

Pipe Survey 2019

Part I: Pipes

On February 25, the online pipe survey started to be distributed through Facebook pipe club Pages and online forums. Data were collected for approximately two weeks. In the end, 724 responded to the survey resulting in 717 usable surveys.

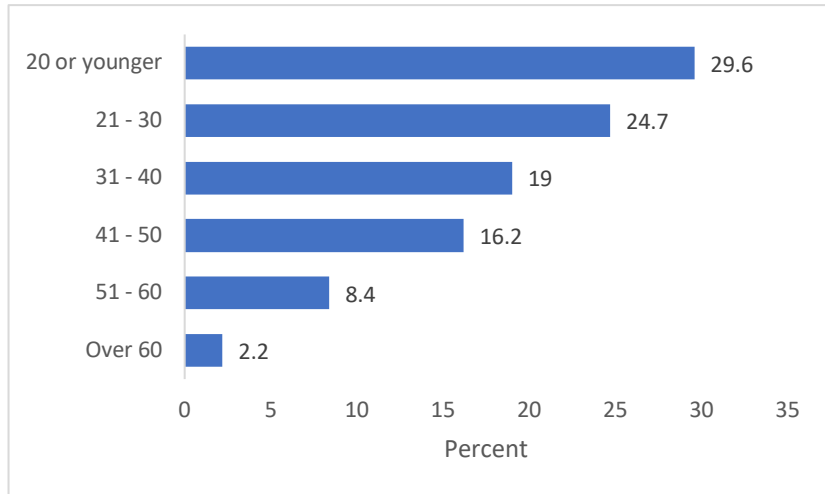
Part I examines the questions regarding pipes. Part II will examine the questions regarding Tobacco.

Prepared by Mike 'Doc' Garr

At what age did you start smoking a pipe?

Most respondents started smoking a pipe at a young age. Almost 30% of respondents reported smoking a pipe for the first time before they were 20.

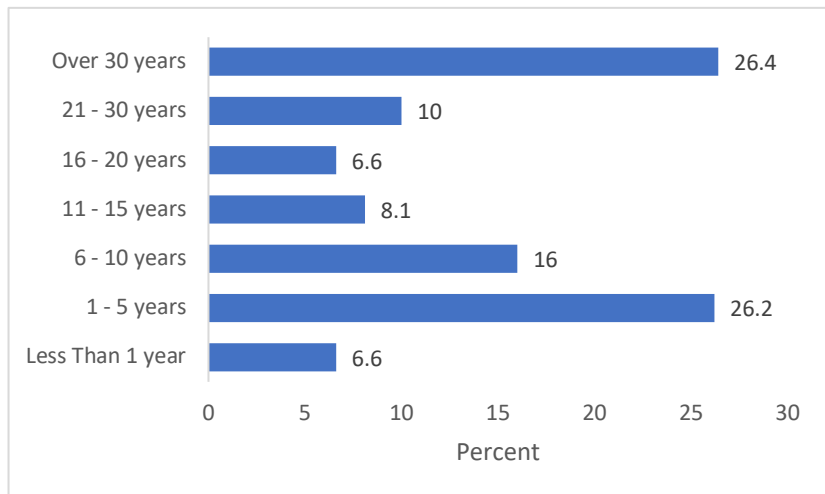
Almost 25% started smoking between the ages of 21 and 30. As age increases, the percentage of those smoking for the first time decreases



How long have you smoked a pipe?

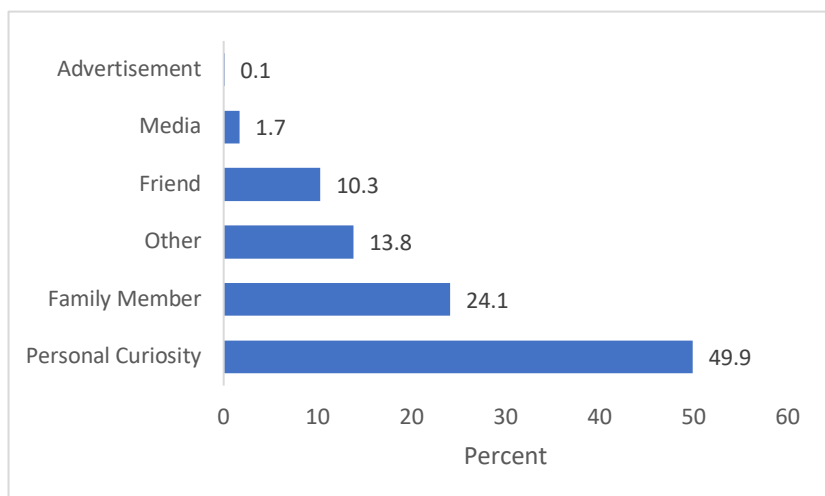
A third of the respondents (32.8%) have smoked for 5 years or less. On the other hand, over 25% of respondents have smoked for more than 30 years.

