

# 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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.



# CAUSE OF LOSS OF HOUSING

## Cause Of Loss Of Housing

No Cause Eviction	41
Condemned Housing	20
Fleeing Violence	19
Could Not Afford Rent	20
Eviction Non-specific	16
Family Eviction	11
Non Payment Of Rent	10
Retaliatory Eviction	5
Foreclosure	7
Health & Safety Issue (left for safety)	8
Flood or Fire	6

This chart represents all categories that had 5 or more. Other reasons given included: Eviction because of disability, family member died, exited foster care into homelessness, homeless since 18, exited institution into homelessness, etc.

**Evictions Break Down:**

There were 84 evictions total. Almost all were not caused by the tenant. Participants who reported losing housing due to no cause evictions described the following experiences: Among the 41 evictions that were no cause: An overwhelming number were not allowed to have their child or parent live there on the lease, several had reported health and safety issues, several landlords wanted to raise rent or renovate, and several then lost their Section 8 voucher due to eviction even though it was no cause. 20 answered that their housing was condemned: There were several where the landlord would not repair the property and others where the landlord could not afford the repairs. Most were unknown as to why the property was not fixed. Among the 18 who couldn't afford rent and 10 evicted for non-payment of rent: All but a few had a catastrophic event that led to not being able to pay rent: Examples: Most reported catastrophic illness or new major disability took them out of the workforce\ Death of a family member

**Health Issue In Housing**

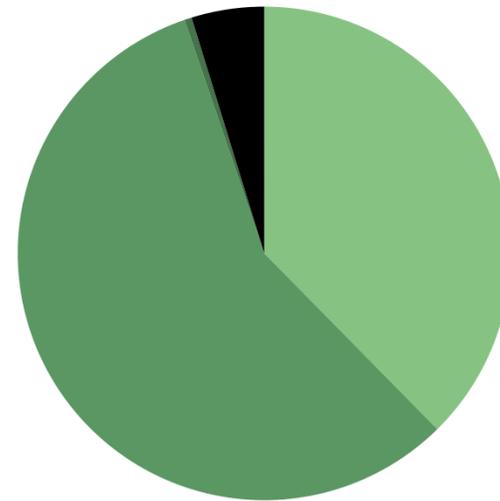
In 47 Cases where people lost housing, regardless of how or why they left, they were living in a house with significant health issues in their housing.



# HOMELESSNESS HISTORY

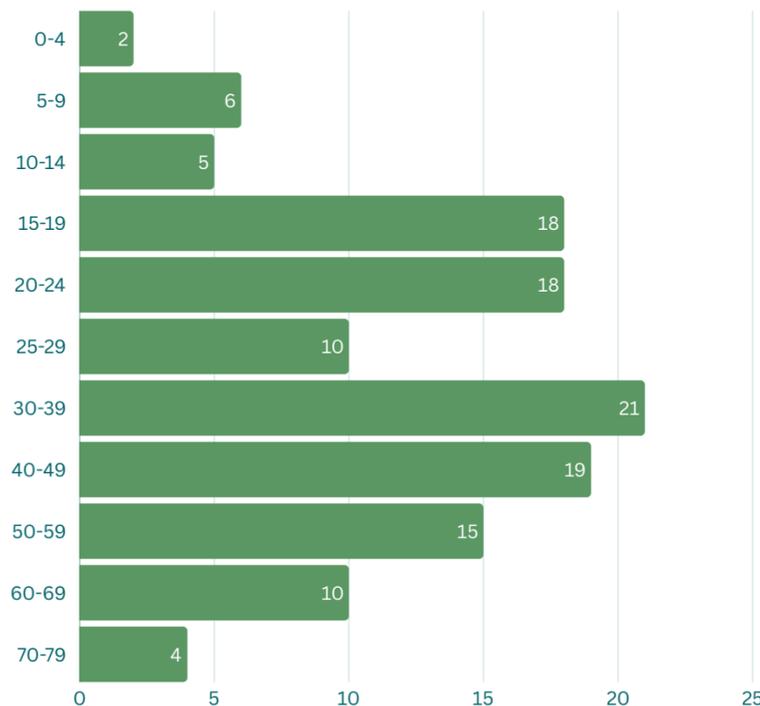
## Homeless Experience

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.

