



We're About People

San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC)  
Workshop & Discussion: Pathways to Homelessness Among  
Participants in SDHC-Administered Homelessness Services Programs  
Presentation to the SDHC Board of Commissioners  
March 13, 2026

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## Introduction

- The SDHC Board of Commissioners asked staff:
  - For data about the reasons why people at shelters and service programs are experiencing homelessness
- Data on causes of homelessness are not routinely collected in core databases with information on participants.
- SDHC staff developed and deployed a survey to participants in SDHC-administered homelessness services programs, with focus on:
  - Pathways to and causes of homelessness
  - Information on resources that participants felt could have prevented their homelessness



*Point-in-Time Count  
January 29, 2026*

## Design and Implementation

- SDHC collaborated with Pulse for Good and the Homelessness Hub, a research institute from the University of California San Diego’s (UCSD) Department of Urban Studies and Planning.
- The survey collected information on:
  - Pathways to and reasons for the respondent’s current experience of homelessness
  - Resources that could have prevented the respondent’s current experience of homelessness
  - Whether this was a respondent’s first experience of homelessness
  - Length of time experiencing homelessness and where a respondent was living when they became homeless
  - Demographic information



*Point-in-Time Count  
January 30, 2025*

## Design and Implementation (Continued)

- The survey was deployed at homelessness crisis response programs administered by SDHC, including:
  - 14 shelter programs
  - 4 site-based supportive service programs
  - 2 Storage Center Programs
  - The City of San Diego's Day Center
  - The Homelessness Response Center



*Rachel's Promise Center for Women and Children*

## Implementation: Flyer and Client Feedback



### Share Your Experience with Us

Your responses to this survey will provide important information about how people become homeless and the resources needed to prevent homelessness.

You'll need about five minutes to complete the survey.  
Please only complete the survey once.

- Complete it at this kiosk at the **Connections Housing Interim Shelter**.
- Scan this QR code using your phone camera.
- Type this link into your internet browser on a phone or computer: <https://p4g.to/J6ALMKYA>
- Call this number: **(925) 403-4510**
- Or, request a paper version of the survey from staff.



Please complete the survey only one time.

The San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) is conducting this survey.  
Thank you for participating.



