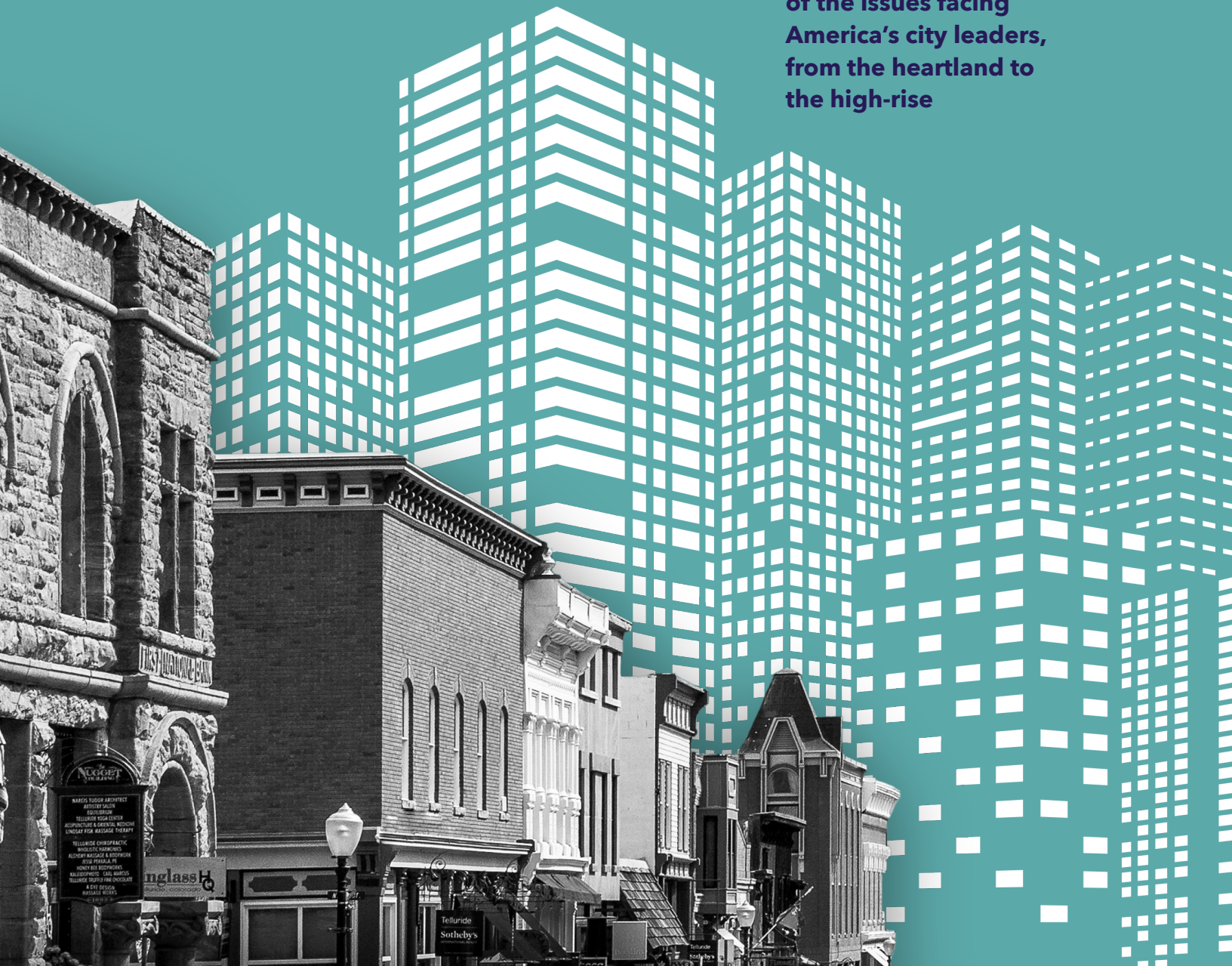


Bloomberg American Cities Initiative

2018 American Mayors Survey

An in-depth examination
of the issues facing
America's city leaders,
from the heartland to
the high-rise



