



# SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

## REGULAR MEETING COMMISSION TO END HOMELESSNESS

Wednesday, October 18, 2023, 1:00 P.M.

**County Conference Center**  
Room 104/106  
425 West Santa Ana Boulevard, Santa Ana, CA 92701

Don Wagner, Third District Supervisor, Chair	Monique Davis, Business Representative
Vicente Sarmiento, Second District Supervisor	Jack Toan, Business Representative
James Vanderpool, North Service Planning Area	Jason Ivins, Orange County Sheriff's Department
Vacant, Central Service Planning Area	George Searcy, Affordable Housing Industry Representative
Debra Rose, South Service Planning Area	Richard Afable, Behavioral Health Representative, Vice Chair
Sue Parks, Philanthropic Representative	Paul Wyatt, At Large Member
Vacant, Chief of Police Representative	Milo Peinemann, At Large Member
Sean DeMetropolis, Municipal Fire Department Rep	Todd Spitzer, District Attorney
Christy Cornwall, Hospital Representative	Maricela Rios-Faust, Continuum of Care Board Representative
Vacant, Faith-based Community Representative	Robert Morse, Continuum of Care Board Representative

**ATTENDANCE:** Commissioners Afable, Cornwall, Davis, Ivins, Morse, Parks, Peinemann, Rios-Faust, Rose, Sarmiento, Searcy, Spitzer, Toan, Wagner and Wyatt

**ABSENT:** Commissioners DeMetropolis and Vanderpool

**PRESENT:** EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Doug Becht, Director of Care Coordination  
CLERK OF THE COMMISSION Valerie Sanchez, Chief Deputy Clerk

Call to Order

**VICE-CHAIRMAN AFABLE CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 1:03 P.M.**

Pledge of Allegiance

**VICE-CHAIRMAN AFABLE LED THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

Roll Call

**THE CLERK CALLED THE ROLL AND CONFIRMED QUORUM WAS MET.**

# SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Office of Care Coordination Update
  - a. Membership Updates
  - b. Cold Weather Emergency Shelter Ad Hoc

(a) COMMISSION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BECHT PROVIDED AN UPDATE ON THE COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP, INCLUDING RECOGNIZING AND THANKING CHIEF ROBERT DUNN AND KRISTINE RIDGE FOR THEIR SERVICE ON THE COMMISSION AND NOTED THAT RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP AD HOC TO APPOINT COMMISSIONERS AND TO OPEN A NEW RECRUITMENT FOR VACANT MEMBER SEATS WILL BE CONSIDERED LATER IN THE AGENDA. COMMISSIONER SPITZER REQUESTED THAT CANDIDATES INDICATE WITH CERTAINTY THEIR COMMITMENT TO ATTEND COMMISSION MEETINGS FOR THE DURATION OF THEIR TERM.

(b) THE COLD WEATHER EMERGENCY SHELTER AD HOC SENT LETTERS TO ALL ORANGE COUNTY CITIES ASKING FOR THEIR PARTNERSHIP TO HOST COLD WEATHER EMERGENCY SHELTERS AND MEETINGS HAVE BEEN SCHEDULED WITH RESPONDING CITIES. COMMISSIONER SPITZER SUGGESTED COMMISSIONERS COULD ATTEND CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS TO PUBLICLY SPEAK DIRECTLY TO THE CITY COUNCILS OF NON-RESPONDING CITIES.

## PRESENTATIONS

2. 2023 Homeless Survey Presentation

COMMISSION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BECHT PROVIDED A PRESENTATION OF THE DATA COLLECTED DURING THE 2023 ORANGE COUNTY HOMELESS SURVEY OF 642 SURVEY RESPONDENTS WHICH INCLUDED DEMOGRAPHICS, LENGTH OF HOMELESSNESS, CURRENT LIVING CONDITIONS, OUTREACH HISTORY AND CONNECTION TO SERVICES, DISABLING CONDITIONS EXPERIENCED AND THEIR TIES TO THE COUNTY AND COMMUNITY. THE PRESENTATION ALSO SUMMARIZED THE KEY SURVEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

## ACTION ITEMS

3. Approve the 2023 Homeless Survey for submission to the Board of Supervisors

**ON THE MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CORNWALL, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PARKS, THE COMMISSION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED SUBMISSION OF THE 2023 HOMELESS SURVEY TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.**
4. Approve Commission to End Homelessness minutes from the August 16, 2023 regular meeting

**ON THE MOTION BY COMMISSIONER WYATT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PARKS, THE COMMISSION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 16, 2023 REGULAR MEETING.**

## SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

### 5. Membership Recommendations

- a. Approve recommendations for appointment of the following candidates to serve on the Commission to End Homelessness seat as detailed below to the Board of Supervisors for final approval.
  - i. Adam Hawley, Chief of Police for the City of Brea as the Chief of Police Representative for a two-year term.
  - ii. Gina Cunningham, Executive Director for HomeAid Orange County as the Affordable Housing Development Industry Representative for a two-year term.
  - iii. James Vanderpool, City Manager for Anaheim as the North Service Planning Area Representative for a two-year term.
  - iv. Benjamin Hurst, Director of Operations for The Salvation Army as the Faith-Based Community Representative for the balance of the two-year term ending August 8, 2024.
  - v. Milo Peinemann, Executive Director for American Family Housing as the At-Large Member for a two-year term.
- b. Approve the launch of recruitment process and utilize the existing Membership Ad Hoc Committee to evaluate and make recommendation for appointment to the Medi-Cal Managed Care Health Plan Representative and the Central Service Planning Area Representative to the Commission to End Homelessness to be submitted to the Board of Supervisors for final approval.

**ON THE MOTION OF COMMISSIONER SPITZER, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SARMIENTO, WITH COMMISSIONER PEINEMANN ABSTAINING, THE COMMISSION APPROVED ITEM AS AMENDED TO APPROVE BOTH a.) AND b.) WITH THE EXCEPTION OF RECOMMENDATION iii. UNTIL STAFF CONFIRMS CANDIDATE’S ABILITY TO SERVE.**

6. Establish an Ad Hoc to evaluate alternative housing solutions including, studying, defining, and identifying potential applications for Tiny Homes.

**ON THE MOTION OF COMMISSIONER SPITZER, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PARKS, THE COMMISSION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED ITEM AS RECOMMENDED.**

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

### COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

None

**ADJOURNED:** 3:11 P.M.

**NEXT MEETING:** December 13, 2023, 1:00 P.M.

*Signature on File*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SUPERVISOR DON WAGNER  
Chair

*Signature on File*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Valerie Sanchez, Chief Deputy Clerk  
Clerk of the Commission



# COMMISSION TO END HOMELESSNESS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2023



# DISCUSSION – ITEM #1

## OFFICE OF CARE COORDINATION UPDATE

### Membership Updates

- Thank you to Chief Robert Dunn, Chief of Police Representative
- Thank you to Kristine Ridge, Central Service Planning Area Representative

