

QUESTION OF THE WEEK, WEEK 11-12 (12-23.3.2025)

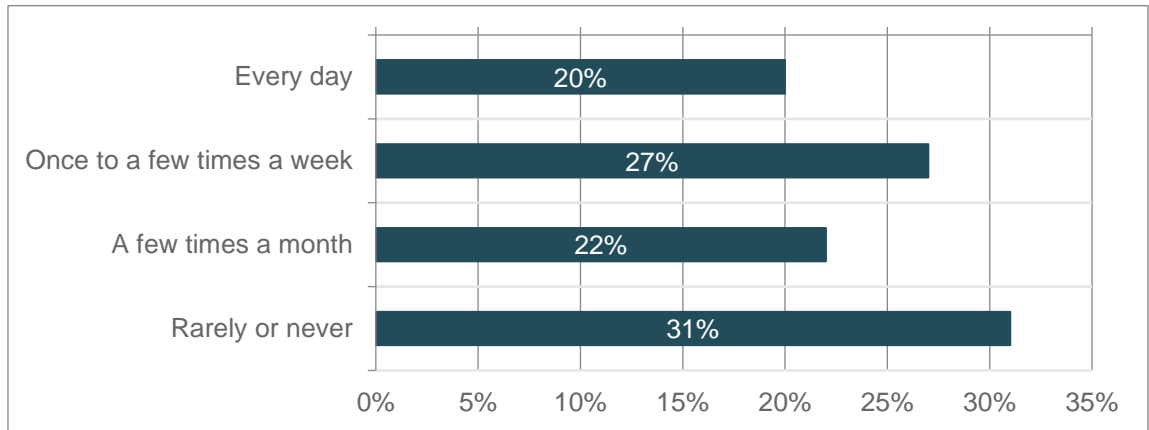
NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS: 541

The margin of error is 4 % and thereby the answers are considered to reflect the opinions of the population in Jakobstad.

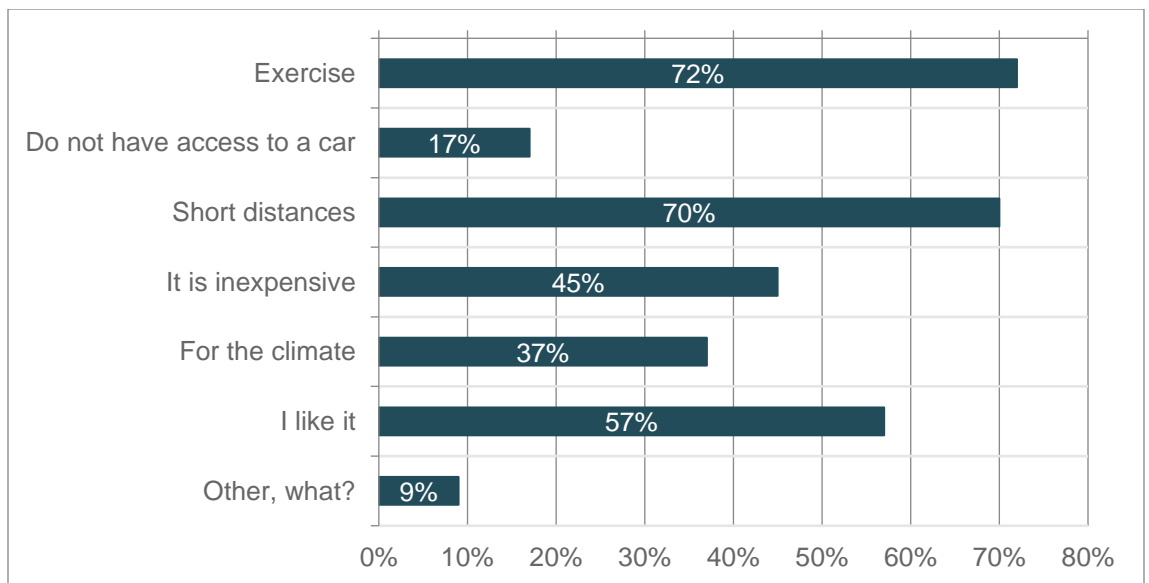
ATTITUDE SURVEY ON CYCLING

In the Question of the Week the residents were asked: *“Have you thought about the fact that we are one of Finland's most densely populated areas, that the distances are so short that we could often get around by bike with only a few minutes' difference compared to by car, and that we would not have to worry about parking the car or how long we can stay parked? What makes many of us still choose the much more expensive car? We want to map attitudes towards cycling and see if there is anything the town can do to facilitate and promote cycling.*

