



people's panel



People's Panel survey – Dogs on beaches

May 2015

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2 Key findings

Key findings

Activities at the beach:

- Most respondents began their summer activities at the beach at the end of the year (18% in November and 28% in December). They tended to stop their summer activities in March (19%) and April (27%). A quarter said they never stop these sorts of activities (25%).
 - Those living in Waitakere local board were more likely to continually engage in summer activities at the beach (32%), while those living in Waitemata local board were less likely to (16%).

General attitudes towards dogs and dogs on beaches:

- Just over half (51%) said they don't usually mind it if dogs come up to them when they are at a beach, followed by those who like it when dogs come up to them (30%).
- 52% said they had not been concerned or upset by dog behaviour at beaches in the last two years (52%).
 - Those in Devonport-Takapuna were more likely to say they have been concerned or upset many times (13%, compared to a total of 10%)
 - Those in Waitakere were more likely to say they have been concerned or upset on rare occasions (24%, compared with a total of 19%).
- We asked those who said they were concerned or upset by the behaviour of dogs why this was. The top four reasons were:
 - Owners did not try to control their dogs e.g. the owner was unaware or unconcerned that their dog was causing a problem (65%)
 - Owners did not clean up after dog(s) or allowed dog(s) to urinate on sand castles (58%)
 - Owners ignored rules e.g. had dog with them when dogs prohibited, or off-leash when supposed to be on a leash (58%); and
 - Owners were not able to control their dogs e.g. dogs ignored calls to come to owner (56%).

Using the beach during summer:

- 29% felt summer rules for dog access to beaches should begin when daylight savings starts (the last Sunday in September), while 25% said this should happen from the 1st of December.
- During the summer weekdays, many respondents were usually at the beach between 5pm and 7pm (36%).
- During weekends and summer holidays, many respondents were usually at the beach in the middle of the day between 10am and 5pm (between 48% and 55%).
 - Those in Devonport-Takapuna were more likely to be at the beach before 9am (34%) or between 9am and 10am (31%).
 - Those living in Albert-Eden local board were more likely to be at the beach

between 6pm and 7pm (45%), and after 7pm (25%).

- Respondents indicated that during summer weekends, the beach was not busy at all before 9am (42%), a little busy between 9am and 10am (34%), somewhat busy between 5pm and 7pm (between 28% and 31%), and a little busy after 7pm (31%).

Dog access to the beach used most often in Summer:

- We asked respondents what dog access rules they thought should apply to the beach that they used most often in summer.
- The majority thought dogs should be allowed off-leash in the mornings before 9am (70%), and late in the evenings after 7pm (69%).
- Some believed dogs on-leash should be given access to the beach between 10am and 5pm (44%) and others thought dogs should be prohibited (42%).
- There were different opinions around dog access rules in summer between 5pm and 6pm. Some believed only dogs on-leash should be given access to the beach (36%), others thought dogs should be allowed off the leash (36%) and the remainder thought dogs should be prohibited (29%).
- When asked what the current dog access rules were for the beach used most often in summer, 31% were unsure.

Using the beach during winter:

- 29% felt winter rules for dog access to beaches should begin when daylight savings ends (the first Sunday of April), 25% said from the 1st of March, and 16% from the 1st of May.
- The middle of the day between 10am and 5pm was the most popular time for using the beach during winter weekdays (38%), weekends (59%) and holidays (52%).
- A majority said the beach was not at all busy during winter weekends before 9am (64%), between 9am and 10am (50%), between 6pm and 7pm (54%), and after 7pm (67%).

Dog access to the beach used most often in Winter:

- We asked respondents what dog access rules they thought should apply to the beach that they used most often in winter.
- A majority believed dogs off-leash should be given access to the beach in winter before 9am (75%), between 9am and 10am (63%), between 5pm and 6pm (59%), between 6pm and 7pm (67%) and after 7pm (73%).
- The top five reasons for selecting those winter rules were:
 - People like to walk their dogs there (65%)
 - The beach is generally quiet (59%)
 - Dog owners at the beach are generally able to control their dogs (55%)
 - Dog owners are generally considerate of other beach users (53%), and
 - The dog owners at the beach generally pick up their dog's poo (52%).
- When asked what the current dog access rules were for the beach they used most often in winter, a third were unsure (33%).

3 Background

3.1 Survey background

In 2015 the following local boards are reviewing the dog access rules in their area:

- Albert-Eden
- Devonport-Takapuna
- Orakei
- Puketapapa
- Rodney
- Upper Harbour
- Waiheke
- Waitemata, and
- Waitakere Ranges

To help inform their decision making these local boards wanted to ask members of their communities when they go to the beach, how busy beaches are, preferences around dog access rules, and about any concerns around having dogs on beaches.

Aucklanders were able to have their say in two ways:

- A survey sent to People's Panel members from 7 of these 9 Local Boards. We didn't conduct a People's Panel survey for Orakei or Puketapapa as they had very specific information needs that didn't align with the People's Panel survey format.
- The survey was also made available on www.ShapeAuckland.co.nz for members of the general public

The following report summarises the key results and comments from this survey.

3.2 How results will be used

Feedback from the People's Panel and Shape Auckland will help the Local Boards understand whether the current rules are reasonable, or whether they need some changes.

If the local boards do decide to propose changes as a result of survey findings and other informal feedback, this will be publically consulted on in July. At this point the community will have the chance to have their say before a final decision is made.

3.3 Methodology

The survey was open from Monday 2 March 2015 to Sunday 22 March 2015. It was sent to 5,666 panellists who lived in the below Local Board areas, it was also made available on www.ShapeAuckland.co.nz:

- Albert-Eden
- Devonport-Takapuna
- Rodney
- Upper Harbour
- Waiheke
- Waitemata, and
- Waitakere Ranges

One reminder was sent to panellists who had not responded. In total 3,390 completed surveys were received. This was made up of 1,892 People's Panel responses and 1,498 responses via Shape Auckland.

When analysing tick box questions responses to each option have been reported as proportions of the total sample and presented as charts. Results in charts and tables may not sum to 100% because multiple responses were allowed for some questions and/or as a result of rounding.

3.4 About the People's Panel

The People's Panel aims to provide an opportunity for Aucklanders to get involved with a range of council issues, giving feedback by regularly completing online surveys and getting involved with focus groups and other activities as needed.

The panel ideally supplements other research, consultation and engagement activities used to provide public perceptions to help inform decision-making processes. Panellists are recruited to be 'typical' members of the public – that is they include members of the public who come from a range of backgrounds and a range of levels of involvement with the council.

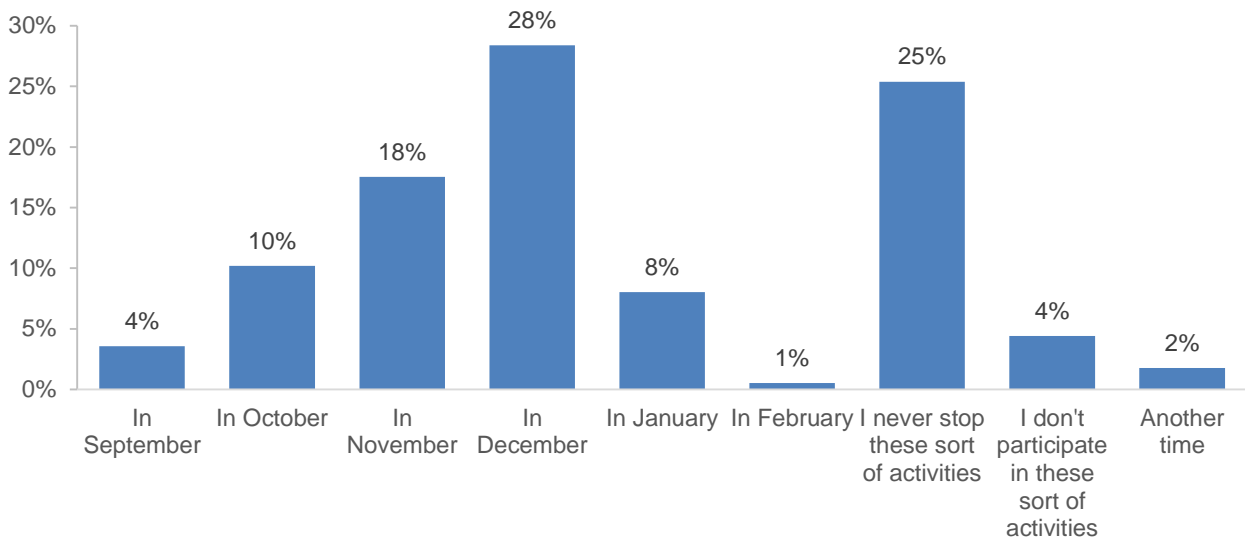
At the time of surveying there were over 18,000 people registered with the panel, with representation from residents of each local board area and by age group and ethnicity. The People's Panel is not yet representative of the wider Auckland population and ongoing recruitment is conducted to improve participation from particular areas, age groups and ethnicities.

For more information about the People's Panel visit www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/peoplespanel

4 Survey results

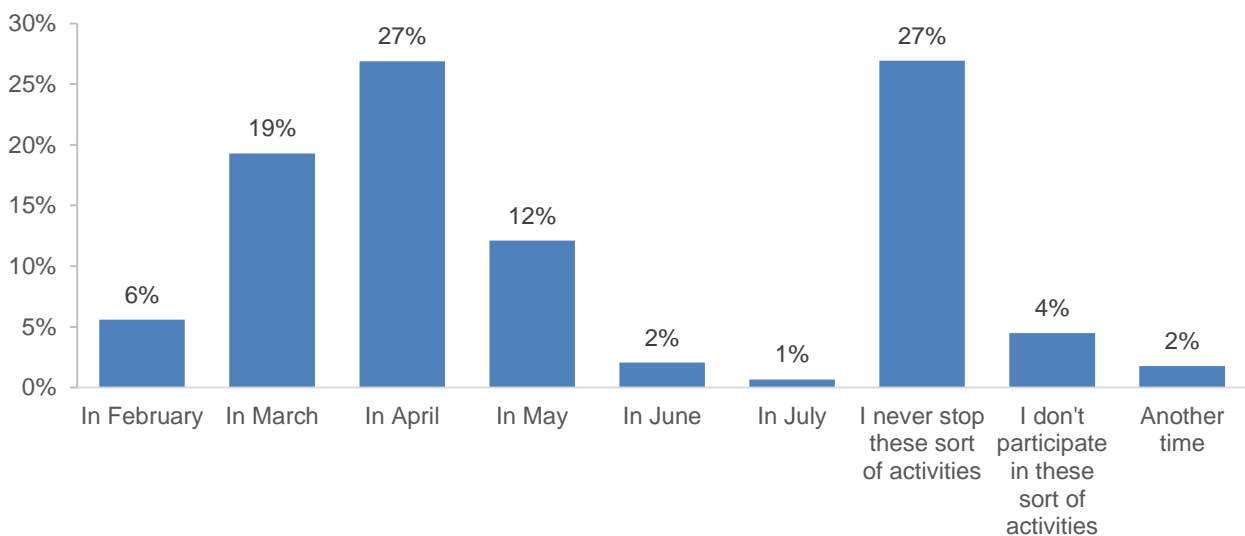
4.1 Activities at the beach

Q2A. In general, when do you begin summer activities at the beach (e.g., swimming, sunbathing, playing in the sand)?



Base: Panellists participating in survey n=2825.

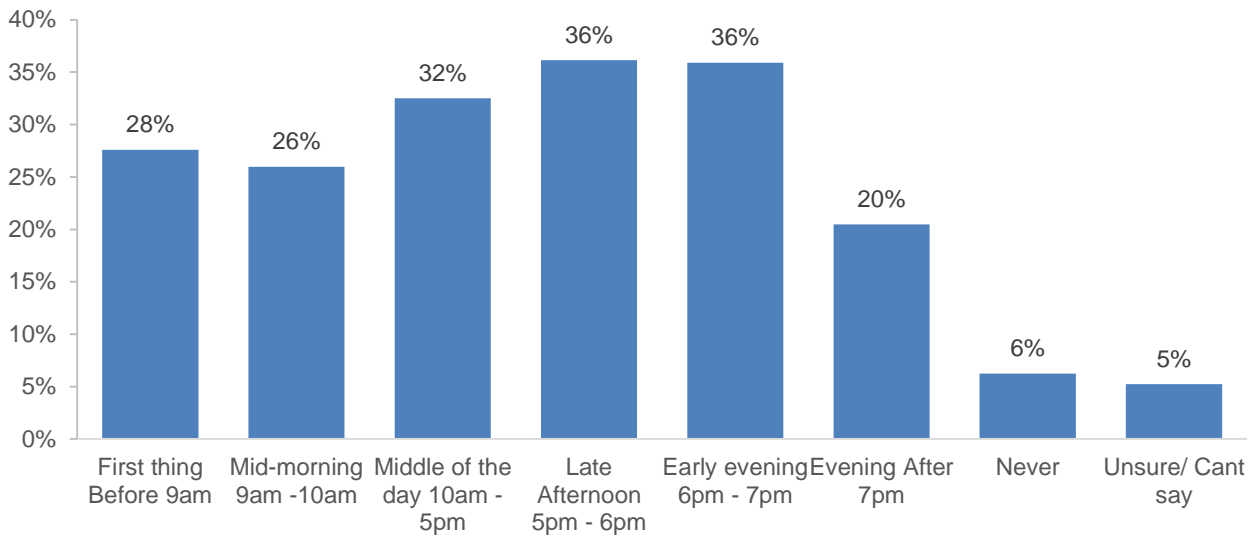
Q2B. In general, when do you stop summer activities at the beach (e.g., swimming, sunbathing, playing with the sand)?