# DISCUSSION – ITEM #1

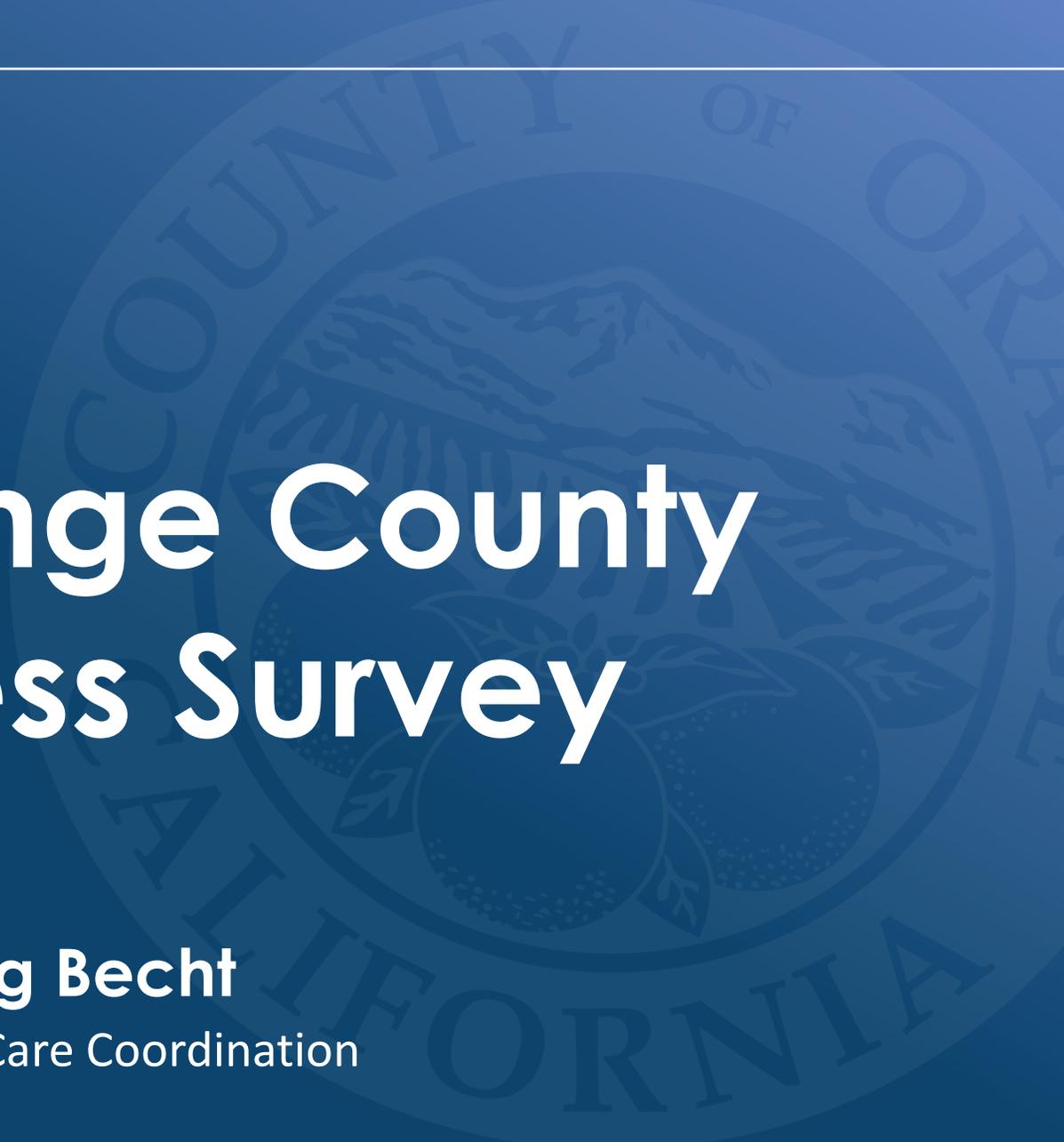
## OFFICE OF CARE COORDINATION UPDATE

### Cold Weather Emergency Shelter Ad Hoc

- The Ad Hoc was established and is comprised of a member of the Board of Supervisors, city managers from two Orange County cities, and local law enforcement leaders
- The Ad Hoc recognized the impacts of hosting large congregate shelter sites and the opportunity for multiple smaller sites to operate during the cold weather months
- The Ad Hoc discussed various Cold Weather Emergency Shelter models and as part of the evaluation process is interested in hearing from each Orange County Mayor and City Manager on the following:
  - The needs of the city during the winter months, and
  - Potential model or site where a city is willing to host a Cold Weather Emergency Shelter that is proportionate to the need of their city.
- A letter has been sent to all 34 cities to explore available options and operational models for the Cold Weather Emergency Shelter.

## PRESENTATION – ITEM #2

- 2023 Homeless Survey Presentation
  - The full slide deck has been posted on the Office of Care Coordination – Additional Documents webpage: <https://ceo.ocgov.com/care-coordination/care-coordination-additional-documents>

The background of the slide features a large, faint, circular seal of Orange County, California. The seal contains a central figure of a person holding a staff, surrounded by the text "SEAL OF ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA" and "1859".

# 2023 Orange County Homeless Survey

**Doug Becht**

Director of Care Coordination

# Survey Respondents

## Number of Respondents Directed to Each Survey Pathway

	Count	Percent of Respondents
At Risk of Homelessness	31	4.8 %
Experiencing Sheltered Homelessness	25	3.9%
Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness	586	91.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>100%</b>

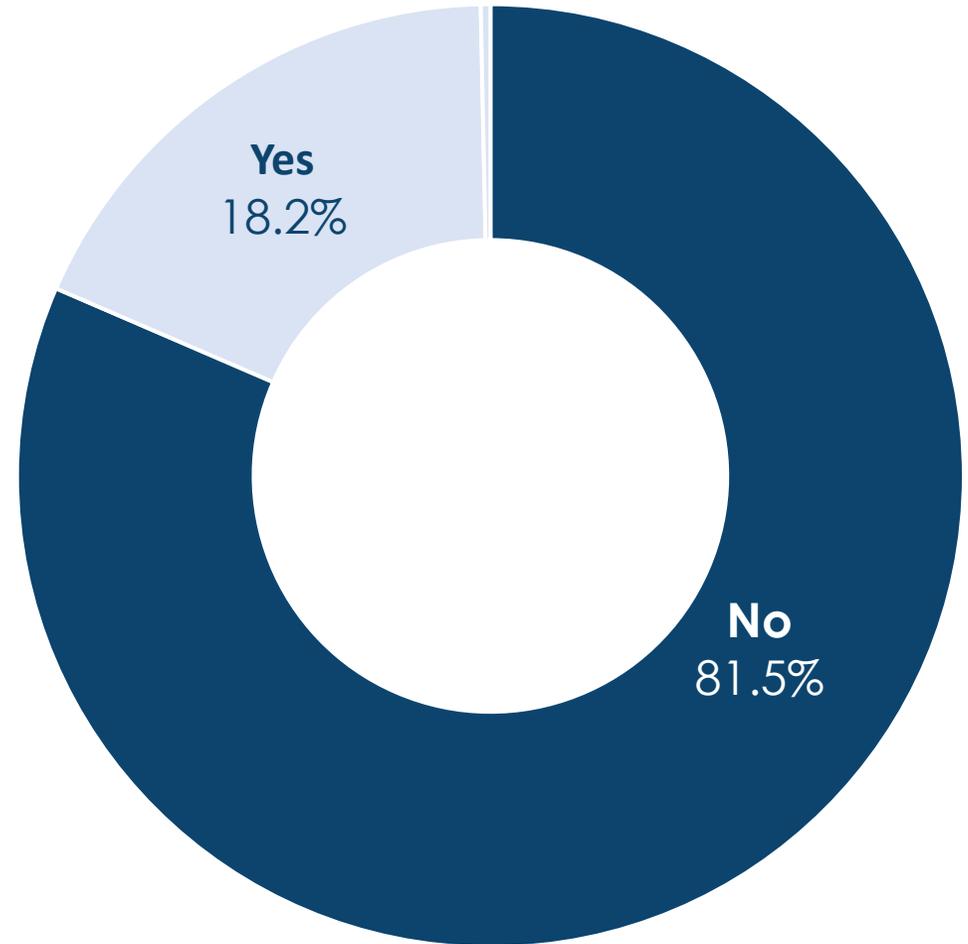


# Survey

Survey Pathway	Average Time Per Survey
At Risk of Homelessness	9 minutes, 39 seconds
Experiencing Sheltered Homelessness	14 minutes, 26 seconds
Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness	17 minutes, 37 seconds
<b>Overall Dataset Average</b>	<b>17 minutes, 05 seconds</b>

