

Homelessness In Vermont

Data From Phase 2 of EHVT's Statewide Study
On Homelessness.



METHODOLOGY

End Homelessness Vermont conducted a survey with participants of the General Assistance Emergency Housing program (GA) to understand the demographics, experiences, and needs of people utilizing emergency housing in Vermont.

Surveys occurred at selected motels being used for the General Assistance Emergency Housing Program, in person and over the phone, from September of 2023 to February of 2024. End Homelessness Vermont chose hotels in Phase II to ensure a strong sample from a broad geographic spectrum in Vermont. EHVT also surveyed individuals who volunteered to participate in a survey. Questionnaires were administered by staff of End Homelessness Vermont using a standard questionnaire. All interviews were held in a private location at the motel or by phone.

At the time of this data collection, there were three ways that a person could enter GA;

- 1. Through a “June Cohort” that was created in the Fiscal Year 2024 budget. That outlined both an “vulnerability” criteria and that households had to have been sheltered on the night of June 30th 2023.**
- 2. Through what was then “regular” GA rules”, which allowed 24 to 84 days in shelter depending on “eligibility” category.**
- 3. Through Winter Weather Rules , which loosened eligibility.**



WHO WAS INTERVIEWED

Ages Of Participation

Age	Number of Participants
18 - 25	18
25-29	9
30-39	58
40-49	44
50-59	39
60+	32

Towns/Cities and Counties:

Counties:
Windham
Washington
Chittenden
Rutland
Caledonia

Towns:
Rutland Town
Rutland City
Brattleboro
Barre
Berlin
Montpelier
St. Johnsbury
Burlington
Colchester
Bellows Falls

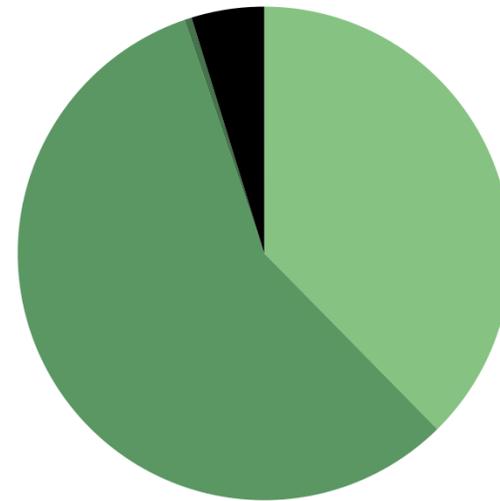
Total Participants with
Children in the Household:
63 participants*
*We are aware that not all
participants disclosed if
there were children in the
household.



HOMELESSNESS HISTORY

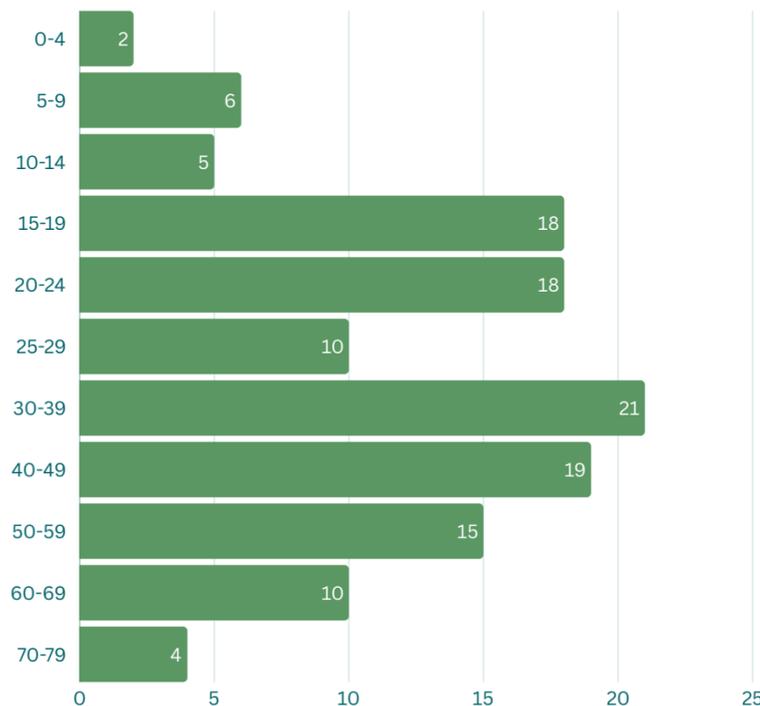
Homeless Experience

Nearly 40% of participants had never experienced homelessness before. Of those whom had a previous experience of homelessness, for 39.1% had their first experience of homelessness or housing insecurity as a child.