Base: Panellists participating in survey n=2825.

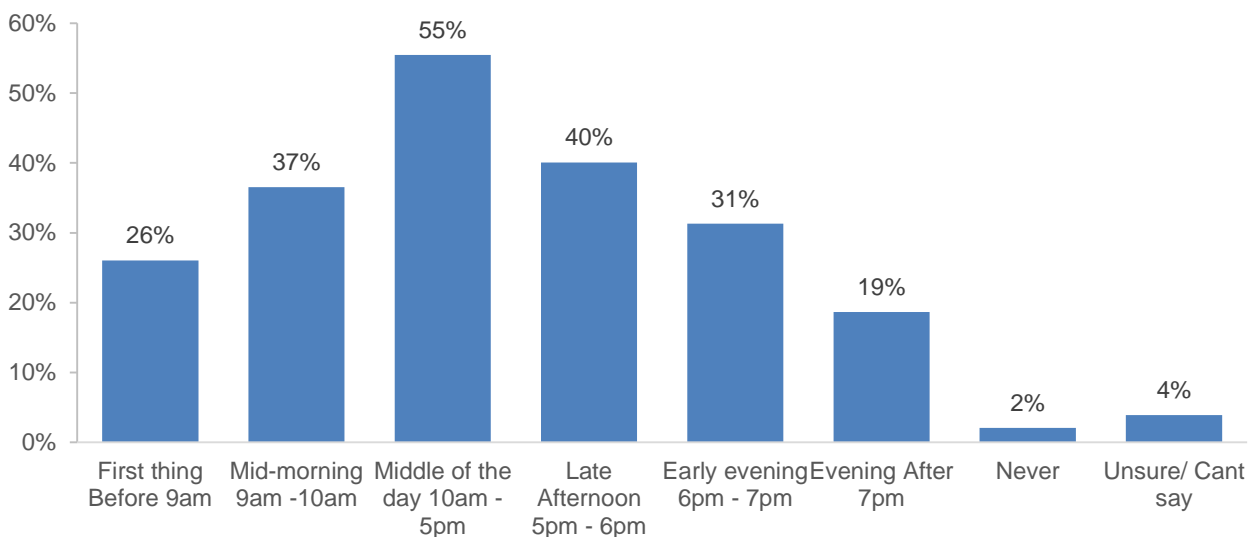
4.2 Using the beach during summer

Q4A. What times of the day are you usually at the beach (summer weekday)?



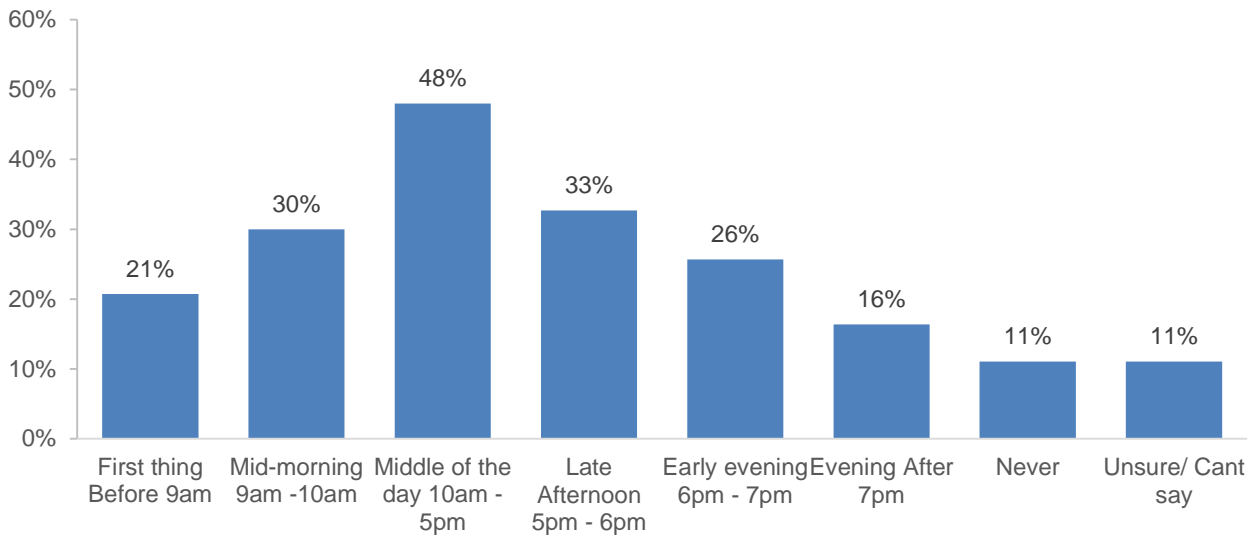
Base: Panellists participating in survey n=2671. Multiple responses were allowed, responses add to over 100%.

Q4A. What times of the day are you usually at the beach (summer weekend)?



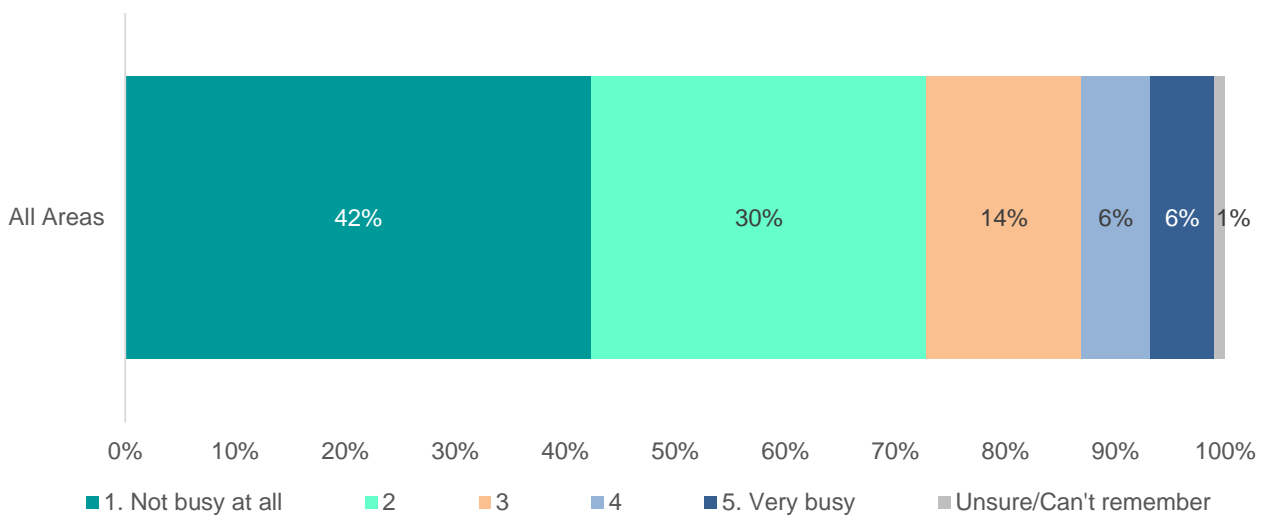
Base: Panellists participating in survey n=2671. Multiple responses were allowed, responses add to over 100%.

Q4A. What times of the day are you usually at the beach (summer holidays)?



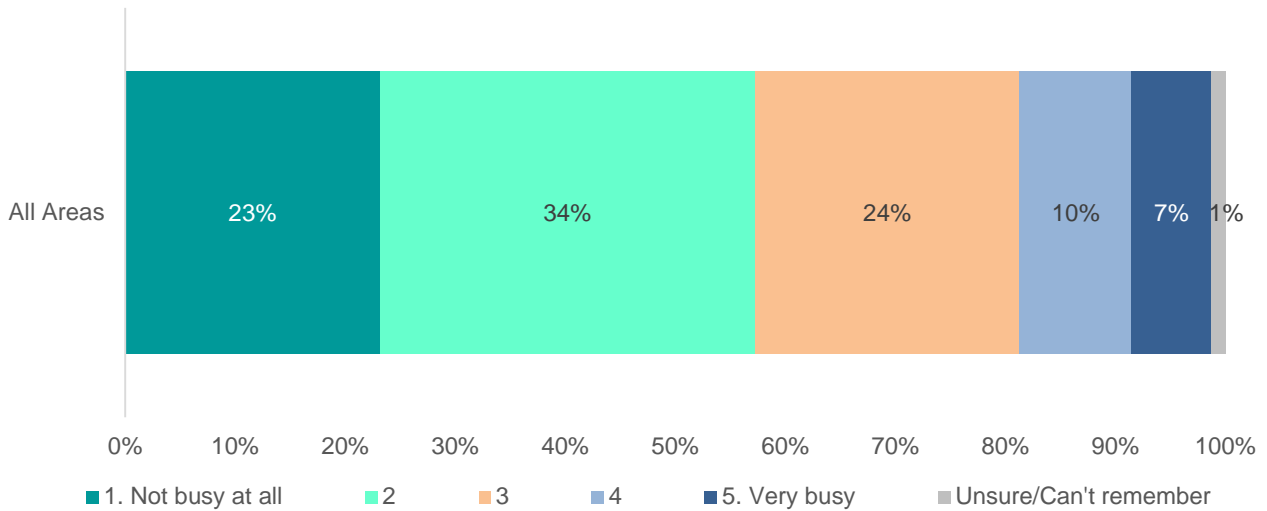
Base: Panellists participating in survey n=2671. Multiple responses were allowed, responses add to over 100%.

Q4B. Approximately, how busy was the beach when you were there before 9am during summer weekends?



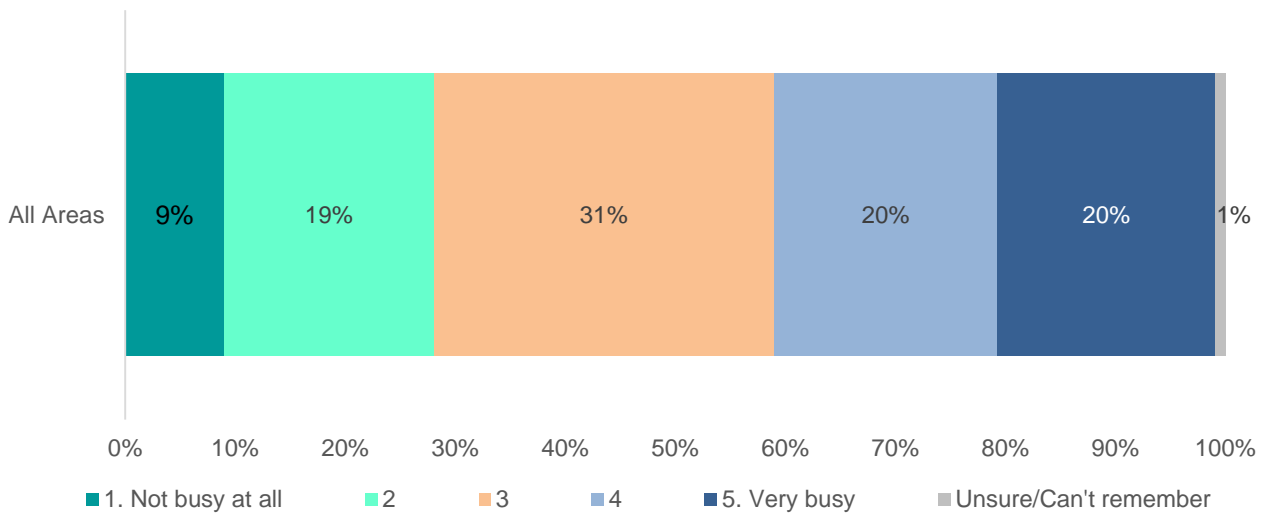
Base: Panellists participating in survey n=703.

