

Springwater Corridor Survey of Houselessness – Initial Results

Erin Schwartz

Cities and Public Safety Data and Policy Analyst

Vahid Brown

Housing Policy Coordinator

Clackamas County H3S Administration

Purpose

- H3S participated in regional forum facilitated by Oregon Consensus to discuss issues and possible solutions related to houseless individuals living along Springwater Corridor Trail
- Through discussions at forum meetings, participants determined that very little information was known about the individuals living along the trail
- Vahid Brown, Housing Policy Coordinator and Erin Schwartz, Cities and Public Safety Data and Policy Analyst, both with Clackamas H3S developed a survey tool designed to collect information directly from houseless individuals living along the trail

Purpose

- Survey designed to:
 - Capture demographic data of the Springwater Corridor houseless population
 - Understand factors that led to houselessness
 - Understand how choice was made to live on Springwater Corridor Trail
 - Capture experience of being houseless on the Springwater Corridor Trail
 - Understand current barriers to housing
 - Determine current service connections and needs
- The survey included multiple choice/rating scales and narrative items

Survey Methodology

- Surveys are widely used in social science research, particularly when:
 - There is interest in understanding individuals' unique experiences and perspectives
 - It is impossible or nearly impossible to capture the information without obtaining direct feedback from individuals, such as when the area of interest includes a focus on:
 - Opinions or perspectives
 - Personal history or current circumstances which cannot be independently verified
 - Influence of social phenomena on a particular group of individuals

Survey Methodology - Limitations

- When collecting any kind of data, it's important to be aware of the possible limitations related to how the data is being collected.
- Potential limitations related to using survey design
 - Response Bias – participants may respond in a manner they perceive to be socially desirable or in a manner that they believe will result in receiving a real or perceived benefit
 - Generalizability – the results from the sample of individuals surveyed are not valid or true for the population at large

Survey Methodology – Controlling for Limitations

- Steps are usually taken to help control for limitations inherent in survey methodology. For example:
 - Careful consideration about including items that are more prone to response bias or wording questions in a manner to limit possible bias
 - Careful consideration about use of incentives in exchange for responding to survey
 - Making sure that enough individuals are surveyed to increase generalizability of results from the sample

Survey Methodology – Controlling for Limitations

- For the survey of houseless individuals living along the Springwater Corridor Trail:
 - The majority of items on the survey were focused on demographic information and the personal history of participants
 - No incentives were offered for participating in the survey
 - Surveys were administered along the entire trail and at Clackamas Service Center rather than in a single location
 - Approximately 25% of the houseless population living along the trail completed a survey (128 of an estimated 500 individuals)
 - Larger sample sizes increase generalizability of results to larger population of interest

Initial Analysis

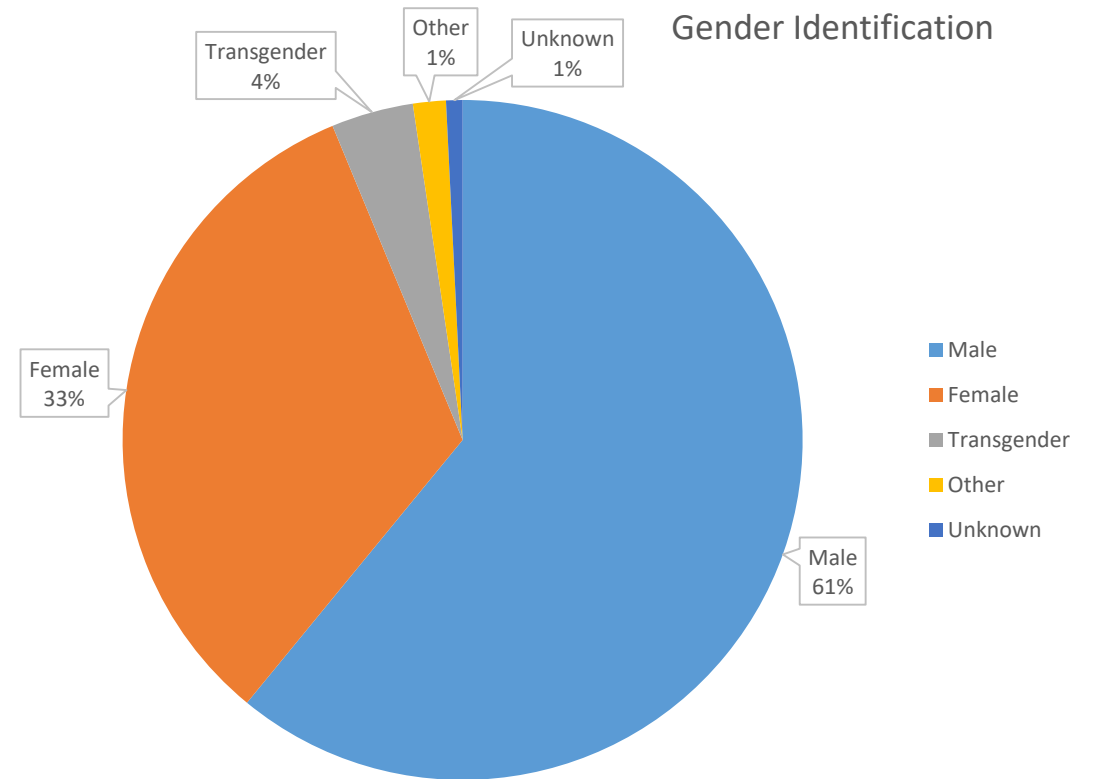
- The information included in this presentation represents the initial analysis of the demographic, multiple choice, and rating scale items.
 - Advanced analytics will be conducted using demographic, multiple choice, and rating scale data
 - Analysis of open-ended questions and narrative items will be conducted
- Some data presented in this document may change slightly as additional analyses are run

Demographic Data

- N = 128 individuals
- Survey Locations
 - Clackamas Service Center (CSC) – 42
 - Springwater Corridor Trail – 82
 - Unknown (Location field left blank) – 4
- Survey Dates – surveys were administered on 6 days June 1st – June 15th
 - 6/1/2016
 - 6/4/2016
 - 6/8/2016
 - 6/9/2016
 - 6/14/2016
 - 6/15/2016
 - 6/16/2016
 - 6/17/2016

