



The Metropolitan Center

Forging Solutions through Research and Training



Black Community Survey: Perceptions & Outlooks Metro-Miami Action Plan Trust (MMAPT)

Summary

- There is great anxiety in the African-American Community in Miami-Dade County about the future
 - Over 30% plan to leave the area
 - 46.5% believe that the prospects for Black youth is either “poor” or “unsatisfactory”
- Perceived failure of Miami-Dade’s public school system to serve the interest of young African-Americans.
- Concern over housing affordability has replaced education as the most critical issue facing the community.
- Discrimination and segregation are still problems but situation is improving
- Vast majority feel safe in their neighborhoods

Methodology

- Poll was conducted from February 12th -March 4th , 2007
- All respondents were Black-Americans and registered voters in Miami-Dade County
- Phone numbers were randomly selected form the registered voter roll

Demographics

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Demographics

- Number of Respondents = 604 Black-Americans
- Gender:
 - Male = 239
 - Female = 365
- Ethnic Breakdown:
 - Haitian 10.7%
 - Jamaican 11.8%
 - Bahamian 2.9%
 - West Indies 6.1%
 - African-Americans 68.4%
- Income Breakdown:
 - Below \$12K 11.2%
 - \$12K but less than \$30K 33.4%
 - \$30K but less than \$50K 23.6%
 - \$50K but less than \$100K 18.1%
 - Above \$100K 3.1%

Demographics by Commission District

- African-American population (85.7%) is concentrated in 4 of the 13 commission districts (1,2,3, and 9)
- 67.3% of the Haitian population is concentrated in two districts (2 and 3)
- 75.9% of Jamaicans are in District 1, 2, and 3.

Demographics by County Commission Districts

District	Commissioner	Blacks	African Americans	Jamaicans	Haitians
1	Barbara J. Jordan	27.2%	26.6%	44.4%	14.3%
2	Dorrian D. Rolle	22.4%	22.1%	18.5%	36.7%
3	Audrey Edmonson	19.3%	19.9%	13%	30.6%
4	Sally A. Heyman	4.2%	3.8%	3.7%	4.1%
5	Bruno A. Barreiro	0.9%	1.0%	0	2.0%
6	Rebeca Sosa	0%	0	0	0%
7	Carlos A. Gimenez	2.6%	2.9%	0	2.0%
8	Katy Sorenson	1.1%	1.3%	1.9%	0%
9	Dennis C. Moss	18%	18.9%	13%	10.2%
10	Senator Javier D. Souto	.2%	.3%	0	0
11	Joe A. Martinez	2.2%	1.9%	5.6%	0
12	Jose "Pepe" Diaz	0	0	0	0
13	Natacha Seijas	2.0%	1.3%	0	0

Black Immigrants

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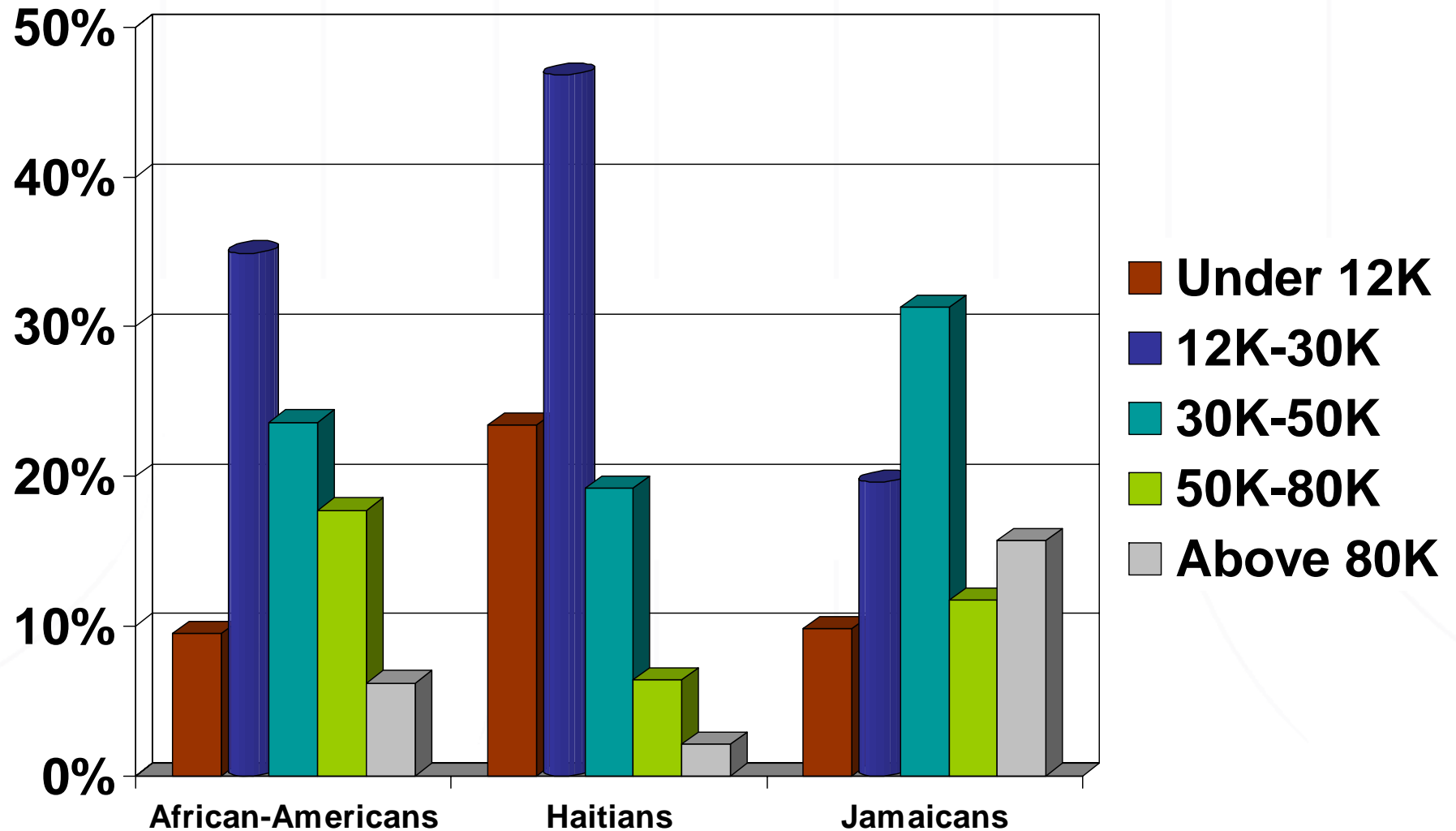
Immigrants in the Black Community

