REPORT

2019

WASHINGTON CLIMBER SURVEY



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This project was made possible by the efforts of Jeremy Park, from the WCC Board of Directors, and Ashley Siple, WCC Board President. Assistance in survey distribution was provided by Kristina Ciari, Membership and Marketing Director at The Mountaineers. Heather DuBrall generously provided images for both the online survey and this report.

SUGGESTED CITATION

Carter, David P. 2019. 2019 Washington Climber Survey Summary Report. Washington Climbers Coalition: Seattle, WA.

WCC CONTACT

For questions regarding climbing advocacy and stewardship in Washington:

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RESEARCH CONTACT

For questions regarding this research project:

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ABOUT THE

The WCC is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit made up of climbers who believe that we must work together and cooperatively with land managers and other groups with an interest in the places where we climb. Without such cooperation, we risk losing access to places we cherish. We take care of where we climb and strive to keep climbing areas open.

Our mission is to make Washington a better place to climb through advocacy, stewardship, and education.

OUR MESSAGE

Washington possesses a remarkably diverse array of climbing areas, with every type of rock, landscape, and climate imaginable and a full range of difficulties and disciplines.

It can be tempting to take this incredible gift for granted, however, every time we climb we are visitors on the land. Even if it is public land, we do not control it. The climbing community needs to work together to make sure that our climbing areas remain open and free, both for



our own enjoyment and that of future generations. The WCC keeps Washington climbing vibrant by working with land managers and property owners on climbing access issues, educating climbers about legal, environmental and resource concerns, and promoting climber stewardship of our cliffs and boulders.

You can get involved in several ways:

- Be a good steward of the climbing environment
- Join us for stewardship events
- Volunteer for projects
- Support us with a donation

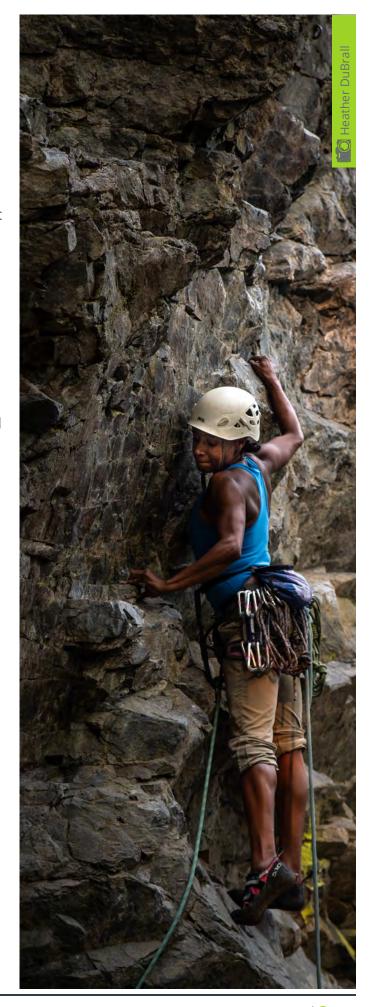


SURVE

This survey was conducted by the Washington Climbers Coalition (WCC), in collaboration with Dr. David Carter, assistant professor of public policy at the University of Utah. The overarching survey objective was to offer a snapshot of Washington climbers' characteristics, experiences, and perspectives. Survey findings will be used to inform and improve climbing stewardship and advocacy initiatives throughout the state of Washington.

METHODS

The survey was carried out online from October 1 to November 6, 2019. To reach the greatest number of Washington climbers possible, requests for participation were sent via email to the WCC's contact list and published on its social media channels. Survey advertisements were also shared with industry and nonprofit partners, such as The Mountaineers, the American Alpine Institute, and Alpine Ascents International. A total of 987 completed surveys were collected, alongside data from 45 partiallycompleted ones, for an overall response of 1,032 climbers.



CLIMBING BACKGROUNDS

Part 1 of the survey asked questions regarding participants' climbing backgrounds, experiences, and preferences.

