



SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

August 4, 2020

5:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

1. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
2. **BUSINESS ITEMS**
 - a. Face Coverings - Farbrother

ADJOURNMENT



Business Items Item #: 2. a.

Special Council Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date: 08/04/2020

Title: Face Coverings - Farbrother

Department: Corporate Services

Request for Decision Summary

The COVID-19 pandemic remains a health risk and the City of Spruce Grove (City) continues to follow health and safety guidelines provided by the Government of Alberta in order to reduce the spread. With businesses reopening, more social interactions and the number of cases across the Edmonton region increasing, additional measures may be considered to mitigate substantive increases of positive cases in the local community.

Proposed Motion

That Council receive the report on face coverings as information and provide direction to administration for a potential staged approach to implementation regarding the required use of face coverings in the municipality.

Background/Analysis

On March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic related to the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The COVID-19 pandemic remains a significant public health risk. Alberta's Relaunch Strategy's gradual reopening of business and the resumption of activities has resulted in more people gathering in public, returning to work, and resuming activities. While there have been very few active cases in Spruce Grove, we have been seeing an increase in active cases in the Province at large. The Government of Alberta continues to indicate that they do not have province-wide plans for mandatory face coverings and have left the decision regarding face covering requirements to municipalities and local businesses or organizations.

As outlined in Attachment 1, various approaches have been used to address face coverings in municipalities in Alberta and across Canada. Each approach however has a general perspective on the following categories:

- Scope – policy and/or bylaw
- What – definition of a face covering
- Where - locations where face coverings are to be worn
- Who – who is included/exempted from wearing face coverings and when/where

- Nature of enforcement – who enforces; the municipality directly (Edmonton) or through the business community (Toronto)
- Penalty for non-compliance
- Date of implementation

One further consideration that has been discussed by a handful of municipalities of recent is developing a bylaw outlining the above categories but triggering the coming into force date based on the pandemic infection rate. Alberta Health Services as three levels it codes zones and local areas at:

- Open (less than 50 cases per 100,000 population)
- Watch (at least ten (10) active cases and more than 50 active cases per 100,000 population)
- Enhanced (risk levels require enhanced public health measures to control the spread and are informed specifically by the local context)

In the case of Cochrane, they recently passed a bylaw that requires a person to wear a face covering in a public premise or a public vehicle if the number of active cases are reported by Alberta Health Services to be 10 or more, based on their watch status rate. If the municipality drops below their watch list rate for 14 consecutive days, the requirement to wear a mask is lifted.

The City of Spruce Grove's watch list rate is 18 cases. At time of drafting this request for decision, the City's case rate was 1.

A further consideration is the supply of face coverings. As regional transit systems recommenced in the area, a limited number of face coverings were provided to transit riders in Spruce Grove. There is not an intention to continue supplying face coverings to the public on an ongoing basis as there is a growing supply available to the public through a variety of means.

Lastly, the province announced the morning of August 4, 2020 that all school authorities (public, separate, charter and independent) are directed to ensure students in grades four (4) to twelve wear face coverings as school commences for the 2020-2021 school year.

Options/Alternatives

City Council may wish to consider any or a combination of the following options:

1. City Council may continue to support the policy requiring mandatory face coverings on public transit and further mandate face coverings in any indoor public area within city-owned facilities.
2. City Council may request that the Province provide direction with respect to the wearing of mandatory face coverings.
3. City Council may request an enhanced public education campaign to increase awareness about face covering usage in the municipality.
4. City Council may, through a special meeting or the next regular scheduled meeting of

council, deliberate a bylaw concerning the use of face coverings in all public premises within the municipality.

Consultation/Engagement

Leading up to the Council discussions on August 4, 2020 the City undertook two different engagement exercises. City administration requested feedback from the Greater Regional Parkland Chamber regarding their membership views on the use of mandatory face coverings. At the time, the Chamber was neutral in their perspective as they represent a business constituency base beyond the City itself.

Commencing the afternoon of July 31 to noon on August 4, 2020, the City encouraged citizens to respond to a short survey that asked whether they wore face coverings when they were out in public currently and whether they support or do not support the use of mandatory face coverings in doors and why. Feedback from the survey is attached for Council's information.

Implementation/Communication

In order to implement a broader face covering policy (i.e. beyond transit at this time) or bylaw, the City will require to take a number of steps including:

- possible development of a broader policy or policies to support a graduated approach;
- continued development and implementation of a communication and education strategy; and/or
- possible development of a bylaw with various criteria and/or elements.

Impacts

As various businesses and municipalities have commenced to put in place requirements regarding face coverings across Canada, there has been a wide range of responses. Some individuals have protested the requirements, citing a violation of their charter rights or other health implications. At this time, there is no evidence that would suggest either of these complaints are based on fact, however the body of science regarding the transmittance of the virus continues to grow and public opinion on this issue will continue to unfold.

Choices regarding the nature of enforcement and the ensuing penalty require consideration to balance the challenges facing both impacted parties: local administration enforcement teams and the business community.

Strategic Vision Element:

Where People Choose to Experience Community - A vibrant place for community involvement and social wellness

Related Goal:

Citizens feel safe within their communities.

Attachments

[Attachment 1 - Face Coverings - Municipal Comparison](#)

[Attachment 2 - Face Coverings Survey Results](#)

Attachment One: Face Coverings – Municipal Comparison

	Calgary	Edmonton	Toronto	Region of Waterloo	St. Albert	Strathcona County	Leduc	Stony Plain
Bylaw status	Enacted	Enacted	Enacted	Enacted	Pending	Pending	N/A	N/A
Summary	All public premises Bylaw requires person to wear mask in enclosed public spaces.	All public premises. Bylaw requires a person to wear a face covering while in an indoor, enclosed, or substantially enclosed public place or in a public vehicle.	All public premises. Bylaw requires Establishments/Businesses to require a person to wear a mask.	All public premises. Bylaw requires a person to wear a mask in enclosed public spaces.	Bylaw for only City facilities and transit. Planning to give three readings to bylaw on August 4. Chamber of Commerce engaging businesses on possibility of bylaw all public spaces. Waiting on results of this engagement to determine if and when a broader bylaw encompasses public spaces will be considered.	<u>Policy:</u> Face coverings in City facilities and on transit in effect commencing August 4. Currently surveying residents on their views regarding making masks mandatory in the community. <u>Bylaw:</u> Planning to draft bylaw that will require mandatory use of non-medical masks in all public indoor spaces and public vehicles for hire (eg: malls, grocery stores, retail businesses, chur	<u>Policy:</u> Face coverings on transit in effect since mid-July. Currently surveying residents on their views regarding making masks mandatory in the community.	Policy for transit only at this time.

Attachment One: Face Coverings – Municipal Comparison

	Calgary	Edmonton	Toronto	Region of Waterloo	St. Albert	Strathcona County	Leduc	Stony Plain
						<p>ches). The bylaw would not apply to areas that are not open for general public access (eg: schools, daycares).</p> <p>Expected to be presented at upcoming special Council meeting early August (date to be confirmed).</p>		
Definition of Face Covering	<p>“<i>face covering</i>” means a mask or other face covering that covers the mouth, nose and chin ensuring a barrier that limits the transmission of infectious respiratory droplets;</p>	<p>Face Covering” means a medical or non-medical mask or other face covering that covers the mouth, nose and chin</p>	<p>“Mask or Face Covering” means a mask, balaclava, bandana, scarf, cloth or other similar item that covers the nose, mouth and chin without gapping.</p>	<p>“face covering” shall mean a medical mask or non-medical mask or other face covering, including a bandana, scarf or other fabric that covers the nose, mouth and chin to create a barrier to limit the transmission of respiratory droplets.</p>	<p>N/A at time of drafting document</p>	<p>N/A at time of drafting document</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Attachment One: Face Coverings – Municipal Comparison

