MN GIS/LIS 2019 Member Survey Results
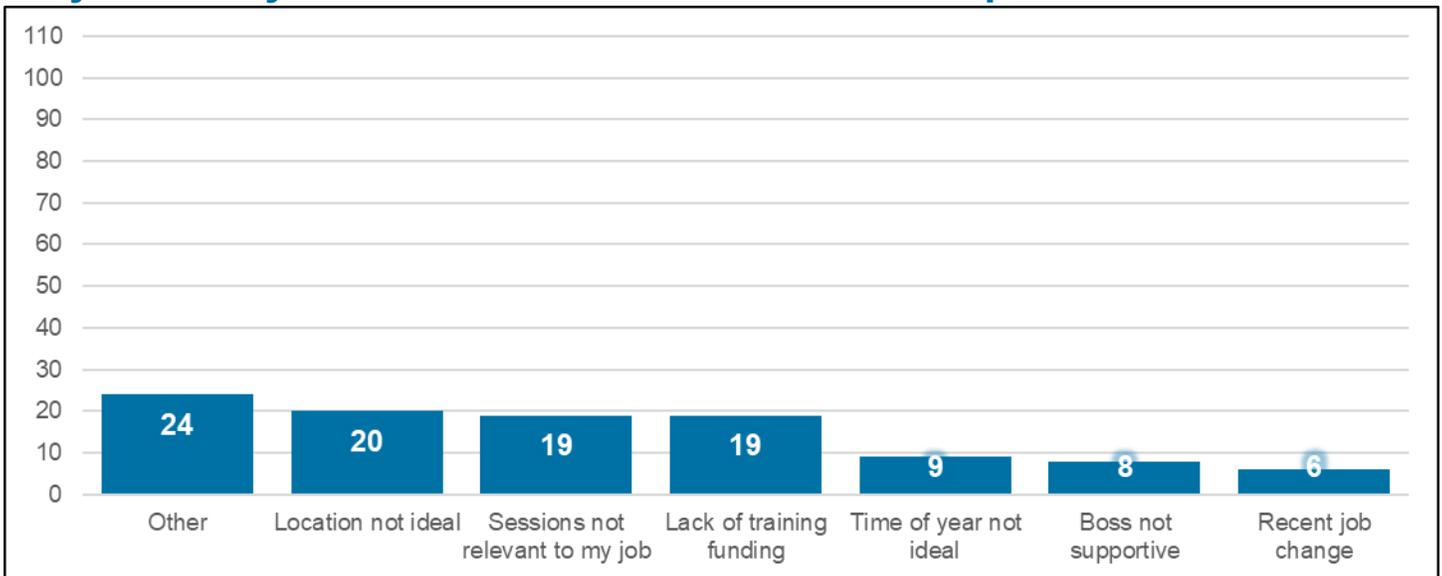
What conference features do you find most useful?

Feature	Value
User presentations	86
Networking	71
Get inspired	66
Workshops	57
See old friends	54
Vendors	29
Location	23
Connect with new vendors	14
Other	3
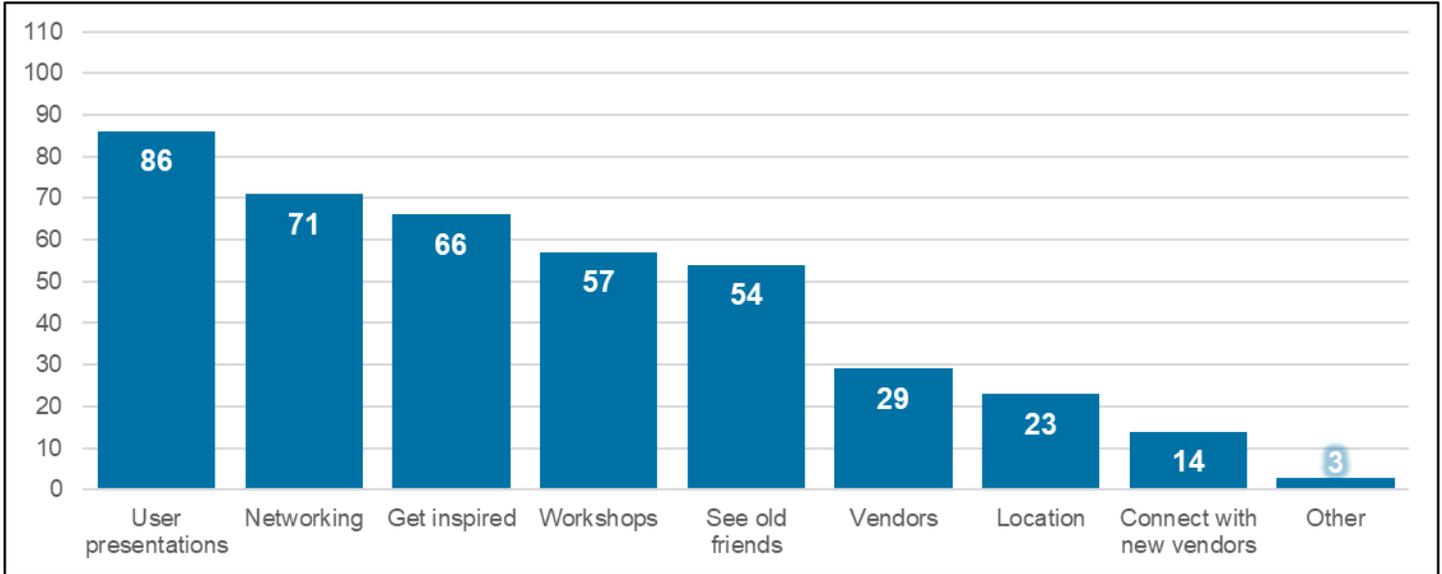
Other responses

Why has southern Minnesota been "off-the-map" for the annual conference in recent years?

Why haven't you attended our conference in the past?

