

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

ANXIETY AND TRAUMA

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

2

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Continue to increase referrals into the WISH service

3

HOUSING SUPPORT

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

4

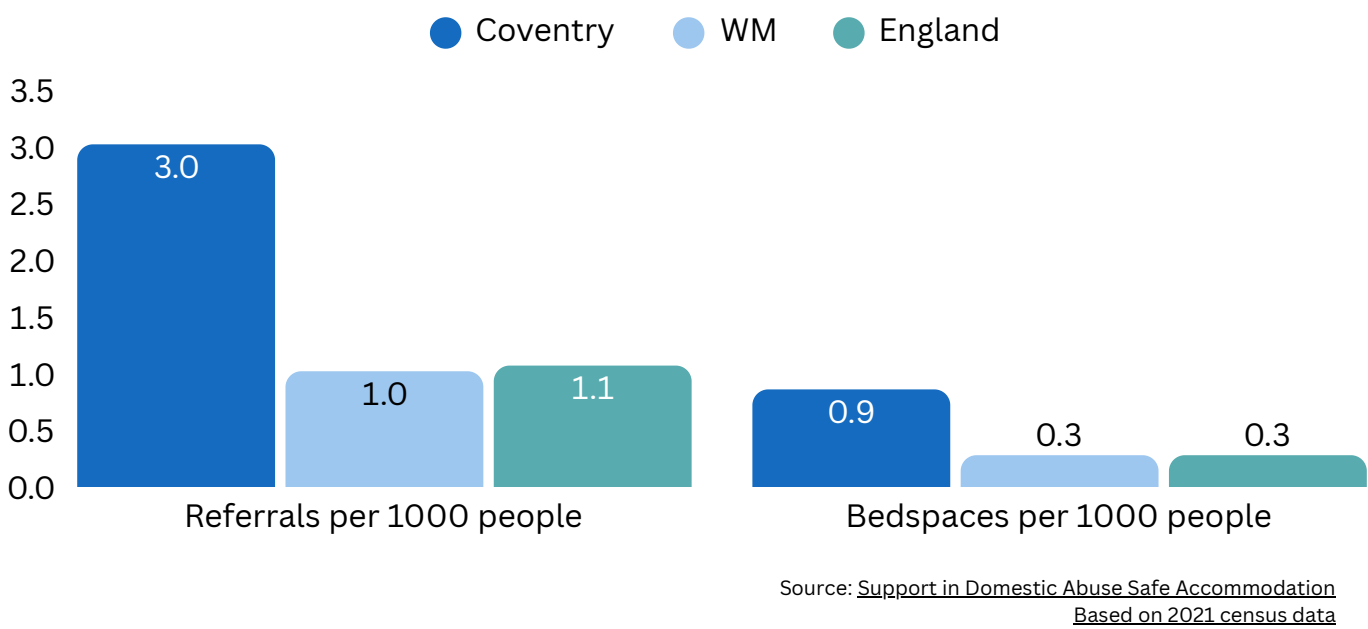
DATA

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

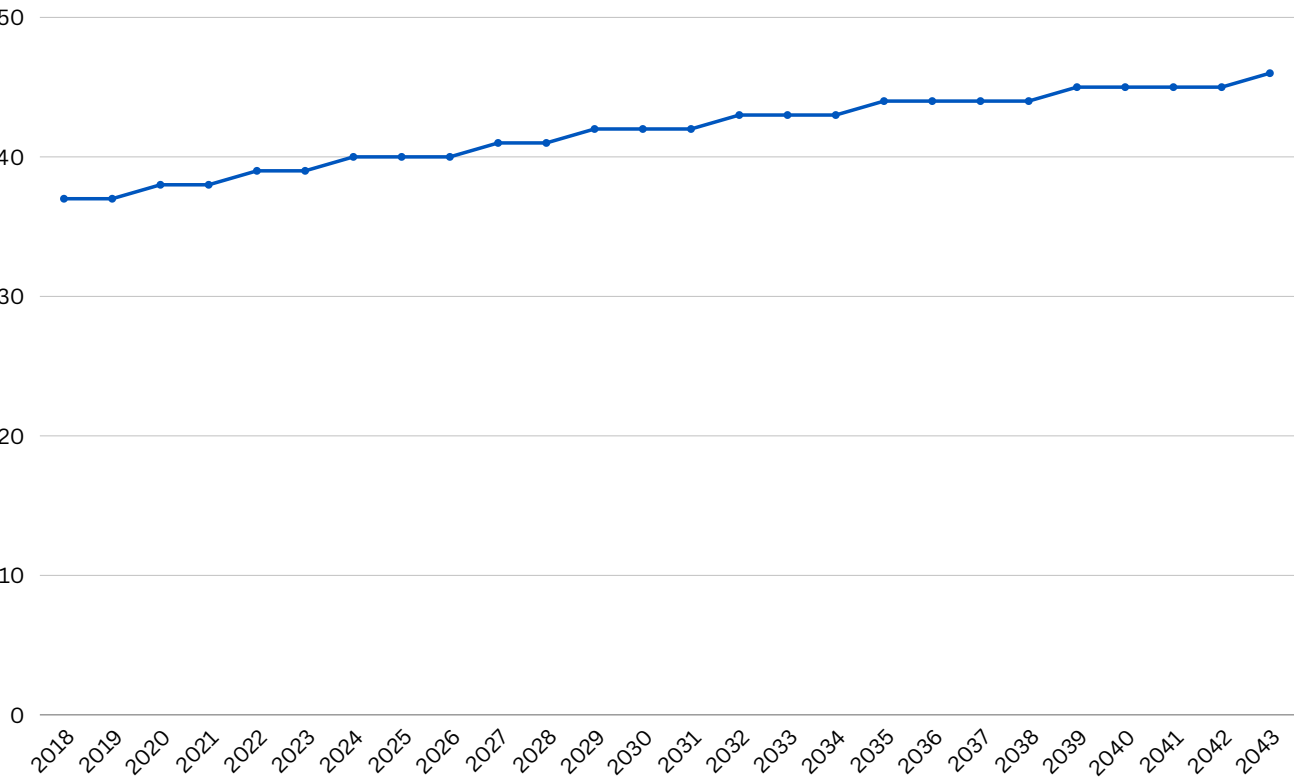
5

Individuals supported

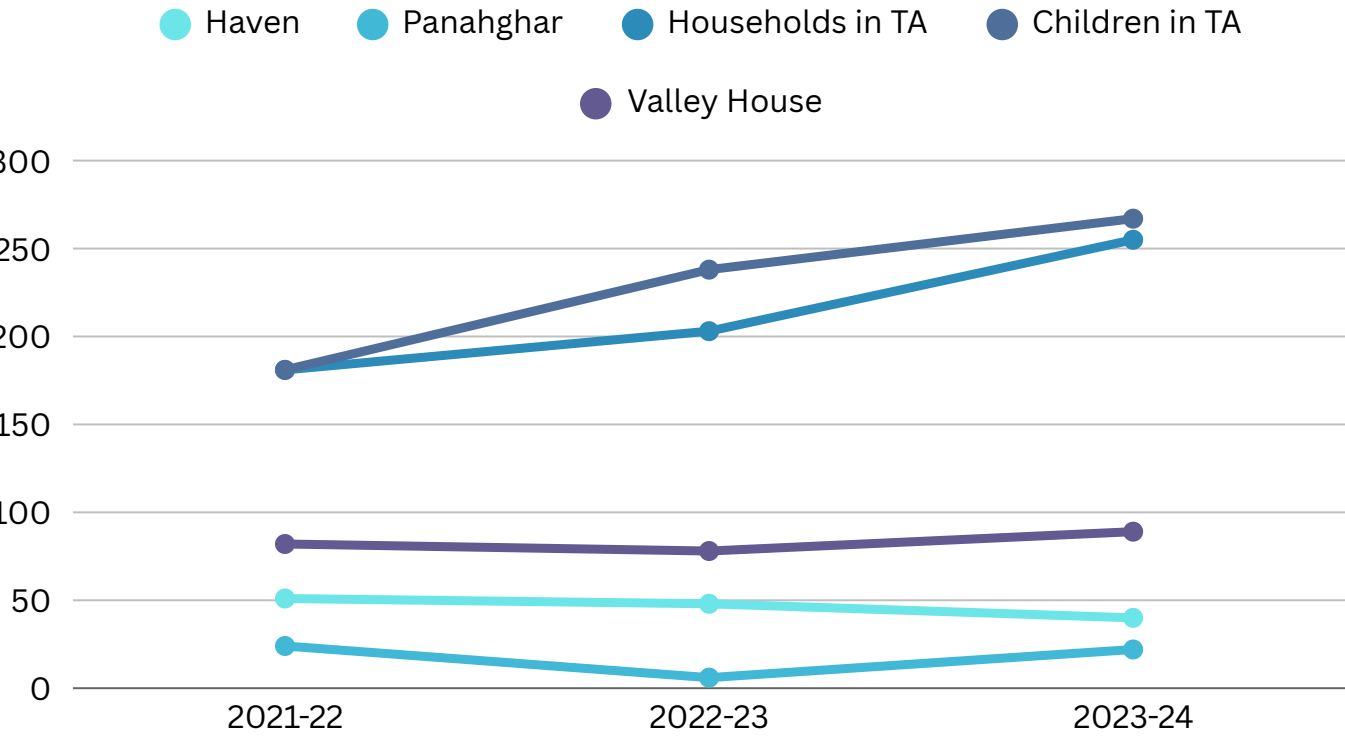
Coventry has a higher number of referrals and bedspaces per 1000 people compared to the West Midlands and England (2023-24). The current (local authority-commissioned) refuge provision of 54 exceeds the estimates based on the Council of Europe formula. This is based on 1 refuge space per 10,000 population



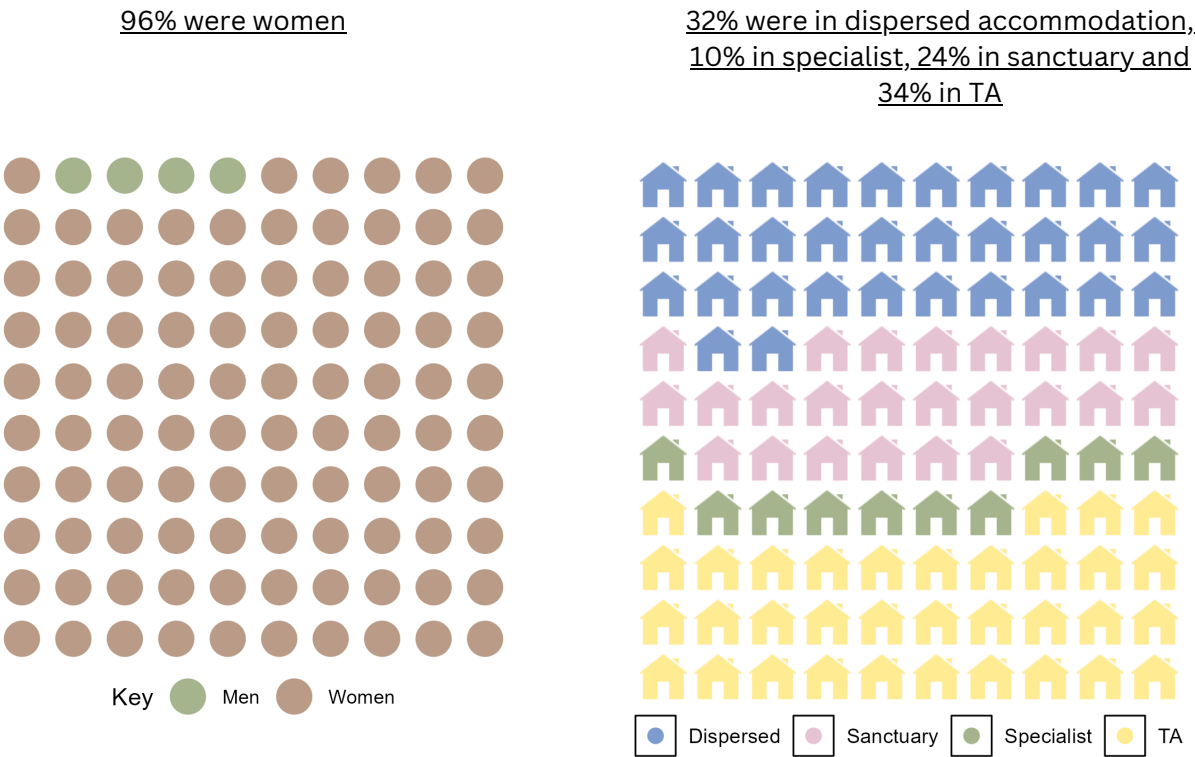
The provision of specialist accommodation spaces is expected to meet the rising need in the future



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

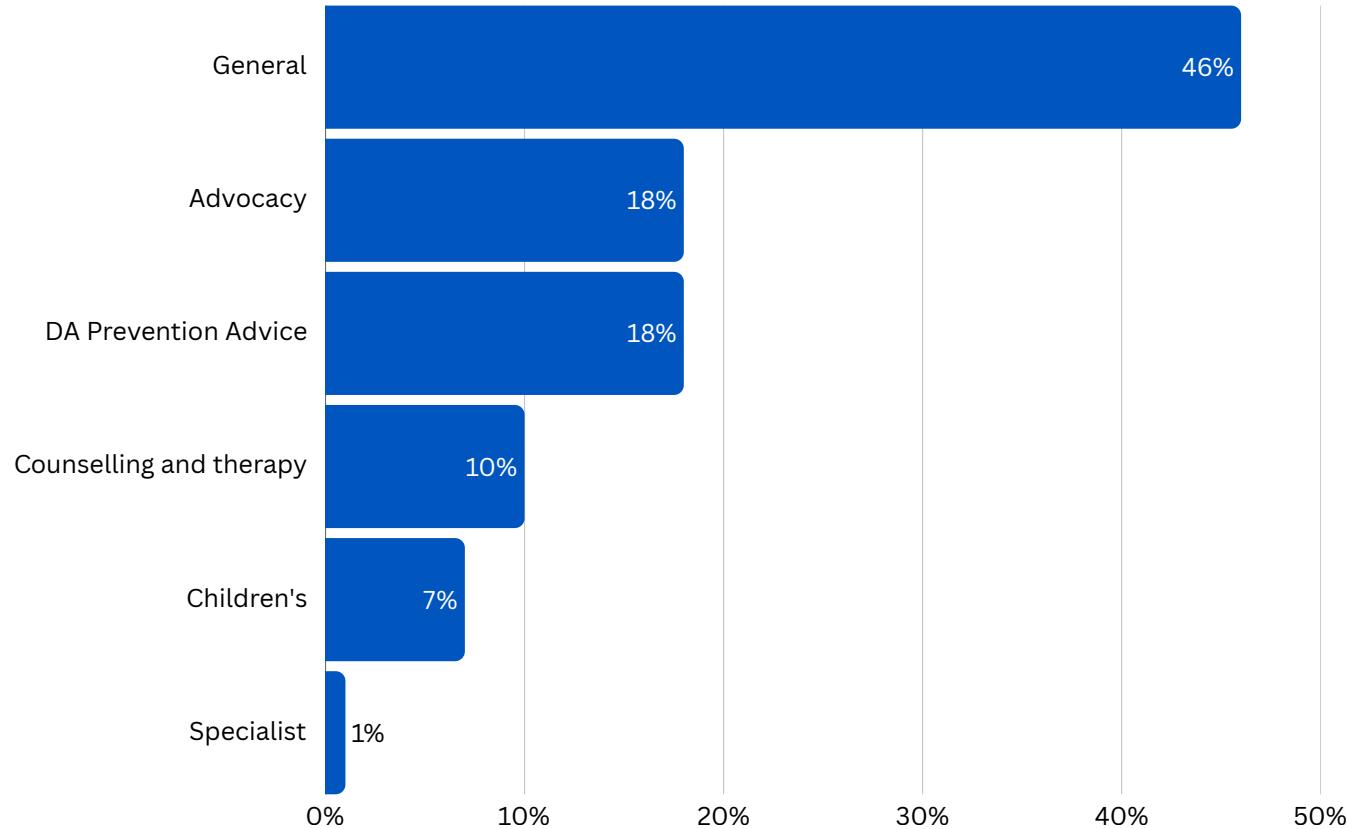


In 2023-24, 1076 people were supported in safe accommodation in Coventry

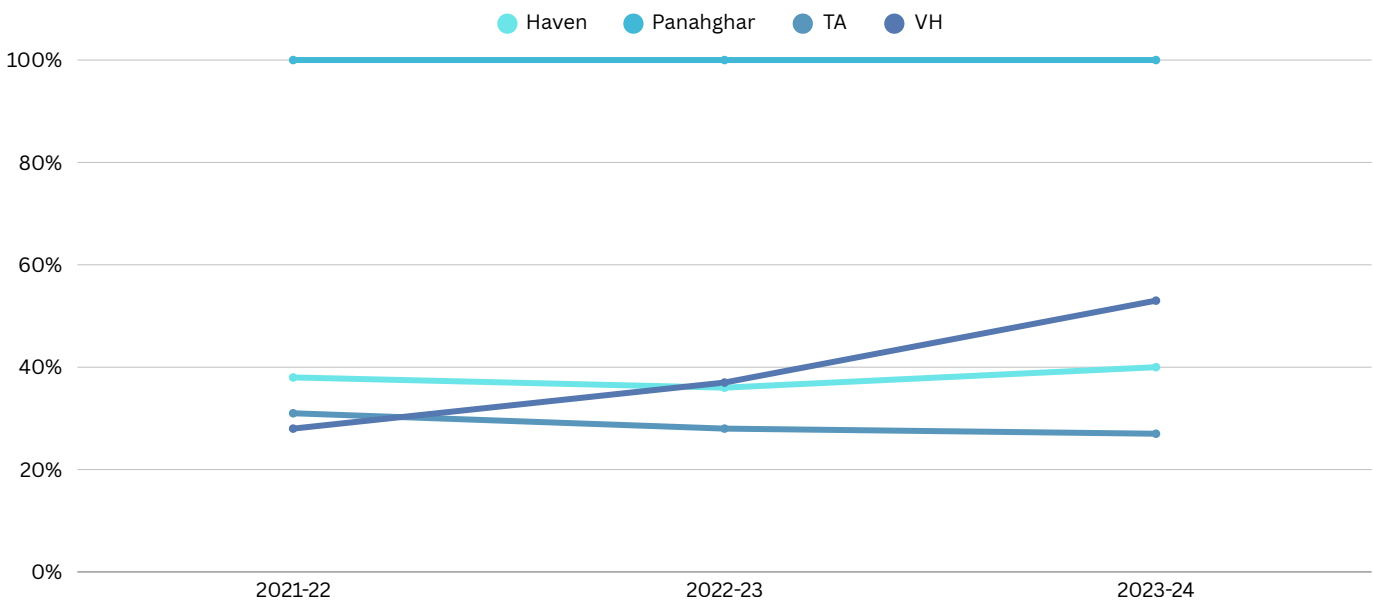


411 children

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

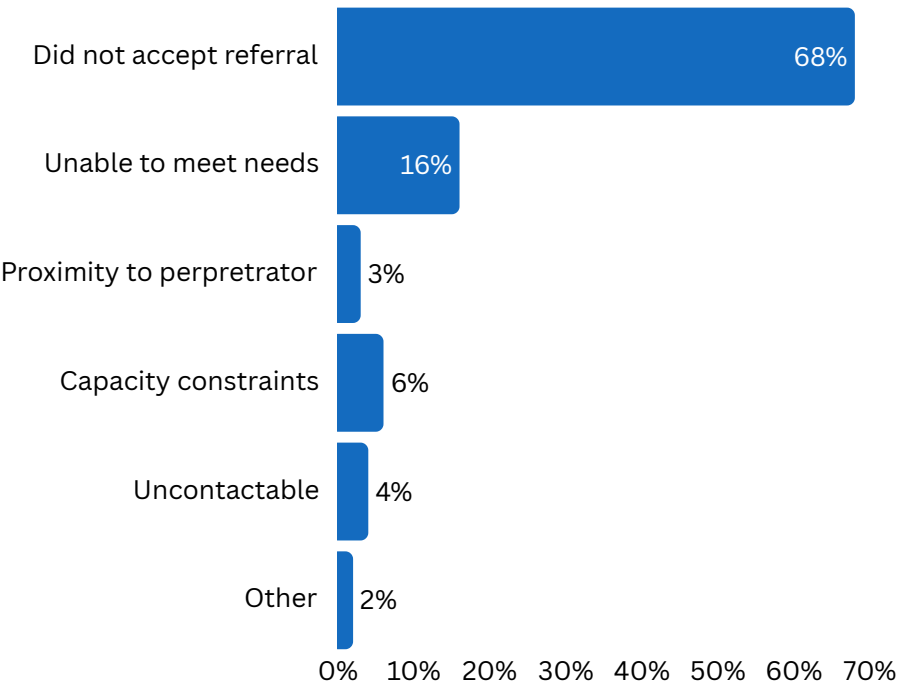


The percentage of Black and Minoritized individuals varies by service, but is relatively consistent over time, apart from Valley House which has seen a sharp increase since 2021



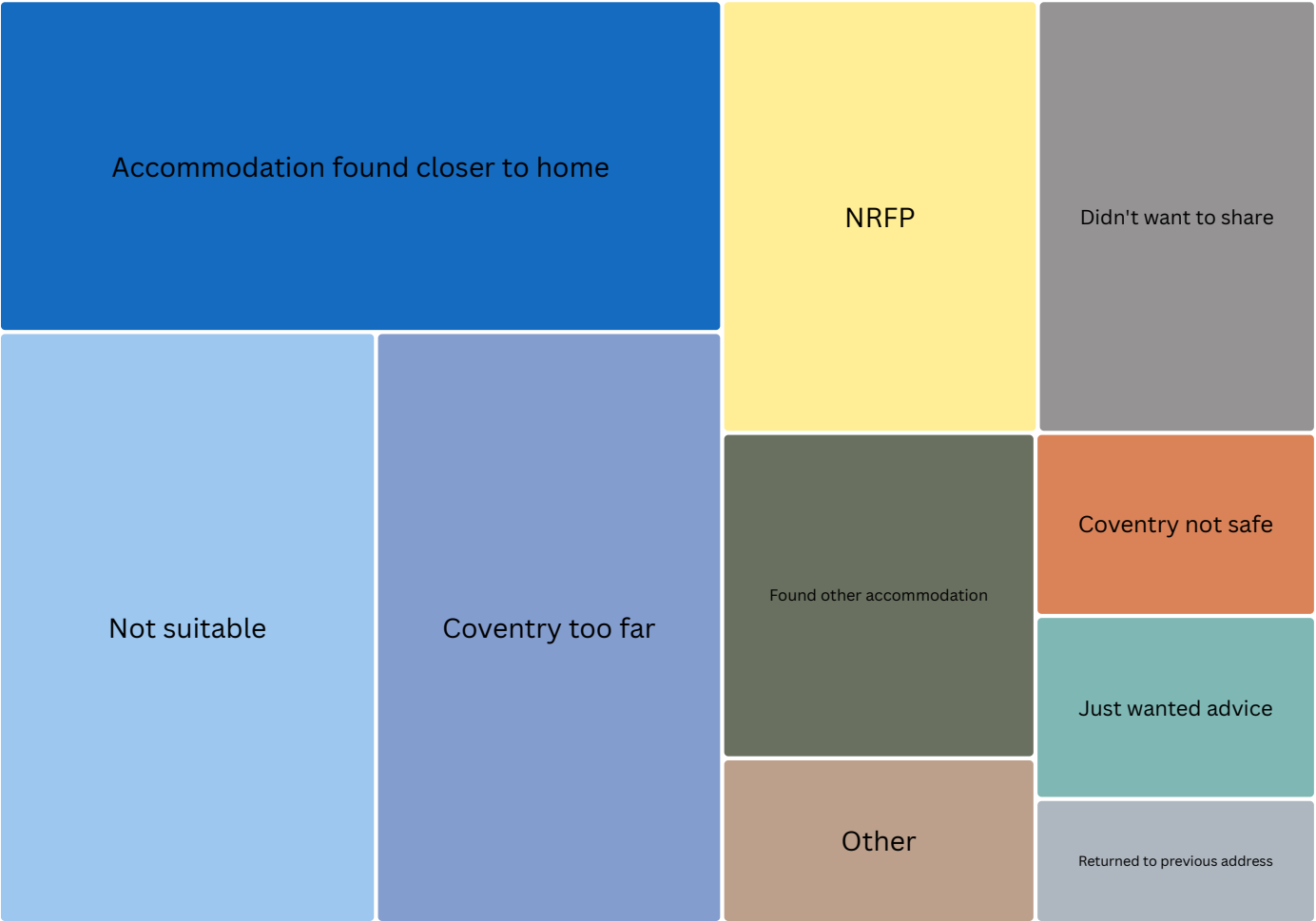
Households unable to be supported

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



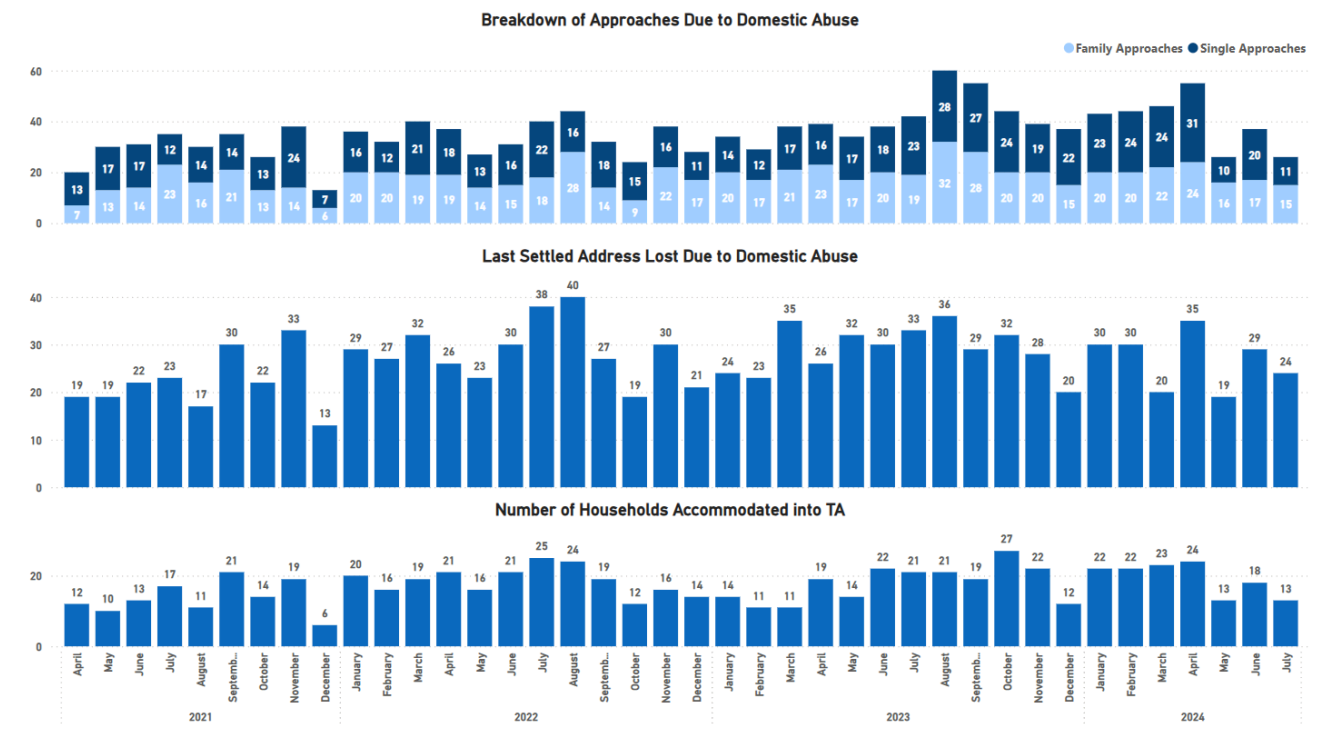
* Based on sanctuary, Valley House and IDVA data (In DACS return) and Haven data, 2023-4 only

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



Housing activity over time

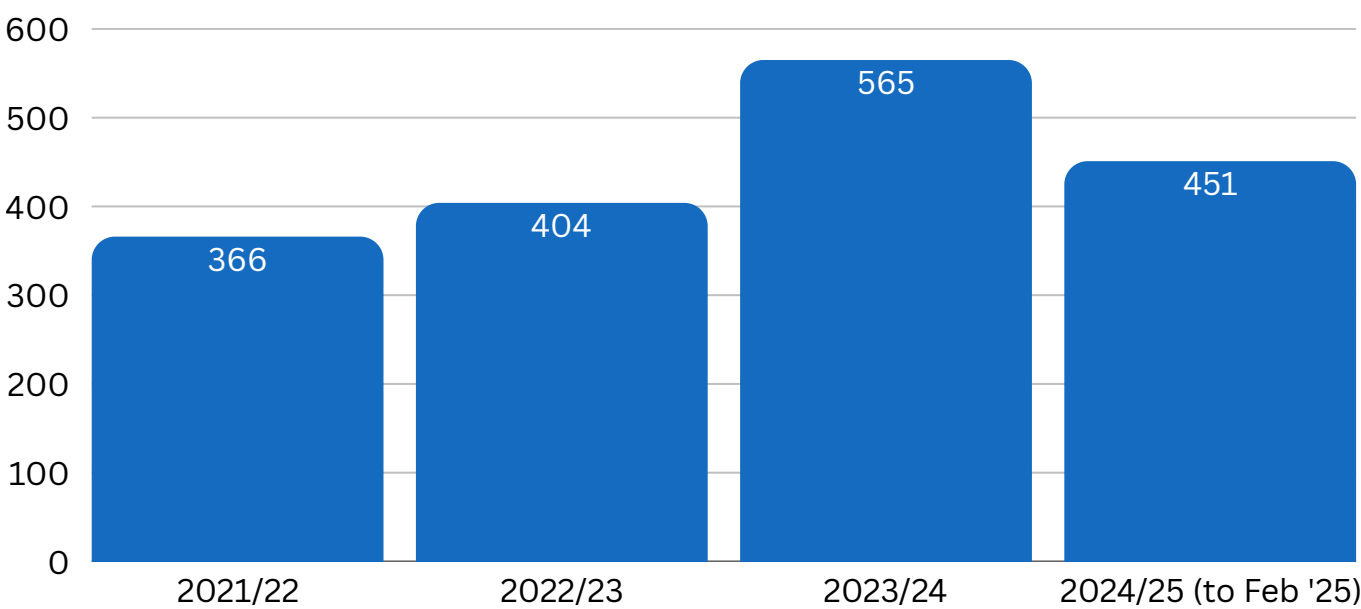
Source: Domestic Abuse Housing Dashboard



