

VISITOR SURVEYS

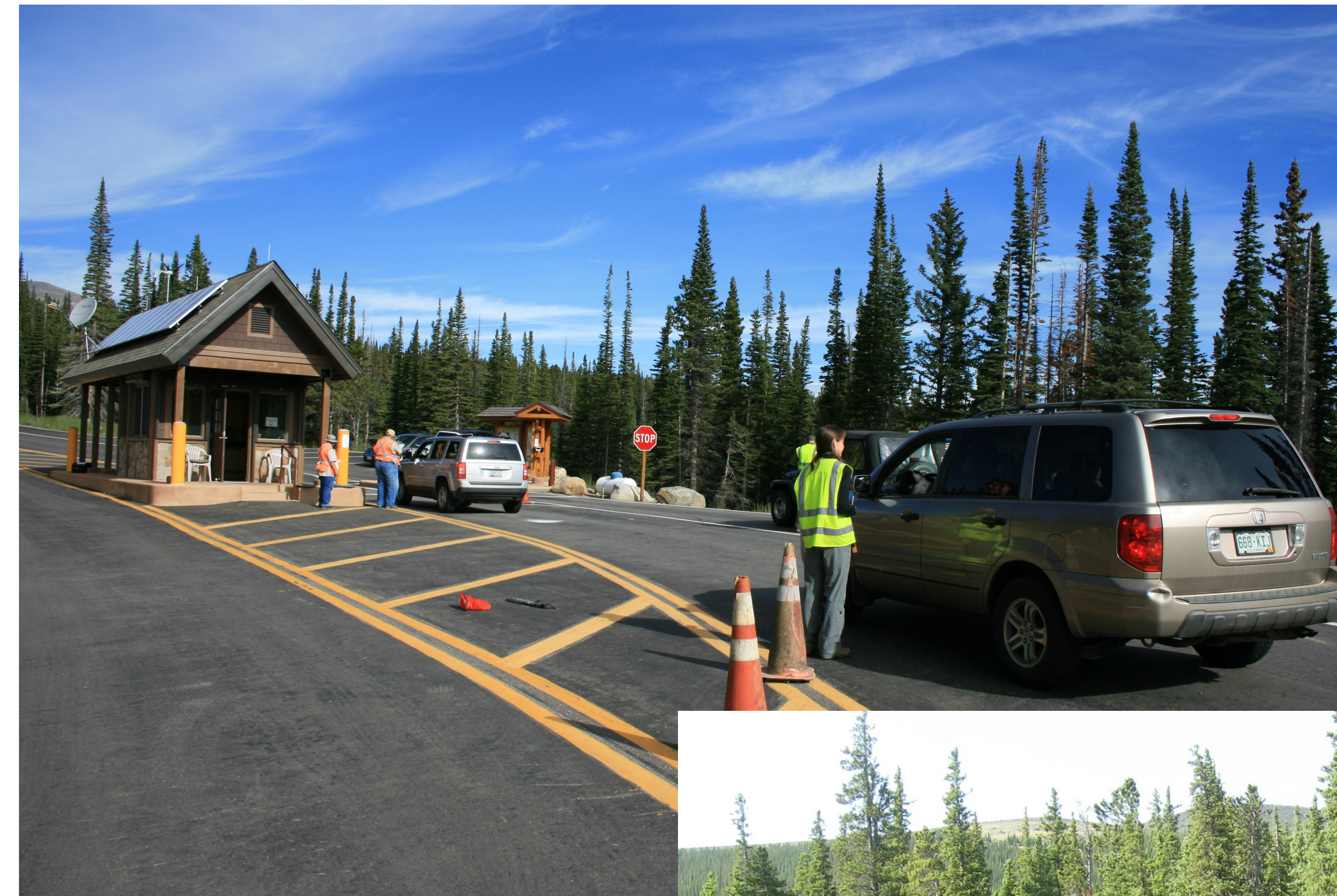
During summer 2014, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) conducted visitor surveys at Brainard Lake, Mount Evans, and Guanella Pass. The purpose of the survey was to collect information that will help improve transportation conditions, recreation and resource management. The survey instrument was designed to collect information about visitors' perceptions, experiences, and expectations on the following areas:

Transportation Conditions and Services

- Visitor perceptions and experiences with traffic, parking conditions, services, and travel routes taken.
- Help inform managers on development and implementation of long-term solutions to reduce traffic and parking congestion.

