



THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATION

DEFINING PROBLEMS. SHAPING SOLUTIONS.

CaIYOUTH: What We're Learning about California Youth Entering Adulthood from Foster Care

Mark E. Courtney

ChapinHall at the University of Chicago

Policy research that benefits children, families, and their communities

My Purpose Today

- Share selected findings of the CalYOUTH Study
 - Wave 2 Youth Survey
 - Second Child Welfare Worker Survey
- Engage in discussion about the implications of findings for practice and policy
- Let you know about CalYOUTH in the Loop

CalYOUTH Study Funders and Partners

- **Support** the research
- **Provide** guidance and feedback
- **Host** CalYOUTH Study section with results on **website (co-invest.org—Resources)**
- **Promote** via presentations and media outreach

**California Child Welfare Co-Investment
Partnership**

California Department of Social Services

**County Welfare Directors Association of
California**

The Judicial Council of California

Casey Family Programs

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation

Stuart Foundation

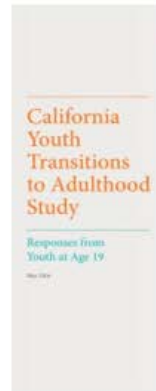
Walter S. Johnson Foundation

Zellerbach Family Foundation

*Annie E. Casey and William T Grant
Foundations (Funders, not in Co-invest
Partnership)*



Fostering Futures: A Forum on the CalYOUTH Study Findings



Chapter 1

California Youth Transitions to Adulthood Study

The CalYOUTH study provides the most comprehensive data on the lives of young people transitioning to adulthood from foster care in California. This report details the study's findings on a wide range of topics, including policy, program, and practice changes needed to improve the trajectories of youth in care.

CalYOUTH is a five-year (2010-2015) ongoing study designed to explore the impact of childhood foster care on adult outcomes. The study aims to answer the following questions:

1. How do young people who were in foster care at age 18 compare to those who were not in foster care at age 18?
2. How do young people who were in foster care at age 18 compare to those who were not in foster care at age 18, by race and ethnicity?
3. How do young people who were in foster care at age 18 compare to those who were not in foster care at age 18, by gender?
4. How do young people who were in foster care at age 18 compare to those who were not in foster care at age 18, by age at entry into foster care?
5. How do young people who were in foster care at age 18 compare to those who were not in foster care at age 18, by length of time in foster care?
6. How do young people who were in foster care at age 18 compare to those who were not in foster care at age 18, by type of foster care placement?
7. How do young people who were in foster care at age 18 compare to those who were not in foster care at age 18, by type of foster care placement at age 18?
8. How do young people who were in foster care at age 18 compare to those who were not in foster care at age 18, by type of foster care placement at age 18, by race and ethnicity?
9. How do young people who were in foster care at age 18 compare to those who were not in foster care at age 18, by type of foster care placement at age 18, by gender?
10. How do young people who were in foster care at age 18 compare to those who were not in foster care at age 18, by type of foster care placement at age 18, by age at entry into foster care?

By exploring these questions, the study is creating and analyzing data that will help agencies and researchers understand the needs of foster care youth and develop policies and practices that will improve the trajectories of youth in care.



Fostering Futures: A Forum on the CalYOUTH Study Findings 9:30 AM-4:00 PM. Tuesday May 10th, Japanese American National Museum, Los Angeles, CA. This event included presentations and panels with Dr. Mark Courtney and his colleagues from Chapin Hall to facilitate a dialogue with stakeholders from Southern California on the policy and practice changes needed to improve the trajectories of youth in care. Click [here for event Agenda and Panelist Bios](#).

CalYOUTH study Brief with Key Findings from the Second Wave of Youth Surveys at age 19

Chapin Hall and the California Child Welfare Co-Investment Partnership (2016)

Fostering Futures Panels and Panel Videos

Fostering Futures Study Overview

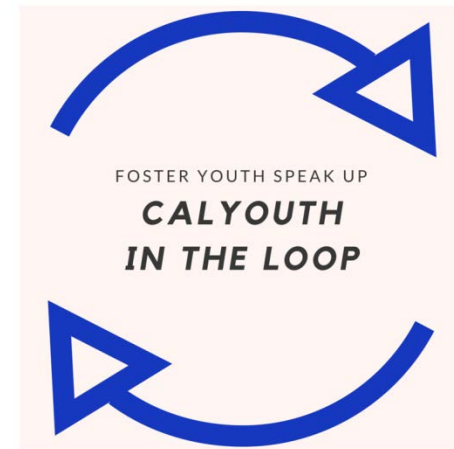


CalYOUTH in the Loop

- A Fund for Shared Insights Project
- “Closing the loop” between this research study and foster youth
- Invites youth to share their thoughts and opinions on extended foster care to inform policy and practice

Share with current or former transition-age foster youth!

LEARN MORE AT:
calyouthintheloop.org



IF YOU WANT TO HELP: contact lgranillo@iecommm.org

calyouthintheloop.org

CALYOUTH IN THE LOOP

Speak Up on issues that matter to you

Participate in our survey and learn about the results of the CalYOUTH Study. Researchers asked 19-year-olds how foster care has affected their transition to adulthood in areas like health, relationships, education and employment. Click on the options below to see the results and provide your own feedback to improve extended foster care in California!



**ARE YOU IN
EXTENDED
FOSTER CARE?**

CLICK HERE



**NOT in
extended
Foster
Care?**

Click Here

Youth Perspective Recruiter

- Reach out to youth ages 18-24, and collect responses to a short survey
- Advocate the importance of including youth voice and perspectives.
- Connect with the CalYOUTH in the Loop coordinator on a weekly basis to discuss any challenges or successes in collecting surveys.

Compensation

Youth would be paid an initial stipend of \$100.00 for participation in a 30 minute phone orientation and making a commitment to collecting at least 5 surveys.

After that, you would receive \$5.00 for each complete survey that you collect.

Note: survey respondents will also be eligible for a monthly raffle worth \$100.

Overview of the CalYOUTH Study

Evaluation of the impact of California Fostering Connections to Success Act (AB 12) on outcomes for foster youth

CalYOUTH Study includes:

- Longitudinal study of young people in CA foster care making the transition to adulthood
- Periodic surveys of caseworkers serving young people in CA foster care
- Analysis of government program administrative data

Purpose of the Longitudinal Youth Study

Obtain information about a broad range of life experiences & young adult outcomes

- Foster care placement
- Service utilization & preparation
- Perceptions of extended care
- Education and employment
- Health and development
- Social support
- Delinquency
- Pregnancy and children

The image shows the cover and table of contents of a report titled "CALifornia YOUTH TRANSITIONS TO ADULTHOOD STUDY". The cover also includes the "CalYOUTH" logo, the subtitle "Child Welfare Youth Survey", and the date "April 2016". The table of contents lists 15 sections, each underlined in blue.

CALifornia
YOUTH TRANSITIONS TO ADULTHOOD STUDY
CalYOUTH
Child Welfare Youth Survey
April 2016
TABLE OF CONTENTS
<u>A. INDIVIDUAL CHARACTERISTICS AND FAMILY BACKGROUND</u>
<u>B. HOUSEHOLD AND CURRENT LIVING ARRANGEMENT</u>
<u>C. EXPERIENCES IN CARE</u>
<u>D. PERSPECTIVES ON FOSTER CARE IN CALIFORNIA</u>
<u>E. EDUCATION</u>
<u>F. EMPLOYMENT, INCOME AND ASSETS</u>
<u>G. ECONOMIC HARDSHIP, FOOD INSECURITY, AND PUBLIC PROGRAM PARTICIPATION</u>
<u>H. PHYSICAL HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH</u>
<u>I. LIFE SKILLS: YOUTH'S PREPAREDNESS AND RECEIPT OF SERVICES</u>
<u>J. COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS AND SOCIAL SUPPORT</u>
<u>K. SEXUALITY, STDs, AND PREGNANCY</u>
<u>L. CHILDREN AND PARENTING</u>
<u>M. MARRIAGE AND ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS</u>
<u>N. PAST MALTREATMENT</u>
<u>O. CRIME AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM INVOLVEMENT</u>

Youth Surveys:

Data Collection and Response Rate

- **Wave 1 Survey Period (age 17)**
 - April 2013 to October 2013
 - 51 counties included in final sample
 - Youth eligible for study $n = 763$
 - Completed interviews $n = 727$ (response rate = 95.3%)
- **Wave 2 Survey Period (age 19)**
 - March 2015 to December 2015
 - Youth eligible for study $n = 724$
 - Completed interviews $n = 611$ (response rate = 84.1%)

Purpose of Child Welfare Worker Study

Obtain perceptions of service delivery context

- County level availability of and need for services

- Coordination of services with other service systems

- Attitudes of caseworker, county court personnel, and youth toward extended care

California
YOUTH TRANSITIONS TO ADULTHOOD STUDY
CalYOUTH
Child Welfare Worker Survey
April 2016

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- A. Caseworker Characteristics
- B. Youth's Demographic Characteristics
- C. Caseworker's Contact with the Youth
- D. Youth's Education and Employment
- E. Youth's Living Arrangements
- F. Youth's Health, Mental Health, and Pregnancy/Parental Status
- G. Youth's Preparedness and Need for Services in Various Life Areas
- H. Youth's Motivation to Remain in Care Past Age 18
- I. Availability and Helpfulness of Trainings and Services
- J. Satisfaction with Collaboration with Other Systems
- K. Supportiveness of Court Personnel
- L. Attitudes toward Extended Foster Care
- M. Views of Challenges to Effective Implementation of Extended Foster Care
- N. Views of Non-Minor Dependents

Caseworker Surveys: Data Collection and Response Rate

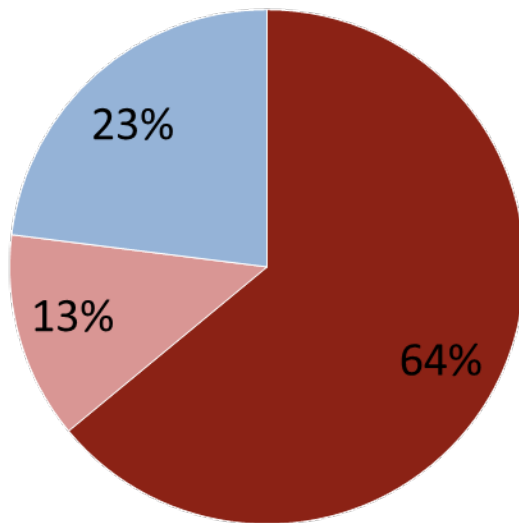
- **First Caseworker Survey**
 - Sample of caseworkers across the state serving older foster care youth
- **Second Caseworker Survey**
 - Caseworkers serving young people in the longitudinal Youth Survey who were still in care as of June 1, 2015
 - Survey Period: July 2015 to October 2015
 - **Part A:** questions about service context in their county
 - 295/306 of eligible caseworkers completed surveys (96.4%)
 - **Part B:** questions about specific youth on their caseload
 - 493/516 surveys completed about youth on their caseloads (95.5%)

Demographic Characteristics ($n=611$)

	n	%
Gender		
Female	367	60.0
Age		
19 years old	599	97.9
20 years old	12	2.1
Hispanic	272	47.4
Race		
White	193	27.8
African American	108	24.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	20	3.1
American Indian/Alaskan Native	23	4.1
Mixed race	240	41.1
Language spoken at home		
English	567	91.1
Spanish	41	8.6
Other	2	0.2

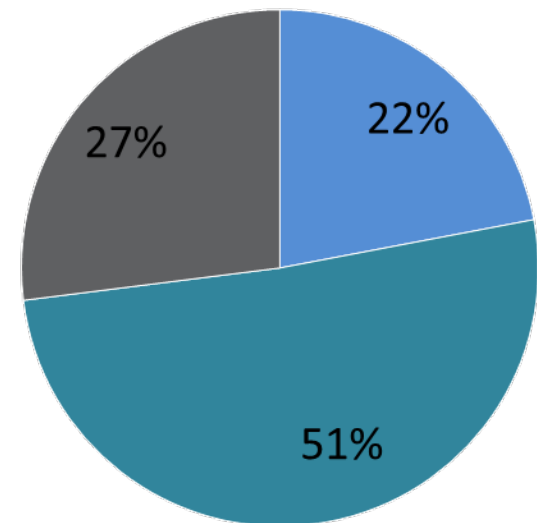
Current Foster Care Status

Care Status at Wave 2
($n=611$)



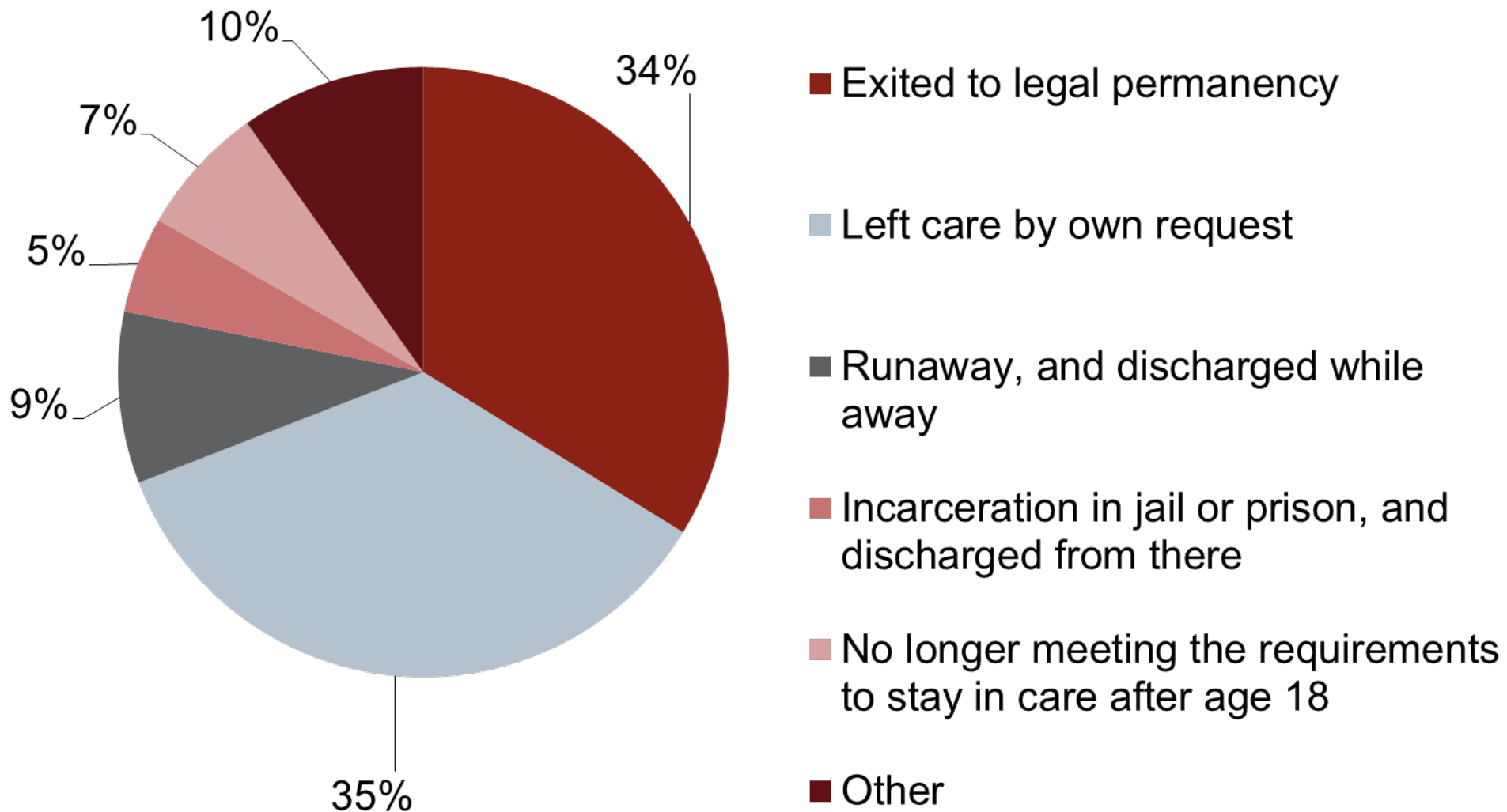
- In care (never left since Wave 1)
- In care (exited and reentered after Wave 1)
- Not in care