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

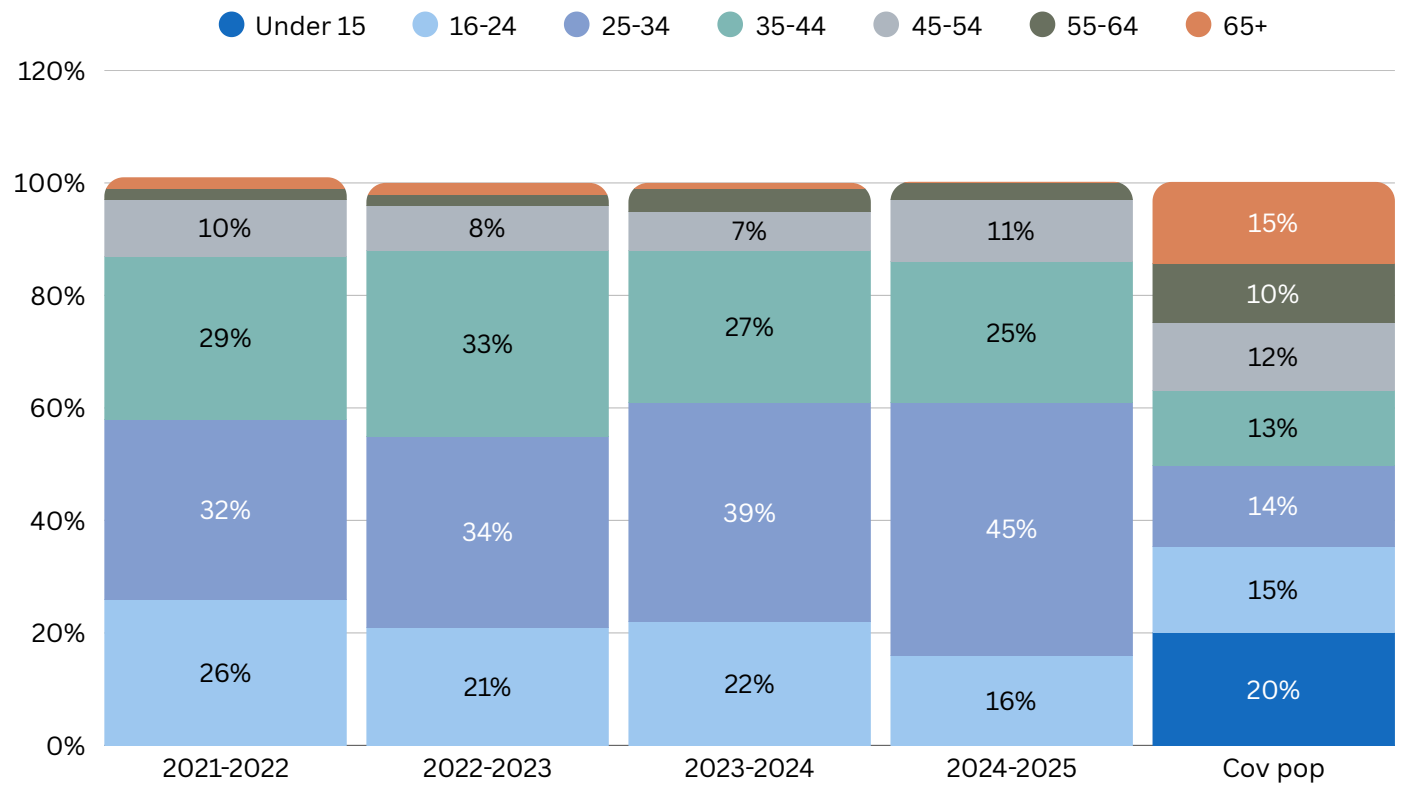


92% were already homeless

6% were threatened with homelessness

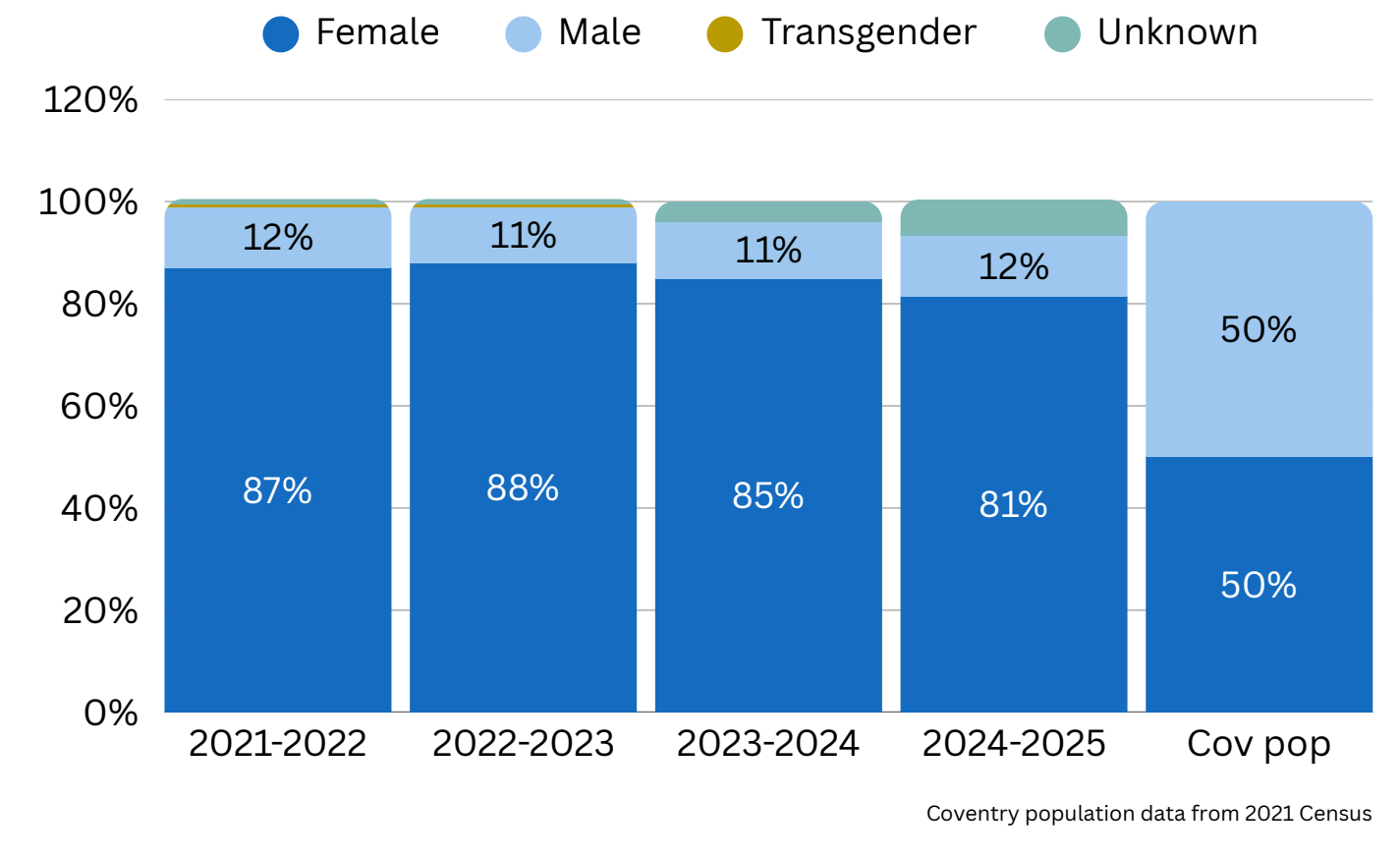
of cases where an assessment was done

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

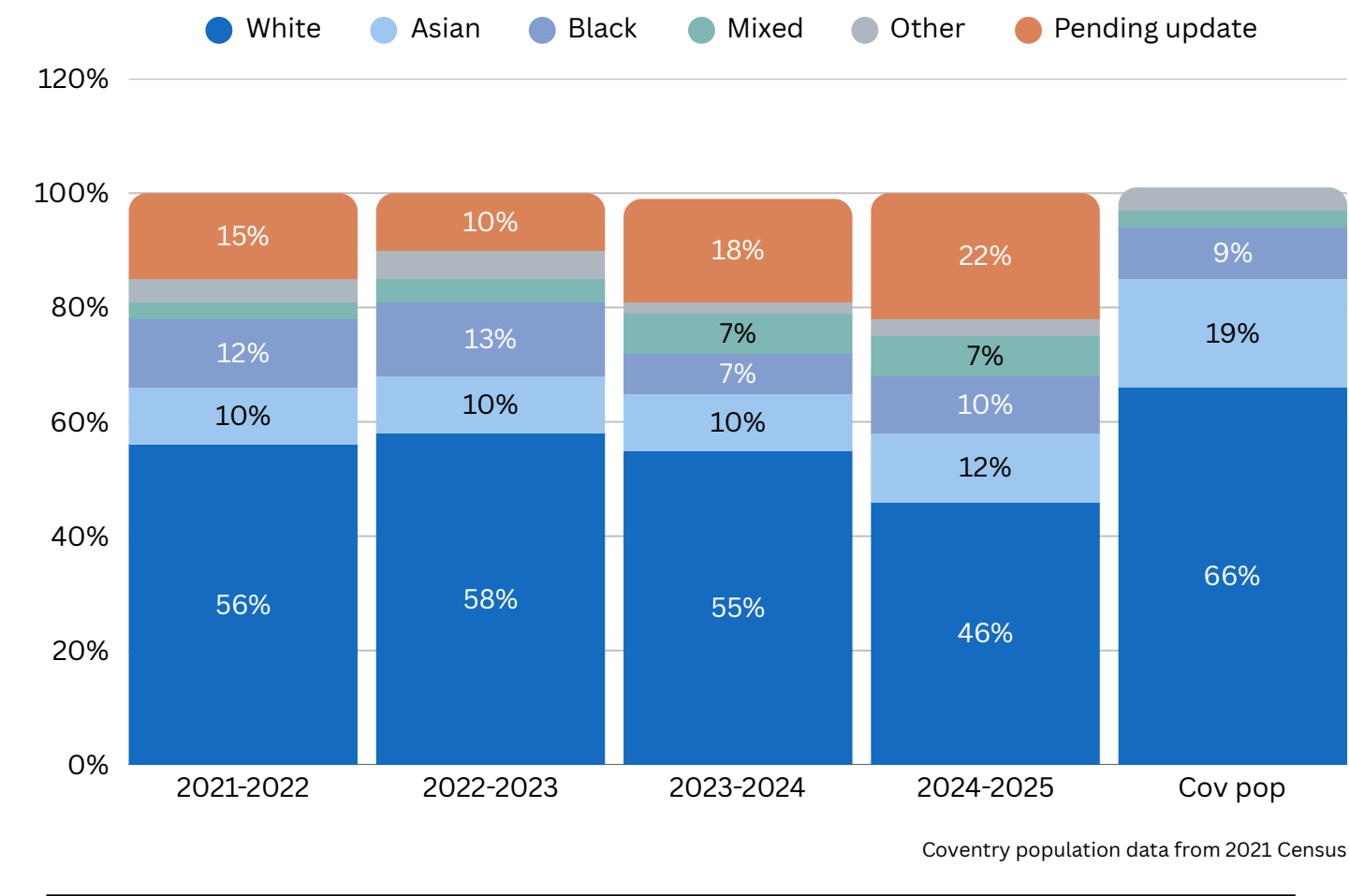


Coventry population data from 2021 Census

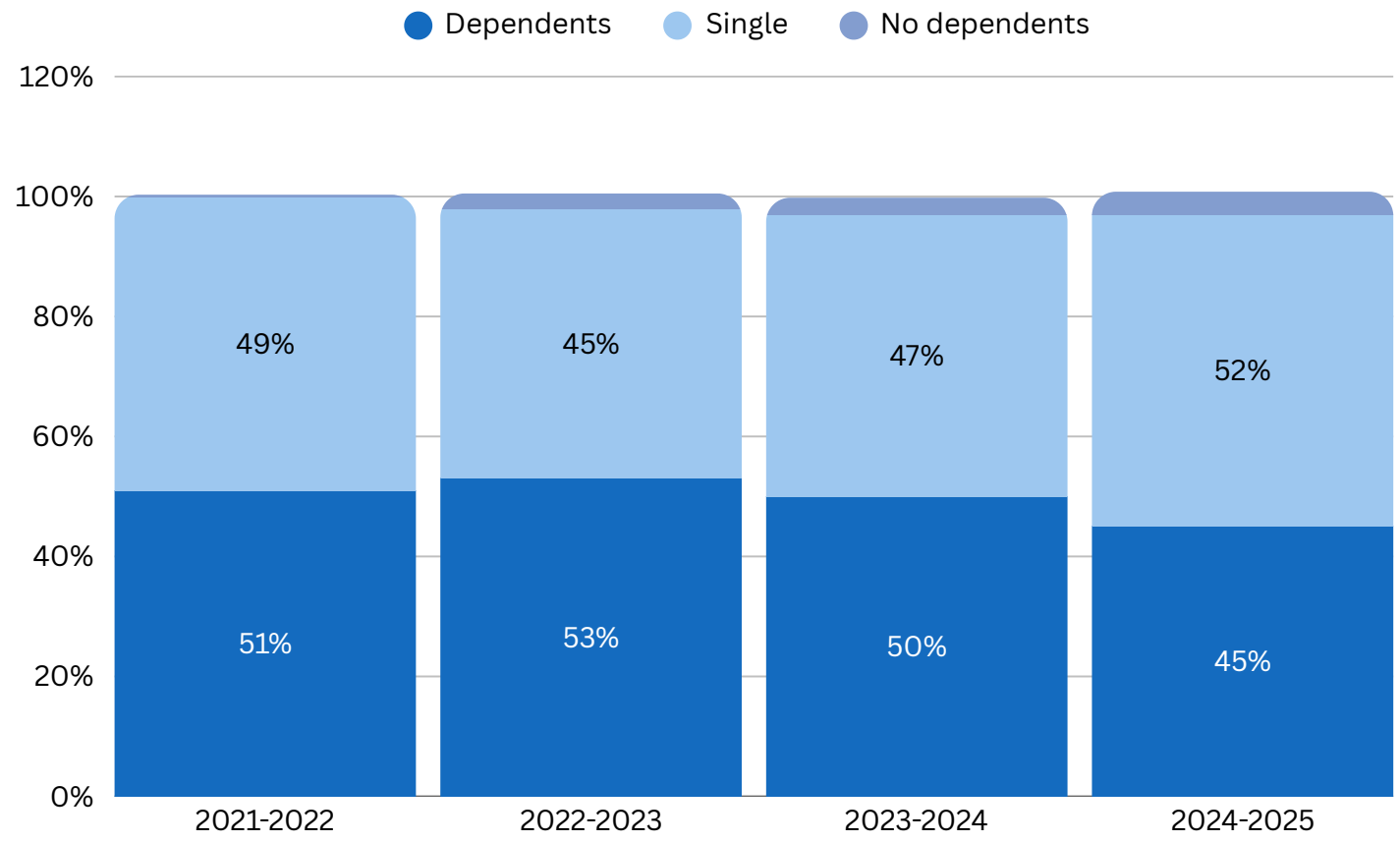
The main applicant is female in over 80% of cases



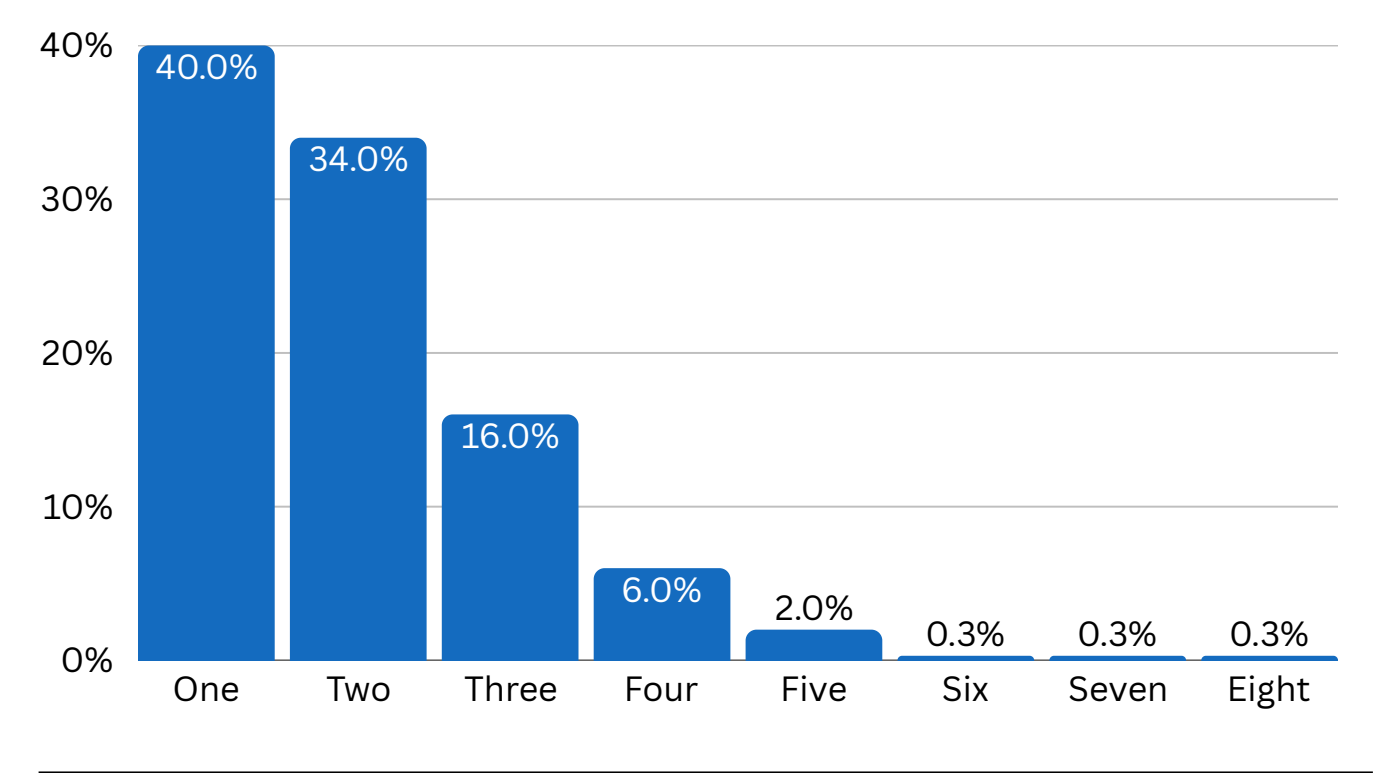
Compared to the population of Coventry, housing applicants are less likely to be White



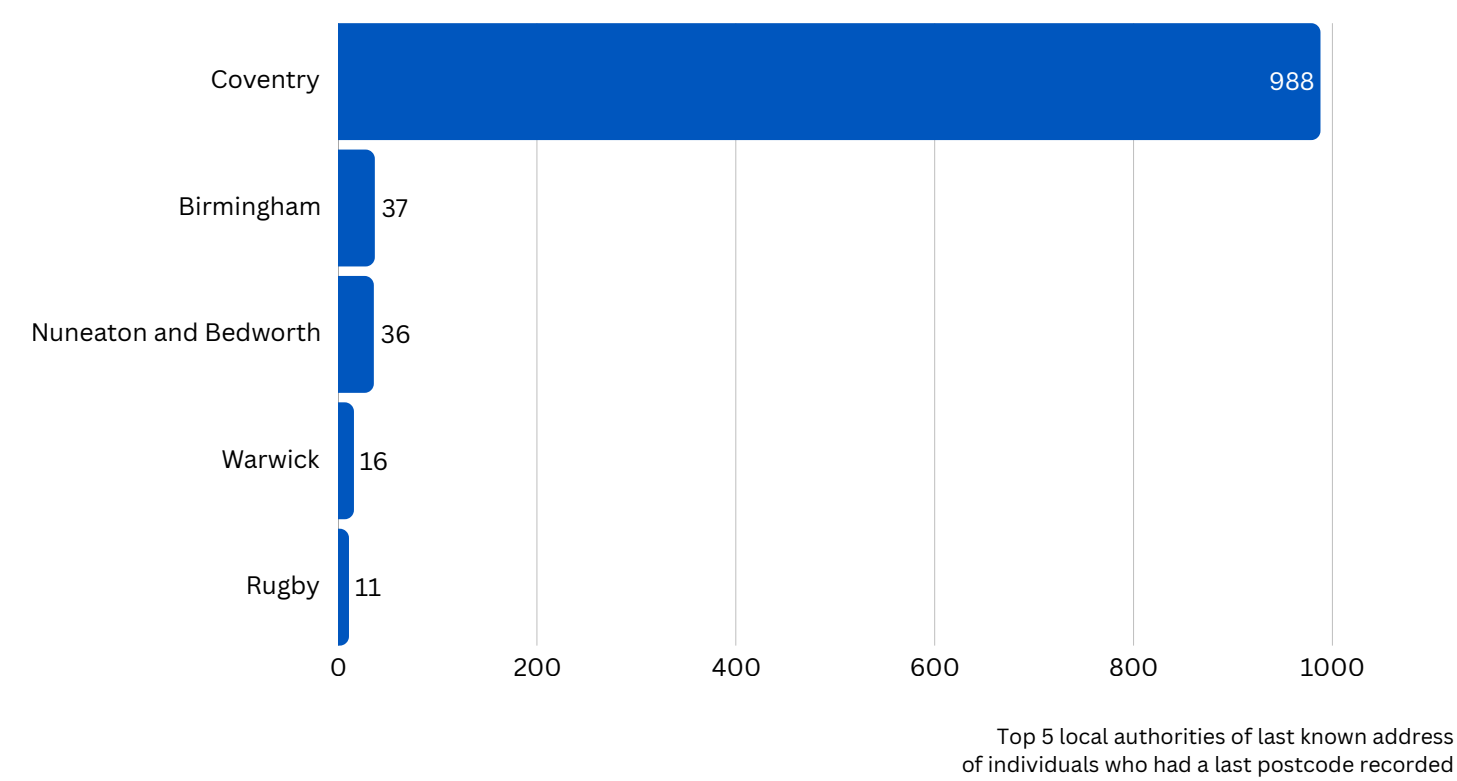
Applications are evenly split between those with and without dependents



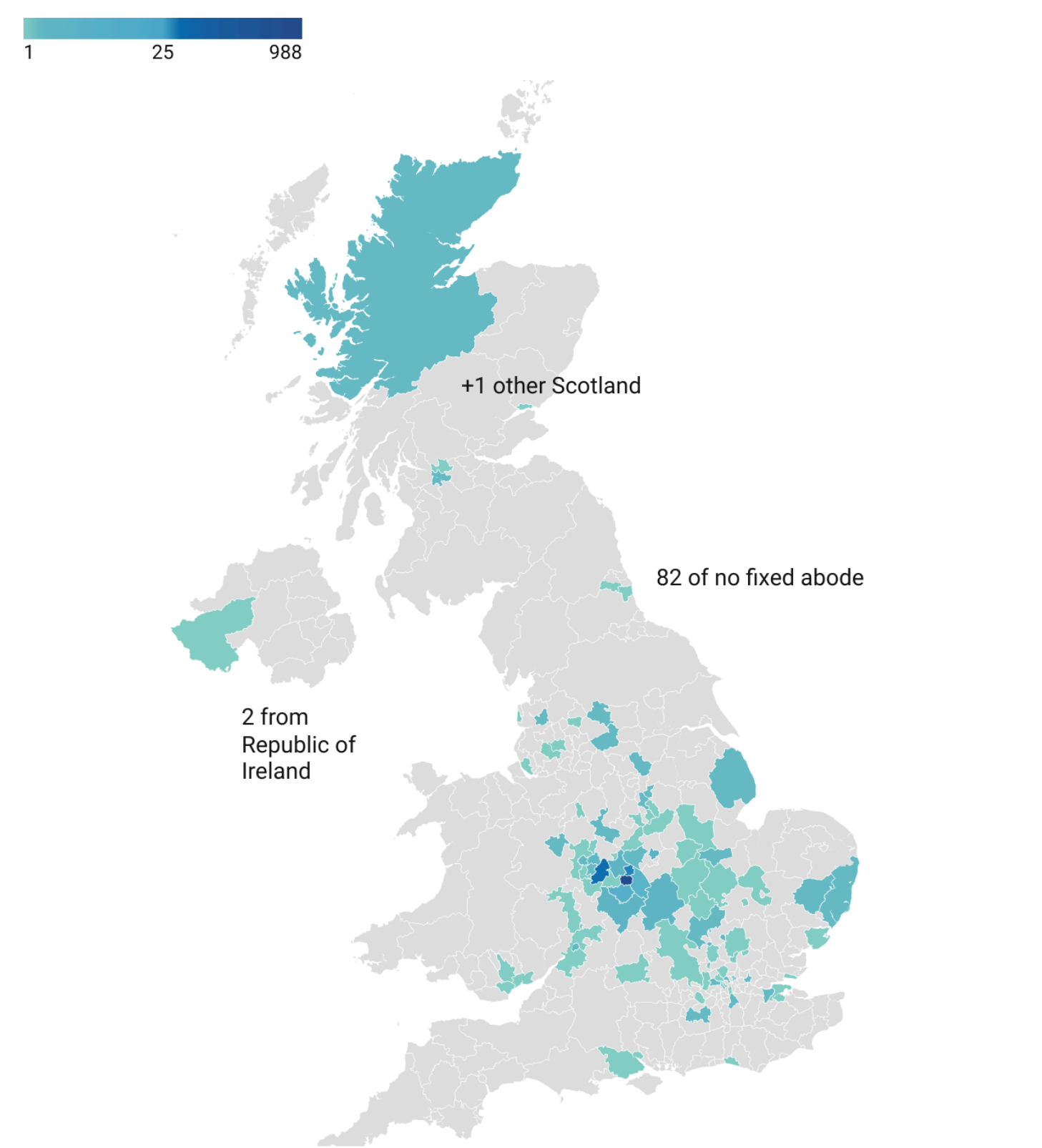
Of applications with dependents, the median number of children is 2



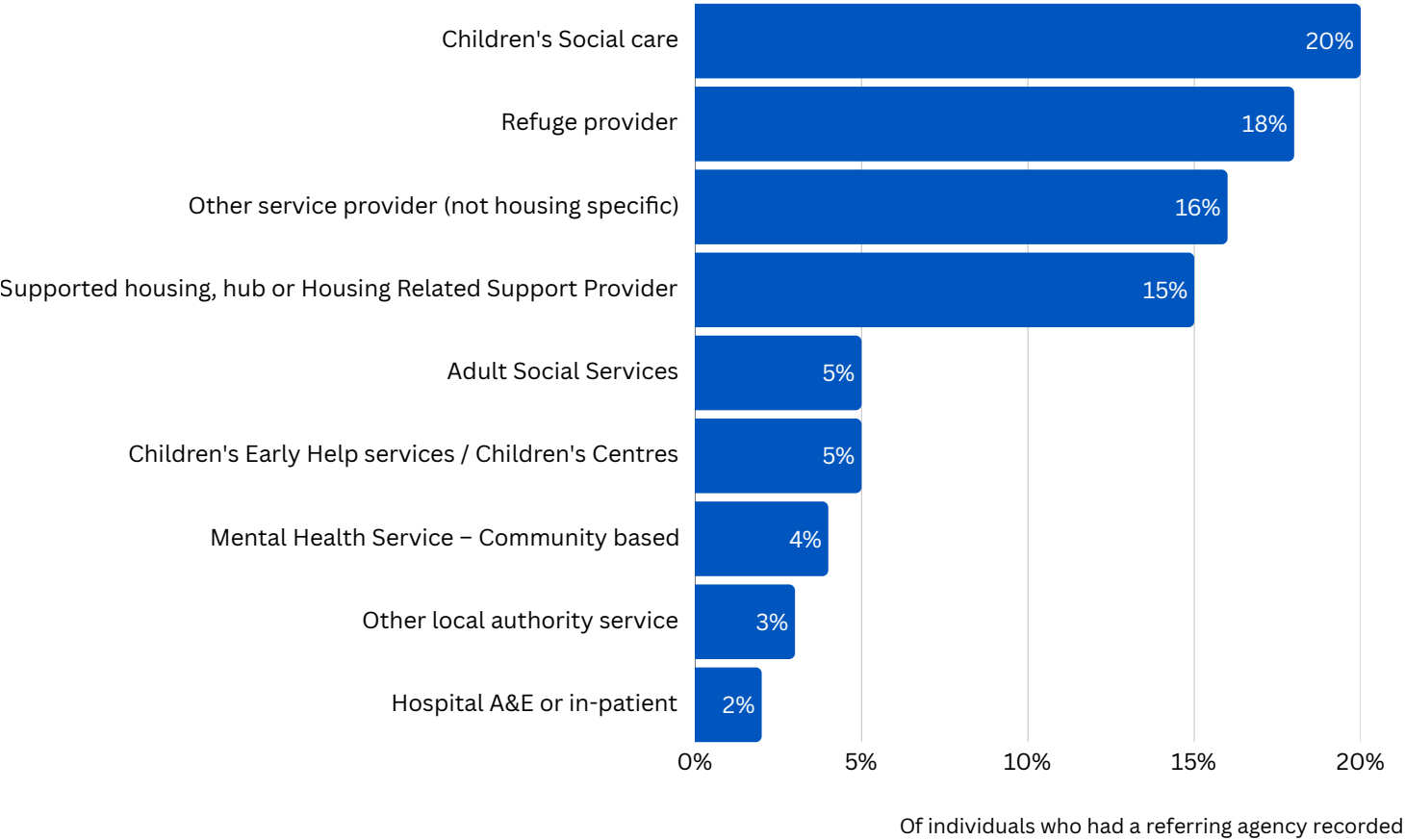
From 2021-22 to 2024-25, 73% of cases who approached the housing team due to domestic abuse gave a previous address in Coventry



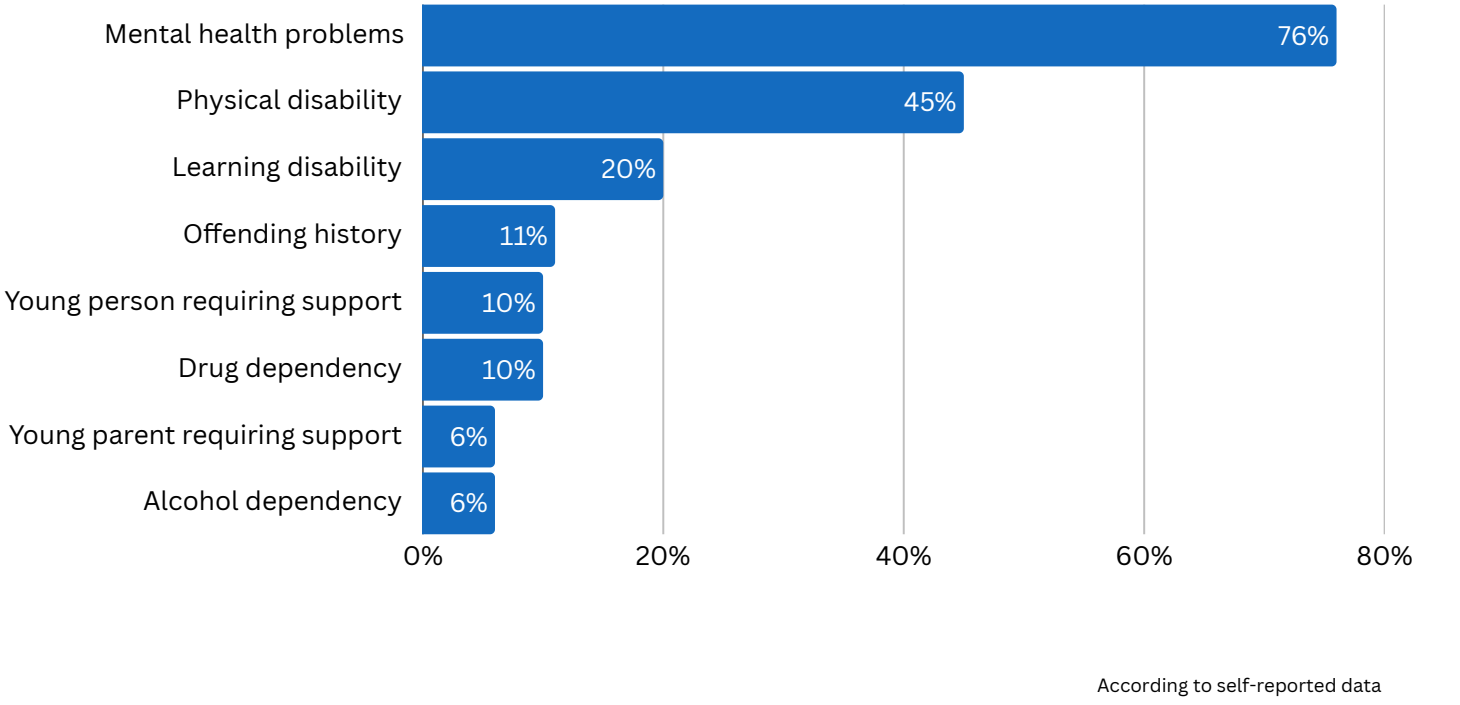
Location of last known postcodes for individuals who approached the housing team due to domestic abuse (2021-22 to 2024-25)



