

2021 Wepre Management Plan Survey

A visitor survey was undertaken at Wepre Country Park between September and October 2021 to provide a bench mark of people's views about the park and inform its future management. 512 people completed the questionnaire. The majority of those who responded were between 31 and 65 year old (83%) with just over 10% older than 65 years old and only 5% younger than 30 years old.

86.6% of respondents lived within 5 miles of Wepre park demonstrating the importance of the park to the local community, of these 43.3% lived within 1 mile. It is encouraging to note that over half of those surveyed (53%) walk to the park whilst just over 40% had arrived by car. Very few people use public transport to visit the park, despite a bus stop being conveniently located a 5 minute walk away. Only 3.1% of respondents did not have access to a car. The majority of people (60.2%) visited the park with their family with just over a quarter visiting alone (27%).

The Survey clearly showed the value of Wepre Park for the health and wellbeing of the local community with over 50% of people using the park at least once a week and of these 11% used the park on a daily basis, 15.9% of those who responded used the park less than once a month. Walking is by far the most frequent activity undertaken (72.7%) followed by park run (6.8%) and wildlife watching (4.6%). Over half of responders owned a dog.

Three quarters of people felt that Wepre Park was good or excellent in delivering against the vision of being welcoming, valued and enjoyed, whilst protecting its heritage and allowing wildlife to flourish. The majority of people also felt that the park delivered well as multifunctional facility which is safe, clean and able to be enjoyed by everyone, that the special wildlife qualities are protected, enhanced and maintained and that its heritage is protected, conserved and celebrated. Less than half of respondents felt that the Park performed good / excellent in raising public awareness about the special features of the site, enriched through events, education and interpretation. Just over a third of people felt that community involvement in the park was maximized to a good standard.

When asked what improvements people would like to see at Wepre Park in 10 years' time, a number of responses stated that they would like to see the park stay as it is. Improving access for disabled users, particularly to Ewloe castle was noted as was improvements to disabled car parking. More bins were highlighted and a dog poo bin by the castle. Tackling anti-social behavior, together with an increased staff presence and police patrols and improved security were raised. Concerns were noted about increased visitor pressure and path erosion. Improvements for wildlife were suggested, as was improved paths for walks on the further side of the river, a bike pump track, development of the play area, an outdoor splash zone / pool and keeping public access to the Rosie.

When asked what facilities people would like to see the most frequent answers were more seats, better toilets, bins, zip wire/ go ape and CCTV. A number of respondents noted that they did not wish to see further developments at the park and wanted it kept natural. Other comments received included outdoor cinema, forest school activities for schools, more parking, high ropes, petting zoo, camping at specific times, a seasonal market, path on the further side of the river, better play area, secure area for dog exercise, summer pool, bike trail, running track around the football pitches and a sculpture trail.

The most frequent response as to how the park could secure resources towards its management was to introduce car parking charges. Other suggestions made were a donation scheme, events including dog walks, runs, treasure hunts, santa walks, car boot sales, cyclo cross, farmers market, business sponsorship, crowd funding to buy land, sponsor a tree/bench, selling wood, gift shop, café improvements, raffle, hiring the fields for events, chargeable education events, celebrity ambassadors, festivals and children's parties. Comments were received that the park should be sufficiently resourced publically and that charges should not be introduced. Others noted that if car parking charges were implemented a local permit should be introduced.

In response to how the park could respond to the challenge of climate change people suggested the planting of trees, a refill water bottle station at the visitor centre, electric car charging points, getting rid of parking, introducing car parking charges, using electric vehicles, stopping the use of plastic, increasing recycling facilities, expanding the park through land purchase, increasing people's awareness, renewable energy generation through solar panels and hydroelectric, increasing the frequency of public transport and cycle links, composting toilet and aim to be carbon neutral.

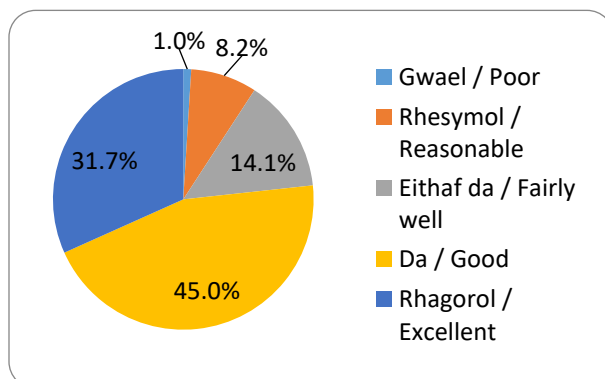
In ranking future work at Wepre Park people put wildlife protection as being the most important followed by path maintenance and community involvement / education. Events and formal sports ranked the lowest.

