



TRANS CANADA TRAIL

NATIONAL TRAIL ACCESSIBILITY SURVEY FINDINGS

November 2022



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INTRODUCTION

In May 2022, Trans Canada Trail undertook a National Trail Accessibility Survey to learn how people in the disability community access outdoor recreation opportunities and their opinions on the tools needed to do so safely.

In partnership with AccessNow, Trans Canada Trail developed a survey for individuals who have disabilities or are close to, or work with, someone with disabilities. The survey was distributed online to partner groups and disability organizations, as well as shared through social media.

Survey Summary

- The survey period was from May 6 to June 10, 2022
- The survey was distributed online through disability organization networks and social media
- 360 surveys were completed
 - Note: not every question was applicable to every survey respondent, as a result some questions were not posed to a portion of the respondents.

RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

LOCATION

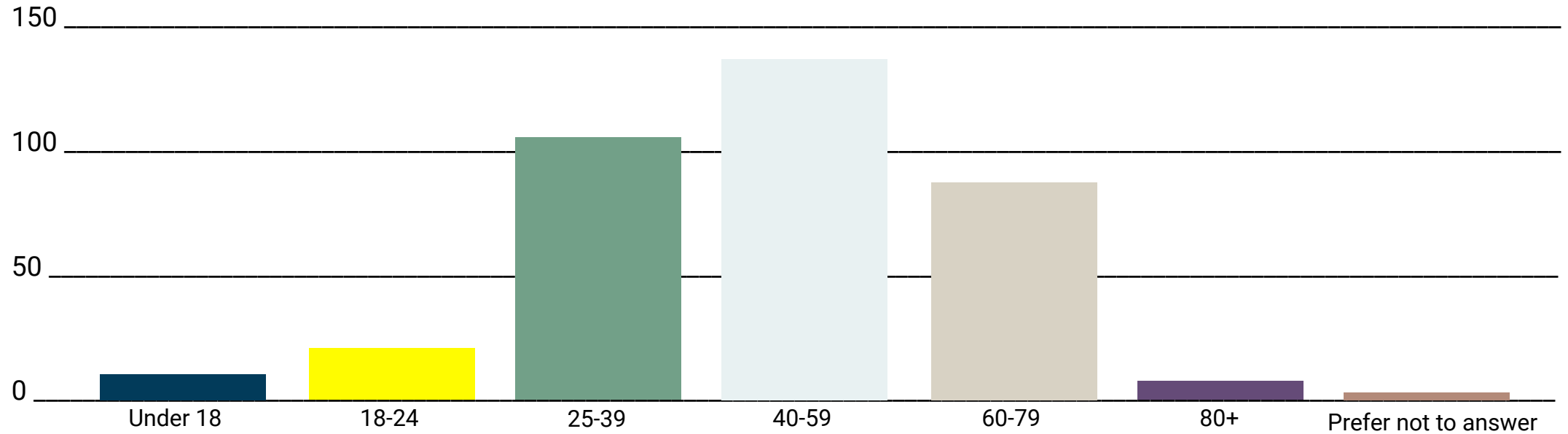
Respondents represented

- 20** countries, including
- 10** Canadian provinces and
- 2** Canadian territories.



