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2-13-2013

### NH Homeless access survey

NH Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Homeless and Housing Services, and the NH Coalition to End Homelessness

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# NH Homeless Access Survey

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Coordinated by NH Department of Health & Human Services  
Bureau of Homeless & Housing Services  
and  
The NH Coalition to End Homelessness



# NH Homeless Access Survey

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- The purpose of this survey is to better understand the demographics of homelessness in NH and the homeless population's access to available services offered.
- We partner with students who administer the survey, via person-to-person interviews, at pre-selected sites.

# Participating Schools

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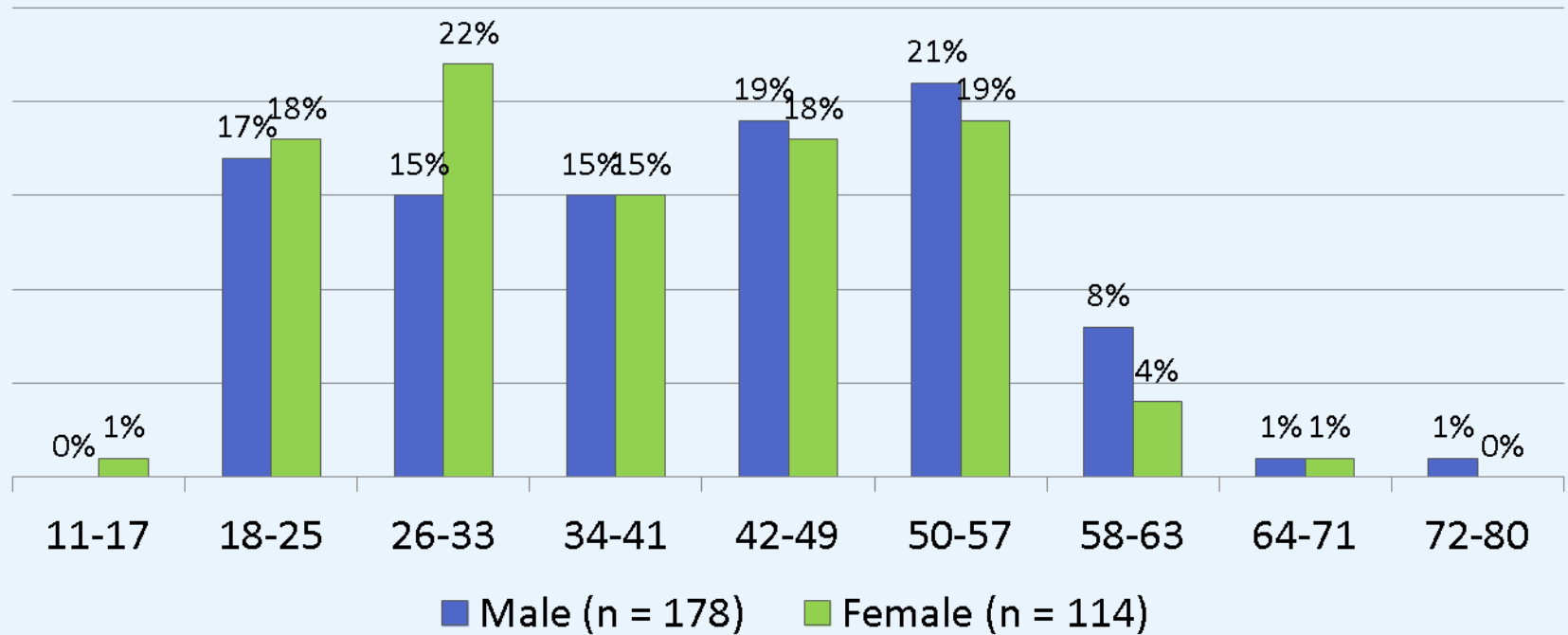
- University of New Hampshire, Durham
- University of New Hampshire, Manchester
- Keene State College
- Plymouth State University
- New England College
- New Hampshire Technical Institute, Concord
- Rivier College
- Nashua Community College
- St. Anselm College
- Dartmouth College (William Jewett Tucker Foundation)

# Demographics

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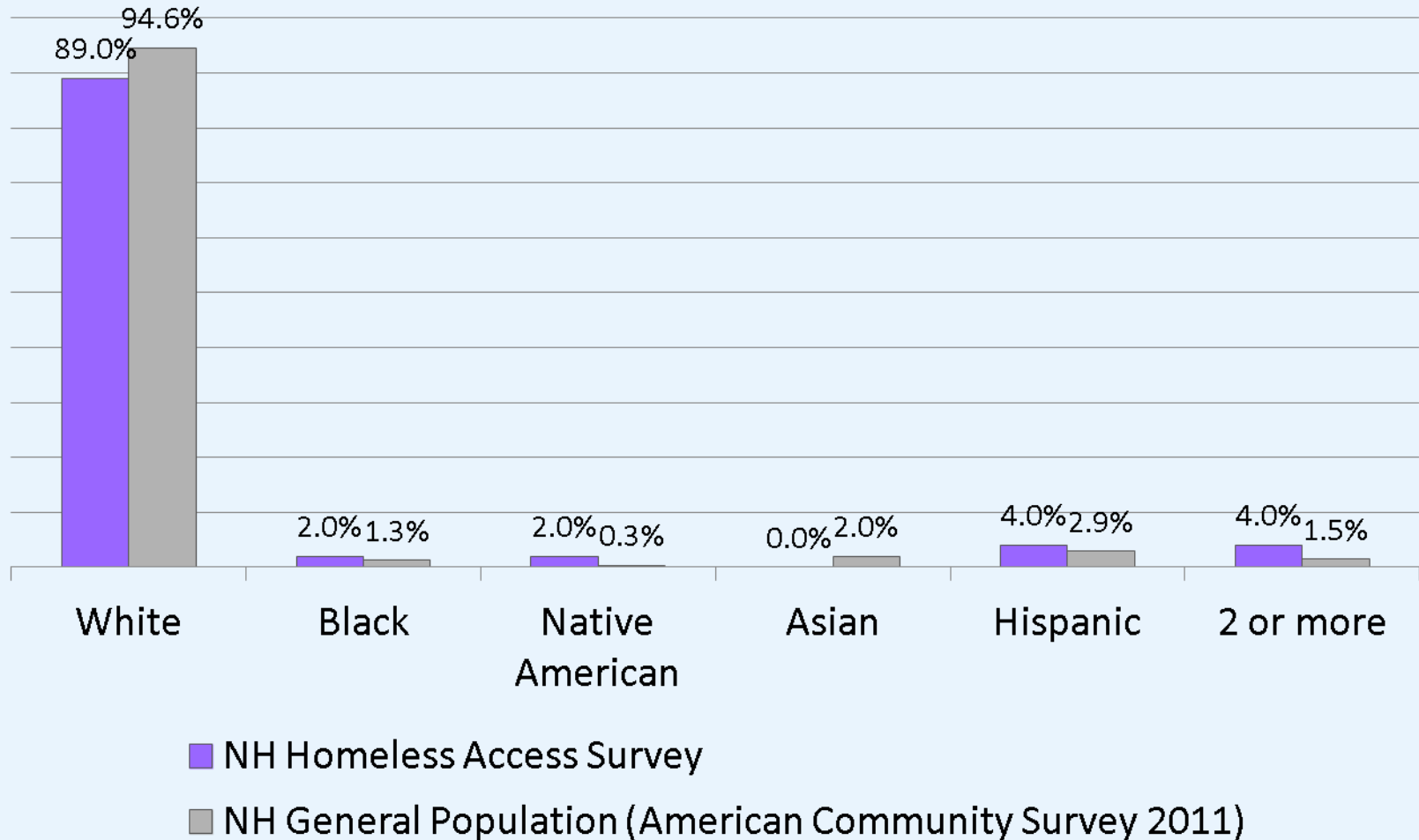


# Age



# Race and ethnicity

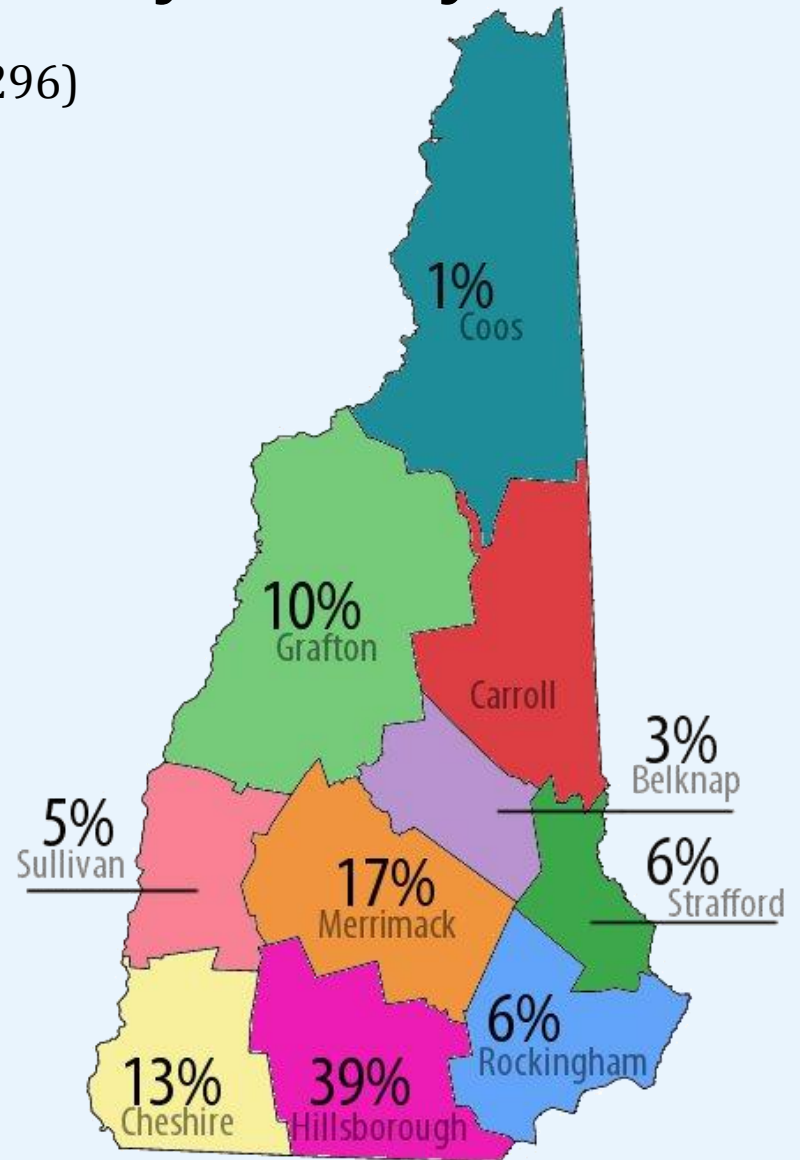
(categories overlap, n = 296)