Q4C. Approximately, how busy was the beach when you were there between 9am and 10am during summer weekends?



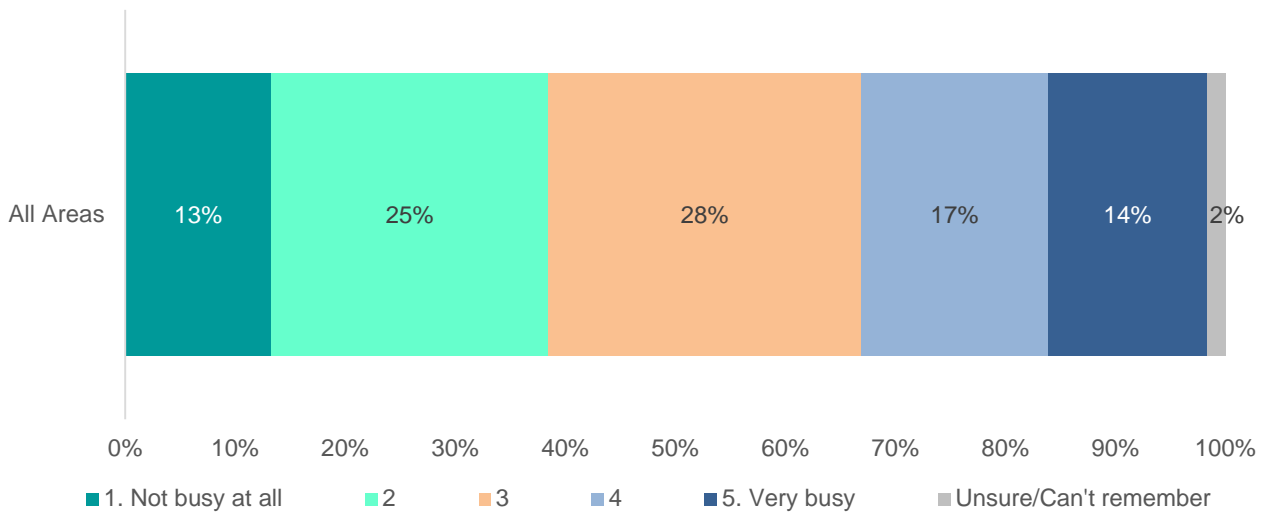
Base: Panellists participating in survey n=989.

Q4D. Approximately, how busy was the beach when you were there between 5pm and 6pm during summer weekends?



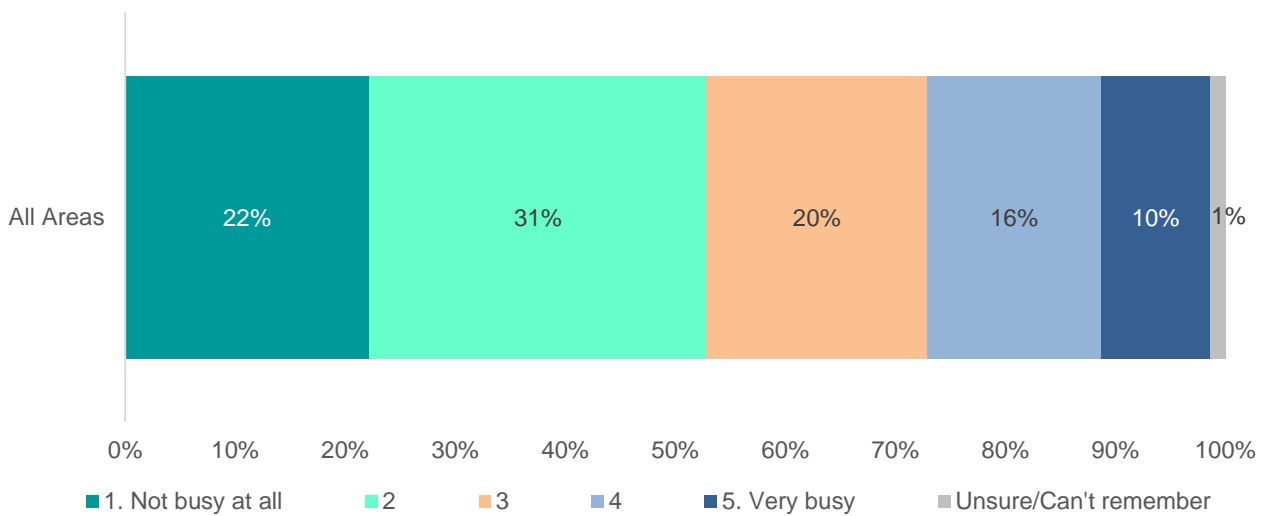
Base: Panellists participating in survey n=1077.

Q4E. Approximately, how busy was the beach when you were there between 6pm and 7pm during summer weekends?



Base: Panellists participating in survey n=843.

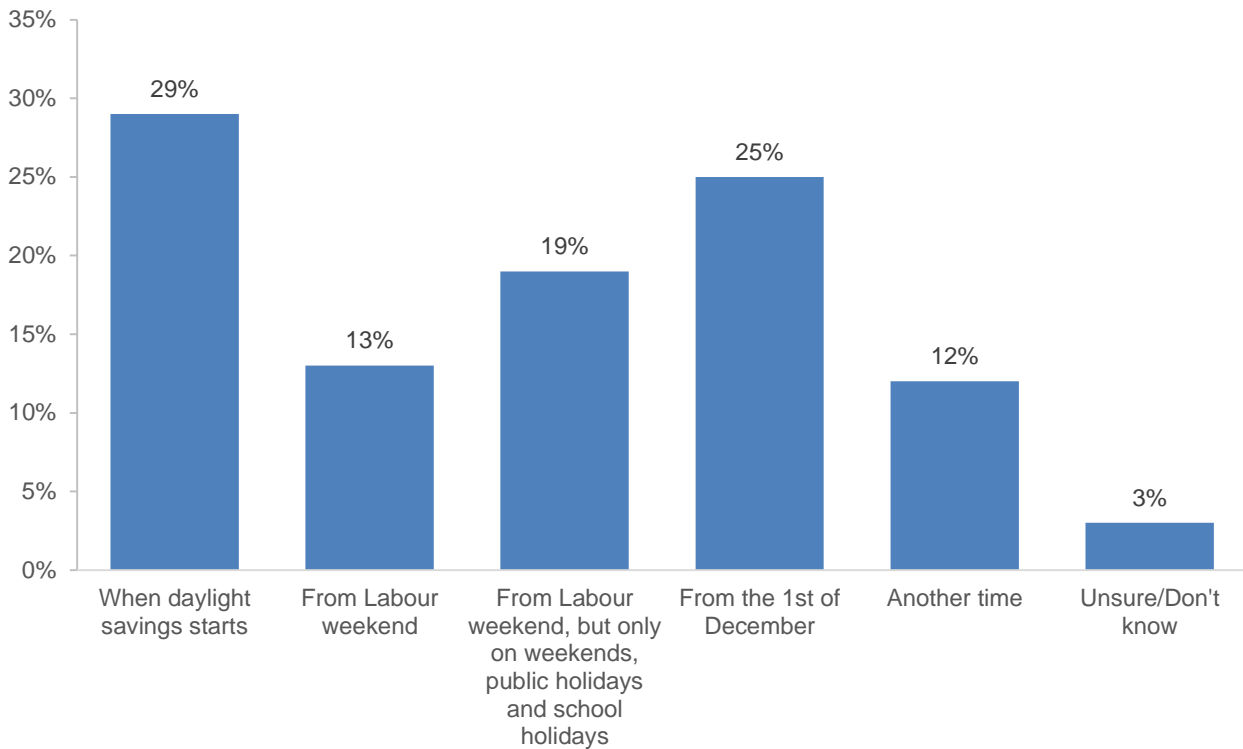
Q4F. Approximately, how busy was the beach when you were there after 7pm during summer weekends?



Base: Panellists participating in survey n=505.

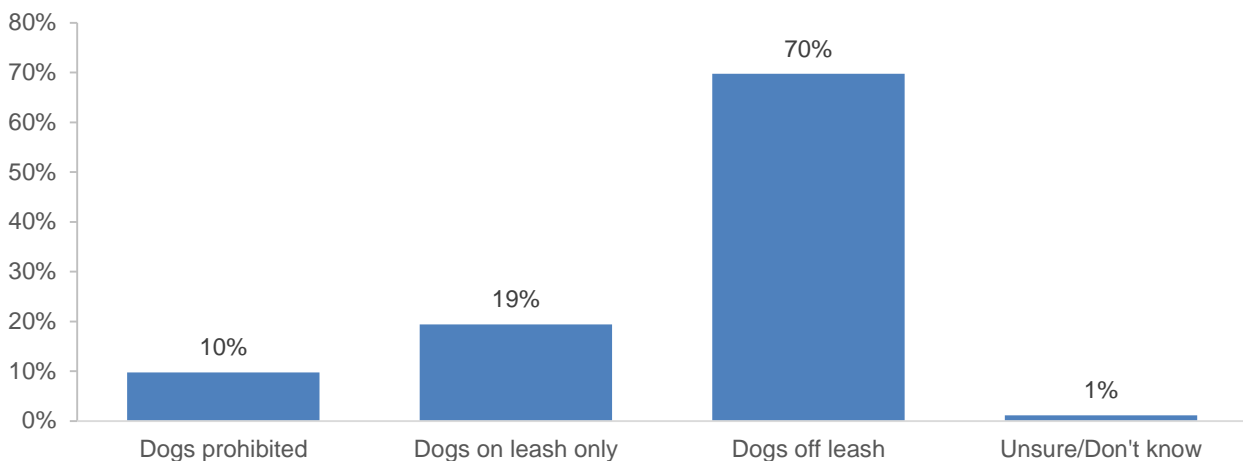
4.3 Dog access rules in summer

Q3A. When do you think the summer rules for dog access to beaches should begin?



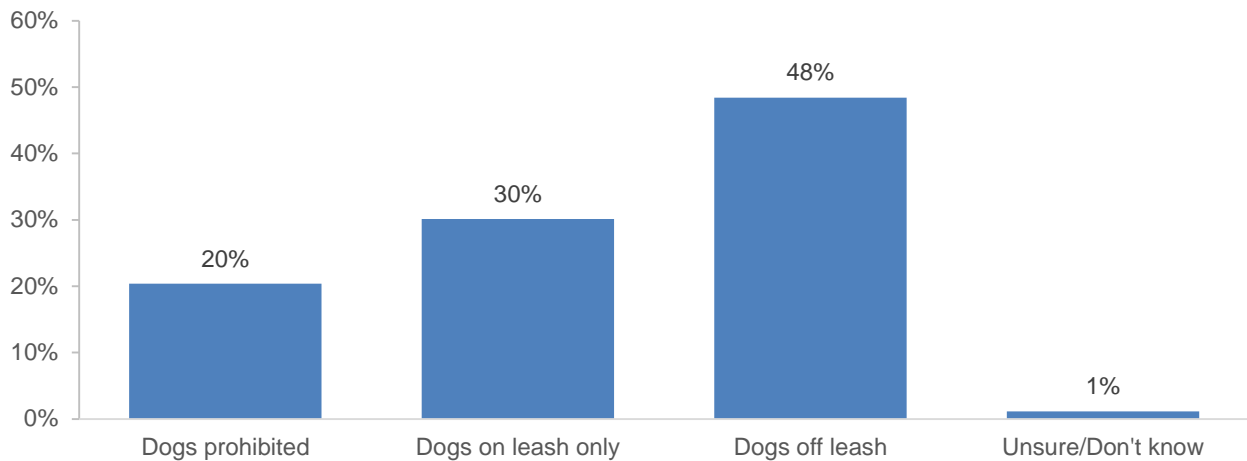
Base: Panellists participating in survey n=2825.

Q5Ai. What dog access rules do you think should be put in place before 9am in summer?



