NORTH CAROLINA
Department of Transportation

Watauga County CTP Survey Presentation

Hasan Obias, Reuben Crummy, and David Graham

October 21, 2026

Connecting people, products and places safely and efficiently with customer focus, accountability and environmental sensitivity to enhance the economy and vitality of North Carolina

Public Survey Results at a Glance

Community engagement overview

580
Participants

1,478
Comments

169
Subscribers

7,162
Responses

1. Transportation Priorities

Ranked by average response. Lower average rank = higher priority.



408 RESPONDENTS

TOP 3 PRIORITIES

1. **Safety**
   Avg. 2.51 • 385 responses
2. **Community Character & Environment**
   Avg. 4.02 • 349 responses
3. **Walking/Bicycling**
   Avg. 4.52 • 337 responses

2 MIDDLE PRIORITIES

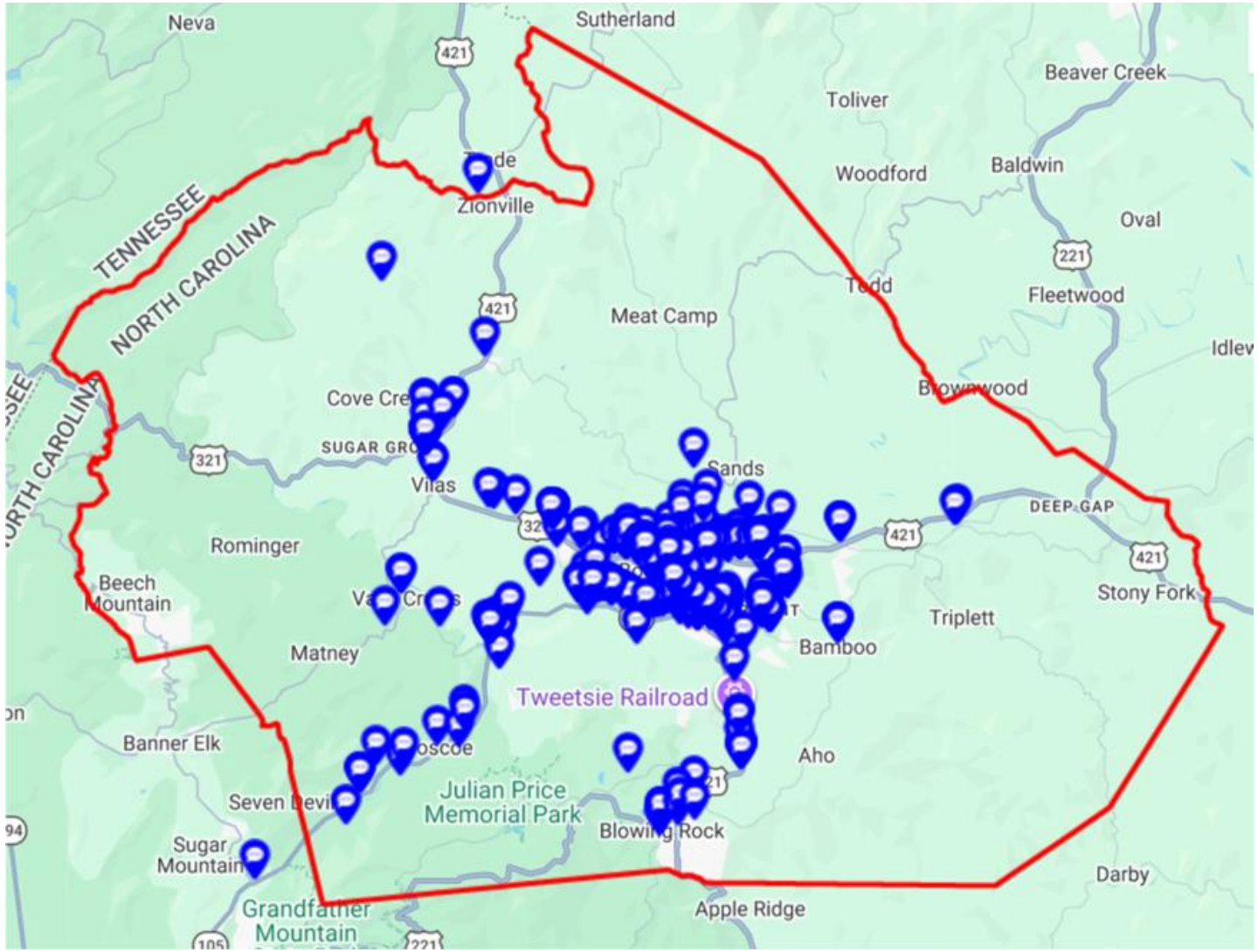
4. **Shorter Travel Times**
   Avg. 4.55 • 344 responses
5. **Modernized Roadways**
   Avg. 5.08 • 339 responses
6. **Local & Regional Connectivity**
   Avg. 5.13 • 335 responses

LOWEST 3 PRIORITIES

7. **Resiliency & Emergency Preparedness**
   Avg. 5.35 • 334 responses
8. **Public & Shared Transportation**
   Avg. 5.65 • 328 responses
9. **Growth & Development**
   Avg. 7.03 • 332 responses

2. Are there any intersections where wait times or delays are a concern to you?

2A. Whole Watauga County intersection delays and concerns



KEY OBSERVATION

Most reported concerns cluster around Boone.

Additional locations are identified across the county.

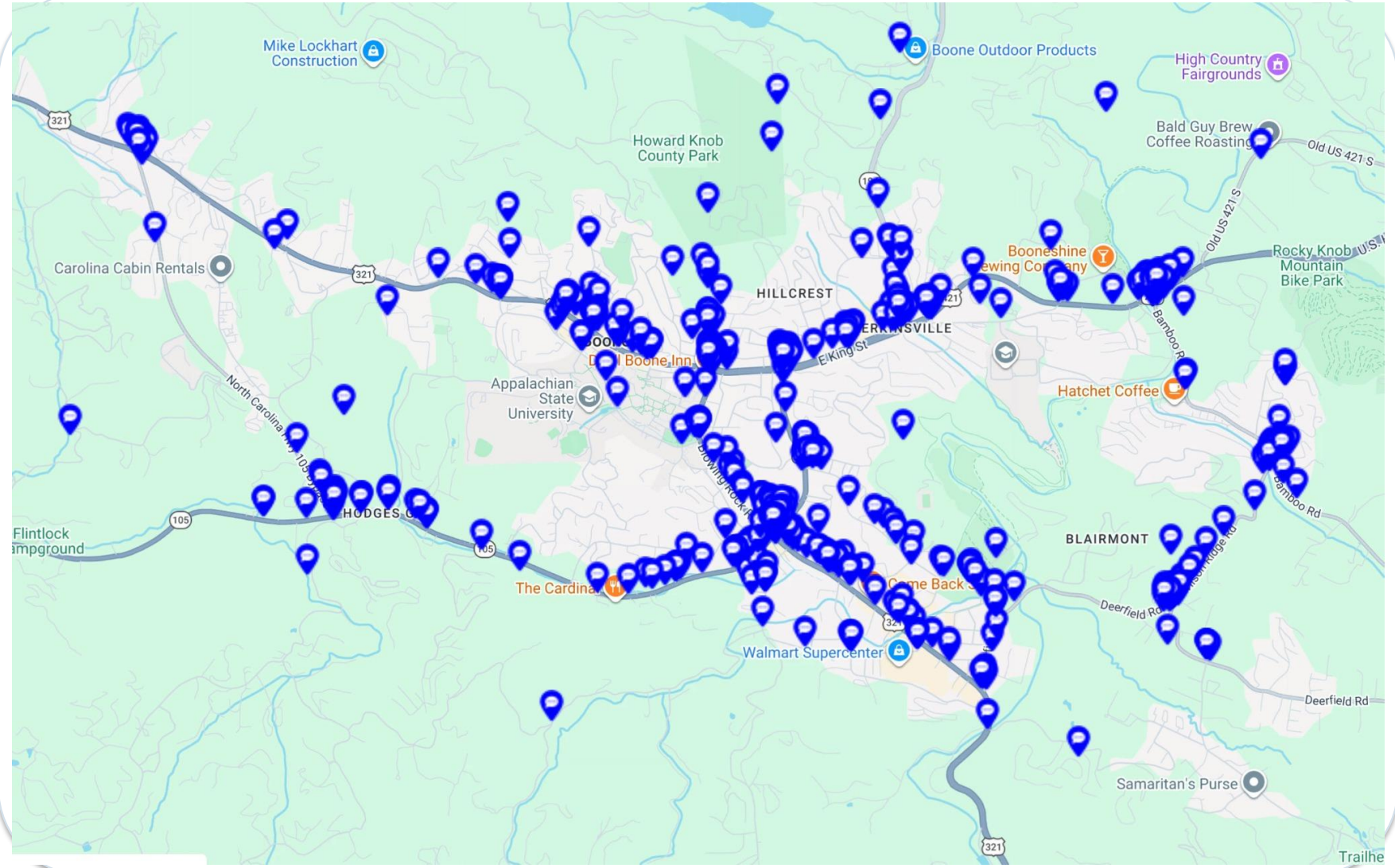
QUESTION 2 SUMMARY

343	Respondents with map pins
932	Individual map pins
247	Written comment entries

Multiple pins could be placed by one respondent.