# Survey location by county

(n = 296)

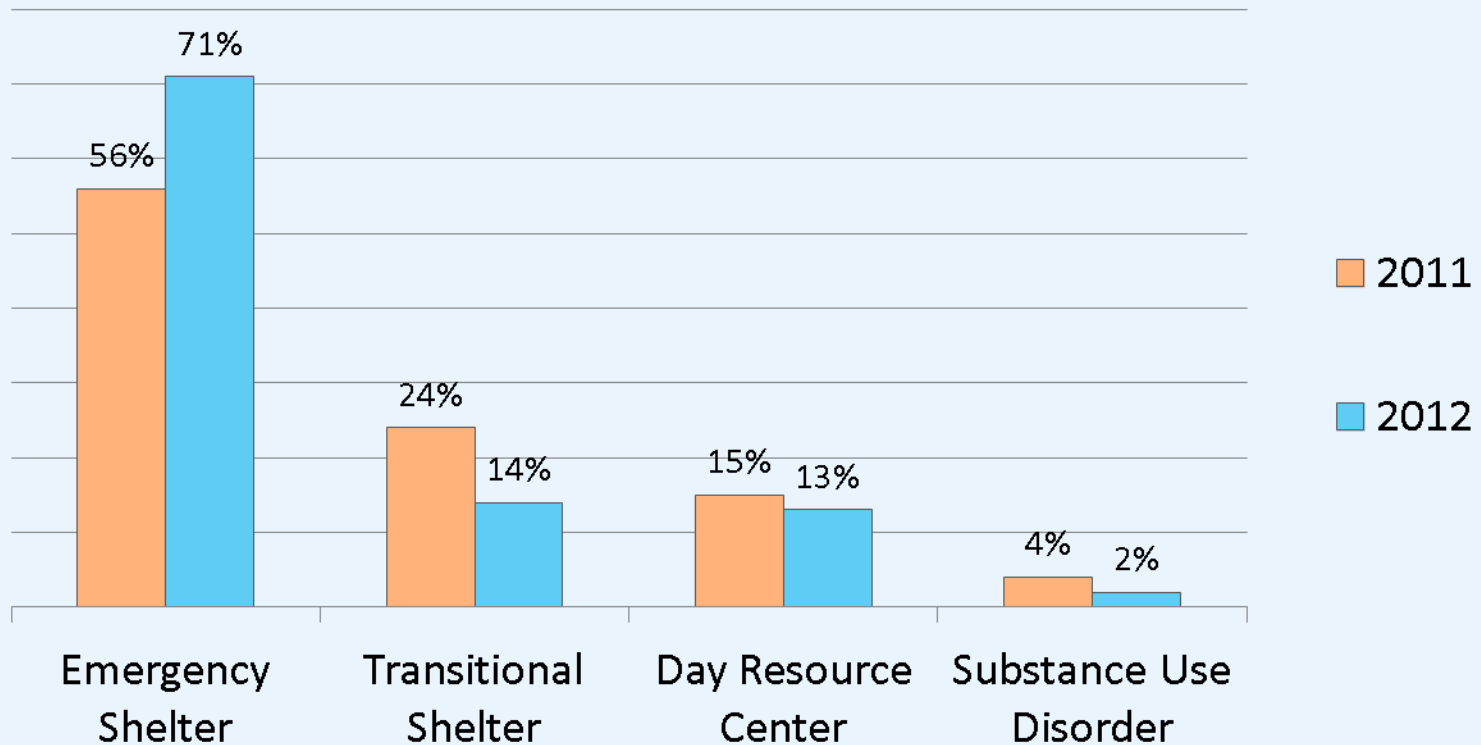
- 32 Interview locations





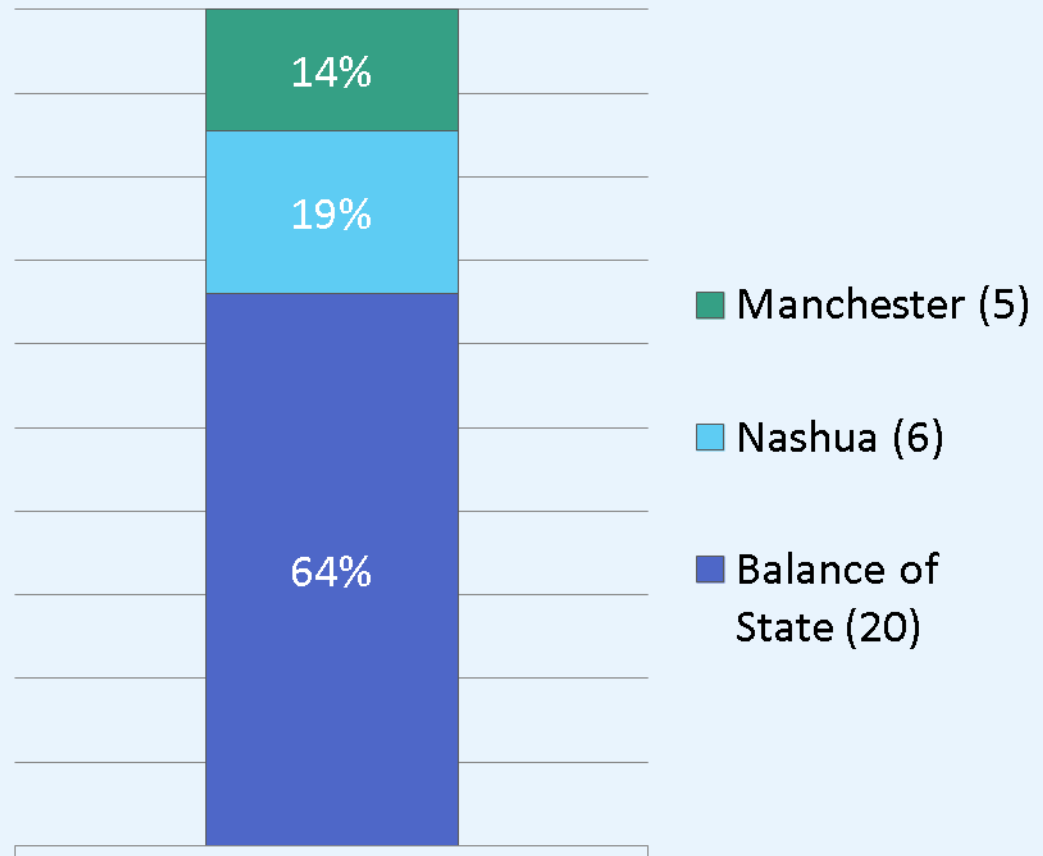
# Survey site by year

(n = 296)



# Were you ever in the Armed Forces?

- Statewide: 31 people answered Yes
- 10% of total survey respondents



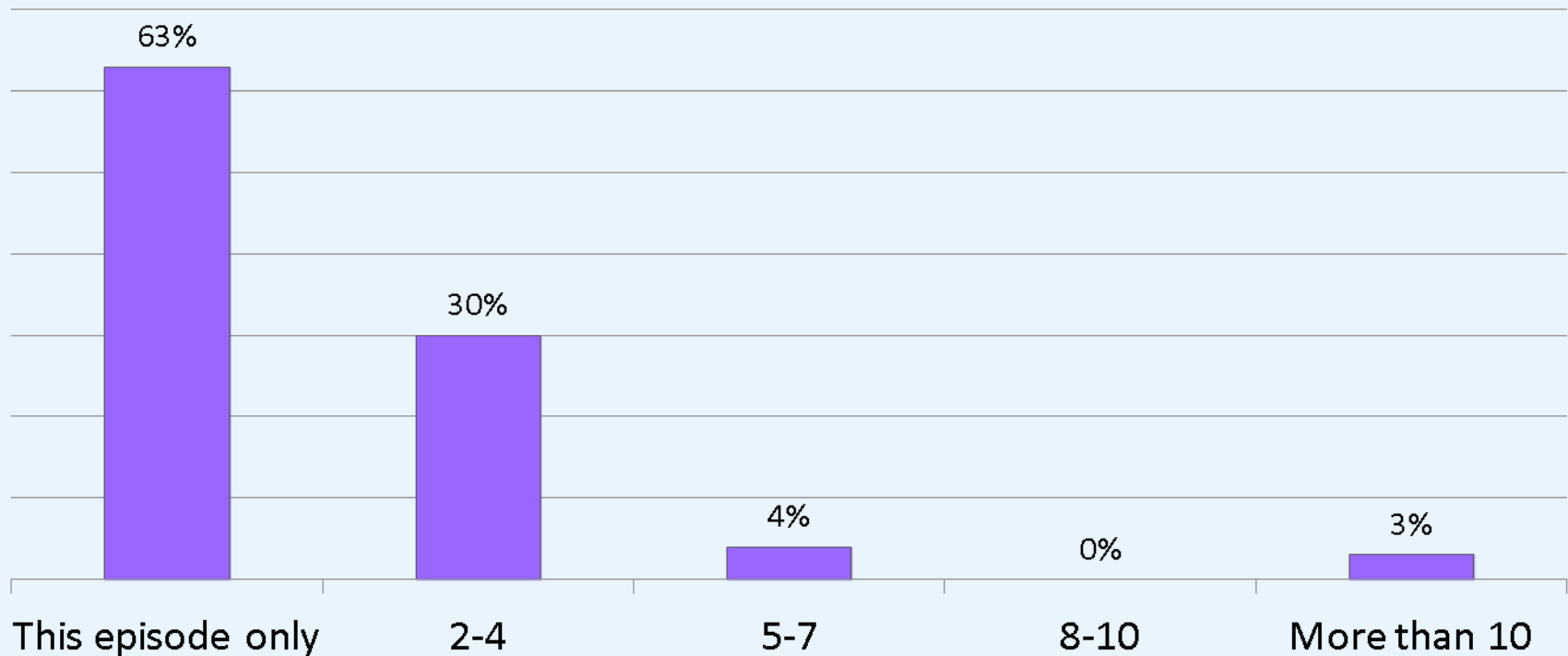
# Frequency and Duration of Homelessness

