



Centre for
Trail Excellence

National Trail Accessibility Survey Findings

November 2022





Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Respondent Demographics	4
Key Findings	8
Conclusion	16



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

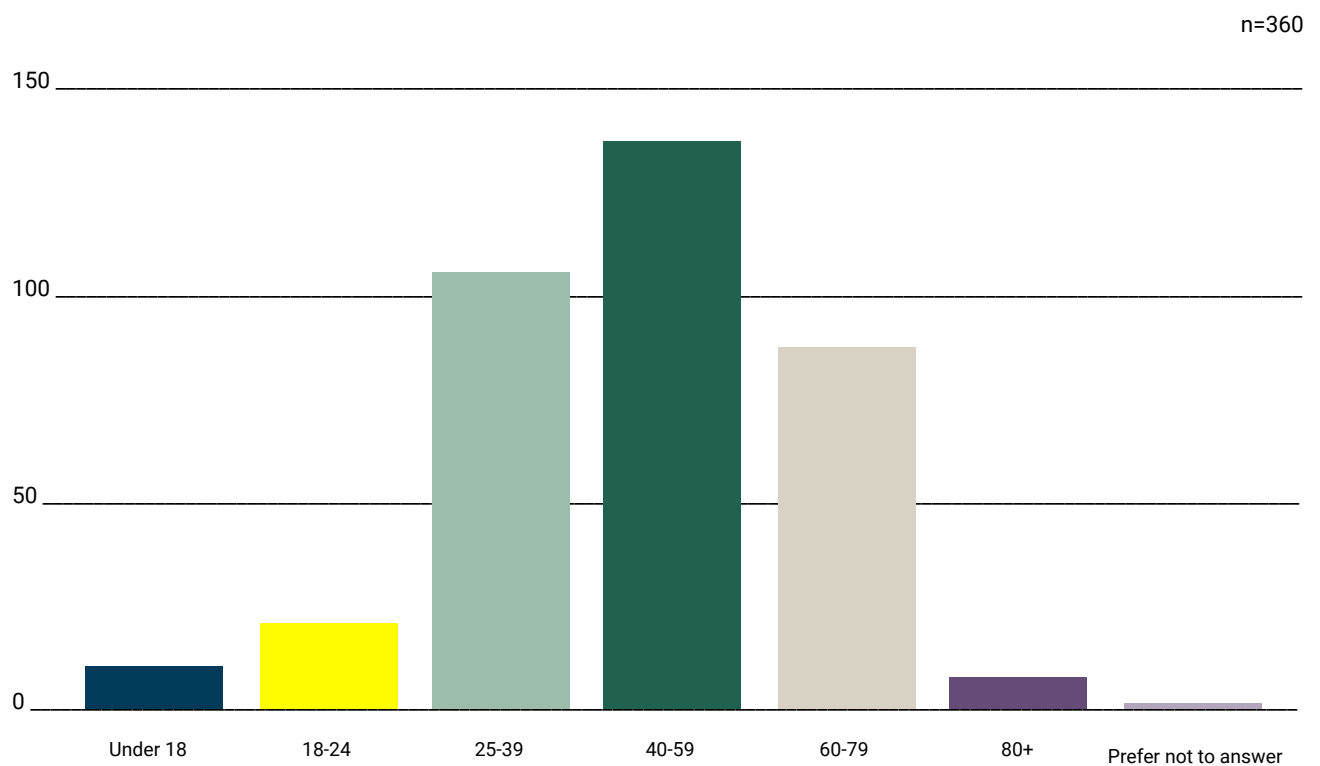
2 Canadian territories.



