

Dewey Beach Visitor Survey Copy

Project Engagement

VIEWS	PARTICIPANTS	RESPONSES	COMMENTS
1,009	241	2,194	199

Do you or someone in your family own property in Dewey Beach?

78%	No	180 ✓
23%	Yes	52 ✓

231 Respondents

How long is your current or most recent stay in Dewey Beach?

42%	One week	75 ✓
19%	Weekend	33 ✓
17%	One day/evening	31 ✓
16%	More than two weeks	28 ✓
6%	Two weeks	11 ✓

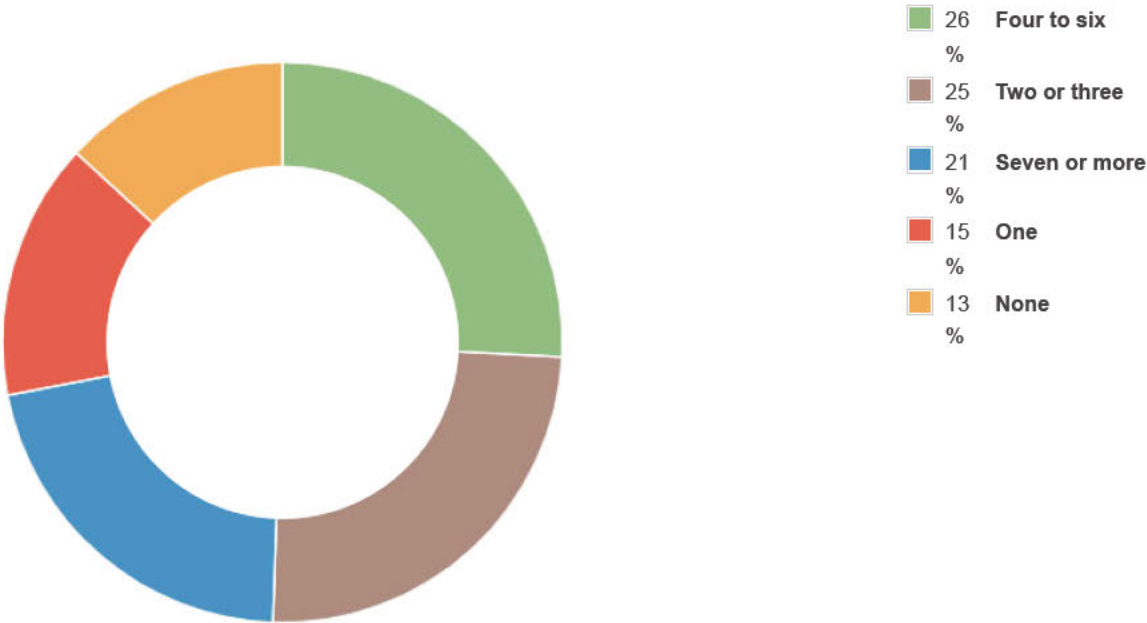
178 Respondents

Did you stay or are you staying in a:

54%	House	79 ✓
23%	Condominium	33 ✓
16%	Hotel or motel	24 ✓
7%	Other	10 ✓

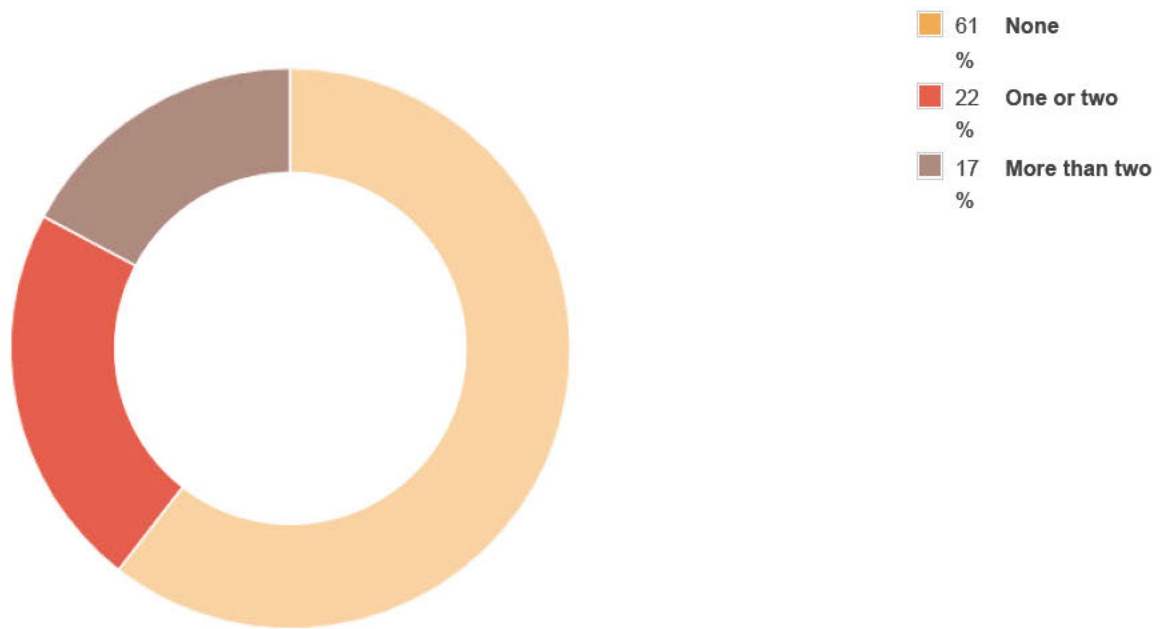
146 Respondents

How many people stayed with you in the same accommodation?



182 respondents

How many children were in your party? (age 17 or younger)



157 respondents

Among the following issues or characteristics, please indicate the top 5 that you believe are the most positive about Dewey Beach and represent why you chose to visit over other nearby beach communities. (Rank 1 to 5, with 1 being the most positive).

70%	Clean and safe beach	Rank: 2.05	99 ✓
20%	Party atmosphere	Rank: 2.29	28 ✓
4%	Other	Rank: 2.40	5 ✓
32%	Dog-friendly beach	Rank: 2.67	46 ✓
58%	Accessibility of ocean beach	Rank: 2.77	82 ✓
25%	Family-oriented atmosphere	Rank: 2.80	35 ✓
39%	Quality and number of restaurants	Rank: 2.89	55 ✓
71%	Walking access to restaurants, eateries, and other food establishments	Rank: 3.07	101 ✓
26%	Nighttime entertainment	Rank: 3.30	37 ✓
15%	Quality and number of rental accommodations	Rank: 3.41	22 ✓
32%	Safe and secure nighttime environment	Rank: 3.44	45 ✓
14%	Accessibility of bay	Rank: 3.65	20 ✓
25%	Active and busy summer season with a quiet offseason	Rank: 3.89	35 ✓

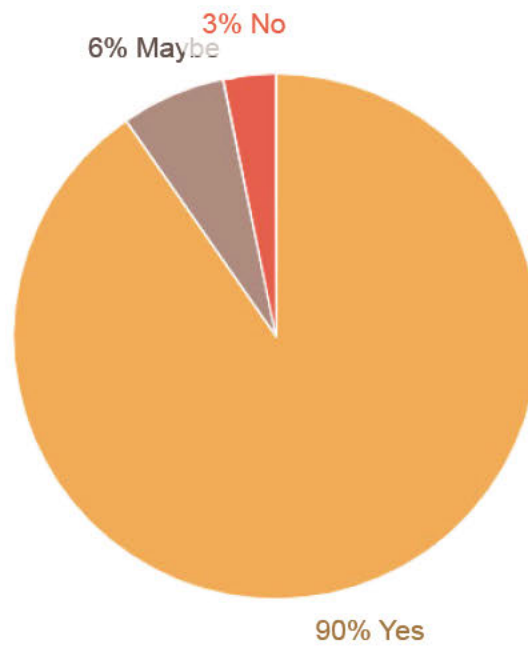
142 Respondents

Please indicate which of the following are the 5 areas in most need of improvement over the next five years. (Rank 1 to 5, with 1 being the most in need of improvement).

20%	Other	Rank: 1.85	26 ✓
49%	Pedestrian safety	Rank: 2.13	62 ✓
36%	Stricter control of inappropriate behavior (e.g., public drunkenness)	Rank: 2.35	46 ✓
39%	Public transportation options	Rank: 2.57	49 ✓
21%	Family-oriented activities	Rank: 2.63	27 ✓
15%	Summer season noise levels	Rank: 2.63	19 ✓
39%	More year-round restaurants	Rank: 2.64	50 ✓
28%	Shopping and convenience outlets in town	Rank: 2.92	36 ✓
17%	Availability of family-oriented restaurants	Rank: 2.95	22 ✓
32%	Public safety (general feeling of safety)	Rank: 3.07	41 ✓
19%	Summer activities for children	Rank: 3.13	24 ✓
5%	Fewer special events (town or business sponsored)	Rank: 3.83	6 ✓
23%	Beach safety	Rank: 3.86	29 ✓

127 Respondents

Do you plan to return to Dewey Beach for another stay?



124 respondents

If you have additional comments about Dewey Beach, please include them in the space below:

Your over expensive parking and [REDACTED] gotcha rules is a joke. [REDACTED]

8/27/2026

Increase dog friendly restaurants!

8/23/2026

There is a huge amount of local people that routinely eat and drink in Dewey. You haven't asked their opinion.

8/23/2026

None

8/23/2026

We have been coming to Dewey as summer renters, sometimes year round, for about 20 years. The town has changed a lot, some good and some bad. We don't want the local feel to be replaced by big budget commercialization.

