

2021 Trail User Survey Summary Report

April 2022



MIAMI VALLEY
Regional Planning Commission



Background

Trail and Bicycle Counts in the Miami Valley

The 2008 Comprehensive Local-Regional Bikeways Plan (CLRBP) and the Miami Valley Bike Plan Update 2015 each include a recommendation for regular, annual counts of bicyclists and trail users. In the years since the CLRBP was adopted by the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRPC) Board of Directors, there have been three distinct efforts across the region to fulfill this goal.

First, the various trail managing agencies have built a network of trail-based automated counters. With several consecutive years of data collected, MVRPC has undertaken the role of compiling and analyzing this data for the Region. [The results of these analyses can be found on the MVRPC web site.](#)

Second, MVRPC has initiated a bicycle counting program using tube counters. The counting equipment is owned by MVRPC and is available for loan to member jurisdictions to perform short-

term counts of bicycle use on streets. The system is calibrated to distinguish between automobile and bicycle traffic and between bicycle and pedestrian traffic (for instance on the trails).

Third, the region's trail managing agencies have coordinated on collecting trail user surveys every four years since 2009. [Summary reports of the 2009, 2013 and 2017 surveys are available from the MVRPC web site.](#) This document summarizes the 2021 survey.



2021 Trail User Survey



A primary goal of the 2021 survey was to collect survey data that is comparable to the prior surveys to enable the detection of any trends in trail users' perceptions of the trails, user demographics and economic impact. To that end the survey form was nearly identical to the prior forms. All questions, save one, used in prior years were included in the 2021 survey. As the Question-by-Question review of responses will detail, the responses in 2021 were quite similar to prior surveys.

Here are some notable differences in the delivery of the survey in 2021 compared to past years:

- 1. More partners and more locations.** Surveys were collected in seven different counties in 2017, and in nine counties in 2021. Butler and Logan Counties were added to Champaign, Clark, Darke, Greene, Miami, Montgomery and Warren Counties. Broadening the scope of the project was only possible with the addition and participation of new partners: Metroparks of Butler County and Bike Miami Valley.
- 2. Wider range of dates.** To provide greater flexibility for the participating agencies, the planning committee for the user survey set a range of dates from late August through late September to conduct the survey.
- 3. Variable days instead of fixed.** In past years the agencies conducting the survey selected a single set of days to deliver the survey: a single Sunday and Wednesday (with rain dates a week later). With the additional partners and so many events scheduled for September, a different approach was taken in 2021. Each participating agency was asked to select a two dates in the survey window for delivery of the survey in their location(s). Surveys were conducted on both Saturdays and Sundays and on all weekdays except for Monday.



2021 Trail User Survey

4. **Continued an Online Survey.** The 2021 survey was formatted into an online survey using tools provided by Google Forms. The intention for moving to an online form was to have trail users complete the survey on their personal cellular phone. Trail User Survey volunteers would assist survey takers in navigating to the survey page (embedded into the MVRPC web site). Pre-printed cards with a “QR code” were provided to direct phones to the survey. Paper surveys were available at all survey locations for those without smartphones, or who did not wish to use them. It was hoped that as many as two-thirds of survey takers would do so on their phones, thereby reducing data entry time and data entry errors. As it turned out, very few trail users were willing to use their personal phones for taking the survey. The large majority surveys were collected on paper and entered into the Google Form by agency staff and volunteers.
5. **Changes related to COVID-19.** The delivery of the survey itself was ultimately unchanged from prior years, though the planning committee did deliberate potential changes to reduce points of contact. One question was added seeking to measure the increase in trail usage related to the pandemic. This question asked what year the user first began to use the Miami Valley Trails. Details about the response options and the responses received are provided in the Question-by-Question section of this report.
6. **Several questions were modified in some way.** In some cases additional optional responses were added; in other cases respondents were allowed to select two responses where only one had been allowed in the past. The modifications were:
 - a) “How did you learn of the Miami Valley Trails?” This question was removed from the survey.
 - b) A new question about amenities the user would like to encounter along the trails was added. Options ranged from restrooms and water, to restaurants, retail, and services such as shuttles. Survey respondents could indicate as many responses as are applicable.
 - c) The first year of use question as described above was added to the survey.



2021 Trail User Survey



In all 1,715 surveys were collected during August and September 2021. Only 2009's survey had more responses (1,754). Due to the disparity in surveys collected from year to year, and the increased number of participating counties, the data presented in this report will aggregate the data on a regional basis, and provides breakdowns by county. Because of the differences in the number of surveys per county comparisons between counties will be based on percentages rather than counts. Despite these differences to the survey, described above, the findings of the survey are remarkably similar to the results in previous surveys. This fact provides a good reassurance that these survey efforts are reliably describing trail users and the characteristics of their use and impact.

SURVEY PROCESS

The count and survey forms and processes used in the four Miami Valley Trail User Surveys closely follow the [methodology published by the Rails to Trails Conservancy in 2005](#). The survey forms were updated as described above, and the participating trail managing agencies recruited survey volunteers and provided instructions to the volunteers for the conduct of the count and survey. The instructions were also included in the Volunteer manual and on the tally form.

Each partner agency selected two days – a weekday and a weekend day – for delivery of the survey based on volunteer capacity, and avoidance of major events. The selected dates are detailed in the table below; a map of survey and count locations is also provided.



Survey and Count Dates and Locations for 2021

Date	Agencies	Trails	Location
Saturday, August 21, 2021	Simon Kenton Pathfinders Bike Piqua Five Rivers MetroParks	Simon Kenton Trail Simon Kenton Trail Great Miami River Trail Great Miami River Trail Great Miami River Trail Great Miami River Trail Mad River Trail	Urbana Bellefontaine Piqua Miamisburg RiverScape Taylorsville Eastwood
Wednesday, August 25, 2021	Simon Kenton Pathfinders Clark County Park District Five Rivers MetroParks	Simon Kenton Trail Simon Kenton Trail Little Miami Scenic Trail Great Miami River Trail Great Miami River Trail Great Miami River Trail Mad River Trail	Urbana Bellefontaine Beatty Station Miamisburg RiverScape Taylorsville Eastwood
Friday, August 27, 2021	Bike Piqua	Great Miami River Trail	Piqua
Saturday, August 28, 2021	Metroparks of Butler County Darke County Park District	Great Miami River Trail Ohio to Indiana Trail	Middletown Hartzell
Sunday, August 29, 2021	Bike Miami Valley	Stillwater River Trail	Deweese Park
Tuesday, August 31, 2021	Darke County Park District	Ohio to Indiana Trail	Greenville
Thursday, September 2, 2021	Darke County Park District	Ohio to Indiana Trail	Hartzell



Survey and Count Dates and Locations for 2021

Friday, September 3, 2021	Centerville-Washington Park	Iron Horse Trail	Iron Horse Park
Saturday, September 4, 2021	Centerville-Washington Park	Iron Horse Trail	Iron Horse Park
Tuesday, September 7, 2021	Metroparks of Butler County	Great Miami River Trail	Middletown
Wednesday, September 8, 2021	Greene County Parks & Trails	Little Miami Scenic Trail Little Miami Scenic Trail Little Miami Scenic Trail Ohio to Erie Trail	Xenia Station Yellow Springs Old Town Cedarville
Friday, September 10, 2021	Miami Conservancy District	Great Miami River Trail	Franklin
Saturday, September 11, 2021	Miami Conservancy District Darke County Park District Greene County Parks & Trails	Great Miami River Trail Ohio to Indiana Trail Creekside Trail Little Miami Scenic Trail	Franklin Greenville Beavercreek Xenia Station Yellow Springs Old Town
Tuesday, September 14, 2021	Miami County Park District	Great Miami River Trail	Troy
Saturday, September 18, 2021	Miami County Park District	Great Miami River Trail	Troy
Saturday, September 25, 2021	Bike Miami Valley	Wolf Creek Trail	Trotwood
Wednesday, September 29, 2021	Bike Miami Valley	Wolf Creek Trail	Trotwood



2021 Trail User Survey Process

The agencies also agreed on a time window of 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. for the count and survey project.

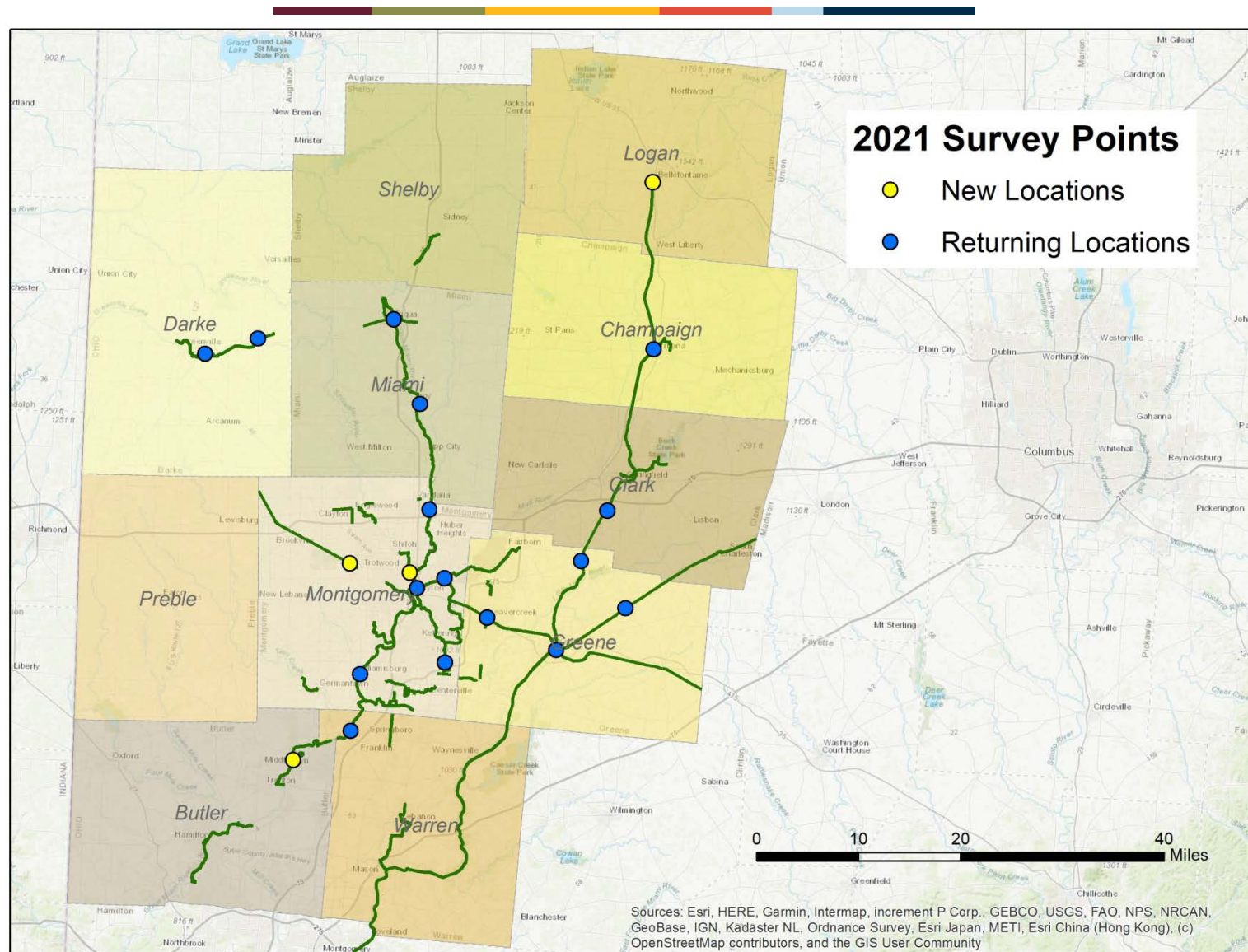
Volunteers were stationed at survey and count locations, typically working in pairs for shifts of 3 to 4 hours. All trail users passing the survey point (typically a table or tent) were counted and categorized by how they were using the trail (bike, on foot, ADA device, rollerblades, etc.). Trail users were invited to complete a trail user survey either on their phones, or on paper. Users were expected to complete the survey on their own; volunteers were not expected to ask the questions and fill in the responses for the survey respondents. Respondents using paper surveys could complete the questionnaire and leave it with the volunteers or mail it into MVRPC.

Completed survey forms and tally sheets were collected by MVRPC. With the help of trail managing agency volunteers, the paper surveys

were entered into the online form through the month of November. When all 1,715 surveys were entered the form was closed so that no additional responses would be accepted.



Survey Locations Map



2021 Trail User Survey Process

Tally forms were compiled into a single spreadsheet for review and analysis. In total, 12,075 trail users were counted during the project. The complete spreadsheets of trail data are available from MVRPC for review.

The 1,715 returned surveys from a count of 12,075 trail users represents a survey rate of 14.2 percent in aggregate. For a more in-depth analysis of trail user counts, please refer to MVRPC's December 2017 report, "Miami Valley Bikeway Counting: Program Summary," which aggregates automated counter data from across the region. The report provides calculations of Average Daily Traffic and estimates of annual traffic at counter locations. The complete description of the calculation methodology is also included.

Analysis of the survey responses was conducted by MVRPC staff using both summary data provided by Google Forms as well as tailored crosstab analyses of the data from the complete data table. This report's Question-by-Question section provides the following information about each question:

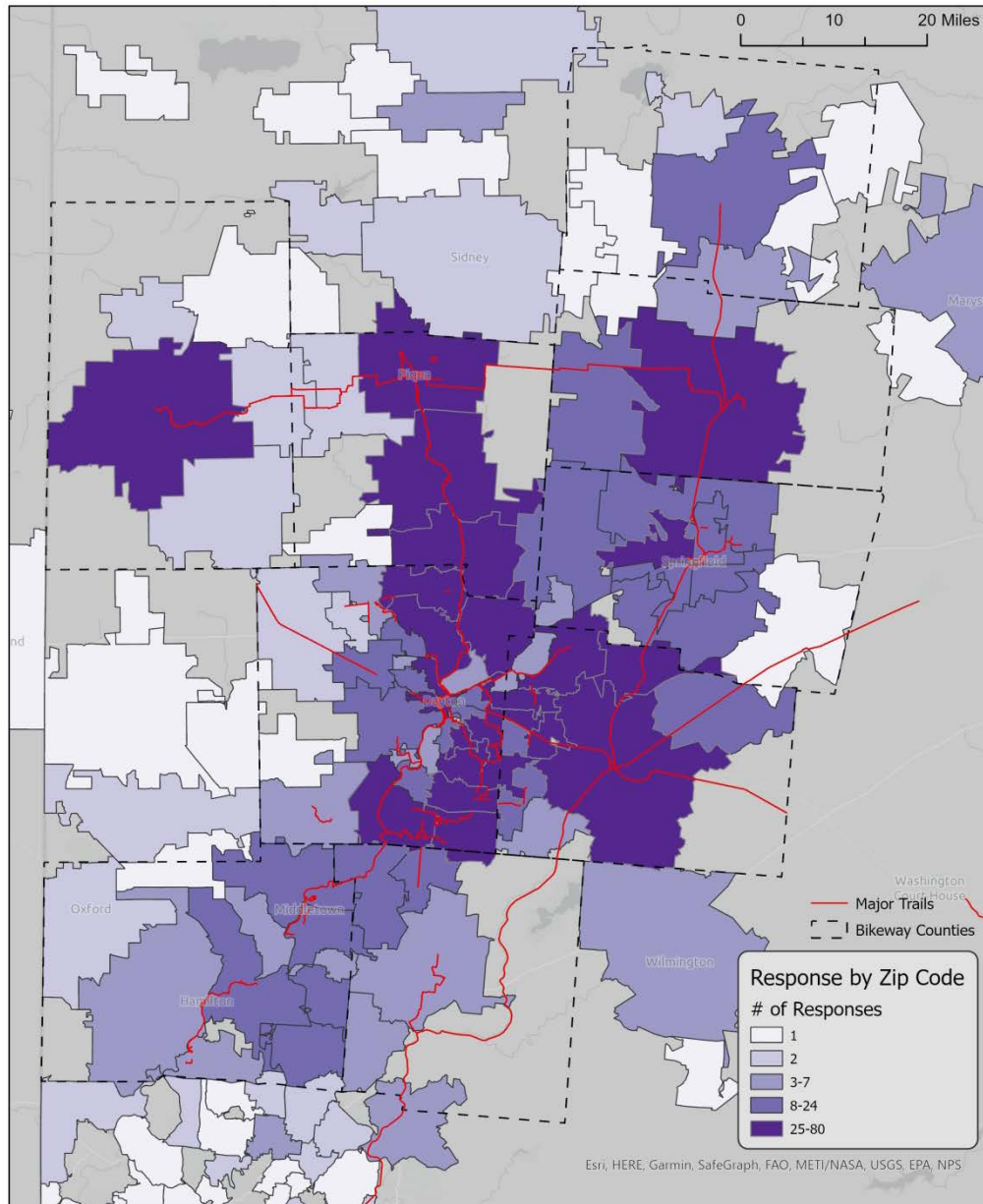
- Question number
- Summary data of responses
- Notes or discussion of survey responses





Survey Question Responses

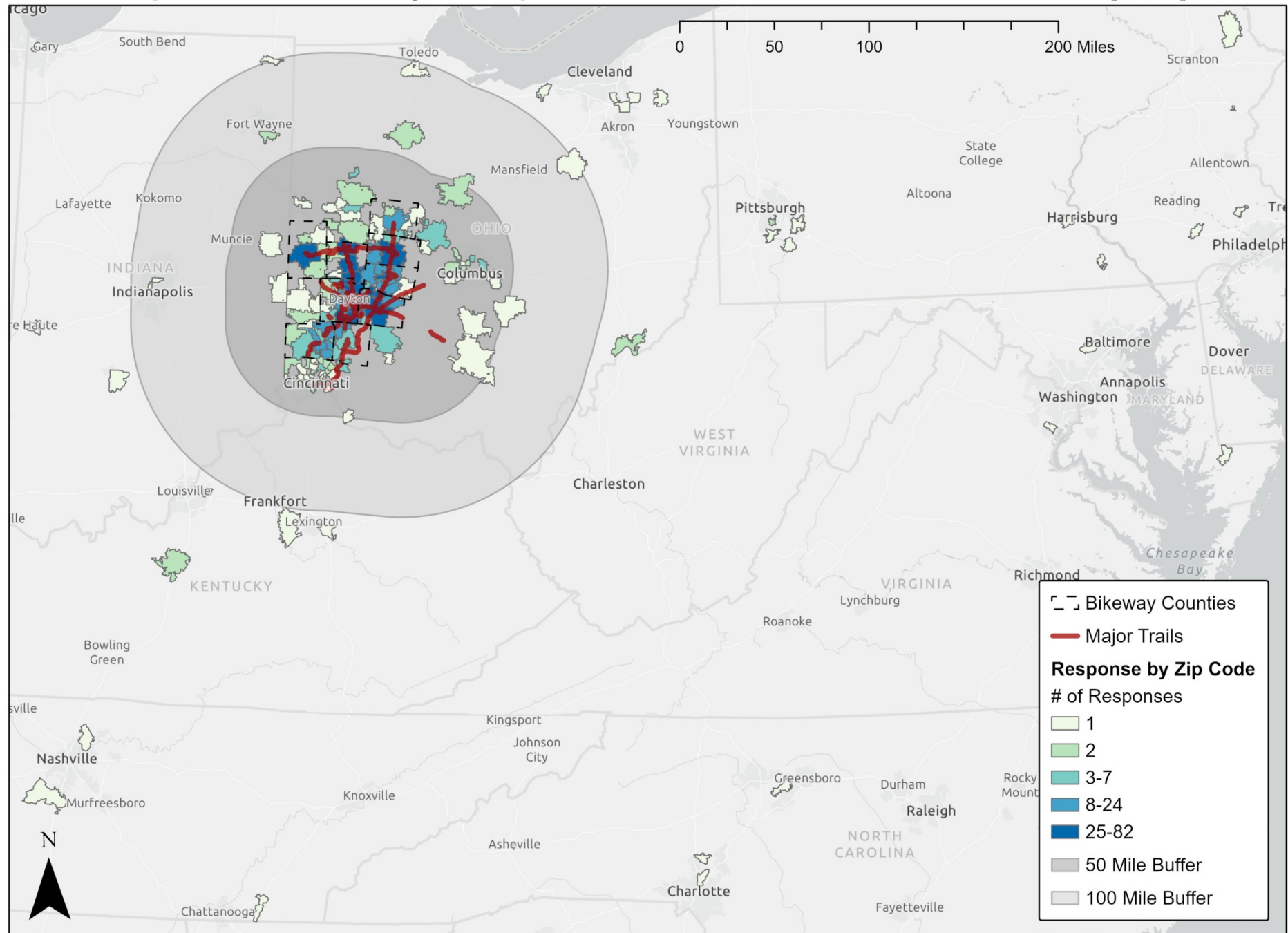
Question 1: What is your Zip Code?



