

# **2017 Housing Needs and Vulnerability Survey Results**

**Administered January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
Western CoC VA-513**

**Frederick County/Winchester City, Rockingham  
County/Harrisonburg City and the Counties of  
Warren, Clarke, Page, and Shenandoah.**

# 2017 Housing Needs & Vulnerability Survey

Every year during HUD's Point in Time count of homeless persons, the local Continuum of Care (CoC) asks participants in shelters and unsheltered locations to tell us about their homeless experience.

The information is used by agencies and local government to identify needs and problems within the homeless community. The health questions are used to support agencies that provide healthcare and outreach to vulnerable populations within our communities.

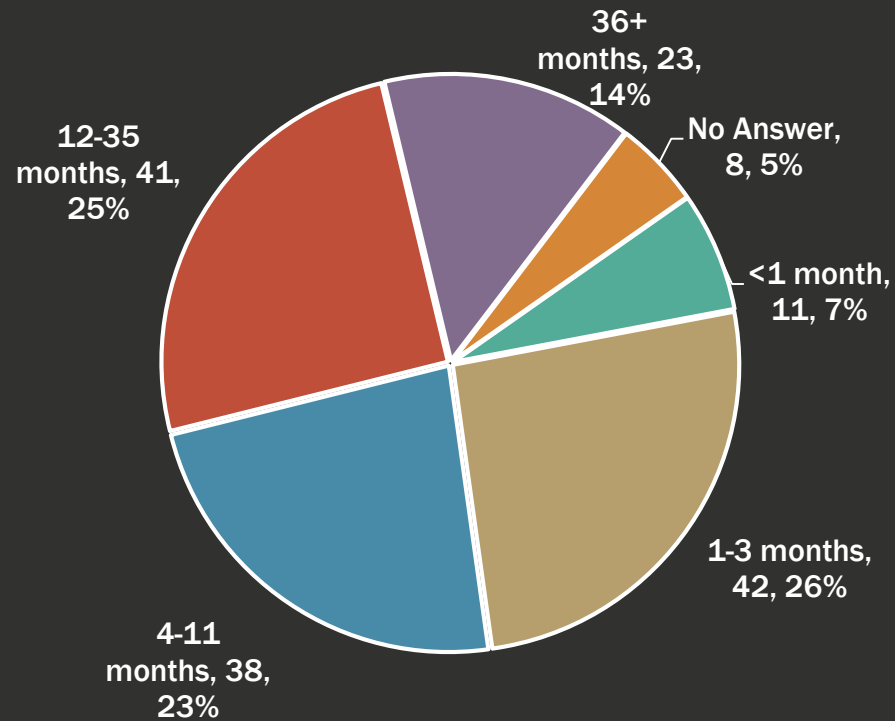
The survey is administered by volunteers across the CoC. Once collected, the personal information is removed from each survey and an ID is assigned. The survey answers are compiled and codified by JMU's Research Methods class under the direction of Professor Rita Poteyeva, PhD Assistant Professor in the Department of Justice Studies.

In 2017, 163 of 231 homeless adults identified during the Point in Time Count (70% of homeless adults counted) volunteered to be surveyed.