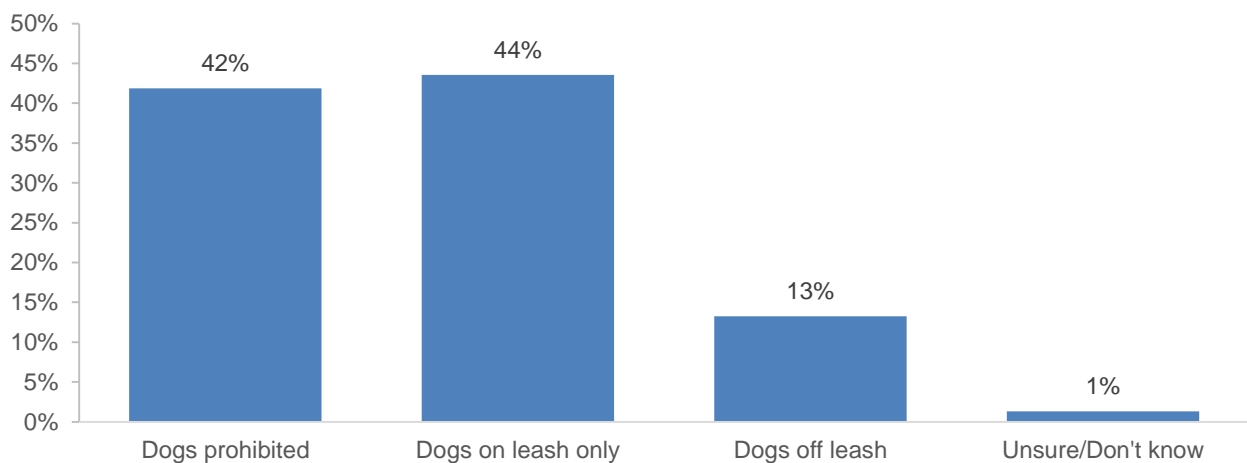
Base: Panellists participating in survey n=2672.

Q5Aii. What dog access rules do you think should be put in place between 9am and 10am in summer?



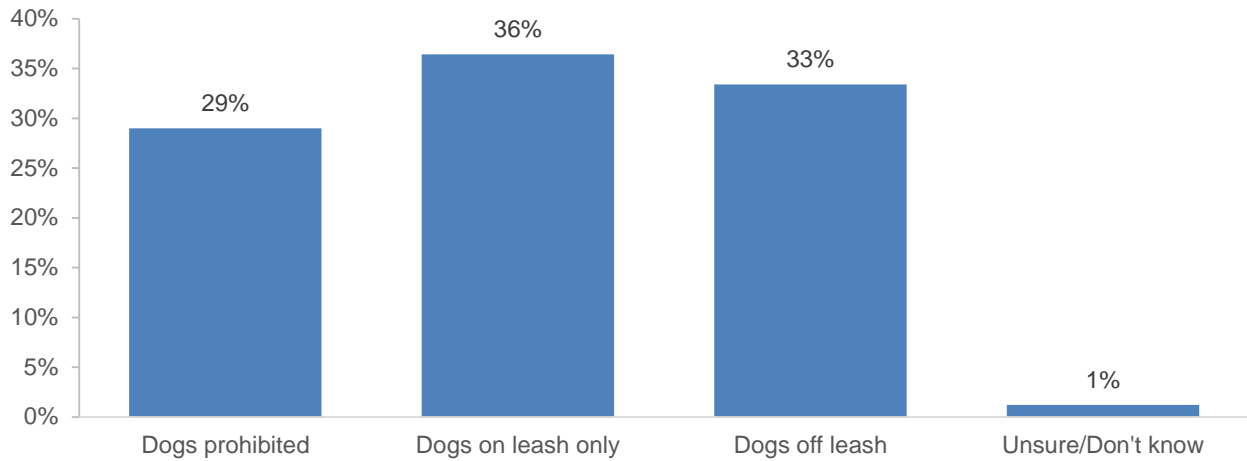
Base: Panellists participating in survey n=2672.

Q5Aiii. What dog access rules do you think should be put in place between 10am and 5pm in summer?



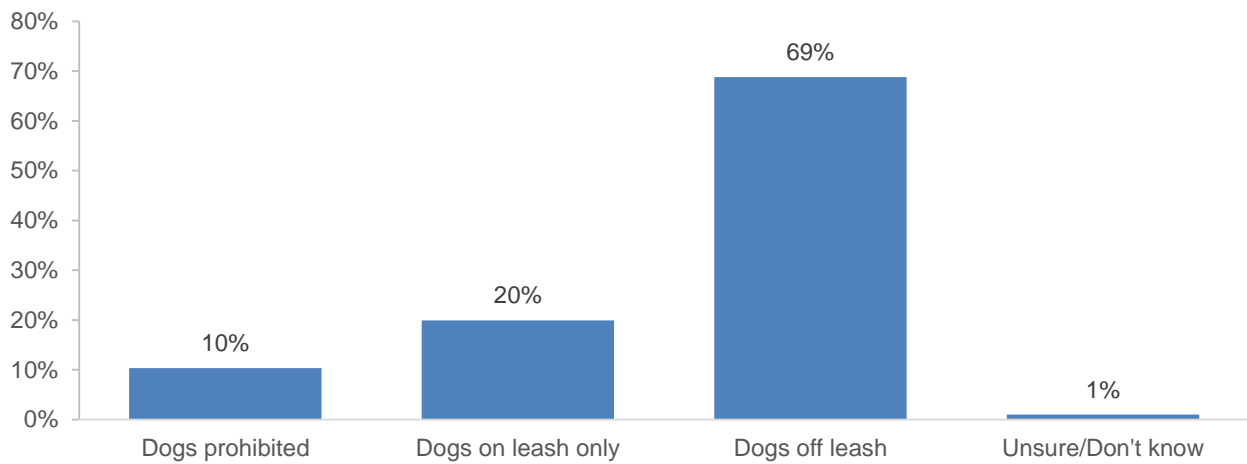
Base: Panellists participating in survey n=2672.

Q5Aiv. What dog access rules do you think should be put in place between 5pm and 6pm in summer?



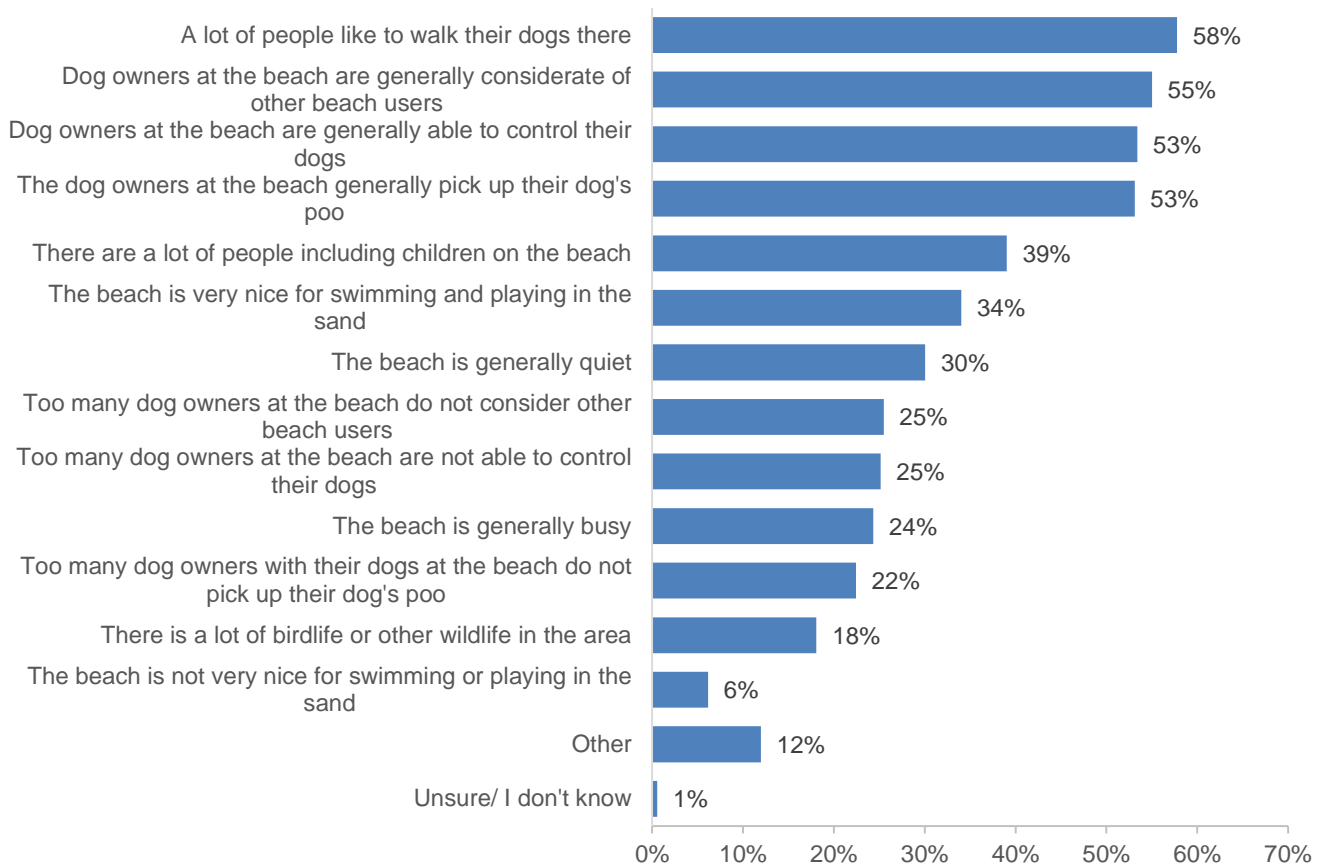
Base: Panellists participating in survey n=2672.

Q5Av. What dog access rules do you think should be put in place after 7pm in summer?



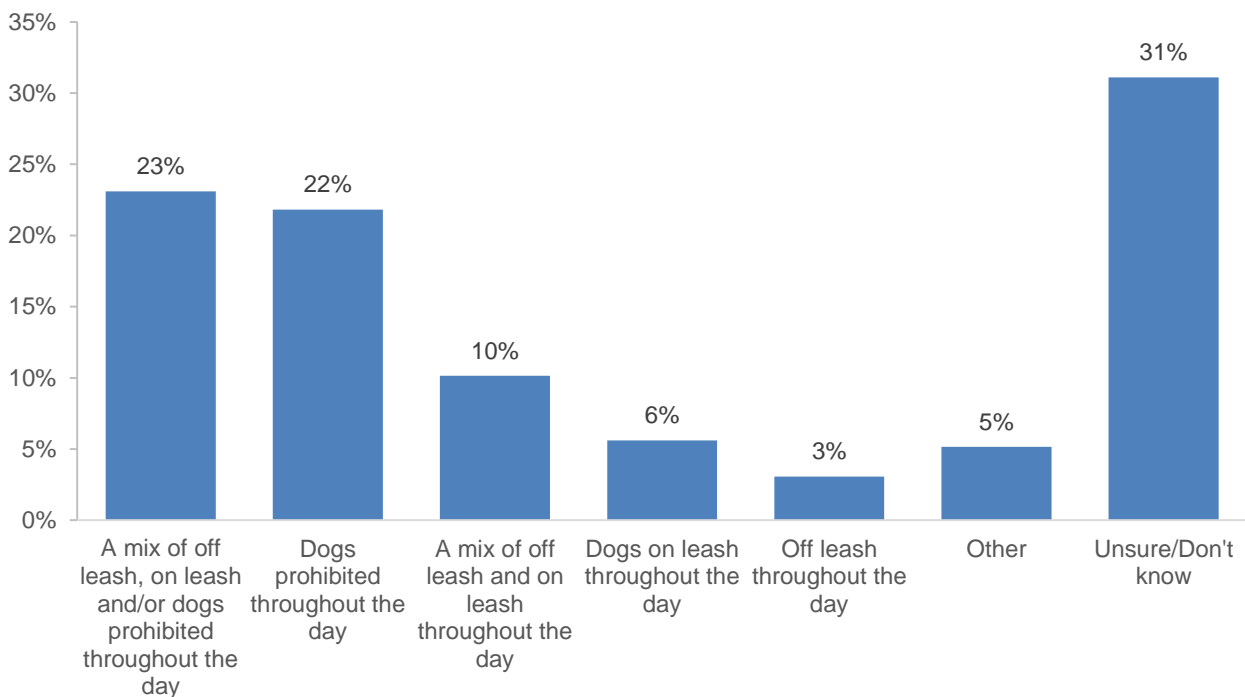
Base: Panellists participating in survey n=2672.

Q5B. In general, what are the reasons for selecting those summer dog access rules?



Base: Panellists participating in survey n=2672. Multiple responses were allowed, responses add to over 100%.

