



Building a Brighter Future for Foster Kids

Mission

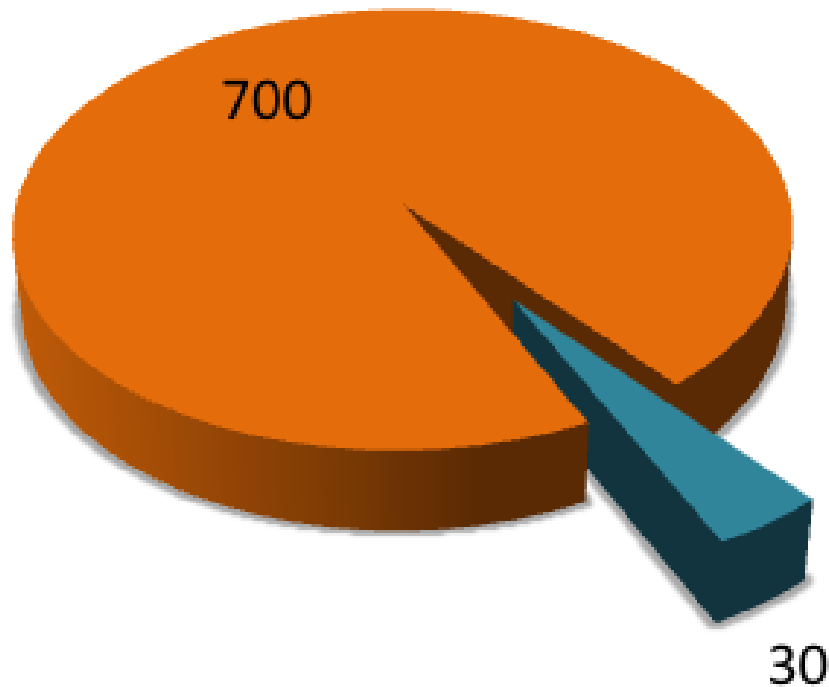
Aunt Leah's Place helps prevent **children in foster care** from becoming homeless, and **mothers in need** from losing custody of their children.



Support after 19



Youth Leaving Care per Annum: BC vs. Aunt Leah's



- Aunt Leah's Youth
- Total, BC

Unique



The Link
Housing First

- * First HF program for care leavers in a major urban centre
- * Young care leavers are “aging out” of the foster care system and entering an “unofficial youth system” which has various “aging out” dates based on age. Not at Aunt Leah’s.

What is (HPS) Housing First?

- * Quick Review:

- * Immediate, permanent housing
- * Related issues (e.g. MH, A/D) worked on after housing in place
- * Assumes private market housing will meet HF needs
- * High barrier to HF (HPS model): 180 days street/shelter or 3 X 30 days in past year- eligibility based on adult not youth
- * 2014: 2/3 of federal HPS dollars to HF exclusively

