



VIRTUAL
2020 NATIONAL
RYAN WHITE
CONFERENCE ON
HIV CARE & TREATMENT

Project CORE

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Disclosures



Samira Ali, Diane Arms, Charleston Stoker, and LaNikka Green

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Learning Outcomes



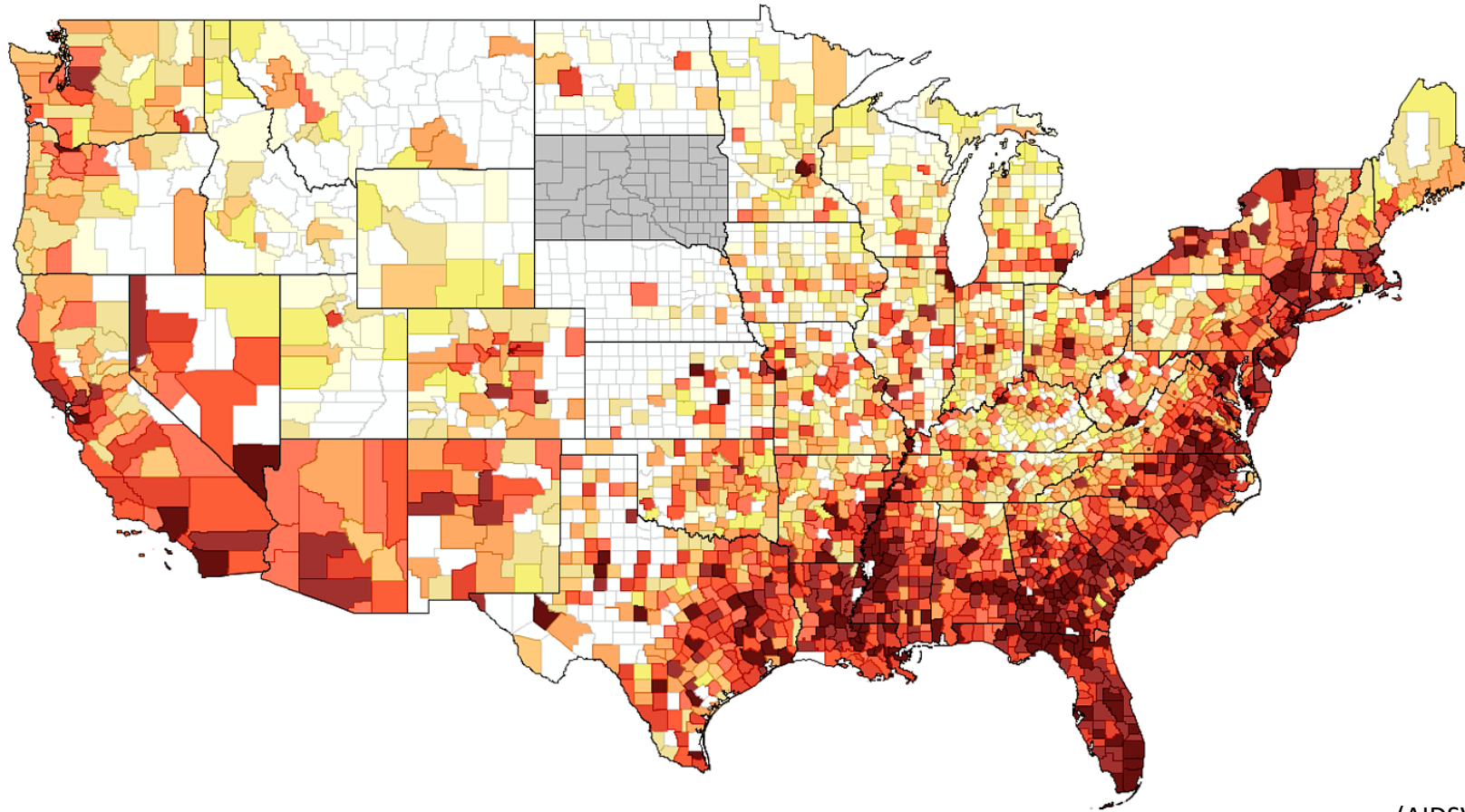
At the conclusion of this activity, participants will be able to:

1. To **describe** Project CORE's intervention components
2. To **summarize** Project CORE's preliminary results
3. To **apply** Project CORE's intervention components to other settings

