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BEYOND SHELTER:

Social housing, inclusion and everyday life in municipal neighbourhoods of Cascais

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Social housing neighbourhood,

Cascais, Portugal

Cascais at a glance

214,124

Residents

11.0%

Foreign nationals

27.8%

Completed tertiary education

Census 2021 · Education as a share of all residents

Rents in Cascais are almost twice the national level

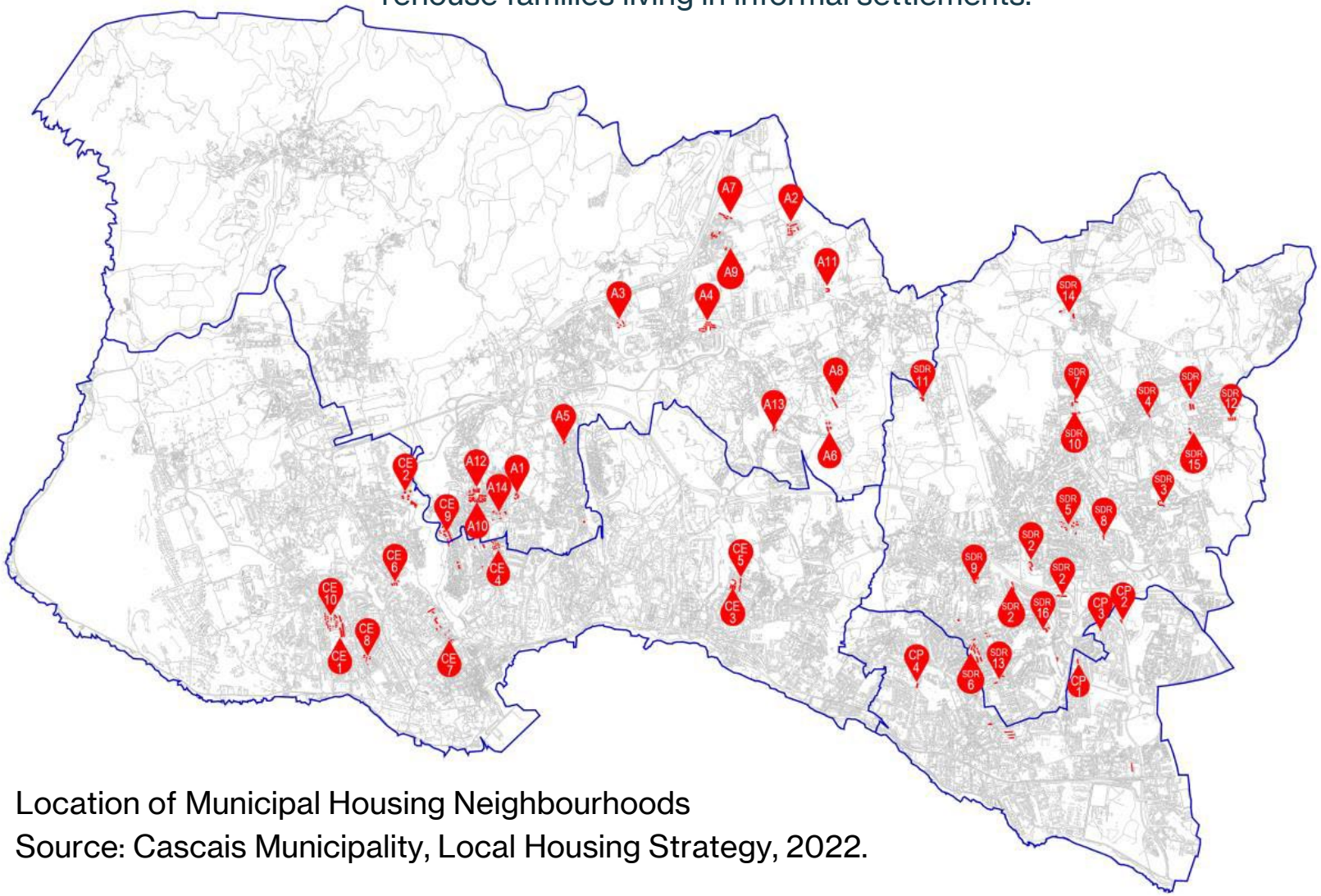
Median rent per m² for new tenancy agreements · Q2 2022



Source: Statistics Portugal (INE), Census 2021 and local rental statistics.