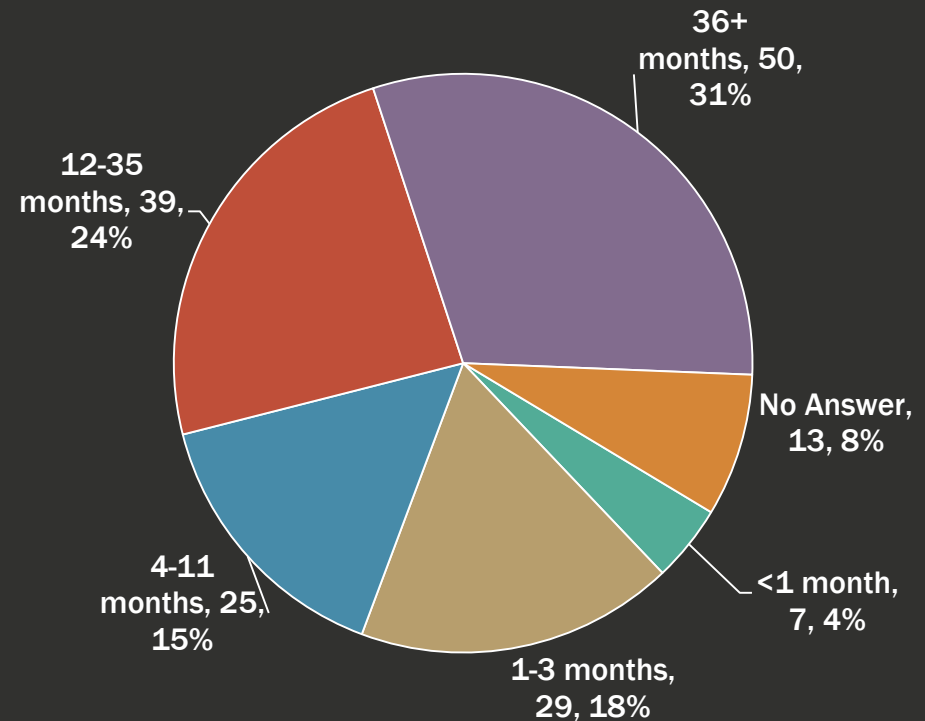
# Duration & Barriers of Homelessness

# Reported duration of homelessness

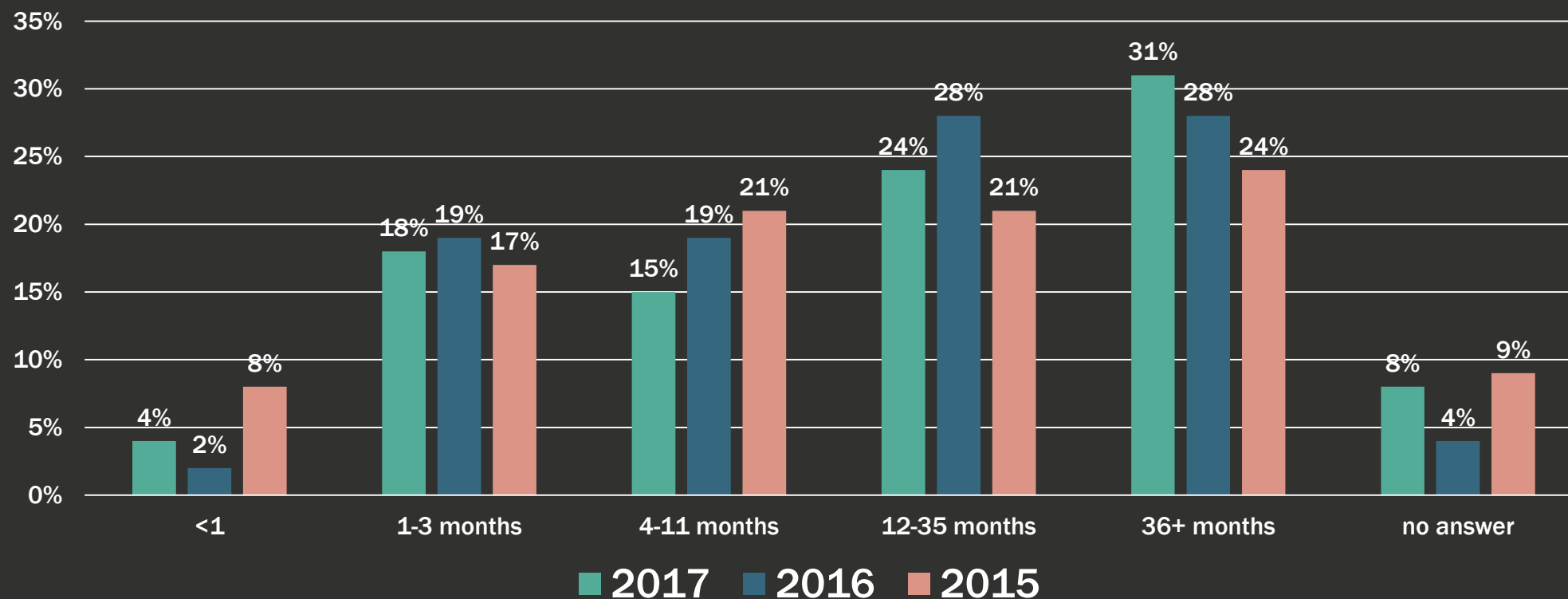
## Total Duration in Last 3 Years



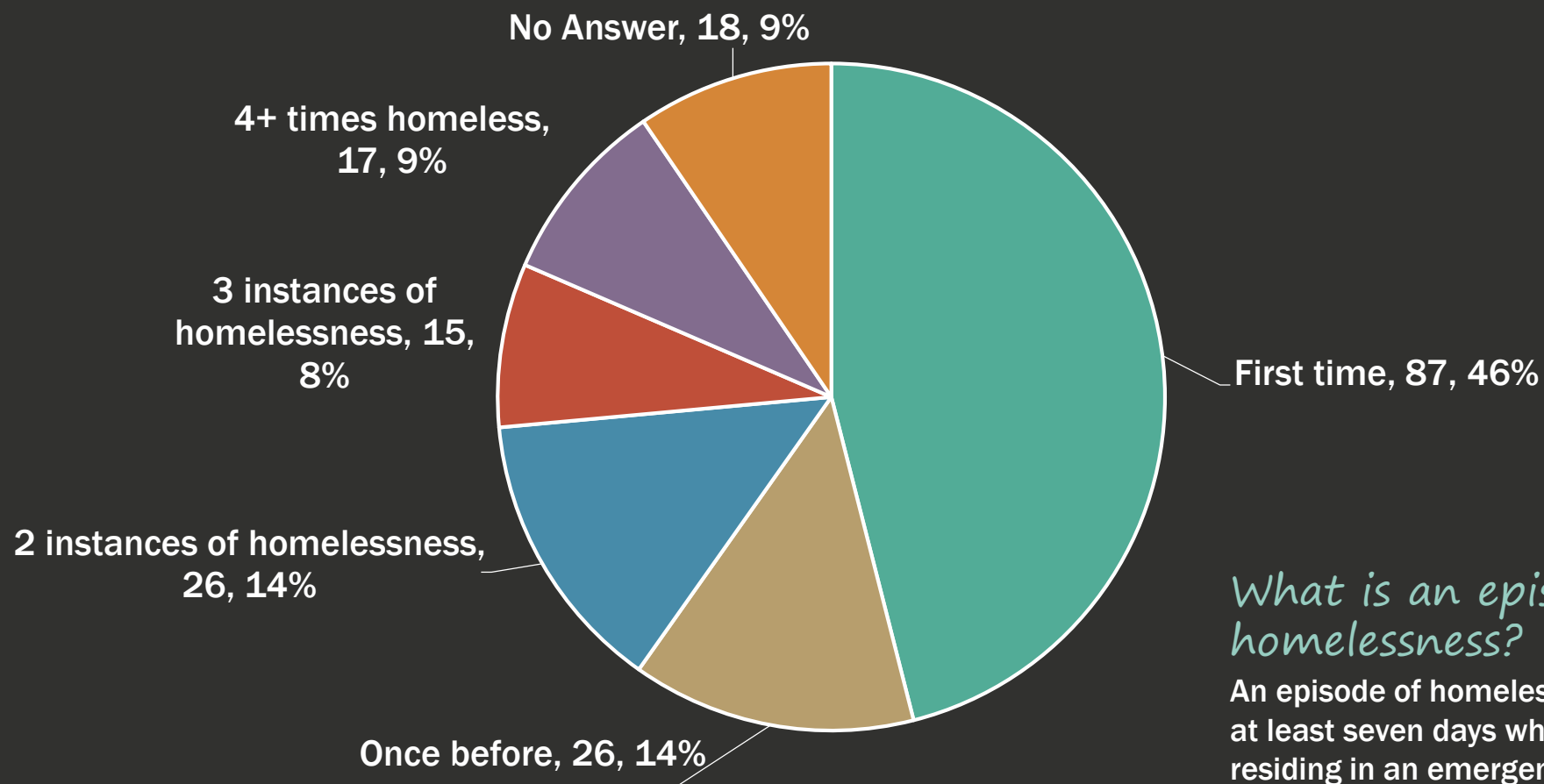
## Lifetime Duration



# Lifetime duration of homelessness 2015 to 2017



# Episodes of homelessness in last 3 years



*What is an episode of homelessness?*

An episode of homelessness ends with a break of at least seven days where the person is not residing in an emergency shelter, safe haven, or in a place meant for human habitation.

# Chronic Homelessness

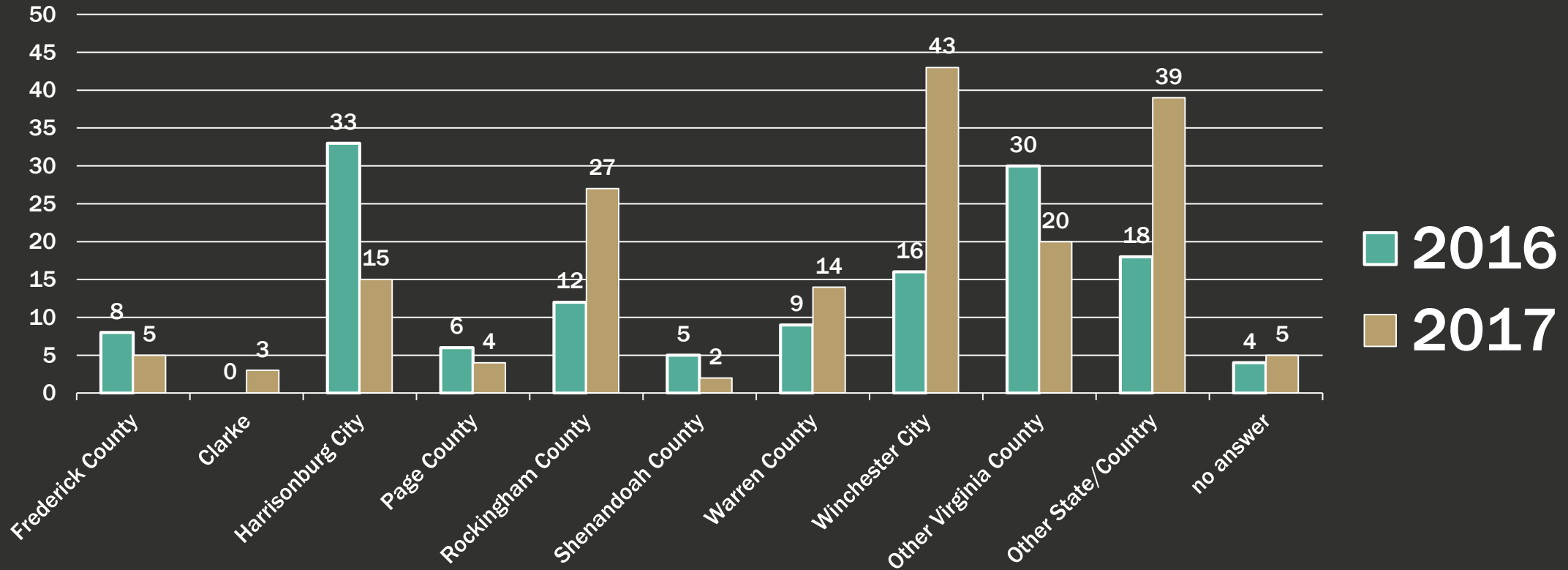
Defined by  
having a disability and either:

- 4+ times homeless in the past 3 years (duration 1+ year)
- or one episode of 12+ months duration in the past 3 years

The 2016 Virginia Point in Time identified 793 persons who were chronically homeless of 4,639 in Virginia, or 17% of persons counted.