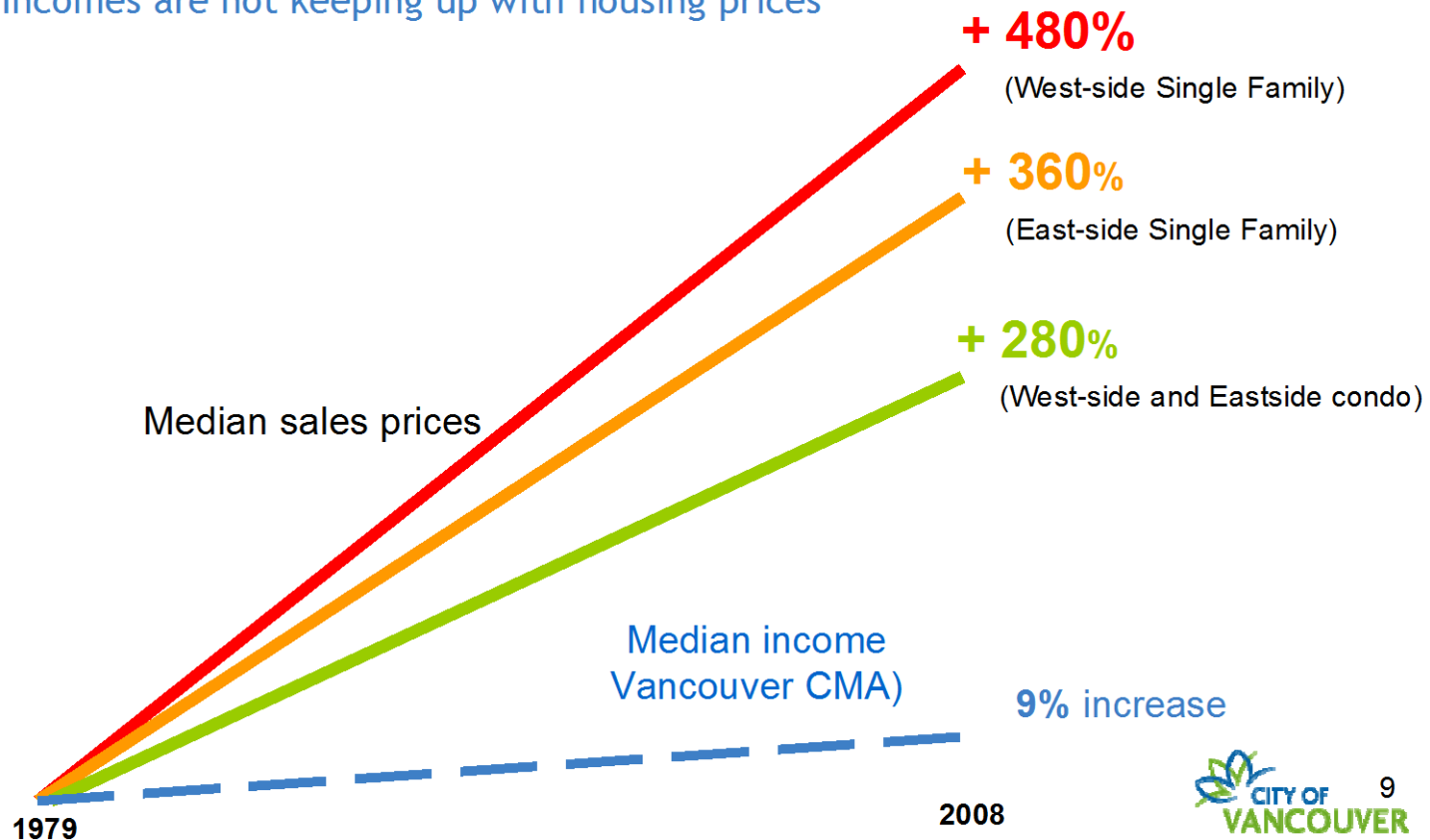
Family Model + HF



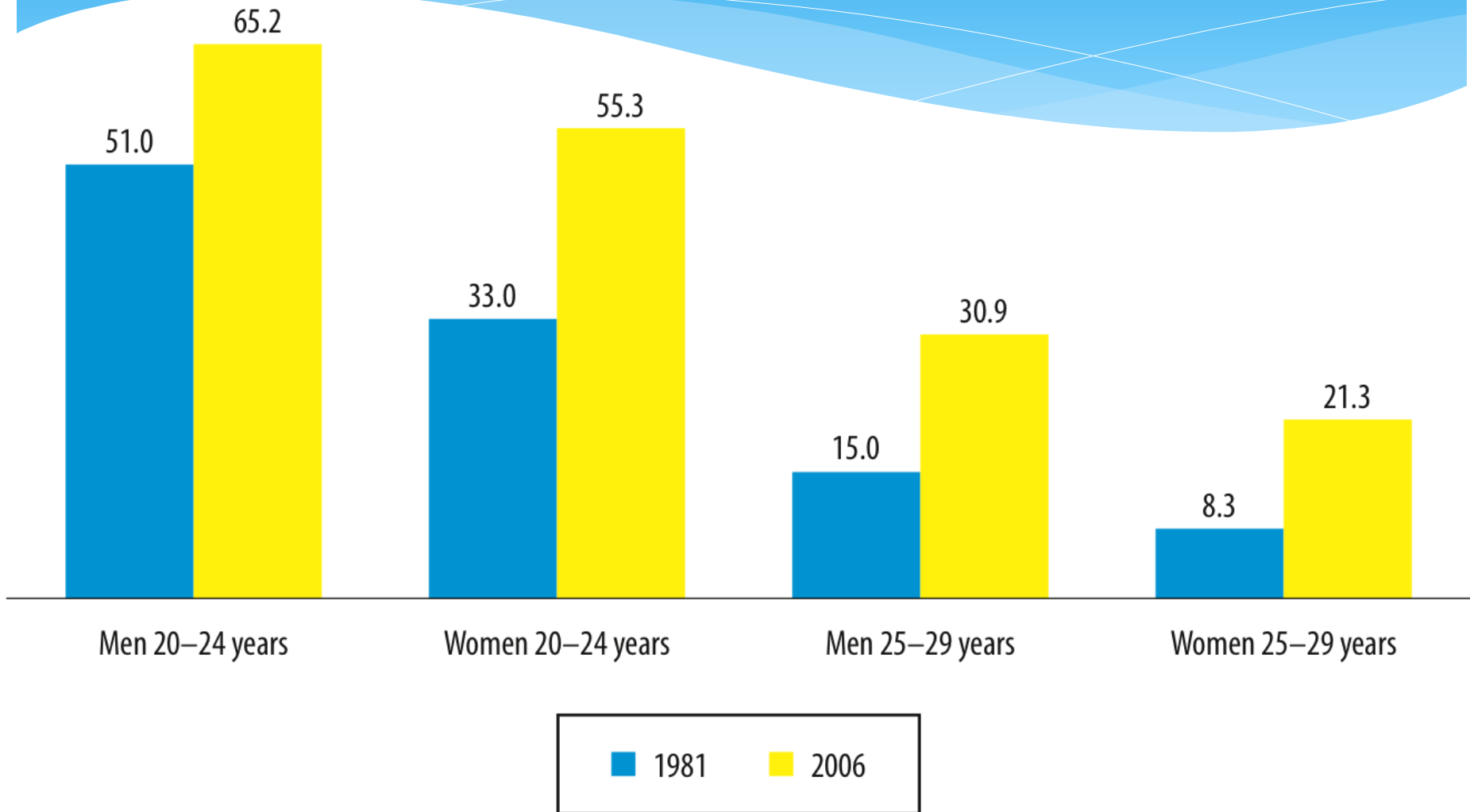
The Link
Housing First

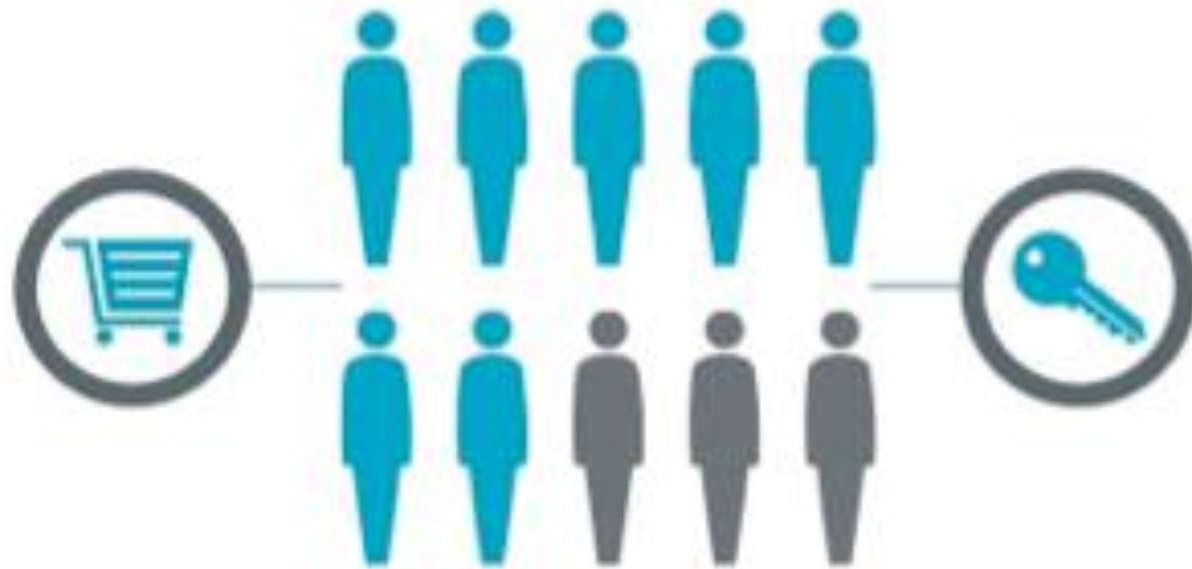
Income vs. House Prices

Incomes are not keeping up with housing prices



% Young Canadians Living With Their Parents, 1981 vs. 2006





7 OUT OF 10 parents
with 19 to 28 year olds
at home **PROVIDE GROCERIES
AND FREE RENT**

3 things...

1. Over a generation, markets have increasingly failed to house young people at age 19.
2. Over this same time period, families have increasingly housed & subsidized their own children as they transition to adulthood; thus filling the gap where markets are increasingly failing.
3. Foster youth do not have functioning families; therefore, they increasingly go homeless as they transition to adulthood.

In BC today...

40%

of homeless youth are or at one time have been in government care.

HF + Family Model

- * It's appropriate: It's the model that millions of Canadian families use to prevent homelessness among their own children as they transition to adulthood.

What it is...



