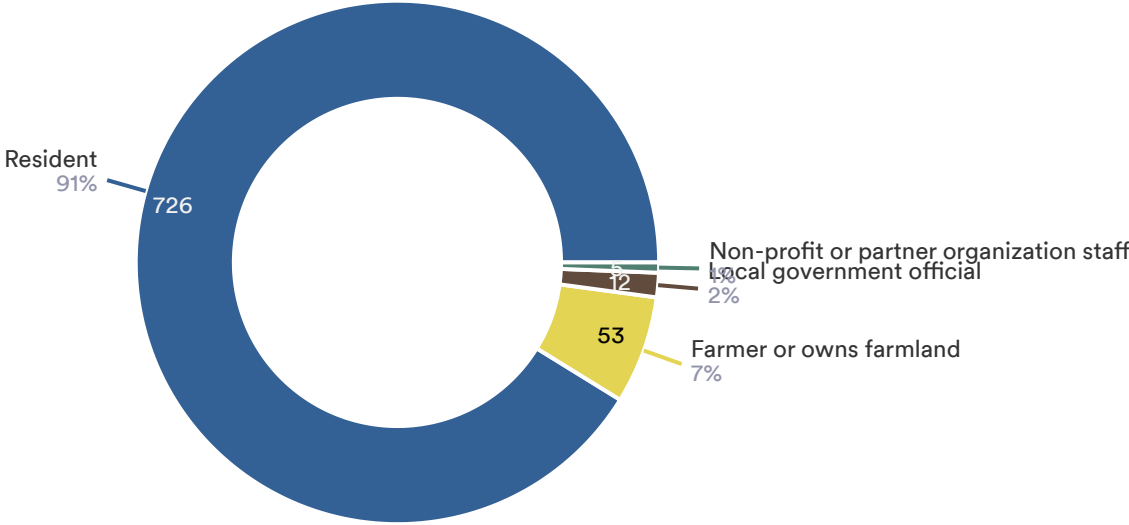


# 2026 Conservation Needs Assessment Survey

## What describes you best?

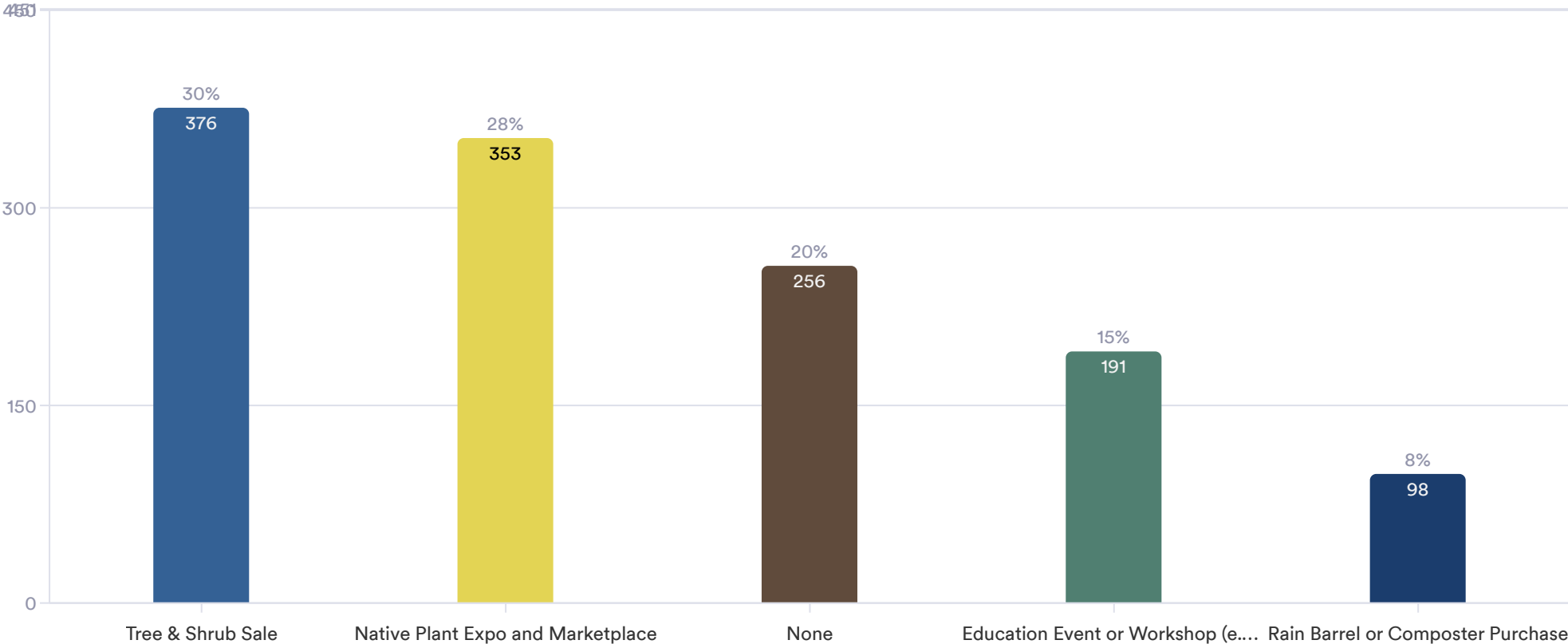
796 Answers



● Resident ● Farmer or owns farmland ● Local government official ● Non-profit or partner organization staff

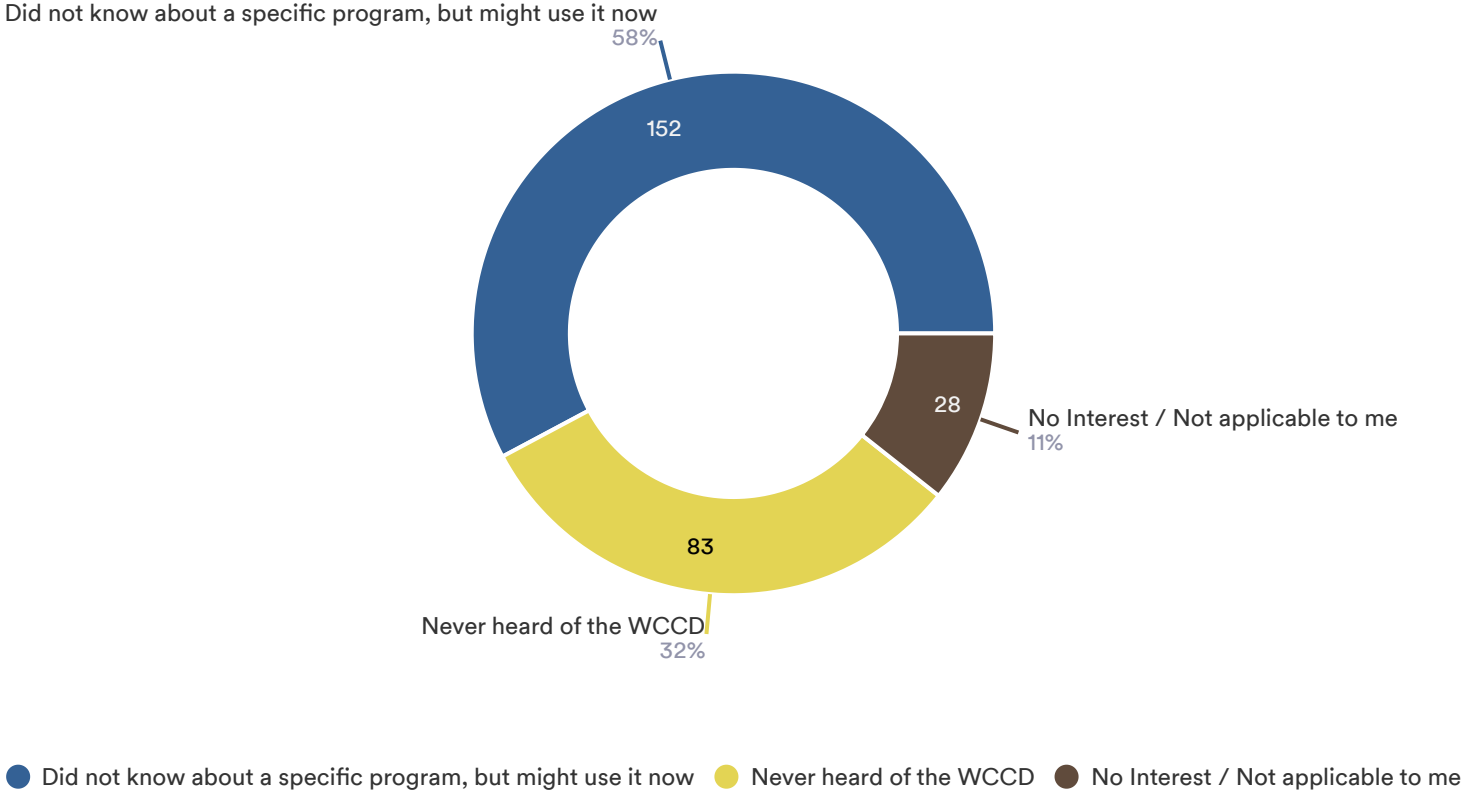
## Which of the WCCD programs have you used or attended?