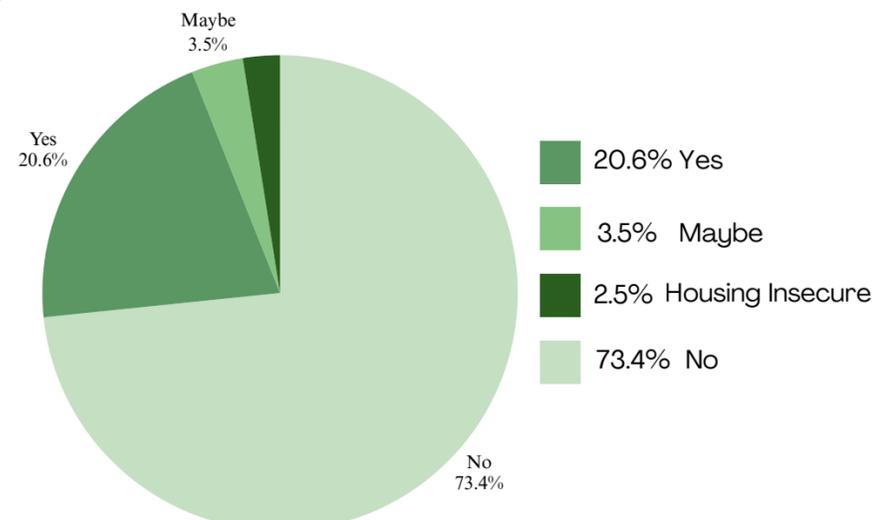


- 37.6% First Time
- 57.1% Previously Homeless
- 4.8% No Answer

Age First Entered Homelessness. Age Breakdown

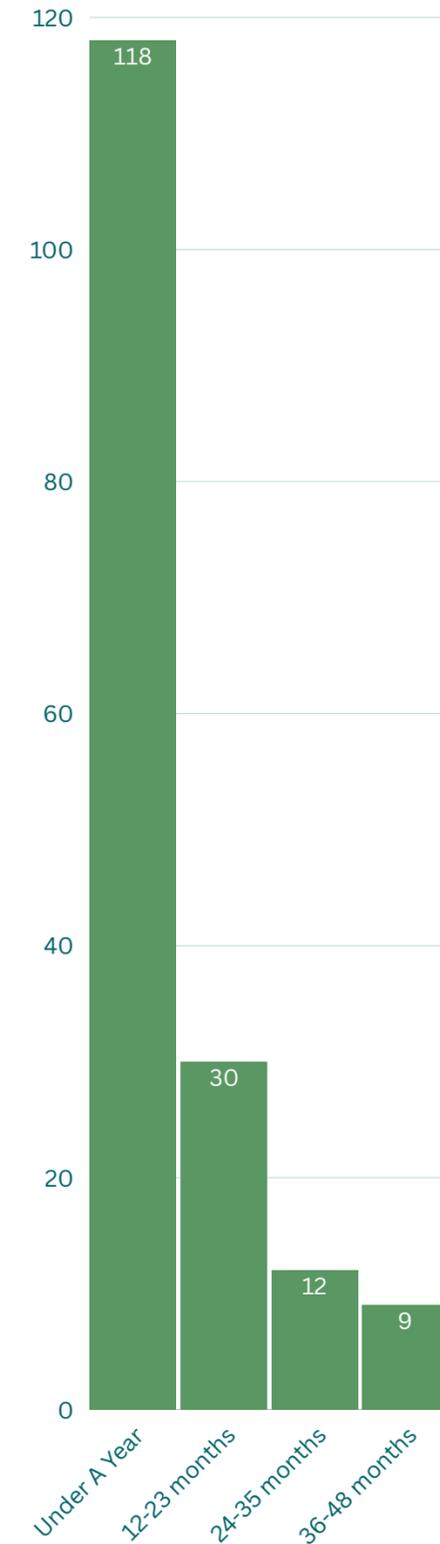


Homelessness or Housing Insecurity As A Child



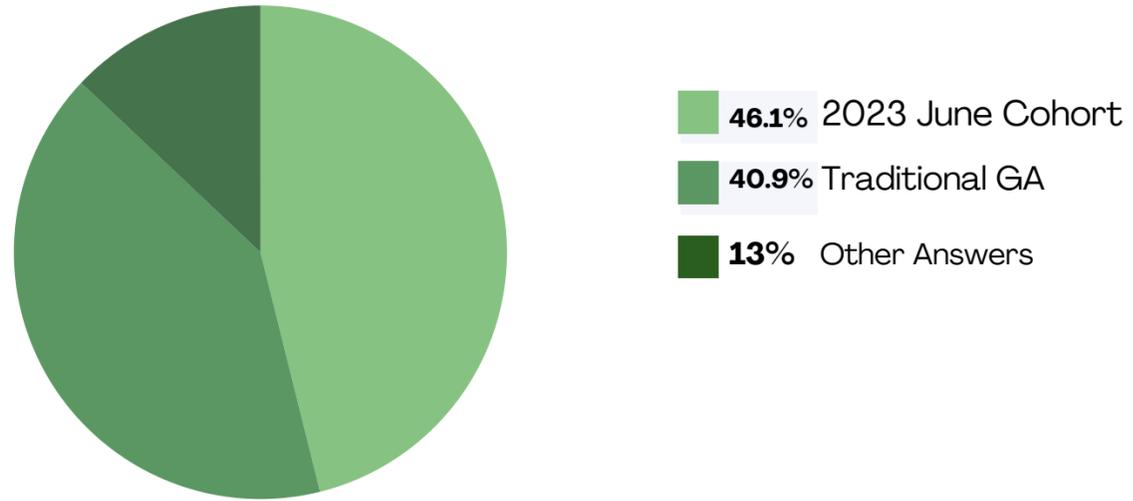
Between 23.1% and 26.6% of all participants who responded had their first experience of homelessness or housing insecurity as children. This number rises to almost 40% when you include people who were in foster care as children.