Cascais

Municipal housing in Cascais was strongly shaped by the Special Rehousing Programme (PER), launched in 1993 to rehouse families living in informal settlements.





Location of Municipal Housing Neighbourhoods
Source: Cascais Municipality, Local Housing Strategy, 2022.

Research question

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How do residents assess the contribution of municipal housing to their quality of life and social inclusion?



Social housing neighbourhood, Cascais, Portugal

Data and methods

Cross-sectional survey of municipal housing in Cascais

300
Households interviewed

819
Residents covered

10 Nov–6 Dec 2022
Fieldwork by GfK Metris

Survey design

Interviews with household representatives

Sampling frame: municipal register of 2,947 households

Descriptive analysis

Housing conditions and residents' assessments
Social networks, trust and participation

The survey does not establish causal effects.

29 min
Average interview duration

3.1 attempts
Average contact attempts per completed interview

9.8%
Non-response / refusal rate

Who lives in Cascais municipal housing?

Sex ratio

89.1 men per 100 women

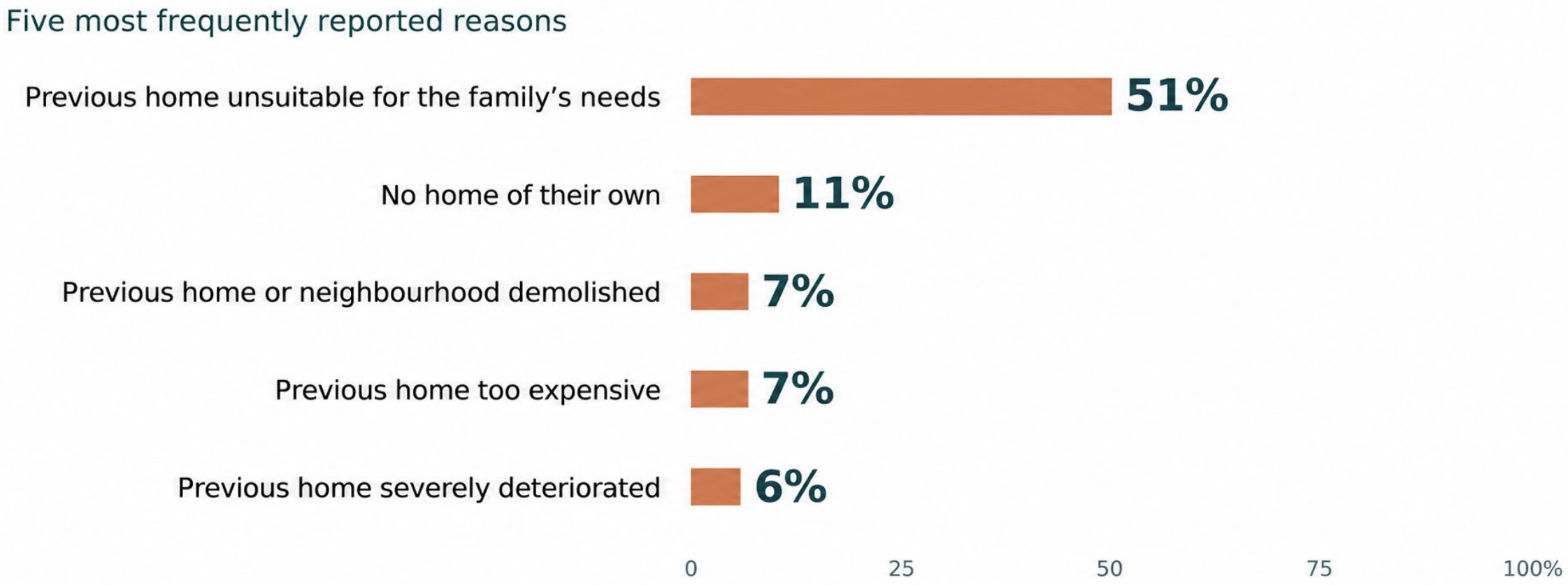
Ageing index

133.6 residents aged 65+ per 100 children aged 0–14

Households with children under 15	**24.0%**
Single-parent households	**24.7%**
Residents aged 25+ with lower secondary education or less (up to 9 years of schooling)	**81.2%**
Unemployment rate	**35.8%**
Households reporting difficulty or great difficulty meeting monthly expenses	**82.7%**
Households with a member whose disability or serious health condition limits daily activities	**39.0%**

Source: Cascais Municipal Housing Survey, 2022.

