

Timiskaming Counts Homeless Enumeration 2021



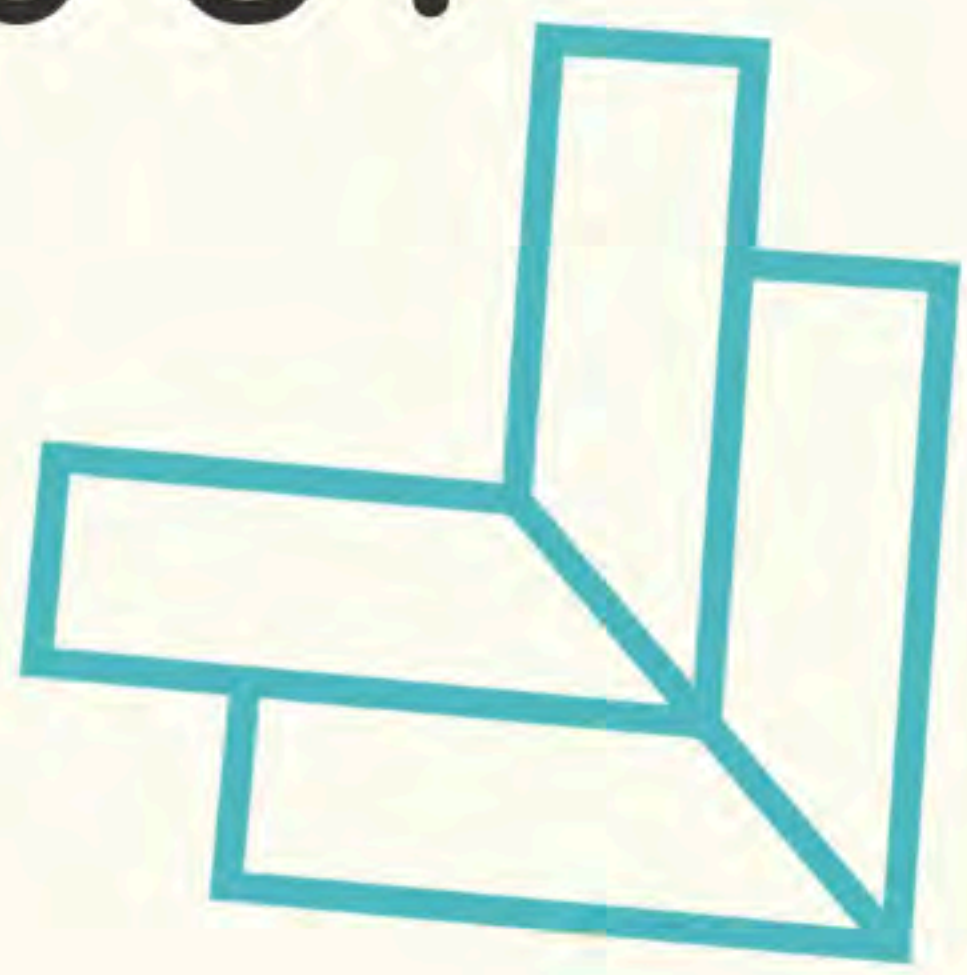
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Acknowledgments

The DTSSAB would like to thank everyone who assisted in the realization of Timiskaming Counts 2021 Homeless Enumeration

THANK YOU!



The individuals who consented to participate in the enumeration and the collection of their information helped gather valuable information which assists in improving housing programs in our communities

COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Kirkland Lake and Timiskaming OPP



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Timiskaming Counts

Homeless Enumeration 2021
Funded by the Ontario Ministry of Municipal
Affairs and Housing

Principles of Enumeration



Outcome Focused



People Centred



Partnership and relationship building



More responsive systems



Balance



Building on success

Overview

Timiskaming Counts, an enumeration of the homeless in the District of Timiskaming took place between September 12th - 18th, 2021, funded by the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

The intent of this report is to make the results of the 2021 enumeration public. The data was collected throughout municipalities and rural areas of the Timiskaming district. The participant data is based on self-reporting.

The information within this report may be freely quoted, without asking for authorization, provided the District of Timiskaming Social Services Administration Board is acknowledged as the author of the report.



Roles and Responsibilities

Homeless Enumeration
2021

Ontario Provincial Role

- Establish framework
- Provide support to Service Managers
- Analysis of Enumeration Data
- Sharing of aggregate data
- Coordination between Ministries



Service Manager's Role

- Community Engagement
- Partnership and Relationship Building
- Development of Enumeration Plan
- Training of Volunteers
- Conduct Enumeration
- Reporting to MMAH on the Results of Enumeration
- Sharing Results with Public



Enumeration Timeline

Homeless Enumeration
2021

Required to submit
an Enumeration Plan
every 2 years starting
in 2017



Enumeration
Plan due
to MMAH
by December
31, 2019

Timeline



Approved
by DTSSAB
Board



Enumeration Requirements

Homeless Enumeration 2021

The Count

A Point-in-time Count is a count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals on a single night. This method is intended to capture numbers and basic demographics of persons experiencing homelessness at a single point in time.

Scope

The Enumeration will count individuals who are:

unsheltered emergency sheltered
provisionally accommodated

The Survey

Collecting information from people experiencing homelessness using a set of standard questions – the goal is to provide information about the characteristics and circumstances of people experiencing homelessness, based on a sample of people willing and able to participate in the survey. Participants must give full consent to take the survey.



Enumeration Methods

Point-in-Time (PIT)

This method counts unsheltered and emergency-sheltered populations. Point-in-Time (PIT) Count data is collected by trained volunteer canvassers who physically locate, count, and collect survey data from people experiencing homelessness. Surveys are also carried out at emergency shelters, violence against women (VAW) shelters, service organizations, and magnet events.

Registry Week

This method is a coordinated, multi-day count of people experiencing homelessness on the streets, in shelters, and in other community-identified spaces frequented by people experiencing homelessness.

It also involves a coordinated outreach and assessment process to collect information and create a list of people experiencing homelessness, by name, starting with the most vulnerable, in order to prioritize access to permanent housing and supports.

The information collected can be used to inform decisions about how best to refer individuals experiencing homelessness to housing resources, as well as to prioritize individuals for accessing rapid re-housing and other supports on a "by-name list"



Enumeration Methods

Period Prevalence Count

This method is a coordinated, multi-day count that captures the incidence of homelessness over a period of time. The PPC method is sometimes preferred in Ontario's rural and Northern areas where people experiencing homelessness are most often hidden and less likely to be visible (on the streets and in shelters).

The PPC method is extended to a full week of data collection, in order to maximize the number of people included. It focusses on accessing people through a variety of service organizations that are likely to be used by people experiencing homelessness such as community meal programs, drop-in centres, bus stations, and emergency shelters.



Defining Homelessness

Homeless Enumeration
2021

Homelessness: The situation of an individual or family without stable, permanent, appropriate housing, or the immediate prospect, means and ability of acquiring it.

At-Risk of Homelessness: Refers to persons who are not homeless, but whose current economic and/or housing situation is precarious and/or does not meet public health, or safety standards.

Chronic Homelessness: Refers to people, often with disabling conditions (e.g., chronic physical or mental illness, substance abuse problems), who are currently homeless and have been homeless for six months or more in the past year (i.e., have spent more than 180 cumulative nights in a shelter or place not fit for human habitation).



Capturing Hidden Homelessness

Homelessness comes in various different forms, especially in Northern Ontario. Homelessness may be hidden because:



May be living with relatives, friends, strangers as they have no permanent home



May not identify as "homeless" and/or may not access services



The individuals may be difficult to identify



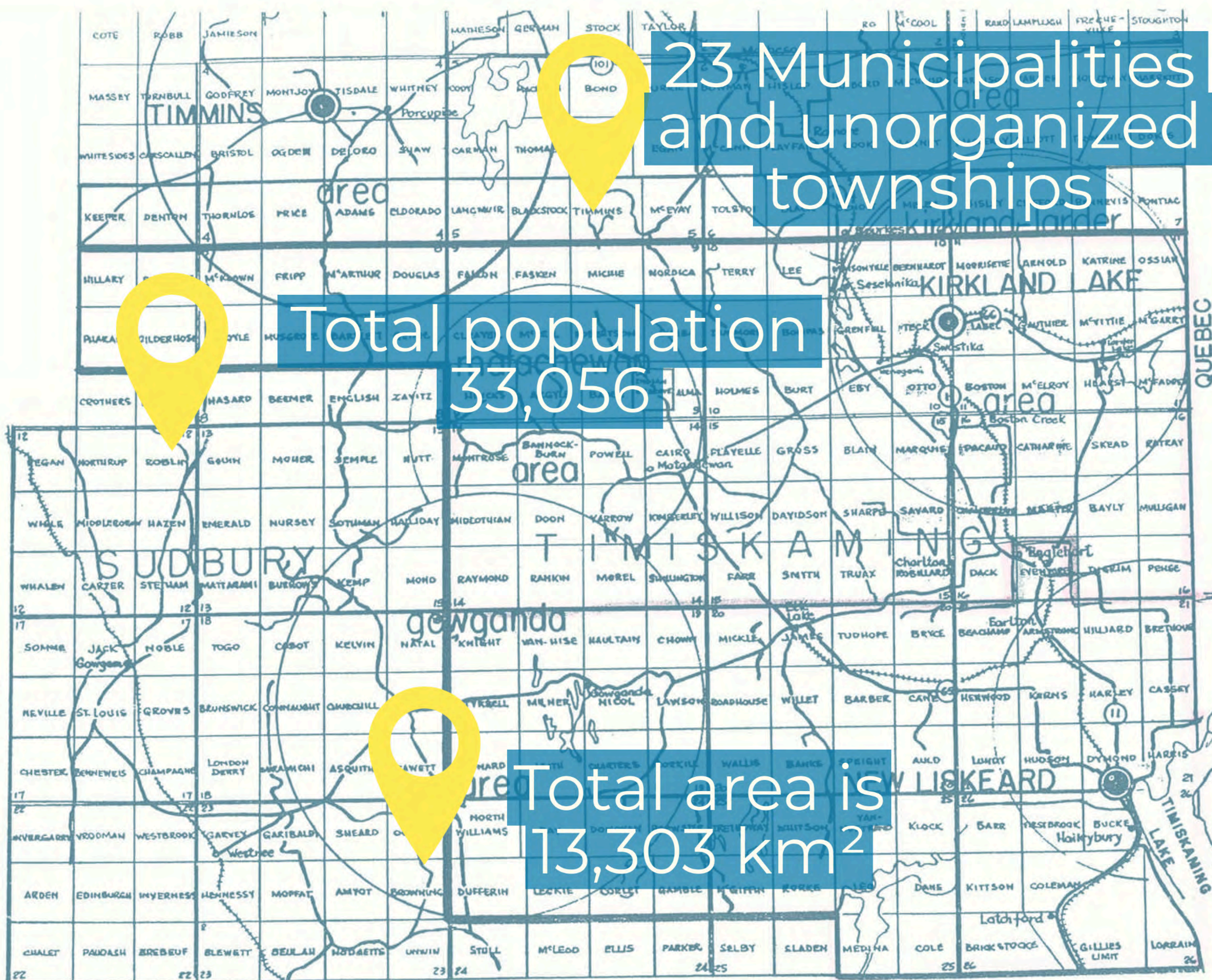
District of Timiskaming
Social Services Administration Board
Conseil d'administration des services
sociaux du district de Timiskaming

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timiskamingcounts@dtssab.com
or call 705-567-9366 ext. 3247