Length of Time In GA

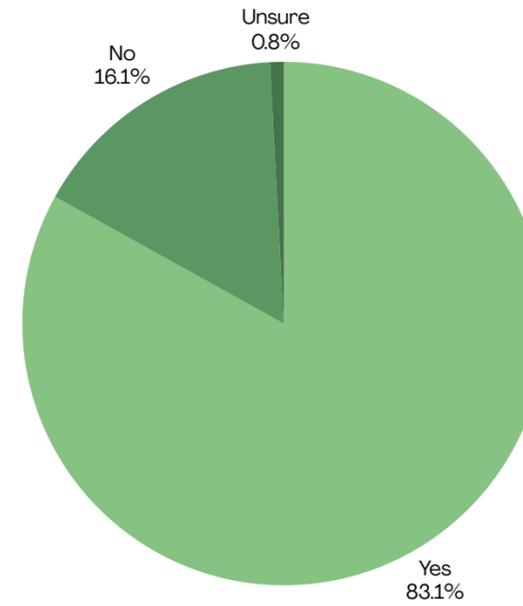


SERVICES CONNECTIONS

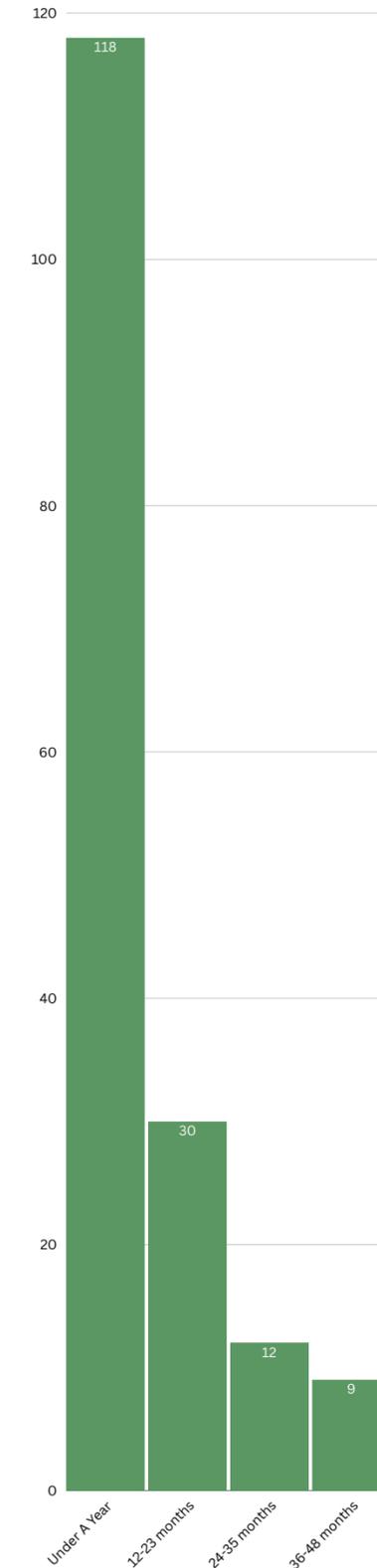
Category Housed Under



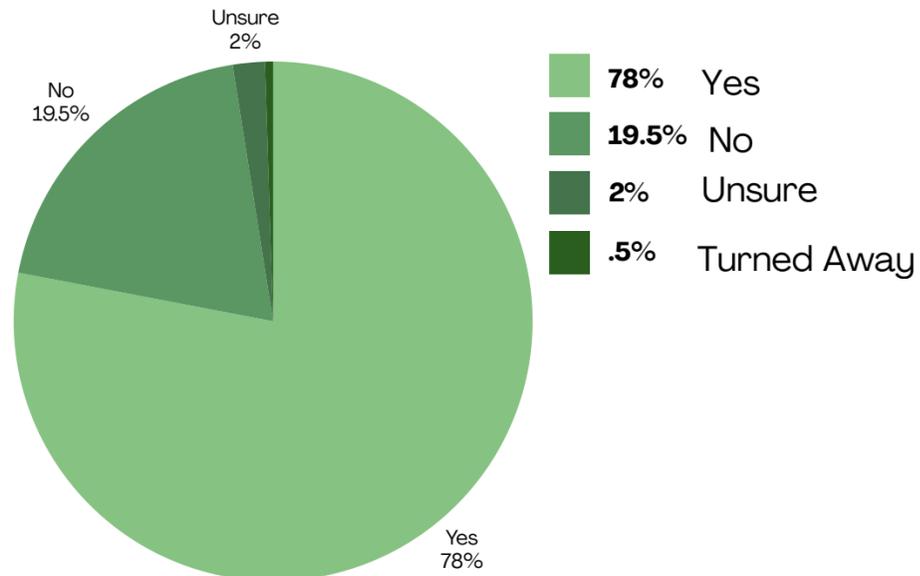
Medical Services



Length of Time In GA

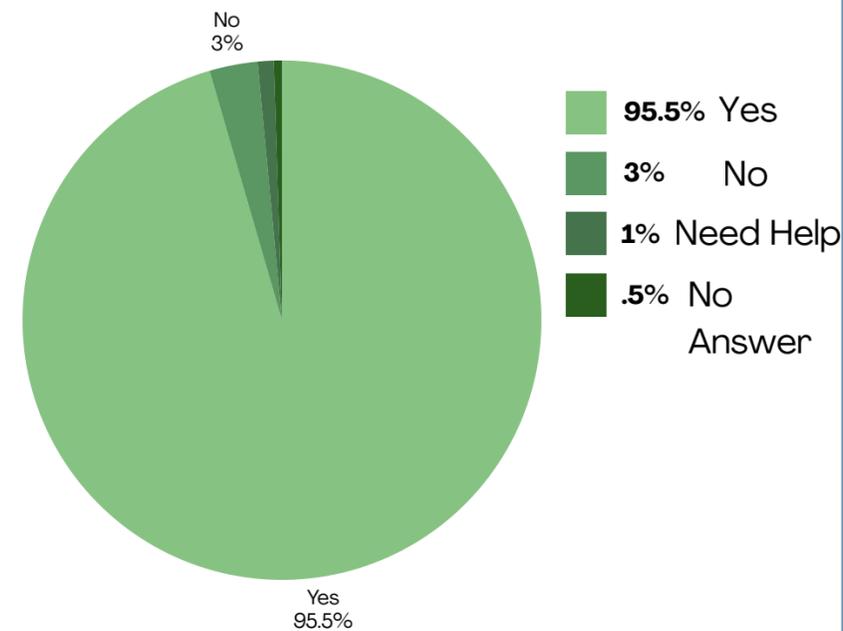


Connection To Housing Services



78% of all participants were connected to housing services. Among