

INDIGENOUS HOMELESSNESS DATA FRAMEWORK

WHAT WE HEARD: ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

SUBMITTED TO: ABORIGINAL HOUSING MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

AUGUST 8, 2022



ENGAGEMENT SNAPSHOT

We utilized an Indigenized community-based engagement design for the Data Collection Framework + Recommendations for BC Strategy for Indigenous Peoples Experiencing Homelessness. We hired in-community co-researchers to lead the promotion and facilitation of engagement activities in their respective communities. Our approach was “by, for and with Indigenous Communities” as our way to honour Indigenous stories, experiences and solutions. For further details, read the full Engagement Summary at <https://www.ahma-bc.org/bcindigenoushomelessness>.



7

Co-Researchers from diverse Indigenous identities



67

Interviews of people with living and lived experience



42

Participants in six discussion circles



130

Responses to the online survey



Thank you to our co-researchers and participants. We hope to honour your wisdom moving forward.

OUR TOP TAKEAWAYS: A few core ideas summarized from all the feedback received...

- Indigenous Peoples have significant experiences of **racism, stigmatization, social profiling and discrimination**.
- Indigenous Peoples are negatively impacted by **service systems that fail to care for and protect Indigenous Peoples** physically, emotionally, intersectionally and culturally.
- **Indigenous Peoples have mixed feelings** about their story and their journey to acquire housing.
- **Indigenous families** have unique and complex experiences and challenges, including the impossibility of securing housing as a single mother, experiencing homelessness when relationships end or while pregnant, and difficulties finding housing of an appropriate size.
- **Indigenous youth** have unique experiences and challenges, including poor transition programs, little to no access to supports, and precarity and insecurity in housing.
- **Temporary housing is dangerous and not culturally appropriate** for Indigenous Peoples
- Indigenous Peoples **need more housing and more affordable housing**.
- Indigenous Peoples **need more supports and access to culture**.
- Indigenous Peoples **need to feel safe** when accessing services.
- Indigenous Peoples continue to suffer from **the injustices and impacts of colonialism**.

The information collected through this research directly informs recommendations to the Steering Committee for them to consider in their report to the province.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

APPROACH

Resilience Planning utilized an Indigenized community-based engagement design to complete community engagement for the BC Indigenous Homelessness Data Collection and Framework Project. This approach centered on the hiring of in-community co-researchers to lead the promotion and facilitation of engagement activities in their respective communities. In total, seven in-community co-researchers from diverse Indigenous identities across five of AHMA's six membership regions were hired and trained. This "What we Heard Report" summarizes the learnings and key findings from the engagement activities completed by the co-researchers and Resilience Planning from May 24, 2022, to August 2, 2022. Our approach on this project of "by, for and with Indigenous Communities" is our way to honour Indigenous stories, experiences and solutions.

ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

Our engagement strategy was informed by early project interviews with staff from AHMA and members of the Indigenous Homelessness Strategy Steering Committee (the Steering Committee) as well as Resilience Planning's team members' own expertise and lived experiences. This strategy was our road map for engagement promotion and activities.

PROMOTION

The co-researchers led engagement promotion in their respective regions and were incentivized through survey referral tracking. The combined community connections of the Steering Committee and AHMA were important for reaching a variety of urban, rural, and northern Indigenous communities via a Facebook page, project webpage, electronic mail and social media.

ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

The three engagement methods used were online survey, interviews, and discussion circles. Each engagement activity was incentivized with a combination of prize draw entries or honoraria in reciprocity for participants' time and wisdom. All engagement activities were open to Indigenous peoples with lived experience of homelessness and housing insecurity anywhere in the province of BC. The discussion circles were organized according to affinity groups and included invitations to participants identifying as 2SLGBTQIA+, youth, women, urban, or rural and to the co-researchers themselves.

KEY FINDINGS

Here are some of the truths we agree to:

- The systems in place to support people with housing were established by colonial ancestors.
- Descendants of these colonizers continue to uphold colonial values.
- These systems are the cause of an ongoing cultural genocide against Indigenous Peoples in an effort to assimilate Indigenous Peoples into western, white ways of being.
- While the intent behind these systems is about trying to "do good" and trying to support people, the systems, and the people administering them, become agents of oppression; and the impact on Indigenous Peoples is an experience that lacks compassion, understanding and openness.
- This not only does not serve Indigenous Peoples, but keeps Indigenous Peoples in cycles of pain, poverty, family separation, and substance use.

FEEDBACK

Indigenous Peoples have significant experiences of racism, stigmatization, social profiling and discrimination. These experiences are indicative of the systemic racism that Indigenous Peoples face throughout society. This is creating barriers in a variety of ways. Examples include: accessing secure housing or be stigmatized for their housing situation; being wrongfully accused; potentially being banned from housing for substance use and mental health issues. This is resulting in people preferring to live outdoors or in unhealthy living situations, keeping them in a cycle of extreme vulnerability, substance use and poor mental health. A larger proportion of First Nations respondents have experienced discrimination based on Indigenous identity financial status than Métis respondents. The majority of two-spirit survey respondents have experienced discrimination based on gender, age, and sexual orientation. A greater share of women survey respondents have also experienced discrimination based on gender than men.

Indigenous Peoples are negatively impacted by service systems that fail to care for and protect Indigenous People physically, emotionally, intersectionally and culturally including shelters, community services, child protection, social assistance, mental health, substance use, social housing, policing, and more. This impacts Indigenous people in the following ways: experiencing a lack of dignity (e.g., having their belongings taken by police and thrown out); poor interactions with staff, who are not trained in trauma-informed care; and not feeling supported by the very supports meant to be helping them. In fact, having a supportive person working for you was indicated as being integral to securing housing. People we talked to shared stories about the help they received from staff who didn't strictly "go by the book" and sometimes went against rules or policies to secure housing for them.

Indigenous Peoples have mixed feelings about their story and their journey to acquire housing. They feel resilient, love and kindness, determined and strong, brave, growing and hope; and they feel adversity, ashamed and isolated, discouraged and defeated, unstable, desperate, angry, overwhelmed, stressed, sad and scared. These negative experiences and feelings are impacting their health and their ability to thrive.

Indigenous families have unique and complex experiences and challenges including: securing housing as a single mother being "impossible" and a recurring experience; families where some children have never had a home; experiencing homelessness while pregnant impacts their maternal health (including experiencing miscarriages); and women find themselves experiencing homelessness when a relationship with their partner ends or when they flee domestic violence. Also, being an intact Indigenous family (and larger family) means sometimes people can't find housing of an appropriate size due to restrictions on the number of children of the same gender allowed in a room. This sometimes leads to the Ministry of Child and Family Development apprehending children to put them in a child welfare system that pays foster parents more than the financial support offered by social assistance.

Indigenous youth have unique experiences and challenges including: poor transition programs for when they age out of the child welfare system; little or no access to support funding; little or no support for life skills education; precarity in their housing (and experiences of invisible homelessness due to couch surfing, or staying with friends or family); age-based discrimination; not being able to find secure or decent paying work; and leaving home at a young age due to violence or not feeling safe at home (often due abuse stemming from intergenerational trauma). Youth also need improved youth agreements and better service locations.

Temporary housing is dangerous and not culturally appropriate for Indigenous Peoples. The conditions of temporary housing are too unclean and unsafe for individuals or families to access. People are mistreated by staff and suffer from being stigmatized. They use temporary or shelter housing as a last resort and only in colder, winter weather.

Indigenous Peoples need more housing and more affordable housing. Communities need affordable housing and housing specific for Indigenous Peoples. They need to be included in decisions about what housing for them looks and feels like. They need more flexibility around rental deposits and rent deadlines until they can get on their feet. A larger proportion of First Nations survey respondents than Métis survey respondents are currently experiencing most aspects of homelessness and housing insecurity that were asked about, including housing insecurity, separation from their home community, homelessness, cultural and spiritual dislocation, and overcrowding.

Indigenous Peoples need more supports and access to culture. Access to food and washrooms are priorities. Access to culture, and culturally appropriate and holistic programming is needed to “bring the spirit back into the body” – to heal. People need support to stay employed and to stay in housing. It is more expensive to not house people and have them rely on the inadequate social safety net, or only be eligible for support if they enter through the healthcare system or fall into the (in)justice system. People experiencing homelessness need a universal basic income and financial support to meet the high costs of rent. Rent subsidies need to be available longer and is needed in higher amounts (especially as rent has increased dramatically and subsidies have not). There was strong indication that help from a supportive person or community was integral to securing housing. This can include counsellors, family, friends, partners and home communities. Improving existing services is also needed. For instance, respondents experienced: being brushed off; unhelpful services (e.g., being handed a housing list and told that is all staff can do); a lack of cultural programs and support; programs without a harm reduction approach; gaps when they shifted between program mandates (e.g., from a youth to an adult); and more. Train staff in trauma-informed approaches, hire more staff who are Indigenous and provide more funding to existing Indigenous service providers. When identifying solutions that meet their housing priorities, a far larger share of First Nations survey respondents identified health supports, supports for employment, and cultural connection as important than Métis respondents.

Indigenous Peoples need to feel safe when accessing services. Experiences of racism, discrimination, stigmatization, stereotyping, and tokenization need to end. This also includes ending the imposition of religious, patriarchal, and western feminist belief systems and creating more spaces for Indigenous people to be in care of Indigenous people.

Indigenous Peoples continue to suffer from the injustices and impacts of colonialism, including the harms of intergenerational trauma from being separated from families, communities, language and culture in the following ways: having been kidnapped and sent to residential school themselves, or having a member of their family who was; being 60s scooped; having experiences in the child welfare system; and more. A large majority of survey respondents have experiences with residential schools personally, or in their family. This includes a far larger proportion of First Nations survey respondents. This results in continued experiences of dislocation and the concurrent experience of mental health issues, substance use and addiction, domestic violence and abuse, child apprehension to the child welfare system, calls attention to the responsibilities of all of us to be informed and take action on the present-day systemic impacts of colonialism.

INTRODUCTION

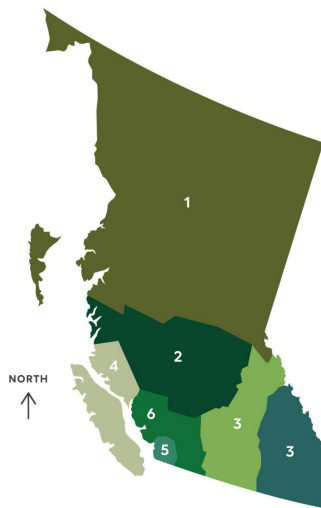
PROJECT BACKGROUND

The BC Indigenous Homelessness Strategy Steering Committee (the Steering Committee) is leading the development of an evidence-based strategy that addresses the multi-dimensional experience of homelessness in Indigenous communities across British Columbia. The Steering Committee represents multiple sectors, regional affiliations and diverse interests, including provincially serving organizations and local/regionally based centres which are accountable to their membership. Informed by the Steering Committee's *Relationship Protocol* (Appendix E), the project focussed on shared principles around culturally safe, quality, affordable, and suitable housing.

In December 2021, the Aboriginal Housing Management Association (AHMA) and the BC Indigenous Homelessness Strategy Steering Committee retained the consultation services of Resilience Planning to complete province-wide engagement with Indigenous people with lived experience of homelessness. The goal of this data collection and framework project is to create a data collection framework that can be replicated in communities across BC who wish to better understand experiences of homelessness in their communities, and to develop evidence-based recommendations that can be used towards the submission of a provincial Indigenous homelessness strategy that will inform the province's budget process for 2023. This will enable the Steering Committee to continue with the development of a strategy that honours the needs and experiences of Indigenous people experiencing homelessness that can be integrated into the province's broader Homelessness Strategy. At the conclusion of the project, all data will be owned by AHMA.

ENGAGEMENT PURPOSE

Our engagement process aimed to be inclusive of the diverse identities and experiences within those with lived experiences of homelessness (including hidden homelessness) across urban, rural, and northern Indigenous communities in BC. The seven Indigenous co-researchers hired represented different community sizes, ranging in population densities (remote <1K, small up to 30K, medium up to 100K, and large >100K). Co-researchers were located in five of AHMA's six membership regions including: Northern, Thompson, Vancouver Coastal, Fraser Valley, and Vancouver Island. The remaining region, the Cariboo Chilcotin Coast Region, did not have a Co-researcher apply.



1. **Northern British Columbia** (e.g., Dawson Creek, Fort Nelson, Fort St. John, Haida Gwaii, Prince George, Prince Rupert)
2. **Cariboo Chilcotin Coast** (e.g., 100 Mile House, Bella Bella, Bella Coola, Clinton, Lillooet, Quesnel, Williams Lake)
3. **Thompson Okanagan and Kootenay Rockies** (e.g., Boston Bar, Cache Creek, Cranbrook, Kamloops, Kelowna, Merritt, Nelson, Penticton, Revelstoke, Valemount, Vernon)
4. **Vancouver Island and Sunshine Coast** (e.g., Campbell River, Gibsons, Nanaimo, Port Hardy, Powell River, Sechelt, Victoria)
5. **Vancouver Coastal** (e.g., Burnaby, Coquitlam, New Westminster, North Vancouver, Pemberton, Port Coquitlam, Squamish, Vancouver, West Vancouver, Whistler)
6. **Fraser Valley** and south and east Metro Vancouver, (e.g., Abbotsford, Chilliwack, Hope, Ladner, Langley, Maple Ridge, Mission, Richmond, Surrey, Tsawwassen)

Figure 1: AHMA membership regions

In addition to seeking a broad range of participation across First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities, specific attention was given to ensure the inclusion of intersectional and marginalized community members including: women, youth, and 2SLGBTQIA+.

WHAT WE DID

ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

Early in the process we conducted an interview with seven staff members from AHMA. The interview was held on April 25, 2022. Outcomes from those interviews with AHMA members and how we responded to that information is presented in Appendix X. We also conducted interviews with nine organizations represented on the Steering Committee. Several organizations were represented by more than one member. A total of 12 people participated in the interviews. Interviews were conducted between March 4 and April 4, 2022. Outcomes from those interviews with Steering Committee members are summarized in Appendix X as well as how we responded to the answers provided. Information from these interviews informed the engagement strategy.

PROMOTION

To engage communities virtually, promotion focused on the reach of the Steering Committee's and co-researchers' email and social media networks.

WEBPAGE

At the start of Phase 2 Community Engagement, a dedicated project webpage was launched at <https://www.ahma-bc.org/bcindigenouhomelessness>. The webpage featured links to the online survey, information about the project, and AHMA

FACEBOOK GROUP

A Facebook group for the project was created and hosted by staff at AHMA to make circulation of the survey link, event details, and updated materials easily shareable. You can see the Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/BC-Indigenous-Homelessness-Strategy-107447505313745>

PROMOTION TIMELINE

Steering Committee Channels: Social media posts with suggested captions and printable materials were distributed to the Steering Committee (May 30, June 15, 2022) and to the following networks identified by the Steering Committee during Phase One:

Table 1: Steering Committee Promotion Channels

Channel	Publication/'Share' Date (2022)
BC Coalition to End Youth Homelessness	Early June
BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres	Late May
AHMA Members Memo	June 3
THE AHMA MESSENGER Newsletter	June 14
BCNPHA social media and newsletter	June 7

Co-researcher Channels: Co-researchers were provided customizable flyers for printed and digital distribution for each engagement event.

Table 2: Co-Researcher Promotion Channels

Engagement Event	Print media/social media materials
Survey	Posters and link distributed May 20, 26, 27, 28
Interview	Editable posters were distributed June 2
Discussion Circles	Editable posters were distributed June 2 & 6

INCENTIVES

The survey incentive featured ten draws for cash prizes of \$250 each. Additionally, co-researchers received an incentive of \$10 per successful survey referral which was tracked in the survey platform, Alchemer.

HONORARIA

Each interview participant received a \$60 honorarium (\$40 for time and \$20 in lieu of food sharing) via cash or email transfer for the time and wisdom shared.

Each discussion circle participant received a \$60 honorarium (\$40 for time and \$20 in lieu of food sharing) via cash or email transfer for their attendance and entered into the live draw for Apple AirPods at the conclusion of each session.

ENGAGEMENT

ONLINE SURVEY

The BC Indigenous Homelessness Strategy online survey launched May 24, 2022, and closed June 30, 2022. The 17-question survey was hosted on Alchemer, an online survey platform that allows respondents to complete the survey online or offline with an option to upload their responses when an internet connection became available. This approach reduced barriers and boosted the technical accessibility of the survey for those encountering challenges connecting to the internet.

In total, 130 surveys were completed. The survey led with two qualifying questions which ensured that all respondents met the project requirements of 1) self-identifying as Indigenous and 2) having lived experiences of homelessness or housing insecurity. The full list of survey questions can be found in Appendix A.

All survey data was collected anonymously, and respondent identifiers were removed. At the conclusion of the survey, respondents were provided an option to exit the survey and enter their contact information for a chance to win the prize draw incentives.

INTERVIEWS

67 interviews were conducted by the co-researcher team from June 8 to July 12, 2022. These one-on-one, thirty-minute interviews featured eight questions. Questions focused on the wisdom of the interviewee’s story, needs, and priorities. A full list of interview questions can be found in Appendix A.

Table 3: Interview Participation Rates

Co-Researcher Location ¹	# of Interviews
Small, Northern, Rural and Remote (Langley, Haida Gwaii)	19
Medium (Campbell River, Kamloops, Prince George)	19
Large, Urban (Vancouver, Victoria)	29

¹ Co-Researcher location does not mean the interviewees were necessarily located in the same area, although the Engagement Strategy aimed to reach all six regions of AHMA membership with representation of range of population densities (remote <1K, small up to 30K, medium up to 100K, and large >100K).

DISCUSSION CIRCLES

Six, one-hour discussion circles were hosted virtually on Zoom between June 8 and August 2, 2022. Attendance at each discussion circle ranged from two to 15 participants. Each discussion circle was moderated through live conversation and the chat function on zoom by co-researchers and Resilience Planning facilitators.

All five of the discussion circles featured the same agenda and four questions, and were hosted according to affinity groups: Youth, Women, Urban, Rural, 2SLGBTQIA+, and the co-researcher team. A ‘closed’, or non-public, discussion circle was facilitated by Resilience Planning for the co-researcher team to share their lived experiences. The second discussion circle was hosted for Indigenous youth. The third discussion circle, hosted for Indigenous women, was the highest attended circle. Promotions for this circle reached a BC women’s transition home and several Indigenous women residents attended the discussion circle with the technical assistance from a staff member. The final three discussion circles were designed to be inclusive of participants based on identity (so all ages and genders) except for the final discussion circle which was exclusively for 2SLGBTQIA+ identified Indigenous Peoples. Discussion circles were organized according to community size, urban and rural.

Table 4: Discussion Circle Focus and Participation Rates

Discussion Circle Group	# of Attendees	Date (2022)
Co-researchers	5	June 8
Youth	5	June 13
Women	15	June 14
Urban	2	June 15
Rural	2	June 16
2SLGBTQIA+	13	August 2

WHAT WE HEARD

ONLINE SURVEY

We received 130 responses to the survey. 46% (60) of those responses were referred to the survey by the co-researchers. The survey was divided into eight sections, including:

- **Introduction:** Introductory information on who the survey is for, who is conducting the survey, consent and anonymity, incentives and keeping in touch, and triggers and after-care support.
- **Participation Criteria:** Questions on participation criteria, including asking if the respondent identifies as an Indigenous person, currently lives in British Columbia, and asking the region in British Columbia the respondent lives in.
- **Indigenous Identity:** Asking if the respondent identifies as First Nations, Métis, and/or Inuit.
- **Relation to Nation:** Asking the respondent's home location (urban area, rural area, remote or isolated area that is not a reserve, a reserve that is away from their home community, or a reserve that is also their home community).
- **Demographics:** Demographic questions, including age, gender, and if the respondent identifies as transgender.
- **Questions about Home:** Questions about experiences of housing and homelessness, including current experiences, past experiences, reasons for experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity, and the impacts of homelessness or the cost of housing.
- **Intersectional and Overlapping Experiences:** Questions about other experiences that impact their lives and housing. This included some experiences tied to colonization and (intergenerational) trauma, and experiences of discrimination or violence. Respondents were asked about solutions that would meet their housing priorities, and a word that describes them or their story.
- **How did you hear about this survey:** This asked respondents how they heard about the survey, and if they were referred by a co-researcher.
- **Thank you:** The last page thanked respondents for their time and wisdom and provided information on triggers and after-care support, and a link to the lottery for gift cards.

Most questions, except for the questions on participation criteria (Indigenous person currently living in British Columbia) were optional to answer. See Appendix A for complete survey questions with definitions.

WHO WE HEARD FROM

Q: Which region in BC do you live in?

The majority of respondents live in the Vancouver Island and Sunshine Coast region (25%) followed by Northern British Columbia (23%) and the Fraser Valley and Metro Vancouver (19%).

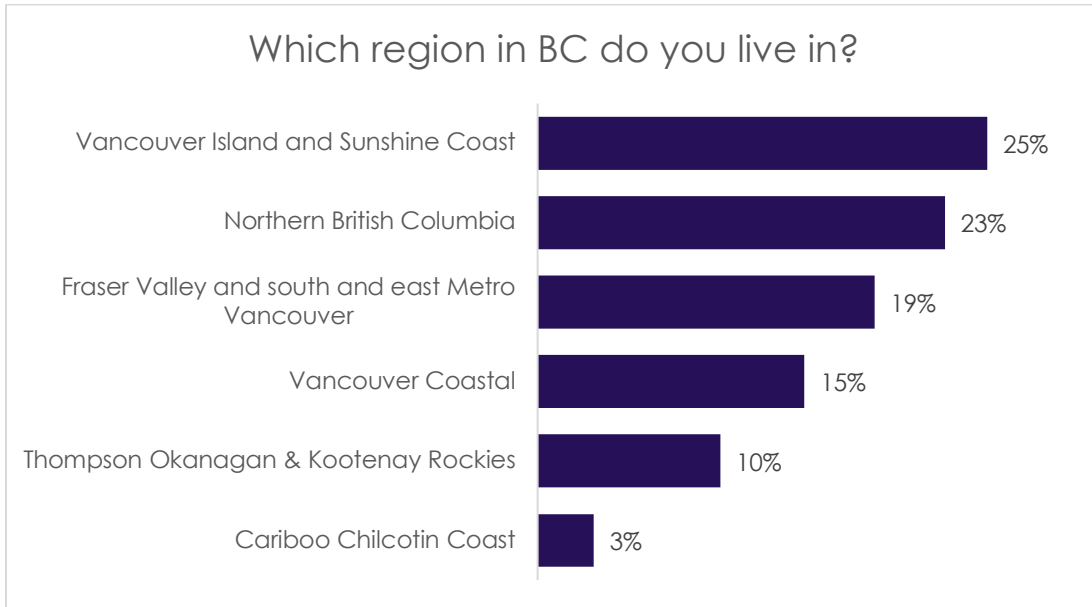


Figure 2: BC region survey respondents live in

Q: How would you describe your home location?

The majority of respondents live in an urban area or city (67%), with respondents also living in rural areas (14%), a reserve that is also their home community (8%), a remote or isolated area that is not a reserve (6%), and a reserve that is away from their home community (5%).

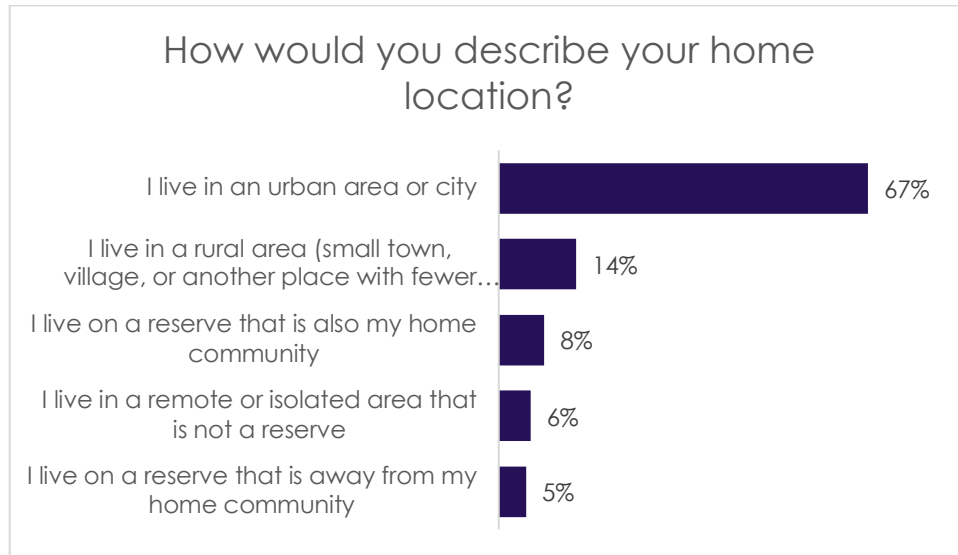


Figure 3: Home location of survey respondents

Q: Do you identify as First Nations, Métis, and/or Inuit?

The majority of respondents identify as First Nations (83%), with 17% identifying as Métis. No survey respondents identified as Inuit.

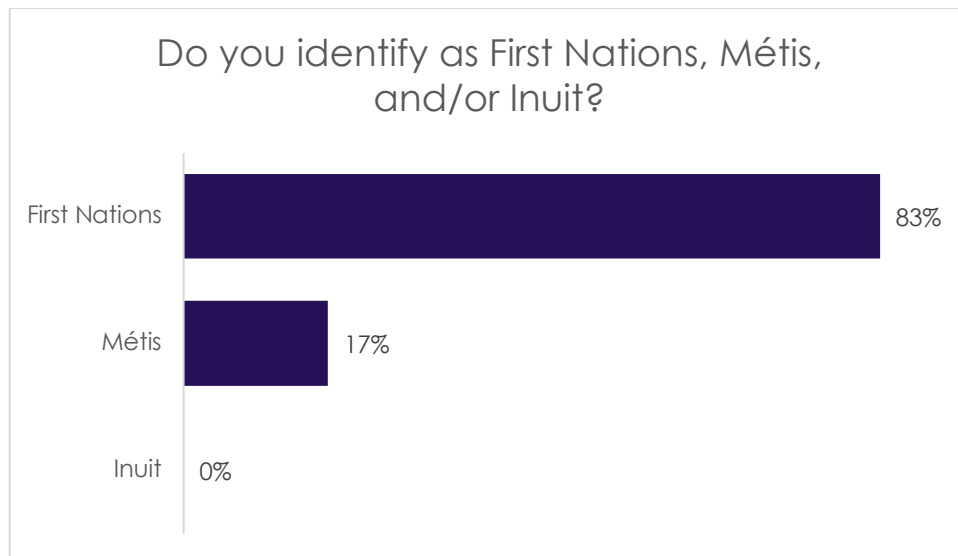


Figure 4: First Nations, Metis, and Inuit identity of survey respondents

Q: What is your age?

Respondents were a wide range of ages, with most respondents between age 20 and 64, including: 30% aged 20 – 34; 36% aged 35 – 49; and 23% aged 50 – 64. There were 3% of respondents aged under 20, and 7% of respondents aged 65 – 79.

