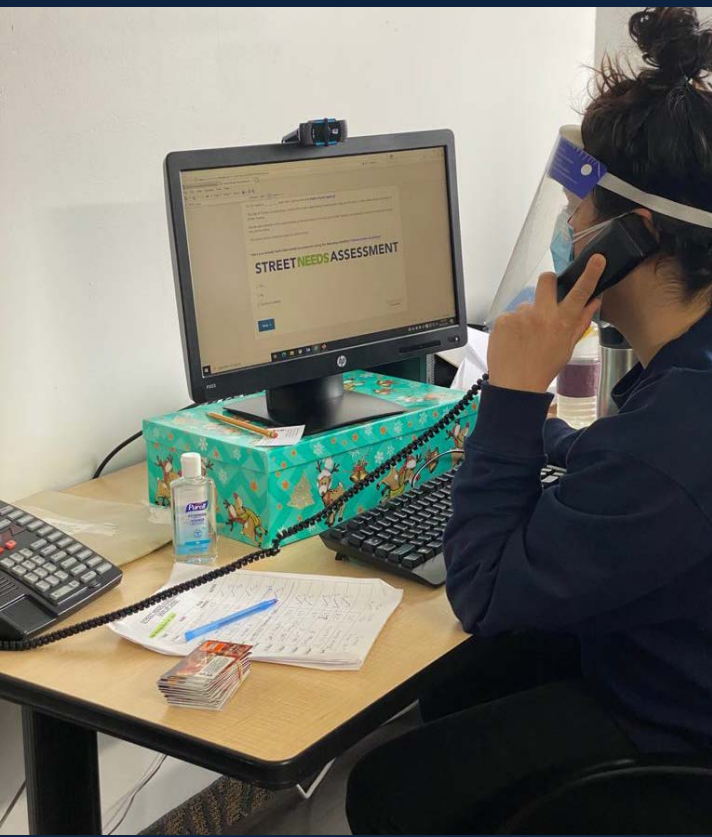


STREET NEEDS ASSESSMENT

2021



Key Highlights



SNA 2021 Key Highlights

1. The profile of those experiencing homelessness has changed during the COVID-19 pandemic
2. Homelessness affects people from different backgrounds but specific groups are overrepresented in Toronto
3. Gaps in other service systems are key contributors to homelessness
4. The key solutions to homelessness are increasing income and access to affordable and supportive housing



1. The profile of those experiencing homelessness has changed during the COVID-19 pandemic

Snapshot of Homelessness in Toronto on April 21, 2021

7,347 people estimated to be experiencing homelessness:

2,742 people in base shelter and overnight services
(i.e. emergency/transitional shelters, 24-hour respite sites, 24-hour drop-ins)

2,978 people in COVID-19 response, recovery/isolation sites

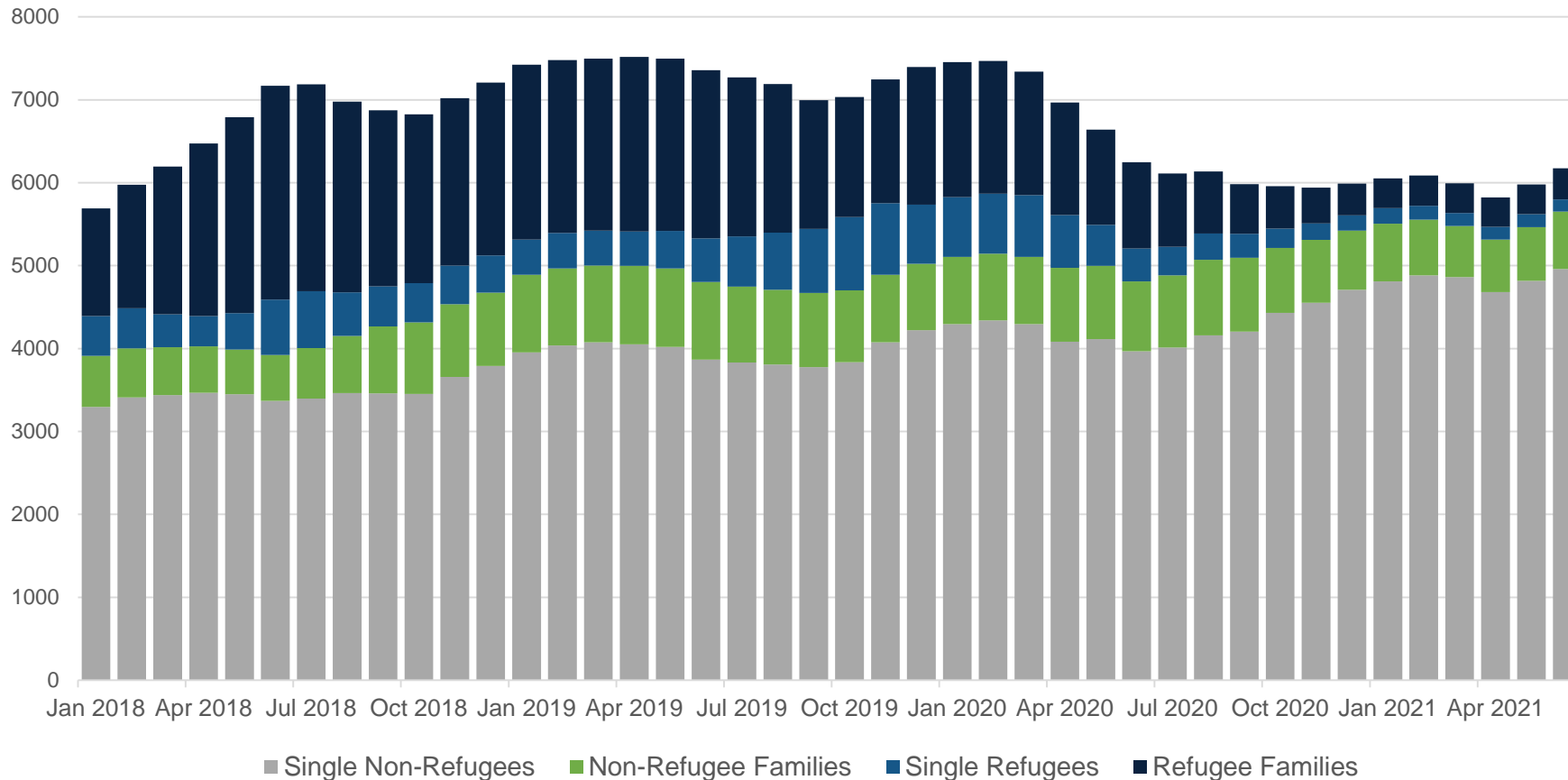
90 people in temporary refugee response shelters

795 people in provincial institutions
(i.e. Violence Against Women shelters, health and treatment and correctional facilities)

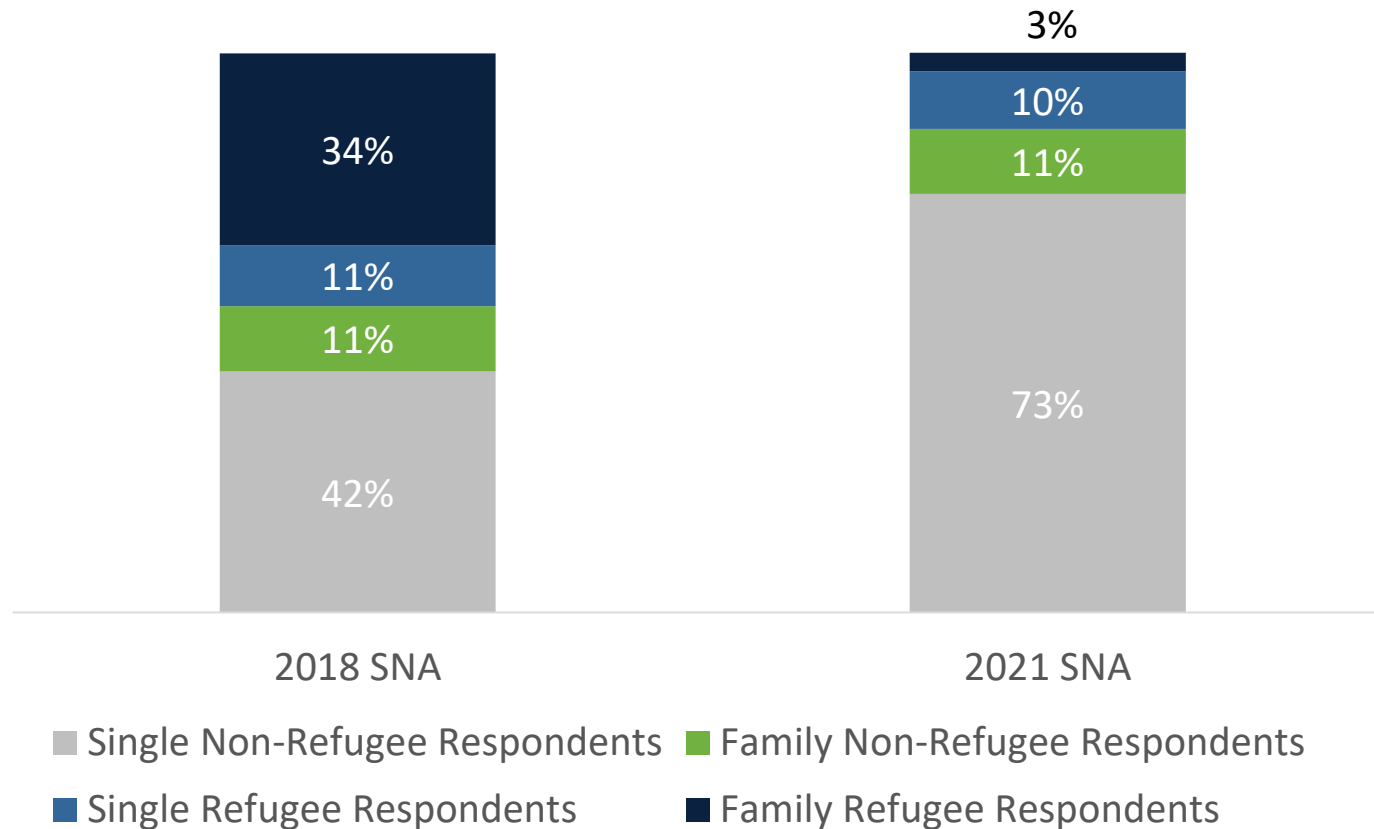
742 people estimated to be staying outdoors (including encampments)

Overall decrease primarily due to fewer refugee families as a result of border restrictions

