

# Puget Sound Regional Household Travel Survey Program

Transportation Demand Management Regional Stakeholder Meeting  
26 August 2024



Puget Sound Regional Council



*We are leaders in the region to realize equity for all. Diversity, racial equity and inclusion are integrated into how we carry out all our work.*

[psrc.org/equity](https://psrc.org/equity)

# Overview



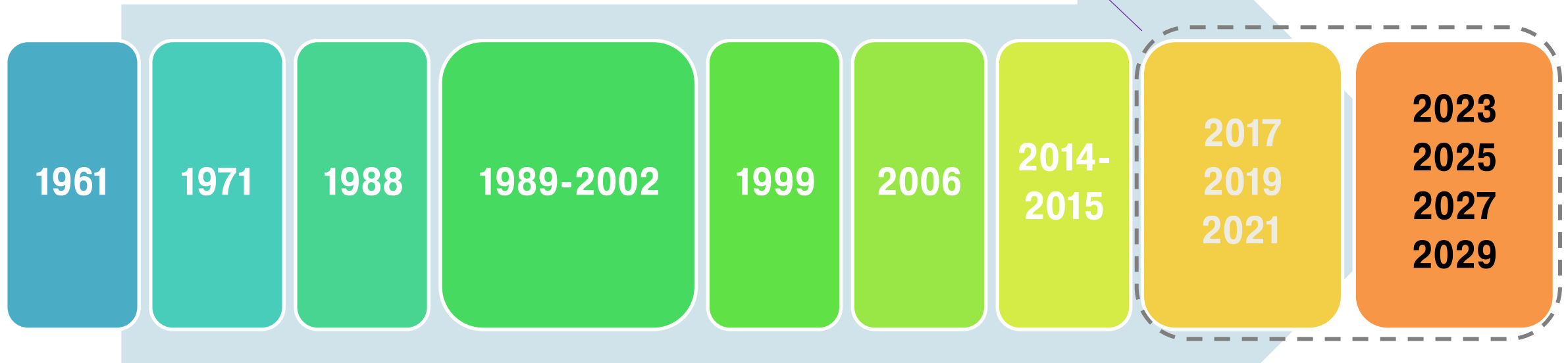
- Intro to the Household Travel Survey (HTS) Program
- Working at Home Deep Dive
- System Context
- Transit Pass and Parking Benefits
- Upcoming work, 2025 survey



# Puget Sound Regional Travel Studies

**More frequent snapshots**

allows for more timely analysis  
& monitoring of trends. Data  
can be combined across years.



Webpage: <https://www.psrc.org/household-travel-survey-program>



# Multi-year HTS Program

**Program goal:** The surveys seek to capture quality, regionally representative data for activity and travel behaviors of residents on a typical weekday.

## Motivations

- Frequent snapshots, ability to combine years
- “Smoother” budgets & labor roles
- More flexibility & opportunities for add-ons



# Uses of HTS data



## Analysis

- Most recent regional travel behaviors & patterns
- Trends: comparisons with previous surveys

## Model development

- SoundCast
  - Activity-based travel model system
  - Estimate activity/travel choice models
- UrbanSim
  - Parcel-based land use model system
  - Estimate residential location choice model



# Information in the HTS data

**Who** is traveling?  
**Where** are they going?  
**When** do they travel?  
**Why** are they going?  
**How** do they get there?


## Planning/policy questions

- How much do people walk depending on their home location?
- How does transit use vary by race?
- What kinds of households get home deliveries?
- How often do workers typically telecommute?
- What households are displaced from their homes?



The banner for the 2023 Puget Sound Regional Travel Study features a row of icons representing different modes of transport: walking, cycling, car, transit, and train. Below the icons are two photographs: a ferry boat on the water and a person riding a bicycle on a city street.

### TELL US HOW YOU GET AROUND



Three photographs illustrating various travel methods: a person walking across a rainbow-painted crosswalk, a scenic view of a bridge over a body of water, and a bus stop with people waiting.

**RECEIVE A GIFT CARD  
AS THANKS FOR YOUR TIME**



Logos for the City of Seattle, Puget Sound Regional Council, and the Seattle Department of Transportation.



# The 2023 HTS data – The connections are the magic

## Directly observed demographics:

- Age
- Disability (new)
- Education
- Gender
- Income
- Race & ethnicity
- Sexuality (new)

## Examples of planning topics for analysis:

- Active travel
- Electric vehicle charging (new)
- Home deliveries
- Public transit use
- Residential displacement
- Shopping & travel purposes
- Working at home
- Vehicle miles travel & greenhouse gas emissions



# Defining Working at Home

Three work at home categories:  
**Fully at Home, Hybrid and Fully in Person**

Two questions:  
**Current Work Location** and **Days Working at Home**



# Work at Home Questions and Classification

As of today, which of the following best describes each person's CURRENT work location?

- Go to one work location ONLY (outside of home)
- Work ONLY from home or remotely (telework, self-employed)
- Telework some days and travel to a work location some days
- Work location regularly varies (different offices/jobsites)
- Drive/bike/travel for work (driver, sales, deliveries)

Fully at Home



# Days per Week Working at Home

How many days do you work from home or telework  
(instead of going to work that day)?

- 6-7 days a week
- 5 days a week
- 4 days a week
- 3 days a week
- 2 days a week
- 1 day a week
- 1-3 days a month
- Less than monthly
- Never

