

Registry Week 2020

Understanding Homelessness in Oxford County

Community Debrief

December 3, 2020

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. Survey Context and Purpose
3. Preliminary Results
4. Next Steps
5. Questions and Answers
6. Closing



Social Planning Council Oxford
www.spcoxford.ca



United Way
Oxford

**Ontario
Trillium
Foundation**



**Fondation
Trillium
de l'Ontario**

An agency of the Government of Ontario
Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

A **CRISIS**
ACROSS THE

HOUSING CONTINUUM

IN OXFORD COUNTY

10% IN CORE HOUSING NEED

A household is in "core housing need" if it spends 30% or more of its total before-tax income to pay the median rent.

Total # households 44,265
Median household income (after tax) \$63,630
Living wage household income (family of 4) \$67,176

MEDIAN

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

≤ \$20,000

≤ \$38,000

≤ \$63,630

% HOUSEHOLDS

7%

23%

50%



Emergency shelters

Transitional housing

Supportive housing

Rent-geared-to-income housing
30% of monthly income

Affordable rental housing
\$726/month (1 bed)¹

Market rental
\$908 - \$1,500/month (1 bed)²

Home ownership
< \$250,000

Home ownership
> \$250,000

UNMET DEMAND

CONSTANT

CONSTANT

150

2,000

1,000¹

unknown

20% of all home sales³

80% of all home sales³

SUPPLY

50

20

160

1,429

517

9,555

VACANCY

NO VACANCY

Source: Oxford County, 2019

Housing and Homelessness

- *Homelessness describes the **situation of an individual or family without stable, permanent, appropriate housing, or the immediate prospect, means and ability of acquiring it.***
- Homelessness includes people who are:
 - Unsheltered (sleeping rough, in cars, bus shelters)
 - Emergency sheltered (homelessness shelters and domestic violence shelters)
 - Provisionally accommodated (couch surfing, staying in motels, transitional housing)
- It is the result of systemic or societal barriers, a lack of affordable and appropriate housing, the individual/household's financial, mental, cognitive, behavioural or physical challenges, and/or racism and discrimination.

Oxford Housing Action Collaborative

- Partners that believe that collectively we can move the needle locally on the housing crisis
- National recognition of housing as a human right
- Learned that there have been communities that have ended chronic homelessness
- Project covers 3 of the group's priority areas:
 - Emergency shelter review
 - Understanding the varying needs in the different municipalities
 - Registry Week



Registry Week Methods

- Purpose is to provide:
 - a **snapshot and enhanced awareness of homelessness in Oxford County**
 - a way to **track progress and trends**
 - information and **create momentum to utilize a by-name list and connect people with services**
- November 23-26, 2020
- 45 surveyors at 25 locations across the County and visited known locations
- Individuals that met the definition of homelessness were able to participate in a survey that covered questions on the person's demographic information, history of homelessness and housing and their needs



Registry Week Limitations

- Findings are only a snapshot and likely underestimate/under-represent the number of people experiencing homelessness in our community:
 - Unable to participate
 - Decline to answer (due to feeling afraid, ashamed)
 - Does not include “At-risk-of-homelessness”
- Weather for encampments
- COVID capacity limitations and restricted service hours



Surveyor Experience

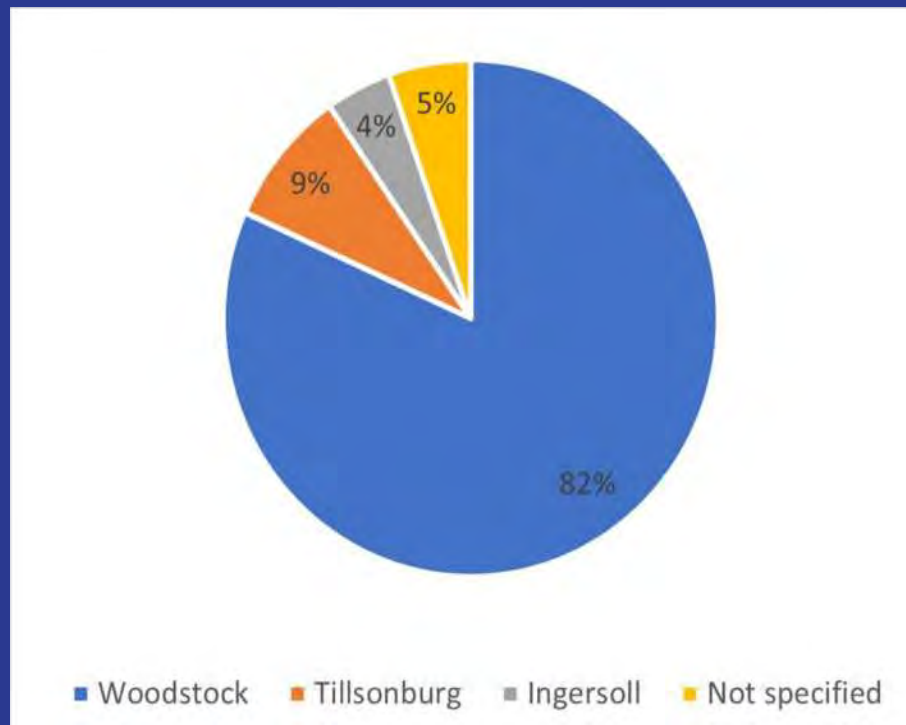


Registry Week Participation

In total there were **93** unique participants. **103** people experiencing homelessness.

- Single adults: **73** individuals (78%)
- Youth: **12** individuals (13%)
- Families: **8** families (9%)
 - **10** children total
 - Average # of children per family: **1.3**
 - Average age of children: **10.3** years
 - Single parent households: **88%**