Executive Summary

The Bloomberg Philanthropies' 2018 American Mayors Survey is the largest comprehensive public-opinion survey of mayors and city managers. It is the first multi-topic survey to include small cities (30,000-plus residents), alongside larger metropolises. The survey was conducted as part of Mike Bloomberg's American Cities Initiative, a program designed to empower city leaders to generate new ideas and advance policy that moves the nation forward. It reveals the issues and challenges that are top-of-mind for American leaders — from infrastructure to climate change — and the strategies underway to address them.

Cities are a nexus of innovative solutions for the nation. By reaching a wide array of mayors of various political leanings from cities of all sizes, the survey captures a snapshot of the issues that matter to our nation's heartland and its urban centers.

Mayors and city managers of 156 cities from all regions of the country participated. Among the findings:

Mayors are already taking action on climate change.

Eight in 10 mayors say addressing climate change is very or somewhat important for their cities. Among the solutions to climate change, all of the mayors encourage sustainable transportation, such as cycling, walking, or taking the bus. But few have experience adopting a broad array of necessary climate adaptation strategies.

The opioid crisis has hit some regions harder and more deeply than others. Mayors in the Midwest and Northeast are more likely than those in the South and West to call opioids one of the top challenges or the top challenge facing their cities. No mayors from the West name opioids as a top challenge. Every mayor surveyed in the Northeast describes opioids as a challenge on some level.

Infrastructure is a dominant concern from the heartland to the high-rise. Two-thirds of mayors raise infrastructure as one of the top problems they hear about from residents. Some believe it will be the biggest problem their cities or the nation faces in a decade.

"Cities are driving our progress as a nation – from taking on education reform and public health crises to spurring economic development and job growth to battling crime and climate change."

– Michael R. Bloomberg

Executive Summary

Constructive relationships with city and state

legislators are common. Nearly three-quarters of mayors say they have constructive relationships with their city councils and state legislatures. Fewer — about 4 in 10 — say their relationships with their state governors are constructive.

Federal and state government frequently obstruct

local decision-making. More than two-thirds of mayors say federal or state officials — or both — have preempted their decisions and affected their ability to govern.

New ideas start at home. About half of mayors say they get new ideas from residents, city staff, and other mayors. But

very few mayors say they get new ideas from Washington. More than three-quarters of large cities and one-third of all cities have dedicated staff for citywide innovation. And half of mayors surveyed say their cities have funds outside of government to raise money for public programs.

The survey's findings will help inform future programming for Bloomberg Philanthropies' American Cities Initiative to promote bold leadership in America's cities, advance critical policies and legislation, and empower citizens to solve urban problems.



Michael R. Bloomberg

Bloomberg American Cities Initiative

How do we accelerate
cities' progress?

In June 2017, Michael R. Bloomberg, three-term Mayor of New York City and philanthropist, launched a \$200 million initiative to empower city leaders to generate new ideas and advance policy that moves the nation forward. The Bloomberg American Cities Initiative promotes the belief that cities are leading the way in coming up with new solutions to problems — places where leaders can be found in city hall, private businesses, forward-thinking organizations, and around the kitchen table. Cities drive our nation's progress. They are taking on traffic, affordable housing, and public health crises, spurring economic development and job growth, and battling crime and climate change.

Through grants, technical assistance and opportunities for city leaders to share insights and best practices, the Bloomberg American Cities Initiative focuses on three core areas:

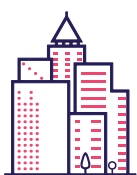
- Promoting bold leadership and effective problem-solving in city halls.
- Advancing critical policies and legislation in areas ranging from education to climate change to opioid abuse.
- Empowering citizens — including artists, volunteers, and entrepreneurs — to solve problems and strengthen communities.