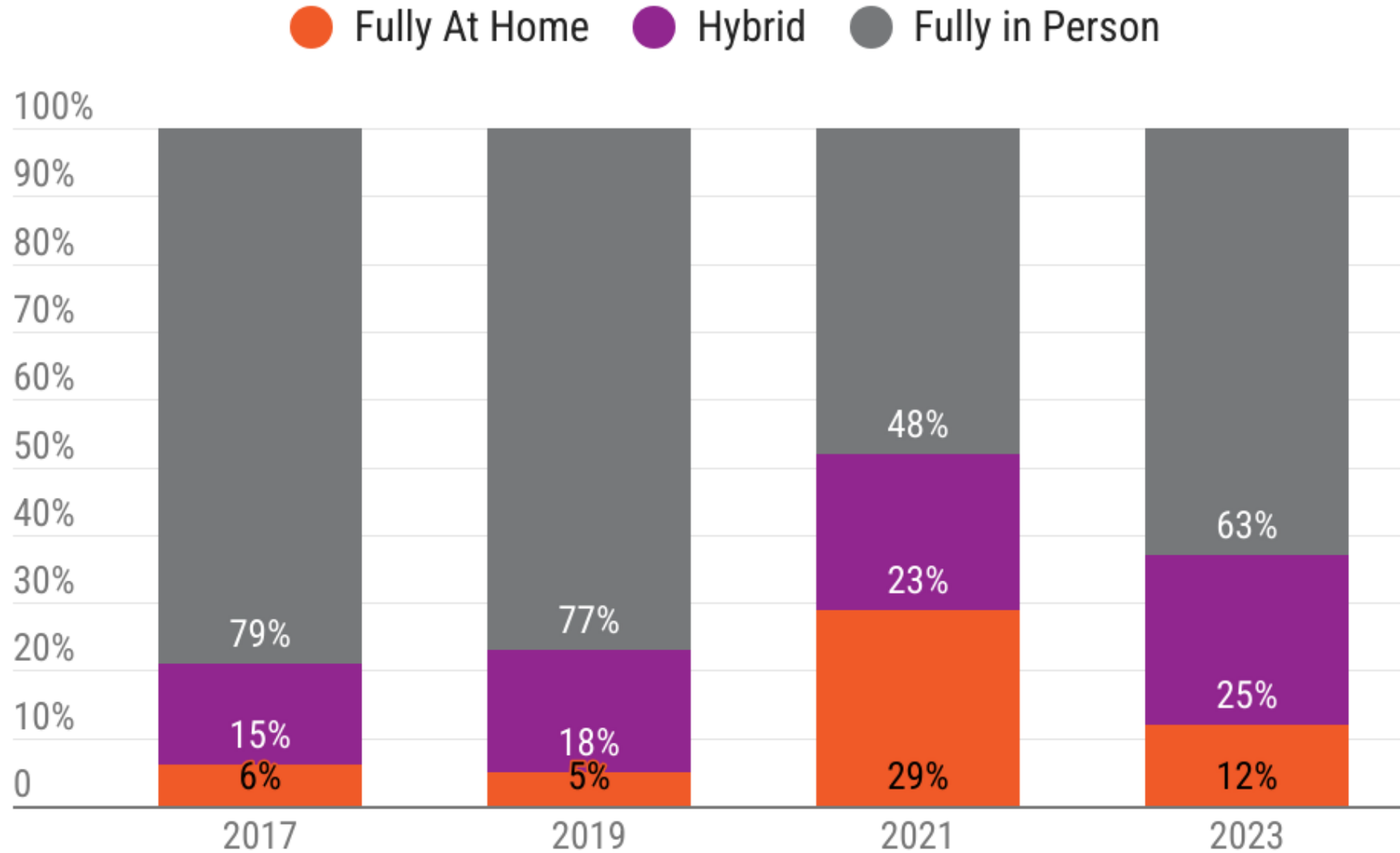
Hybrid Workers

Fully in Person



# Work at Home Trends

% of workers regionally

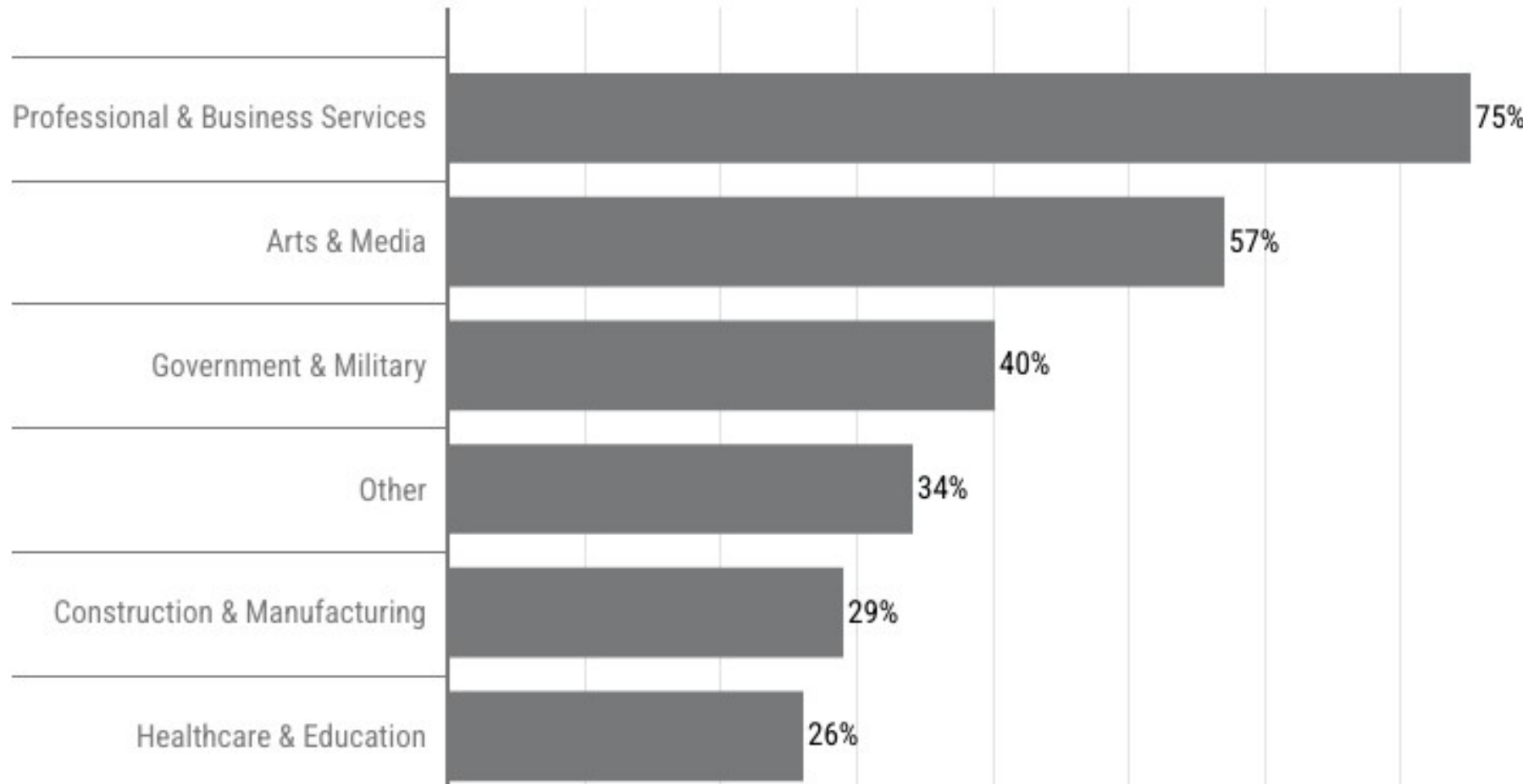


# Who works at home and who doesn't?



# Working at Home by Industry

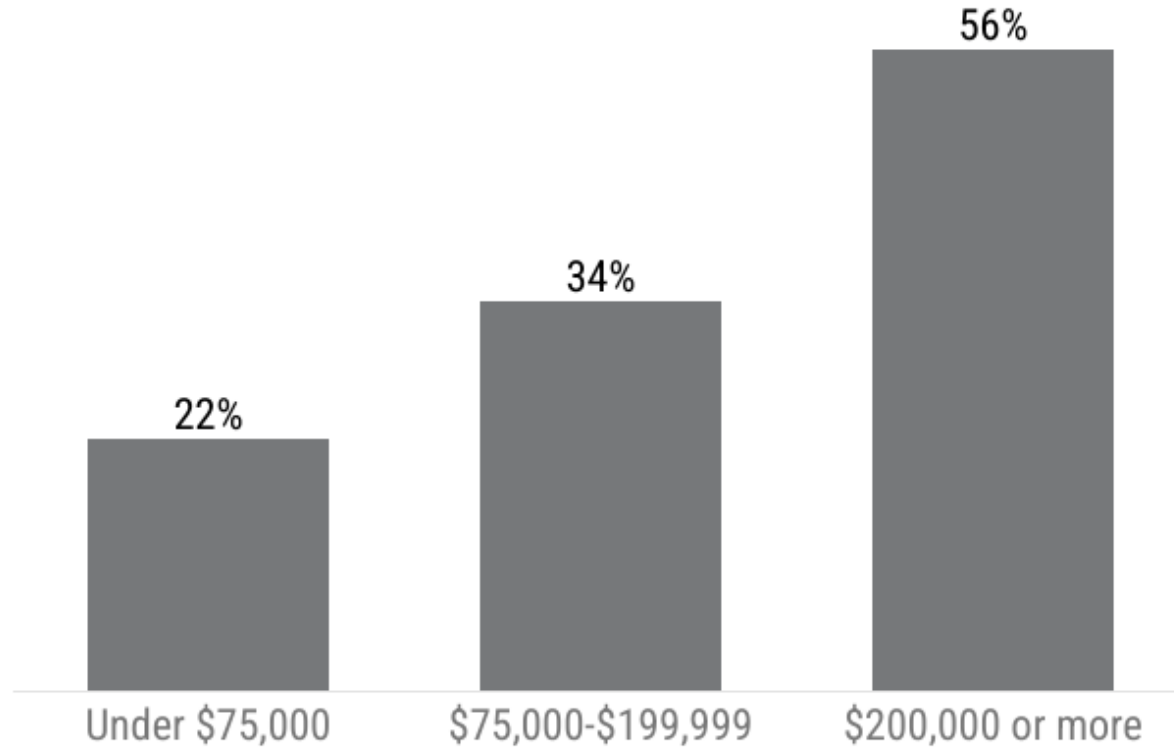
(1 or more days per week working at home)



Strong correlation between industry and working at home rates



# Working at Home by Household Income



Median  
Regional  
Household  
Income:  
\$96,500

Strong correlation  
with industry and  
income, strong  
correlation with  
industry and working  
from home=>  
Strong correlation  
with income and  
working from home