Age at Discharge
($n=134$)



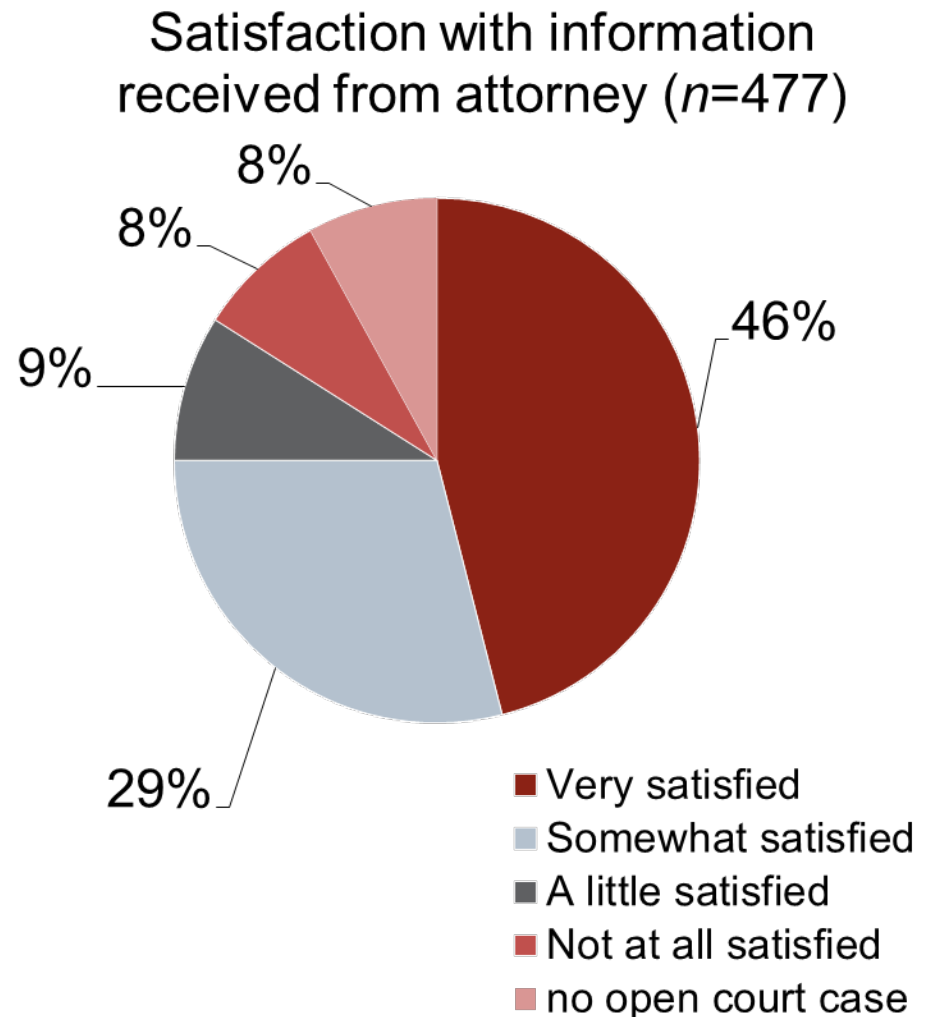
- 17 or younger
- 18
- 19

How Youth Left Care($n=134$)



Experience with Foster Care Professionals

- About two-thirds of youth met with social worker at least once a month.
- On average, youth had 14 phone calls with social worker per year.
- On average, youth had 2 face-to-face visits or phone calls with attorney per year.
- About 58% ever attended court proceedings about extended foster care





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How is it Going at Home? Housing, Homelessness, and Housing Supports

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Policy research that benefits children, families, and their communities

Where Are Youth Living?

Youth In-Care ($n = 477$)

	<i>n</i>	%
SILP	142	31.4
THP+FC	114	19.2
Home of a relative	93	22.6
Foster home with an unrelated foster parent	61	13.2
Home of a nonrelated family member	41	8.7
Other	16	2.6
Hospital, treatment or rehab facility	2	0.6
Group care	8	1.6

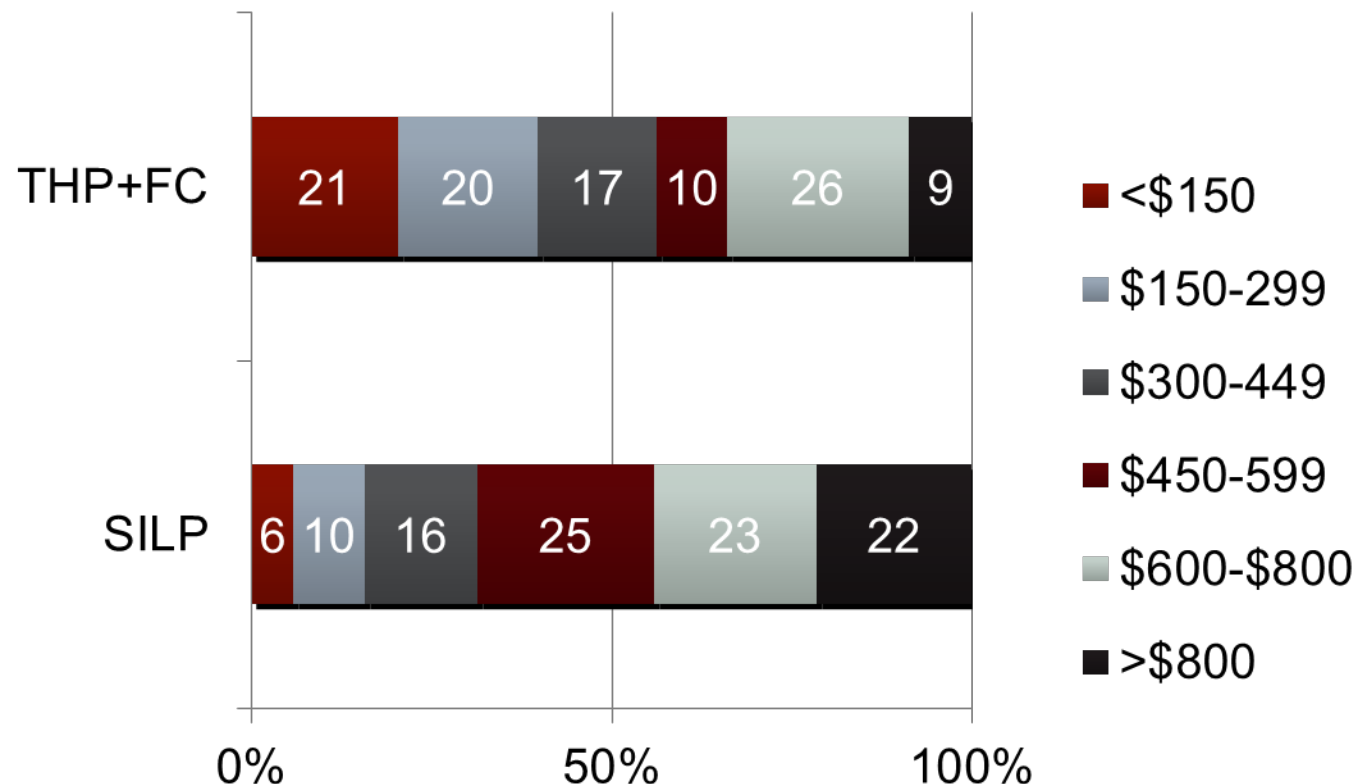
Where Are Youth Living?

Youth Out-of-Care ($n = 134$)

	n	%
In home of another relative(s)	24	22.8
Own place (apartment, house, etc.)	27	19.5
In home of birth parent(s)	22	15.7
In home of spouse/partner	19	12.5
In home of friend(s)	7	4.5
Homeless	6	4.3
Own room in a motel, hotel or SRO	3	2.6
Jail or other correctional facility	4	1.9
In home of former foster parent(s)	3	1.2
Group home or treatment center	1	0.5
Dormitory	1	0.5
Hospital, treatment or rehab facility	1	0.3
Other	16	13.9

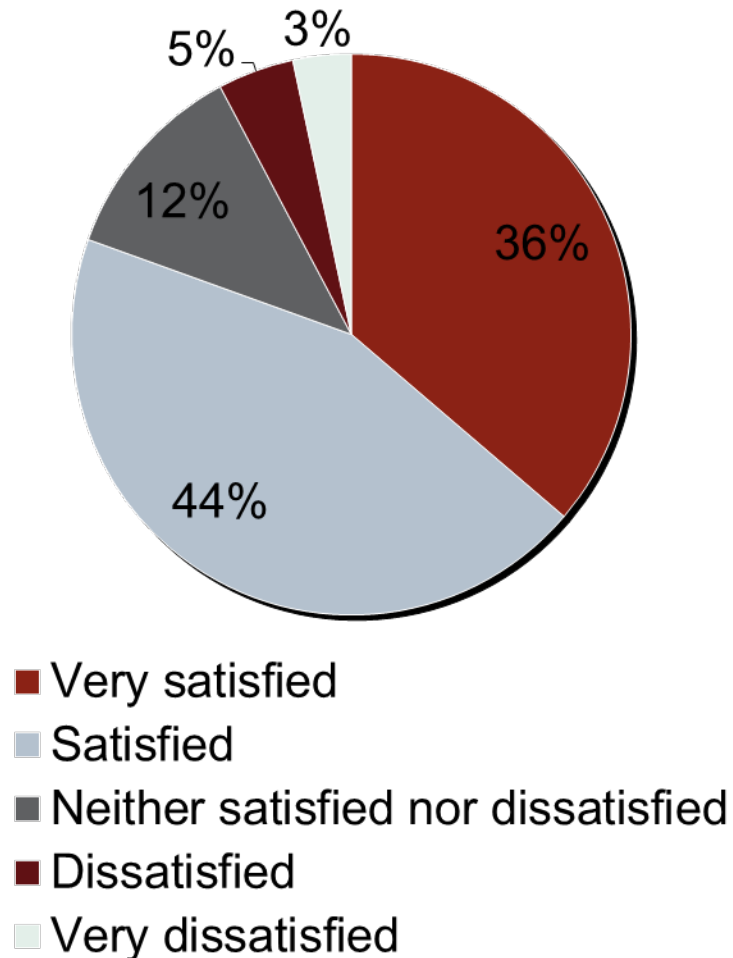
How Are Youth in SILP's, THP-Plus and THP+FC Faring Financially?

- Most youth reported paying less than \$600 a month in rent however, differences between youth in THP+FC and SILP were present

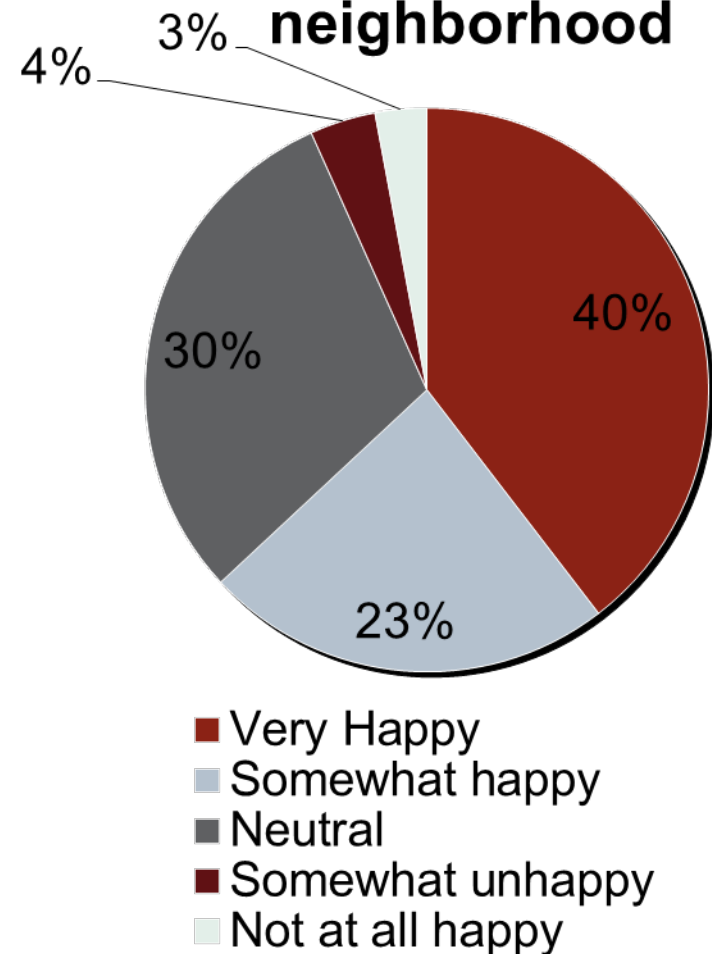


How Satisfied Are Youth In Their Living Situations?

**Satisfaction with living situation
(In-care)**



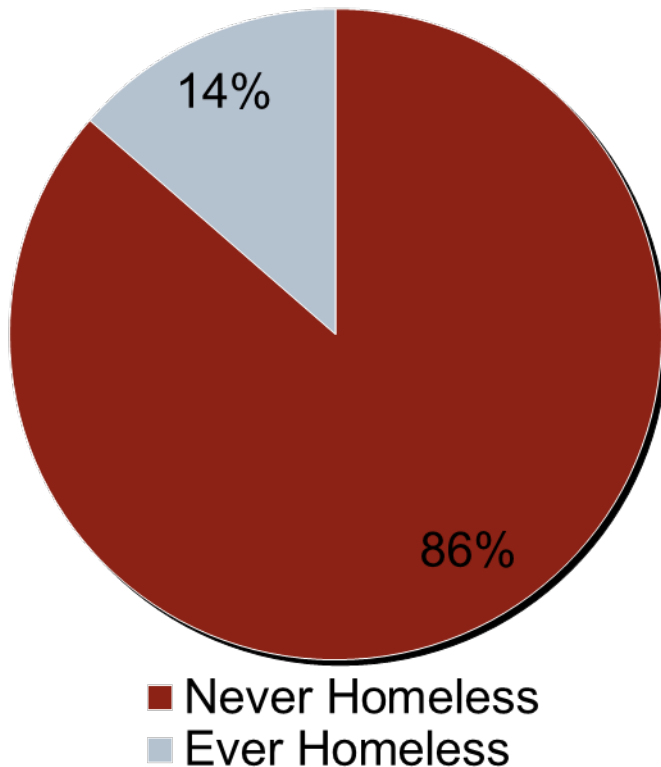
**Happiness with
neighborhood**



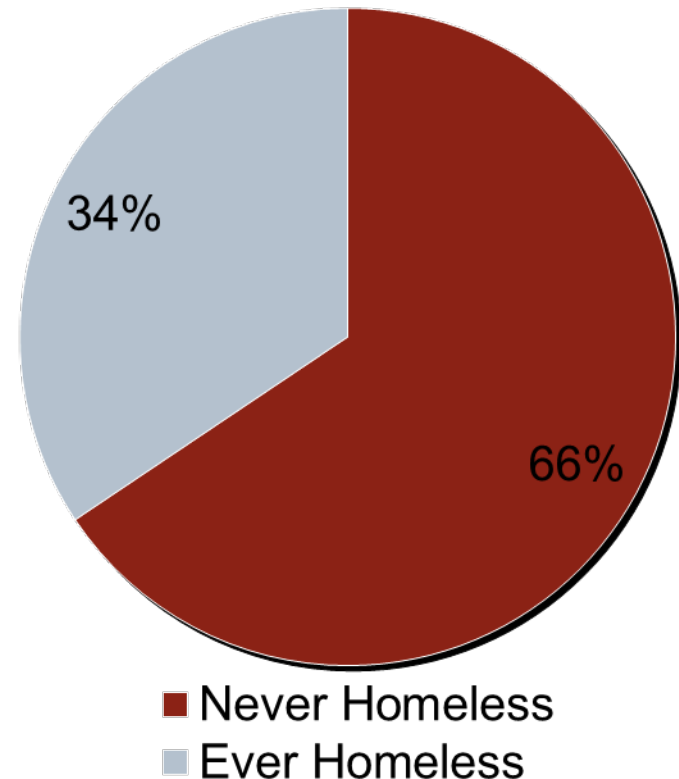
- Nearly nine-in-ten youth indicated that they felt safe in their neighborhood

How Many Youth Have Experienced Homelessness?

