

Future Air Displays: A Public Perspective

Results from an Online Survey

30th May – 1st July 2020



Introduction

Background

UK and Channel Islands Air Displays attracted just under 5 million spectators in 2019. Event organisers spent over £15 million with various contractors to stage their events and their attendees contributed at least £120 million to the UK economy and charities.**

Air Displays like other outdoor events classed as 'Massed Gatherings' have been unable to take place during the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic due to government restrictions aimed at reducing the impact of virus on health services and saving lives. An online webinar held by the UK air display community on 12th May 2020 identified that due to concerns over infection and the risk to their own health, members of the public may be less keen to return to large events once restrictions have been lifted. Event organisers may also need to introduce further measures to comply with the latest government guidance and reassure their visitors.

** - Information taken from the British Air Display Association Industry Review 2019.



Survey Overview

Survey Aims

- Gauge the public appetite to return to air displays
- Identify what concerns they had about attending Air Displays
- Identify what measures *the airshow going public* would like to see at future air displays in light of COVID-19 and social distancing

Survey Method

The questionnaire of 10 questions was hosted by the Flightline UK website and associated Facebook page.

The survey was opened on the 30th May and ran until 1st July. Though primarily aimed at UK air displays, the survey was open to all countries.

Links to the survey were shared widely on social media amongst a number of different organisations to reach as wide an audience as possible that attended air display events.

Acknowledgements:

The fantastic response to this survey has been possible thanks to the support of many individuals and organisations who gave feedback and shared the survey on social media. We are extremely grateful to them all. We cannot name them all but they include:

- AeroSPARX Display Team
- Air Britain
- Airshows - Flugtage Piloten / Teilnehmer (FB Group – Germany)
- AIRSHOW WORLD (FB Group – Belgium)
- Airshow Memories (FB Group)
- Airshowstuff Forums (USA)
- Blackpool and Southport Airshows FB Group
- Blue Foam Airshow Videos
- Bournemouth Air Festival/BCP Council
- British Air Display Association
- European Airshow Council
- Fighter Control Forum
- FireFlies Aerobatic Display Team
- GliderFX Display Team
- Gyro Air Displays
- Jersey International Air Display FB Group
- Keep Airshows Airborne (FB Group)
- Newcastle Festival of Flight (FB Page)
- Northern Ireland & Ireland Airshows (FB Page)
- O'Brien's Flying Circus
- Old Buckenham Airfield & Airshow
- RAFA Nottingham
- The Royal International Air Tattoo
- RIAT Unofficial Fanpage
- R5 Air Displays Ltd
- Shuttleworth Veteran Aeroplane Society
- TSA Consulting Ltd
- Turbulent Display Team
- Twister Aerobatic Team
- UK Airshow Review Forum
- Weston Park International Model Airshow

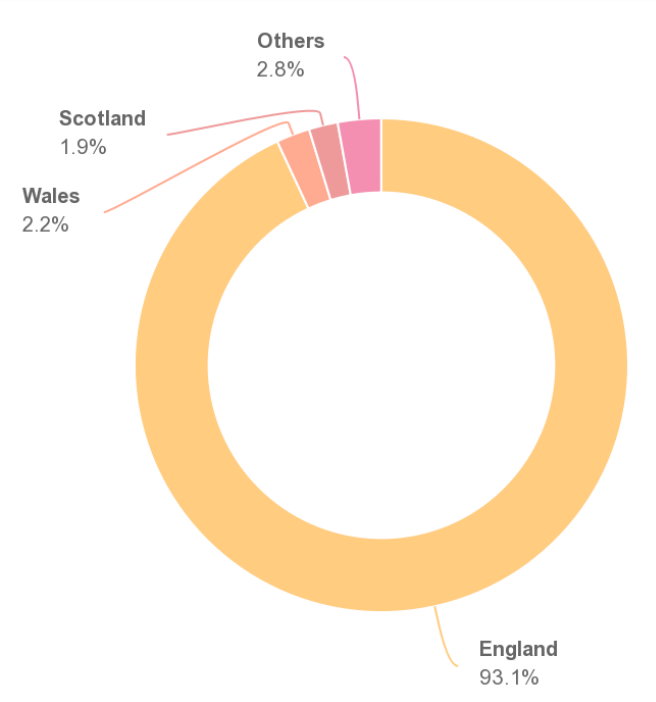
Where did the survey responses come from?

Total Number of Responses = 5,348 (1st July)

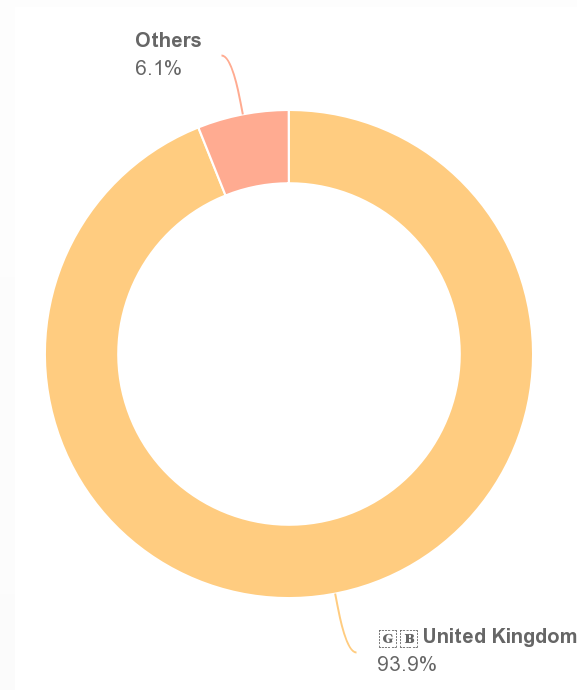
Countries and States that recorded multiple responses

- Netherlands
- Belgium
- United States
- Jersey
- France
- Australia
- Germany
- Canada
- Spain
- Republic of Ireland
- New Zealand
- Switzerland
- Italy
- Sweden
- Greece
- Poland
- Malta
- Portugal
- Guernsey
- Czech Republic
- Japan
- Luxembourg
- Thailand
- Austria
- Denmark
- Chile
- Norway
- United Arab Emirates
- Isle of Man
- South Africa

From within the United Kingdom



International Responses



The Survey Questions

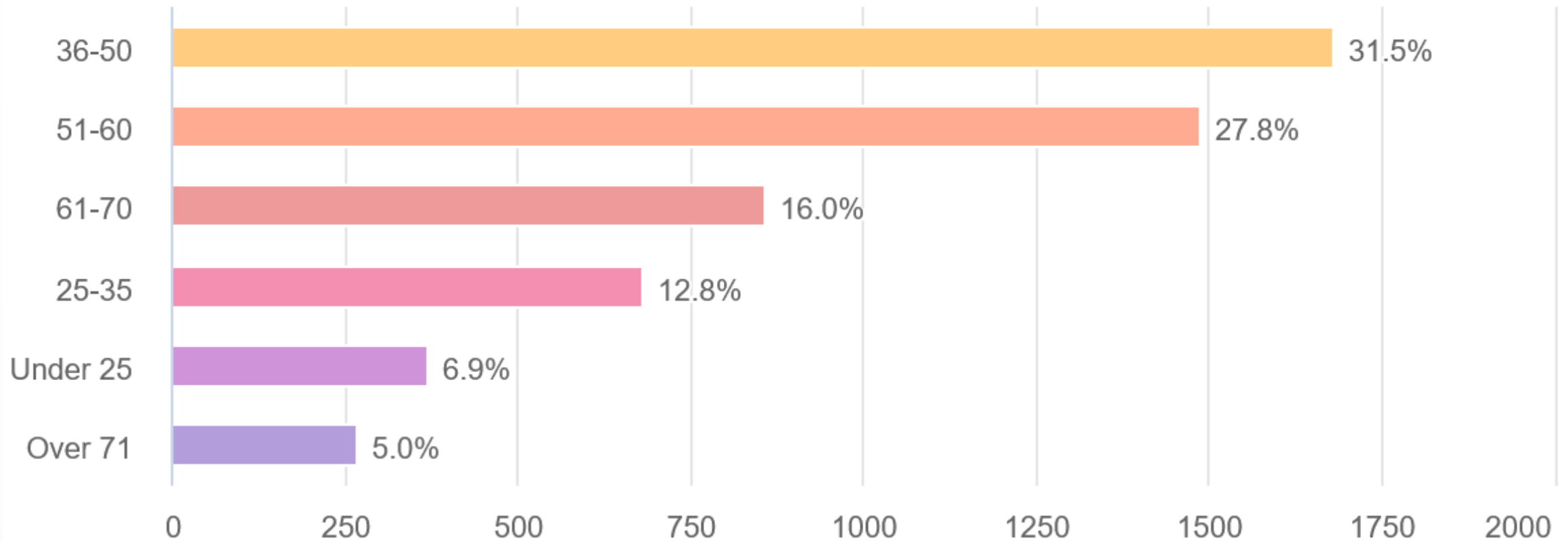
The following questions were asked in the survey. For questions 8 and 9, respondents has the choice of selecting an 'Other' option and listing additional answers to those suggested by the survey. These will be listed with the charts