# Who is underrepresented in working at home?

37%

Share of all workers working at home

20%

Share of African American workers working at home

9%

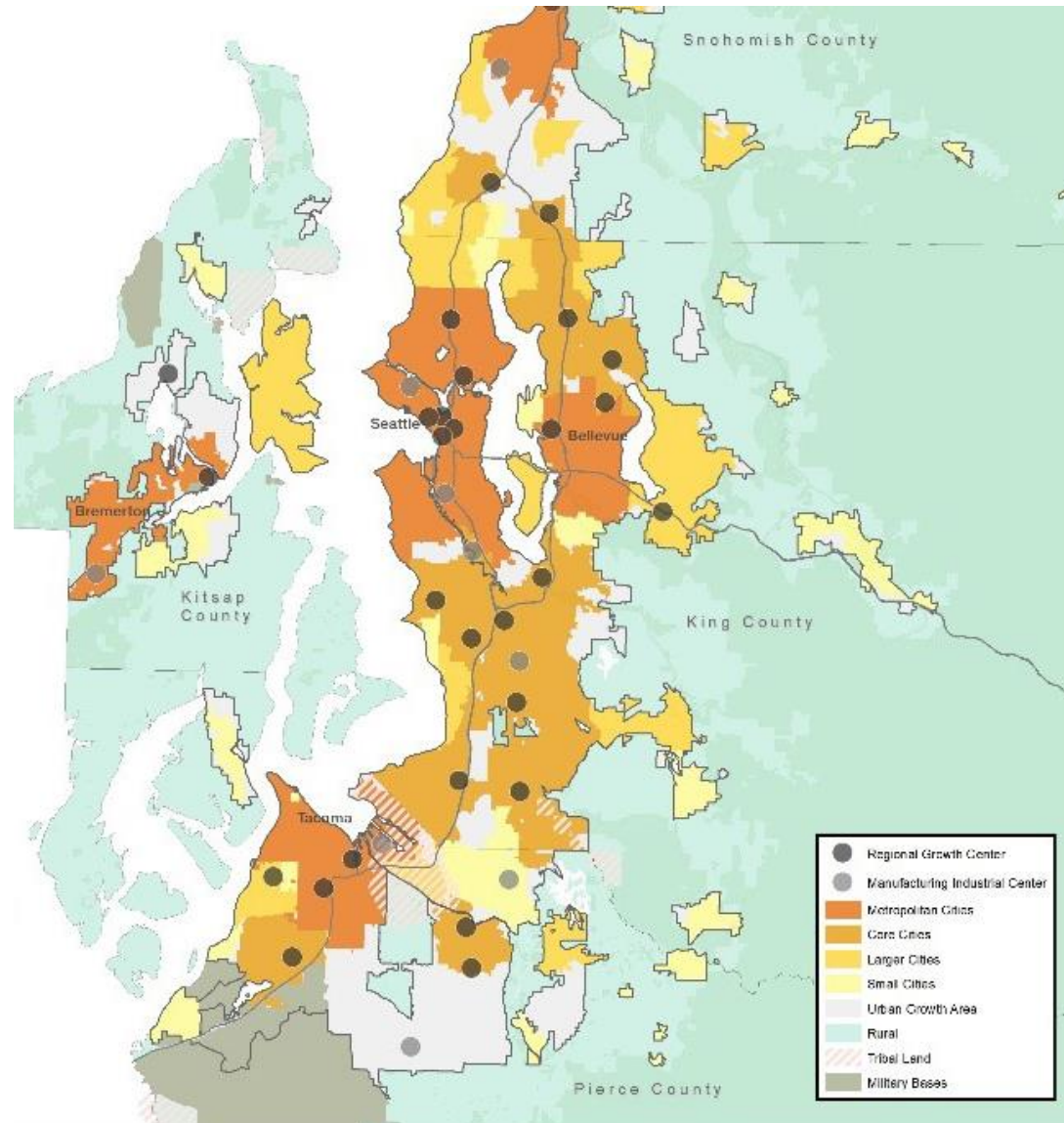
Share of 18-24 year old workers working at home

37%

Share of women workers working at home

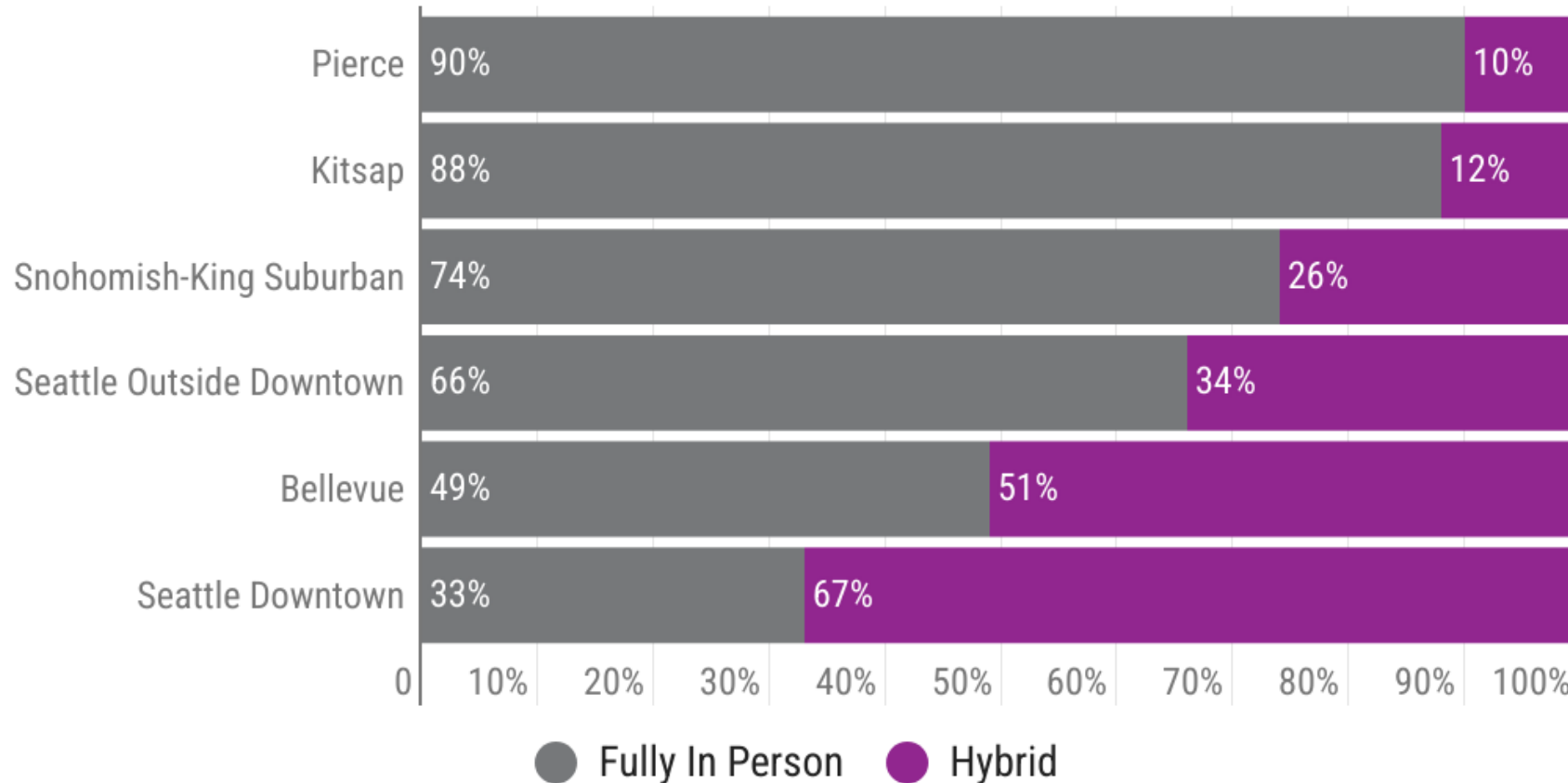


# Where do workers who work from home a. work and b. live?



# Workers by Work Location Away from Home

(excluding those who always work at home)



Those who always work from home do not list an external work location.

Very wide variation in work at home rates based on where workers who work outside the home sometimes work.