The District of Timiskaming

**SERVICE AREA OF THE
DISTRICT OF TIMISKAMING
SOCIAL SERVICES
ADMINISTRATION BOARD**

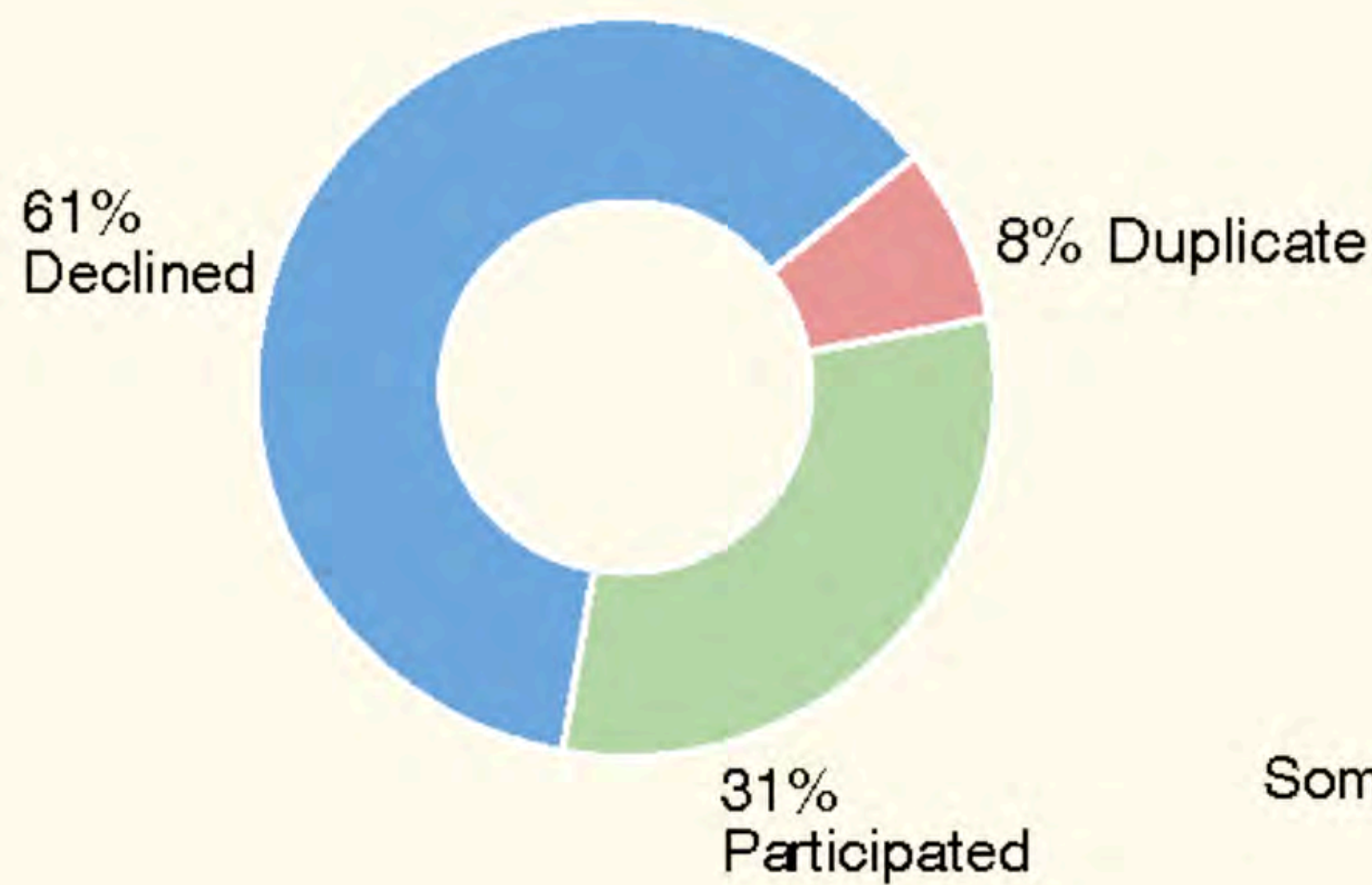


2018 Infographic

Timiskaming Counts 2018 HOMELESS ENUMERATION

SURVEY

65 Participants were identified for survey, 20 agreed.



TIMES HOMELESS THIS YEAR



HEALTH

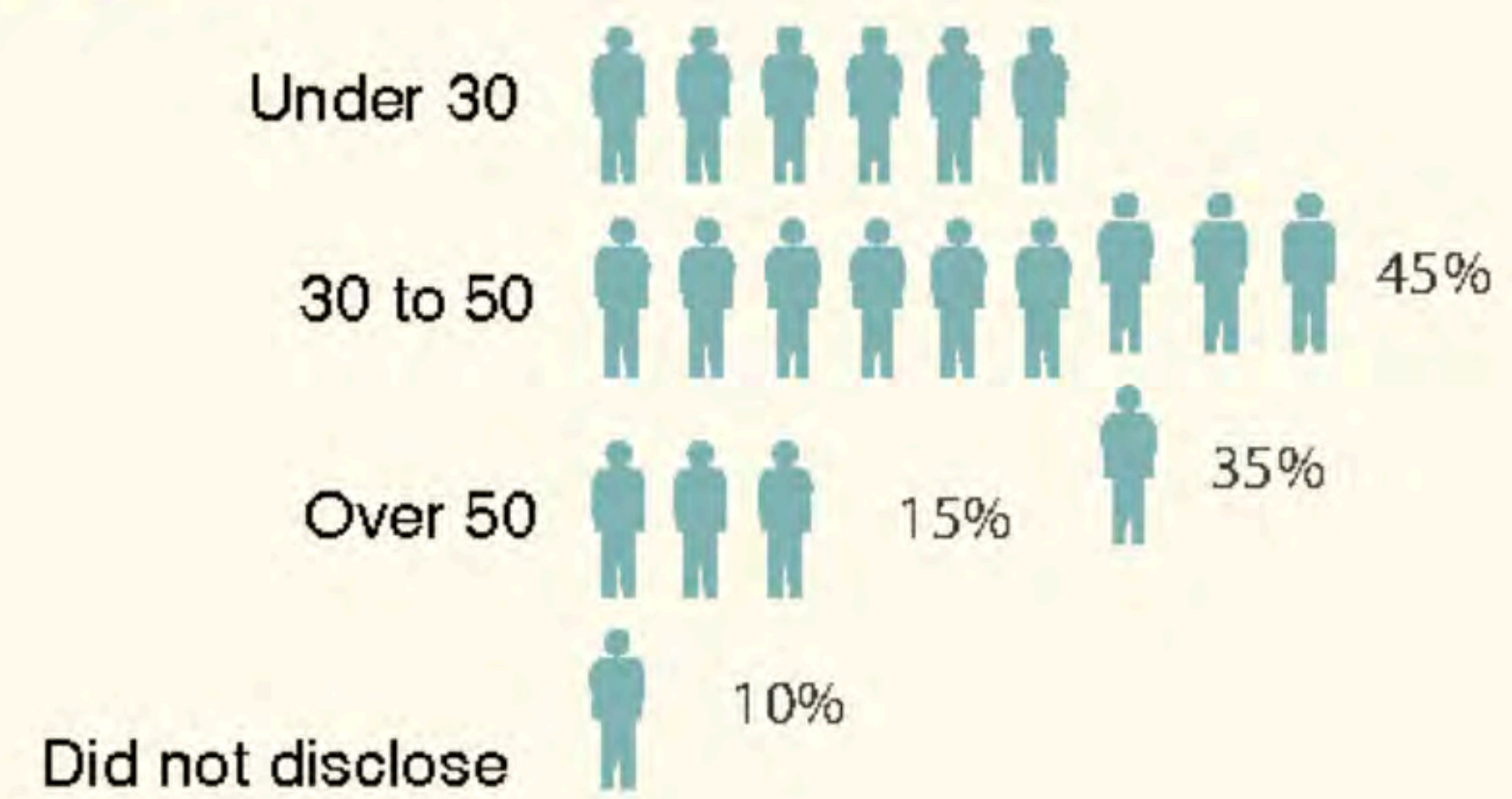


75% of people reported that their lives are impacted by mental health and/or addiction

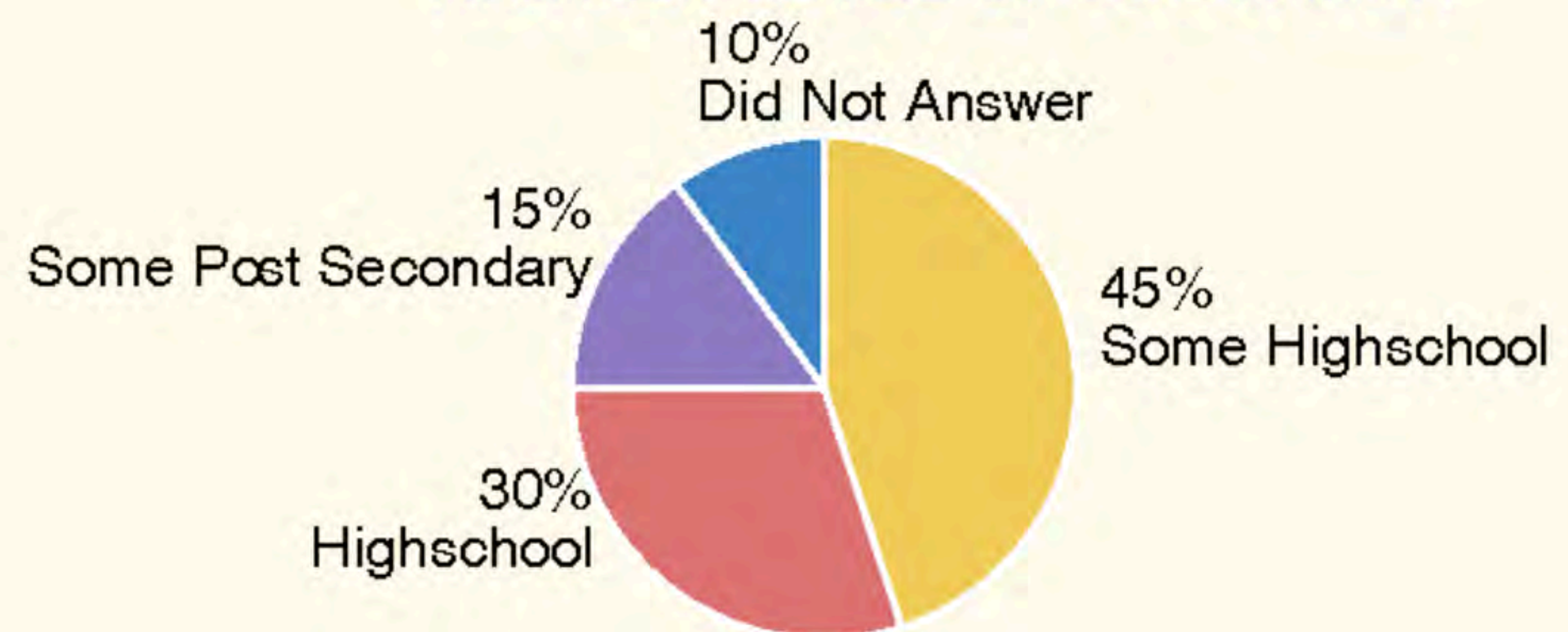


82 HOUSEHOLDS
The CHPI, Homelessness Prevention program assisted 82 households between January and February. 43 households were identified as homeless. 39 were identified as at risk of becoming homeless unless assistance was given.

AGE



HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION



INDIGENOUS ANCESTRY



45% reported having Indigenous Ancestry

CAUSES



65% of people reported that they lost their housing as a result of conflict and abuse

BARRIERS



45% of people reported that rent is too high
55% of people reported that their income is too low.



Sample of Survey Questions

**How old are you?
OR What year were
you born? (If unsure,
ask for best estimate)**

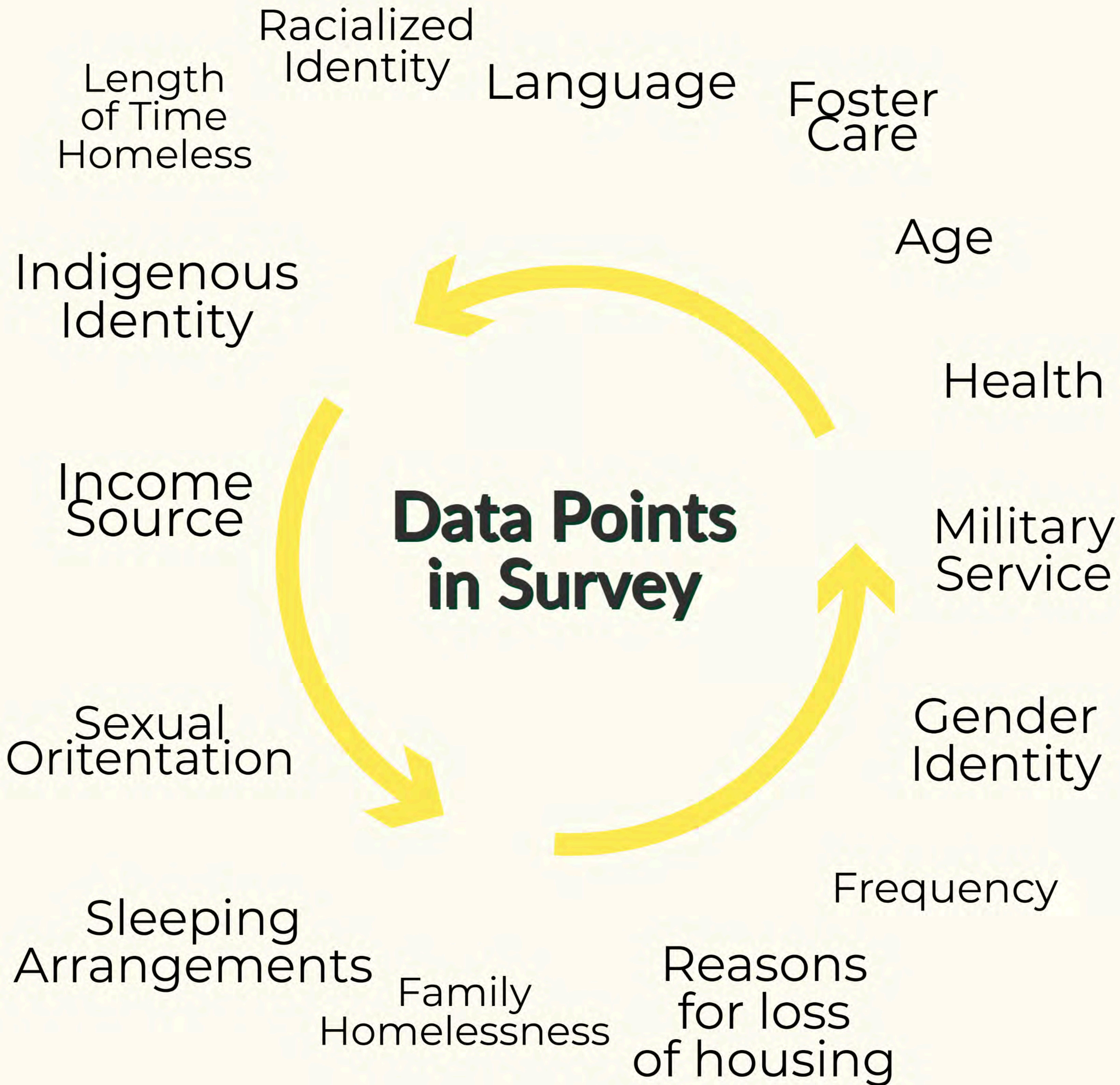
**What family members
are with you? (Indicate
survey members for
adults)**

**How old were you
the first time you
experienced
homelessness?**

**In total, how many
different times have
you been homeless
over the past year?**



Data Points



2021 Results

Homeless Enumeration 2021



of Surveys
Completed

53 participants
identified



5 declined



1 duplicate



= 47 homeless
participants

The survey was comprised of 37 core questions mandated by the Provincial and Federal Governments for consistency. There is no way to know who may have completed a survey in a different location on a different day, leaving the opportunity for duplication of data and thus potentially incorrect data. Respondents could and, in some cases, did complete multiple surveys at different community partner locations. To maintain data integrity, participants were required to provide a unique identifier, allowing for de-duplication of data without the participant needing to provide identifying information, such as their name. The identifier required included the first 2 letters of their first name, the first 2 letters of their last name and the year of their birth.

We have surveyed 53 homeless participants throughout both municipalities. Our community partners tallied 5 individuals who declined to participate in the survey and 1 survey was a duplicate. All statistics in this report represent information collected from these 47 participants, unless stated otherwise.

While completing these surveys, participants were allowed to decline to answer any question or refuse to finish the survey. The “decline to answer” responses have been included in the written report and in the figures.