Trip Planning Behaviors

- Timing of trip planning decision making and information used to make such decisions; help inform managers about the usefulness of current and future information & technology.
- Data used to improve communication of information to visitors.



VISITOR SURVEYS



Overall Visitor Experience

- . Perceptions and impacts of visitor crowding at various locations; help management understand current social and physical resource conditions visitors encounter.
- . Helps managers understand acceptable resource conditions and areas for potential improvement.

Preferences and Opinions toward Management

- . Visitor opinions about potential future management scenarios allows visitors to share their thoughts on future management scenarios.
- . Helps managers understand the viability of management options under consideration.

Visitor and Trip Characteristics

- . Visitor group characteristics such as demographic information and group size help define the visiting population to each of the three locations.
- . Provides a context of the other types of information collected.



BRAINARD LAKE RECREATION AREA

SURVEY DATA ANALYSIS

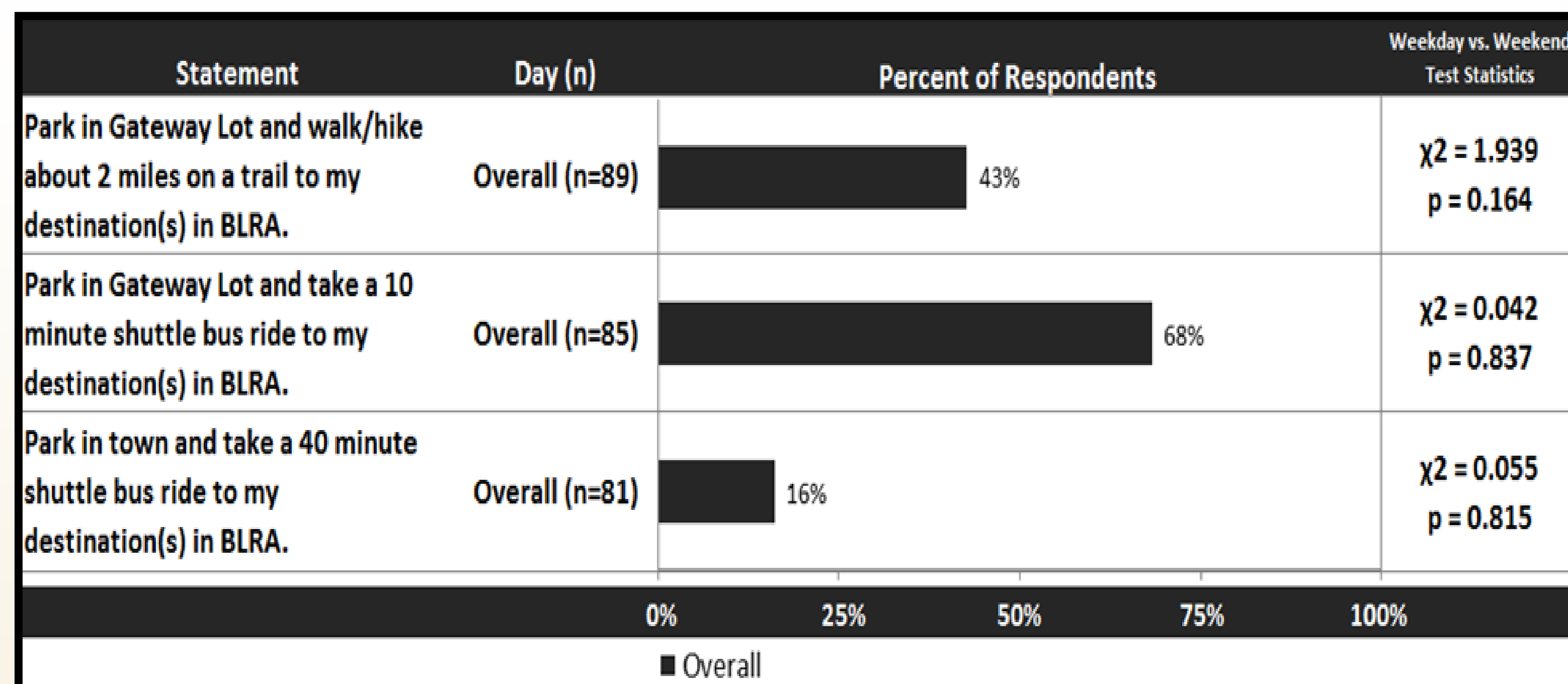
The survey instruments focused on traffic congestion and parking, assessing visitors' opinions modifications and improvements to transportation services and facilities (Figure 1) and emphasizing identification of transportation-related issues experienced by visitors at BLRA (Figure 2).

