

2007 Colorado Springs Young Professionals Survey



About Colorado Springs Young Professionals

The Colorado Springs Young Professionals was founded 3 ½ years ago and has been working with the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) since spring of 2006. CSYP currently has over 1,400 members and regularly draws 100-150 people at it's 2nd and 4th Thursday Networking events. On average, CSYP grows by 60-80 new members a month. There is no charge to join CSYP.

Aside from being a great place for business or social networking, members of CSYP have populated committees for non-profits such as the Fine Arts Center and the American Cancer Society as well as others. Additionally, charity events for Care & Share, Christmas Unlimited, and the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo have also been organized by CSYP since the 2006 survey. On the recreation side, CSYP has two soccer teams, two volleyball teams, and two softball teams. There is also a Women's Networking Group, a ski club, and other group activities.

CSYP continues to meet the business and social networking needs of the young professional population in Colorado Springs in a growing and changing economy.

To join CSYP or learn more about CSYP, please email cyoungprofessionals@yahoo.com.

The 2007 Survey of Membership

The 2007 Colorado Springs Young Professionals (CSYP) survey was sent out in July to the members of CSYP. The questions used were the same as the 2006 survey to provide year-to-year comparisons. In 2007 a few questions were added, such as zip codes in which CSYP members live/work.

165 responses total were received, or a 12% response rate. Beside each question, it is noted how many of the respondents answered that particular question.

Executive Summary

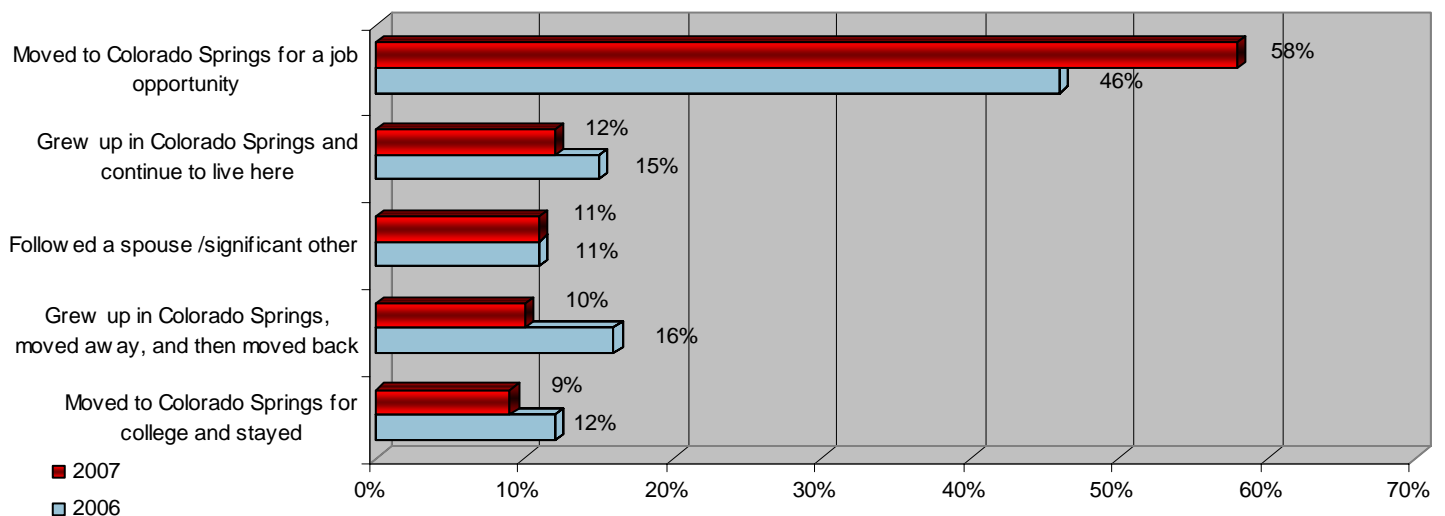
The 165 respondents of this survey were mostly single, ages 25-34. They work in a vast array of industries, with the majority having obtained at least a bachelors degree and earning annual incomes between \$26,000 and \$75,000. Over half of the respondents moved to Colorado Springs for a job opportunity, with a third of them living here for 3 years or less.

Between 2006 and 2007, the percentage of respondents who expected to stay in Colorado Springs for more than 10 years dropped from 34% to 27%, and respondents who said they didn't know how long they would stay in Colorado Springs grew from 0% to 28%. Primary reasons stated for moving away from Colorado Springs included accepting a better paying job/job opportunity or to live in a more culturally diverse environment.

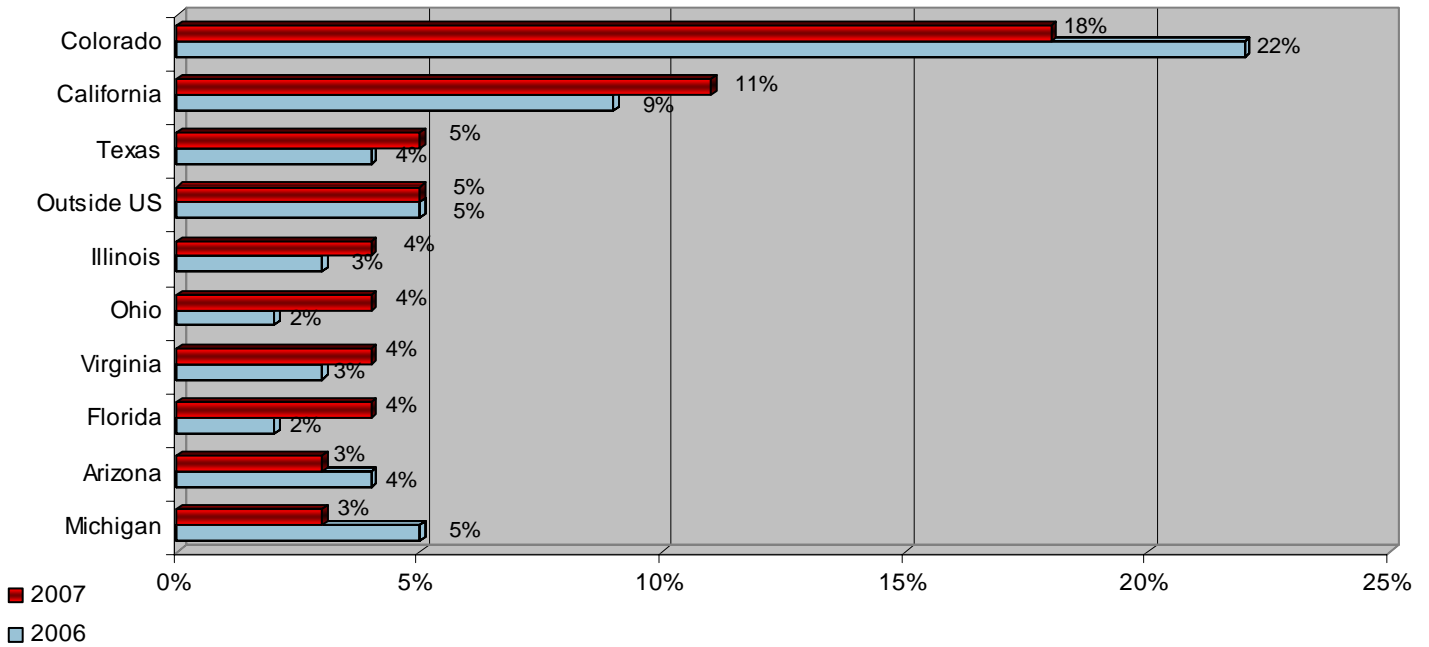
Respondents felt that Colorado Springs offers excellent recreational activities, a family friendly environment and a strong quality of life, but rated the city's transportation system as poor. They believe Colorado Springs' arts/culture and nightlife offerings are average—with limited opportunities to meet and interact with others who share similar interests. The factors cited as being most important in determining where they want to live were quality of life and job opportunities.

In addition, respondents cited the natural beauty of the area, the abundance of outdoor recreational activities and the low cost of living as strengths; while noting the overall conservative nature of the community, over dependence on the military and poor transportation/road systems as weaknesses.

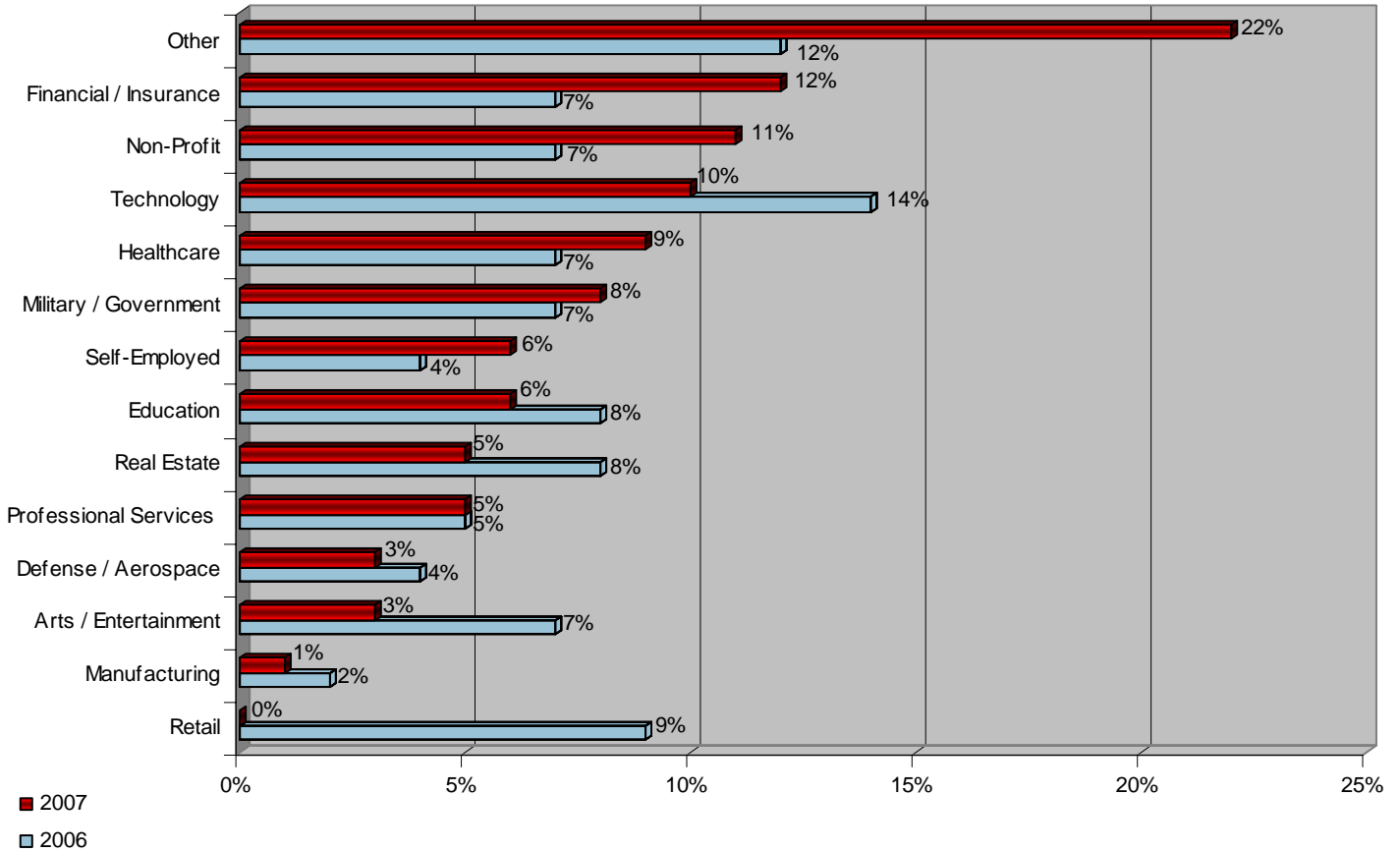
When asked in 2006 how satisfied respondents were with living in Colorado Springs, 67% said they were very satisfied, with that percentage falling to only 25% in 2007.