1. What is your age?
2. What is your Gender?
3. Prior to 2020, how often did you attend air displays?
4. Where have you attended Air Displays?
5. Based on how you feel at the moment, when will you next attend an air display?
6. When Air Displays do get underway again, will you attend more events than usual/about the same number of events than usual/less events than usual?
7. If you do plan to visit Air Displays in the future, which type of events will you attend?
8. What concerns do you have about attending future Air Displays?
9. What additional precautions would you like to see at Air Displays?
10. When attending future air displays, how will you travel to the event?

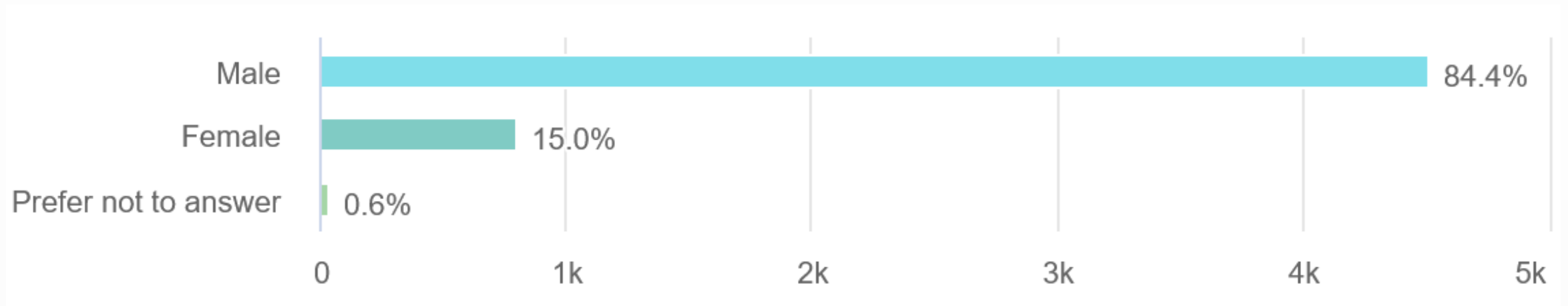
Survey Responses - General



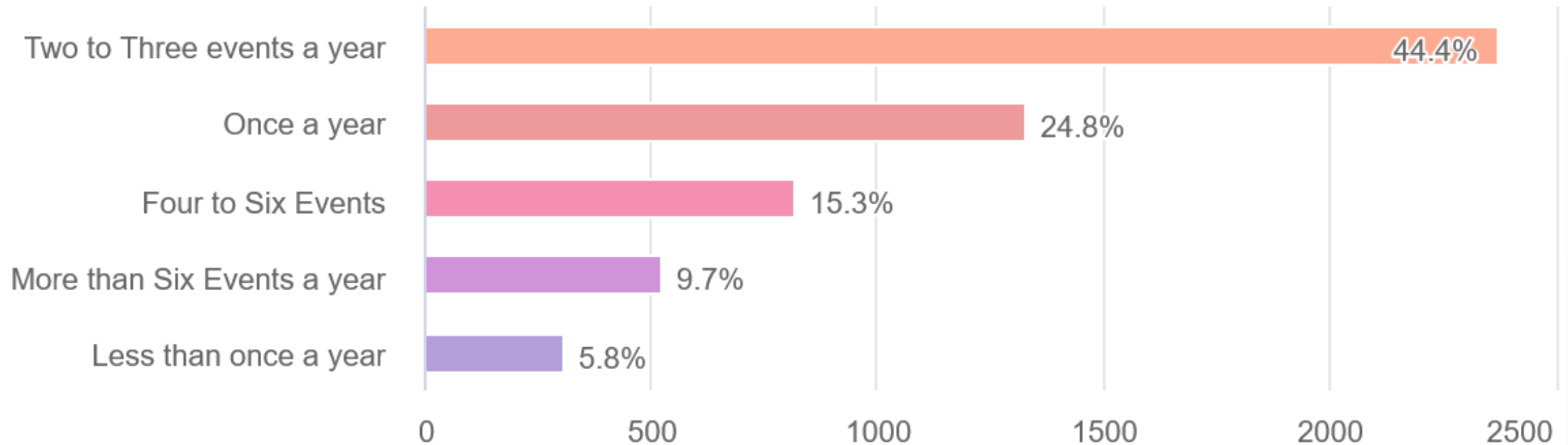
Q1: What is your age



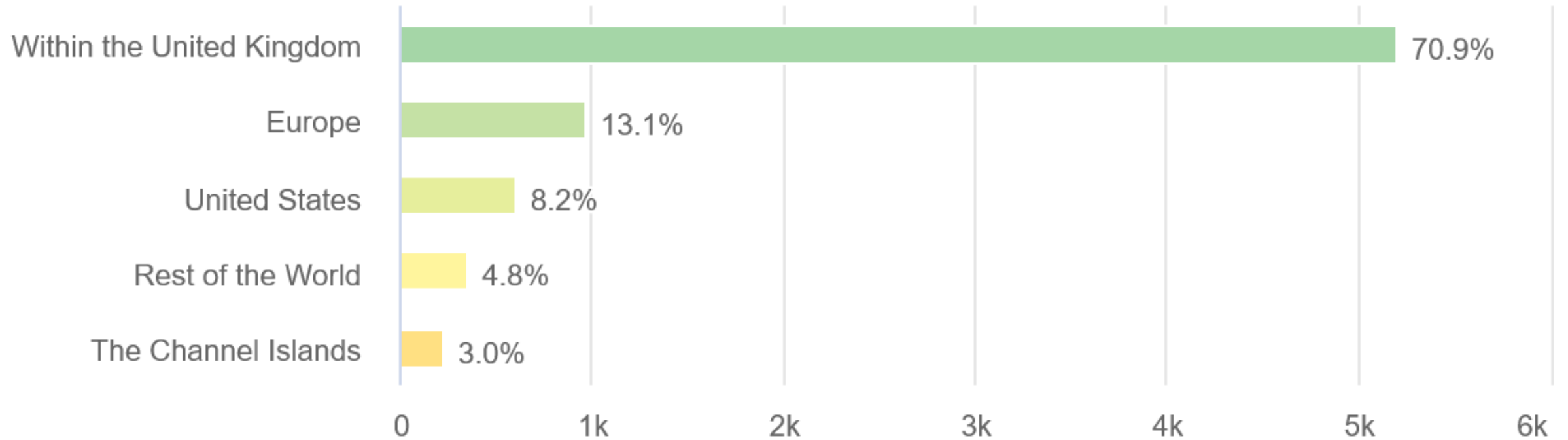
Q2: What is your gender?



