



August 2020 Vulnerable Populations Point in Time Count

Introduction

The brief August 2020 Point in Time Count (PIT) was conducted between August 12th and August 14th of 2020 by the COVID-19 Outreach Team of Boundary Family Services Society (BFS) with the support of Circle of Indigenous Nations Society (COINS) at the direction of the Grand Forks Social Services Advisory Group (GFSSAG).

The count was conducted at known locations of homeless or housing vulnerable residents. It is not meant to be a comprehensive scan of the entire community, but rather a brief snapshot of the most vulnerable currently living visibly in community in known locations.

Please note that “hidden homeless” (e.g. those currently precariously housed or of no fixed address) and those at current risk of becoming homeless (e.g. seniors on fixed incomes) are not represented in this count. It is hoped that the community engagement process of the Kootenay Boundary Regional Housing Assessment (due Autumn of 2020) in conjunction with the Boundary Vital Signs Project will aid in a broader overview of these populations.

Methodology

The Outreach Team met vulnerable residents at previously known locations throughout the City that are used as locations of congregation (whether social or sheltering).

The tool used was a brief interview tool applied in person using sixteen questions that are considered to be standard best practice for street level PIT counts. These sheets were given an identifier of initials to ensure no duplication. Due to the small community population, these identifiers were removed after the count to ensure confidentiality.

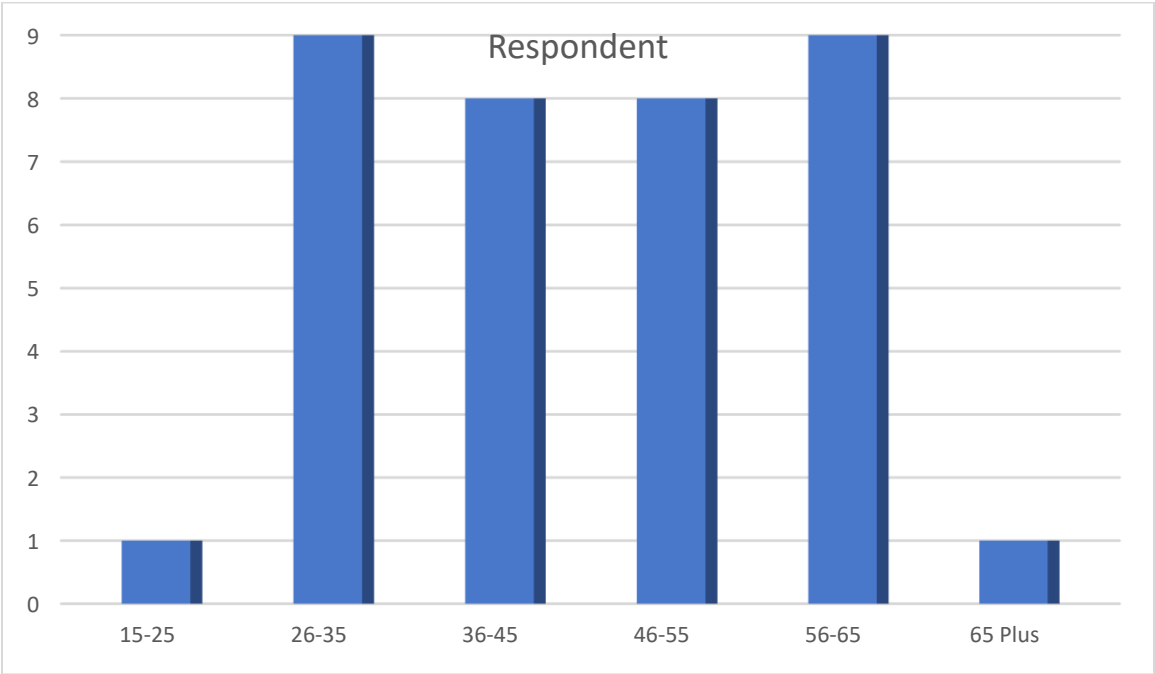
The administration of the tool was conducted by either dyads of the Team or as a Triad using a third partner from COINS. This was to ensure minimal risk of duplication and a degree of oversight. While not perfect, due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic and the sensitive location of some of these locations, it was the safest option for a count of this nature at this time.

