

HALIFAX

**UN Women
Safe Cities
Safe Public
Spaces
Programme**

Halifax Scoping Study Overview

December 3rd, 2020

What is a scoping study?

- The scoping study is the first output for participation in the UN Women Safe Cities Safe Public Spaces programme
- It is meant to be high-level
- It ensures the programme is localized by identifying key stakeholders and priorities

How we're defining a public space...

- An area or place that is open and accessible to the public.
- Libraries, plazas, squares and parks
- Connecting spaces, such as sidewalks, roadways and streets, as well as public transit.
- Publicly accessible, but privately owned spaces, such as restaurants, bars, cafes, airports and planes, taxis and other forms of privately owned transportation services.
- Online spaces, where various publics interact and information is produced and exchanged.



Data collection and participation

Participants and partners:

- Nova Scotia Status of Women
- Implementing Committee
- Women's Advisory Committee Halifax
- WSA participants
- Interview participants

Sources of information:

- Desk review
- Semi-directed interviews
- Women's Safety Assessments

Community participation

In the interviews, we heard from:

- An officer from the Nova Scotia RCMP H Division
- A representative from Avalon Sexual Assault Resource Centre
- A representative from The Youth Project
- A Community Engagement Coordinator at a family resource centre
- Partners on a project researching the prevalence of domestic violence faced by women with disabilities
- A representative from the People's Clinic
- A representative from the Mi'kmaq Native Friendship Centre

What have we learned?

- First and foremost, we've learned that we still have a lot to learn
- Sexual violence is normalized and ingrained
- Police data is insufficient
- Lack of resources and support for victims/survivors means less come forward with their stories

One in three women, or about 4.9 million women aged 15 or older in Canada experienced some form of unwanted sexual behavior in a public place in the 12 months preceding the Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces. (2018)