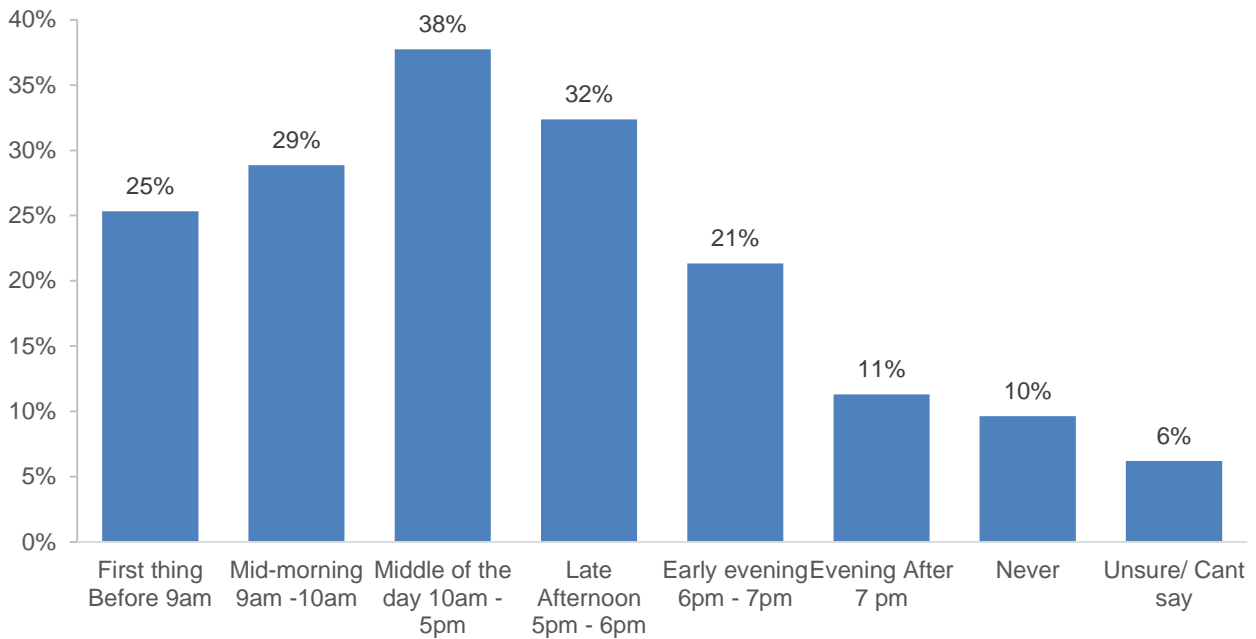
Q5C. Do you know the current rules for dog access in the summer period?



Base: Panellists participating in survey n=2672.

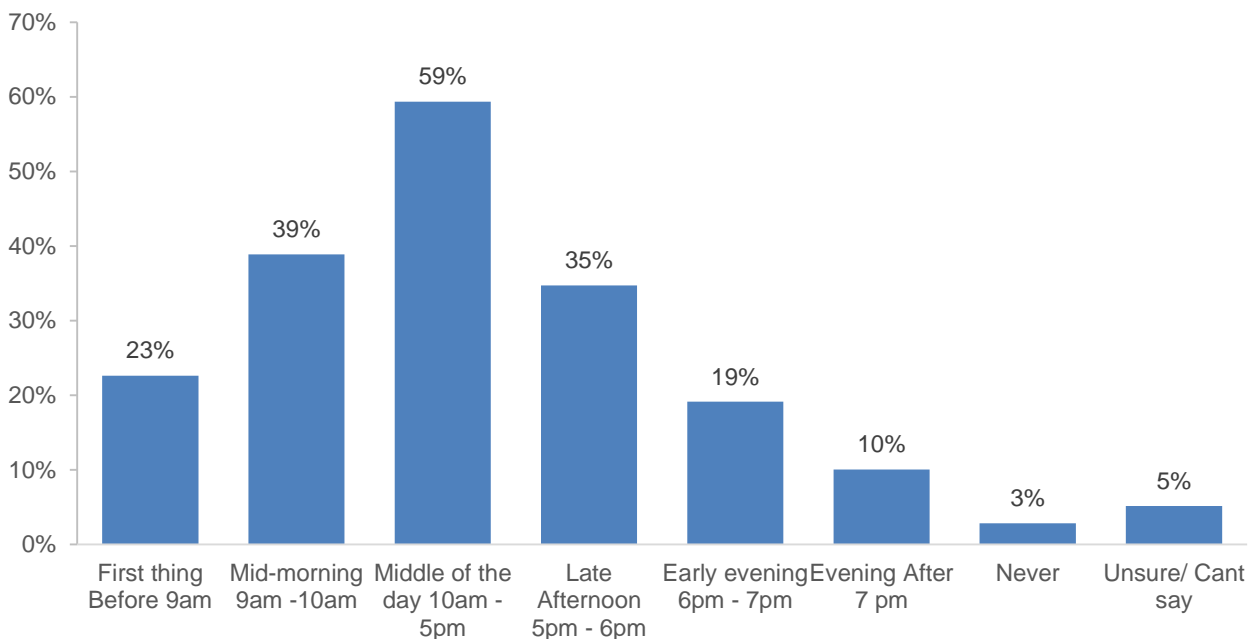
4.4 Using the beach during winter

Q7A. What times of the day are you usually at the beach (winter weekday)?



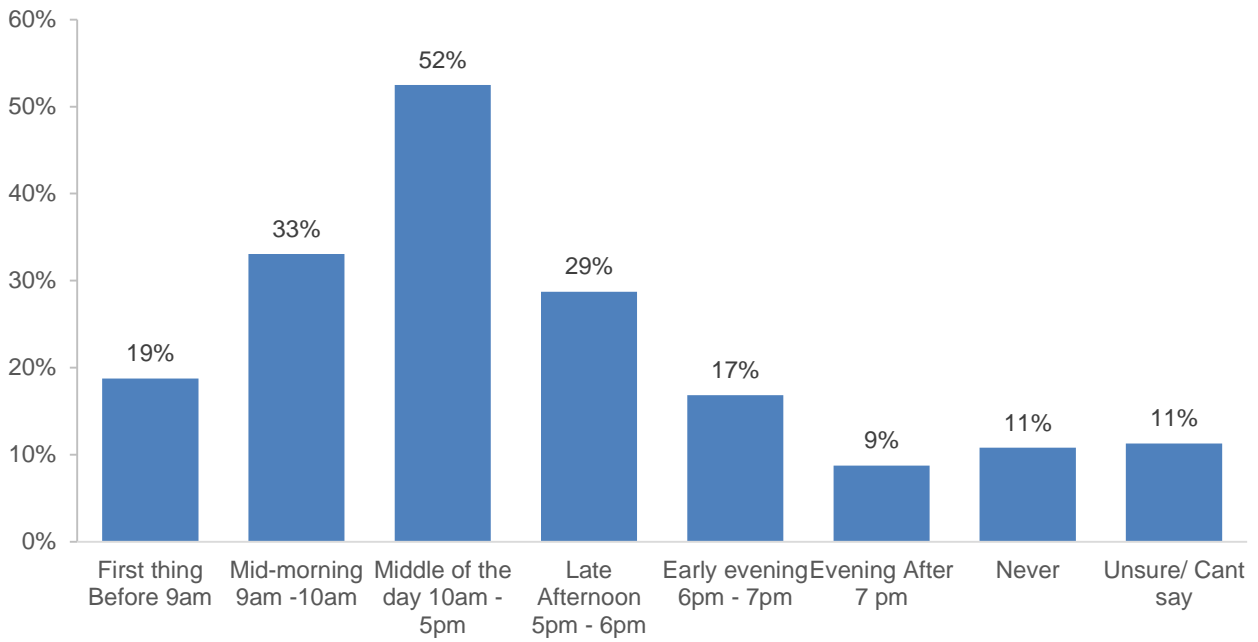
Base: Panellists participating in survey n=2518. Multiple responses were allowed, responses add to over 100%.

Q7A. What times of the day are you usually at the beach (winter weekend)?



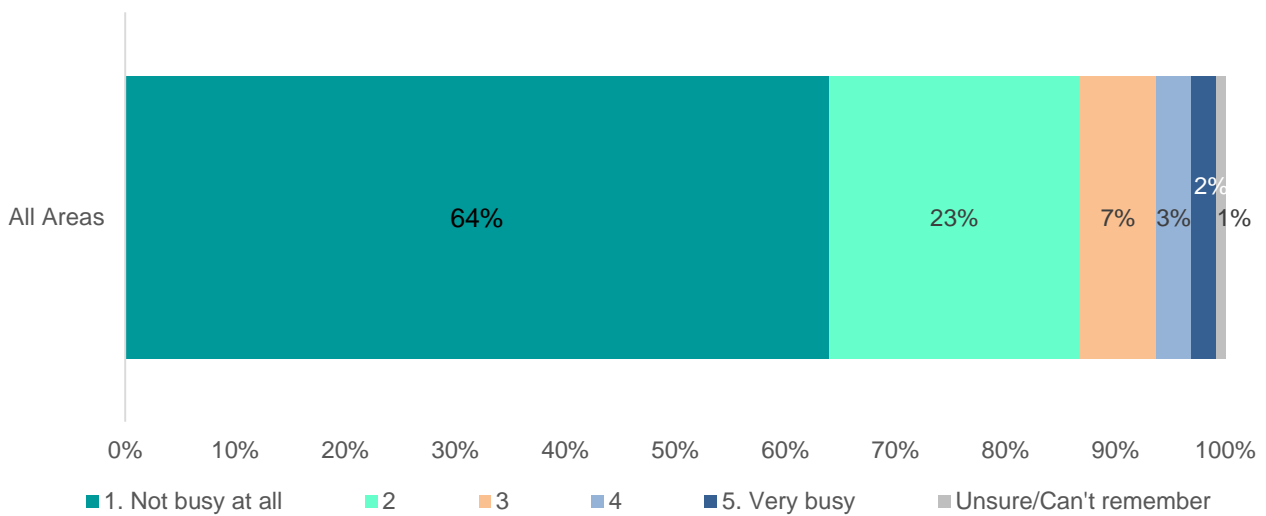
Base: Panellists participating in survey n=2518. Multiple responses were allowed, responses add to over 100%.

Q7A. What times of the day are you usually at the beach (winter holidays)?



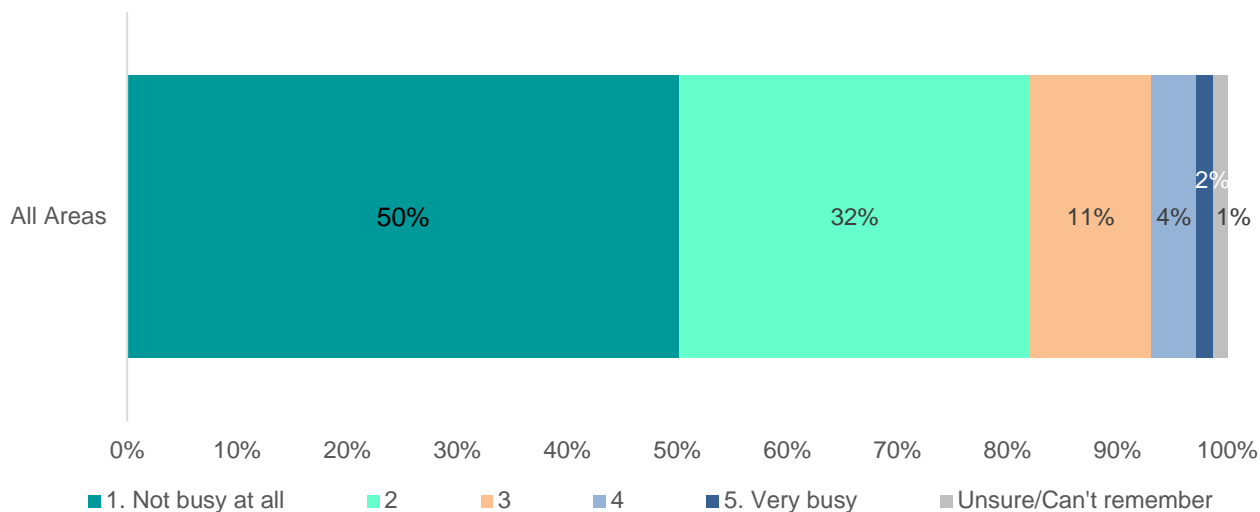
Base: Panellists participating in survey n=2518. Multiple responses were allowed, responses add to over 100%.

Q7B. Approximately, how busy was the beach when you were there before 9am during winter weekends?