Wepre Country Park Survey Questions

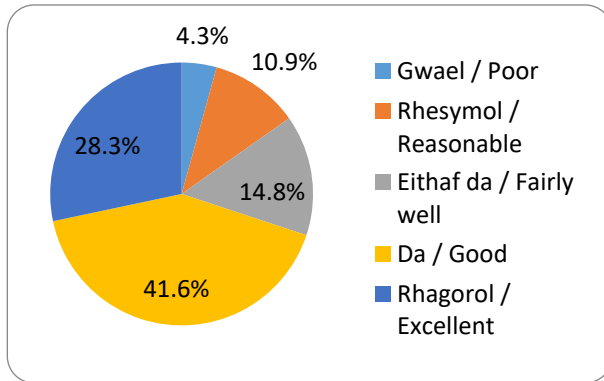
We are keen to receive your views about Wepre Country Park, how it is managed and what you would like to see in the future. Your views will help us plan our work for the next 10 years. Please skip any questions if you have no comment, or that you do not wish to answer.

First we would like to hear your thoughts about the current management of Wepre Country Park.

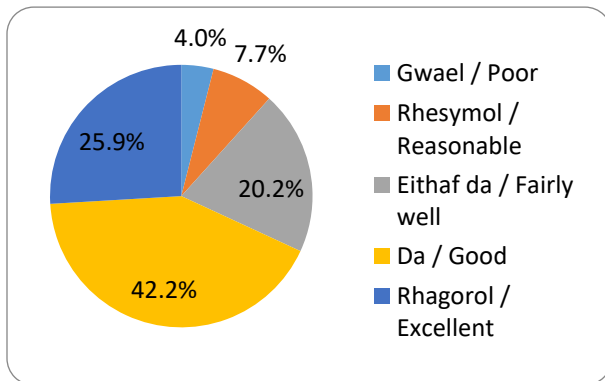
1. Wepre Country Park strives to be welcoming, valued and enjoyed, whilst protecting its heritage and allowing wildlife to flourish. How well do you feel that the Country Park delivers against this vision?



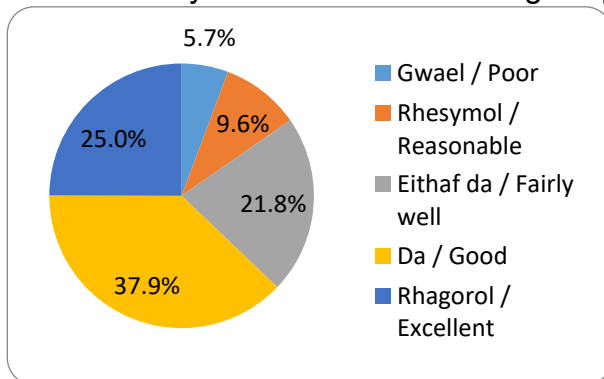
2. How do you rate Wepre Country Park as a multifunctional facility which is safe, clean and able to be enjoyed by everyone?



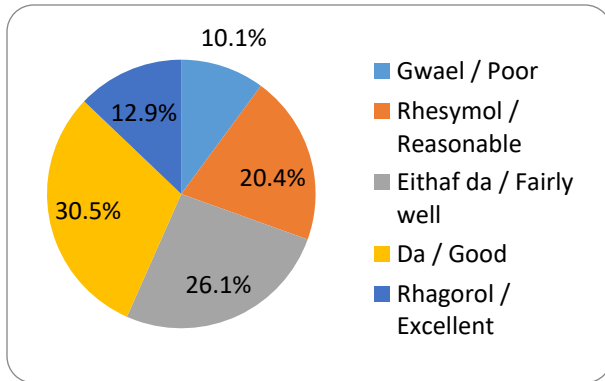
3. How well do you feel the special wildlife qualities are protected, enhanced and maintained at Wepre Country Park?



