



Voices of the Community: Fairfax County

Residents Among the Most Satisfied in Greater Washington region, But Differences Exist on the Margins

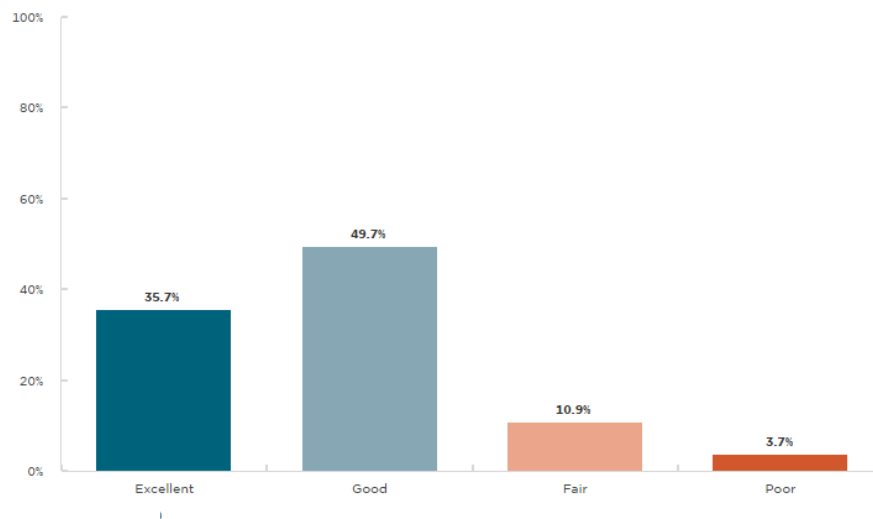
When asked about the quality of nine key aspects of the area where they live – such as healthcare, transportation, schools, entertainment, jobs, and housing – Fairfax County had the highest or second-highest percentage of residents who rated each category as “excellent” or “good” compared with other jurisdictions, with the exception of two categories. In two areas – availability of transportation options and affordable housing – satisfaction in Fairfax County ranked third and fourth, respectively.

The overall quality of public schools

Fairfax County, VA

85.4%
Satisfaction

Breakdown of Responses

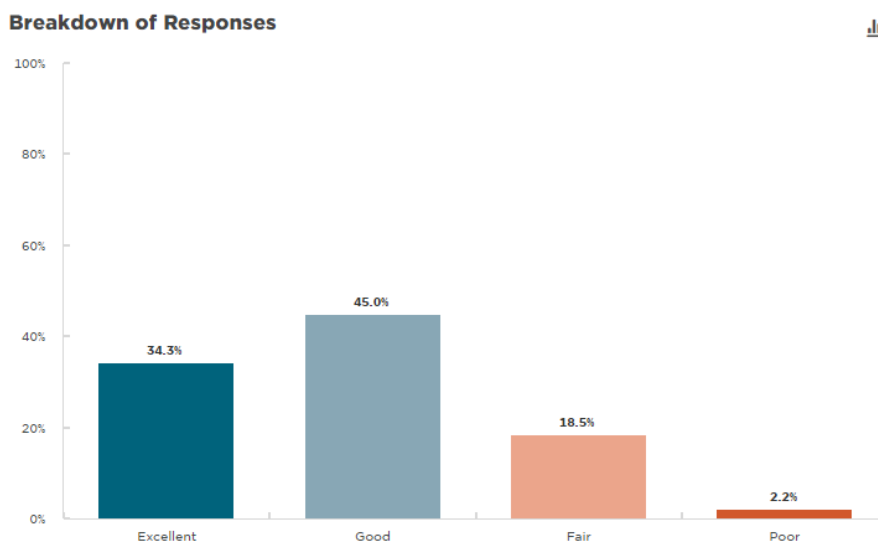


While Loudoun County is often the area that edged out Fairfax County for the highest satisfaction across various dimensions, Fairfax residents believe it delivers a better quality of life to certain segments of its population, outpacing Loudoun County in the percent of residents that say it is a “good” or “very good” place for low-income (17%) and middle-income (65%) people. In fact, more Fairfax residents said the area where they live is “good” or “very good” for middle-income residents than any other area in the Greater Washington region, just edging out Prince George’s County.

There are, however, discrepancies at the very top of the ratings. While by and large, those earning less than \$48,000 are about as likely to rate key aspects of the community as “good” or “excellent” as those earning more, they are often far less likely to say they are “excellent.”

Two notable examples are residents’ opinions of the availability of healthcare and quality of public schools: those earning less than \$48,000 are more than 30 percentage points less likely to rate them as “excellent” than those earning more than \$48,000. One additional area where lower-income residents are less likely to be satisfied is in the area of good jobs: just 3% of those earning less than \$48,000 say availability of good jobs is “excellent,” compared to 40% of those earning more.

The availability of good jobs
Fairfax County, VA
79.3%
Satisfaction



While Fairfax County has a higher satisfaction floor among all of its residents, there may be issues of access and quality in jobs, healthcare, and education that impact its lower-income residents. Still, when compared to other counties with high levels of resident satisfaction like Loudoun, it is largely delivering more equitable levels of satisfaction to a more diverse group of residents.

People of Color Generally Happier with Fairfax County, Except on Issues of Race and Ethnicity

In nearly every aspect discussed above, strong majorities of residents of color say these areas are “good,” or “excellent.” In fact, when compared to residents of color in every other region surveyed, Fairfax County’s residents of color reported the highest average of “good” and “excellent” ratings across all of these key aspects, such as availability of healthcare and quality of public schools.

Still, that is not to say that residents of color are entirely satisfied with issues of equity and inclusion in Fairfax County. Sixty-four percent of residents of color say Fairfax County is a “good” or “very good” place for racial and ethnic minorities, and 59% say it is a “good” or “very good” place for immigrants from other countries, each of which is below average when compared to other areas in the Greater Washington region. When asked about discrimination, 42% of the county’s residents of color cited personal experiences with racial discrimination in the past year, the highest of any area. While the county may be delivering strong community services to its residents of color, it seems the community itself may be less welcoming.

Moreover, while the 79% of residents who say the availability of good jobs is “good” or “excellent” is tied for the best mark in the Greater Washington region, this percentage is slightly lower among residents of color (75%).