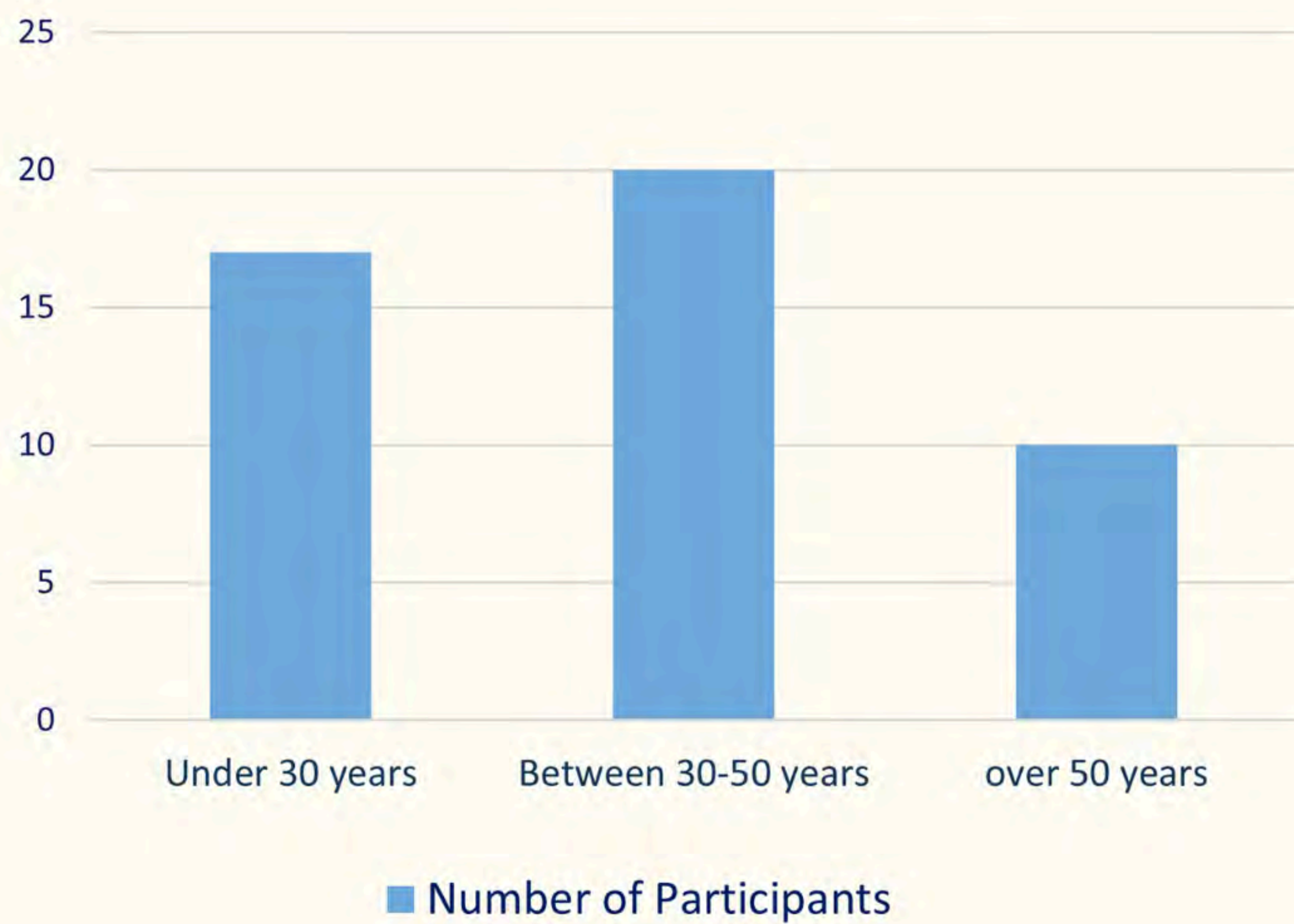
The following section represents the data gathered from participants of the enumeration survey.



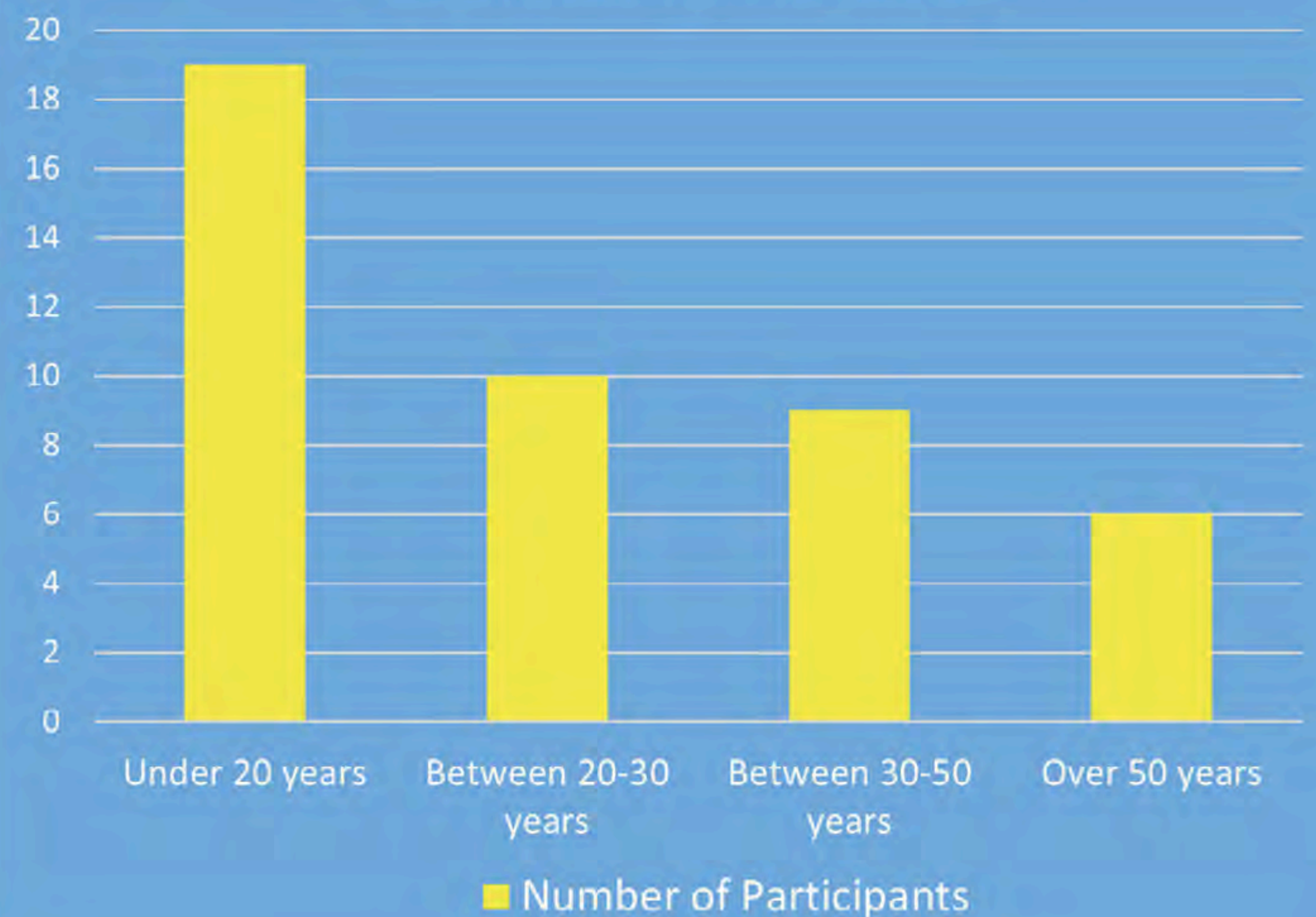
2021 Results

Participant's Age and when they First Experienced Homelessness

Participant's Current Age



Participant's age the first time they experienced homelessness



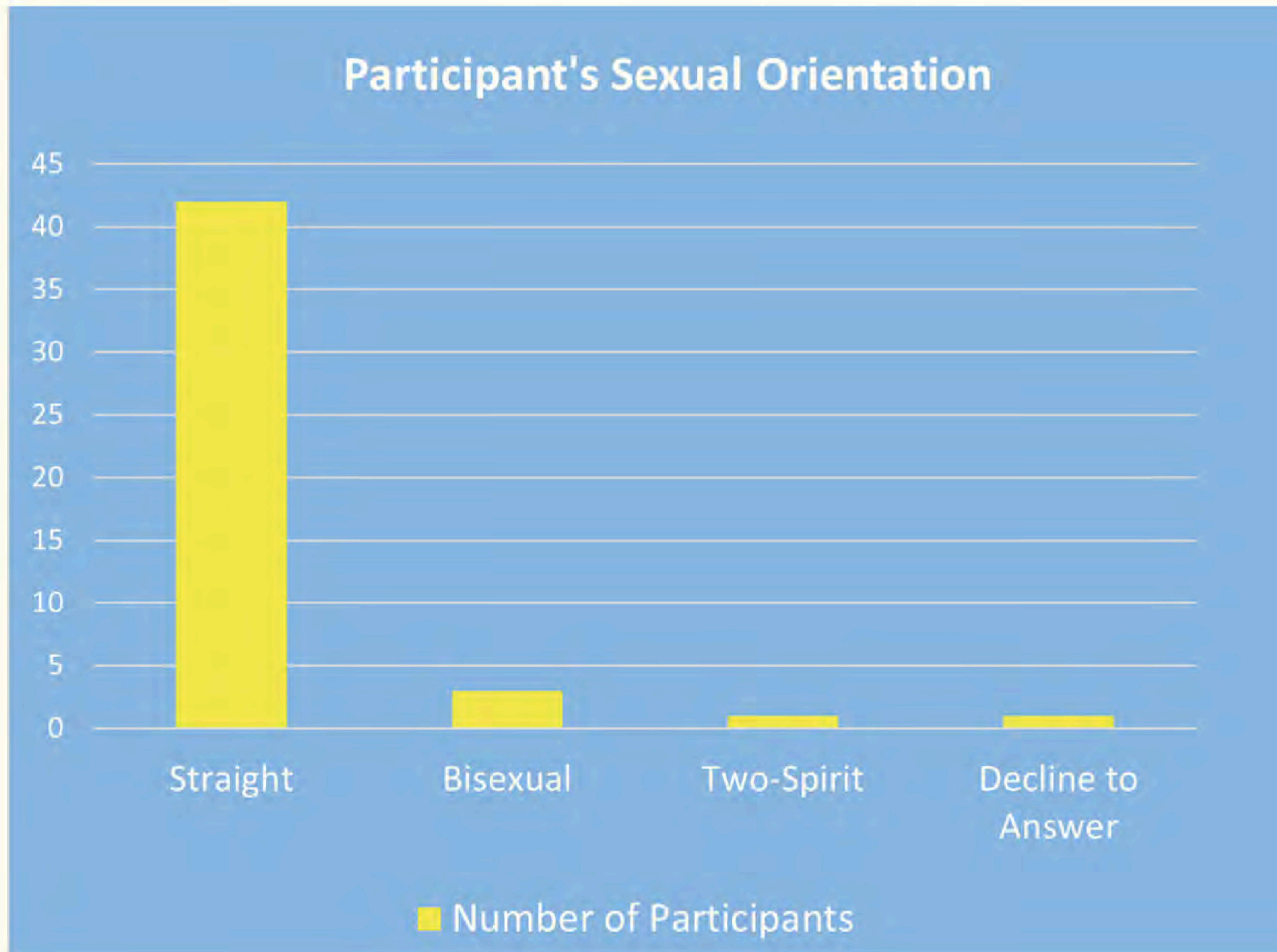
Participant's age range was between ages 18-61 years old. Out of all participants, 17 (or 36% of participants) were under 30 years of age, 20 (43%) were between 30-50 years old, and 10 (21%) were over 50 years old. Note that out of the 17 participants who were under the age of 30, 6 were youths (below 24 years of age)

Participants were asked their age the first time they experienced homelessness. 19 (or 40% of participants) experienced homelessness before they were 20 years old, 10 (21%) between the ages of 20-30, 9 (19%) between the ages of 30-50, 6 (13%) after the age of 50, and 3 (7%) participants declined to answer.