AGE

n=360

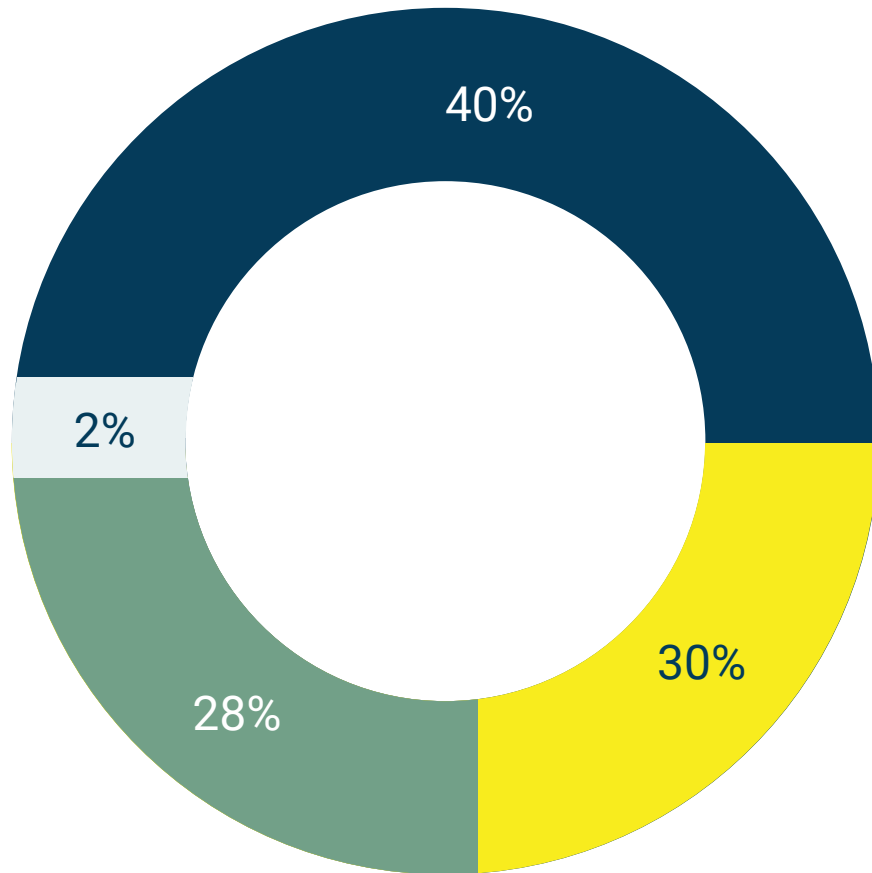


Respondents ranged in age from under 18 to over 80 years:

- 29% between 25-39
- 39% were between 40-59
- 26% between 60-79

DISABILITY

n=341



- Trail user living with a disability
- Person living with a disability, but I don't use trails
- I am a caregiver of someone with a disability
- Other

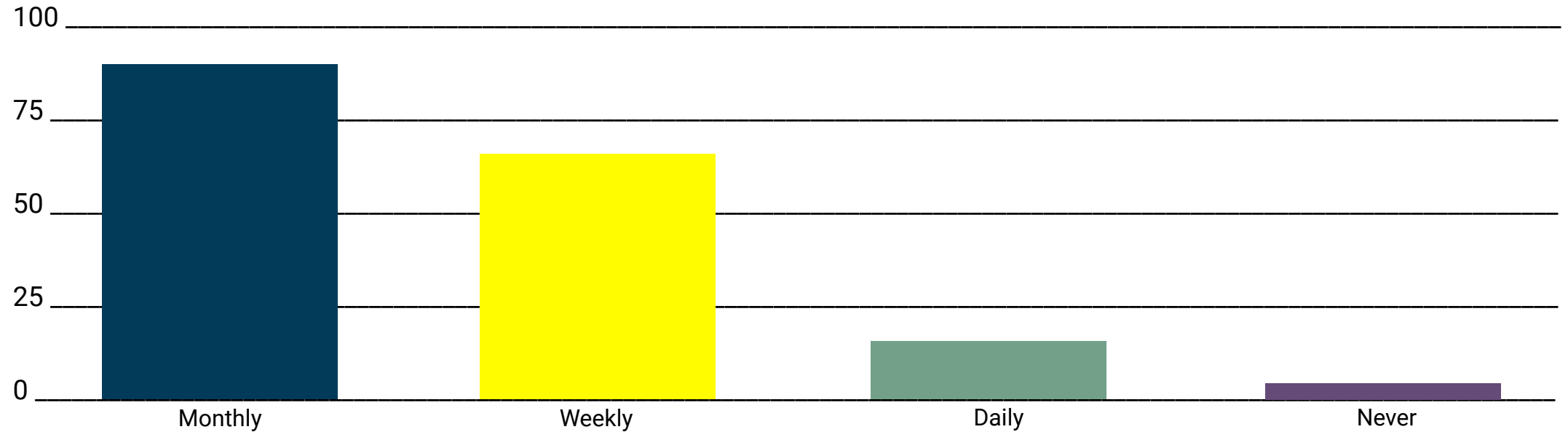
Respondents represented a range of disabilities, including seeing, hearing, mobility, flexibility, dexterity, pain, learning, mental/psychological, memory/cognitive, chronic illness, and episodic.

