

Public Awareness and Opinion Blue Green Algae

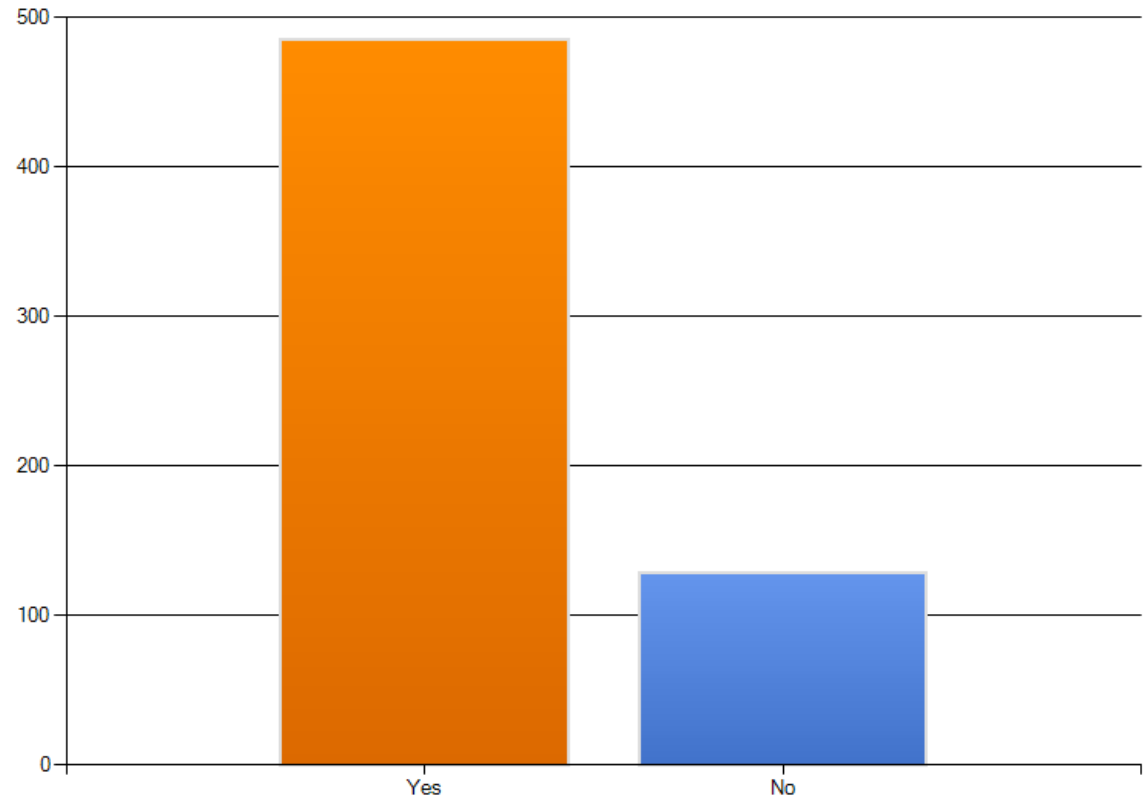


SURVEY MONKEY
FIELD DATES: MARCH 30 - APRIL 1
SAMPLE SIZE = 615



AWARENESS: BLUE-GREEN ALGAE

Have you seen, read or heard anything about blue-green algae?

