

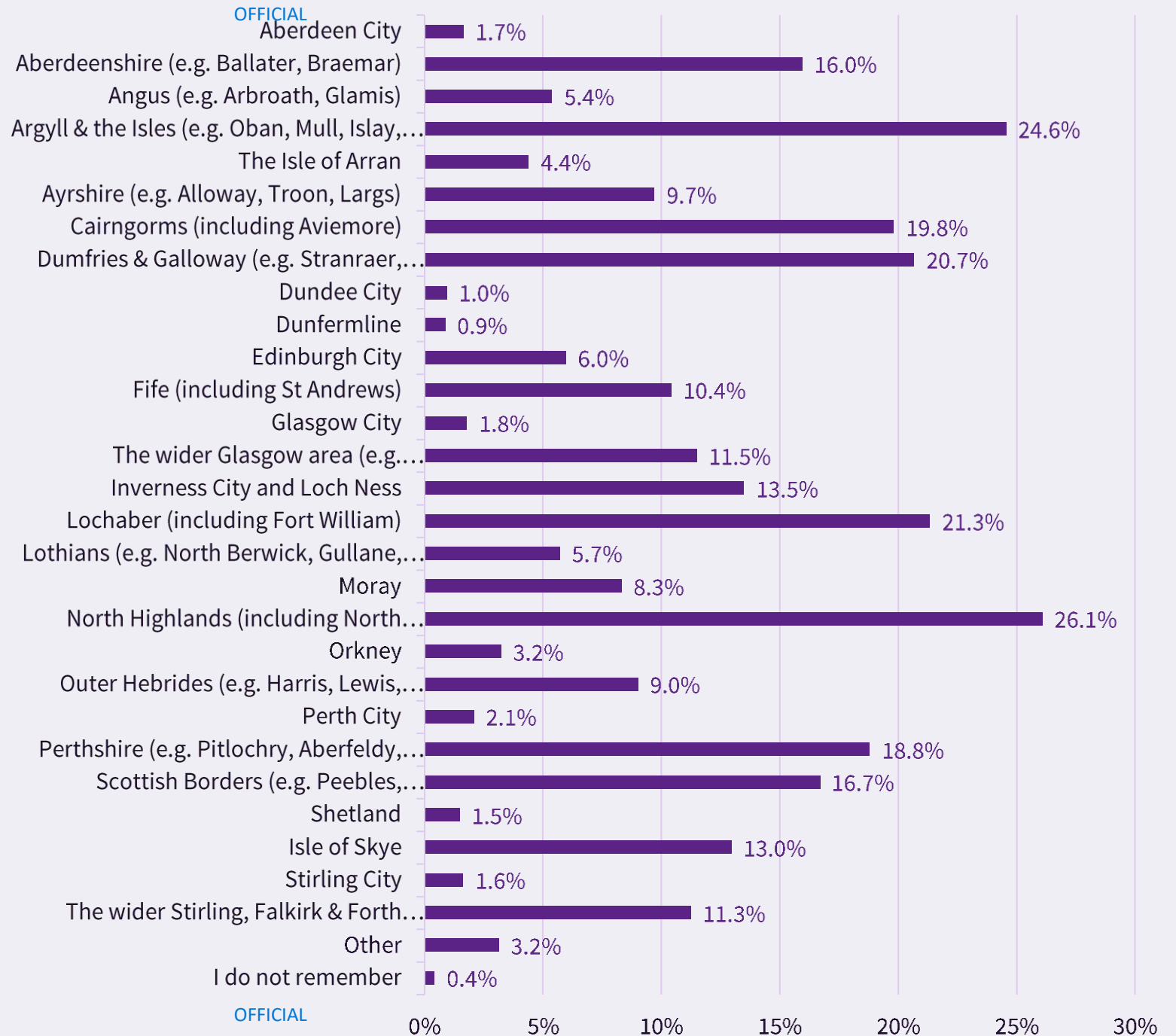
# Characteristics of most recent camping trip in Scotland

## Regions Stayed

The most commonly selected regions were the North Highlands, Argyll & the Isles and Lochaber. Other popular areas were Dumfries & Galloway, Cairngorms and Perthshire. The least commonly selected regions were Scotland's cities (with the exceptions of Inverness and Edinburgh) and Shetland.

Q37: From the list below, please select the regions of Scotland where you stayed overnight during your most recent trip. Please respond in reference to all of the places that you stayed overnight. Please select all options that apply.