Age

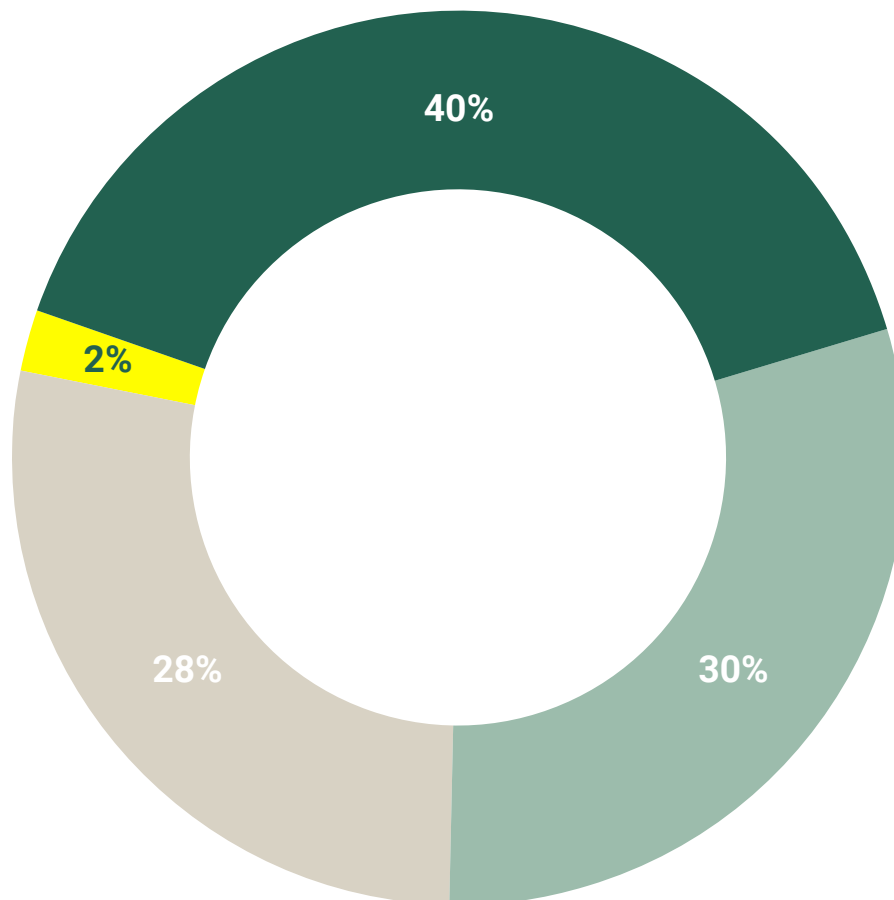
Respondents ranged in age from under 18 to over 80 years:

