



UCLA

Pritzker Center
For Strengthening Children and Families



**GOOD RIVER
PARTNERS**

With Support from Wells Fargo

Housing Preferences of Young Adults Exiting Foster Care:

A Guide to Expanding Housing Resources in Los Angeles



Land Acknowledgment





Why Focus on Transitional Housing for Transition Age Youth (TAY) with Foster Care Experience?

- Between 31% and 46% of foster youth had been homeless at least once by the time they turned 26
- 25% of former foster youth between ages 21-24 experienced homelessness in California
- +28% additionally reported that they had couch surfed
- 35% of the total unsheltered population in Los Angeles reported child welfare and/or juvenile justice system involvement at some point in their lives

PURPOSE OF THE SURVEY

- Understand the living arrangement preferences among transition-age youth preparing for independent living
- Understand the experiences that youth face while receiving transitional housing support services
- Align future investments in housing and practice with youth need and desire



The TAY Housing Preferences Survey



- Developed by Good River Partners, in collaboration with a panel of four lived experts, and subject matter expert review provided by child welfare researchers
- Piloted with lived expert focus group
- Good River Partners collaborated with organizations providing transitional housing to young adults in extended foster care and those who recently aged out – both THP-NMD and THP-Plus – to disseminate the survey
- 230 young adults responded between August and October 2024
- Each participant received \$50 for completing the survey
- SDMC Consulting provided survey response management and payments

AGENDA

- **Presentation of survey findings**
- **Lived expert and service provider panel**
- **Table conversations**
- **Large group discussion**
 - **Contributions from table conversations**
 - **Recommendations**



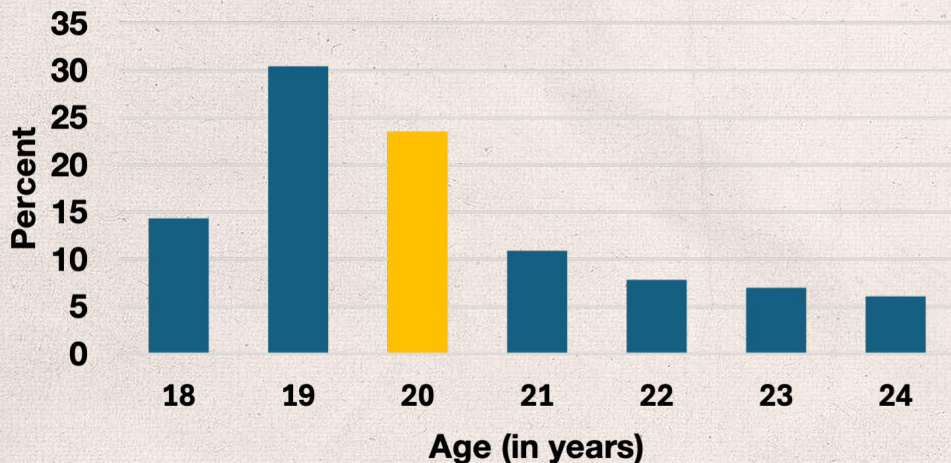


**Who Participated in the TAY
Housing Preferences Survey?**

Who Participated in the TAY Housing Preferences Survey?

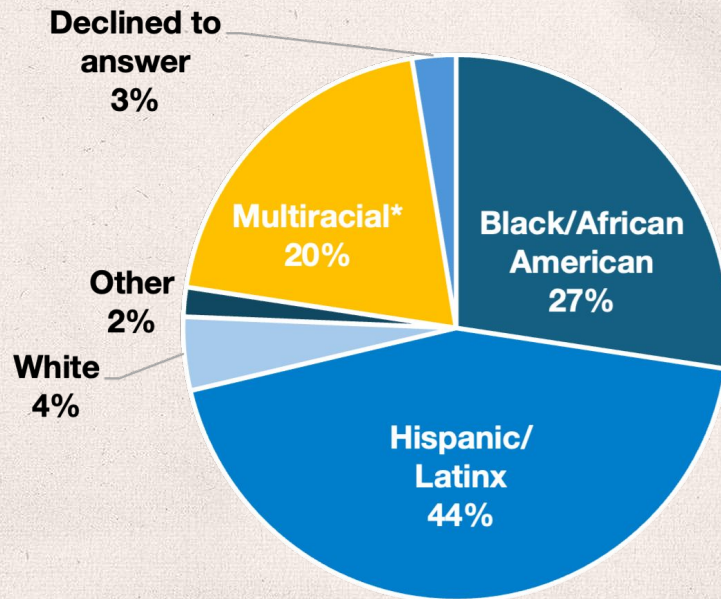
Demographic Characteristics of Participants

Age



The yellow bar represents the average.

Race and Ethnicity



Who Participated in the TAY Housing Preferences Survey?

