

# DOMESTIC ABUSE SAFE ACCOMMODATION STRATEGY

An update to the needs assessment for domestic abuse safe accommodation done in 2024/25

Based on this review, the following actions were highlighted from the Domestic Abuse Action Plan

## SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION

Further evaluation of the Complex Needs Unit and IDVAs In the Housing and Homelessness Team is planned. We also plan to monitor approaches to the LA housing team and the reasons why victims cannot be supported

1

2

## ANXIETY AND TRAUMA

Development of the service offer including resources for victim survivors and training for practitioners

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Continue to increase referrals into the WISH service

3

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## HOUSING SUPPORT

Increased provision and evaluation of specialist DA post in the housing and homelessness team. Continuation of the DAHA accreditation process

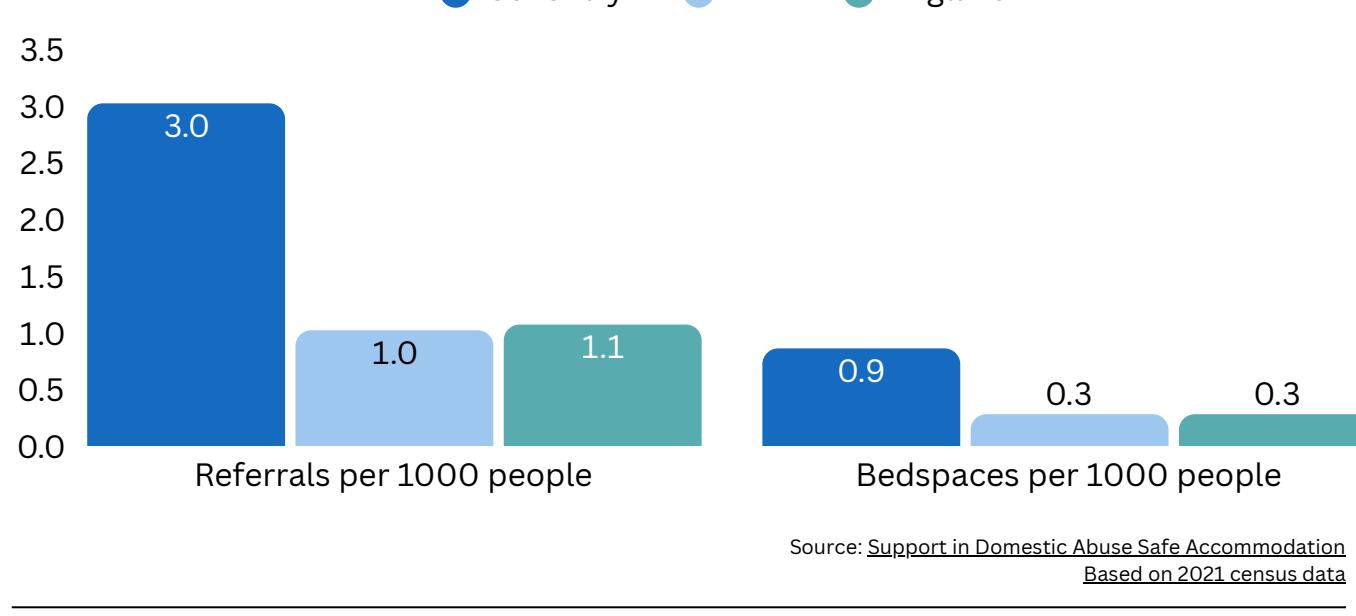
## DATA

Work to improve the collection of data, in particular on ethnicity and other protected characteristics to make services more culturally appropriate

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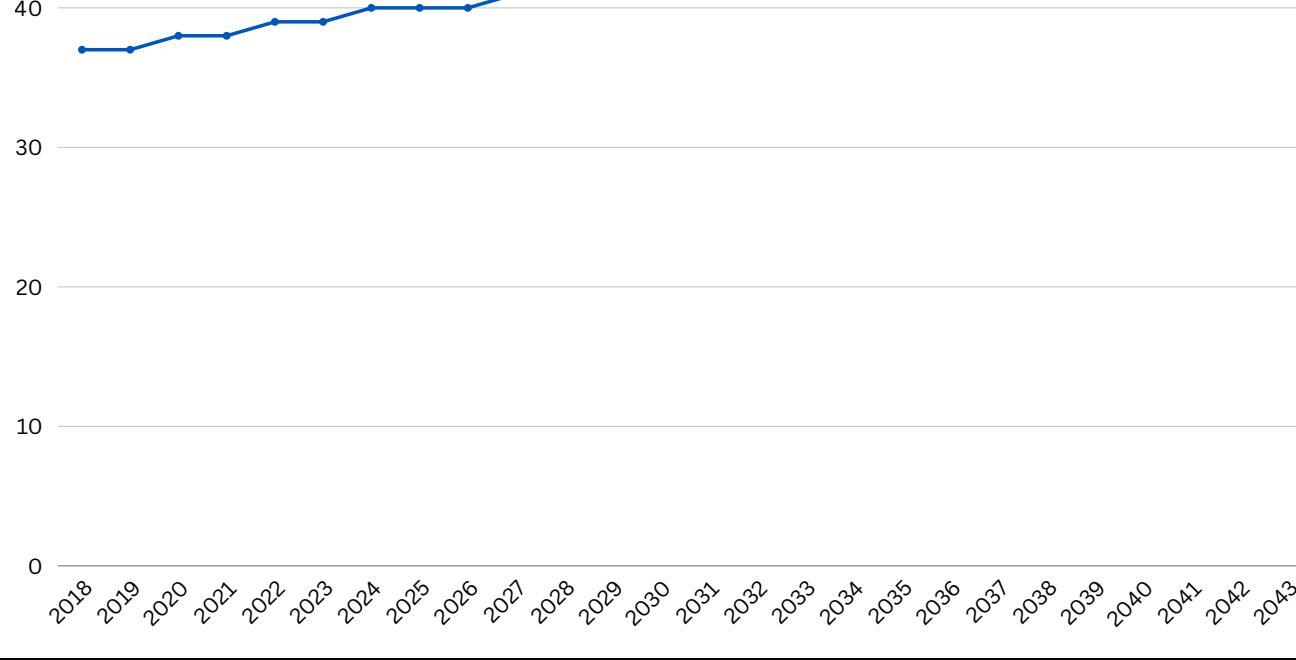
## Individuals supported

Coventry has a higher number of referrals and bedspaces per 1000 people compared to the West Midlands and England (2023-24). The current (local authority-commissioned) refuge provision of 54 exceeds the estimates based on the Council of Europe formula. This is based on 1 refuge space per 10,000 population

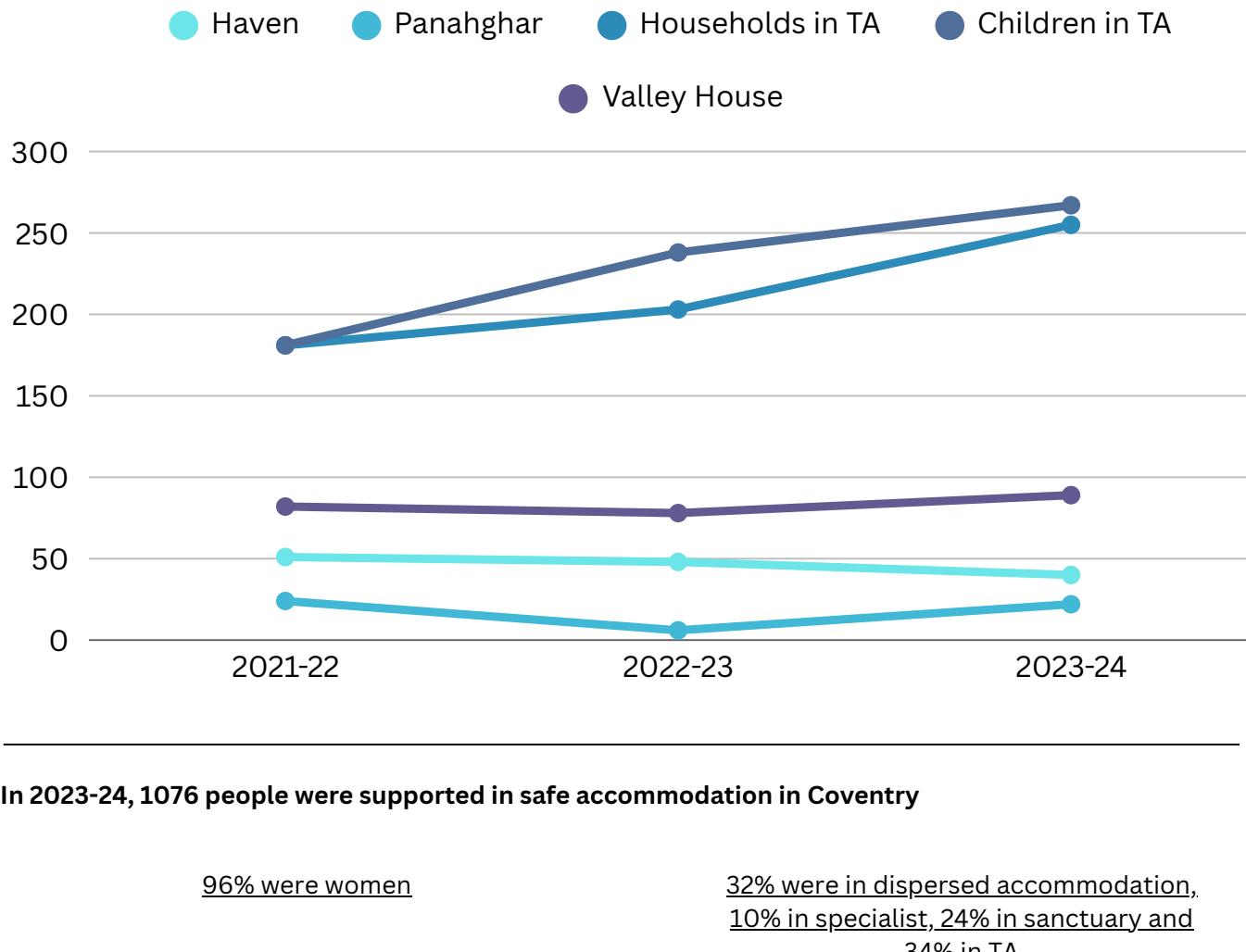


Source: [Support in Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation](#)  
Based on 2021 census data

The provision of specialist accommodation spaces is expected to meet the rising need in the future



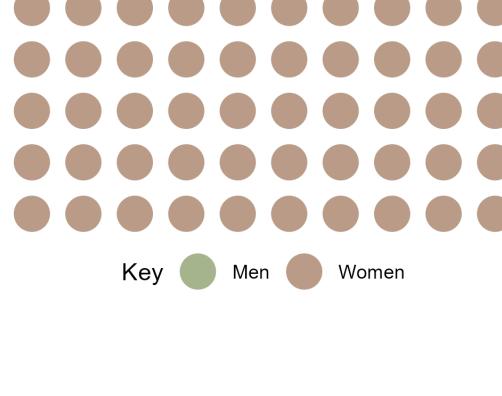
The number of individuals in supported accommodation because of domestic abuse has been increasing since 2021



In 2023-24, 1076 people were supported in safe accommodation in Coventry

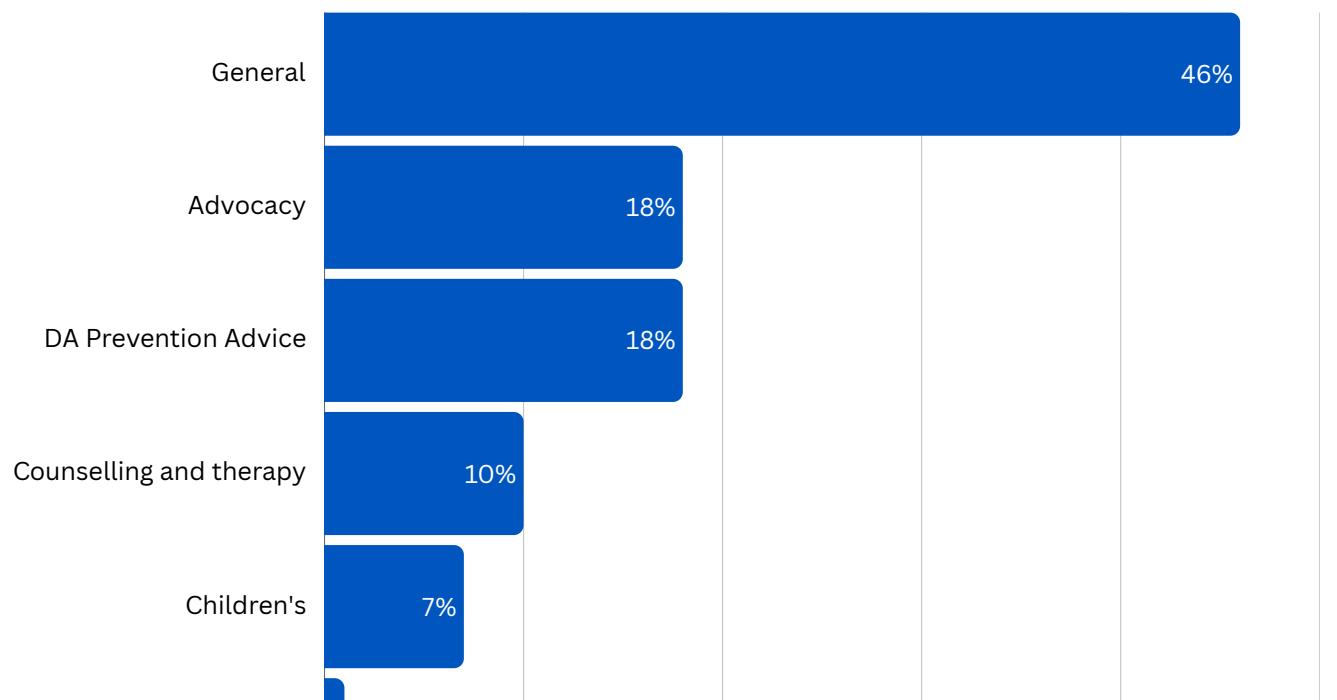
96% were women

32% were in dispersed accommodation,  
10% in specialist, 24% in sanctuary and  
34% in TA

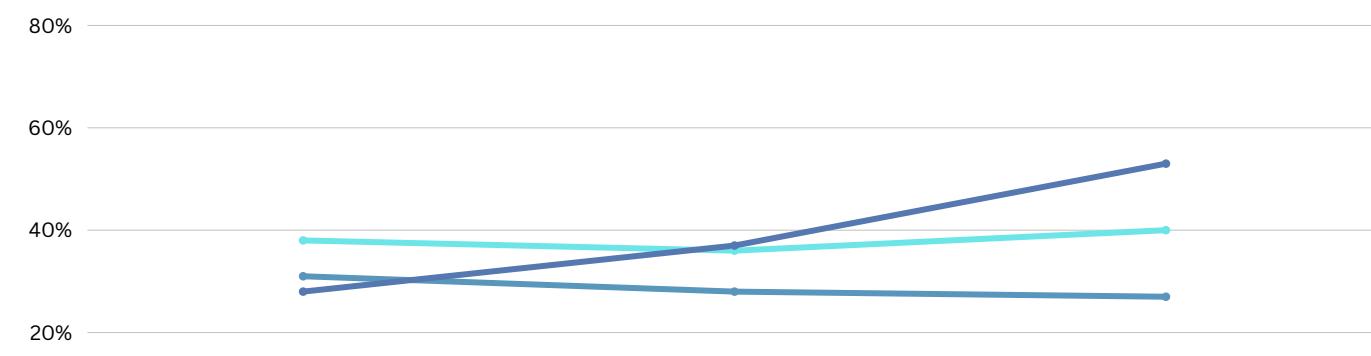


411 children

## Most common types of support offered in Coventry domestic abuse services (2023-24)

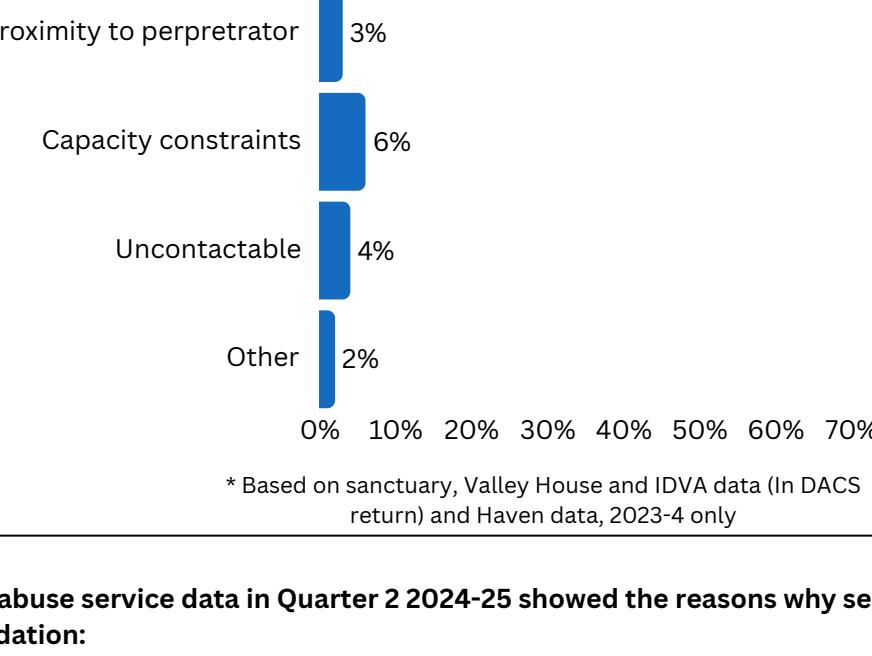


The percentage of Black and Minoritized individuals varies by service, but is relatively consistent over time, apart from Valley House which has seen a sharp increase since 2021



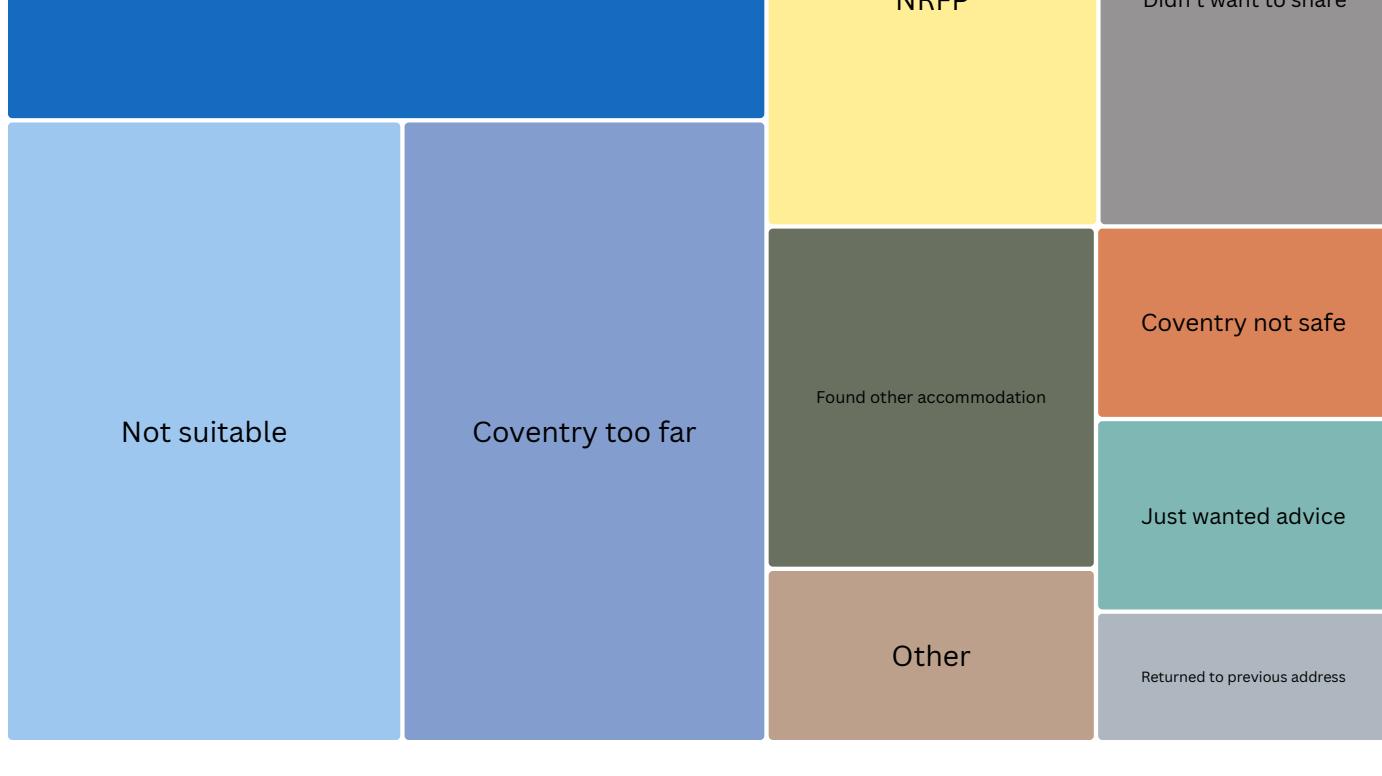
## Households unable to be supported

Of households unable to be supported\*, the reasons were:



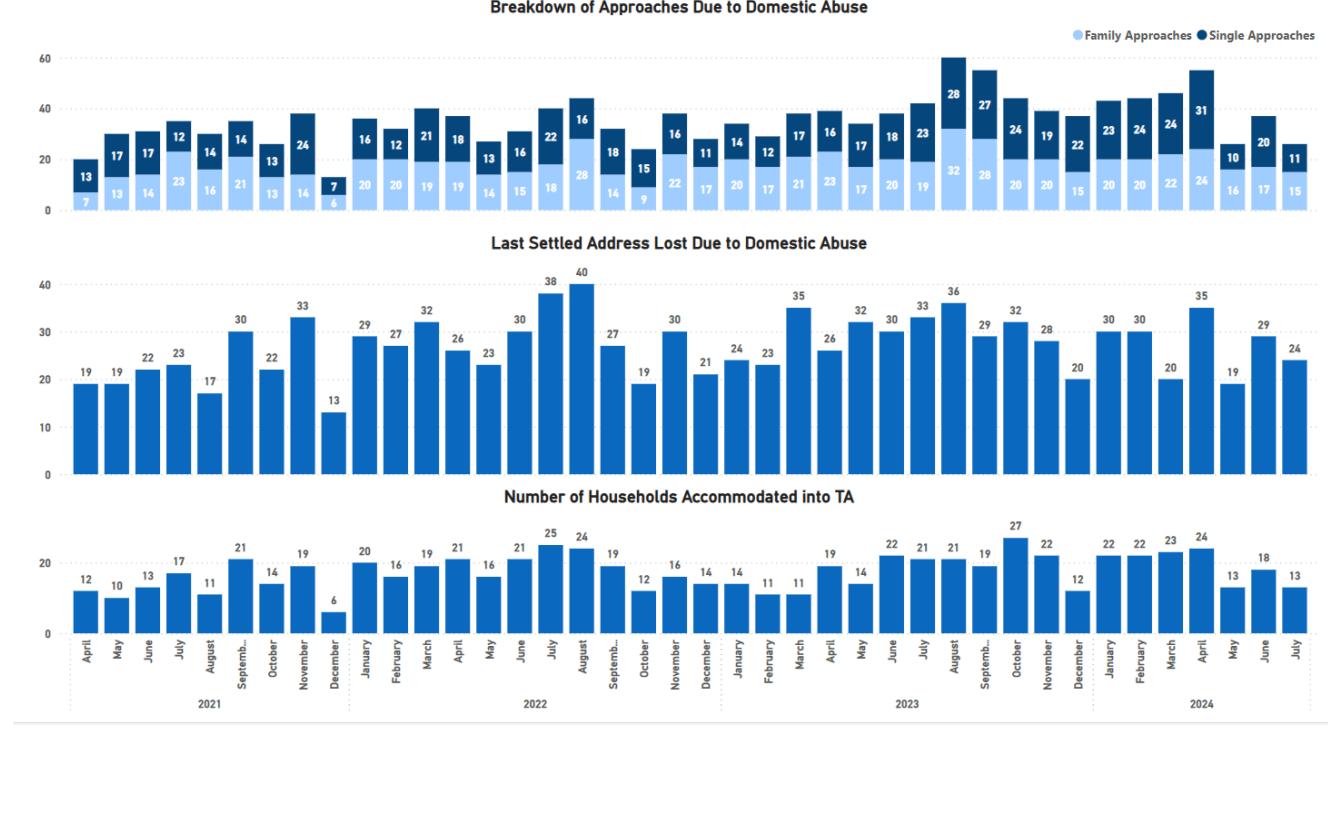
\* Based on sanctuary, Valley House and IDVA data (In DACS return) and Haven data, 2023-4 only

Domestic abuse service data in Quarter 2 2024-25 showed the reasons why service users declined accommodation:



## Housing activity over time

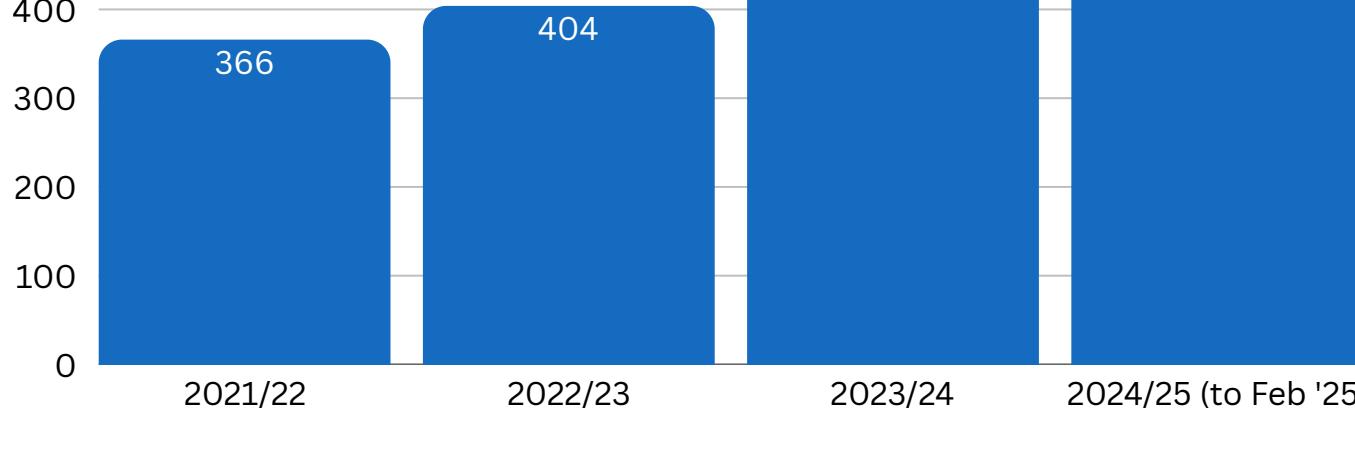
Source: Domestic Abuse Housing Dashboard



## Breakdown of housing referrals

Source: Domestic Abuse Housing Case Data

From 2021/22 to 2024/25 (to Feb 2025) 1775 cases were opened due to an individual fleeing domestic abuse

