



CITY OF BLACK DIAMOND

Interoffice Memorandum

TO: CITIZENS OF BLACK DIAMOND
SUBJECT: PARKS SURVEY RESULTS
DATE: 10/1/2008

Dear Residents of Black Diamond,

It's with great excitement that we submit to you the results from the recently completed City-wide park survey. To date, we've had a little over 150 responses to the survey that was mailed out June 1st of this year. You'll find as you go through the results that many people placed emphasis on enhancing our natural paths and hiking trails throughout the City. There is a significant need for more playgrounds as well as picnic amenities at our current facilities.

As discussed with the Park's Committee, we believe that the City has several options when it comes to maintaining our current parks, while planning for future growth. Staff will be bringing to the Council, within the next month or so, a six-year capital improvement program, that is meant to provide guidance to staff on areas of interest and upkeep of existing facilities. Several funding options will be presented to the Council. In addition, staff is nearing completion of the City's Comprehensive Parks Plan that will allow the City to actively engage in parks, recreation and open space grant opportunities. To date, the City has not been able to participate in these grant programs because of the lack of a complete Comprehensive Parks Plan. Also real estate excise tax (REET II) monies will be allowed to be used when the Comprehensive Parks Plan is passed and approved by the Council.

Thank you all for the time you've taken in completing the Parks Survey. The results will serve as useful guide in directing the City's efforts now and into the future.

Frequently Asked Questions and Comments, Survey 08'

General Comments and Questions

1. As a young, growing family we would like to see more family-friendly indoor/outdoor facilities and activities as Black Diamond grows in population.

The Mayor and City Council have made it a priority that as the City of Black Diamond's population grows and development occurs, so will the quantity and the quality of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space provided to the City and its residents. New development will be required to help pay for this.

2. If there are toddler friendly parks near town, I don't know where they are. A map of park facilities or clearly visible signs would be helpful.

The City understands the lack of these types of resources throughout Black Diamond. Financial limitations currently exist within the City's budget, but the City is aggressively pursuing grant opportunities and other funding mechanisms to help improve our Parks, Recreation and Open Space Program. A map is currently being developed that identifies Black Diamond Parks, Recreation and Open Space opportunities. Keep an eye on our website for this.

3. My husband and I are greatly disappointed with the playgrounds in Black Diamond. We regularly drive to Mud Mountain Dam or to Point Defiance Zoo just to find a nice play area for our three children.

Upgrades to existing parks will be included in the City's Comprehensive Parks Plan, currently being developed. The City is actively looking at funding opportunities and will continue to aggressively apply for granting opportunities and other sources of revenue available to us.

Lake Sawyer Park and Boat Launch

4. Lake Sawyer needs a dock at the boat launch.

The City is in the process of letting a contract with Anchor Environmental Consultants in getting a design together for an improved boat launch, docking facility and swimming area. The City is hoping to obtain a Recreation and Conservation Office Grant from the State of Washington in order to construct the facility in the summer of 2010.

5. Where is the dock that was supposed to be built at the Sawyer Boat Launch Park? What are we paying \$5.00 to park for?

Without a consistent funding source, the Parks, Recreation and Open Space program is very limited in what it can utilize the \$5.00 fee for. At this time, a majority of the funds are going towards maintenance and operations of the boat launch.

6. Are these questions related to the Lake Sawyer Master Plan? What has changed from the original plan?

There has been a master plan put together for the South end of Lake Sawyer since 2005. The City has never maintained a Comprehensive Park's Plan that addresses the needs and wants of its citizens for the entire City. Information from this survey will be utilized in putting together a Parks, Recreation and Open Space plan for the first time in the City's history. With this completed, the City will have more flexibility in pursuing grants and other funding opportunities.

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Maintenance

7. I would like to see an expansion of the Public Works Division into another (separate) Parks Maintenance Division along with the expansion of Park Facilities.
8. We need more workers in the City - The three that you have keep up a lot already - some things look shady as far as weeding goes. We have enough to do now.

