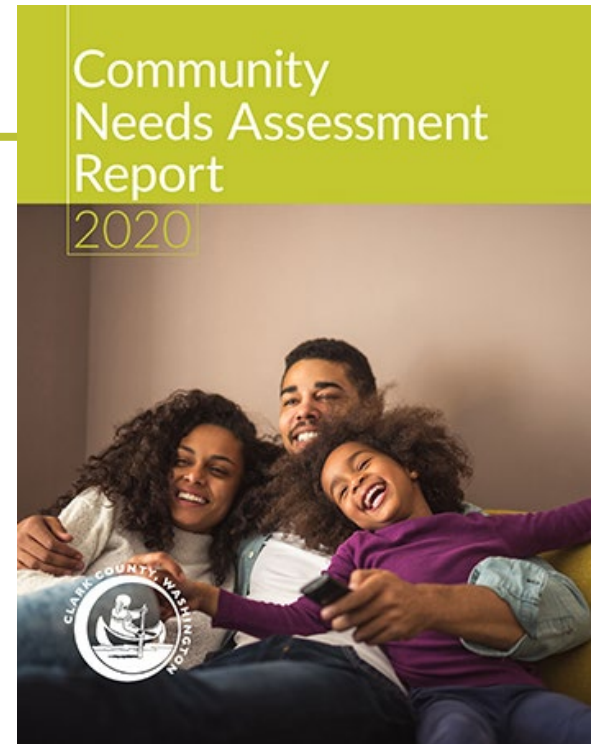# Clark County 2020 Community Needs Assessment

Rebecca Royce, Program Coordinator

September 7, 2022

Importance of the Community Needs Assessment

- Hear about needs and gaps in services directly from people in need

- Understand the causes and conditions surrounding poverty in our community

- Requirement of Community Services Block Grant funding

Partnerships

- Community Needs Assessment Task Force
  - Community Action Advisory Board Members: Karyn Kameroff, Melanie Green and David Poland
  - Community advocates: Esra Khalil (Community Foundation for Southwest Washington) and Laura Ellsworth (Council for the Homeless)
  - Community partner: David Hudson (Clark County Public Health)
- Survey of Needs Data Review
  - Rachel Williams with Applied Research NW
- Draft Assessment
  - Jackie St. Louis
- Over 100 partner agencies, community groups and coalitions
  - Distributed surveys (pages 49-51)
  - Outreach about community forums

Process Overview

- Multi-step process to complete the assessment

    - Survey of Needs

    - Consultant Review

    - Community Feedback

    - Other Report Review

    - CNA Adoption
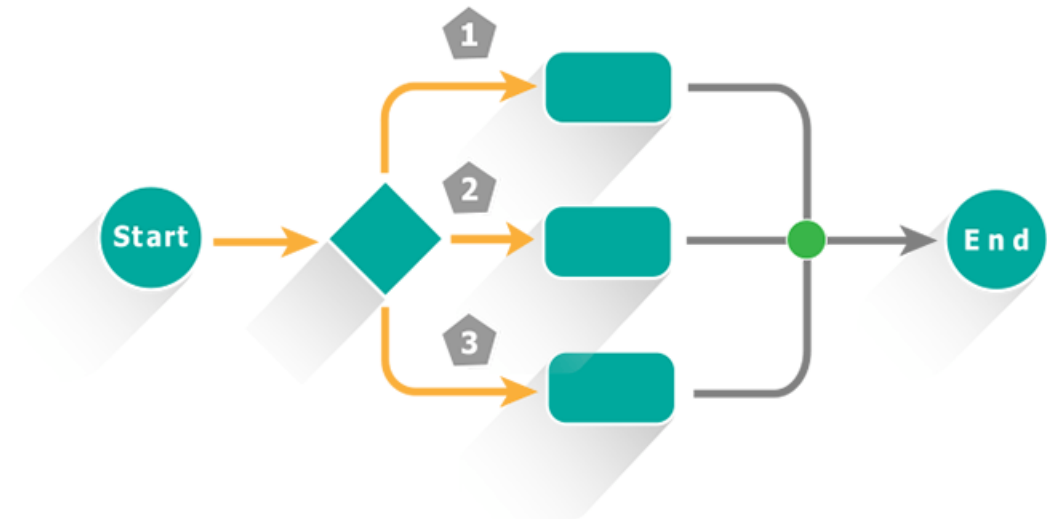
Survey of Needs Results

Housing Category
(765 responses)

- Top 3 identified needs
  - Affordable housing
  - Rent assistance
  - Finding housing I can rent

- Top 3 barriers identified
  - Don't know where to go
  - Do not qualify
  - Getting to services

Did you know?
There is no state or county where a renter working full-time at minimum wage can afford a two-bedroom apartment.

Physical Health Category
(698 responses)

- Top 3 identified needs
  - Seeing a dentist
  - Paying for dental services
  - Paying for health services: co-pays, etc

- Top 3 barriers identified
  - Don't know where to go
 - Do not qualify
  - Getting to services

Did you know?
Vulnerable populations are particularly at risk for insufficient health insurance coverage; people with lower incomes are often uninsured, and minorities account for over half of the uninsured population.

Behavioral Health Category

(479 responses)

- Top 3 identified needs
  - Access to mental health services
  - Access to counseling: marriage, family, life
  - Paying for services: co-pays, etc

- Top 3 barriers identified
  - Don't know where to go
  - Getting to services
  - Do not qualify
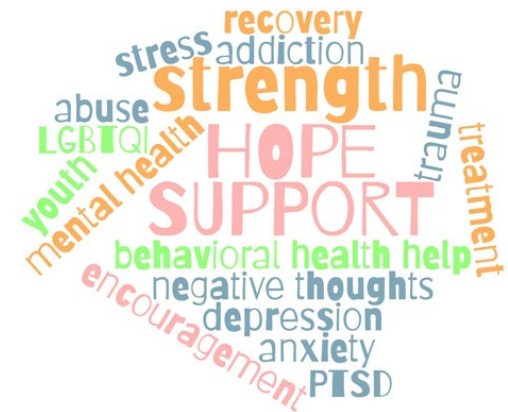
Did you know?
In Clark County, 40% of people counted in the 2020 Point-in-Time Count reported having a mental illness, but only 11% indicated it was a barrier to becoming permanently housed.

Employment Category
(705 responses)

- Top 3 identified needs
  - Finding a job
  - Getting a better job
  - Transportation to/from employment

- Top 3 barriers identified
  - Don't know where to go
  - Getting to services
  - Do not qualify

Did you know?
In Clark County, the highest median wage workers are software developers at $66.44 while the lowest median wage workers earn $13.43 at fast food establishments, a difference of $53 per hour.

Income & Asset Building Category
(660 responses)

- Top 3 identified needs
  - Credit repair
  - Financial planning/budgeting classes
  - Financial assistance to buy a home

- Top 3 barriers identified
  - Don't know where to go
  - Do not qualify
  - Getting to services

Did you know?

Rent prices have skyrocketed over the last few years making the cost of renting the same or more than a mortgage payment.

Education Category
(565 responses)

- Top 3 identified needs
  - Financial assistance to go to college
  - Post-secondary education supports
  - Applying for financial aid/scholarships

- Top 3 barriers identified
  - Don't know where to go
  - Do not qualify
  - Getting to services

Did you know?

An estimated 2/3 of students who are unable to read with proficiency by the end of 4th grade are likely to end up on welfare or in jail.

Support Services Category
(632 responses)

- Top 3 identified needs
  - Paying for vehicle costs (maintenance, insurance, etc)
  - Paying for transportation (bus, gas)
  - Information and referral services

- Top 3 barriers identified
  - Don't know where to go
  - Getting to services
  - Do not qualify

Did you know?
A person who is homeless is no more likely to be a criminal than a person who is housed, with one legal exception: camping ordinances. People who are homeless break that law merely by being unhoused. The reality is that most spend their time and resources trying to survive and improve their situation.

