

MINUTES OF AN ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE MEMBERS OF
**ONTARIO CLIMBING ACCESS COALITION/
COALITION POUR L'ACCÈS AUX PAROIS D'ESCALADE DE L'ONTARIO**
(the "Corporation")

HELD in Toronto, Ontario at True North Climbing, on June 26, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.

Constitution of Meeting

A quorum of the members of the Corporation being present in person and notice of the meeting having been duly sent, the meeting was declared regularly constituted.

Tony Berlier took the Chair and Graeme Taylor acted as Secretary of the meeting. Patrick Lam was appointed scrutineer.

Financial Statements

The Chair presented to the Meeting the audited financial statements of the Corporation for the year ended December 31, 2016.

Election of Directors

The Chair then stated that it was in order to proceed with the election of directors and declared the meeting open for nominations. The following individuals were nominated:

Mike Penney
Graeme Taylor
Tony Berlier

The Chair confirmed that Mike, Graeme, and Tony had consented to their election as directors. No member having demanded a ballot, the election of directors was conducted by a show of hands following a motion by Patrick Lam and seconded by Kathryn "Sparky" Russell.

The election having been held, the Chair declared Mike, Graeme, and Tony to be duly elected B directors of the Corporation to hold office for a term of two years, or in each case, until their successors are elected, subject to the provisions of the by-laws of the Corporation.

Election of Co-Chairs

The Chair then introduced the special resolution appointing Tony Berlier and Randy Kielbasiewicz as co-chairs of the Board of Directors. The Chair explained that the by-laws and the *Corporations Act* (Ontario) require that any chair be elected by the members by special resolution.

No member having demanded a ballot, the election of co-chairs was conducted by a show of hands.

On motion duly made by Mike Smythe, seconded by John Vellone, and carried, the special resolution electing Tony Berlier and Randy Kielbasiewicz as co-chairs of the Board of Directors was approved.

Appointment of Auditors

The Chair introduced the next item of business, the appointment of Peters, Brown LLP as auditor of the Corporation and authorizing the Board to fix the auditor's remuneration.

No member having demanded a ballot, the Chair conducted the vote by show of hands.

On motion duly made by Mike Smythe, seconded by Patrick Lam, and carried, it was resolved that Peters, Brown LLP be appointed as the Corporation's auditor for the 2017 financial year, and that the Board be authorized to fix the auditor's remuneration.

Termination

There being no further business, the meeting then terminated, as moved by Mike Smythe and seconded by Danylo Darewych.

Chair

Secretary

Tony Berlier

Graeme Taylor

OAC ACCESS SENDS 2016/2017: Summary

CLIMBING AREAS

- **Niagara Glen**

CLIMBING COMMUNITY

- **Beaver Valley Climbing Festival**
- **OAC Strategic Plan/Vision**
- **Southern Ontario Ice Fest**
- **Gym rep program/Gym to Crag**
- **OAC Facebook Group**

CONNECTING WITH OTHERS

- **NEPA community support and participation**
- **Ontario Trails Coordinating Committee**
- **Niagara Glen clean-up day**
- **Crag Stewardship Day (Conservation Halton)**
- **MNRF Metcalf Rock discussion meetings**
- **MNRF Climbing Knowledge Share Forum**

OAC ACCESS SENDS 2016/2017

CLIMBING AREAS

Niagara Glen – We remain on good terms with the Niagara Parks Commission and constantly work to improve our relationship. We are in communication with them about the future of the Niagara Glen permit system. The NPC recently implemented a parking fee for the Niagara Glen parking lot. An annual parking permit is available for free with the purchase of your bouldering permit which offers boulderers a significant discount on parking. The NPC encourages boulderers to purchase their 2017 permits if they have not already done so and continue to act as excellent stewards at the area.

Huge thanks to Simon Fugere for spearheading a cleanup day with support from the OAC and the Friends of the Glen. The event was a record breaker with over 55 official participants and countless others who just helped out as they hiked around bouldering.

CLIMBING COMMUNITY

BVCF – The 4th Annual Beaver Valley Climbing Festival took place in July 2016 and was a huge success. We attracted close to 250 people and raised funds to support future OAC projects. The weekend was packed with games, clinics, vendors, competitions, entertainment, yoga, massage, music, dancing, a huge bonfire and tasty food. The event was a rare opportunity for the Ontario climbing community to come together and celebrate the beauty of the Beaver Valley. Don't miss this year's BVCF, July 14-16th 2017!

SO Ice Festival - Once again the OAC helped sponsor the second Southern Ontario Ice Fest Feb 24-26th in Maynooth, ON. The event brought together the growing ice climbing community and helped raise funds to support The Rural Overland Utility Transit, a fully accessible public transit service in the north half of Hastings County and one Haliburton County municipality located in a rural region of Southeastern Ontario. The event also helped increase local awareness in regards to the economic benefits provided by ice climbing.

CLIMBING COMMUNITY

OAC Approved program – The OAC Approved program highlights events and products that contribute to climbing access in Ontario.

Events and products that receive approval showcase the “OAC Approved” Seal, indicating that:

- the event or product is aligned with the OAC’s Missions Statement and Code of Ethics; and,
- the projects were created in collaboration with appropriate land managers/owners.

Gym rep program – Two years ago the OAC created an OAC Gym Rep program whereby gyms would have at least one volunteer who would work an OAC table on a regular basis.

Mylissa Prisner continues working diligently to enhance the program and streamline the logistics. We are always looking for keen volunteers to assist with this program. Email info@ontarioaccesscoalition.com if interested.

Gym to Crag – Three years ago the OAC partnered with the Access Fund to co-brand our logo onto their Gym To Crag poster. The poster promotes responsible crag practices in a fun way.

The poster should be found in most Ontario climbing gyms and MEC locations. If not, contact the OAC for one!

Crag Status Doc – Last year, we released an up-to-date version of our Crag Status Document which provides a quick reference to the access status of all the commonly asked-about crags in the province. This version also provides more detailed information: links to route information, Google map links, and notes on typical conditions, permits and fees. We are looking to further streamline our presentation of this material.

OAC calendar – The OAC continues to produce a high quality calendar showcasing the beautiful and diverse climbing areas in the province that we are lucky to call our local spots. All calendar proceeds go to the OAC and support access. Our social media outlets were again inundated with submissions to our photo contest. Keep those submissions flowing in again this year!

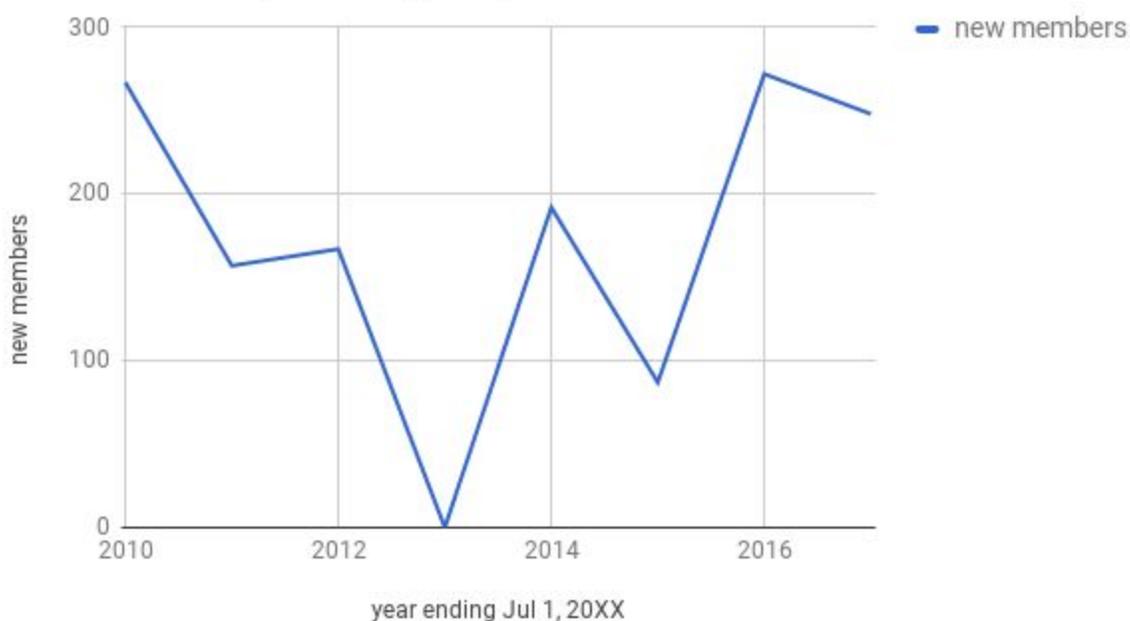
OAC survey – The response rate remains high, with 190 climbers responding to our annual survey. The results of the survey provide data which inform our ongoing discussions with land managers. See detailed report.

CLIMBING COMMUNITY

OAC Facebook group – We surpassed 1740 likes for our OAC Facebook group as a result of regularly posting updates relevant to the climbing community. This was once again a 30% annual increase for the second year in a row.

OAC membership – Our membership continues to increase steadily with another 248 members joining in the 2016-2017 year. Total membership is now 1390 individuals.

new members for year ending Jul 1, 20XX



CONNECTING WITH OTHERS

Niagara Escarpment Plan Amendments - The Ontario government has released the new Niagara Escarpment Plan. We expect that the new Plan will not significantly affect climbing access in the short term. With respect to climbing access, it is much improved from previous proposals. A huge thank you for sending your feedback; together, the climbing community helped preserve access to Ontario climbing! See an analysis on our website:

<https://www.ontarioaccesscoalition.com/2017/05/26/2017-niagara-escarpment-plan-and-climbing-access/>

Ontario Trails Coordinating Committee – Dr. Garrett Hutson was recently nominated and elected as the non-motorized trails representative for the Ontario Trails Coordinating Committee. His role is to be the conduit between all non-motorized communities of practice who use trails and the Province and to keep communication channels open to leverage opportunities and to try and help resolve conflicts when they arise. In March of 2017 he participated in a one day workshop, titled Big Box Greenspace, focusing on overuse challenges, where he represented the OAC and the climbing community. This was coordinated by NEPOSS and CASIOPA and supported by MNRF.

Conservation Halton (CH) – We continued to cooperate with Conservation Halton to run the annual Crag Stewardship Day in early May 2017. This year, due to the excessive amounts of rain, OAC volunteers cleaned up trashed at Rattlesnake Point. We aim to be back next year to continue to fight off the invasion of Garlic Mustard which is proving to be highly successful. This event improves climbers' visibility at some of our most popular crags. In June 2017, the OAC chairs along with ACC representative John Vellone, had a highly productive meeting with CH to strategize ways to improve climbers' experience and manage the explosion of growth in the industry.