The City, in coming months, will be pursuing many options as it pertains to maintaining and funding its current park inventory. Your input is essential to this process.

Trails, Open Space and Bicycling

9. One thing that would be important is to be able to safely walk/ride bikes to these recreational facilities. Right now, we don't have wide streets or sidewalks throughout the City.
10. Walking/Bicycle trails foster a real sense of community. You see many of your neighbors out on them and it encourages a healthy activity that is easy to do and convenient.
11. We need off road walking paths suitable for people and dogs on leashes.

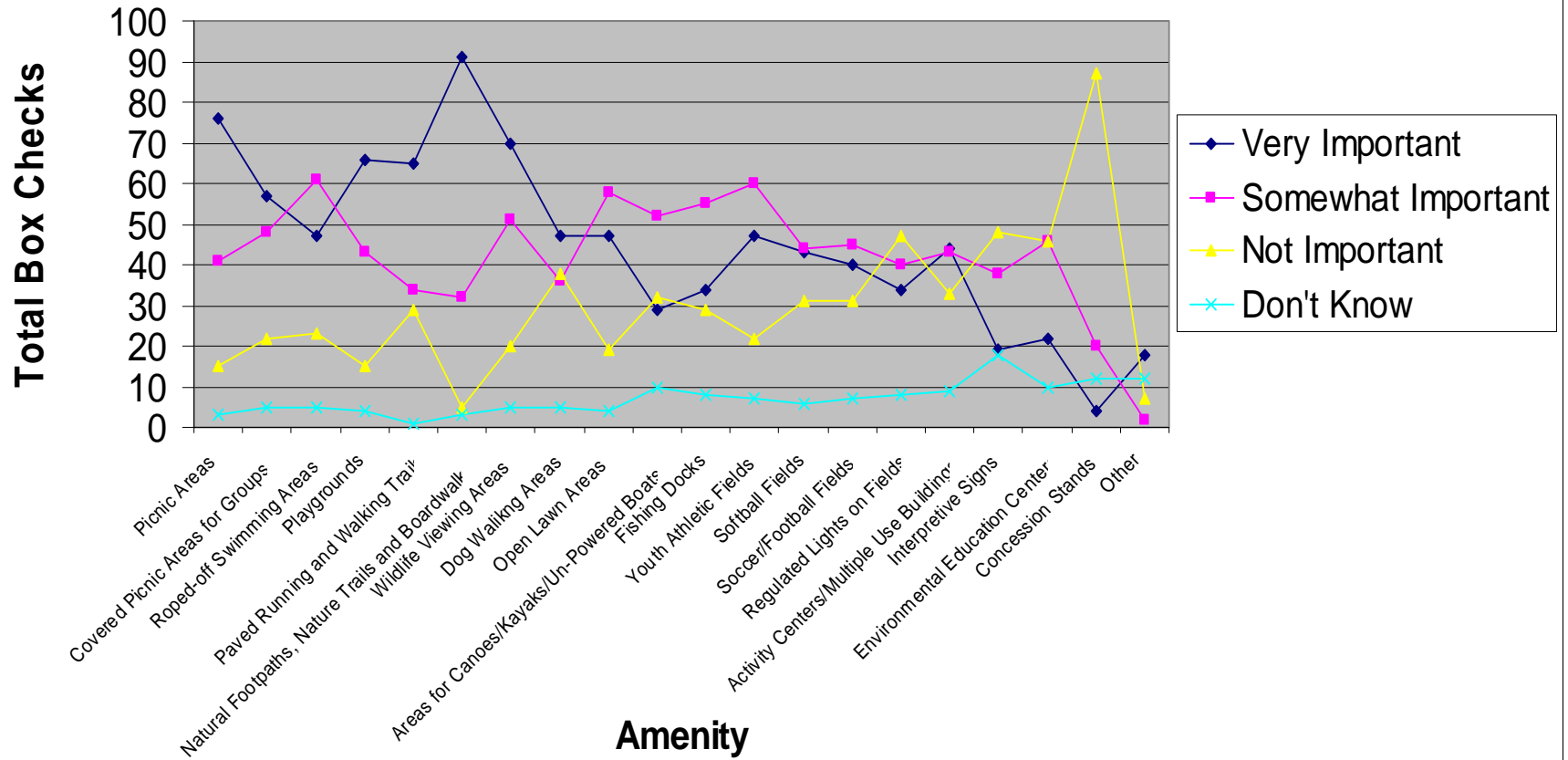
The development of a comprehensive Parks and Transportation plan will help us prioritize these needs and apply for funding. The Natural Resources Division is nearing completion of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive Plan and the Public Works Division is beginning hearings on the City's Comprehensive Transportation Plan. The City's goal is have both plans completed and adopted by the end of the year 2008.