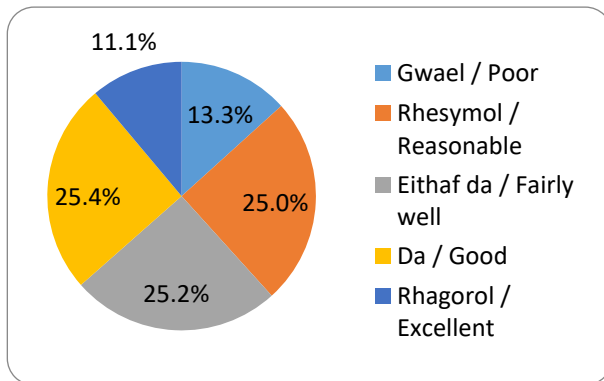
4. How well do you feel the site's heritage is protected, conserved and celebrated



5. How well do you feel the park delivers for public awareness about the special features of the site, enriched through events, education and interpretation? Poor / Reasonable / Fairly well / Good / Excellent



6. How well do you feel that community involvement is maximised within Wepre Country Park?



7. Do you have any comments you would like to make about the current management of Wepre Country Park?

Next we would like to hear about your views about the future

8. Please rank the following areas from 1 to 8 in terms of their priority for future work at Wepre Country Park (with 1 being the most important and 8 the least important)

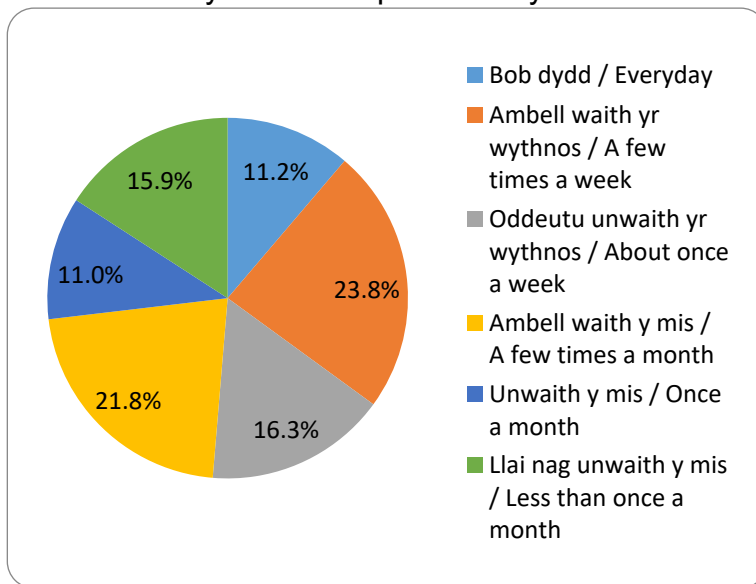
Answer Choice	Total Score	Overall Rank
1 Diogelu bywyd gwylt / Wildlife Protection	3221	1
2 Cynnal a chadw mynediad / Ilwybrau / Access / Path Maintenance	2423	2
3 Ymgysylltu â'r gymuned / gwirfoddoli / Community involvement / volunteering	2241	3
4 Addysg Awyr Agored / Outdoor education	2165	4
5 Cyfleusterau Ymwelwyr / Visitor Facilities	2028	5

6	Ardal Chwarae / Play Area	1728	6
7	Digwyddiadau / Events	1680	7
8	Chwaraeon Ffurfiol / Formal Sports	1109	8

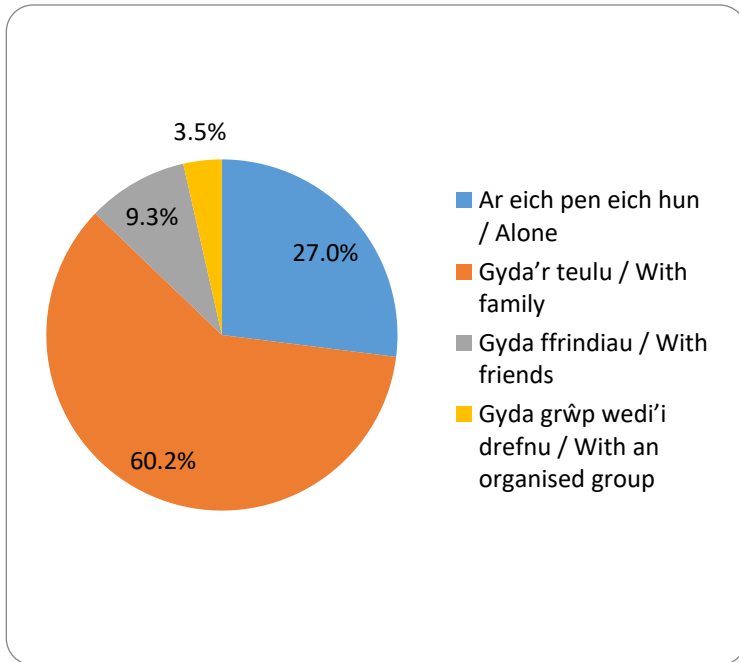
9. What improvements would you like to see at Wepre Country Park over the next 10 years?
10. Do you feel that there is anything missing at Wepre Country Park that the park could offer?
11. Securing resources to fund work at Wepre Country Park is a challenge, have you got any suggestions as to how the Park could increase its income in future?
12. Climate change is a global challenge, have you got any suggestions of how Wepre Country Park can make a possible contribution towards reducing climate change?