1274 Answers



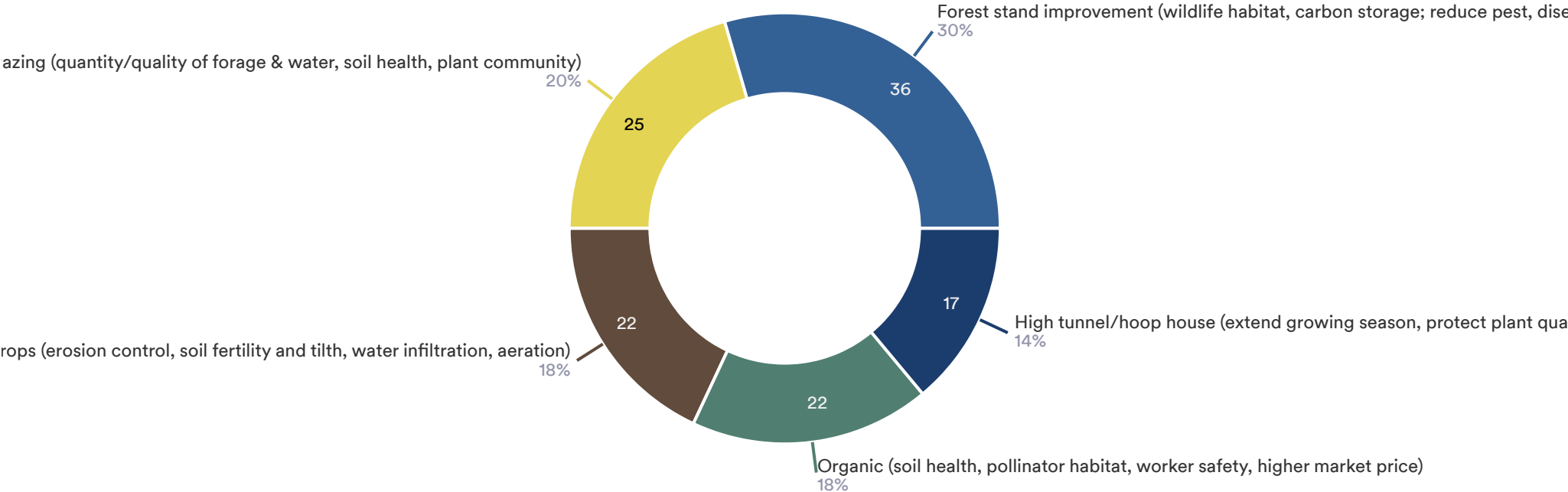
## Why have you not used any of the WCCD programs or services?

263 Answers- 540 Empty



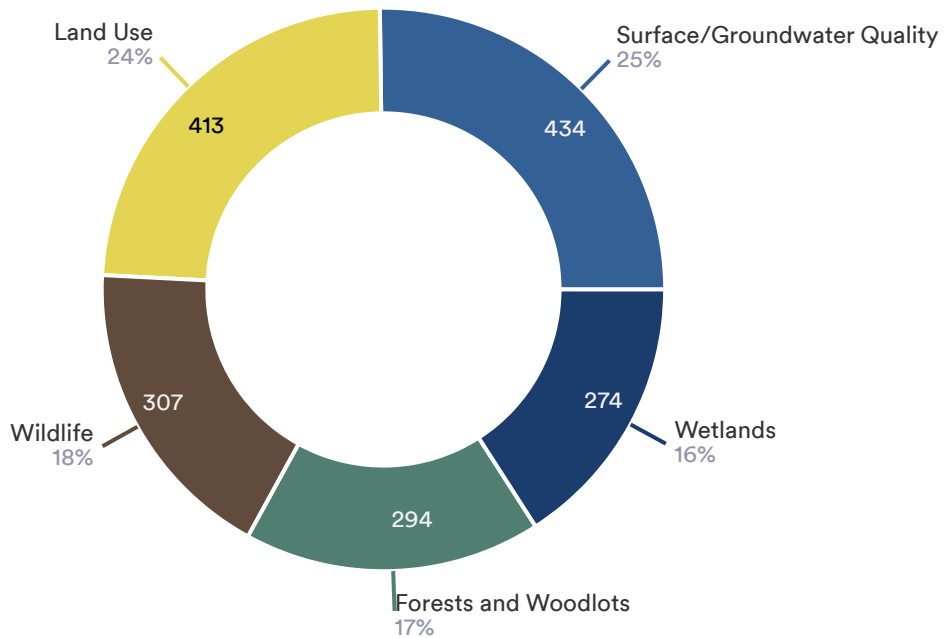
If you are interested in participating in Farm Bill Programs in the future, which conservation practices interest you most?

122 Answers- 746 Empty



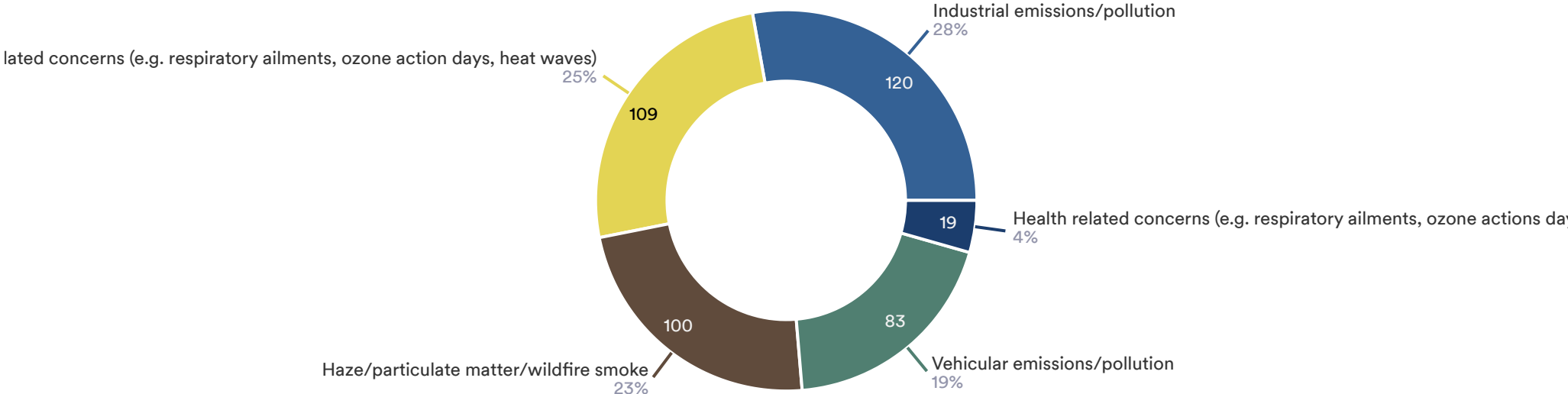
## What are your top 3 categories of concerns for Washtenaw County

1722 Answers



## What are the most important air quality issues in Washtenaw County?

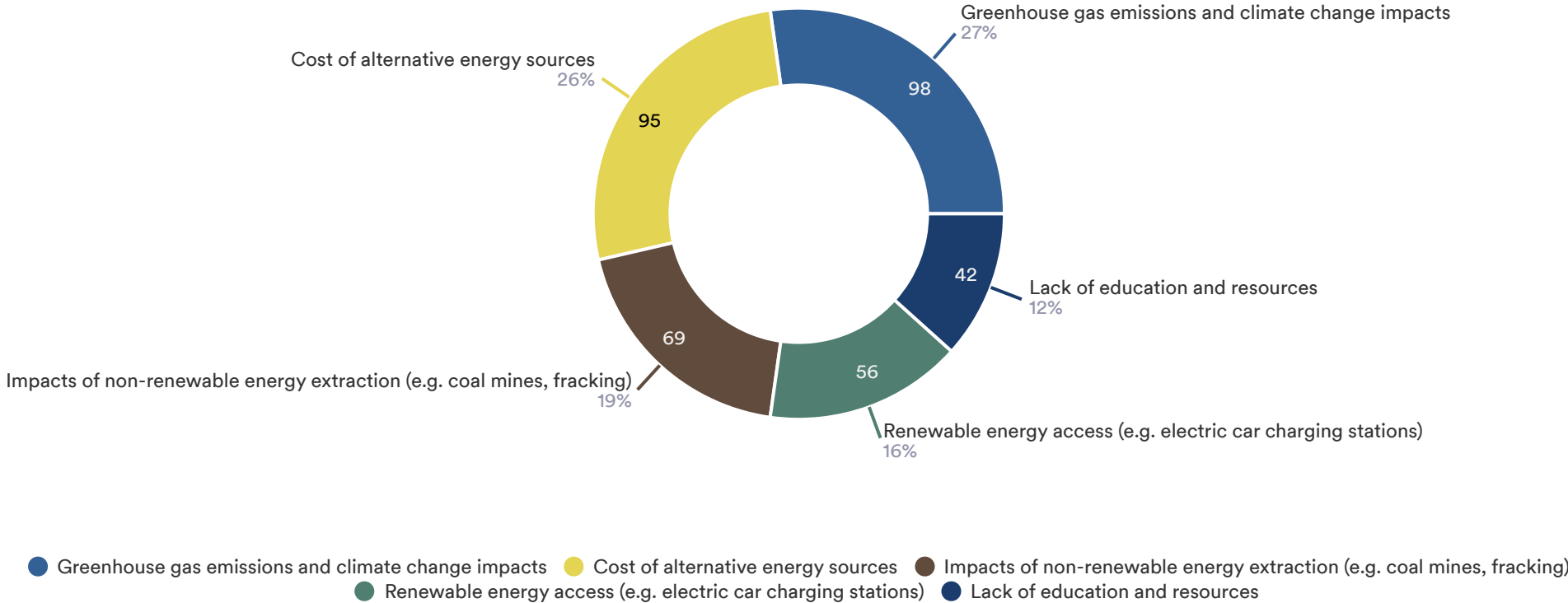
431 Answers- 600 Empty



- Industrial emissions/pollution
- Health related concerns (e.g. respiratory ailments, ozone action days, heat waves)
- Haze/particulate matter/wildfire smoke
- Vehicular emissions/pollution
- Health related concerns (e.g. respiratory ailments, ozone actions days, heat waves)