**17% of surveyed adults (28 persons of 163) were identified as chronically homeless**

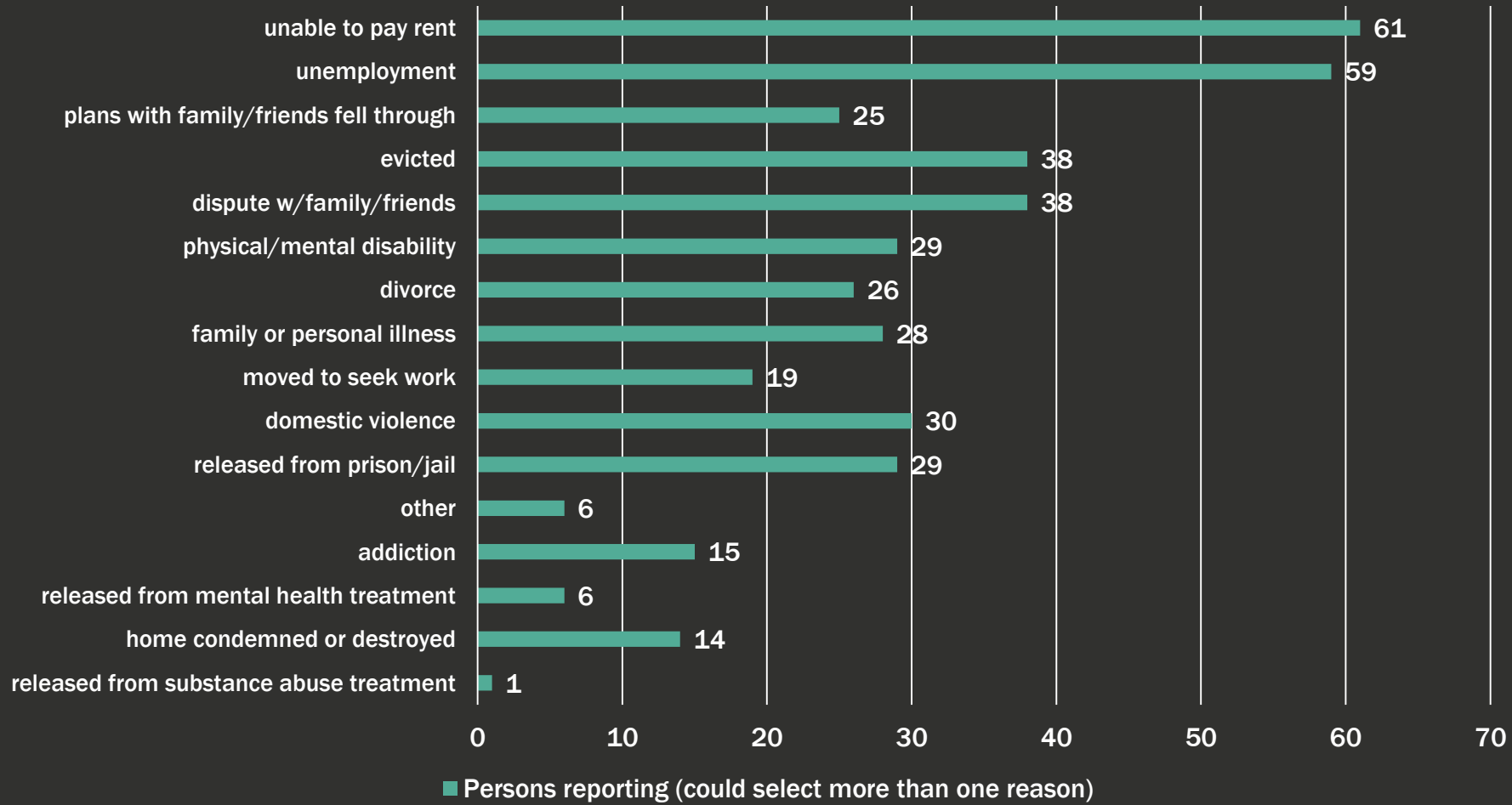
# Last Permanent Housing Location



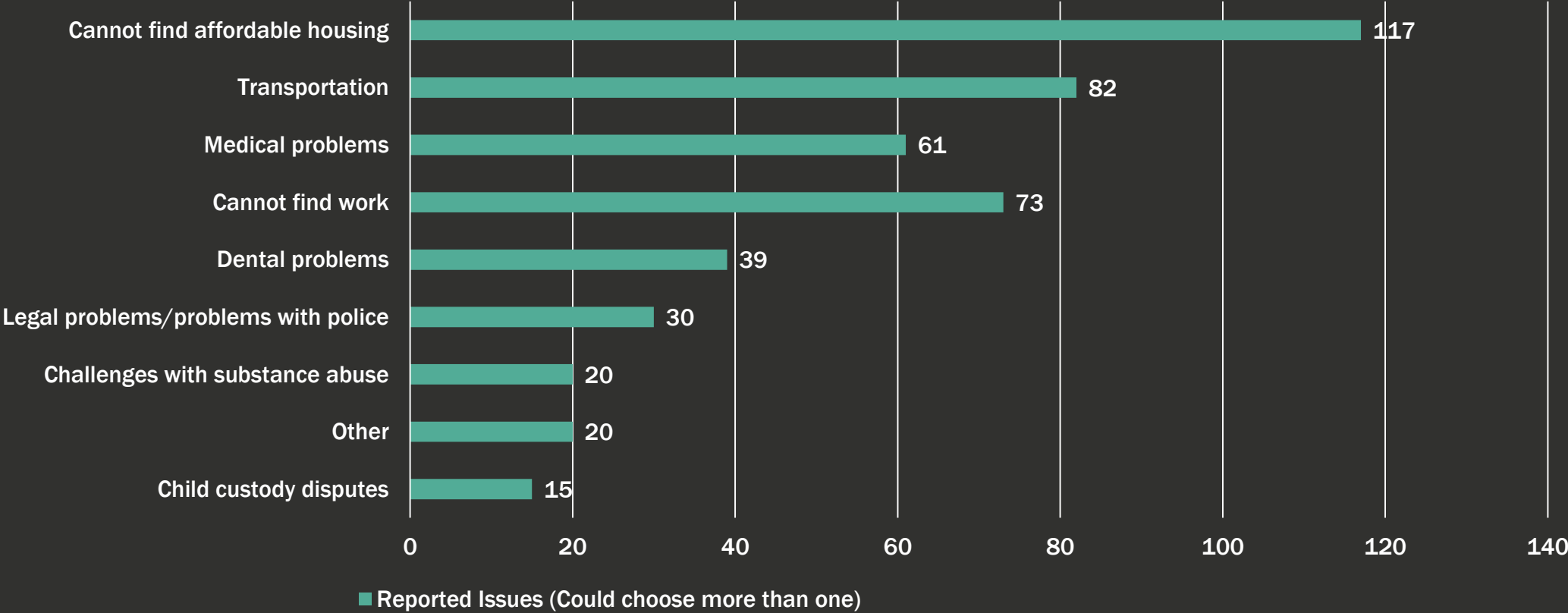
**60% of persons surveyed indicated their last permanent housing was within the Western CoC's geographic area.**



# Self-Reported Reasons for Homelessness



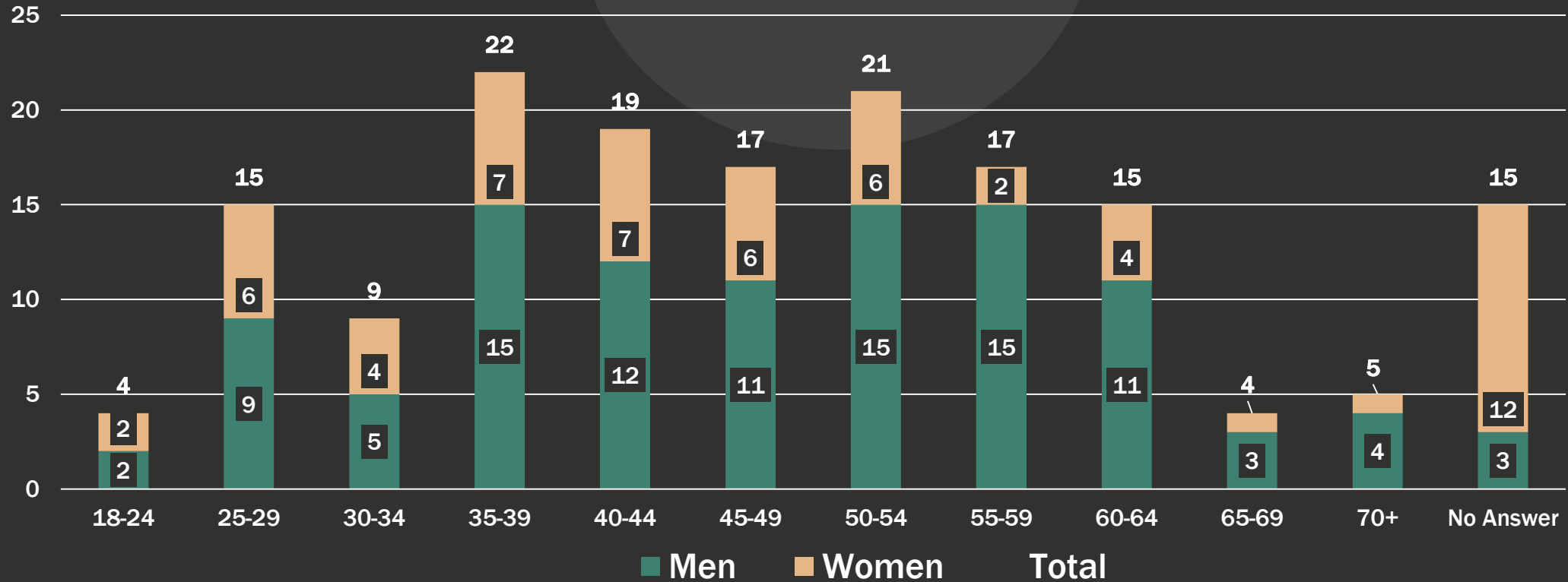
# Self-Reported Barriers to Stable Housing



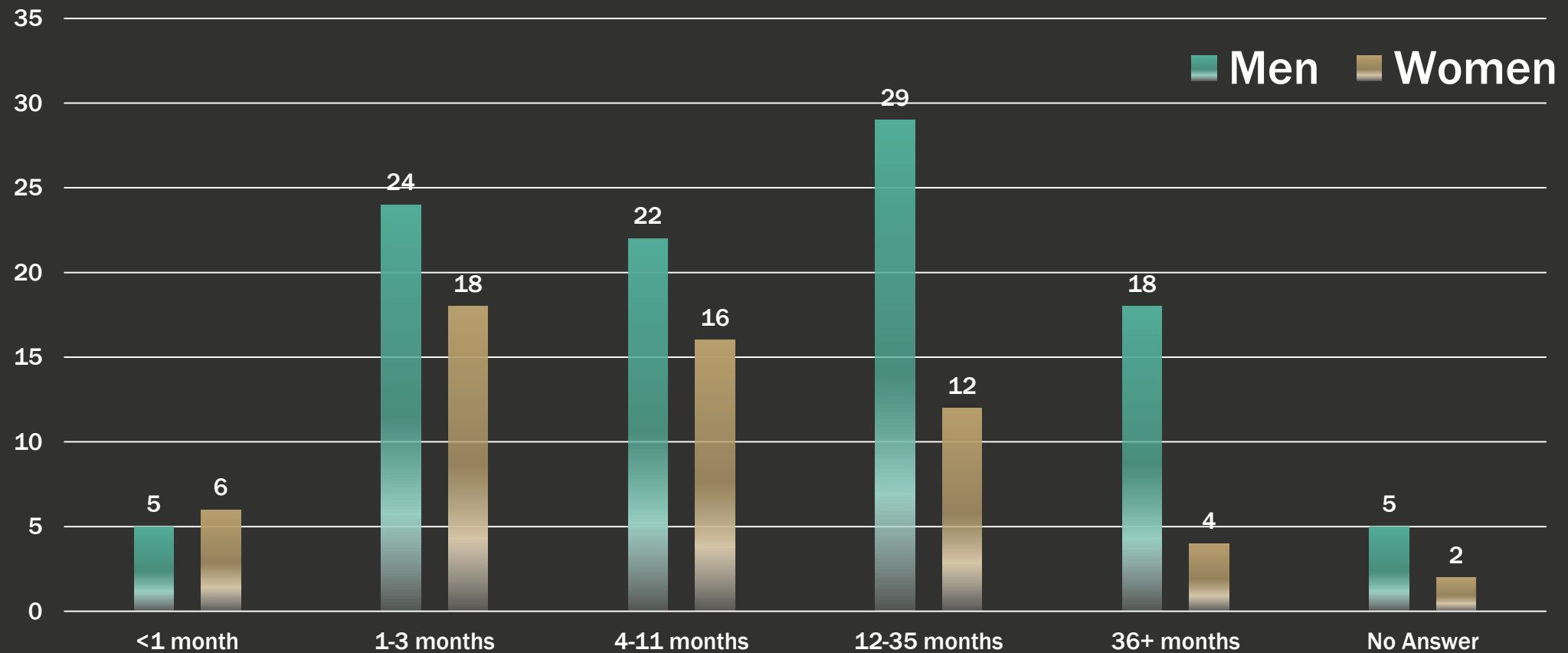
# Demographics

# Age and Gender

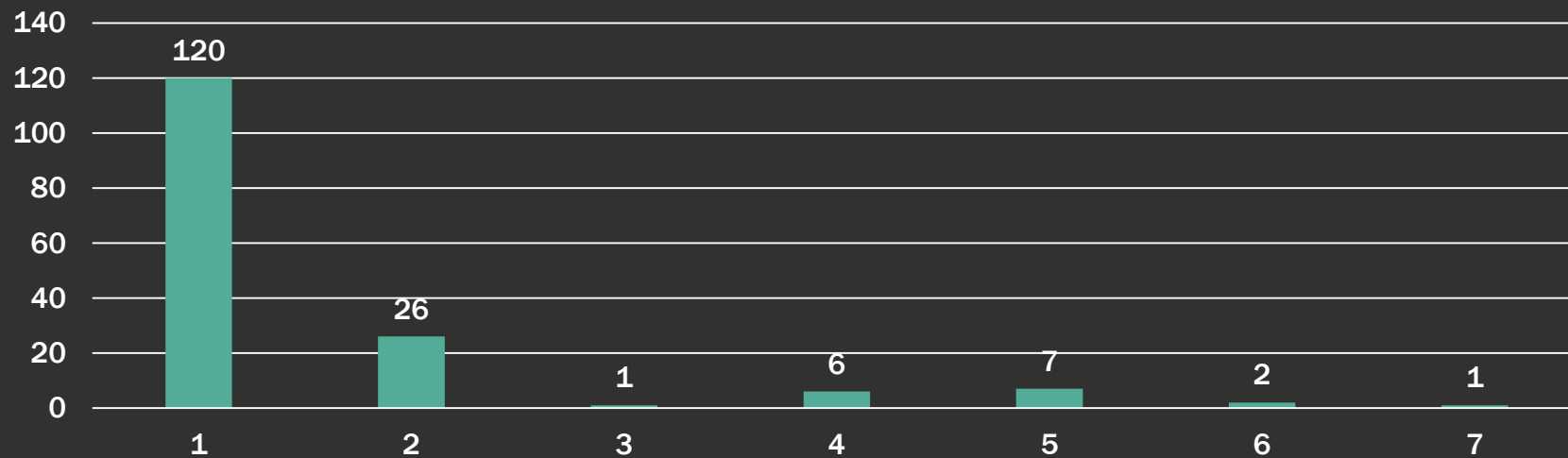
Average age: 46  
 Median male age 49  
 Median female age 42