Demographic Characteristics of Participants

Gender Identity

54%

women

41%

men

5%

genderqueer, non-binary, transgender

Sexual Orientation



19%

LGBTQ+

81%

Straight



16%

reported having
children or dependents



10%

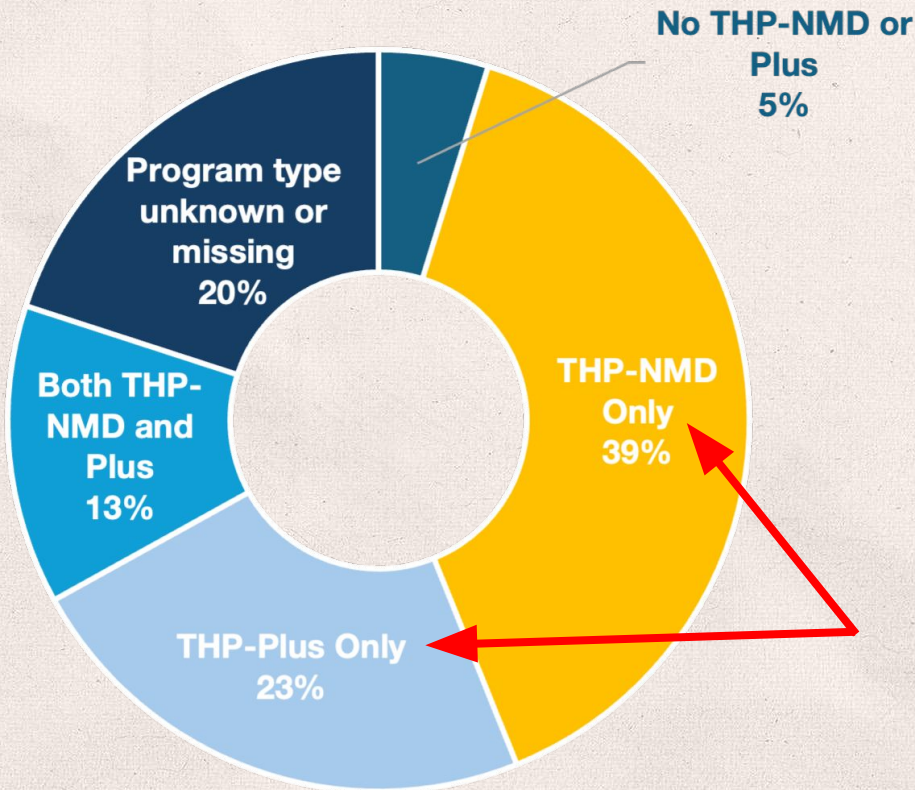
reported having
a disability



86%

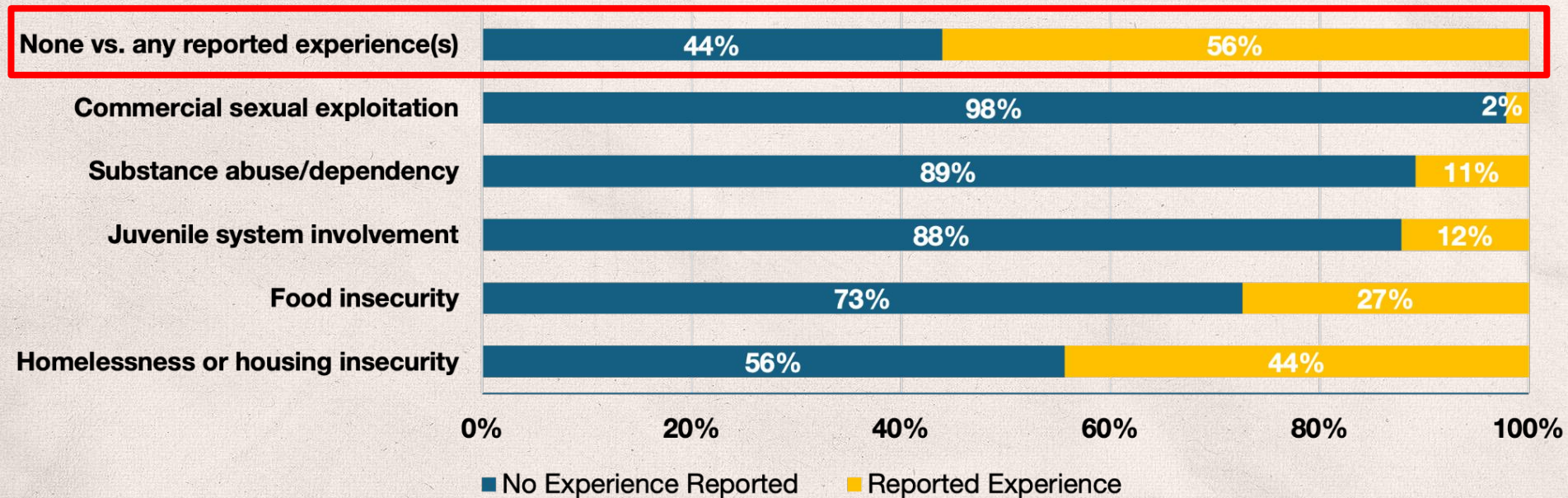
attained a high school
diploma or GED

Types of Transitional Housing Programs Experienced



Experiences of Participants

Types of Challenging Life Experiences