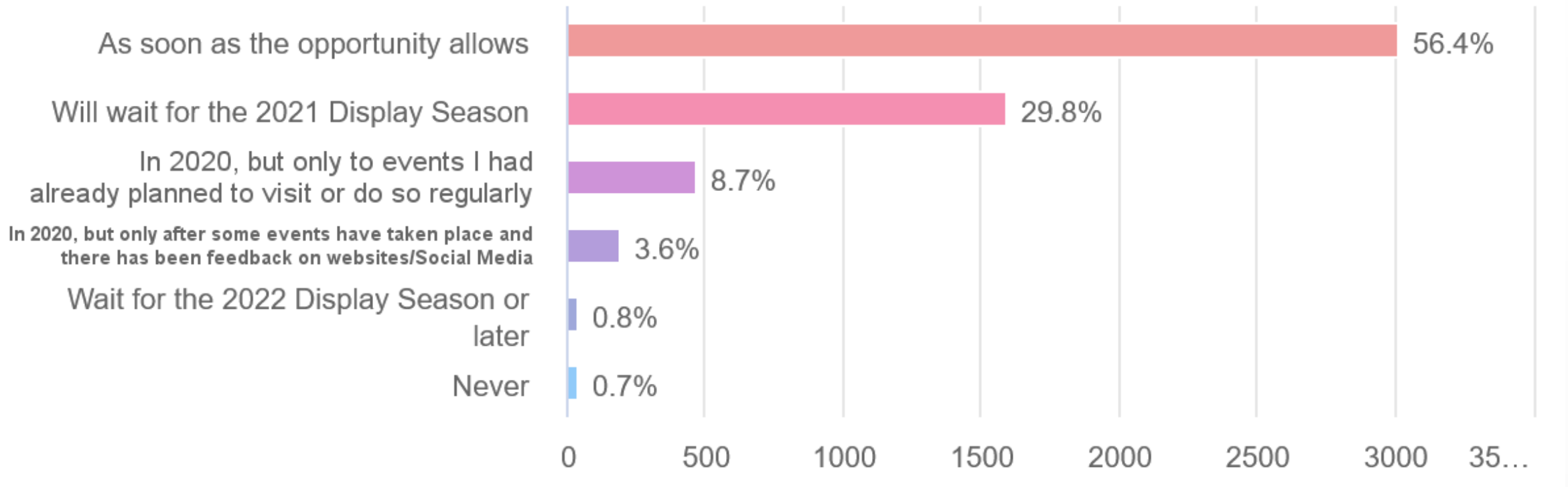
Q3: Prior to 2020, how often did you attend air displays?



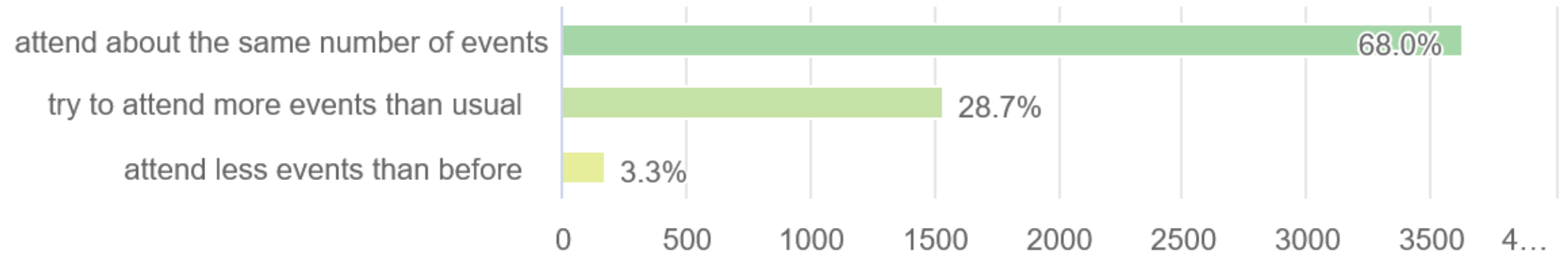
Q4: Where have you attended Air Displays?



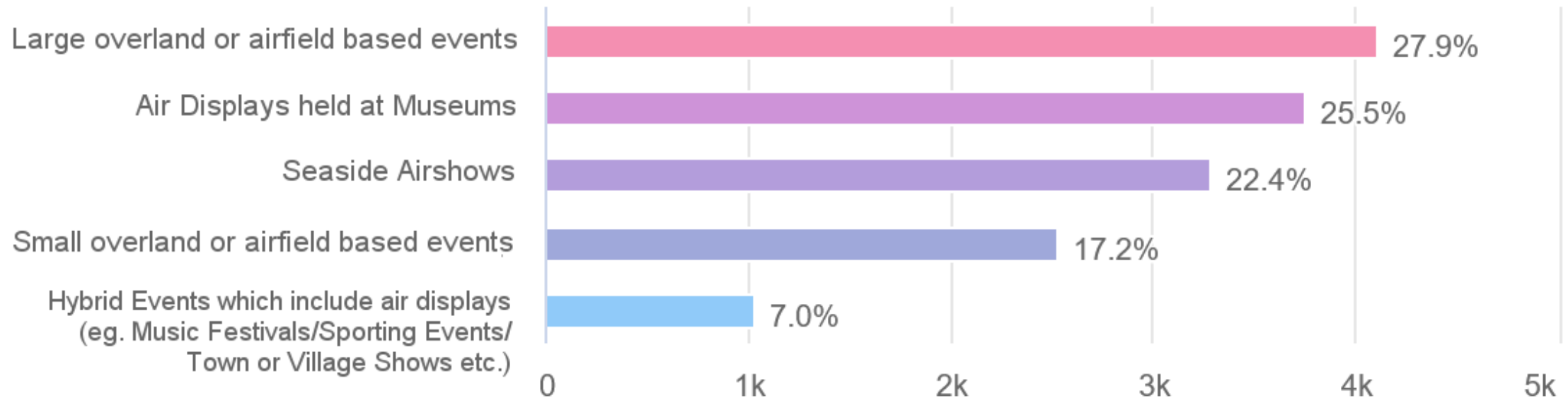
Q5: Based on how you feel at the moment, when will you next attend an air display?



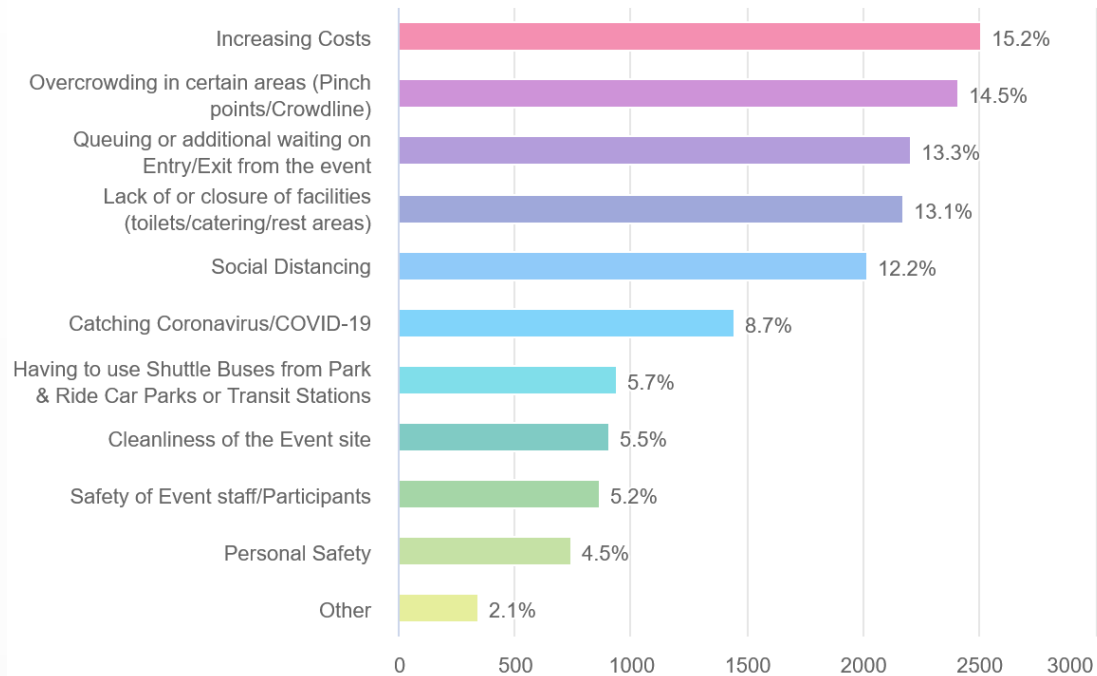
Q6: When Air Displays do get underway again, will you....



Q7: If you do plan to visit Air Displays in the future, which type of events will you attend?



Q8: What concerns do you have about attending future Air Displays?