MNRF Metcalfe Rock discussion meetings - A review with primary user groups in opportunities to work together towards management of increased traffic from all user groups. The OAC met with MNRF and the following groups: Bruce Trail, Local Bruce Trail, Kolapore Wilderness Trails Association, Bruce Grey Tourism

MNRF Climbing Knowledge and Share Forum - The second Grey/Bruce Rock Climbing and Bouldering Forum took place in 2016 in Walkerton, ON. These meetings and continued discussions are designed to promote a coordinated approach to management of rockclimbing as an activity in areas where appropriate in the Upper Escarpment Area.

Participants are Grey Bruce Tourism, City of Owen Sound, GSCA, MNRF, ACC, Ontario Parks, Parks Canada, Grey County and the County of Bruce.

We hope that an additional forum group for the southern portion of the escarpment will be assembled in the coming year.

OAC Climbers' Survey 2016: Summary

The OAC survey continued in 2016 with a slight decrease in responses (190 complete, 79 partial) over 2015 (216). Many thanks again to Laura Duncan for survey design beta and for processing the results.

This year, 55% of respondents were members of the OAC, about the same as last year. Please consider joining the OAC (\$5 / lifetime) if you are not yet a member. Membership also grew 20% since June 2016, to a total of 1,390 members as of June 2017.

Up-to-date survey information continues to be a key source of facts about the vitality and economic importance of the Ontario climbing community.

Some highlights:

- over time, the male/female split among survey respondents has shifted from 68% male (2014) to 63% male (2016).
- survey respondents estimated that they had been out for over 4,450 climber-days in 2016, a quarter of which were in Milton, and a fifth in the Bruce Peninsula and Beaver Valley each. 72% of the climber-days were on day trips.
- Spending was over \$190,000.
- the largest cluster of respondents live in the Greater Toronto Area, with a smaller clump in the National Capital Region and communities in Kitchener-Waterloo, London, and new this year, Sudbury.
- the mean age of respondents was 32, with a standard deviation of 10. Most respondents were under 36.
- the most popular occupational grouping (15%) was student, followed closely by computer/IT/software and business/finance at 13%, and health and education at 11% each. Average income was \$50,000.
- this year, a plurality of respondents chose The Swamp as their favourite crag, with about 18% of choices, followed by Mount Nemo, at 15%.
- the vast majority of climbers (70%) practiced sport climbing, while 44% bouldered and 42% practiced trad climbing. Ice climbing was practiced by 21%.
- on climbing trips, when not climbing, 47% of climbers went hiking or snowshoeing (beyond the approach), with swimming next at 32% and canoeing/kayaking/SUP at 26%.
- Ontario climbers also travel outside Ontario to climb: 53% to the US, 25% to another province, and 19% outside Canada/the US.
- a sizeable fraction of climbers took instructional courses: 22% outdoors, 13% indoors.

Thanks again for your participation in the OAC Climbers' Survey. We appreciate your help in carrying out our mission.

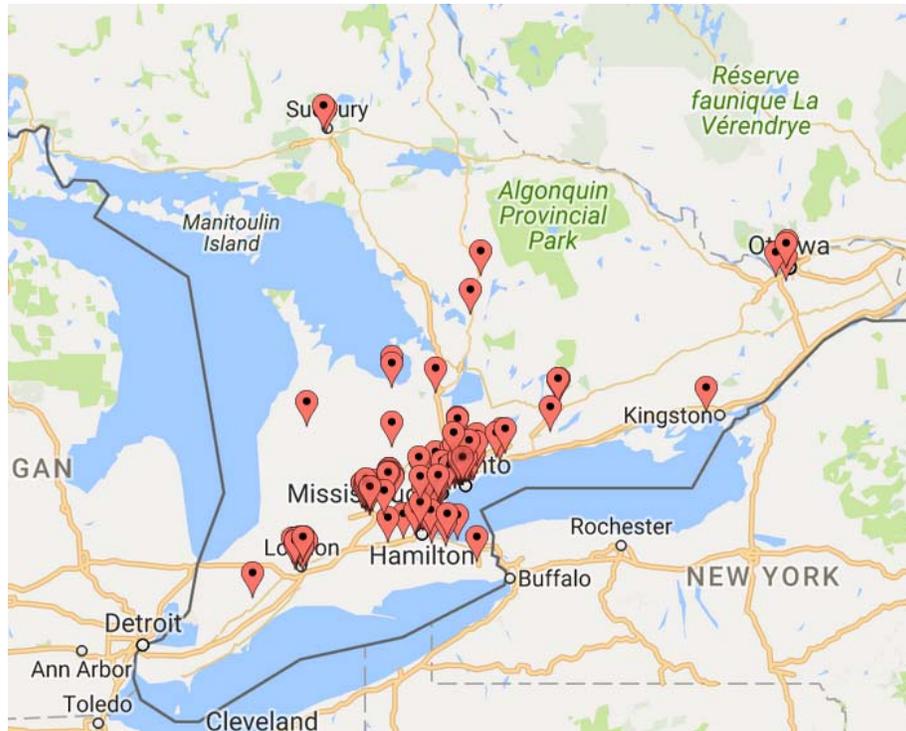
Responses=269

Complete responses after empty cases & duplicates removed: 190

Partial cases: 79

OAC Member Survey 2016: Summary Statistics

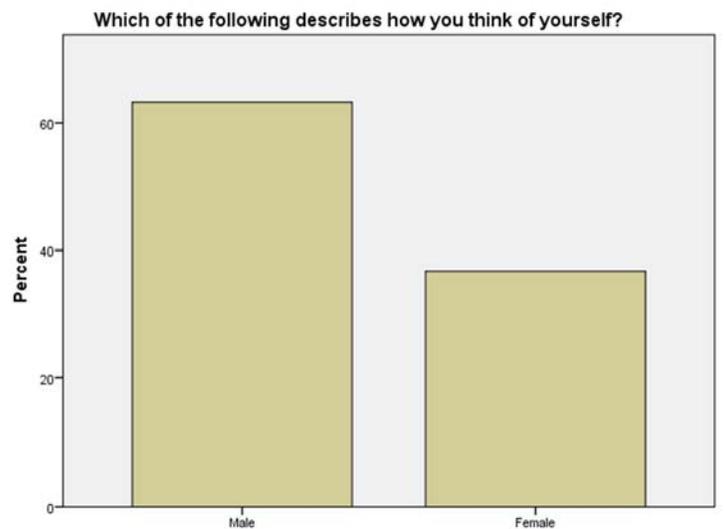
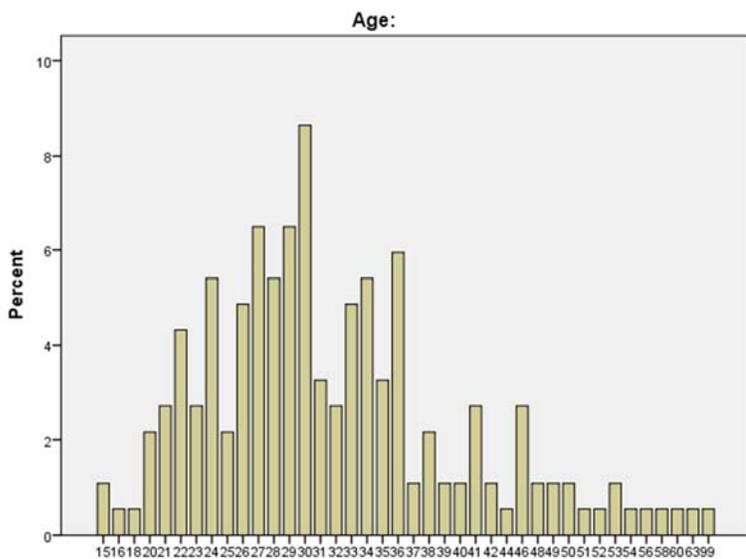
Distribution of Respondents Ontario/Quebec only



Demographic Characteristics (n=213)

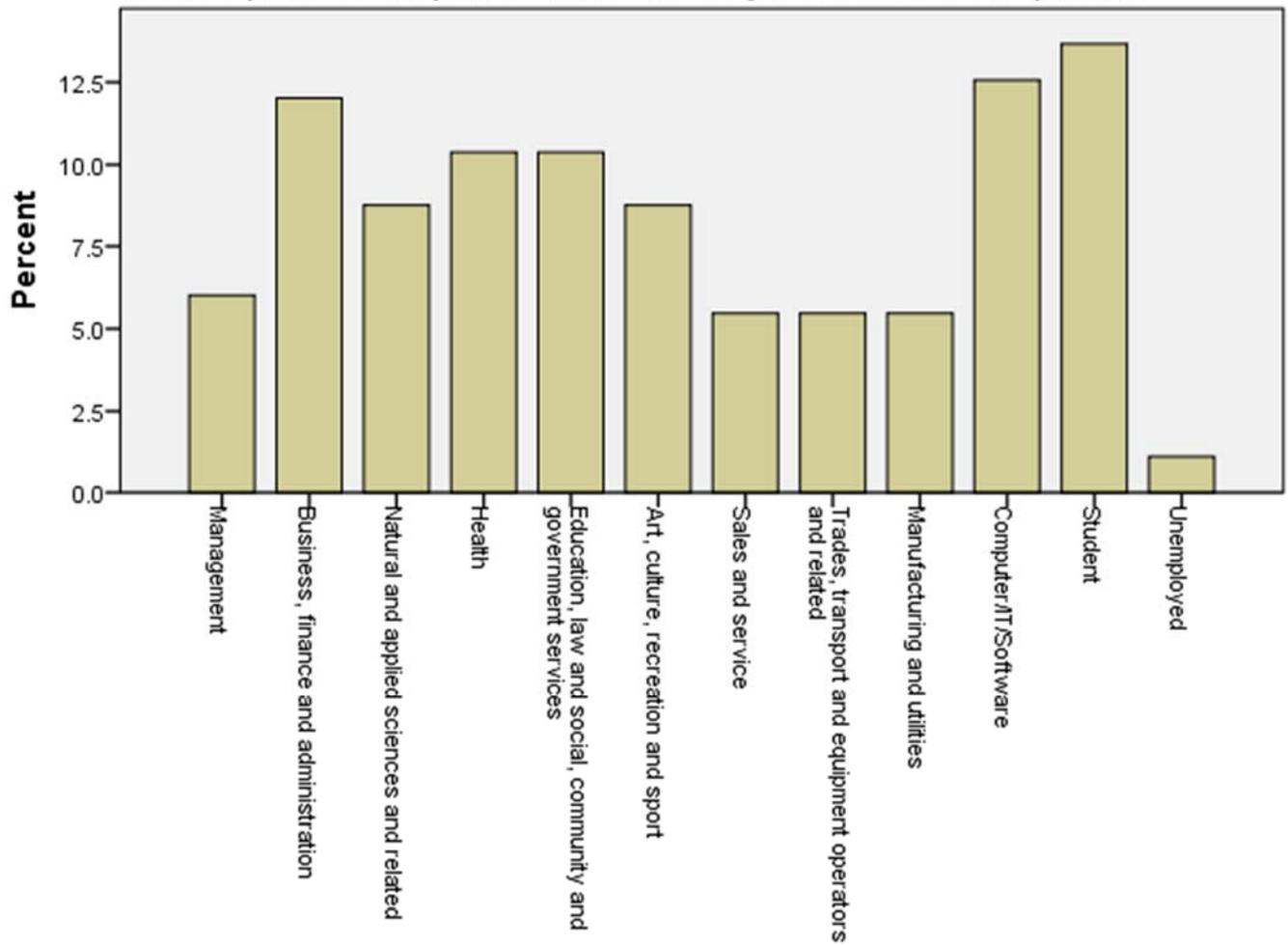
Average age: Mean=32 years, standard deviation=10 years