- Not surprisingly, survey responses were concentrated in zip codes with segments of the trail system, and also where survey stations were located.
- On the next map shows some responses from outside the region. Only 4.8% of 2021 responses were from outside the survey counties compared with 17% in 2017. This may in part be due to adding Butler and Logan Counties.
- The 100-mile radius is significant to tourism – it is assumed that those from more than 100 miles away likely are staying overnight.
 - 2021 – 4% of surveys from 100+ miles away
 - 2017 – 4.3% of surveys from 100+ miles away



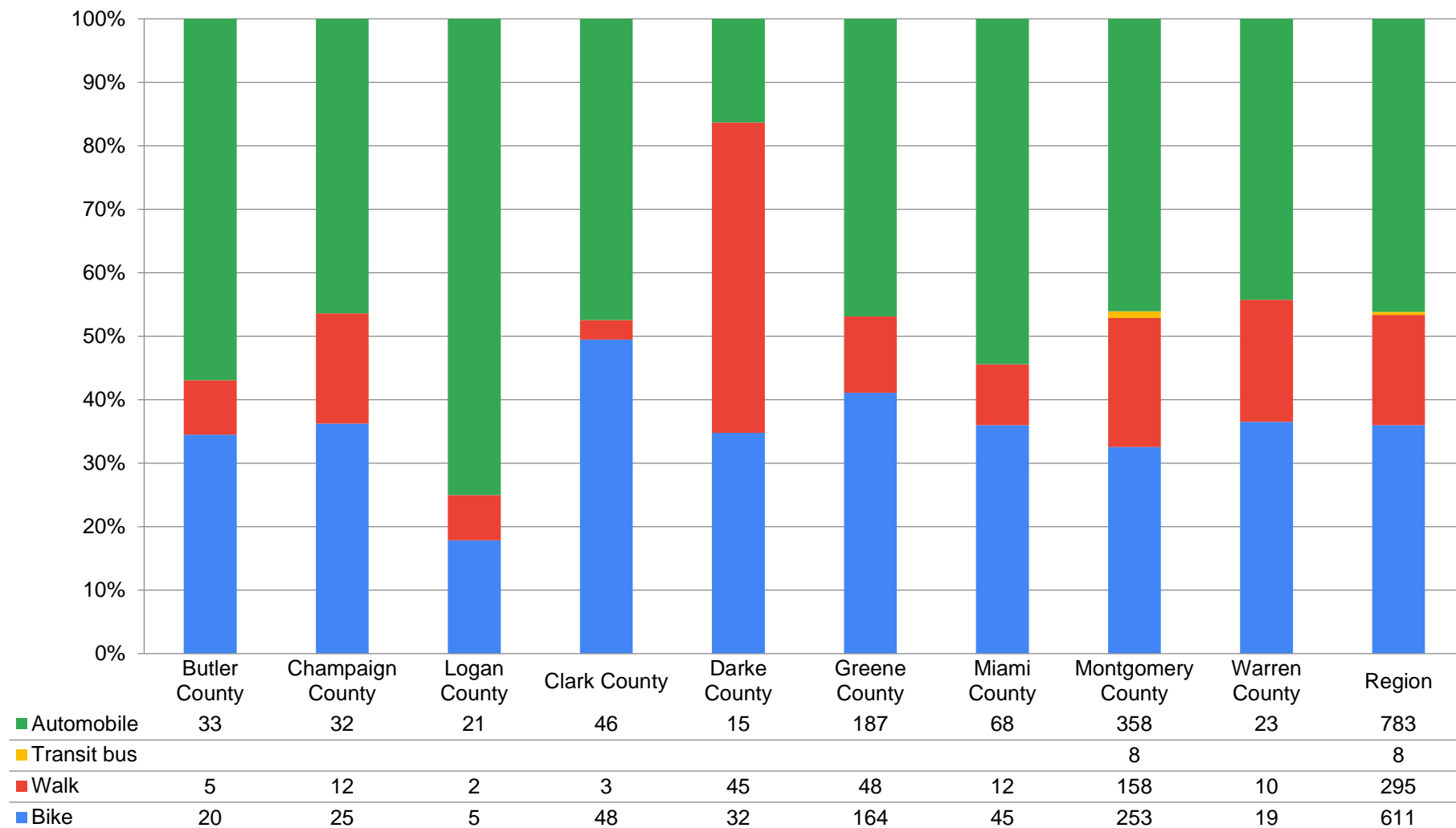
2021 Zip Code Survey Responses



Question 2: How did you get to the trail today?



Mode to Trail by County, Region



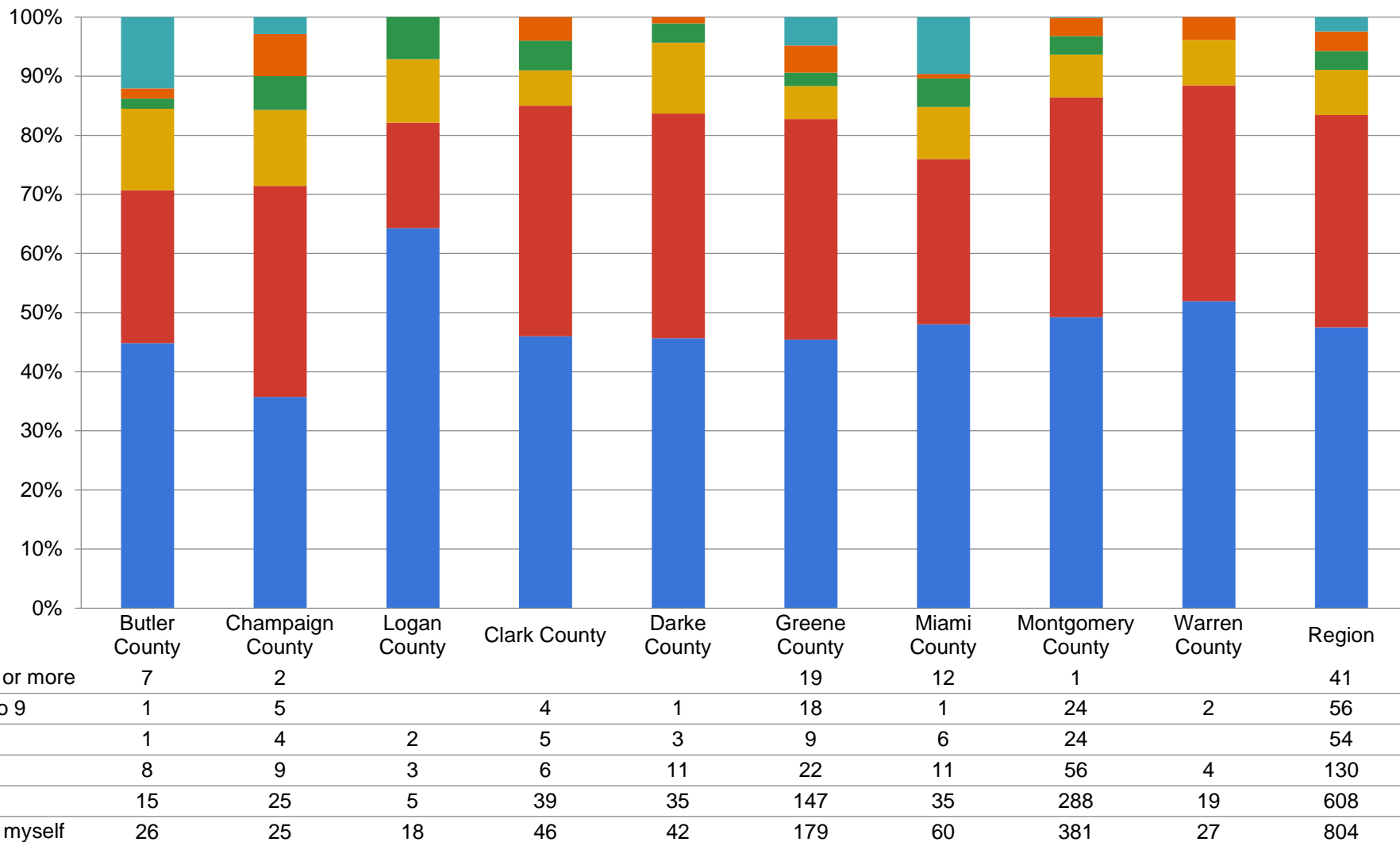
Question 2: How did you get to the trail today?

- Overall, 54% of respondents reported getting to the trail by means other than a car.
- Less than half of respondents in 6 of 9 counties reported driving to the trails.
- In 2017 50.2% of respondents regionally, indicated they got to the trails by an active mode. The 2021 responses indicate the continued importance of active links to the trails.



Question 4: How many people are in your group on the trails today?

Group Size by County, Region



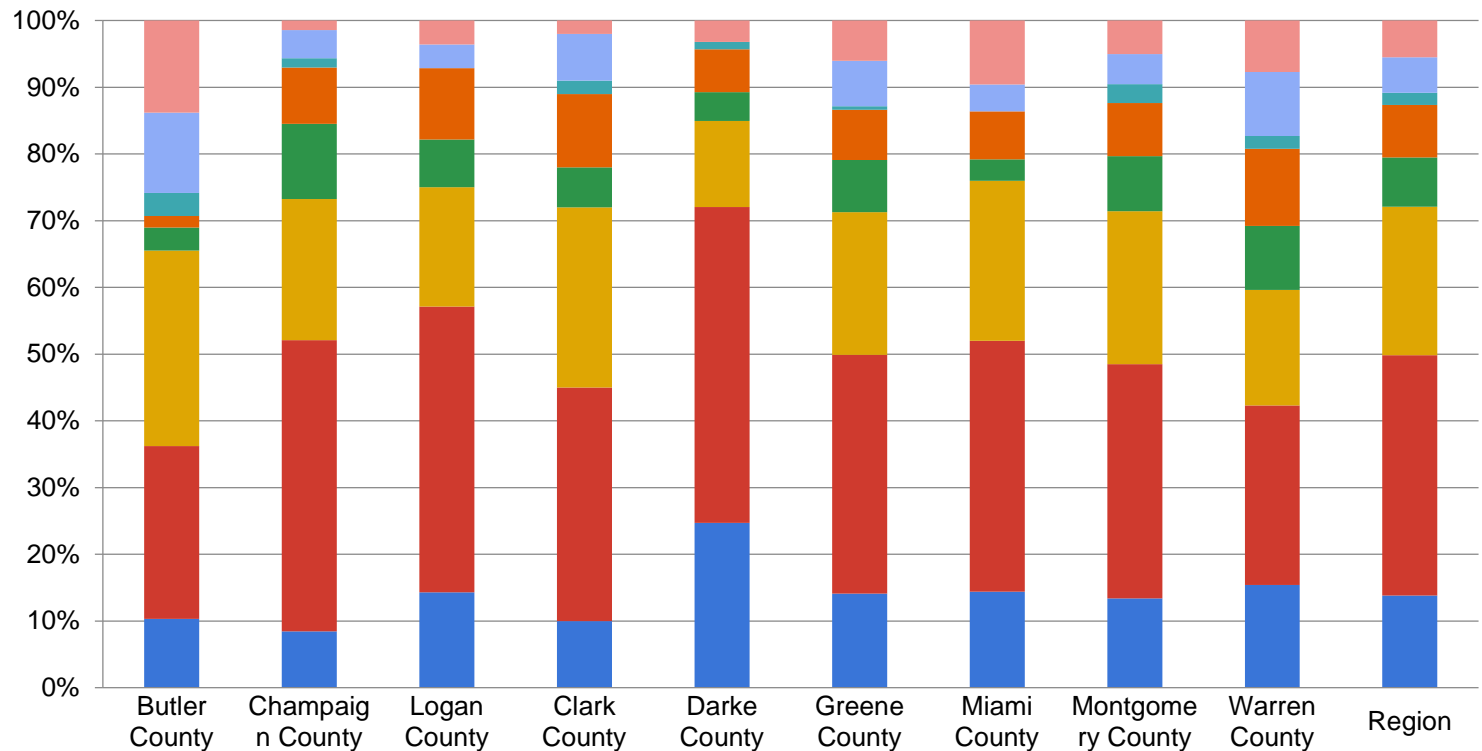
Question 4: How many people are in your group on the trails today?

- Individuals and groups of 2 continue to be the norm on the Miami Valley Trails. Over 83% of respondents were alone or with one other person.
- In all counties such groups represented over 70% of respondents.
- These responses are nearly identical to the 2017 responses.



Question 5: How often do you use the trail?

Frequency of Use by County, Region



First time	8	1	1	2	3	24	12	39	4	94
A few times per year	7	3	1	7		27	5	35	5	90
Once a month	2	1		2	1	2		22	1	31
A couple of times a month	1	6	3	11	6	30	9	62	6	134
Once a week	2	8	2	6	4	31	4	64	5	126
1 or 2 times per week	17	15	5	27	12	85	30	178	9	378
Between 3 and 5 times per week	15	31	12	35	44	142	47	273	14	613
Daily	6	6	4	10	23	56	18	104	8	235



Question 5: How often do you use the trail?

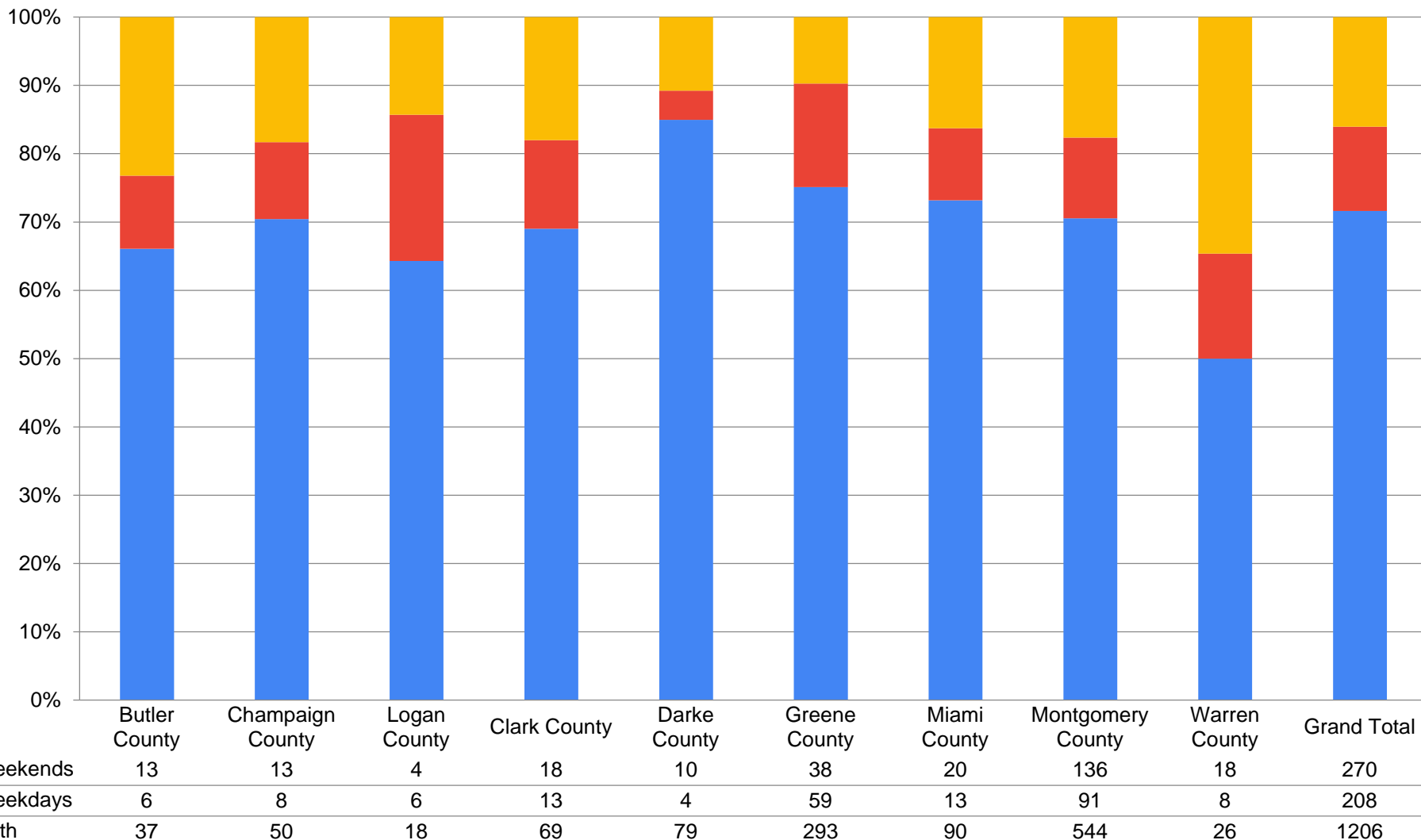
- Users who report using the trails at least weekly represent over 70% of trail users.
 - Nearly identical responses in all past trail user surveys
- This rate holds true in 7 of the 9 counties.
- This question factors into the estimates of total number of unique trail users.



Question 6: When do you use the trail?



Day of Use by County, Region



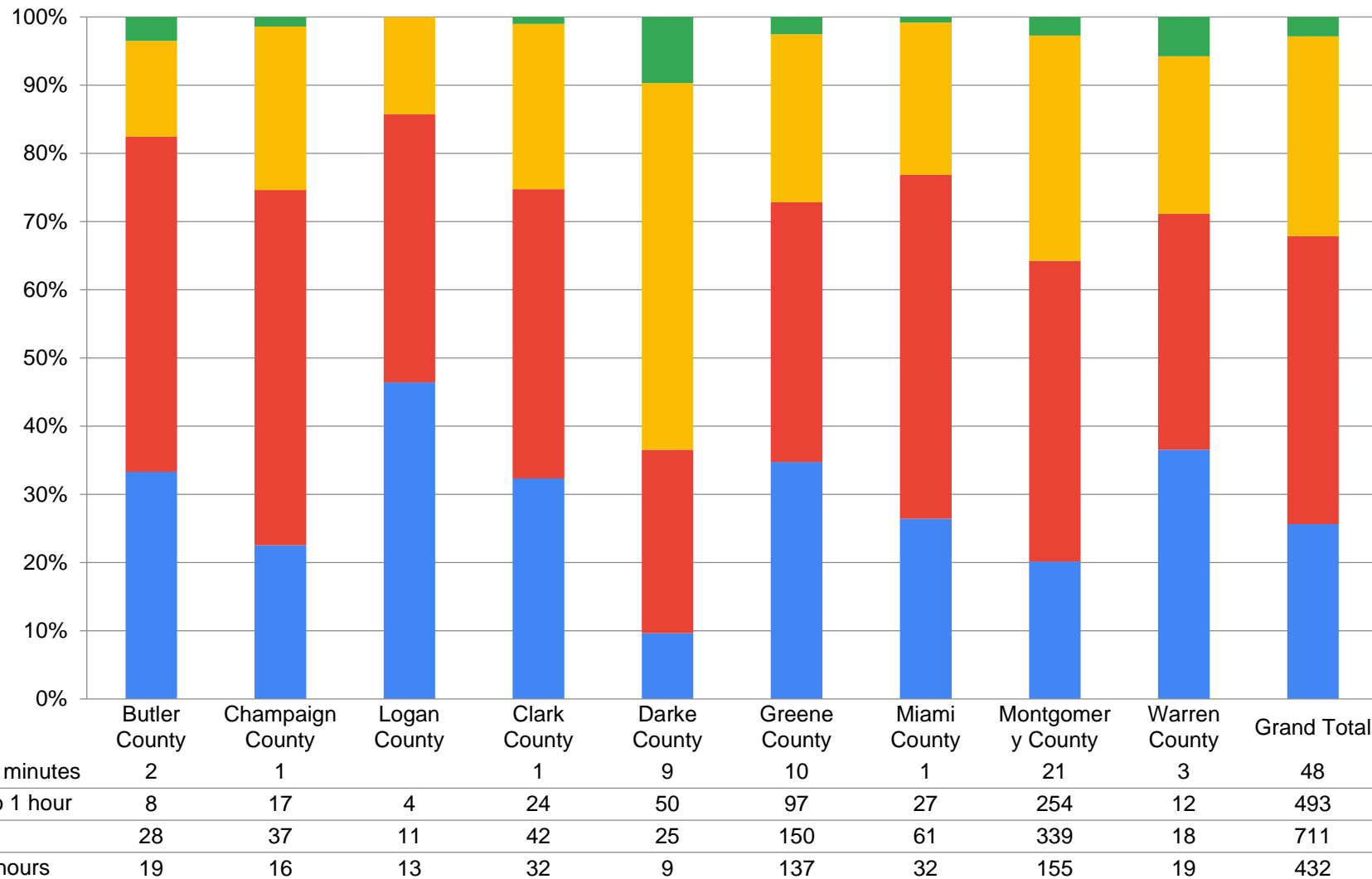
Question 6: When do you use the trail?

- In all counties except Warren, respondents reported using the trail on both weekdays and weekends above 60%.
 - Nearly identical responses in all past trail user surveys.
- These responses are consistent with the frequency responses from Question 5.