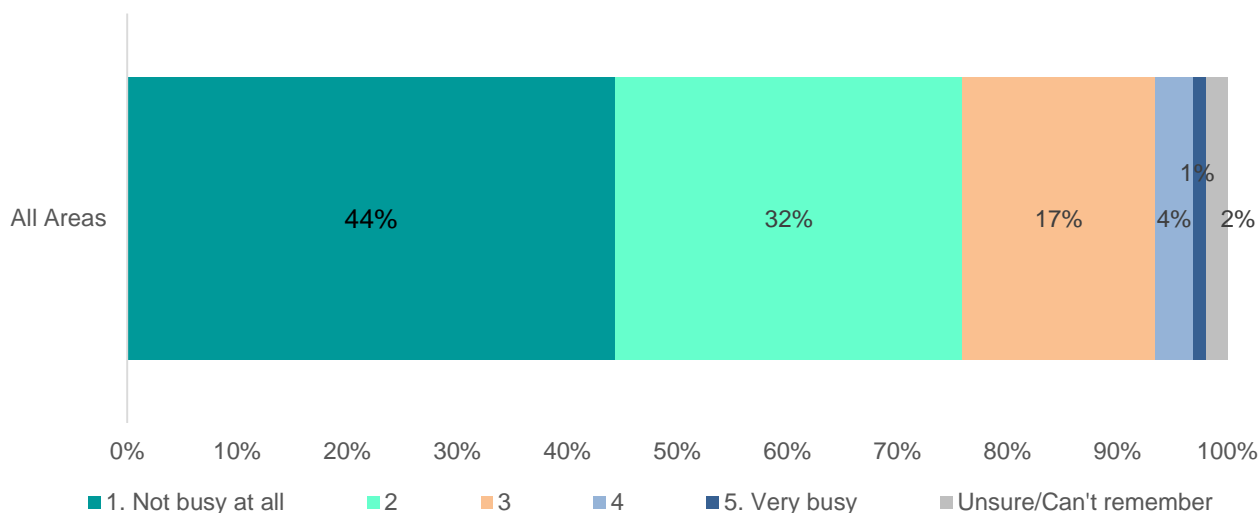
Base: Panellists participating in survey n=574.

Q7C. Approximately, how busy was the beach when you were there between 9am and 10am during winter weekends?



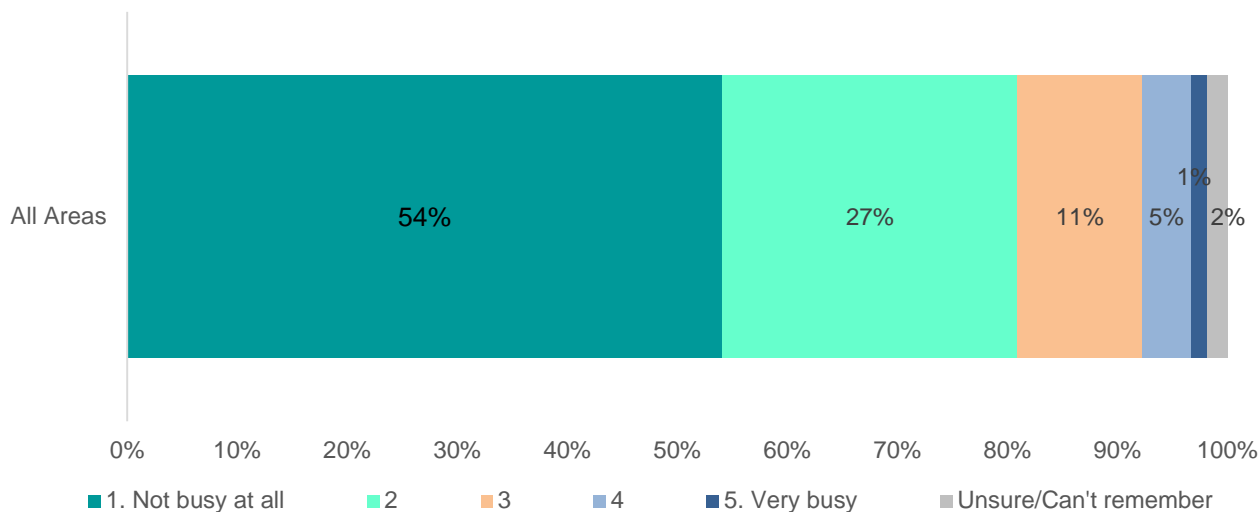
Base: Panellists participating in survey n=986.

Q7D. Approximately, how busy was the beach when you were there between 5pm and 6pm during winter weekends?



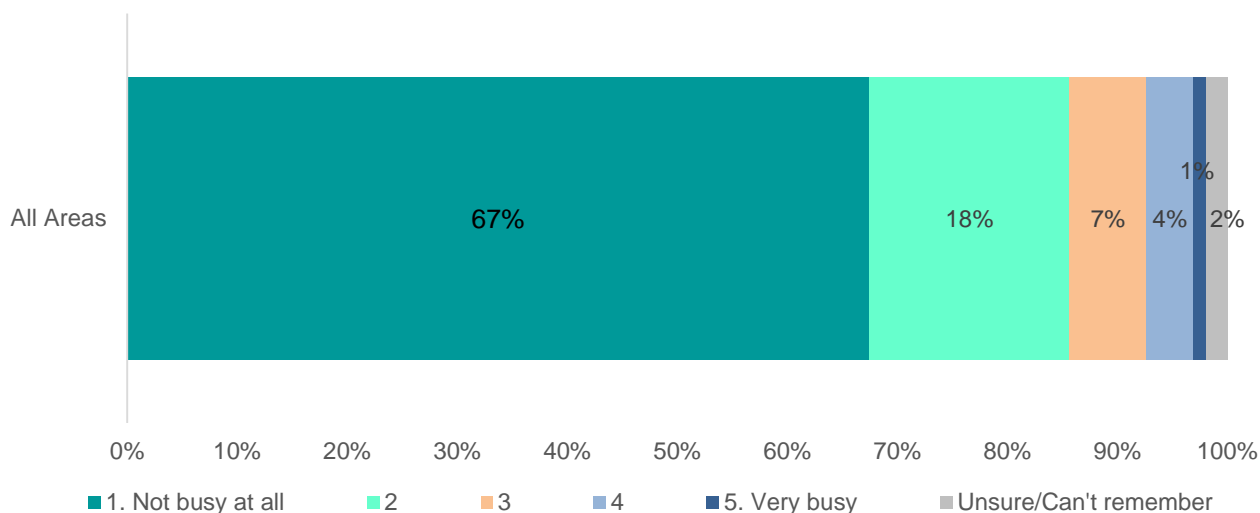
Base: Panellists participating in survey n=877.

Q7E. Approximately, how busy was the beach when you were there between 6pm and 7pm during winter weekends?



Base: Panellists participating in survey n=488.

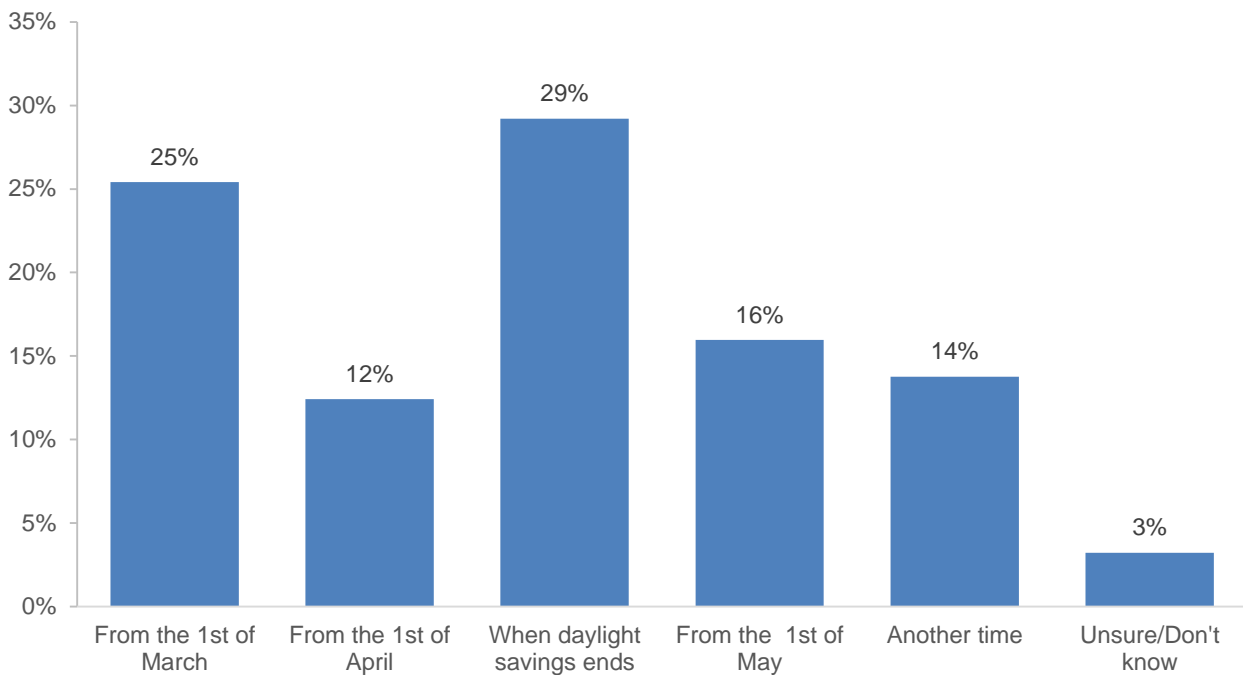
Q7F. Approximately, how busy was the beach when you were there after 7pm during winter weekends?



Base: Panellists participating in survey n=258.

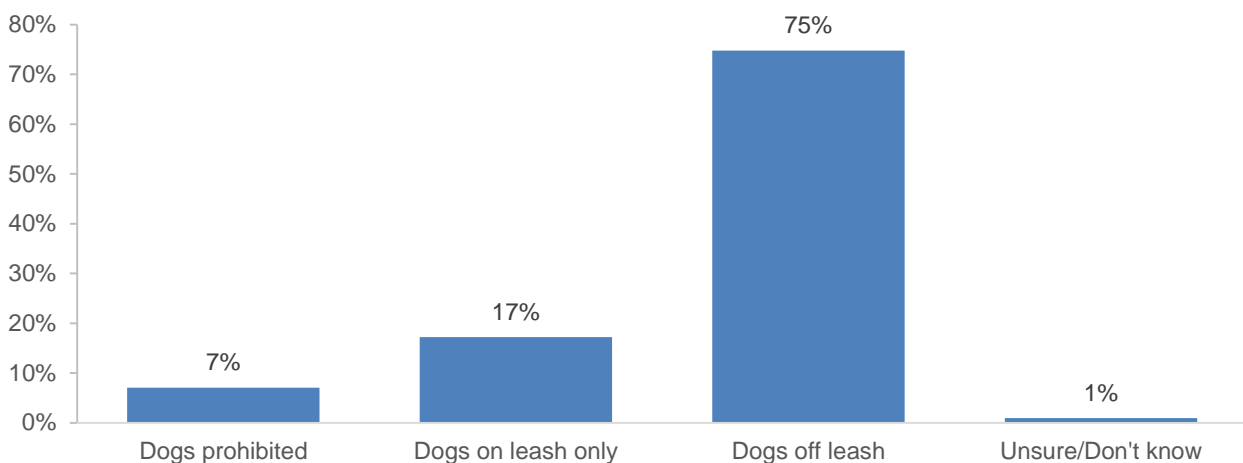
4.5 Dog access rules in winter

Q3B. When do you think the winter rules for dog access to beaches should begin (and summer rules should end)?



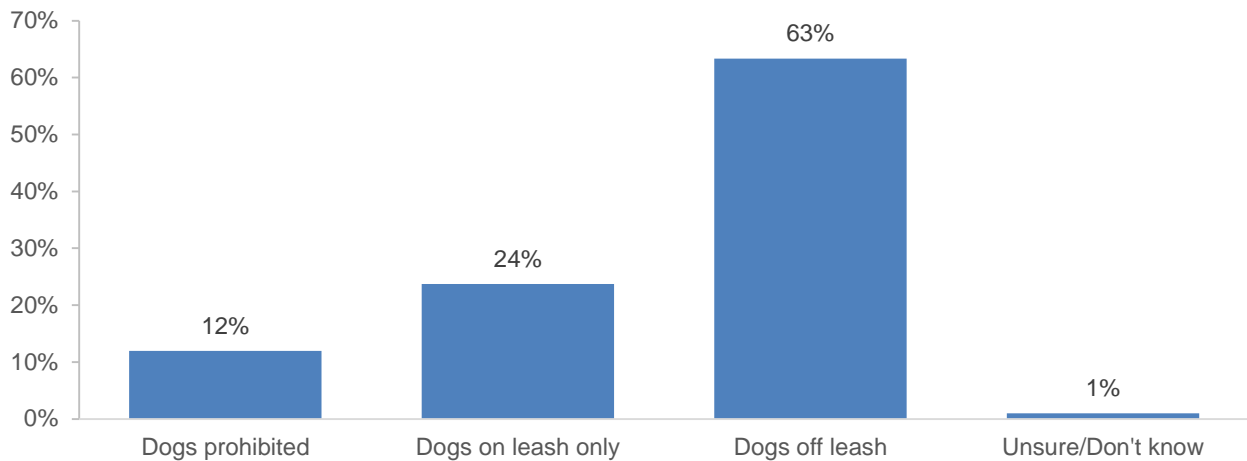
Base: Panellists participating in survey n=2825.