Methodology

The Bloomberg American Cities Initiative surveyed mayors and city managers of cities with 30,000 or more residents. Researchers sent invitations via e-mail to leaders of 1,444 cities. The researchers then administered the anonymous survey, which included a mix of open-ended and multiple-choice questions, online from November 29, 2017, to January 21, 2018. Mayors in 156 cities from 42 states and the District of Columbia participated.

More than three-quarters of the nation's cities have populations of fewer than 100,000 people. By including these smaller cities alongside larger metropolises, our survey captured the voices of mayors — and the concerns of their residents — in our nation's heartland and its urban centers.

City & Mayoral Characteristics



Large Cities (500,000+)

NATIONAL
AVERAGE
2%

SURVEY
SAMPLE
6%



Medium Cities (100,000 - 499,999)

NATIONAL
AVERAGE
20%

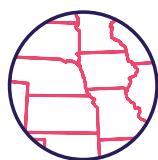
SURVEY
SAMPLE
26%



Small Cities (30,000 - 100,000)

NATIONAL
AVERAGE
78%

SURVEY
SAMPLE
68%



Midwest

NATIONAL
AVERAGE
23%

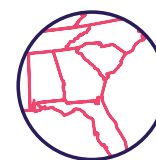
SURVEY
SAMPLE
22%



Northeast

NATIONAL
AVERAGE
20%

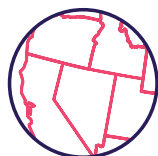
SURVEY
SAMPLE
15%



South

NATIONAL
AVERAGE
28%

SURVEY
SAMPLE
33%



West

NATIONAL
AVERAGE
29%

SURVEY
SAMPLE
29%



Female Mayors

NATIONAL
AVERAGE
21%

SURVEY
SAMPLE
24%



Nonwhite/Hispanic Mayors

NATIONAL
AVERAGE
15%

SURVEY
SAMPLE
16%



SECTION I

Policy Concerns

Mayors are focused on addressing global and national issues like climate change, opioids, and infrastructure.

Policy Concerns

Tackling Climate Change

The national political debate about climate change is highly polarized, but mayors are accepting the reality and the need to act. Eight in 10 mayors think it is important for their cities to address climate change.

Total: Very Important **46%** Somewhat Important **34%** Not Important **13%**



Democrats

VERY IMPORTANT **69%** SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT **22%** NOT IMPORTANT **3%**



Republicans

VERY IMPORTANT **19%** SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT **50%** NOT IMPORTANT **25%**



Midwest

VERY IMPORTANT **46%** SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT **34%** NOT IMPORTANT **17%**



Northeast

VERY IMPORTANT **63%** SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT **21%** NOT IMPORTANT **4%**



South

VERY IMPORTANT **40%** SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT **40%** NOT IMPORTANT **12%**



West

VERY IMPORTANT **42%** SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT **33%** NOT IMPORTANT **18%**



Large

VERY IMPORTANT **78%** SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT **11%** NOT IMPORTANT **0%**



Medium

VERY IMPORTANT **44%** SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT **37%** NOT IMPORTANT **12%**



Small

VERY IMPORTANT **43%** SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT **35%** NOT IMPORTANT **15%**

Significant Barriers

What are the key barriers to effective city action on climate change?