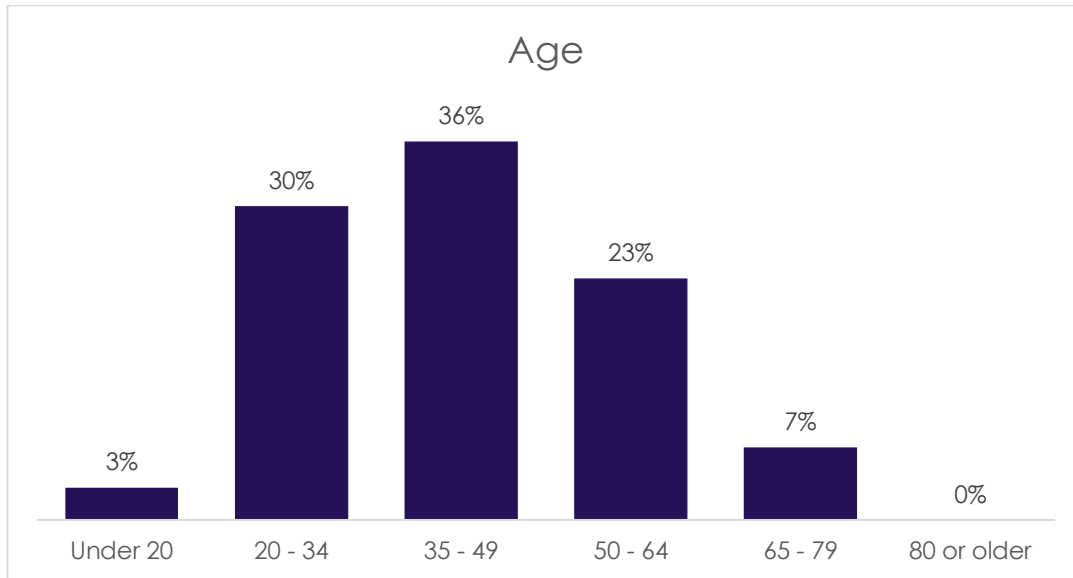


Figure 5: Age of survey respondents

Q: I identify as (Gender)

The majority of respondents are women (63%), followed by men (29%). A smaller share of respondents identified as two-spirit (5%), nonbinary or genderqueer (2%) or not sure or questioning (2%).

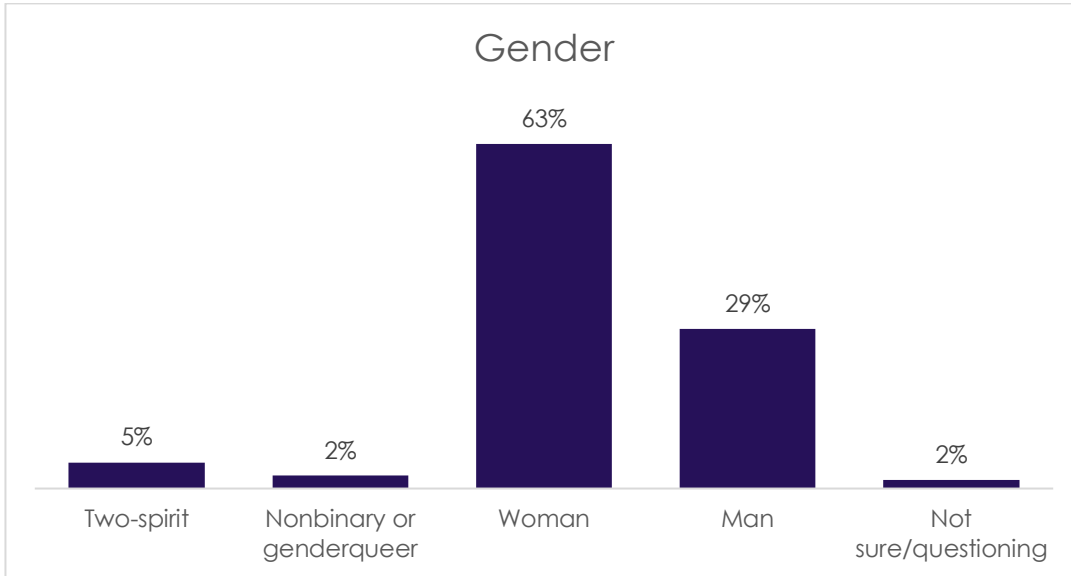


Figure 6: Gender of survey respondents

Q: Do you identify as transgender?

There were very few respondents who identified as transgender (1%), with some respondents not sure or questioning (2%). The majority of respondents did not identify as transgender (97%).

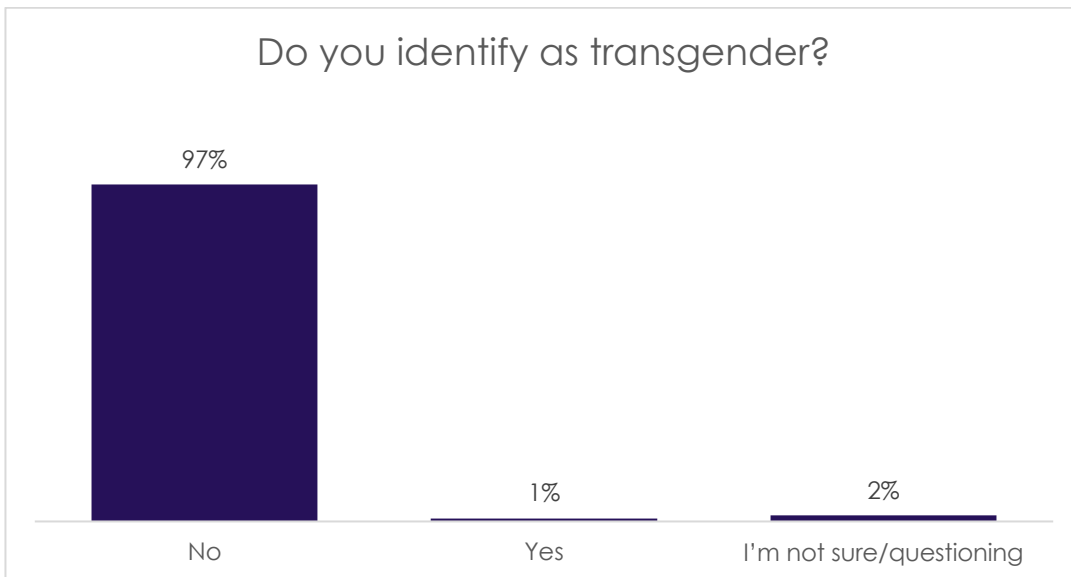


Figure 7: Trans identity of survey respondents

SUMMARY OF THEMED FEEDBACK FROM SURVEY

EXPERIENCES OF HOMELESSNESS

Q: I am currently experiencing...

Respondents are currently experiencing many aspects of homelessness. Respondents were able to select all that apply.

Over a third (35%) of respondents are currently experiencing housing insecurity, followed by respondents experiencing separation from their home community (20%), and homelessness with relationships² (18%).

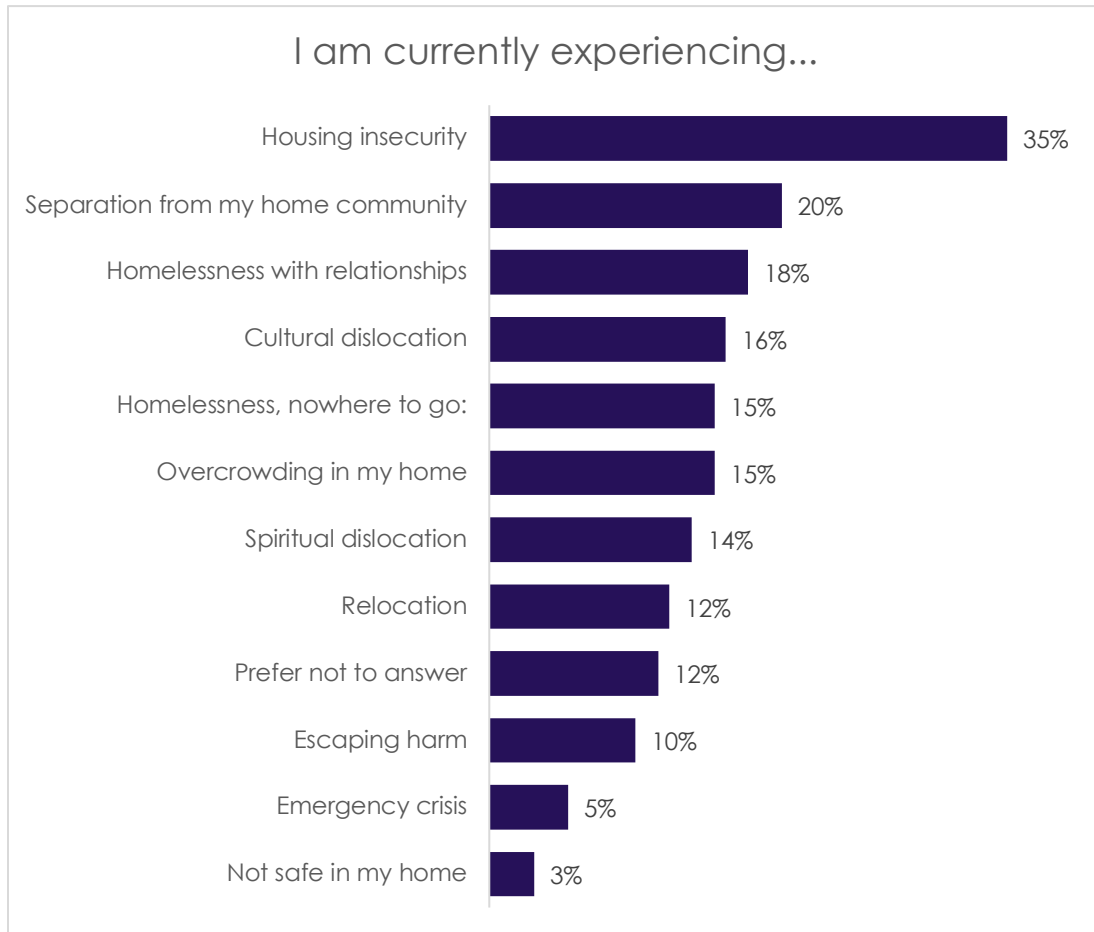


Figure 8: Current experience of survey respondents

² Homelessness with relationships means respondents don't have their own housing but are able to lean on people they know (e.g., couch surfing, staying with friends or family).

Q: In the past, I have experienced...

Respondents have experienced many aspects of homelessness in the past. Across all aspects of homelessness, more respondents had experienced it in the past than are currently experiencing it. Respondents were able to select all that apply.

The majority of respondents had experienced housing insecurity (60%) and homelessness with nowhere to go (51%). Fewer respondents – but over a third – had experienced homelessness with relationships (39%), being not safe in their home (36%), separation from their home community (36%), and cultural disconnection (33%).

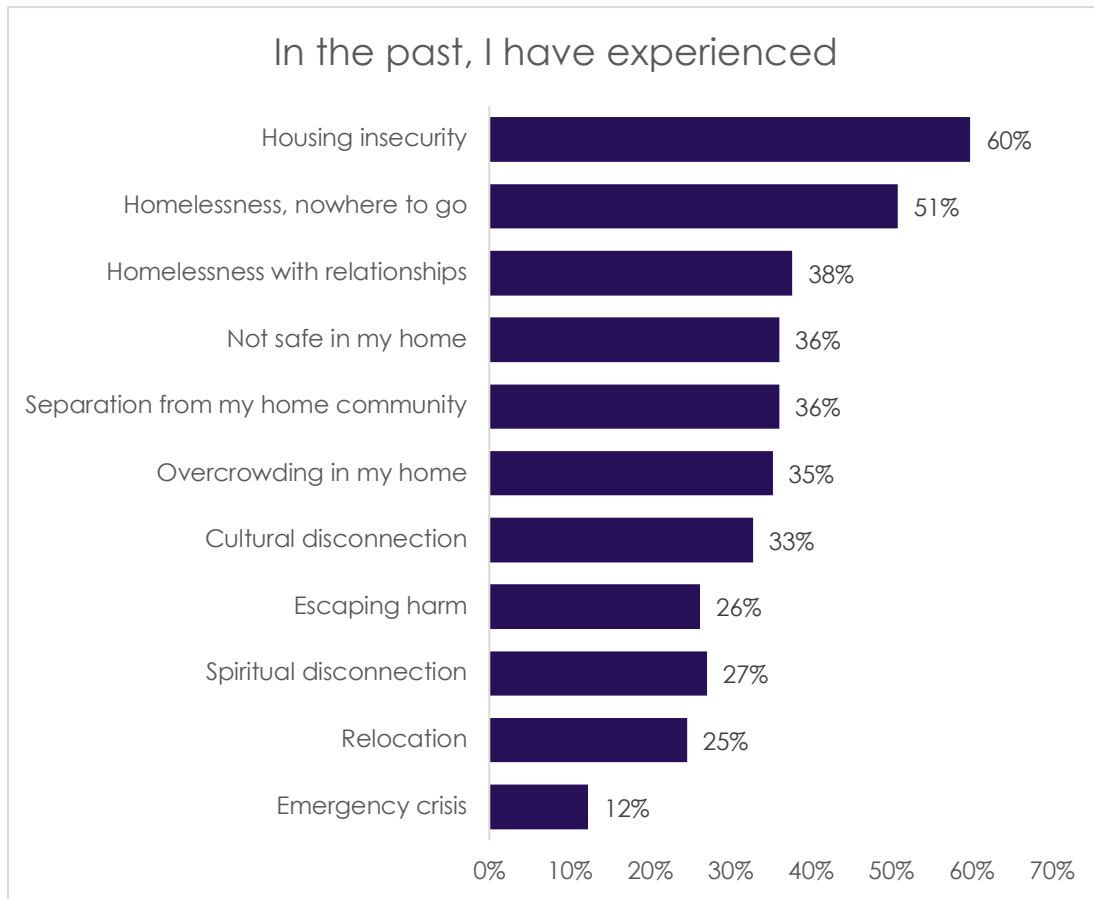


Figure 9: Past experiences of survey respondents

Q: I experienced homelessness because...

Respondents experienced homelessness for a wide variety of reasons. Respondents were able to select all that apply. The majority of respondents (53%) experienced homelessness because housing was too expensive. This was followed by housing being unavailable (e.g., shortage, waitlist, being barred or suspended) (47% of respondents) and being kicked out of where they were (40%). Over a third (36%) of respondents experienced homelessness because they experienced discrimination, violence, or conflict with others at home.

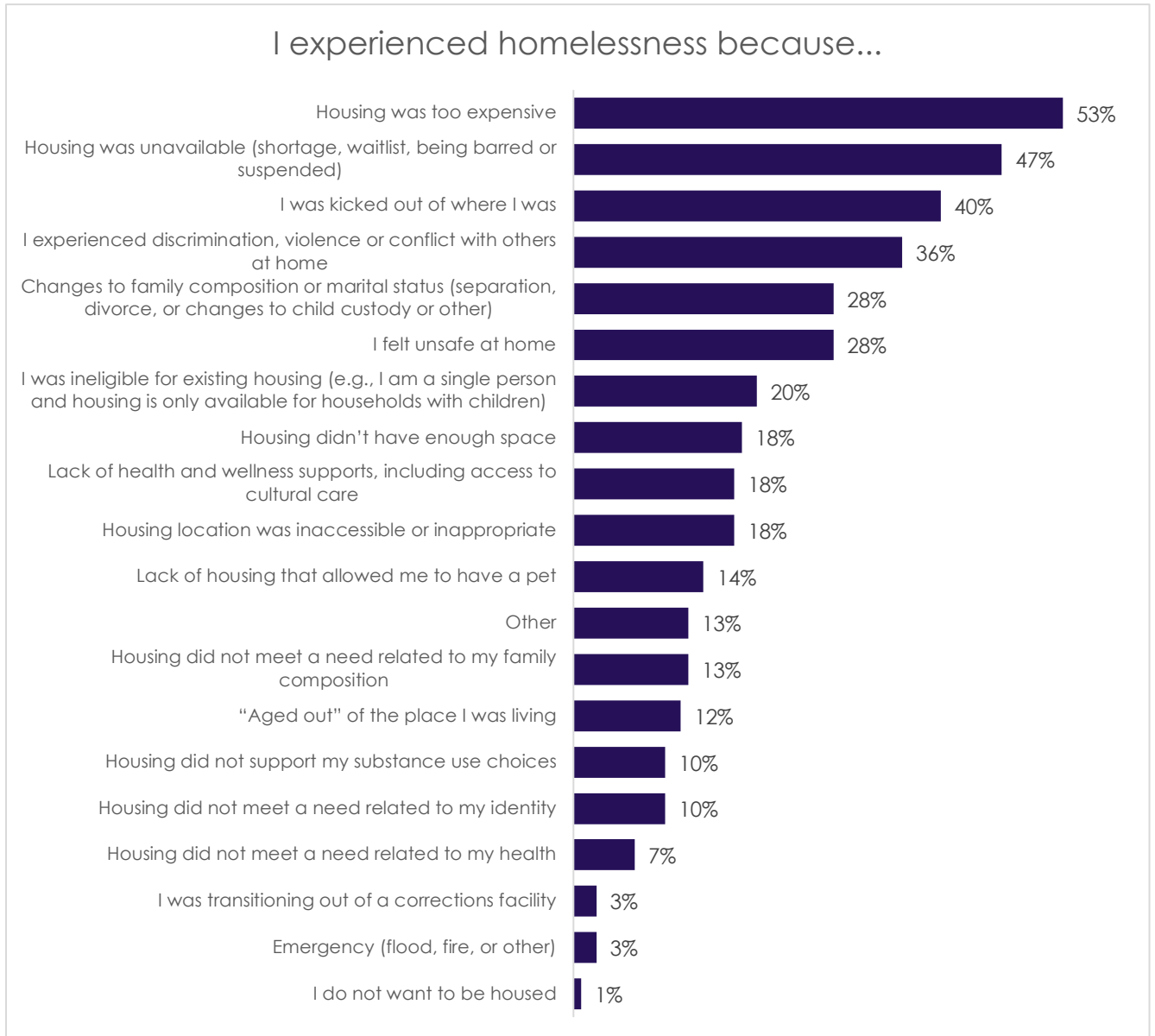


Figure 10: Reasons survey respondents have experienced homelessness or housing insecurity

IMPACTS OF HOMELESSNESS

Q: Homelessness or the cost of housing impacts my ability to...

Homelessness or the cost of housing impacts respondents across a large number of areas. Respondents were able to select all that apply.

The overwhelming majority (78%) of respondents had their ability to pay for or store essentials (e.g., food, bills, household supplies, clothing, medications) impacted.

The majority of respondents (53%) experienced homelessness because housing was too expensive. This was followed by housing being unavailable (e.g., shortage, waitlist, being barred or suspended) (47% of respondents) and being kicked out of where they were (40%). Over a third (36%) of respondents experienced homelessness because they experienced discrimination, violence, or conflict with others at home.

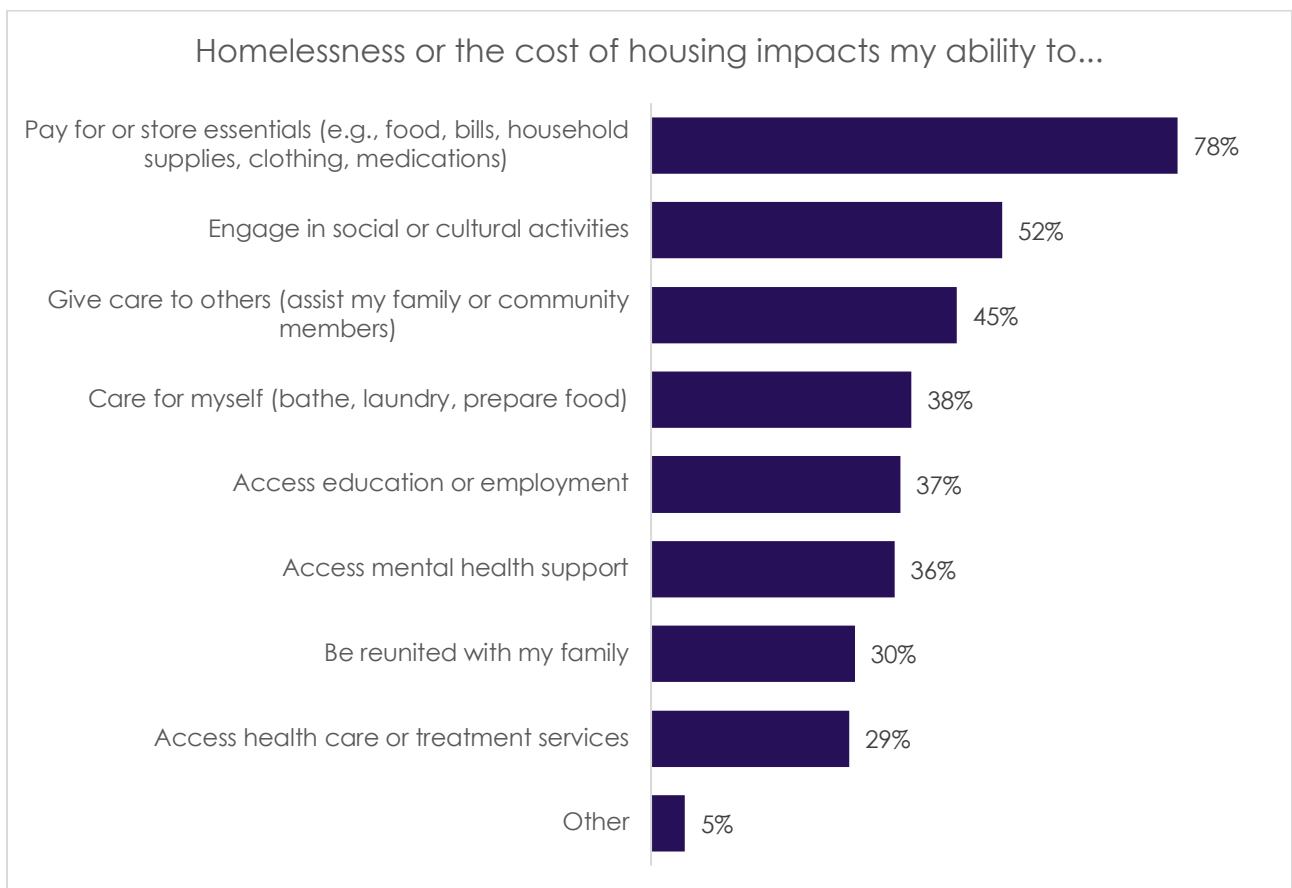


Figure 11: Impacts on survey respondents from homelessness or the cost of housing

LIFE EXPERIENCES

Q: In my home/life, I have experiences with...

This question asked about other life experiences, including some experiences tied to colonization and (intergenerational) trauma and other experiences related to housing. Respondents could select all that apply.

Over two thirds of respondents had experience with substance use personally or with family members (69%), and with residential school personally or in their family (67%). A majority of respondents had experience with violence or neglect at home (60%).

Over a third of respondents had experience with the foster care system (38%) and being a young parent (34%).

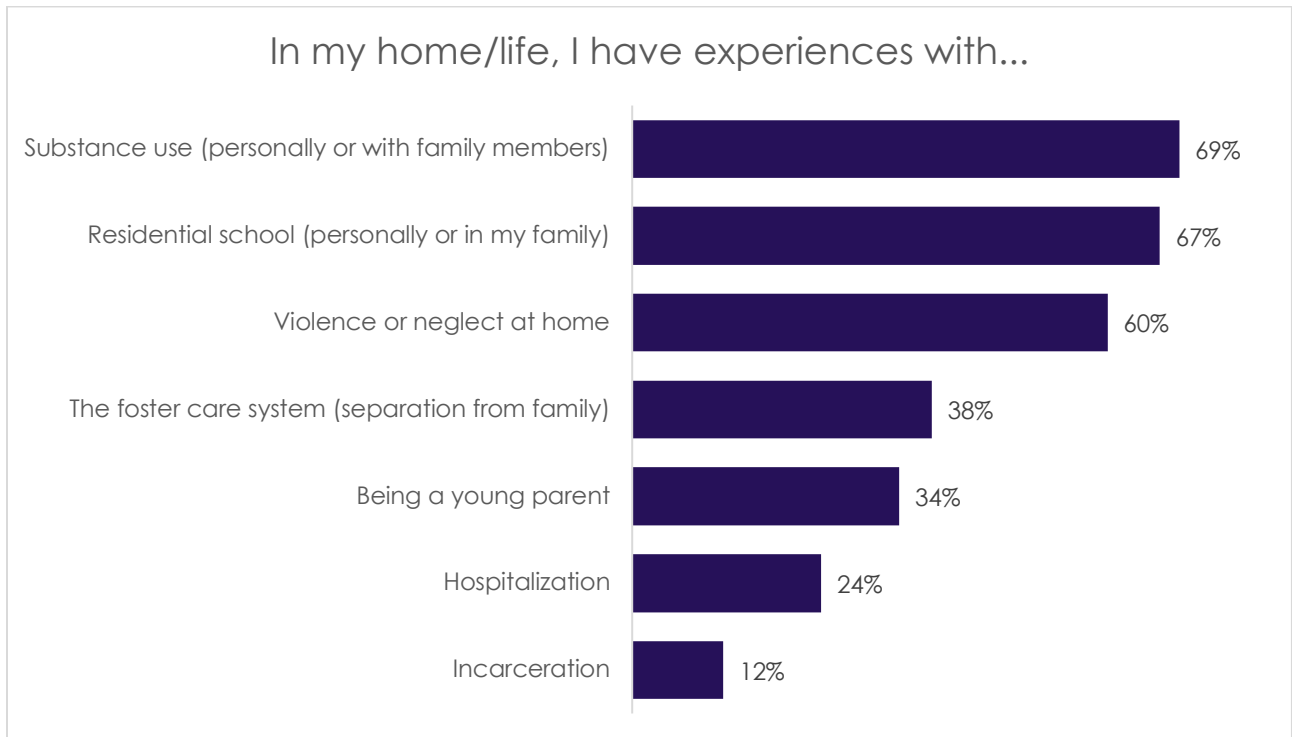


Figure 12: Other experiences that impact the lives and housing of survey respondents

Q: In relation to my experience of homelessness or housing insecurity, I have experienced discrimination or violence based on...

This question asked about experiences of discrimination or violence.

A large majority of respondents have experienced discrimination or violence based on Indigenous identity (71%) or financial status (63%).

Significant numbers of respondents have experienced discrimination or violence based on age (36%), gender (26%), or a disability (21%).