# Length of Homelessness

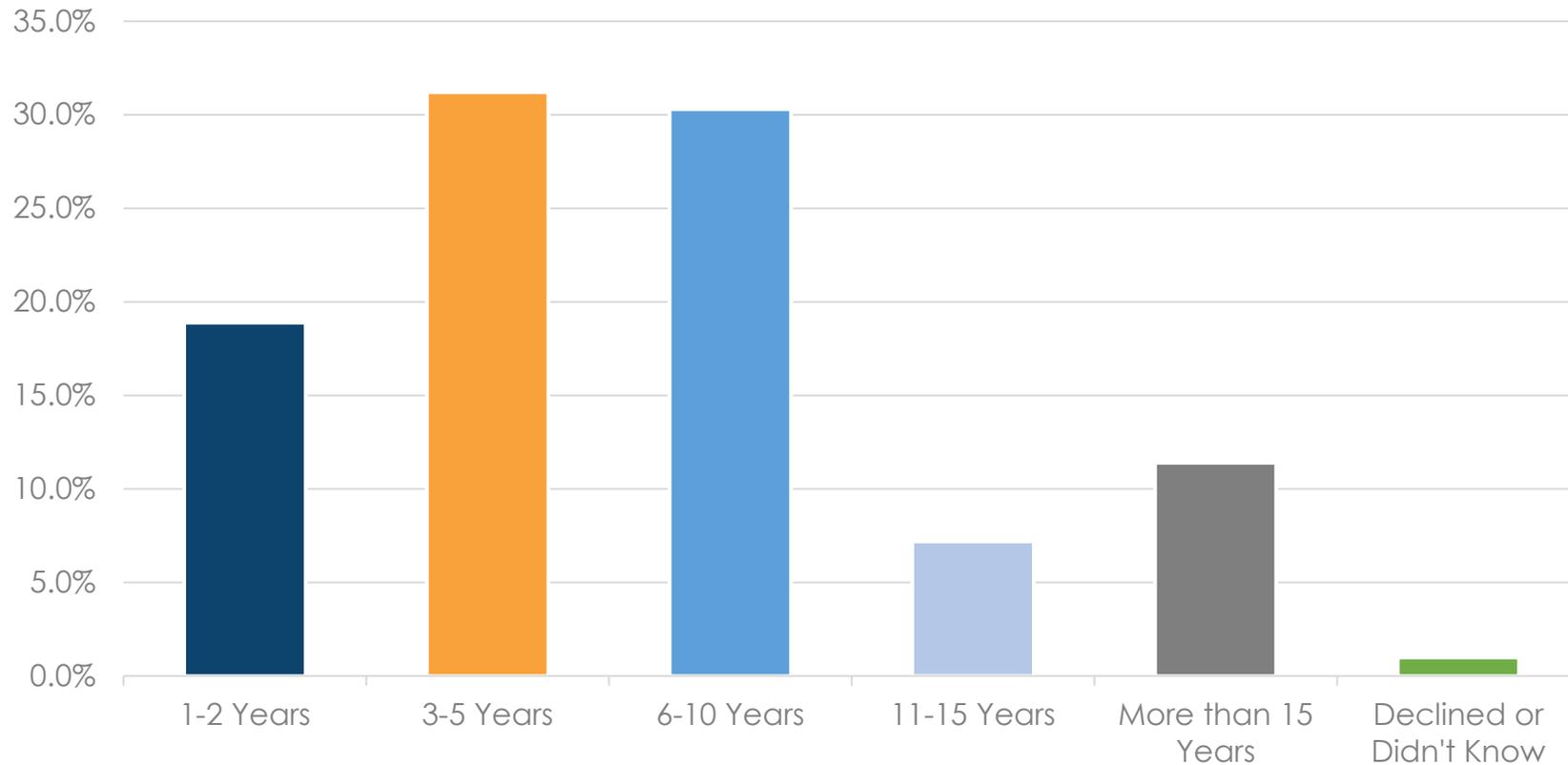
*Did you become homeless for the first time in the last 12 months?*



# Length of Homelessness

*Did you become homeless for the first time in the last 12 months?*

*If **no (81.5%)**, how many years have you been experiencing homelessness continuously?*



# Current Living Condition

## Where did you sleep last night?

	Count	Percent of Respondents
Outdoors	454	70.7%
In a Vehicle	113	17.6%
In the Apartment or Home of a Family Member or Friend	24	3.7%
Emergency Shelter or Transitional Housing	22	3.4%
Motel or Hotel Paid by Self	7	1.1%
Bus, Bus Station, Train, or Train Station	6	0.9%
Motel or Hotel Paid by Third Party	5	0.8%
Abandoned Building	4	0.6%
Jail, Hospital Bed, or Treatment Program	1	0.2%
Other	6	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>642</b>	



# Outdoor Living Conditions

*If outdoors, which of the following best describes where you slept outdoors?*

	Count	Percent of Respondents
With Only a Blanket or Sleeping Bag	340	76.1%
Tent	44	9.8%
Tent-Like Shelter	43	9.6%
Other	14	3.1%
Respondent Declined to Answer	6	1.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>447</b>	

*If outdoors, did you sleep in an encampment\* last night?*

	Count	Percent of Respondents
No	375	83.9%
Yes	70	15.7%
Respondent Doesn't Know	2	0.4%
Respondent Declined to Answer	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>447</b>	

*Note: An encampment is "...a place where multiple people stay for a continuous time with built structures and personal belongings" (U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness).*

# Vehicle Living Conditions

## What type of vehicle?

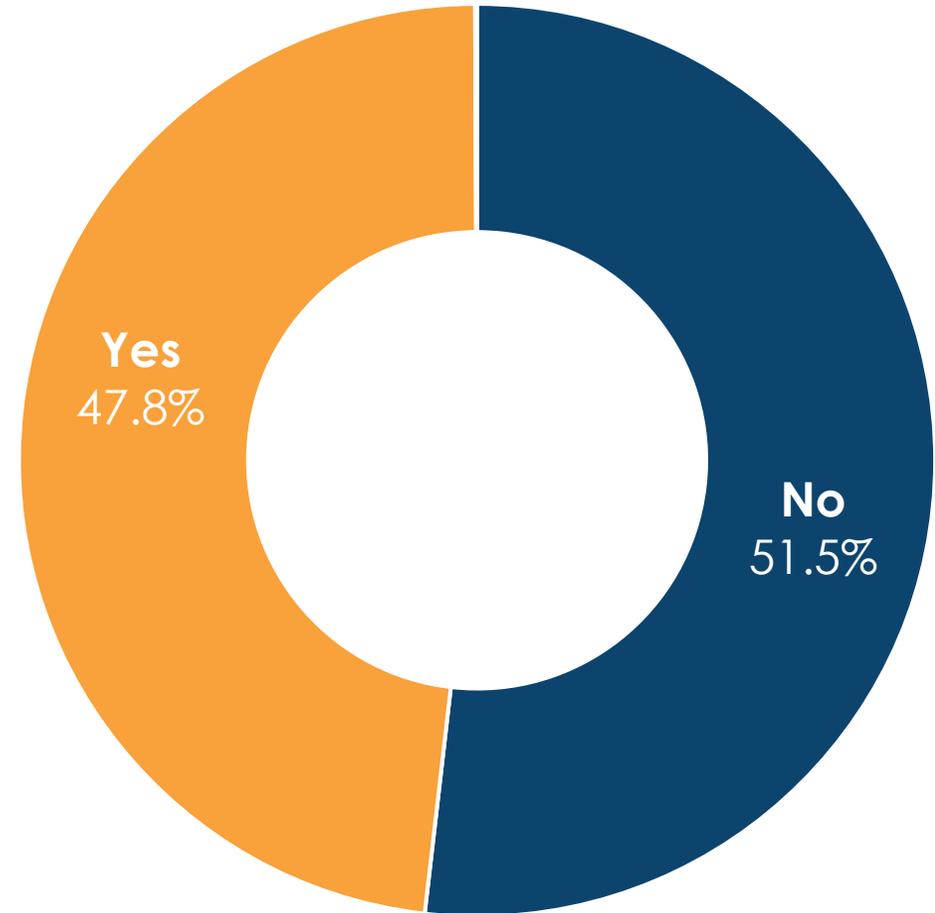
	Count	Percent of Respondents
Car, Van, Truck, or Camper	98	86.7%
RV Without Access to Sewer, Water, and Electricity	14	12.4%
Respondent Doesn't Know	1	0.9%
Respondent Declined to Answer	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>113</b>	

## Why are you currently staying/sleeping in a Recreational Vehicle (RV)?

	Count	Percent of Respondents
Have lived in an RV Long-Term	6	42.9%
Recently Lost Housing	5	35.7%
Other: Living in an RV is more Affordable	2	14.3%
Other	1	7.1%
Respondent Doesn't Know	0	0.0%
Respondent Declined to Answer	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	