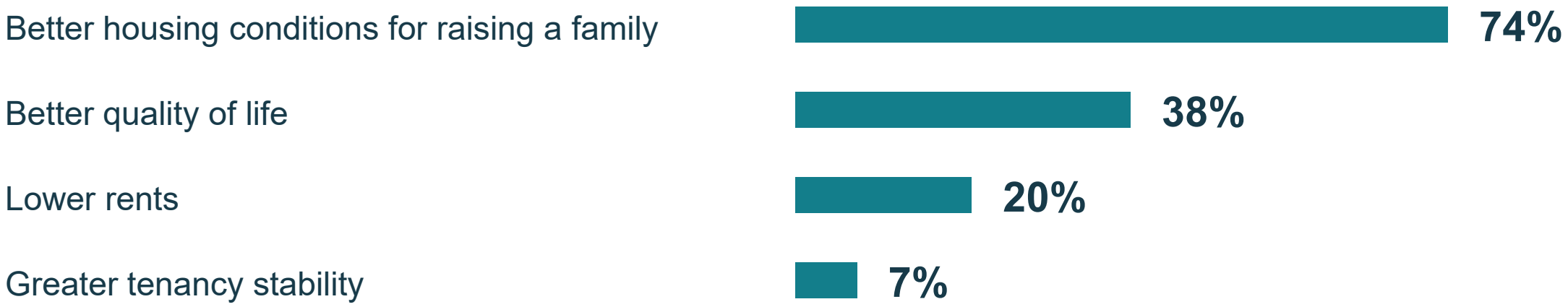
Why did residents apply for municipal housing?



Source: Cascais Municipal Housing Survey, 2022.

What difference did access make?

84% **report substantial changes in their own or their family's lives**



Multiple responses allowed. Percentages based on all 300 respondents.

75% satisfied with their home

67% wish to remain

Source: Cascais Municipal Housing Survey, 2022.

Housing conditions: shortcomings

Leaks, damp or rot in windows/floors

64%

No heating equipment

54%

Noise from neighbours or outside

54%

Inadequate bathing facilities

30%

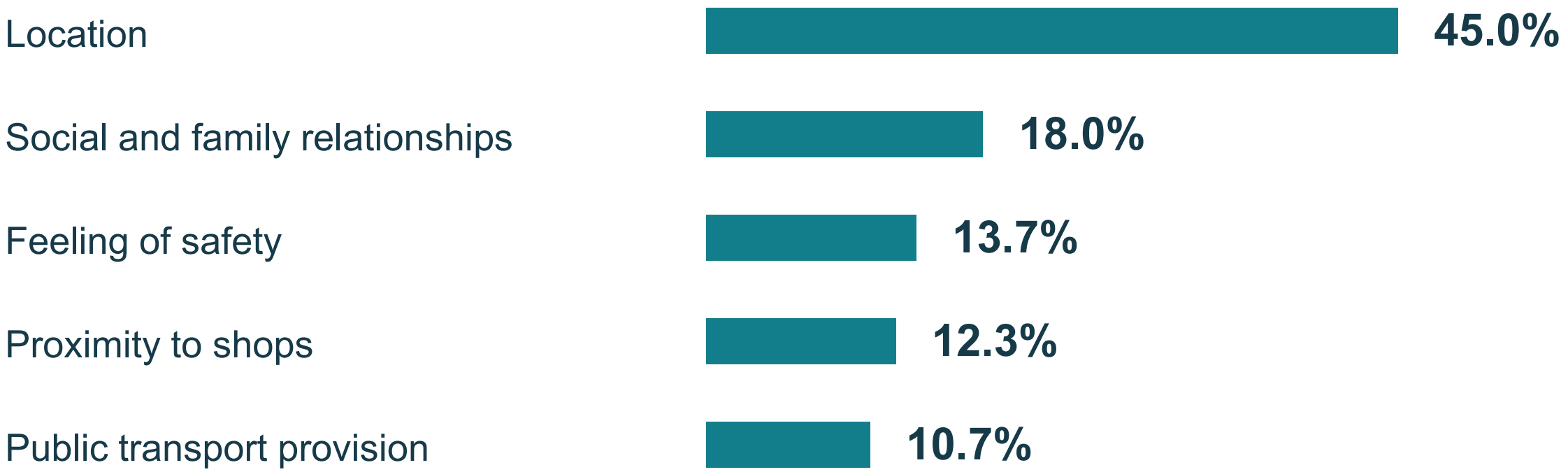


Social housing neighbourhood, Cascais, Portugal

Source: Cascais Municipal Housing Survey, 2022.

