

DESOTO COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

# BI-ANNUAL PUBLIC SAFETY SURVEY

## Executive Summary

Between January 2nd and January 5th, 2025, more than 300 adult residents of DeSoto County, aged 18 or older, from all 10 zip codes in the county, participated in an 18-question Public Safety Survey. This survey, conducted via telephone and email, was designed to assess three major areas: Public Safety, Job Approval and Performance, and Demographics.

### Part I: Public Safety Perceptions

In this section, we sought feedback from the public on several key aspects related to public safety in DeSoto County. Citizens were asked to indicate whether they strongly agreed or strongly disagreed with various statements. This methodology allowed for a more nuanced analysis of how the public views and perceives public safety in the county.

### Part II: Key Public Safety Issues

In this section, we focused on identifying the most pressing public safety concerns in DeSoto County. Respondents provided open-ended feedback on what they believed were the primary safety issues affecting the community.

### Part III: Demographic Information

Here, we collected demographic data from participants to ensure that we received a representative sample of DeSoto County residents. This section helps contextualize the findings based on the diversity of the population.

The subsequent sections provide detailed insights into each of the survey's components, and the Appendix at the end contains raw data. Below is a summary of the most important takeaways from the survey.

## Summary of Key Findings

### 1. District Attorney's Office Performance

- A significant 77.6% of respondents believe the District Attorney's Office is doing a good or excellent job.
- The office is seen as above average when it comes to transparency, with a clear majority supporting this view.

### 2. Overall Sense of Safety

- A large percentage of respondents (69.75%) report feeling safe overall in DeSoto County.
- In an open-ended question asking about the most pressing public safety issue, the dominant response was the spillover of crime from neighboring Memphis. Additionally, rapid growth and crime from Shelby County were also cited as significant concerns in an additional open-ended question.

### 3. Concerns About Victimization

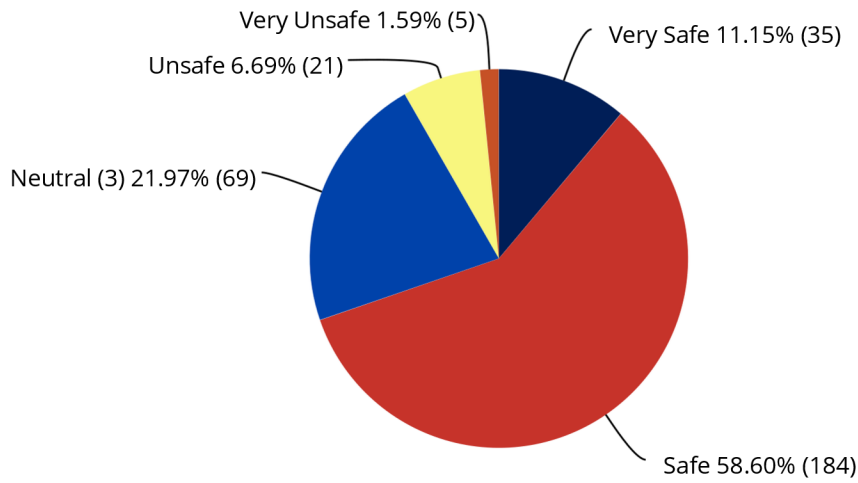
- Respondents were asked about their level of concern regarding becoming a victim of crime in various scenarios. The most notable finding was that 71.89% of residents expressed concern about becoming a victim at a shopping center, mall, or department store in DeSoto County.

### 4. Law Enforcement Performance

- An overwhelming 82.63% of respondents rated the overall performance of law enforcement agencies in DeSoto County as good or excellent.
- When asked about priorities for public safety, respondents strongly favored increasing police presence and believed additional funding would be necessary to achieve this goal.