**Homelessness since last interview
(In-Care)**



**Homelessness since last interview
(Out-of-Care)**



Summary

- Youth in-care and out-of-care are living in different settings
 - The majority of youth in-care are living in SILPS or THP-Plus FC
 - The majority of youth out-of-care are living in the home of a birth parent, in the home of another relative, or in their own place
- The vast majority of youth are living with others
- Youth were more likely to feel “not prepared” in the area of housing than in any other area (not shown)
- Youth out-of-care are more likely than youth in-care to experience an episode of homelessness or couch-surfing



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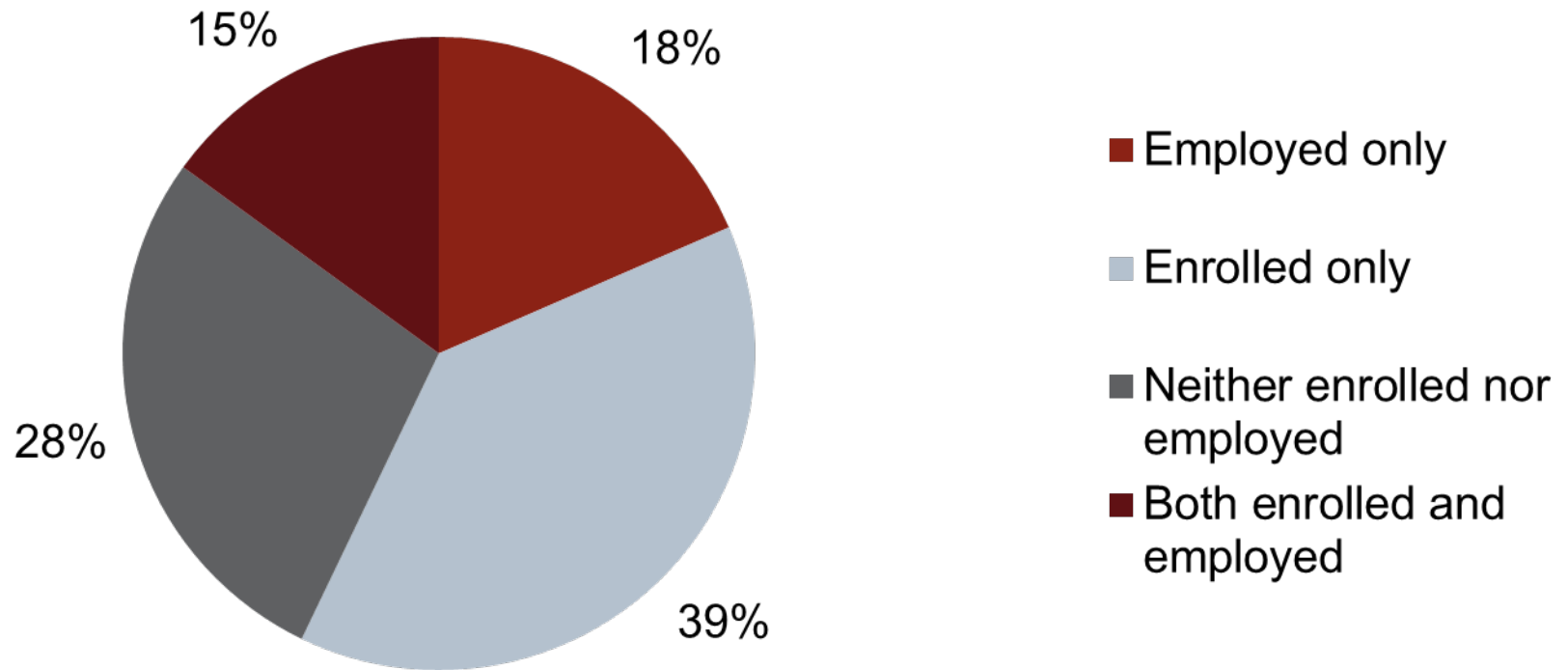
DEFINING PROBLEMS. SHAPING SOLUTIONS.

Connected or Not? Youth's Connections to Education and Employment

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Connected to School or Work (n=606)¹



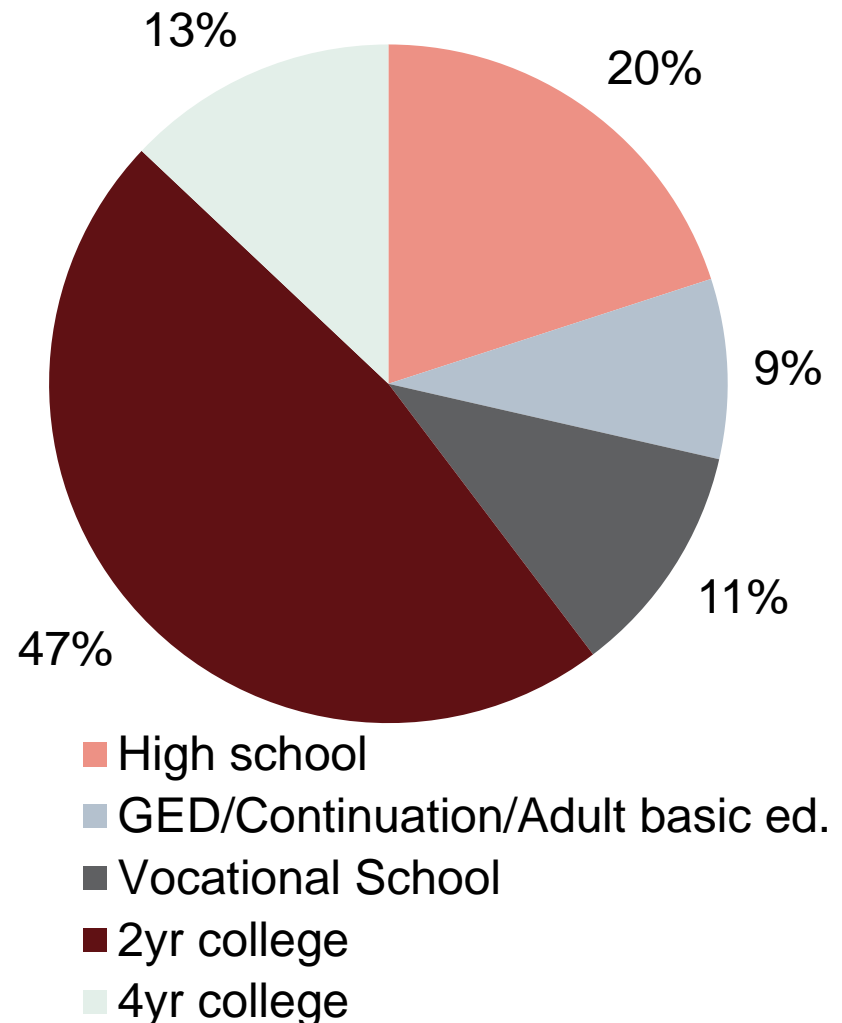
- Nearly three-quarters of youth reported being enrolled and/or employed (72%)

¹ Excludes 5 incarcerated youth

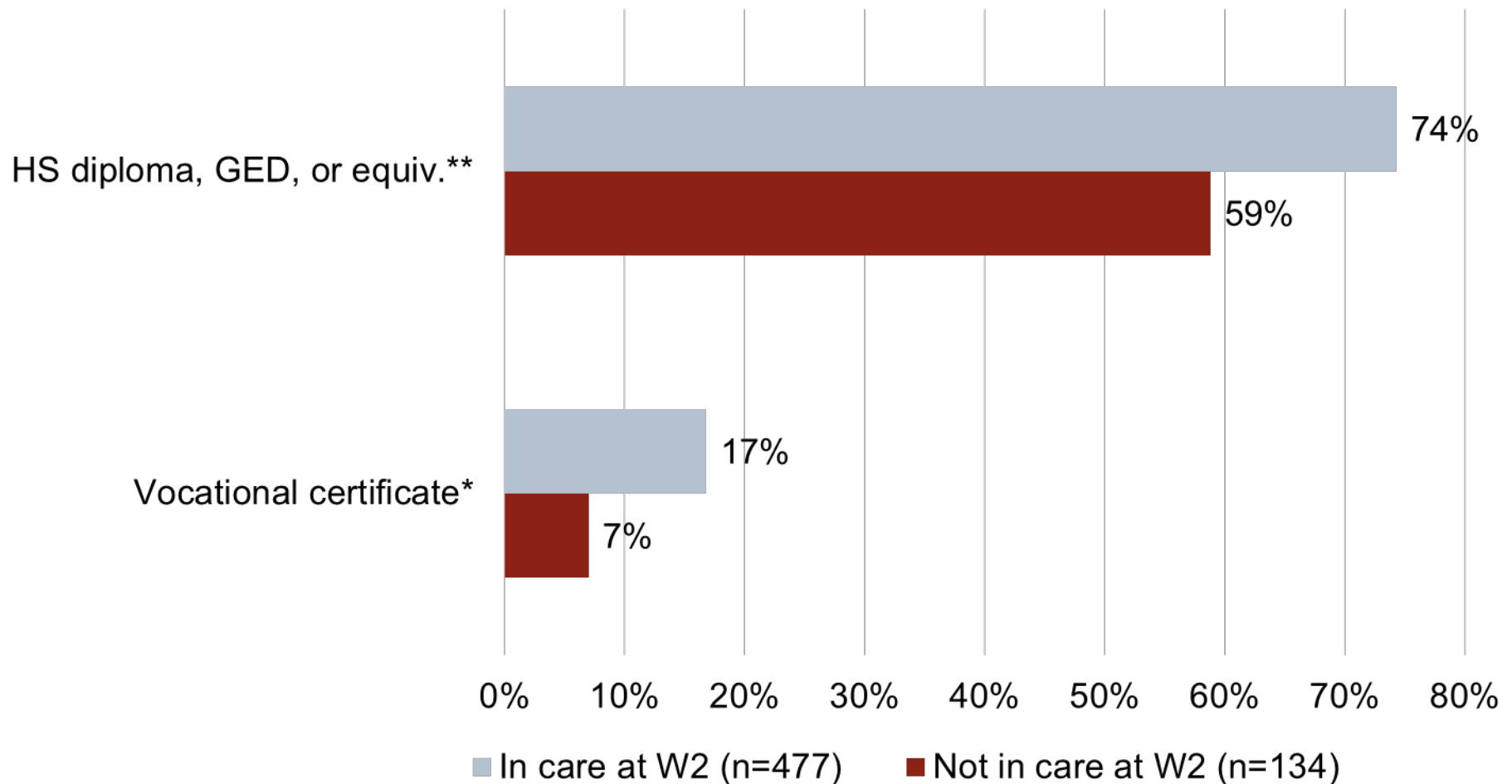
Education Status and Enrollment

- 71% of youth had a high school diploma or equivalency certificate
- 54% of youth were currently enrolled
- Among those enrolled, 60% were in college

Type of School Enrolled in (n=317)

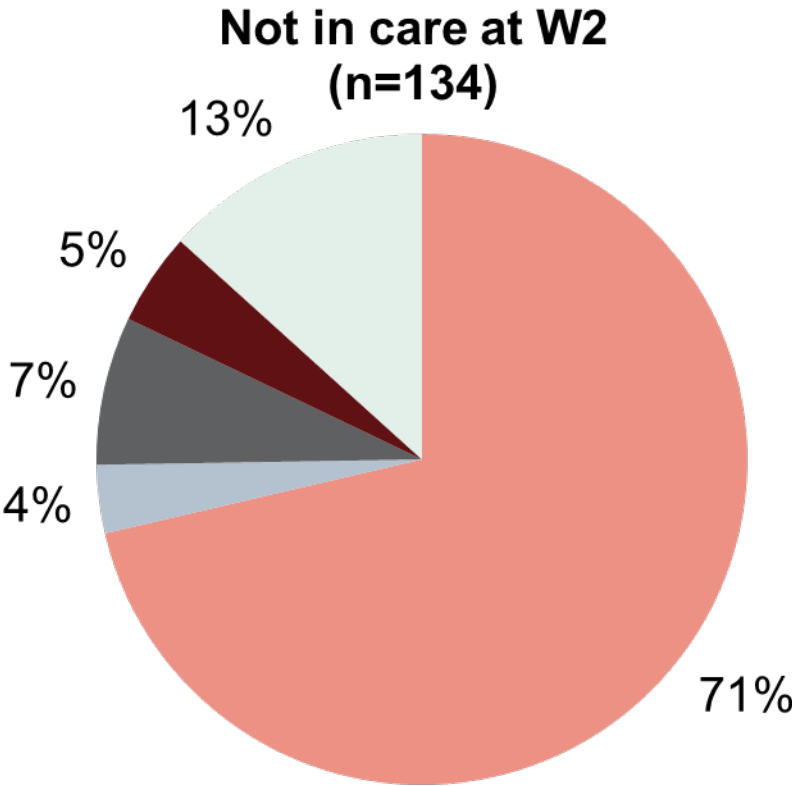


Care Status Differences in Educational Attainment

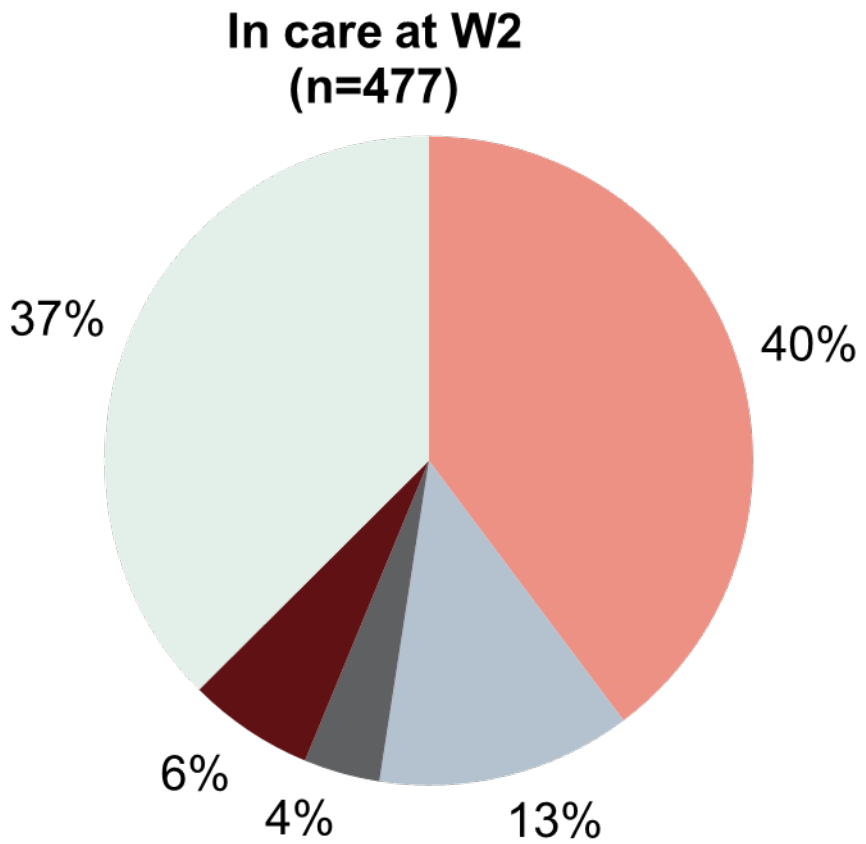


* $p < .05$ ** $p < .01$

Care Status Differences in Current Enrollment



- Not enrolled
- High school
- GED/continuation/adult ed/other
- Vocational School
- 2yr/4yr college



- Not enrolled
- High school
- GED/continuation/adult ed/other
- Vocational School
- 2yr/4yr college