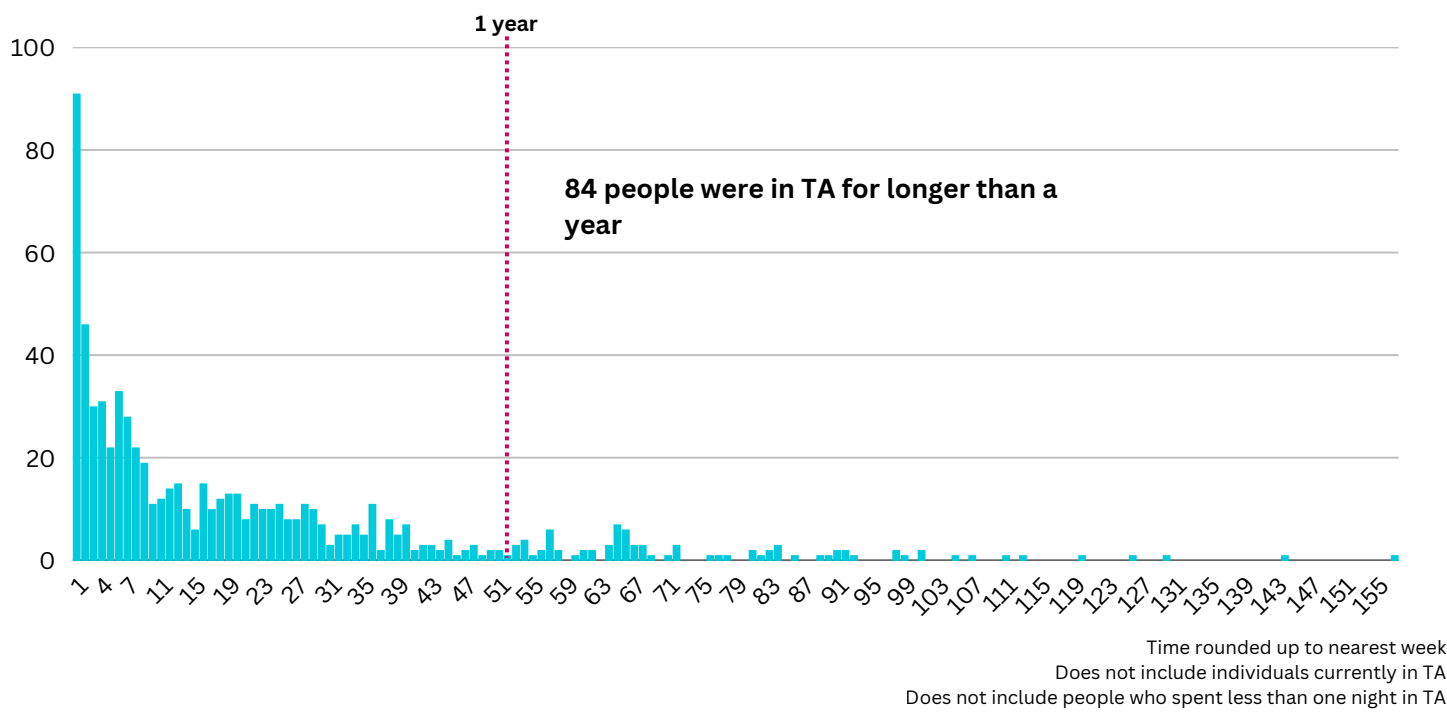
Referring agencies to housing team (with more than 5 referrals)



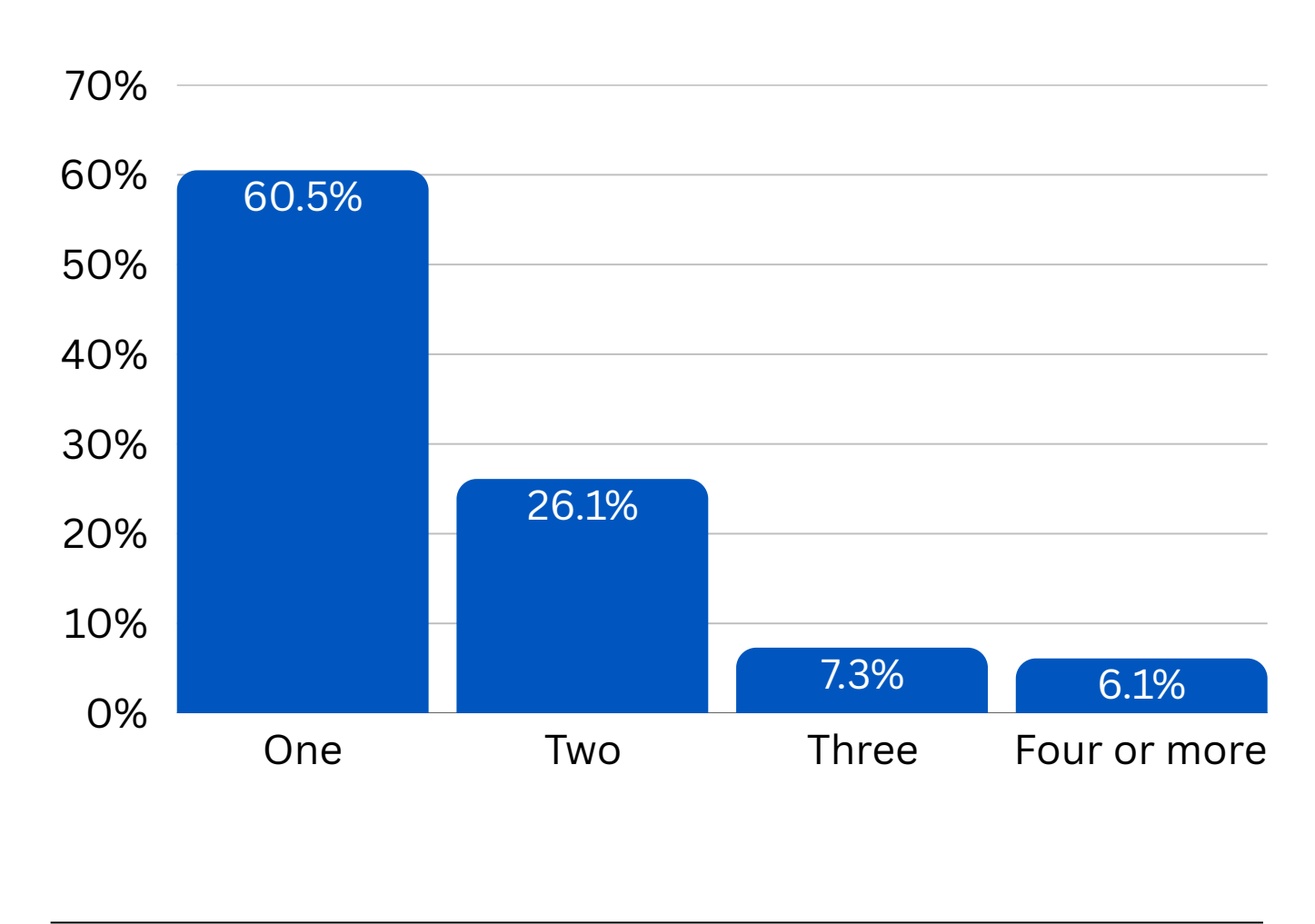
Of cases who have additional needs, nearly three quarters have mental health problems



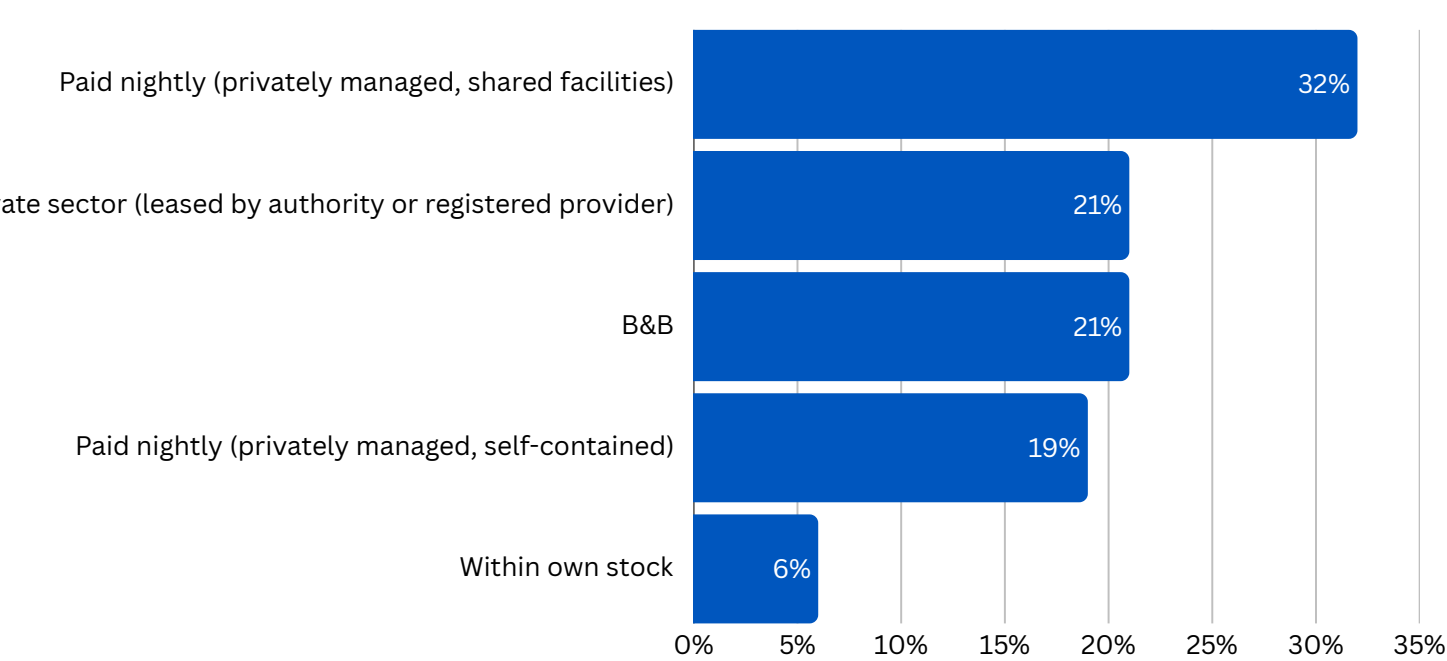
The median time each case spent in TA was 12 weeks



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



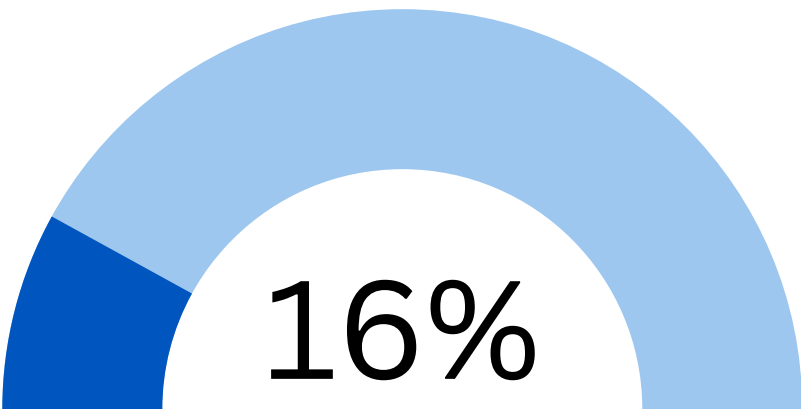
Breakdown of temporary accommodation types (by episode in TA)



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

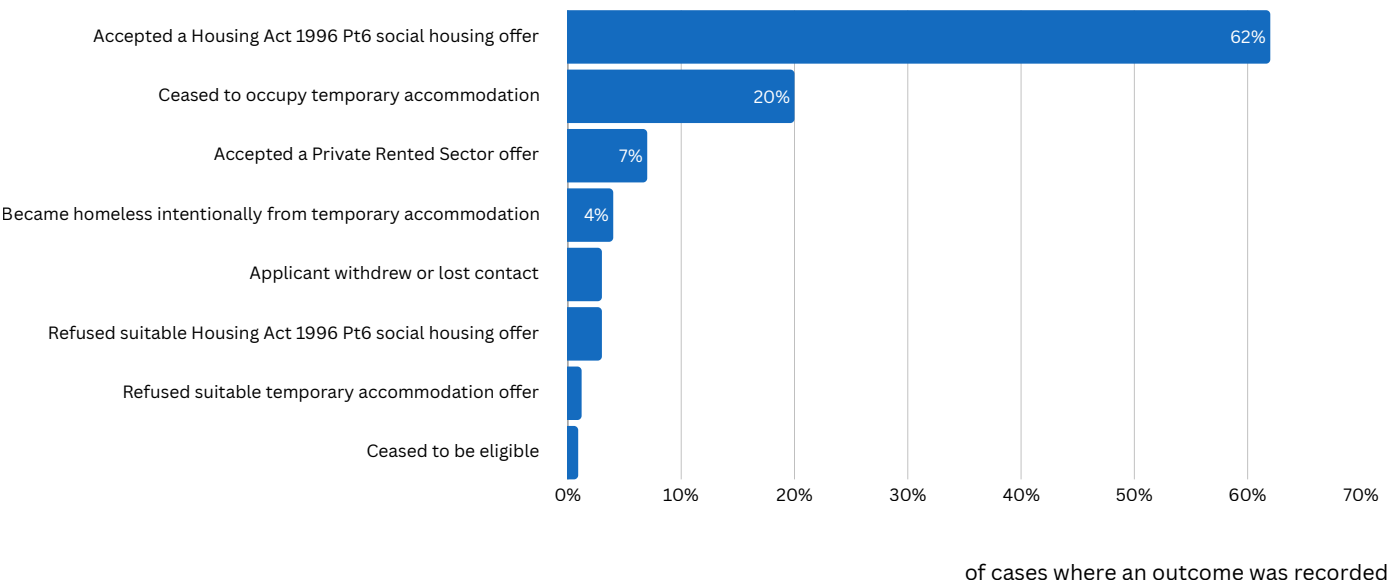
Individuals who stayed in B&B accommodation were there for a median of 13 days (range 1 to 296 days)

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

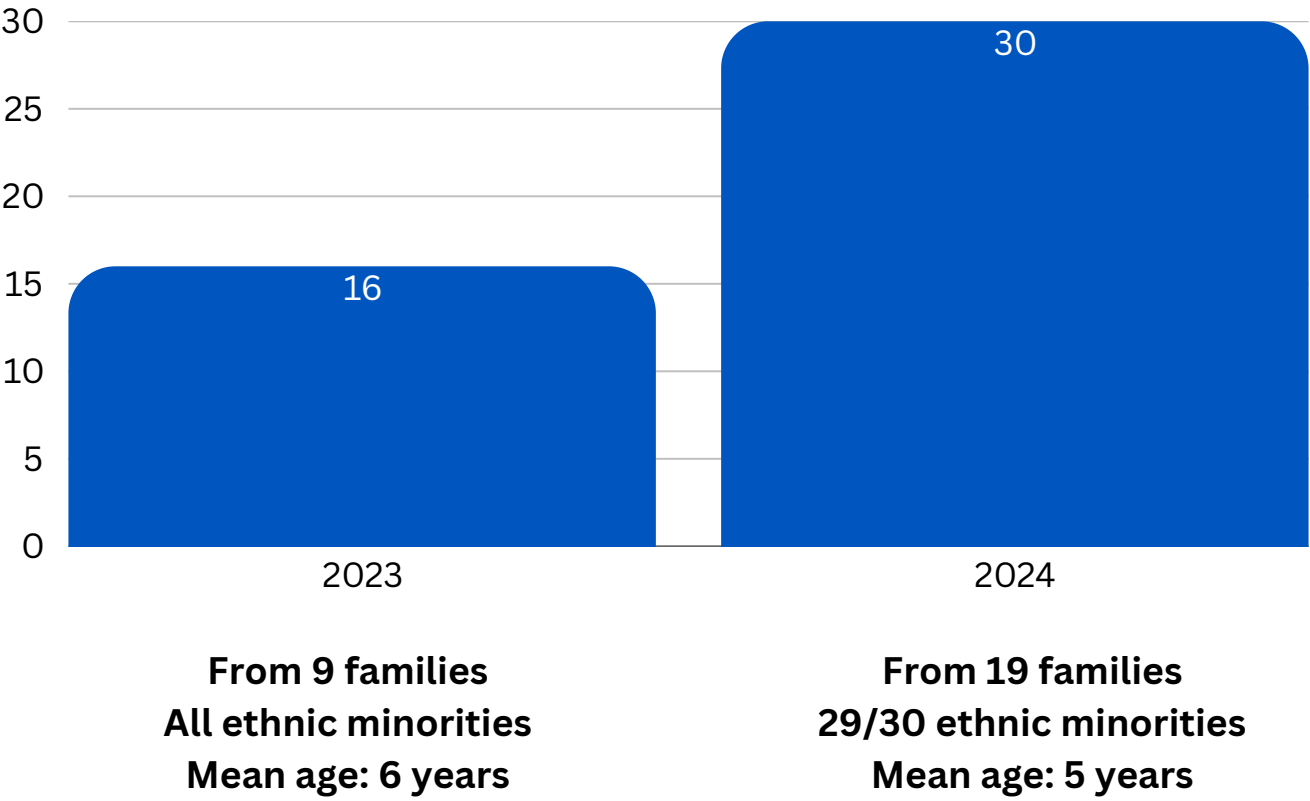


Of the 538 temporary accommodation stays for which the location was recorded, 16% (n=84) were out of area

After leaving TA most cases accepted a social housing offer

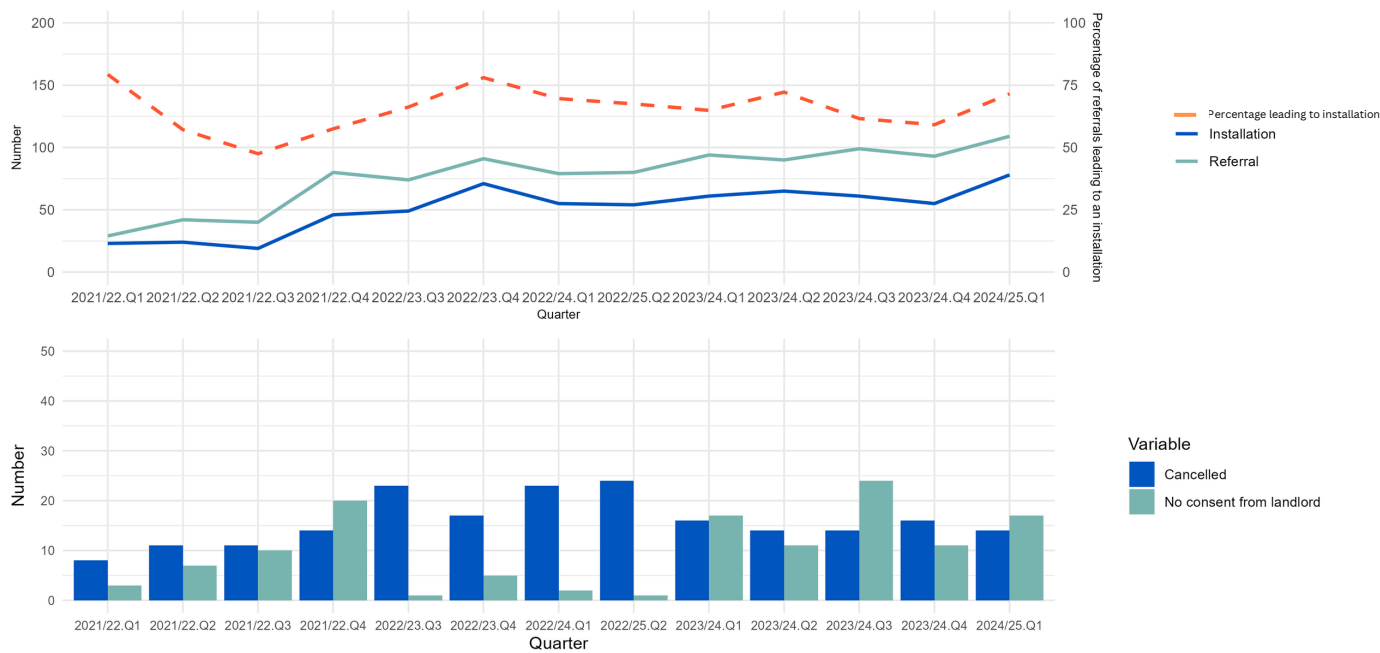


The number of children in families supported by children’s social care who have no recourse to public funds is increasing



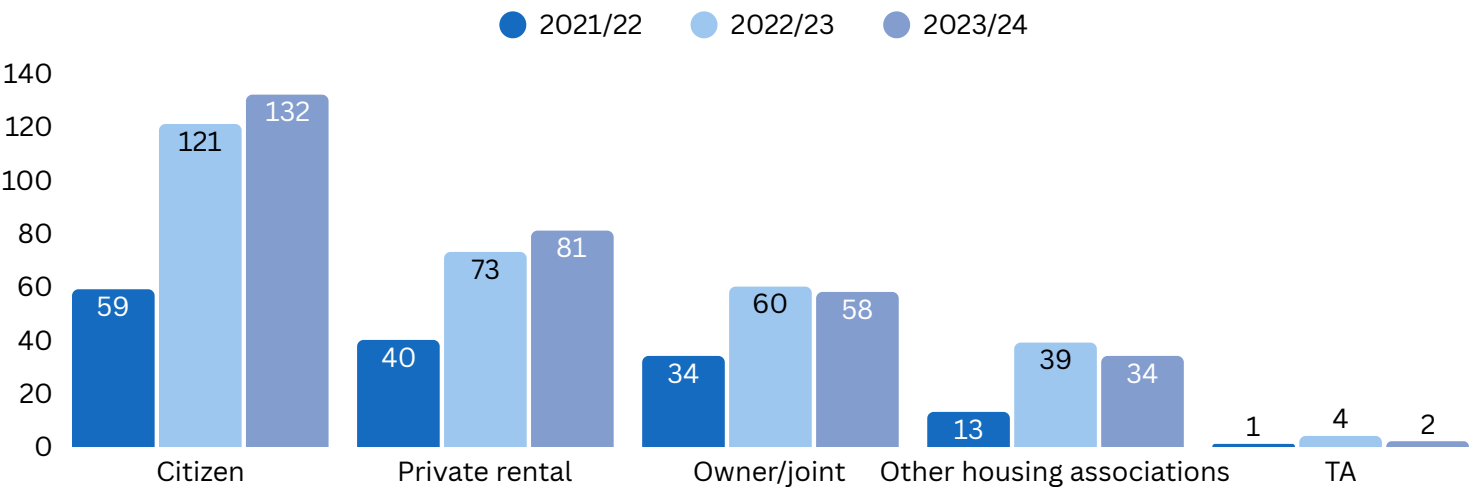
Referrals and installations

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



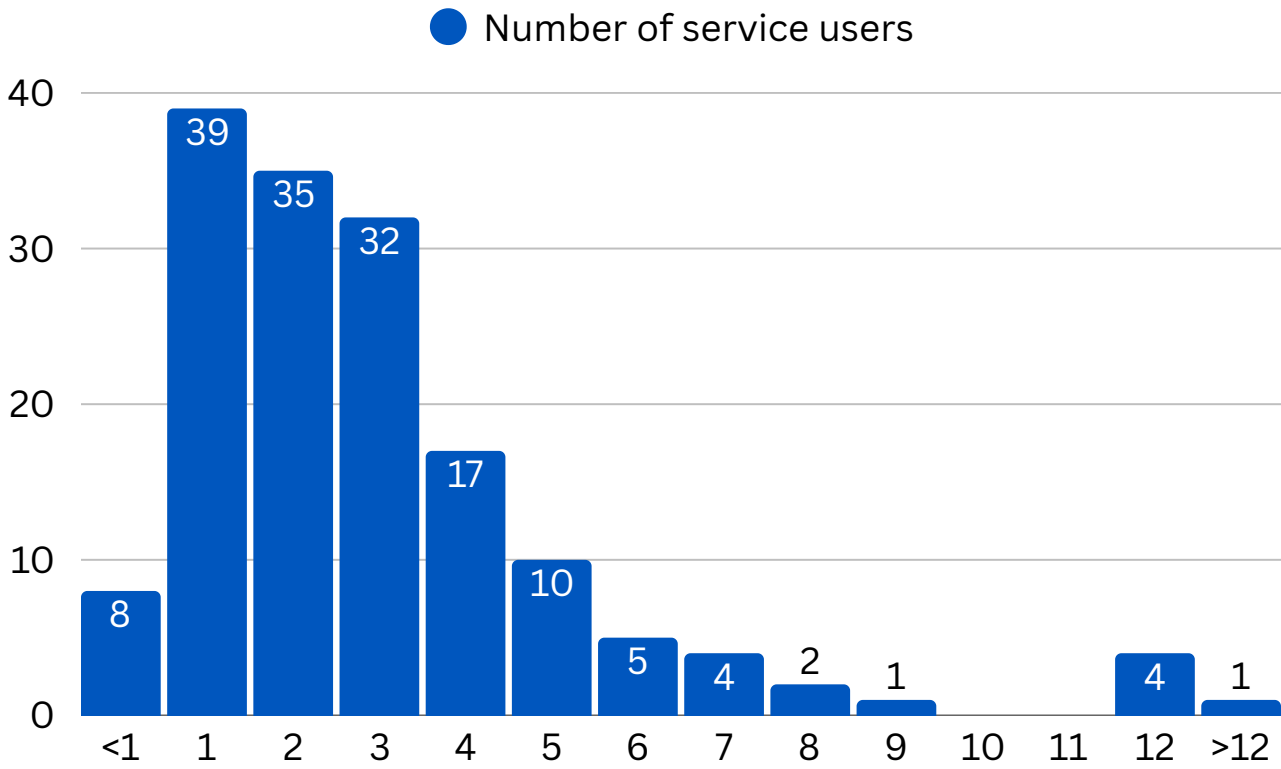
- From 2021/22 to 2023/4 most target hardening was done by Citizen
- Referrals for privately rented and owned properties have been increasing, possibly due to the lack of accommodation in the city

From November 2023 to October 2024:

2

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

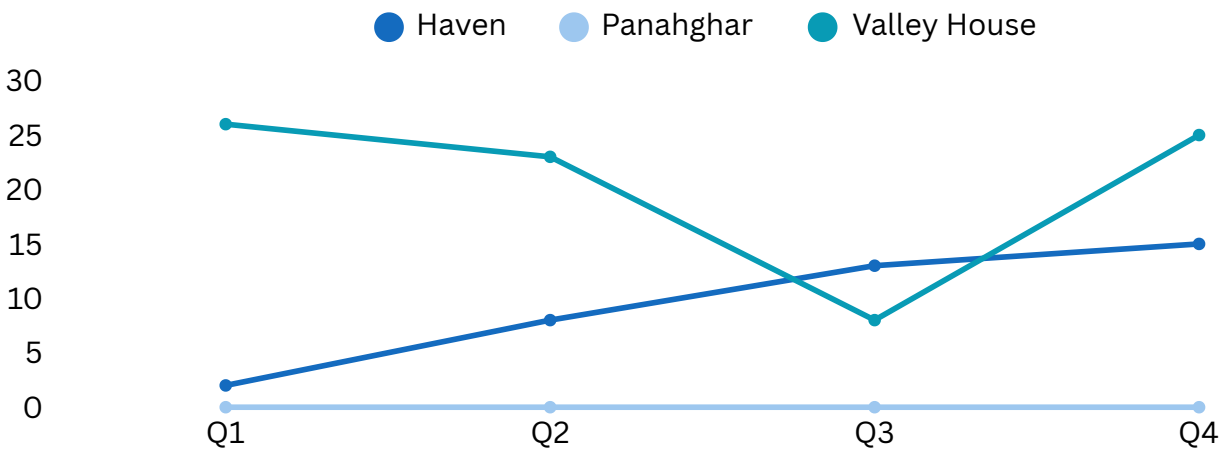
Length of time (in months) that service users stayed in service after sanctuary installation (Nov '23 to Oct '24)



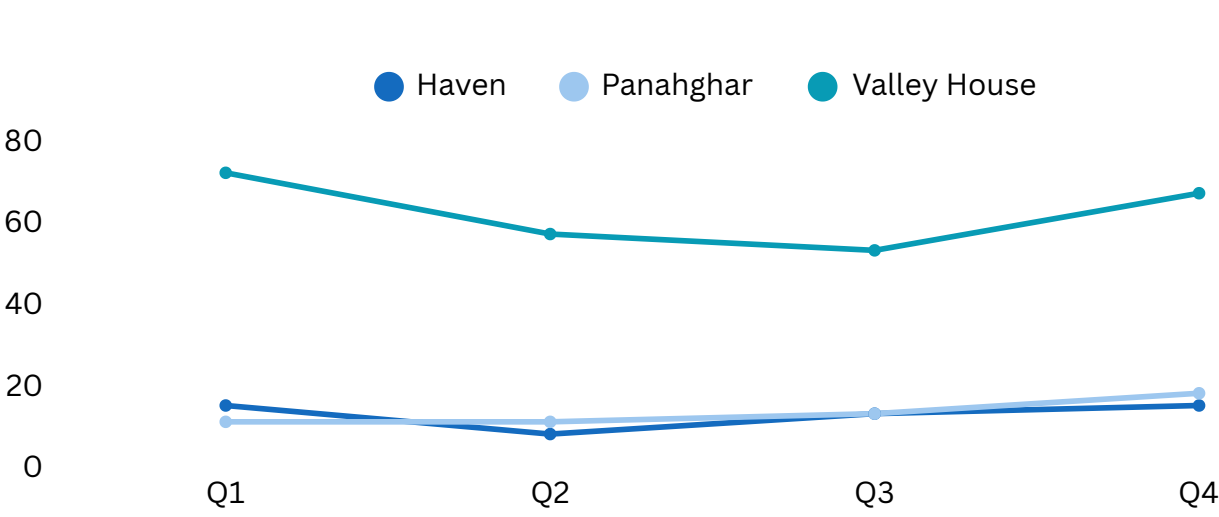
The majority of service users are accessing additional support through Haven