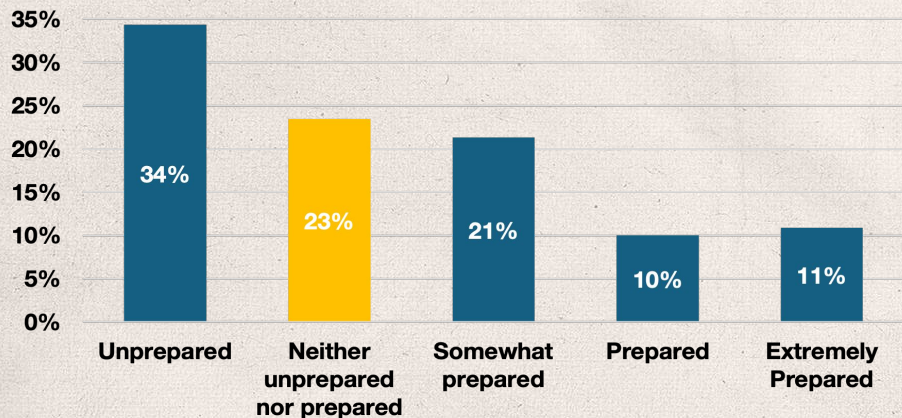




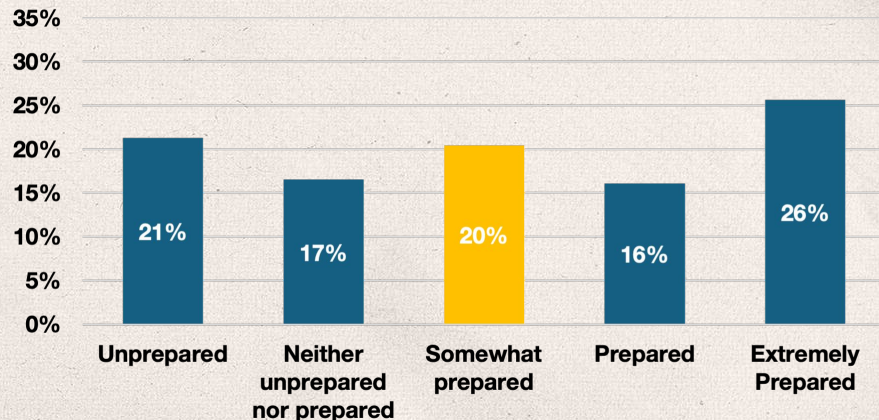
**How Prepared Did Participants
Feel to Transition to Life on
Their Own?**

How Prepared Did Participants Feel to Transition to Life on Their Own?

Perceived Preparedness to Find and Secure Housing without CWS Support



Perceived Preparedness to Live Independently

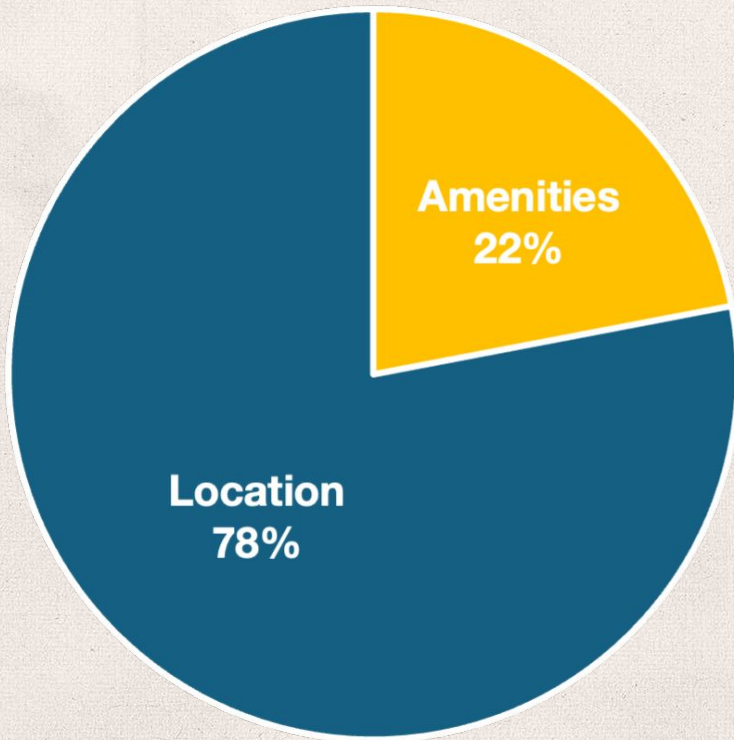


The yellow bar represents the average.



TAY Housing Preferences

Amenities vs. Location: Which is most important?