10



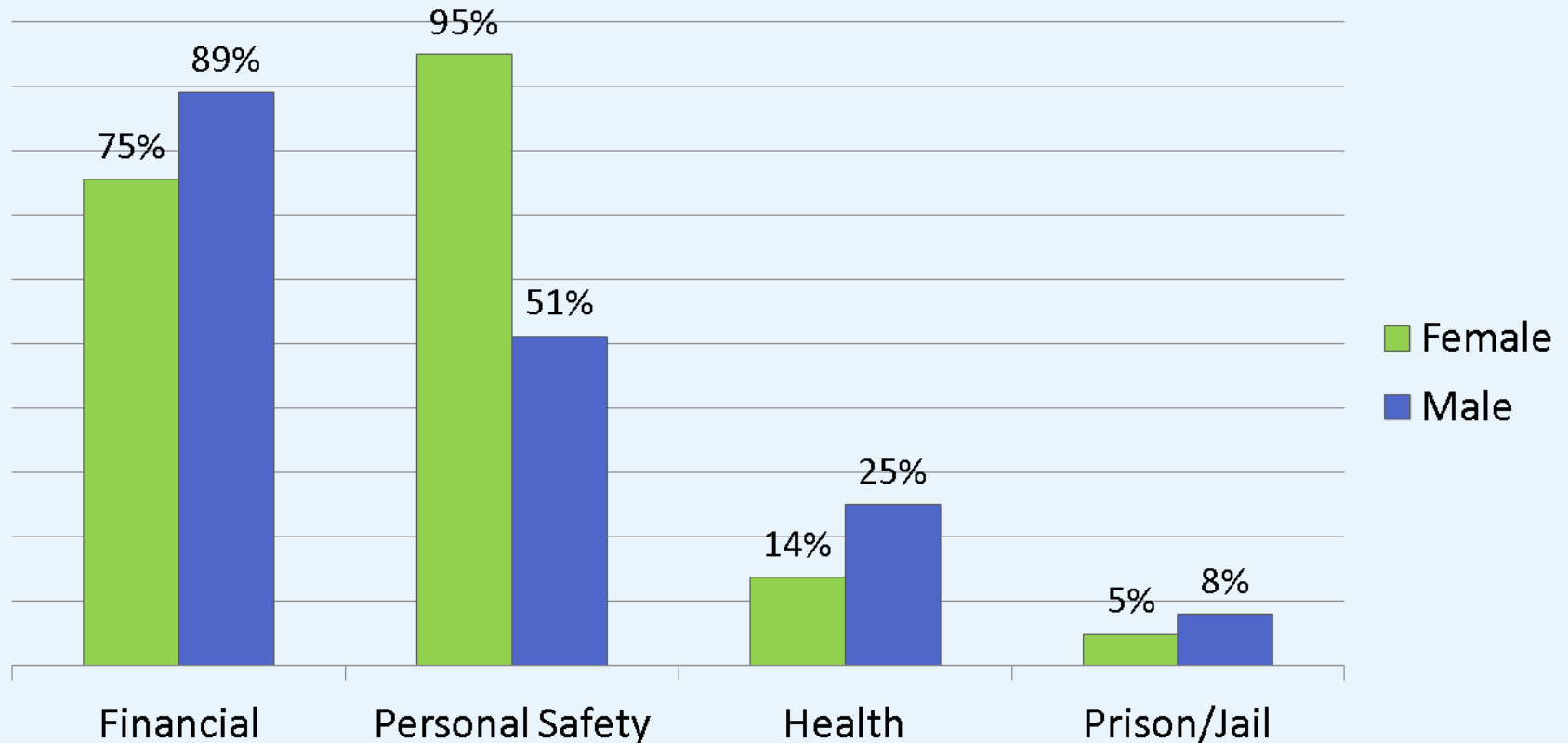
# How many times homeless in the past 3 years?

(n = 296)



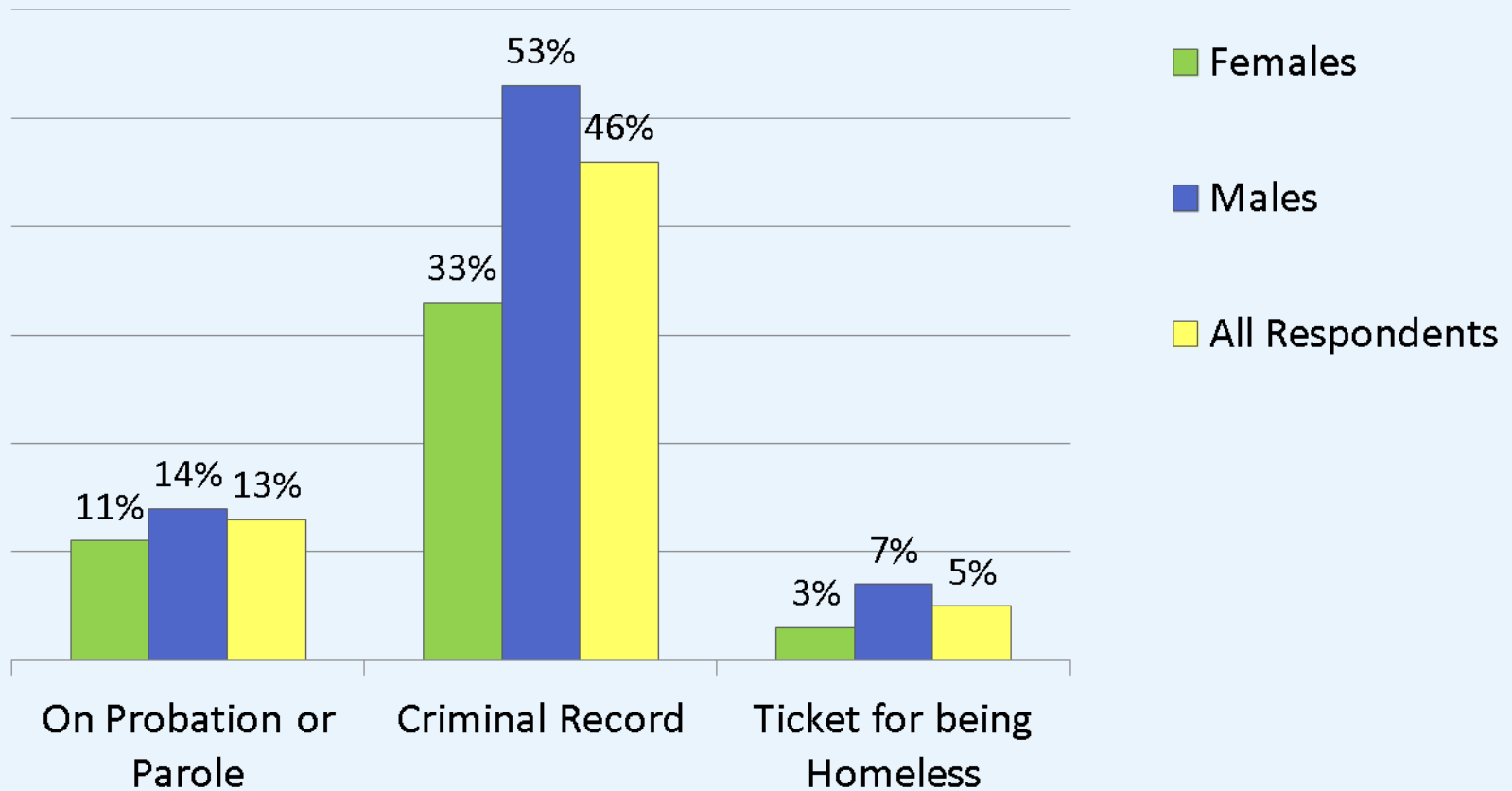
# Reasons for homelessness

(Categories overlap, n = 296)



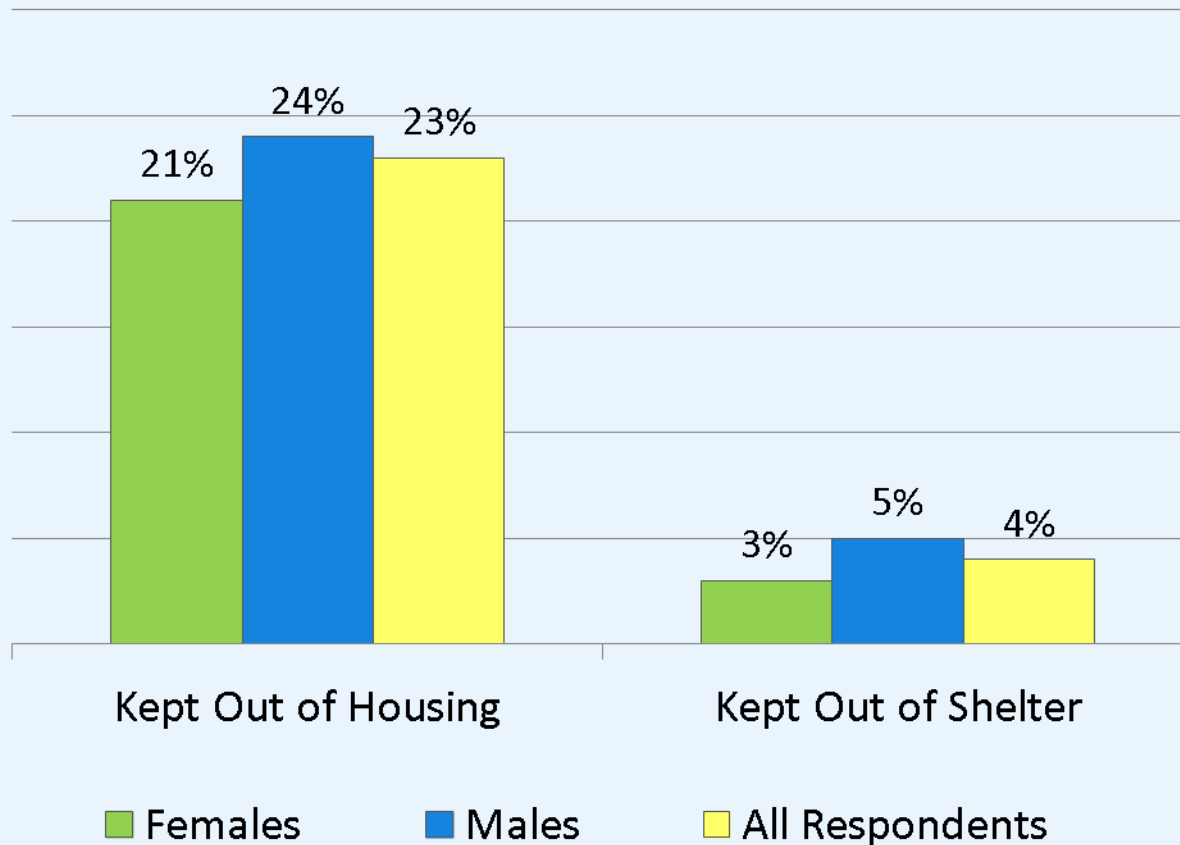
# Criminal background

(Categories overlap, n = 296)