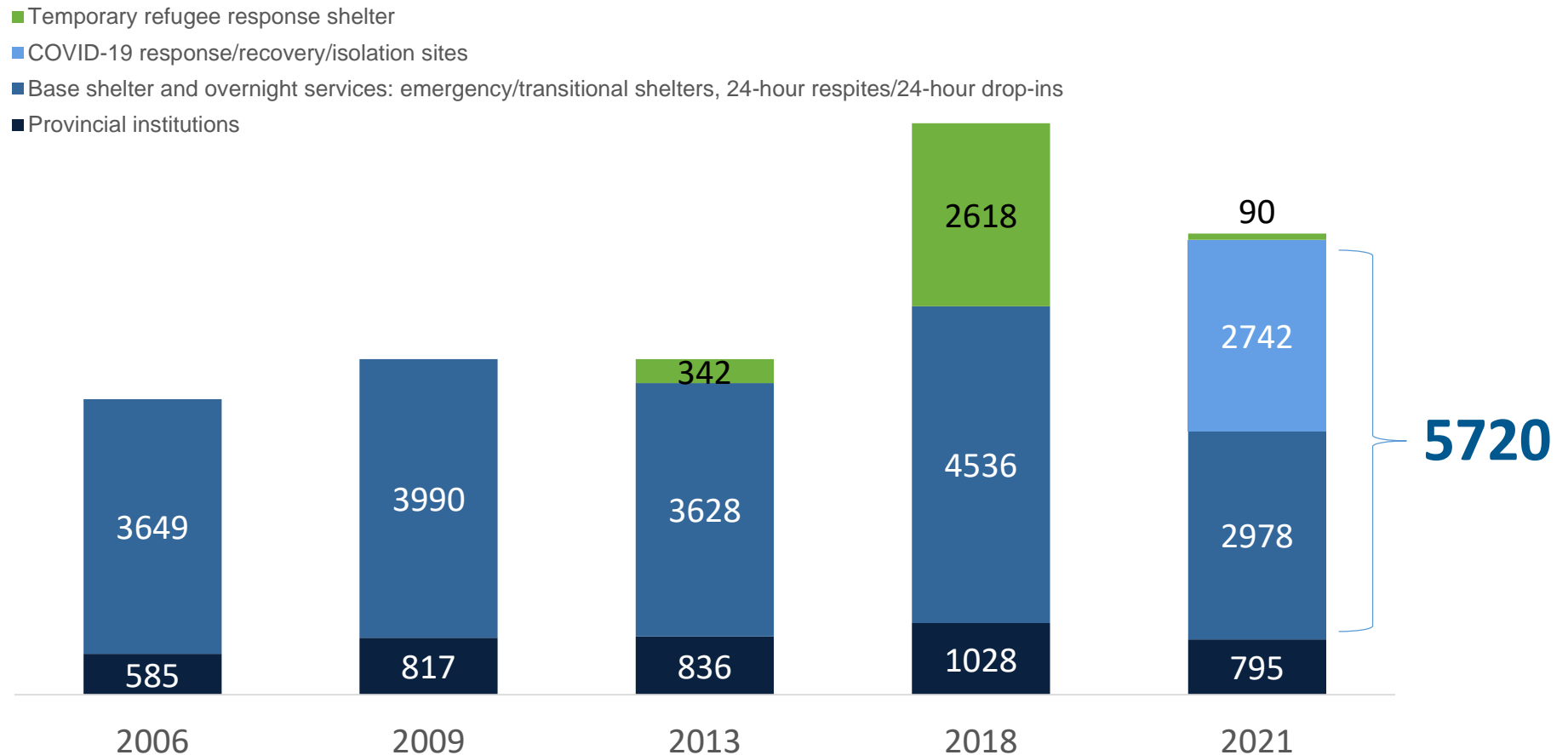
Average nightly shelter occupancy by month, family/single & refugee/non-refugee populations



13% of respondents were refugees, and just 3% were refugee families

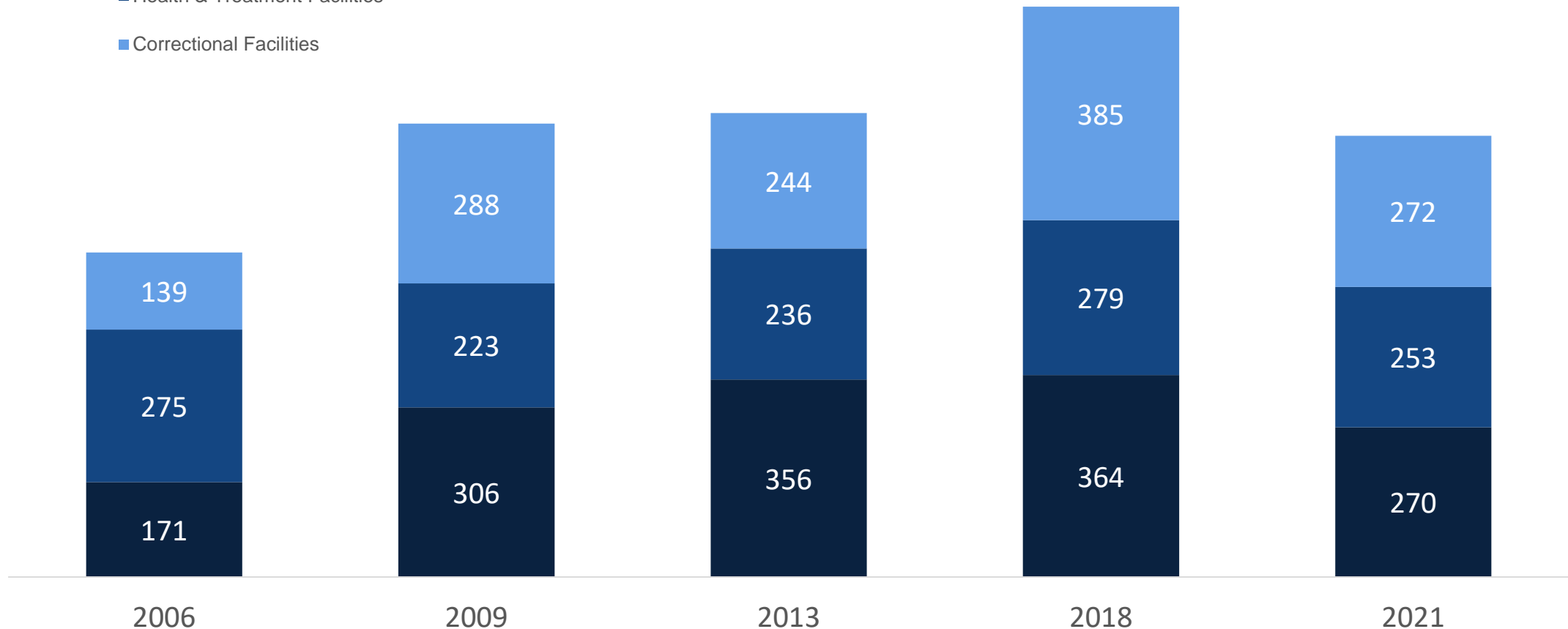


Number of people provided shelter in non-refugee programs has increased as a result of the City's COVID-19 response

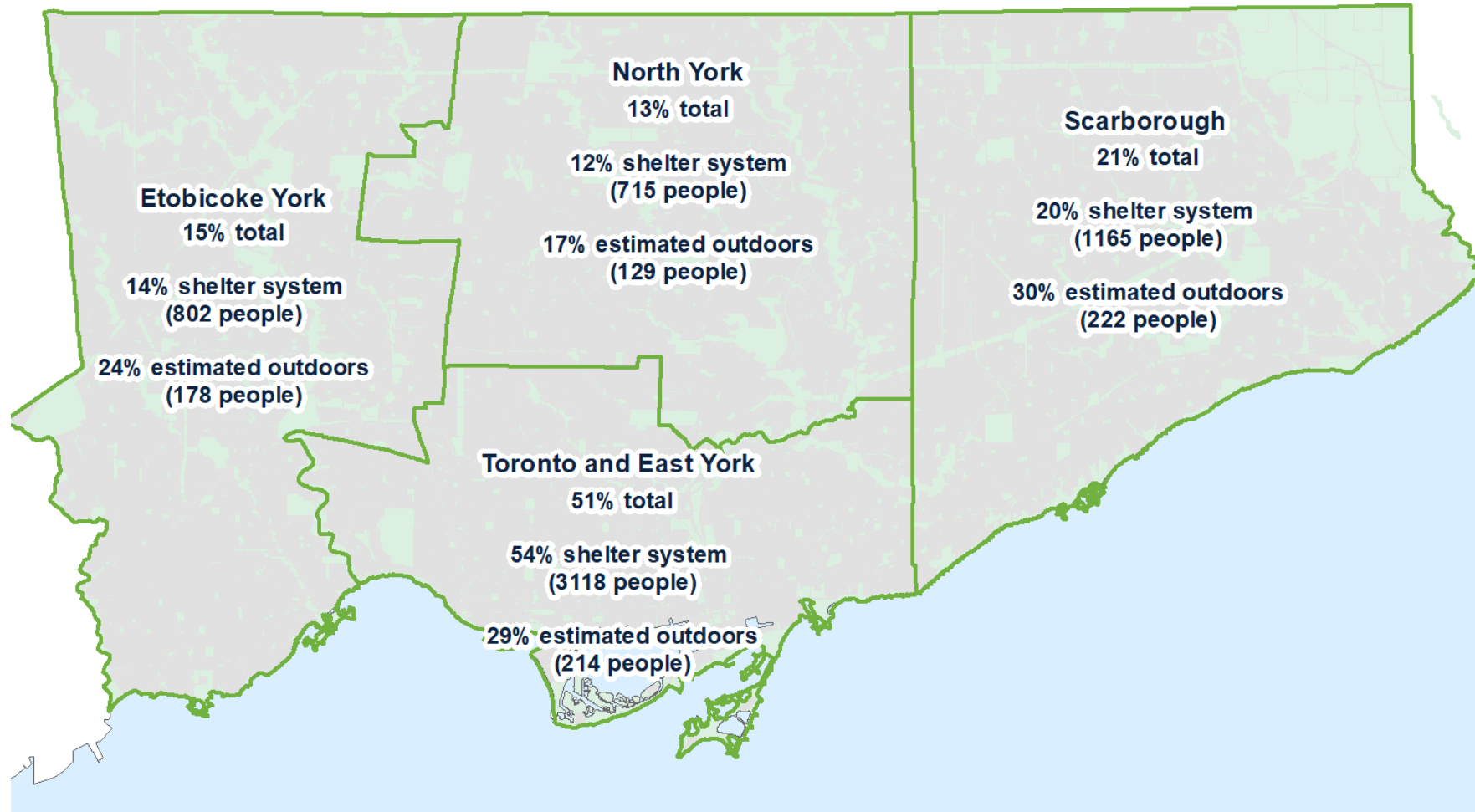


Fewer people experiencing homelessness were in other provincial systems

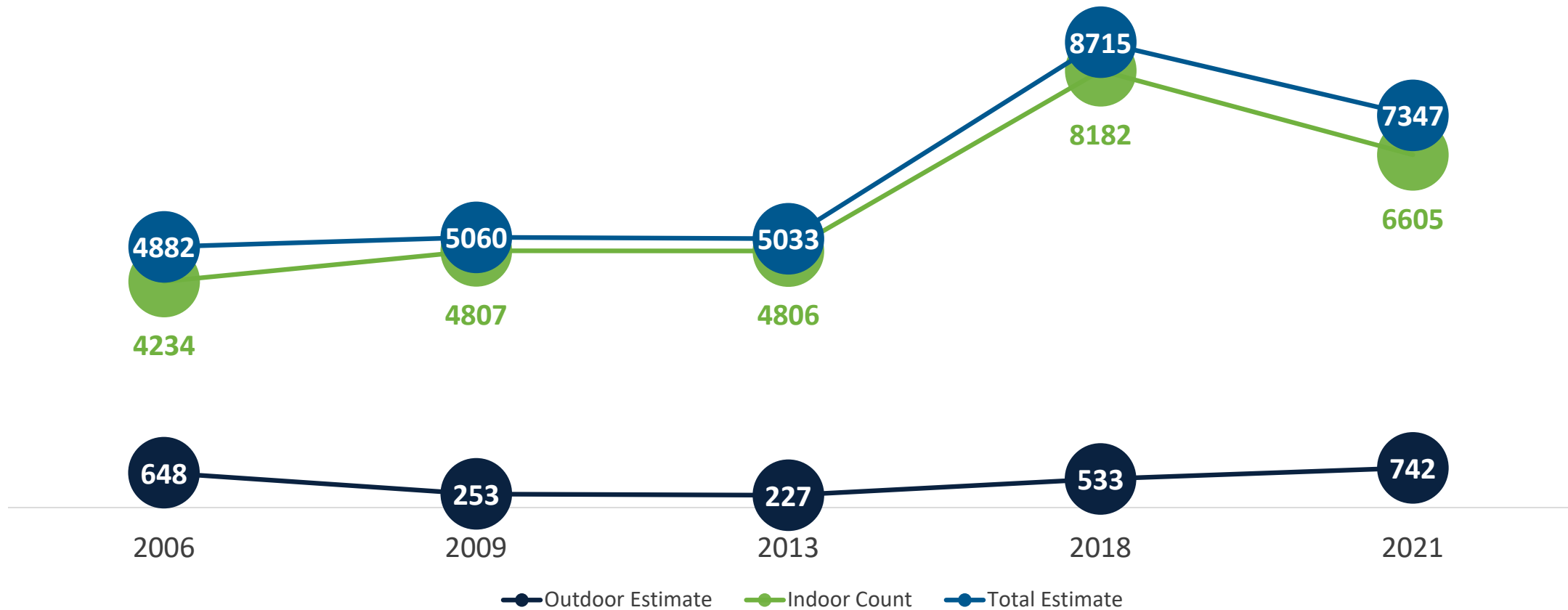
- Violence Against Women's Shelters
- Health & Treatment Facilities
- Correctional Facilities