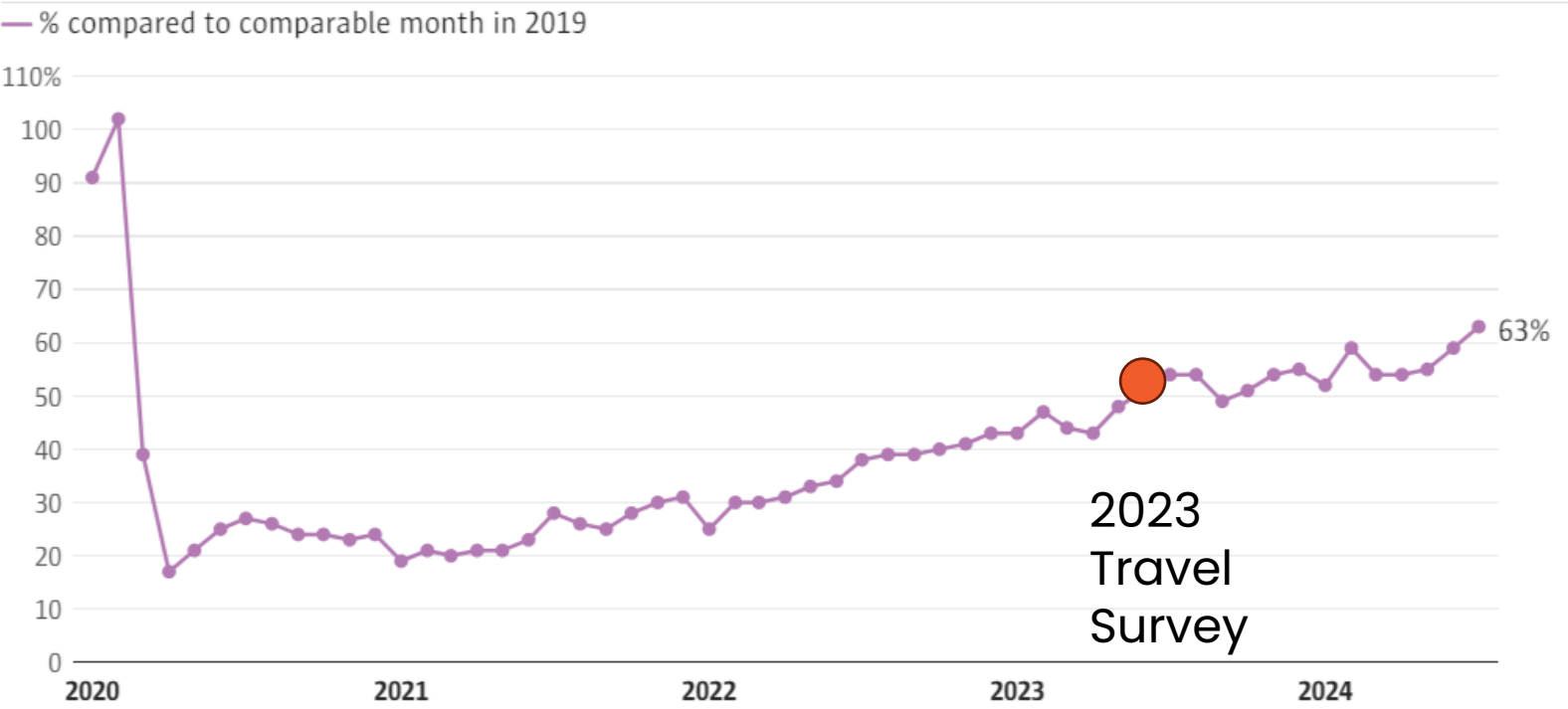
Correlation with industry by geography



# Downtown foot traffic trend

## Downtown recovery hits new high

In July, the average daily worker foot traffic in downtown Seattle was at 63% of 2019 levels for that month, the highest since the pandemic began.

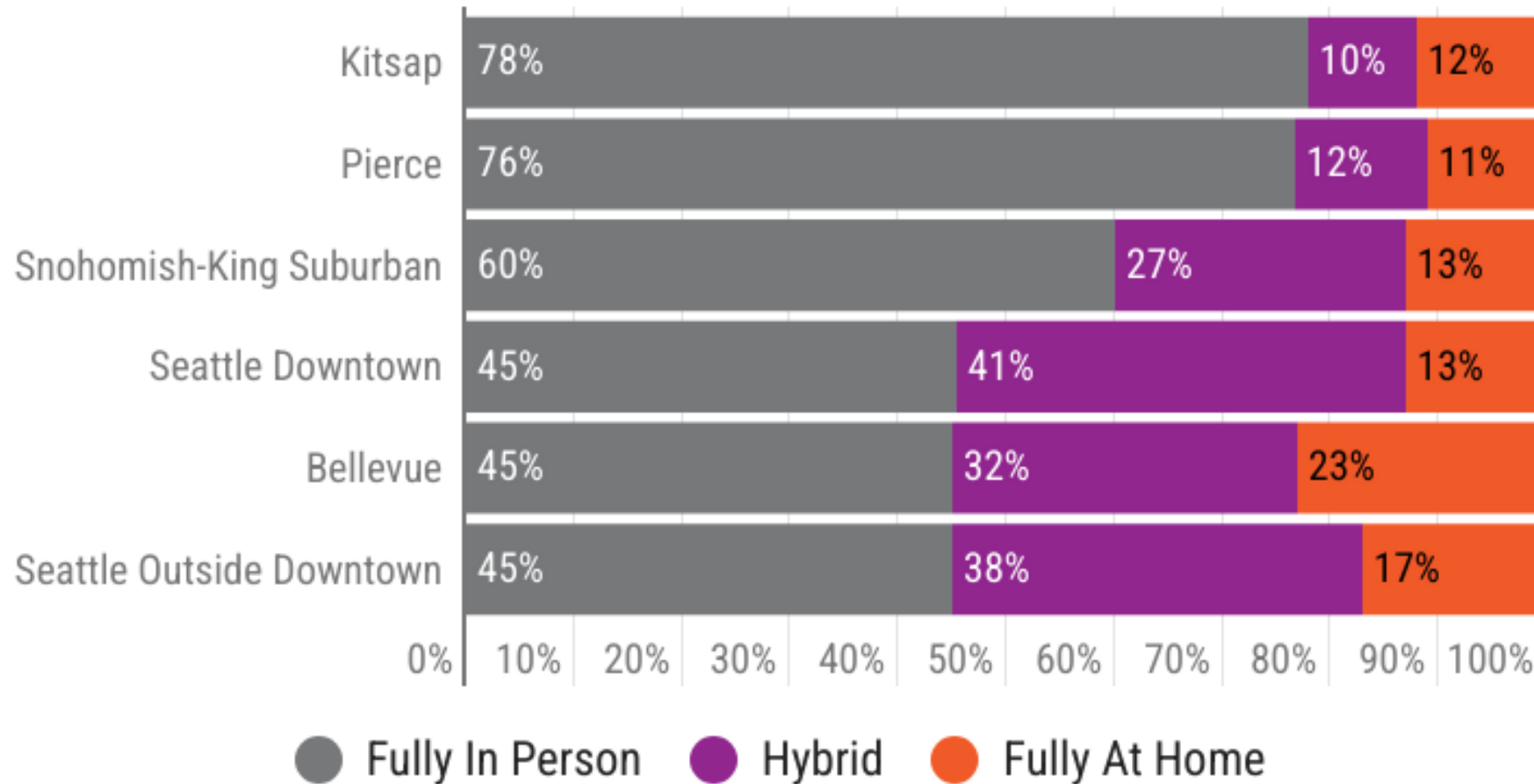


Source: Placer.ai (Reporting by Gene Balk, graphic by Mark Nowlin / The Seattle Times)

Source: Seattle Times August 22, 2024



# Workers by Home Location by Work at Home



Less variation between where people live and working at home rates.

Fully working at home does not have strong variation with home geography.

Substantially more hybrid work in Seattle and Bellevue.