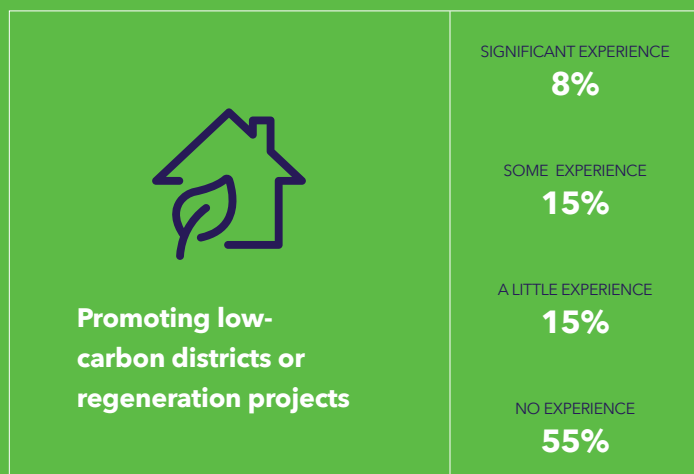
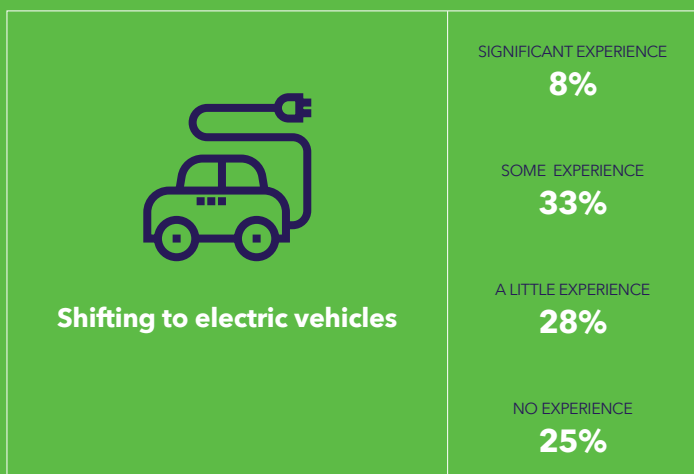
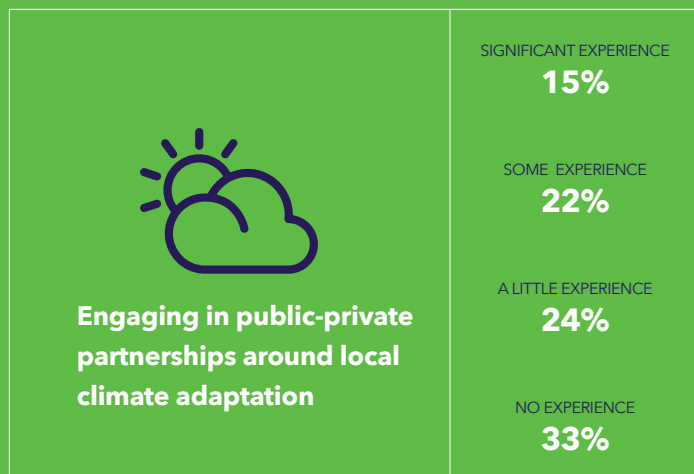
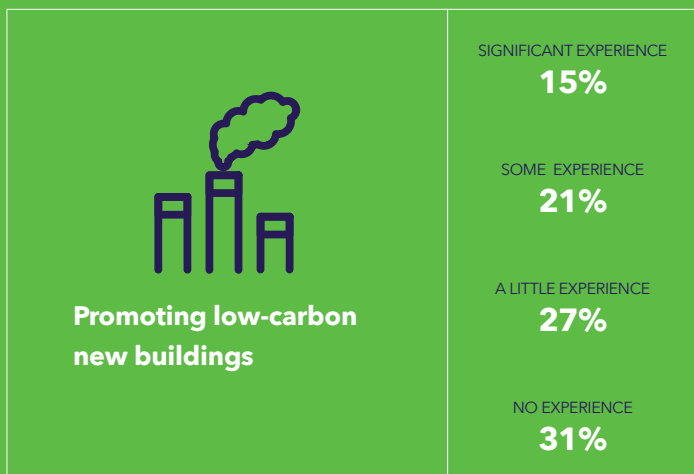
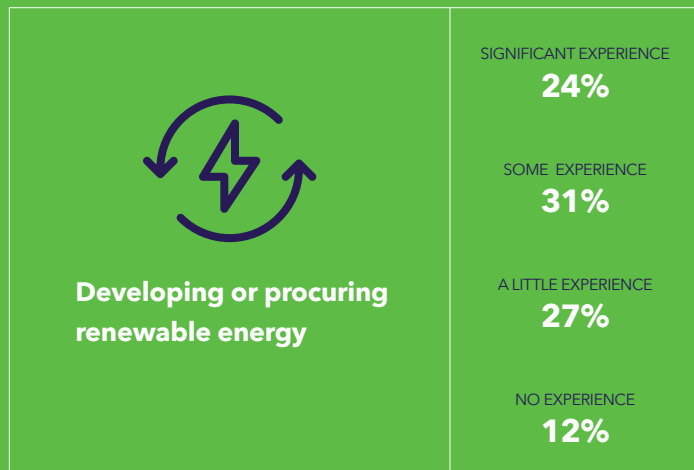
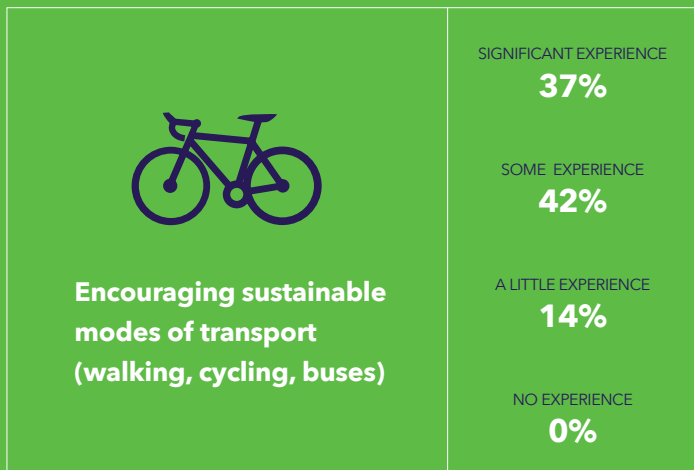
The biggest barrier to city action on climate change is financing, cited by nearly half of mayors. Financing is seen as more significant than policy barriers or public support.

