

Spatial Impacts on Local Perceptions of the Jordan River

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Introduction

Hypothesis: People who live closer to the Jordan River will have stronger concerns and be more likely to perceive the river as an amenity.

The Jordan River, on the west side of Salt Lake City, can be considered to be a natural amenity that can potentially affect the quality of life in the surrounding areas. Studies suggest that residents' proximity to rivers affects perceptions of it.

Expected outcomes include...

- Understand how proximity to the Jordan River may affect local concerns and perceptions about aspects of the river corridor.
- Information useful to the Salt Lake City Parks & Open Space Program will come from a diverse audience of people whose views might not typically be heard.



Figure 1. Gathering responses at Liberty Park.

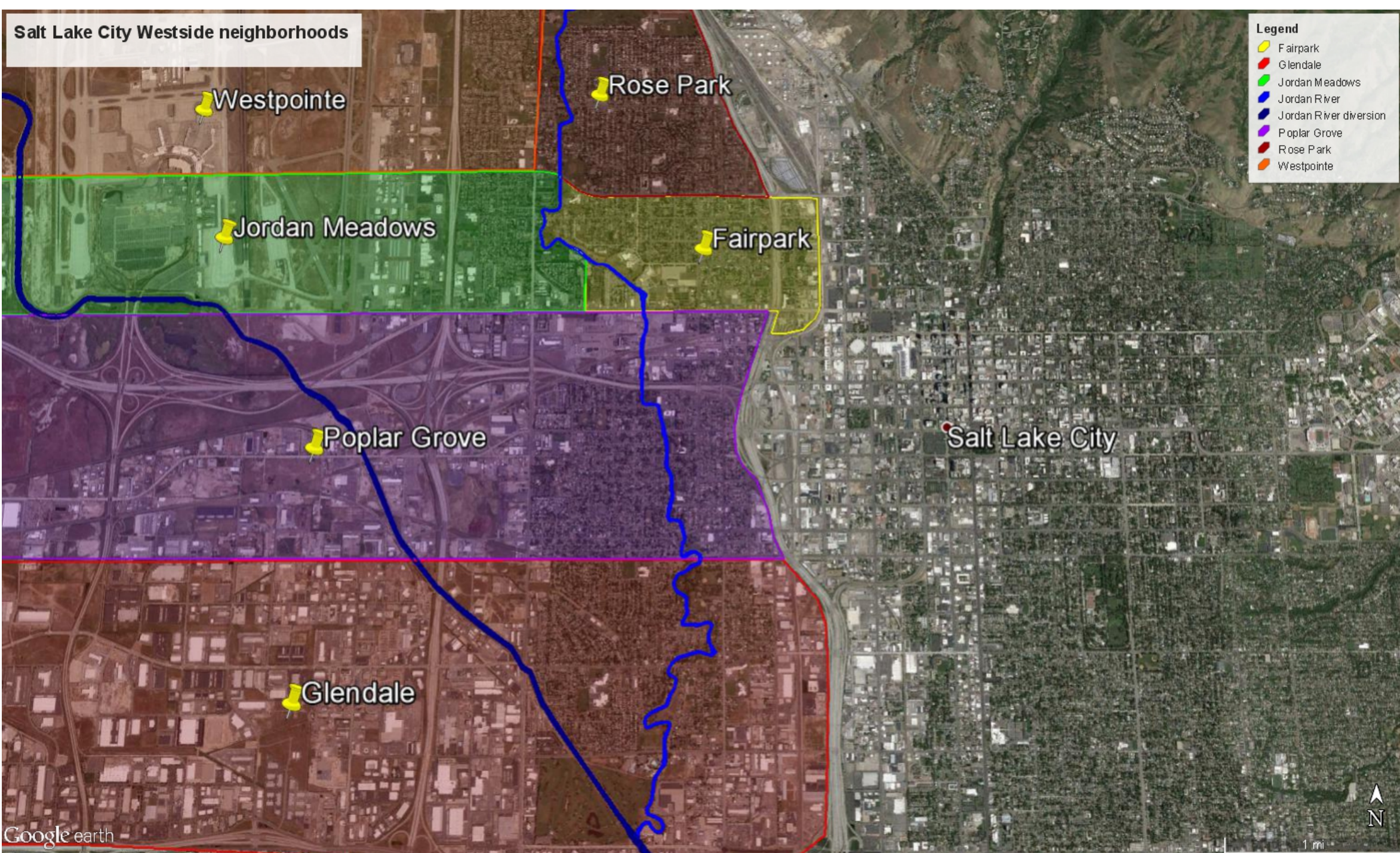
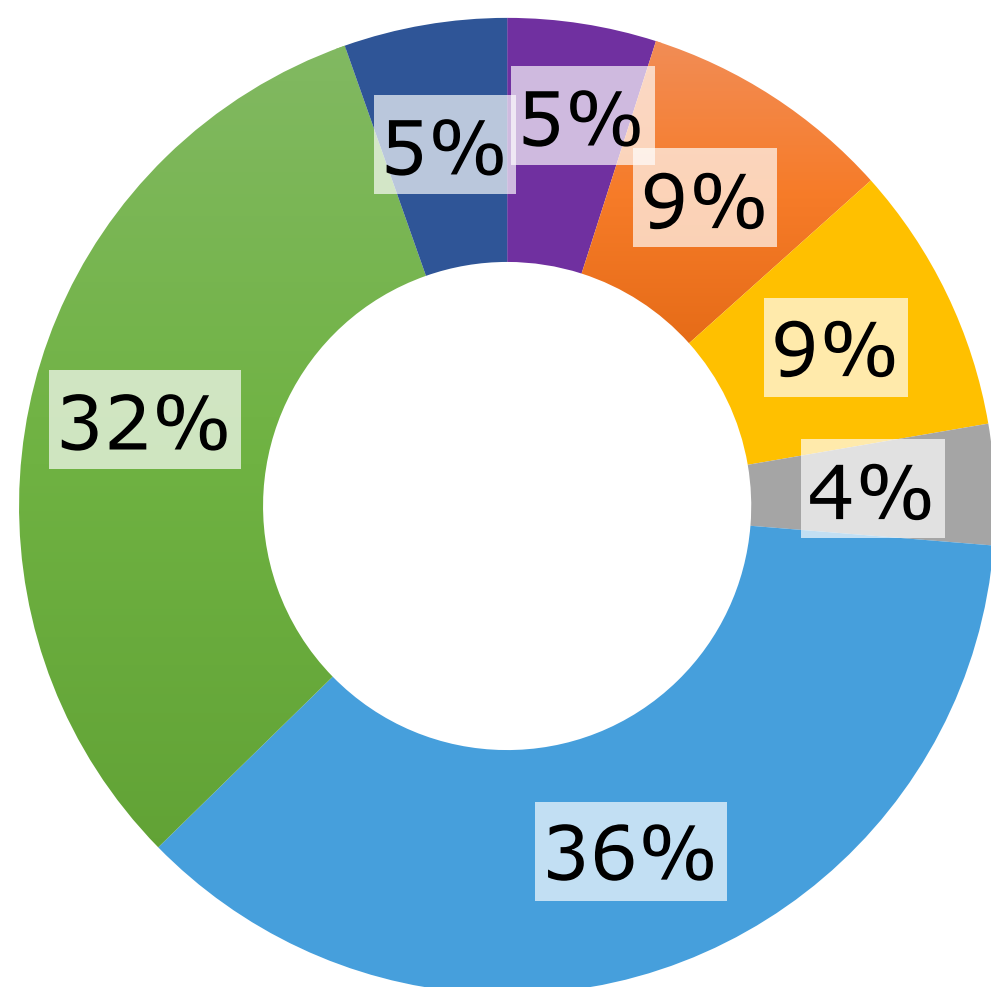


Figure 2. Map showing location of the Jordan River and neighborhoods surveyed.