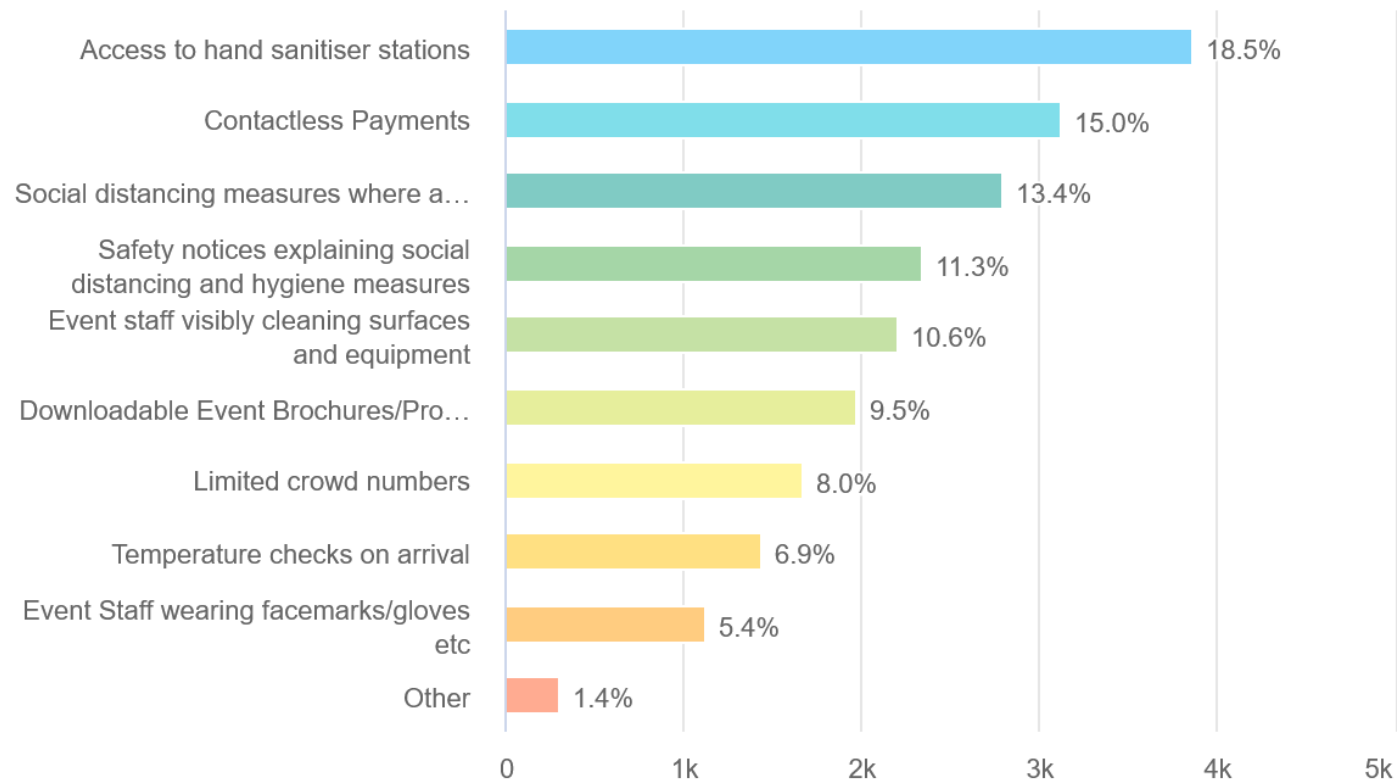


Other Responses

A large number of 'Other' Responses were received. Many were not related to concerns over COVID-19 and we have listed all the themes covered below. Those highlighted in bold received multiple responses

- **No Concerns**
- **Aircraft Participation (Loss of Military/Variety)**
- **Loss of/Lack of Disabled Access/Viewing Enclosures**
- **Display & Event Regulation/Pilot Currency/Safety**
- **Weather**
- **Public Behaviour/Attitude**
- **Ticket availability with reduced crowd numbers**
- **Loss of/Lack of On-site catering and Price**
- **Global Warming/Carbon Footprint**
- **Safety of family/children**
- **Lack of events in Local Area**
- Flights to event country
- Lack of/Loss of airshow campsites
- Lack of Public Transport
- 'My Age'
- Economic Fallout from Restrictions
- Too many hospitality enclosures
- Too commercialised
- Personal Space (Quantity of Tents/Windbreaks etc)
- Loss of events
- Protestors at events
- Contactless payments (do not have contactless debit/credit card)
- People not wearing Face Masks

Q9: What additional precautions would you like to see at Air Displays?

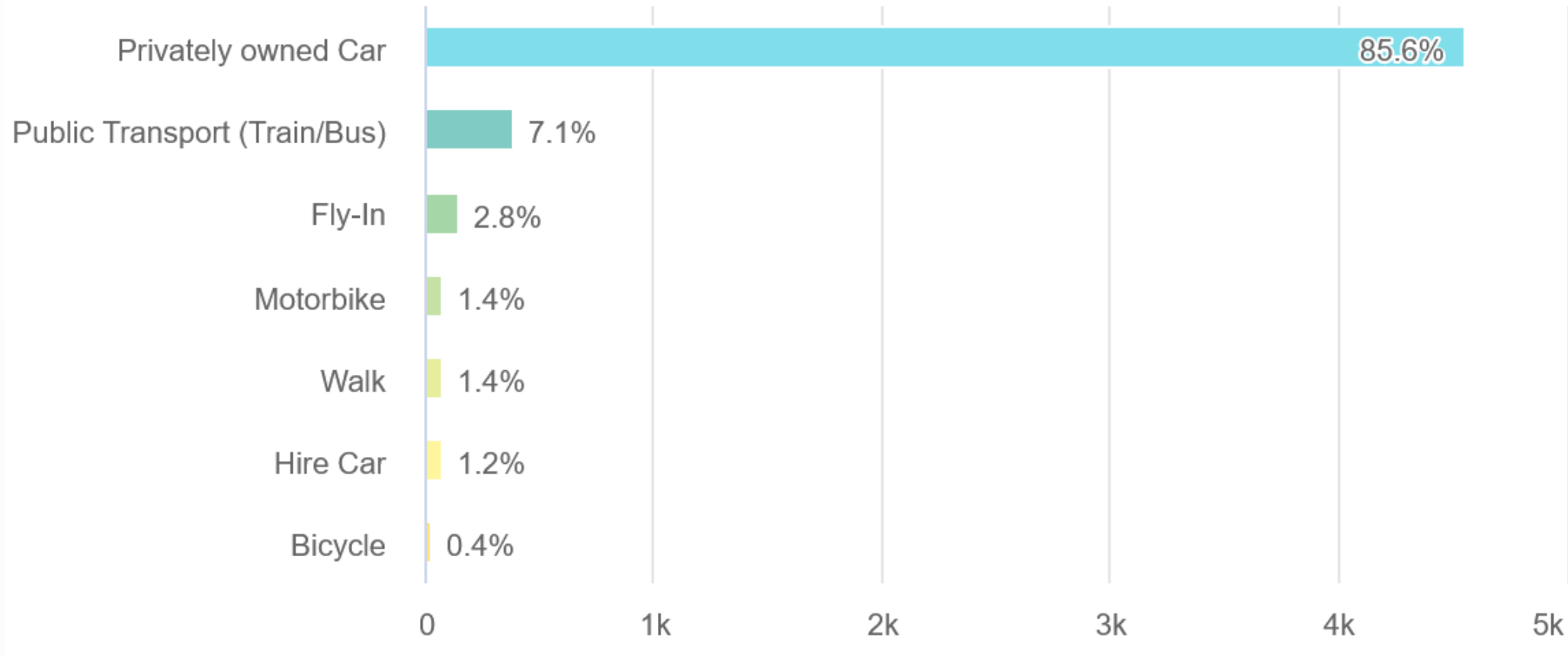


Other Responses

As with Q8, respondents had the ability to give 'other' responses. Answers with multiples responses are highlighted in bold

- **None**
- **Enforced distancing (Marked-out space/Staff etc)**
- **Face Masks mandatory and available on site**
- **More on-site toilet facilities**
- Drive-in Airshows
- Refunds for tickets holders who find themselves forced to self-isolate
- Free Drinking Water on site
- Larger event venues
- Precautions over the handling of cash
- Pre-ordering of souvenir brochures
- More hand washing areas with water (other than hand sanitiser stations)
- Restrict alcohol sales
- More entry points
- Increased medical facilities
- Entry for only those able to prove they are COVID clear

Q10: When attending future air displays, how will you travel to the event?

