



homeward trust
edmonton

Supported Referral

An Upstream Housing Intervention to Reduce Chronic Homelessness

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November 9th, 2023

Objectives

- Overview of Homeward Trust and our role in ending homelessness in Edmonton
- Overview of system-planning and the role of upstream interventions within it
- Description of Supported Referrals; the program and process
- Explore outcomes related to Supported Referrals
- Share learnings to consider when developing upstream interventions

Homeward Trust Edmonton

Leads efforts to end homelessness in Edmonton

- Responsible for stewarding provincial and local plans to end homelessness

- System planning
- Community leadership
- Data and knowledge management (HMIS)
- Evaluation
- Innovation



- Stewards and directs funding from 3 orders of government to meet community priorities
- Ensures compliance and contract reporting
- Invests in programs, housing supply, and community capacity

Implementation

- Community planning and engagement
- Review and investment in what works
- Taking risks and learning

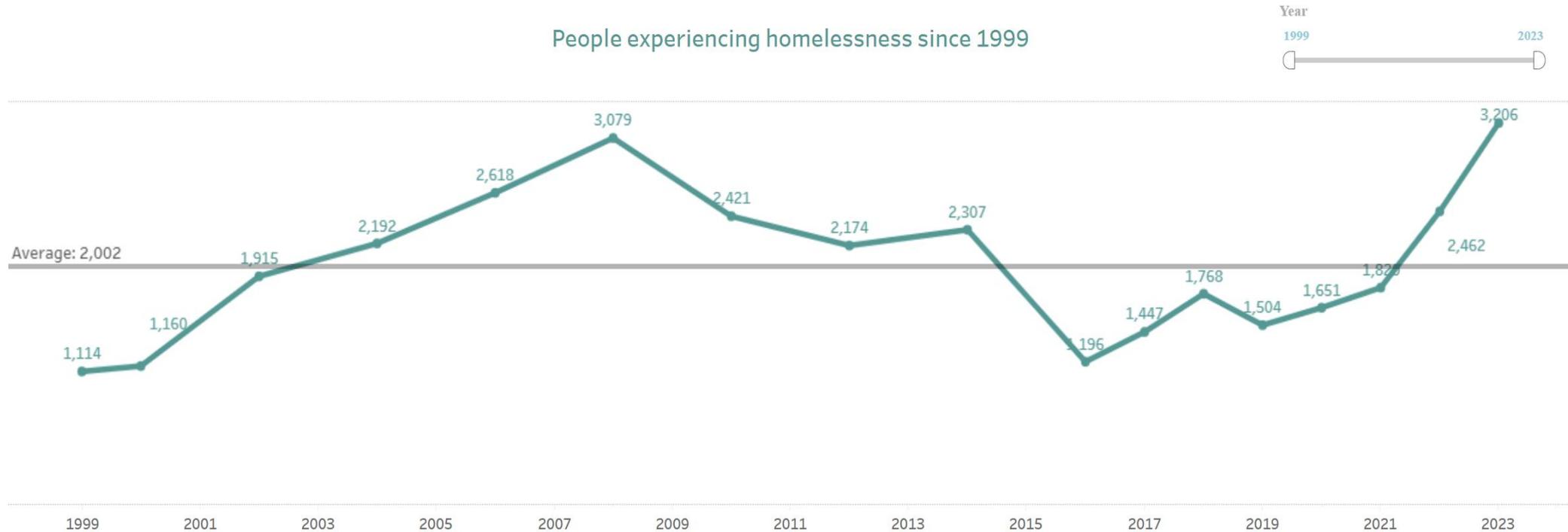
Edmonton, Alberta Canada

Geography and Housing:

- Most northern city in North America with a metropolitan population of over 1 million
- In 2021, 12% of Edmontonian households lives in core housing need
- In Alberta, there have been a 73% increase in food bank usage since 2019