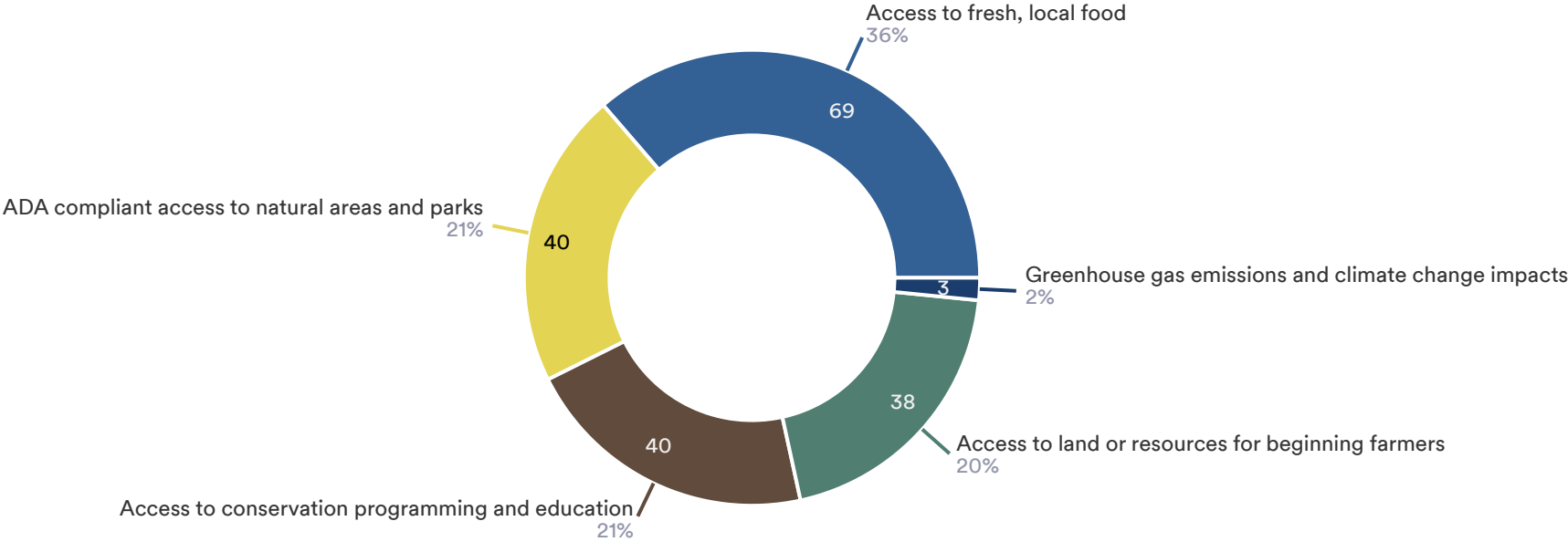
## What are the most important energy use issues in Washtenaw County?

360 Answers- 619 Empty



## What are the most important equity and access issues Washtenaw County?

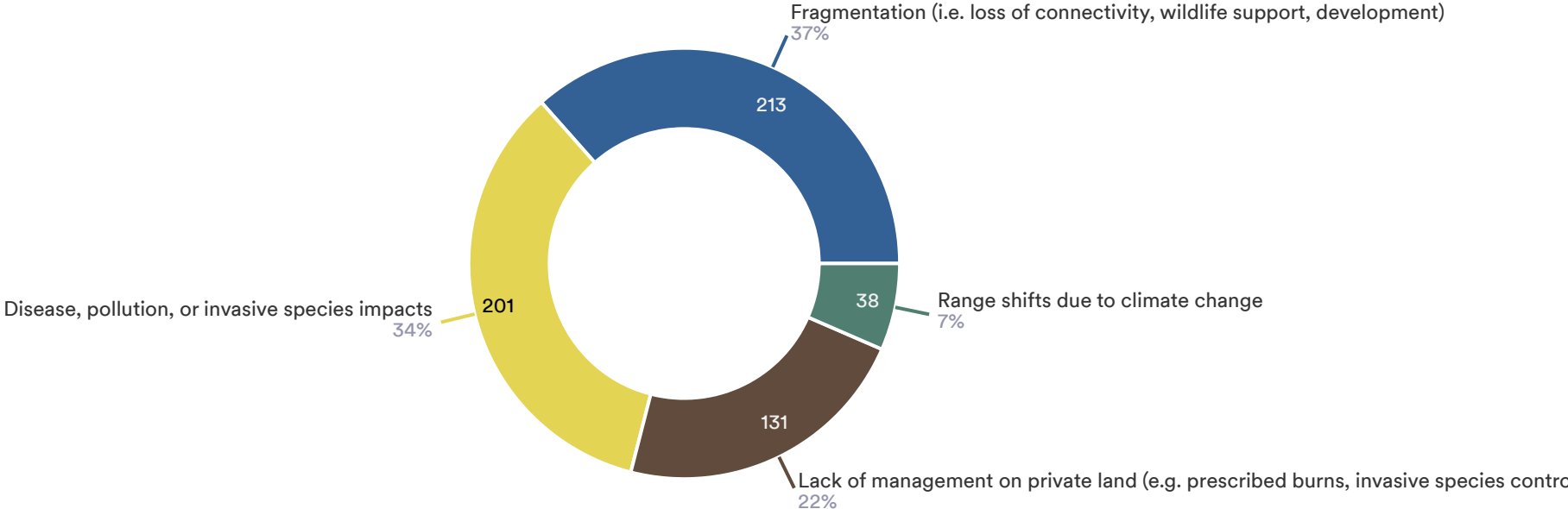
190 Answers- 704 Empty



- Access to fresh, local food
- ADA compliant access to natural areas and parks
- Access to conservation programming and education
- Access to land or resources for beginning farmers
- Greenhouse gas emissions and climate change impacts

## What are the most important forest and woodlot issues in Washtenaw County?

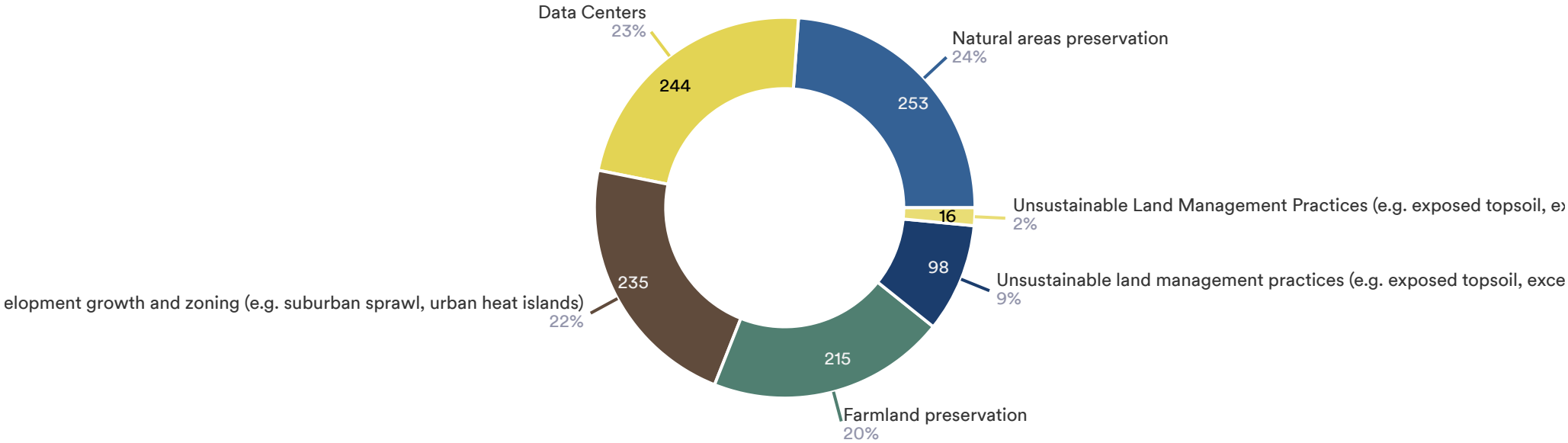
583 Answers- 502 Empty



- Fragmentation (i.e. loss of connectivity, wildlife support, development)
- Disease, pollution, or invasive species impacts
- Lack of management on private land (e.g. prescribed burns, invasive species control)
- Range shifts due to climate change