Reason	Value
Other	24
Location not ideal	20
Sessions not relevant to my job	19
Lack of training funding	19
Time of year not ideal	9
Boss not supportive	8
Recent job change	6

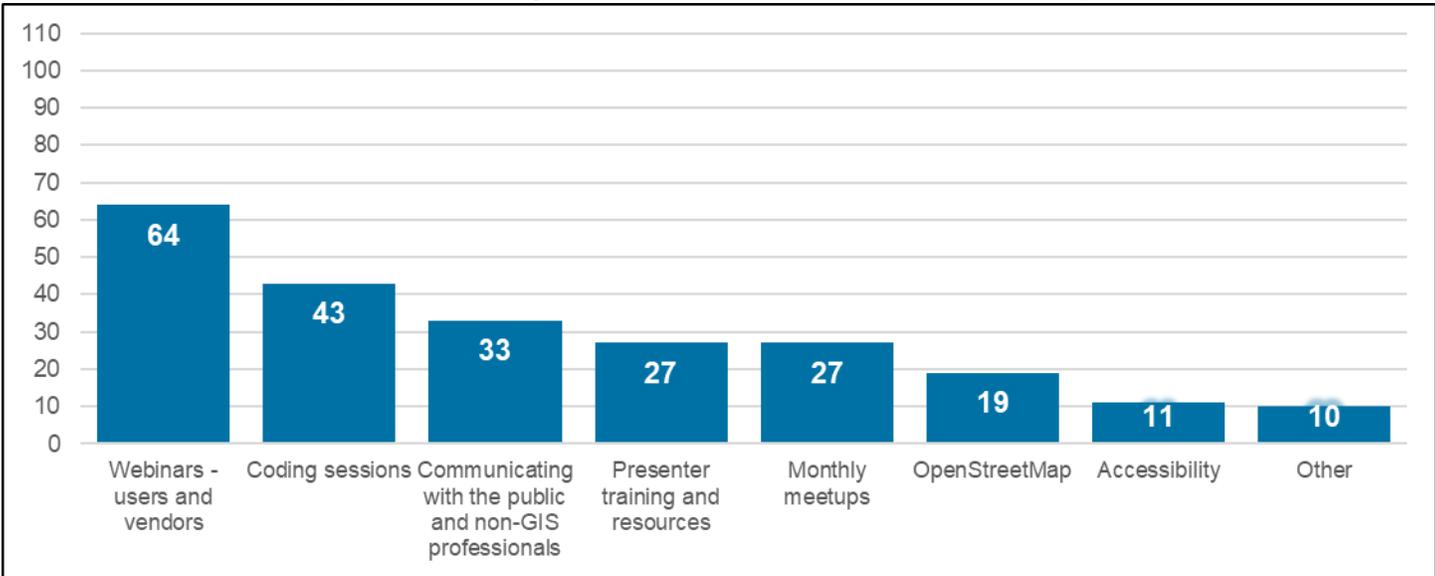| |
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| I have attended in the past but not every year - too many other tasks and events happening all at once! |
| had to be strategic about travel/conference funding |
| just moved to the area |
| Sessions are not Advanced Enough |
| Not particularlly interesting session topics |
| Haven't missed one in 19 years |
| I can either attend the ESRI UC or GIS/LIS. One is in Saint Cloud, the other in San diago, I find I get more out of the ESRI UC. |
| N/A, have attended conferences since 2007 |
| Conference can seem government centric and not inviting to the public sector. |
| my job focus is beyond MN and attendance is typically not entirely justifiable for me. |
| Personal life (wedding, funeral, children, etc) |
| Only two times I haven't attended ...one was in the big recession and the other because it was located in Brainerd (too far from me to go). |
| I've only missed a couple in 20 years. |
| Needed at work for Project deadlines. |
| The only location I don't attend is Bemidji, due to distance from Cities. |
| I've attended every conference since I went back to school for GIS |
| Feels somewhat redundant to the Esri Conference when/if I go to it. |
| Getting the correct process for work to pay is a hassle |
| Spent a few years working in a primarily non-GIS position so it was seen as not relevant. |
| Location has been focused on northern Minnesota, and does not accommodate southern Minnesota. |
| Workshop instructors are not compensated for their efforts in putting coursework and materials together. Other local and national conferences provide complimentary registration for half and full day workshop instruction. |
| too close to federal fiscal year change causes budgetting issues |
| Everything is ESRI based.... many other GIS software out there but no representation. |
| Busy |

Do you know about our Fresh Start/Retired conference rates?
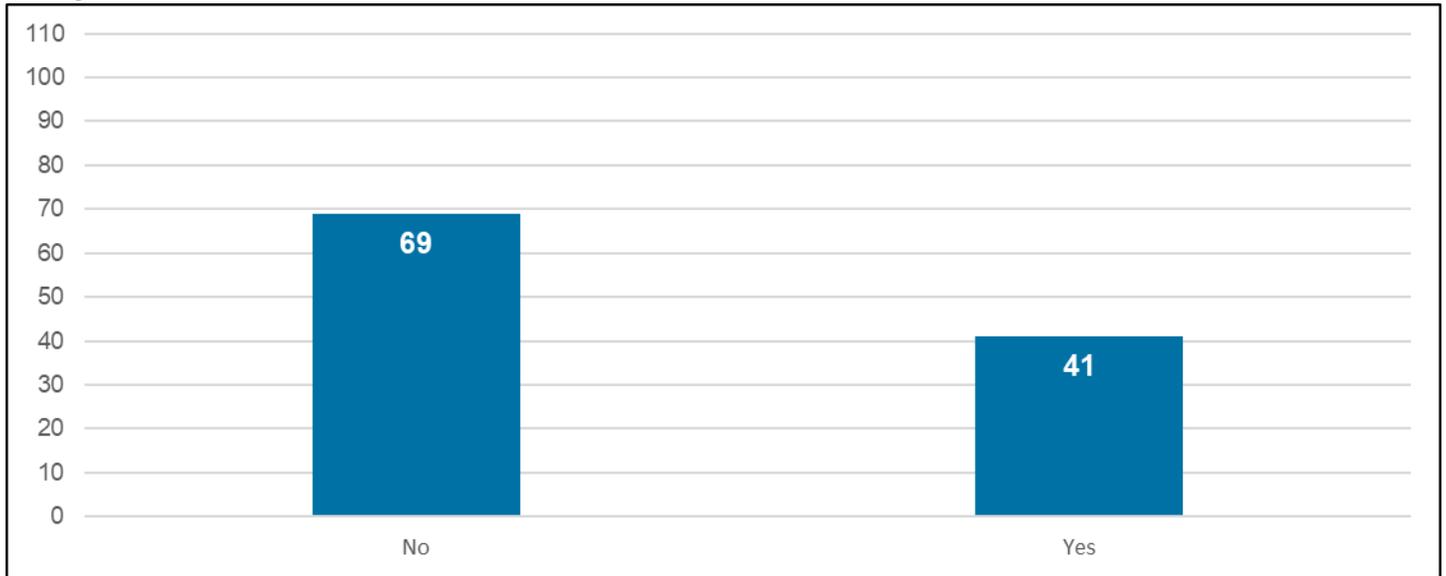
What would you add to the annual conference to make you want to attend again if you have not recently?