Causes & Conditions of Poverty

- Addressed in each category of the assessment
  - Lack of sufficient affordable housing
  - Housing discrimination
  - Poverty and poor health conditions are frequently correlated
  - Conventional beliefs about physical health and behavioral health being separate are inaccurate
  - Clark County's unemployment rate has been slightly higher than the national average historically
  - Clark County economic data reveals disparities in wages by age, gender, education and race
  - Being unbanked/underbanked
  - Disability and poverty have a bidirectional relationship, which means that disability is a cause but also a consequence of poverty
  - Cost of higher education
  - Public transportation is insufficient, especially in rural areas
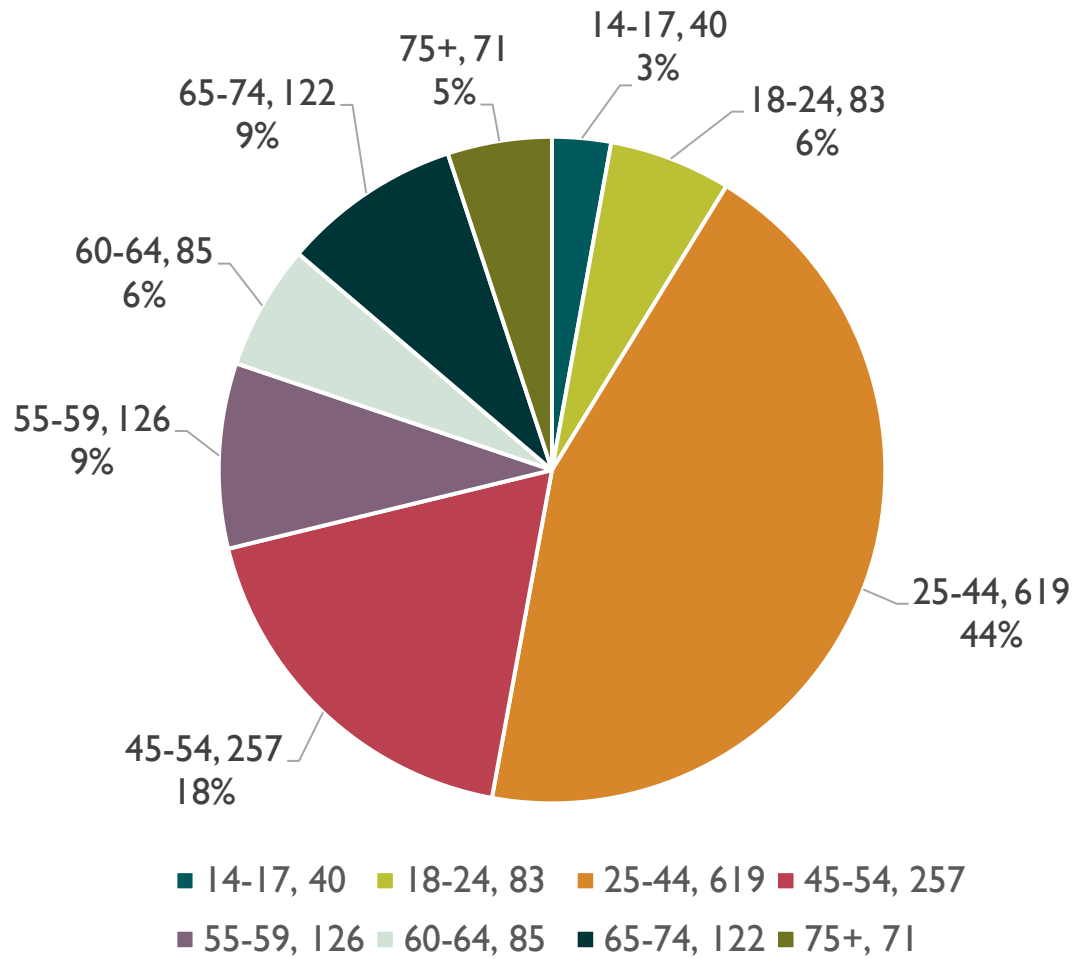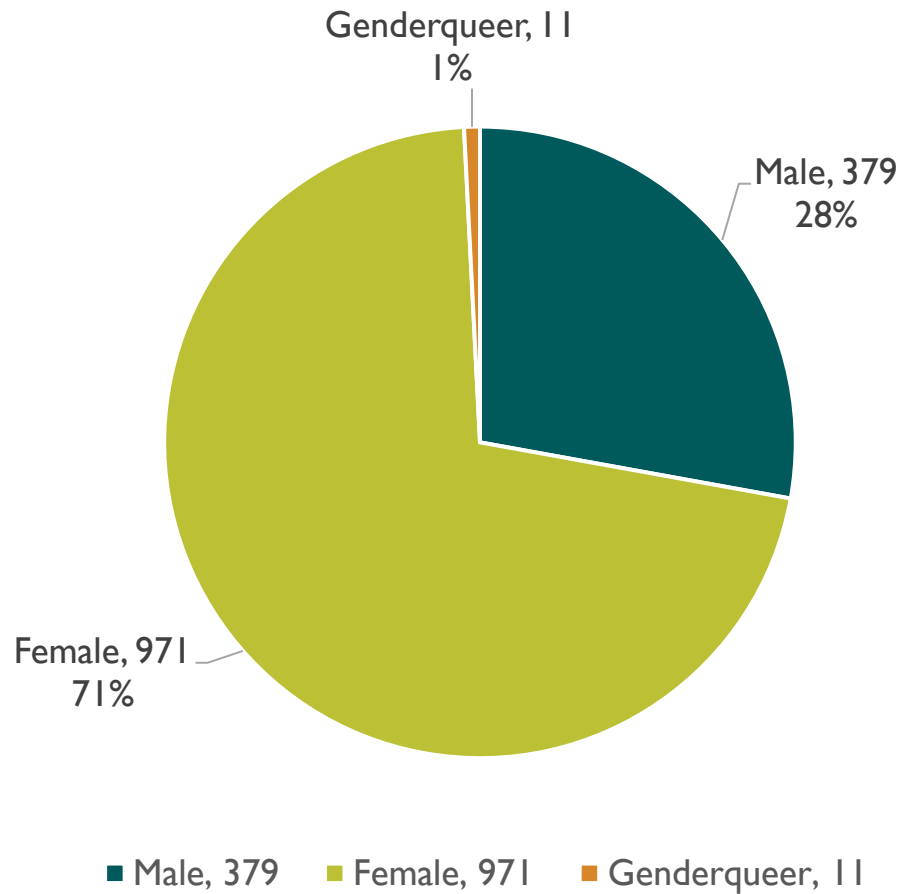
Survey of Needs Demographics

Age
(1,403 responses)

Pie chart showing age distribution:
- 14-17, 40 — 3%
- 18-24, 83 — 6%
- 25-44, 619 — 44%
- 45-54, 257 — 18%
- 55-59, 126 — 9%
- 60-64, 85 — 6%
- 65-74, 122 — 9%
- 75+, 71 — 5%

What gender do you identify with?
(1,361 responses)