Perhaps this shows a resurgence of youthful pipe smokers



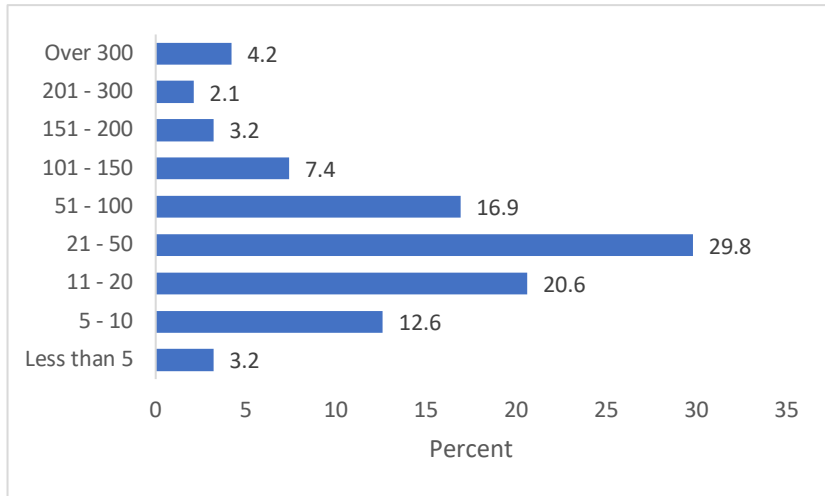
What/Who influenced you the most to start Smoking a pipe?

Almost half of the respondents reported that they started through personal curiosity. The media had little impact on the decision to start smoking a pipe. About a third were influenced by a family member or a friend.



How many pipes do you own?

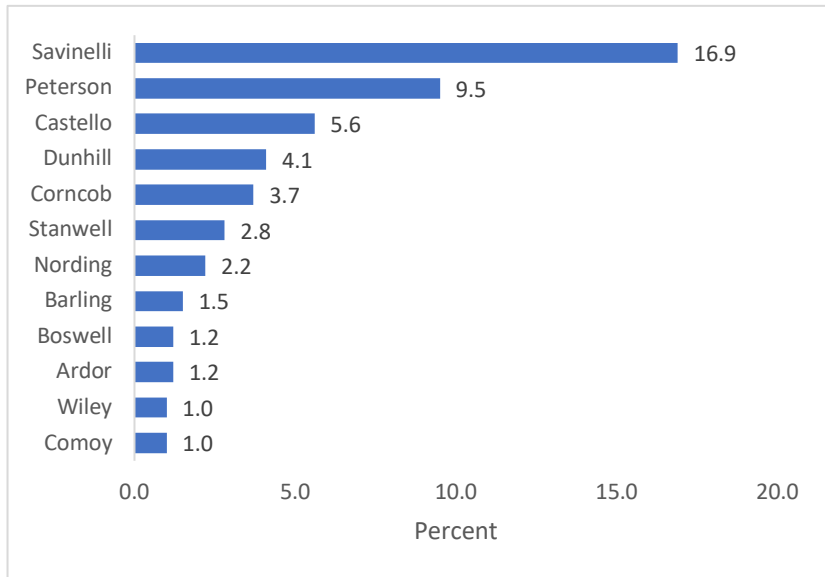
About 2/3 of respondents have between 11 and 100 pipes. About 1/6 of respondents have over 100 pipes while about another 1/6 have 10 pipes or fewer.



Who is your favorite brand or pipe maker?

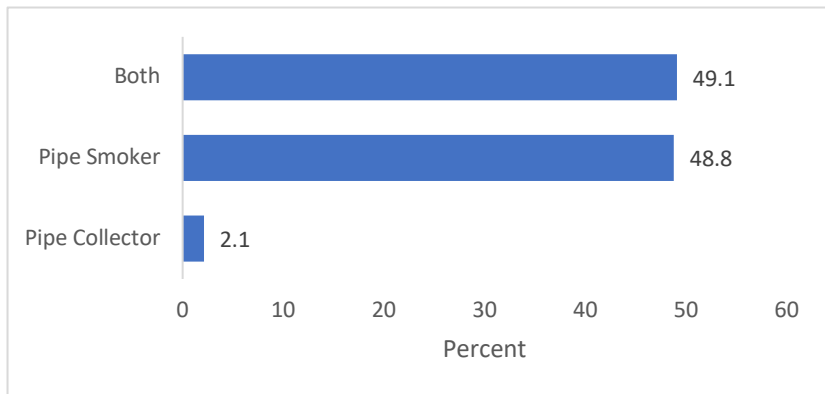
There were about 150 different responses to this question. Clearly there is diversity when it comes to our favorites.

Twelve brands/makers were mentioned at 1% or more of the total. Savinelli was the most popular brand listed (16.9%), followed by Peterson (9.5%), Castello (5.6%), Dunhill (4.1%), Corncobs (3.7%), Stanwell (2.8%), Nording (2.2%), and Barling, Boswell, Ardor, Wiley and Comoy all under 2% of mentions.



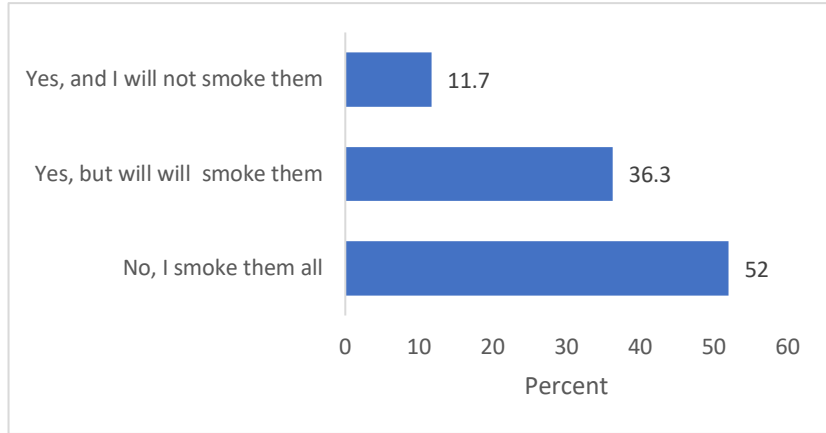
Do you consider yourself more of a pipe smoker, a pipe collector, or both?