Location is a big driver for my office. A day trip is ideal.
Transportation related topics.
Better workshops
Advanced Sessions of JavaScript coding, Advanced App Development, Advanced ArcGIS Hub
It would be nice to have a couple of presentations by ESRI about their new products and update on the existing products.
More interesting presentations.
Conference should be in Duluth every year.
A virtual option for those without travel funds.
No more speeches from Dan Ross.
I attend
Nothing, your doing great
I'm new so this may already be happening (but maybe not at the conference). I would like to see (maybe even in a survey) the ranges of salaries and job experience for people working in GIS in Minnesota.
Using open source GIS resources

While I attend annually, the last few years presentations and quality of content has decreased in many respects as the deadline for abstract submission for sessions and posters continues to be earlier in the year. Similar conferences have abstract submissions over 1-2 months later than the Minnesota GIS/LIS Consortium. Additionally, workshop instructors do not receive a credit that can be applied to their registration similar to state, regional, national, and international conferences. By providing workshop instructors with complimentary conference registration, higher quality materials and content can be presented with top-tier instructors. A stipend is not a replacement for those in government who cannot accept funds outside of a complimentary registration. Additionally the website content, in particular the conference content is not usable or accessible. Most of the content is hidden when trying to access the content on a mobile device.

More technical workshops and more private company representation in presentations. MN is home to many fortune 100 companies would love to start to see what they are doing for GIS and their involvement.

Much more hands on training.

You do a great job on the conferences!

More sector groups. GIS is used in all sectors. Lets let them in and learn. Same people year after year. Nice to see old friends, but tend not to learn many new things or broaden networking with different people.

Have a conference again back in Bemidji, MN or Moorhead< MN

In recent years the Consortium has switched to a "mobile-only" conference program, however last year workshop instructors were not included in the program. Additionally this year the conference website's agenda (https://www.mngislis.org/page/2019-agenda) is incredibly hard to access with the accordion menu being collapsed by default and is not accessible on mobile devices. In fact most of the conference materials are not accessible on mobile devices, just the conference homepage.

I also heard the conference site is moving back to Bemidji in 2020, why has the Consortium been neglecting the southern portion of Minnesota since 2014? I will not attend in 2020 as Bemidji is too far to attend.

More ESRI involvement from presentation stance and technical sessions.

More advanced workshops.

more networking opportunities, and change up the workshops to offer diferent classes

I would enjoy organizing tracks related to themes or topics or common interests.

I would like to see more women and a diversity of ages presenting.

I have never been invited and nobody seems to talk about the event. I didn't know there was any reason to pay all that money for yet another conference.

The conference is great, I appreciate all the work that goes into this large event and have no complaints. The lunch food at the last couple meetings was not so great, that would be my only complaint.

Open the abstract and poster abstracts longer than it has been in the last few years. Each year the deadlines extend earlier, yet the program materials get smaller. Why is this the case?

Better marketing and approaches are needed. Abstract and poster submissions seem to come earlier every year and both the quantity AND quality has degraded immensely. In addition, those who put together workshops, presentations, and posters are not rewarded for their efforts appropriately. Why would someone spend so much time putting content together when they receive such a small discount? Similar conferences, including IT conferences reward speakers and have much higher quality and quantity workshops and presentations in Minnesota and Midwest.

everything is great dont change anything. First year at my job I did not want to travel to duluth but know I enjoy going up there

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|---|
| More sessions focused on academia. Also, smaller scaled networking events - less beer & sports bars |
| I'm a GIS developer, and this is the first year i'm not presenting. Lately the sessions have been focused on k-12 teachers and how GIS works....if there is interest i'll gladly give another presentation about programming in GIS...but without knowing what people are interested in it is difficult to know what type of GIS programming to present on. (I"m a full stack GIS developer for Moore Engineering, was bored after work and in the midst of finishing a MS in software engineering)...there are a half dozen or so good GIS programmers/developers in the region that are willing to share our knowledge /present at conferences. |
| Maybe you already do this, but allow people to attend 1 day of the conference instead of paying for both. |
| just an idea, include an area setup to help with URISA GIS corp , train students and perform data entry by users who want to donate time |
| Other GIS vendor/presentations and more analytic based presentations. I use GIS everyday working as a market researcher with a Twin Cities retailer, but the conference offers nothing relevant to my job... even if it were an ESRI based presentation, I would consider going if the topic was relevant.