The Link
Housing First

1. Rent Subsidies
2. 24/7 Landlord Advocacy
3. Letter of Commitment
4. Rent Guarantees
5. Peer Specialists
6. Weekly Outreach (Social Media)
7. Rehousing



September 16, 2015

Landlord
663 Cherrytree lane
Burnaby, BC

Bob Barker: Application for Suite

Dear Landlord,

Thank you for accepting Bob Barker's application into consideration. Bob is a former youth in care who is participating in The Link: Housing First program. This program is designed to teach Bob important life-skills, help him with his educational planning and provide him with similar support to that of most Canadian youth.

Aunt Leah's Place is a family based organization and as such we strive to provide youth with continued support and care, no matter their age or situation in life. Bob is a part of this family and we stand by him as he transitions to independent living. The support we provide to Bob includes a damage deposit for his suite, a guaranteed monthly housing subsidy for his rent (to be paid on the first of every month), continued job & life-skills training, and access to a care worker.

Thank you again for considering Bob's application and if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call or send me an email.

We hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

Nina Poljak
Housing First: Youth Engagement Housing Worker
(999) 999-9999 ext. 999
cell:888-888-8888

Aunt Leah's Place
816 20th Street
New Westminster, BC
V3M 4W6

604 525 1204
auntleahs.org



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T 604 525 1204
F 604 525 1295
E auntleahs@auntleahs.org
W www.auntleahs.org



BC Housing

315 New Westminster Employment & Assistance Office
202-1015 Columbia St
New Westminster BC V3M 6H6

September 18, 2015

Re: Support Letter for Homeless Prevention Program Housing Subsidy

XXXXX XXXXXXXX is a former youth in care who is a participant in our Link Program. This program is designed to provide support in all areas of the participant's lives from housing to education planning. XXXXX has been approved for our BC Housing Homeless Prevention Program Subsidy. We have provided XXXX with a monthly housing subsidy of \$000.00 to top up her rent of \$0000.00, which goes directly to her landlord. If you have any further questions please feel free to contact Rachel Wuttunee, Link Outreach Worker, at (999) 999-9999 ext. 999 or Cell (888) 888-8888. Thank you again

Sincerely,

Rachel Wuttunee
Link Outreach Worker

Landlord & Participants 24/7 phone



The Link
Housing First

(604)555-5555

They don't age out!

19

24

The Link – A Case Study

- * Does the Housing First model work for youth?
- * Does Housing First model work for youth exiting the foster care system?



The Link
Housing First

Outcomes



The Link
Housing First

- * Since January 1st, 2015:
- * 17 Intakes
- * 14 permanently housed
- * Rehousing:
- * 1 participant once
- * 1 participant three times

Individuals

- * [Reflections on Housing First - ALP2015.mp4](#)

Lessons Learned

- * High Barrier to Entry: HF only for the hardest to house
- * Extremely Cost Effective
 - * Adds preventative aspect to HF model
 - * Youth coming from institutions of incarceration, hospitals, foster care
 - * HF creating new stability, new developmental opportunities as an early intervention

Lesson Learned

- * HF for care leavers can be instituted without support from the local child protection agency
- * Provincial support: BC Housing, Income Assistance
- * Rent subsidies are key: youth from care need rent subsidies just like their parented peers
- * Landlords are compelled by the family model argument: they intuitively recognize its worth and efficacy



The Link

AUNT LEAH'S *place*

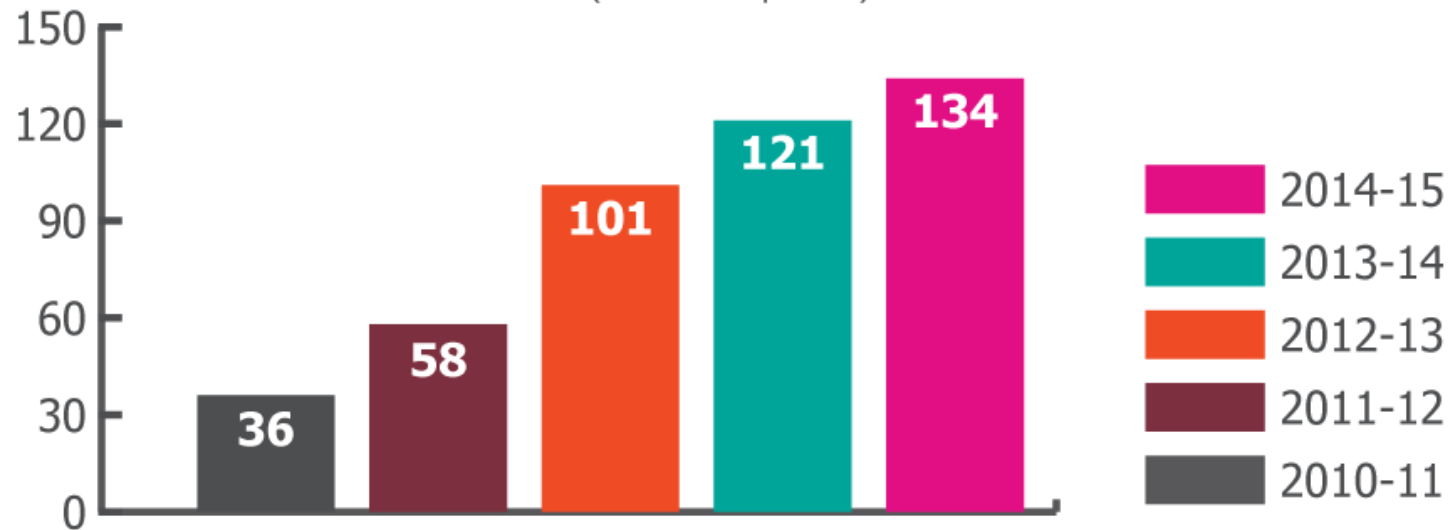




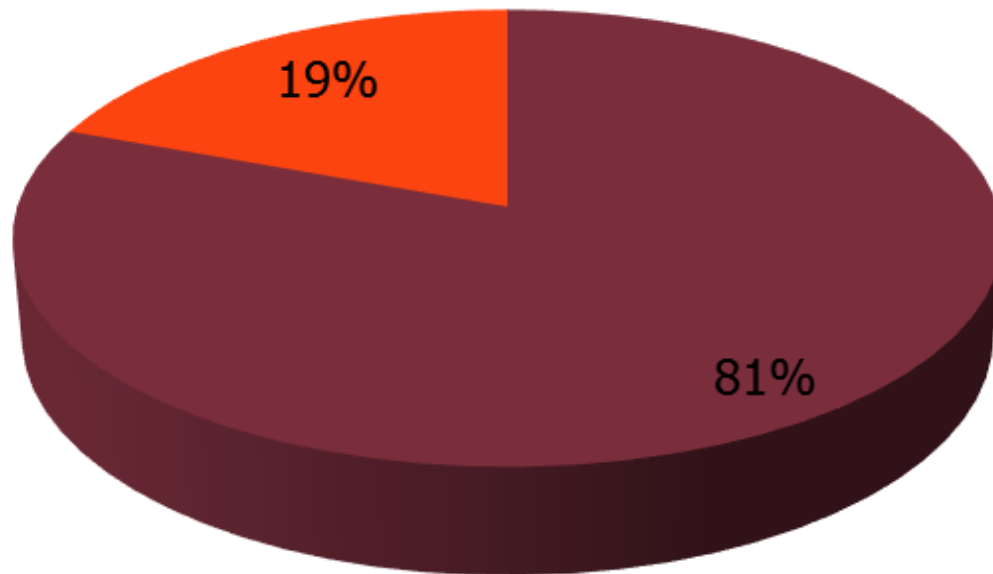
700 youth
Approximately 700 youth will leave
BC government care each year.