# Has your criminal record kept you out of housing/shelters?

(Categories overlap, n = 134)



*Nearly 1 out of 4 of those who said they had a criminal record also said that this kept them out of housing.*

*45% of those who said “yes” to “kept out of housing” were also in the group that said they were homeless for 10+ months.*

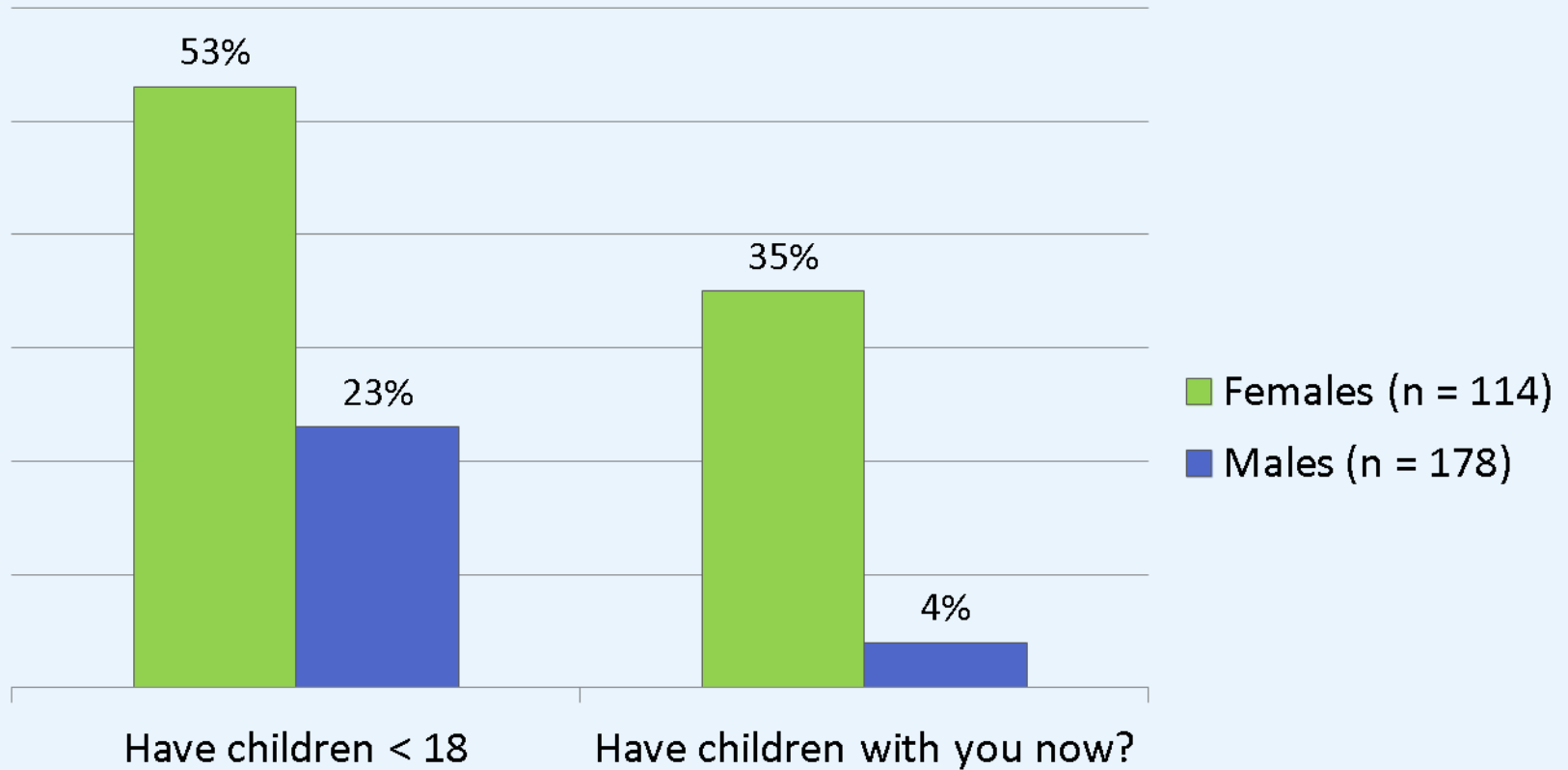
# Parents and Children

15

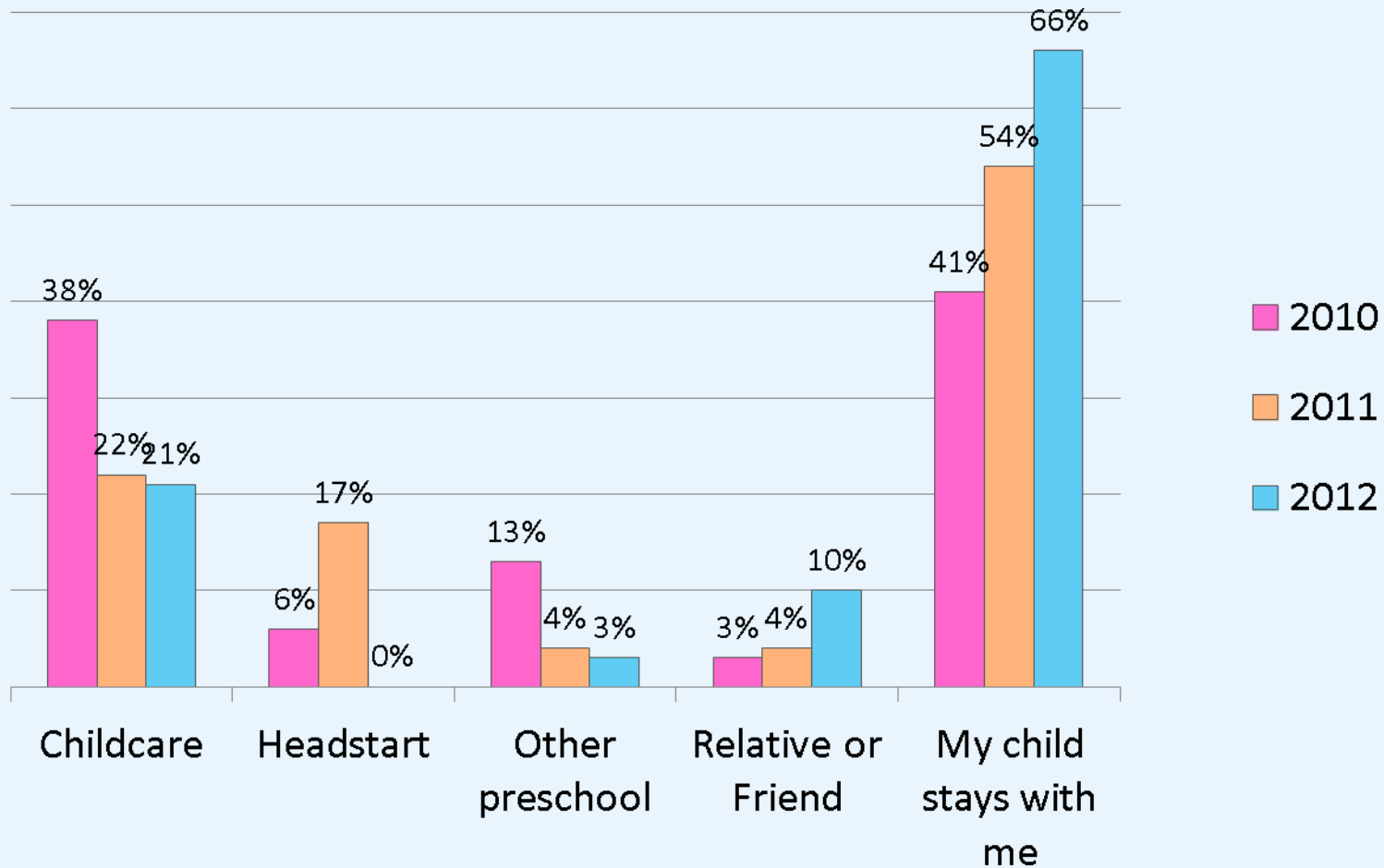




# Family separation



# Preschool child care

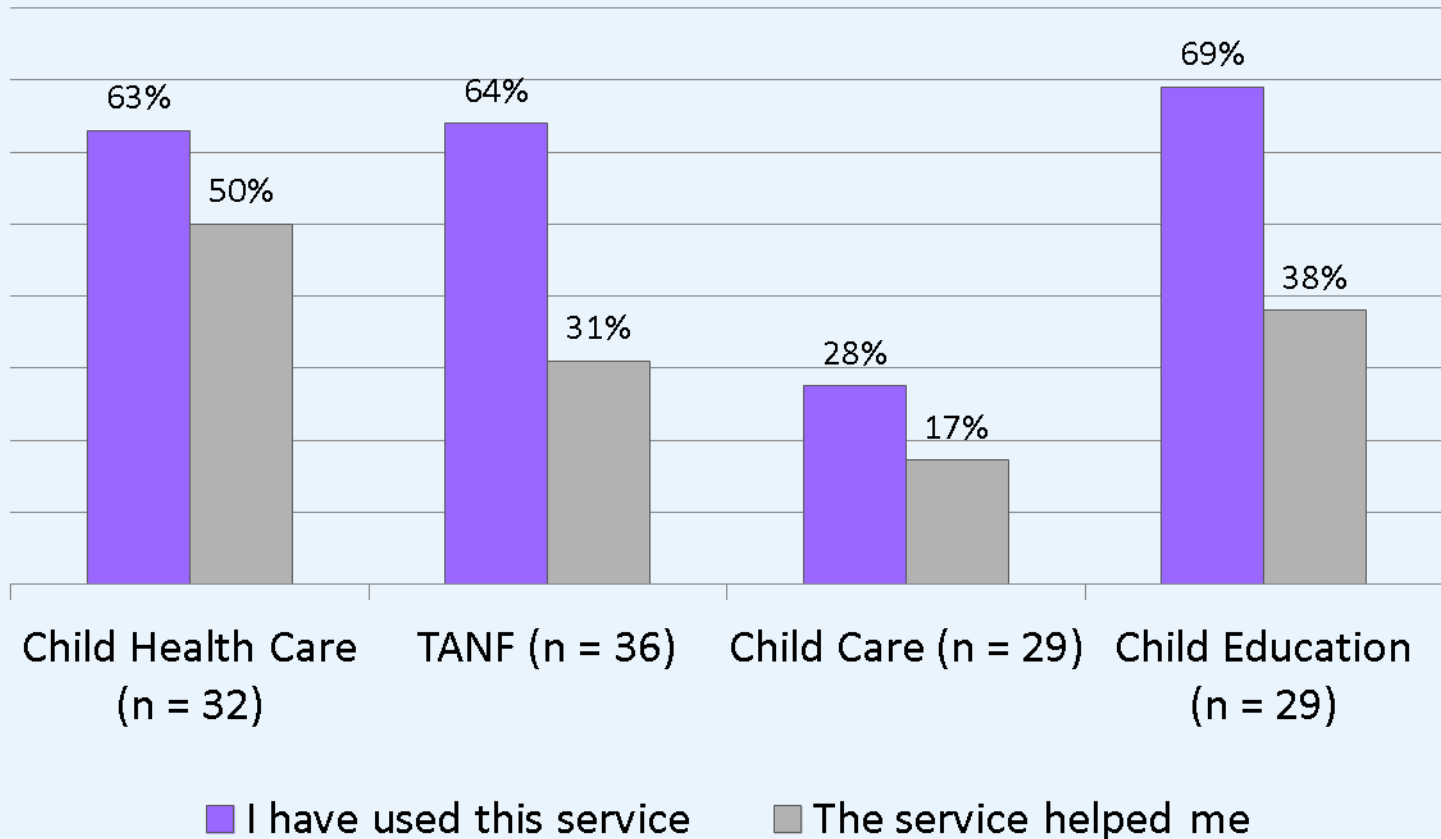


# Healthcare for children

(n = 35)