Too focused on government employees and engineering firms. |
| It has become exclusivly an ESRI Convention, I know the wave is GIS, but there are still alot of people and Companies using AutoCAD. You need to push this software to try and get more people to the Conference. |
| Put it on a Monday - Wednesday. That way we can put what we learn in action right away. It doesn't have the same vacation feel but, I am not looking for a vacation... I am looking to have the best GIS System on planet earth. |
| More involvment from non-public institutions. |

What additional training opportunities outside of the annual spring and fall workshops would you like the Consortium to provide?


Bar chart showing: Webinars - users and vendors: 64; Coding sessions: 43; Communicating with the public and non-GIS professionals: 33; Presenter training and resources: 27; Monthly meetups: 27; OpenStreetMap: 19; Accessibility: 11; Other: 10

Other responses

I think a bi-annual or quarterly "training session" might be interesting. Send out a workflow of a new or interesting tool, process, or technique that you have heard about recently. This would allow for others to gain experience in new areas of GIS/LIS
Not interested in training by the Consortium.
Look at the Twin Cities Research Group Model - it would be nice to highlight different projects people are doing across the sectors.
Not sure. I would like to see the Mn GIS/LIS Consortium support HE students throughout the year, and also K12 educators.
Asset management.
more training opportunities and communication on training opportunities
Training\workshops\ meetups hosted in non-metro locations, so the cities & counties in more remote locations have the opportunity to attend without paying for overnight stays or driving for hours.
Collaboration with Maptime meetups.
Coordination with Meetup groups (i.e., Maptime)
Again, does all training HAVE to be ESRI? MapInfo, Smallworld, QGIS, Maptitude cloud based platforms

Would you like to see college instructors or vendors that have an academic sector within their business be asked to create a workshop at a greater expense to the consortium?
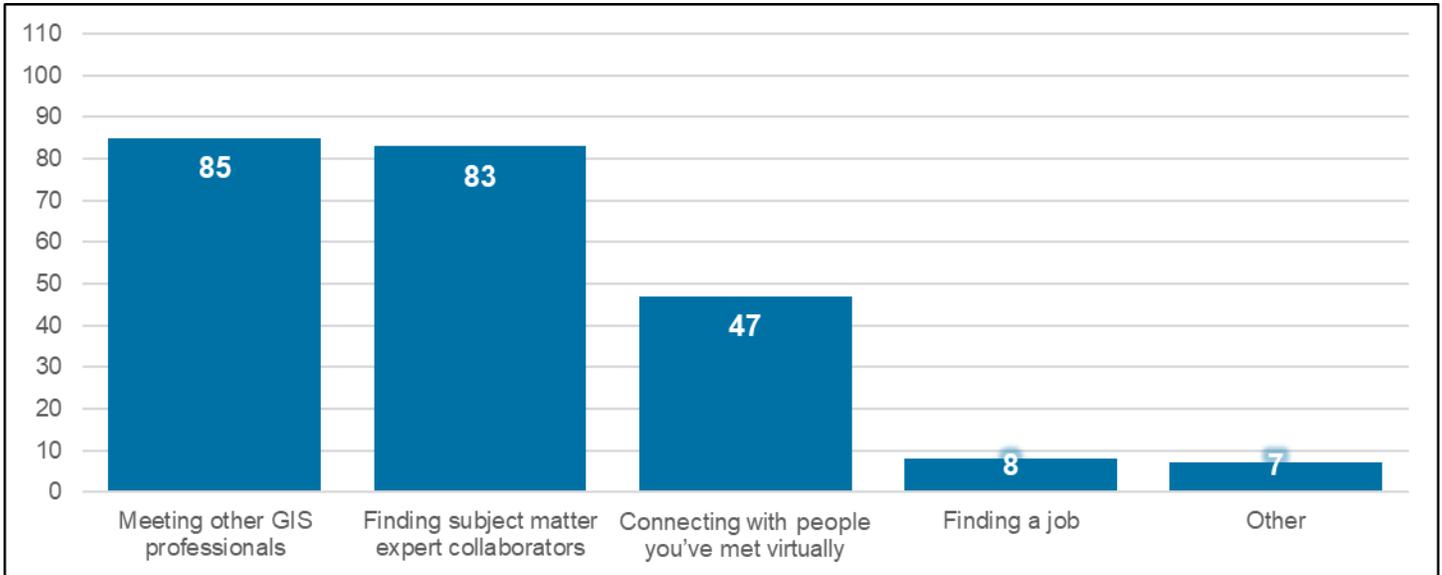