The aggregate count (n) for this two-day scan was 36, and it is reflected as a constant for this count. *There have been no variable calculations applied to this count as of now*, but it may be assumed that there is a minimum variance of +/- 5% of statistical relevance.

The summary below shows the collated data from the PIT, with the actual questions used as headers for clarity.

Demographic Information

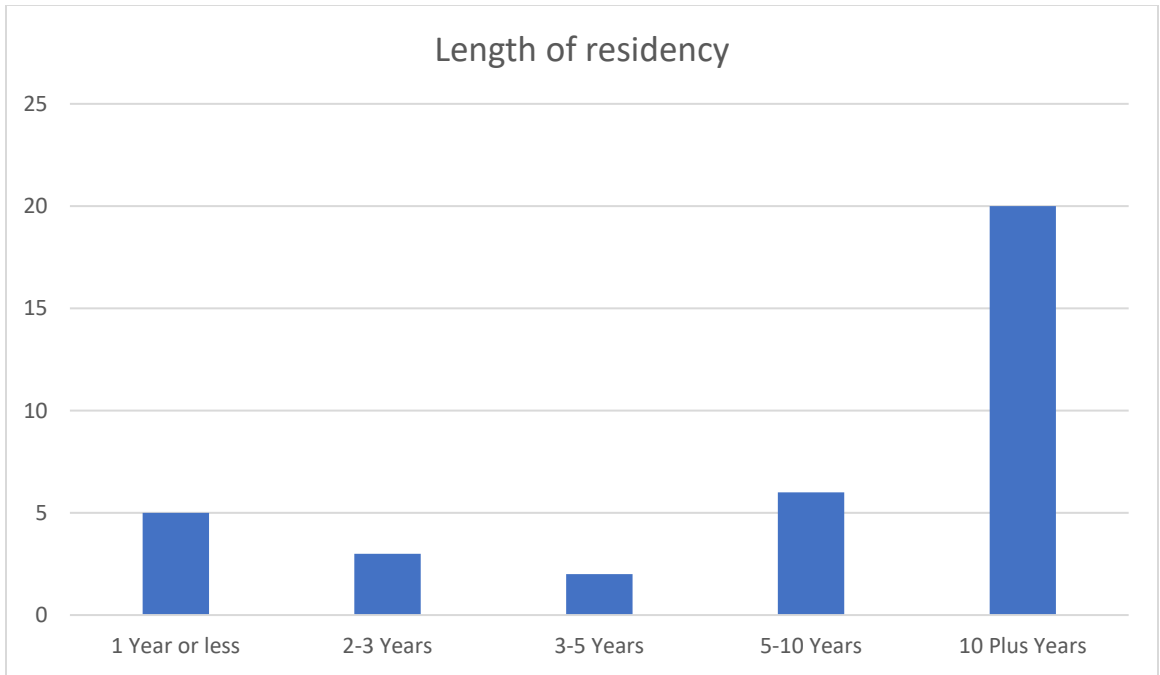
1. What is your age?