8/20/2026

Beach is great, atmosphere is great and the people are nice. I love it that after dinner we can bring the pups out to the beach!

8/19/2026

been visiting 40 years it's getting better

8/17/2026

We own a home in Delaware we only come to Dewey for restaurants and beach

8/17/2026

Love the ability to get a permit and do a fire on the beach. We choose Dewey because of that. :)

8/17/2026

We have been bringing our family to Deweyfor 40 years and still live it.

8/17/2026

The blend of nightlife and family oriented stuff is key.

8/16/2026

we love coming as a family and have made many soocial memories

8/16/2026

Overall we love Dewey and do not think it needs major improvements

8/14/2026

Pedestraian crossing for Rt 1 is a huge success

It's feeling way over-regulated. Too many rules

8/13/2026

We live here year round, but our house is the 1st house not in Dewey beach proper. We love Dewey Beach and are happy to retire here and or adult kids come all the time.

8/13/2026

We love Dewey Beach!

8/13/2026

Keep up the good work-you are appreciated. Wish we were able to purchase!

8/13/2026

we have been coming to Dewey for over thirty years and plan to continue - it is part of our family history and traditions. We, my wife and I, want to and plan to eventually retire to the beach. It is truly a special place for us.

8/13/2026

I've been doing group houses in Dewey every summer since the late 80s. How about a public beach on the Bayside where people can hang out with their dogs during the daytime?

8/13/2026

I have a place nearby which you should have a category for. I have never stayed in Dewey and can't imagine needing to.

8/13/2026

I have been coming down to Dewey Beach for 30 years. Love the town, atmosphere and the people in it. Rented for 22 yrs and my friend bought a townhouse in Dewey 8 yrs ago. And come down every other weekend during the summer and a lot during the months after.

8/13/2026

Your town officials have gone out of their way to make us feel welcome every time we visit townhall. I am so glad you have people like Bill Zolpher & Paul Bauer doing a great job caring about the people that come to vacation in Dewey Beach. Yes, as long as my husband's health allows us to travel, you will see us their in June & October for our life changing celebrations.

THANKS TO ALL THE OFFICIALS WHO MAKE OUR VACATION EVENTS IN DEWEY ALWAYS SAFE & MEMORABLE. Kudos to the Police Chief!!!! I sure couldn't handle that rowdy summer crowd!

8/13/2026

We love Dewey, it is perfect for us!

8/13/2026

I've been coming here for a week a summer since I was 21
5 years ago we changed it to 2 weeks

It's been 15 years of Dewey beach summers

I have no complaints except for the tents on the beach I love it here

8/13/2026

No

8/13/2026

Dewey needs more public parking. I would visit Dewey much more, but the lack of adequate public parking is a HUGE deterrent year-round, but especially in the summer.

8/13/2026

We love Dewey Beach and we plan to return time and time again!

8/13/2026

Dewey Beach is a gem; there are few places on the east coast that offer a mix of laid back beach life, night life and great food, along with very dog friendly beach rules. But we recognize that quality of life in Dewey and for visitors is affected by outside forces -- the out of control development in Sussex bringing more people and cars, water quality in the inland bays and climate change, including heat waves and more flooding.

8/10/2026

I like Dewey the way it is for the most part. I don't want it to become another Rehoboth with a lot of rules and regulations. I like that I can party in Dewey and walk to most of the restaurants and bars.

8/5/2026

We love Dewey. It's our Happy place! We have a brick to prove it :)

8/4/2026

I live right outside the limits of Dewey Beach, technically Rehoboth. We exclusively use Dewey Beach beach access since it is closer than Rehoboth and less crowded. We would love it if there was access to restrooms near the beach so we don't always have to pee in the ocean. We usually ride our bikes to the beach from our house and it's too far to go back and forth just to use the bathroom.

8/4/2026

In addition to frequent seasonal renting at both houses & hotels. I escape to dewey off season a few times each season for a few weekends. Hotel & rental prices increased significantly are impacting affordability & frequency of visits. No hotel in town is 5star and worthy of \$500/night rate. Off season is not the same and thanksgiving used to be a fun holiday weekend but no sip/shop and schellville closed in 2025 making it no longer a draw to celebrate season kickoff in DE or Dewey. Target marketing and events for adult families and individuals/groups looking for a fun weekend getaway.

8/4/2026

We own property just a squeak outside of Dewey town limits. We have owned it since 1990, so we consider Dewey our home away from home. On the whole, I think the local government does a good job. The beach is fantastic, as well as the bay.

Many things have improved in terms of cleanliness of the streets and less noise, but building and zoning need to be reined in to retain the charm. Also, the restaurant quality is poor, with the exception of Woodys.

The giant tvs in all the restaurants are tacky. And North Beach needs to get rid of the used-car spotlight they pollute the beautiful night sky with.