2. Intersection, delays, and concerns

2B. Boone-area inset



BOONE-AREA SUMMARY

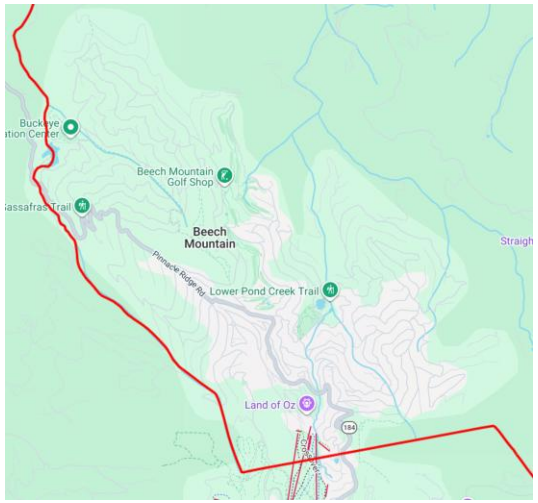
Most mapped concerns cluster around central Boone.

811
Boone-area map pins

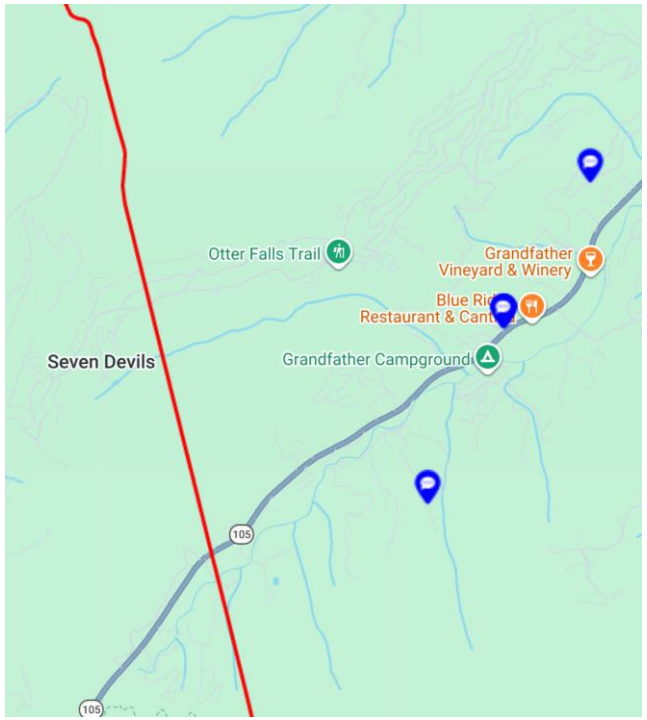
217
Those respondents with comments

2. Continued…

2C. Additional map insets



Beech Mountain



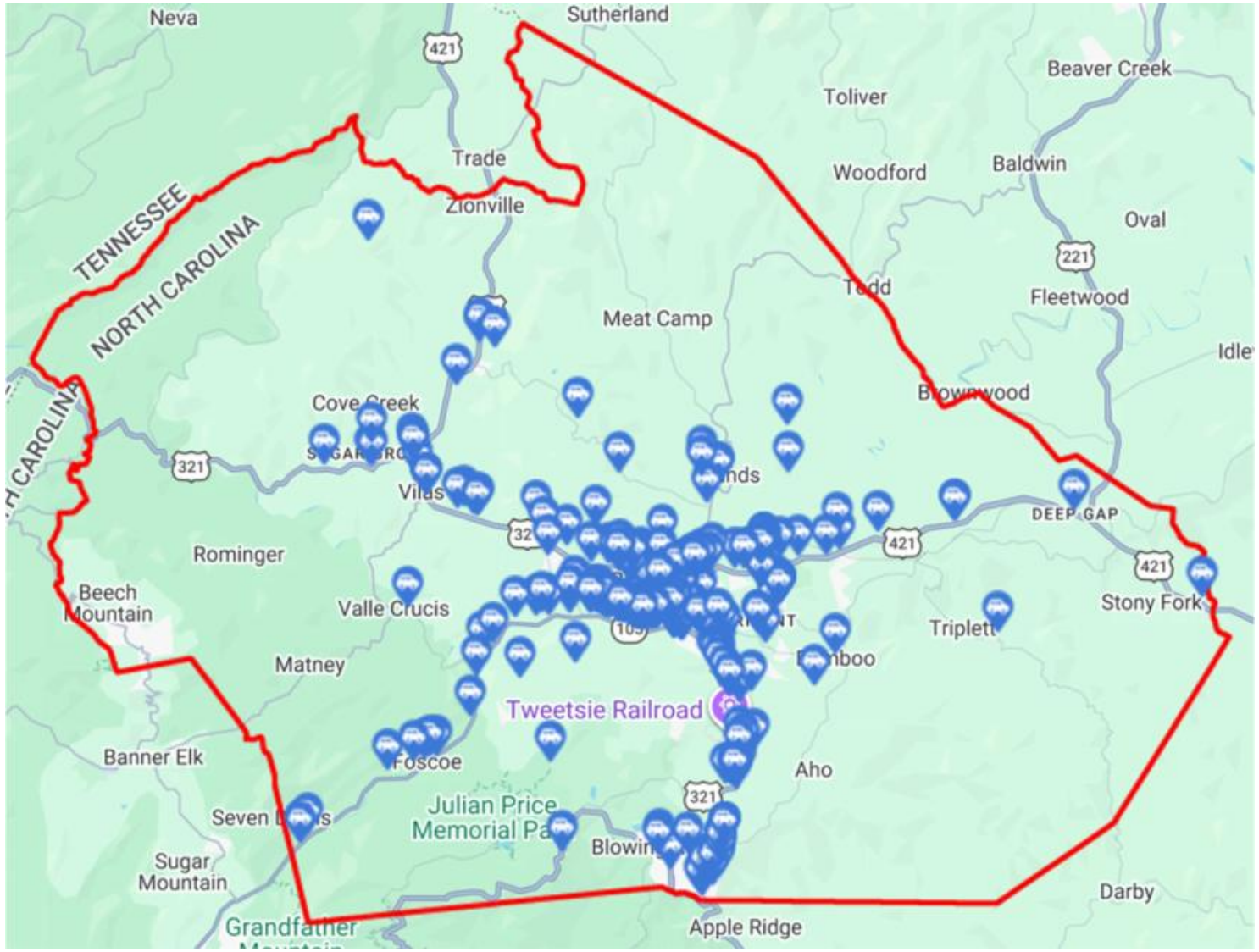
Seven Devils



Blowing Rock

3. Are there any locations where you frequently see crashes?

3A. Whole Watauga County locations where you frequently see crashes



KEY OBSERVATION

Reported crash concerns cluster around Boone.

Other locations are identified across Watauga County.