- Statewide, 32 respondents stated that their children needed help from a healthcare professional while they were homeless.
- Of those, 30 (92%) stated that they were able to access the healthcare when they needed it.
- 47% of respondents said they used their “own doctor/dentist” as healthcare for their children.
- Of those who received services, 40% at one point, accessed services through an emergency room.

# Services for families with children

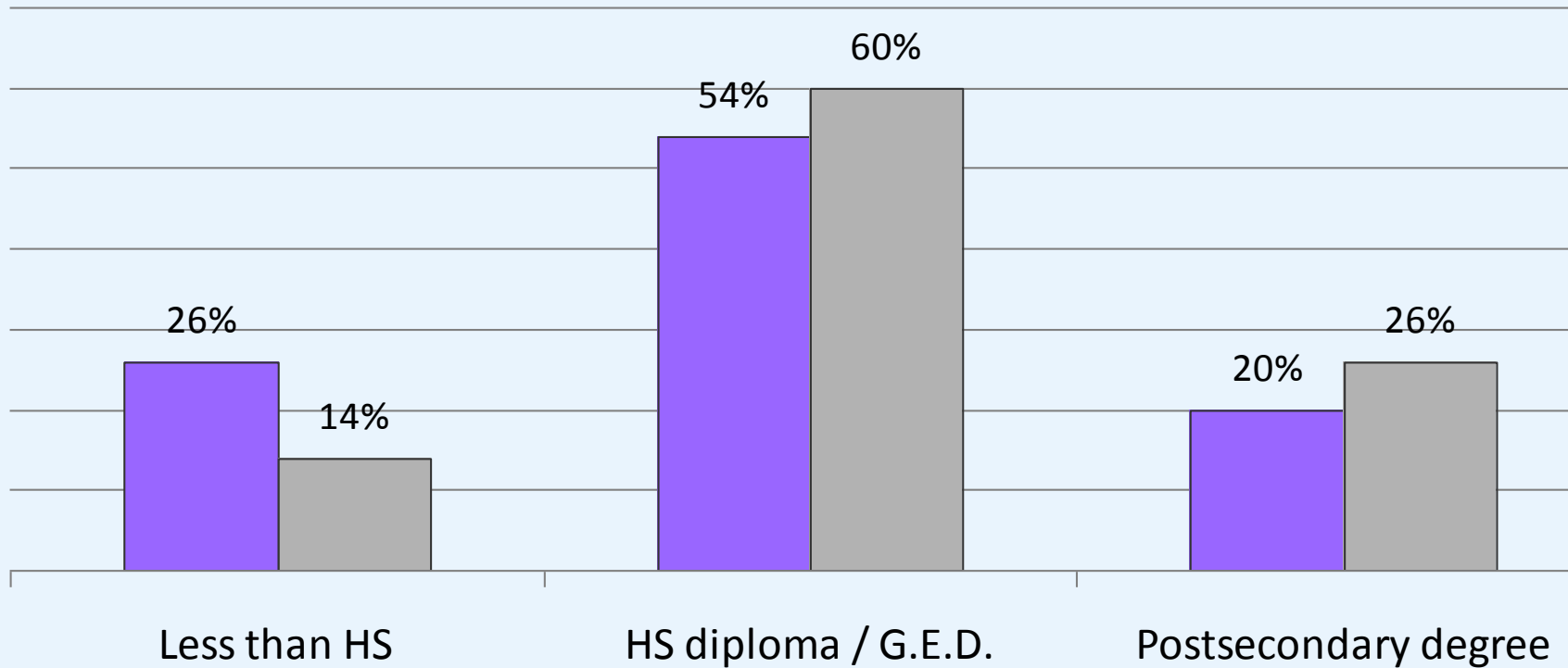


# Prior Placement Through Child Welfare/Juvenile Justice

20



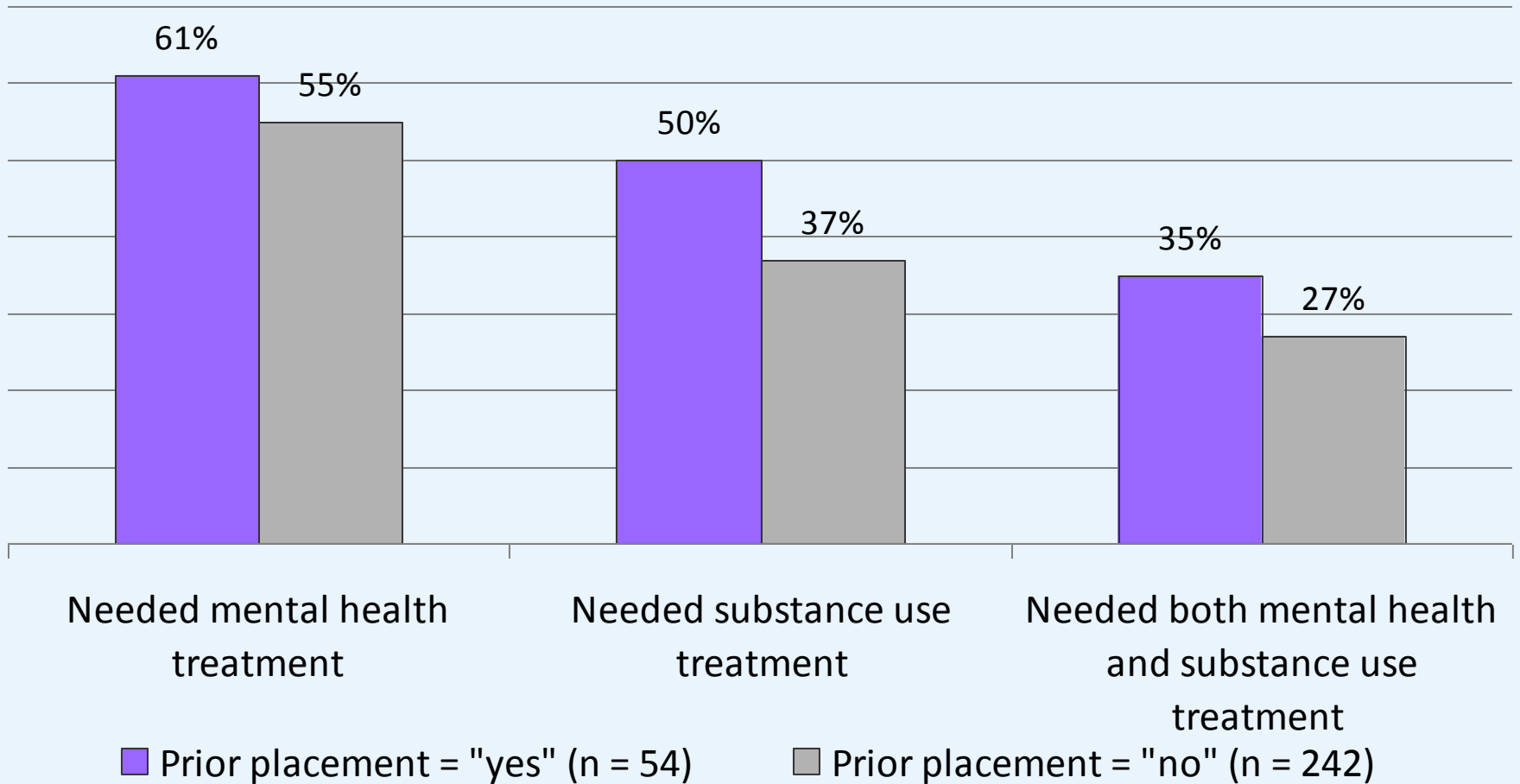
# Highest education level achieved



■ Prior placement = "yes" (n = 54)