Base: Respondents who had taken a camping trip in Scotland within the last 12 months (n = 3,617).

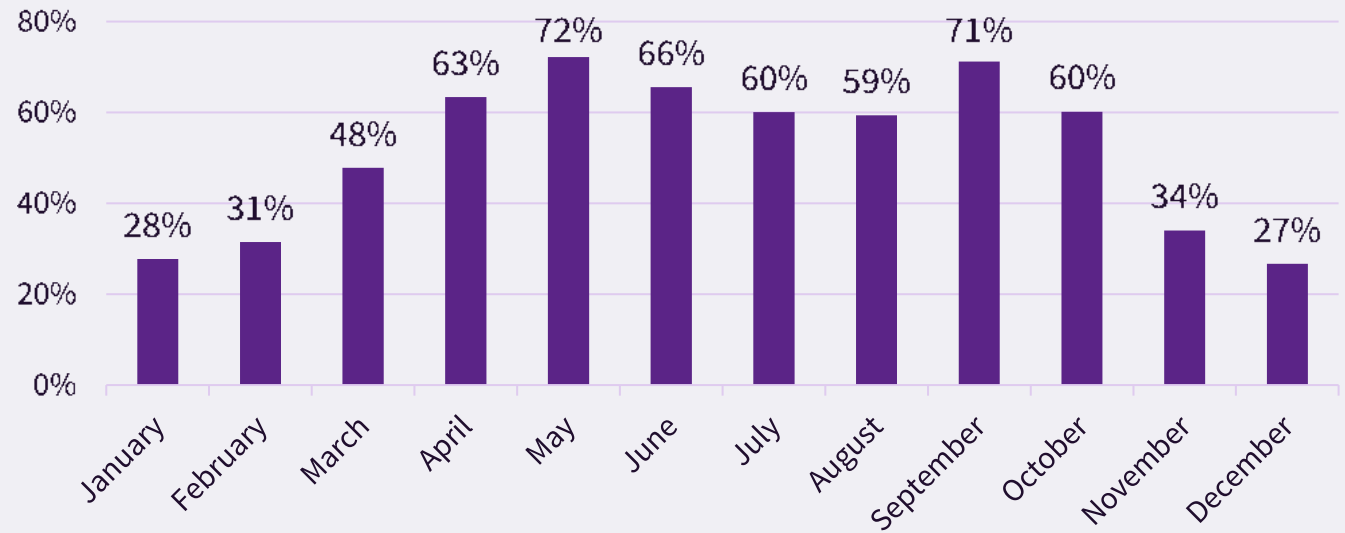


## Seasonality of trips

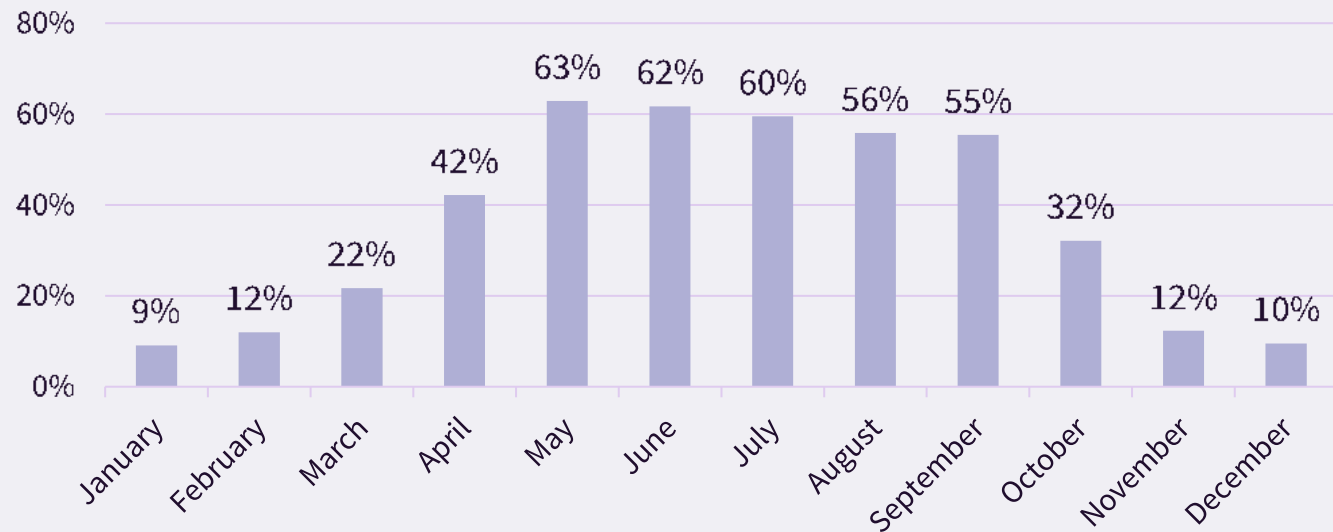
The season lasts from spring to autumn

- Respondents who owned or rented a camping vehicle were most likely to have taken trips in May and September.
- People who camped in tents or other structures were most likely to have taken trips in May or June.
- This is based on any trips that respondents had taken over the last five years.