Need

The Link: Total Participants
(Annual Comparison)

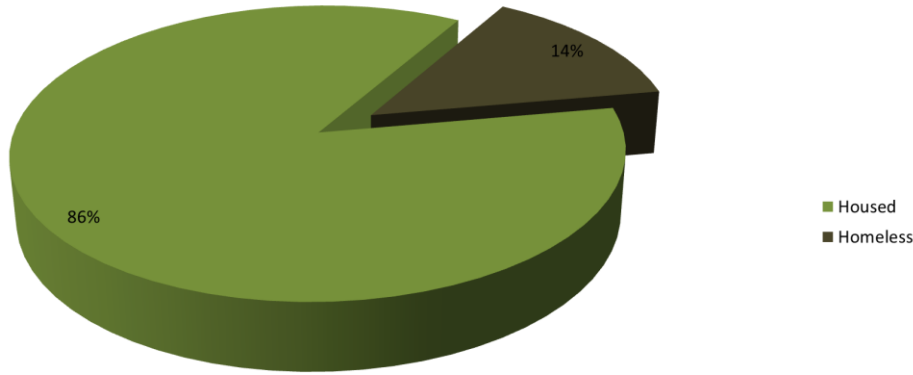


Link:Housed vs. Homeless,2014-2015

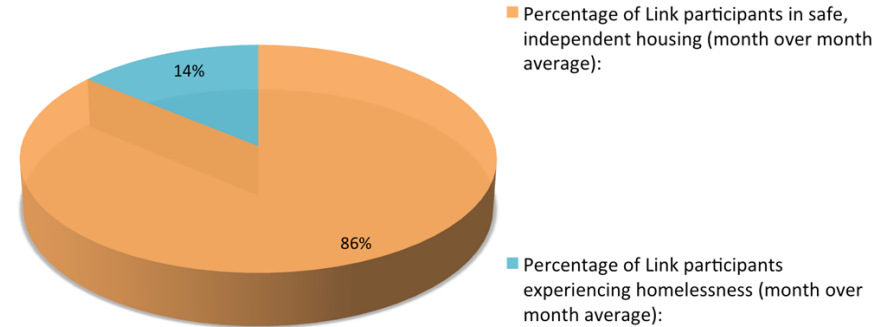


- Percentage of Link participants in safe, independent housing (month over month average):
- Percentage of Link participants experiencing homelessness (month over month average):

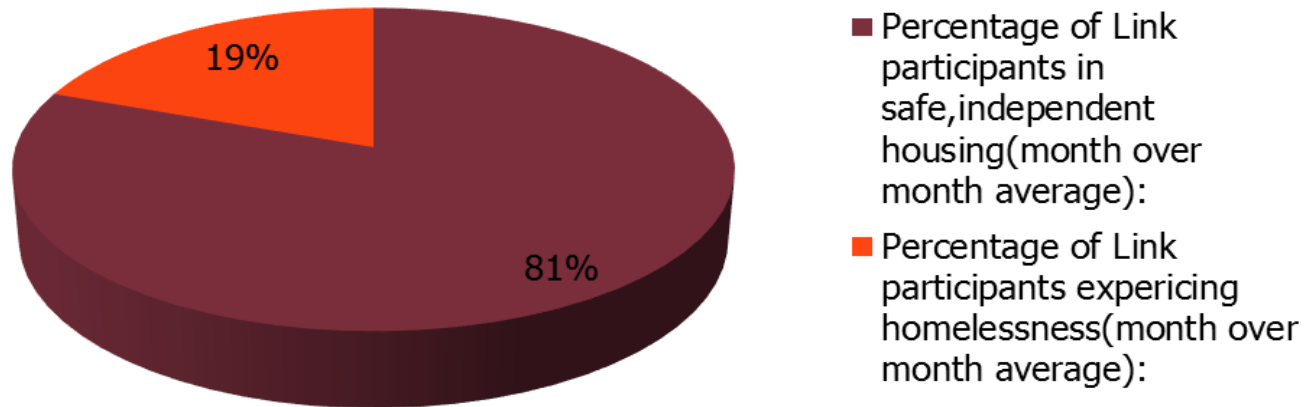
2012-13: Average percentage of Link youth with safe, independent housing per month (Homeless figure includes 'invisible homelessness' - e.g. couch surfing):