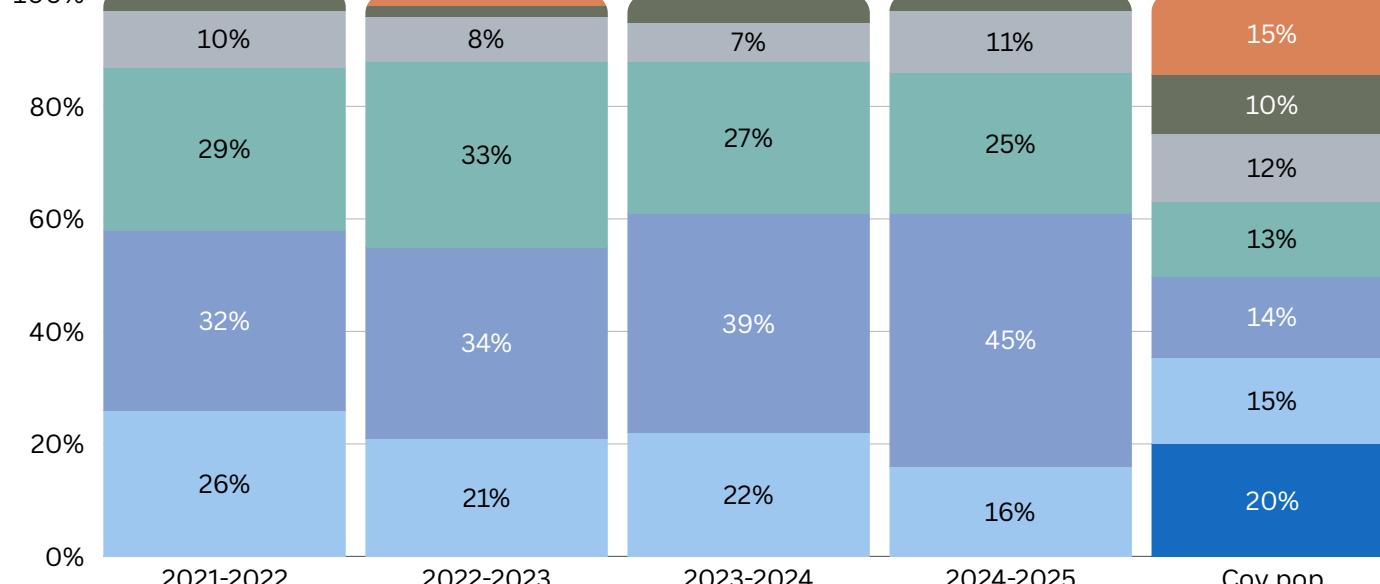


**92%** were already homeless

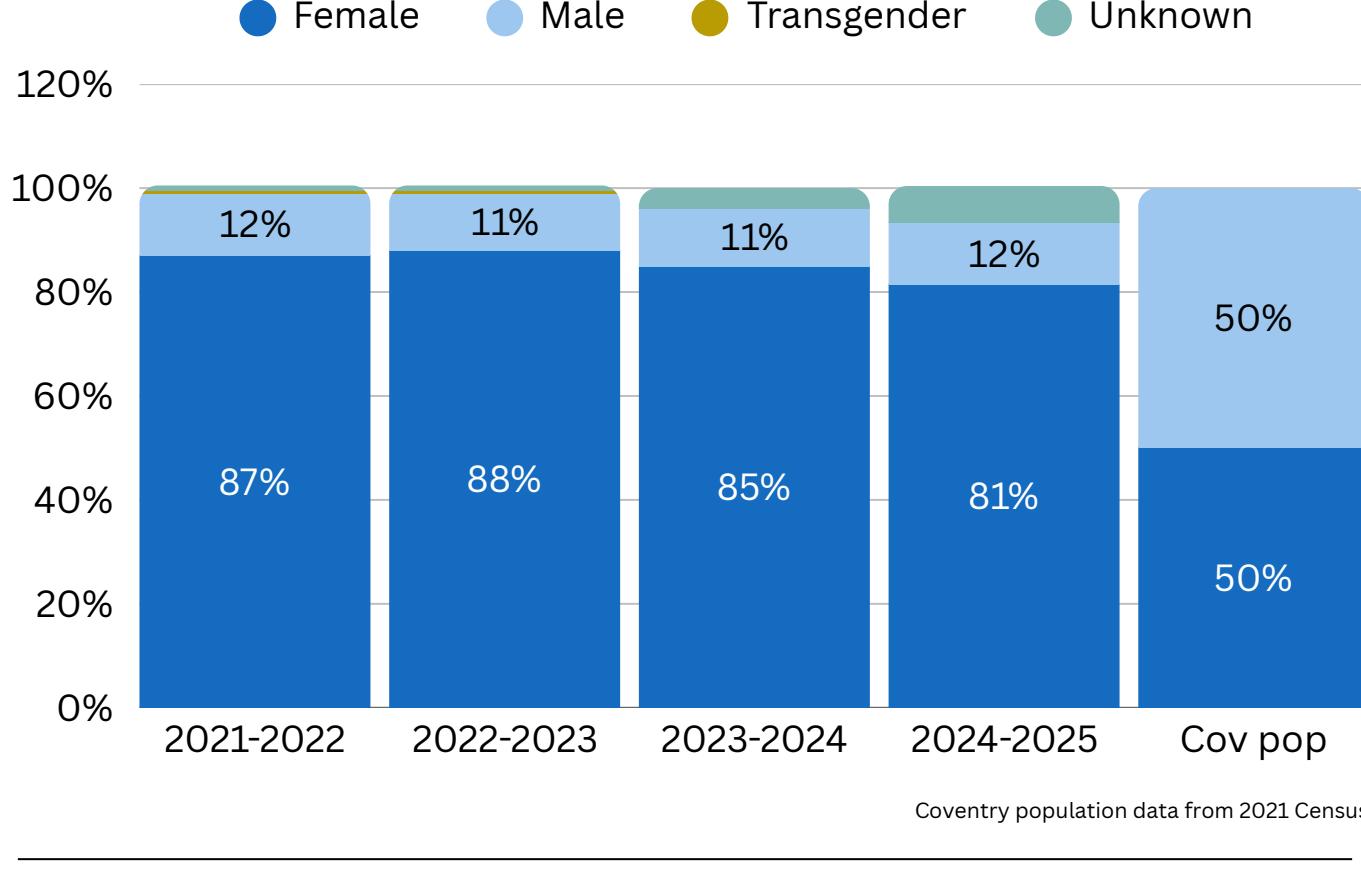
**6%** were threatened with homelessness

of cases where an assessment was done

Over time fewer 16-24 and 35-44 year olds and more 25-34 year olds approached the housing team due to domestic abuse

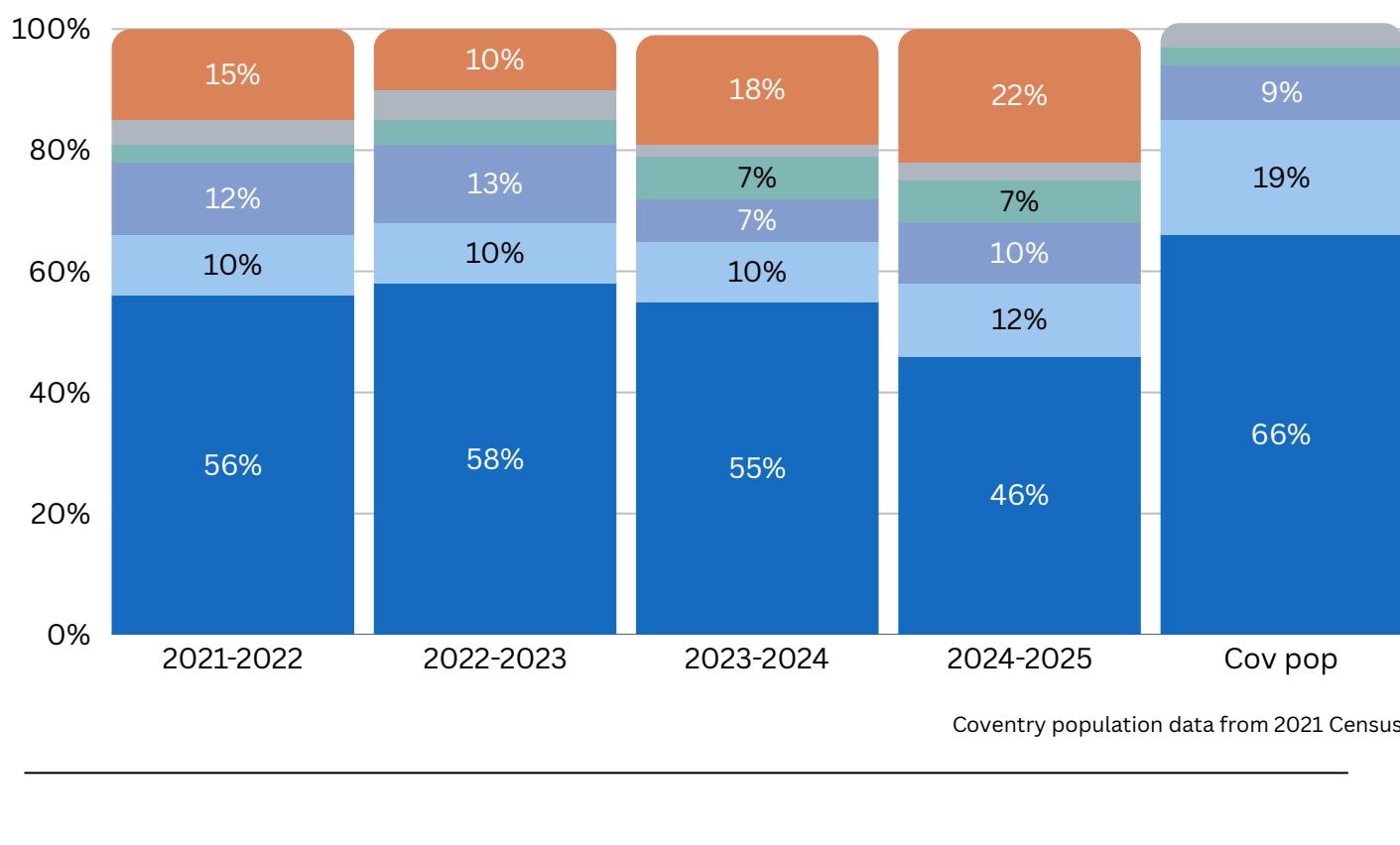


**The main applicant is female in over 80% of cases**



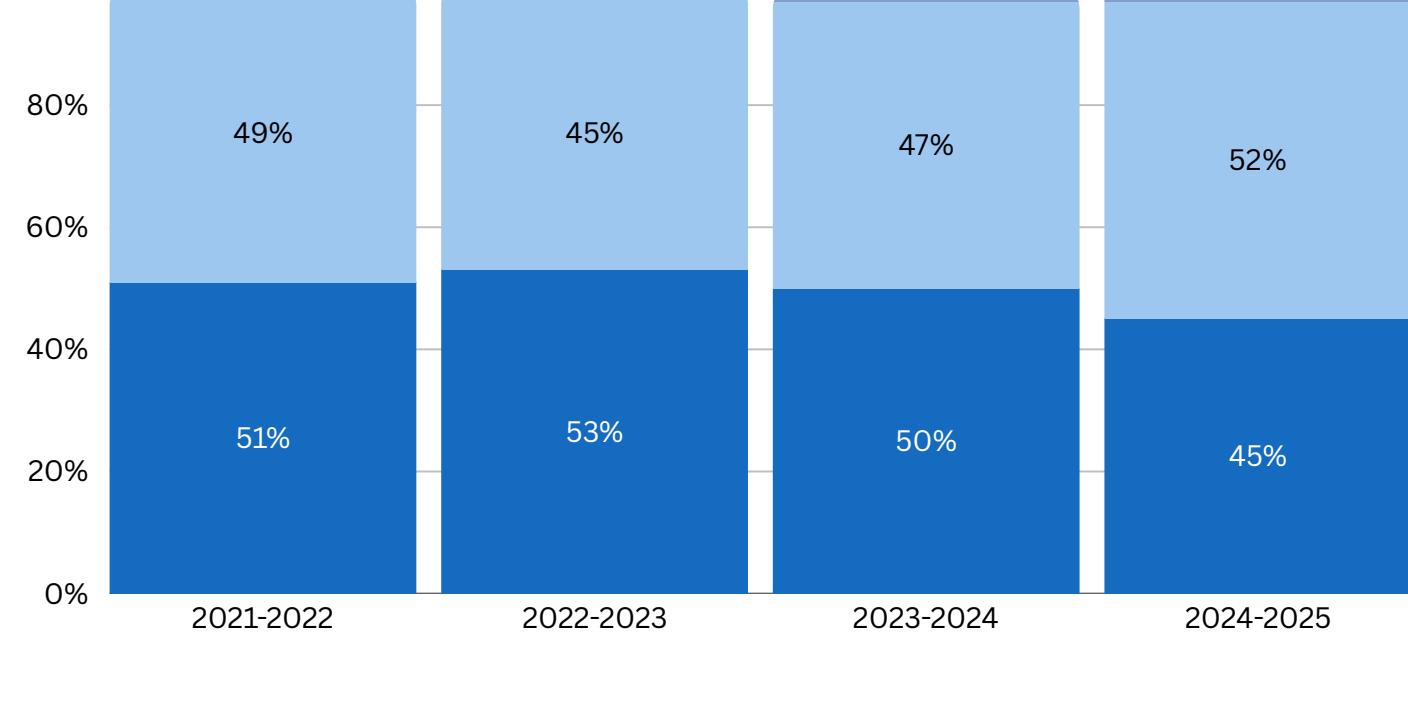
Coventry population data from 2021 Census

**Compared to the population of Coventry, housing applicants are less likely to be White**

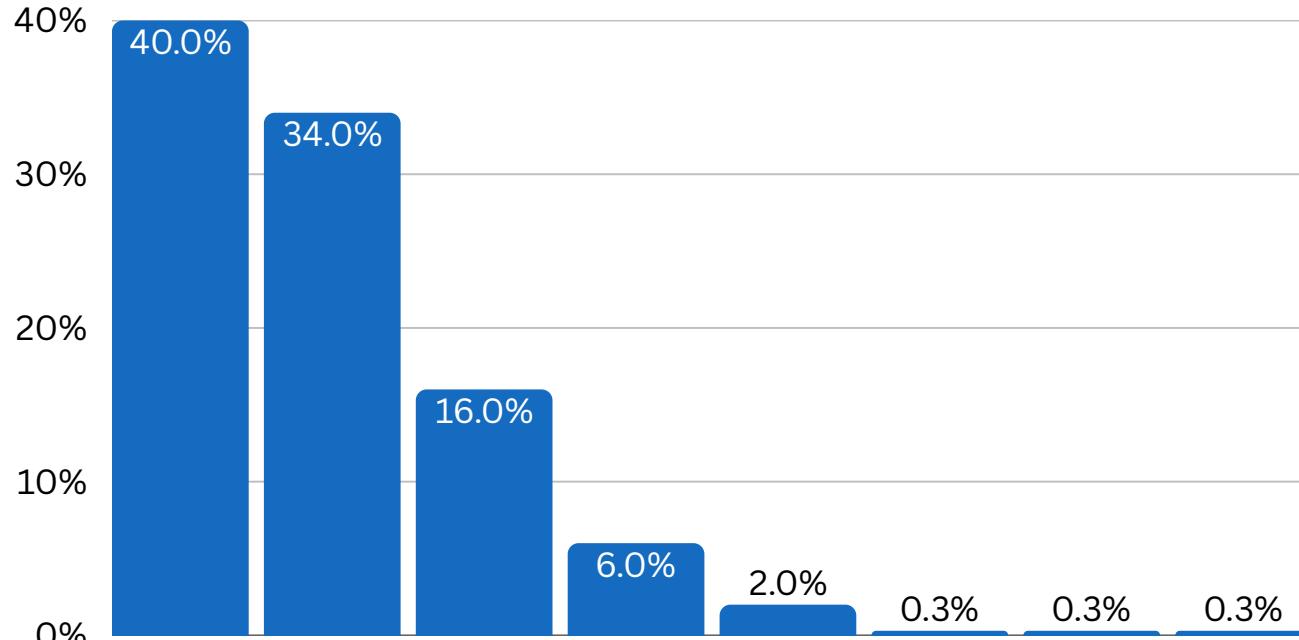


Coventry population data from 2021 Census

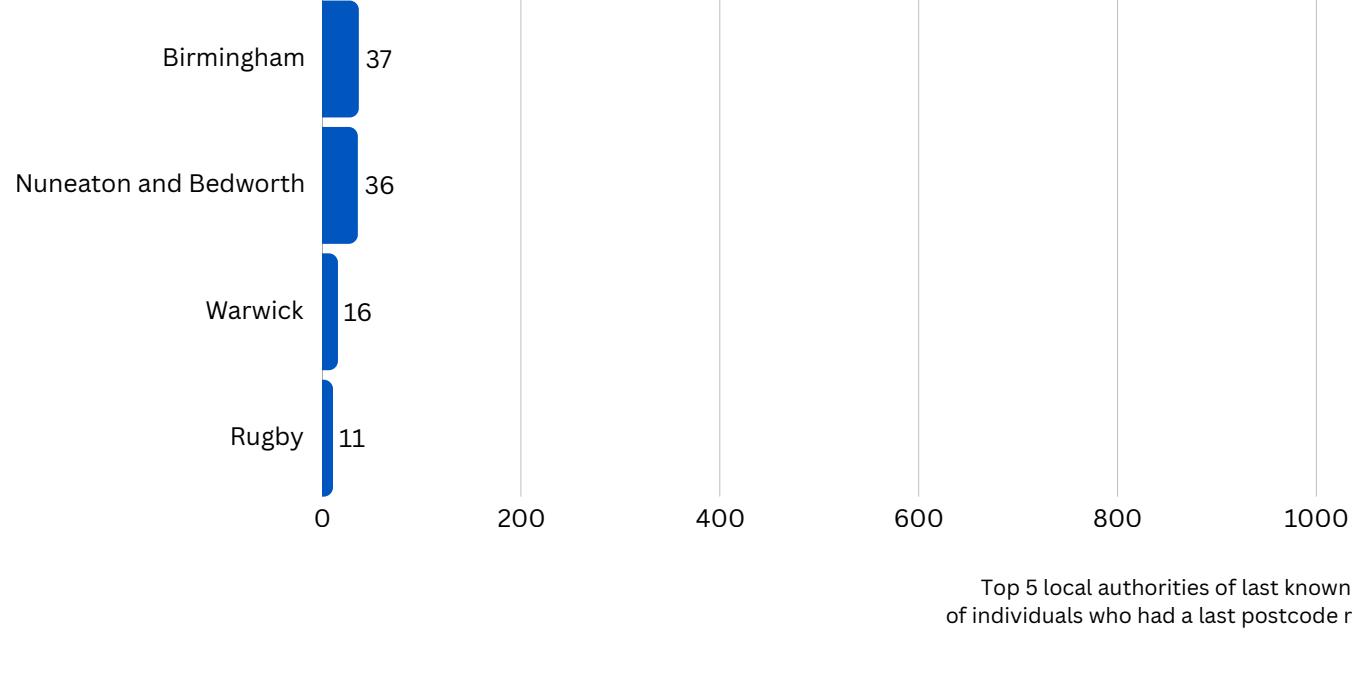
**Applications are evenly split between those with and without dependents**



Of applications with dependents, the median number of children is 2

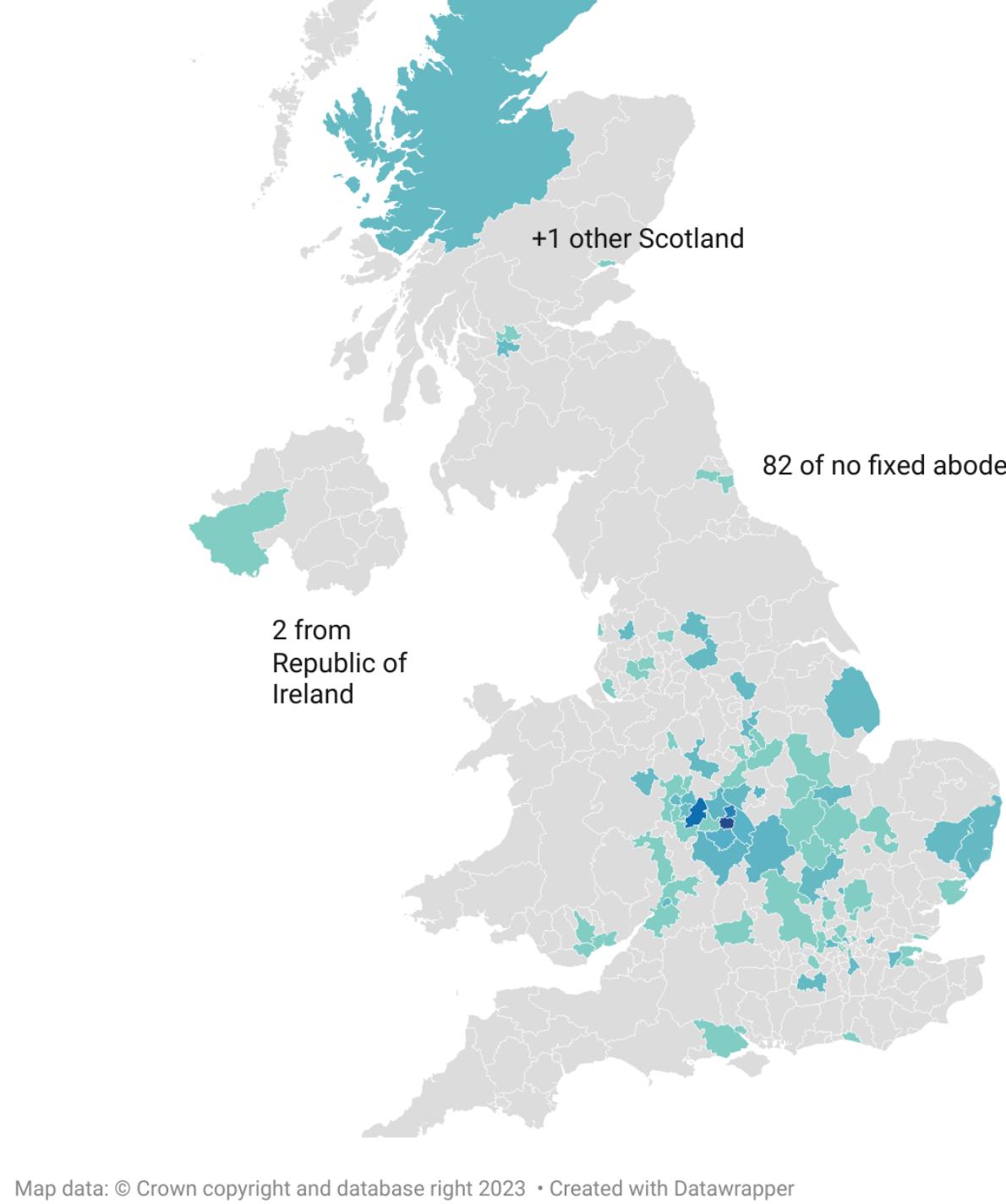


From 2021-22 to 2024-25, 73% of cases who approached the housing team due to domestic abuse gave a previous address in Coventry



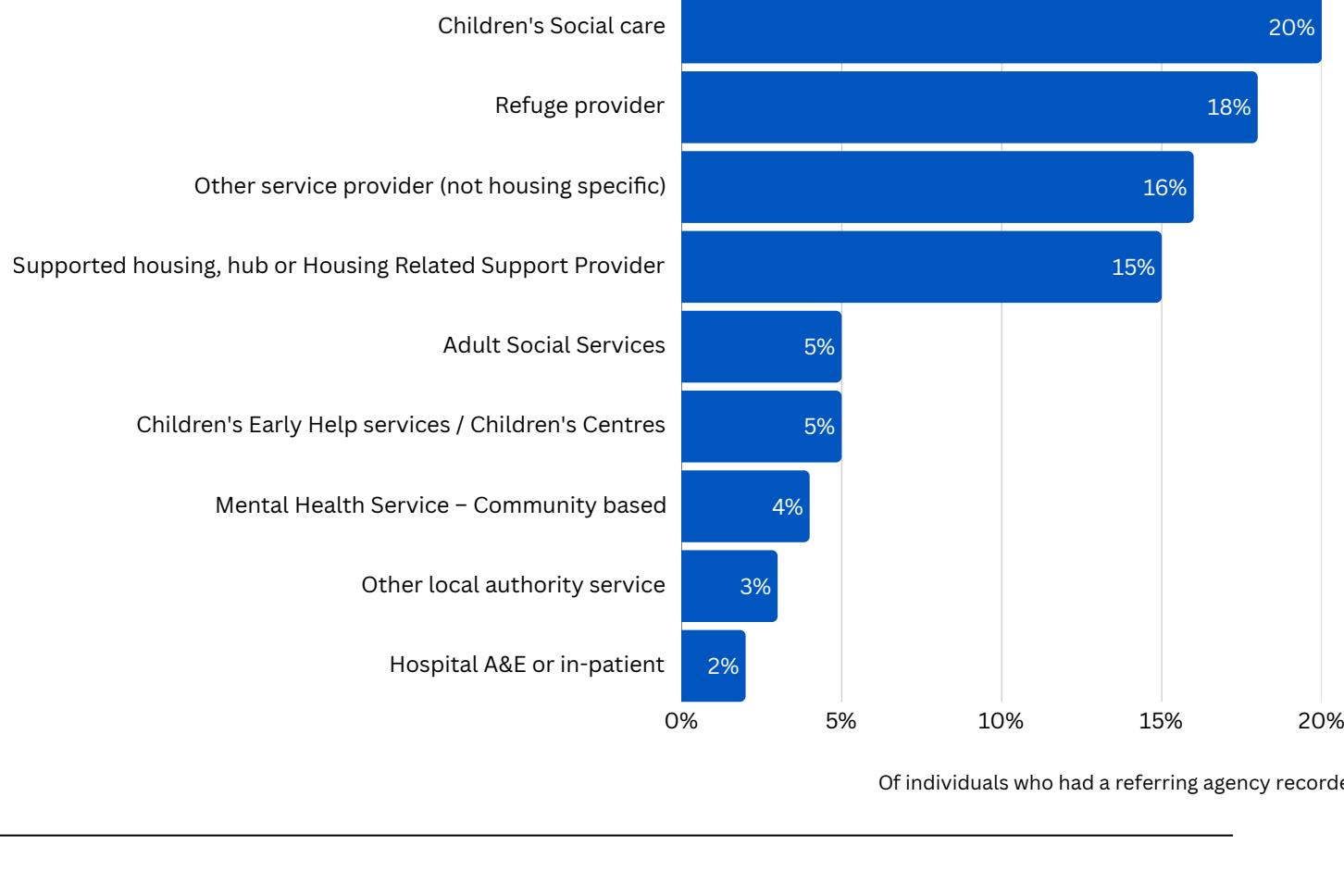
Top 5 local authorities of last known address of individuals who had a last postcode recorded

Location of last known postcodes for individuals who approached the housing team due to domestic abuse (2021-22 to 2024-25)