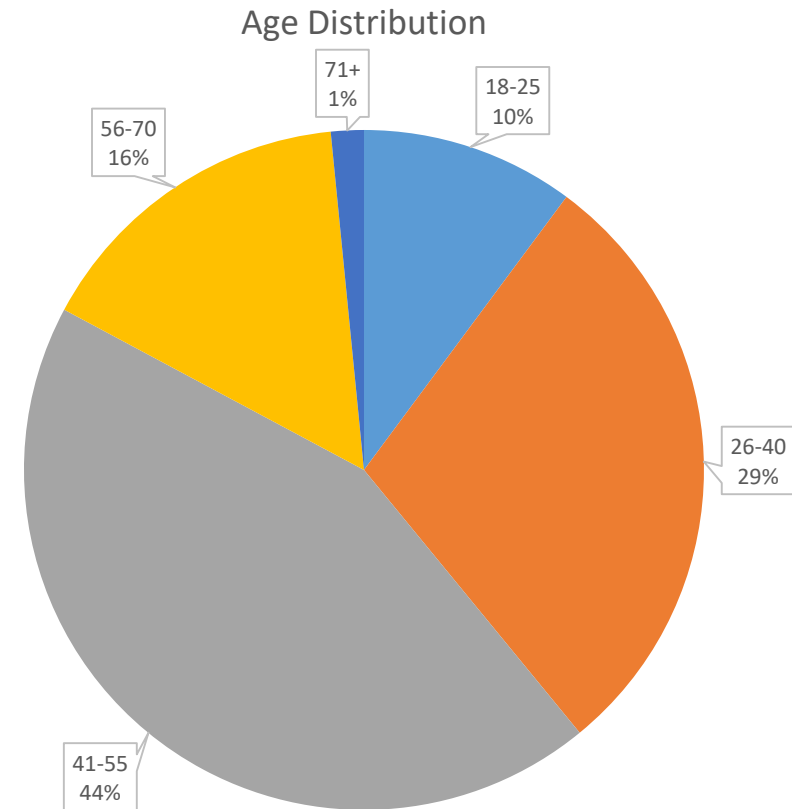
Gender Identification

Gender	n
Male	78
Female	42
Transgender	5
Other	2
Unknown	1



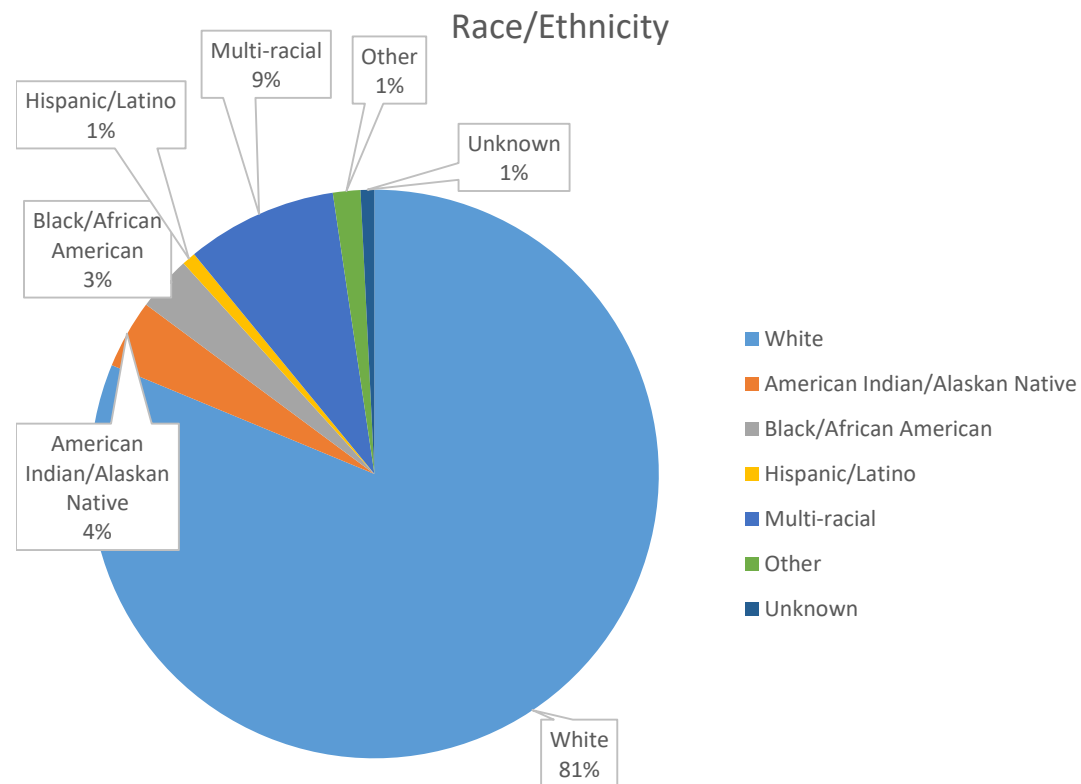
Age Distribution

Age Range	n
18-25 years	13
26-40 years	37
41-55 years	56
56-70 years	20
71+ years	2



Race/Ethnicity

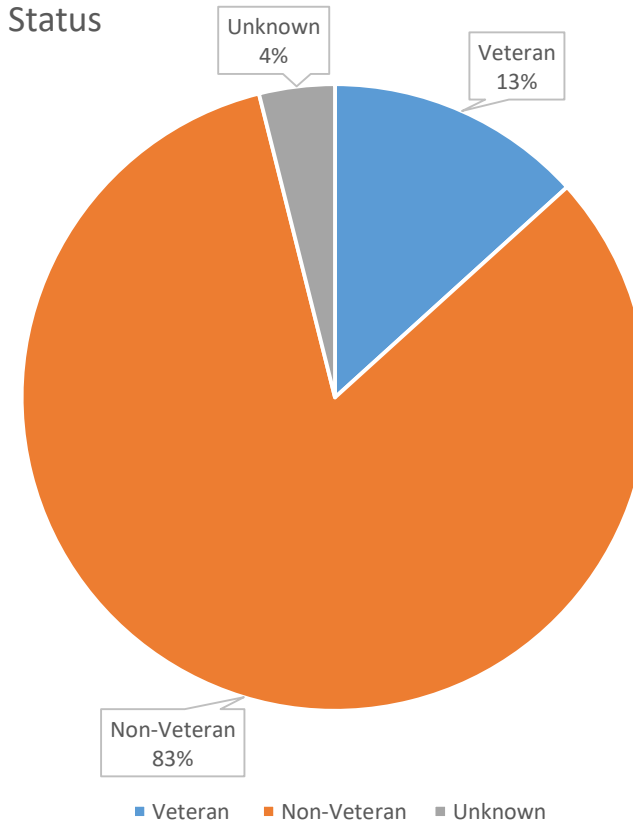
Race/Ethnicity	n
White	104
American Indian/Alaskan Native	5
Black/African American	4
Hispanic/Latino	1
Multi-racial	11
Other	2
Unknown	1