those who were not, they had either newly entered the program, lived with complex medical needs or disabilities or were on waiting lists for support.

Searched For Housing.



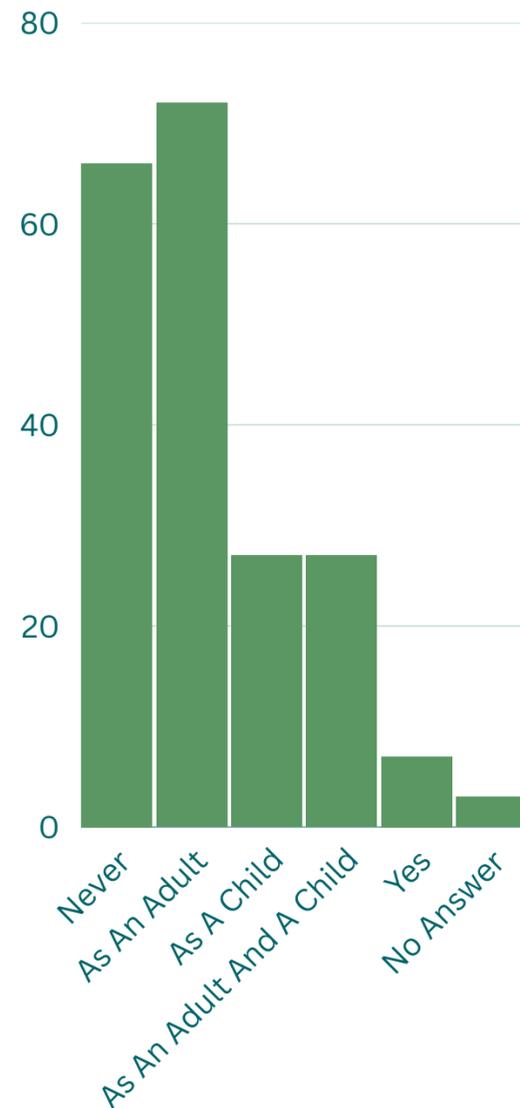
95.5% of all participants had searched for housing, those who had not, had just entered the program or a small number needed additional assistance due to a disability