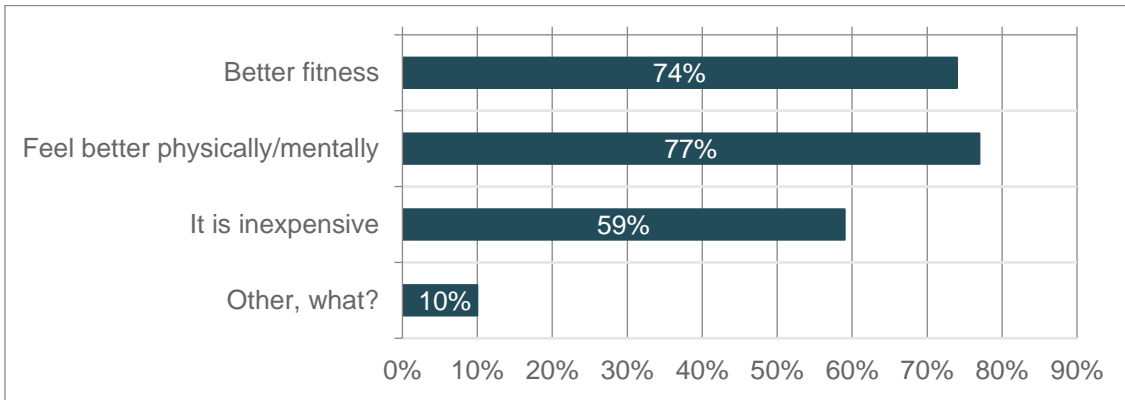
How often do you cycle?”



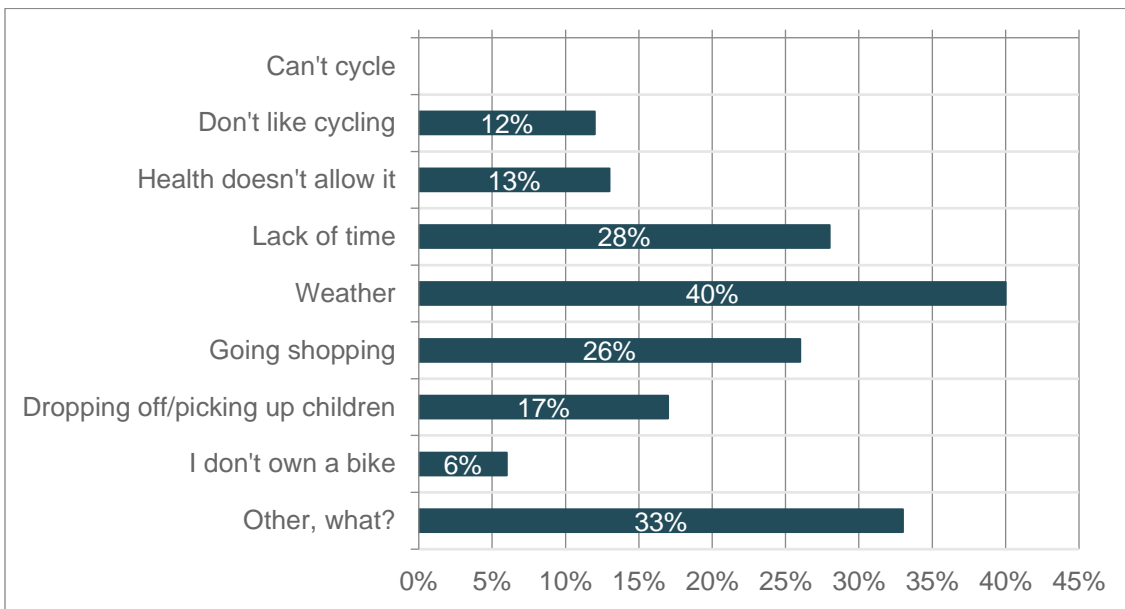
Those who responded, “Every day” or “Once to a few times a week” got the follow-up questions: *“Why do you cycle?”*