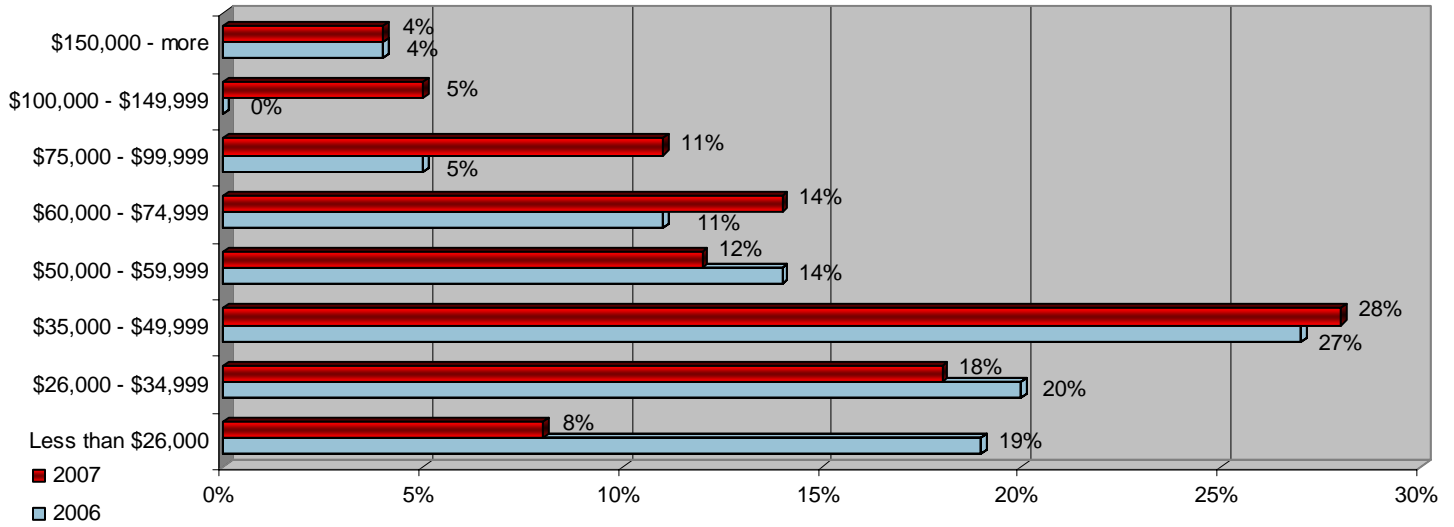
Prior to living in Colorado Springs, in which state did you live? (Top 10 of 160 responses)



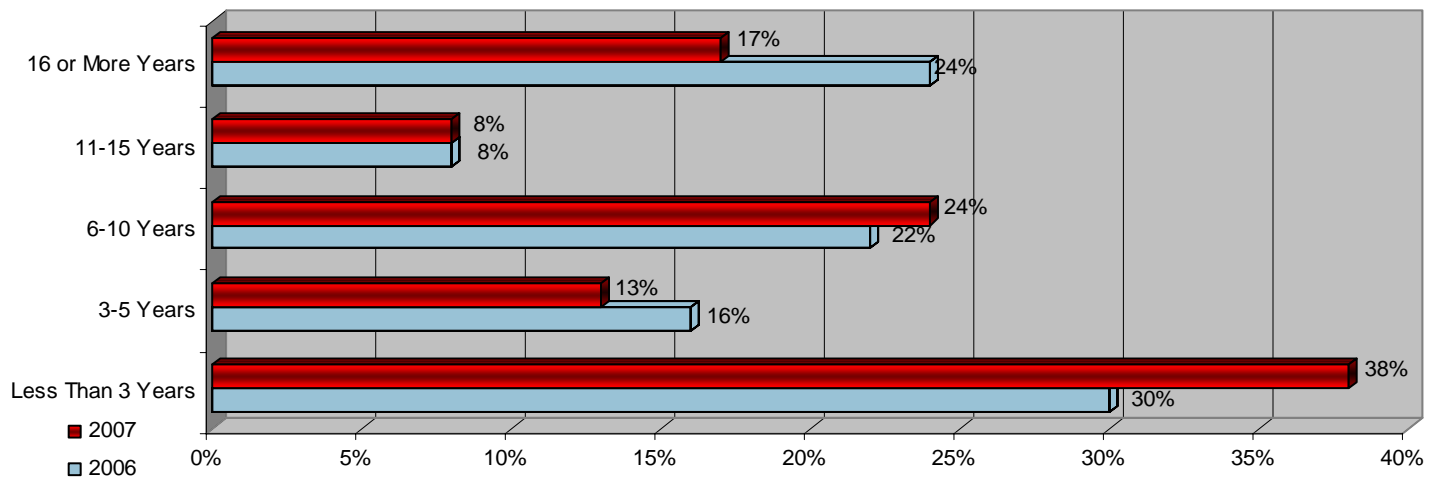
Which category best describes the industry in which you work? (165 responses)



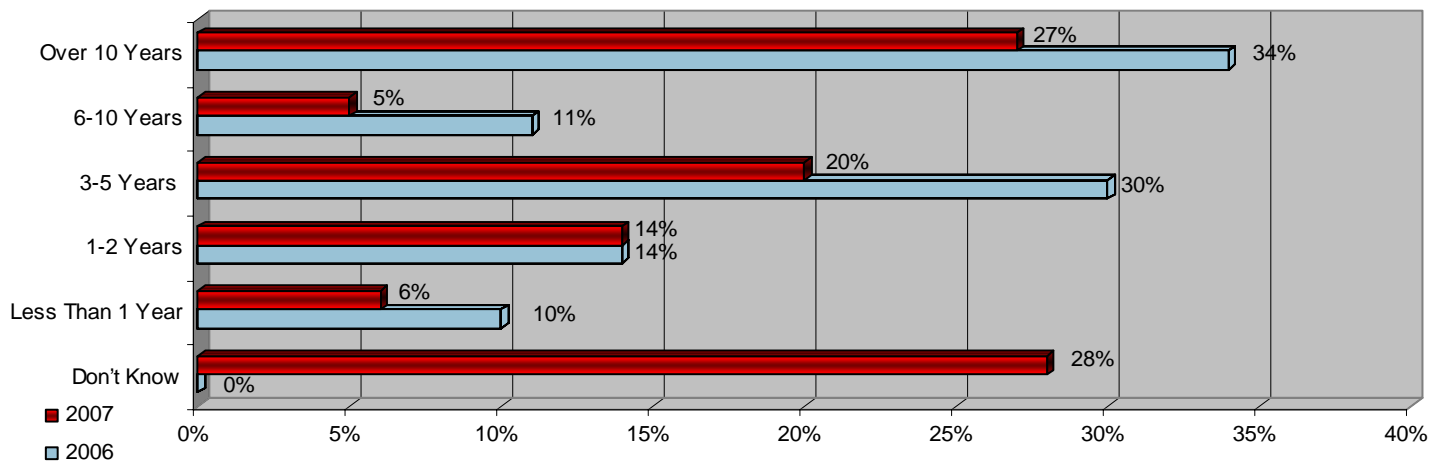
What is your individual annual income? (163 responses)



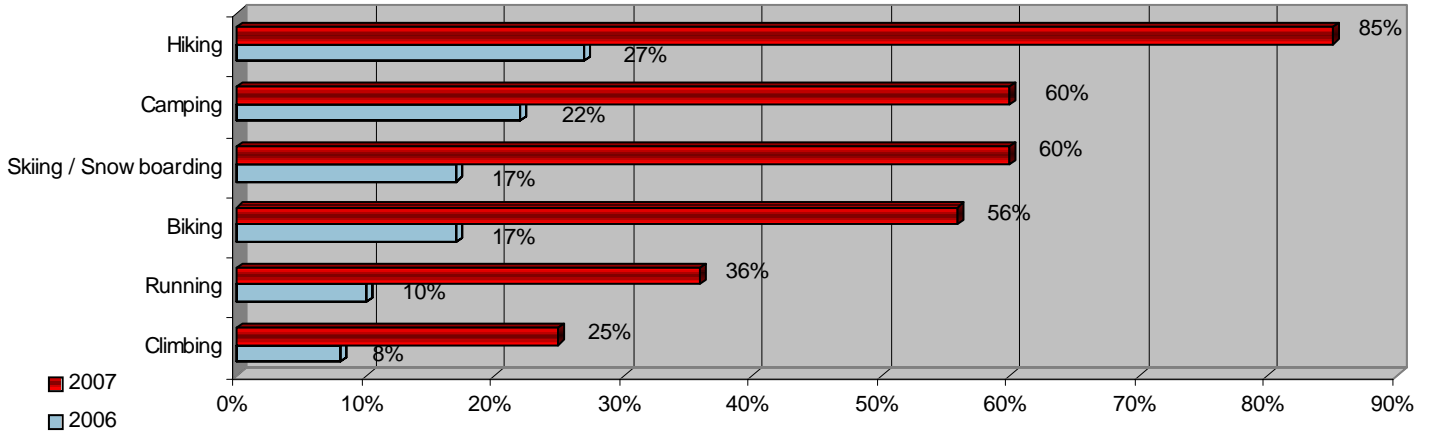
How long have you lived in the Colorado Springs area? (165 responses)



How long do you expect to stay in the Colorado Springs area? (165 responses)

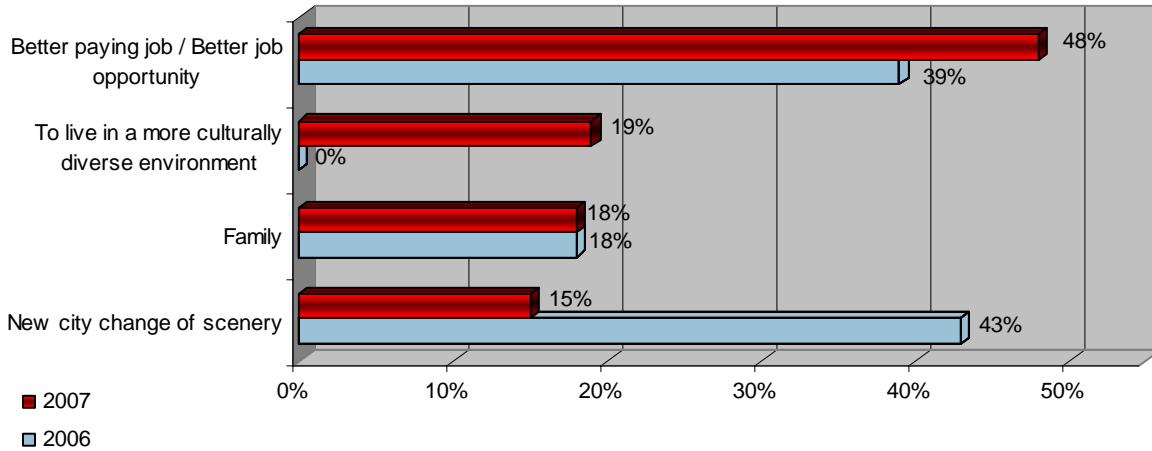


What types of outdoor activities do you enjoy? (156 responses)



What would be the primary reason you would move away from Colorado Springs?

