



Western Virginia

Continuum of Care

General Meeting

Thursday, April 10th, 2024: 10am-12pm

Winchester, VA

AGENDA

- **9:30-10:00 Open Networking**
- **Introduction to CoC Administrator and CoC overview**
- **Agency updates**
- **Committee updates**
- **VHSP collaborative application update**
- **10:50-11:00 Short break**
- **PIT findings presentation**
- **Open discussion**
- **Announcements**
 - **Save the date: Excel trainings May 16 and May 30, look for registration invite in email**
 - **Watch for invitation for inventory requests**
 - **HUD's notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) happens every year in the summer/fall; start planning now if you're interested in submitting a proposal**

WHAT IS A CoC?

A “Continuum of Care” (CoC) is a regional or local planning body that coordinates housing services and provides funding.

The Western Virginia Continuum of Care (VA-513) is a network of agencies and individuals working together to build a system of care for families and individuals who are experiencing homelessness in the Shenandoah Valley.

Goal: Homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring.

Vision: Everyone has a safe and stable home.

HOW THE CoC OPERATES

- Facilitates a **collaborative process** of planning, implementing, and overseeing housing services that are inclusive, measurable, and effective
- Ensures that **resources** are allocated, targeted, and utilized efficiently and effectively
- Operates through established **committees**, of which the Executive Committee is the official governing and decision-making body
 - HRHA is the CoC's lead agency and fiscal agent
 - Employs 2 staff: the CoC Coordinator and the HMIS Administrator
- Advocates a **housing first** approach to services

SERVICES



Centralized
Intake



Street Outreach



Prevention



Permanent
Supportive Housing



Rapid
Rehousing



Housing Opportunities
for People with AIDS



Emergency
Shelter



Built for Zero

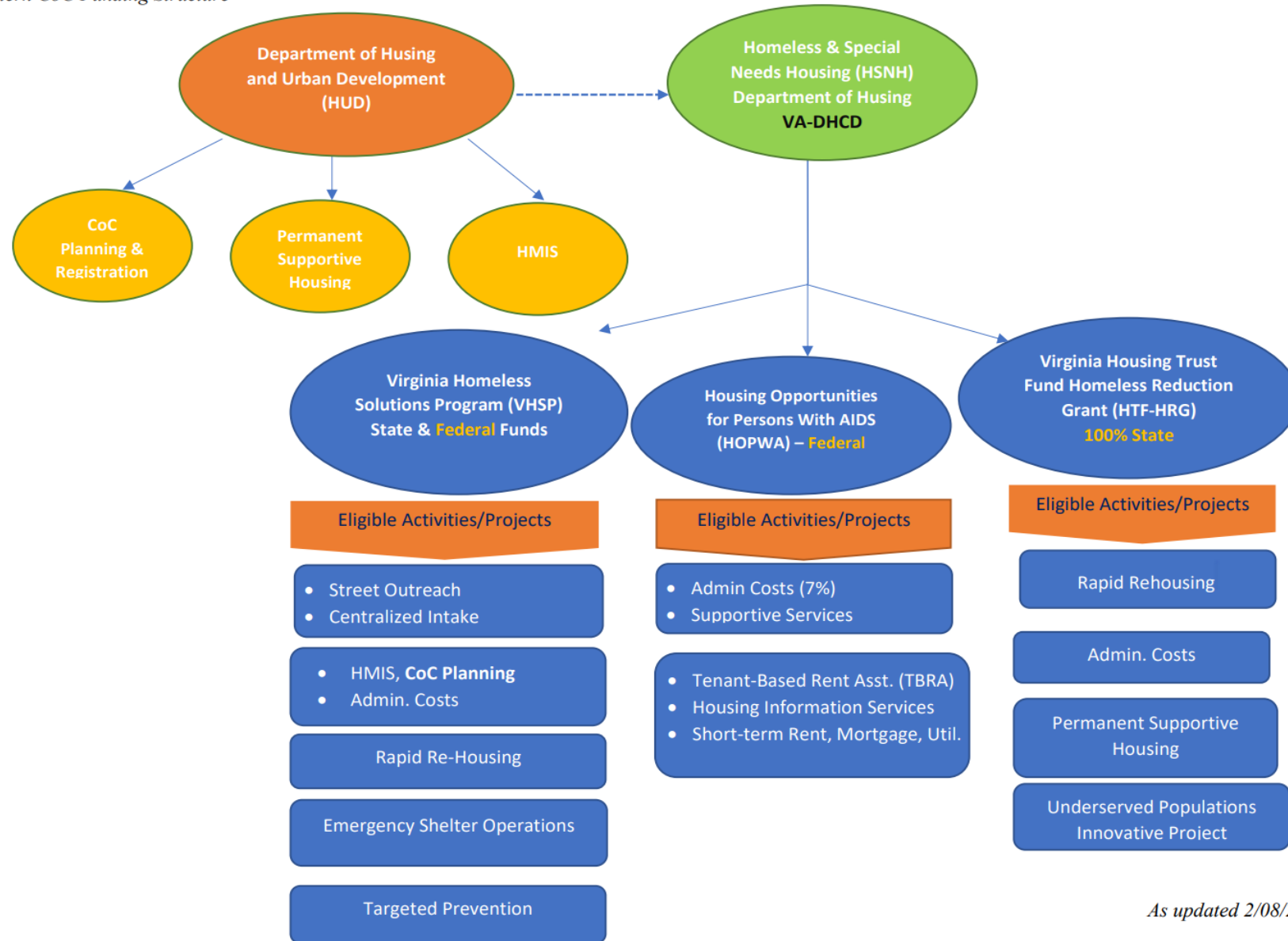
Western Virginia CoC (VA-513)

OVERVIEW





Western CoC Funding Structure



As updated 2/08/23

Agency and Committee updates

FUNDING

ACCOUNTABILITY

IMPROVING
SERVICES

COORDINATION

STORY
TELLING

ADVOCACY

REPORTING

SHARING

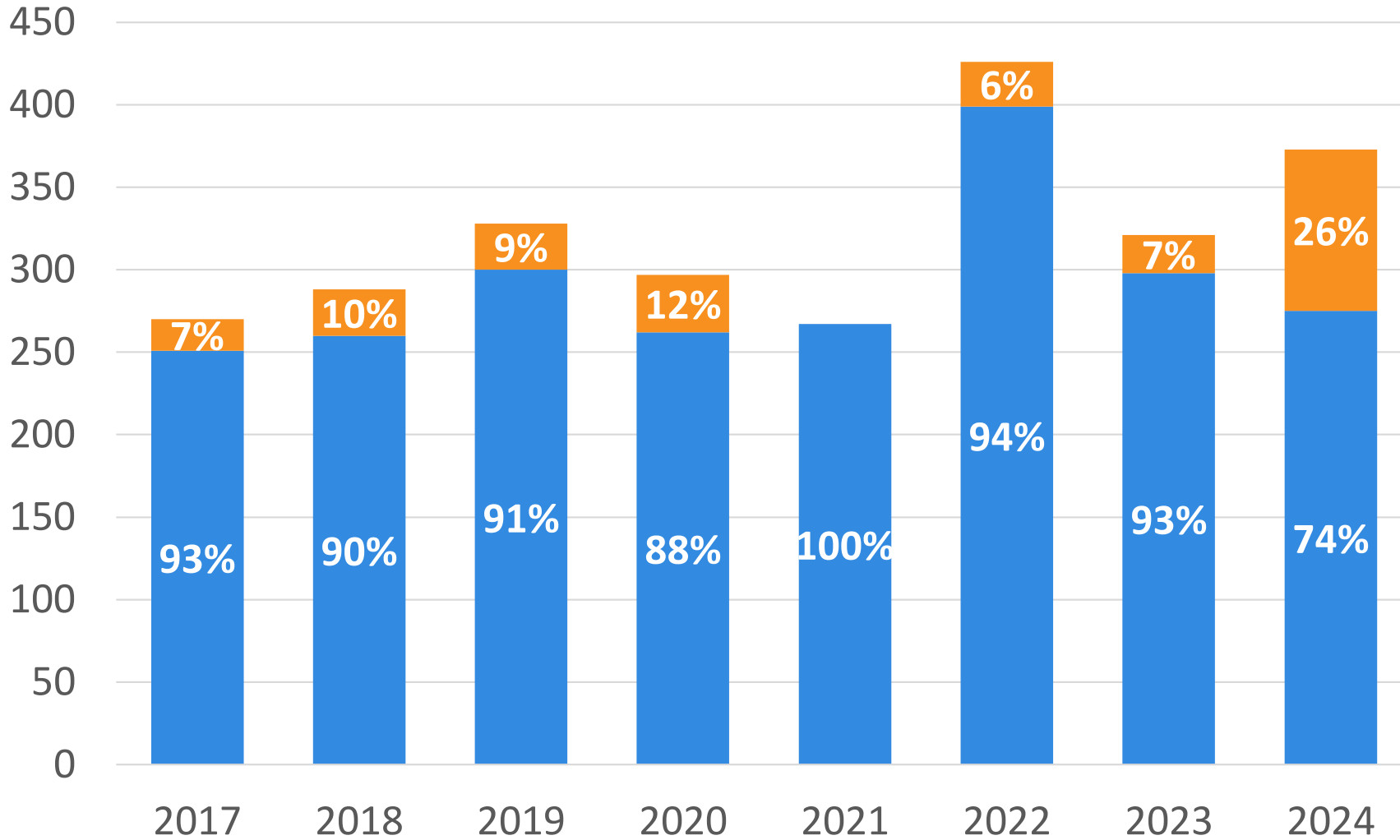
DATA QUALITY

PIT COUNT

WHO IS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS,
AND WHY?
WHAT CHALLENGES DO PEOPLE FACE?

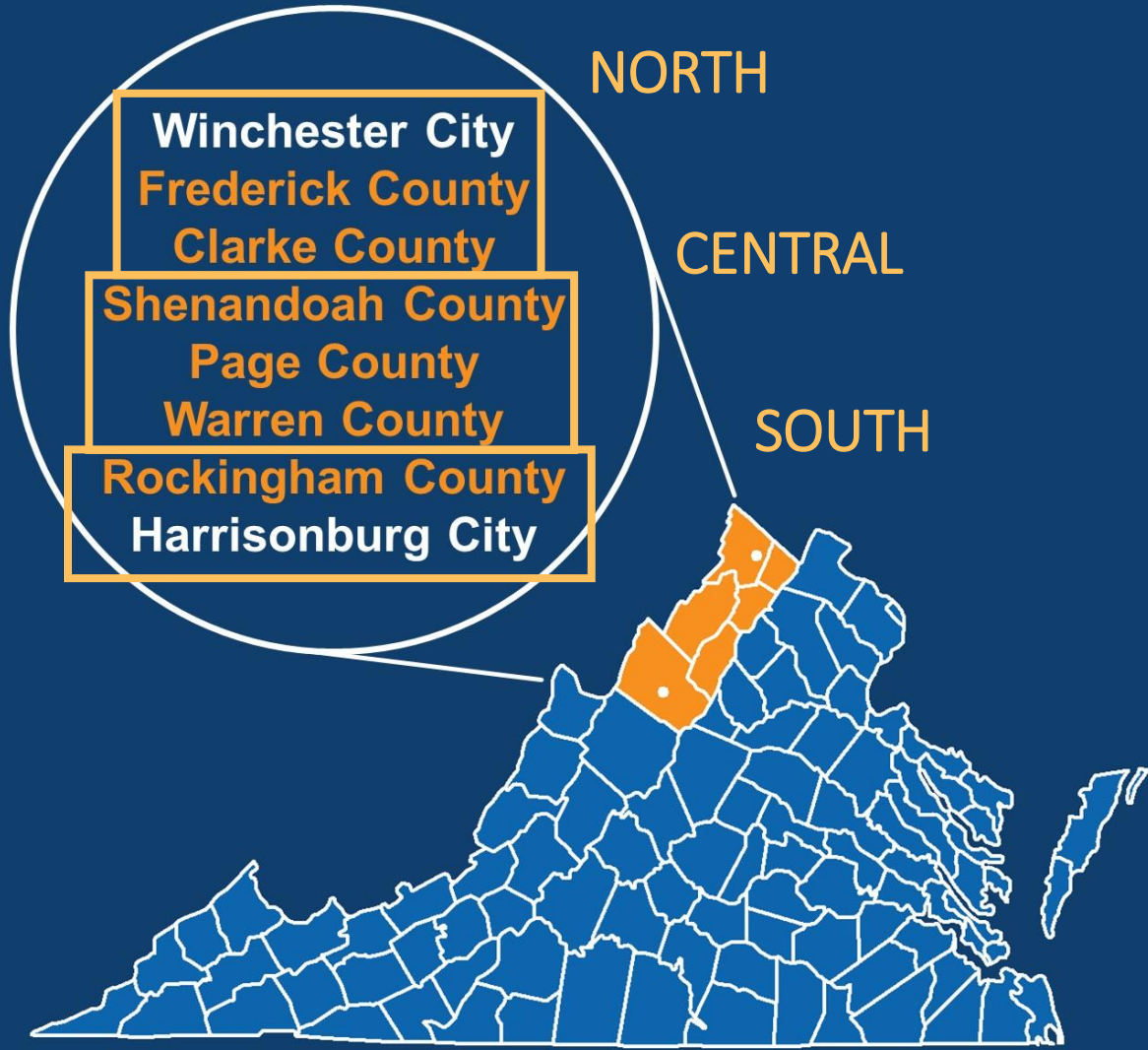
PIT count totals over time

sheltered unsheltered



- 2021: didn't conduct any unsheltered surveying due to pandemic
- 2022: extra funding for hotel vouchers increased the sheltered count
- 2023: ice storm limited unsheltered count
- 2024: revamped methodology to focus on rural unsheltered count
- The increase in 2024 is not a new phenomenon; we just did a better job of assessing reality this year
- It is likely an undercount

Data source: 2017-2024 PIT counts



NORTH

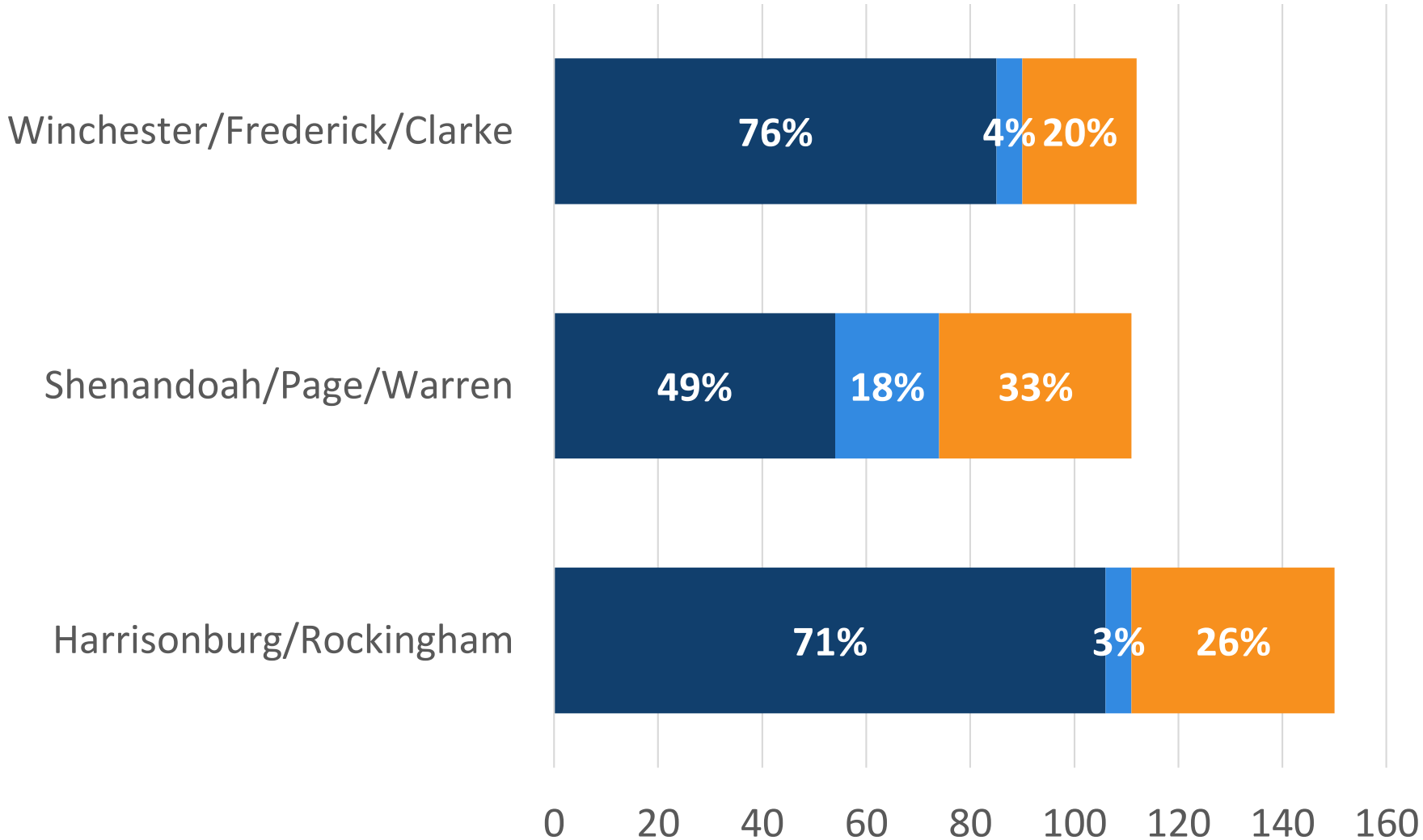
CENTRAL

SOUTH

- Winchester City
- Frederick County
- Clarke County
- Shenandoah County
- Page County
- Warren County
- Rockingham County
- Harrisonburg City

373 people counted in 2024 Point in Time (PIT)

■ 66% in Emergency shelters ■ 8% in DV shelters ■ 26% Unsheltered



- All areas increased from 2023, with the biggest increase in the South

Homeless rate by population:

- 8.3 per 10k in North
- 10.2 per 10k in Central
- 11 per 10k in South

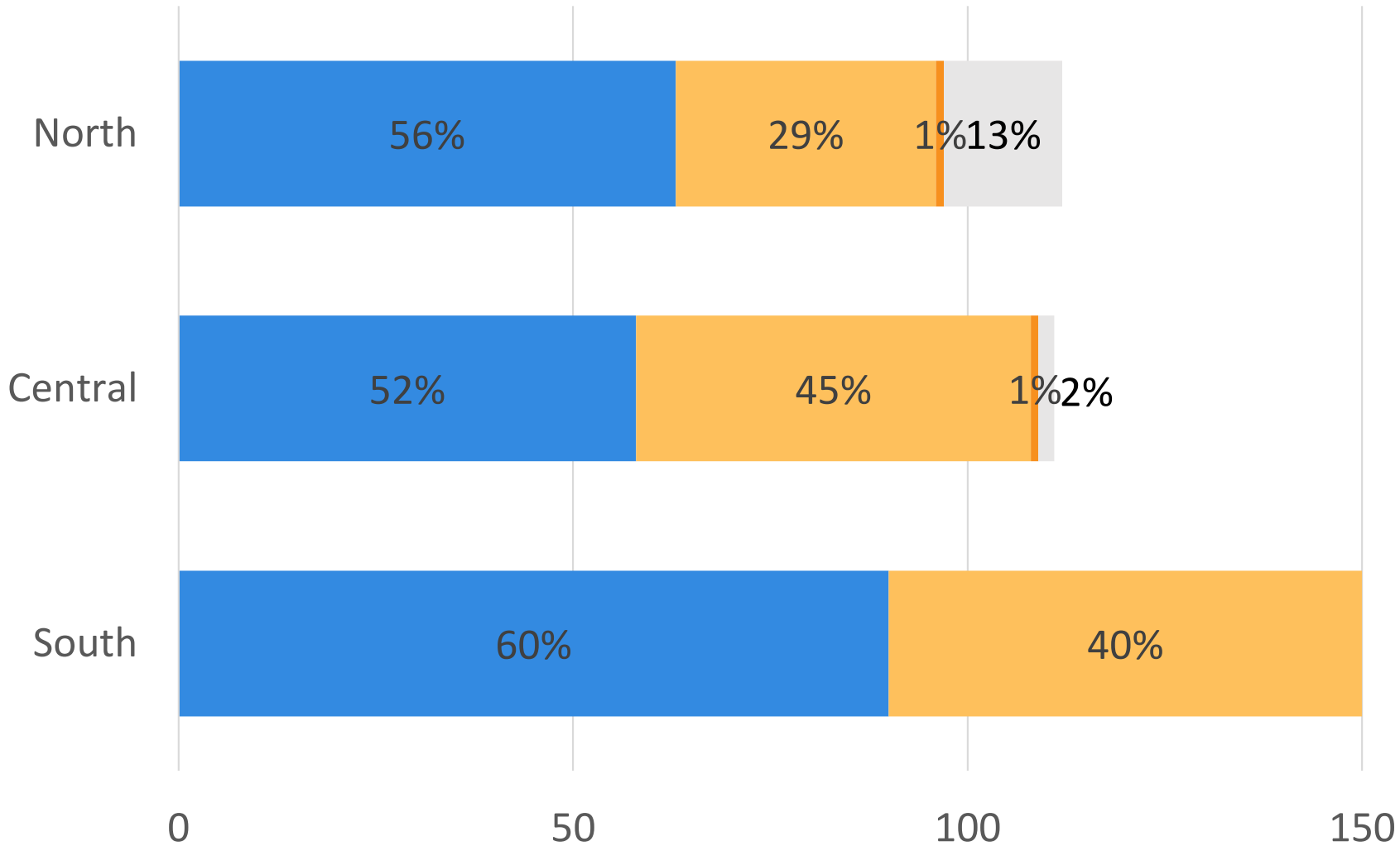
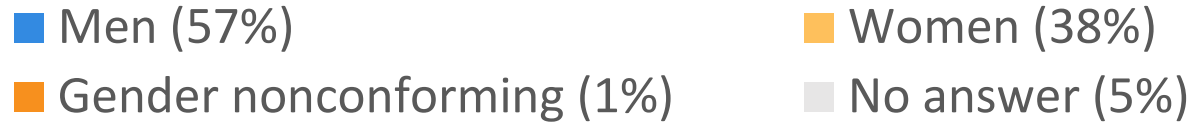
Distribution by type:

- Sheltered concentrated in the urban regions
- Unsheltered in rural
- This chart reflects our service provision (esp. shelters), not just the homeless population

Data sources: 2024 PIT count & ACS 2022 5-year estimates

GENDER

Gender identity by region



Similar to patterns in 2023:

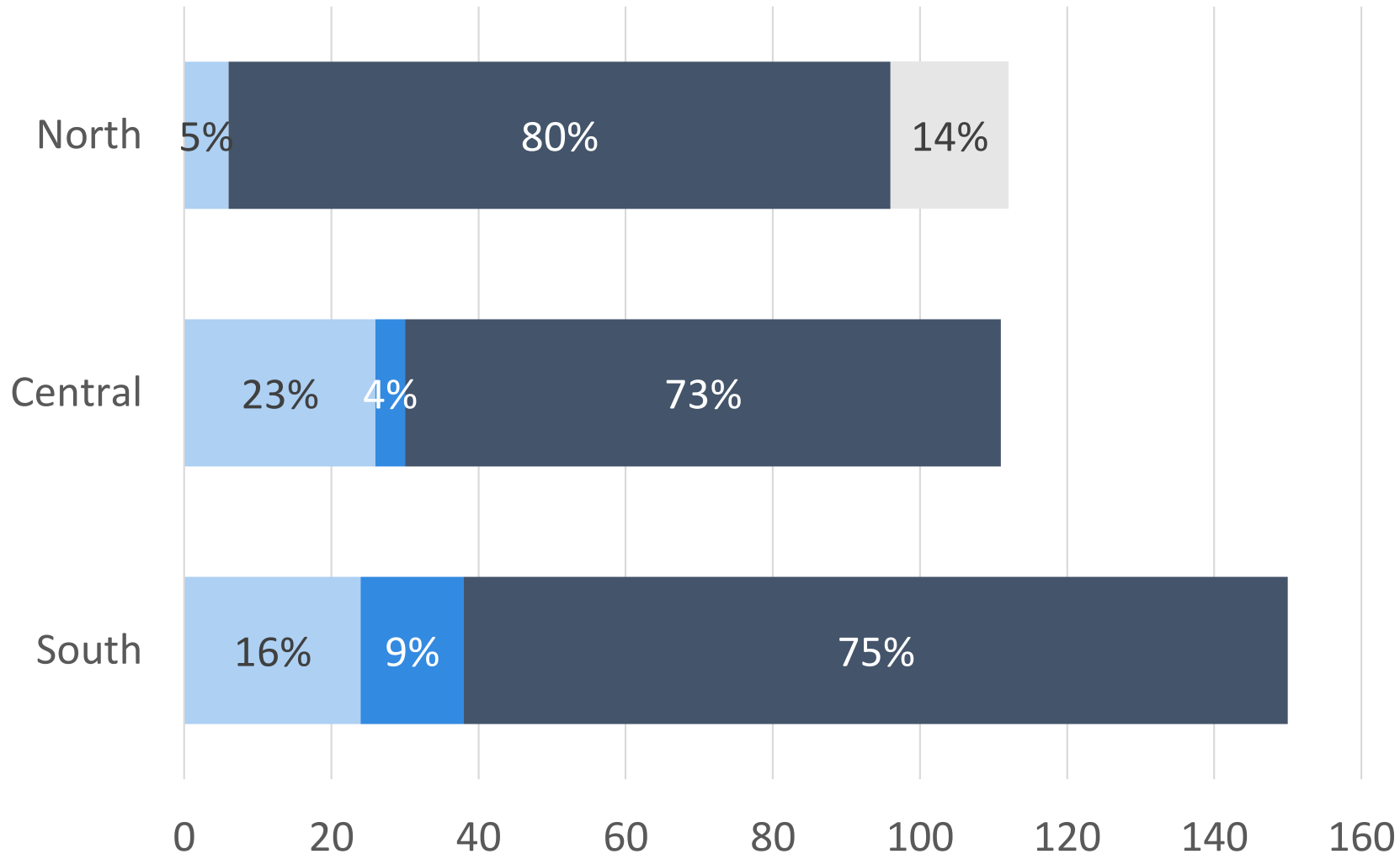
- Central region has higher rate of women
- South is proportional
- Higher rate of no answer due to observations in the North that didn't collect demographic data
- *Note: "Gender nonconforming" combines those who identify as transgender, nonbinary, questioning, or another different gender identity*

Data source: 2024 PIT count

AGE

People experiencing homelessness by age group

- Children 0-17: 56 (15%)
- Youth 18-24: 18 (5%)
- Adults 25+: 283 (76%)
- Missing: 16 (4%)

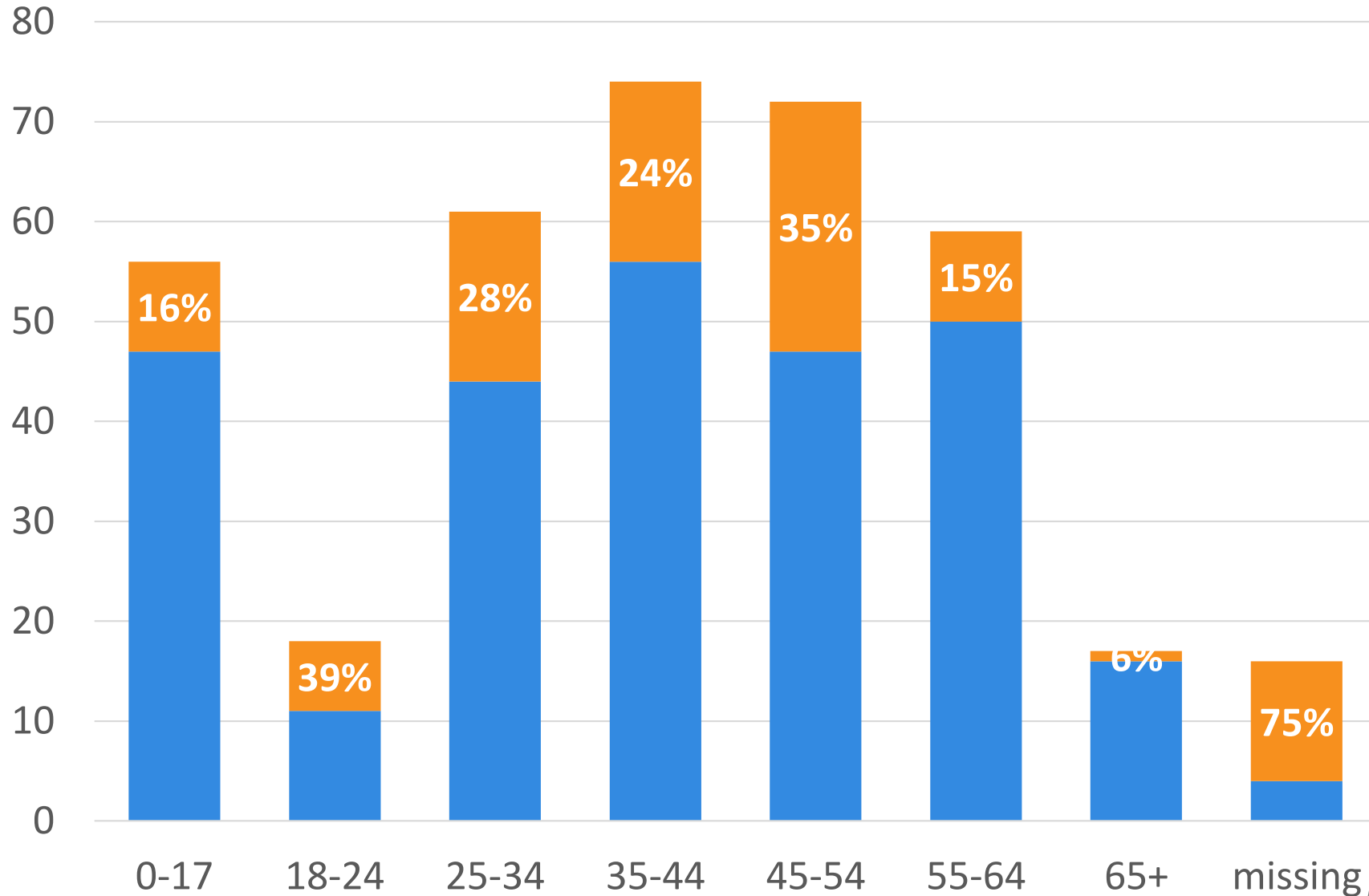


- Fewer children and youth than in 2023
 - Few children and youth in the North (lack of family shelter)
 - High concentration of children in Central (shelters there are primarily family-oriented)
- Not pictured:
- North skews older (55+)
 - South is younger (18-34)

Data source: 2024 PIT count

Unsheltered homelessness by age

sheltered = 74% unsheltered = 26%

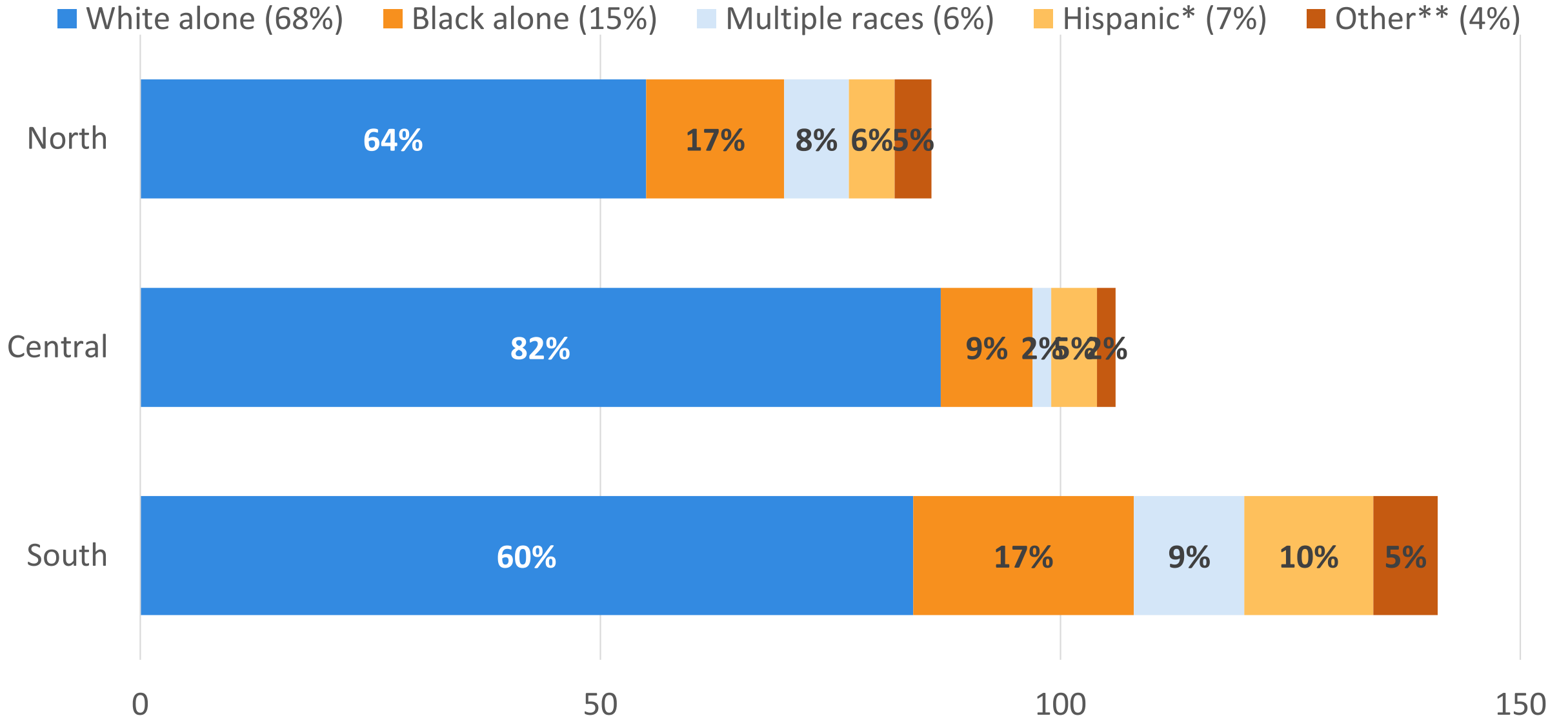


- Children and older adults are less likely to be unsheltered
- Youth (ages 18-24) are more likely to be unsheltered
- Unsheltered are less likely to provide information about age, resulting in high share of “missing”

Data source: 2024 PIT count

RACE AND ETHNICITY

Race and Ethnicity reported in 2024 PIT Count



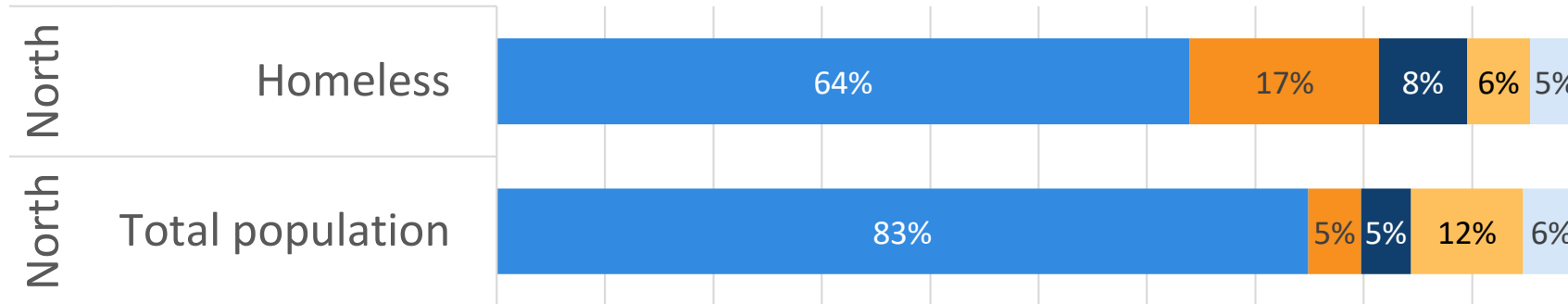
* Represents those who identify as Hispanic alone and in combination with other identities

** Combined Asian, Native American, Pacific Islander, and Middle Eastern due to small sample sizes

Data source: 2024 PIT count

Comparing racial proportions of homeless and general populations

■ White
 ■ Black
 ■ Multiracial
 ■ Hispanic*
 ■ Other**



In the North:

- Black people experience homelessness disproportionately (3x the general rate)
- People identifying with multiple races are slightly more likely to experience homelessness
- People identifying as white, Hispanic, or other racial identities are less likely to experience homelessness

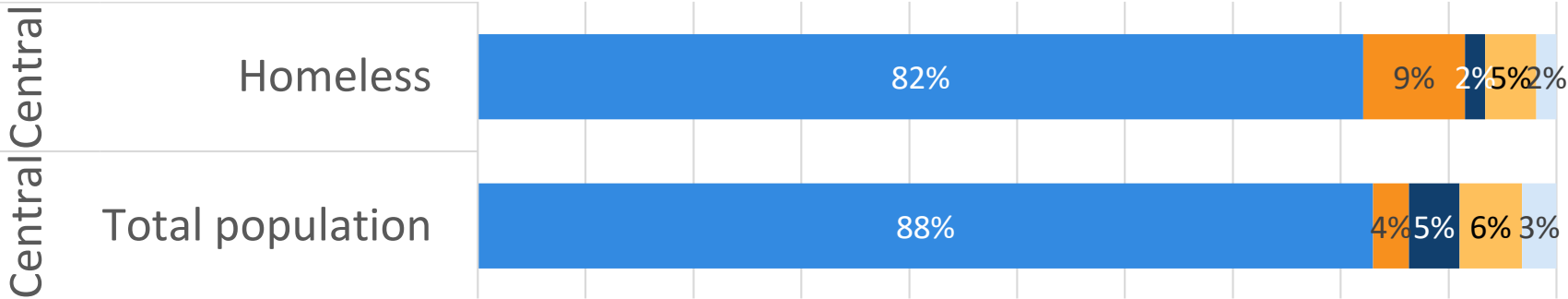
Data sources: 2024 PIT count & ACS 2022 5-year estimates

* Represents those who identify as Hispanic alone and in combination with other identities

** Combined Asian, Native American, Pacific Islander, and Middle Eastern due to small sample sizes

Comparing racial proportions of homeless and general populations

■ White
 ■ Black
 ■ Multiracial
 ■ Hispanic*
 ■ Other**



In Central:

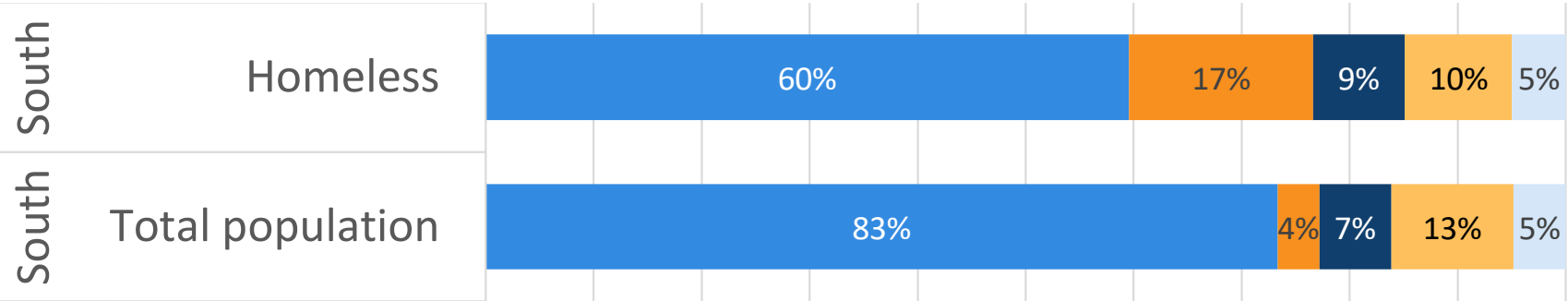
- Black people experience homelessness disproportionately (2x the general rate)
- White people are slightly less likely to experience homelessness
- People identifying with multiple races, other racial identities, and as Hispanic are slightly less likely to experience homelessness

Data sources: 2024 PIT count & ACS 2022 5-year estimates

* Represents those who identify as Hispanic alone and in combination with other identities
 ** Combined Asian, Native American, Pacific Islander, and Middle Eastern due to small sample sizes

Comparing racial proportions of homeless and general populations

■ White
 ■ Black
 ■ Multiracial
 ■ Hispanic*
 ■ Other**



In the South:

- Black people experience homelessness disproportionately (4x the general rate)
- White people are less likely to experience homelessness
- People identifying with multiple races are slightly more likely to experience homelessness
- People identifying as Hispanic are slightly less likely to experience homelessness

Data sources: 2024 PIT count & ACS 2022 5-year estimates

* Represents those who identify as Hispanic alone and in combination with other identities
 ** Combined Asian, Native American, Pacific Islander, and Middle Eastern due to small sample sizes

ADDITIONAL POPULATIONS

1 in 4 adults reported a **serious mental illness** (24%)

1 in 6 adults identified as **survivors of domestic violence** (17%)

1 in 7 adults reported a **substance use disorder** (15%)

1 in 33 adults identified as **veterans** (3%)

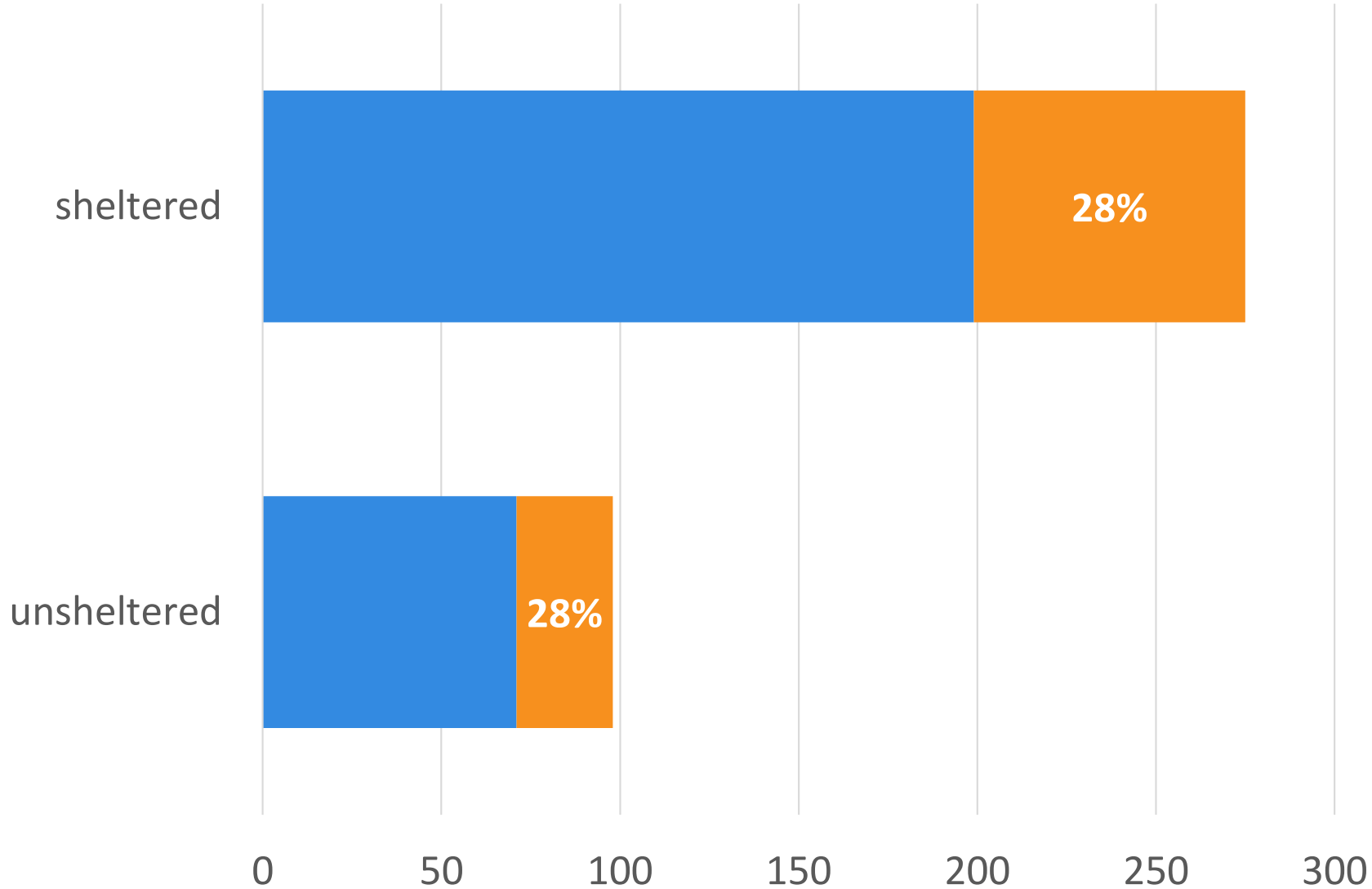
1 in 100 adults reported having **HIV/AIDS** (1%)

Data source: 2024 PIT count

CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

Chronic homelessness by shelter type

■ not chronic = 72% ■ chronic = 28%



HUD Definition of Chronic Homelessness:

- Homeless for the past 12+ months OR
- Homeless for 12+ of the past 36 months in 4 or more occurrences
- AND has a disability or serious mental illness