Differences in enrollment status significant at $p < .001$

Funding for Education

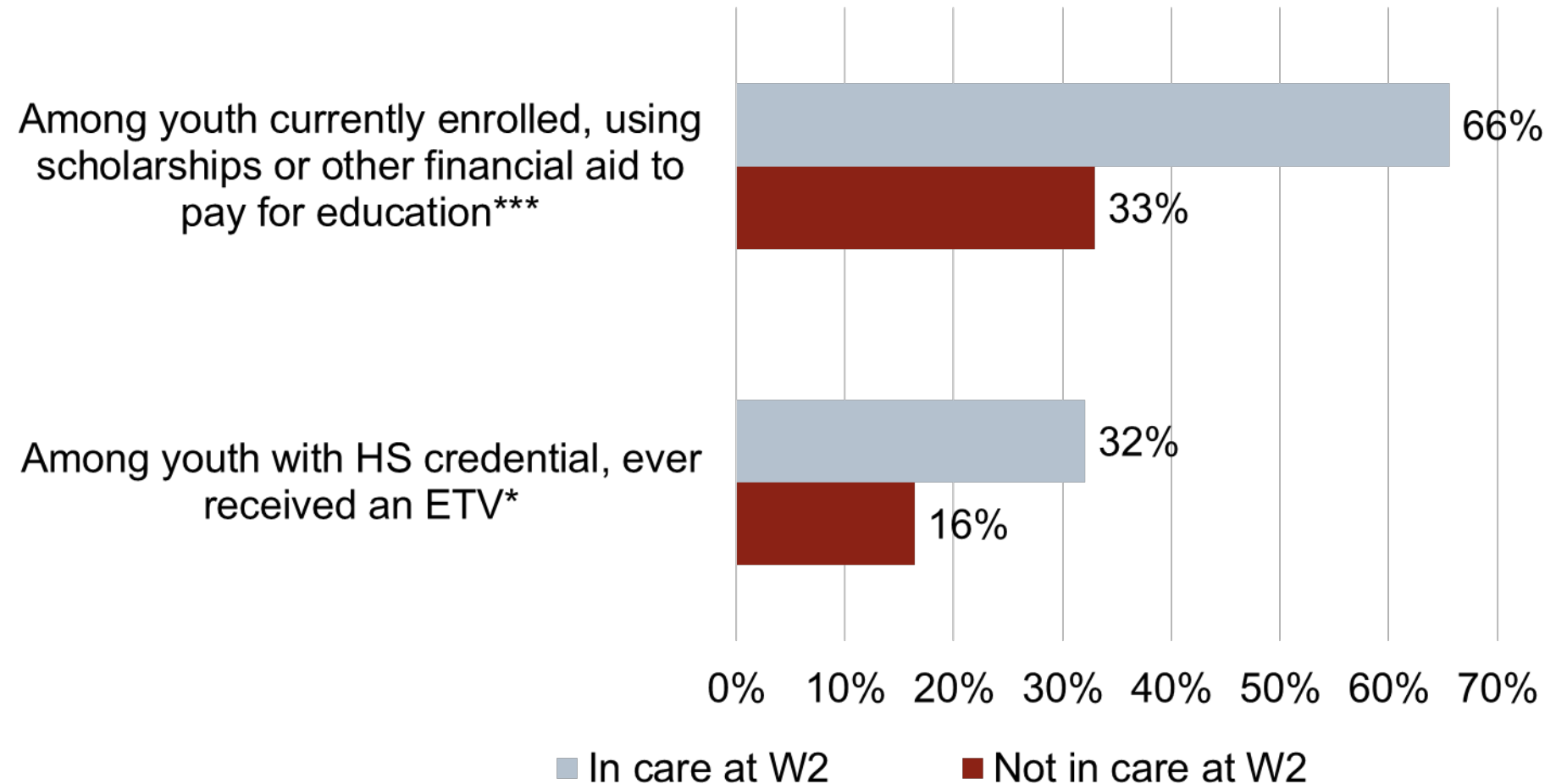
- Among youth currently enrolled in school, 62% use scholarship, grant, stipend, student loan, voucher, or other type of aid to pay for educational expenses
- Among youth with a high school credential, 29% ever received an education and training voucher (ETV)
 - 37% reported not knowing what an ETV is

College Finances and Involvement ($n=268$)¹

	n	%
Paying for College (can choose more than one)		
ETV grant	148	54.3
Other scholarships, fellowships, or grants	199	71.0
Student loans	31	9.2
Own earnings from employment or savings	92	31.9
Money from a relative, friend, other people	22	8.4
Money from another source	30	11.0
Involvement in campus support for F.Y.	134	50.3
Involvement in other college activities		
Tutoring	87	35.2
TRIO/EOP student support services	53	19.3
Academic advising	136	51.6
Meeting with professors outside class	147	54.8

¹ Includes both youth who were enrolled in college at W2, and youth who were enrolled since W1.

Care Status Differences in Funding for Education



* $p < .05$ *** $p < .001$

Care Status Differences in College Finances and Involvement ($n=268$)¹

	Not in Care at W2 ($n=39$)	In Care at W2 ($n=223$)	Sig.
	%	%	
Paying for College (can choose more than one)			
Money from a relative, friend, other people	25.1	5.7	$p<.001$
Money from another source	1.7	12.5	$p<.05$
Involvement in campus support for F.Y.	21.9	55.1	$p<.01$
Involvement in study groups	36.3	58.5	$p<.05$

¹ Includes both youth who were enrolled in college at W2, and youth who were enrolled since W1.

College Preparation Assistance and Educational Aspirations ($n=611$)

	n	%
Amount of help with college planning		
No help	72	13.3
Only a little help	88	13.7
Some help, but not enough	100	19.2
Enough help	151	23.2
More than enough help	126	20.4
Not interested in going to college	71	10.3
If you could go as far as you wanted in school, how far would you go?		
High school diploma, GED, or less	25	4.4
Some college	32	5.4
Earn a two-year degree	122	17.8
Earn a four-year degree	189	34.3
Earn more than a four-year degree	182	33.0

Care Status Differences in College Preparation Assistance ($n=611$)

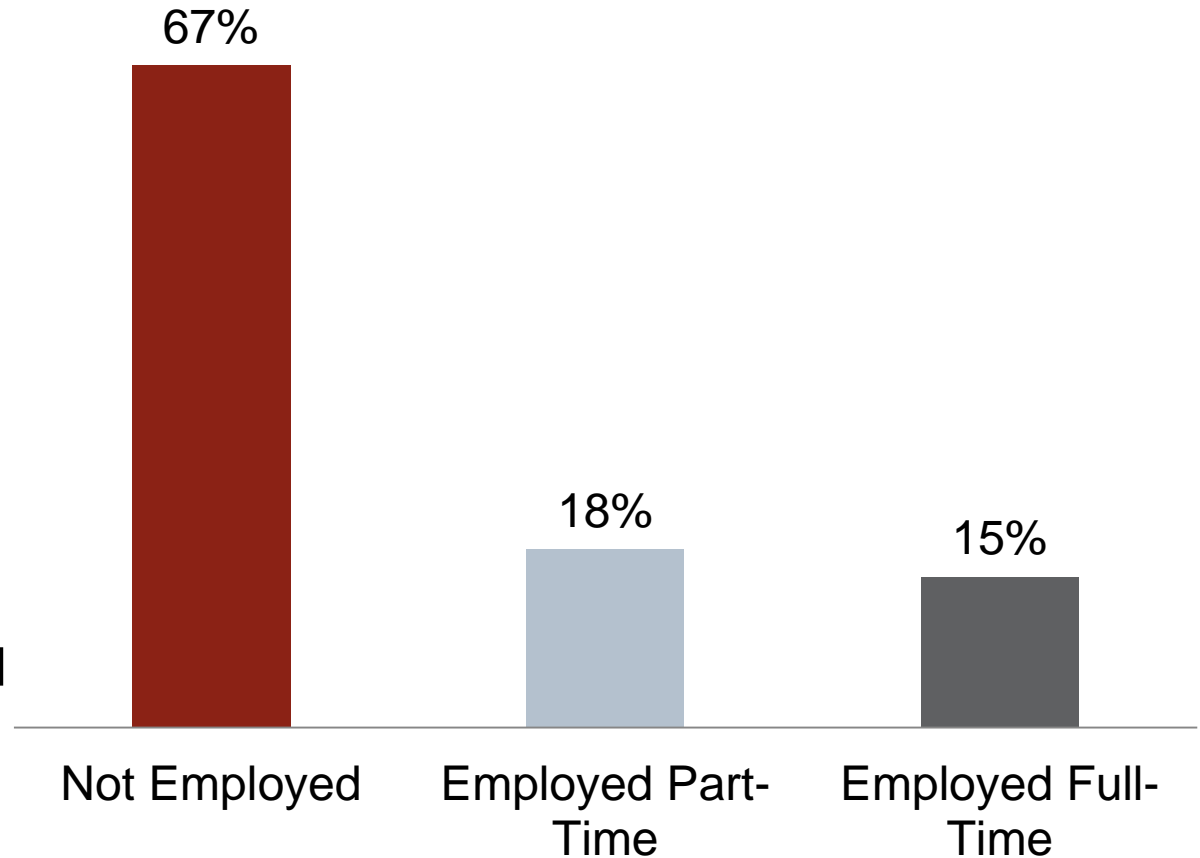
	Not in Care at W2 ($n=134$)	In Care at W2 ($n=477$)
	%	%
Amount of help with college planning		
No help	22.7	10.5
Only a little help	16.6	12.8
Some help, but not enough	17.8	19.6
Enough help	14.1	25.8
More than enough help	10.5	23.3
Not interested in going to college	18.2	7.9

Differences in assistance with college preparation significant at $p<.001$

Employment

- 76% of youth reported ever having a job
- 33% were currently employed
- Among youth not in school, 40% were currently employed
- Average hourly wage: \$10.21
- Among all unemployed youth, most want a job (89%)

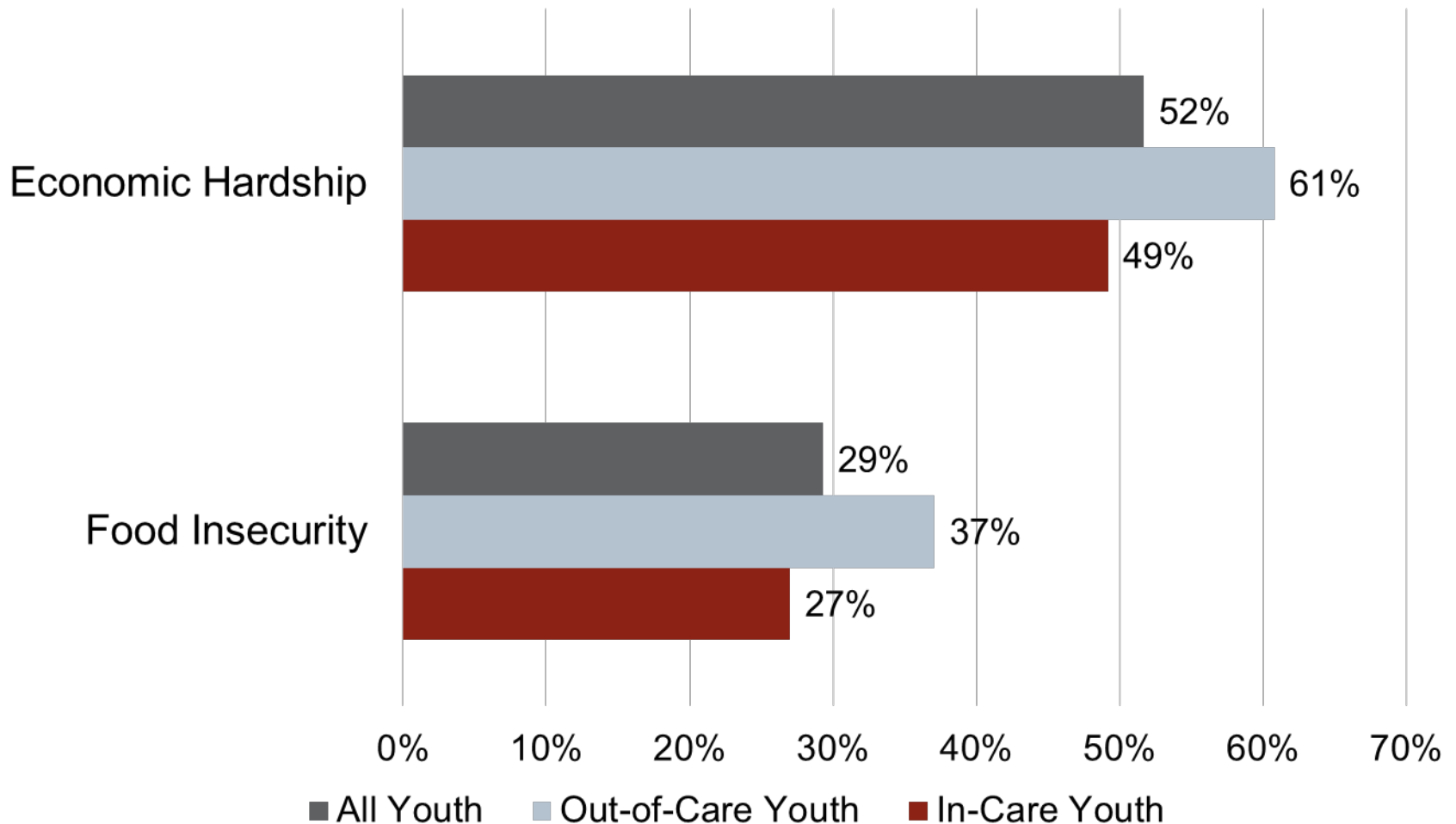
Current Employment



Assets

- About 60% of youth ($n=373$) reported that they had a checking, savings, or a money market account
- Of those with an account, average balance in all accounts is \$1,526 (median= \$600)
- 30% of youth said they own a vehicle

Economic Hardship and Food Insecurity in Past 12 Months



Receipt of Public Benefits

	All Youth	
	n	%
Currently receiving food stamps/CalFresh	119	19.7
Currently receiving WIC ($n=98$)*	75	77.4
Currently receiving any public housing assistance	21	3.4
Currently receiving TANF/CalWorks	8	1.7

*Includes only mothers.