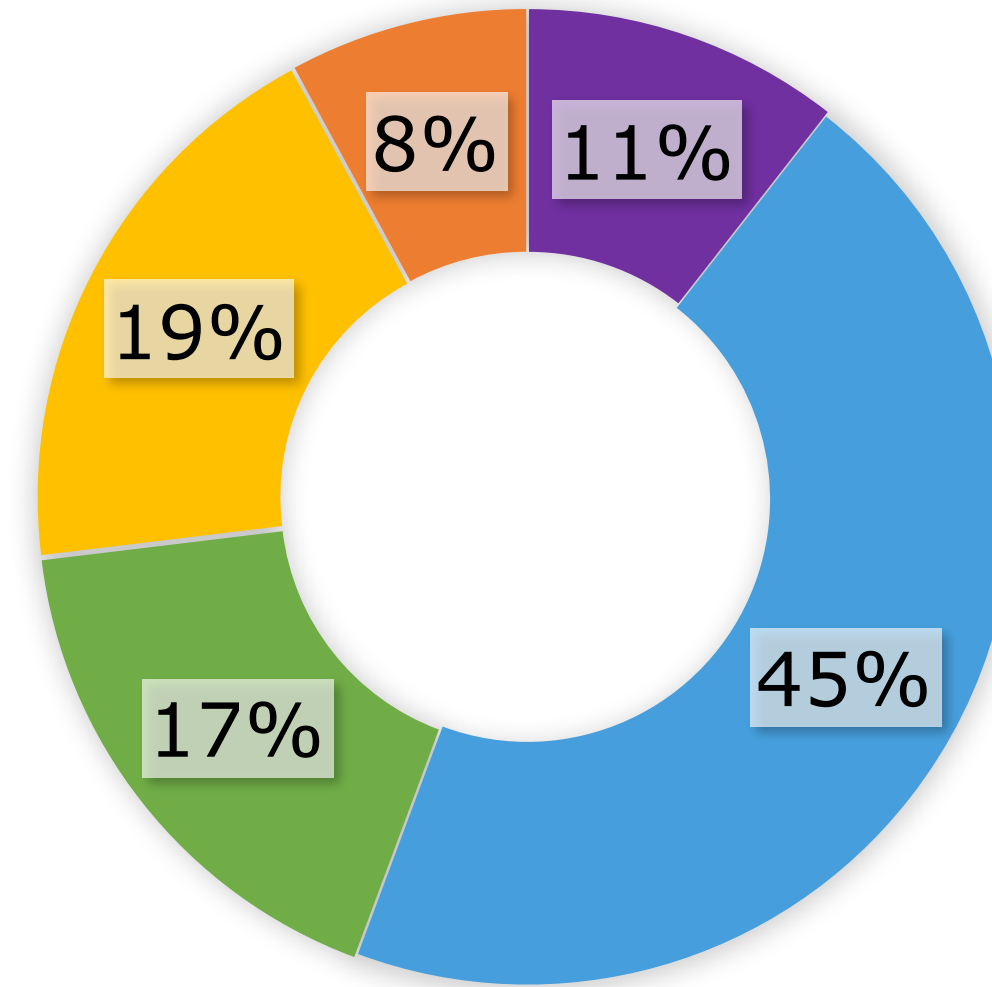
Methods

- A survey was designed to gauge public perceptions of the Jordan River Corridor.
- We did public-intercept convenience sampling to distribute the questionnaire using iPads.
- Questions on the survey were available in both English and Spanish
- To spatially analyze questions on the survey, we asked respondents the proximity of their homes to the Jordan River.
- We attended free public events, parks, libraries, and grocery stores to invite people to take the survey.
- 401 total responses.



- Asian
- Pacific Islander
- Black or African American
- Native American
- Hispanic or Latino
- White
- Other

Figure 3. Race or ethnicity of survey respondents.



- Next to the river
- 1-5 blocks away
- 6-10 blocks away
- 11+ blocks away
- Do not know

Figure 4. Respondents' proximity to the Jordan River.

For analysis the residential proximity responses were grouped into 3 categories:

- Near: Next to the river & 1-5 blocks away
- Far: 6-10 blocks away & 11+ blocks away
- Do Not Know

Data were analyzed using Spearman's r and Chi-square.

Findings

We found no evidence ($p > 0.05$) that proximity affects...