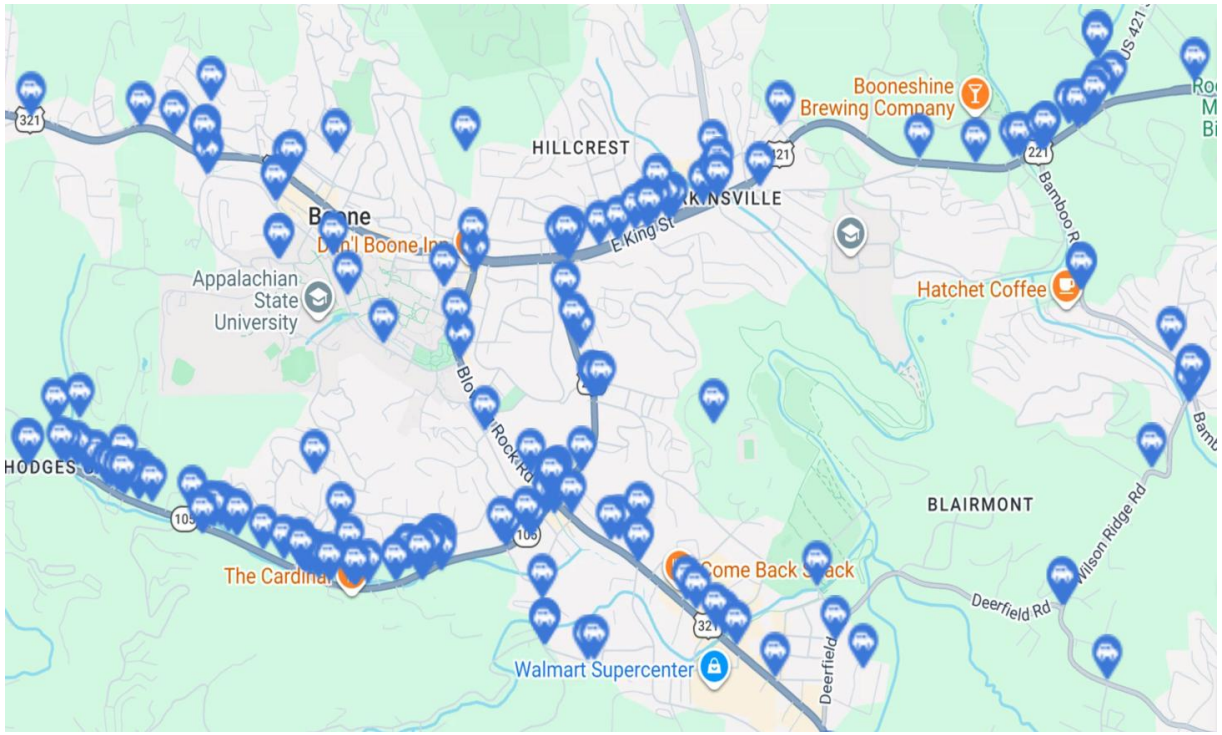
182 Respondents with map pins

340 Individual map pins

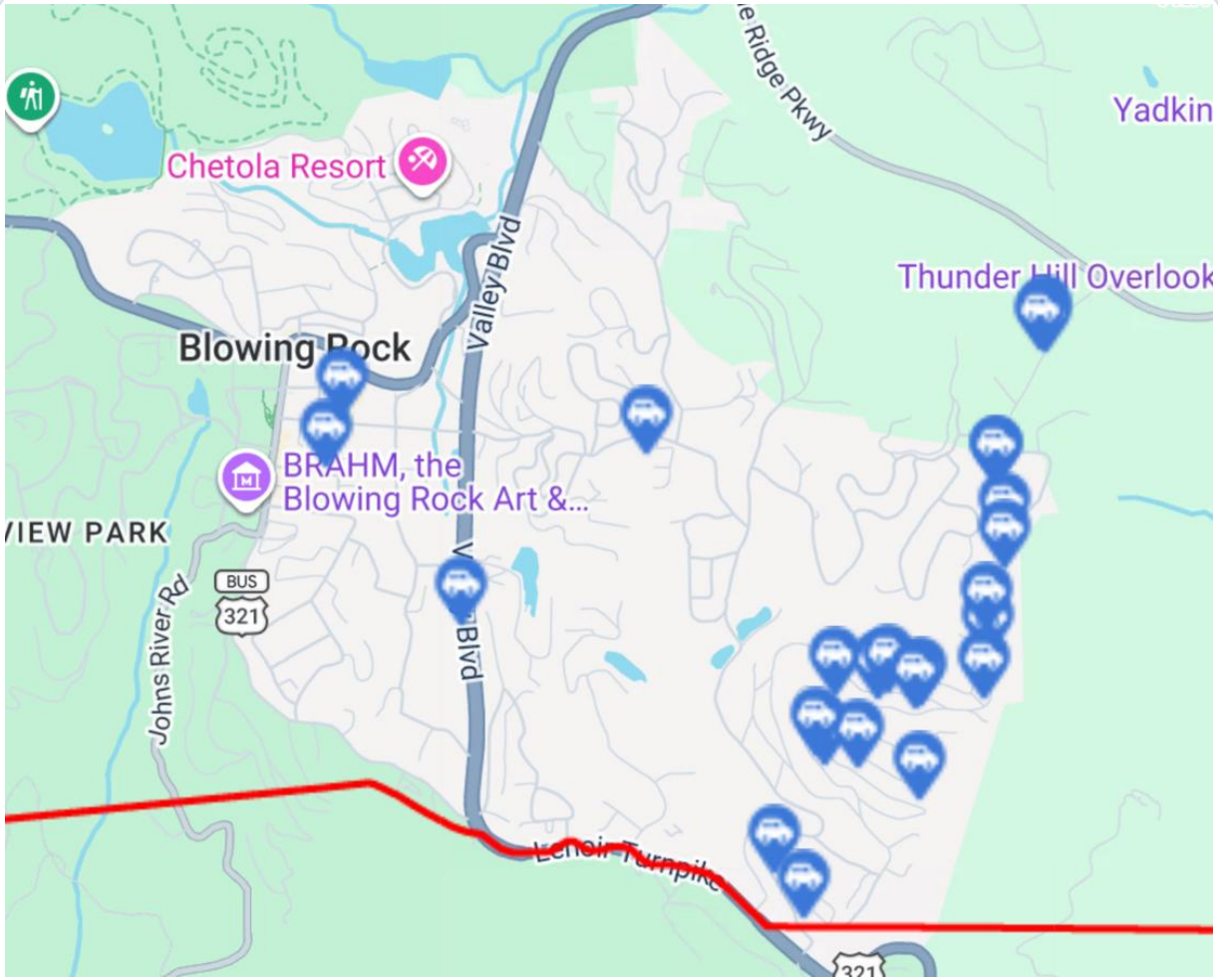
128 Written comment entries

3. Continued...

3B. Reported crash concern locations — Boone and Blowing Rock



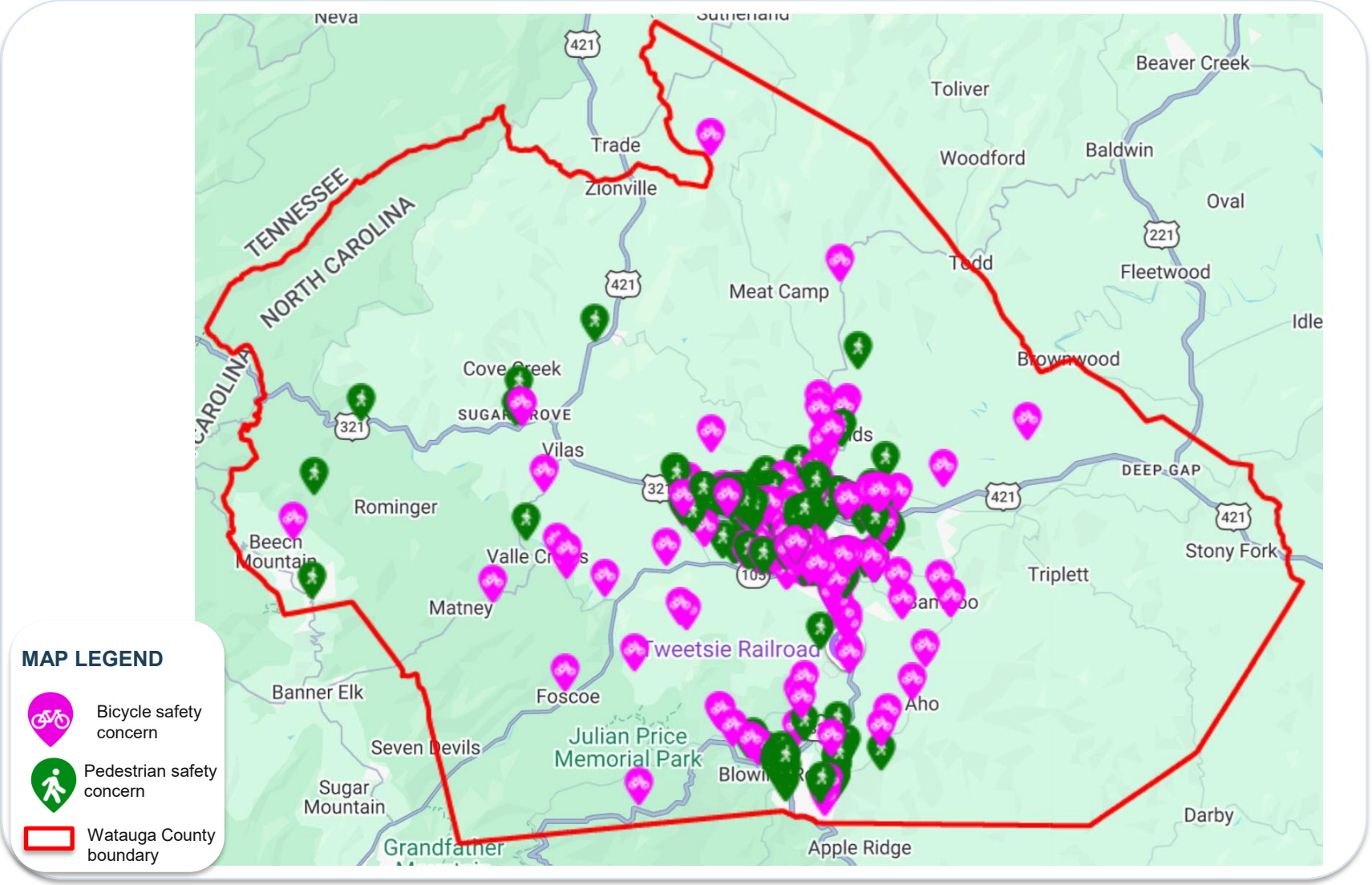
Boone area



Blowing Rock area

4. Are there any priority locations where bike and pedestrian safety is a concern?

Whole Watauga County bicycle and pedestrian safety concerns



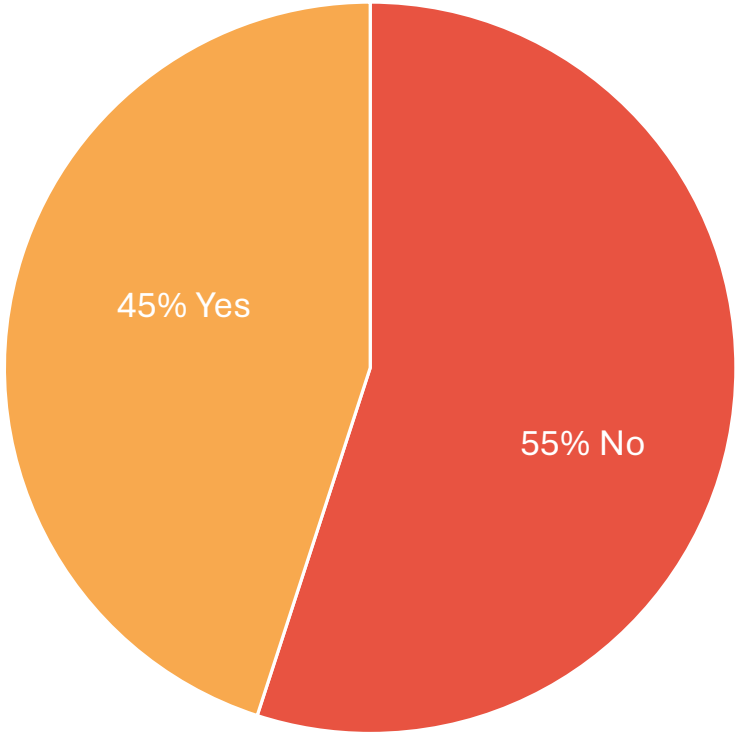
KEY OBSERVATION

Reported bike and pedestrian safety concerns cluster around Boone.

Additional locations are identified across Watauga County.

229	Respondents with map pins
654	Individual map pins
185	Written comment entries

5. If a scheduled fixed-route transit service were provided in your area or to your destination, would you use it?