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Program Interest

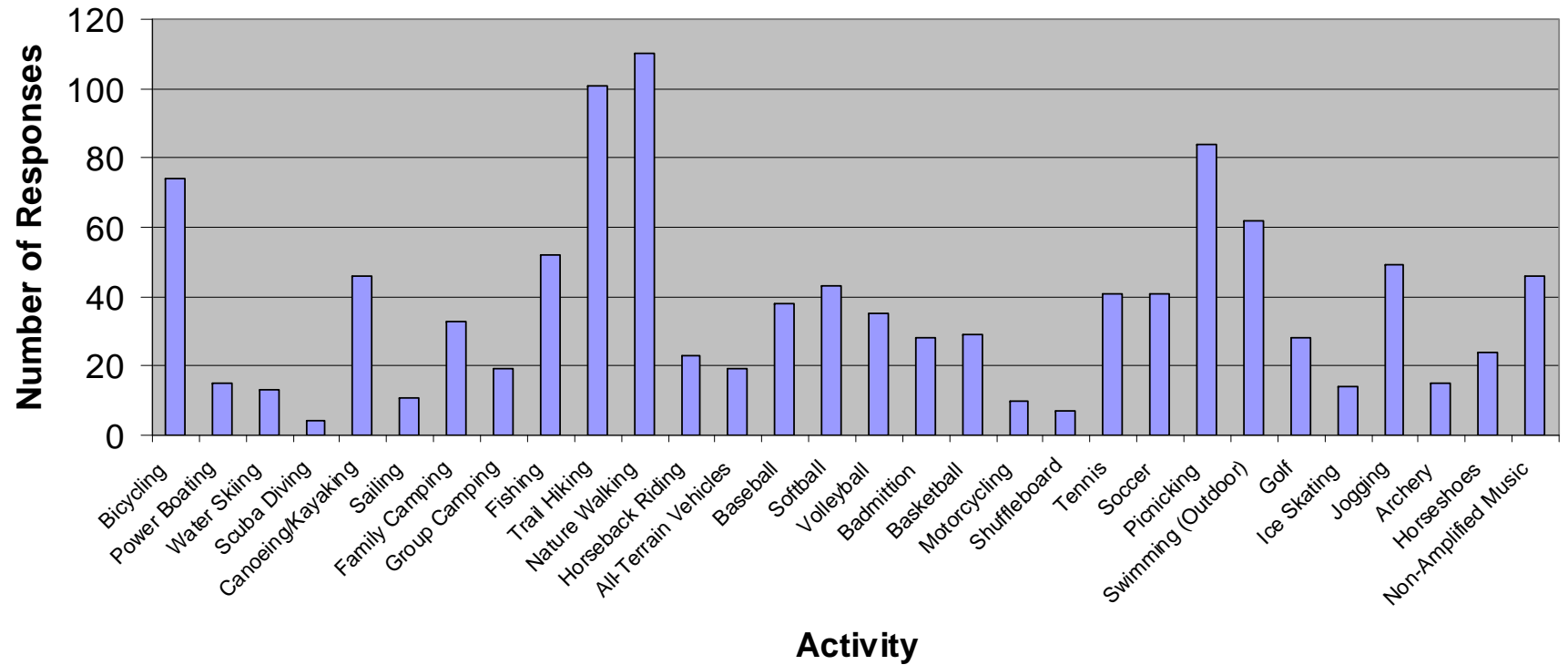
12. This is Black Diamond, stop trying to turn it into Seattle. We don't need all that stuff that progress brings, i.e. crime, congestion, etc.
13. If Black Diamond could become a destination for outdoor activities that would be beyond wonderful. We love the feel of our Small Town and are concerned that there's a good possibility it could be gone forever.
14. Thank you for this survey. Although we do not make use of our local parks and other offerings currently, we did extensively when our children were growing up. We feel that the subjects referenced in this survey are important aspects in the quality of life here in Black Diamond.