Gender



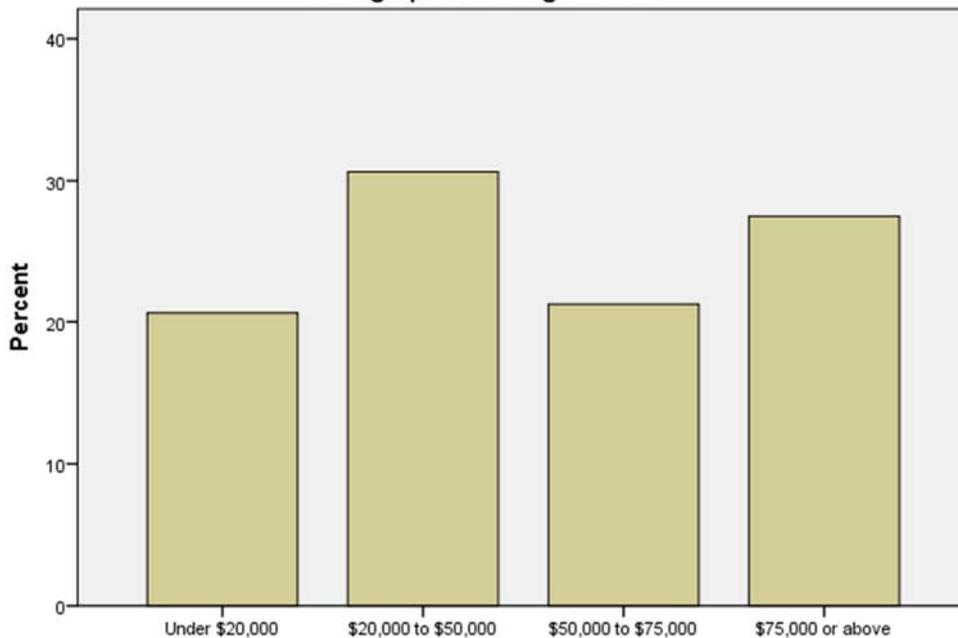
Occupation

Please pick the response that best fits your current occupation:



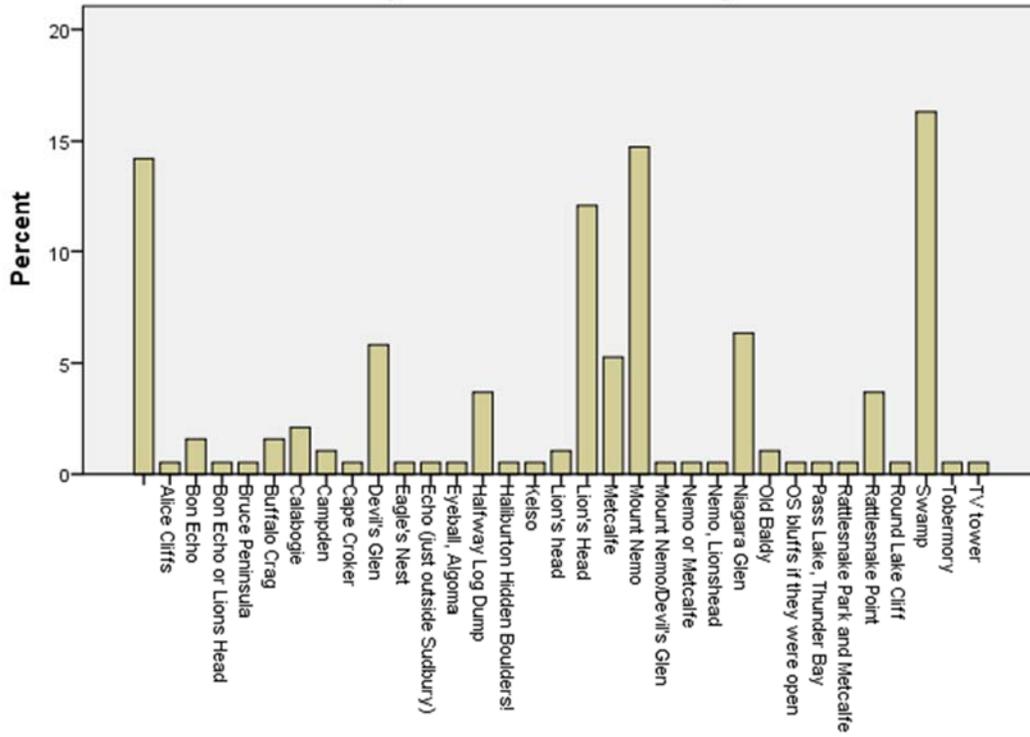
Income

Estimated personal income last year: This helps us represent climber demographics in negotiations.

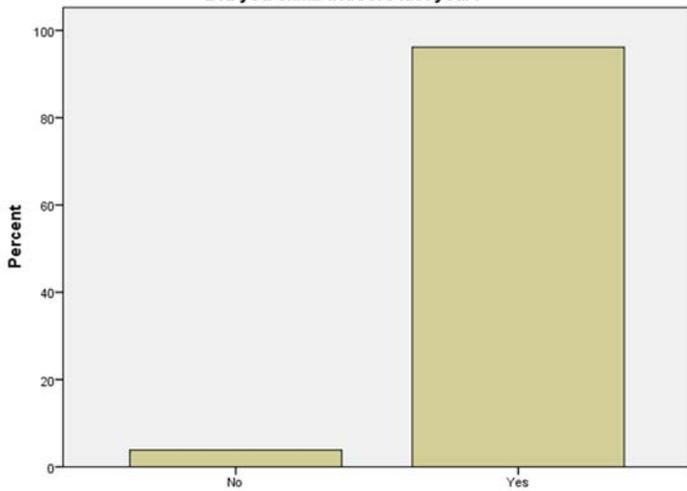


Climbing

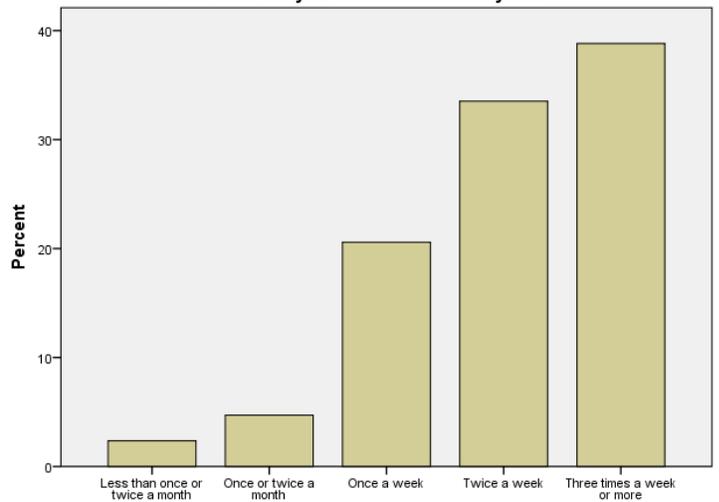
What is your favourite Ontario crag?



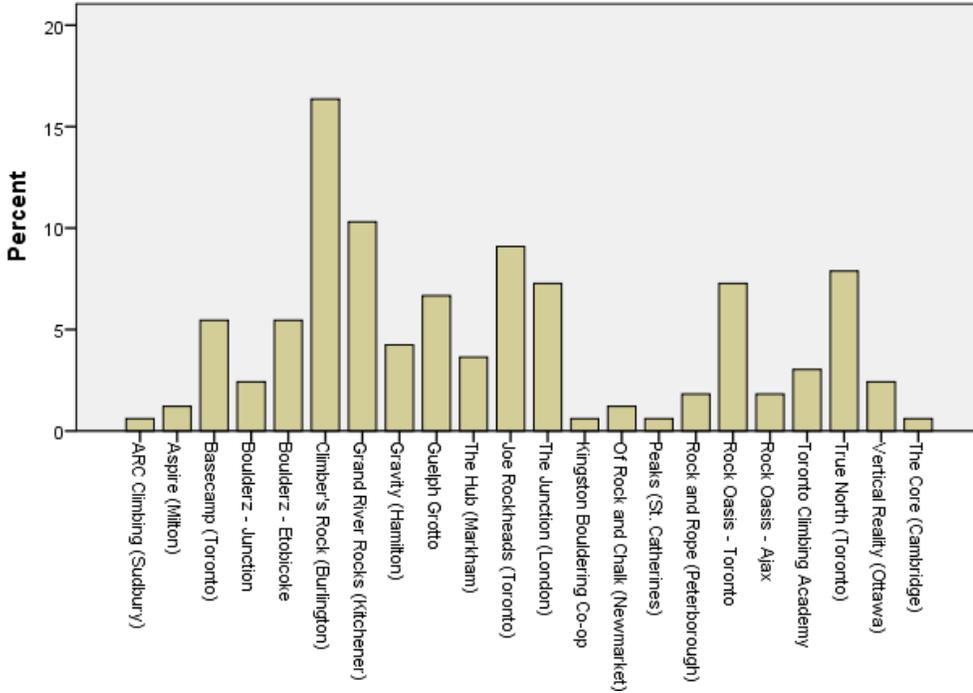
Did you climb indoors last year?



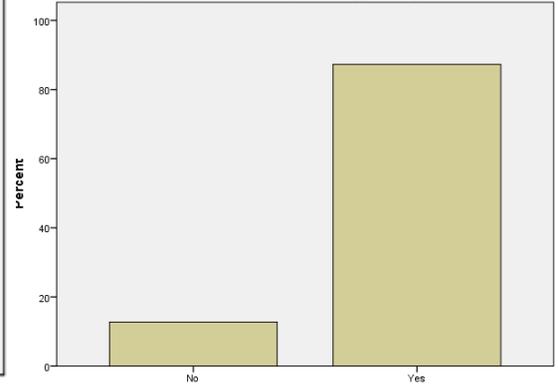
How often did you climb indoors last year?