	Calgary	Edmonton	Toronto	Region of Waterloo	St. Albert	Strathcona County	Leduc	Stony Plain
Scope	<p>Public premises or in a public vehicle</p> <p><i>“public premises”</i> means all or any part of a building, structure or other enclosed area to which members of the public have access as of right or by express or implied invitation but excludes any premises for which there is an enrolment or membership requirement in order to access it;</p> <p><i>“public vehicle”</i> means a bus, light rail transit (LRT) vehicle, taxi or other vehicle that is used to transport members of the public for a fee;</p>	<p>Public places or in public vehicles</p> <p>“Public Place” means any property, whether publicly or privately owned, to which members of the public have access as of right or by express or implied invitation, whether on payment of any fee or not.</p> <p>“public vehicle” means a bus or light rail vehicle operated by Edmonton Transit Service, or a vehicle for hire as defined in the Vehicle for Hire Bylaw, Bylaw 17400</p>	<p>Establishments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Businesses • Places of worship • Community/recreation centres • Real estate open houses • Common areas of hotels, building lobbies • City facilities 	<p>Enclosed public spaces. Incl:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shopping malls, retail shops, restaurants, museums, grocery stores, etc. • Transit • Gyms, churches, arcades, personal care establishments, etc. 	<p>City owned facilities and transit</p> <p>Reviewed every 60 days (possibly)</p>	<p><u>Policy:</u> City owned facilities and transit.</p> <p><u>Pending bylaw:</u> All public spaces</p>	<p><u>Policy:</u> Transit only</p>	<p><u>Policy:</u> Transit only</p>

Attachment One: Face Coverings – Municipal Comparison

	Calgary	Edmonton	Toronto	Region of Waterloo	St. Albert	Strathcona County	Leduc	Stony Plain
	<i>*very similar approach to Toronto and Waterloo, but did not provide comprehensive list</i>							
Exemptions	<p>Anyone behind an installed screen, shield or other barrier.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children under the age of 2 • Underlying medical conditions • Persons who are unable to place or remove a mask • Persons engaging in athletic or physical activity • Caregivers where wearing a face covering may hinder the accommodation of the person's disability • Temporarily removing face 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • persons under the age of 2; • persons who are unable to place, use, or remove a Face Covering without assistance; • persons unable to wear a Face Covering due to a mental or physical concern or limitation, or protected ground under the <i>Alberta Human Rights Act</i> • persons consuming food or drink in designated seating areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children under the age of 2 • Underlying medical conditions • Persons who are unable to place or remove a mask • Employees or agendas in a designated area without public access or within/behind a physical barrier • Reasonably accommodated by not wearing a covering in accordance with Human Rights legislation <p>Schools and child care facilities are</p>	Children under the age of 5 and those who are unable to wear a covering due to a medical condition, disability, etc.	N/A at time of drafting document	<p>Policy of masks required in City facilities and transit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children under two years of age • People with underlying medical conditions or disabilities that prevent them from safely wearing a face covering and those who cannot wear or remove one without assistance • People eating or drinking inside public spaces that 	N/A at time of drafting document	N/A at time of drafting document

Attachment One: Face Coverings – Municipal Comparison

	Calgary	Edmonton	Toronto	Region of Waterloo	St. Albert	Strathcona County	Leduc	Stony Plain
	covering to provide or receive a service.	<p>or as part of religious or spiritual ceremony</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • persons engaged in water activities or physical exercise • persons providing care or assistance to a person with a disability where a Face Covering would hinder that caregiving or assistance • persons engaging in services that require the temporary removal of a Face Covering <p>Does not apply to the following places:</p>	not considered an establishment, nor is transit or hospitals.			<p>offer food or beverages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People exercising or engaging in athletic activities • Caregivers or those accompanying someone with a disability 		

Attachment One: Face Coverings – Municipal Comparison

	Calgary	Edmonton	Toronto	Region of Waterloo	St. Albert	Strathcona County	Leduc	Stony Plain
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • schools and other educational facilities; • hospitals and health-care facilities; • child care facilities; • areas exclusively accessed or used by the Public Place’s employees or a Public Vehicle operator, provided that physical barriers or physical distancing practices are implemented between any person not required to wear a Face Covering by operation of this exception 						

Attachment One: Face Coverings – Municipal Comparison

	Calgary	Edmonton	Toronto	Region of Waterloo	St. Albert	Strathcona County	Leduc	Stony Plain
		and any other person.						
How is it enforced	Employer, operator, or proprietor must display a sign. Persons not wearing masks may be issued a violation ticket.	Persons not wearing a mask may be issued a violation ticket.	Businesses must adopt face covering policy. Businesses must post signage. Enforcement of businesses not individuals	Businesses must post signage. Citizens.	To be confirmed – although since mandated via bylaw a person not wearing a mask would likely be issued a violation ticket.	N/A at time of drafting document	N/A at time of drafting document	N/A at time of drafting document
Penalty	\$50 for citizens \$200 for businesses	\$100	Fine as per the Ontario Provincial Offences Act	Conviction, fine not exceeding \$1,000	N/A at time of drafting document	N/A at time of drafting document	N/A at time of drafting document	N/A at time of drafting document
Effective Date	August 1, 2020 (approx. 10 days after enacted and passed)	August 1	July 7, 2020 (7 days after enacted and passed)	September 30	August 4 or later pending Council meeting August 4	August 4 – policy; bylaw discussion pending	N/A at time of drafting document	N/A at time of drafting document

City of Spruce Grove Face Coverings Survey



The City of Spruce Grove ran an online survey from July 31 to August 4, 2020.

The purpose of the survey was to capture general public sentiment regarding the use of face coverings in the community.

The survey was not intended to be statistically valid but rather to be used as a general sentiment indicator or temperature check. The responses provide a snapshot of the community's current practices of wearing face coverings as well as views on why they do or do not support wearing face coverings in public.

The survey was advertised through the City's website, Facebook page and reader boards. The survey did not require registration. Sampling is not statistically valid.

Following are two survey response reports:

- The first report is from respondents indicating that they are Spruce Grove residents.
- The second report is for the entire set of respondents.

Survey on use of face coverings in Spruce Grove

SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT

31 July 2020 - 04 August 2020

PROJECT NAME:

Face coverings in Spruce Grove

FILTER BY:

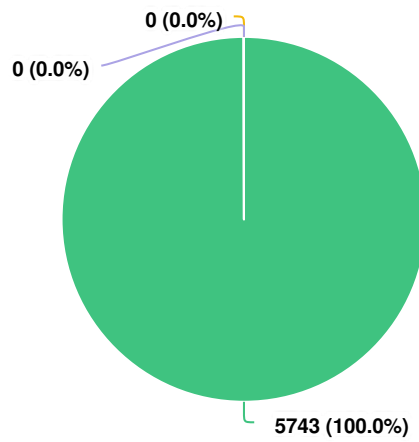
<p>Are you a resident of the City of Spruce Grove?</p>

Answered : Yes



SURVEY QUESTIONS

Q1 Are you a resident of the City of Spruce Grove?



Question options

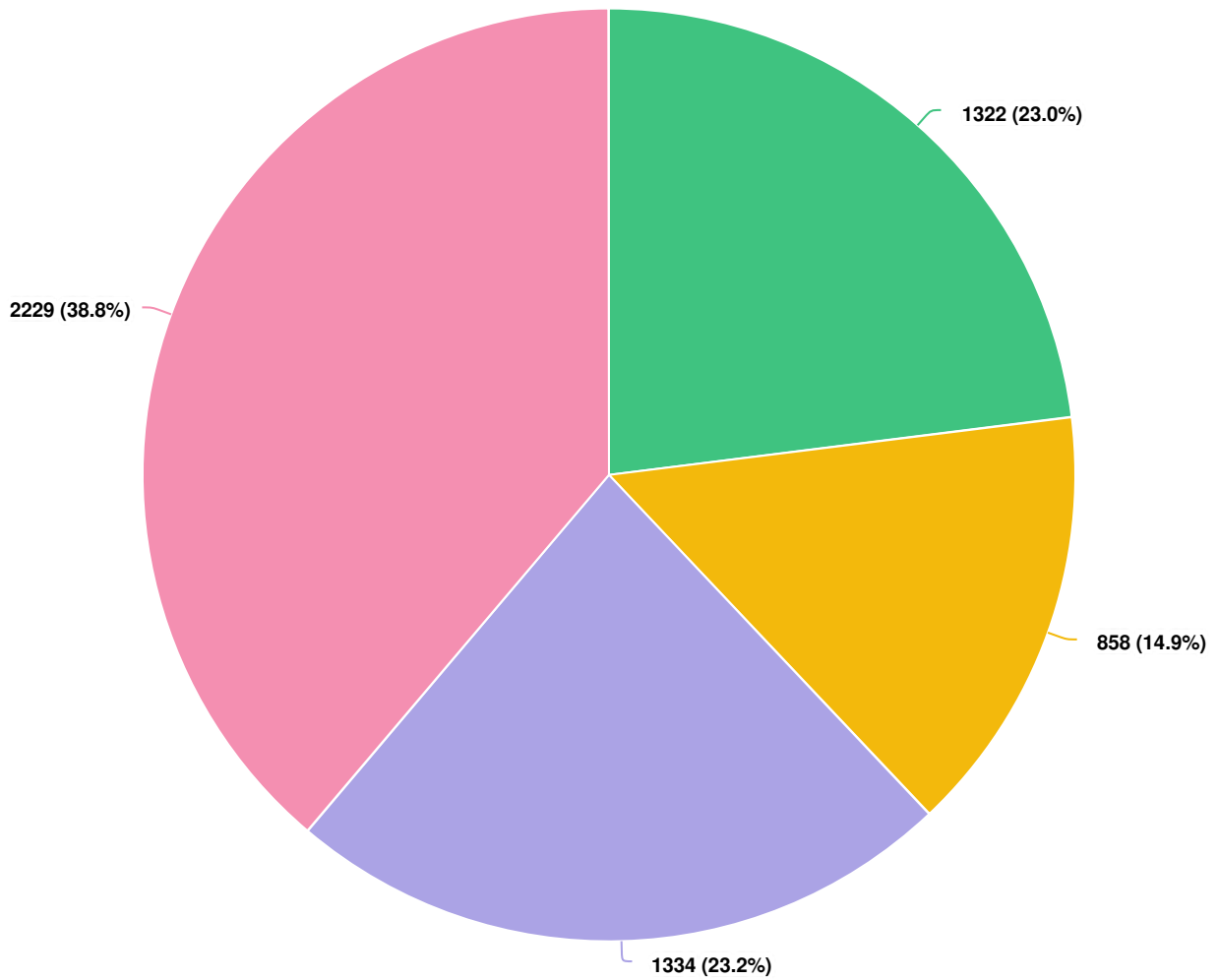
- Yes
- No
- No, but I visit Spruce Grove frequently for work, shopping or other activities.