Veteran Status

Veteran Status	n
Veteran	17
Non-Veteran	106
No Response	5

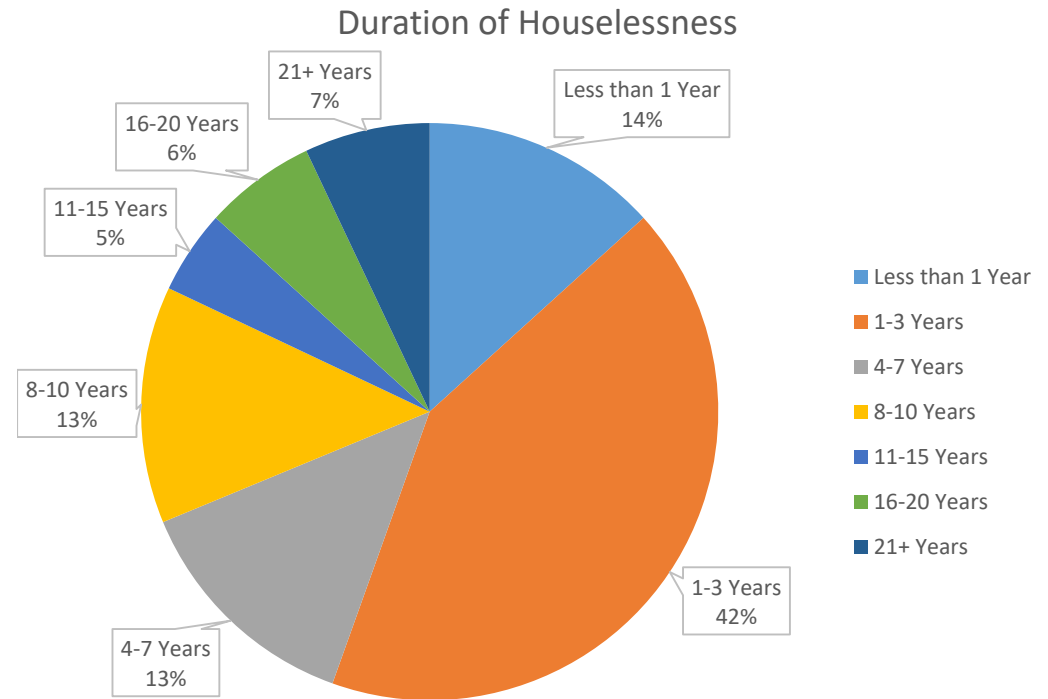
Veteran Status



Duration of Houselessness

- Range: 3 days – 34 years

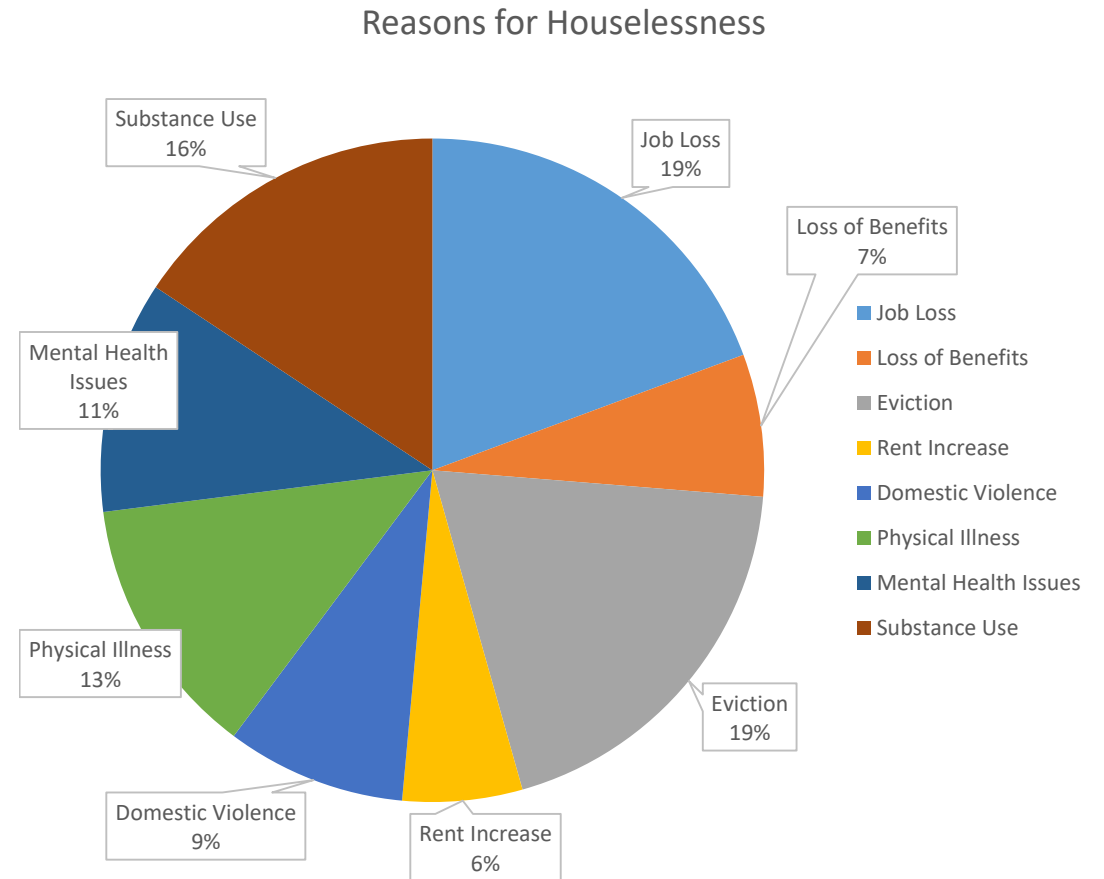
Duration	n
Less than 1 Year	17
1-3 Years	54
4-7 Years	17
8-10 Years	17
11-15 Years	6
16-20 Years	8
21+ Years	9



Reasons Cited for Becoming Houseless

Note: Respondents could select more than 1 reason and/or cite reasons not listed which were captured as a narrative response

Reasons	n
Job Loss	53
Eviction	53
Other	48
Substance Use	43
Physical Illness	35
Mental Health Issues	31
Domestic Violence	24
Loss of Benefits	19
Rent Increase	16



Some Reasons for Homelessness – Stratified by Gender (male and female only)

- Job Loss
 - 32 of 53 were male (60.4%)
 - 16 of 53 were female (30.2%)
- Eviction
 - 28 of 53 were male (52.8%)
 - 21 of 53 were female (39.6%)
- Substance Use
 - 22 of 43 were male (51.2%)
 - 17 of 43 were female (39.5%)
- Domestic Violence
 - 5 of 24 were male (20.8%)
 - 17 of 24 were female (70.8%)

Reasons Cited for Becoming Houseless - Other

- An “Other” category was included as an option in which respondents could provide reasons that were not listed as options (n=48). Some participants cited more than 1 reason.
- Disruptions in Relationships (n=32):
 - Family/interpersonal conflict
 - Kicked out of family home/family moved away
 - Death of a family member or loved one
 - Losing custody of children
- Logistical issues or life circumstances (n=10)
 - Not having ID
 - Lost access to RV

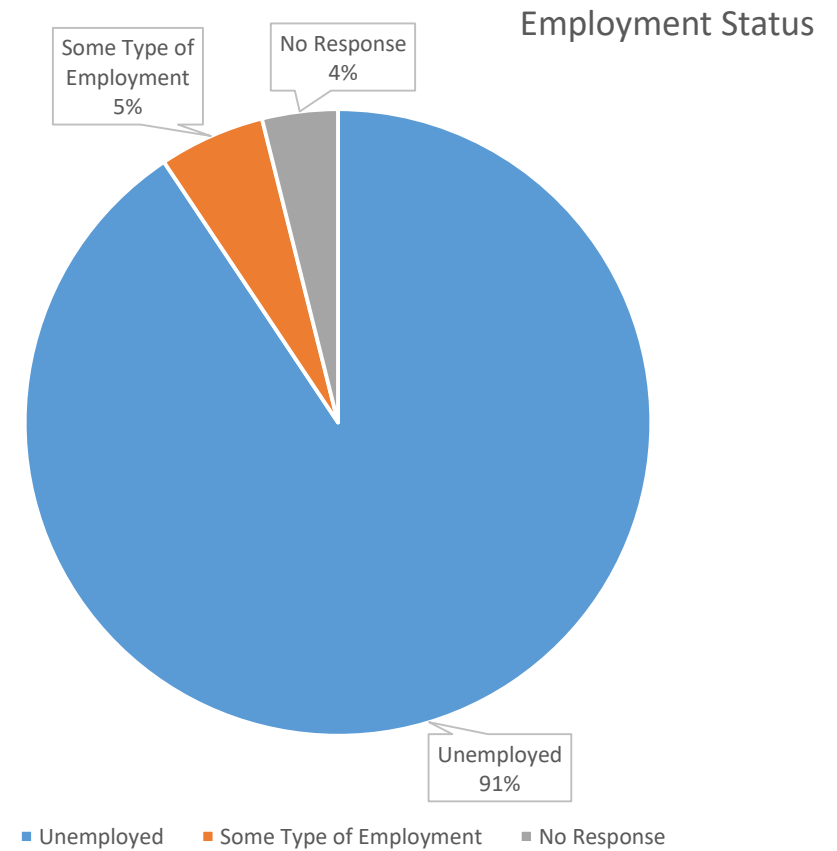
 - Financial issues
 - Losing custody of children