Summary

- Almost three-quarters of youth are enrolled in school or are currently working
- Some youth experienced economic hardships or food insecurity
- Receipt of need-based public benefits was generally low, although many mothers were receiving WIC benefits
- Out-of-care youth were less likely than in-care youth to have finished a secondary credential and to be enrolled in school, but more likely to experience economic hardship/food insecurity



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It's More than Just Survival: Youth's Health and Well-Being

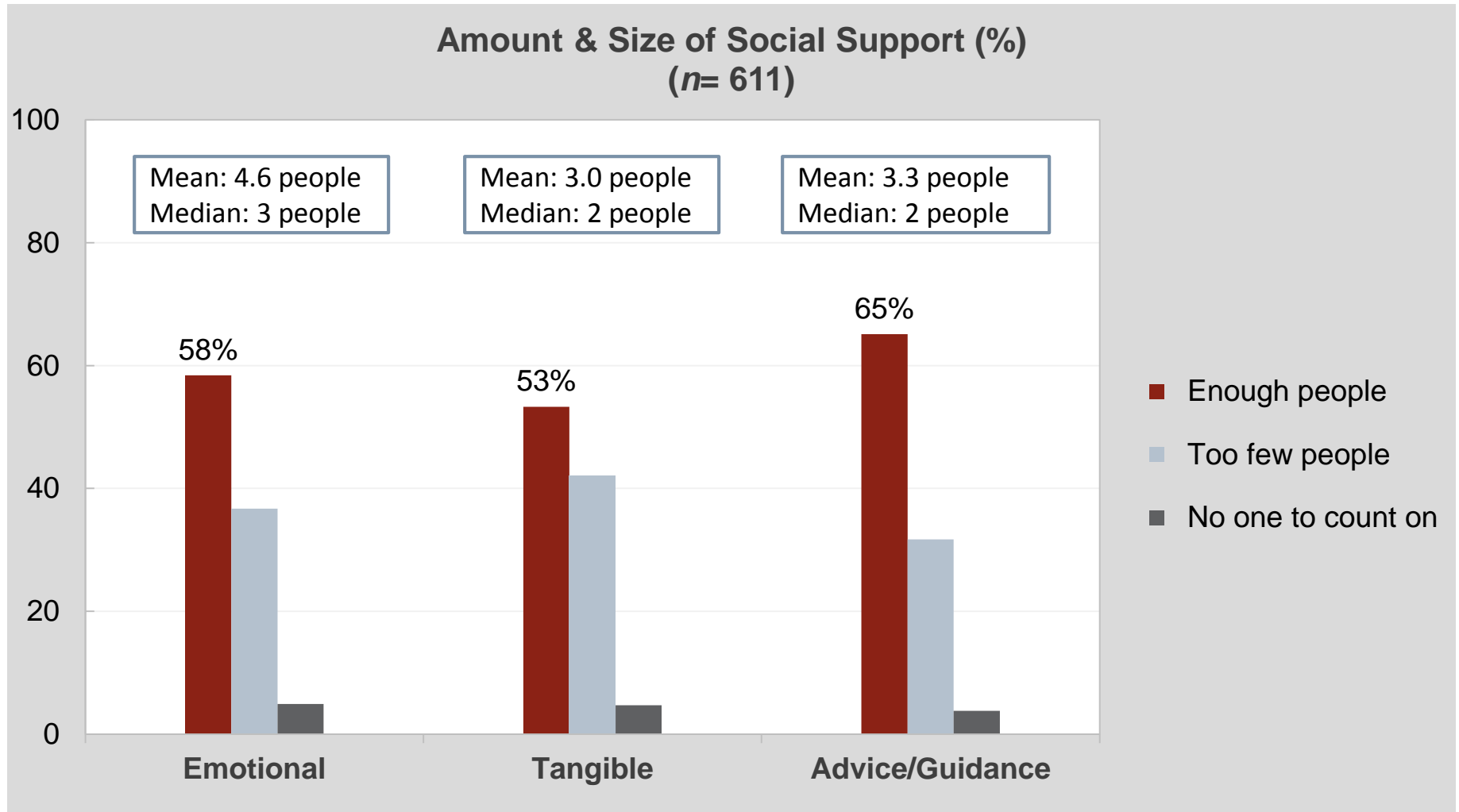
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Youth's Health and Well-Being

- Social Support
- Crime & Criminal Justice
- Health

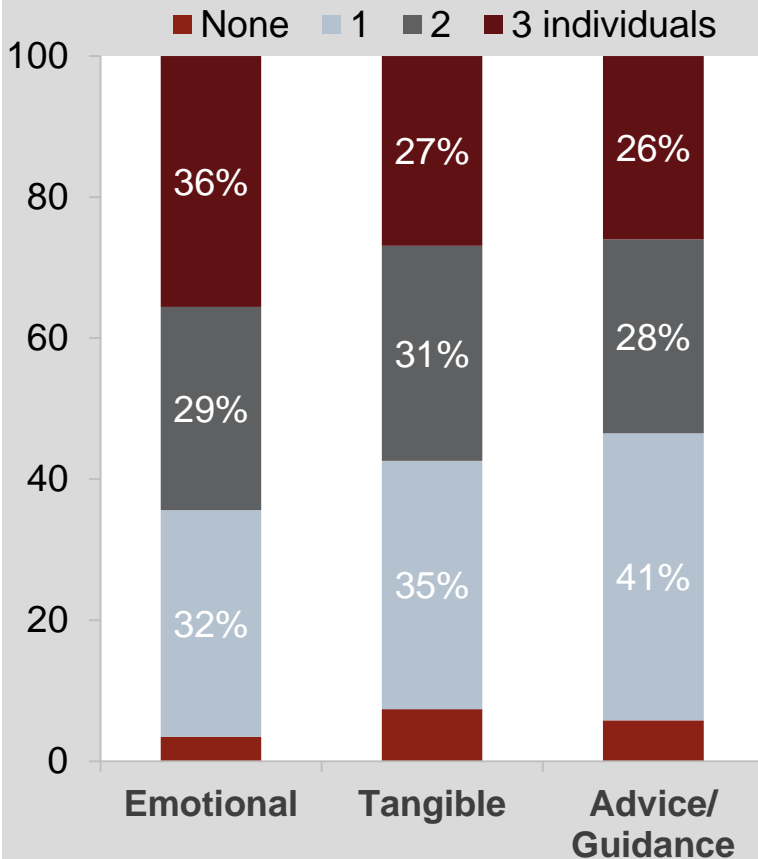
Social Support

Overall Relationships

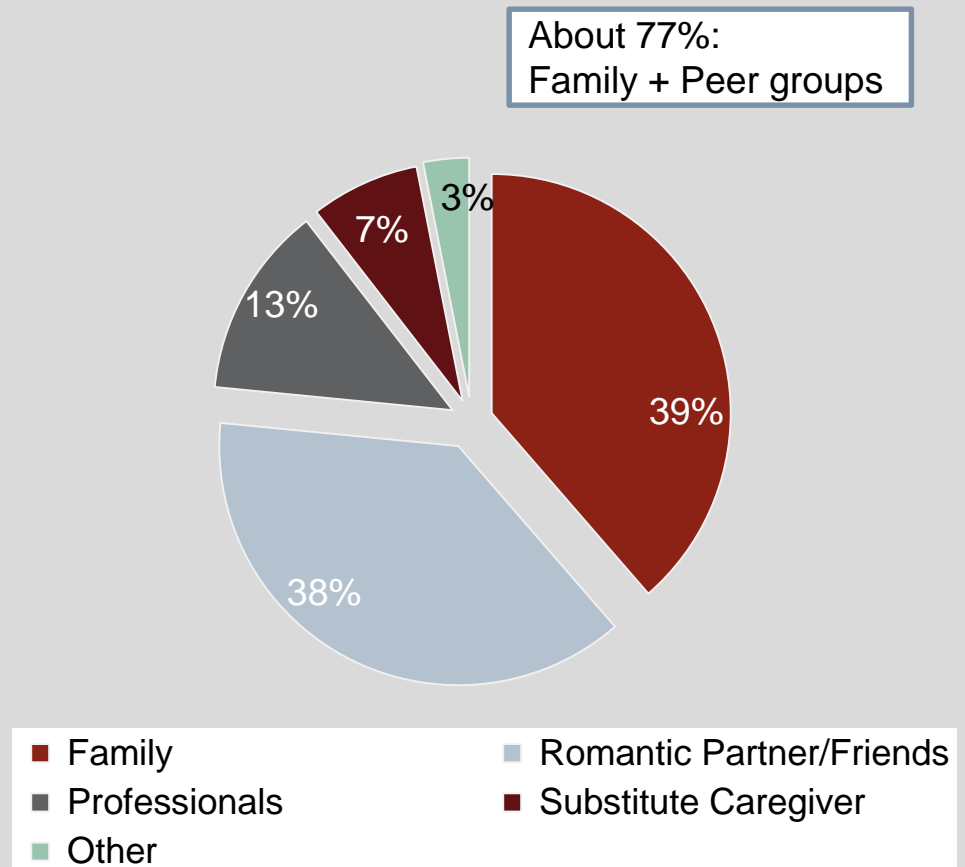


Individuals Nominated as Social Supports

Number of Nominated Support (%)
(*n* = 1,999)



Relationship to Nominated Support (%)
(*n* = 1,999)



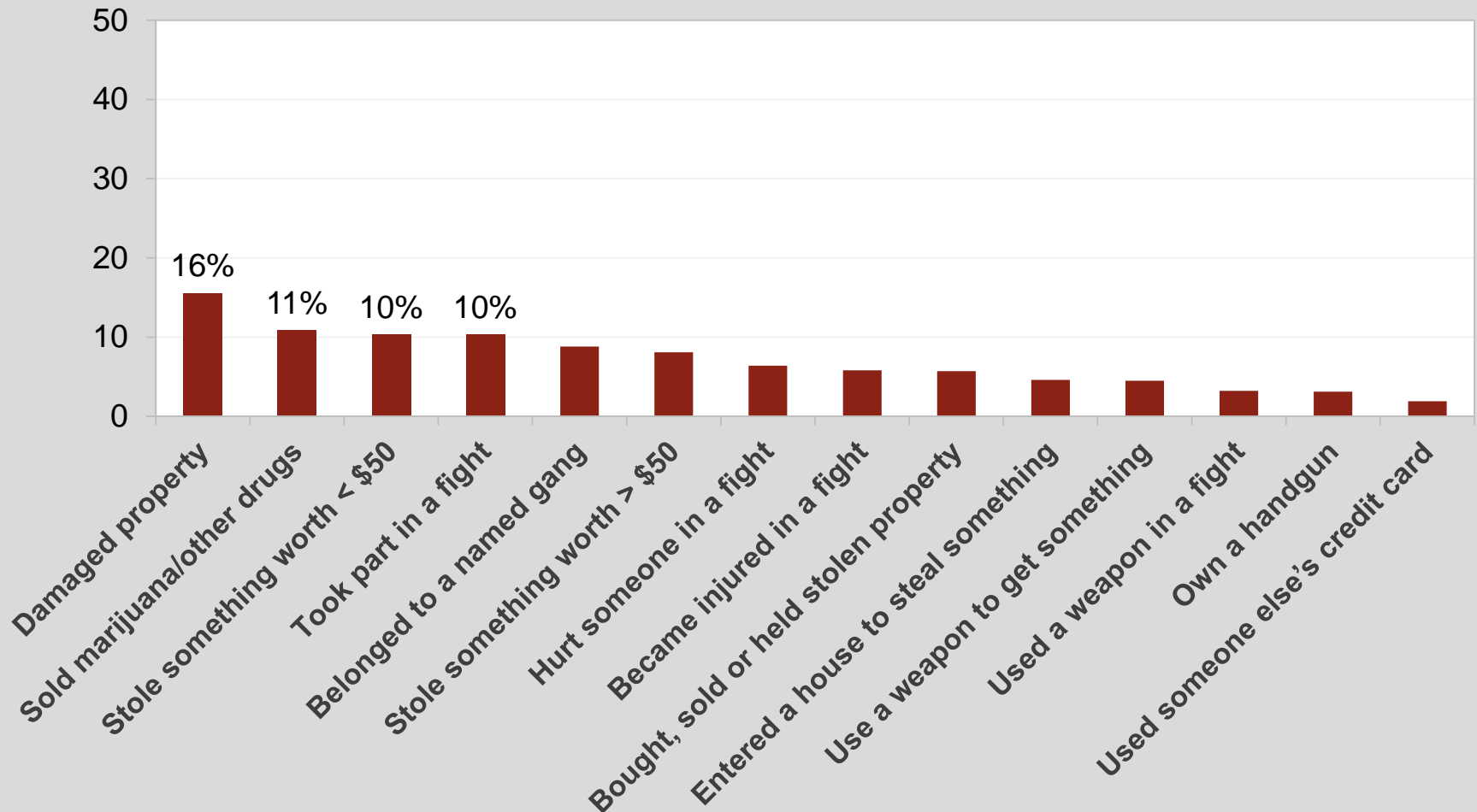
Summary: Social Support

- Majority of youth had someone they could turn to, and youth were in **regular contact** with their supports.
- **Families** and **peers** consisted of most supports. Youth still in care were more likely to nominate caseworkers, and youth who left care were more likely to nominate grandparents.
- Strain was generally **uncommon** in relationships with individuals youth identified as supports (not shown)

Crime & Criminal Justice Involvement

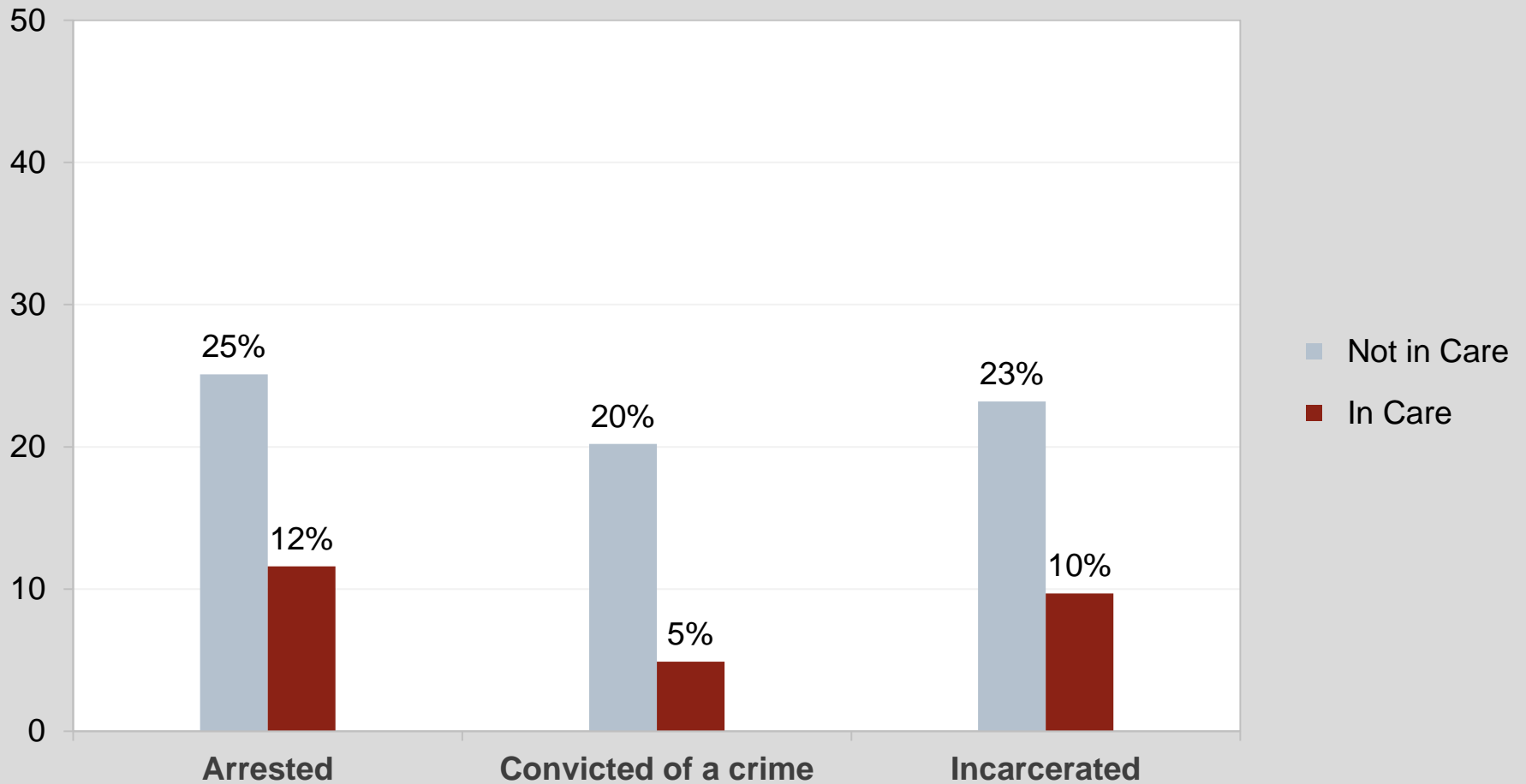
Criminal Behavior

Criminal Behavior (%) (since last interview) ($n=607$)



Criminal Justice Involvement

Criminal Justice Involvement (%) (since last interview)
(*n*= 607)



Victimization & Perpetration

During the past 12 months	Not In Care (%)	In Care (%)
Victimization		
Saw someone being shot or stabbed	10.2	4.9
Someone pulled a gun on respondent *	13.1	6.1
Someone pulled a knife on respondent	8.7	6.1
Someone beat youth and stole something from them *	6.3	2.1
Perpetration		
Respondent pulled a knife/gun on someone	2.7	1.8
Respondent shot or stabbed someone *	3.7	0.1