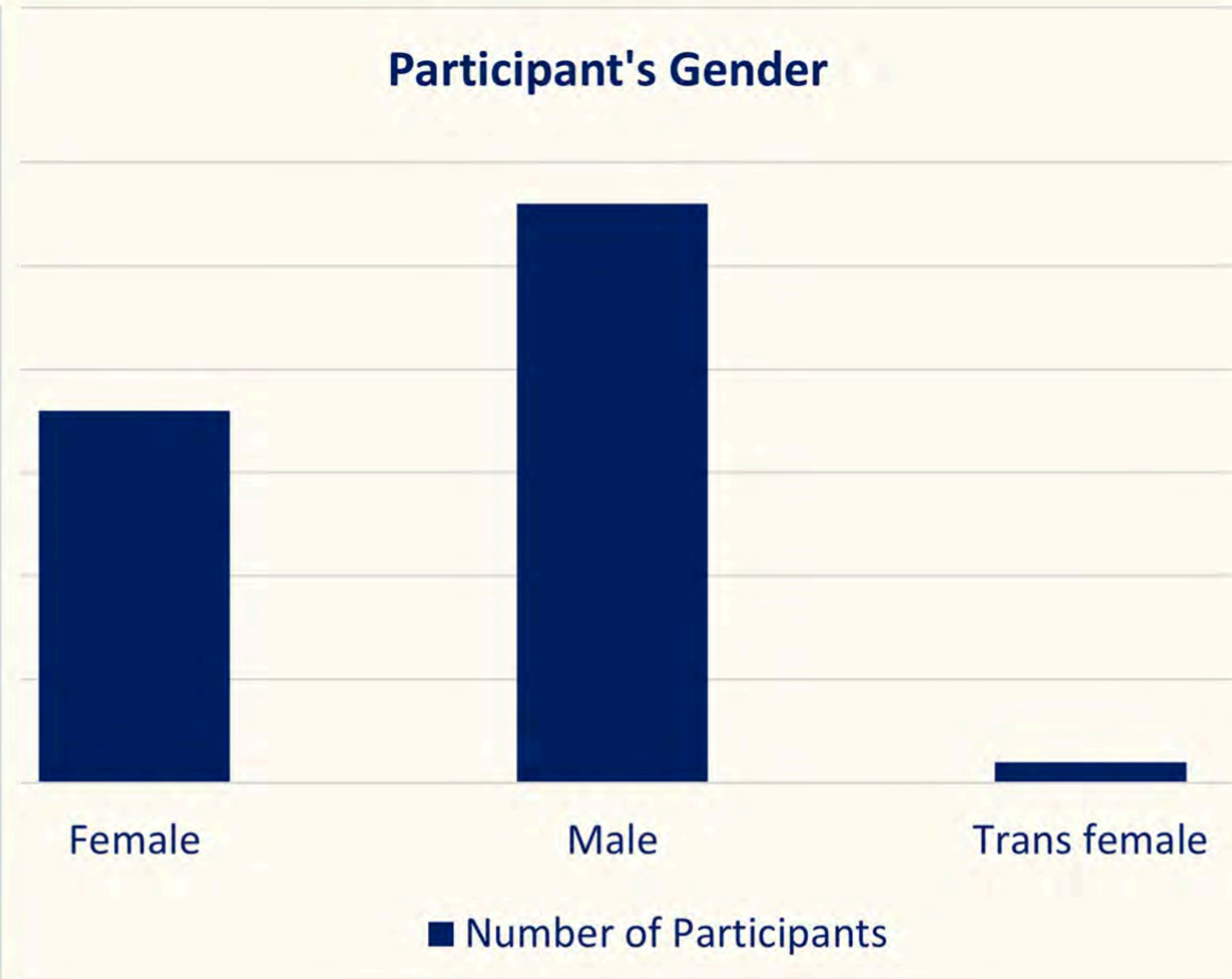


2021 Results

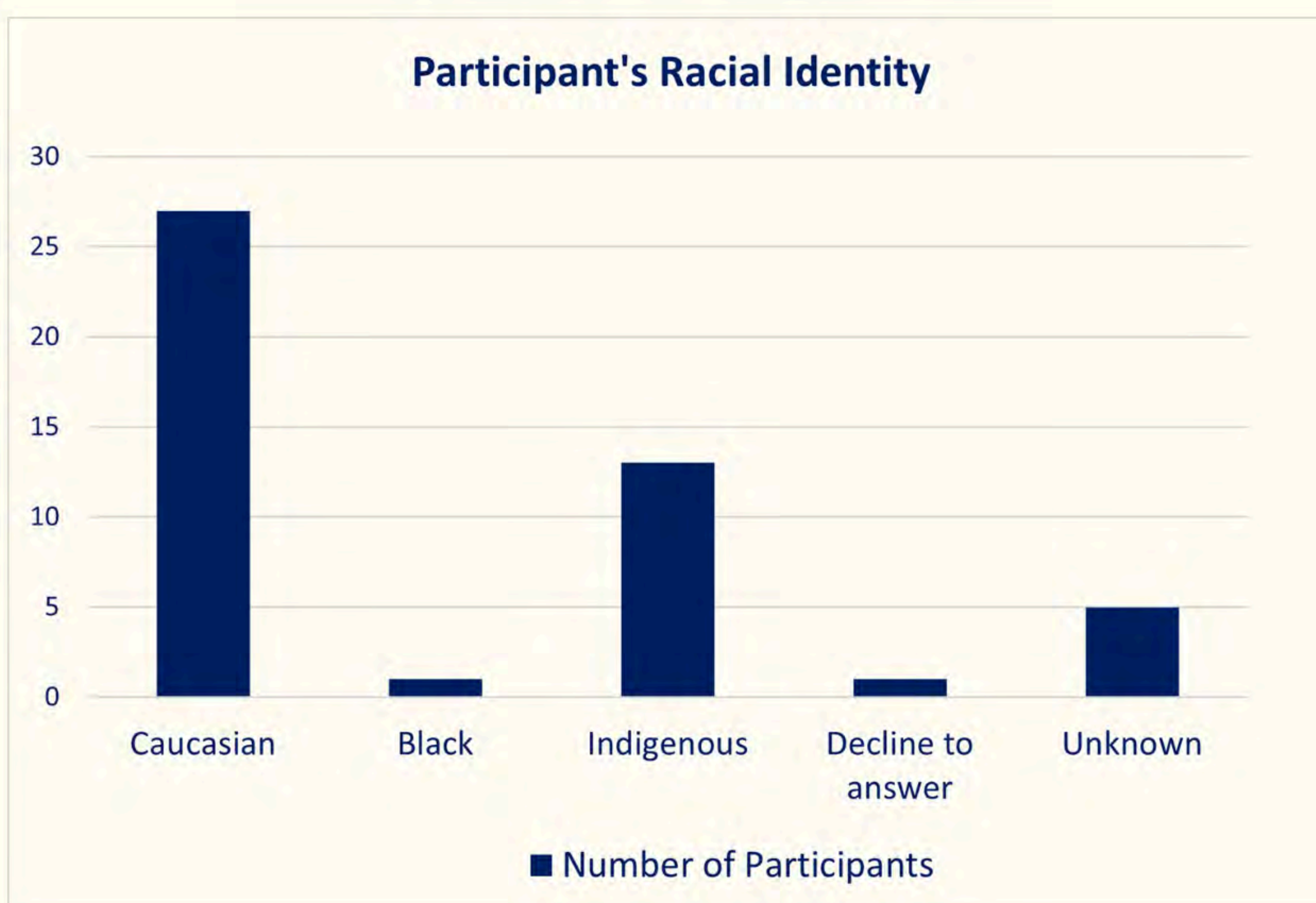
Gender, Sexual Identity and Racial Identity



42 (or 89%) of participants identified as straight, 3 identified as bisexual, 1 identified as two-spirit, and 1 declined to answer (Figure 5).



18 (or 38%) of participants in the enumeration were female, 28 (or 60%) of participants were male, and 1 identified as trans female.



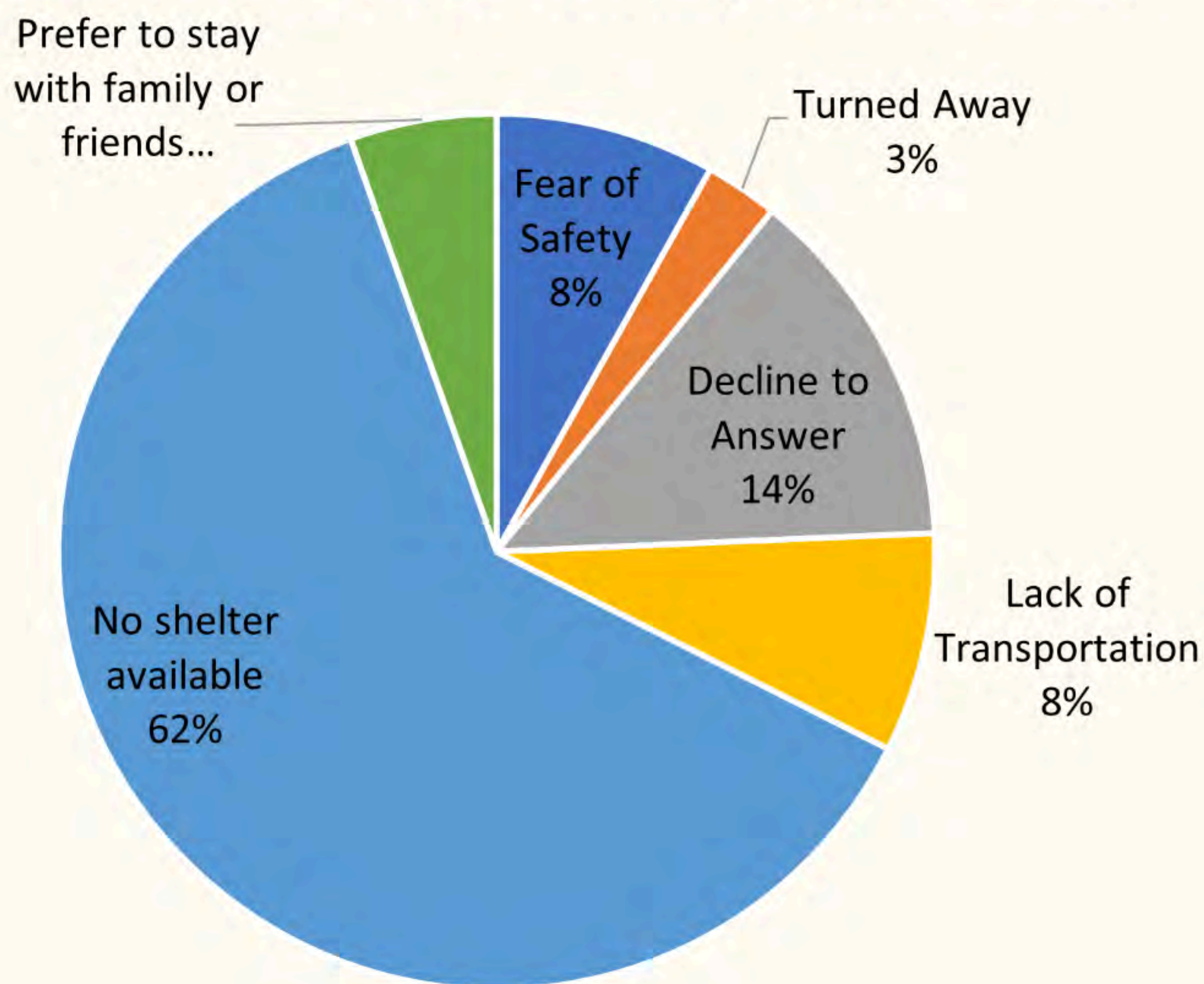
This question asked participants about their racial identity. 13 (or 28%) identified as being of Indigenous or Aboriginal ancestry, 27 (or 57%) identified as strictly white (Canadian-European), 1 identified as Black or African Canadian, 5 didn't know what race they were and 1 participant declined to answer.



2021 Results

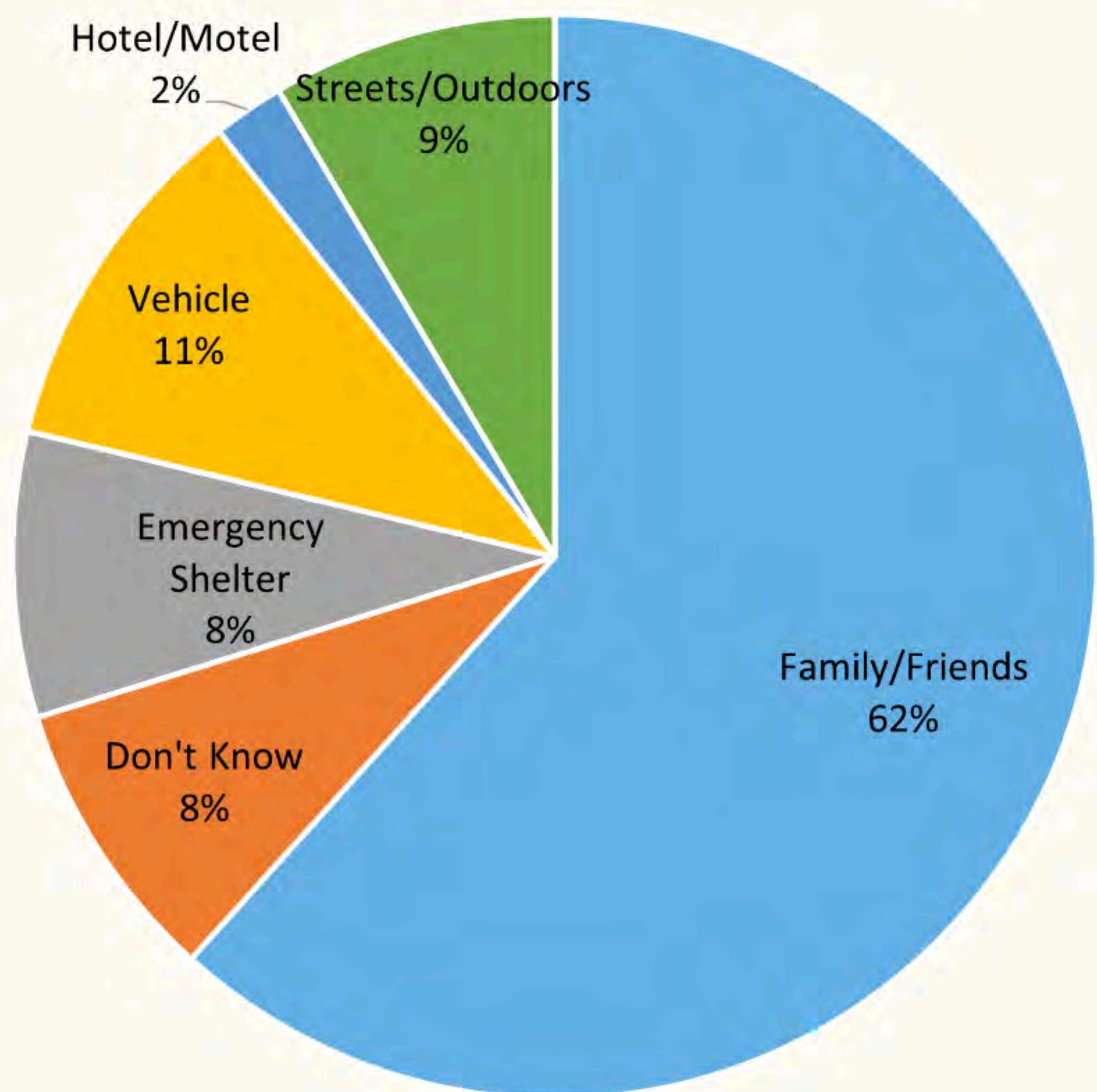
Residency Status

Participant's reasons for not staying in a shelter



Out of the people who had not stayed in an emergency shelter and gave a reason why, 5% said it's because they had family/friends they preferred to stay with, 8% said they feared for their safety, 3% were turned away, 8% said it's because of lack of transportation, 14% declined to answer and 62% said it's because there was no shelter available in the community.

Where did participants stay the night?