The surveys also measured visitors' perceptions and tolerances for crowding while hiking in the Indian Peaks Wilderness.



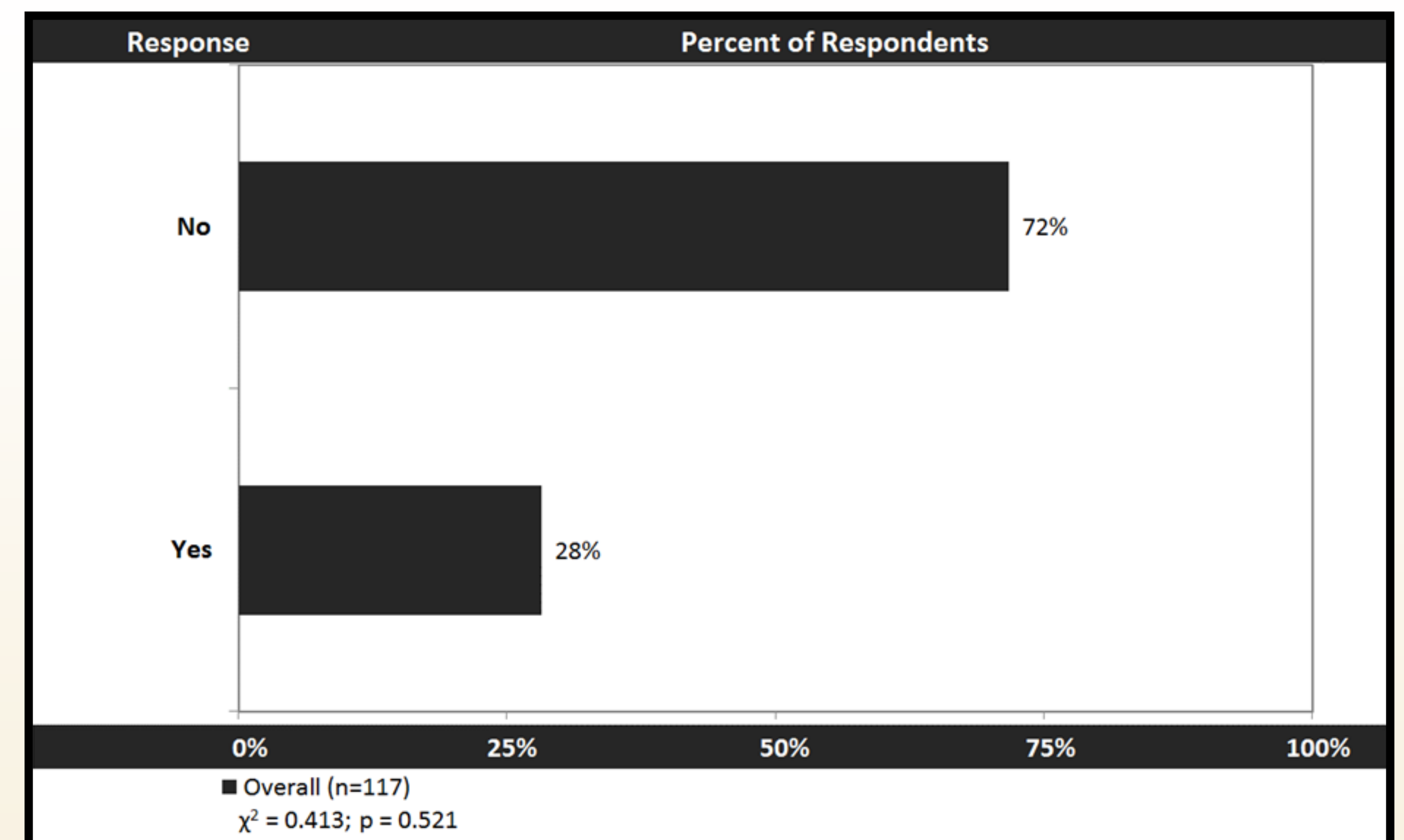
The following are two examples of survey questions and the data results:

Figure 1: For each of the following, if it was your only option for hiking here on a future trip because parking lots in BLRA were full, would you be likely to do it or would you probably choose not to hike here?



Regardless of the day of week, approximately two-thirds (68%) of visitors surveyed said they would be likely to visit BLRA on a future trip, even if they had to park in the Gateway Lot and take a 10 minute shuttle bus ride to their destination(s) in BLRA.

Figure 2: When you planned this trip to BLRA, did you think about the possibility that it might be difficult to park here?



Nearly three-quarters (72%) of visitors surveyed did not anticipate that it would be difficult to find parking at BLRA.

MOUNT EVANS RECREATION AREA

SURVEY DATA ANALYSIS

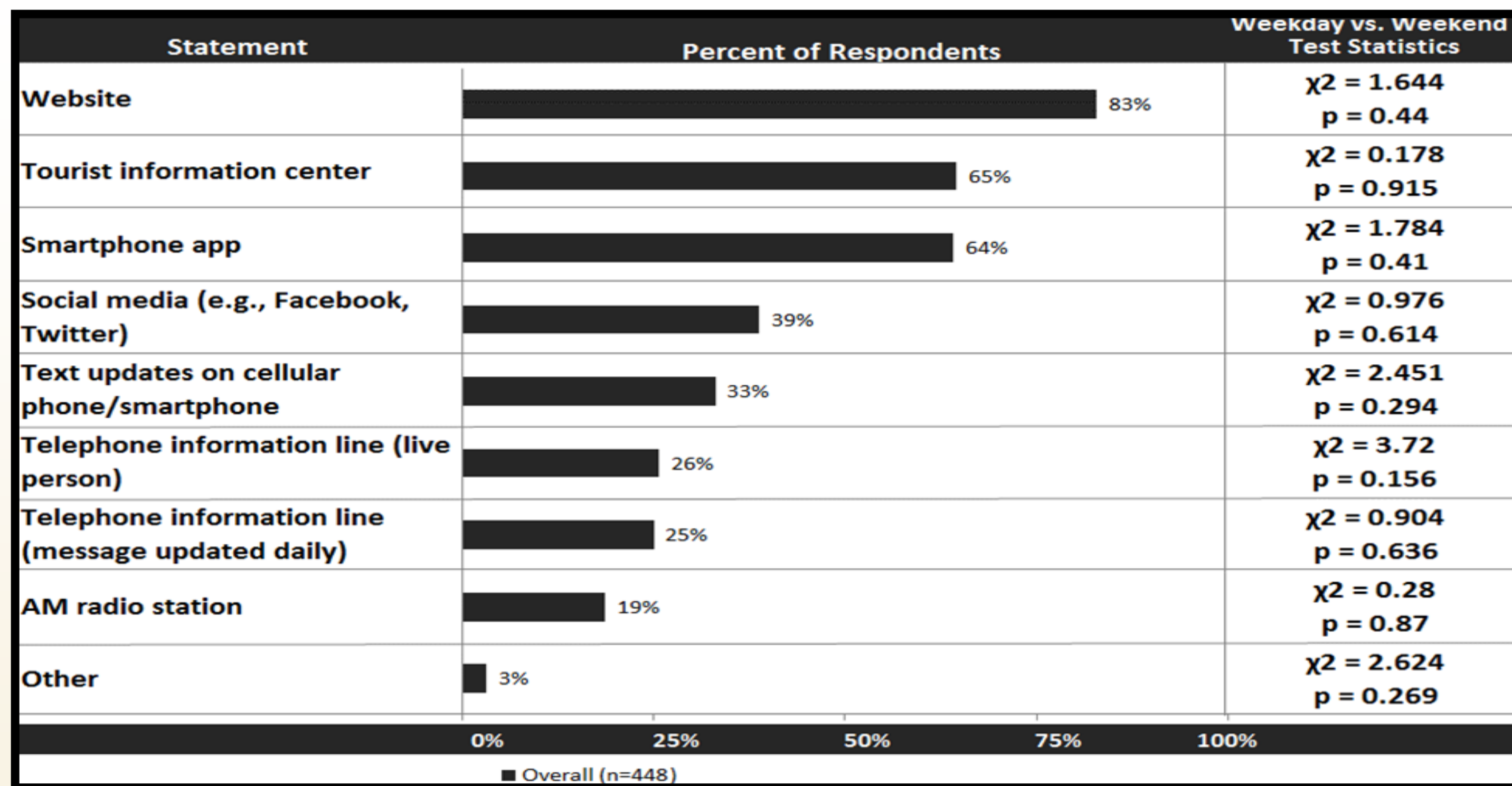
The Mount Evans visitor survey was administered to a sample of visitor groups that visited the Mount Evans Recreation Area during the summer of 2014 peak visitation period.

The survey focused on understanding traffic congestion and parking shortages. Participants evaluated potential alternative transportation systems to help mitigate these conditions (Figure 1). The survey also measured visitors' perceptions and tolerances for crowding on the summit of Mt. Evans, through the use of photo simulation techniques (Figure 2).