Barriers to Housing

- An open-ended question was included in which respondents were asked to identify what they believe is keeping them from housing. (n=123)
- Examples of most frequent responses include (not an exhaustive list):
 - Money (lack of)
 - Job (lack of)
 - Criminal history
 - Price of rent/deposit
 - Substance use
 - No ID/Social Security Card
 - Bad credit
 - Unable to get benefits (SSI)

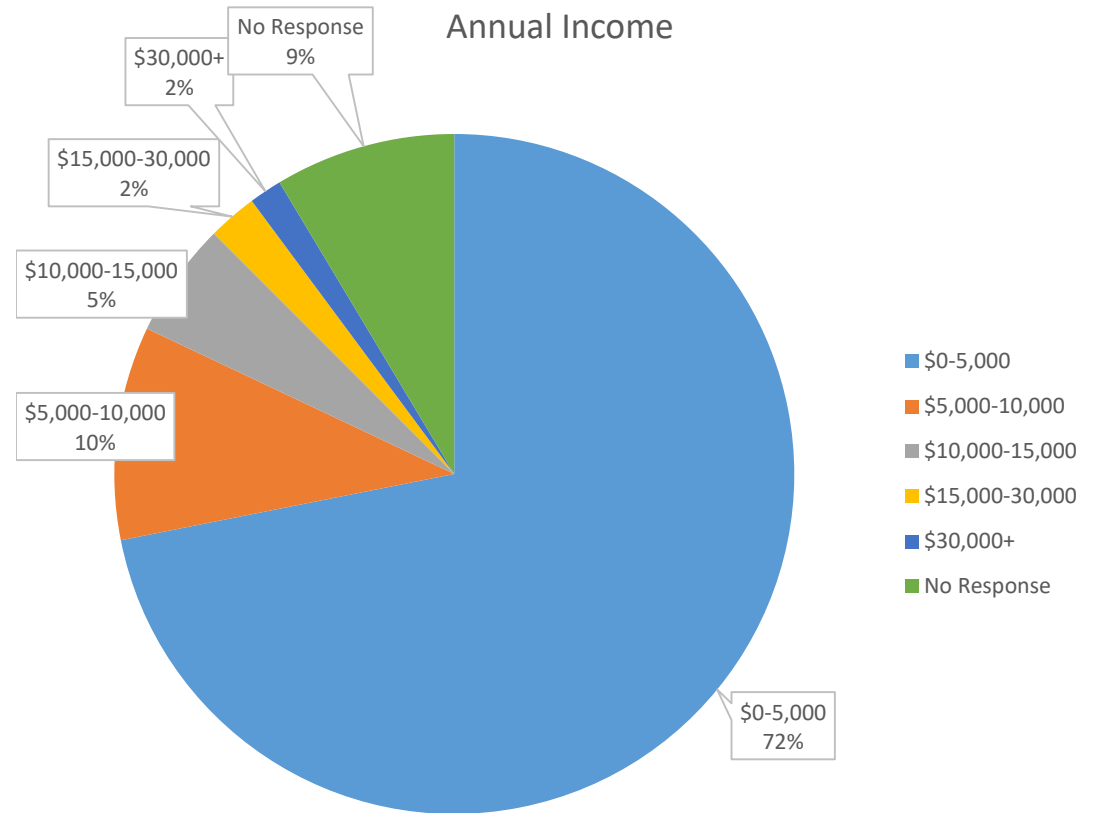
Employment Status

Employment Status	n
Unemployed	116
Some Employment	7
No Response	5



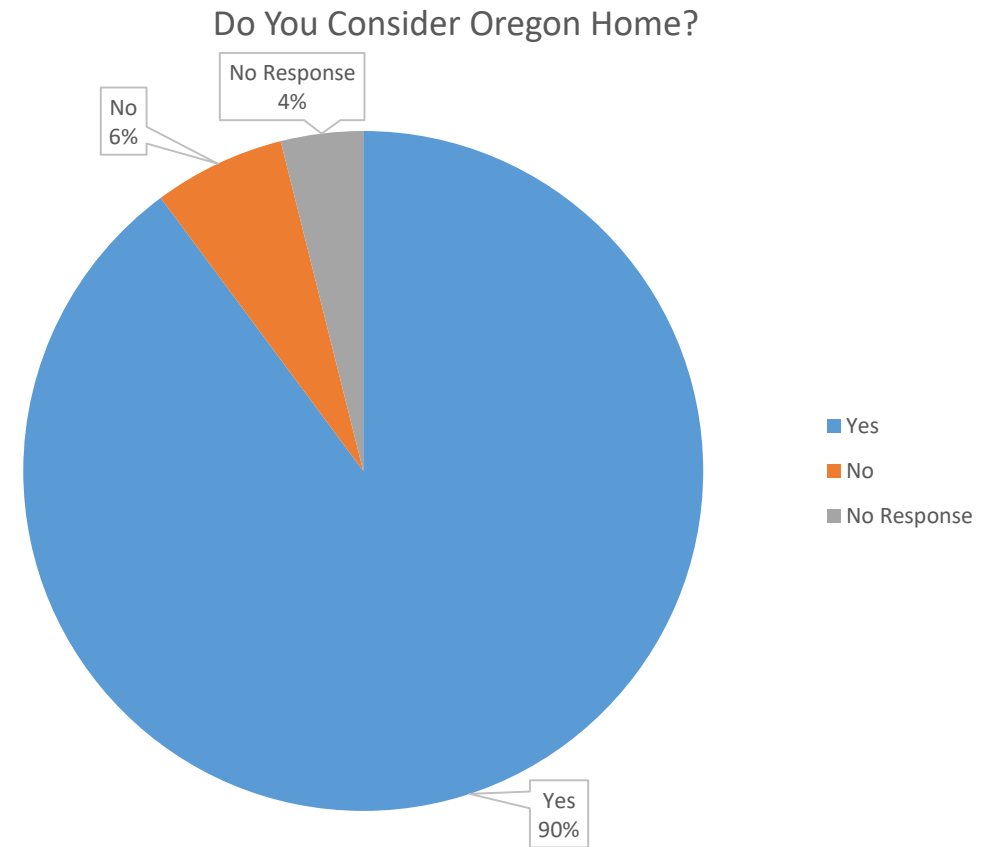
Annual Income

Annual Income	n
\$0 - 5,000	92
\$5,000 - 10,000	13
\$10,000 - 15,000	7
\$15,000 - 30,000	3
\$30,000+	2
No Response	11