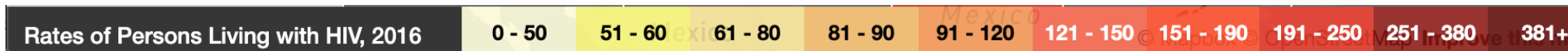
Setting the Context : HIV in the South



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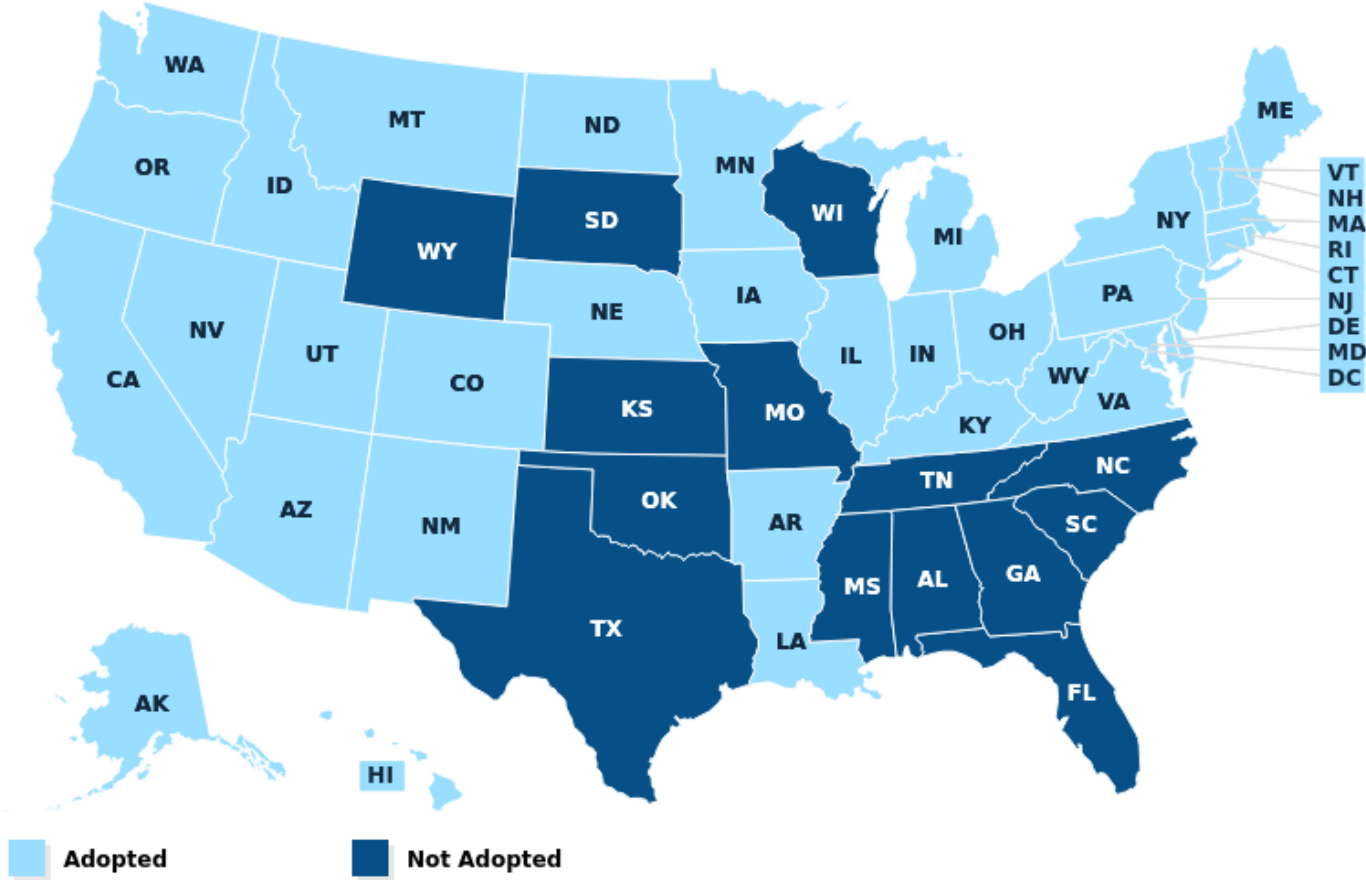
(AIDSvU, 2020)



Setting the Context: Medicaid Expansion



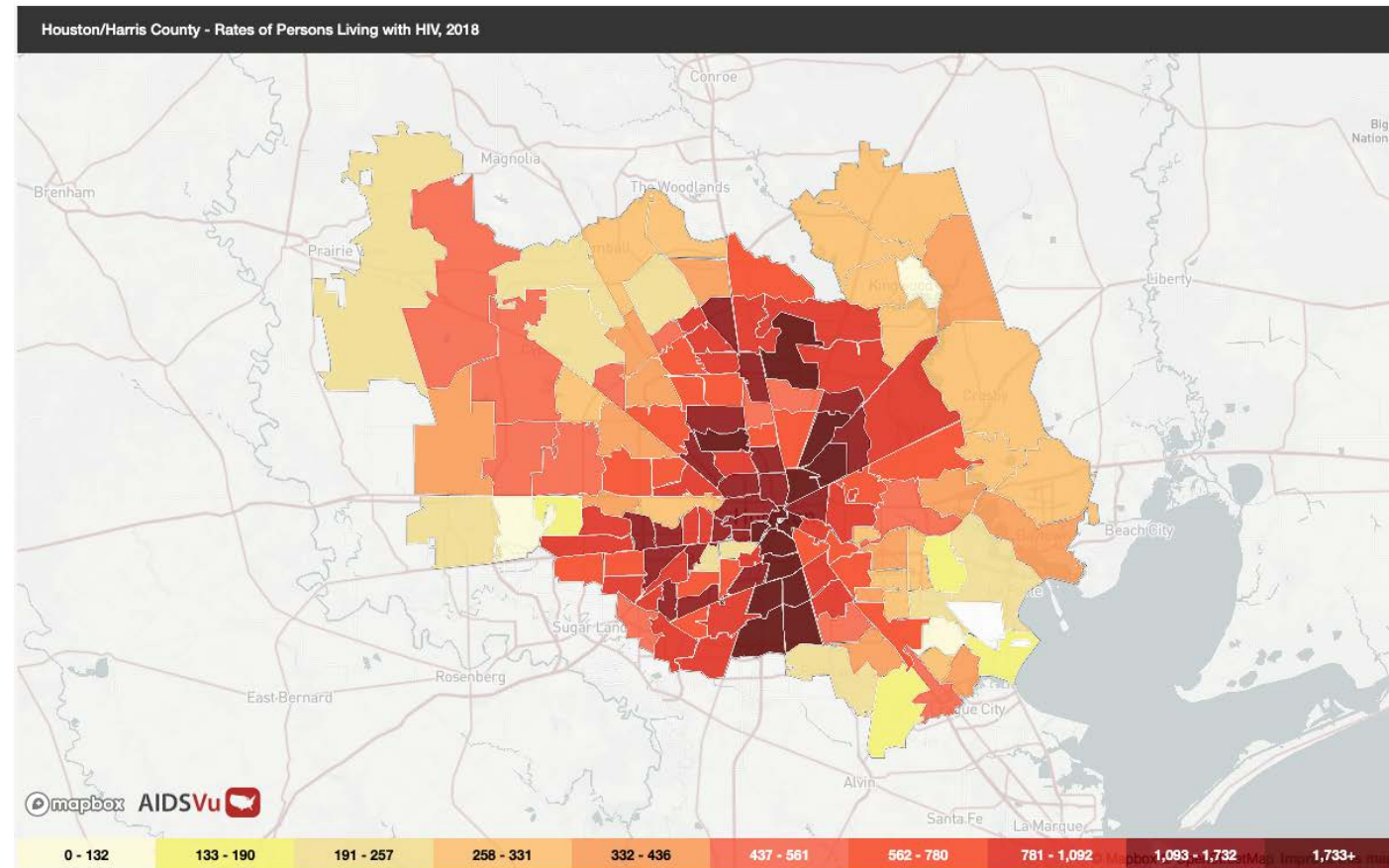
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SOURCE: Kaiser Family Foundation's State Health Facts.