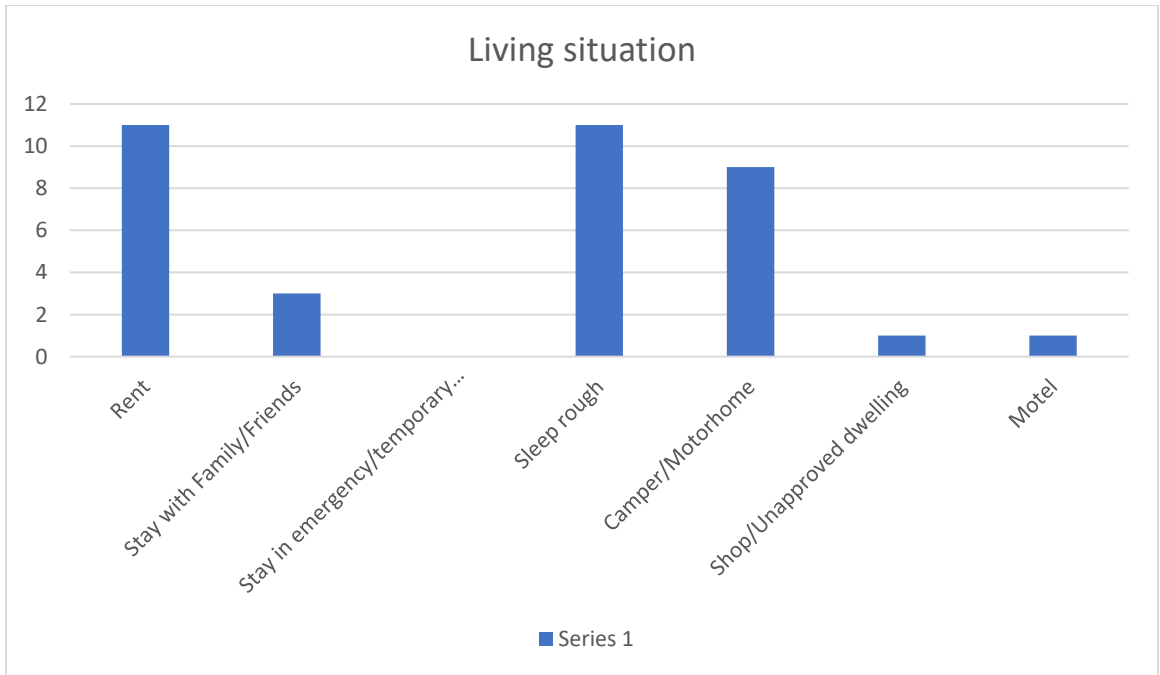
2. Do you have Aboriginal ancestry?