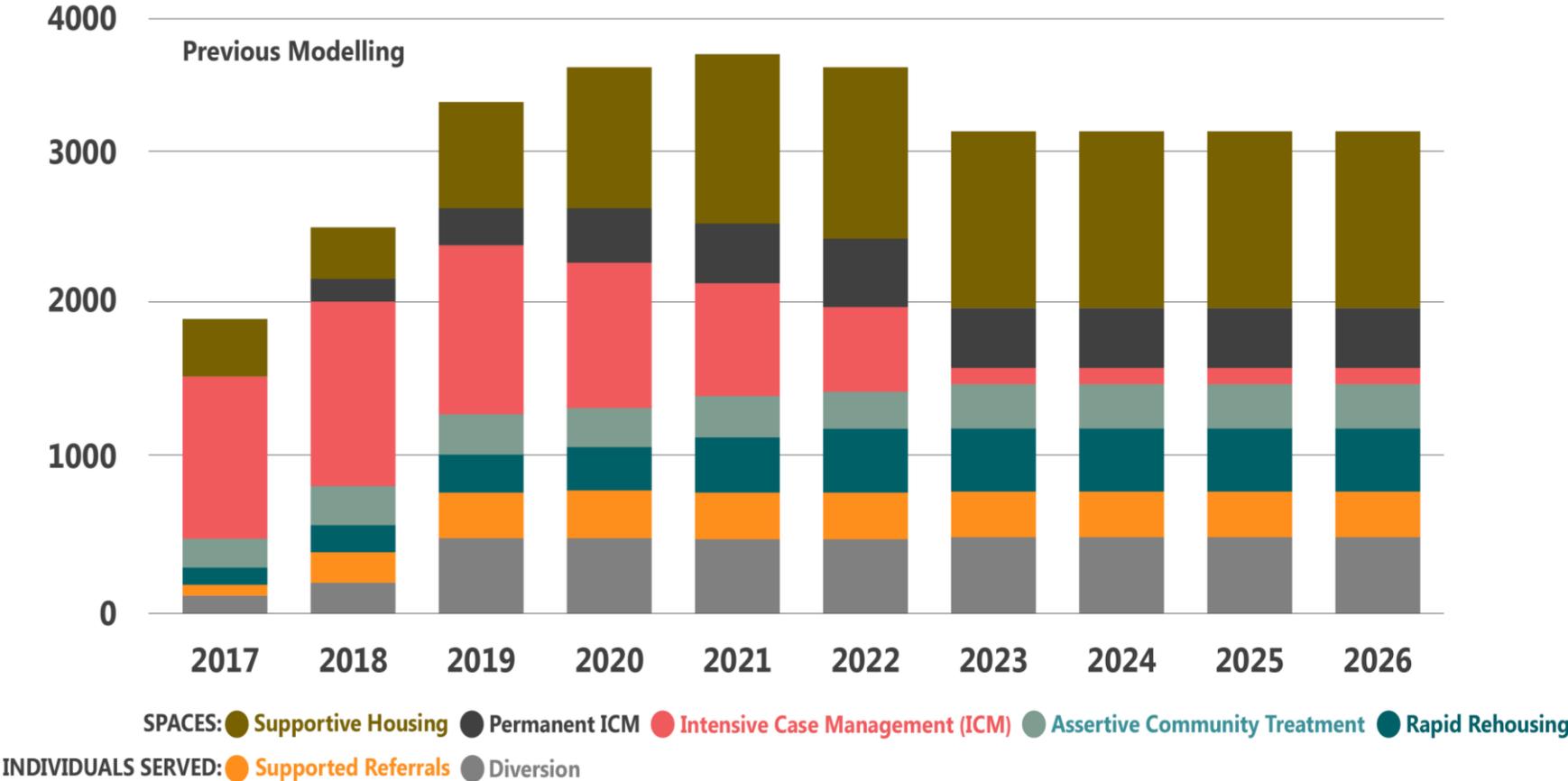


Homelessness Over Time



- Data from 1999 - 2016 from **Point-In-Time Counts**
- Data from 2017 – Present from the **By Name List**

Homeless-Serving System Cumulative Capacity Changes



Need and Investment

Cumulative changes year over year, showing number of spaces per program type.

