



ASIC Savary Island Survey - 2023

Survey Results

December 12, 2023

Introduction

This report summarizes the results of the ASIC Savary Island Survey (2023), which ran between August 21, 2023 and September 30, 2023 and was intended to better understand how property owners and visitors accessed and used Savary, including how they got around, from where they obtained water, how they disposed of waste, and similar questions. The survey was also intended to understand how respondents prioritized various issues such as risk of fire and road safety.

Over and above the detailed findings that are presented below, the high response rate among property owners relative to the ASIC email list and high completion rate are consistent with just how much people love and care about this island. The ASIC Directors and the members of the Visitor Stewardship Advisory Committee of ASIC wish to thank all those who responded with such care.

We hope the findings are helpful.

Summary of Findings

- The ASIC Savary Island Survey 2023 was developed by the Visitor Stewardship Advisory Committee of ASIC and distributed via the ASIC member email list (n=606) and through other modalities. The survey was open between August 21, 2023 and September 30, 2023.
- QualtricsXM free survey software was used for survey development, distribution, data management, analysis, and reporting. Of 472 responses, 427 (91%) were included after applying the Qualtrics ExpertReview quality filter for bots, duplicates, straightlining, etc. High response rate among property owners (ASIC list as denominator, n=606) and high completion rate were strengths of the survey.
- Property owners were the largest group of respondents (90%, n=380), likely due to prior awareness raising about the survey by ASIC and distribution that targeted this group through the ASIC member email list. Timing of distribution (end of summer) may also have been a factor.
- Property owner respondents from Areas A (44%), B (21%), and C (35%) reflected the relative proportions of property owners in these areas. (ASIC)
- Use of Savary is seasonal, with most respondents staying for longer periods in Summer as compared with other seasons. Among property owners, while 88% stay 3-4 wks to full season in Summer, only 13% stay 3-4 wks to full season in Winter.
- Seasonality is also seen in the average number people who stay on a property, including rentals. Among property owners, 79% report a daily average of 3 or more staying on their property in Summer, compared with in Spring (33%), Fall (25%) or Winter (8%). Also, larger groups are more frequently reported in Summer, with 22% of property owners reporting average daily numbers of 7 or more, and 8% reporting 10 or more people.
- Most property owners (87%, n=322) do not have a rental. Among those reporting a rental (13%, n=50), 2 wks to 3 mos is most commonly reported.
- Most property owners (96%, n=384) do not own or operate a business on Savary that provides services to visitors; 4%, n=17 do have a business.
- In terms of travel to a final destination on Savary, among all respondents, use of the water taxi with the land taxi, private vehicle, or "other" was frequently reported, while a sizeable minority (44%) reported using the car barge/private vehicle, and 34% reported boating.
- In terms of usual travel once on Savary, 83% of respondents reported walking and 61% report bicycling/e-biking as how they usually get around, 43% report use of a private motorized vehicle and 20% report use of a golf cart. (Respondents could choose more than one answer.)
- The majority of all respondents never barge a private vehicle to Savary in Summer, Fall, or Winter. In Spring, just over half (53%) report barging 1-2x or more. In Summer, small percentages report more frequent barging, e.g., 8% reporting 3-5x per season.
- Among property owners, 42% (n=153) own a private motorized vehicle that stays on Savary, while 58% (n=211) do not.
- Half of all respondents (51%) report using a motor boat at Savary, while fewer respondents report using a set moorage (41%), the government wharf (18%) or boat ramp (17%) . (Respondents could choose more than one answer.)
- In terms of water supply, most property owners reported having a drilled well with an electric pump (62%) or a sandpoint with electric pump (12%), 18% reported a communal water supply and 9% reported bringing bottled water. Among non-property owners (n=40 responses), 20% reported brought bottled water and 3% bought water from the general store. (Respondents could choose more than one answer.)

- Most property owners (87%) reported a flush toilet with a septic system on their property, while smaller numbers reported an outhouse or pit latrine (20%) or a composting (bio) toilets (8%). Most non-property owner respondents (82%) used a flush toilet on the property they visited, while a greater proportion used an outhouse (28%), the bushes or beach (10%) and a small proportion (3%) used the washroom at the general store.
- Regarding public washrooms at Savary, 52% of survey respondents felt they personally would benefit "not at all" or "somewhat" (37%), but that others would benefit "somewhat" (39%) or a lot (47%).
- In terms of garbage, litter, and recycling, property owners reported taking their garbage off-island to a qRD waste management facility (21%), another disposal facility (26%) and to Lund (7%). Composting food waste was commonly reported (25% of responses), while 9% of respondents burn their garbage.
- Beach access followed an expected pattern, with the top three reported beach access points being Wharf/Waterfront, Indian Point (various access points) and Sunset Trail (various access points). See Q22 (page 25) for more information.
- The majority of Savary Island property owners (87%) were aware that they have the right to vote in the qRD elections.
- A subsample of property owners was asked about their level of satisfaction about the allocation of their Savary Island Property Taxes by the qRD and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. 66% indicated that they were somewhat or very dissatisfied with the qRD allocation and 74% indicated that they were somewhat or very dissatisfied with the MOTI allocation.
- The majority of respondents (93%) were aware of the 911 Emergency Service on Savary, however lesser percentages were aware of the free chipping service and of the FireSmart assessment and rebate program.
- Respondents were asked to rate from 0-100 the extent to which various issues should be priorities to address. Among all respondents, risk of fire overwhelmingly received the highest mean score as a priority issue (mean=93), followed by water quality and availability (mean=77) and protecting natural lands (mean=75). Density of boat moorings (mean=53), lack of public washrooms (mean=54) and use of boat ramps and barge ramp (mean=59) received the lowest scores.
- Property owners ranked the priorities in a similar order, with risk of fire ranked first (mean=93), water quality and availability second (mean=76) and protecting natural lands third (mean=75).
- Differences in ranking were seen by Savary Area, which may reflect local concerns. All areas ranked the risk of fire at the top. Below this, Area A ranked road dust fourth (mean=75) after water quality and protecting natural lands (tied at mean=76); Area B, ranked erosion of beach trails second (mean=78) and before protecting natural lands (74) and water quality and availability (mean=72); Area C ranked road safety for walkers and cyclists third (mean=76) with water quality second (mean=78) and protecting natural lands fourth (mean=75).
- A statistical test is required to determine whether differences in mean ratings are significant.
- 67 respondents added written responses about "Other" priorities to address. Key themes included: i) number of cars and their impacts, ii) road maintenance, emergency access, and path development, iii) density and overbuilding, impacts, and requirements, iv) sustainability and stewardship, v) behaviour, policing, and visitors needs, and vi) other topics.

Background

At the request of the Association of Savary Island Committees (ASIC), the Visitor Stewardship Advisory Committee (VSAC) of ASIC developed a community-wide survey to better understand property owner and visitor use of Savary and to prioritize concerns stemming from growth over the last several years. ASIC continues to emphasize data gathering and fact based research as an effective tool to advocate for more resources for Savary Island. An initial set of questions, developed by VSAC's Survey Subcommittee, was vetted and approved by VSAC and by the ASIC Directors.

The online ASIC Savary Island Survey was conducted using the QualtricsXM free survey software (<https://www.qualtrics.com/>) and ran from August 21, 2023 to September 30, 2023. The survey targeted a wide audience including property owners and different categories of visitors including family and friends of property owners, renters/AirBnB, day visitors, overnight campers, and construction, services and trades workers. Invitations to participate and the accompanying survey link were distributed primarily through the ASIC member email list (n=606), and secondarily through other email lists such as the Savary Island Land Trust (SILT), and various social media sites including the Savary Island Public Message Board, the Savary Island Residents page, and the Savary Island Rentals page. Posters with information about the survey and a QR code survey link were made available to ASIC for posting. The survey was designed to take about ten minutes and could be completed on a computer or phone. All responses were anonymous.

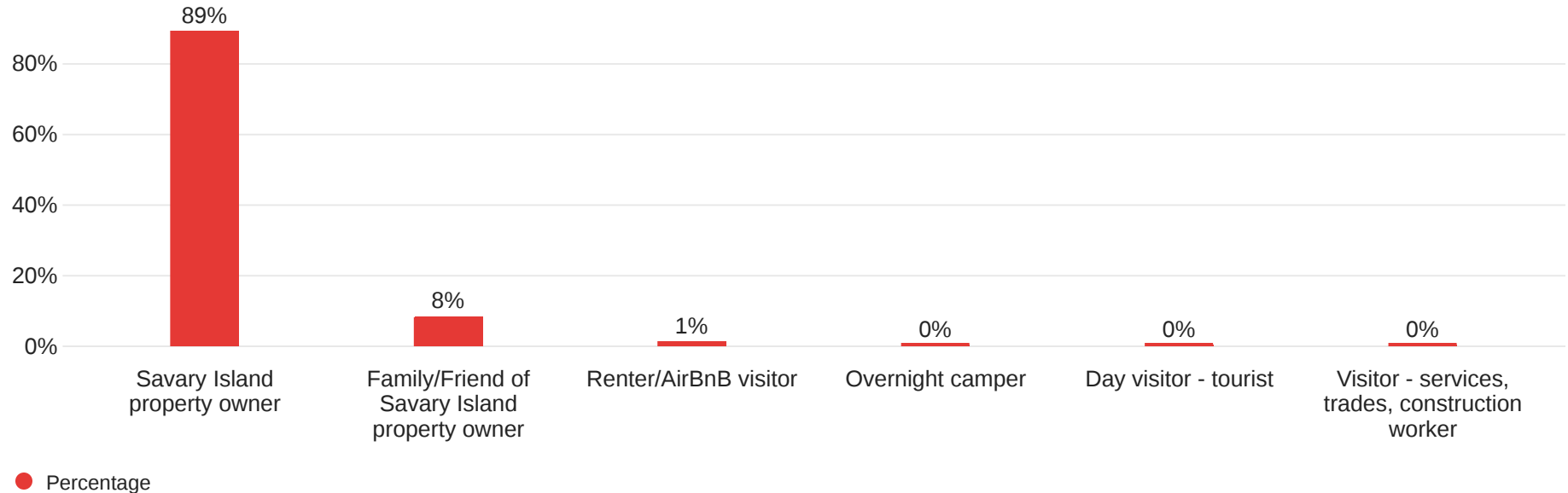
Overall, 472 survey responses were received, which is an excellent response and close to the maximum of 500 responses available through the free software. Qualtrics "ExpertReview" functionality was enabled to assess response quality and filter potential bots, duplicate surveys, straightlining and empty surveys. Overall the ASIC Savary Island Survey was good with 91% of responses passing the ExpertReview quality filter. This is a report of the results of the 427 surveys that remained after the Qualtrics "ExpertReview" filter.