Total Yes	12
Total No	24

3. How Long have you lived in the Kootenay Boundary Region?

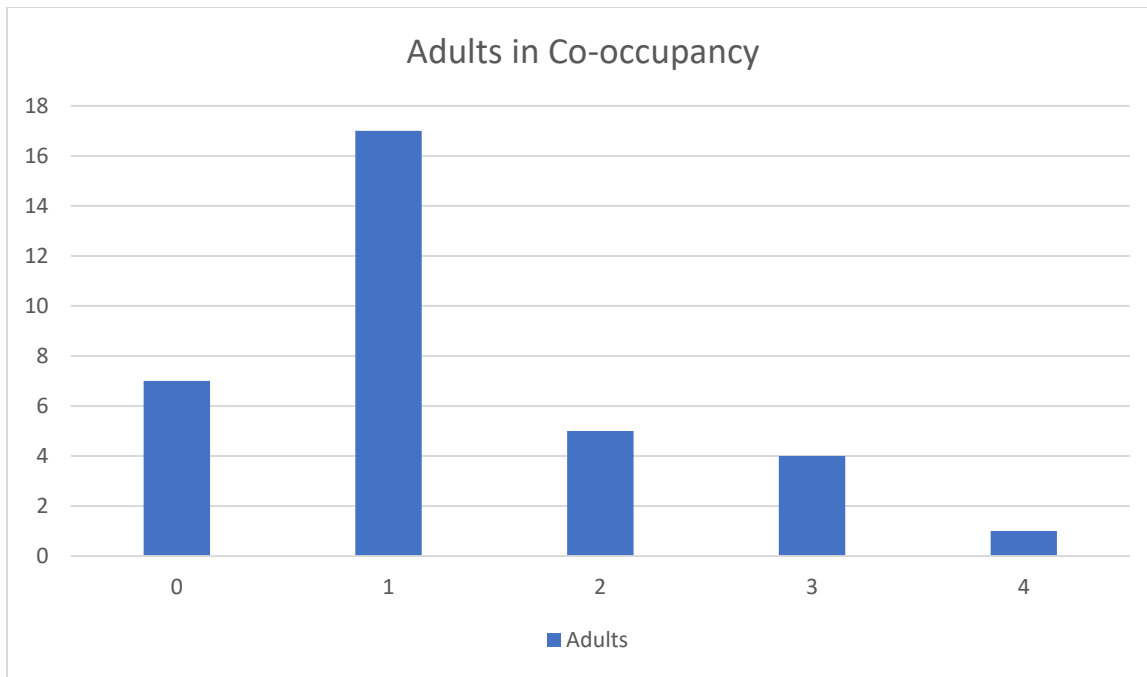


4. Please select option that best describes your current living situation.

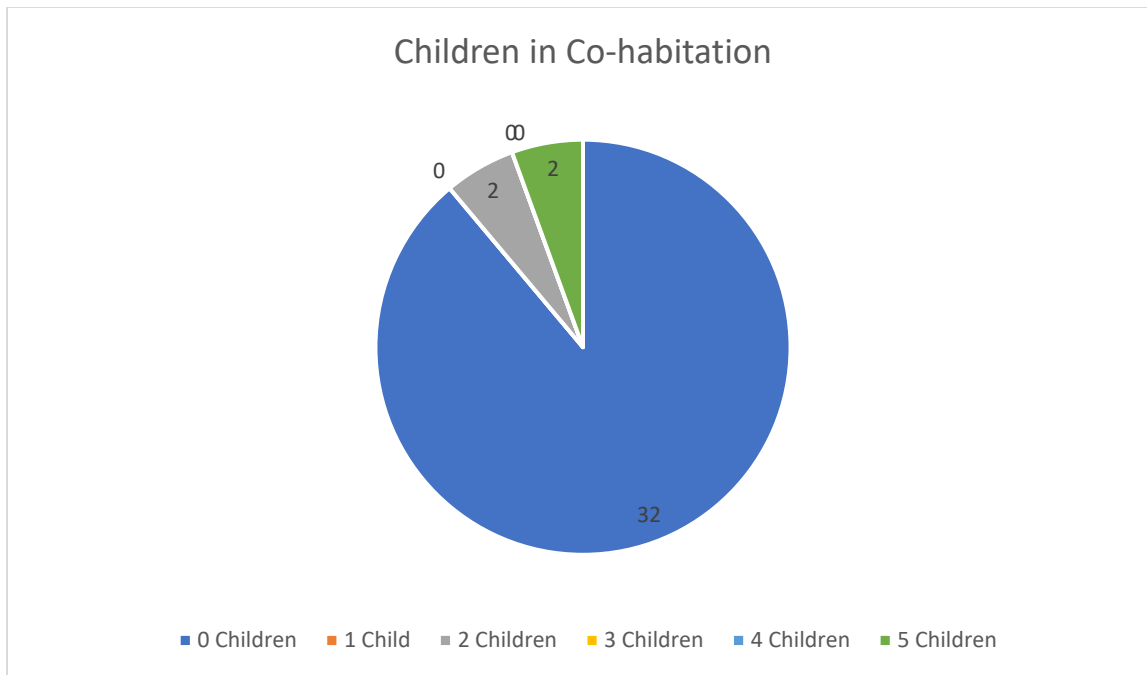


****Note- In this case "Rent" refers to housing located at what is colloquially known locally as "Demskiville". These dwellings have not been deemed fit for habitation.**