(163 responses)

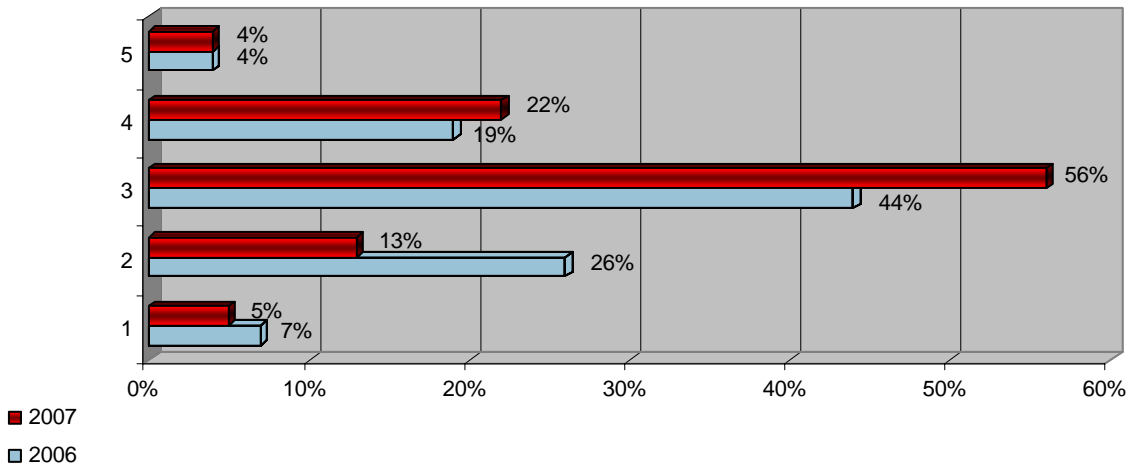


“Military town—people are always coming and going and when the soldiers aren’t around, business drops.”

- Respondent Quote

How would you rate the environment for young professionals here in Colorado Springs?

(5 being Excellent, 1 being Poor) (164 responses)

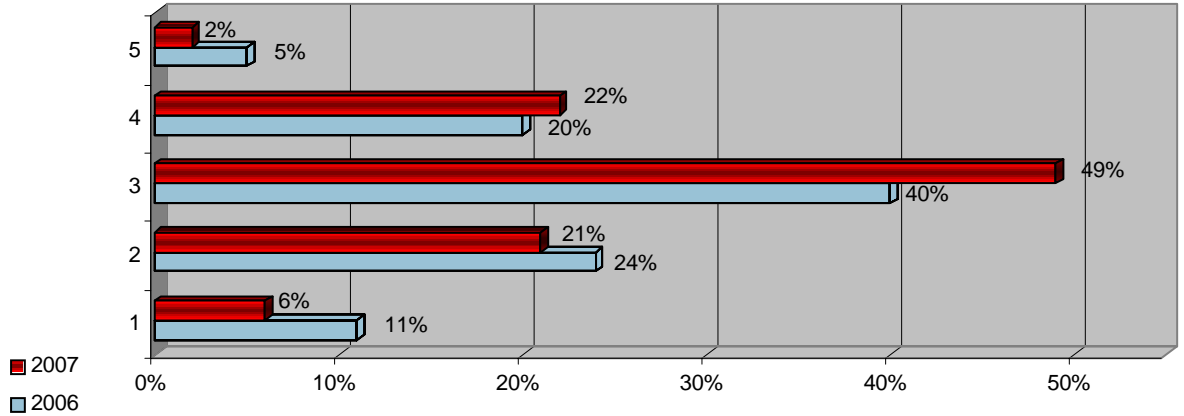


“I don’t feel like I can meet people on a professional or dating level with the same interests outside of CSYP, or outside the bar scene.”

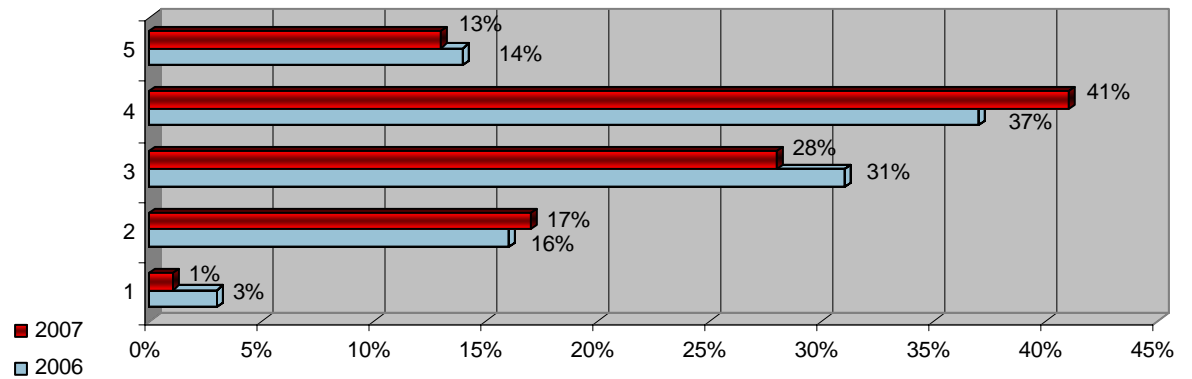
- Respondent Quote

Please rate the following aspects of life in Colorado Springs: (5 being Extremely Important, 1 being Not At All Important)

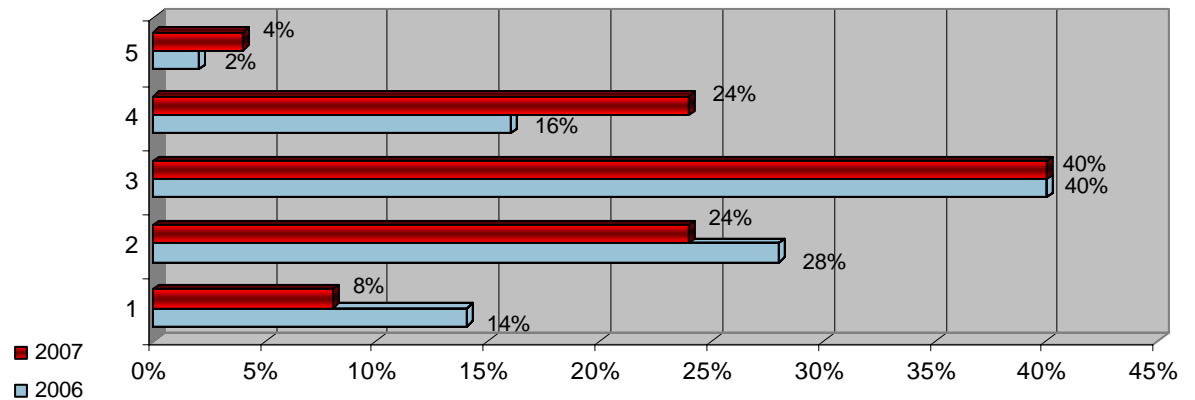
Job opportunities
(162 responses)



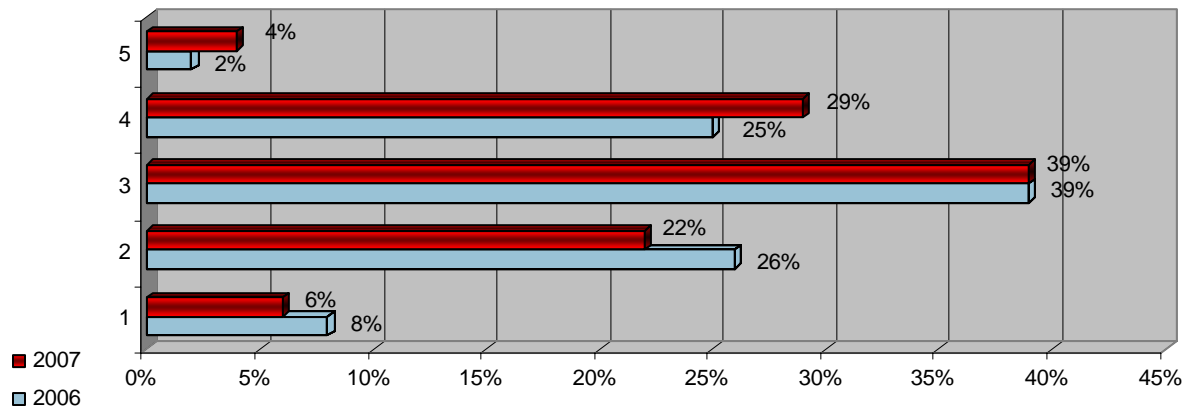
Cost of living
(163 responses)



Arts and culture
(163 responses)

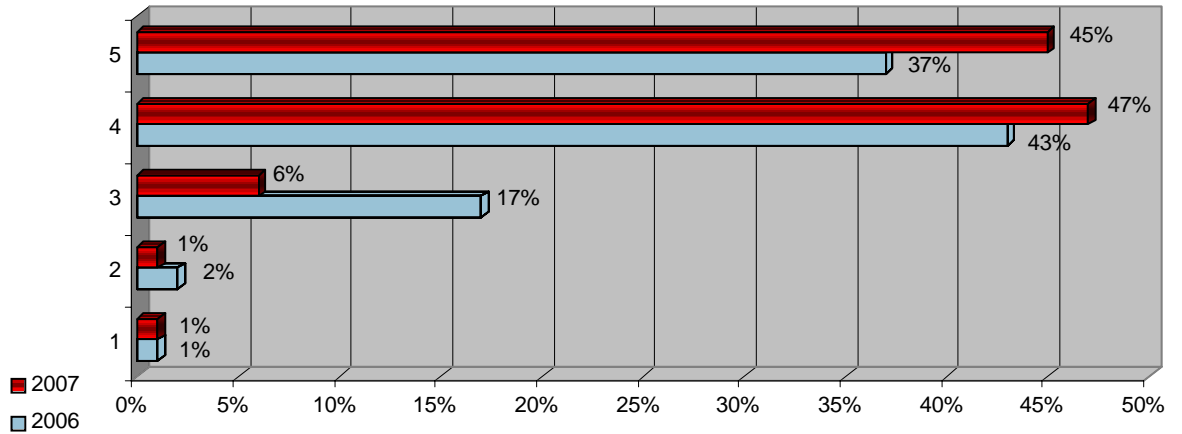


Nightlife / bar scene
(161 responses)