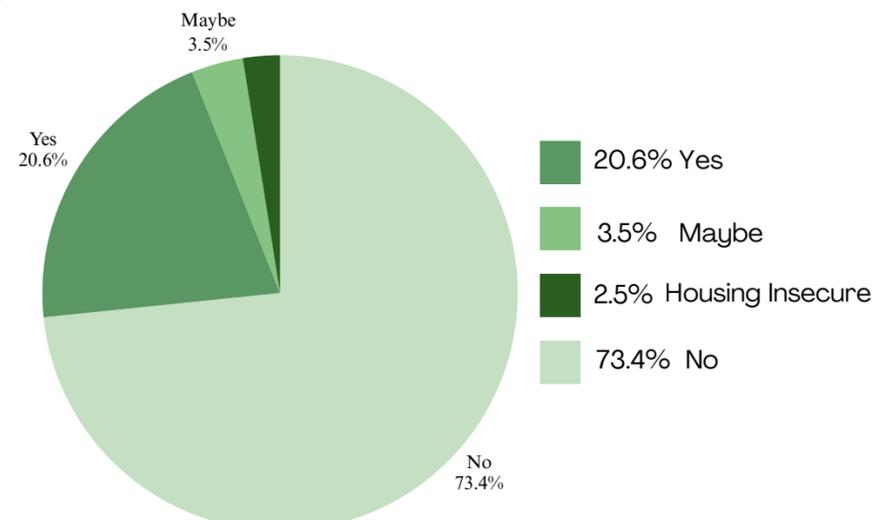


- 37.6% First Time
- 57.1% Previously Homeless
- 4.8% No Answer

## Age First Entered Homelessness. Age Breakdown

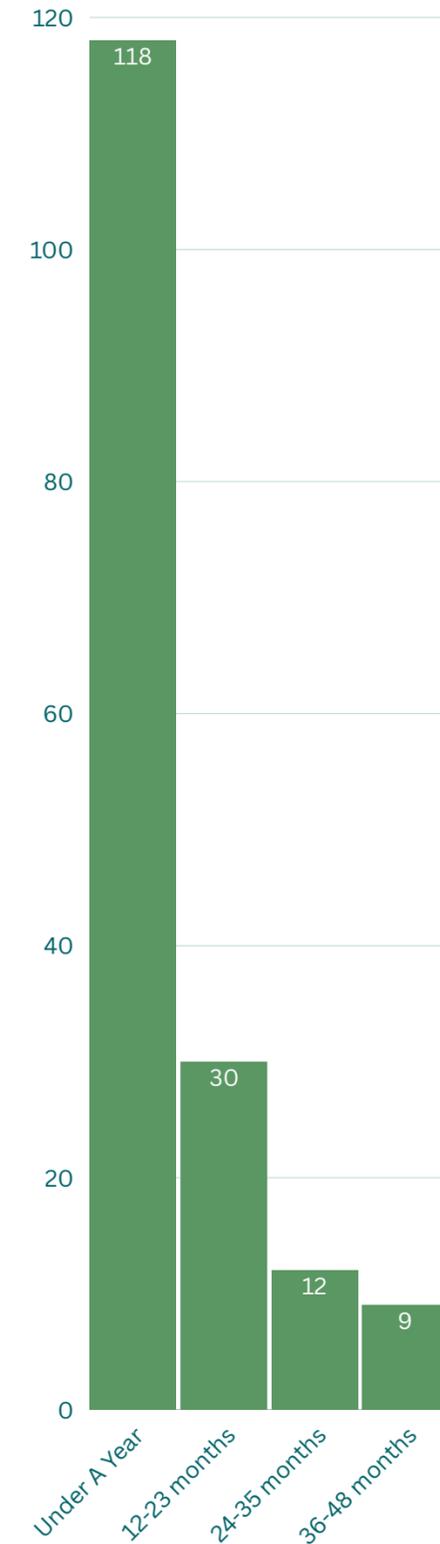


## Homelessness or Housing Insecurity As A Child



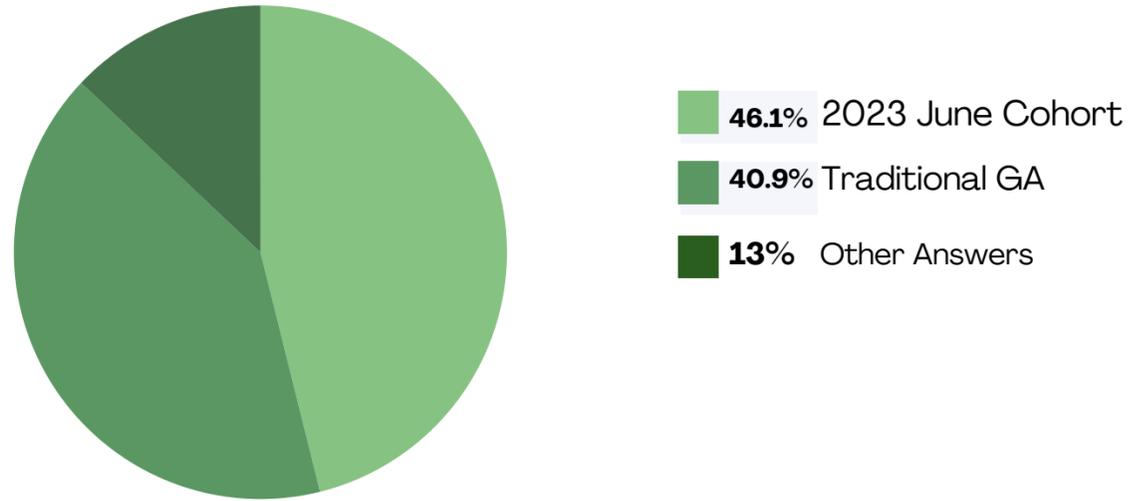
Between 23.1% and 26.6% of all participants who responded had their first experience of homelessness or housing insecurity as children. This number rises to almost 40% when you include people who were in foster care as children.