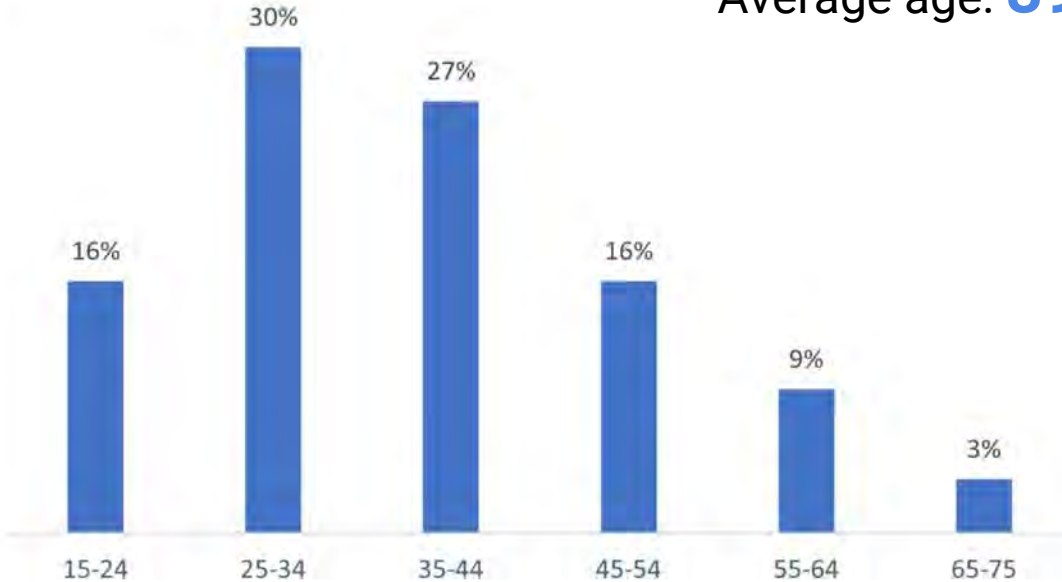
Survey Locations



Demographics

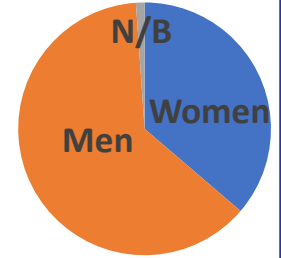
Age

Average age: **39**



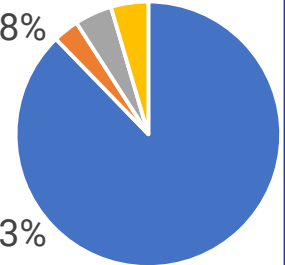
Gender Identity

- Men - 63%
- Women - 36%
- Non-binary - 1%



Sexual Orientation

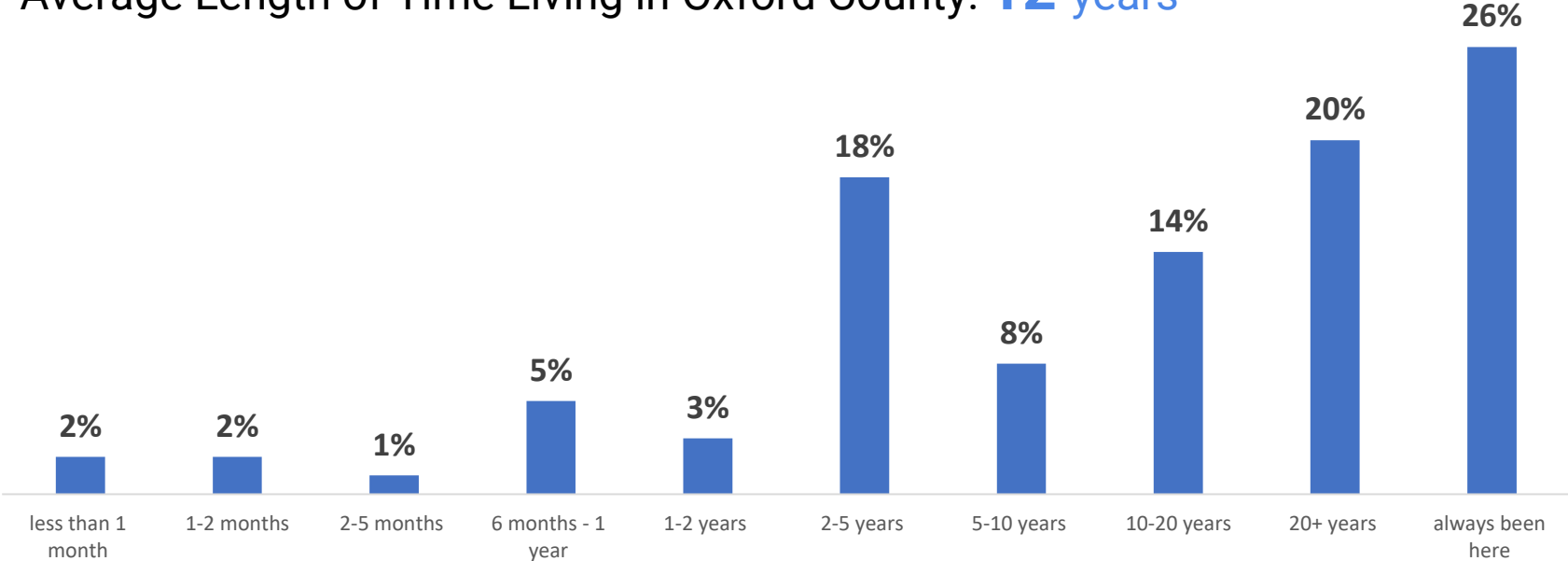
- Heterosexual - 88%
- Pansexual - 5%
- Bisexual - 5%
- Gay, Asexual, or Do not identify - 3%



Demographics

Length of Time Living in Oxford County

Average Length of Time Living in Oxford County: **12** years



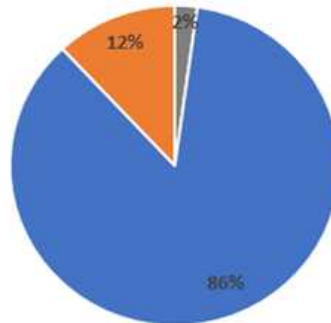
Demographics

Immigrant Status

- **10%** of individuals identified as an immigrant/refugee
- The average length of time living in Canada was **35 years**

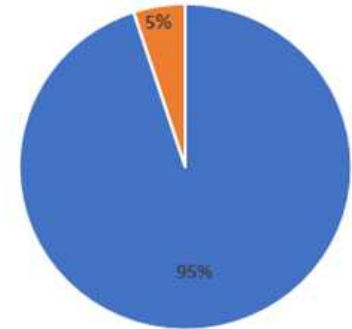
Indigenous Identity

- **12%** of individuals identified as First Nations/Metis/ having Indigenous Ancestry