Trips taken in Scotland in a camping vehicle (%)



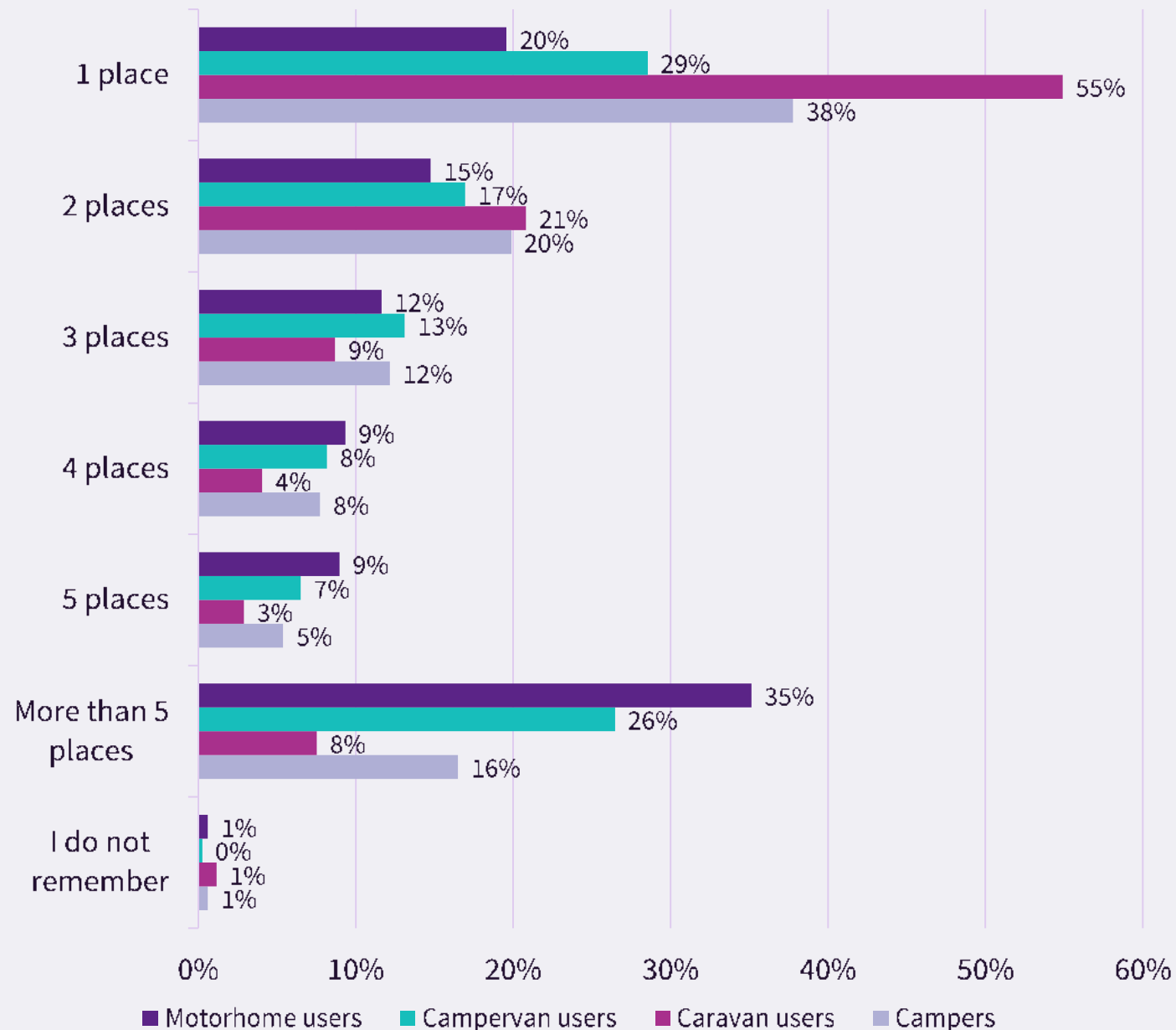
Camping trips taken in Scotland in a tent or other structure (%)



## Number of places

Respondents either stayed in one place or many

- Around a quarter of campervan users and over a third of motorhome users had stayed in more than 5 locations on their most recent camping trip in Scotland.
- Caravan users were most likely to have stayed in one location, but around a fifth stayed in two places.
- This pattern was the same for those who had camped in a tent or other structure.