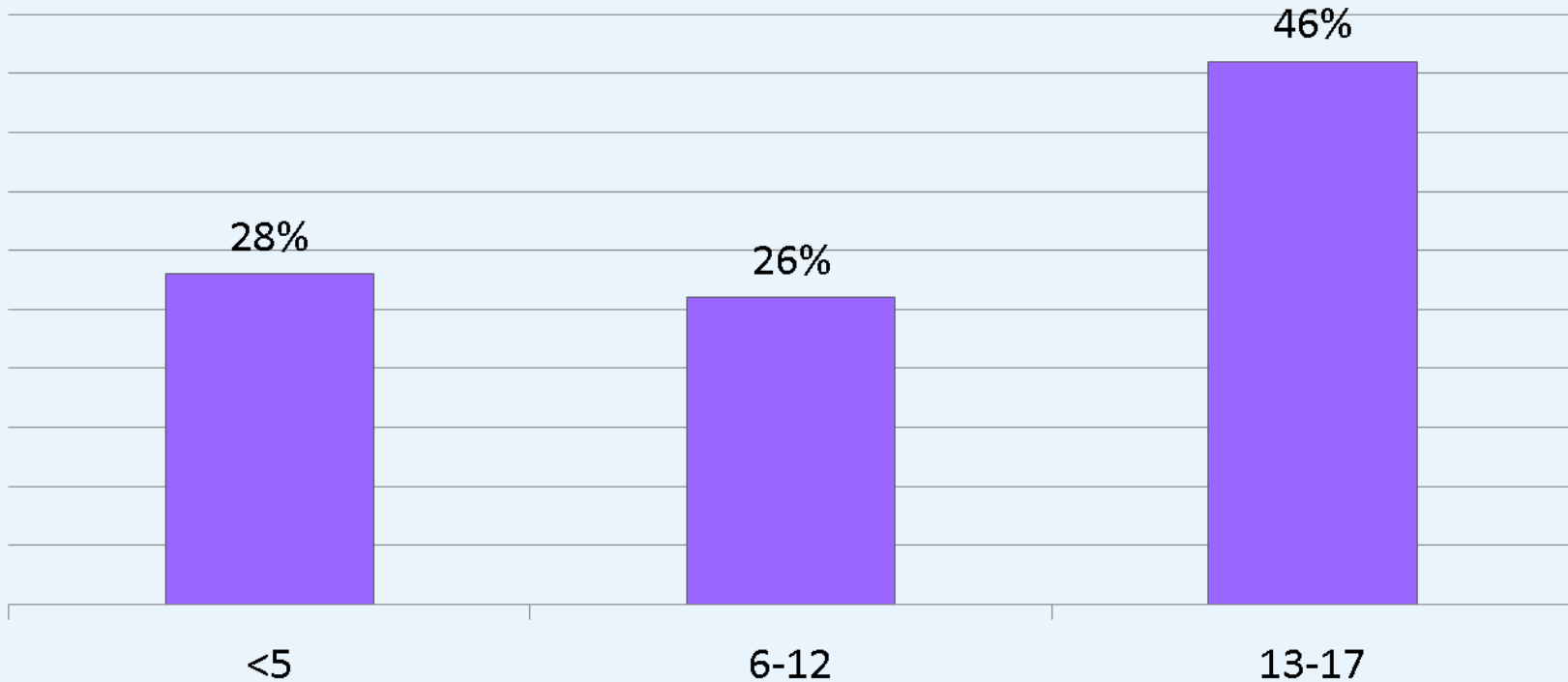
■ Prior placement = "no" (n = 242)

# Mental health and substance use



# Entered state care, by age groups

(n = 50)



*Of the 14 respondents who entered state care when they were younger than 5 years old, 3 (21%) remained in care until they were at least 18 years old.*



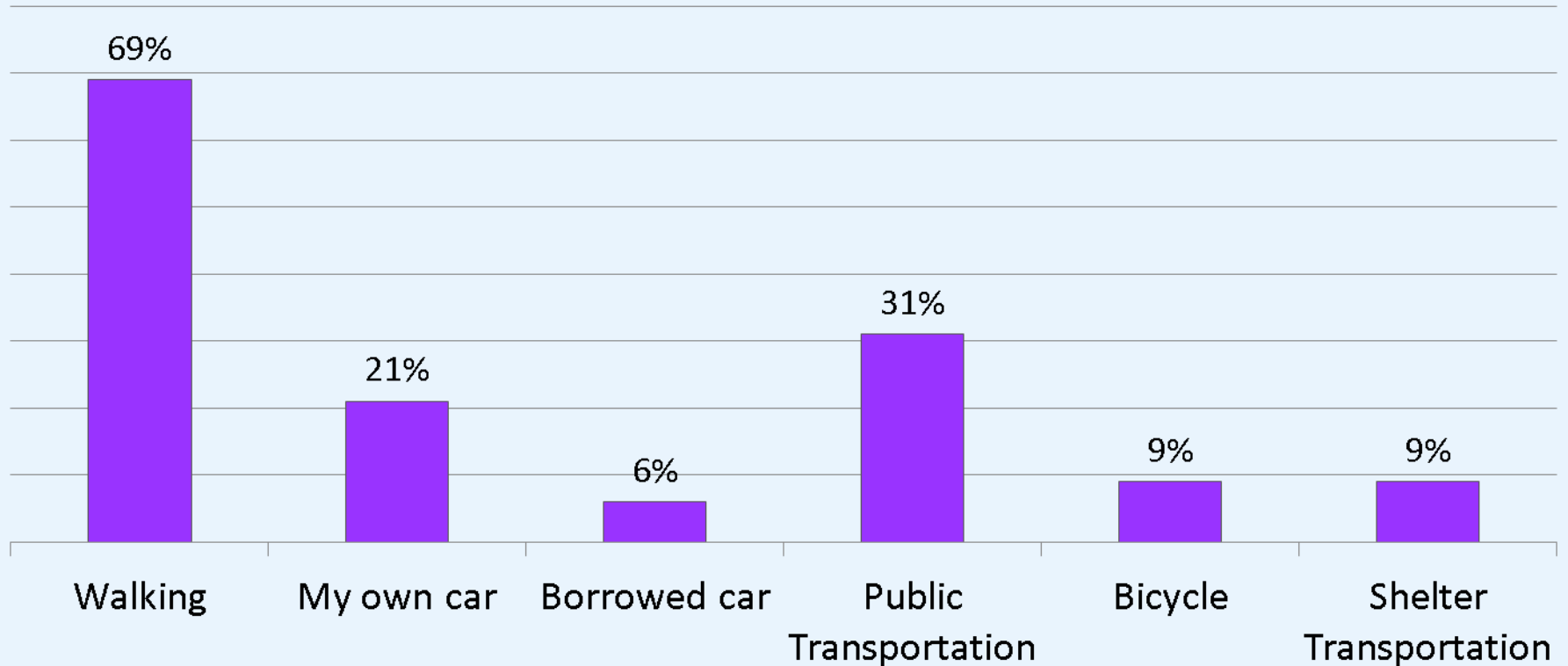
# Transportation, Education, and Employment

24



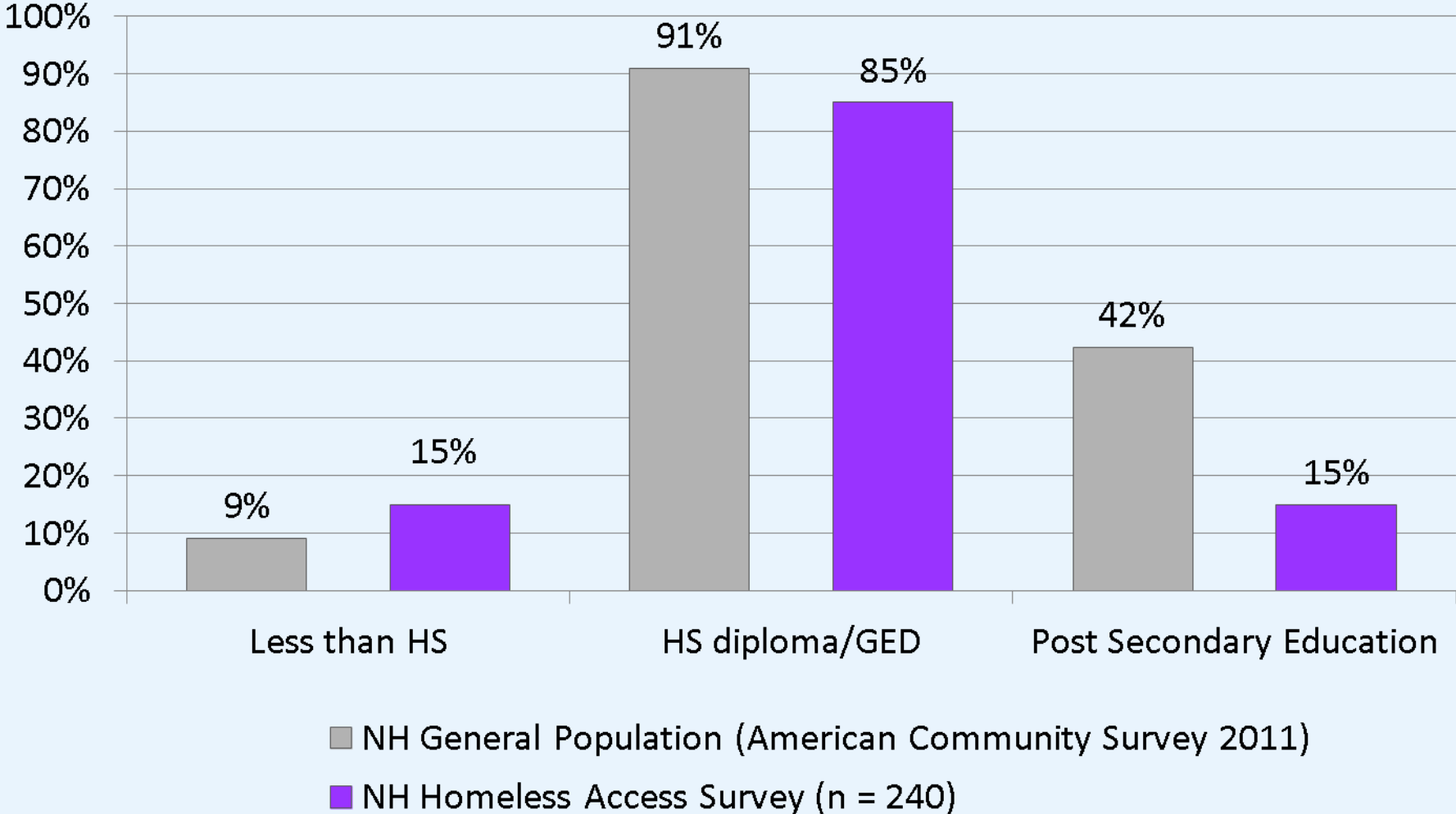
# Primary means of transportation

(Categories overlap, n = 296)



