

See Us Now - Youth Survey Report
June 2019



SMU | ANNETTE CALDWELL SIMMONS
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

CENTER ON RESEARCH & EVALUATION

Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance (MDHA) Youth Committee conducts an annual outreach event for youth experiencing homelessness in which youth are asked to express their own voices through formal surveys administered by volunteers around Dallas and Collin counties. In 2019, the Committee conducted the surveys in both Winter and Summer to compare the circumstances of youth across seasons.

Section 1 of this report describes the results from the Summer 2019 edition of the See Us Now youth surveys. The surveys were collected by MDHA member agencies between June 16 and June 29, 2019. Two full-day outreach sessions were also conducted by member agencies and volunteers. 78 youth were counted and 71 youth completed surveys.

In section 2, key differences between the Summer surveys and the Winter 2019 surveys are compared. Trends between Winter and Summer 2019 were similar overall.

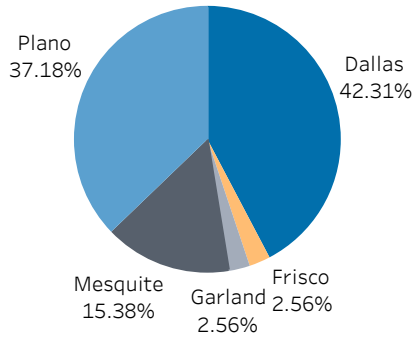
Section 1

Summer 2019 Survey Results

Demographics

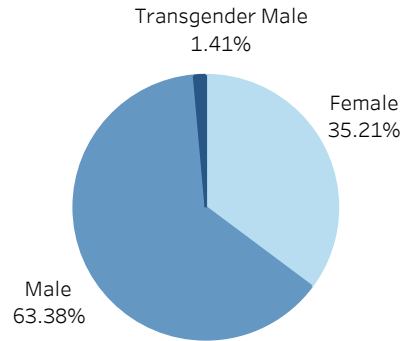
Survey Location

n=78



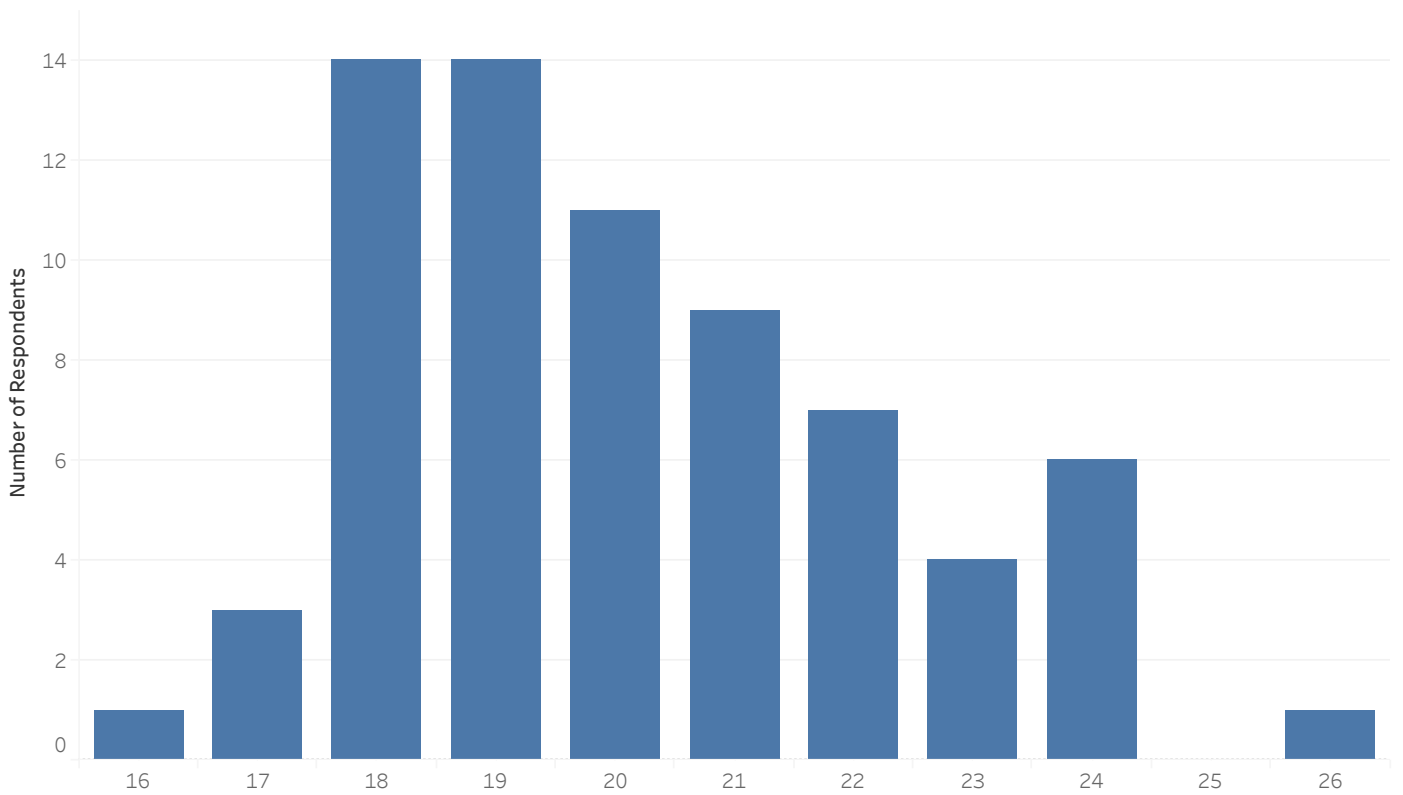
Gender

n=71



Age

n=70

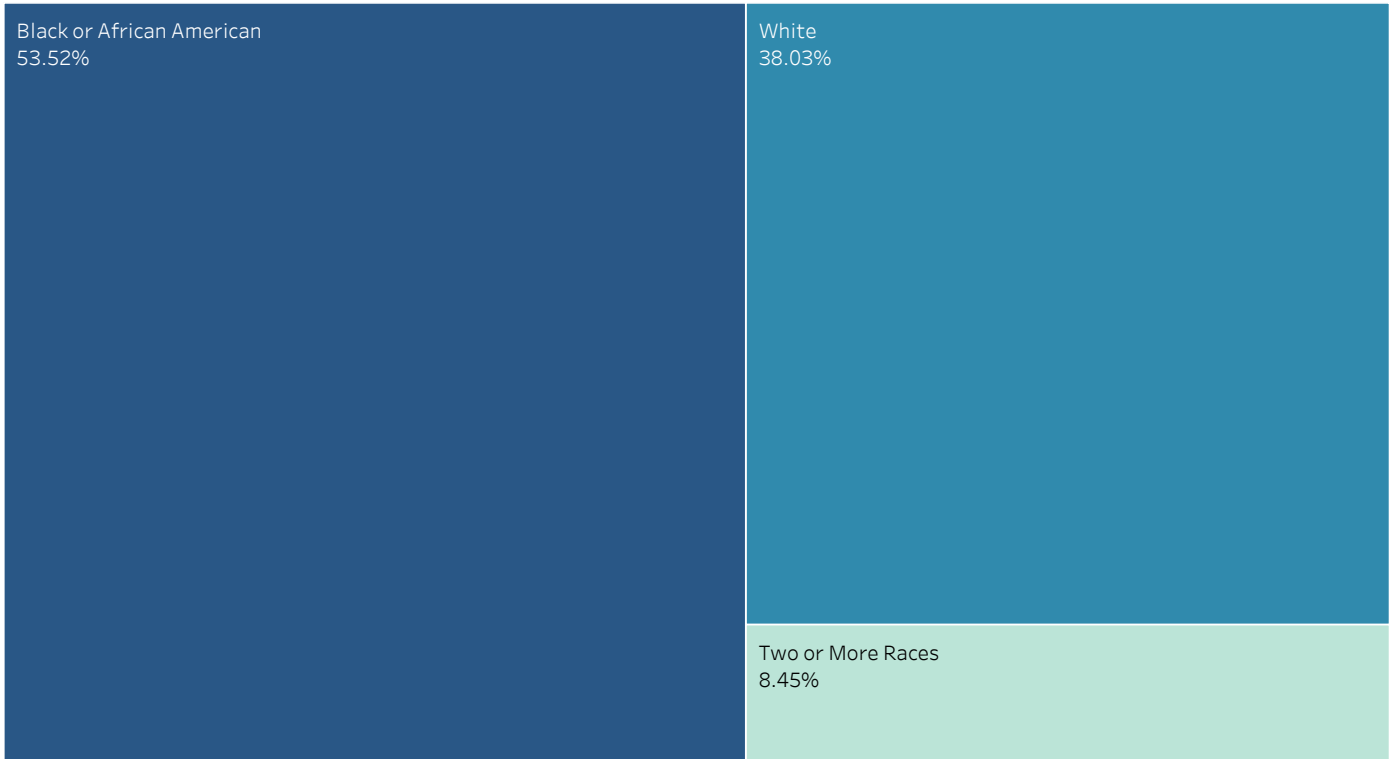


	Ages										
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
# Respondents	1.00	3.00	14.00	14.00	11.00	9.00	7.00	4.00	6.00	0.00	1.00
% of All Ages	1.43%	4.29%	20.00%	20.00%	15.71%	12.86%	10.00%	5.71%	8.57%	0.00%	1.43%

