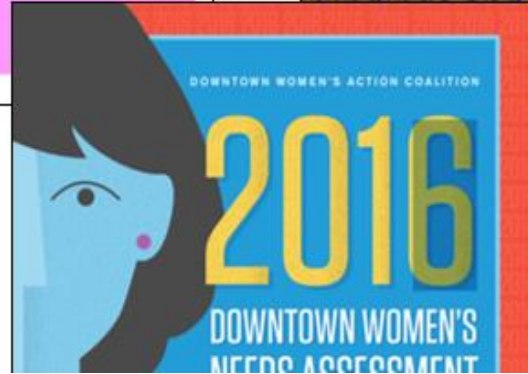
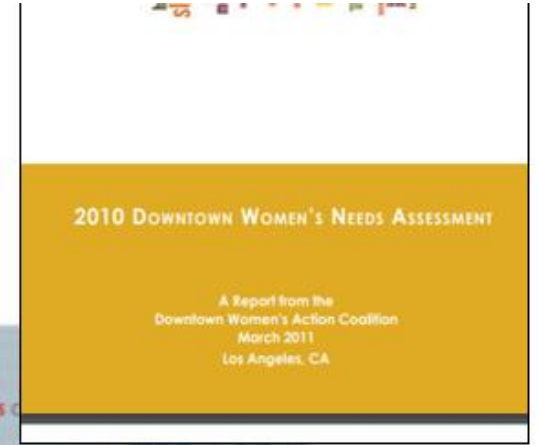


Action Coalition
October 2001



Los Angeles County Women's Needs Assessment

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May 25, 2023 - Domestic Violence Homeless Services Coalition



Agenda

- Los Angeles Woman's Needs Assessment Background
- 2022 WNA Design
- Survey Design and Data Collection
- Countywide Finding Highlights
- Discussion: Policy Recommendations
- Next Steps

Los Angeles County Women's Needs Assessment Background

Women's Need Assessment - Background

- Needs Assessment helps organizations better understand the specific needs and vulnerabilities of unaccompanied women experiencing homelessness
- Findings help advocate for programs and policies that address these needs
- Needs Assessments have been completed by DWC every three years since 2001
- The 2022 Needs Assessment is the first countywide assessment

2022 Los Angeles County Women's Needs Assessment Design

Research Questions

- What are the characteristics of unaccompanied women experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles?
- What are the experiences of unaccompanied women experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles with homeless services?
- What are the experiences of unaccompanied women experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles with other service systems?
- What do unaccompanied women experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles want in housing?
- In the absence of housing, what do unaccompanied women experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles want in shelter and other emergency assistance?

Pre-survey Listening Sessions

- Listening sessions were intended to learn from unaccompanied women about their experiences, including causes and duration of homelessness, services use experiences, and preferences and needs, for the purposes of informing and refining the survey of needs
- 9 listening sessions in 7 SPAs, small number of one-on-one interviews in 1 SPA: 91 women total with mix of ages, race and ethnicity, and experiences of homelessness (one bilingual Spanish/English group, one group primarily made up of LGBTQ+ individuals)

Listening sessions summary available here: <https://www.urban.org/research/publication/los-angeles-county-womens-needs-assessment>

Survey Priorities Based on Listening Sessions

- Identify women's needs and preferences for permanent housing, shelters and what they want in the absence of shelters.
- Prioritize questions related to experiences of victimization and safety
- Explore women's perceptions on trauma-informed services and if services are available to meet their complex needs
- Learn more about women's experiences with the Coordinated Entry System (CES)

Survey Priorities Based on Listening Sessions

- Prioritize and expand upon questions about police involvement, including encampment sweeps
- Understand the impact of COVID-19 on women experiencing homelessness
- Find out what would give women a sense of community and sense of belonging
- Rethink questions around women's health

Survey Design and Data Collection

Survey Design Overview

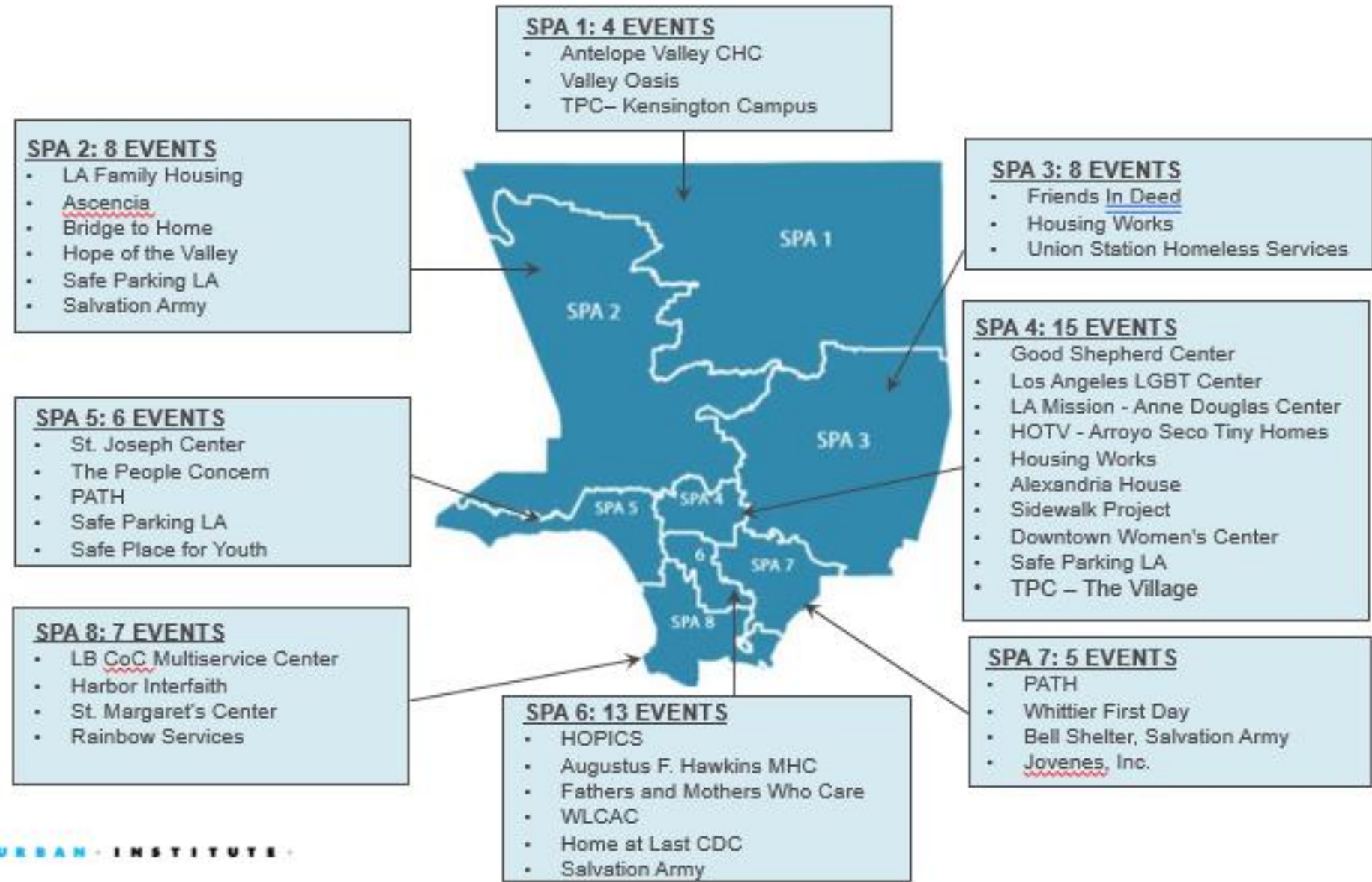
- Survey had a total of 78 questions
 - Not all participants asked all questions
- Estimated to take between 30-45 minutes to complete
- Face-to-face administration by trained volunteers/service providers, online Qualtrics platform
- Survey included questions within the following domains:
 - Demographics
 - Housing and homelessness history
 - Services use
 - Safety
 - Health
 - Interactions with other systems
 - Employment and income

Data Collection Overview

- Survey conducted across **all 8 Service Planning Areas** (SPAs) in Los Angeles County, GOAL = 760 responses, SPA level goals
- Survey **conducted at social service provider sites** or in, some instances, on the streets (through coordination with social service agencies)
- Surveys conducted by **volunteers**
- **Eligibility** to participate:
 - 18 years or older
 - currently experiencing homelessness
 - identify as a woman, non-binary individual, or transgender
 - seeking services as an individual
 - not yet taken the survey this year

Survey Administration

- Over 60 separate survey events occurred from 10/25/2022 through 12/09/2022 in all 8 SPAs
- Many agencies shifted to ongoing data collection, so the true number of survey events exceeds the total listed here
- Challenges: Limited sites available in SPAs 3 & 7



Volunteers

- 124 volunteers, including agency staff and community members, some of whom completed multiple volunteer shifts
- The Urban Institute, HUB for Urban Initiatives, and DWC hosted 5 live training events and released a recorded training for volunteer use throughout the survey period
- 3 volunteers identified as having lived experience of homelessness
- Challenges: Volunteers didn't sign up for survey sites as readily in areas like SPA 1 or SPA 7
- Challenges: Volunteer cancellation due to sickness (COVID-19 and other seasonal illnesses)

Countywide Finding Highlights

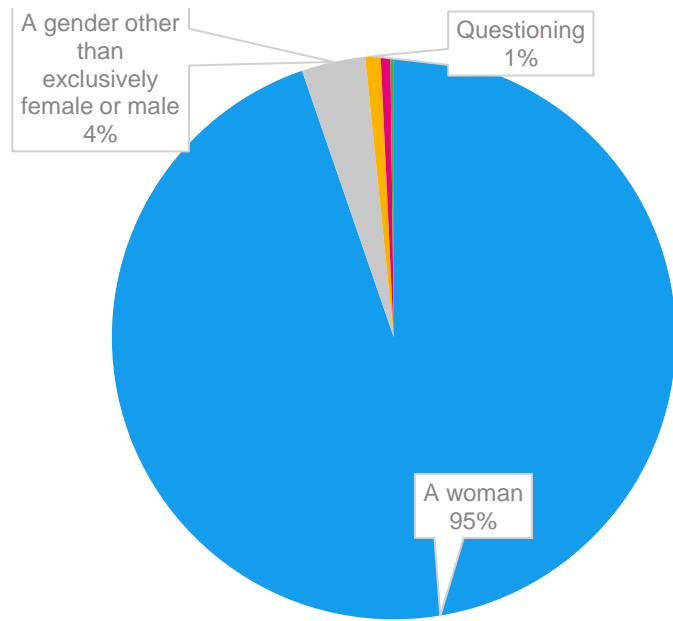
What are the characteristics of unaccompanied women experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles?