Genderqueer, 11
1%

Male, 379
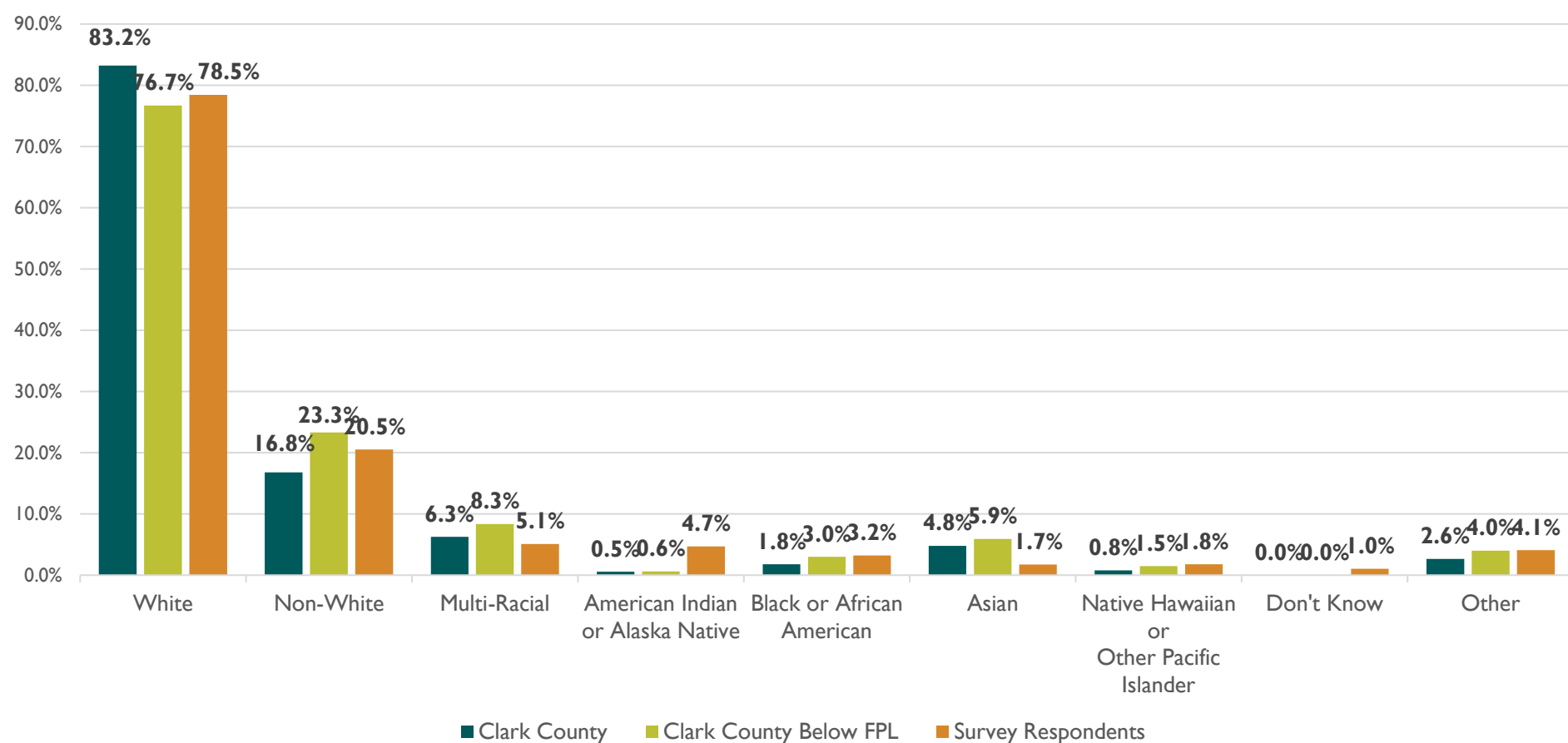28%

Female, 971
71%

■ Male, 379   ■ Female, 971   ■ Genderqueer, 11
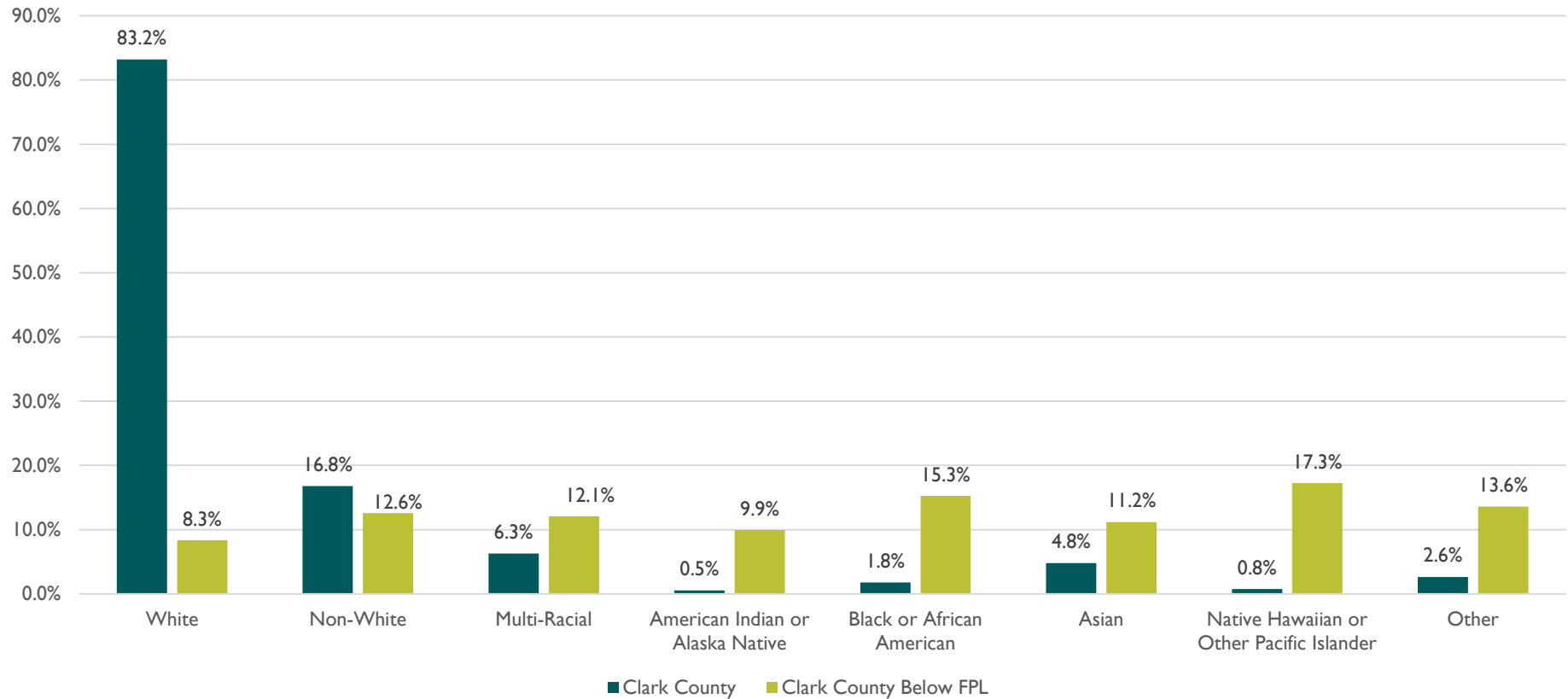
What is your race?
(1,346 responses)

Source: American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, 2016-2020
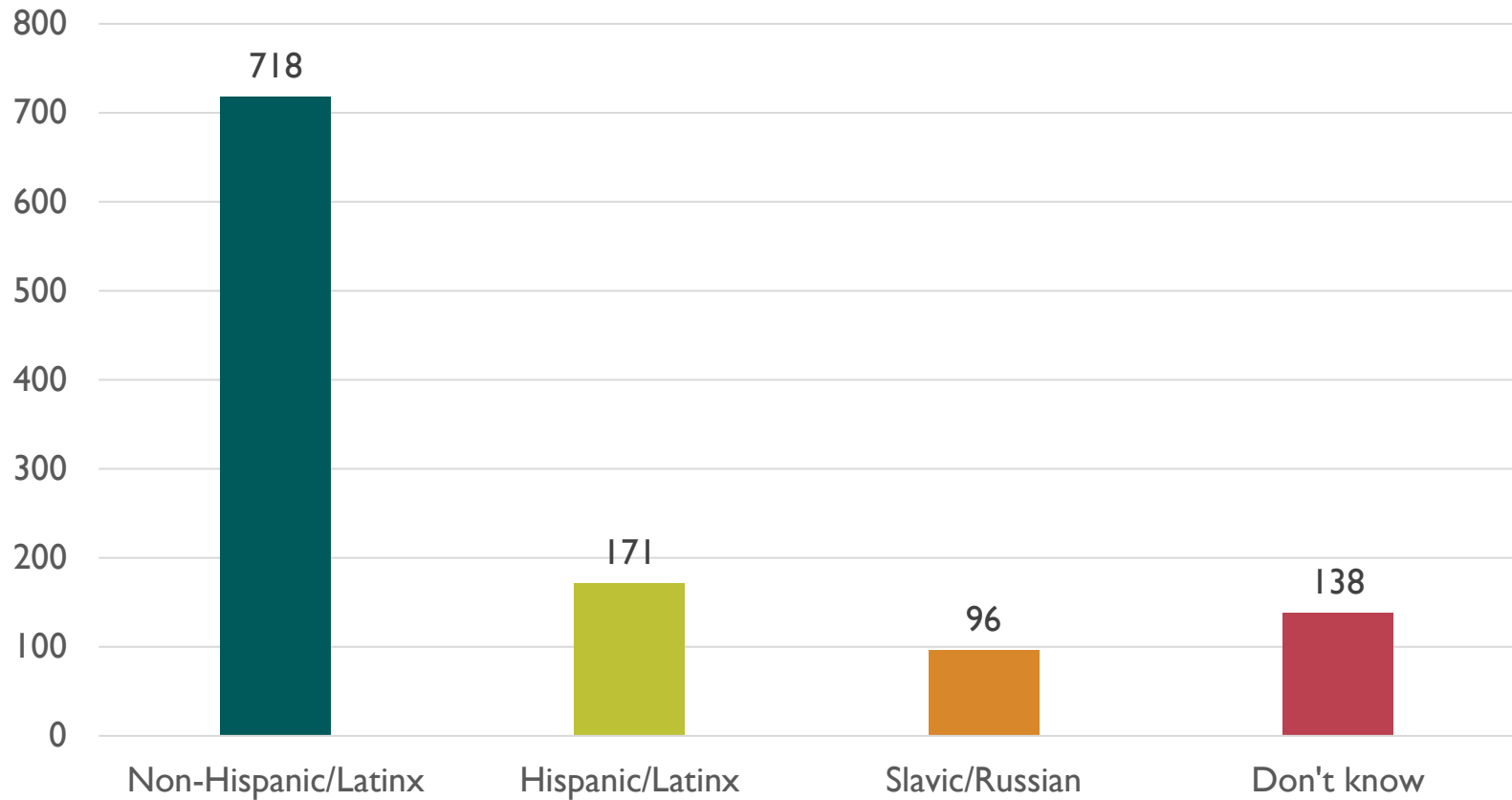
Percent of Poverty by Race in Clark County

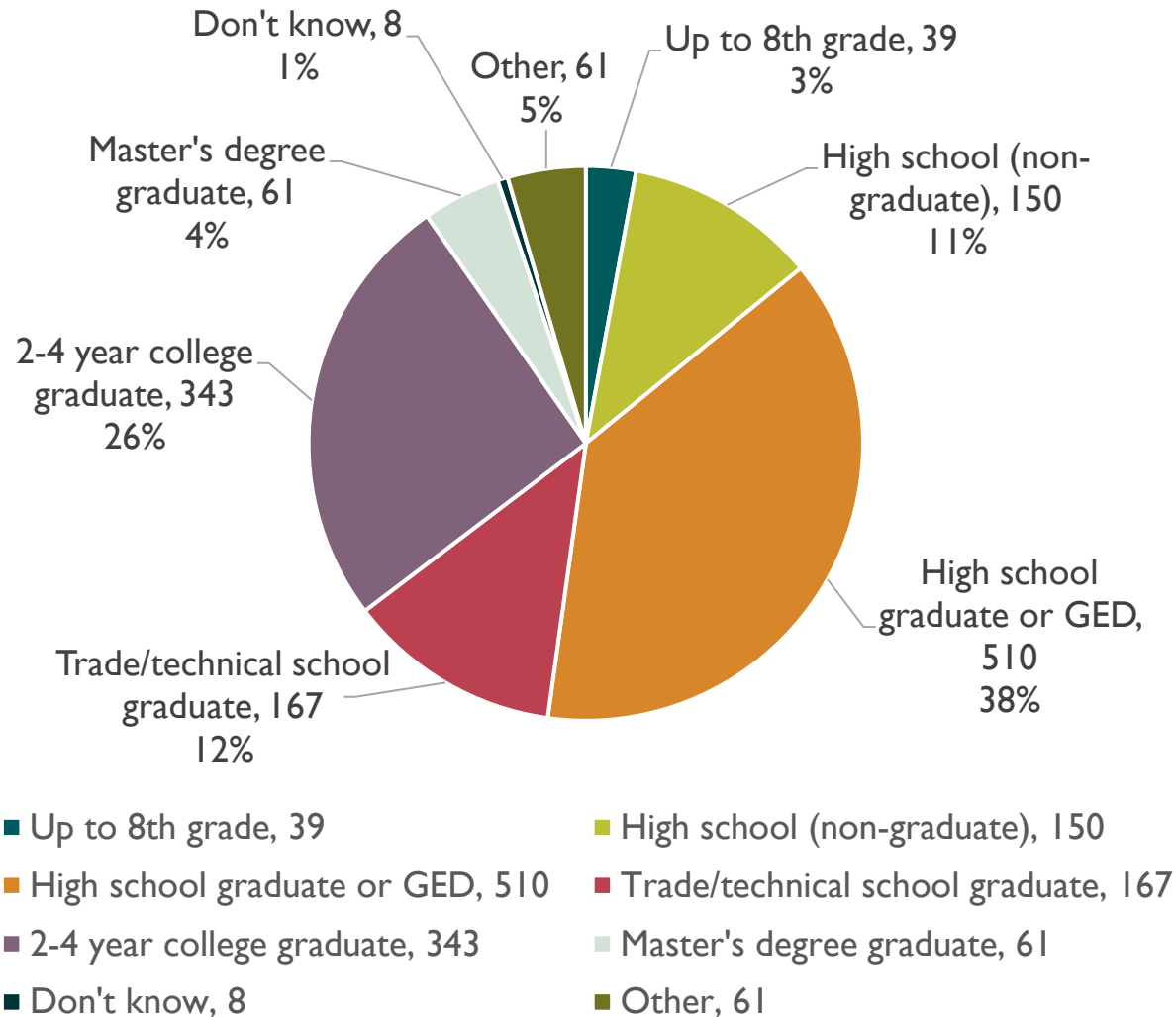Source: American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, 2016-2020