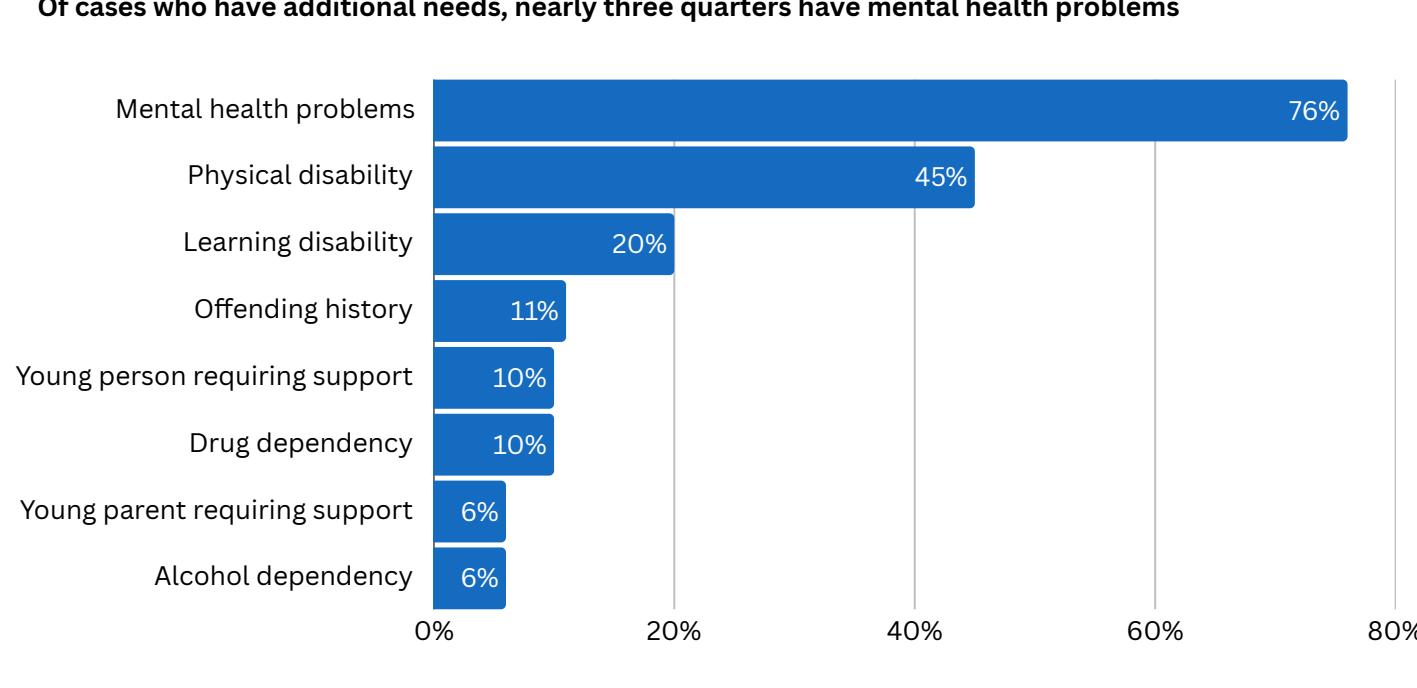
Map data: © Crown copyright and database right 2023 • Created with Datawrapper

## Referring agencies to housing team (with more than 5 referrals)



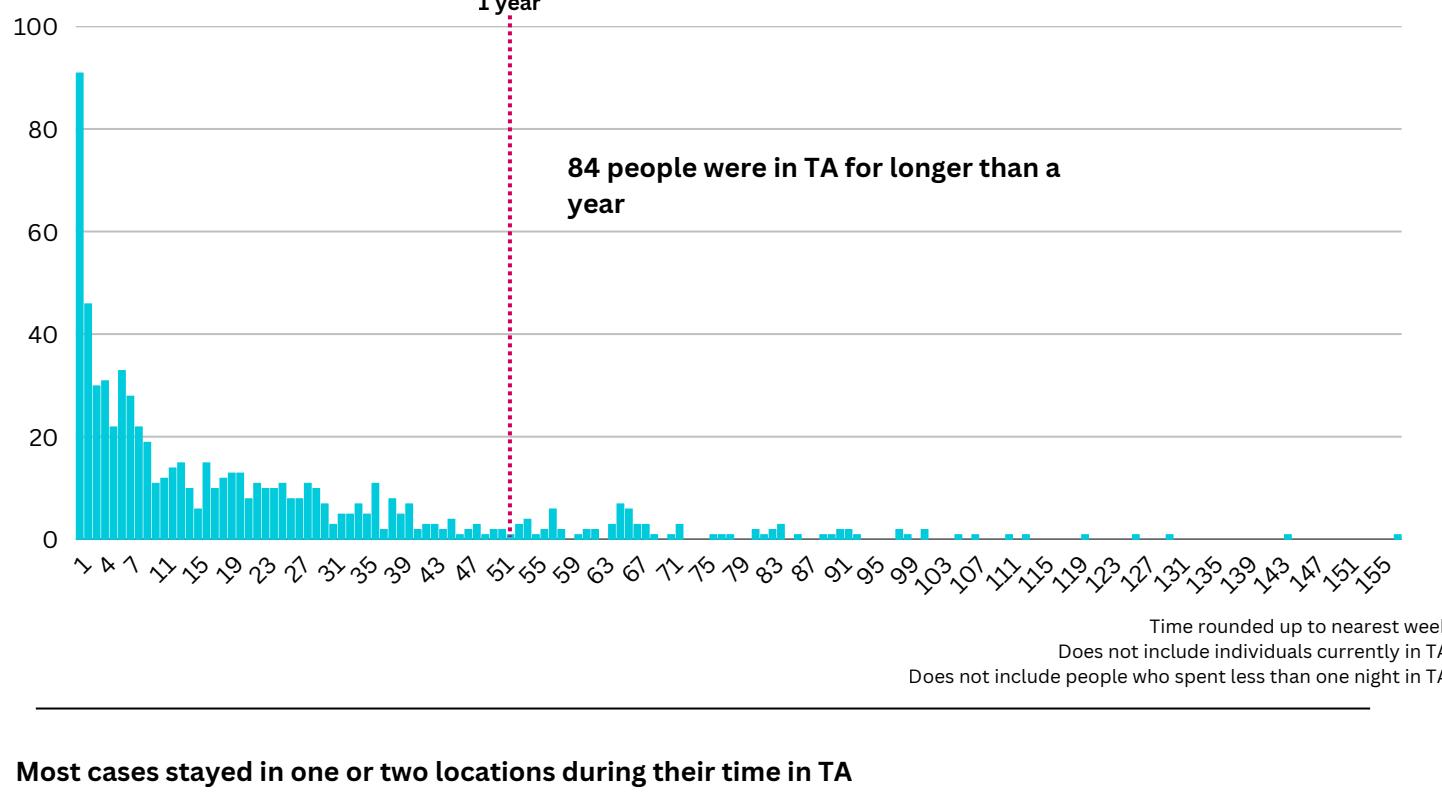
Of individuals who had a referring agency recorded

## Of cases who have additional needs, nearly three quarters have mental health problems

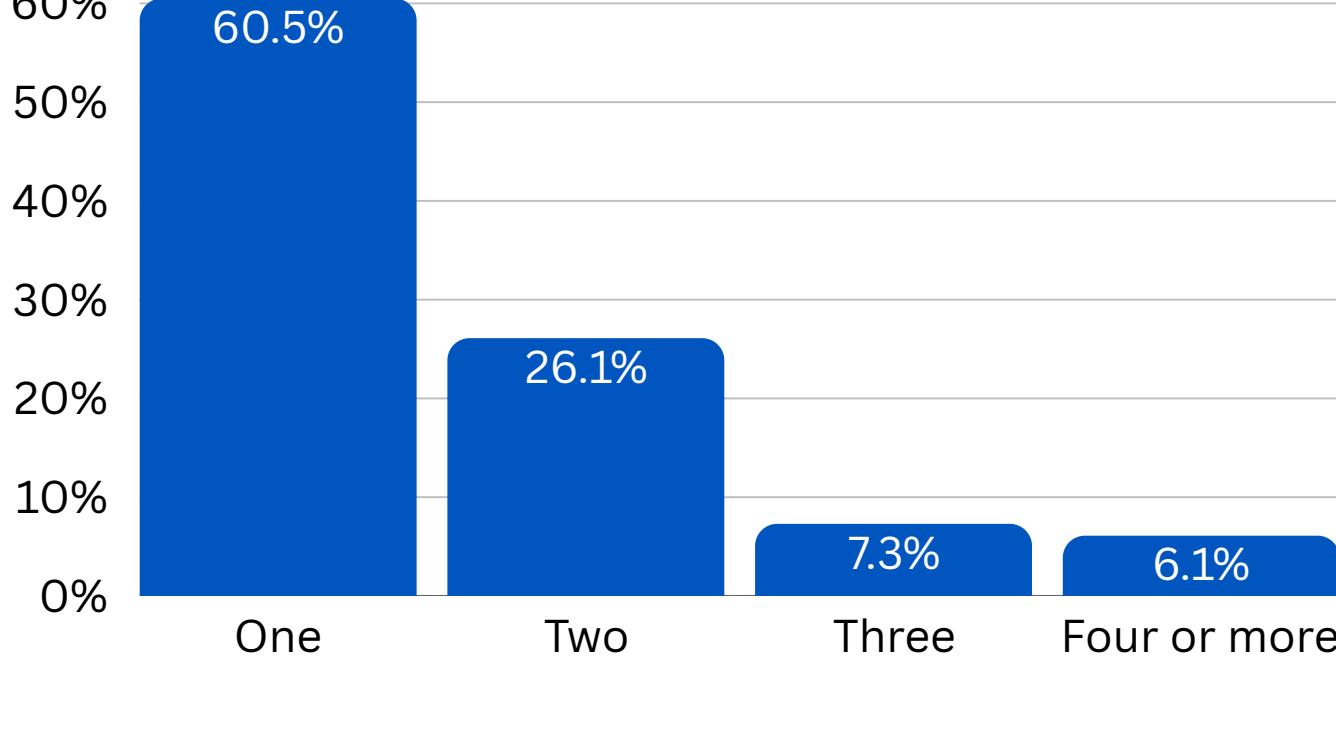


According to self-reported data

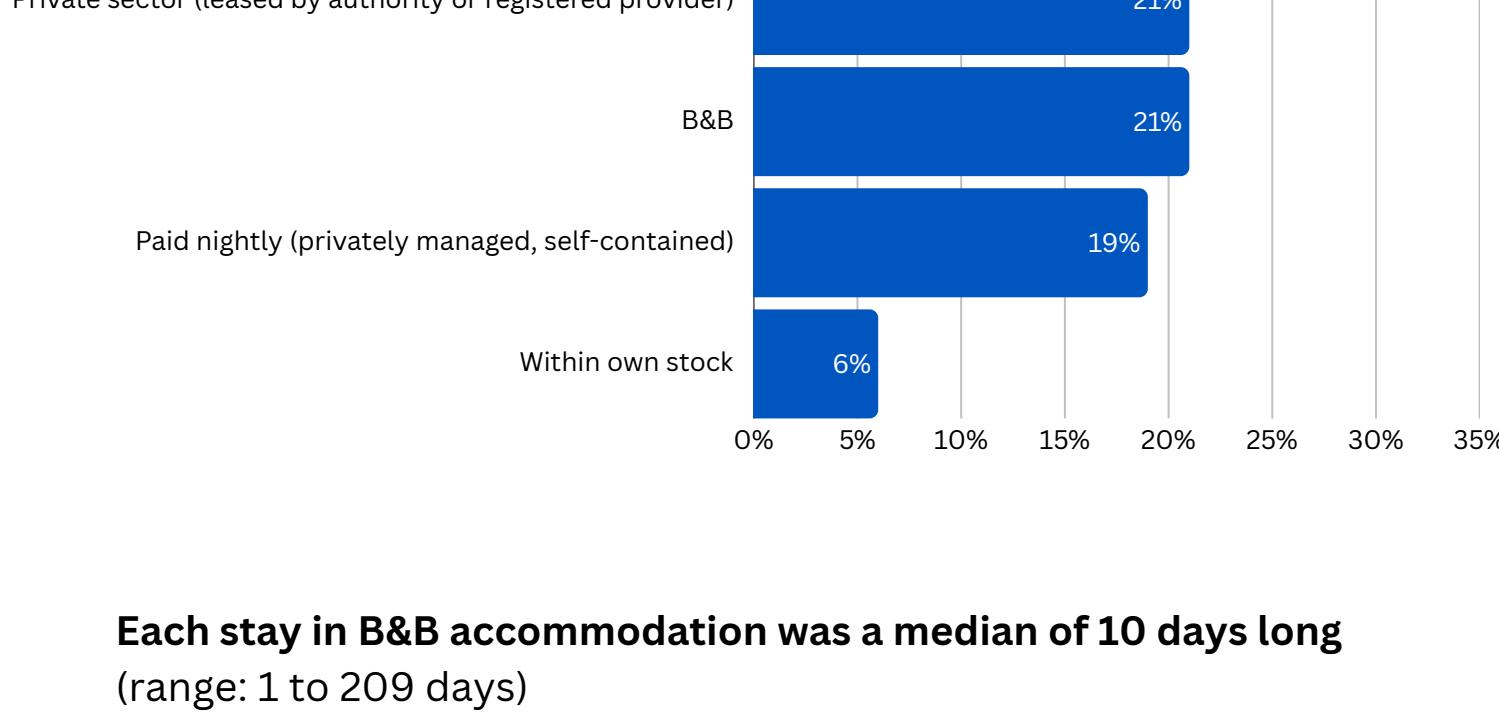
The median time each case spent in TA was 12 weeks



Most cases stayed in one or two locations during their time in TA



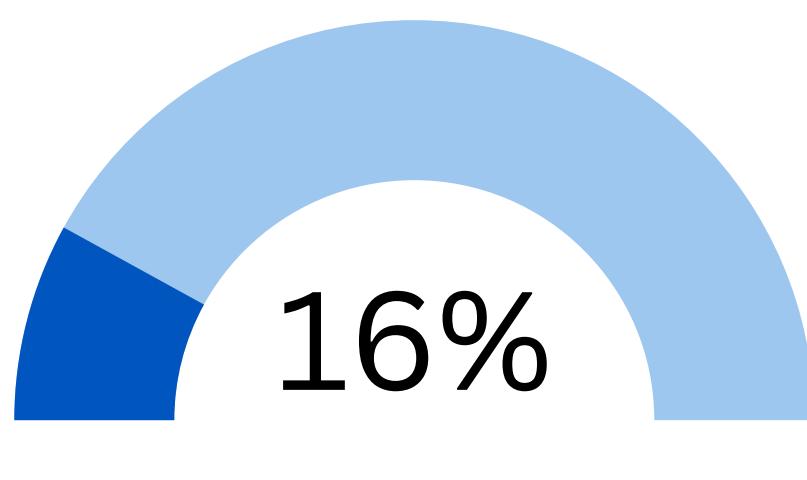
Breakdown of temporary accommodation types (by episode in TA)



Each stay in B&B accommodation was a median of 10 days long (range: 1 to 209 days)

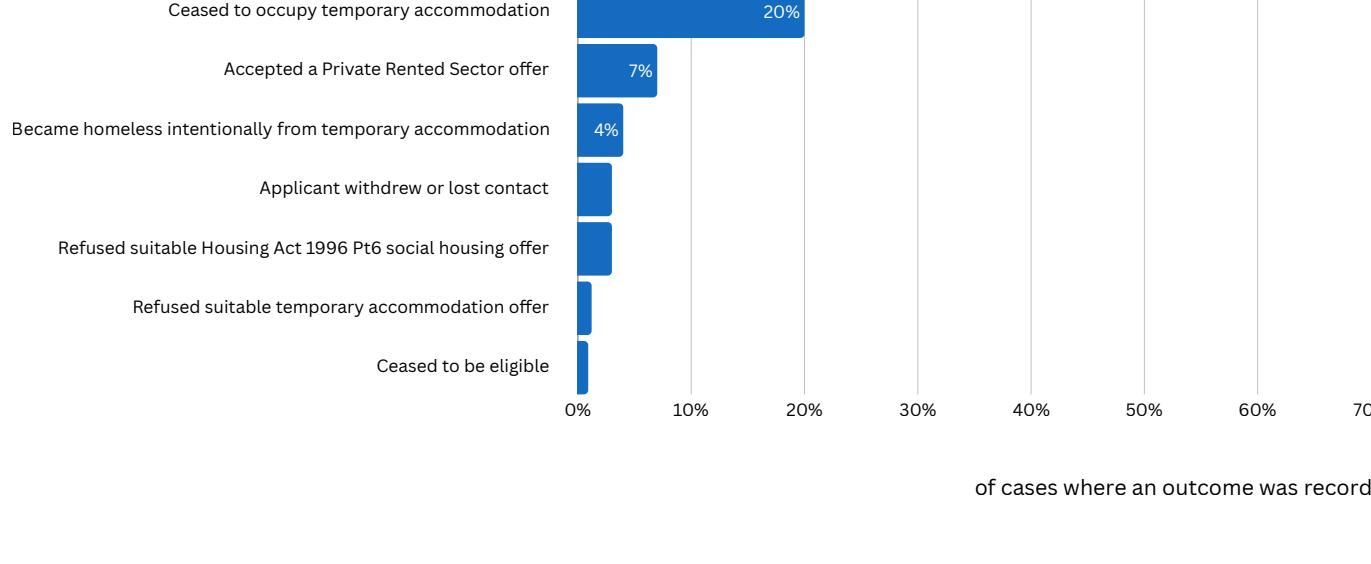
Individuals who stayed in B&B accommodation were there for a median of 13 days (range 1 to 296 days)

(excluding people who stayed less than one day and people who were still in B&B accommodation)

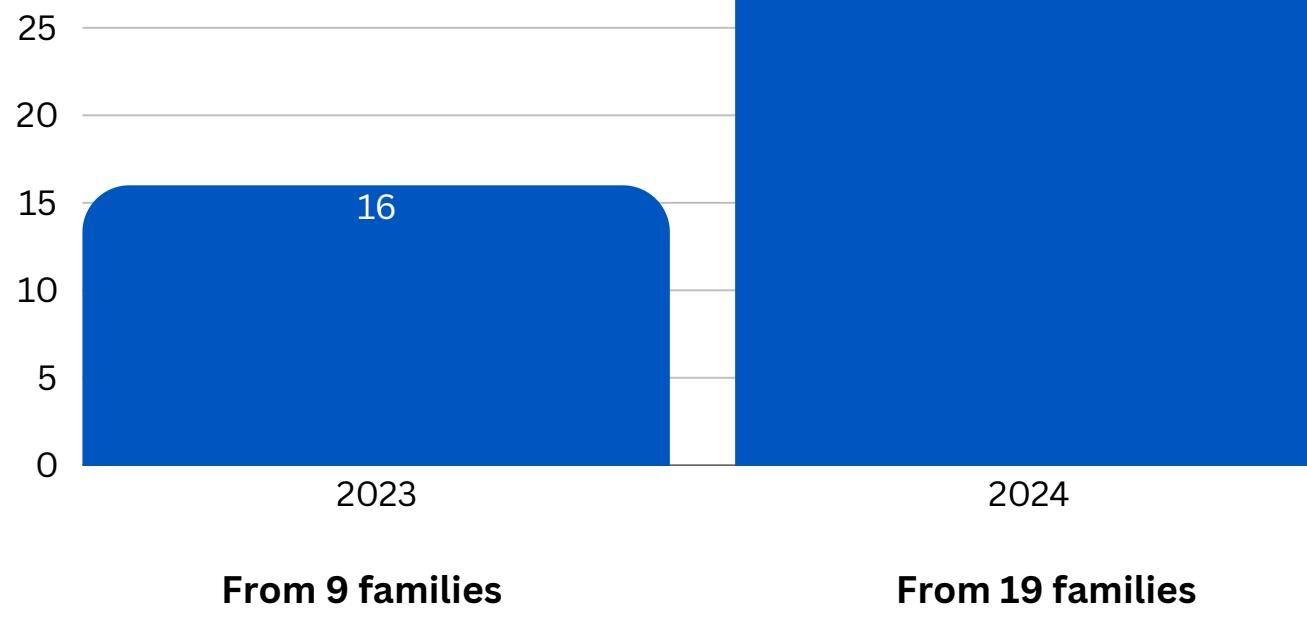


**Of the 538 temporary accommodation stays for which the location was recorded, 16% (n=84) were out of area**

**After leaving TA most cases accepted a social housing offer**



**The number of children in families supported by children's social care who have no recourse to public funds is increasing**

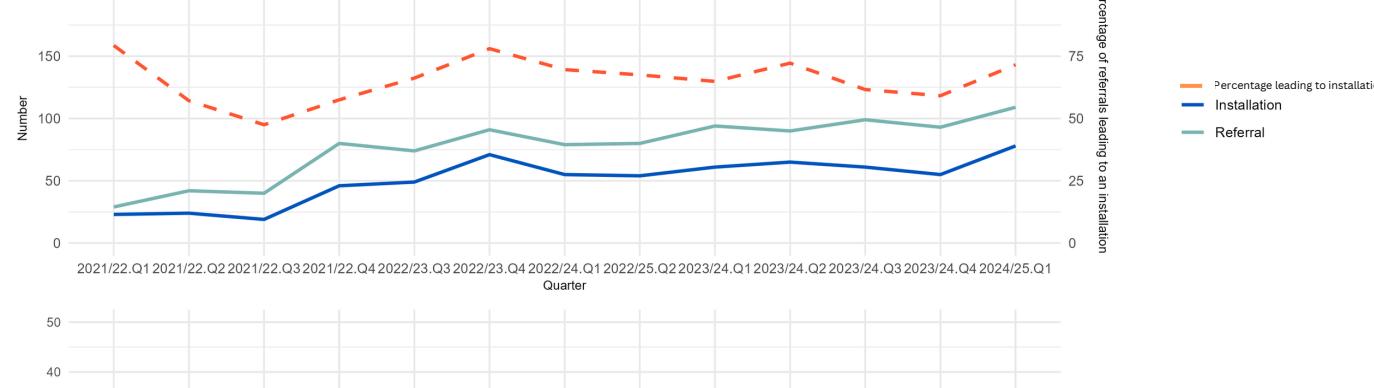


**From 9 families  
All ethnic minorities  
Mean age: 6 years**

**From 19 families  
29/30 ethnic minorities  
Mean age: 5 years**

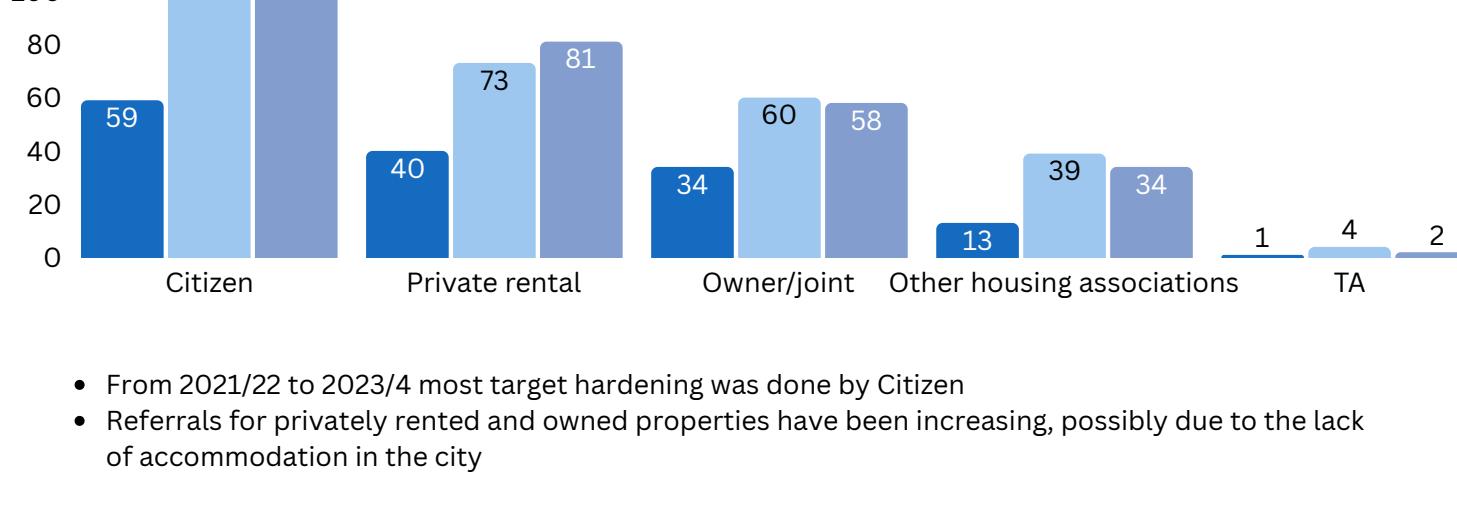
## Referrals and installations

Source: Target hardening reports



- Referrals and installations of target hardening have been steadily increasing since Q1 2021/22
- The percentage of referrals leading to an installation has fairly stable since 2023/24
- Over time fewer installations were cancelled and more were unsuccessful because of landlord refusal, but this may reflect a greater proportion of referrals coming from private rentals
- Extra sanctuary resource was introduced in Q3 2021/22

### Number of installations by source



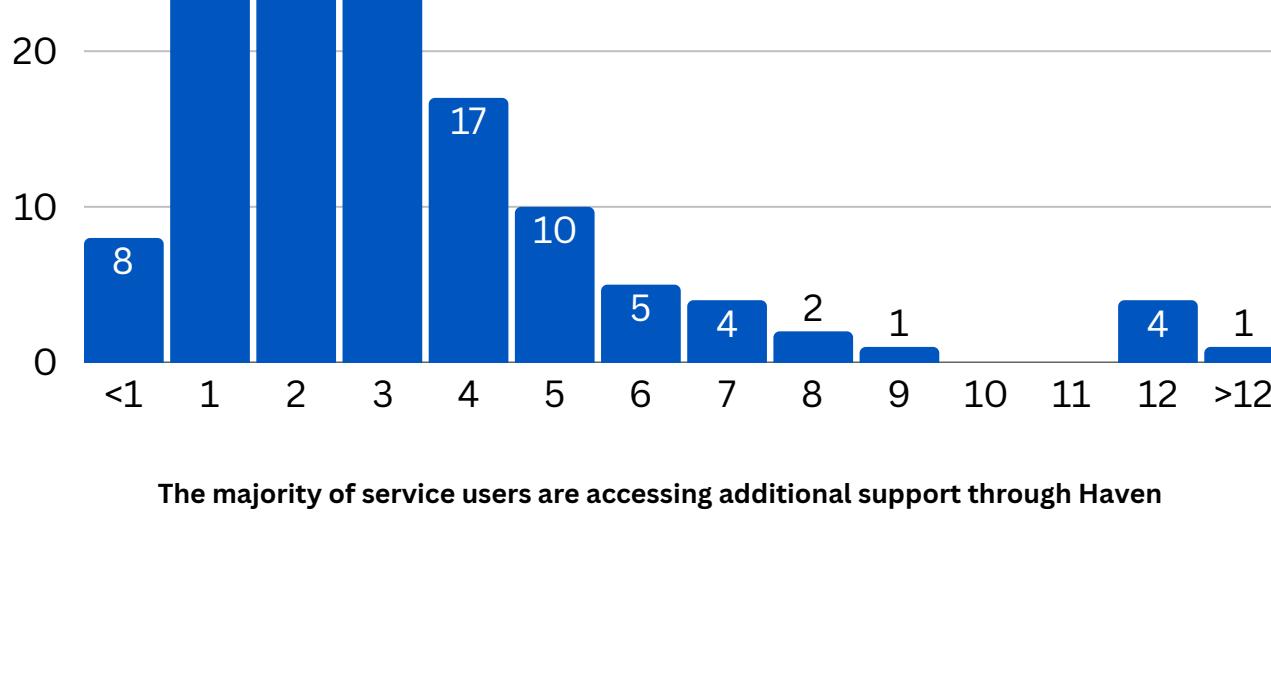
- From 2021/22 to 2023/4 most target hardening was done by Citizen
- Referrals for privately rented and owned properties have been increasing, possibly due to the lack of accommodation in the city