* Significant difference between youth in care and youth not in care

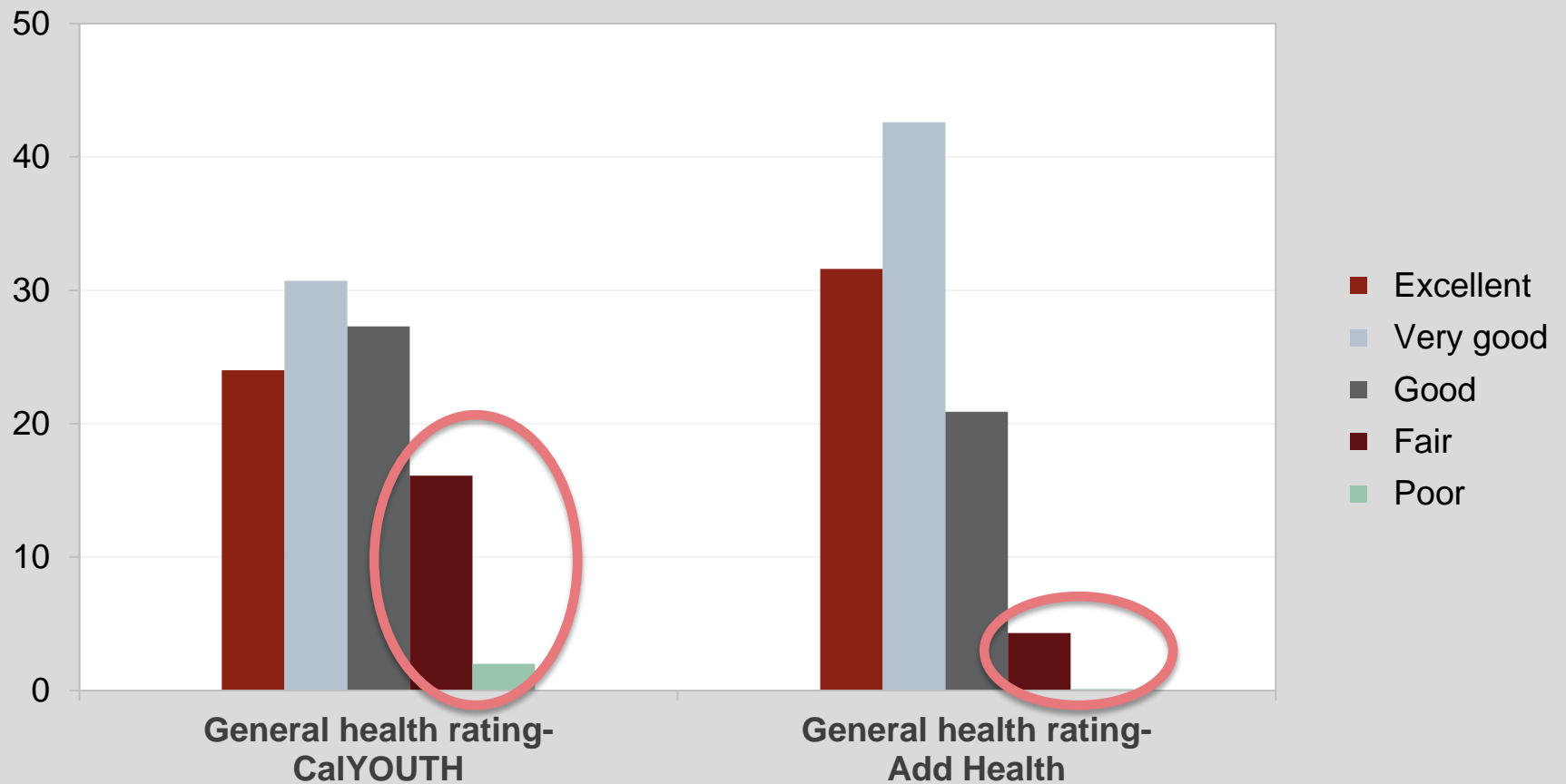
Summary: Crime & Criminal Justice Involvement

- Most youth reported “**never**” engaging in criminal behaviors.
- Criminal justice system involvement was **lower for youth still in care** than those who left care.
- Overall victimization and perpetration of violence was **rare**. Youth **in care were less likely** than those who left care to report some experiences (someone pulled a gun on youth, someone beat youth and stole something from them, youth shot or stabbed someone).

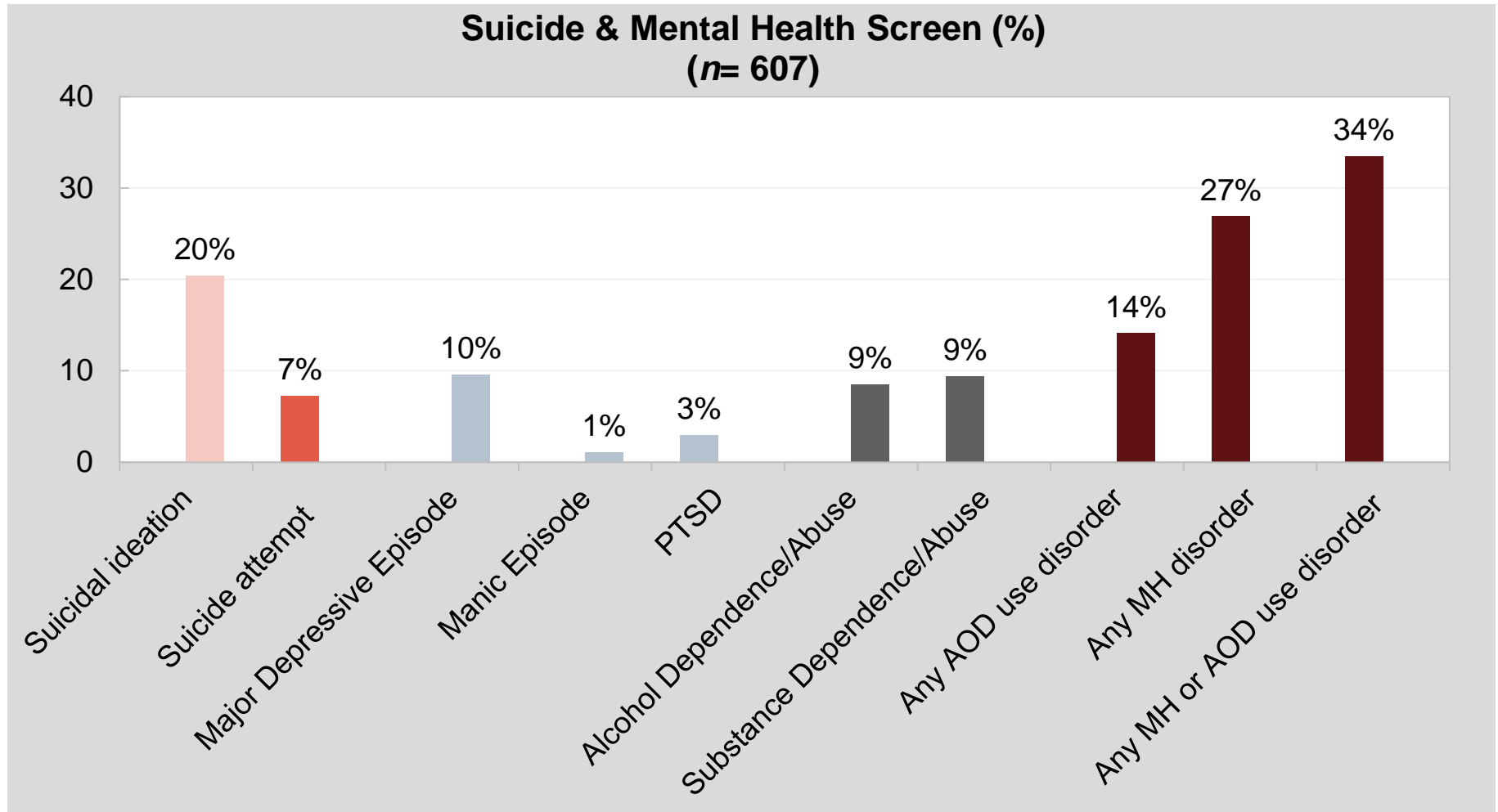
Health

Health Status

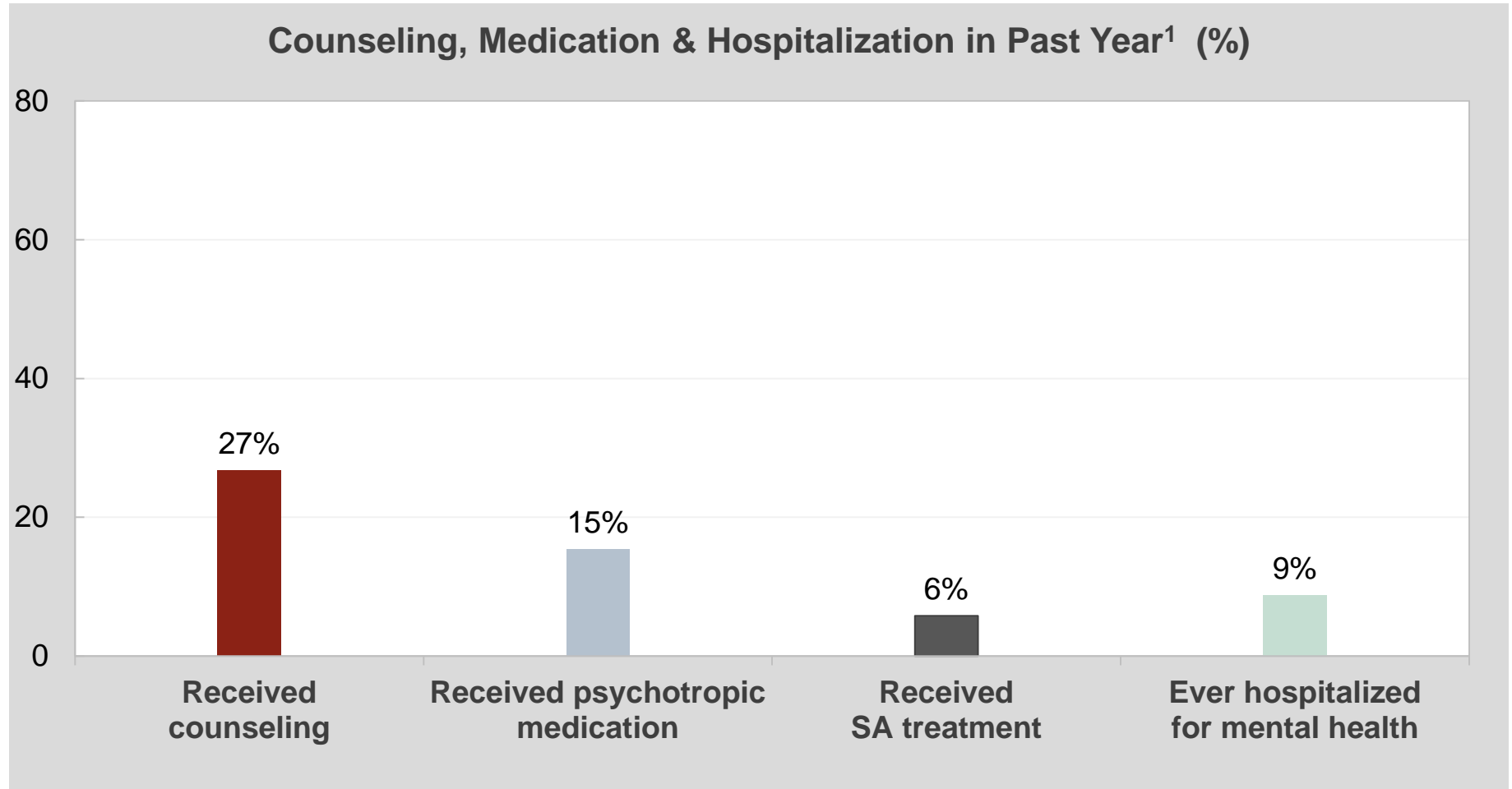
General Health Rating



Behavioral Health



Medication & Hospitalization



- **Hospitalized for any reason since last interview: 31%**

¹ Mental health hospitalization was “since last interview”

Summary: Health

- The majority of youth rated their health as being “good,” “very good,” or “excellent.”
- About 1/3 screened positive for a mental health *or* substance use disorder.
- Most youth reported having a medical exam *within the past year*, and about one-quarter reported using behavioral health services.



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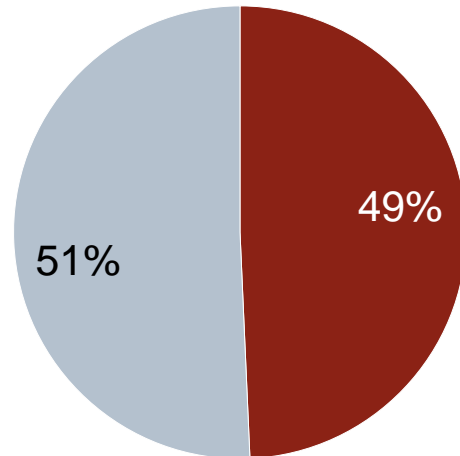
Pregnancy, Parenting, and Romantic Relationships

Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago

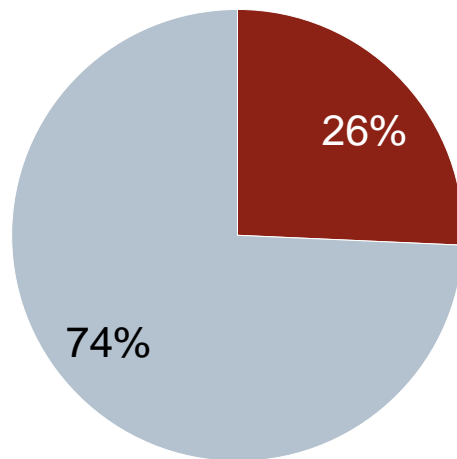
Policy research that benefits children, families, and their communities

Pregnancy History (Females)

Ever been pregnant



■ Yes ■ No
Ever given birth

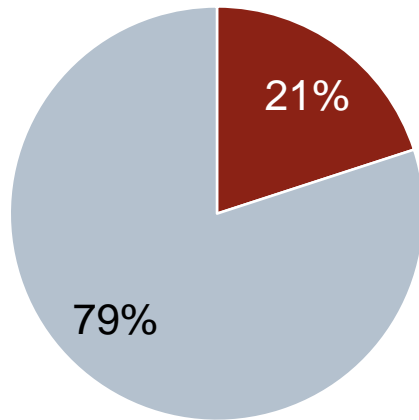


■ Yes ■ No

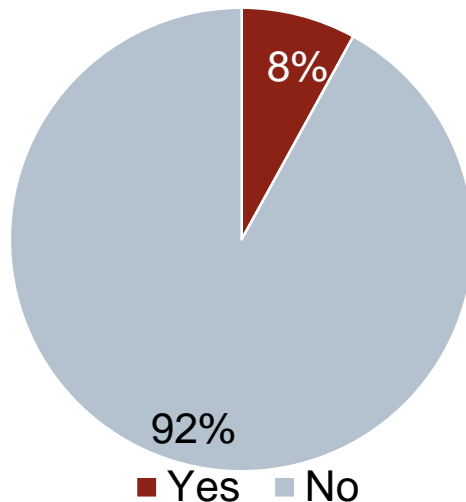
- Since the last interview...
 - 33% of females had become pregnant
 - 21% of females gave birth
- Among females who got pregnant since last interview...
 - 33% wanted to get pregnant
 - 37% did not want to get pregnant
 - 24% were not seen by a doctor or nurse during their first trimester

History of Impregnating Females (Males)

Ever gotten a female pregnant



Ever fathered a child



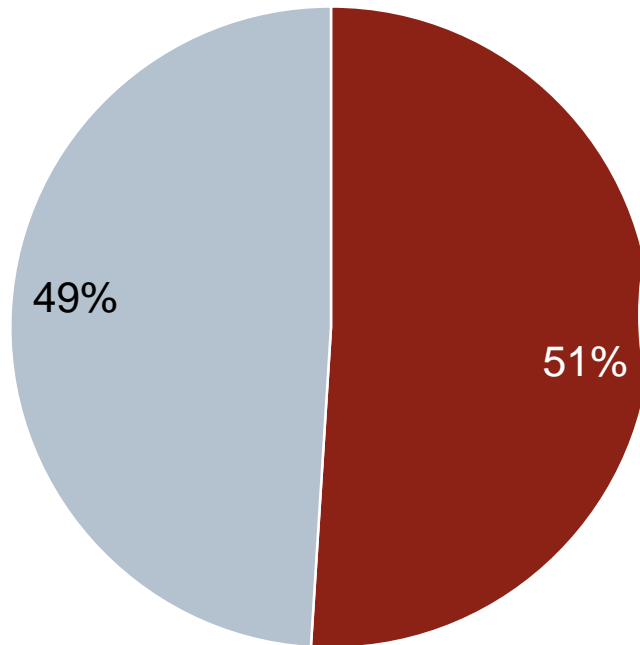
- Since the last interview...
 - 13% of males had gotten a female pregnant
 - 7% of males fathered a child that was born
- Among males who impregnated females since last interview...
 - 29% did want to father a child
 - 37% did not want to father a child