## What are the most important land use issues in Washtenaw County?

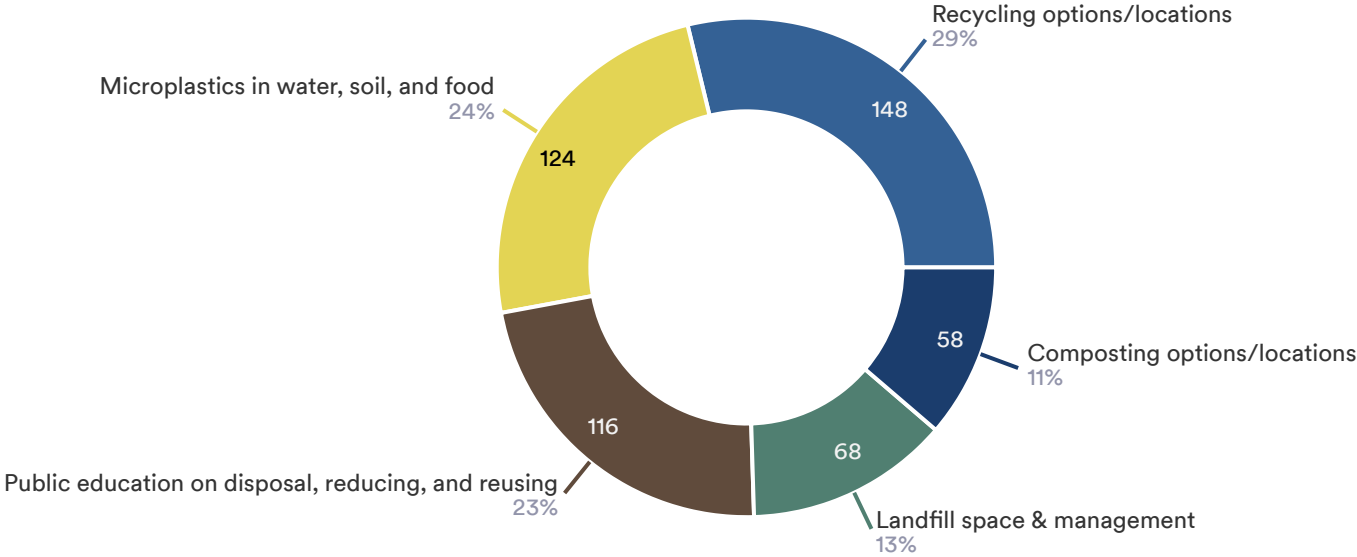
1061 Answers- 383 Empty



- Natural areas preservation
- Data Centers
- Development growth and zoning (e.g. suburban sprawl, urban heat islands)
- Farmland preservation
- Unsustainable land management practices (e.g. exposed topsoil, excessive tillage, runoff)
- Unsustainable Land Management Practices (e.g. exposed topsoil, excessive tillage, runoff)

## What are the most important solid waste/recycling issues in Washtenaw County?

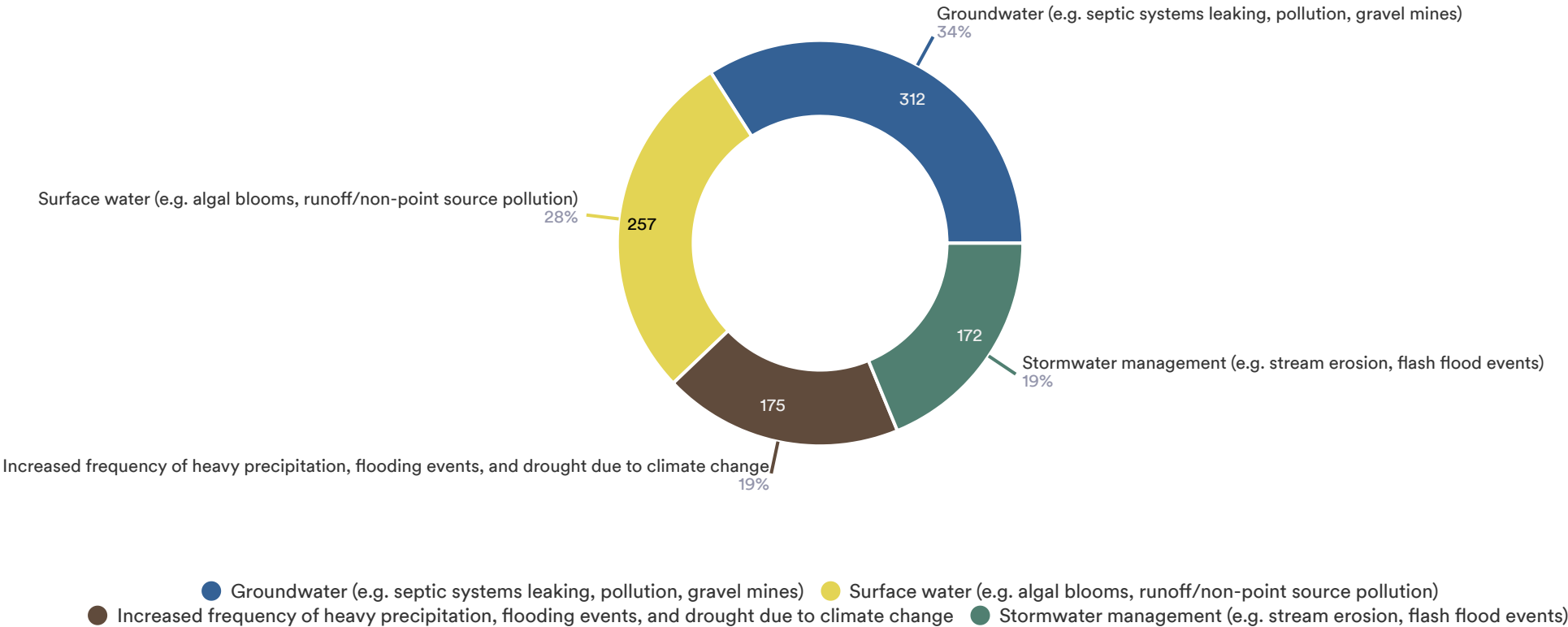
514 Answers- 595 Empty



- Recycling options/locations
- Microplastics in water, soil, and food
- Public education on disposal, reducing, and reusing
- Landfill space & management
- Composting options/locations

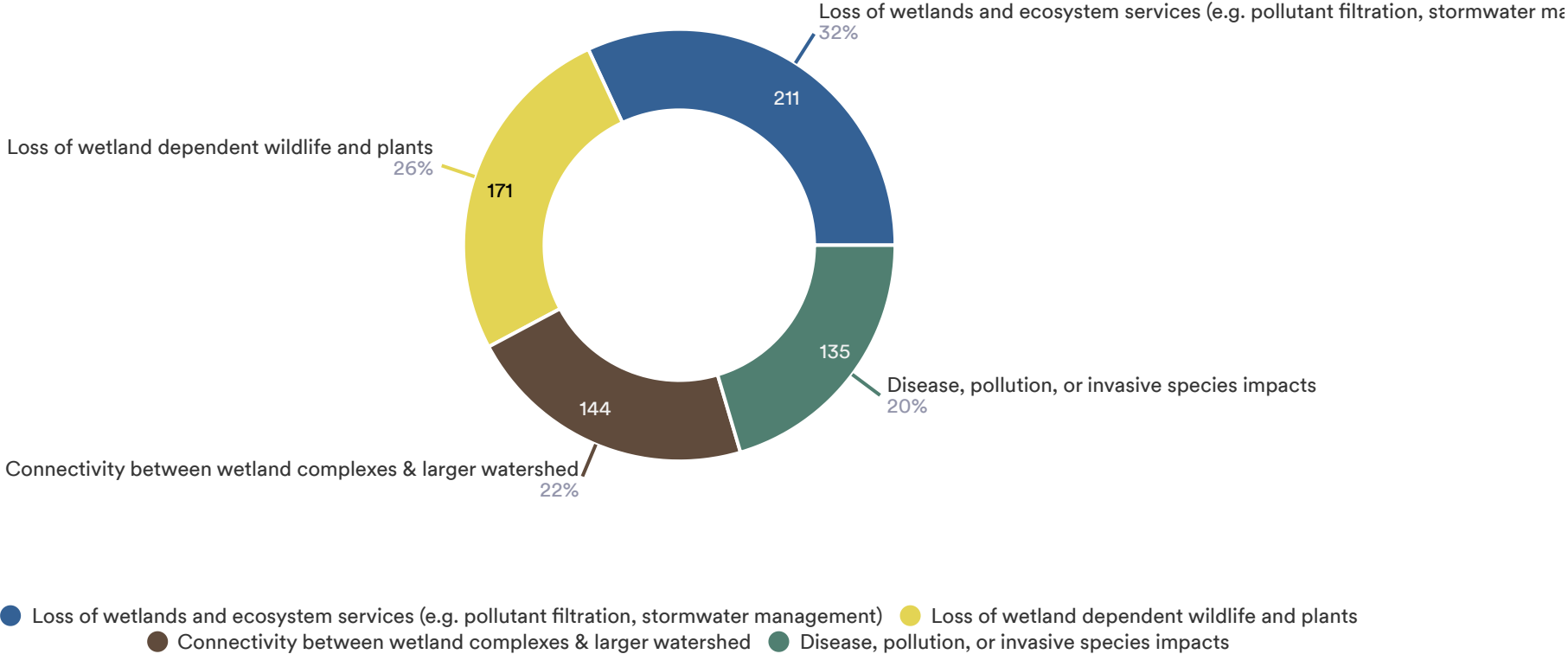
## What are the most important surface/groundwater quality issues in Washtenaw County?