Family support workers

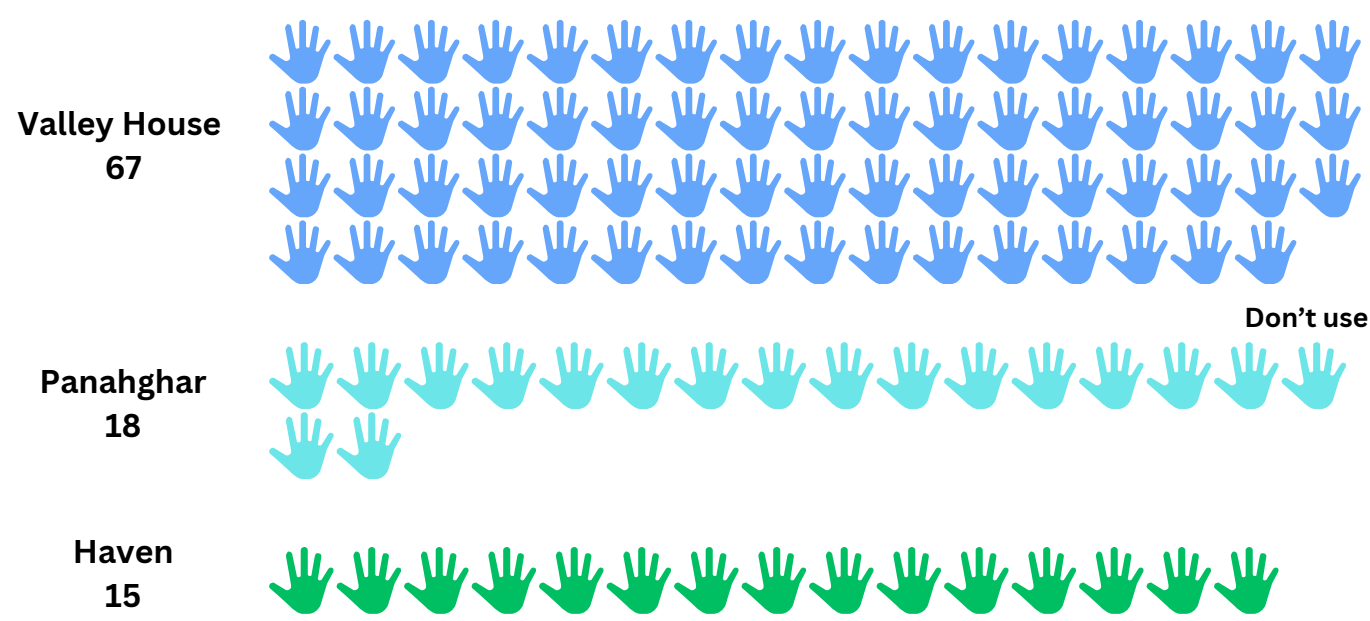
New children in each organisation, by quarter 2023/24



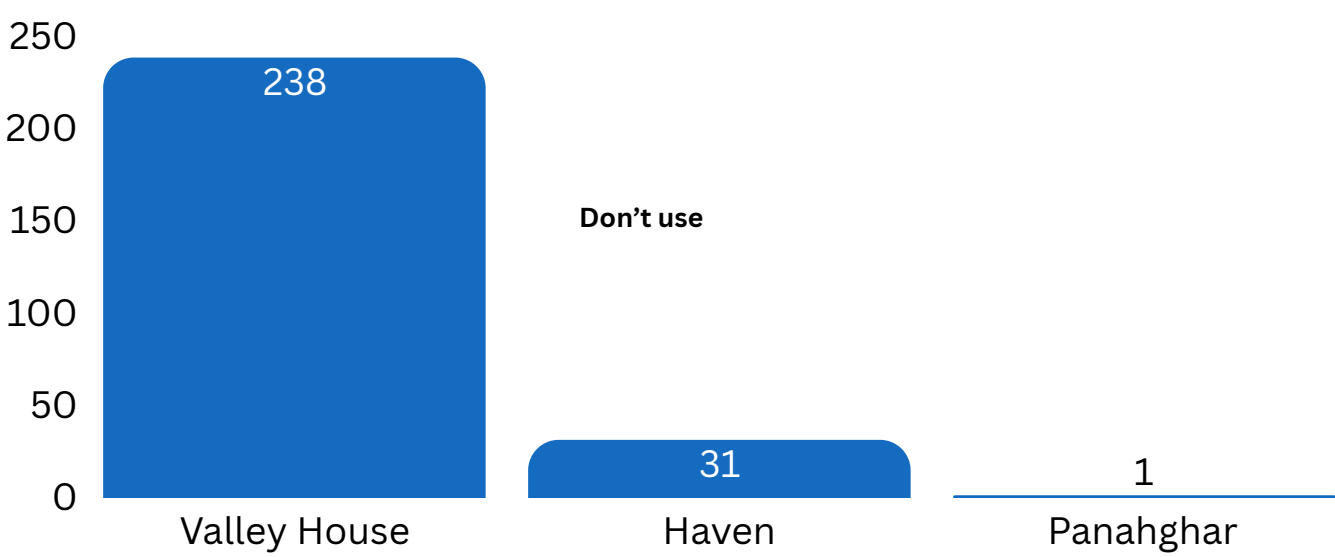
Total children in each organisation, by quarter 2023/24



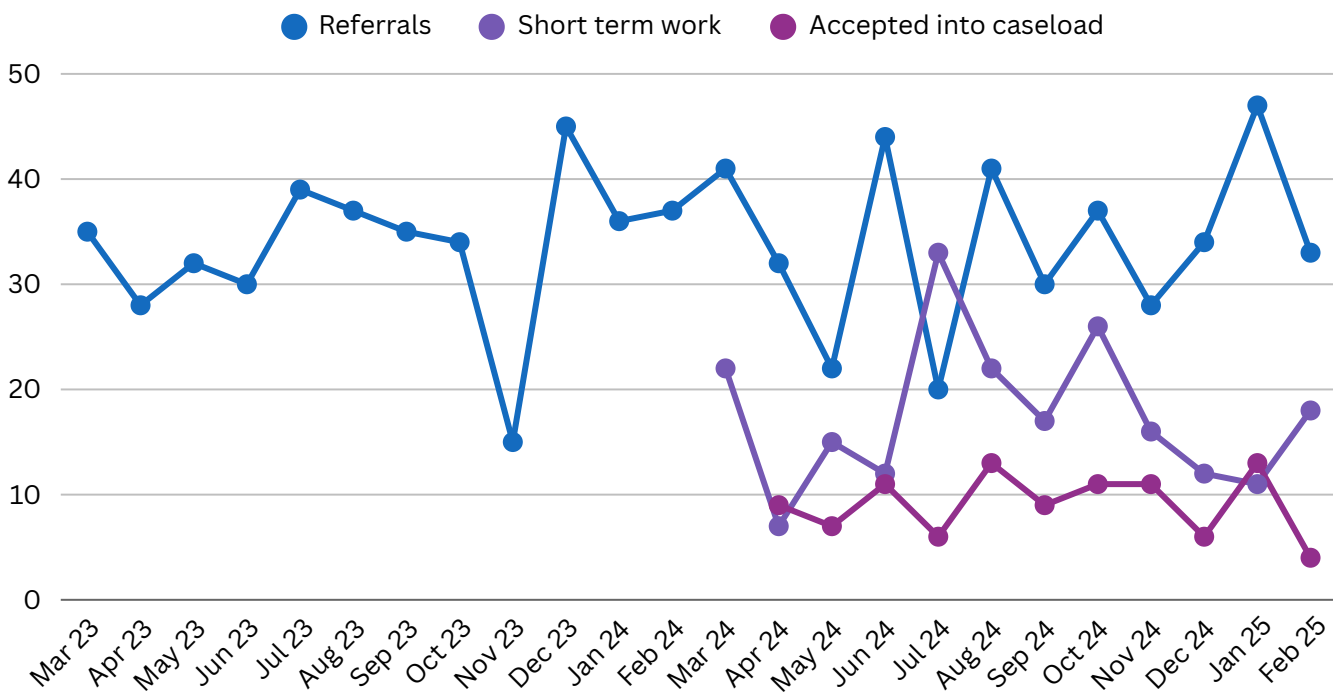
Number of children in each service in Q4 2023/24



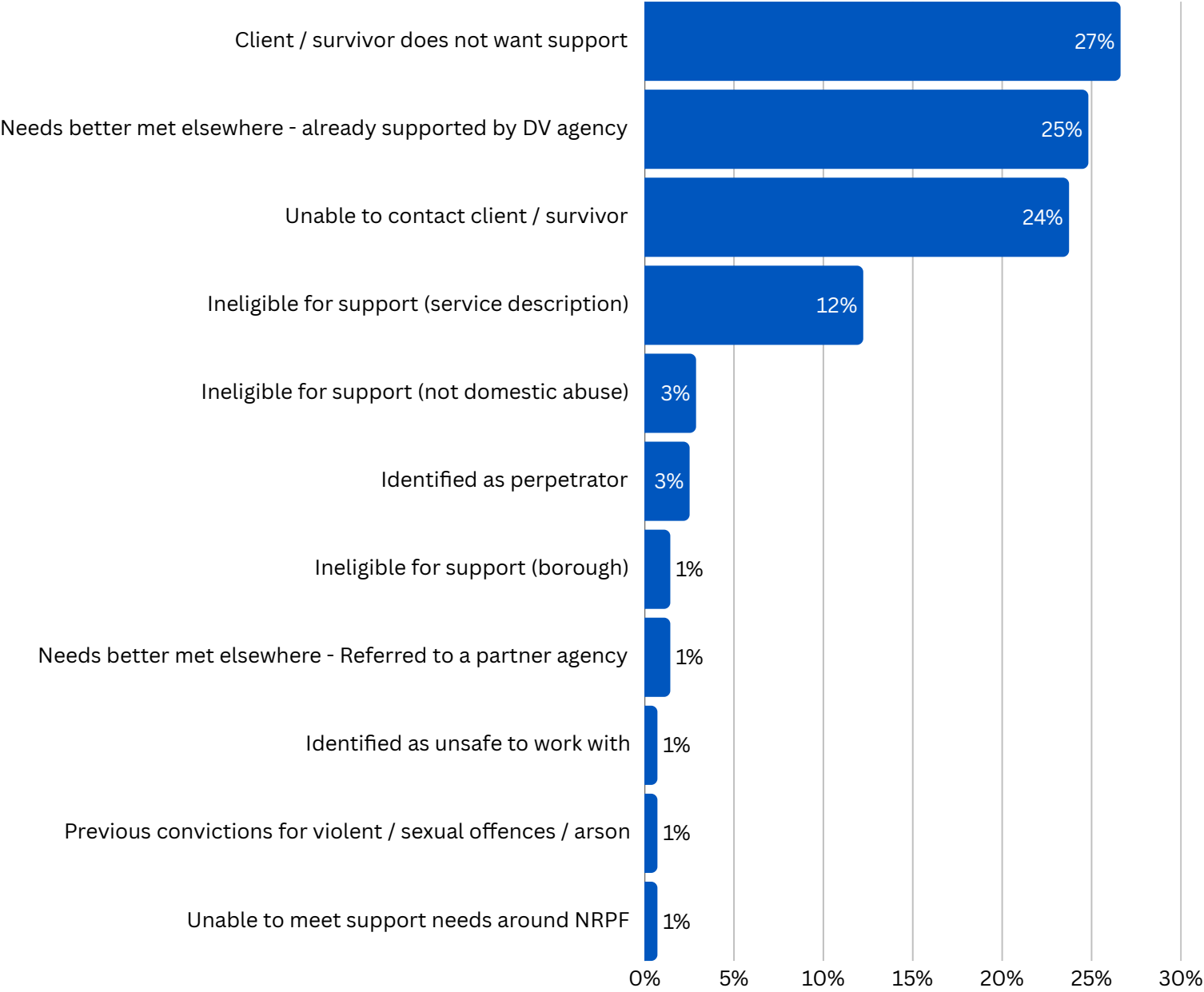
Number of assessments by organisation, 2023/24



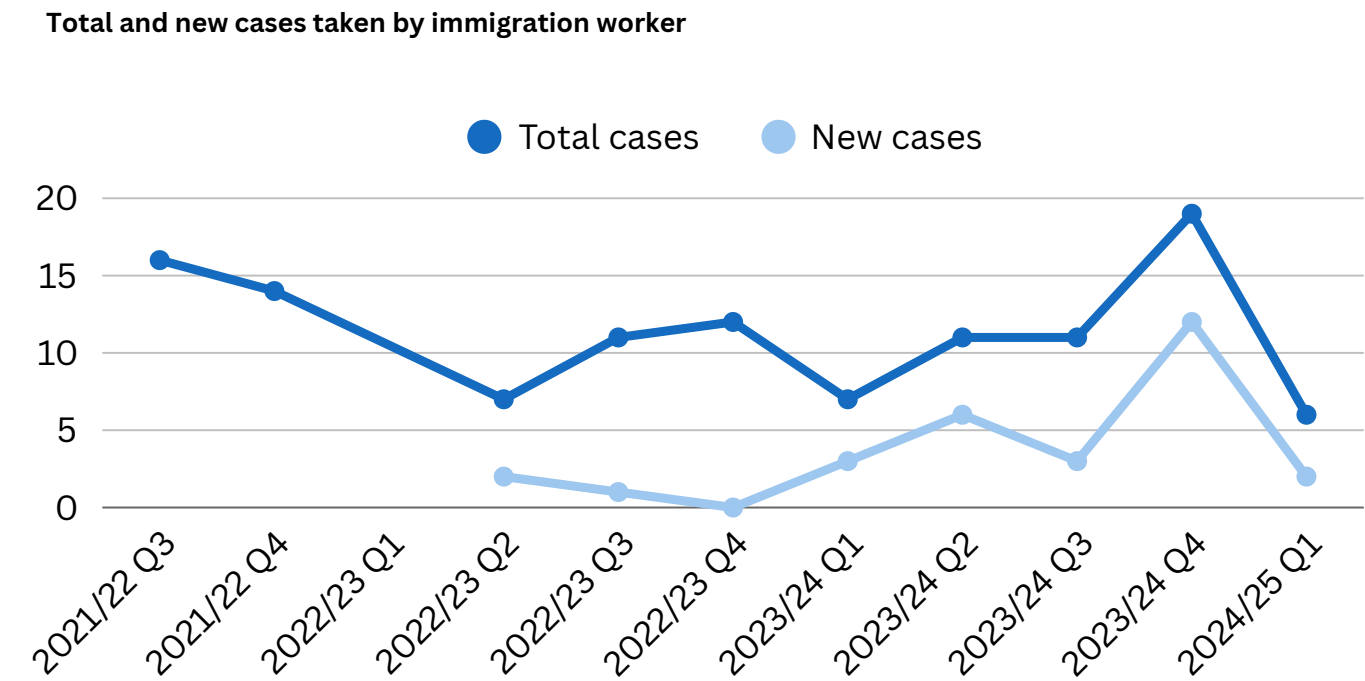
Housing IDVA- CCC



Reasons for rejection

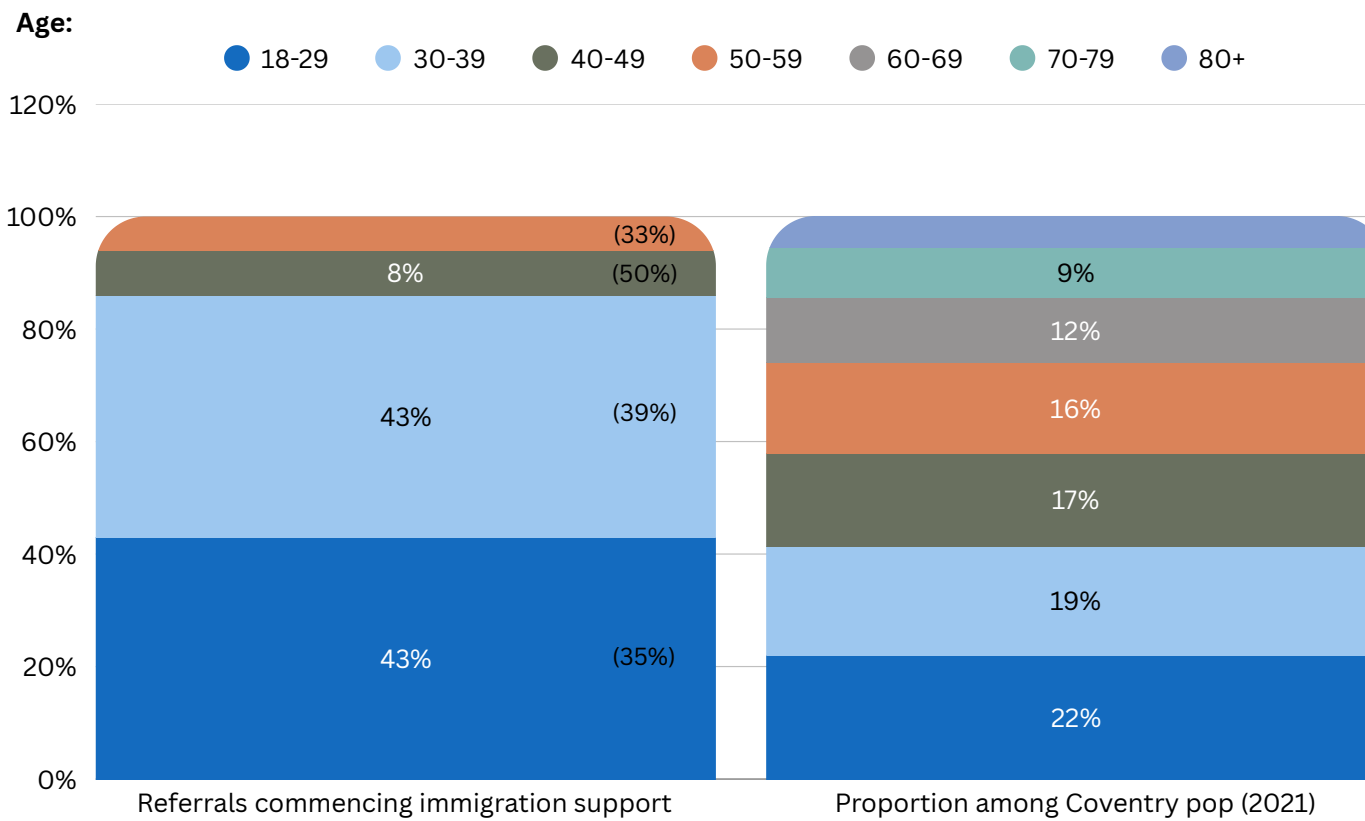


Immigration worker



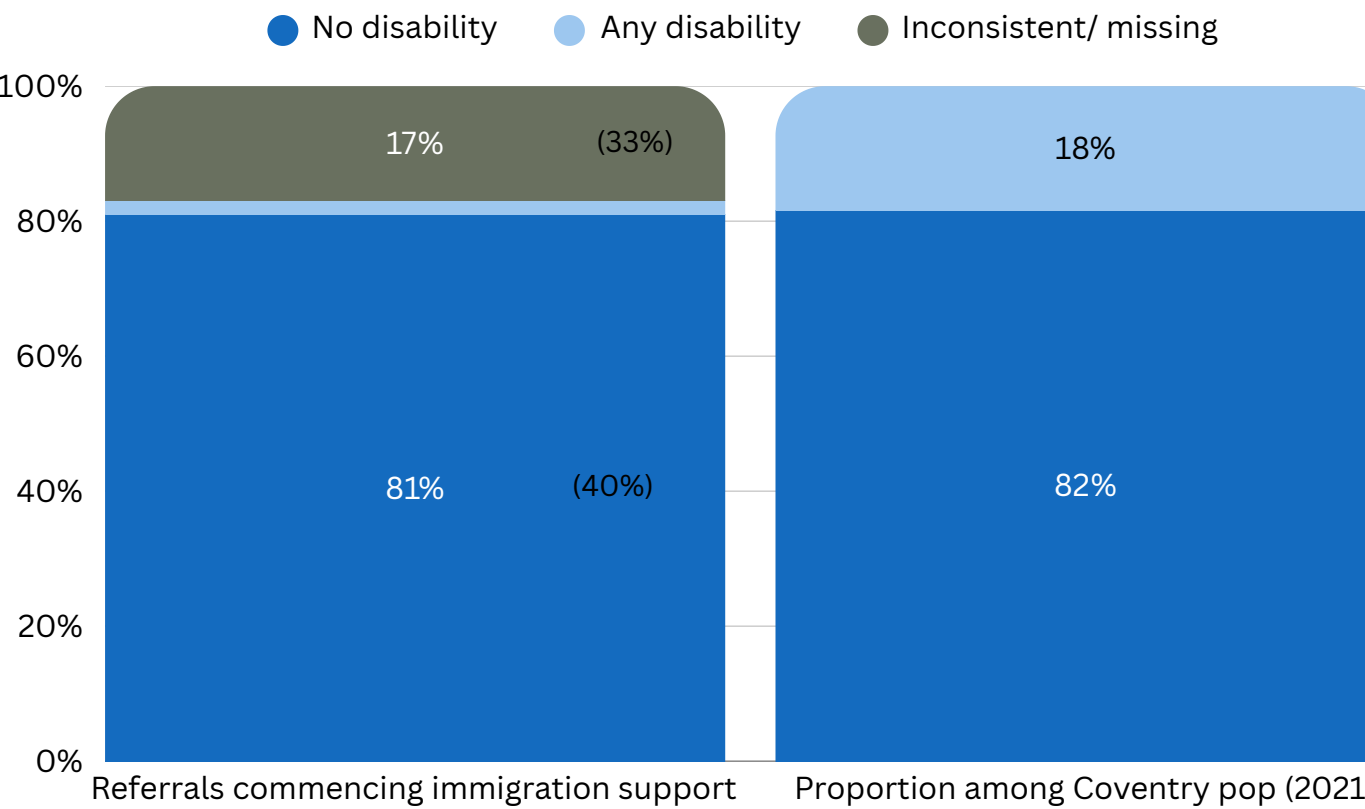
Of 53 individuals (all female) commencing immigration support, **38%** (n=20) gained concessions (2021/22 to 2024/5)

Demographic breakdowns of referrals commencing immigration support



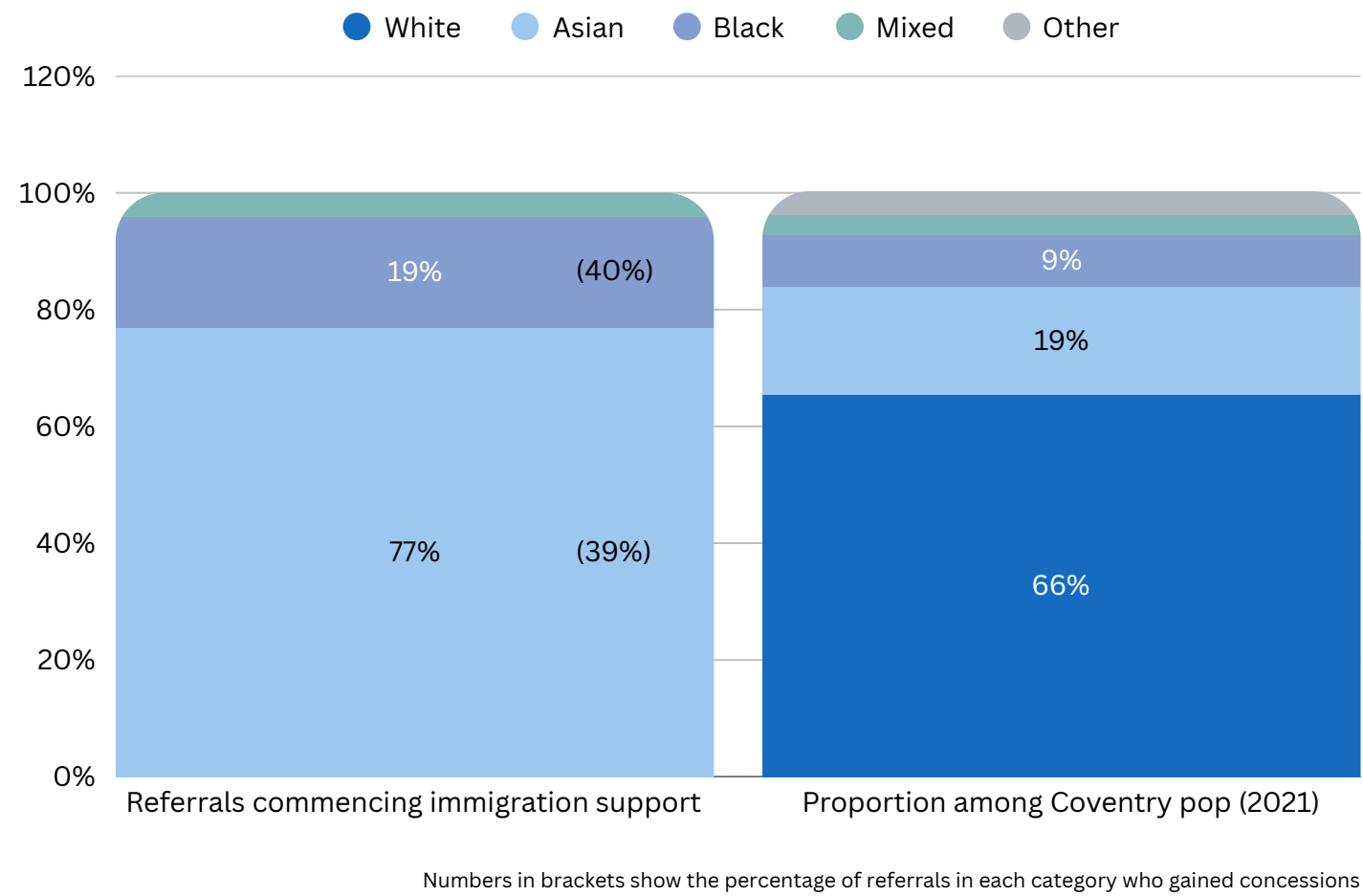
Numbers in brackets show the percentage of referrals in each category who gained concessions

Disability status:

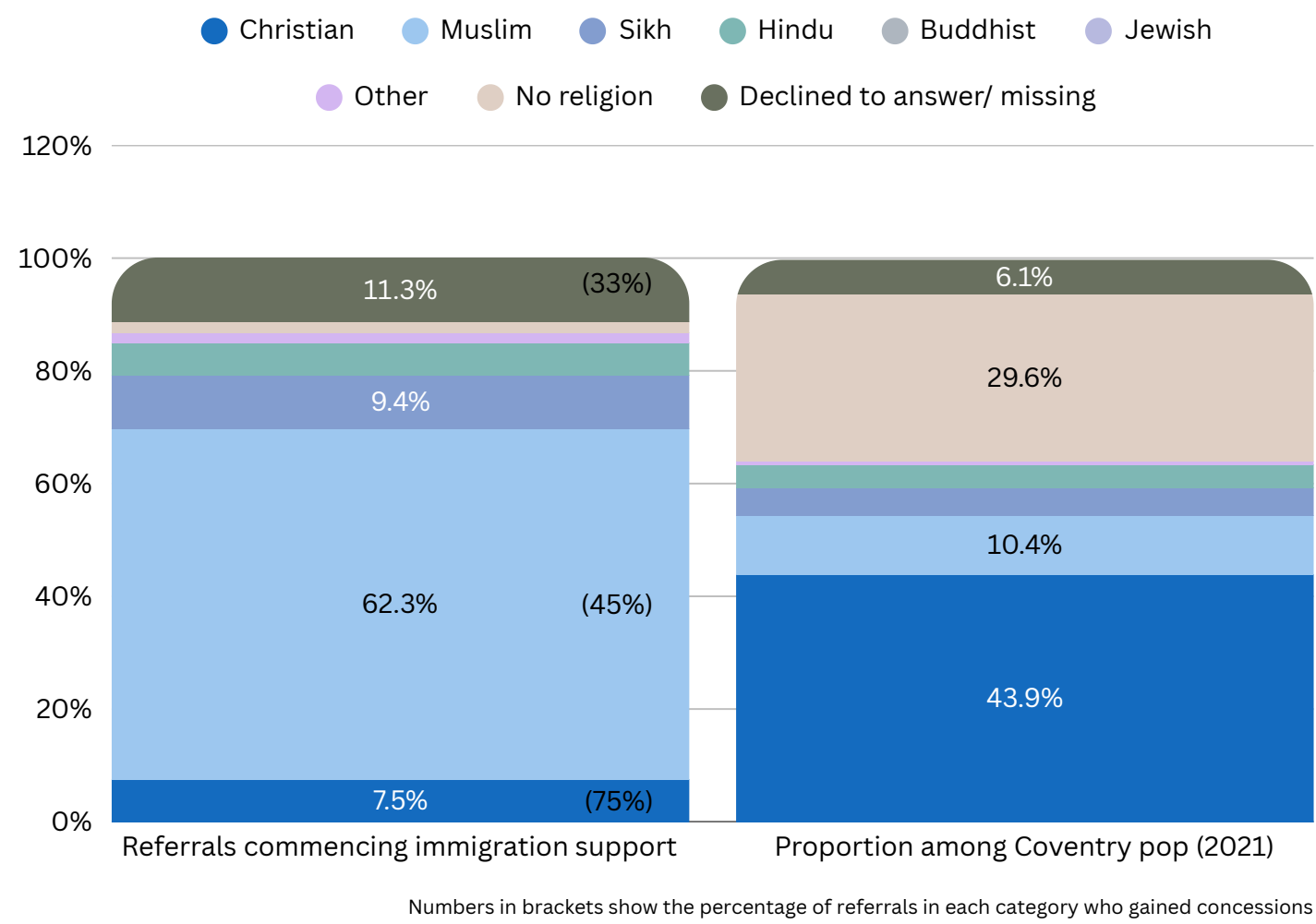


Numbers in brackets show the percentage of referrals in each category who gained concessions