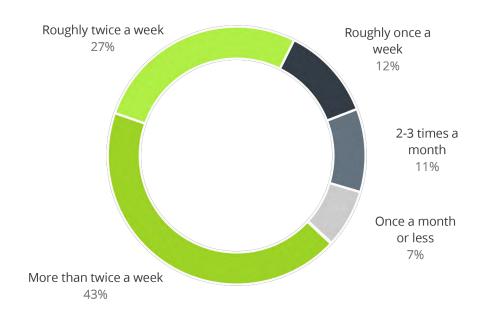
OUESTION 1



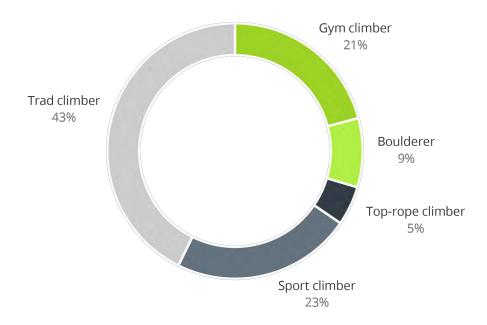


OUESTION 2

How often do you climb (both indoors and outdoors)?

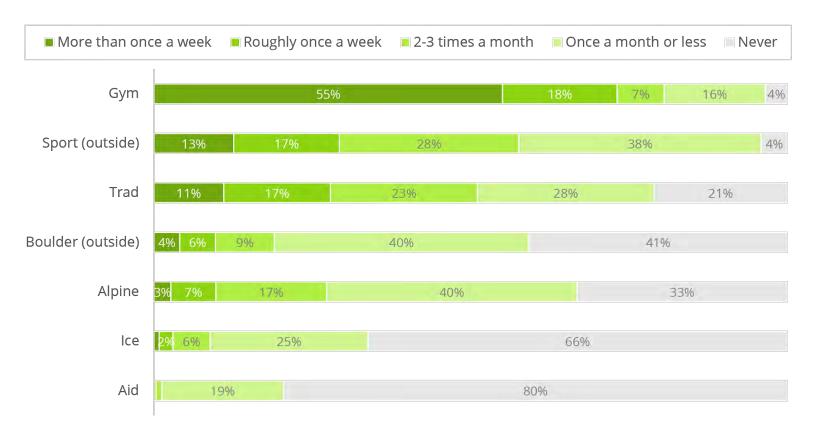


What type of climber do you *think of yourself as*?

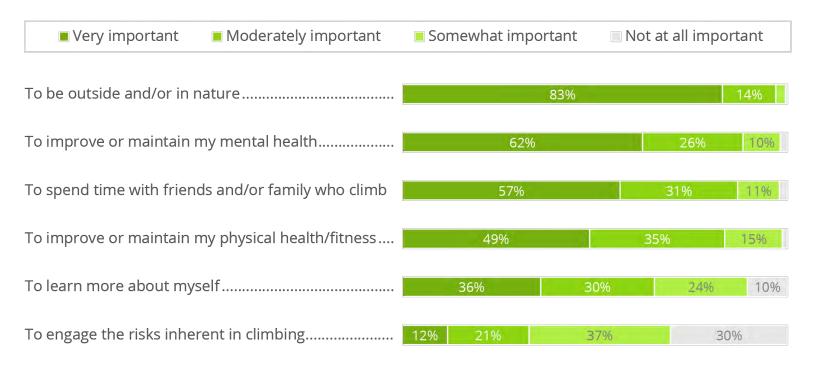


QUESTION 4

How frequently do you engage in the following types of climbing? For outdoor climbing, respond with the frequency during your preferred climbing season.