## Preferred location type

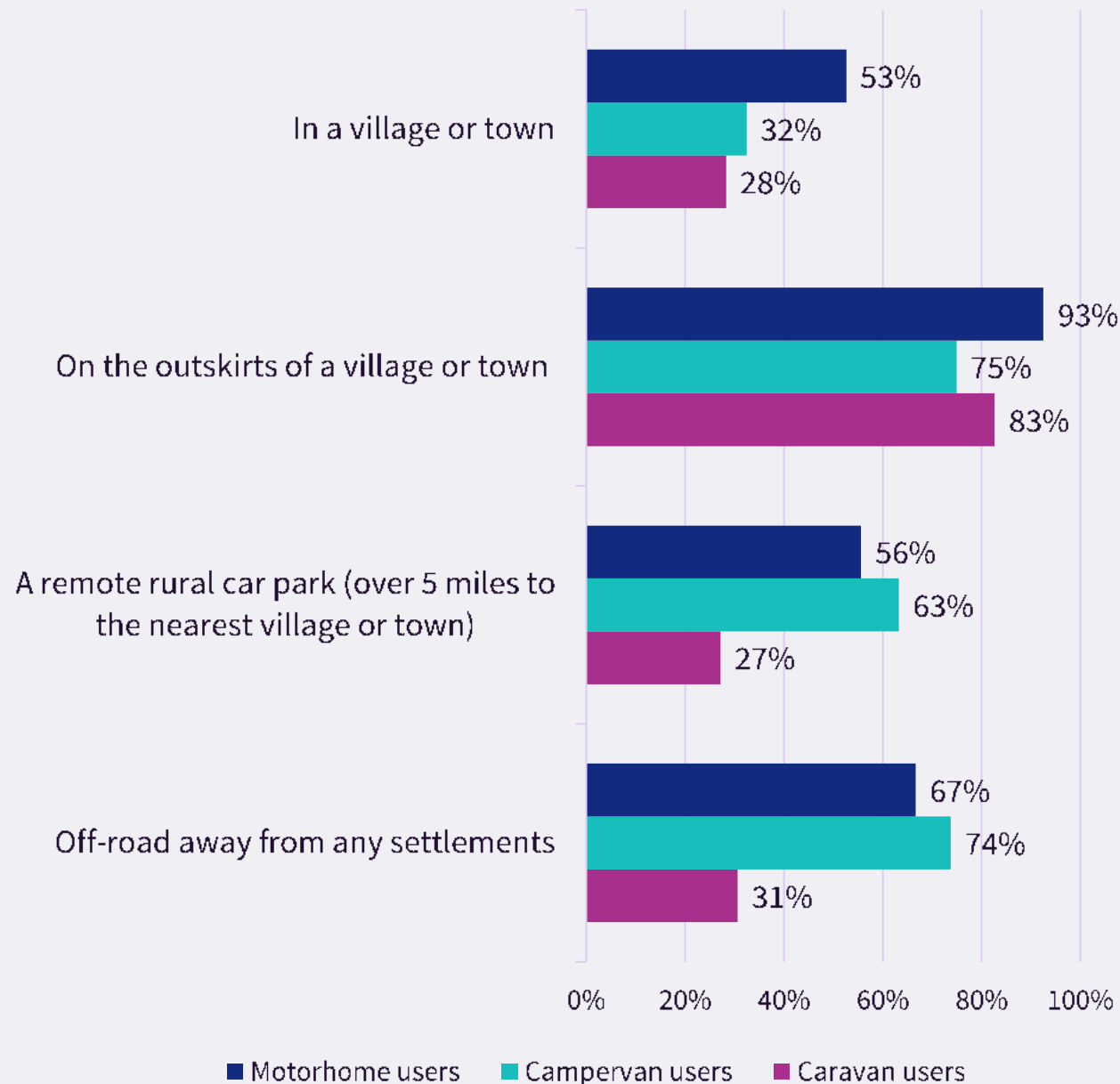
While the majority of respondents wanted easy access to facilities, there was an appetite for staying in more rural locations