Principles of Housing First

- 1 Access to housing with no housing readiness requirement
- 2 Person choice and self-determination
- 3 Individualized, recovery-oriented, and person-driven supports
- 4 Harm reduction and trauma informed care
- 5 Social and community integration

Overview

An innovative pilot project until January 31, 2019

- Government of Canada ‘HPS Innovative Solutions to Homelessness’
- Government of Alberta Community and Social Services “Outreach Support Services Initiative”

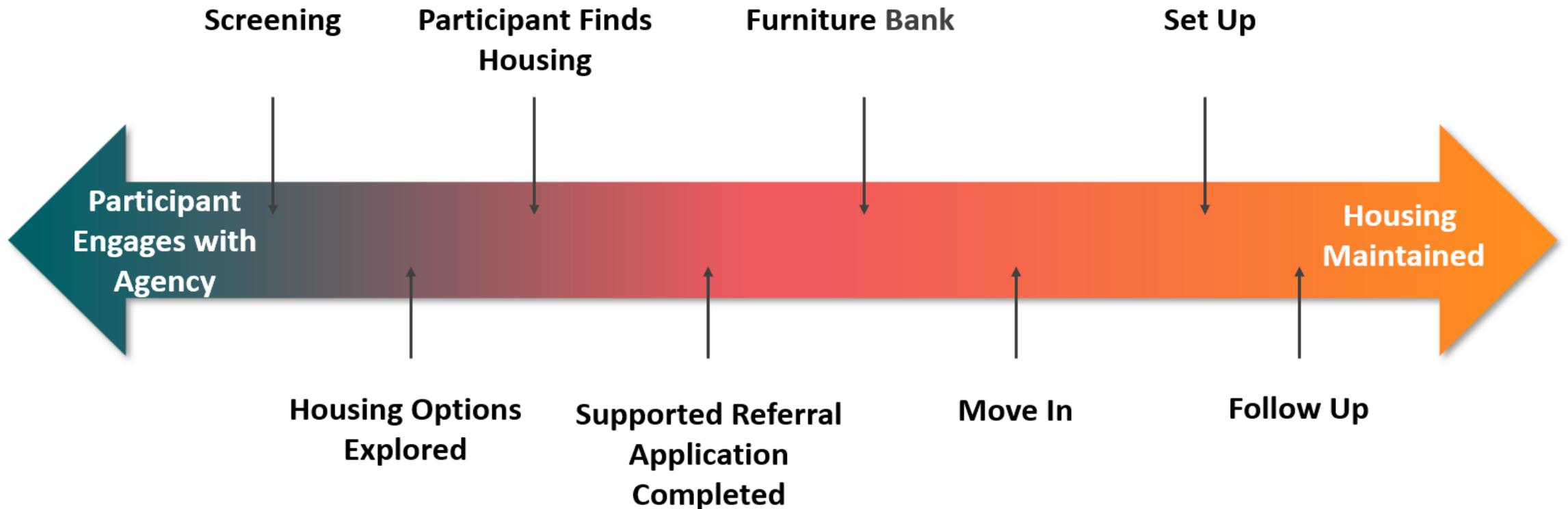
An upstream intervention to prevent experience of chronic homelessness

- 19 Partner agencies serving singles, families, and youth
- 1,328 people have been housed
- 93% of people have successfully completed the process

