



WHY CITIES NEED EDUCATED CITIZENS

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Introduction

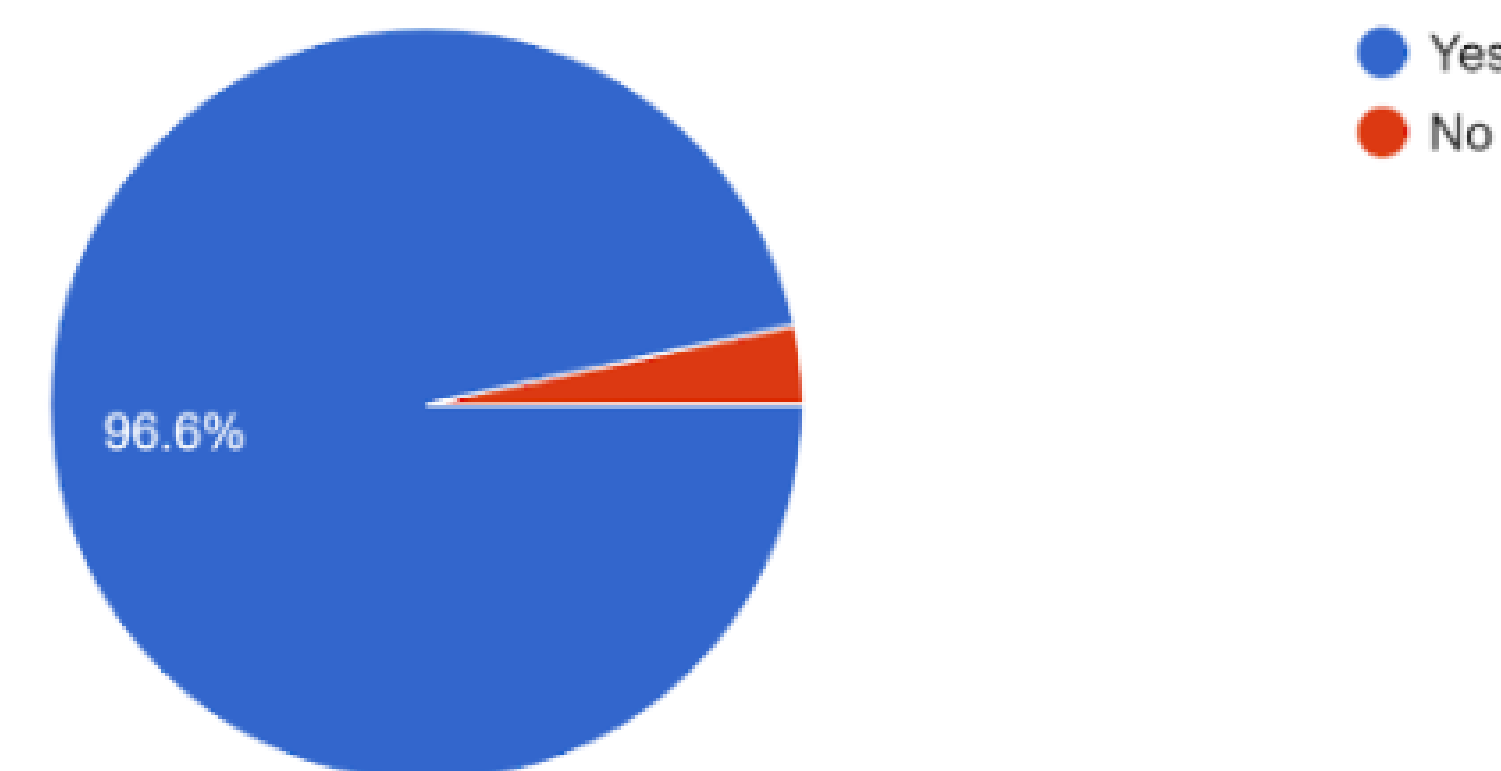
Lack of citizen education in regards to their city has become a growing issue, especially in teenagers. A general education for citizenship is argued to be the basis of a stable society. ED choice claims that “without a minimum degree of literacy and knowledge,” citizens are unable to make informed decisions about the future of their city, resulting in a destructive democracy. How are teenagers going to uplift the governance of their city if they do not understand the most basic concepts such as their city’s population, city limits, or overarching issues? [The study aims to explore the severity of lack of citizen education, specifically in adolescents, as well as the consequences of this on the development of cities.](#)