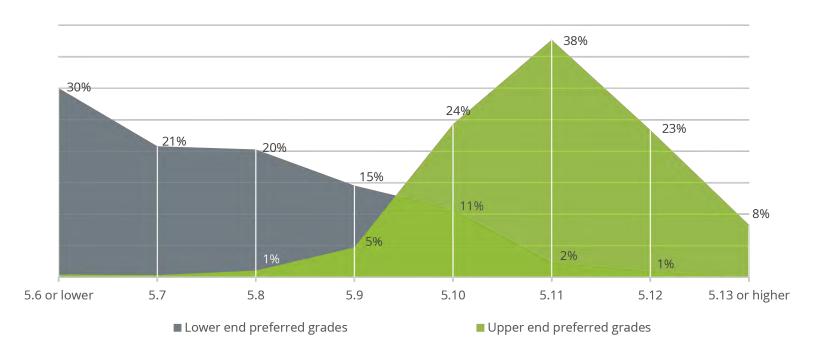


How important are the following motivations in your decision to climb?

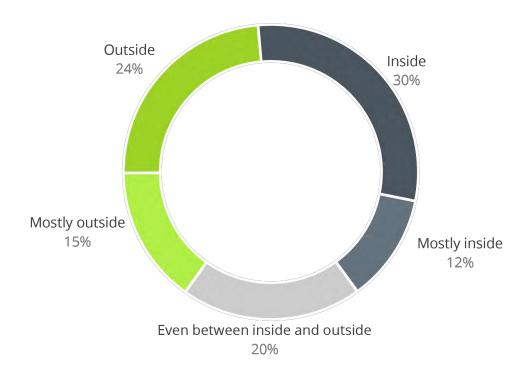


QUESTION 6

What are the lower and upper ends of your preferred range of climbing route grades?

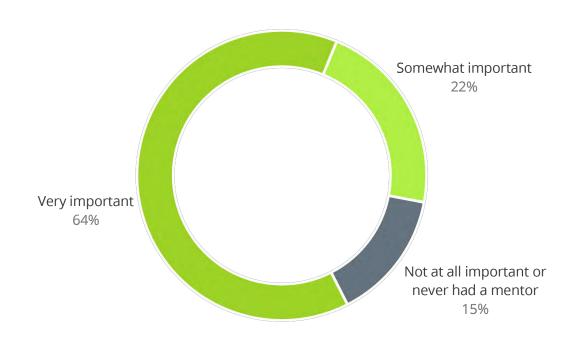


Which of the following best describes where you first learned to climb?

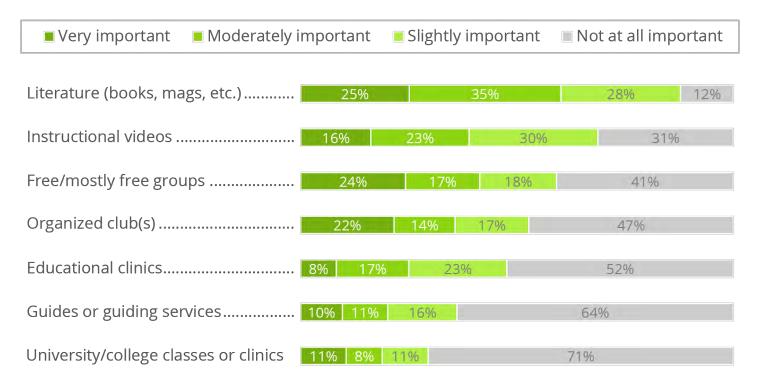


QUESTION 8

How important was mentorship from one or more mentors when you were learning to climb? For this question, a "mentor" is a climbing partner with more climbing experience who gave you one-on-one climbing education and/or experience.

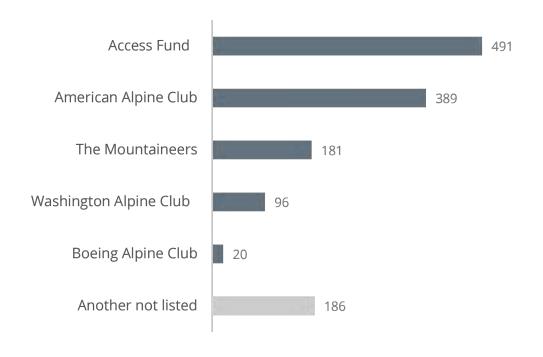


How important were the following other education/mentorship sources when you were learning to climb?