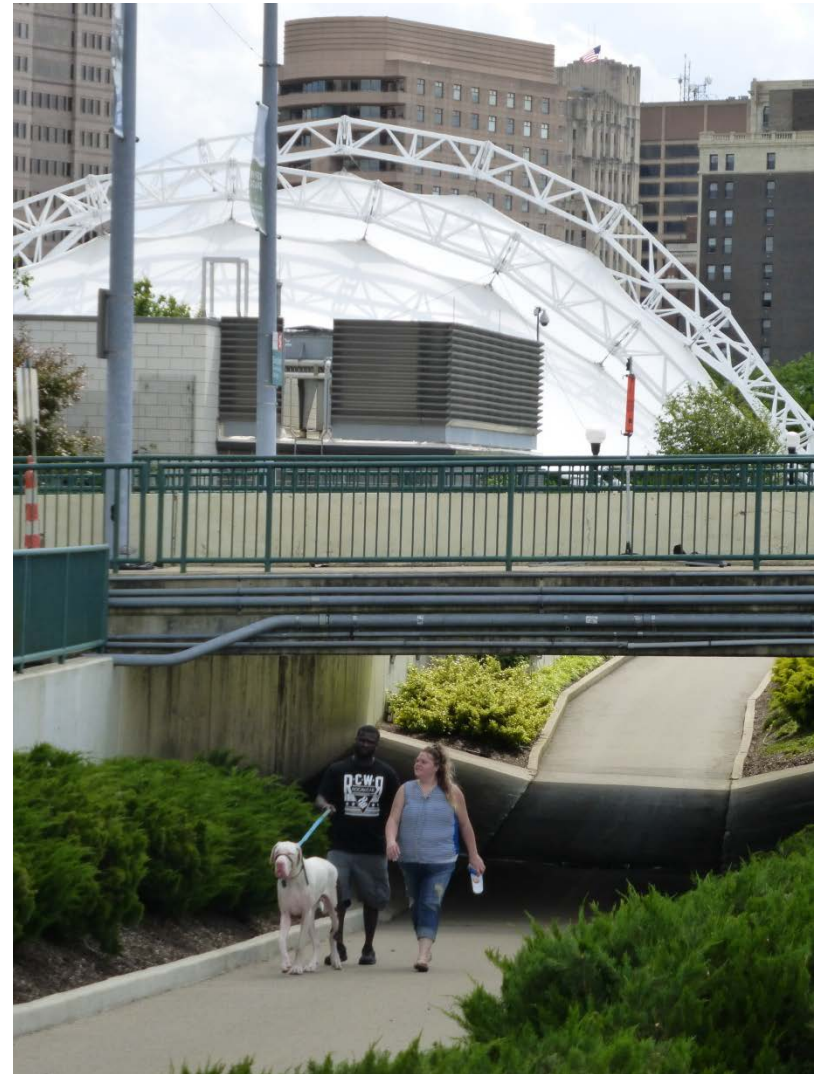
Question 7: How much time do you generally spend on the trail?

Length of Use by County, Region



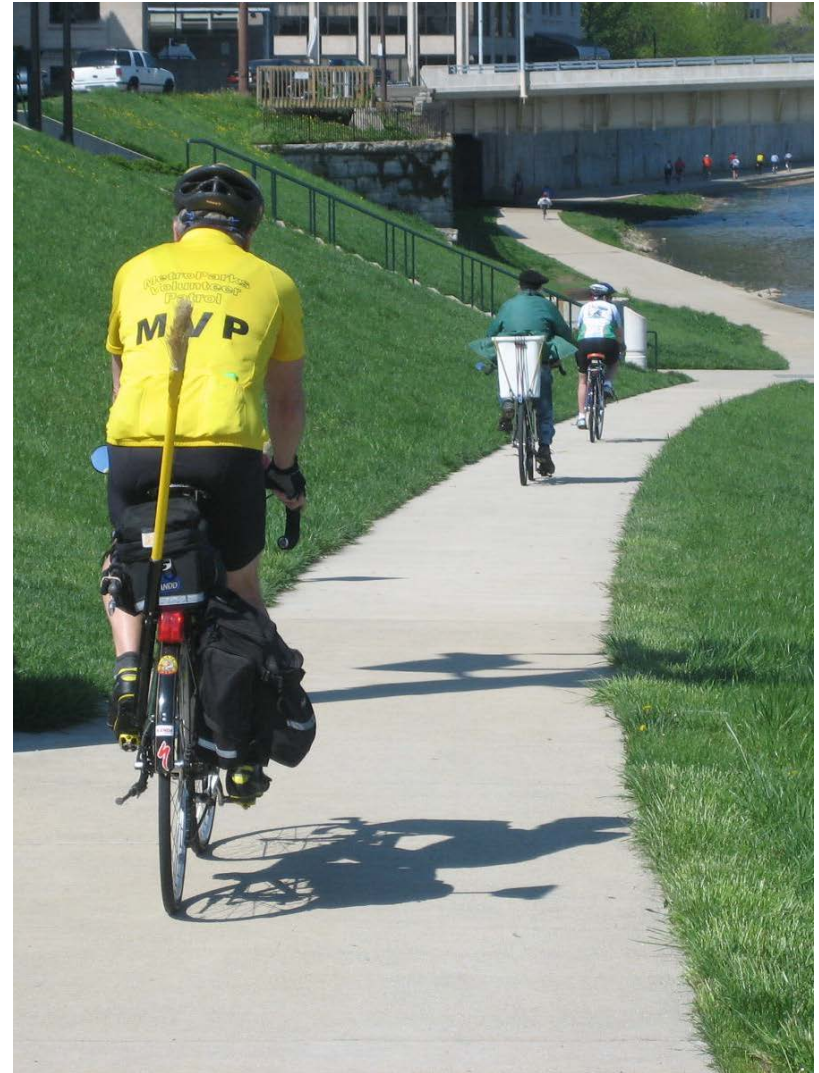
Question 7: How much time do you generally spend on the trail?

- Longer trail outings are preferred. More than 67% of respondents indicated trail visits of more than 1 or 2 hours.
 - Nearly identical responses in all past trail user surveys.
- The exception was Darke County, where disconnected trail segments and a preponderance of walkers correlate with shorter times on the trail (see Question 8).



Question 8: What is your primary activity on the trail?

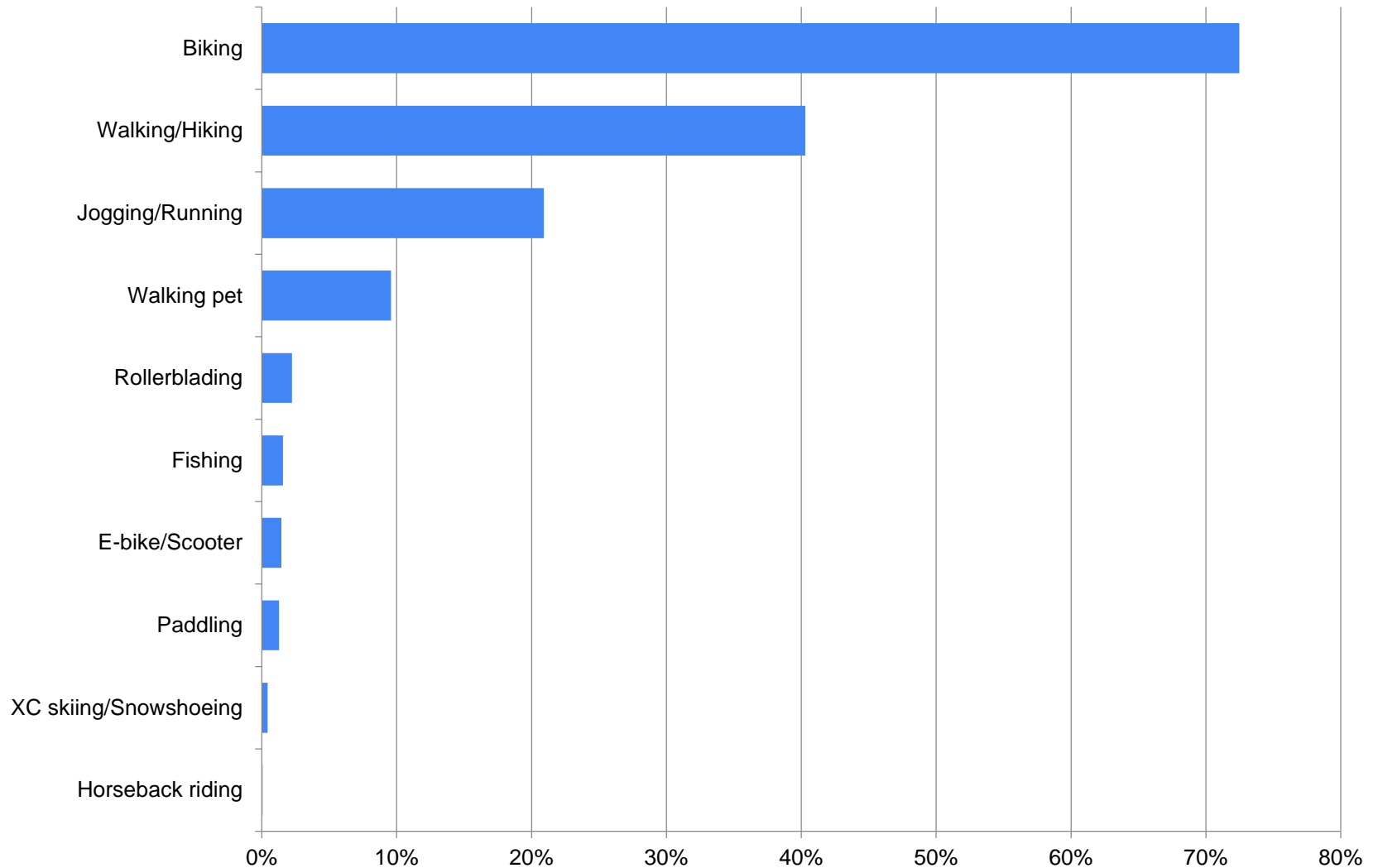
- As in past years, cycling dominates reported activity. Only in Darke County does walking come close to biking's popularity.
- The following slides provide the regional and county breakdowns of indicated activities.
- Note that respondents could choose multiple activities, so totals exceed 100%.