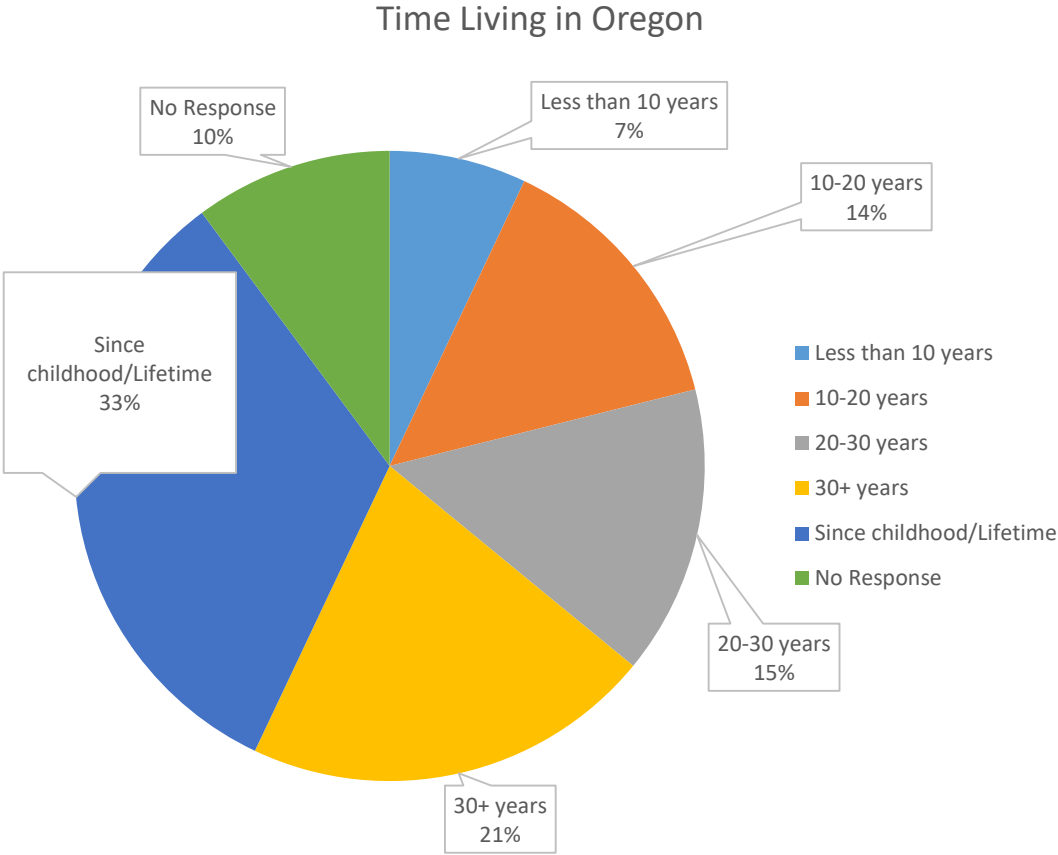
Do You Consider Oregon Home?

Is Oregon Home?	n
Yes	115
No	8
No Response	5



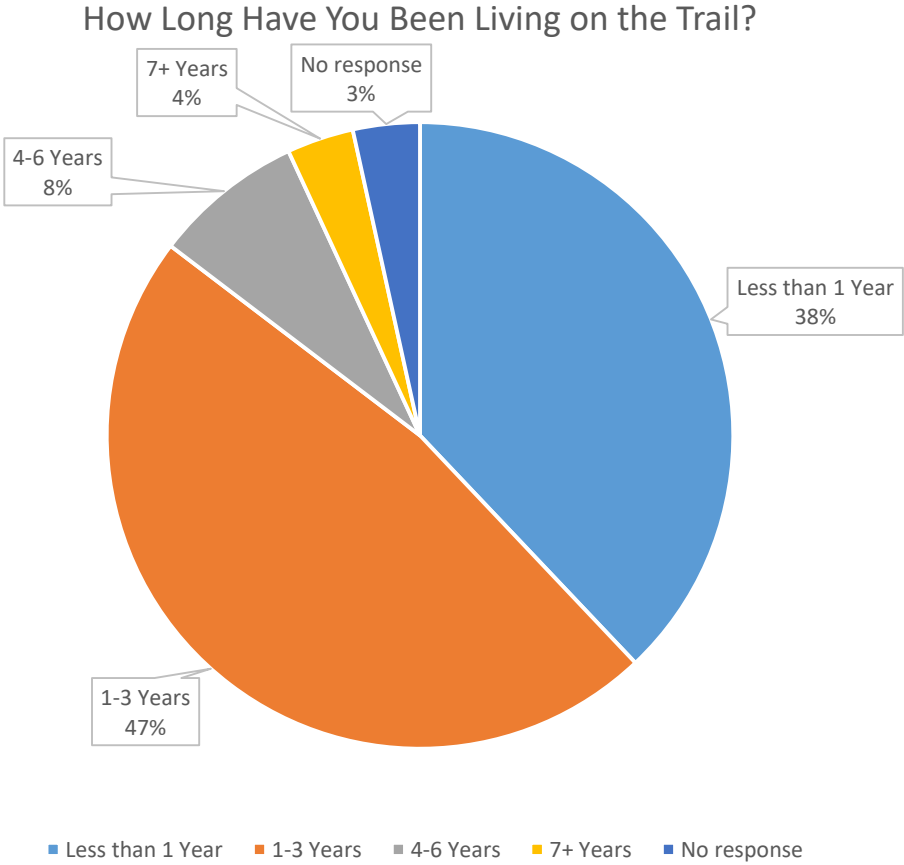
Time Living in Oregon

Time Living in Oregon	n
Less than 10 years	9
10-20 years	18
20-30 years	19
30+ years	27
Since childhood/Lifetime	42
No Response	13



Time Living on the Trail

Time on Trail	n
Less than 1 Year	44
1-3 Years	55
4-6 Years	9
7+ Years	4
No Response	4

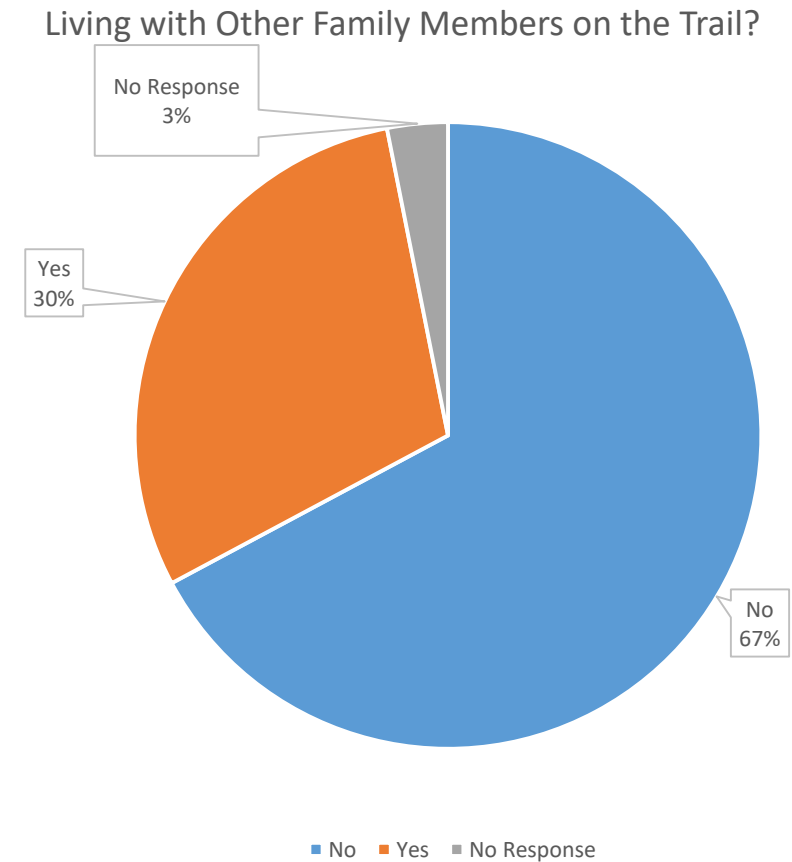


Why Did You Decide to Live on the Trail?