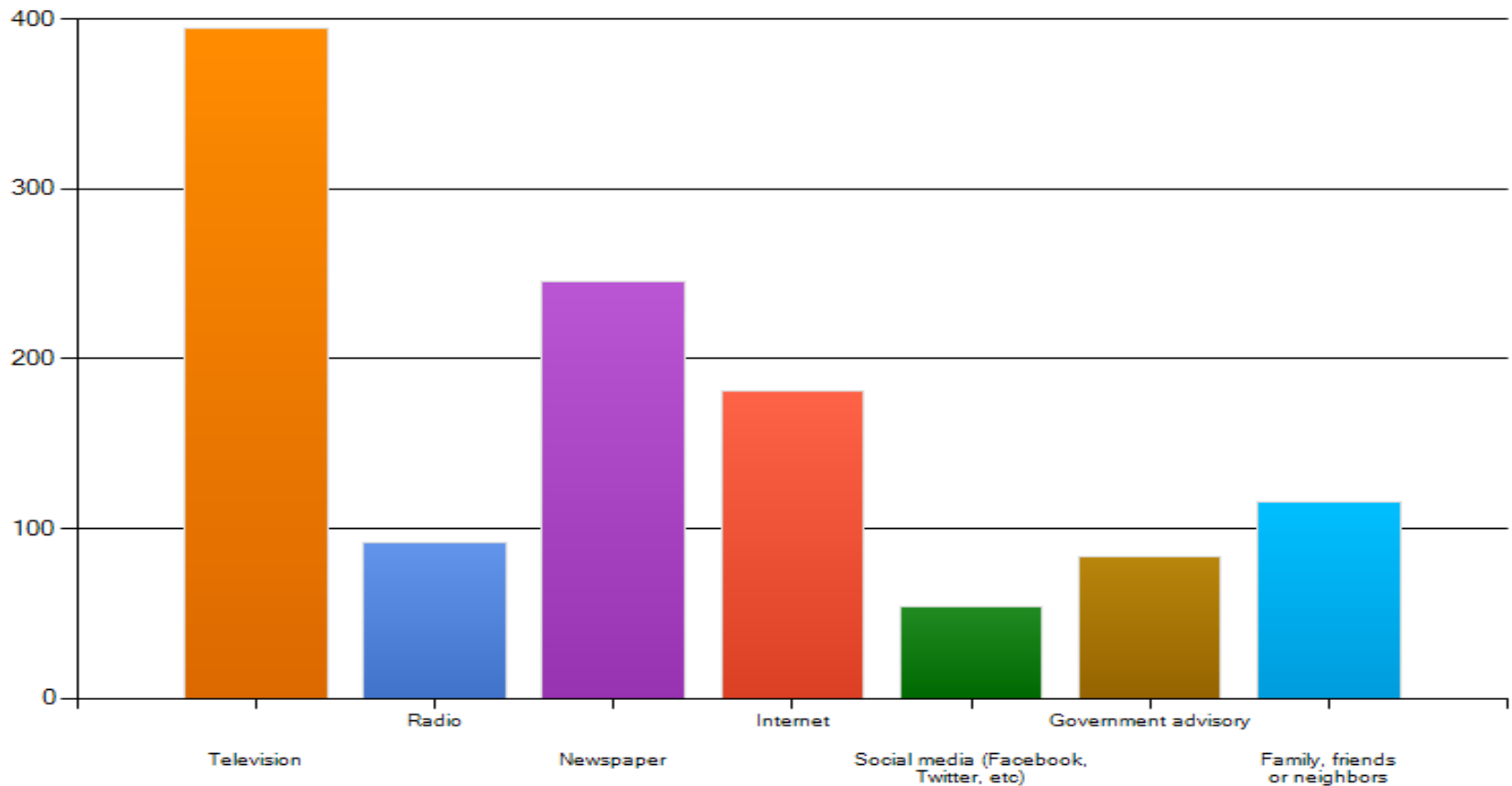


	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	79.5%	482
No	21.1%	128
	answered question	606
	skipped question	9

SOURCE OF INFORMATION ON BGA



If you answered yes, do you recall the source of your information on blue-green algae?
Choose all that apply.



STATE POLICY



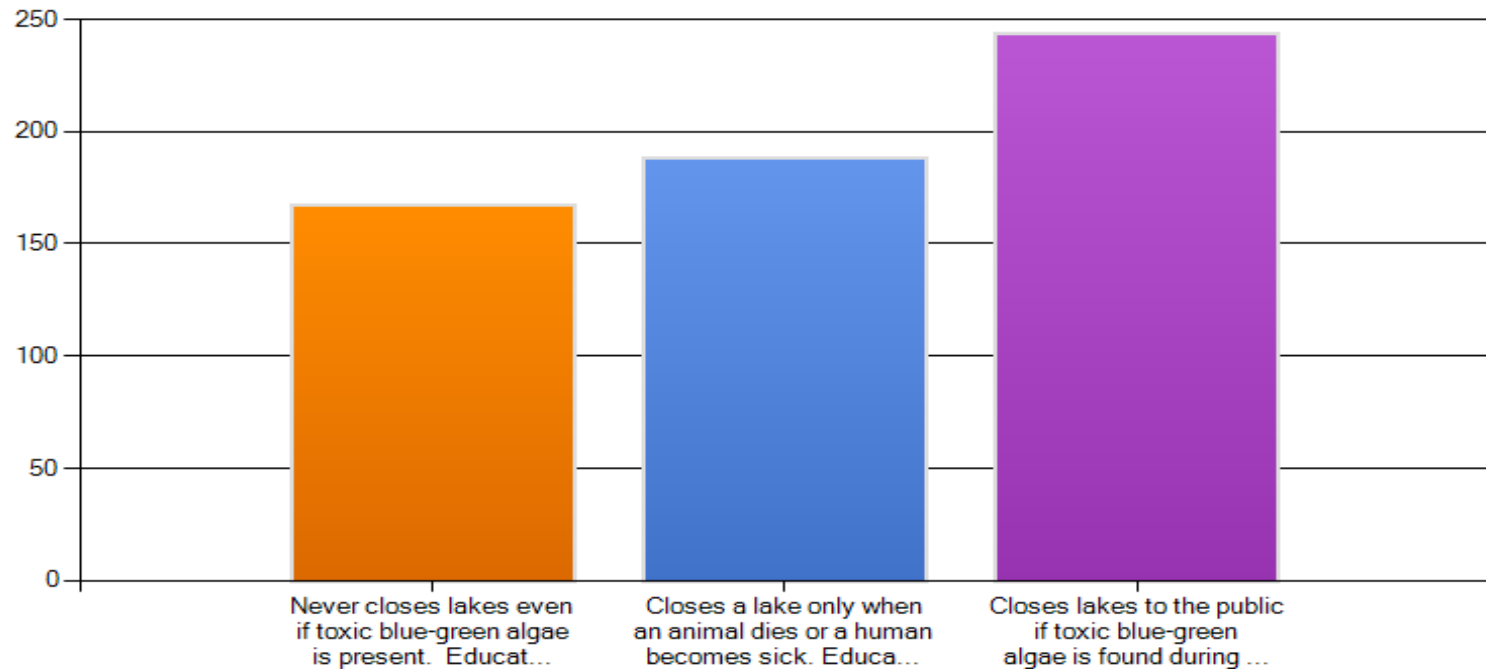
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency does not regulate how states must deal with toxic blue-green algae. Therefore, each state sets its own policy. For example: One state educates its citizens on how to identify blue-green algae and when it's safe to get in the water. They do not close lakes, rivers or beaches when toxic blue-green algae is present. Another state issues advisories in conjunction with public education on blue-green algae. They only close a lake when an animal dies or a human becomes ill after exposure. Yet another state currently tests the water once a month and closes a lake if toxic blue-green algae is present. If closed, the lake remains closed until testing is conducted the following month. It is reopened only if no toxic blue-green algae is found. Which state has the policy most acceptable to you? Please choose one.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Never closes lakes even if toxic blue-green algae is present. Educates the public on how to recognize blue-green algae, as well as health and safely implications of exposure.	28.4%	167
Closes a lake only when an animal dies or a human becomes sick. Educates the public on how to recognize blue-green algae, as well as the health and safely implications of exposure.	31.9%	188
Closes lakes to the public if toxic blue-green algae is found during monthly water testing.	41.3%	243
	<i>answered question</i>	589
	<i>skipped question</i>	31