26

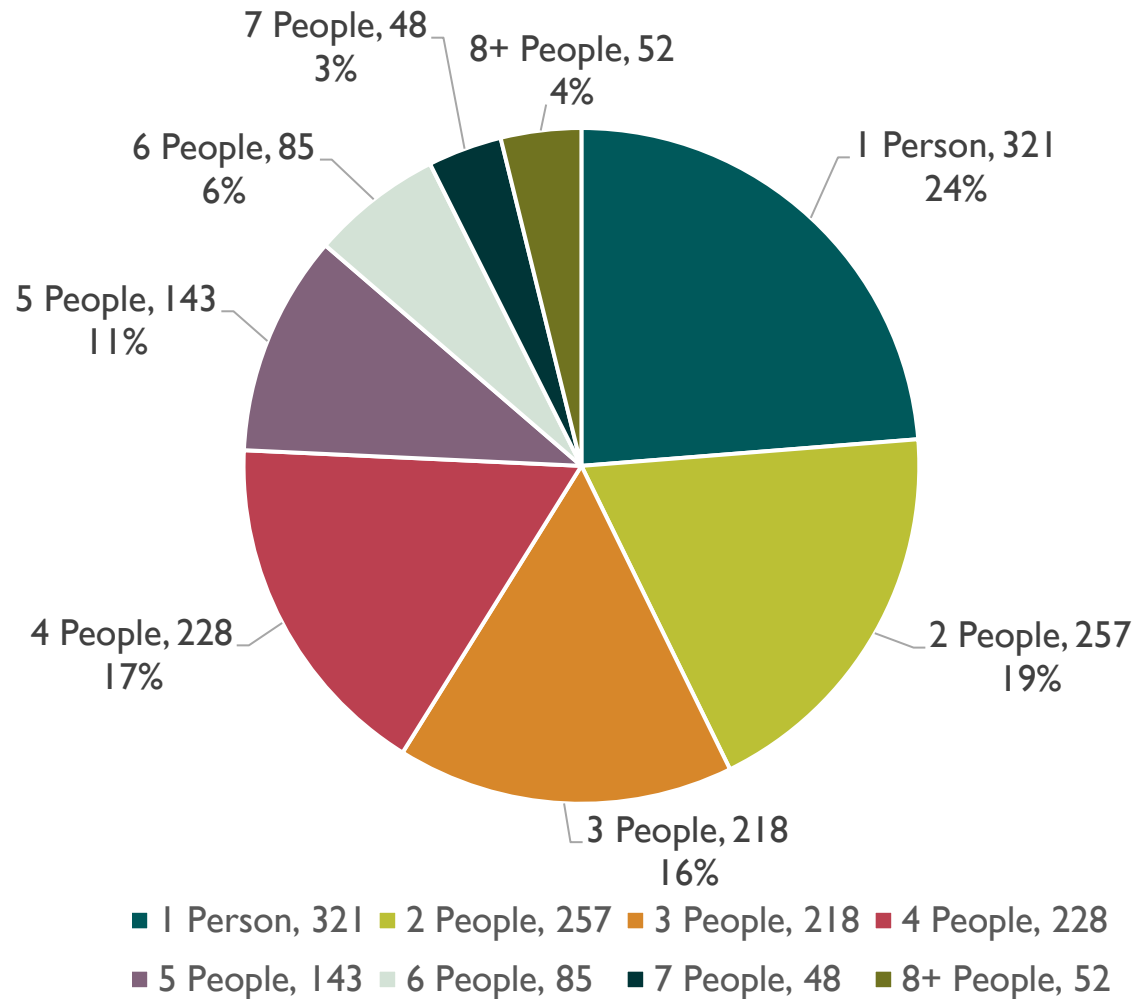# What is your ethnicity?
(1,123 responses)

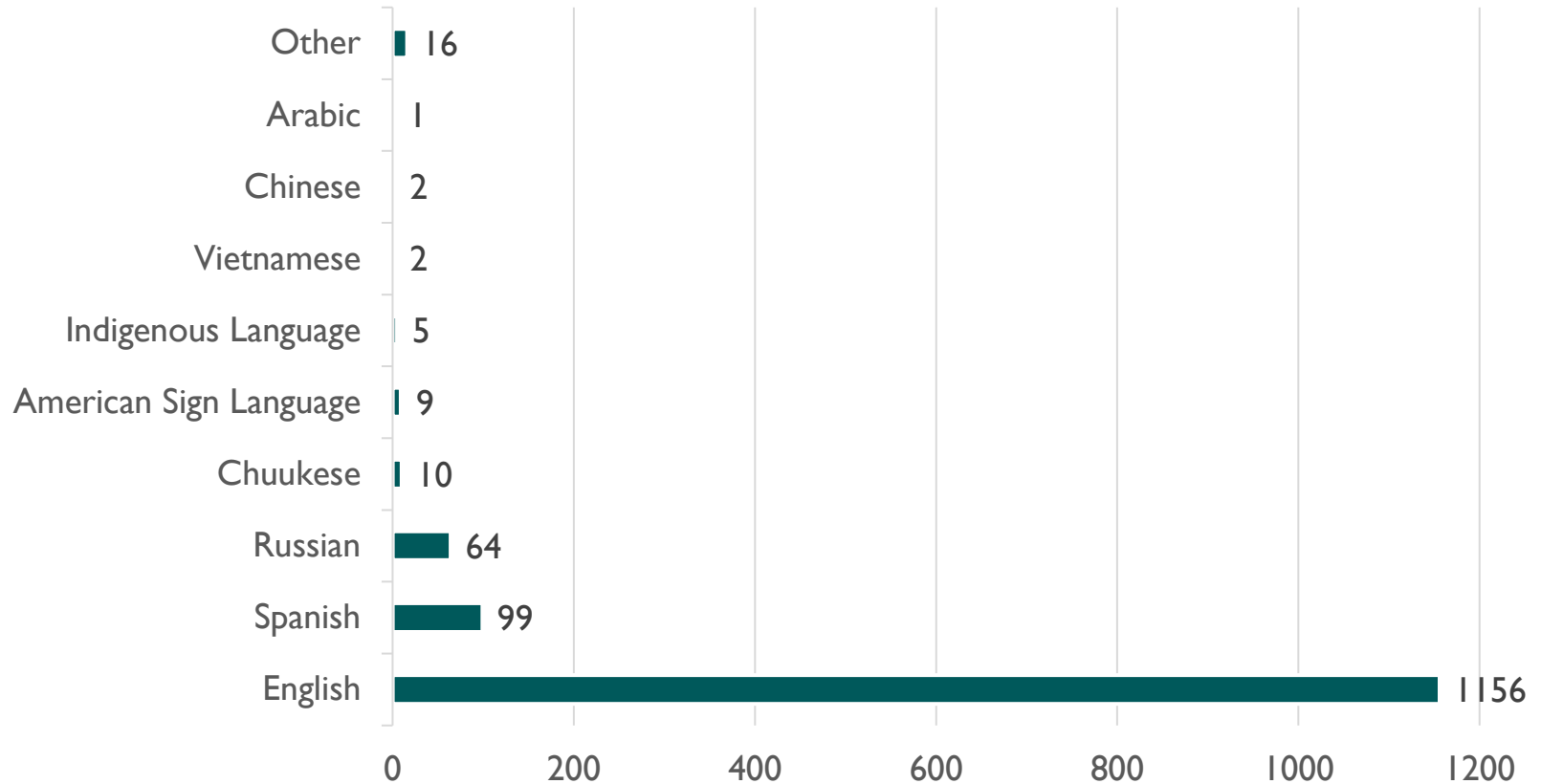# What is the highest level of education you have achieved? (1,339 responses)

Pie chart data:

- Up to 8th grade, 39 — 3%
- High school (non-graduate), 150 — 11%
- High school graduate or GED, 510 — 38%
- Trade/technical school graduate, 167 — 12%
- 2-4 year college graduate, 343 — 26%
- Master's degree graduate, 61 — 4%
- Don't know, 8 — 1%
- Other, 61 — 5%

Legend:
- Up to 8th grade, 39
- High school (non-graduate), 150
- High school graduate or GED, 510
- Trade/technical school graduate, 167
- 2-4 year college graduate, 343
- Master's degree graduate, 61
- Don't know, 8
- Other, 61

What is the size of your family?
(1,352 responses)

7 People, 48
3%

8+ People, 52
4%

6 People, 85
6%

1 Person, 321
24%

5 People, 143
11%

4 People, 228
17%

2 People, 257
19%

3 People, 218
16%

■ 1 Person, 321 ■ 2 People, 257 ■ 3 People, 218 ■ 4 People, 228
■ 5 People, 143 ■ 6 People, 85 ■ 7 People, 48 ■ 8+ People, 52

What is the primary language used in your home? (1,364 responses)

Language	Count
Other	16
Arabic	1
Chinese	2
Vietnamese	2
Indigenous Language	5
American Sign Language	9
Chuukese	10
Russian	64
Spanish	99
English	1156

How many children under age 18 live in your household? (752 responses)

Legend:
- 1 Youth, 251
- 2 Youth, 241
- 3 Youth, 143
- 4 Youth, 65
- 5 Youth, 25
- 6 Youth, 11
- 7 Youth 5
- 8+ Youth, 11