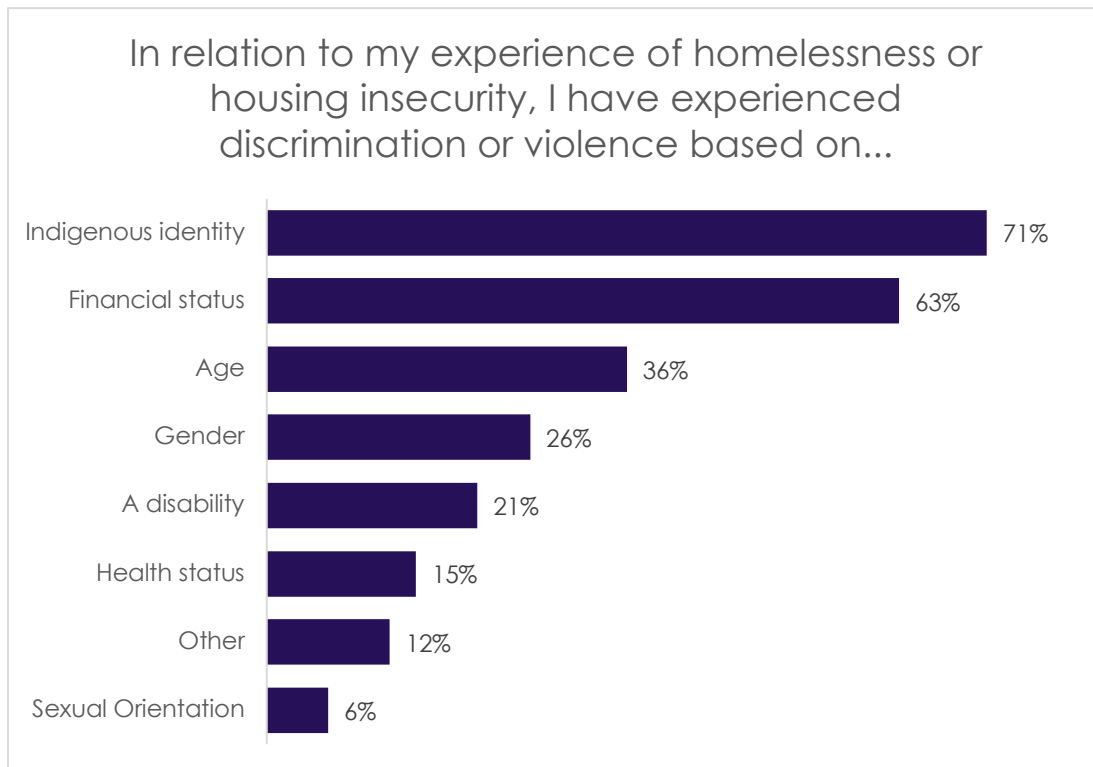


Figure 13: Discrimination that survey respondents have experienced related to their experience of homelessness or housing insecurity

Q: What is a word that describes you or your story?

Respondents could input a word (or a few words) to describe themselves or their story. The 113 responses to this question are themed in Table 5. Some participants had positive responses, mostly positive attributes about themselves – they are resilient, determined, and brave. Some responded with negative comments about experiences – they have experienced adversity, trauma, instability, and had impacts on their health. Others responded with negative emotions caused by their housing experience, such as feeling ashamed, isolated, defeated, and desperate.

Table 5: Words that describe respondents' stories

Positive	Negative
<p>Resilient (19 comments): respondents feel resilient and that they are survivors and will always find a way.</p>	<p>Adversity (9 comments): respondents feel like their housing experience was like hell and caused trauma and suffering.</p>
<p>Love and kindness (5 comments): respondents feel love, caring, and forgiving, and love their families.</p>	<p>Ashamed and isolated (7 comments): respondents feel ashamed, lonely, and are experiencing disconnection and isolation.</p>
<p>Determined and strong (4 comments): respondents are determined, strong, and hard working.</p>	<p>Discouraged and defeated (7 comments): respondents feel discouraged, tired, and spent.</p>
<p>Brave (3 comments): respondents are bold and brave.</p>	<p>Unstable (7 comments): respondents feel like their housing has been unstable, always changing, and like a rollercoaster.</p>
<p>Growing (3 comments): respondents feel like they are constantly learning and growing.</p>	<p>Poverty (6 comments): respondents noted low income, poverty, and generational poverty.</p>
<p>Hope (3 comments): respondents feel hopeful and grateful.</p>	<p>Desperate (5 comments): respondents feel desperate, feel that they have fallen through the cracks and have nothing to leverage.</p>
	<p>Unfair (4 comments): respondents feel their experience has been unfair or unlucky – or recognize their luck in their housing situation.</p>
	<p>Angry (4 comments): respondents are angry, frustrated, and fed up.</p>
	<p>Health and disabilities (4 comments): respondents have had health issues due to housing quality, and have had health, substance use, and disabilities impact their housing experience.</p>
	<p>Overwhelmed (4 comments): respondents feel overwhelmed and confused.</p>
	<p>Stressed (3 comments): respondents feel worried and stressed.</p>
	<p>Unsure (3 comments): respondents feel unsure.</p>
	<p>Sad (2 comments): respondents feel sad.</p>
	<p>Scared (2 comments): respondents feel fear and are scared.</p>

SOLUTIONS THAT MEET HOUSING PRIORITIES

Q: Could you identify solutions that meet your housing priorities?

A wide number of factors are important to respondents in their housing solutions.

The top solution was affordability (selected by 85% of respondents), followed by supports for food security (70%). A majority of respondents identified location (59%) and health supports, including mental health (51%) as important.

Following those were supports for employment (48%), trauma- and culturally-informed professionals (45%) and cultural connection (45%).

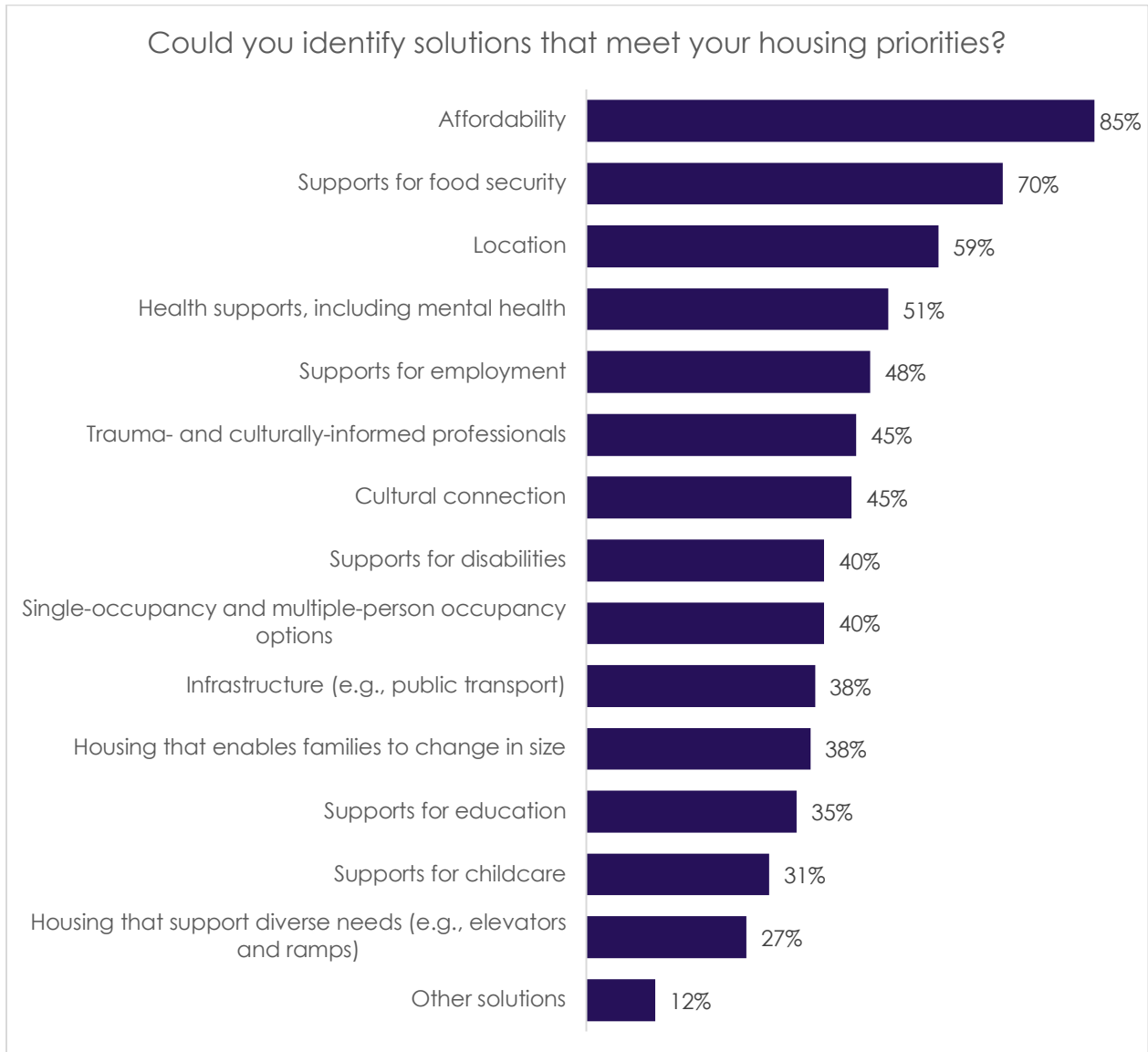


Figure 14: Solutions to help meet housing priorities of survey respondents

KEY FINDINGS FROM CROSS-TABULATION

Survey responses were cross-tabulated by responses to questions asking about:

- First Nations, Métis, and/or Inuit identity
- Gender
- Home location (urban area, rural area, remote or isolated area that is not a reserve, a reserve that is away from my home community, and reserve that is also my home community)

The key findings are below. Complete cross-tabulation analysis is in Appendix C.

Key Findings - Identity

- **Experiences of homelessness and housing insecurity:** A larger proportion of First Nations respondents than Métis respondents are currently experiencing most aspects of homelessness and housing insecurity that were asked about, including:
 - housing insecurity (39% of First Nations respondents, 18% of Métis respondents),
 - separation from their home community (24%, 0%),
 - homelessness (20%, 0%),
 - cultural dislocation (17%, 9%),
 - spiritual dislocation (13%, 0%),
 - overcrowding (21%, 9%), and
 - relocation (14%, 0%).

More Métis respondents are currently experiencing:

- homelessness with relationships³ (7% of First Nations respondents, 18% of Métis respondents),
- emergency crisis (4%, 9%), and
- not feeling safe in their home (4%, 9%).
- **Experience with residential school and substance use:** A far larger proportion of First Nations respondents have experiences with residential schools personally or in their family (74% of First Nations respondents compared to 27% of Métis respondents). In addition, a greater share of First nations respondents (71%) have experience with substance use personally or with family members than Métis respondents (55%).
- **Experiences of discrimination:** A larger proportion of First Nations respondents have experienced discrimination based on Indigenous identity (73% of First Nations respondents, 36% of Métis respondents) or financial status (63%, 41%) than Métis respondents. A larger share of Métis respondents have experienced discrimination based on age (31% of First Nations respondents, 46% of Métis respondents).
- **Priorities in housing solutions:** When identifying solutions that meet their housing priorities, a far larger share of First Nations respondents identified affordability (91% of First Nations respondents, 68% of Métis respondents), location (66%, 32%), health supports (57%, 32%), supports for employment (54%, 27%), and cultural connection (51%, 27%) as important than Métis respondents. Slightly more Métis respondents identified food security (72% of

³ Homelessness with relationships: I don't have my own housing but I am able to lean on people I know (e.g., couch surfing, staying with friends or family).

First Nations respondents, 77% of Métis respondents) and trauma- and culturally-informed professionals (50%, 46%) as priorities than First Nations respondents did.

Key Findings - Gender

- **Violence or neglect at home:** A greater share of two-spirit respondents and women have experienced violence or neglect at home (83% and 66% respectively) than men (46%).
- **Gender and age-based discrimination:** The majority of two-spirit respondents have experienced discrimination based on gender (67%) and age (67%). A greater share of women (27%) have also experienced discrimination based on gender than men (11%).
- **Sexual orientation-based discrimination:** A far greater proportion (67%) of two-spirit respondents have experienced discrimination based on sexual orientation than women (6%) or men (3%).

Key Findings - Home Location

- **Living on a reserve that is not their home community:** A greater share of respondents living on reserves that are not their home community are experiencing separation from their home community (67% of respondents) and cultural dislocation (50%) than other respondents, and have previously experienced housing insecurity (100%), cultural dislocation (83%), spiritual disconnection (83%), and relocation (67%).
- **Living on a reserve that is their home community:** A lower share of respondents living on a reserve that is their home community have experienced homelessness because housing was unavailable (30% of respondents), they were kicked out of where they were (10%), or because they experienced discrimination, violence, or conflict (10%).
- **Living in a remote community:** A greater share of respondents living in remote communities experienced homelessness because housing did not meet a need related to their health (29% of respondents).

INTERVIEWS

SUMMARY OF THEMED FEEDBACK

Q: Can you describe your experience with homelessness in BC?

The first interview question, “Can you describe your experience with homelessness in BC?”. This encouraged respondents to share the context and most significant details of their lived experience. Respondents shared the length and types of alternative arrangements they sought and how having a family or being a youth led to unique barriers to housing. Many respondents identified adverse life experiences as co-occurring with their experience of homelessness. Being unhoused led to extensive vulnerability to physical injury and negative impacts to emotional health. Respondents’ efforts to secure housing were made more challenging due to the racism perpetuated by landlords.

Temporary and alternative housing experiences

The most commonly reported experience with thirty-seven mentions concerned temporary and alternative housing options including: couch-surfing, living in a tent or camp, living in a shelter or on the streets. Experiences with couch-surfing included staying outdoors on the balconies of friends or family. For some, the option to couch-surf was unavailable or not preferable. Many of these interviewees reported living in either a tent or camp. The reported benefits to living in a tent include: that an individual can be unbothered; live outside of town; make the choice to drink; and choose to live alone or with others. For some respondents, living in a shelter was a bridge to transitional housing or an option during cold weather.

Mentions:

- Couch-surfing (16)
- Living in a tent/camp (9)
- Living in a shelter (6)
- Living on the streets (5)
- Living in a car (1)

Homelessness in the context of families

Thirty-two comments were made related to the hardships of being homeless with spouses and/or children. Securing housing for single mothers was described as 'impossible' and for many it was a recurring experience. Several mothers reported that their children have never experienced having a home.

Experiencing homelessness while pregnant was a common experience for Indigenous women. The impacts that homelessness had on pregnancy and maternal health include: stress; inability to rest; and miscarriage. Both Indigenous men and women reported that their experience of homelessness corresponded with the end of a spousal or common-law relationship. Ten comments mentioned experiencing or fleeing family violence.

Mentions:

- Experiencing homelessness with a spouse and/or family (12)
- Family violence (10)
- Pregnancy (5)
- Family breakdown (4)
- Residential school (1)

Adverse and co-occurring experiences

Drug and alcohol use was the highest reported co-occurring life event for interviewees with fourteen of the twenty-nine comments mentioning usage. Interviewees reported their drug and alcohol use lead to family breakdown, being unable to pay rent or secure employment, eviction, and poor health. Other interviewees mentioned Ministry of Child and Family Development involvement, incarceration, and attending detox as co-occurring with their experience of homelessness.

As one respondent shared, “It was in the winter so it was too cold to be out in the cold so I called the police on myself so that I would be arrested and put into an incarceration cell for the night.”

Mentions:

- Substance use – self (14)
- Unfavorable relationship with the Ministry of Child and Family Development (5)
- Substance use – others (4)
- Incarceration (4)
- Recovery/detox (2)

Threats to physical health and safety

The most common experience related to the theme of threats to physical health and safety was the difficulty (and as interviewees reported, the indignity) of not being able to access washrooms, showers, or laundry. Those staying in tents or on the streets also reported high levels of property theft and damage. Aside from the monetary and physical impacts of theft and damage to property, it is emotionally difficult to “start all over again”. Despite some reporting that the weather in BC is milder compared to other provinces, many reported it was unsafe being homeless outdoors in temperatures below zero. One respondent reported getting frostbite and another reported breaking and entering into a family member’s home to get indoors from the cold. The most common reports of threats to bodily safety were from violence perpetrated by police and by-law enforcements. Living in tents or on the streets was associated with several hospitalizations and for Indigenous women an increased sense of danger. One Indigenous woman reported needing to scare off bears, cougars, rats, and minks while being pregnant.

Mentions:

- Unable to access washrooms for personal hygiene (6)
- Victims of theft (5)
- Cold weather (5)
- Bylaw/police brutality (4)
- Mice and bugs (4)
- Hospitalization (3)

Youth experiences

It was common for interviewees to mention that their first experience of homelessness occurred as a youth. Several reported being homeless from age 13 years old. Five respondents commented that experiencing homelessness was associated with 'aging out' of ministry care. This includes the threat of homelessness for youth aging out of youth housing with age mandates. For some youth, their experience of homelessness lasted months while several reported being homeless for ten years or longer. Several interviewees reported experiencing homelessness throughout their 20's. Being homeless as a young adult meant not reaching the social milestone of having a place of their own and for one respondent "seeing a lot of death."

Mentions:

- Youth experiences (10)
- 'Aging out' of care (5)
- Transition to young adulthood (4)

Negative impacts to emotional health

Experiencing homelessness negatively impacted emotional health as reported by interviewees in eighteen comments. There were reports of feeling high stress, depression, being scared, being alone, and wanting to give up. Additional feelings of shame and embarrassment related to living in a tent, camp, or on the streets were commonly reported. One respondent shared, "Told everyone I was fine but felt ashamed I was homeless due to eviction, so I tried to make it seem like my choice to camp." One interviewee reported losing a lot of friends which coincided with other common reports that "no one cares". This lack of empathy and understanding from others further contributed to feelings of isolation and shame.

Mentions:

- Negative emotional impacts (9)
- Embarrassment and loss of dignity (4)
- Lack of empathy from others (4)
- Loss of friends (1)

Problems with existing services

Respondents identified a wide variety of problems with existing services. Some examples of the issues raised during the interviews included: long waitlists; having to walk long distances; not enough shelter options for people in recovery and those not using substances; pressures to convert to Christianity; exclusionary age mandates; requiring photo id for entry; and other restrictive rules. As one interviewee noted, "I don't feel shelters should be allowed to let people use on site that's a big issue for me when trying to access services. Services also assume people have the capacity to make plans but not everyone does, which is its own barrier."

Mentions:

- Problems with existing services (17)

Lack of supports

Another commonly reported experience was not having supports including friends, family, or agencies to assist in finding housing or shelter. Multiple respondents noted being in an urban centre (like Vancouver) without connections made it challenging to find supports.

Mentions:
Lack of supports (15)

Length of experience of homelessness

The length of interviewees' experiences with homelessness varied from currently housed but threatened with homelessness to over thirty years of homelessness. One interviewee shared, "I am 51 years old and have been couch surfing for at least 30 of those years." Being homeless for between 10 and 16 years was the most commonly reported experience.

For four respondents identifying as being currently housed, homelessness is an active threat due to living pay cheque to pay cheque and the threat of rent increases.

Mentions:
Length of homelessness is between ten and nineteen years (5)
Housed but threatened with homelessness (4)
Length of homelessness is twenty years or longer (3)
Length of homelessness is less than ten years (2)

Lack of affordability

Several interviewees described not being able to afford housing as a challenge. This includes being unable to pay for: rent, damage deposits, and other costs associated with moving.

Mentions:
Lack of affordability (11)

Eviction

Many interviewees mentioned having experienced eviction. The cause of eviction varied from issues with paying their rent, 'reno'-victions, overstaying their welcome with friends and family, difficulty getting along with others, not being on the lease, and having pets.

Mentions:
Eviction (9)

Racism, stigmatization and social profiling

Interviewees noted that they encountered racism and stigmatization while experiencing homelessness in seven comments. This included judgement for being: Indigenous, unemployed, and substance users. Some interviewees reported being treated like criminals and being accused of things they did not do. Being judged for living on the streets or in a tent community by the wider community meant finding places to rest undisturbed and safely was a real challenge.

Mentions:

Stigmatization (3)
Social profiling (3)
Racism (1)

Service providers helped

Although reporting problems with existing services was more common (as noted above), there were seven comments describing successful experiences with service providers. These experiences included positive interventions by First Nations Bands, support workers, and housing agencies. The positive outcomes of these interventions include securing housing, getting on assistance, and avoiding criminality.

Mentions:

Service providers helped (7)

Q: Can you tell me about the barriers (if any) you’re encountering or have encountered to accessing permanent housing (housing rental or ownership) off-reserve?

When asked question two, “Can you tell me about the barriers (if any) you’re encountering or have encountered to accessing permanent housing (housing rental or ownership) off-reserve?”, respondents identified racism and stigmatization as the most prevalent barrier.

Respondents also noted a lack of affordable housing and not enough financial resources as barriers. Although housing-related services exist, many respondents described them as unhelpful and navigating the rental process remained a challenge due to not having the requisites. Additionally, being a single parent or a youth presented unique barriers with both demographics experiencing landlords’ unwillingness to rent to them based on social profiling. Overall, there was a lack of available housing reported and this impacted people with disabilities in a unique way as the number of units with the accommodations required were hard to come by. Respondents who could not secure housing that was safe, clean, and affordable preferred to live outdoors.

Racism, social profiling and poor treatment

With thirty-two mentions, racism, social profiling, and poor treatment were the most commonly reported barriers to securing permanent housing. Anti-Indigenous racism and social profiling as not ‘fitting the profile’ of a suitable renter resulted in landlords refusing to rent their units to interviewees.

- # Mentions:**
- Racism (20)
 - Social profiling (6)
 - Poor treatment (5)
 - Unkind landlord (1)

Lack of affordability

Affordability was the second most reported barrier with thirty comments. Interviewees cited the high costs of living, cost of rent, and overall insufficient funds to afford permanent housing as issues.

- # Mentions:**
- Lack of affordability (17)
 - Not enough money (12)
 - Not enough income assistance (1)

Issues with rental process

There were seventeen reports of barriers to completing the rental process. This included the challenges of not having identification, credit check requirements, not having references, competing with others looking for housing (who can more easily afford housing or are in a better position with landlords), not having a mailing address or transportation.

Mentions:

- No identification (6)
- No references (5)
- No mailing address (2)
- Too much competition (1)
- No transportation (1)

Problems with existing services

There were seventeen reports that existing support services were insufficient or unhelpful. From personal experience or by agency reputation, interviewees reported that “agencies brush you off, hand you a housing list, and tell you that’s all they can do,” or similar treatment. Other interviewees noted waitlists and the time limits on supports like rent subsidies were barriers. Agencies without a harm reduction approach also created a barrier to those in active substance use or addiction; this included cultural programs that require abstinence for participation.

Mentions:

- Unhelpful services (6)
- Time limits for supports and processing time (4)
- Waitlists are too long (3)
- Inadequate service from the Ministry of Child and Family Development service (2)
- Lack of harm reduction approaches (2)

Lack of supports

Interviewees noted “not having anyone in their corner” and a lack of support in sixteen comments. Where respondents were shifting between program mandates (i.e., from a youth to an adult, or a single person to family) several noted that there were insufficient supports. Two comments mentioned a lack of cultural supports.

Mentions:

- No supports (7)
- ‘Aging out’ of care without supports (3)
- Lack of life skills (3)
- No Indigenous/cultural supports (2)
- No mental health or addiction supports (1)

Homelessness in the context of a family

For respondents with families, nine (of the thirteen related comments) reported that being a parent in need for multi-bedroom units was a barrier. Some applications were outright rejected based on one's single parent status, waitlists were lengthy, and landlords expressed reluctance to accommodate more than one person. In two situations, interviewees shared that not being able to secure housing for their families lead to the threat of child apprehension by the Ministry of Child and Family Development.

Mentions:

Being a parent (9)
Ministry of Child and Family Development threat of Involvement (2)

Youth-related barriers

Age was mentioned eight times as a barrier to permanent housing by Indigenous youth. Some interviewees reported not knowing how to live on their own, age-based discrimination, not being able to secure paying work, and a lack of preparation to transition out of foster care.

Mentions:

Being a youth (5)
Experiences in foster care (3)

Availability

In total, nine responses indicated an issue with housing availability including the unlikelihood of home ownership.

Mentions:

Lack of availability (5)
Lack of home ownership opportunities (2)

Giving up/Choosing to live outdoors

In total, seven comments mentioned "giving up" (or similar) on securing permanent housing. For example, where the permanent housing options were infested with mice or bugs, interviewees reported a preference for sleeping outdoors.

Mentions:

Living outdoors (4)
Mice and bugs (3)

Challenges associated with living with one or more disabilities

Several respondents noted that not receiving a livable income from disability assistance and the poor availability of accommodating units were their primary barriers. As shared by one respondent, "Being on disability, I feel housing shouldn't cost more than what is possible for me to afford for rent. I would actually put all my money toward rent but it's still not enough." For some respondents, having a disability made navigating the rental processes difficult due to things like mobility challenges and for one respondent, "[D]ifficulty talking or articulating my thoughts."

Mentions:

Challenges associated with living with one or more disabilities (7)

Substance use

Several respondents noted that their drug and alcohol use was a barrier. The challenges related to substance usage included: housing providers not allowing them in, losing housing, and not being able to focus on securing housing.

Mentions:

Substance use - self (7)

Q: Can you tell me about the barriers (if any) you’re encountering or have encountered to accessing temporary housing (emergency, shelter, transitional) off-reserve?

In response to question three, ““Can you tell me about the barriers (if any) you’re encountering or have encountered to accessing temporary housing (emergency, shelter, transitional) off-reserve?”, respondents reported high aversion to accessing temporary housing.

The reasons for their preference to stay outdoors or in alternative housing options included: mistreatment by staff, restrictive rules, being victims of theft, bug and mice infestation, undesirable location, a lack of supports, issues related to substance use, and it being unsuitable for their children.

In many cases, respondents reported that they would only access shelters in cold weather.

Prefer not to access temporary housing

There were fifty-six comments indicating a preference to avoid accessing temporary housing altogether. As one interviewee shared, “There were no posters or lists of possible housing agencies or bulletin boards to inform people of possible resources. I did not receive any help other than a cot to sleep on from the shelters.” Shelters were described as the “worst place for me,” and maltreatment by staff was common due to the fact that “the stigma out there is thicker than smoke”. Several interviewees described having their possessions stolen. As one interviewee noted, “Hard to keep belongings all together. Not allowed to bring them into the shelter. Had to leave them on the street or with someone who you could trust, which is rare.” For another interviewee, “The location was far away from where I was doing work training and I couldn’t get there as early in the morning as I would have needed to.”

For these reasons and more, it was common for interviewees to report that they access temporary housing as a last resort during cold weather only.

Mentions:

- Prefer not to access (15)
- Unhelpful or mistreatment by staff (12)
- Experiences of racism, stigmatization, social profiling (11)
- Possessions stolen (7)
- Access during cold weather only (6)
- Mice and bugs (4)
- Location was far away from training (1)
- Supportive housing was better (1)

Restrictive rules

Interviewees mentioned restrictive rules as a barrier to accessing temporary housing seventeen times. These rules included limited operational hours, curfews, no pets policies, being banned for fighting, and requiring identification for entry. For women, the restrictions sometimes had additional impacts as one interviewee shared, “and I wanted to wash my clothes as I was on my period, but they wouldn’t let me.” Another woman commented on the restrictions to guests including experiences where, “[S]upports and advocates were not allowed to be with or visit the women when they are in shelters.”

Mentions:

- Curfew and restrictions (6)
- Excluded by criteria (4)
- Not allowing pets (2)
- Banned for undesirable behaviours (2)
- No identification (2)
- No guests allowed (1)

Lack of availability

Fifteen responses indicated a lack of temporary housing availability as the barrier to access. Two respondents reported that shelters catered to men-only which excluded them from accessing the service.