We would like to find out a little bit about you to understand our audience better

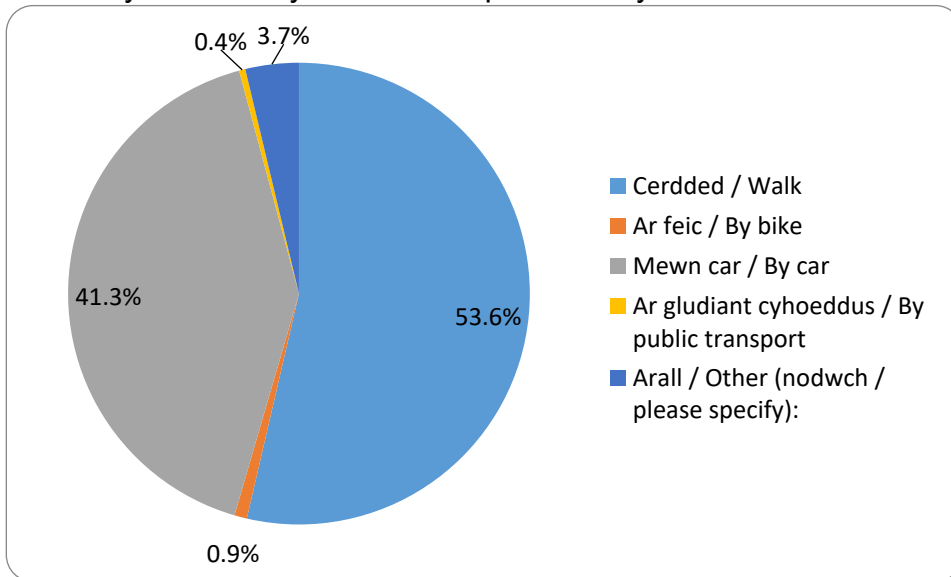
13. How often do you visit Wepre Country Park?