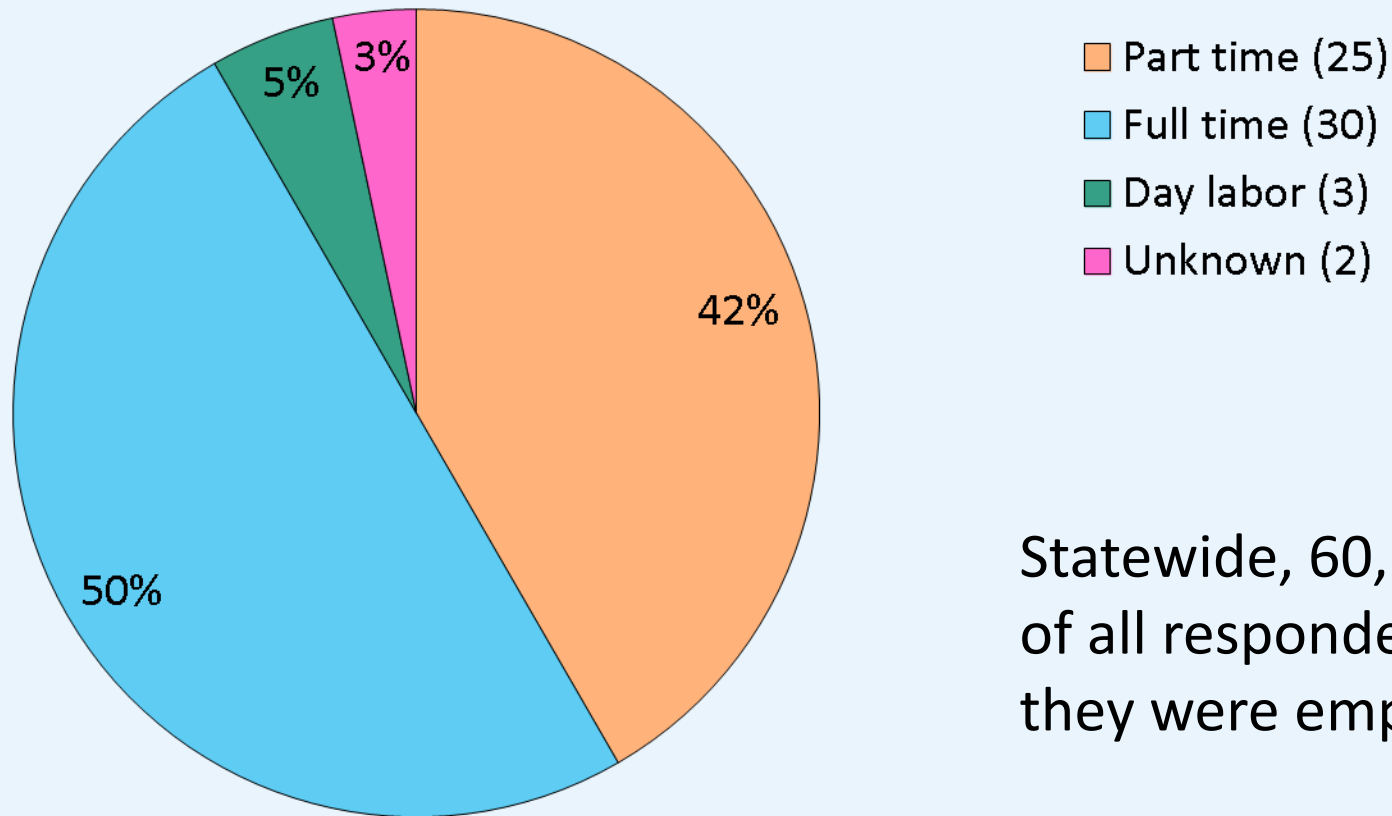
# Education

(Ages 25+, n = 240)



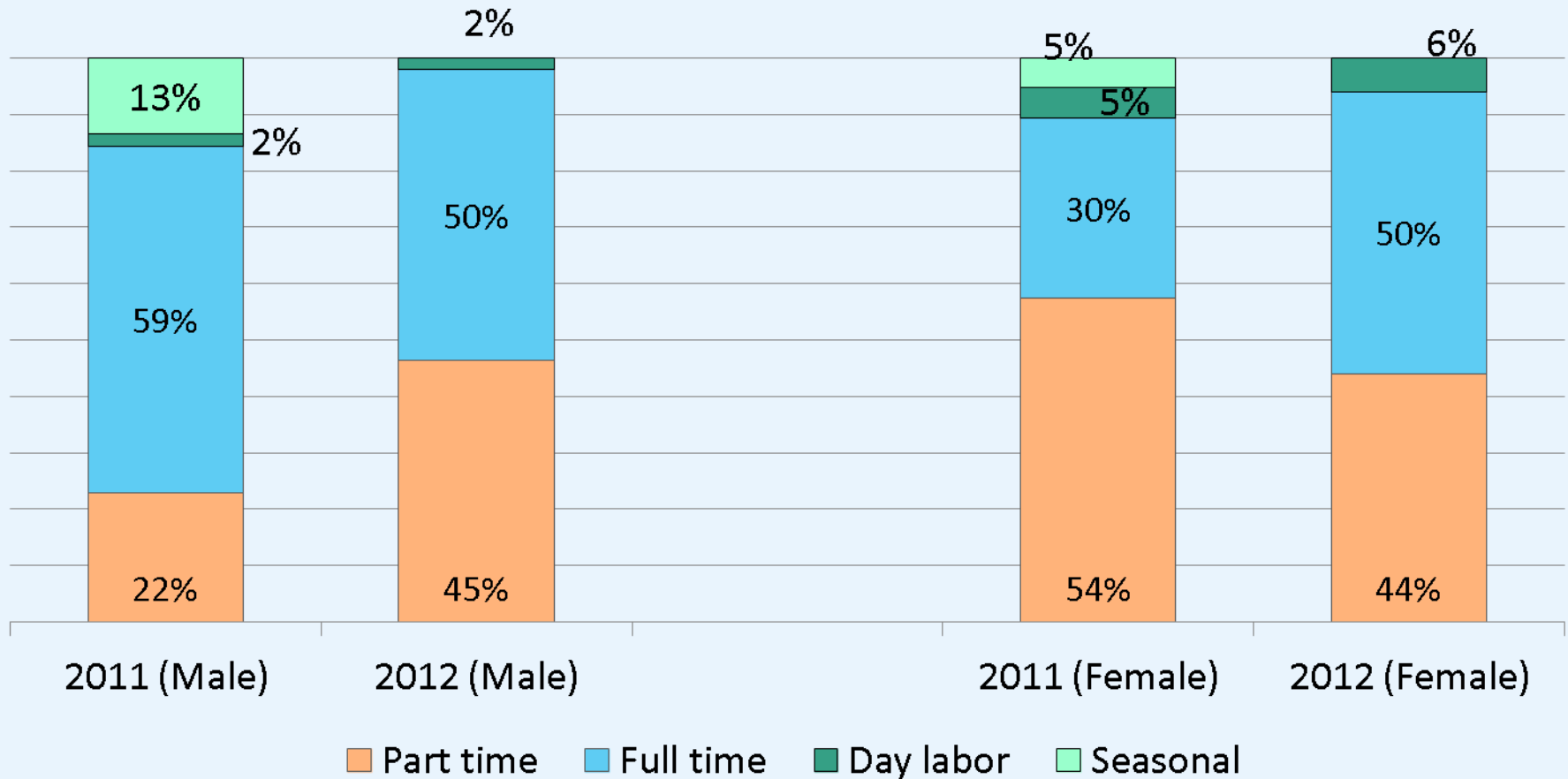
# Work schedule

(n = 60)



Statewide, 60, or 20% of all respondents said they were employed.