Question 8: Activities - Regional



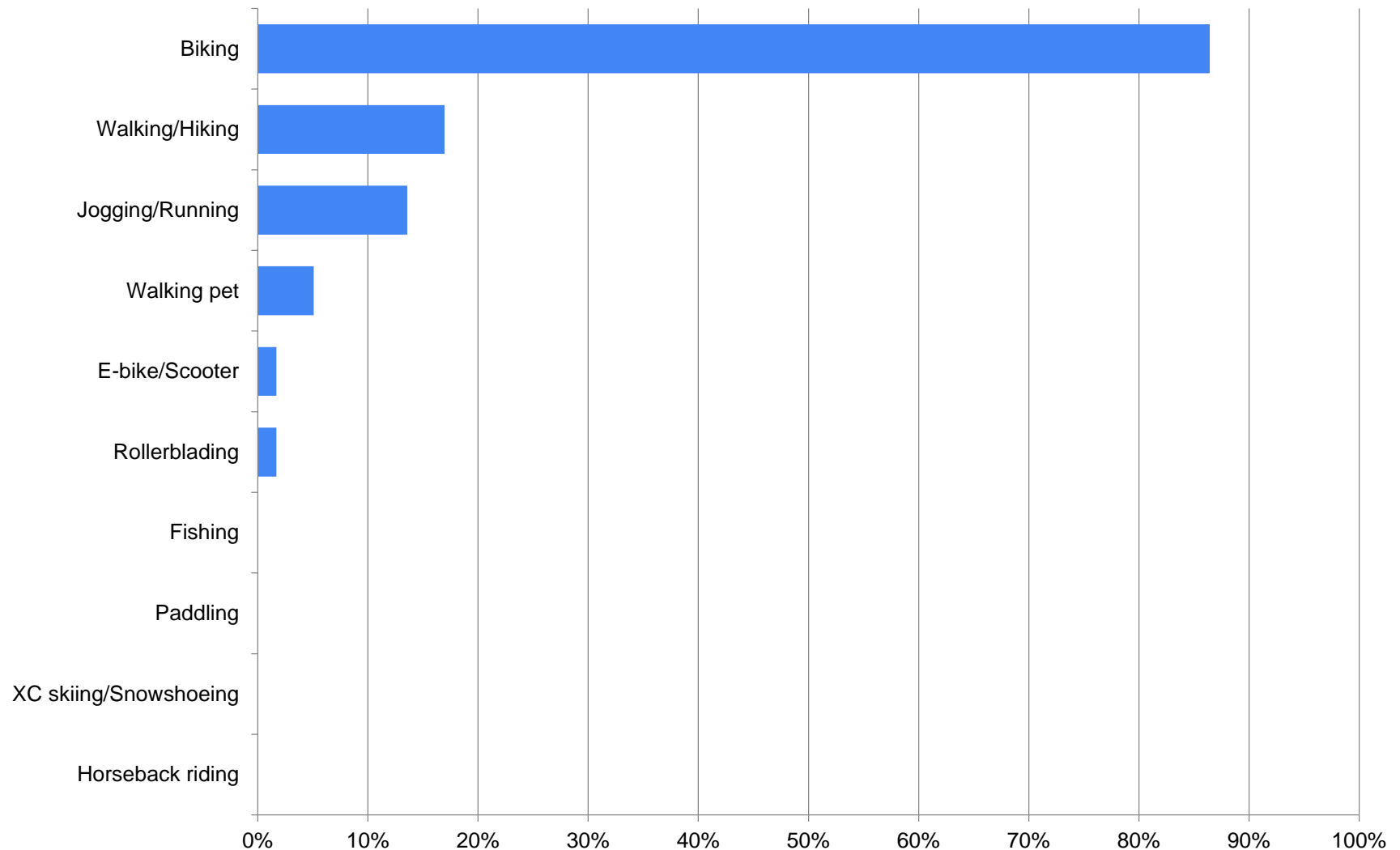
Regional Activities



Question 8: Activities – Butler County



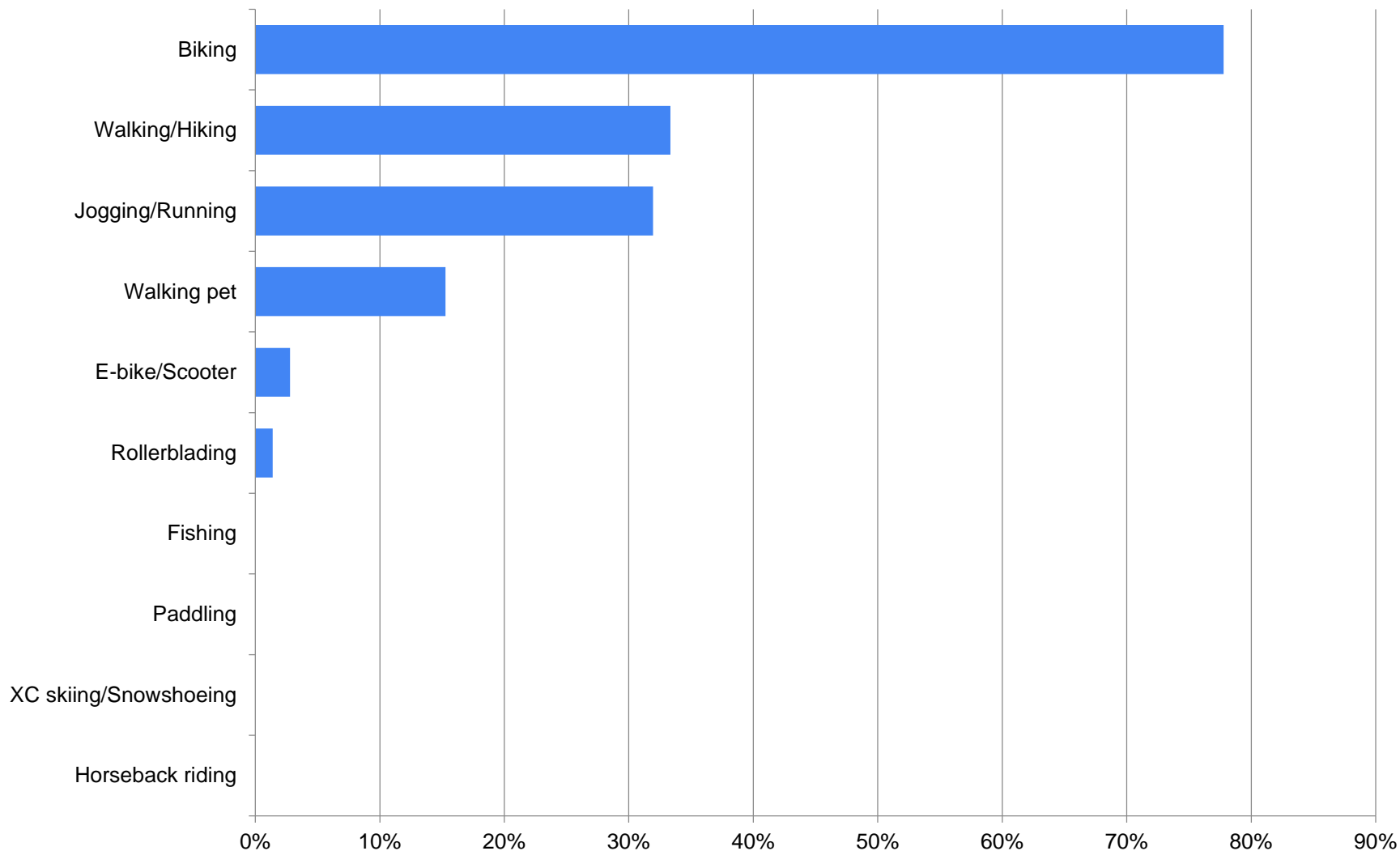
Butler County Activities



Question 8: Activities – Champaign County



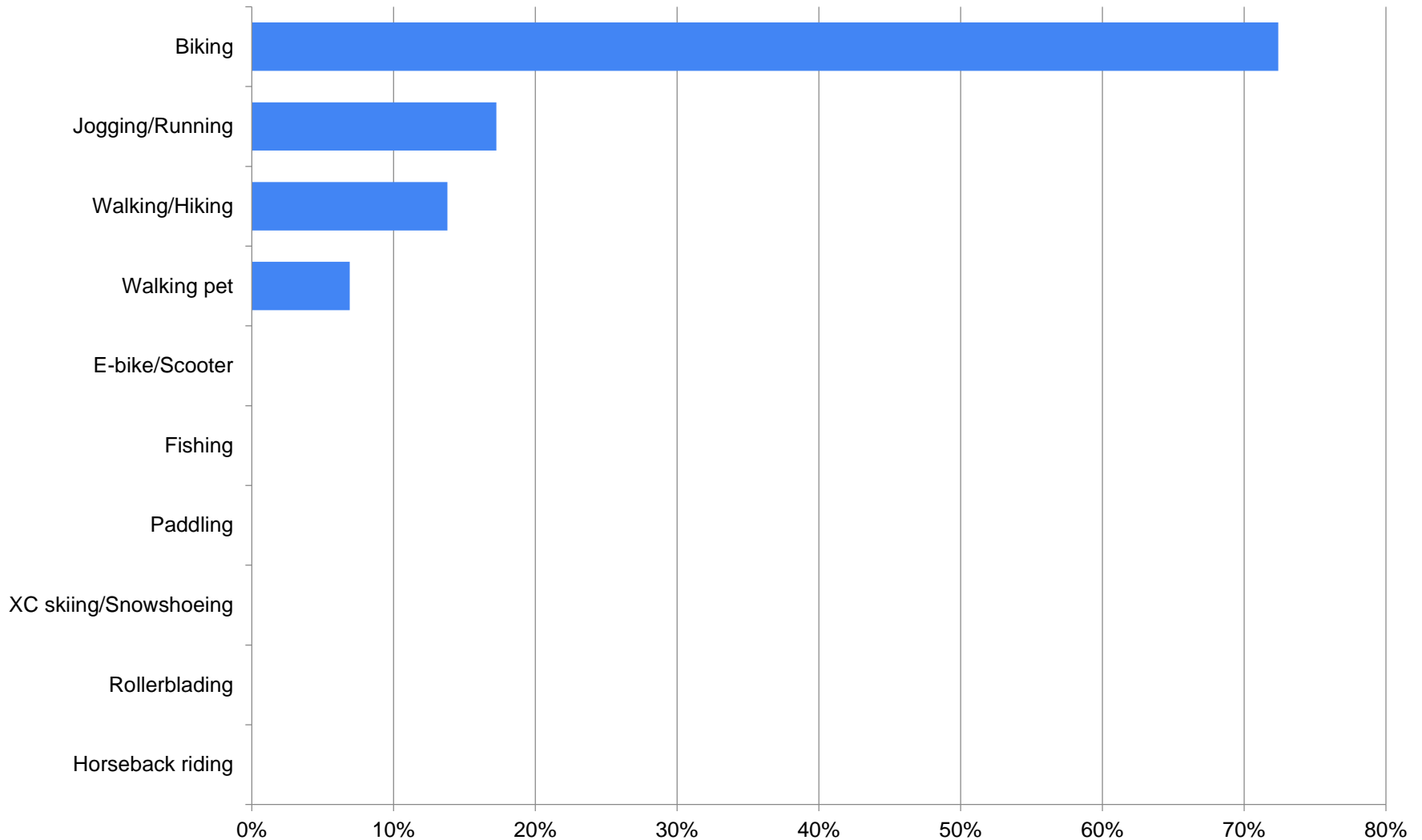
Champaign County Activities



Question 8: Activities – Logan County



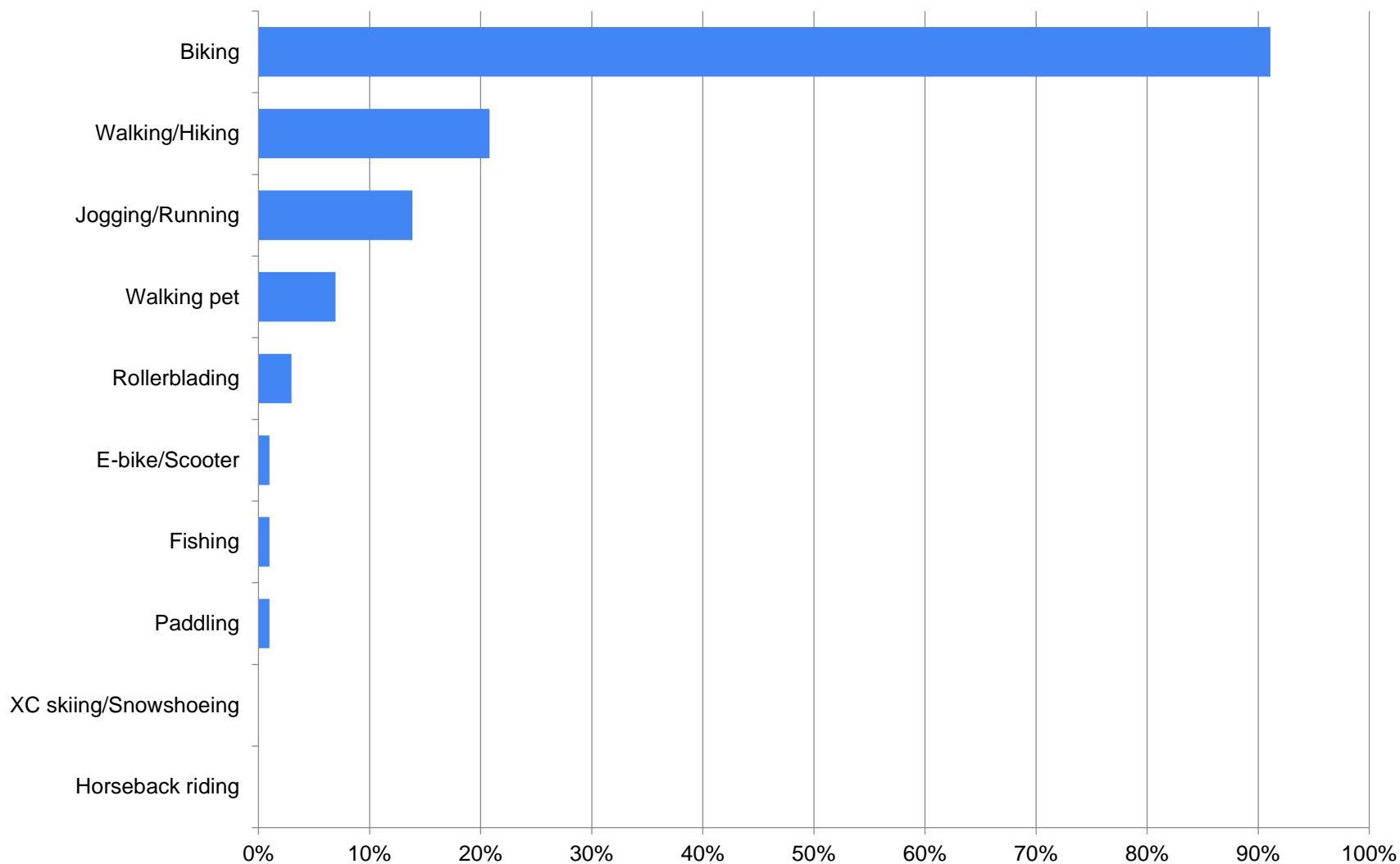
Logan County Activities



Question 8: Activities – Clark County



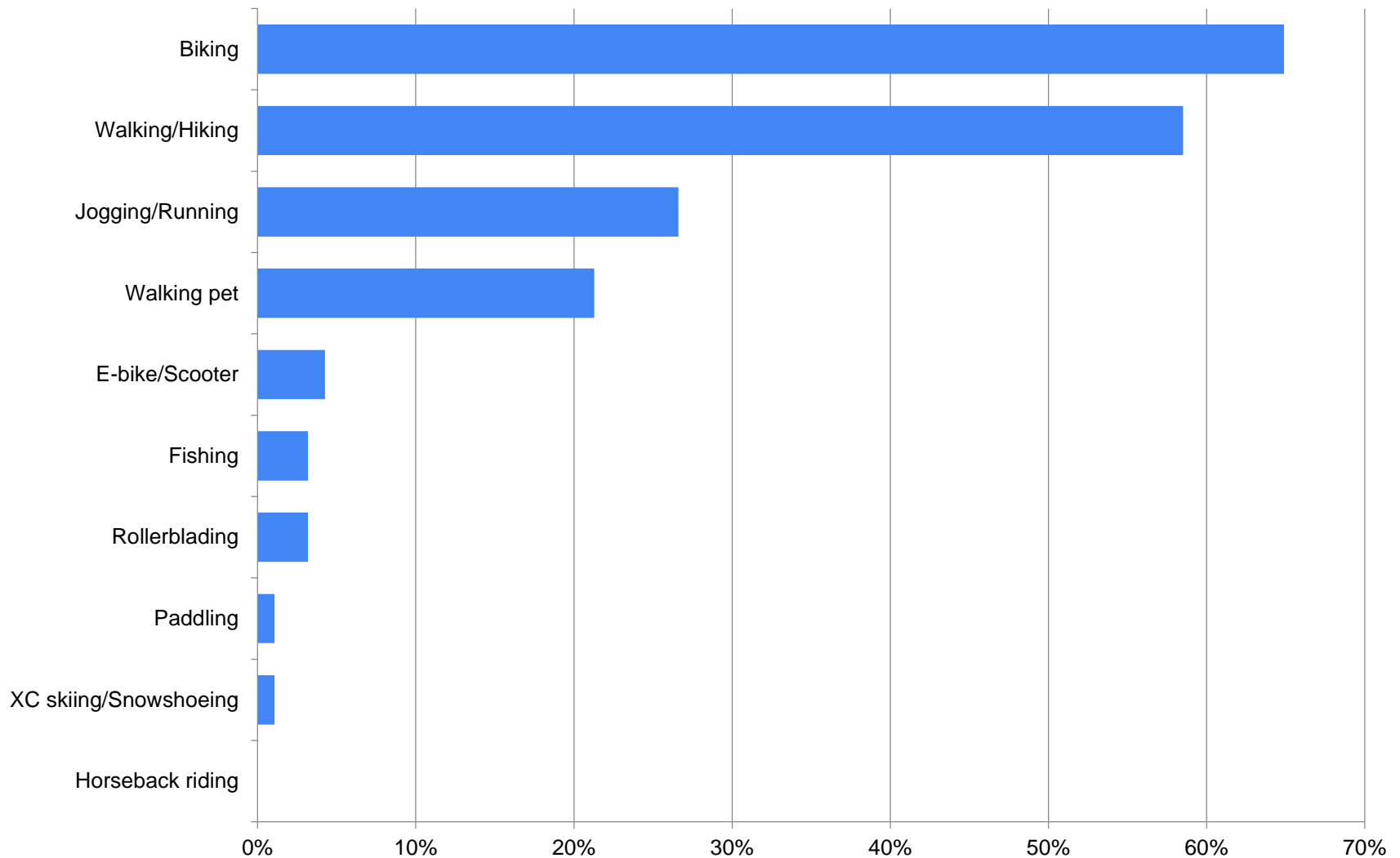
Clark County Activities



Question 8: Activities – Darke County



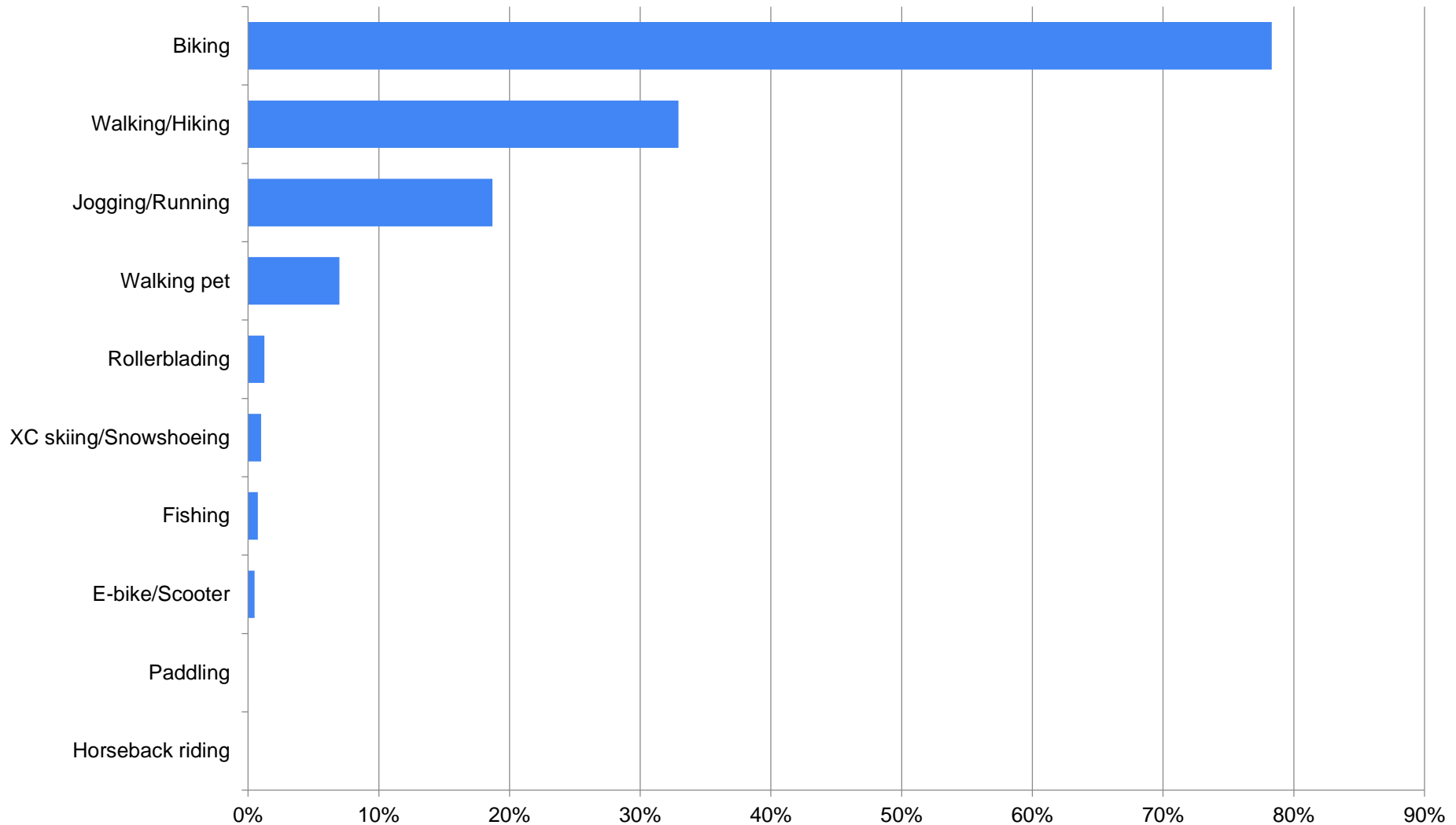
Darke County Activities



Question 8: Activities – Greene County



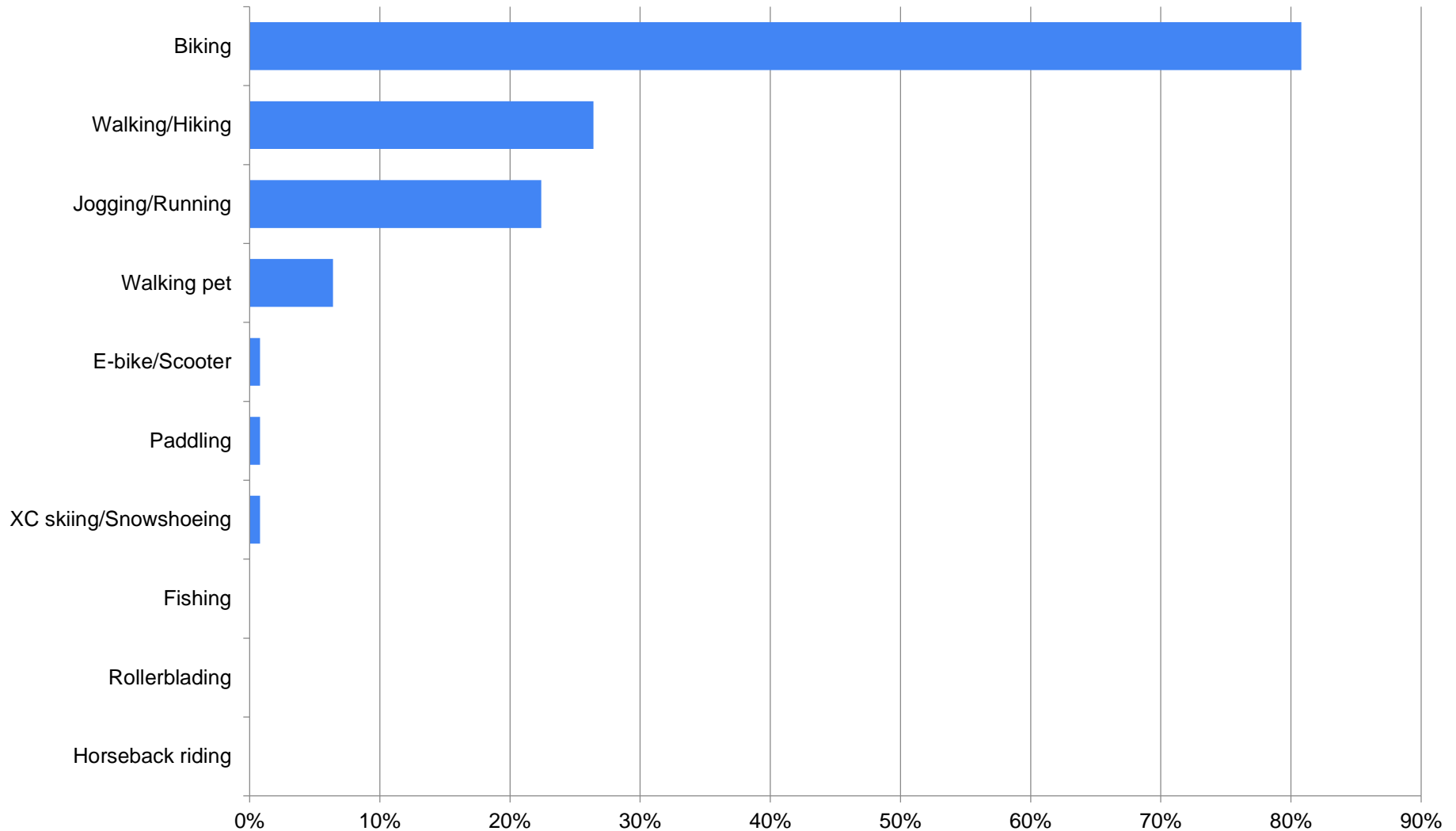
Greene County Activities



Question 8: Activities – Miami County



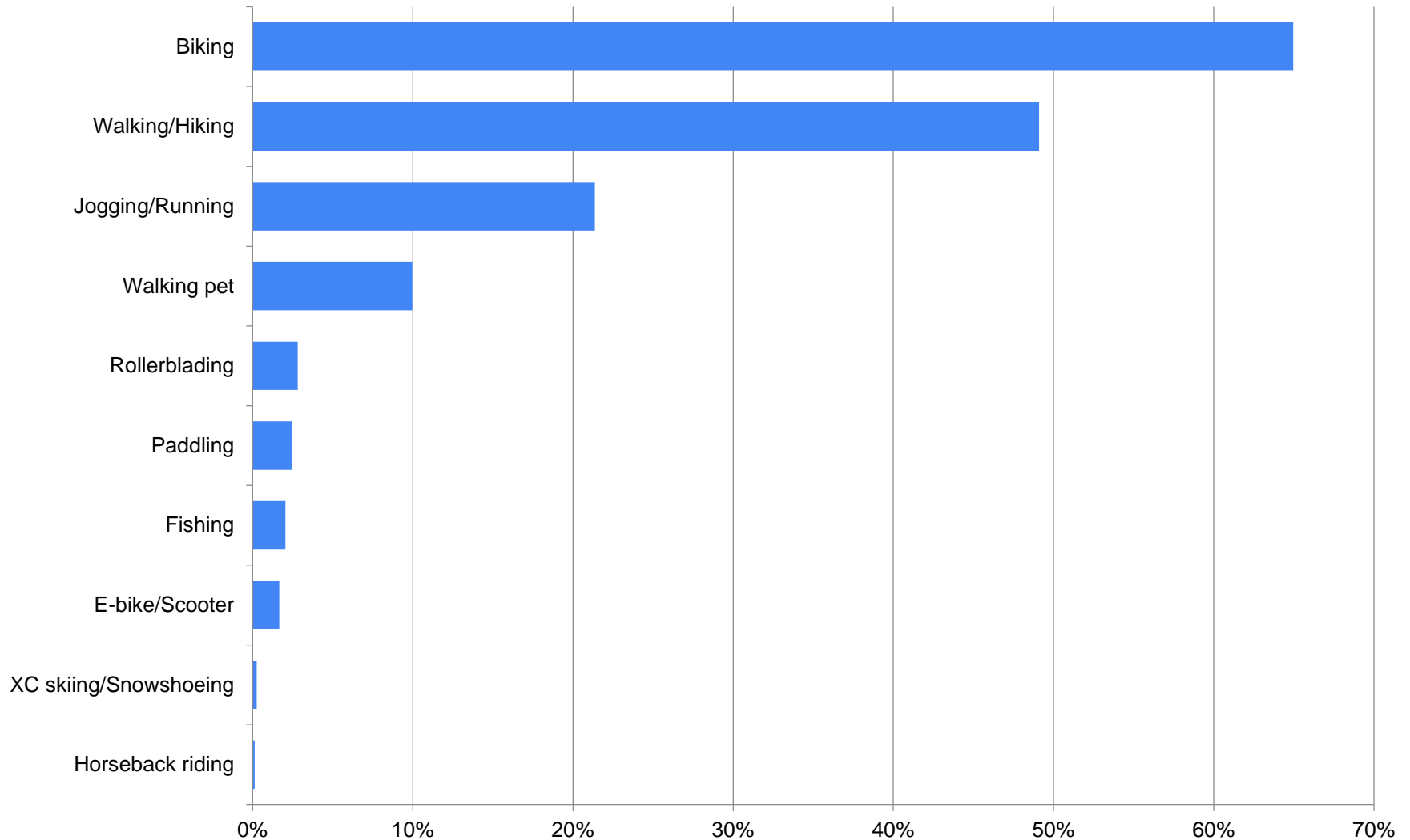
Miami County Activities



Question 8: Activities – Montgomery County



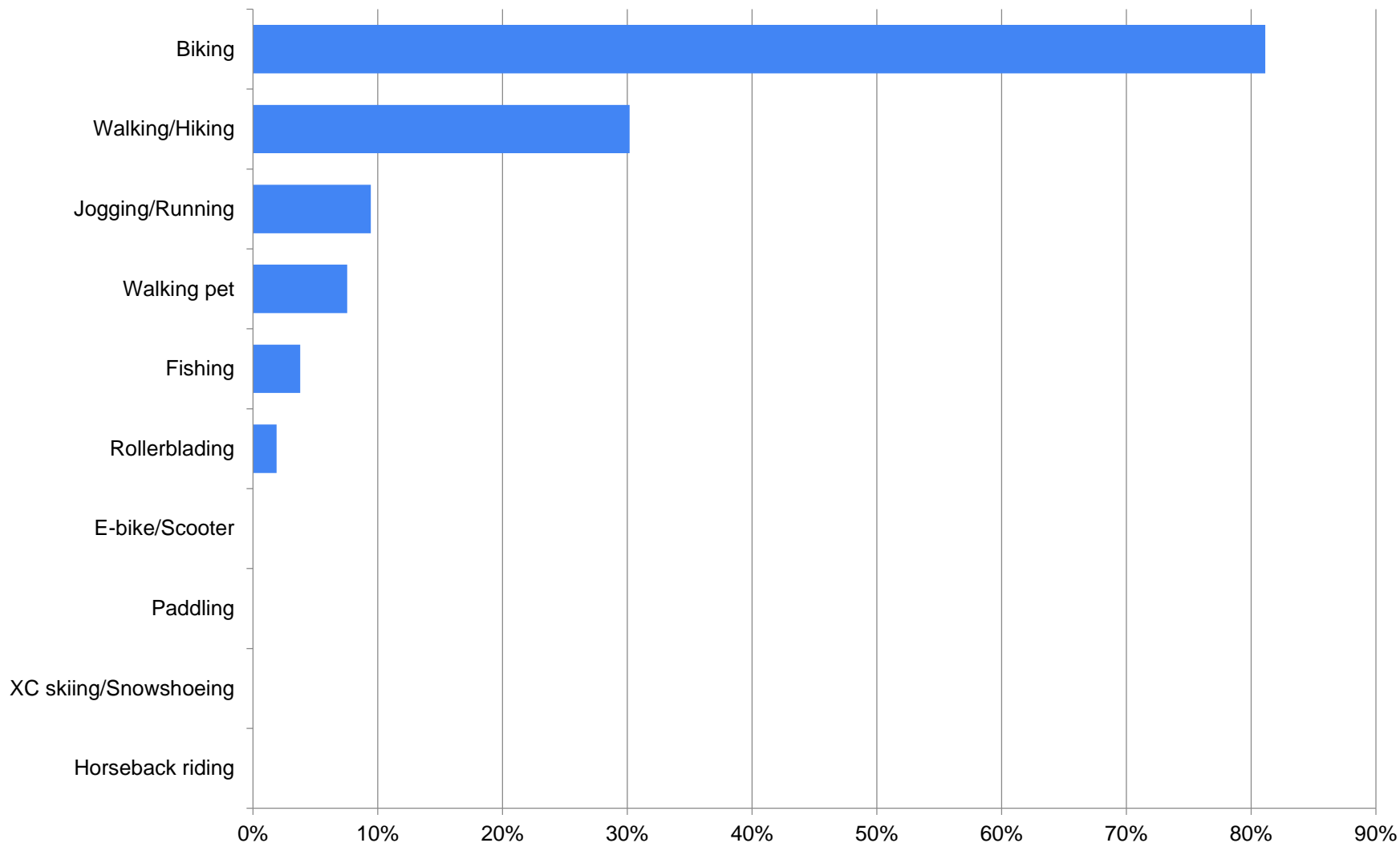
Montgomery County Activities



Question 8: Activities – Warren County



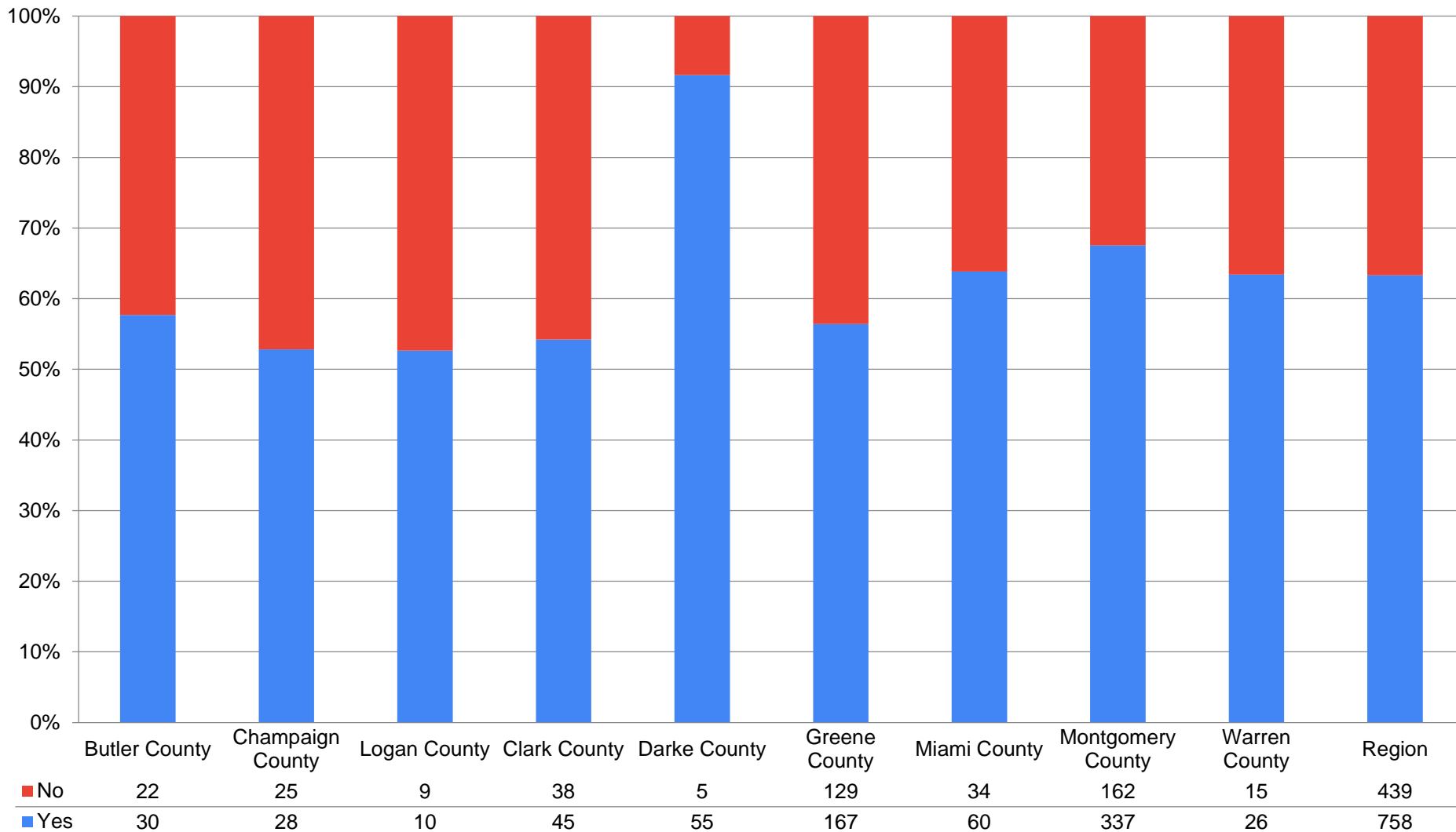
Warren County Activities



Question 9: Do you also bike on roads?

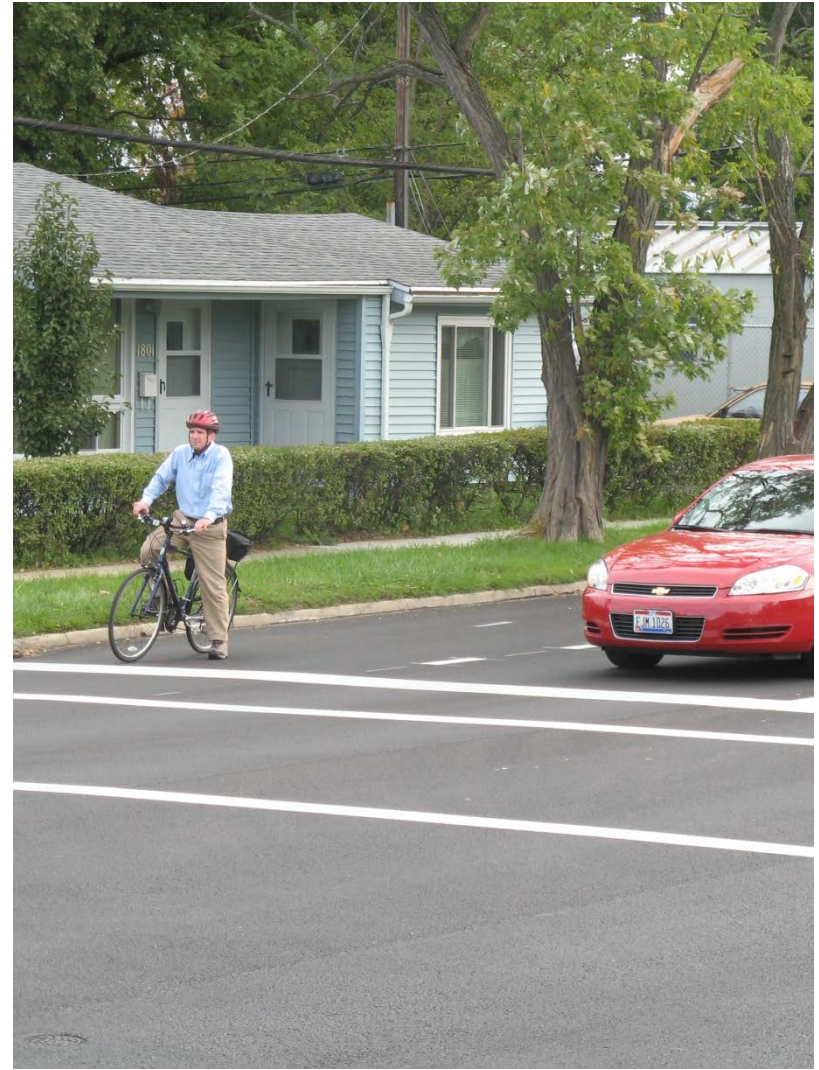


Road Cycling by County, Region