Pie chart data:
- 1 Youth, 251 — 33%
- 2 Youth, 241 — 32%
- 3 Youth, 143 — 19%
- 4 Youth, 65 — 9%
- 5 Youth, 25 — 3%
- 6 Youth, 11 — 2%
- 7 Youth 5 — 1%
- 8+ Youth, 11 — 1%
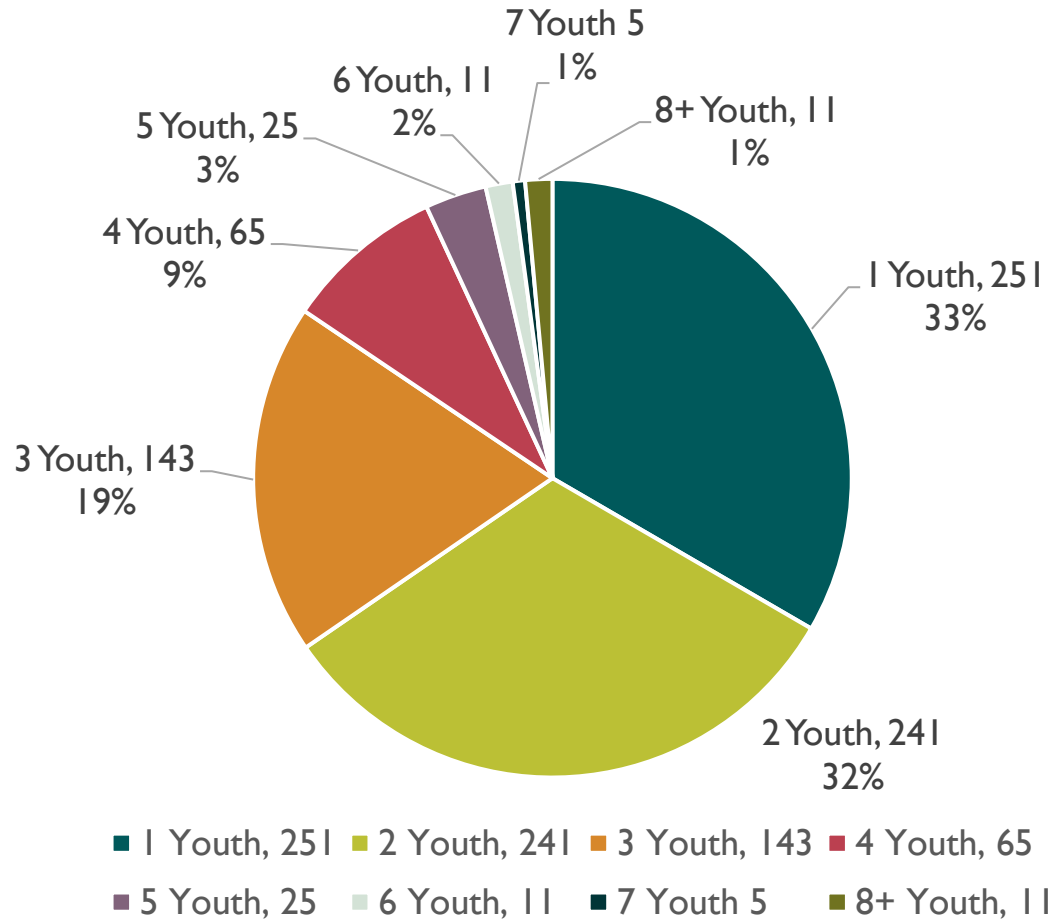
How many seniors age 65 and over live in your household? (294 responses)

3 Seniors, 5
2%

2 Seniors, 94
32%

1 Senior, 195
66%
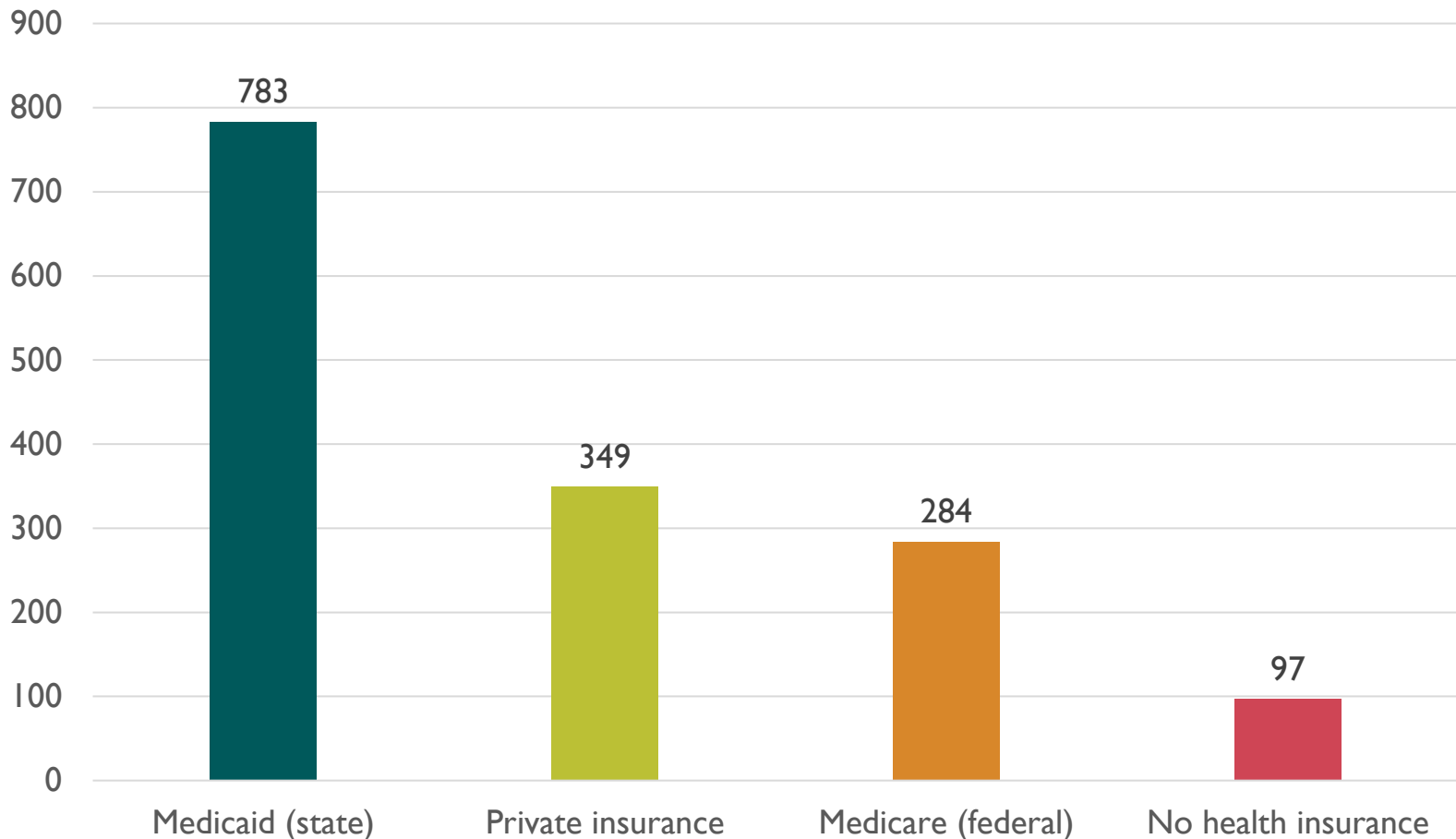
Legend: ■ 1 Senior, 195   ■ 2 Seniors, 94   ■ 3 Seniors, 5
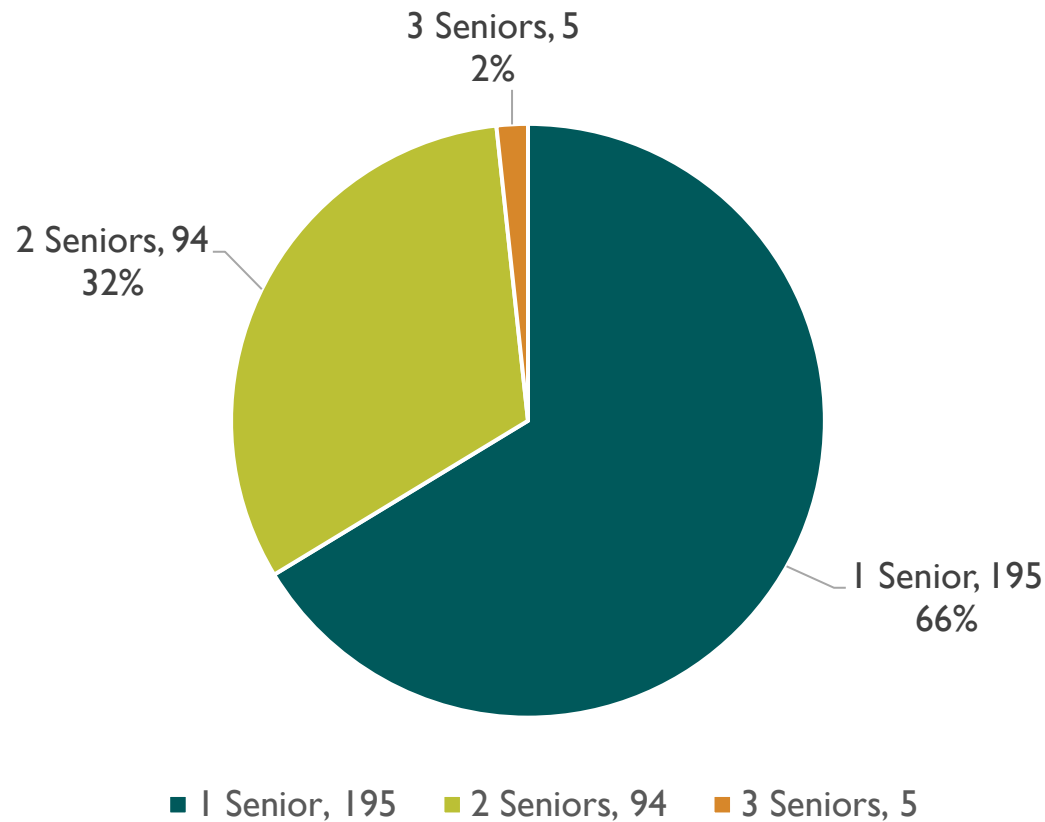
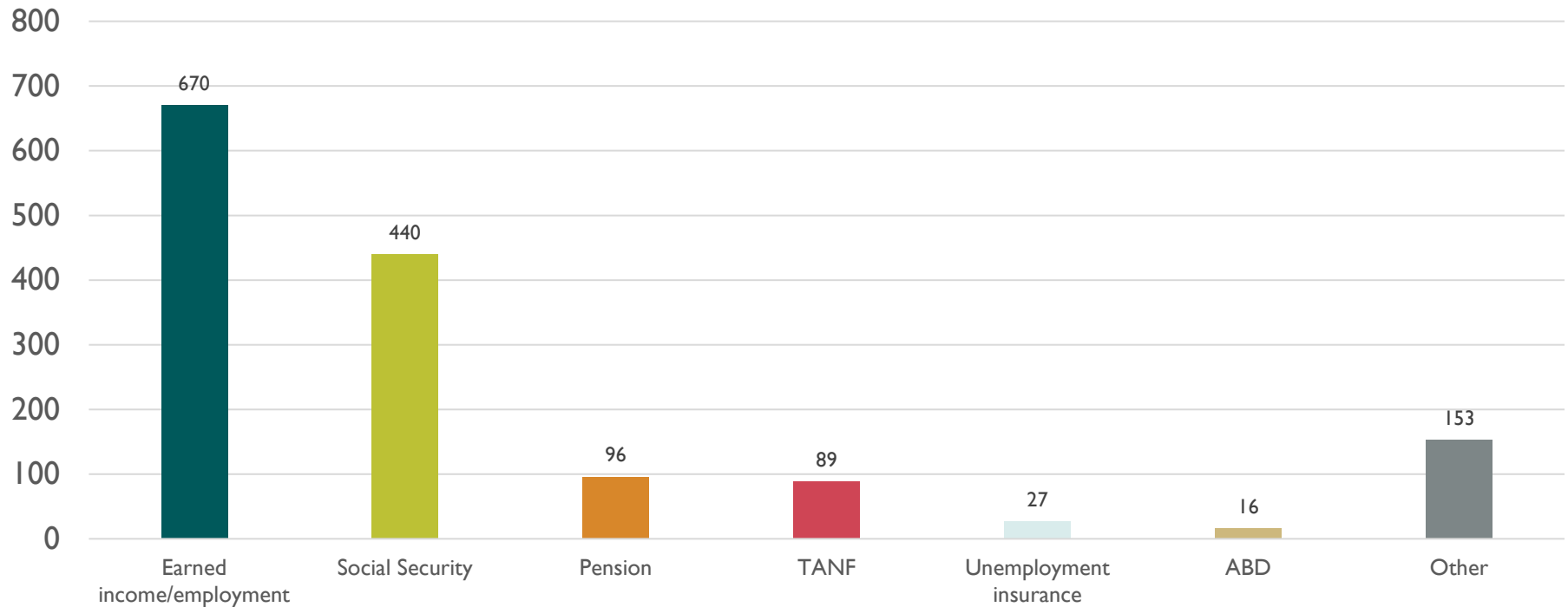# What type of health insurance does your family have?
(1,513 responses)