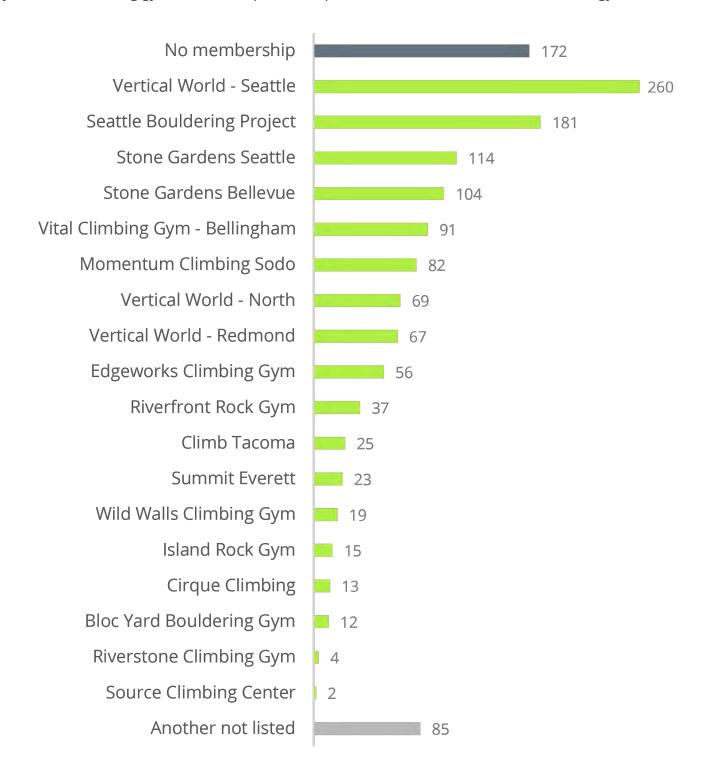


QUESTION 10

What climbing organizations are you a member of? Select all that apply:

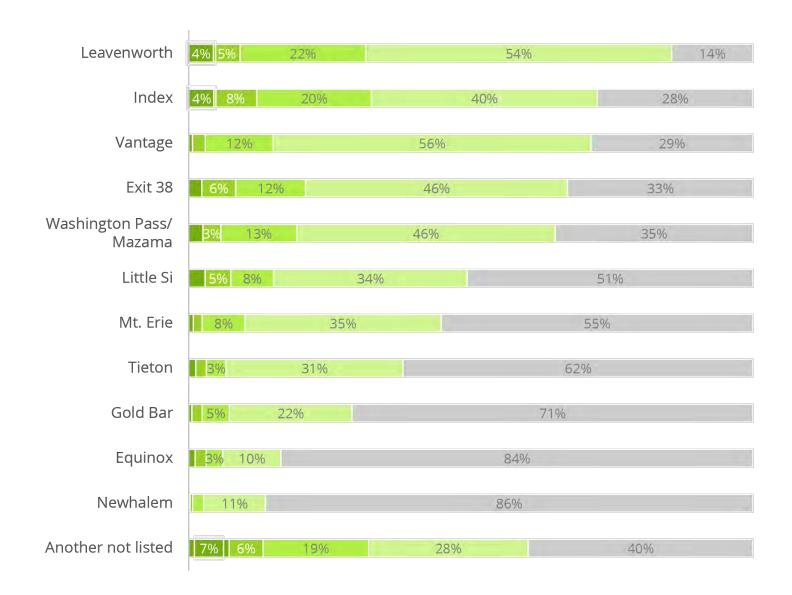


Did you have a climbing gym membership at some point in the last 12 months? If so, which gym(s)?