People experience homelessness in all areas of Toronto

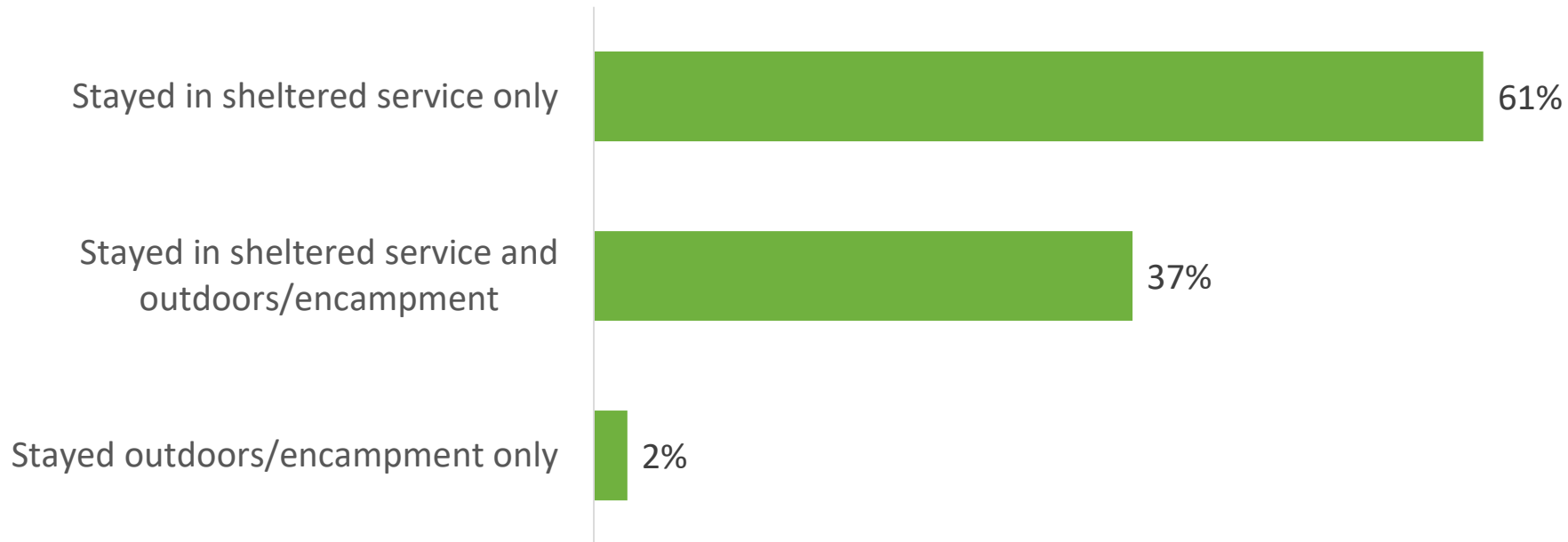


Outdoor homelessness has increased



People experiencing homelessness move between indoor and outdoor locations

- 61% stayed in overnight sheltered services only
- 37% slept in both overnight sheltered services and outdoors
- 2% reported staying outdoors/encampments only

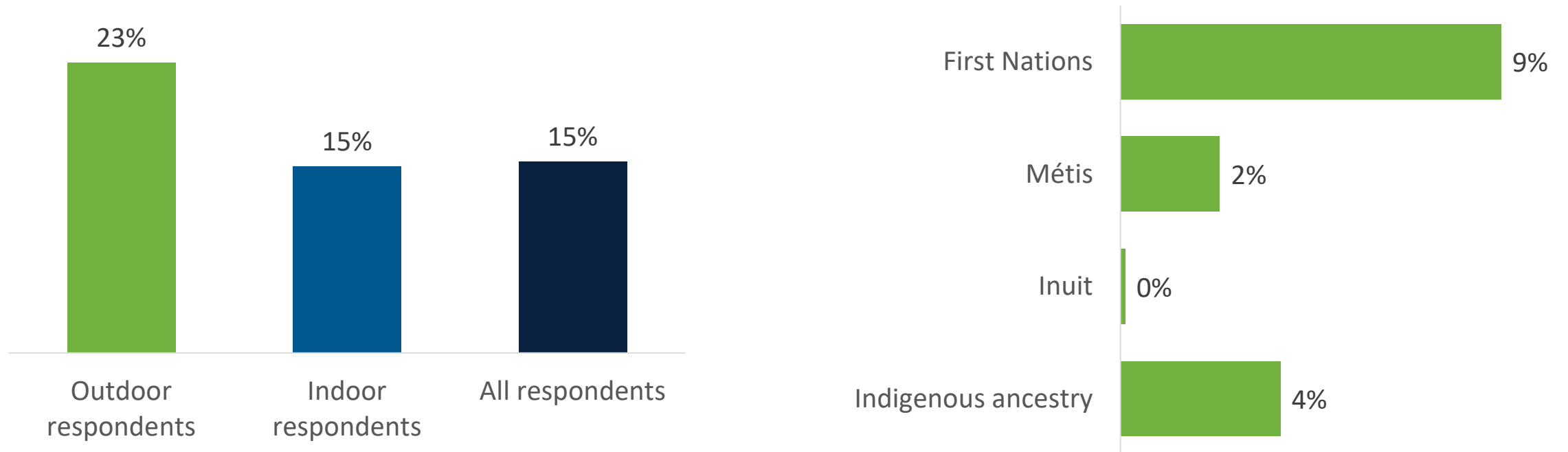




2. Homelessness affects people from different backgrounds but specific groups are overrepresented in Toronto

Indigenous people continue to be overrepresented (15%)

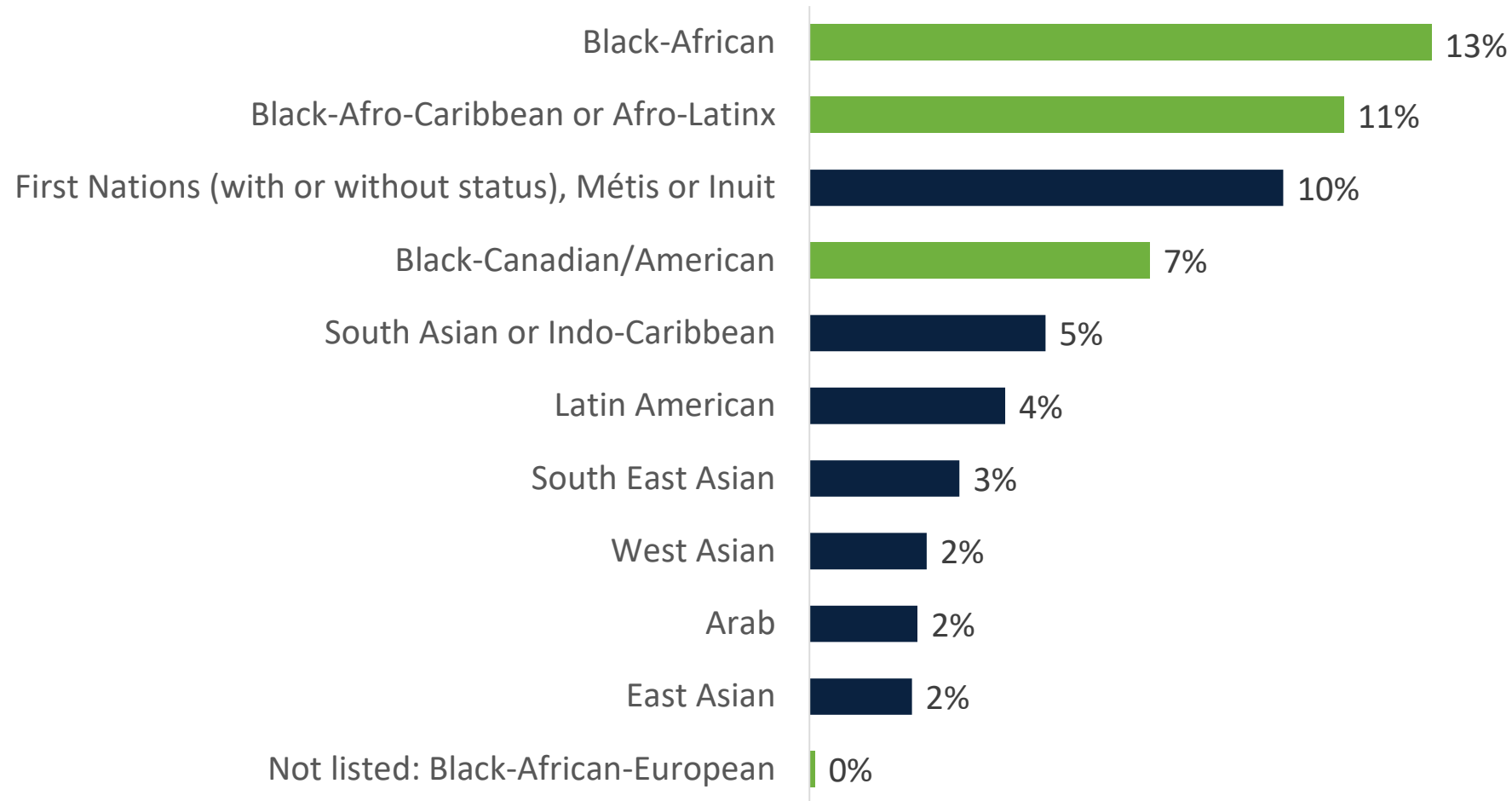
- 23% of outdoor respondents identified as Indigenous
- Indigenous people represent between 1 and 2.5% of the Toronto population



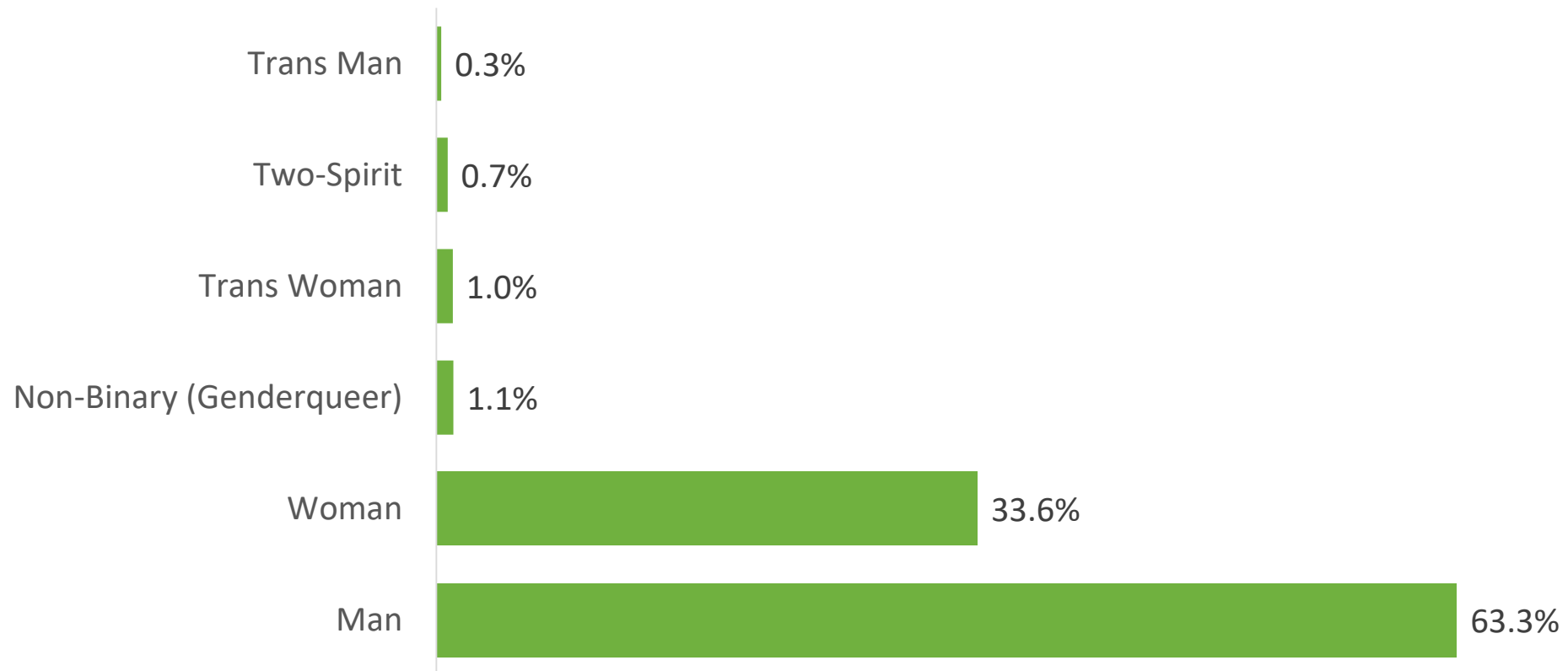
Racialized individuals are overrepresented (almost 60%)