Only a small percentage of respondents are collectors (2.1%). The rest are evenly divided between pipe smokers (48.8%) and smoker/collectors (49.1%).



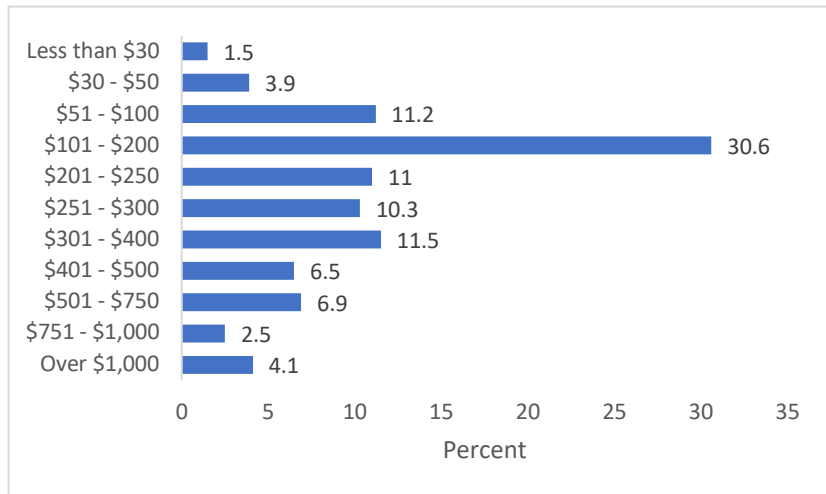
Do you have any unsmoked pipes?

Most respondents (52%) smoke all of our pipes. About a third (36.3%) have unsmoked pipes in our collection, but plan to smoke them some time in the future. A small percentage (11.7%) have pipes in their collection they plan never to smoke



How much did you spend on your most expensive pipe?

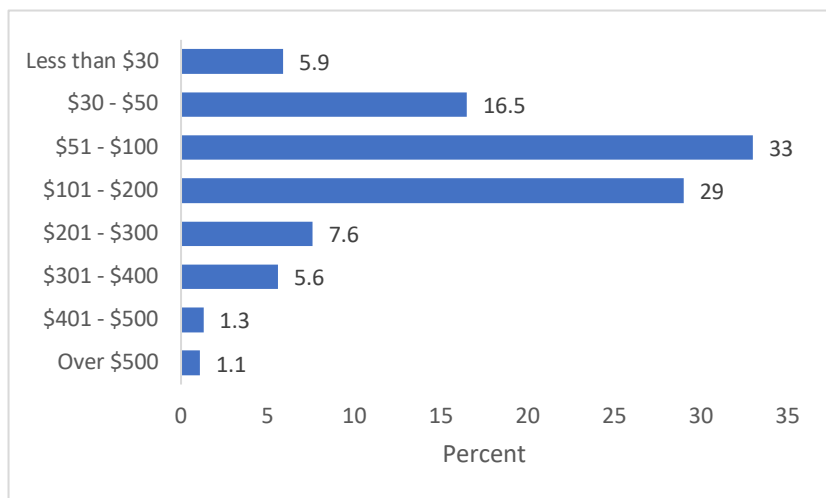
The median was \$201 - \$250. So 50% spent \$201 - \$250 or more and 50% spent \$201 - \$250 or less. The middle 50% of respondents spent between \$101 - \$200 and \$301 - \$400.



How much do you usually pay for a pipe?

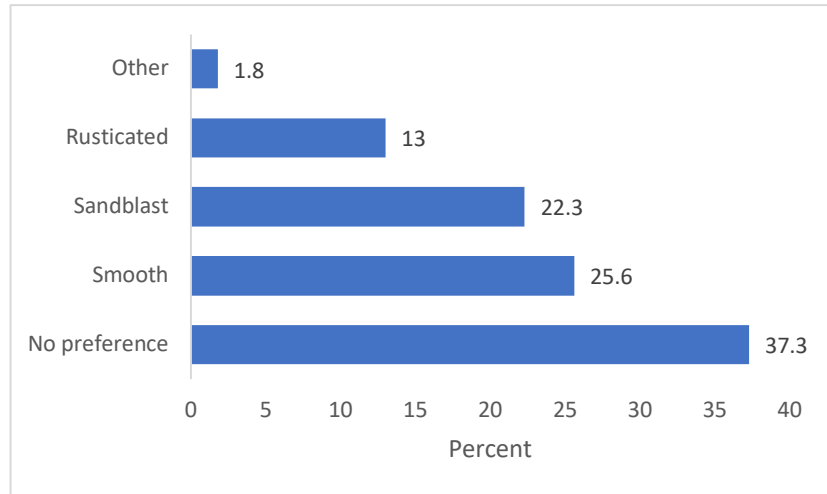
The median was \$51 - \$100. Consequently, 50% of respondents pay \$51 - \$100 or more for a pipe and 50% pay \$51 - \$100 or less for a pipe. The middle 50% of respondents paid between \$51 - \$100 and \$101 - \$200,

So our most expensive pipes are about double of what we normally pay for a pipe.