916 Answers- 362 Empty



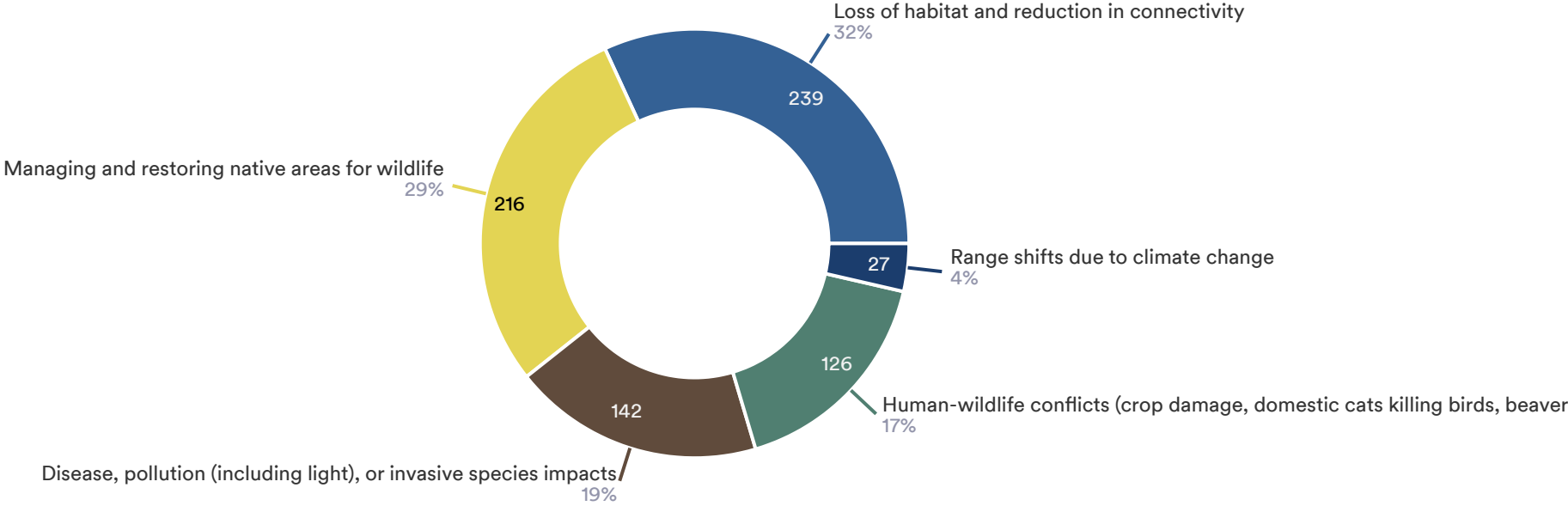
## What are the most important wetland issues in Washtenaw County?

661 Answers- 522 Empty



## What are the most important wildlife issues in Washtenaw County?

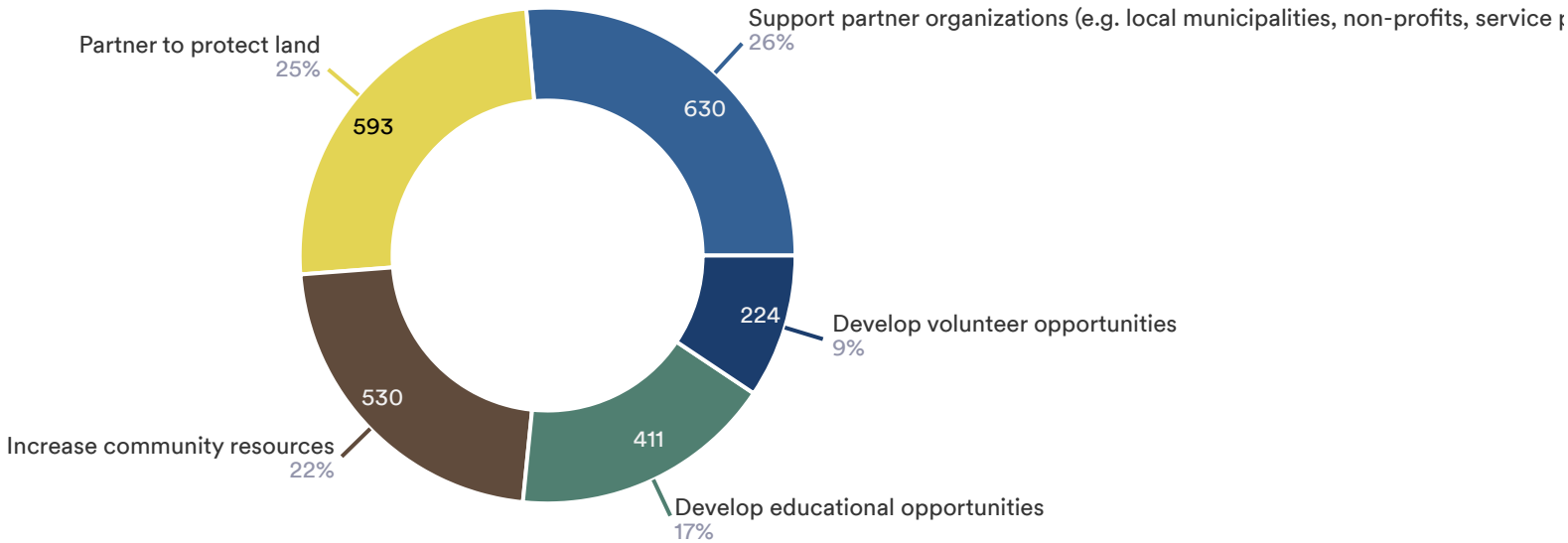
750 Answers- 489 Empty



- Loss of habitat and reduction in connectivity
- Managing and restoring native areas for wildlife
- Disease, pollution (including light), or invasive species impacts
- Human-wildlife conflicts (crop damage, domestic cats killing birds, beaver dam damage, disturbing sensitive wildlife)
- Range shifts due to climate change

## What should the WCCD do to address natural resource concerns in Washtenaw County:

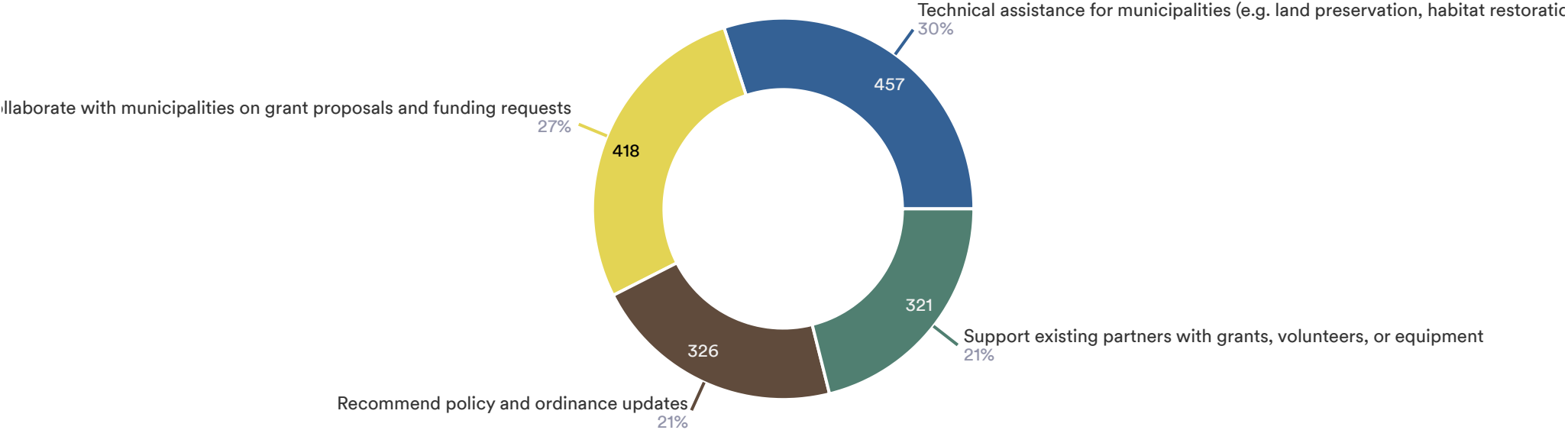
2388 Answers



- Support partner organizations (e.g. local municipalities, non-profits, service providers)
- Partner to protect land
- Increase community resources
- Develop educational opportunities
- Develop volunteer opportunities