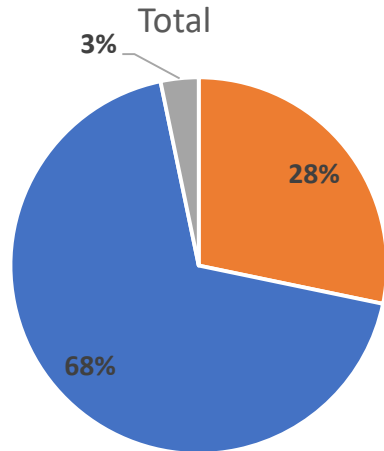
Military Service

- **5%** of individuals stated that they served in the military and/or RCMP



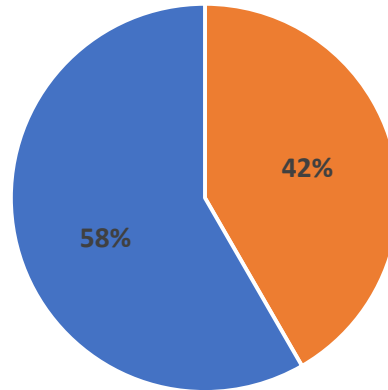
Demographics

Experience of Foster Care/Group Home



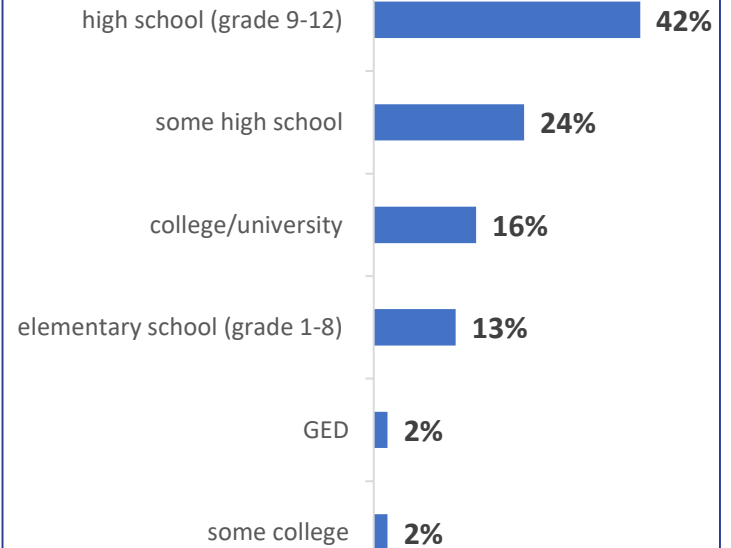
yes no don't know

Youth-Specific



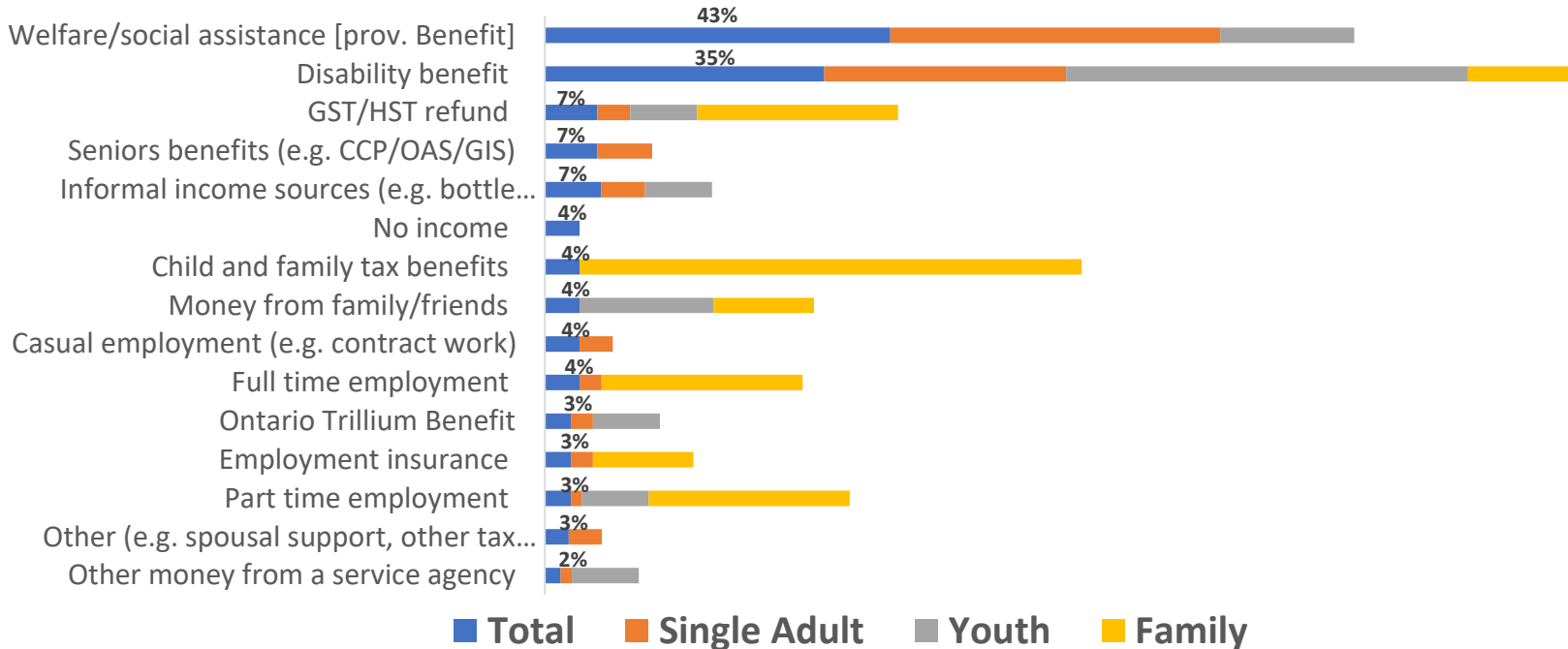
yes no

Highest Level of Education



Demographics

Sources of Income (by group)



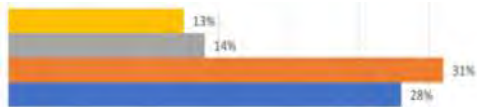
Where Are People Usually Staying?