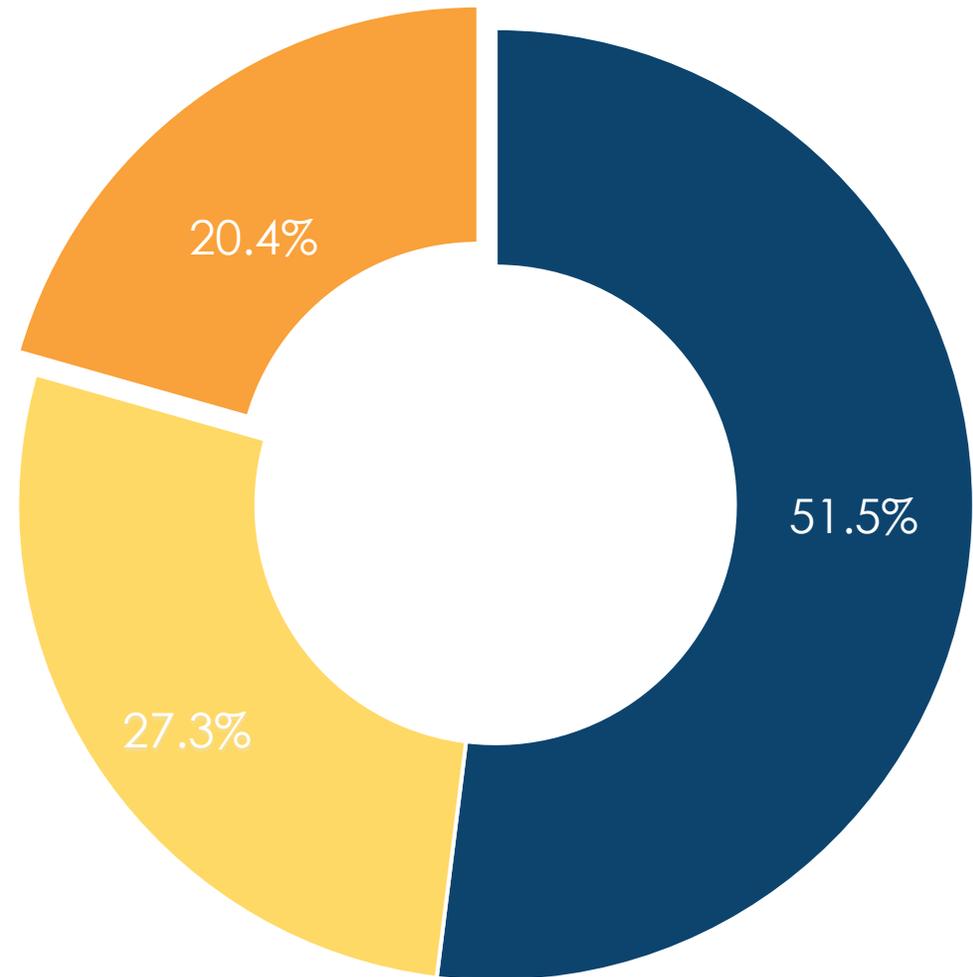
# Outreach: Contact History

*Have you ever been approached by a street outreach worker or case manager in the last three (3) months?*



# Outreach: Contact History

*Have you ever been approached by a street outreach worker or case manager in the last three (3) months?*



■ No Engagement    ■ Engaged but no Service Connection    ■ Connected to Service

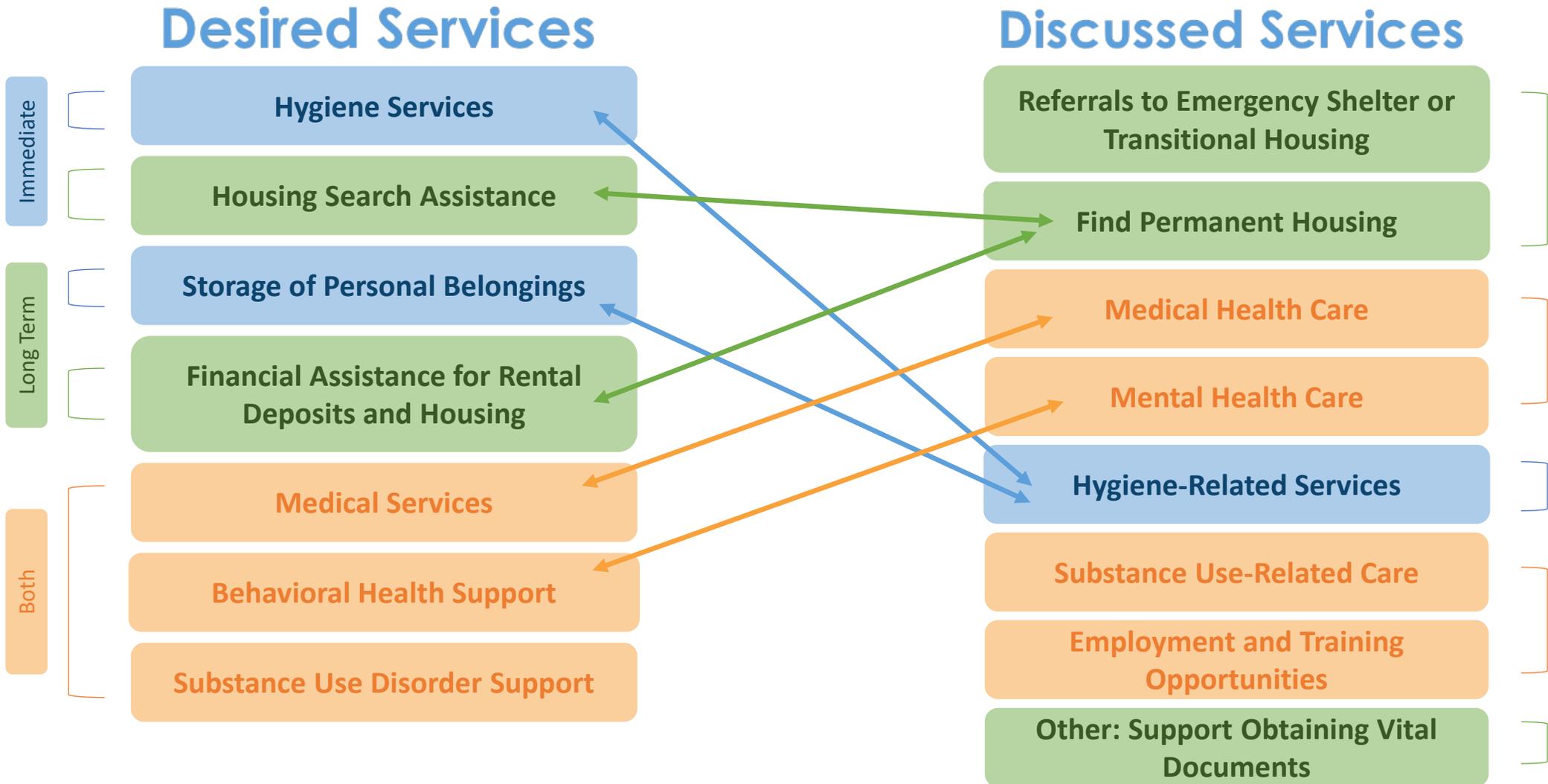
# Outreach Services

What services would be helpful while experiencing homelessness?

## Desired Services

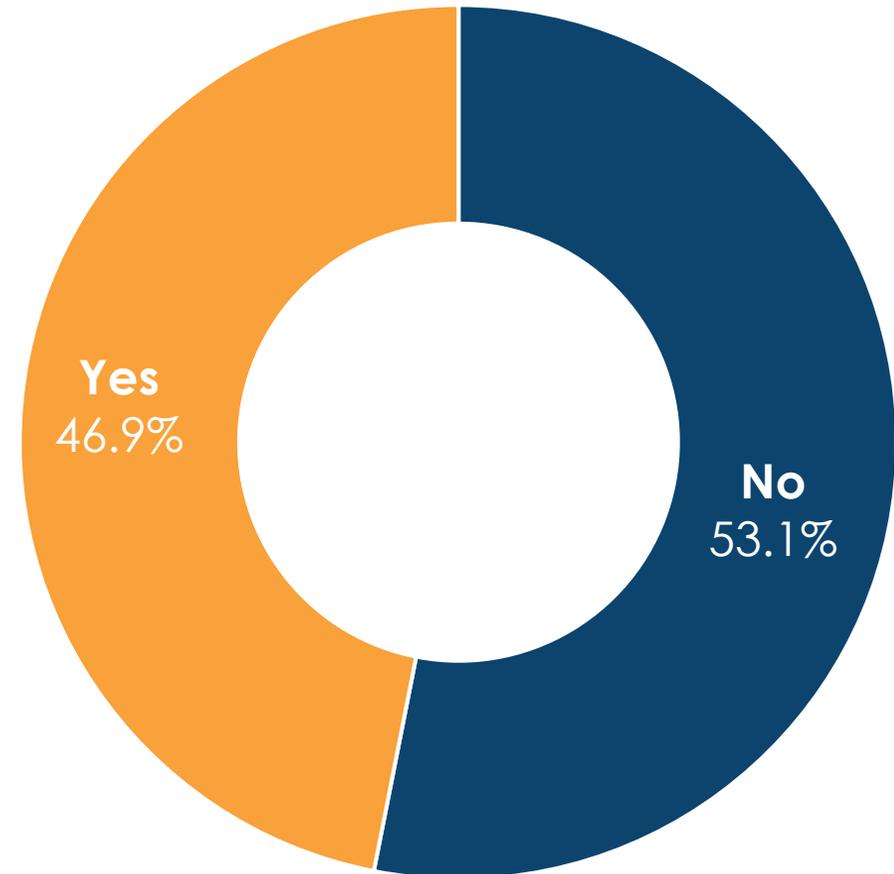


# Outreach Services



# Shelter History

*Have you been in an emergency shelter or transitional housing program before?*



# Shelter Experiences & Considerations

## Top reasons for leaving shelter:

- 17% - Rules being too difficult to follow
- 14% - Concerns Around Feeling Unsafe
- 13% - Concerns Regarding Staff at the Shelter
- 11% - Concerns About Privacy