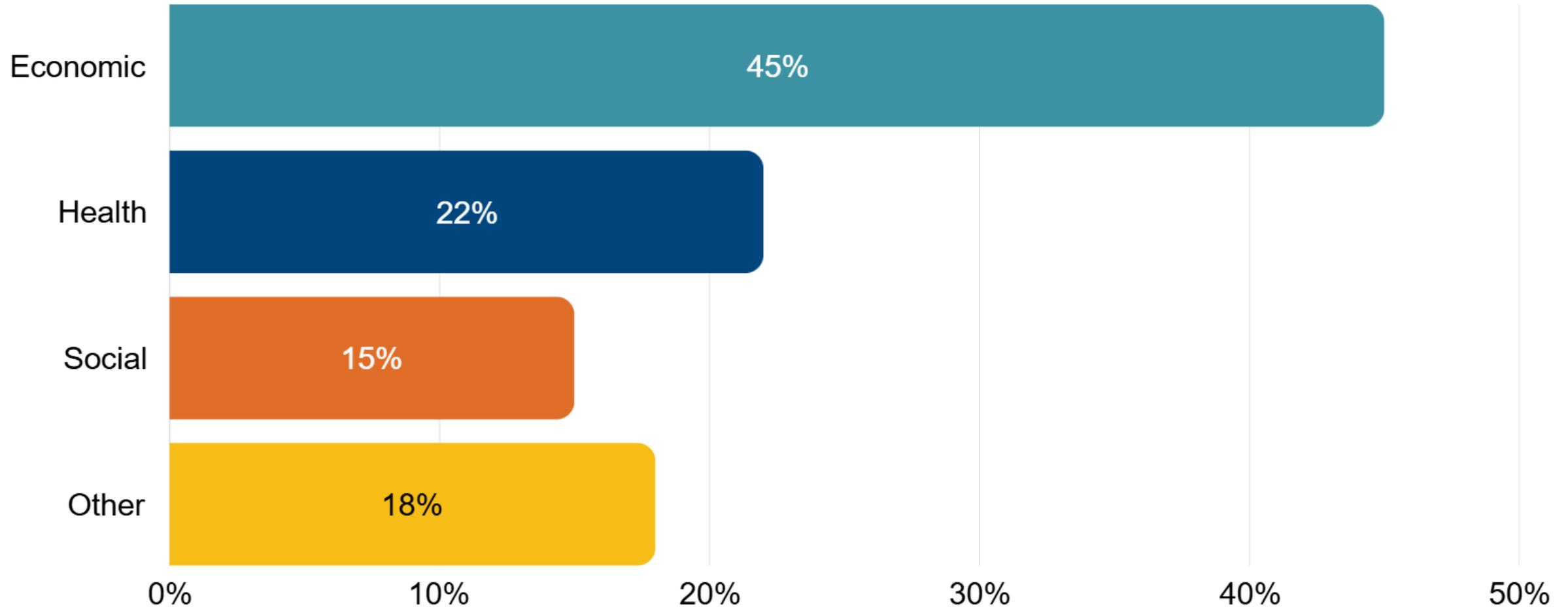


## Results

- 1,002 survey responses received
  - 711 total responses were included in an analysis of results.
  - 291 responses were excluded from the analysis due to an array of data validity issues.
- Survey Limitations:
  - Responses could not be deduplicated before analysis, though efforts were taken to avoid collecting duplicate responses.
  - Data was incomplete, with varying levels of detail for each question.
  - The data set may not be representative of the entire population served by SDHC homelessness programs.
  - Survey format was not conducive to collecting robust data on nuanced topic of reasons that people leave housing and experience homelessness.