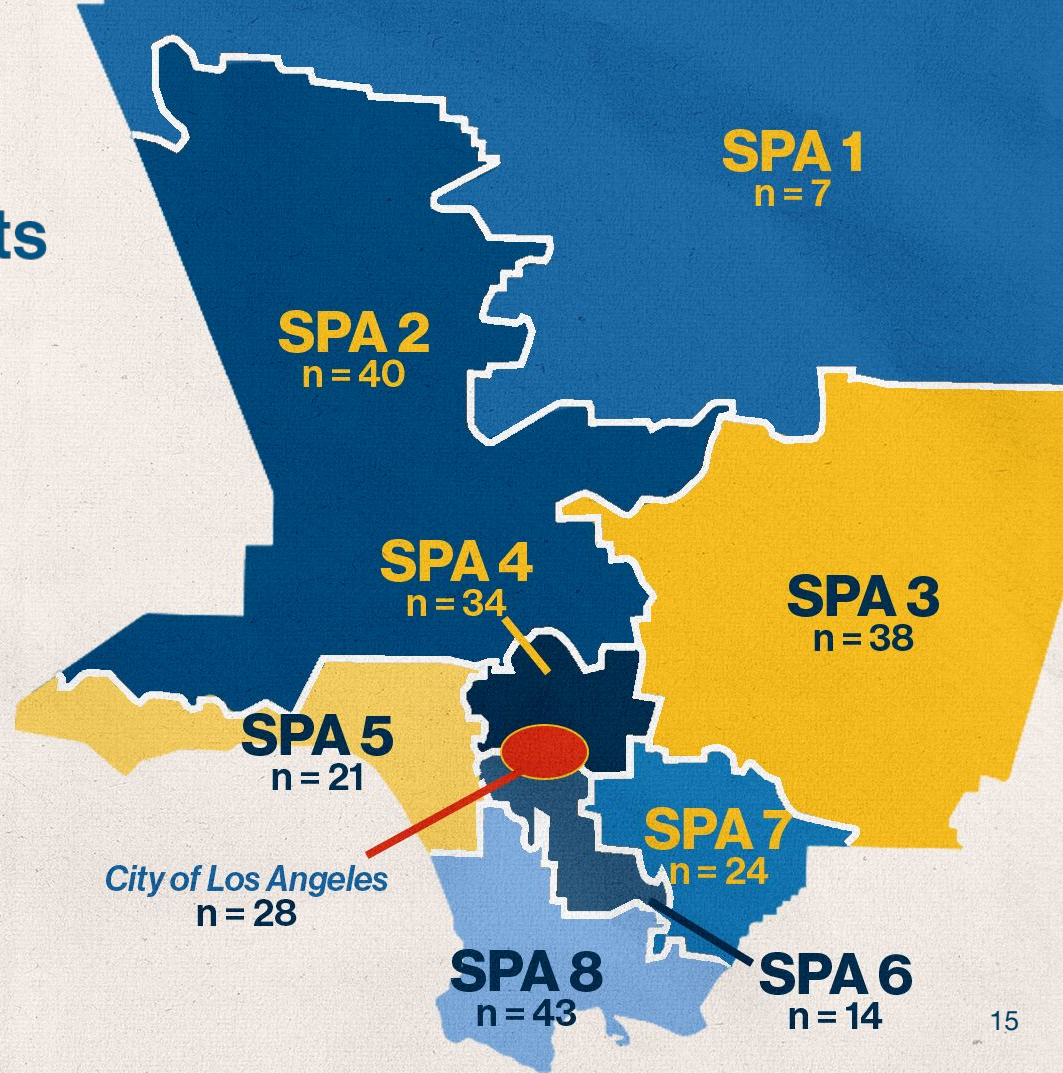


The top 3 SPAs participants preferred were:

- South Bay/Harbor (SPA 8)
- San Fernando Valley (SPA 2)
- San Gabriel Valley (SPA 3)

Reasons locations were desirable:

- Family nearby
- Near work/school/job opportunities
- Calm/nice area
- Welcoming people and community



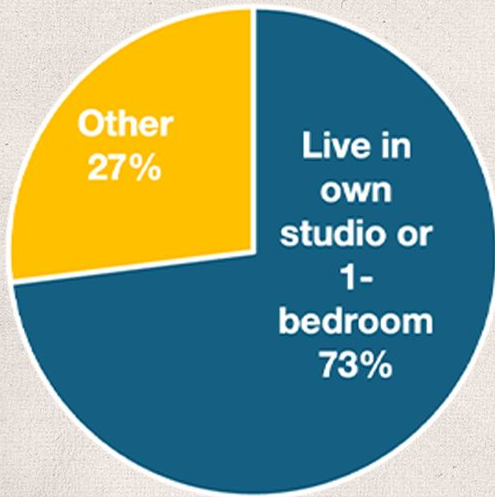
The amenities of most interest included...