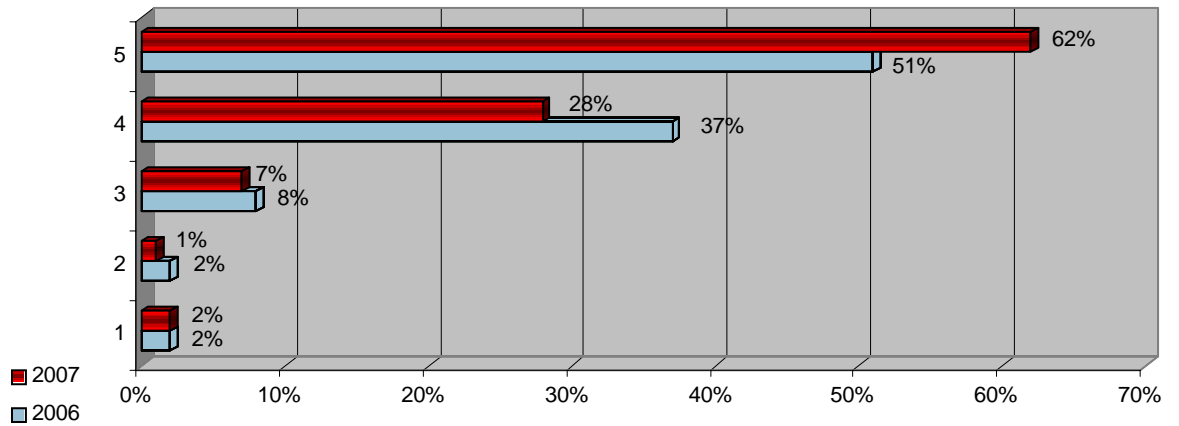


Please rate the following aspects of life in Colorado Springs: (5 being Extremely Important, 1 being Not At All Important)

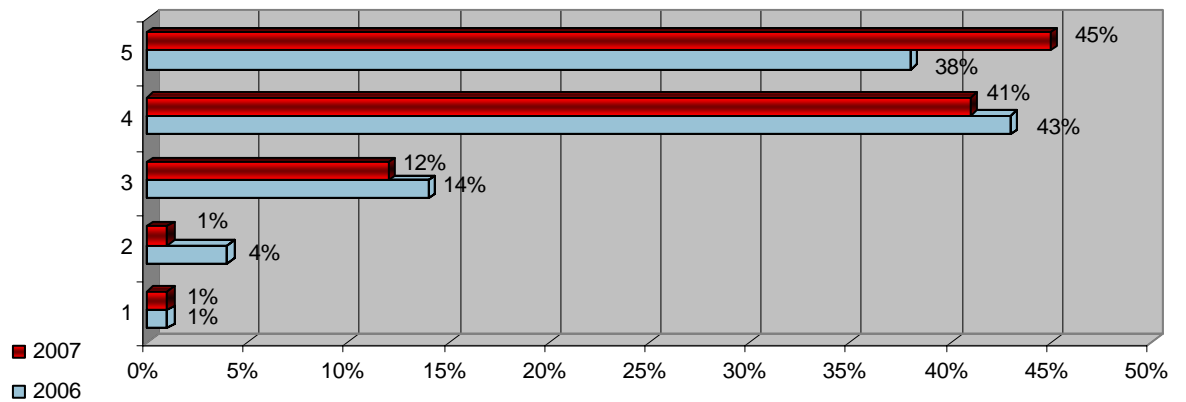
Quality of life (163 responses)



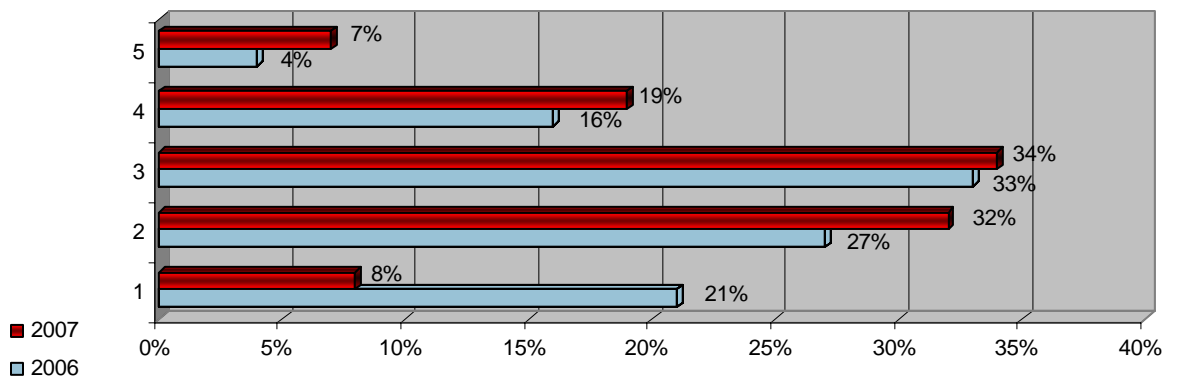
Availability of recreational activities (164 responses)



Family friendly environment (164 responses)



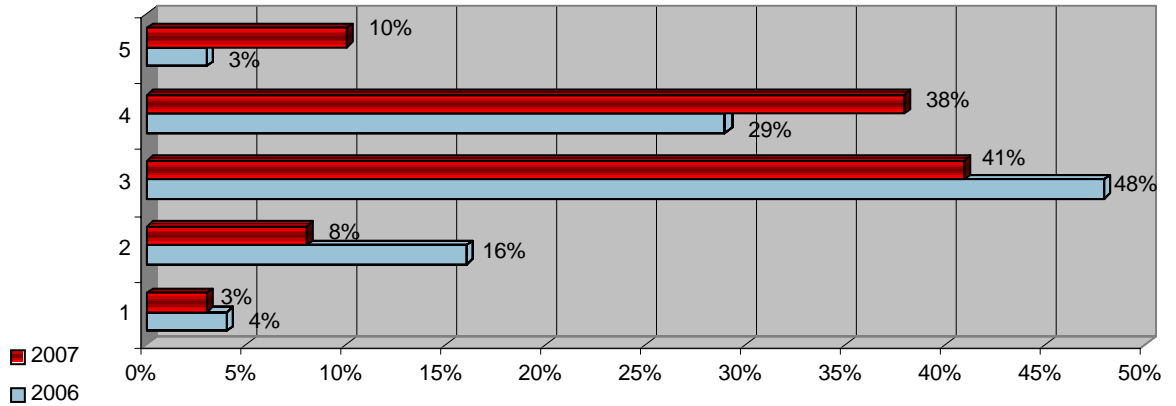
Diversity (161 responses)



Please rate the following aspects of life in Colorado Springs: (5 being Extremely Important, 1 being Not At All Important)

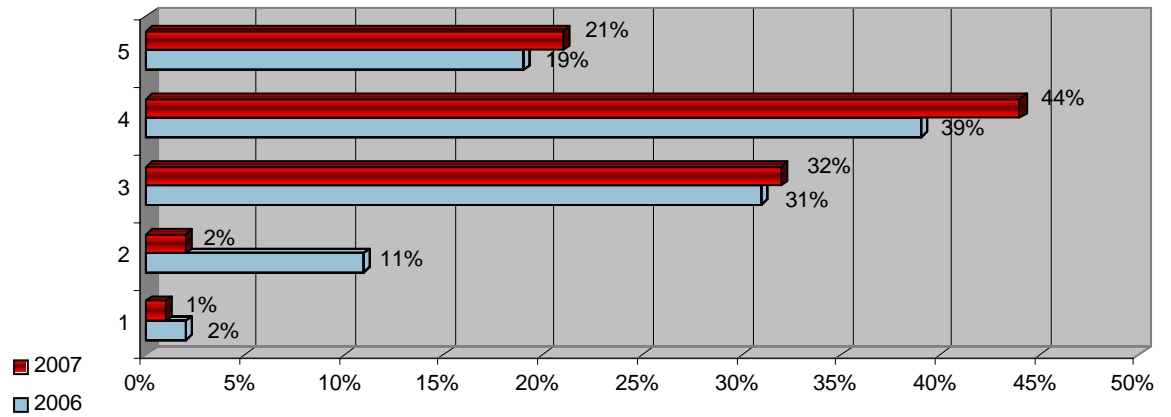
Quality of school system

(157 responses)



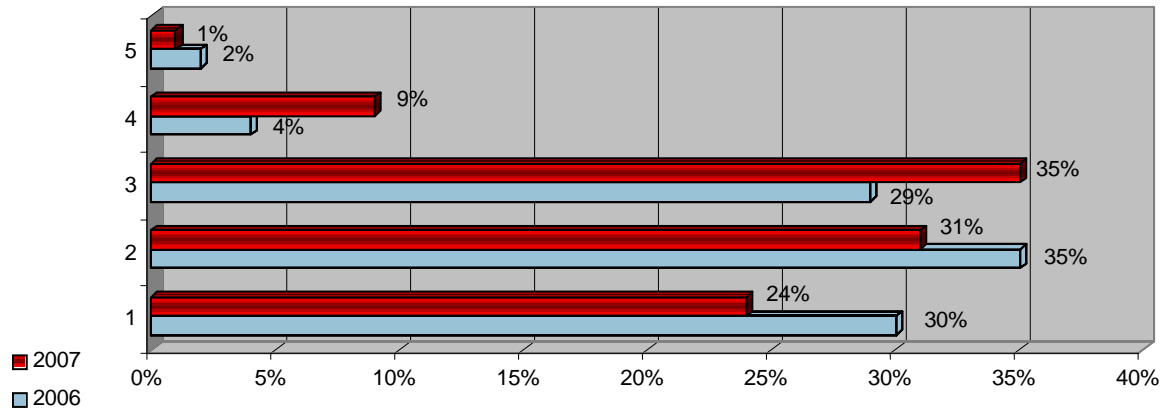
Ability to get involved / give back

(161 responses)