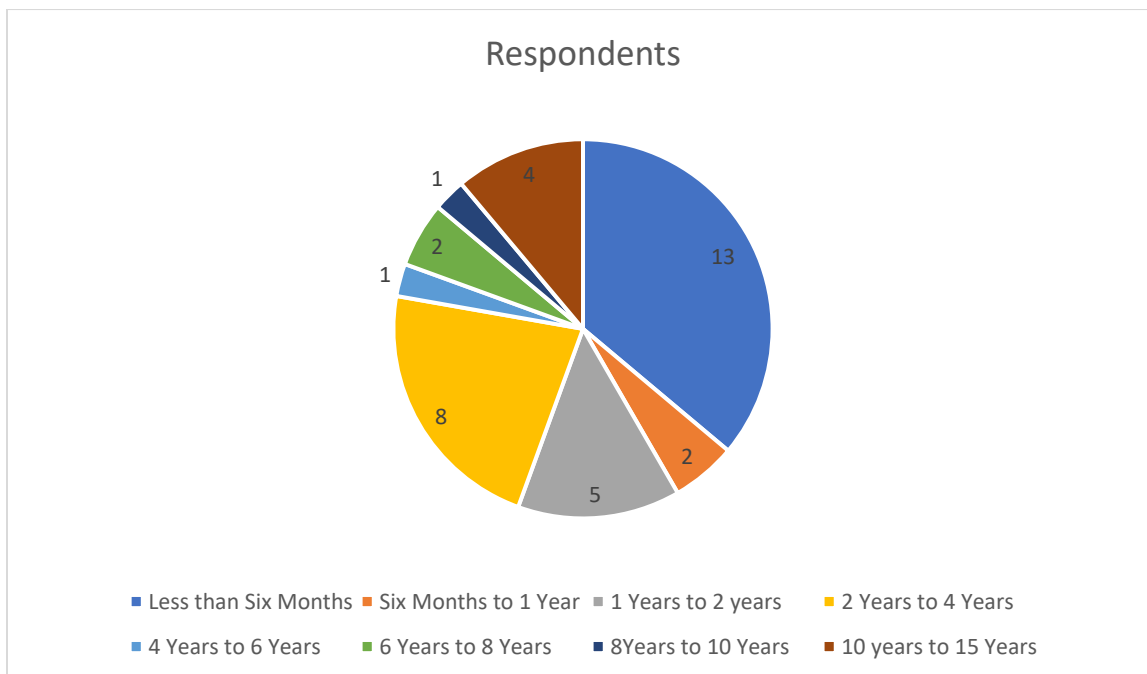
5. How many adults reside with you in your own home/trailer/tent?