Race & Ethnicity

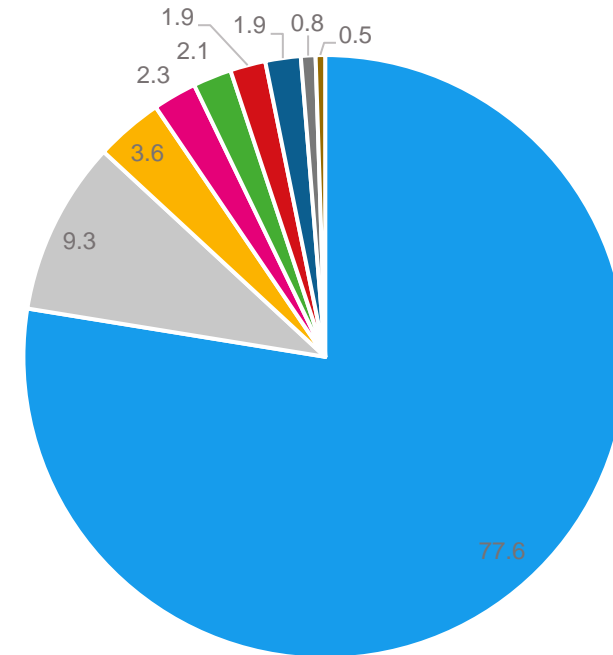
Race/Ethnicity (weighted)	Percentage (%)
Hispanic/Latino	34.03
Black or African American	31.63
White	21.66
Two or more races	7.15
Asian or Asian American	1.71
Other	1.31
American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous	0.79
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.70
Unknown	0.61
Declined to Answer	0.41

Race/Ethnicity (2022 Unaccompanied Women PIT estimates)	Percentage (%)
Hispanic/Latino	39
Black or African American	27
White	28
Mixed or multiple races	3
Asian or Asian American	1
American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous	2
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0

Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation

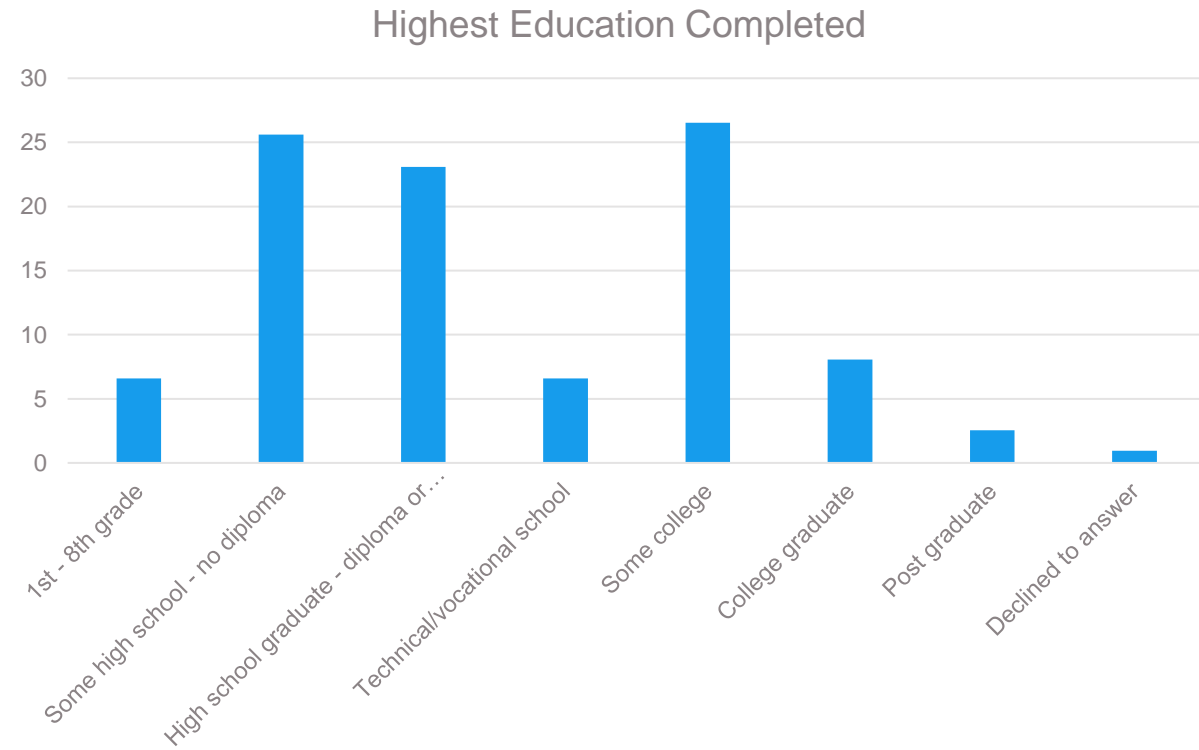
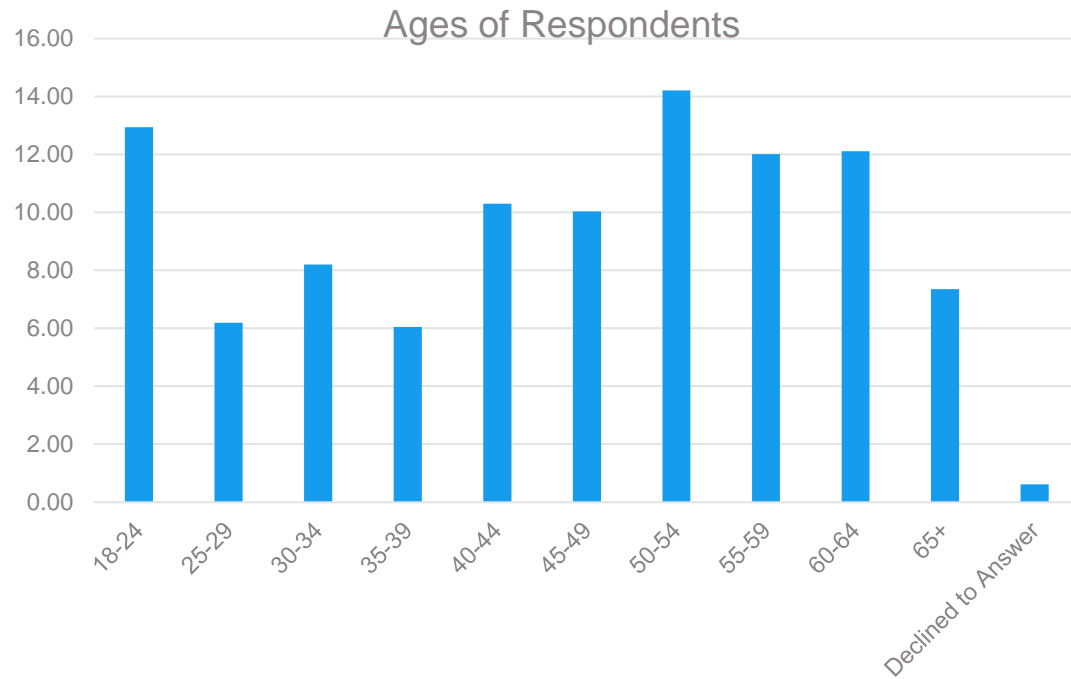


- A woman
- A gender other than exclusively female or male
- Questioning
- I don't know
- Declined to answer



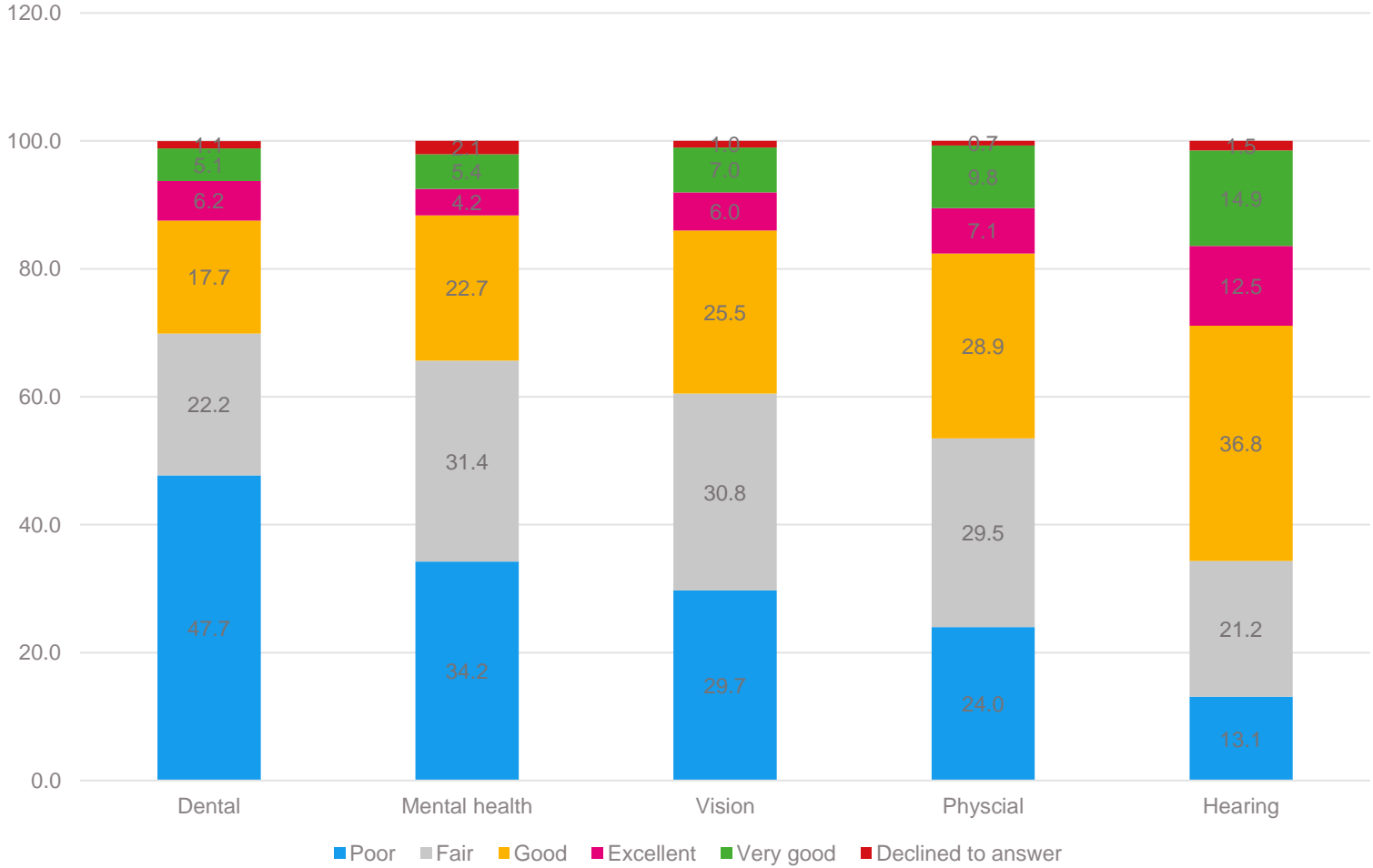
- Straight (not gay, lesbian, or bisexual)
- Lesbian
- Unsure/Questioning
- Queer
- Declined to answer
- Bisexual
- Gay
- Something else
- I don't know