16

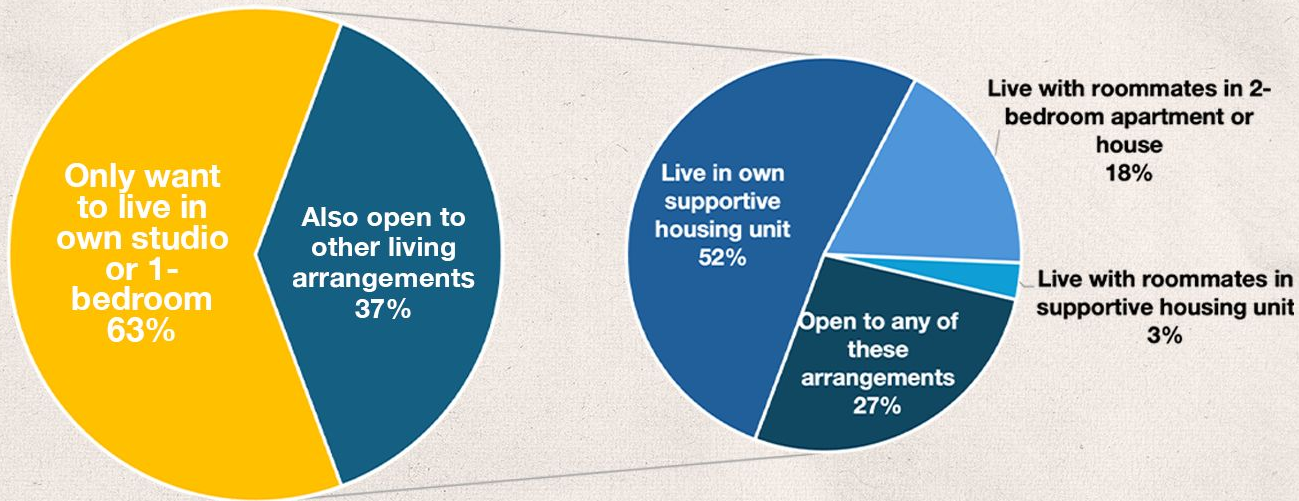
TAY Housing Preferences

Ideal Living Arrangements

Ideal Living Arrangements



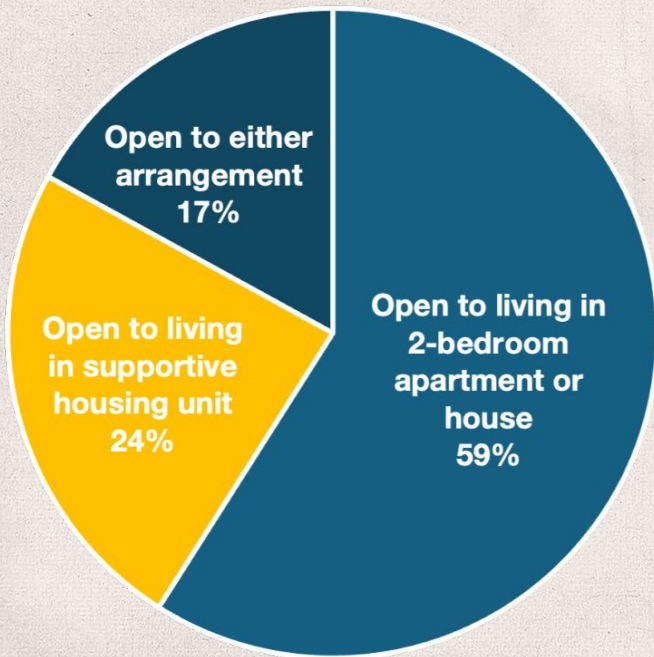
Among the 73% of respondents (n=167) who want to live alone...



TAY Housing Preferences

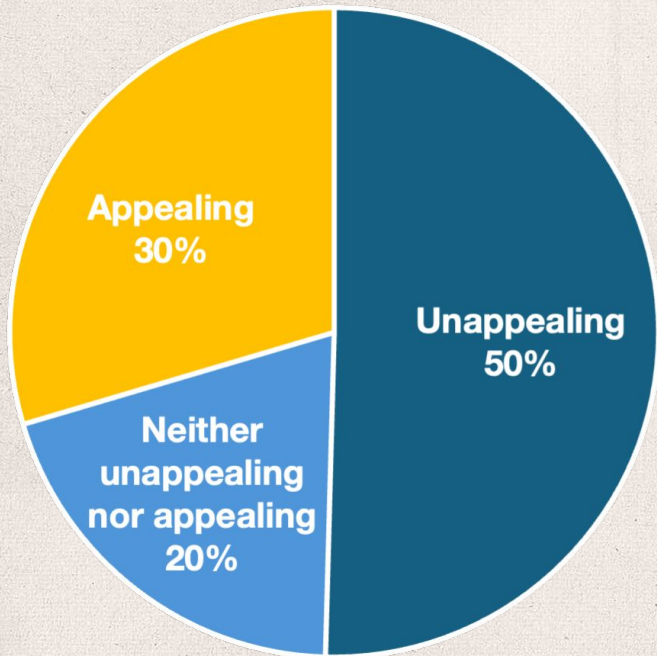
Ideal Living Arrangements

Among the 30% of respondents (n=70)
open to living with roommates...