Results are organized by survey question and for either the whole group of respondents (ALL) or for Property Owners only (PO only), as appropriate. Given that Property Owners constituted ~90% of respondents, these results are often very close or the same. Further analysis could explore other subgroups, for example, results by Savary Area (A, B, C), if useful.

Results - by Survey Question

What category best describes you? (Choose one) (ALL)

427 Responses

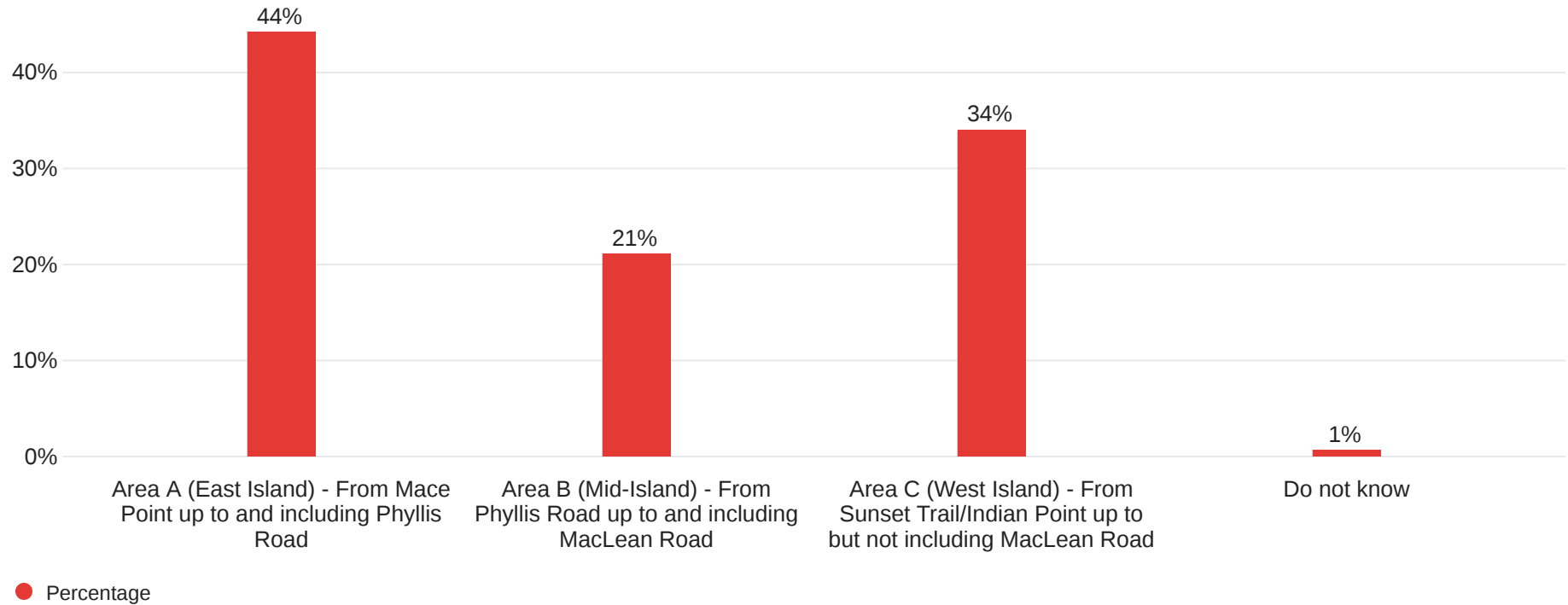


Almost 90% of respondents (n=380) identified as Savary Island Property Owners. This result is not surprising. Being a property owner is an ASIC membership requirement and the survey was distributed through the ASIC member email list. Further, ASIC members were made aware of the survey in advance through newsletters and the July 2023 AGM.

Family and friends of property owners contributed 8% (n=35) surveys, with other groups contributing far fewer. Timing for survey distribution (end of summer), lack of awareness, and channels of distribution may have impacted participation by these groups.

Where on Savary do you usually stay, work, or visit? (ALL)

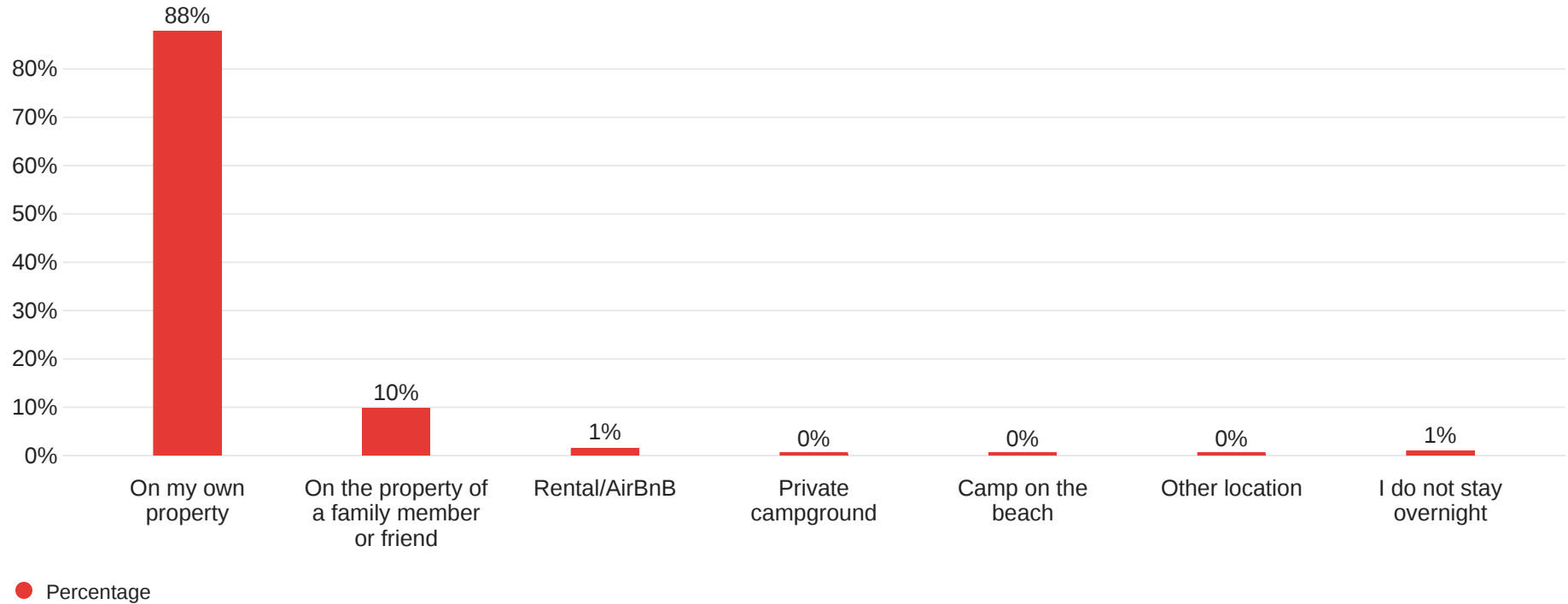
427 Responses



In terms of where respondents usually stay, work, or visit, 44% (n=189) responded Area A, 21% (n=90) responded Area B and 34% (n=145) responded Area C. The results were nearly identical for property owners only (Area A 43%, Area B 21%, Area C 35%)

Where do you usually stay at Savary? (ALL)

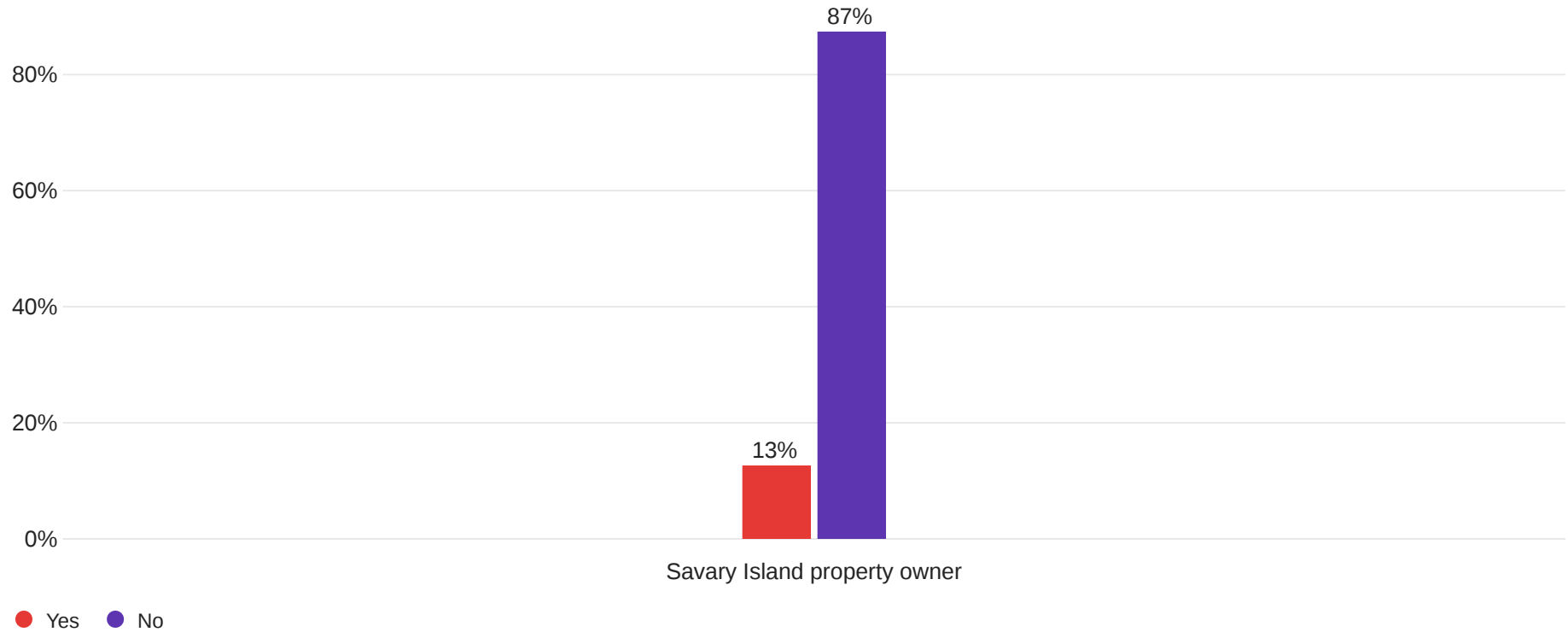
422 Responses



Most respondents (88%, n=371) stay on their own property, or on the property of a family member or friend (10%; n=41). This question functioned as an internal quality check to Q2 - What category best describes you?.