432 respondents

WHAT RESPONDENTS SAID

- **High connectivity demands**

  Interest in connections between Boone, Blowing Rock, Vilas, Foscoe, Deep Gap and other underserved areas.

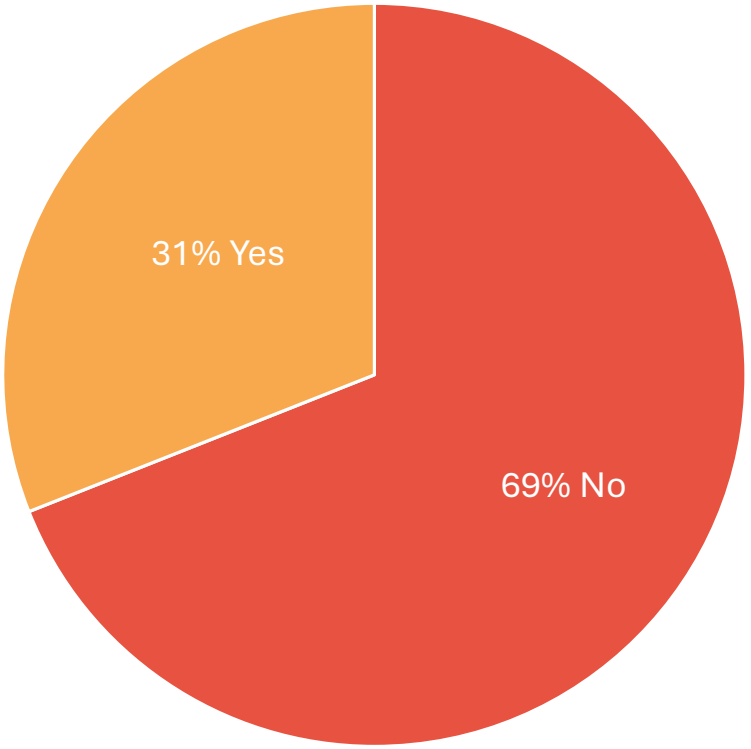
- **Conditions for using transit**

  Frequent, on-time service; convenient stops; direct routes; and access to jobs, shopping, healthcare and downtown.

- **Reasons for hesitation**

  Preference for driving, existing car access

6. Would you use a Park-and-Ride lot if one were available?



436 respondents

WHAT RESPONDENTS SAID

- **Where park-and-ride could help**

  Suggested lots near Boone entrances, Deep Gap, Vilas, Blowing Rock and major highway corridors.

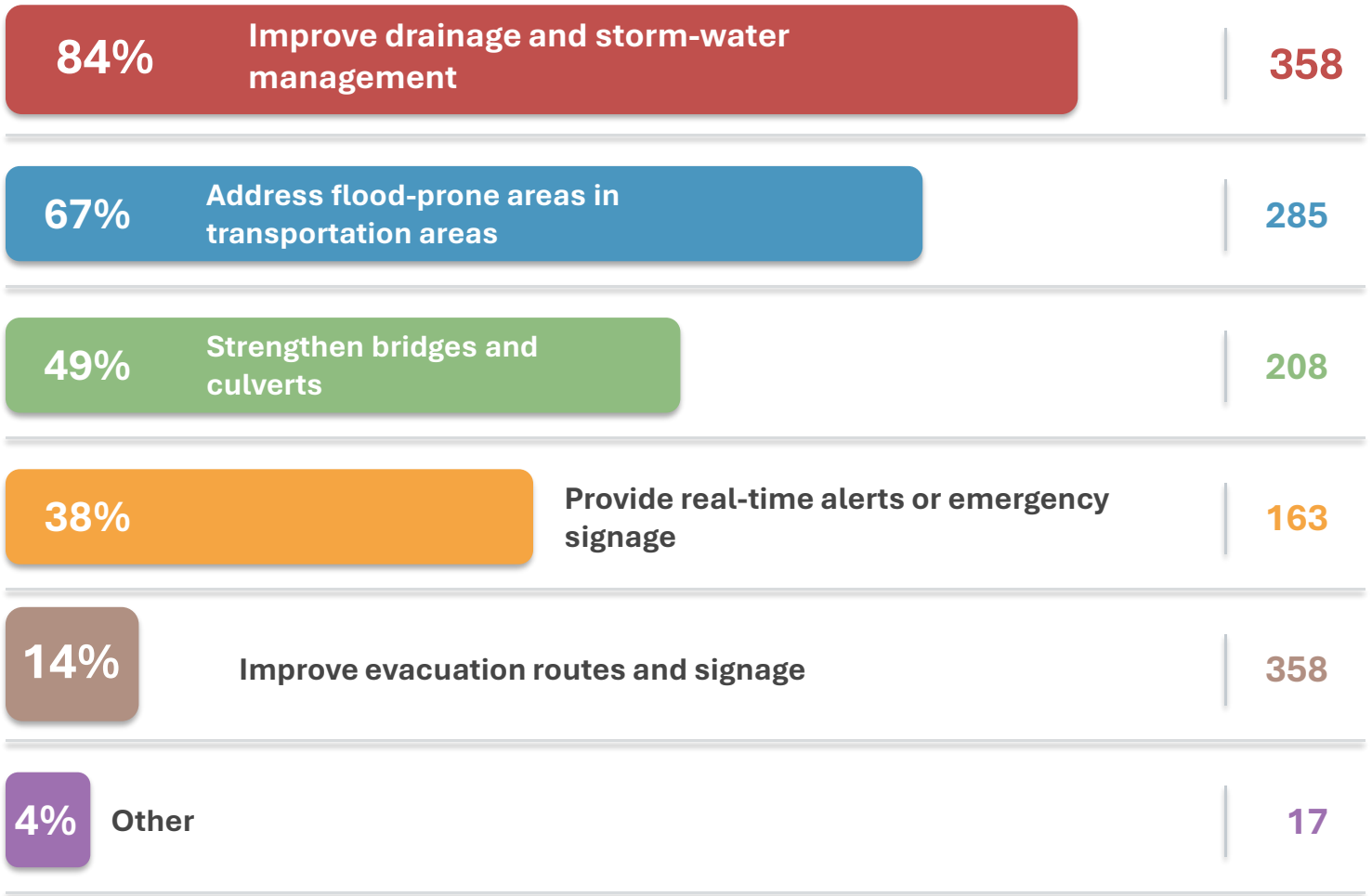
- **Reasons for interest**

  Avoiding downtown parking, commuting to campus, access to events, affordable, frequent shuttle connections.