- 29.8% of respondents were born outside the United States
 - 79.6% of Haitians
 - 85.2% of Jamaicans
 - 64.3% of other West Indies
 - 38.5% of Bahamians
 - 7.7% of African-Americans

Immigrants in the Black Community, cont'd.

- Immigrants' Financial Attainment
 - Black immigrants are worse off economically than native born African-Americans
 - Only 9.4% of native born Blacks reported an annual income below \$12,000 compared to 15.7% of foreign born.
 - Haitians had the highest percentage of respondents below \$12,000 at 23.4%
- Immigrants' Educational Attainment
 - Similarly, Haitians had the lowest educational attainment, with 23.9% having less than a high school education.
 - This compares with 13.7% for native born African-Americans and 15.7% for Jamaicans
 - 23.2% of African-Americans have at least a college degree, compared to 29.4% of Jamaicans and 18.8% of Haitians

Income by Ethnicity



Trust in Government

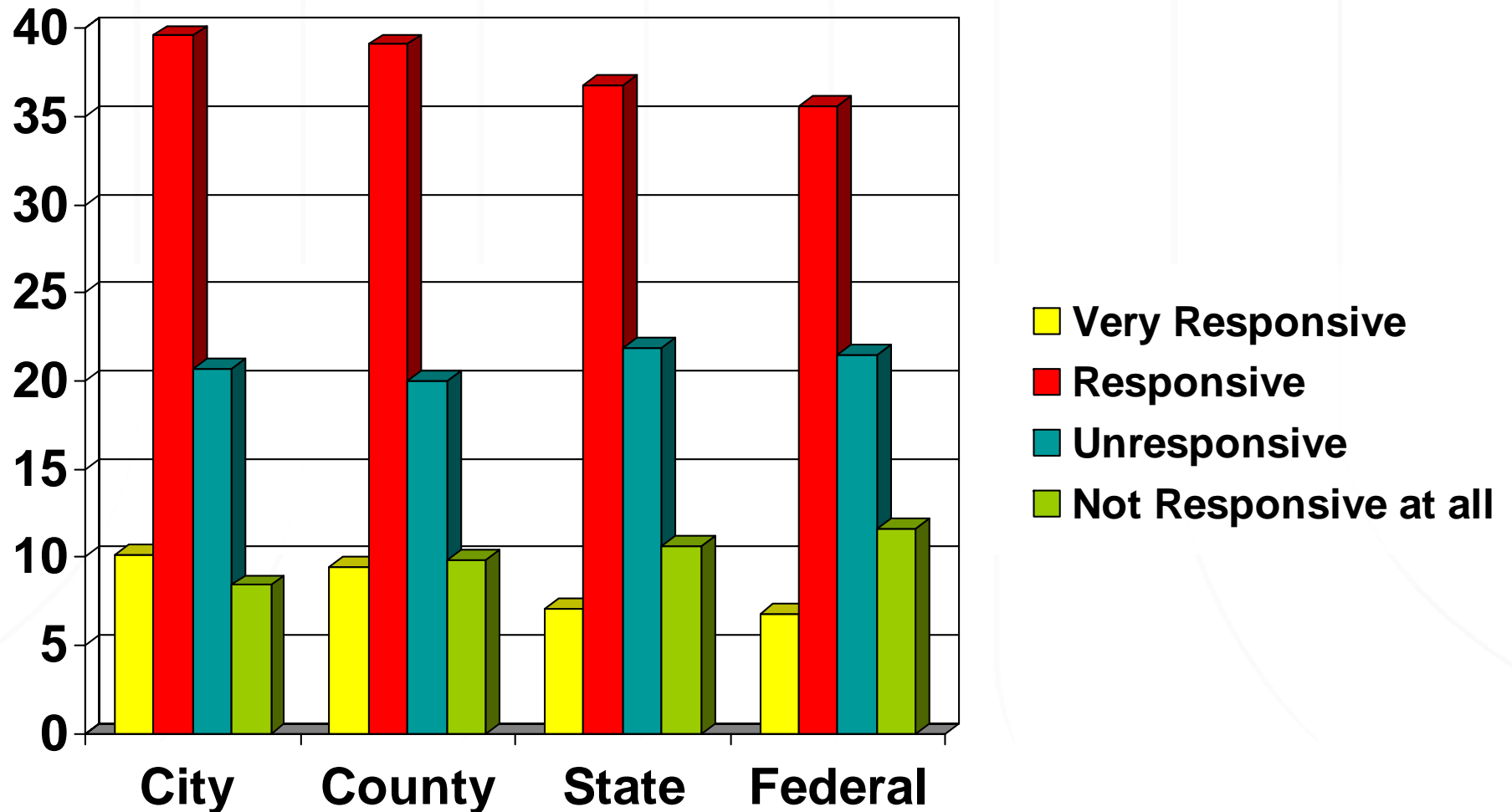
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Responsiveness of Government