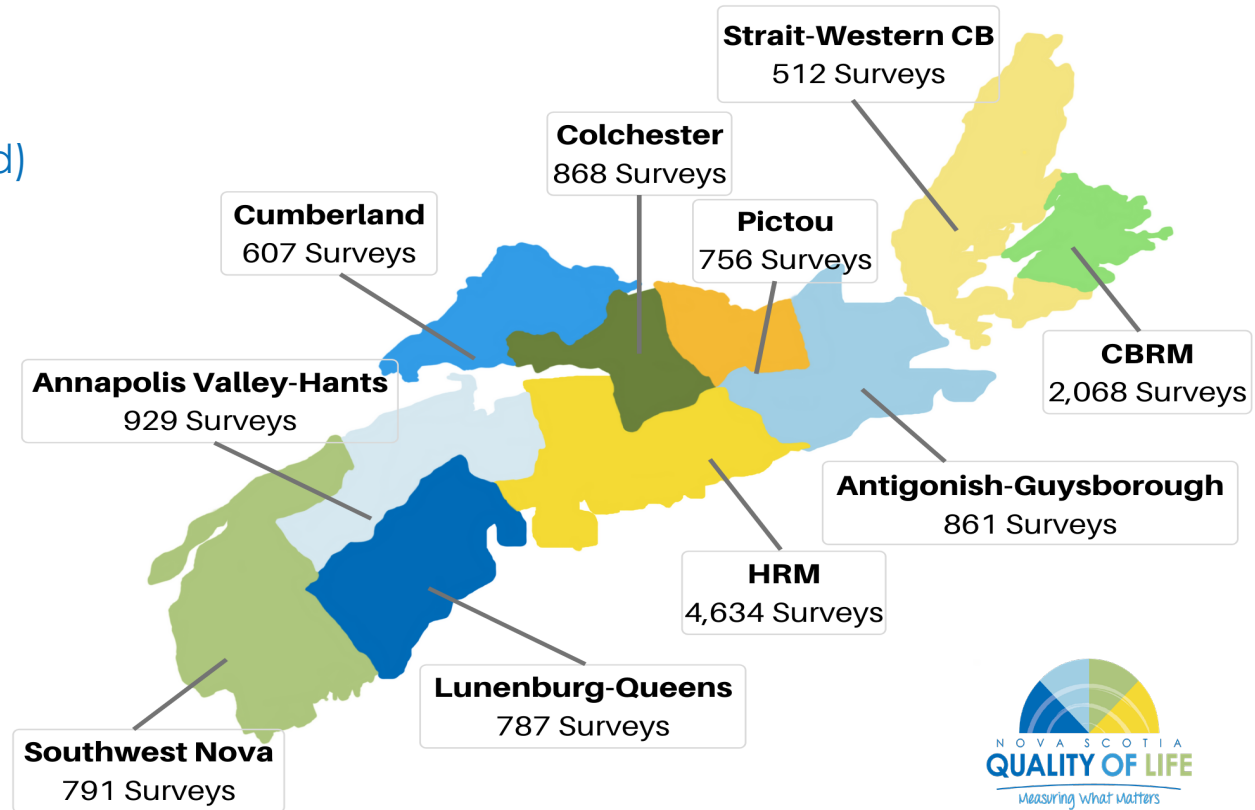
Community Wellbeing Survey 2019

12,827 Responses (Pre-Covid)