Mentions:

- Full or waitlists (11)
- Gender specific restrictions (2)
- Lack of shelters (2)

Lack of supports

As an interviewee explained in relation to mental health supports, “it seems people don’t know how to get you the services you need.”

One comment indicated there was a lack of cultural supports. While another interviewee mentioned needing to leave their home community because of the lack of supports.

Mentions:

- General lack of supports (4)
- Lack of mental health supports (4)
- Moved away from home community due to lack of supports (1)
- Lack of cultural supports (1)

Experiencing homelessness with a family

In total, there were nine comments identifying either family composition or family violence barriers to staying in temporary housing. For several parents, “Having a child made it difficult to get shelter or housing” and there were concerns about the suitability, cleanliness, and safety of temporary housing options like shelters.

Mentions:

- Unsuitable option or denied (6)
- Family violence (3)

Substance use

Drug and alcohol use by self or other were mentioned as barriers seven times. These comments include being excluded from temporary shelters because of one's drug usage including the use of legal substances like marijuana. For those who do not use, they mentioned the danger and trauma of being exposed to others' drugs use in temporary housing. One interviewee shared that being in a 'damp' shelter contributed to her relapse.

Mentions:

Substance use - self (5)

Substance use - others (3)

None

There were eight comments that indicated "none" or similar reports that they did not encounter barriers to temporary housing. One respondent added, "I was too proud to use the shelter." For some interviewees, the lack of barriers was attributed to their preference for living outdoors.

Mentions:

None (7)

Proud to use shelter (1)

Q: Is there anything you'd like decision-makers and service providers to know about your experience or needs?

Respondents were asked, "Is there anything you'd like decision-makers and service providers to know about your experience or needs?" as a means of opening a direct line of communication to the offices and authorities that will engage with this report.

The most common response from interviewees was the need for more supports which included more access to the necessities including food and water but, also, for Indigenous people the need to have access to their culture.

Respondents articulated a strong need for Indigenous-based housing units and shelters and programming that supports cultural connection. Additional requests for more supports centered on building life skills, literacy, and financial health. Interviewees shared that existing programming could be improved significantly if services were offered with more dignity, flexibility, and reached the populations they intend to serve by providing more outreach.

Need for more supports

There were forty-seven comments indicating a need for more supports. Access to the necessities such as food and washrooms were a top priority. Access to Indigenous cultural programming could also be viewed as a necessity. Interviewees noted a need for holistic programs that include supports that attend to people's cultural health eight times.

As one respondent shared, there's a need for "Indigenous focussed programming for Indigenous people to bring the spirit back into the body by learning/practicing culture".

There was also mention of life skills and job supports. As one interviewee shared, "Just that if I had more job support and help with temporary housing, I wouldn't have made bad decisions and I could have had work and housing sooner."

One parent reported, "I just want my family life back" and other parents requested childcare be available while they apartment search and parenting support to "learn how to be a mother".

Mentions:

Access to food, clothing, showers, phones and internet (9)

Supports - Indigenous specific and holistic (8)

Lack of life skills (7)

Need for social spaces and service hubs (6)

Supports needed for mental health/addictions (6)

Supports - general (4)

Supports needed for parents (4)

Supports needed for youth (2)

Supports needed for employment (1)

More housing

In thirty-one comments, interviewees indicated a need for more housing. The type of housing required focused primarily on affordable options and Indigenous-specific housing. One respondent reported that, “It would be nice to have a few First Nations shelters so people can have a culturally safe environment to stay in.” Another respondent said, “I would like to let the decision makers to know that in order to stop homelessness you have to house everybody, move them in to new places that everybody gets, don’t worry about the money part until everyone is housed, and when they start getting their shit together then they can figure some kind of payment for rent. But don’t make it so no one can afford it. House people first, because it will cost more money to have these people sick and, in the hospital, or somewhere they have to be cared for.”

Mentions:

- More affordable housing (8)
- Indigenous-specific housing (7)
- Housing first approach (3)
- Housing for families (3)
- Housing for singles (3)
- General shortage (3)
- Housing for women (2)
- Housing for people living with disability (1)
- Housing for people living with addictions and mental illness (1)

Improve existing service delivery

Many respondents suggested improvements to existing service delivery. One interviewee articulated that, “Service providers don’t take couch surfing that seriously, and there is no housing for us to go to. It feels like ‘you’ve got a place to stay,’ because I’m couch surfing.”

Others expressed, “We need staffing in these places that know about trauma, I have had experiences of having no one understand that I am actively in PTSD and just need someone to sit with me until it passes.” A need for trauma-informed workers was commonly reported - this is viewed as the foundation of providing services that someone can trust and feel safe accessing. Frustration was expressed about people experiencing homeless as ‘not counting’ and an emphasis on services being provided in a more dignified way, meaning culturally safe, consultative, trauma-informed, and uplifting.

Mentions:

- Need for safety and trust (7)
- More effective services (6)
- More outreach (4)
- Need for flexibility (4)
- Easier access (2)
- Improve inter-agency communication (1)
- Better referral (1)
- More services for people without substance use issues (1)

Need for monetary supports

Interviewees indicated a need for financial supports to meet the high costs of rent in eighteen comments. Suggestions included the need for rent subsidies of a higher amount with longer durations, better wages, raises to income assistance, and the creation of a universal [housing-based] benefit

Mentions:

More subsidies (7)
Raise fixed income and universal benefits (7)
Better wages (4)
Uncontrolled rent costs are too high (2)

Need for respectful, empathetic and honest consultation

Eleven comments were directed toward the need for decision-makers and service providers to listen and learn more about the realities and the solutions of homelessness from the people with lived experience. As one interviewee shared, "I'd like them to know what it's like to live on the budget us youth live on. They don't know what it's like to live with so little and they can't truly empathize with us until they know what the reality is."

Without a respectful relationship in place, one respondent described it as "We're a commodity, people are employed to harm than (sic) repair the harm caused by the systemic system."

Mentions:

Need for respectful, empathetic, and honest consultations (11)

Q: What has helped you on the pathway to housing?

In response to question five, “What has helped you on the pathway to housing?”, the most common response was “nothing.”

Many respondents were still experiencing homelessness and several shared that they have “given up” trying to secure housing due to the barriers mentioned in previous responses. For those who did secure temporary or permanent housing, service providers were reported to be the most helpful. Having one supportive person made a significant difference for interviewees on their pathway to housing.

Nothing, still homeless

Twenty-eight responses indicated “nothing” (or still homeless) when asked what has helped on the pathway to housing. Despite longing to have a “place where I can bake, cook, make cozy, and call it a home”, several interviewees mentioned that they no longer bother to look for housing anymore.

Mentions:

- Nothing (18)
- Still homeless (10)

Service Providers

An additional twenty-seven responses indicated a service helped them on the pathway to housing. A large majority of these services were identified as an Indigenous-service provider.

Mentions:

- Service provider (14)
- Indigenous service provider (13)

Help from a supportive person/community

There was strong indication that help from a supportive person or community was integral to securing housing. These supports included counsellors, family, friends, partners, and home (First Nations or Métis) communities. Of particular note were the times when one-to-one workers demonstrated flexibility to service rules, including: allowing someone to move in first and pay their rent later; allowing children to enter housing despite “no children” policies in place; and one time when “an employee took a risk and looked out for me instead of going by the book.”

Mentions:

- Help from a support worker (9)
- Help from family and friends (7)
- Help from an Indigenous community (4)
- Help from a partner (2)

Q: What are two things that could be prioritized to end homelessness for Indigenous people in British Columbia?

In the final question, interviewees were asked “What are two things that could be prioritized to end homelessness for Indigenous people in British Columbia?”.

The top two responses mentioned the need for more supports and more housing. The range of supports mentioned by interviewees included: culturally-specific supports, life skills programs, supports for mental health and addictions, financial supports, and socio-emotional supports.

The need for more housing options included the need for more units for the general Indigenous population as well as specific populations including more housing that is gender-based, disability-inclusive, and supportive for those living with concurrent disorders.

More supports

There were sixty-four comments expressing a need for more supports of some kind. Those mentioning Indigenous-specific supports included: the need for opportunities to learn cultural skills to help those in active addiction to “break away”; supports for Indigenous people living away from their home communities; and programming with Elders.

Other interviewees emphasized a need for practical life skills including literacy, parenting, and survival skills. One respondent indicated a need for “addiction services but call it something less offensive”. Another interviewee advocated for peer-led programming, citing, “I would feel more comfortable talking to someone who had firsthand experience with homelessness. I would then know that they would understand, and not be shocked by what I share and make me feel like a freak.”

Mentions:

- Indigenous-specific (18)
- More support for mental health and addictions (13)
- More life skills support (9)
- Emotional and social supports (9)
- General and social support (8)
- More outreach (2)
- Programming for families (2)
- Peer-led programs (1)
- Programming for women (1)
- More education (1)

More housing

Fifty-three comments were made indicating a need for more housing. Seventeen of those comments centred on more affordable housing including subsidized and low-income housing. Suggestions for Indigenous-specific housing included: low and high barrier cultural housing; gender-specific housing; faster processing procedure; converting abandoned houses to units; and upholding the policy and practice of designated units for Indigenous people.

Specific populations cited as needing more housing included: women; families; single parents; working people; women living with HIV; seniors; and people in sobriety. Four interviewees suggested the need for options like: low barrier single night housing; housing programs by age group; co-op style housing; and supportive housing that assists people through a “transition phase to help learn how to live in the building: rules/guidelines”.

Mentions:

- More affordable housing (19)
- Indigenous-specific housing (9)
- Housing for women and families (7)
- More housing (7)
- More responsive housing options (4)
- Housing for singles (2)
- Housing for seniors (1)
- Housing for those who are sober (1)
- More transitional housing (1)
- Peer-run housing (1)
- Housing with mental health supports (1)

More financial supports

Twenty-four comments focused on the need for more financial supports. As one interviewee commented, “[R]aise the working wage comparable to what the housing prices are.” Others suggested the implementation of grants, a housing-based universal benefit, and rent control measures to make housing more financially accessible.

Mentions:

- Better wages (8)
- More subsidies (7)
- Increased universal benefit, grants, general financial assistance (5)
- Rent rates and rent control (4)

Improving existing services

There were thirteen comments that identified a need to improve the existing services, including: improving youth agreements; service locations; access to lockers; hiring trained mental health professionals; supports to register for First Nations status; and utilizing information dissemination methods that actually reach people living on the streets. Five respondents indicated a need to end the racism, stigmatization and tokenization because as one respondent summarized, “Indigenous people are treated horribly”.

Mentions:

- Improving services (7)
- Ending racism and stigmatization (6)

DISCUSSION CIRCLES

Questions asked as part of discussion circle conversations included:

1. Can you tell me about the barriers (if any) you're encountering or have encountered to accessing housing?
2. Is there anything you'd like decision-makers and service providers to know about your experience(s) with homelessness in BC?
3. Thinking about what's helped you on the pathway to housing...what are two things that could be prioritized to end homelessness for Indigenous people in BC?

Responses received as part of the discussion circles are themed and summarized below.

Q1. CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT THE BARRIERS (IF ANY) YOU'RE ENCOUNTERING OR HAVE ENCOUNTERED TO ACCESSING HOUSING?

Common Themes

Themes across two or more discussion circles are summarized below.

- **Low income** (5 circles, 26 comments): Low income can make it difficult or impossible to find housing that is affordable within that income. This can be from very low social assistance and disability rates, working full time but at wages that do not cover costs, working part time, or having difficulty finding or keeping work (e.g., as a youth, or due to challenges with health or trauma). Having no credit (e.g., as a youth or someone experiencing homelessness) is also an impediment. People have experienced having to choose between essential needs: housing or food.

"Not working, having young kids. Barrier to get into housing for being judged a lot. Asked where is the father? Barrier is needing multiple bedrooms and cost."

- **Experiences of discrimination** (4 circles, 22 comments): Participants have faced significant amounts of discrimination, including:
 - Racism;
 - Age (i.e., being a youth);
 - Being a single parent and/or having young kids;
 - Income source (e.g., income coming from disability or income assistance, stigmatization of sex work); and
 - Experiencing homelessness.

"If you're Indigenous [or] look Indigenous there is racism, imperialism and colonialism."

"[I experienced] being kicked out of the library while playing chess with other homeless youth because of how we looked, they could not accept us as we were."

- **Lack of support** (6 circles, 14 comments): Lack of support is a challenge. This includes:
 - Supports to find housing, especially in a short time frame;

- Supports to help teens and youth, including for youth who aren't safe at home and centres specific to youth;
- Connection with other people and community; and
- Supports for tenants' rights.

- **Mental health issues** (4 circles, 12 comments): Mental health (e.g., trauma, lack of self-worth or confidence, stress) can make it difficult to find or keep housing. Mental health is also significantly affected by not having secure housing – respondents felt devastated and exhausted about their experiences trying to secure housing.

“Lack of self-confidence and self-worth as a result of mental health issues.”

- **Experiences of violence** (2 circles, 11 comments): Respondents have experienced violence at home or due to homelessness. They have been targeted and experienced extreme violence due to being homeless. Respondents experienced violence at home, including due to intergenerational trauma – with some respondents saying they were “survivors of survivors”, having experienced abuse at the hands of survivors of residential schools.

“One night, three men came slicing up my tent while I was inside, and they told me that I had to leave, or they would kick my head in.”

“I’m a survivor of a survivor. It was not a nice home where I lived. So much anger and violence. I wanted to leave when I was eight, but the law prohibited that. I left when I was 15.”

- **Family separation** (6 circles, 9 comments): Family separation with children ending up in the foster care system or with other relatives is a common experience. This separation can be traumatizing for both parent(s) and children.
- **Family size (larger families)** (4 circles, 8 comments): A lack of affordable housing for larger families, and requirements for number of bedrooms, based on the gender of children, can be a barrier. For instance, BC Housing employs [National Occupancy Standards](#), which require separate bedrooms for children (of different genders) even if they are very young – which increases the cost of housing, makes it difficult for people to access housing that is affordable, and can mean there is no non-market or affordable housing that is large enough for a family. This can lead to family separation by the government.
- **Lack of affordable housing** (3 circles, 7 comments): There is a lack of housing, especially affordable rental housing and non-market housing. There may be no non-market housing or subsidies available in a community, rentals are very limited in many places, rentals may be owned by non-locals, and many places have waiting lists.
- **Substance use** (3 circles, 6 comments): Substance use and/or addiction can make securing housing a challenge. Respondents shared stories of being in recovery, and of seeing the impact of substance use and/or addiction on their families and communities.
- **Bureaucratic processes** (3 circles, 5 comments): The process to find housing can be very bureaucratic, time consuming, and difficult to get through, especially if there are other barriers you are experiencing. This means it is difficult to get housing in a time-sensitive manner.
 - For instance, you cannot get a subsidy from BC Housing if you are on income and/or disability assistance;

- The process to apply for non-market or rental housing can be extremely time consuming, and many places also have waiting lists;
- It can be years to get housing on-reserve;
- There is a lack of compassion for the stress and struggles clients experience; and
- Lack of a status card can impact a person's eligibility for Indigenous housing.

"BC housing industry doesn't look at the stress and struggles that people go through – they don't know what our needs are."

- **Couch-surfing** (2 circles, 5 comments): Participants have couch-surfed with friends, family and partners, including to leave an unsafe home situation.
- **Aging out of care** (2 circles, 4 comments): Aging out of care is a challenge for youth and can force them to move out before they are ready to. Landlords can be unwilling to work with youth aging out and their social worker and will not rent to them.
- **Transition housing stays are time limited** (2 circles, 4 comments): Transition houses can be essential for people to have a safe space to temporarily live while finding more permanent housing, but often have a limit on length of stay.
- **Health impacts** (3 circles, 4 comments): Housing (or lack of housing) has a major impact on health. Participants have known people who have died due to homelessness. Housing that is affordable can be unhealthy (e.g., moldy, pests), but can also be the only choice for people.
- **Eviction** (3 circles, 4 comments): Participants have experienced evictions or reno-victions.
- **Being a single parent** (4 circles, 4 comments): Some participants shared their experiences of being a single parent with children struggling to secure long-term housing.
- **Having good references** (3 circles, 3 comments): A good reference and someone to advocate for you can be very difficult to find and is a barrier to securing housing.
- **Not being able to stay gainfully employed** (2 circles, 3 comments): Not being able to keep a steady job (a particular challenge for youth) or working in non-traditional and stigmatized fields (e.g., sex work) creates challenges for housing.
- **Incarceration** (2 circles, 2 comments): Impacts of incarceration or being post-incarceration can be a challenge (e.g., barriers due to criminal records, can't get meals on property arrest).
- **Pets aren't allowed** (3 circles, 3 comments): It is difficult to secure housing because pets aren't allowed.

Circle 1: Co-Researchers

- **Start-up costs are insurmountable** (1 comment): "Start-up" costs, such as damage deposit and first month's rent, can be a lot of money for someone trying to find housing.
- **Relationship changes** (1 comment): Relationship changes are a common catalyst for needing to find new housing.

Circle 2: Youth

Themes shared as part of this conversation were a common theme with other discussion circles and are captured there.

Circle 3: Women

- **Lack of identification** (5 comments): Lack of identification is a major challenge. In particular, it is difficult to get a status card.
- **Access to phone or computer** (2 comments): Lack of access to a phone or computer to access online resources and applications can be a major challenge.
- **Métis** (1 comment): Métis chartered communities have a unique experience, and there is a lack of understanding of this lived experience.

Circle 4: Urban

- **Belongings taken** (8 comments): Participants do not have many belongings, and many have experienced their belongings being taken by police or bylaw officers – often when participants were away (e.g., at meals) and not giving people the chance to clean up and keep their belongings.

“When my friend died, my belongings didn’t even fill up a shopping cart. I told bylaw, please give me until this afternoon, I have to attend this funeral of a dear friend of mine. I went to the funeral and when I came back, everything was gone.”

- **Negative experiences with police** (7 comments): Many participants have had very negative experiences with the police or RCMP, including having belongings taken by the police and extremely violent interactions.

“We have been shot at by people, bear sprayed, Molotov cocktails thrown. The cops were the ones doing it.”

- **Lack of dignity** (5 comments): Participants shared that their experiences of homelessness has resulted in a lack of dignity. No human compassion is extended, and resources are taken away – even awnings are taken off so there is nowhere to sleep when it is raining.

“You sit on a bench too long and they move you. There’s a joke, don’t sit next to the tree, they will cut it down.”

- **Access to washrooms** (3 comments): Access to washrooms is a challenge. It is degrading and can cause health impacts (e.g., UTI) to have to use the washrooms outside.

“I’ve experienced a handful of UTIs because of access to washrooms. Even if you’re way in the bush somewhere. You still feel dirty. Like you’re not welcome in your own city.”

Circle 5: Rural

Themes shared as part of this conversation were a common theme with other discussion circles and are detailed there.

Circle 6: 2SLGBTQIA+

- **Insecurity** (4 comments): People have experienced severe housing insecurity: moving from place to place, without a safe and suitable place to land that provides them long-term security.
- **Leaving home early** (3 comments): People have left home early, often due to feeling unsafe or experiencing abuse or violence at home. Respondents struggled with getting support from systems and workers that do not believe them.

“Couldn’t ask teachers at school for help, would just call my mom and ask if everything was okay, and that would cause more problems at home...Might call home right away, but nobody really goes to their house and makes sure there is a clean bedroom and laundry, and that was not really the case. Really difficult for me to ask youth workers for help.”

“Didn’t consider myself homeless. I had a home to go to, but didn’t want to go there, living with physical and emotional and mental abuse, I chose not to go home.”

Q2. IS THERE ANYTHING YOU’D LIKE DECISION-MAKERS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE(S) WITH HOMELESSNESS IN BC?

Common Themes

Themes across two or more discussion circles are summarized below.

- **Lack of compassion** (2 circles, 16 comments): Participants shared experiences of facing assumptions and an utter lack of compassion and trust. Their experiences trying to find secure housing, facing discrimination, and a lack of support has left them defeated, angry, exhausted, and terrified.

“The revictimization people undergo through the housing process. There is a lack of compassion and understanding of why people are doing what they are doing. Not recognizing that the person’s cup is completely full. That’s all you’re looking at – trying to survive in that moment that day.”

- **Experiences of discrimination** (4 circles, 14 comments): Participants have faced significant amounts of discrimination, including around:
 - Racism;
 - Inconsistency in employment records;
 - Stigma around mental health;
 - Stigma around substance use;
 - Homelessness;
 - Wanting to rent with roommates; and
 - Disability.
- **Need for more support** (6 circles, 14 comments): There needs to be support and programming. Respondents shared stories of workers risking their jobs to be flexible or go against policy to help respondents. Support could include:
 - Programming for people beyond simply housing but addressing the other things in their life that has brought them to that point (e.g., the need to heal from traumatic events);

- Greater training for staff around stigma, mental health, and supporting clients, including through experiences of bullying;
- Greater training for staff with women and children and their unique experience;
- Support for Elders; and
- Support to find housing very quickly.

“Support worker risked her job, connected me to services able to get me housing very quickly. Early intervention saved my life.”

- **Reducing stigma around substance use** (5 circles, 11 comments): Drug and alcohol use can prevent people from securing housing, even in supposedly “Housing First”⁴ housing. Substances can be a coping mechanism for violence, trauma, or poor life circumstances – and can be harmful for people and friends and family close to them. There need to be supports specifically for people using or addicted to substances, with positive coping mechanisms also provided. Stigma around substances needs to be reduced.
- **Need for more experiences of dignity and belonging** (4 circles, 11 comments): People deserve dignity – in housing, and when experiencing homelessness. Indigenous People have experienced displacement and colonization – and deserve to feel at home and belonging. People shared stories of experiencing violence and where neighbours publicly shared images of them in undignified situations.

“People will show random piles of garbage and put it on Facebook. Showing my face, my pictures are on Facebook.”

- **Mental health support** (3 circles, 8 comments): The toll of finding safe and secure housing, being homeless, and discrimination can have an extreme toll on mental health (e.g., exhaustion, shame).
- **Better and more access to culture and ceremony** (3 circles, 8 comments): Housing needs to provide access to culture – and culture specific to the residents. Need to start with ceremony and connection to culture. There are systemic issues around cultural competency from housing providers.

“We need access to culture but not pan-Indigenous culture. We are x, y, z. So having an Elder - what Elder?”

- **Need increased income assistance** (3 circles, 7 comments): Income is a major challenge in securing housing. In particular, rates for income assistance, disability, and youth agreements are far lower than needed and have not been raised with increases in the cost of living.
- **Lack of affordable housing** (3 circles, 7 comments): There is a lack of affordable housing, resulting in long waitlists, including:

⁴ ‘Housing First’ is an approach to ending homelessness that centers on moving people experiencing homelessness into independent and permanent housing as a first step. It provides people with immediate access to permanent housing with no housing ‘readiness’ or compliance requirements, is recovery-oriented and centres on consumer choice, self-determination and community integration. From Housing Hub: <https://www.homelesshub.ca/about-homelessness/homelessness-101/housing-first>

- On-reserve housing;
- Non-market housing;
- Safe houses, especially in smaller urban and rural areas;
- Rentals at affordable rates;
- Supportive housing; and
- Housing for Elders and for elderly Indigenous people who need more care.
- **Experiences of violence** (4 circles, 6 comments): People can face violence or unsafe situations at home or at shelters. In particular:
 - Some children and youth can face violence or unsafe situations at home;
 - Women can face violence at shelters;
 - Workers are not trauma-informed;
 - People who are homeless face violence from police and residents; and
 - Elders can be targeted for violence.
- **Need for community and connections** (3 circles, 6 comments): Community connections are vital, and are a form of non-monetary wealth and a strength. There can be dynamics between finding housing on- or off-reserve and being able to connect to your home community.

“Can counter financial poverty with familial wealth bonds and relationships.”

- **Need for specific supports** (2 circles, 4 comments): Housing and supports need to be specific to different needs. For example:
 - Housing specific for Indigenous single women;
 - Being specific about *which* Elder when providing cultural supports;
 - Housing specific to people living with HIV; and
 - Housing for people healing from intergenerational trauma.
- **Access to washrooms** (2 circles, 3 comments): Access to washrooms is a challenge and is sometimes considered by agencies to be a “privilege” that can be (and is) revoked.
- **Bureaucracy is too slow and can keep people out of housing** (2 circles, 2 comments): Decision-makers and bureaucracy are slow and unresponsive. Bureaucracy can trap people in impossible situations. For example, participants shared stories of people needing to leave a subsidized home to qualify for a waitlist for other housing that would be more suitable.
- **Difficulty finding accessible housing** (2 circles, 2 comments): Disability is an intersecting life experience for many. People who have disabilities can have challenges finding accessible housing (e.g., for a wheelchair or power chair).

Circle 1: Co-Researchers

- **Systemic issues** (2 issues): There are larger issues with the housing system that are causing these issues and need to be addressed at the systems level.
- **Lack of access to phone or computer** (1 comment): Lack of access to a phone or computer can be a major challenge.
- **Too small units for families** (1 comment): Units can be too small for families, resulting in families squeezing into too small spaces.

Circle 2: Youth

- **Aging out of care** (1 comment): Aging out of care is a challenge.

Circle 3: Women

- **Challenges with not having references** (1 comment): There is an expectation of lengthy references, which people may not have if they do not have a long rental history or are youth.

Circle 4: Urban

- **Community** (2 comments): Participants have created community with other people who are homeless, taking care of each other.

Circle 5: Rural

- **Belongings taken** (10 comments): People have experienced their belongings being taken by police or bylaw officers. Even when people may not have much, their belongings are important and will include tokens of their life and are not respected. To counteract this, service providers could provide replacement tents, especially when people have tents taken without their consent and thrown out numerous times in a year.
- **Importance of traditional teachings** (4 comments): Teachings are important – everything from teachings on parenting, to Elders providing space to share teachings to workers, to teachings of how traditionally wealth was redistributed.
- **Need support for intergenerational trauma healing** (2 comments): Need housing, with supports, specific to people healing from intergenerational traumas of residential school and physical and sexual abuse.

Circle 6: 2SLGBTQIA+

Themes shared as part of this conversation were a common theme with other discussion circles and are detailed there.

Q3. THINKING ABOUT WHAT'S HELPED YOU ON THE PATHWAY TO HOUSING...WHAT ARE TWO THINGS THAT COULD BE PRIORITIZED TO END HOMELESSNESS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN BC?

Common Themes

Themes across two or more discussion circles are summarized below.

- **More affordable housing** (6 circles, 25 comments): Being on a low or fixed income is a challenge, and income assistance rates are very low and have not increased in a long time. Need more affordable housing, including:
 - Rental subsidies;
 - Housing specifically for Indigenous Peoples that reflects diverse cultural needs;
 - Units in all housing buildings;
 - More affordable housing;
 - Transition housing as a place to land;

- Shelters specifically for Indigenous youth;
- Low barrier and supportive housing, including for substances use, mental health, and Elders;
- Access to housing regardless of where people are on their healing journeys;
- Accessible and adaptable housing;
- Housing for larger families; and
- Paths to homeownership.
- **Improved and increased support** (5 circles, 17 comments):
 - Employment programs and skills training;
 - Skills around being housed (e.g., tenant rights and responsibilities);
 - Support moving from homelessness to housing;
 - Culturally specific supports;
 - Legal clinic around tenant rights (e.g., support on reno-victions);
 - Support to find housing;
 - Support around substance use and addiction; and
 - A centre or resource to help with other needs such as food, mental health, and clothing.
- **Culturally safe housing with supports** (5 circles, 12 comments): Housing needs to be culturally safe and provide cultural supports. Access to culture is a necessity and saves lives.