## How should the WCCD support partner organizations (local municipalities, non-profits, service providers):

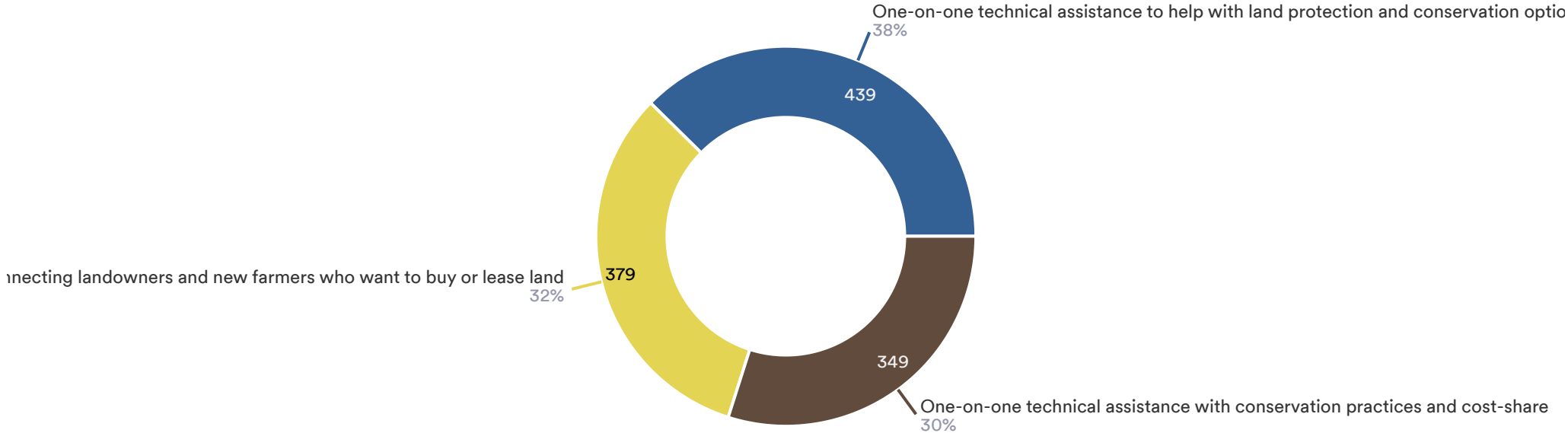
1522 Answers- 166 Empty



- Technical assistance for municipalities (e.g. land preservation, habitat restoration, forestry)
- Collaborate with municipalities on grant proposals and funding requests
- Recommend policy and ordinance updates
- Support existing partners with grants, volunteers, or equipment

## How should the WCCD partner to protect land:

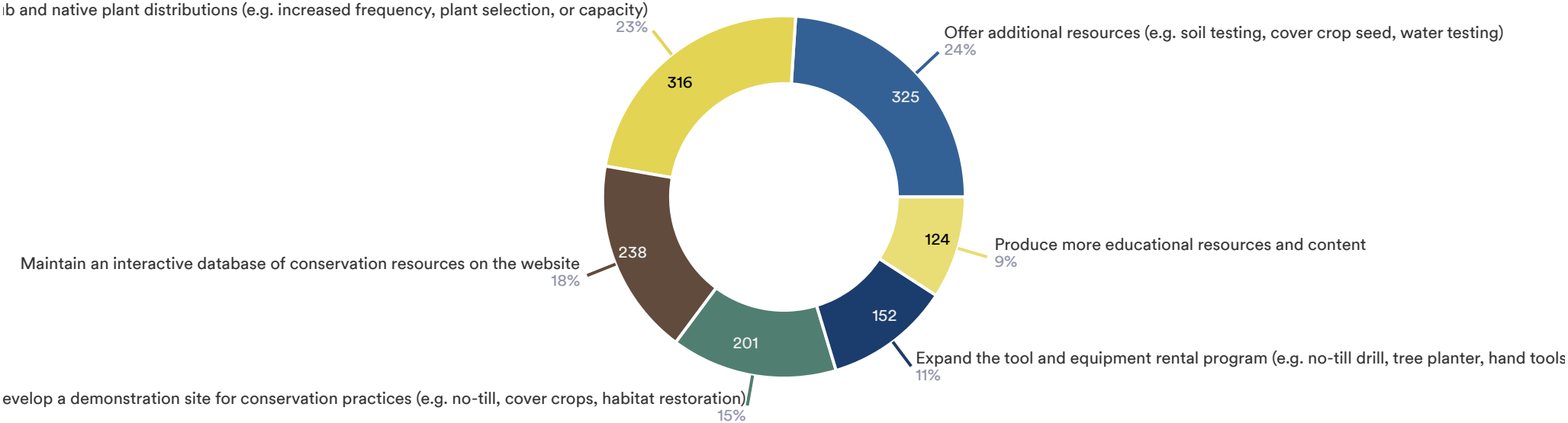
1167 Answers- 203 Empty



- One-on-one technical assistance to help with land protection and conservation options
- Promote programs connecting landowners and new farmers who want to buy or lease land
- One-on-one technical assistance with conservation practices and cost-share

## How should the WCCD increase community resources:

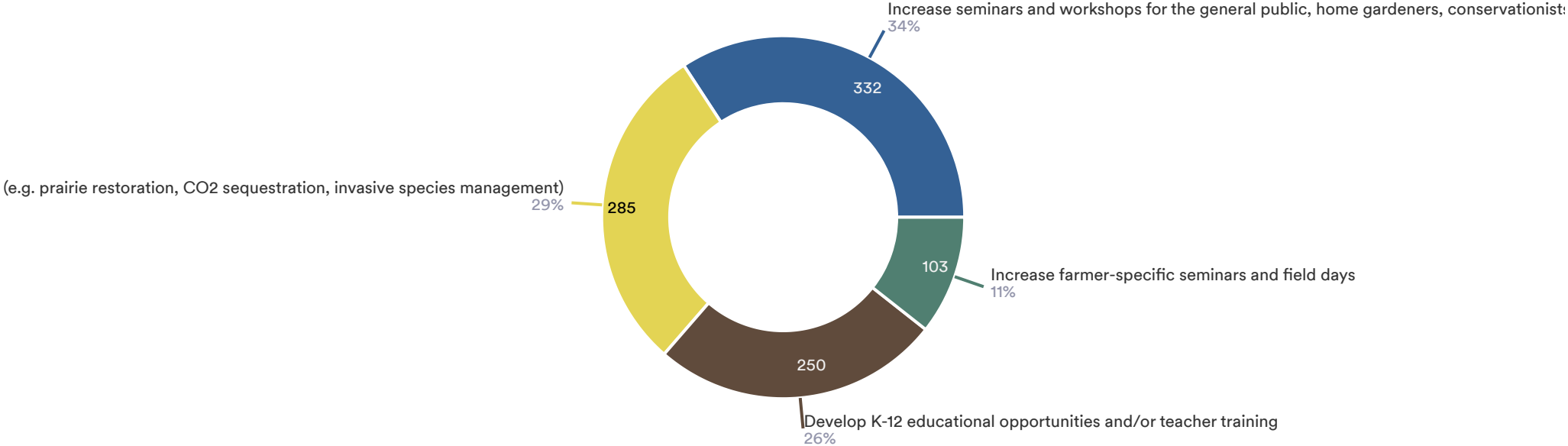
1356 Answers- 266 Empty



- Offer additional resources (e.g. soil testing, cover crop seed, water testing)
- Expand the tree/shrub and native plant distributions (e.g. increased frequency, plant selection, or capacity)
- Maintain an interactive database of conservation resources on the website
- Develop a demonstration site for conservation practices (e.g. no-till, cover crops, habitat restoration)
- Expand the tool and equipment rental program (e.g. no-till drill, tree planter, hand tools)
- Produce more educational resources and content

## How should the WCCD develop educational opportunities:

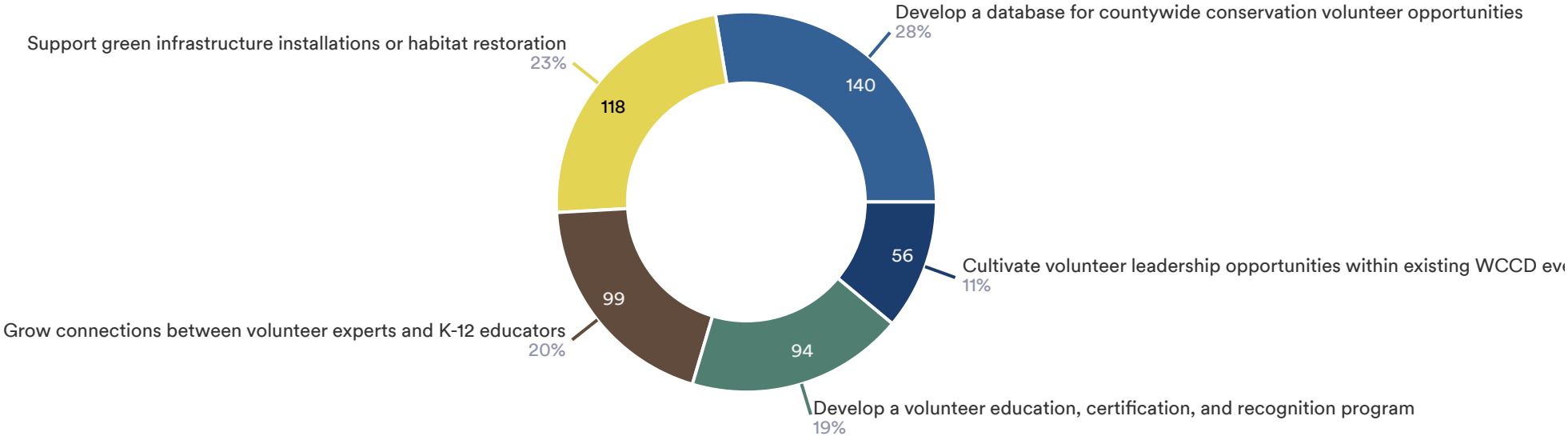
970 Answers- 385 Empty



- Increase seminars and workshops for the general public, home gardeners, conservationists, etc.
- Develop technical, subject-based training programs for adults and/or professionals (e.g. prairie restoration, CO2 sequestration, invasive species management)
- Develop K-12 educational opportunities and/or teacher training
- Increase farmer-specific seminars and field days