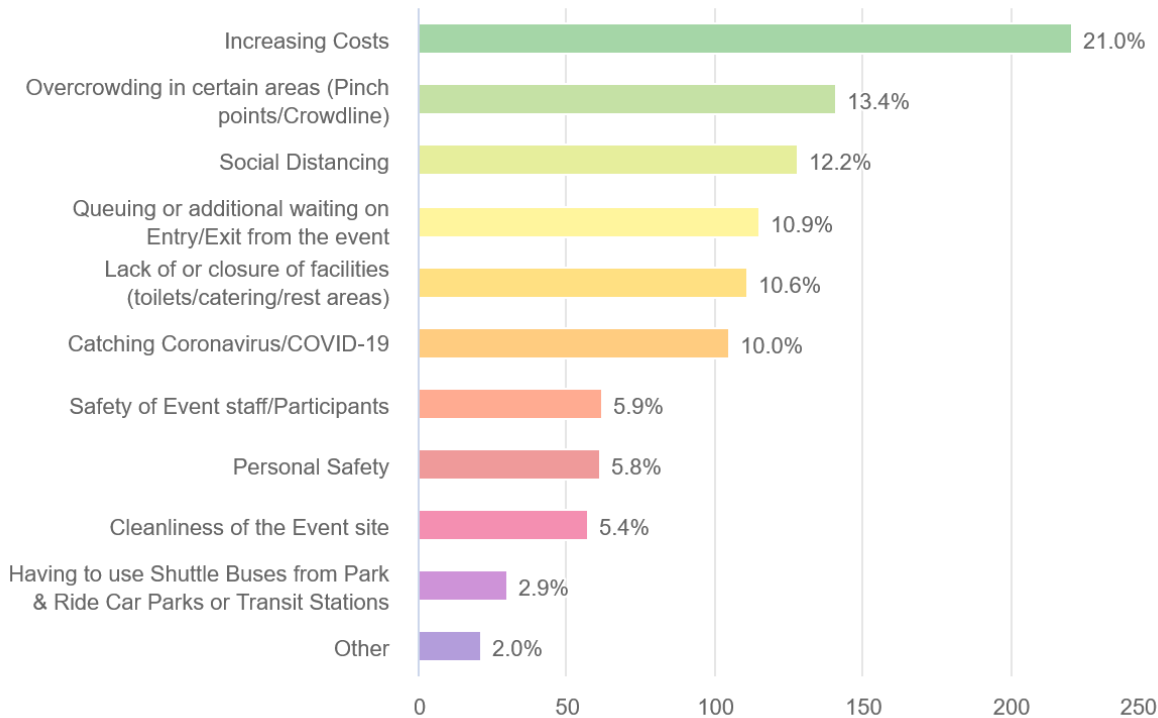


Public Concerns filtered by Age Group

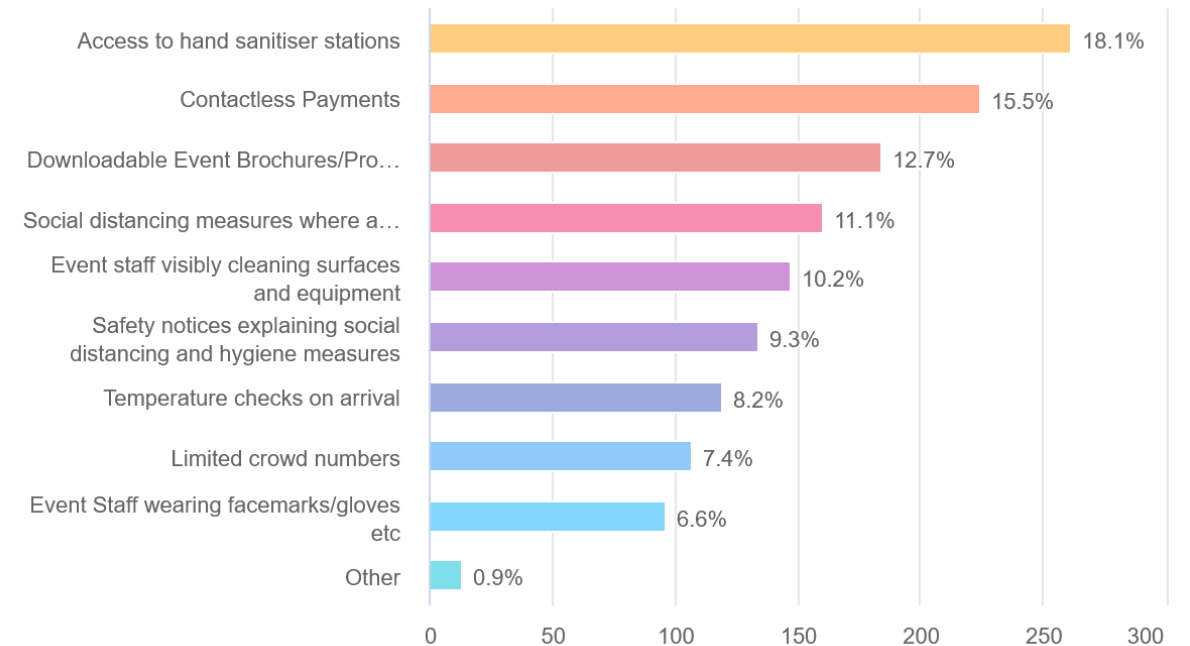


Under 25s

What concerns do you have about attending future Air Displays?
(Please tick all that apply)

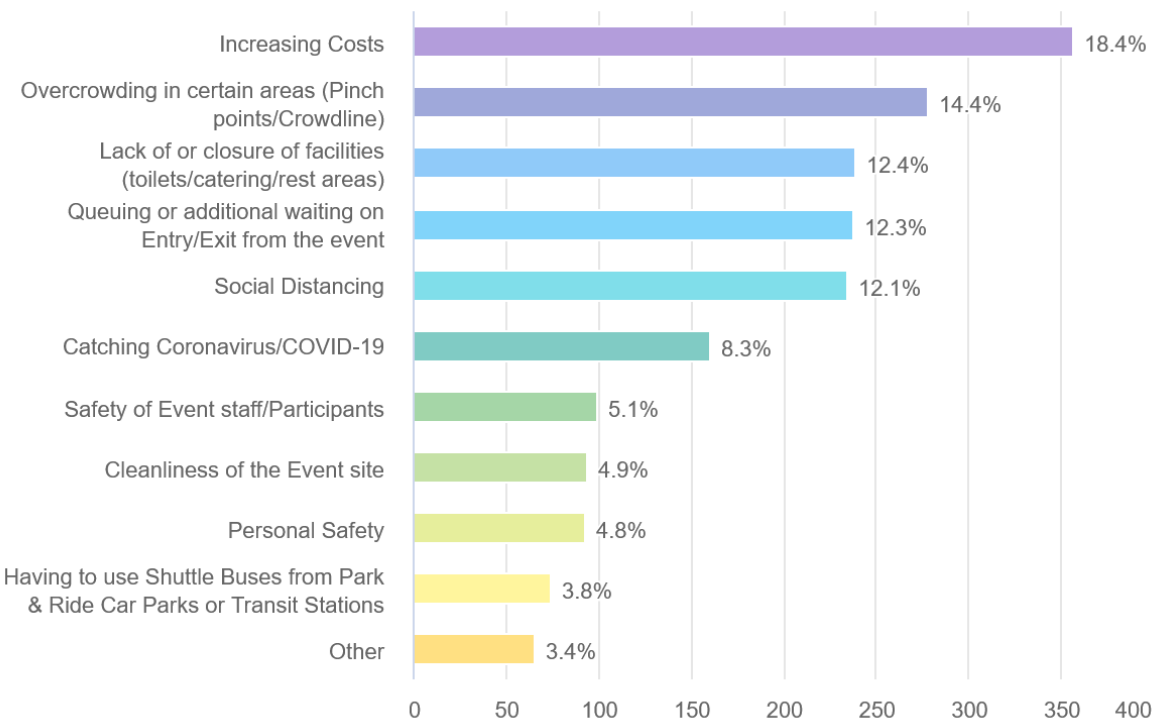


What additional precautions would you like to see at Air Displays?
(Please tick all that apply)