- Perceived quality of life in the area
- Concerns about flooding
- Concerns about river water quality

There is evidence ($p < 0.05$) that proximity affects...

- Concerns about litter within the Jordan River Corridor
- How frequently people visit the Jordan River Corridor

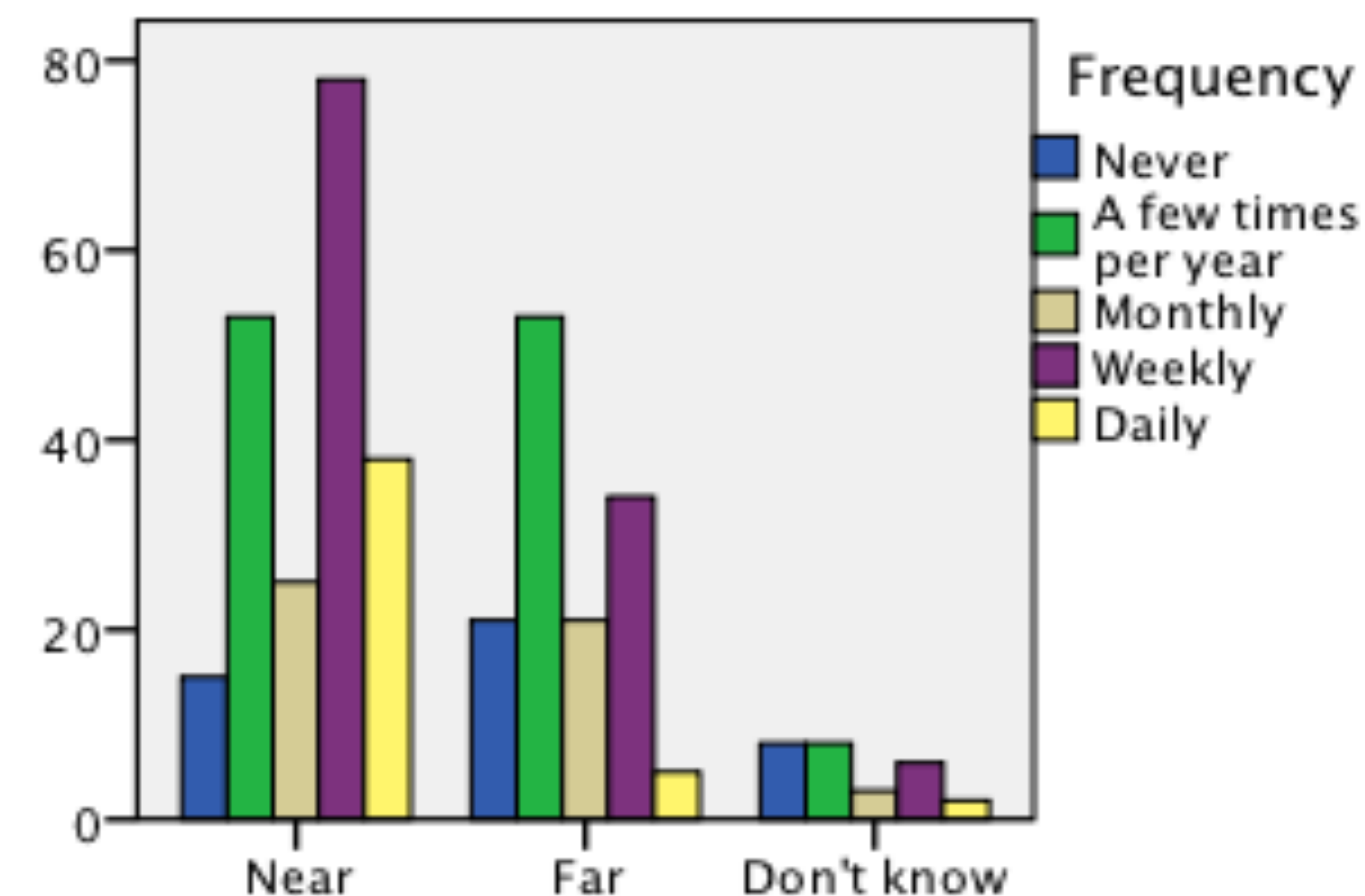


Figure 5. Frequency of visitation compared to proximity.