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



Disability

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



- 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

n=341

Key Findings

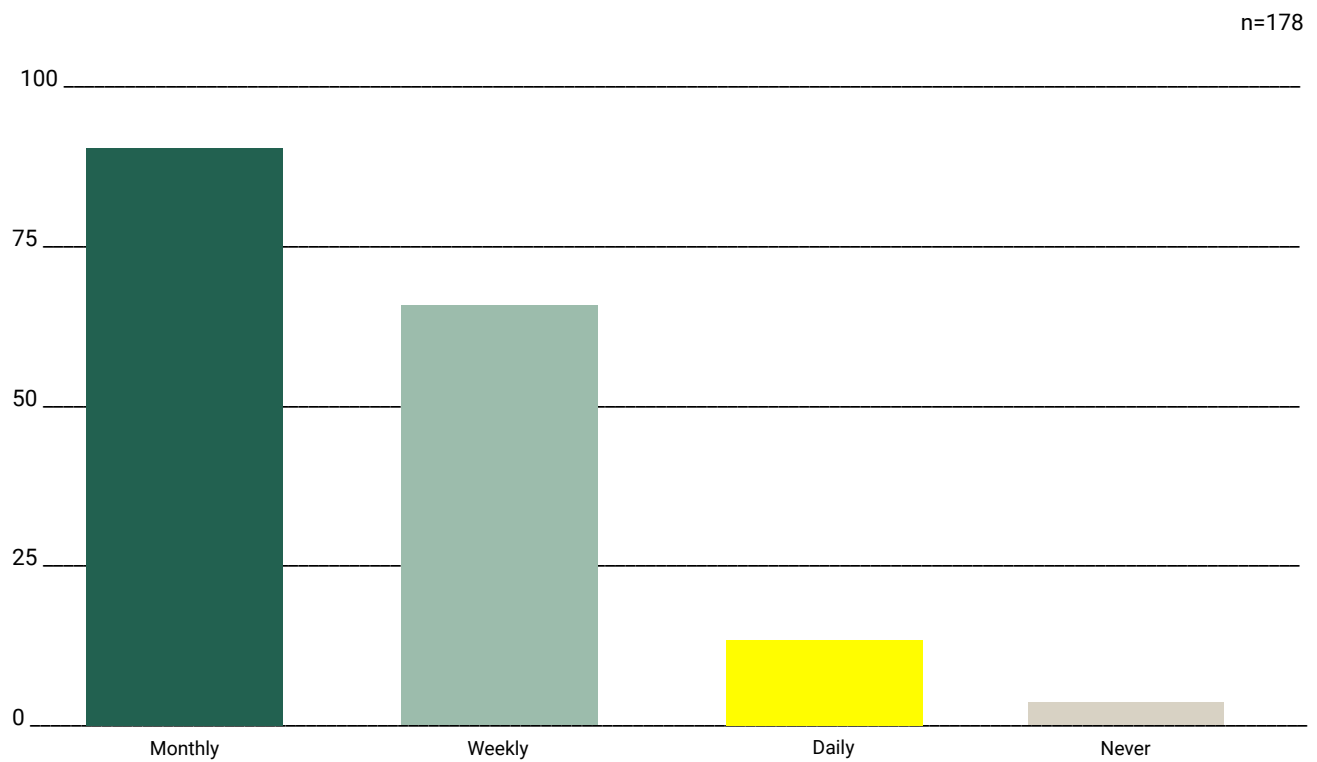


Trail use

Individuals with a disability use trails regularly:

52% of respondents said they use recreational trails monthly

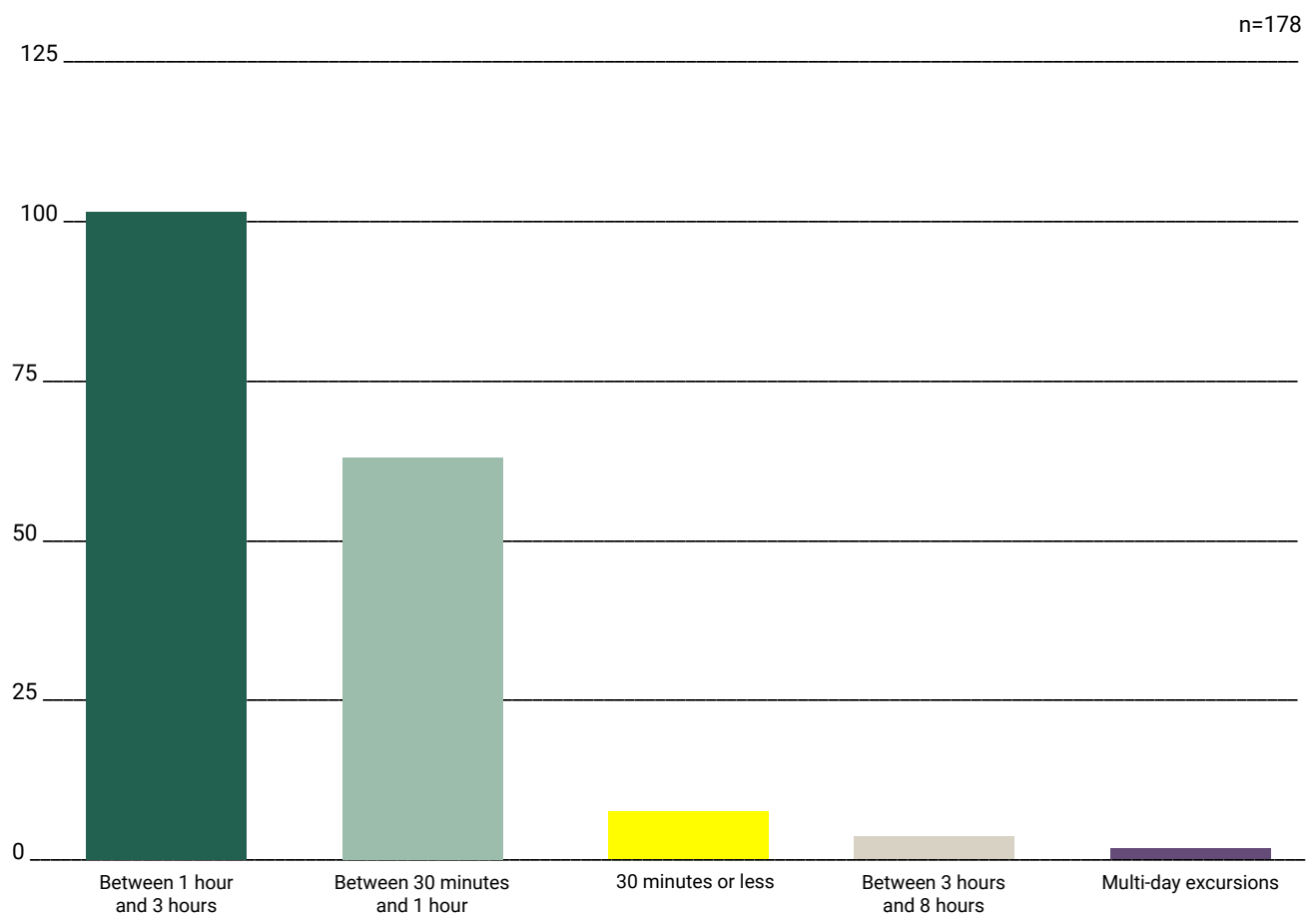
39% reported using trails weekly



Trail use