# Length of Homelessness Past 3 Years, By Gender



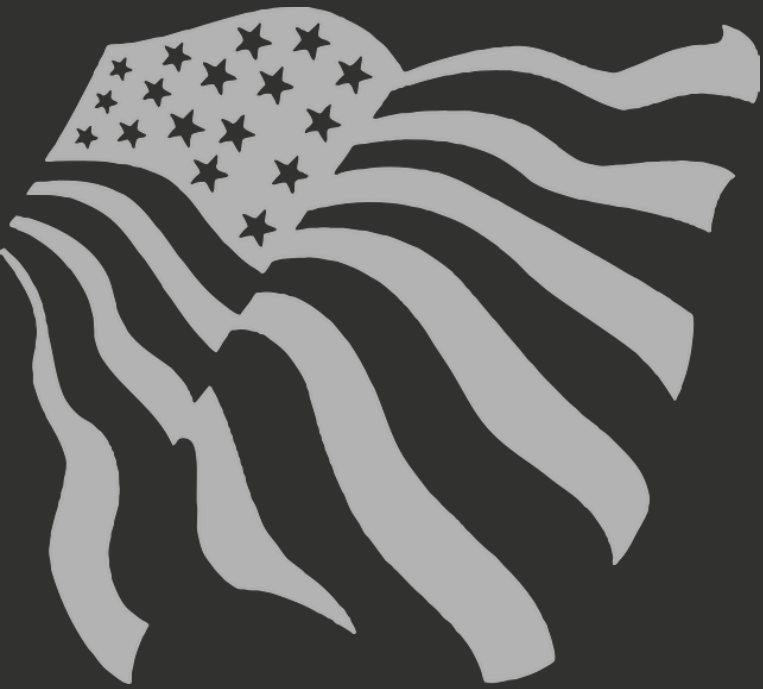
# 2017 Survey Respondents by Race and Ethnicity



**7% (10 persons)  
Identified as  
Latino/Hispanic**

**Sources:**

\*Hispanics may be of any race, so also are included in applicable race categories



## Surveyed Veterans

- 8% of all surveyed (11 of 140 who answered) identified as veterans.
- 27% of veterans (3 of 11) reported they receive VA Benefits
- 6 identified as former Army, 1 as former Air Force, 1 as a Marine and 2 as Navy.
- 5 identified as a combat veteran from the Vietnam War era.
- Discharged status
  - 7 Honorable
  - 2 Less than Honorable
  - 1 Dishonorable
  - 1 N/A

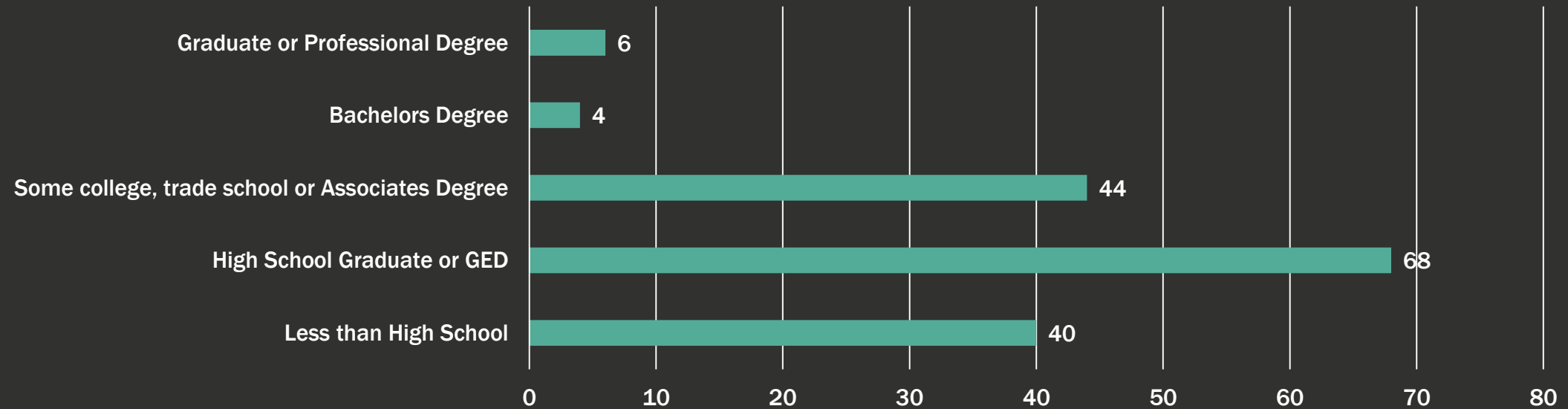
### War Era:

2 served during the Korean War (1950-1955)

2 served during the Persian Gulf (1991 - present)

1 served in Afghanistan (2001 – present)

# Education and Homelessness



*26% of surveyed (35 of 160 adults who answered) reported receiving special education services in school.*

*25% did not graduate High School or receive their GED.*



## Other Survey Statistics

- 71% of surveyed adults have served time in jail (26 women, 88 men)
- 29% of surveyed adults have served time in prison (5 women, 31 men)
- 12% said they were placed in foster care as a child

### U.S. Citizenship

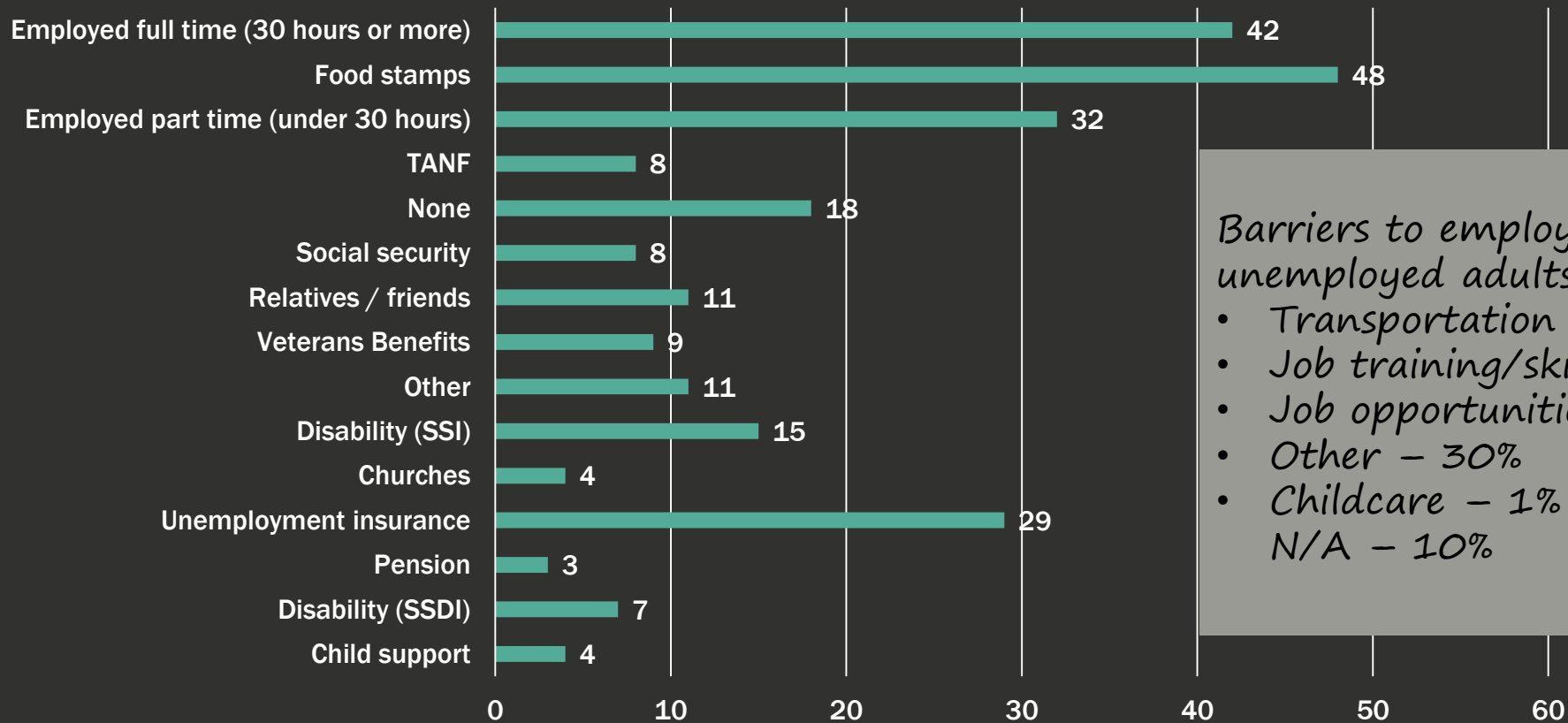
- 96% (156) said they were US citizens
- 3% (6) said they had legal residency
- 1% (1) said they were undocumented

# **Income and Resources**

# Financial Resources

Income sources identified in the last 6 months surveyed could choose more than one type