## How should the WCCD develop volunteer opportunities:

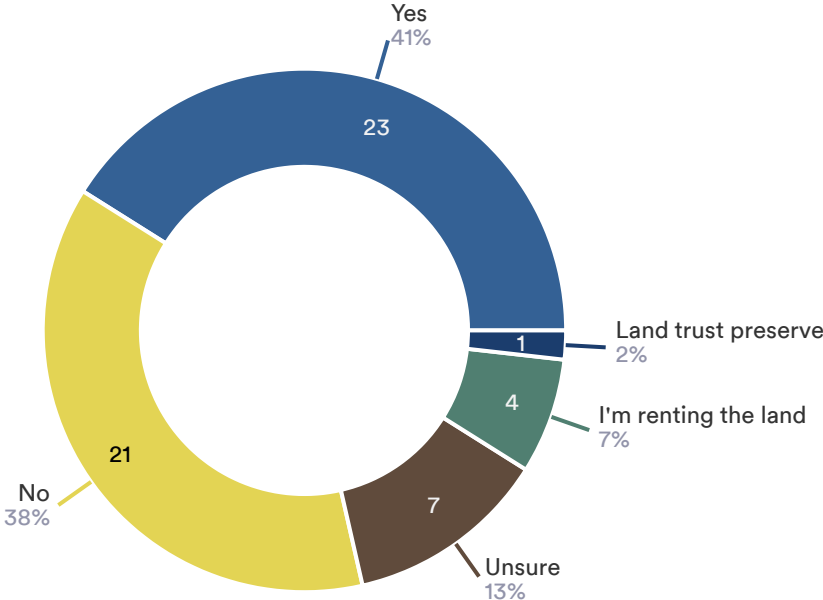
507 Answers- 572 Empty



- Develop a database for countywide conservation volunteer opportunities
- Support green infrastructure installations or habitat restoration
- Grow connections between volunteer experts and K-12 educators
- Develop a volunteer education, certification, and recognition program
- Cultivate volunteer leadership opportunities within existing WCCD events

## Do you have a succession plan for your farm or property?

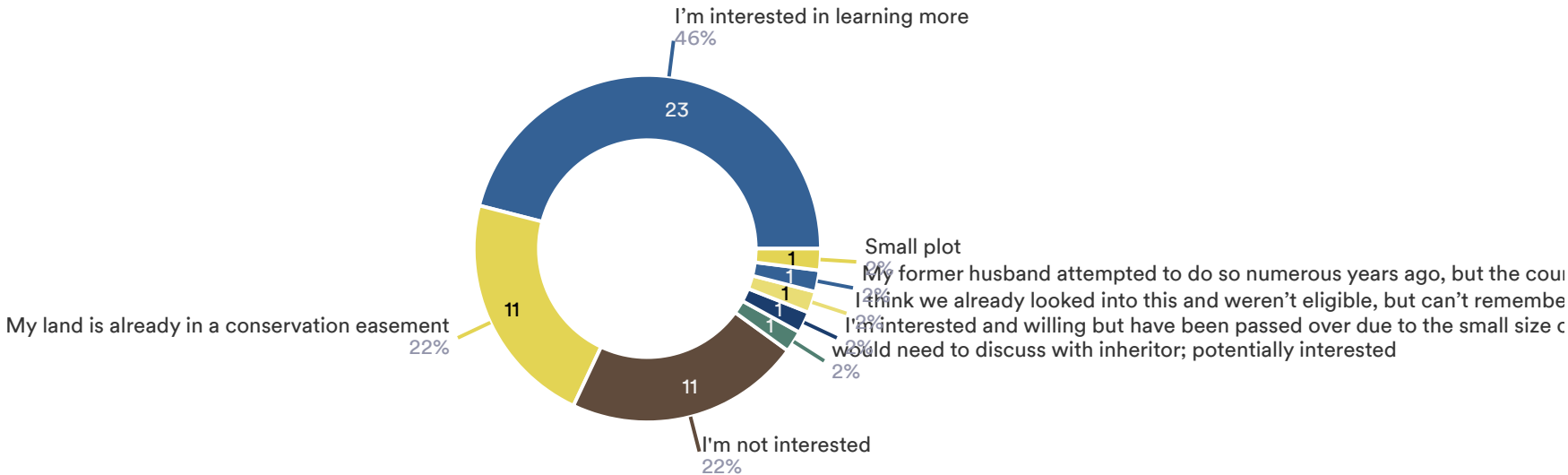
56 Answers- 743 Empty



● Yes ● No ● Unsure ● I'm renting the land ● Land trust preserve

A conservation easement is a voluntary, legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust or government agency that protects land from development. The landowner retains many private property rights and receives cash equal to the development value of the land as well as tax benefits for permanently protecting farmland. Please select a response:

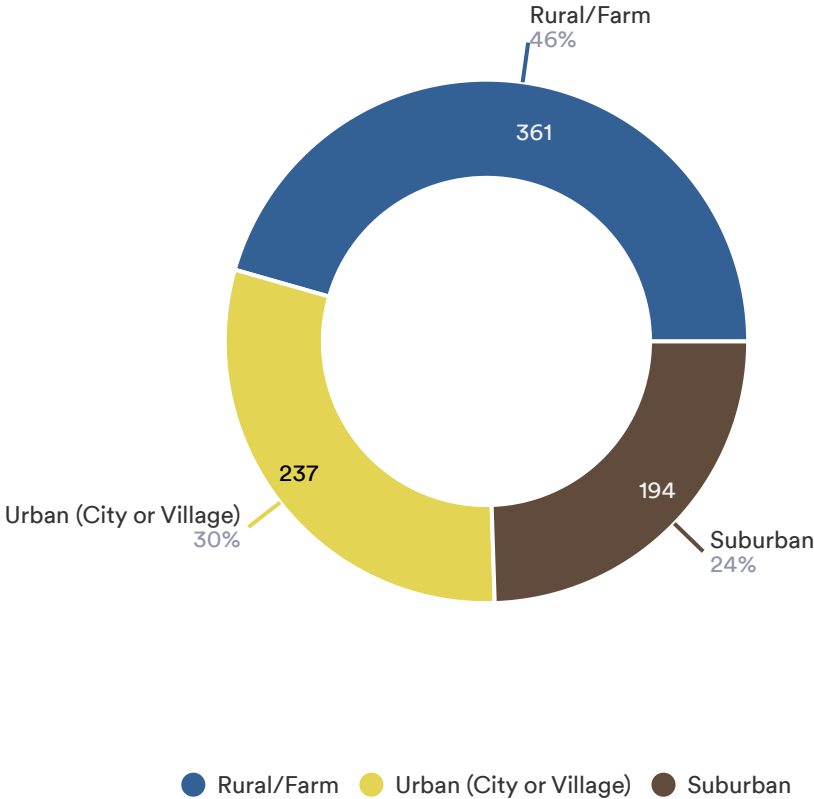
50 Answers- 746 Empty



- I'm interested in learning more
- My land is already in a conservation easement
- I'm not interested
- would need to discuss with inheritor; potentially interested
- I'm interested and willing but have been passed over due to the small size of the proposed easement (~10 acres)
- I think we already looked into this and weren't eligible, but can't remember
- My former husband attempted to do so numerous years ago, but the county's allowance was fulfilled.
- Small plot