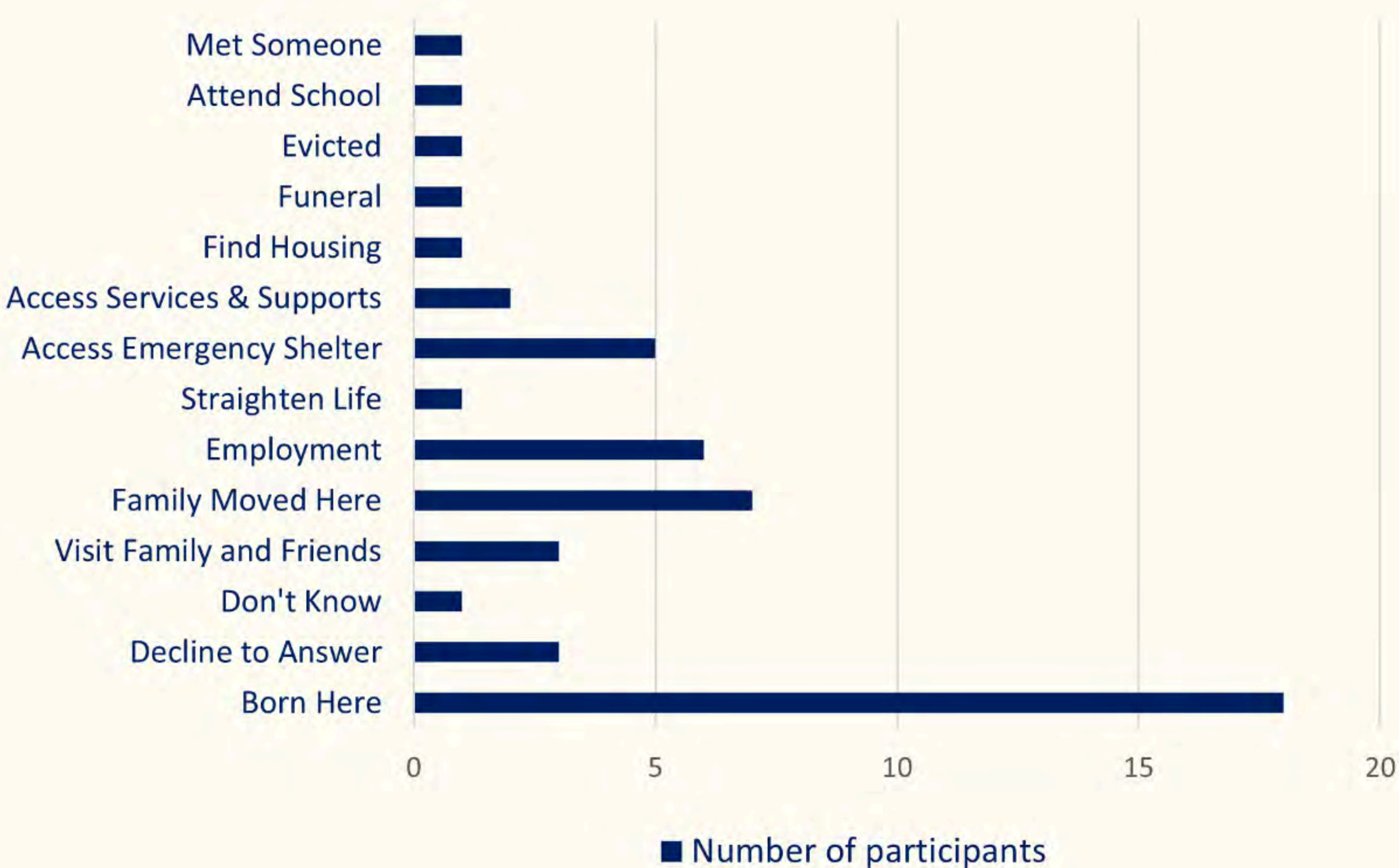


Out of all participants, 4 did not know where they were spending the night, 29 were staying at someone else's place (friend or family), 4 were staying in emergency shelters, 5 were staying in vehicles, 1 was staying in a motel, and 4 were staying on the streets/outdoors. Note that this information is largely influenced by the fact that half of our surveys came from the Pavilion Women's Shelter, which is an domestic violence shelter for Women in Temiskaming Shores



2021 Results

Residency



Reason for moving to community	Participants
Visit Family and Friends	3
Family Moved Here	7
Employment	6
Straighten Life	1
Access Emergency Shelter	5
Access Services & Supports	2
Find Housing	1
Funeral	1
Evicted	1
Attend School	1
Met Someone	1

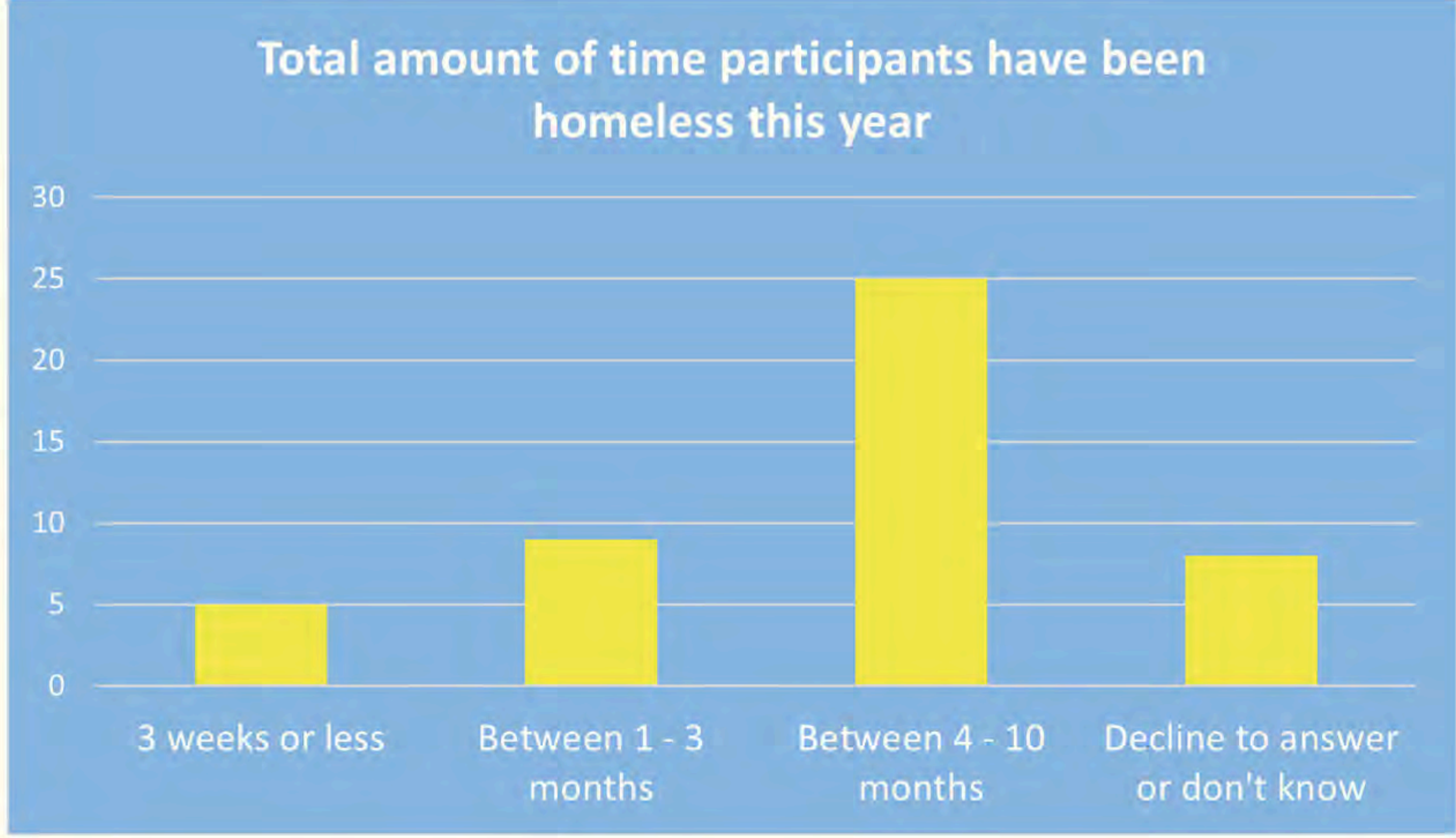
When participants were asked how long they had lived in the District, 18 said that they had always lived here, 7 people said that they have lived here for under one year, 16 people said they have lived here over one year, 3 people declined to answer, and 3 people said they did not know how long they have lived here. From the 26 participants who have moved here from outside the District, 11 said they came from areas in Southern Ontario, 8 came from areas in Northern Ontario, 3 came from out of the Province, 1 declined to answer and 3 did not know where they lived before.

Above are the reasons participants gave for moving into the area.. Note that the responses in Table 2 only come from participants who have moved to these communities. Note also that participants may give more than one reason for moving.