SRS or Family Services Involvement

Broken Down By When Involvement Occurred:

Never: 66
 As An Adult: 72
 As A Child: 27
 As An Adult And A Child: 24
 Yes: 7 *
 No Answer: 3

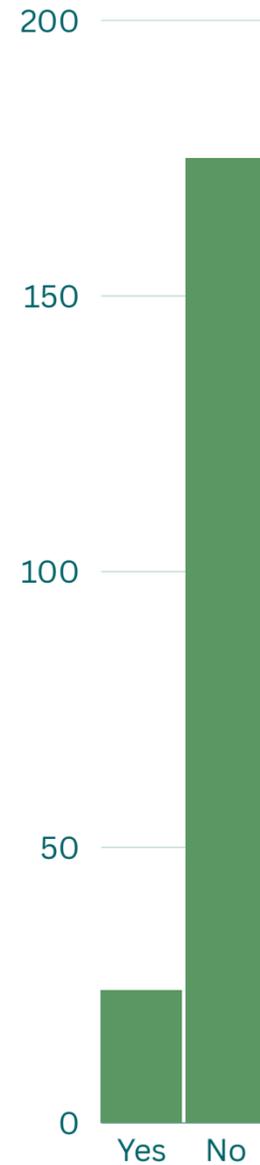
*Participant did not respond if it was as an adult or child or both