	State policy barriers	Federal policy barriers	City hall capacity	Financing	Private sector engagement	Understanding project benefits	Public support
Total	17%	25%	28%	47%	2%	27%	23%
Midwest	20%	37%	34%	57%	3%	31%	29%
Northeast	8%	21%	25%	67%	0%	33%	13%
South	23%	25%	25%	35%	0%	29%	17%
West	13%	18%	29%	44%	4%	18%	31%
Large	33%	44%	33%	44%	0%	11%	0%
Medium	22%	22%	32%	46%	5%	20%	27%
Small	14%	25%	26%	48%	1%	31%	24%

Making an Impact

How city halls are tackling climate change:

As mayors address climate change locally, they are trying a variety of approaches. Every city encourages sustainable transportation. While mayors have the ambition and drive to address this issue, most lack experience with the kinds of climate adaptation strategies that are necessary.



Stemming the Opioid Crisis

The opioid crisis has hit Midwestern and Northeastern cities particularly hard. Mayors in these areas are creating new programs in response. Still, more emphasis is put on Narcan and similar immediate responses to overdoses than is put on prevention and treatment.

Steep Toll

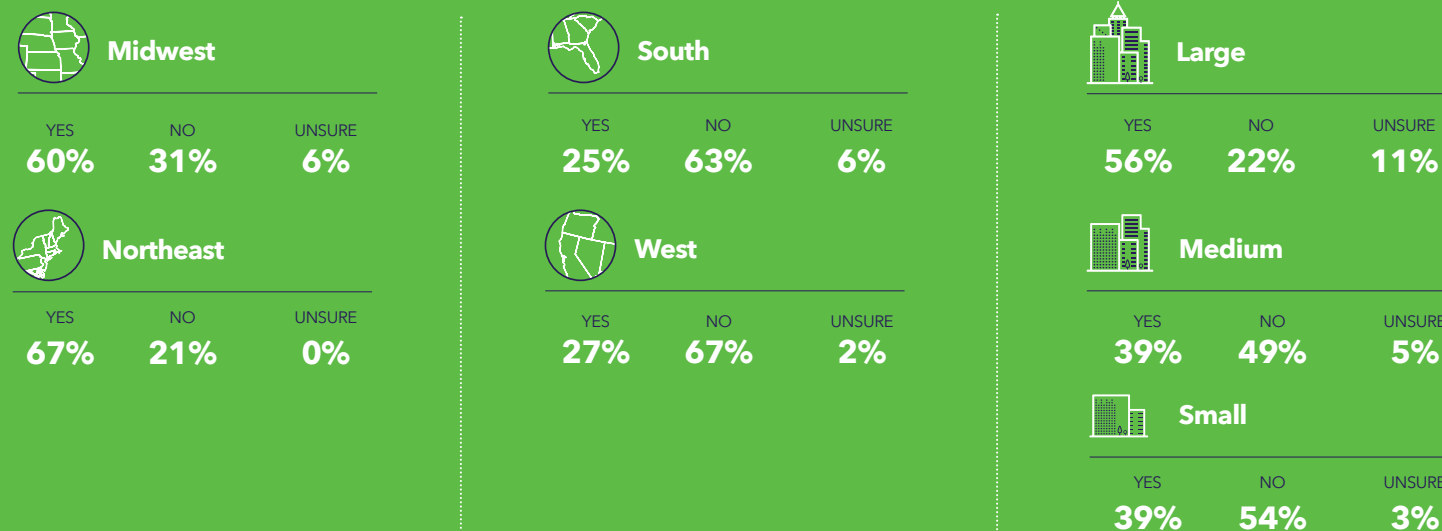
How important is the opioid crisis to your city?

	Top challenge facing the city	One of the top challenges facing the city	One of many challenges facing the city	Not a significant challenge facing the city
Total	4%	28%	42%	20%
Midwest	6%	43%	37%	11%
Northeast	13%	42%	33%	0%
South	4%	13%	52%	25%
West	0%	27%	38%	31%
Large	11%	33%	33%	11%
Medium	2%	29%	46%	15%
Small	5%	27%	41%	23%

Ongoing Response

Has your city created new programs within the last 12 months to address the opioid crisis?

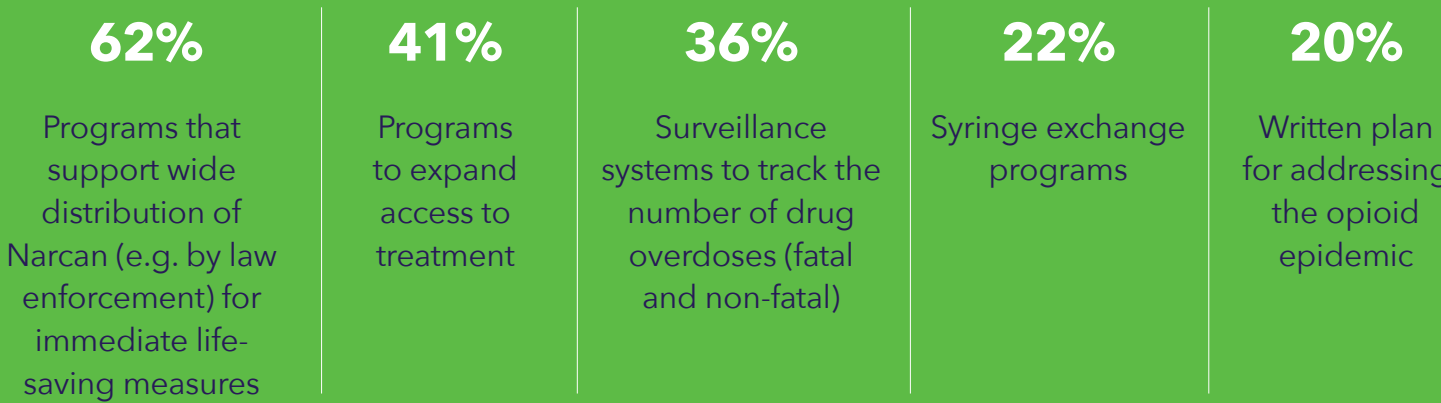
Total: Yes **40%** No **51%** Unsure **4%**