Setting the Context - Houston

- 32,000 people living with HIV
- 50% Black; 28% Latinx; 18% White
- 56% uninsured
- 66% living in poverty
- 59% virally suppressed in 2018
- **Housing and Employment continue to be serious issues for People Living with HIV**



The Issues



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Homelessness

Unemployment

Viral Loads

Structural Interventions



- Individual, behavior change interventions only go so far
- We need to change
 - Conditions
 - Structures
 - Environment
 - Racist and Oppressive Policies
 - Approaches
 - Coordination
- We need to focus on the social determinants of health
 - Housing
 - Employment

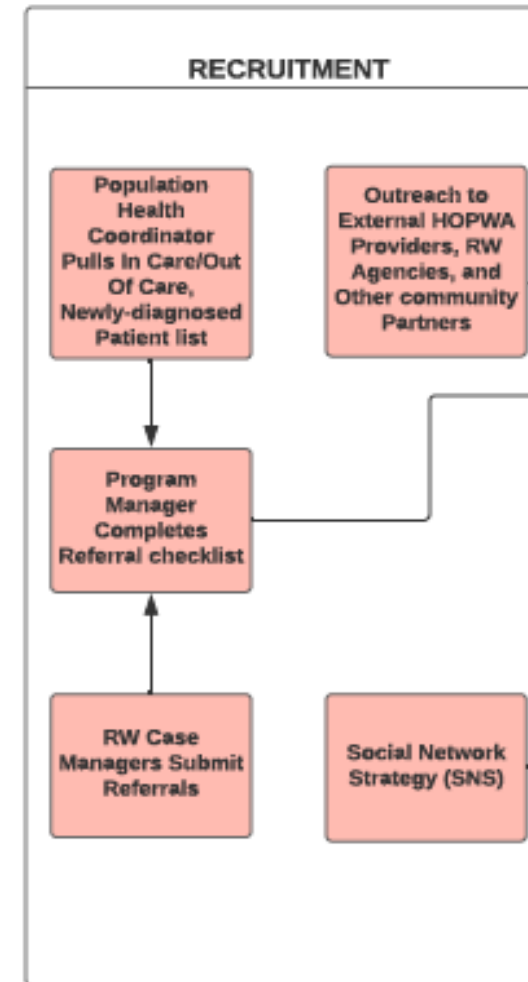
Enter... Project CORE

- Project CORE is a collaborative coordinated care intervention that provides housing and employment services with an email to increase the health of People Living with HIV in Houston, Texas



Recruitment

- Eligibility
 - High viral load
 - Unemployed
 - Homeless or unstably housed
- Screening
- Coordination



Identification of Eligible Clients



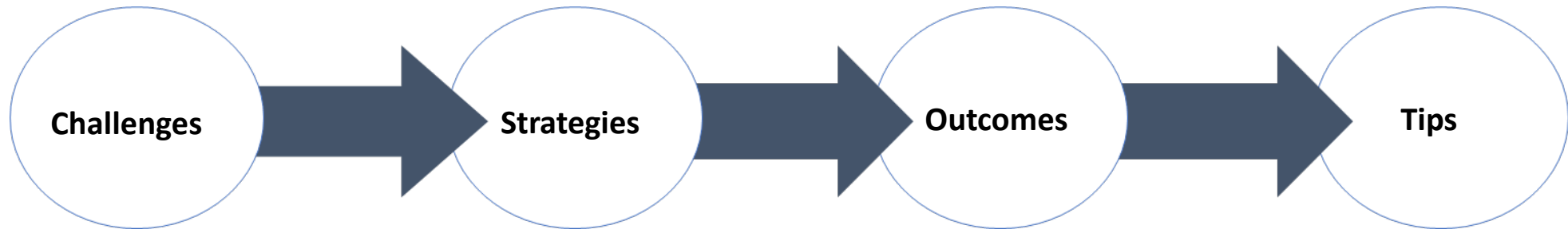
- Avenue 360
 - Database of eligible people
 - Case manager referrals
- AFH
 - referral from other programs
 - discussing with existing clients
- Houston Network
 - Ryan White Meeting
- Career Fairs
 - Discussing Project with other orgs
- SNS
 - existing participants

Barriers and Solutions

- Slower recruitment in the beginning of the project
- Brainstormed with HRSA/ETAP
- Solution
 - Creating a broader network for recruitment
 - SNS



Client Engagement Tips



- Time restraint
- Non-working numbers
- Prioritization of needs

- Participants display an interest in the program
- Participants initiate follow-up appointments
- Participants disseminate information to peers

- Meet them where they are
- Explain the benefits of the program and reiterate as often as needed
- Social Networking Strategy (SNS)/Word of mouth

Project CORE Intervention -What did we do?



- Project CORE Non-Medical Network Manager
 - Coordinated housing and employment resources
- Provided Employment Resources
 - Made use of existing DOL Resources
- Provided Housing Resources
- Project CORE Housed at AFH
 - One stop shop
- Referral

Motivating Clients



- Supporting their readiness for work
- Resume writing
- Interviewing skills
- Employment boot camps
- Transportation assistance
- Clothing assistance
- Job search
- Supporting their readiness for housing
- Education
- Referrals (temp shelters/transitional housing)

It's not just the resources...



Follow up in the time of COVID-19



- Communication is Key
- Supported participants on getting basic needs met
- Flexibility and Responsiveness

What have we accomplished?