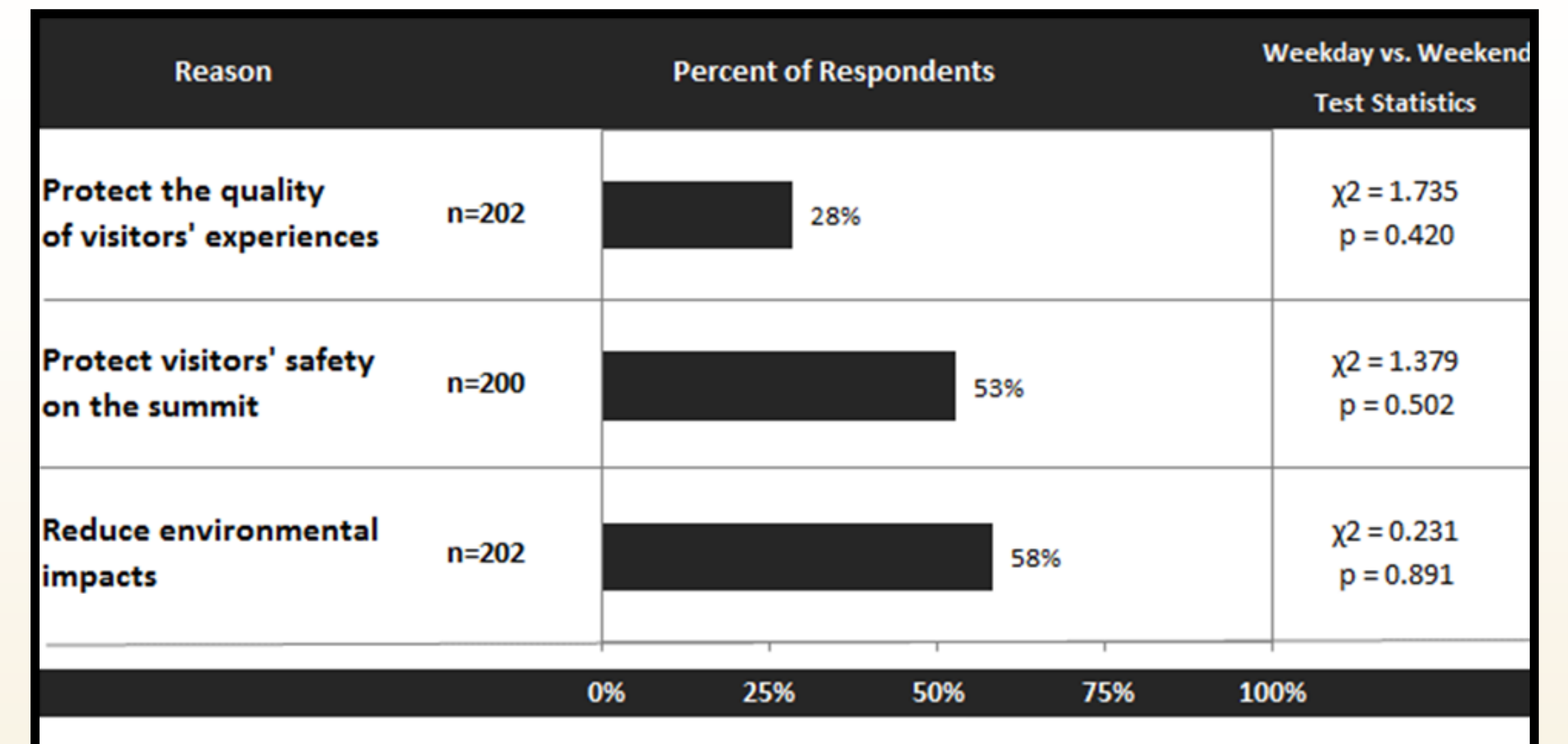
The following are two examples of survey questions and the data results:

Figure 1: How likely would you be to use each of the following sources of information about parking and crowding conditions at MERA, if it was available for planning a future trip to MERA?



A large majority (82%) of visitors surveyed indicated they would be likely to use a website for information about parking and crowding at MERA when planning a future trip.

Figure 2: Should the number of people allowed to visit Mt. Evans each day be limited, if it was needed for any of the following reasons, even if it limits when you can visit MERA?



More than half (58%) of visitors surveyed believe the number of people allowed to visit Mt. Evans each day should be limited to reduce environmental impacts, even if it limits when they can hike the trail.