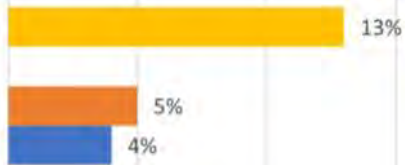
Unsheltered

32% total

Outdoors: 28%



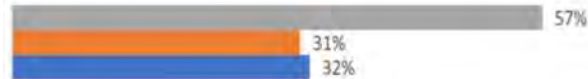
Other: 4%



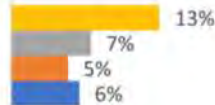
Provisionally Accommodated

46% total

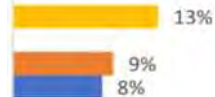
Couch surfing: 32%



Motel/hotel: 8%

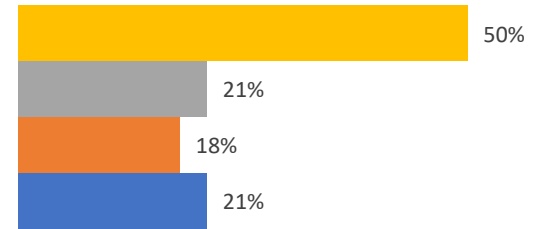


Transitional housing: 6%

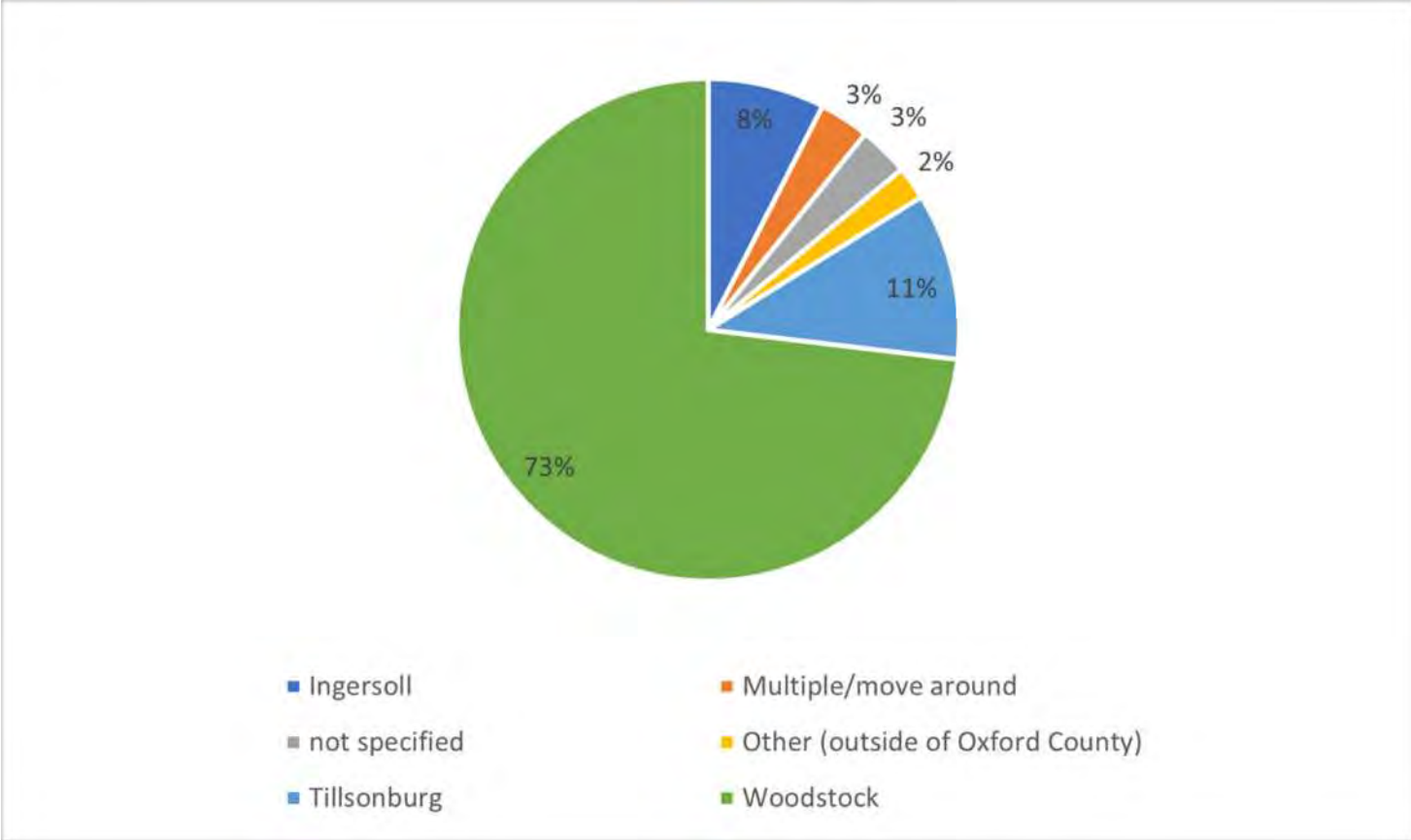


Emergency Sheltered

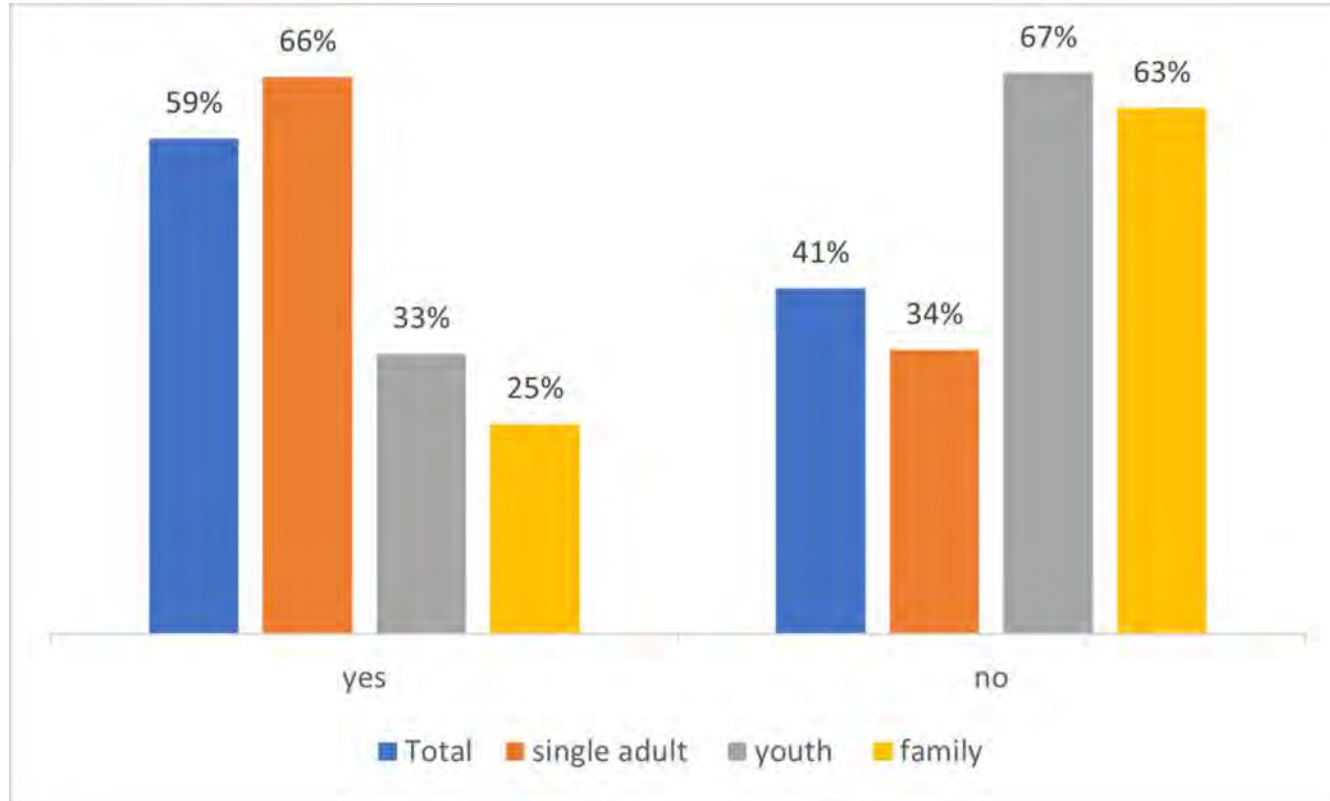
21% total

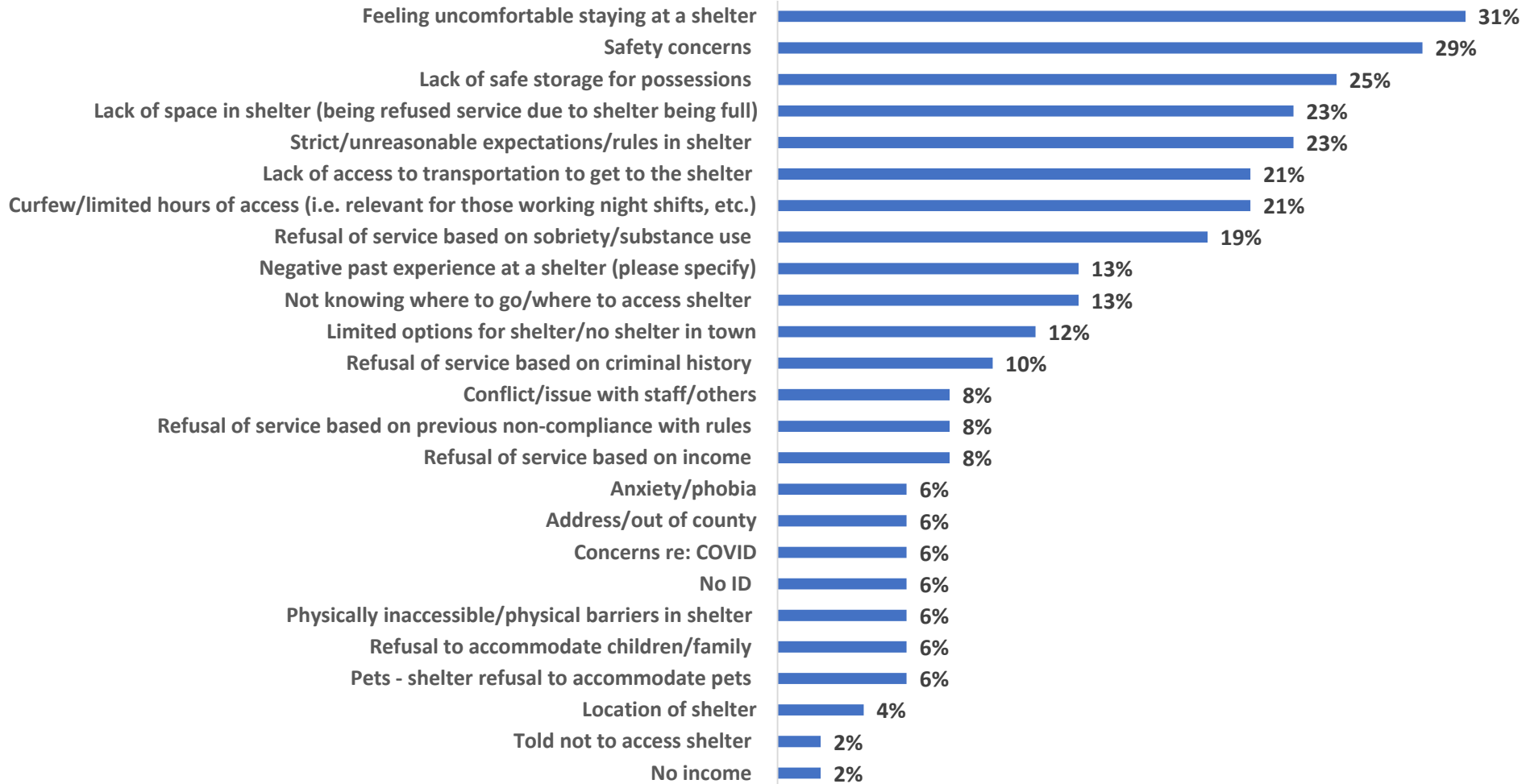


Where In Oxford Are People Usually Staying?