KEY FINDINGS



TRAIL USE

n=178

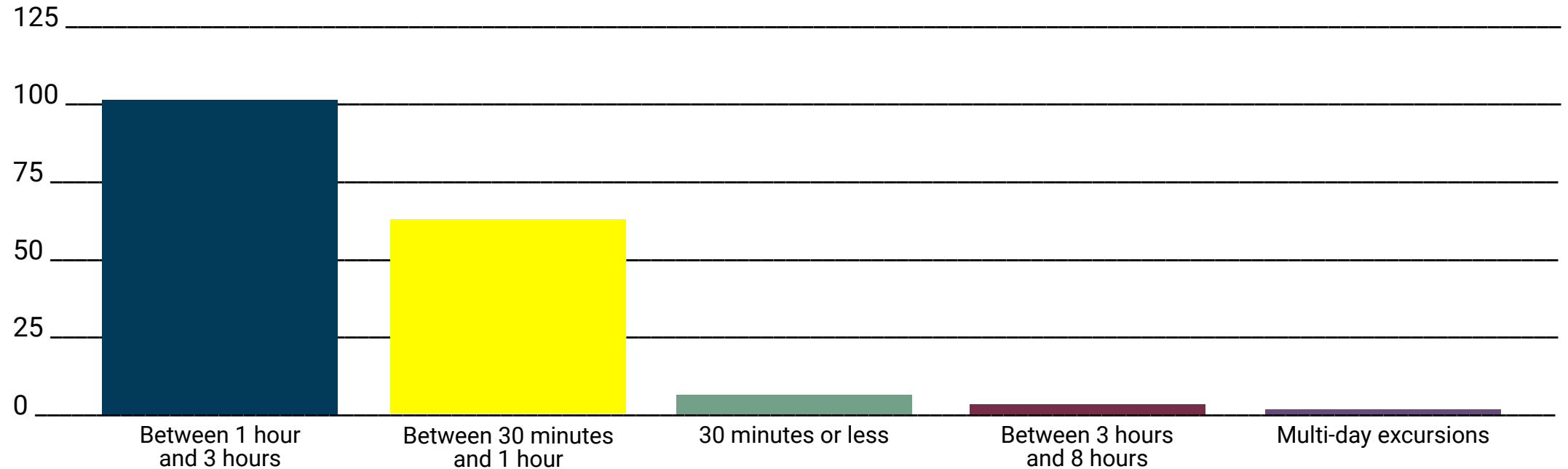


Individuals with a disability use trails regularly:

52% of respondents said they use recreational trails monthly
39% reported using trails weekly

TRAIL USE

n=178

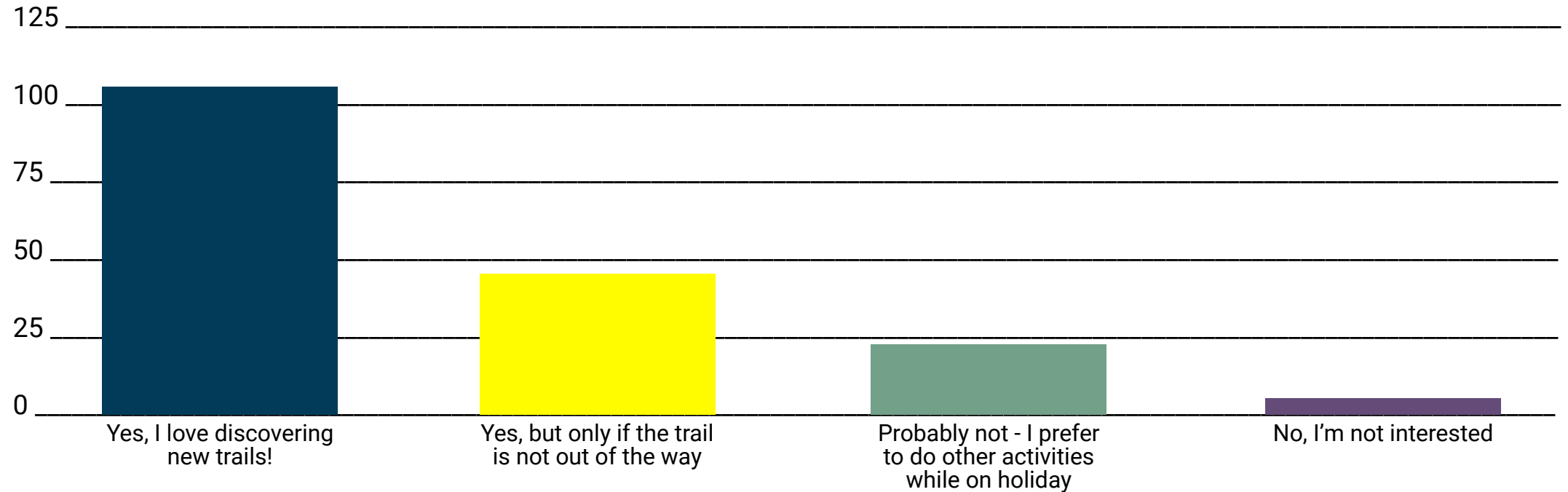


57% of respondents spend between 1 and 3 hours on trail outings, and a further 35% spend between 30 minutes and 1 hour.

5% of respondents spend fewer than 30 minutes, and 3% spend more than 3 hours on trails.

