



A MARS DEN FUNDED PROJECT:

# Going Straight Home? Expectations & Realities

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# Recidivism, reintegration & stable housing

## IMPORTANCE OF HOUSING

- Of those released from NZ prisons in 2016/17, within 24 months
  - 62.1% were reconvicted
  - 43.3% were re-imprisoned
- Figures for Māori – 66.7% and 47.6 % respectively (NZ Corrections 2019)
- Stable accommodation can reduce the risk of reoffending by between 11 and 62% (Lutze, et al. 2014; O’Leary 2013; Baldry, et al. 2006; Mettraux & Culhane 2004; Social Exclusion Unit 2002)
- ‘a secure base around which (pro-social) identities are constructed’ (Dupuis & Thorns 1998)

# Post-prison housing in New Zealand

## LEAVING PRISON

- In 2019, 7,595 people were released from NZ prisons
- Only around half of releasees able to settle into long-term accommodation (Johnston 2018)
- Corrections funds over 1,000 housing places each year through various initiatives, e.g. Supported Accommodation
- Budget 2018 – 57.6 million for housing initiatives

# Going Straight Home?



## 1. TO EXAMINE:

whether stable housing is associated with reduced recidivism in New Zealand

## 2. TO EVALUATE:

the role of stable housing in contributing to desistance from crime



Began initial interviews at Auckland Women's

Begin 6 month follow-up interviews with participants

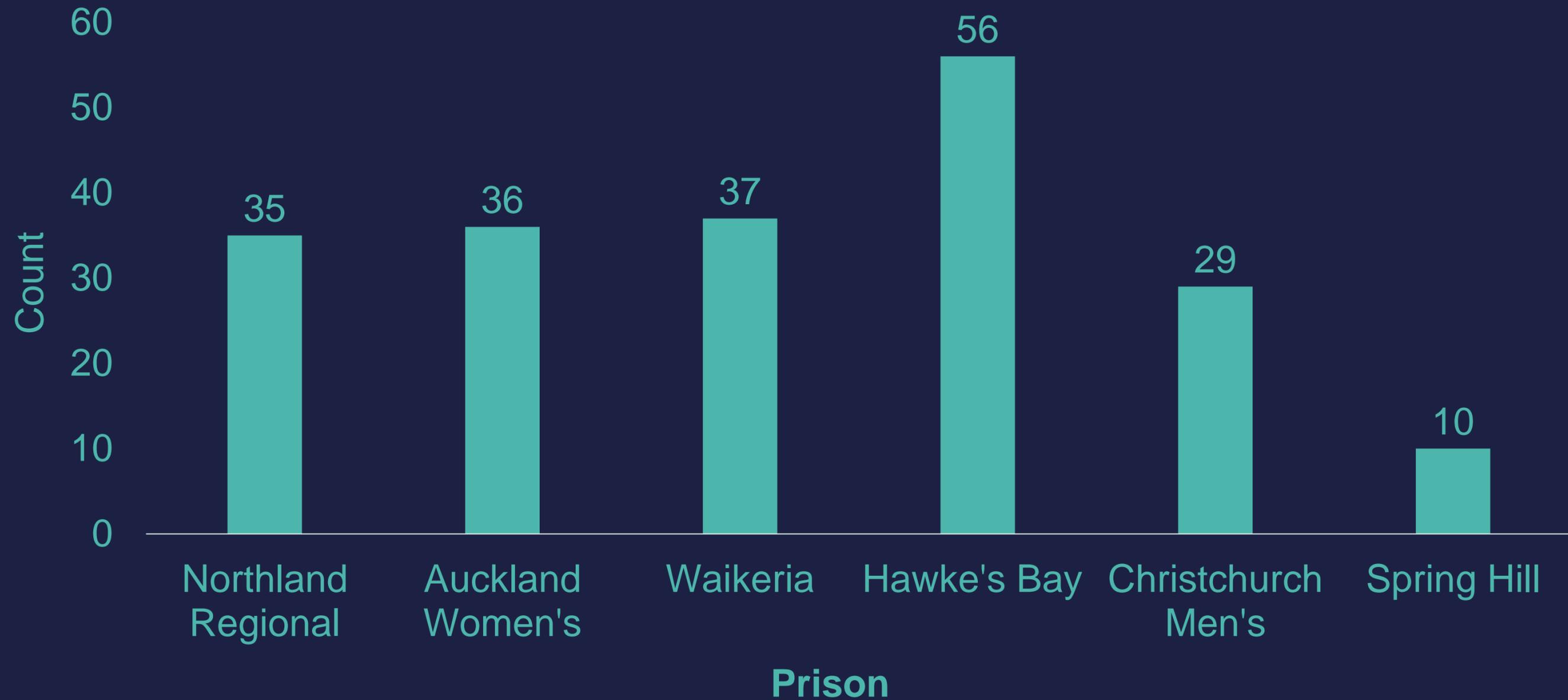
Conduct narrative interviews for stage 2