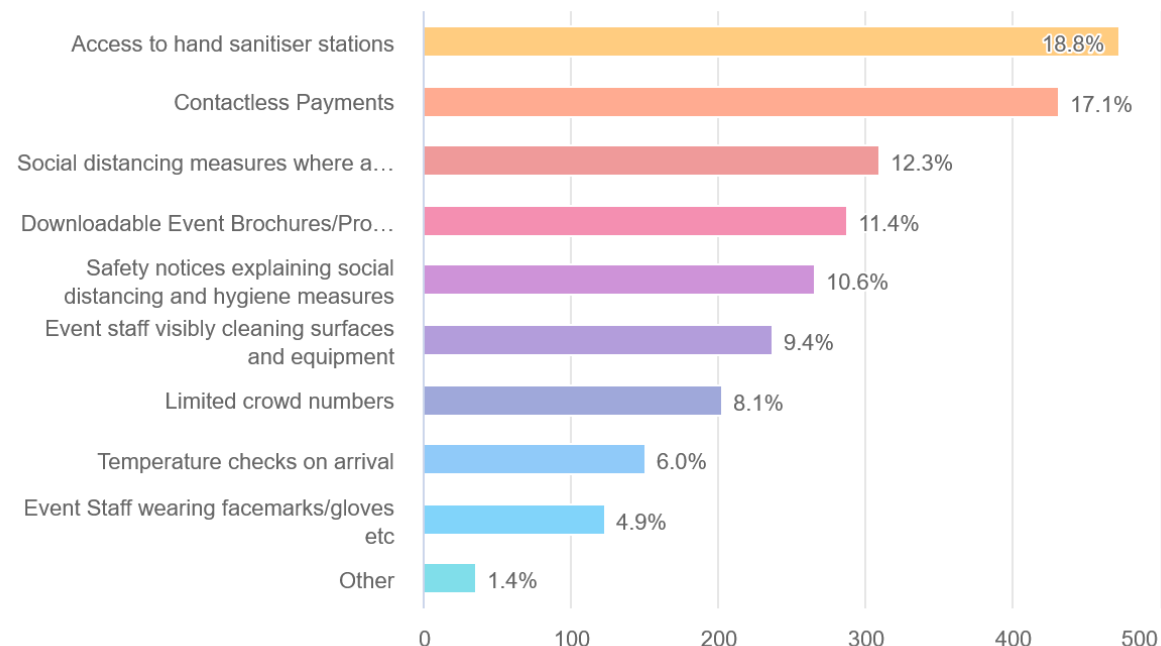


25 – 35 Years Old

What concerns do you have about attending future Air Displays?
(Please tick all that apply)

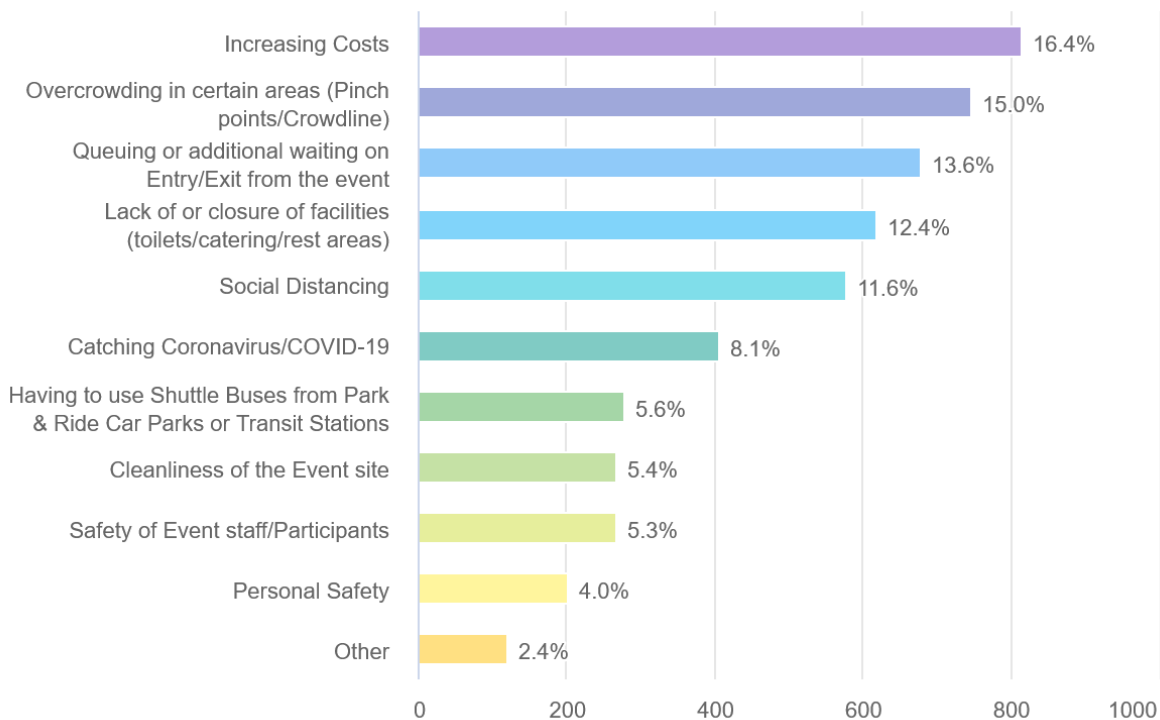


What additional precautions would you like to see at Air Displays?
(Please tick all that apply)

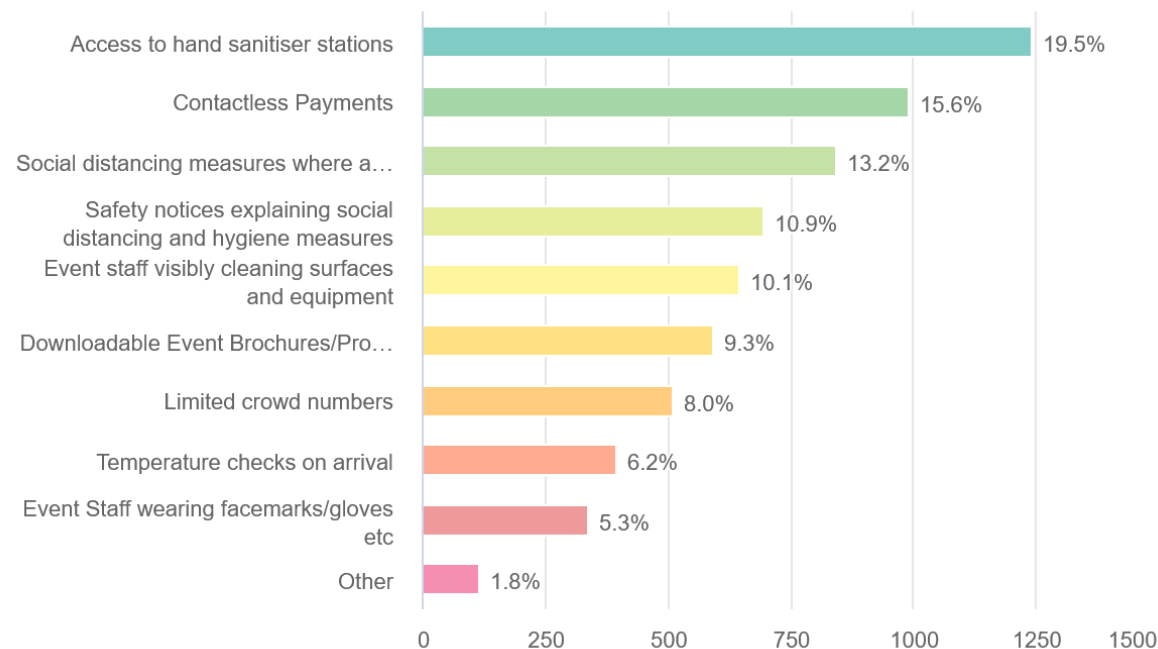


36 – 50 Years Old

What concerns do you have about attending future Air Displays?
(Please tick all that apply)