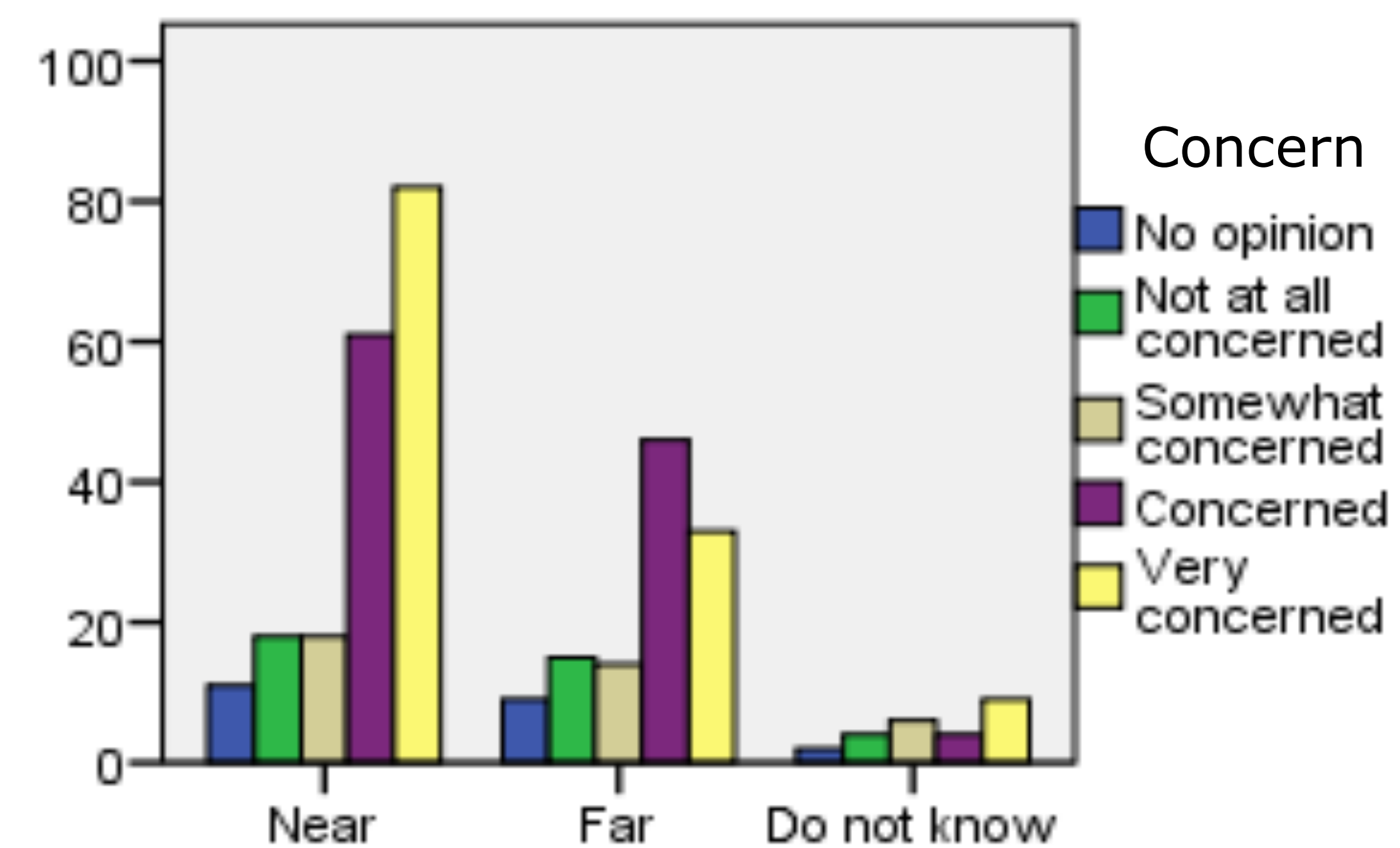


Figure 6. Concern about litter compared to proximity.



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