- **Reasons for hesitation**

  Preference for driving directly, added transfer time, unpredictable schedules.

7. What would help your community be better prepared to respond to emergencies or natural disasters? (Select up to 3)

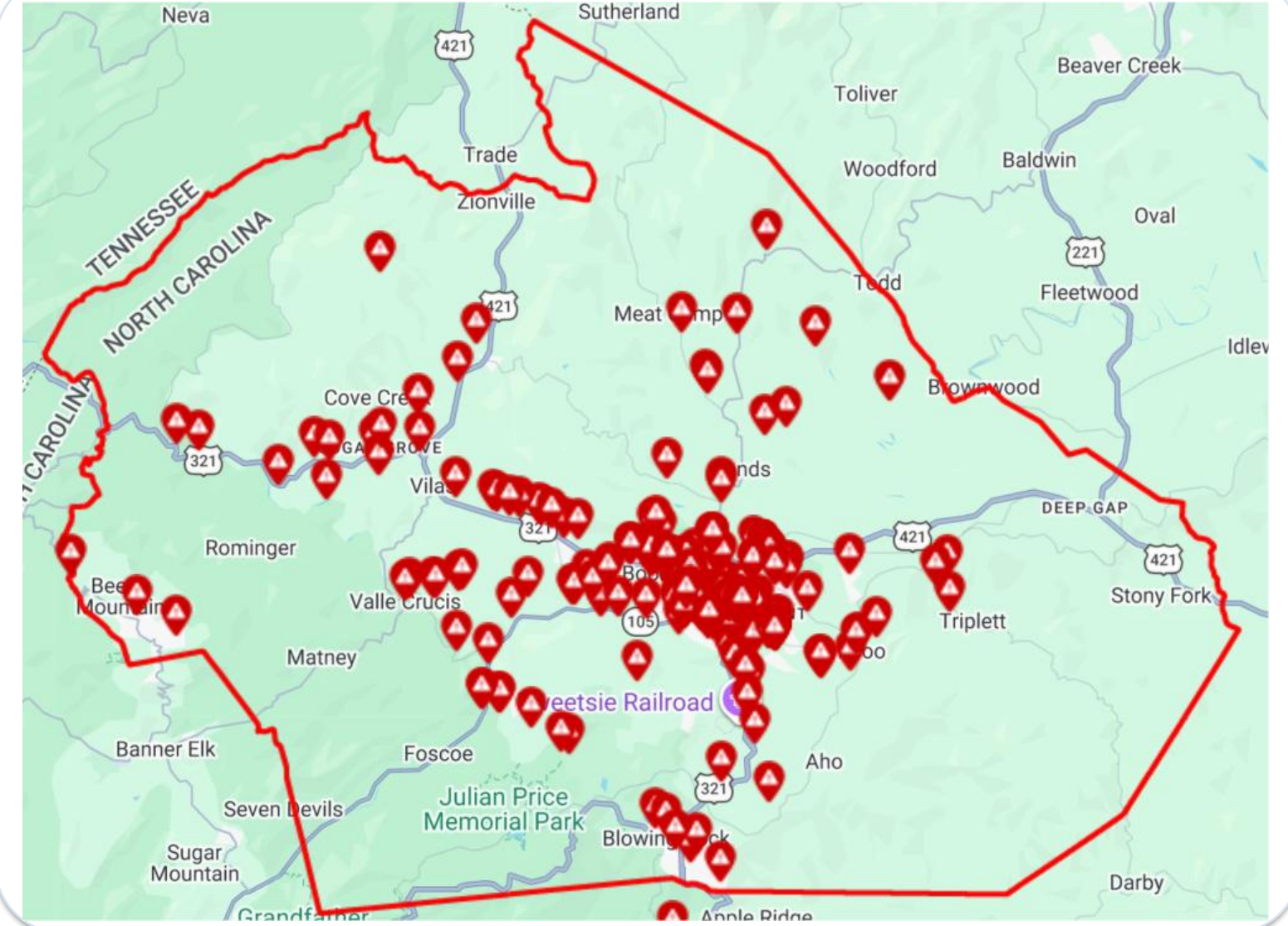


428 Respondents

Key Themes from Written Comments

1. **Community preparedness**
   Train residents for emergencies and recovery.
2. **Flood prevention**
   Reduce runoff and flooding from development.
3. **Road maintenance**
   Maintain roads, ditches, and drainage structures.
4. **Development concerns**
   Limit sprawl and environmental damage.
5. **Emergency access**
   Provide alternate routes during road closures.
6. **Flood warning signs**
   Improve signs in flood-prone areas.
7. **Debris removal**
   Clear fallen trees and road debris.
8. **Population growth**
   Address college enrollment and overcrowding.
9. **Community amenities**
   Provide additional local amenities.
10. **Existing priorities**
    Emphasize previously selected improvements.

8. Please identify areas (roads, bridges, etc.) in the transportation system that need attention before the next natural disaster.



KEY OBSERVATION

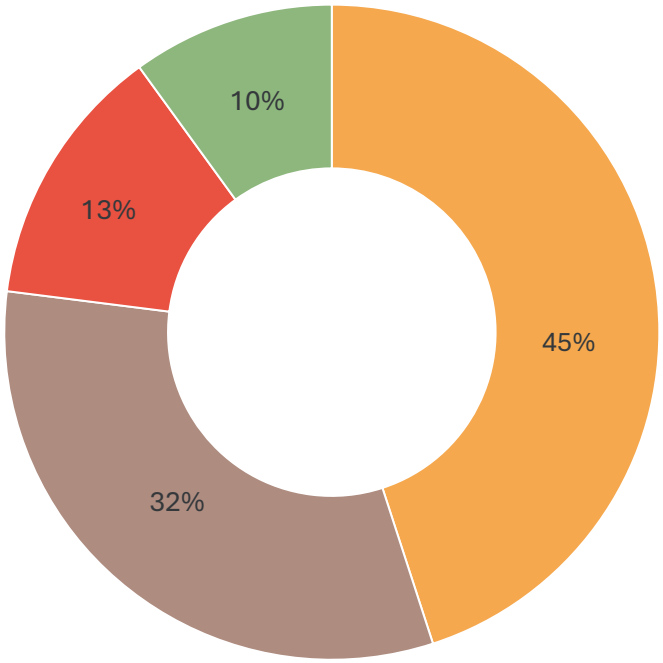
Reported concerns cluster around Boone and nearby road corridors. Flooding, drainage, culverts, road damage and bridge access are recurring concerns.

154 Respondents with map pins

309 Individual map pins

109 Written comment entries

9. Which approach do you prefer for future transportation improvements?



45% **Expand transportation infrastructure to improve mobility and reduce congestion (new roads, additional travel lanes, and overpasses/underpasses).**

32% **Maintain existing roads and minimize new roadway construction.**

13% **Make only improvements needed to accommodate future growth.**

10% **Other: Any additional thoughts?**

432 Total respondents

45 Written comments

Key Themes from "Other" Comments

Bypass / Reduce Through-Traffic

Some favor alternate routes; others raise environmental and community concerns.

Maintain Roads & Improve Safety

Prioritize existing roads, problem locations, and safer intersections.

Bicycle & Pedestrian Improvements

More sidewalks, bike lanes, greenways, and safer travel choices.