TRAIL USE

n=178



86% of respondents use trails while on vacation, although it should be noted that 26% of respondents said they will only visit a trail if it is not out of the way.

These findings suggest that trails should be part of broader accessible tourism planning.

TRAIL USE

n=520

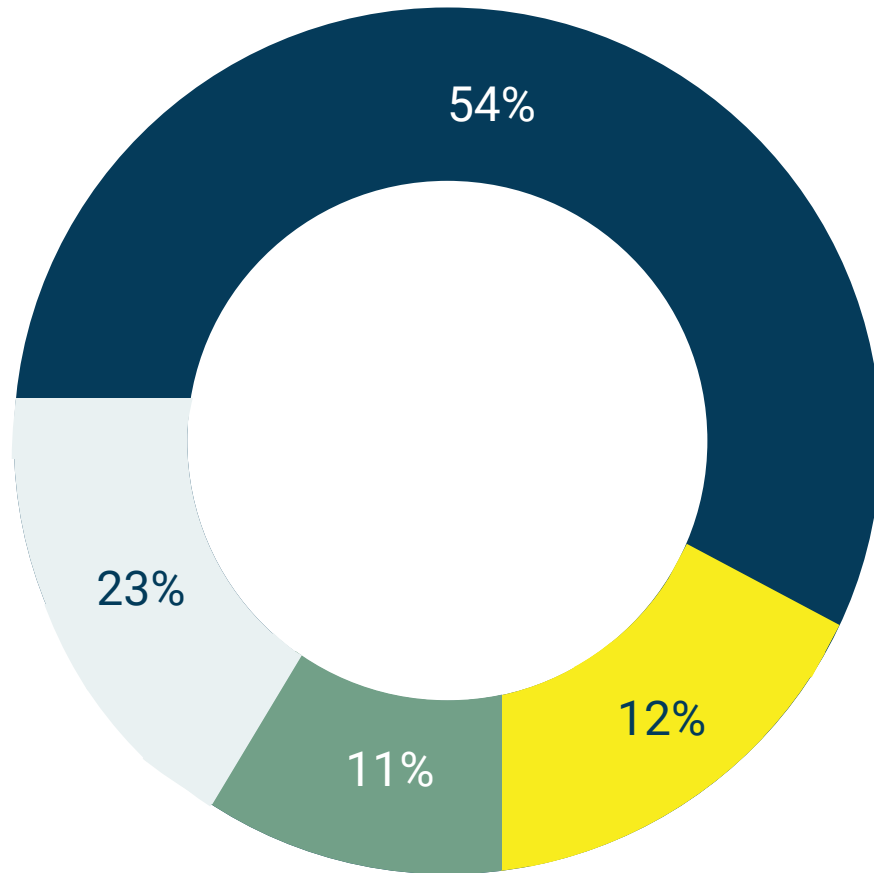


Spending time in nature is the most common motivator for using trails (31%).

Physical exercise (26%) and supporting mental health (26%) were also significantly represented in the responses.