- Two thirds of motorhome users and around three quarters of campervan users would like to stay away from settlements

Built-up Environment



Remote Environment



## Type of sites for overnight stays

While managed campsites were popular with all user groups, some respondents preferred a more flexible experience

73%

of respondents had stayed in a campsite with toilet and washing facilities on their most recent camping trip

39%

had parked overnight in a car park with no monetary charge, and 34% with a monetary charge on their most recent camping trip

32%

of respondents who had been camping in the last twelve months had chosen not to stay on a managed campsite on their most recent trip

67%

of those who had been camping in the last five years had been wild camping

## Awareness of guidance or best practice

Respondents self-reported as being well informed on issues surrounding taking camping trips in Scotland.



were aware of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code



were extremely familiar with guidance around waste disposal



were extremely familiar with guidance around lighting fires

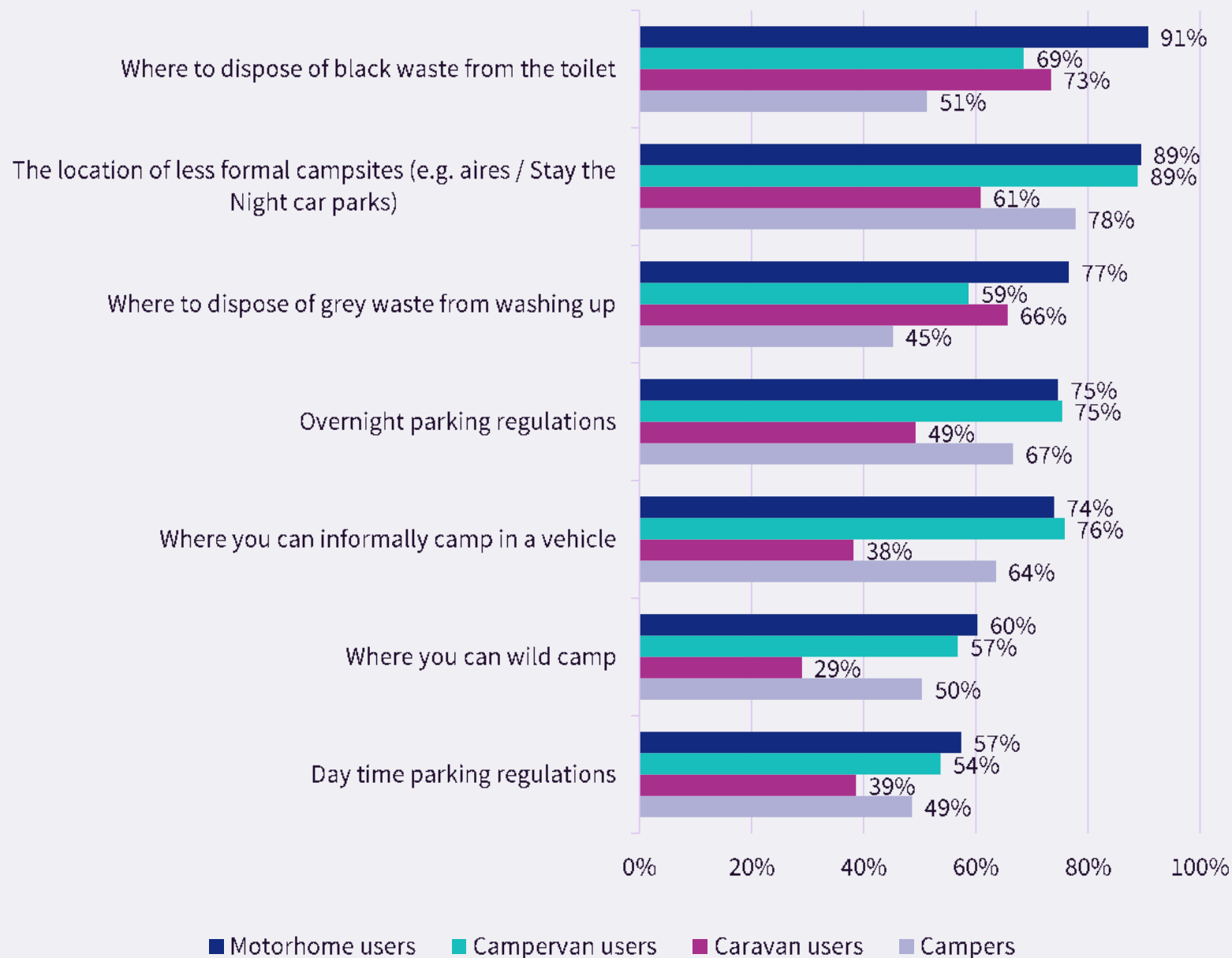


were moderately or extremely familiar with guidance around parking\*

## Topics of interest

Respondents were most interested in learning about how they could dispose of waste and where they are able to park