These numbers are duplicated; a person may have more than one type of health insurance

What is the source of your family's income?
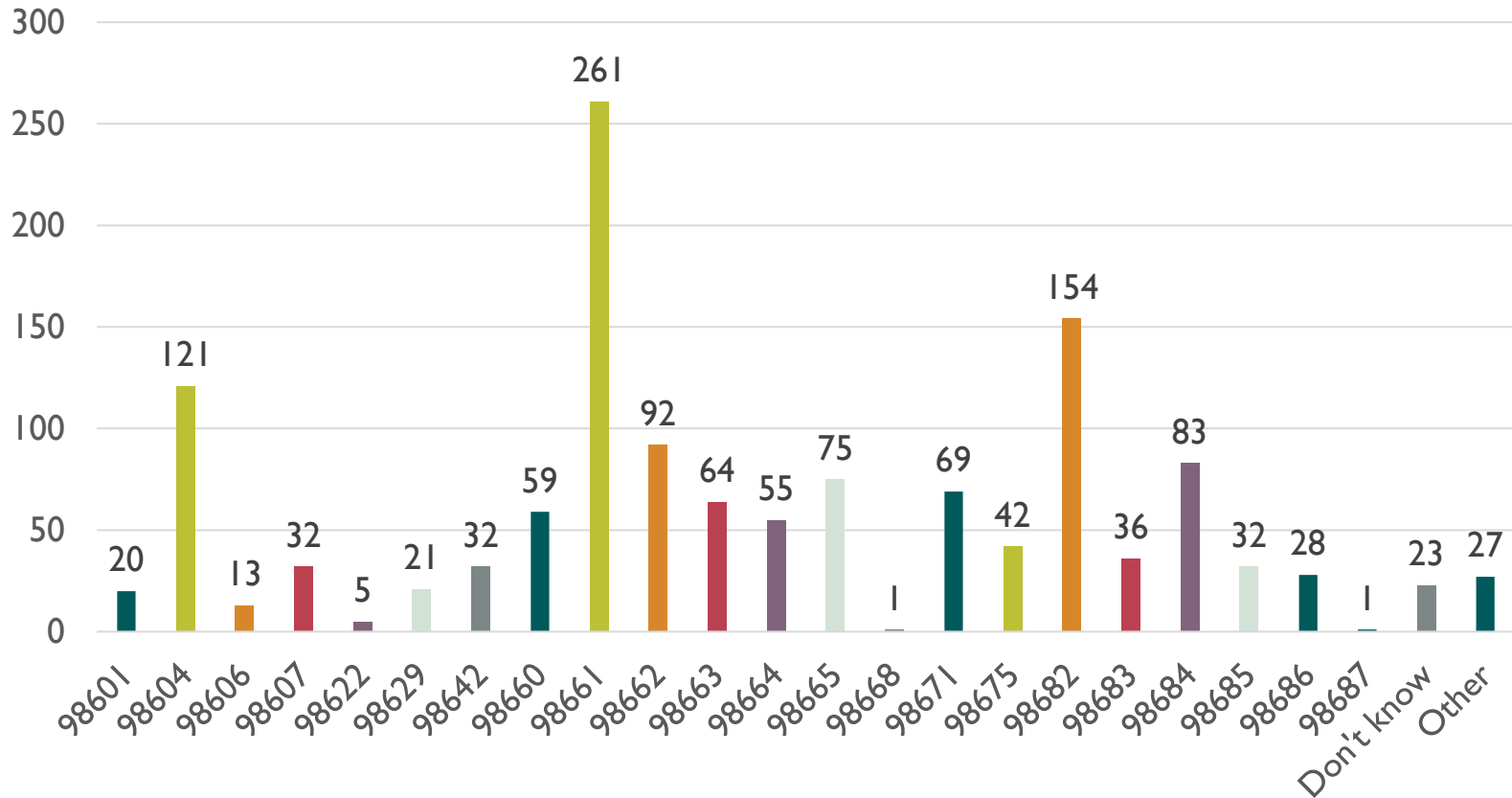(1,235 responses)

These numbers are duplicated; a person may have more than one type of income source

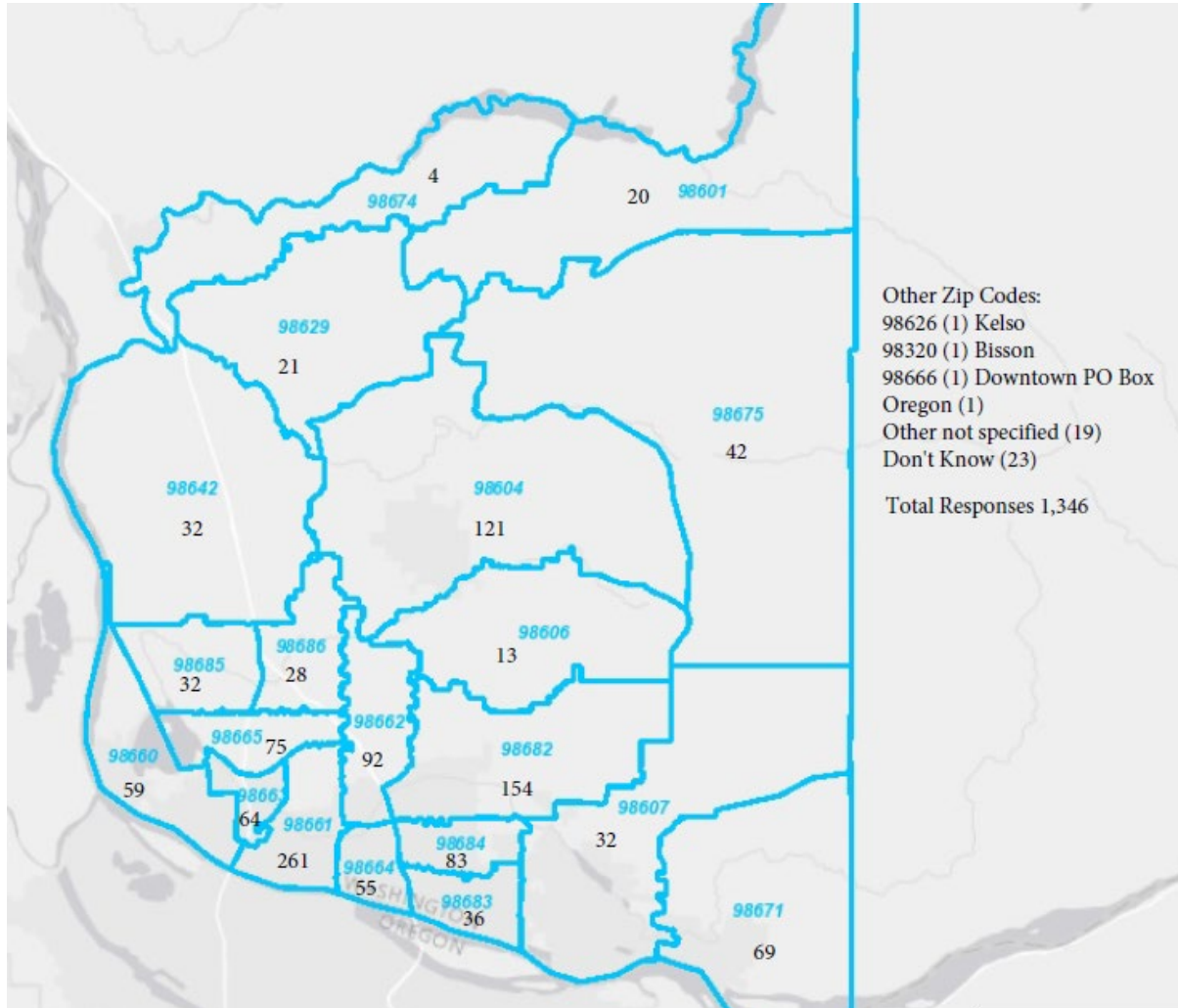# What is your current or last known zip code?
(1,346 responses)