Bar chart: No = 57, Yes = 53
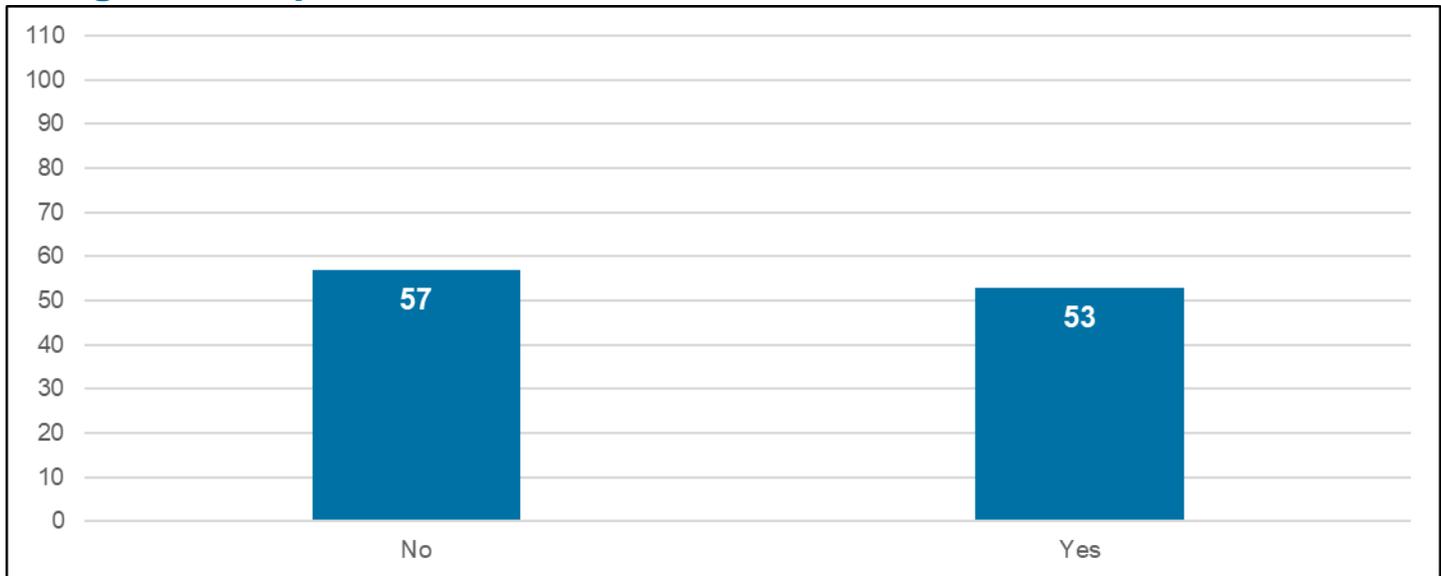
What type of networking events would you prefer at the conference?
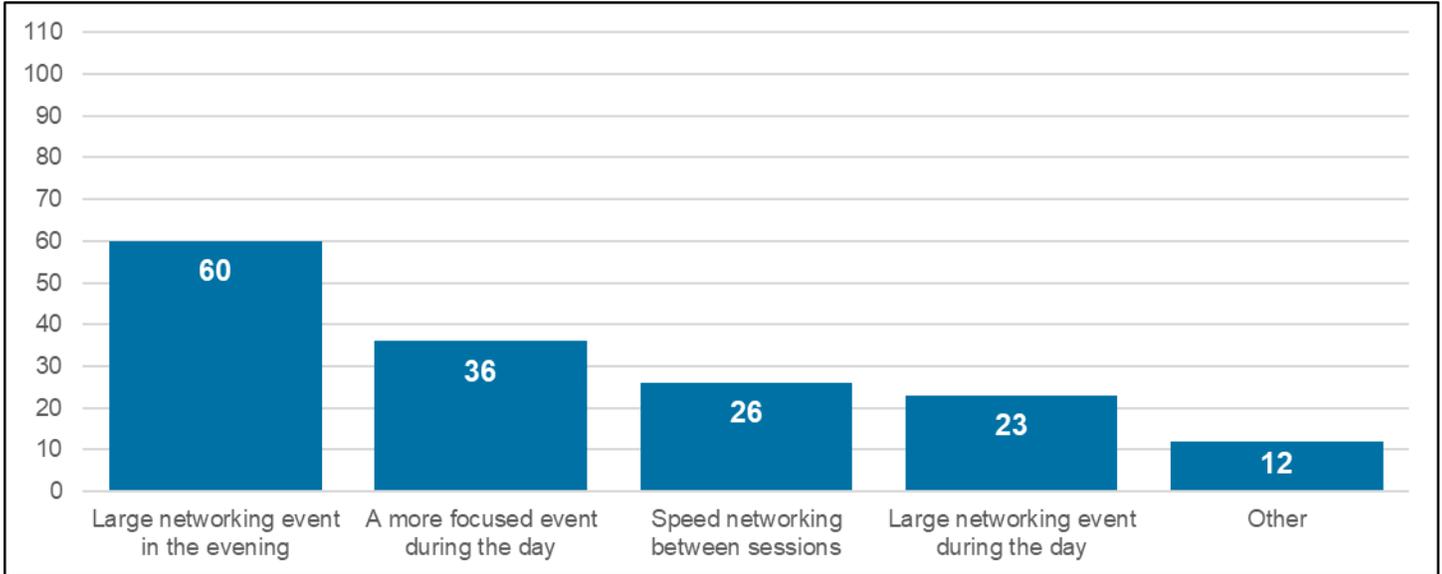
Other responses

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| Some quiet location where people can actually meet and talk. The location that had been chose for the Thursday event has been always loud and hard to hear people talking. |
| Much of the networking that occurs is informal. Just getting us all in one place is a good start. I'm not sure there is time for more! That said, the Thursday evening event has gotten kind of stale and stingy. Last year the food was gone very quickly. |
| personally i networking events do not do much for me but i think they are important to have. |
| Smaller group networking opportunities |
| None |
| Organized and focused subject matter opportunities |
| There does not need to be an organized networking event at the conference. |
| Smaller focus networking events in the evening. The large event can be overwhelming, but still fun. Daytime events would be nice so your evenings would be free, but then it is at the expense of attending sessions. Sorry, no good suggestions! |
| Mentoring |
| birds of a feather sessions (thematic meet ups) |

What are your main goals when networking with other GIS professionals?

Other responses

to compare notes, see what others are doing with GIS
Learning first hand best practices
Collaboration opportunities
Establishing stronger relationships with with people I collaborate with or may collaborate with in the future.
Many of us who work at cities and counties are one or two person GIS departments. For us, it's very good to meet/see peers who are in similar situations to share ideas, etc.
Casual interaction with colleagues
im not good at networking