What residents like most about their neighbourhood

Five most frequently reported aspects



Multiple responses allowed. Percentages based on all 300 respondents.

Source: Cascais Municipal Housing Survey, 2022.

Neighbourhood ties and support

81% satisfied or very satisfied with their neighbourhood

83% interact with neighbours

Who would they turn to in an emergency?



28%

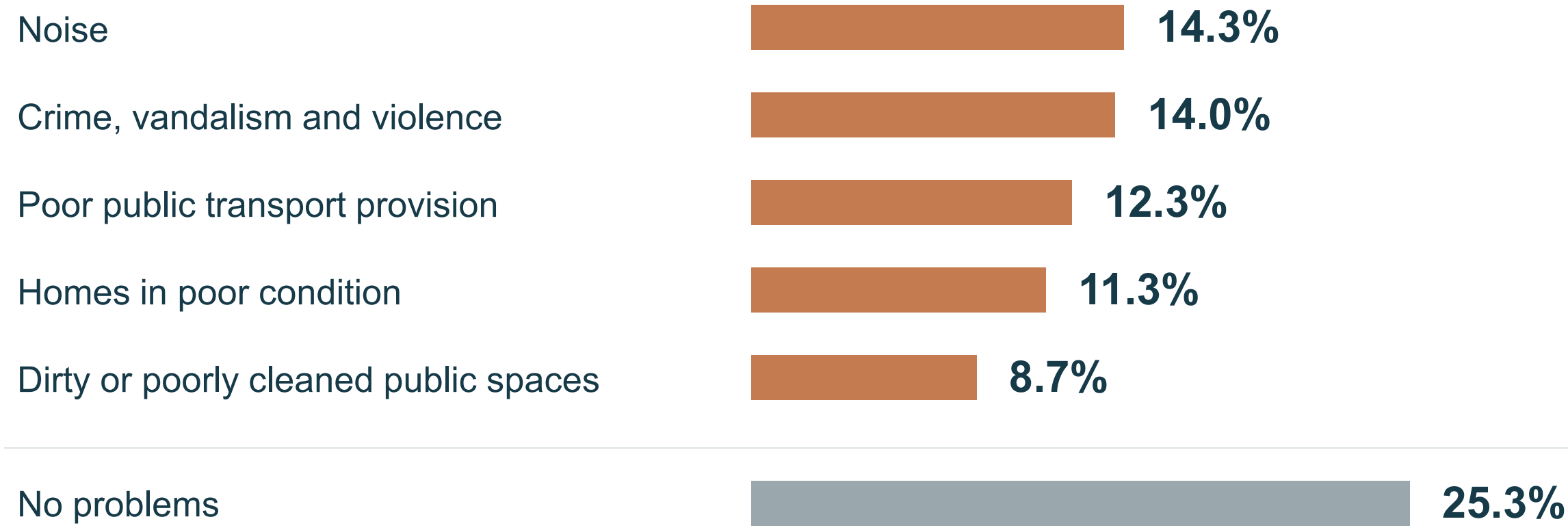
have no relatives or close friends in the neighbourhood

Percentages based on all 300 respondents. Values rounded to whole percentages.

Source: Cascais Municipal Housing Survey, 2022.

Main problems in the neighbourhood

Five most frequently reported problems and “No problems”



Multiple responses allowed. Percentages based on all 300 respondents.

Source: Cascais Municipal Housing Survey, 2022.

Beyond shelter: gains and remaining needs

- Residents report substantial improvements in everyday life.
- High satisfaction coexists with housing shortcomings and financial hardship.
- Neighbourhood ties provide support, but networks are uneven.



Social housing neighbourhood, Cascais, Portugal

From access to sustained quality of life

- Maintain homes and improve thermal and acoustic comfort.
- Adapt housing to changing household sizes and accessibility needs.
- Invest in public transport, services and public spaces.
- Strengthen local support and opportunities for resident participation.

Evaluate social housing through access, affordability and residents' quality of life, inclusion and belonging.

Thank you for your attention.

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"Não há fim sem início" ("There is no end without a beginning"). Mural on a municipal residential building in Cascais.