Methodology

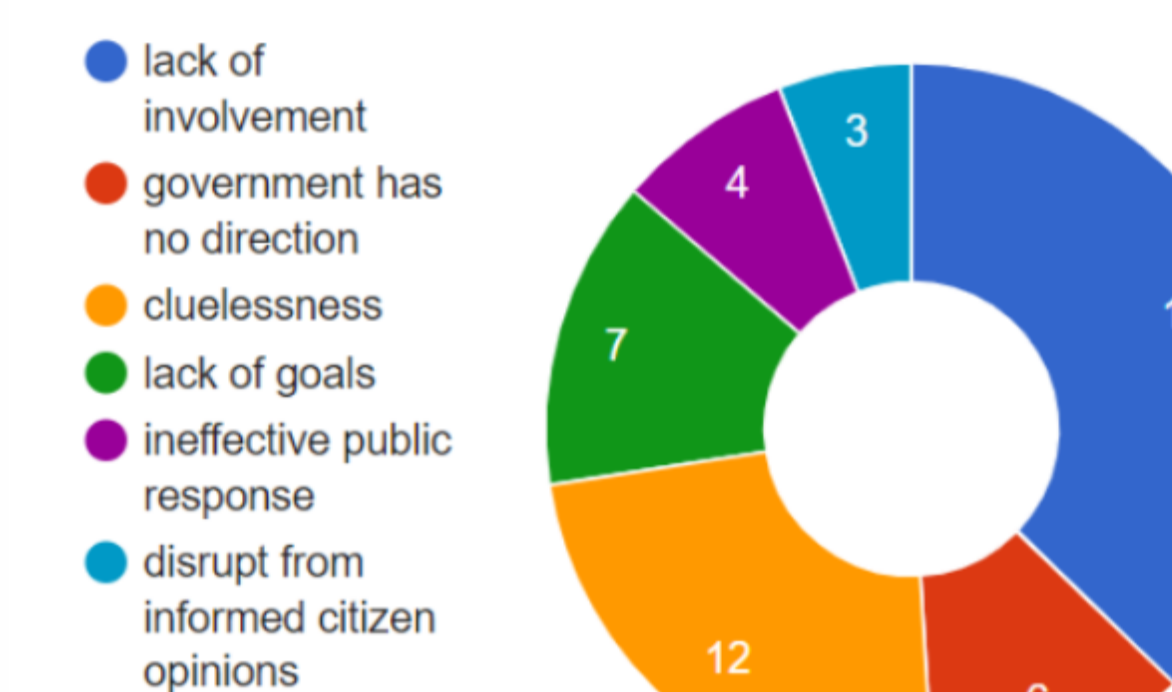
[61 high schoolers across 7 cities were surveyed through an online 14-question questionnaire.](#) This survey was open for 20 days and asked a variety of questions in regards to how involved respondents are with their city, the opinions respondents had on their city governance and issues, and how aware respondents were with the impact of uneducated citizens and how likely they were to take initiative to educate themselves. This questionnaire gathered both qualitative and quantitative data, with quantitative data gathering percentages and ratings and qualitative data gathering short answers response questions to understand respondents’ personal opinions.