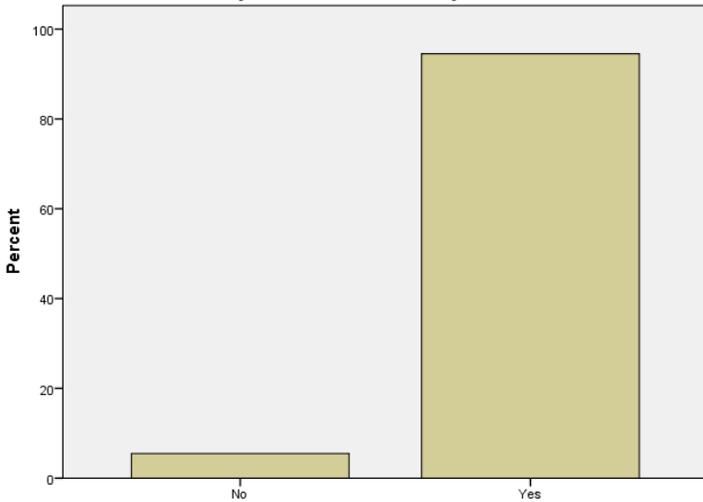
Which gym did you climb at most often last year?



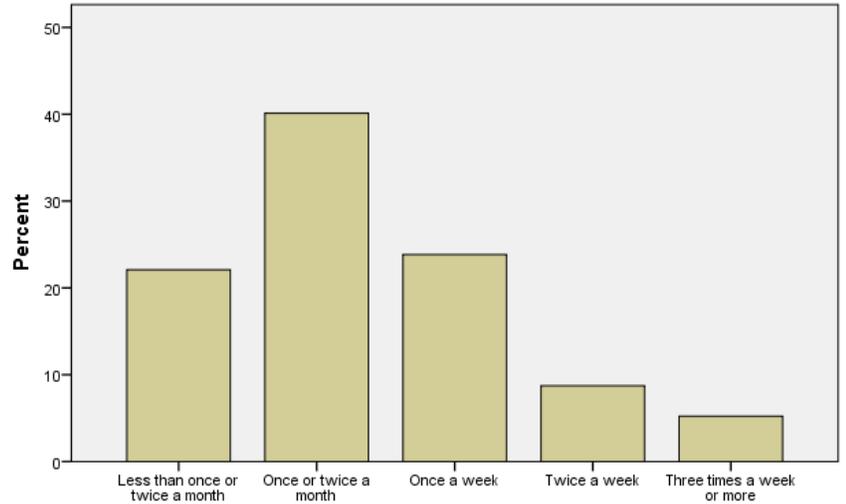
Did you have a membership for that gym last year?



Did you climb outdoors last year?



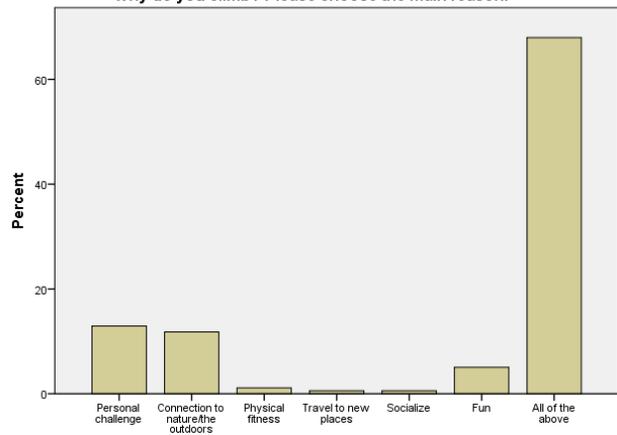
How often did you climb outdoors last year? If you only climb outdoors in a particular season (i.e. summer/winter) think about that season when answering the question.



What types of outdoor climbing did you do in 2016?

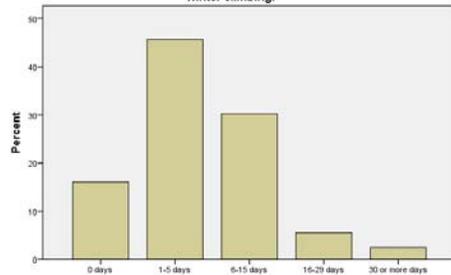
	2015	2016
Sport Climbing	70%	88%
Top Roping	53%	60%
Bouldering	44%	55%
Traditional Climbing	42%	33%
Ice Climbing	21%	15%
Mountaineering	10%	9%
Mixed/Drytool	6%	4%
Aid Climbing	3%	3%
Big Wall	3%	2%

Why do you climb? Please choose the main reason.

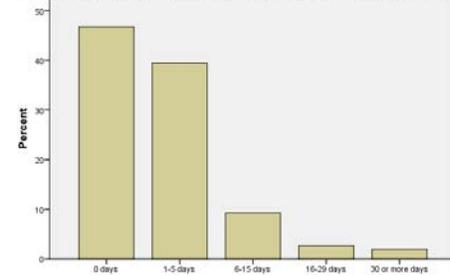


Climbing Day Trips

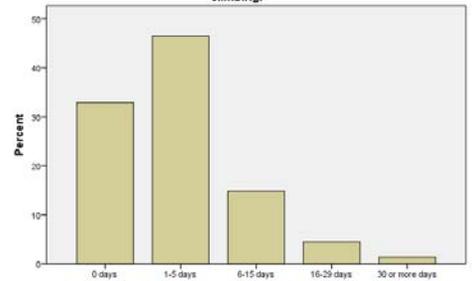
[Milton Area (e.g. Rattlesnake, Nemo, Buffalo Crag)] How many day trips did you make to each of these climbing areas last year? Please include summer and winter climbing.



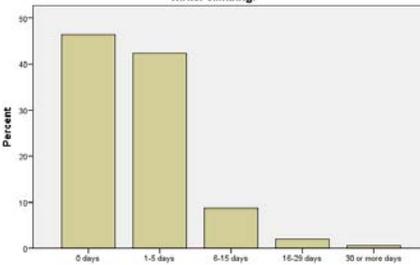
[Niagara Region (e.g. Niagara Glen)] How many day trips did you make to each of these climbing areas last year? Please include summer and winter climbing.



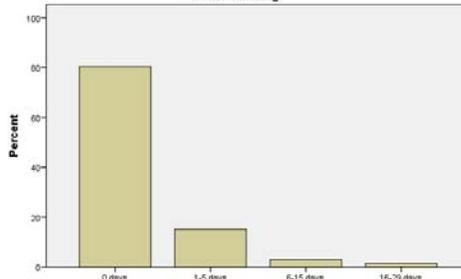
[Beaver Valley (e.g. Old Baldy, Metcalfe)] How many day trips did you make to each of these climbing areas last year? Please include summer and winter climbing.



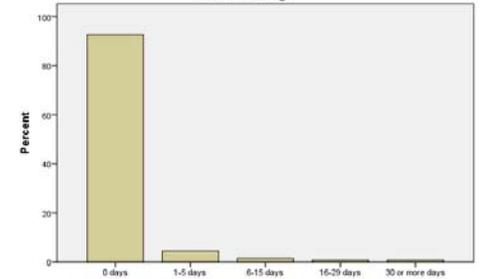
[Bruce Peninsula (e.g. Lion's Head, T.V. Tower)] How many day trips did you make to each of these climbing areas last year? Please include summer and winter climbing.



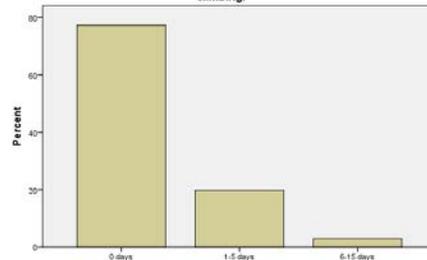
[Muskoka/Algonquin (e.g. Huntsville, Haliburton)] How many day trips did you make to each of these climbing areas last year? Please include summer and winter climbing.



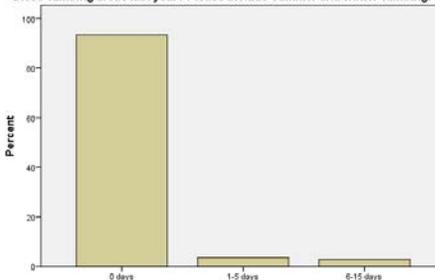
[Northern Ontario (e.g. Sudbury, Sault, Thunder Bay)] How many day trips did you make to each of these climbing areas last year? Please include summer and winter climbing.



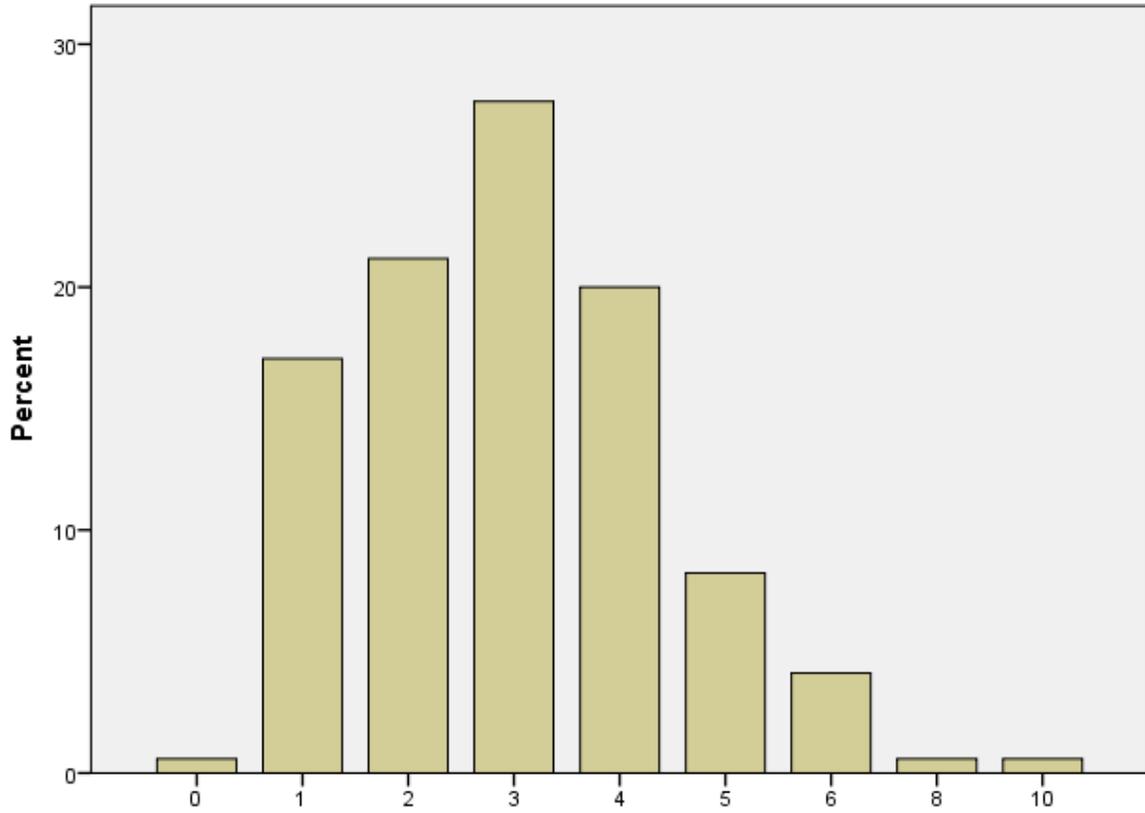
[Eastern Ontario (e.g. Bon Echo, Bancroft)] How many day trips did you make to each of these climbing areas last year? Please include summer and winter climbing.