Other: Woodland (4), Kelso (1), Brinnon (1), WA PO Box (1), Oregon (1), Left Blank (19)
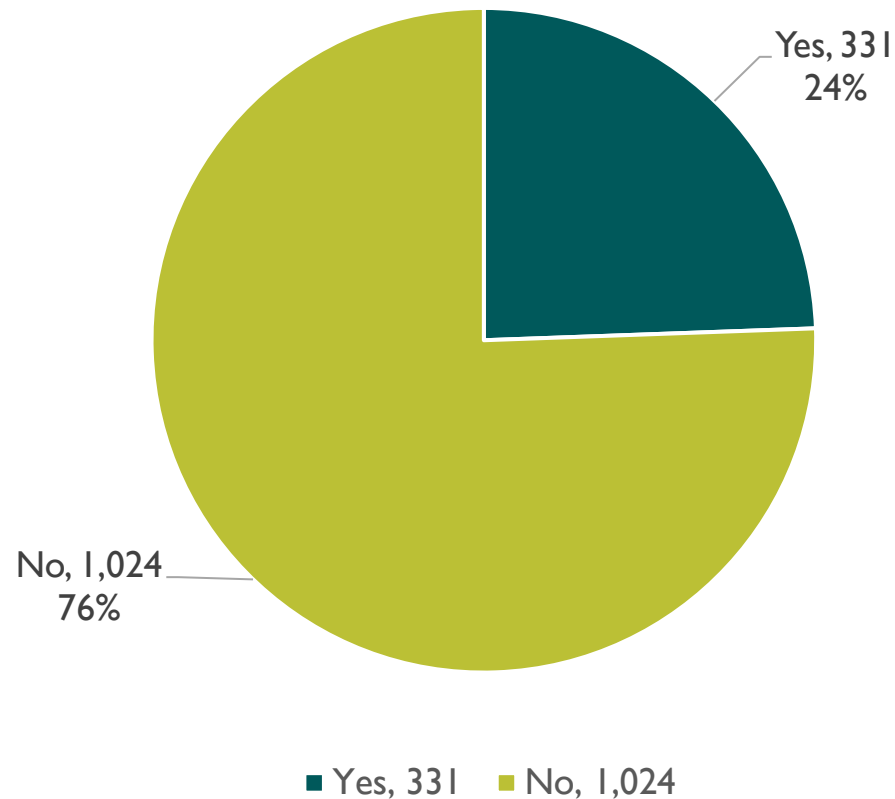
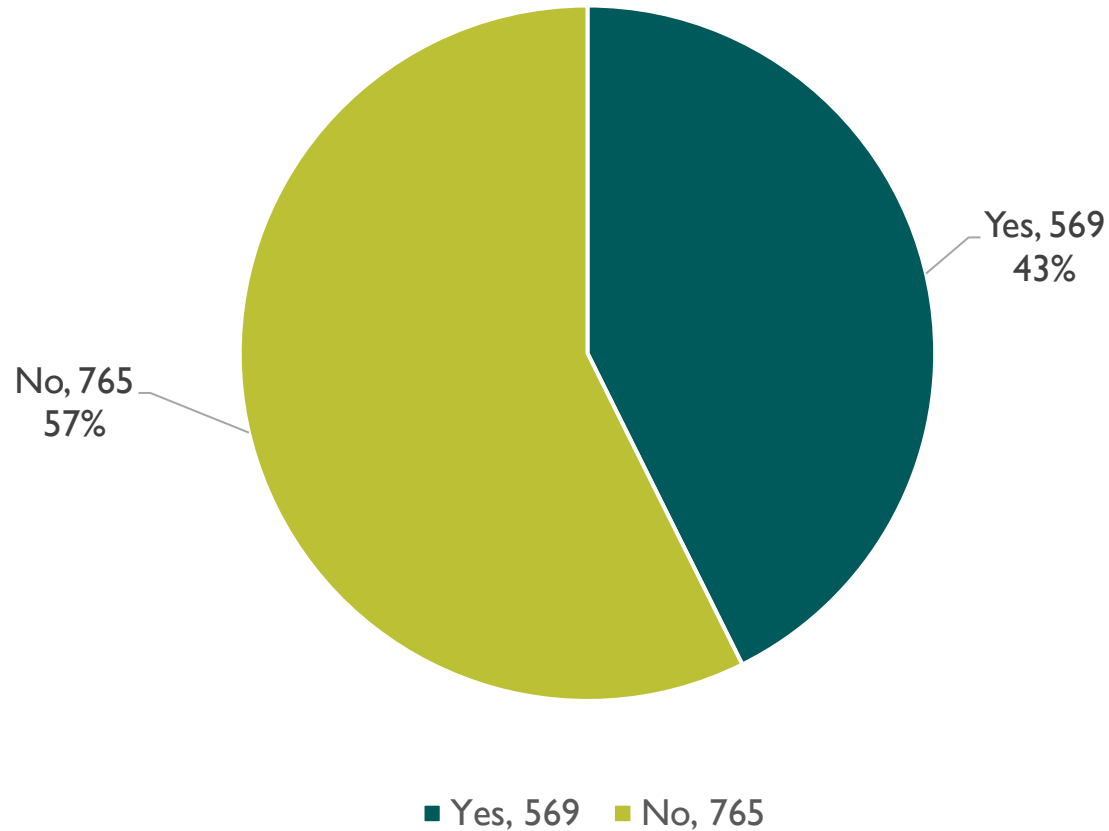# What is your current or last known zip code?
(1,346 responses)

Zip Code	Count
98674	4
98601	20
98629	21
98675	42
98642	32
98604	121
98606	13
98685	32
98686	28
98660	59
98665	75
98662	92
98682	154
98667	64
98661	261
98664	55
98684	83
98607	32
98683	36
98671	69

Other Zip Codes:
98626 (1) Kelso
98320 (1) Bisson
98666 (1) Downtown PO Box
Oregon (1)
Other not specified (19)
Don't Know (23)

Total Responses 1,346

Has anyone in your family served in the armed forces? (1,355 responses)

Yes, 331
24%

No, 1,024
76%

- Yes, 331 - No, 1,024

Does anyone in your family have a disability/special need? (1,334 responses)

