

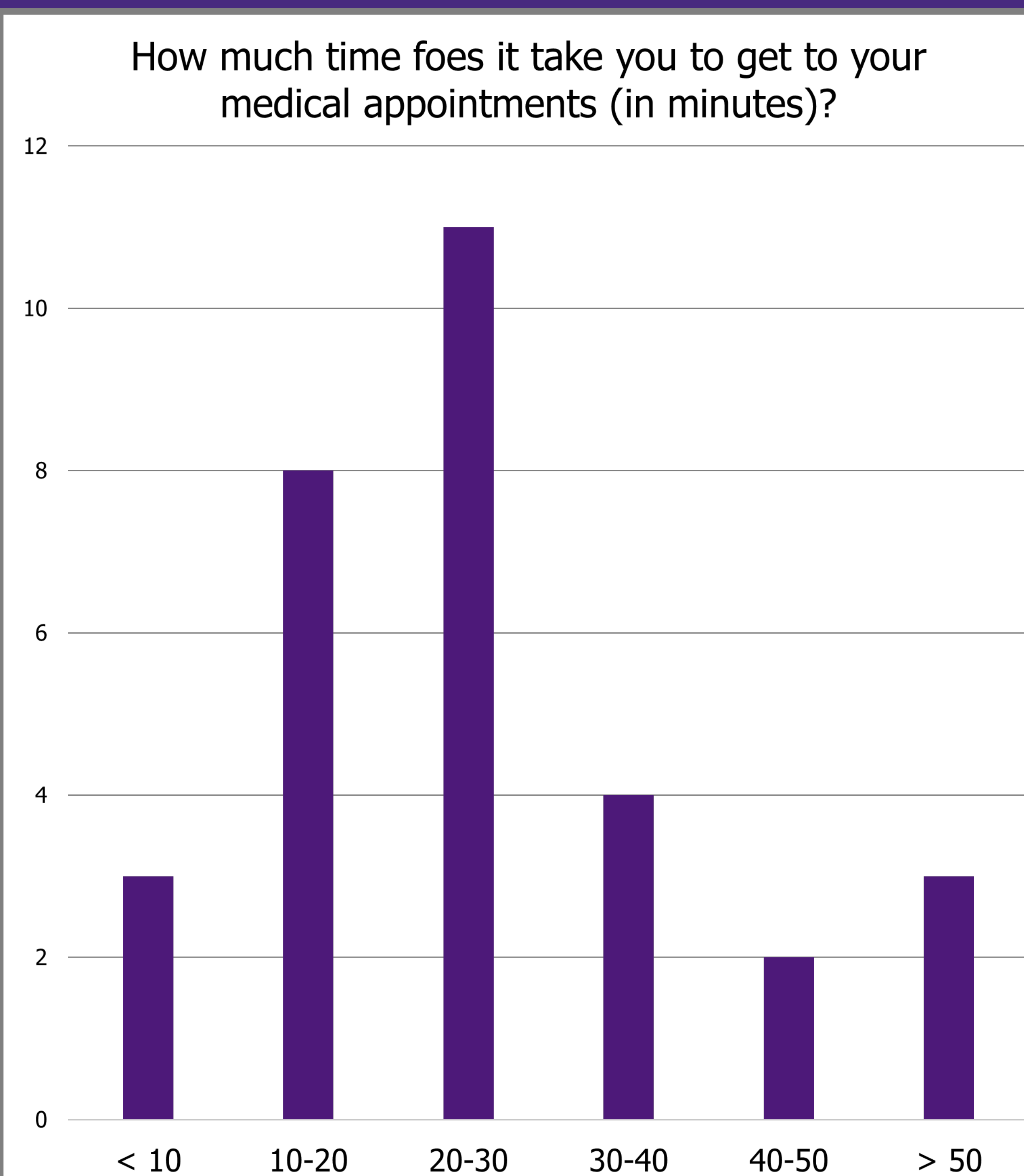
An Exploratory Assessment of the Impact of Public Transportation on Medical Service Access