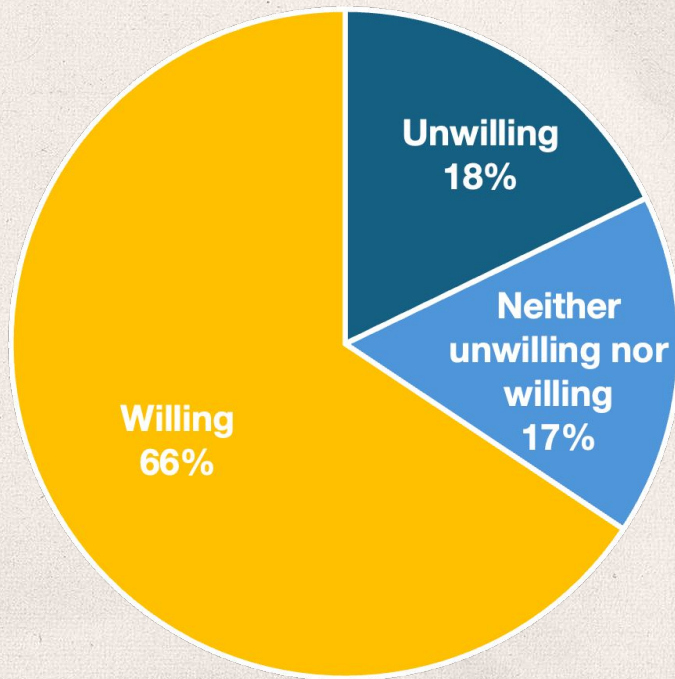


TAY Housing Preferences

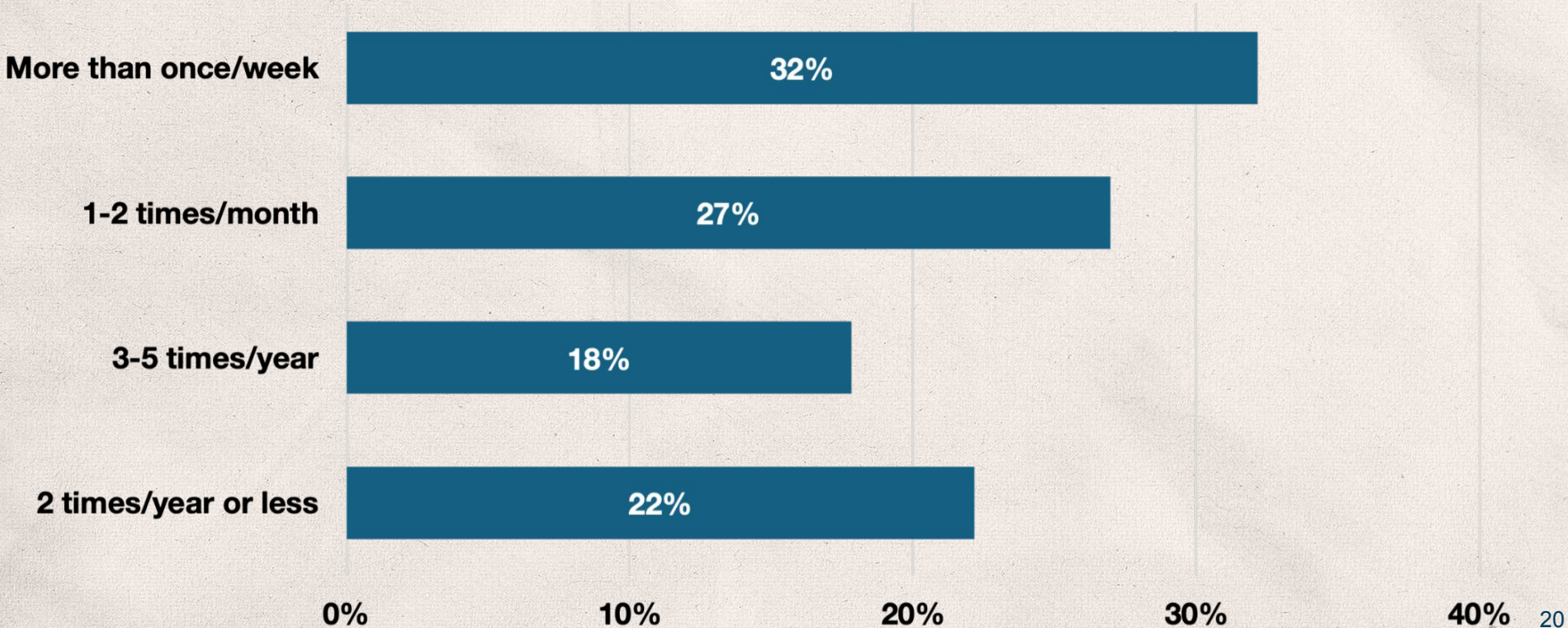
Appeal of Communal Living



Willingness to Move for Lower Rent



Preferred Frequency of On-Site Case Management Services in Transitional Housing Program



TAY Housing Preferences

THP-NMD vs. THP-Plus

No differences in housing preferences between participants with **only** THP-NMD and those with **only** THP-Plus living experiences:

- Number of challenging life experience types
- Preparedness
- Amenities
- Ideal living arrangements
- Frequency of case management