# Q1 How would you rate your overall sense of safety in DeSoto County?

Answered: 314 Skipped: 0

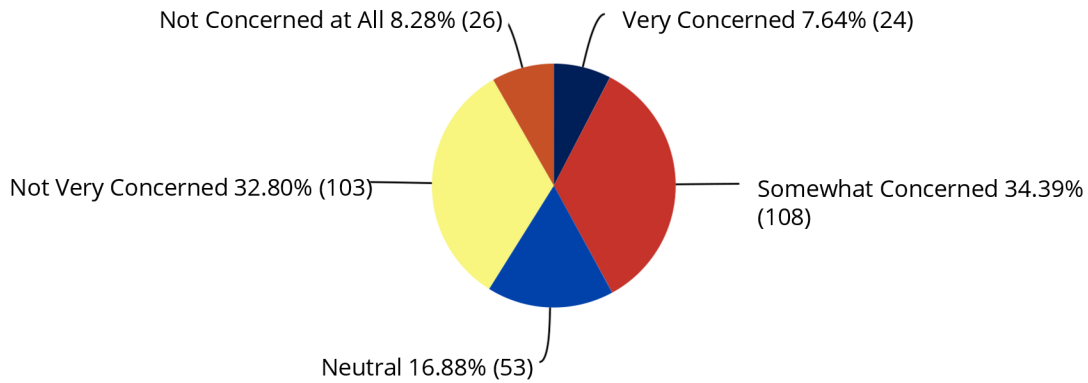


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very Safe (1)	11.15%	35
Safe (2)	58.60%	184
Neutral (3)	21.97%	69
Unsafe (4)	6.69%	21
Very Unsafe (5)	1.59%	5
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>314</b>

BASIC STATISTICS				
Minimum	Maximum	Median	Mean	Standard Deviation
1.00	5.00	2.00	2.29	0.81

## Q2 How much of a worry or concern is becoming a victim of a crime while in your residence or neighborhood?

Answered: 314 Skipped: 0

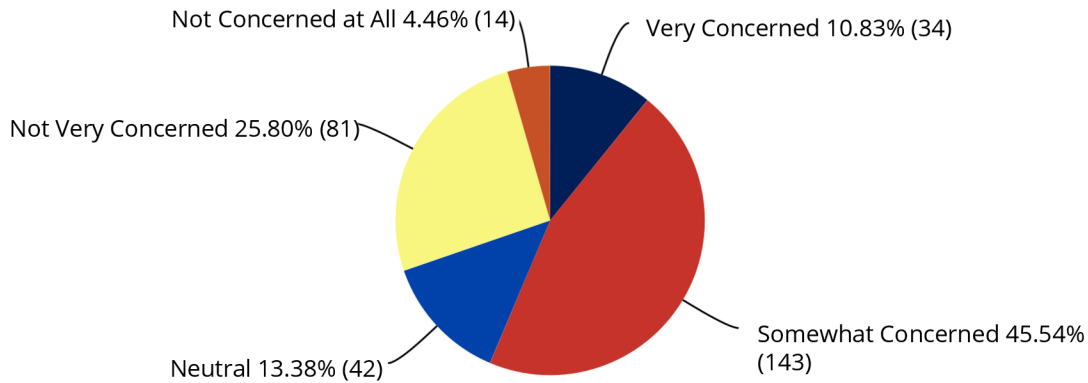


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very Concerned (1)	7.64%	24
Somewhat Concerned (2)	34.39%	108
Neutral (3)	16.88%	53
Not Very Concerned (4)	32.80%	103
Not Concerned at All (5)	8.28%	26
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>314</b>

BASIC STATISTICS				
Minimum	Maximum	Median	Mean	Standard Deviation
1.00	5.00	3.00	3.00	1.14

### Q3 How much of a worry or concern is being a victim of a crime while traveling or stopped along a DeSoto County roadway?