- An open-ended question was included asking respondents why they've decided to live on the trail. (n=119)
- Examples of most frequent responses include (not an exhaustive list):
 - Friends/family/someone I knew was living on the trail
 - No place else to go
 - Knew the area/considers location his/her neighborhood or area is close to where she/he was living before becoming houseless
 - Felt safe/safer living on the trail
 - Swept or displaced from previous location
 - Better alternative to locations such as SE PDX or downtown PDX

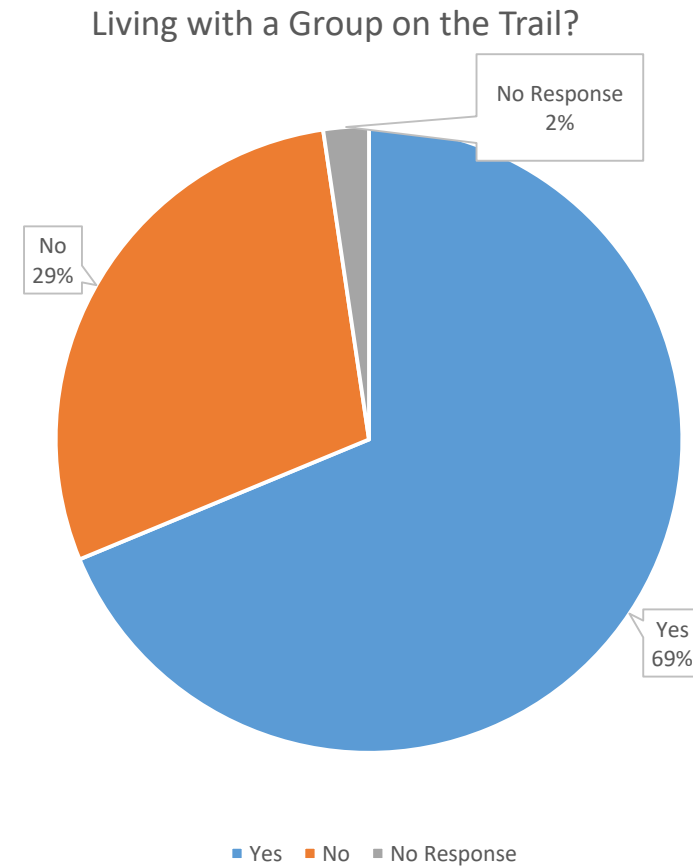
Living with Family Members on Trail

Living with Family Members on the Trail	n
Yes	38
No	86
No Response	4



Living with a Group on the Trail

Living with a Group on the Trail	n
Yes	88
No	37
No Response	3



Reasons for Living with a Group

- An open-ended question was included in which respondents were asked why they choose to stay with a group on the trail (n=53)
- Examples of most frequent responses include (not an exhaustive list):
 - Safety
 - Enjoy company/connection
 - Take care of each other
 - Somebody to watch belongings

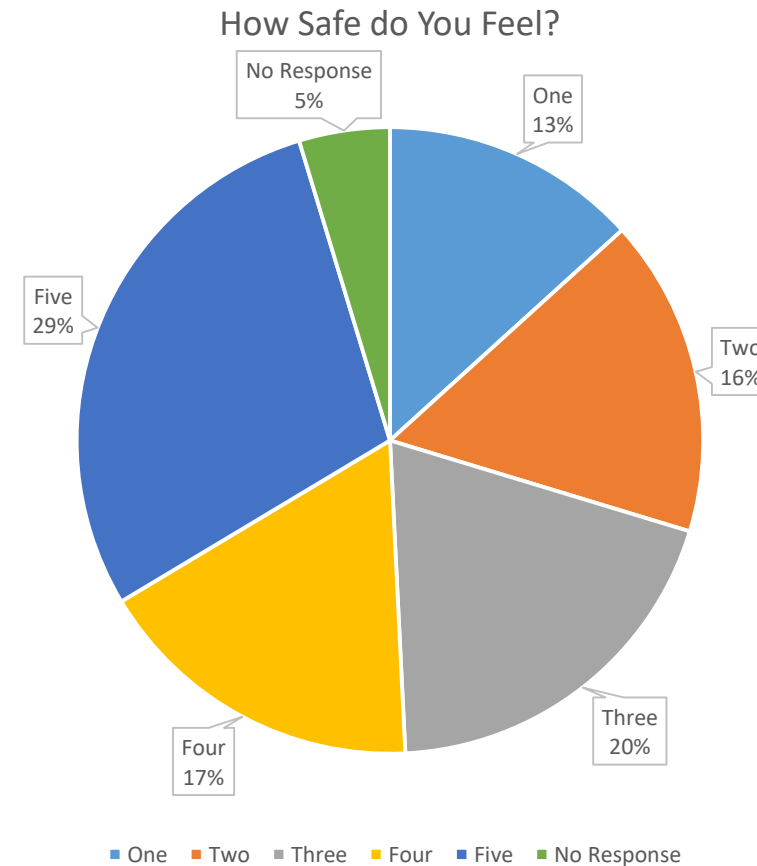
Reasons for Not Living with a Group

- For respondents who reported that they don't live with a group, an open-ended question was included asking why they choose not to live with a group. (n=36)
- Examples of most frequent responses include:
 - I'm a loner/prefer to be alone
 - Risk of belongings being stolen by others
 - It's easier/more peaceful
 - Lack of trust of others

How Safe Do You Feel Living on the Trail?

- 5-point rating scale item
 - 1 = Not Safe at All
 - 5 = Very Safe

How Safe Do You Feel?	n
One (1)	17
Two (2)	21
Three (3)	25
Four (4)	22
Five (5)	37
No Response	6

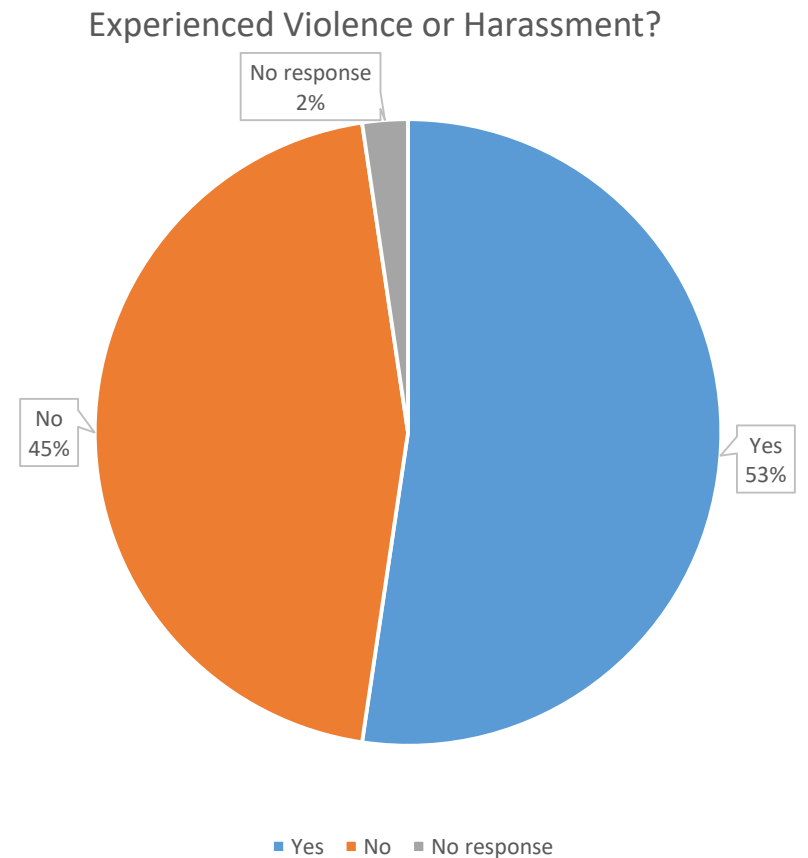


How Safe Do You Feel Living on the Trail?

- 5-point rating scale
 - 1 = Not Safe at All
 - 5 = Very Safe
- Overall average = 3.32
- Differences in experience of feeling safe between male and female respondents
 - Average for males = 3.66
 - Average for females = 2.71

Have You Experienced Violence or Harassment on the Trail?