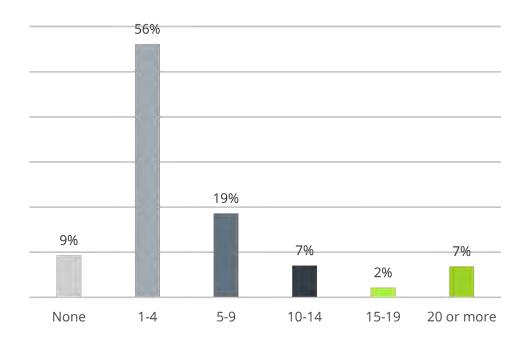


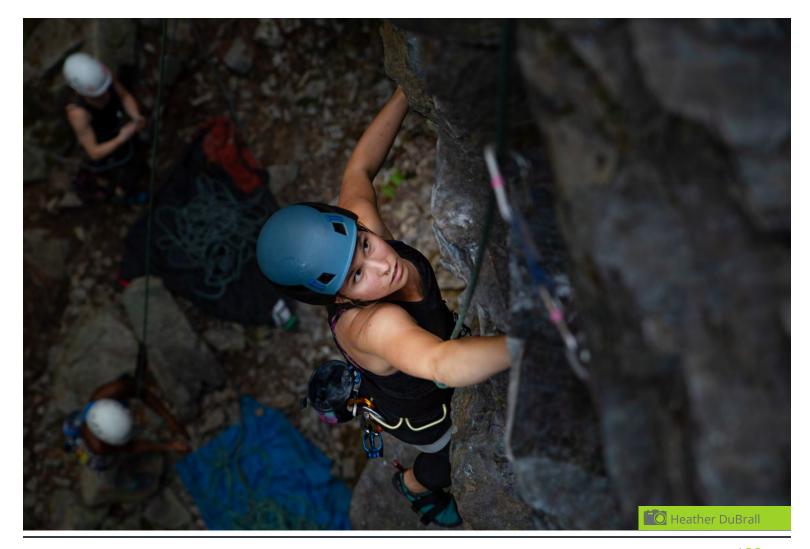
How frequently do you climb at the following areas *during your preferred climbing season(s)*?

■ More than once a week ■ Roughly once a week ■ 2-3 times a month ■ Once a month or less ■ Never



How many climbing trips outside of Washington do you generally make in a year?





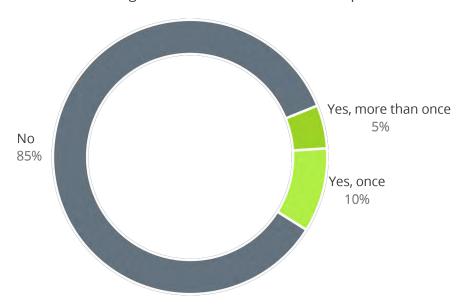
PART 2

N STEWARDSHIP & ADVOCACY

Part 2 of the survey asked questions related to participants' activity, experiences, and preferences related to the Washington Climbers Coalition and local stewardship and advocacy initiatives.

QUESTION 14

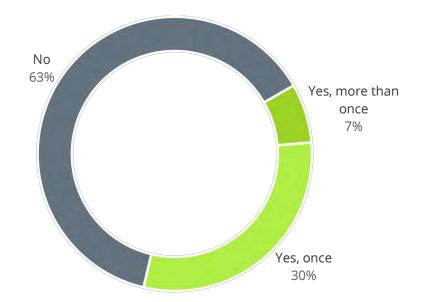
Did you volunteer with the Washington Climbers Coalition at some point in the last 12 months?



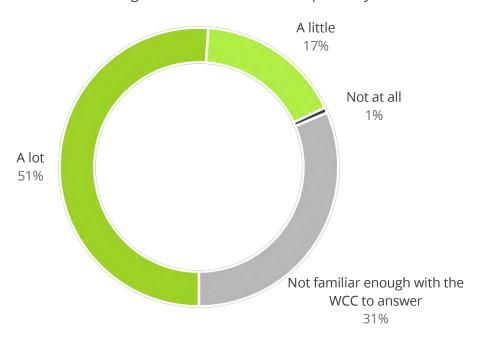
OUESTION 15

Did you donate money to the Washington Climbers Coalition at some point in the last 12 months?