- African-Americans believe that local government is more responsive to their needs than the State or Federal governments.
 - 49.7% thought that their city governments were very or generally responsive, compared to 29.1% who did not view it as responsive
 - Similarly, 48.5% found County government responsive, while only 29.8% found the County to be non-responsive
 - In contrast, only 43.9% rated the State government responsive versus 32.5% who shared the opposing view.
 - Only 42.4% found the Federal government responsive compared to 33.1% who found it non-responsive.

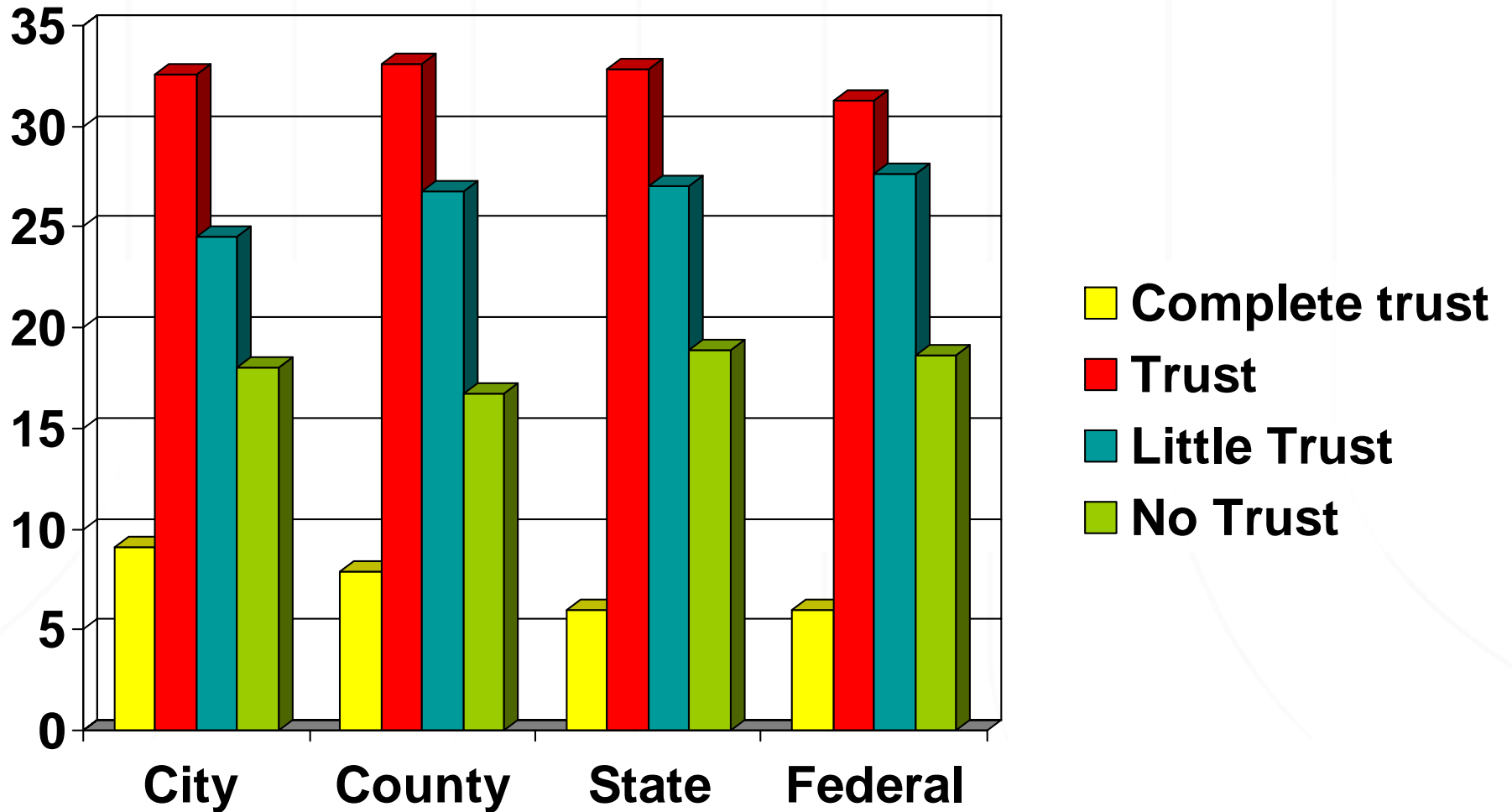
Responsiveness of Government cont'd.