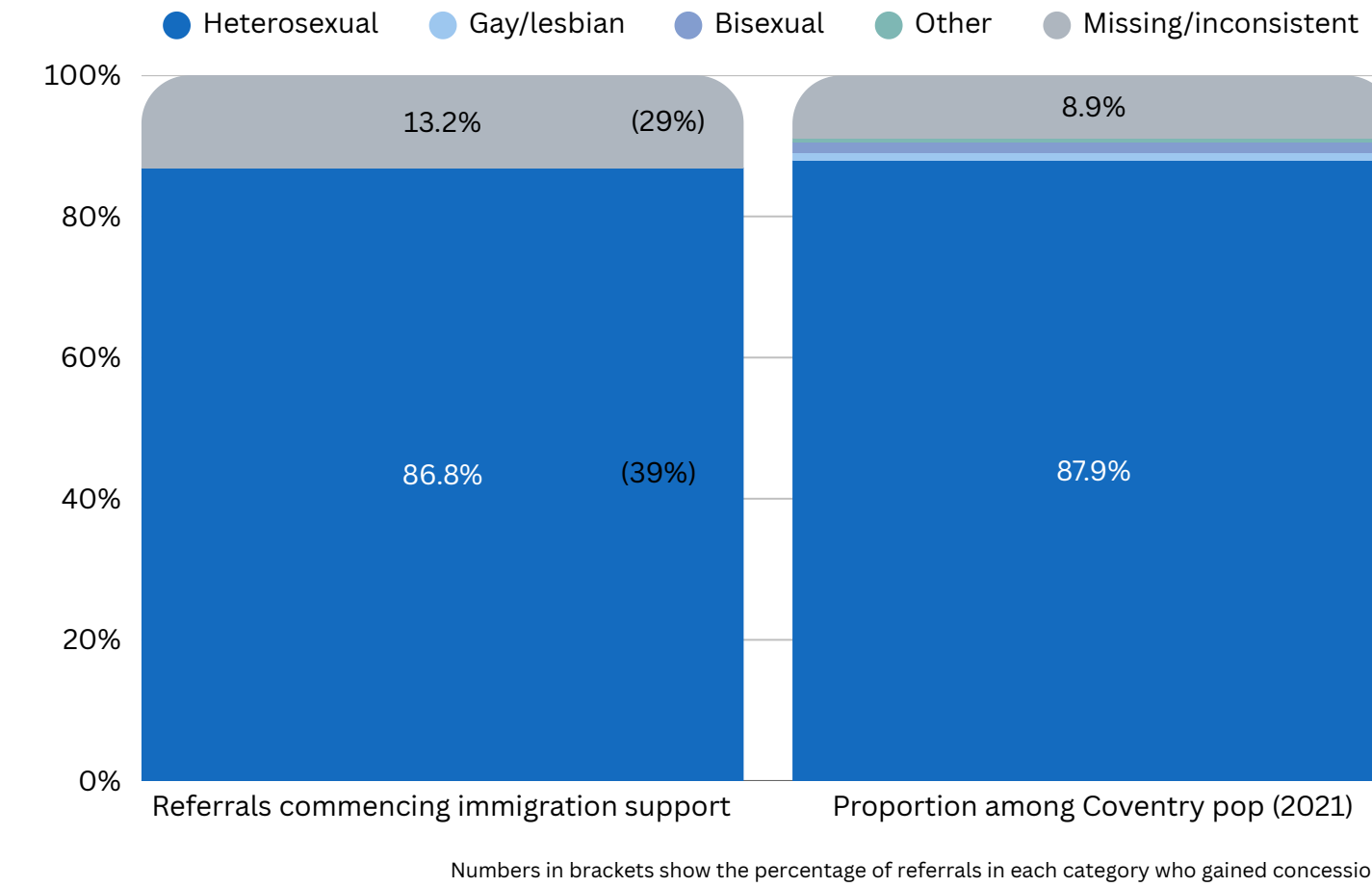
Ethnicity:



Religion:



Sexual orientation:



Specific circumstances:

3

were pregnant women (2 gained concessions)

25

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

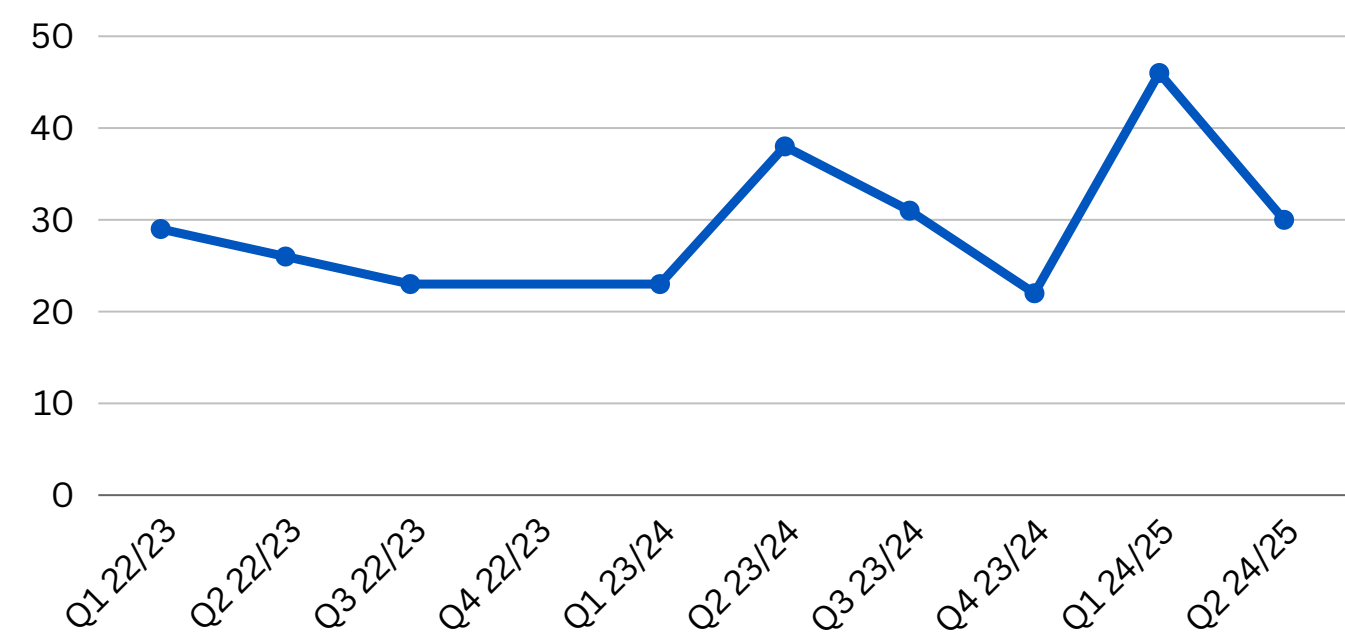
2

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

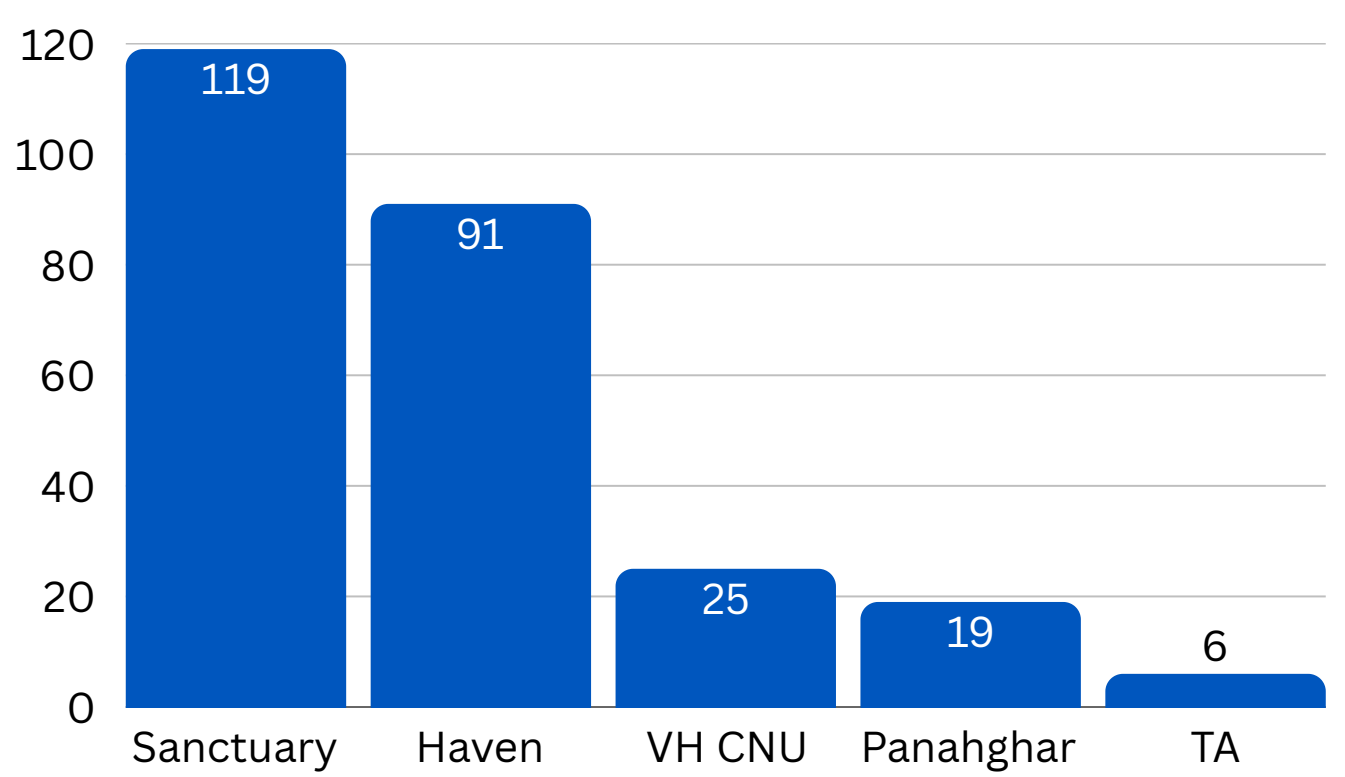
1

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

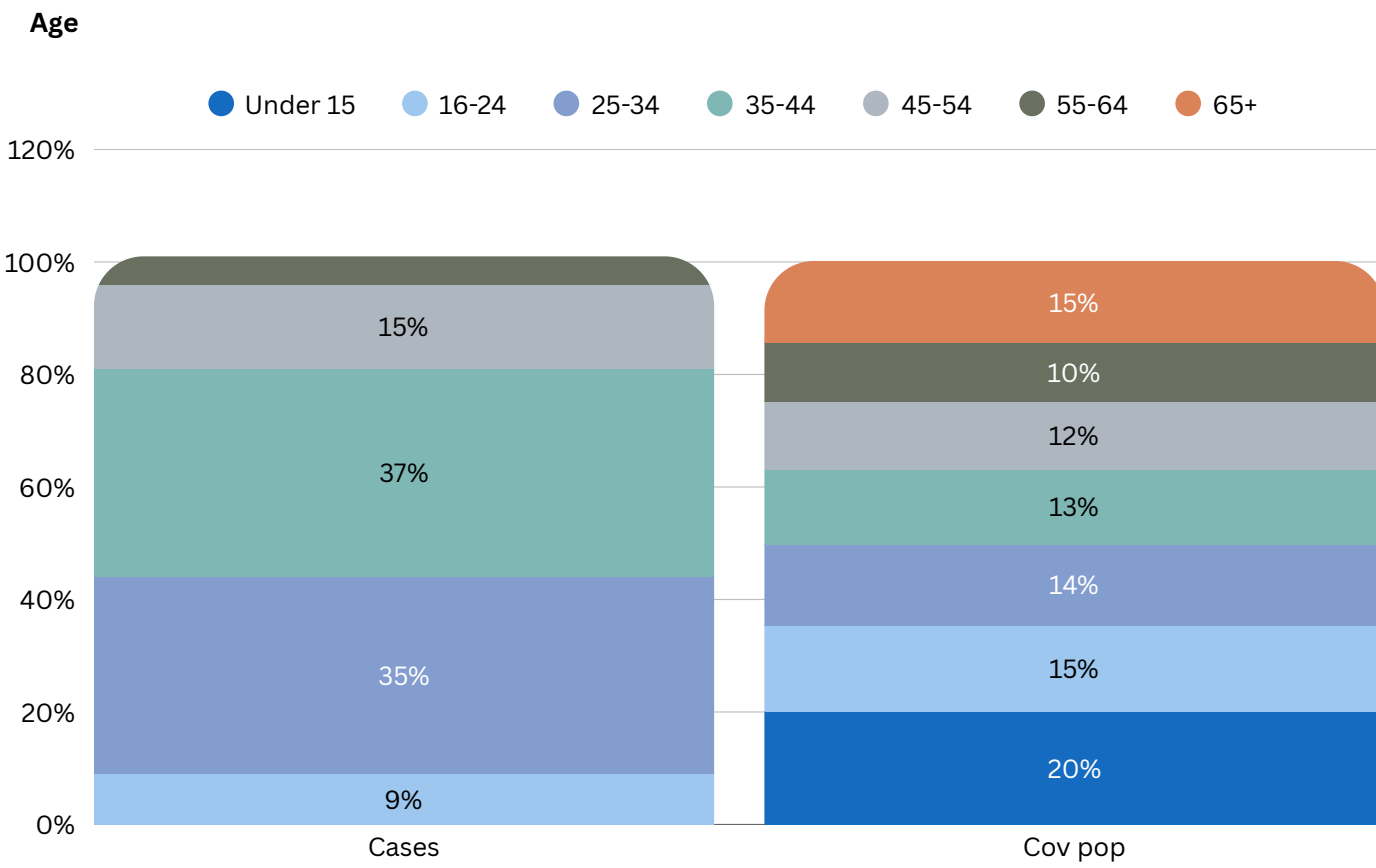
Referrals (all but 1 female)



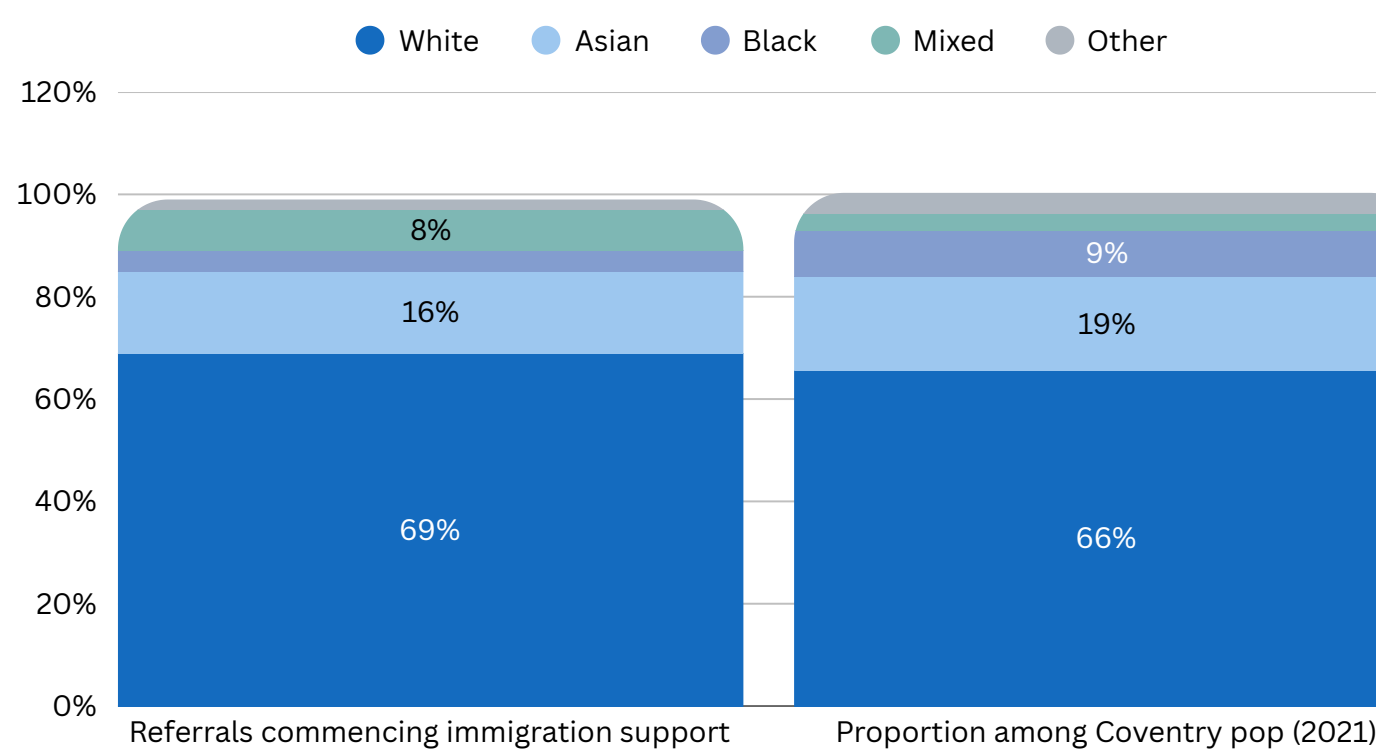
Sources of referrals



Demographics of cases

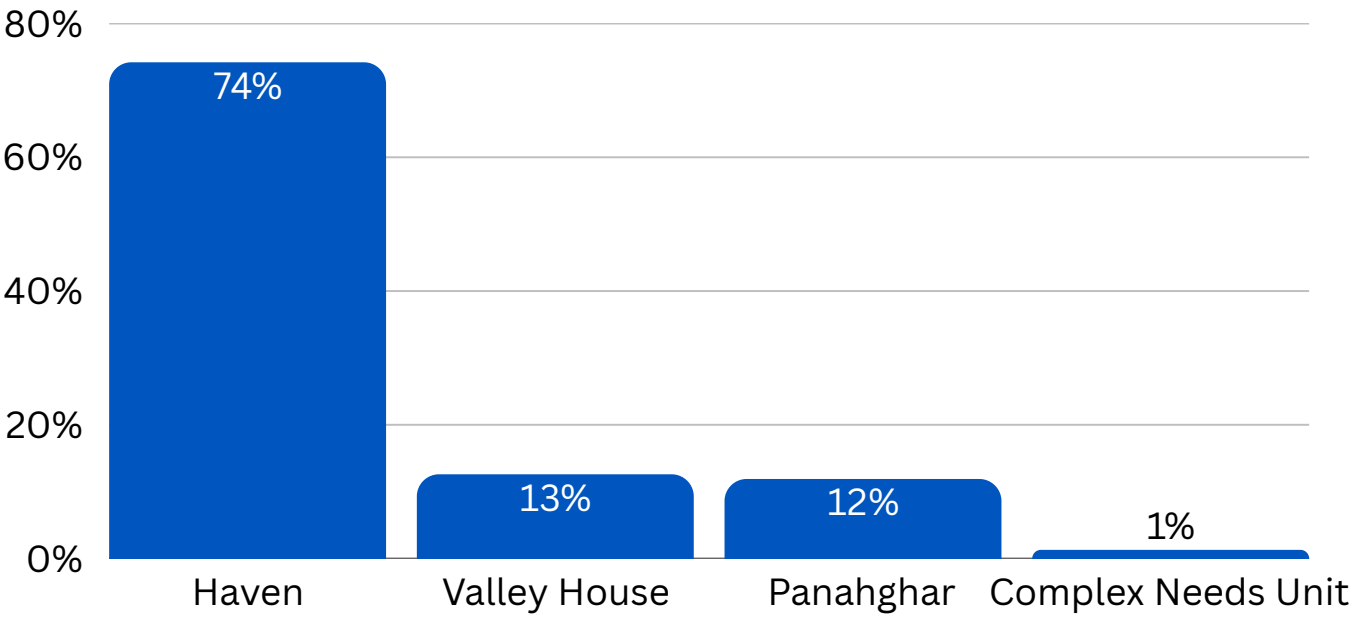


Ethnicity

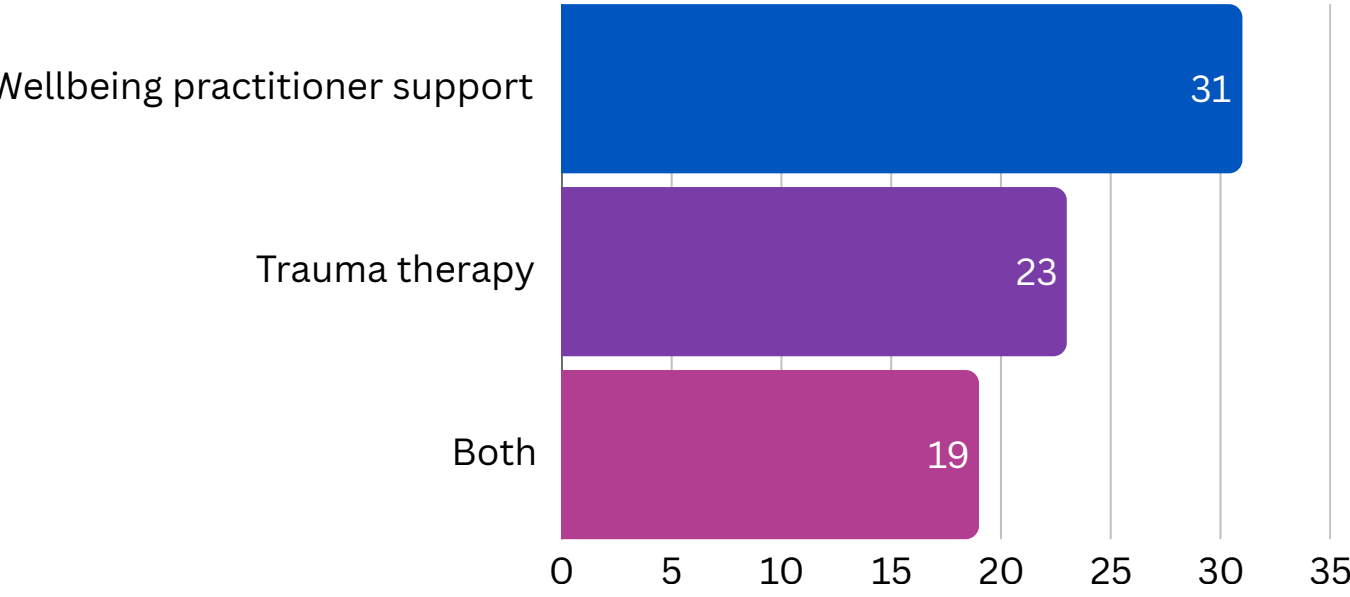


Space 2 Thrive- Evaluation

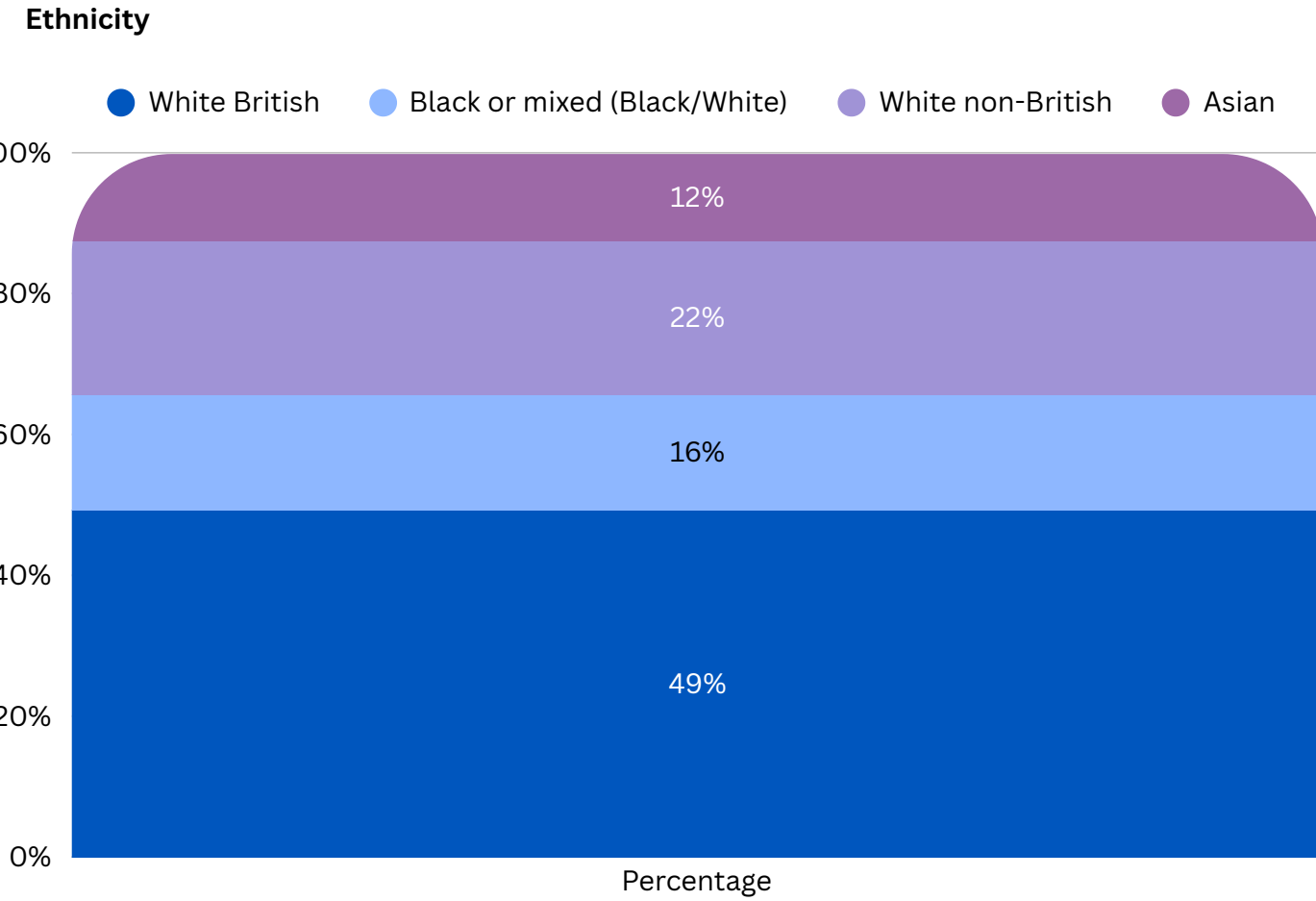
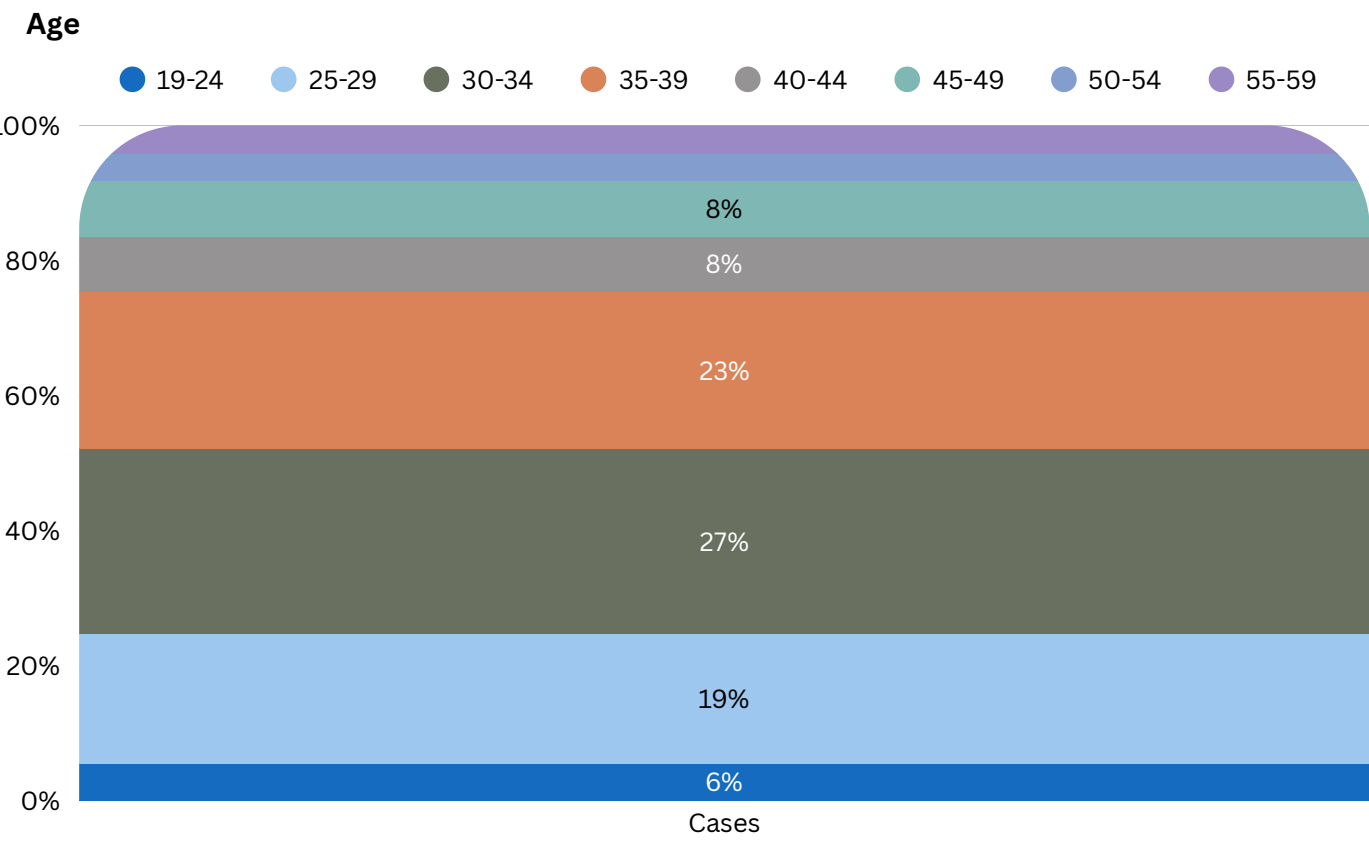
From October 2021 to March 2023 S2T received 151 referrals. They came from:



73 women accessed S2T and received:



Demographics of women accessing S2T

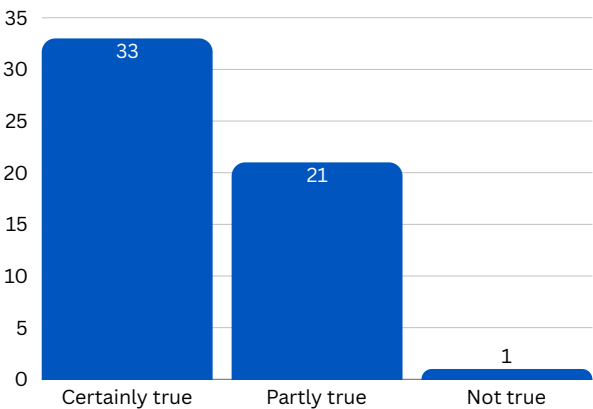


Evaluation outcomes

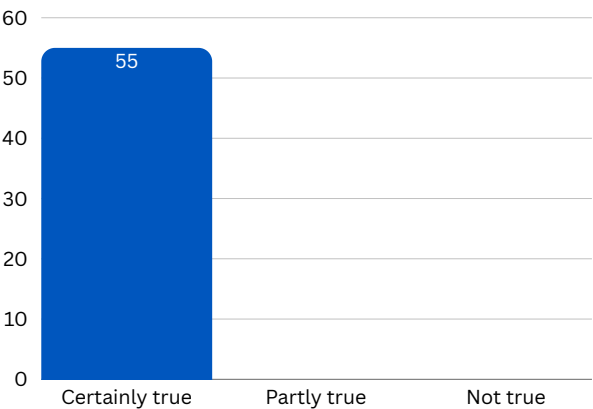


All clients rated the service as good or very good

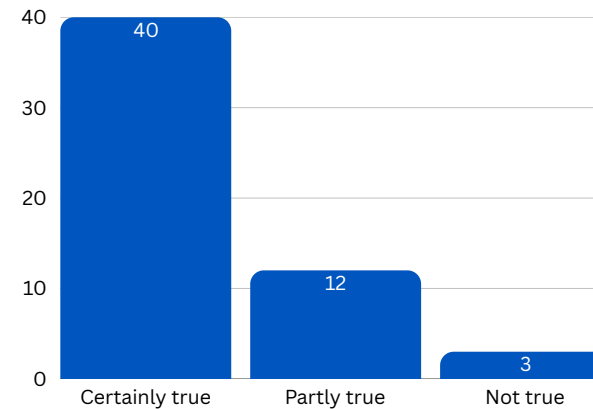
My mental health has improved



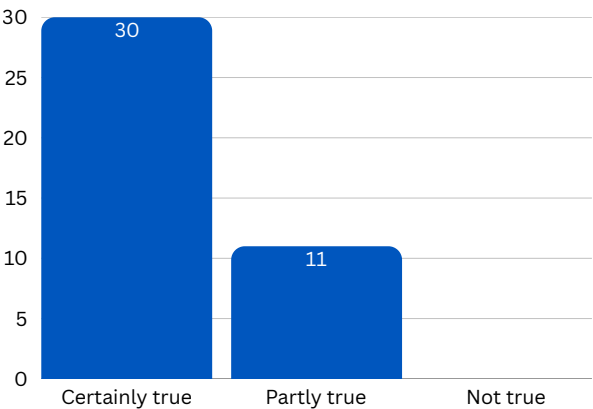
I have felt listened to and respected



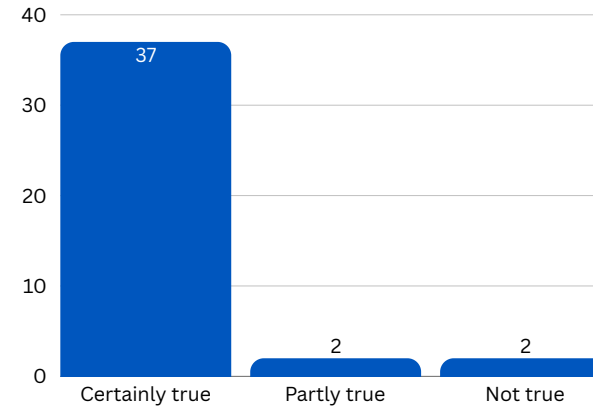
I have felt less alone or isolated



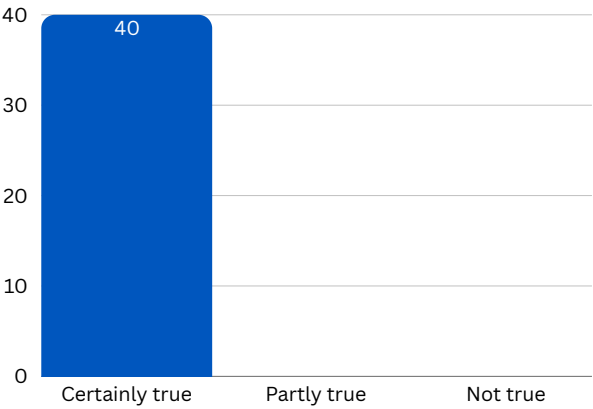
I understand myself better



I didn't have to wait long to receive support



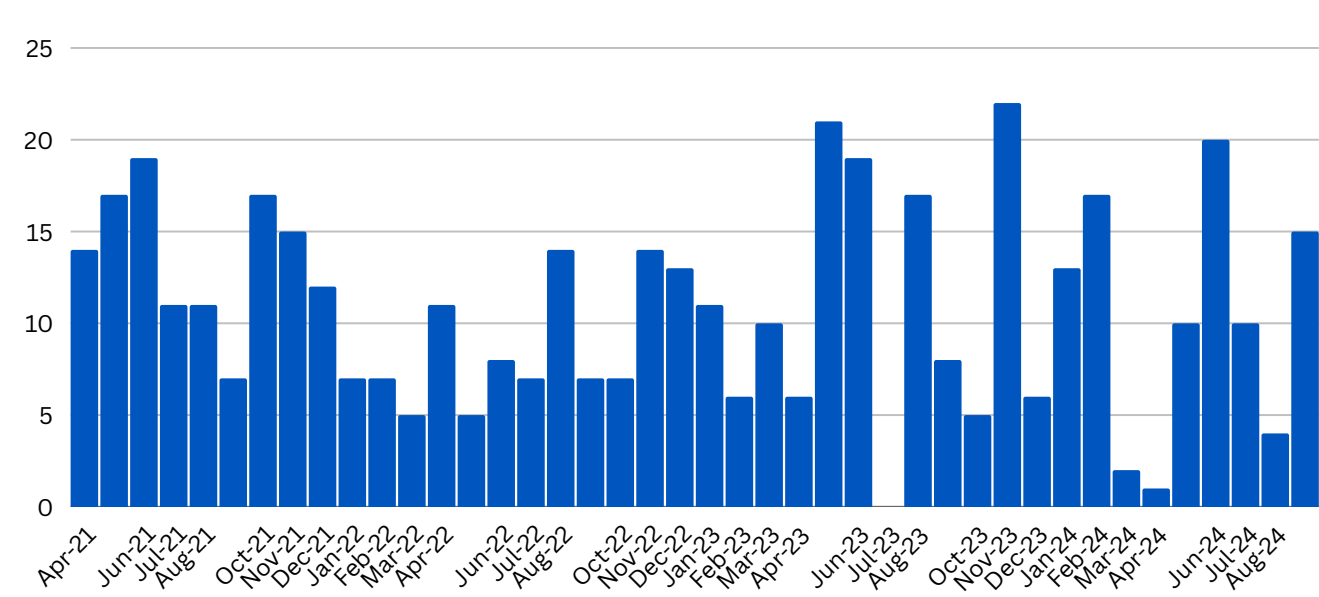
I would recommend this service to a friend



Referrals

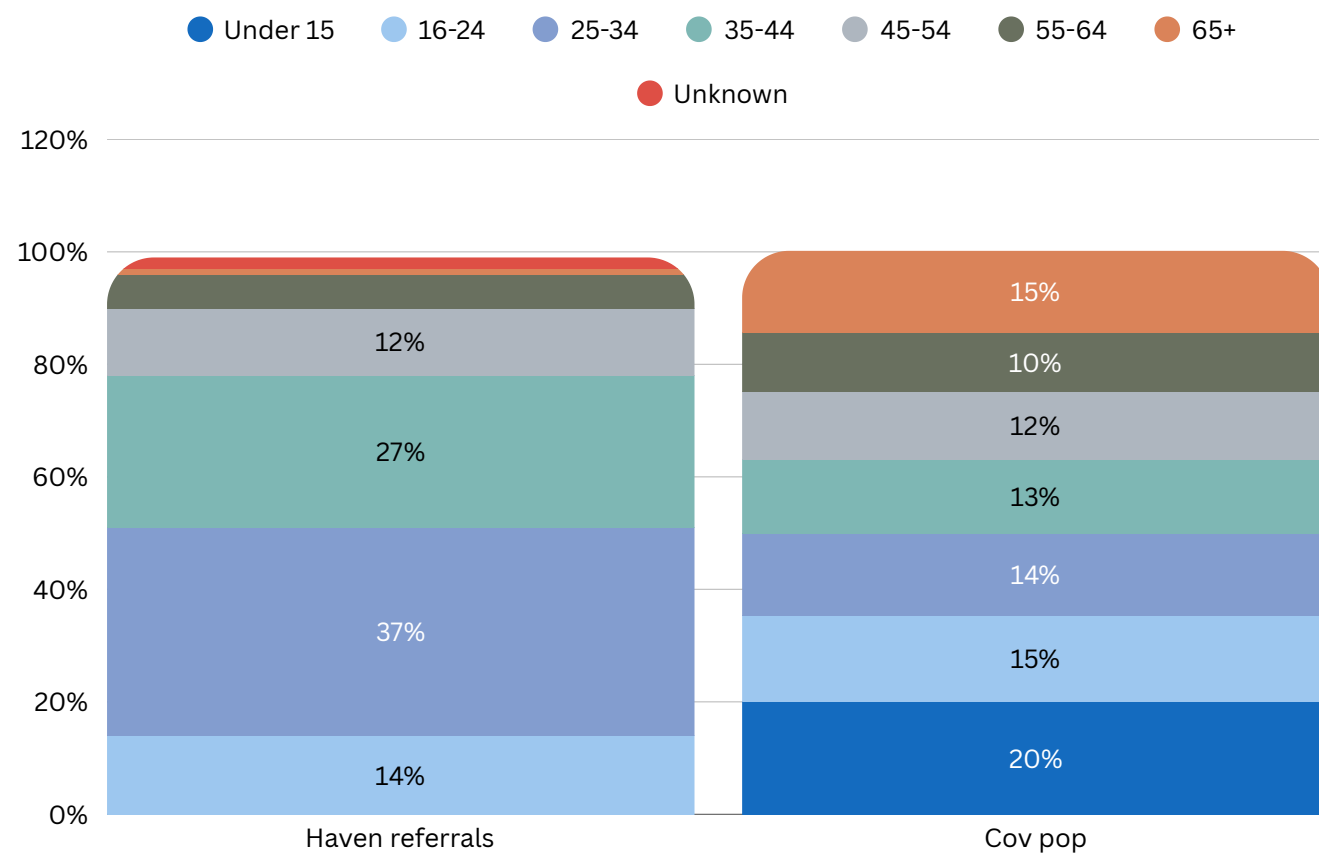
Total: 451

Referrals to Haven by month, 2021-24



Age distribution of referrals

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



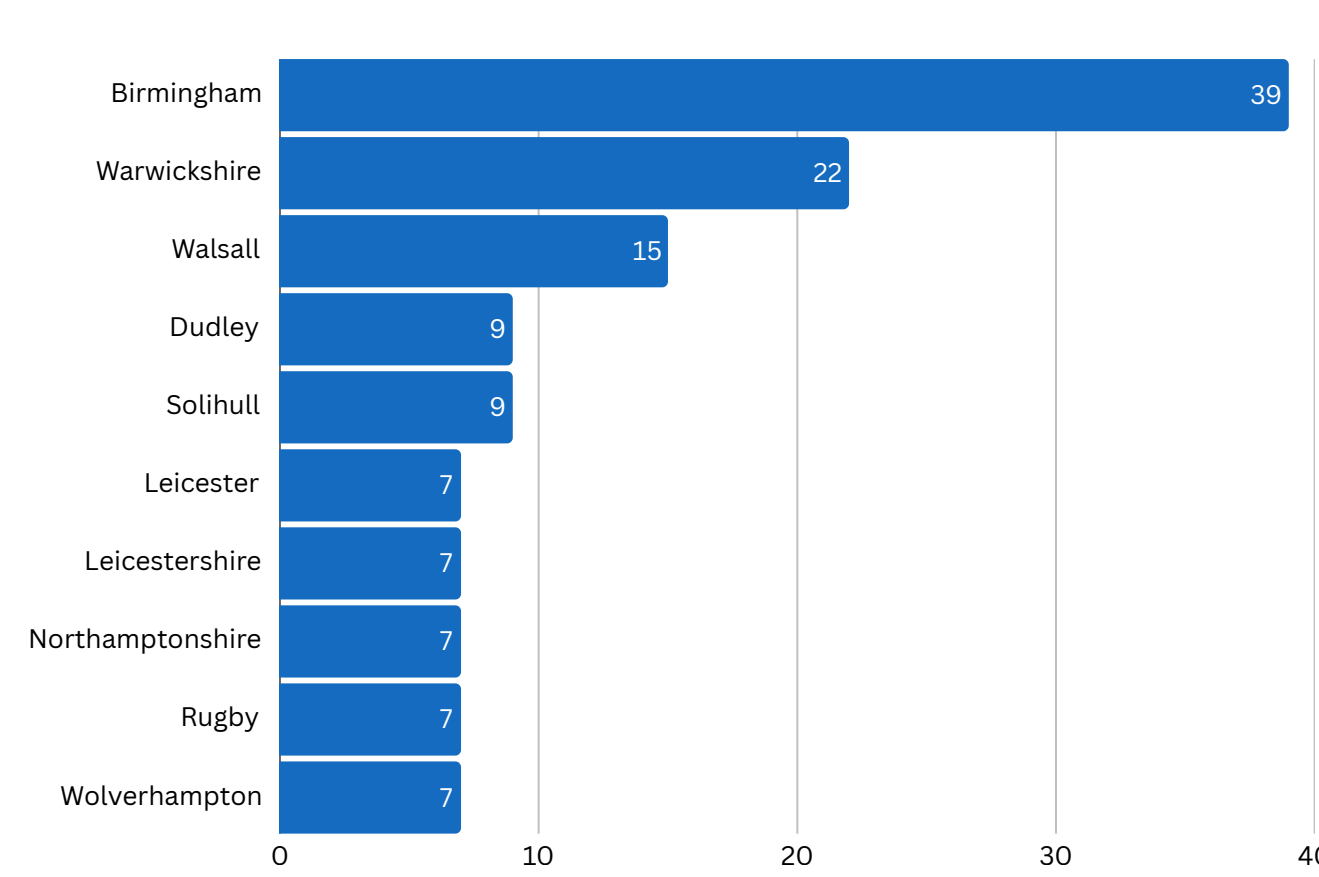
76% of referrals spoke English as their primary language compared to 83% of the population of Coventry

33% of referrals accessed FSW

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

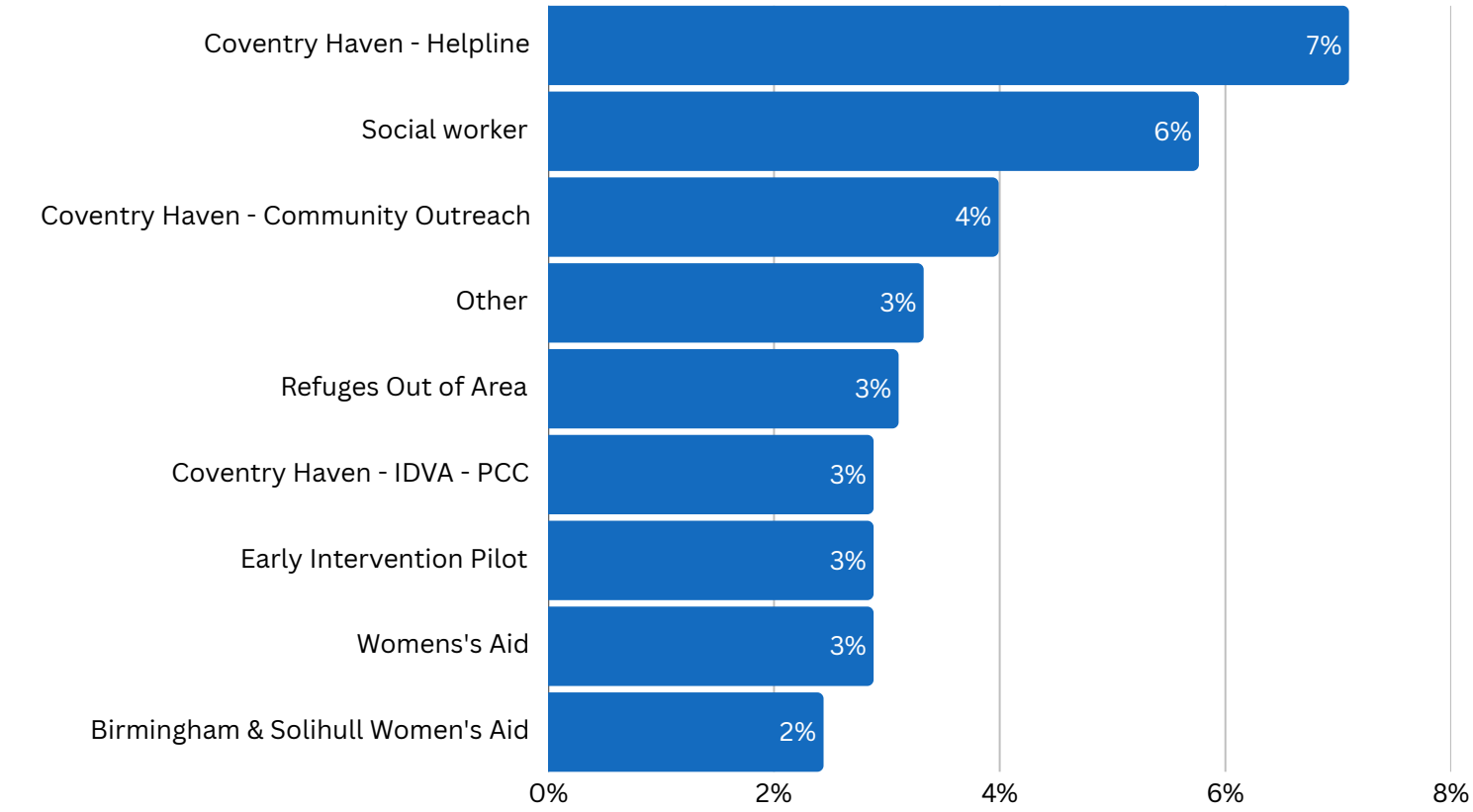
49% of referrals came from Coventry

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



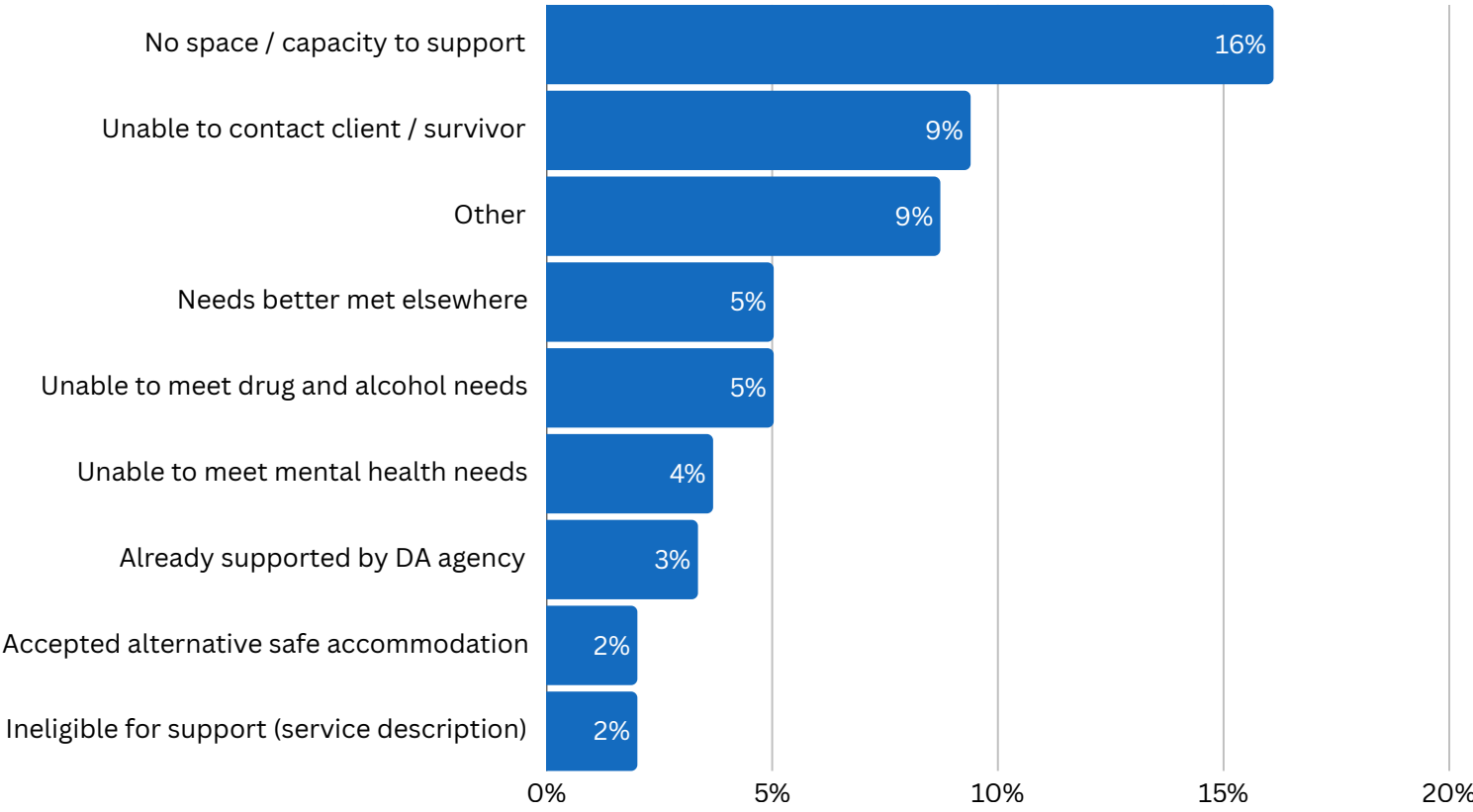
38% of individuals self-referred

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

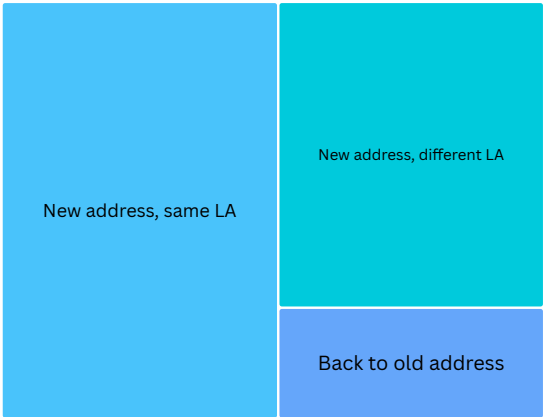
19% abandoned the refuge stay

12% moved out of area or no longer wanted support

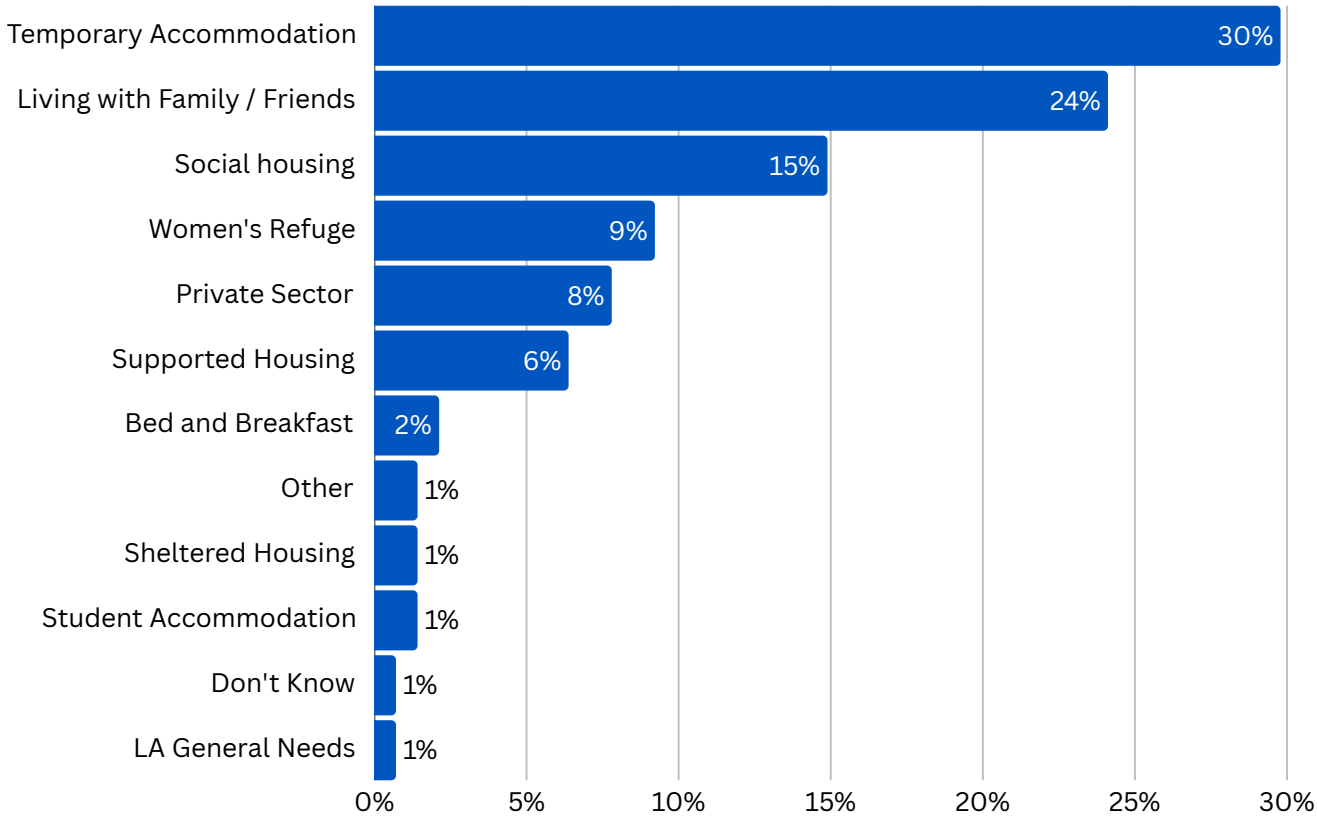
7% were evicted



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

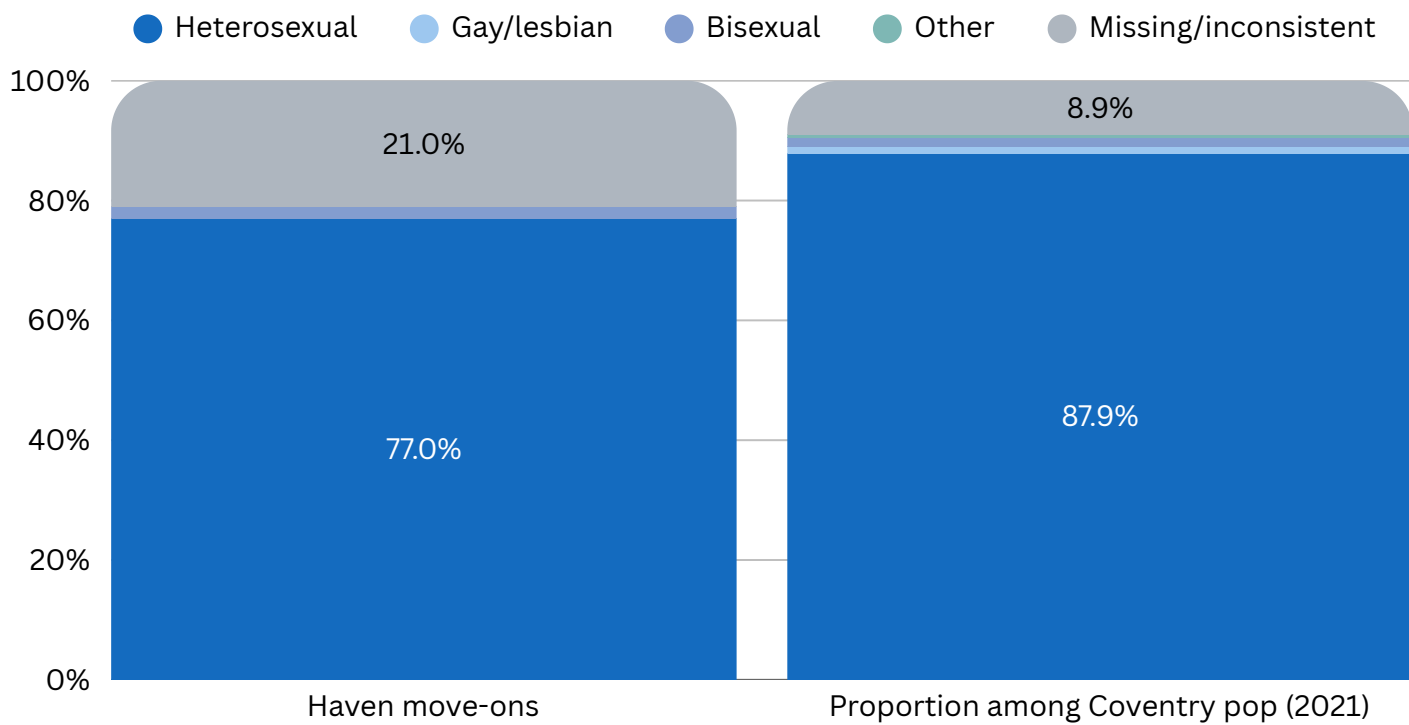
One or more of: had clarity around immigration status, made positive progress regularising status, made a DDVC application, had a successful DDVC application