"Culture is not a "support" it's a fundamental necessity for your wellbeing from a holistic lens."

- **Addressing discrimination** (5 circles, 12 comments): People deserve access to housing without judgement. People have experienced discrimination and judgement based on:
 - Racism and stereotypes of Indigenous people, including feeling ashamed to be Indigenous;
 - Homelessness;
 - Substance use;
 - Mental health;
 - Perception of how hard they are working; and
 - Homophobia and transphobia.
- **Increased training and employment support** (4 circles, 7 comments): Supporting and providing training to people to lead to employment helps people earn wages to reach their full potential and gain a purpose in life.

"Having careers and goals helps people, their state of being."

- **More support for mental health** (5 circles, 10 comments): There needs to be support and programming for people with mental health challenges that does not result in them being evicted.
- **Impacts of other residents** (3 circles, 7 comments): The other residents in the building can have a positive or negative impact. For instance, living in a dorm surrounded by people trying to do something positive has a positive impact. Others shared struggles with

residents, such as discrimination or homophobia, or people who were not safe or positive influences around children.

- **More flexibility** (2 circles, 5 comments): Having flexibility in housing and subsidies would be very helpful. For instance, being able to have a subsidy that can apply in different areas or buildings so you can decide where to live (e.g., if a building isn't safe culturally, or has people using substances and you need to be sober, or do not want children around people using substances).
- **Impediments from the system and bureaucracy** (2 circles, 3 comments): The system and bureaucracy can be major impediments. For instance, the perception is that you cannot do a Vulnerability Assessment Tool if you are homeless. If a person doesn't have status that can impact their eligibility for subsidies or housing.
- **Importance of community connection** (3 circles, 6 comments): Indigenous Peoples are powerful. Communities need to support each other and uplift each other – spiritually and materially. (Re)connecting to community and heritage is important. Relations to communities where housing is being built is essential.

Circle 1: Co-Researchers

Themes shared as part of this conversation were a common theme with other discussion circles.

Circle 2: Youth

- **2SLGBTQIA+** (2 comments): Youth shelters and safe houses can be unsafe for 2SLGBTQIA+ people due to homophobia, transphobia, and lack of housing for people who don't fit into the gender binary (e.g., shelters that are divided by binary genders). Lack of housing and supports can delay people's transitions, which is a massive toll on their mental health.
- **Youth** (3 comments): Youth can face specific barriers and have specific needs. For instance, they may be aging out of foster care, and not have a long rental history or references.

Circle 3: Women

Themes shared as part of this conversation were a common theme with other discussion circles.

Circle 4: Urban

Themes shared as part of this conversation were a common theme with other discussion circles.

Circle 5: Rural

- **Redress** (2 comments): This is not giving Indigenous people a handout but instead rectifying some wrongs committed against Indigenous Peoples.

Circle 6: 2SLGBTQIA+

- **Income** (4 comments): Respondents highlighted the need for income and earning power to increase (e.g., wages, income assistance).

APPENDIX A. ENGAGEMENT QUESTIONS

SURVEY

INTRODUCTION

Who is this survey for?

Are you someone with lived experience of homelessness? Or have you dealt with the challenges of housing insecurity? Are you currently living in British Columbia? And do you identify as an Indigenous person?

This survey is for you.

This survey is open until Friday, June 24, 2022.

Who is conducting this survey?

This survey is led by the Aboriginal Housing Management Association (AHMA) and the Provincial Indigenous Homelessness Strategy Steering Committee. It is being administered by Resilience Planning, consultant to AHMA. At the end of this project, all data will be owned by AHMA.

Consent and Anonymity

The first part of this survey consists of 18 questions (approximately 20-30 minutes to complete) and is completely anonymous.

Anonymous responses will be shared with the Aboriginal Housing Management Association and compiled into a report, to inform the future BC Indigenous Homelessness Strategy.

Incentives and keeping in touch

After completing the survey, **you have the option to enter a draw for one of 10 \$250 prizes.** We invite you to share your contact information for the incentive in a separate questionnaire. You can also let us know if you'd like to receive information to participate in future discussion circles and engagement activities taking place in your region.

For more information about the project, you can reach out to Stephanie Lowe, Senior Housing Policy Analyst for the Aboriginal Housing Management Association at: slowe@ahma-bc.org or 604-921-2462.

Triggers and after-care support

Sharing your experience may trigger unpleasant feelings or memories. To support your wellbeing at any point during or after, there are supports available 24/7.

Call the Kuu-us Crisis Line: 1-800-588-8717 (toll-free).

Dial 8-1-1 to receive information or advice from a HealthLink BC Navigator.

Call the BC Mental Health Support Line: 310-6789 (do not add 604, 778 or 250 before the number). It's free and available 24 hours a day.

PARTICIPATION CRITERIA

1) Do you identify as an Indigenous person?*

- Yes

- No

2) Do you currently live in British Columbia?*

- Yes
- No

3) Which region in BC do you live in?

- 1. Northern British Columbia (e.g., Dawson Creek, Fort Nelson, Fort St. John, Haida Gwaii, Prince George, Prince Rupert)
- 2. Cariboo Chilcotin Coast (e.g., 100 Mile House, Bella Bella, Bella Coola, Clinton, Lillooet, Quesnel, Williams Lake)
- 3. Thompson Okanagan and Kootenay Rockies (e.g., Boston Bar, Cache Creek, Cranbrook, Kamloops, Kelowna, Merritt, Nelson, Penticton, Revelstoke, Valemount, Vernon)
- 4. Vancouver Island and Sunshine Coast (e.g., Campbell River, Gibsons, Nanaimo, Port Hardy, Powell River, Sechelt, Victoria)
- 5. Vancouver Coastal (e.g., Burnaby, Coquitlam, New Westminister, North Vancouver, Pemberton, Port Coquitlam, Squamish, Vancouver, West Vancouver, Whistler)
- 6. Fraser Valley and south and east Metro Vancouver, (e.g., Abbotsford, Chilliwack, Hope, Ladner, Langley, Maple Ridge, Mission, Richmond, Surrey, Tsawwassen)
- Prefer not to answer
- I don't know, I will provide the name of my city, town, village or district:

INDIGENOUS IDENTITY

4) Do you identify as First Nations, Métis, and/or Inuit?

- First Nations
- Métis
- Inuit

RELATION TO NATION

5) How would you describe your home location:

- I live in an urban area or city
- I live in a rural area (small town, village, or another place with fewer than 1,000 people) that is not a reserve
- I live in a remote or isolated area that is not a reserve
- I live on a reserve that is away from my home community
- I live on a reserve that is also my home community
- I don't know
- Prefer not to answer

DEMOGRAPHICS

6) What is your age?

7) I identify as (select all that apply):

- Two-spirit
- Nonbinary or genderqueer

- Woman
- Man
- I identify as:
- Not sure/questioning
- Prefer not to answer

8) Do you identify as transgender (meaning your gender identity is different than the gender you were assigned at birth)?

- Yes
- No
- I'm not sure/questioning
- Prefer not to answer

QUESTIONS ABOUT HOME

9) I am currently experiencing (select all that apply):

- **Homelessness, nowhere to go:** I have a lack of stable shelter or housing.
- **Housing insecurity:** I face the possibility of losing my housing. This could be due to housing costs, housing quality, overcrowding, or other instability.
- **Not safe in my home:** I do not feel safe in my home but I feel unable to leave (e.g., due to emotional or physical abuse, unable to come out due to potential of violence or being kicked out, etc).
- **Overcrowding in my home:** There are too many people living in my home for the living space and number of bedrooms.
- **Homelessness with relationships:** I don't have my own housing but I am able to lean on people I know (e.g., couch surfing, staying with friends or family).
- **Relocation:** I have to travel significant distances in order to access different needs. For instance, I have to live in one place for access to work, health, education, etc. but travel to attend spiritual events and ceremonies, or to see family, friends and community members.
- **Separation from my home community:** I am unable to remain in my home community or struggle with returning to my home community (e.g., I am unable to get housing in my home community).
- **Cultural disconnection:** I face dislocation or alienation from my culture and from the relationship web known as "All My Relations."
- **Spiritual disconnection:** I face separation from Indigenous worldviews or connection to the Creator or equivalent deity.
- **Escaping harm:** I have left unstable, unsafe, unhealthy homes for my safety or to survive.
- **Emergency crisis:** There are environmental, human, or bureaucratic causes related to emergencies that causes me to lose my home.
- We want to understand more about your experiences. What more can you share? [text box]
- **Prefer not to answer**

10) In the past, I have experienced (select all that apply):

- **Homelessness, nowhere to go:** I have a lack of stable shelter or housing.
- **Housing insecurity:** I face the possibility of losing my housing. This could be due to housing costs, housing quality, overcrowding, or other instability.

- **Not safe in my home:** I do not feel safe in my home but I feel unable to leave (e.g., due to emotional or physical abuse, unable to come out due to potential of violence or being kicked out, etc).
- **Overcrowding in my home:** There are too many people living in my home for the living space and number of bedrooms.
- **Homelessness with relationships:** I don't have my own housing but I am able to lean on people I know (e.g., couch surfing, staying with friends or family).
- **Relocation:** I have to travel significant distances in order to access different needs. For instance, I have to live in one place for access to work, health, education, etc. but travel to attend spiritual events and ceremonies, or to see family, friends and community members.
- **Separation from my home community:** I am unable to remain in my home community or struggle with returning to my home community (e.g., I am unable to get housing in my home community).
- **Cultural disconnection:** I face dislocation or alienation from my culture and from the relationship web known as "All My Relations."
- **Spiritual disconnection:** I face separation from Indigenous worldviews or connection to the Creator or equivalent deity.
- **Escaping harm:** I have left unstable, unsafe, unhealthy homes for my safety or to survive.
- **Emergency crisis:** There are environmental, human, or bureaucratic causes related to emergencies that causes me to lose my home.
- **Prefer not to answer**

11) I experienced homelessness or living in temporary or emergency housing (shelter, transitional homes, tent, couch-surfing, living in my car) because (select all that apply):

- Housing was too expensive
- I experienced discrimination, violence or conflict with others at home
- I was kicked out of where I was
- I felt unsafe at home
- "Aged out" of the place I was living
- Housing was unavailable (shortage, waitlist, being barred or suspended)
- Housing did not meet a need related to my identity,
- I was ineligible for existing housing (e.g., I am a single person and housing is only available for households with children)
- Housing did not meet a need related to my health
- Housing did not meet a need related to my family composition
- Housing didn't have enough space
- Housing location was inaccessible or inappropriate
- Lack of health and wellness supports, including access to cultural care
- Changes to family composition or marital status (separation, divorce, or changes to child custody or other)
- Emergency (flood, fire, or other)
- Housing did not support my substance use choices
- I was transitioning out of a corrections facility
- Lack of housing that allowed me to have a pet
- I do not want to be housed
- Other: [text box]
- Prefer not to answer

12) Homelessness or the cost of housing impacts my ability to: (select all that apply):

- Pay for or store essentials (e.g., food, bills, household supplies, clothing, medications)
- Care for myself (bathe, laundry, prepare food)
- Give care to others (assist my family or community members)
- Engage in social or cultural activities
- Access mental health support...
- Access education or employment
- Access health care or treatment services
- Be reunited with my family
- Other: [text box]
- Prefer not to say

13) Have you had to leave a supportive community to access secure housing?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to answer

INTERSECTIONAL AND OVERLAPPING EXPERIENCES

14) In my home/life, I have experiences with (select all that apply):

- Residential school (personally or in my family)
- Violence or neglect at home
- Substance use (personally or with family members)
- The foster care system (separation from family)
- Being a young parent
- Incarceration
- Hospitalization
- Prefer not to answer

15) In relation to my experience of homelessness or housing insecurity, I have experienced discrimination or violence based on (select all that apply):

- Indigenous identity
- A disability
- Gender
- Sexual Orientation
- Age
- Health status
- Financial status
- Other: [text box]
- Prefer not to answer

16) Could you identify solutions that meet your housing priorities? (select all that apply)

- Affordability
- Location
- Supports for employment
- Supports for education
- Supports for childcare

- Supports for food security
- Supports for disabilities
- Health supports, including mental health
- Trauma- and culturally-informed professionals
- Cultural connection
- Single-occupancy and multiple-person occupancy options
- Infrastructure (e.g., public transport)
- Housing that supports diverse needs (e.g., elevators and ramps)
- Housing that enables families to change in size
- Also: [text box]

17) What is a word that describes you or your story?

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THIS SURVEY?

18) How did you hear about this survey?

- Social media
- Email or newsletter
- Poster
- Word of mouth
- Other: [text box]

19) Were you referred by any of the following co-researchers?

THANK YOU!

We appreciate your time and wisdom in sharing your lived experience with us. Your information will be used to inform a provincial Indigenous Homelessness Strategy.

We offer some resources to help you care for yourself and to stay in touch about the project below.

Triggers and after-care support

Sharing your experience may trigger unpleasant feelings or memories. To support your wellbeing at any point during or after, there are supports available 24/7.

Call the Kuu-us Crisis Line: 1-800-588-8717 (toll-free)

Dial 8-1-1 to receive information or advice from a HealthLink BC Navigator

Call the BC Mental Health Support Line: 310-6789 (do not add 604, 778 or 250 before the number). It's free and available 24 hours a day.

Gift Card Lottery

If you would like to be entered in the lottery to win one of 150 \$40 gift cards, click here to go to a new survey.

Note: your contact information will NOT be linked to your survey responses and will NOT be shared with any other organizations.

Keeping in Touch

For more information about the project please visit: <https://www.ahma-bc.org/bcindigenouhomelessness>

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Please introduce yourself & invitation to share your name and Nation.
2. Can you tell me about your experience and any barriers you're encountering or have encountered to accessing housing?
3. Is there anything you'd like decision-makers and service providers to know about your experience(s) with homelessness in BC?
4. Thinking about what's helped you on the pathway to housing... what are two things that could be prioritized to end homelessness for Indigenous people in BC?

DISCUSSION CIRCLE QUESTIONS

1. Do you identify as Indigenous?
2. Specify First Nations, Inuit, or Métis?
3. Can you describe your experience with homelessness in BC?
4. Can you tell me about the barriers (if any) you're encountering or have encountered to accessing - Permanent housing (housing rental or ownership) off-reserve.
5. Temporary housing (emergency, shelter, transitional) off-reserve.
6. Is there anything you'd like decision-makers and service providers to know about [your experience or needs]?
7. What has helped you on the pathway to housing?
8. What are two things that could be prioritized to end homelessness for Indigenous people in BC?

APPENDIX B. EVENT AGENDAS

INTERVIEW AGENDA

Each Co-researcher scheduled their interviews at a mutually convenient time with their interviewee. Co-researchers were provided interview training materials and a script (these will be included in the project's Framework Guide). All interviews followed the following format:

1. Introductions
2. Consent
3. Interview questions
4. Triggers and After-care Support
5. Closing
6. Honorarium

DISCUSSION CIRCLE AGENDA

The Discussion Circles were organized by affinity group and led by Co-researchers and Resilience Planning facilitators. All Discussion Circles followed the following format:

1. Cultural Opening
2. Introductions
3. Consent
4. After-Care Support
5. Discussion Circle Questions
6. Honorariums
7. Closing

APPENDIX C. CROSS-TABULATED SURVEY RESPONSES

Survey responses were cross-tabulated by responses to questions asking about:

- First Nations, Métis, and/or Inuit identity
- Gender
- Home location (urban area, rural area, remote or isolated area that is not a reserve, a reserve that is away from my home community, and reserve that is also my home community)

The results are below.

FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS, AND/OR INUIT IDENTITY

The following number of responses to the question asking about First Nations, Métis, and/or Inuit identity is shown in Table C.1

Table C.1: Number of responses by First Nations, Métis, and Inuit identity

Identity	# Responses
First Nations	118
Métis	27
Inuit	0

As no one who identifies as Inuit participated, the results were only cross-tabulated for First Nations and Métis identification.

KEY FINDINGS

- **Experiences of homelessness and housing insecurity:** A larger proportion of First Nations respondents than Métis respondents are currently experiencing most aspects of homelessness and housing insecurity that were asked about, including:
 - housing insecurity (39% of First Nations respondents, 18% of Métis respondents),
 - separation from their home community (24%, 0%),
 - homelessness (20%, 0%),
 - cultural dislocation (17%, 9%),
 - spiritual dislocation (13%, 0%),
 - overcrowding (21%, 9%), and
 - relocation (14%, 0%).

More Métis respondents are currently experiencing:

- homelessness with relationships⁵ (7% of First Nations respondents, 18% of Métis respondents),
- emergency crisis (4%, 9%), and
- not feeling safe in their home (4%, 9%).

⁵ Homelessness with relationships: I don't have my own housing but I am able to lean on people I know (e.g., couch surfing, staying with friends or family).

- **Experience with residential school and substance use:** A far larger proportion of First Nations respondents have experiences with residential schools personally or in their family (74% of First Nations respondents compared to 27% of Métis respondents). In addition, a greater share of First Nations respondents (71%) have experience with substance use personally or with family members than Métis respondents (55%).
- **Experiences of discrimination:** A larger proportion of First Nations respondents have experienced discrimination based on Indigenous identity (73% of First Nations respondents, 36% of Métis respondents) or financial status (63%, 41%) than Métis respondents. A larger share of Métis respondents have experienced discrimination based on age (31% of First Nations respondents, 46% of Métis respondents).
- **Priorities in housing solutions:** When identifying solutions that meet their housing priorities, a far larger share of First Nations respondents identified affordability (91% of First Nations respondents, 68% of Métis respondents), location (66%, 32%), health supports (57%, 32%), supports for employment (54%, 27%), and cultural connection (51%, 27%) as important than Métis respondents. Slightly more Métis respondents identified food security (72% of First Nations respondents, 77% of Métis respondents) and trauma- and culturally-informed professionals (50%, 46%) as priorities than First Nations respondents did.

EXPERIENCES OF HOMELESSNESS

Respondents were asked about their current (Figure C.1) and past experiences (Figure C.2) of various aspects of homelessness, and the reasons they experienced homelessness (Figure C.3). Respondents could select all that apply for these questions.

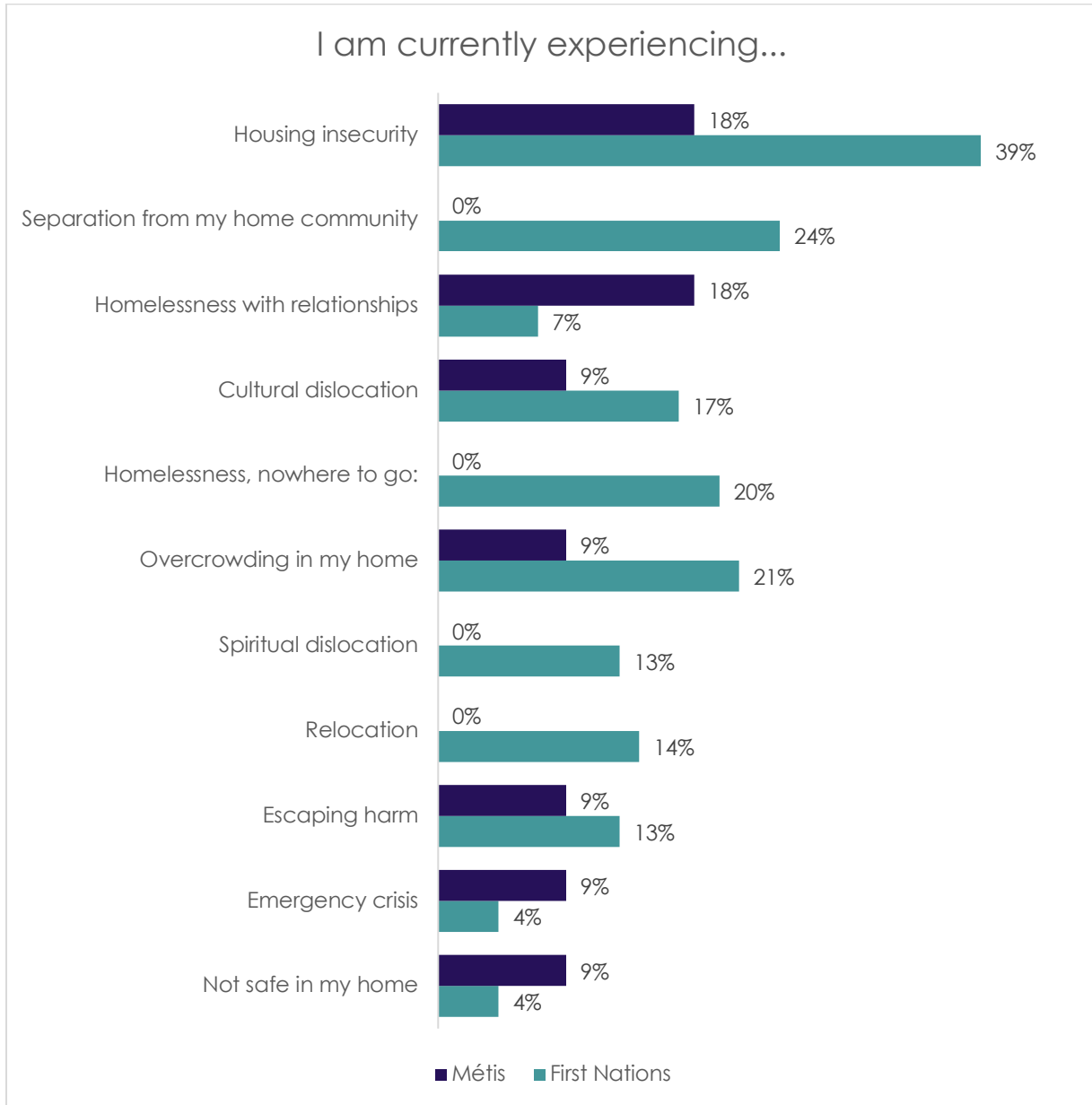


Figure C.1: Current experience of survey respondents, by First Nations and Métis identification

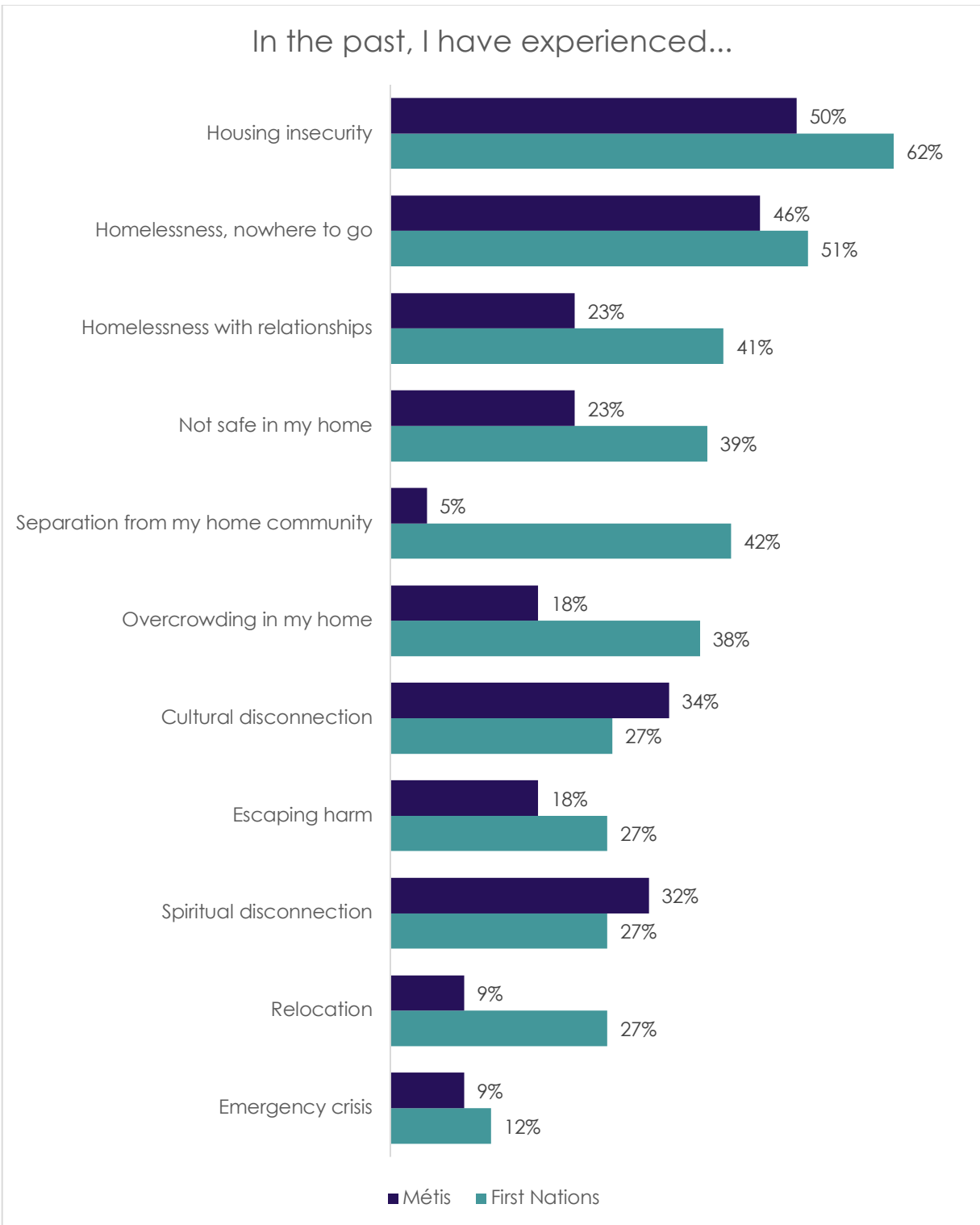


Figure C.2: Past experiences of survey respondents, by First Nations and Métis identification

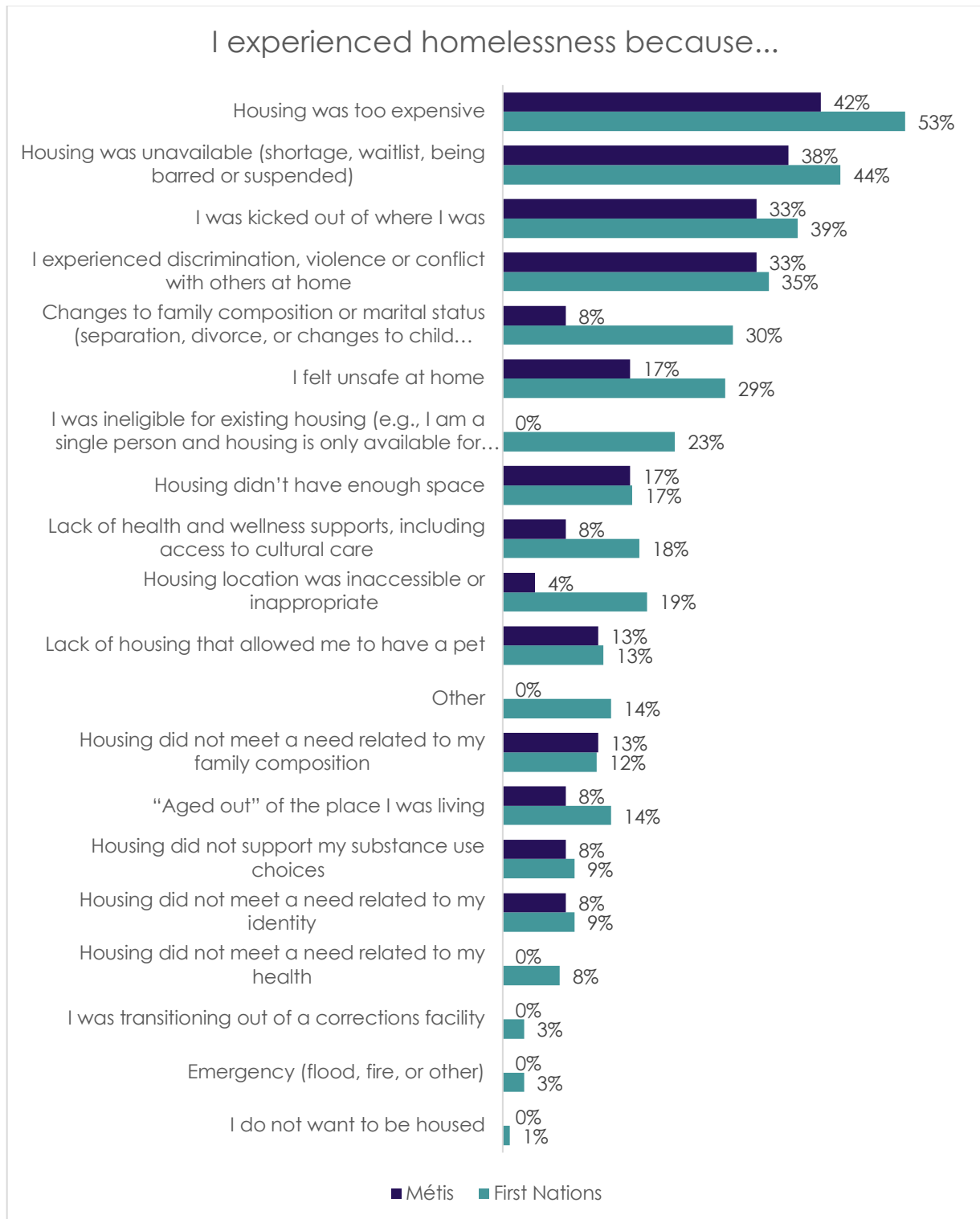


Figure C.3: Reasons survey respondents have experienced homelessness or housing insecurity, by First Nations and Métis identification

IMPACTS OF HOMELESSNESS

Respondents were asked about the impacts of homelessness or the cost of housing (Figure C. 4). Respondents could select all that apply.