The largest group of racialized individuals identify as Black (31%)

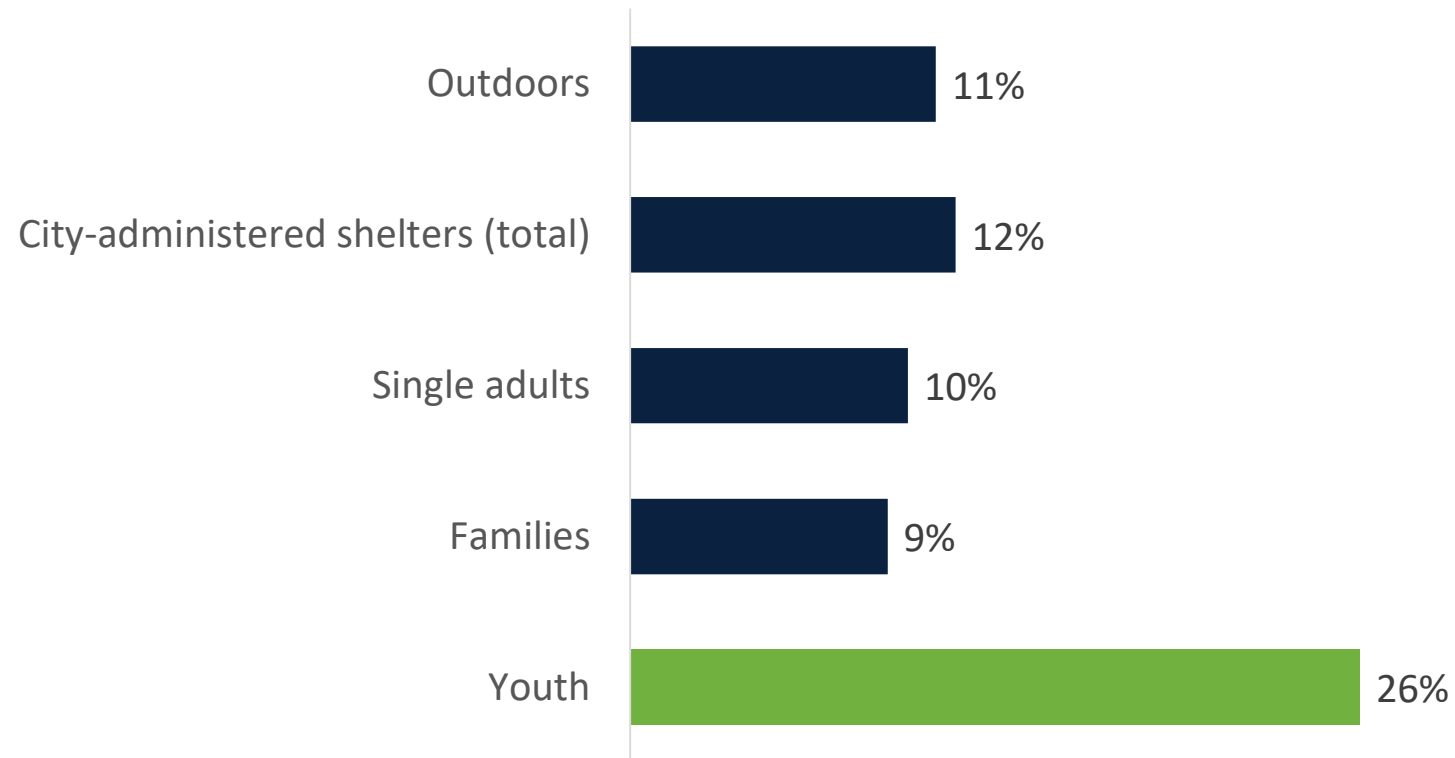


Non-binary, transgender, and Two-Spirit people overrepresented (3.1%)



More than one-quarter (26%) of youth experiencing homelessness identify as 2SLGBTQ+

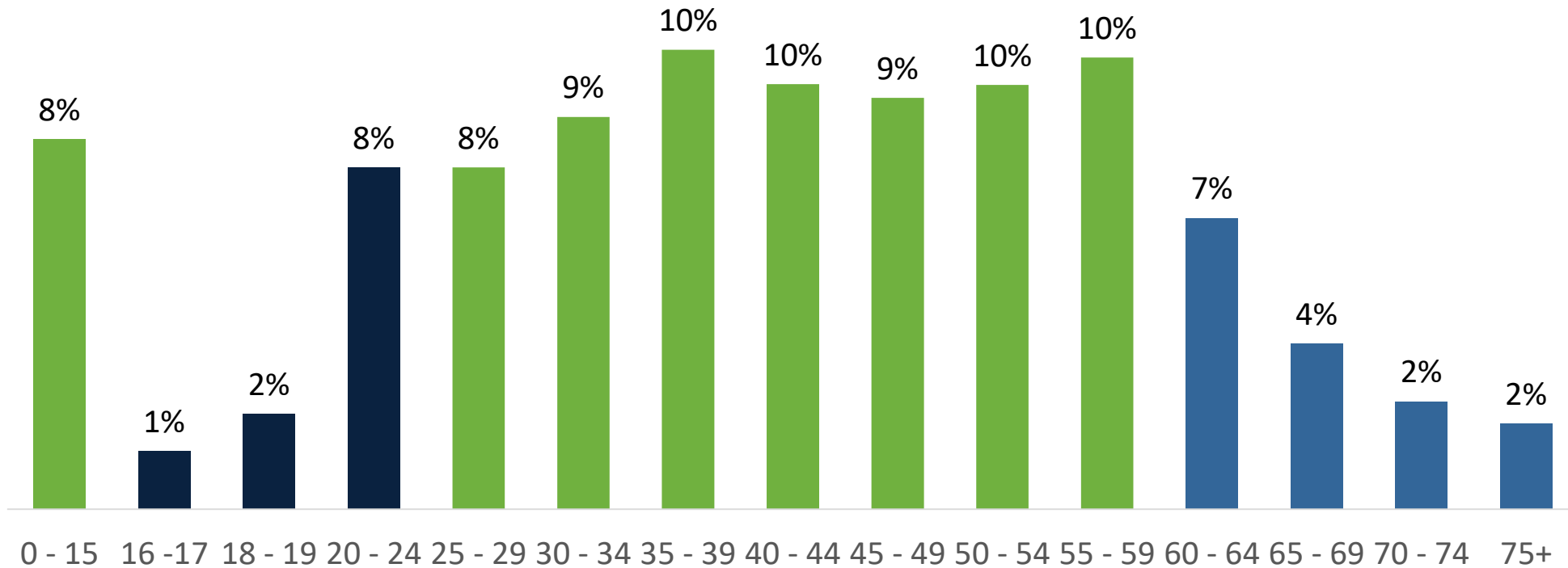
- Compared to 12% of all respondents who identified as 2SLGBTQ+



2SLGBTQ+ refers to Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, + refers to sexual and gender diverse identities not represented in the acronym

Youth (16-24) represent 11% Seniors (60 and older) represent 15% of people staying in City-administered sites