Parenting

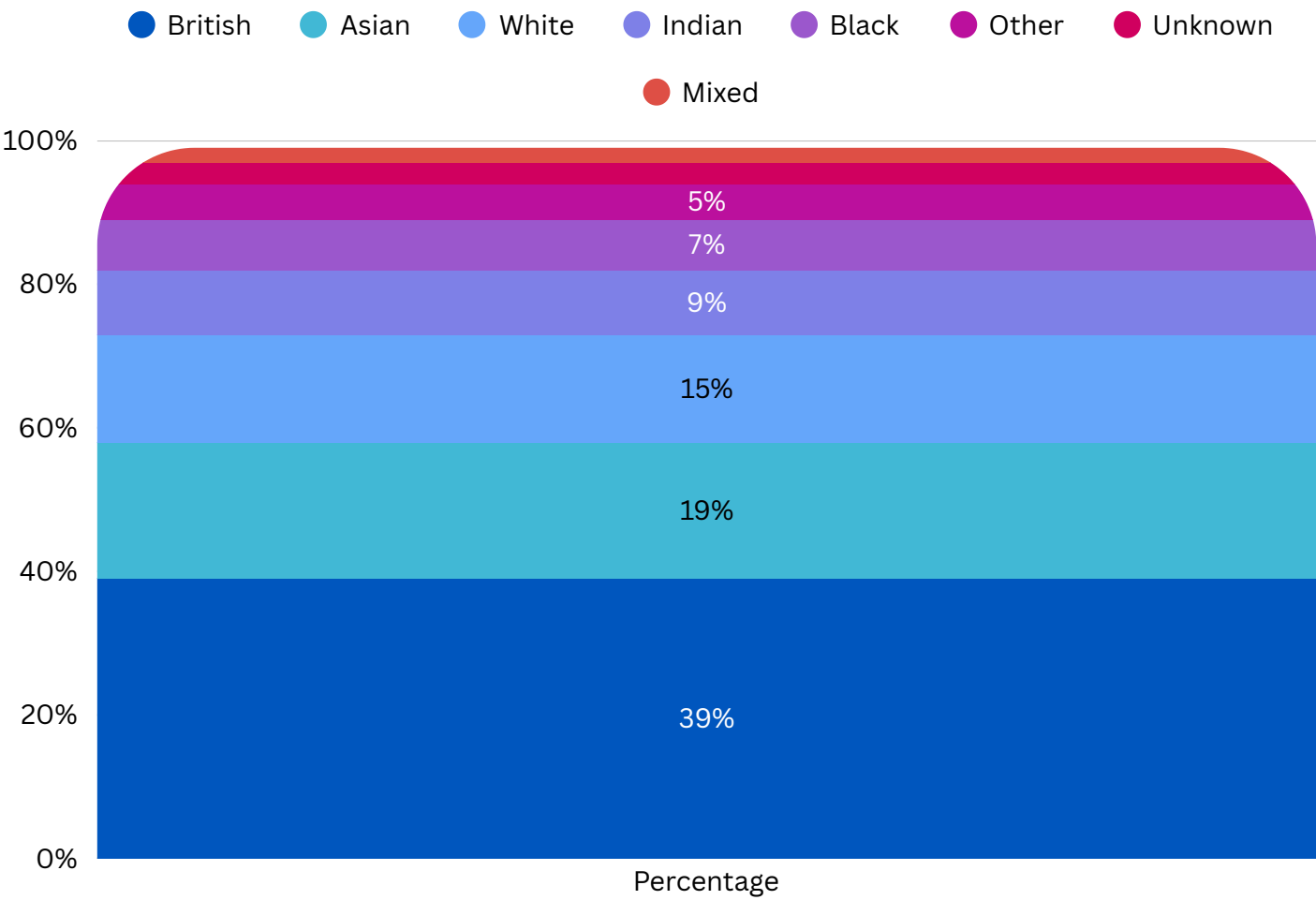
48 people had a parenting need met

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

Sexuality



Ethnicity



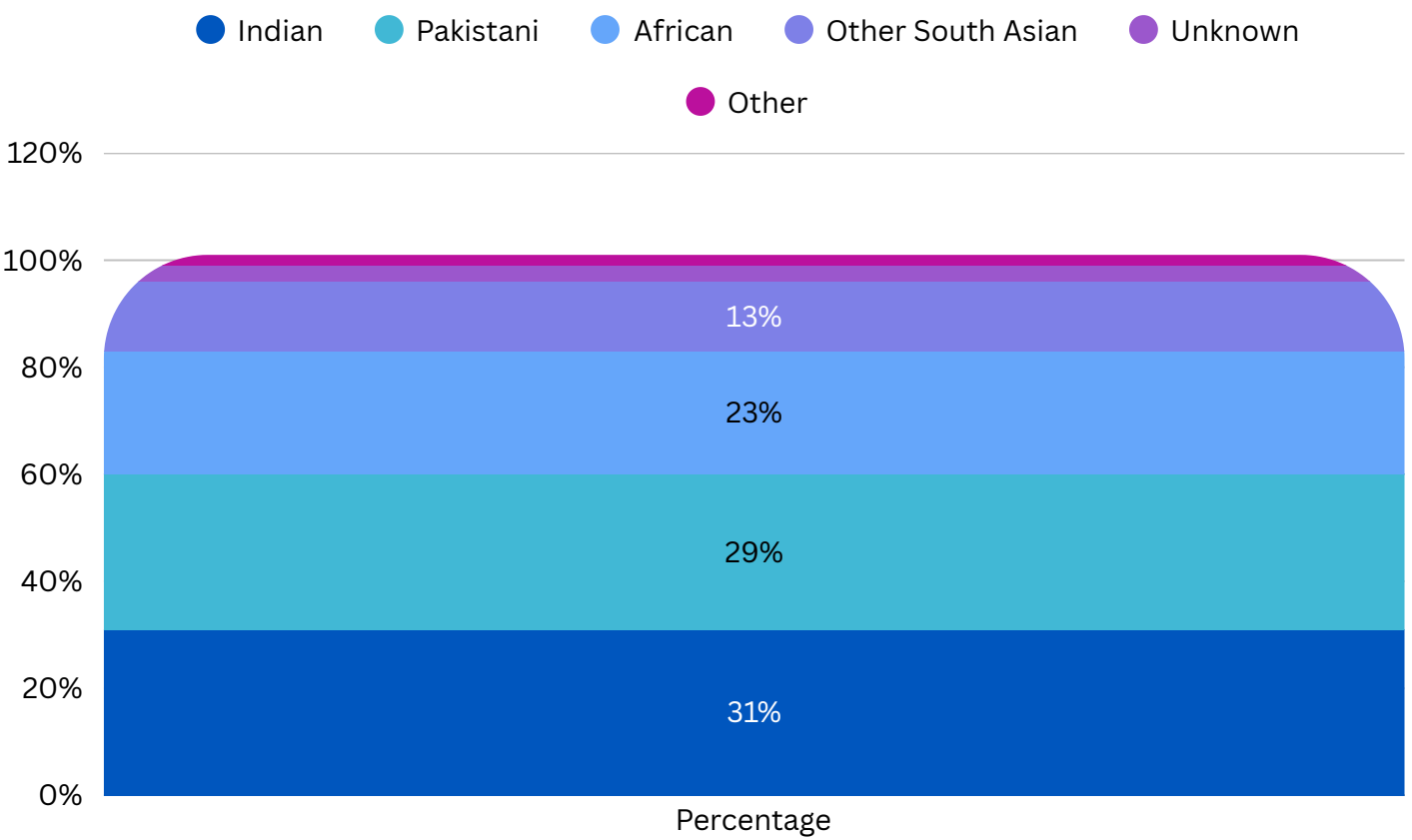
Note: 39% of individuals were recorded as having British ethnicity, which limits the useability of the data

Referrals and acceptances

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

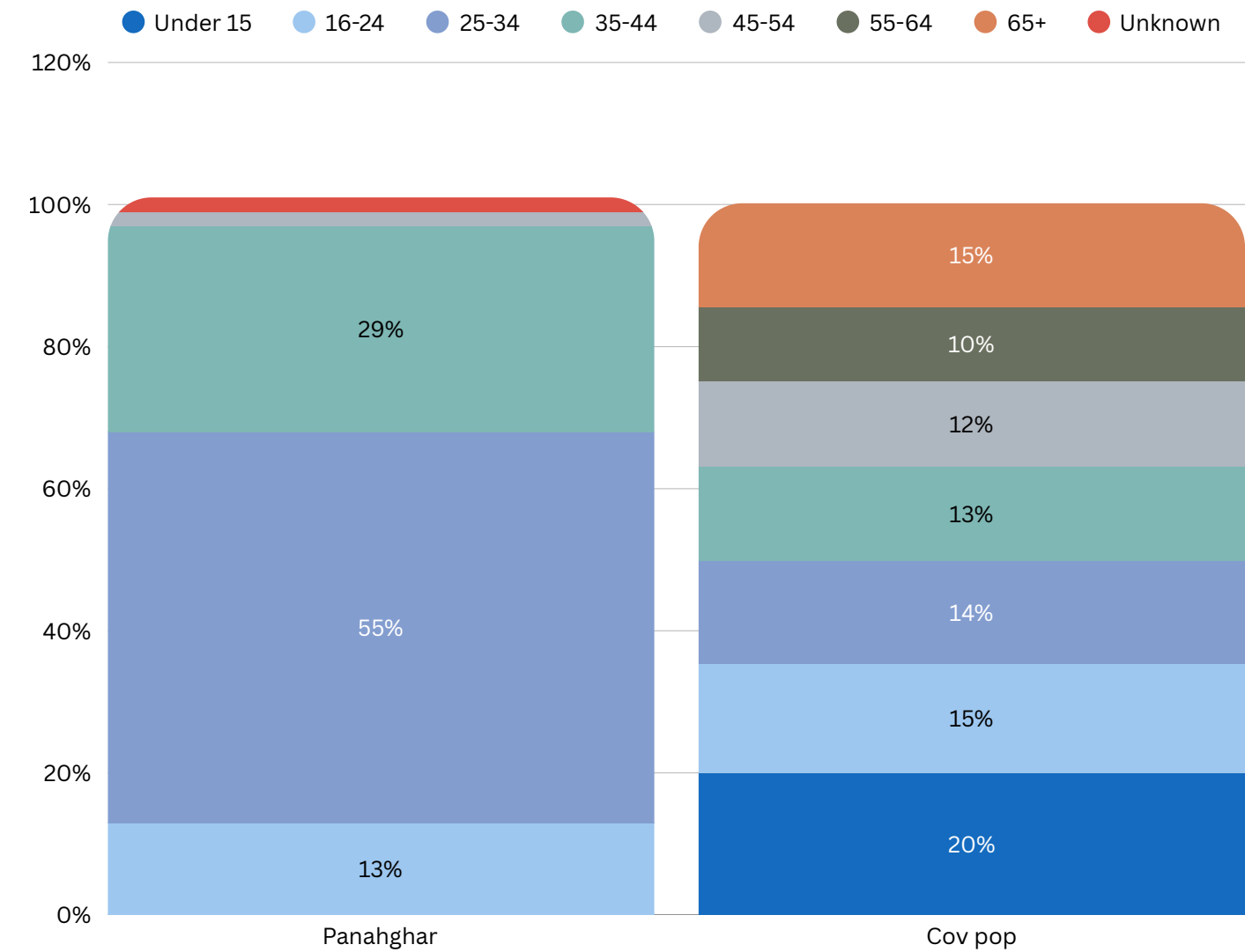
- 100% were female
- 100% were heterosexual (apart from 1 unknown)
- None had previously accessed DA services
- 48 came from outside Coventry
- 43 children entered the service

The majority of service users were South Asian or African

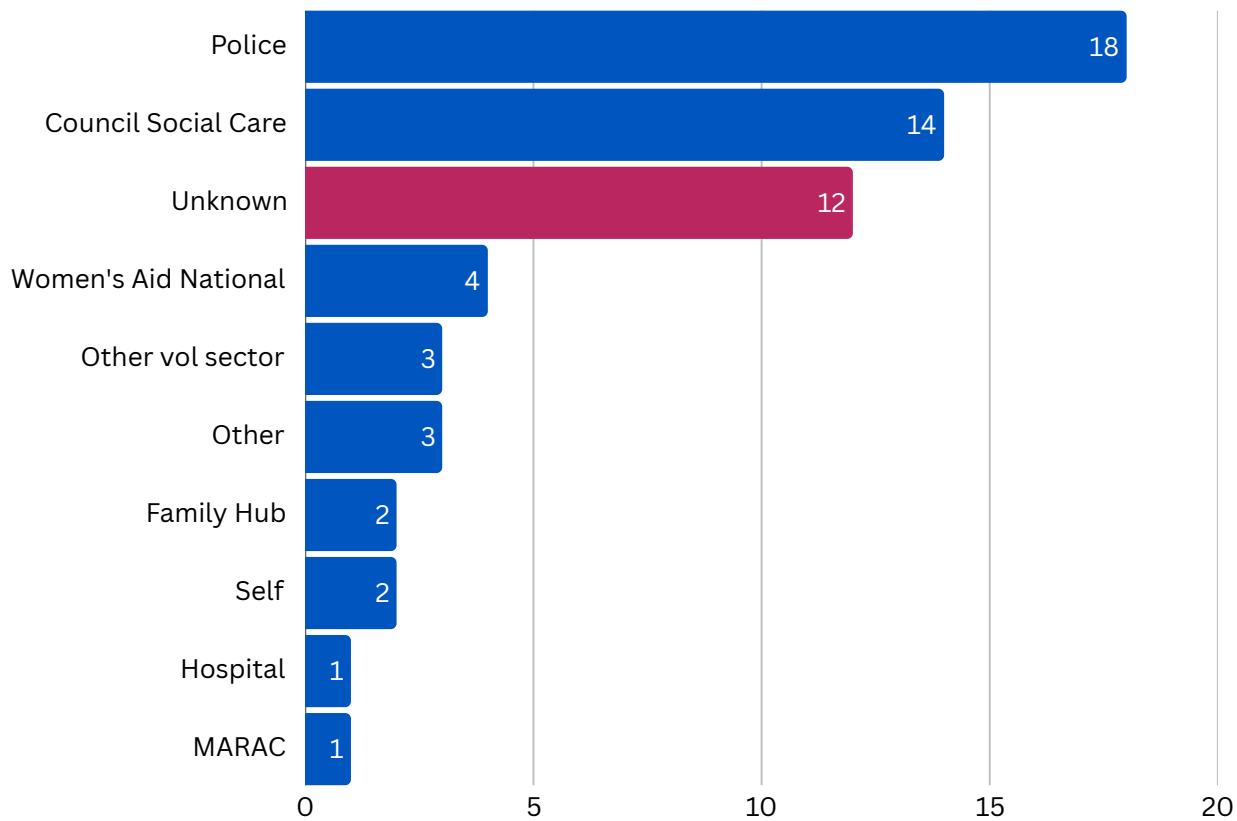


79% had no recourse to public funds

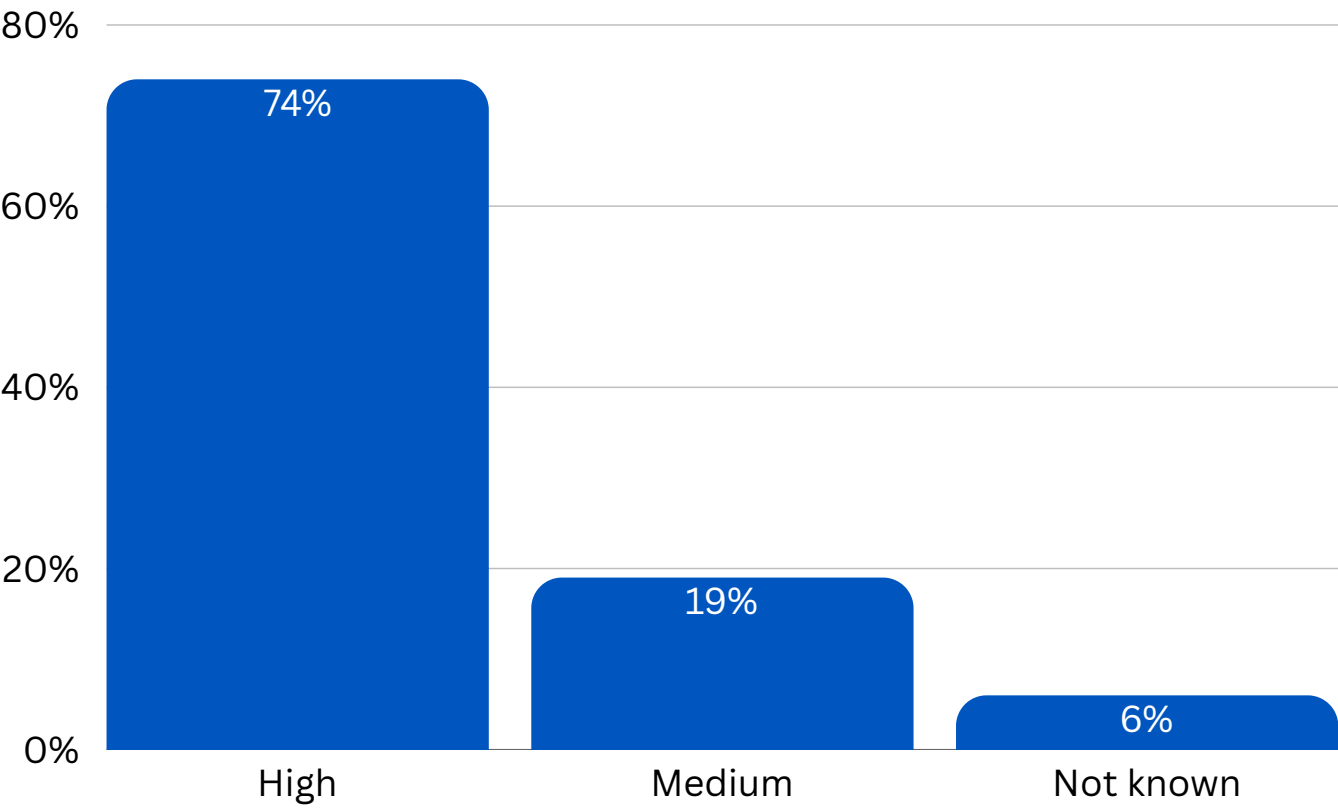
Service users are younger than the Coventry population



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

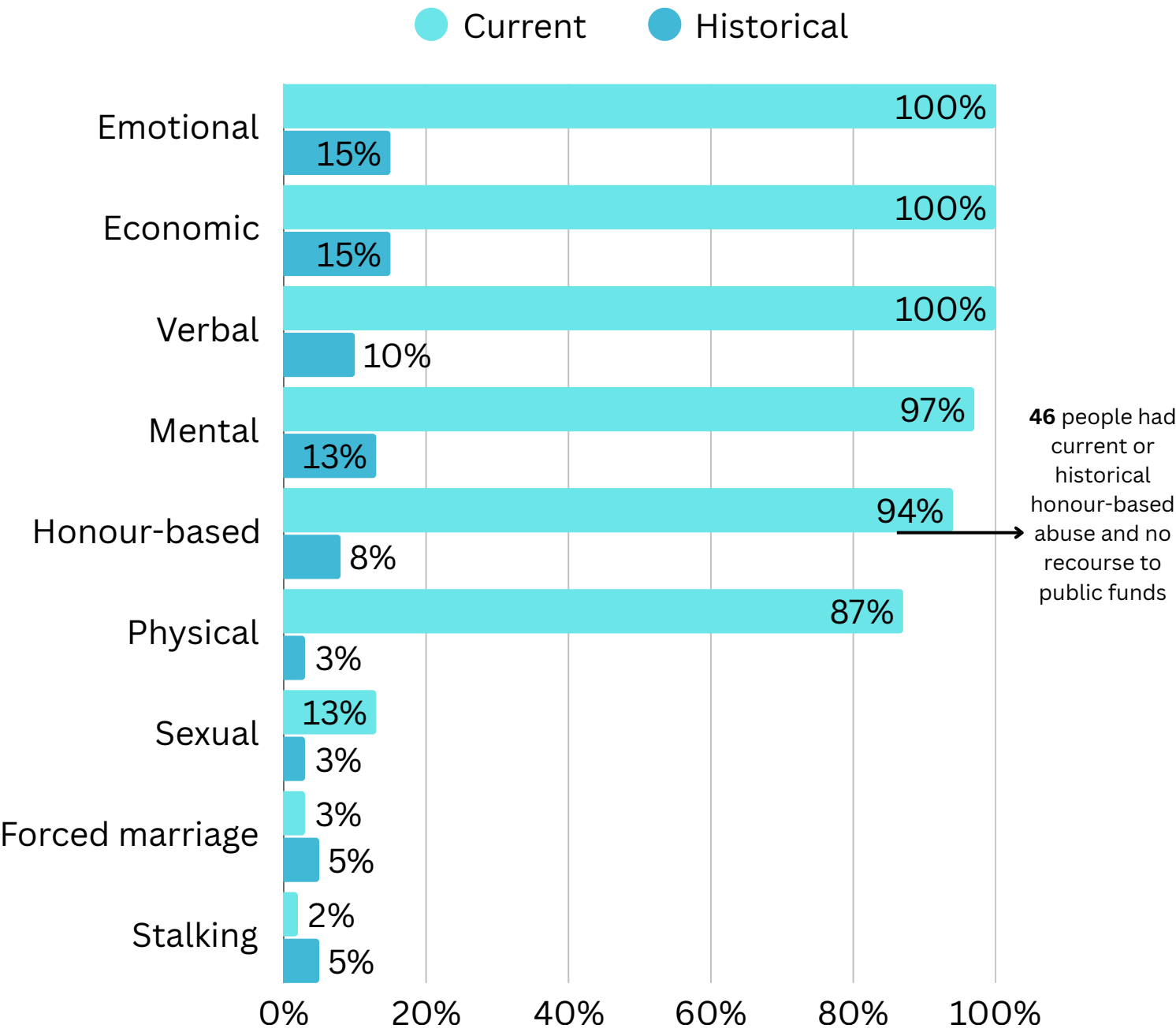


Most service users had a high DASH risk level on entry

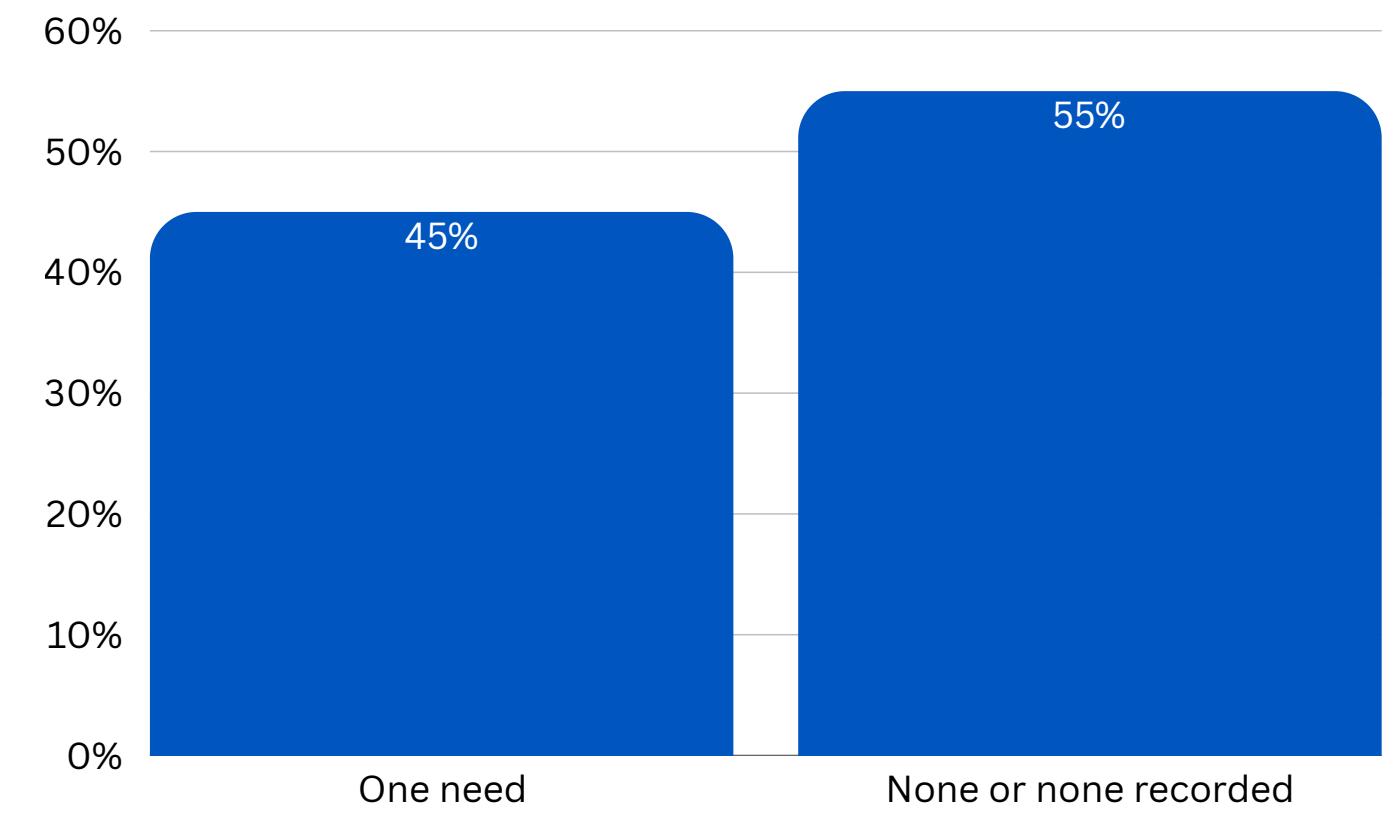


23 people were known to MARAC

Types of current and historical abuse reported



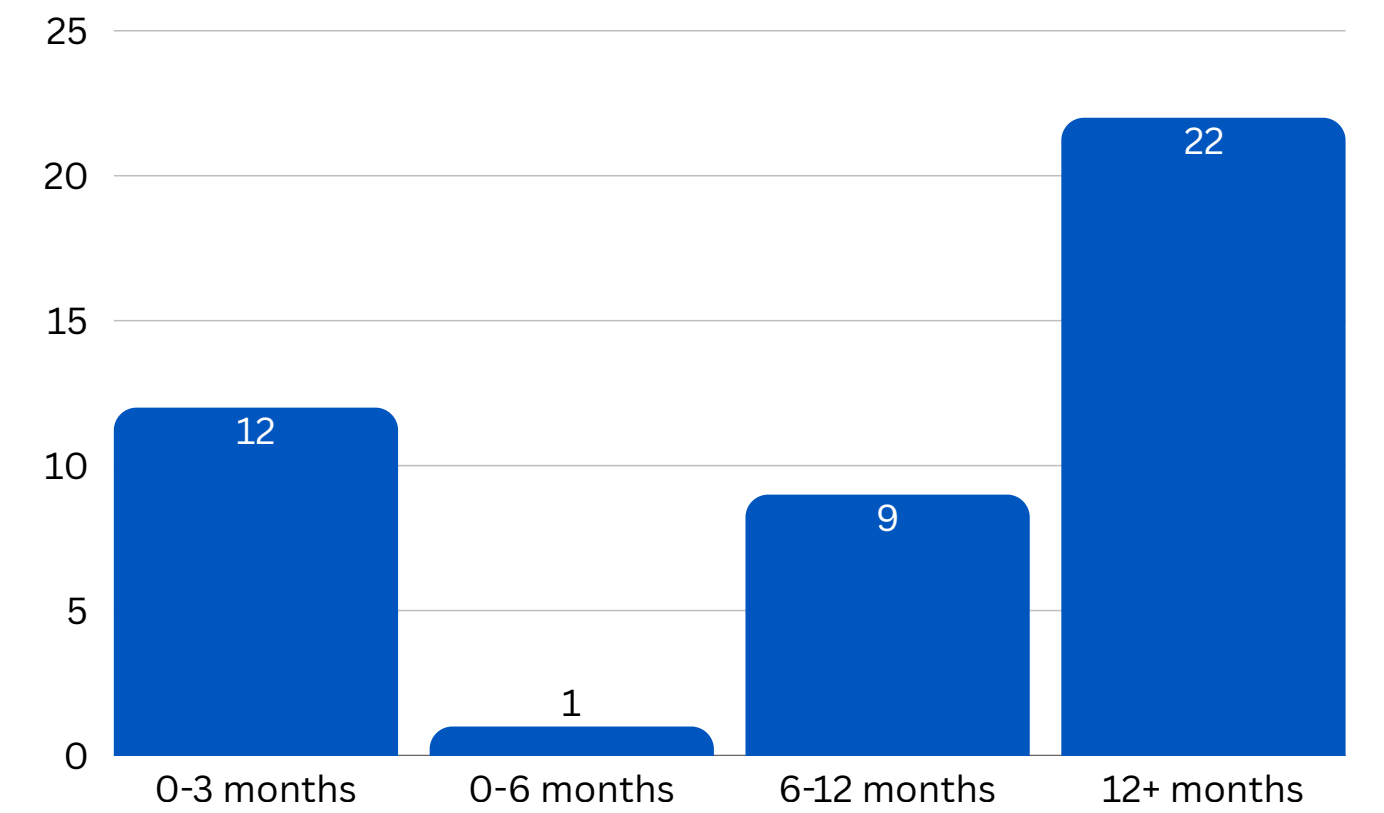
Reported additional needs



44% reported a mental health need

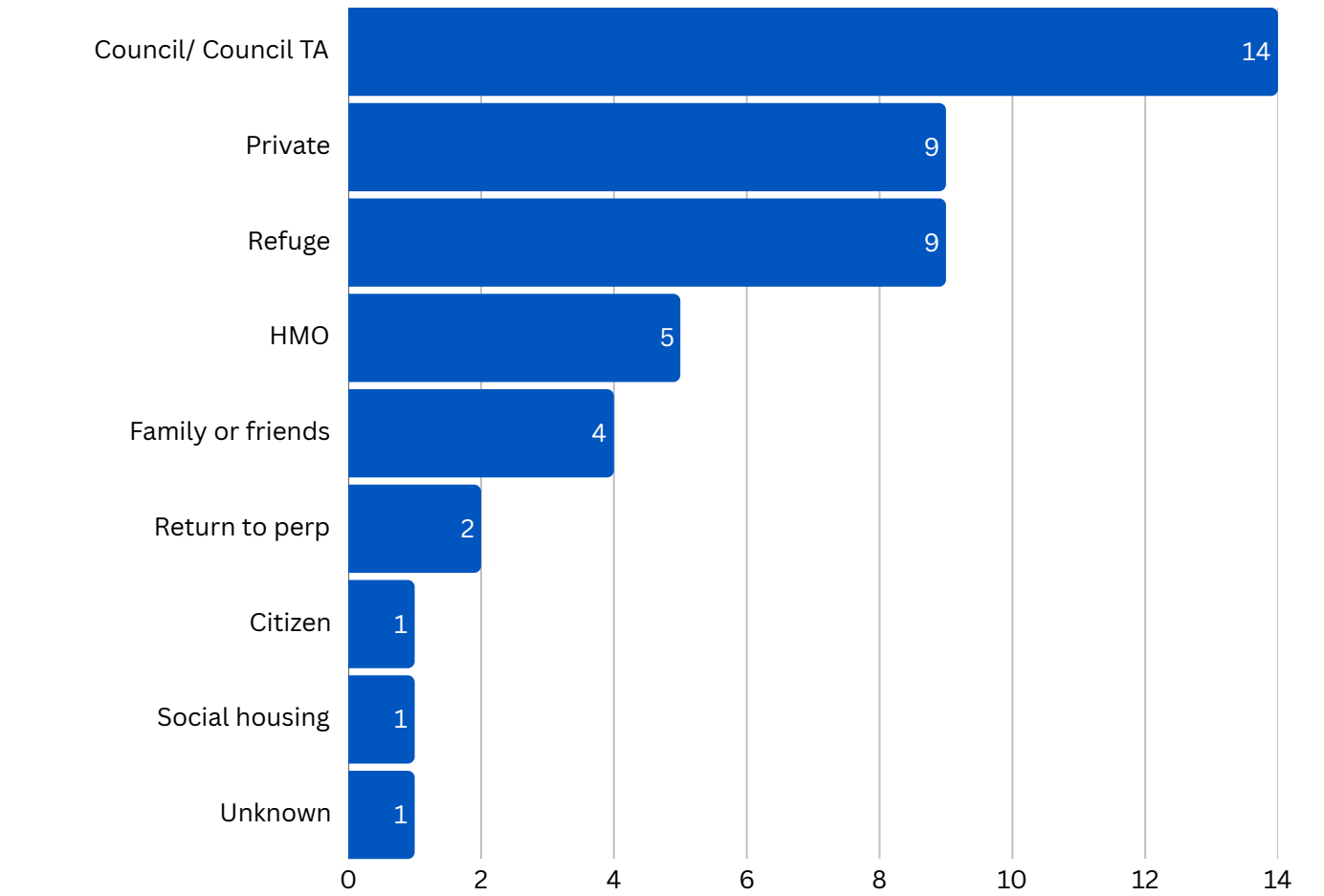
2% reported a substance abuse need

Most service users stayed for 12 months or longer



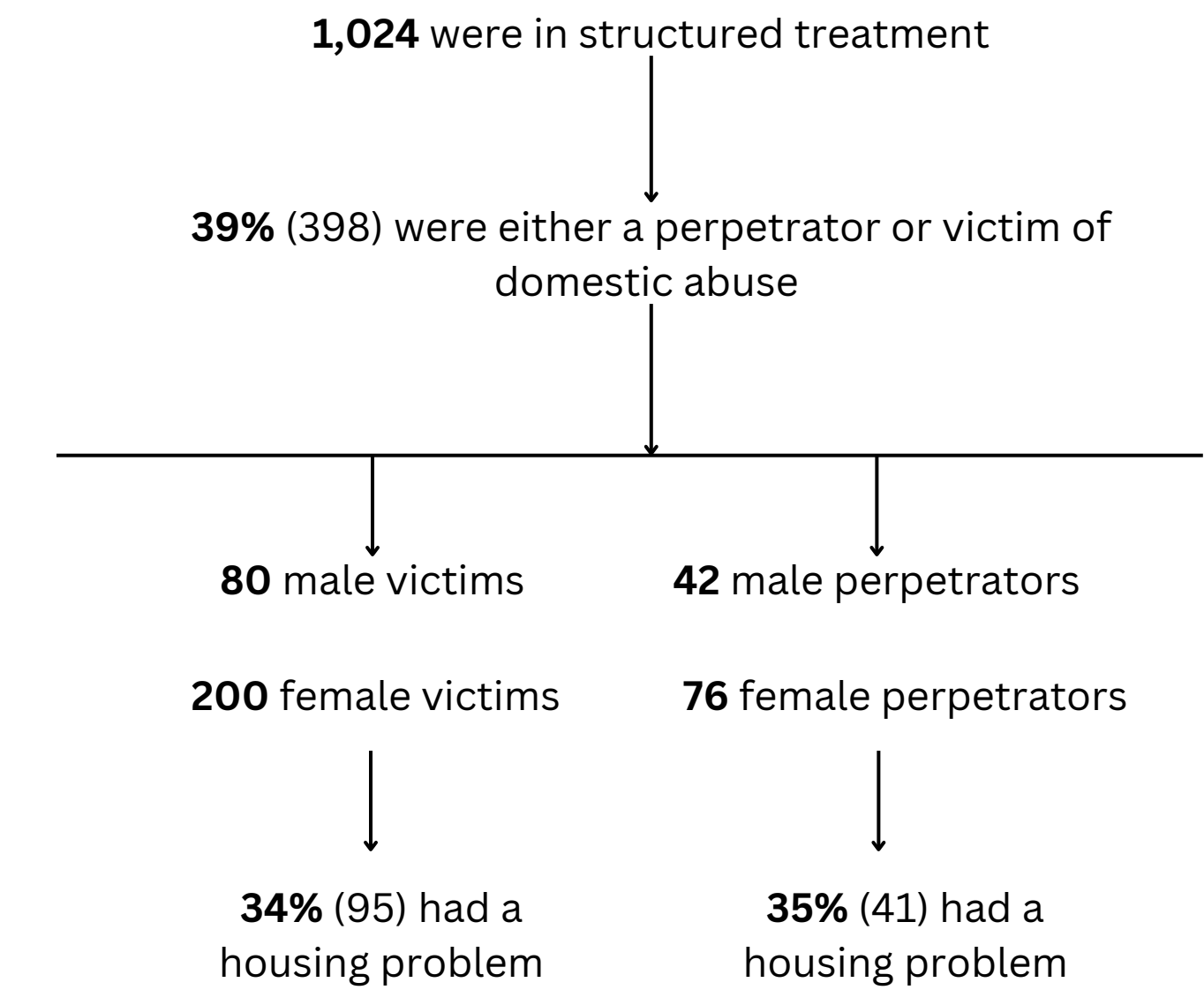
18 people (31%) moved on to a location in Coventry