- While the priorities were different for each user type, interest in these topics suggests that respondents were keen to use guidance in order to be more informed about responsible behaviour on camping trips



Q70: From the list below, which topics you would like to be able to access information about during a camping trip? Please select all options that apply. Base: Respondents who owned or rented a motorhome (n = 1,752), campervan (n = 2,340), caravan (n = 207) or camped in a tent or other structure (n = 1,121).

## Food and drink

On their most recent camping trip in Scotland, respondents mostly sought out food and drink in the area local to where they were staying.

86%

of respondents stated that they had bought locally produced food or drink during their trip

82%

of respondents had bought food from a local supermarket on their most recent trip. This was the option that respondents did most often for meals

72%

had eaten at a local café, restaurant or pub during their most recent trip

32%

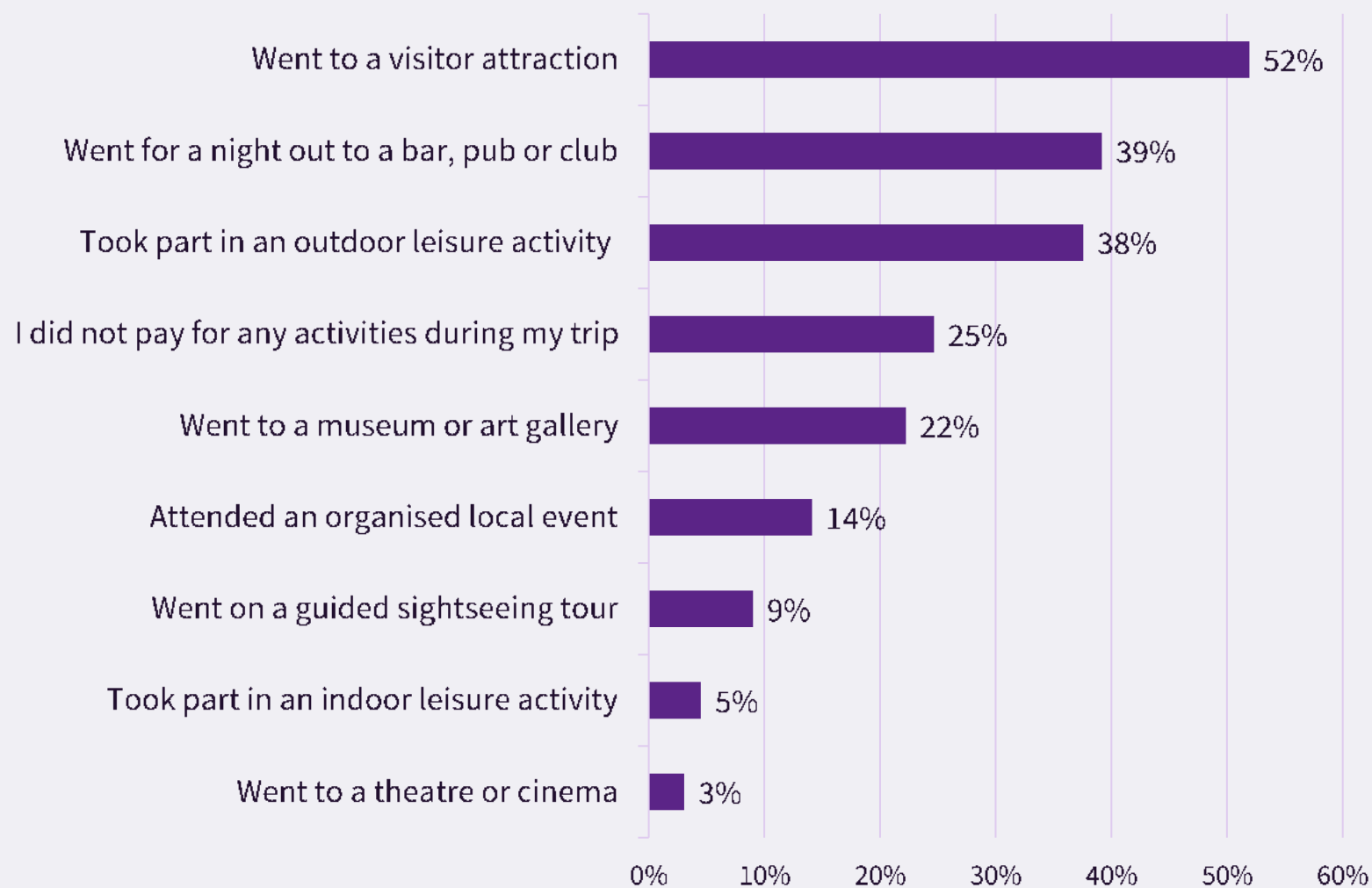
of respondents who had camped on their most recent trip mostly ate food brought from home