## Which describes the setting where you live?

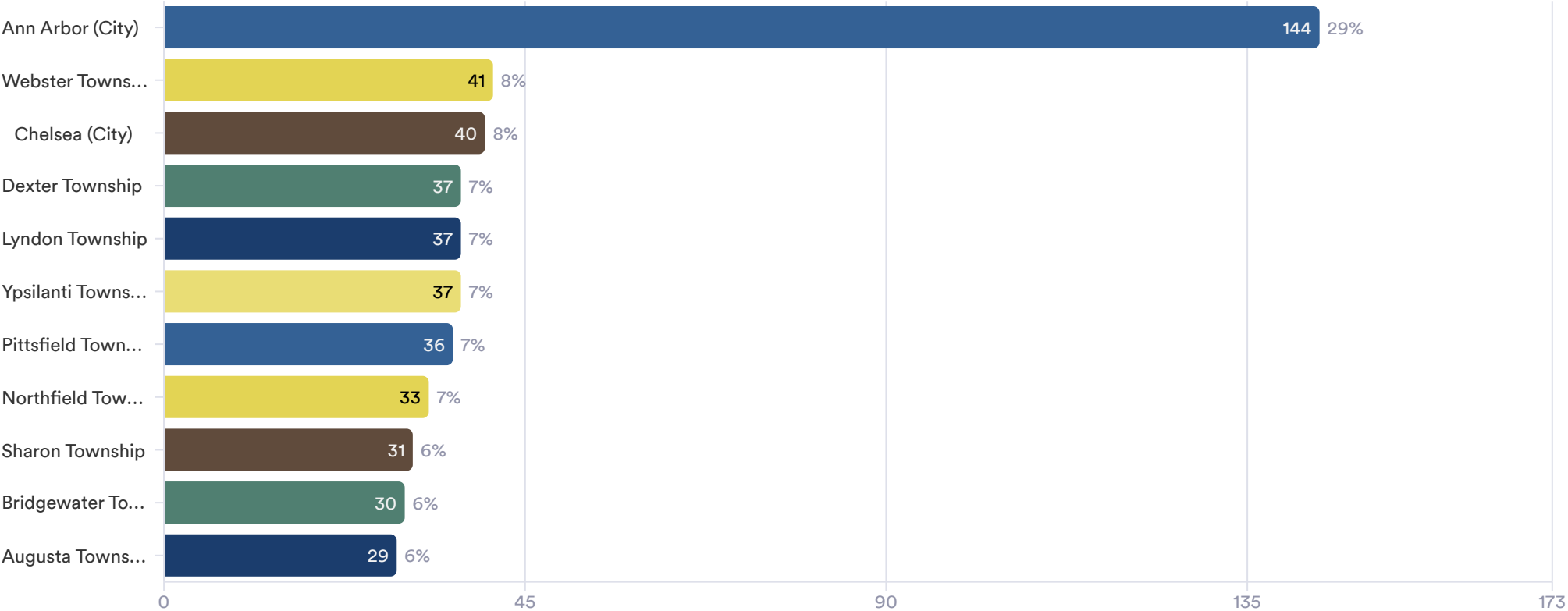
792 Answers- 4 Empty



# 2026 Conservation Needs Assessment Survey

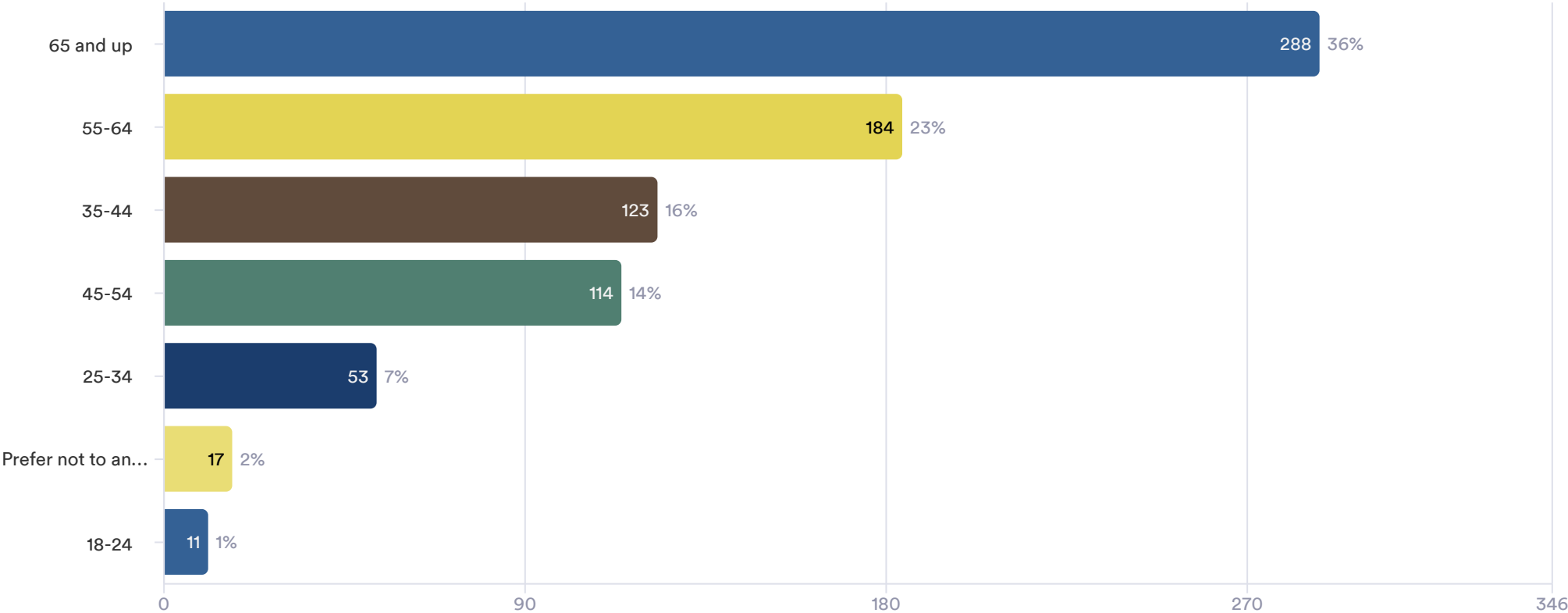
Please select in which township, village, or city you reside:

495 Answers- 1 Empty



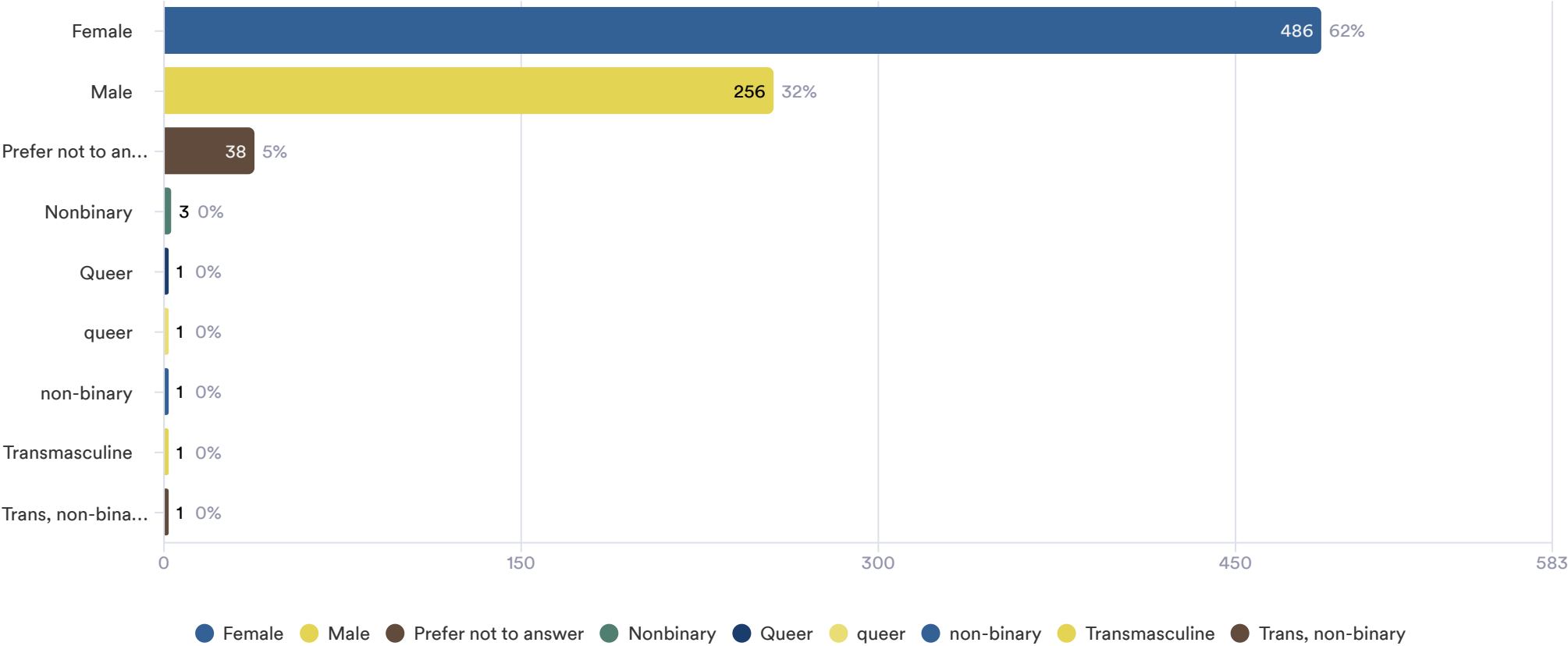
## Please select your age bracket:

790 Answers- 6 Empty



## What gender do you identify as?

788 Answers- 8 Empty



Please select the race/ethnicity categories that best describe you:

818 Answers- 5 Empty