Finished last wave of pre-release interviews

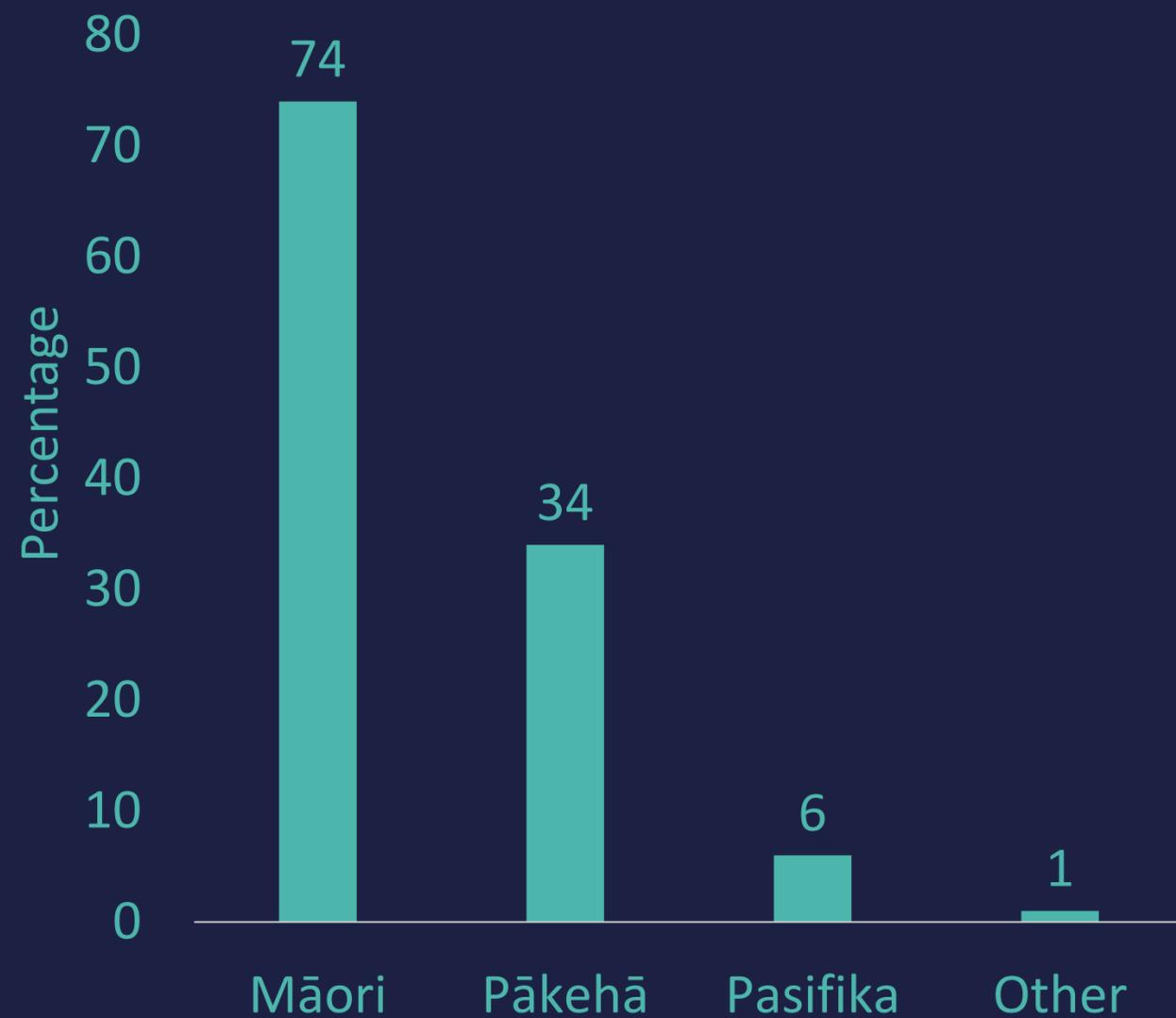
Began first wave of 1 year follow up interviews