Move on locations

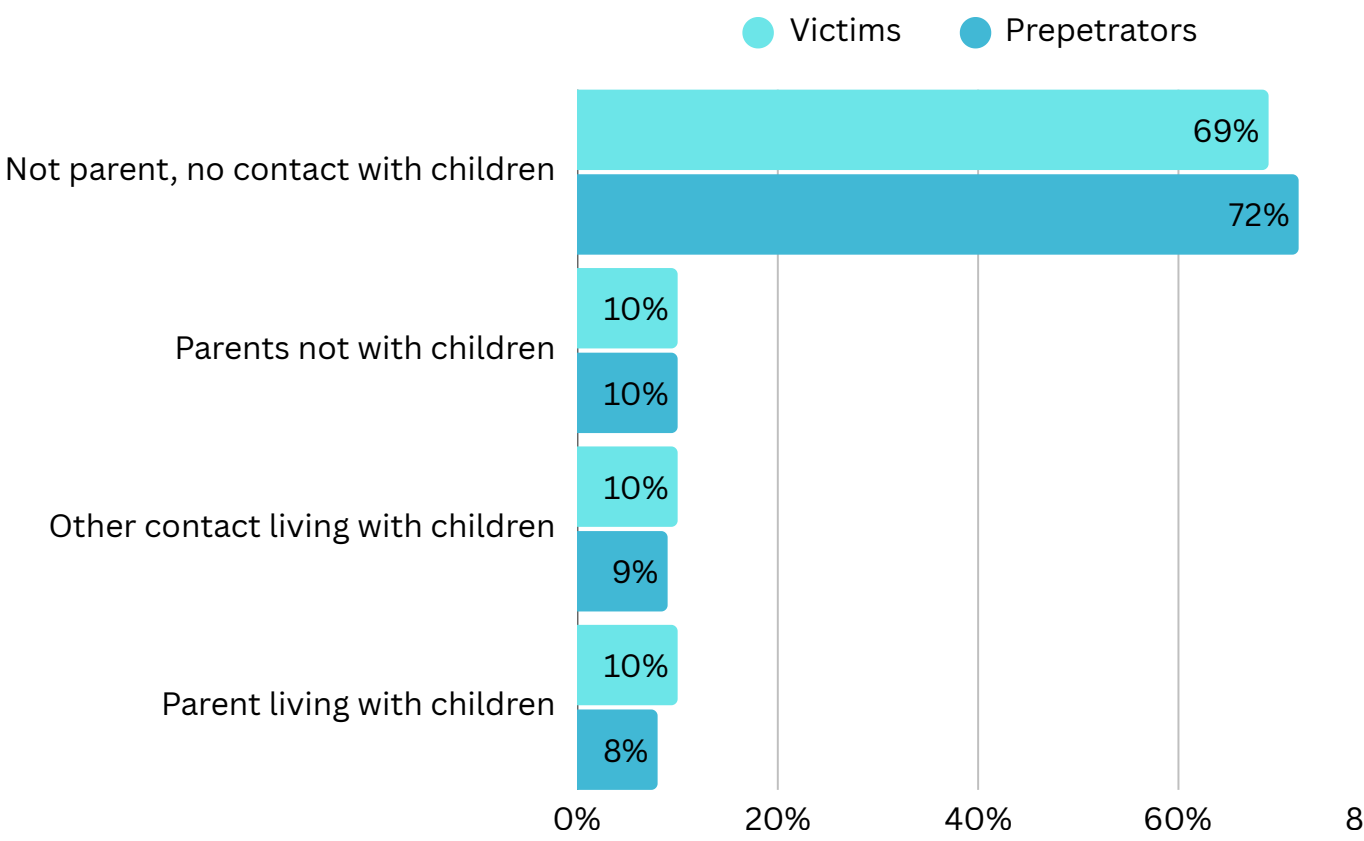


A snapshot of DA in CGL

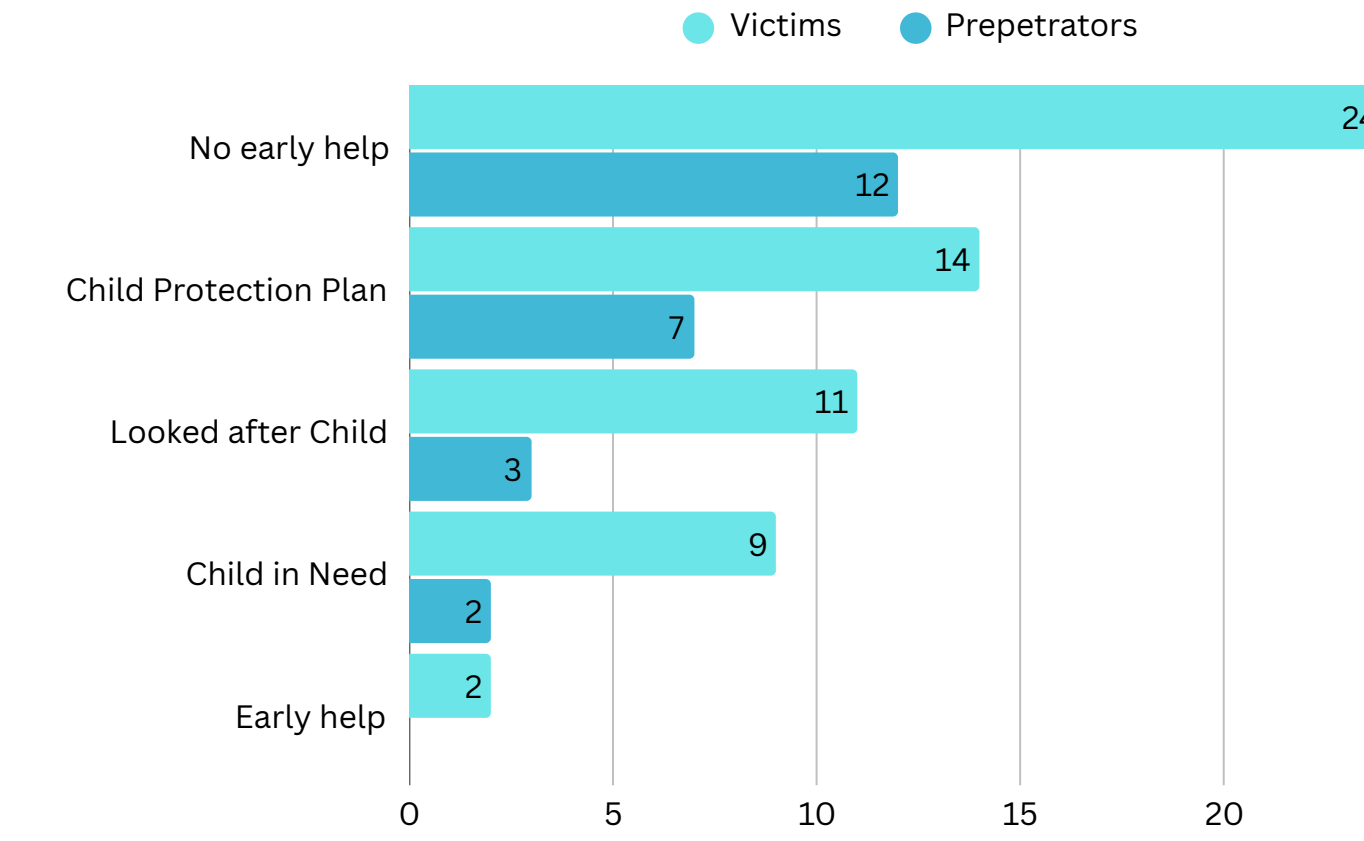
As of 30/09/24:

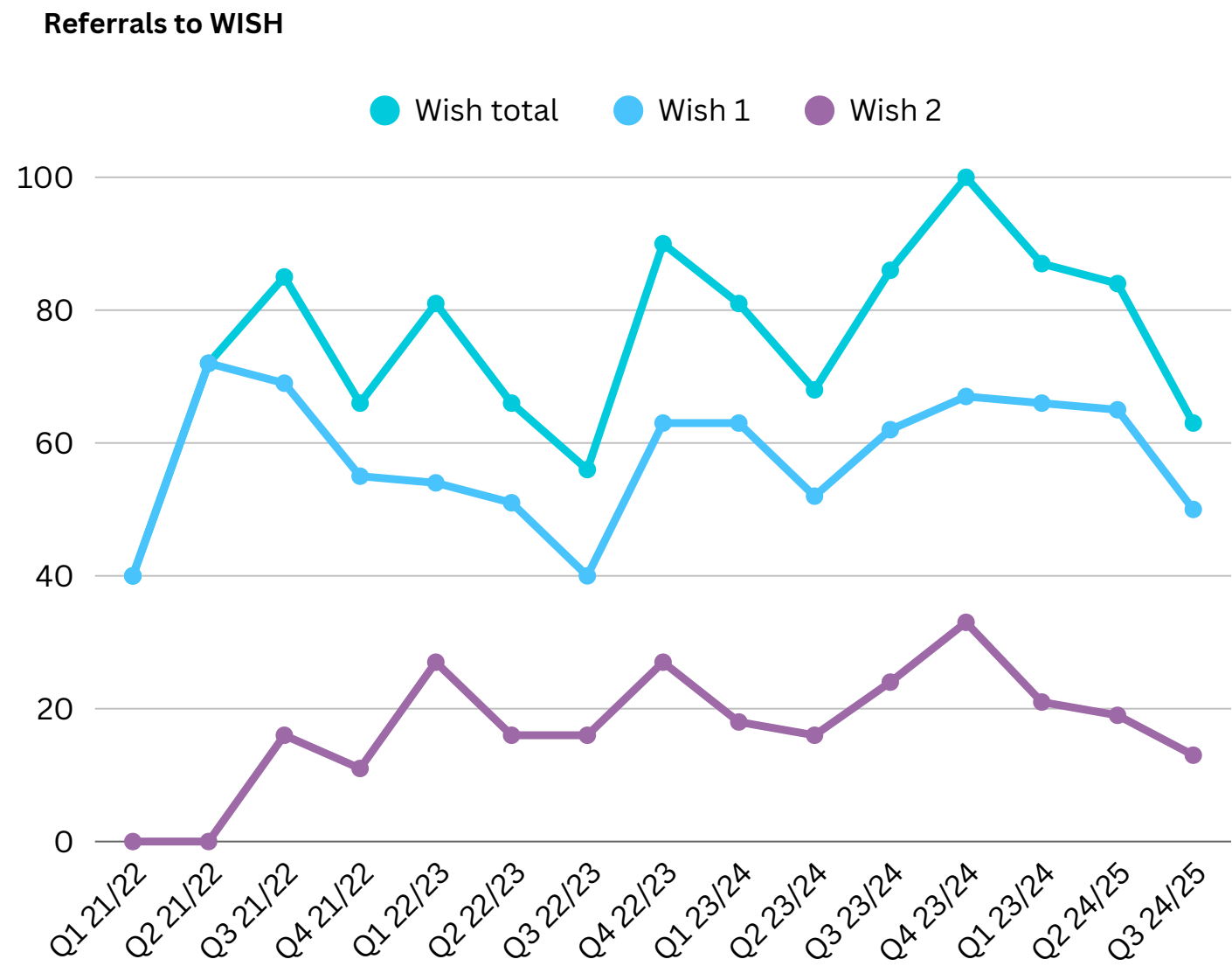


Most victims and perpetrators are not parents and have no contact with children

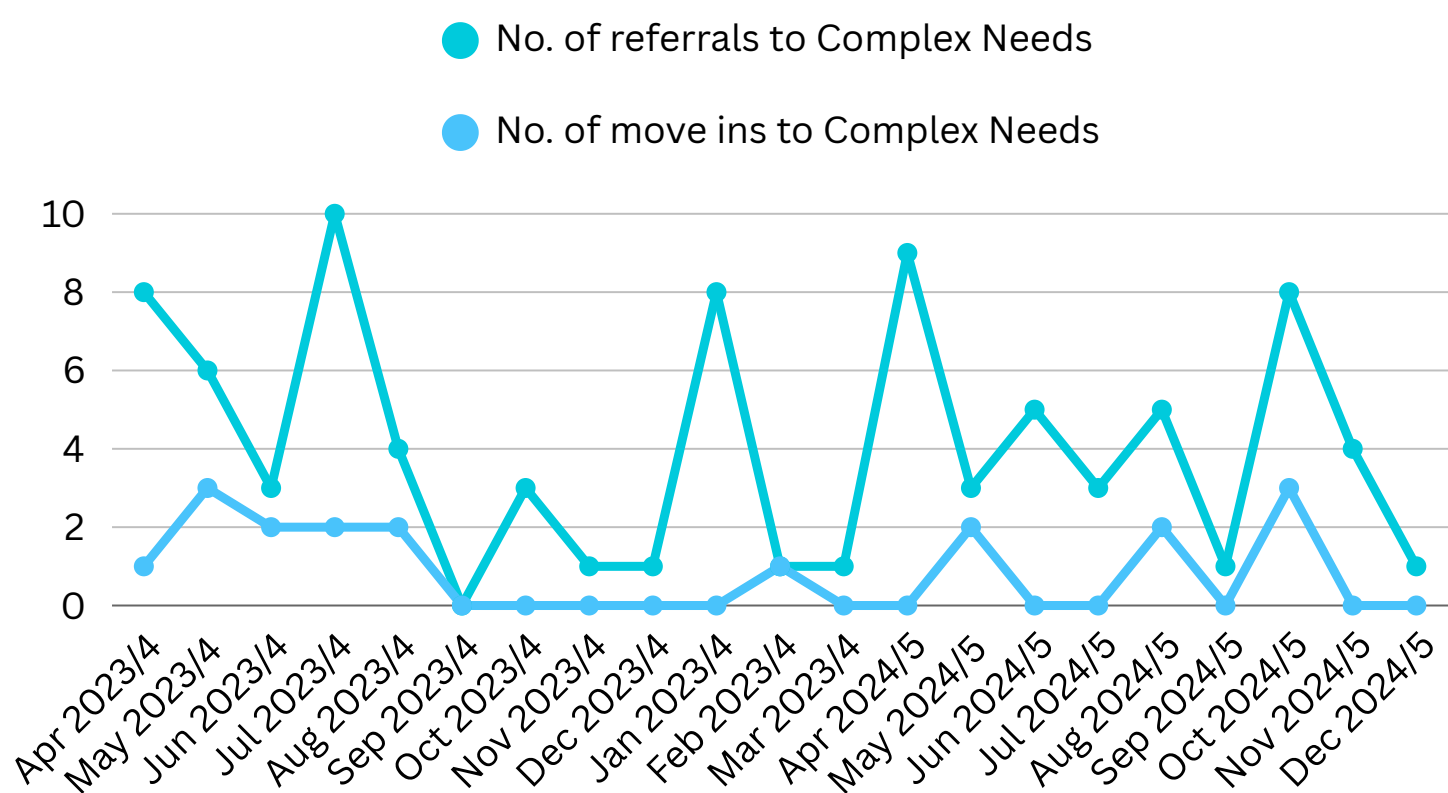


Of service users who are living with children, most are not receiving early help





Referrals and acceptance into the service



Of referrals:

31% were out of City

All but two were female

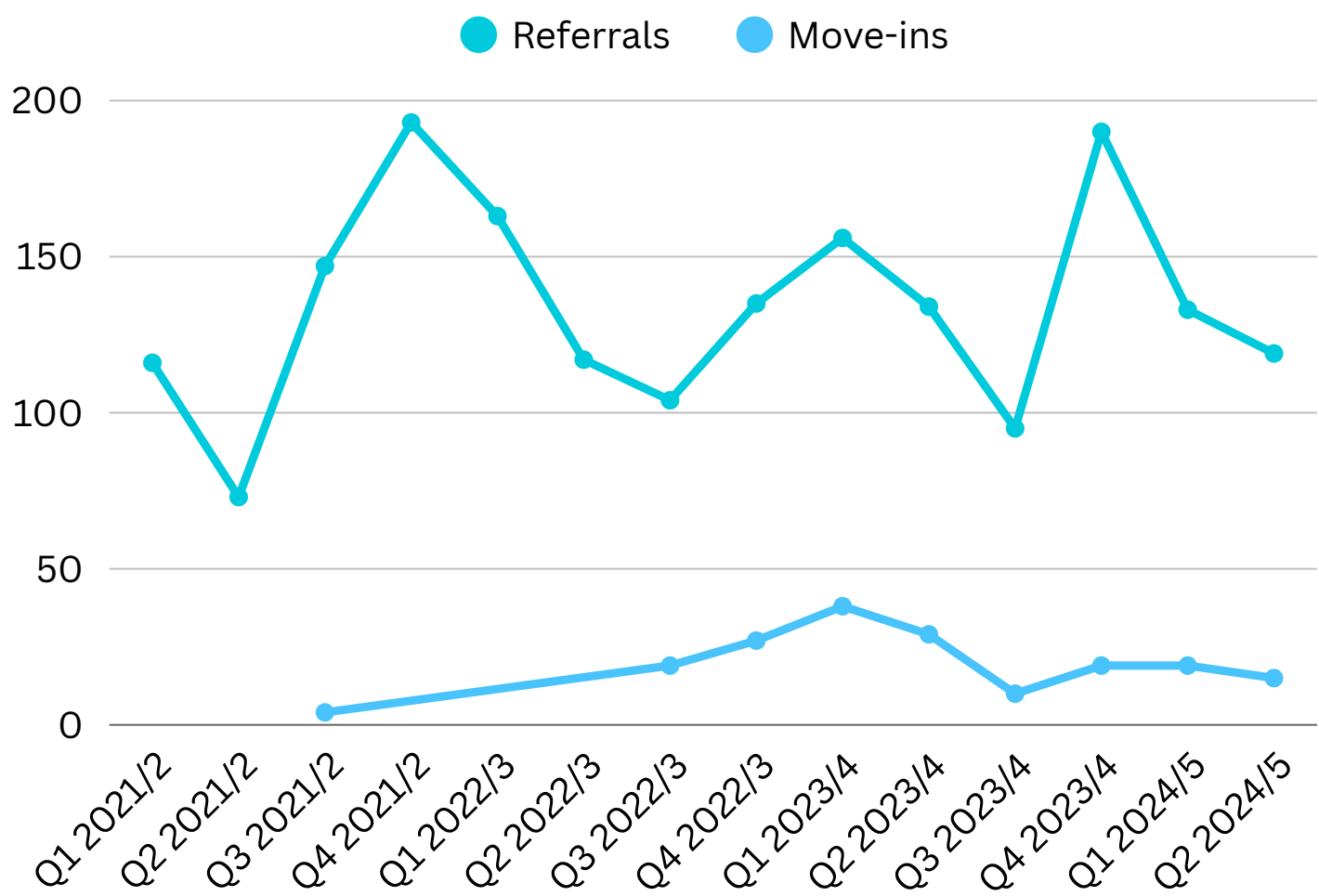
11 children were referred

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

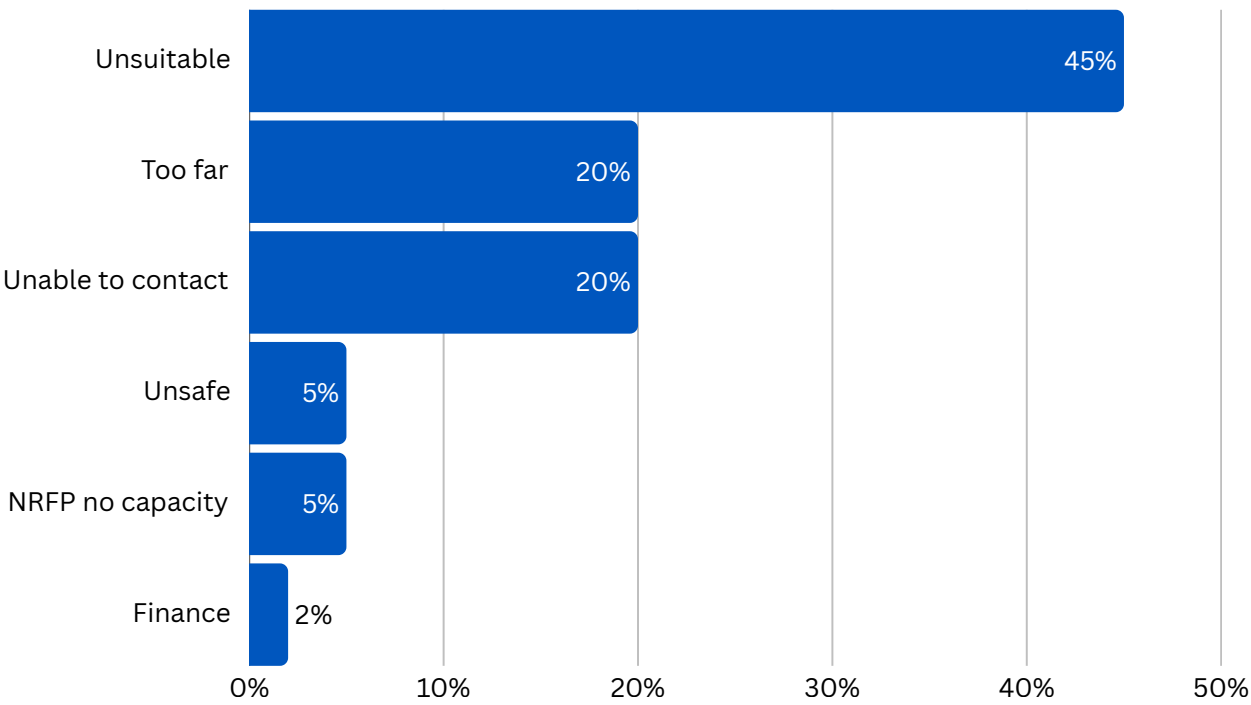
6% were pregnant

45% were out of area

1 had no recourse to public funds

Source: Master demand sheet

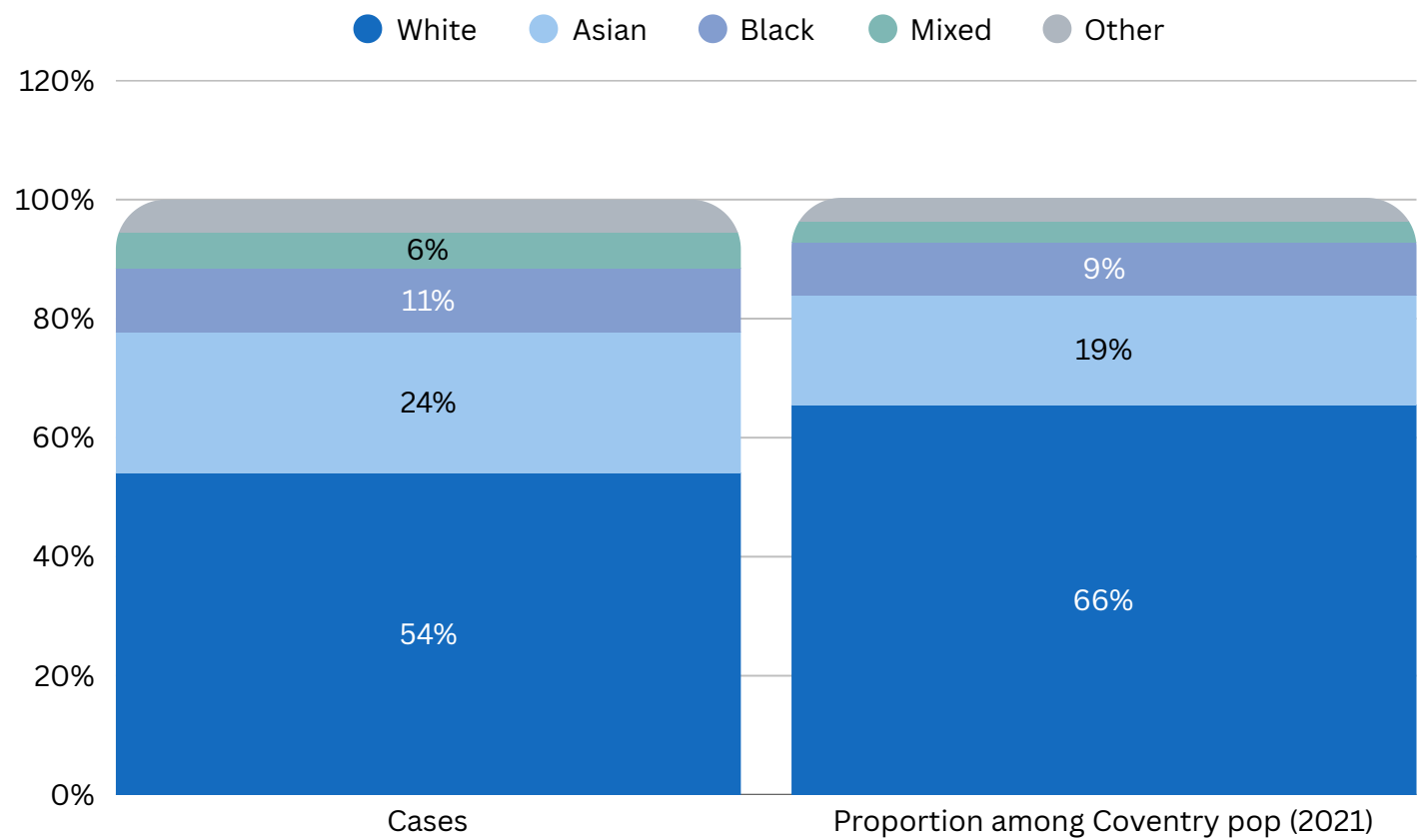
42% of referrals were declined, for the following reasons:

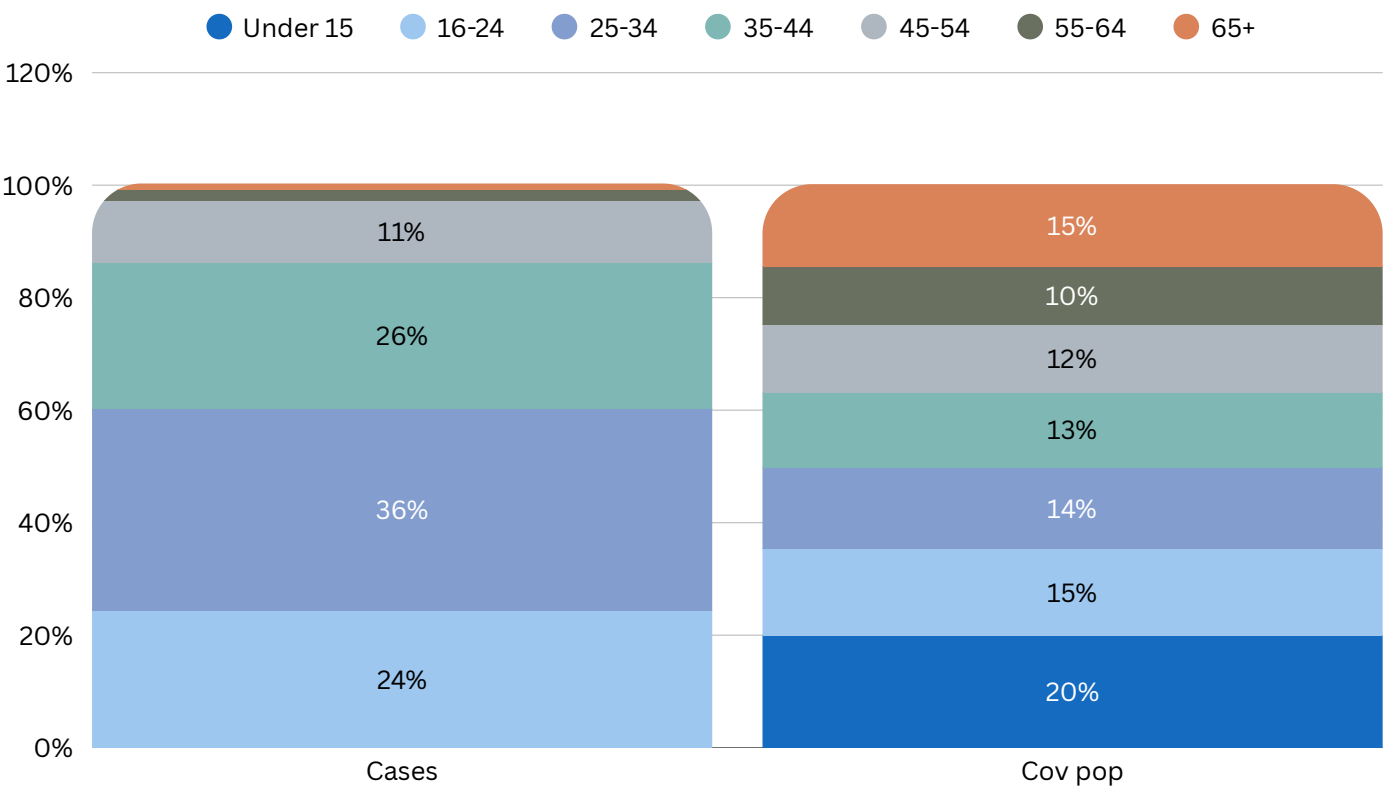


Source: Master demand sheet

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

96% were female





Types of abuse among cases