## Length of Time In GA

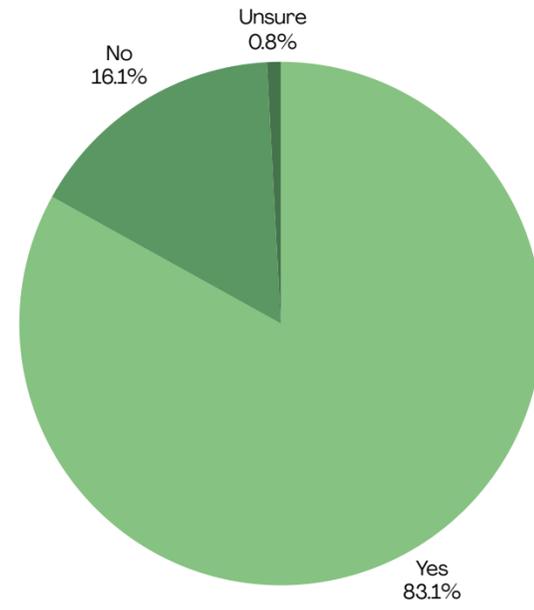


# SERVICES CONNECTIONS

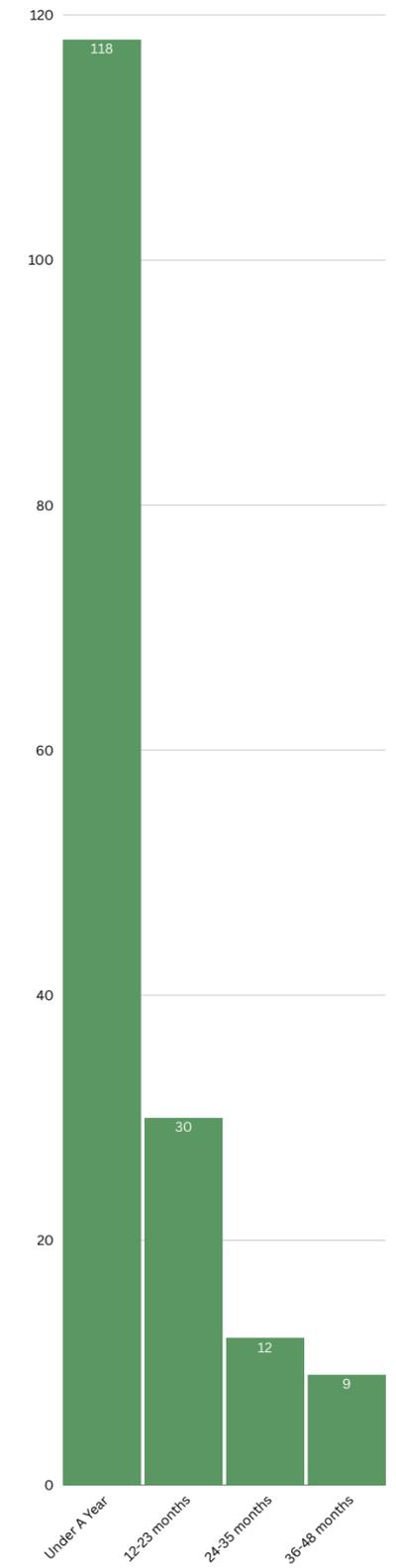
## Category Housed Under



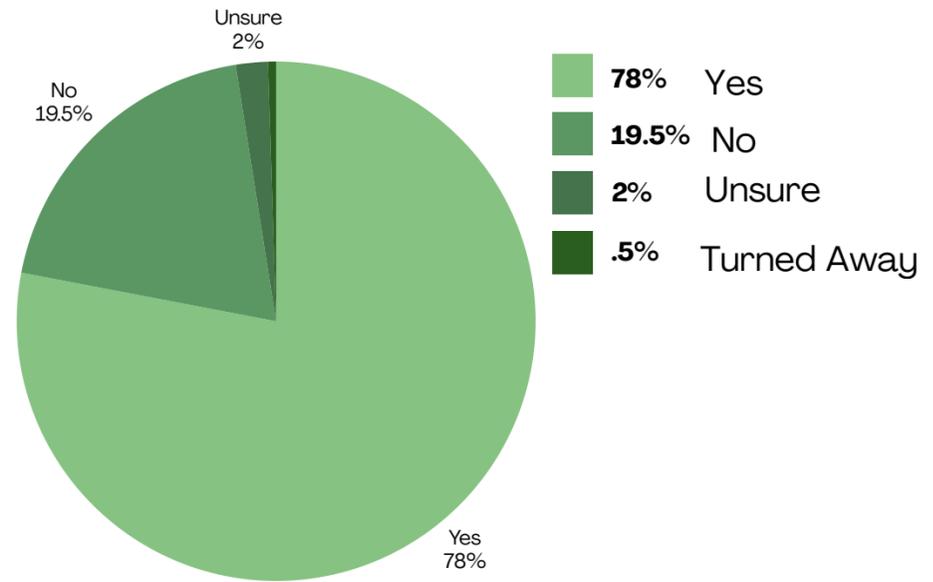