Q8Ai. What dog access rules do you think should be put in place before 9am in winter?



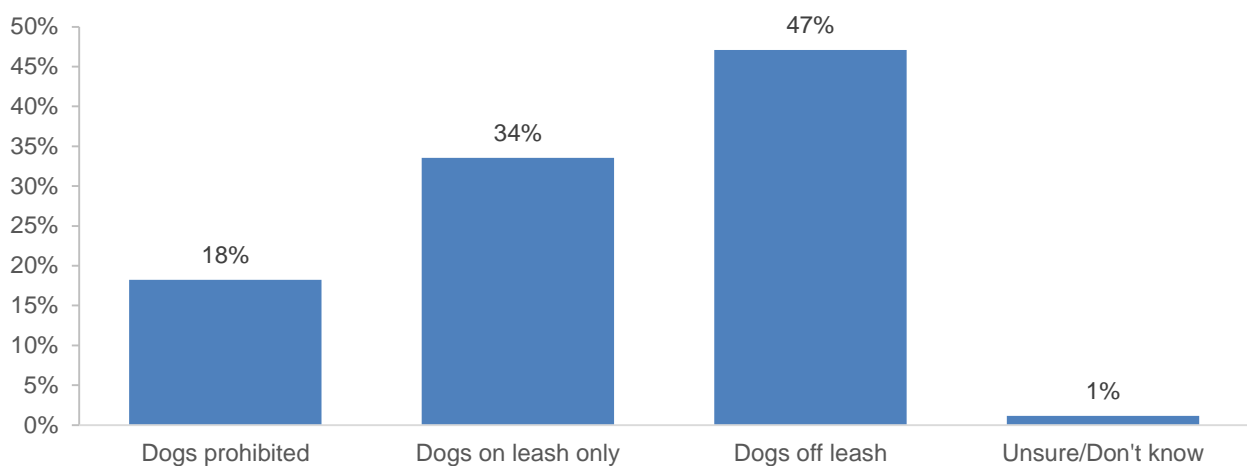
Base: Panellists participating in survey n=2519.

Q8Aii. What dog access rules do you think should be put in place between 9am and 10am in winter?



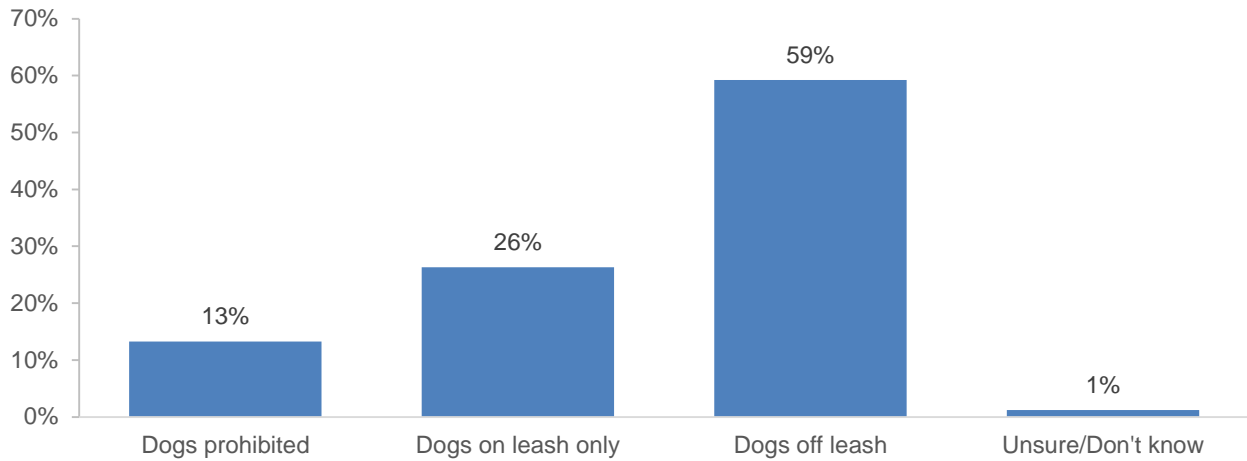
Base: Panellists participating in survey n=2519.

Q8Aiii. What dog access rules do you think should be put in place between 10am and 5pm in winter?



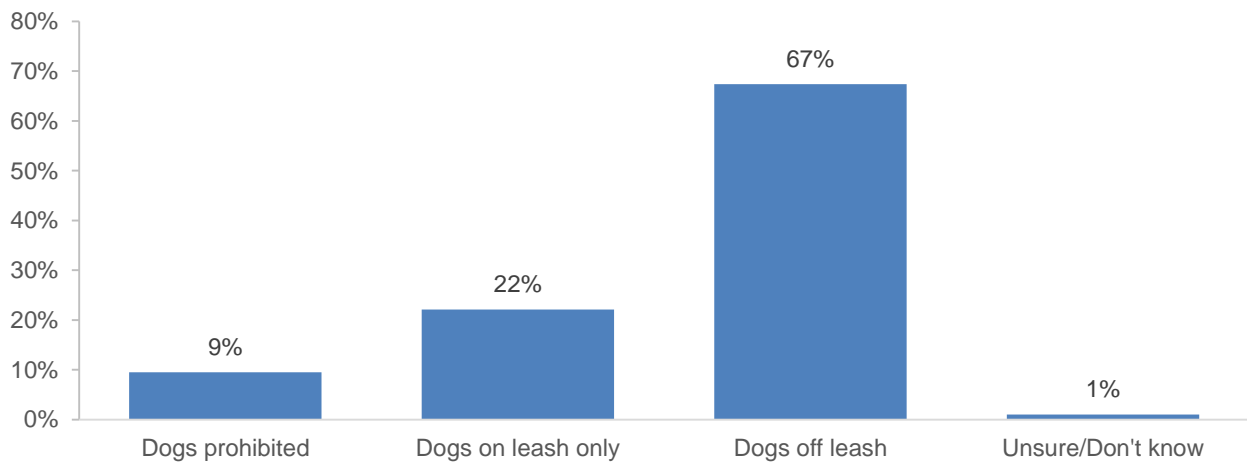
Base: Panellists participating in survey n=2519.

Q8Aiv. What dog access rules do you think should be put in place between 5pm and 6pm in winter?



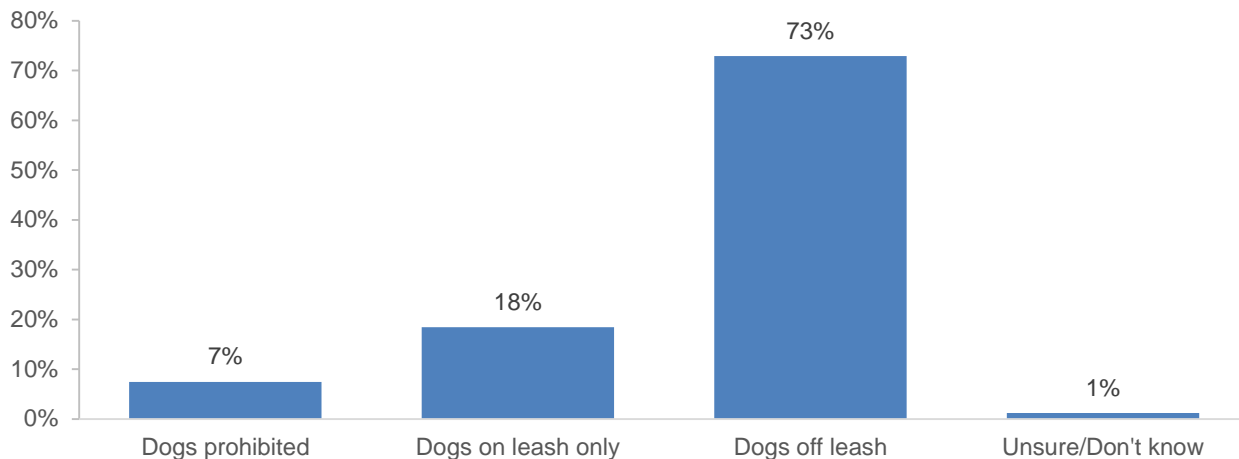
Base: Panellists participating in survey n=2519.

Q8Av. What dog access rules do you think should be put in place between 6pm and 7pm in winter?



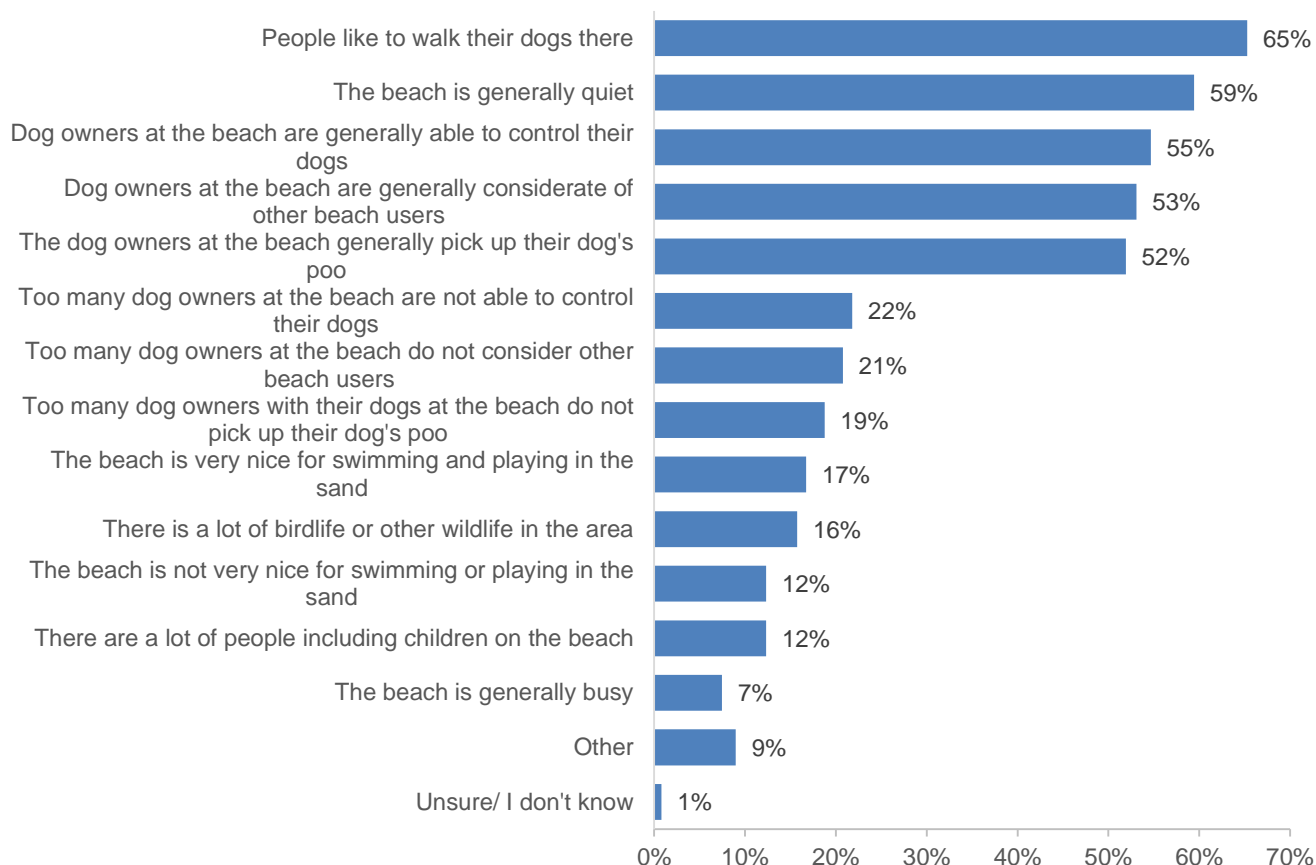
Base: Panellists participating in survey n=2519.

Q8Avi. What dog access rules do you think should be put in place after 7pm in winter?