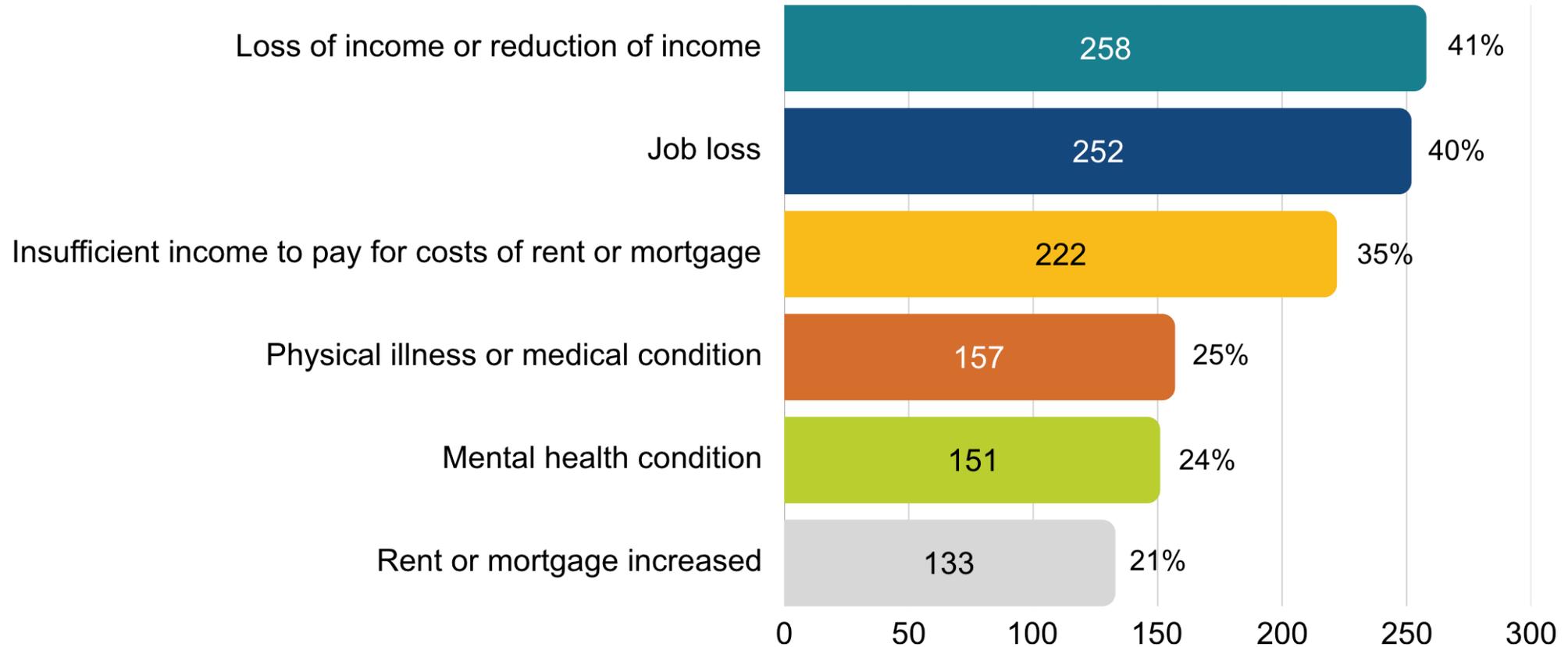


## Results: Primary Reason for Current Experience of Homelessness



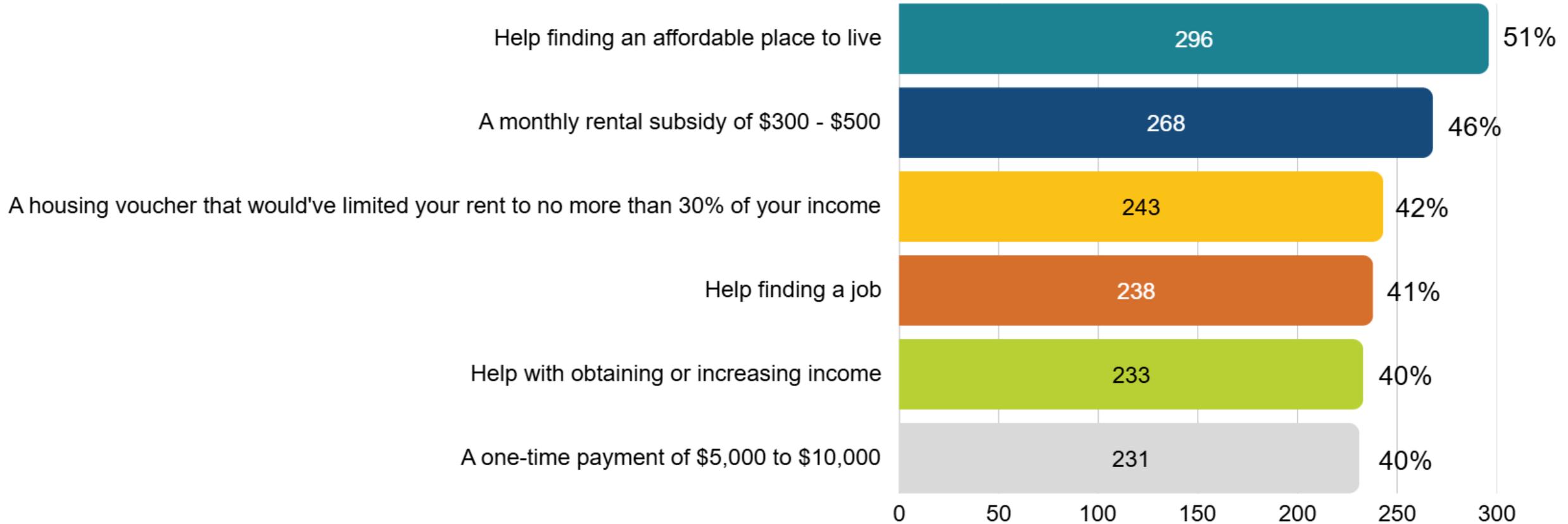