STATE POLICY

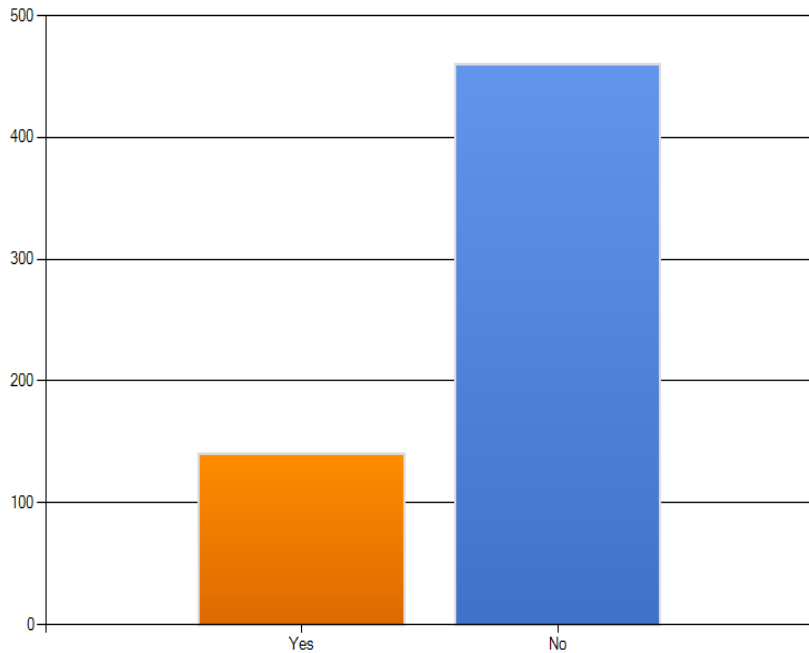


The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency does not regulate how states must deal with toxic blue-green algae. Therefore, each state sets its own policy. For example: One state educates its citizens on how to identify blue-green algae and when it's safe to get in the water. They do not close lakes, rivers or beaches when toxic blue-green algae is present. Another state issues advisories in conjunction with public education on blue-green algae. They only close a lake when an animal dies or a human becomes ill after exposure. Yet another state currently tests the water once a month and closes a lake if toxic blue-green algae is present. If closed, the lake remains closed until testing is conducted the following month. It is reopened only if no toxic blue-green algae is found. Which state has the policy most acceptable to you? Please choose one.



BGA IMPACT ON TRAVEL PLANS

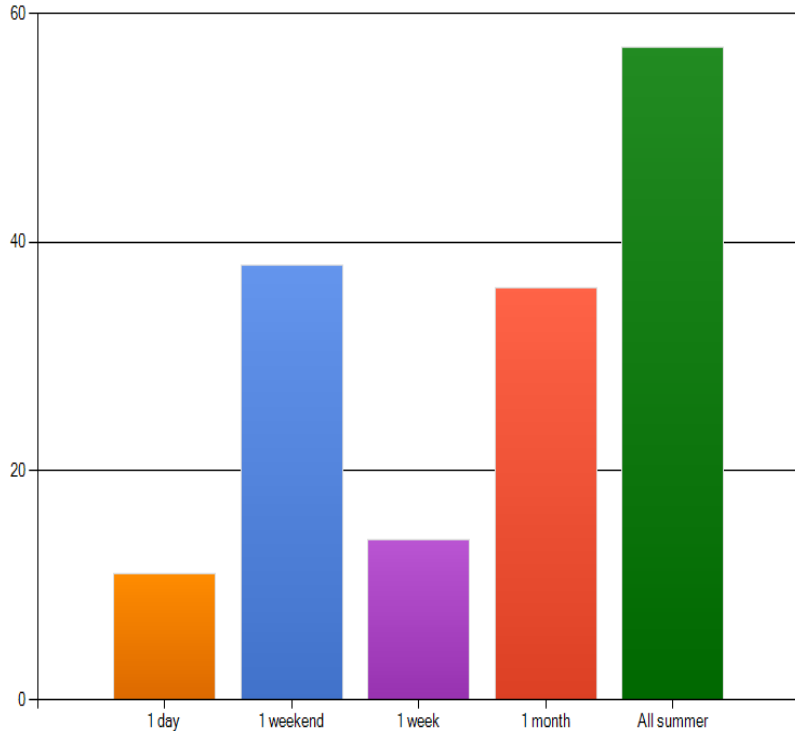
Last summer, some Oklahoma lakes were closed because blue-green algae became toxic. Did the lake closures cause you to change your travel plans?



Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	23.4%	140
No	76.8%	459
<i>answered question</i>		598
<i>skipped question</i>		22

BGA IMPACT – LENGTH OF TIME

If you answered yes, did it change your plans to go to an Oklahoma lake or river for:

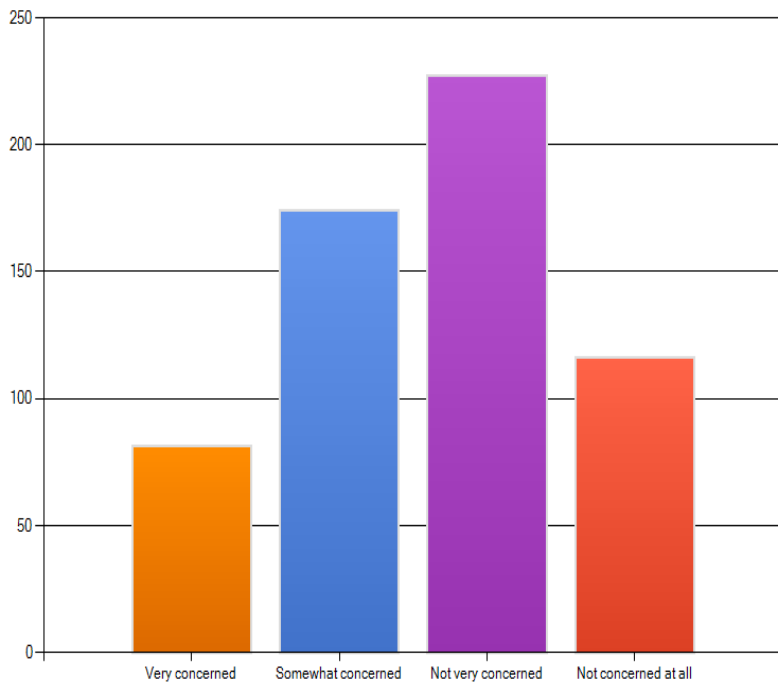


Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
1 day	7.1%	11
1 weekend	24.7%	38
1 week	9.1%	14
1 month	23.4%	36
All summer	37.0%	57
answered question		154
skipped question		466

CONCERN BGA IS IN DRINKING WATER



How concerned are you that the blue-green algae found in Oklahoma lakes and rivers is in your drinking water?

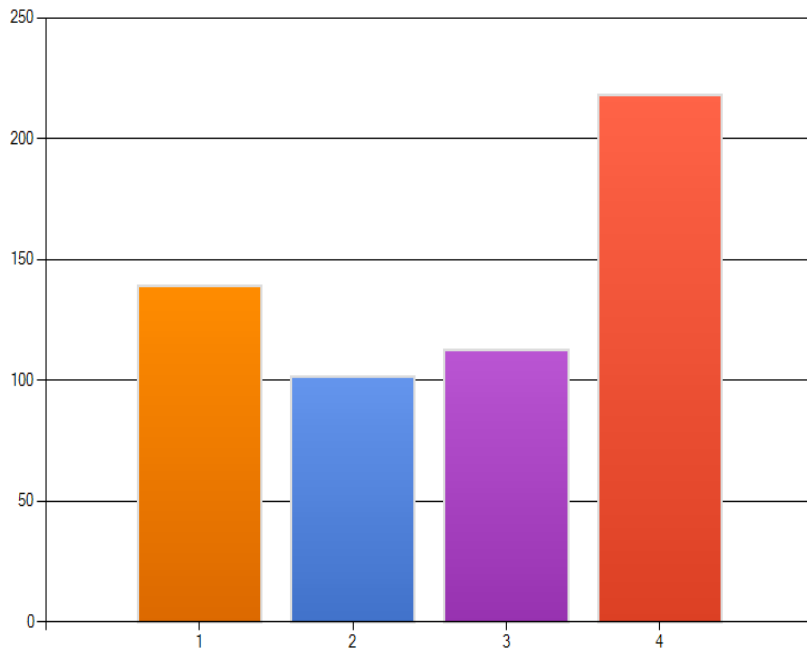


Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Very concerned	13.6%	81
Somewhat concerned	29.2%	174
Not very concerned	38.2%	227
Not concerned at all	19.5%	116
answered question		595
skipped question		25

BGA CONCERN: PUBLIC HEALTH



Public Health. No one in the United States has died from exposure to blue-green algae. However, some people believe it may cause Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS), liver cancer and autoimmune and neurological disorders.