## Medical Services



## Length of Time In GA

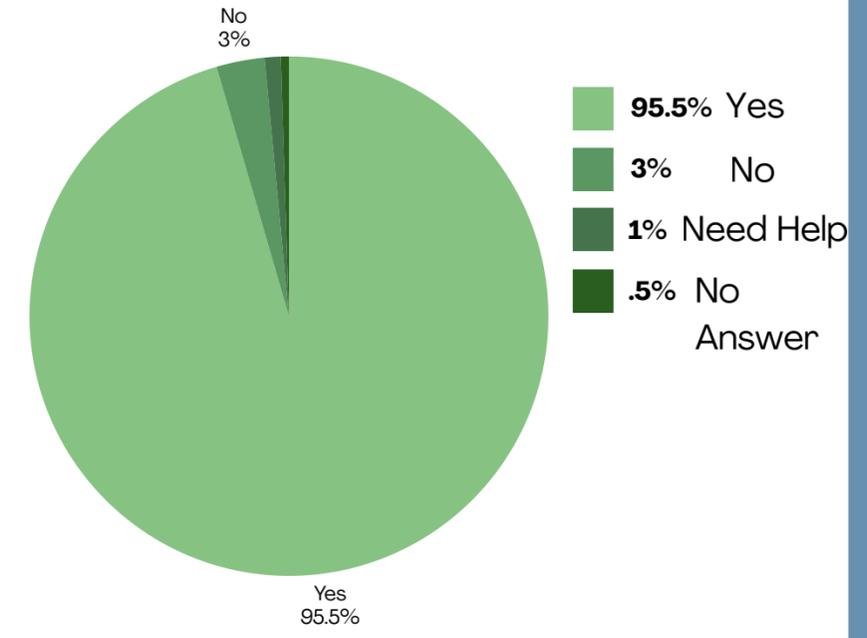


## Connection To Housing Services



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.