## Results: All Reasons that contributed to Current Experience of Homelessness Top 5 Reasons





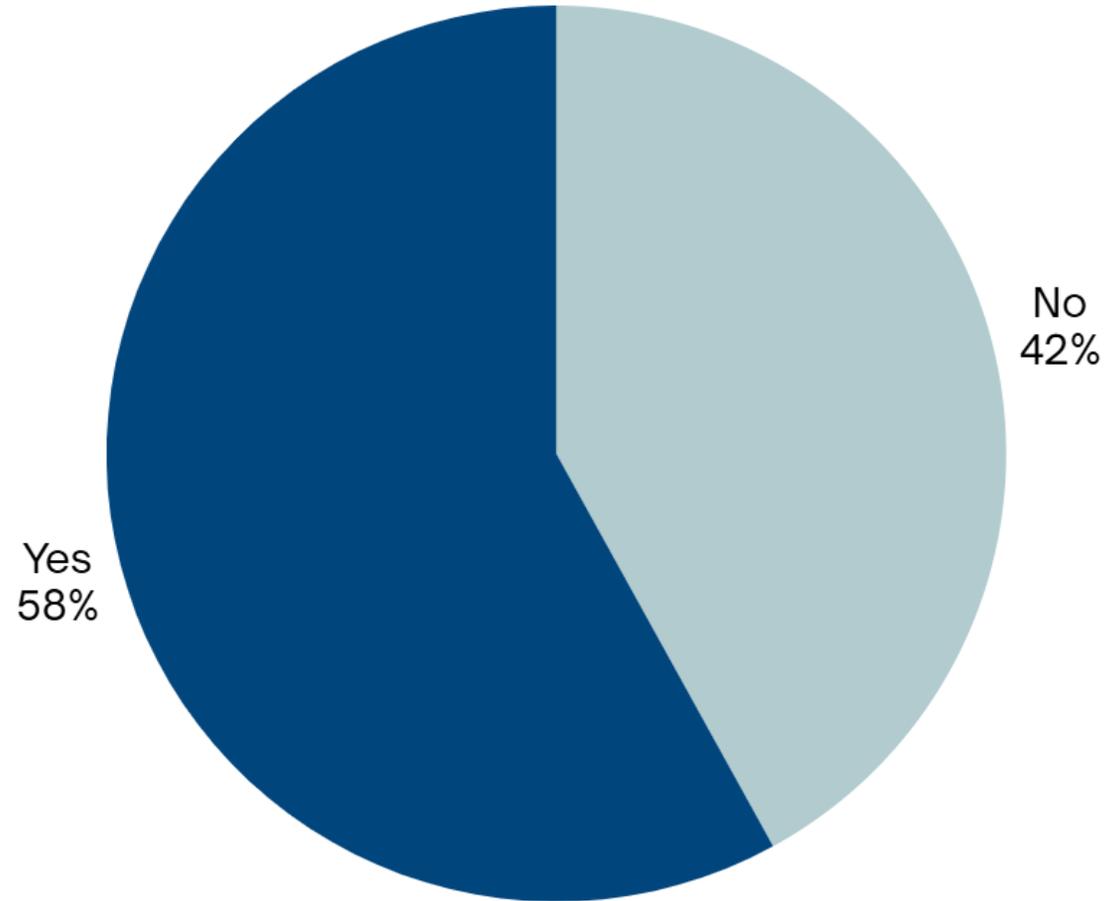
## Results: What would have helped prevent homelessness?