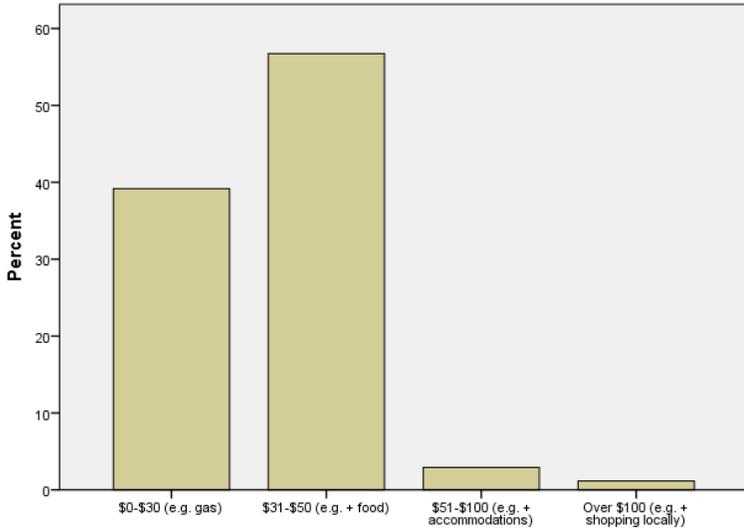
[Capital region (e.g. Calabogie)] How many day trips did you make to each of these climbing areas last year? Please include summer and winter climbing.



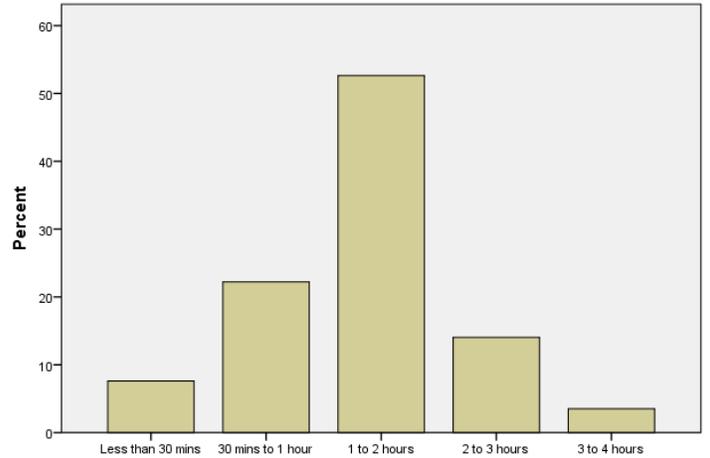
How many people do you usually climb with on average day trips in Ontario?



How much do you spend on an average day trip climbing in Ontario?

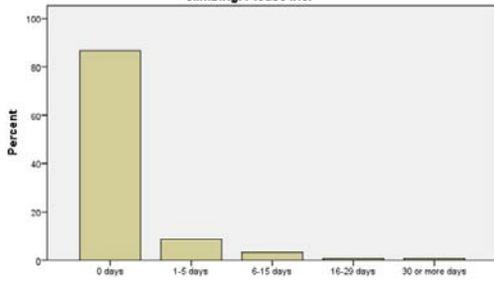


How far do you drive usually to go climbing for the day in Ontario? Please only include the one-way distance.

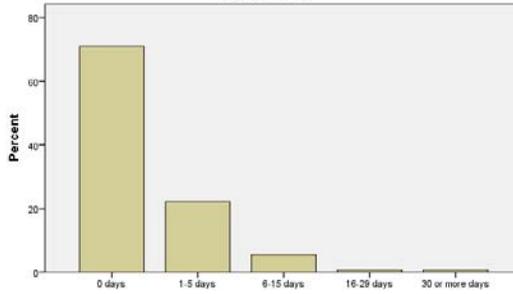


Climbing Overnight Trips

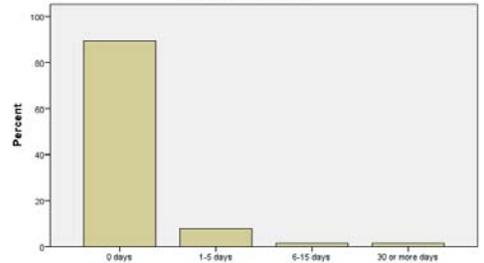
[Milton Area (e.g. Rattlesnake, Nemo, Buffalo Crag)] How many days did you spend on ALL overnight/multi-day trips to each of these climbing areas last year? This is a trip including an overnight stay, even if you only have one day of climbing. Please include summer and winter.



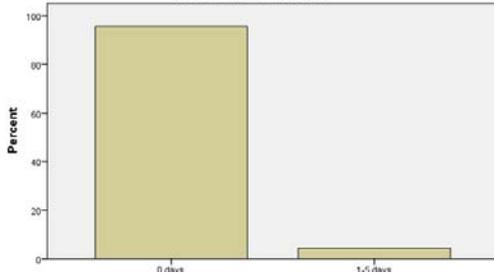
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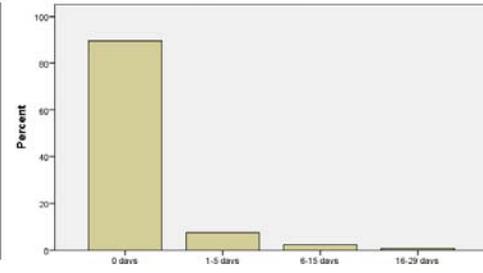
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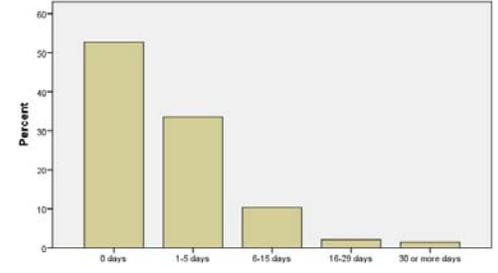
[Capital region (e.g. Calabogie)] How many days did you spend on ALL overnight/multi-day trips to each of these climbing areas last year? This is a trip including an overnight stay, even if you only have one day of climbing. Please include summer and winter.



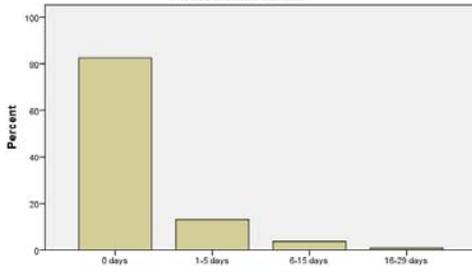
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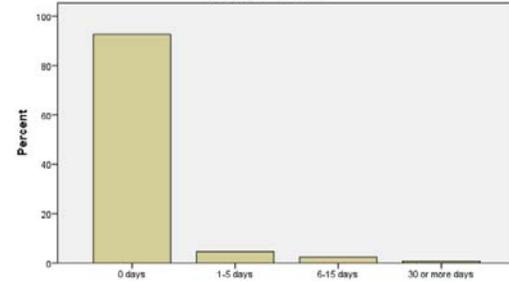
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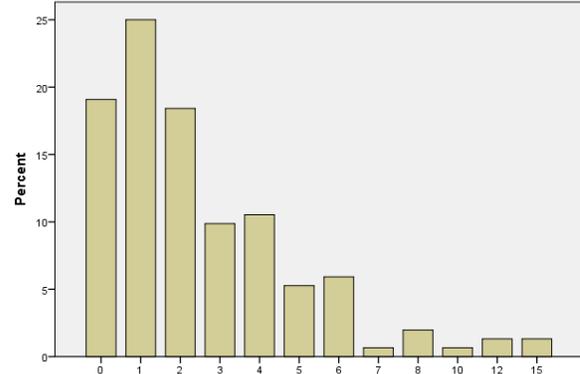
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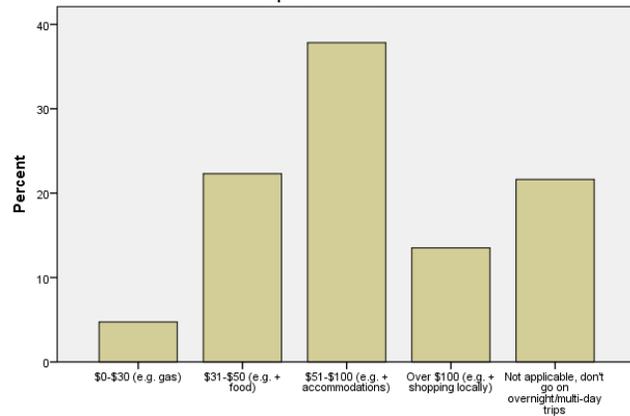
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How many people do you usually climb with on average overnight/multi-day trips in Ontario?



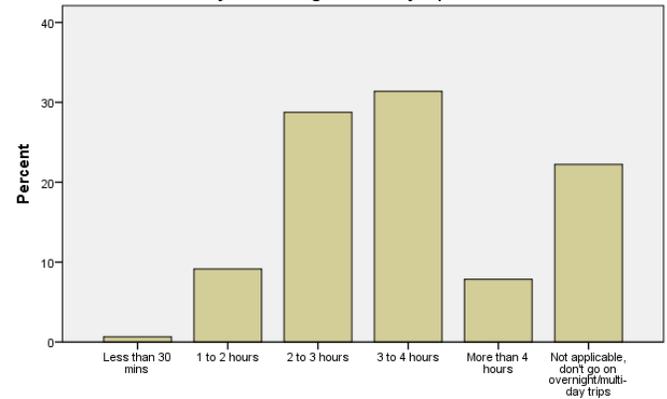
How much do you spend on an average day of an overnight/multi-day climbing trip in Ontario?



Where do you usually stay on overnight/multi day trips in Ontario?

	Summer	Winter
Hotel/motel/B&B	12%	6%
Cabin rental	11%	3%
Airbnb rental	5%	6%
Hostel	1%	4%
Private house/cottage	17%	6%
Vehicle (car/trailer/boat)	6%	2%
Camp in a campground	55%	6%
Camp outside a campground	17%	5%
Alpine Club of Canada hut	6%	2%
N/A don't go on overnight trips	25%	72%

How far do you drive usually to go climbing on an overnight/multi-day trip in Ontario? Please only include the one-way distance to get from to the location of your overnight/multi-day trip.



Other Activities & Travel

Last year, which other activities did you do on climbing day or overnight trips?