# Research sample

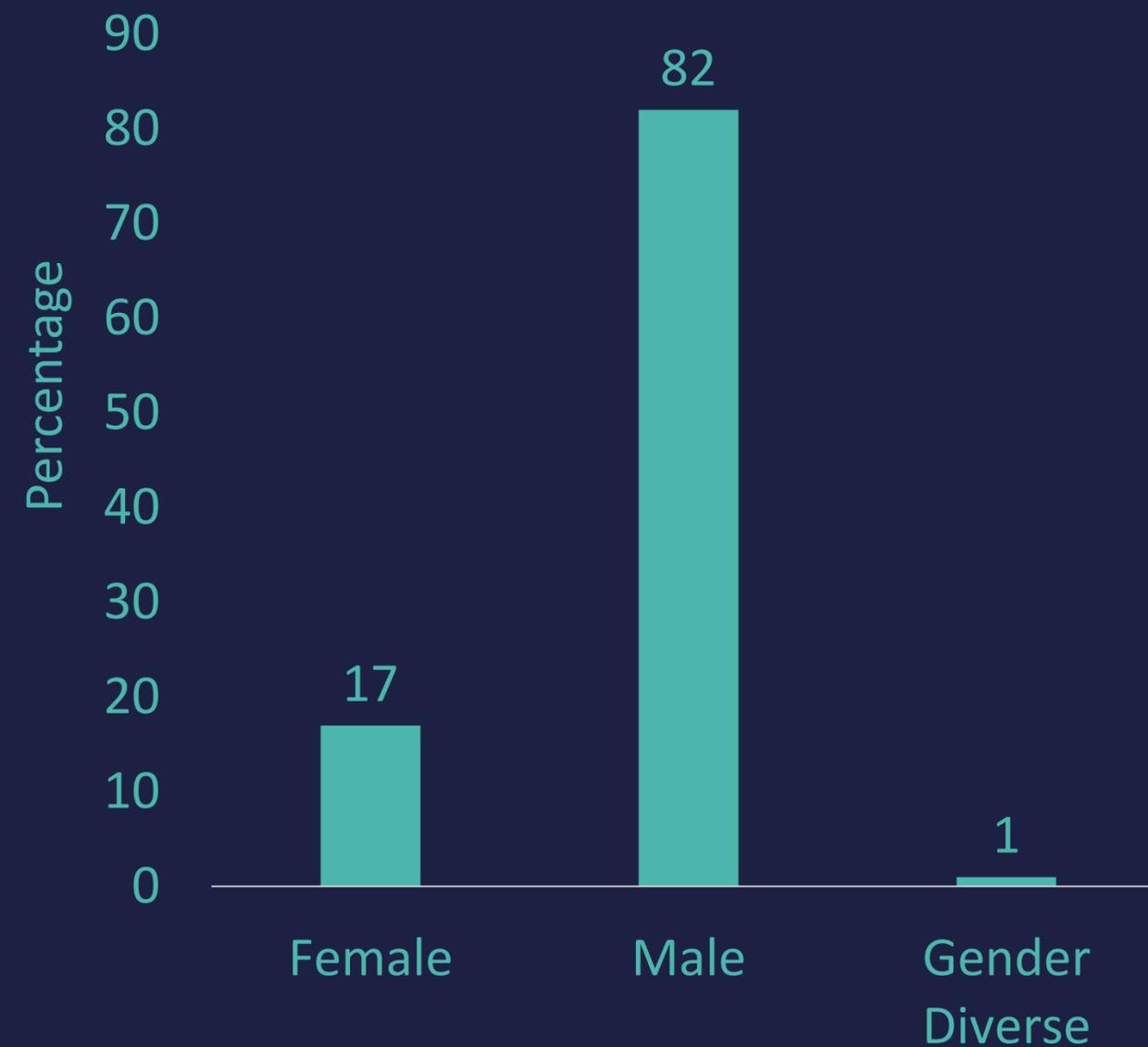


# Research sample: Pre-release