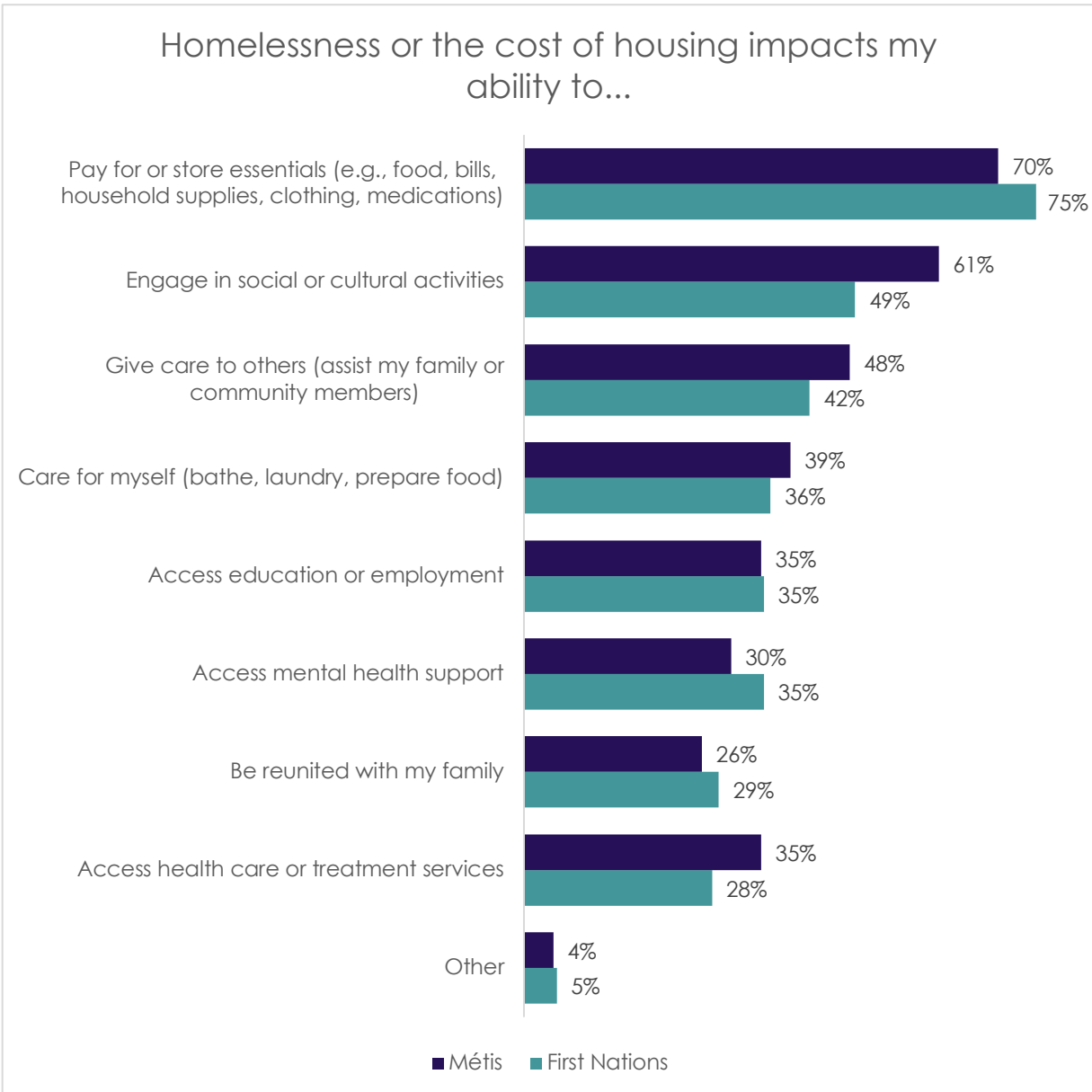


Figure C.4: Impacts on survey respondents from homelessness or the cost of housing, by First Nations and Métis identification

LIFE EXPERIENCES

Respondents were asked about other experiences that impact their lives and housing. This included some experiences tied to colonization and (intergenerational) trauma, as well as other experiences impacting housing (Figure C.5). Respondents were also asked about experiences of discrimination or violence. (Figure C.6). Respondents could select all that apply.

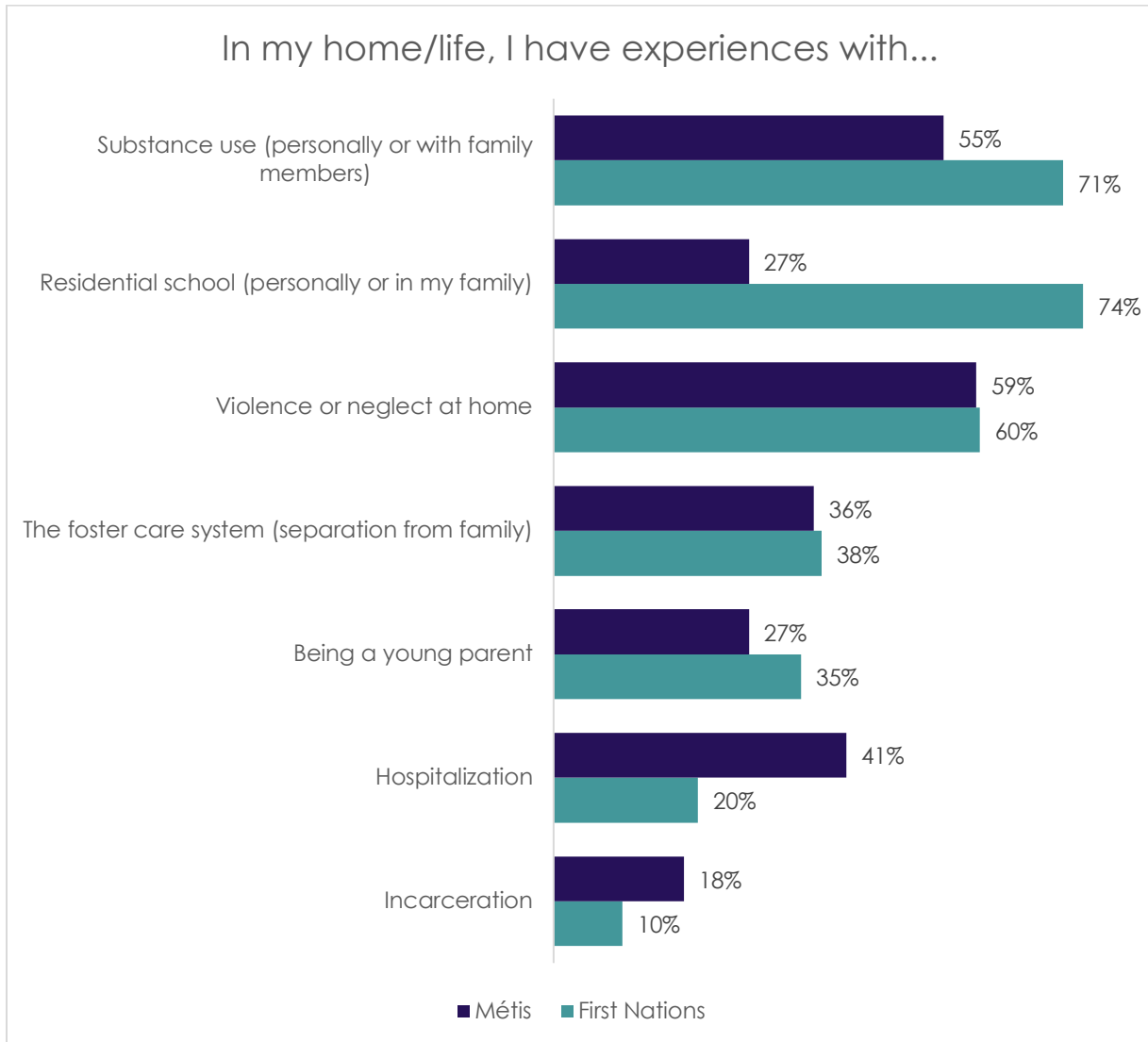


Figure C.5: Other experiences that impact the lives and housing of survey respondents, by First Nations and Métis identification

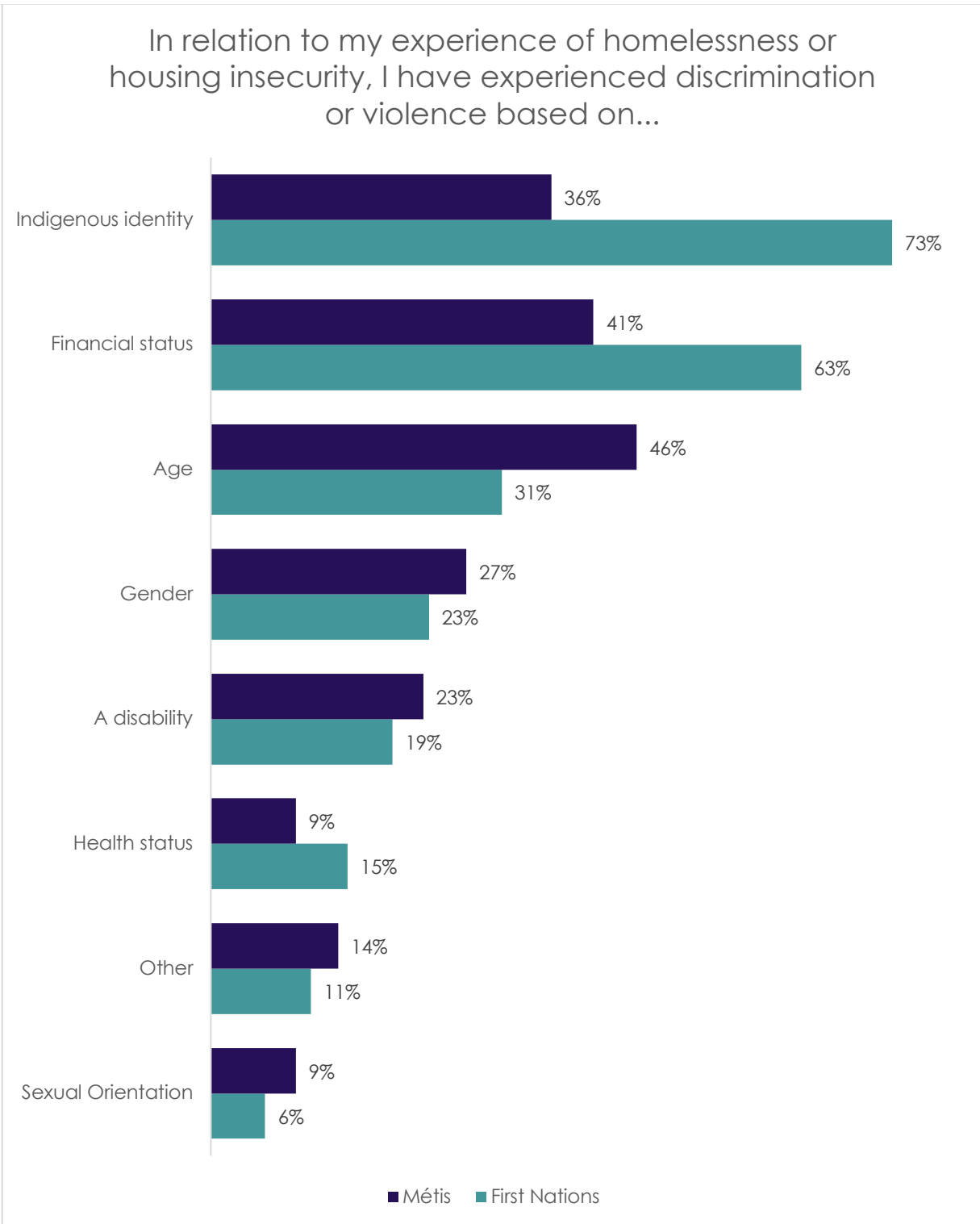


Figure C.6: Discrimination that survey respondents have experienced related to their experience of homelessness or housing insecurity, by First Nations and Métis identification

SOLUTIONS THAT MEET HOUSING PRIORITIES

Respondents were asked about the solutions that meet their housing priorities (Figure C.7). Respondents could select all that apply.

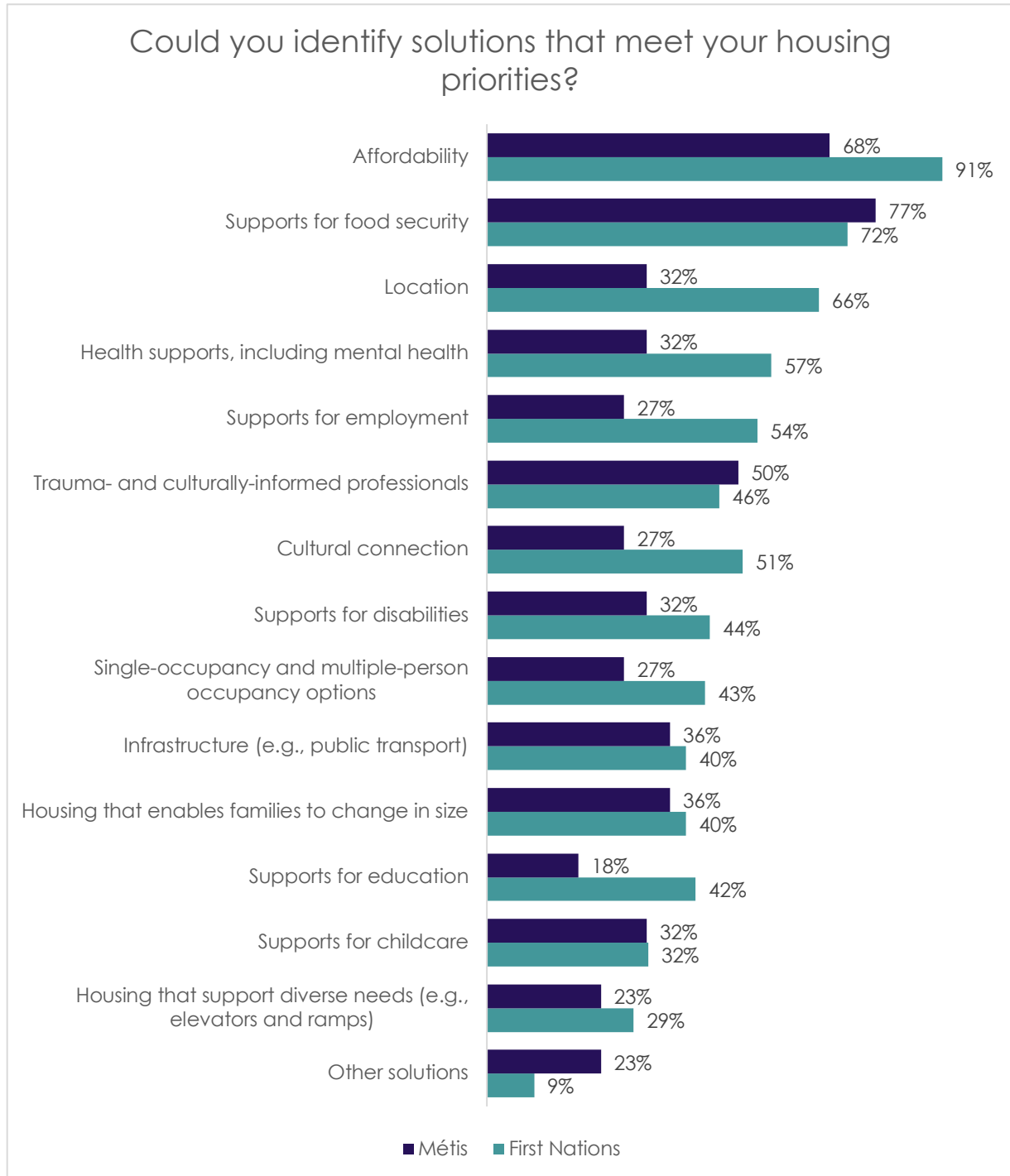


Figure C.7: Solutions to help meet housing priorities of survey respondents, by First Nations and Métis identification

GENDER

The following number of responses to the question asking about gender is shown in Table C.2

Table C.2: Number of responses by gender

Identity	# Responses
Two-spirit	6
Nonbinary or genderqueer	3
Woman	92
Man	39

Due to a low number of responses from people who identified as nonbinary or genderqueer, these results were not cross-tabulated below. Take caution when interpreting results, especially for two-spirit people, due to the low number of responses.

KEY FINDINGS

- **Violence or neglect at home:** A greater share of two-spirit respondents and women have experienced violence or neglect at home (83% and 66% respectively) than men (46%).
- **Gender and age-based discrimination:** The majority of two-spirit respondents have experienced discrimination based on gender (67%) and age (67%). A greater share of women (27%) have also experienced discrimination based on gender than men (11%).
- **Sexual orientation-based discrimination:** A far greater proportion (67%) of two-spirit respondents have experienced discrimination based on sexual orientation than women (6%) or men (3%).

EXPERIENCES OF HOMELESSNESS

Respondents were asked about their current (Figure C.8) and past experiences (Figure C.9) of various aspects of homelessness, and the reasons they experienced homelessness (Figure C.10). Respondents could select all that apply for these questions.

Note that responses for two-spirit people and men were too low to be included for the question on current experiences.