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

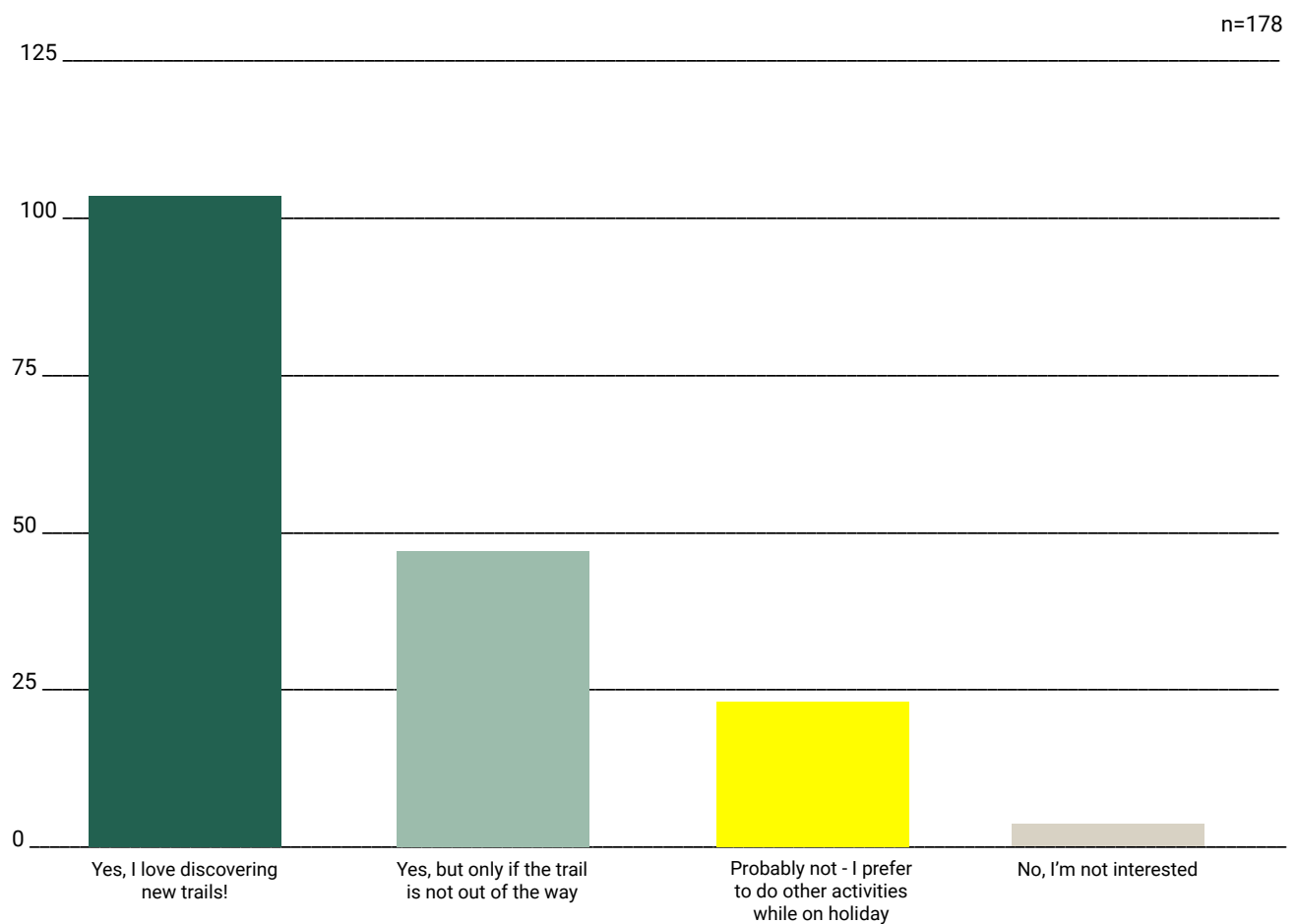
5% of respondents spend fewer than 30 minutes, and 3% spend more than 3 hours on trails.