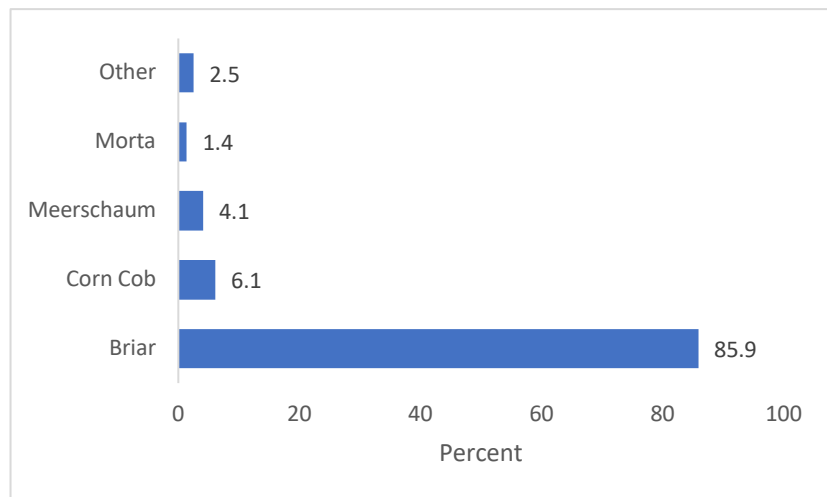
What type of finish do you prefer?

Over a third of respondents (37.3%) indicated that they have no preference. Smooth finishes were the most popular among those with a preference (25.6%), followed by sandblasts (22.3%), and rusticated (13%).



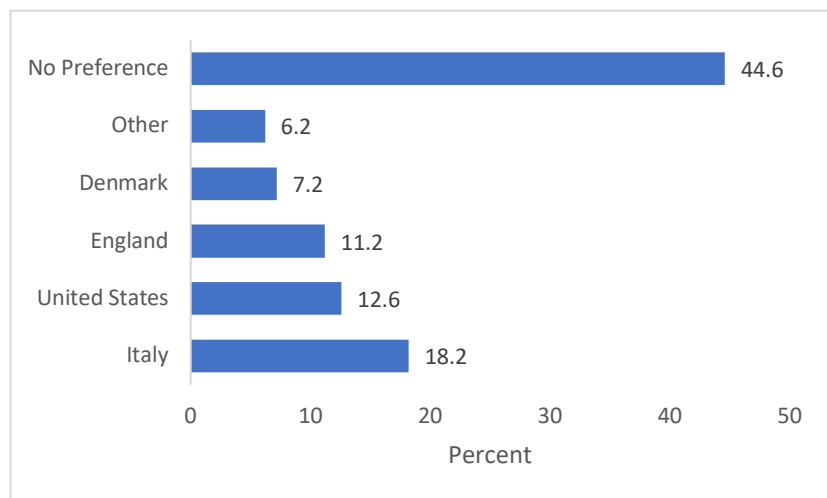
Which type of pipe do you like best?

The clear and unsurprising winner is briar at 85.9%.



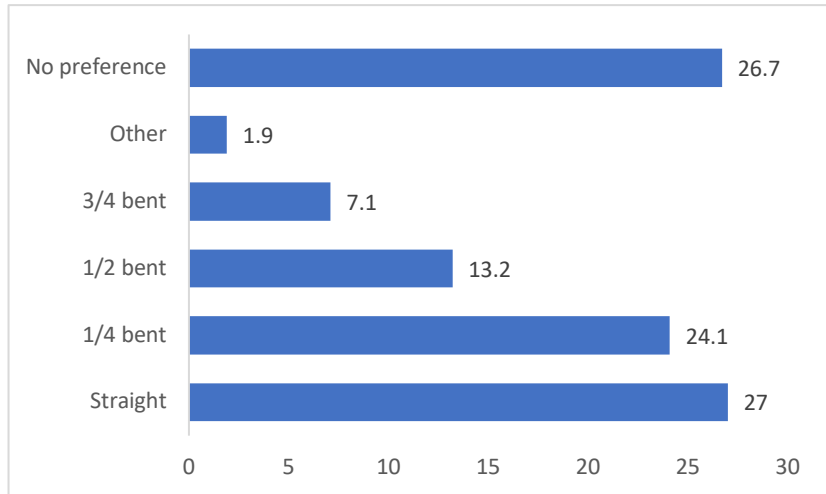
What country of origin do you like your pipes to come from?

While close to half of respondents had no preference, among those who did have a preference, Italy was the top choice. The U.S. was second followed by England and Denmark and a smattering of other countries.



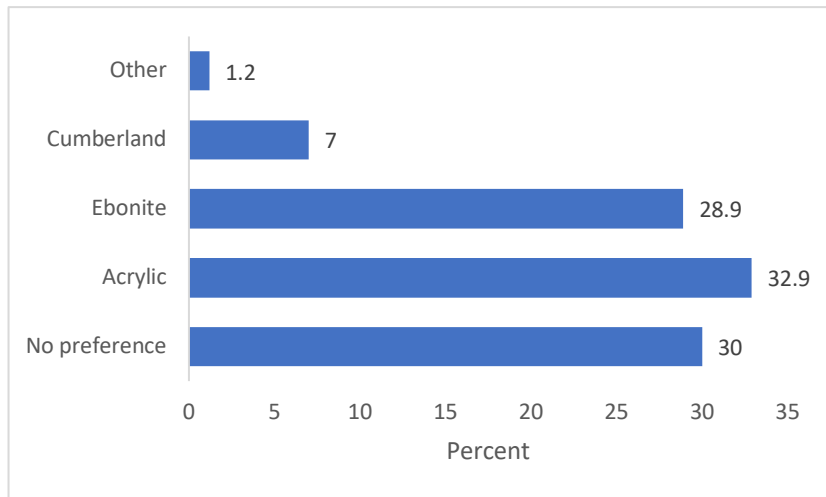
What kind of stem do you prefer on your pipes?

A quarter of respondents had no preference. Among those with a preference, over a quarter preferred straight stems. The greater the bent in the pipe the less respondents preferred it.