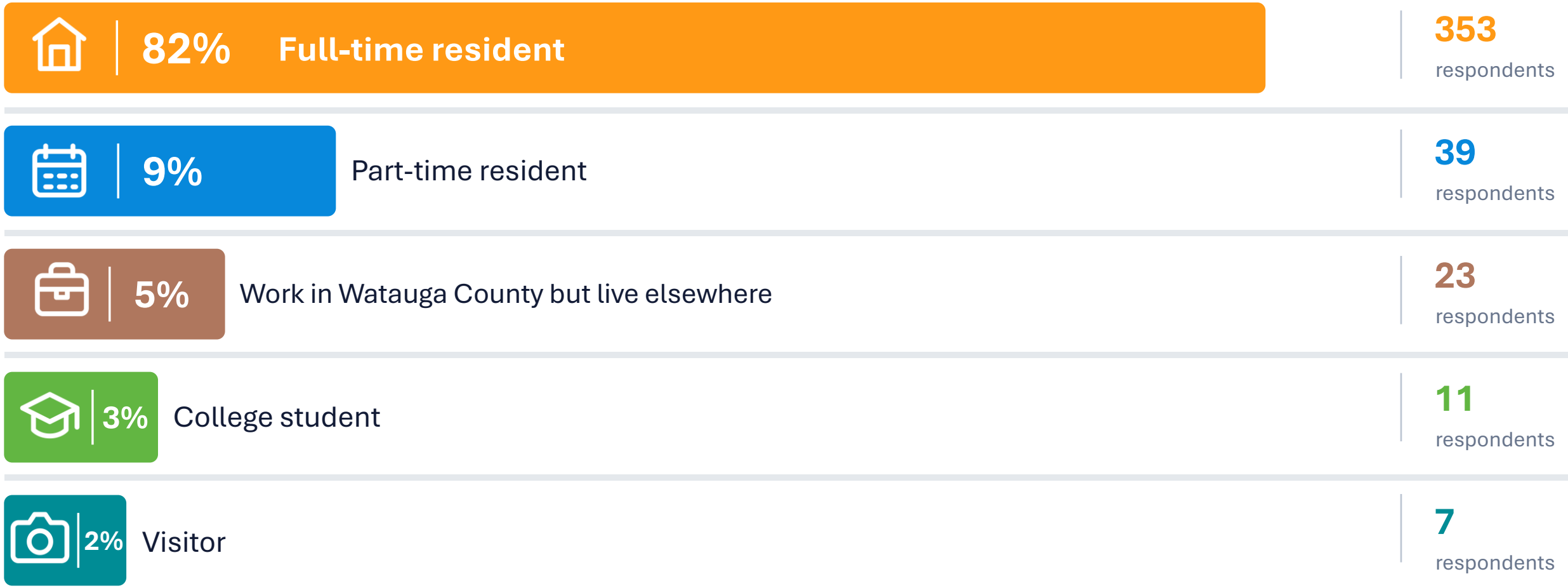
Public Transportation Options

Expand transit and reduce reliance on personal vehicles.

Protect Community Character

Consider impacts on neighborhoods, landscapes, and Boone's mountain setting.

10a. Which best describes your relationship to Watauga County?



433 Total Respondents

ZIP Code Distribution

by Town / Community

Primary Focus: Watauga County, North Carolina

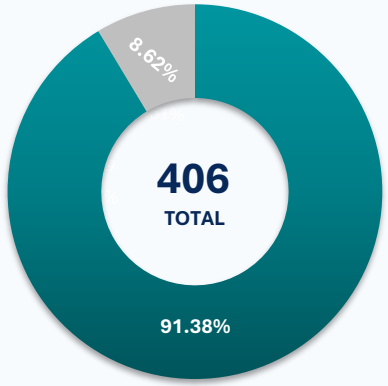
35 ZIP Codes
in the dataset

406 Total Records
100% of records entries

Top 5 Towns / Communities by Count

1	Boone	213	52.46%
2	Blowing Rock	62	15.27%
3	Beech Mountain/Seven Devils	28	6.90%
4	Vilas	21	5.17%
5	Deep Gap	15	3.69%

Distribution of Records



Watauga County
371 (91.38%)
(All Watauga County ZIP Codes)

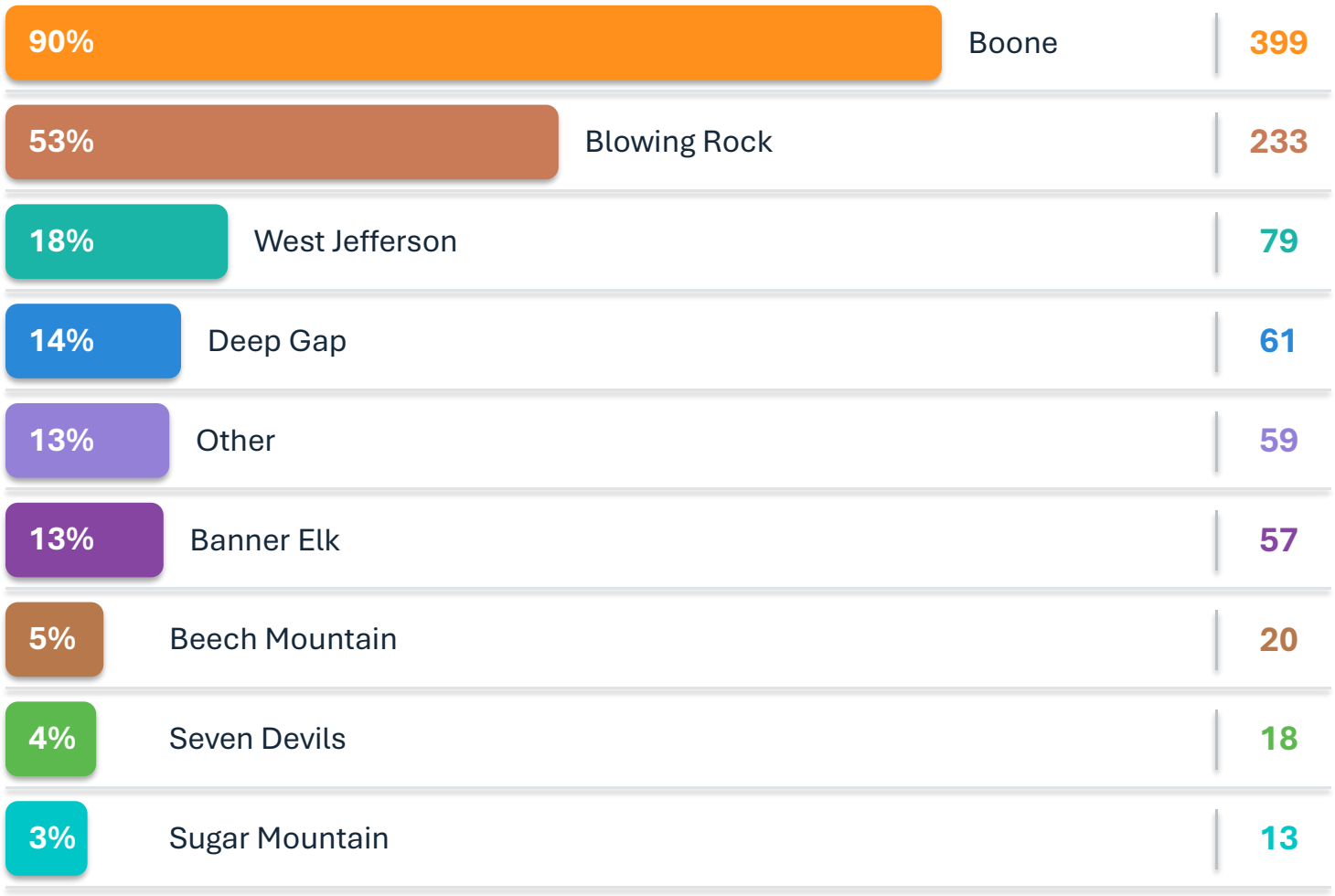
Other Counties
35 (8.62%)
(ZIP Codes outside Watauga County)

All Towns / Communities by ZIP Code

#	ZIP Code	Town / Community	State	Primary County	Count	Percentage
1	28607	Boone	NC	Watauga	213	52.46%
2	28605	Blowing Rock	NC	Watauga	62	15.27%
3	28604	Beech Mountain/Seven Devils	NC	Watauga	28	6.90%
4	28692	Vilas	NC	Watauga	21	5.17%
5	28618	Deep Gap	NC	Watauga	15	3.69%
6	28698	Zionville	NC	Watauga	13	3.20%
7	28679	Sugar Grove	NC	Watauga	9	2.22%
8	28608	Boone (APP State)	NC	Watauga	4	0.99%
9	28684	Todd	NC	Ashe/Watauga	4	0.99%
10	28626	Fleetwood	NC	Ashe	3	0.74%
11	28645	Lenoir	NC	Caldwell	3	0.74%
12	28694	West Jefferson	NC	Ashe	3	0.74%
13	28615	Creston	NC	Ashe	2	0.49%
14	28651	Millers Creek	NC	Wilkes	2	0.49%
15	28657	Newland	NC	Avery	2	0.49%
16	28659	North Wilkesboro	NC	Wilkes	2	0.49%
17	37683	Mountain City	TN	Johnson	2	0.49%
18	26807	Franklin	WV	Pendleton	1	0.25%
19	27023	Lewisville	NC	Forsyth	1	0.25%
20	27516	Chapel Hill	NC	Orange	1	0.25%
21	27705	Durham	NC	Durham	1	0.25%
22	28105	Matthews	NC	Mecklenburg	1	0.25%
23	28270	Charlotte	NC	Mecklenburg	1	0.25%
24	28406	Wilmington	NC	New Hanover	1	0.25%
25	28504	Kinston	NC	Lenoir	1	0.25%
26	28606	Boomer	NC	Wilkes	1	0.25%
27	28640	Jefferson	NC	Ashe	1	0.25%
28	28643	Lansing	NC	Ashe	1	0.25%
29	28655	Morganton	NC	Burke	1	0.25%
30	28691	Valle Crucis	NC	Watauga	1	0.25%
31	28697	Wilkesboro	NC	Wilkes	1	0.25%
32	28777	Spruce Pine	NC	Mitchell	1	0.25%
33	29605	Greenville	SC	Greenville	1	0.25%
34	30188	Woodstock	GA	Cherokee	1	0.25%
35	33154	Miami Beach	FL	Miami-Dade	1	0.25%
	TOTAL				406	100.00%