Is Savary your primary residence? (PO only)

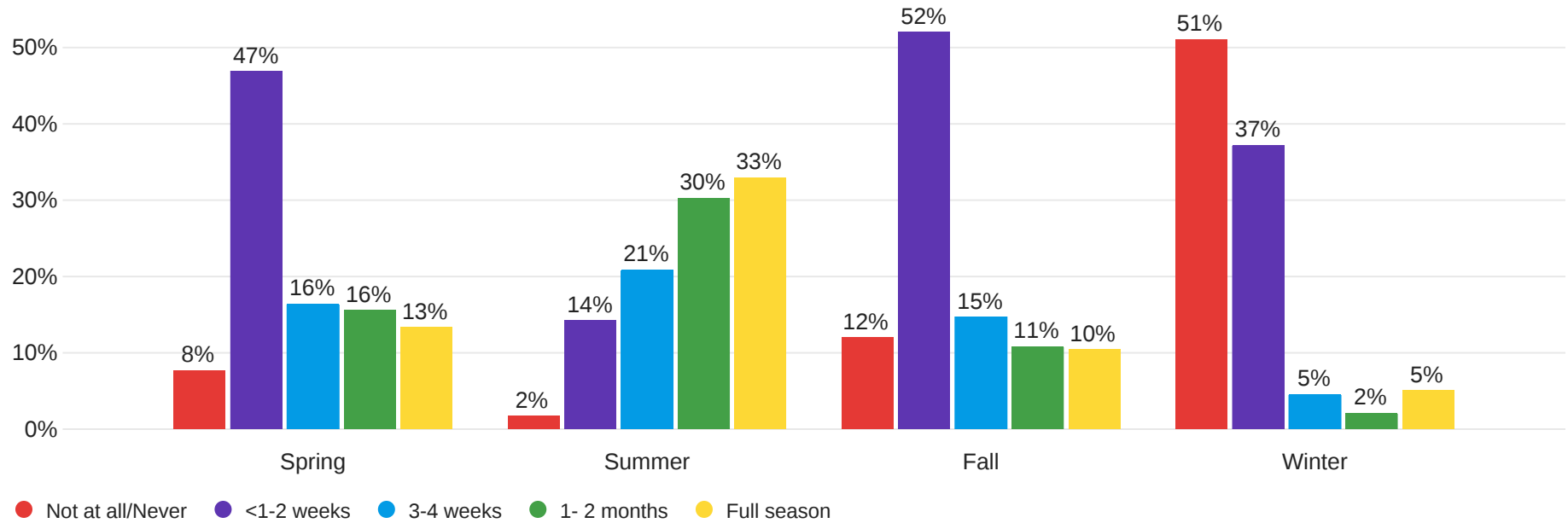
404 Responses



Savary Island (SI) is not the primary residence of most property owners (87%, n=319). Thirteen percent (n=46) of SI property owners report Savary as their primary residence.

How long do you stay on Savary in total each season (ALL)?

417 Responses



Use of Savary is seasonal, with survey respondents spending more time at Savary in Summer and less time at Savary in Winter than in other seasons.

In Summer, 84% stay for 3-4 weeks to the full season (blue, green, and yellow bars), whereas in Winter this drops to only 12%. In Winter, 88% stay not-at-all/Never to <1-2 weeks (red and purple bars).

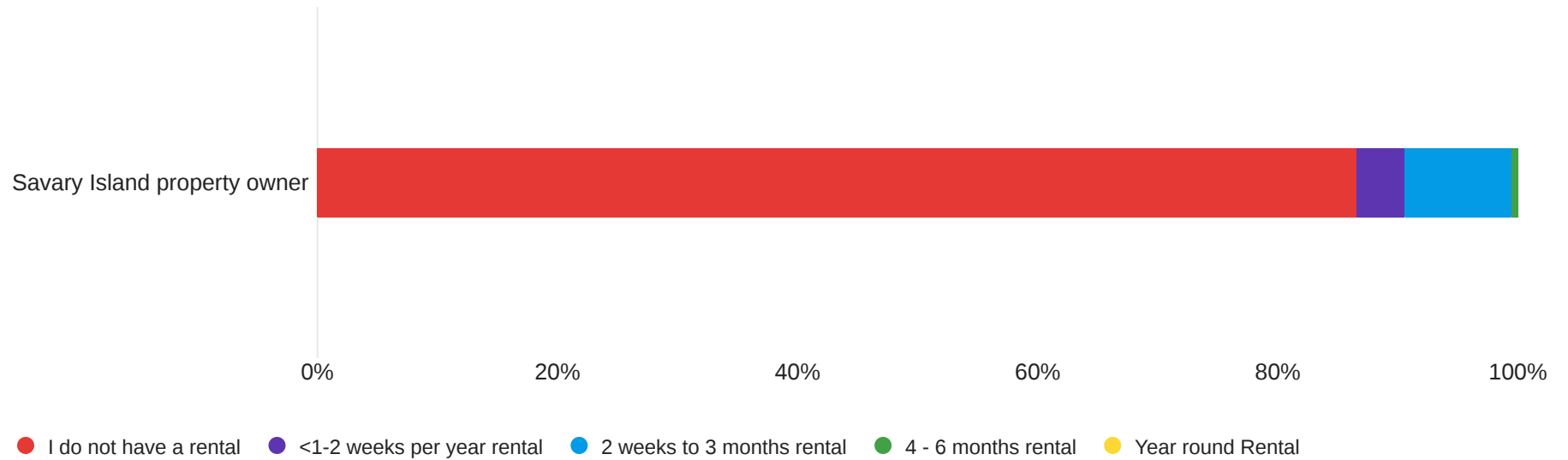
Spring and Fall present more of an intermediate pattern. In Spring, about half (45%) stay 3-4 wks to full season (blue, green and yellow bars) while 55% stay not-at-all/Never to <1-2 weeks (red and purple bars). In Fall, about a third (36%) stay 3-4 wks to full season (blue, green and yellow bars) whereas two-thirds (64%), stay not-at-all/Never to <1-2 weeks (red and purple bars).

When analysed by property owners alone, similar results were seen.

Do you have a rental on your property, and if you do, for how long do you rent each year?

(PO only)

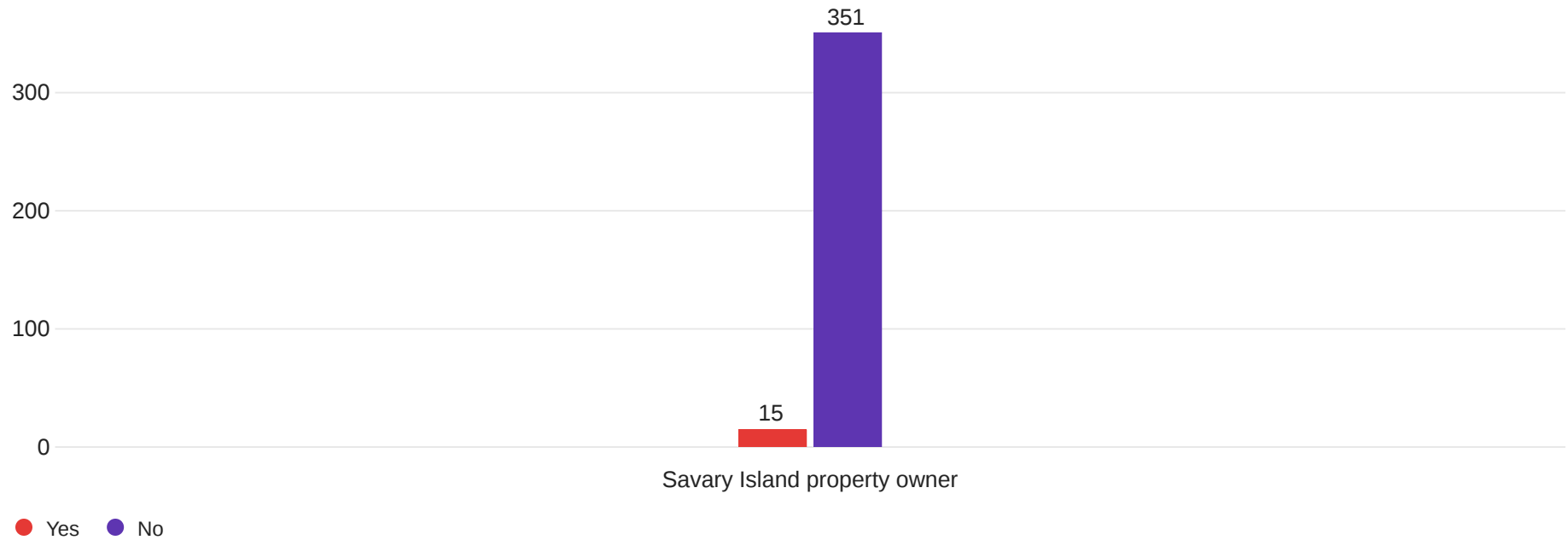
372 Responses



Most property owners (87%, n=322) do not have a rental (red bar). Among the 13% (n=50) who reported having a rental, 2 weeks to 3 months ((blue bar) was the most commonly reported duration of renting each year. There were no year round rentals reported.