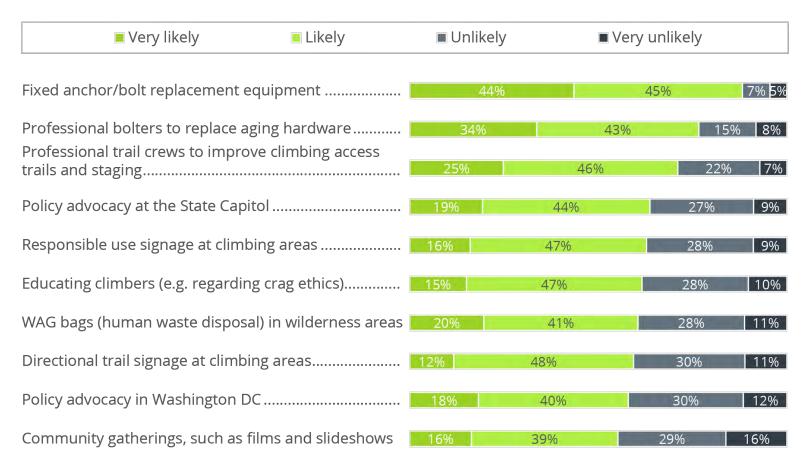


To what extent do you trust the Washington Climbers Coalition to pursue your interests as a climber?



QUESTION 17

How likely are you to pay for or donate money to the following initiatives?



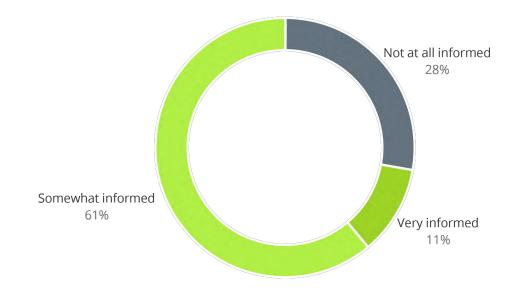
S S N O N I L SURVEY

WCC COMMUNICATIONS

Part 3 of the survey asked questions related to how participants get information related to Washington Climbers Coalition activities and initiatives.

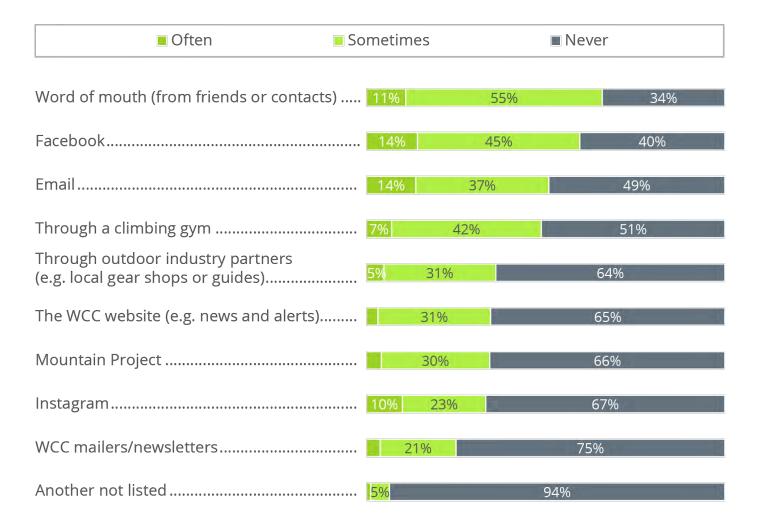
QUESTION 18

How informed do you feel regarding the Washington Climbers Coalition's initiatives and activities?





Please indicate how often you receive Washington Climbers Coalition information from the following sources:



PAR4

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Part 4 of the survey collected data on participants' preferences related to climbing bolts and fixed hardware. The questions in this section were collected as part of a larger research project and do not reflect, nor are intended to inform, Washington Climbers Coalition policies or practices.

QUESTION 20

Strongly agree

Indicate your level of agreement with the following statements regarding the replacement of fixed hardware (e.g. bolts, pitons, webbing):

■ Neither agree nor disagree

FINDINGS

bolt.

If no other protection opportunities can be found nearby, an old fixed piton should be replaced with a

Agree

Fixed anchors consisting of webbing around a tree should be replaced with bolt anchors wherever possible.

It is acceptable to increase the number of bolts when replacing aging hardware if it makes a climb safer.