### From November 2023 to October 2024:

2

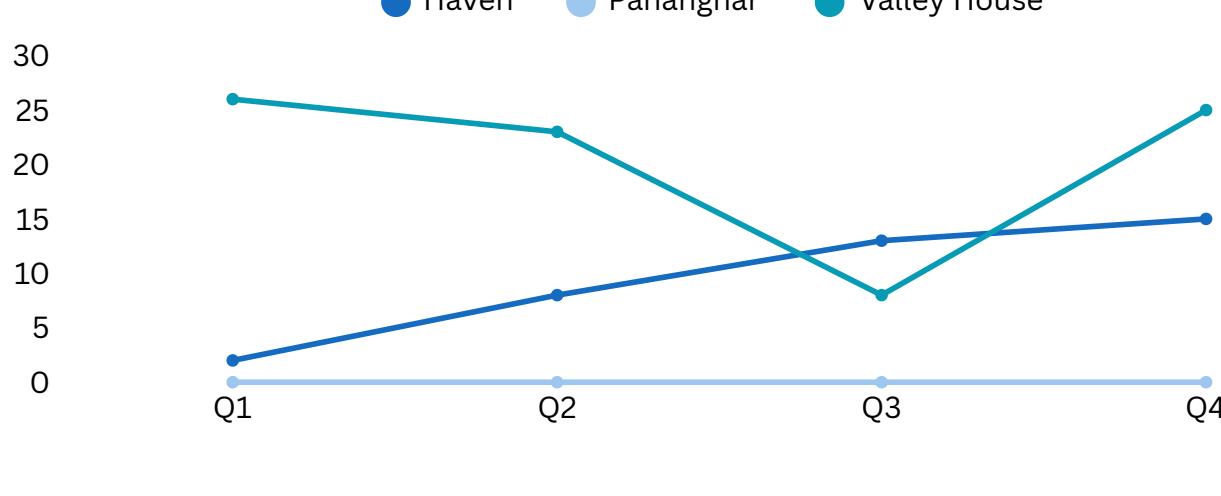
Sanctuary IDVA service users resumed relationships with alleged perpetrators after the sanctuary was installed

### Length of time (in months) that service users stayed in service after sanctuary installation (Nov '23 to Oct '24)

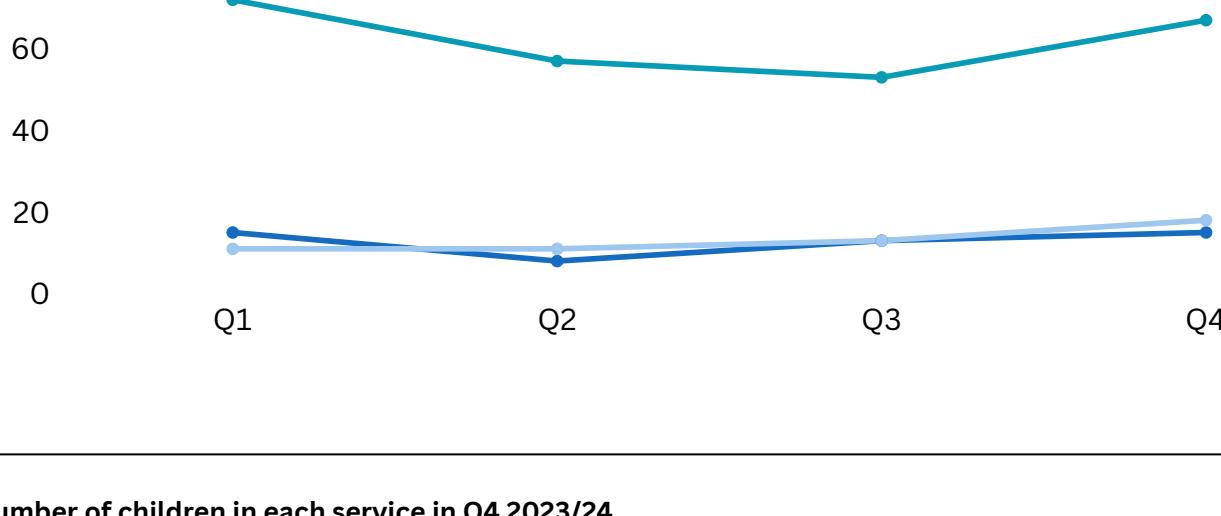


## Family support workers

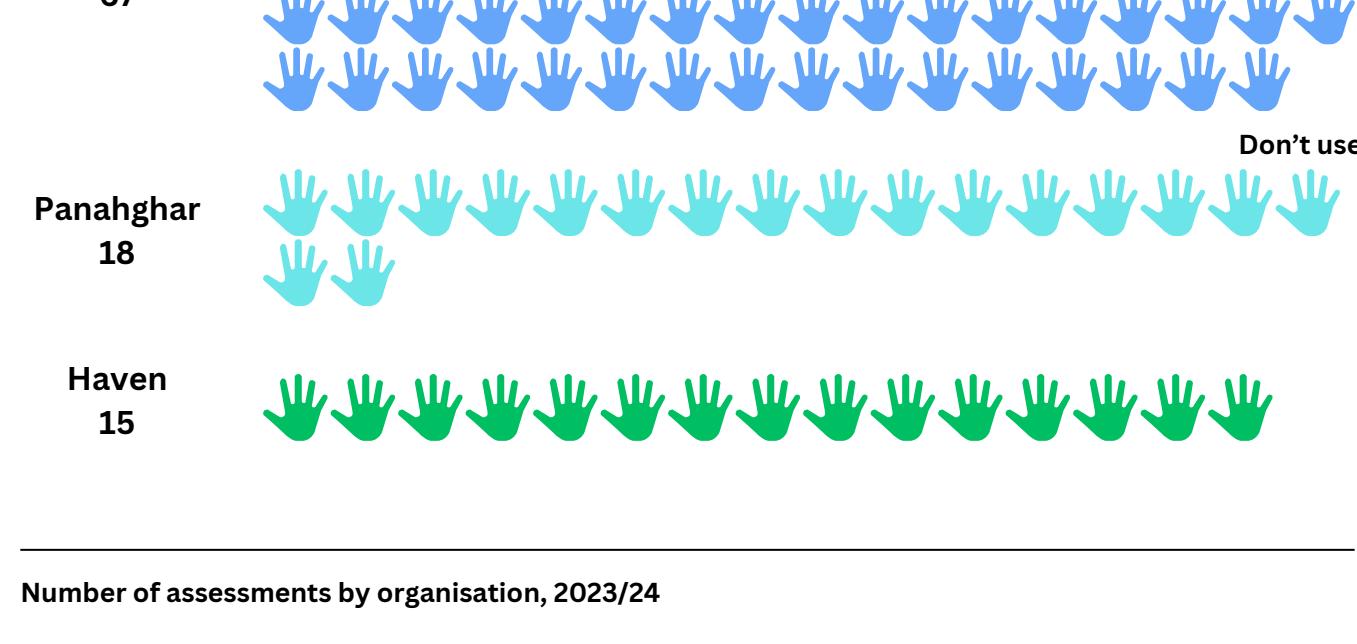
### New children in each organisation, by quarter 2023/24



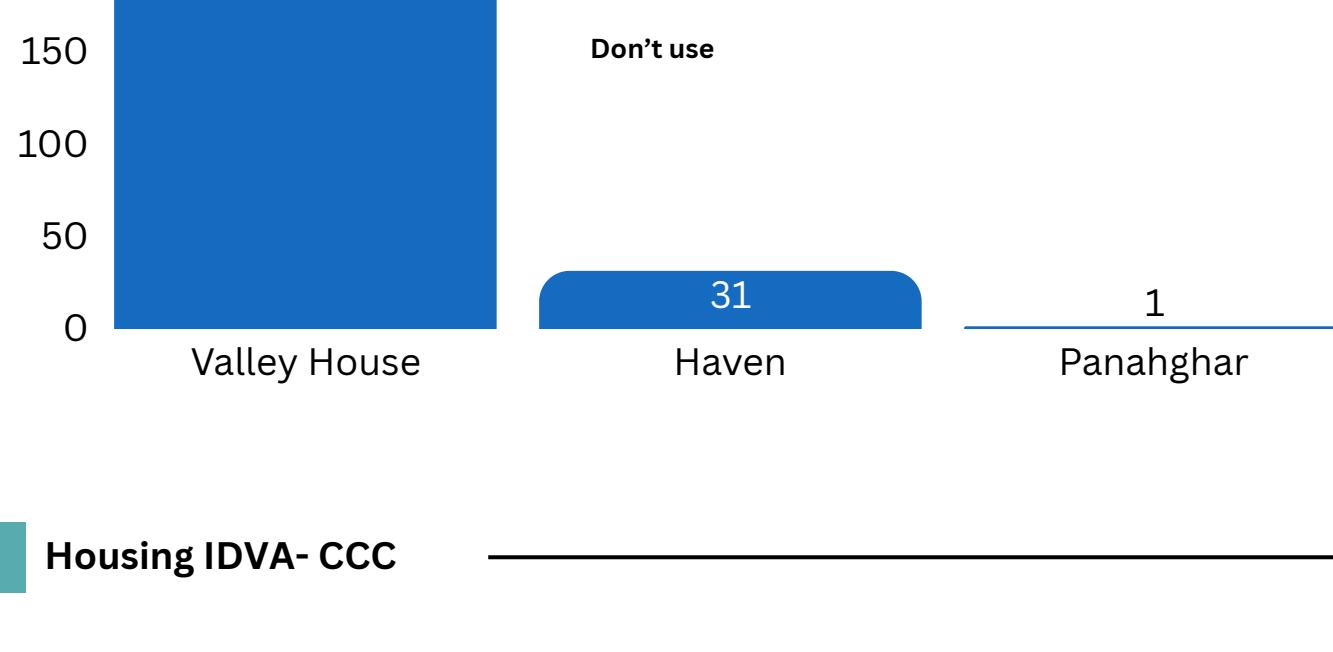
### Total children in each organisation, by quarter 2023/24



### Number of children in each service in Q4 2023/24

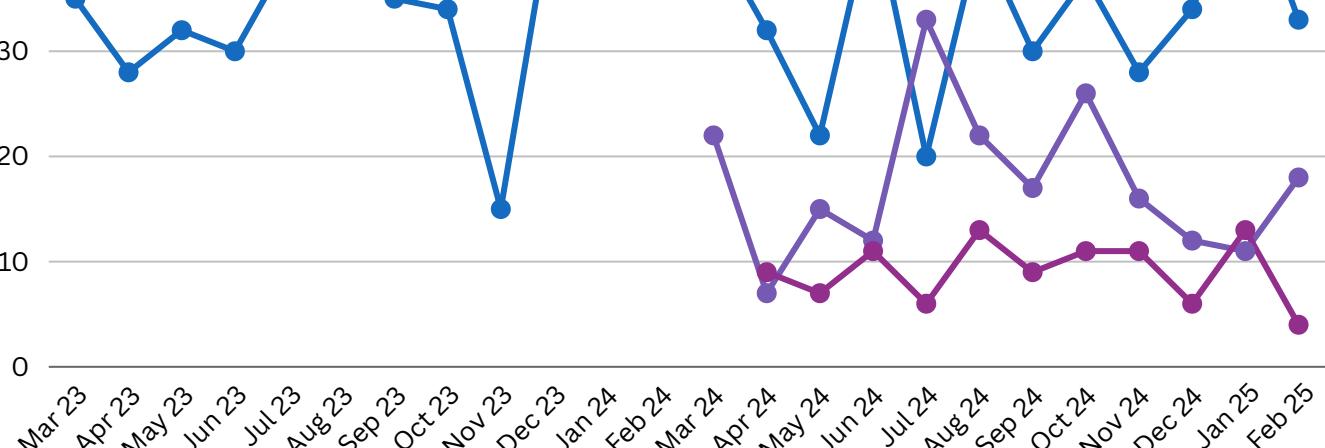


### Number of assessments by organisation, 2023/24



## Housing IDVA- CCC

### Referrals, Short term work, Accepted into caseload

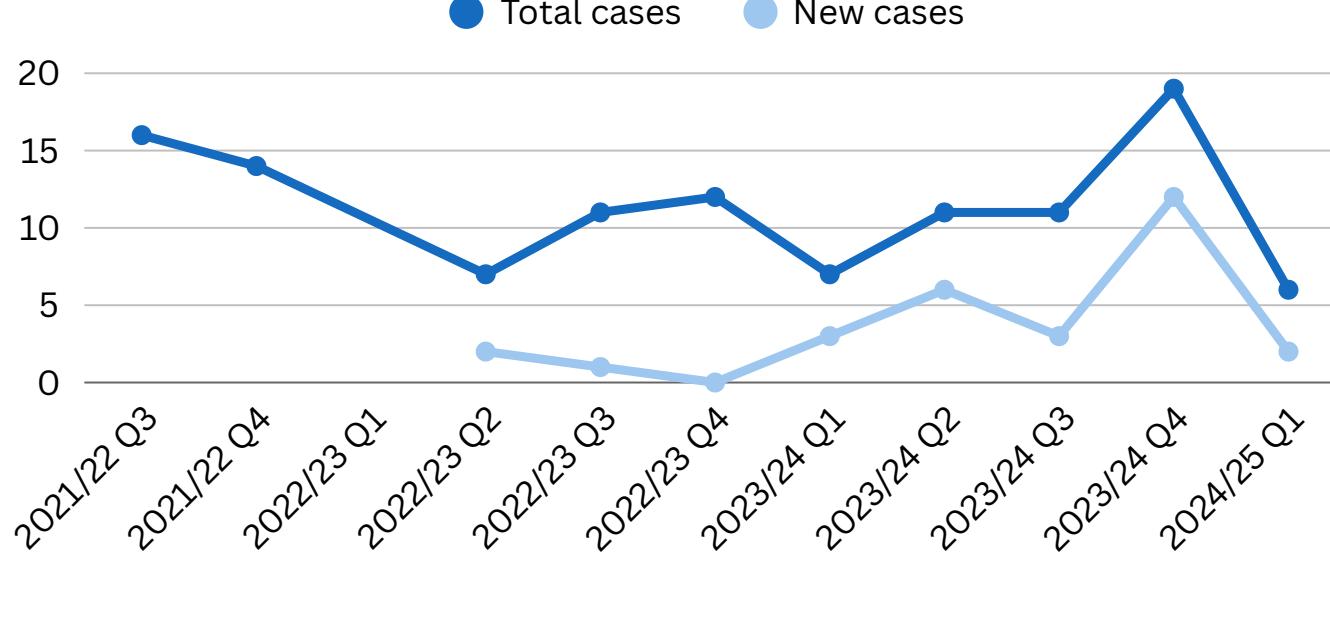


## Reasons for rejection



## Immigration worker

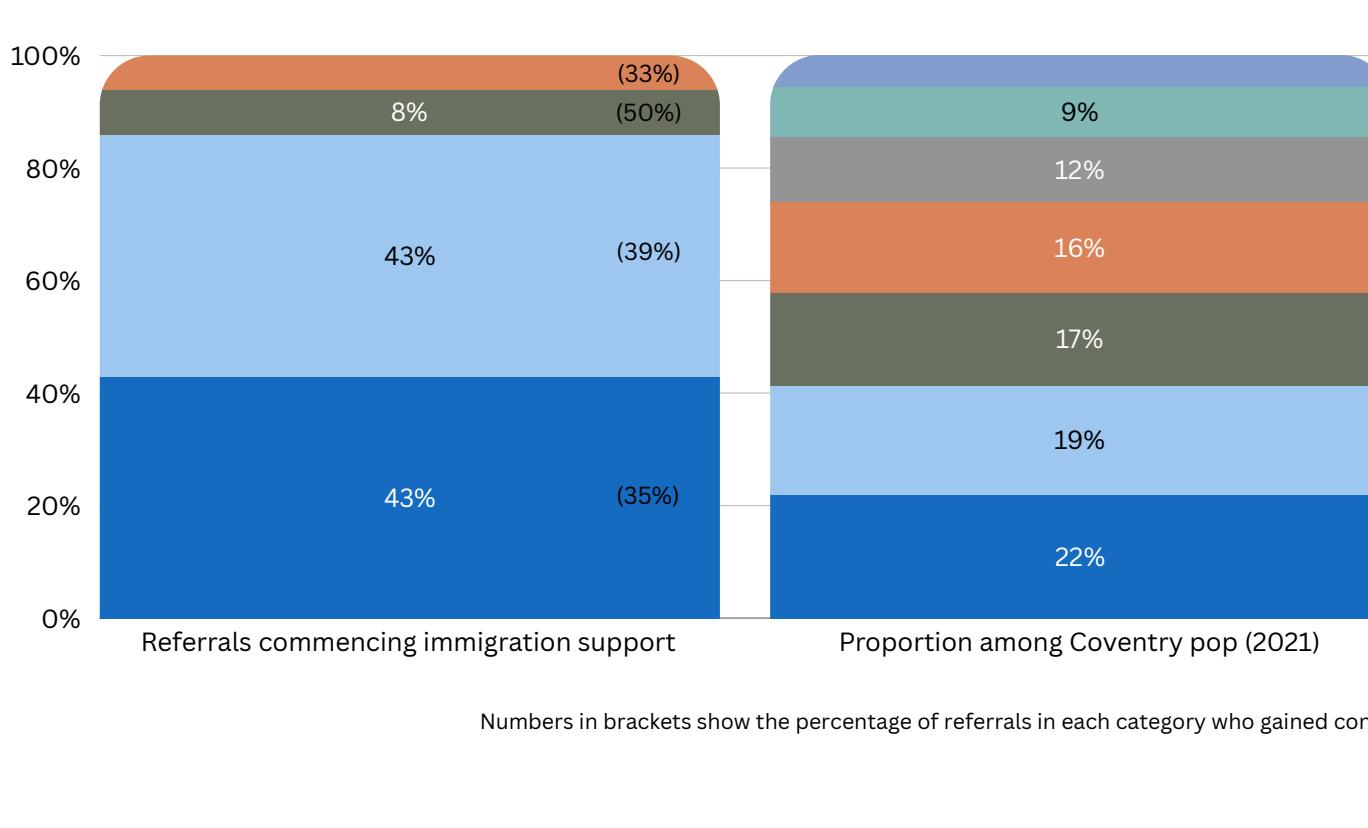
### Total and new cases taken by immigration worker



Of 53 individuals (all female) commencing immigration support, **38%** (n=20) gained concessions (2021/22 to 2024/5)

### Demographic breakdowns of referrals commencing immigration support

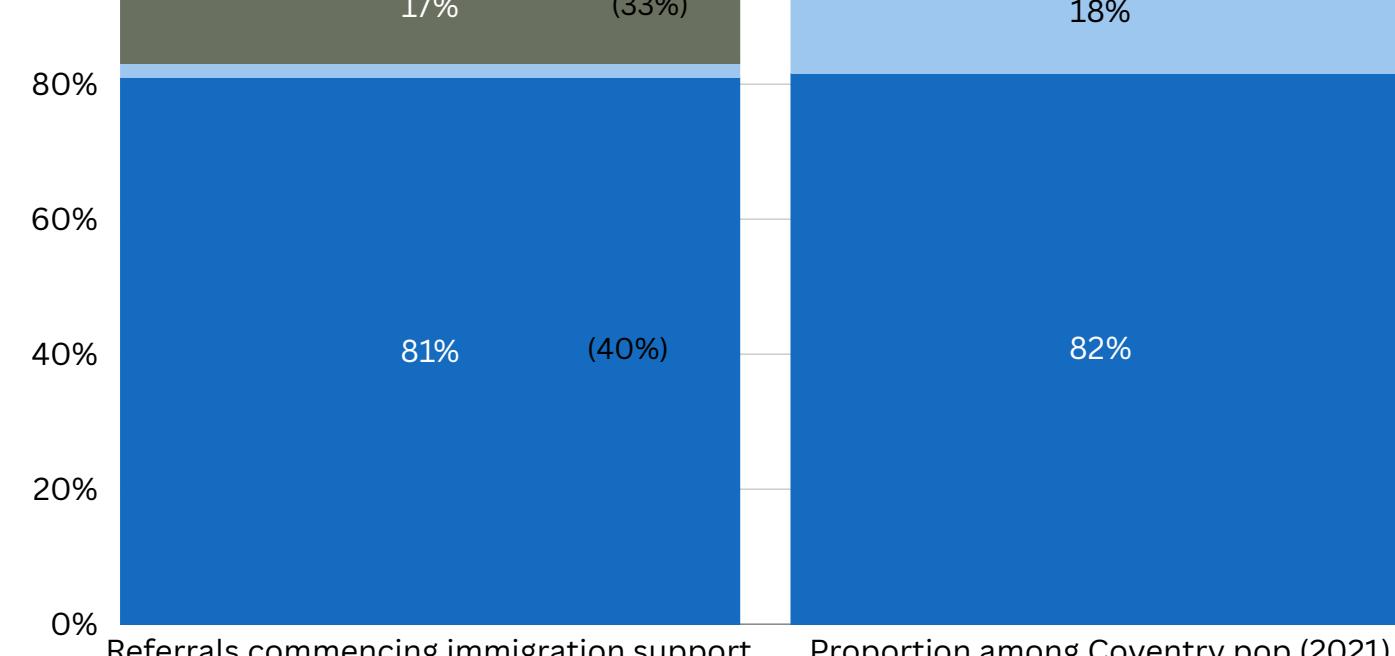
**Age:**



Numbers in brackets show the percentage of referrals in each category who gained concessions

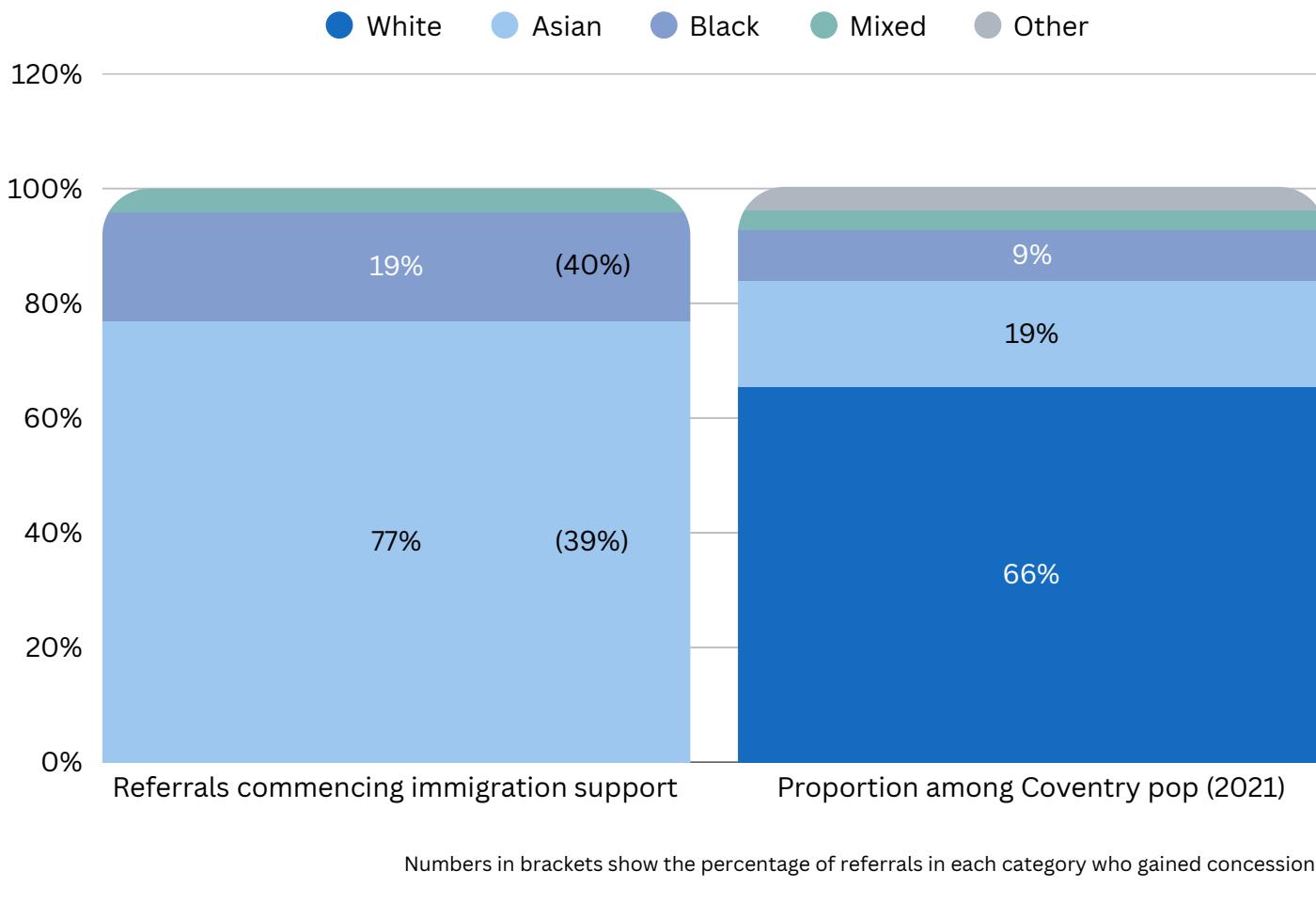
### Disability status:

**No disability** (dark blue)   **Any disability** (light blue)   **Inconsistent/ missing** (dark grey)



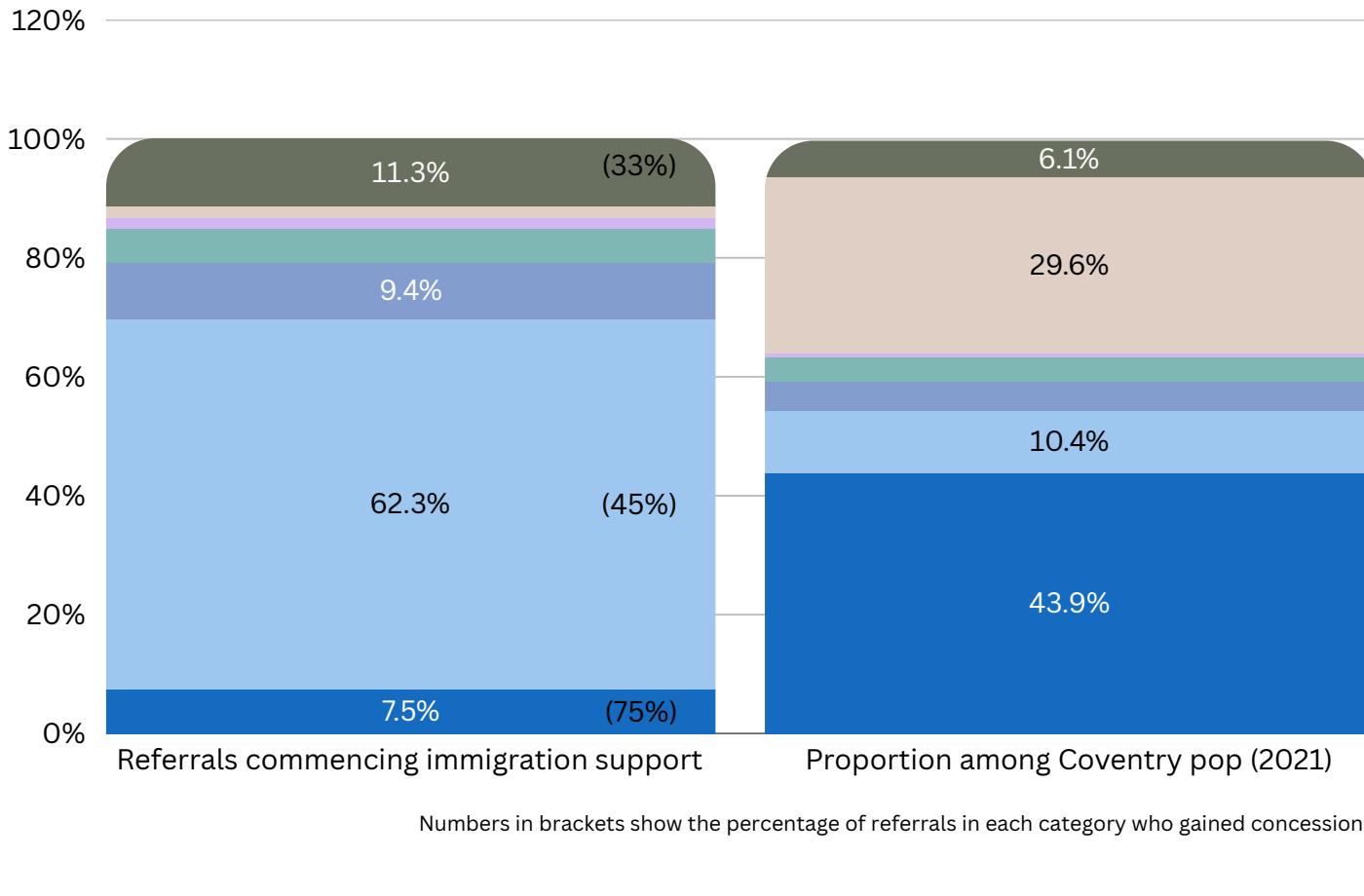
Numbers in brackets show the percentage of referrals in each category who gained concessions

### Ethnicity:



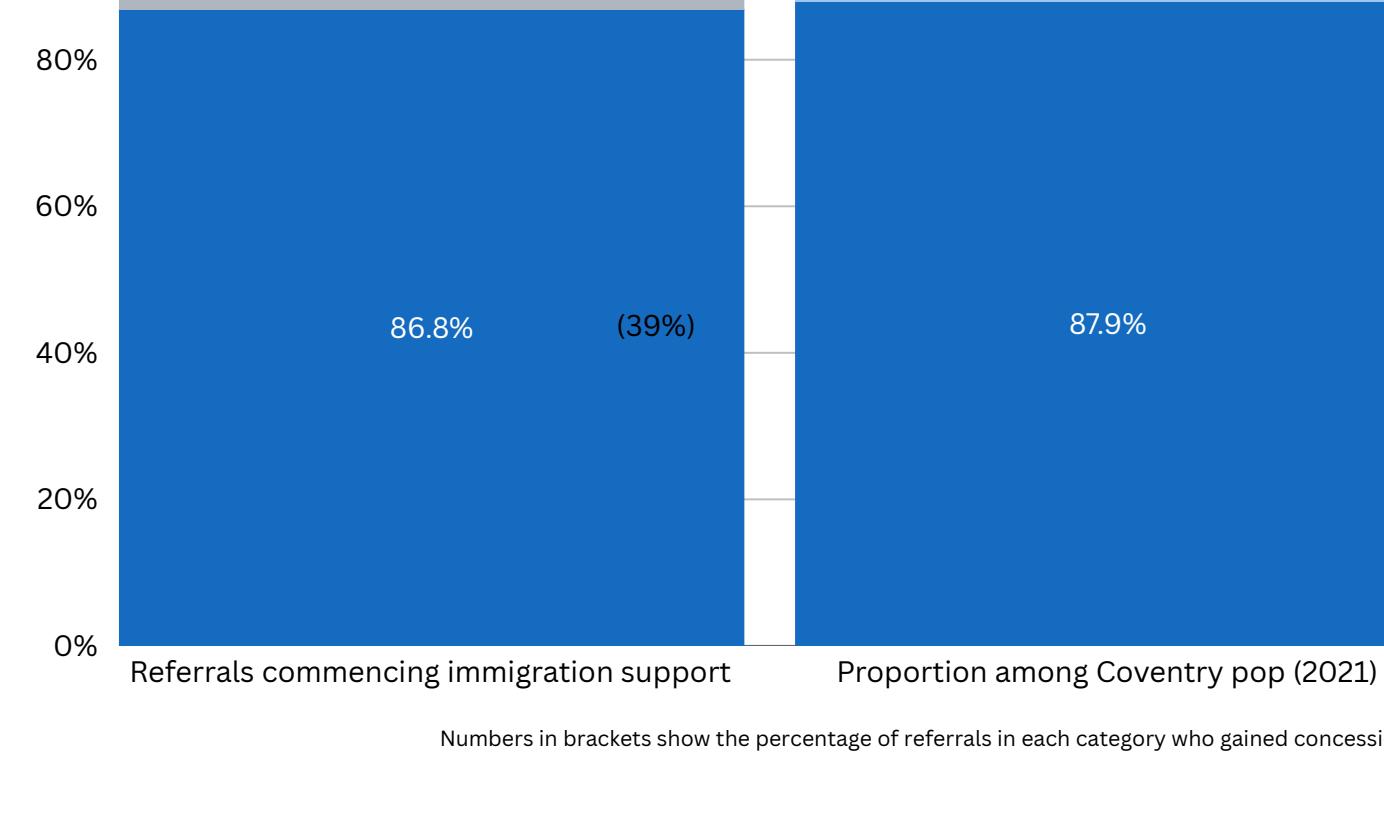
Numbers in brackets show the percentage of referrals in each category who gained concessions

### Religion:



Numbers in brackets show the percentage of referrals in each category who gained concessions

### Sexual orientation:



Numbers in brackets show the percentage of referrals in each category who gained concessions

Specific circumstances:

**3**

**were pregnant women** (2 gained concessions)

**25**

**were parents living with children (up to 18 years)** (8 gained concessions)

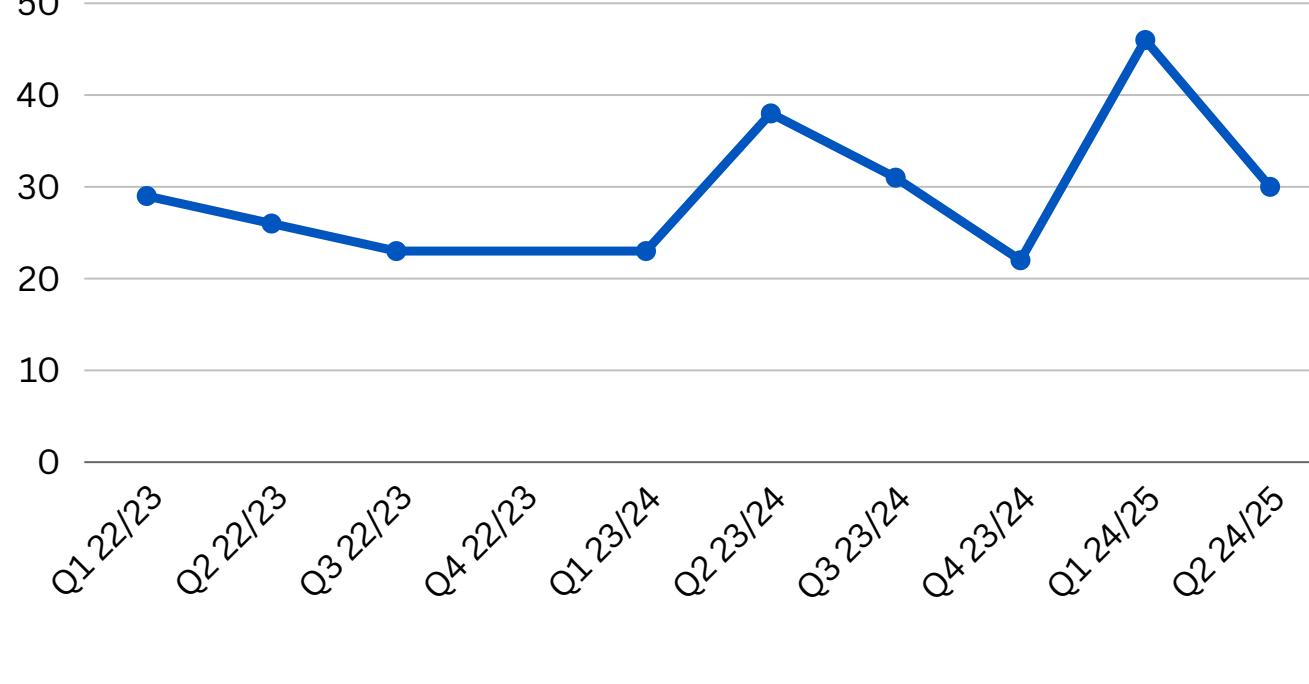
**2**

**were parents not with children (up to 18 years)** (2 gained concessions)

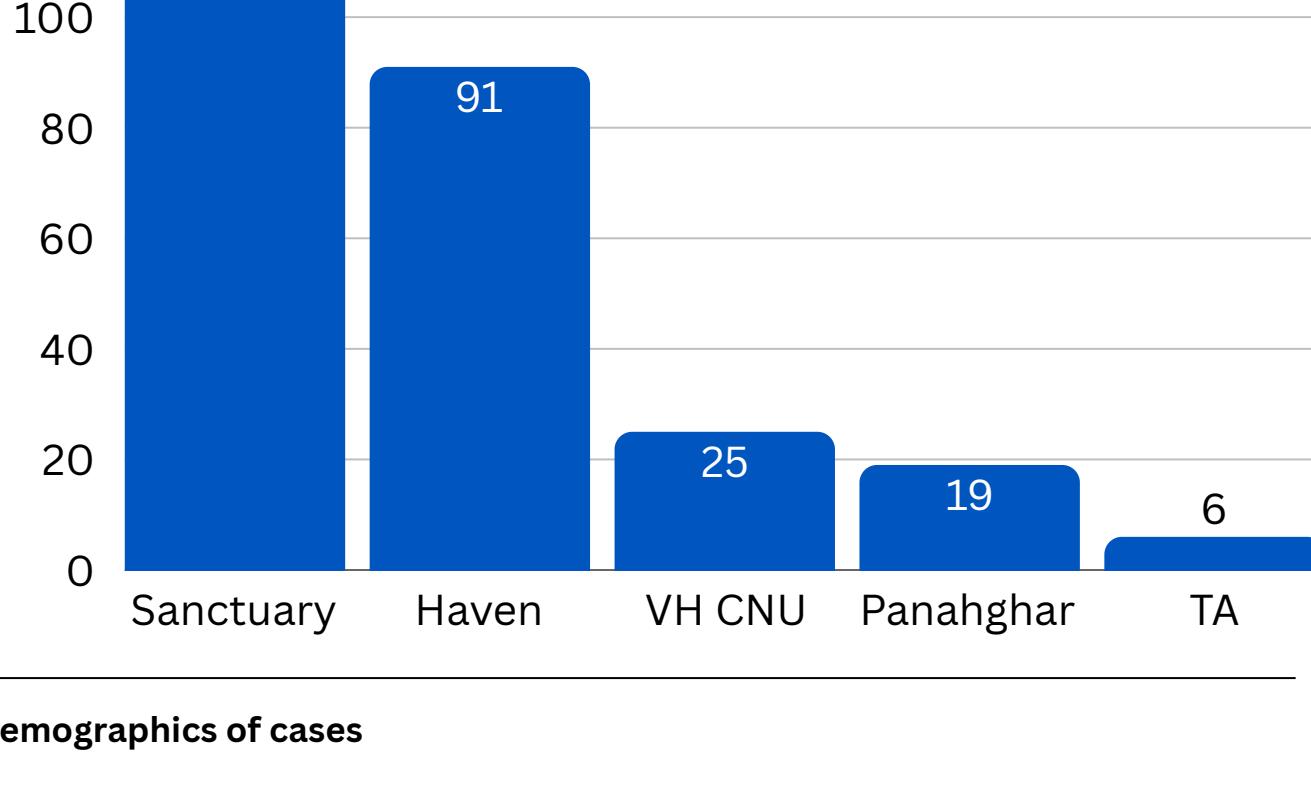
**1**

**were parents engaged with social care or early help** (1 gained concessions)

### Referrals (all but 1 female)

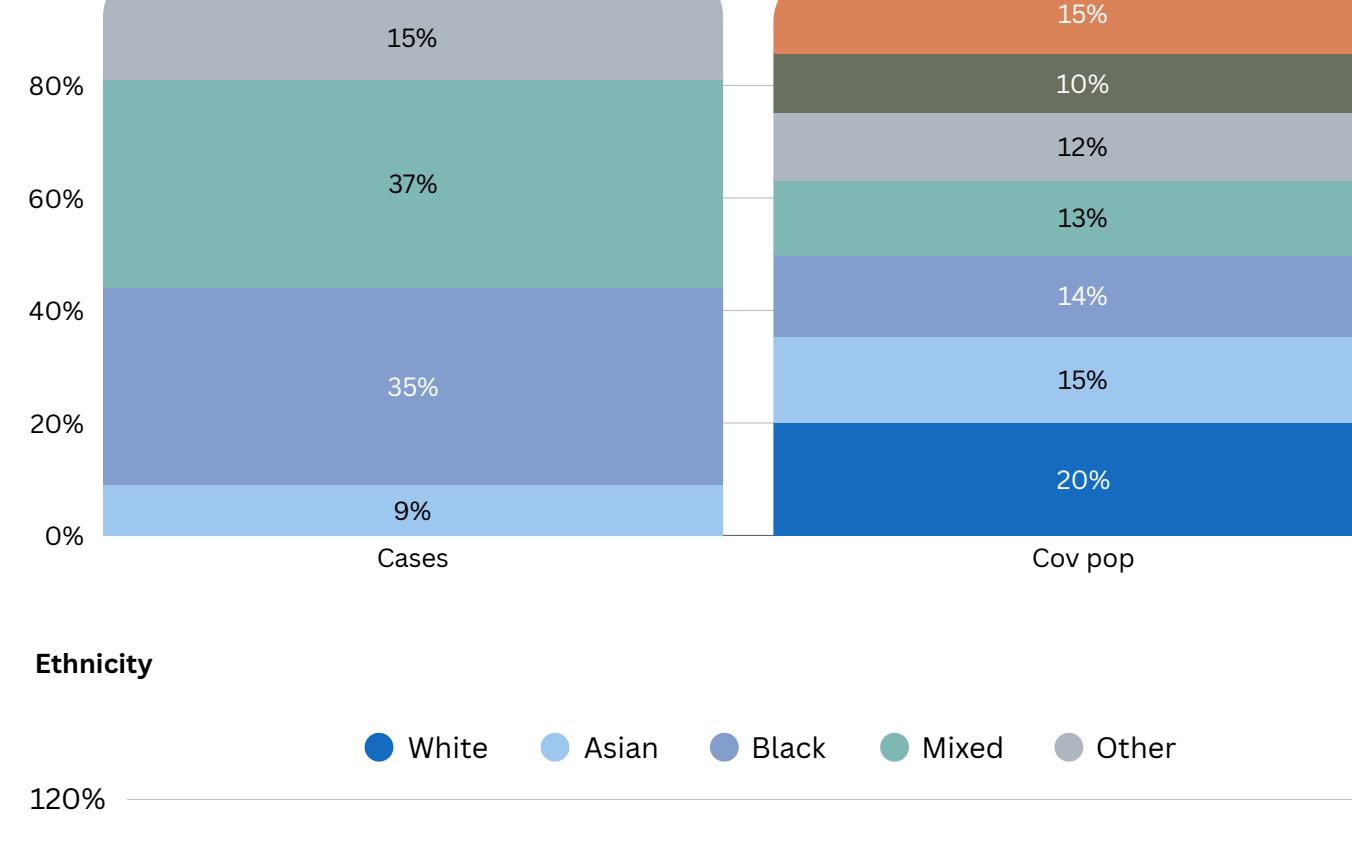


### Sources of referrals

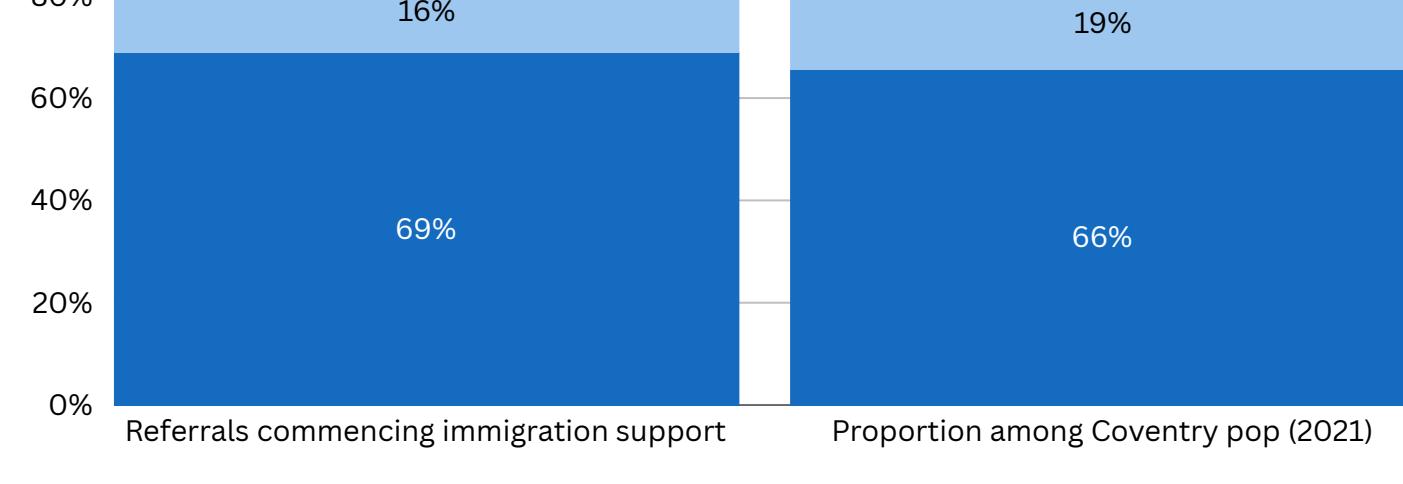


### Demographics of cases

#### Age

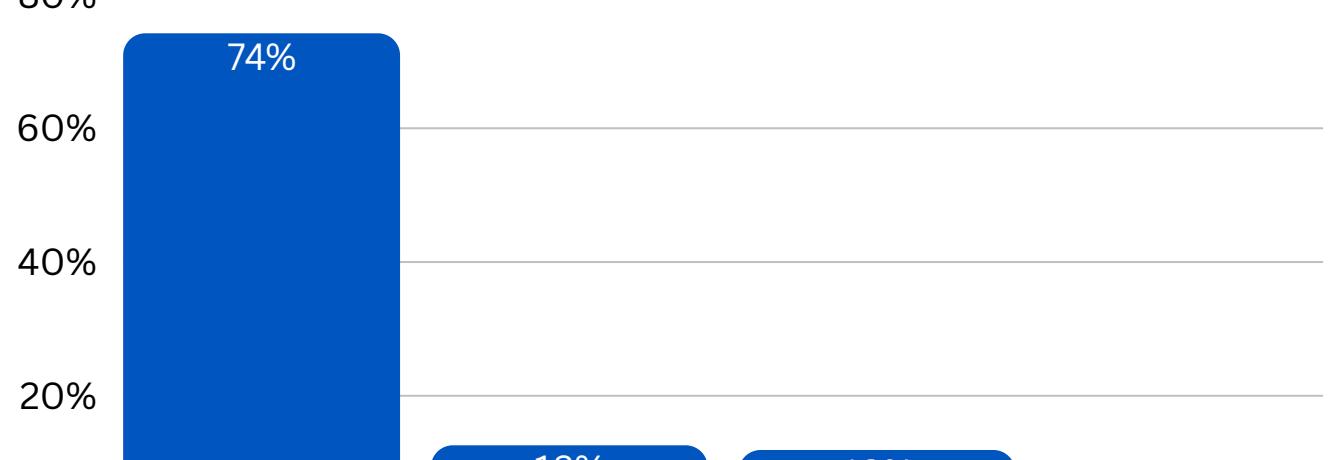


#### Ethnicity

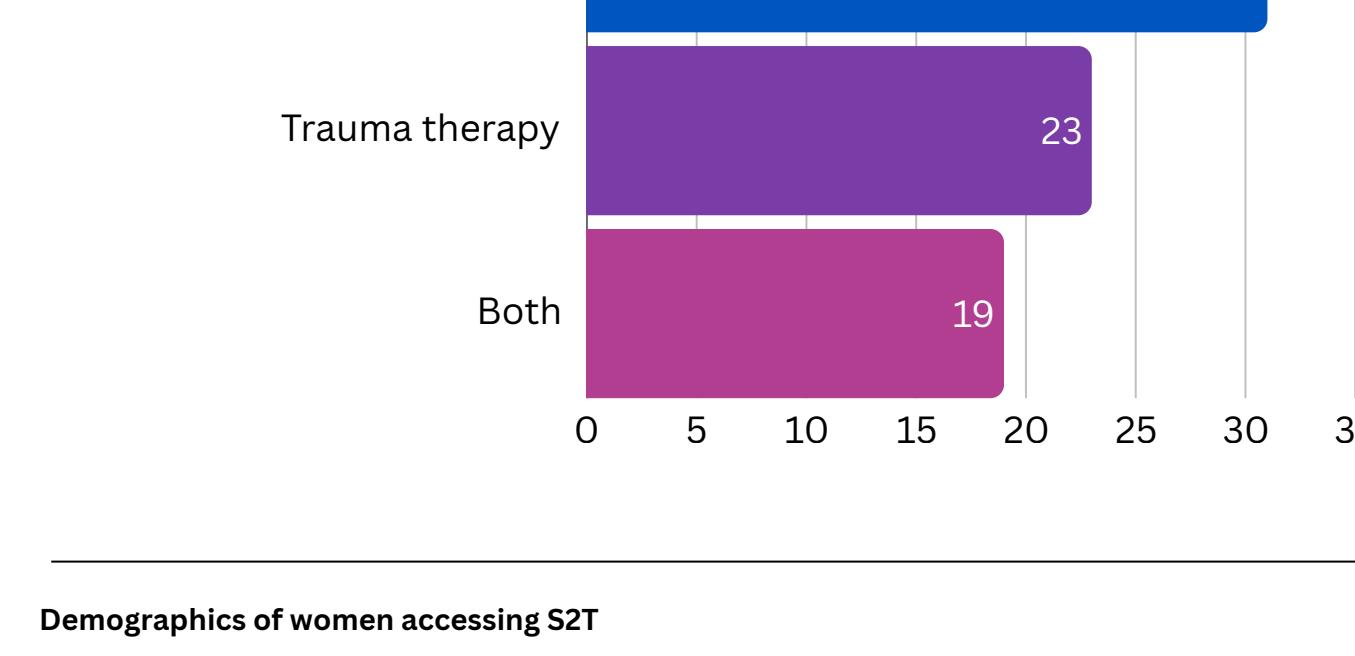


## Space 2 Thrive- Evaluation

From October 2021 to March 2023 S2T received 151 referrals. They came from:

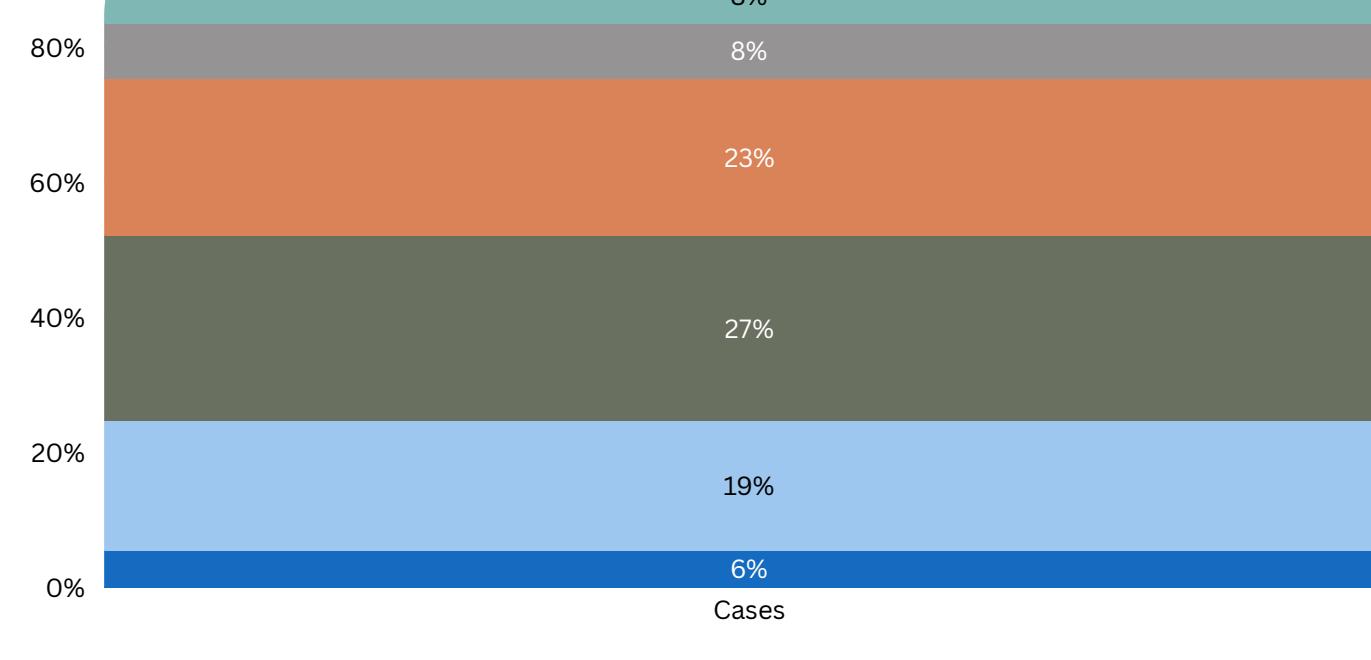


73 women accessed S2T and received:



### Demographics of women accessing S2T

#### Age



#### Ethnicity



## Evaluation outcomes



**All clients rated the service as good or very good**

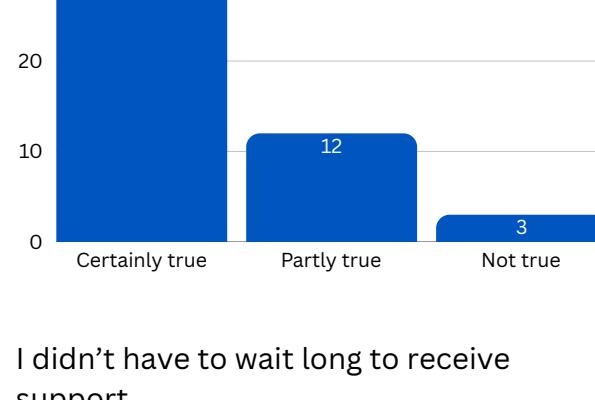
My mental health has improved



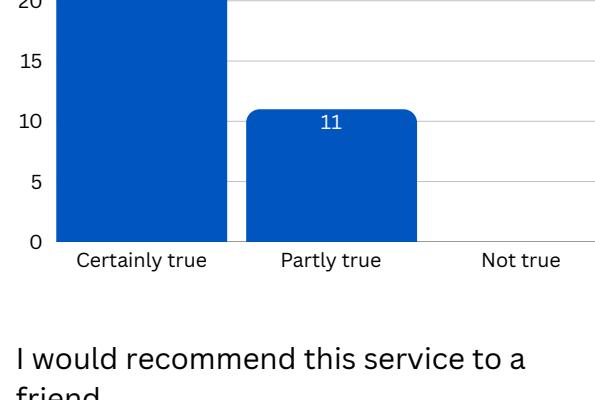
I have felt listened to and respected



I have felt less alone or isolated



I understand myself better



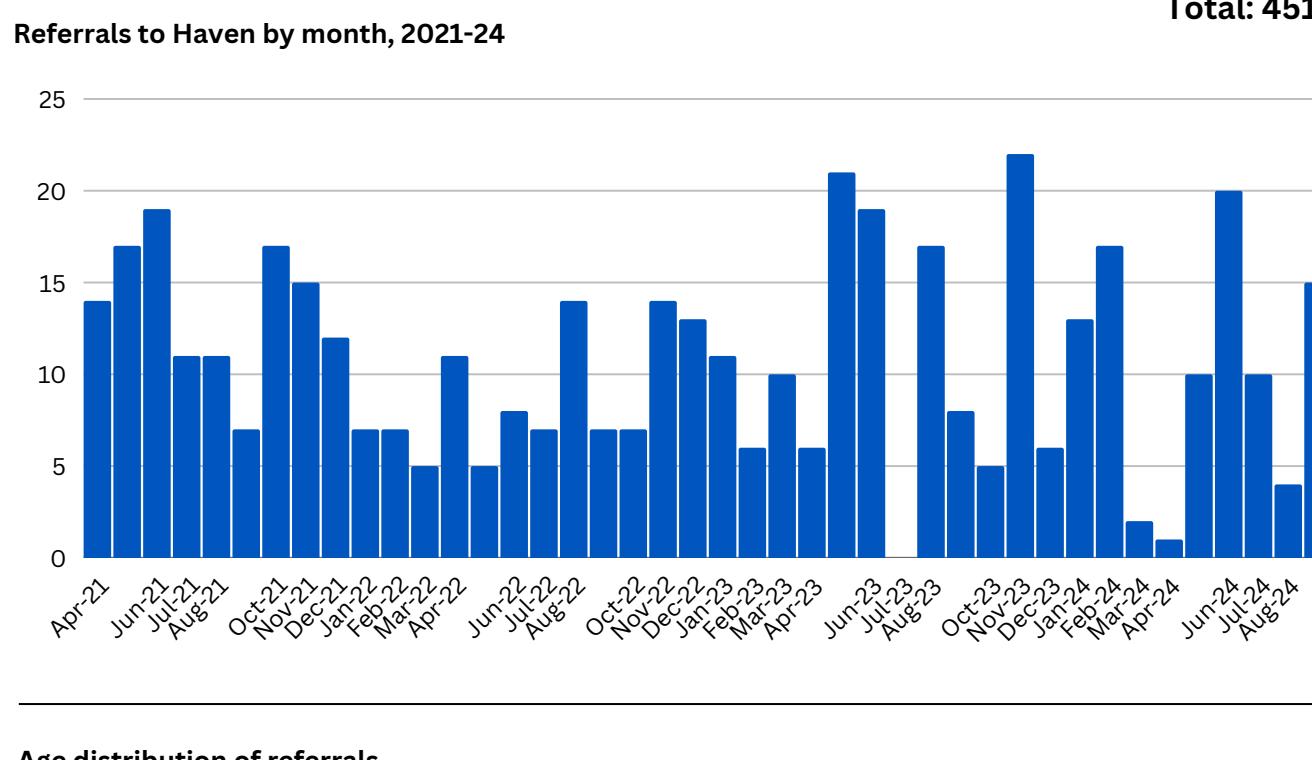
I didn't have to wait long to receive support



I would recommend this service to a friend



## Referrals

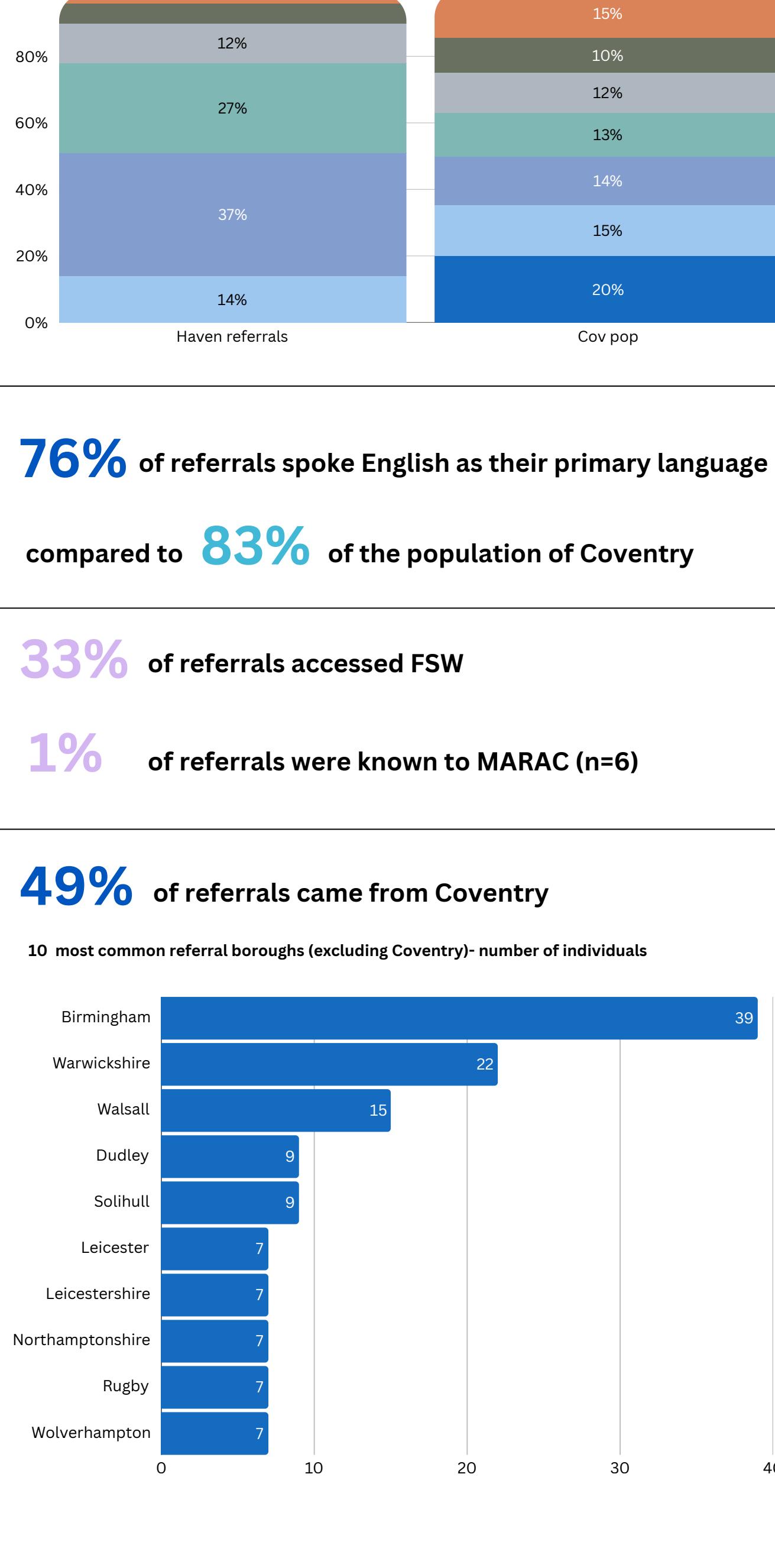


### Age distribution of referrals

Referrals tend to be younger than the Coventry population as a whole

● Under 15   ● 16-24   ● 25-34   ● 35-44   ● 45-54   ● 55-64   ● 65+

● Unknown



**76%** of referrals spoke English as their primary language

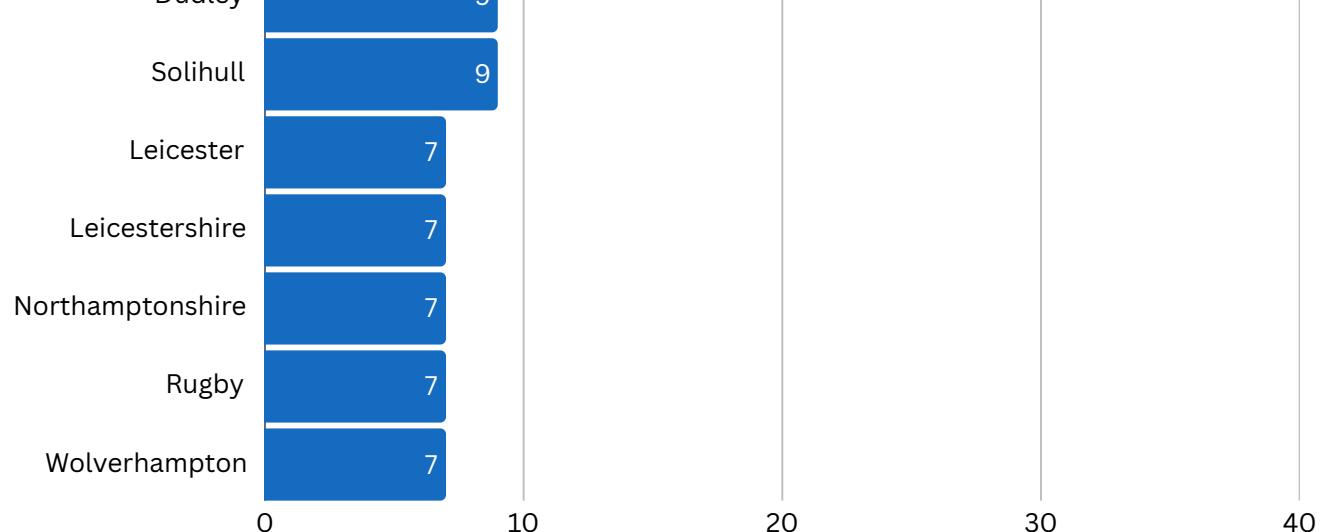
compared to **83%** of the population of Coventry

**33%** of referrals accessed FSW

**1%** of referrals were known to MARAC (n=6)

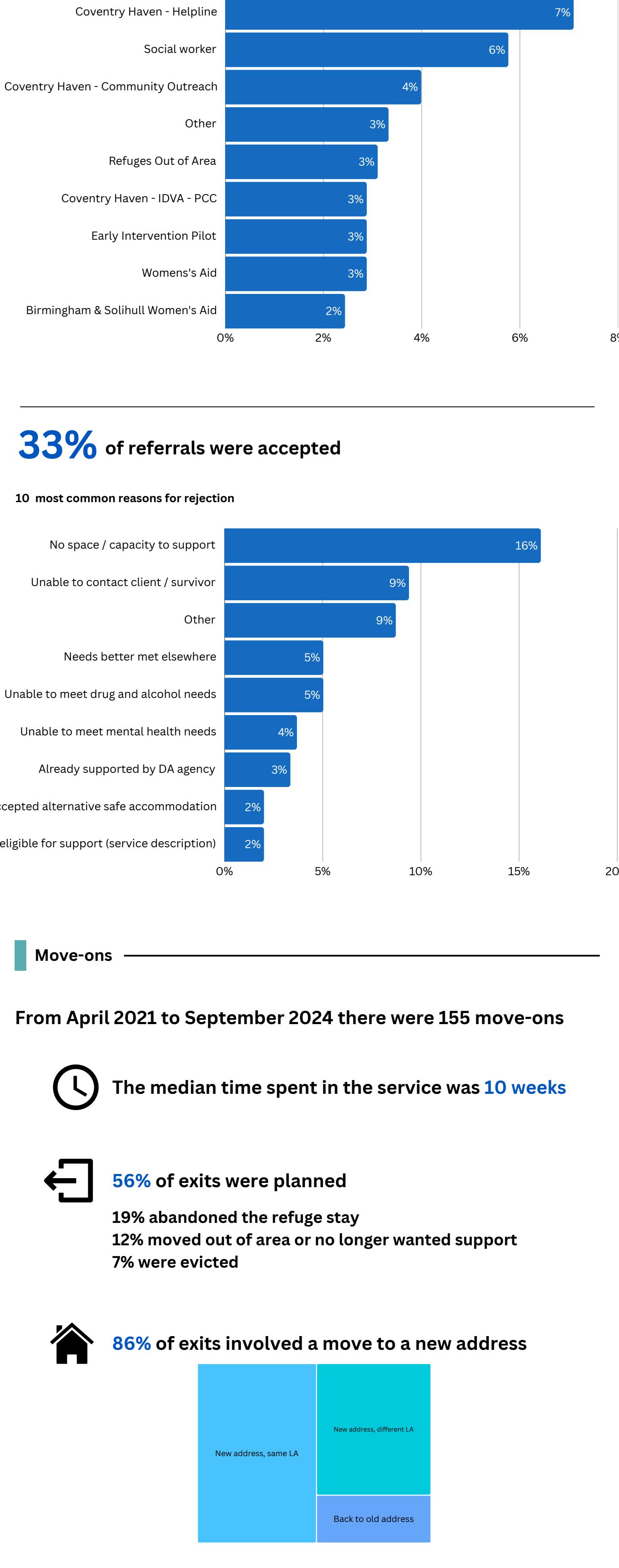
**49%** of referrals came from Coventry

10 most common referral boroughs (excluding Coventry)- number of individuals



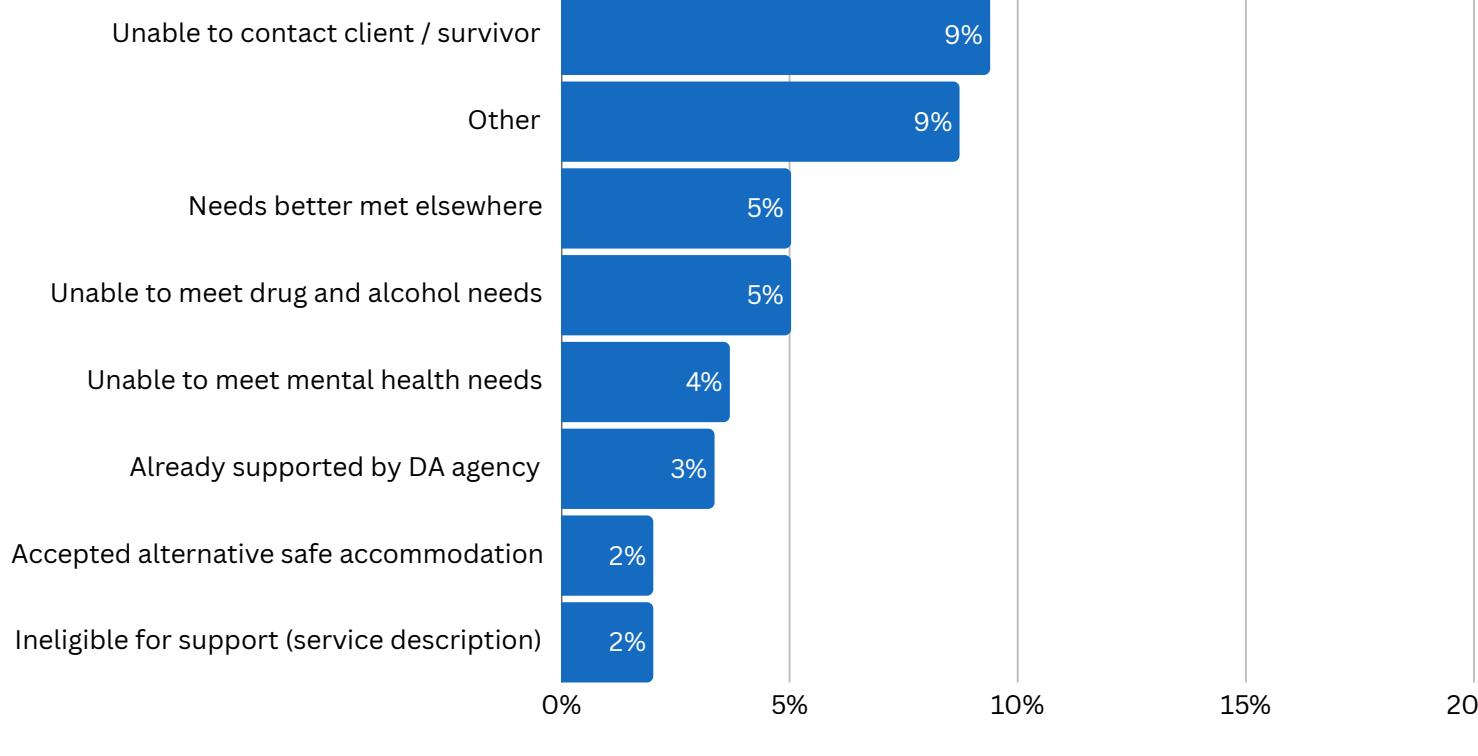
## 38% of individuals self-referred

### 10 most common referral sources (apart from self-referral)



## 33% of referrals were accepted

### 10 most common reasons for rejection



## Move-ons

From April 2021 to September 2024 there were 155 move-ons



The median time spent in the service was 10 weeks



56% of exits were planned

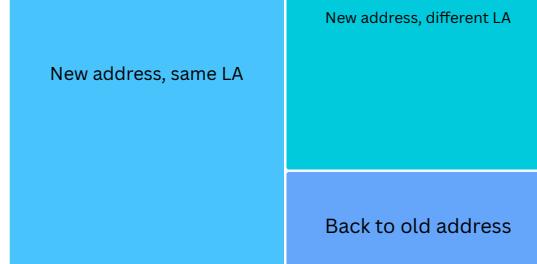
19% abandoned the refuge stay

12% moved out of area or no longer wanted support

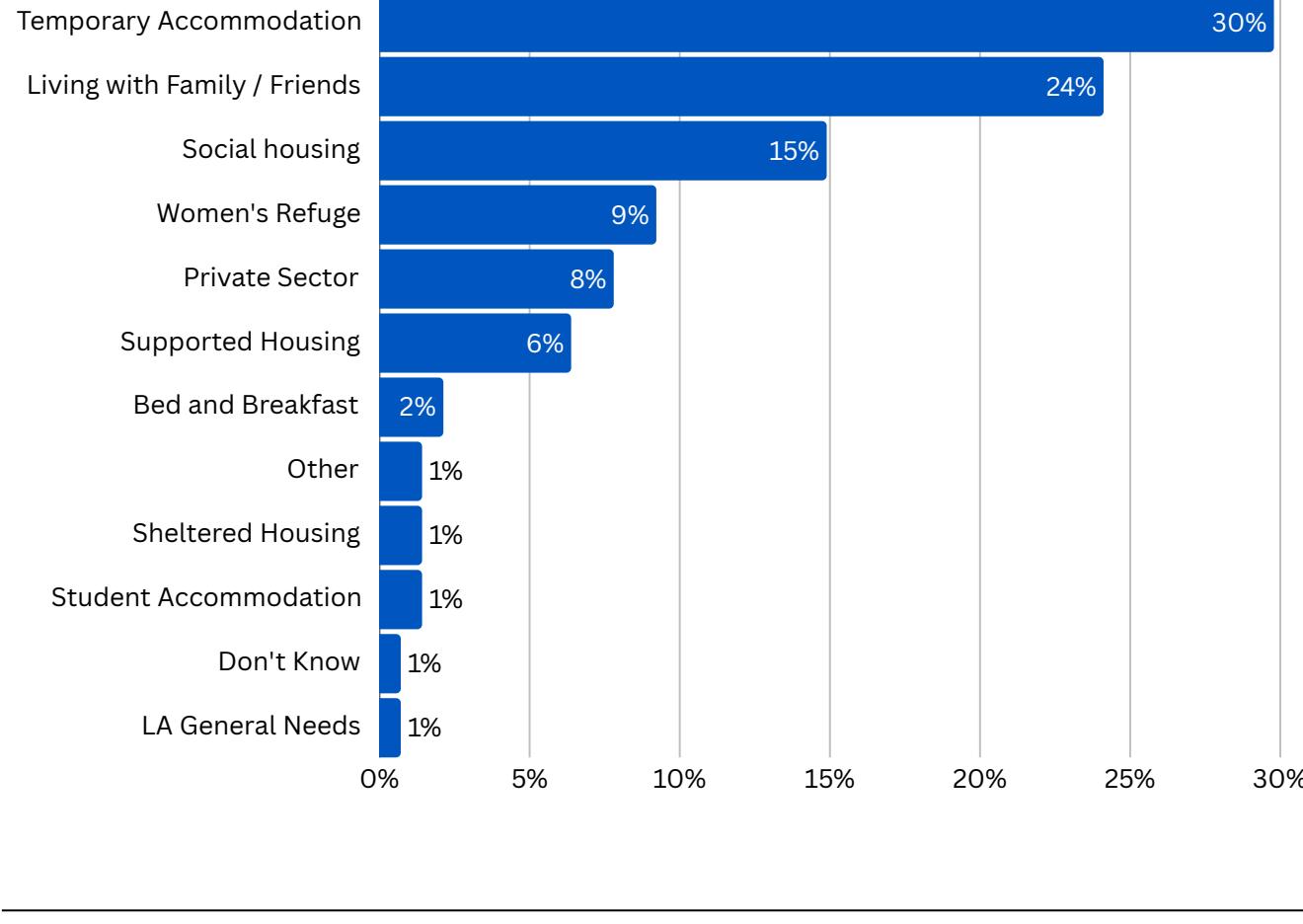
7% were evicted



86% of exits involved a move to a new address



## People went to a range of types of accommodation after exit:



## Outcomes on exit:

### Perpetrator

**3% had the perpetrator removed from the property**

### Reconciliation status with partner:

75% did not reconcile  
13% did reconcile  
6% have an intermittent relationship  
<1% never left the relationship  
6% unknown

### Housing

**26% accessed crisis accommodation**

**31% were resettled through support**

**15% found suitable social housing**

**3% avoided eviction through support**

### Immigration

**24 people had an immigration need met**

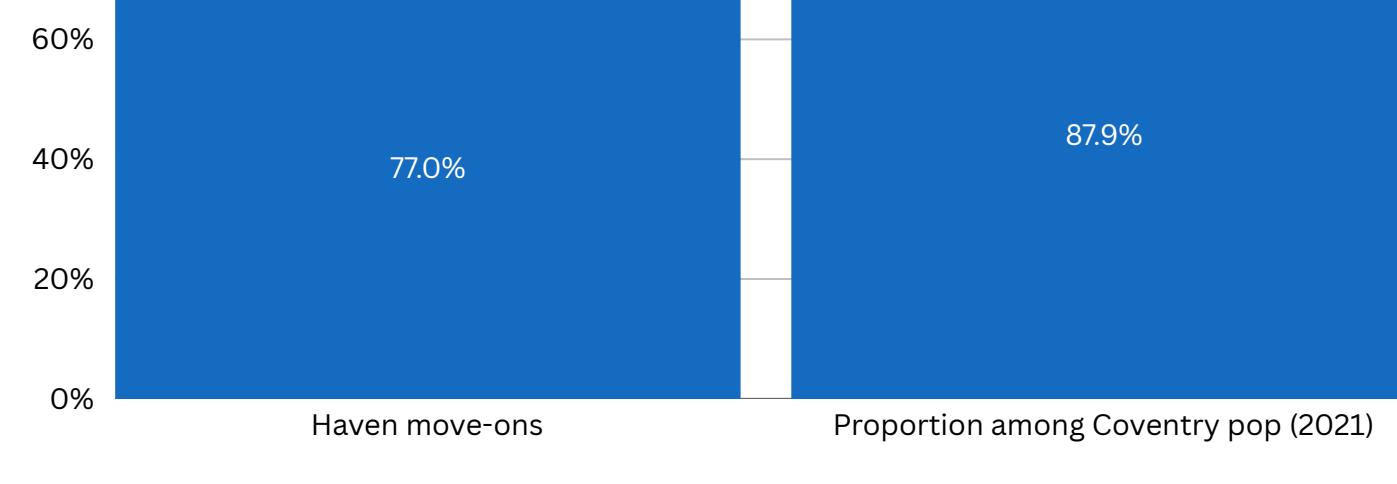
One or more of: had clarity around immigration status, made positive progress regularising status, made a DDVC application, had a successful DDVC application

### Parenting

**48 people had a parenting need met**

One or more of: enrolled children in school/nursery, child registered with appropriate agencies, child supported through CP

### Sexuality



## Ethnicity



Note: 39% of individuals were recorded as having British ethnicity, which limits the useability of the data

## Referrals and acceptances

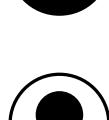
From 2021 - 2024, 62 people were referred to the refuge service and all were accepted



**100%** were female



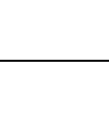
**100%** were heterosexual (apart from 1 unknown)