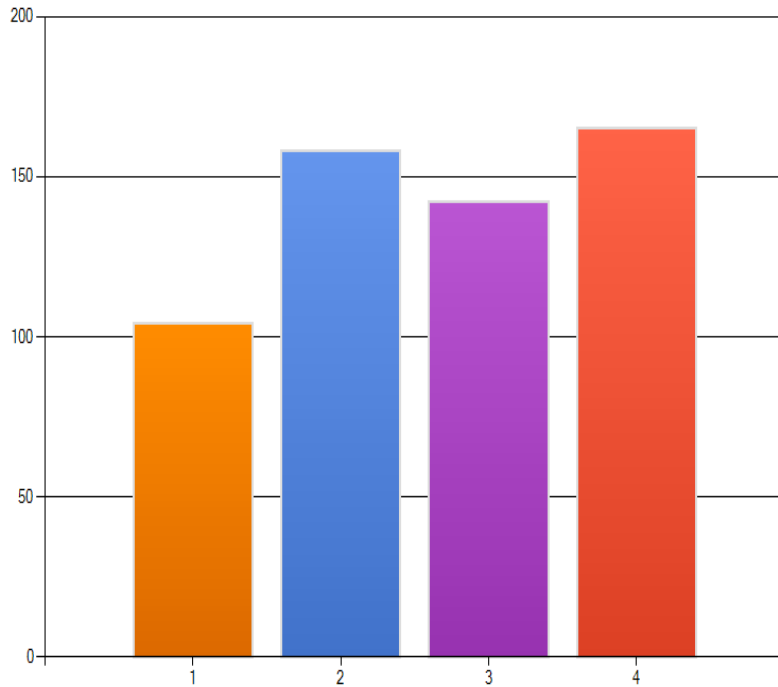


Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
1	24.7%	139
2	17.9%	101
3	19.9%	112
4	38.7%	218
<i>answered question</i>		563
<i>skipped question</i>		57

Ranked 1-4, with 4 being most important and 1 being least important.

BGA CONCERN: ANIMAL HEALTH

Animal health. Animals have lower body weights than humans and are more adversely impacted by toxic blue-green algae. There are many recorded illnesses and even deaths of animals that have been exposed to toxic blue-green algae.



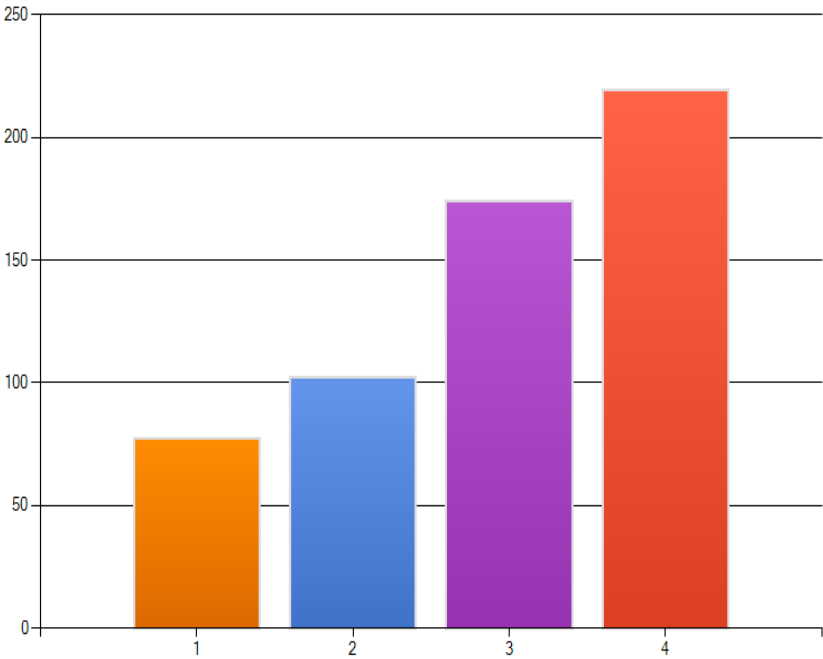
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
1	18.5%	104
2	28.1%	158
3	25.2%	142
4	29.3%	165
<i>answered question</i>		563
<i>skipped question</i>		57

Ranked 1-4, with 4 being most important and 1 being least important.

BGA CONCERN: IMPACT ON ECONOMY



Impact on state and local economies. Many Oklahoma communities are economically dependent on tourism generated by local lakes and rivers. Hotels, motels, restaurants, grocery stores, convenience stores, marinas, boat and ski rentals, state parks, RV parks, and scores of other businesses are negatively impacted when a lake is closed for even a short period of time.