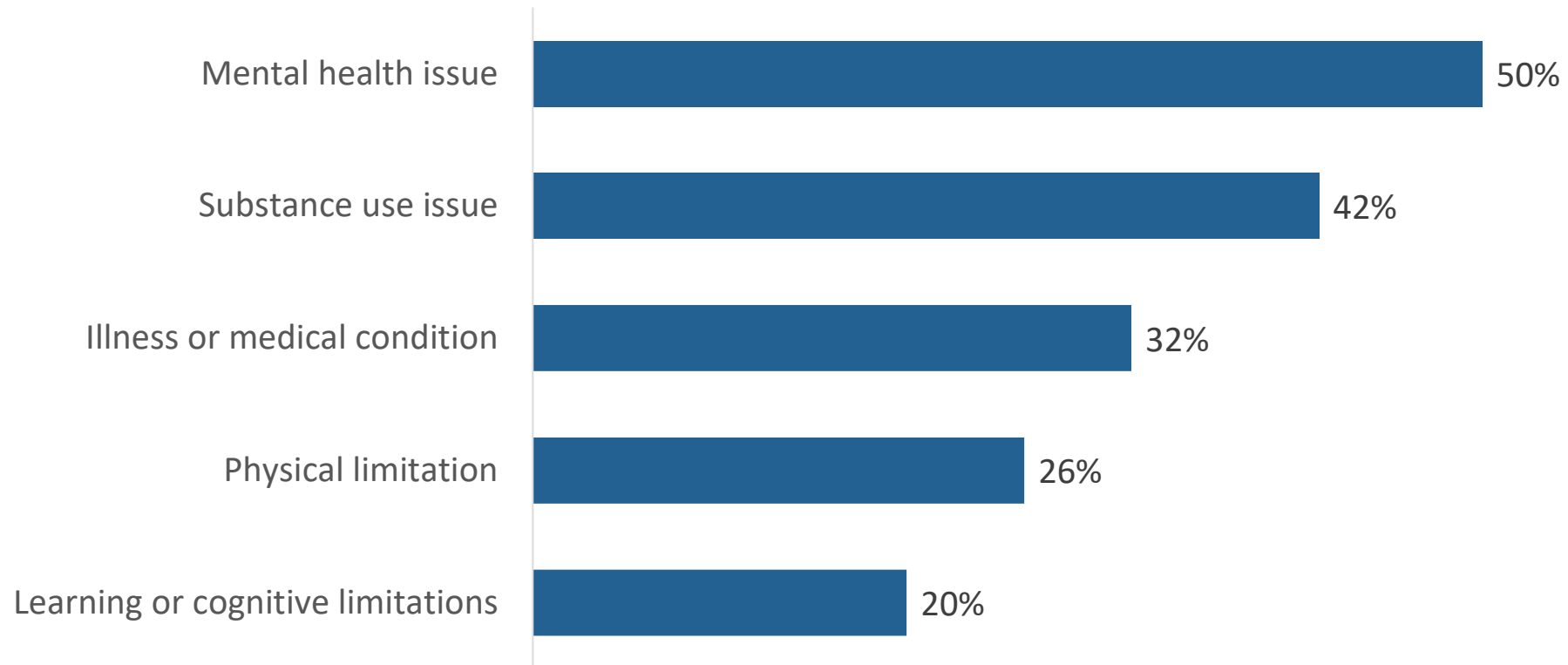
Average age = **41** years



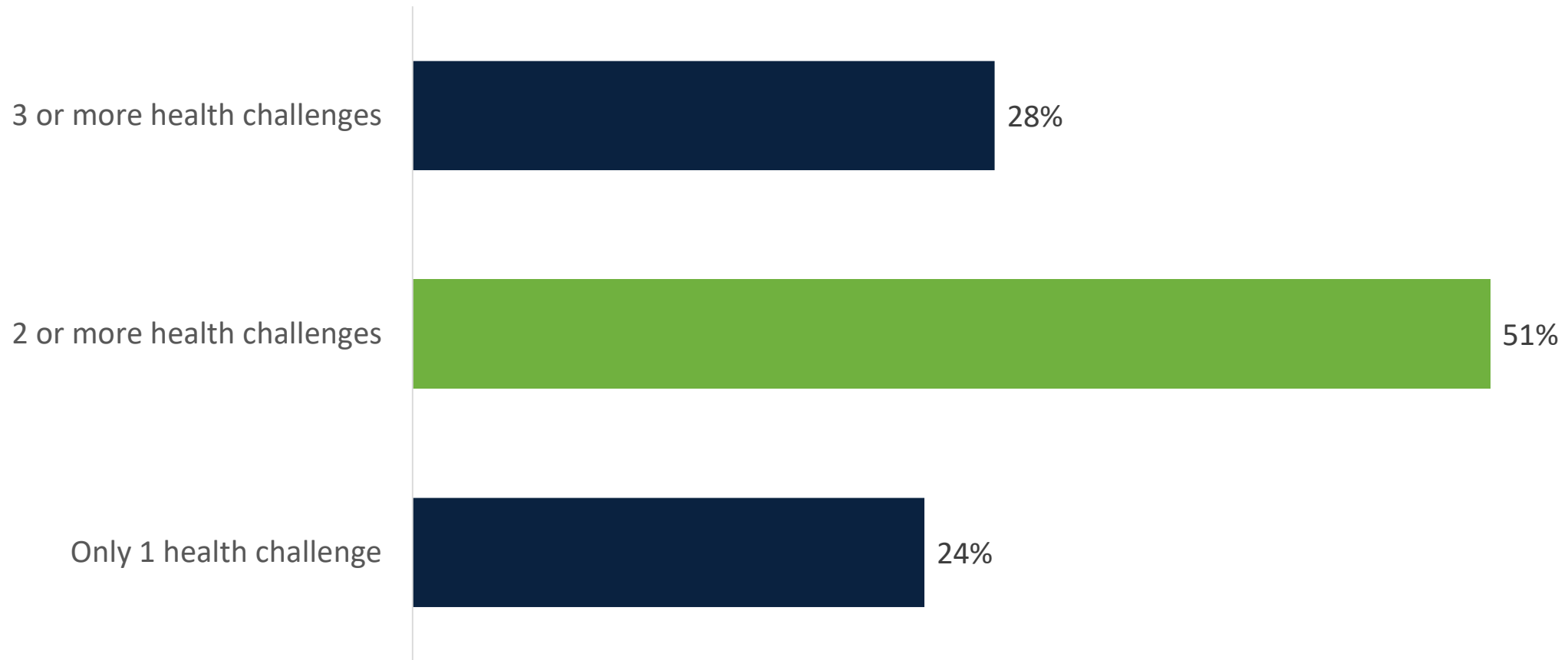


3. Gaps in other service systems are key contributors to homelessness

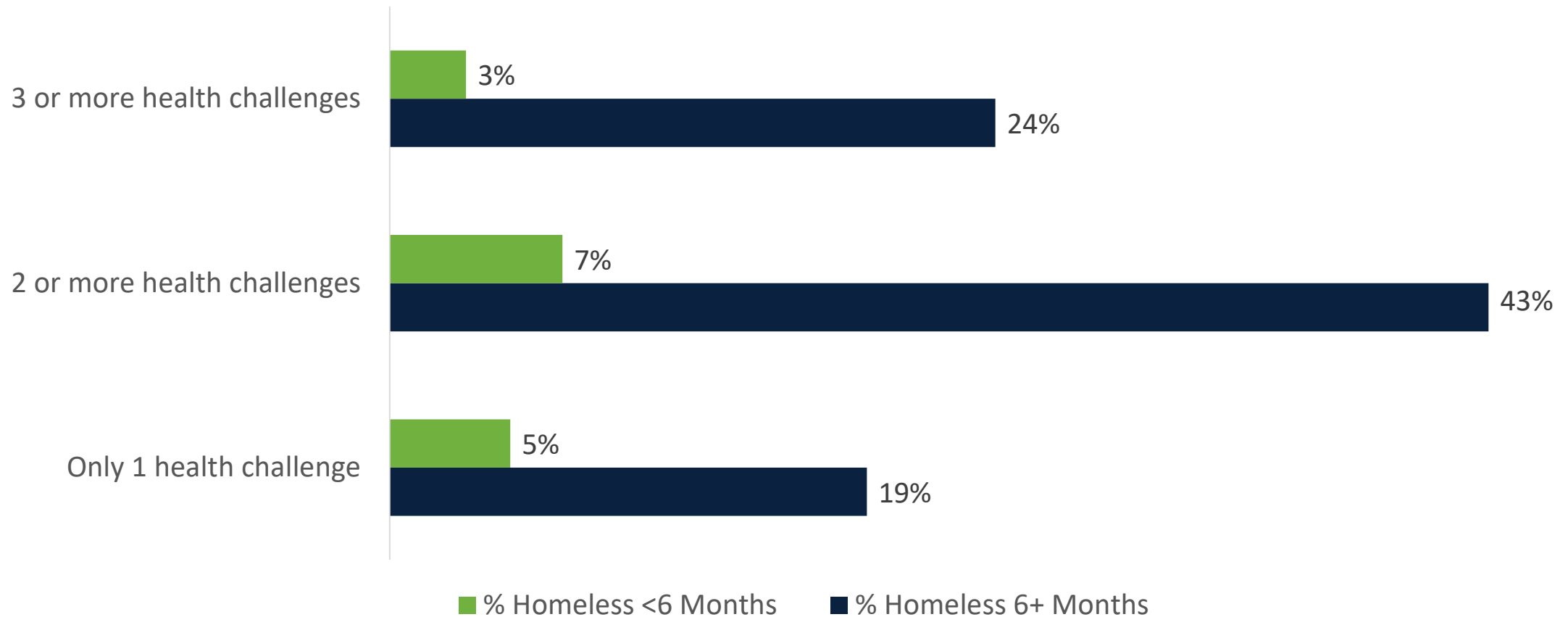
76% of respondents identified having one or more type of the following health challenges



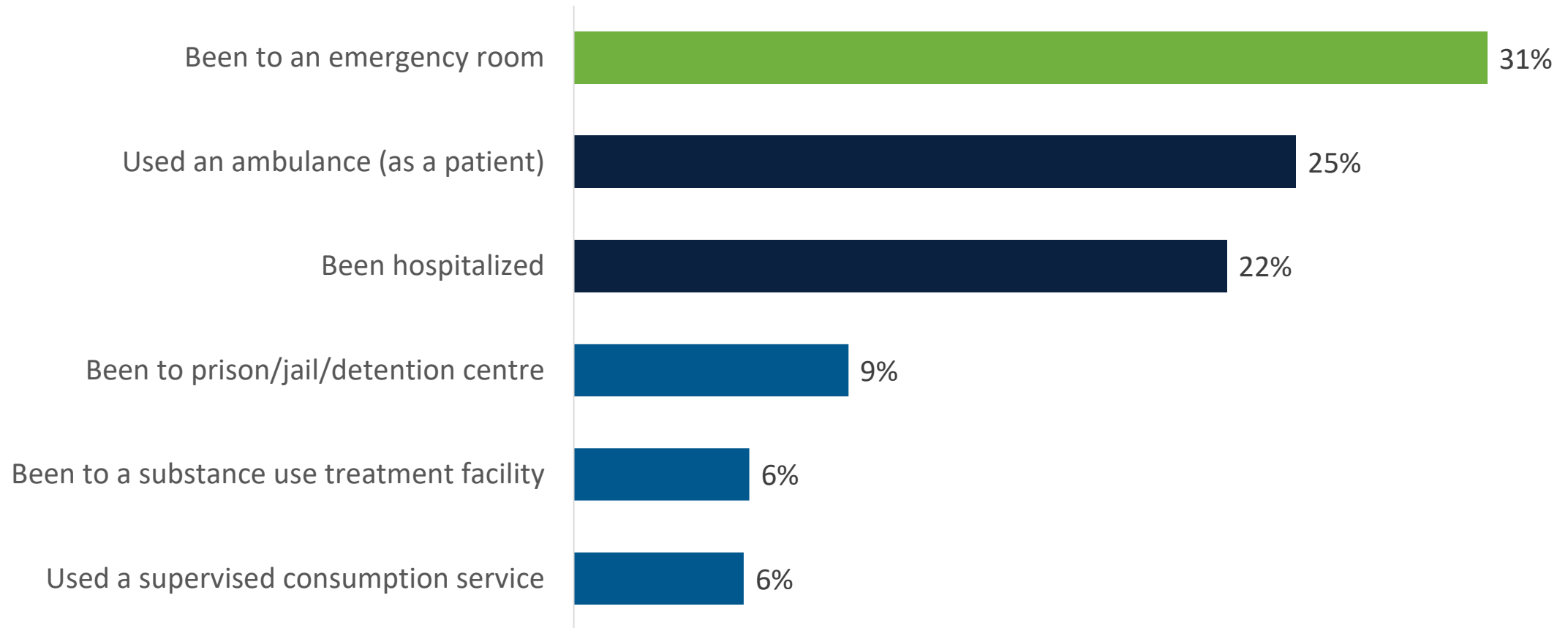
More than a quarter of respondents reported having three or more health challenges



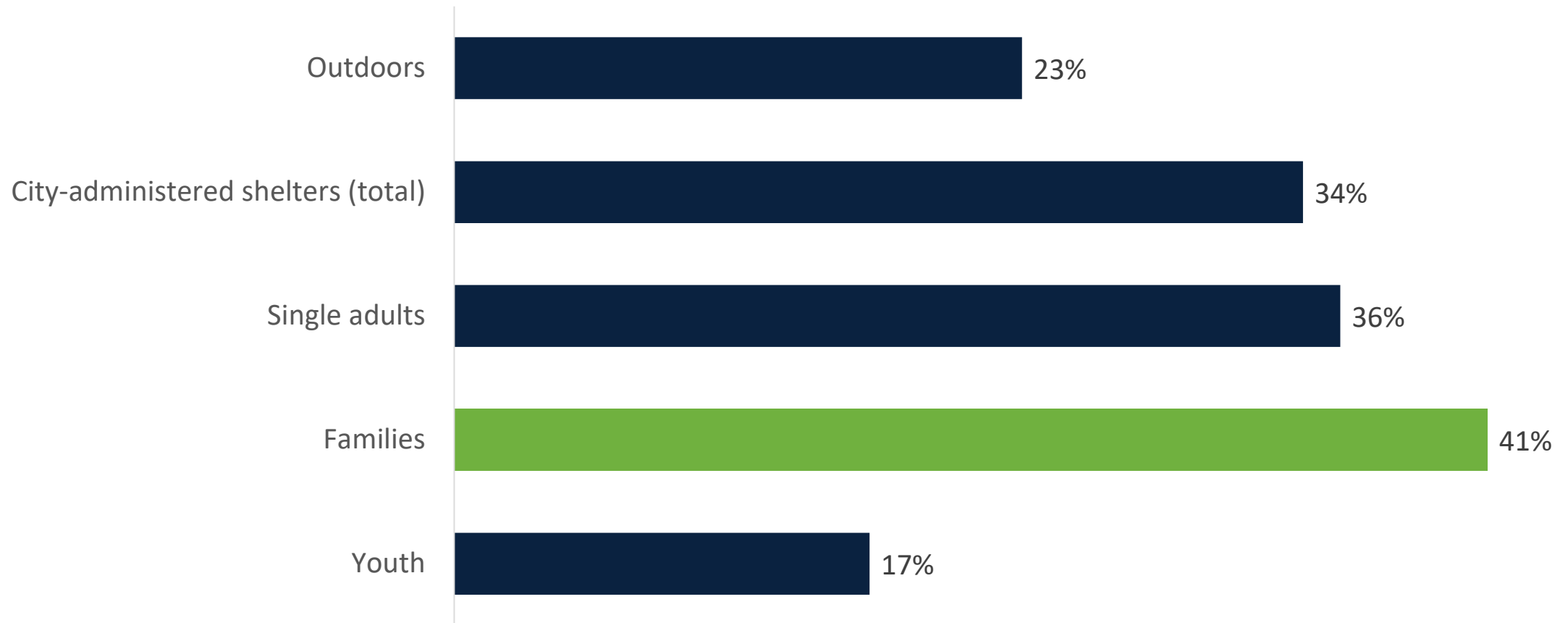
Respondents who are chronically homeless are more likely to report multiple health challenges