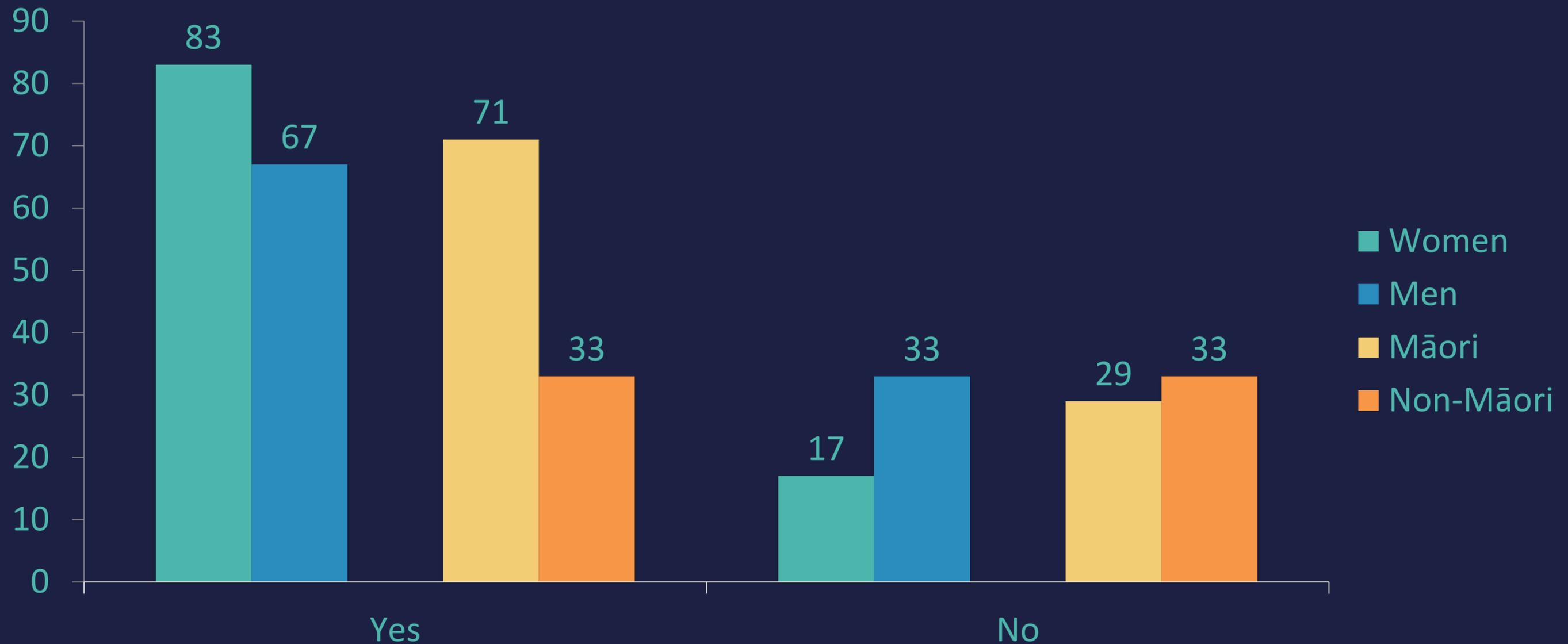
## Ethnicity



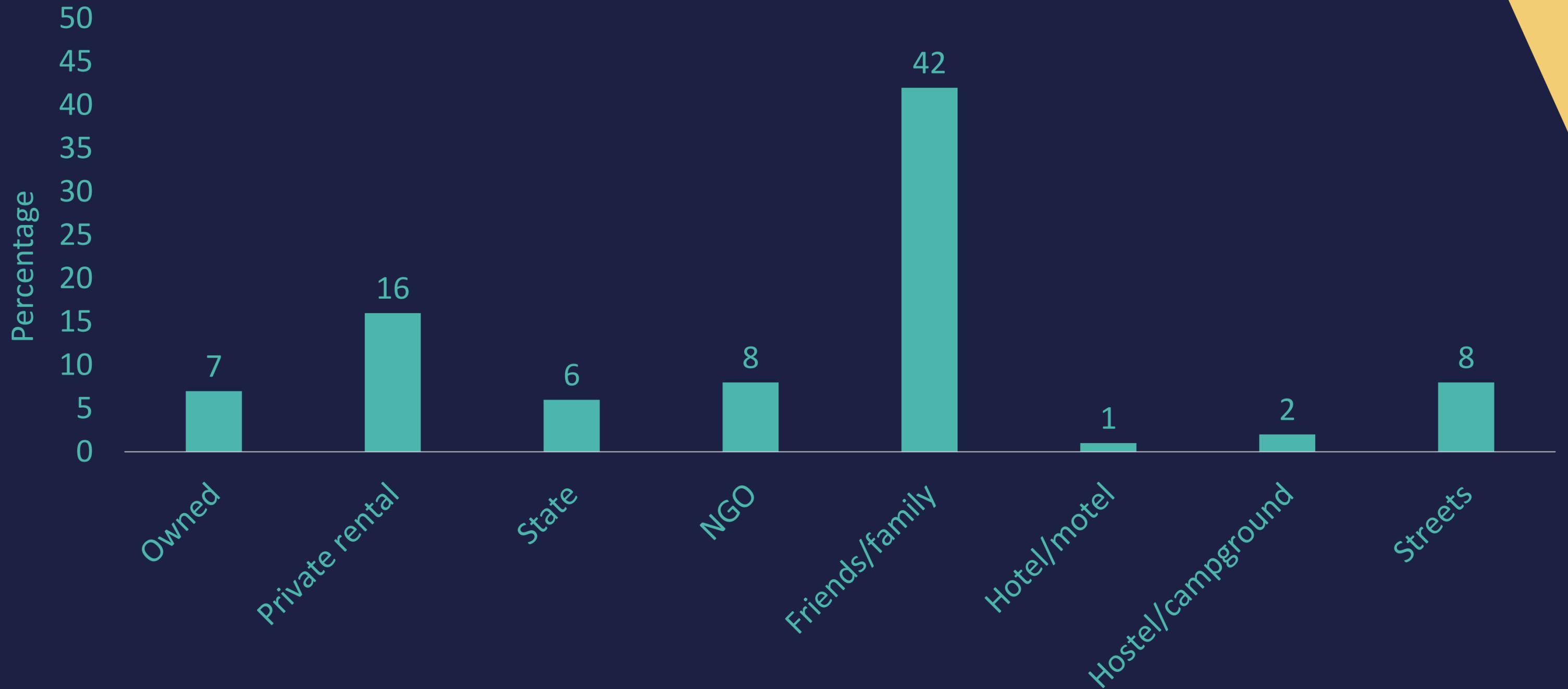
## Gender Distribution