## Activities undertaken

75% of respondents took part in some form of activity that they paid for on their most recent camping trip in Scotland

- Popular activities during a trip were visiting an attraction, going for a night out to a bar, pub or club and taking part in outdoor leisure activities.



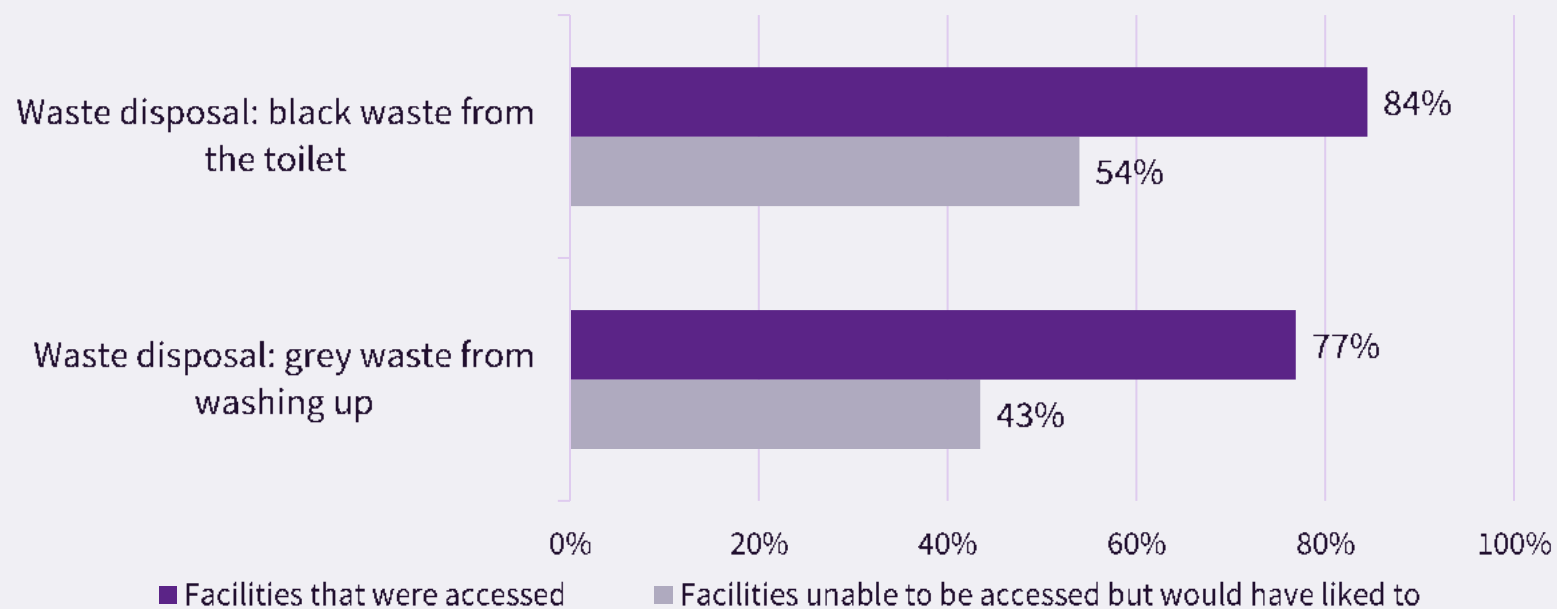
Q55: From the list below, please select any activities that you took part in as part of your most recent trip that you had to pay for. Please select all options that apply. Base: Respondents who had taken a camping trip in Scotland within the last 12 months (n = 3,627).