Current Involvement

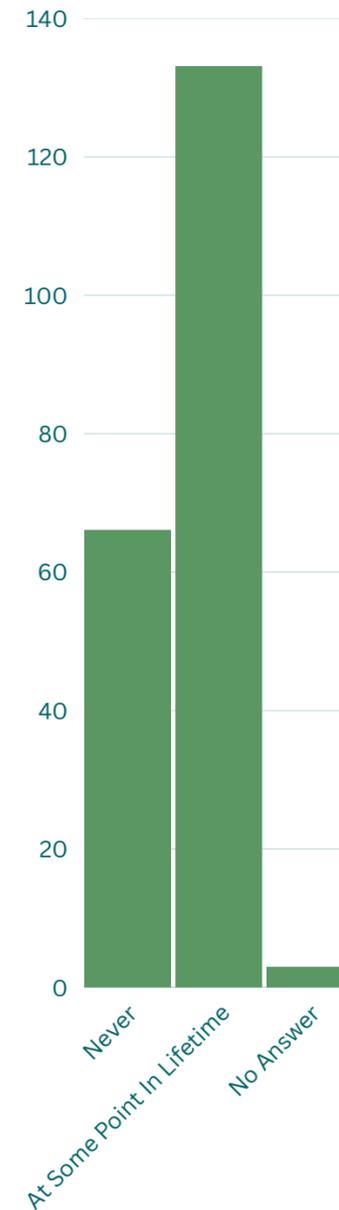
Yes: 24
 No: 175

*Of those answering yes, termination of parental rights = 2



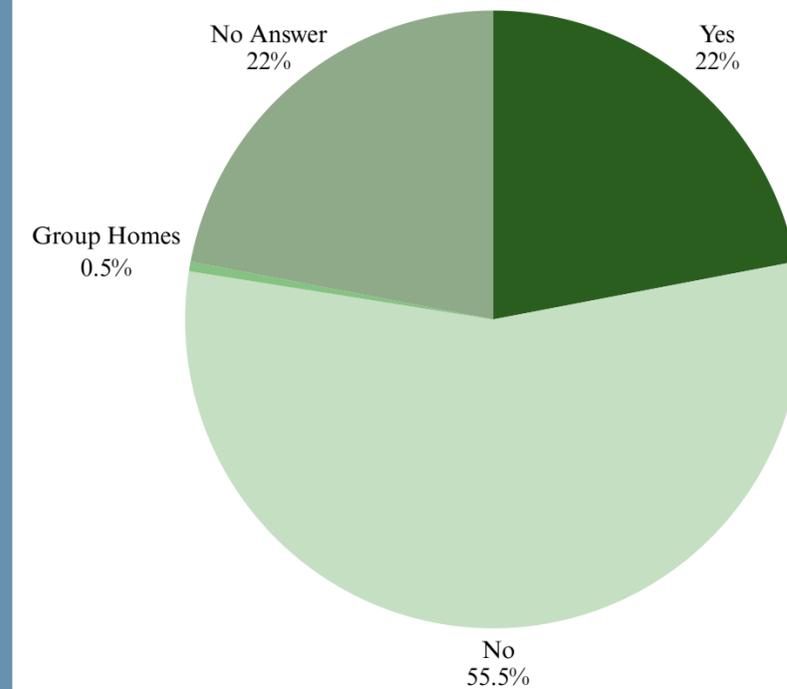
Involvement At Some Point In Lifetime

Never: 66
 Some Point: 133
 No Answer: 3



In Foster Care As Children

No 111
 Yes: 44
 Group Homes: 1
 No Answer: 44



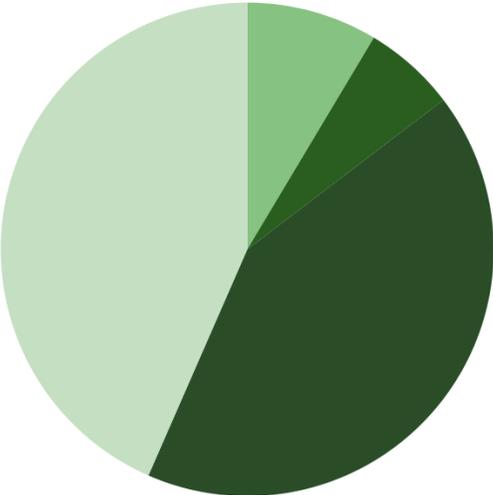
22.5% of all participants reported having been in foster care as a child. There were also many who chose not to answer this question. National data shows a link between a history of foster care and adult homelessness.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HISTORY

Domestic Violence History

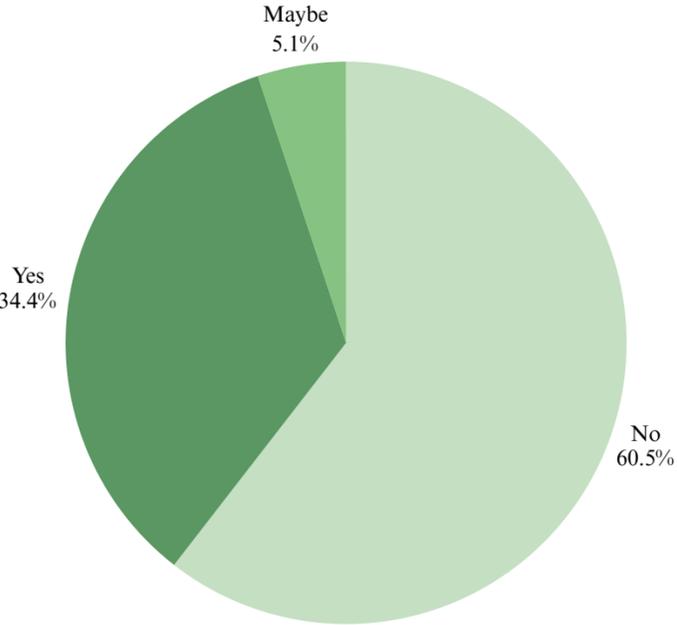
14.5% of participants are fleeing domestic violence now and 47.5% of participants are victims of past domestic violence. There was an overlap of 6.1% of participants who had been victims in the past and were fleeing DV now.



- 8.6% Fleeing DV
- 6.1% Fleeing DV & Past Victim
- 41.9% Victim Of Past
- 43.4% Not Fleeing DV

Knows Where The DV Agency Is

While 62% of participants reported being victims of domestic violence at some point in their lives, many did not know where a domestic violence agency was located in their area. Of the 157 respondents to this question, 60.5% were not aware of where to find their local DV Agency.