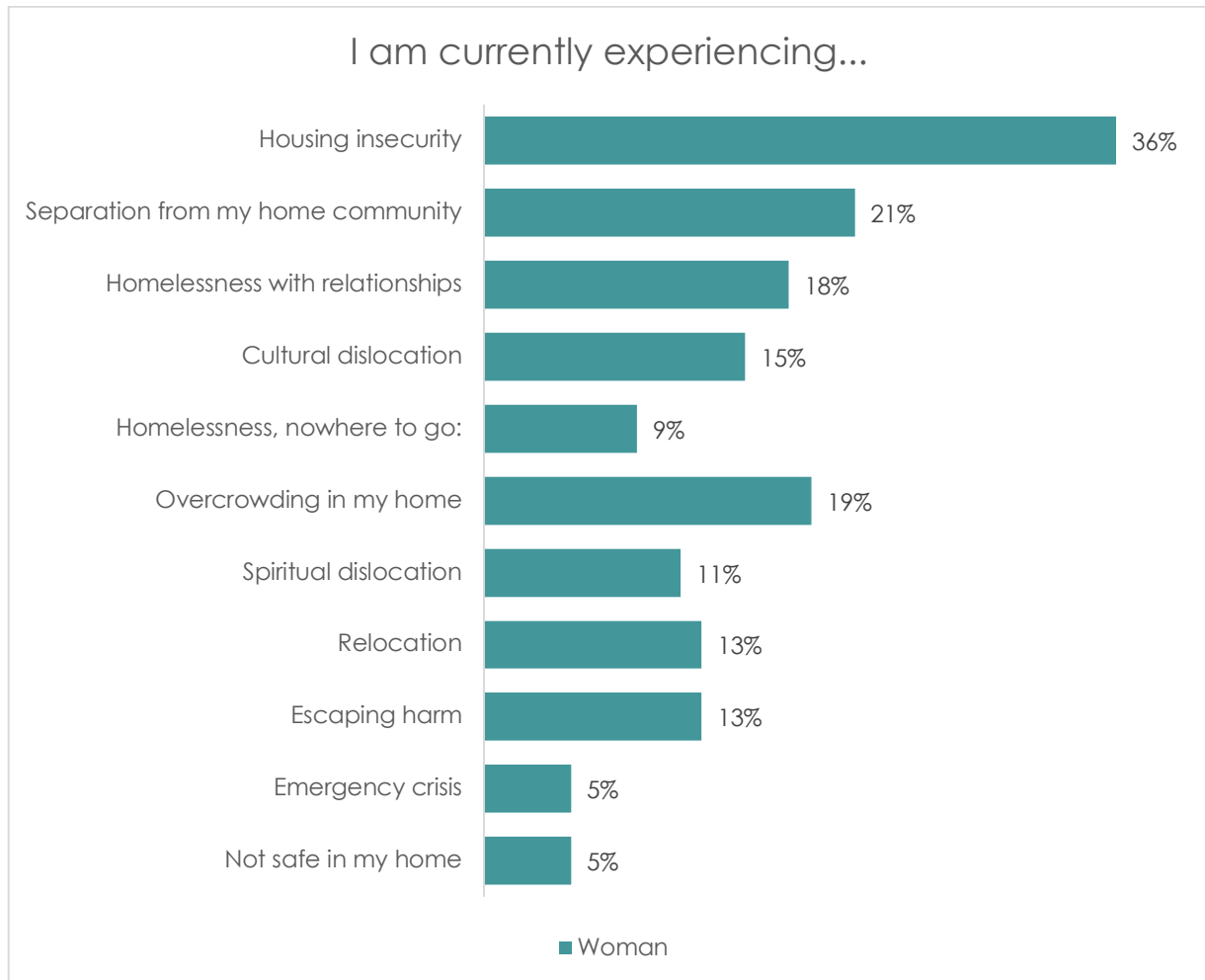


Figure C.8: Current experience of survey respondents, by gender

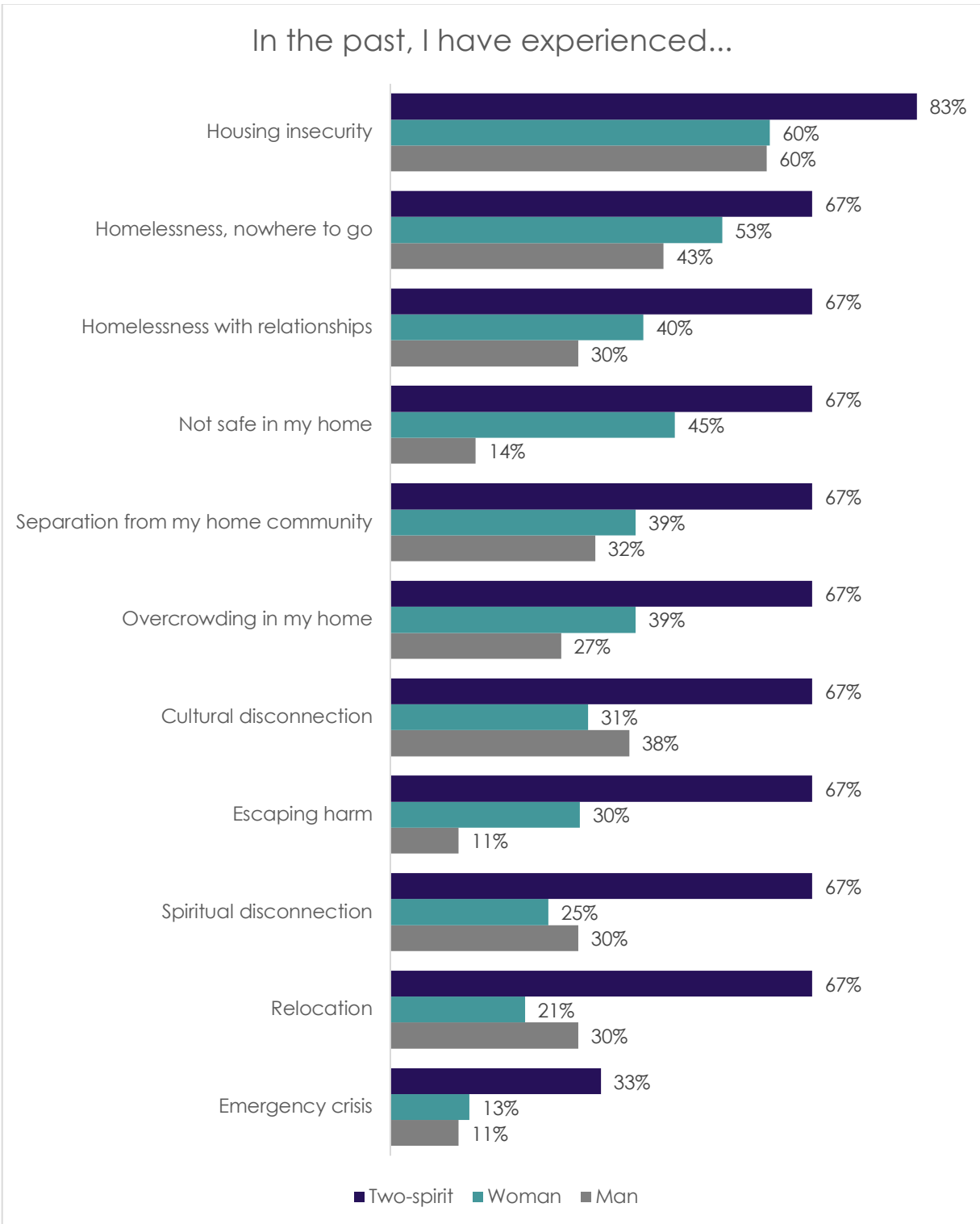


Figure C.9: Past experiences of survey respondents, by gender

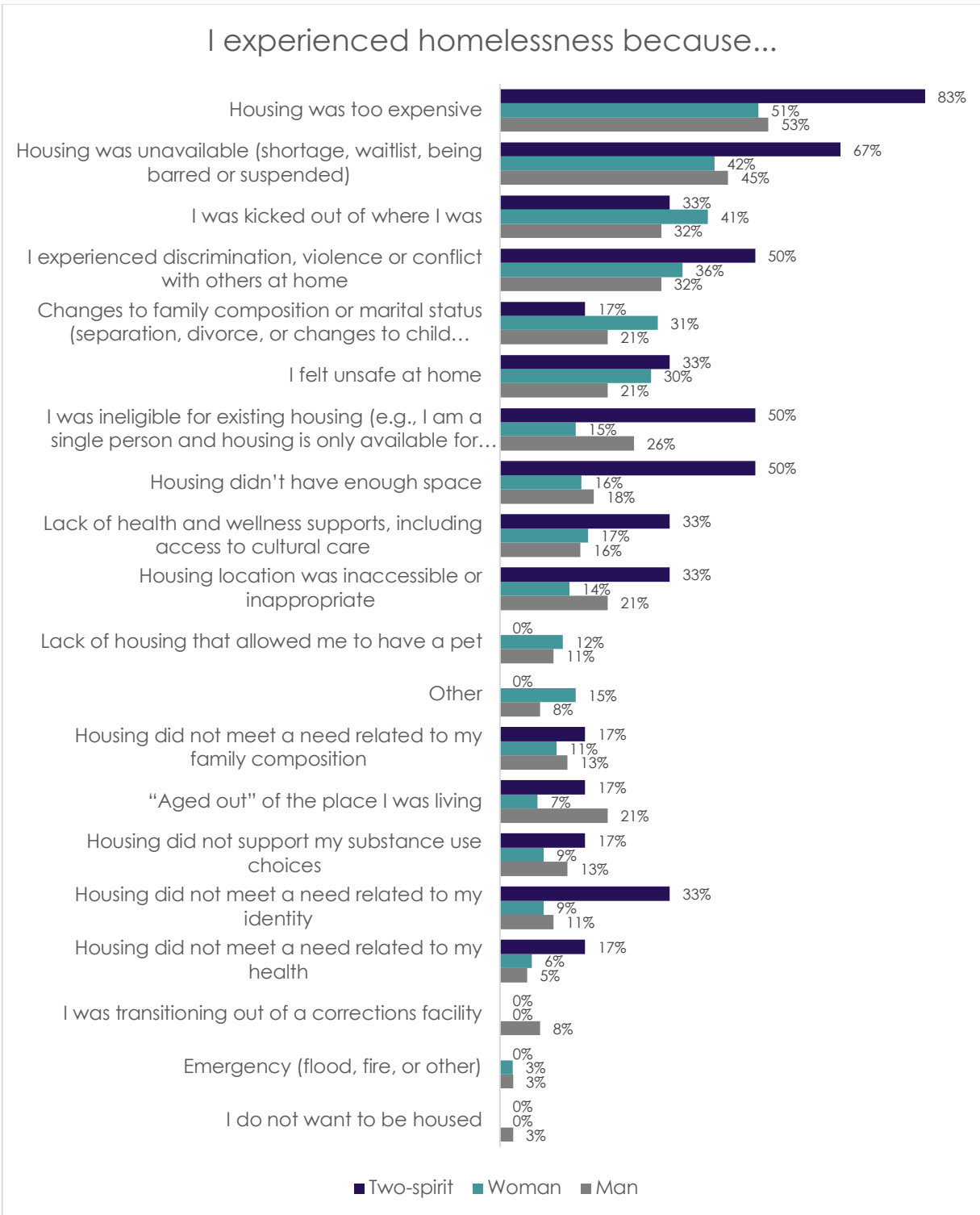


Figure C.10: Reasons survey respondents have experienced homelessness or housing insecurity, by gender

IMPACTS OF HOMELESSNESS

Respondents were asked about the impacts of homelessness or the cost of housing (Figure C.11). Respondents could select all that apply.

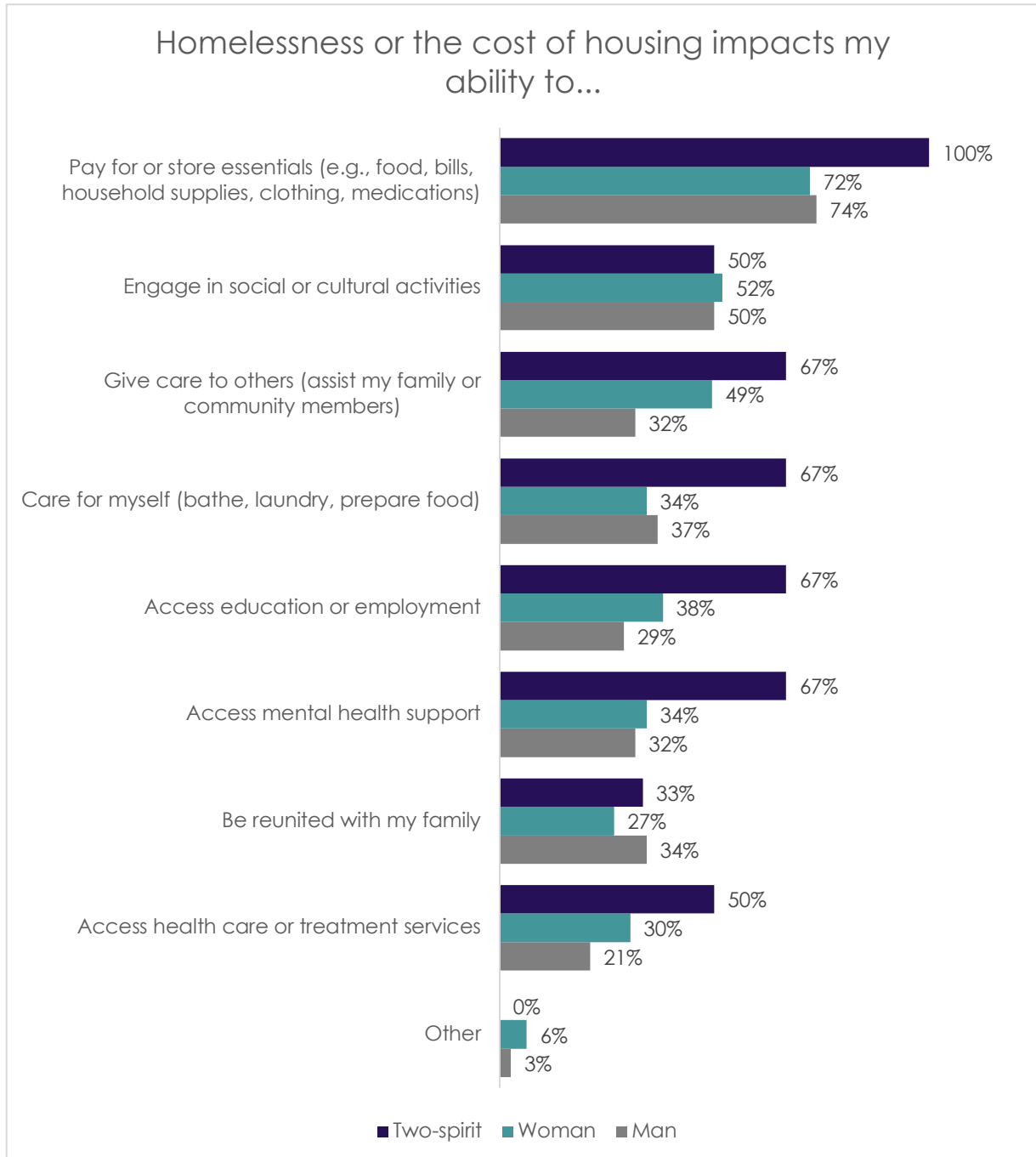


Figure C.11: Impacts on survey respondents from homelessness or the cost of housing, by gender

LIFE EXPERIENCES

Respondents were asked about other experiences that impact their lives and housing. This included some experiences tied to colonization and (intergenerational) trauma, as well as other experiences impacting housing (Figure C.12). Respondents were also asked about experiences of discrimination or violence (Figure C.13). Respondents could select all that apply.

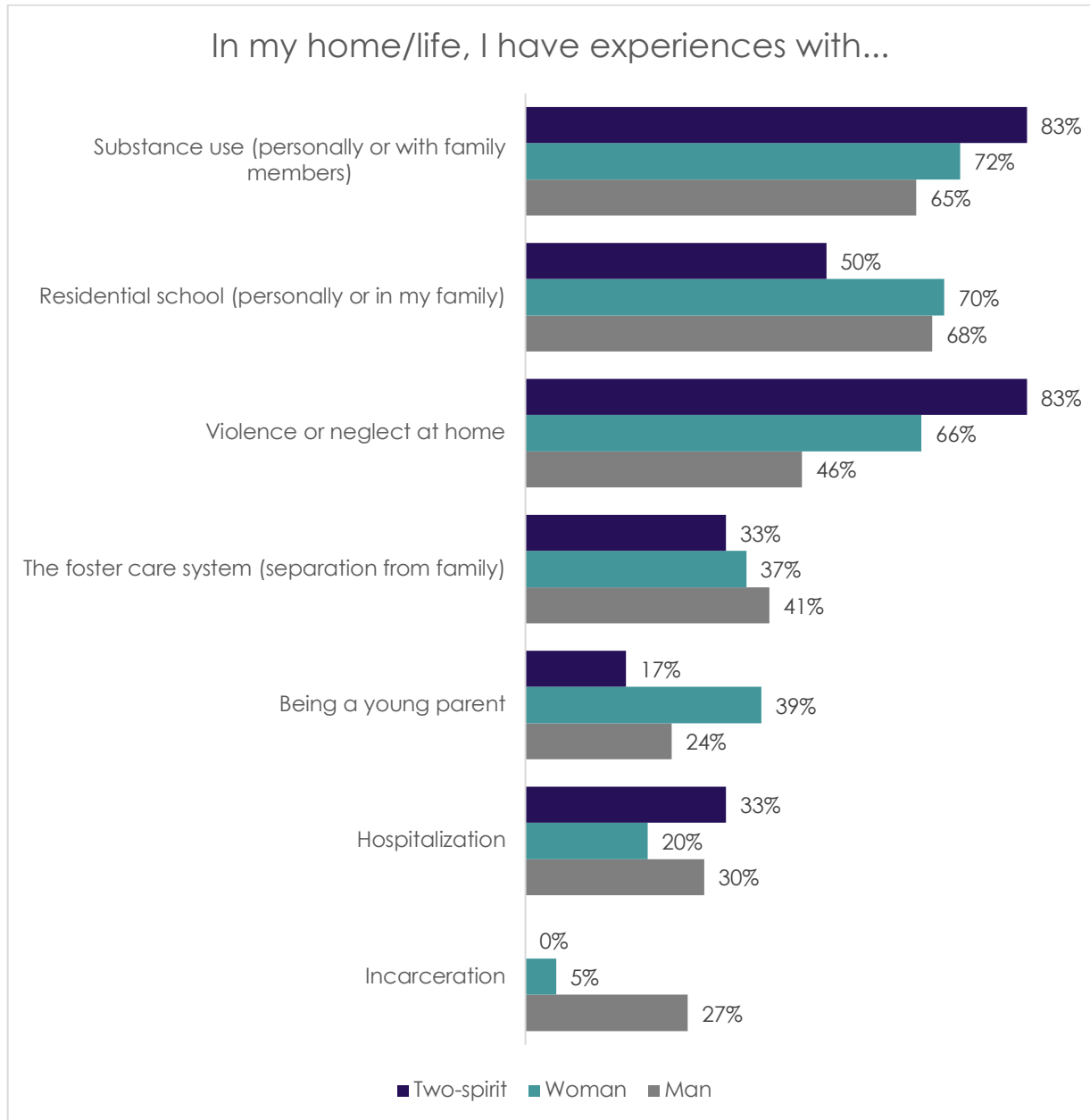


Figure C.12: Other experiences that impact the lives and housing of survey respondents, by gender

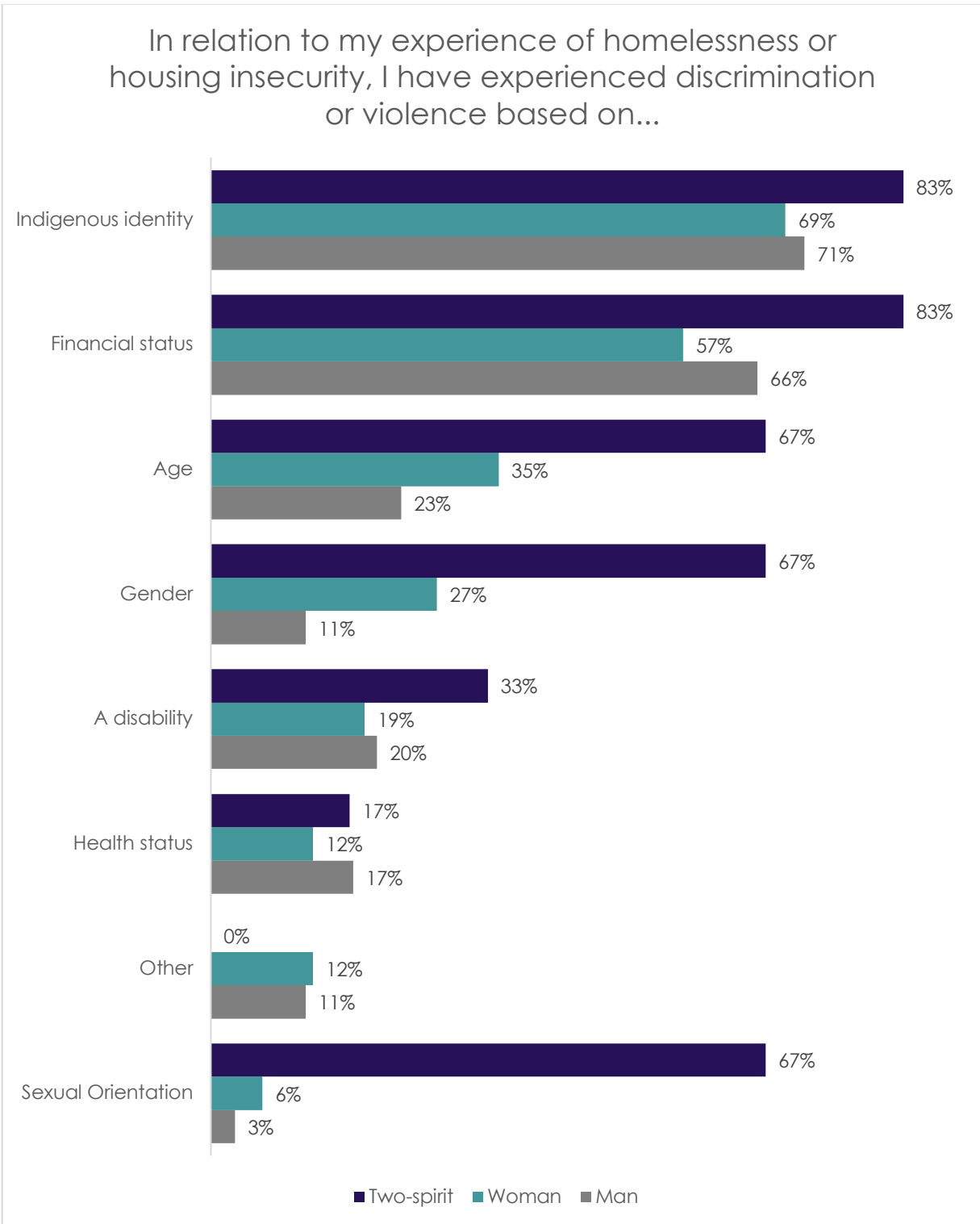


Figure C.13: Discrimination that survey respondents have experienced related to their experience of homelessness or housing insecurity, by gender

SOLUTIONS THAT MEET HOUSING PRIORITIES

Respondents were asked about the solutions that meet their housing priorities (Figure C.14). Respondents could select all that apply.

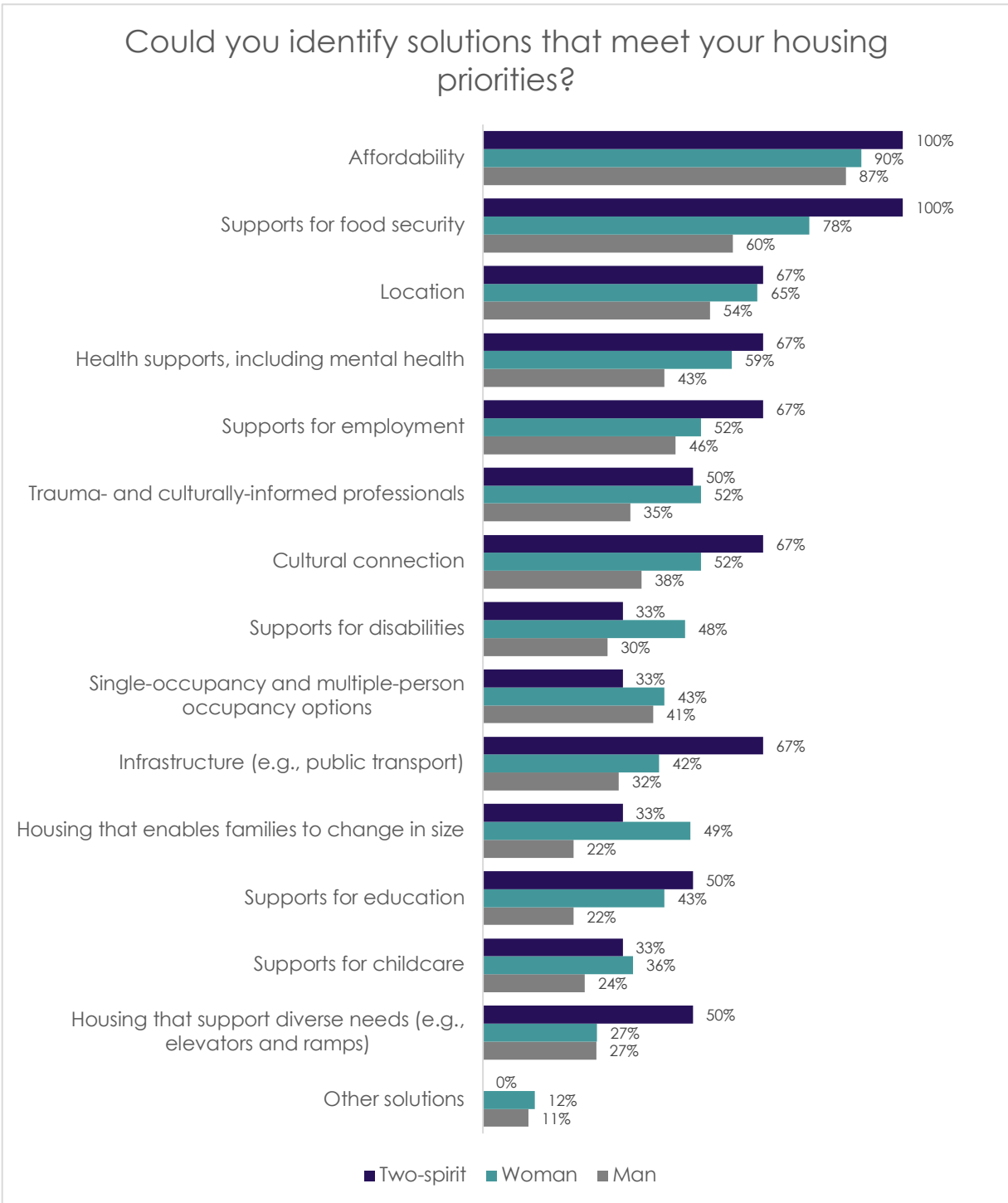


Figure C.14: Solutions to help meet housing priorities of survey respondents, by gender

HOME LOCATION

The following number of responses to the question asking about home location is shown in Table C.3

Table C.3: Number of responses by home location

Identity	# Responses
Urban area or city	88
Rural area (small town, village, or another place with fewer than 1,000 people) that is not a reserve	21
Remote or isolated area that is not a reserve	8
Reserve that is away from my home community	6
Reserve that is also my home community	13

Take caution when interpreting results, especially for respondents living in a remote or isolated area, or on a reserve that is away from their home community, due to the low number of responses.

KEY FINDINGS

- **Living on a reserve that is not their home community:** A greater share of respondents living on reserves that are not their home community are experiencing separation from their home community (67% of respondents) and cultural dislocation (50%) than other respondents, and have previously experienced housing insecurity (100%), cultural dislocation (83%), spiritual disconnection (83%), and relocation (67%).
- **Living on a reserve that is their home community:** A lower share of respondents living on a reserve that is their home community have experienced homelessness because housing was unavailable (30% of respondents), they were kicked out of where they were (10%), or because they experienced discrimination, violence, or conflict (10%).
- **Living in a remote community:** A greater share of respondents living in remote communities experienced homelessness because housing did not meet a need related to their health (29% of respondents).

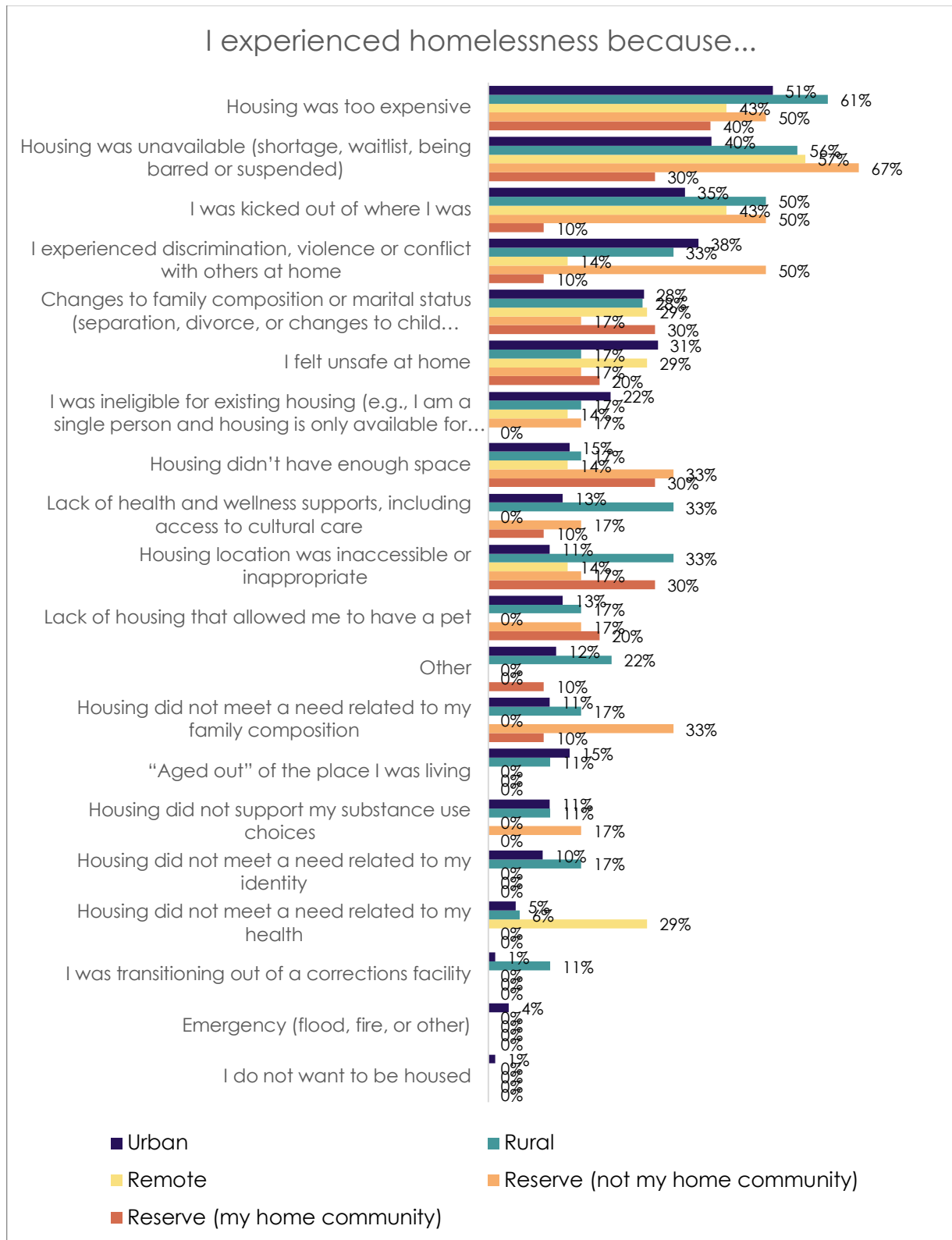


Figure C.17: Reasons survey respondents have experienced homelessness or housing insecurity, by home location

IMPACTS OF HOMELESSNESS

Respondents were asked about the impacts of homelessness or the cost of housing (Figure C.18). Respondents could select all that apply.