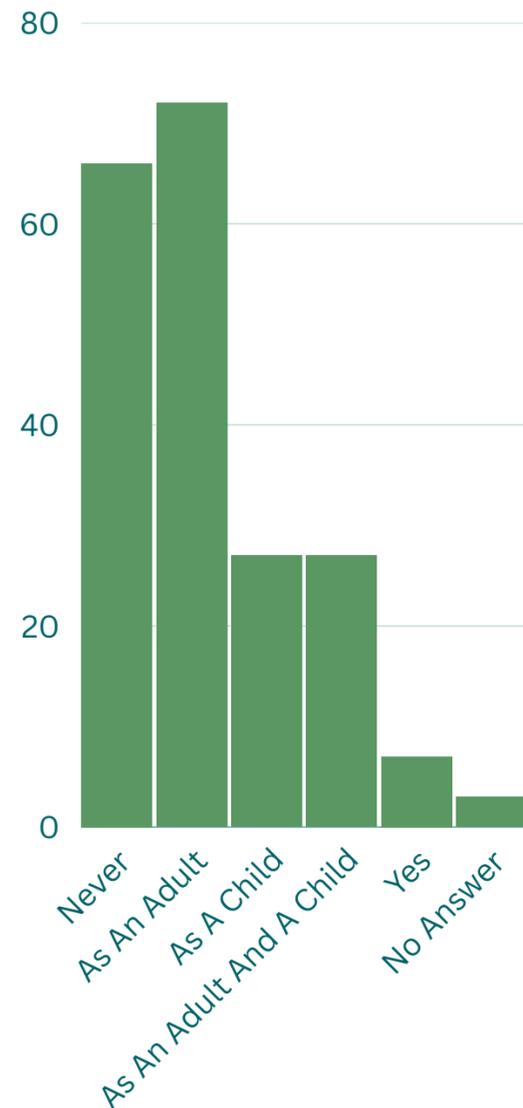
95.5% of all participants had searched for housing, those who had not, had just entered the program or a small number needed additional assistance due to a disability

# 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

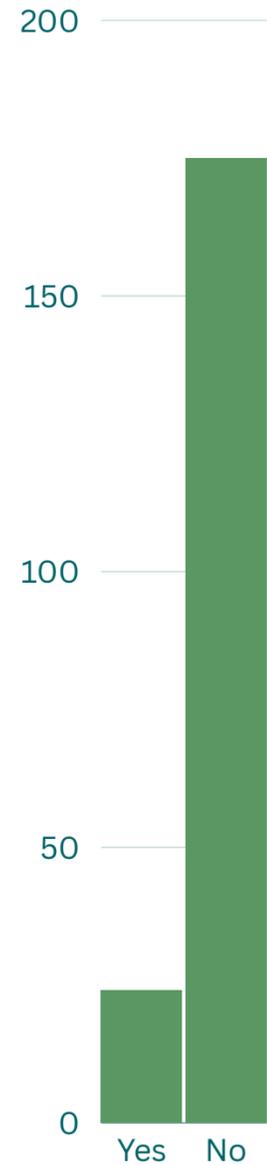
\*Participant did not respond if it was as an adult or child or both



## Current Involvement

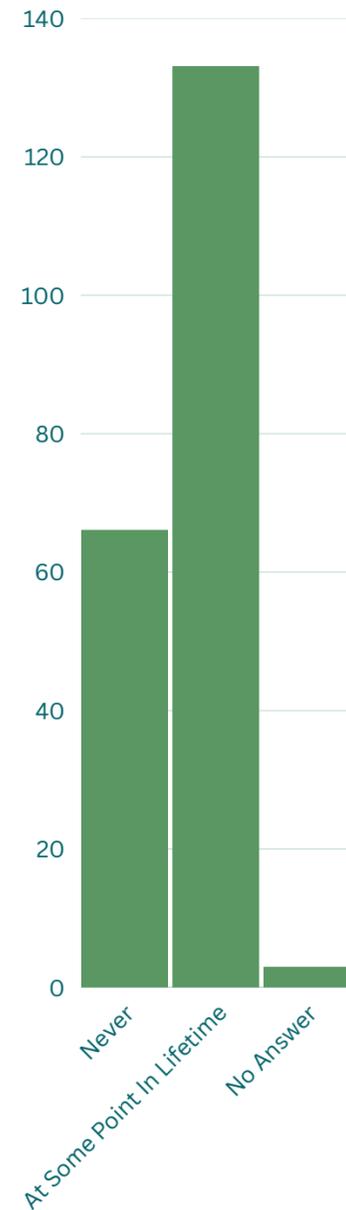
Yes: 24  
 No: 175

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



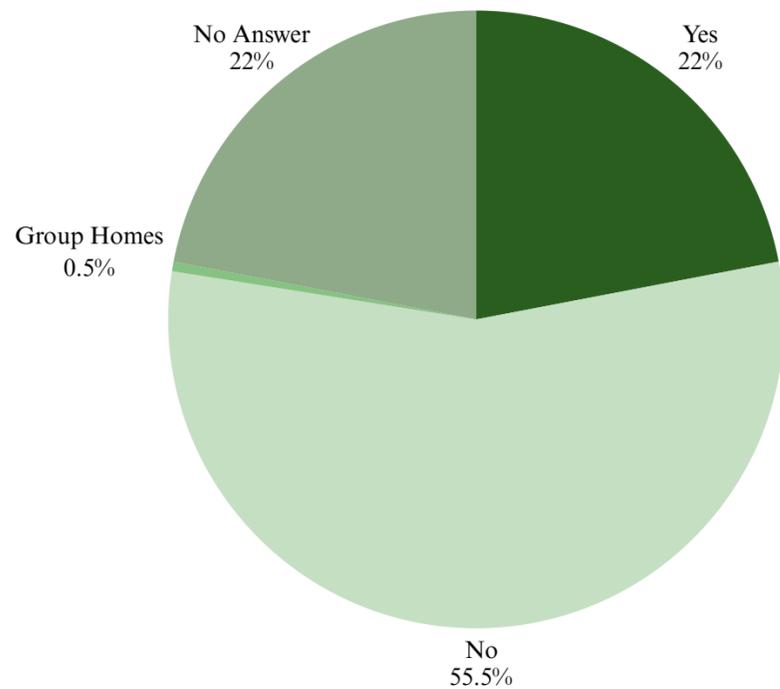
## Involvement At Some Point In Lifetime