Answered: 314 Skipped: 0

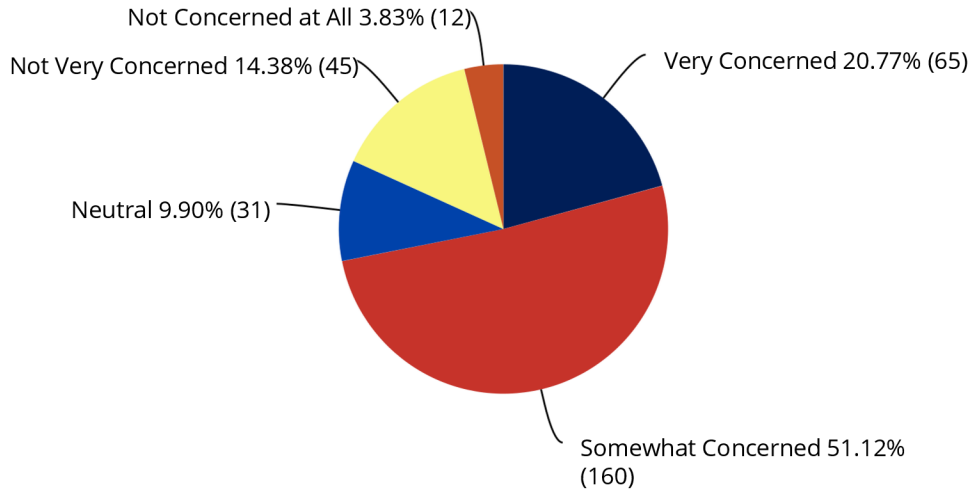


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very Concerned (1)	10.83%	34
Somewhat Concerned (2)	45.54%	143
Neutral (3)	13.38%	42
Not Very Concerned (4)	25.80%	81
Not Concerned at All (5)	4.46%	14
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>314</b>

BASIC STATISTICS				
Minimum	Maximum	Median	Mean	Standard Deviation
1.00	5.00	2.00	2.68	1.10

# Q4 How much of a worry or concern is being a victim of a crime at a shopping center, mall, or department store in DeSoto County?

Answered: 313 Skipped: 1

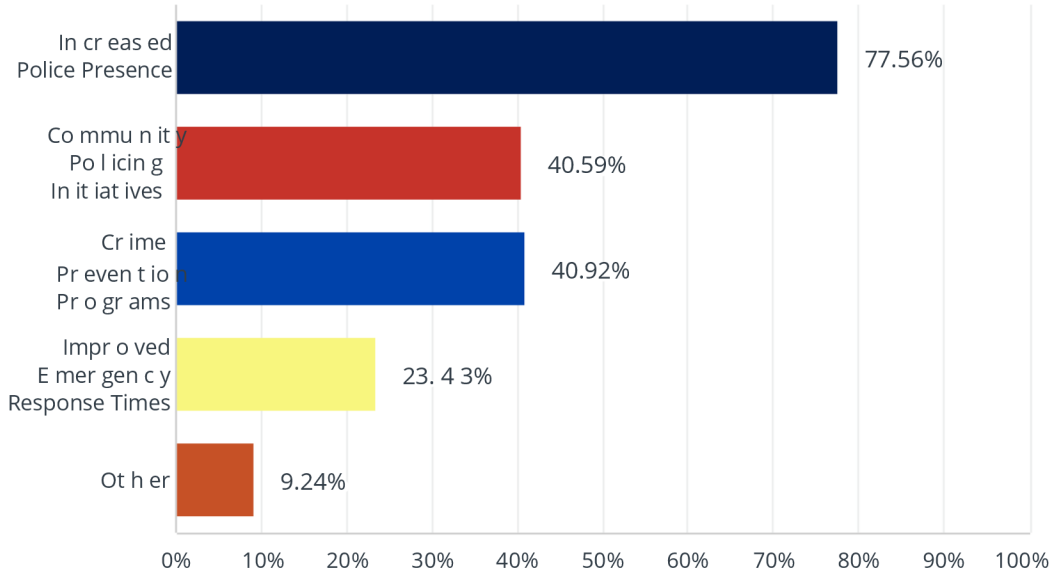


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very Concerned (1)	20.77%	65
Somewhat Concerned (2)	51.12%	160
Neutral (3)	9.90%	31
Not Very Concerned (4)	14.38%	45
Not Concerned at All (5)	3.83%	12
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>313</b>

BASIC STATISTICS				
Minimum	Maximum	Median	Mean	Standard Deviation
1.00	5.00	2.00	2.29	1.07