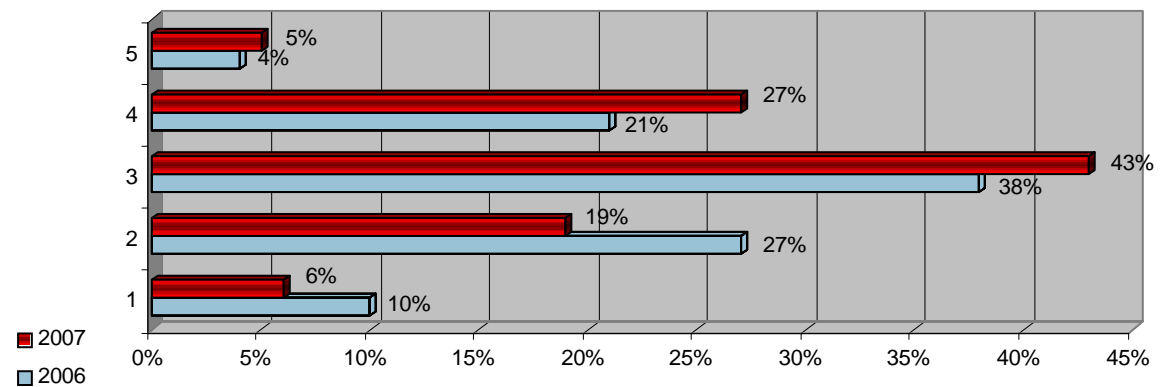
City's transportation infrastructure

(160 responses)



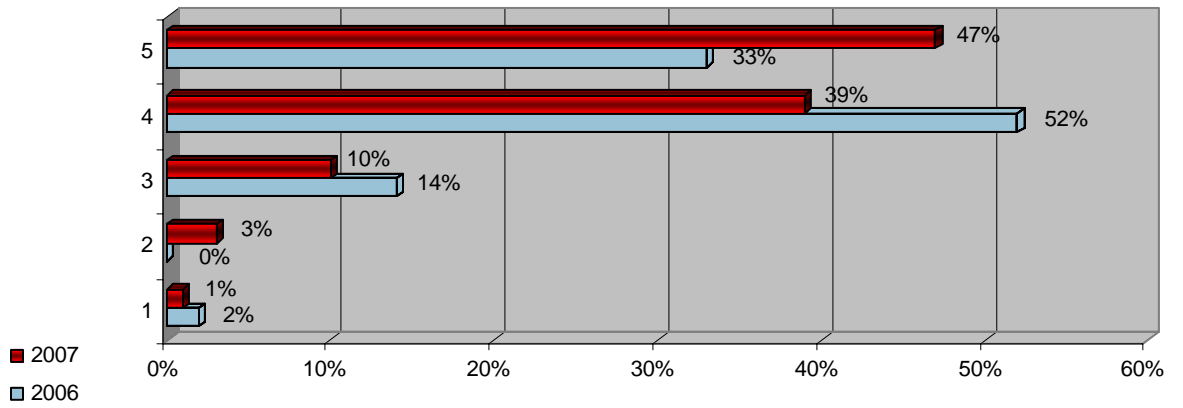
Ability to meet and interact with others who have similar interests

(162 responses)

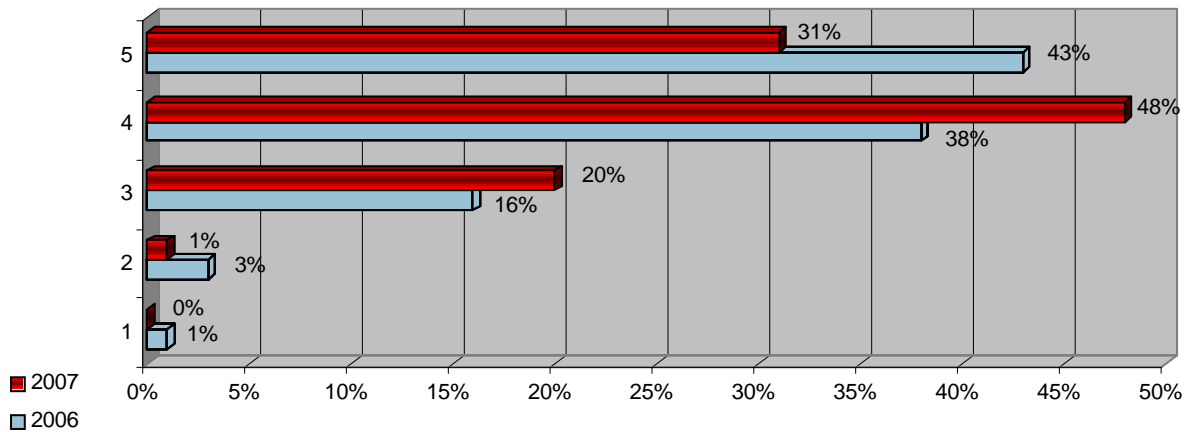


Please state how important the following factors are in determining where one would like to live: (5 being Extremely Important, 1 being Not At All Important)

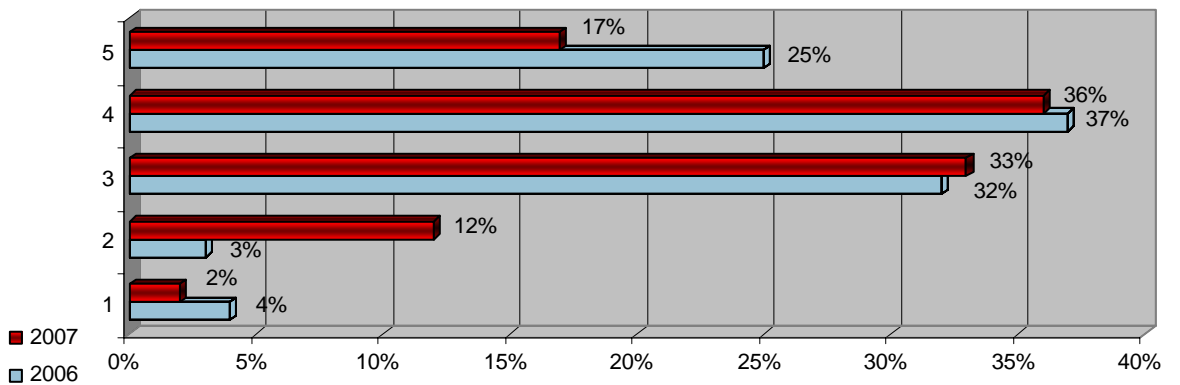
Job opportunities
(162 responses)



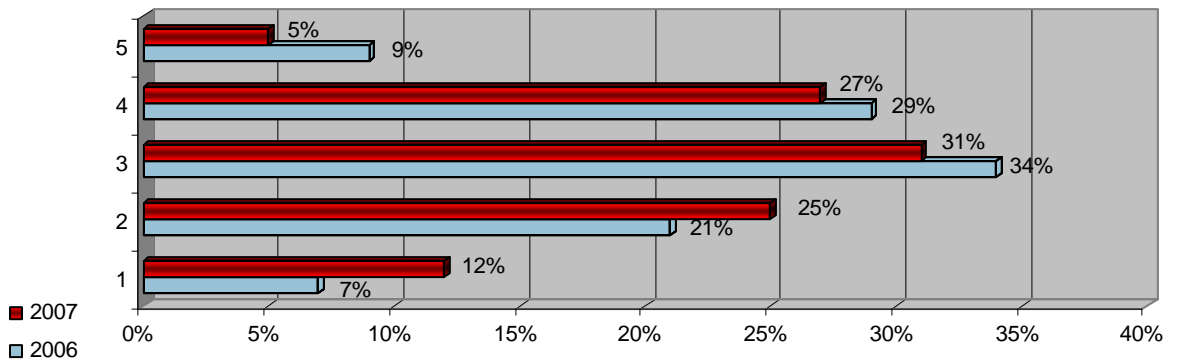
Cost of living
(163 responses)



Arts and culture
(162 responses)

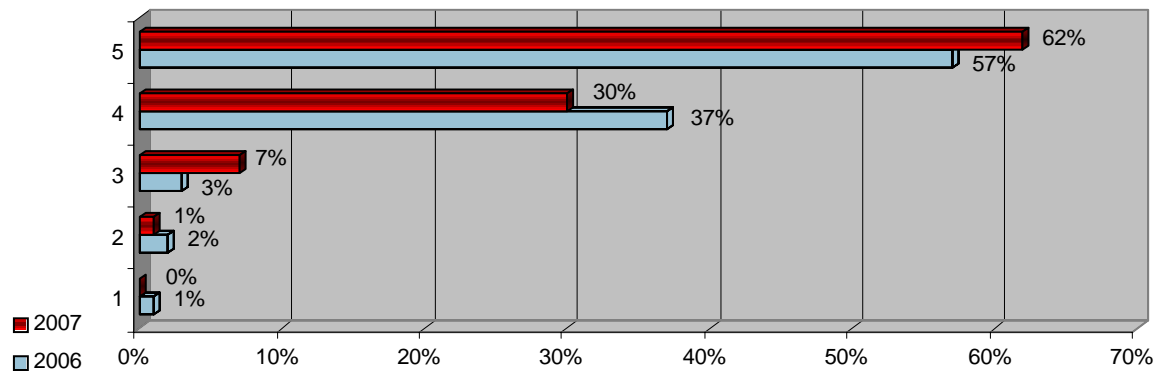


Nightlife / bar scene
(163 responses)

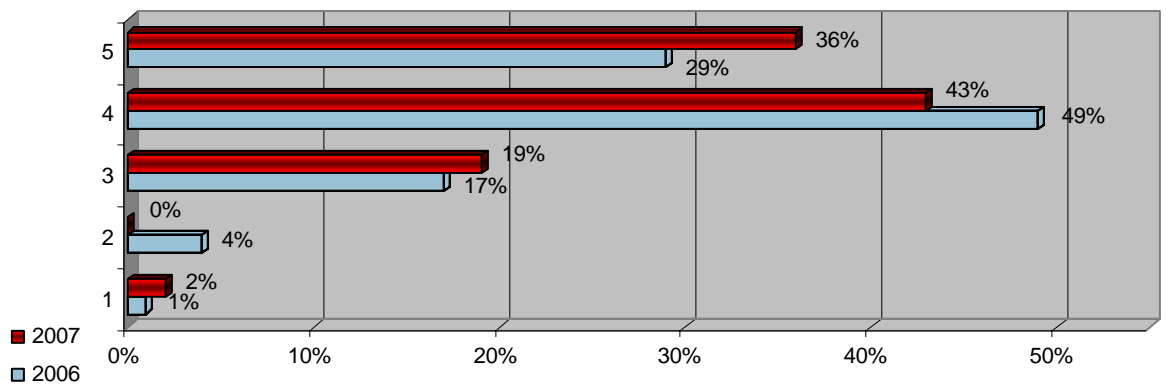


Please state how important the following factors are in determining where one would like to live: (5 being Extremely Important, 1 being Not At All Important)