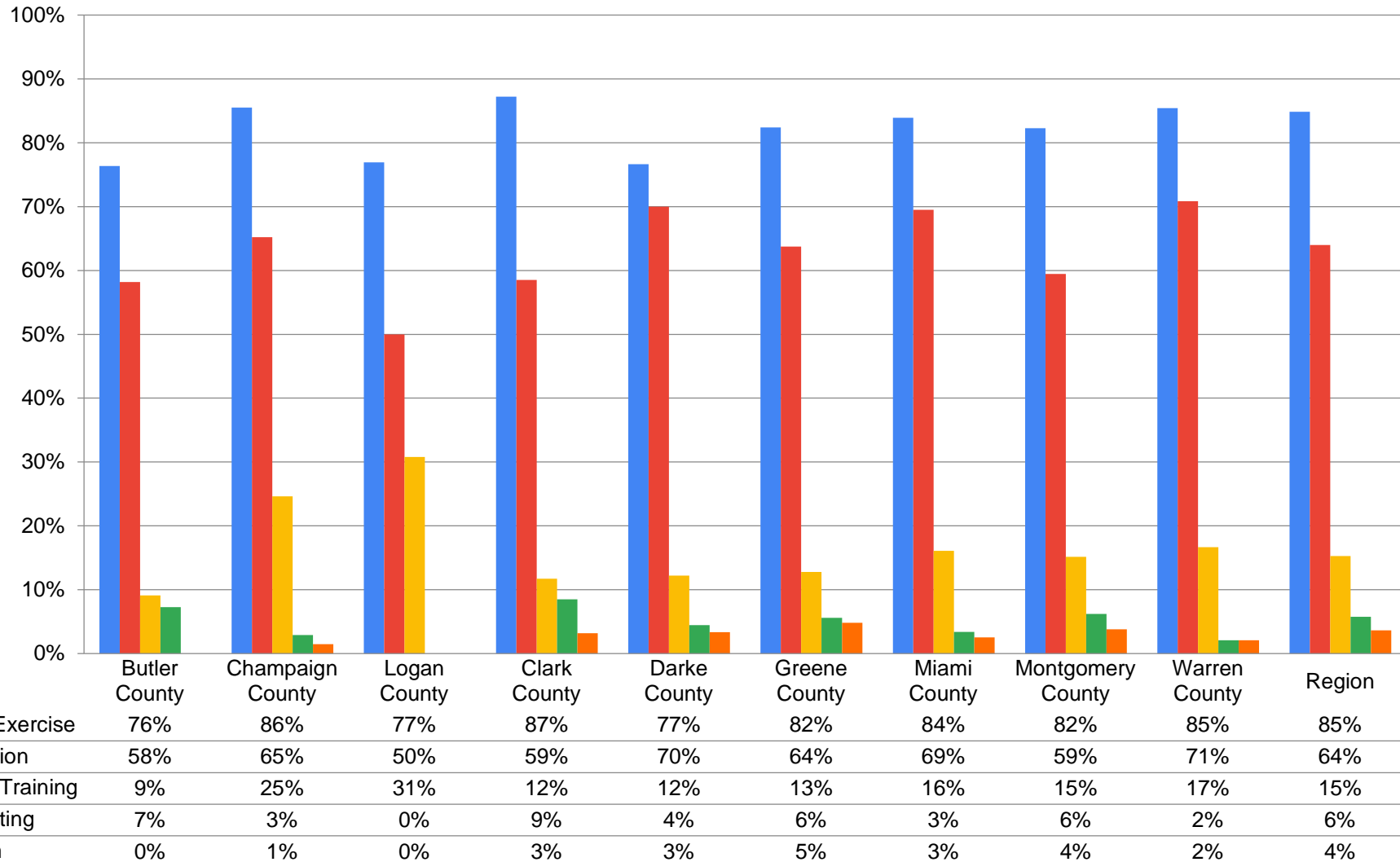
Question 9: Do you also bike on roads?

- Across the region, more than 63% of trail cyclists also bike on roads.
 - 61.5% reported road cycling in 2017.
- Only responses from Question 8 that indicated “**Biking**” was one of their trail activities are reported here.
- In Darke County, where the trail routes alternate between shared use paths and road routes, the high rate of road cycling is understandable.



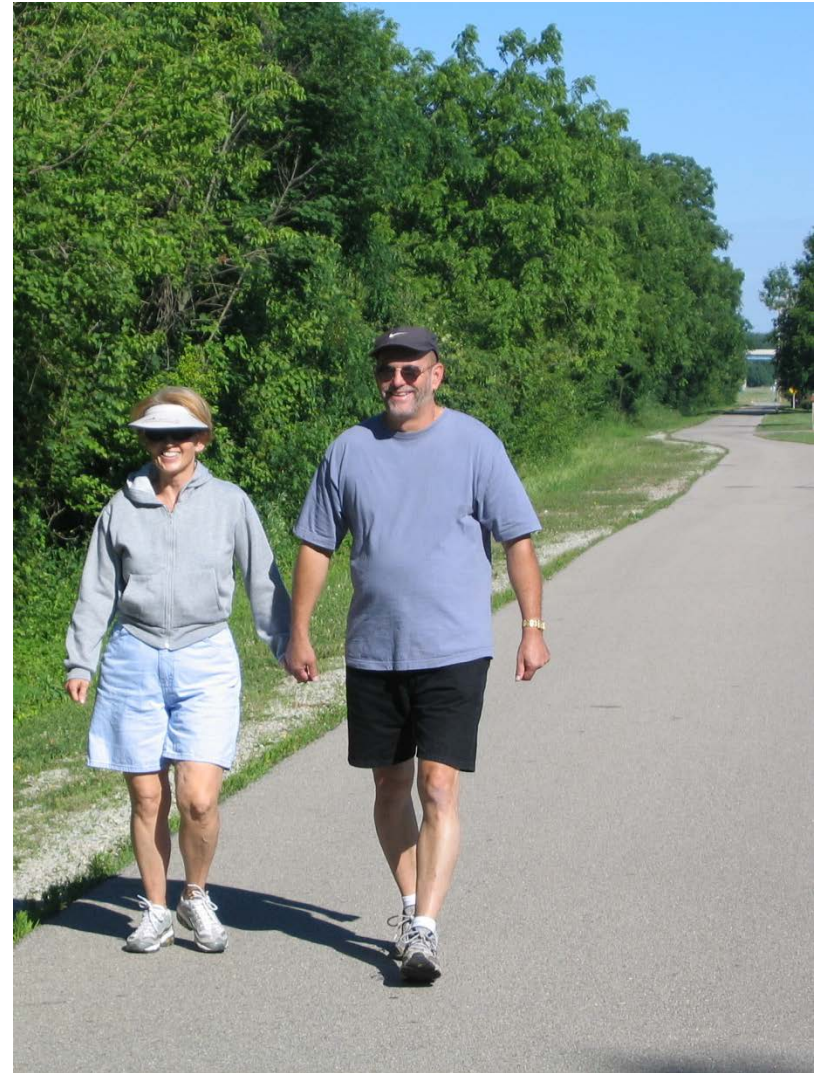
Question 10: What is your primary purpose for trail use?

Primary Purpose by County, Region



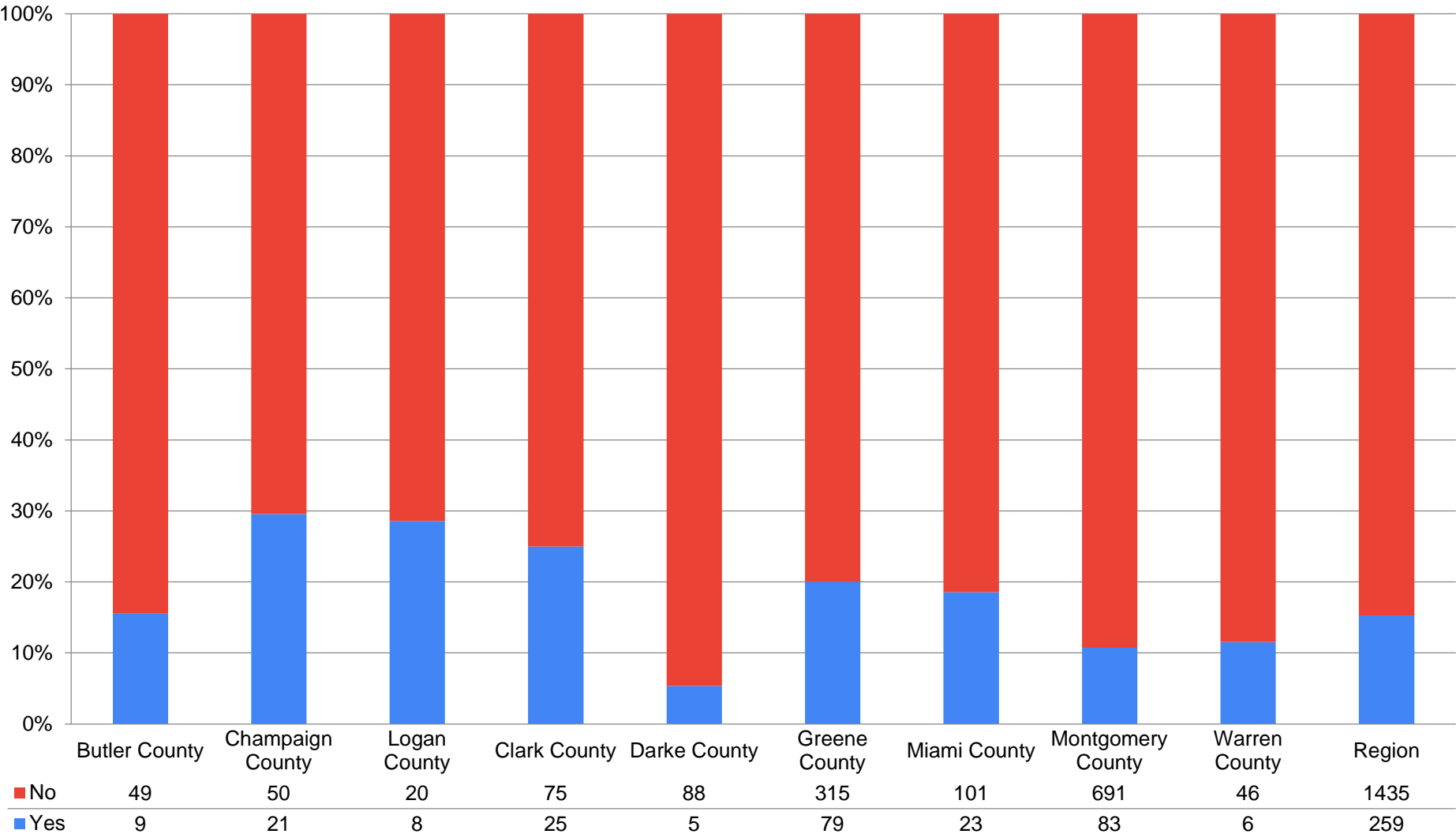
Question 10: What is your primary purpose for trail use?

- 75% or more of all respondents in all counties indicated health and exercise were among their primary purposes for trail use.
 - Health & Exercise was also the top choice in all past surveys.
- “Other” responses included indications that some regard the trails as important for mental health.
- Commuting was included in 6% of responses.



Question 11: Are you a member of a club that uses the trails?

Club Association by County, Region



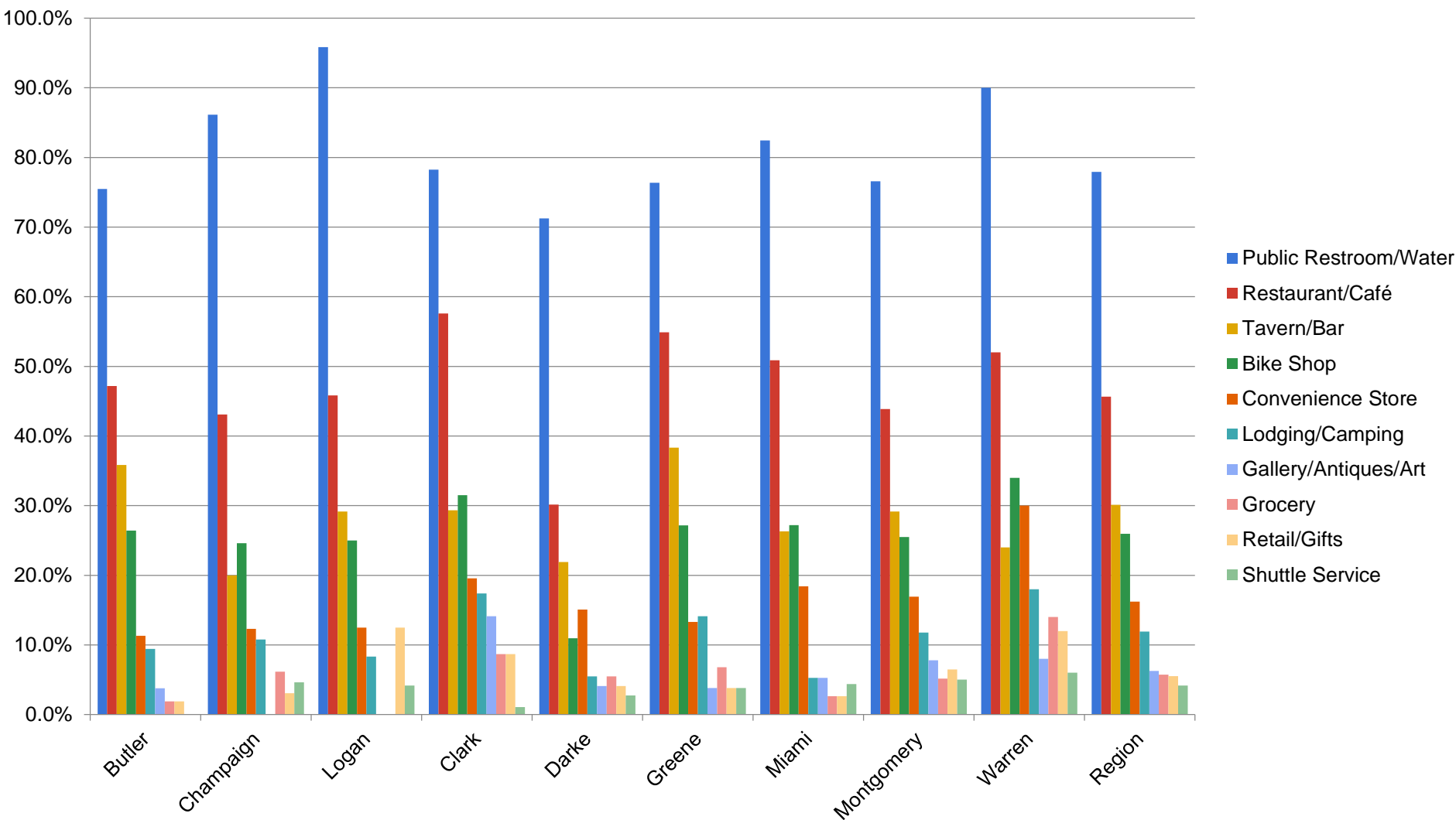
Question 11: Are you a member of a club that uses the trails?