Children and Parenting

Parents (<i>n</i> =121)	Males (<i>n</i> =22; 9.5%)		Females (<i>n</i> =99; 27.2%)	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Number of living children				
1 child	22	100	87	90.8
2 children	0	0.0	12	9.2
Respondent lives with all children ***	10	42.7	86	88.2
At least one child is a dependent of the court	3	14.6	13	15.5

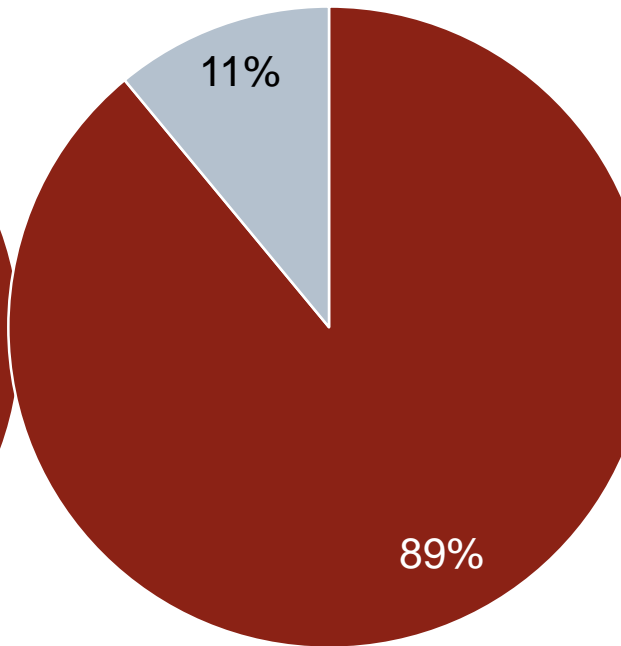
Romantic Relationships

Currently in a romantic relationship



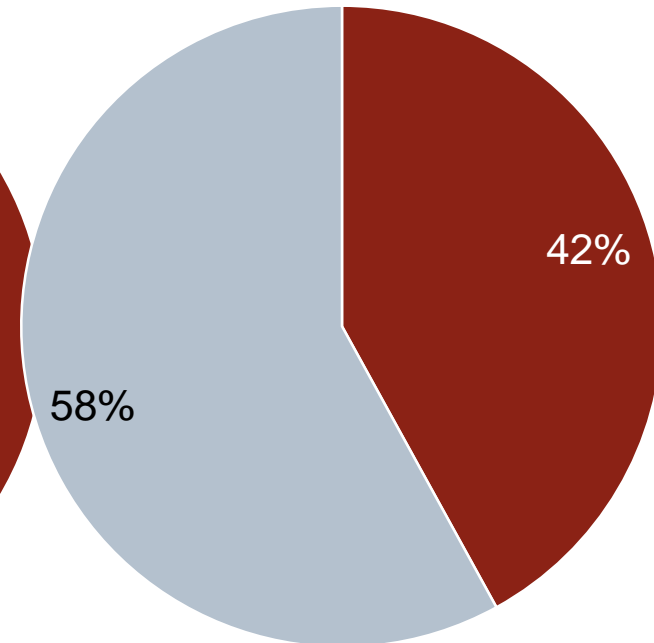
■ Yes ■ No

Relationship with current partner



■ Steady basis
■ Not on a steady basis

Lives with partner



■ Yes
■ No

Relationship Quality

- About 9 in 10 youth in a romantic relationship “agree” or “strongly agree” that...
 - Their partner listens
 - Their partner expresses love and affection
 - Their partner is encouraging
 - They trust their partner to be faithful
 - They are satisfied with their sex life
- Most youth did not report experiencing criticism or manipulation in their relationship

Summary

- Females were more likely to have gotten pregnant than males were to have gotten a partner pregnant
- Females were more likely than males to be a parent, and if they were a parent, to be living with their children
- Few children were involved with the child welfare system
- Over half of youth were in romantic relationships, and most of these relationships had a high level of commitment and satisfaction



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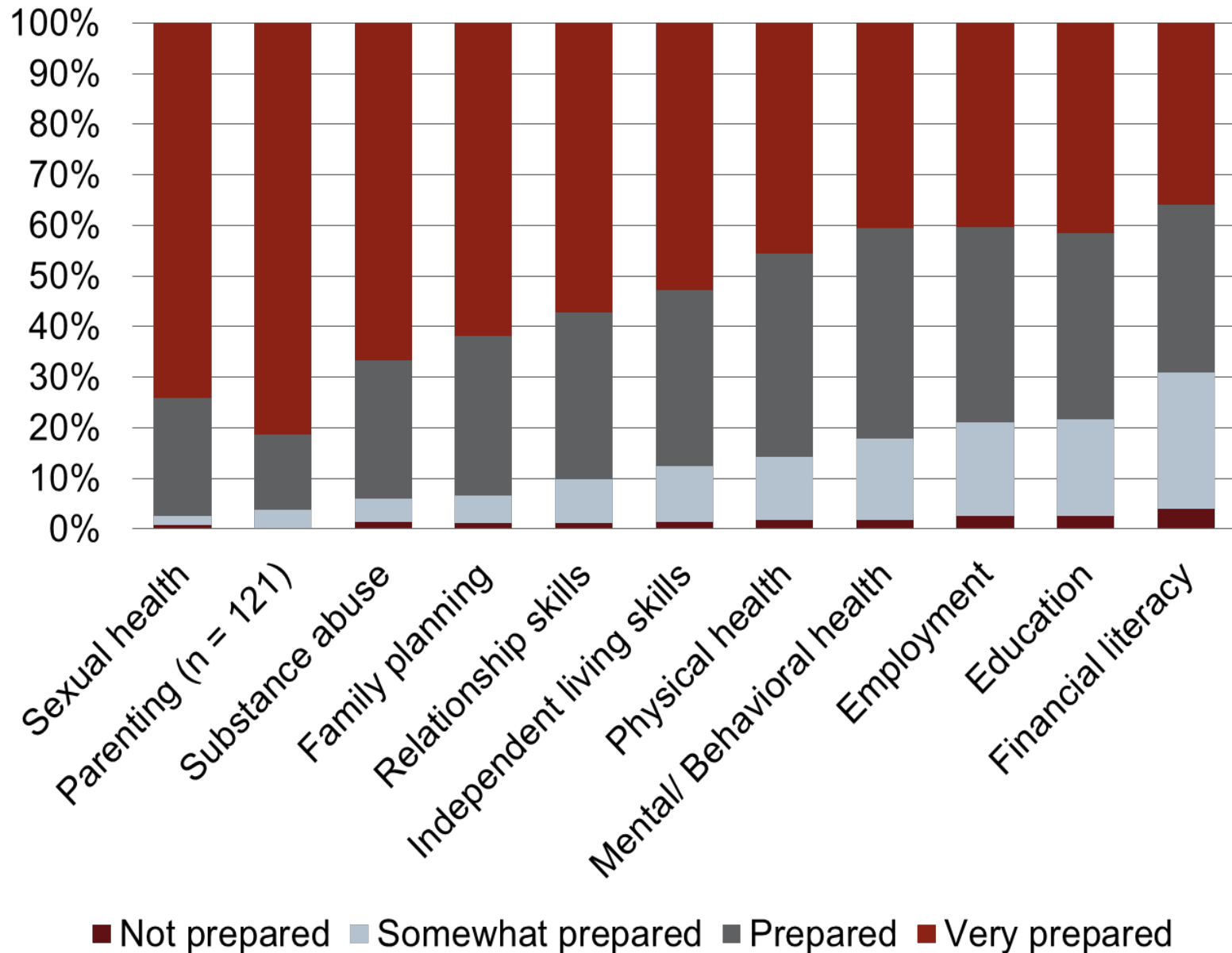
DEFINING PROBLEMS. SHAPING SOLUTIONS.

Youths' Preparedness for Adulthood: Connecting Child Welfare Services for Young Adults to Other Systems

ChapinHall at the University of Chicago

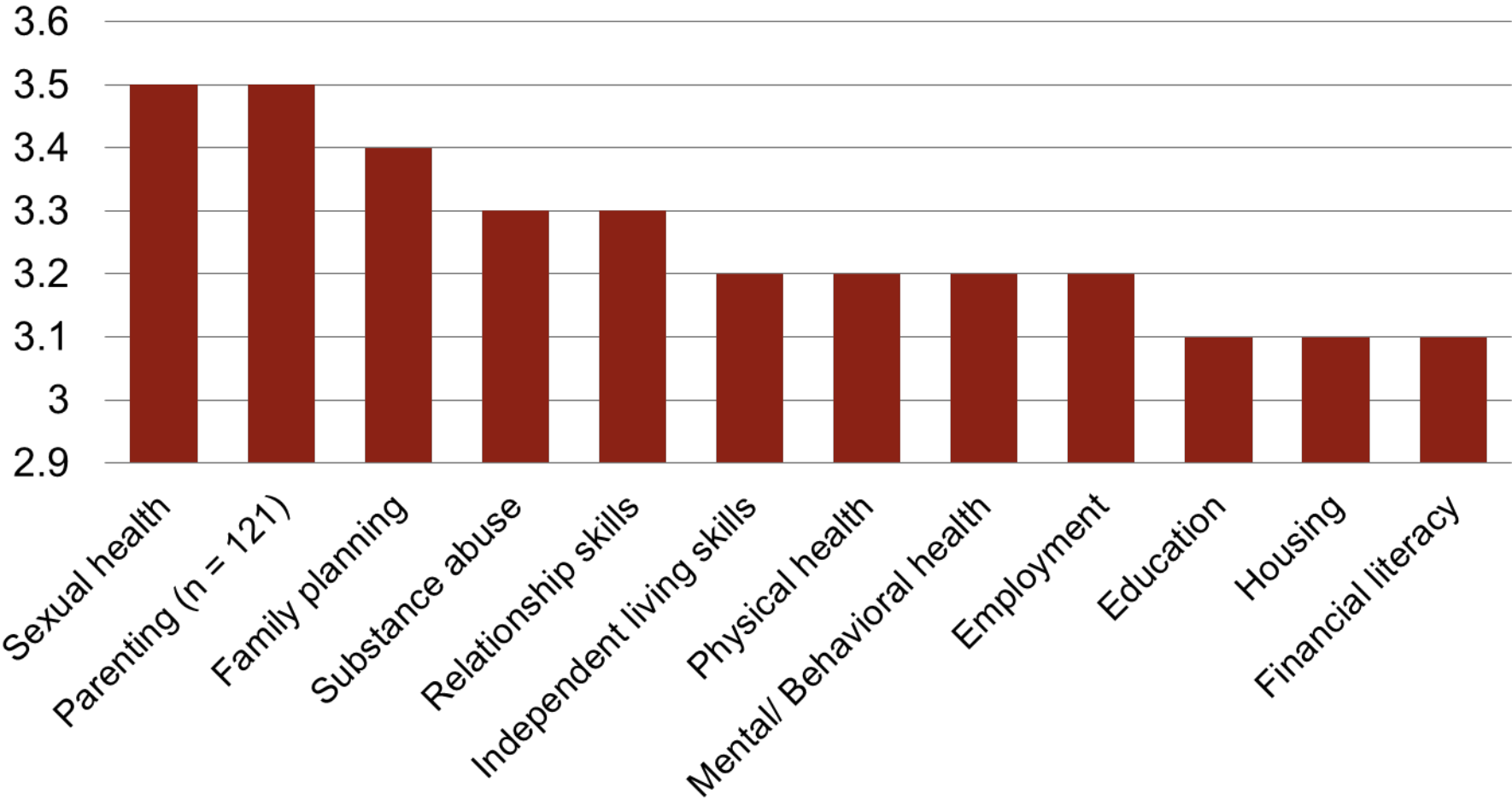
Policy research that benefits children, families, and their communities

Youth's Perception of Preparedness to Achieve Goals



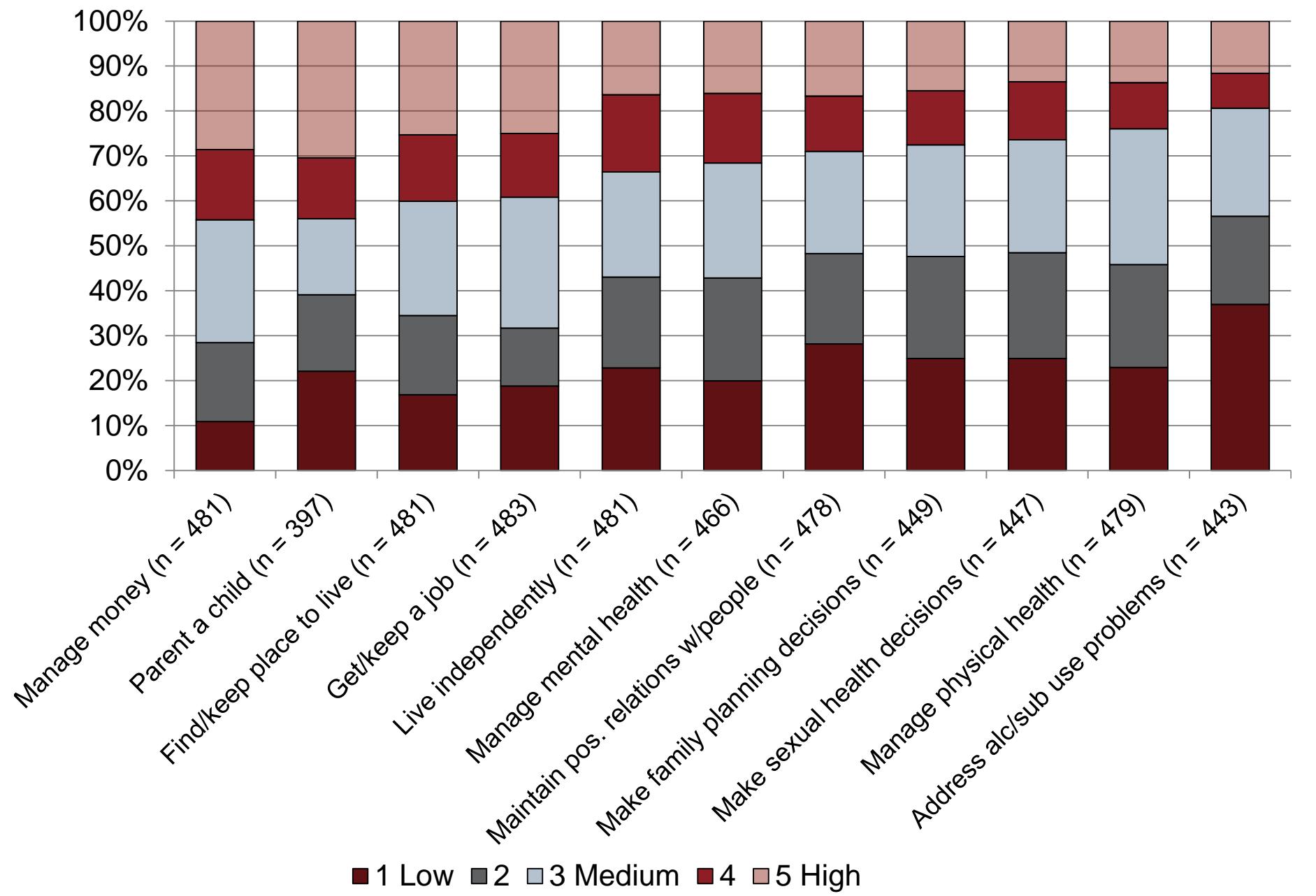
Youth's Satisfaction with Life Skills Preparation, Support Services, or Training