People experiencing homelessness report accessing the health care system in the past 12 months



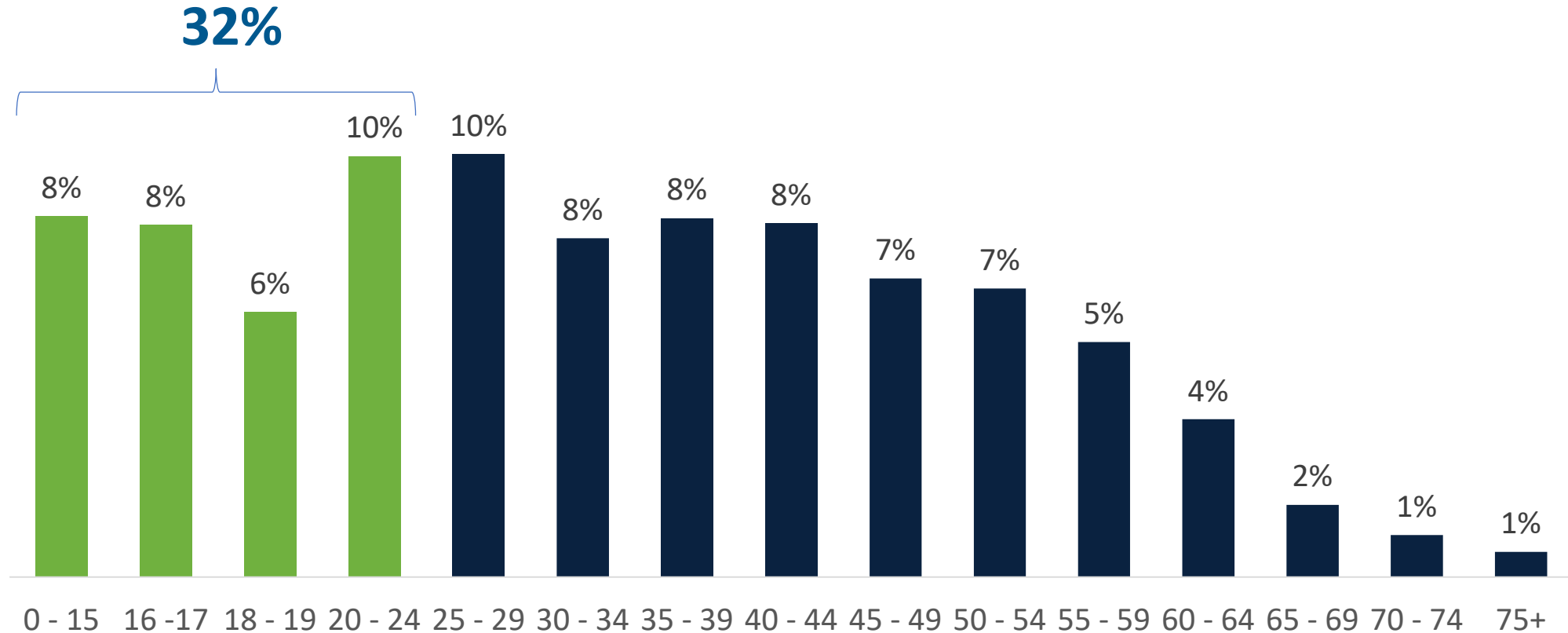
33% of respondents who are not currently in treatment for a substance use issue are interested in accessing treatment



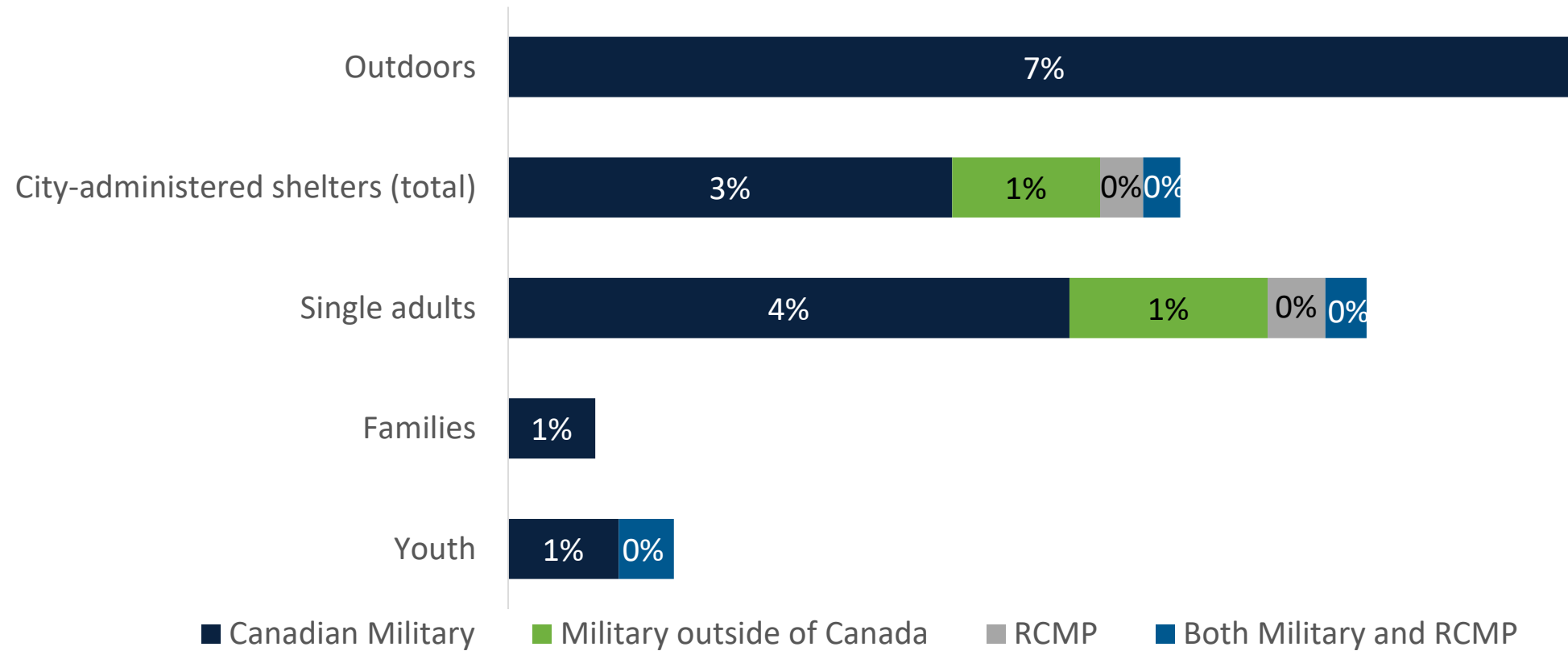
18% of respondents have been in foster care, kin care or a group home



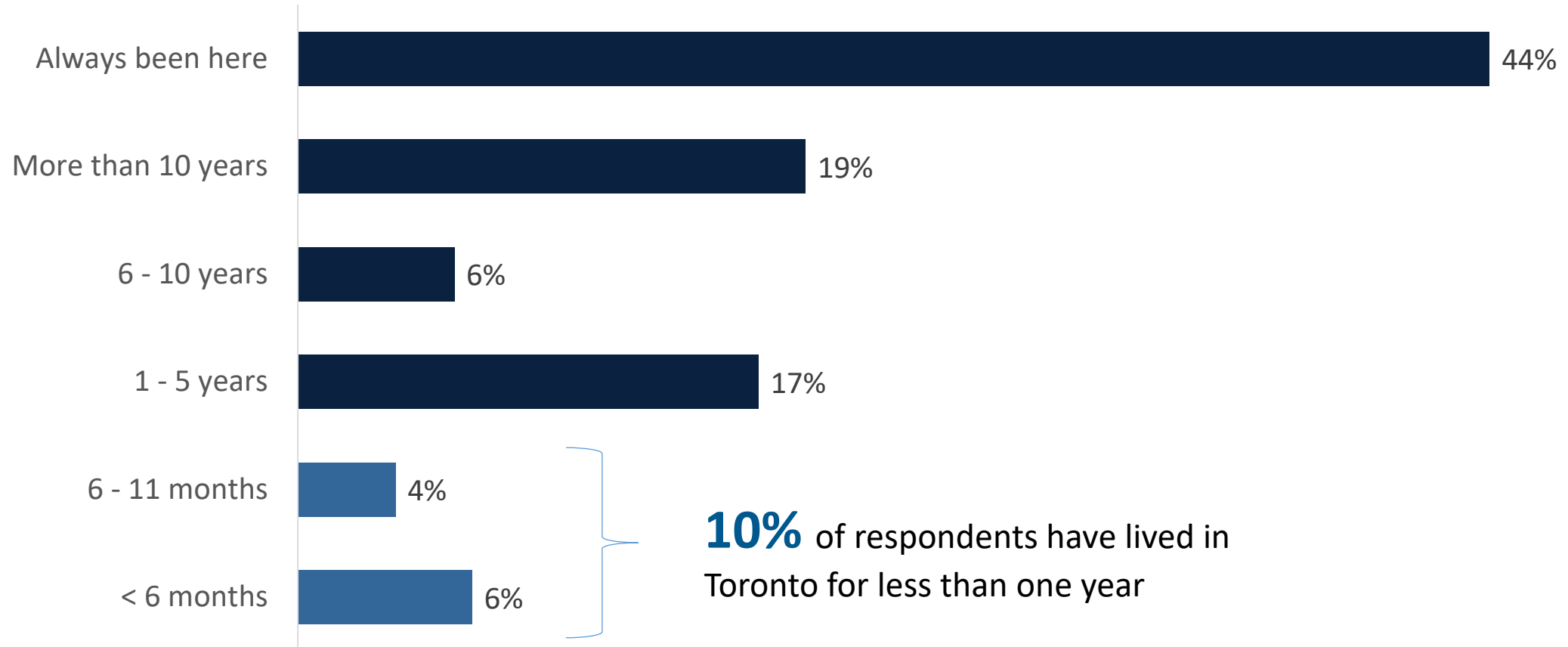
Almost one-third of respondents reported their first homeless experience as children/youth