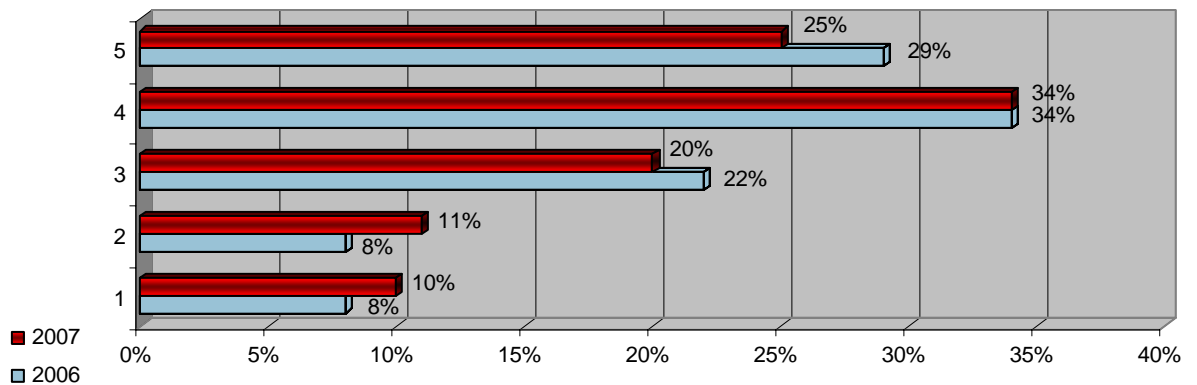
Quality of life
(162 responses)



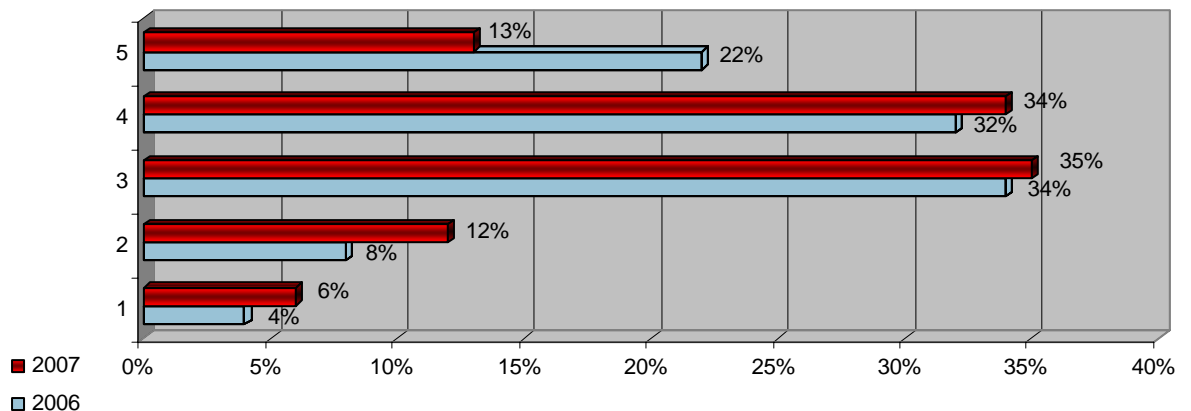
Availability of recreational activities
(163 responses)



Family friendly environment
(163 responses)

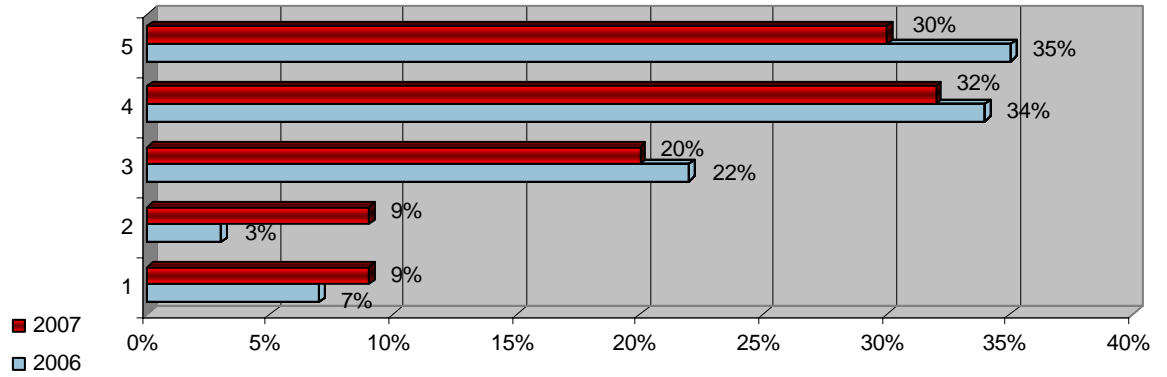


Diversity
(163 responses)

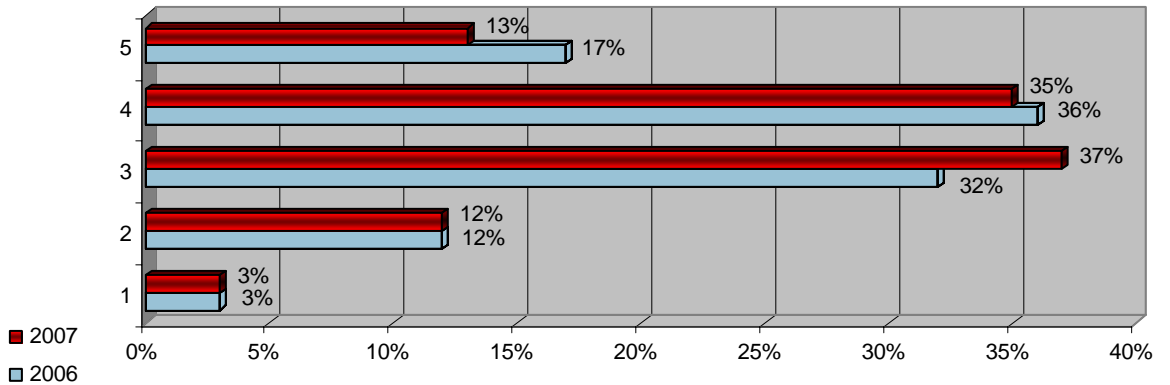


Please state how important the following factors are in determining where one would like to live: (5 being Extremely Important, 1 being Not At All Important)

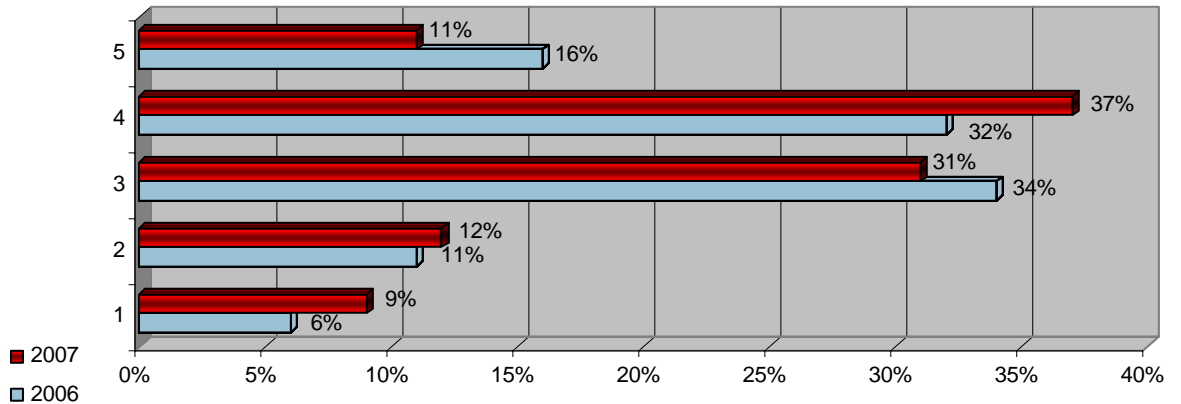
Quality of school system
(159 responses)



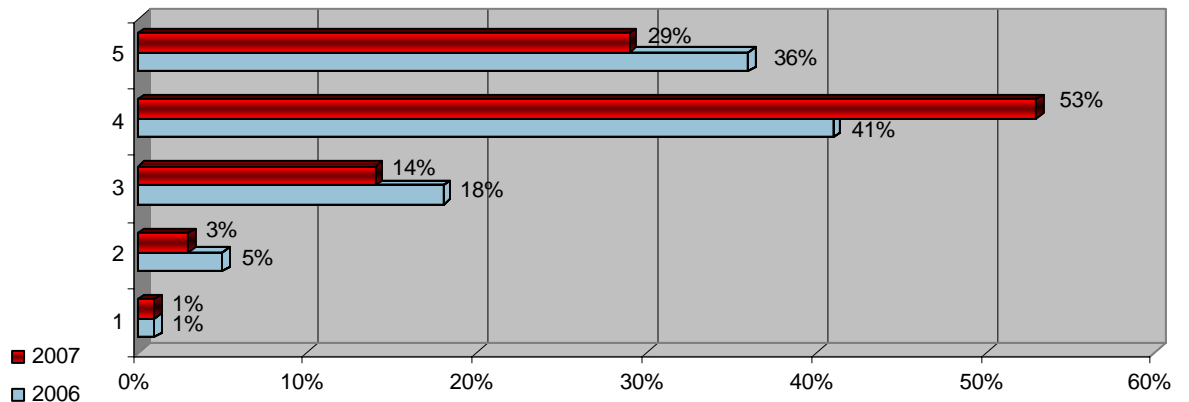
Ability to get involved / give back
(162 responses)



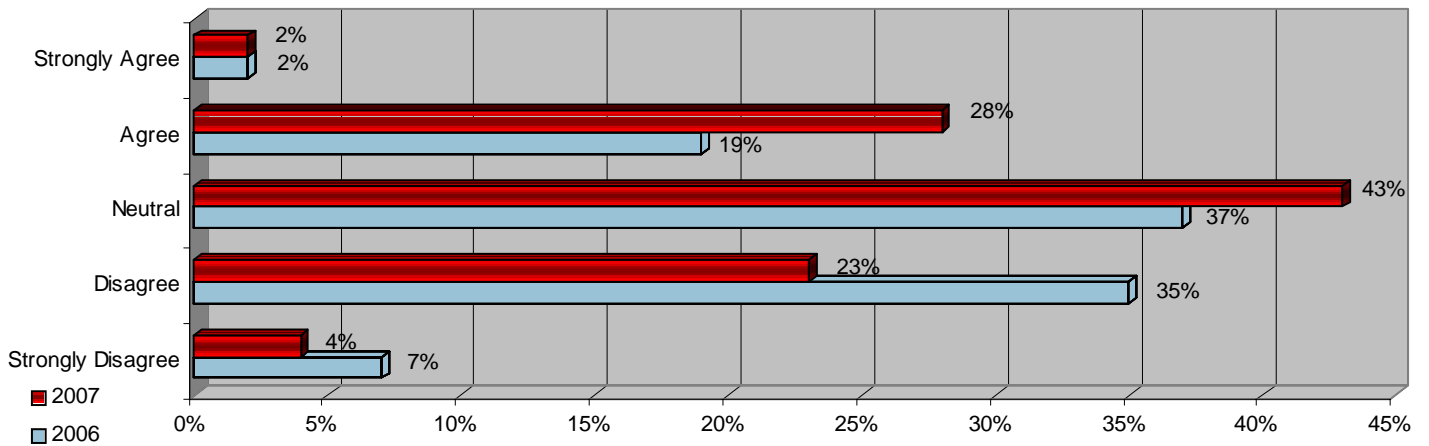
City's transportation infrastructure
(160 responses)