- We enrolled 111 participants in the study
- We collected a host of information at baseline
- We are currently conducting follow ups

Demographics

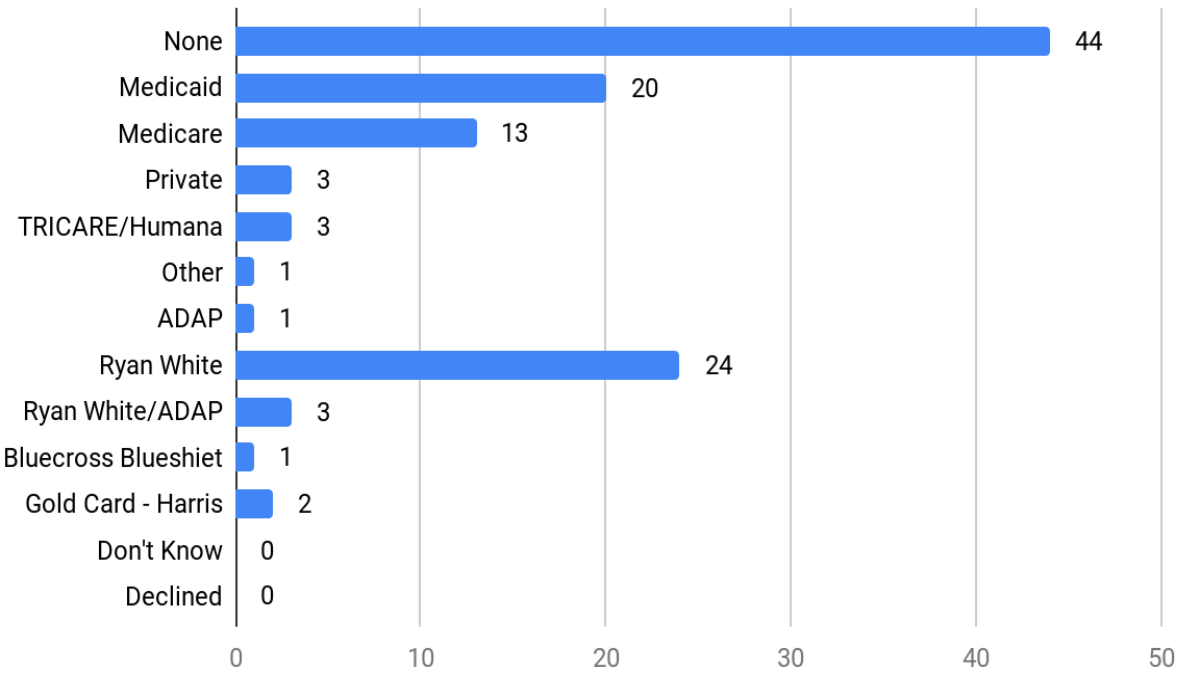


- Average Age: 38
- Mostly Black; some Latinx people
- 60% Gay, Lesbian, or Bisexual
- 80% Cis Male; 15% Cis Female; 5% Transgender