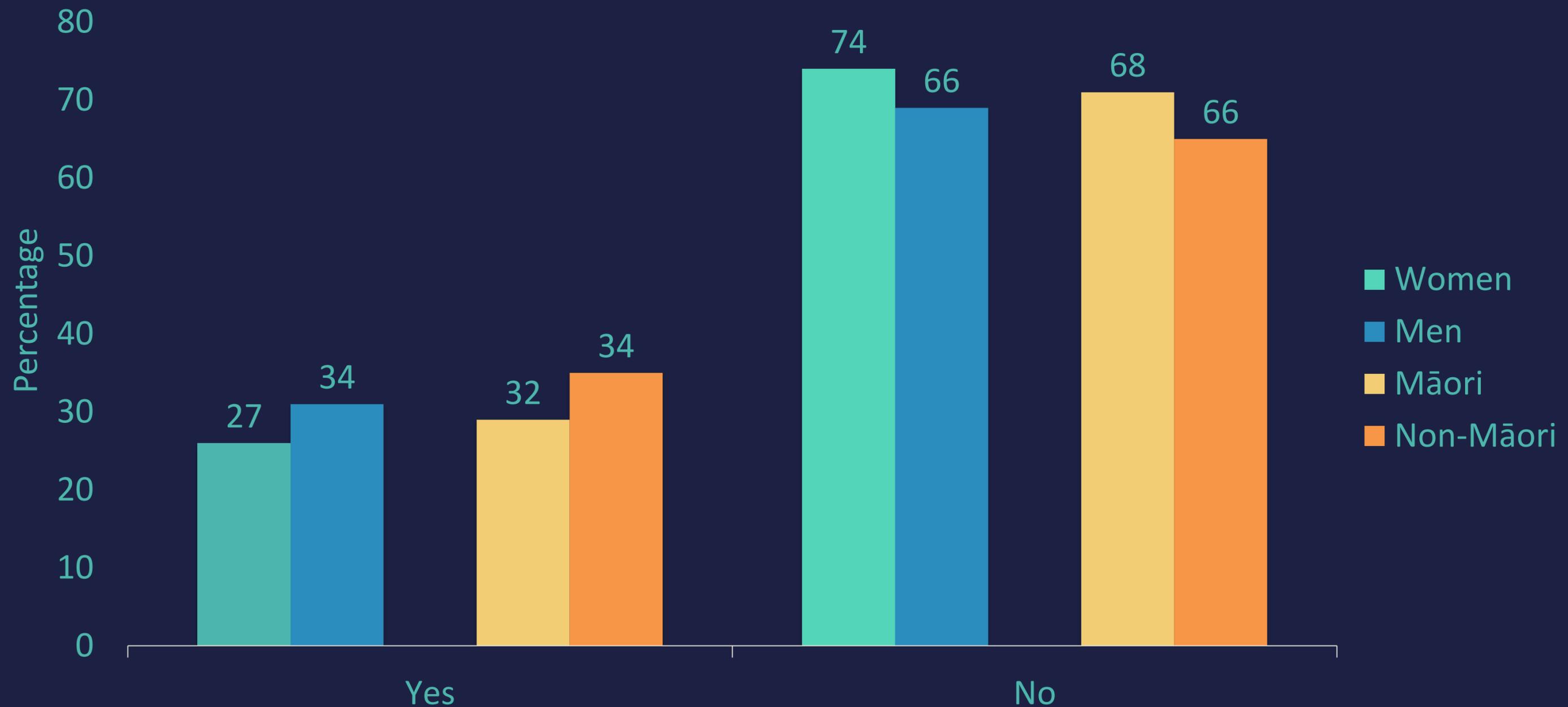
# Do you know where you are going to live on release?