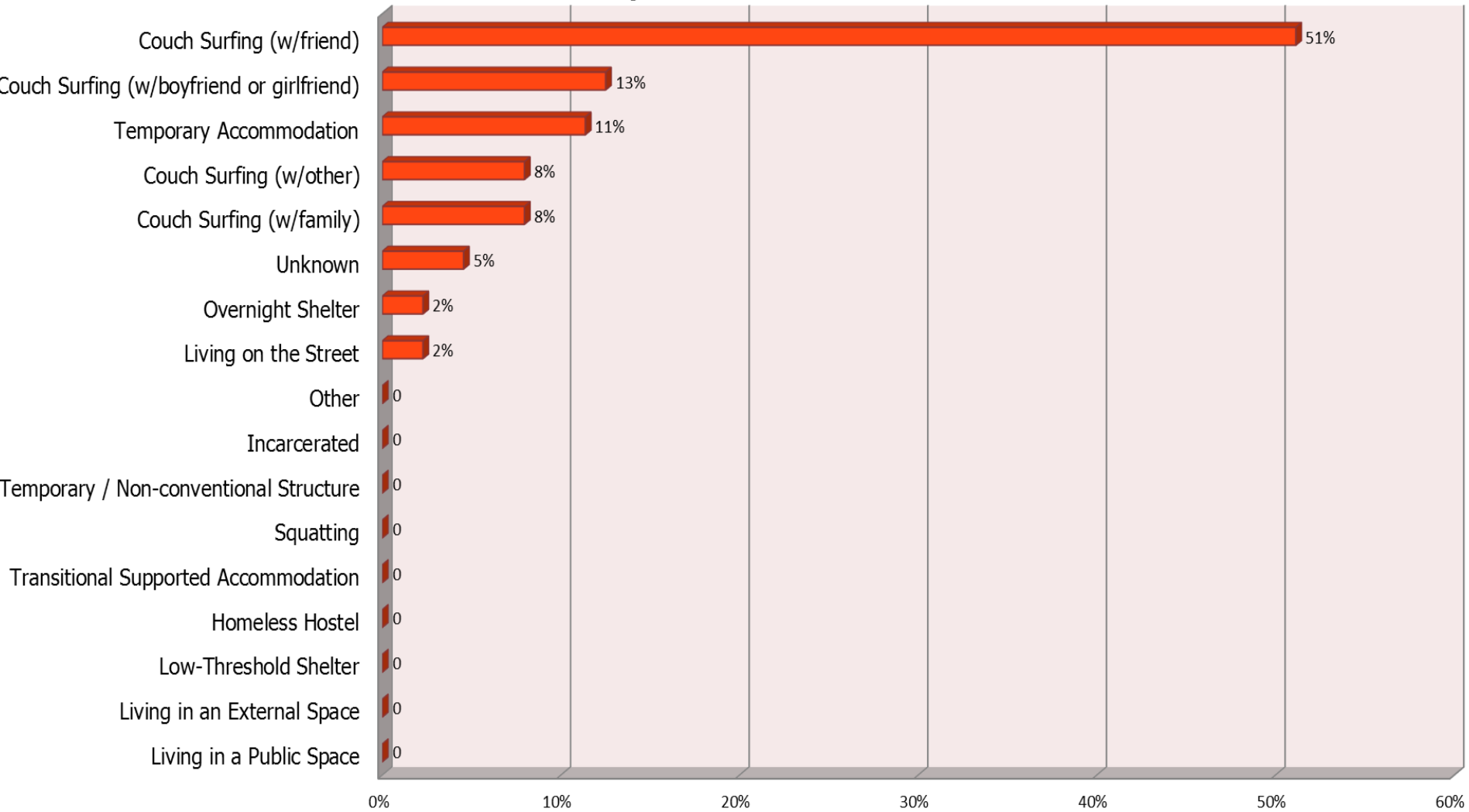
Link: Housed vs. Homeless, 2013-14



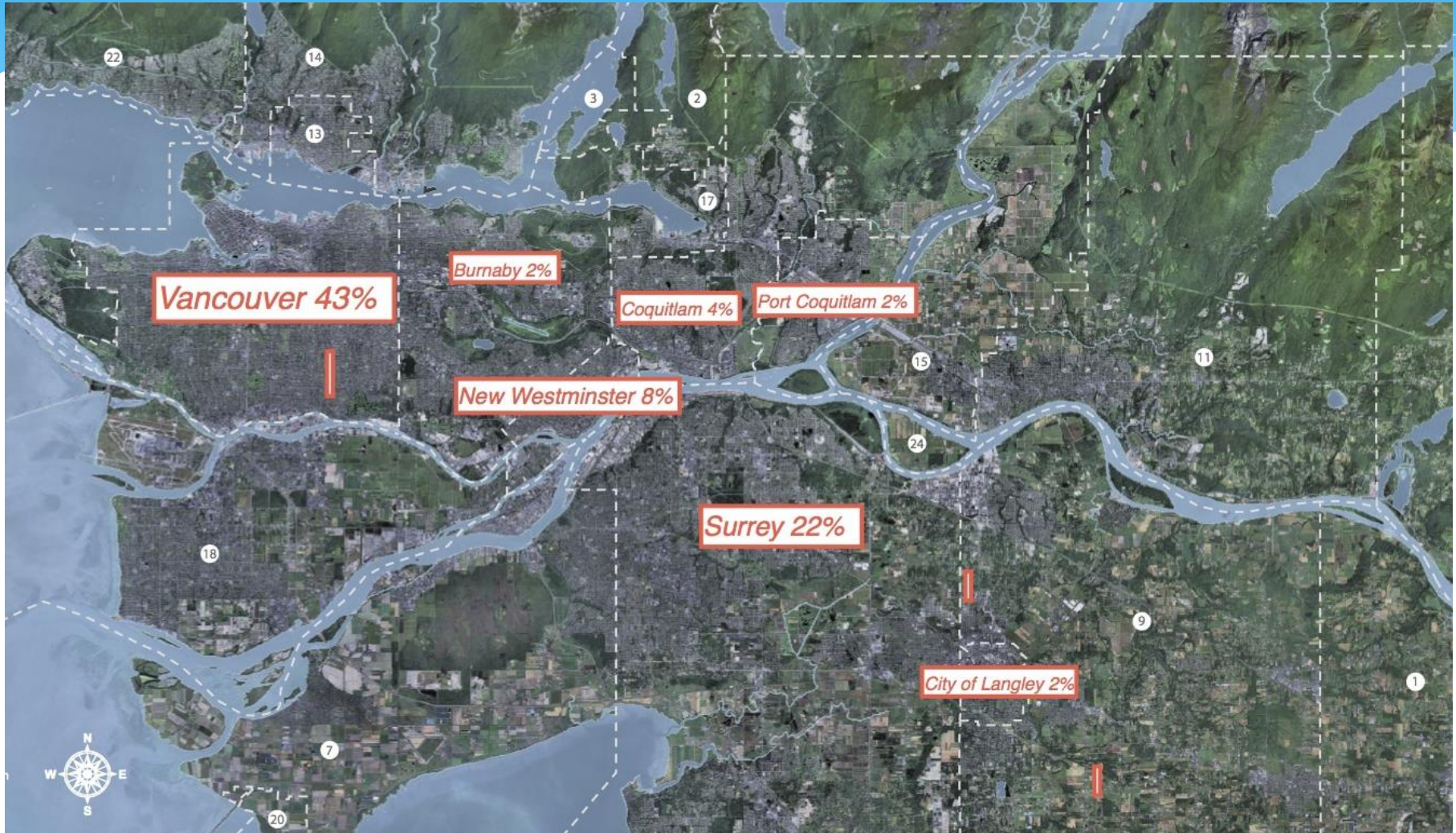
Link:Housed vs. Homeless,2014-2015