Demographics

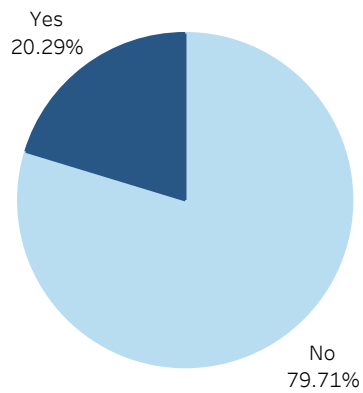
Race

n=71



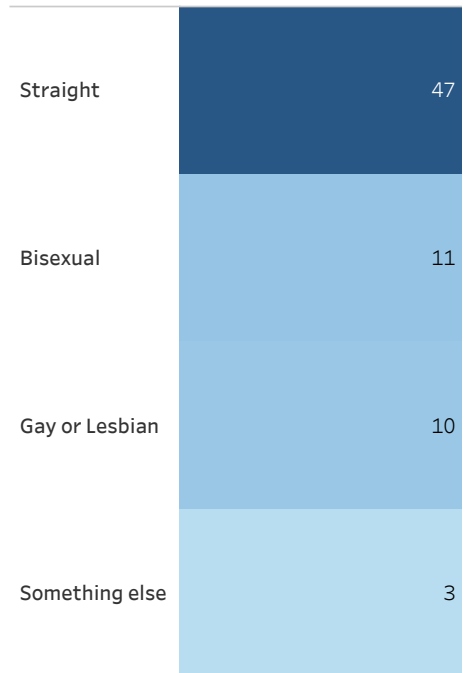
Hispanic or Latin(o/a/x)

n=69



Sexual Orientation

n=71

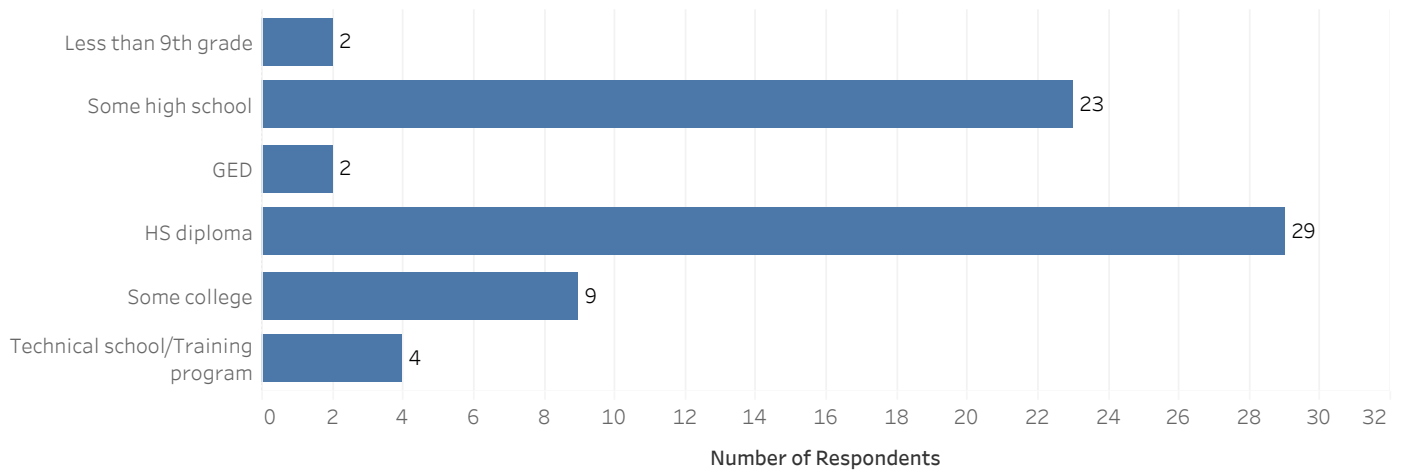


No (0) respondents have ever served in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard.

Education and Job Status

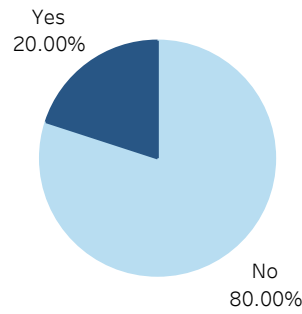
Highest Level of Education

n=69



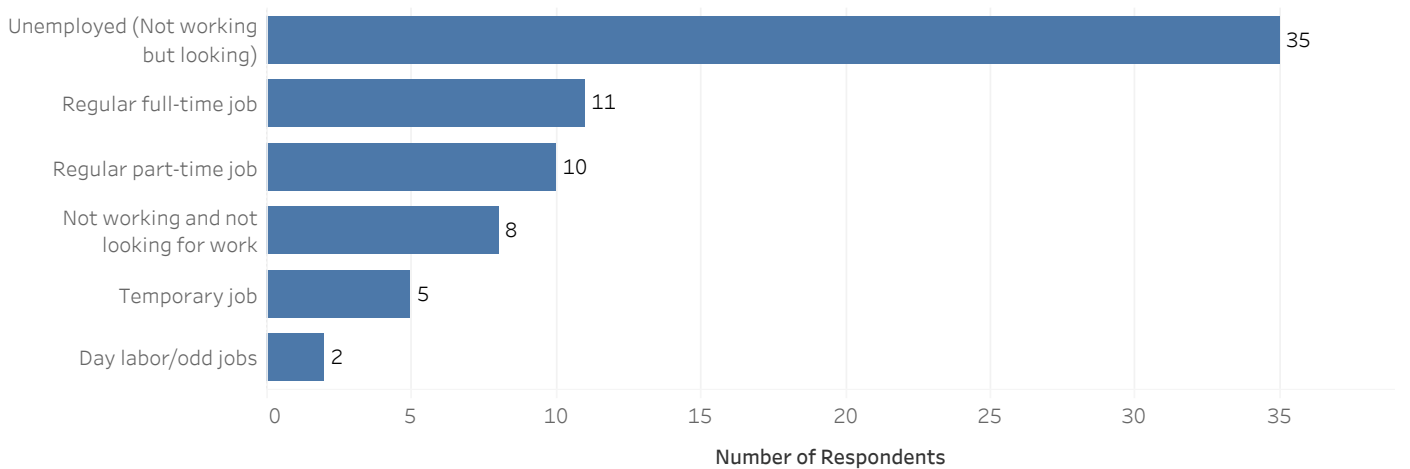
Currently Enrolled in School

n=70



Job Status

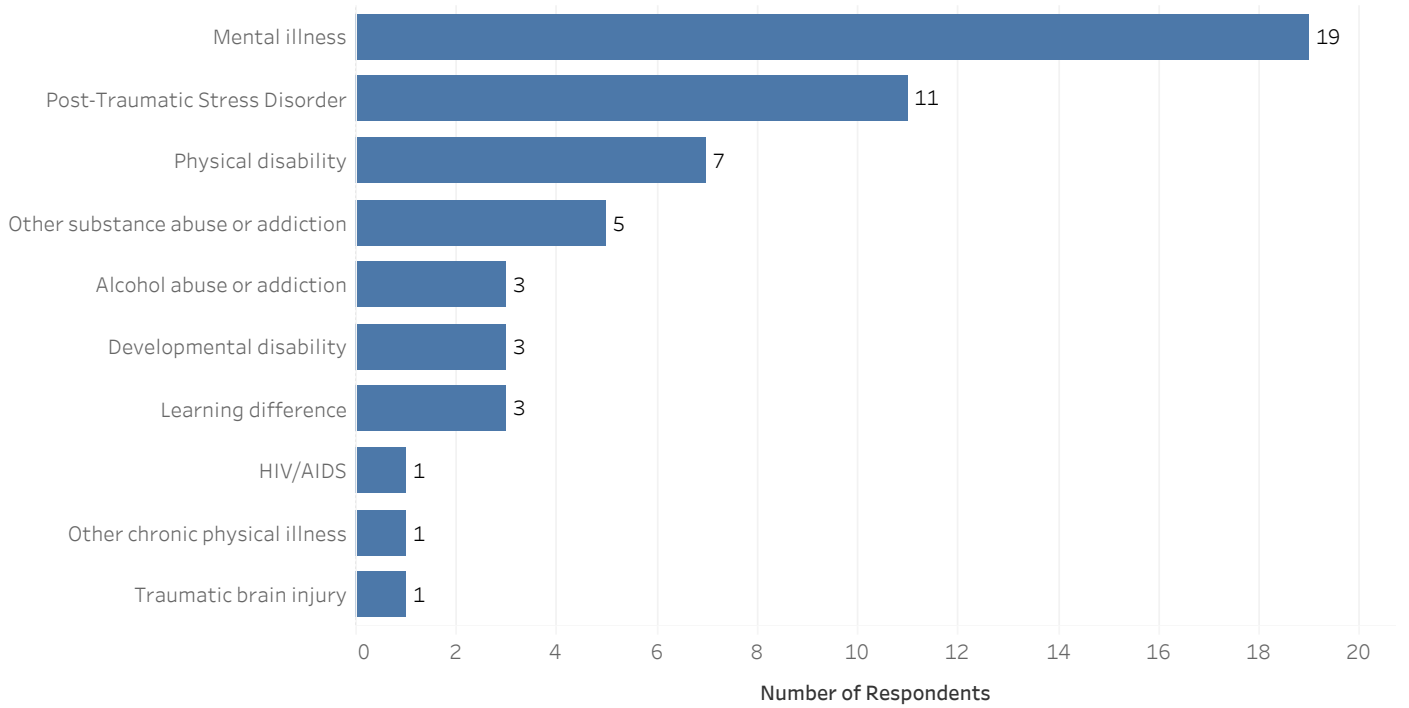
n=71



Health & Family

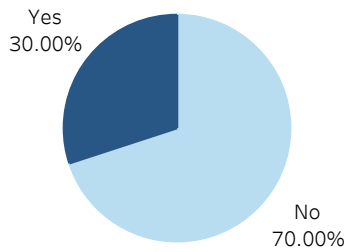
Respondent's Health Conditions

n=26



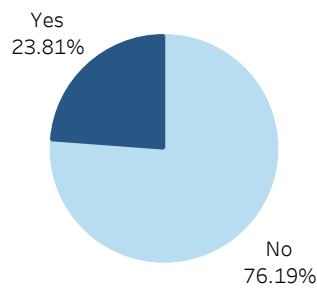
Respondent Ever Had a Child or is Currently Expecting a Child