# Expected post-prison housing



# Have you had any support finding housing on release?

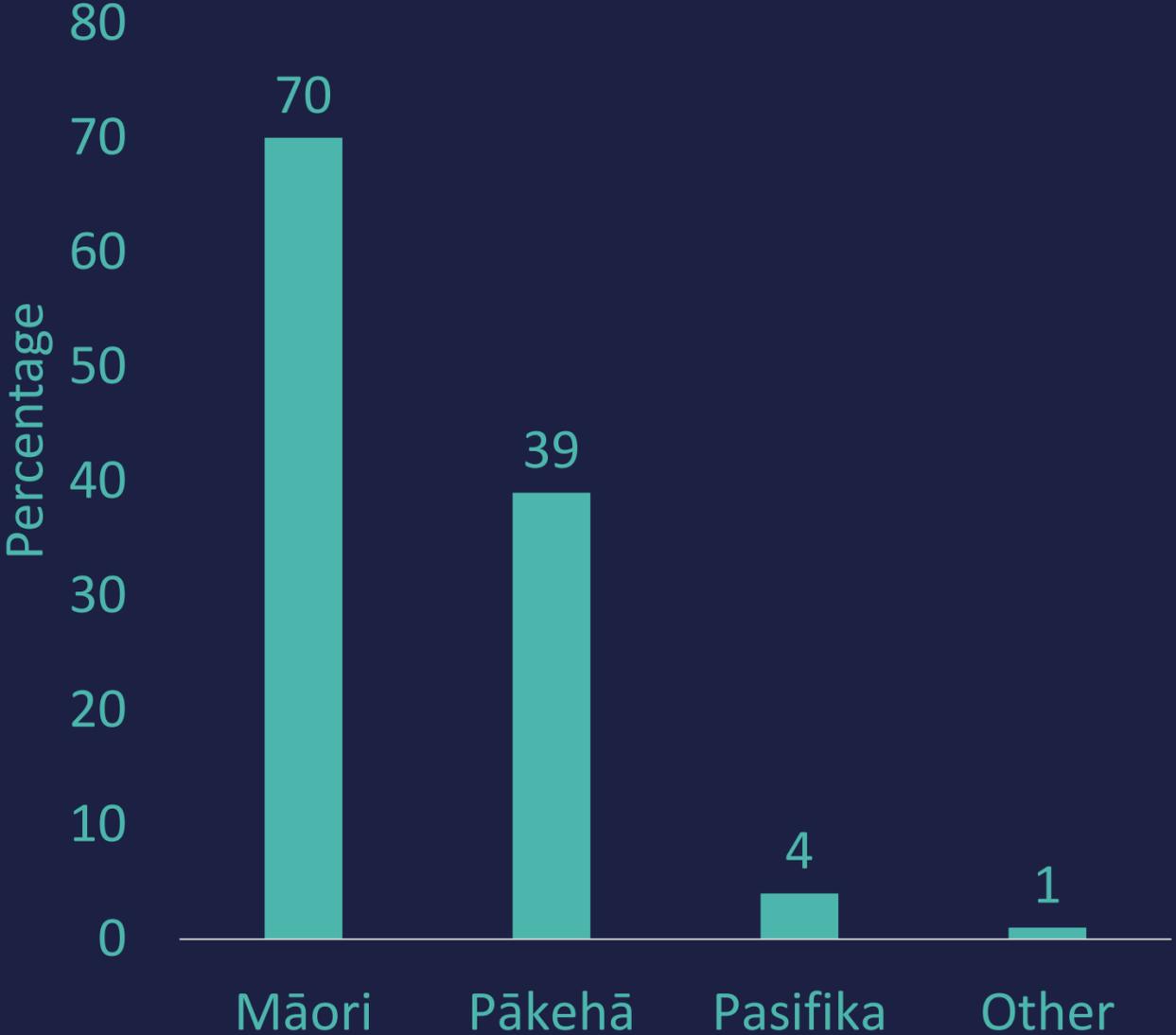


# Anticipated post-release housing challenges

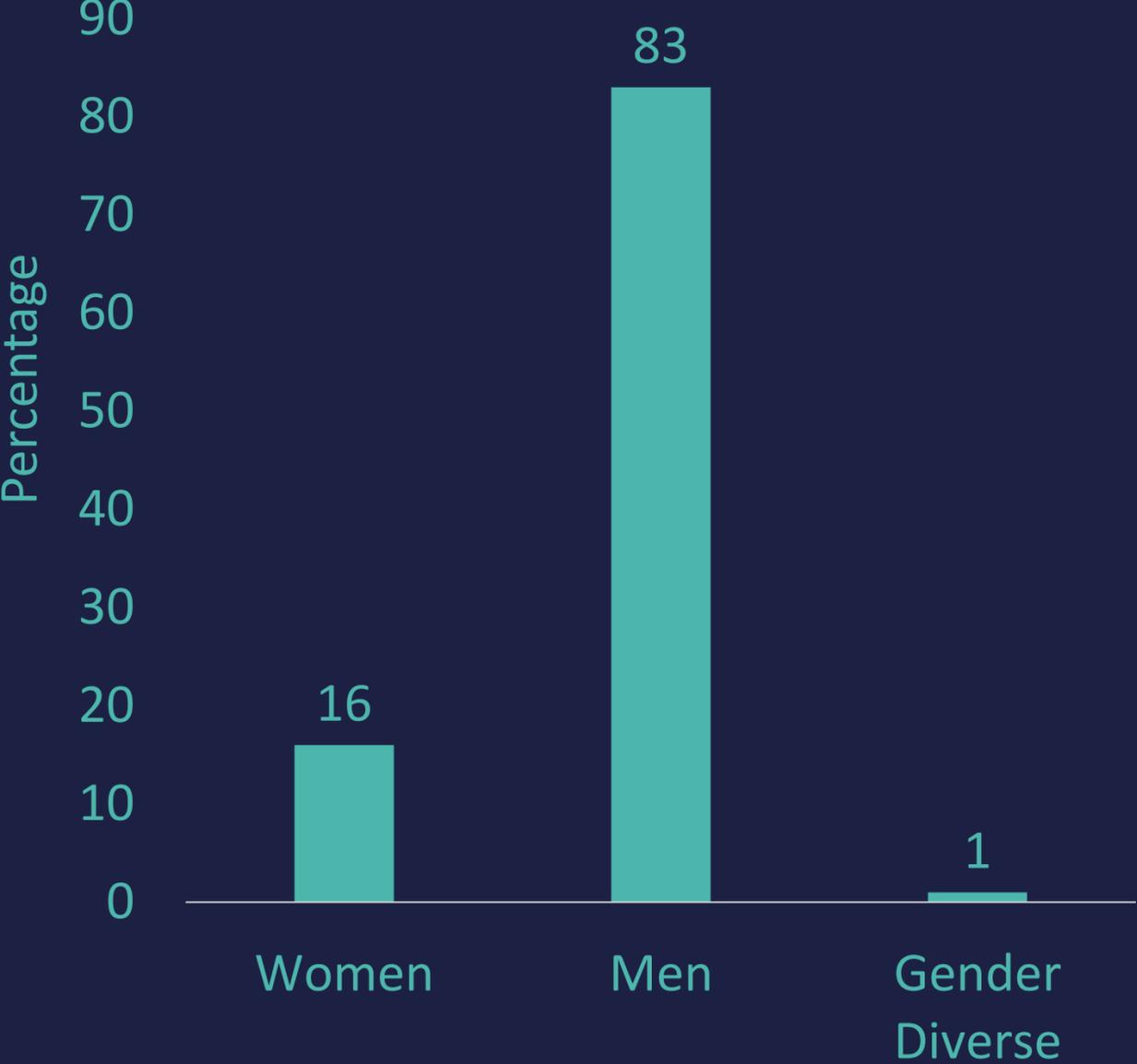
- Need for positive environment
- Living with family
- Suitable for children
- Difficulties applying for housing and lack of knowledge of options
- Wanted help and support earlier in sentence
- Out of Gate