If homeless, how? Link 2014-2015



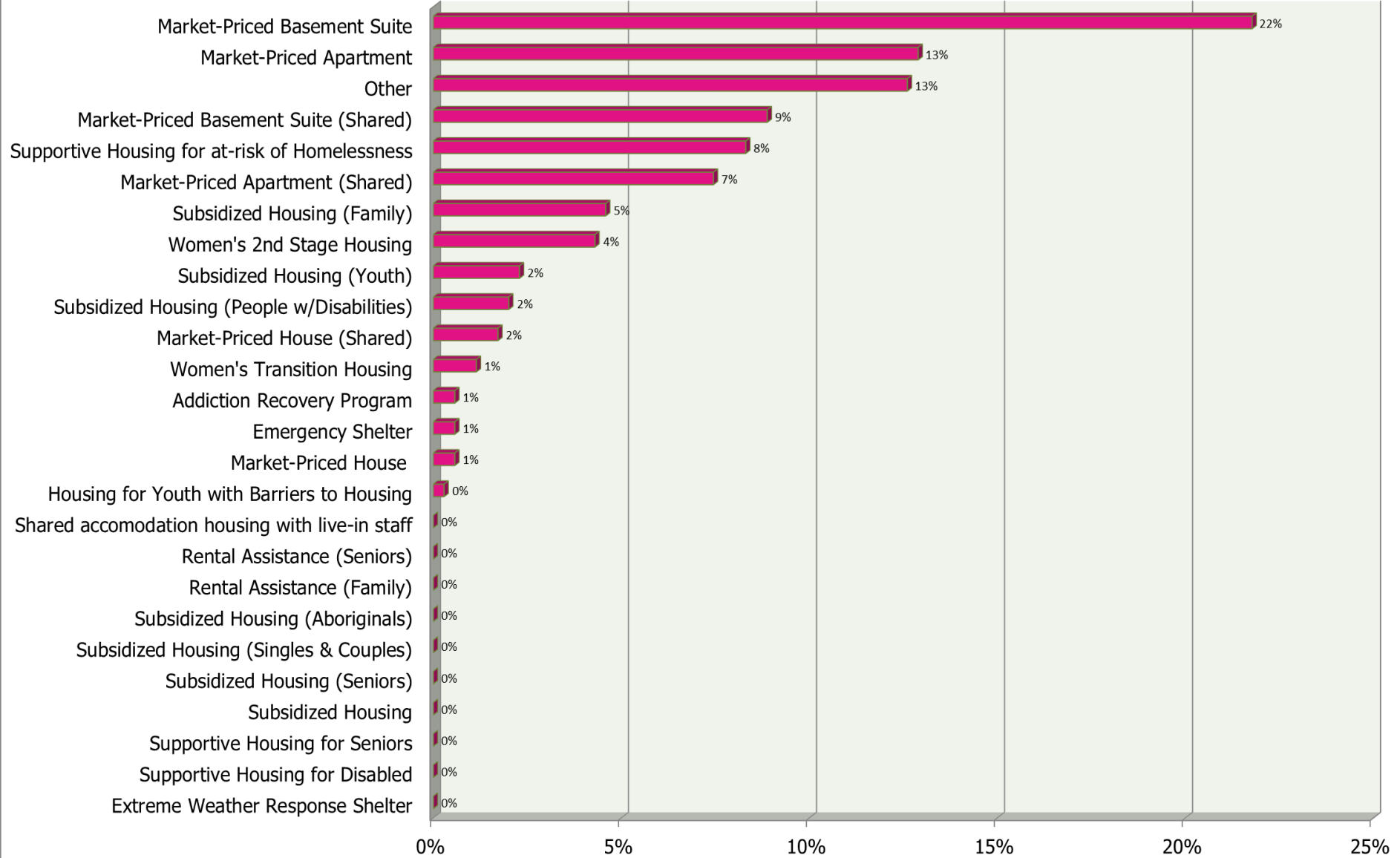
If homeless, where (2013-14)



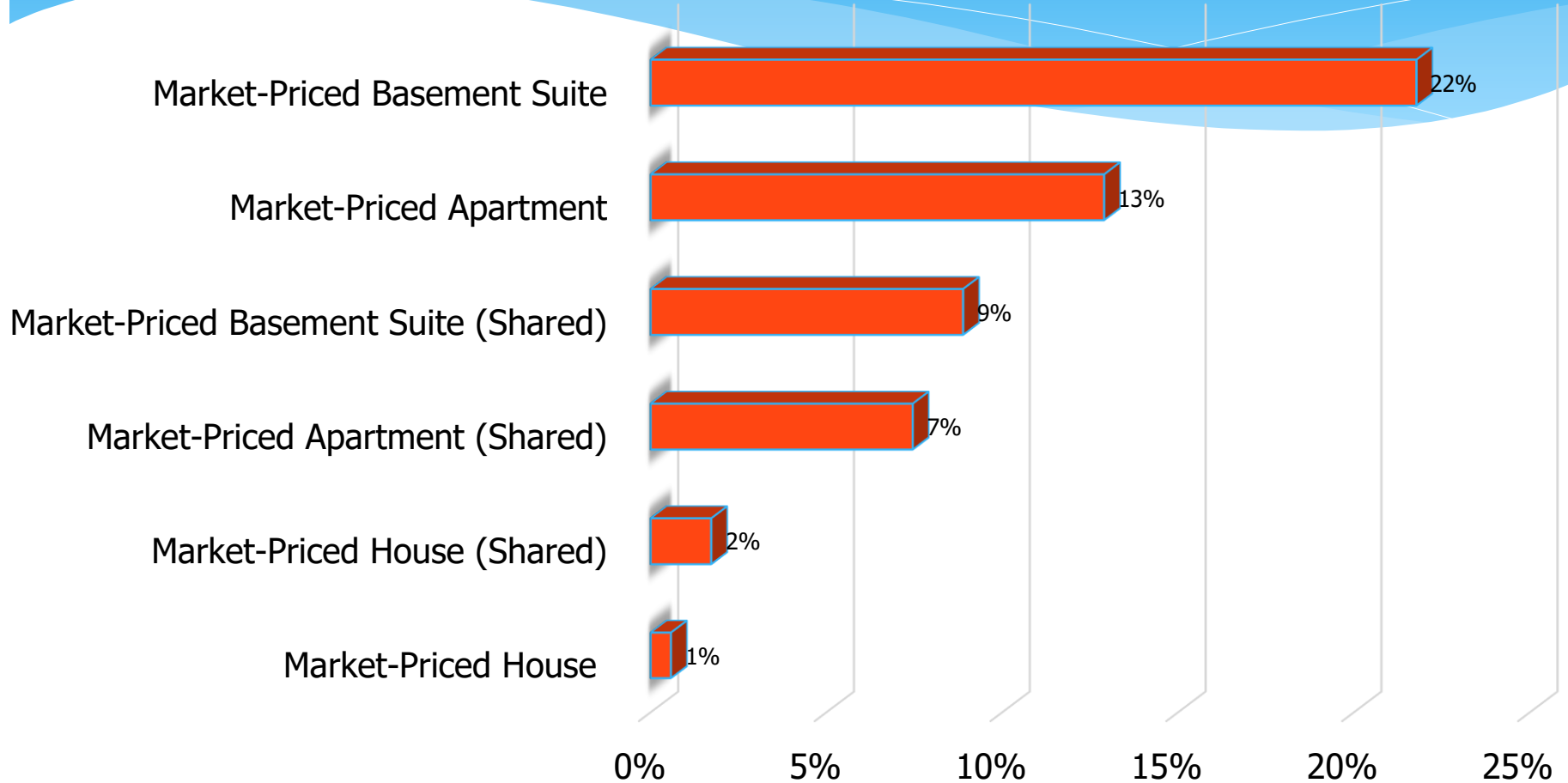
If homeless, where? (2014-15)