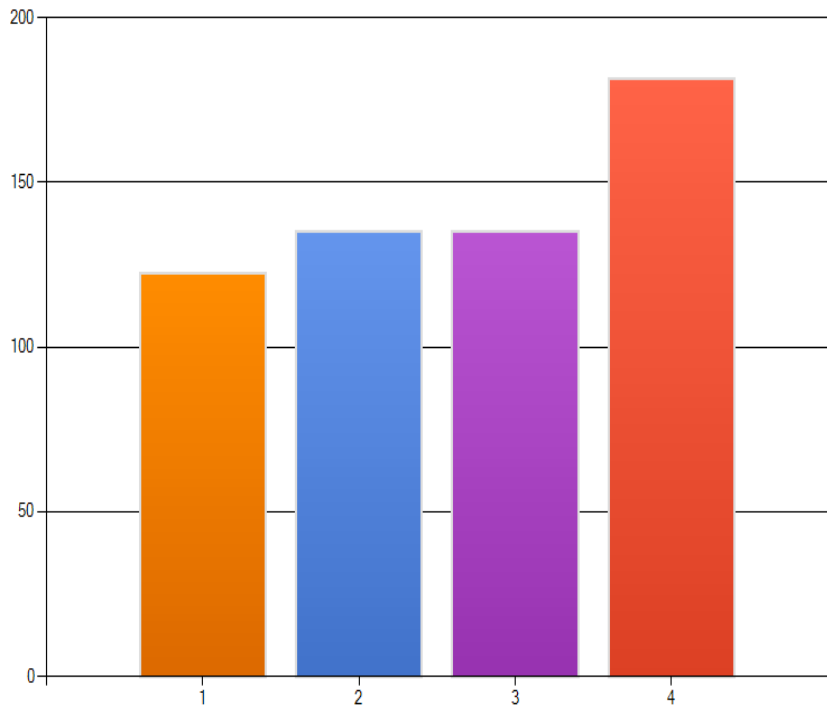
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
1	13.6%	77
2	18.1%	102
3	30.8%	174
4	38.8%	219
answered question		565
skipped question		55

Ranked 1-4, with 4 being most important and 1 being least important.

BGA CONCERN: HARDSHIP ON FAMILIES



Hardship on families. Many families from Oklahoma and the surrounding states have a tradition of vacations and weekends at the lakes during the summer months. Closing a lake interrupts family social plans. For many families, trips to the lakes or rivers are the only vacations they can afford.



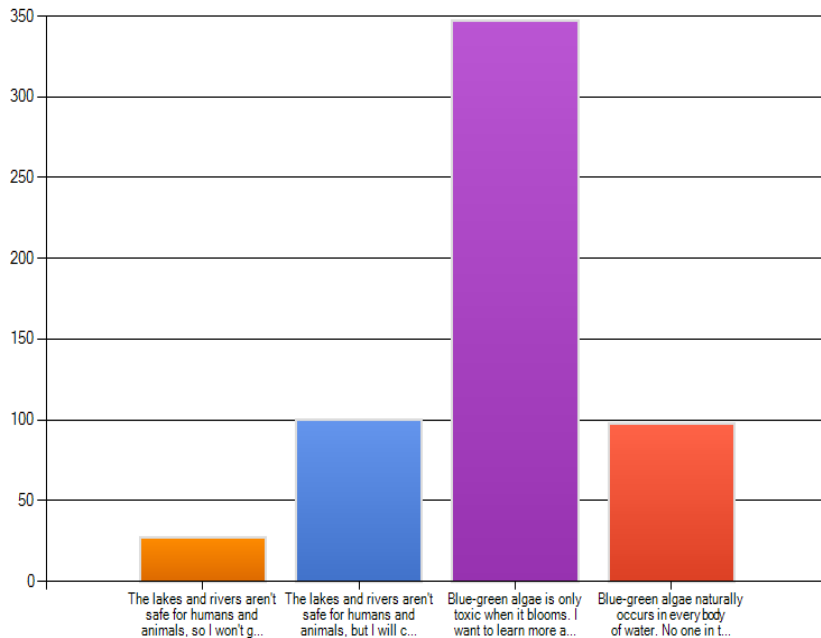
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
1	21.6%	122
2	23.9%	135
3	23.9%	135
4	32.0%	181
answered question		565
skipped question		55

Ranked 1-4, with 4 being most important and 1 being least important.

PLAN TO DEAL WITH BGA GOING FORWARD



There is no water treatment available to eliminate blue-green algae from our lakes and rivers. That means we must expect it to be present in our water every summer. Which statement best describes how you plan to deal with the permanent presence of blue green algae? (Please choose one.)



Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
The lakes and rivers aren't safe for humans and animals, so I won't go to them now or in the future.	4.8%	27
The lakes and rivers aren't safe for humans and animals, but I will continue to go, but will avoid direct contact with the water.	17.9%	100
Blue-green algae is only toxic when it blooms. I want to learn more about it so I know what it looks like. I will stay out of the water when I see it.	62.1%	347
Blue-green algae naturally occurs in every body of water. No one in the United States has died from exposure, so there is no reason to be concerned. The presence of blue-green algae will not alter my vacation planning in any way.	17.4%	97
answered question		559
skipped question		61

DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY



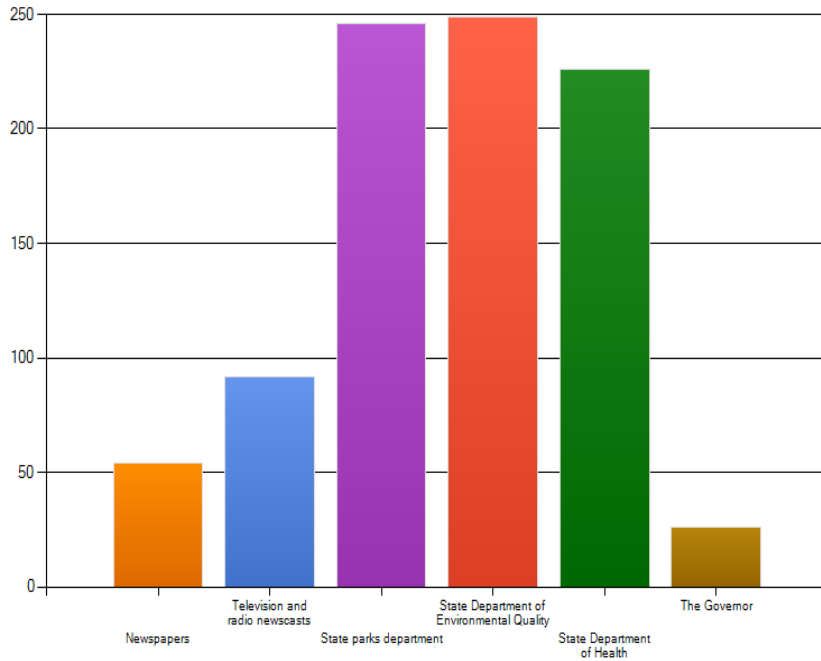
Who should ultimately be responsible for deciding whether or not you can or cannot get in the water at Oklahoma lakes and rivers when toxic blue-green algae is present?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Me -- it's my decision	37.5%	217
Lake managers like State Parks, Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, Grand River Dam Authority	47.5%	275
The Governor	1.7%	10
State lawmakers	0.9%	5
State government agencies such as the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality	19.3%	112
Oklahoma Water Board	16.2%	94
Federal government agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency	7.9%	46

SOURCE OF BGA INFORMATION



When it comes to providing you with truthful and accurate information regarding the quality of water in Oklahoma lakes and rivers, which of the following do you trust the most?