# Shelter Experiences & Considerations

## Top reasons for leaving shelter:

- 17% - Rules being too difficult to follow
- 14% - Concerns Around Feeling Unsafe
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- 11% - Concerns About Privacy

## Top reasons for not utilizing shelter:

- 25.4% - Lack of Available Spots in Shelter
- 16.7% - Concerns About Feeling Unsafe
- 15.9% - Don't Know How to Access the Emergency Shelter or Transitional Housing Programs
- 15.5% - Privacy Concerns
- 13.8% - Shelter Program Rules and Policies are too Difficult to Follow



# Shelter Experiences & Considerations

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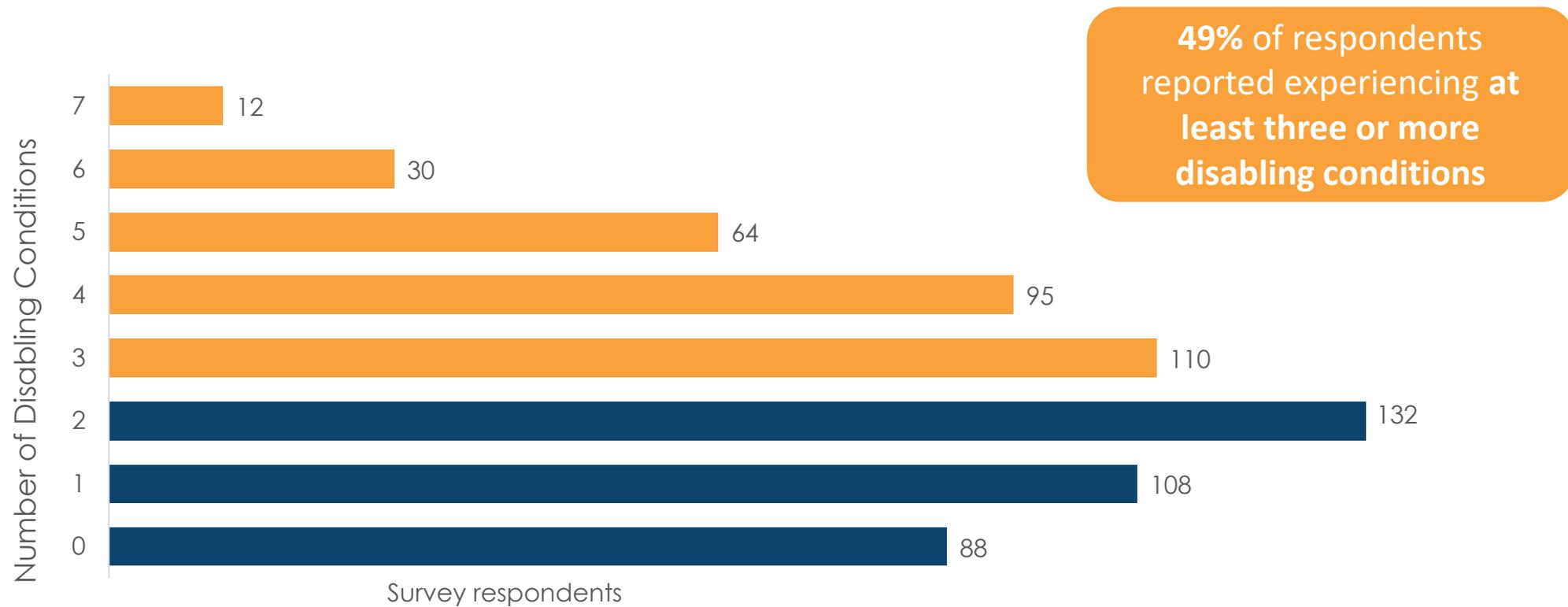
## Top features most important when considering shelter:

- 70.5% - Safety and/or Safe Environment
- 65.7% - Shelter Operator is Respectful/ Empathetic/ Helpful/ Well-Regarded
- 65.2% - Amount of Personal and Private Space at the Shelter
- 63.0% - Housing Navigation to Identify and Secure Permanent Housing
- 57.3% - General Program Rules and Policies
- 50.7% - Transportation To and From the Shelter

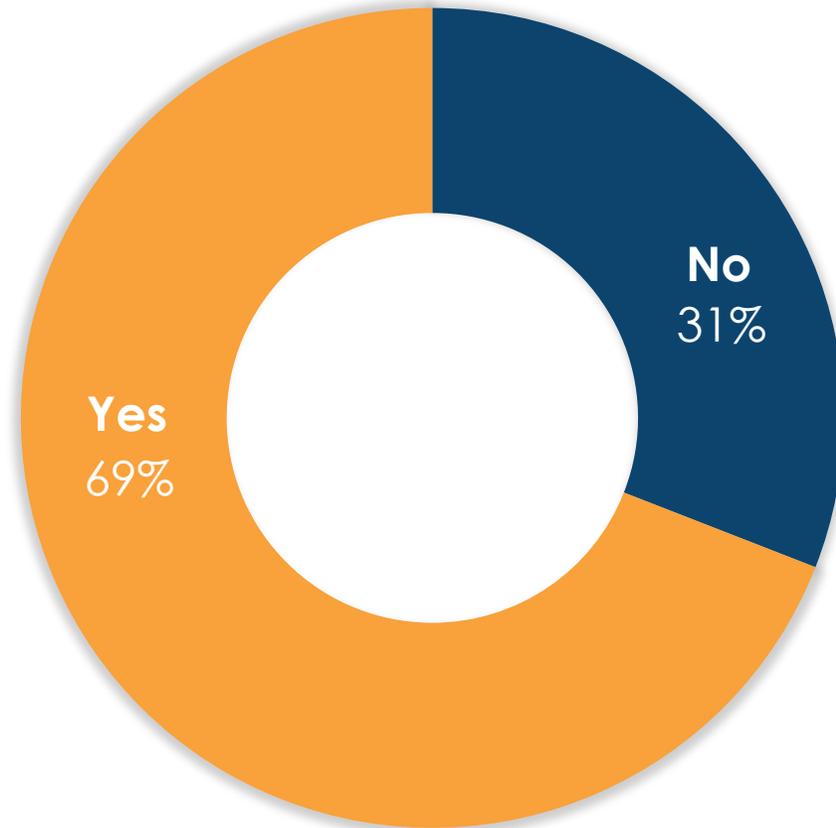


# Disabling Conditions

*To determine if a person meets the HUD definition of chronic homelessness, seven different disabling conditions were surveyed.*



# Chronic Homelessness

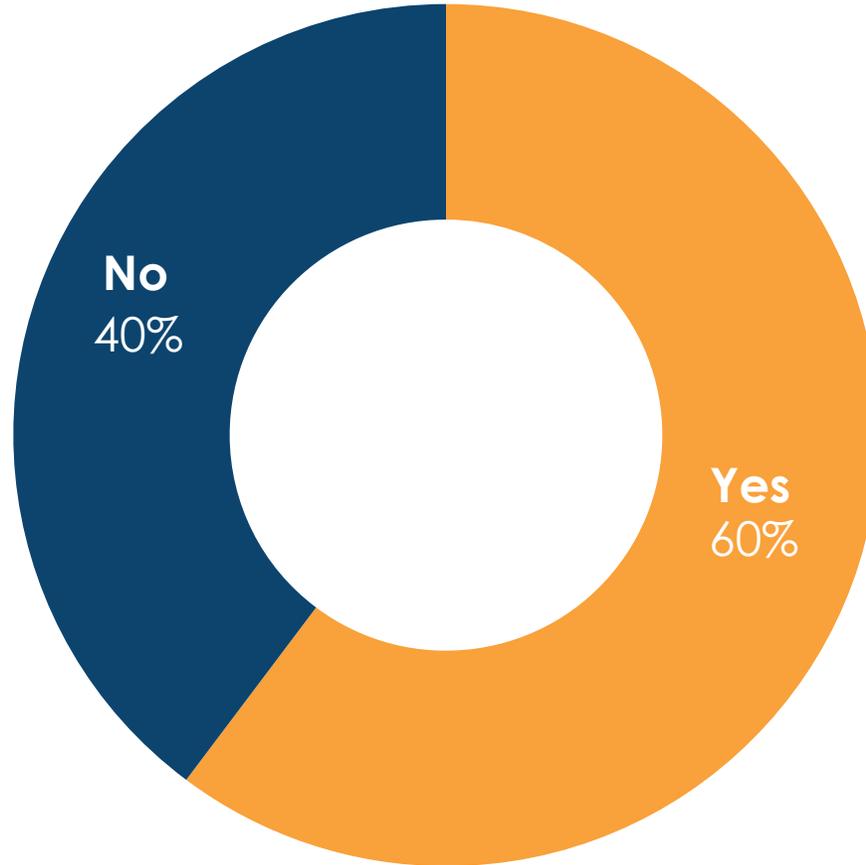


*2022 PIT Count Reports Unsheltered Chronic Homelessness\* at 55%*

*A homeless individual with a disability and who has been homeless and living in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter for at least 12 months\* or on at least 4 separate occasions in the last 3 years, as long as the combined occasions equal at least 12 months.*