Never: 66  
 Some Point: 133  
 No Answer: 3



## In Foster Care As Children

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



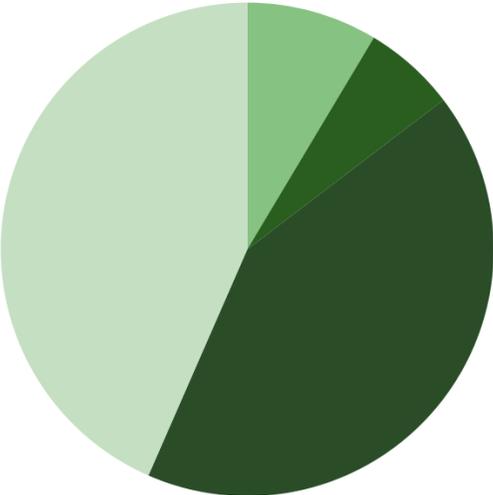
**22.5% of all participants reported having been in foster care as a child. There were also many who chose not to answer this question. National data shows a link between a history of foster care and adult homelessness.**



# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HISTORY

## Domestic Violence History

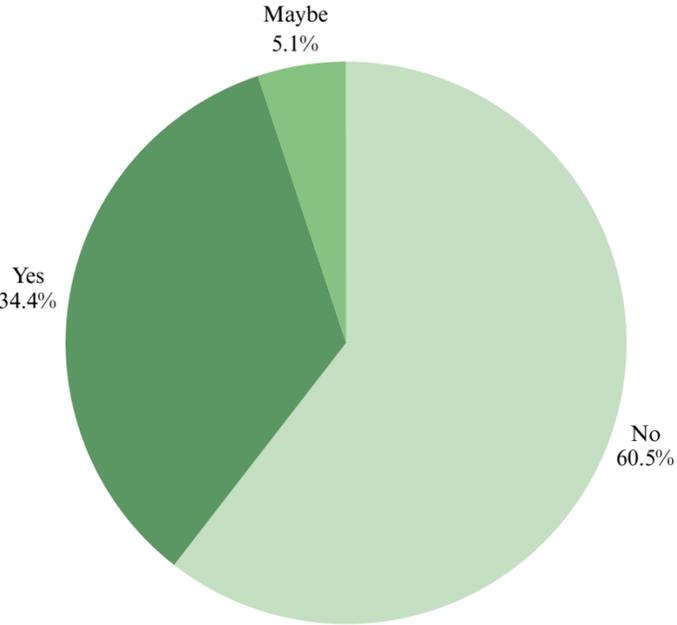
14.5% of participants are fleeing domestic violence now and 47.5% of participants are victims of past domestic violence. There was an overlap of 6.1% of participants who had been victims in the past and were fleeing DV now.



- 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.