Results

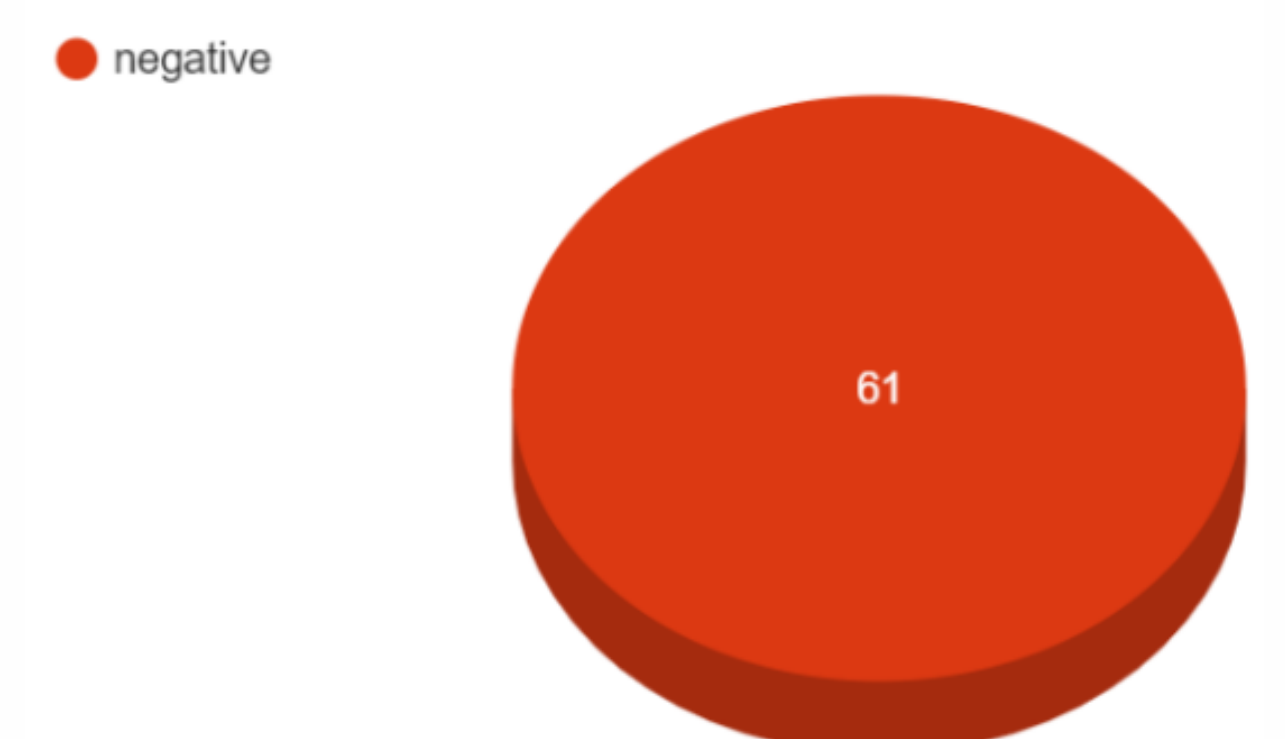
Do you believe there is room for improvement in your understanding of your city?
59 responses