2021 Results

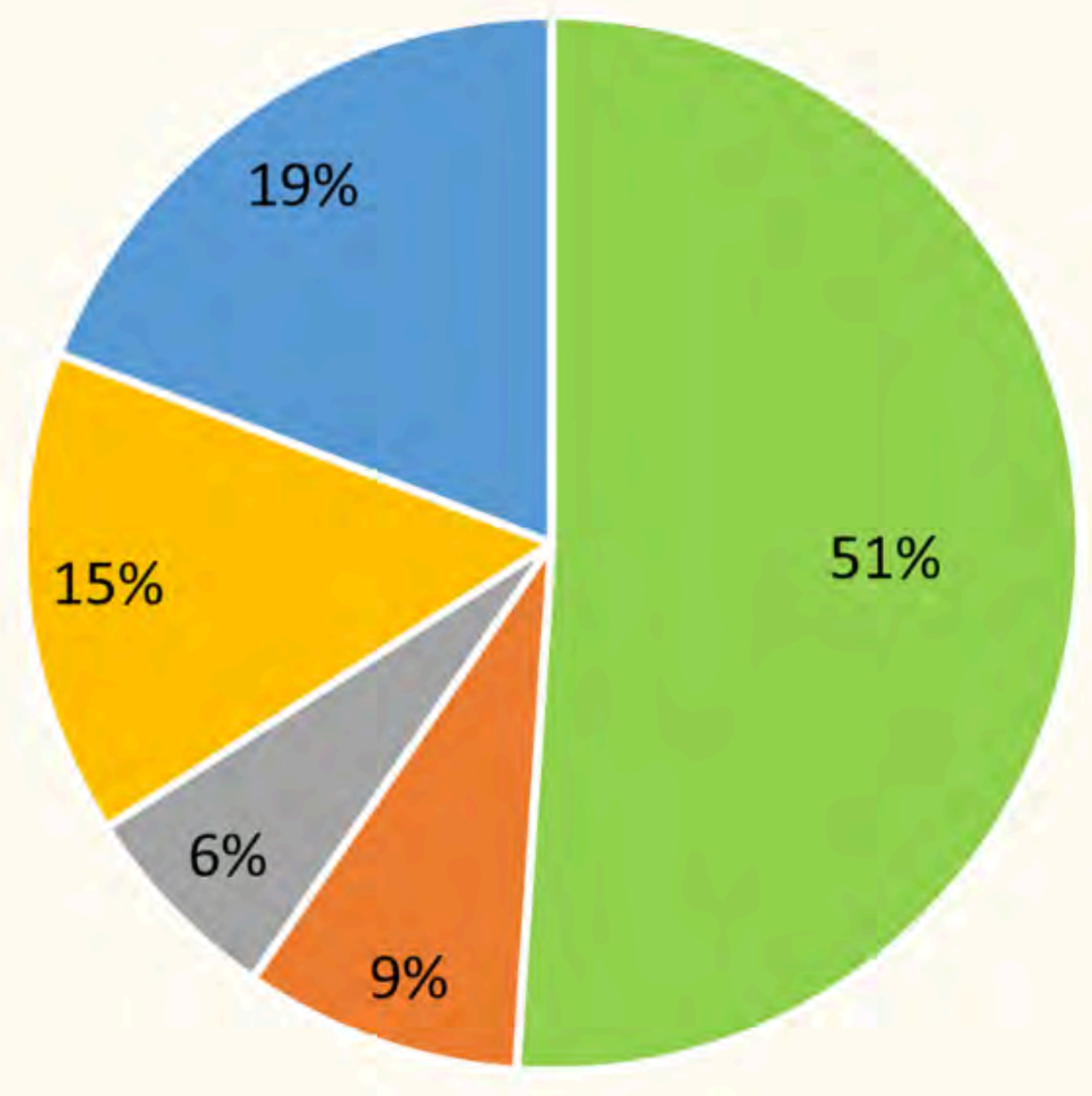
Chronicity of Homelessness and Barriers



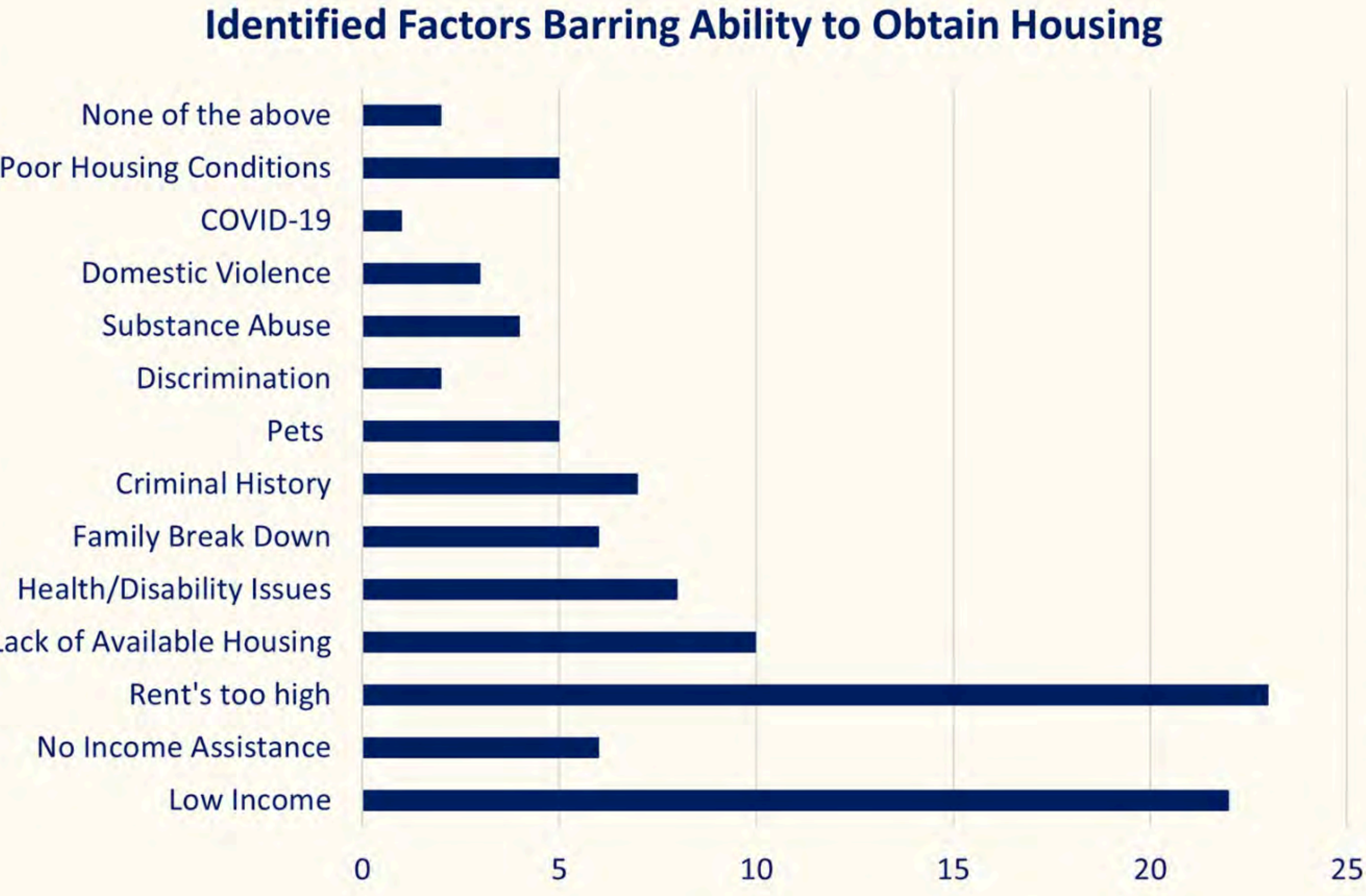
In the past year, 5 individuals have been homeless for 3 weeks or less, 9 have been homeless from between 1 month-3 months, 25 have been homeless between 4 months-10 months and 8 declined to answer or did not know.

No. of times participants have been homeless this year

One time Two times Three times More than 3 times Don't know



Out of all participants, 24 said this was the only time they were homeless this year, 14 said they had been homeless more than once this year and 9 declined to answer or did not know.



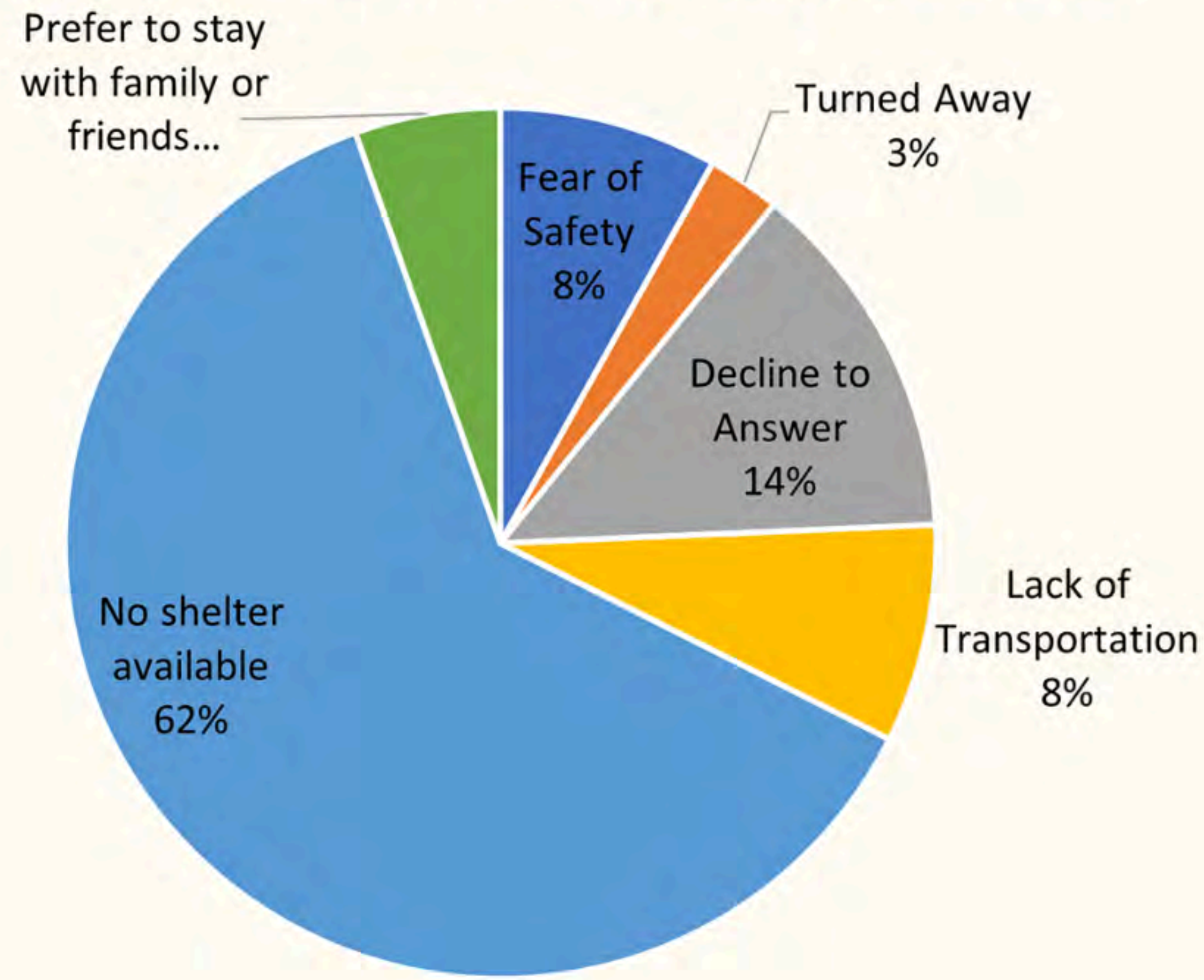
These statistics show there are multiple barriers that are keeping homeless individuals from finding housing. Low income and the cost of rent being too high were the number one barriers to accessing housing noted by participants. Note also that 10 participants stated a barrier was an accessibility issue which coincides with findings we have made in our district in the past years.



2021 Results

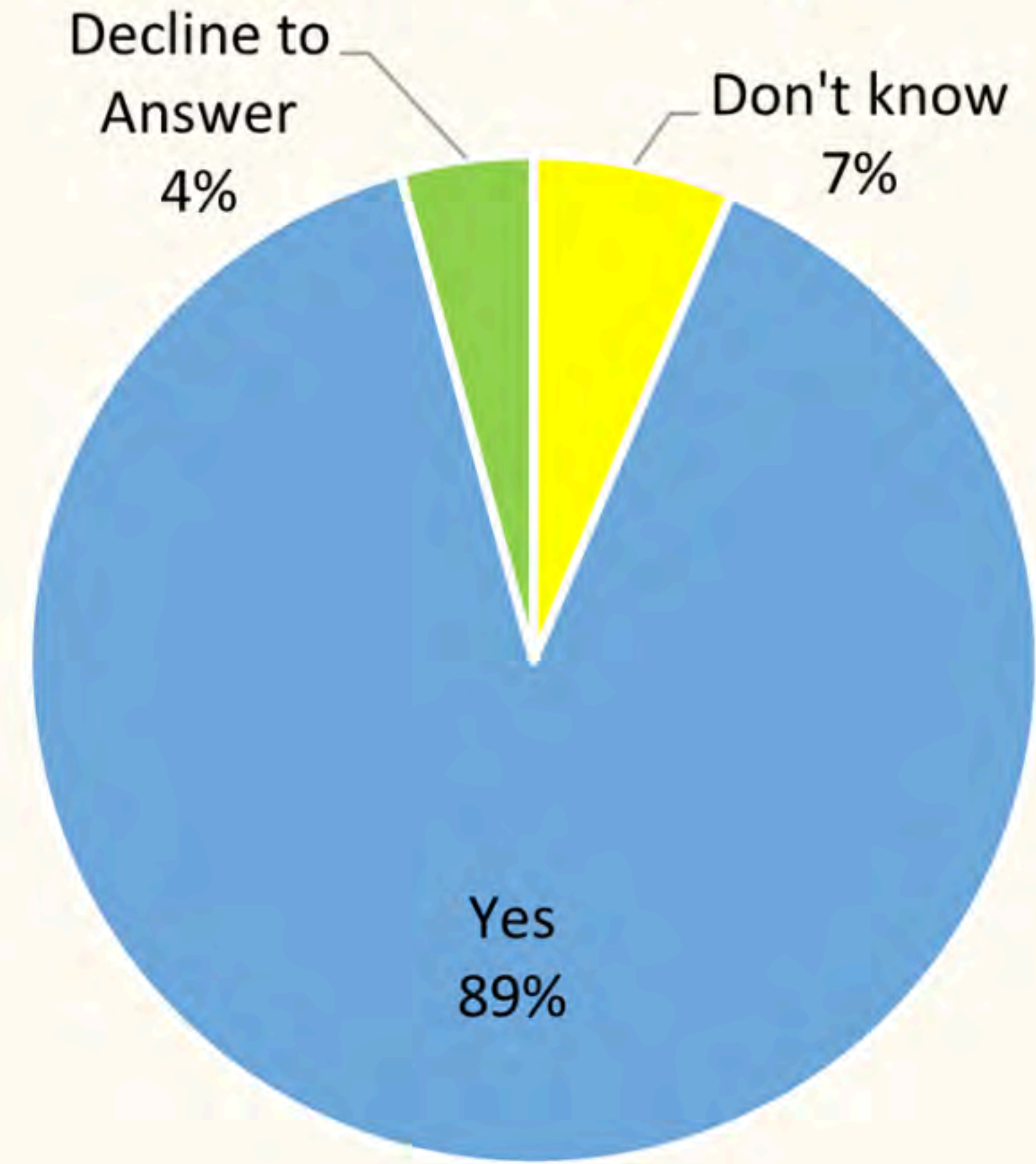
Cause of Loss of Housing

Participant's reasons for not staying in a shelter



Out of the people who had not stayed in an emergency shelter and gave a reason why, 5% said it's because they had family/friends they preferred to stay with, 8% said they feared for their safety, 3% were turned away, 8% said it's because of lack of transportation, 14% declined to answer and 62% said it's because there was no shelter available in the community.

Participant's responses when asked if they want to obtain housing

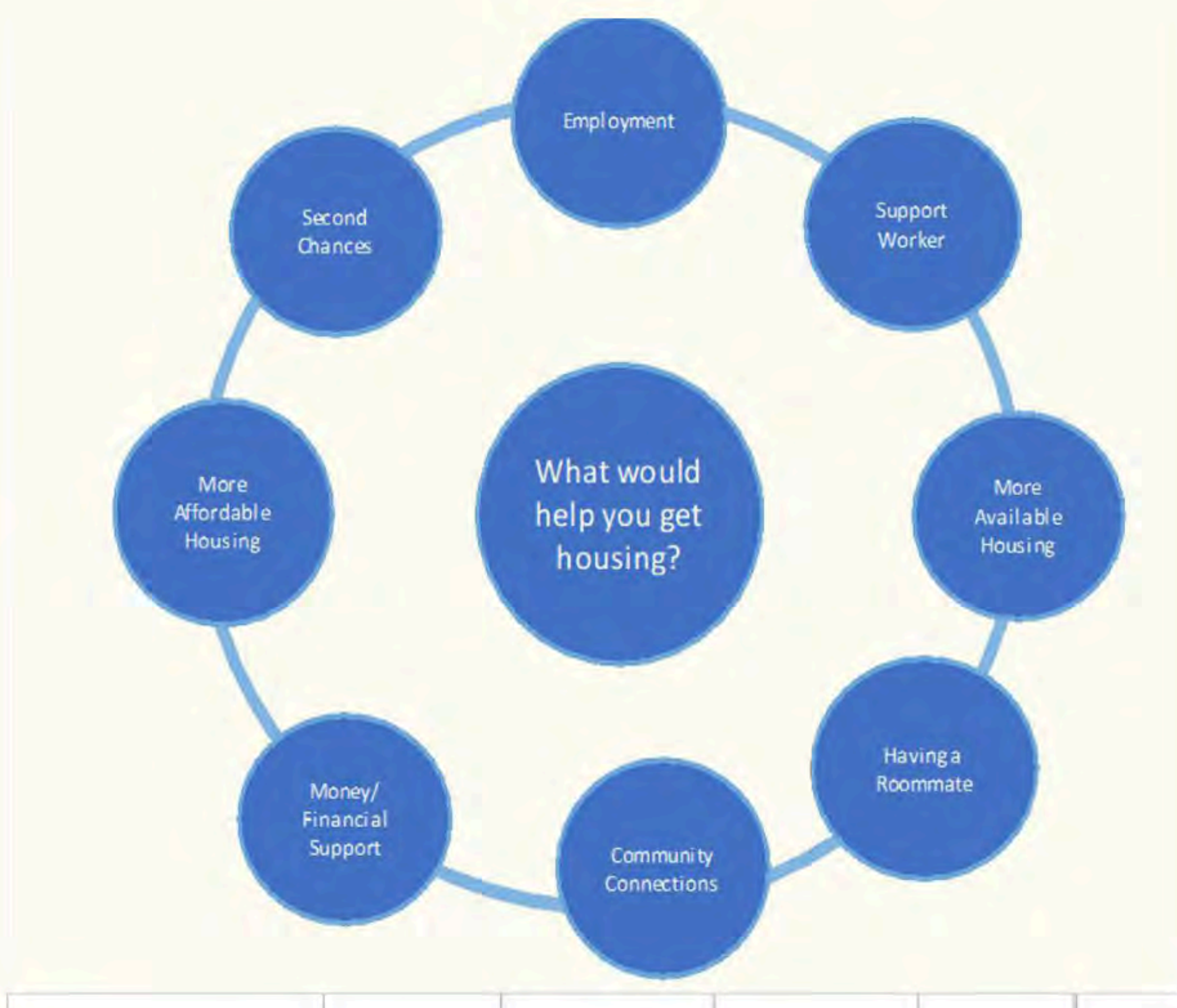


Out of all participants, 42 answered that yes, they would like to find housing, 3 said they didn't know if they wanted to find a home, and 2 declined to answer.