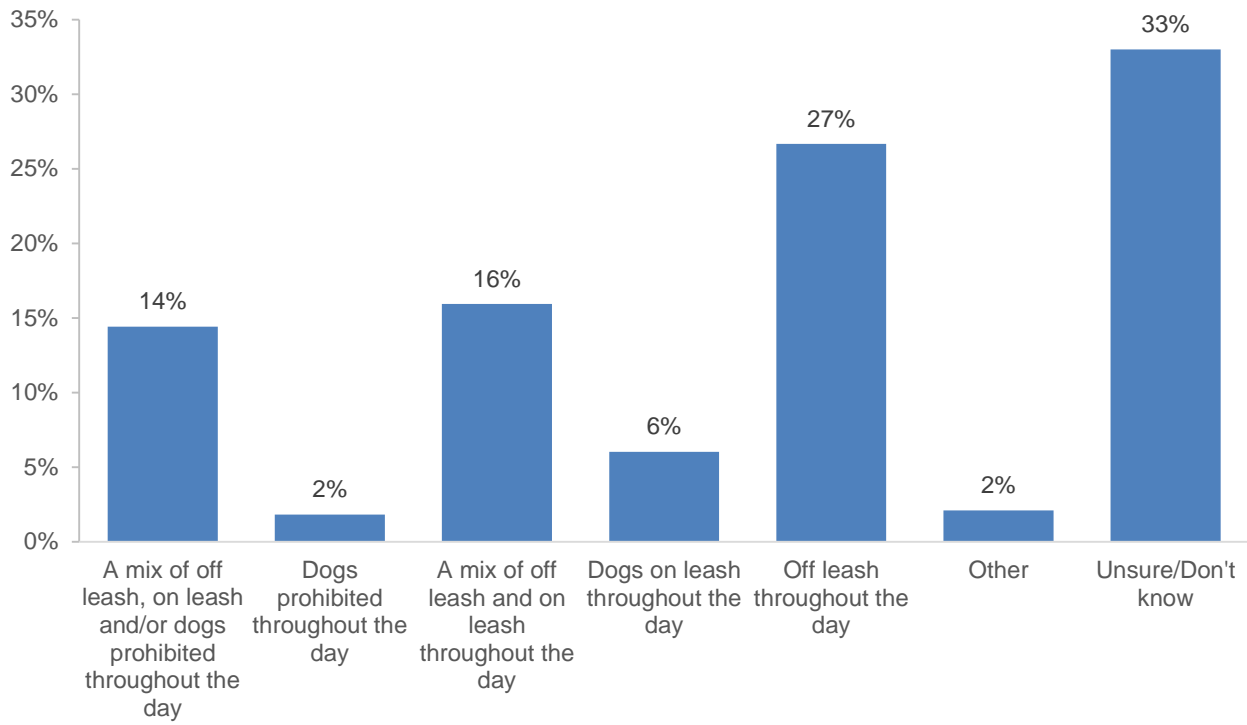
Base: Panellists participating in survey n=2519.

Q8B. In general, what are the reasons for selecting those winter dog access rules?



Base: Panellists participating in survey n=2517. Multiple responses were allowed, responses add to over 100%.

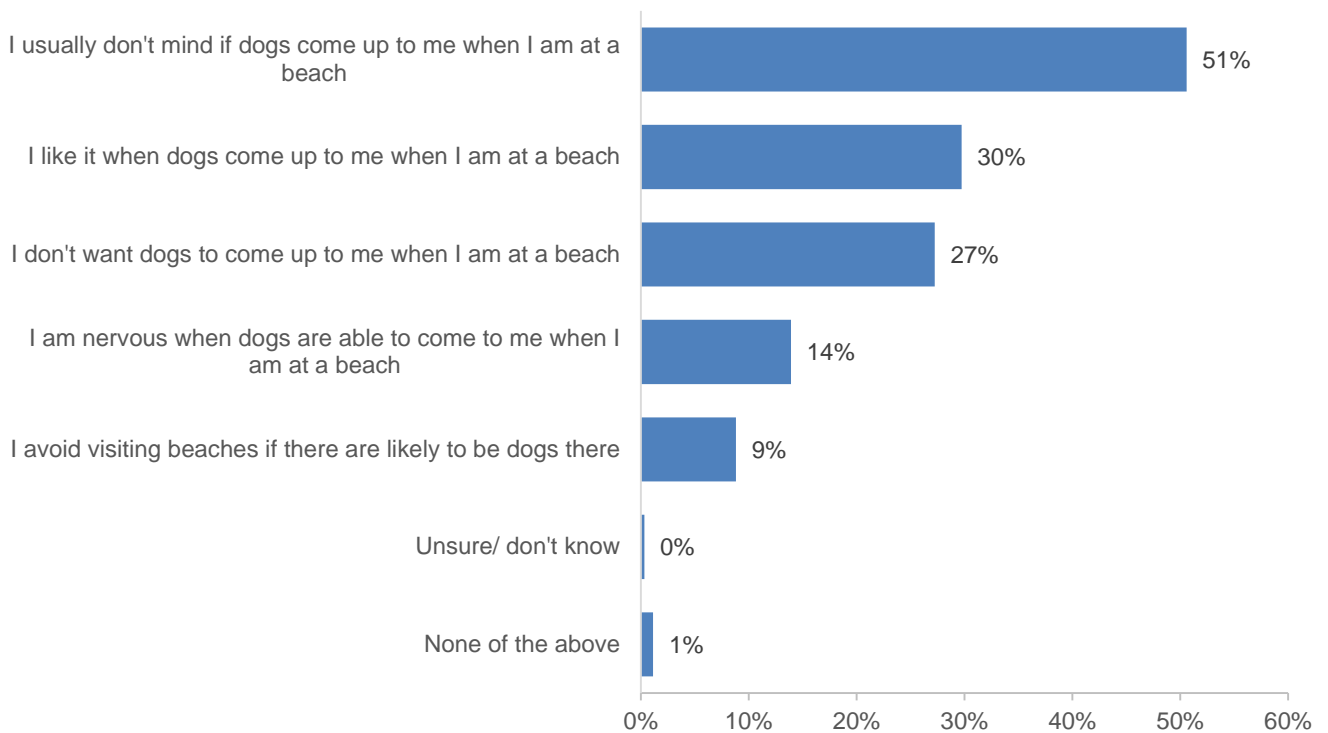
Q8C. Do you know the current rules for dog access in the winter period?



Base: Panellists participating in survey n=2516.

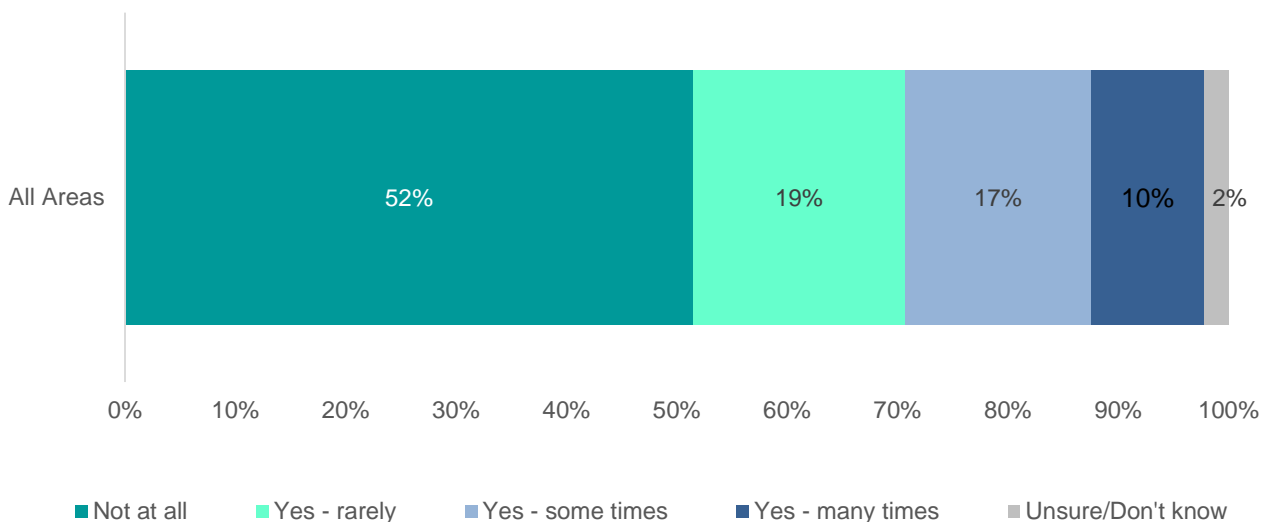
4.6 General views and main concerns

Q10A. Describe your views about dogs at beaches or parks?



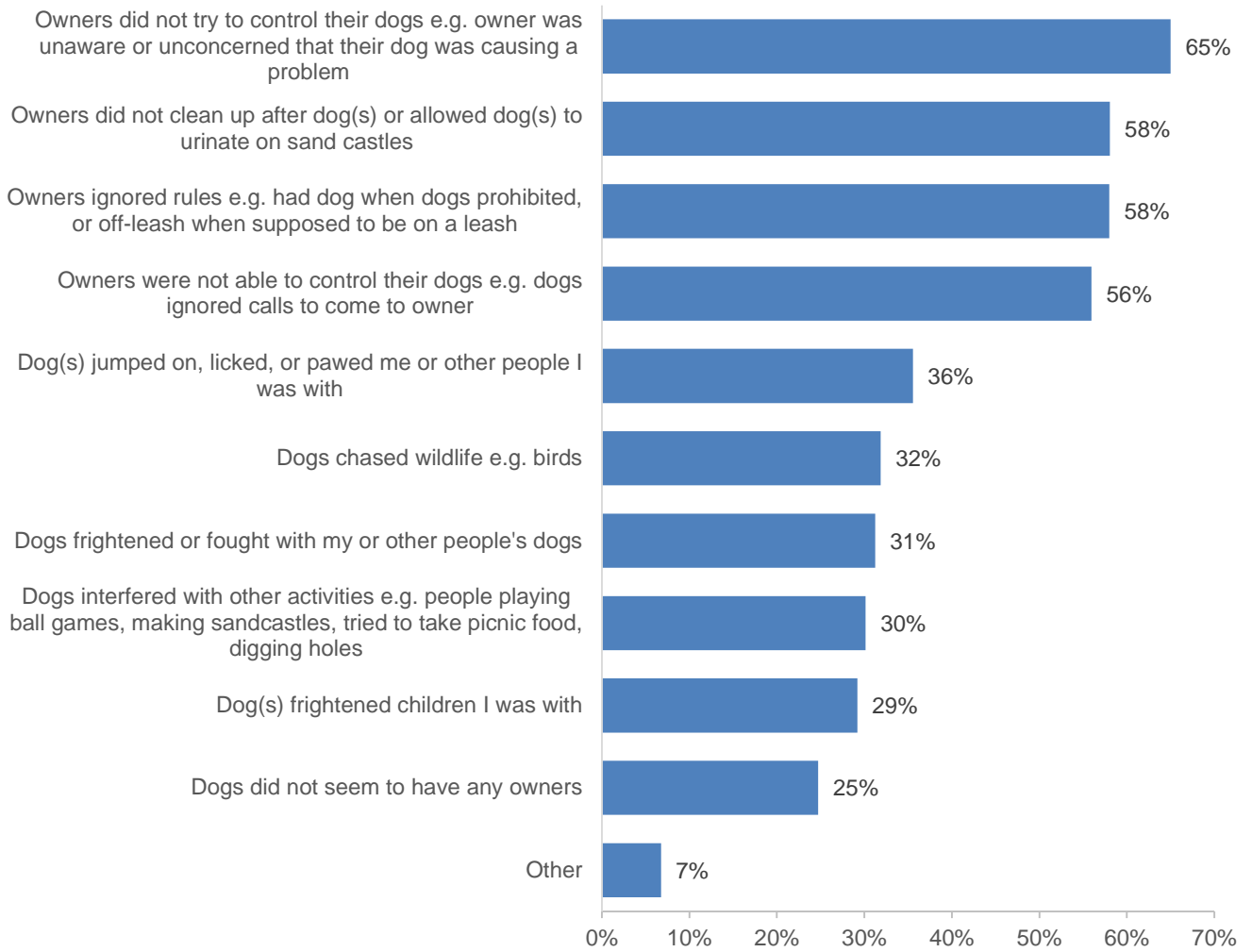
Base: Panellists participating in survey n=3390. Multiple responses were allowed, responses add to over 100%.

Q10B. Over the last two years, have you ever been concerned or upset by the behaviour of dogs at beaches or parks?



Base: Panellists participating in survey n=3390.

Q10C. What concerned or upset you?



Base: Panellists participating in survey n=1569. Multiple responses were allowed, responses add to over 100%.

Appendix – Respondent profile

	All respondents n=3390	Percentages (%) n=3390	Statistics NZ Percentages (%) 2013 census data
Local Board			
Albert-Eden	647	19%	7%
Devonport-Takapuna	708	21%	4%
Rodney	696	21%	4%
Upper Harbour	166	5%	4%
Waiheke	234	7%	1%
Waitākere Ranges	512	15%	3%
Waitematā	375	11%	6%
Rakino	52	2%	-