Mandatory Question (5743 response(s))

Question type: Radio Button Question

Filtering by: <p>Are you a resident of the City of Spruce Grove?</p> Yes

Q2 | At the present time, how often do you wear a face covering in public while visiting indoor spaces such as restaurants, businesses and stores?

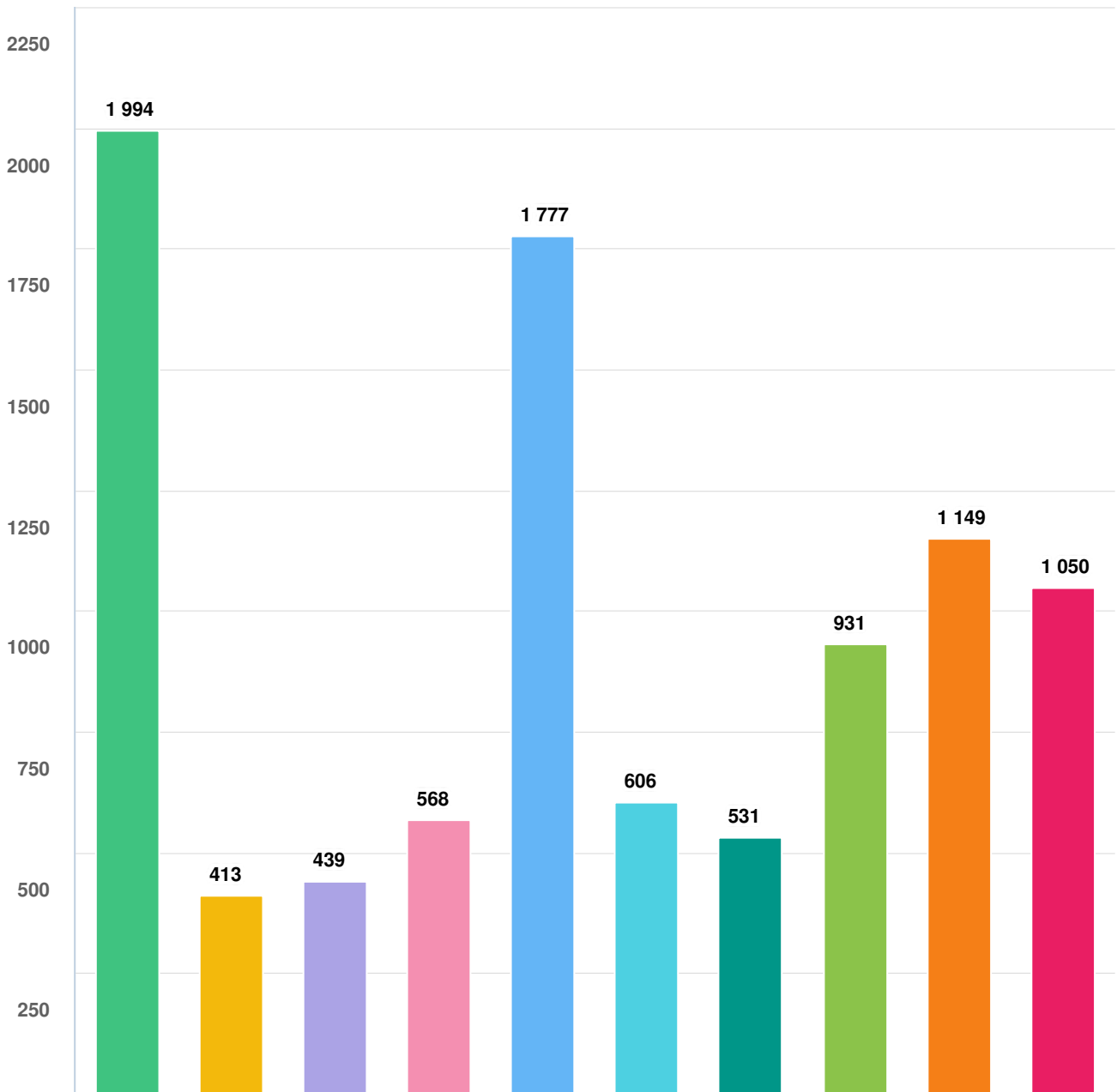


Question options

- Always
- Usually
- Sometimes
- Never

Mandatory Question (5743 response(s))
Question type: Radio Button Question
Filtering by: <p>Are you a resident of the City of Spruce Grove?</p> Yes

Q3 What challenges do you experience while wearing a face covering in public? Select all that apply.