# Q6 Which of the following public safety measures do you believe should be prioritized? Select all that apply

Answered: 303 Skipped: 11

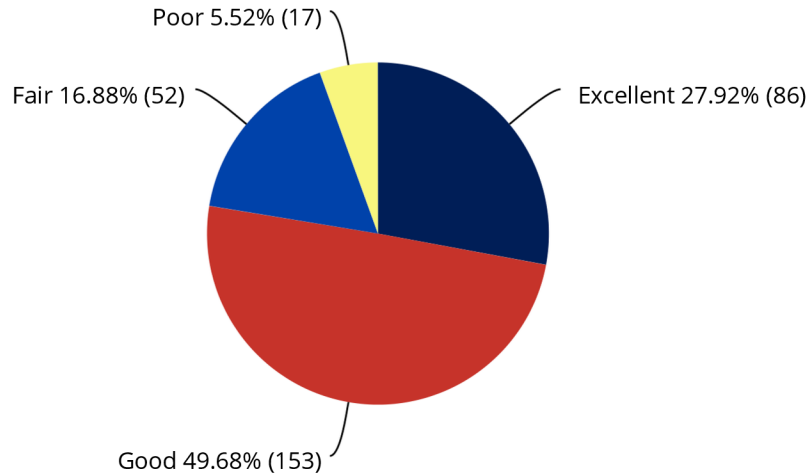


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Increased Police Presence (1)	77.56%	235
Community Policing Initiatives (2)	40.59%	123
Crime Prevention Programs (3)	40.92%	124
Improved Emergency Response Times (4)	23.43%	71
Other (5)	9.24%	28
Total Respondents: 303		

BASIC STATISTICS				
Minimum	Maximum	Median	Mean	Standard Deviation
1.00	5.00	2.00	2.20	1.23

## Q8 Do you think the District Attorney's Office is doing an excellent, good, fair, or poor job in DeSoto County?

Answered: 308 Skipped: 6



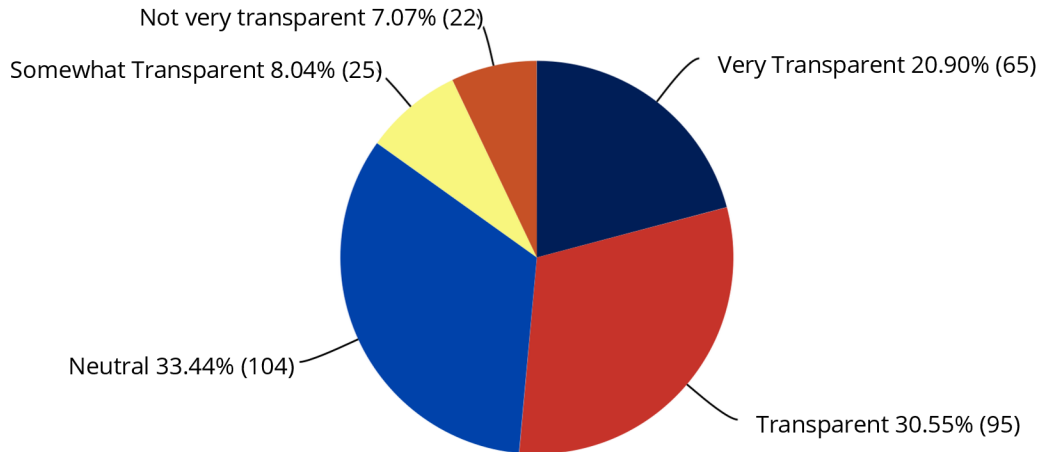
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Excellent (1)	27.92%	86
Good (2)	49.68%	153
Fair (3)	16.88%	52
Poor (4)	5.52%	17
TOTAL		308

BASIC STATISTICS				
Minimum	Maximum	Median	Mean	Standard Deviation
1.00	4.00	2.00	2.00	0.82



# Q9 How would you rate the overall transparency of the District Attorney's Office in DeSoto County?

Answered: 311 Skipped: 3

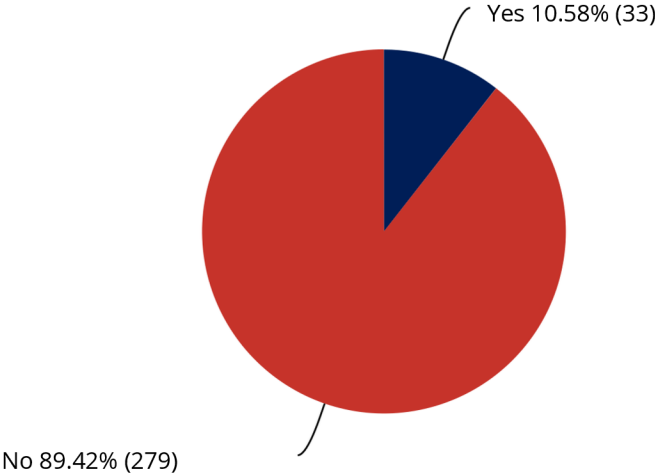


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very Transparent (1)	20.90%	65
Transparent (2)	30.55%	95
Neutral (3)	33.44%	104
Somewhat Transparent (4)	8.04%	25
Not very transparent (5)	7.07%	22
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>311</b>