n=70



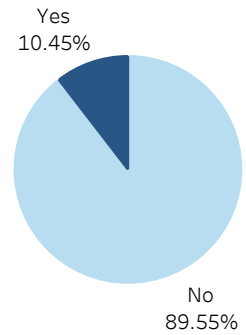
Does (or Will) the Child Live With Respondent?

n=21



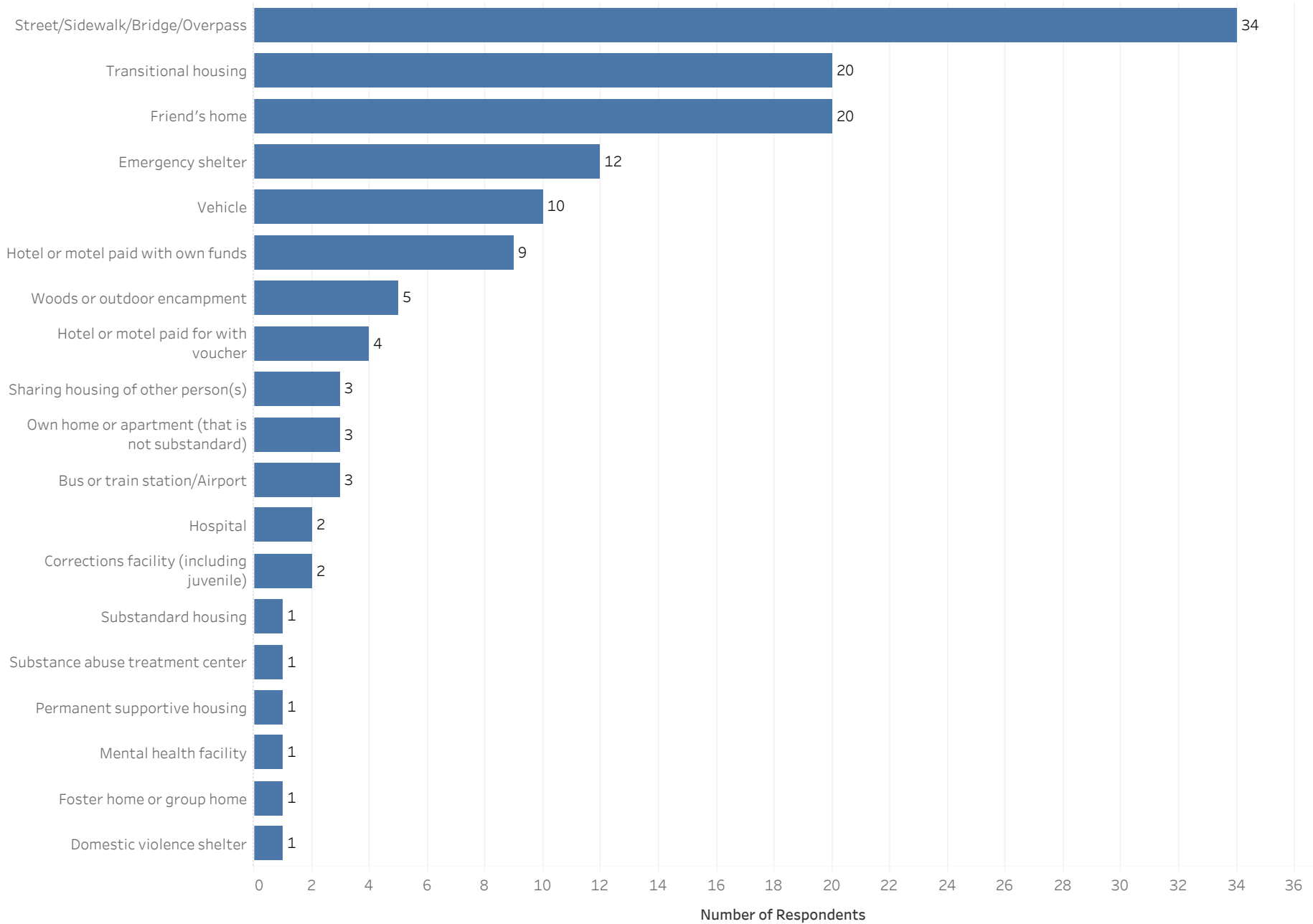
Currently Living With a Parent or Guardian

n=67



Where Respondents Slept in the Past 3 Months

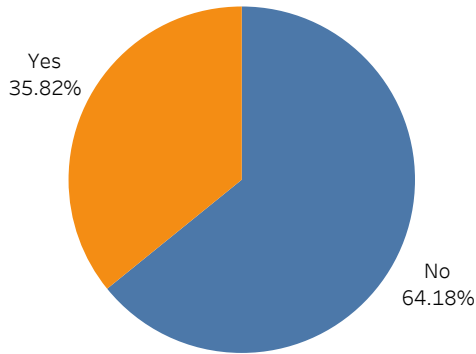
n=70



Stability of Sleeping Arrangements

Respondent is Currently Housed but Experienced Homelessness in the Past
n=67

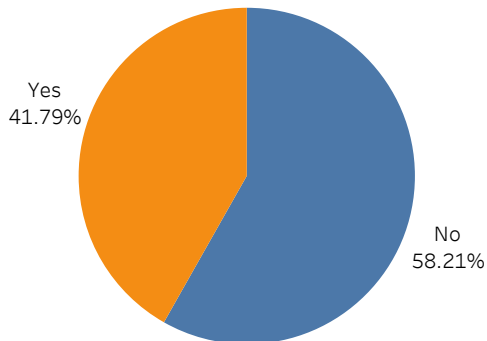
Average Months Spent Homeless
Over Past 3 Years
n=63



11.99

Respondent's Housing Situation Changed Between Recent School Year and Summer Break
n=67

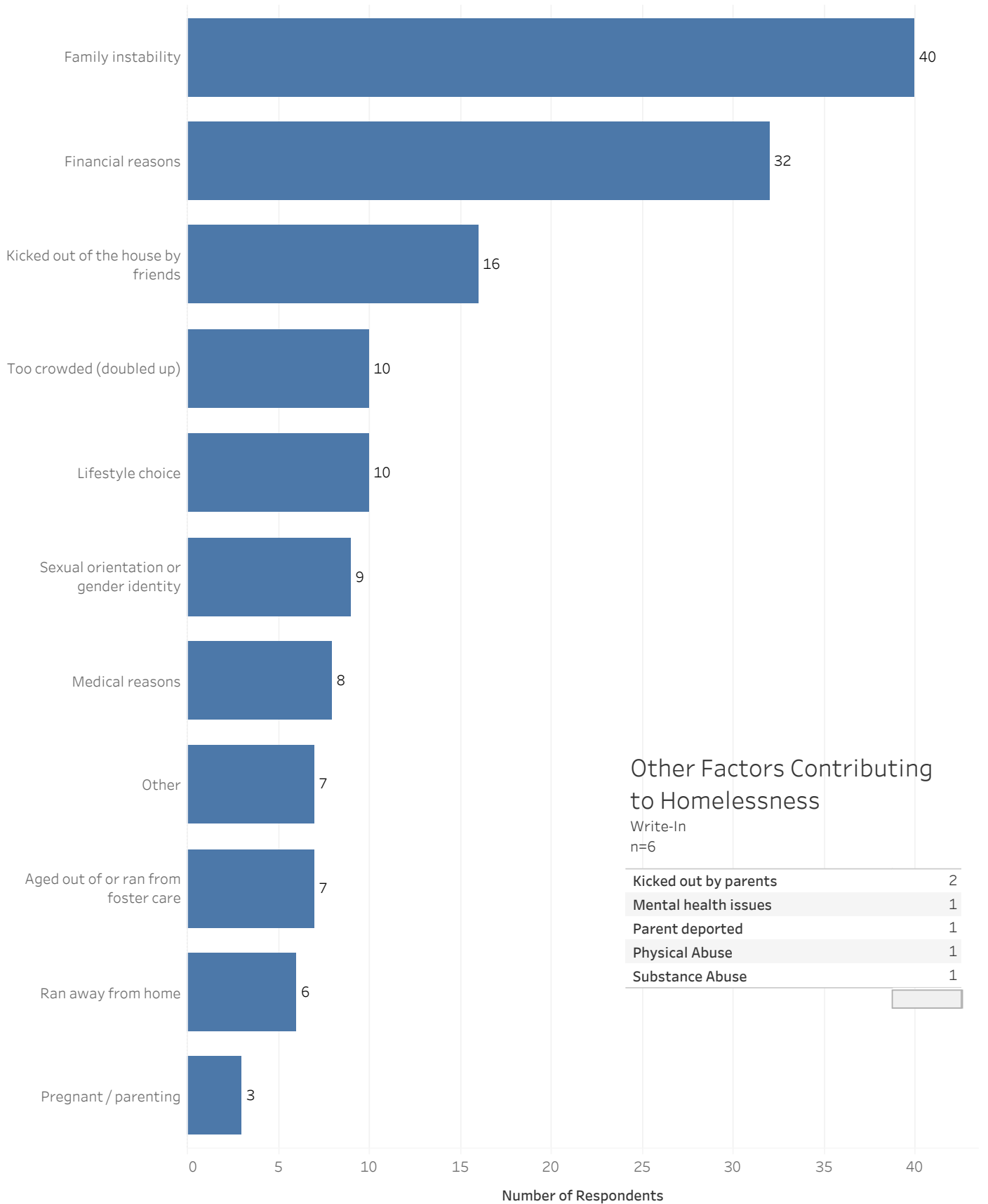
How Housing Has Changed Between School Year and Summer Break
n=28