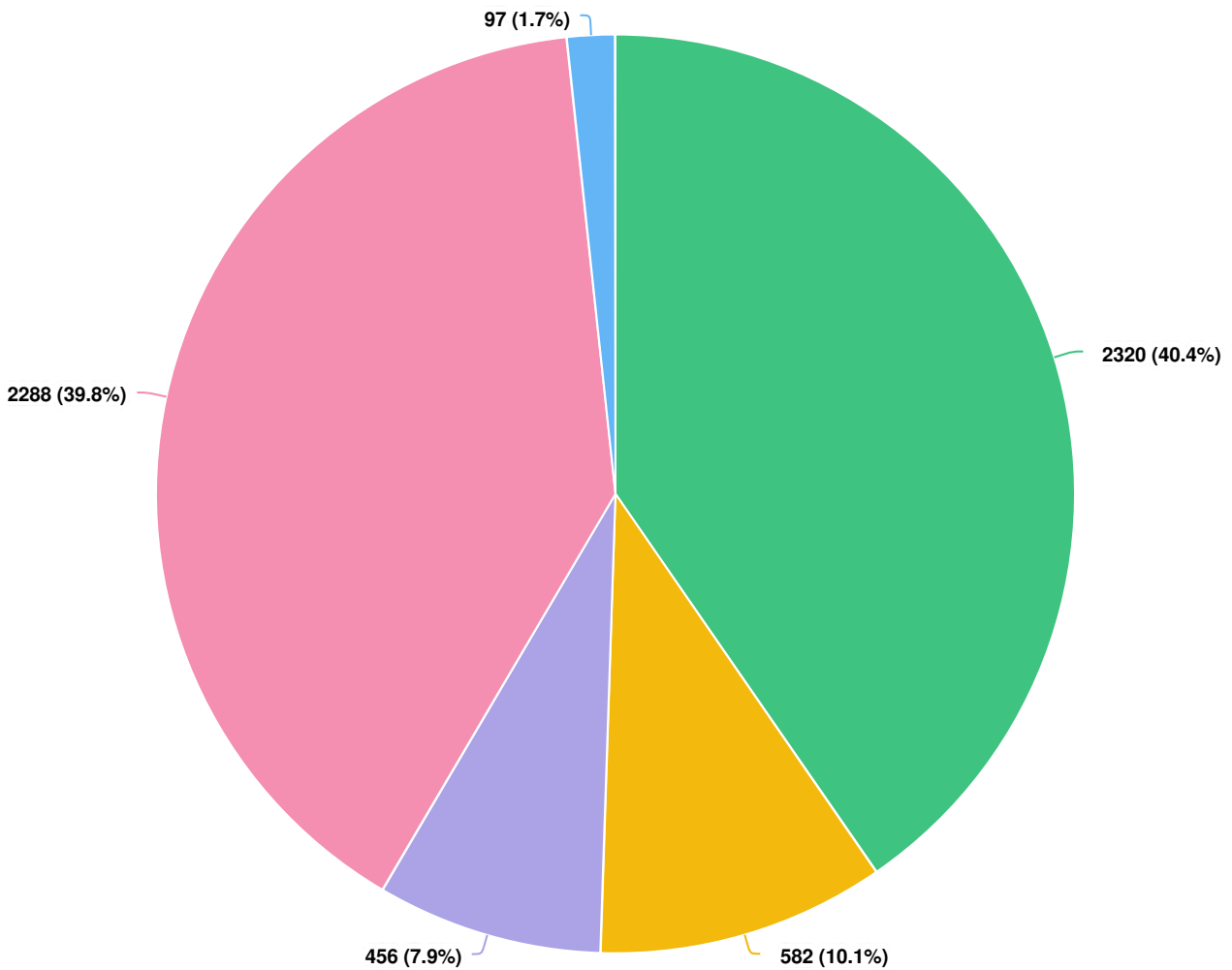


Question options

- I don't experience any challenges ● Affordability ● Accessibility
- I have a disability that makes it hard for me to wear a face covering (i.e., hearing impaired/need to lip-read, autism, significant breathing issues)
- General discomfort ● I feel judged by others
- I can't get my child/other members of my immediate household to wear a face covering ● I just don't like it
- I don't believe wearing a face covering is important ● Not applicable. I don't wear a face covering in public.

Mandatory Question (5743 response(s))
 Question type: Checkbox Question
 Filtering by: <p>Are you a resident of the City of Spruce Grove?</p> Yes

Q4 | To what extent do you support or oppose face coverings being made mandatory in indoor public spaces such as City facilities, restaurants, businesses and stores?



Question options

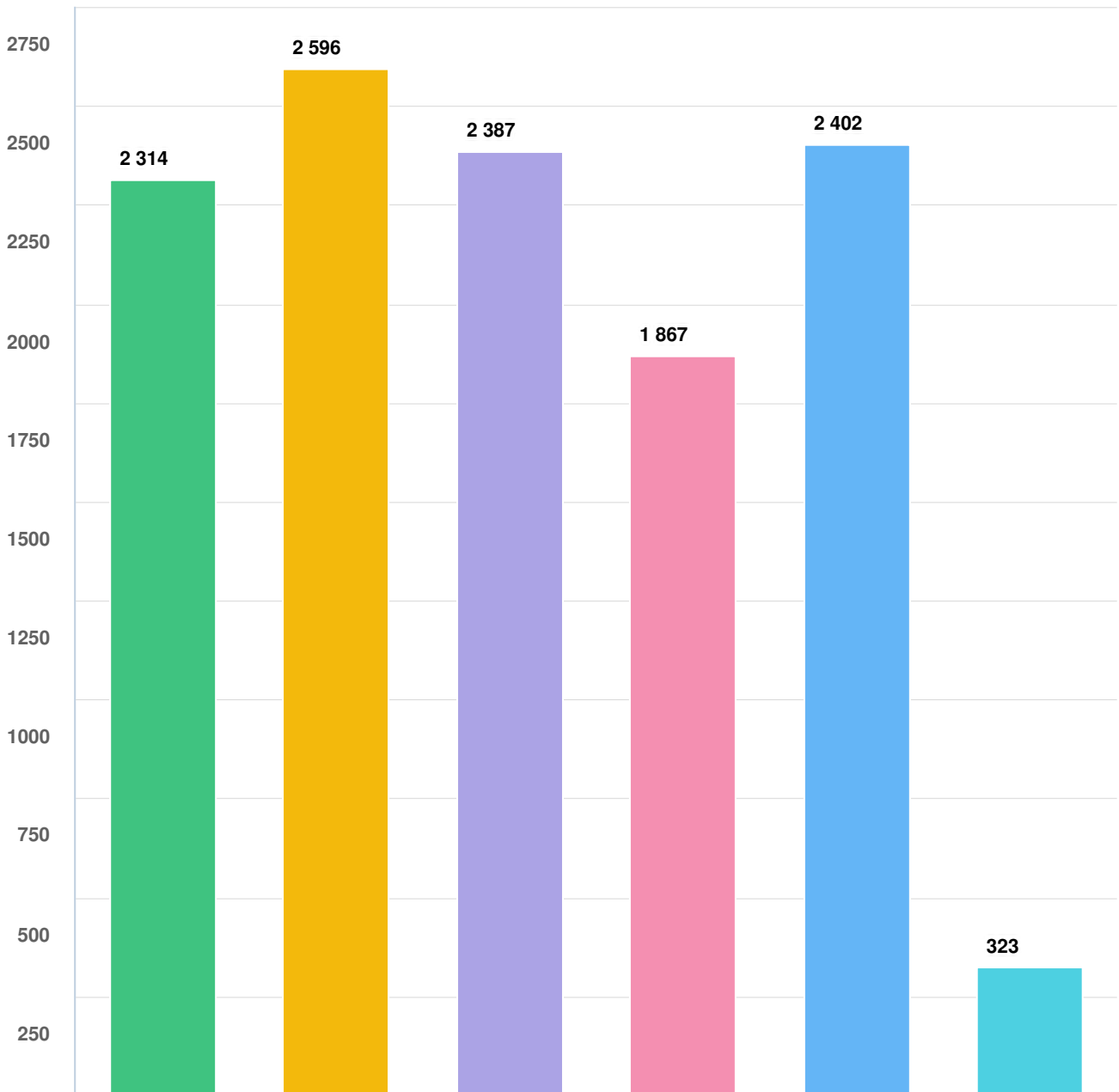
- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Somewhat oppose
- Strongly oppose
- I don't know

Mandatory Question (5743 response(s))

Question type: Radio Button Question

Filtering by: <p>Are you a resident of the City of Spruce Grove?</p> Yes

Q5 If you are in support of face coverings being mandatory, why? Select all that apply.