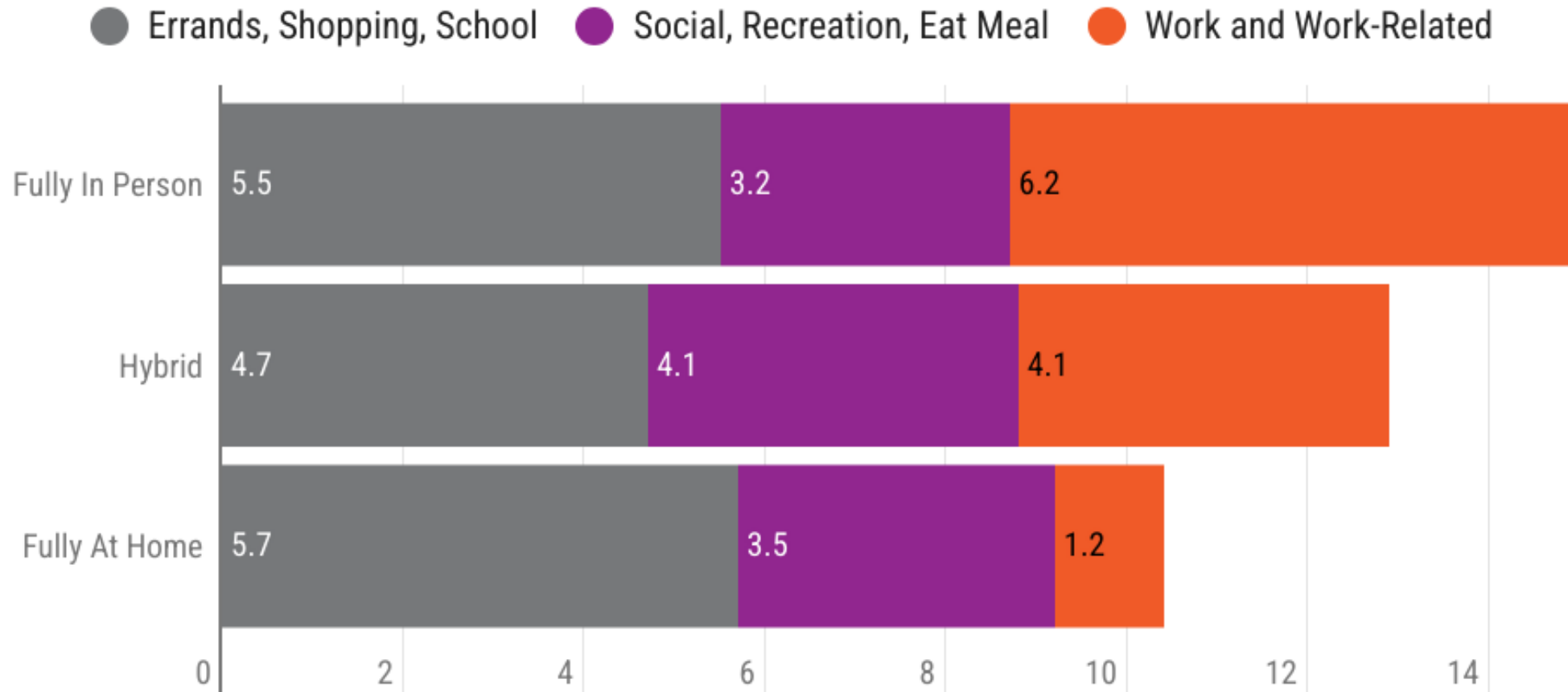


# Working at Home and Travel Behaviors

How does working at home correlate with how people get around?



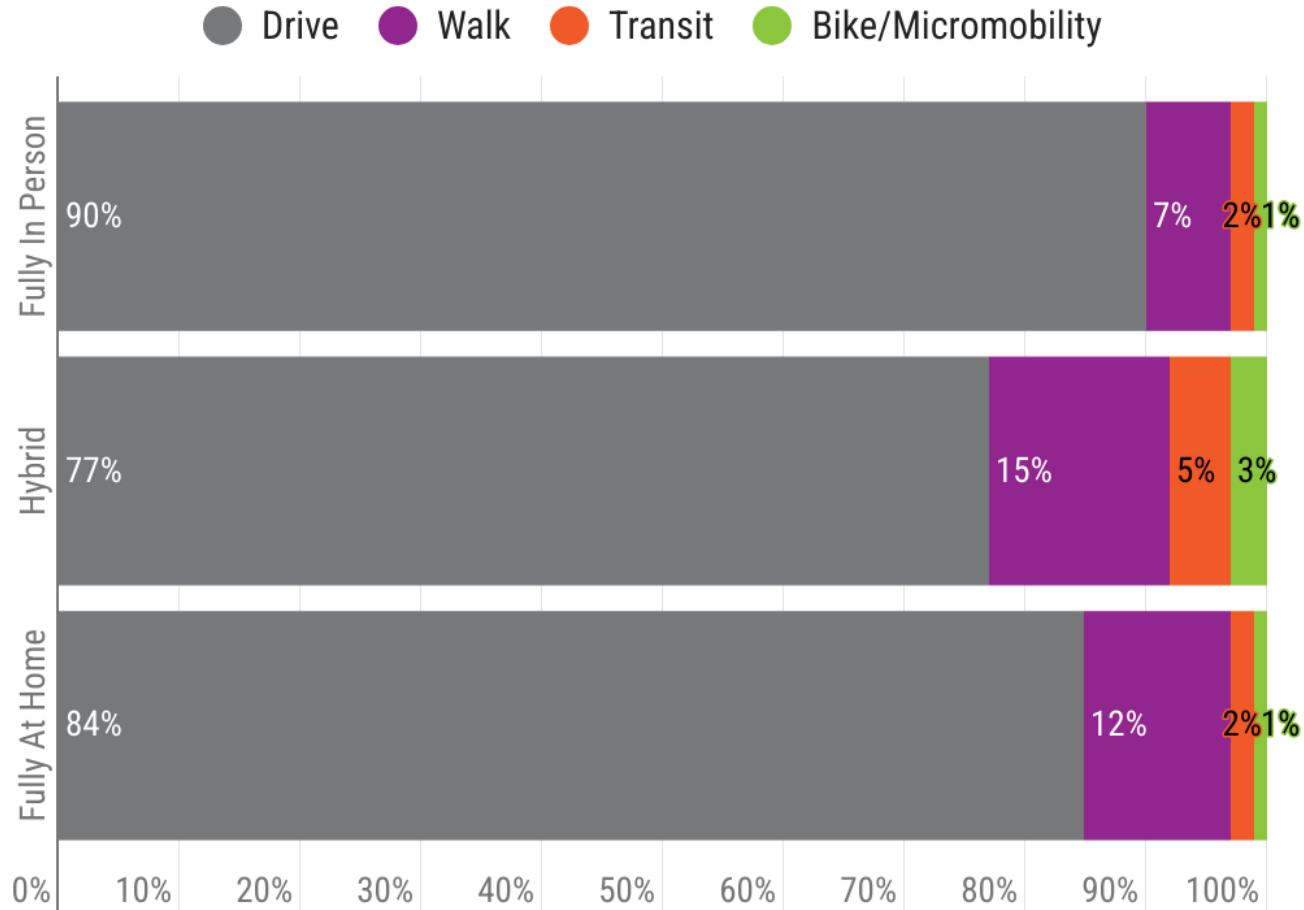
# Workweek Trips by Work at Home Group (Monday-Friday)



Working at home correlates with fewer work trips, about the same number of other trips.



# ALL Trip Mode Share by Work at Home Group



Includes trips for all purposes such as shopping or recreation.