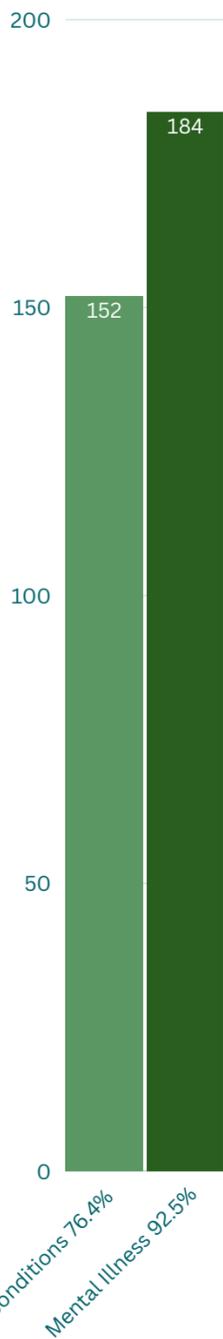


- 20.6% Yes
- 3.5% Maybe
- 60.5% No

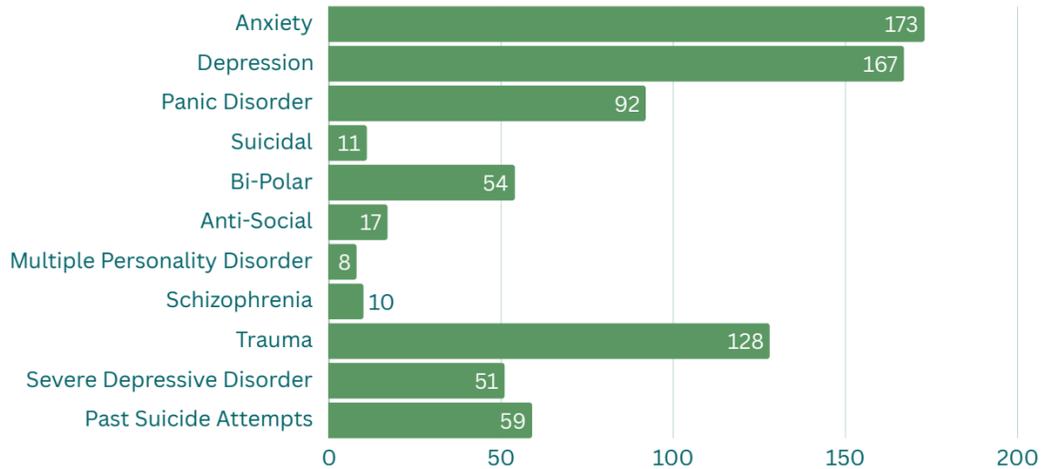


HEALTH OF PARTICIPANTS

Health Conditions

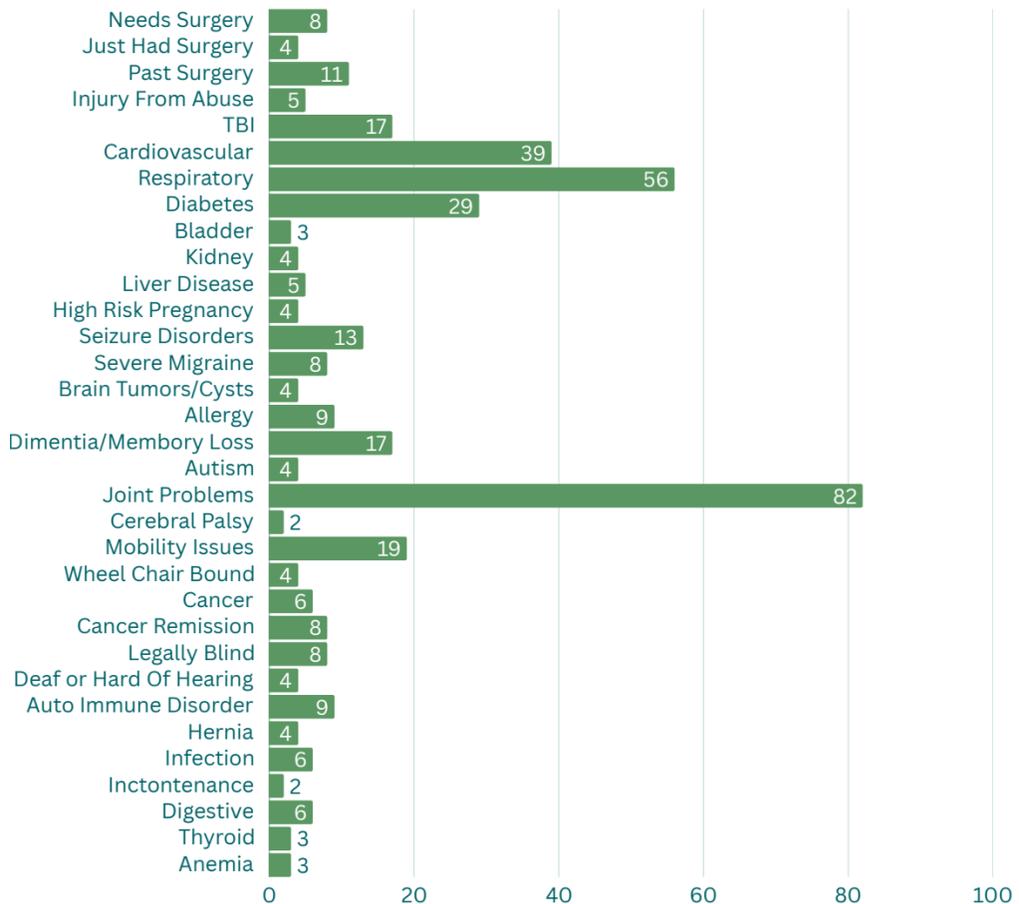


Mental Health



Past or current experience of trauma was reported among 64% of participants. When asked about the source of the trauma, the most common answers were survivors of abuse as children, partner violence, rape or death of a child or parent.