Do you own or operate a business (other than cottage rental/AirBnB) that provides services to visitors on Savary? (PO only)

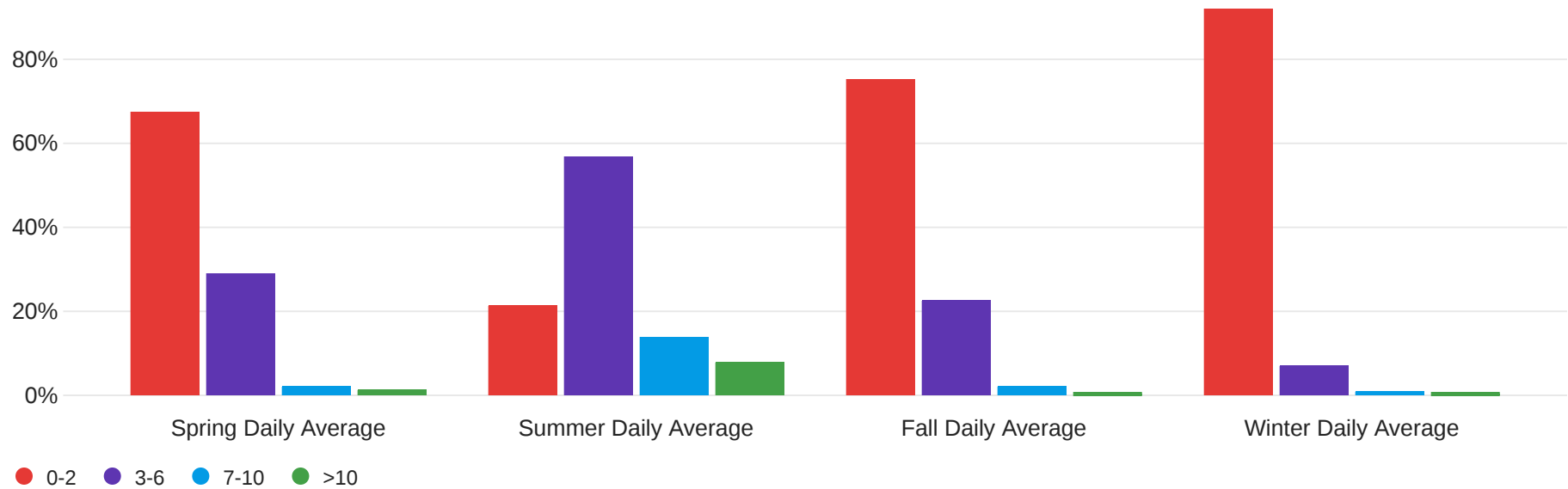
405 Responses



96% (n=351) of Savary Island Property Owner respondents do NOT report owning or operating a business (other than a cottage rental/AirBnB) that provides services to Visitors on Savary, whereas 4% (n=15) property owner respondents reported that they DID.

How many people visit or stay on your property, including rentals, each season (PO only)

366 Responses



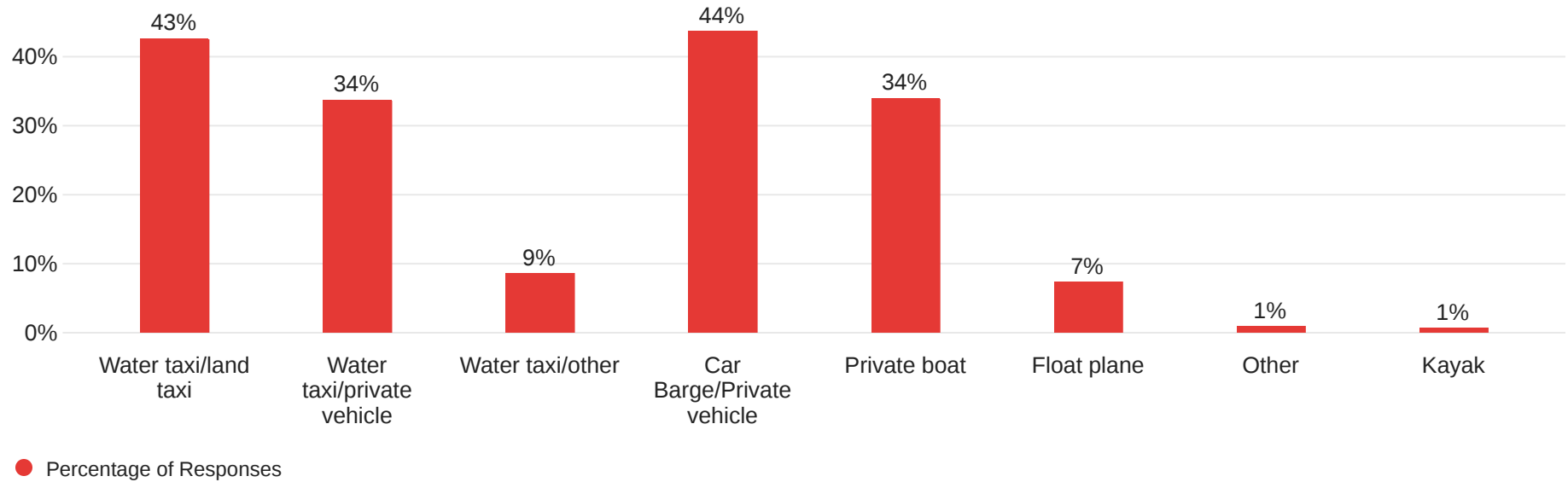
The number of people visiting or staying on a property, including rentals, is higher in Summer as compared with the other seasons.

Among property owner respondents, 57% report 3-6 people as the usual number visiting or staying on their property including rentals (purple), while 14% report 7-10 people as the usual number (blue) and 8% report >10 people (green).

For the remaining three seasons, the majority of property owners report 0-2 people as the usual number of people visiting or staying on a property (red), including 67% of respondents in Spring, 75% of respondents in Fall and 92% of respondents in Winter.

How do you usually get to your final destination on Savary? (Choose all that apply) (ALL)

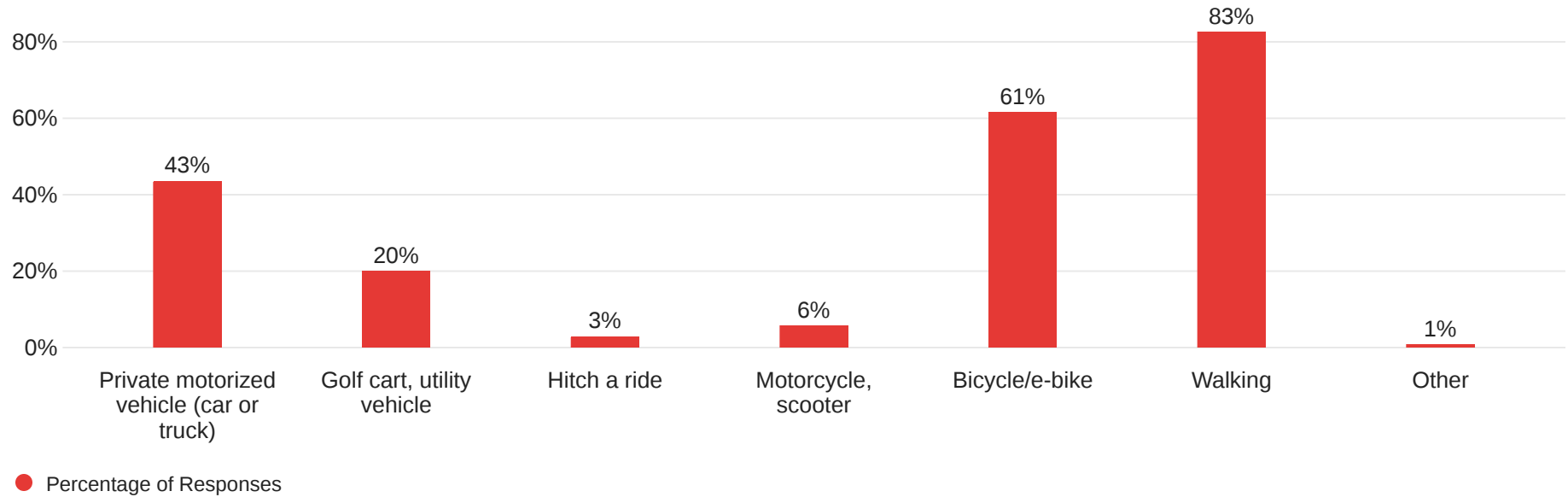
409 Responses



Survey respondents could choose more than one answer to the question of how they usually get to their final destination on Savary. Water taxi is commonly reported as part of travel to a final destination on Savary, including with a land taxi (43% of responses), private vehicle (34% of responses) or “other” (9% of responses). Almost half (44%) of respondents report taking the car barge and a private vehicle and a third (34%) of respondents report using a private boat.

Once on Savary, how do you usually get around? (Choose all that apply) (ALL)

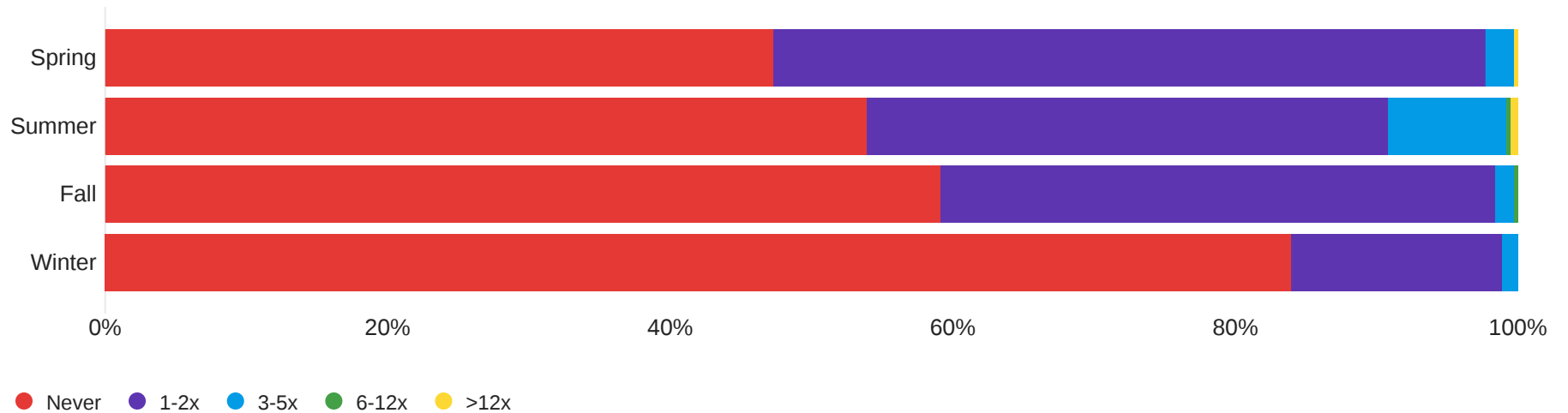
410 Responses



Survey respondents could choose more than one answer to the question of how they usually get around. The majority of respondents reported walking (83%) followed by bicycling/e-biking (61%), following by use of a private motorized vehicle (43%), golf cart (20%) and other forms of transportation.