Age and Education



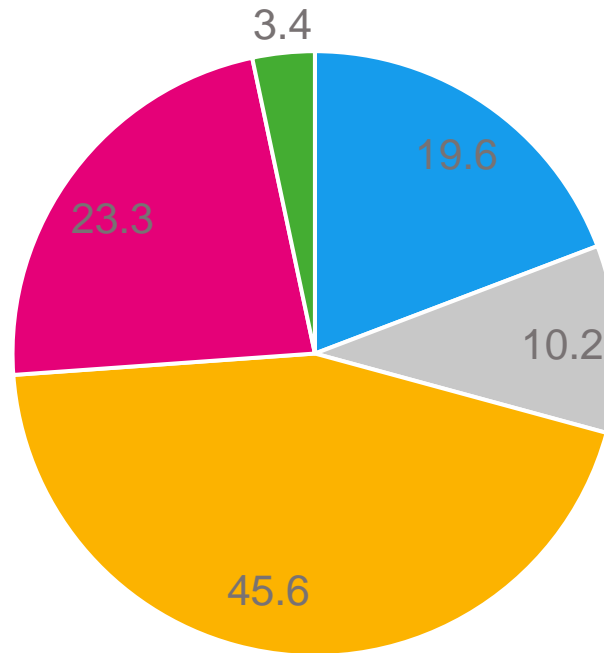
Health

Self-rated health



Employment and Disability Status

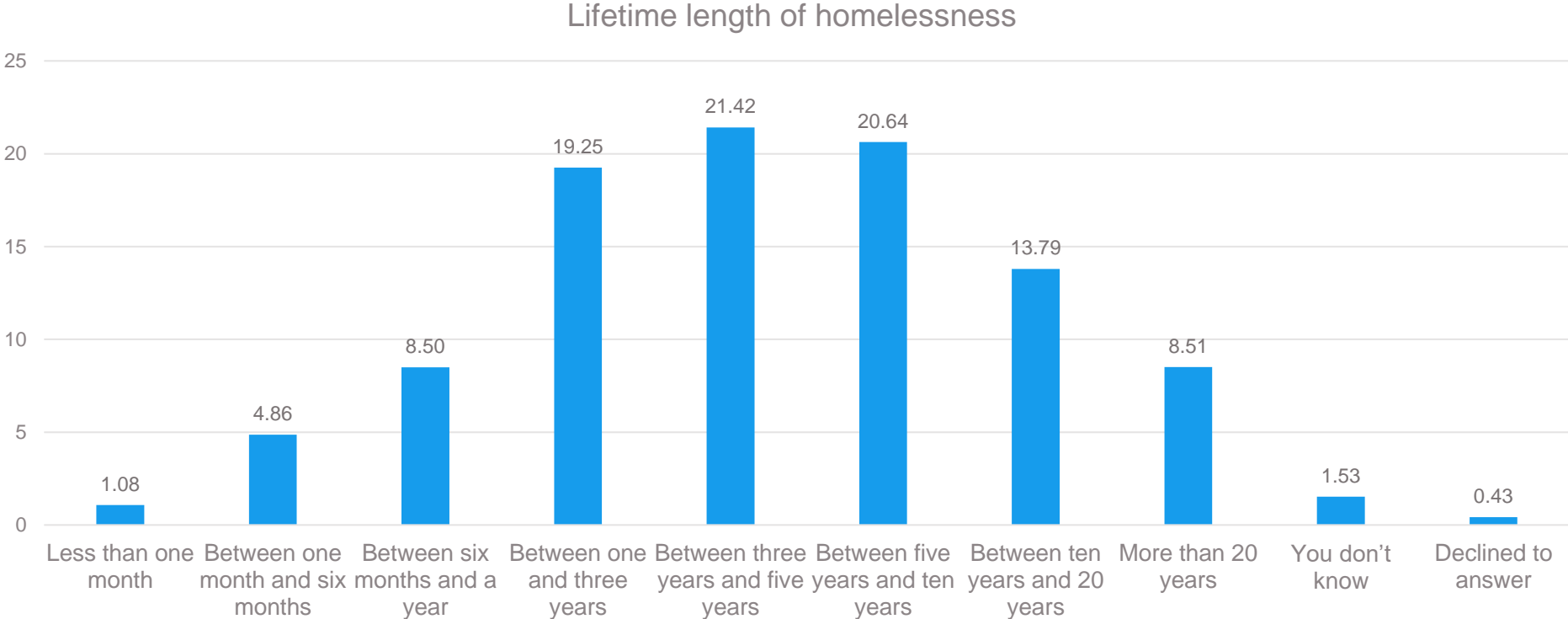
Are you currently working for pay or do you trade/swap goods or services with others?



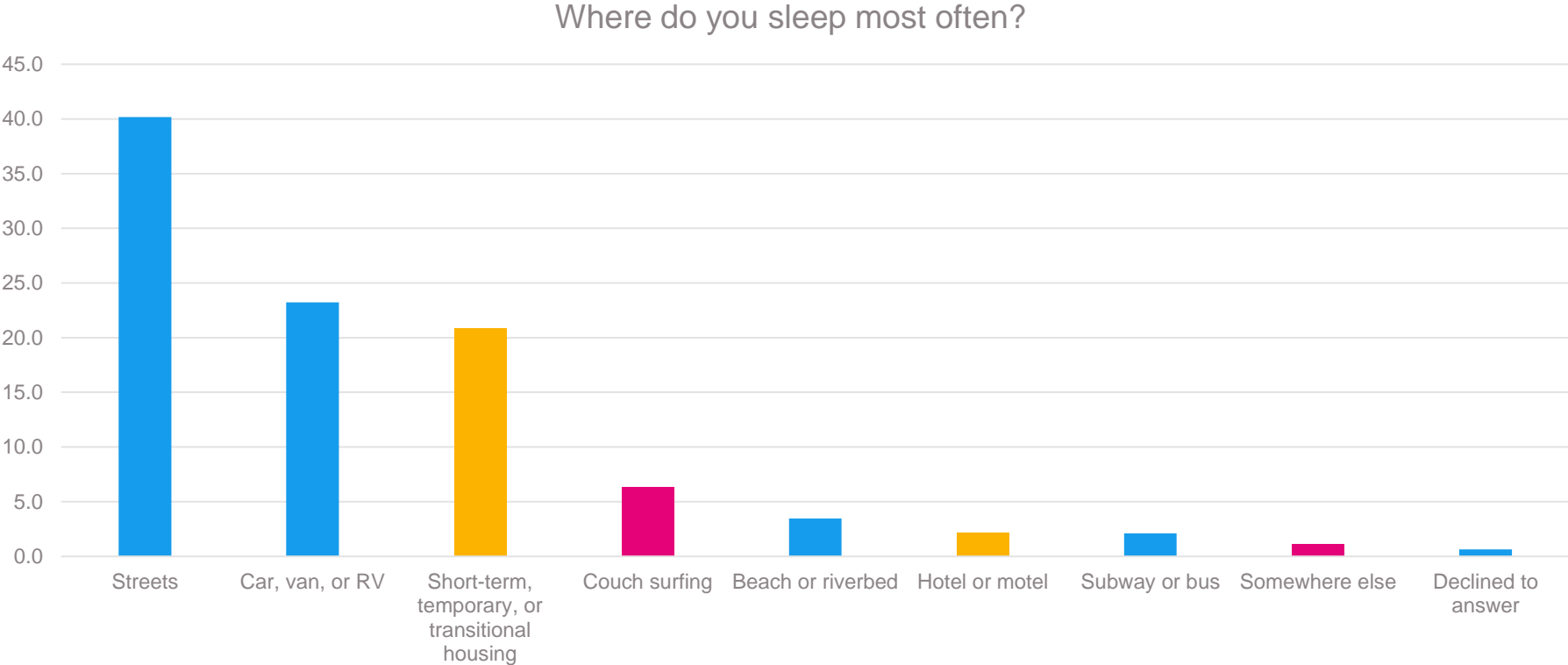
- Yes, you work for pay
- No, and reported yes to having a disability
- Declined to answer
- Yes, you trade/swap goods and services with others
- No, and reported did not report having a disability

What are the experiences of unaccompanied women experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles with homeless services?