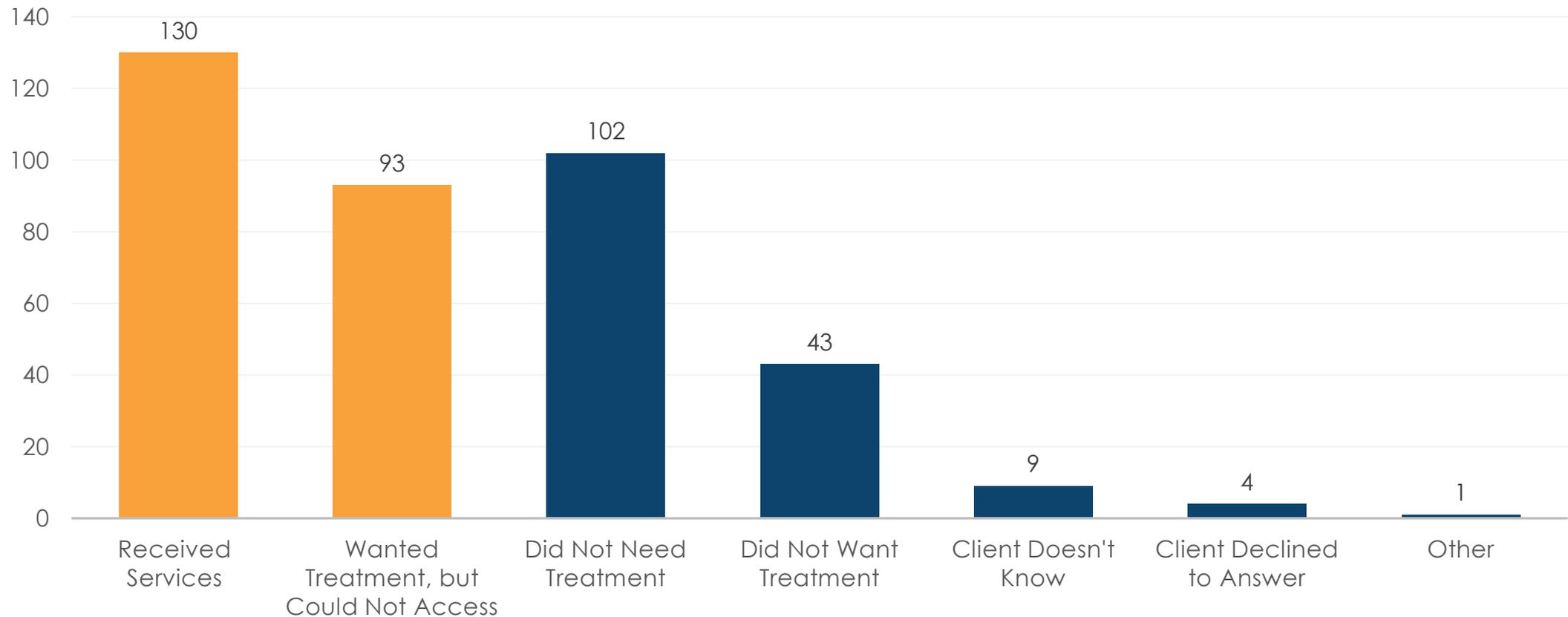
# Disabling Conditions: Mental Illness



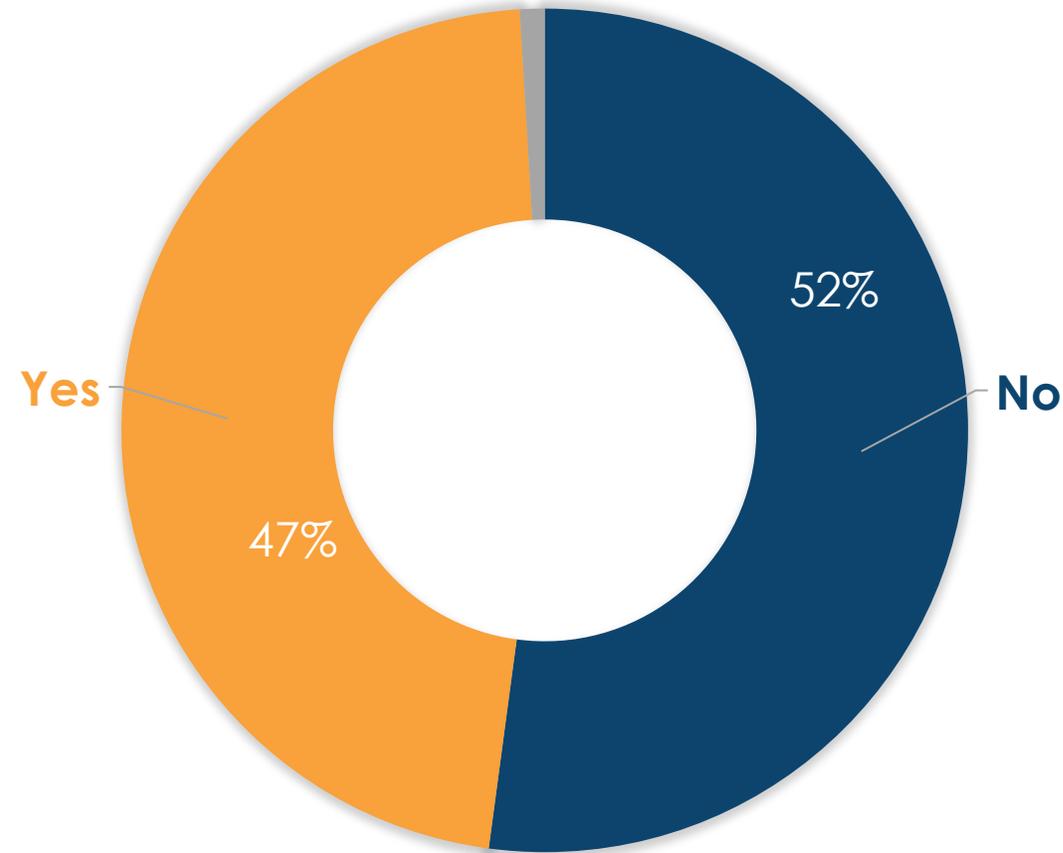
*2022 Unsheltered PIT Count Reports Mental Illness at 30%\**

# Supportive Services: Mental Health

58% of respondents who reported having a Mental Health condition stated either receiving services for their mental health or wanting services and not being able to access them.