Physical Health



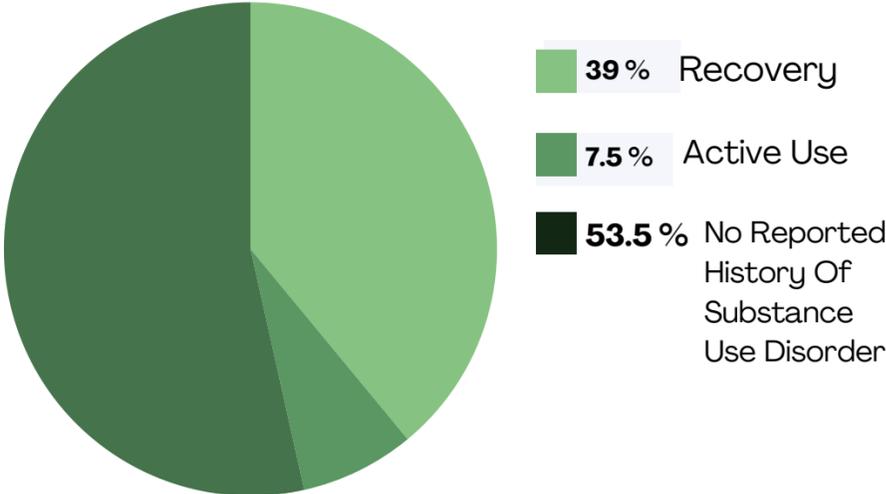
Among participants at least 39.5% reported having a device that needs to be plugged in or have a child that does. 17% of participants reported having medication that needs to be refrigerated. .5% have a special diet that requires electricity. Only 7 of the above mentioned overlap. This means that 42% reported requiring electricity for their health needs.



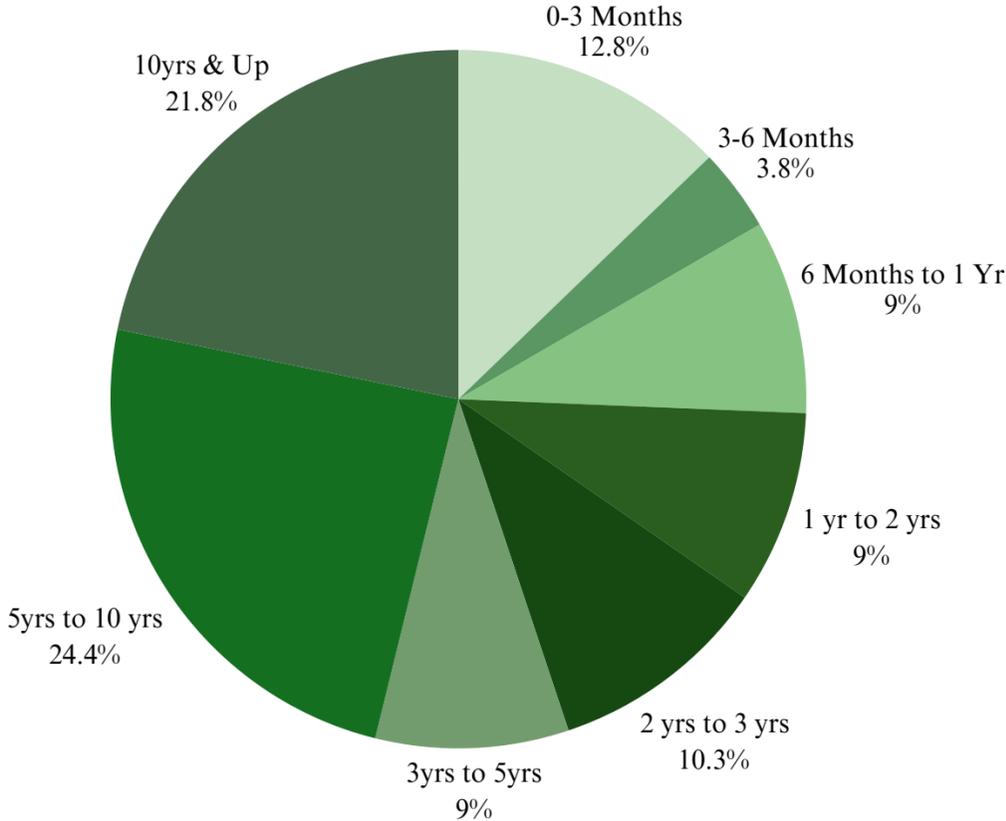
SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS

Substance Use Disorder

Only 7.5% of participants reported struggling with active Substance Use Disorder. 39% reported being in recovery and over 50% reported no history of substance use disorder.



Length Of Recovery



Entered Recovery Before Or After Entered GA Shelter