5% of respondents identified as veterans

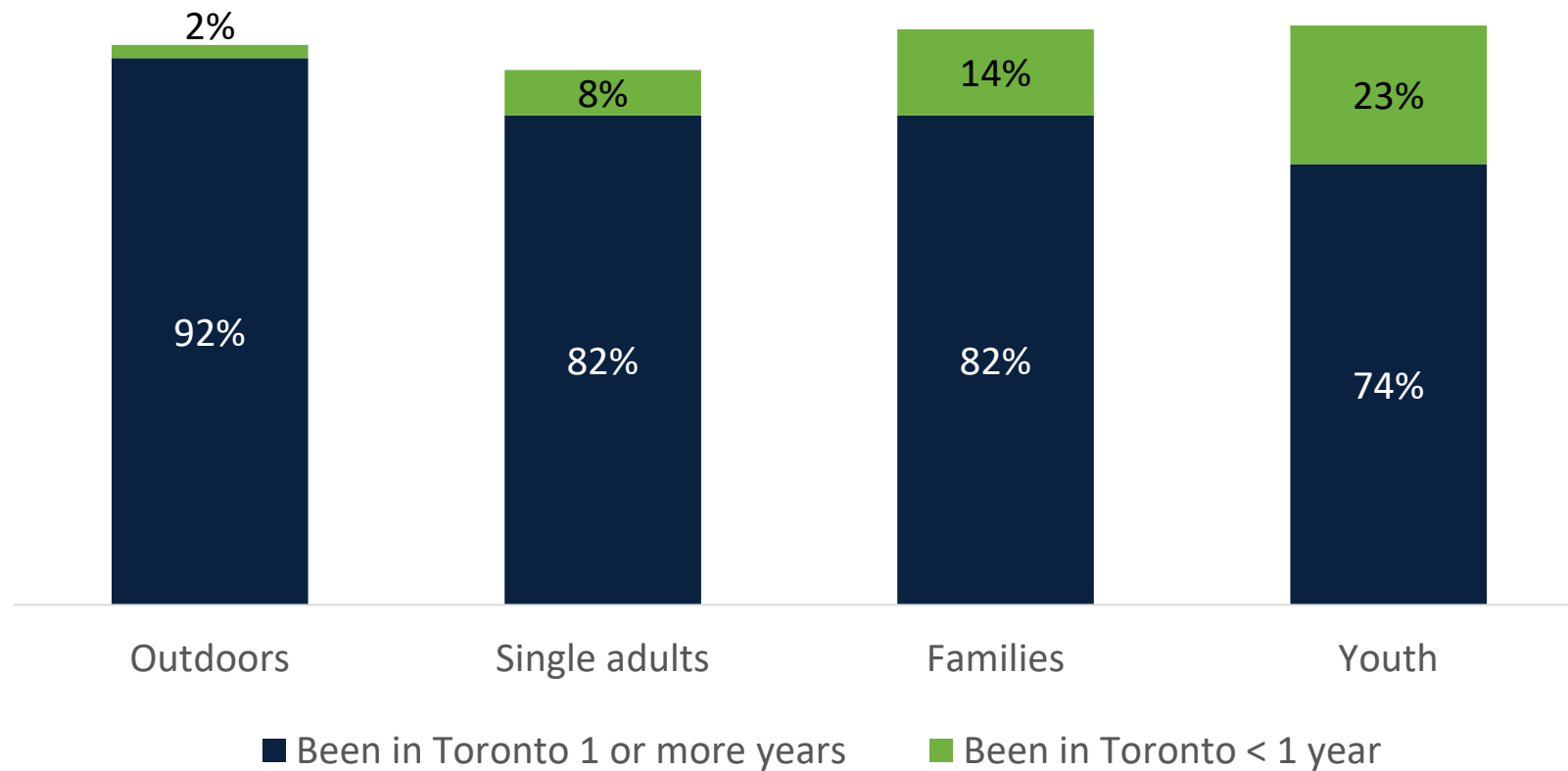


86% of respondents have lived in Toronto for more than one year



Note: 4% of people declined to answer, responded "don't know" or said they don't live in Toronto therefore percentages do not total 100%

Youth and families staying in shelters are more likely to have lived in Toronto for less than one year

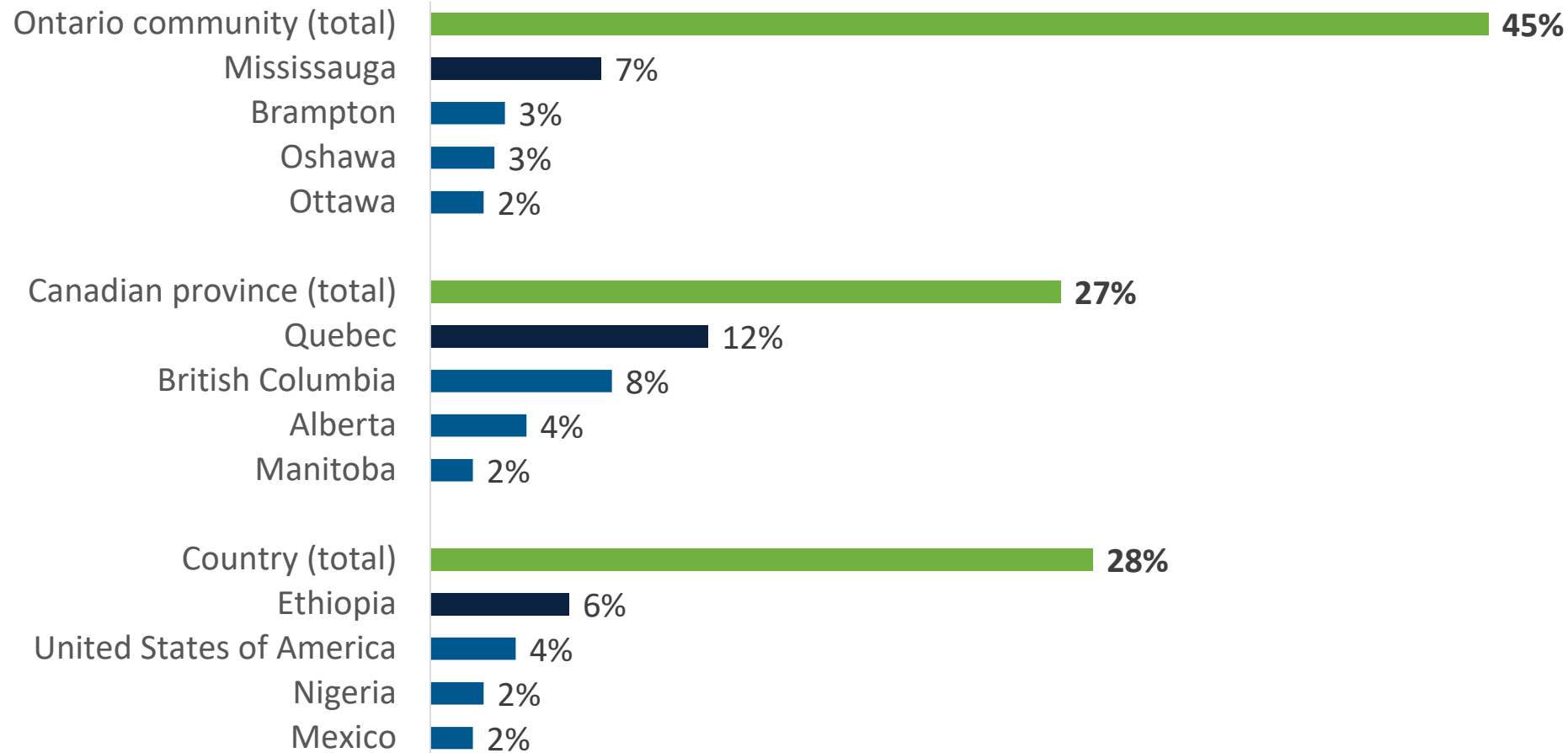


Most people who reported moving to Toronto within the past one year became homeless after they arrived



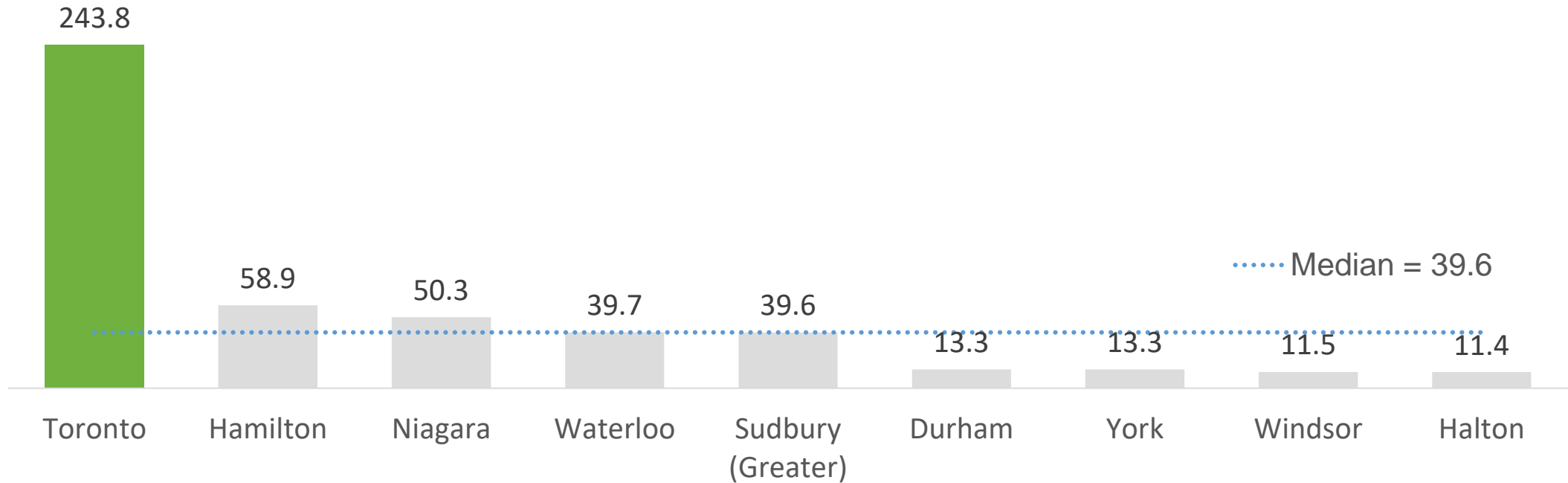
4.5% moved here recently from another municipality in Ontario

Breakdown of the 10% of respondents who have lived in Toronto for less than one year:



Toronto has the highest average number of emergency shelter beds per capita

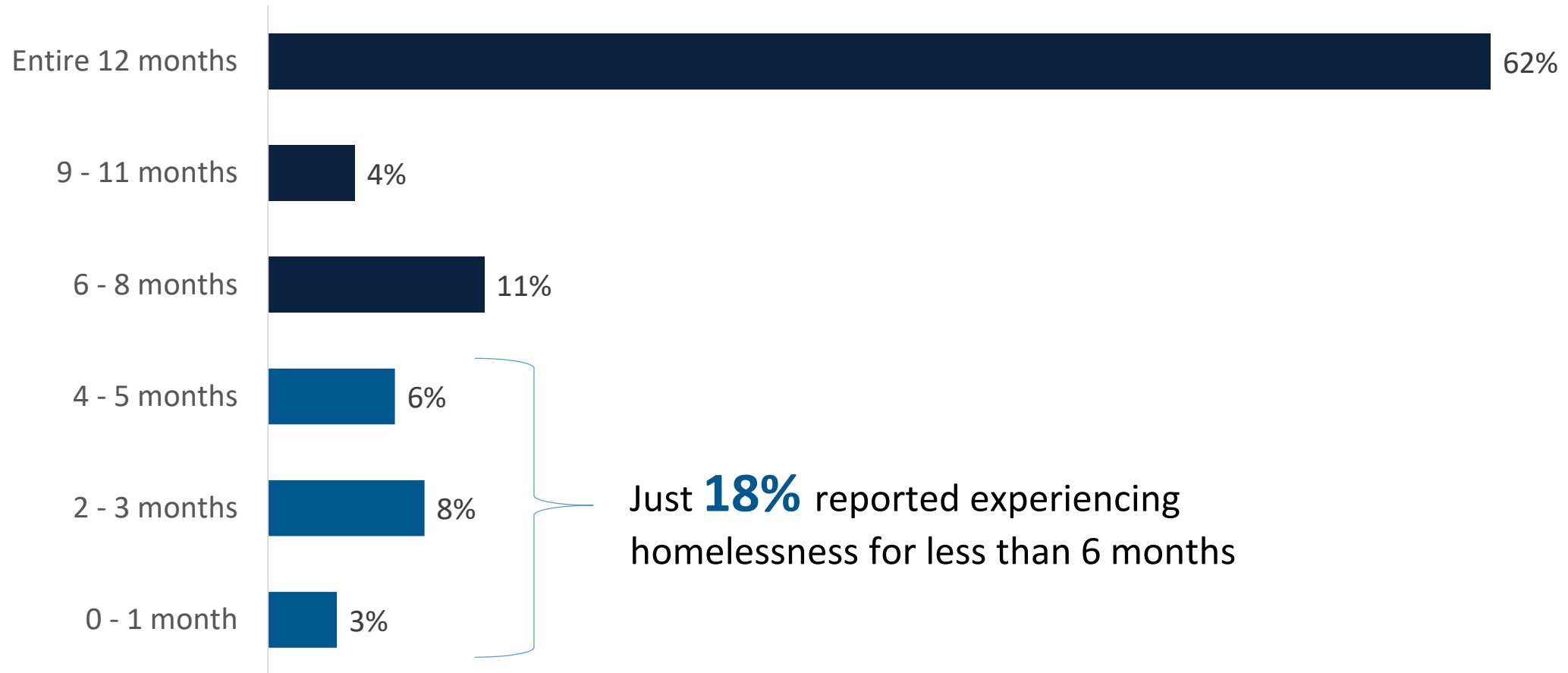
Average nightly emergency shelter beds per 100,000 population, 2019