- Kicked Out (8)
- Entered Transitional Housing (5)
- Entered City House (3)
- Lost Housing (3)
- Job Corps (2)
- Moved (2)
- Gained Housing (1)
- Rotates Between Public and Private Locations (1)
- Motel Used Up (1)
- Released From Jail (1)
- "Bad to Worse" (1)

Factors Contributing to Homelessness

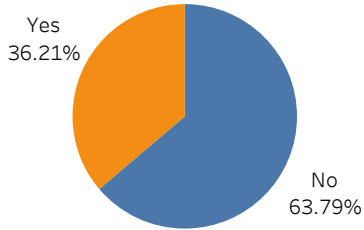
n=66



Shelter Experiences

Have Ever Gone to a Shelter and Did Not Feel Safe

n=58



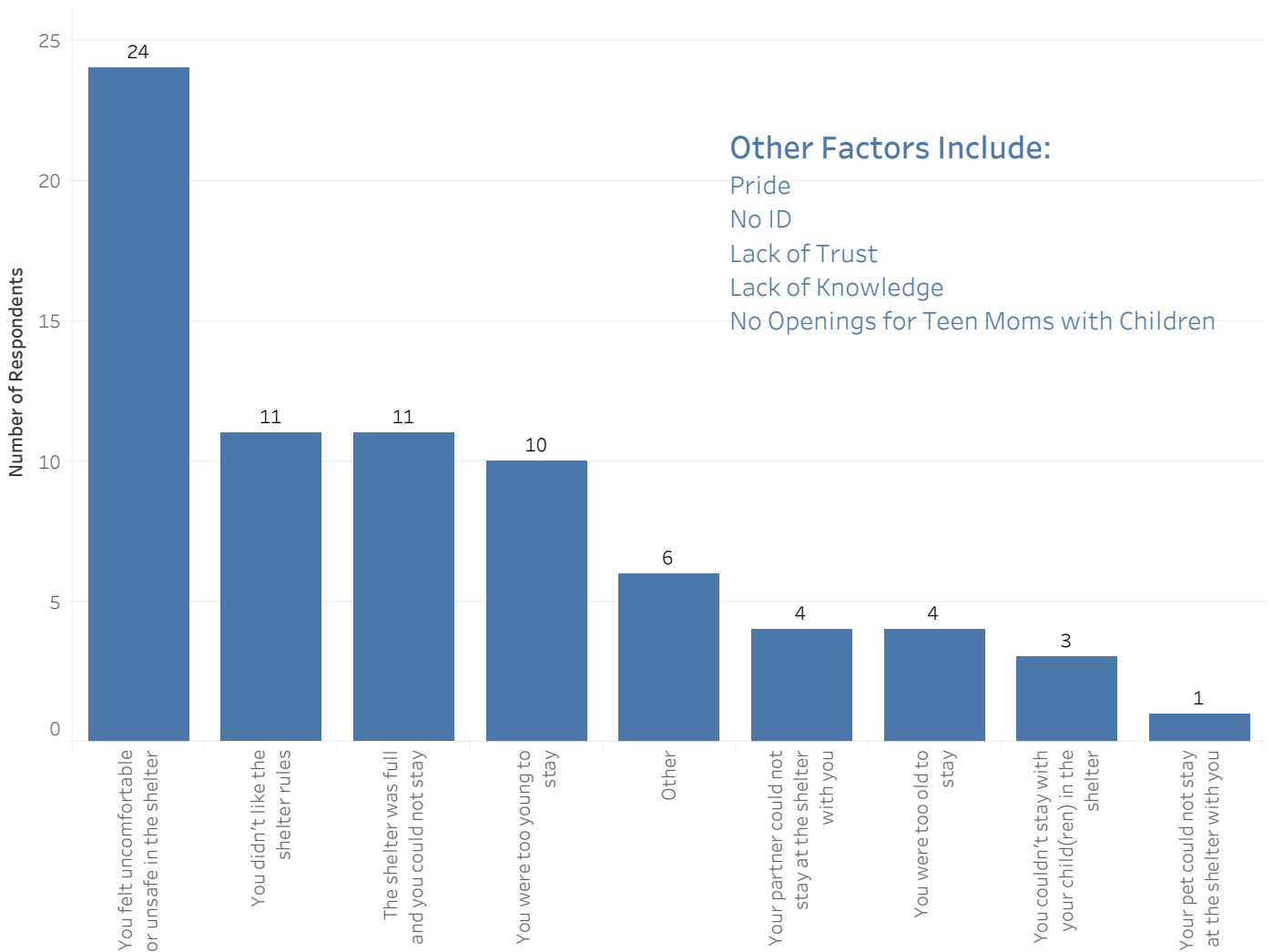
Why Respondents Did Not Feel Safe

n=18

- Other people (sex offenders, older men) - 7
- Violence (staff or residents) - 2
- Theft - 2
- Didn't know anyone - 2
- Mental instability, paranoia - 2
- Shelter location
- Too crowded
- Weapons in the shelter

What Has Prevented Respondents From Going to a Shelter

n=44



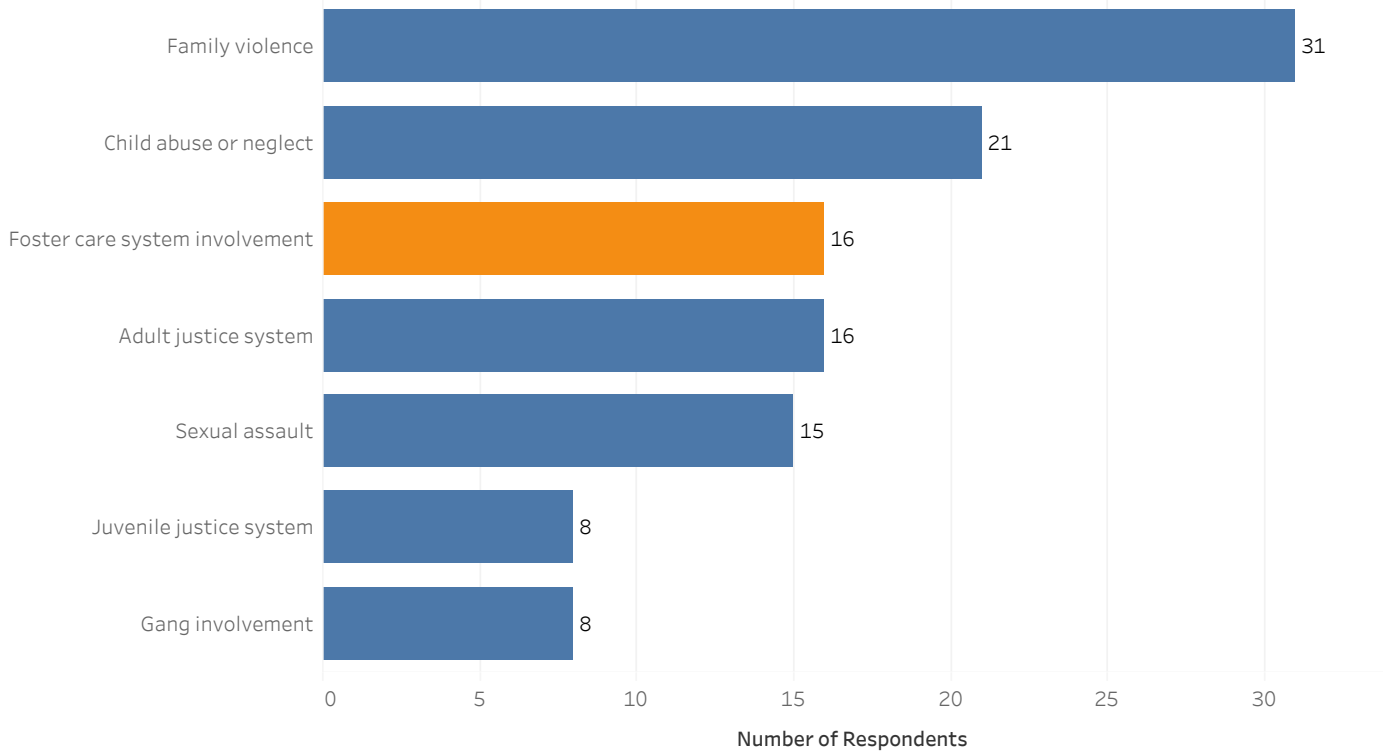
Other Factors Include:

- Pride
- No ID
- Lack of Trust
- Lack of Knowledge
- No Openings for Teen Moms with Children

Adverse Experiences

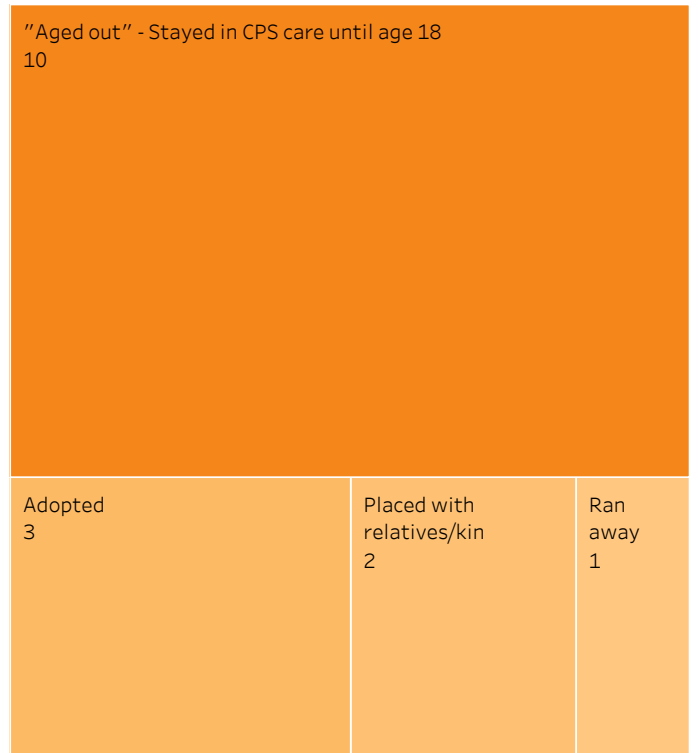
Prior Experiences

n=50



How Respondents Left Foster Care

n=16



Foster Care Experiences

Range from 24 months to 16 years

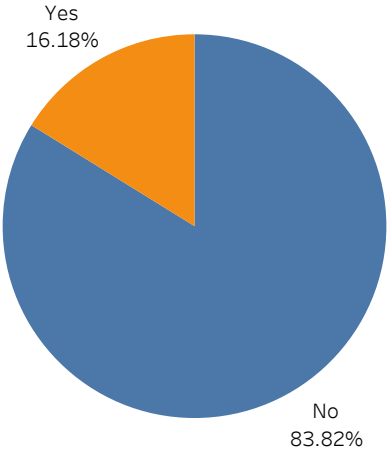
Average 82 months in foster care (6.8 years)

Average 10 different placements (up to 40 placements reported)

Trafficking

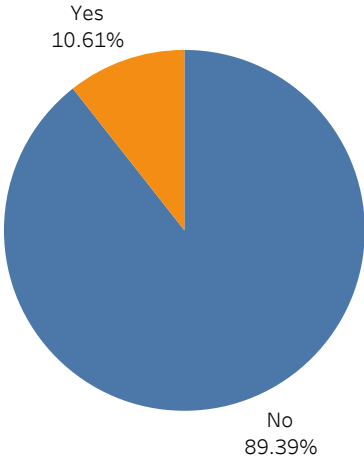
Ever Felt Forced, Pressured, or Tricked into Continuing a Job

n=68



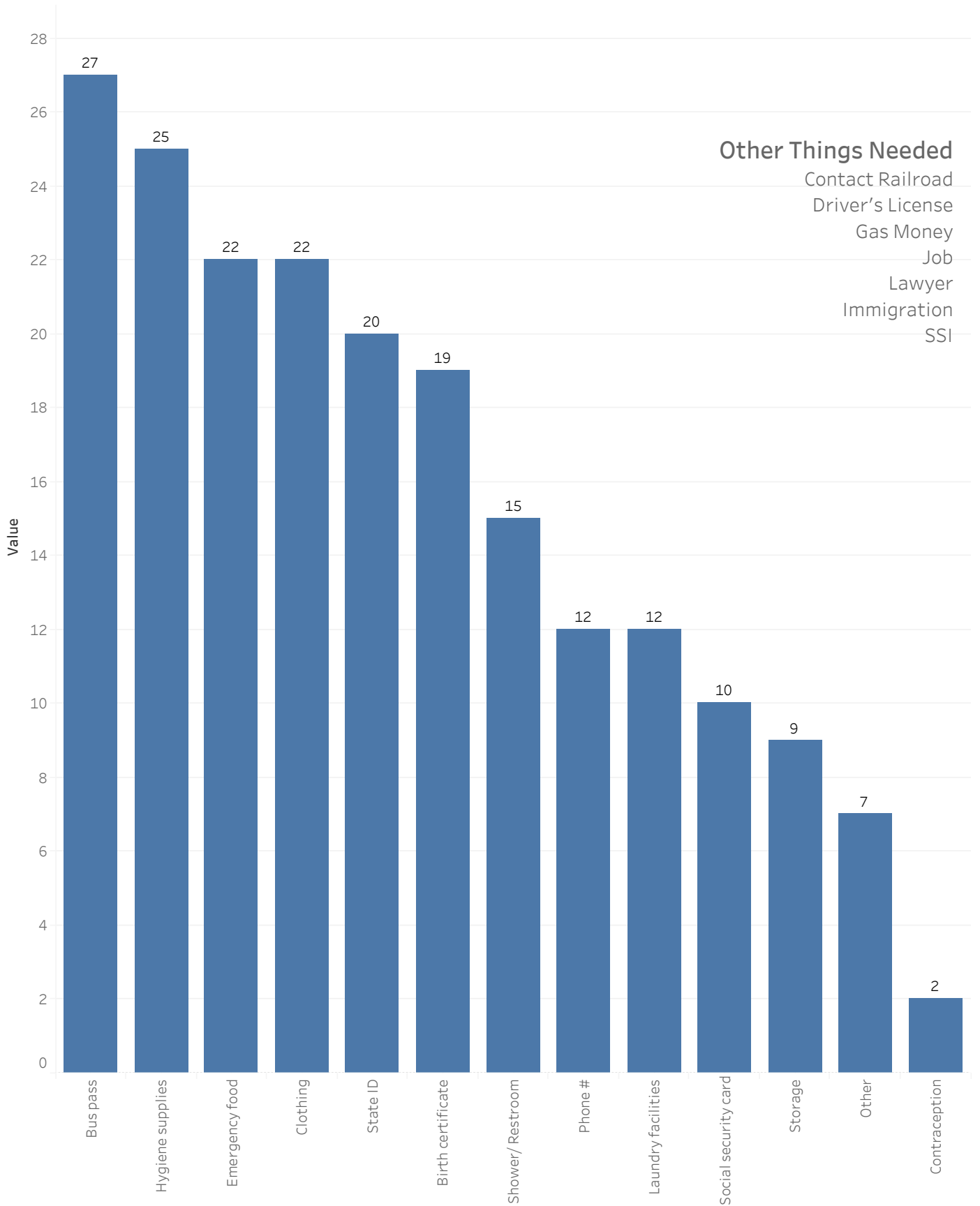
Ever Used Your Body or Had Sex in Exchange for Money, Food, Drugs, or a Place to Stay