Climbing only	30%
Hiking/snowshoeing (beyond the approach)	47%
Hunting/fishing	4%
Mountain biking/cycling	14%
Canoeing/kayaking/SUP	26%
Skiing(cross-country or downhill)/snowboarding	15%
Snowmobiling	0%
Shopping	18%
Caving	12%
Running	16%
Swimming	32%
Sailing/scuba/kite or windsurfing	4%
Other	2.5%

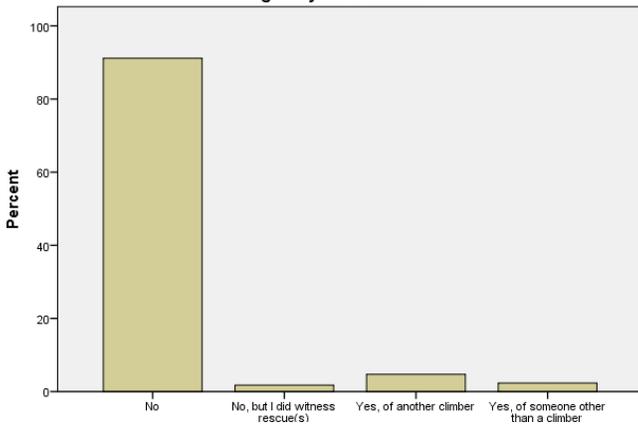
Did you travel outside of Ontario to climb last year (Select all that apply)?

No	34%
Yes	66%
Another province	(25%)
The US	(53%)
Outside Canada/US	(19%)

Emergency & Rescues

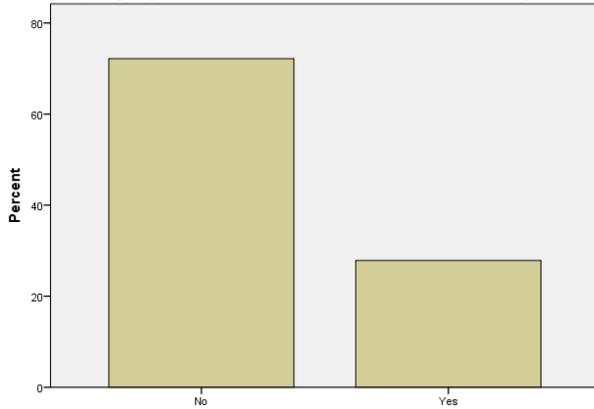
No injuries reported in 2016

Did you participate in any rescues (climbing or non-climbing related) while climbing last year in Ontario?

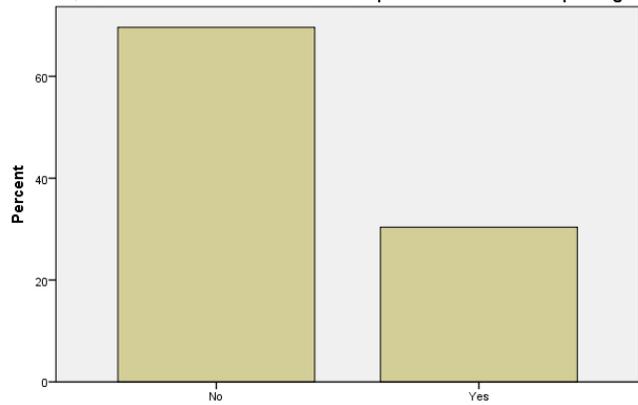


Passes & Permits

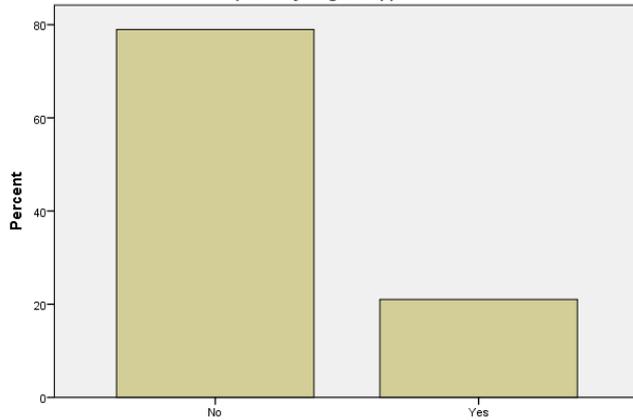
Last year, did you purchase a Conservation Halton Parks Membership Pass?



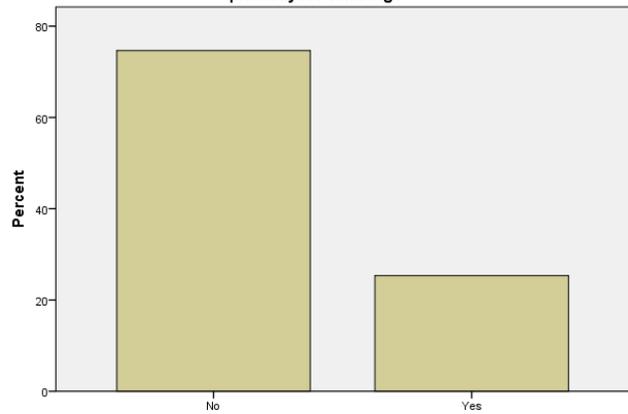
Last year, did you purchase a "Bouldering Permit" for the Niagara Glen? The cost is \$20 for twelve months from the date of purchase and includes parking.



Last year, did you purchase a park pass to Bruce Peninsula National Park (Halfway Log Dump)?



Last year, did you purchase any other sort of climbing or conservation pass primarily for climbing?



Courses & Instruction

In the past year, have you taken a climbing instructional course indoors or outdoors?

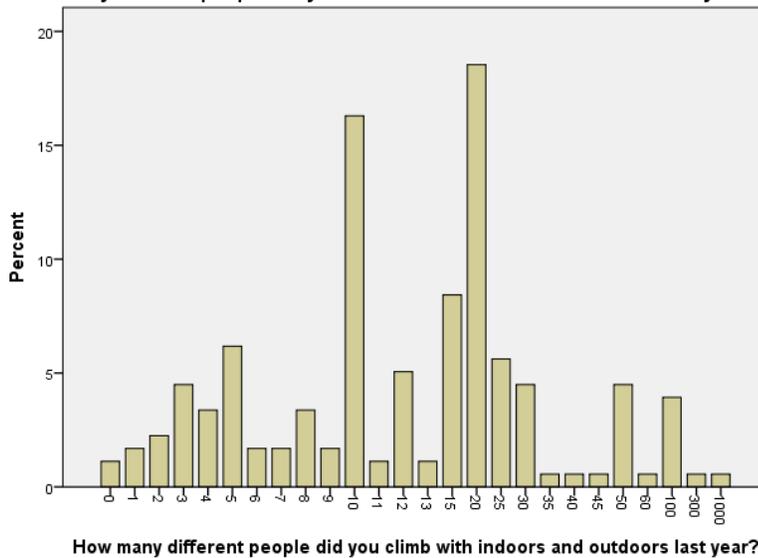
No	67%
Yes	33%
Indoors	(22%)
Outdoors	(13%)

In the past year, have you participated in or led any formally organised climbing trips with the ACC or a university or outdoor group in Ontario?

No	87%
Yes	13%

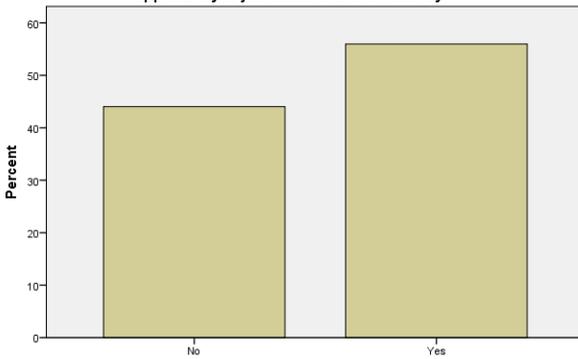
Climbing Circles

How many different people did you climb with indoors and outdoors last year?

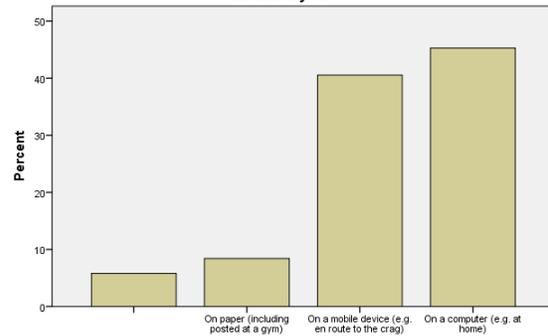


OAC Membership & Awareness

Are you a member of the Ontario Access Coalition? If you would like to join the OAC click <http://www.ontarioaccesscoalition.com/join>. You will also have the opportunity to join at the end of the survey.



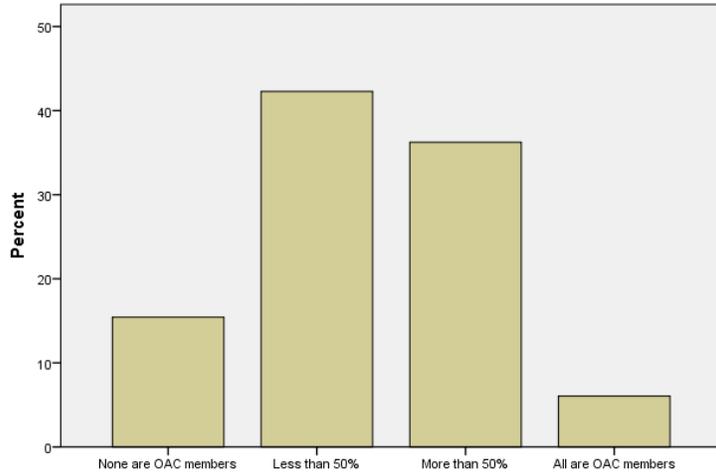
The OAC maintains a Crag Status document which summarizes the access status of Ontario crags. We'd like to understand which format would be most useful for you.



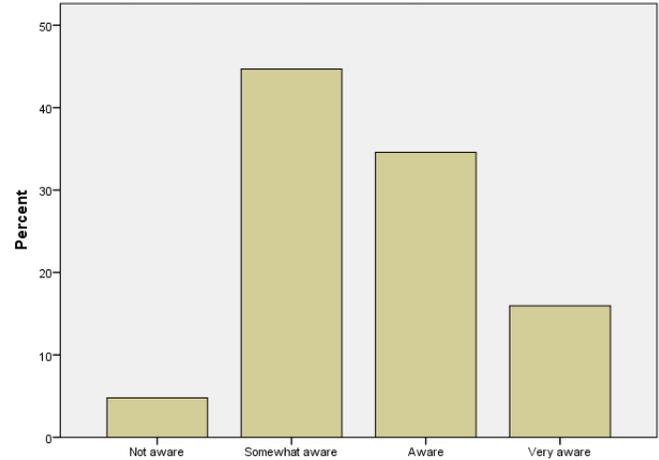
How do you keep informed about climbing access issues in Ontario?