When old bolts are replaced, the location of the bolts should be changed if it makes the route more enjoyable to climb, but not necessarily safer.

Fixed quick-draws (perma-draws) are unacceptable outside of the climbing gym and should not be allowed.

The only acceptable form of re-bolting is the likefor-like replacement of pre-existing hardware (e.g. replacing old piton with a newer piton).

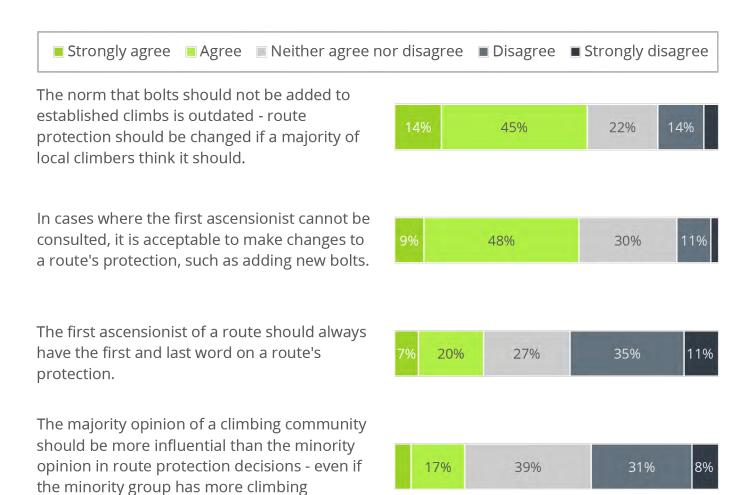


Disagree

■ Strongly disagree

experience.

Indicate your level of agreement with the following statements regarding how bolt replacement decisions should be made:



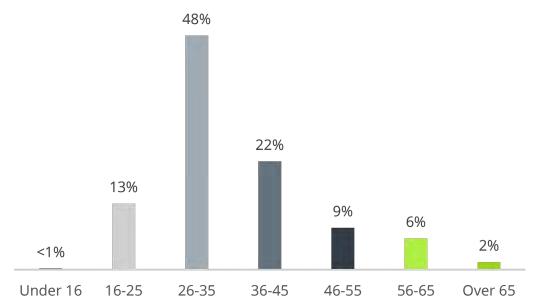
SURVEY

DEMOGRAPHICS

Part 5 of the survey asked questions related to participants' demographic characteristics.

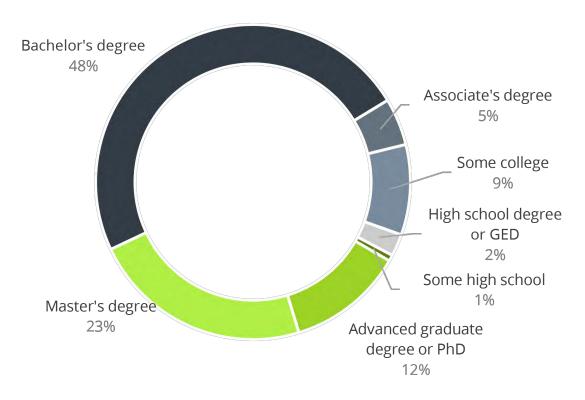
QUESTION 22

What is your age?

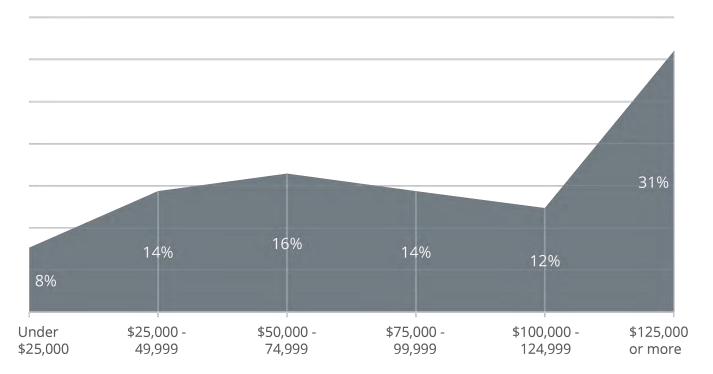


QUESTION 23

What is the highest level of education you've completed?