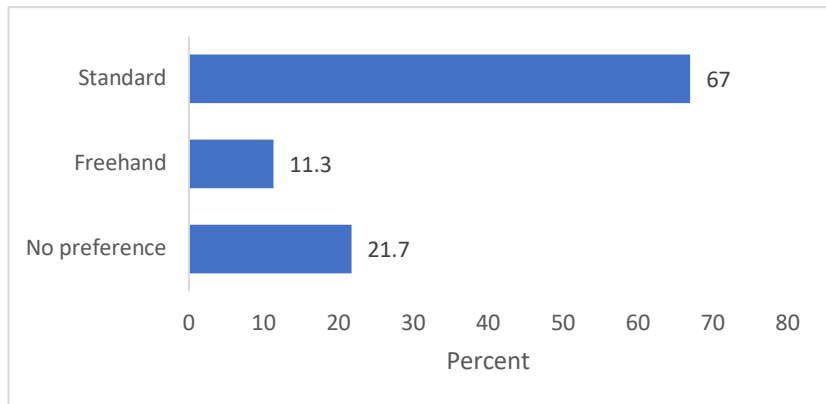
What kind of stem material do you prefer?

About a third of respondents preferred acrylic/lucite stems compared to a little less than third who preferred ebonite/vulcanite stems. A small percentage preferred Cumberland and even smaller stem preferred some other material. A third of the respondents had no preference.



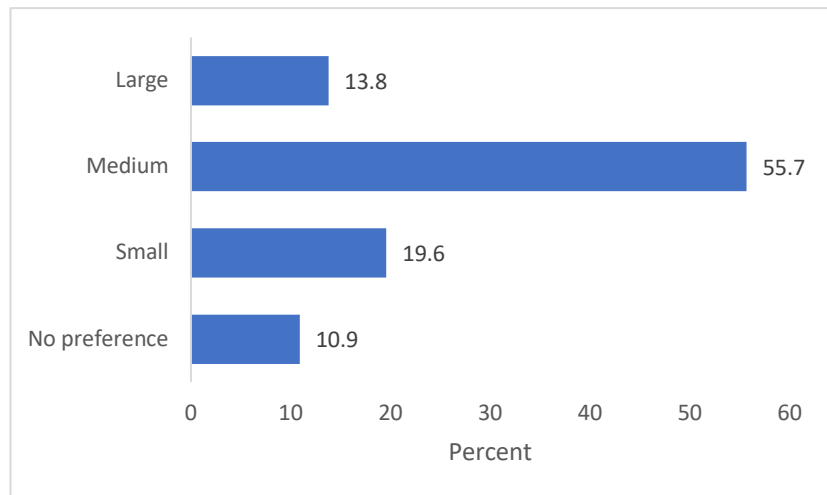
Do you prefer standard shapes or freehands?

Two-thirds of respondents preferred standard shapes while a small percentage preferred freehands or unusual shape pipes. Just under a quarter of respondents had no preference



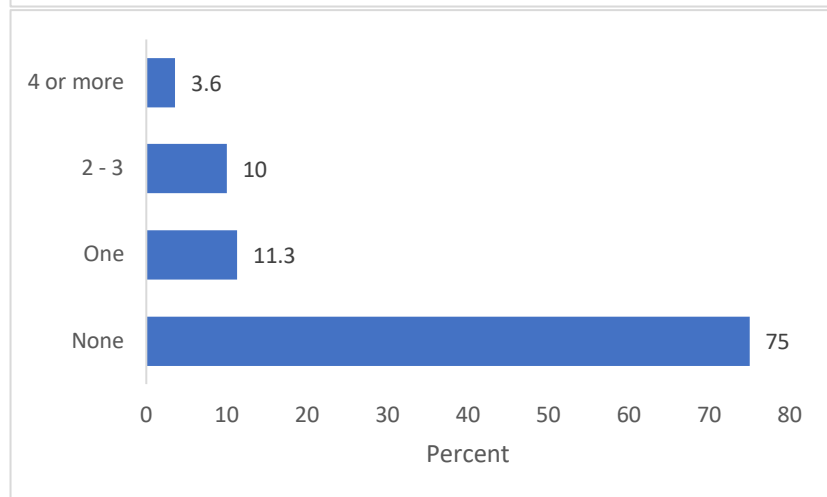
What size pipe do you prefer?

The clear preference is for medium pipes with over half of the respondents preferring this size. One in five respondents preferred small pipes and one in six preferred large pipes or magnums. Only 10% had no preference.



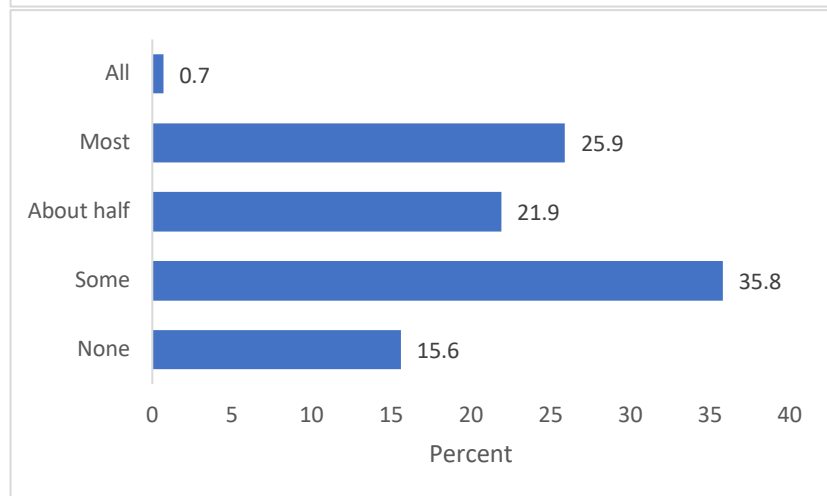
How many multi-chambered pipes or reverse calabashes do you own?