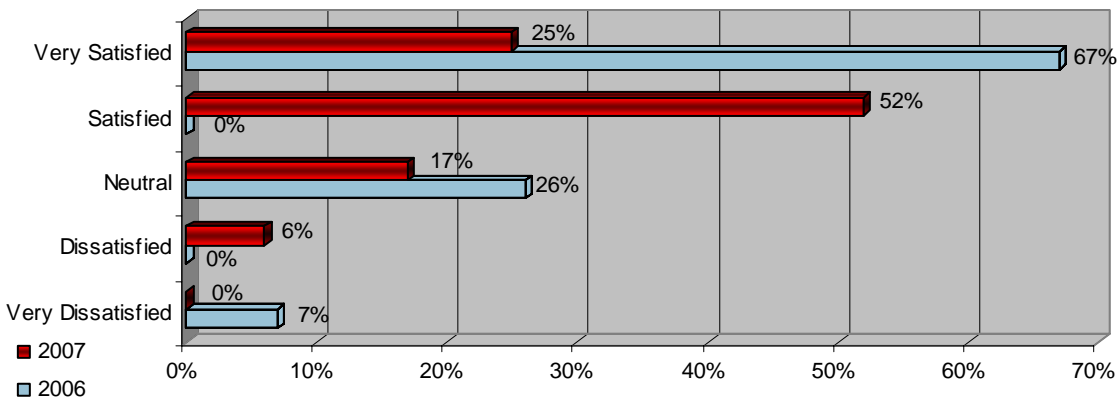
Ability to meet and interact with others who have similar interests
(162 responses)



How much do you agree with the following statement? "There are many professional opportunities for young professionals in the Colorado Springs area." (164 responses)



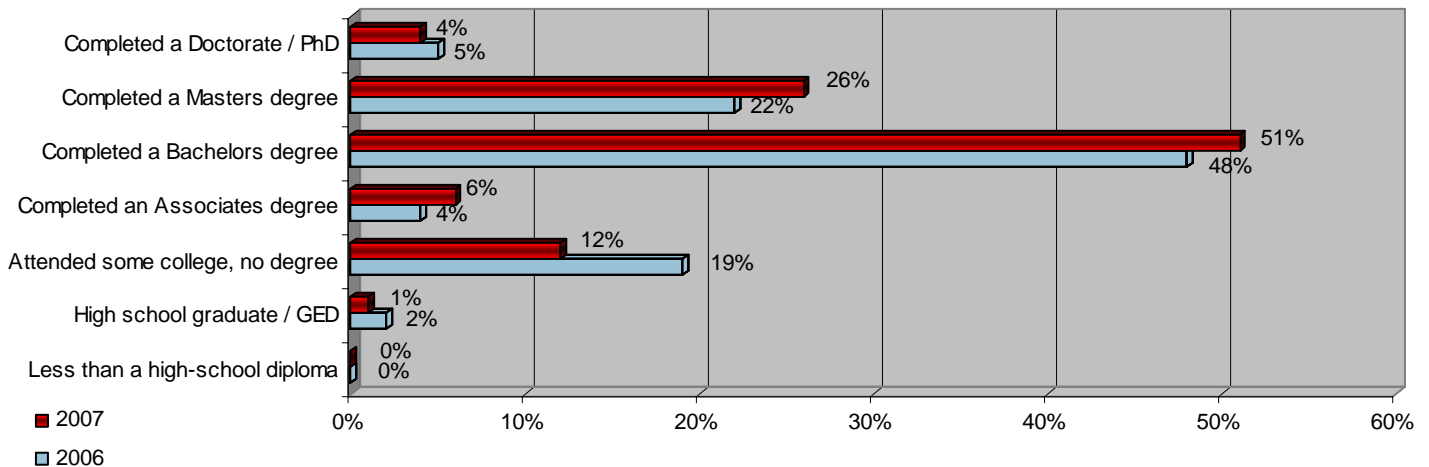
Overall, how satisfied are you with living in Colorado Springs? (164 responses)



"Quality of life, outdoor activities, a city that is trying to make itself more art / culture friendly—I look forward to seeing this grow."

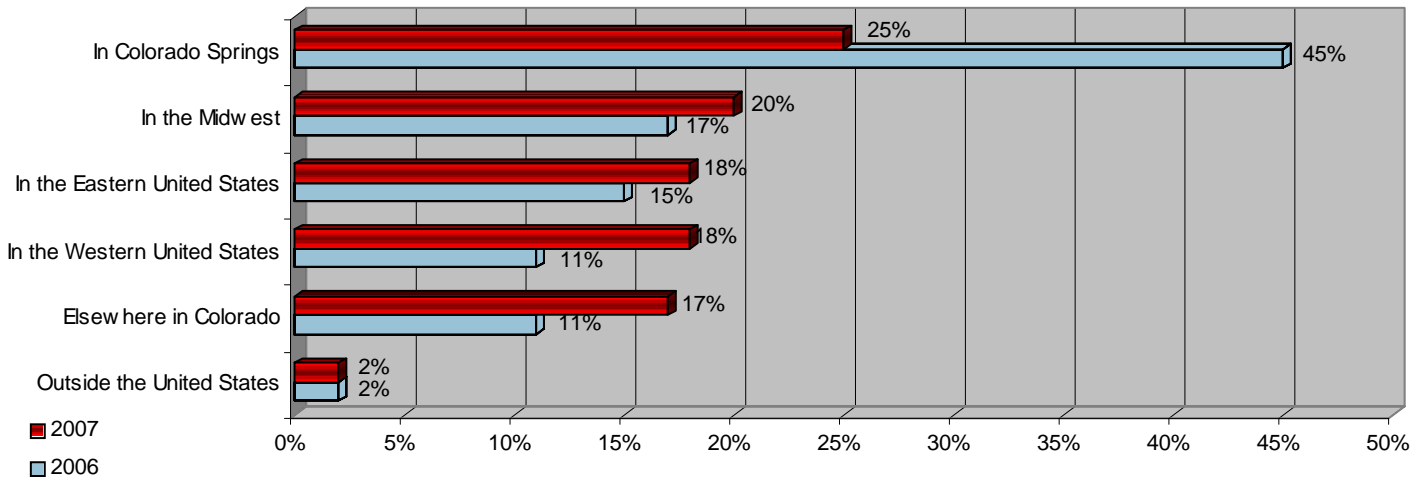
- Respondent Quote

What level of education have you attained? (165 responses)

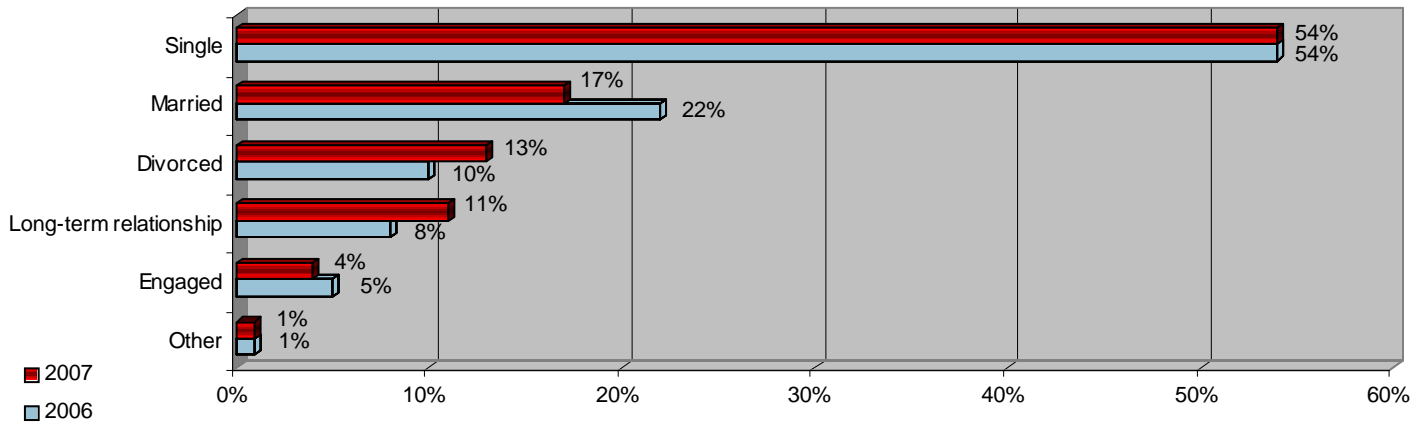


If a college grad, where did you do your most recent undergraduate/graduate work?

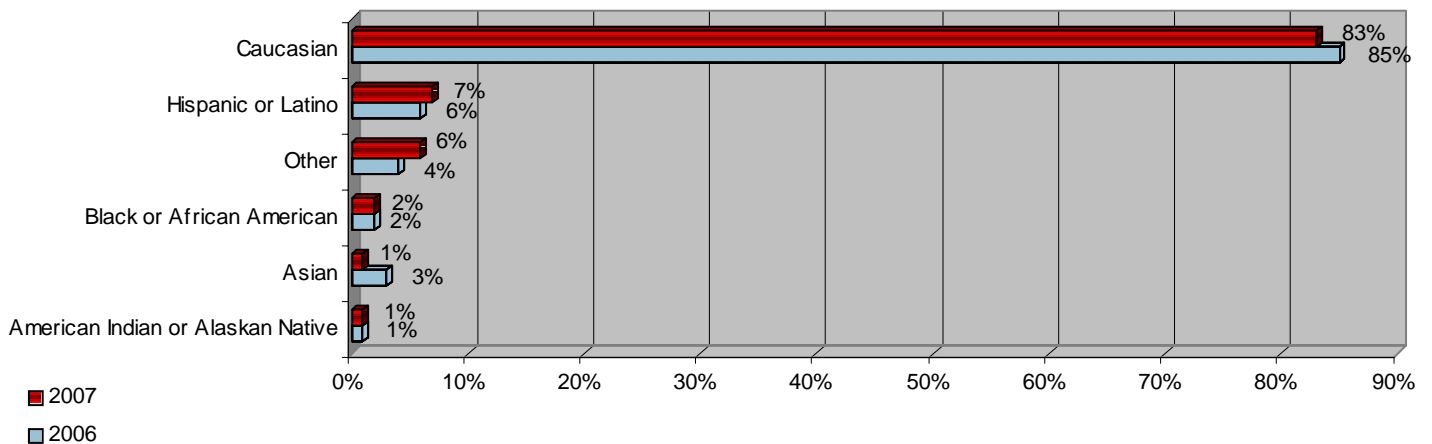
(143 responses)