Do you barge a private motorized vehicle over to Savary? How often? (PO only)

405 Responses

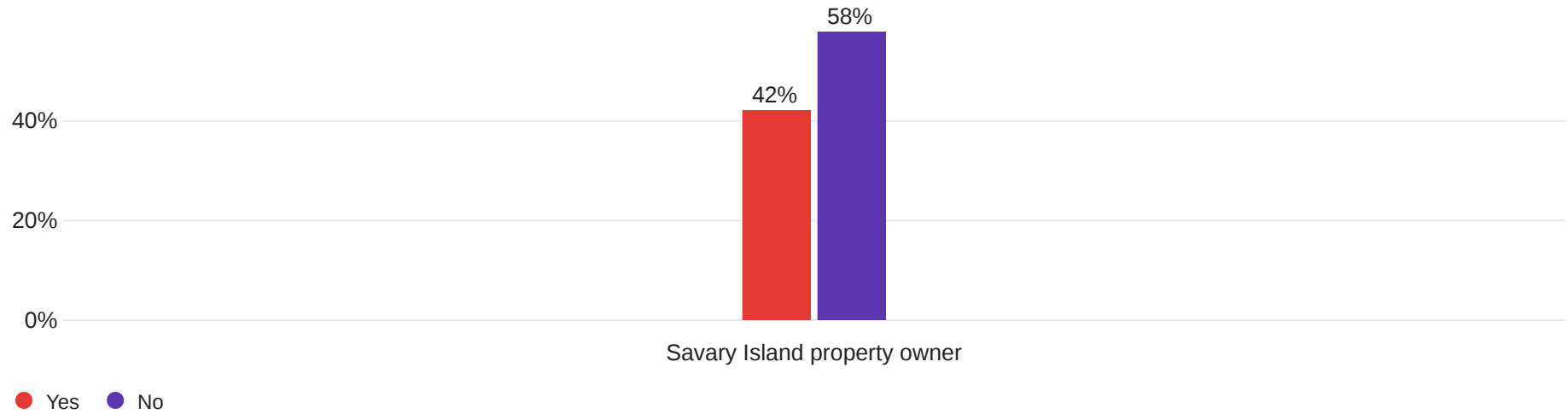


The majority of property owners report "Never" barging a motorized vehicle to Savary (red bar), except in Spring, when just over half (53%) report barging 1-2x per season (purple) or more.

In Summer, while over 50% report never barging (red), some respondents report barging 3-5x per season (8%) (blue) and a small percent report barging >12 x over the season (yellow).

Do you own a private motorized vehicle that stays on island? (PO only)

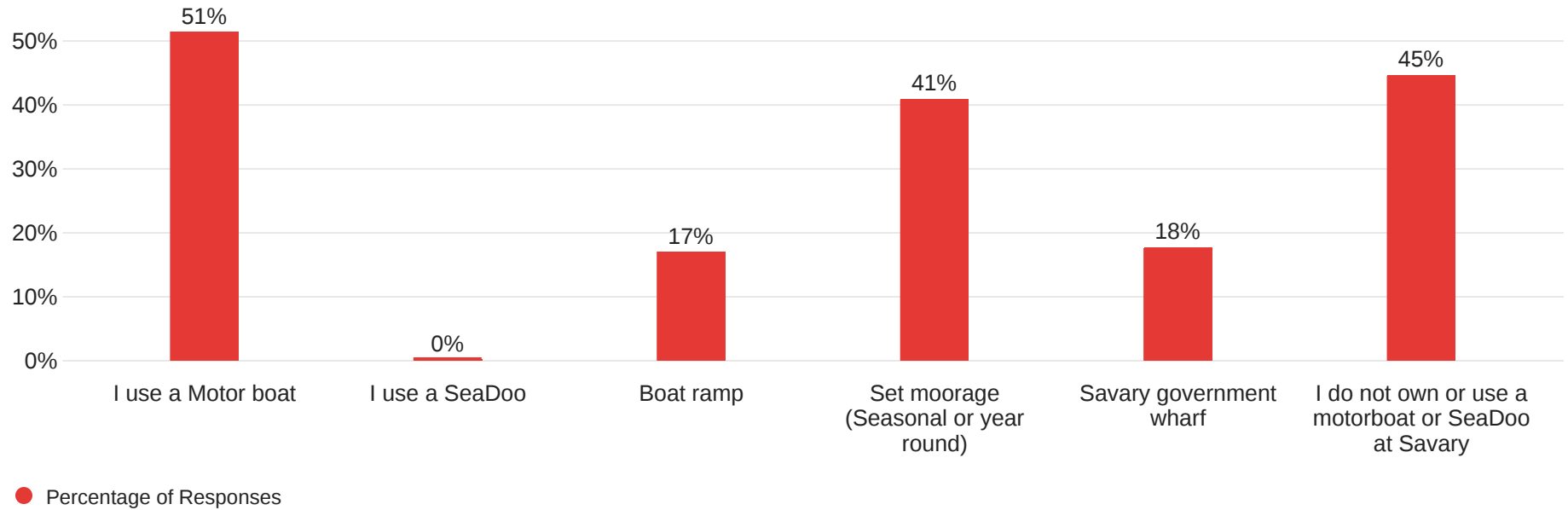
403 Responses



A sizable minority of property owners (42%, n=153) own a private motorized vehicle that stays on Savary, while 58% (n=211) do not.

Regarding boating, which of the following do you use? (Choose all that apply) (ALL)

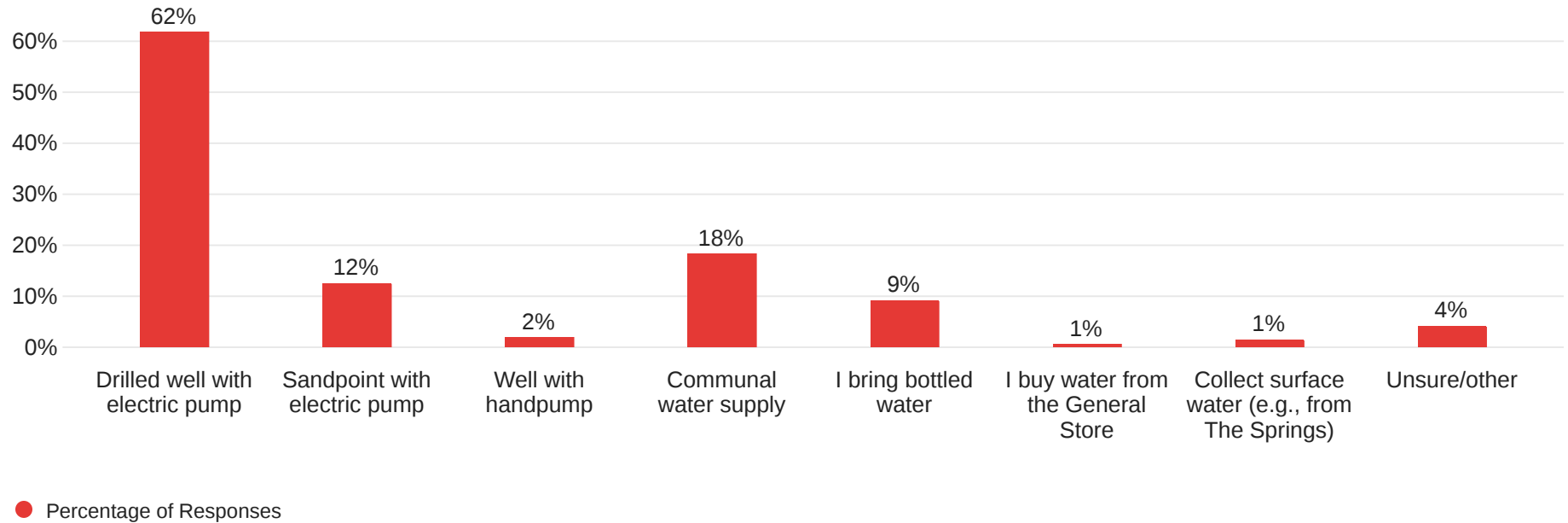
406 Responses



Survey respondents could choose more than one answer to the question regarding boating. Over half of respondents report using a motor boat (51% of responses), 41% of responses reported using a set moorage. Use of the government wharf (18%) and boat ramp (17%) were equally reported.