Experiences of Homelessness

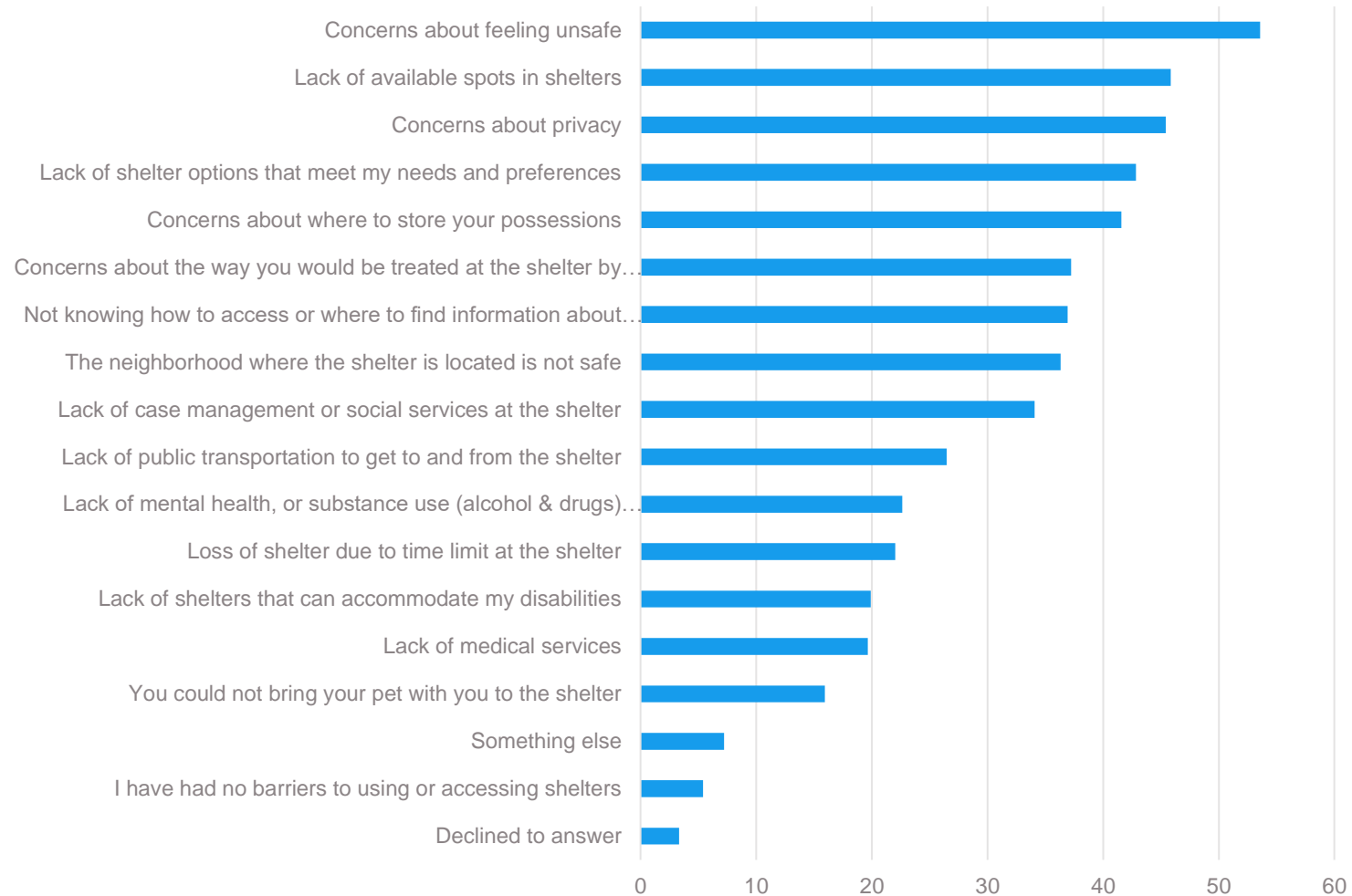


Homelessness Response System Experiences



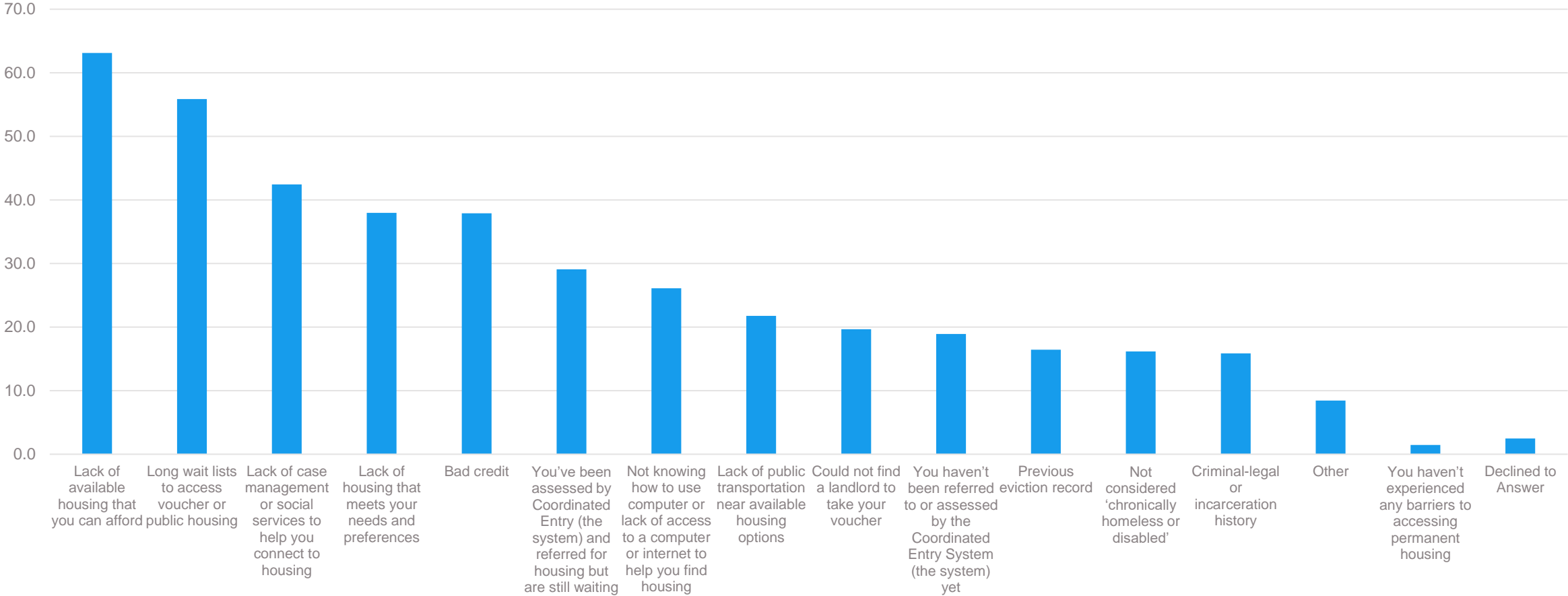
Homelessness Response System Experiences

Barriers to Accessing or Using Shelters



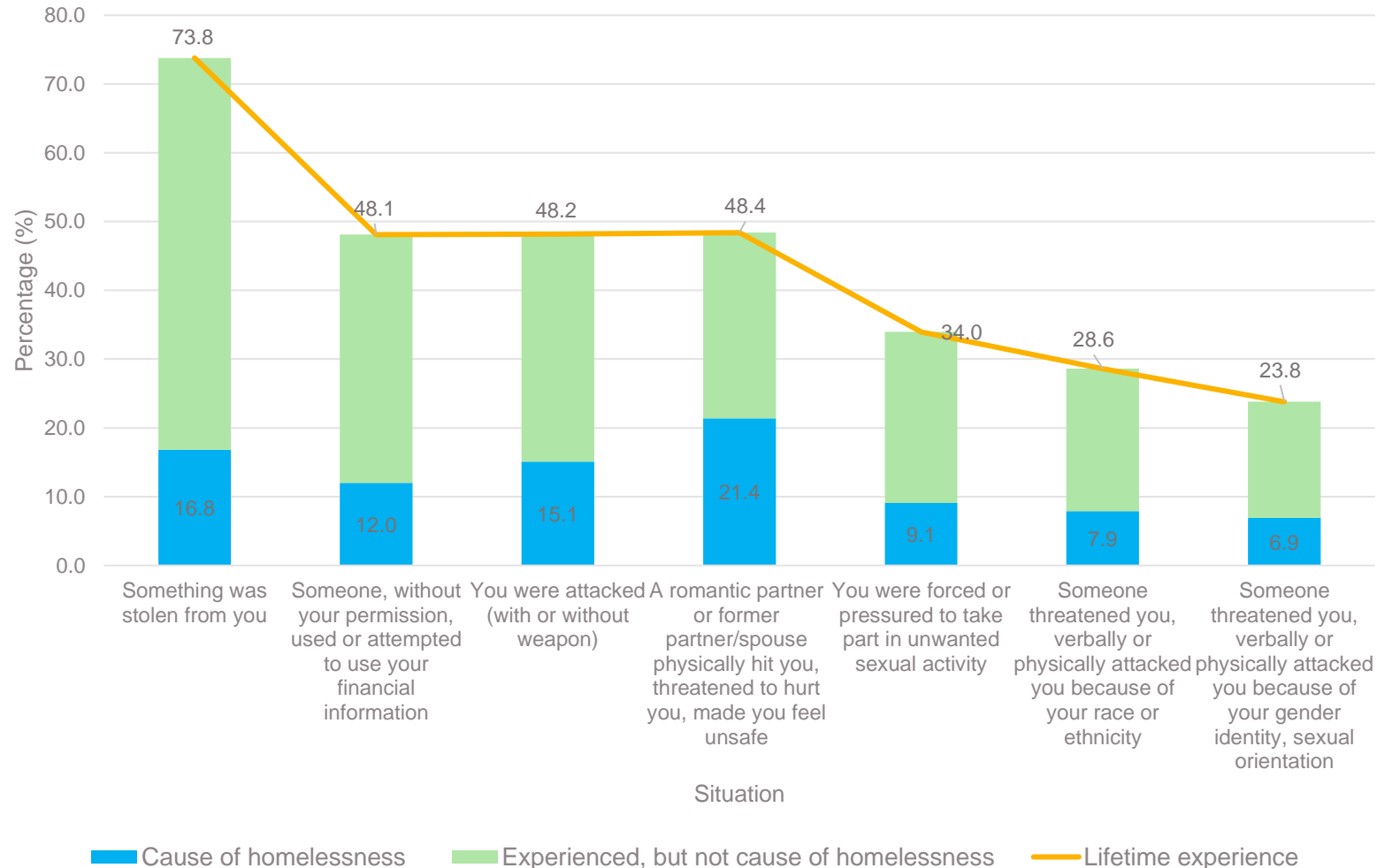
Homelessness Response System Experiences

What have been barriers to accessing permanent housing?



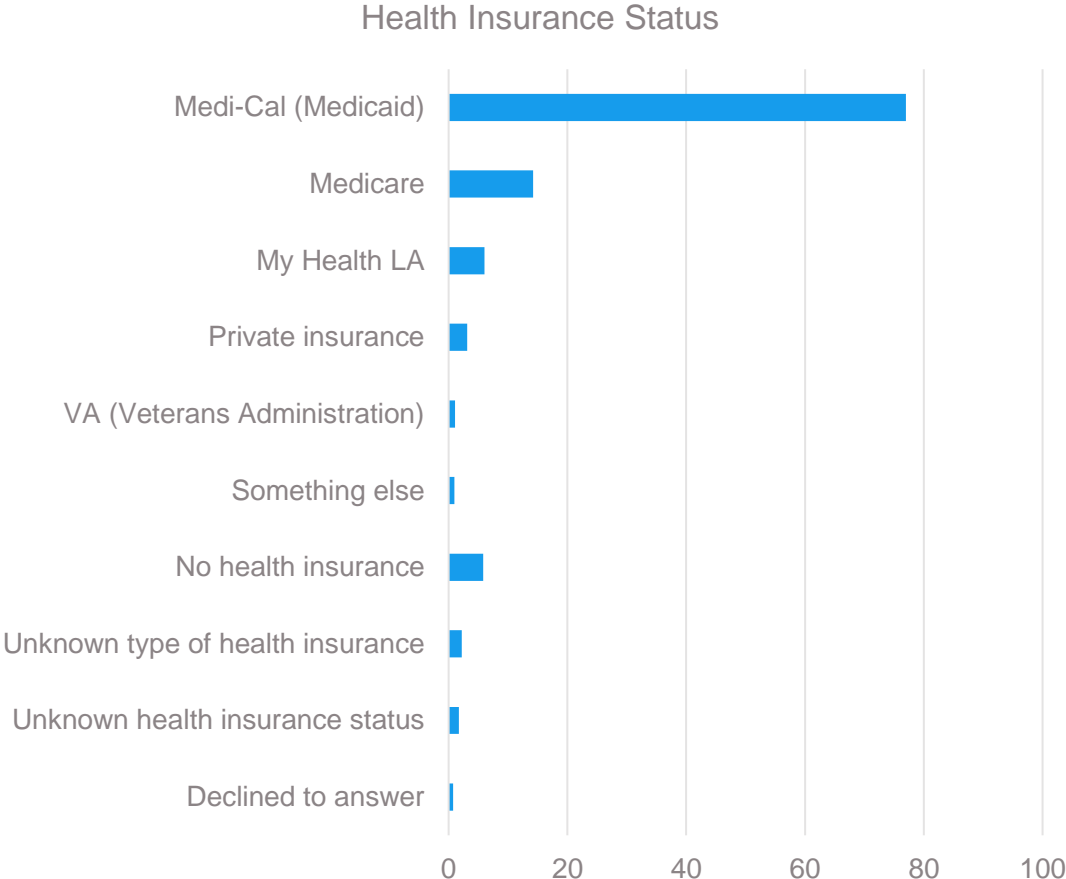
Experiences of Victimization

Which of the following situations have you experienced?