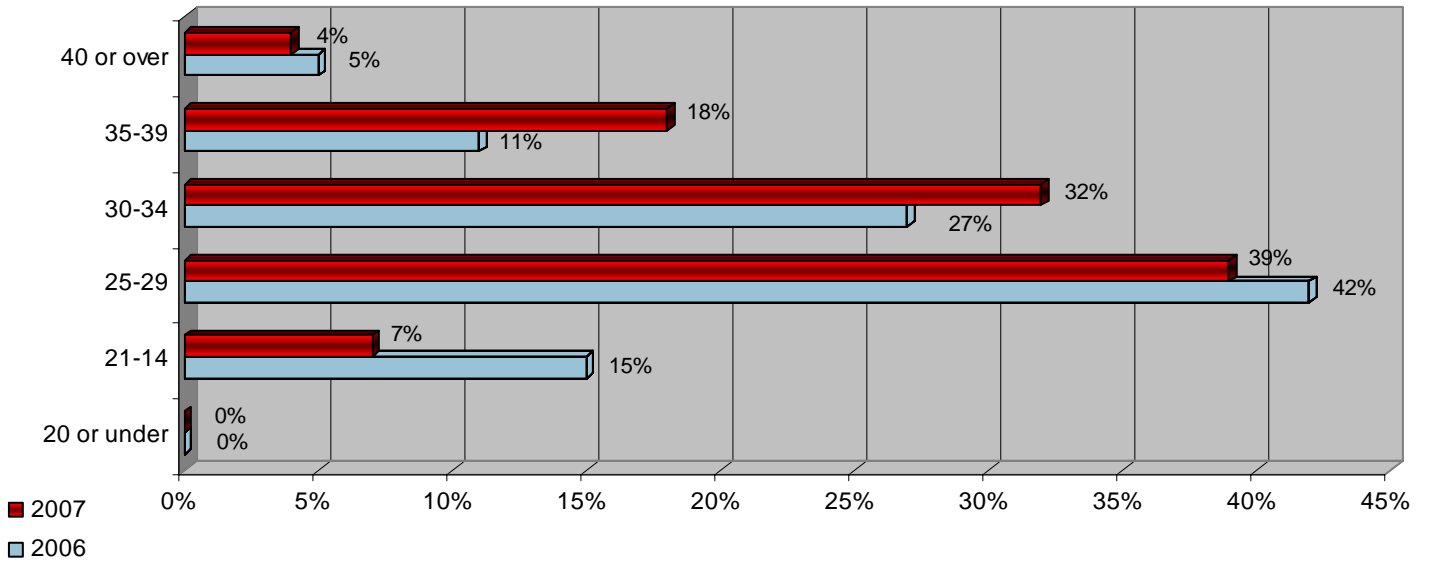
Marital Status: (164 responses)



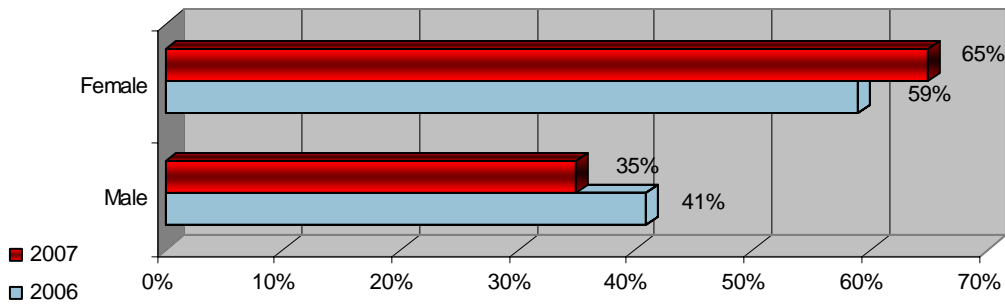
What is your ethnicity? (164 responses)



What is your age? (165 responses)



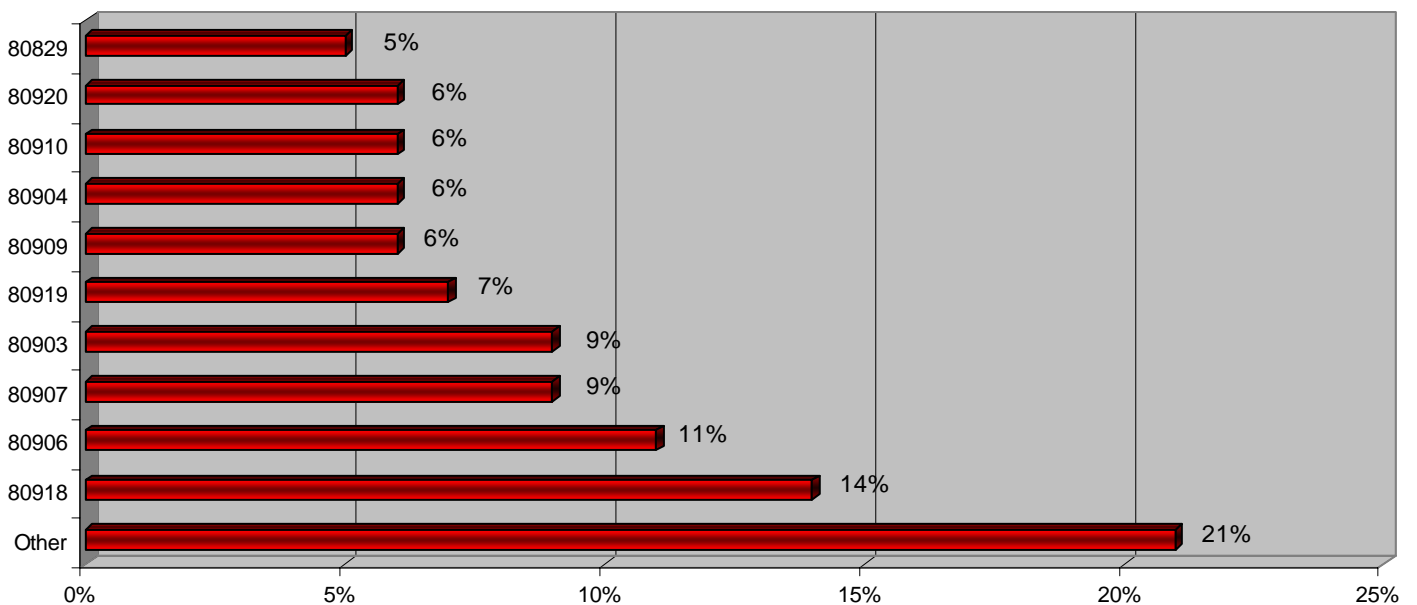
Gender? (164 responses)



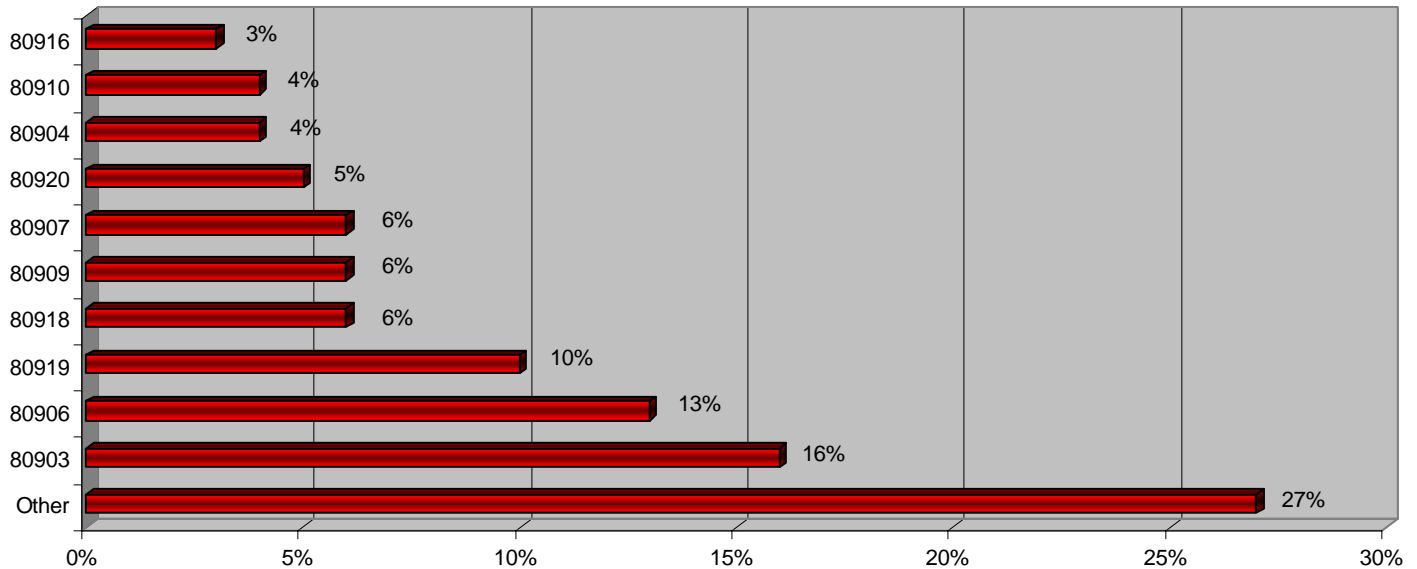
“People are friendly, views are fab, I feel safe, I feel like if I had to start over that I could rebuild here successfully. Great community events.”

- Respondent Quote

Home Zip Code—Top 10 (161 responses)



Work Zip Code—Top 10 (152 responses)



“Beyond CSYP, there are not a lot of obvious organizations to meet other young professionals. Young professionals in Colorado Springs aren’t obvious so it is important to know how to find them. Also, politically and religiously, Colorado Springs can seem unwelcoming to many young professionals.”

- Respondent Quote

Comments—Weaknesses:

We asked respondents to comment on what they felt were the weaknesses of living in Colorado Springs as a whole. The most cited responses were as follows:

- Overall conservative nature of the town
- Over-dependence on the military
- Poor transportation and road systems

Comments—Strengths:

We asked respondents to comment on what they felt were the strengths of living in Colorado Springs as a whole. The most cited responses were as follows:

- The natural beauty of the area
- Abundance of outdoor recreational activities
- Cost of Living

“Most beautiful, safe, awesome city to live in. Like many things the way they are; don’t like some of the things that come with growth, but I do like others. This town is bar none the best place I have ever seen. It is a good combination of all things that are in small and large cities.”

- Respondent Quote

Conclusion

The Colorado Springs Young Professionals is a business / social networking group that brings together professionals through business, social, and volunteer activities. As a group, young professionals are able to work more closely with business, economic, and community leaders while enhancing their professional development and overall success.

The information obtained through this survey was just a sampling of some of the young professionals located here in Colorado Springs. The respondents' professions ranged from accountants and teachers to engineers and project managers. By surveying these various young professionals, community and economic developers gain insight into what is important to them while assisting the Colorado Springs Young Professionals organization in their efforts to make Colorado Springs a better place to work and live.