14. Do you normally visit

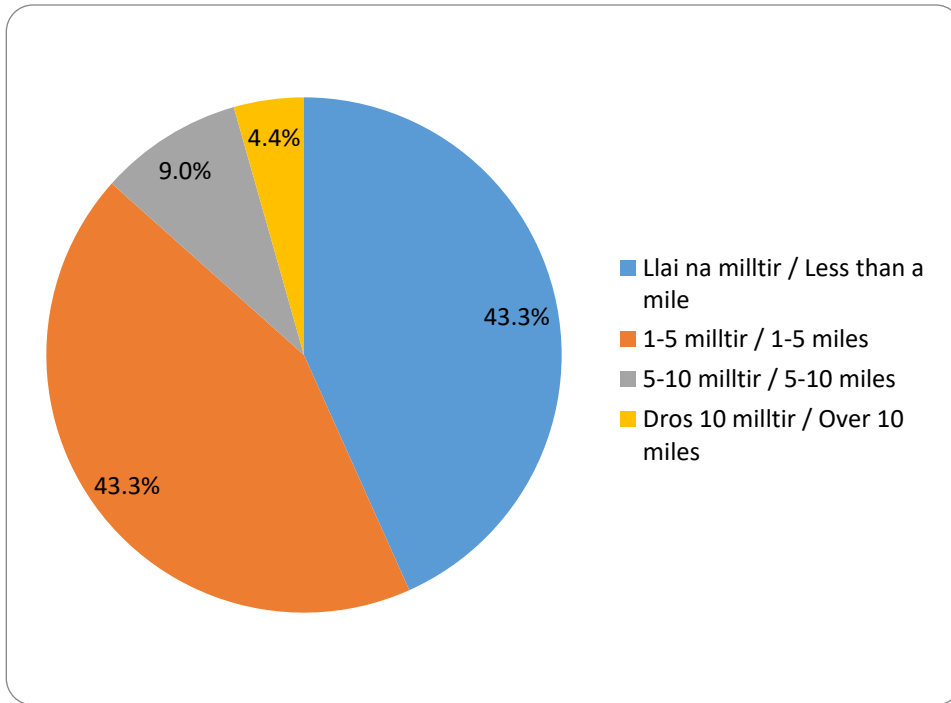


15. How do you normally travel to Wepre Country Park?

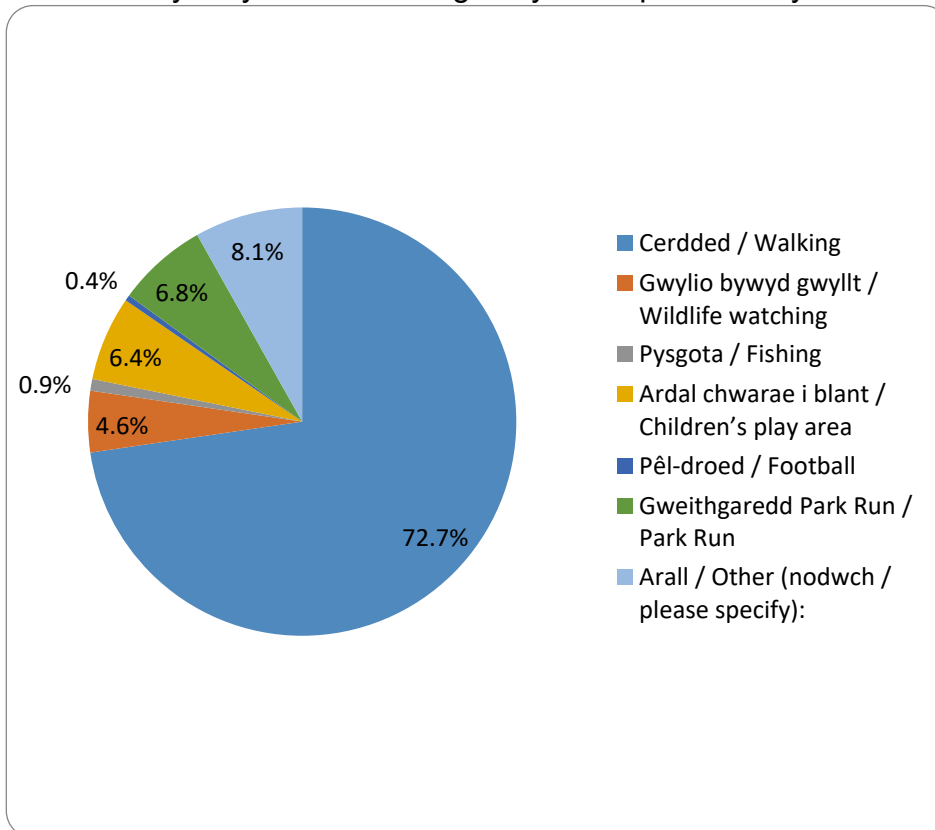


People who noted other commented that they ran to the park or used a mixture of walking / car.