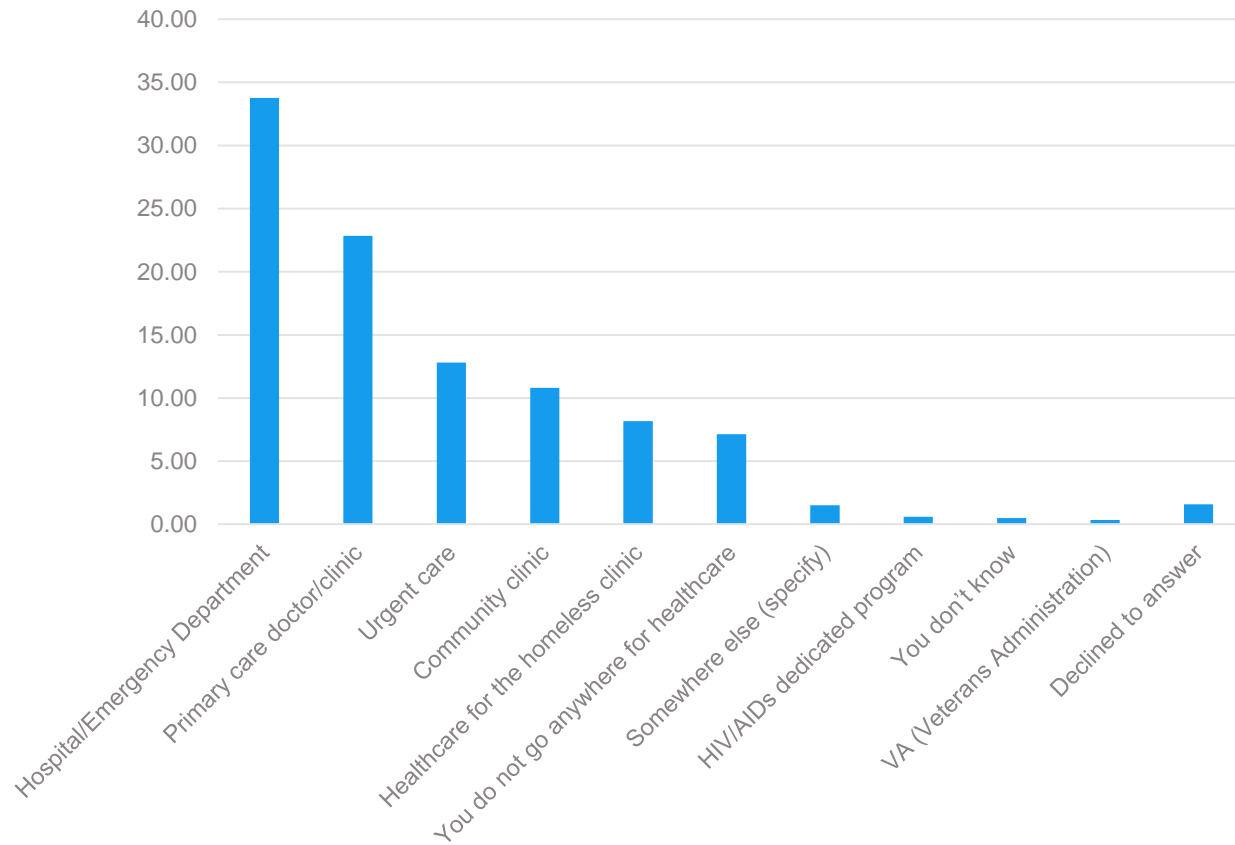
What are the experiences of unaccompanied women experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles with other service systems?

Health Insurance

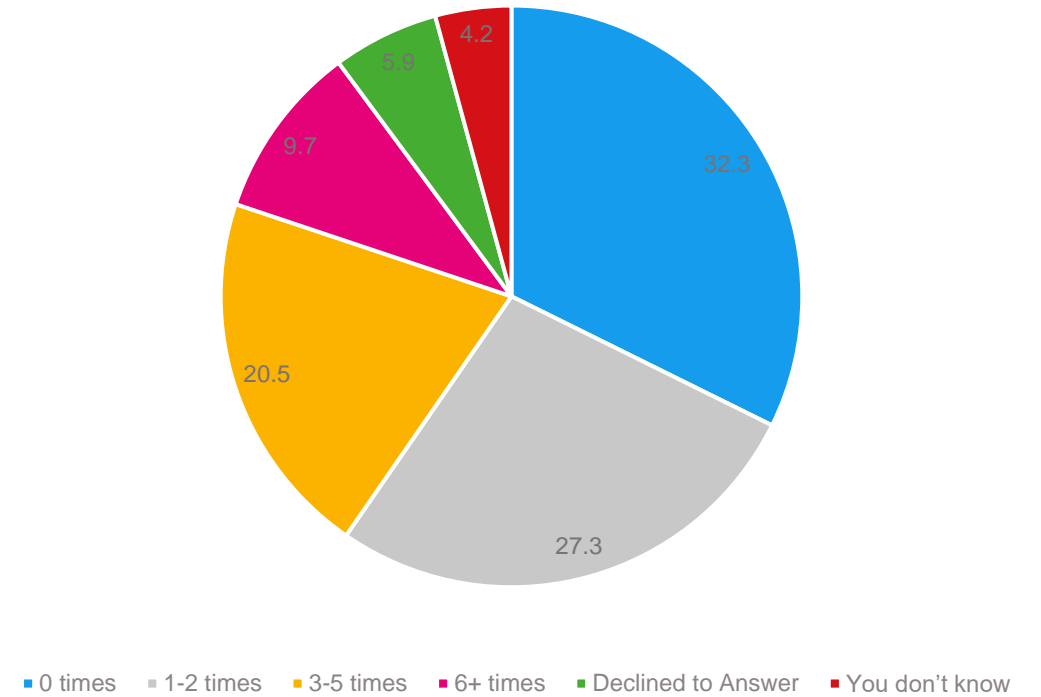


Health Care Services Used

Usual Source of Health Care

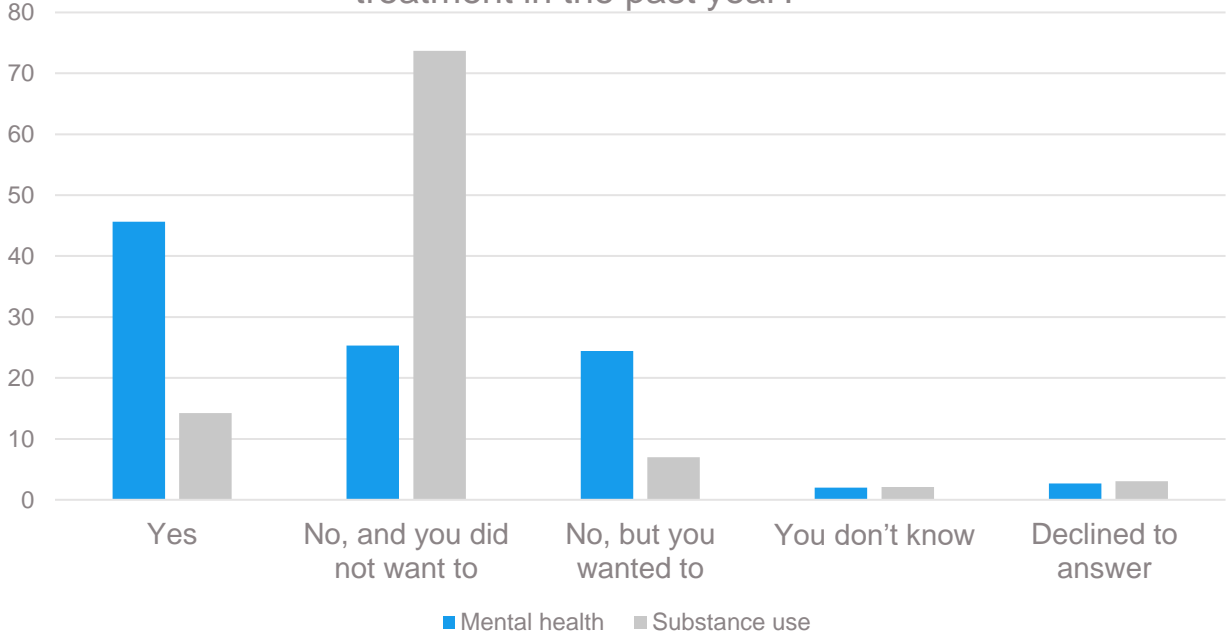


Number of ED visits in past year

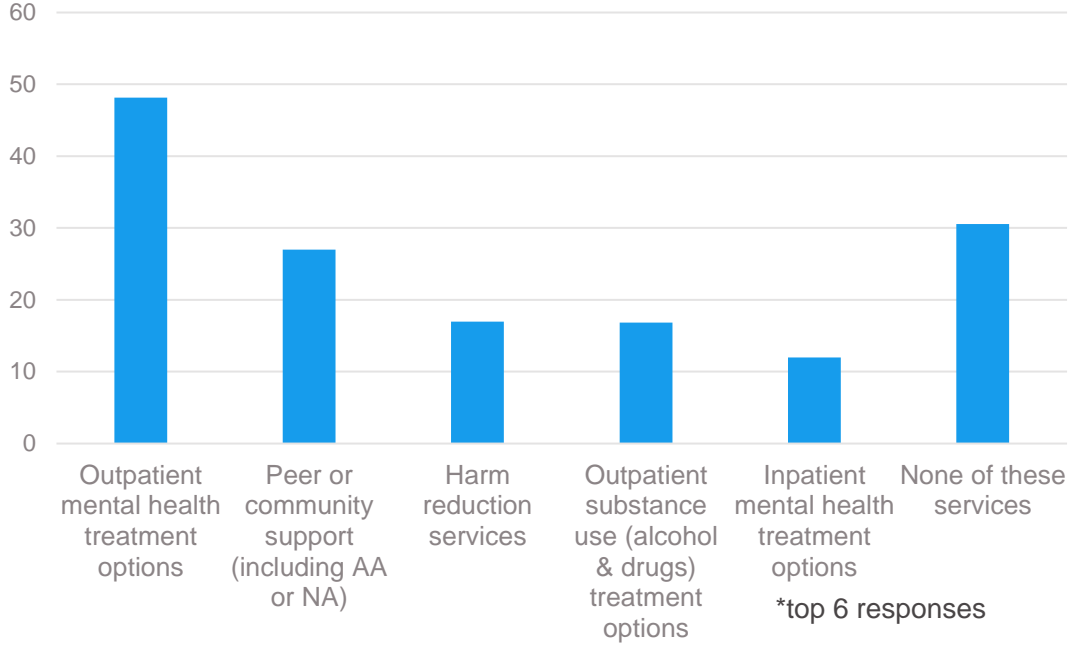


Mental Health and Substance Use

Have you received mental health or substance-use related treatment in the past year?