n=66



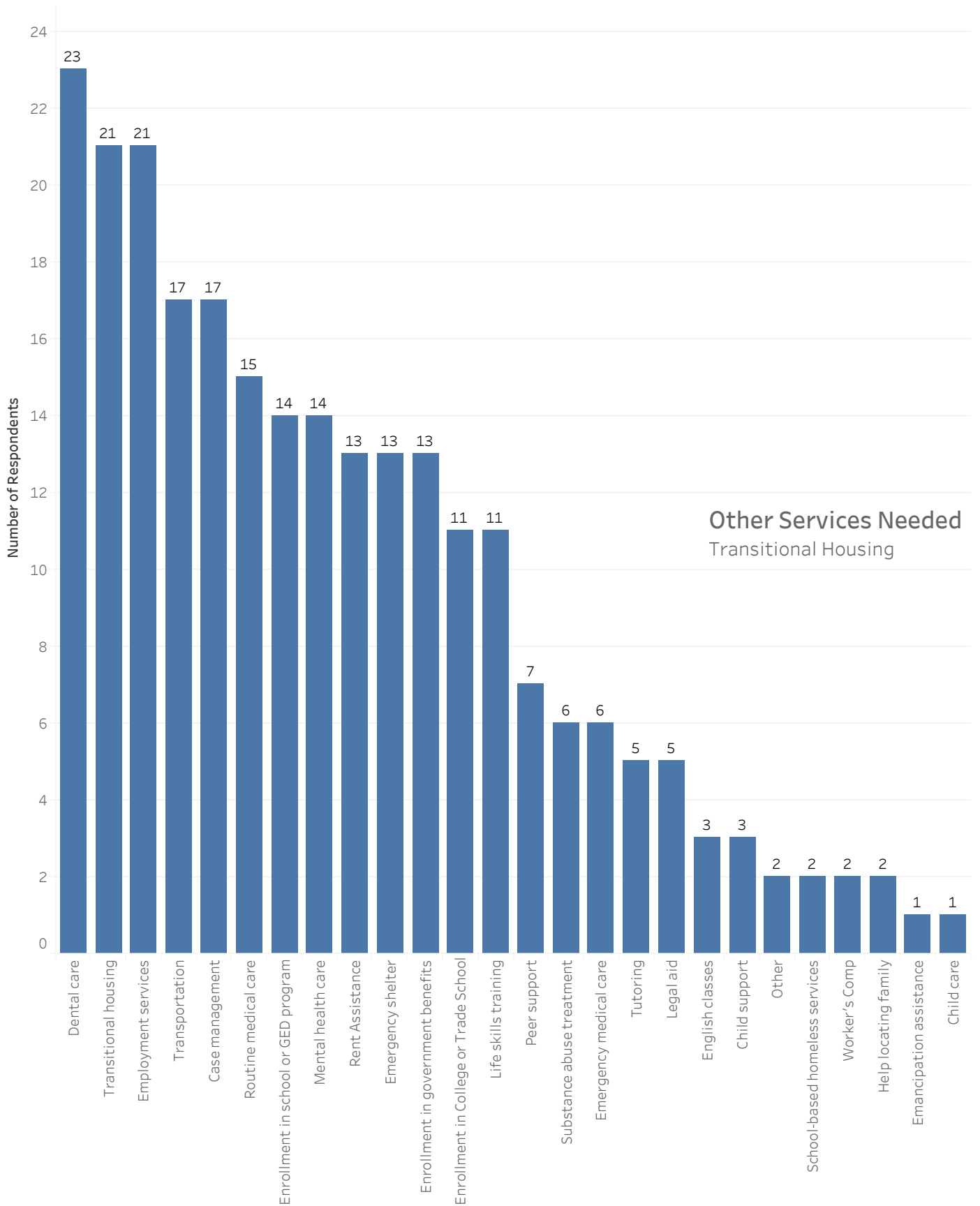
Things Respondents Need Help Getting

n=55



Services That Respondents Need But Are Not Getting

n=58



The Most Helpful Support or Service Received in the Past Year:

n=48

Resources

Food/Food Stamps/SNAP (9)
Bus Passes/Transportation (5)
Housing/Housing Assistance (4)
Motel/Emergency Shelter (3)
IDs, Personal Documents (2)
Anything (2)
Gift Cards (1)
Disability Check (1)
College Assistance (1)
Places Where Pets Can Stay With Owner (1)
Shower Facilities (1)
Laundry Facilities (1)
Clothing (1)

Services

Transitional Housing Programs (4)
Counseling/Mental Health (4)
Case Management (3)
Job Corps/Employment Assistance (2)
Recovery Coaching (1)
Child Care (1)
Life Skills (1)

Specific Organizations or Entities

Churches (3)
City Square/TRAC (3)
City House (2)
Promise House (2)
The Bridge (2)
City of Plano (1)
MDHA Outreach (1)

Other

Peer Support (3)
Ability to "sit out charges" (1)

Section 2

Comparison of Winter and Summer Surveys

Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance collected the See Us Now Youth Survey in both Winter and Summer to investigate seasonal differences in the experiences of youth. The Summer collection yielded 71 complete surveys. This response rate is notably lower than Winter's 181 surveys collected, however, **many of the response trends remained similar overall.**

The following section describes the key differences between Winter and Summer survey results.