How do you obtain drinking water on your property? (Choose all that apply) (PO only)

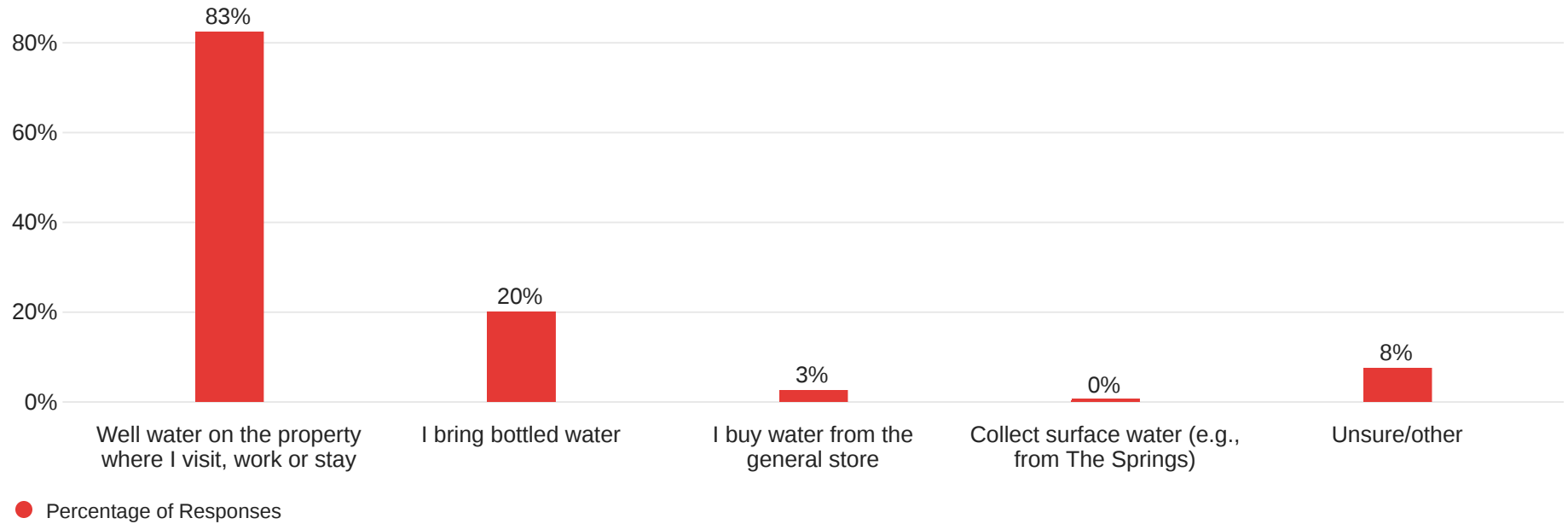
370 Responses



Property owner respondents could choose more than one answer to the question of how they obtain drinking water on their property. The majority of respondents reported a drilled well with an electric pump (62%) or sandpoint with electric pump (12%) 18% of responses reported a communal water supply. Nine percent reported bringing bottled water and other sources (such as a well with handpump) were seldom reported.

How do you obtain drinking water when you visit, work or stay at Savary? (Choose all that apply)

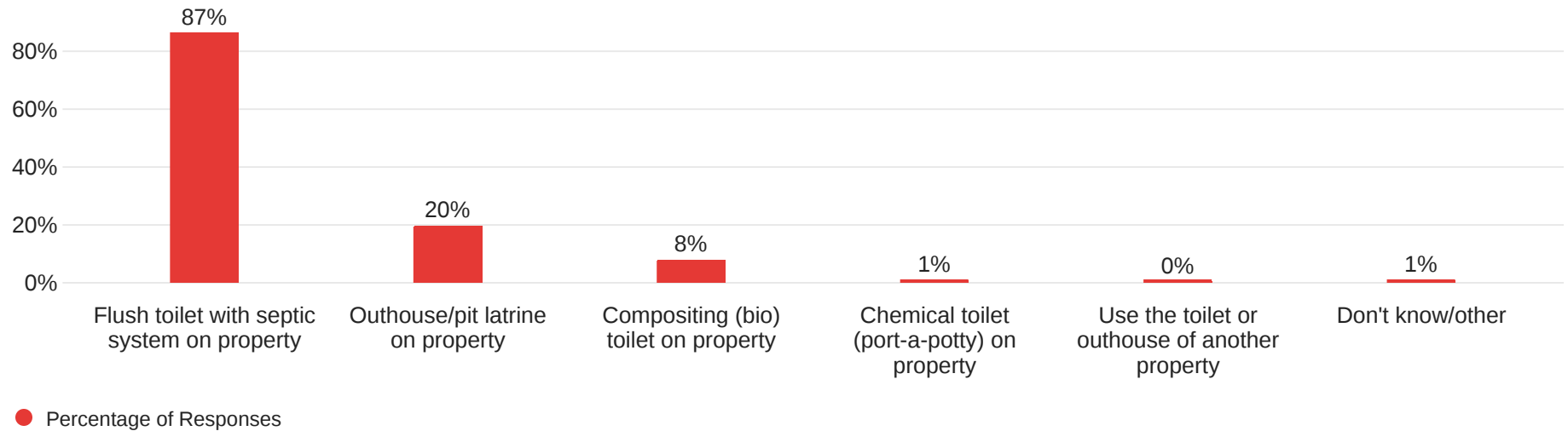
40 Responses



Among Non-Property owners, 83% reported obtaining water from the property where they visit, work or stay, 20% reported bringing bottled water, and 3% reported buying water from the general store. Respondents could choose as many categories as applied.

What type of toilet and septic system do you have on your property or where you stay at Savary? (Choose all that apply) (PO only)

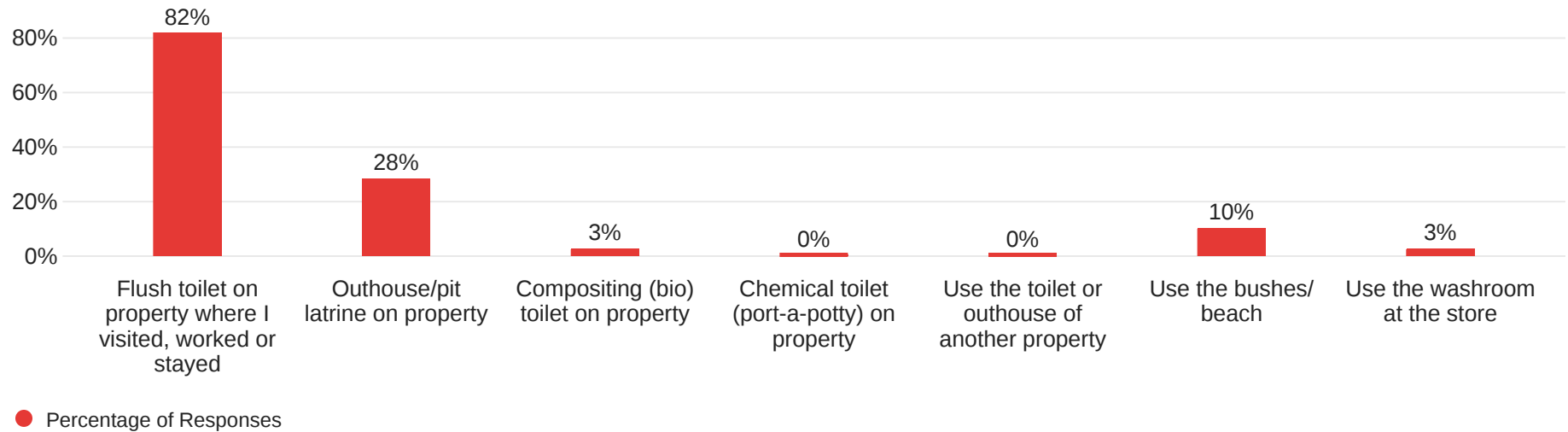
364 Responses



Survey respondents could choose more than one answer to the question of what type of toilet or septic system. The majority of property owners reported a flush toilet with a septic system on their property (87%). Outhouse or pit latrine (20%) and composting (bio) toilet (8%) were also reported.

Where and what type of toilet did you use when you last visited, worked or stayed on Savary? (Choose all that apply) (Non-PO only)

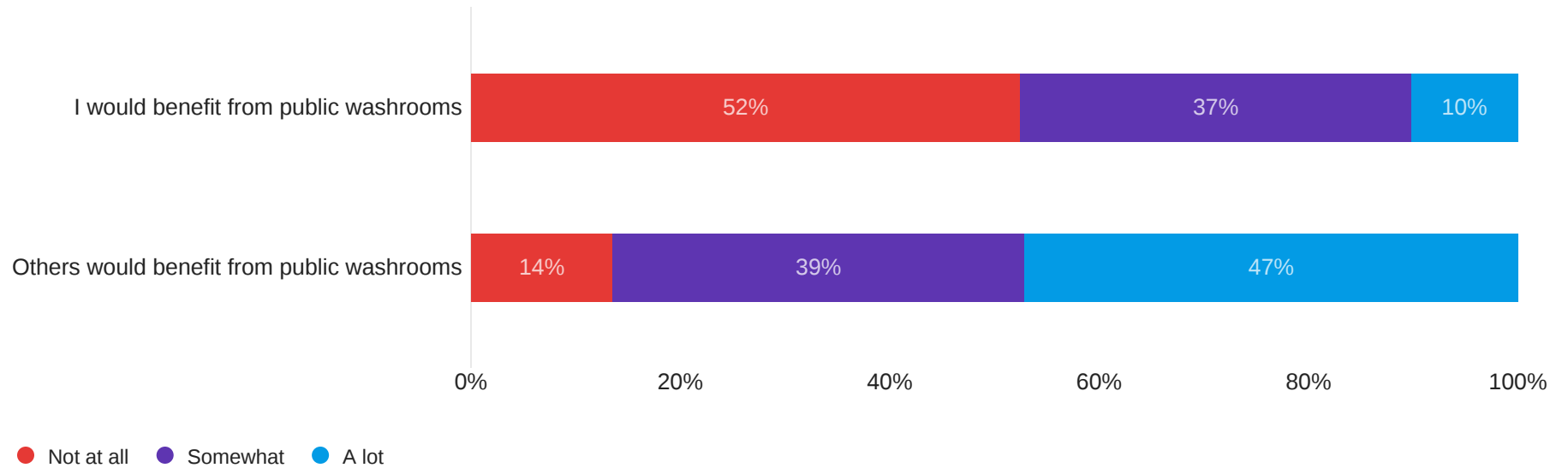
39 Responses



Among non-property owner respondents, most respondents used (82%) a flush toilet on the property where they visited worked or stayed. However a greater proportion used an outhouse or pit latrine (28%) or the bushes or beach (10%) and a small proportion (3%) used the washroom at the general store.

How much would you and others benefit from public washrooms on Savary?