GUANELLA PASS

SURVEY DATA ANALYSIS

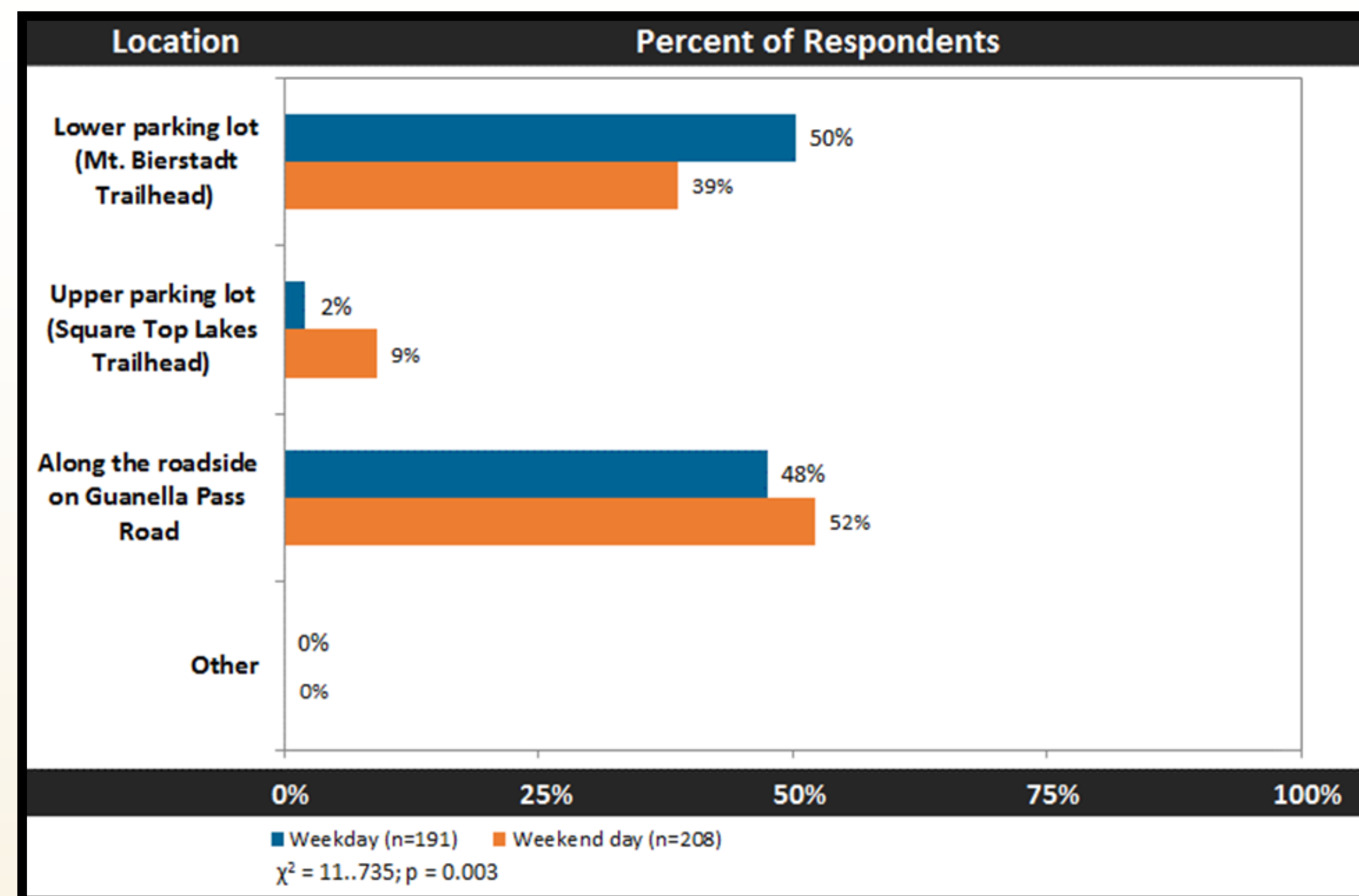
The Guanella Pass visitor survey was administered to a sample of visitor groups that traveled on the Mt. Bierstadt Trail during the summer 2014 peak visitation period at Guanella Pass.

The survey focused on understanding traffic congestion and parking shortages (Figure 1), including participant evaluation of potential alternative transportation systems. The survey also measured visitors' perceptions and tolerances for crowding while hiking on the Mt. Bierstadt Trail (Figure 2).



The following are two examples of survey questions and the data results:

Figure 1: *Where did you park on this trip to Guanella Pass?*



About half of surveyed visitor groups, regardless of the day of week (48% on weekdays and 52% on weekend days), parked along the roadside of Guanella Pass Road.

Figure 2: *For each photograph, please tell us if you would feel crowded if you were on the summit of Mt. Evans with the number of people depicted in the photograph.*



Photo-elicitation is a method used to measure visitor reaction to potential crowding scenarios.