BARRIERS TO USING TRAILS

n=102

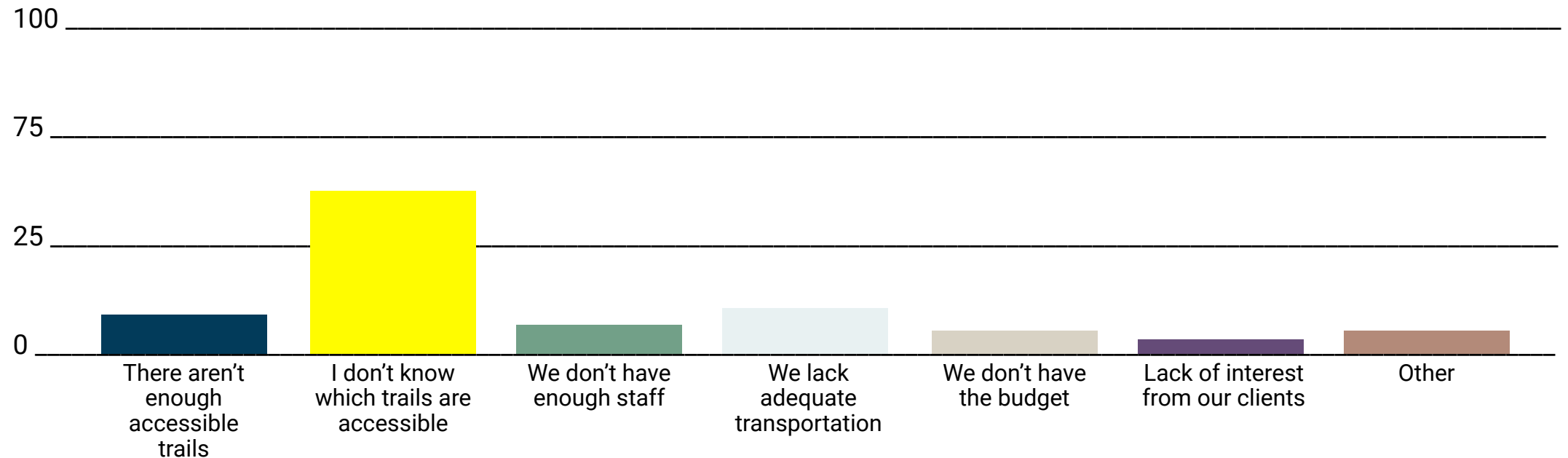


- I don't know which trails are accessible
- There aren't enough accessible trails
- I'm not interested in using trails
- Other

The largest barrier to trail use reported is a lack of information about which trails are accessible (54%). A lack of accessible trails in their area and adequate transportation were also common responses.

PLANNING ACCESSIBLE TRAIL OUTINGS FOR OTHERS

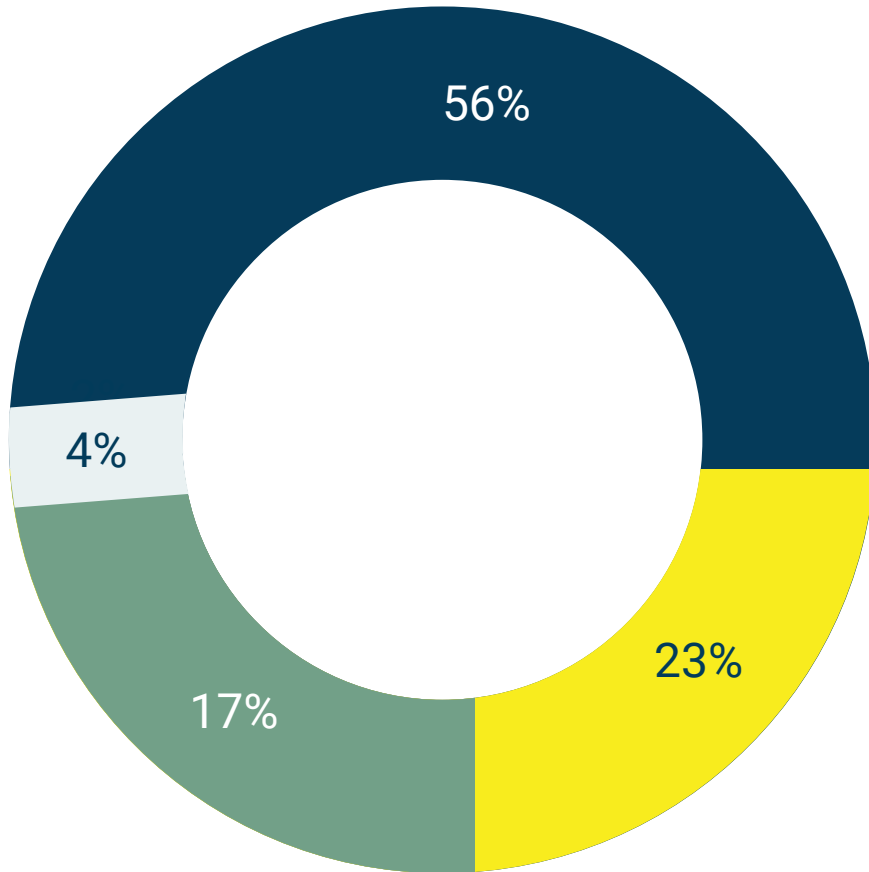
n=100



Of those who plan outings for individuals with disabilities, 40% reported that their largest barrier to trail outings is the lack of information about which trails are accessible. This aligns with the largest barrier identified by trail users.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

n=178



- I prefer to have detailed information on the trail with width, slope, surface
- Accessible designation (i.e. "Accessible Trail")
- A rating scale based on effort (i.e. easy, intermediate, difficult)
- Other

A majority of respondents (56%) chose detailed information as their preferred form of trail classification.

Only 23% prefer Accessible Trail designations and 17% prefer a rating scale (such as a difficulty scale).

CONCLUSION

Thank you to all the respondents for sharing your valuable insights with us. By doing so, you are helping to improve trail accessible for all.

Thank you also to AccessNow for your support with this survey, and the many other community organizations for sharing the survey with your communities.



For more information, please contact:

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