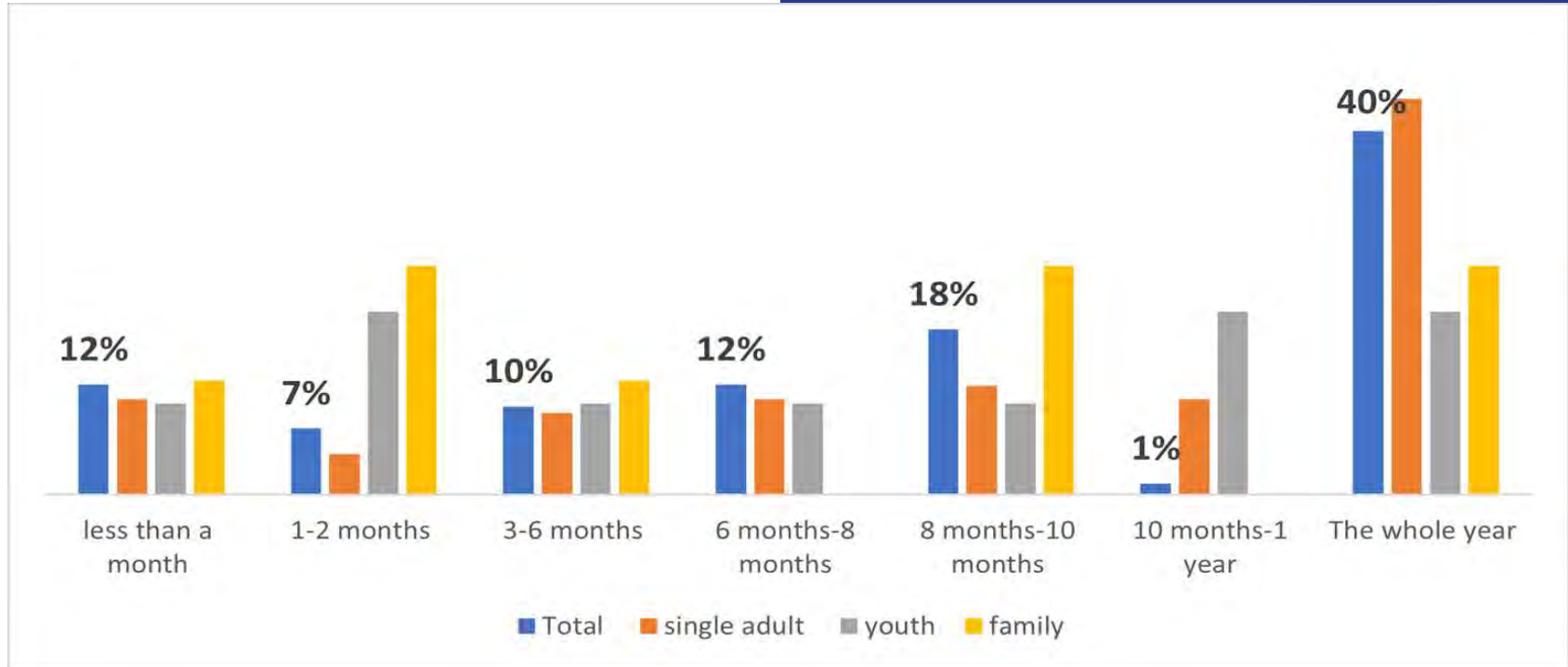


Are There Barriers to Accessing Shelter?

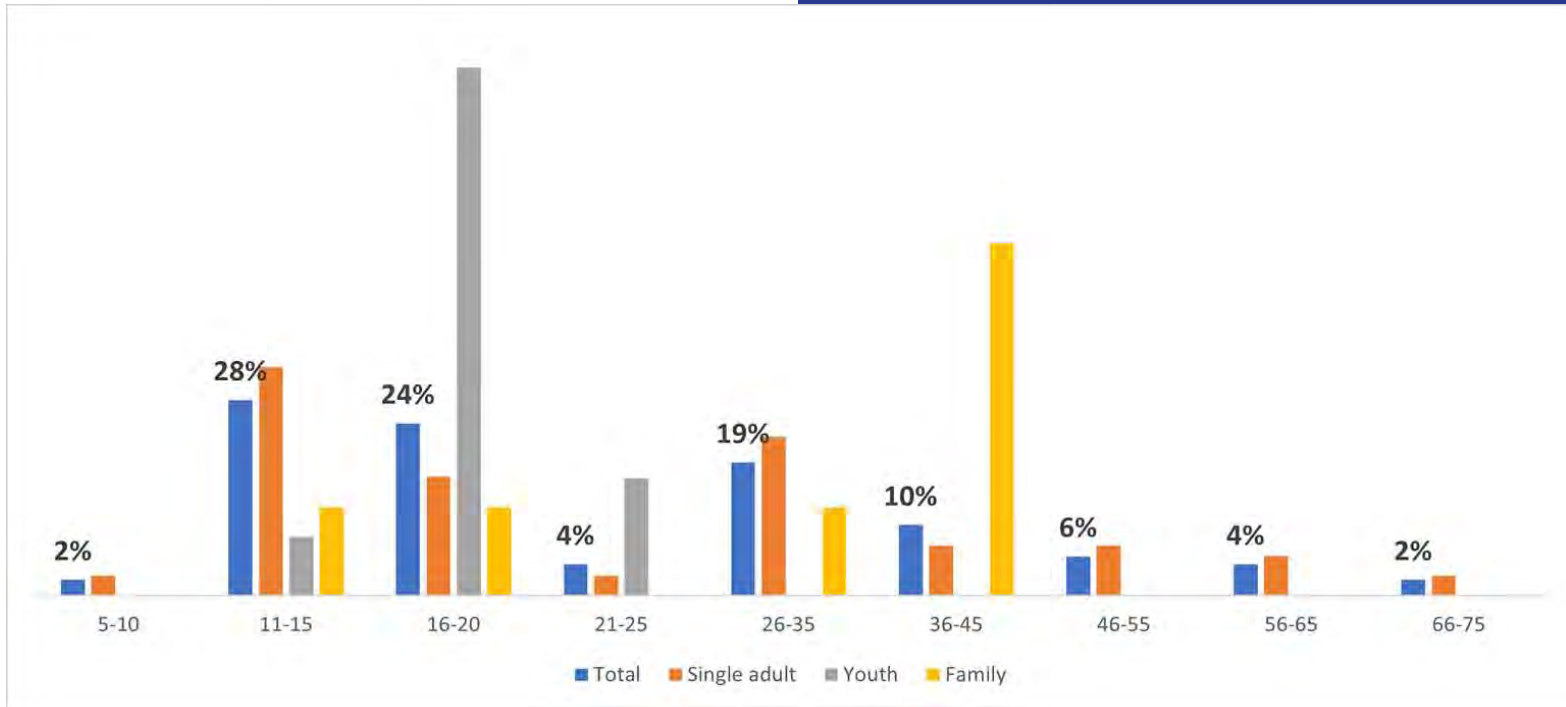




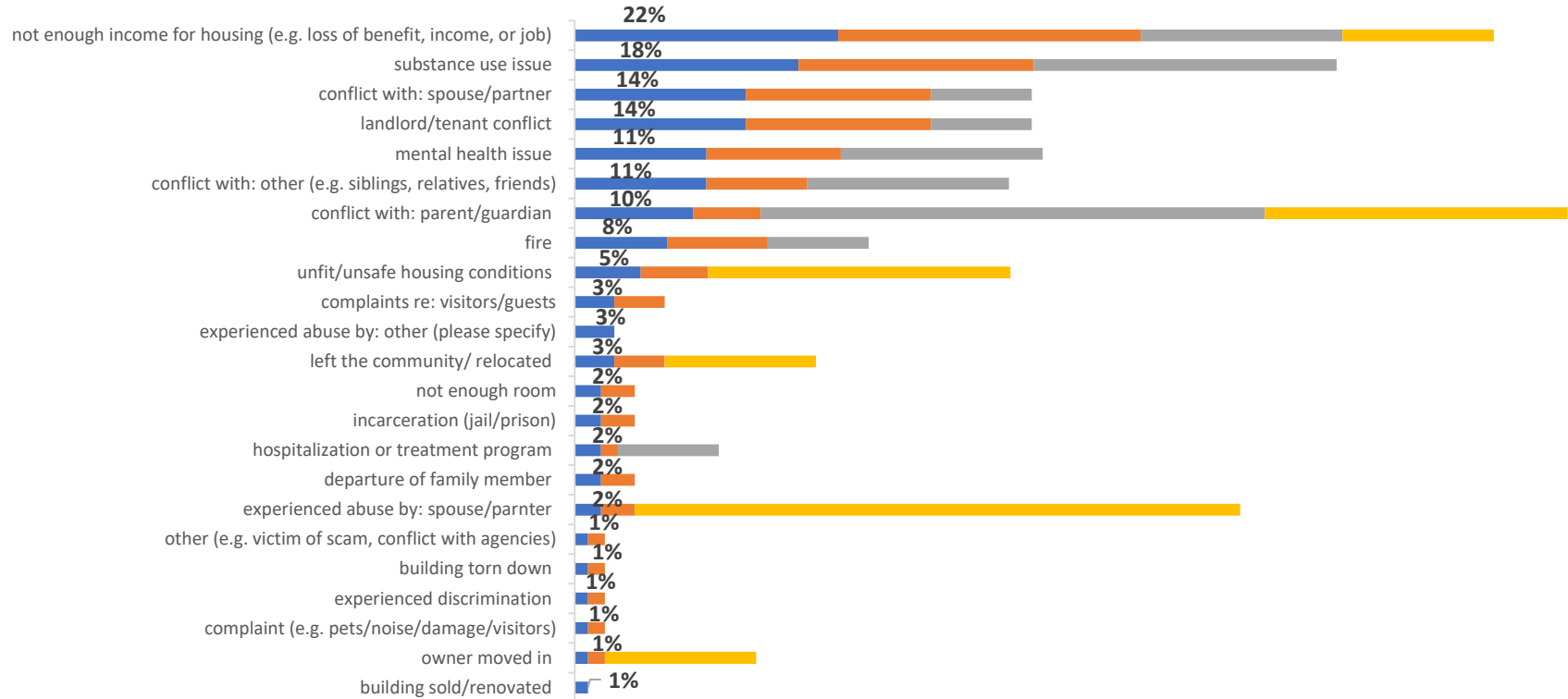
Length of Time Experiencing Homelessness In the Past Year