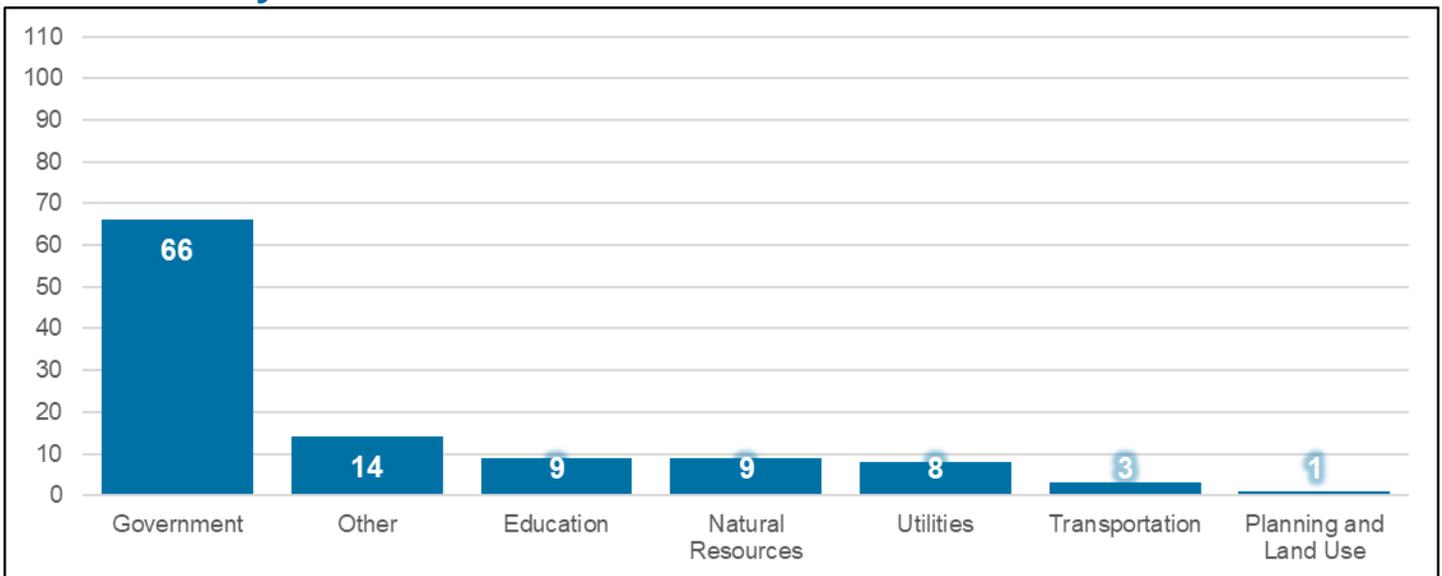# How do you prefer to get information about updates and activities from the Consortium?

Category	Value
Email (e-announcments)	106
MN GIS/LIS website	33
Social media	23
Other	3
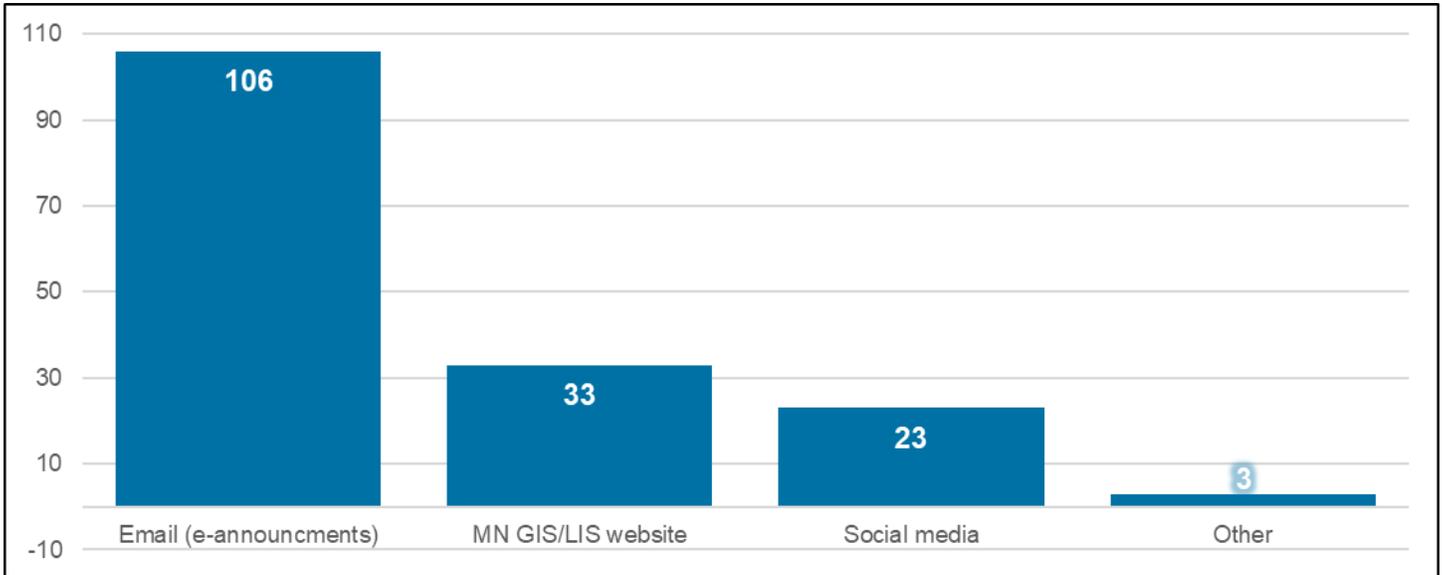
Other responses