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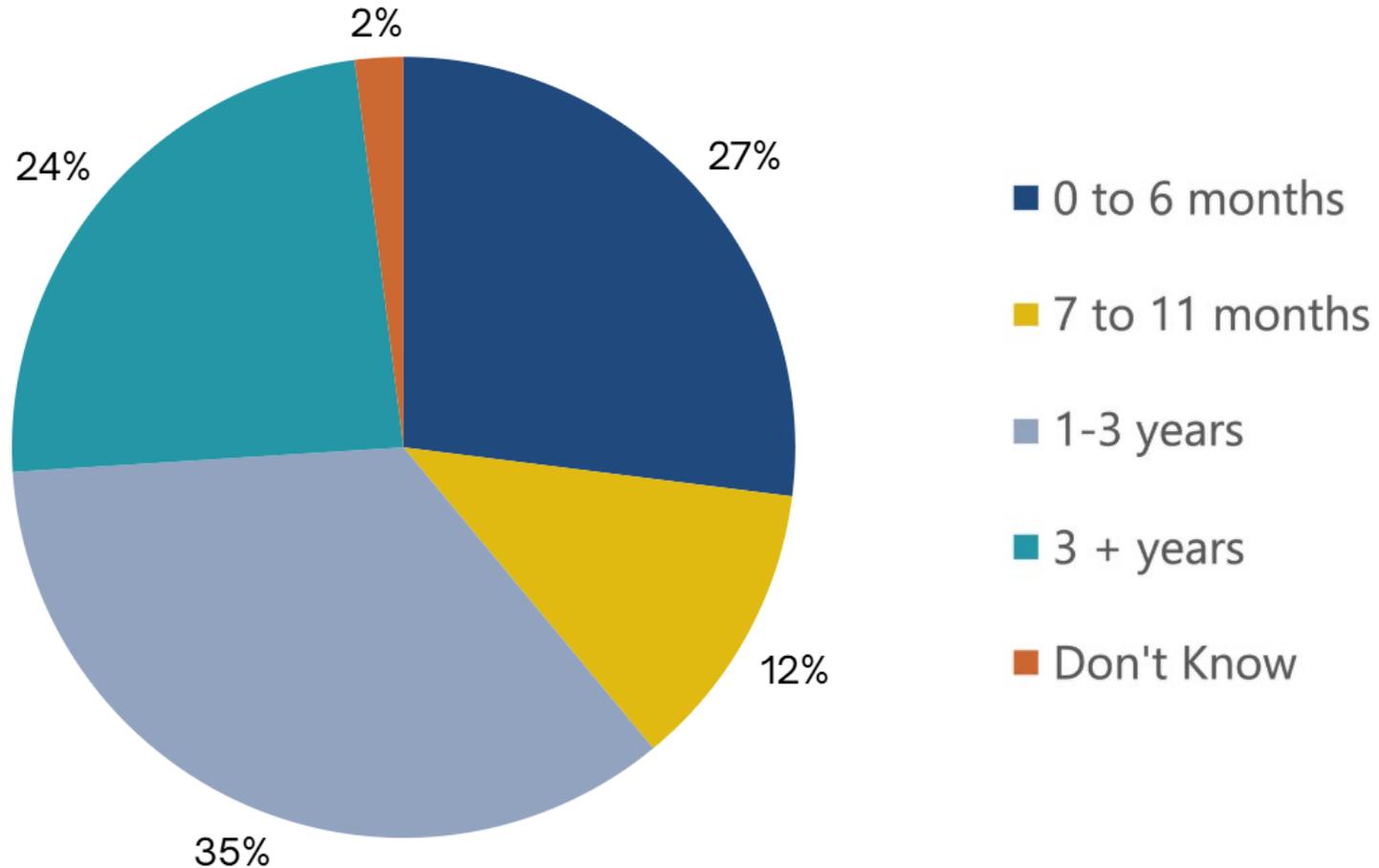
## Results: Is this the first time you've experienced homelessness?