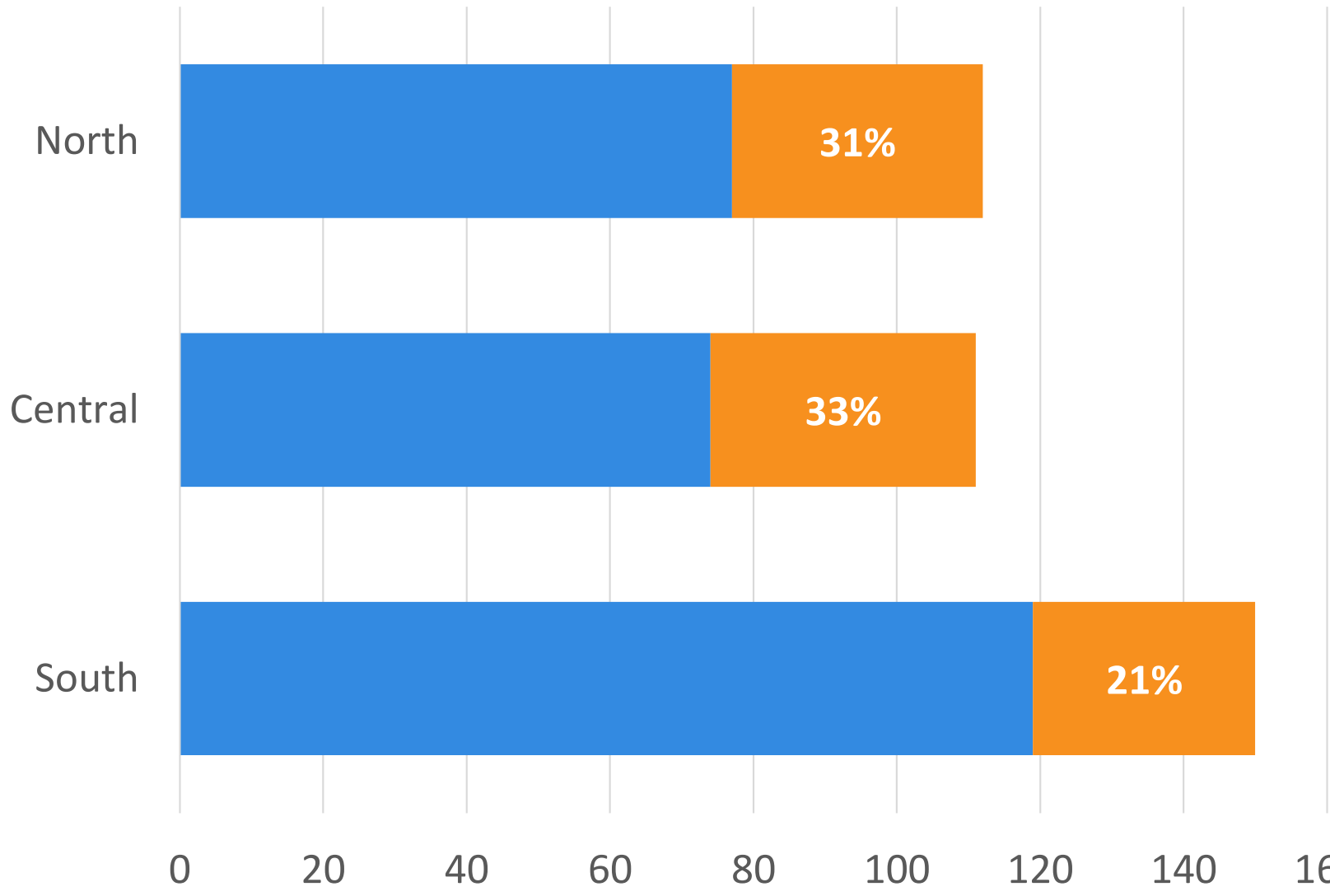
By shelter type:

- No difference in rate of chronic homelessness between sheltered and unsheltered (28% across the board)

Data source: 2024 PIT count

Chronic homelessness by region

■ not chronic = 72% ■ chronic = 28%



By region:

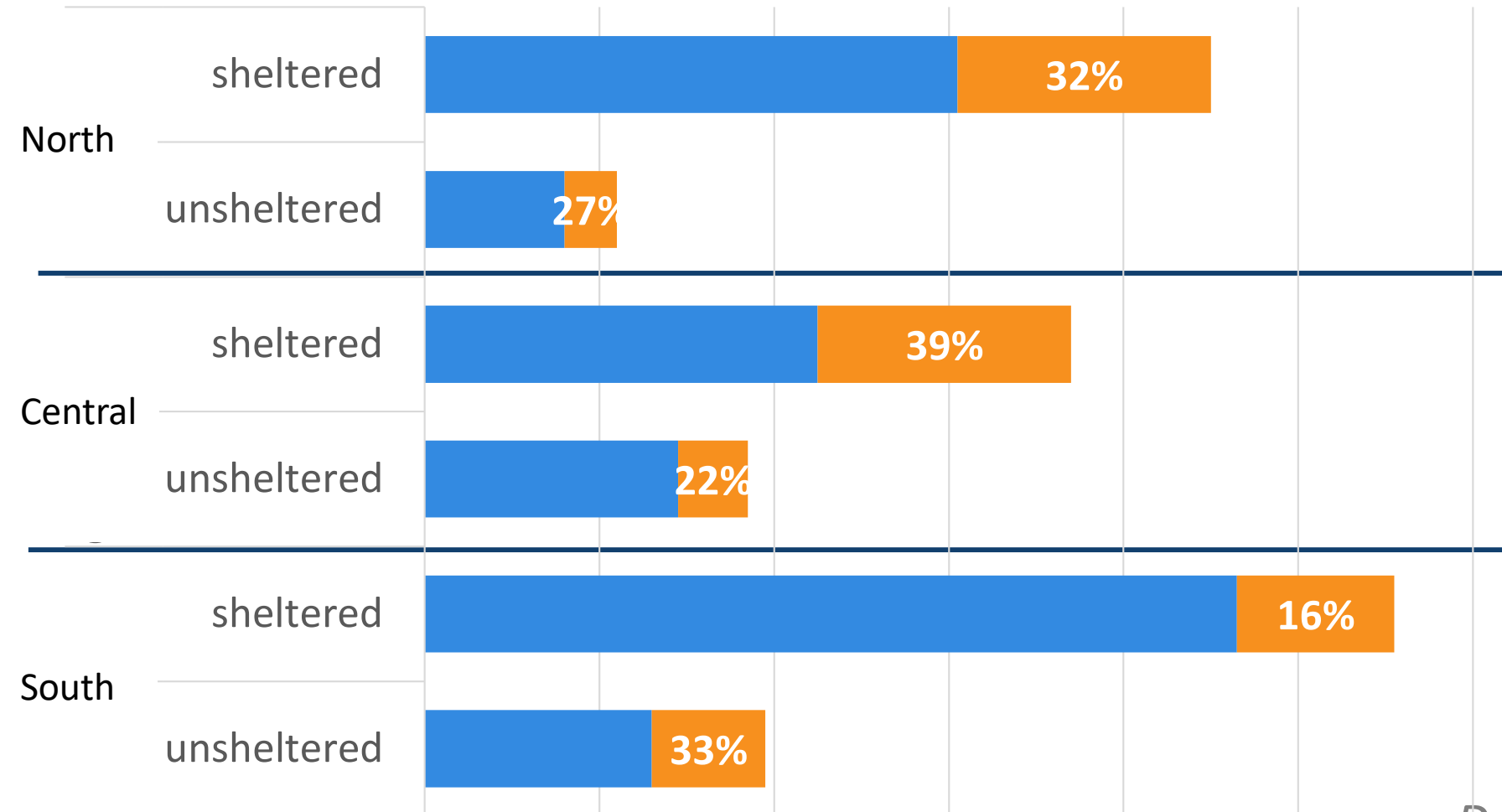
- Lower rate of chronic homelessness reported in the South (about 1 in 5)
- Highest in Central (1 in 3)

Data source: 2024 PIT count

Chronic homelessness by shelter type and region

■ not chronic = 72% ■ chronic = 28%

0 20 40 60 80 100 120



By region AND shelter type:

- More likely to be chronically homeless in shelters in the North and especially Central regions
- Unsheltered in the South are more likely to be chronically homeless

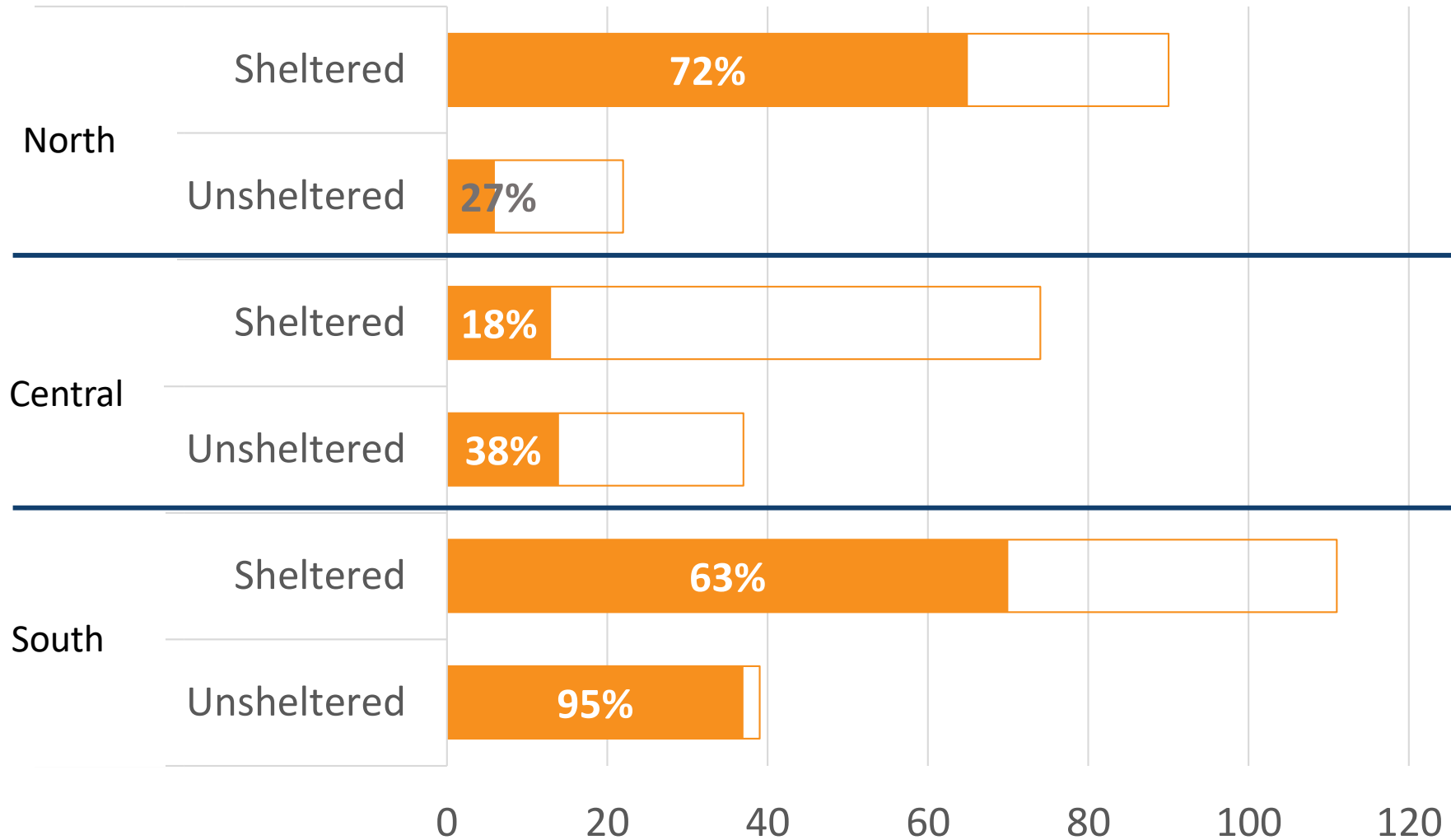
Data source: 2024 PIT count

WHO IS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS,
AND WHY?
WHAT CHALLENGES DO PEOPLE FACE?

Representation of 2024 PIT Survey Respondents

■ Survey Respondents

□ PIT Count

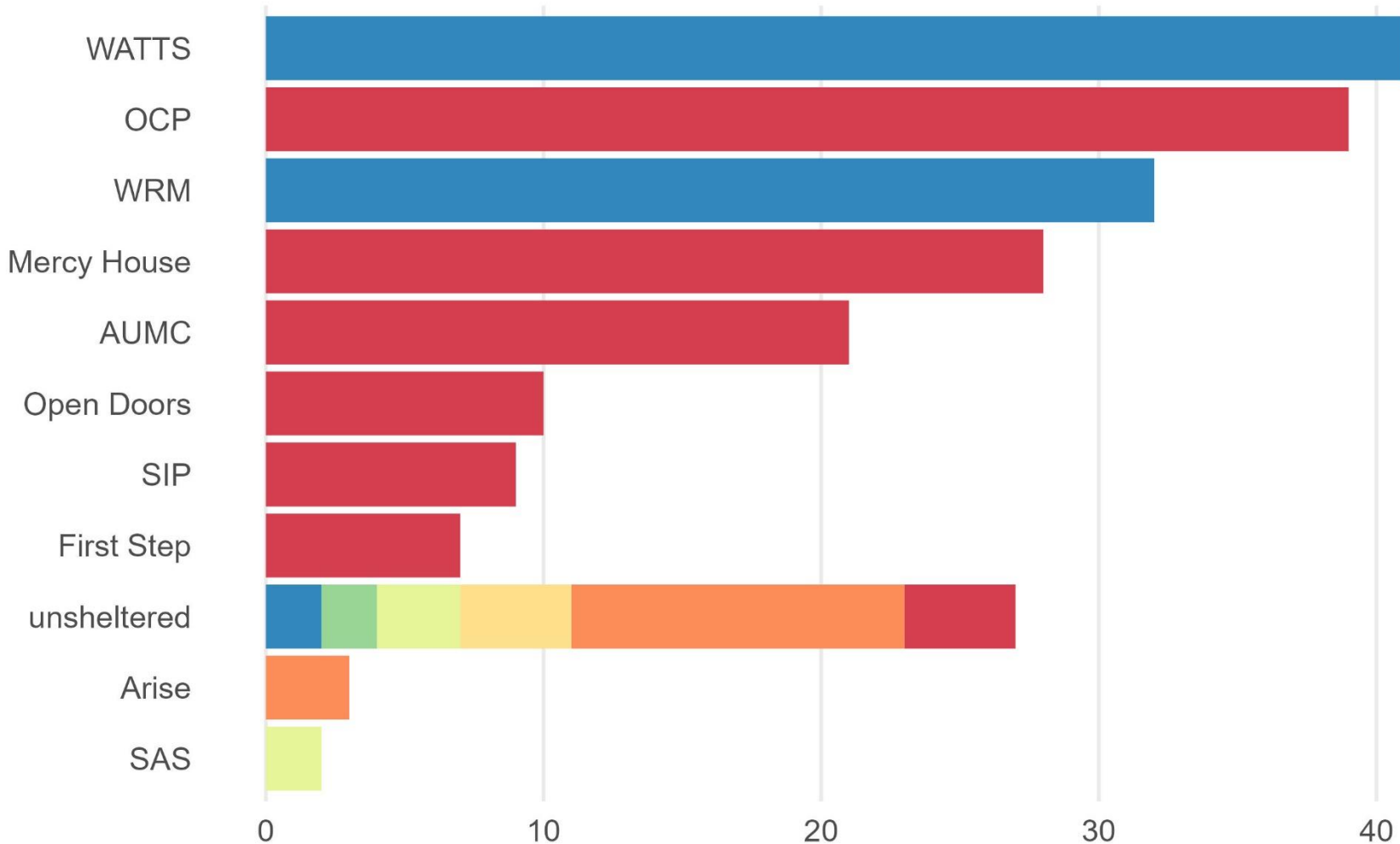


- Nearly 3 times as many surveys in 2024 (n=193) as in 2023 (n=74)
- Survey had the highest response rate in South and lowest rate in Central
- The remainder of the analysis represents this portion of the total PIT count population

Data source: 2024 PIT count & 2024 PIT questionnaire

LOCATION

Location of Respondents to Detailed PIT Survey



THANK YOU, CoC AGENCIES!

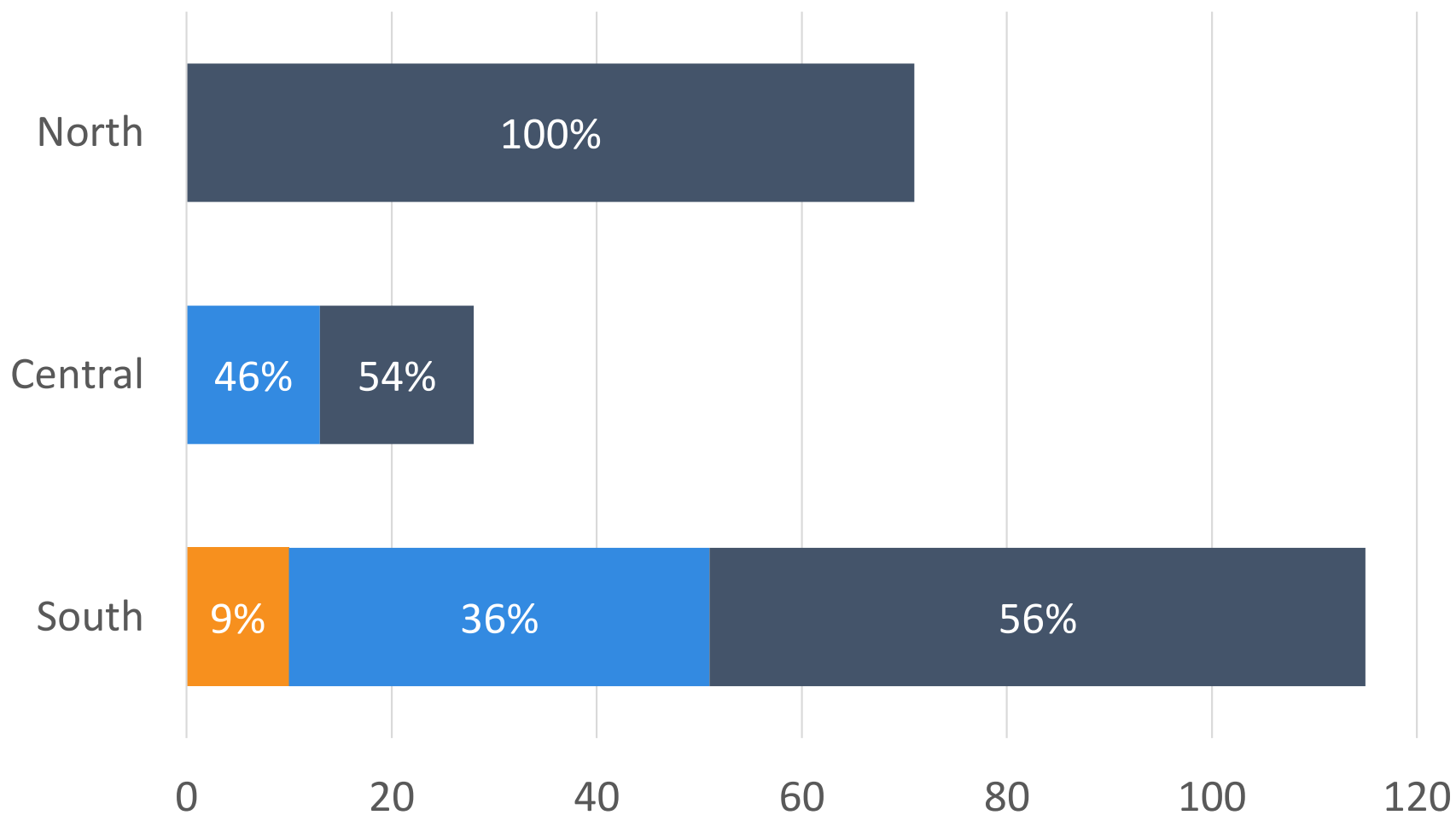
- Surveying was concentrated in four central locations
- Unsheltered **surveying** happened in six of our eight jurisdictions
- Unsheltered **observations** did occur in Clarke and Rockingham Counties, but no detailed surveys were conducted there
- Some shelters surveyed their guests, increasing the North and South sheltered response rate

Data source: 2024 PIT questionnaire

HOUSEHOLDS

Household Type of Respondents to Detailed PIT Survey

■ Youth (18-24): 5% ■ Adults with children: 25% ■ Adults only (25+): 70%



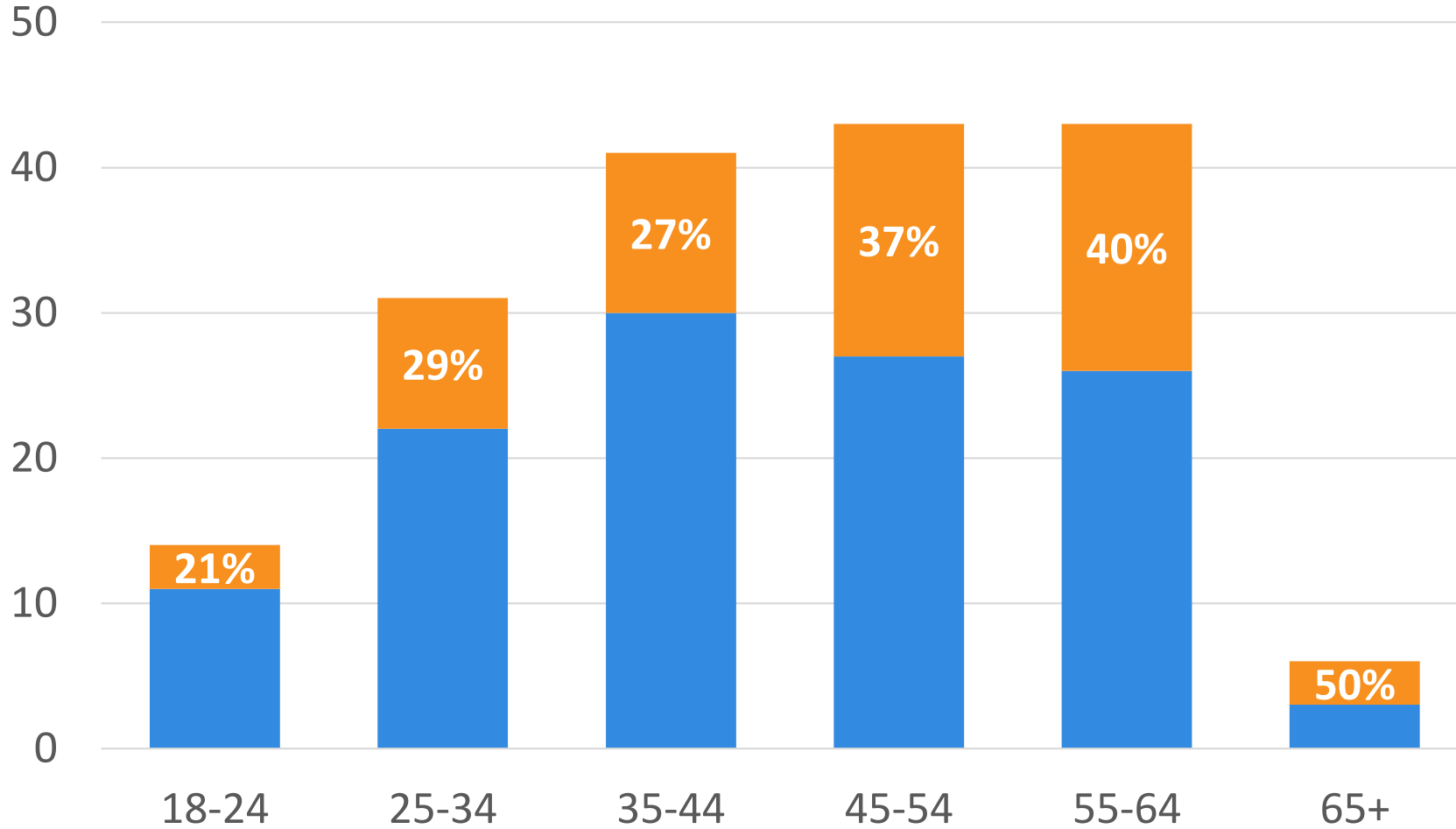
- Overall, 25% of the people experiencing homelessness are in families with children
- Families are concentrated in the Center and South (no family shelters operate in the North!)
- Youth (ages 18-24) are concentrated in the South