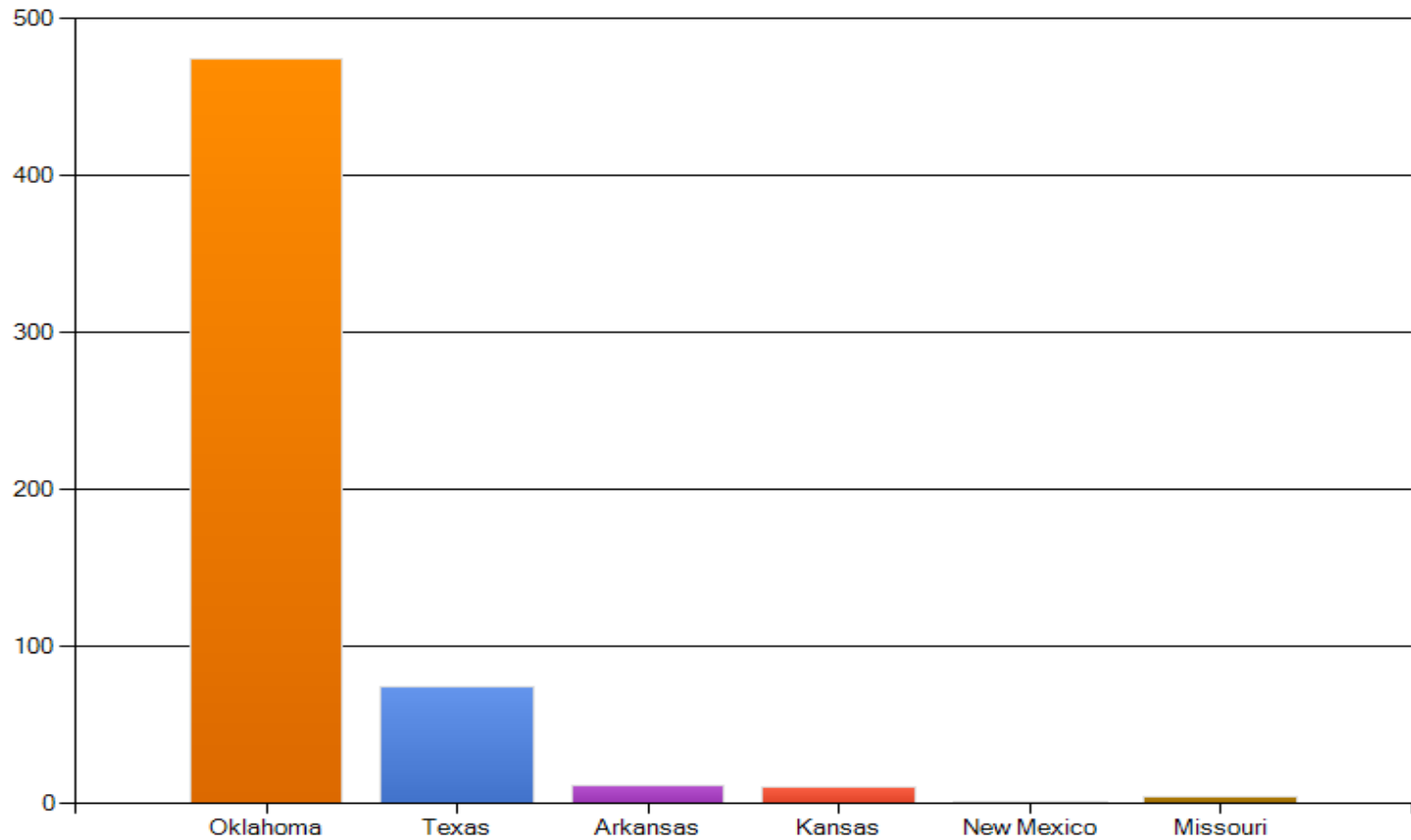


Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Newspapers	9.4%	54
Television and radio newscasts	16.1%	92
State parks department	43.0%	246
State Department of Environmental Quality	43.5%	249
State Department of Health	39.5%	226
The Governor	4.5%	26
Other (please specify)		26
answered question		572
skipped question		48

STATE OF RESIDENCE



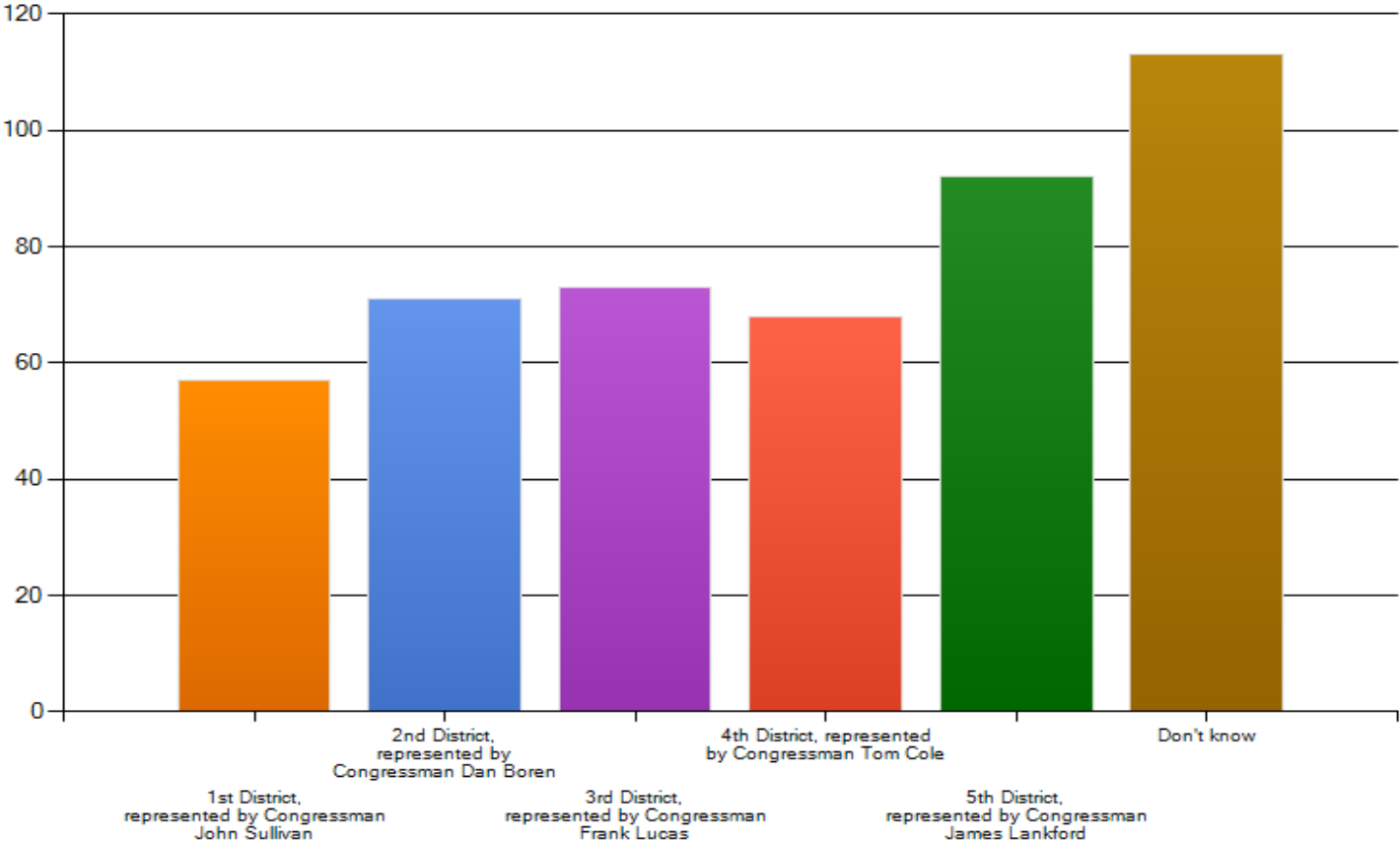
In which state are you a resident?



OKLAHOMA RESIDENTS BY CD



If you are a resident of Oklahoma, in which congressional district do you reside:



AGE OF RESPONDENTS



What is your age?