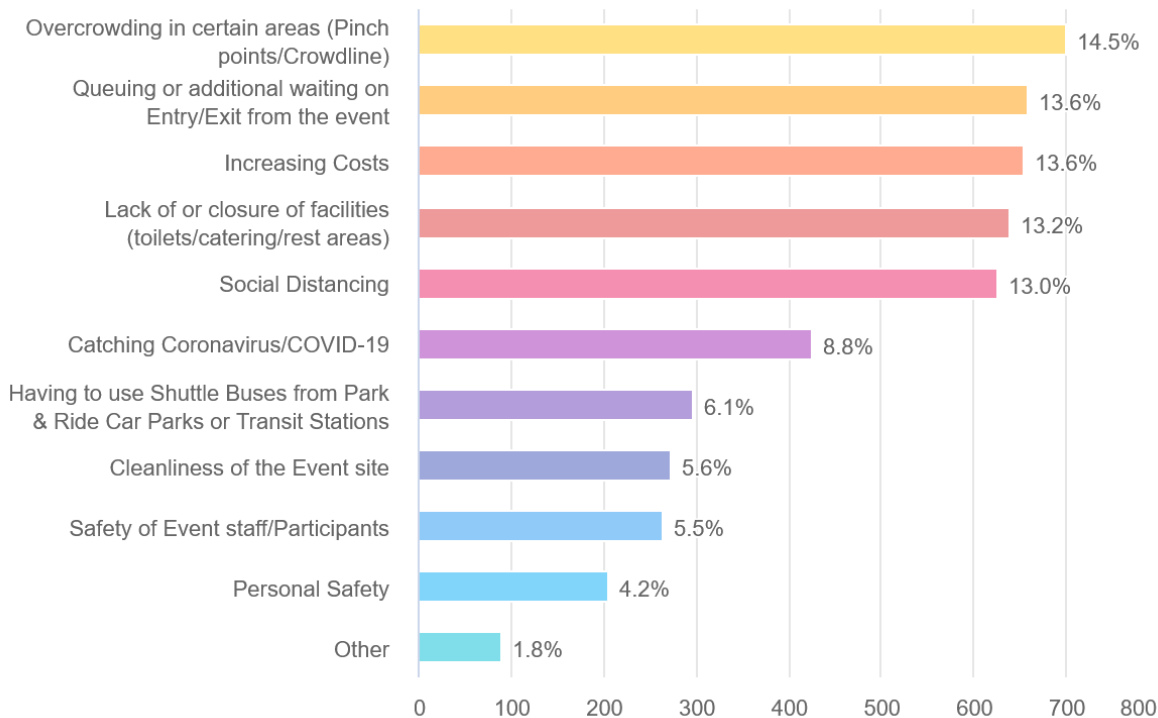


What additional precautions would you like to see at Air Displays?
(Please tick all that apply)

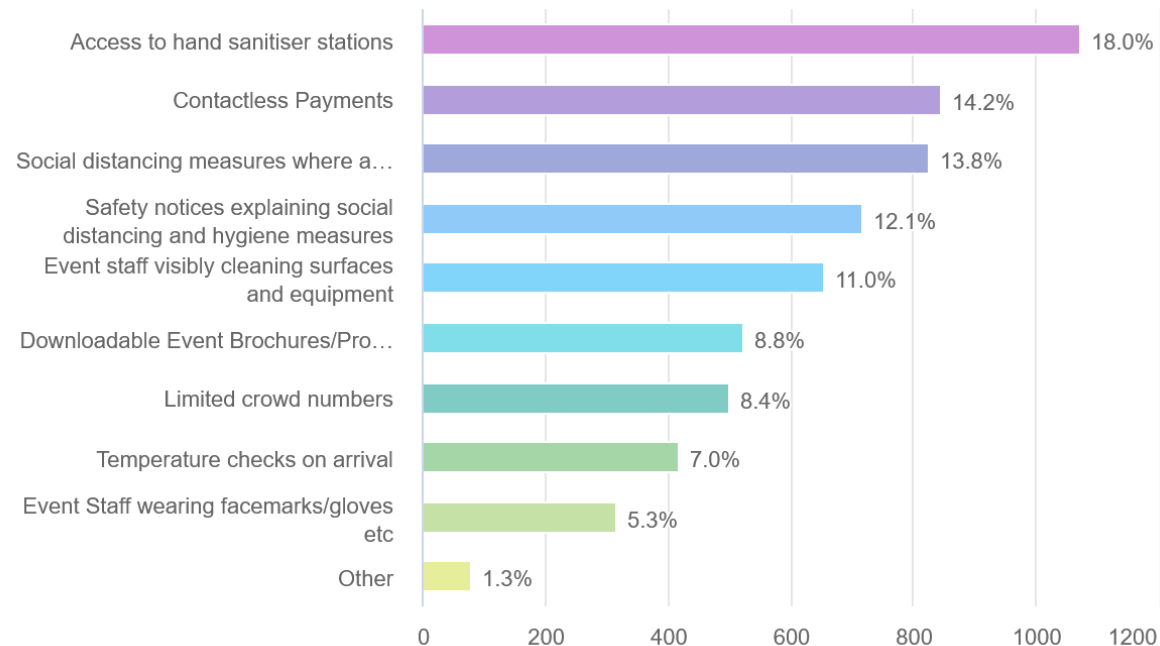


51 – 60 Years Old

What concerns do you have about attending future Air Displays?
(Please tick all that apply)

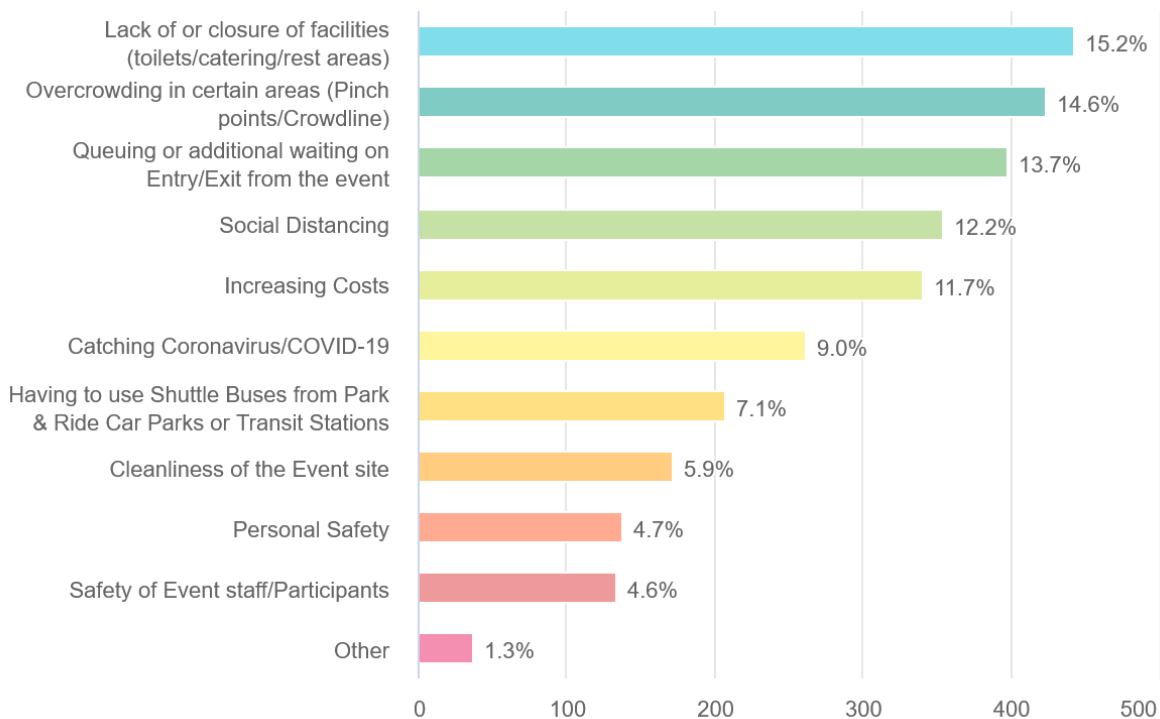


What additional precautions would you like to see at Air Displays?
(Please tick all that apply)