BASIC STATISTICS				
Minimum	Maximum	Median	Mean	Standard Deviation
1.00	5.00	2.00	2.50	1.12

# Q10 Have you had direct contact with the DeSoto County District Attorney's Office within the past three years?

Answered: 312 Skipped: 2

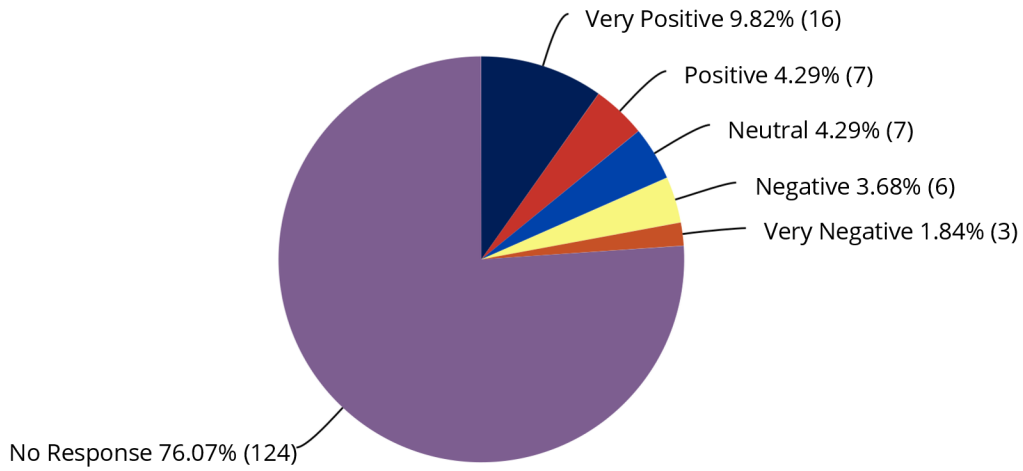


ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Yes (1)		10.58%	33
No (2)		89.42%	279
TOTAL			312

BASIC STATISTICS				
Minimum	Maximum	Median	Mean	Standard Deviation
1.00	2.00	2.00	1.89	0.31

# Q11 If Yes, how would you describe your experience?

Answered: 163 Skipped: 151

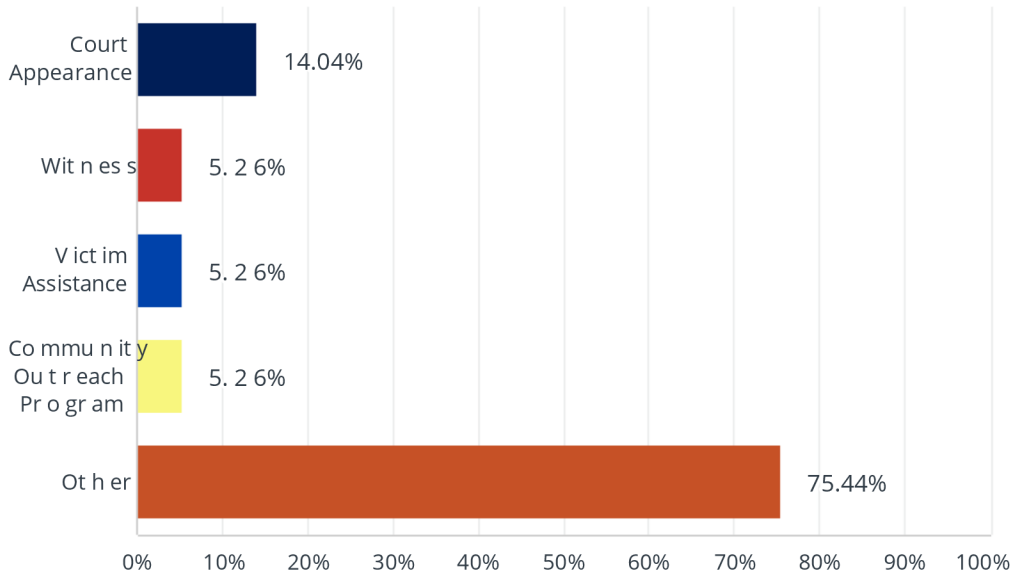


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very Positive (1)	9.82%	16
Positive (2)	4.29%	7
Neutral (3)	4.29%	7
Negative (4)	3.68%	6
Very Negative (5)	1.84%	3
No Response (6)	76.07%	124
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>163</b>