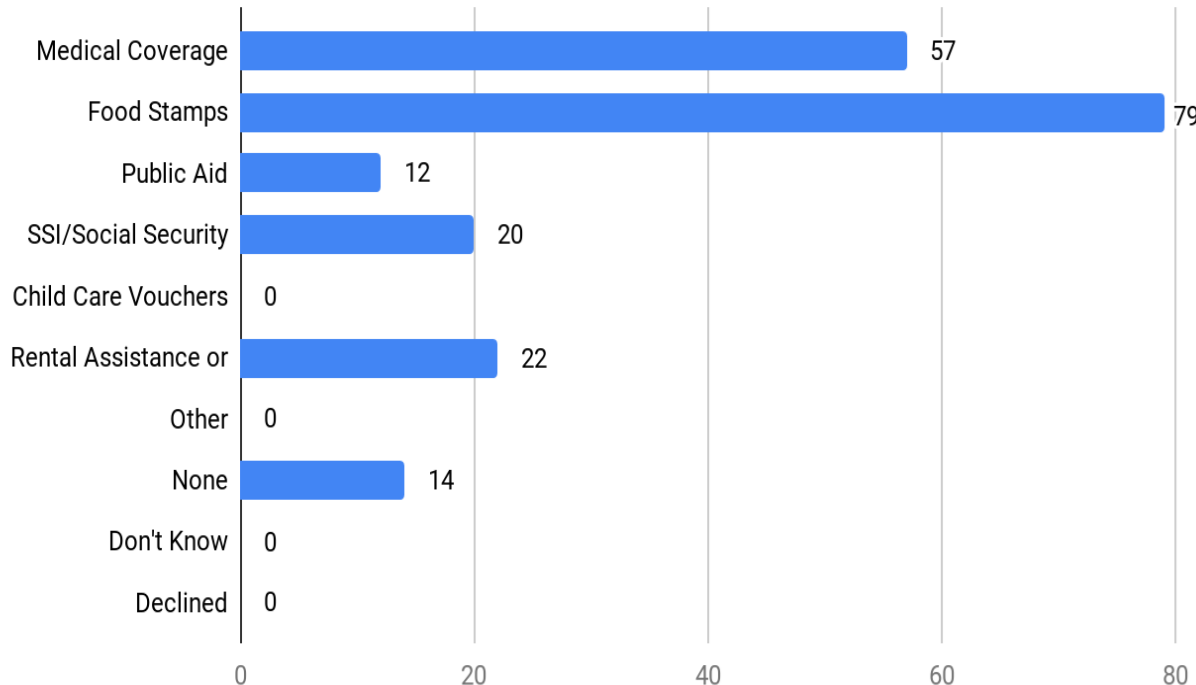
Health Insurance and Public Assistance



Health Insurance

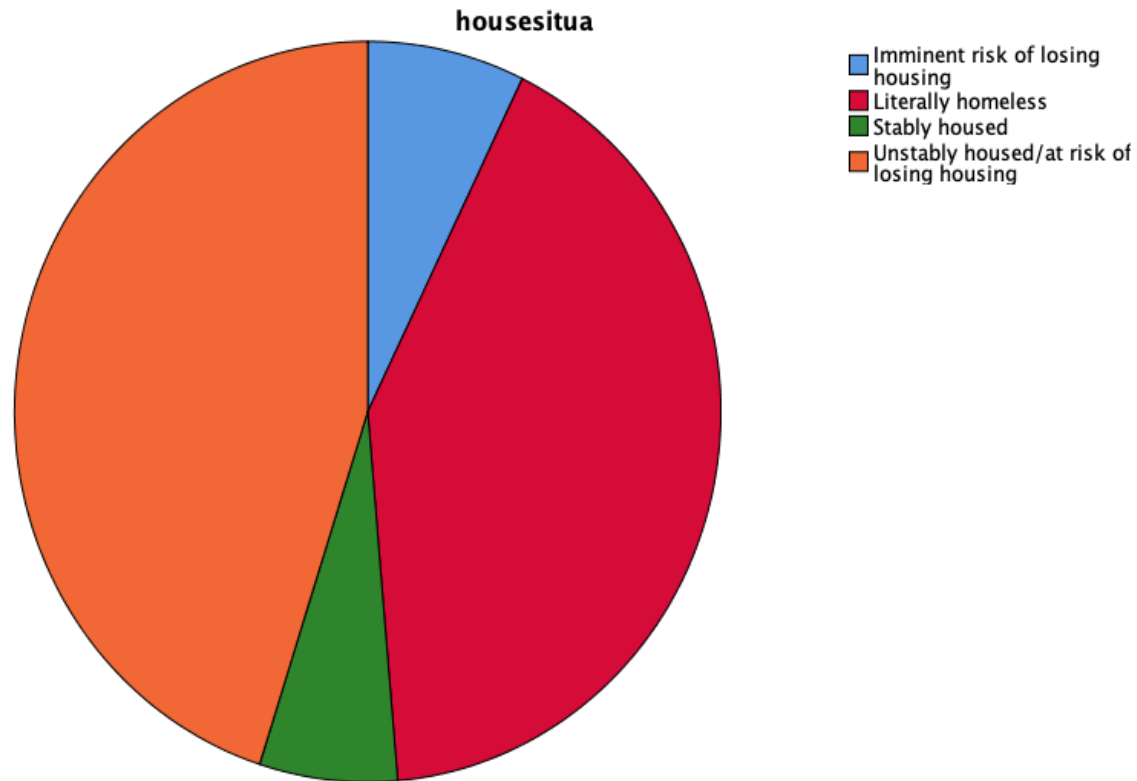


Public Assistance Received in the Last 12 Months

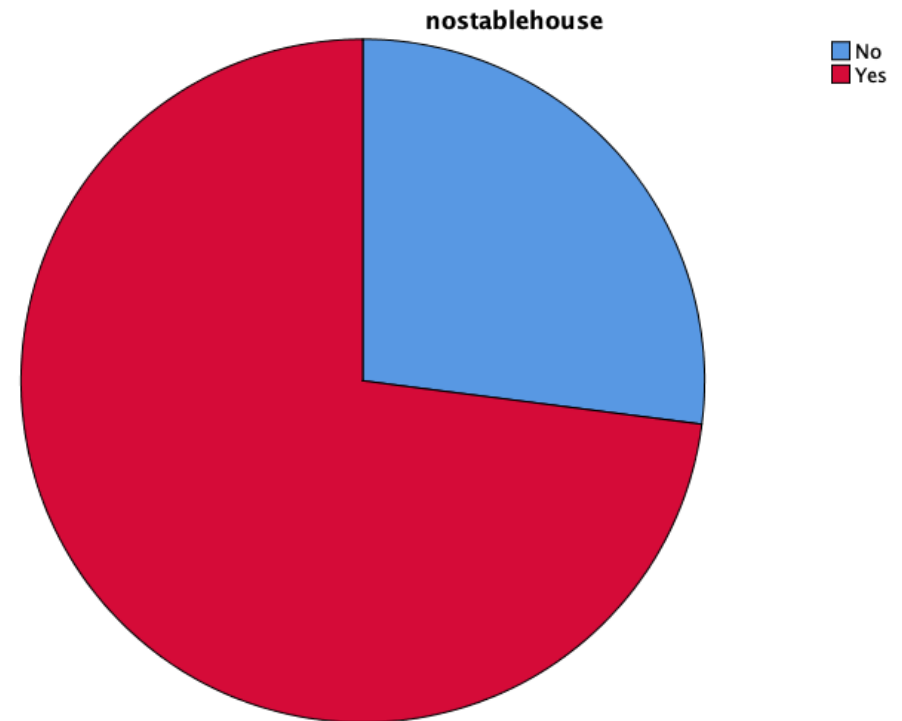


Housing Status

Current Housing Status

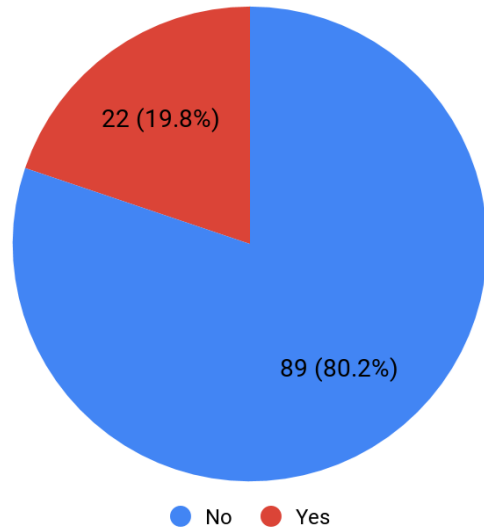


Are you worried or concerned that in the next 60 days you may not have stable housing that you own, rent, or stay in as apart of a household?