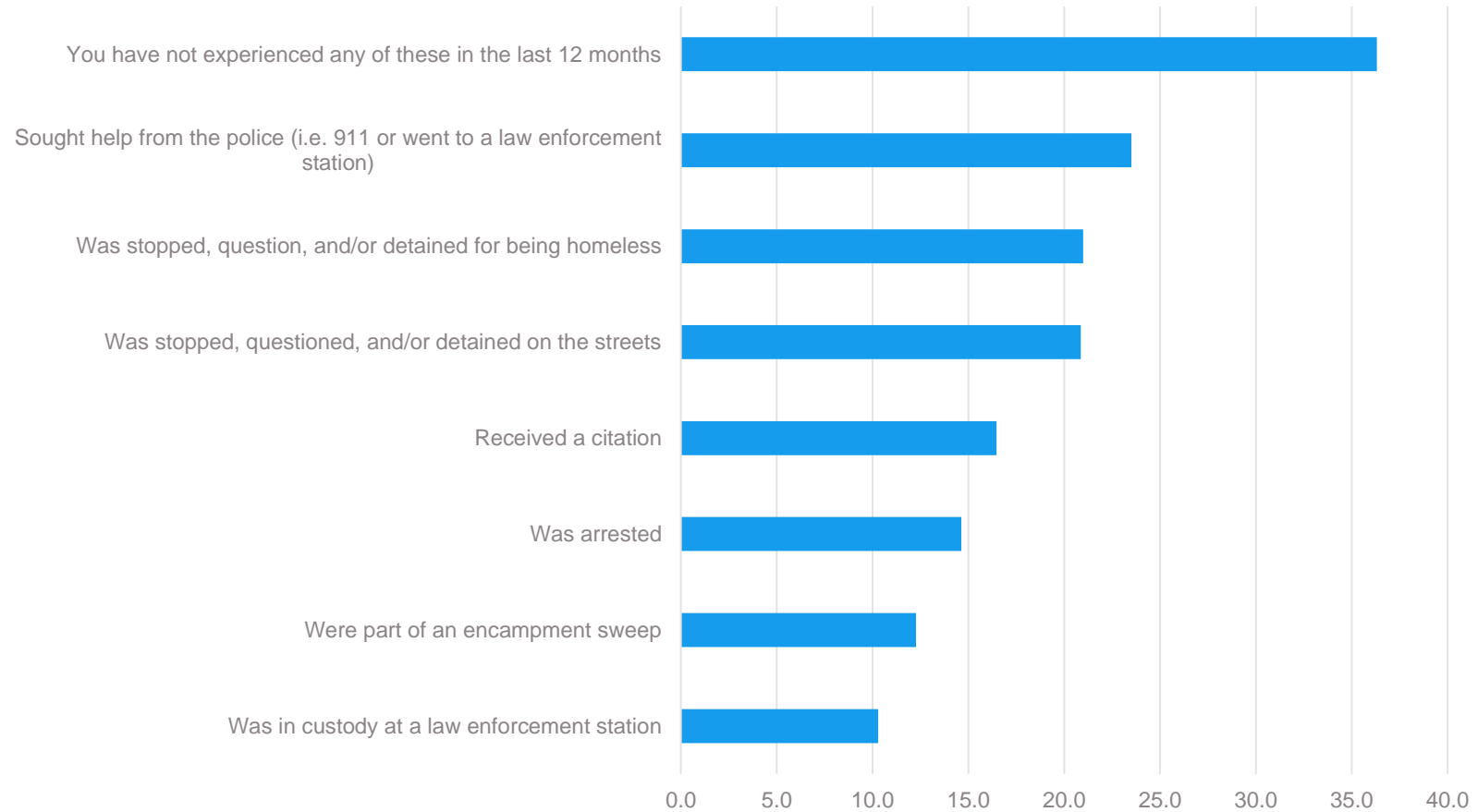


Which of the following services are you interested in using?*



Interactions with Law Enforcement

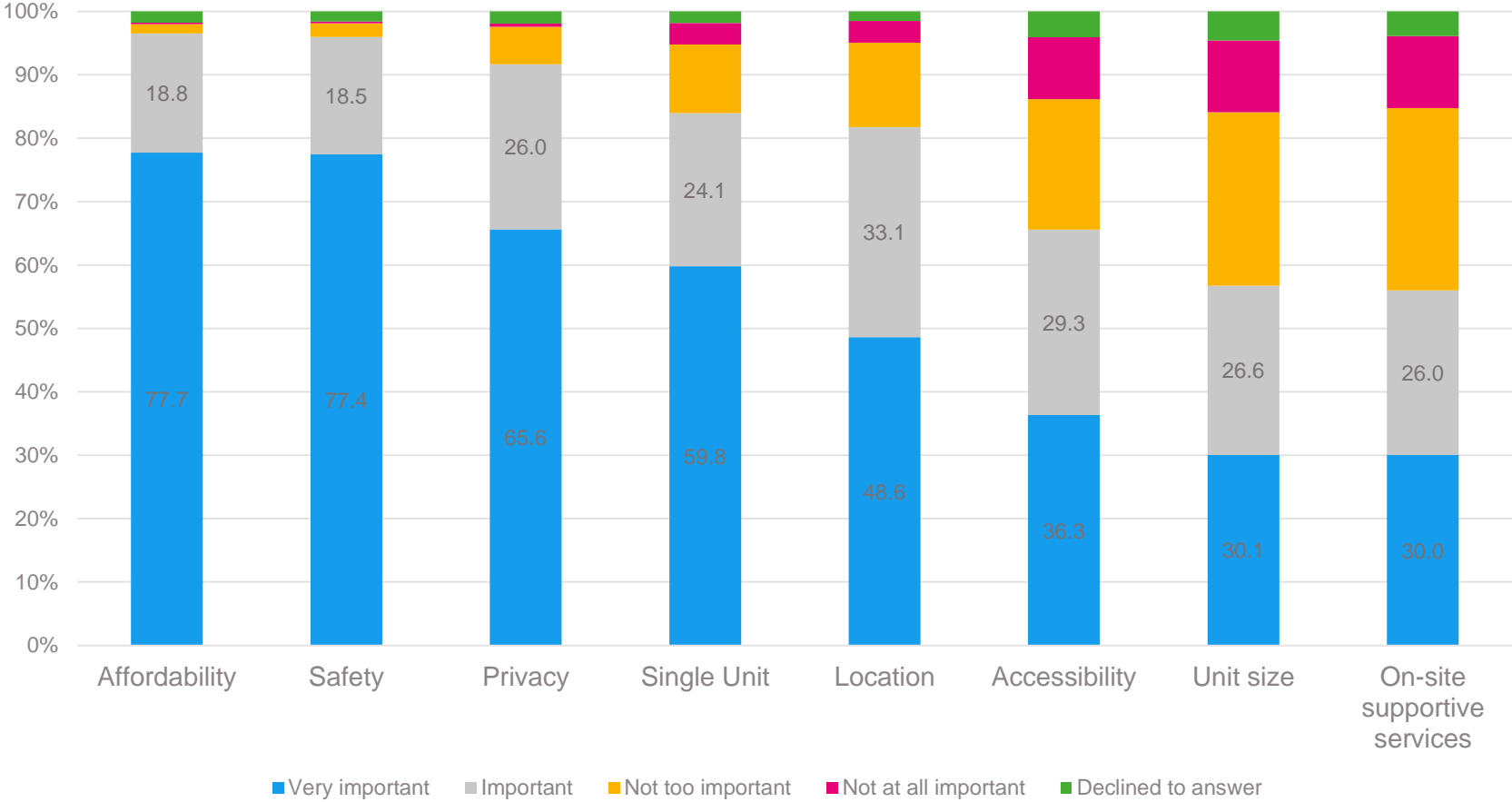
In the past 12 months, have you had any of these interactions with law enforcement officers?



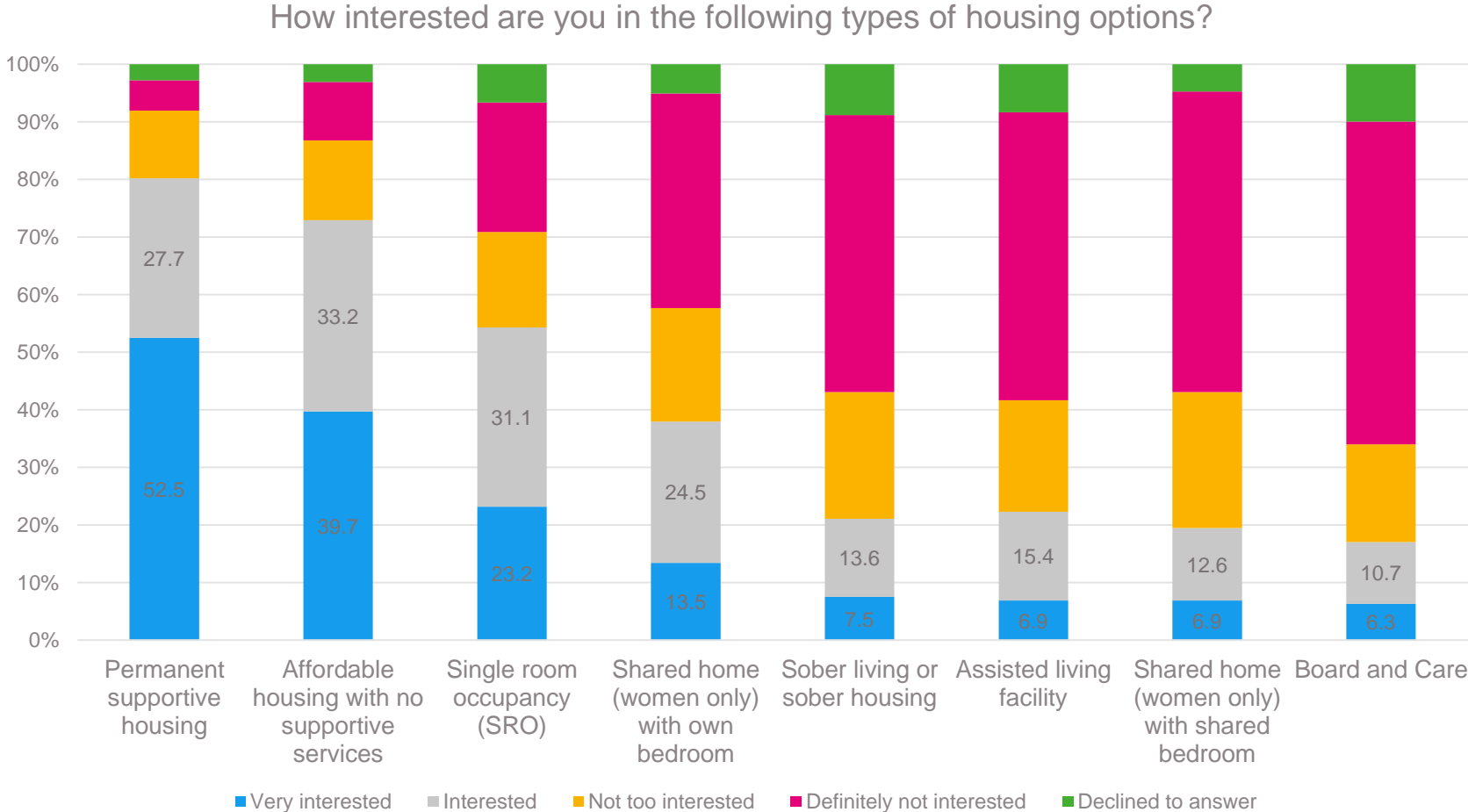
What do unaccompanied women experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles want in housing?