Question options

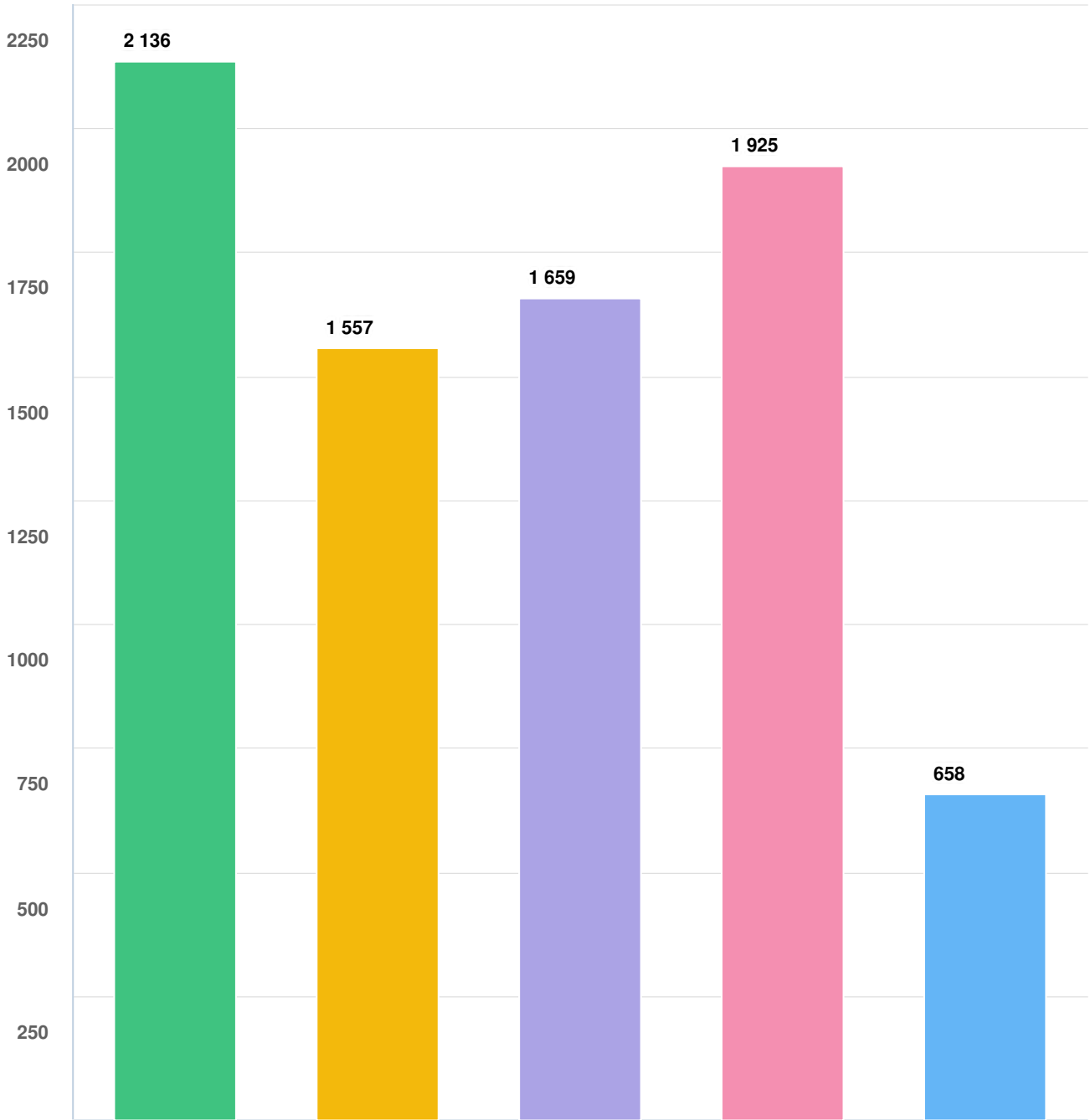
- Face coverings have been shown to reduce the spread of COVID-19
- Face coverings protect others who are especially vulnerable to COVID-19 (i.e., those with compromised immune systems, elderly residents)
- Face coverings are most effective when everyone wears them
- Face coverings keep everyone safe
- Face coverings can stop infected individuals who aren't displaying any symptoms of COVID-19 from unintentionally infecting others
- Other (please specify)

Optional question (3214 response(s), 2529 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question

Filtering by: <p>Are you a resident of the City of Spruce Grove?</p> Yes

Q6 If you do not support face coverings being made mandatory, why not? Select all that apply.



Question options

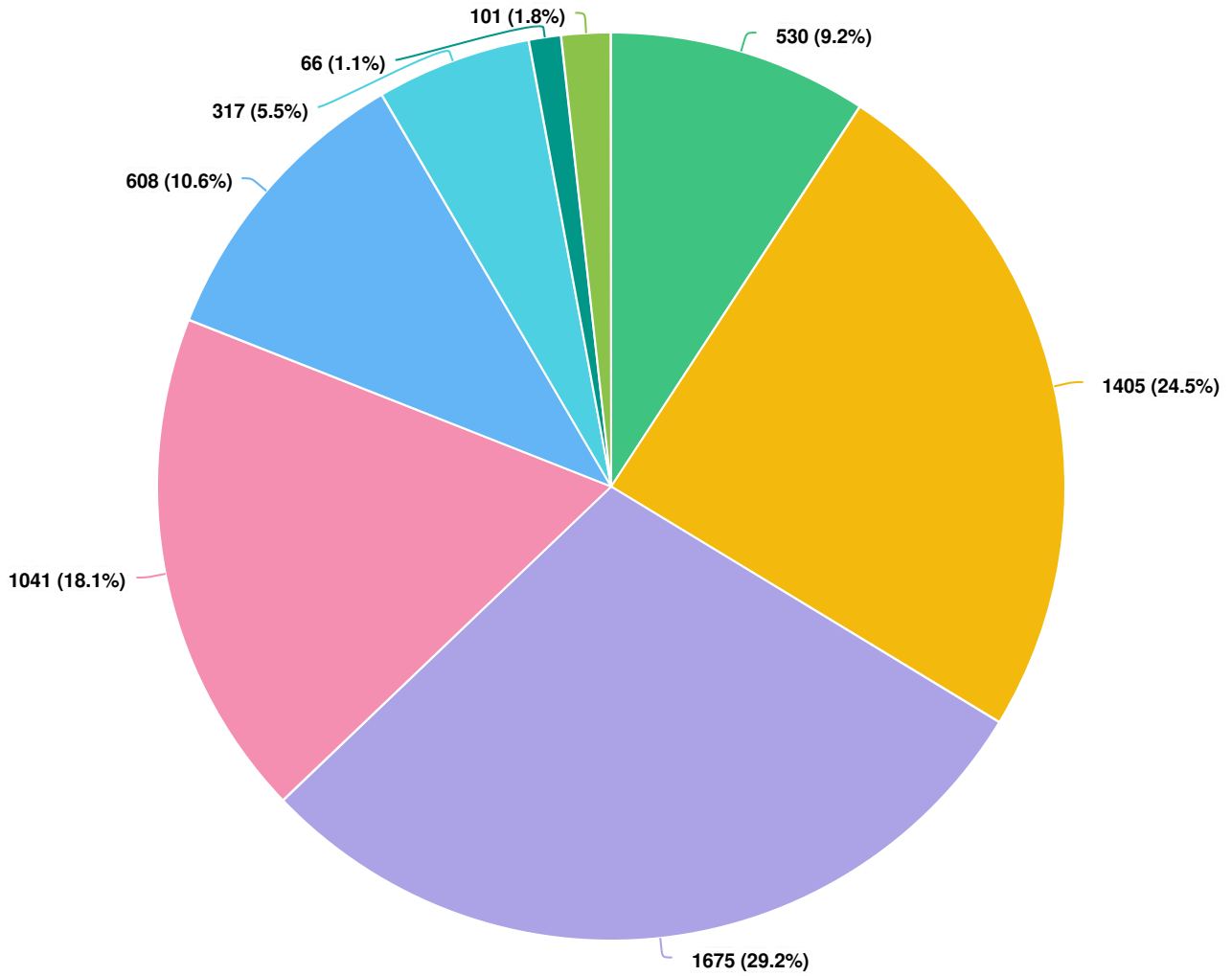
- It should be my choice whether or not I wear a face covering
- Face covering can create issues for people with disabilities (i.e., hearing impaired/need to lip-read, autism, significant breathing issues)
- Face coverings can be difficult for those who have breathing issues
- Face coverings are not clearly proven to offer protection from the spread of COVID-19
- Other (please specify)

Optional question (3147 response(s), 2596 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question

Filtering by: <p>Are you a resident of the City of Spruce Grove?</p> Yes

Q7 Please select the category that includes your current age.



Question options

- 24 years or under
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65-74
- 75 years or older
- Prefer not to answer

Mandatory Question (5743 response(s))
Question type: Radio Button Question
Filtering by: <p>Are you a resident of the City of Spruce Grove?</p> Yes

Survey on use of face coverings in Spruce Grove

SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT

31 July 2020 - 04 August 2020

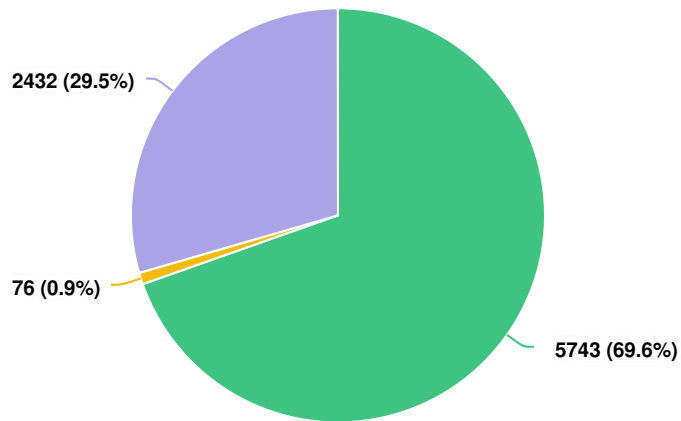
PROJECT NAME:

Face coverings in Spruce Grove



SURVEY QUESTIONS

Q1 Are you a resident of the City of Spruce Grove?