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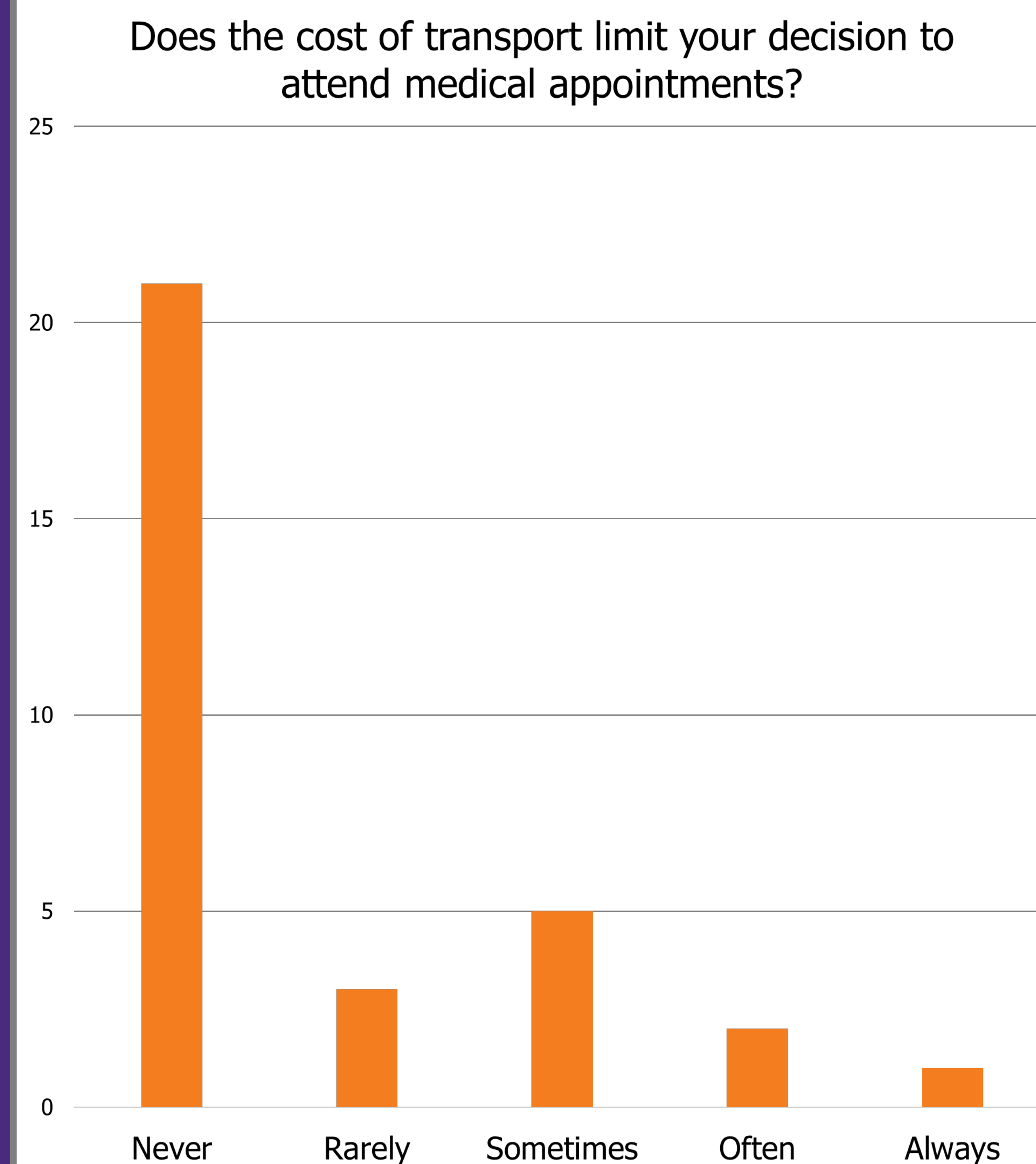
Background

- Million of people in the US have deficits in transportation needed to reach healthcare services, which often results in individuals not receiving proper support, especially in rural and urban communities (American Healthcare Association, 2023).
- In the US, public transportation is known and accessible to more than 60% of individuals. To individuals unaware and unable to reach public transportation, making it known and accessible is a potential solution for transportation to various medical clinics (American Public Transport Association, 2022).
- Areas that lack medical facilities and clinics are labeled as "service deserts," which are oftentimes more challenging to receive services especially with lack of public transportation to get to the area. For areas with service deserts, more individuals may lack treatments and not engage in medical services.
- The current study aims to engage in preliminary data collection to understand the current state of Tarrant County public transportation, with the goal of informing future research.