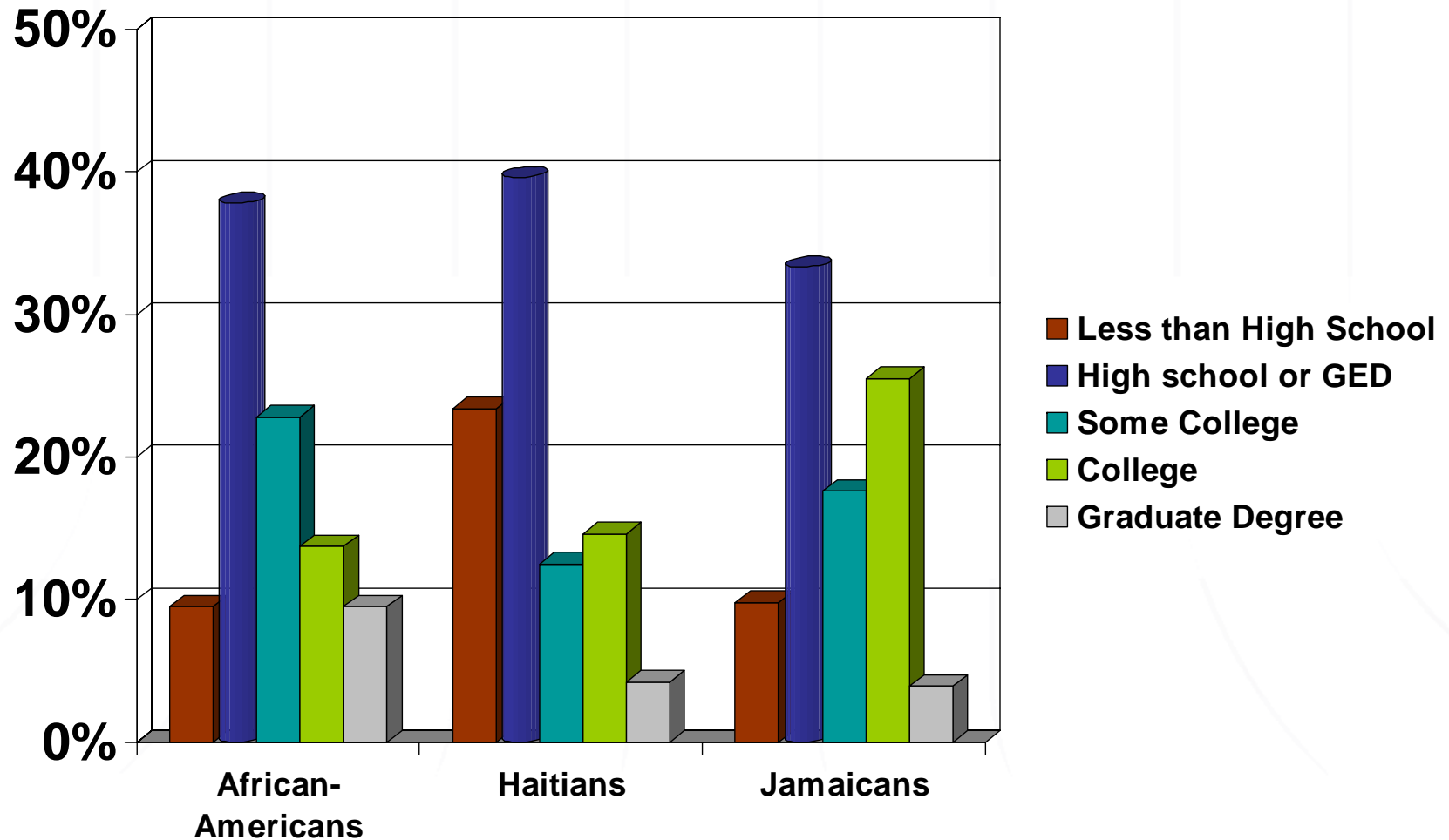
Trust in Government

- Blacks in Miami-Dade County tend to have very little trust in their government, but city and County governments tend to do significantly better than state and federal

Trust in Government (cont'd.)