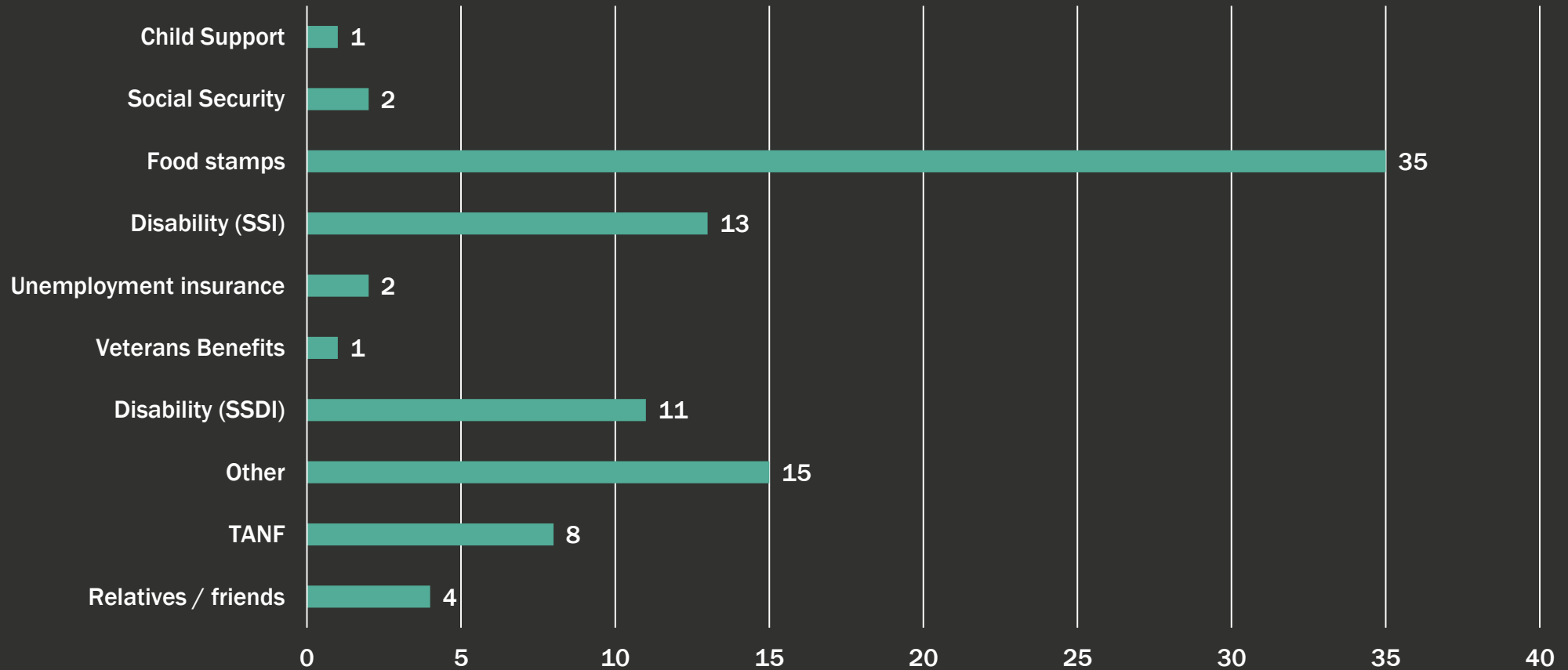
32% of adults currently employed



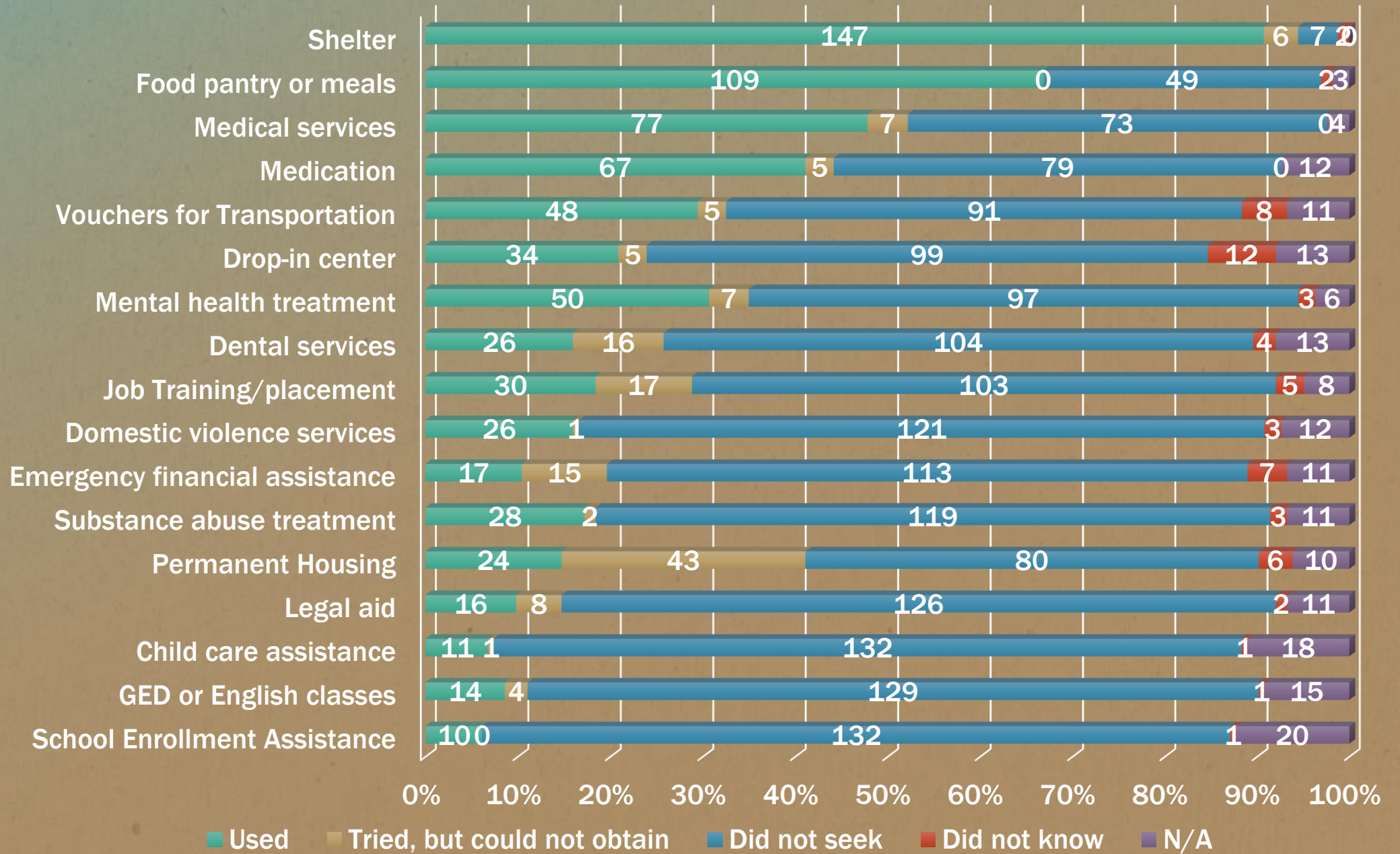
Barriers to employment identified by unemployed adults (110 persons surveyed):

- Transportation - 45%
- Job training/skills - 5%
- Job opportunities - 8%
- Other - 30%
- Childcare - 1%
- N/A - 10%

# Resources: Applied for Assistance/ Did Not Receive in the Past 6 months



# Community Services



**Health**

# Housing and Health

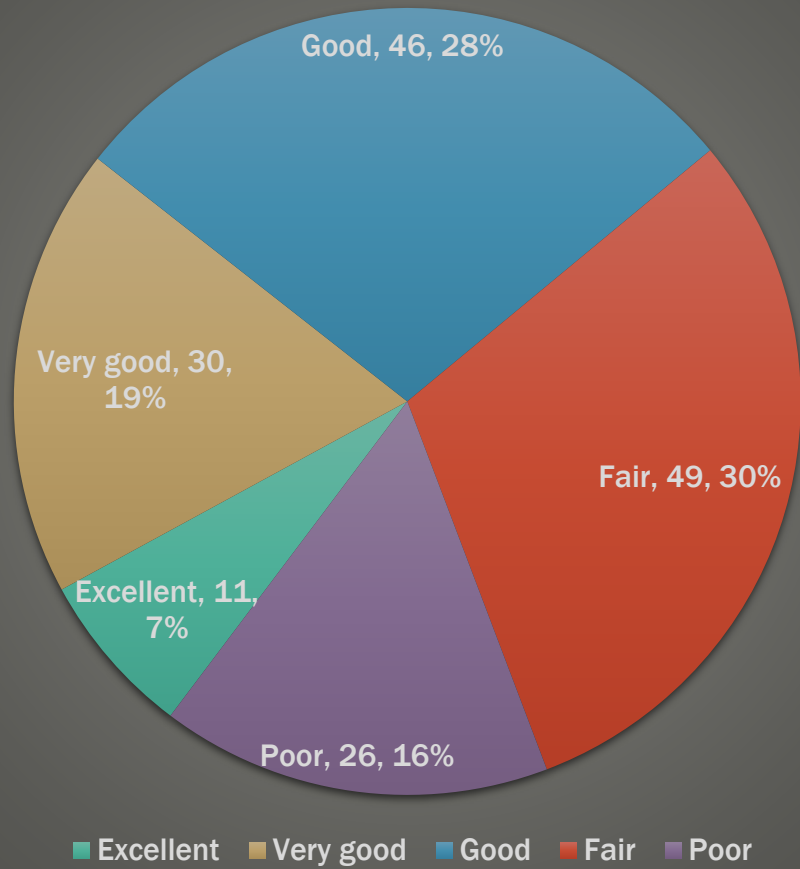
“Living on the street or in homeless shelters exacerbates existing health problems and causes new ones. Chronic diseases, such as hypertension, asthma, diabetes, mental health problems and other ongoing conditions, are difficult to manage under stressful circumstances and may worsen. Acute problems such as infections, injuries, and pneumonia are difficult to heal when there is no place to rest and recuperate...

When people have stable housing, they no longer need to prioritize finding a place to sleep each night and can spend more time managing their health, making time for doctors' appointments, and adhering to medical advice and directions. Housing also decreases the risk associated with further disease and violence. In many ways, housing itself can be considered a form of health care because it prevents new conditions from developing and existing conditions from worsening.”