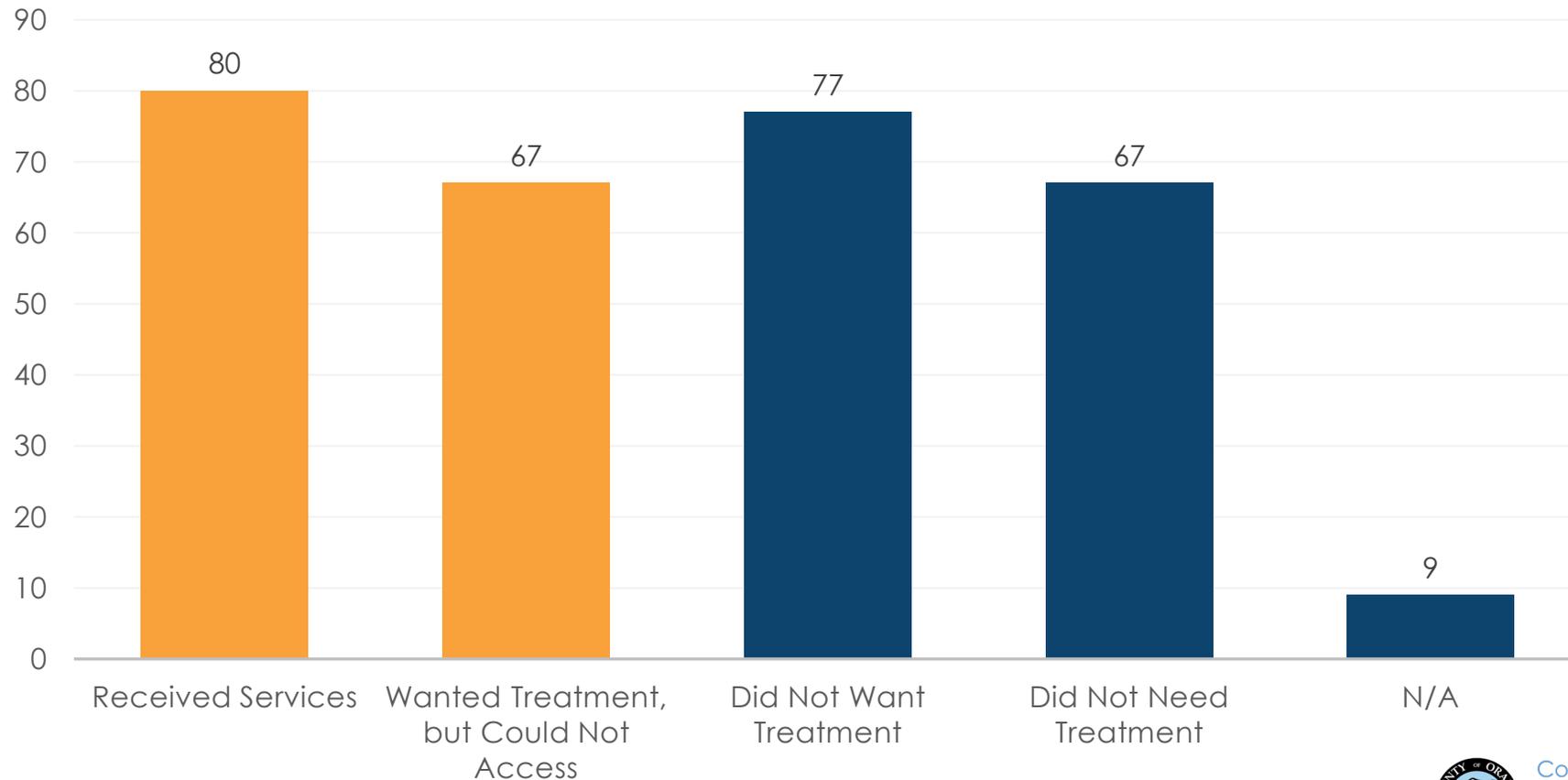
# Disabling Conditions: Substance Abuse



2022 Unsheltered PIT Count Reports Substance Use at 41%\*

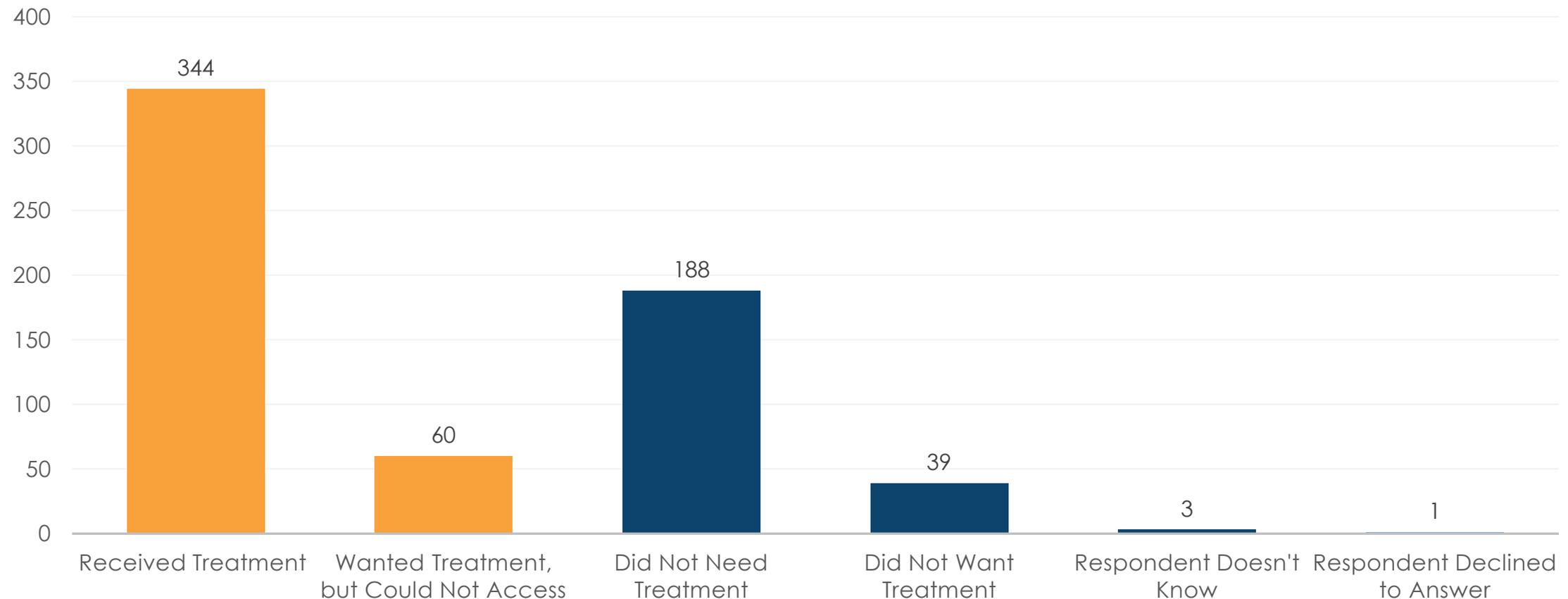
# Supportive Services: Substance Use Treatment

**49%** of respondents who reported experiencing a Substance Use Disorder stated they either receive treatment or wanted treatment but could not access it.



# Supportive Services: Health Care Services

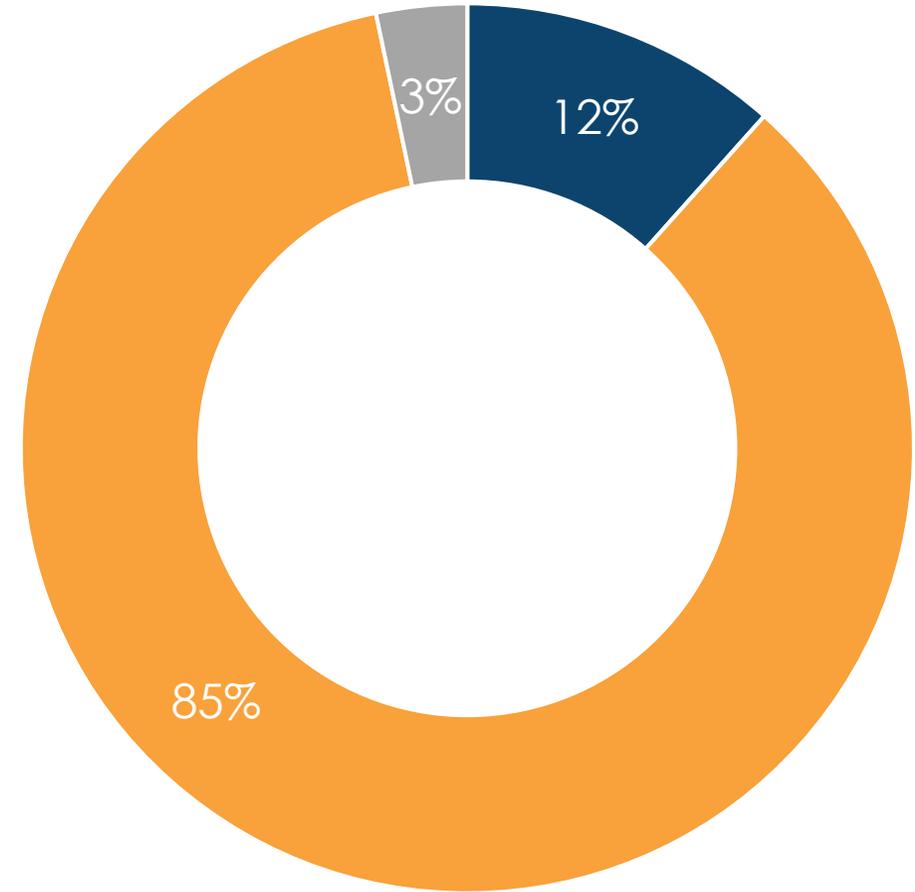
**64%** of all respondents stated they received treatment or visited a doctor for medical concerns in the last 12 months or wanted treatment, but could not access it:



# Health Insurance Coverage



*Do you have health insurance?*



■ No ■ Yes ■ Respondent Doesn't Know



# County Ties



## Last Address

**77%** reported that their last permanent address was in Orange County.



## Time Spent While Experiencing Homelessness

**97%** reported spending the most amount of their time while homeless in Orange County.



## Family

**57%** reported having family in Orange County.



## Schooling

**62%** reported either attending or having attended school in Orange County.



## Employment

**80%** reported current or past employment in Orange County.



# Community Ties

*What is the main reason you stay in this location/area/particular city?*

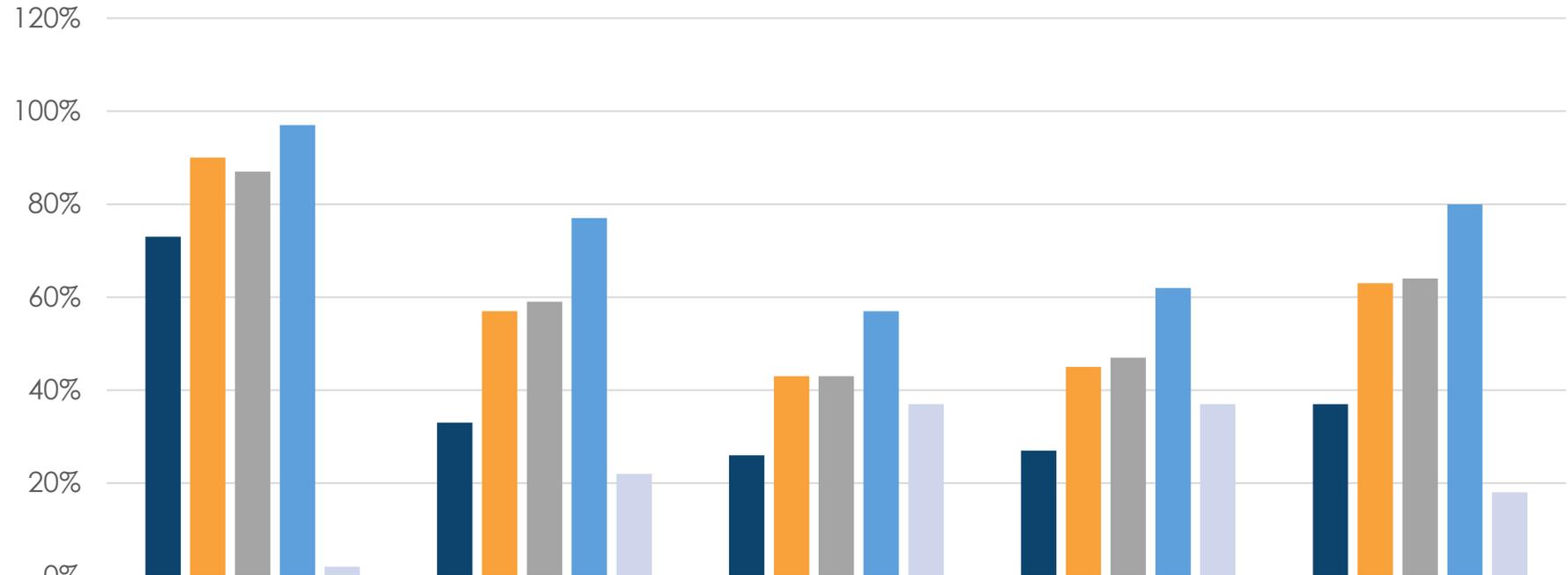
	Count	Percent of Respondents
Most Familiar with the Location/Area/Particular City	303	51.7%
Have Friend and/or Family that Live Nearby	110	18.8%
Feel Safe in this Location/Area/Particular City	89	15.2%
Close to Place of Current and/or Past Employment	12	2.0%
Close to Social Services and/or Support Services	12	2.0%
Close to Doctors or Medical Treatment	6	1.0%

*How did you get to this location/area/particular city?*

	Count	Percent of Respondents
On My Own	523	85.6%
Received Transportation Assistance from Family or Friends	39	6.4%
Received Transportation Assistance from a Third Party	34	5.6%



# Community Ties



	Time Spent While Homeless	Last Address	Family Ties	Schooling	Employment
■ City	73%	33%	26%	27%	37%
■ City or Physically Neighboring City	90%	57%	43%	45%	63%
■ Service Planning Area	87%	59%	43%	47%	64%
■ County	97%	77%	57%	62%	80%
■ Outside the County	2%	22%	37%	37%	18%





# Interest in Engagement & Assistance

## People are Interested in Help & Engagement

**77%** approached **completed a survey.**

**78%** willing to give their **Name and Date of Birth** as part of the survey.

**93%** reported having an active **Benefit or enrollment in a Support Service.**

**58%** reporting a **Mental Health** condition report either **receiving services** for their mental health **or wanting services and not being able to access them.**

**49%** reporting a **Substance Use Disorder** state that they either **receive treatment or wanted treatment but could not access it.**

**38%** were **interested in help getting connected** to Services Immediately.

**64%** stated they **received treatment** for medical concerns or visited a doctor in the last 12 months or wanted treatment, **but could not access it.**



# Key Survey Findings Summary

1. **People Experiencing Homelessness Want Help**
2. **Chronic Homelessness and Disabling Conditions are Increasing**
3. **Safety, Respect and Personal Space are most important when considering shelter or transitional housing**
4. **Less than half of the people surveyed reported engaging with Outreach or Case Management in the last 3 months**
5. **People tend to stay in one area that is familiar to them when experiencing homelessness**





# Survey Recommendations Summary

1. Evaluate and Implement Strategic Outreach Practices to Maximize Engagement of People Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness.
2. Ensure Supportive Services are Low Barrier and Accessible.
3. Shelters should operate under a Trauma Informed Model - Prioritizing Safety, Respect and Personal Space.
4. Continued Investment into Permanent Supportive Housing.
5. Provide Services and Resources to the People Experiencing Homelessness in your Community.



## RECOMMENDED ACTION – ITEM #3

- Approve the 2023 Homeless Survey for submission to the Board of Supervisors.

## RECOMMENDED ACTION – ITEM #4

- Approve Commission to End Homelessness minutes from August 16, 2023, regular meeting.

# RECOMMENDED ACTION – ITEM #5

## MEMBERSHIP RECOMMENDATIONS

### Recommendations for Appointment

- One June 21, 2023, the Commission to End Homelessness approved the launch of a recruitment process that utilizes the existing Membership Ad Hoc to evaluate and make recommendations for appointments and/or reappointments.
- Membership Recruitment was open from July 1, 2023, to August 31, 2023.
- A total of 24 applications for the Commission to End Homelessness seats were received by the Office of Care Coordination and reviewed by the Membership Ad Hoc.
- The Membership Ad Hoc met on September 21, 2023, to discuss the applicants and make recommendations for appointment to the Commission to End Homelessness.
- If the recommended action is approved, the goal is to have the newly appointed and reappointed members attend the Commission to End Homelessness meeting on December 13, 2023.

## RECOMMENDED ACTION – ITEM #5

### MEMBERSHIP RECOMMENDATIONS

- Approve recommendations for appointment of the following candidates to serve on the Commission to End Homelessness seats as detailed below to the Board of Supervisors for final approval.
  - Adam Hawley, Chief of Police for the City of Brea as the Chief of Police Representative for a two-year term.
  - Gina Cunningham, Executive Director for HomeAid Orange County as the Affordable Housing Development Industry Representative for a two-year term.
  - James Vanderpool, City Manager for Anaheim as the North Service Planning Area Representative for a two-year term.
  - Benjamin Hurst from The Salvation Army as the Faith-Based Community Representative for the balance of the two-year term ending August 8, 2024.
  - Milo Peinemann, Executive Director for American Family Housing as the At-Large Member for a two-year term.

# RECOMMENDED ACTION – ITEM #5

## MEMBERSHIP RECOMMENDATIONS

### Recruitment Launch

- Membership recruitment open from October 23, 2023, to November 24, 2023.
- Candidate Applications to be reviewed by Membership Ad Hoc from November 27, 2023, to December 12, 2023.
- Recommendation of candidates for vacant seats to be presented to the Commission to End Homelessness on December 13, 2023.
- Board of Supervisors to approve appointment in January 2024.
- Appointed candidates to participate in his or her first meeting of the Commission to End Homelessness in February 2023.

## RECOMMENDED ACTION – ITEM #5

### MEMBERSHIP RECOMMENDATIONS

- Approve the launch of a recruitment process and utilize the existing Membership Ad Hoc Committee to evaluate and make recommendation for appointment to the Medi-Cal Managed Care Health Plan Representative and the Central Service Planning Area Representative to the Commission to End Homelessness to be submitted to the Board of Supervisors for final approval.

## RECOMMENDED ACTION – ITEM #6

- Establish an Ad Hoc to evaluate alternative housing solutions, including studying, defining and identifying potential applications for Tiny Homes.