- Overall, just over 15% of trail users reported being a member of a trail-using club.
 - This is the highest rate of any trail user survey.
 - “Yes” responses to this question have increased in every survey.
- Among those who answered “yes,” common responses included:
 - Dayton Cycling Club
 - Simon Kenton Pathfinders
 - Bike Miami Valley and Chapters
 - Major Taylor Cycling Club of Dayton
 - Various Running Clubs
 - Rails-to-Trails



Question 12: What services/amenities are you looking for along the trails?

Desired Amenities by County, Region



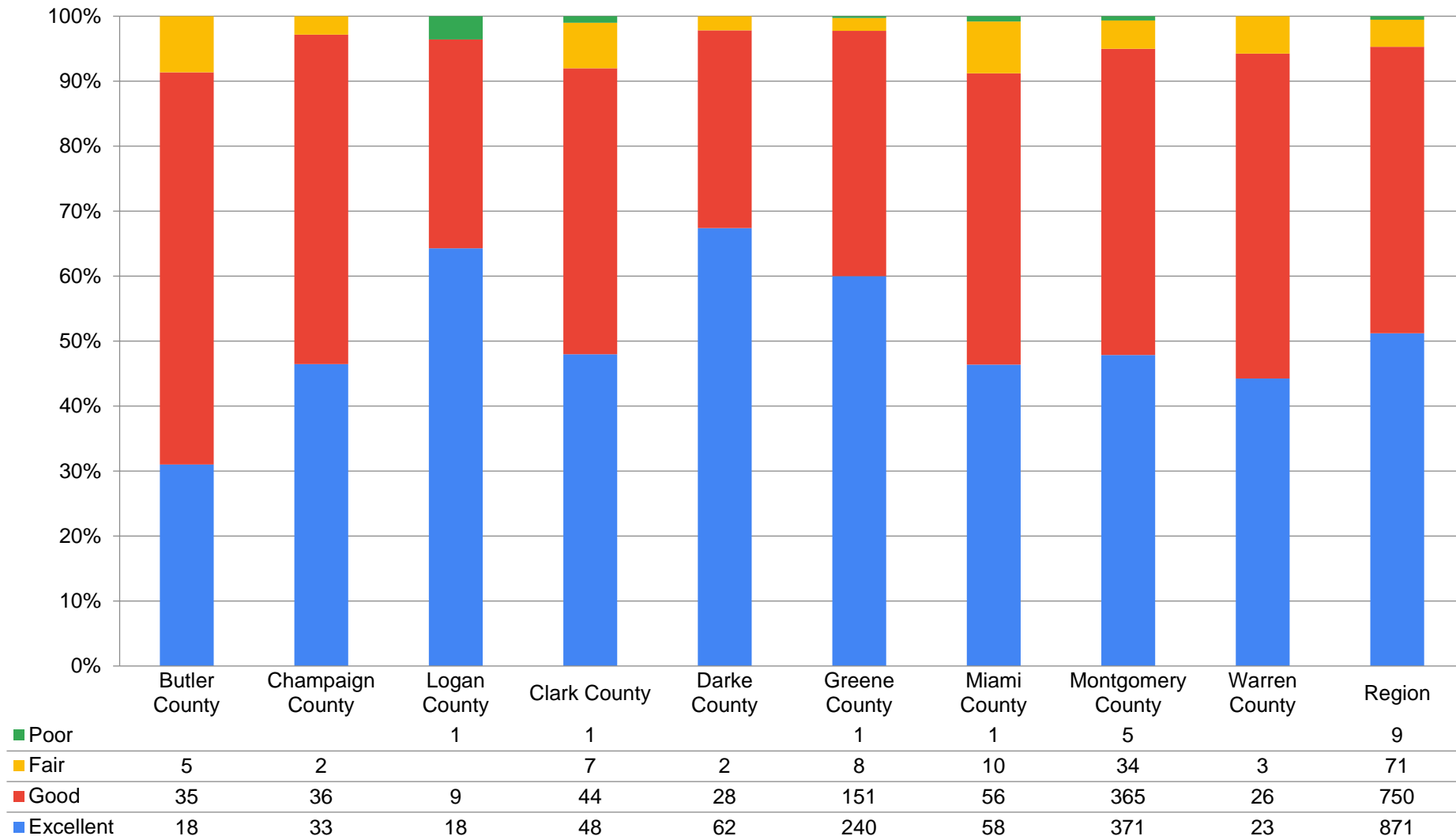
Question 12: What services/amenities are you looking for along the trails?

- This is a new question for 2021.
- By far, the most desired brick-and-mortar amenities along the trails are restrooms and drinking water.
- Between a third and half of respondents expressed interest in restaurants or taverns.
- Bike shops were of interest to 25% of respondents, and Convenience stores were indicated by 1 in 6 responses.
 - All other forms of “retail” development garnered less than 7% of responses.
- Shuttle services were of little interest.



Question 13: Opinion of Trail Maintenance

Opinion of Maintenance by County, Region



Question 13: Opinion of Trail Maintenance

- As in all past surveys, over 95% of respondents reported trail maintenance to be “Excellent” or “Good.”
- Over 90% of respondents in all 9 counties responded “Excellent” or “Good.”



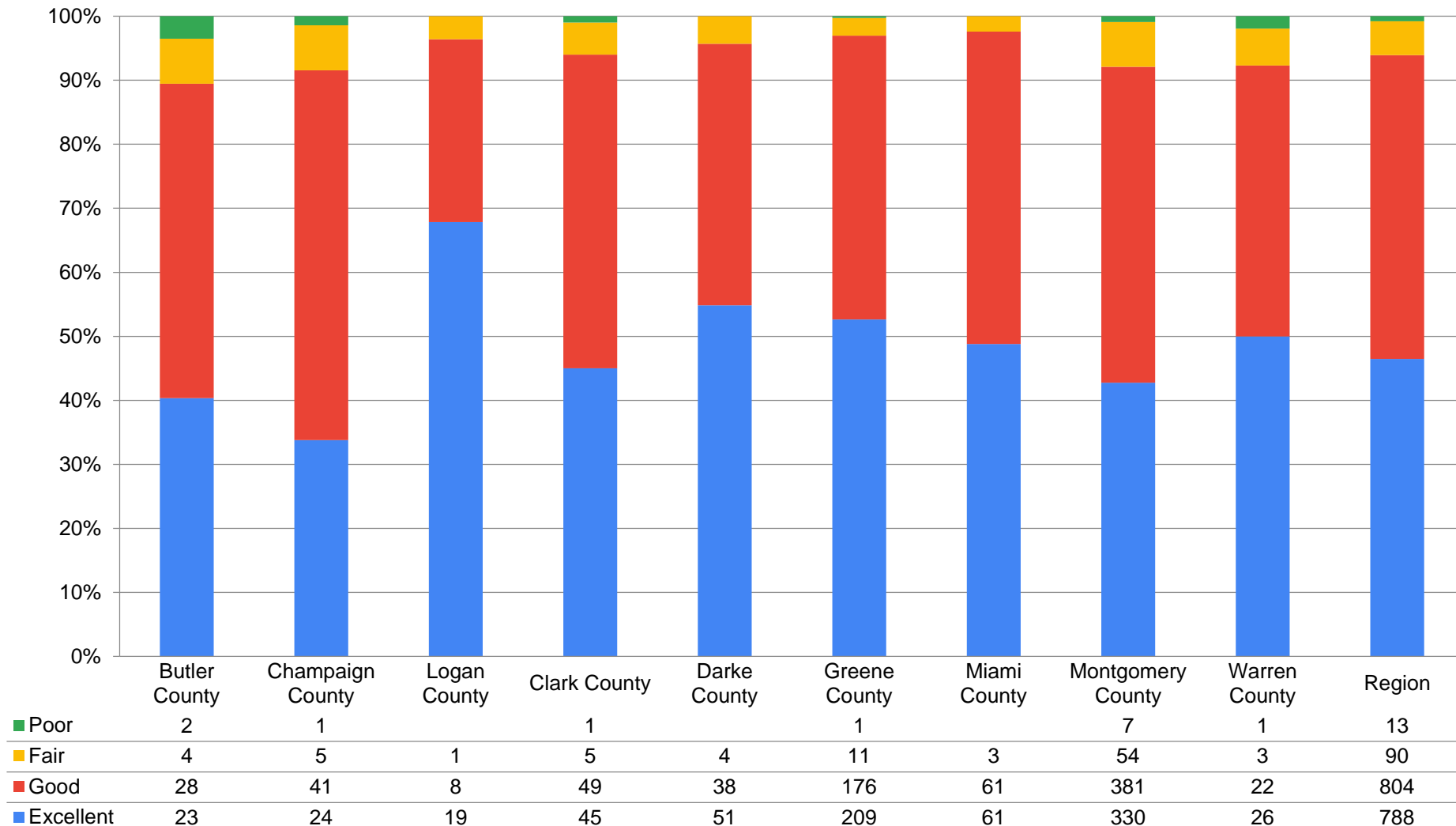
Image: Zephyr Adventures



Question 14: Opinion of Trail Safety and Security



Opinion of Safety and Security by County, Region



Question 14: Opinion of Trail Safety and Security

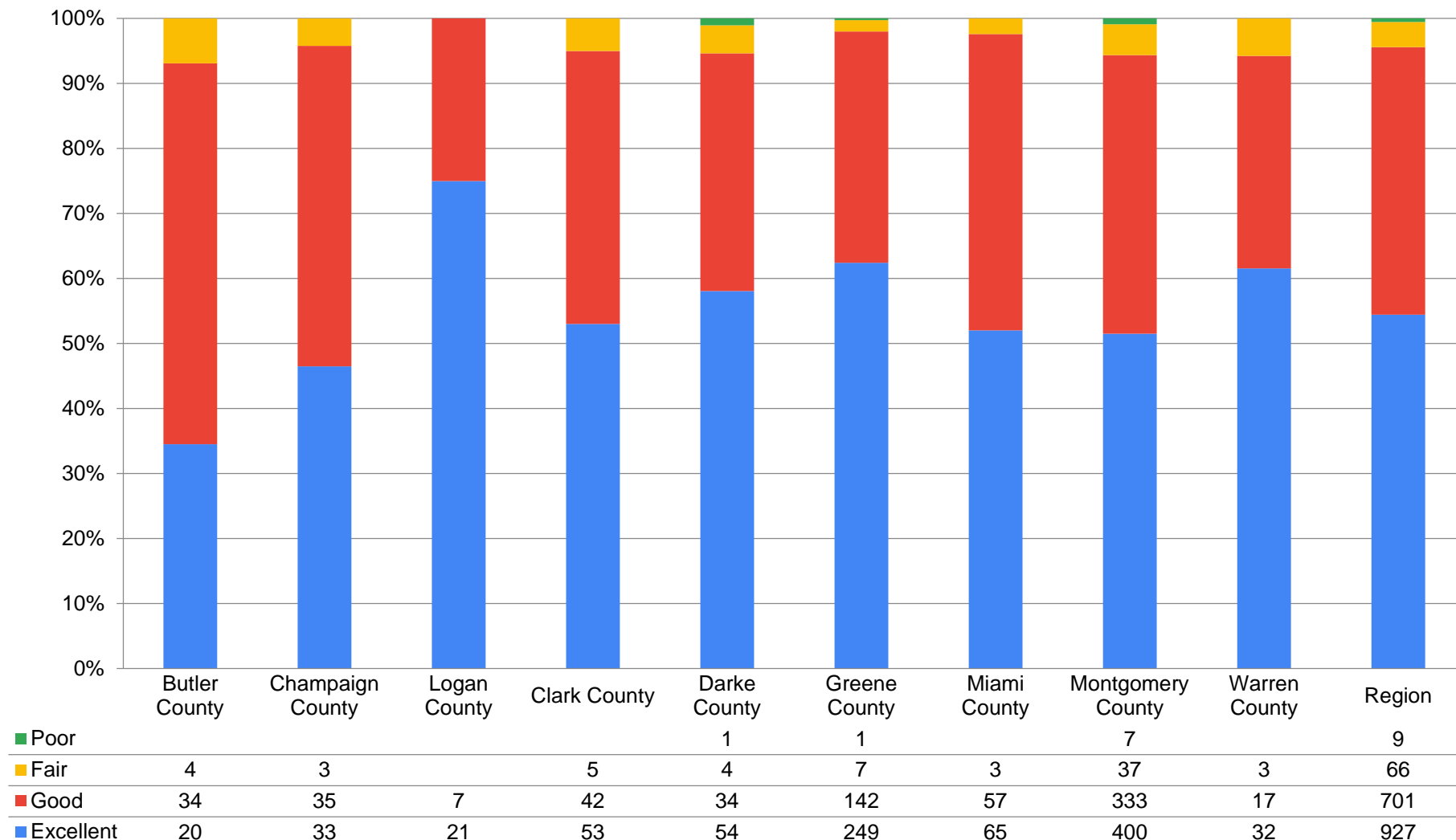
- As in past surveys 94% of respondents reported safety and security along the trail to be “Excellent” or “Good.”
- “Excellent” or “Good” responses totaled more than 90% in 8 of 9 counties.
- No significant difference in response to this question by gender. “Excellent” and “Good” responses from 92.6% of females and 94.8% of males.



Question 15: Opinion of Trail Cleanliness



Opinion of Cleanliness by County, Region



Question 15: Opinion of Trail Cleanliness

- As with past surveys, over 95% of respondents for the region reported cleanliness to be “Excellent” or “Good.”
- “Excellent” or “Good” responses totaled more than 90% in all 9 counties.



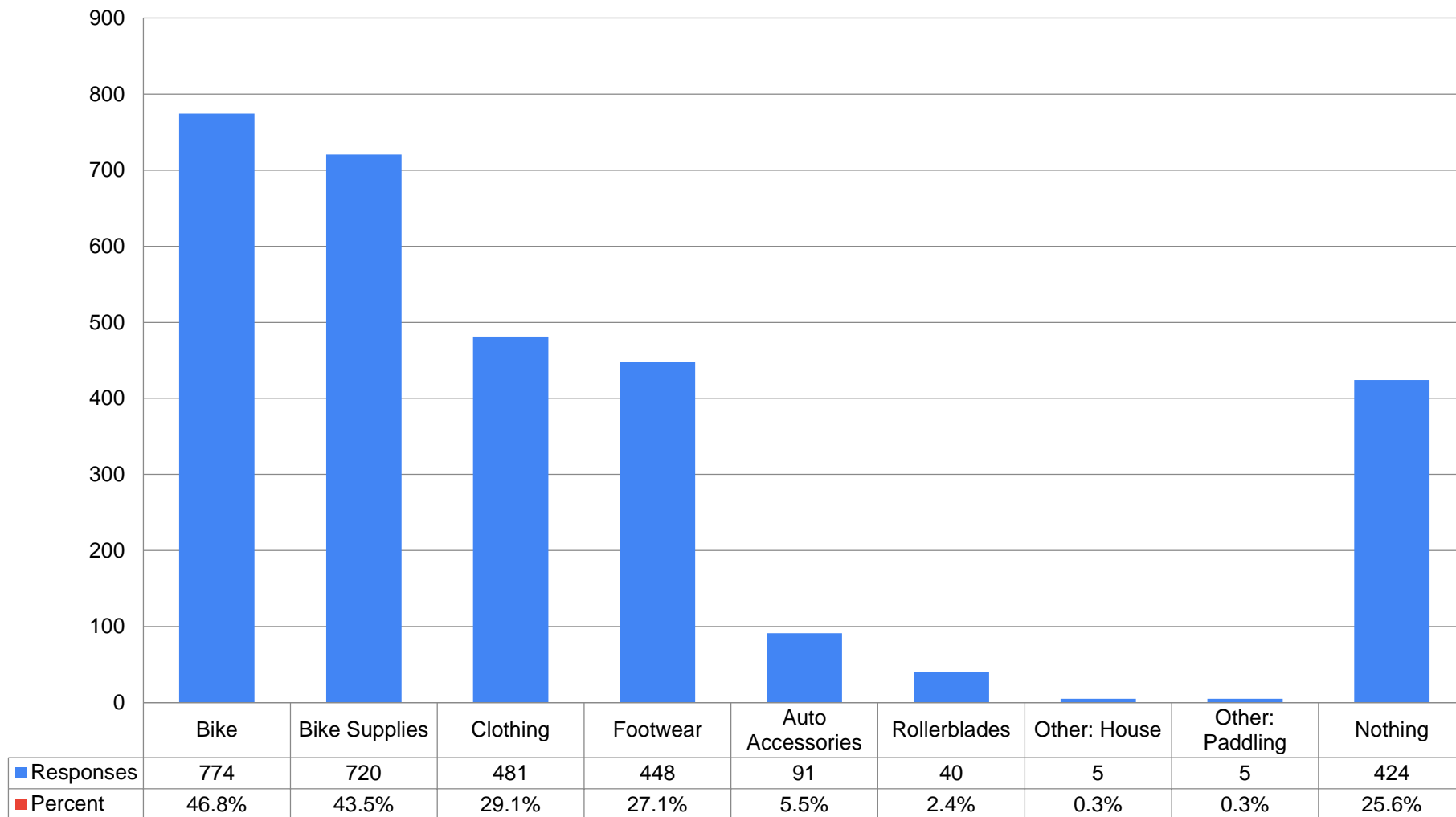


Economic Impact Findings

Question 16: Has use of the trail influenced your purchase of...



Hard Goods Purchases, Region



Question 16: Has use of the trail influenced your purchase of...

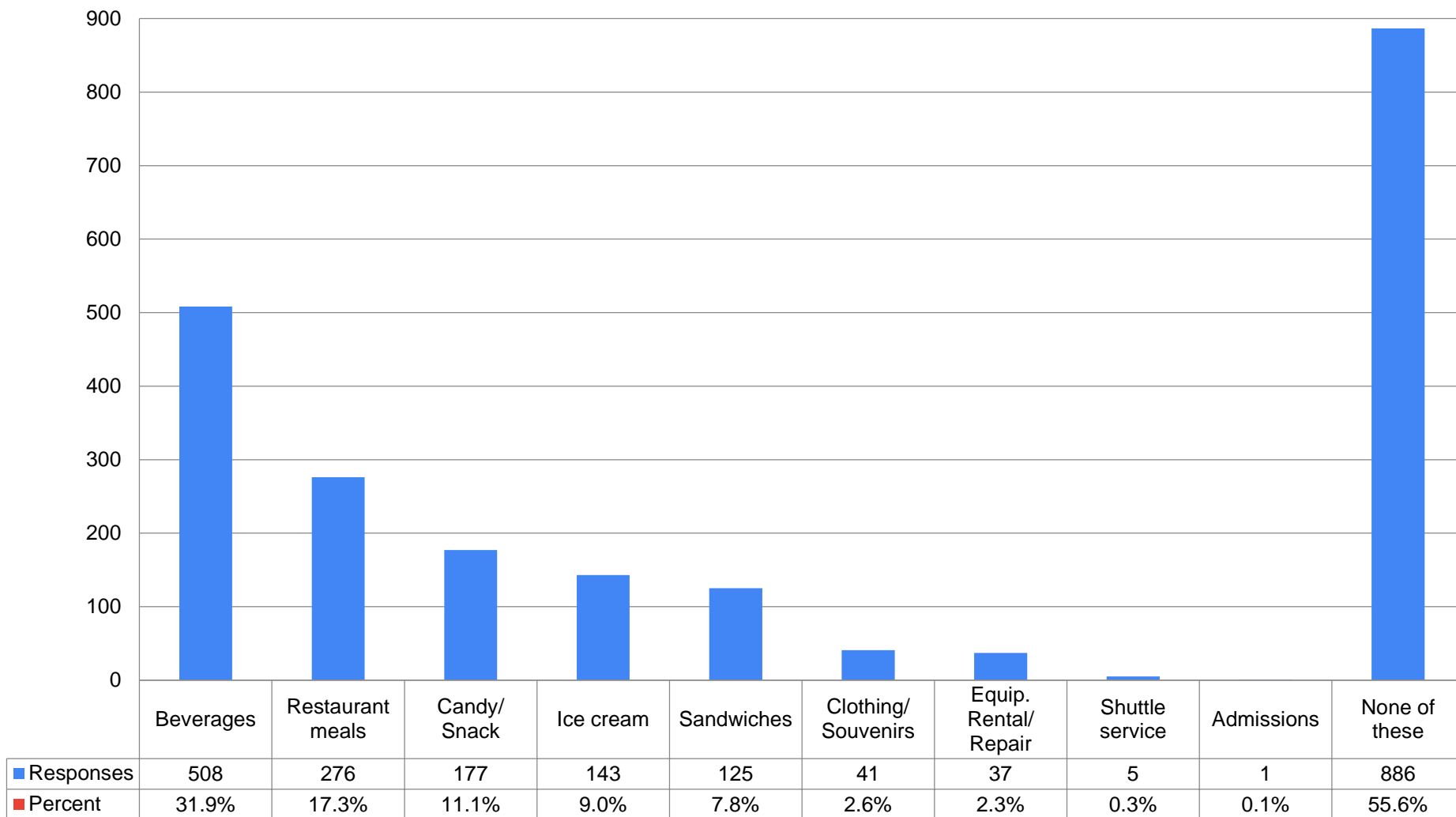
- Over 40% of responses included either “Bike” or “Bike supplies.”
- Excluding responses above \$10,000, the average reported spending was \$694.29.
- “Nothing” response rate was 25.9%.
Conversely, this means that just over 74% of trail users indicate that they have made purchases related to their trail use. This figure is reflected in the table on page 57.