Policy Concerns

Programs in Place

City responses to opioid misuse



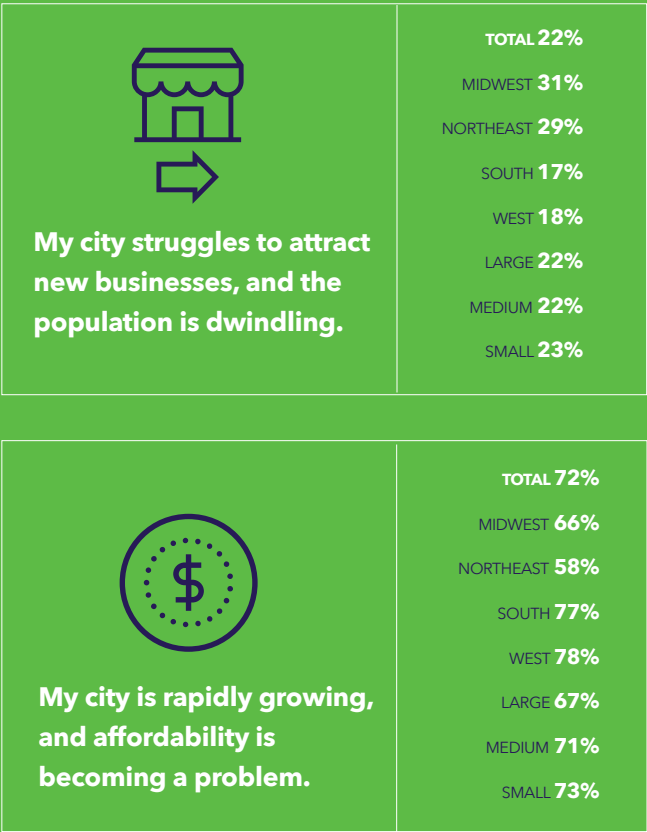
Managing Growth and Meeting Residents’ Needs

Boom or Bust
Which one do you most identify with?

Cities tend to confront one of two challenges: either they are “thriving,” with rapid growth, or “surviving,” with a dwindling population. Mayors of thriving cities — in the South and West — confront problems such as traffic congestion, affordable housing, and homelessness. And they hear about these “growing pains” challenges regularly from residents. In these communities, climate change is more top-of-mind than opioids.

Mayors of surviving cities — in the Midwest and Northeast — confront problems such as crime, job creation, and attracting young families. In these cities, concerns about drug use — particularly opioids — are at the forefront. While 40 percent of all cities in our survey have created new programs to address the opioid crisis during the past year, 54 percent of surviving cities have. And 57 percent of mayors in surviving cities regularly hear concerns about drug use from their residents, compared to 27 percent overall.

While challenges associated with the opioid epidemic were not cited widely in our survey, for those cities feeling its effects, drug addiction is part of a larger, community-wide struggle to provide stability, opportunity, and hope.



Policy Concerns

Resident Concerns

How often have residents mentioned to you over the past six months ... ?

The issues mayors have heard about most regularly over the past six months



Large

1. Affordable housing
2. Crime
3. Traffic



Medium

1. Traffic
2. Affordable housing
3. Crime



Small

1. Traffic
2. Affordable housing
3. Drug abuse



Affordable housing

Total:

Regularly **42%**
Sometimes **43%**
Never **8%**



Traffic congestion

Total:

Regularly **53%**
Sometimes **32%**
Never **9%**



Crime in the city

Total:

Regularly **28%**
Sometimes **46%**
Never **19%**



Climate change

Total:

Regularly **9%**
Sometimes **45%**
Never **40%**



Drug abuse

Total:

Regularly **27%**
Sometimes **51%**
Never **16%**