BASIC STATISTICS				
Minimum	Maximum	Median	Mean	Standard Deviation
1.00	6.00	6.00	5.12	1.71

# Q12 If Yes, what type of contact was it? Select all that apply

Answered: 57 Skipped: 257

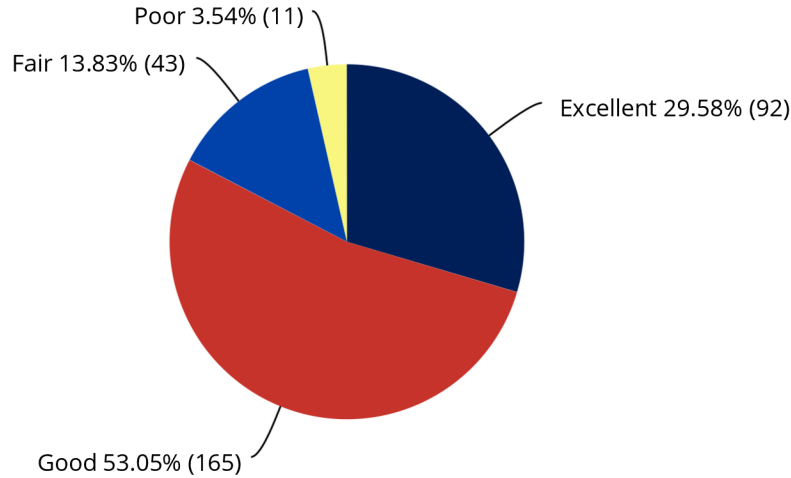


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Court Appearance (1)	14.04%	8
Witness (2)	5.26%	3
Victim Assistance (3)	5.26%	3
Community Outreach Program (4)	5.26%	3
Other (5)	75.44%	43
Total Respondents: 57		

BASIC STATISTICS				
Minimum	Maximum	Median	Mean	Standard Deviation
1.00	5.00	5.00	4.17	1.46

# Q13 How would you rate the overall performance of law enforcement agencies in DeSoto County?

Answered: 311 Skipped: 3

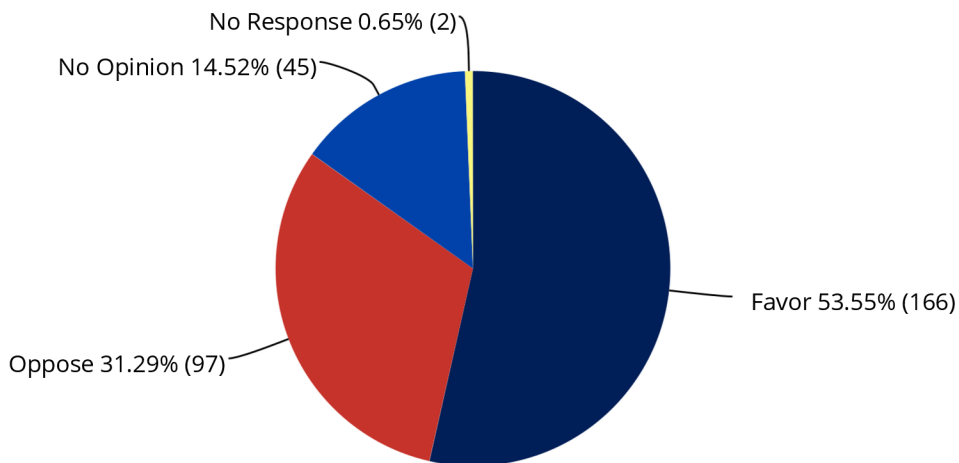


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Excellent (1)	29.58%	92
Good (2)	53.05%	165
Fair (3)	13.83%	43
Poor (4)	3.54%	11
TOTAL		311

BASIC STATISTICS				
Minimum	Maximum	Median	Mean	Standard Deviation
1.00	4.00	2.00	1.91	0.75

Q14 Mississippi law limits the use of radar speed detection equipment to certain law enforcement agencies, including the Mississippi Highway Patrol, city police departments, but not the Sheriff's Department. Would you favor or oppose allowing sheriffs and their deputies to use radar on public streets, roads, and highways outside of incorporated municipalities?