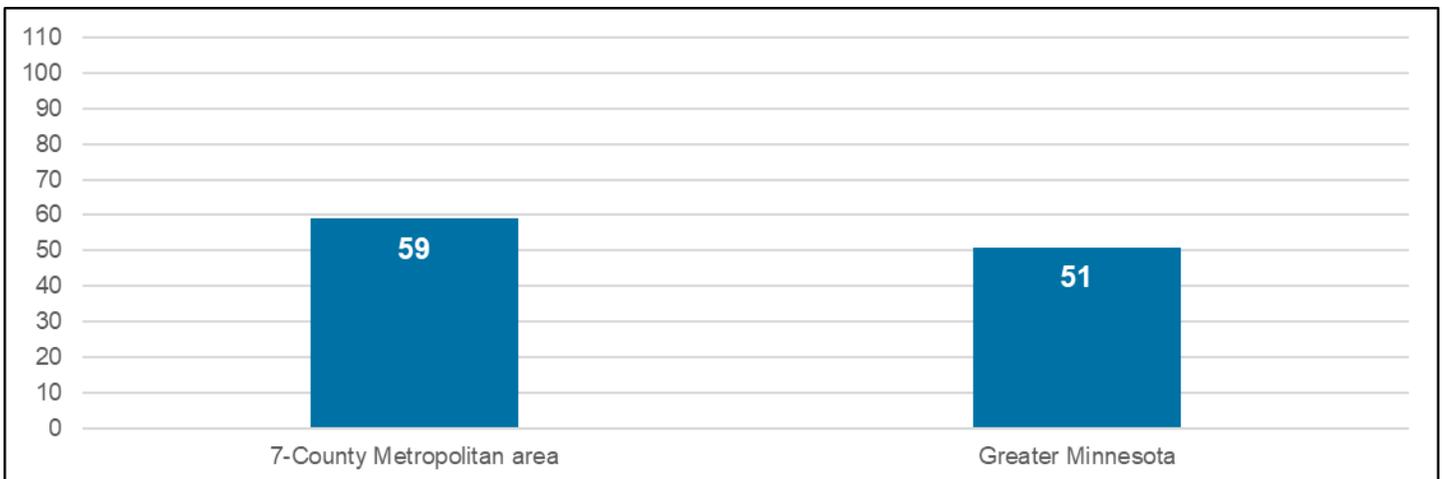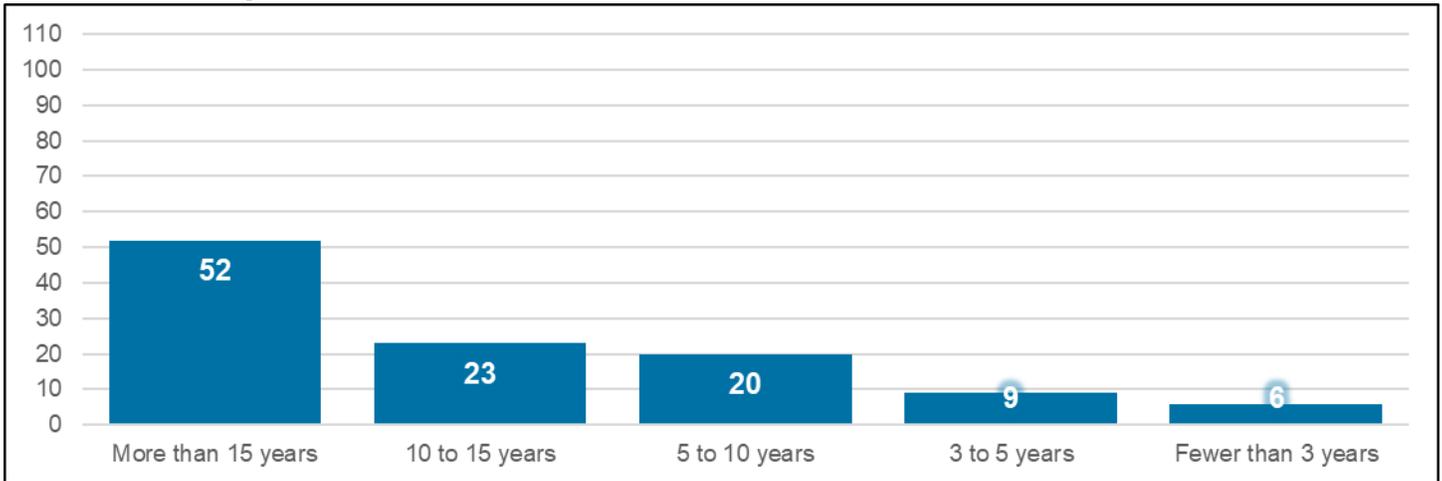| |
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| Interactive summary is online. Maybe something added to website. Even use Esri storymap or Hub on website more. |
| The Consortium's website works well on desktop, but does not show all content on mobile devices. |
| Its okay to repeat messages, I've seen a lack in all of the mediums above in the last two years. |

Your industry

Category	Value
Government	66
Other	14
Education	9
Natural Resources	9
Utilities	8
Transportation	3
Planning and Land Use	1

Other responses

GEOMATICS
Housing and Demographic research using GIS
Environmental
Non-profit Conservation
Water Resource Engineering Firm
Engineering
Software development
Consulting
Retired Federal employee
Consulting
Civil Engineering
Retail
EMS

Your location

Your GIS experience

More than 15 years	10 to 15 years	5 to 10 years	3 to 5 years	Fewer than 3 years
52	23	20	9	6

Your education level

Master degree or above	Bachelor degree	Less than a Bachelor degree
58	48	4
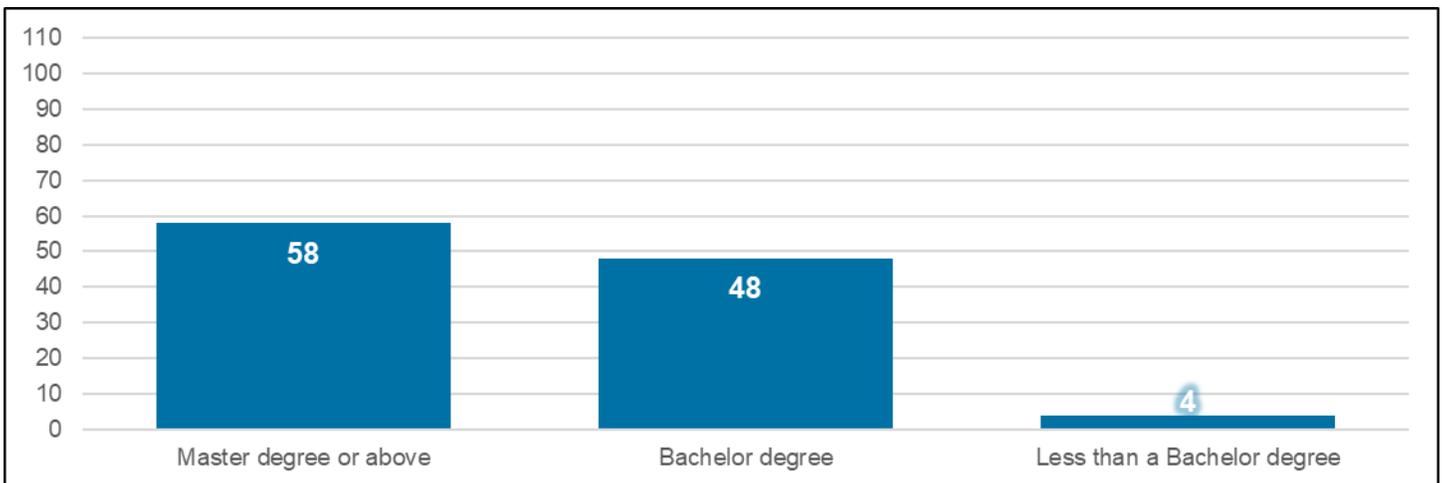
Percent of GIS use in your job