6. How many children under the age of 18 live with you?



7. How long have you been living where you currently do?

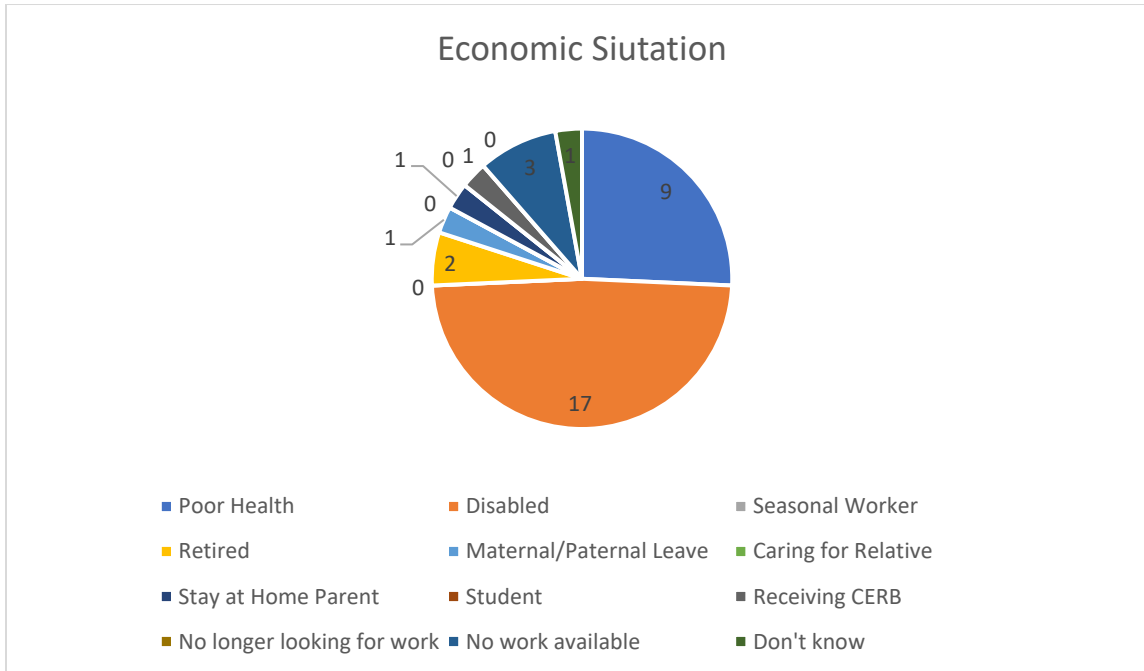


Employment and Income

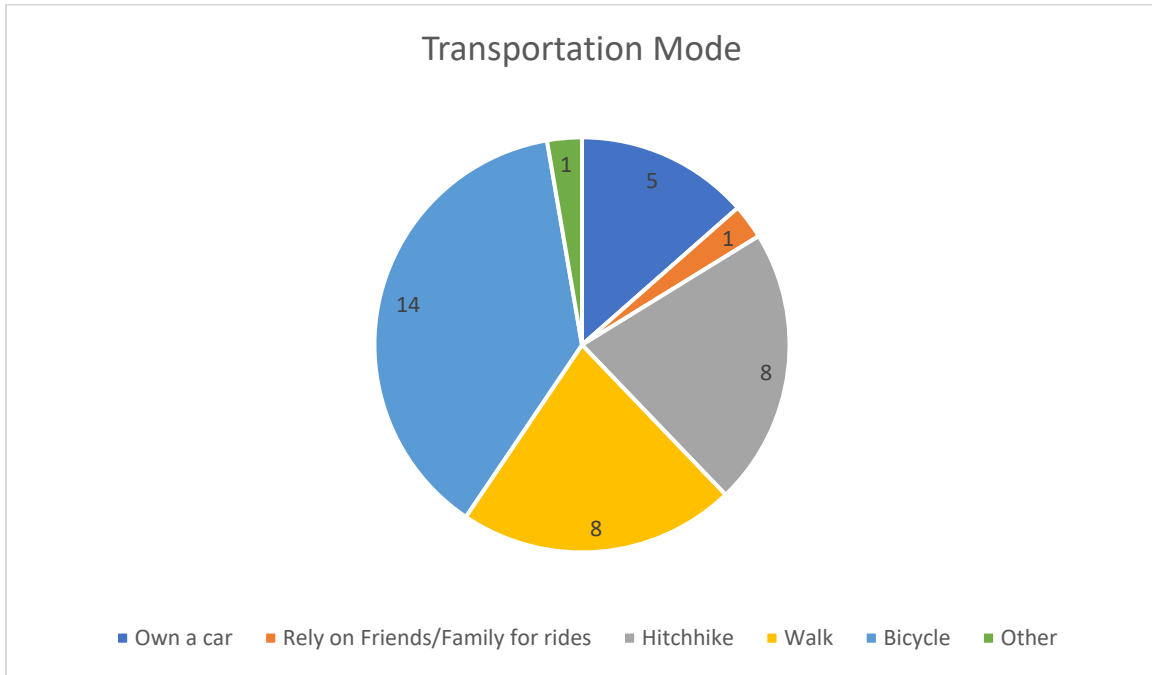
8. Are you currently working at a job or business for pay?