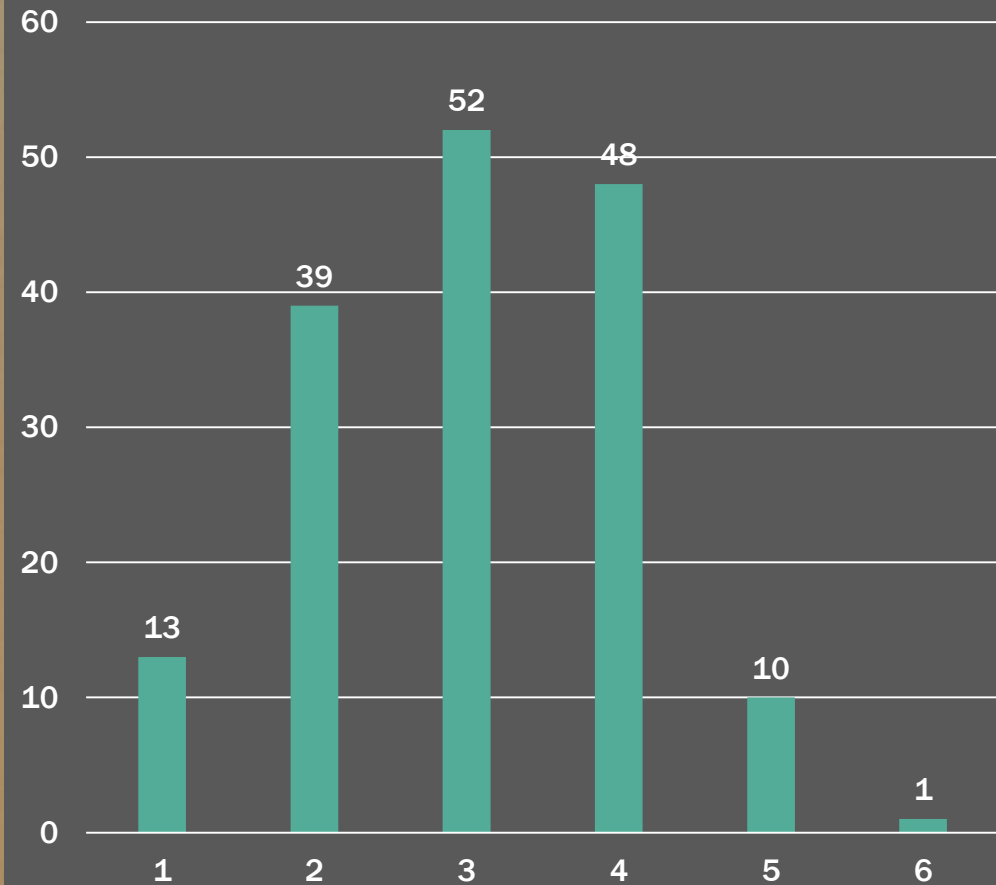
*<https://www.nhchc.org/faq/relationship-health-housing-homelessness/>*

# Health – Full CoC Area

## How is Your General Health?



## How Easy is it to Get Healthcare?

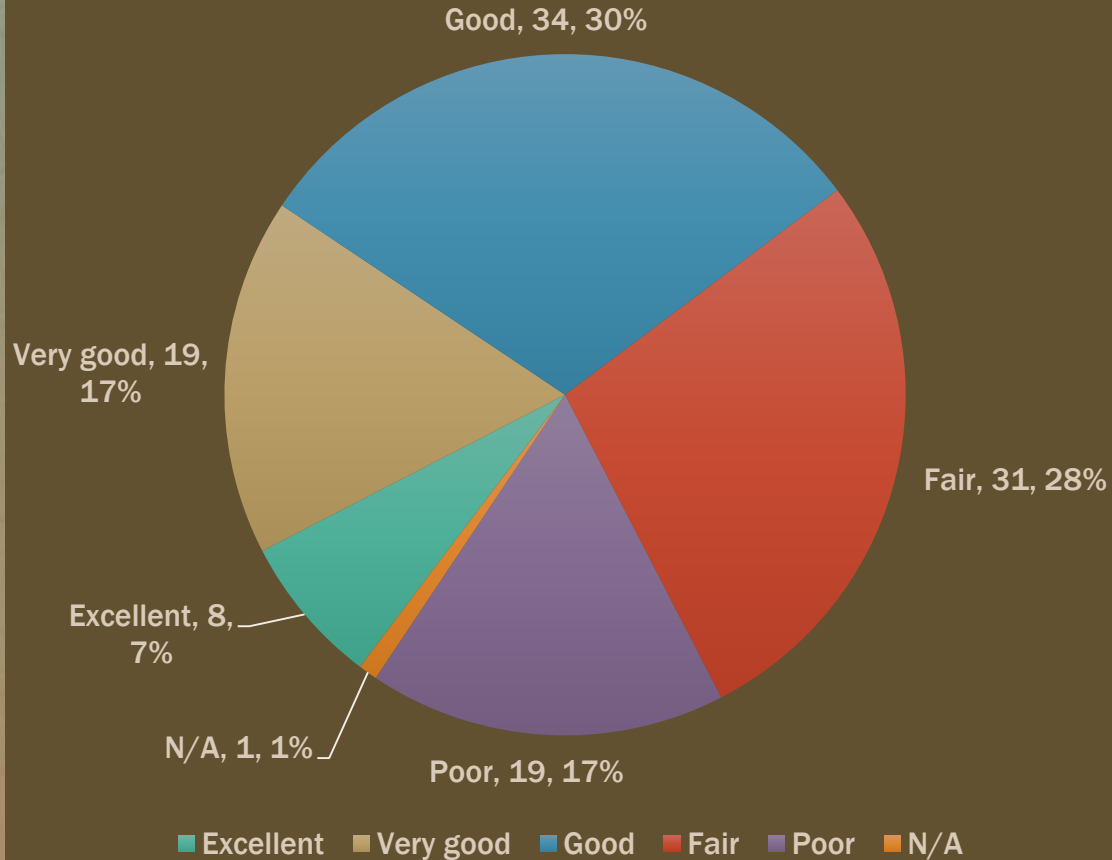




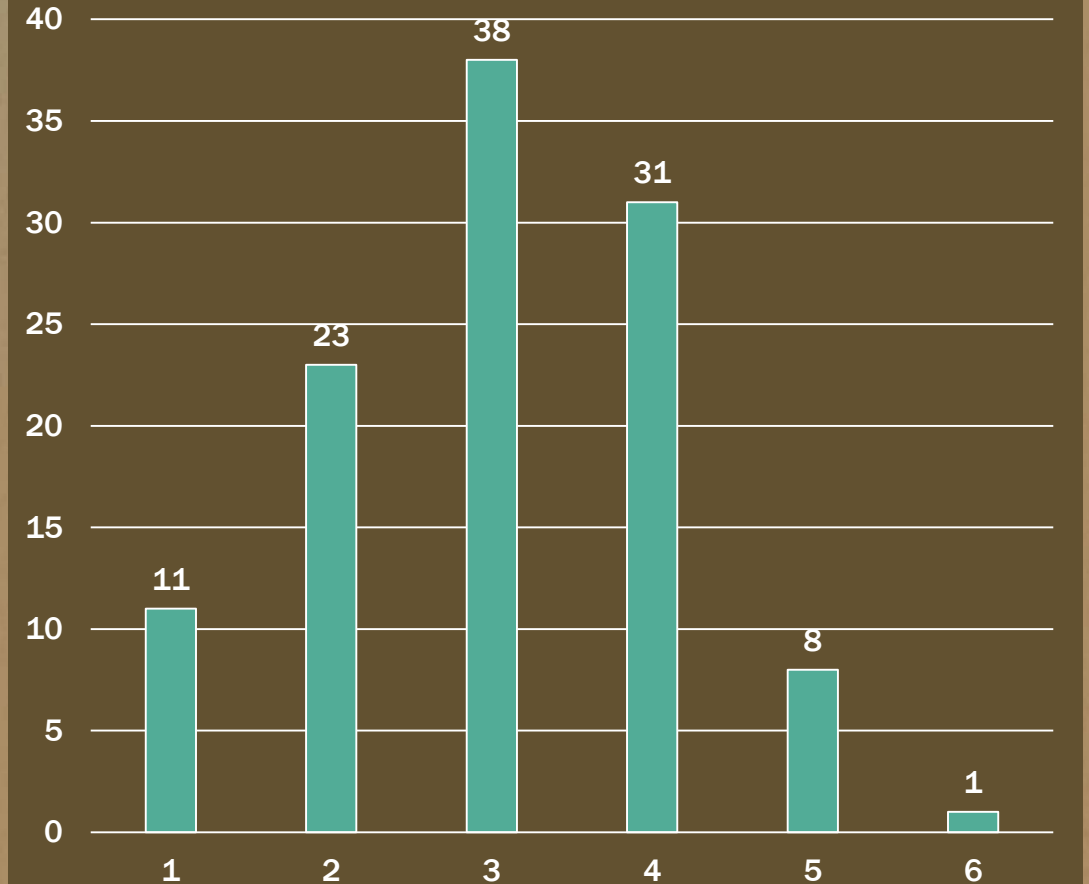
# Health – Northern Planning Group

Winchester/Frederick, Page, Warren, Shenandoah, Clarke Counties

## How is Your General Health?



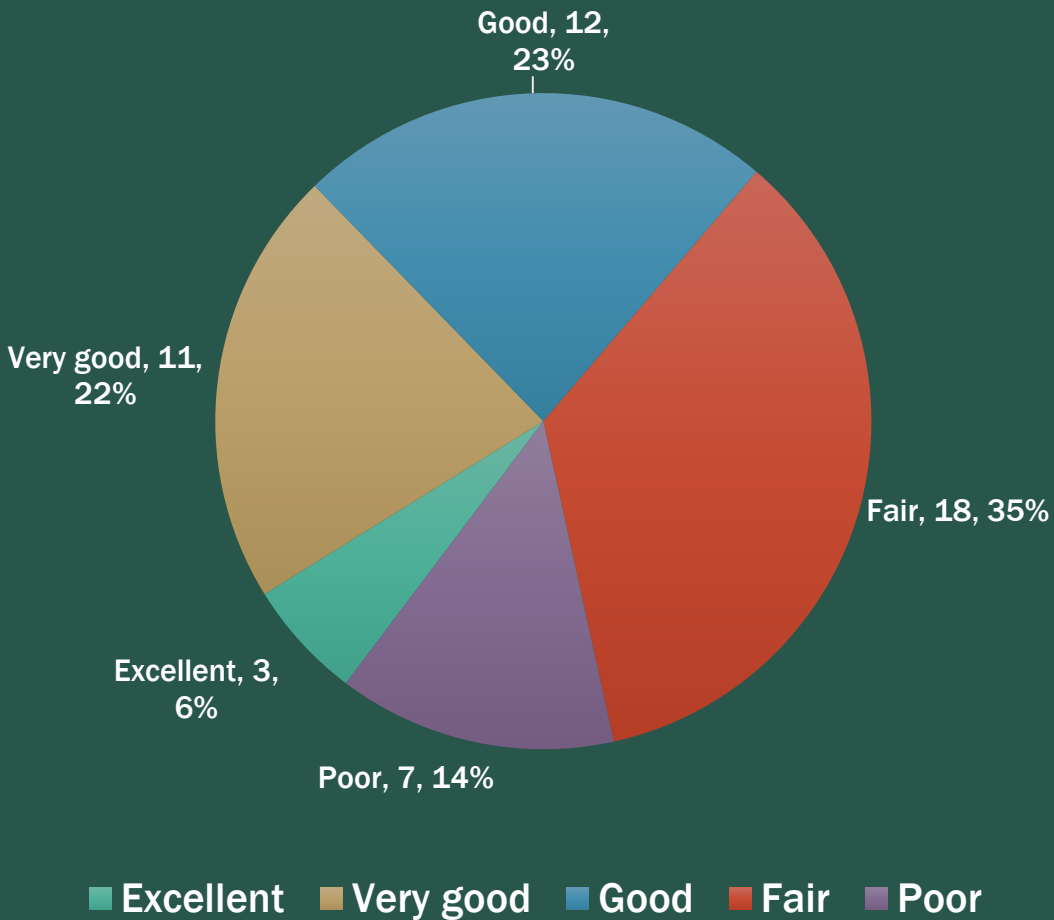
## How Easy is it to Get Healthcare?