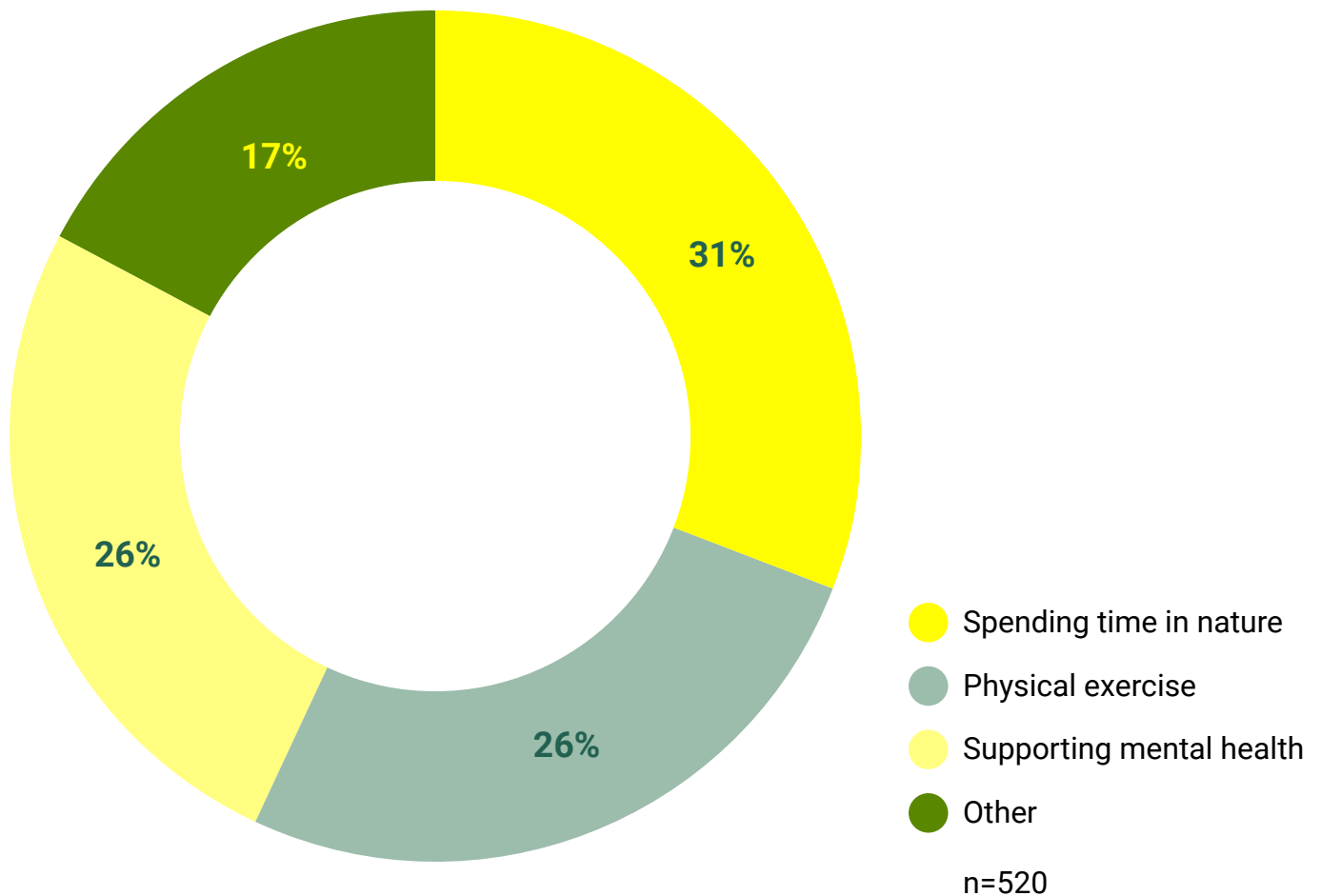
Trail use

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.