# Research sample: 6 months

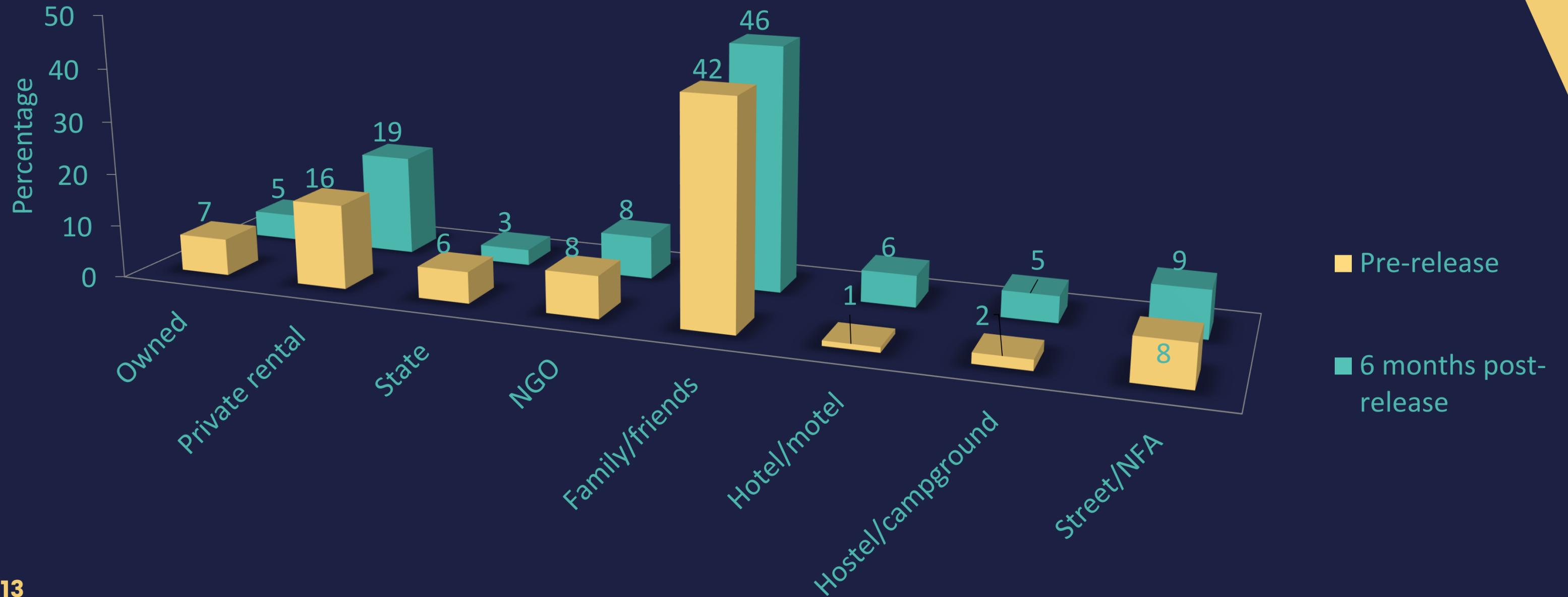
### Ethnicity



### Gender Distribution



# Actual post-release housing

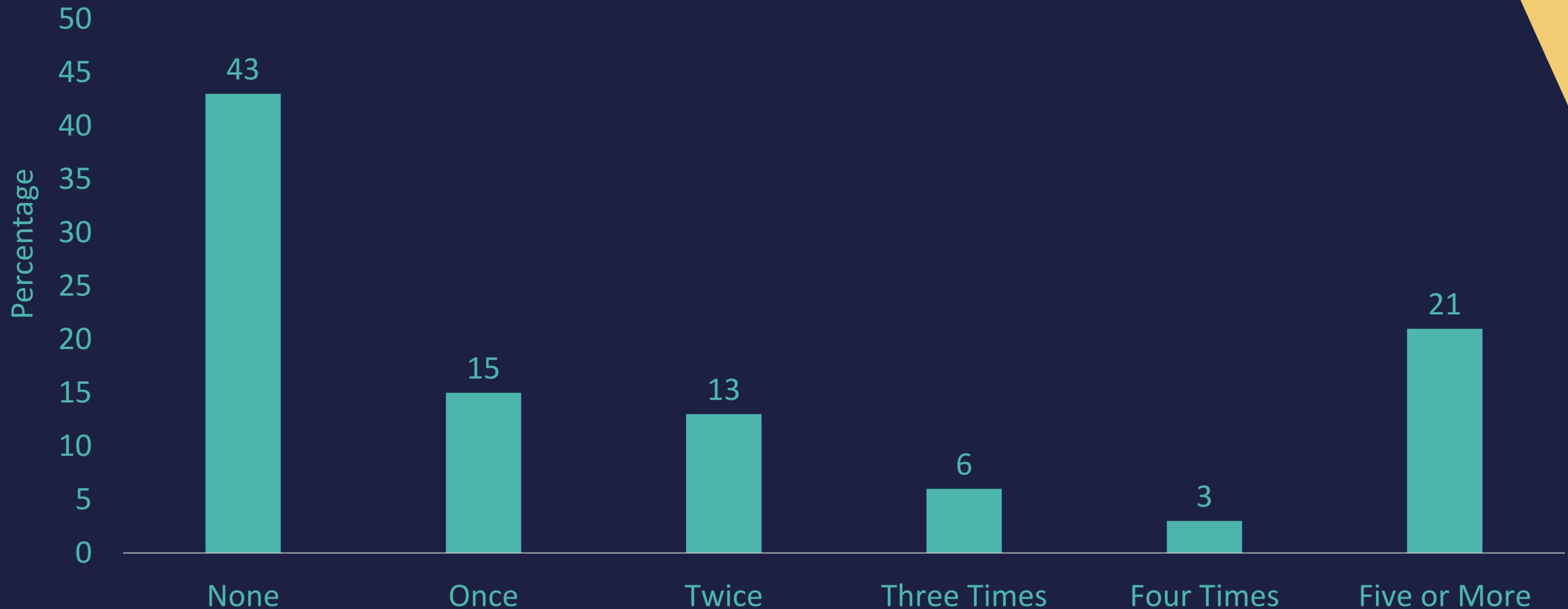


# Actual post-release housing

Expected accommodation (N=66)

		Owned	Rented	State	NGO	Family/ Friends	Motel/ hotel	Hostel/ campground	Street/ missing
	<b>Total expected</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>
Actual Accommodation	Own	2			1				
	Rent		6		1	7			1
	State			1					
	NGO				2	1		1	2
	Family	3	3			19			7
	Motel		1	1	1	1			
	Hostel				1			2	1
	Street								1

# Number of moves: 6 months after release



# Post-prison housing challenges

- Supported accommodation/hostels
  - Lack of privacy
  - Felt unsafe – ‘a lot of thievery’
- Finances
  - High rents
  - Steps to Freedom
  - Hard to find other housing
- Poor quality housing



# Post-prison housing challenges

- Support – too little, too late
- Support to keep their own homes
- Housing instability and lack of control
- ‘It is a roof over their heads, but people deserve a home’



# Study limitations

- Recruitment difficulties
  - Incorrect or out of date contact details – help from Corrections
  - Agreed to be interviewed – then ‘ghosted’
- Those in stable housing more likely to be interviewed
- Follow up interviews in prison
- Koha
- Possibility of interviewing at probation offices

# Conclusion

## CHALLENGES

Of finding and keeping housing

## SUPPORT

to find **and** keep housing

## 1 YEAR INTERVIEWS

of the next stage of our study

## STAGE 2

housing and desistance

# Thank you!

ANY QUESTIONS?

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