Educational Attainment by Ethnicity



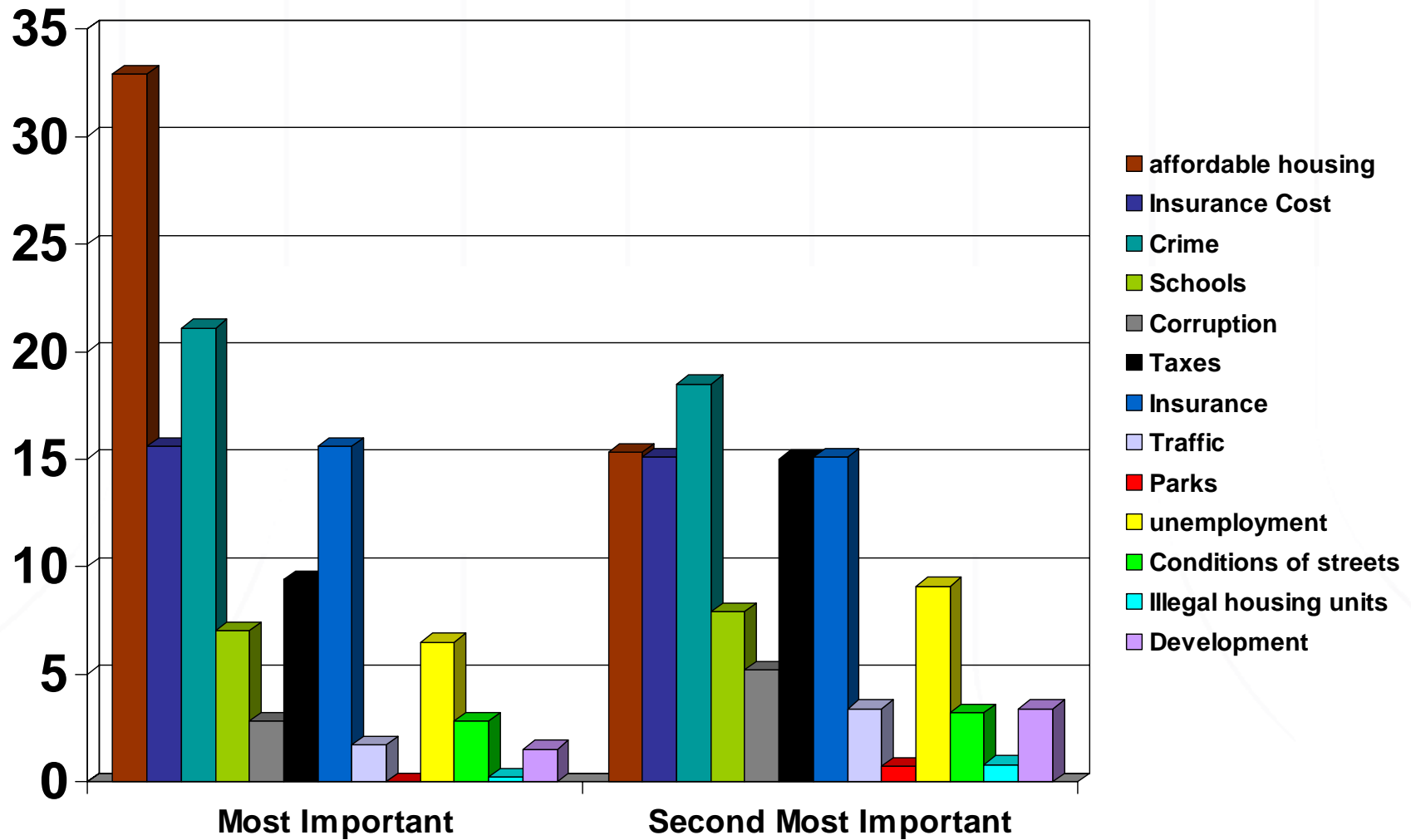
Important Issues: Housing Costs

- The main concern of the African-American Community is housing cost and crime
 - 30.1% rated “cost of housing” as the single biggest issue facing Miami-Dade County
 - Crime was second at 21%
 - Two other issues associated with the high cost of housing were among the top four concerns: insurance (15.1%) and property taxes (9.4%)