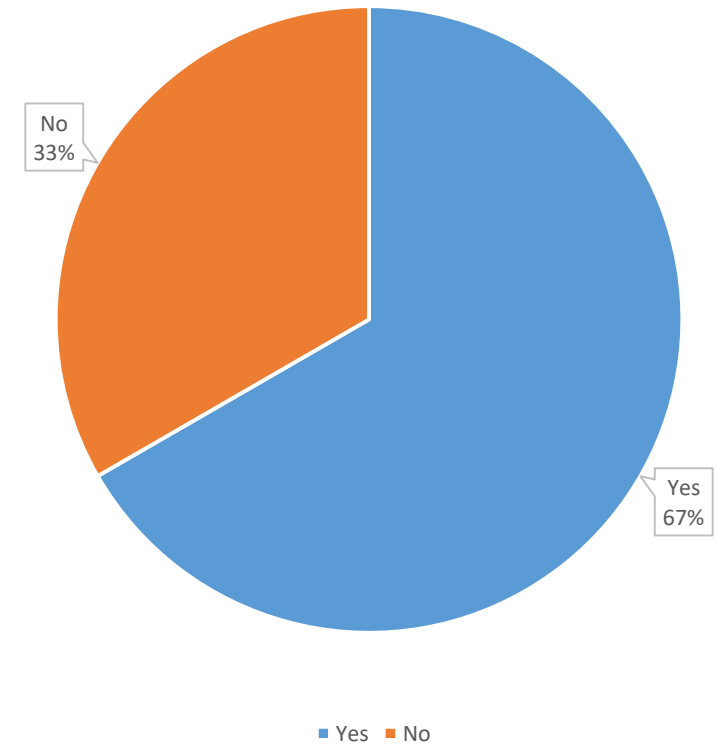
Violence or Harassment?	n
Yes	67
No	58
No Response	3



Female – Experiences of Violence or Harassment

Female – Experiences of Violence or Harassment	n
Yes	28
No	14

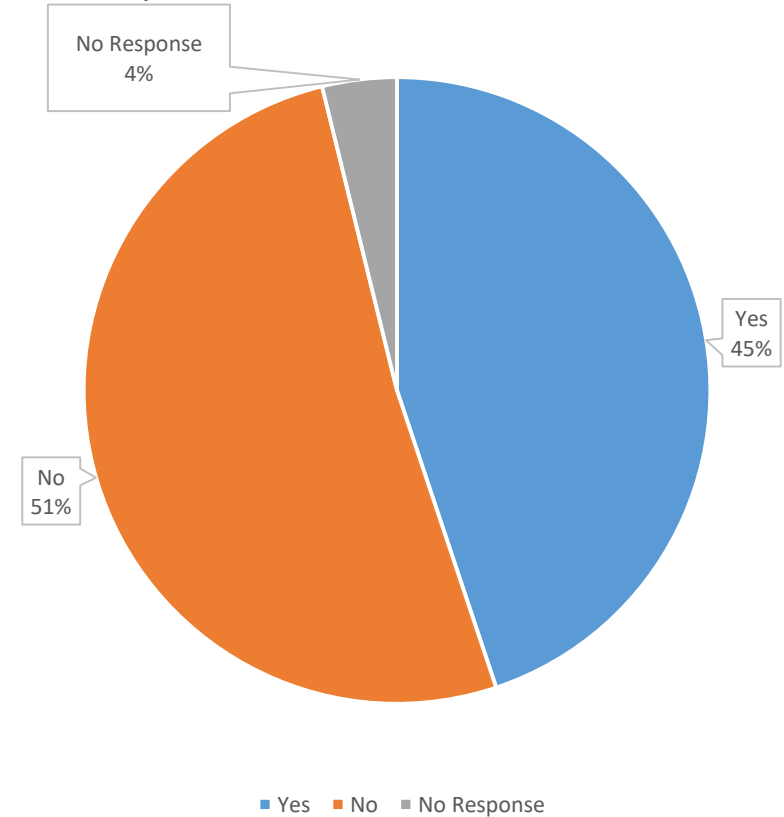
Female - Experiences of Violence or Harassment



Male – Experiences of Violence or Harassment

Male Experiences of Violence or Harassment	n
Yes	35
No	40
No Response	3

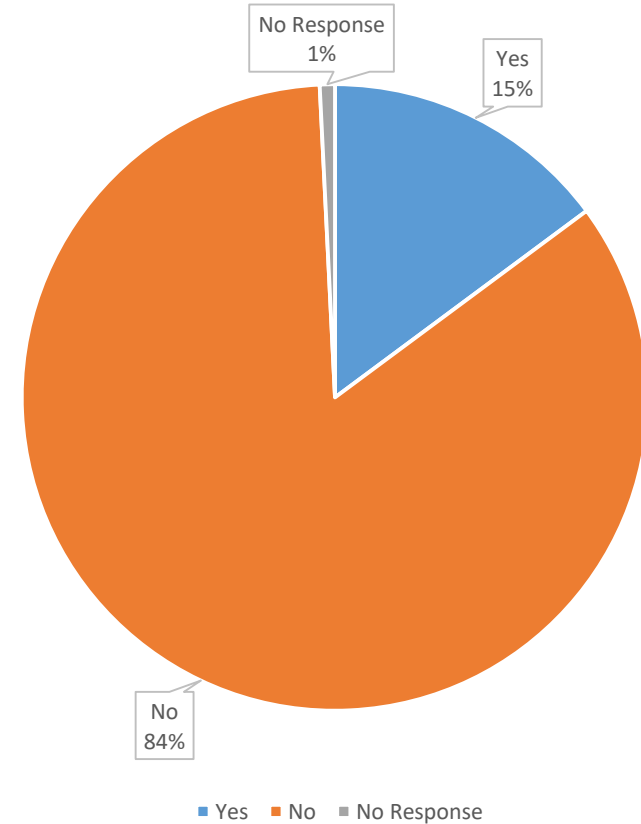
Male - Experiences of Violence or Harassment



Are You Working with a Case Manager?

Working with a Case Manager?	n
Yes	19
No	108
No Response	1

Are You Working with a Case Manager?