230 Individual questions

16 years-old and above

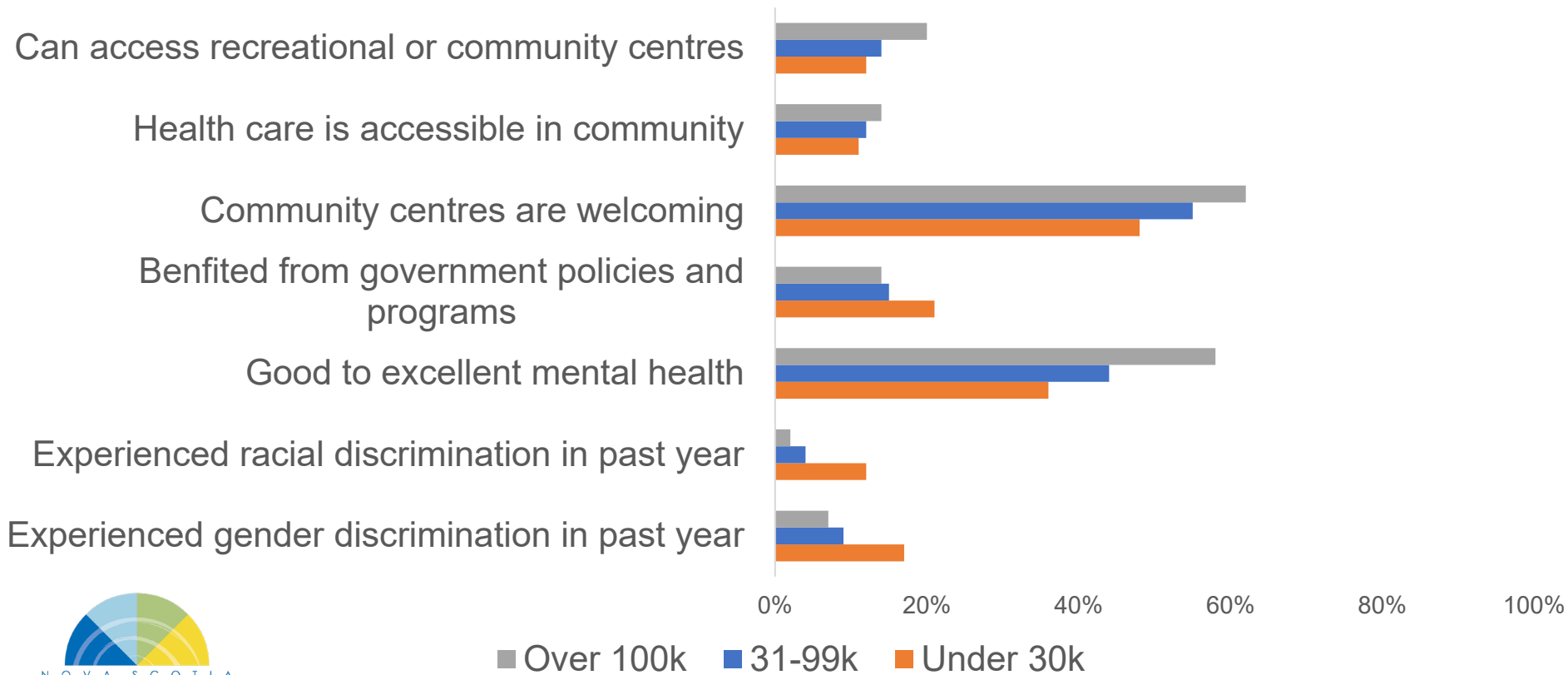
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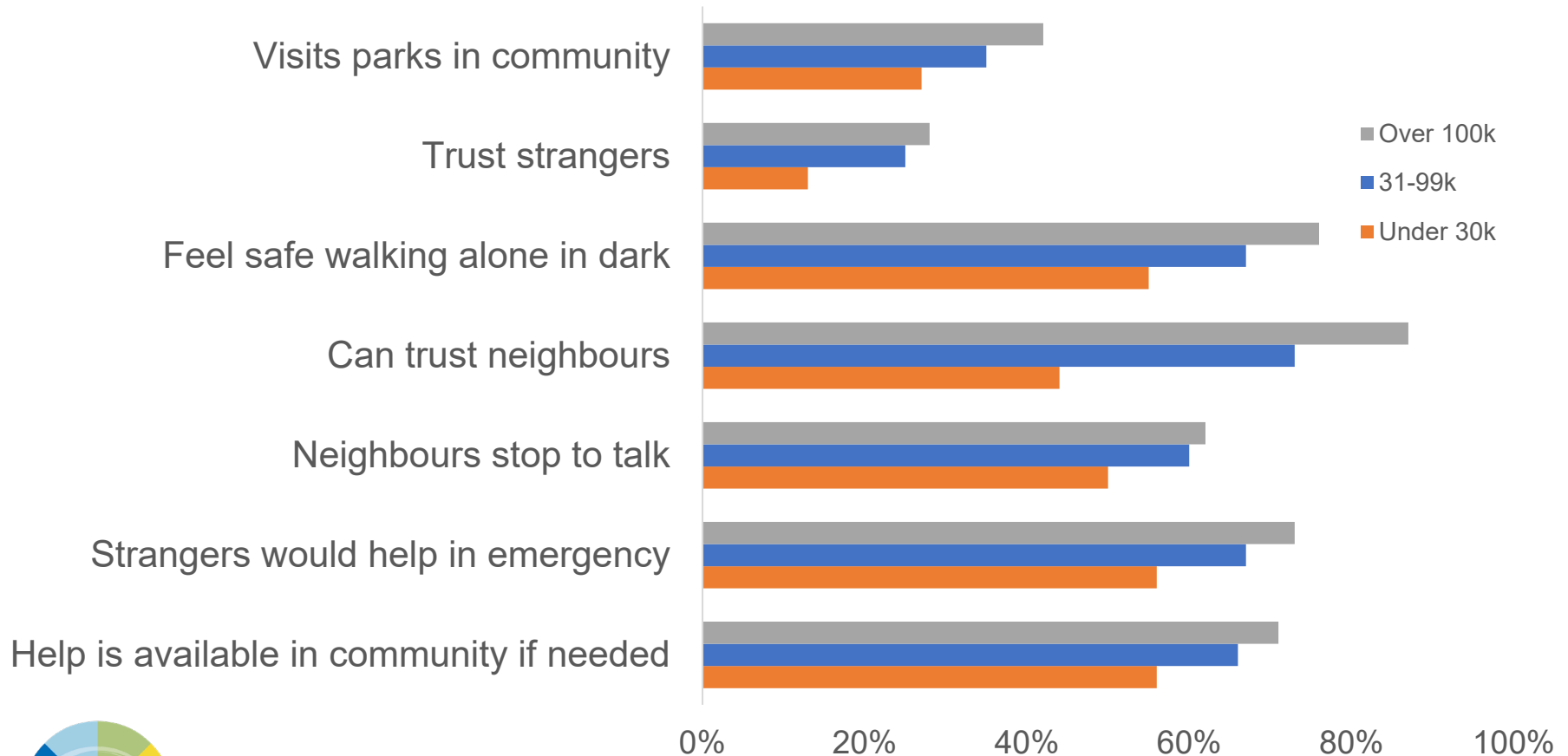
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<https://engagenovascotia.ca/aboutsurvey>

Select indicators of quality of life in female respondents within HRM by income



Community vitality indicators for female respondents in HRM by income



Priorities

Centering intersectionality: while women from all walks of life experience sexual violence, some women are put at a higher risk because of their age, income, ability, race, sexuality, and/or gender expression.

Examples of priority areas from other stakeholders:

- Alcohol consumption
- Taxis
- Online harassment
- Addressing the housing crisis

What we want to learn from you:

- What do you think we need to address?
- Where do your priorities lie with regards to gender-based violence in public spaces in Halifax?
- What would you like to see come out of Halifax's participation in the UN Women Safe Cities Safe Public Spaces programme?