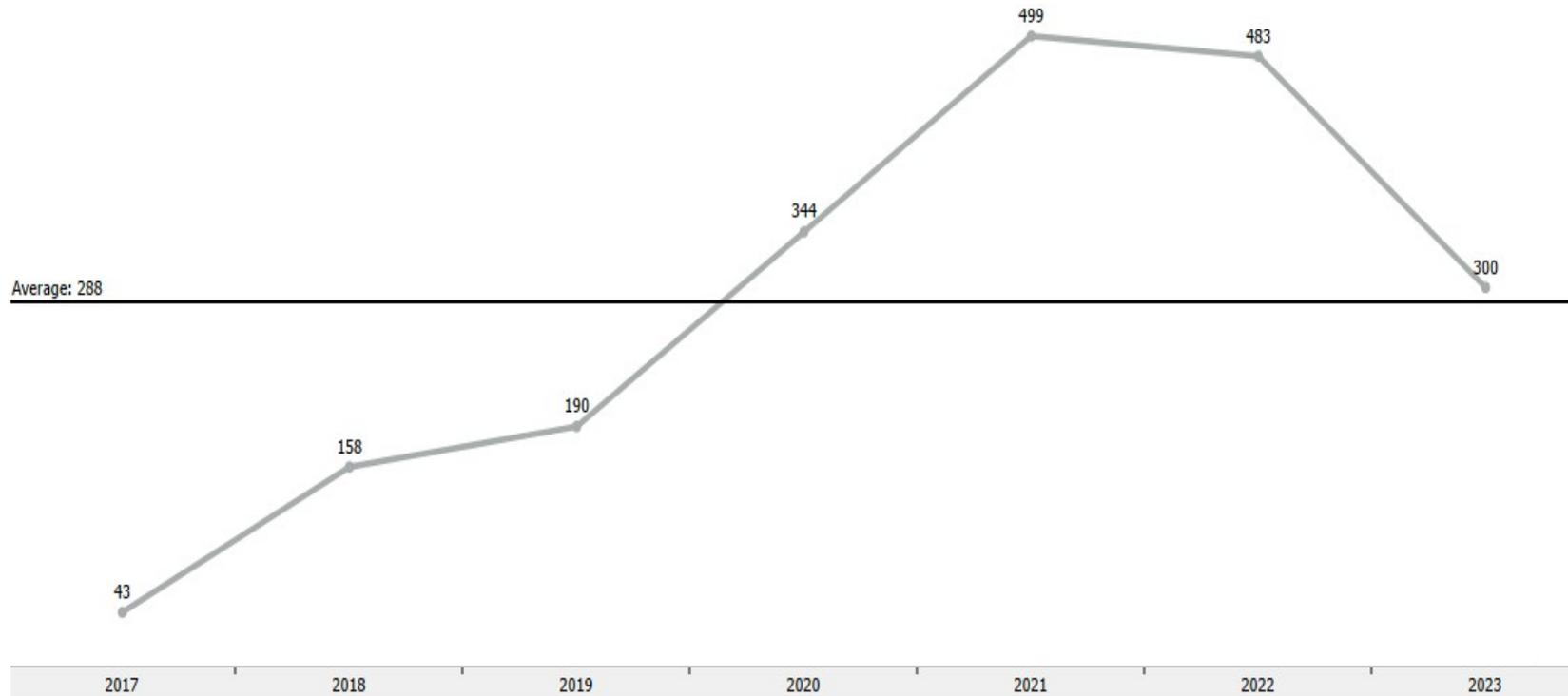
Importance

- Early interventions increase housing outcomes
- Supports individuals and families to resolve their housing crisis as independently as possible
- All permanent housing needs cannot be the long-term responsibility of the homeless serving system
- Strengthening housing capacity across the community
- Stimulated system collaboration and change