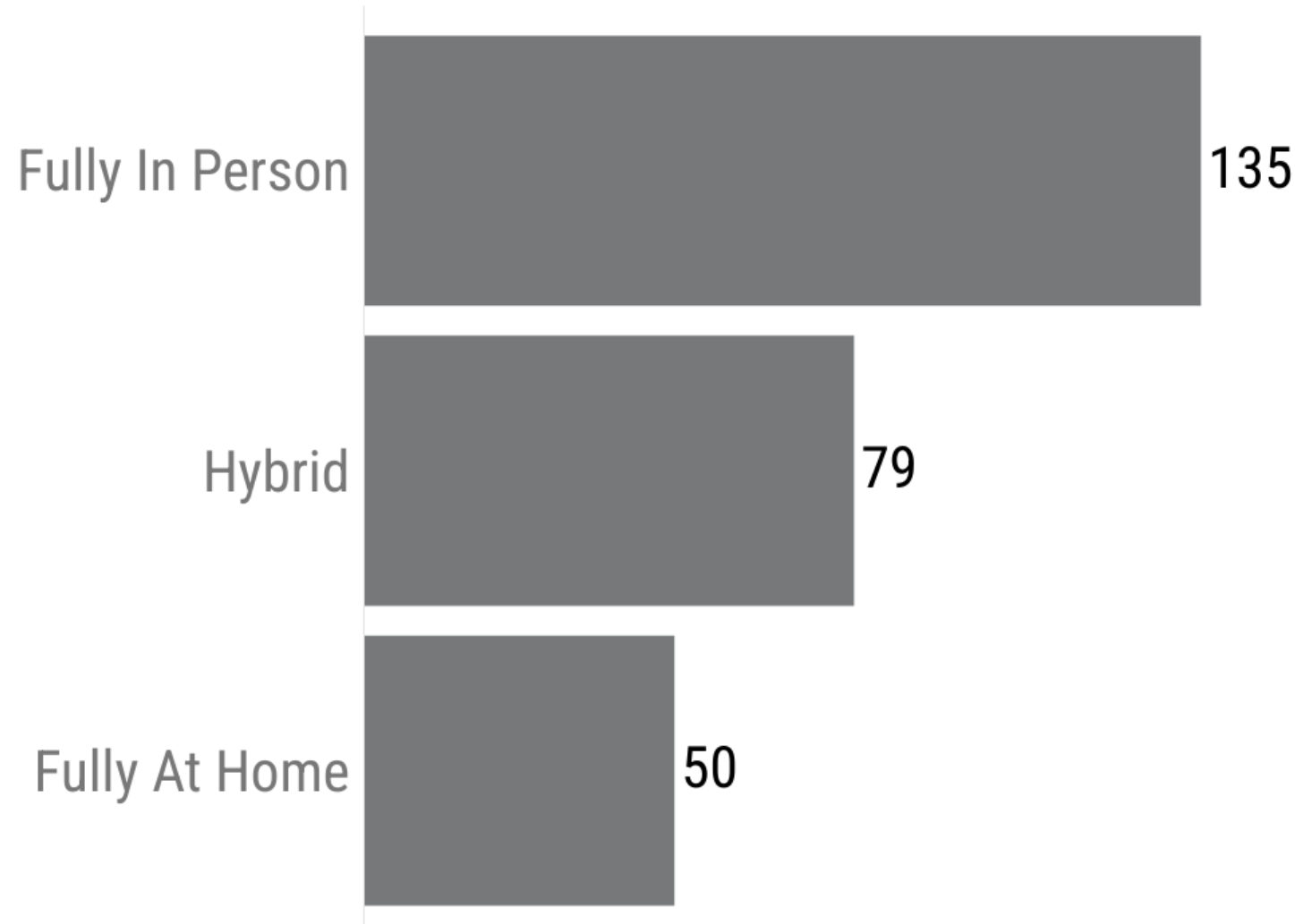
Walking rates are higher for people who work from home.

Transit rates are higher for hybrid workers.

Working from home correlates with geography.  
Geography correlates with transit use.



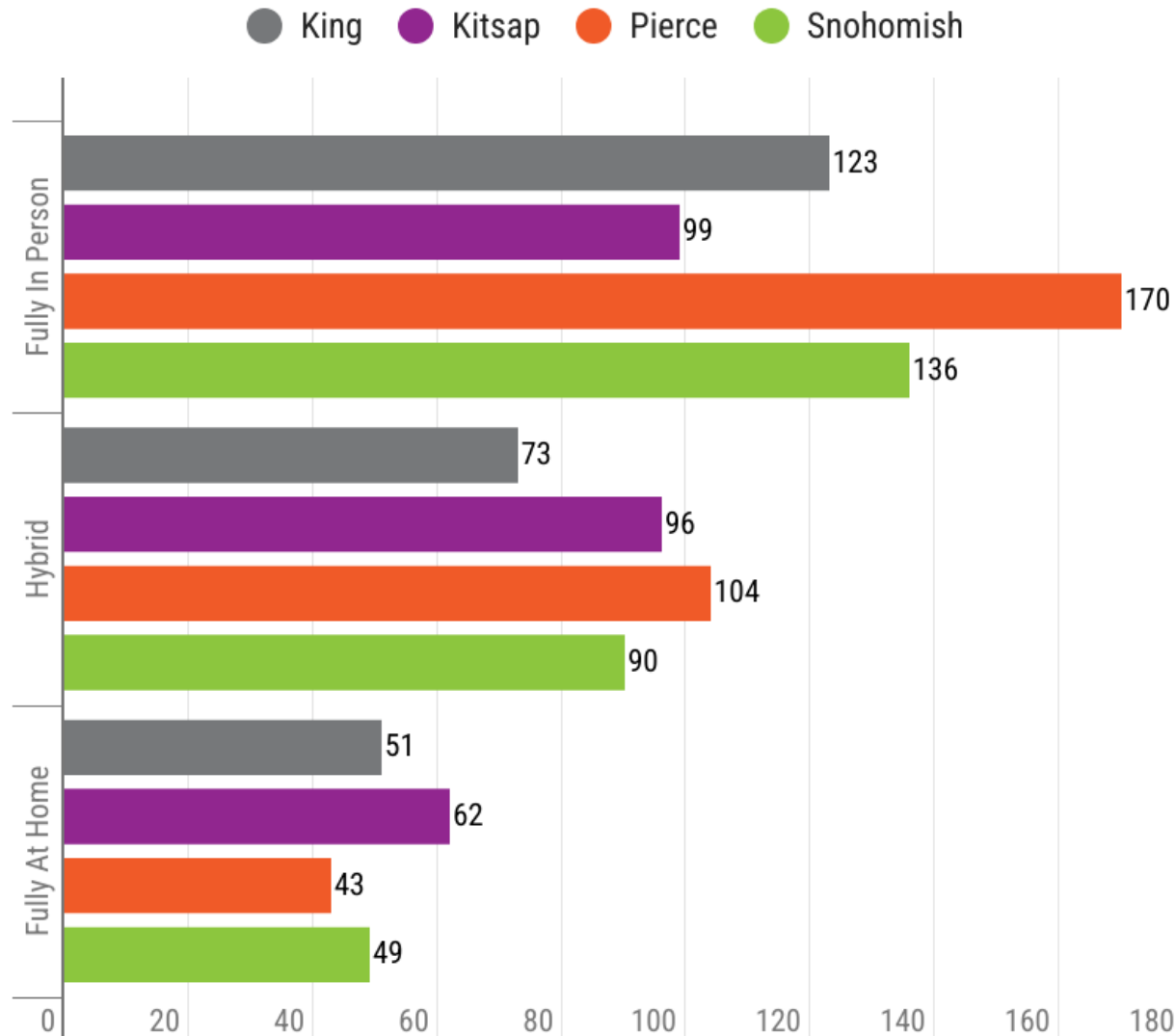
# Vehicle Miles Traveled per Workweek per Worker by Work at Home Status (Monday-Friday)



Working at home correlates with lower vehicle miles of travel. Causation levels not clear.



# VMT by home county by work at home



Controlling for home location, working at home correlates with lower amounts of vehicle miles traveled.