Answered: 310 Skipped: 4

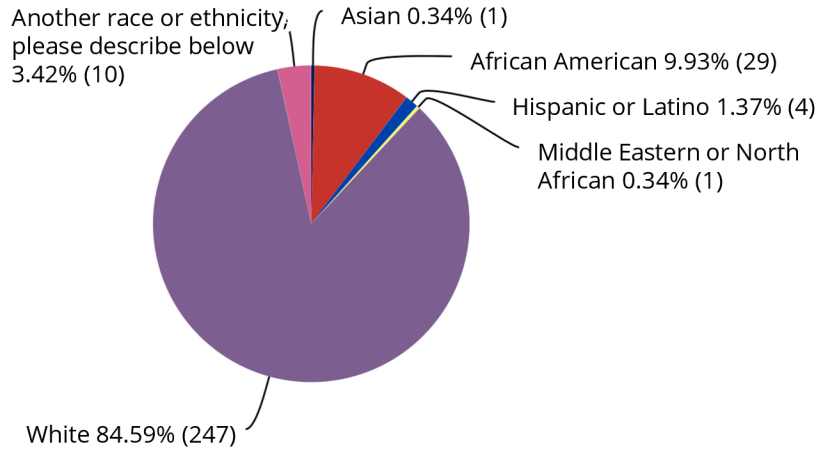


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Favor (1)	53.55%	166
Oppose (2)	31.29%	97
No Opinion (3)	14.52%	45
No Response (4)	0.65%	2
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>310</b>

BASIC STATISTICS				
Minimum	Maximum	Median	Mean	Standard Deviation
1.00	4.00	1.00	1.62	0.75

# Q15 What is your race or ethnicity?

Answered: 292 Skipped: 22

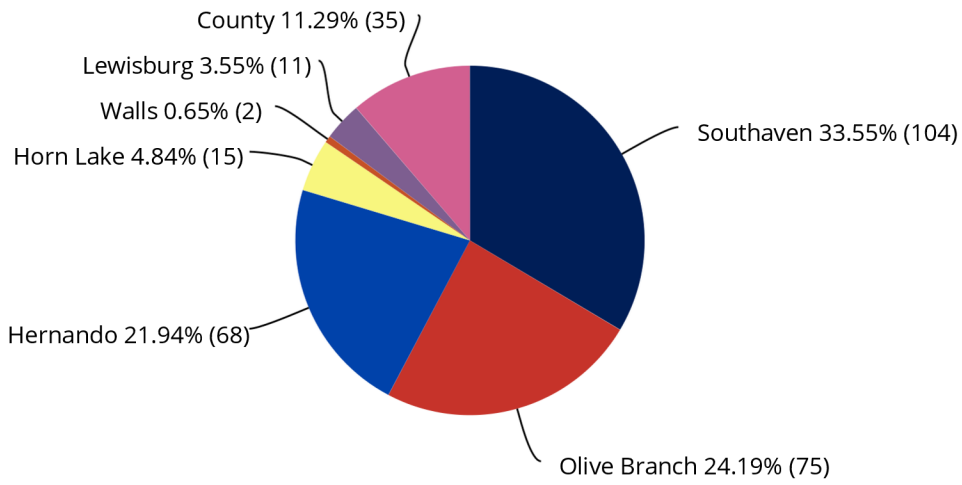


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Asian (1)	0.34%	1
African American (2)	9.93%	29
Hispanic or Latino (3)	1.37%	4
Middle Eastern or North African (4)	0.34%	1
Native American or Alaska Native (5)	0.00%	0
White (6)	84.59%	247
Another race or ethnicity, please describe below (7)	3.42%	10
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>292</b>

BASIC STATISTICS				
Minimum	Maximum	Median	Mean	Standard Deviation
1.00	7.00	6.00	5.57	1.29