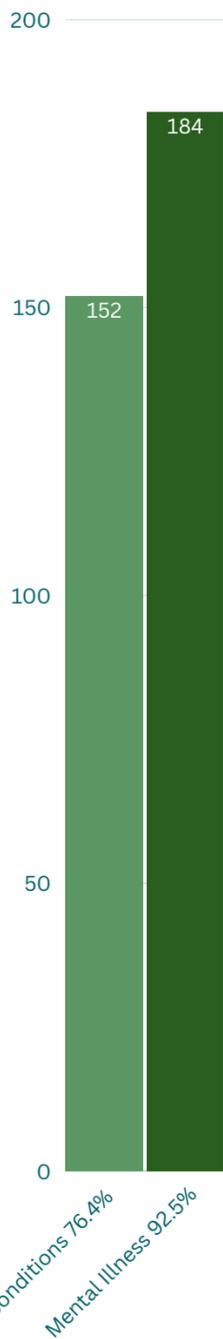


- 20.6% Yes
- 3.5% Maybe
- 60.5% No

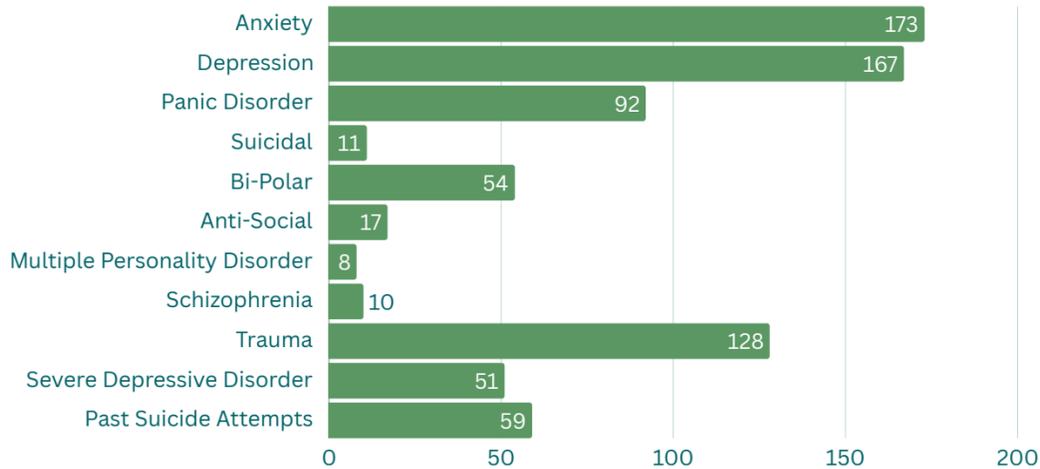


# HEALTH OF PARTICIPANTS

## Health Conditions

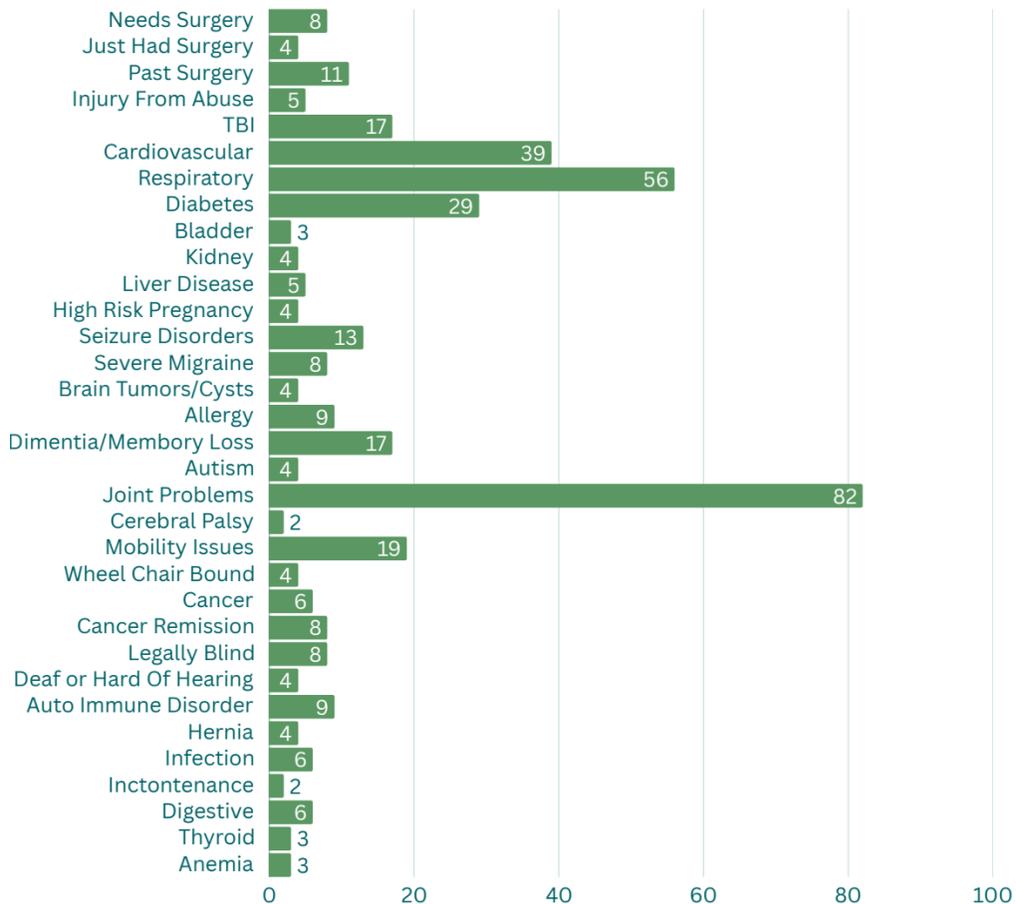


## Mental Health



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.