# Work schedule



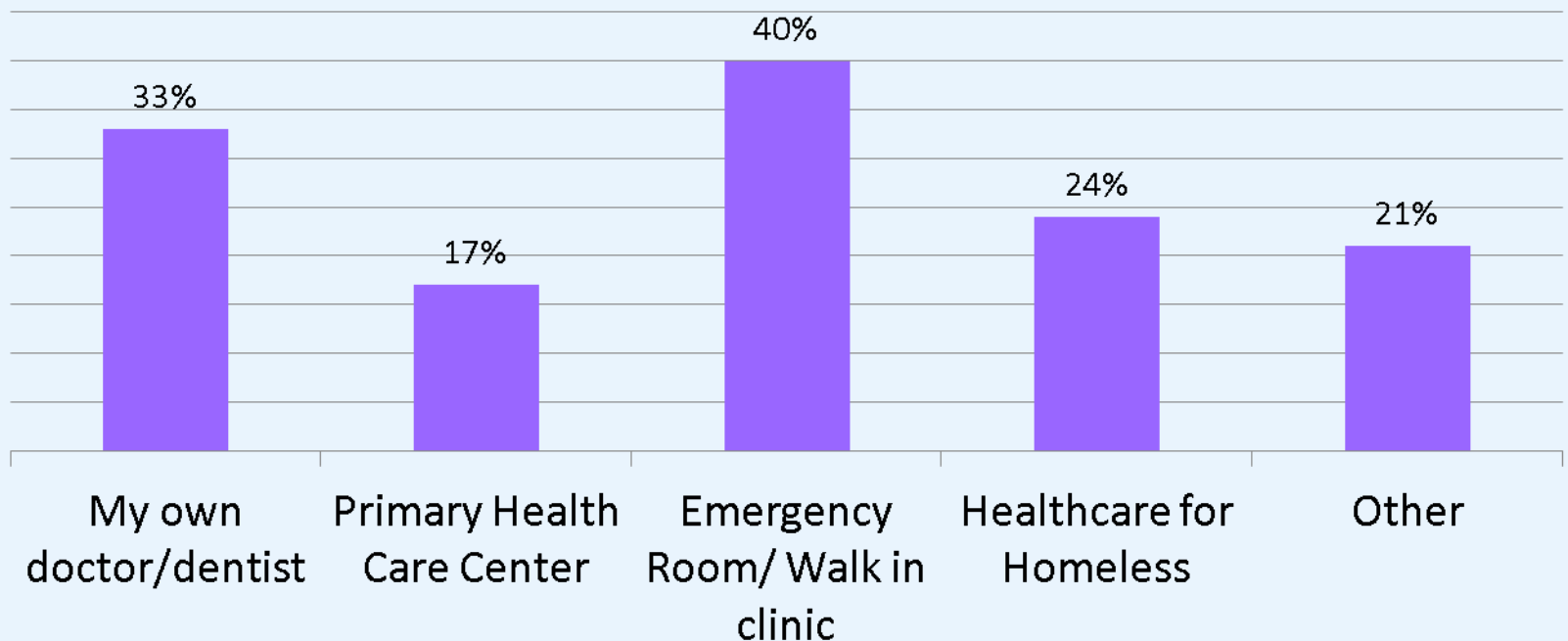
# Service Access

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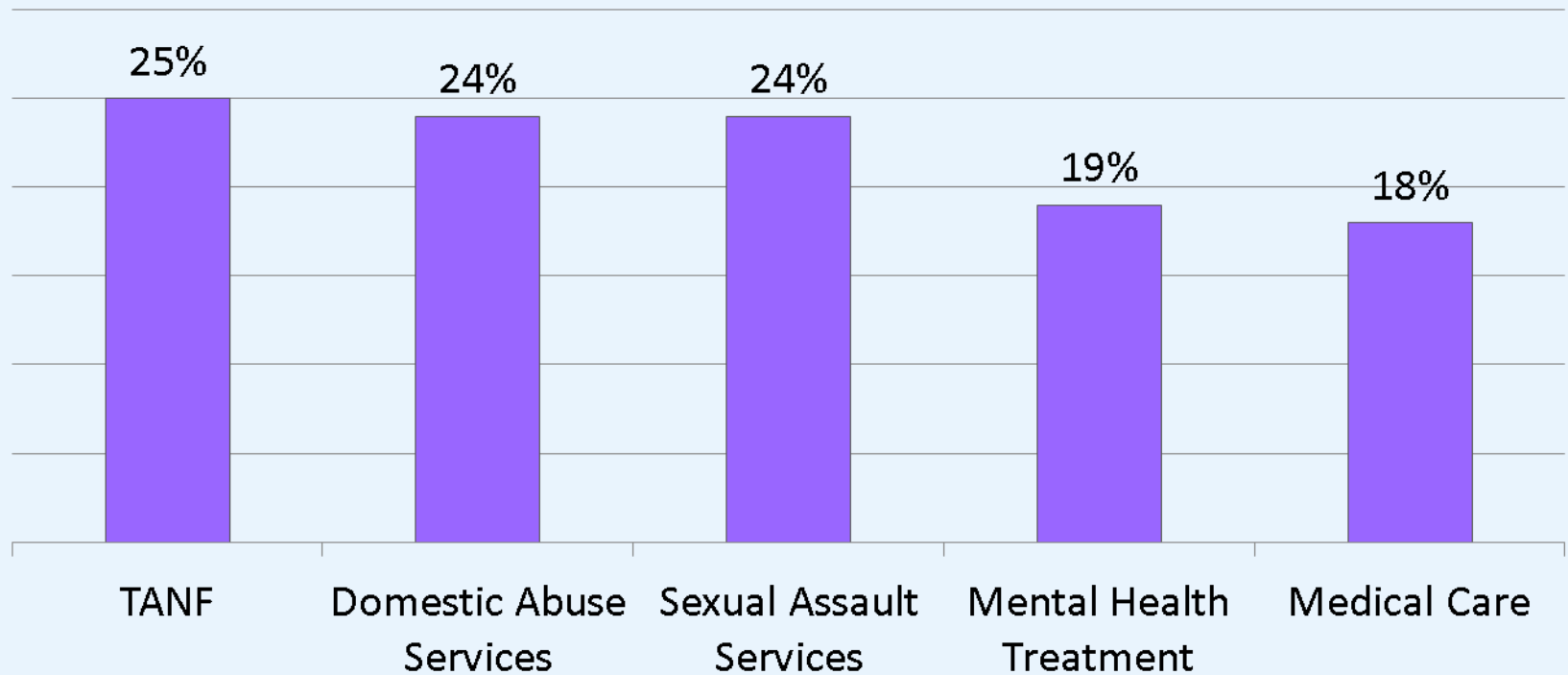
# Where were you able to get medical care from?

(Categories overlap, n = 296)



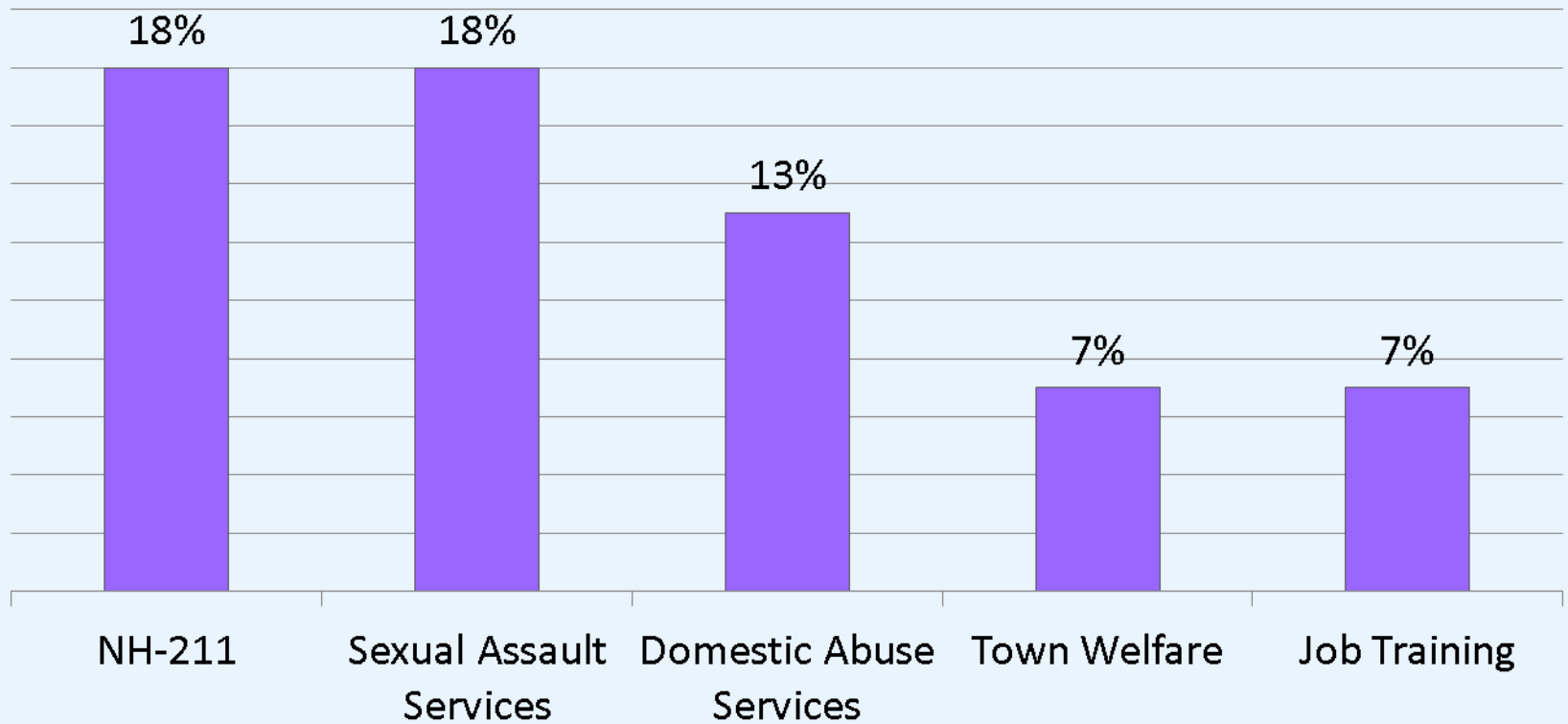
194, or 66% of all respondents statewide, stated that they needed some form of medical care while homeless. Of those, 168, or 87% stated they were able to access treatment.

**Five highest answers of those who responded:**  
*“I need this service, but have not been able to get it”*





# Five highest answers of those who responded: *“I did not know this service was available.”*



# Resources

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- NH DHHS; Bureau of Homeless & Housing Services:
  - [www.dhhs.nh.gov/dcbcs/contact.htm](http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dcbcs/contact.htm)
  - Bernie Bluhm: 271-8388 [bbluhm@dhhs.state.nh.us](mailto:bbluhm@dhhs.state.nh.us)
- NH Coalition to End Homelessness
  - [www.nhceh.org](http://www.nhceh.org)
- NH Homeless Hotline: NH 211
- Housing Action New Hampshire
  - [www.housingactionnh.org](http://www.housingactionnh.org)
- National Alliance to End Homelessness:
  - [www.endhomelessness.org](http://www.endhomelessness.org)

# NH Homeless Access Survey

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*Thank you!*

**If you have questions or  
comments, please contact:**

Bernie Bluhm  
603-271-8388  
[bbluhm@dhhs.state.nh.us](mailto:bbluhm@dhhs.state.nh.us)