Staff truly appreciates any and all comments offered by the citizens of Black Diamond in regard to its Parks, Recreation and Open Space Program. We are committed to providing the very best service we can to all residents of the City. We strongly believe in the quality of life and small town character inherent to Black Diamond and are working strongly to ensure that this continues as the City develops, now and into the future.

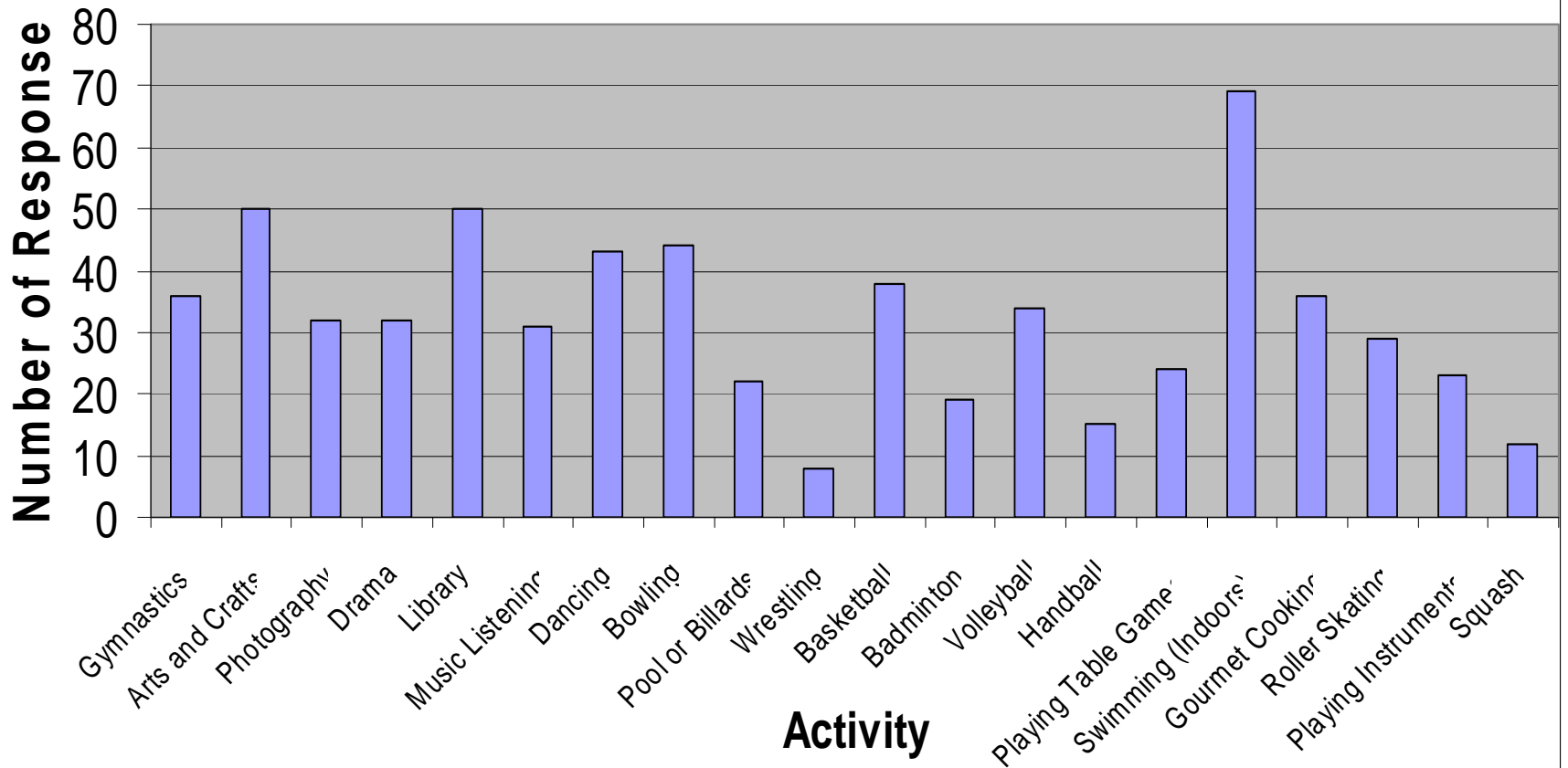
Amenity Interest



Interest Level (Outdoor Activities)



Interest Level (Indoor Activities)



RAW SURVEY DATA

1. Which parks and facilities do you or a member of your household use in the City of Black Diamond?

<u>PARK</u>	<u>USE</u>
Union Stump	9
Coal Car Park	11
Tennis Courts	25
Skate Park	39
Ball Field	35
Lake Sawyer Park	63
Boat Launch	65
Eagle Crest Park	11
BMX Park	25

2. Which Park do you visit most often?

<u>Park</u>	<u>USE</u>
Union Stump	3
Coal Car	6
Skate Park	21
Ball Field	22
Boat Launch	61
Eagle Crest Park	5
BMX Park	3

3. How would you rate the following parks in the City of Black Diamond?