But we love Dewey and we thank everyone who makes it a wonderful place.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

8/4/2026

Me and my family love Dewey! We have been coming for 5 years and plan to keep this tradition.

8/4/2026

Town looks great. I think the Town Manager is doing a great job. If I had any suggestion it would be to search out the solutions for protecting pedestrians in high traffic communities and go visit. If the town can't afford it, make Alex and Monty split it. Europe, japan, whatever it takes.

I am 52 and know times have changed, but the cops feel aggressive.

Lastly, I deeply appreciate [REDACTED] investment in the town, but I think we are at saturation. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the town needs more than 2 tastes to flourish.

8/4/2026

I love Dewey and as a regular seasonal renter for its unique beach town walkable chill vibe, escape atmosphere, friendly people, affordable but the town continues to change and significantly since the pandemic. The push towards families is a big mistake. For all and will have a negative impact on businesses as a whole.

8/3/2026

I love Dewey. If I would win Powerball, purchasing a home here would be a dream come true. Four generations of my family have spent time here because we love it. We are getting closer to generation five getting to come! I know over a year of my life has been spent here along the shore. Some years we have stayed a couple weeks and some years it's been a day or two. We are a family group that would be the kind of visitor that you want. One that enjoys the beach, loves going out to the restaurants and to enjoy the bay as well as the beach. A family that doesn't create issues, but makes good memories here. We miss the shops in Ruddertowne. We liked having the Dough Re Me and Ed's Crabs and the Sea Shell shop and bookstore that used to be here. Having a little grocery option is nice!

8/3/2026

I love Dewey, but the lack of parking is my primary deterrent to visiting there.

8/3/2026

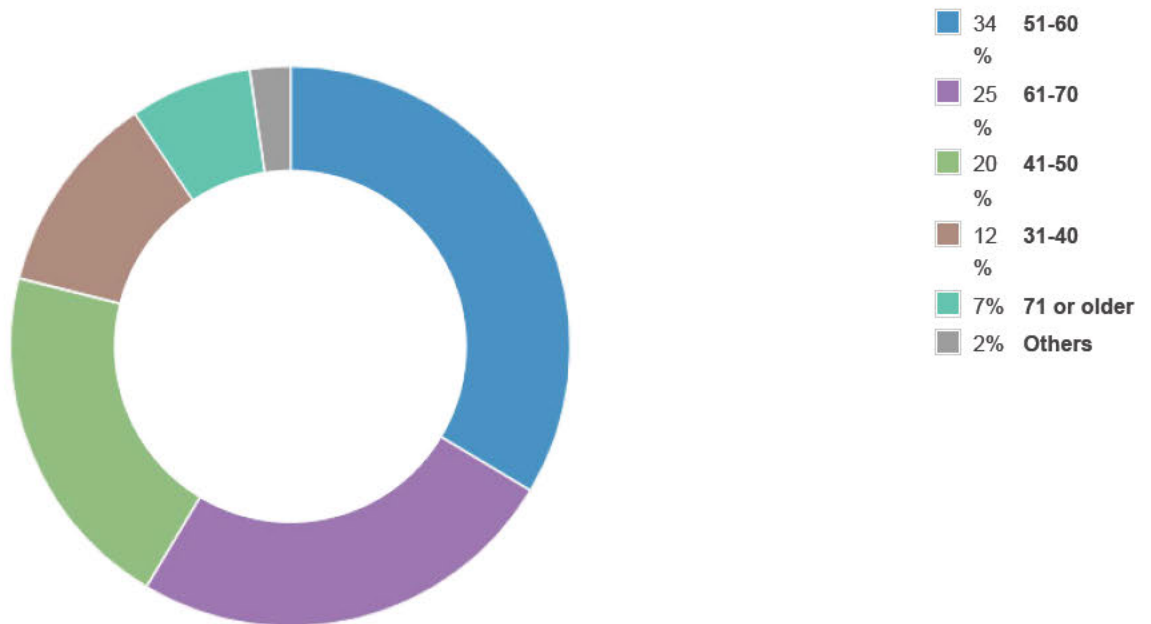
It is critical to maintain the party/nighttime atmosphere that makes Dewey unique, while still ensuring that the town is accessible and welcoming to all. As Dewey continues to gentrify and the social patterns of young adults change, there is a risk of losing what makes it a special place, unless there is a concerted effort to preserve it. Accessibility of parking, rental options at different price levels, and public safety are critical to preserving what has worked for decades.

8/3/2026

I love Dewey and hope to continue to return for years in the future. Coastal Hwy traffic increases and does not make the drive in a pleasant one. I don't think there is much Dewey can do with that but I do feel like it impacts visits. I would also like Dewey to keep more of a small town vibe and not allow huge hotels to build in town.

8/3/2026

What is your age?



128 respondents