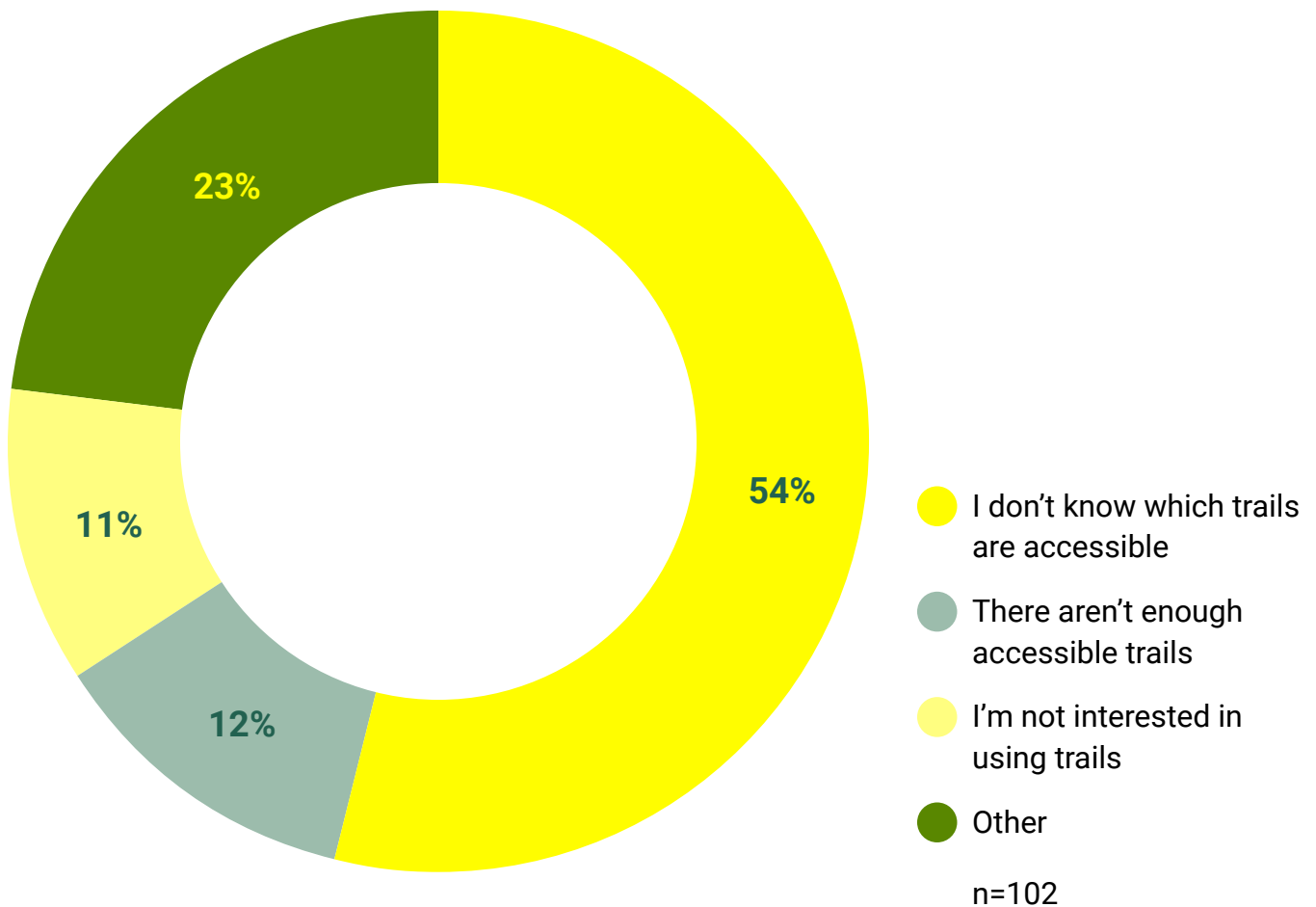


Most common motivator for using trails



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.