Data source: 2024 PIT questionnaire

TIME HOMELESS

People experiencing homelessness for the first time by age group

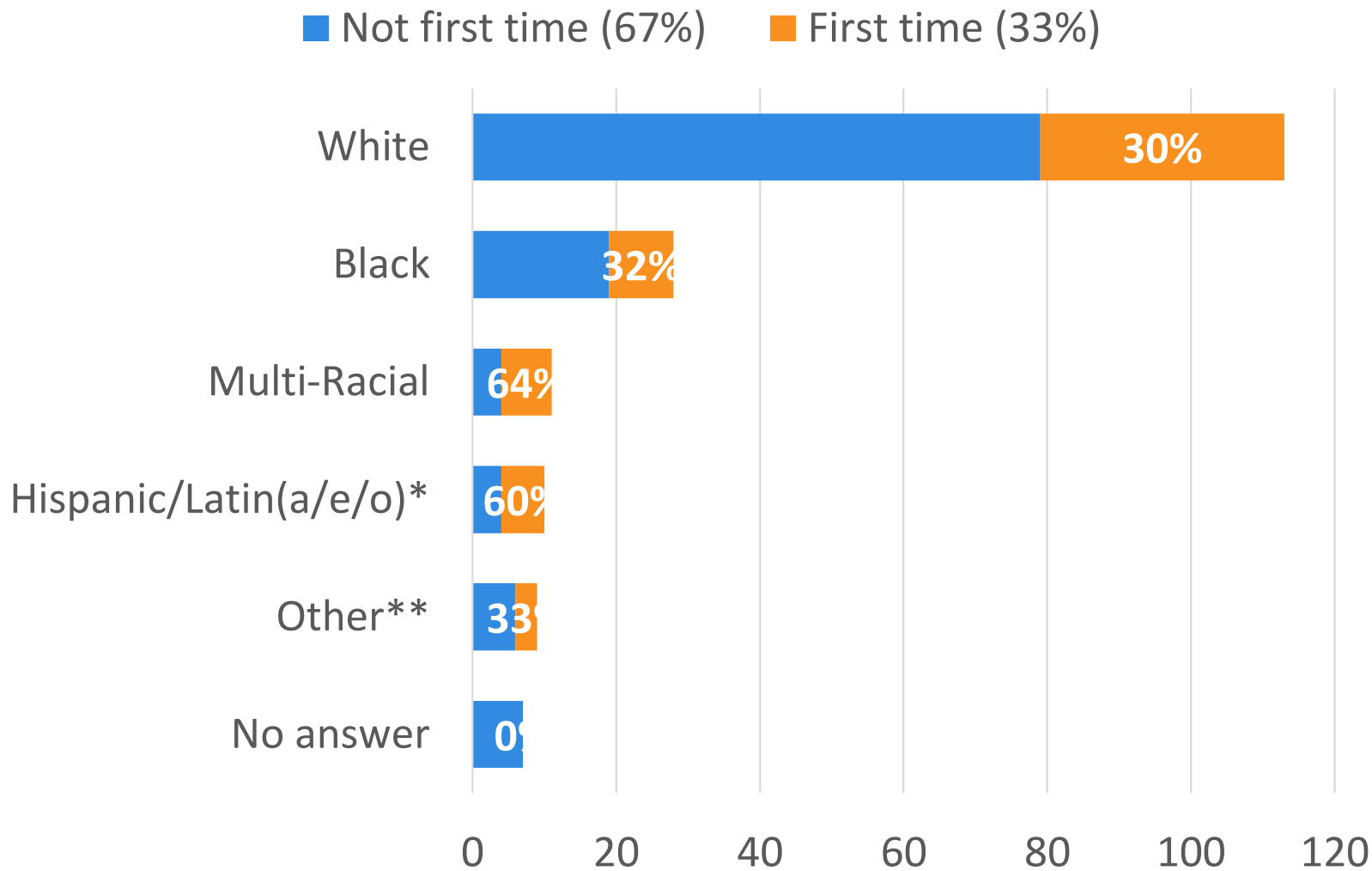
■ Not first time (67%) ■ First time (33%)



- Older people are more likely to be experiencing homelessness for the first time
- 4 out of 5 youth are NOT experiencing homeless for the first time

Data source: 2024 PIT questionnaire

People experiencing homelessness for the first time by racial/ethnic identities



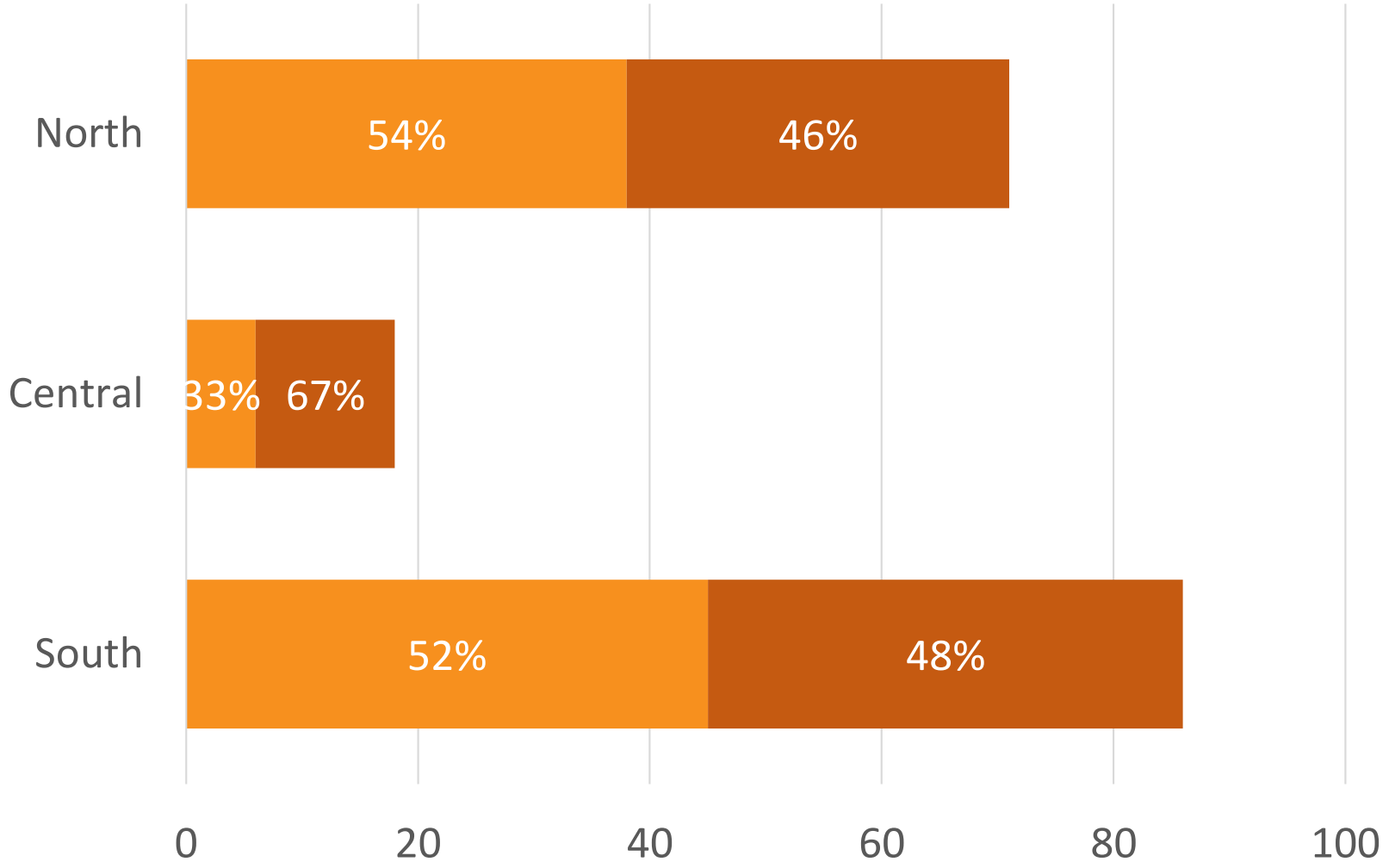
- People who identify as Hispanic and those who identify with multiple races are about twice as likely to be experiencing homelessness for the first time

* Represents those who identify as Hispanic alone and in combination with other identities

** Combined Asian, Native American, Pacific Islander, and Middle Eastern due to small sample sizes

Amount of time spent homeless in the past 3 years

■ Less than a year (51%) ■ More than a year (49%)

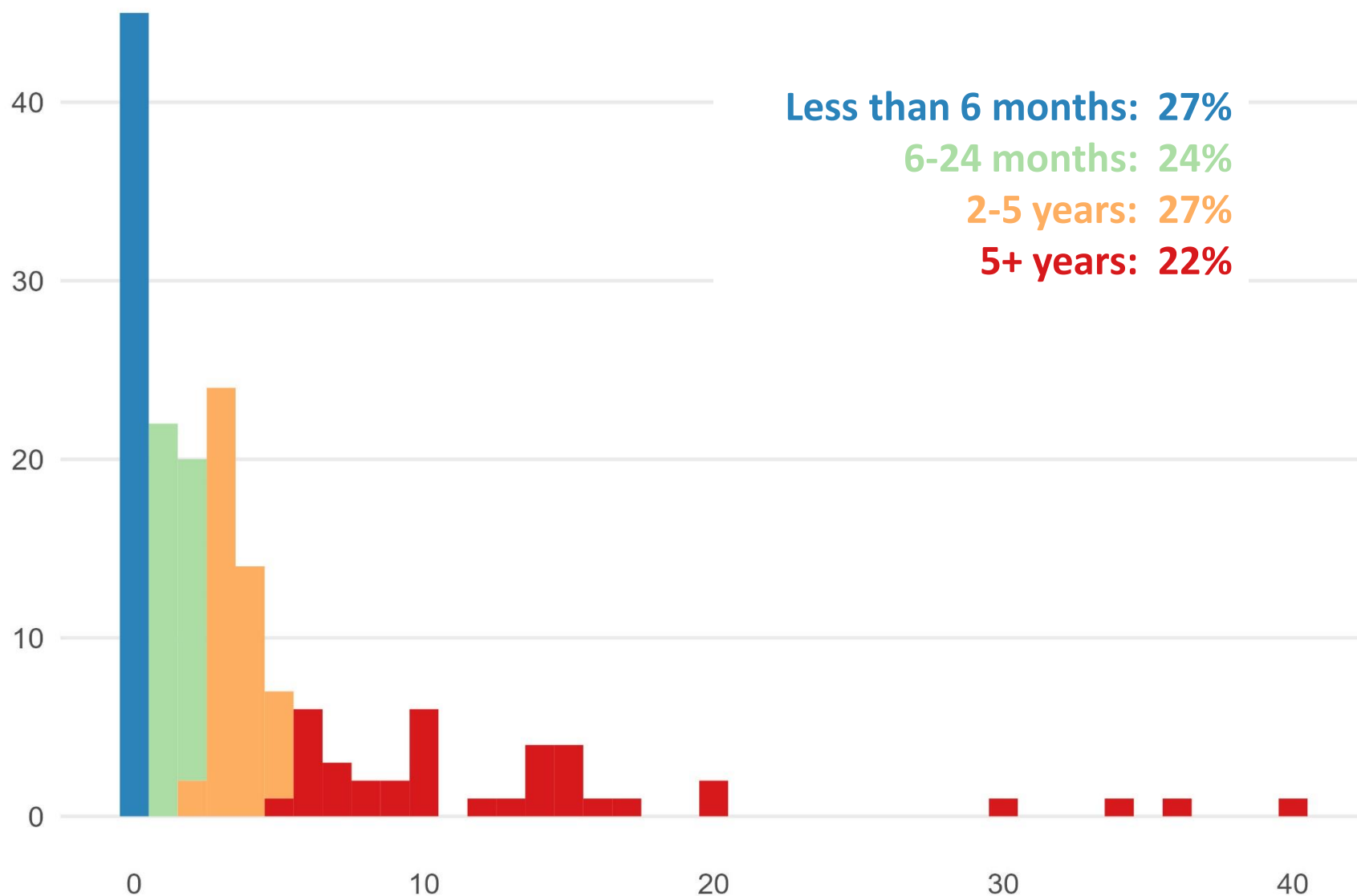


- Overall, time spent homeless in the past 3 years is evenly split between those more/less than 12 months
- Center has higher rate of longer homeless (67%)

Other groups with higher rates of longer homeless:

- White people (57%)
- Unsheltered (64%)
- Youth aged 18-24 (54%)

Reported length of time spent homeless throughout life



- **Average** lifetime homelessness is 4.33 years
- **Median** lifetime homelessness is 2 years
 - Half of respondents have been homeless for less than 2 years
- Experiences **range** from one week to forty years

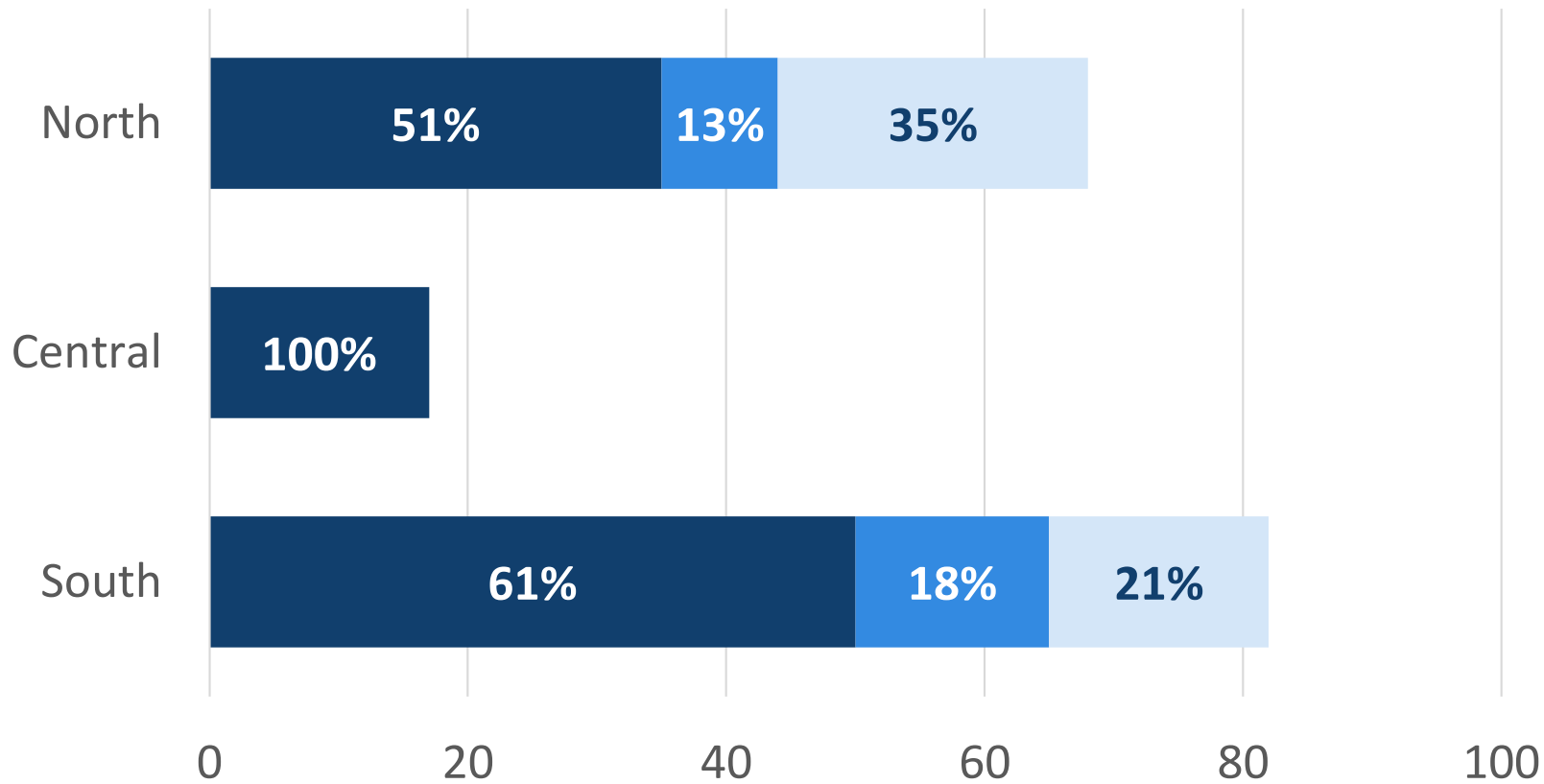
People with shorter homelessness (less than 2 years) are more likely to be:

- Hispanic (83%)
- Higher education (71%)
- Women (59%)

LAST RESIDENCE

Reported Location of Last Residence for People Experiencing Homelessness

■ Local (61%) ■ Elsewhere in Virginia (14%) ■ Outside Virginia (25%)



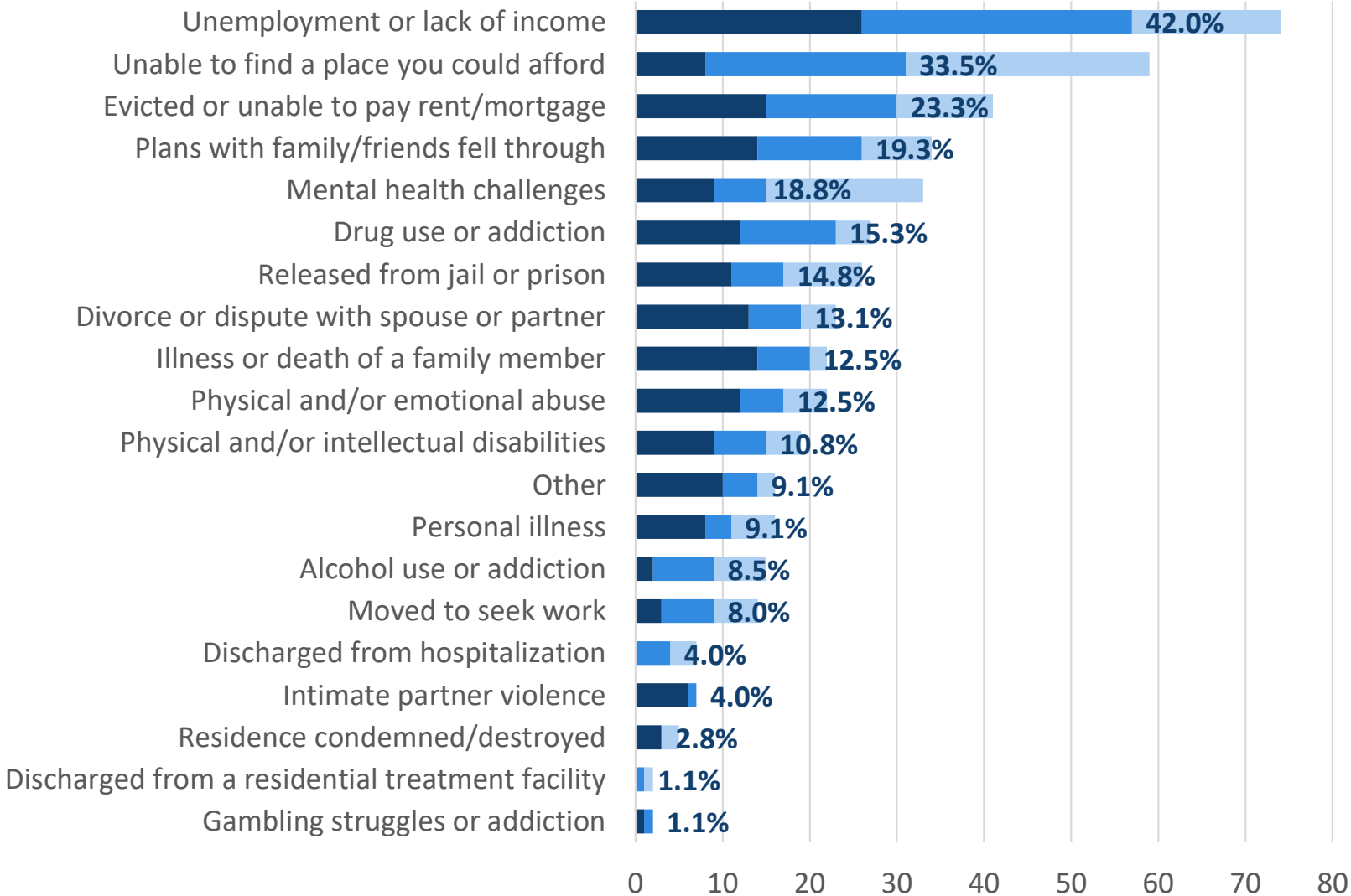
- 75% of the people experiencing homelessness are from Virginia (down from 90% in 2022, 93% in 2023)
 - High “no answer” makes year-to-year comparisons harder
- Higher rate of Outside Virginia in the North (near WV and MD)
- Much higher rate of Local homelessness in Central

Data source: 2024 PIT questionnaire

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

Top three reasons for experiencing homelessness

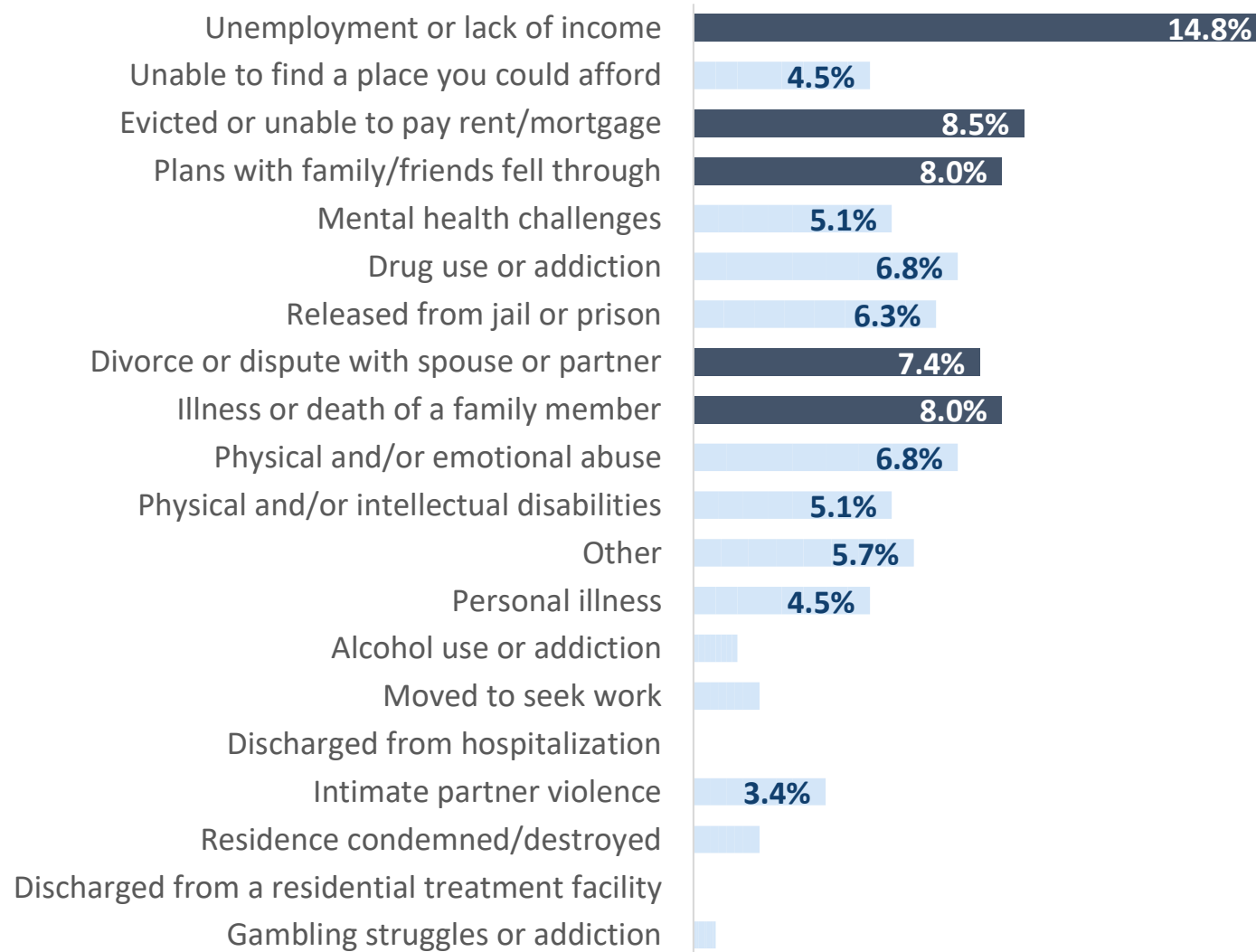
■ top reason ■ second reason ■ third reason