Average Satisfaction

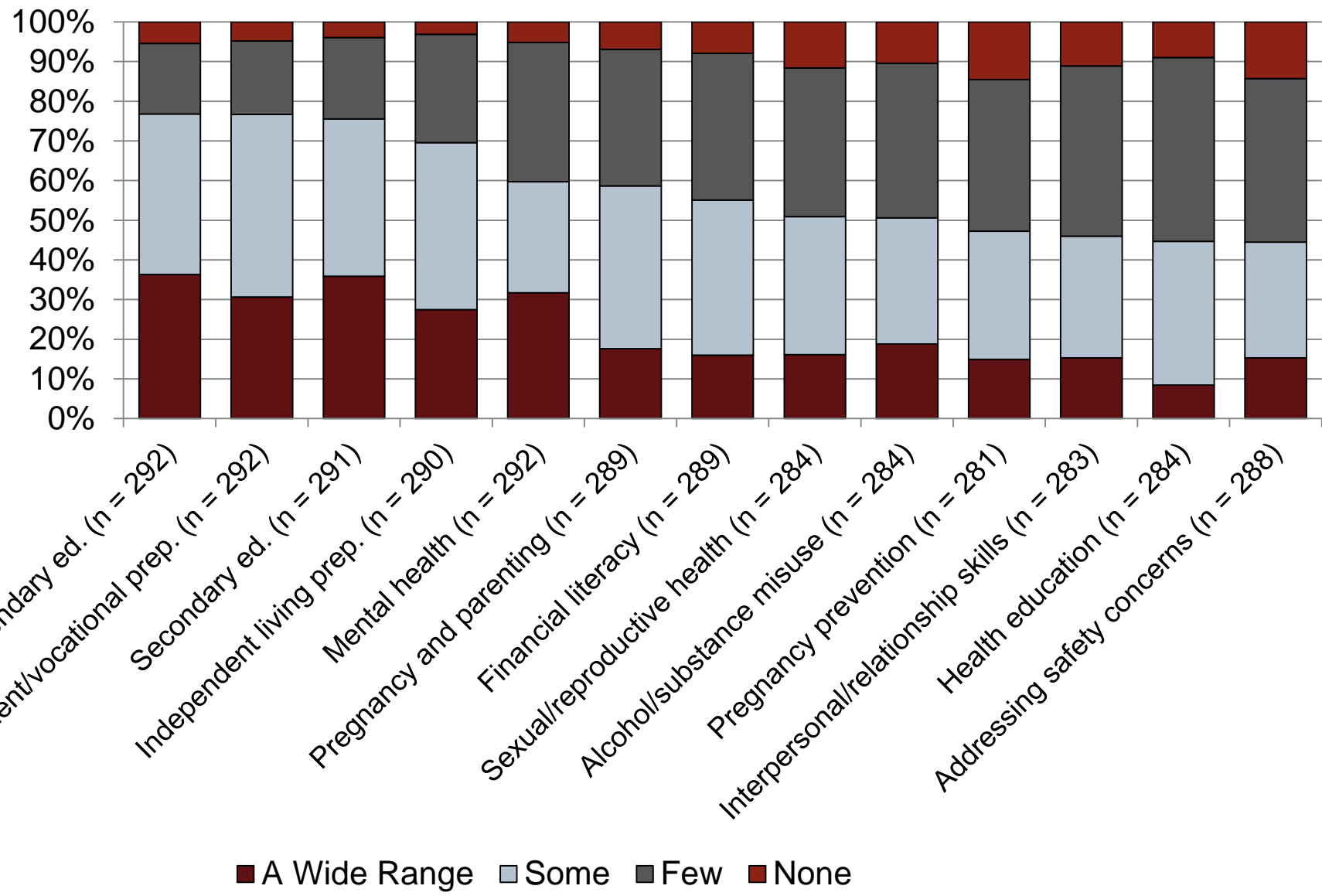


1=Very dissatisfied 2=Dissatisfied 3=Satisfied 4=Very Satisfied

Caseworker's Perception of Youth's Need for Services

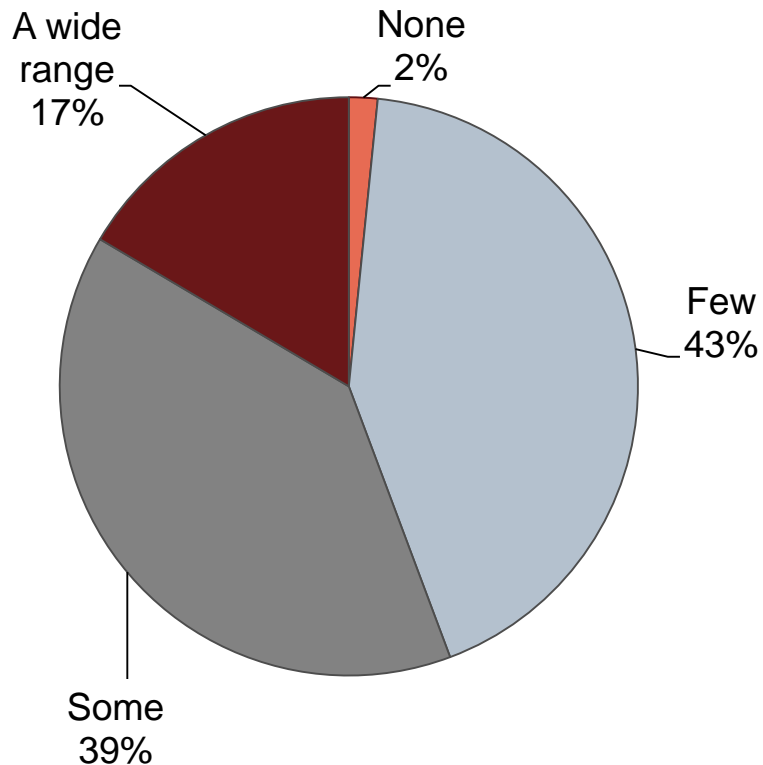


Caseworkers' Perceptions of Availability of Trainings and Services for Older Youth

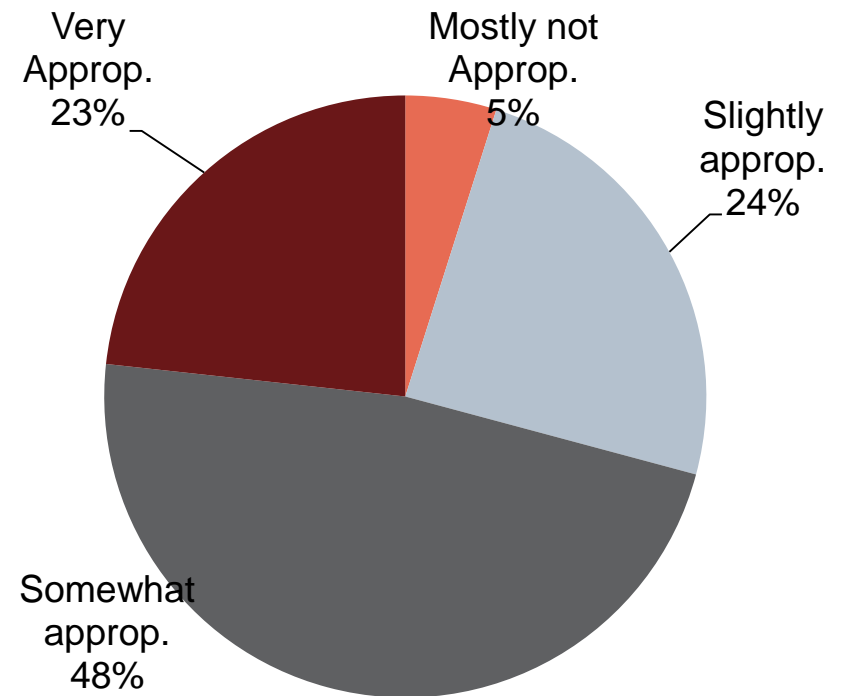


Housing Options

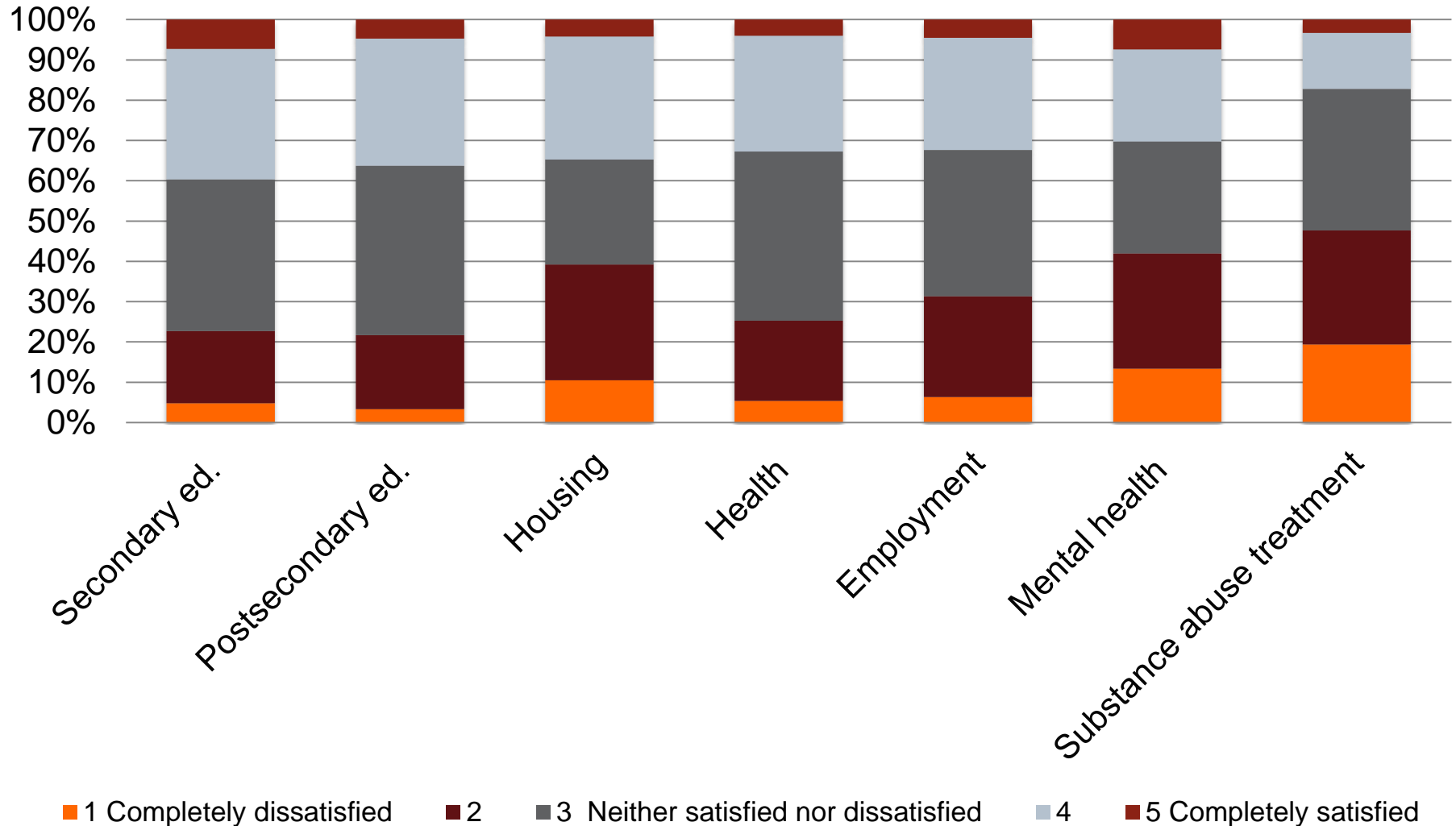
Caseworkers' Perceptions of
Availability of Housing Options
(*N* = 292)



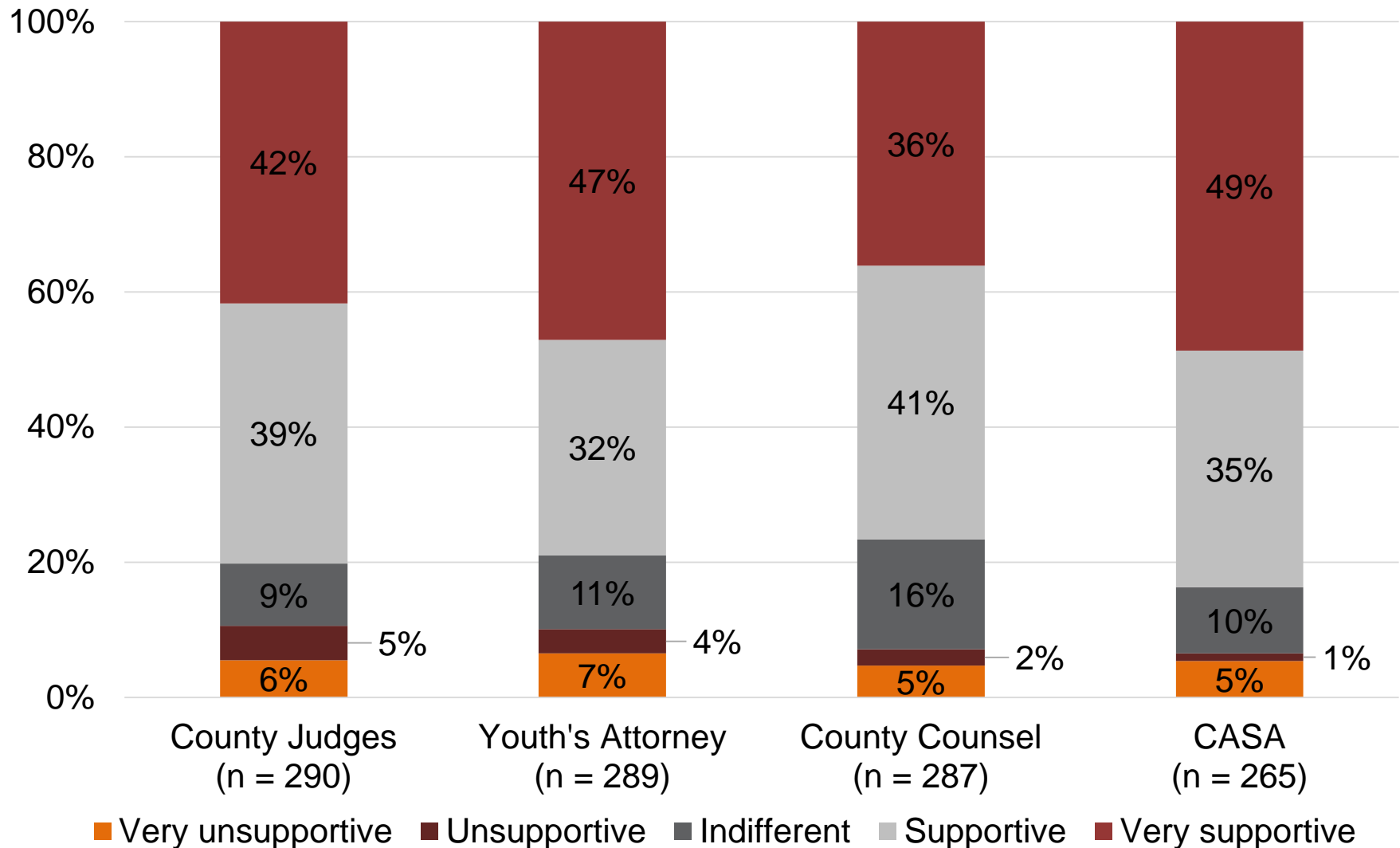
Caseworkers' Perceptions of
Appropriateness of Housing
Options
(*N* = 292)



Caseworkers' Satisfaction with Collaboration with Other Systems



Supportiveness of Court Personnel



Summary

- Youths' perceptions of preparedness differs from caseworkers' perceptions
- Youth are least prepared in education and employment, while these two areas are the service types that are the most widely provided
- Youth reported being the least satisfied with the preparation they received in the areas of education, housing, and financial literacy
- Caseworkers are mostly dissatisfied with collaboration with other systems around substance abuse, mental health, and employment

Next Steps

- Analysis of the relationship between extended care and the young adults' outcomes using youth and worker survey data
 - Through what mechanisms (e.g., living arrangements; services; relationships with adults) does extended care influence outcomes?
- Analysis of other risk and protective factors associated with the young adults' outcomes using youth and worker survey data
- Analysis of selective outcomes (employment, postsecondary education, need-based government assistance) and predictors of outcomes using administrative data on the population of transition-age youth in care pre- and post-AB12