Respondent Demographics Comparisons

Summer Respondents are Older on Average

	Youngest	Average Age	Oldest
Winter	12.00	18.56	24.00
Summer	16.00	20.14	26.00

Summer Respondents Have Spent More Months Homeless on Average

Winter	9.697
Summer	11.992

More Summer Respondents Have Ever Had a Child

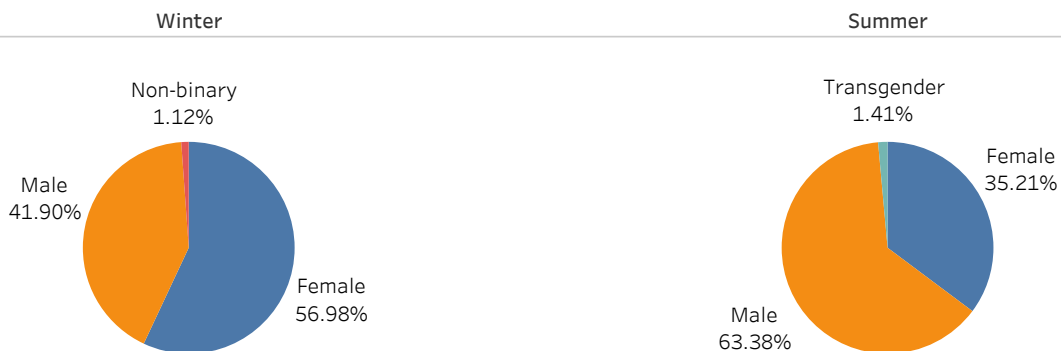
Winter: 19%
Summer: 30%

Summer Respondents Spent Almost Twice as Long in Foster Care on Average

Winter Average: 47 Months
Summer Average: 82 Months

Respondents Primarily Female in Winter, Primarily Male in Summer

Winter n=179
Summer n=71

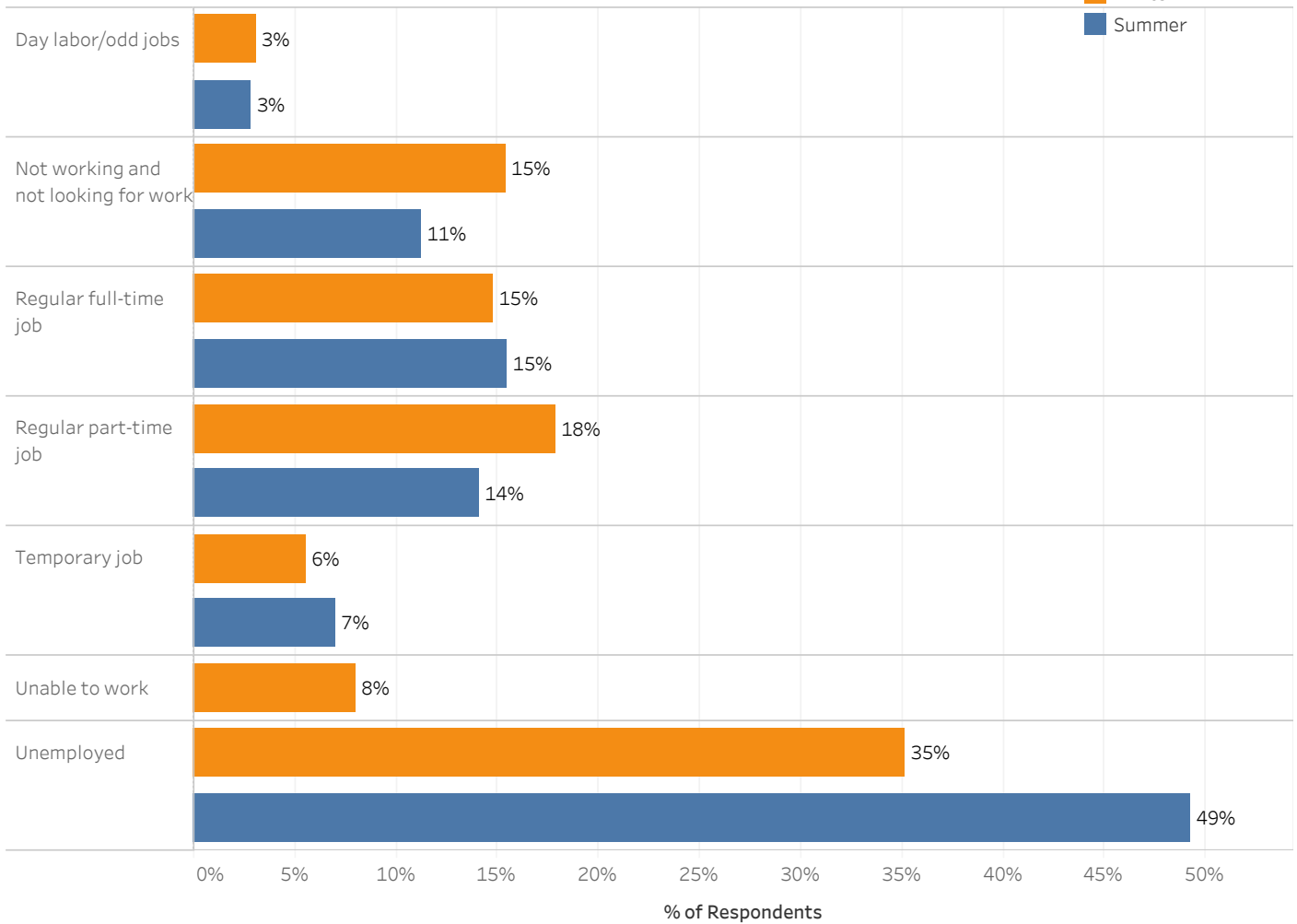


Work & School Comparisons

Difference in Job Status from Winter to Summer

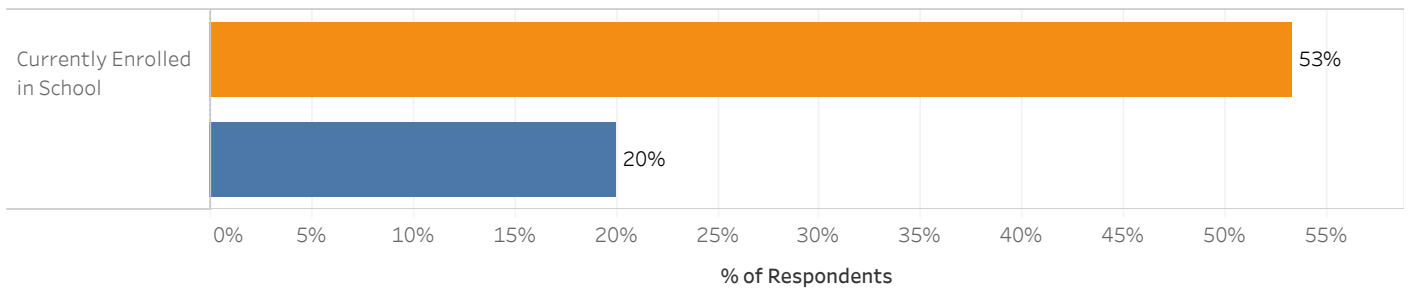
Winter n=162
Summer n=71

Survey
Winter
Summer



Currently Enrolled in School, Winter to Summer Comparison

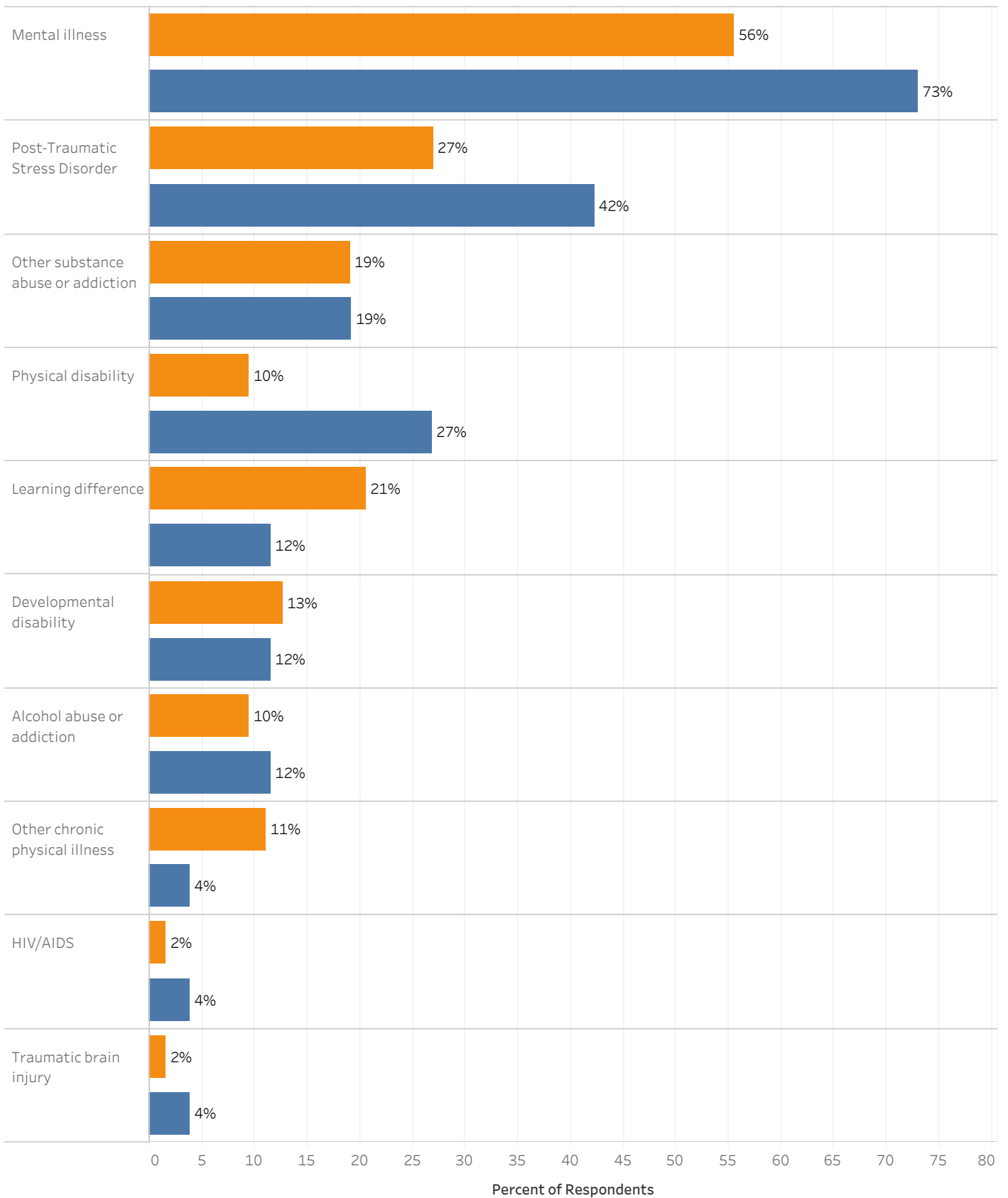
Winter n=180
Summer n=70



Respondents' Health Conditions, Winter to Summer Comparison

Winter n=63
Summer n=26

Survey
Winter
Summer



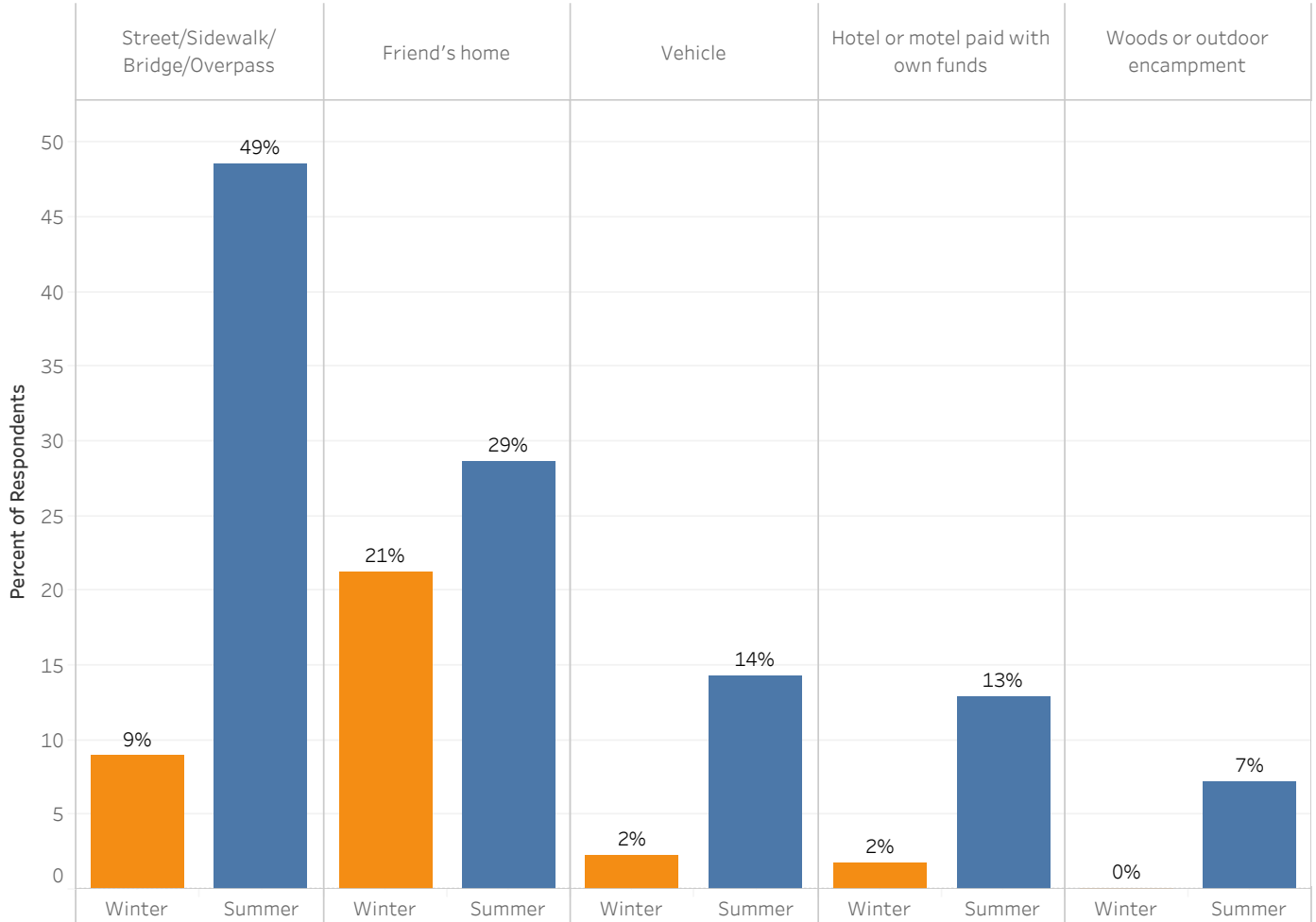
Sleeping Arrangements Comparison

Where Respondents Have Slept, Winter to Summer Comparison

Winter n=179; Gave only one response to where they slept LAST NIGHT

Summer n=70; Gave multiple responses to where they slept OVER THE PAST THREE MONTHS