Yes	No
3	33

9. If you are not employed, which of the following situations best describes your situation?

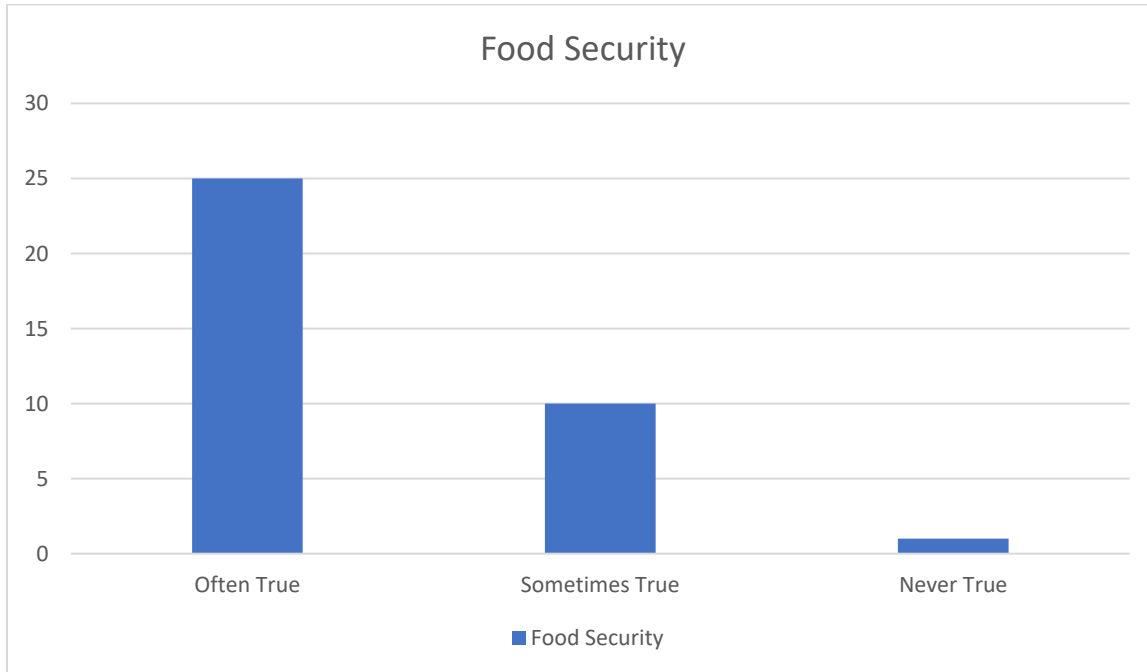


10. What is your primary mode of transportation for getting to work, appointments, or running errands etc.?

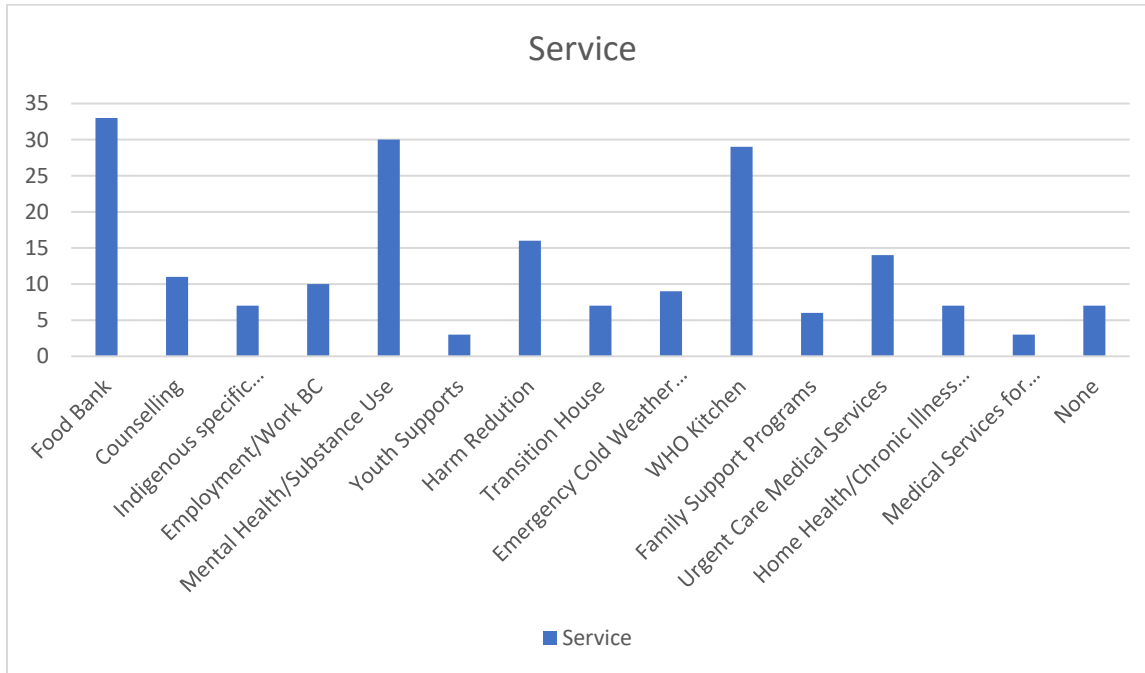


11. Please indicate if the following statement was often true, sometimes true, or never true for you for in the past 12 months:

“The food I bought didn’t last and I had no money to get more.”



12. In the last twelve months, have you used any of the following community or health care services? Please check all that apply.