Most Important Issue: Housing Costs

- Concern over housing also manifested itself at the neighborhood level:
 - When asked to identify the most important issues facing their neighborhood, respondents indicated:
 - As primary concerns: Housing Costs (33.2%) and Crime (21.0%)
 - As secondary concerns: Insurance Costs (13.4%) and Property Taxes (11.2%)

Important Issues



Issues

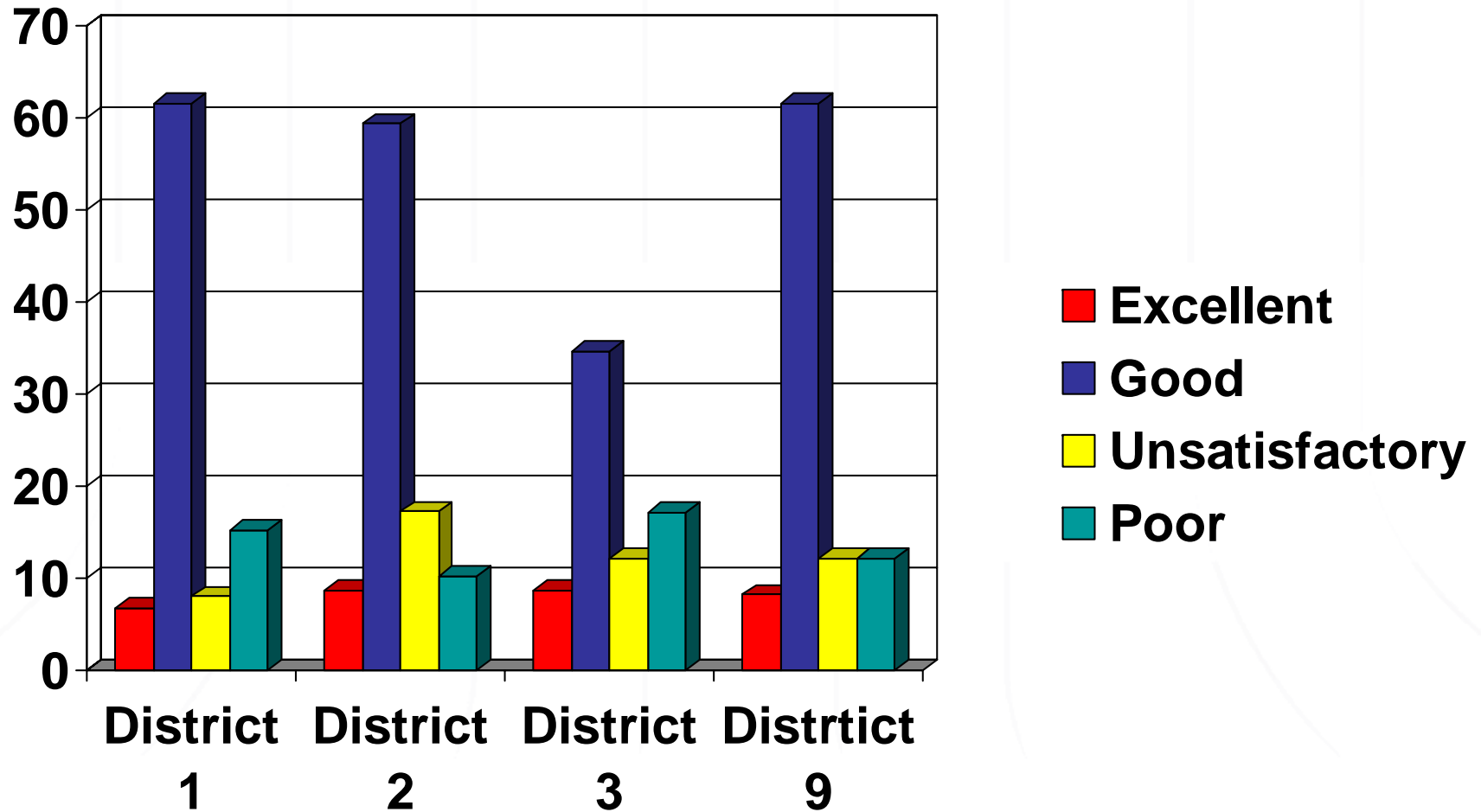
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Issues: Police Services

- Respondents had a favorable view of police services :
 - The majority rate police services in their neighborhoods as “good” or “excellent” (67.5%)
 - The majority rate their personal experience in dealing with the police as “good” or “excellent” (62.2%)
- Despite these favorable ratings, the majority of respondents share a belief that most officers treat Blacks differently from Whites or Hispanics (68.8%)
 - 6.9% of the respondents feel that Blacks are always treated the same
 - 51% believe that Blacks are usually treated the same but it often depends on the officer
 - 36% believe that Blacks are either always treated differently or are treated differently most of the time.