Yes, 569
43%

No, 765
57%

■ Yes, 569   ■ No, 765

What is your current housing situation?
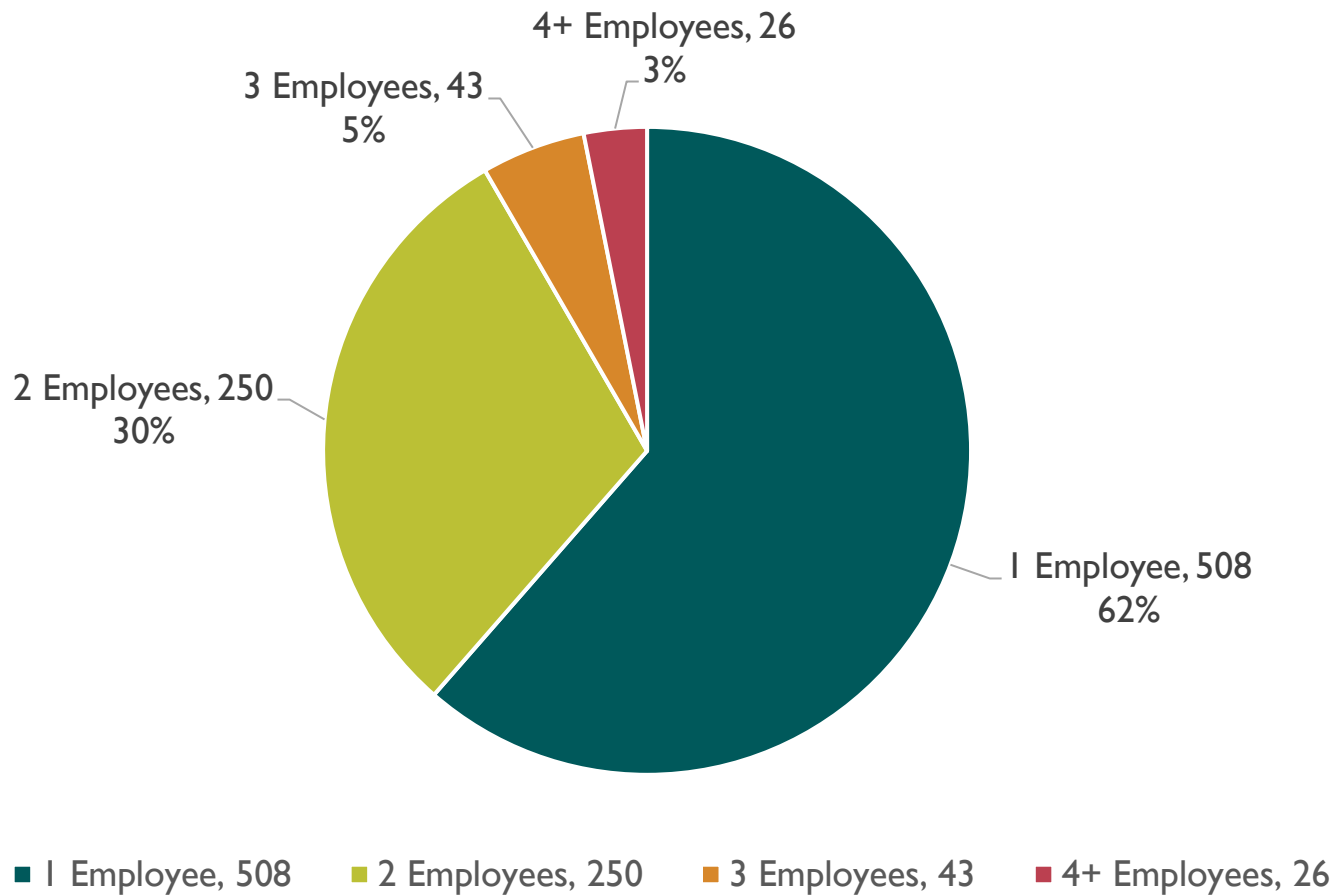(1,352 responses)
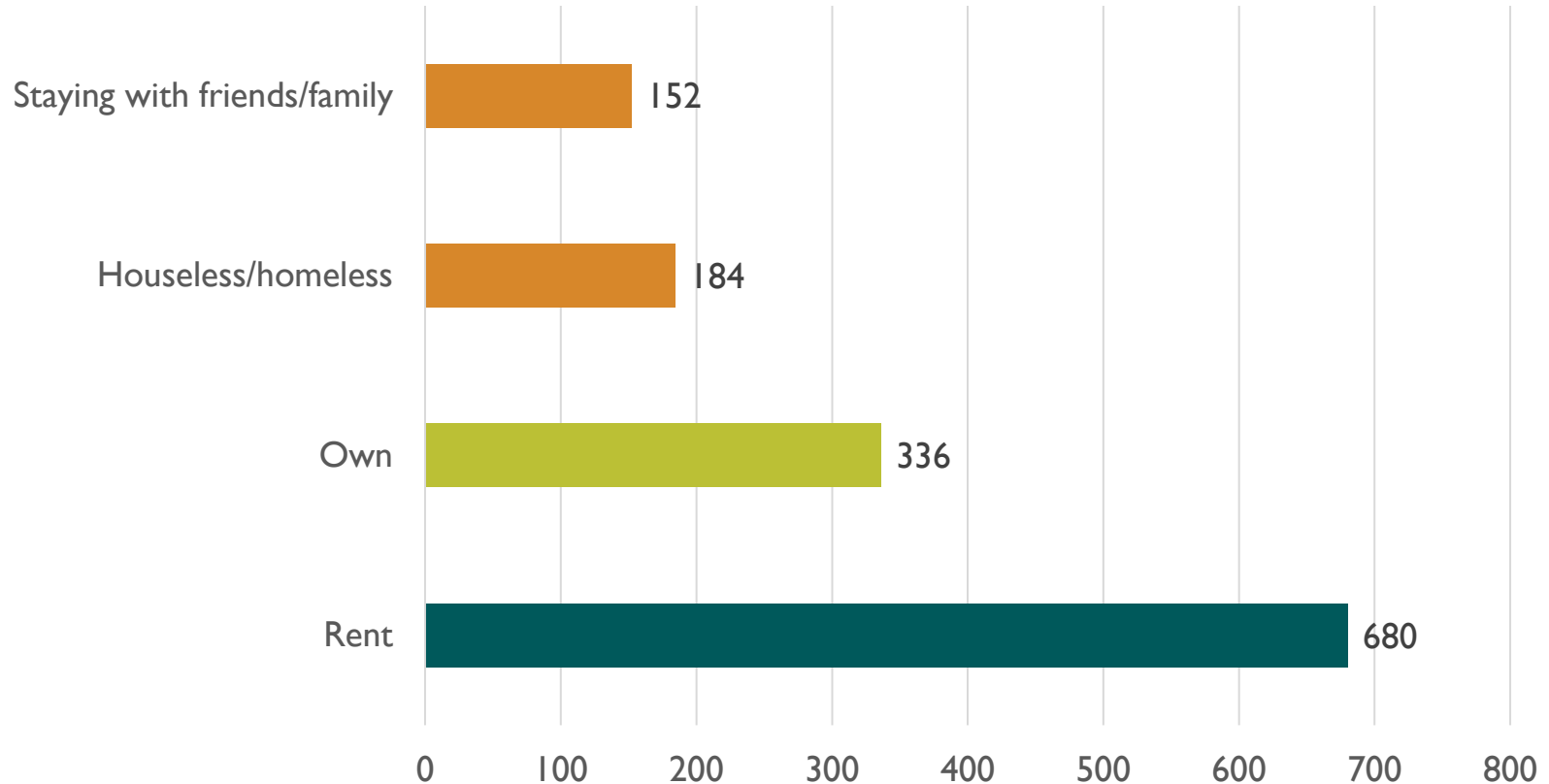
Staying with friends/family and Houseless/homeless are colored the same because some programs consider both homeless. However, HUD, the primary funding of rental assistance programs, considers staying with friends/family at risk of homelessness.
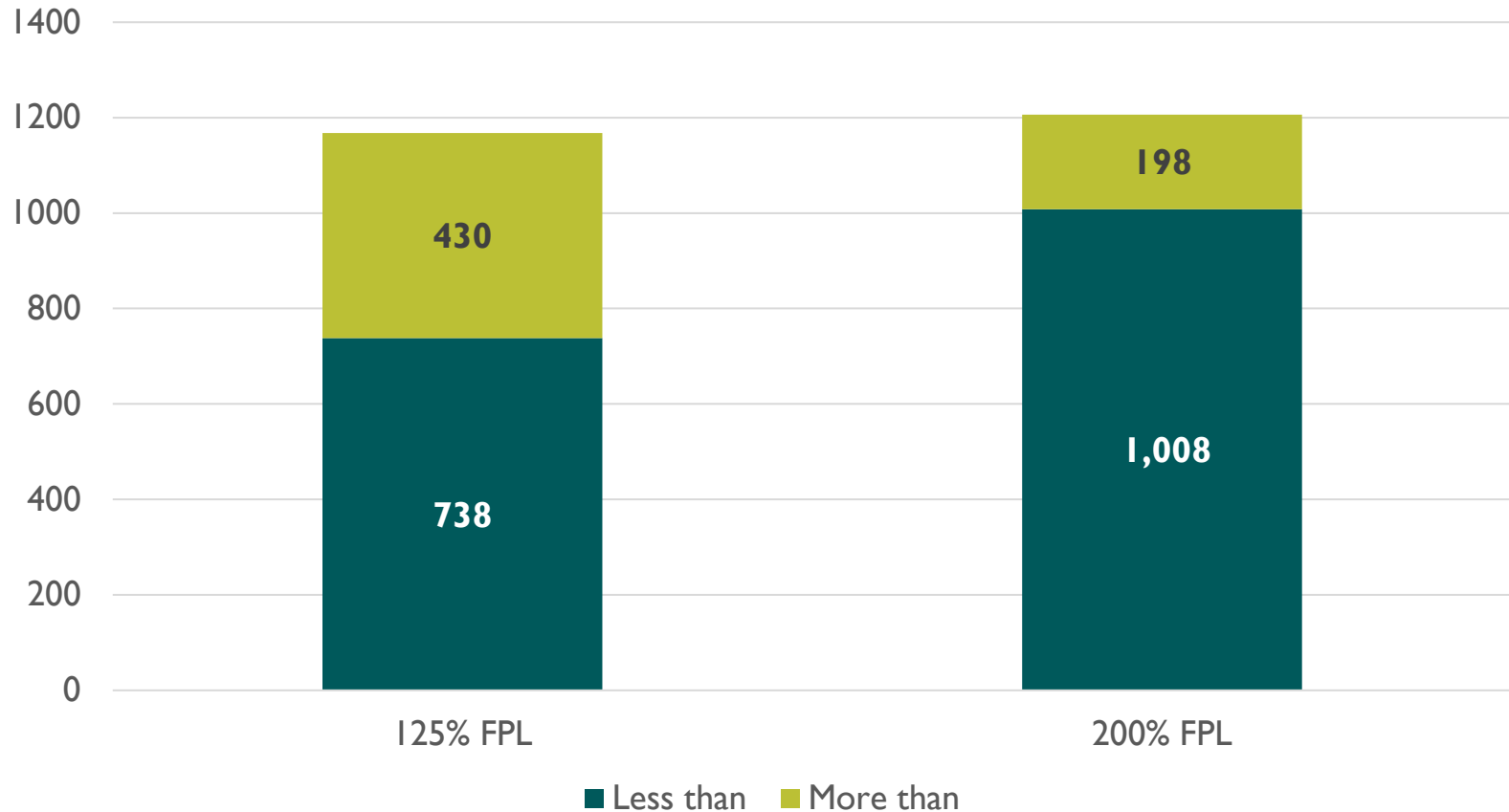
How many family members are employed at least part-time? (827 responses)

4+ Employees, 26 3%

3 Employees, 43 5%

2 Employees, 250 30%

1 Employee, 508 62%

Legend: ■ 1 Employee, 508 ■ 2 Employees, 250 ■ 3 Employees, 43 ■ 4+ Employees, 26

Does your family earn more or less than 125% FPL for your family size? 200%? (1,168 and 1,206 responses)

Lessons Learned

- Access is important
  - Languages
  - Online and hard copy

- Variety of partnerships
  - Create connections with under-resourced communities through trusted sources
  - Outreach through different social service programs

- Variety of community forums needed
  - In person and virtual
  - Diverse locations

- Focus groups needed to get more qualitative data and better understanding of needs

CNA Website

- Online access to CNA in 5 languages
  - Can request hard copy through link

- All supporting information is available
  - Appendices
  - Forum recordings and documents
  - Survey response data

- Provides overview of process

- How to get involved

https://clark.wa.gov/community-services/community-needs-assessment-overview

Thank you!

Comments and questions

Rebecca Royce, Program Coordinator

564.397.7863

Rebecca.Royce@clark.wa.gov