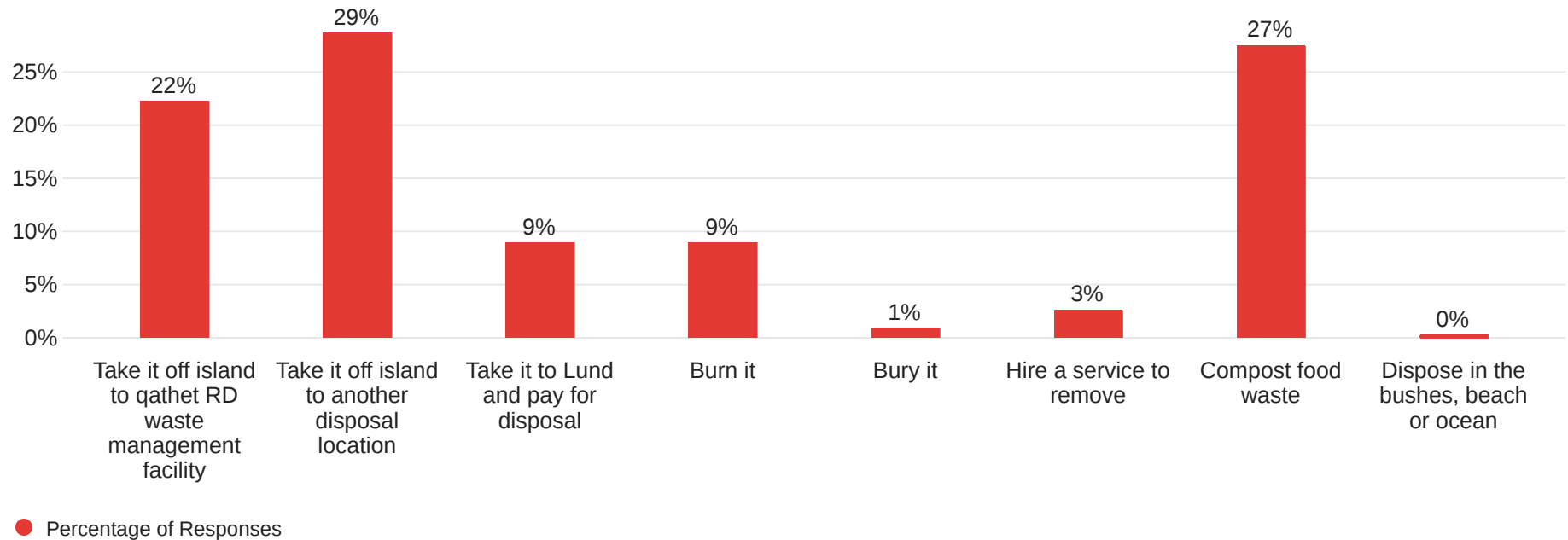
411 Responses



In terms of respondent perception of benefit from public washrooms at Savary, an interesting contrast was seen. The majority of survey respondents felt they themselves would benefit "not at all" (red) from public washrooms (52%) or "somewhat" (purple) (37%), but that others would benefit "somewhat" (39%) or a lot (47%).

How do you usually get rid of litter, garbage, and recyclables at Savary? (Choose all that apply) (PO only)

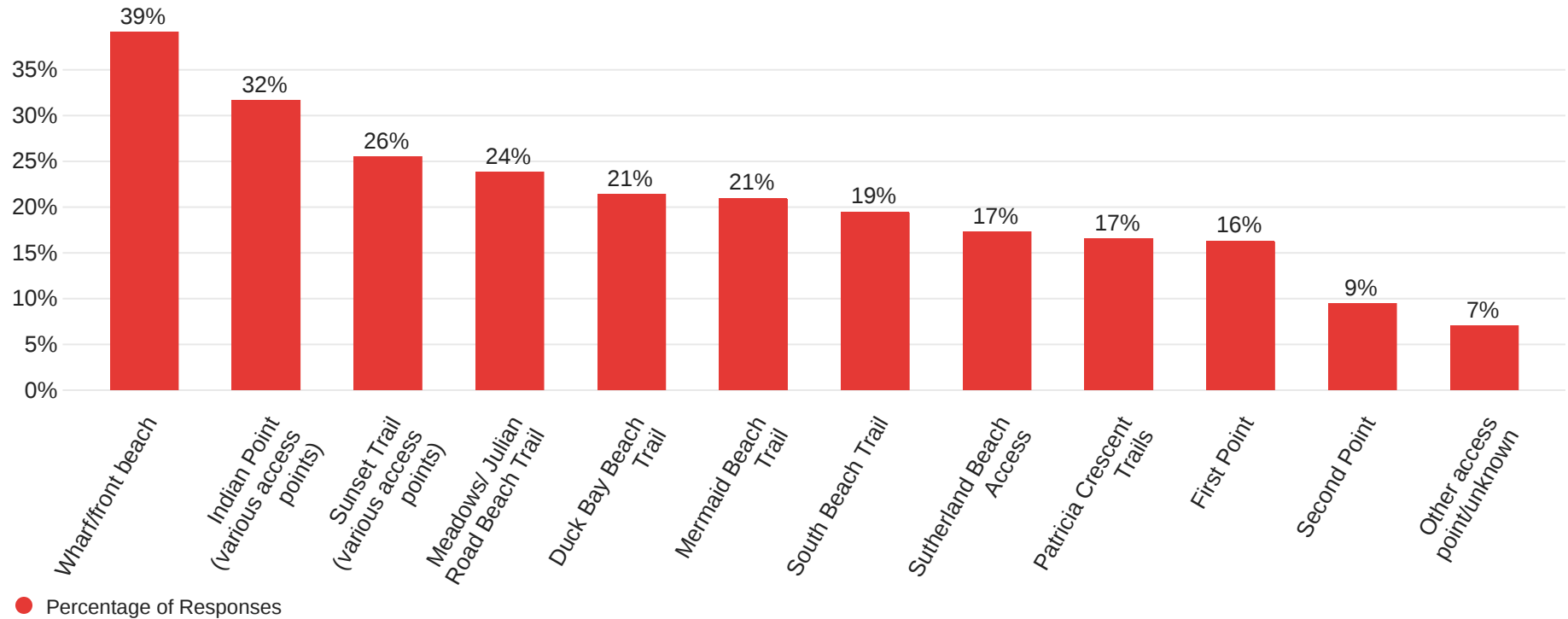
411 Responses



Survey respondents could choose more than one answer to the question of waste disposal and recycling. Over half of property owner respondents reported taking their garbage off-island to a qRD waste management facility (21% of responses), another disposal facility (26% of responses) or to Lund (7% or responses). Composting food waste was commonly reported (25% of responses). Nine percent of respondents burn their garbage and small numbers burn or bury it.

Which beach access trail do you use most frequently? (Choose top three) (ALL)

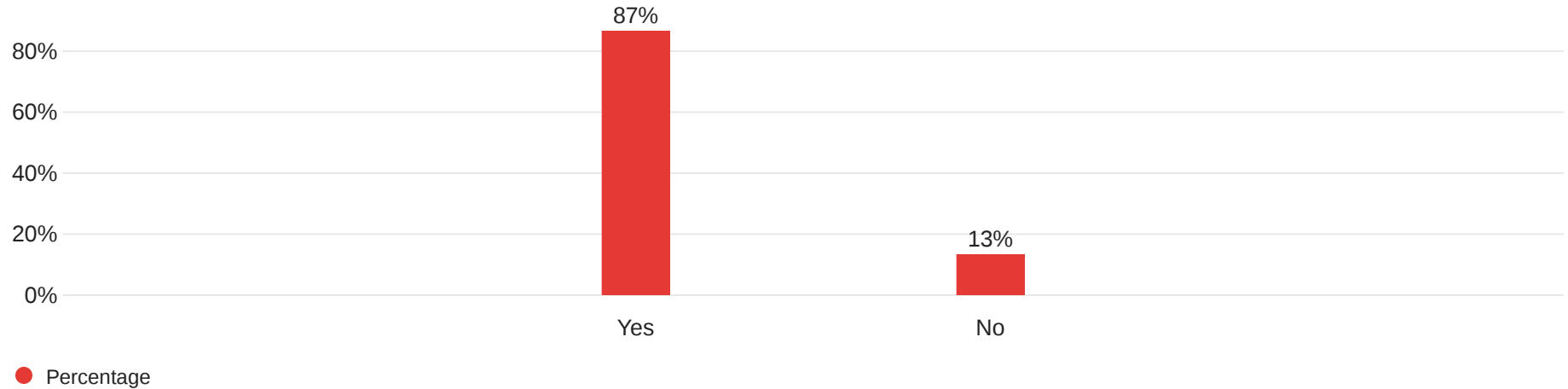
411 Responses



Small number of responses to this question (n=7) makes the answers less reliable. With this caveat, information is most commonly received from the rental host, followed by other sources. Information is most commonly about Savary beaches, that Savary is off-grid and how to get to Savary. Least common is information on lack of public washrooms and public water. More information is required to better understand what information visitors receive, from where and from whom, to target an appropriate campaign.

Are you aware as a property owner that you have a right to vote in the qathet Regional District (qRD) elections? (PO only)

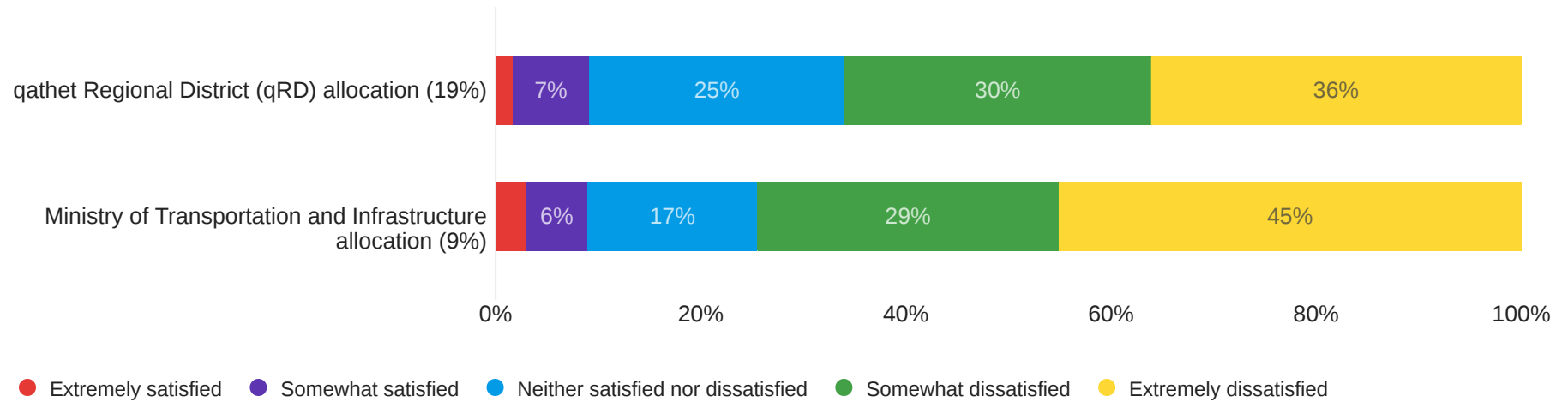
346 Responses



The majority of Savary Island property owner respondents (87%) are aware that they have the right to vote in the qRD elections.