Rating Police Services



Issues: Public Safety

- The majority of respondents indicate they feel “safe” to “very safe” in their neighborhoods walking at night (64.3%)
 - 67.7% of the respondents in District 1 feel safe in their neighborhoods at night
 - 58.1% of the respondents in District 2 feel safe in their neighborhoods at nights
 - 59.1% of the respondents in District 3 feel safe in their neighborhoods at night.
 - 71% of the respondents in District 9 feel safe in their neighborhoods at night.

Issues: Economic Outlook

- When it comes to their family's economic situation and advancement, respondents express limited optimism:
 - A substantial percentage indicate their economic conditions to be about the same as it was three years ago (46.6%)
 - An equally substantial percentage also indicate their economic conditions will be about the same three years from now (42.5%)
 - Despite this limited optimism, a similar percentage feels their prospects for professional and economic advancement in Miami-Dade County are “good” or “excellent” (46.5%) but an almost equal number (39.3%) view their prospects as “poor” or “unsatisfactory”.
- When it comes to the economic prospects for Black youths and the African American community, respondent opinions are mixed
 - A substantial percentage indicate prospects for professional and economic advancement for Black Americans in the corporate sector of Miami-Dade County within the next three years are “good” or “excellent” (42.5%)
 - An even larger percentage, however, feel prospects for advancement of Black youths in Miami-Dade County within the next three years are “poor” or “unsatisfactory” (46.5%)

Issue: Black “Brain Drain”

- Over 30% of the respondents have plans to leave Miami-Dade County.
- Those expressing an interest to leave are often the best and the brightest:
 - 41% of the respondents earning between \$60,000-\$80,000
 - 39.2% of those with a college degree
 - 35.2% of those with at least some college
 - 36.4% of those working full-time
 - 36.1% of those describing themselves as upper-middle class

Issue: Financial Institutions

- Utilization of local financial institutions for personal services is mixed:
 - Approximately half of the respondents indicated having both a savings and a checking account (50.8%)
 - Approximately 20% indicated having only a checking account
 - Another 20% indicated having neither
- When it comes to trust in financial institutions respondent opinions are markedly negative:
 - 84.6% believe African-Americans do not have the same level of access to capital loans and other financial services for small businesses
 - 79.4% believe African-Americans are more vulnerable to predatory lending practices than other racial groups

Issue: The Workplace

- When it comes to the workplace, respondent opinions are mainly positive:
 - Most respondents are either “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with their current employer (75.9%)
 - Most indicate they have never felt discriminated against in their current jobs (74.3%)
 - Most indicate they do not know anyone who has ever felt discriminated against at their workplace (51.1%)
 - Another 20% indicated having neither

Issue: Housing

- Ethnic and racial segregation does not appear to be part of the respondents' living conditions:
 - The majority (61.0%) indicated that they live in neighborhoods where the ethnic and racial composition is “mixed” to “mostly mixed”
- Fairness in housing is not perceived as a problem by respondents:
 - The overwhelming majority (78.8%) indicated that neither them or anyone they know has suffered from housing discrimination
- Access to affordable housing is perceived as a problem by respondents:
 - 42.9% feel that housing costs have increased the most in recent years
 - 39.2% indicate that paying for housing presents the most difficulty

Issue: Homeownership

- 67% of respondents own their homes while 32% rent
- When asked how important homeownership is, 72.6% of respondents indicated “very important”
- The majority of those who rent have a pessimistic view on achieving homeownership
 - 65.6% of this group are either unsure or feel they will never be able to afford a home in Miami-Dade County
 - The biggest obstacles to homeownership as identified by this group are housing costs (37.3%) and low wages (22.6%)

Issue: Health

- The majority of respondents (67.7%) feel the quality of health services in Miami-Dade County is “good” or “excellent”
- The overwhelming majority of respondents have access to and utilize some type of health care system
 - 81.6% have health insurance or some form of public healthcare assistance
 - 83.1% have a primary care physician
 - 83.7% have annual check-ups