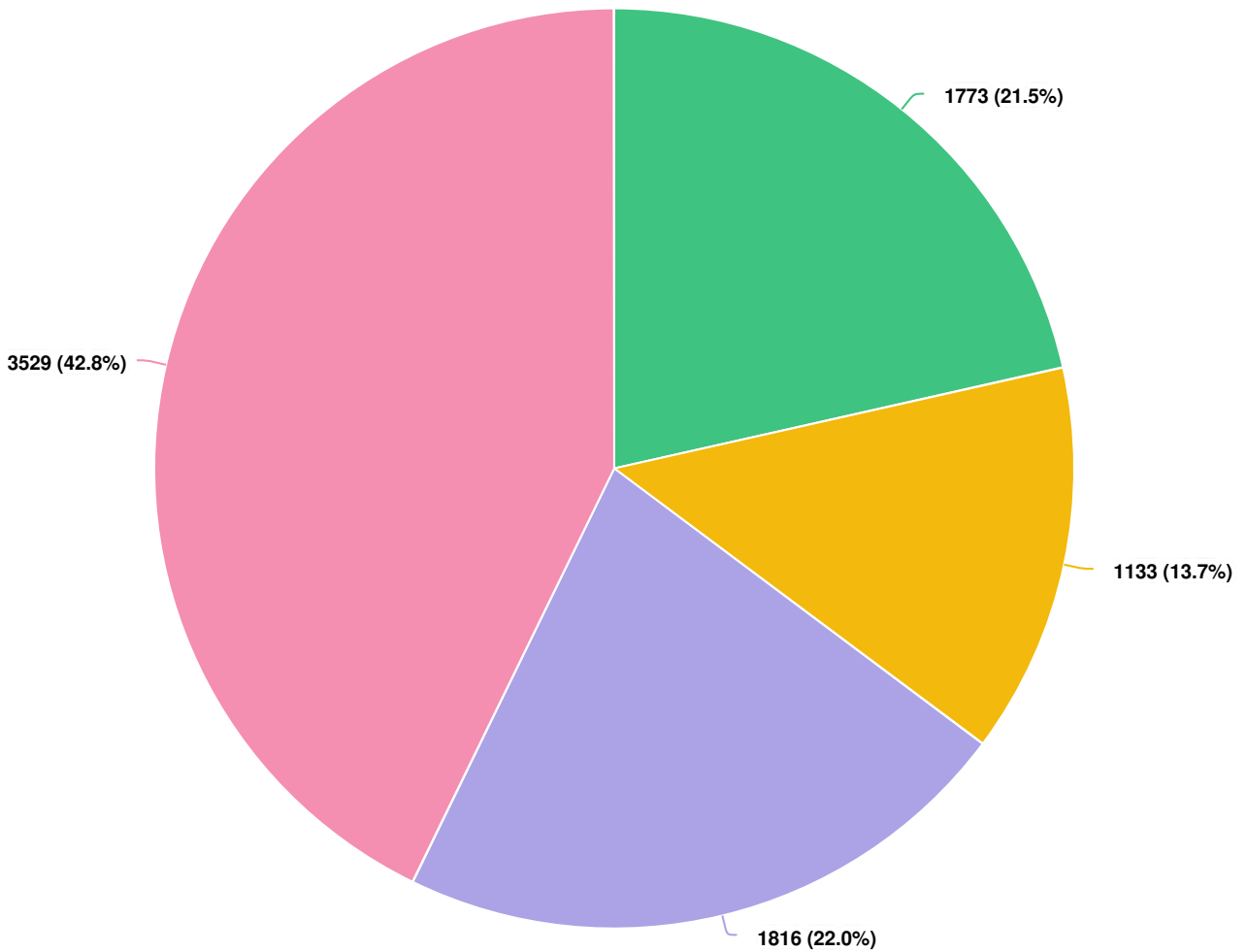
Question options

- Yes
- No
- No, but I visit Spruce Grove frequently for work, shopping or other activities.

Mandatory Question (8251 response(s))

Question type: Radio Button Question

Q2 At the present time, how often do you wear a face covering in public while visiting indoor spaces such as restaurants, businesses and stores?

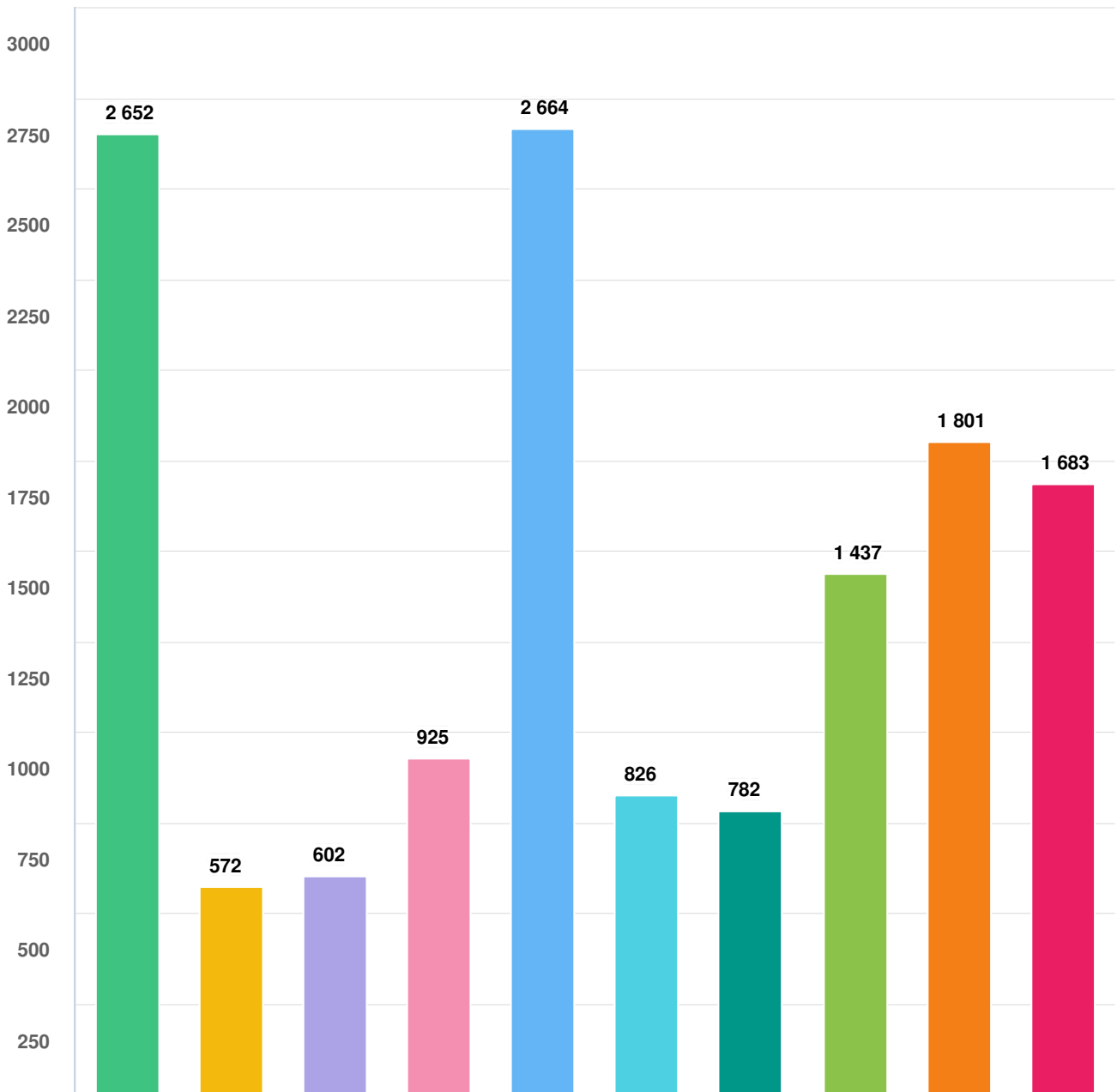


Question options

- Always
- Usually
- Sometimes
- Never

Mandatory Question (8251 response(s))
Question type: Radio Button Question

Q3 What challenges do you experience while wearing a face covering in public? Select all that apply.