16. How far do you live from Wepre Country Park?

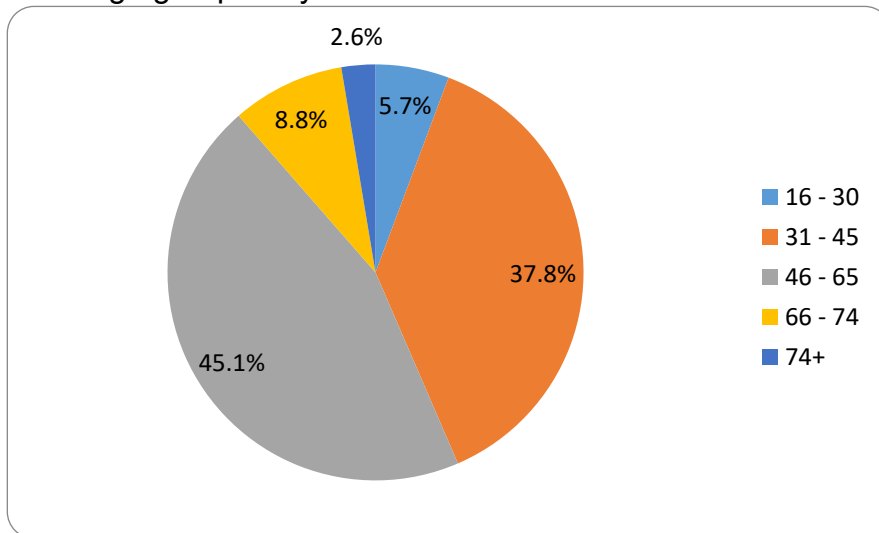


17. What activity do you do most regularly at Wepre Country Park?

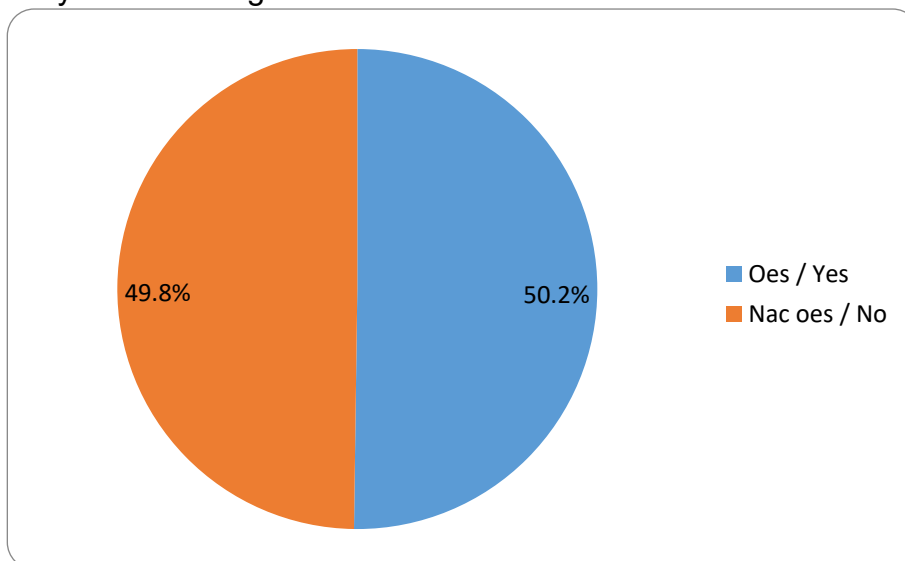


Other activities that were noted (8.1%) were walking the dog, forest school, skateboarding and running independently.

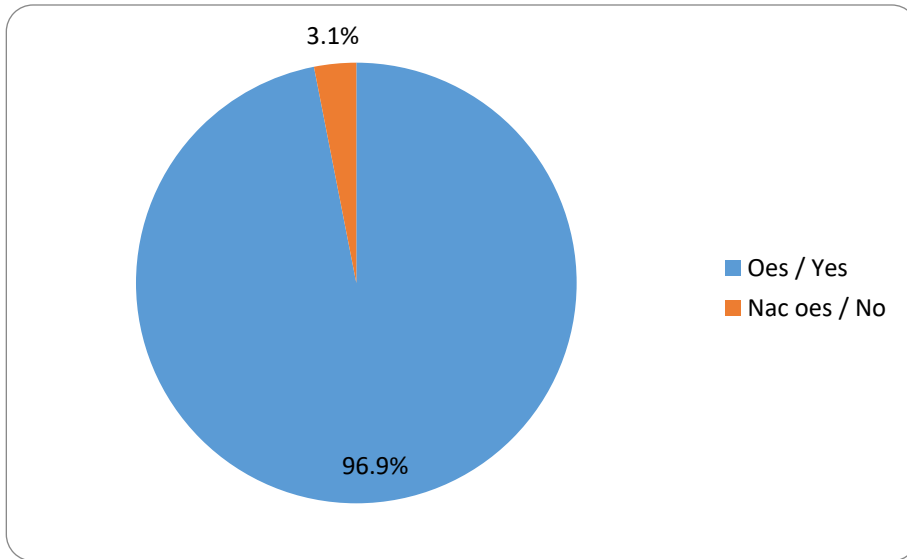
18. What age group are you?



19. Do you own a dog?



20. Do you have access to a car?



21. What is your ethnic group?