and ***“What positive effects does it have?”***

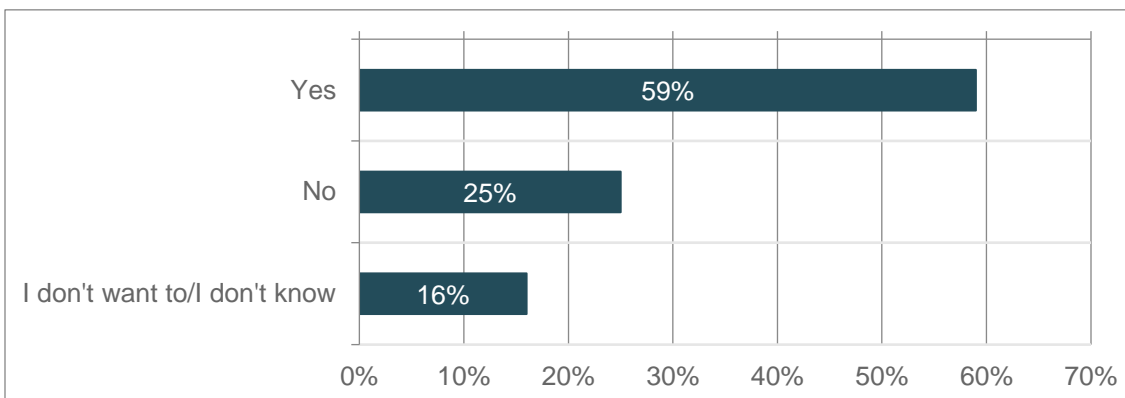


Those who responded, “A few times a month” or “Rarely or never” on the first question got the follow-up questions: ***“Why don’t you cycle more often?”***

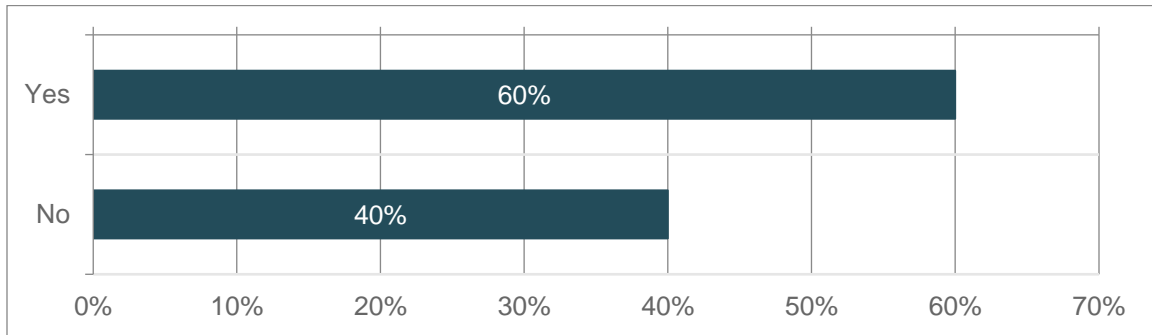


Those who responded “Other, what” mention among other things, winter conditions (snow, high risk of skidding, ice), long commute, lack of bike paths, need for a car at work, and risk of theft.