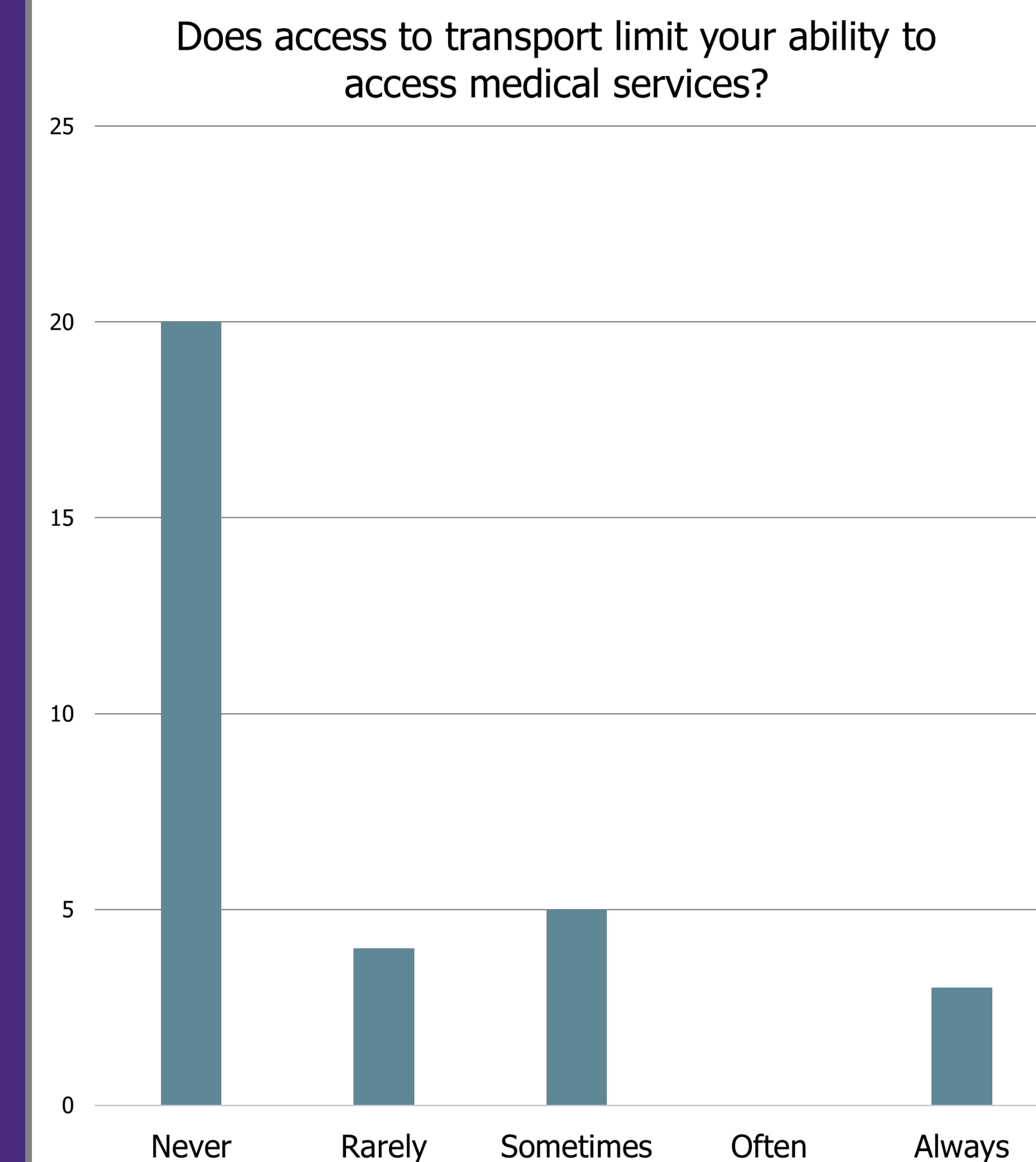
Time Travelling to Appointments



Transportation Affecting Decisions to Attend Medical Appointments



Transportation Limiting Access to Medical Services

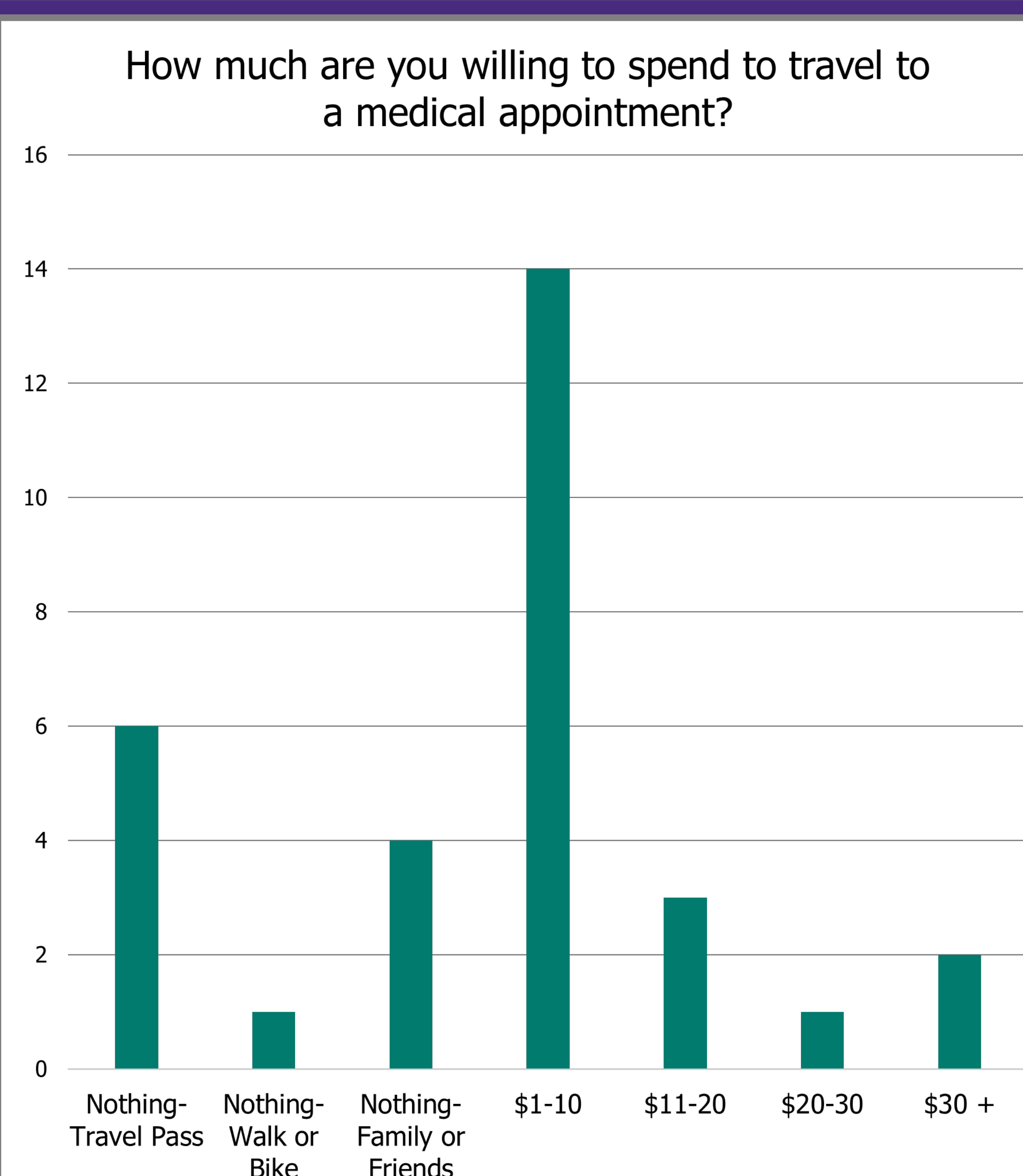


Methods

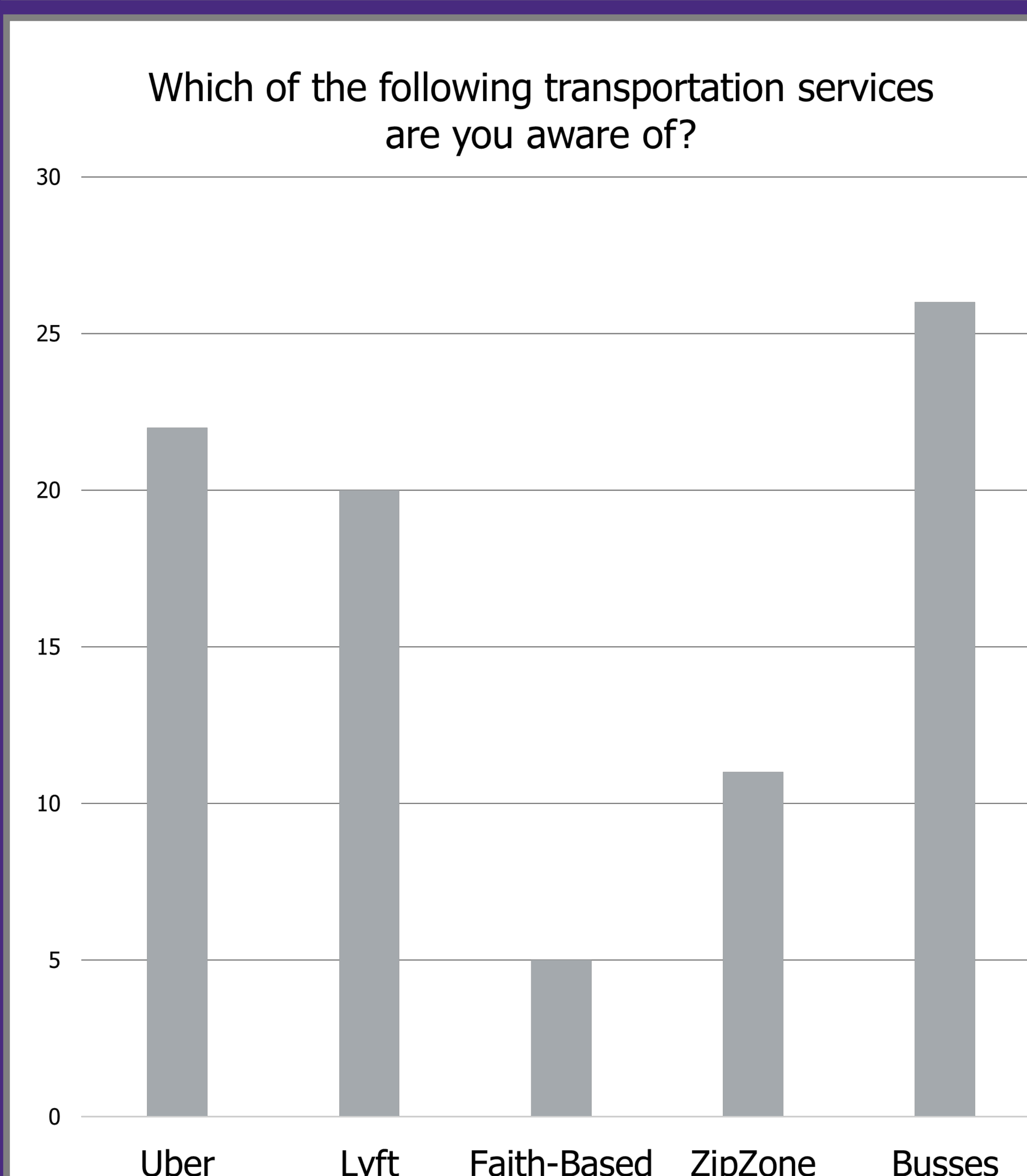
A survey was developed to gather community feedback on public transportation and its influence on treatment initiation and retention.

- 32 participants were recruited from the Fort Worth Central Bus Station.
- **Example survey questions include:**
 - Which of the following transportation services are you aware of?
 - Does access to transport limit your ability to access medical services?
 - Does the cost of transport limit your decision to attend medical appointments?

Amount Willing to Pay



Awareness of Services