Participant's reason for loss of housing recently

Table 3	
Causes for losing housing	Participants
Job loss	4
House sold/Eviction	9
Unsafe housing conditions	4
Abused by spouse/partner	5
Conflict with spouse/partner	8
Conflict with parent/guardian	1
Addiction/Substance Abuse	4
Illness/Medical Condition	4
Unable to pay rent/mortgage	8
Family break down	1
Incarceration (Jail/Prison)	1
COVID-19	1
Other/Unknown	4

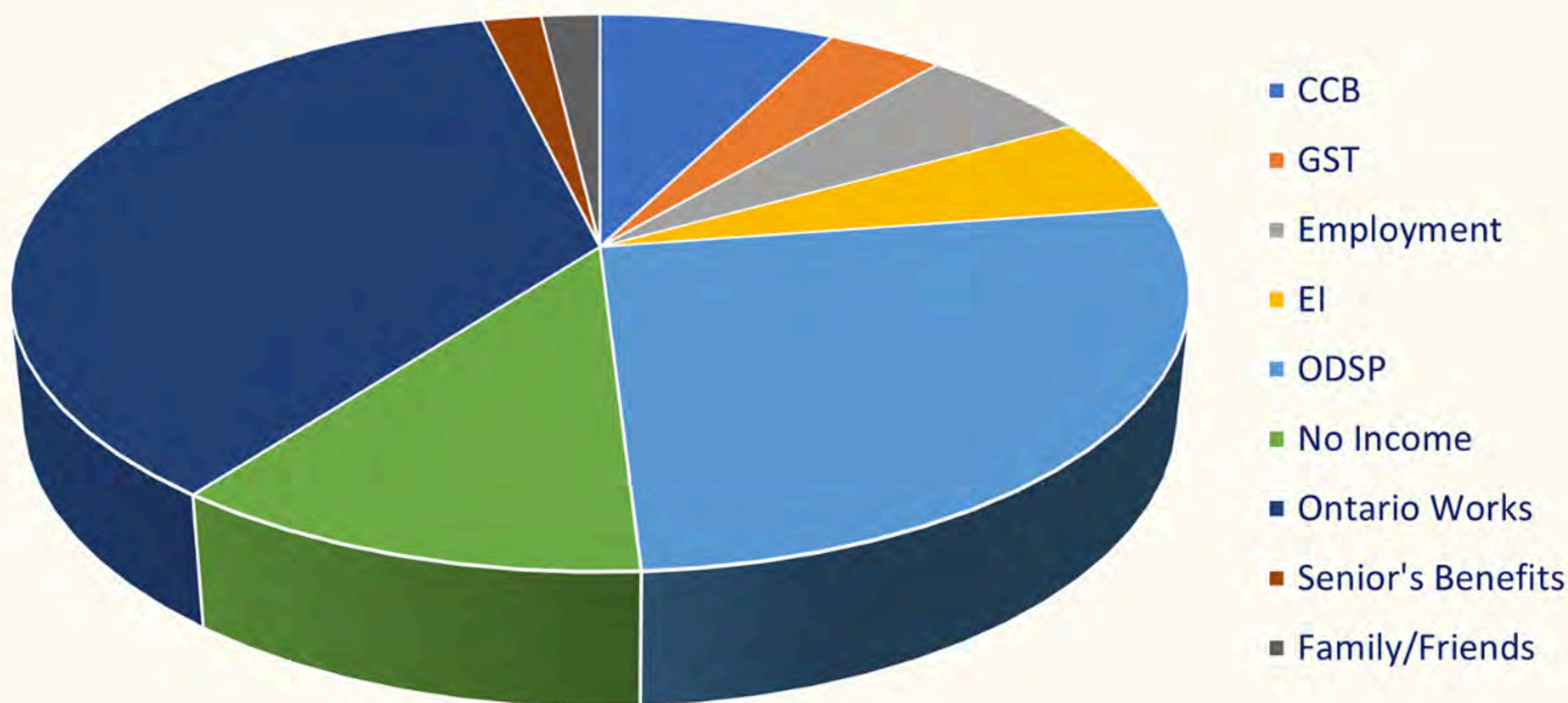
Participants have noted the reason(s) for losing their housing most recently. Note that participants may have more than one cause for losing their housing



2021 Results

Sources of Income and Level of Education

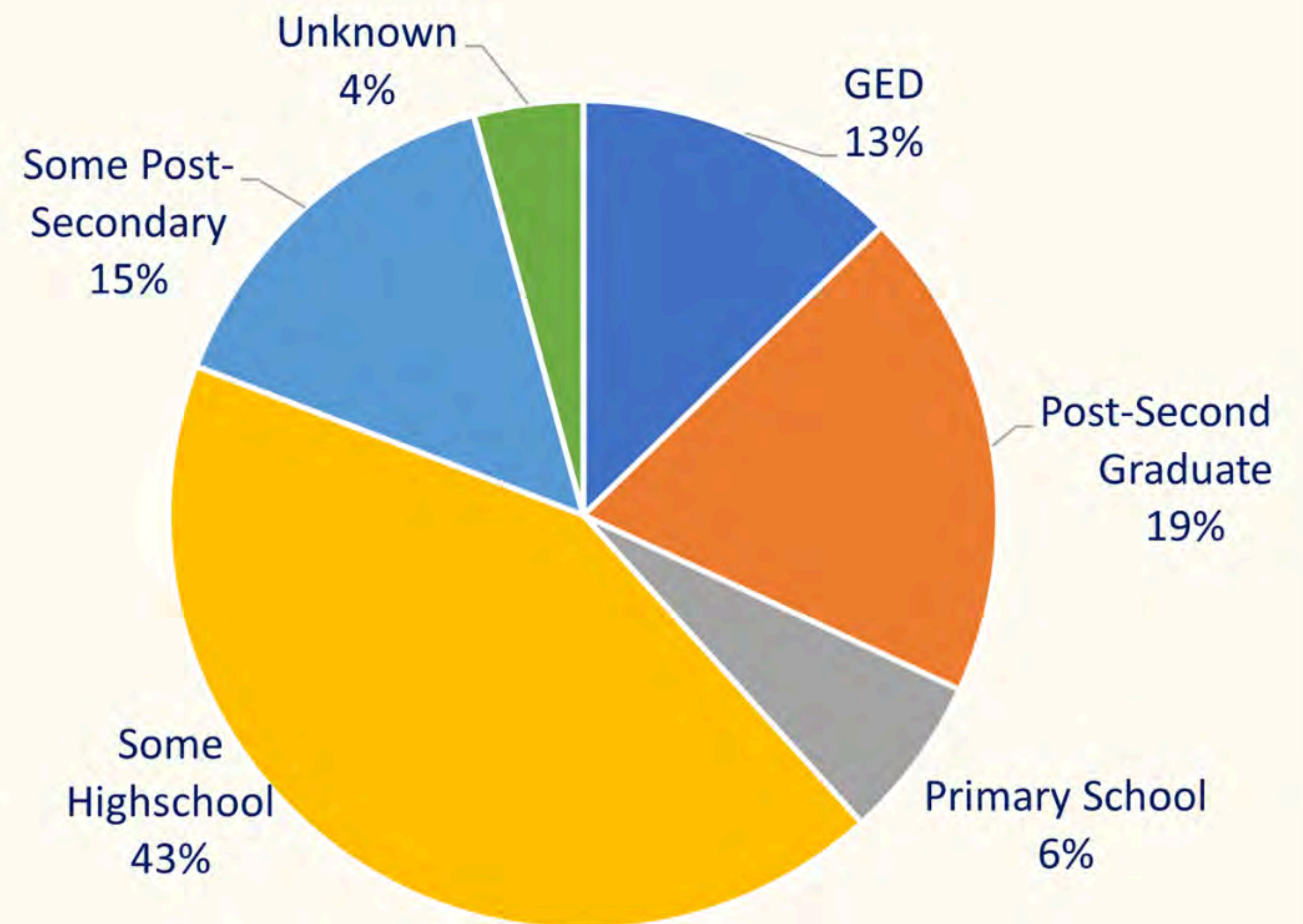
Participant's Sources of Income



Participants answered their source of income. Note that participants were able to respond with more than one source of income.

- CCB 4
- GST 2
- Employment 3
- EI 3
- ODSP 14
- No Income 6
- Ontario Works 19
- Senior's Benefits 1
- Family/Friends 1

Participant's Highest Level of Education



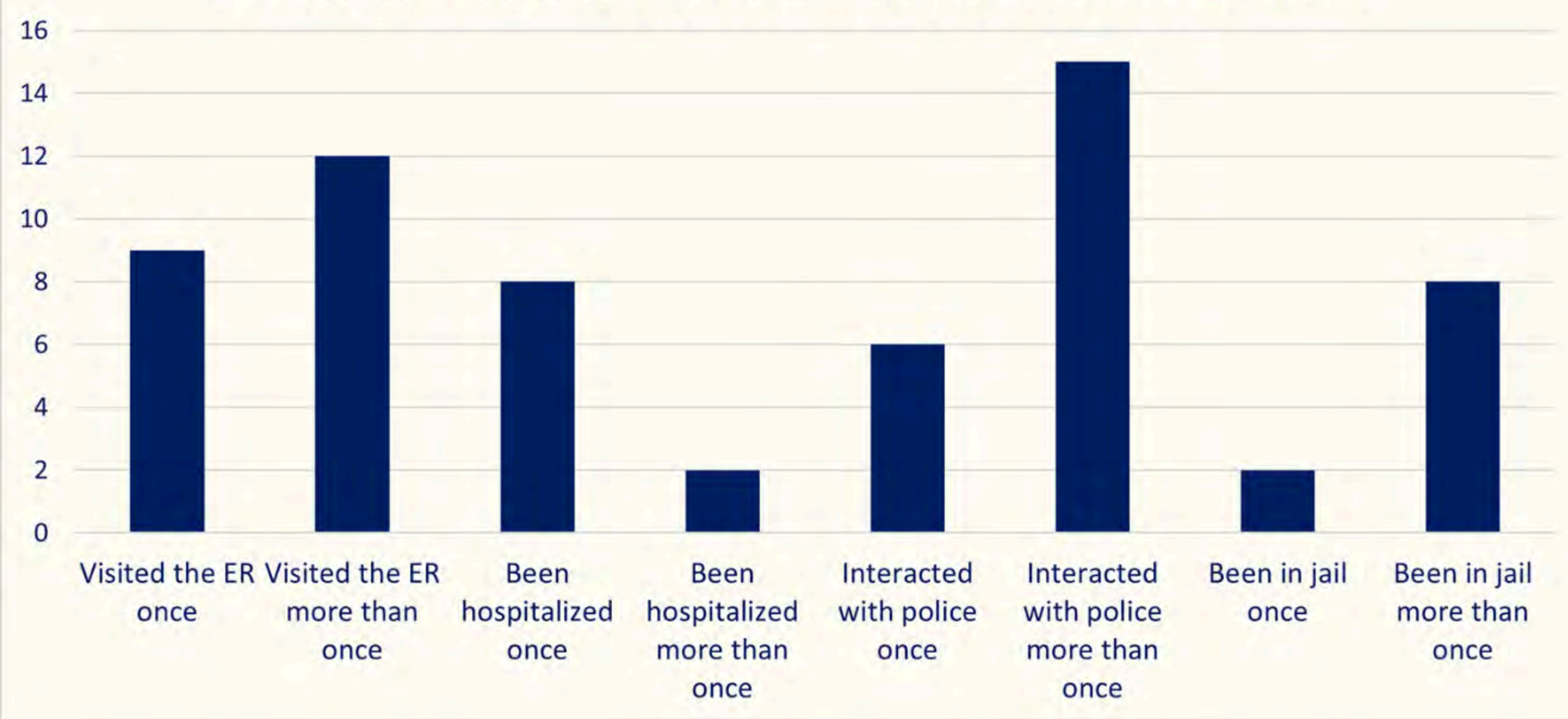
Participants answered a question regarding the highest level of education they have completed. Out of all participants, 3 completed some primary school, 20 completed some high school, 6 graduated highschool, 7 have done some post-secondary, 9 graduated post-secondary, and 2 declined to answer this question (Figure 9). Our findings reveal that 53% of participants have not obtained a high school diploma.