## Areas for improvement

### Black or grey waste disposal

- Over half of respondents who were motorhome users\* were unable to access black waste disposal facilities when needed on their most recent camping trip in Scotland.
- Access to grey waste disposal was also tricky, with over two fifths of this group being able to access when needed.
- The disposal of black and/or grey waste was also an issue identified when exploring sustainable choices that can be made on such trips.

\*This was the user group with the largest percentage difference between access to facilities and inability to access. Other groups did not demonstrate this finding.



*“There are too few black and grey waste dumping points. So we have to drive further to dump (not green, clutters roads and is frustrating)”*

*“Not enough locations for disposal of black/grey waste, especially on busy tourist areas”*

Q37: What facilities did you use during your most recent trip? Please select all options that apply. Base: Respondents who had taken a camping trip in Scotland in a motorhome within the last 12 months, excluding respondents who answered "None of the above" to this question (n = 1,301).

Q38: From the list below, were there any facilities that you were unable to access but would have liked to during your most recent trip? Please select all options that apply. Base: Respondents who had taken a camping trip in Scotland in a motorhome within the last 12 months, excluding respondents who answered "None of the above" to this question (n = 619).

Q24: If you would like to expand on your response to the previous question, please use the text box below. Base: Respondents who selected Difficult or Very Difficult to Q23 and provided a typed response (n = 596).

## Areas for improvement

### Recycling

- Of the respondents who found it difficult to make sustainable choices on their trip(s), the majority described issues with recycling, mostly due to lack of bin availability.
- Some stated that where facilities were available, it was sometimes difficult to separate waste.
- Storing recycling while waiting for a viable disposal point during their trip was an identified difficulty
- There was also some confusion at the lack of consistency between recycling “rules” across Scotland.

*“Recycling often absent at campsites, and rare in car parks, streets”*

*“Separating and storing waste until it can be responsibly disposed of is harder with limited water to wash cans and jars and limited storage space. It's easier to find bulk bins to take general waste than recyclable and as the rules for what can be put into recycling bins change by local authority most waste goes in a general waste bin.”*

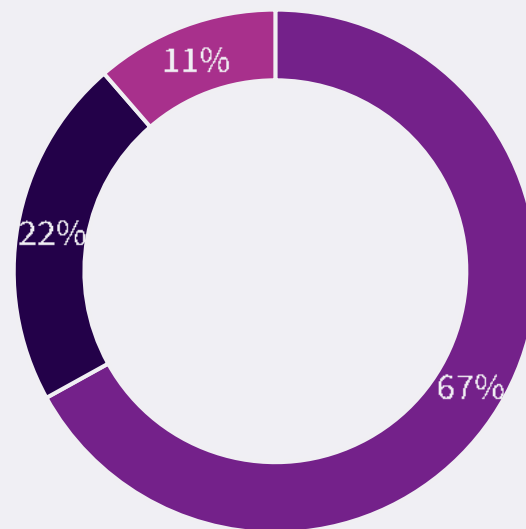
*“Finding places in rural areas to recycle is difficult- bins in lay-bys are usually overflowing and are for universal rubbish collection. Dependent on storing recyclables until attending a supermarket or recycling centre which takes up space in the van”*

*“We separate waste, including food waste in our Motorhome. However, as different councils have such varied recycling rules, we can't always dispose of recycling properly”*

## Areas for improvement

### Parking

- A third of respondents experienced issues with parking during their trip, mostly with daytime parking.
- This was often due to lack of viable spaces due to the size of their vehicle or height barriers.
- There were reports of “no parking” signs and spaces being blocked off.
- Some respondents stated that a lack of parking meant that they were unable to visit certain areas. Some also stated that they were unable to spend money locally at visitor attractions, shops and places to eat.



- I had no issues with parking
- Yes, I had issues with parking during the day
- Yes, I had issues with overnight parking

*“Height and width barriers are far too frequent. Also no longer spaces for longer vehicles. Sometimes we only need another half a metre or so in length or a couple of inches wider, but parking outwith the lines can be costly”*

*“Recently installed plethora of 'no overnight parking' signs are not welcoming and make finding somewhere to stop somewhat difficult”*

*“On [Location], there was hardly anywhere to park in the main villages, which meant we couldn't stop and have a look around. We had planned to visit and buy from several shops, but lack of parking made it impossible”*