<u>SPECIFIC PARK ELEMENT</u>	<u>EXCELLENT</u>	<u>GOOD</u>	<u>FAIR</u>	<u>POOR</u>	<u>DON'T KNOW</u>
Amount of Park Land	12	30	48	46	9
Variety of Park Facilities	7	32	59	42	6
Open Spaces/natural areas	24	44	37	31	6
Park Maintenance	14	51	38	18	16
Ease of Access to Parks	15	60	33	34	10
Recreational Programming	5	12	34	46	45
Arts and Cultural Events	4	8	34	56	43

4. How important are the following?

<u>SPECIFIC PARK ELEMENT</u>	<u>VERY IMPORTANT</u>	<u>SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT</u>	<u>NOT IMPORTANT</u>	<u>DON'T KNOW</u>
Amount of Park Land	88	39	7	2
Variety of Park Facilities	79	48	8	3
Open Space/Natural Areas	104	30	1	1
Park Maintenance	79	52	1	2
Ease of Access to Parks	56	71	7	1
Recreational Programming	42	59	29	5
Arts and Cultural Events	37	60	31	7

5. How would you rate existing parks and recreational offerings for the following ages?

<u>AGE GROUPS</u>	<u>EXCELLENT</u>	<u>GOOD</u>	<u>FAIR</u>	<u>POOR</u>	<u>DON'T KNOW</u>	
Pre-School		4	13	29	42	36
Elementary School		5	35	42	11	34
Middle School		8	33	35	14	36
High School		8	24	31	26	35
Adults (Under 55)		6	24	36	34	24
Adults (55 and Over)		6	19	20	43	39