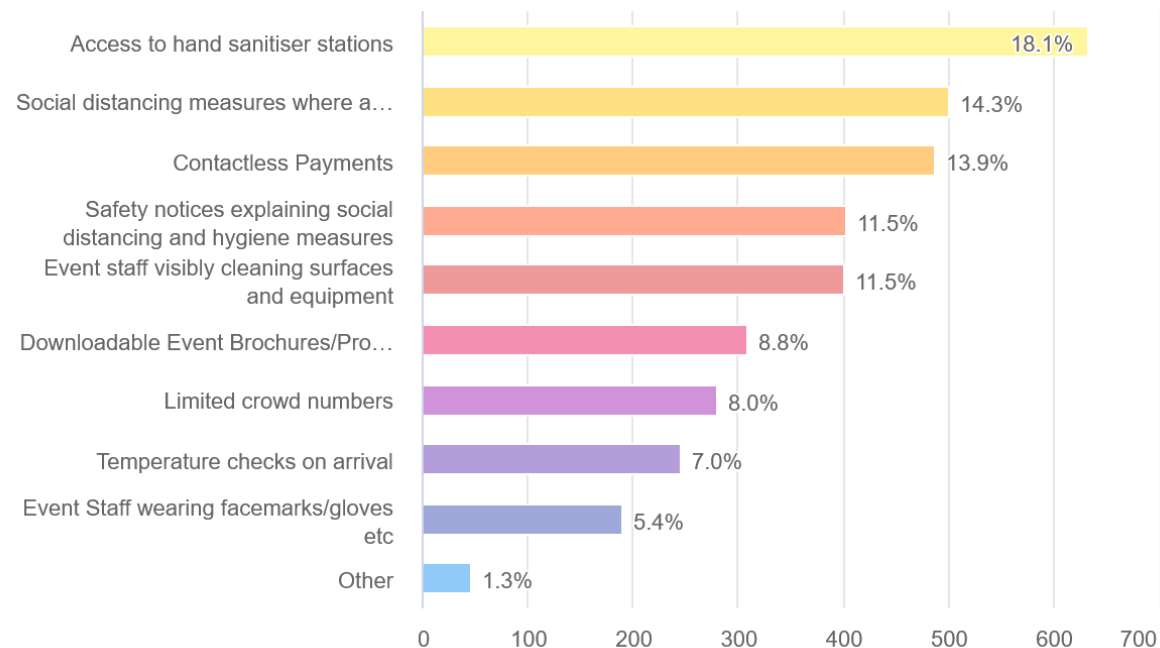


61 – 70 Years Old

What concerns do you have about attending future Air Displays?
(Please tick all that apply)

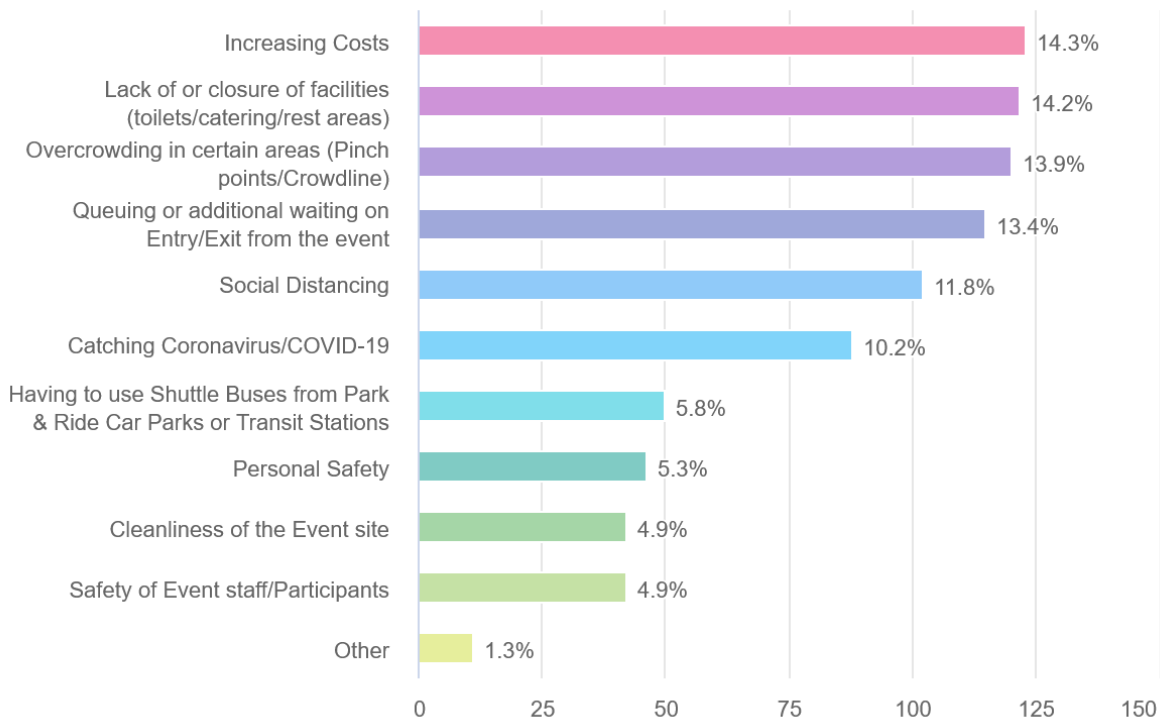


What additional precautions would you like to see at Air Displays?
(Please tick all that apply)

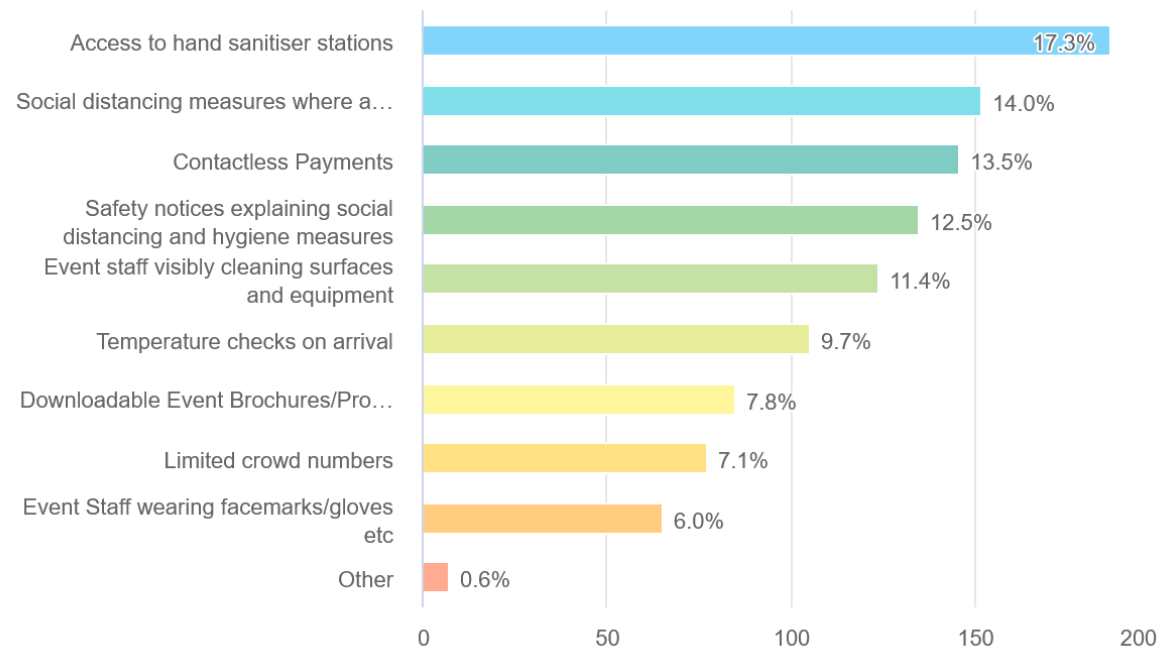


Over 71 Years Old

What concerns do you have about attending future Air Displays?
(Please tick all that apply)



What additional precautions would you like to see at Air Displays?
(Please tick all that apply)



Other Resources



Other resources

- **British Air Display Association COVID-19 Advice and Guidance** - <https://www.bada-uk.com/information-for-the-uk-air-display-industry-during-covid-19-outbreak/>
- **Visit Britain COVID-19 Consumer Sentiment Tracker** - <https://www.visitbritain.org/covid-19-consumer-sentiment-tracker>
- **BVA-BDRC Tracking consumer sentiment on the impact of COVID-19** - <https://www.bva-bdrc.com/products/tracking-consumer-sentiment-on-the-impact-of-covid-19/>



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