# Q16 What area of DeSoto county do you live in?

Answered: 310 Skipped: 4



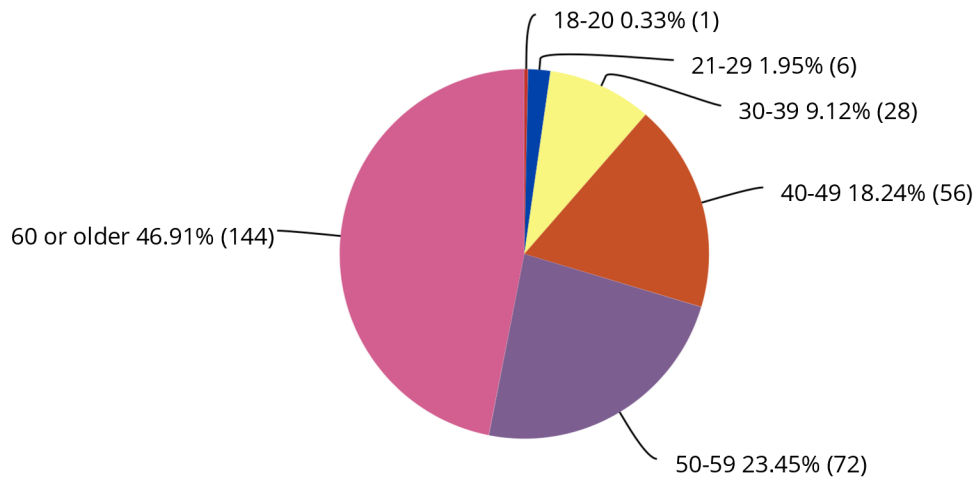
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Southaven (1)	33.55%	104
Olive Branch (2)	24.19%	75
Hernando (3)	21.94%	68
Horn Lake (4)	4.84%	15
Walls (5)	0.65%	2
Lewisburg (6)	3.55%	11
County (7)	11.29%	35
TOTAL		310

BASIC STATISTICS				
Minimum	Maximum	Median	Mean	Standard Deviation
1.00	7.00	2.00	2.71	1.92



# Q17 What is your age?

Answered: 307 Skipped: 7

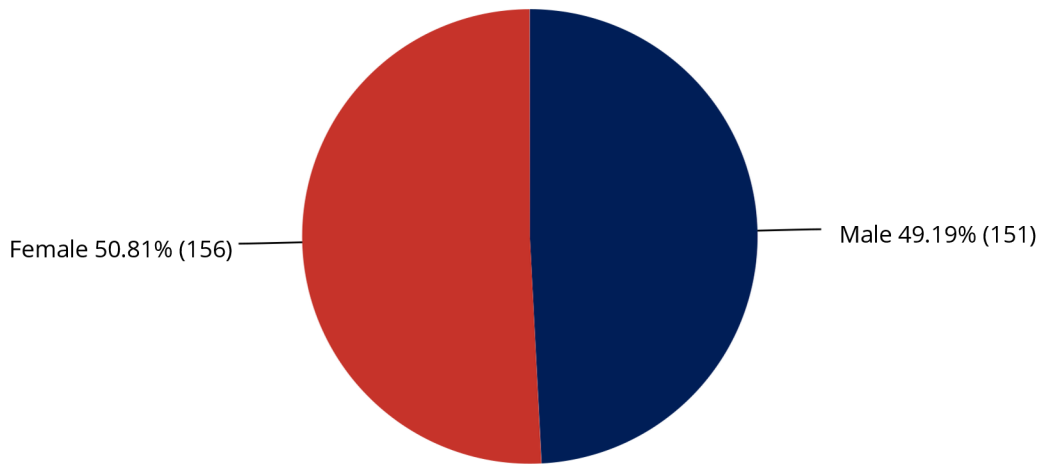


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
17 or younger (1)	0.00%	0
18-20 (2)	0.33%	1
21-29 (3)	1.95%	6
30-39 (4)	9.12%	28
40-49 (5)	18.24%	56
50-59 (6)	23.45%	72
60 or older (7)	46.91%	144
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>307</b>

BASIC STATISTICS				
Minimum	Maximum	Median	Mean	Standard Deviation
2.00	7.00	6.00	6.03	1.12

# Q18 What is your sex?

Answered: 307 Skipped: 7



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Male (1)		49.19%	15
Female (2)		50.81%	1
TOTAL			15

BASIC STATISTICS					6
Minimum	Maximum	Median	Mean	Standard Deviation	30
1.00	2.00	2.00	1.51	0.50	7