Three-fourths of owned no multi-chambered pipes. Slightly over 10% owned one, 10% owned two or three and only 3.6% owned four or more.



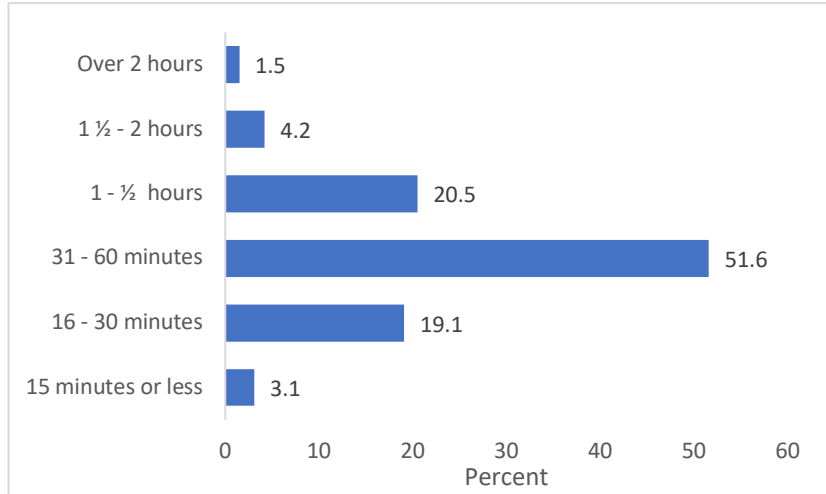
How much of your collection consists of estates?

Almost all respondents owned some estate pipes. Only 15.6% did not own any estates. About half of the respondents report have half to most of their collection in estates. Over a third have less than half their collection in estates.



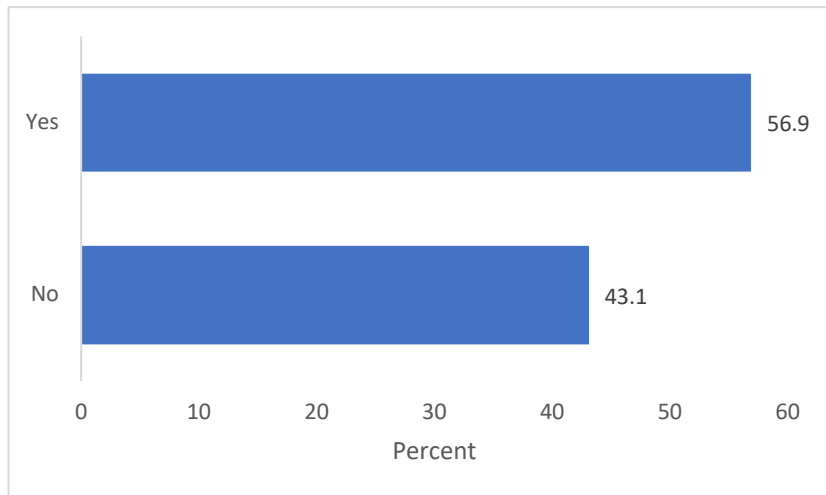
How long do you typically smoke a pipe in one sitting?

The median length of time is 31 – 60 minutes. The middle 50% of respondents smoke between 31 - 60 minutes and 1 – 1 ½ hours.



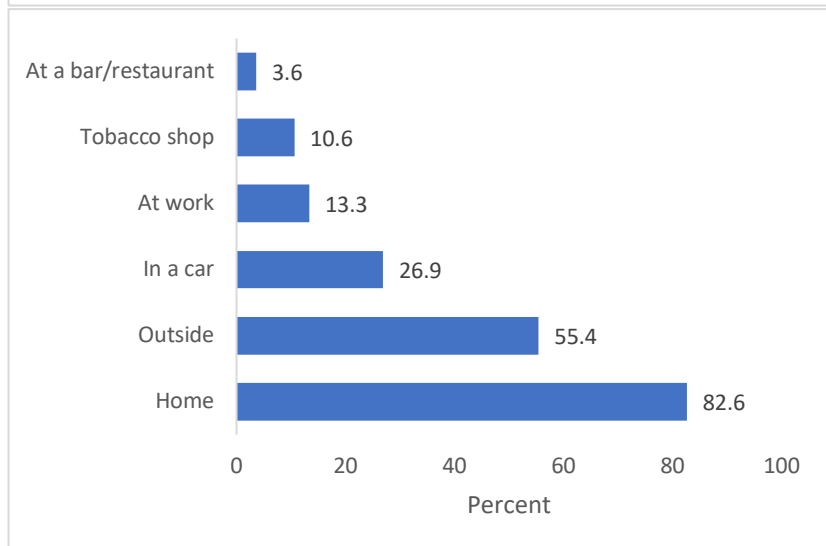
Do you dedicate certain pipes to certain types of tobacco?

Most of the respondents say they do dedicate at least some of their pipes to specific types of tobacco.