11. Towns/communities in or near Watauga County where you spend most of your time

Survey selections (multiple responses allowed)

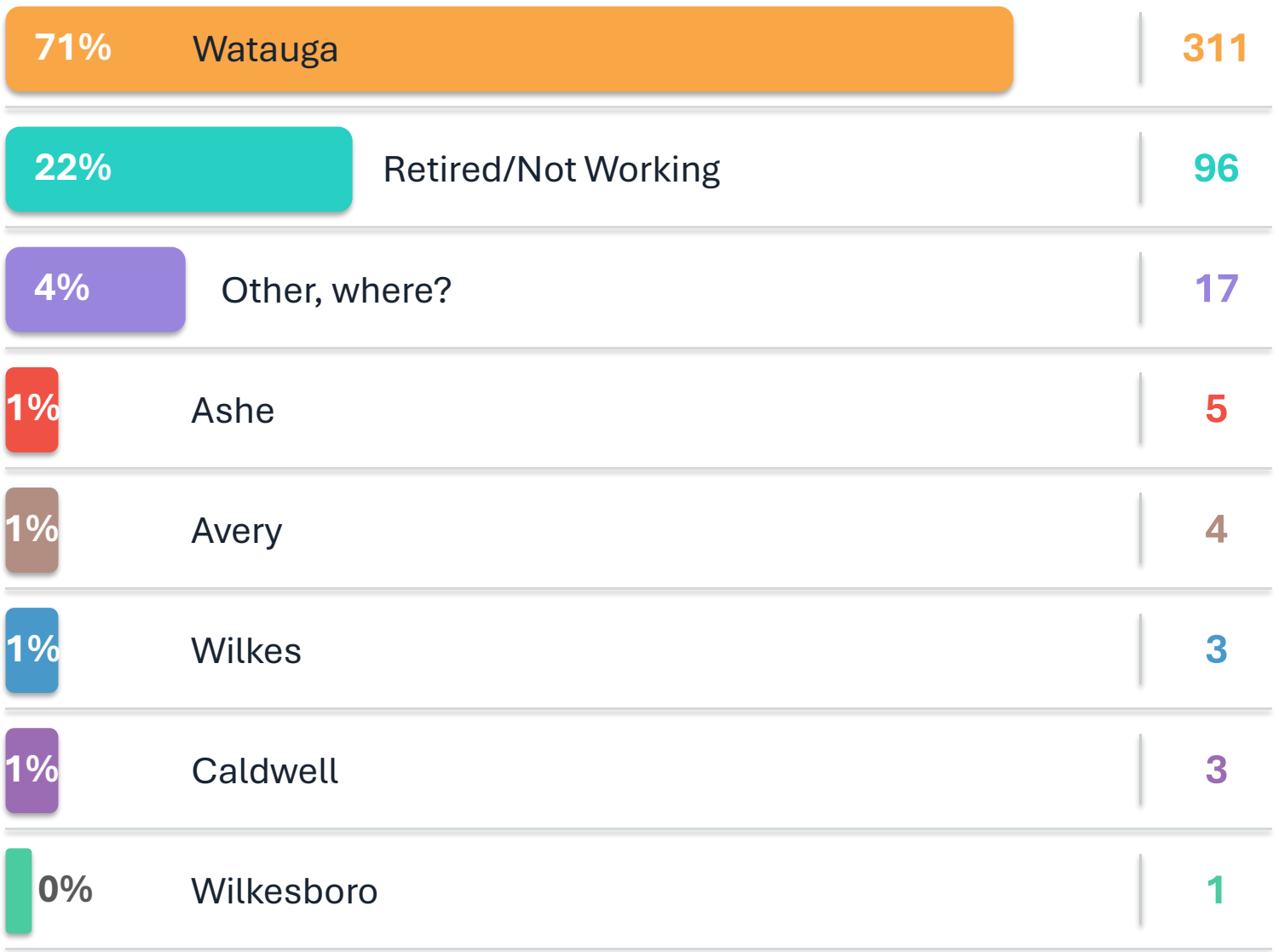


443 respondents

Most Mentioned "Other" Locations

1	Vilas	9
2	Valle Crucis	5
3	Foscoe	4
4	Todd	4
5	Sugar Grove	3
6	Zionville	3
7	Senior Center	3
8	Cove Creek	1
9	Lenoir	1
10	Linville	1