Question 17: Did you purchase any of the following today?



Soft Goods Purchases, Region



Question 17: Did you purchase any of the following today?

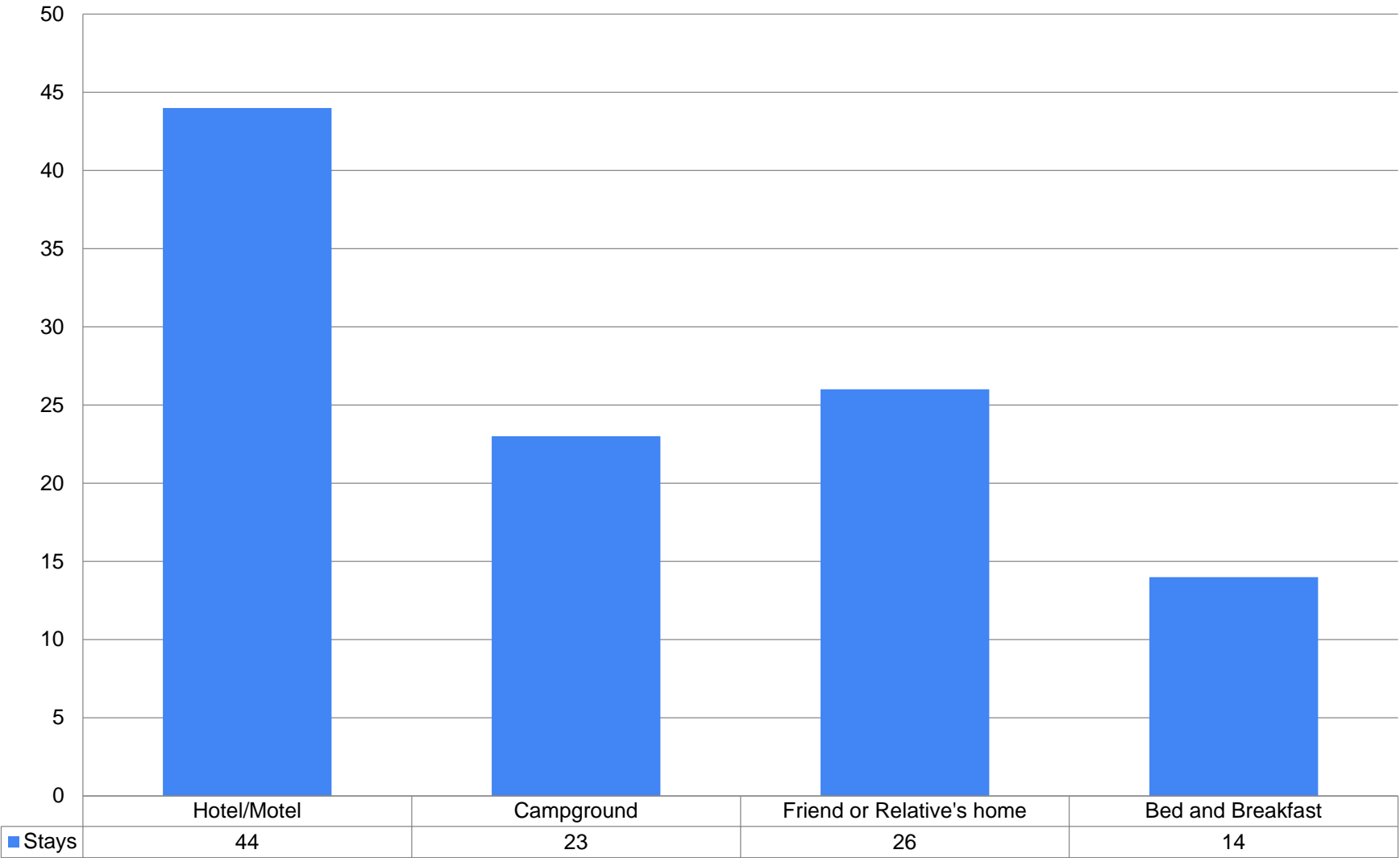
- Food and beverage represents the overwhelming majority of responses among those who did make a purchase.
- Average reported spending was \$14.13 per person.
- “None of these” response rate was 55.6%. Conversely, this means that 44.4% of trail users reported making a purchase of some kind in connection with the trail visit when they took the survey. This figure is captured in the table on page 57.



Question 18: Did your visit include an overnight stay in one of the following...



Overnight Stays, Region



Question 18: Did your visit include an overnight stay in one of the following...

- About 1 in 13 trail survey respondents (7.6%) indicated they had or would make an overnight stay related to their trail use. This figure is captured in the table on page 57.
 - There were 1,414 responses (92.4%) indicating “no overnight stay.”
- Average reported length of stay was 2.9 nights.
- Average reported spending per night was \$120.



Data Analyses

	Data Source (Question)	Analysis	
Hard Goods % Usage	16	1 – (percent of “Nothing”)	74.1%
Hard Goods Avg. Spending	16-A	Avg. of responses greater than zero	\$694.29
Soft Goods % Usage	17	1 – (percent with no response)	44.4%
Soft Goods Avg. Spending	17-A	Avg. of responses greater than 0 and less than \$100	\$14.13
Overnight Stay % Usage	18	Percent of all responses that indicated an overnight stay	7.6%
Overnight Stay Avg. Cost	18-B	Avg. of responses greater than zero	\$120
Avg. # of nights	18-A	Average of responses between 1-99	2.9
Avg. # of trips per trail user per year	5	Calculation of overall average based upon weighted frequency responses (assumes seasonal use, i.e. less use in Winter)	12
Total Trail Visits Per Year	Trail User Tallies	Extrapolations made from weekday and weekend counts to a full year.	733,000
Unique Trail Users	7	The range of annual trail visits (from agency counts/estimate) divided by average number of trips per trail user per year.	60,100



Calculated Economic Impact



					Annual Visits		
					623,050	733,000	842,950
Category	% Usage	Avg. \$	Avg. Life	# of Trips			
Hard Goods	74.1%	\$694.29	6 years	8.7	\$6,140,610	\$7,224,247	\$8,307,884
Soft Goods	44.4%	\$14.13			\$3,908,841	\$4,598,637	\$5,288,432
					Unique Trail Visitors		
					51,100	60,100	69,100
Category	% Usage	Avg. \$		Avg. of Nights			
Overnight Stays	7.60%	\$120.00		2.9	\$1,351,493	\$1,589,525	\$1,827,557
TOTAL					\$11,400,944	\$13,412,409	\$15,423,873



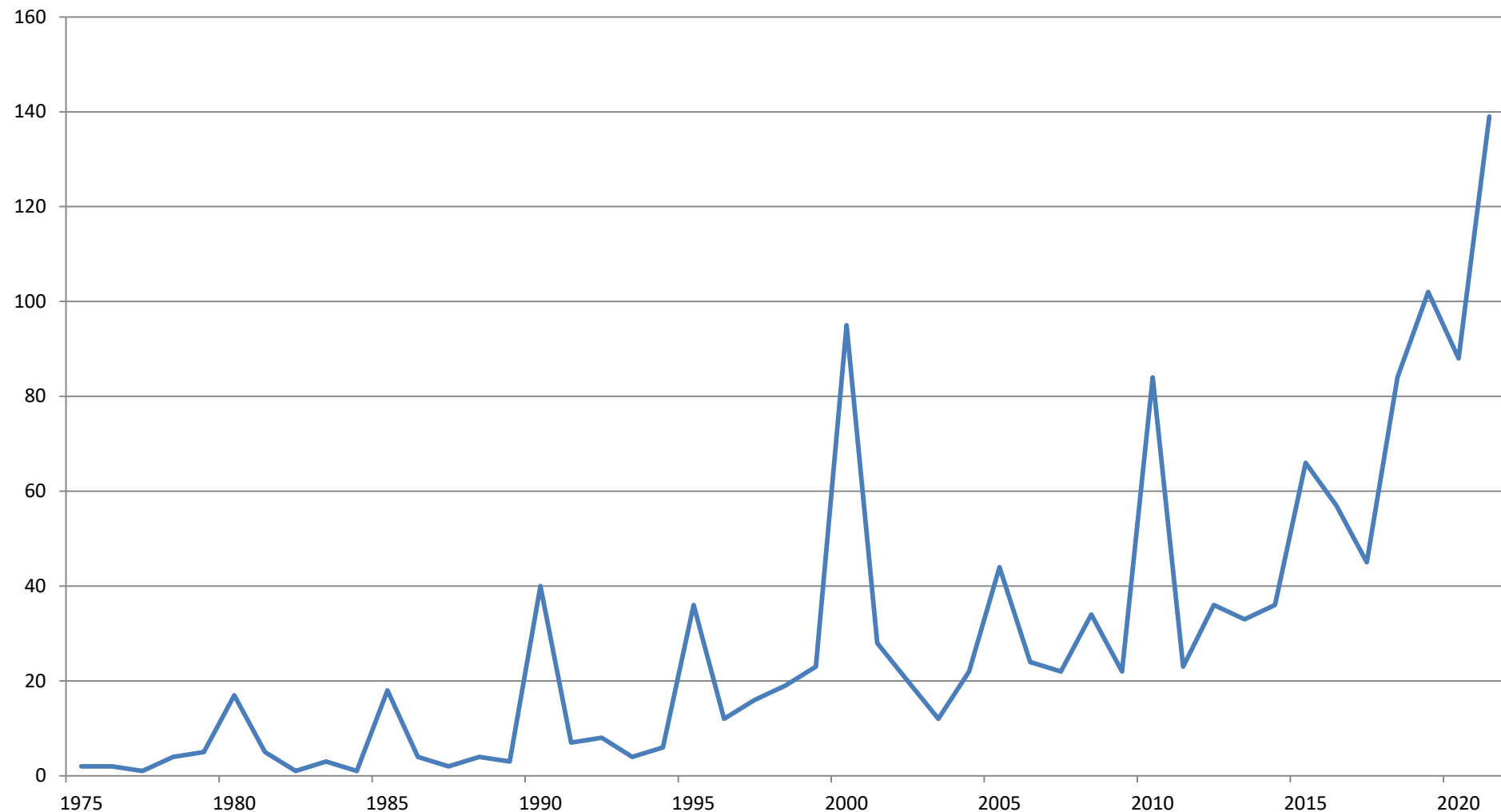


Demographic Questions

Question 19: When did you start using the Miami Valley Trails?



Reported First Year of Miami Valley Trail Use



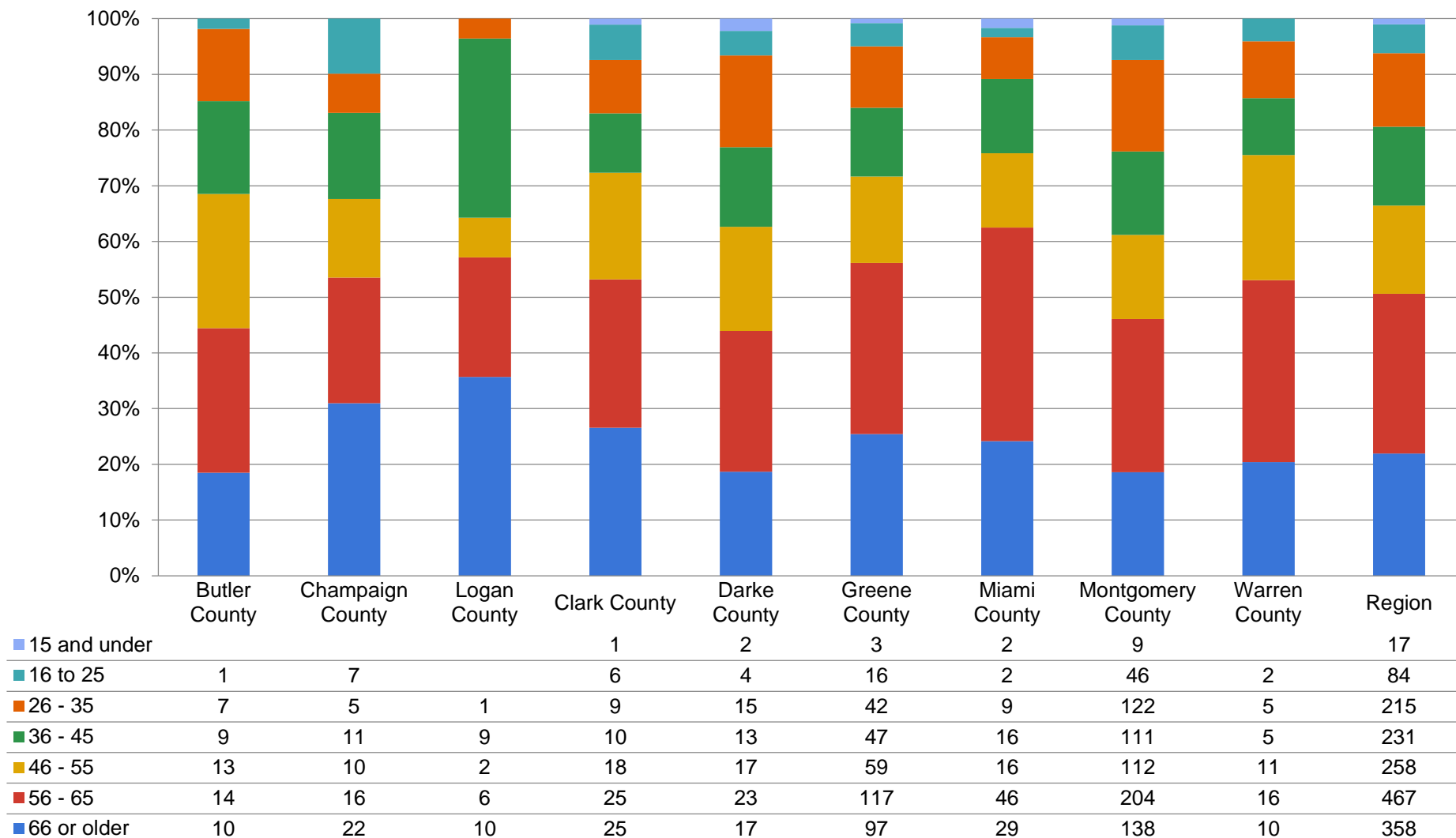
Question 19: When did you start using the Miami Valley Trails?

- New question for 2021.
- The purpose of the question was to try to measure new interest in trails correlating with COVID-19.
- Responses for 2020 and 2021 are high compared to other years.
- 16.7% of responses (about 1 in 6) indicate starting to use the trails in 2020 or 2021.
- Responses of prior years show spikes in years ending with 0 or 5 – indicates estimating or approximating.



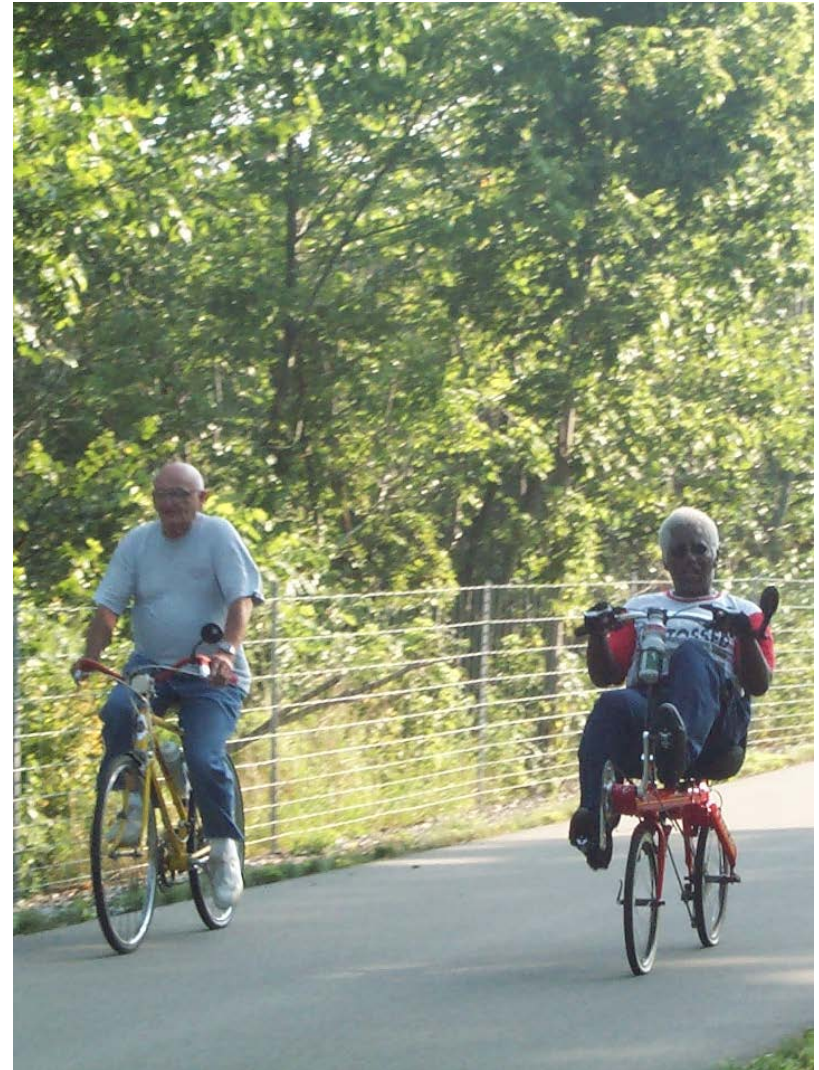
Question 20: Please identify your age group

Age by County, Region



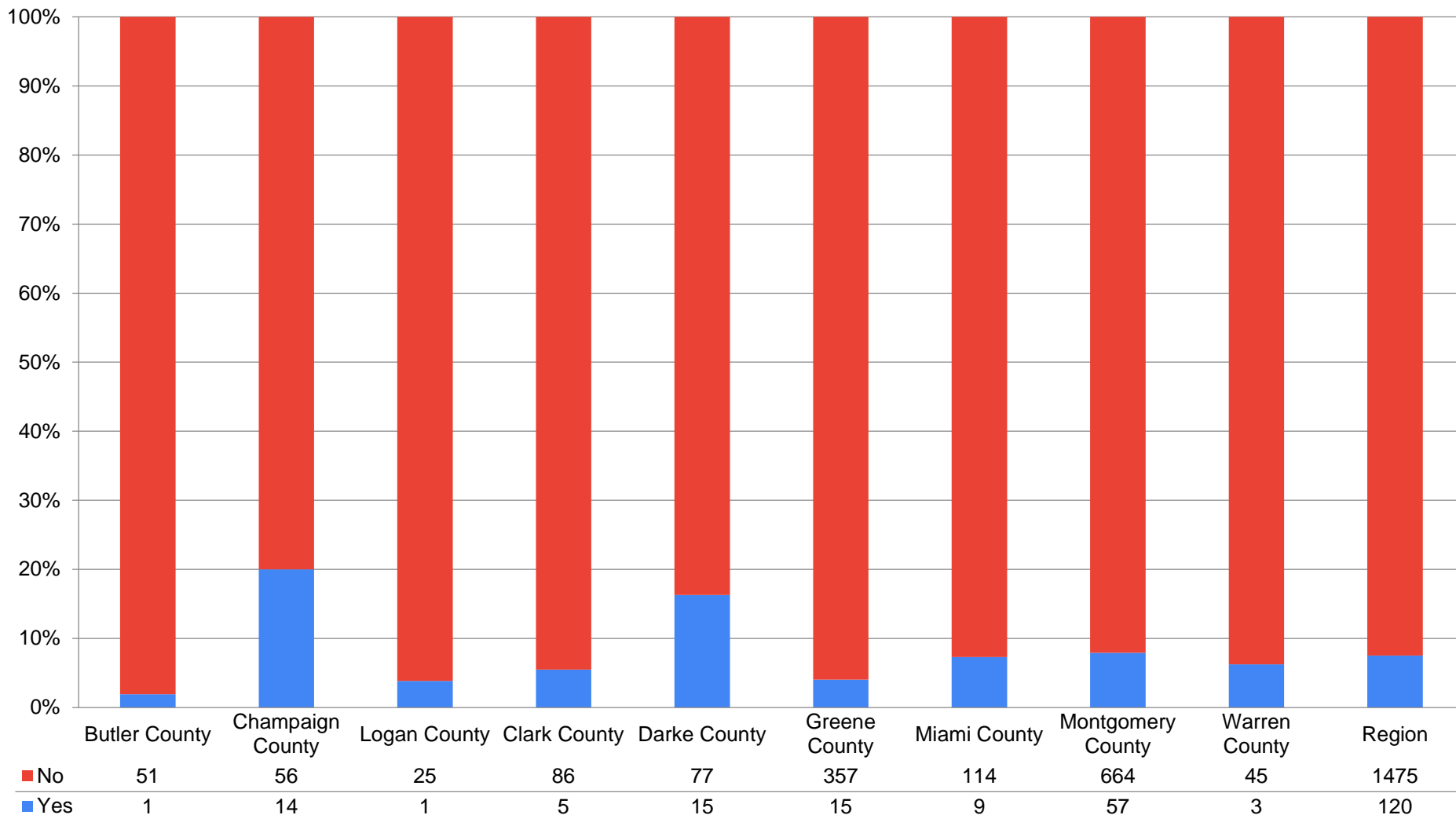
Question 20: Please identify your age group

- Regionally, those aged 46 and over were 66% of all respondents.
 - This age cohort represented 68% of respondents in 2017.
- In all 9 counties, those aged 46 and over represented over 60% of respondents.