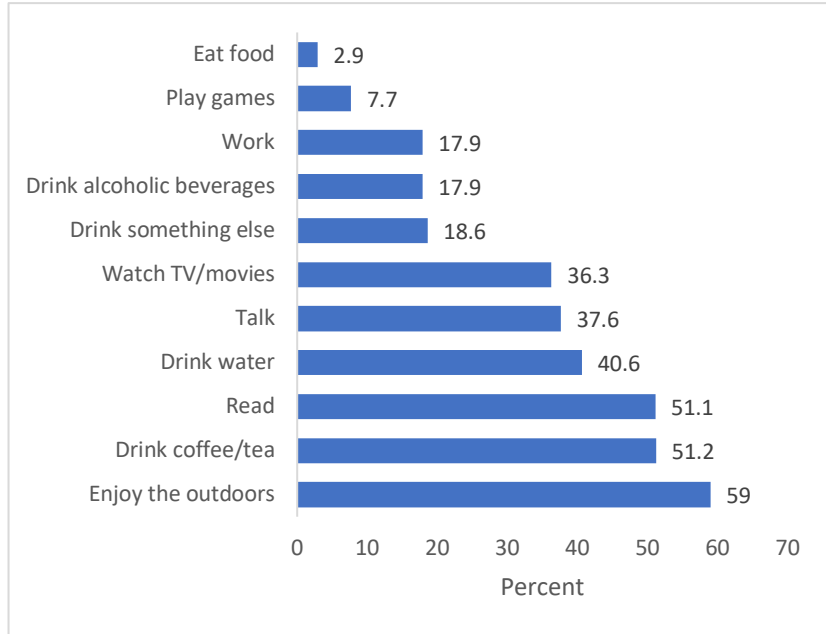
Those who frequently smoke pipe at the following locations.

It appears that smoking bans have forced pipe smokers to smoke at home or outside (or even outside of the house). Even smoking in the car reflects the banning of indoor smoking. Surprisingly, 13.3% say they frequently smoke at work. Only 10% of smokers smoke in a tobacco shop, which may reflect both the smoking ban and the distance of the tobacco shop. Few can smoke at a bar or restaurant.



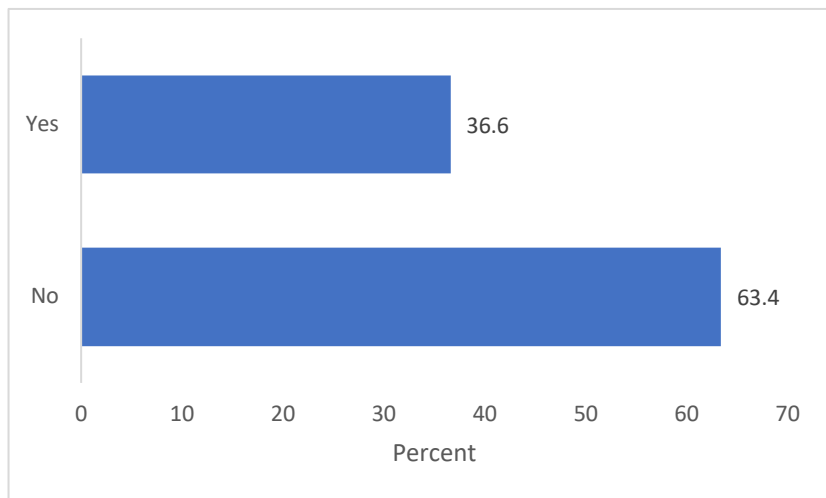
Those who responded “a lot of the time” or “all of the time” to activities while smoking a pipe.

Combined with the previous question, it appears we smoke our pipes in rather solitary conditions since only about one-third talk while smoking a pipe. Enjoying the outdoors is the favorite activity followed by reading, both rather solitary activities. Drinking coffee or tea is the favorite accompaniment to smoking a pipe followed by water.



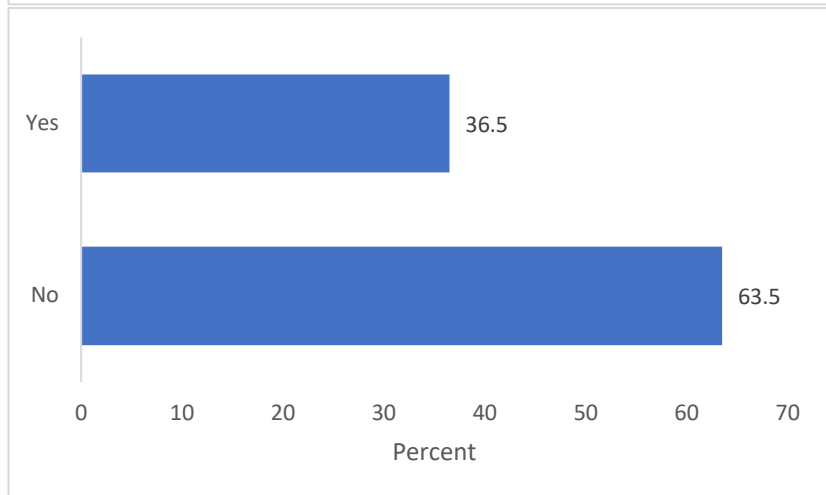
Do you belong to a pipe club?

Just over 1/3 of respondents belong to a pipes club.