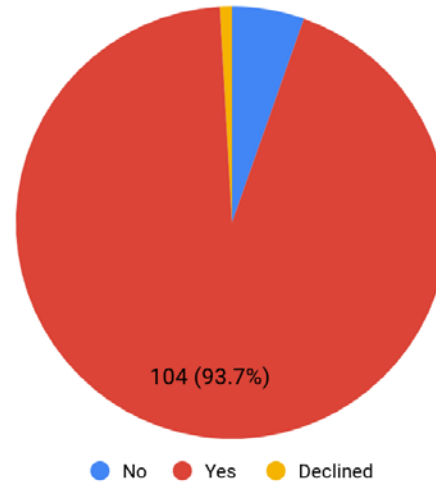


Employment

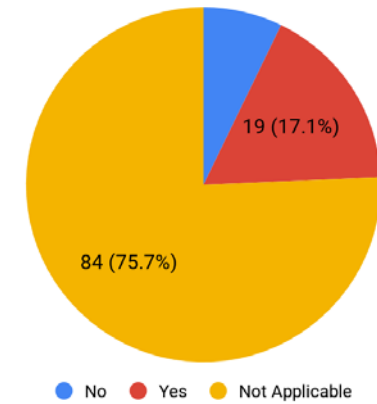
Are you currently employed, either part time or full time?



Do you wish to be employed, either now or in the future?

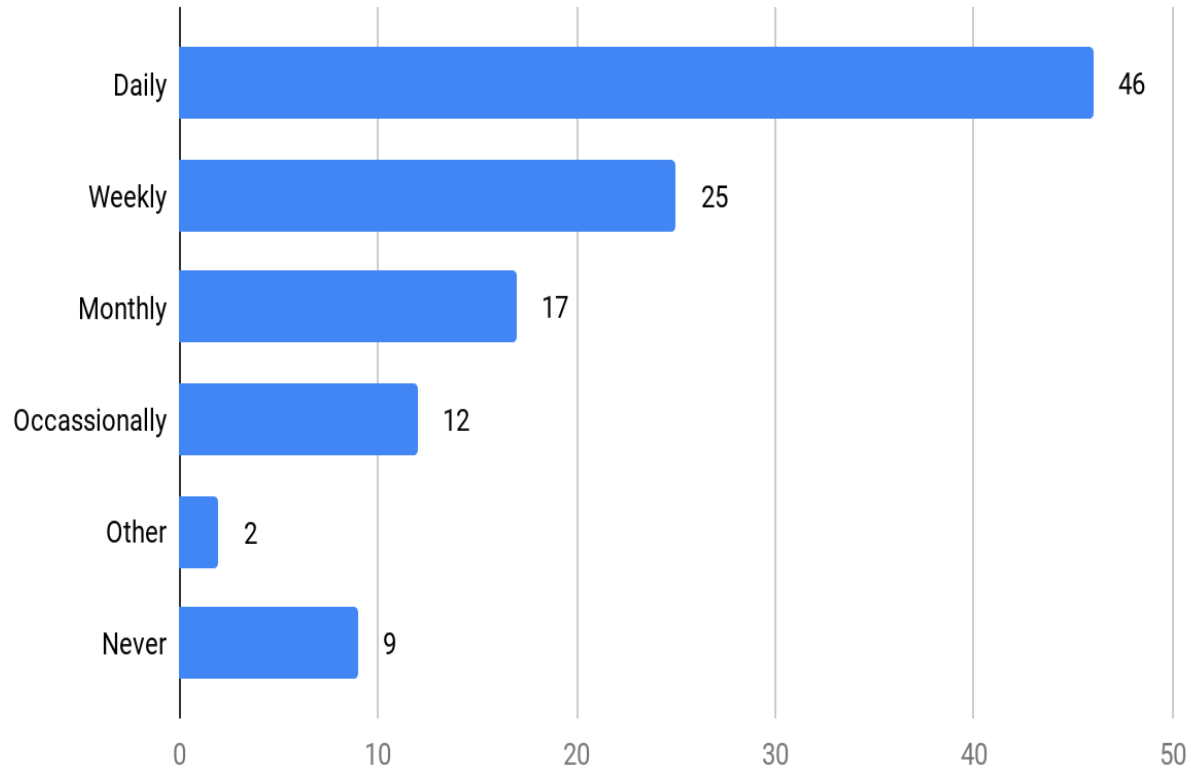


Do you consider yourself underemployed (less than 35 hours/week but able/wants to work full time)?