Housing Preferences

How important are the below housing qualities?



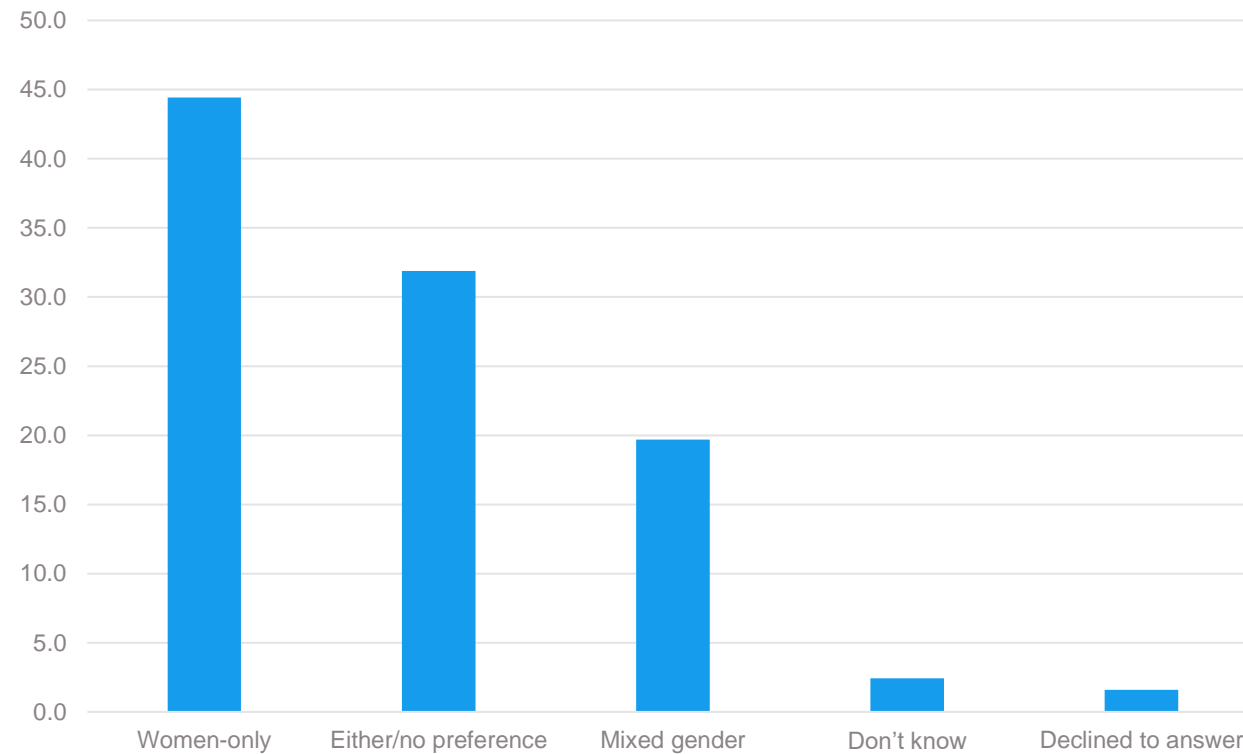
Housing Preferences



In the absence of housing, what do unaccompanied women experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles want in shelter and other emergency assistance?

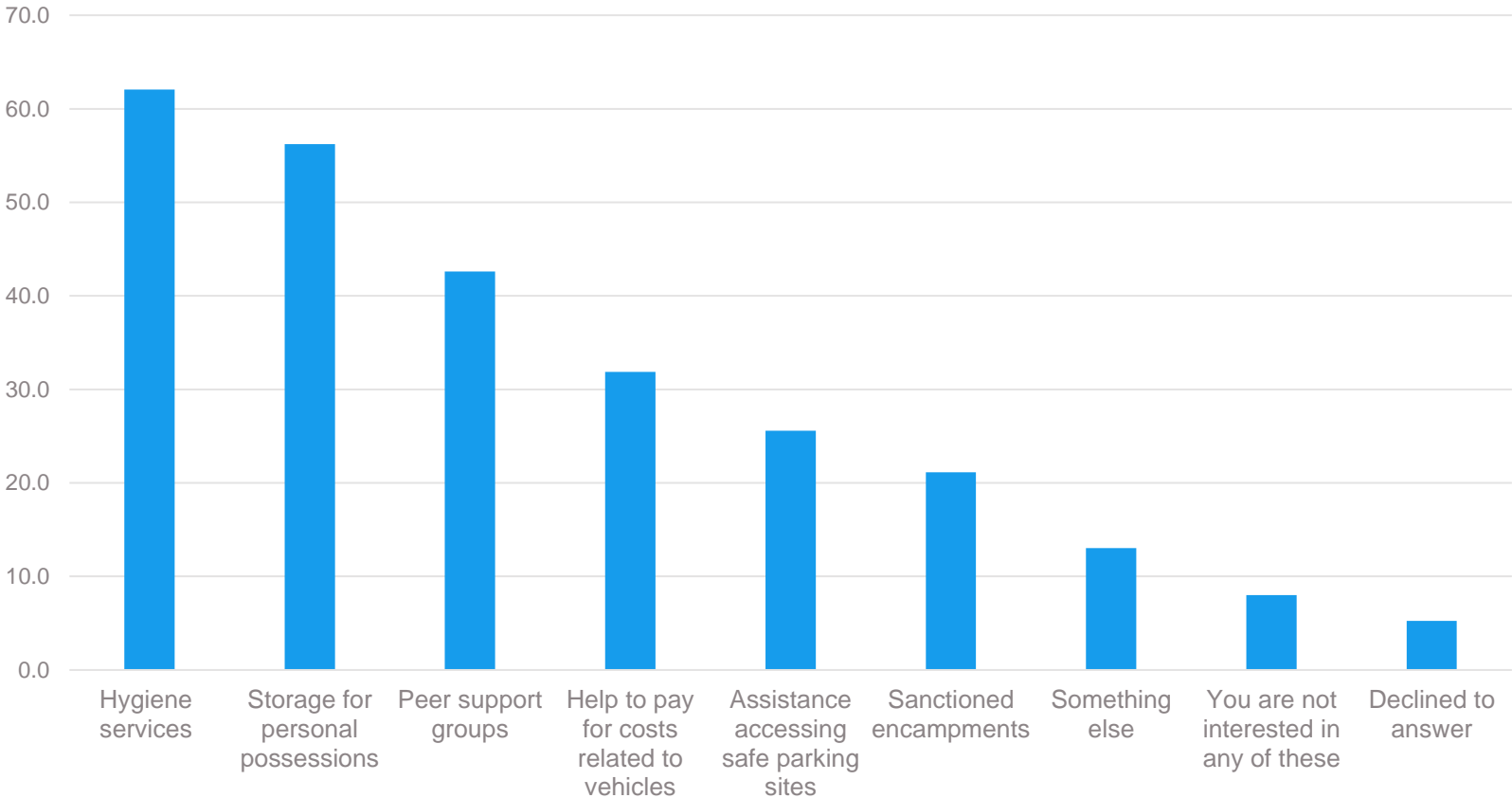
Homelessness Response System: Wants & Needs

What type of setting do you prefer to access shelter or housing in?



Homelessness Response System: Wants & Needs

In addition to shelters, which would you be interested in until housing becomes available?



Questions

Policy Recommendations

Discussion: Policy Recommendations

- We see key recommendations around five main areas:
 - Supporting data collection on unaccompanied women
 - Increasing rental assistance and access to private market housing
 - Prioritizing safety in homelessness response system
 - Providing dignity across all choices and services
 - Ensuring gender affirming and age-appropriate services
- What specific program or policy related recommendations do you think could most impact women? What do these recommendations specifically look like for women?

Next Steps

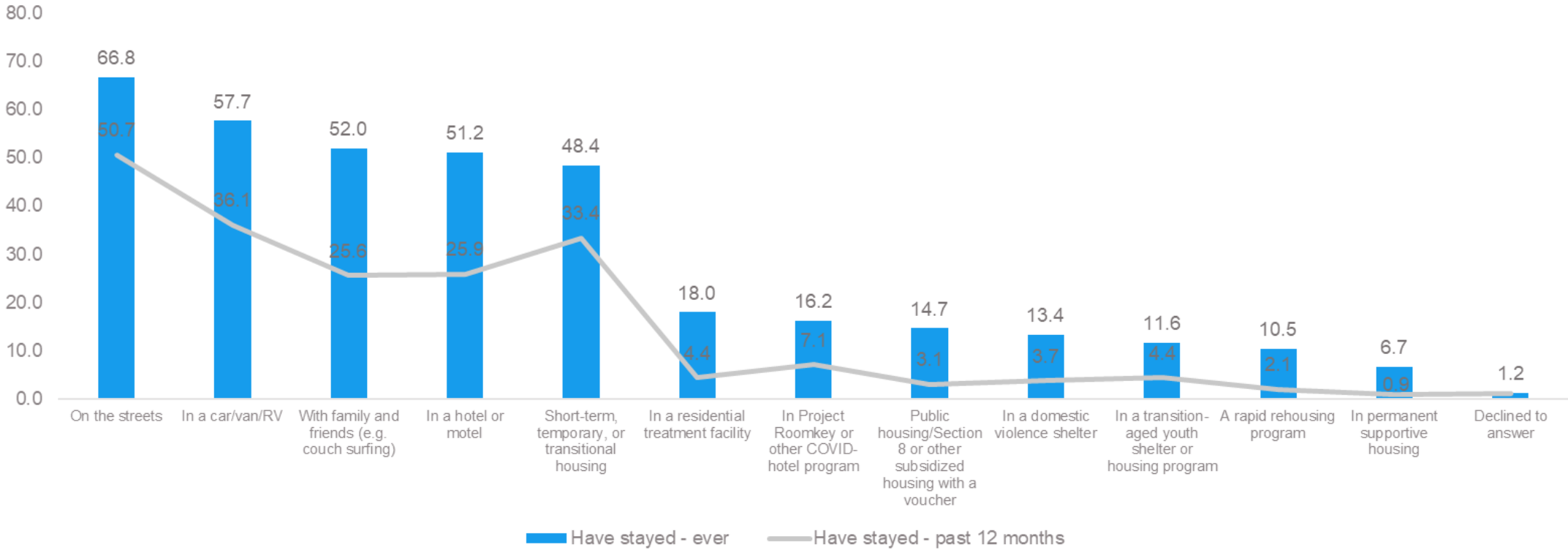
Wrap-Up & Next Steps

- The research team is currently writing the full report draft
- The report is set to be officially released in mid-July
- We appreciate all the feedback, insight and input from the Domestic Violence Homeless Services Coalition.