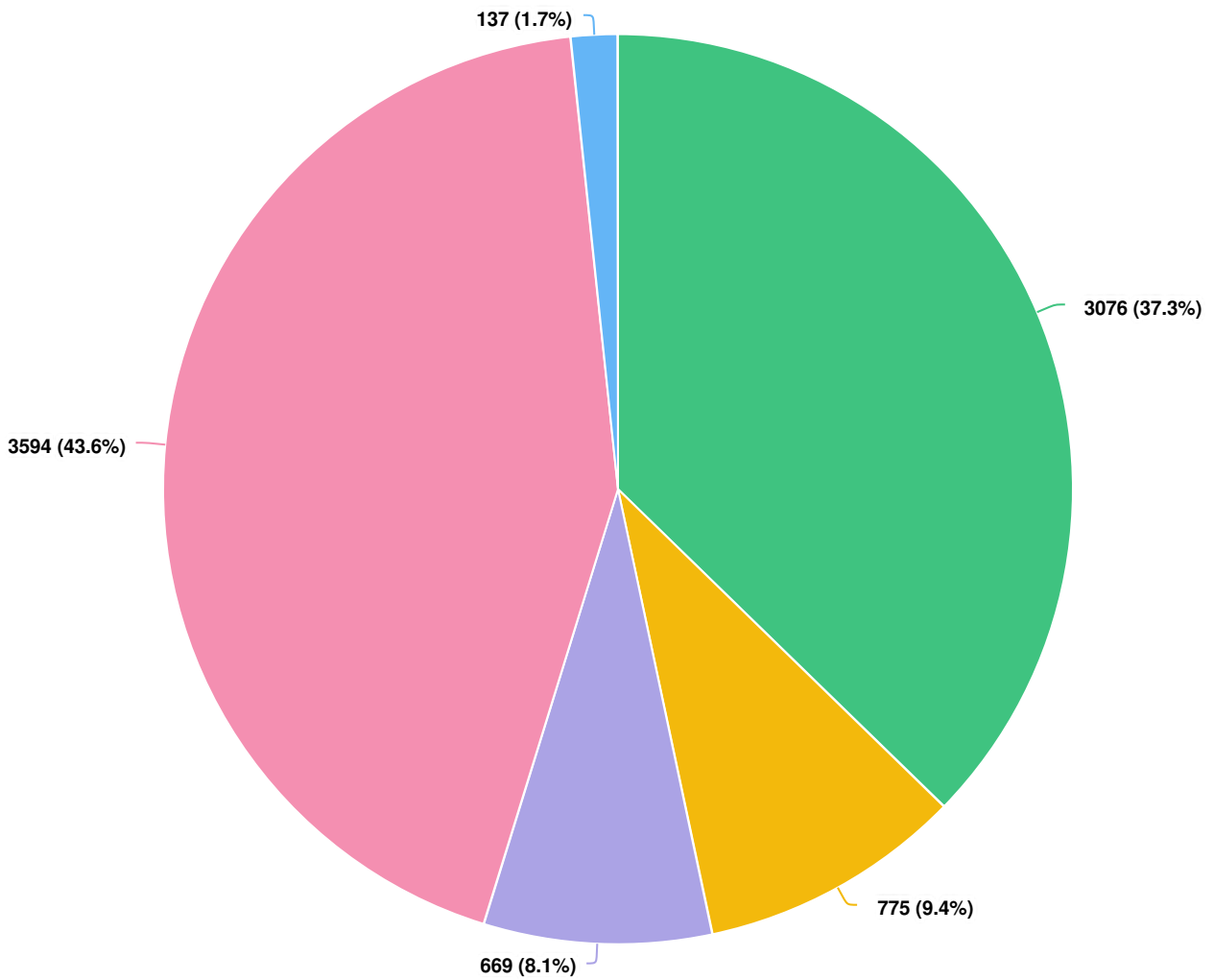


Question options

- I don't experience any challenges
- Affordability
- Accessibility
- I have a disability that makes it hard for me to wear a face covering (i.e., hearing impaired/need to lip-read, autism, significant breathing issues)
- General discomfort
- I feel judged by others
- I can't get my child/other members of my immediate household to wear a face covering
- I just don't like it
- I don't believe wearing a face covering is important
- Not applicable. I don't wear a face covering in public.

Mandatory Question (8251 response(s))
 Question type: Checkbox Question

Q4 | To what extent do you support or oppose face coverings being made mandatory in indoor public spaces such as City facilities, restaurants, businesses and stores?

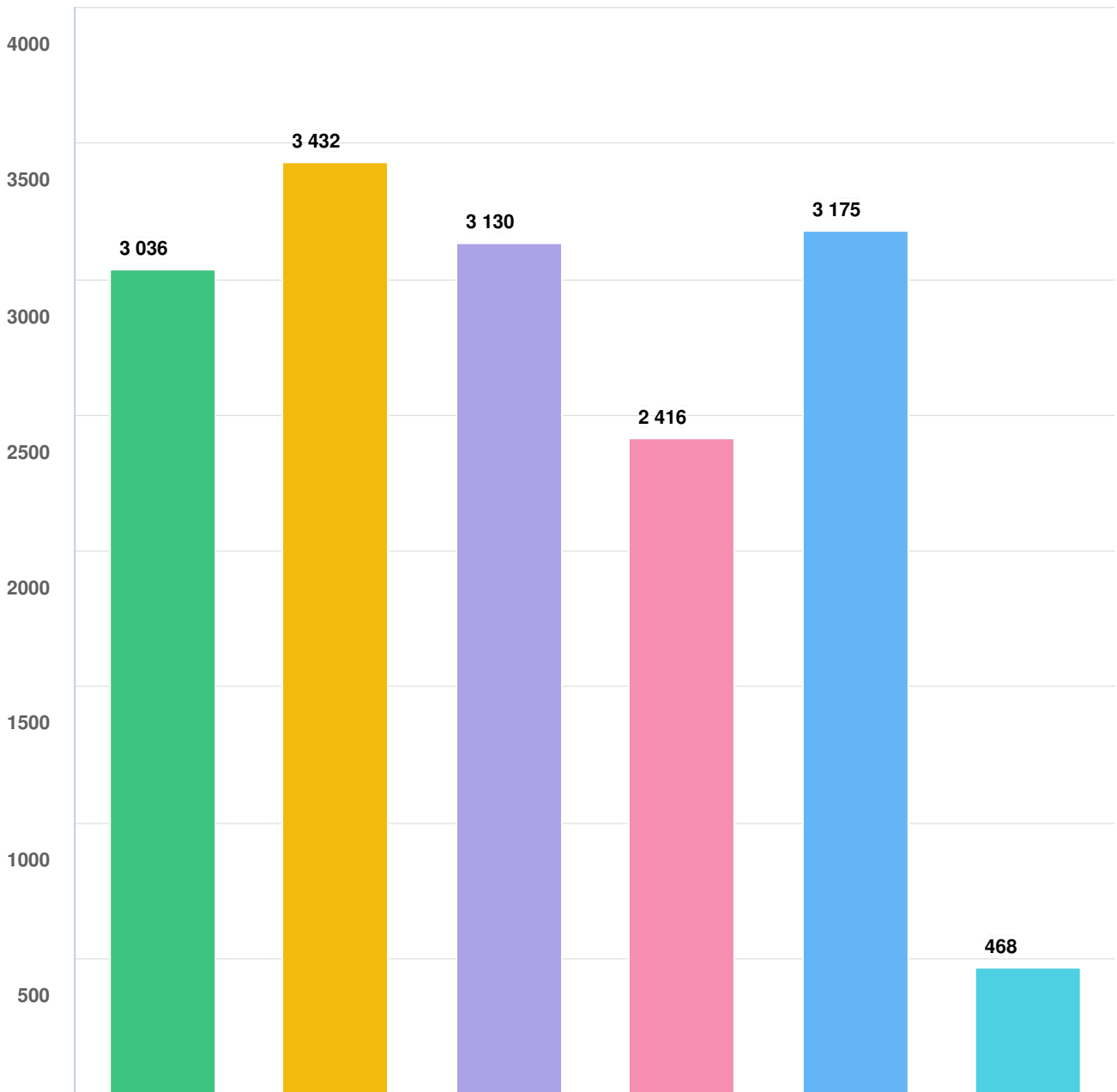


Question options

- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Somewhat oppose
- Strongly oppose
- I don't know

Mandatory Question (8251 response(s))
Question type: Radio Button Question

Q5 If you are in support of face coverings being mandatory, why? Select all that apply.