Please rate your level of satisfaction regarding your Savary Island Property Tax (PO only)

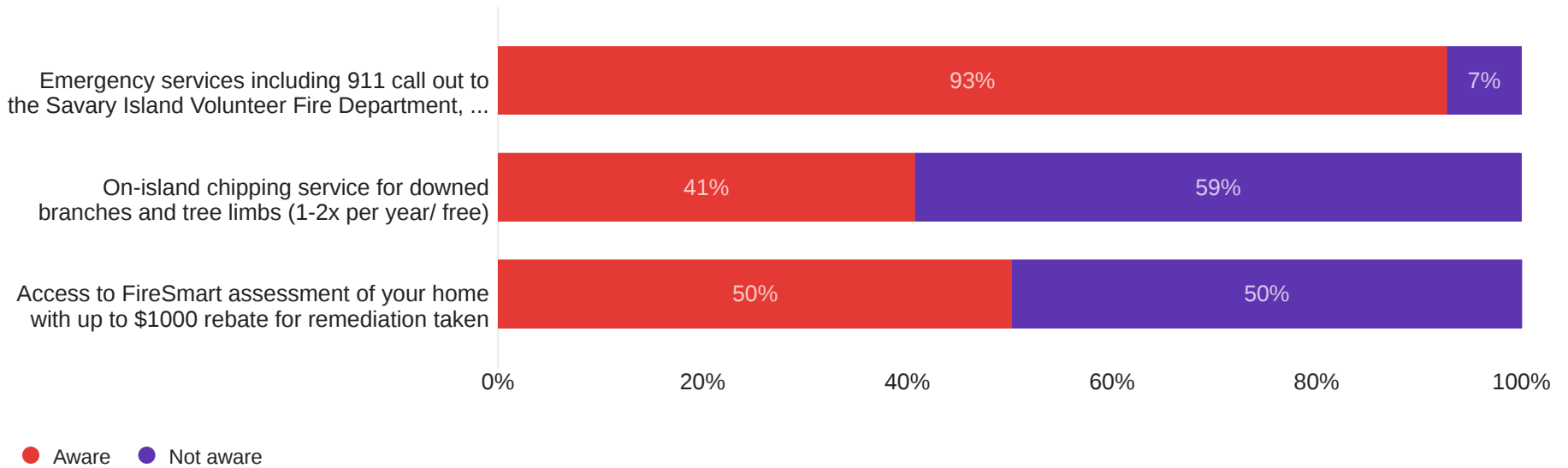
242 Responses



The majority of respondents are somewhat or extremely dissatisfied by the allocation of their Savary Island property taxes by the qRD and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.

Are you aware that qRD provides the following Emergency and Firesmart servi...

403 Responses



92% of survey respondents are aware that there is an emergency services provided on Savary including a 911 call out to the Savary Island Volunteer Fire Department; however 7% of respondents are not aware. There is less awareness of the on-island chipping services and of access to FireSmart Assessment and rebates.

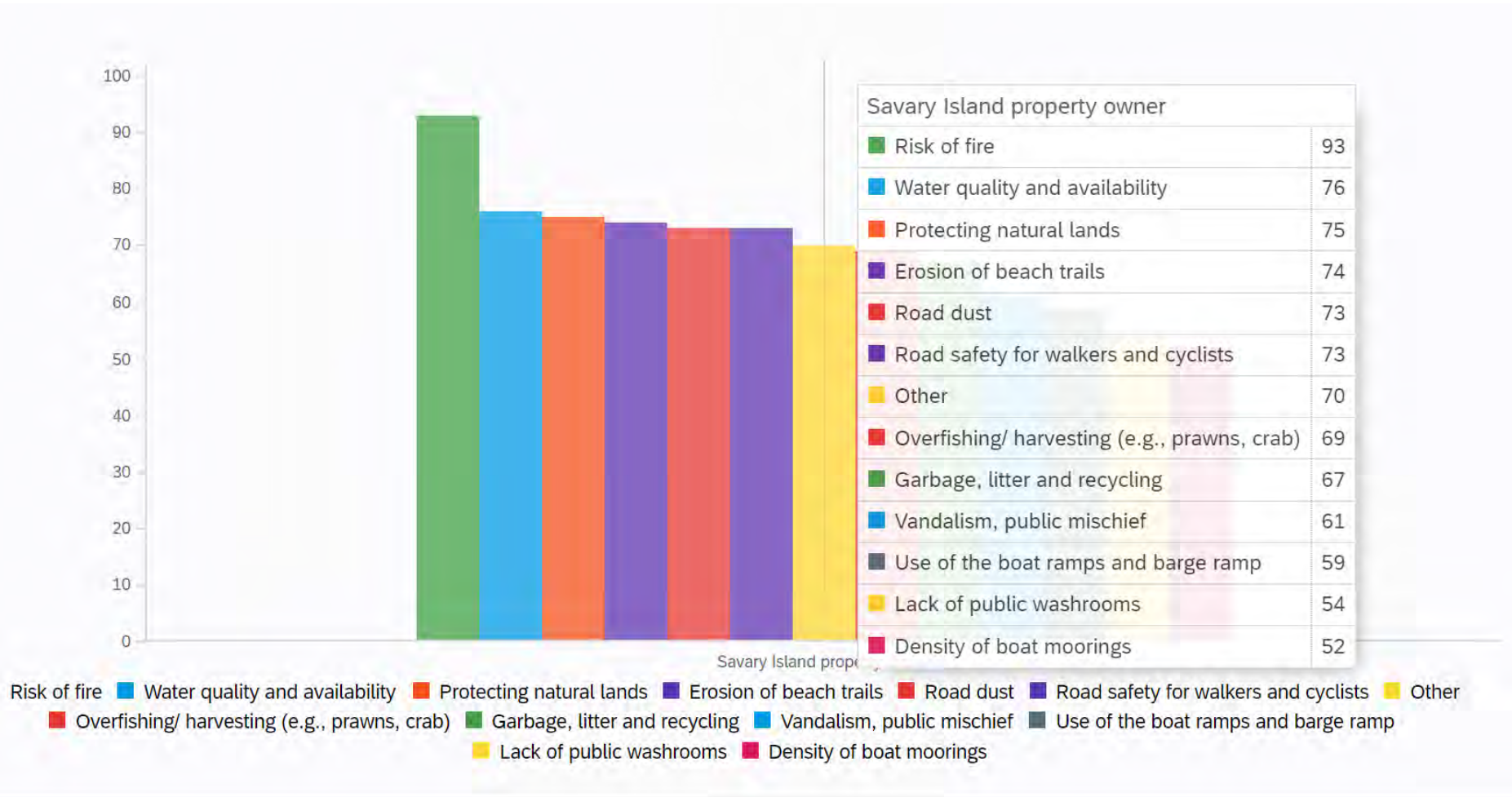
To what extent should the following be priorities? (Choose a number from 0 to 100 (ALL))

399 Responses

Field	Mean
Risk of fire	93
Water quality and availability	77
Protecting natural lands	75
Erosion of beach trails	74
Road safety for walkers and cyclists	73
Road dust	71
Other	69
Overfishing/ harvesting (e.g., prawns, crab)	69
Garbage, litter and recycling	68
Vandalism, public mischief	61
Use of the boat ramps and barge ramp	59
Lack of public washrooms	54
Density of boat moorings	53

Respondents were asked to rate from 0-100 the extent to which various issues should be priorities to address. Among all respondents, risk of fire overwhelmingly received the highest mean score as a priority issue (mean=93), followed by water quality and availability (mean=77) and protecting natural lands (mean=75). Density of boat moorings (mean=53), lack of public washrooms (mean=54) and use of boat ramps and barge ramp (mean=59) received the lowest scores. A statistical test is required to determine whether differences in mean ratings are significant.

Property owner rating of priorities



Property owners only rated the priorities similarly to all respondents.

Field	Area A (East Island) - From Mace Point up to and including Phyllis Road	Area B (Mid-Island) - From Phyllis Road up to and including MacLean Road	Area C (West Island) - From Sunset Trail/Indian Point up to but not including MacLean Road
Risk of fire	92	91	95
Water quality and availability	76	72	80
Protecting natural lands	76	74	75
Road dust	75	64	71
Road safety for walkers and cyclists	72	69	76
Erosion of beach trails	72	78	74

Showing rows 1 - 6 of 6

Respondents from all three Savary Areas ranked Risk of fire at the top of the list of priorities. However there were slight differences below this:

- Area A, water quality and availability and protecting natural lands tied for second at mean=76, and road dust came next at mean=75.
- Area B, erosion of beach trails ranked second (78), protecting natural lands ranked third (74), and water quality and availability ranked fourth (72)
- Area C, water quality and availability ranked second (80), road safety for walkers and cyclists ranked third (76) and protecting natural lands ranked fourth (75)

Q27 Other - Text Entries - WORD CLOUD

65 Responses



Among respondents to Q. 27, 67 added a written comment to the category "Other". Comments were entered into Excel and grouped thematically.

- The largest theme (n=16 mentions) was in regard to the number of cars and other motorized vehicles on the island, and their impacts including speeding, parking, abandoned cars, and ATVs at night. Controlling or reducing the number of vehicles on the island was mentioned by some.
- Road maintenance and access for community fire and emergency services, walking paths, safe bike paths, multi-use paths, and improved beach trail maintenance were other transportation/road-related themes.
- Density, overbuilding, and related issues such as wells being too close, unregulated septic, clear-cutting on private land, and inappropriate businesses emerged as another key theme group. Lack of building restrictions, and the need for building permits or laws, were mentioned.
- Island sustainability and stewardship of the ecology of private property, as well as monitoring the water table and conserving trees was a theme.
- Linked by some respondents to overbuilding (e.g., of rentals), another key theme was around inappropriate behaviour (especially in summer) and the need for policing. Excessive noise, and dogs were also mentioned. To address the influx of visitors, some suggested washrooms, visitor education, and limiting or regenerative tourism.
- Other topics mentioned: lack of infrastructure, taxes, equitable property assessment, role of MOTI, solar power, archaeology, and aquaculture.

