

# COLLINGSWOOD CONVERSATIONS

V12 08 2020

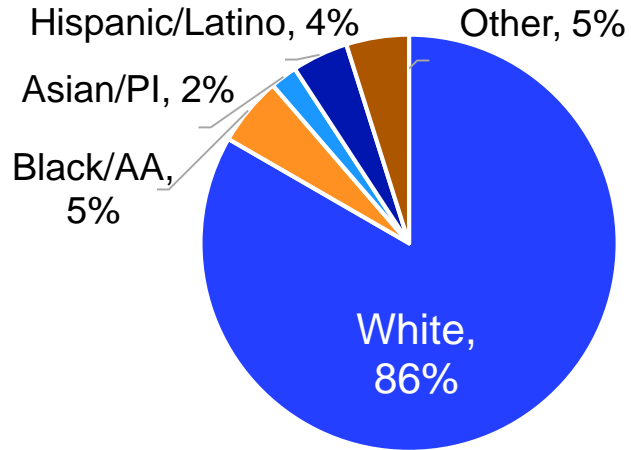


# How Was the Survey Conducted?

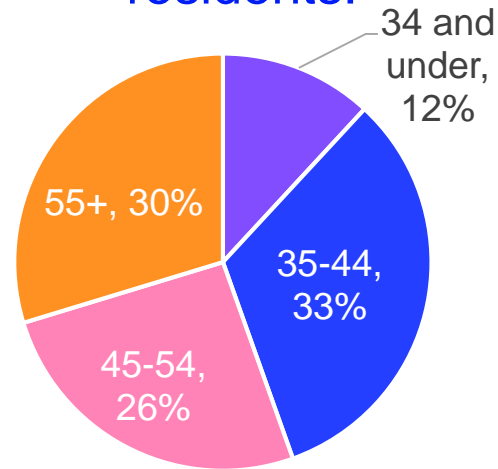
- Online survey collected 601 responses from September 21<sup>st</sup> to October 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Respondents were presented with 26 questions, including open and closed ended formats.
- The survey was promoted and responses solicited through:
  - Facebook, Community Groups, Instagram, Twitter
  - Website; Homepage news release
  - Retrospect News
  - Email to Borough Subscribers and Parent Emails (via School Board)
  - Stakeholder Shares (Black Lives Matter march planning group and Student Social Justice Club)
  - Collingswood Conversations Pop-Up Bulletin Board at Borough Hall

# Who took the survey?

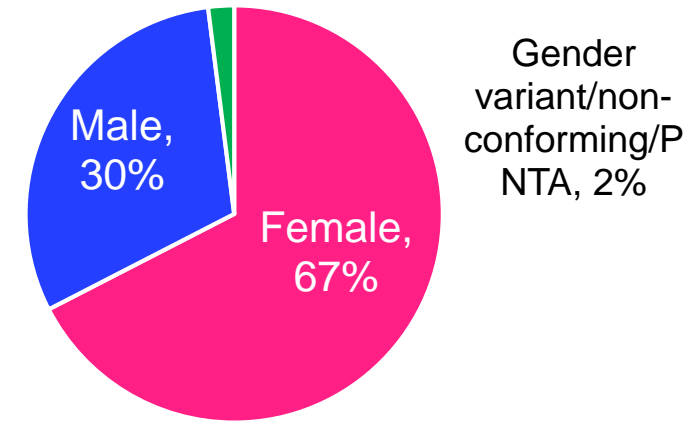
- Majority were White



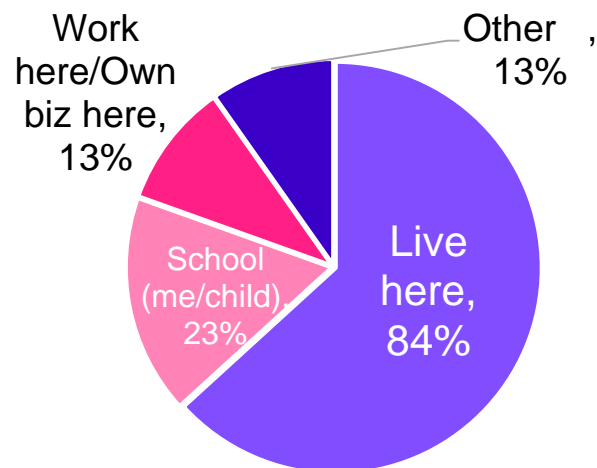
- Age skewed towards older residents:



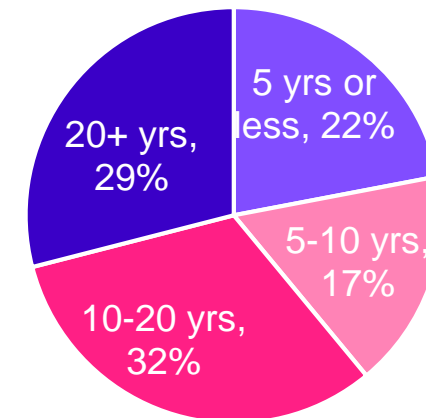
- More than 2X women vs. men:



- Most live in Collingswood:



- Mix of time affiliated with Collingswood:



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**WHAT DID WE DISCOVER?**

# Strengths of Collingswood

**Most are interested in topics related to race:**  
77% are interested in learning; 69% in getting involved.\*

**Collingswood is viewed as a tolerant community.**  
The average score was a 70/100.

**Local institutions instill confidence.**  
75+% felt confident about borough gov't + police, and state gov't.

**Many are interested in participating in community activities.**  
52% are interested/very interested.

**Residents are optimistic about their future.**  
65% agree opportunities for success are in reach.

# Areas of Improvement for Collingswood

**Non-white residents feel CW is less tolerant.**

11% gap between white and non-white responses and comments reflect this.

**Views are mixed on Collingswood being racially inclusive.**

The average score was a 56/100.

**Higher level institutions are not trusted.**

Lack of confidence in the courts, state police, and federal gov't.

**Older residents are less concerned or interested in action.**

+26% gap for 45+ for interest in participating.

**Police perceptions show uncertainty:**

72% agreed or were unsure if races are treated differently.

# Is Collingswood a Tolerant Community?



**Collingswood viewed as a tolerant community by most:**  
Average score was a 70/100.

Some are confident and proud of being a tolerant community.

Some believe community is tolerant, but concerned this is just their experience / perception.

For some, personal experiences have exposed intolerance.

# Differing Experiences



**Local institutions instill confidence:**

75+% felt confident about borough gov't + police, and state gov't.

**BUT**

*Non-white Collingswood residents are\*:*

3X

More likely to have been afraid their life was in danger.

11X

More likely to be denied services at a business.

4X

More likely to be denied a job they were qualified for.

15X

More likely to be denied housing they could afford.

\*Comparison of responses from White and Non-White respondents to Q24 "Based on your race or ethnic background, have you ever experienced..."



# Root Causes of Racism and Discrimination



## Systemic discrimination:

68% felt this was a bigger problem in our country vs. individual beliefs.

Some said even if root causes are systemic, individuals are key contributors to racism.

Others felt institutions are both the root cause and the solution.

Some said systems won't change unless individuals change and stop denying racism.

# Interest in Getting Involved and Ideas



**Most are interested in topics related to race**  
77% are interested in learning; 69% in getting involved.

**Top area for improvement:**  
Education on race and race relations picked by 49%.



**Many are interested in participating in community activities:**  
52% are interested/very interested.



**Consistent views on what would be effective:**  
Trainings, communications, and events.



# Thought Starters

## *What Could Be Discussed in the Community?*

### General Comments:

- Curriculum about culture, cultural appropriation, terminology, inclusion of diverse history as American history, anti-racism.
- Training on anti-racism, implicit bias.
- How to be an ally.

### BIPOC-Specific Comments:

- Importance of not just teaching...but **celebrating** differences.
- Including positive images, stories and history lessons about people of color, women and LGBTQ individuals.

## *What are Activities of Interest?*

### General Comments:

- Moderated discussions with leaders in our community, journalists, experts.
- Advisory boards, discussion groups.
- Activities with families/children.

### BIPOC-Specific Comments:

- Celebrating races and heritages through food festivals.
- Cultural events focused on diverse cultures.