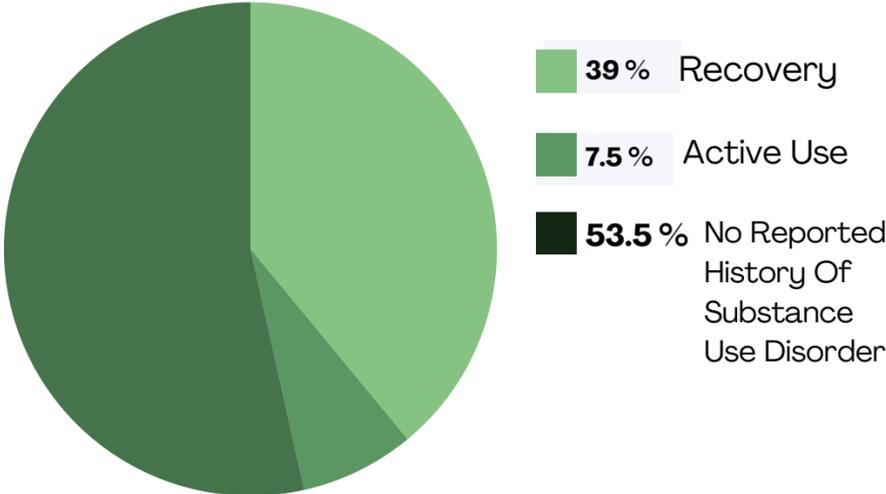




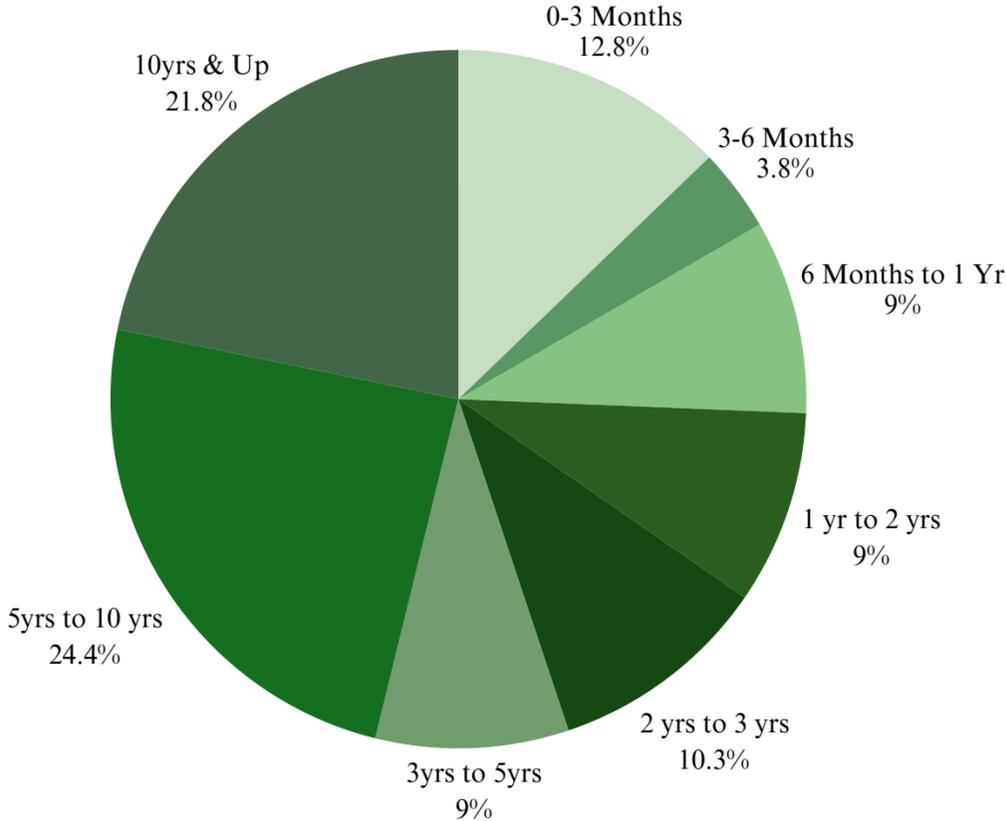
# SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS

## 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