Survey
■ Winter
■ Summer

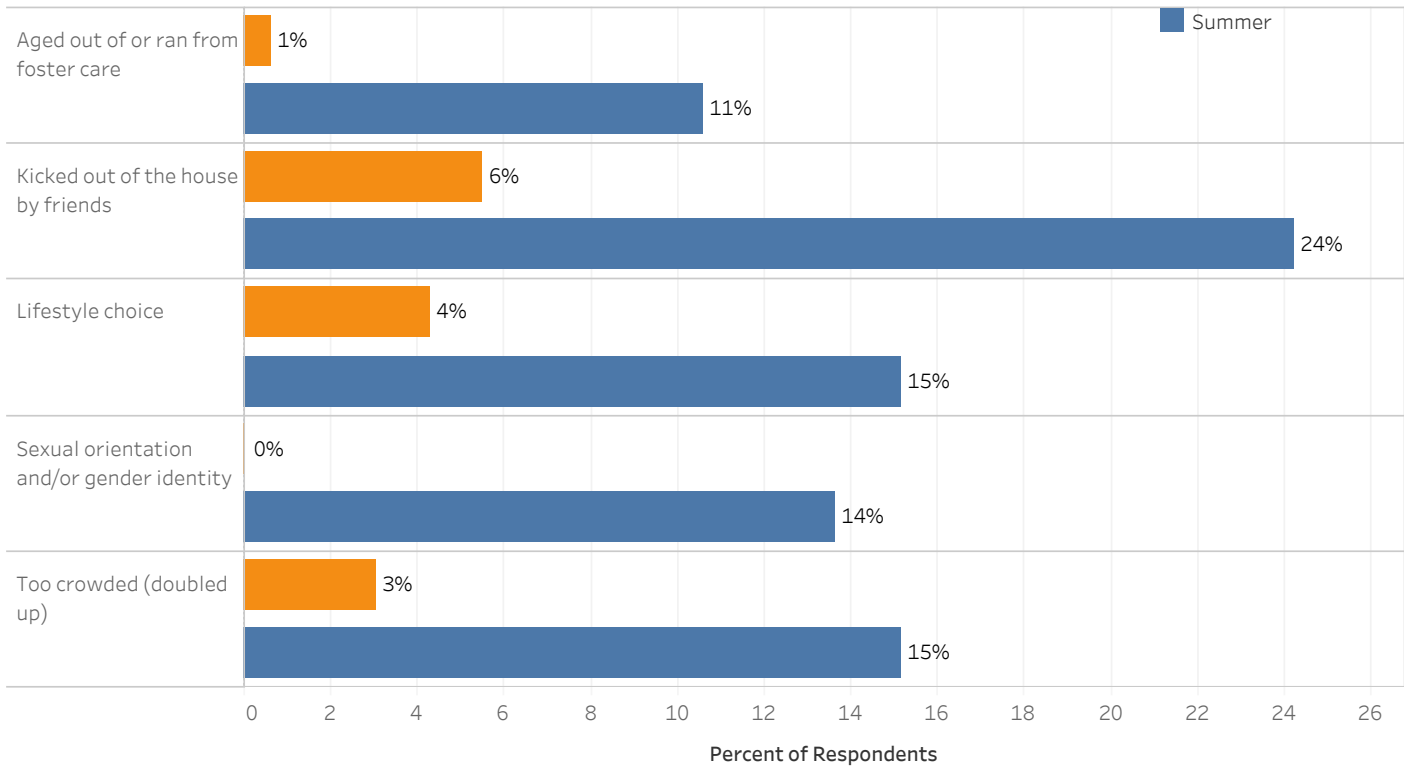


On the Winter survey, respondents were asked where they slept LAST NIGHT. The Summer survey was revised to allow multiple selections to indicate where they slept OVER THE PAST THREE MONTHS. Trends overall were similar, however this graph highlights the options that were visibly different from Winter to Summer. These options were likely under-represented in the Winter survey due to how the survey was collected and the phrasing of the question, though it is possible that these sleep locations are more prevalent in the Summer.

Factors Contributing to Homelessness, Winter to Summer Comparison

Winter n=163
Summer n=66

Survey
■ Winter
■ Summer

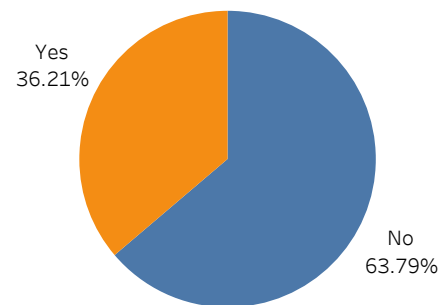
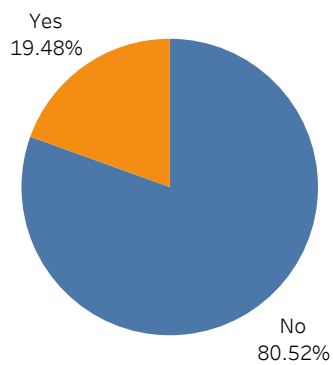


Have Ever Gone to a Shelter and Did Not Feel Safe, Winter to Summer Comparison

Winter n=154
Summer n=58

Winter

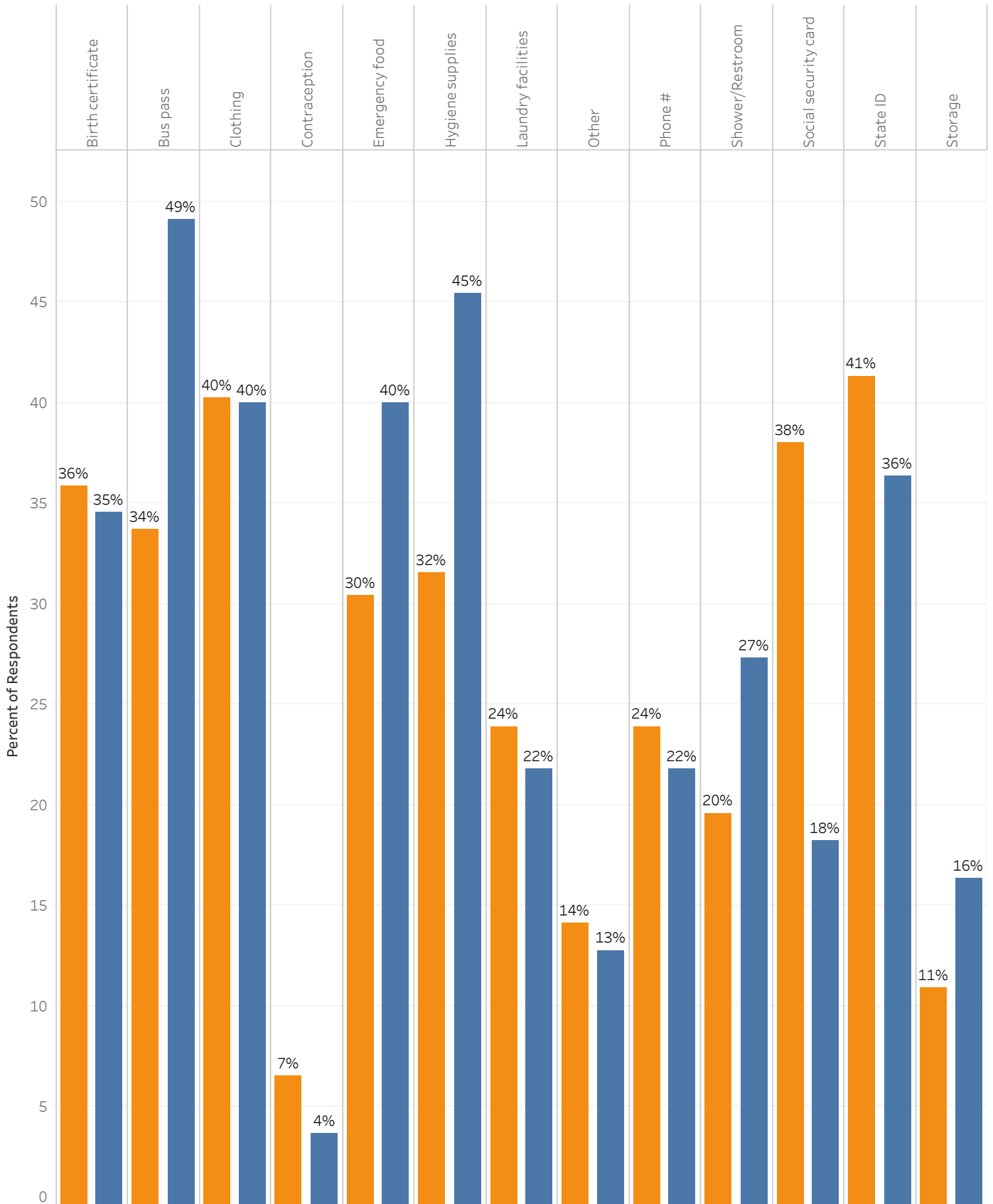
Summer



Things Respondents Need Help Getting, Winter to Summer Comparison

Winter n=92
Summer n=55

Survey
■ Winter
■ Summer



Services That Respondents Need But Are Not Getting

Winter to Summer Comparison

Winter n=90
Summer n=58

Survey
■ Winter
■ Summer