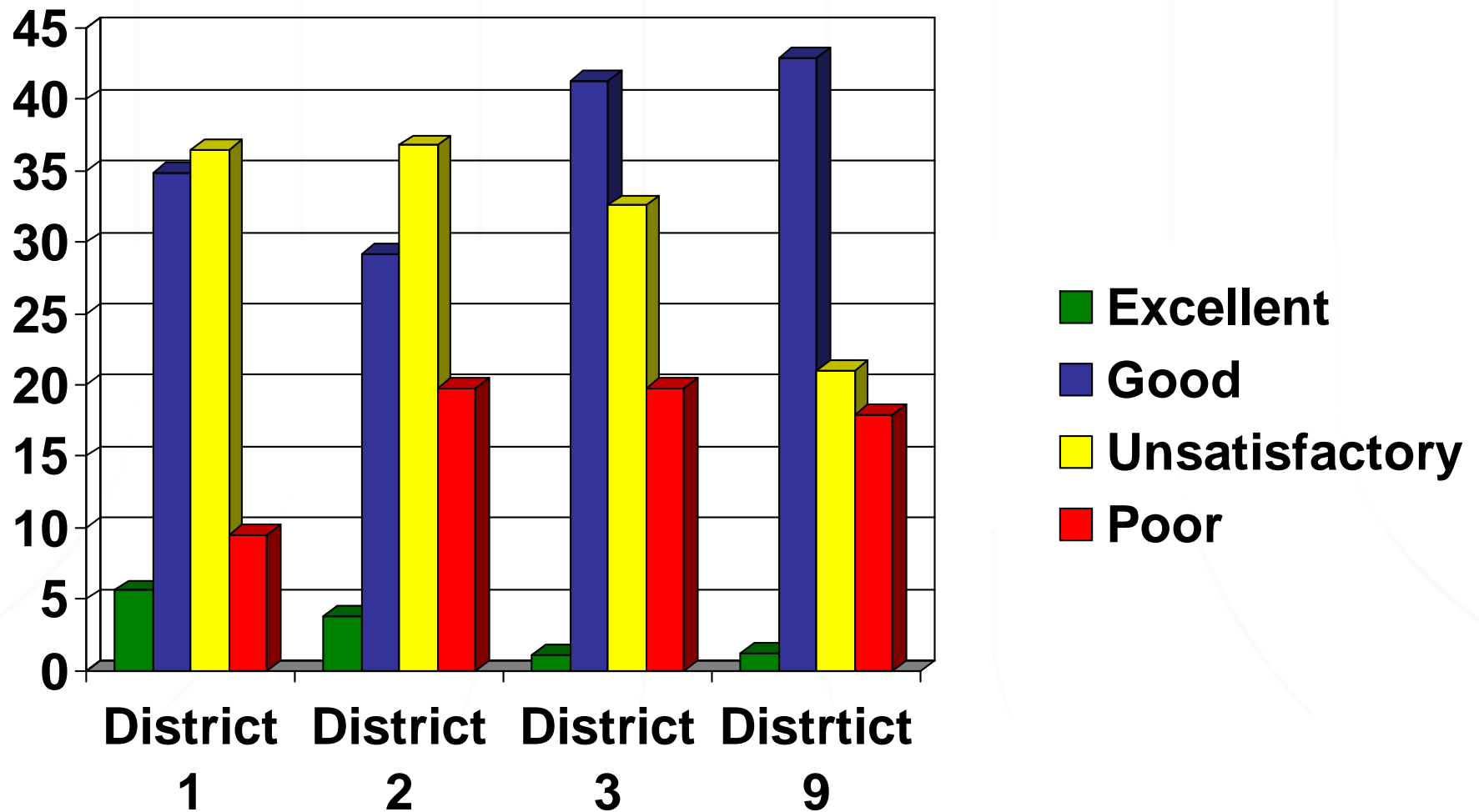
Issue: Education

- Respondents were concerned with the quality of public education in Miami-Dade County:
 - 76.3% feel too little is spent on education
 - 50.8% feel the Miami-Dade School District is not serving the interests of the Black community
 - 51.5% feel the Miami-Dade School District is not preparing the youth of the Black community for the future
 - 60.5% feel the Miami-Dade School District does not serve the interests of all racial groups equally
 - 49.8% feel local colleges and university do not serve the interests of the Black community

Issues: Education (cont'd.)

- Despite trends indicating the contrary, respondents perceived that Blacks are losing ground, not gaining:
 - 53.7% feel Black youths are attending college in fewer numbers
 - 52.1% feel there are fewer scholarship opportunities for Black youths
 - 57.1% feel Black youths are graduating in fewer numbers

Rating Miami-Dade Public Education



Issue: Race and Ethnic Relations

- The level of trust toward other ethnic groups varies:
 - 54.2% feel trust between African American and Caribbean Blacks is good to excellent
 - 49.7% feel trust between Blacks and Hispanics is “good” or “excellent”
 - 43% feel trust between Blacks and Non-Hispanic Whites is “good” or “excellent”

Issue: Identity

- With respect to Race and Ethnic Identity, opinions expressed by respondents are at times contradictory
 - 72.3% are very aware of their race/ethnic identity in most situations
 - 71.4% indicate their race/ethnic identity is very important
 - 70.5% think about their race/ethnic identity frequently
 - 87.2% view themselves as a “real” member of their race/ethnic group
 - At the same time, however, 57.0% indicate that racial/ethnic differences seem completely unimportant to them
- With respect to Race and Ethnic Identity and its relation to others, opinions expressed by respondents are more negative
 - 58.9% feel the people they know care about racial/ethnic differences
 - 64.9% feel racial or ethnic differences are very important to the people they know

Conclusions

- Miami-Dade Black community views itself as facing severe challenges:
 - Affordable housing crisis
 - A weak public education system
 - A Black “Brain Drain”
- However, progress has been made in traditional areas of Black concern:
 - Police/Community relations
 - Housing and workplace discrimination
 - Neighborhood Integration