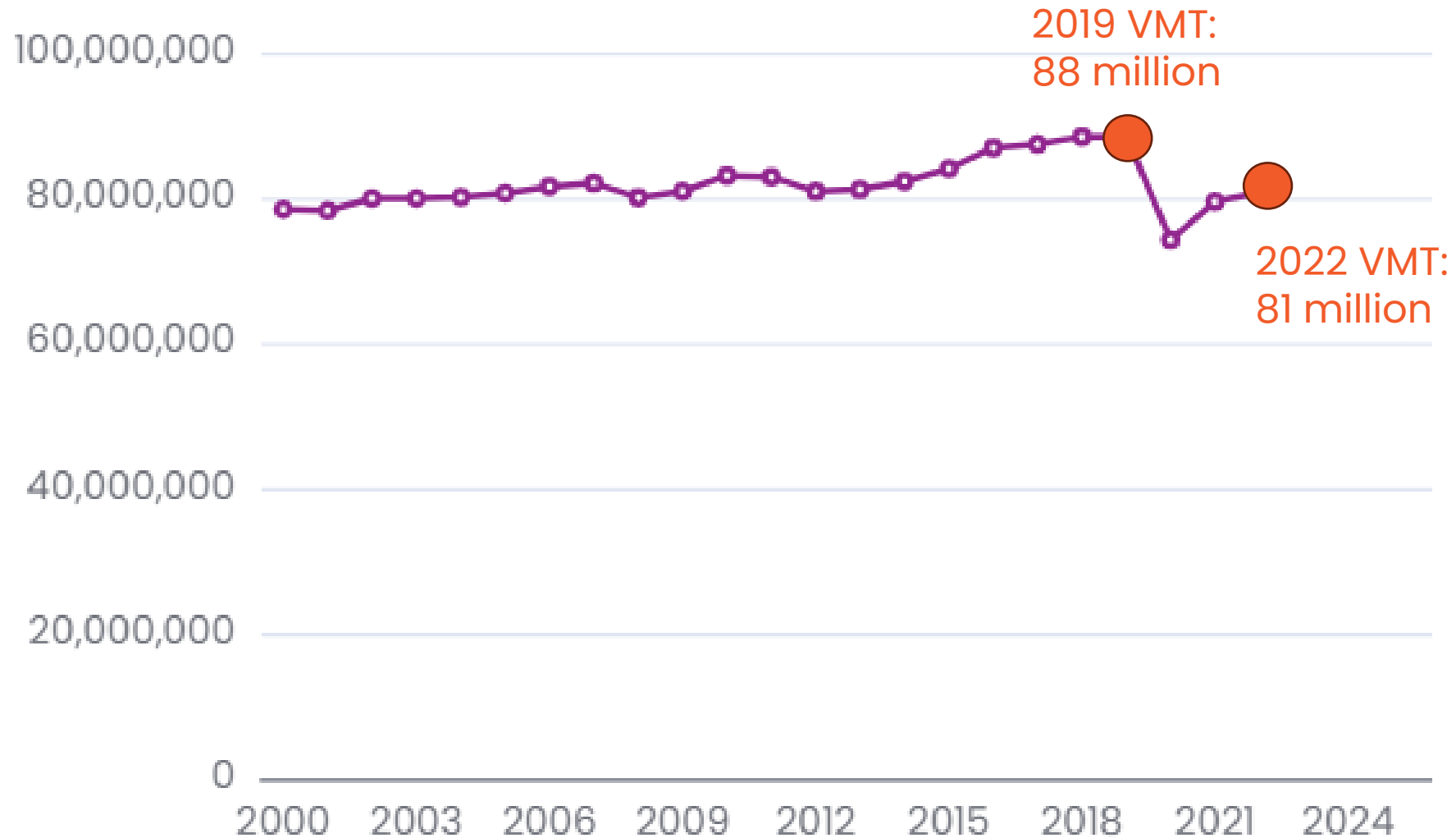


# Work at Home Takeaways

- Most workers –63%– always worked outside the home in 2023. 25% had hybrid schedules, and 12% always worked at home.
- Geography, Demography correlates with Job Industry correlates with Working from Home
- Working at home correlates with lower vehicle miles traveled and more walking, even when controlling for home geography.



# Regional system context: Average Vehicle miles traveled



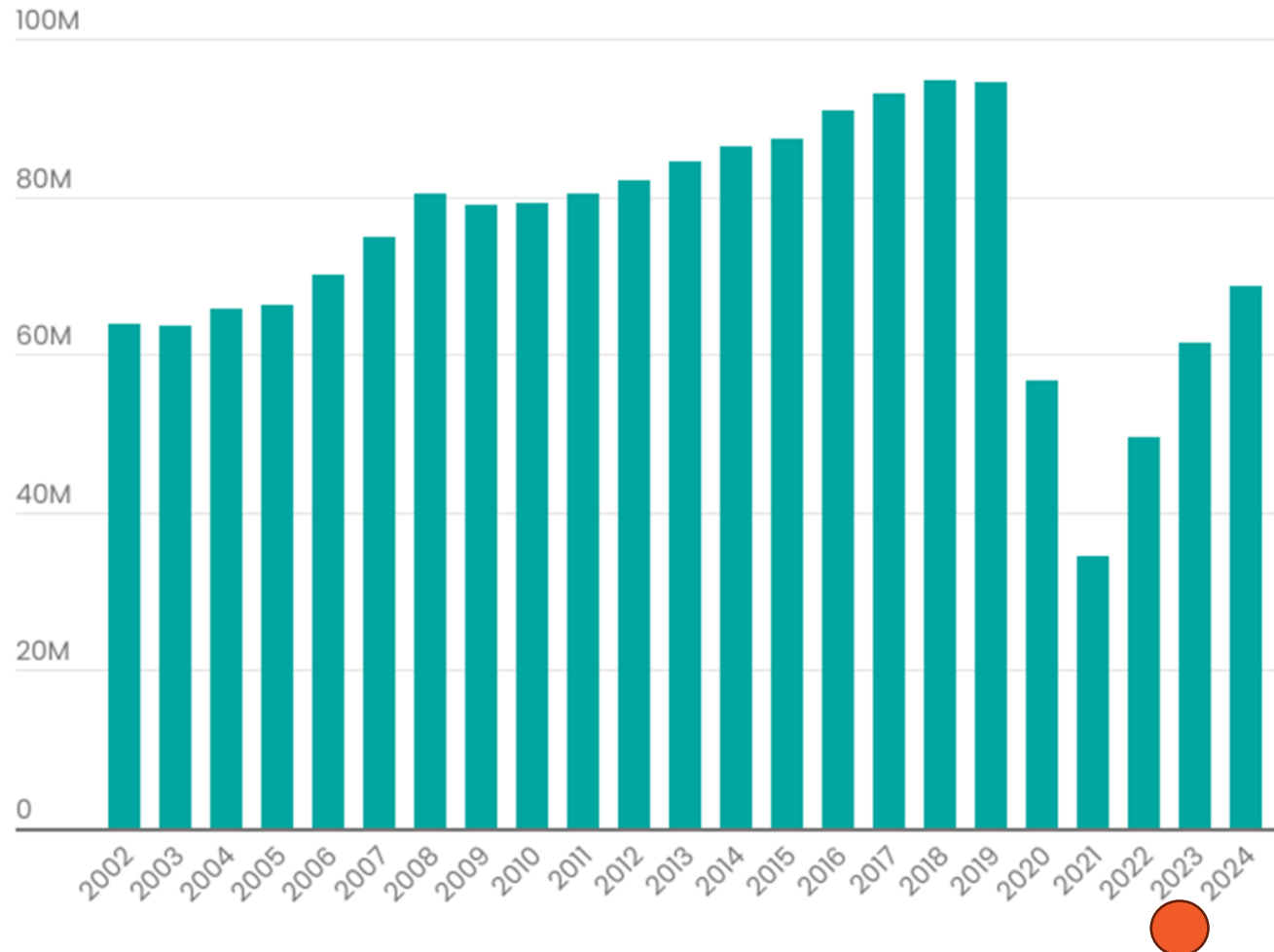
## Insights:

- The decrease in VMT is most likely from people not making work trips.
- 2023 VMT data is not yet available.



# Annual Transit Boardings

## Jan-May Total Boardings, 2002-2024



Source: USDOT Federal Transit Administration National Transit Database

The places where transit is viable, are the same places where telecommuting is viable- dense office locations.