Age at First Experience of Homelessness

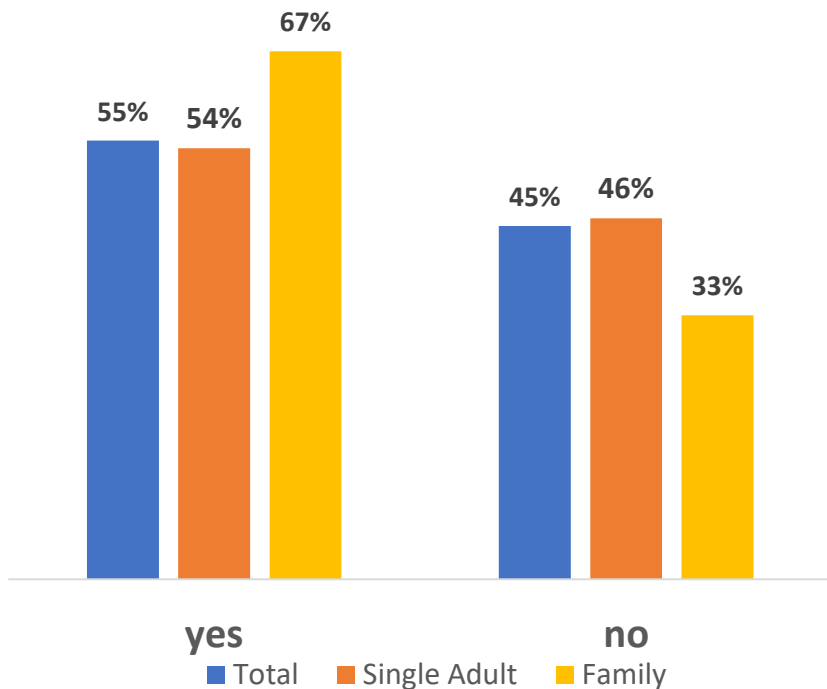


Causes of Current Homelessness

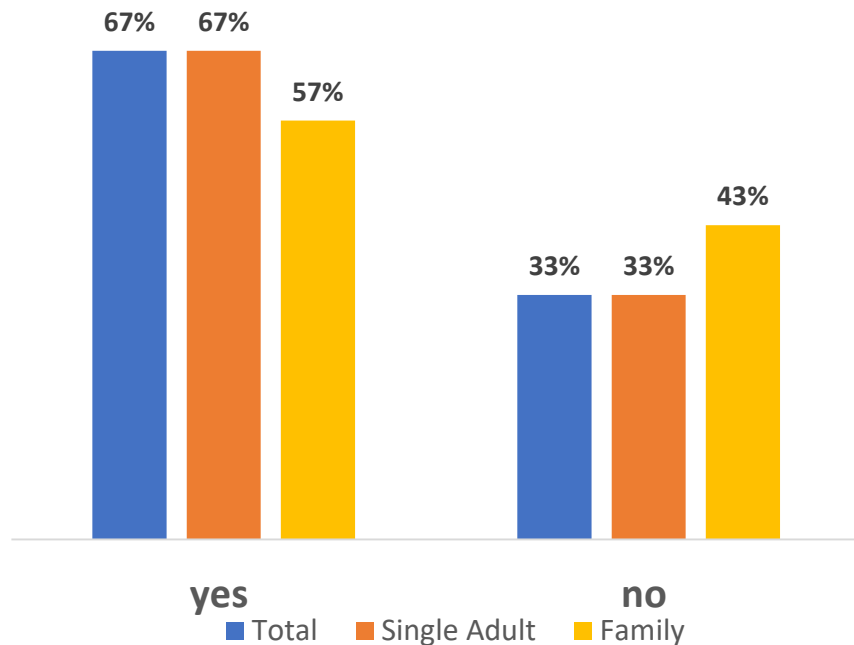


■ Total ■ Single adult ■ youth ■ family

Has your current period of homelessness been caused by an experience of emotional, physical, psychological, sexual, or other type of abuse, or by any other trauma you have experienced?



Is your current homelessness in any way caused by a relationship that broke down, an unhealthy or abusive relationship, or because family or friends caused you to become evicted?