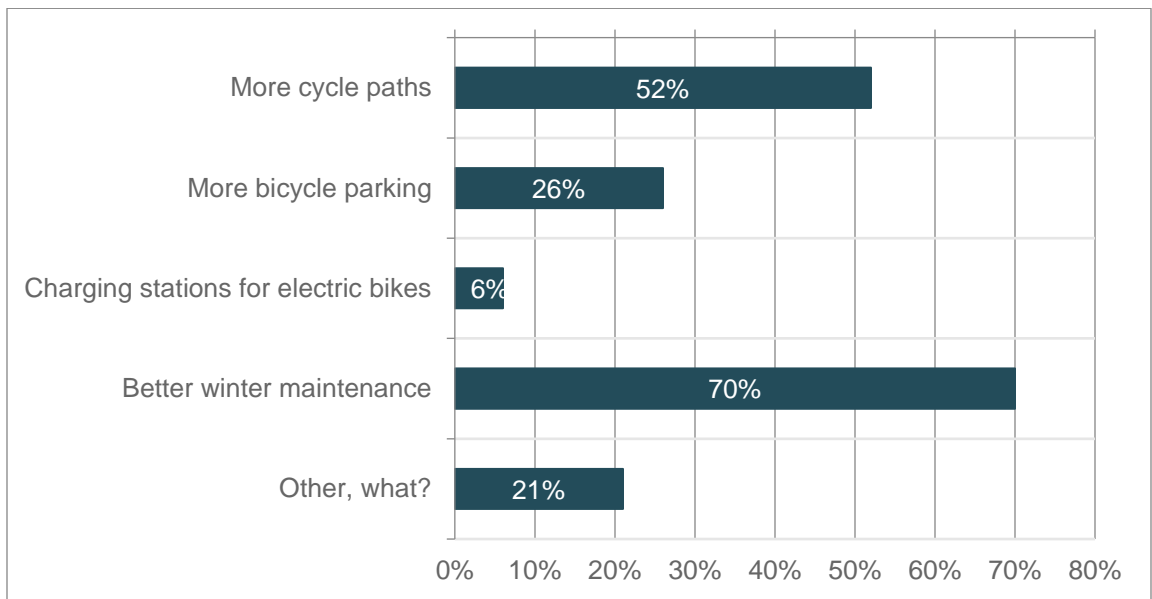
and ***“With a bit of planning, could you cycle more often?”***



“Would an expansion and improvement of the cycle paths make you cycle more often?”



“What can the town do to facilitate cycling?”



“What kind of winter maintenance would make it better to cycle on cycle paths in winter?”

Many emphasize the importance of regular and early plowing and sanding to keep bike paths free from snow and ice. It is especially important to plow early in the morning before people go to work. Several suggest that bike paths should be prioritized higher than car roads, especially those leading to workplaces, schools, and central parts of the town.

Many emphasize the importance of plowing and sanding bike paths early in the morning, preferably before 6 AM, to ensure that cyclists can get to work and school. Some mention that studded tires make it possible to cycle even when it is slippery, but many choose the car if the roads are not well plowed.

“Tell us in your own words what you think about winter maintenance during the winter season 2024-2025. Describe, for example, what has gone well and where there have been shortcomings.”

Many appreciated that the bike paths were plowed, and that the maintenance overall was good. Some praised improvements in plowing compared to previous years. There was criticism that plowing was often done too late, especially in the morning, which made it difficult to cycle and walk. Some noted that the bike paths were often icy and that the plowing was not always thorough enough, which made cycling dangerous.

There was also criticism that sidewalks and walkways were not always plowed or sanded sufficiently, which made it difficult for pedestrians, especially the elderly and people with strollers. Some respondents complained that the plowing of bike paths and sidewalks was often done too late, making it difficult for school children to get to school in the morning.

Some respondents noted that there were large differences in maintenance between different areas, with better maintenance in some parts of the town. Some respondents suggested that bike paths should be prioritized over car roads, and that examples could be taken from other cities like Vaasa and Oulu.

NEXT STEP

The town of Jakobstad organizes events during the bike week at the beginning of May. A survey on the need for new bike paths, their condition, and usage will also be conducted in May. The results of these surveys will be considered in the ongoing work for the development of the town's walking and biking paths, where maintenance classes and priority order for snow removal will be updated.

More information:

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