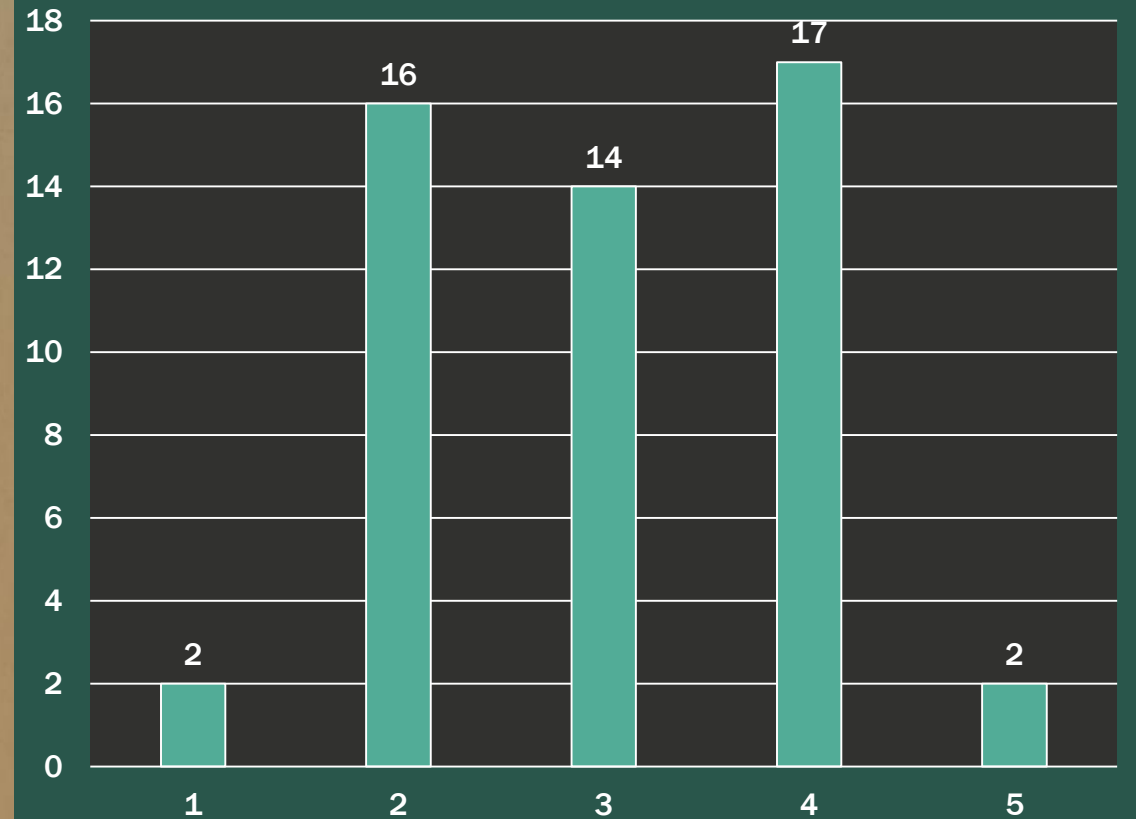
# Health - Southern Planning Group

Harrisonburg/Rockingham County

## How is Your General Health?

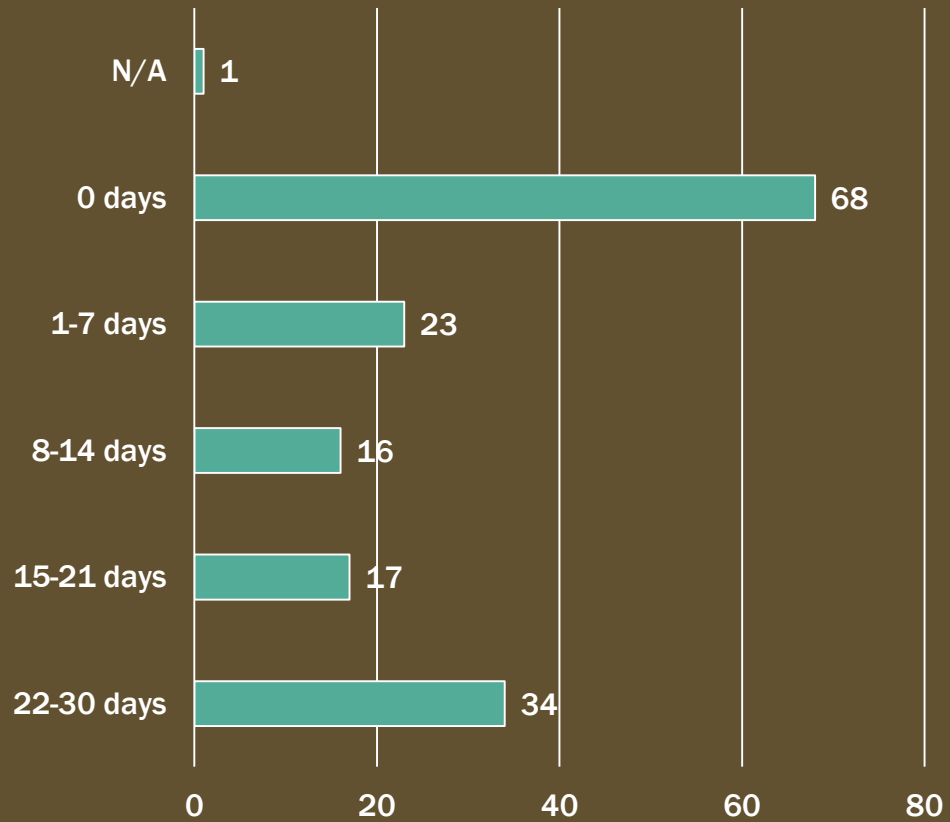


## How Easy is it to Get Healthcare?

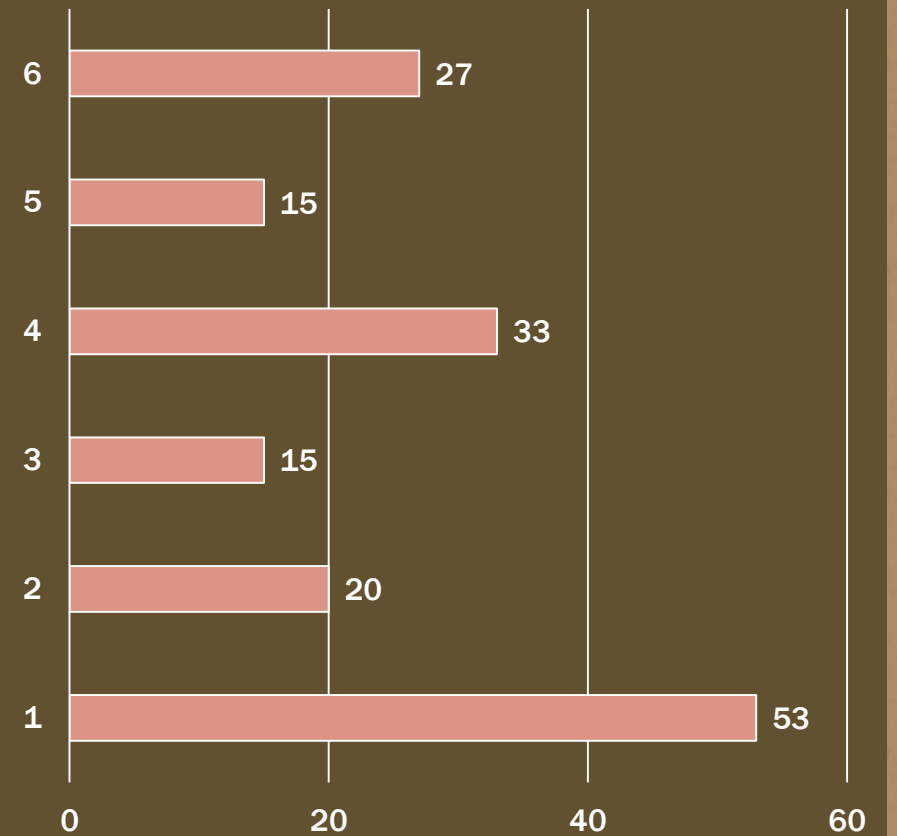


# Health in the last 30 days

How many days was your physical health not good in past 30 days?