Question 21: Were there any children 15 or younger in your group today?

Accompanied by Children by County, Region



Question 21: Were there any children 15 or younger in your group today?

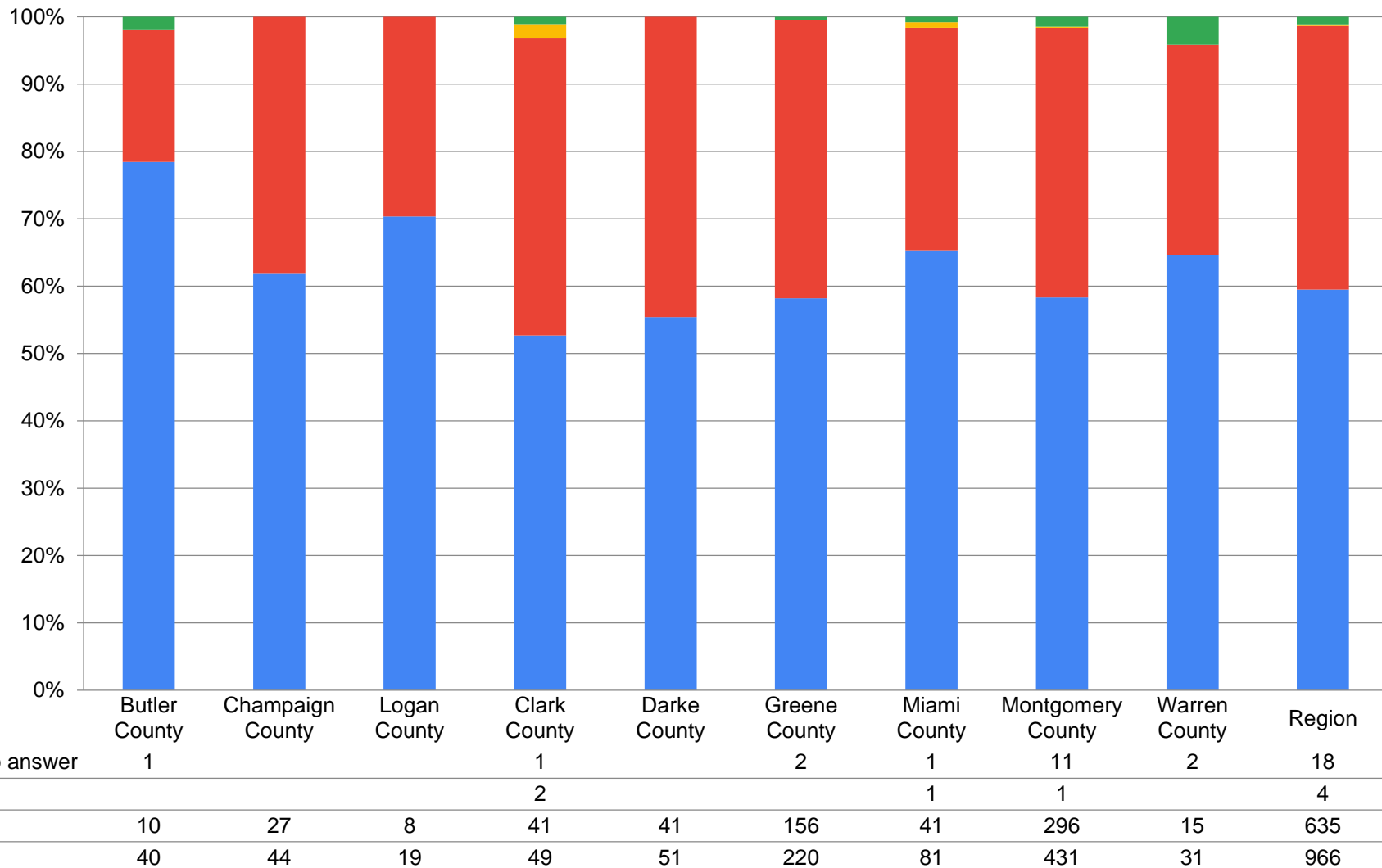
- Only about 7.5% of respondents reported being on the trails with kids
 - This is the lowest rate of all trail user surveys
- This fits logically with the reported ages (see Question 20)
- It is possible that those with kids were less inclined to stop to take a survey.



Question 22: What is your gender?

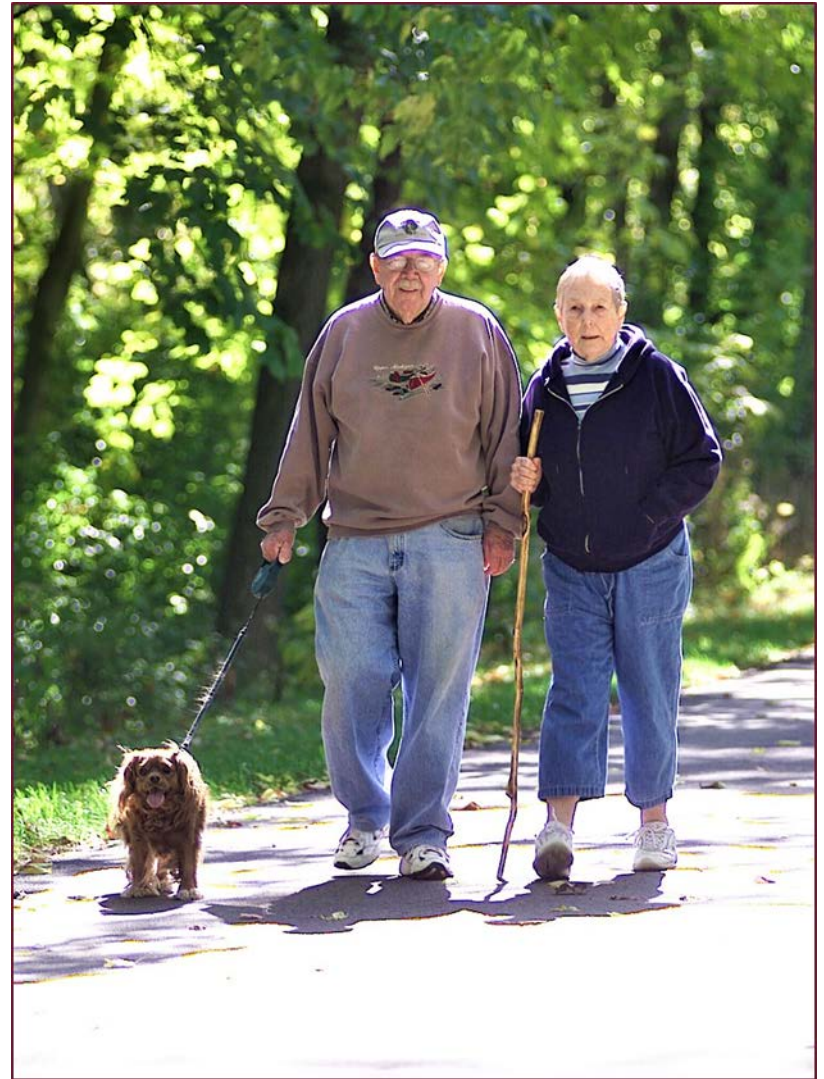


Gender by County, Region



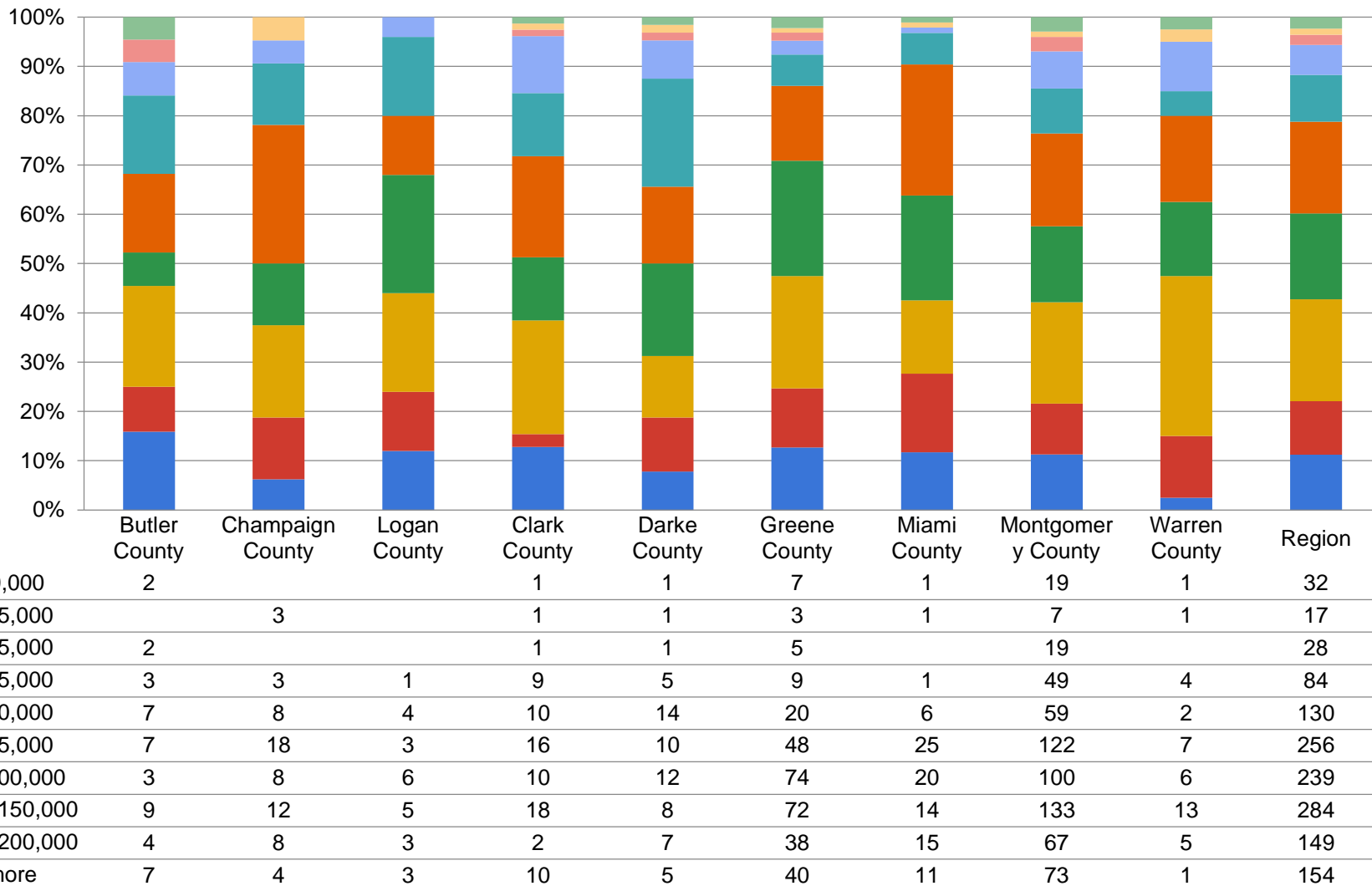
Question 22: What is your gender?

- Just under 60% of survey respondents were male.
- A majority of respondents in all 9 counties were male.
- This result is consistent with past surveys in which the “male” response was between 58% and 62%.



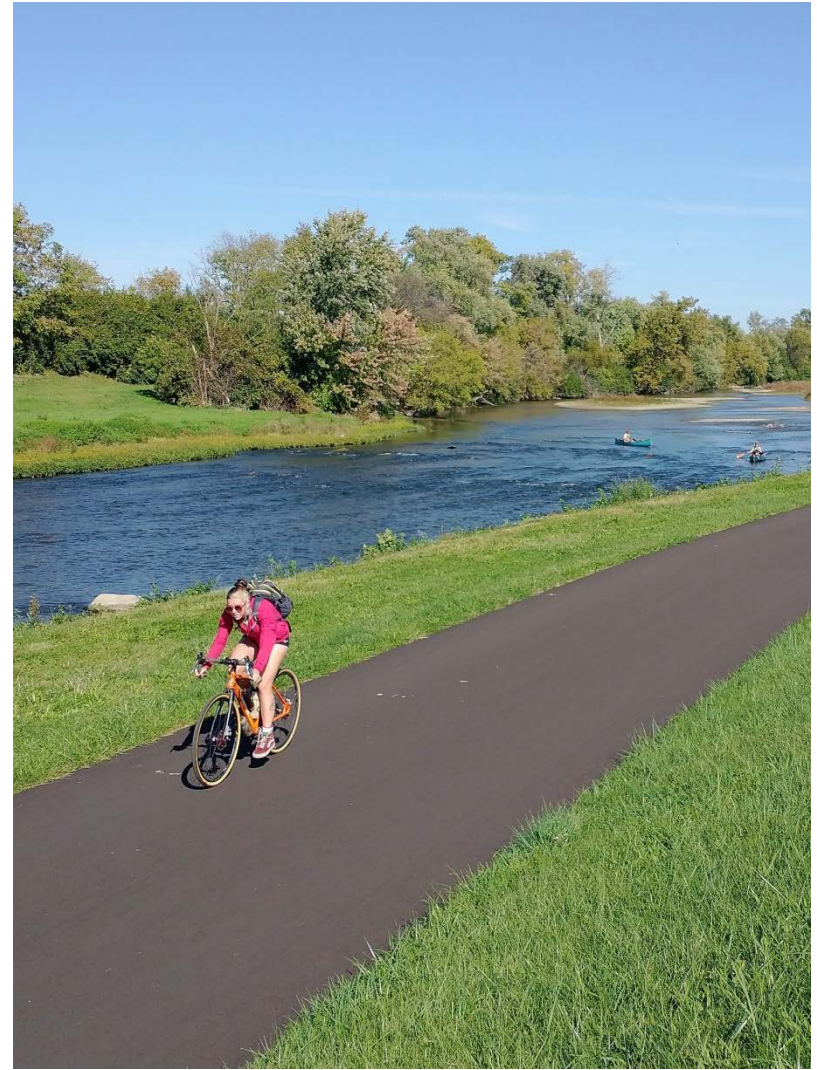
Question 23: What is your household income?

Household Income by County, Region



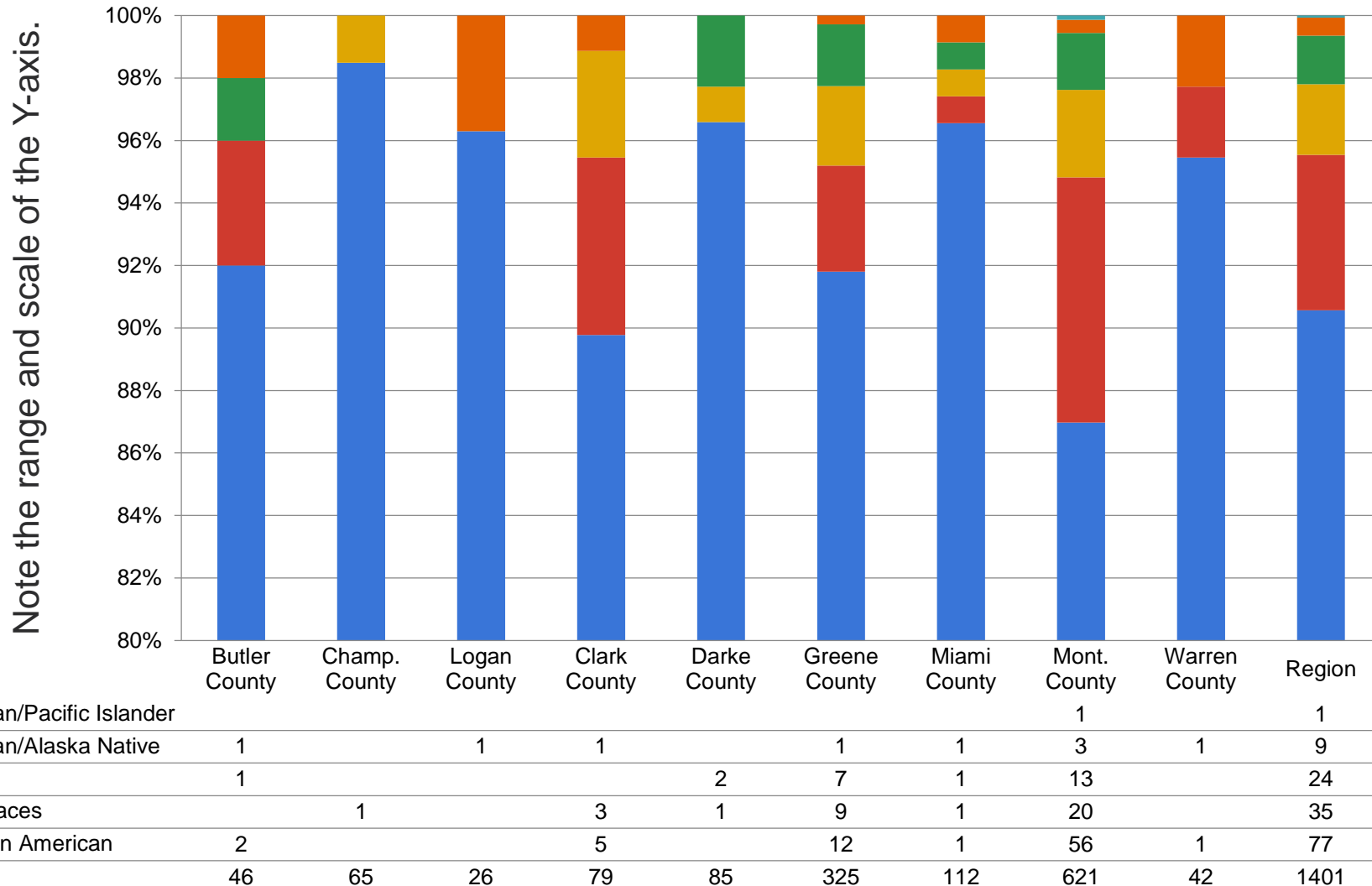
Question 23: What is your household income?

- This is the most frequently skipped question in the Demographic section.
- 60% of respondents overall reported household income of \$75,000 or more.
- In all 9 counties, at least 50% of respondents reported income of \$75,000 or more.
- Median HH income in the Dayton Region is about \$56,000.
- This result is consistent with the 2017 findings – trail users report higher than average incomes.



Question 24: Please identify your race.

Race by County, Region



Question 24: Please identify your race.

- Regionally, 90.5% responded “White.” 2020 Census data indicates these nine counties in aggregate are 82.8% White.
- Largest minority group response was for “Black or African American” at 5%. 2020 Census data indicates this nine-county area is 12% African American.
- A table comparing to 2020 Census data is on the next page.
- Only in the two most urbanized counties (Clark and Montgomery) was the “White” response below 90%.



Question 24: Please identify your race.



Comparison between 2021 Trail User responses and 2020 Census data.

Race	2021 Trail User Survey (Region)	2020 Census (Nine counties)
White	92.5%	82.8%
Black or African American	5.0%	12.0%
Two or More Races	2.3%	2.1%
Asian	1.6%	2.2%
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.6%	0.2%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.04%

Census data aggregates all 2020 Census data from the nine counties in their entirety – Butler, Champaign, Clark, Darke, Greene, Logan, Miami, Montgomery, Warren.





Conclusions

Conclusions

- The trail managing agencies and Bike Miami Valley once again were tremendous supporters of the effort to survey trail users. The 2021 survey had more locations and more survey dates than any prior survey. This could not have been accomplished without their support and the work of their volunteers.
- Responses from Trail Users continue to show great satisfaction and love for the Miami Valley Trails – across the Region.
 - Satisfaction with maintenance, safety & security, and cleanliness remains very high.
 - As in the past, trail users are frequent users, and tend to spend at least an hour on the trail. Many of these trail users may be getting the recommended 150 – 300 minutes per week of physical activity from their trail use alone.
 - Bicycling remains the most popular activity along the Miami Valley Trails.
 - Public restrooms and access to drinking water was a consistently desired amenity along the trails.



Conclusions



- Some shifts in data that may be attributable to COVID-19
 - Changes in number of surveys from outside the region
 - The percentage of respondents who reported an Overnight Stay connected with their trail visit dropped compared to 2017 from 9.8% to 7.6%
 - Changes in Trail User count
- Economic Impact:
 - Using the method developed by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy we measure a total direct economic impact from the Trails between **\$11.5M and \$15M**. This is similar to past survey findings.
 - Per-person reported spending on hard goods and soft goods were both higher than reported in 2017.
 - Per night spending on lodging was higher in 2021 than in 2017.



Conclusions

- Economic Impact, continued:
 - Total number of trail visits and unique trail users was calculated as lower in 2021 than in 2017. This may have been due to the increased number of counting sites, some with lower count totals.
- MVRPC and the trail managing agencies should research and come to consensus on a method for estimating annual trail uses. This key figure is an element of all calculations about economic impact, and is the most difficult to pin down.
- The Google Forms online version of the survey is a good tool for compiling all survey responses and for evaluation. It should not be expected to be used by very many survey takers.