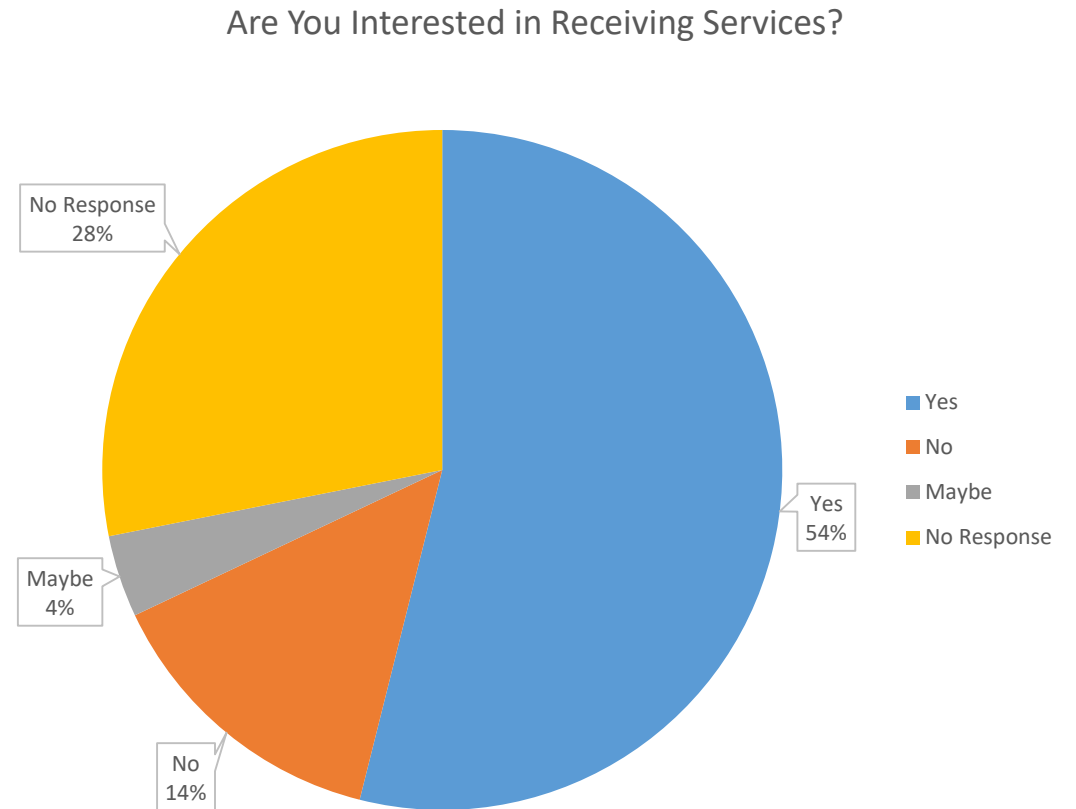


Reasons for Not Working with a Case Manager

- An open-ended question was included asking for reasons why individuals are not working with a case manager. (n=77)
- Examples of most frequent responses include (not an exhaustive list):
 - I didn't know about these services/how to get these services
 - Tried before, but they couldn't place me/never got back to me
 - Don't need/not actively seeking
 - I'm not ready

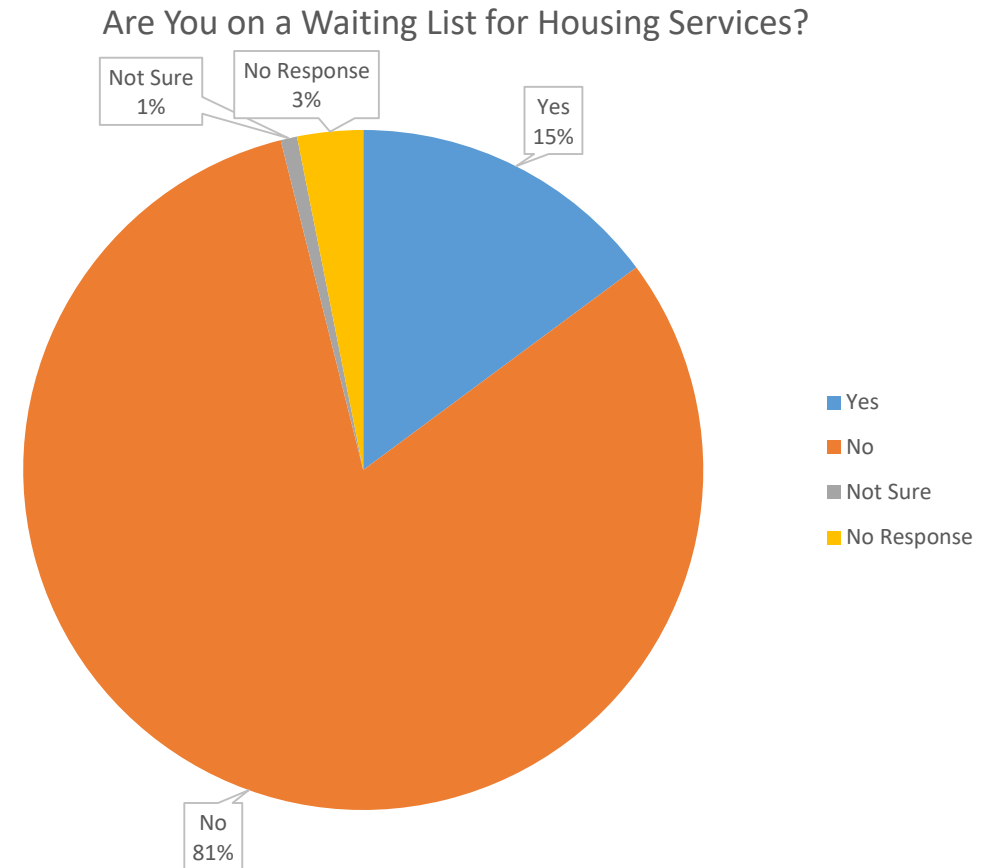
Are You Interested in Receiving Services?

Interested in Services?	n
Yes	69
No	18
Maybe	5
Not Applicable/No Response	36



Are You on a Waiting List for Housing Services?

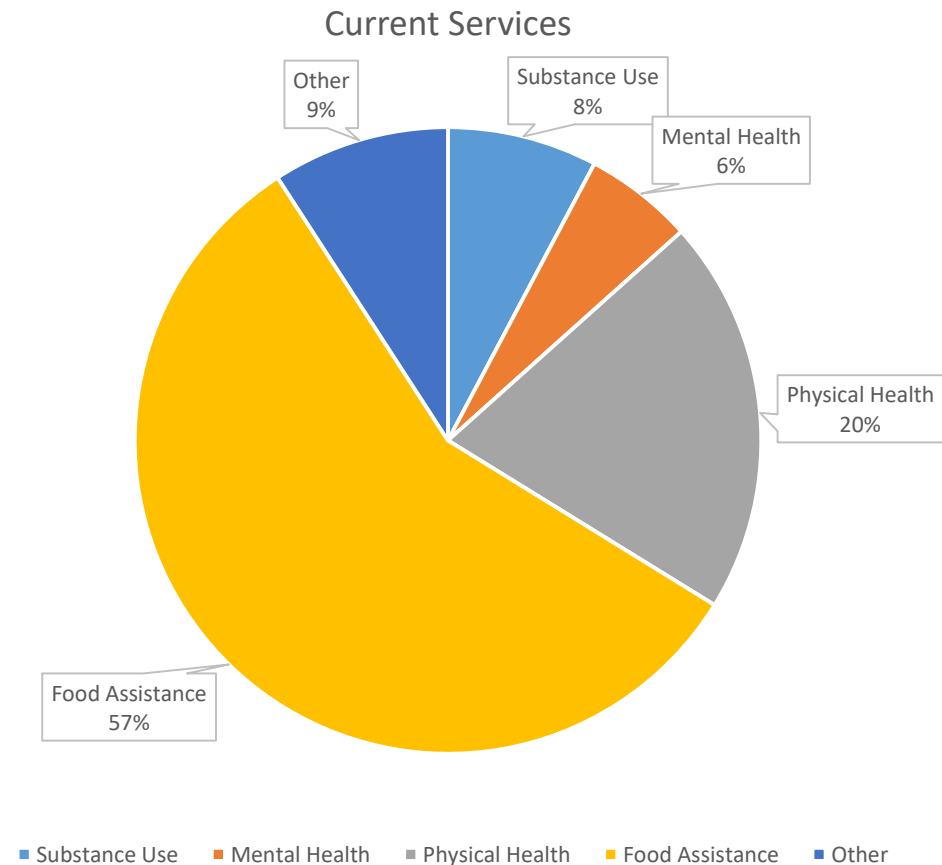
On a Waiting List for Housing Services?	n
Yes	19
No	104
Not Sure	1
No Response	4



What Services are You Currently Receiving?

Note: Respondents could select more than 1 service and/or report services not listed which were captured as a narrative response

Current Services	n
Substance Use	11
Mental Health	8
Physical Health	29
Food Assistance	81
Other	13



Questions?

Thank You!