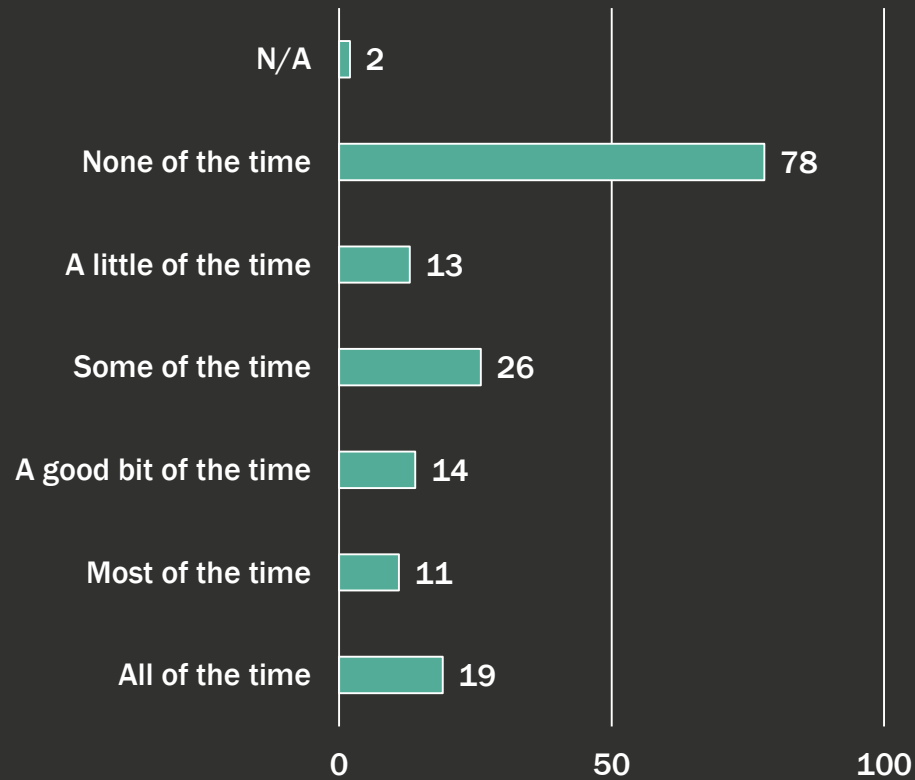


How many days was your mental health not good in past 30 days?

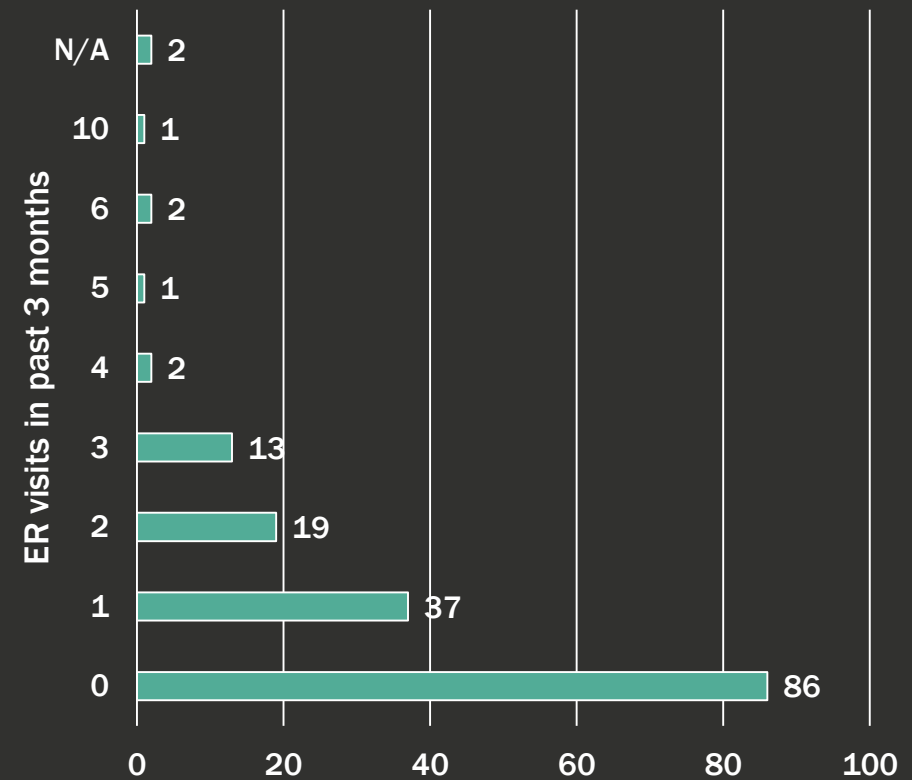


# Well-Being & Emergency Room Visits

How many days did poor mental or physical health keep you from usual activities in the past 30?



Number of Emergency R visits in the past 3 months



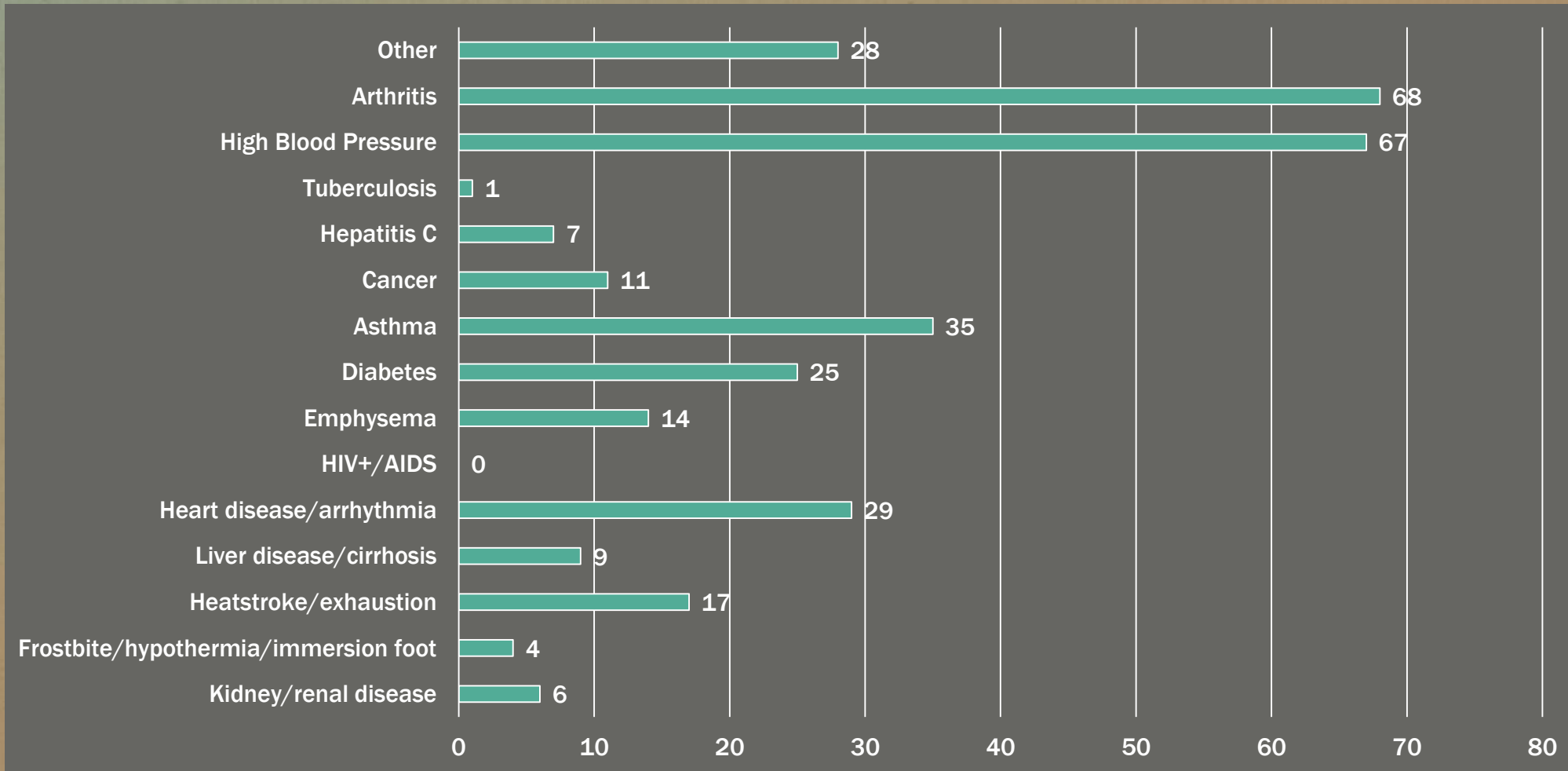
# Emergency Room Visits and Admittance in the Past Year

**163 adults reported 366 trips to the emergency room  
in the past year.**

**An average of 2.24 trips to the Emergency Room per Homeless Adult.**

- **Average 2.09 visits per person in the Northern Region (112 Adults)**
- **Average 2.56 visits per person in the Southern Region (51 Adults)**

# Medical Conditions Reported



# Misc. Health and Substance Abuse

- Have you ever abused alcohol? Yes (50) 31%
- Have you ever abused drugs? Yes (44) 27%
- Ever used injection drugs or shots? Yes (25) 15%
- In the past month, 87 persons have not had a drink (58%), 13 had one drink a day (8%), 24 reported more than one drink daily (34%) (151 answered).
- History of treatment for drug or alcohol abuse?  
Drug treatment (25) 16%  
Alcohol treatment (31) 14%
- Have you been a victim of a violent attack since becoming homeless? Yes (27) 17%
- Do you have a permanent physical disability that limits mobility? Yes (34) 21%
- Have you had a serious brain injury or trauma that required hospitalization or surgery?  
Yes, (32), 20%

# Estimated Cost of Hospital Admissions

- 1,095 days of in-patient hospitalization were reported, including one person reporting 270 days.
- Virginia average cost\* per day of hospitalization at a non-profit hospital; \$1,753.00\*
- Estimated cost of all admissions (1,095 days x \$1,753.00) = \$1,919,535
- 99 of 163 persons indicated they did not have insurance (61%)
- 620 of 1,095 days (57%) of hospital in-patient days were uninsured.
- Estimated cost of hospitalization for the uninsured: \$1,086,860

\*2014 statistics

<http://www.beckershospitalreview.com/finance/average-cost-per-inpatient-day-across-50-states-2016.html>



# Thank you

We would like to thank the people who shared their stories with our community volunteers. Your willingness to talk to us helps us all.

We would like to thank each community volunteer and for their help and participation in the Point-In-Time count effort and administering the Housing Index and Vulnerability survey.

A special thank you to Professor Rita Poteyeva PhD Assistant Professor in the Department of Justice Studies and her Research Methods class for codifying the survey answers for the Continuum of Care. Her assistance has been invaluable to our community.

Also, a thank you to Carol Grace Hurst, PhD, MSW, LCSW, Associate Professor and Director of Social Work and her students at Eastern Mennonite University for their volunteer assistance administering surveys.

For more information about this presentation, please contact Laura Black, Point in Time Coordinator at (540) 908-0416 or email [lblack@harrisonburgrha.com](mailto:lblack@harrisonburgrha.com)

**The end**