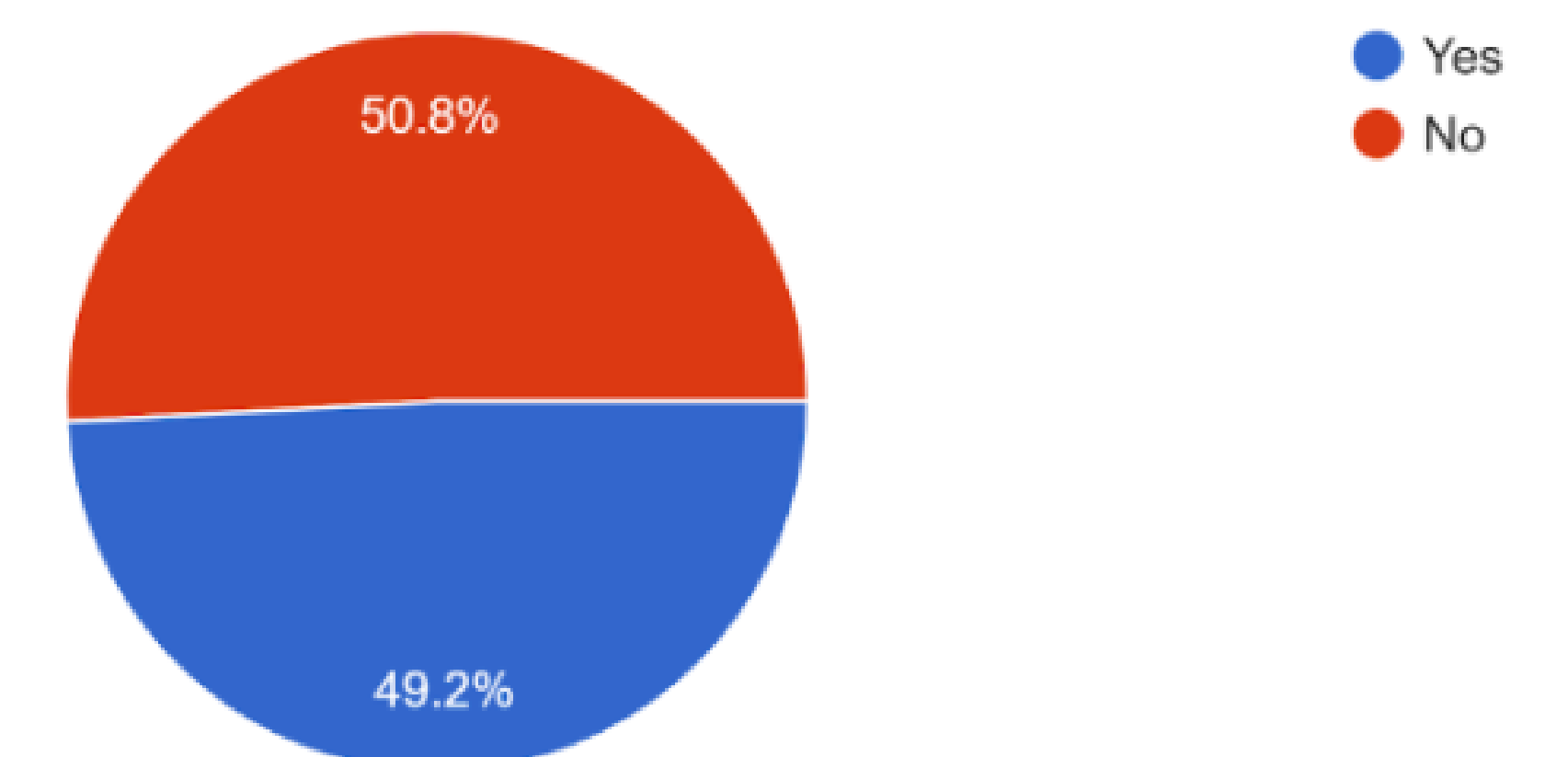
How Might Lack of Citizen Education Influence A City?



What Kind of Impact Does Lack of Citizen Education Have On A City?



Do you plan to be more informed on your city?
59 responses



Takeaways

- 88.5% of respondents never once attended a town hall or city council meeting.
- 59% of respondents did not know the approximate population of their city.
- When asked how well people believed they knew their city on a scale of 1 to 5, only 6.6% of respondents selected 5.
- When asked how involved people are with their city, only 4.9% chose 4 and a mere 4.9% chose 5.

[The “How Well Do You Know Your City” Questionnaire demonstrates the severity of adolescent misinformation and lack of engagement in their city.](#) This suggests that adolescents are aware that their lack of municipal education negatively affects their city’s governance.

Discussion/Next Steps

[This study is successful in showcasing that the majority of teenagers in Sugar Land and Missouri City lack education about their city, thus, enabling future research to examine the direct relationship between this and non flourishing city governments.](#) It is believed that this survey exemplifies not only how little teenagers know about their municipality, but also how unwilling they are to take on a greater commitment to educate themselves. A potential next step can be to target adults instead of teens in order to see the disparities between the age groups in regards to lack of municipal intellect. Future studies may use this one to gauge how invested teens are in learning more about their city, as well as how little or how much they know now. With this research, further studies can then be conducted to analyze how this causative factor creates a handicapped government as the municipality continues to base their decisions on uneducated citizens’ opinions. Although no solid claim can be obtained from this research endeavor, city governments may alter their processes by promoting outreach for teen summer programs to learn more about their city, city engagement incentives, and more thanks to this area of research that has clarified the detrimental issue of adolescent uninvolvement.