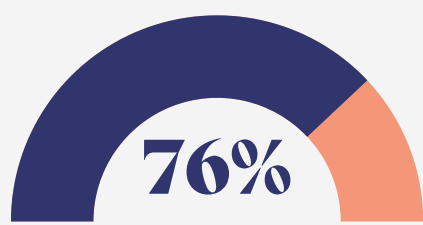
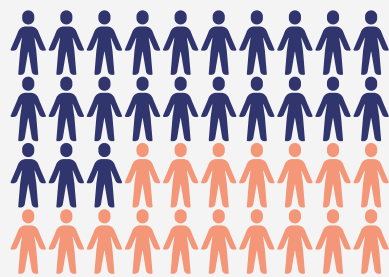


# IT'S ALL ABOUT THE Fine Free Status

of SCLC member library systems

## AUDIENCE

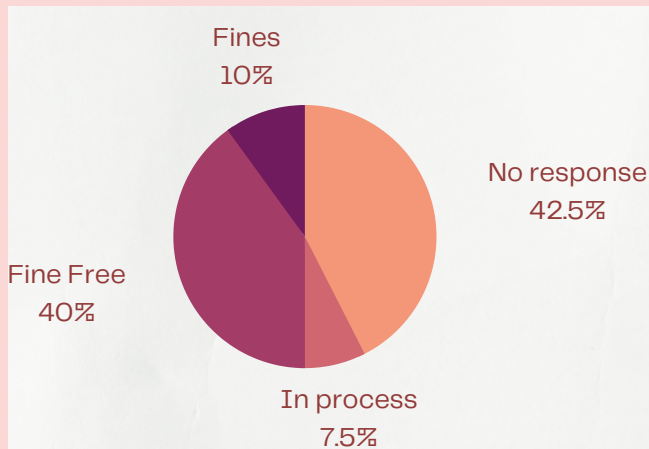
Forty member libraries surveyed via SCLC Directors' listserv and Survey Monkey, with twenty three respondents.



## RESPONDENTS

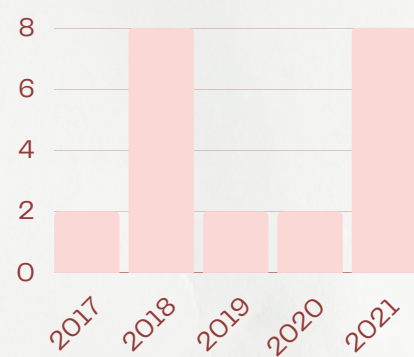
### FINE FREE

Sixteen responding SCLC library systems are fine free, and three library systems are in the process of becoming fine free.



### Responses against SCLC system whole

17 systems did not respond  
16 systems are fine free (3 Youth or Children only)  
4 systems charge fines  
3 systems are in process



### Start dates

Some systems rolled out fine free status in segments, often beginning with Children or Youth first, then adding Adult in later years.

### Links to additional data

- Brooklyn model: <https://urldefense.com/v3/>
- <https://nextcity.org/urbanist-news/entry/the-brooklyn-public-library-knows-how-to-get-books-back-without-fines>
- <https://inglewoodtoday.com/public-notice/inglewood-public-library-is-now-fine-free/>
- <https://www.urbanlibraries.org/resources/fine-free-map>
- <https://sfgov.org/financialjustice/reports/long-overdue-eliminating-fines-overdue-materials-improve-access-san-francisco-public>
- <https://www.pasadenanow.com/main/pasadena-public-library-eliminates-late-fees>
- <https://www.southpasadenaca.gov/government/departments/library/about-the-library/fees/fine-free>

## Comments

Going fine free had been a goal of ours for a couple years but I didn't think we would be able to achieve it until several years down the line. The temporary suspension of fines (which lasted much longer than originally anticipated!) ended up being a catalyst for us to permanently eliminate fines for our community. It has been an overwhelmingly positive change for our community. – Beverly Hills

It has been nothing but positive, especially during the pandemic when people are struggling. – Burbank

Hope to expand in 2022-23. (currently Youth, only) – El Segundo and Santa Monica

It is incredibly labor intensive to collect fines. From an equity stand point it often excludes lower-income individuals from fully engaging with the library, more so than others. We still bill for unreturned items. The bill usually causes individuals to return the materials. – Glendale

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ILS reminder 3 days before items due; 1 automatic renewal on due date; replacement cost is automatically billed to patron at 14 days overdue; all charges are removed when item. – Sierra Madre

I don't yet have comparative data on lost items because of the closure, but it's been a very good. – Simi Valley

It is wonderful, not having to wrangle with patrons about overdue fines! – South Pasadena

As part of the City's overall user fee study, [going fine free] was a small part of a larger undertaking. – Thousand Oaks

Very successful – Ventura County