*711 of 711 respondents answered (100% completion rate).*



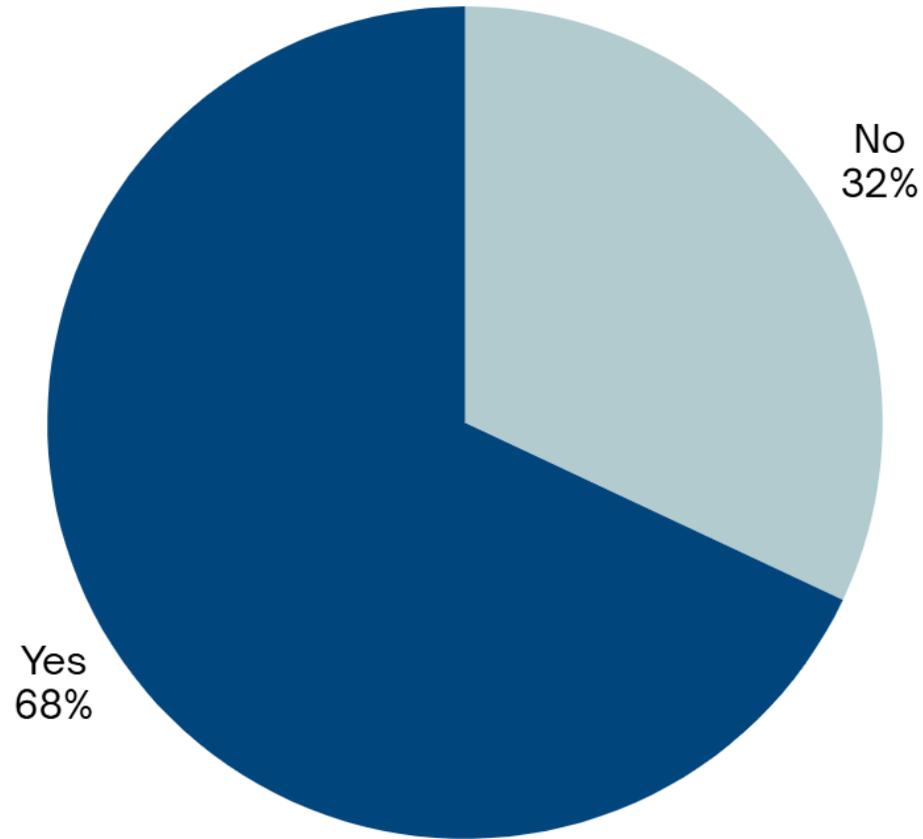
## Results: How long have you been homeless this time?