Discussion

- The majority of patrons did not miss medical appointments due to a lack of transportation; however, the patrons who depended on public transportation for treatment missed appointments on occasion.
- Patrons who utilized the bus station had limited knowledge of alternative transportation services. There is a need for greater public awareness of alternative transportation options.

Future Directions

- Future research can spread awareness of alternate transportation options such as ZipZone and faith-based transportation services, comparing different methods of advertising.
- This line of research can reach out to medical centers and survey if they inform their clients of what transportation services are available.

Demographics

N = 32	
Age	
Mean	45.48
Standard Deviation	15.31
Gender	
n (%)	
Male	20 (62.5)
Female	11 (34.4)
Race	
n (%)	
White	14 (43.8)
Black/African American	14 (43.8)
American Indian or Alaska Native	2 (6.3)
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1 (3.1)
Other race	2 (6.3)

References

- American Healthcare Association. (2023). *Social Determinants of Health Series: Transportation and the role of Hospitals: AHA*. American Hospital Association. <https://www.aha.org/aharet-guides/2017-11-15-social-determinants-health-series-transportation-and-role-hospitals>
- American Public Transport Association. (2023, March 10). *Public transportation facts*. American Public Transportation Association <https://www.apta.com/news-publications/public-transportation-facts/#:~:text=Public%20transportation%20is%20a%20%2479,no%20access%20to%20public%20transportation>