If housed, how? Link 2014-2015



Link 2014-2015: Market Housing Breakdown

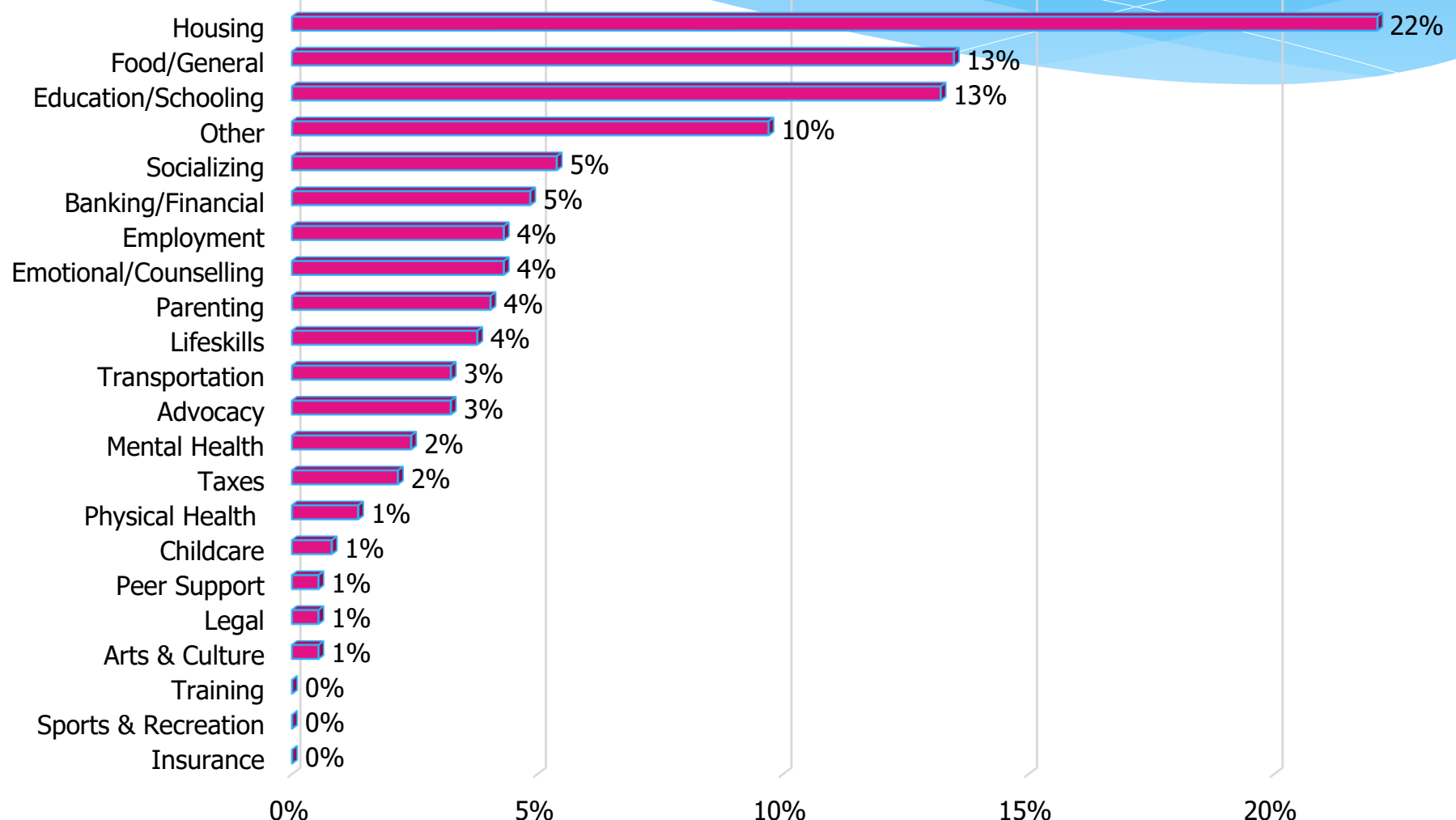


If housed, where?