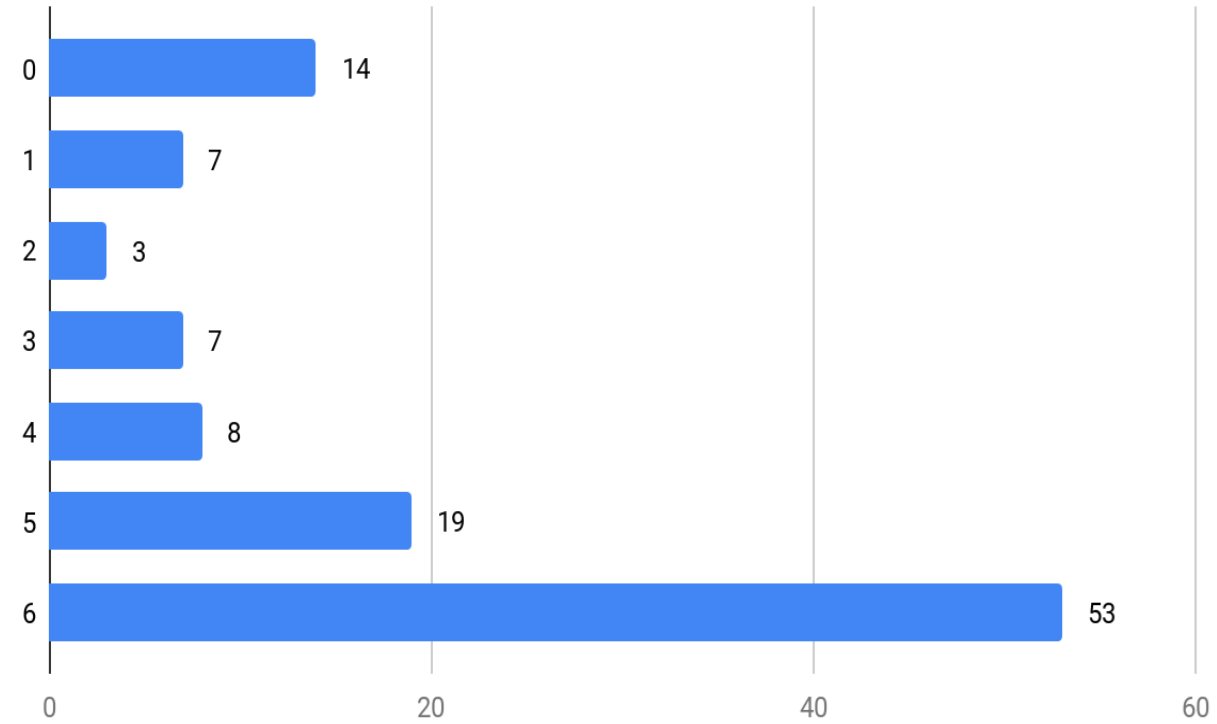


Basic Necessities

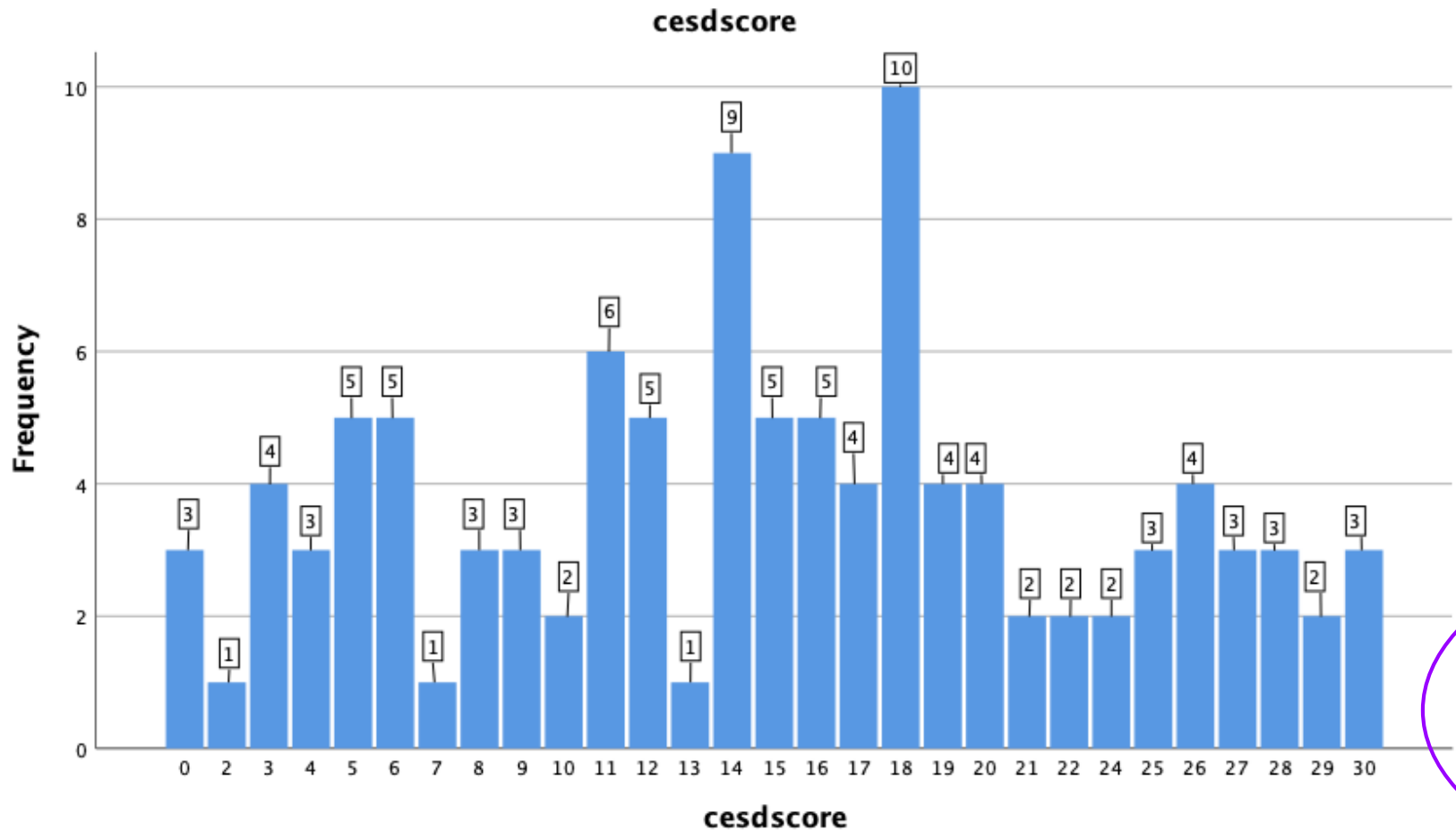
Run Out of Money for Basic Necessities in the Last 12 Months