OAC website	50%
OAC Facebook page	62%
Word of mouth	68%
Online forums	43%
ACC	20%
Magazines	12%
Other	5%
Emailing the OAC	5%

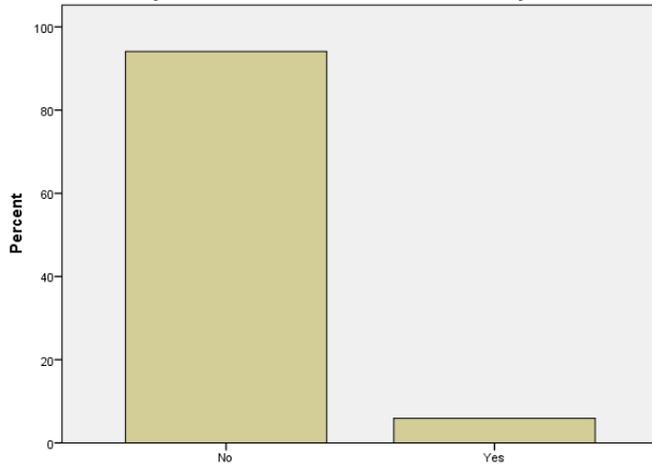
What percentage of your usual climbing group are members of the OAC? If you don't know, make a guess or leave the question blank.



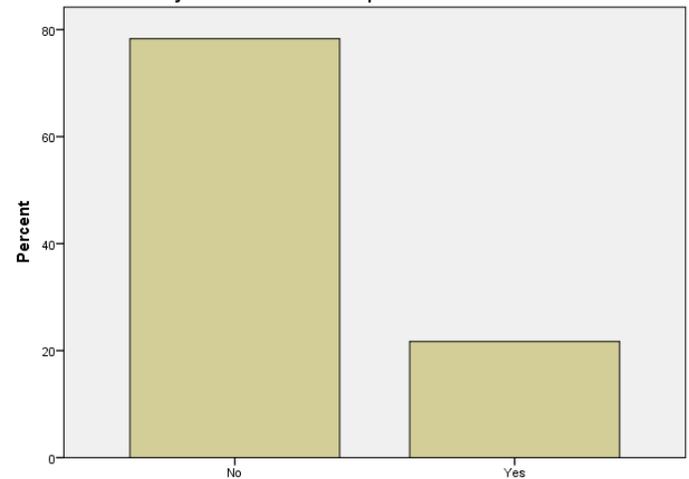
How would you rate your knowledge of climbing access issues in Ontario?



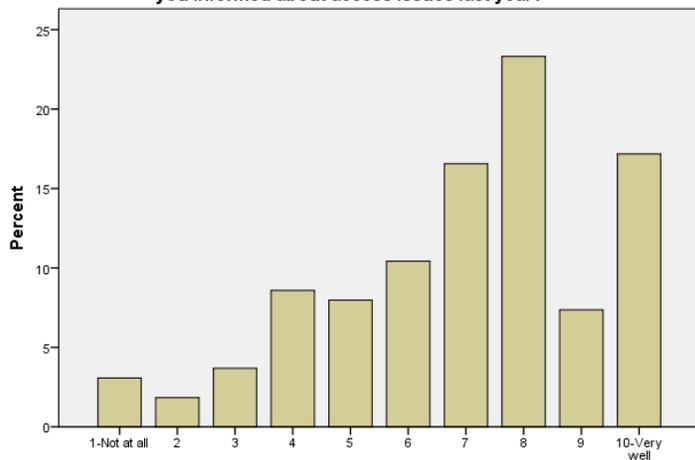
Are you a member of the Bruce Trail Conservancy?



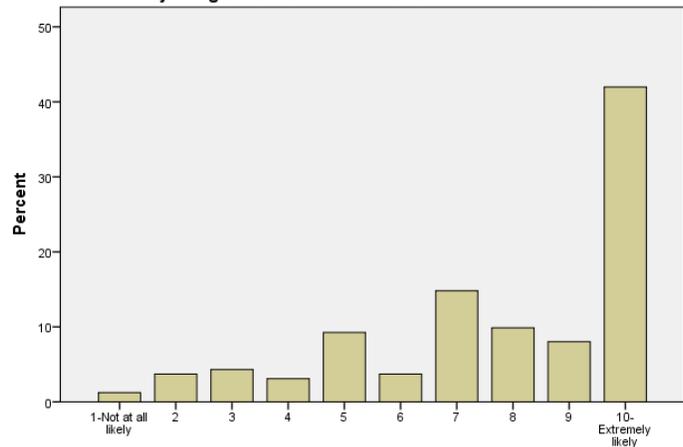
Are you a member of the Alpine Club of Canada?



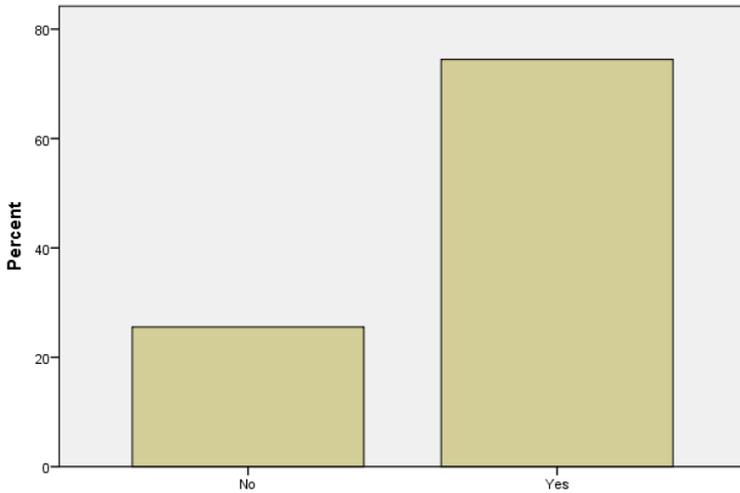
[Please choose an answer from the following scale....] How well has the OAC kept you informed about access issues last year?



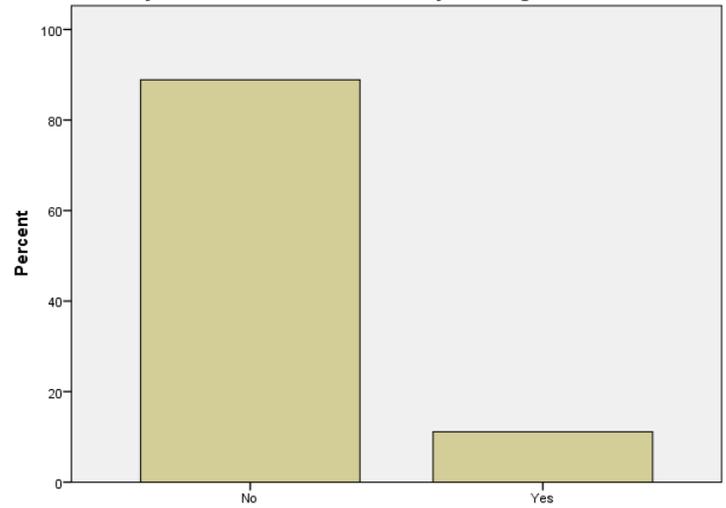
[Please choose an answer from the following scale....] How likely are you to recommend joining the Ontario Access Coalition to a fellow climber?



Were you aware that the OAC organized the 2016 Beaver Valley Climbing Festival?



Did you attend the 2016 Beaver Valley Climbing Festival?



If you are not a member of the OAC, why not?

- 12 I don't know, hadn't thought about it or haven't got around to it
- 6 Don't know why to join, what the benefits, what impact membership has
- 6 Don't know enough about the OAC
- 6 Plan to join
- 4 Don't climb outside enough to justify
- 3 Don't feel enough connection to OAC SO-focused activities
- 3 Didn't know I could join
- 3 Financial constraints
- 2 No need to
- 2 Not from here, moved here recently or moving soon
- 2 OAC not well organized
- 2 OAC doesn't offer enough/ no personal gain

Web link broken

Don't know if I need to renew

Poor communication

Too political

Tried to but no response to email

Too young, with an OAC adult member when I go outside

Unaware of what it involves/duties etc

Not sure what OAC is working on

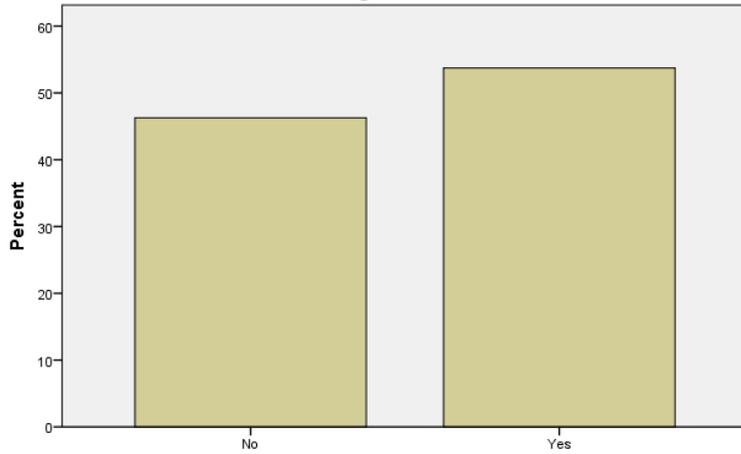
OAC keeps non-members informed as well so no incentive to be a member

There is nothing to be gained in Ontario

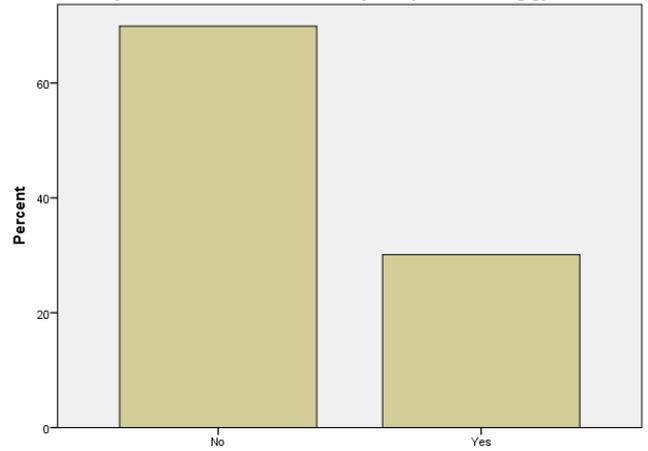
Not actively climbing

Access Issues

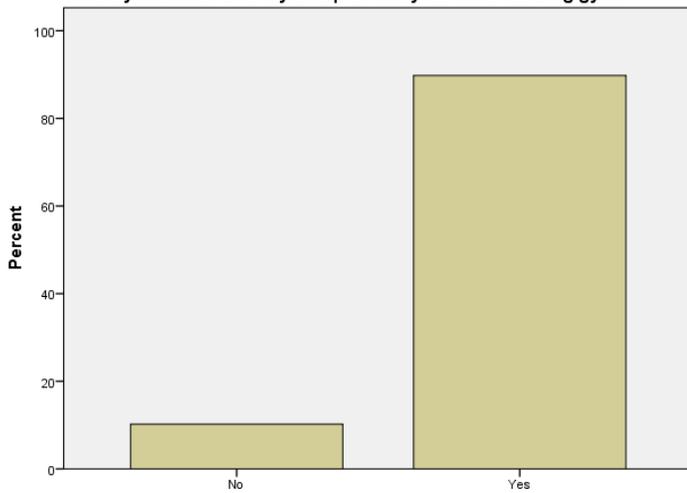
The OAC has a program where they send reps around Ontario climbing gyms to spread the word about the organization. Were you aware of the OAC's 'Gym Rep Program'?