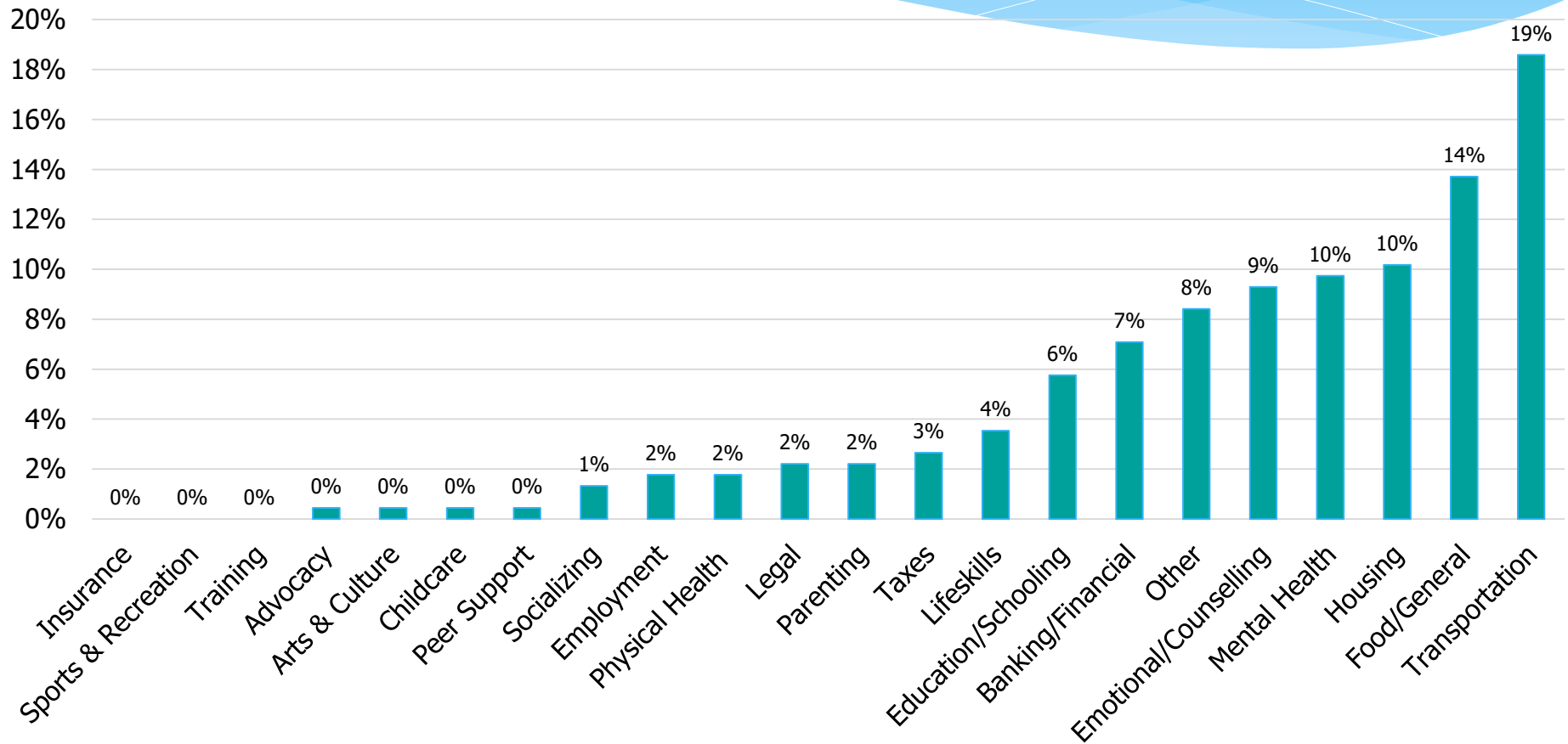
Life Skills

Primary Areas of Requested Support, Link 2014-2015



Life Skills

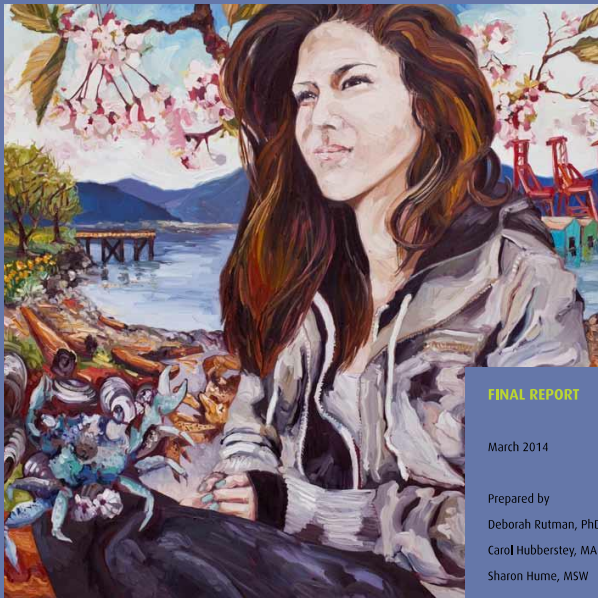
Secondary Areas of Requested Support, Link 2014-2015



University of Victoria

Avoiding the Precipice

An Evaluation of
Aunt Leah's *Link* Program
in Supporting Youth from Foster Care



FINAL REPORT

March 2014

Prepared by
Deborah Rutman, PhD
Carol Hubberstey, MA
Sharon Hume, MSW

- * First study of its kind: Quasi-experimental
- * 86% maintained housing
- * **Link:** 10% homeless after 19,
- * **Comparison Group:** 32% homeless after 19
- * **Link:** majority in market housing, in the community

Conference Board Of Canada



The Conference Board of Canada Le Conference Board du Canada

BRIEFING APRIL 2014

SUCCESS FOR ALL

Investing in the Future of Canadian Children in Care

At a Glance

- Most of the youth "aging out" of care fail to graduate from high school, and many suffer from poorly treated mental health problems.
- There is not enough support for these youths, and many fall into a life of crime, homelessness, and poverty.
- The high social and economic costs (7.5 billion over 10 years) indicate that Canadian governments, businesses, and the general public have a collective responsibility to do more.
- Improving the high school graduation rate can make a big difference in improved quality of life.

INTRODUCTION

Children in foster care have the odds stacked against them as they transition into adulthood. Lacking the financial and moral support that most Canadian children take for granted, they struggle to cope with the challenges of adult life. As a result, children in foster care are far less likely to graduate from high school than the average Canadian and have a much greater likelihood of suffering from mental health problems. Chronic unemployment, unplanned parenthood, homelessness, and incarceration are just some of the problems they encounter, with significant social and economic costs as a result.

Child welfare agencies throughout the country work hard to ensure that the children's basic needs are met while they are living in the care of the state. However,

1. A foster youth will earn \$326,000 less income
2. Over 10-years period = \$7.5 billion
3. Each former foster child, over his or her lifetime, will cost all levels of Canadian government more than \$126,000
4. Aging population: we cannot not invest in our youth

Social Return On Investment



\$1 : \$7

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RUNNERS IN
ACTION**

Profile: On her own at age 19 after aging out of foster care

BY TRACY SHERLOCK, VANCOUVER SUN | FEBRUARY 24, 2014

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STORY | PHOTOS (1)



Jasmine Eddy spoke to The Vancouver Sun at Aunt Leah's Place in New Westminster about turning 19 years old and losing her status and support as a foster child.

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Photos: At the Sun Run finish line

Duchess Kate, Prince William steal romantic moment in 'desert kingdom'

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PHOTOS: SUN
RUNNERS IN
ACTION

Twenty-one-year-old Bayleigh Marie spent her childhood in B.C.'s foster care system. She is now living on her own, and works and goes to school.

Twenty-one-year-old Bayleigh Marie spent her childhood in B.C.'s foster care system. She is now living on her own, and works and goes to school.

FEBRUARY 23, 2014

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Twenty-one-year-old Bayleigh Marie spent her childhood in B.C.'s foster care system. She is now living on her own, and works and goes to school.

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IN OTHER NEWS

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Mudslide hit area in Shuswap is now classified as no-stop zone

Photos: Duchess Kate stays cool as a cucumber in Australia

FROM AROUND THE WEB

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ACTION

Part Three: From care to where? A continuing need for support

Part three of The Vancouver Sun's six-day series on foster children who 'age out' of government care

BY TRACY SHERLOCK, VANCOUVER SUN MARCH 4, 2014

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STORY PHOTOS (1)



Robert Davidson spoke to The Vancouver Sun at Aunt Leah's Place in New Westminster about being a foster child and losing government support when he turned 19.

Photograph by: Ric Ernst, VANCOUVER SUN

MORE ON THIS STORY

- Readers respond to The Sun's "From care to where?" series
- Video: Day 4 - Aging Out Series: These kids need help out of foster care
- Video: Day 1 - Aging Out Series: Why 19 is too young to age out of care
- Video: Day 5 - Aging Out Series: Foster care - Too

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FP MANAGEMENT & HR

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YOUTH

HEALTH



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Imagination

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SUPPORT

Inspiration