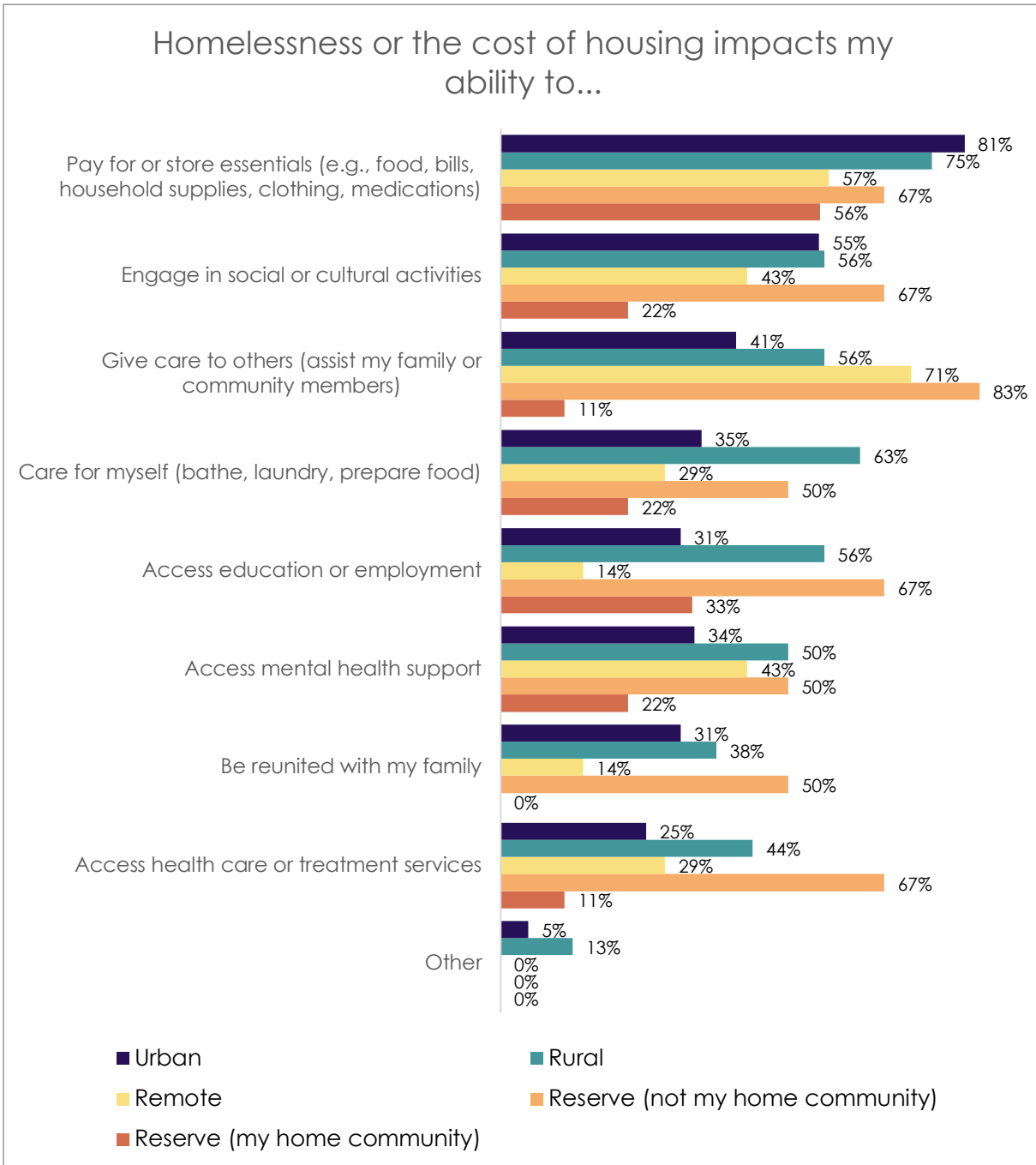


Figure C.18: Impacts on survey respondents from homelessness or the cost of housing, by home location

LIFE EXPERIENCES

Respondents were asked about other experiences that impact their lives and housing. This included some experiences tied to colonization and (intergenerational) trauma, as well as other experiences impacting housing (Figure C.19). Respondents were also asked about experiences of discrimination or violence (Figure C.20). Respondents could select all that apply.

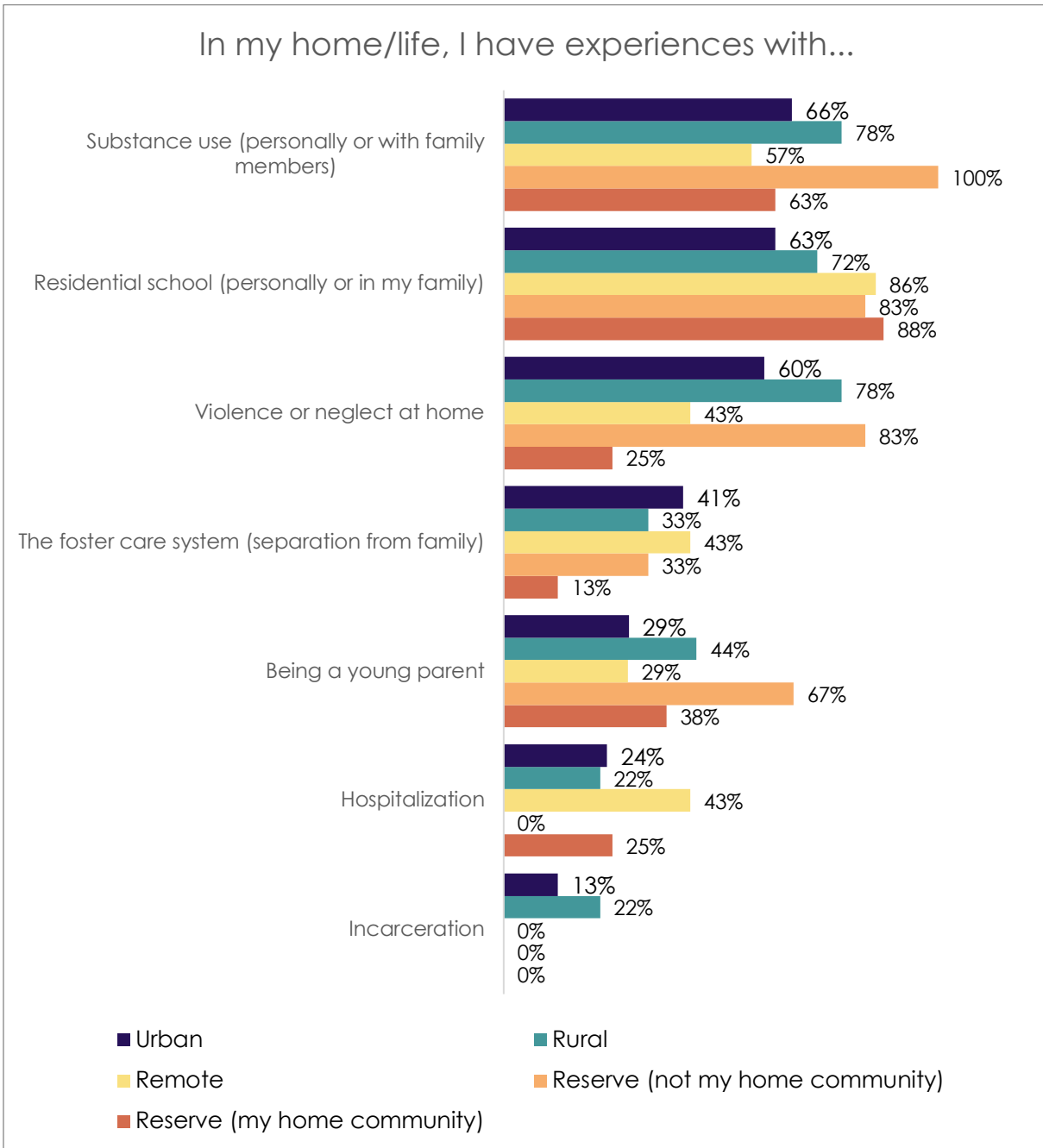


Figure C.19: Other experiences that impact the lives and housing of survey respondents, by home location

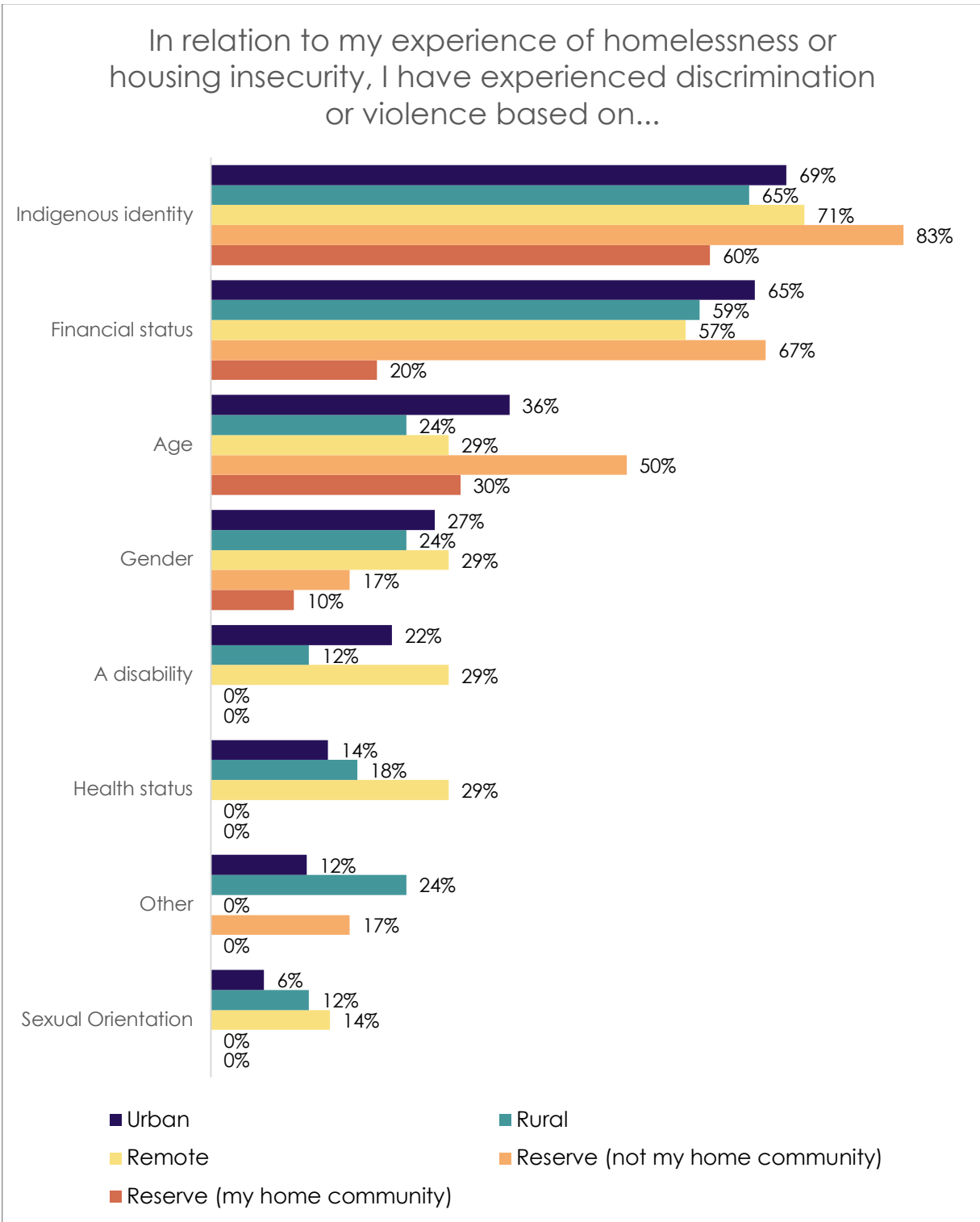


Figure C.20: Discrimination that survey respondents have experienced related to their experience of homelessness or housing insecurity, by home location

SOLUTIONS THAT MEET HOUSING PRIORITIES

Respondents were asked about the solutions that meet their housing priorities (Figure C.21). Respondents could select all that apply.

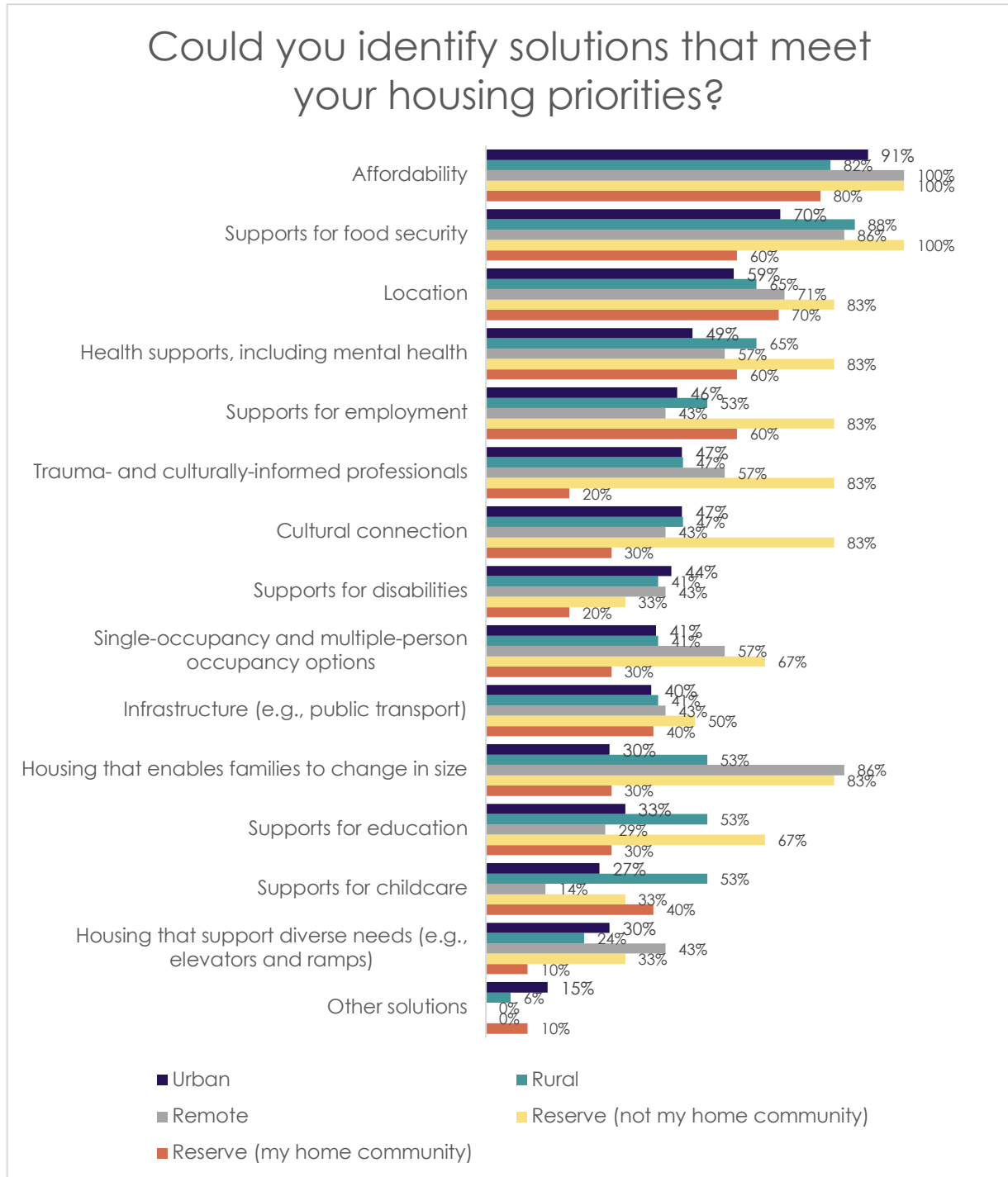


Figure C.21: Solutions to help meet housing priorities of SURVEY respondents, by home location

APPENDIX D. OUTCOMES FROM INTERVIEWS WITH AHMA STAFF AND THE INDIGENOUS HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY STEERING COMMITTEE

Table D.1. Outcomes from interview with AHMA staff

Question	Summary of answers	How we used this information on the project
What might you be able to share to help build our understanding about AHMA’s regional connections?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Social media ▪ Newsletters ▪ Facebook ▪ Via Portfolio managers to AHMA network ▪ Via support workers 	Snowball sampling ⁶ and sharing project information via AHMA portfolio managers and policy staff network connections
Based on your knowledge of Indigenous Homelessness in different communities (regions and perspectives from diverse populations), what might be some good promotional strategies to engagement? Specifically: a) youth, b) women fleeing abuse, c) lived experience of incarceration?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community researchers ▪ Using AHMA as the base organization 	<p>Create a safe and welcoming space with food and attention to privacy, wellness supports</p> <p>Reciprocate by offering incentives in lieu of food, opening song or culturally appropriate gift</p>
Based on your knowledge of Indigenous Homelessness in different communities (regions and perspectives from diverse populations), what might be a good engagement methodology to overcome the challenges of data collection in COVID?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aftercare services ▪ Reciprocity (deliver honoraria immediately) 	<p>Employ well-connected Co-Researchers and support them with honouring reciprocity (ability to deliver honoraria immediately)</p> <p>Equip Co-Researchers with after care wellness supports</p>
What data projects or results are you aware of that already exists for these communities (qualitative and quantitative) and are you open to sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The data from this project will live with AHMA One interviewee requested we email this 	Enhance/support communications between AHMA and Steering Committee

⁶ Westhorp, Gill. 2014. “Realist Impact Evaluation: An Introduction.” London. www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/9138.pdf.

Question	Summary of answers	How we used this information on the project
this with us, and the Steering Committee?	request so they might better respond	members (e.g., Data Sharing Agreements ⁷) Project close-out data repatriation, is prepared for AHMA in a way that is accessible in the future, data collection processes align with ownership, control, access, and possession (OCAP [™]) standards
Part of our scope is to work with in-community co-researchers to help capture the lived experiences of Indigenous Peoples living in urban, rural and northern locations across BC. Who does the community trust to talk with? And are you open to sharing contacts in the different areas of the province might you be able to connect us with?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work through friendship centres ▪ Work through client support workers ▪ Use the tenant relations network 	Snowball sampling ⁸ and sharing project information via AHMA portfolio managers and policy staff network connections

⁷ The Steering Committee members are developing Data Sharing Agreements, which are beyond the scope of the work for this project.

⁸ Westhorp, Gill. 2014. "Realist Impact Evaluation: An Introduction." London. www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/9138.pdf.

Table D.2. Outcomes from interviews with steering committee members

Question	Summary of answers	How we used this information on the project
<p>What might you be able to share about what a good exchange looks like in the different communities (different regions and diverse populations) (e.g., gift card, cash, gift, honoraria, food, etc.)?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gift cards ▪ Prize draw ▪ Electronic funds transfer ▪ Visa Debit Cards ▪ Food ▪ Gifts appropriate to the territories in which we are working ▪ Compensate organizations who help promote and support the work ▪ Good exchange is asking "What do you need?" ▪ Other suggestions were to help make connections with different communities ▪ Question about how to help people beyond minor incentives 	<p>Supporting discussion circles and interviews: employ well-connected Co-Researchers and support them with honouring reciprocity (ability to deliver honoraria immediately)</p> <p>Equip Co-Researchers with after care wellness supports</p> <p>Reciprocate by offering incentives in lieu of food, opening song or culturally appropriate gift</p>
<p>Based on your knowledge of Indigenous Homelessness in different communities (regions and perspectives from diverse populations), what might be good engagement methods - focus group, interview, survey, etc.?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Employ OCAP ▪ Be clear about data governance ▪ Interviews ▪ Go to where people are at (culture nights, shelters, tent cities, etc.) ▪ Promote in shelters ▪ Lend equipment to take notes ▪ Survey with incentives ▪ Survey question to ask if people want to stay involved ▪ Engage youth, families, elders ▪ Use inclusive language ▪ Include PWLE in the process ▪ Use peer support workers (with connections to communities) with researchers ▪ Bring food, gifts, cash ▪ Close the loop, tell them when and do it with a meal ▪ Host circle discussions 	<p>Create a safe and welcoming space with food and attention to privacy, wellness supports</p> <p>Equip Co-Researchers with offline tools and reduced barriers to participation (paper copies of outreach materials; offline survey and interview questions)</p> <p>Host discussion circles with an emphasis on self-care and healing processes, viewing research as ceremony⁹</p>

⁹ Wilson, Shawn. 2008. Research Is Ceremony: Indigenous Research Methods. Research Is Ceremony: Indigenous Research Methods. Black Point, NS: Fernwood Publishing.

Question	Summary of answers	How we used this information on the project
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with Surrey Urban Indigenous Leadership Council's homelessness research project ▪ Use social media networks ▪ Difficult to reach PWLE online ▪ Host event at local rec/community centre with food and incorporate local Indigenous culture ▪ Go to SROs ▪ Build trust 	
<p>Based on your knowledge of Indigenous Homelessness in different communities (regions and perspectives from diverse populations), what might be a good engagement methodology, (cultural integrity and data sovereignty - recording, data collection and storage, repatriation)?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Be clear about data privacy, management, access, etc. ▪ Retain and use data only for purposes stated and formalize this ▪ Employ OCAP ▪ Protec who has access and control of data ▪ Use informed consent 	<p>Project close-out data repatriation, is prepared for AHMA in a way that is accessible in the future, data collection processes align with ownership, control, access, and possession (OCAP™) standards</p>
<p>What data are you aware of that already exists for these communities (qualitative and quantitative) and are you open to sharing this with us, and the Steering Committee?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ FNHA - Engagement Pathways for Health and Wellness ▪ FNHA + AHMA - Indigenous Homelessness Strategy (with Attorney General's Office) ▪ Indigenous Homeless ness Integrated Data Project ▪ FNHA - Urban + Away from Home Survey Responses ▪ Fraser Regional Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association - has: Ministry of Child and Family Development Tracking; BC Housing criteria from Atira report; data on intimate partner violence 	<p>Conducted a 'Rapid Mapping Review' of background documents, grey literature and academic peer-reviewed literature, analysis included in the Environmental Scan</p>

Question	Summary of answers	How we used this information on the project
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aboriginal Coalition to end Homelessness has: youth survey + focus groups; Feasibility Study Survey For people who want harm reduction ▪ ACEH - gender based violence for women with Vic PD ▪ Surrey Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee - homelessness data collection ▪ Surrey food Bank - data on PWLE ▪ Annual homelessness count ▪ Municipal housing needs assessments (data not disaggregated and beyond scope to research all) ▪ Contact service orgs in regions for their stats ▪ Vancouver community action team has connections to other organizations ▪ Vancouver Aboriginal Community Policing Centre has: data - unclear if they would share (need permission from Coalition) ▪ BC Housing + FNHA - Homelessness Strategy Committee "Home away from Home" Project 	
<p>Part of our scope is to work with in-community co-researchers to help capture the lived experiences of Indigenous Peoples living in urban, rural and northern locations across BC.</p> <p>Who does the community trust to talk with? And are you open to sharing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Be as inclusive as possible ▪ Many suggestions for organizations we can connection through (James Harry Sr., All Nations Outreach Society BoD, BCAFN, Métis Nation of BC, Native Education College ▪ Specific names suggested we could contact ▪ Request to us to follow up with an email outlining this request ▪ Suggestion for how trust is built: by proving and demonstrating you will act in the community's best interest 	<p>Conduct a thorough search and employ well-connected Co-Researchers and support them with honouring reciprocity</p>

Question	Summary of answers	How we used this information on the project
<p>What contacts in the different areas of the province might you be able to connect us with?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Post Job Description at organizations working in communities 	
<p>We also asked if interviewees had anything else to share...</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ FNHA offered to share shelter contact list ▪ FNHA has Community Engagement Coordinators who might help identify CRs and help with promotion ▪ Suggestion to follow up on human and sex trafficking data ▪ Book suggestion to understand friendship centres: Indigenous in the City by Evelyn Peters ▪ There is duplication and saturation of this work with no centralized data collection coordination ▪ Empower the shortcuts - those things PWLE say will help for solutions to homelessness ▪ Decolonize this work. Colonial ways do not solve problems caused by colonialism 	

APPENDIX E. PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

YOU'RE INVITED TO A 1-1 INTERVIEW (30 MINS)

Are you Indigenous?

Do you have lived experience of homelessness or housing insecurity in an urban, rural, or northern BC community?

The BC Indigenous Homelessness Strategy Steering Committee & Aboriginal Housing Management Association would like to learn from you.

Interview Details

Contact:

For an Interview date and time that works for you

Monday 6th: 2pm, 3:30pm, 5pm, 6:30pm

Thursday 09th: 1pm, 2:30pm, 4:00pm, 5:30pm, 7:00pm

**\$60 HONORARIUM BY
E-TRANSFER OF CASH IN
SELECT LOCATIONS.**

Complete a survey to win additional cash/e-trans or Apple product prizes! Scan the QR code or check out the "[BC Indigenous Homelessness Strategy](#)" page on Facebook.



YOU'RE
INVITED TO A
DISCUSSION
CIRCLE (60 MIN)

Are you Indigenous?
Do you have lived
experience of homelessness
or housing insecurity in an
urban, rural, or northern BC
community?

The BC Indigenous Homelessness
Strategy Steering Committee &
Aboriginal Housing Management
Association would like to learn
from you.

Two ways to join by Zoom:
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/
81997658709](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81997658709)
Meeting ID: 819 9765 8709
Telephone: +1 778 907 2071

VIRTUAL CIRCLE DETAILS

TIME: 2:00PM TO 3:00 PM

DATE: JUNE 14, 2022

**\$60 HONORARIUM BY
E-TRANSFER OF CASH IN
SELECT LOCATIONS.**

**Complete a survey to win additional cash/e-trans or Apple
product prizes! Scan the QR code or check out the
"BC Indigenous Homelessness Strategy" page on Facebook.**



Do you identify as
First Nations, Inuit or Metis?

Are you in BC and experiencing
(or have you experienced)
homelessness or housing insecurity?

\$60 honorarium
and prize draws
at each event!

Join us for a *virtual* Discussion Circle!

Two ways to join by Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81997658709>

Meeting ID: 819 9765 8709
Telephone: +1 778 907 2071

YOUTH (15-24) - JUNE 13 (7-8 PM)

WOMEN - JUNE 14 (2-3 PM)

URBAN - JUNE 15 (2-3 PM)

RURAL - JUNE 16 (2-3 PM)

This project will inform future recommendations in a BC Indigenous Homelessness Strategy and Framework and is led by the BC Indigenous Homelessness Strategy Steering Committee & the Aboriginal Housing Management Association.



Our guiding principle is "from, with, and for" Indigenous communities



COMPLETE A SURVEY TO WIN ADDITIONAL CASH/E-TRANS OR APPLE PRODUCT PRIZES! SCAN THE QR CODE OR CHECK OUT "BC INDIGENOUS HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY" ON FACEBOOK

Are you an Indigenous
2SLGBTQIA+ person living in
British Columbia?

Do you have lived
experiences of homelessness or
housing insecurity?

**We want to
learn from
you.**

**\$60
Honoraria**

**Tues,
Aug 2, 2022
2-3pm**

Discussion Circle
with Indigenous 2SLGBTQIA+ people
who have lived experiences of
homelessness or housing insecurity.

Tues, Aug 2, 2022, 2-3pm

\$60 honoraria for your time.
No registration necessary.

Zoom: <https://tinyurl.com/DiscCircle>
Phone in: +1 778 907 2071
Meeting ID: 858 6639 4083



Are you an Indigenous person
living in British Columbia?

Fill out the
survey here!



Do you have lived
experiences of
homelessness or housing
insecurity?

We want to learn from you.

Find the survey link at the project website:

<https://www.ahma-bc.org/bcindigenoushomelessness>

Honoraria available via lottery to thank you for your participation.

Prizes!

We are gathering stories and lived experiences of homelessness from Indigenous people in British Columbia.

We want to learn how to best gather data on Indigenous homelessness. We are creating a framework to guide future work.

We are led by a Steering Committee. The Committee has representation from across BC. The Aboriginal Housing Management Association (AHMA) helps to support it.

Our guiding principle is "by, for, and with" Indigenous communities.



Are you an Indigenous person
living in British Columbia?

Do you have lived
experiences of homelessness or
housing insecurity?

**We want to
learn from you.**

**Survey
Deadline
Extended to
June 24**

**WIN one of 10
\$250 cash
Prizes!
New draw
each day.**

**Fill out the survey:
<https://bit.ly/3PKXITI>**

**Honoraria available via
lottery to thank you for
your participation.**

We are gathering stories and lived experiences of homelessness from Indigenous people in British Columbia. Find out more on AHMA's website, see link in comments.



Are you an Indigenous person
living in British Columbia?

Do you have lived
experiences of homelessness or
housing insecurity?

**We want to
learn from you.**

**Last
day!**

WIN one of 10
\$250 cash
Prizes!
New draw
each day.

Fill out the survey:
<https://bit.ly/3PKXITI>

Honoraria available via
lottery to thank you for
your participation.

We are gathering stories and lived experiences of
homelessness from Indigenous people in British
Columbia. Find out more on AHMA's website, see
link in comments.