693 of 711 respondents answered (97% completion rate).

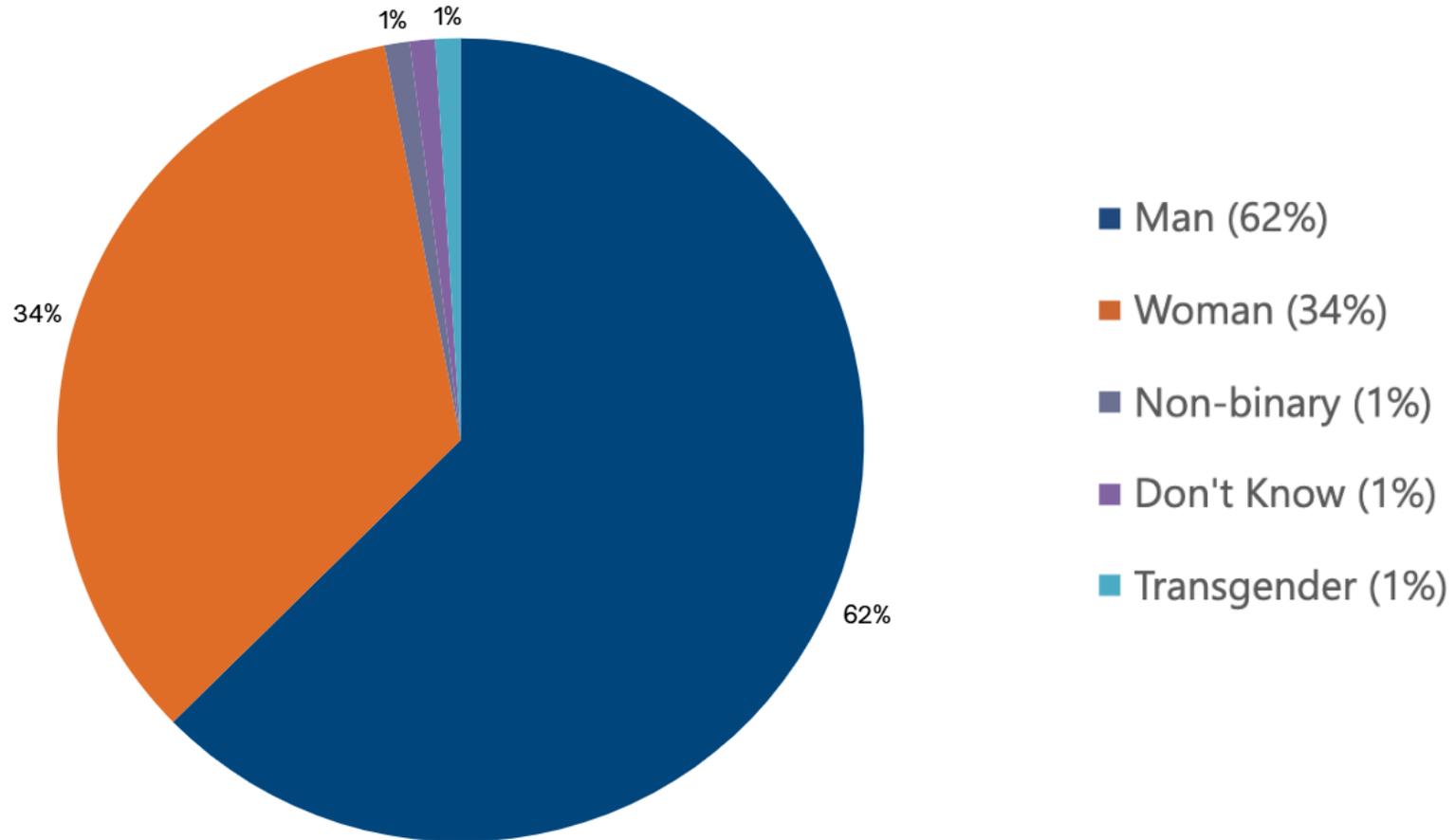


## Results: Were you living in the City of San Diego when you first experienced homelessness?



*685 of 711 respondents answered (96% completion rate).*

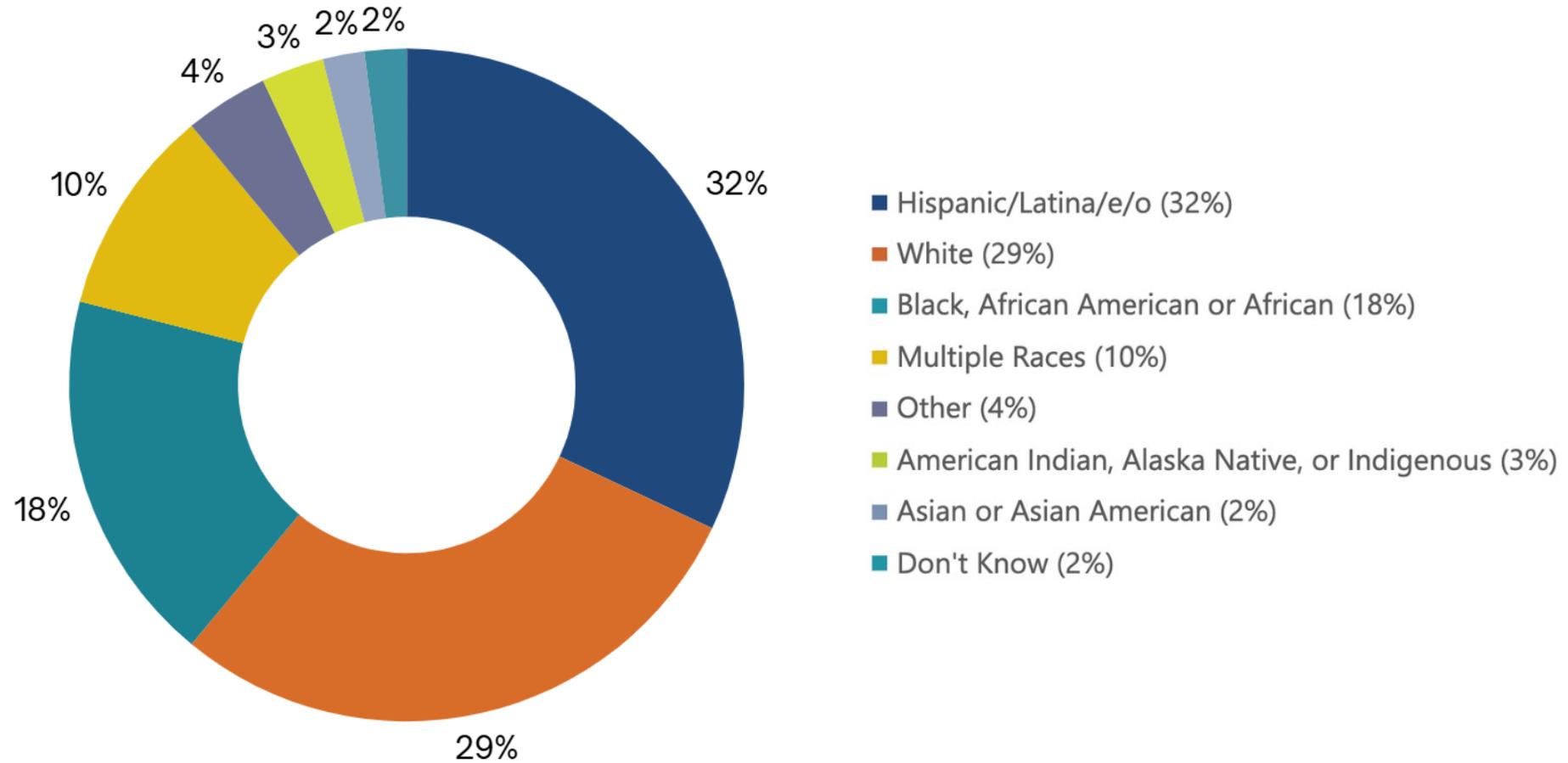
## Results: What gender do you most identify with?



*The following responses were each less than 1%: Questioning, Culturally Specific Identity, and Different Identity.*



## Results: What is your race?



*Less than 1% responded "Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander."*



## Considerations

- Increase and stabilize affordable housing options
- Increase investment in prevention and shallow subsidy resources.
- Consider strategies that reduce the length of time households experience homelessness.
- Increase coordination and access to employment and benefits support.
- Provide services that meet individuals' unique needs.



# Questions & Comments

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