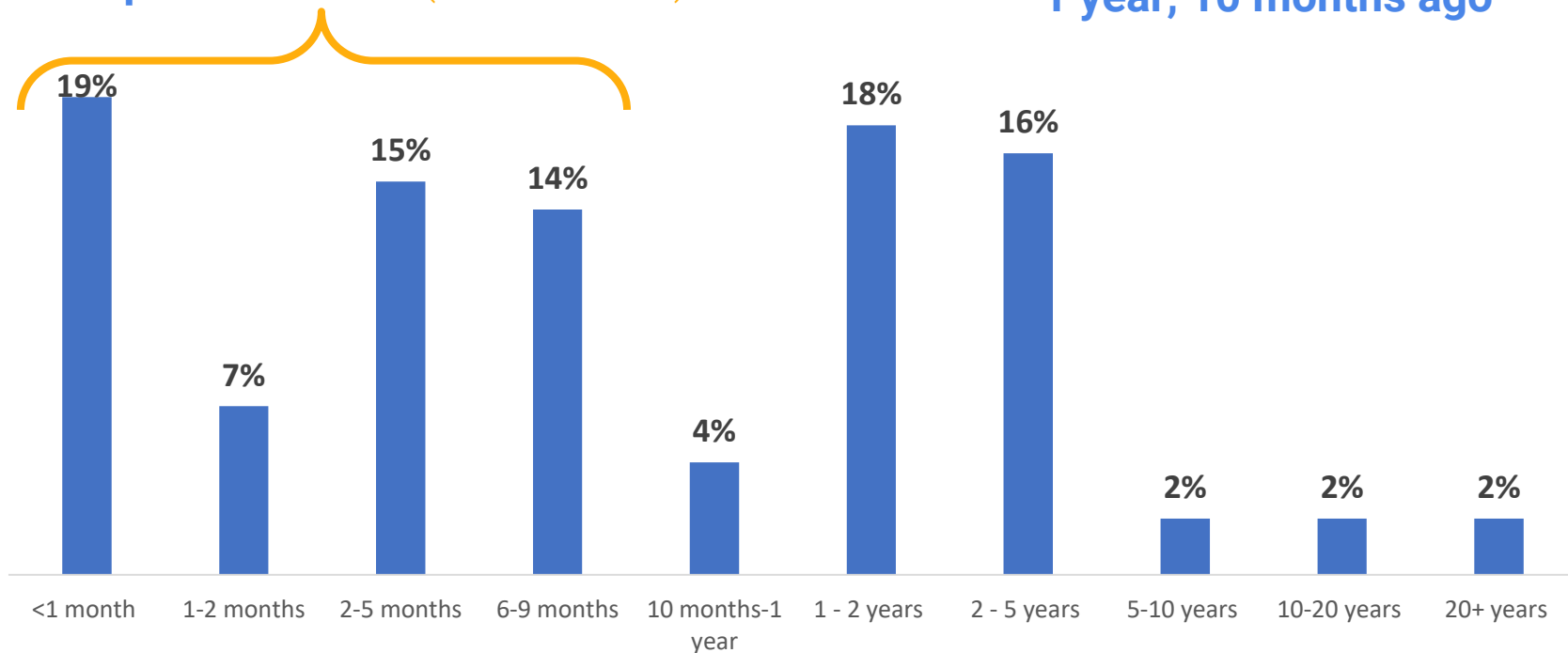


Length of Time Since Losing Housing Most Recently

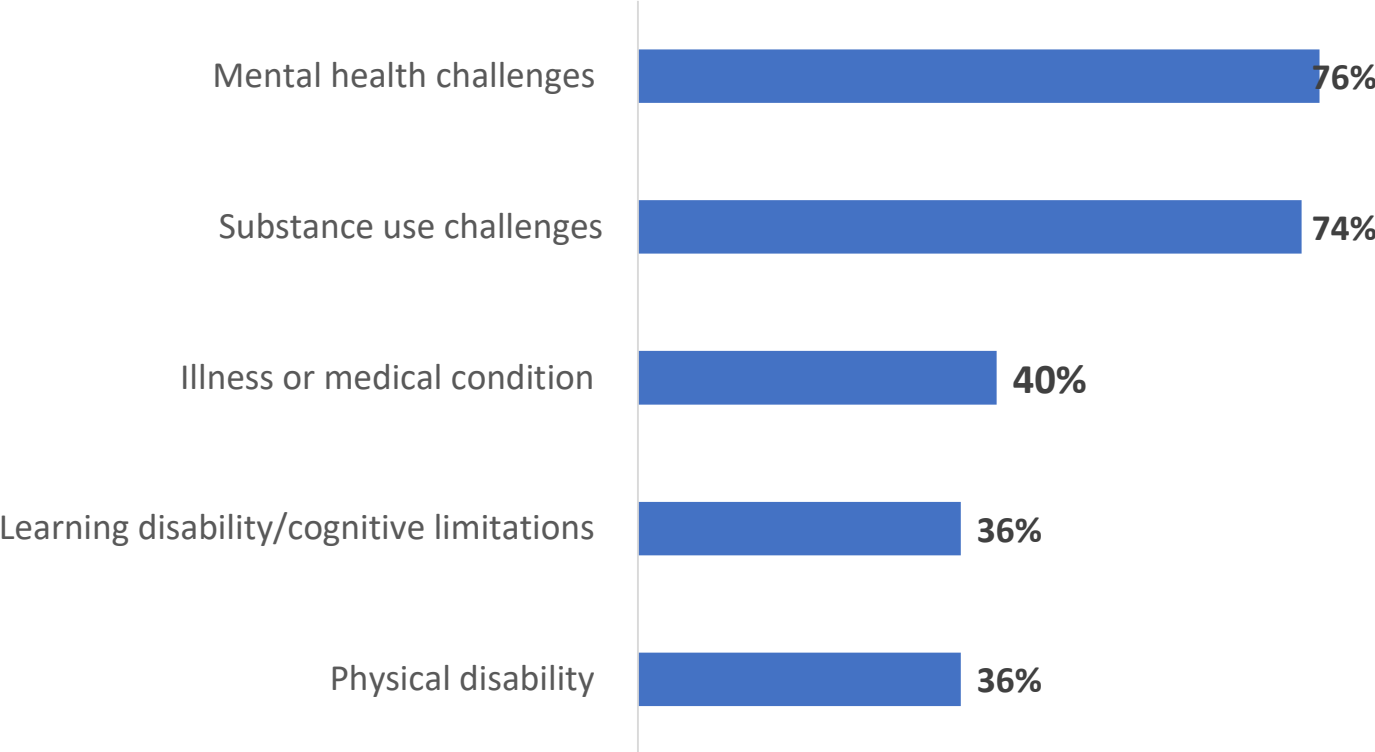
55% entered homelessness most recently within the **past 9 months** (since March 2020)

Average of most recent entry into homelessness:

1 year, 10 months ago

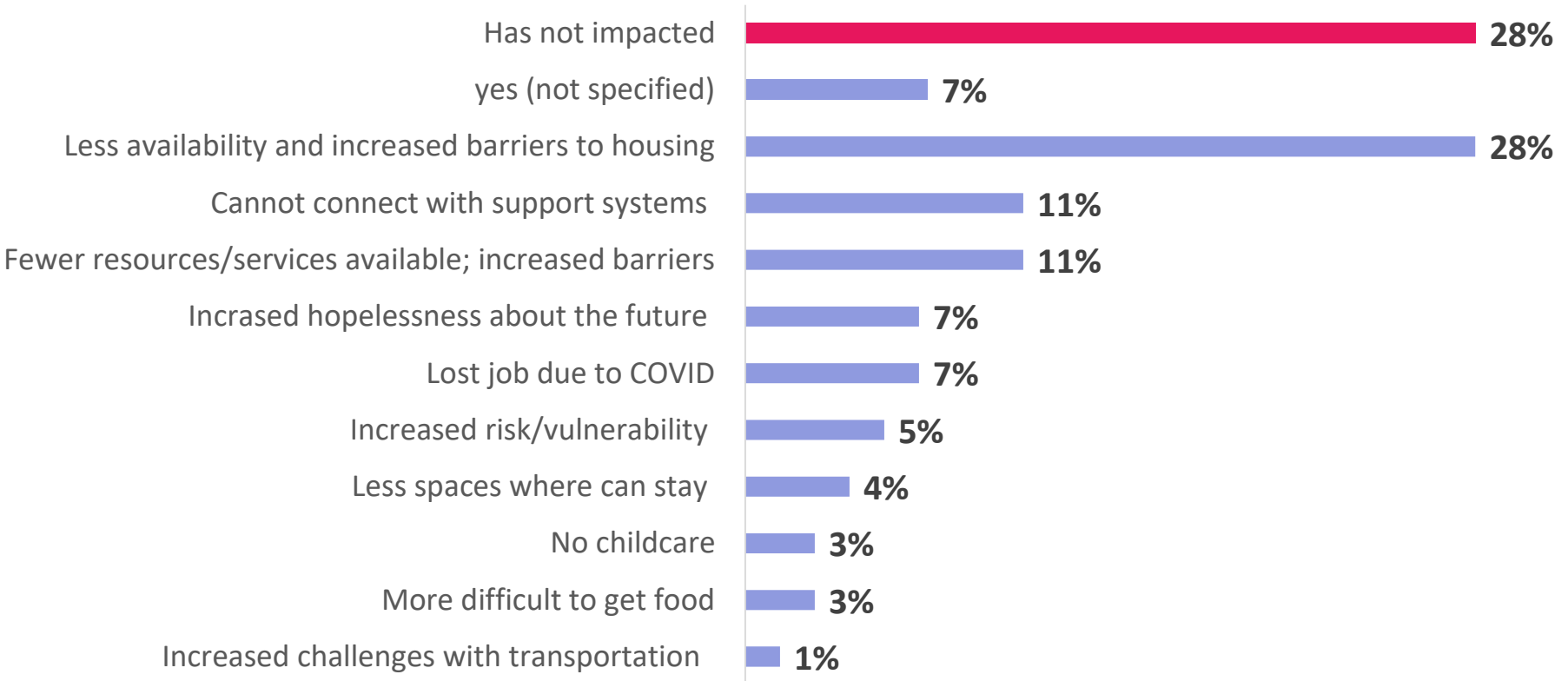


Health and Wellbeing



For **all 5 challenges**, the majority of participants stated that they **worsened** since becoming homeless.

Has COVID-19 Impacted Participants' Housing Situation?