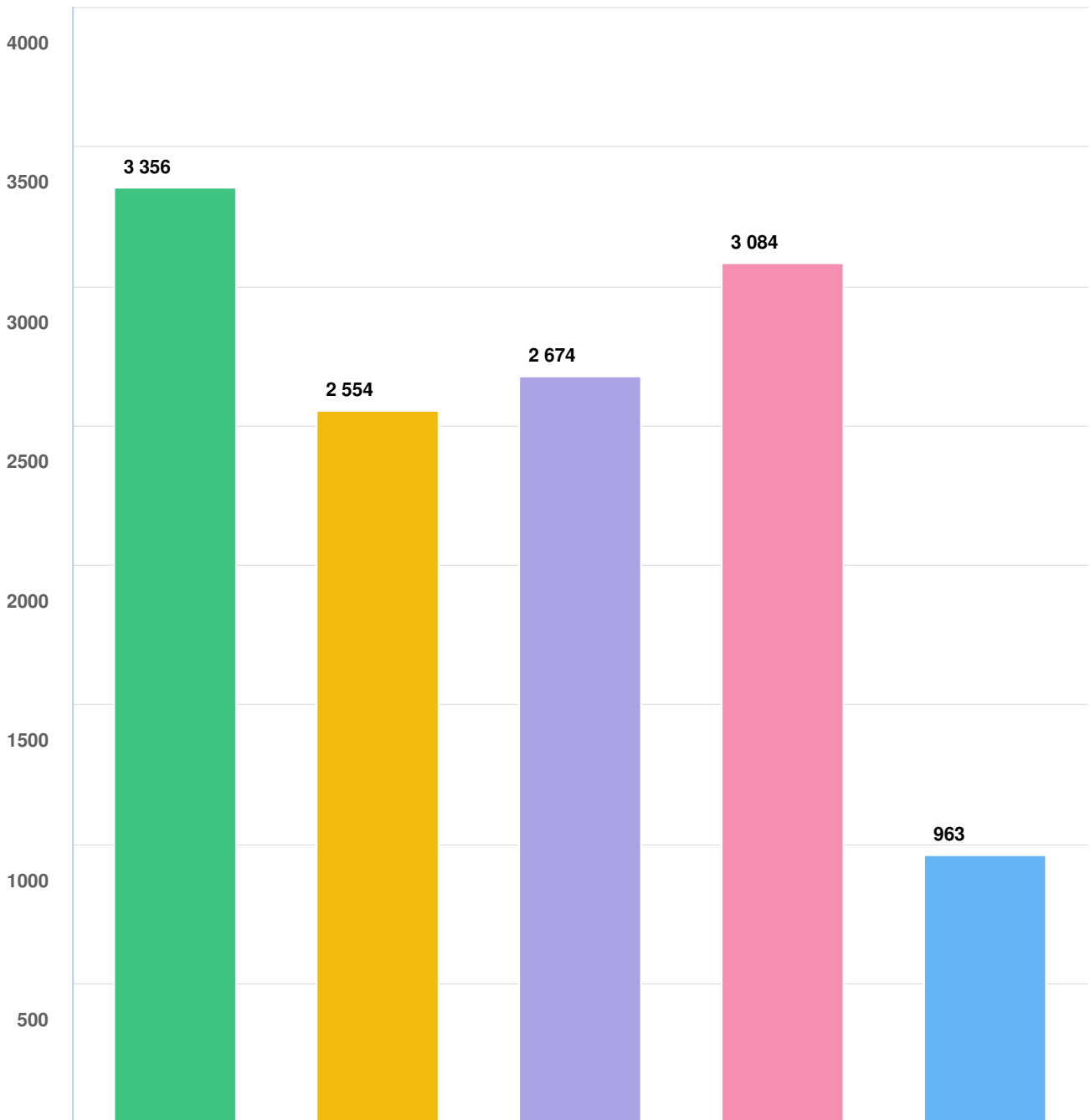
Question options

- Face coverings have been shown to reduce the spread of COVID-19
- Face coverings protect others who are especially vulnerable to COVID-19 (i.e., those with compromised immune systems, elderly residents)
- Face coverings are most effective when everyone wears them
- Face coverings keep everyone safe
- Face coverings can stop infected individuals who aren't displaying any symptoms of COVID-19 from unintentionally infecting others
- Other (please specify)

Optional question (4310 response(s), 3941 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question

Q6 If you do not support face coverings being made mandatory, why not? Select all that apply.

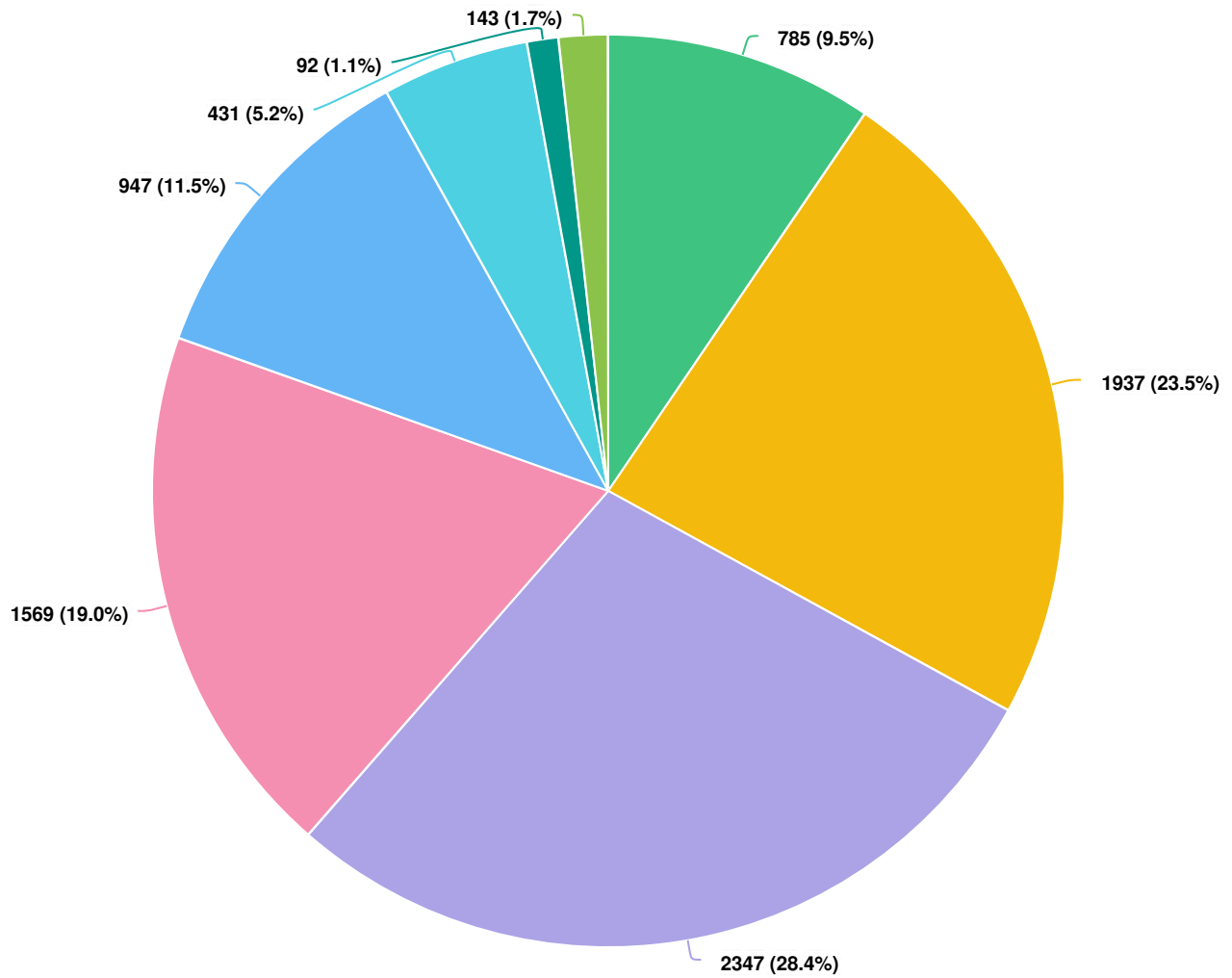


Question options

- It should be my choice whether or not I wear a face covering
- Face covering can create issues for people with disabilities (i.e., hearing impaired/need to lip-read, autism, significant breathing issues)
- Face coverings can be difficult for those who have breathing issues
- Face coverings are not clearly proven to offer protection from the spread of COVID-19
- Other (please specify)

Optional question (4826 response(s), 3425 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q7 Please select the category that includes your current age.



Question options

- 24 years or under
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65-74
- 75 years or older
- Prefer not to answer

Mandatory Question (8251 response(s))
Question type: Radio Button Question