Over 75%	50% to 75%	25% to 50%	10% to 25%	Under 10%
69	17	10	10	4
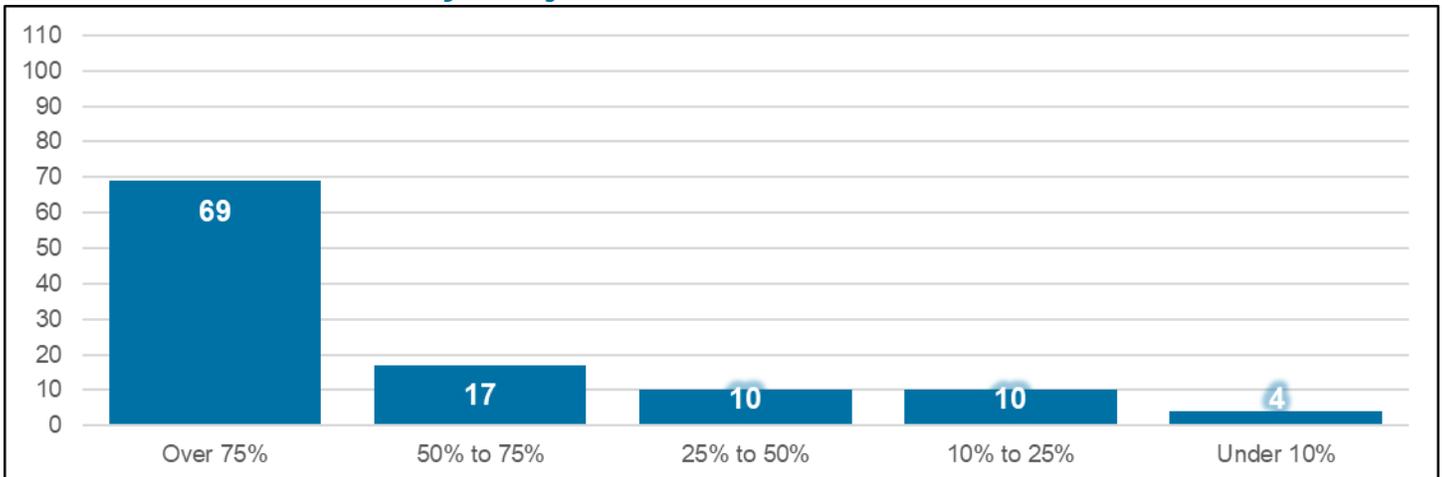
Your gender
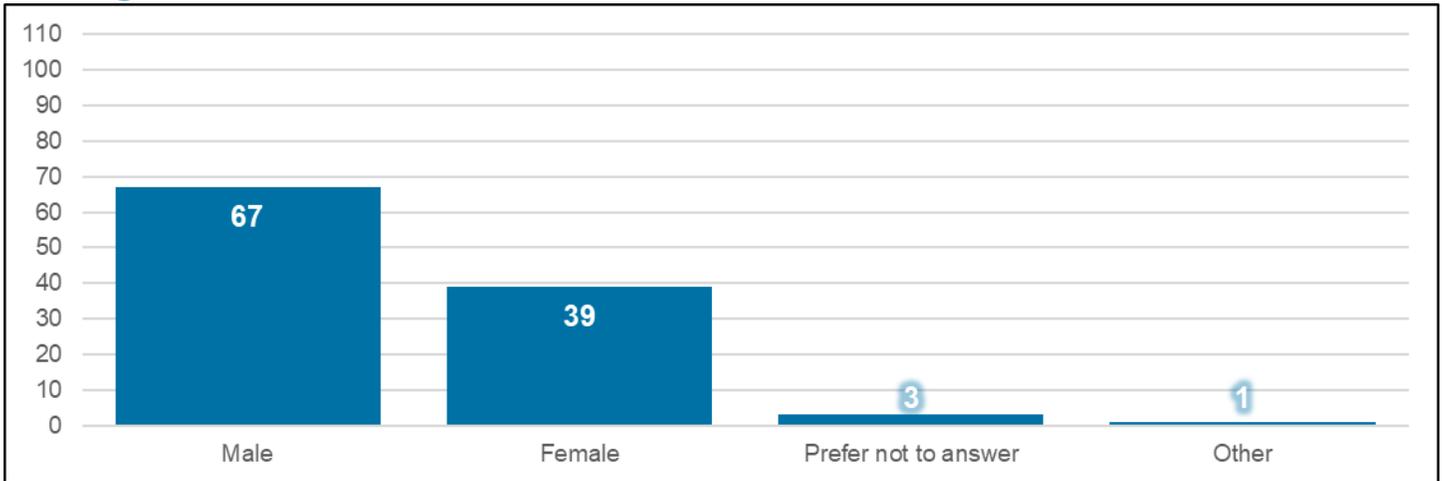
Survey information

- **Survey period**   August 8th through August 23rd, 2019
- **Respondents**   110
- **Survey format**   Survey123 for ArcGIS