12. Which county do you work in?

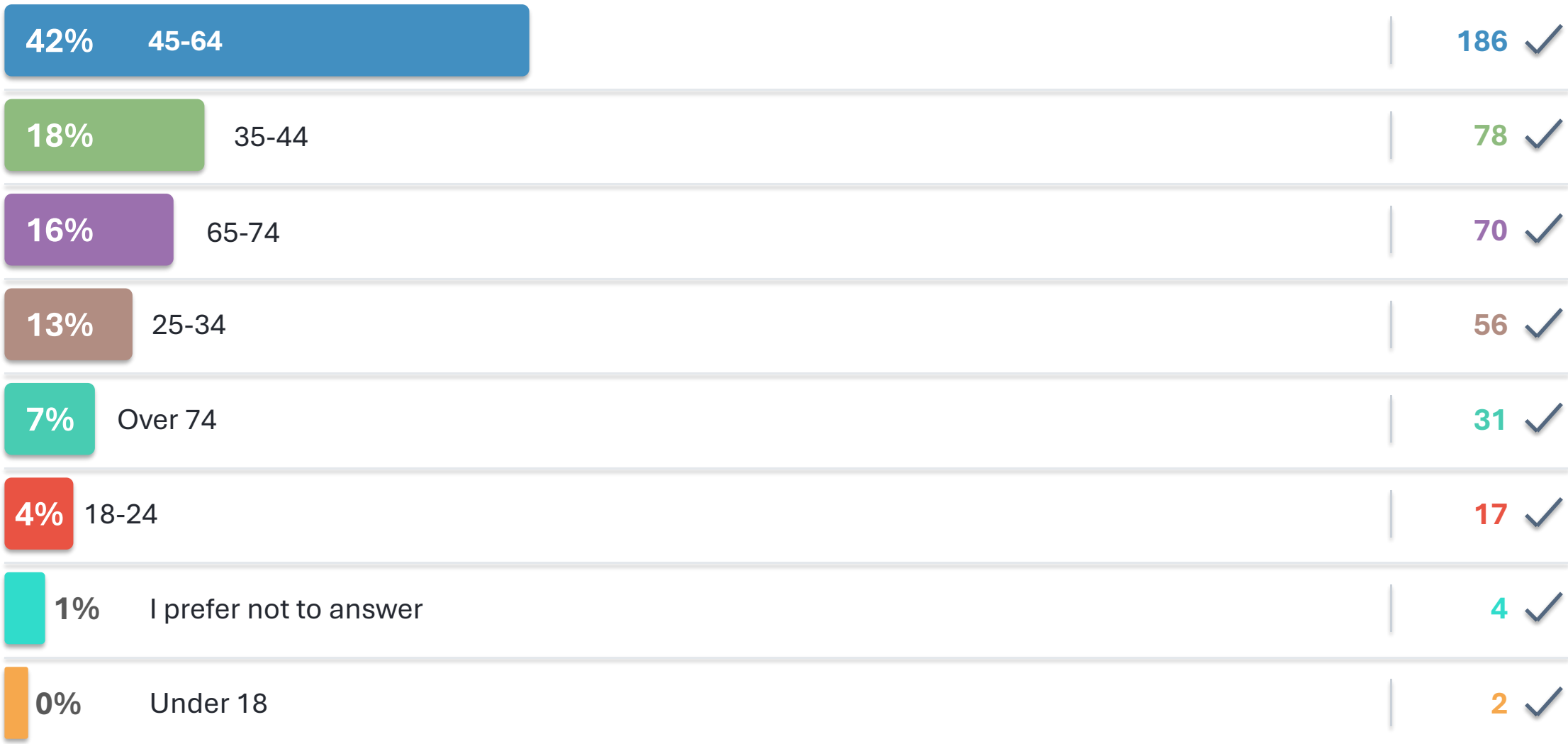


438 Respondents

"Other" Comments

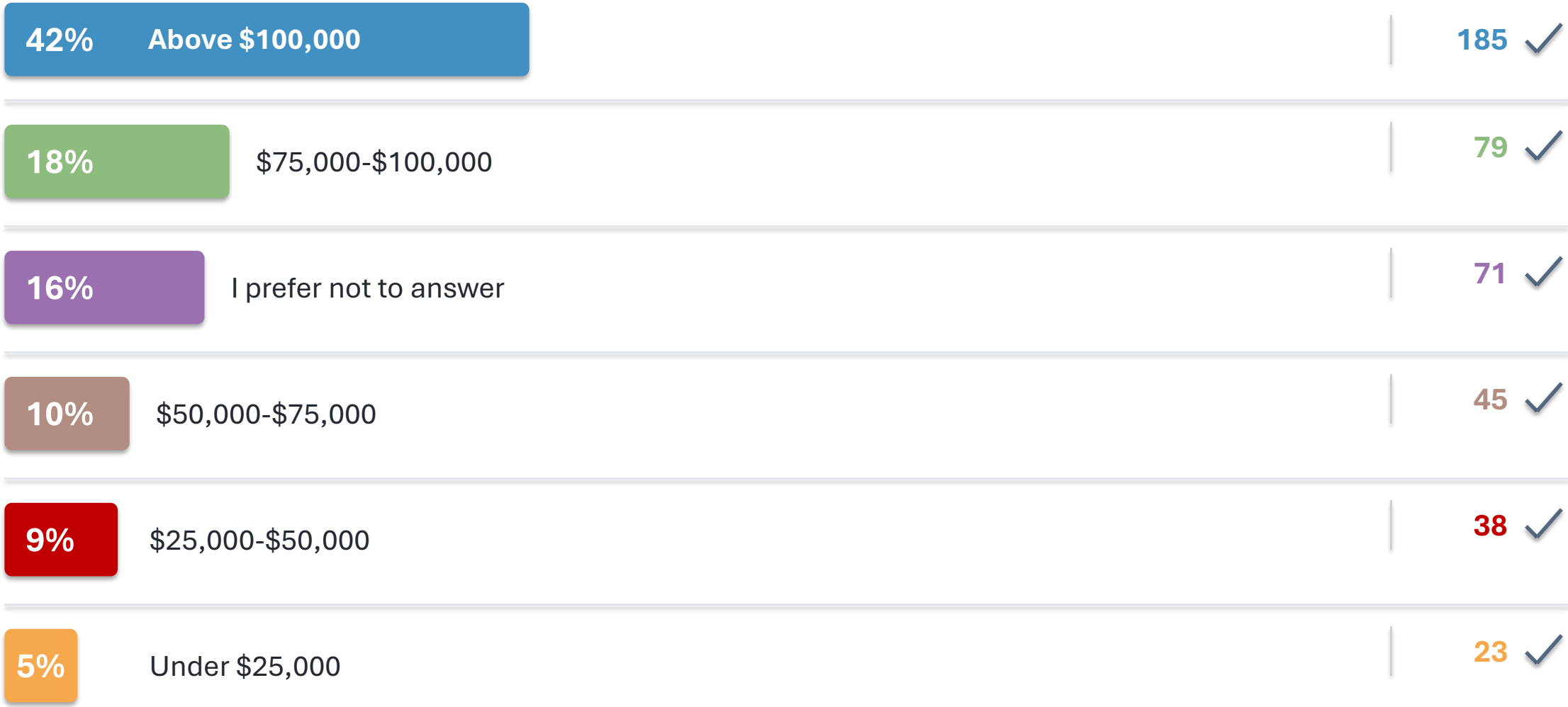
1	Johnson TN
2	I work in Watauga, Ashe, and Avery
3	Forsyth
4	I work in Watauga, Wilkes, and Alleghany.
5	Remote - Watauga
6	Burke
7	catawba
8	Durham, on alt weeks
9	Durham
10	Travel
11	Mecklenburg
12	Chapel Hill
13	Watauga & Ashe. My husband's time is split between the two each week.
14	Charlotte

13. What is your age?



442 Respondents

14. What was your total household income last year?



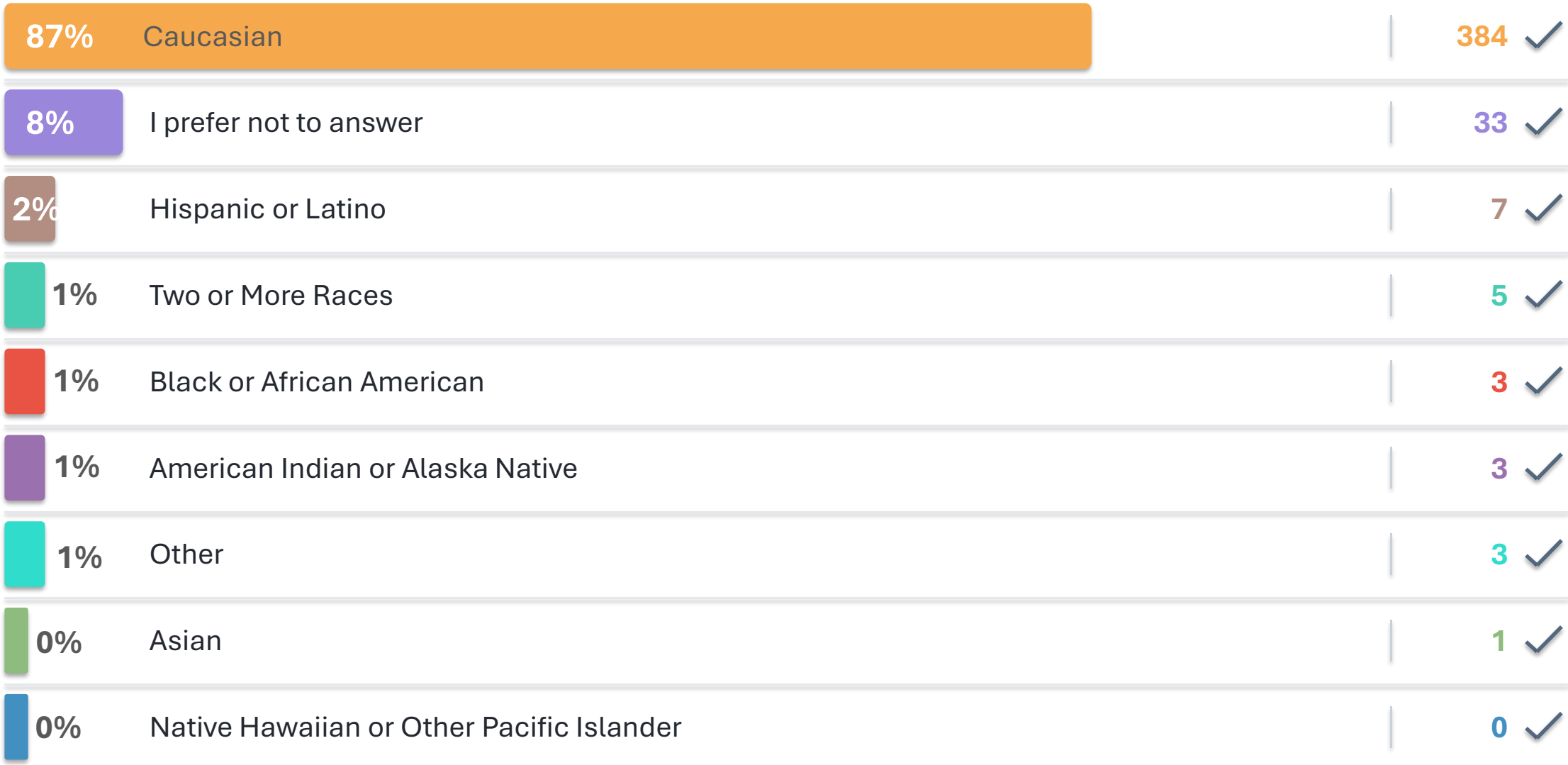
440 Respondents

15. How many people live in your household, including yourself?



437 Respondents

16. What is your race/ethnicity?



439 Respondents

Contact Us

Hasan Obias, NCDOT-TPO
hmobias@ncdot.gov
405-388-6237

Reuben Crummy, NCDOT-TPO
rcrummy@ncdot.gov
919-707-0971

David Graham, HCRPO
dgraham@hccog.org
828-265-5434 ext. 135

ncdot.gov

@NCDOT
ncdotcom
NCDOTcommunications
ncdotcom
@NCDOT
NCDOT
NCDOTcommunications
View All Channels