6. How important are developing additional parks and recreational offerings for the following ages in Black Diamond

<u>AGE GROUPS</u>	<u>VERY IMPORTANT</u>	<u>SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT</u>	<u>NOT IMPORTANT</u>	<u>DON'T KNOW</u>	
Pre-School	59		29	13	17
Elementary School	68		35	10	17
Middle School	63		33	10	20
High School	61		33	14	22
Adults (Under 55)	56		47	12	17
Adults (55 and Over)	57		39	13	25

7. What facilities, equipment or programs are you interested in seeing more of in Black Diamond? Please check all that apply:

8. Which facilities, equipment or programs are the most important to you? Please check three (3) that apply:

<u>OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES</u>	<u>USE (#7)</u>	<u>USE (#8)</u>
Bicycling	74	51
Power Boating	15	10
Water Skiing	13	5
Scuba Diving	4	1
Canoeing/Kayaking	46	14
Sailing	11	3
Family Camping	33	13
Group Camping	19	3
Fishing	52	27
Trail Hiking	101	59
Nature Walking	110	77
Horseback Riding	23	2
All-Terrain Vehicles	19	9
Baseball	38	15
Softball	43	11
Volleyball	35	9
Badminton	28	1
Basketball	29	6
Motorcycling	10	5
Shuffleboard	7	1
Tennis	41	9
Soccer	41	14
Picnicking	84	23

Swimming (Outdoor)	62	21
Golf	28	13
Ice Skating	14	3
Jogging	49	13
Archery	15	
Horseshoes	24	5
Non-Amplified Music	46	11

INDOOR ACTIVITIES **USE (#7)** **USE (#8)**

Gymnastics	36	14
Arts and Crafts	50	24
Photography	32	12
Drama	32	16
Library	50	33
Music Listening	31	12
Dancing	43	20
Bowling	44	19
Pool or Billards	22	5
Wrestling	8	4
Basketball	38	11
Badminton	19	4
Volleyball	34	8
Handball	15	
Playing Table Games	24	2
Swimming (Indoors)	69	40
Gourmet Cooking	36	8
Roller Skating	29	9
Playing Instruments	23	1
Squash	12	1

9. Indicate your level of interest in the following amenities for existing and future parks:

<u>Park Amenities</u>	<u>VERY IMPORTANT</u>	<u>SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT</u>	<u>NOT IMPORTANT</u>	<u>DON'T KNOW</u>
Picnic Areas	76	41	15	3
Covered Picnic Areas for Groups	57	48	22	5
Roped-off Swimming Areas	47	61	23	5
Playgrounds	66	43	15	4
Paved Running and Walking Trails	65	34	29	1
Natural Footpaths, Nature Trails and Boardwalks	91	32	5	3
Wildlife Viewing Areas	70	51	20	5
Dog Walikng Areas	47	36	38	5
Open Lawn Areas	47	58	19	4
Areas for Canoes/Kayaks/Un-Powered Boats	29	52	32	10
Fishing Docks	34	55	29	8
Youth Athletic Fields	47	60	22	7
Softball Fields	43	44	31	6
Soccer/Football Fields	40	45	31	7
Regulated Lights on Fields	34	40	47	8
Activity Centers/Multiple Use Buildings	44	43	33	9
Interpretive Signs	19	38	48	18
Environmental Education Centers	22	46	46	10
Concession Stands	4	20	87	12

Other 18 2 7 12

10. What is your gender?

Male 62
Female 97

11. What is your age?

Under 25 2
25-35 26
36-44 39
45-54 34
55-64 25
65 and Over 28

How long have you lived in Black Diamond?

1-2 years 16
2-5 years 21
5-10 years 30
10-20 years 46
20+ 38

What is the number of people living in your household

One to 5 144
6+ 7

What are the ages of persons living in your household? Check all that apply:

under 5 years 27
5-9 years 30
10-14 years 28
15-19 years 33
20-24 years 13
25-34 years 30
35-44 years 48
45-54 years 45
55-64 years 34
65+ 29