**None** had previously accessed DA services

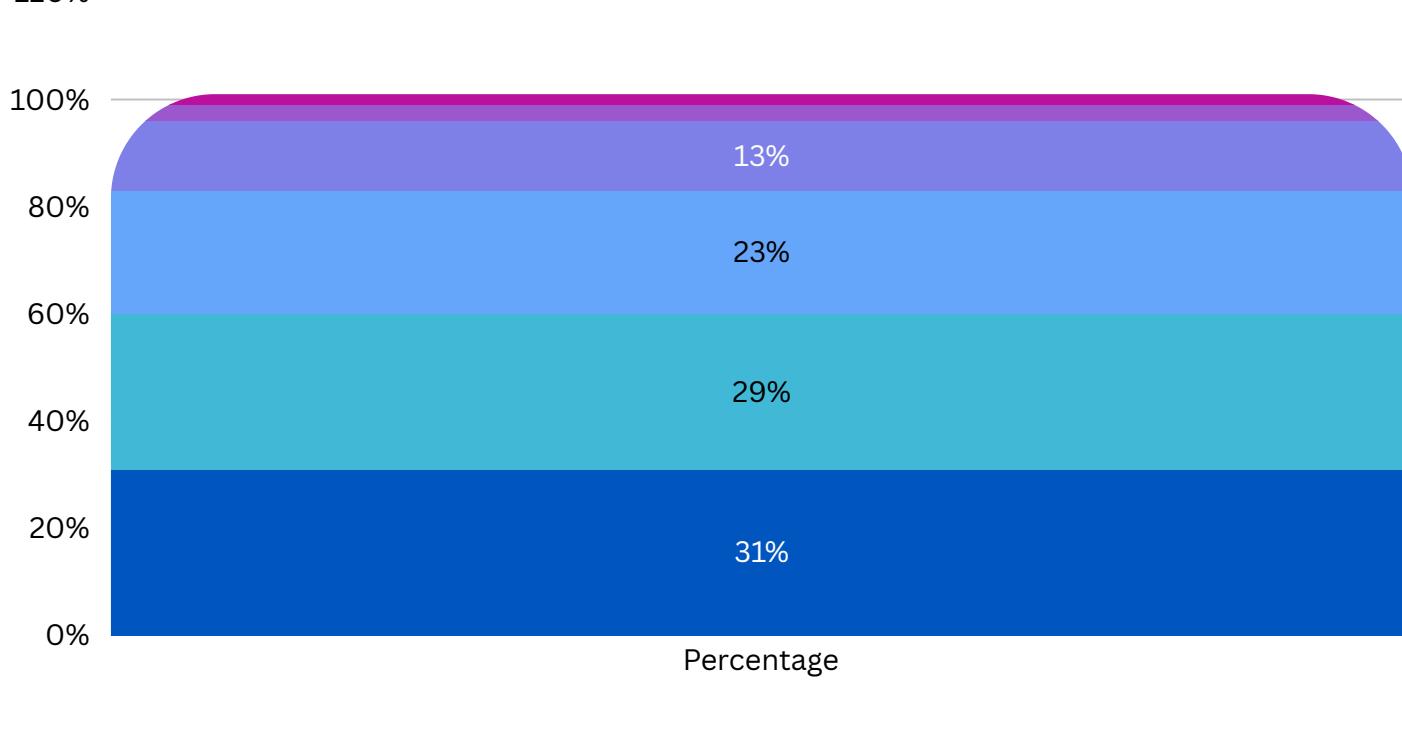


**48** came from outside Coventry



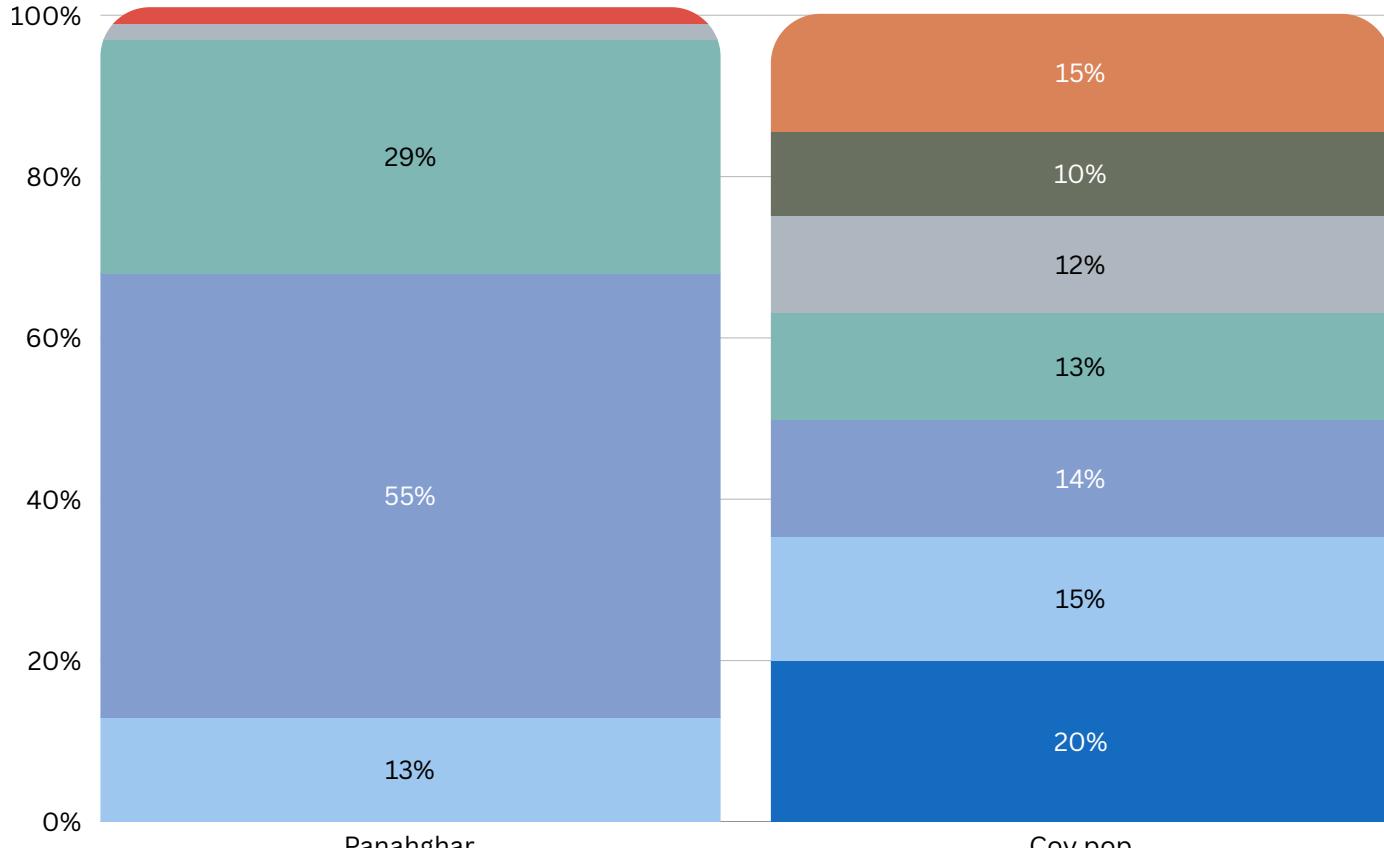
**43** children entered the service

The majority of service users were South Asian or African

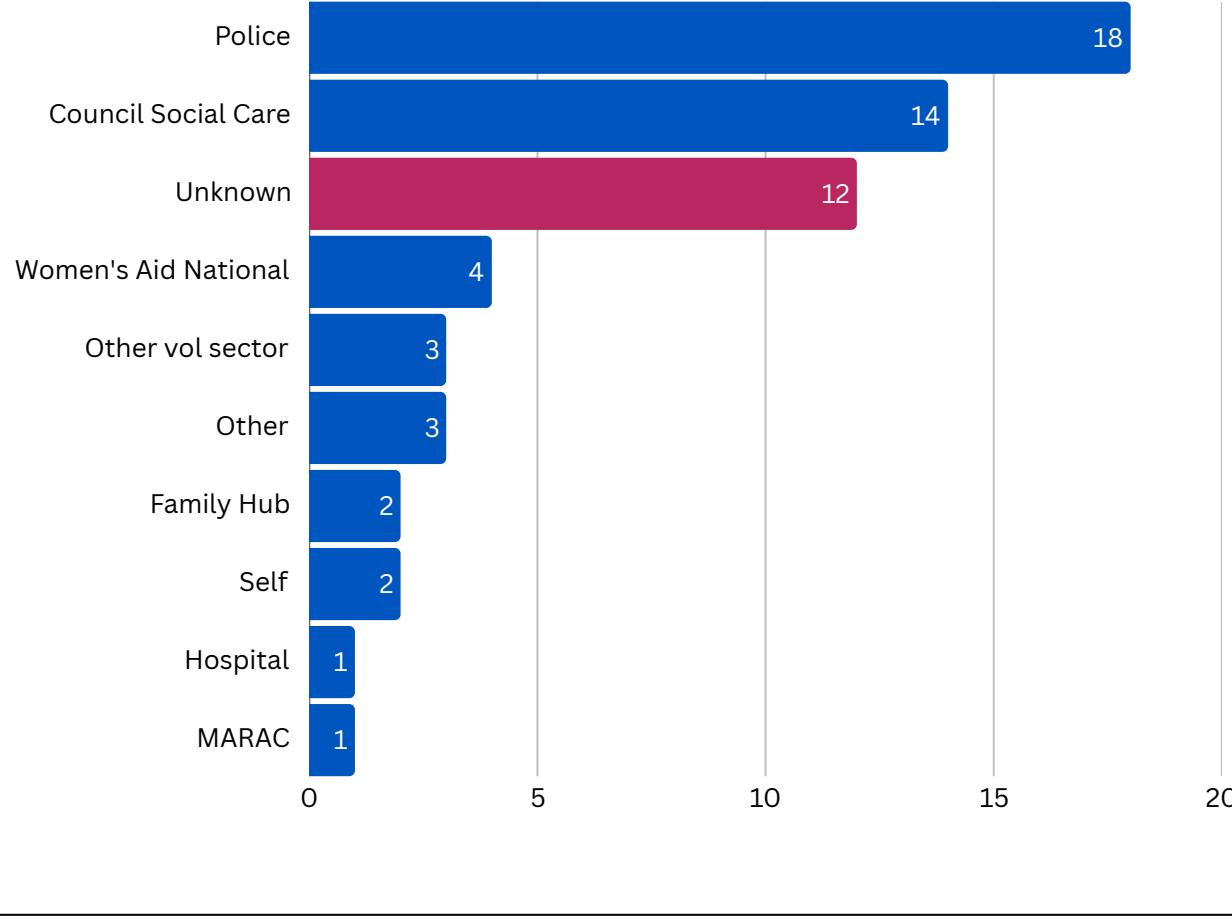


**79%** had no recourse to public funds

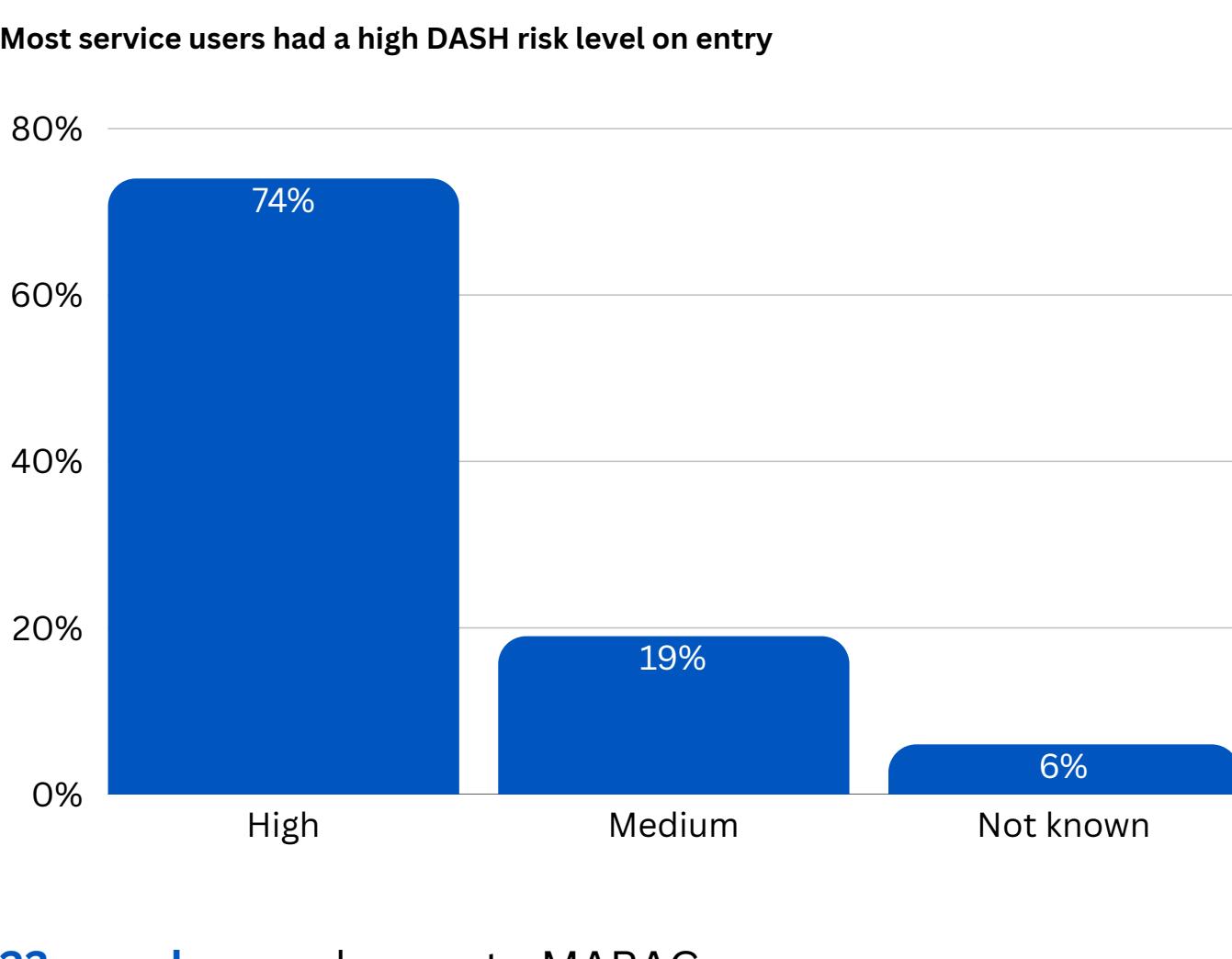
Service users are younger than the Coventry population



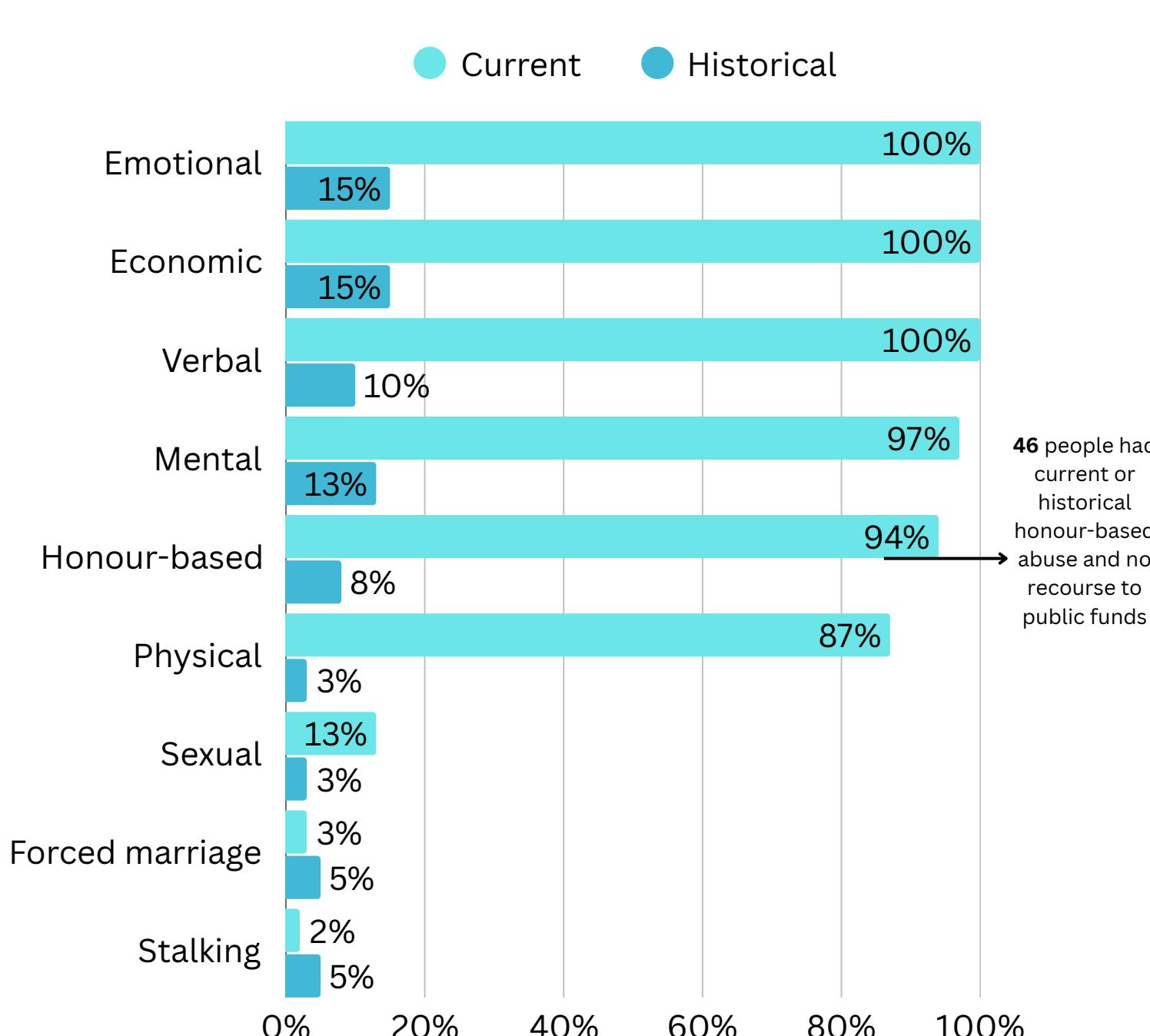
## Police and Social Care referrals are most common (although data is incomplete)



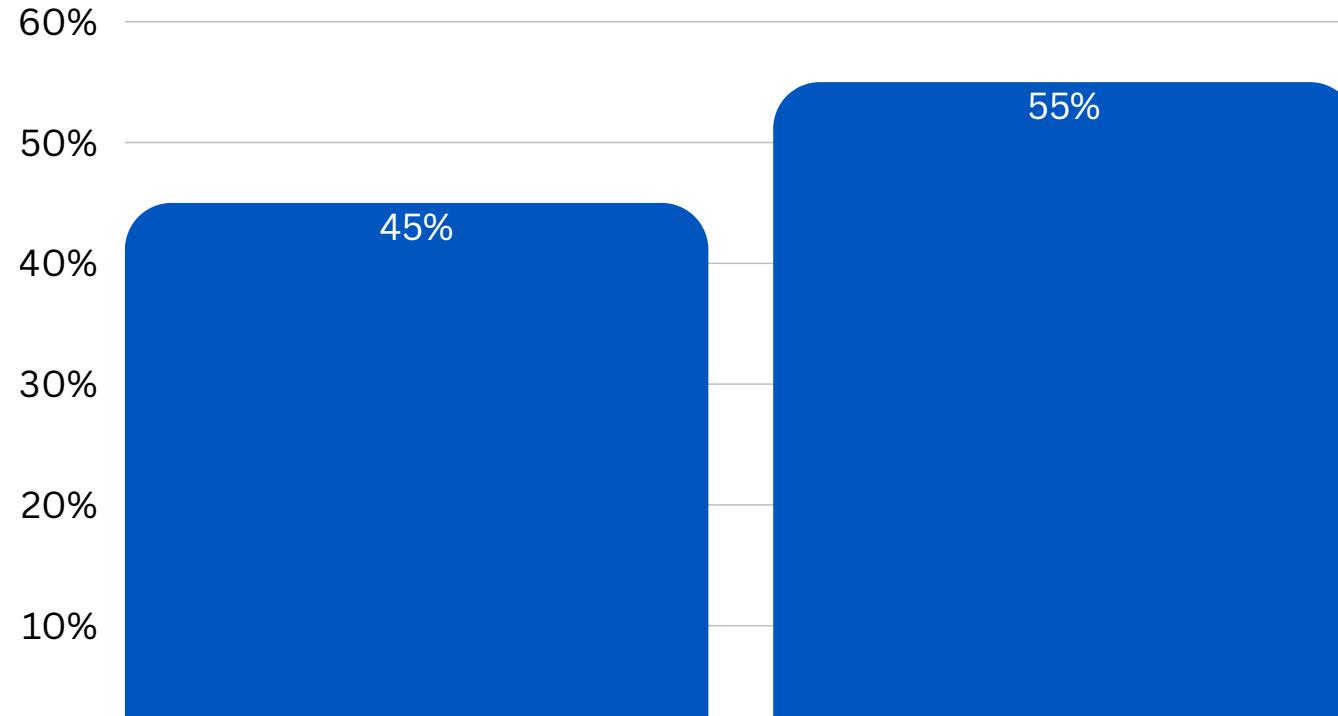
## Service users had a high DASH risk level on entry



**23 people** were known to MARAC



## Reported additional needs

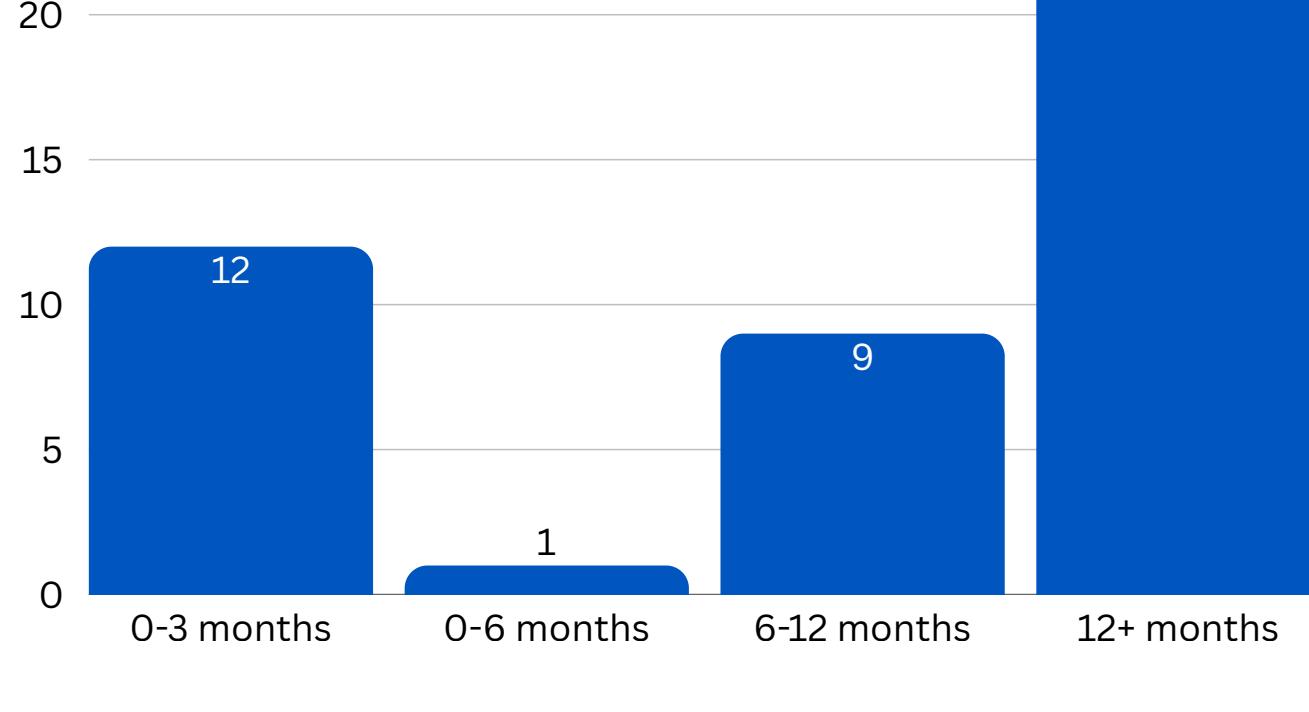


**44% reported a mental health need**

**2% reported a substance abuse need**

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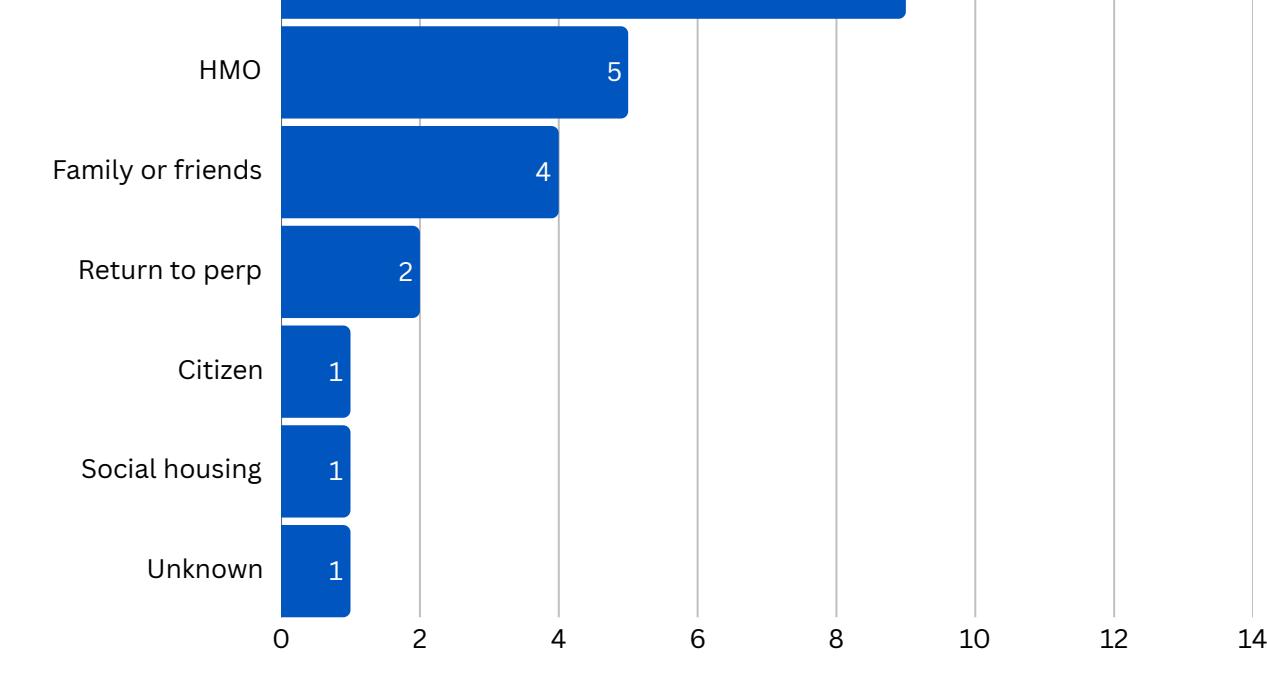
## Most service users stayed for 12 months or longer



**18 people (31%) moved on to a location in Coventry**

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## Move on locations



## A snapshot of DA in CGL

As of 30/09/24:

**1,024** were in structured treatment

**39%** (398) were either a perpetrator or victim of domestic abuse

**80** male victims

**42** male perpetrators

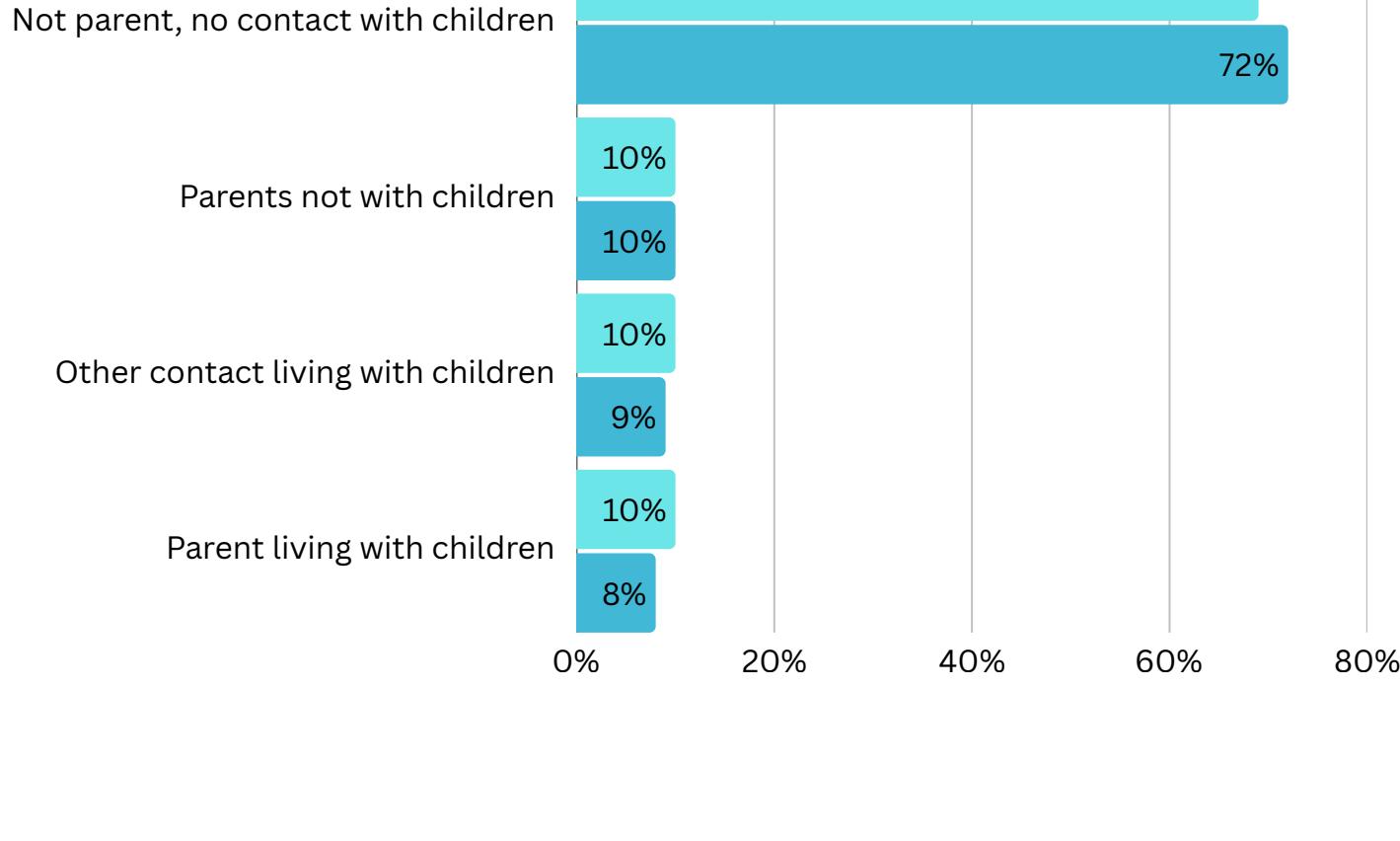
**200** female victims

**76** female perpetrators

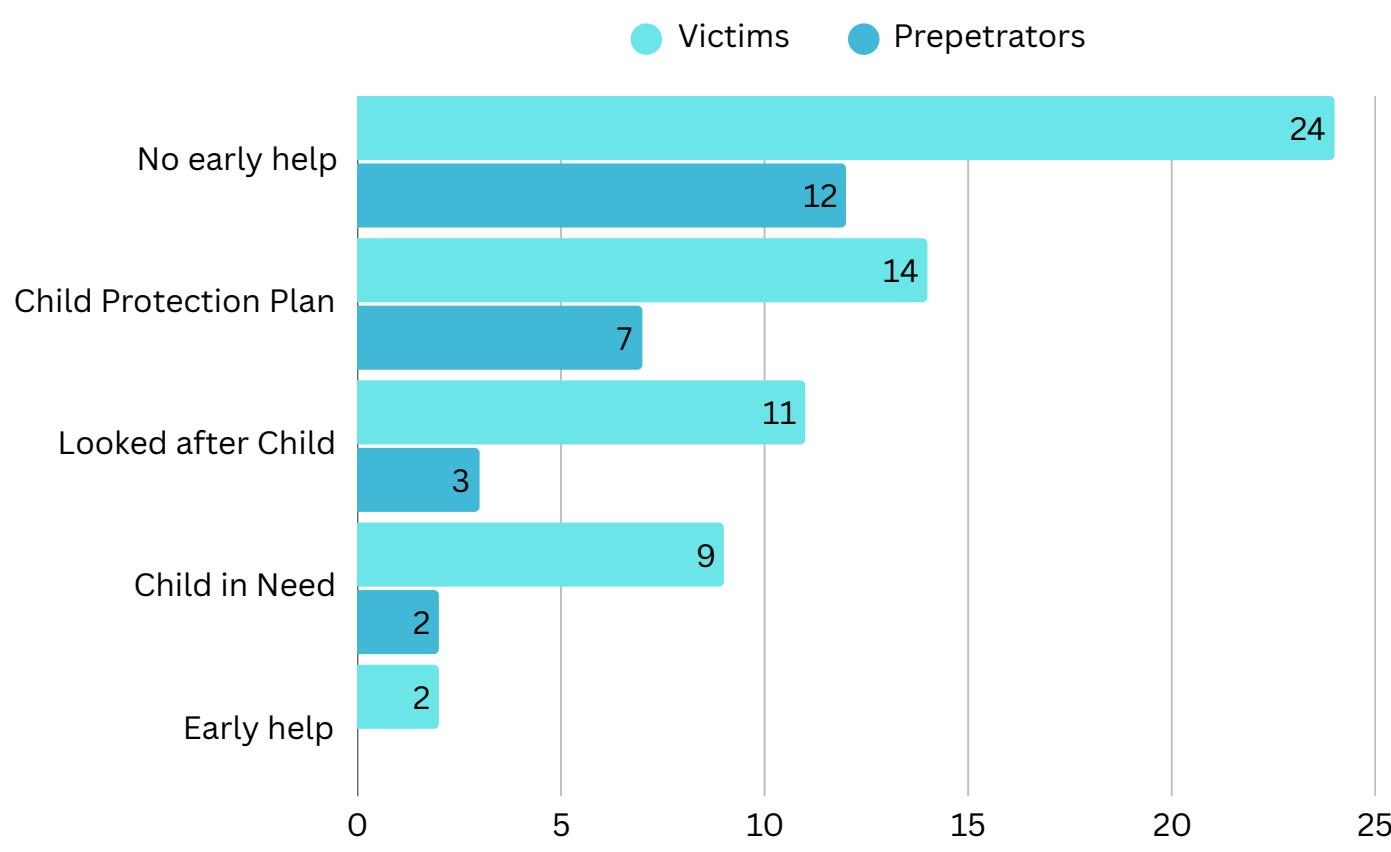
**34%** (95) had a housing problem

**35%** (41) had a housing problem

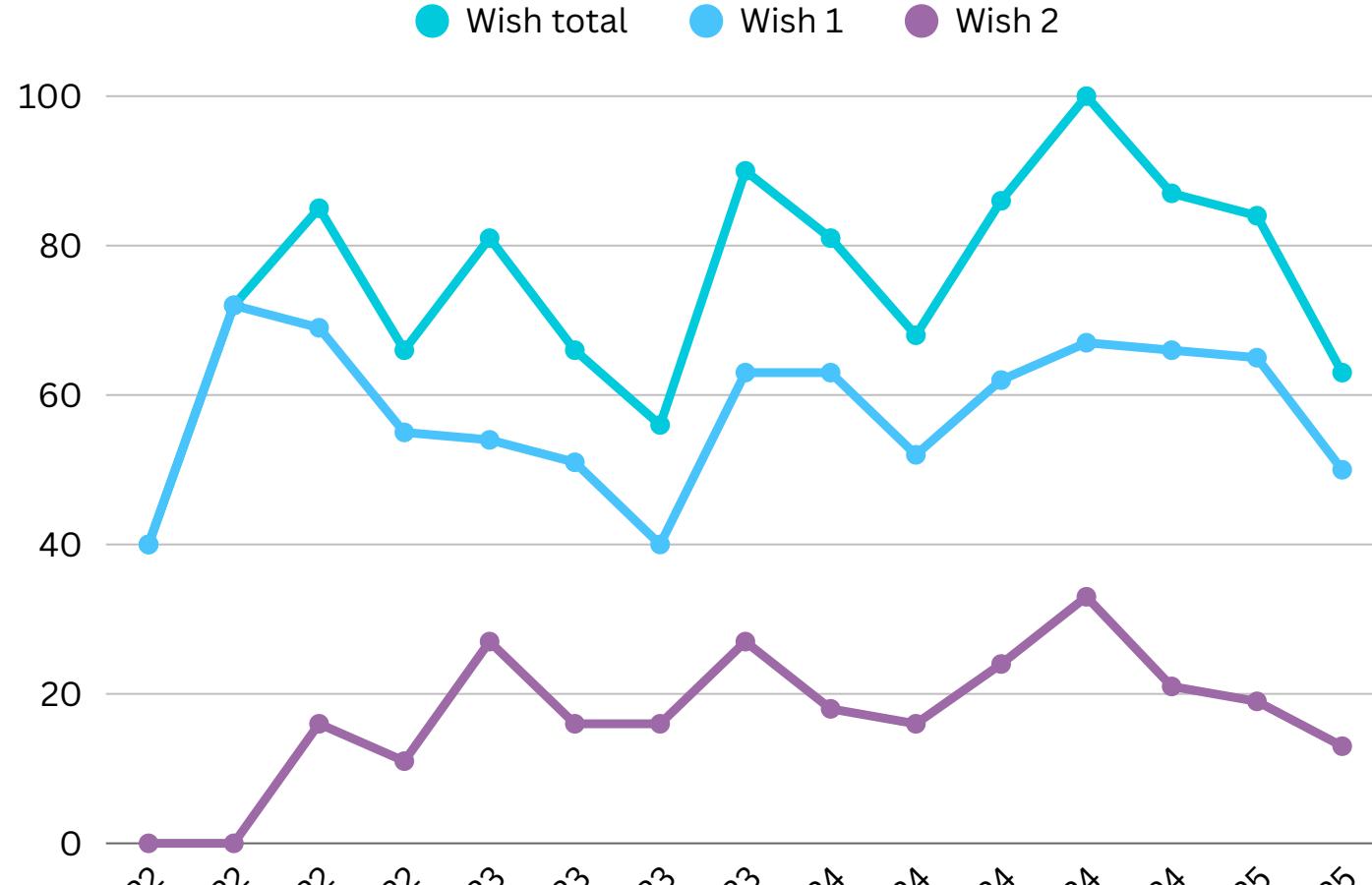
**Most victims and perpetrators are not parents and have no contact with children**



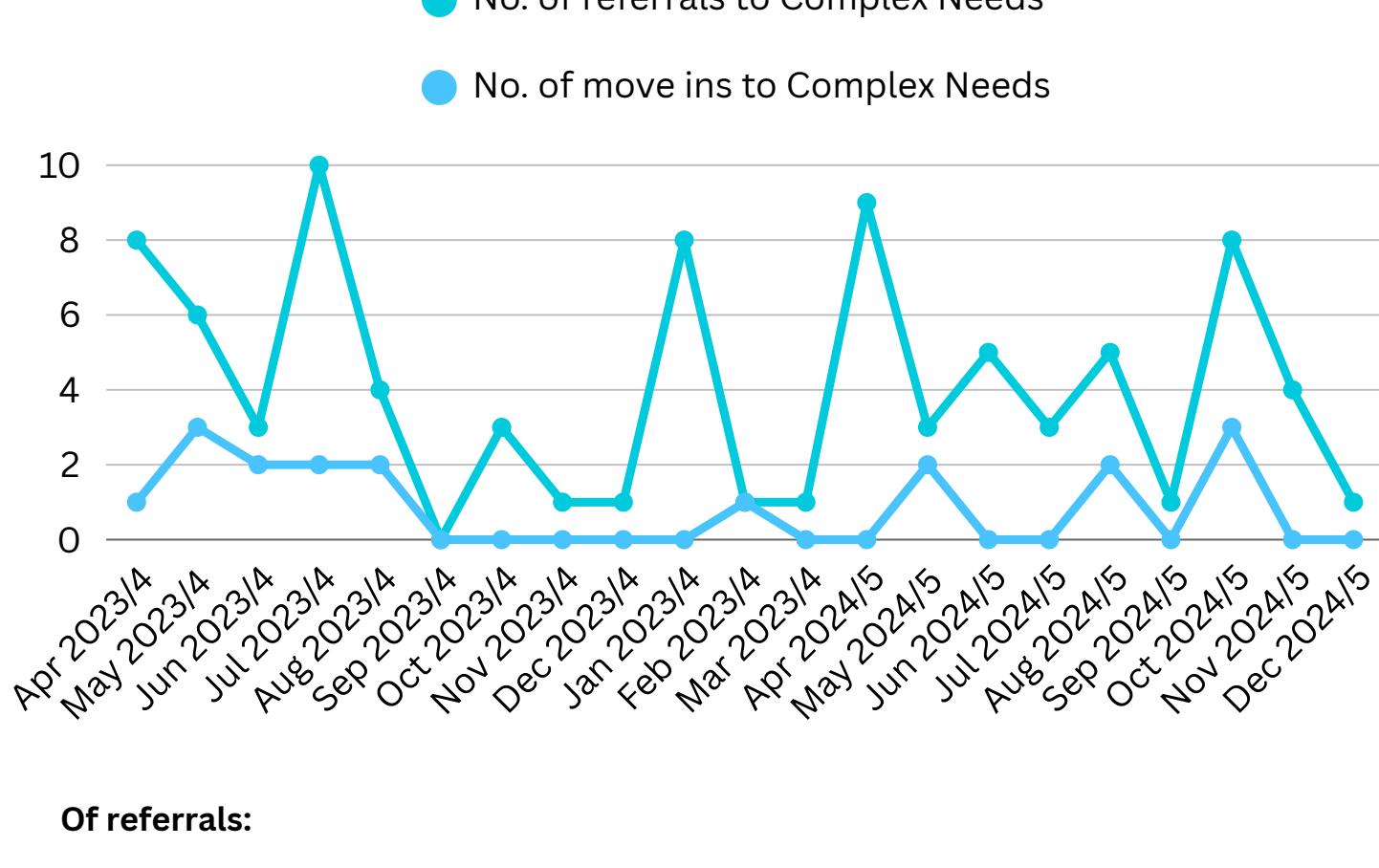
**Of service users who are living with children, most are not receiving early help**



## Referrals to WISH



## Referrals and acceptance into the service



### Of referrals:

**31%** were out of City

**All but two** were female

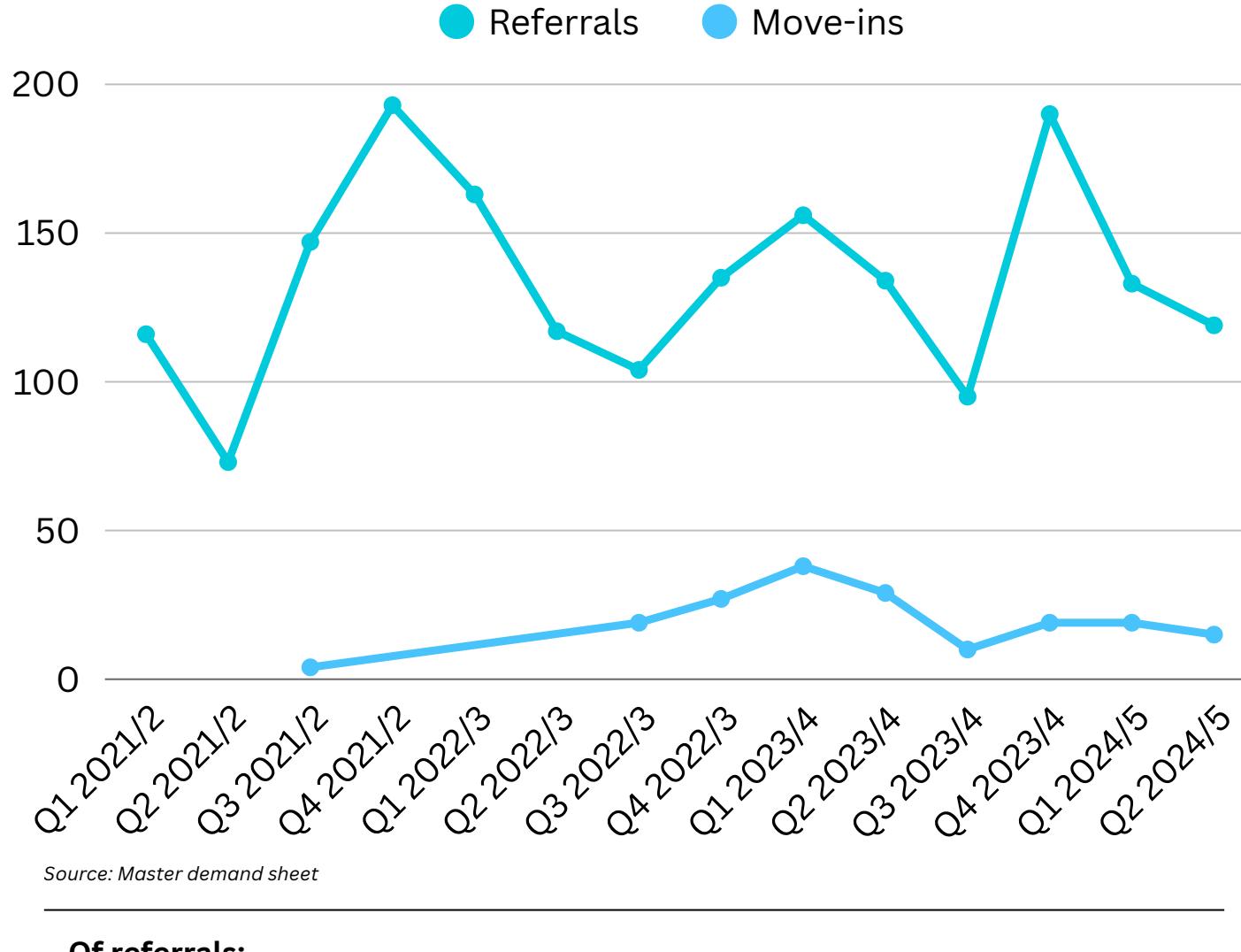
**11** children were referred

**84%** had a mental health diagnosis

**39%** had a drug dependency

**25%** had an alcohol dependency

## Referrals to and acceptances into Valley House, 2021/22 to Q3 2024/5



Source: Master demand sheet

### Of referrals:

**96%** were female

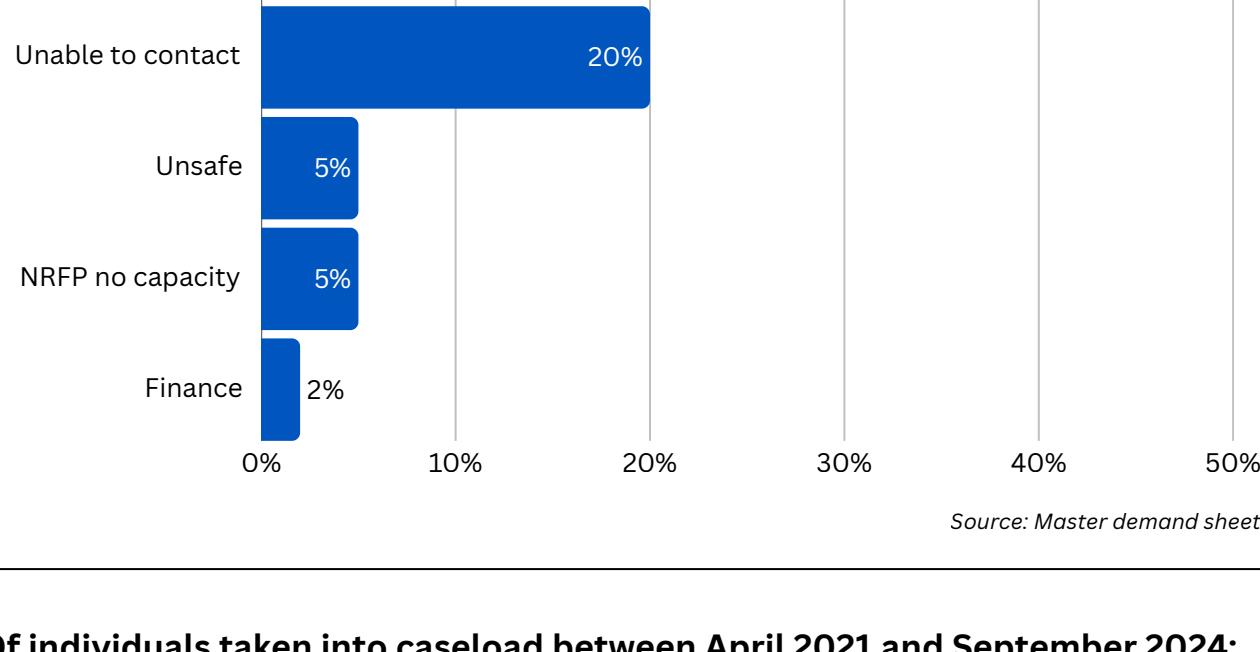
**6%** were pregnant

**45%** were out of area

**1** had no recourse to public funds

Source: Master demand sheet

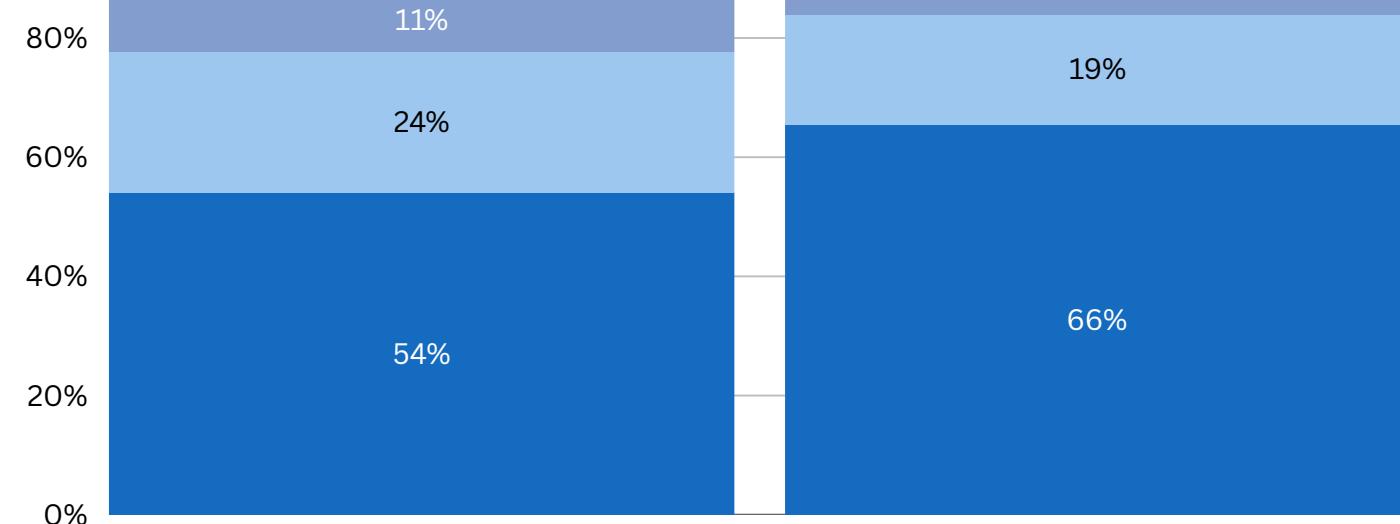
### 42% of referrals were declined, for the following reasons:

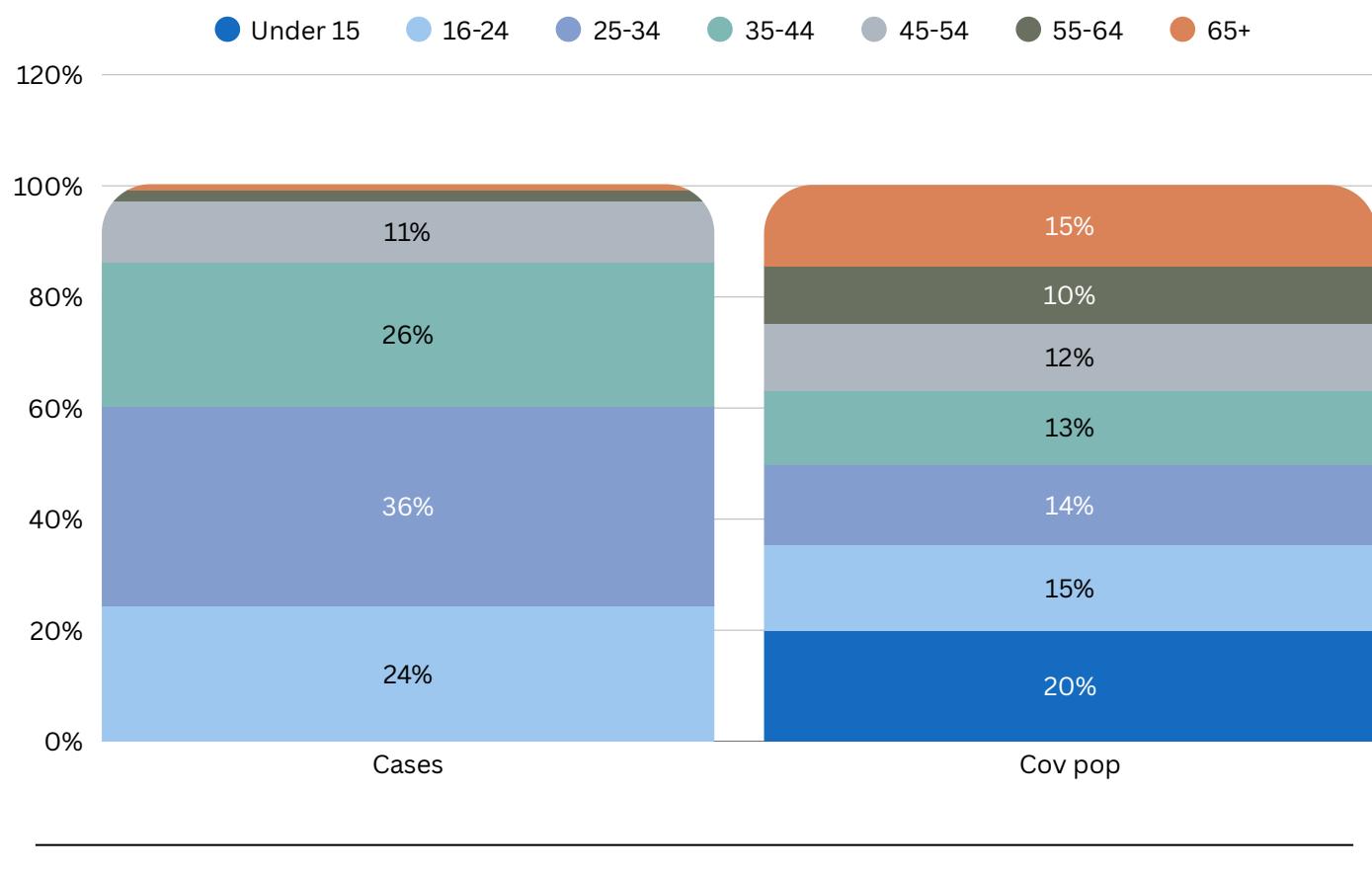


Source: Master demand sheet

### Of individuals taken into caseload between April 2021 and September 2024:

**96%** were female





### Types of abuse among cases