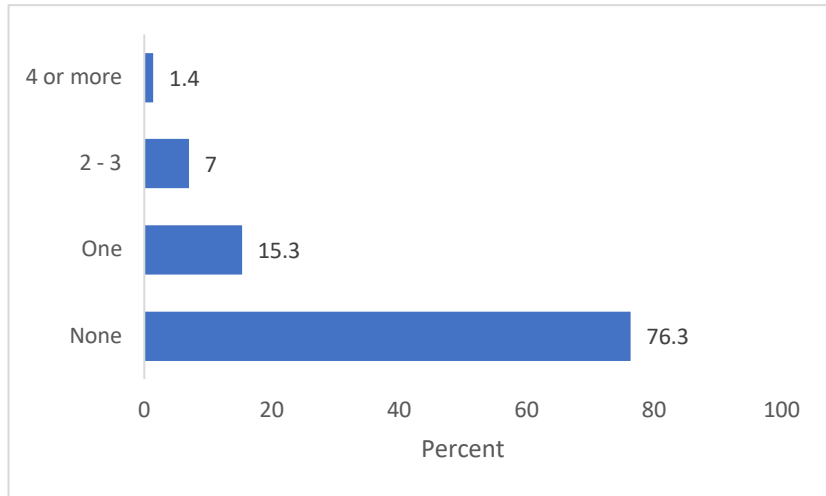
Have you ever attended a pipe show?

Almost 2/3 of respondents never have been to a pipe show.



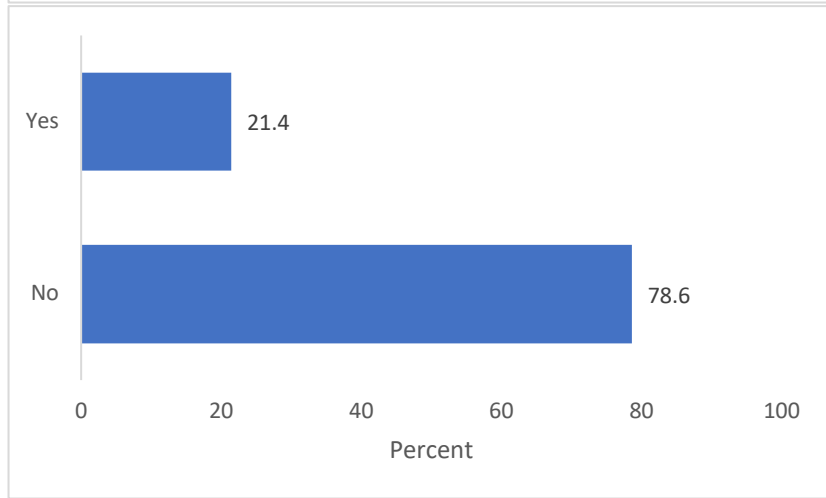
How many pipes shows did you attend in 2018?

Only about a quarter of the respondents have been to one or more pipe shows last year.



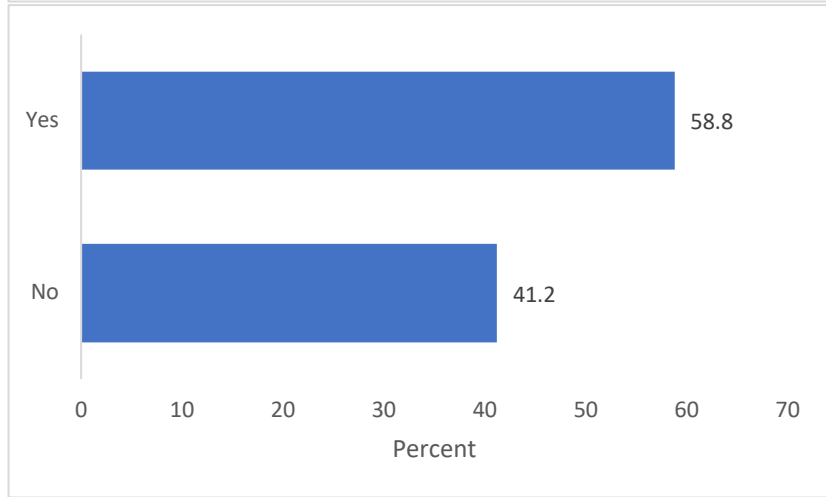
Have you ever made a pipe?

About one in five respondents have tried to make a pipe.



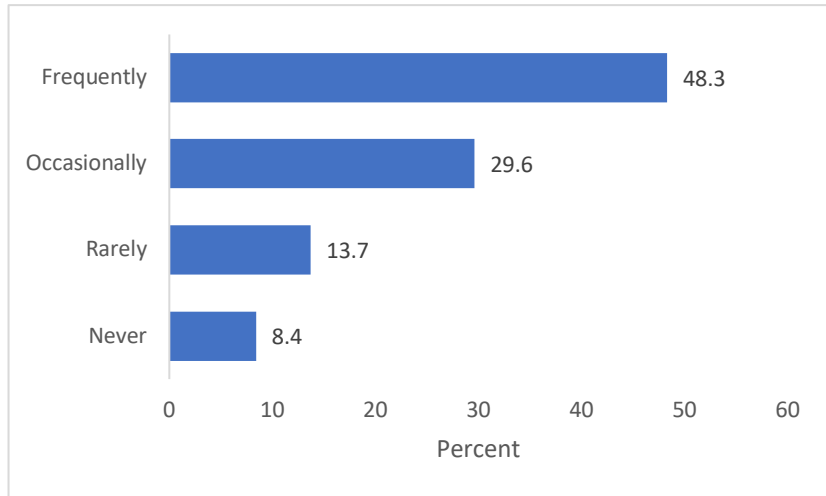
Do you read pipe related magazines?

Over half of the respondents regularly read some online or print magazine.



How often do you participate to pipe and tobacco online forums?

Almost half of the respondents frequently participate in online forums. Less than 10% of respondents never participate.



How often do you watch YouTube/online videos for pipe-related information?

Just under a third frequently watch online videos while just over a third occasionally do so. Another quarter rarely do so and less than 10% never do so.