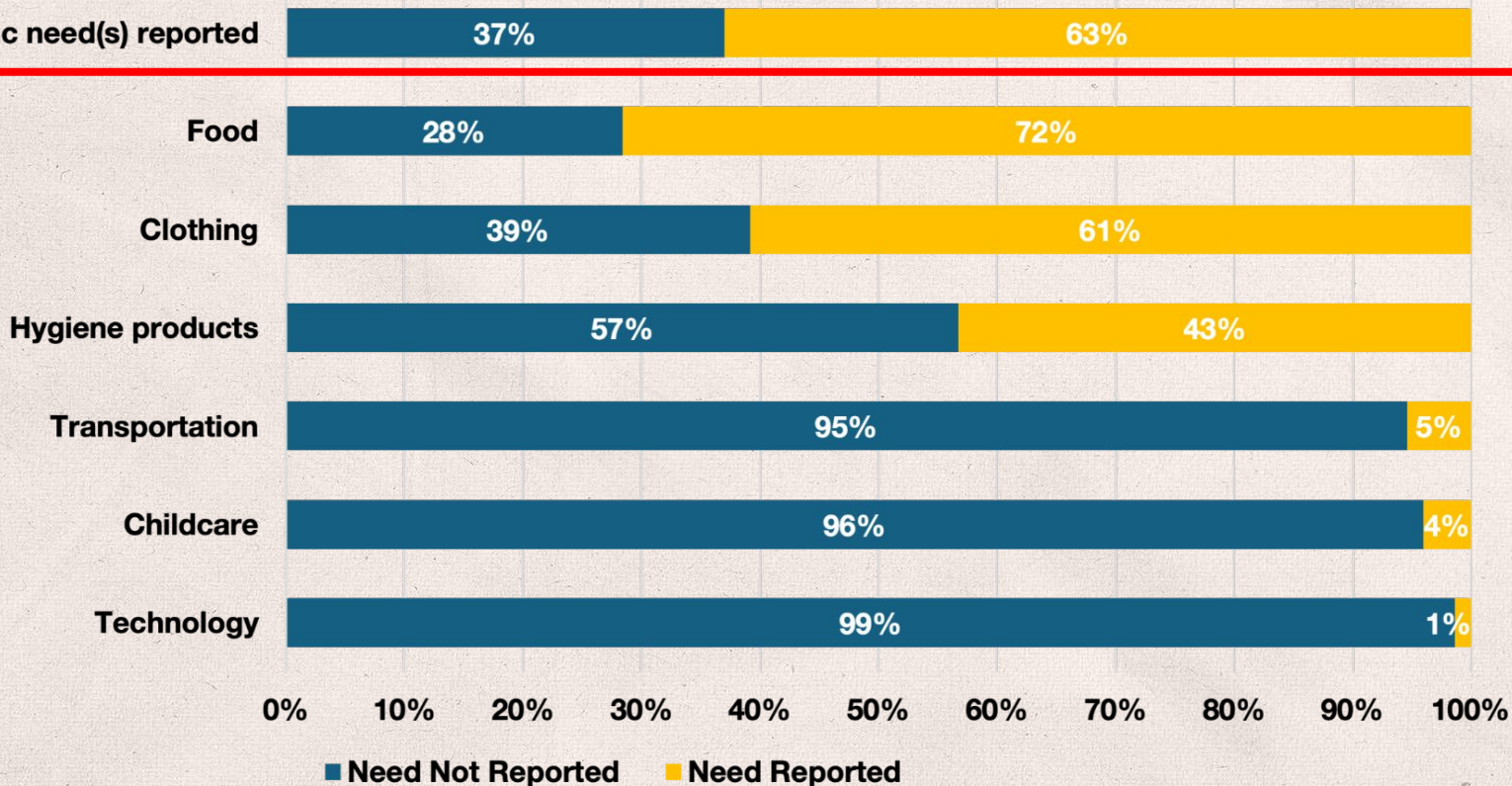


Needs of Young People in Transitional Housing Programs

Needs of Young People in Transitional Housing Programs

Basic Needs

None vs. any basic need(s) reported



Needs of Young People in Transitional Housing Programs

Healthcare

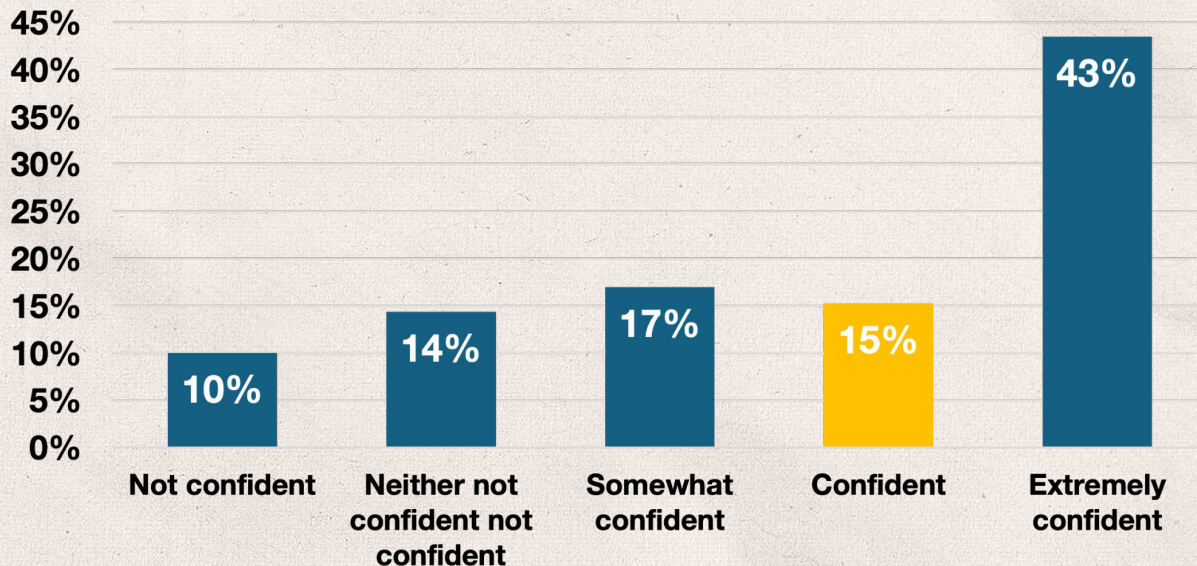
Health Insurance Coverage

4% **8%** **88%**
none unsure insured

Primary Physician Appointment in Past Year

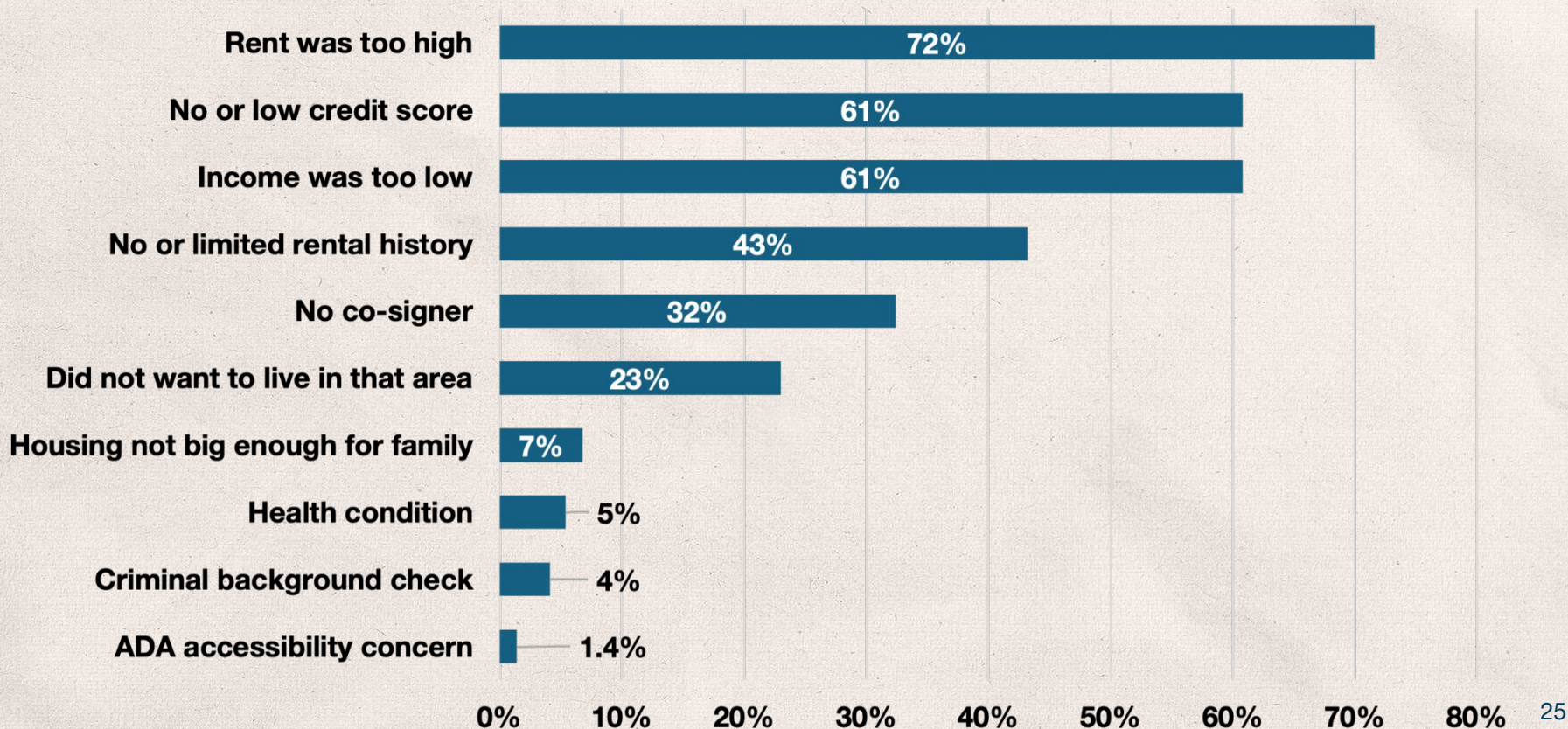
27% **5%** **67%**
no unsure yes

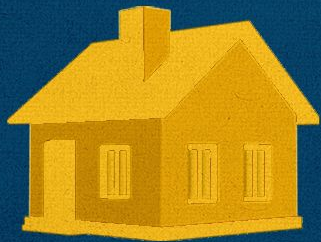
Confidence in Accessing Healthcare Services Independently



Needs of Young People in Transitional Housing Programs

Perceived Barriers to Securing Housing in Past 12 Months





Panel Discussion



Panel Discussion

Jordan Edwards *Foster Youth Advocate and Cosmetology Student at West Valley Occupational Center*

Ferre Woodmore *Parent and Foster Youth Advocate*

Sam Gonzalez *Chief Business Development Officer, Sycamores*

Moderator: Tae Thompson *UCLA Pritzker Center*



Table Discussions

- What stands out to you?
- What resonates?
- What is missing from conversation?
- What are your key takeaways?
- What recommendations do you have?
- Next steps?



Discussion and Recommendations



Conclusion



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Thank You



CONTACT

Kevin Clark
Daniel Heimpel
Brenda A. Tully, PhD

kclark@goodriverpartners.com
dheimpel@goodriverpartners.com
tully@gseis.ucla.edu

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Strengthening Support Networks for LGBTQ+ Youth

Thursday, June 5, 2025
12-1pm | Zoom

