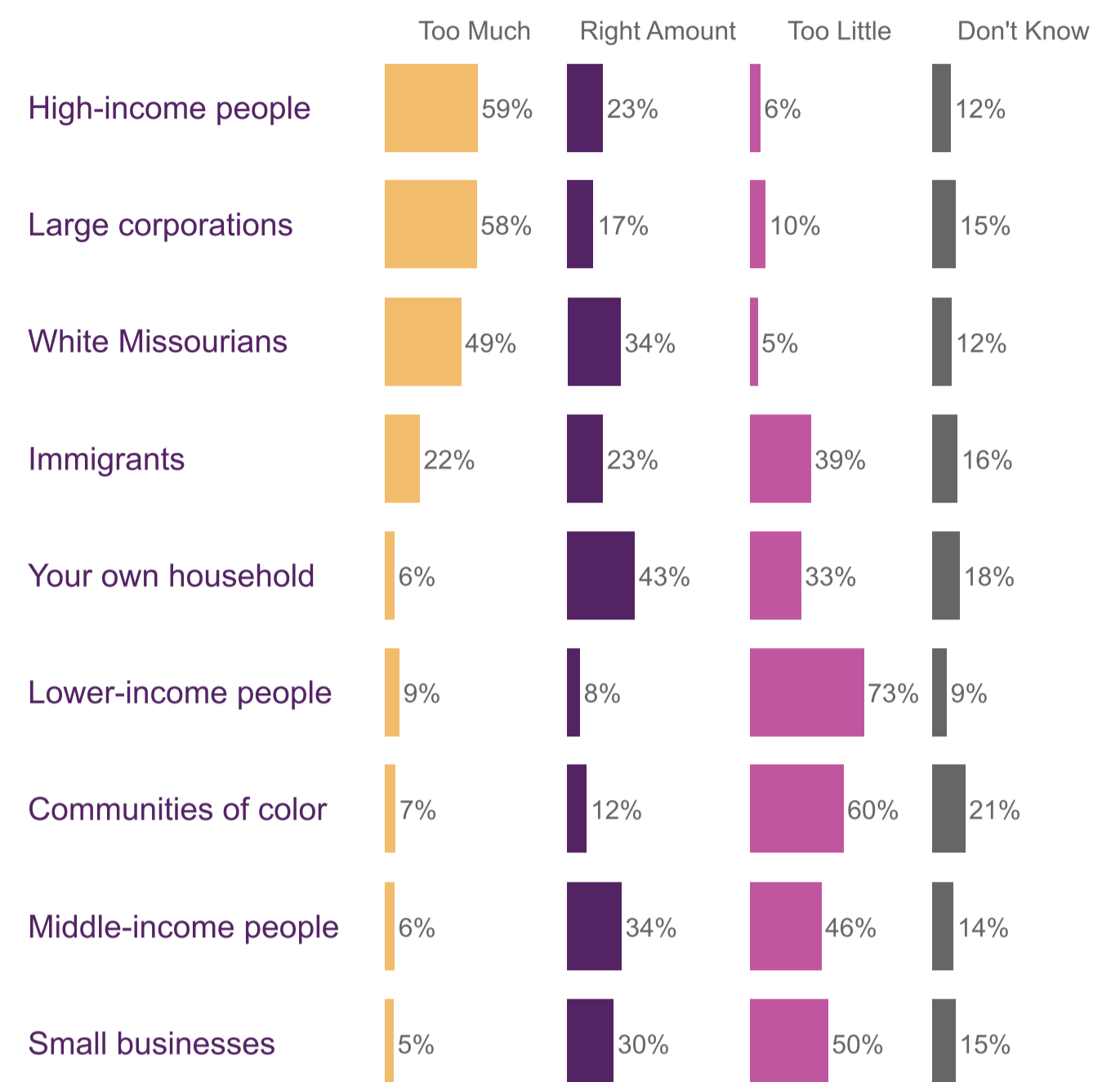
## Economic & Financial Wellbeing

In the past year, 12% of LGBTQ+ respondents have faced eviction or loss of housing because they could not afford their monthly rent or mortgage, compared to 6% in the general population. And LGBTQ+ respondents and their families were even more likely than those in the general population to have gone at some point in the last year without health insurance, at a rate of 36%.

LGBTQ+ respondents have been unable to afford enough food to meet the nutritional and dietary needs of themselves and their family in the past year at a rate of 41%, compared to 28% in the general population. Finally, 26% of these respondents have experienced unemployment in the past year, compared to just 16% in the general population.

At a rate of 35%, LGBTQ+ respondents reported that their own households' needs are paid too little attention by leaders in Missouri, compared to 34% in the general population.

### Does your local government pay the following groups the right amount of attention?



## Health & Wellbeing

 **38%**

of LGBTQ+ respondents find it **difficult to find or obtain care** for their or their family's **physical health** in their community.

 **67%**

of LGBTQ+ respondents find it **difficult to find or obtain care** for their or their family's **mental health** in their community.

By a few percentage points, LGBTQ+ respondents to Speak Up MO 2025 were more likely than the general population to perceive it as difficult to find or obtain care for their family's physical health in their communities. Among these respondents, 38% find it difficult to find or obtain care for their or their family's physical health in their community.

However, by a margin of 16 percentage points over the general population, as many as 67% of LGBTQ+ respondents found it difficult to find or obtain care for their own and their families' mental health. A similar number of LGBTQ+ respondents shared that they'd experienced mental health strain in the last year, at 68%, compared to 52% in the general population.

LGBTQ+ respondents were a little more likely to report that they believed factors in society and community have an impact on a person's health than in the general population. Nearly 99% of LGBTQ+ respondents who have experienced mental health strain in the last year stated that they believe social and community factors have at least a modest impact on personal health, compared to 95% of those in the general population.

Want to learn more? View the data for yourself

VISIT [SPEAKUPMO.ORG](https://speakupmo.org) 



Missouri Foundation  
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