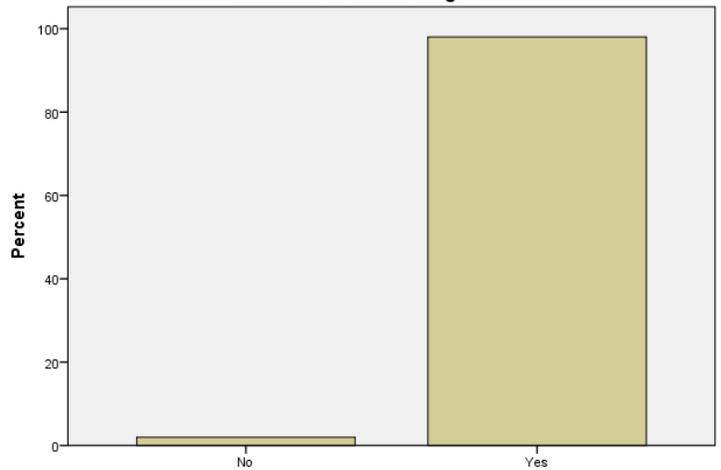
Have you seen or talked to an OAC Gym Rep at a climbing gym?



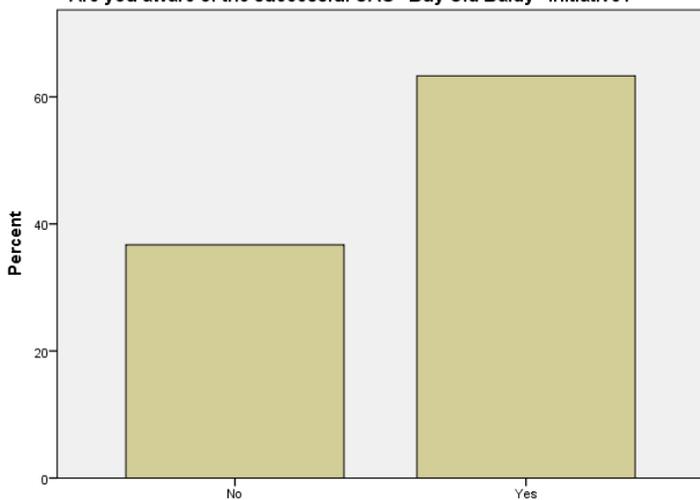
Would you like an OAC Gym Rep to visit your local climbing gym?



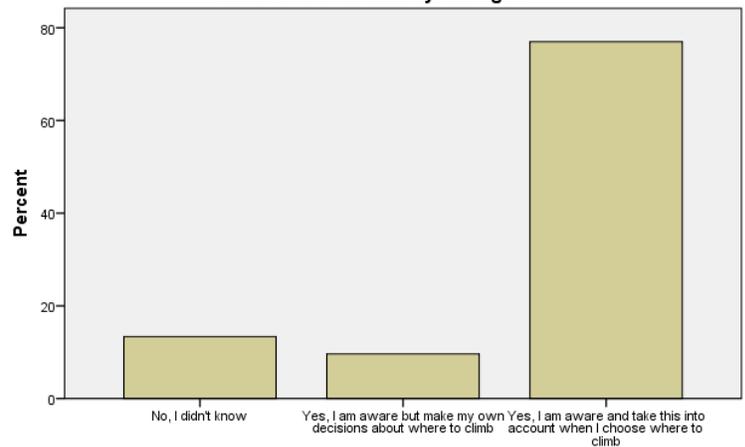
Are you in favour of the OAC facilitating the replacement of aging climbing hardware at Ontario crags?



Are you aware of the successful OAC "Buy Old Baldy" initiative?



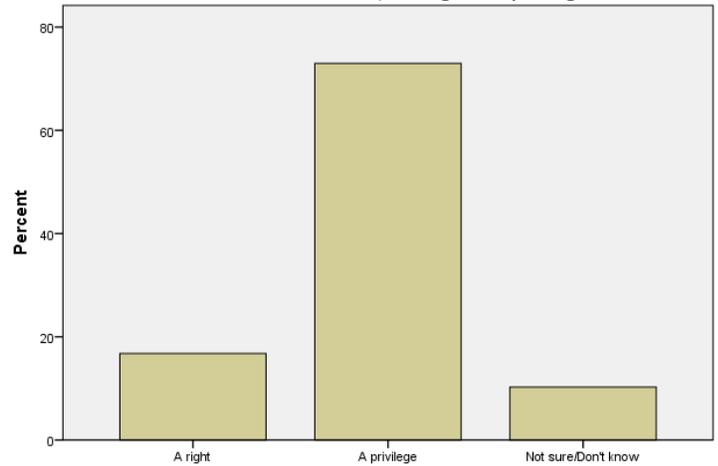
Are you aware that Managers of public lands (Parks, Conservation areas, MNR, etc.) each independently set and enforce policies determining what activities occur on the lands they manage?



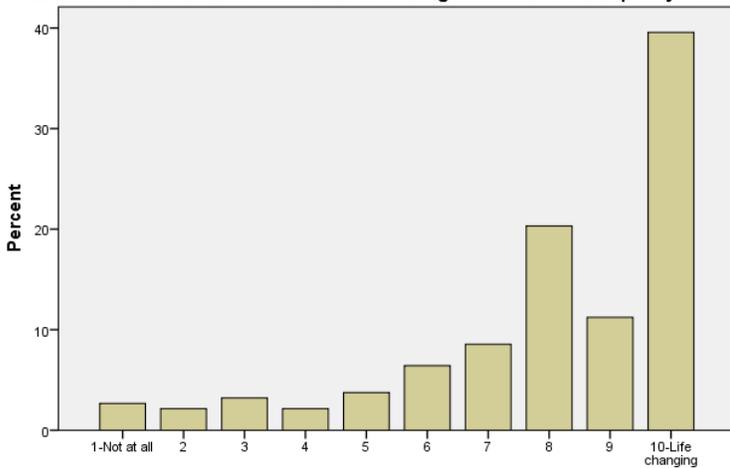
When you are climbing in Ontario, who might you consider to be liable for anything that happens to you while you are climbing?

Me	98%
The landowner	6%
The land manager/ment	8%
The route developer	7%
The OAC	3%

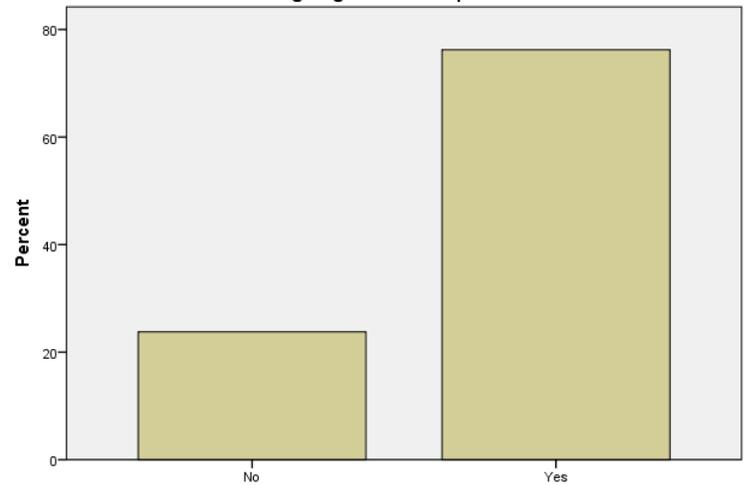
Do you consider climbing on public land (parks, conservation areas, etc), which are set aside for conservation, as a right or a privilege?



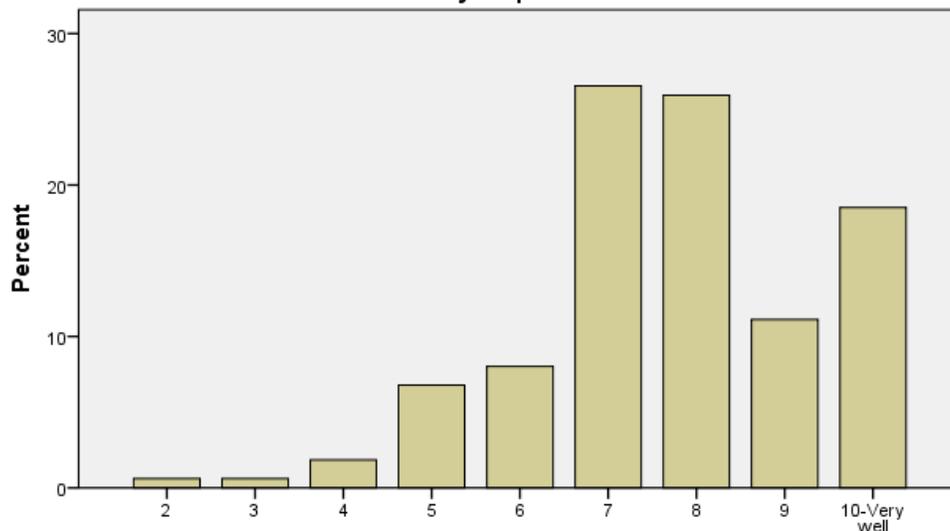
[Please choose an answer from the following scale....] If you weren't able to climb outside because areas were closed to climbing how would this impact you?



If there was more access to Ontario crags, would you have climbed here more instead of going outside the province?



[Please choose an answer from the following scale....] The goal of the OAC is to "work with the climbing community, landowners, conservation authorities and property managers to keep climbing and bouldering areas open in an environmentally responsible man"



Where did you hear about this survey?

Facebook/Twitter	61%
OAC	25%
From a friend	12%
ACC	3%
OntarioClimbing	7%
Word of mouth	3%
Email	1%

What could OAC do differently?

- 10 No
- 6 Better/more communication
- 3 Gym visits
- 2 Transparency
- 3 Professional presence on social media
- 1 Presence at the crag
- 1 Youtube video
- 1 Access in other areas (Muskoka, North, US)
- 1 Advertise better
- 1 More welcoming to new climbers
- 1 More news updates
- 1 Cover more of Ontario
- 1 Broader audience
- 1 More vocal/visibility
- 1 Focus on fundraising/hardware replacement
- 1 Gym to crag and mentorship focus
- 1 Follow-up on Devil's Glen parking
- 1 More cleanup in Beaver valley/peninsula

Specific comments (see attached spreadsheet)

What would you like to see OAC do this year?

- 5 Keep up the good work
- 2 Hardware updates
- 6 Specific access (ice, rockwood, Devil's glen parking)
- 1 Gym trips and events
- 1 Another climbing festival

Specific comments (see attached spreadsheet)

Other comments

- 17 Keep up the good work, thank you

Specific comments (see attached spreadsheet)