- Top three reasons are related to economics and housing market
 - Unemployment or lack of income remains the most common reason (same as 2022 and 2023)
- Breakdowns (not pictured):
- Affordability (#2) was the top reason for first-timers
 - For youth, top reasons were mental health, incarceration, abuse, and family illness/death
 - Economic reasons were highest for 55-64 year olds, lowest for youth

Data source: 2024 PIT questionnaire

Single top reason for experiencing homelessness



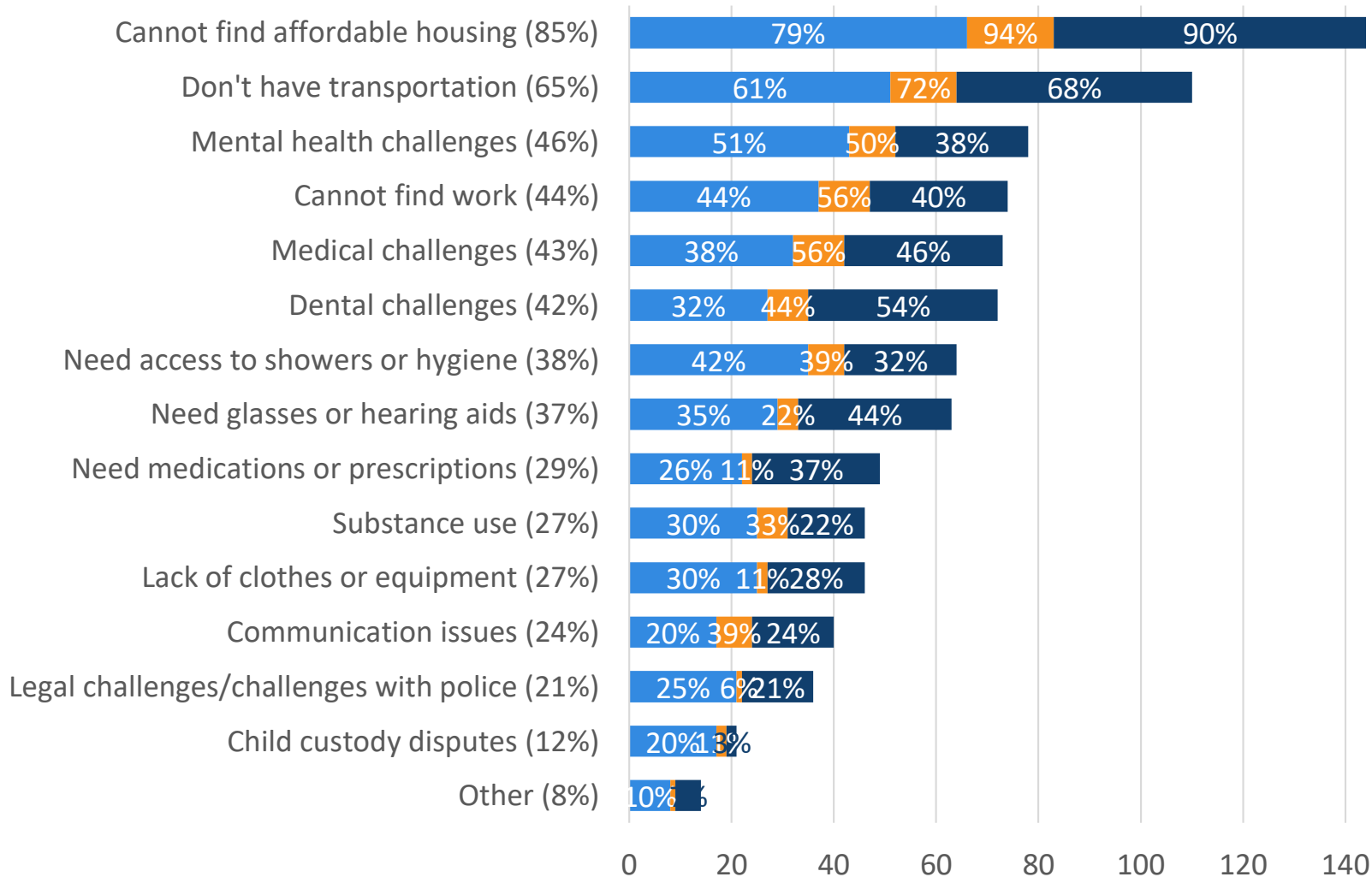
Looking just at the top reason that “broke the camel’s back”:

- Lack of income
- Disproportionately higher for reasons related to disrupted social support networks
- Last year, highest was “illness of self/family member”; even re-combined, those aren’t the highest (12.5%)

COMMON CHALLENGES

Frequency of challenges reported by region

■ South (n=84) ■ Central (n=18) ■ North (n=68)



Percent labels represent the share of people in each region who reported each challenge

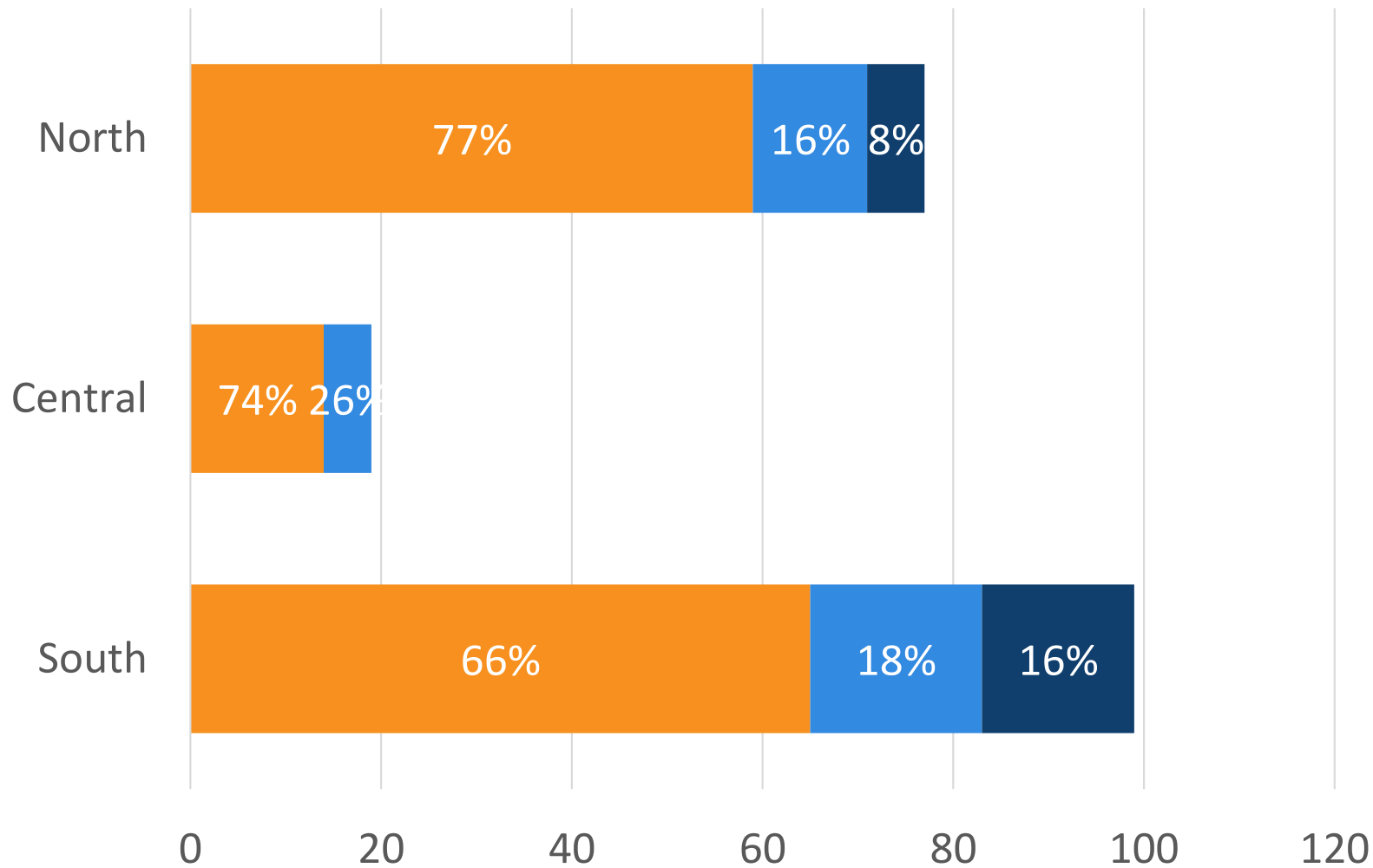
- **Affordability** is the top issue everywhere, but is even more concentrated in Central and North
- **Transportation** is a bigger challenge in Central than the more urban regions
- **Child custody disputes** are most common in the South (more families)
- **Dental challenges** are more common in the North (older population)

Data source: 2024 PIT questionnaire

EMPLOYMENT & INCOME

Reported employment status by region

■ Not employed (71%) ■ Employed (18%) ■ No answer (11%)

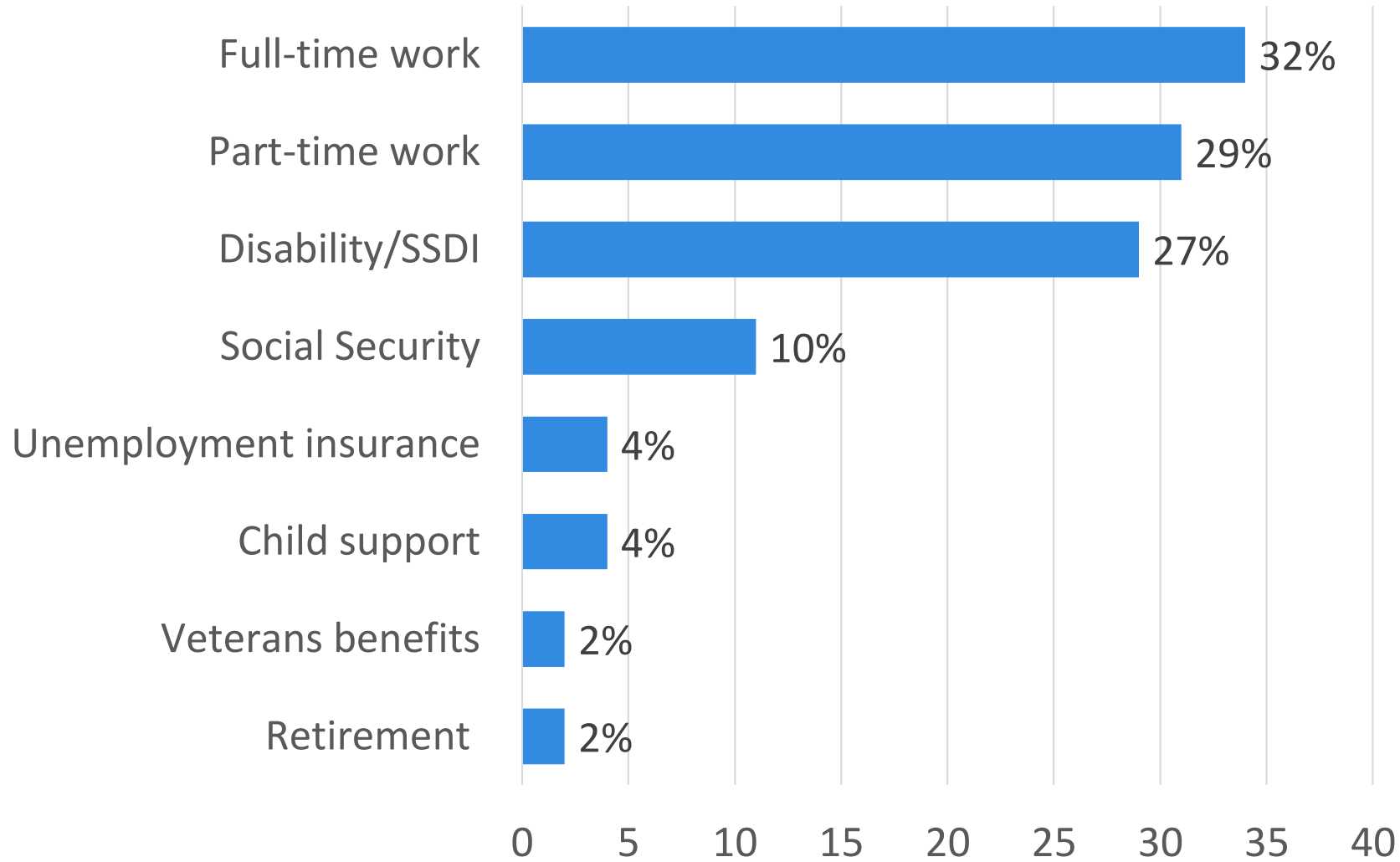


- Overall, 18% employed (evenly split FT/PT)
- Higher in Central (26%)

Other groups with higher rates of employment include:

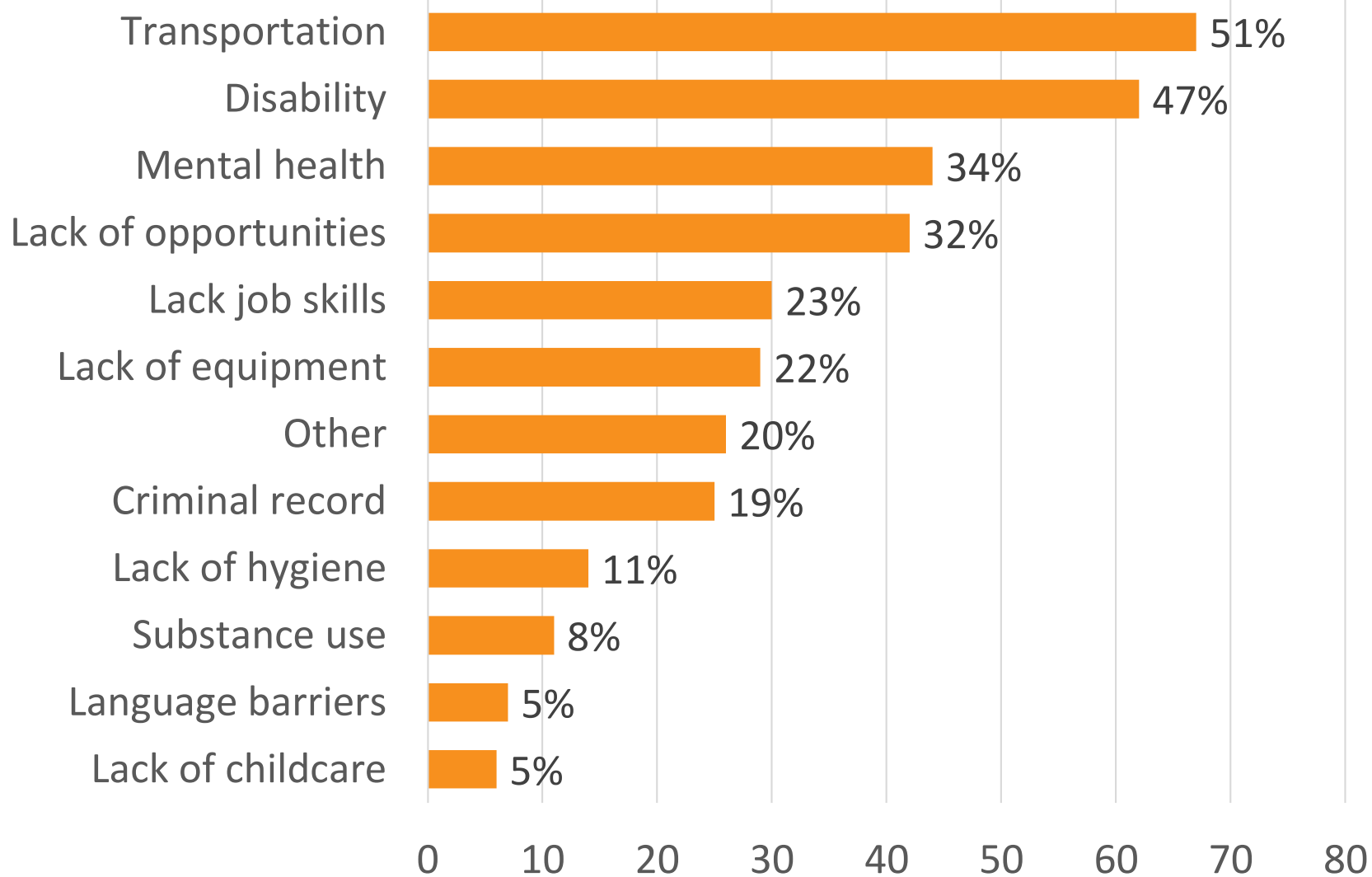
- People from elsewhere in Virginia (33%)
- 35-44 year olds (32%)
- Adults with children (29%)
- Black (29%) or Hispanic (27%) people
- People without a history of substance abuse (24%)
- Repeat (23%), chronic (22%), or unsheltered (22%) homelessness
- People with a mental health disorder (22%)

Sources of income in the past 12 months



- Overall, 55% reported one or more source of income
- Earned income was the highest source

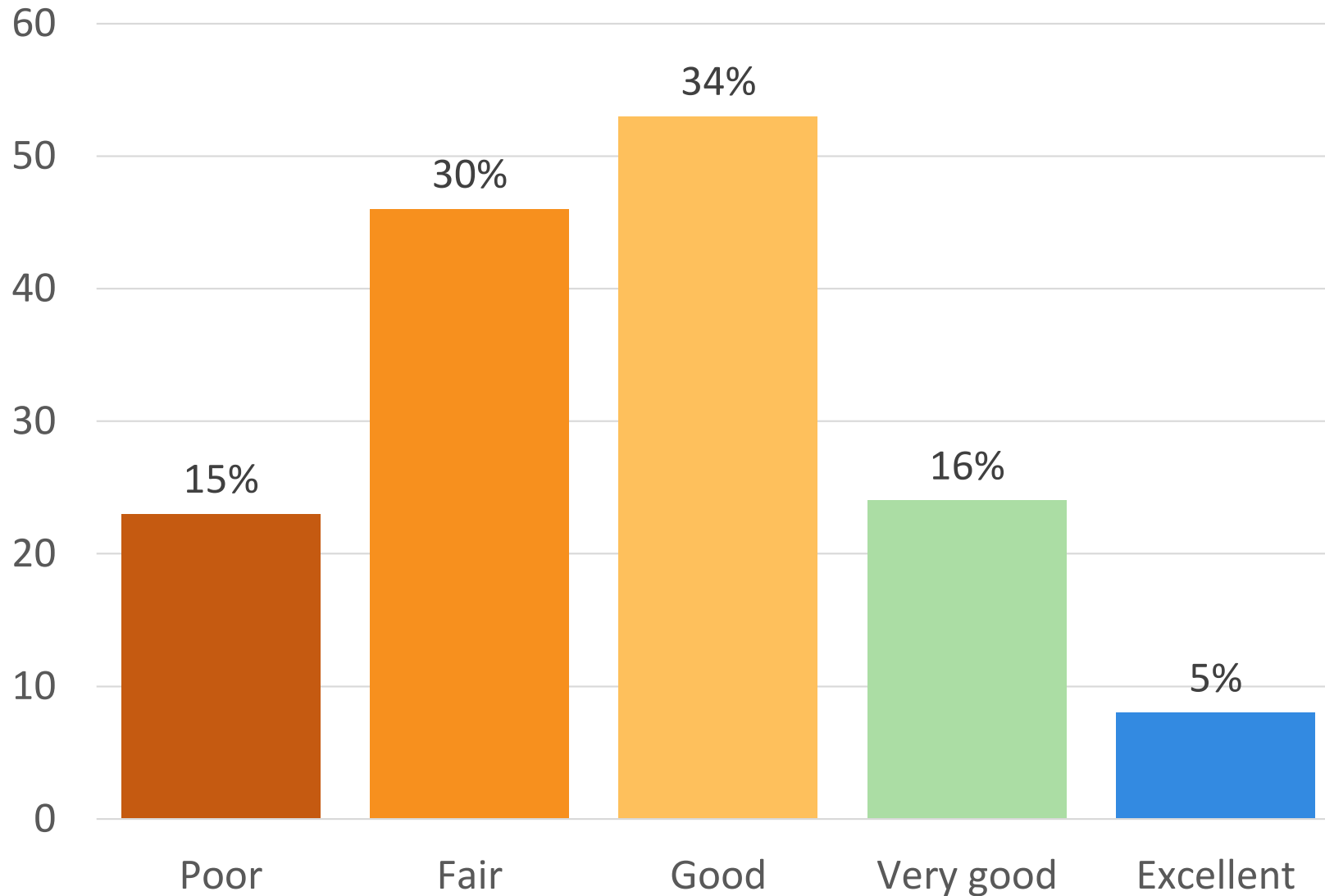
Barriers to employment



- Half of respondents listed transportation as a barrier to employment

HEALTH

Health status reported by all respondents



Overall:

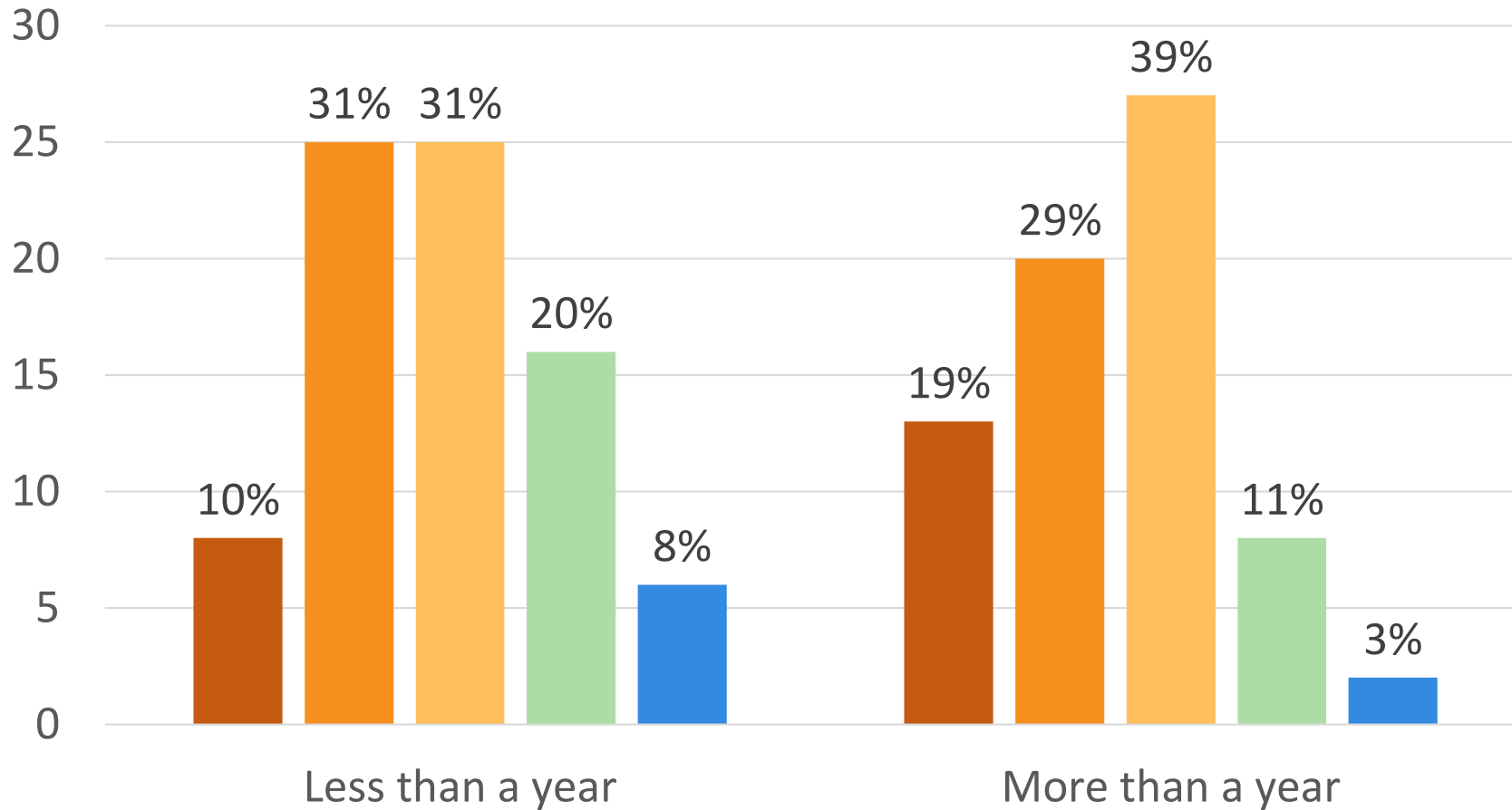
- a little less than half report health that is not good (45%)
- About one in five report very good or excellent health (21%)

Slightly **worse** health status reported among:

- Women and gender non-conforming
- Older adults
- Non-local people
- Repeat and chronic homelessness
- Longer time homeless

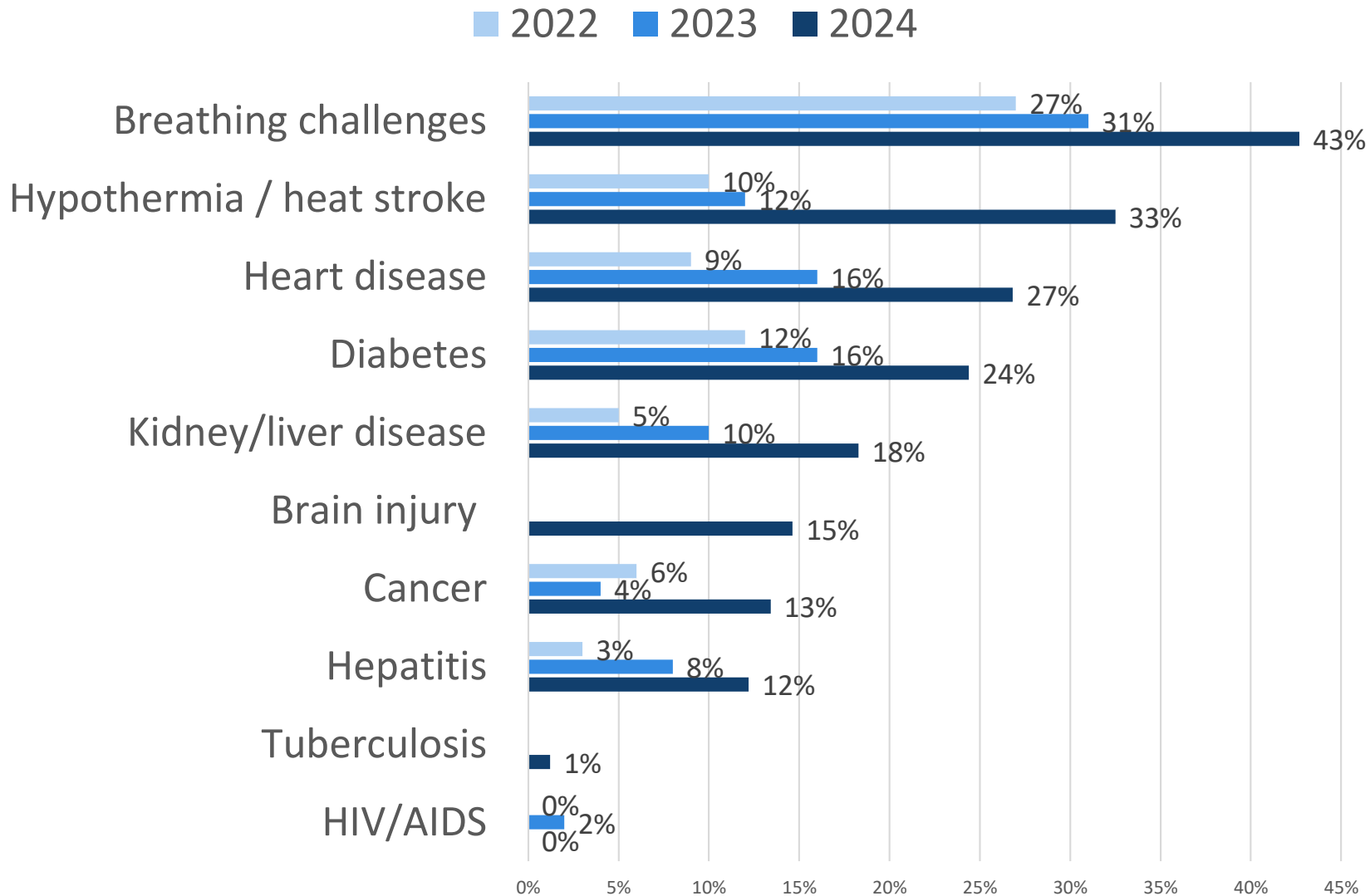
Health status by length of time homeless in the past 3 years

Poor Fair Good Very good Excellent



- People who have been homeless for less than 12 months are twice as likely to say their health is very good or excellent (28% compared to 14%)
- People who have been homeless for more than a year are more likely to say their health is not good (48% compared to 41%)

Percent of people surveyed who report illness within the past 2 years



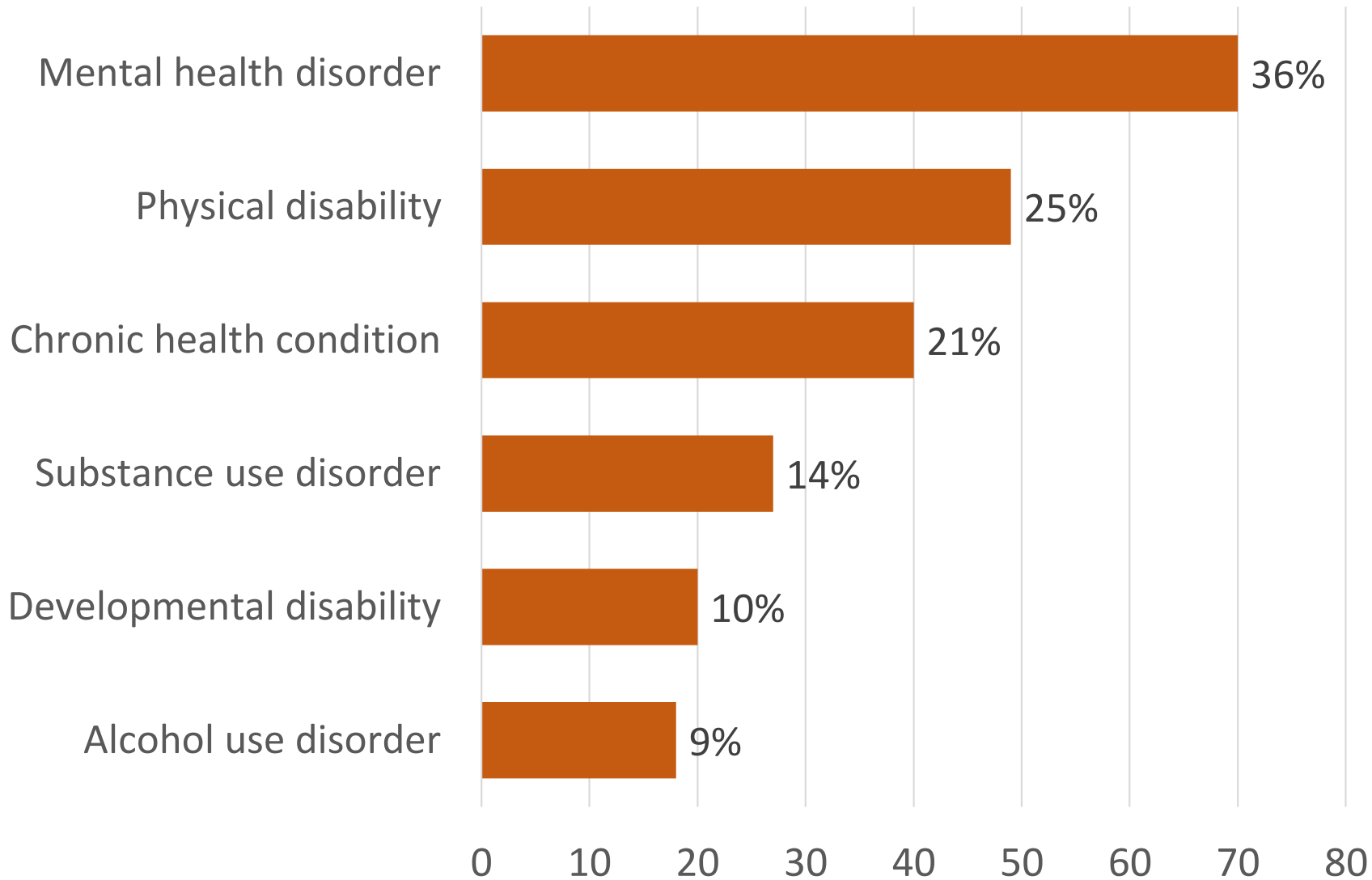
Overall:

- Increase for every illness from 2023 (due to more unsheltered surveying)
- Breathing challenges remains most common

By living situation:

- Unsheltered are more likely to have breathing challenges (52%) and hypothermia/heat stroke (40%)
- Sheltered are proportional
- Not literally homeless are more likely to have diabetes, kidney/liver, or heart disease (50%)

Percent of adults with self-reported disabilities



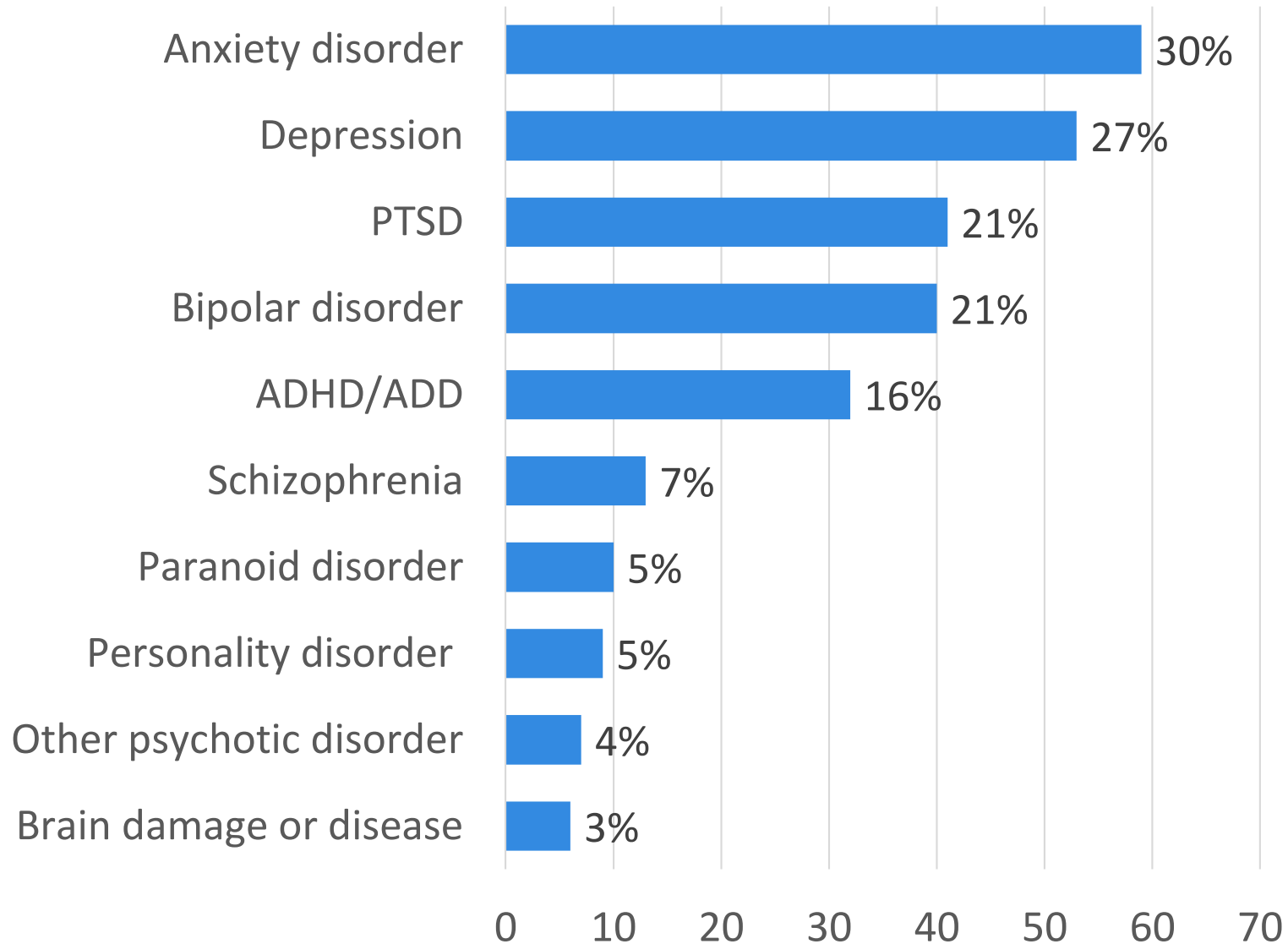
Overall:

- 63% of adults reported at least one disability

Increased likelihoods:

- Alcohol use disorder for men
- Chronic health condition for women
- Physical disabilities for older adults and Black people
- Mental health disorder for younger and middle-aged

Percent of adults with self-reported mental illnesses



Overall:

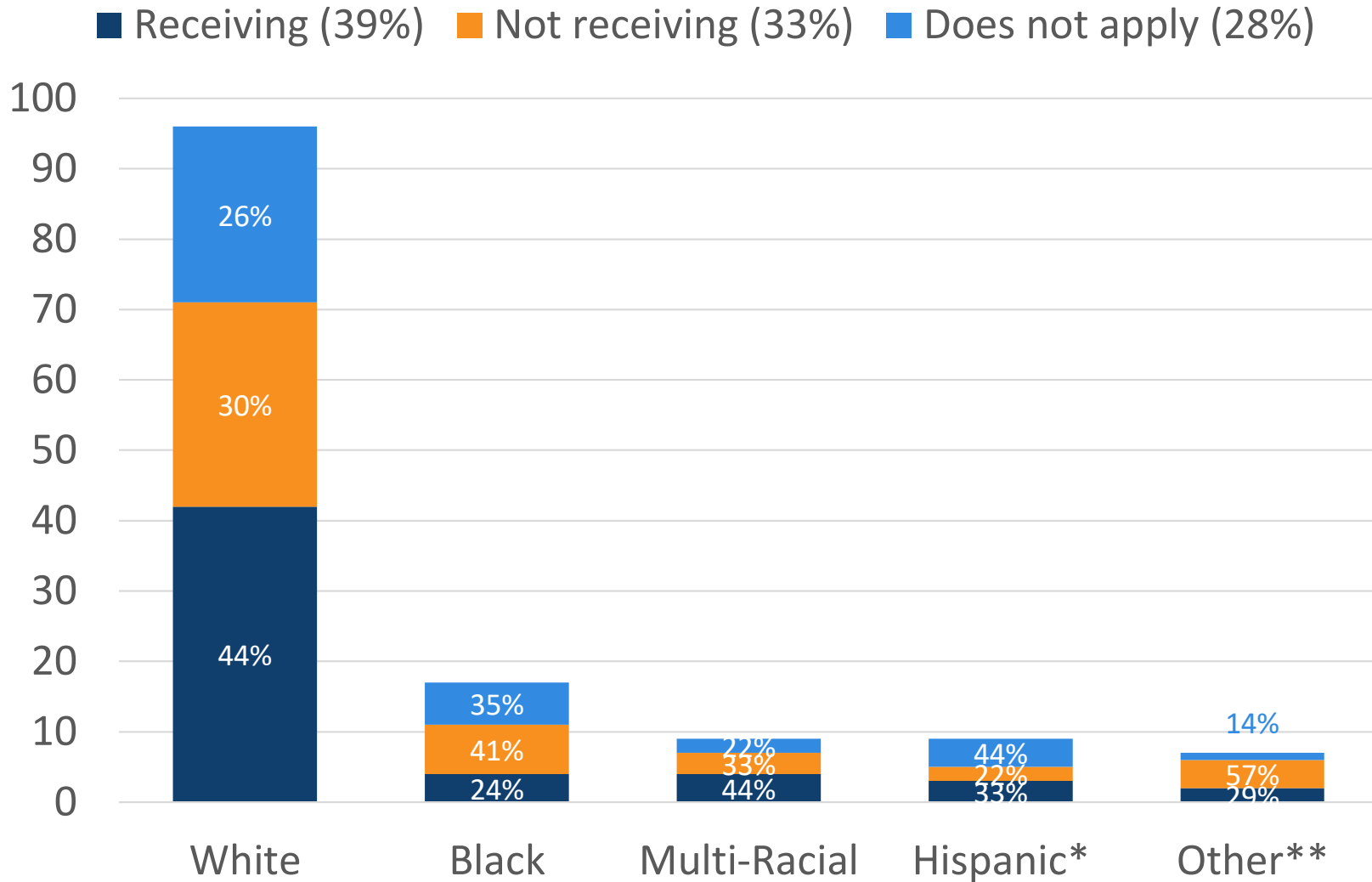
- 48% of adults reported at least one mental illness

Increased likelihoods for:

- All SMIs for women and gender nonconforming
- Anxiety and ADHD/ADD for sheltered people
- Bipolar and PTSD for unsheltered people
- PTSD among Middle Eastern, Pacific Islander, Asian, and Indigenous identities

Data source: 2024 PIT questionnaire

Rate of receiving mental/physical health treatment by race and ethnicity



Overall:

- About half of people who say they need treatment are receiving it

Treatment differences by race:

- Black and other racial identities are less likely to receive treatment
- Black and Hispanic are more likely to say they don't need treatment

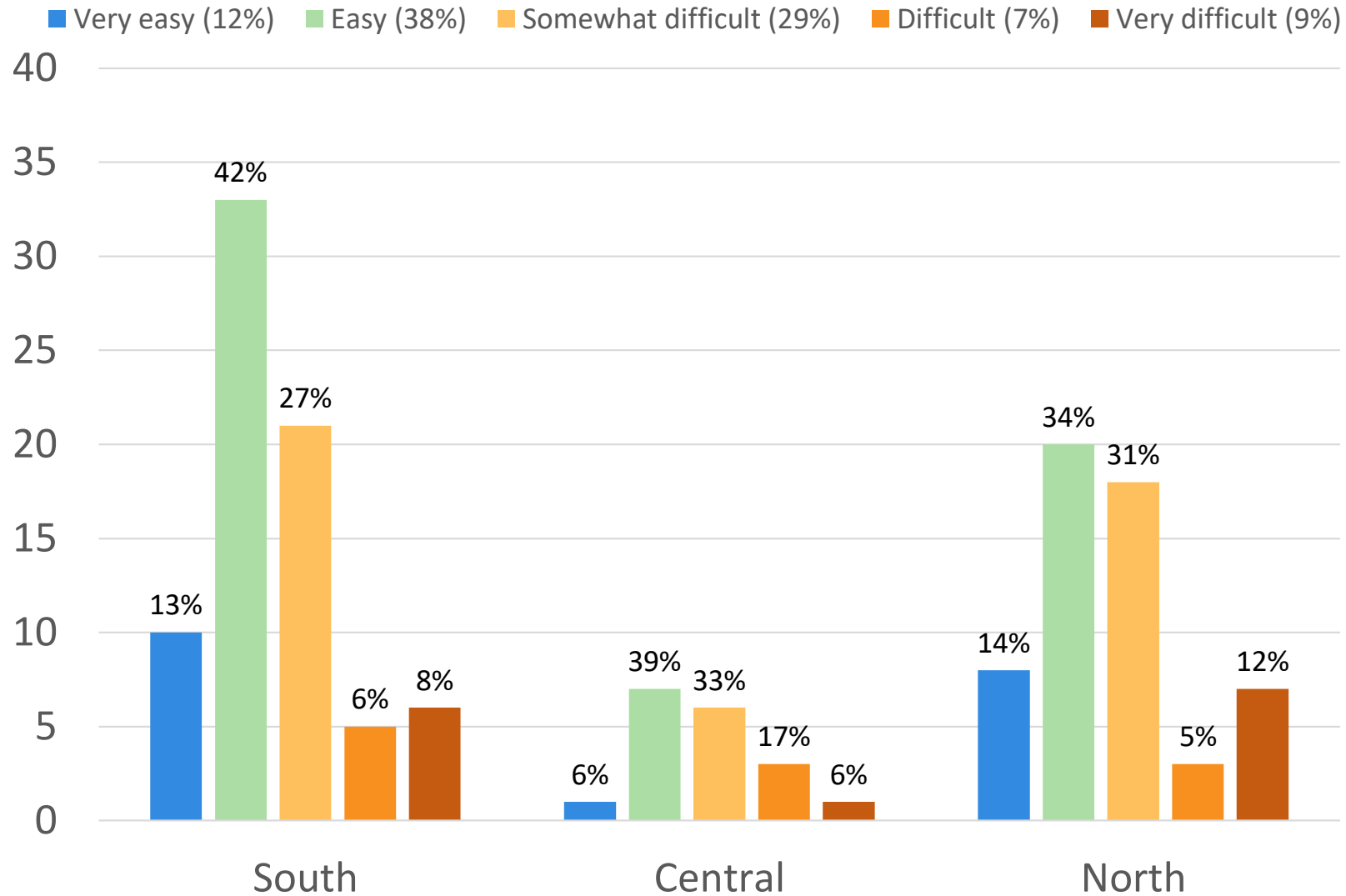
Not pictured:

- Men and gender nonconforming are less likely to receive treatment

* Represents those who identify as Hispanic alone and in combination with other identities

** Combines Asian, Native American, Pacific Islander, and Middle Eastern due to small sample sizes

Ease of Access to Healthcare by Region



- Overall, 50% say accessing healthcare is easy/very easy
- Higher difficulty in Central
- Lower difficulty in South

Not pictured:

- Central also has the lowest rates of reporting access to medication at 50%, compared to 56% in the South and 63% in the North (58% overall)

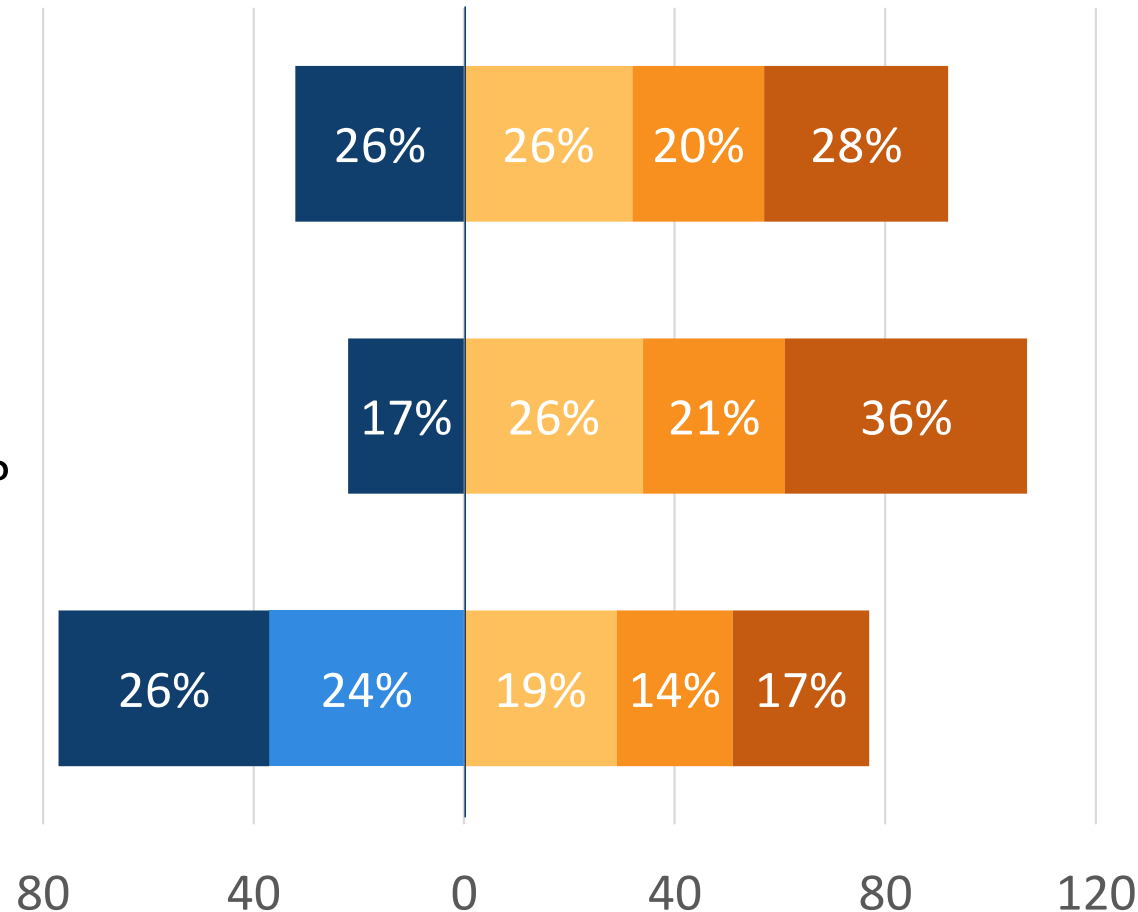
In the past 30 days, how much of the time...

None of the time (0 days) A little (1-10 days) Sometimes (11-20 days) Most of the time (21-29 days) All the time (every day)

did stress or mental health challenges negatively affect your daily activities?

did you experience stress, depression, or challenging emotions?

was your physical health not good (including physical illness and injury)?

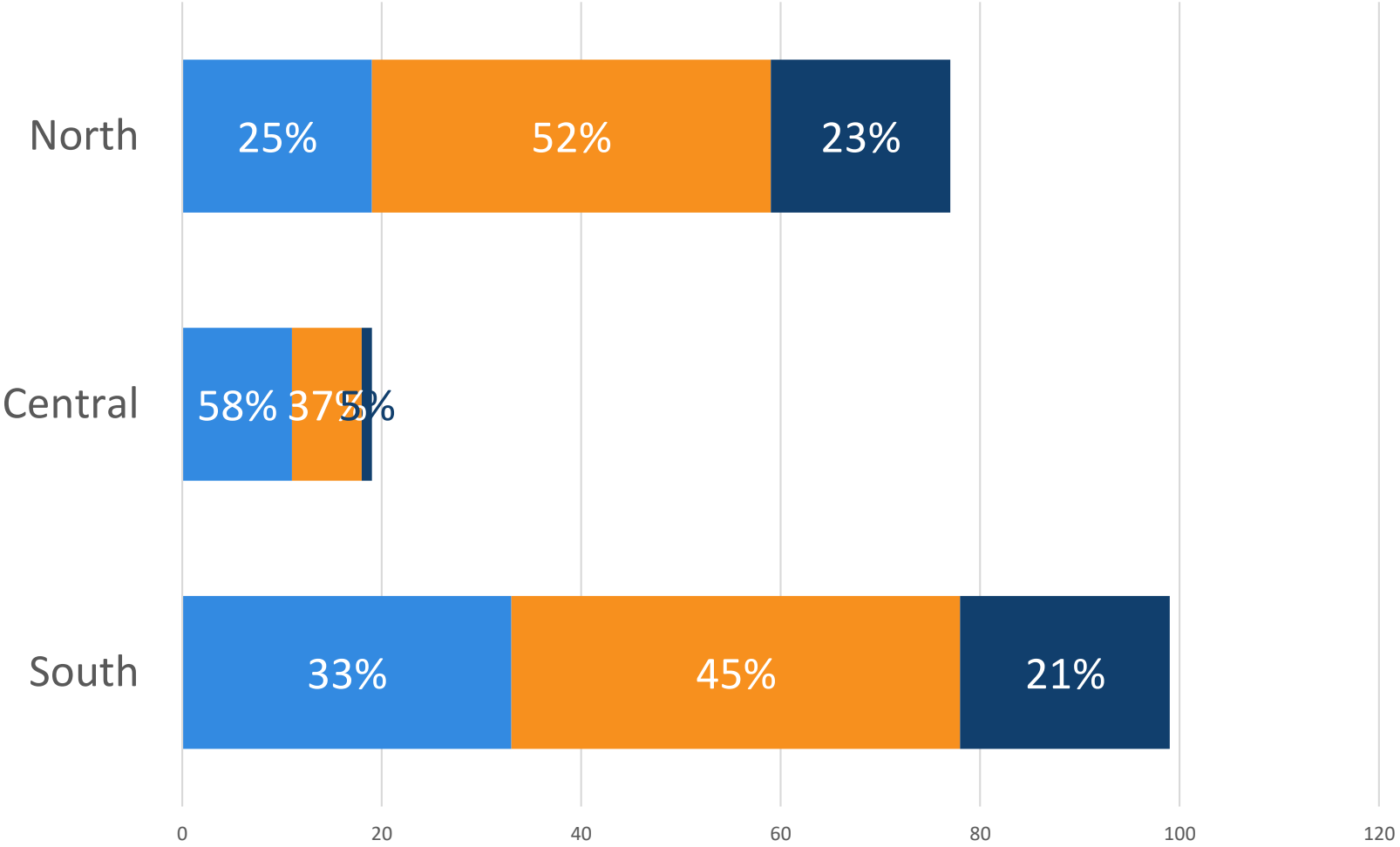


Overall:

- Mental health regularly affects daily life for 3 out of 4 people (74%)
 - Lack of “a little”
- Challenging emotions also skewed towards more frequent (83% overall)
 - Associated with SMIs (87% compared to 60% without SMI)
- Physical health is the least widespread, with half affected a little or none
 - Associated with age

Number of people visiting the Emergency Room in the past 12 months by Region

■ Did not visit (32%)
 ■ Visited ER (47%)
 ■ No answer (21%)



Overall:

- Almost half reported visiting the ER at least once in the past year
- Central has much lower rate of ER visits (58% no)

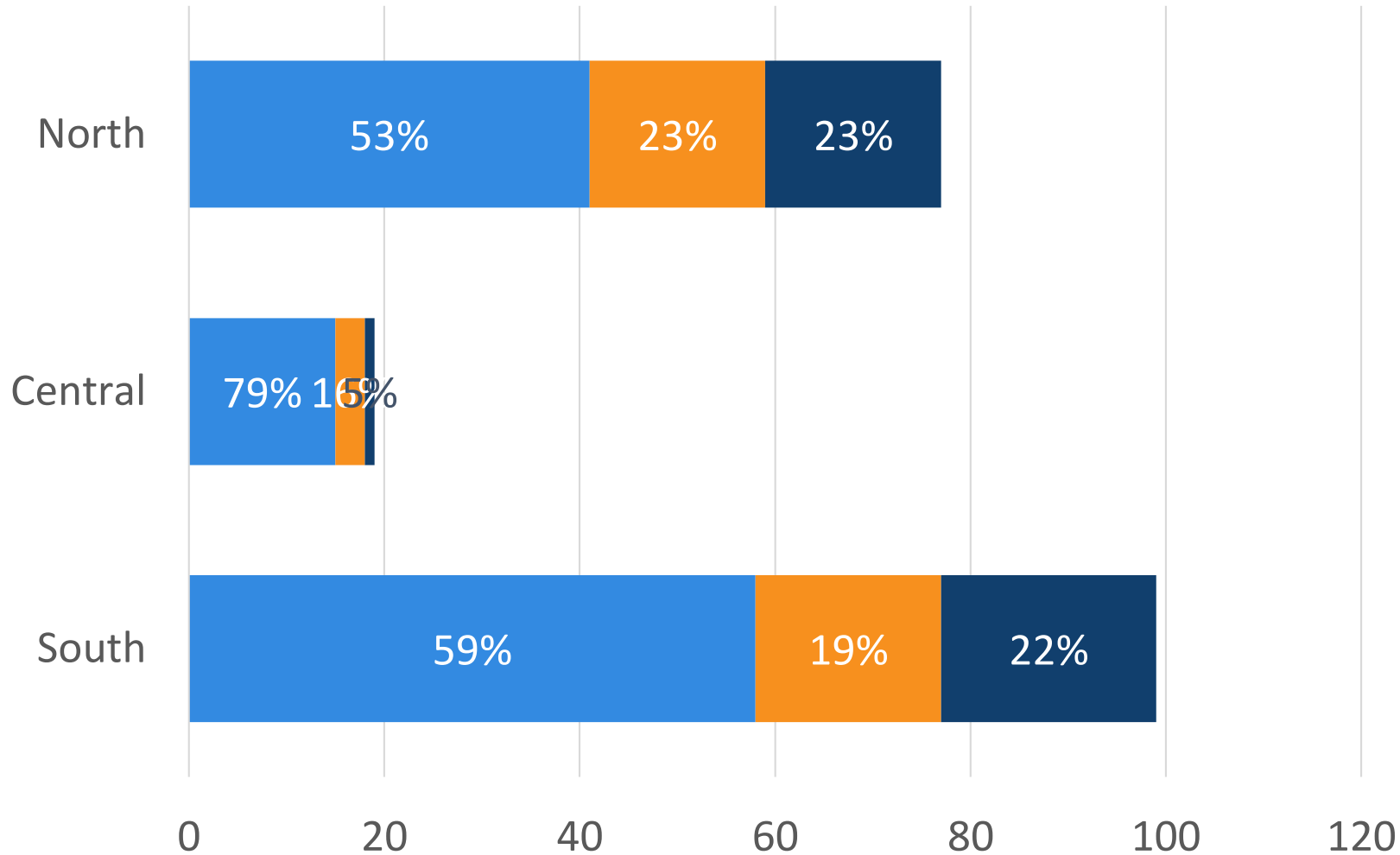
Groups with high rates to ER:

- Youth 18-24 (65%) and adults age 55-64 (59%)
- Chronic homeless (61%)
- People with a history of substance abuse (58%)
- Women (56%) and gender nonconforming (60%)
- **first-time (54%) and shorter-term (56%)**
- No difference between sheltered/unsheltered

Data source: 2024 PIT questionnaire

People admitted to the hospital in the past year

■ Not admitted (58%) ■ Admitted (21%) ■ No answer (21%)

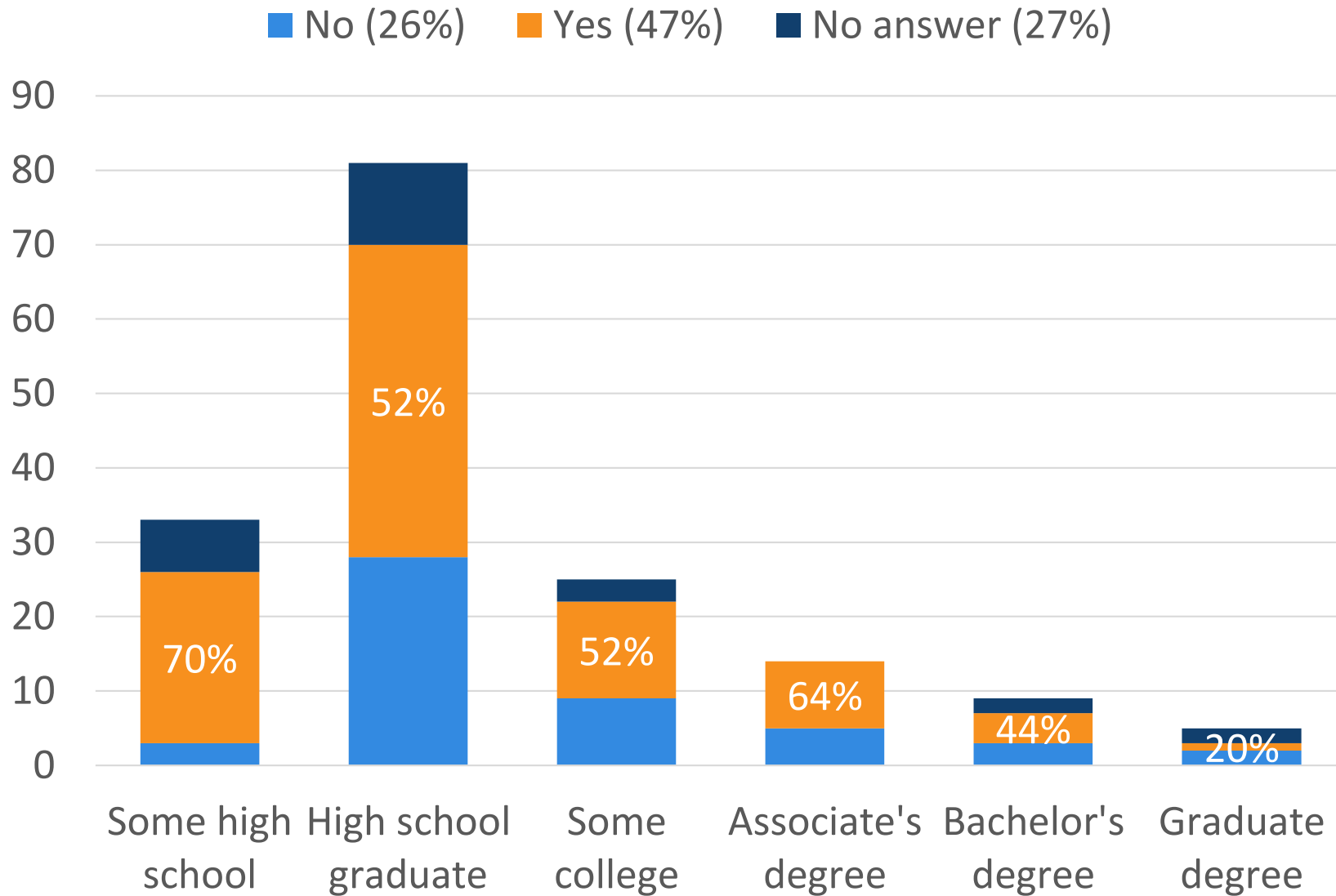


Overall:

- 60% of those who visited the ER were never admitted to the hospital
- About 1 in 5 reported being admitted to the hospital at least once in the past year
- Average: 2.5 times admitted for 11 days total
- Median: 1 time admitted for 5 days total
- Max: 12 times admitted for 70 days total

SUBSTANCE USE

Self-reported substance abuse by educational attainment



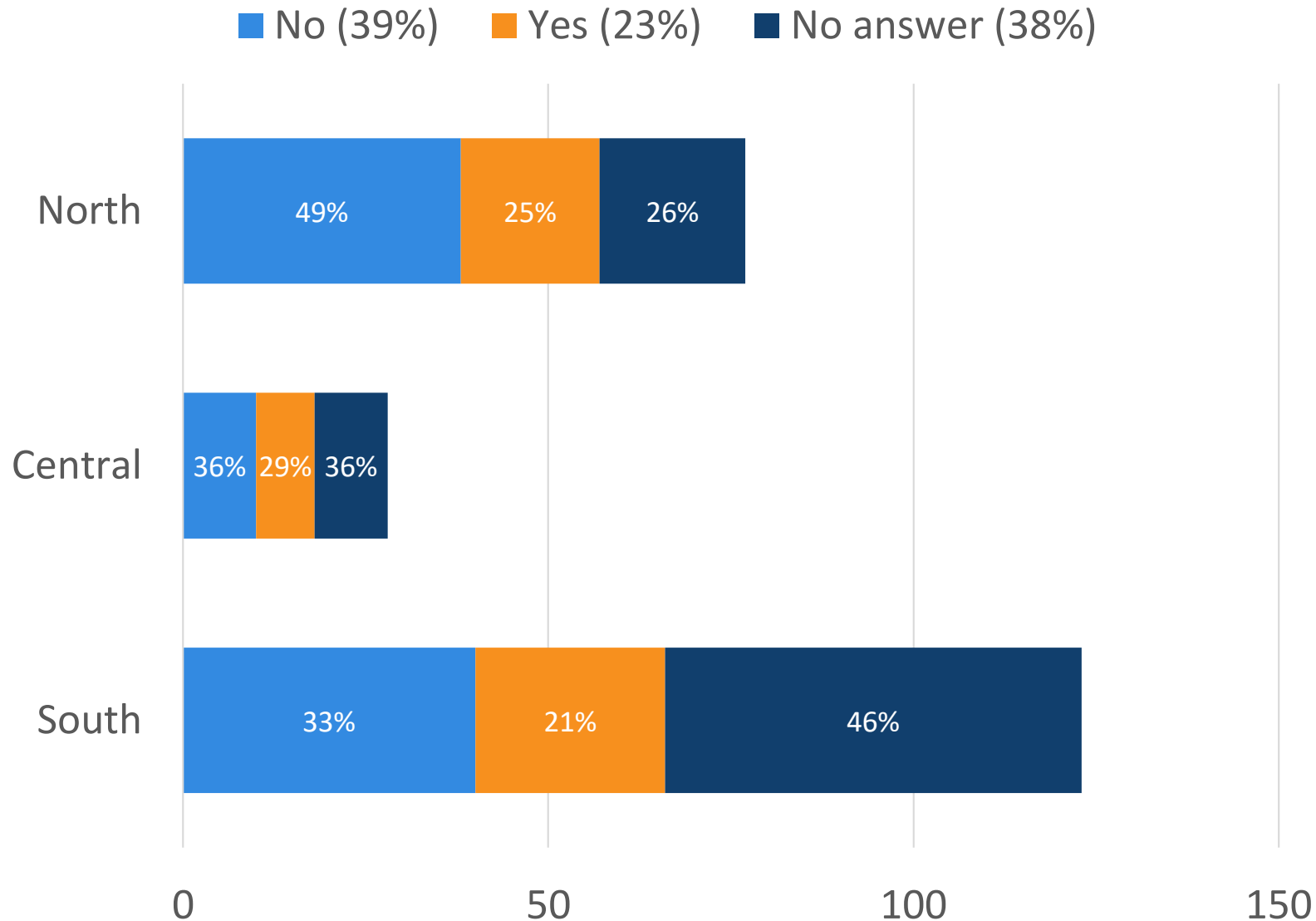
Substance use is highest among the following groups:

- No high school degree (70%), associates degree (64%)
- Multi-racial (64%) and other** (67%) identities
- Adults aged 45-54 (59%)
- Chronic homeless (65%)
- Intermediate (54%) and high (70%) ACE risk levels

Of the 47% reporting yes:

- Almost two-thirds have received treatment (64%)
- About one-fourth report an ongoing struggle with drugs or alcohol (27%)

Responses to "Have you ever used opioids?" by region



- Overall, less than one in four report having ever used opioids (23%)
- Slightly higher in Central

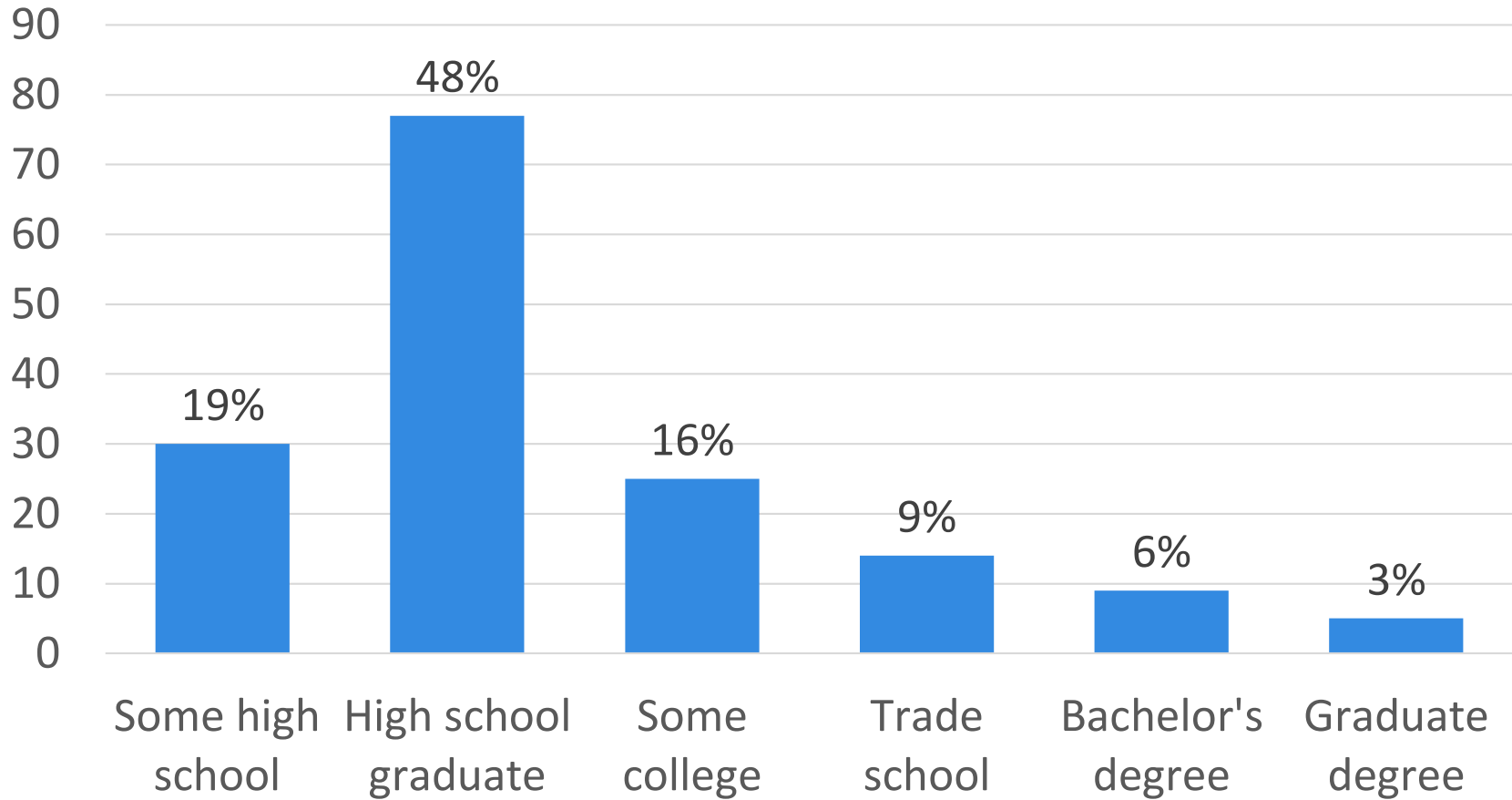
Higher rate of opioid use among other breakdowns:

- White (29%) and other** (33%) racial identities
- Gender nonconforming people (40%)
- Youth (35%), young adult (30%), and middle-aged adults (32%)
- Unsheltered (32%) and chronic (39%) homeless

** Combines Asian, Native American, Pacific Islander, and Middle Eastern due to small sample sizes

LIFE EXPERIENCES

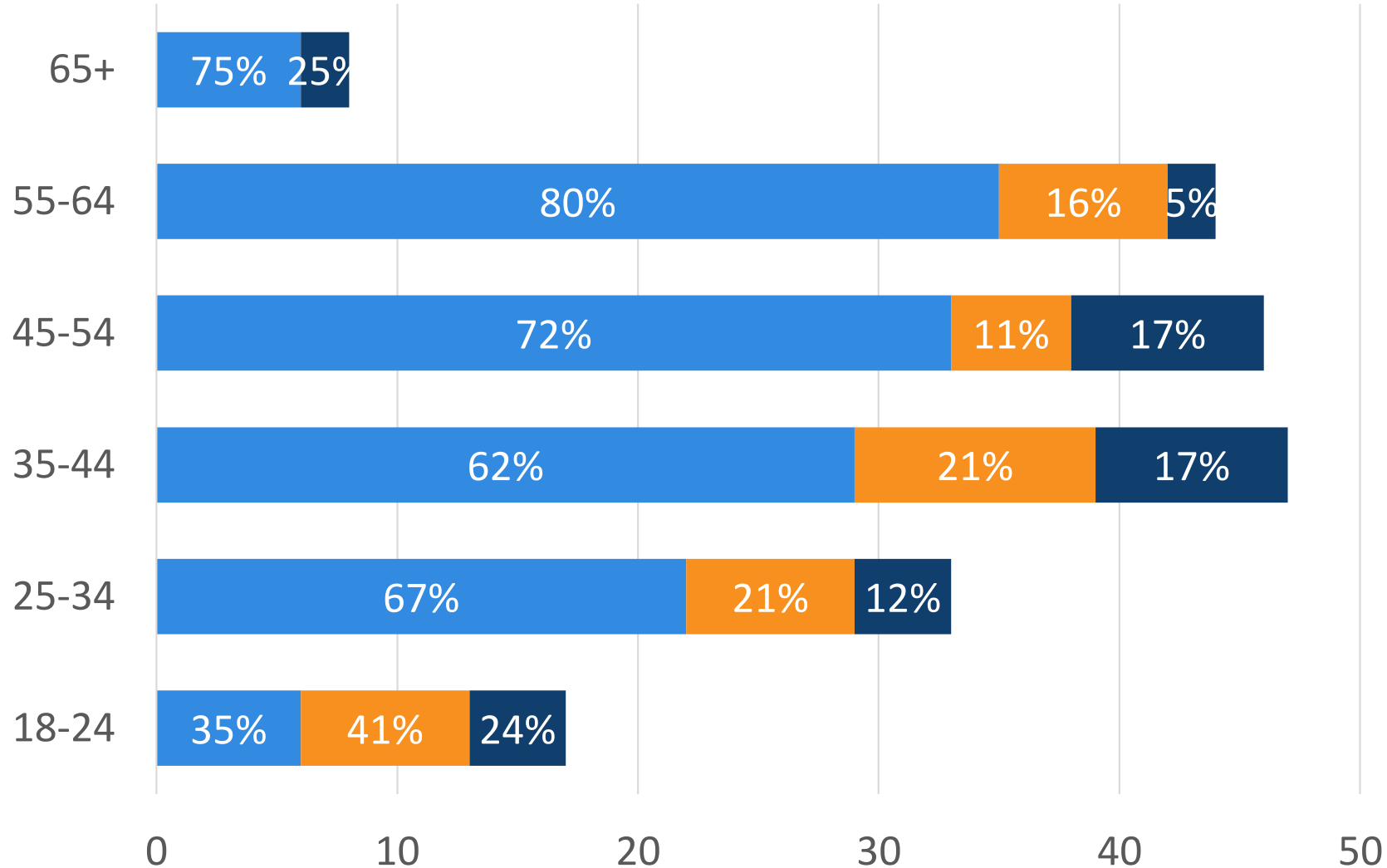
Highest level of Education reported by respondents



- Almost half have a high school degree (48%)
- Increasing number of people with higher education experiencing homelessness (18% with a post-high school degree)

Responses to "were you ever in foster care?" by age

■ No (67%) ■ Yes (18%) ■ No answer (14%)



- Youth are twice as likely to have been in foster care (41% compared to 18%)

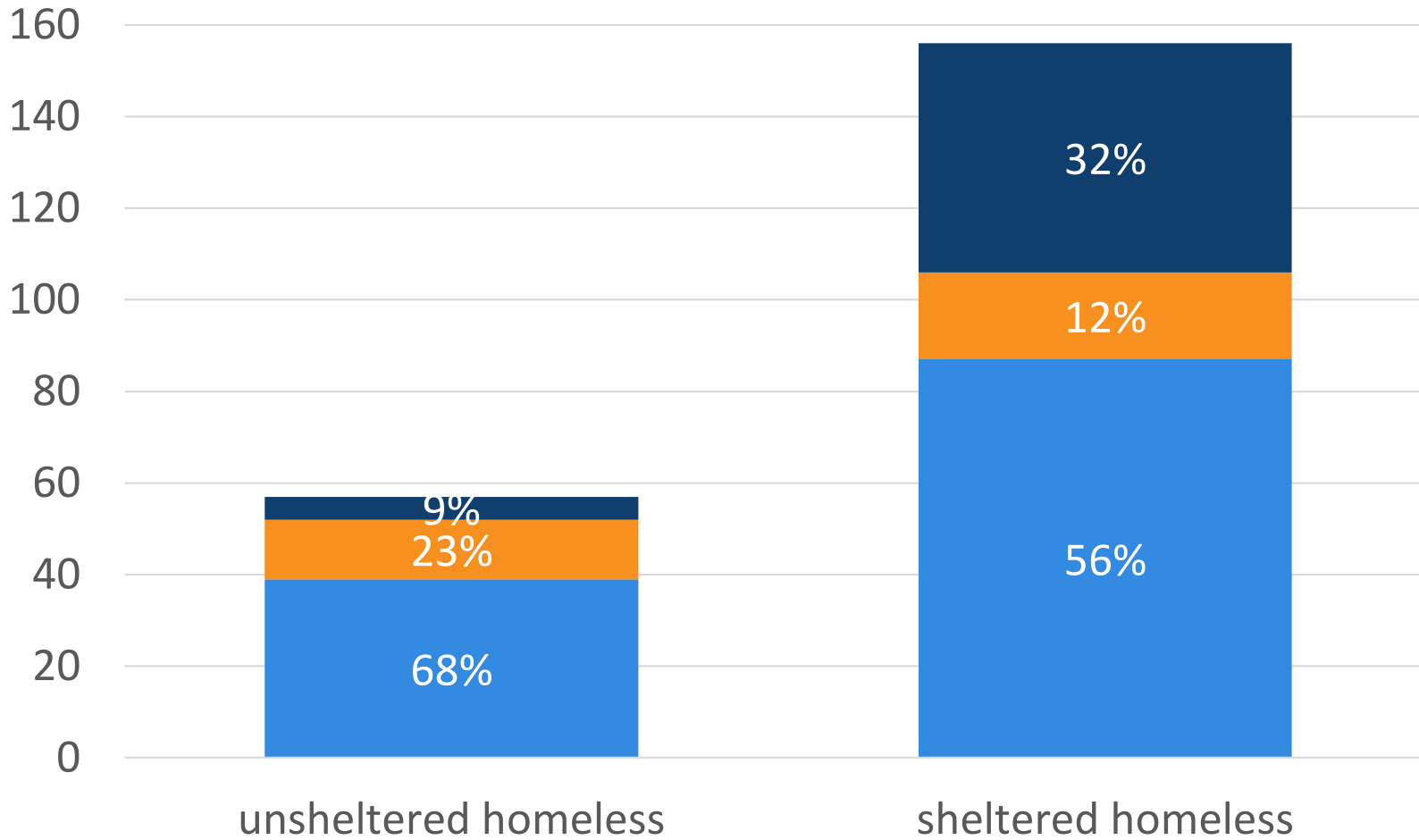
Other groups more likely to have been in foster care:

- multiracial (25%) and other** identities (33%)
- People in Central (25%)
- Unsheltered (26%) and repeat (25%) homeless
- People with a serious mental illness (27%)
- No difference by gender or substance use

** Combines Asian, Native American, Pacific Islander, and Middle Eastern due to small sample sizes

Rate of experiencing a violent attack by shelter situation

■ No (56%) ■ Yes (14%) ■ No answer (30%)



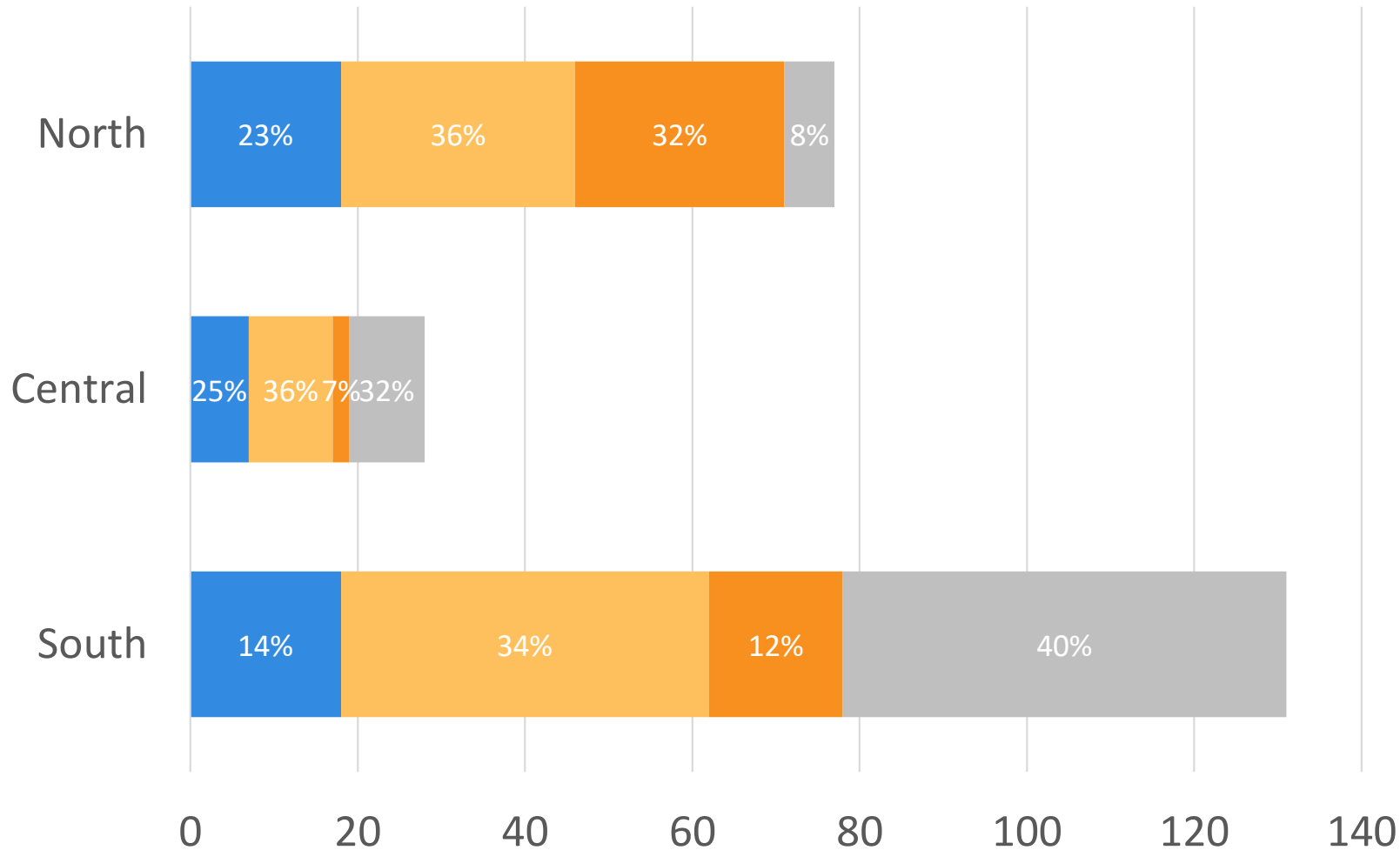
- People in unsheltered homeless situations are nearly twice as likely to report being the victim of a violent attack while experiencing homelessness

Other groups more likely to experience a violent attack:

- Gender nonconforming people (40% yes)
- Adults aged 35-54 (26%)
- Repeat (23%) and chronic (22%) homelessness

Responses to "Have you ever been incarcerated?"

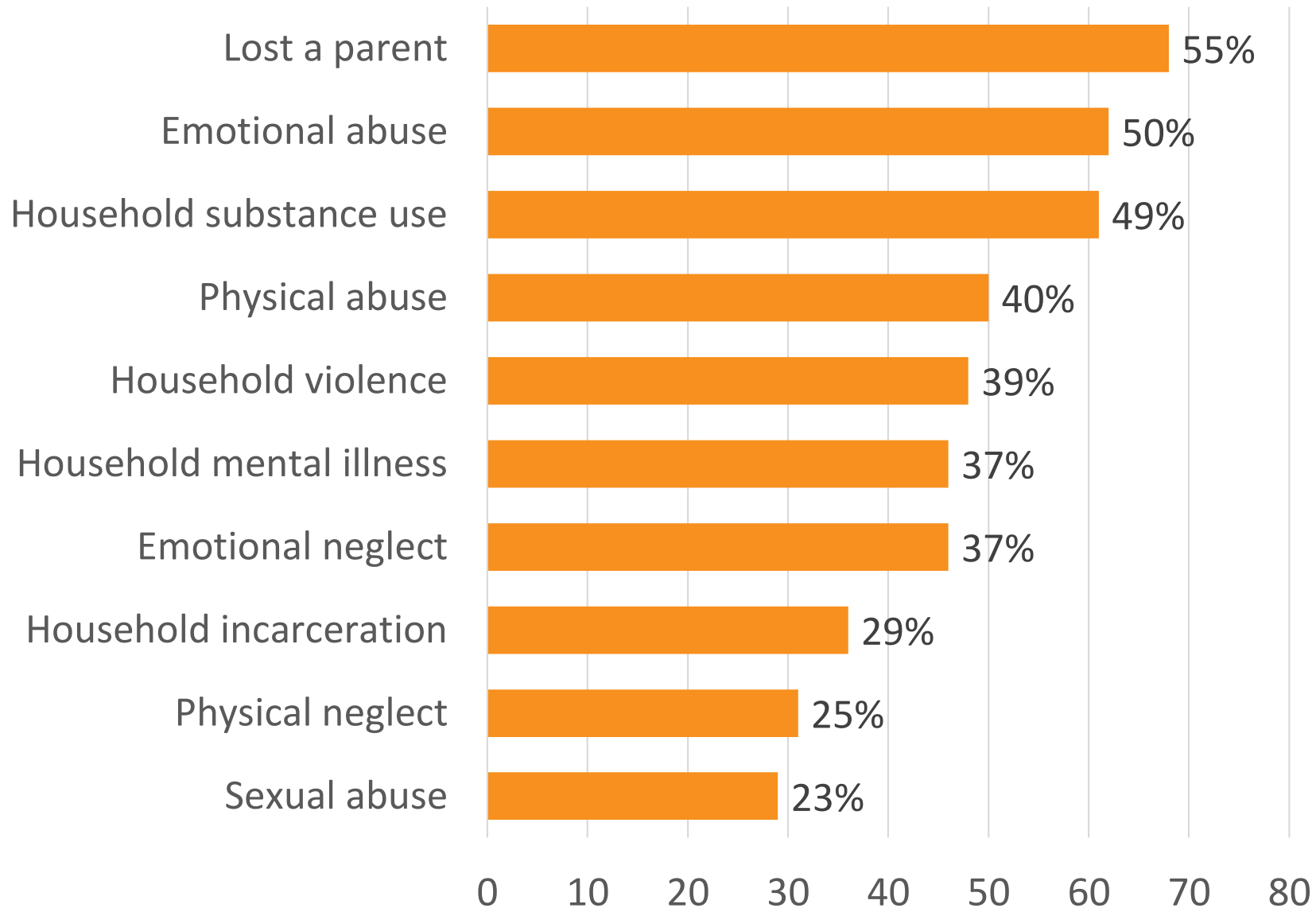
■ No (18%) ■ Jail (35%) ■ Prison (18%) ■ No answer (29%)



- Over half of respondents reported a history of incarceration (53%)
- People reporting prison is highest in the North (32%)
- Spending time in jail is evenly distributed
- Central has lowest rate of incarceration (25% no)

ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES (ACES)

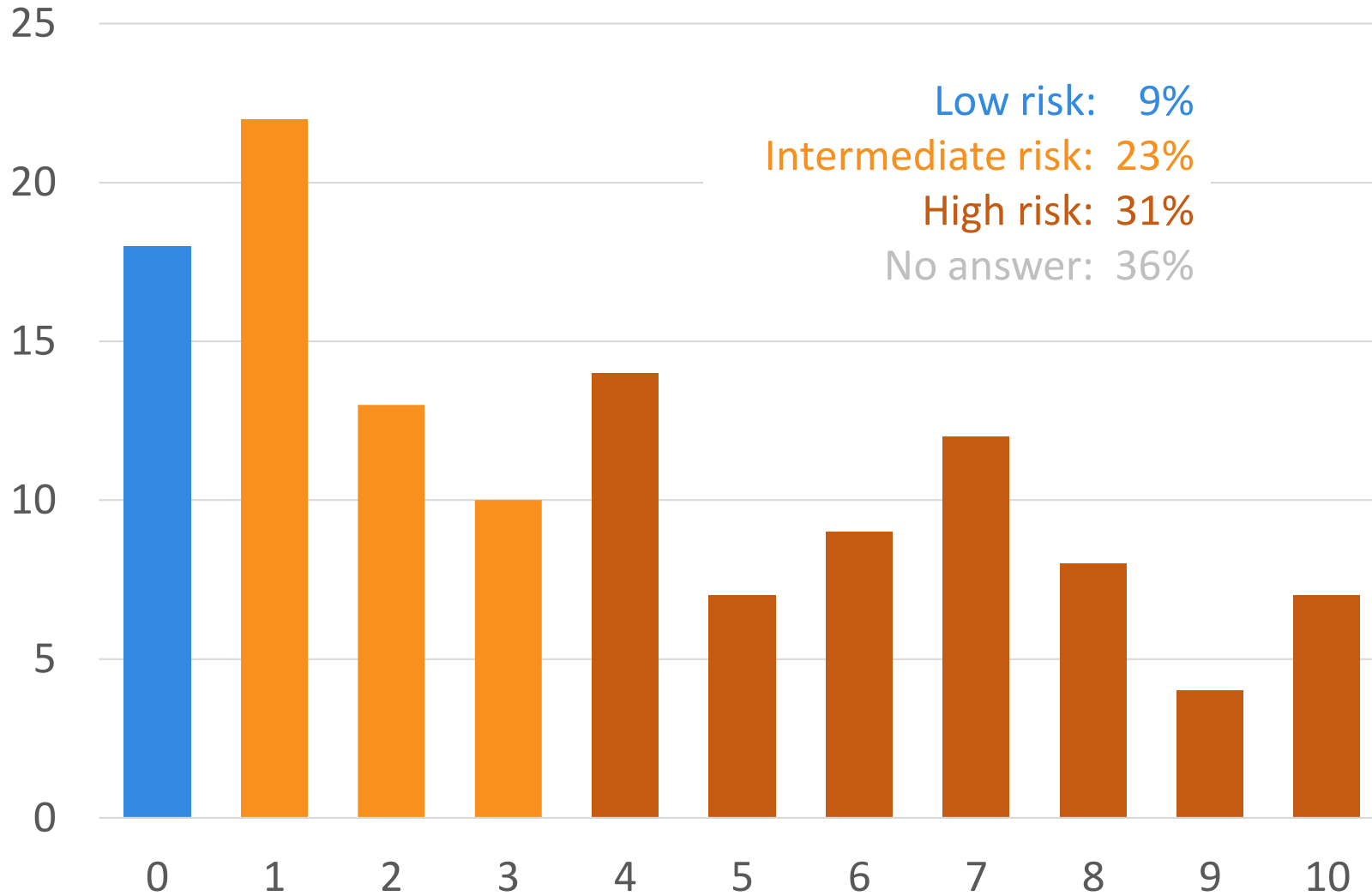
Frequency of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)



- 64% of adults completed this section (n=124)
- ACE scores are grouped into risk levels:
 - 0 = low
 - 1-3 = intermediate
 - 4+ = high

Data source: 2024 PIT questionnaire

ACE Scores of Respondents



- Of those who answered, half scored as high risk (median score = 3)

High-risk ACE scores are concentrated among:

- Youth (ages 18-24)
- Gender non-conforming
- White people
- Repeat and chronic homeless
- Urban regions

General population of Virginia has lower overall scores*:

- 38% reported 0 ACEs
- 46% reported 1-3
- 16% report 4+ ACEs

*Data sources: 2024 PIT questionnaire & Table 2 of [Swedo, Aslam, Dahlberg, et al](#)

DISCUSSION

What surprised you?

What patterns did you notice?

What stories can you tell?

What is missing?

FY 2024 CoC General Meeting Schedule

- January 11, 2024: Woodstock
- February 8, 2024: Woodstock
- February 15, 2024 VHSP Info Session – Virtual
- April 11, 2024: Winchester
- June 6, 2024: HUD NOFO Info Session - Virtual
- June 13, 2024: Harrisonburg
- August 8, 2024: Winchester
- October 10, 2024: Harrisonburg



Western Virginia Continuum of Care

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 13th, 10am-12pm

Lucy Simms Center Auditorium

620 Simms Ave, Harrisonburg, VA 22802

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