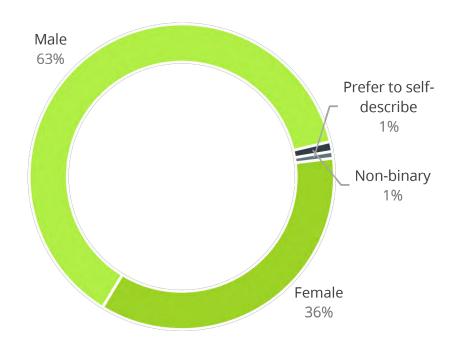


What is your yearly household income?

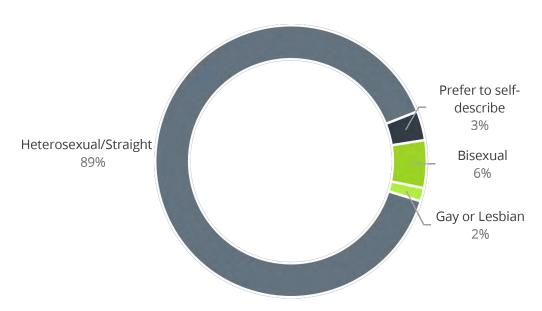


QUESTION 25

With which gender do you most identify?

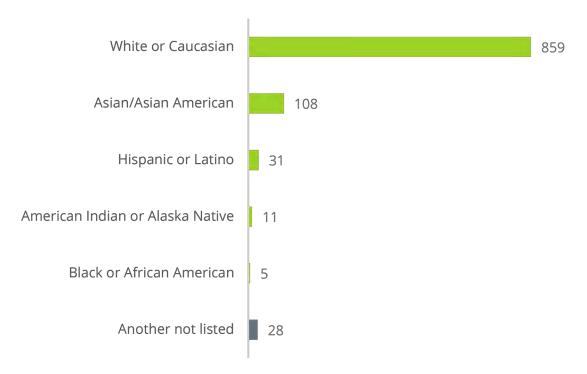


What is your sexual orientation?

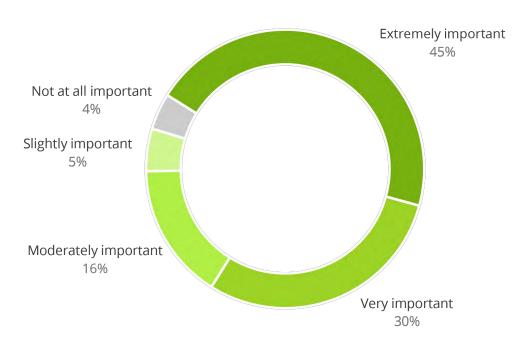


QUESTION 27

What is your race/ethnicity? Select all that apply:

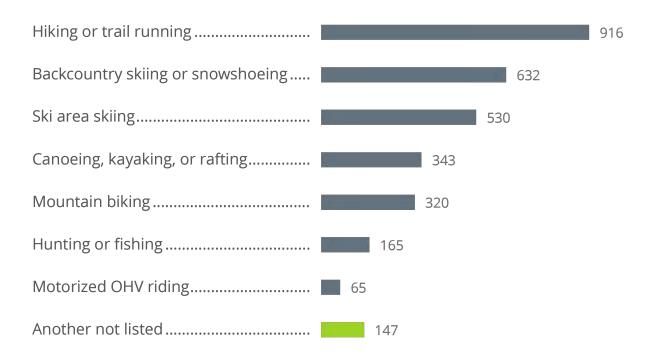


How important is access to climbing in your decision to live in Washington?



QUESTION 29

What other outdoor recreation activities do you regularly engage in? Select all that apply:



A huge

THANK YOU

to all of the climbers who took the time to respond to our survey.

We appreciate your efforts.

For more information about the WCC and how to get involved:

www.washingtonclimers.org info@washingtonclimbers.org