Food Security Raw Scores

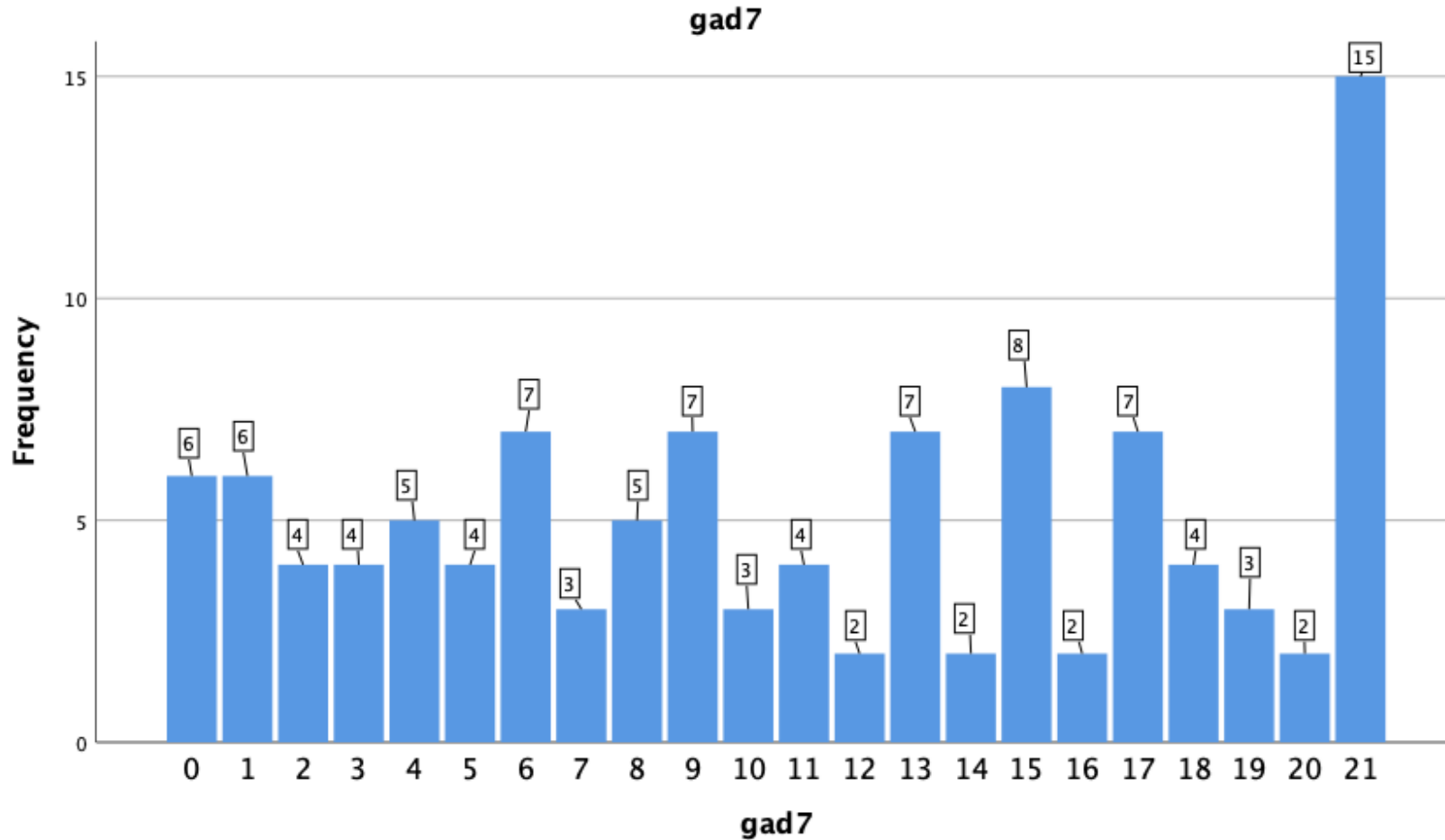


Depression (CESD) Scores



Category	Frequency (%)
None 4 and below	11 (9.9%)
Mild 5-9	17 (15.3%)
Moderate 10-14	23 (20.7%)
Moderately Severe 15-19	28 (25.2%)
Severe	28 (25.2%)

Anxiety (GAD) Scores



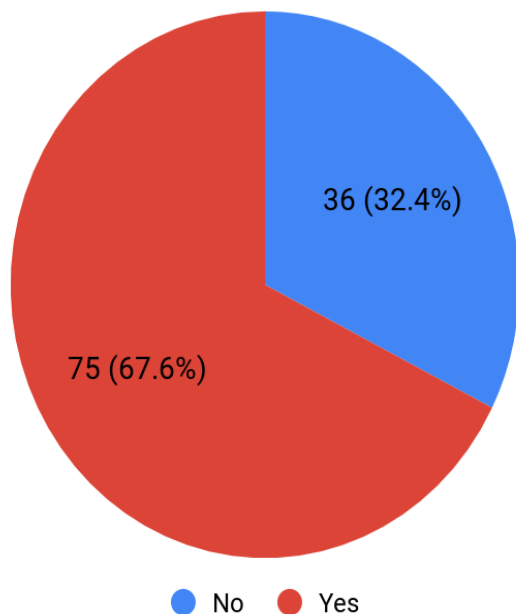
Category	Frequency (%)
None 4 and below	25 (22.5%)
Mild 5-9	26 (23.4%)
Moderate 10-14	18 (16.2%)
Severe 15 and up	41 (36.9%)

Vocational Training and Employment

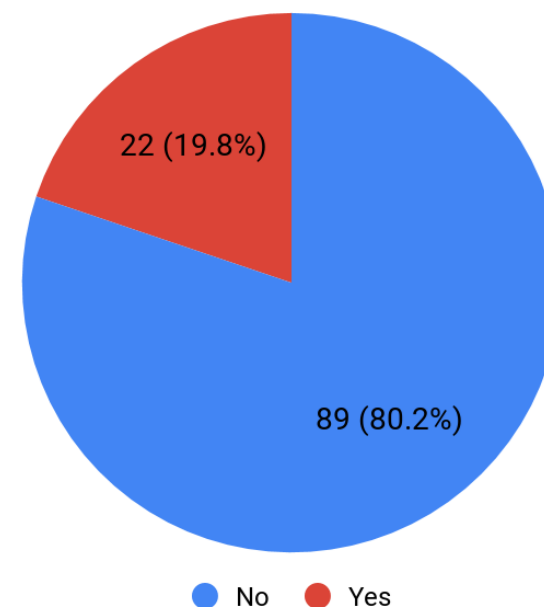


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Do you need training/vocational support to gain employment in your desired occupation?



Are you currently participating in vocational or employment training program?



Summary of the baseline data



- Most participants faced food insecurity
- Most had other unmet basic needs
- Many desired vocational/employment training
- Many also faced Depression and Anxiety symptoms

Case Study



Case Study

Facilitators of the Project CORE



- Coordination
- Responsive
- AFH – One stop shop
- Avenue 360 – Medical provider
- Collaboration

Barriers of Project CORE



- Quick turnaround
- Restricted Eligibility
- Houston does not have a centralized medical records system
 - Obtaining medical records was challenging
- Coordination

Lessons Learned: Intervention



- Outreach
- Intervention
- Partnership

Recommendations



- Think outside of the box
 - Think about unique strategies from the start
- SNS
 - Build this in from the beginning especially if you foresee challenges
- Build network across city
 - Engage local network
 - Systems change requires collaboration

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