# Commuter Benefits Question

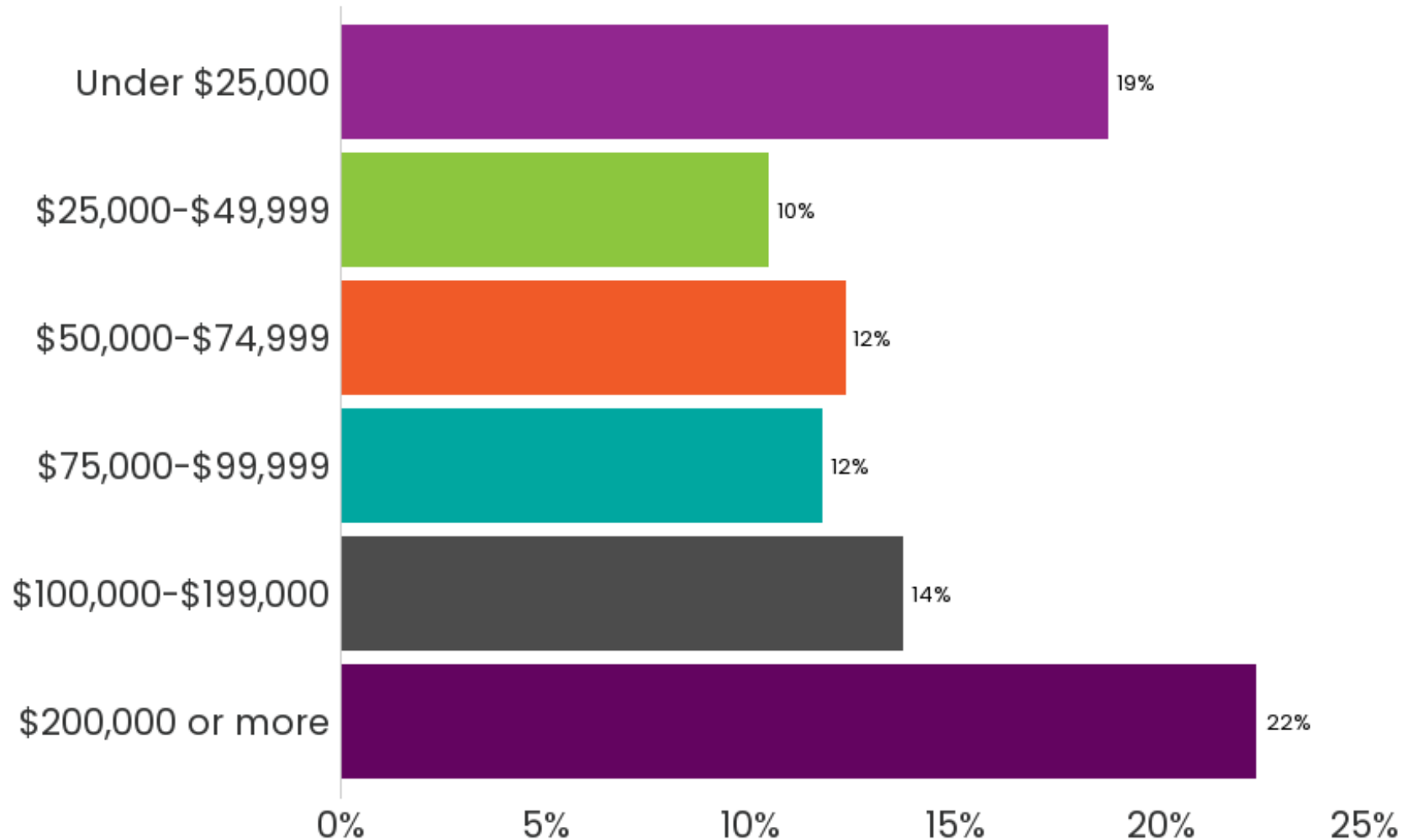
**Which of the following commute benefits your employer currently provide?**

Select all that apply.

- ☐ Free (fully subsidized) transit passes or fares
- ☐ Discounted (partially subsidized) transit passes or fares
- ☐ Free (fully subsidized) parking at work
- ☐ Discounted (partially subsidized) parking at work
- ☐ Compressed work week (e.g., four 10-hour days, 9 days/80 hours)
- ☐ Flextime (can adjust schedule as long as work the right number of total hours)
- ☐ Ability to work from home
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ None of the above



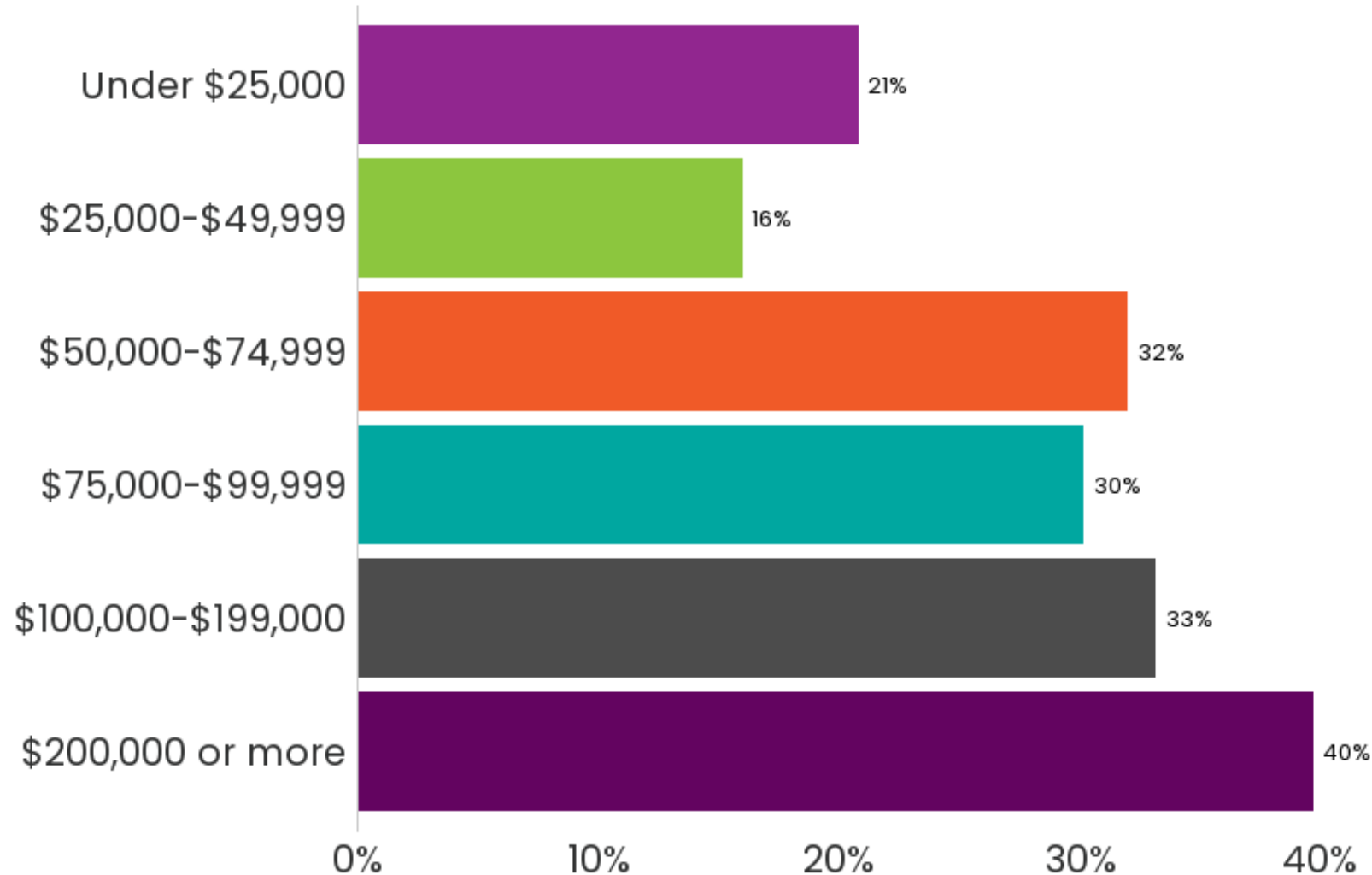
# Worker Share with Fully Subsidized Transit by Household Income



Transit pass subsidy is U-shaped with respect to income, with the highest and lowest incomes getting more likely to have subsidies.



# Worker Share with Subsidized Parking by Household Income



More wealthy workers are more likely to have subsidized parking.

35% of workers with fully subsidized transit, also have fully subsidized parking.



# Upcoming presentations and topics

Group	Date	Time	Topic
TDM	8/27 (Tue)	10am-12pm	Workplaces, commutes, telework : YOU ARE HERE
BPAC	9/10 (Tue)	10am-12pm	Walk, bike, roll
SNTC	9/18 (Wed)	9:30- 11:30am	People with disabilities, older adults, youth, people with low-income, LEP
TOD	9/20 (Fri)	10am-12pm	Transit-related, RGC + HCT geographies, all modes
FAC	10/9 (Wed)	9:30-11am	Deliveries, goods movement
RSC	10/17 (Thu)	9:30- 11:30am	Highlights
TOC	10/23(We d)	10am-12pm	Transit-related



# 2025 HTS Timeline

2024	Oct	Start 2025 HTS project with consultants
2025	Mar–June	Data collection
	July	PSRC work with consultants to clean & weight data
2026	Mar	Final data delivery & publication





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**Thank You!**



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