Extra slides if needed

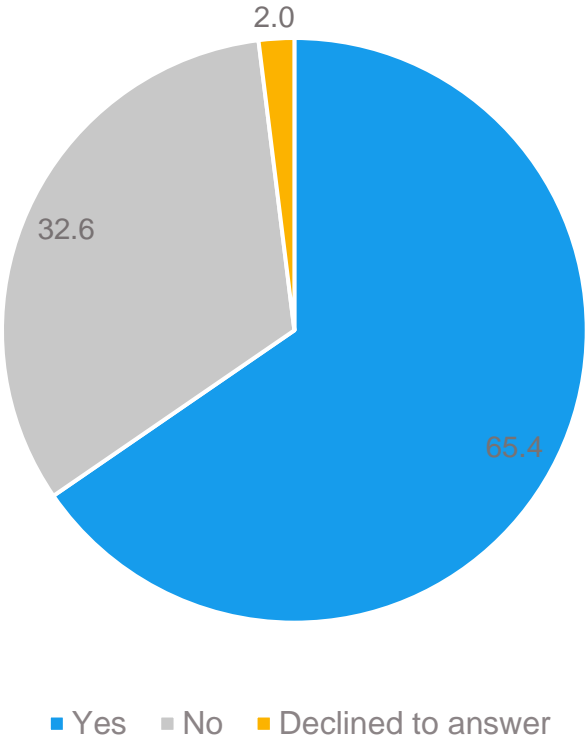
Homelessness Response System Experiences

Have you ever stayed in any of the following places?



Homelessness Response System Experiences

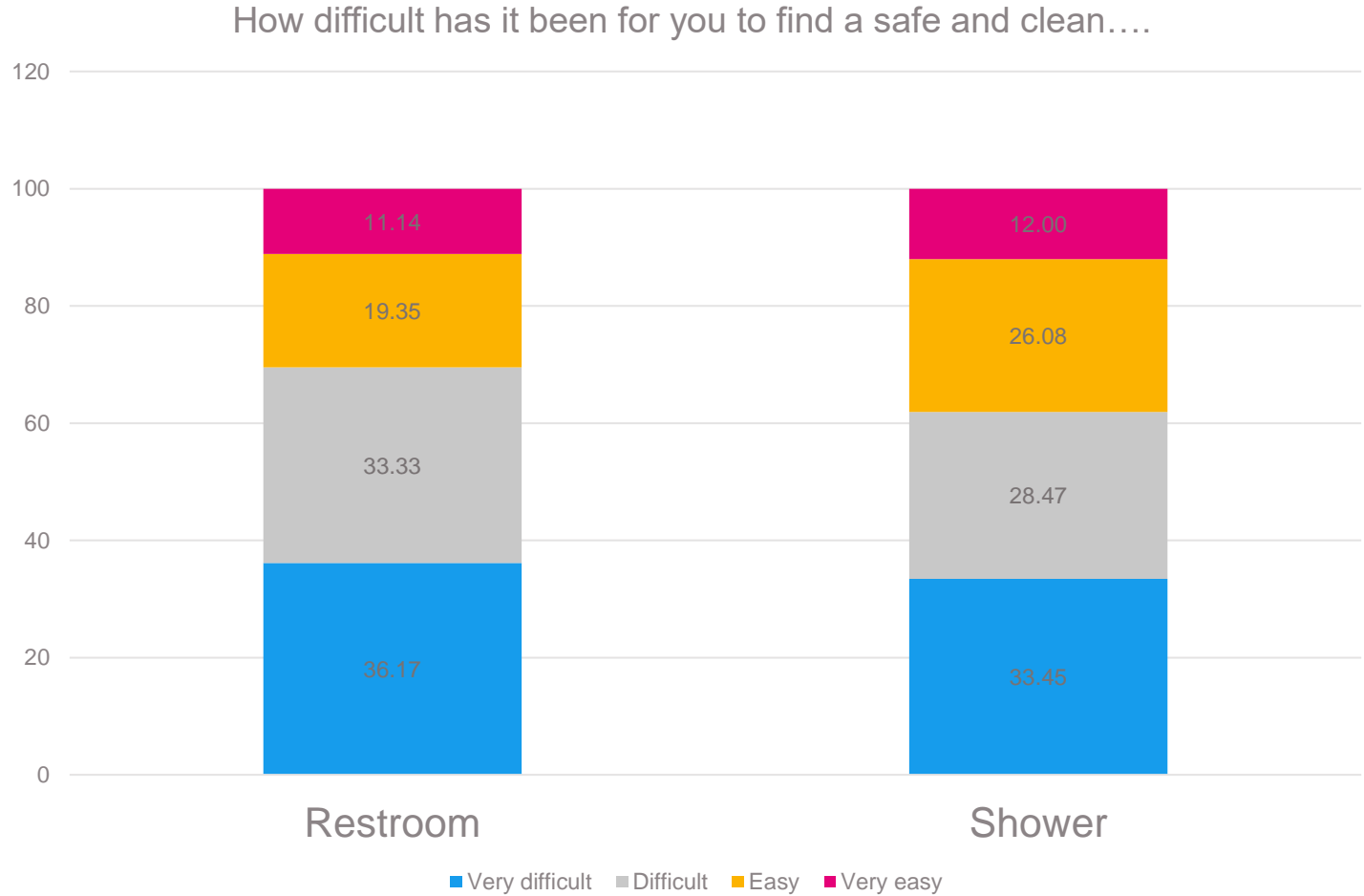
Have you ever been approached by an outreach team?



Which of these services has an outreach worker/case manager helped you with?

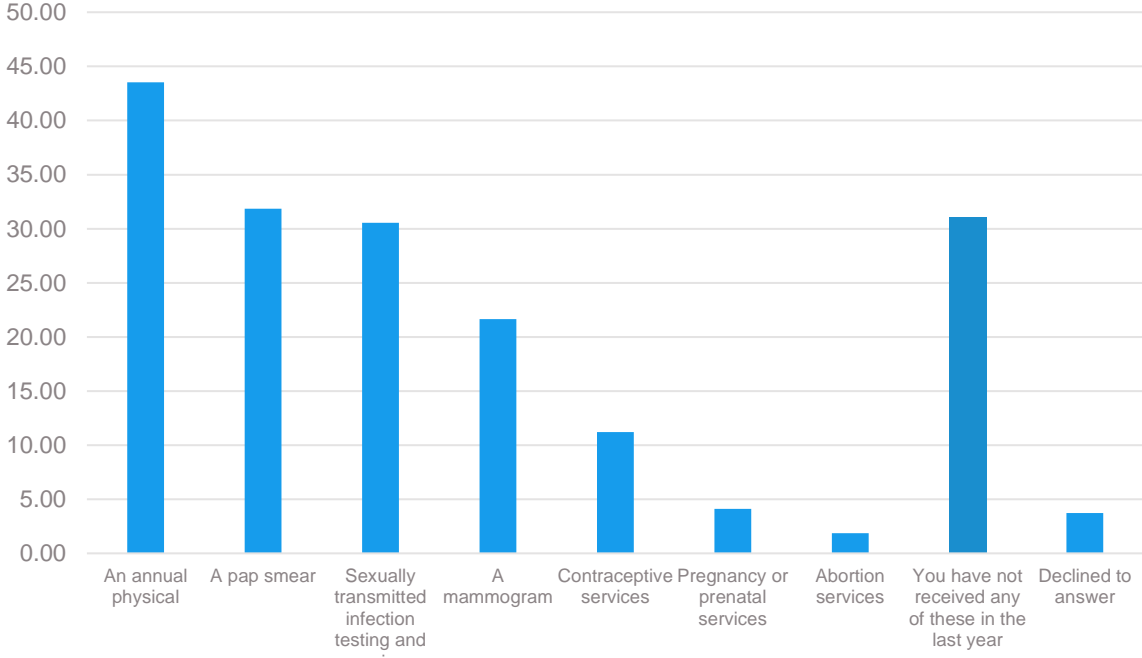


Homelessness Response System Experiences

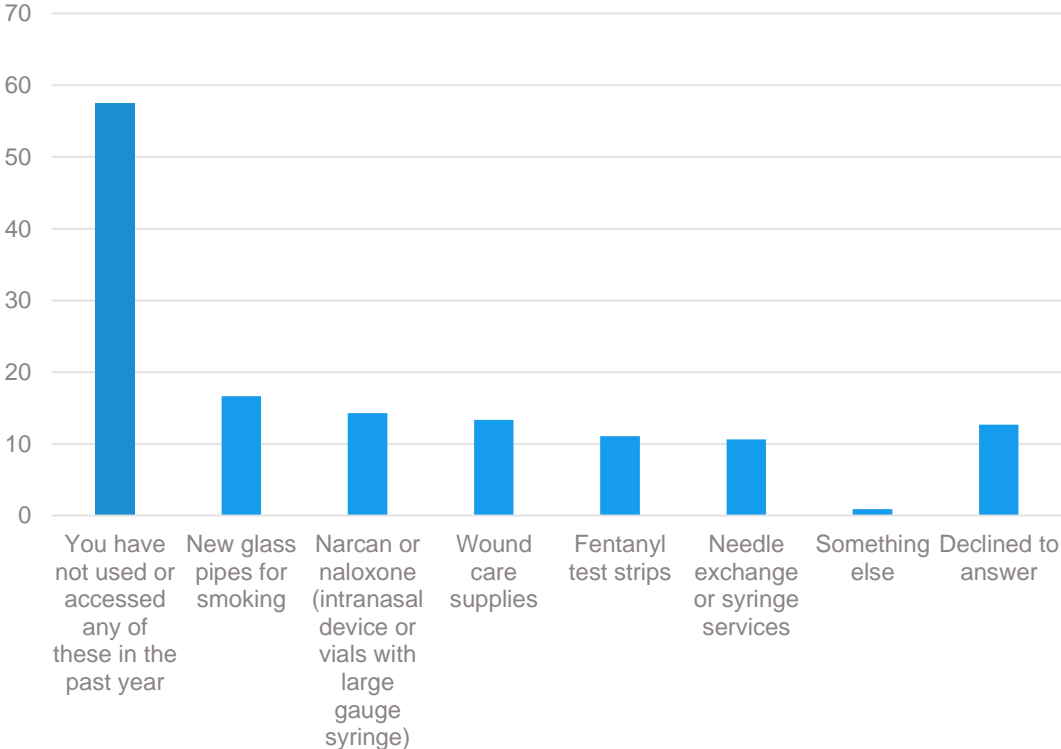


Health Care Services Used

Types of Care Received in the Past Year



Harm Reduction Services Used in the Past Year



Experiences with Criminal Legal System