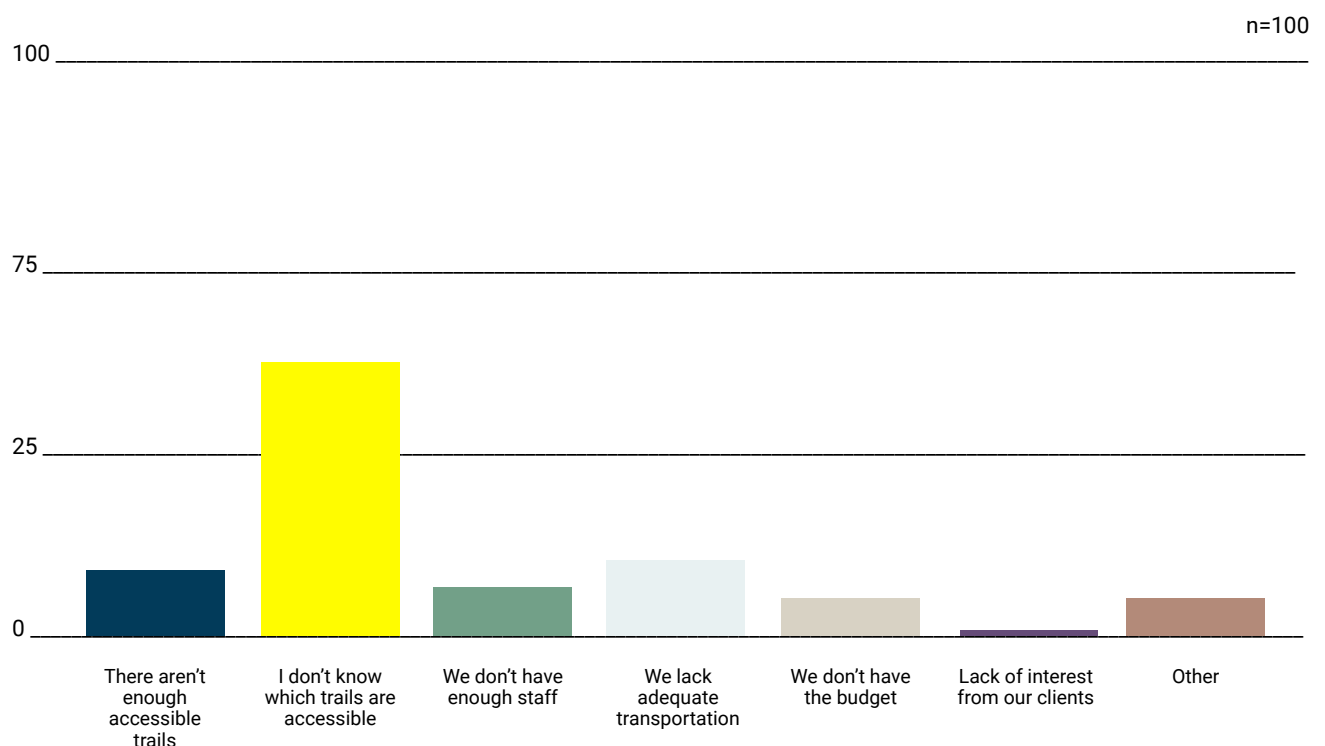
Barriers to using trails



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

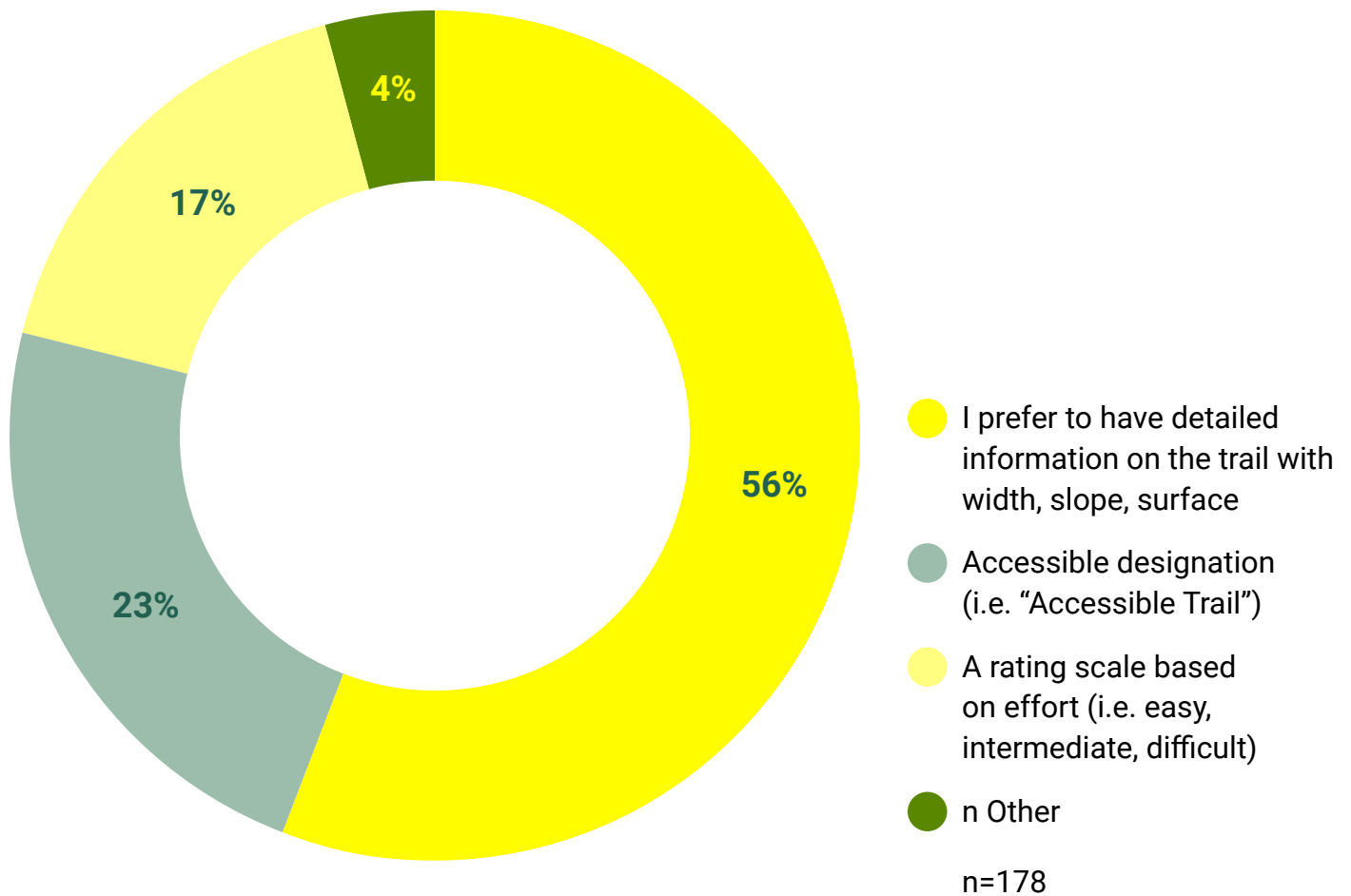
Of those who plan outings for individuals with disabilities, 40% reported that their largest barrier to trail outings is the lack of information about which trails are accessible. This aligns with the largest barrier identified by trail users.



Access to information

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:

Trisha Kaplan

Director, Trail Inclusion Initiatives

tkaplan@tctrail.ca





Centre for Trail Excellence