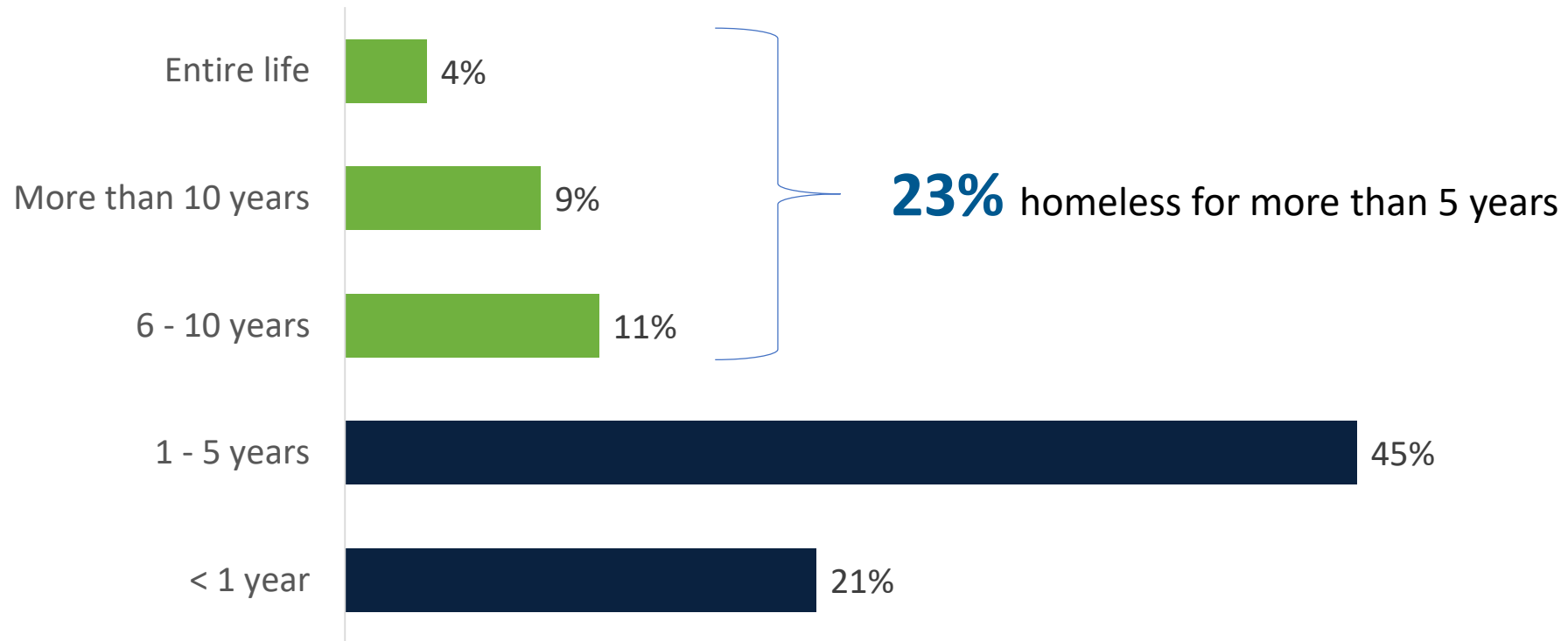


4. The key solutions to homelessness are increasing income and access to affordable and supportive housing

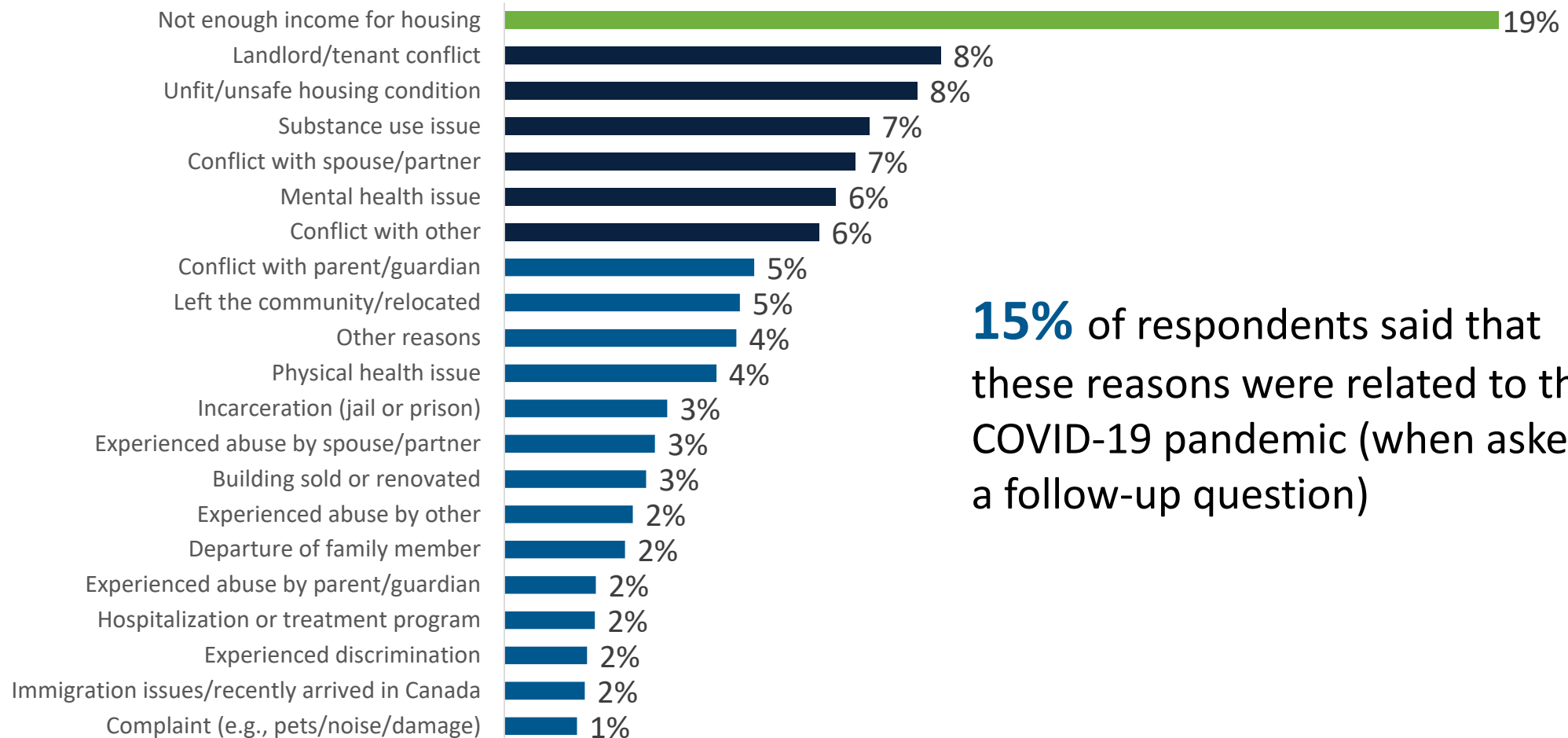
More than three-quarters of respondents reported being chronically homeless (i.e. six or more months), in the past one year



Almost one-quarter of respondents reported being homeless for more than 5 years

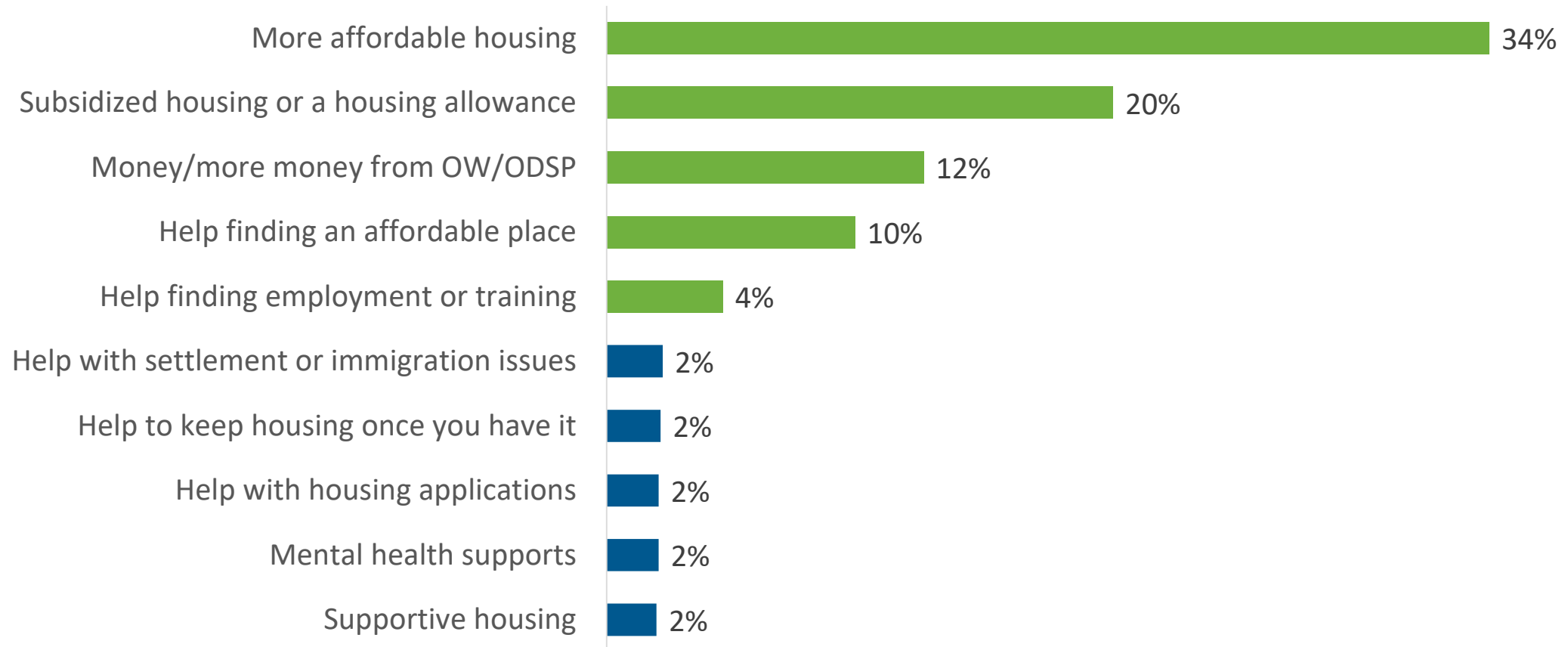


Not enough income for housing was the most frequently reported reason for housing loss



15% of respondents said that these reasons were related to the COVID-19 pandemic (when asked a follow-up question)

Most important services to help find housing are related to increasing housing affordability and income



Street Needs Assessment 2021 Overview

- Toronto's fifth SNA was held in April, 2021:
 - Indoor Survey Week: April 19 to 23, 2021
 - Indoor and Outdoor Count: April 21, 2021
 - Outdoor Survey: April 27, 2021
- The SNA is a needs assessment survey and point-in-time count of people experiencing homelessness in Toronto
- Provides a better understanding of trends and the needs and experiences of different groups and is a direct input into Shelter, Support and Housing Administration's Service Plan
- We heard from **2,629** people experiencing homelessness staying:
 - Outdoors and in encampments
 - City-administered sites (i.e., base emergency shelter and overnight services and transitional shelters, COVID-19 response sites and recovery/isolation sites)
 - Provincially-administered Violence Against Women shelters
- Thank you to the people who spoke with us and to City staff and community partners who led the 2021 SNA!

Street Needs Assessment 2021 Results Report

STREET NEEDS ASSESSMENT 2021



Read the Street Needs Assessment
2021 Results Report here:
www.toronto.ca/housingresearch