2021 Results

Service Interactions

Services and interactions participants have had in the last 12 months



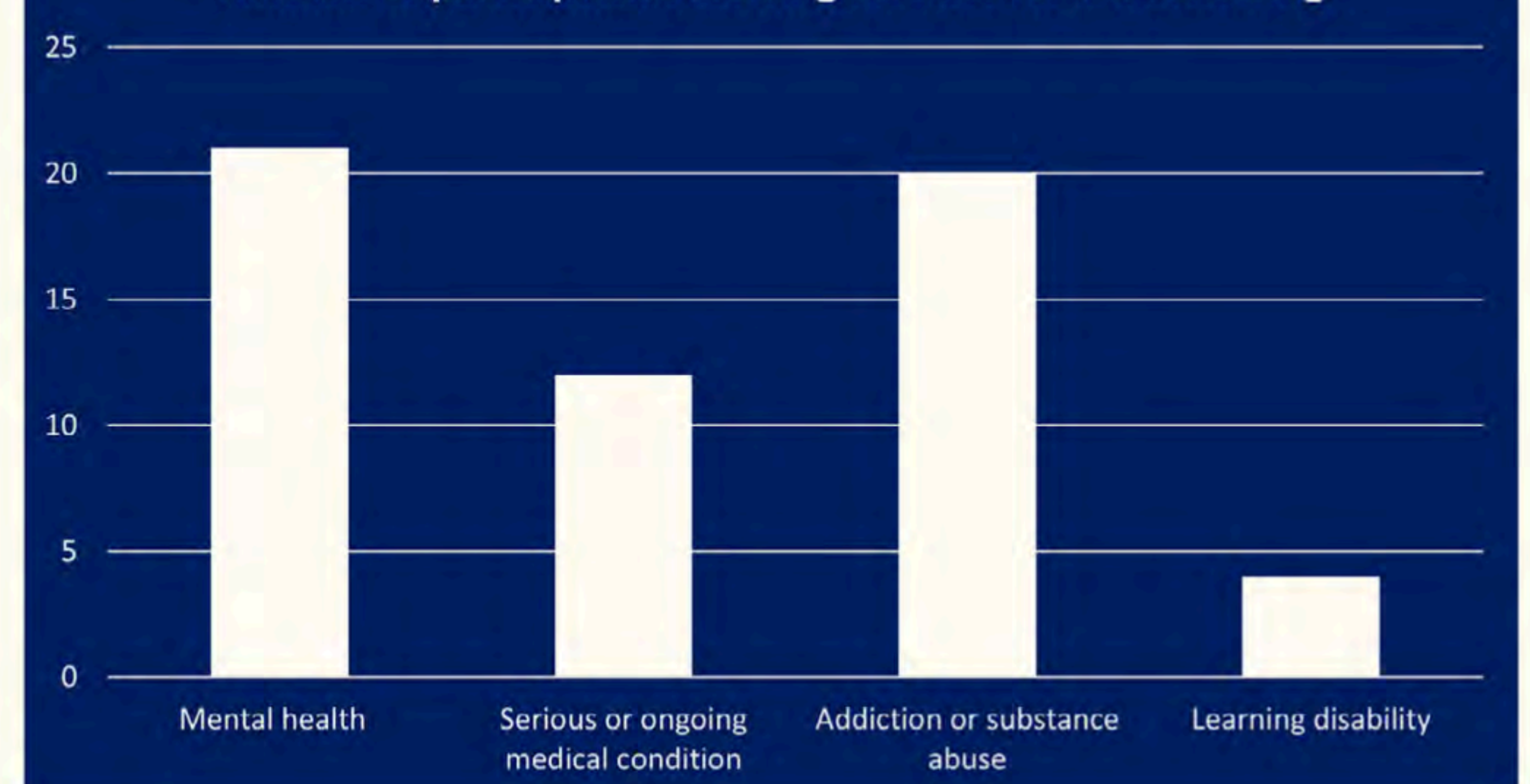
We asked participants to note the services they accessed or interactions they have had in the last twelve months and provide the amount of times they have accessed these services. Out of all the participants, 9 have visited the emergency room once, 12 have visited the emergency room multiple times, 8 participants have been hospitalized once, 2 participants have been hospitalized multiple times, 6 participants interacted with police once, 15 participants interacted with police multiple times, 2 participant were in jail once, and 8 participants were in jail multiple times. Note that interactions with the police can be anything from tickets, arrests, searches etc. and information regarding the interactions was not collected.

Table 6

Services accessed	Number of participants
Mental health	21
Serious or ongoing medical condition	12
Addiction or substance abuse	20
Learning disability	4

Many participants have identified their conditions and afflictions but not all are accessing services for them. The data on services accessed by participants can be found below in Table 6.

Amount of participants receiving services for the following



Out of the people who had not stayed in an emergency shelter and gave a reason why, 5% said it's because they had family/friends they preferred to stay with, 8% said they feared for their safety, 3% were turned away, 8% said it's because of lack of transportation, 14% declined to answer and 62% said it's because there was no shelter available in the community.



2021 - Summary of Findings

Homeless Enumeration 2021

Youth Homelessness



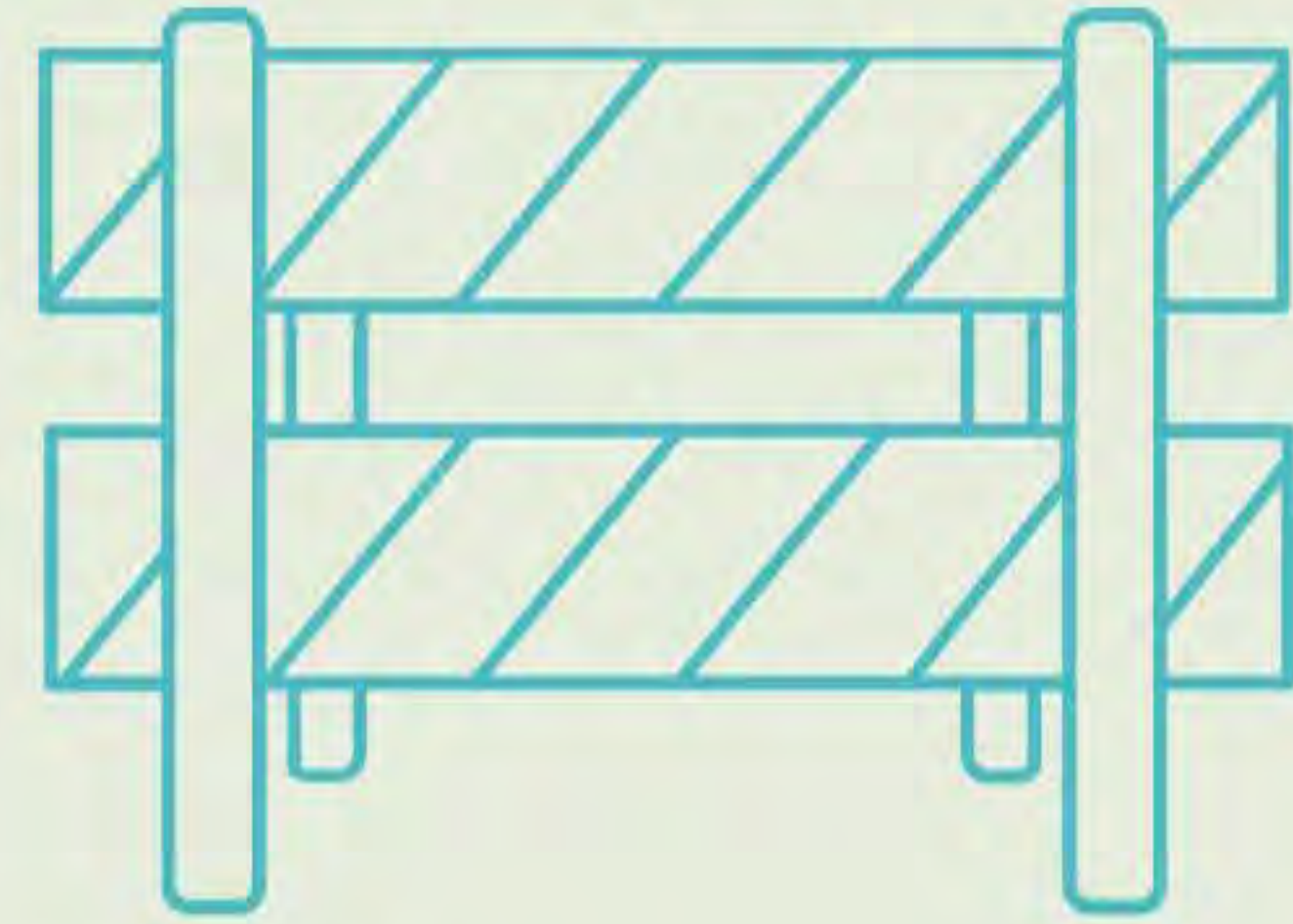
6 of the 47 participants identified as homeless were under 24 years of age. The high rate of youth and adolescent homelessness is an indication for the need to be more involved with the schools in the District.

Loss of Housing



Conflicts with parent or guardian, conflicts with spouse or partner and addiction or substance abuse were identified as the leading causes for loss of housing by participants. 30% of participants said that the reason for recent loss of housing was due to conflict with parents or spouses. This may demonstrate the need for more support in this area aimed at sustaining or maintaining housing.

Barriers to Housing



According to survey participants, the three major issues that are stopping individuals experiencing homelessness from attaining housing are: low income, rent being too high, and lack of available housing.

Inability to obtain suitable, adequate housing due to lack of income (among other barriers such as utility costs) has negative consequences on the health, education, employment and community participation of individuals/households. Wait times for RGI housing and programs offering funding to offset shelters costs are long.



2021 - Summary of Findings

Homeless Enumeration 2021

Level of Education and Securing Employment



Data indicates low high school completion/graduation rate. The need for more supports in schools is clearly identified. The results also demonstrate a need for more work in this area to gather more data to support assumptions drawn from this enumeration. High school graduation has a direct correlation to the ability of one to obtain employment and further illustrates not obtaining a high school diploma can be a barrier in obtaining secure housing and obtaining employment.

Health



Many participants have visited an emergency room once or more than once in the past year.

Mental Health and Addictions



There is a clear need for more mental health and addiction services in all communities enumerated. Services for those with mental health and addiction issues is crucial to help individuals and households maintain/secure housing, have access to appropriate support services and be able to fully participate in education and employment opportunities.

59% of the participants having identified as struggling with mental health or addictions. From these participants, 38% indicated they have mental health issues as well as addiction.



2021 - Summary of Findings

Homeless Enumeration 2021

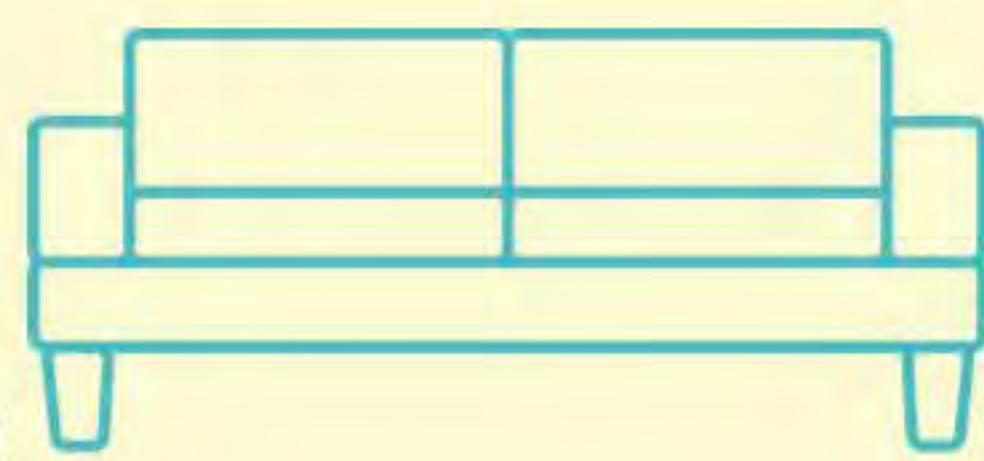
Shelters

15% of participants have used emergency shelters in the past year. The collected data illustrates a need for a non-gender specific shelter in our district.



Currently agencies will accommodate individuals experiencing homelessness by providing a bus ticket to transport them to the closest shelter in another community or to a family member as a provisional solution.

Hidden Homelessness



62% of participants reported staying with family and friends. This information demonstrates hidden homelessness in our district. Because of this, there may be several individuals not captured in the enumeration.

Indigenous Homelessness



49% of participants were identified as Indigenous. According to the stats conducted in 2014 by the Timiskaming Health Unit, 5.2% (1710 people) of Timiskaming District's population is Indigenous. This proves a need for more collaboration with Indigenous organizations for increased supports to the Indigenous population. This overrepresentation indicates the need for supports designed to meet the needs of this specific demographic.



Timiskaming Counts 2021

Homeless Enumeration



September 2021 in the District of Timiskaming



47 participants

40 participants were under the age of 20 - 21% were between the ages of 20-30 - 38% were born in the District



Physical and Mental Health

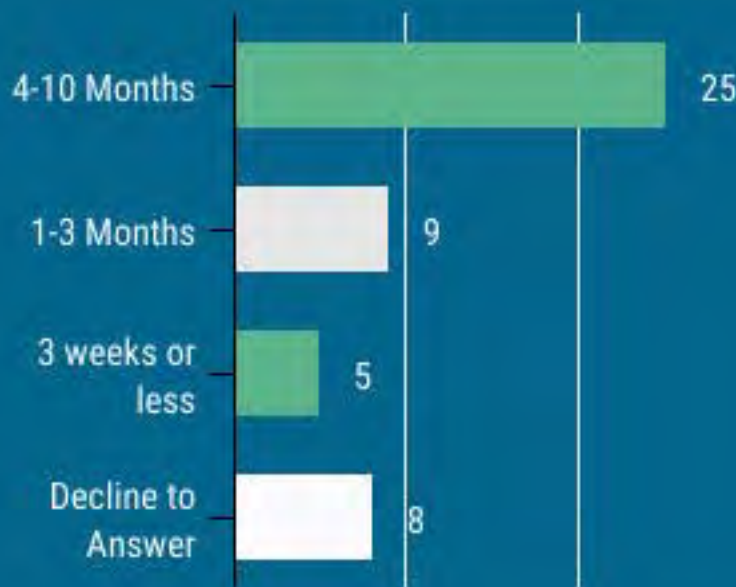
60% - Mental health and addictions
30% Physical Disability
38% Medical Condition



23/47

identified as having Indigenous ancestry

Length of Time Experiencing Homelessness



In the past year

12

Had been to ER more than once



8

Had been hospitalized

62%

Could not stay in a shelter because there was none available

Level of Education



Location they were staying the night



- GED
- Some Post Secondary
- Primary
- Highschool
- Unknown
- Did not know
- Motel
- Outdoors
- Post-Secondary
- Couch surfing
- Emergency Shelter
- In vehicle



Top Three Reported Barriers to Housing

1. 49% Rent is too high
2. 47% Low income
3. 21% Lack of available housing



Top Three Causes of Homelessness

1. House sold/eviction
2. Unable to pay rent/mortgage
3. Conflict with spouse/partner



Top Three Sources of Income

1. OW
2. ODSP
3. No Income



Services Accessed

- 45% Mental Health
- 42% Addictions
- 26% Ongoing serious medical condition
- 9% Learning Disability



Institutional Interactions in the Past Year

- 32% have had multiple interactions with the police
- 26% have attend ER more than once this year.



Top Three Reasons for coming to District

1. Born here
2. Family moved here
3. Employment