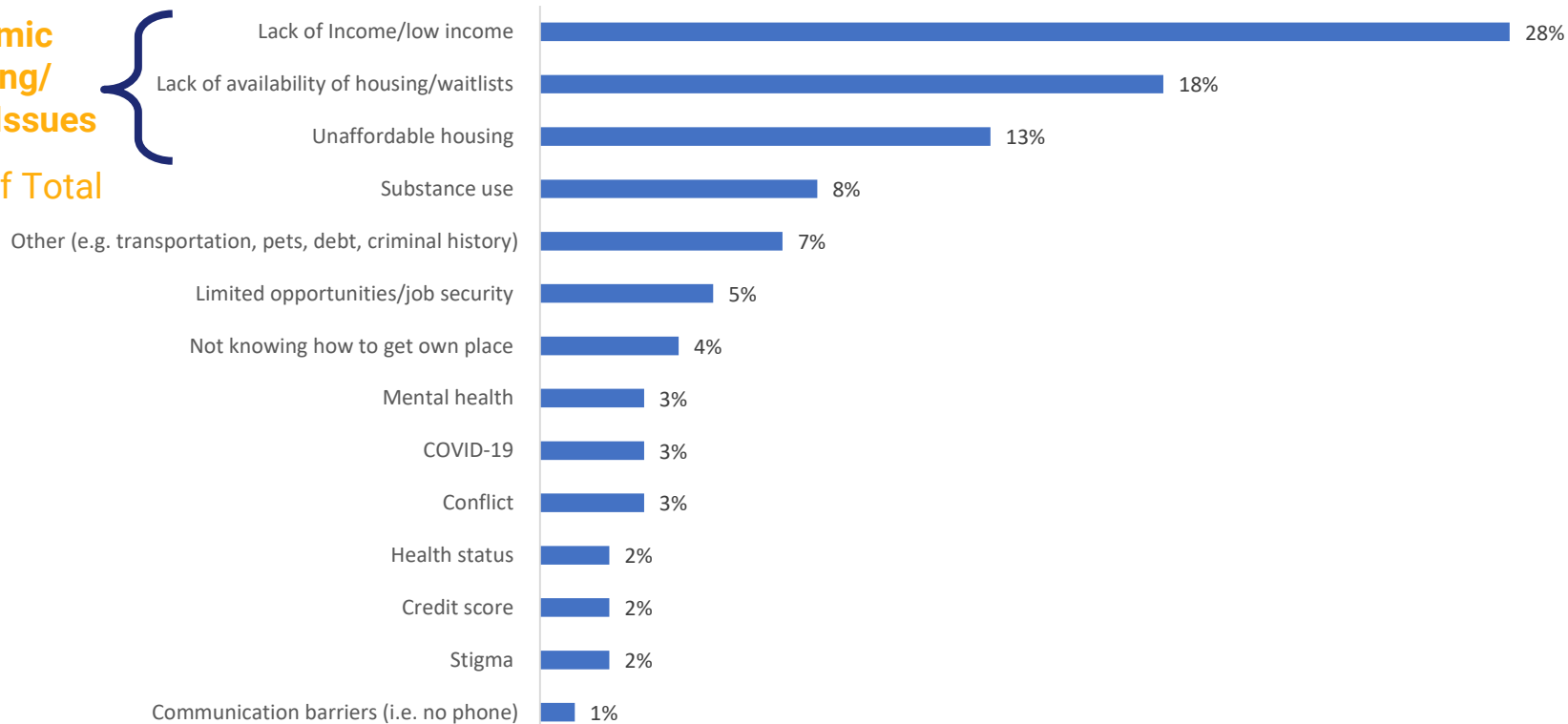


How People Describe The Homeless Community In The Area/ The Experience Of Homelessness



What Factors Are Keeping You From Having A Permanent Place To Live?

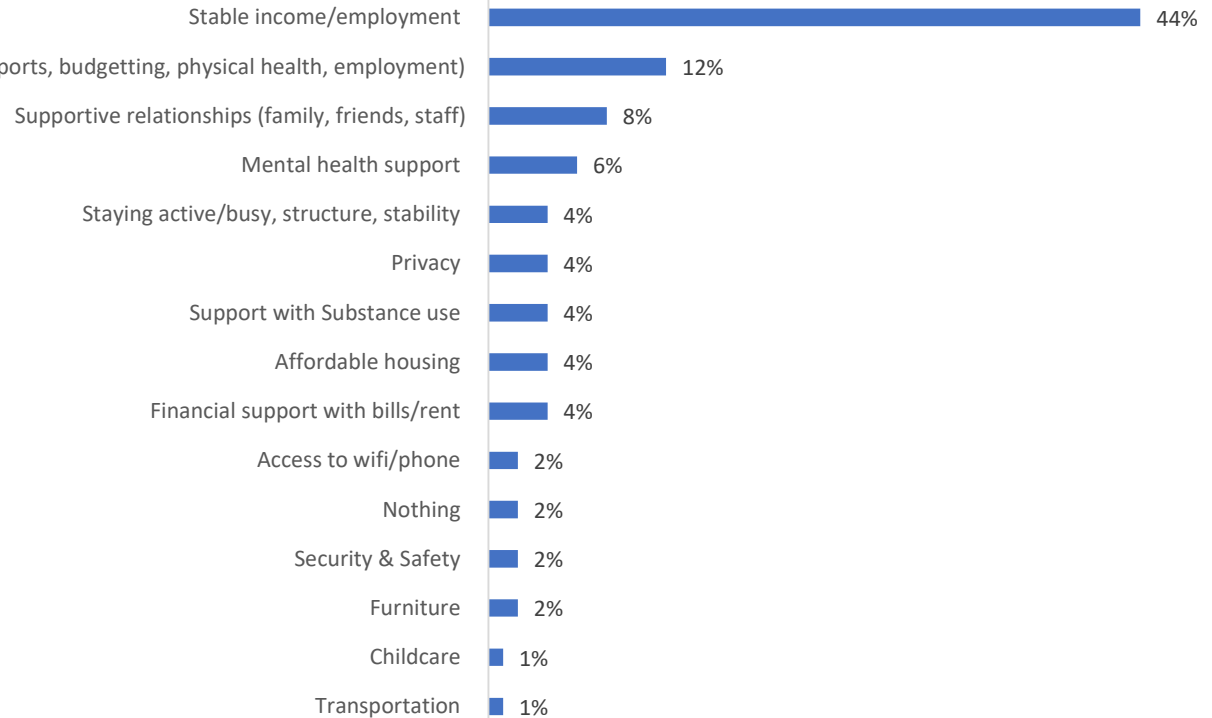
**Systemic
Housing/
Poverty Issues**
49% of Total



What Factors Can Help You Keep Housing Once You Get It?

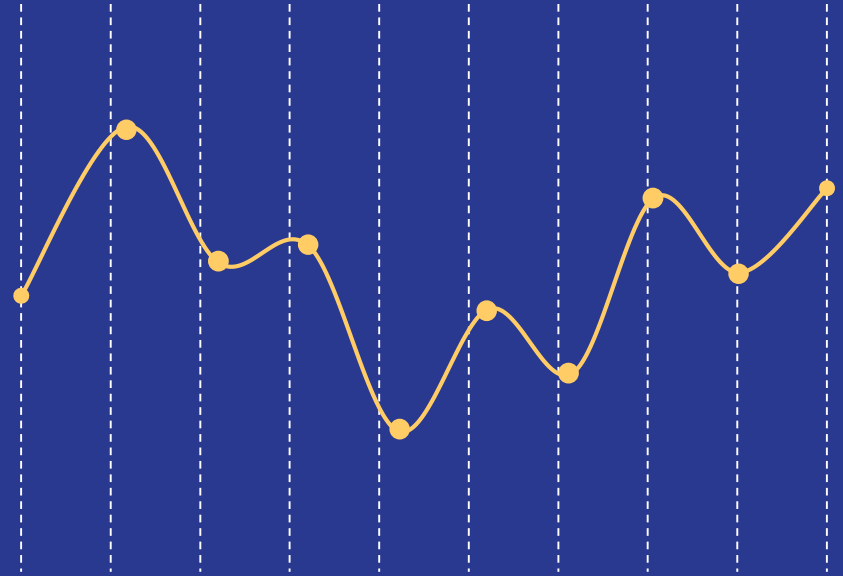
**System-Level
Supports
56% of Total**

Supports (e.g. housing supports, budgetting, physical health, employment)



Next Steps

- Partners working together toward a coordinated system for services
- Use of data to determine recommendations/next steps
- Narrative-storytelling and photos
- Shelter Review of The Inn, Salvation Army Emergency House, DASO:
 - Interviews with staff, partners and people accessing the shelters
- Share further information



Questions



Call To Action

spcoxford.ca/adequate-housing

www.recoveryforall.ca





Thank you!