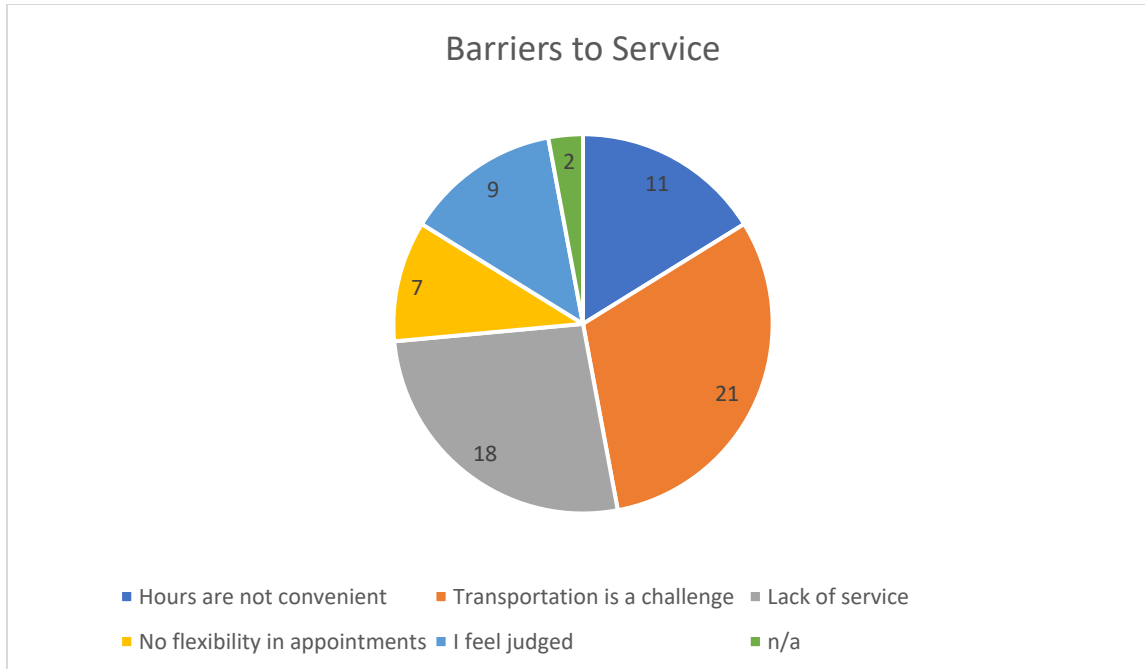
13. From the services indicated above, think about the places where you felt the most welcome. What was it about the services that were provided that made you feel welcome? (Check all that apply)



*Others mentioned included:

- “Friendly, kind, caring.”

14. Do you experience any challenges or barriers to accessing health and community services in your community? Please check any that apply.



*Other listed as:

- “I do not trust. High anxiety. Health records not used or accessed from all sources.”
- “Proper health records not available. Access to government offices and processes blocked.”
- “Anxiety”

15. If you were offered supportive housing, would you accept housing?

Yes	28
No	4
Maybe	4

16. What supports could supportive housing offer that you feel would be beneficial and helpful to you? Please explain.

The following are direct quotes from the respondents. Not all participants responded to this question.

- **“Individual housing rental units.”**
- **“Help with being more stable.”**
- **“Stability and Independence.”**
- **“employment help.”**
- **“Cultural supports.”**
- **“Substance abuse help/counselling.”**
- **“Place to live closer to town.”**
- **“To be closer to shopping.”**
- **“Not being in a place without elevators.”**
- **“Safety, independence, stability”**
- **Safety and support (visitation). Security and financial viability. Different heating/economical cooling.”**
- **“Cost in line with senior/disability payments. Access to a communal space and privacy. Pet acceptance. Security. Supports. Economical heating/cooling”**
- **“Non-communal living arrangements. Pets accepted and supported. Less condensed spaces and housing to minimize contact with undesirable people. Contact/co-operation with all government agencies.”**
- **“Privacy. Quiet. Supports on site. Pets allowed. Security. Storage. Affordable utilities.”**
- **“Cost. Privacy. Pets allowed. Like-minded people (holistic). Supports.”**
- **“On site counselling”**
- **“Security”**
- **“As a family we wouldn’t per se benefit from supportive housing, but we would benefit from affordable housing, like apartments. There is not enough supports for families facing homelessness or that is homeless. Not everyone that is homeless are drug addicts. Low income families face homelessness a lot. More than one would think. Pet owner ship.”**
- **“A place to call my own.”**
- **“Stability”**
- **“Security and a roof that doesn’t leak.”**