Process

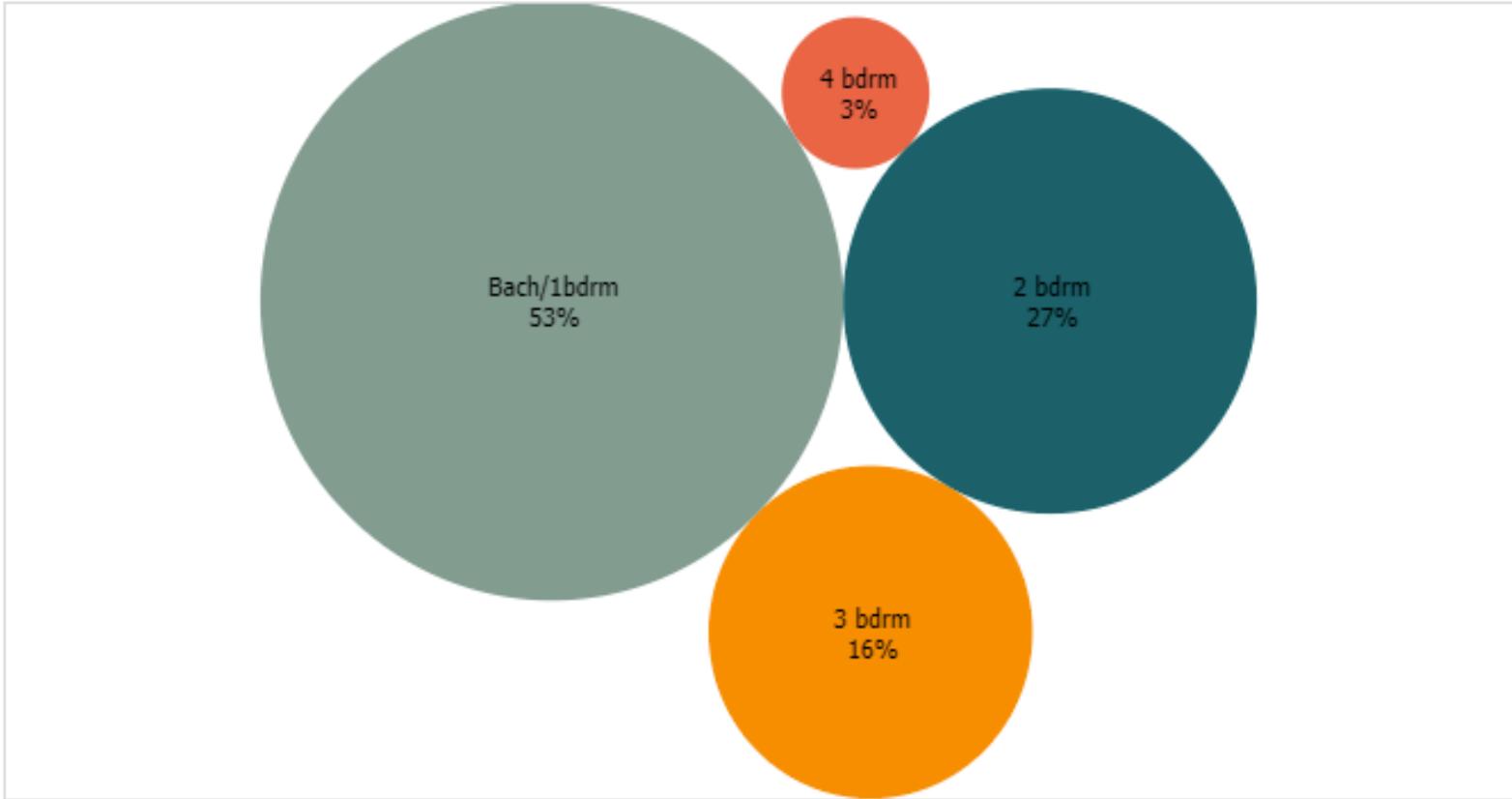


Yearly Totals



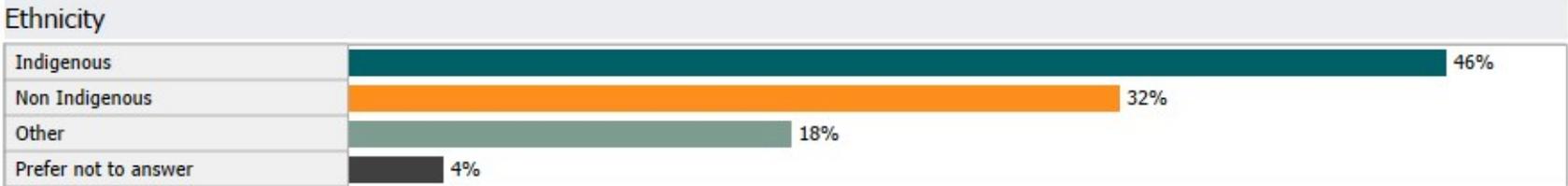
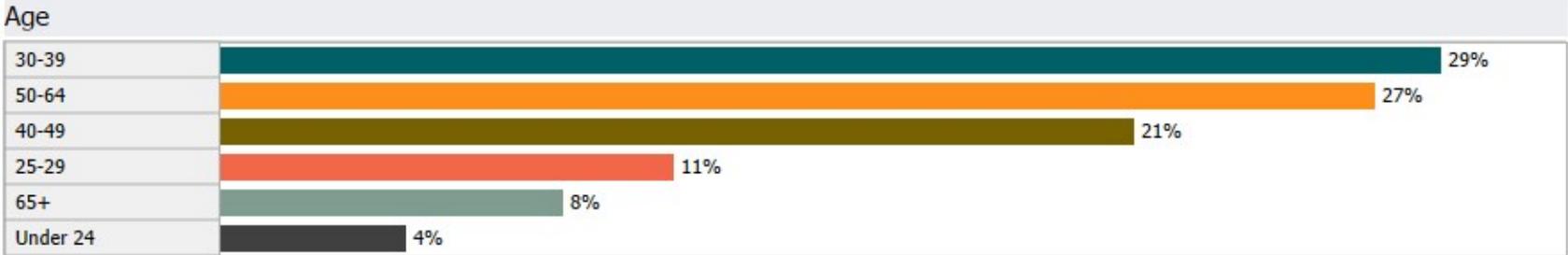
Use of Supported Referrals has expanded over the years

Household Types



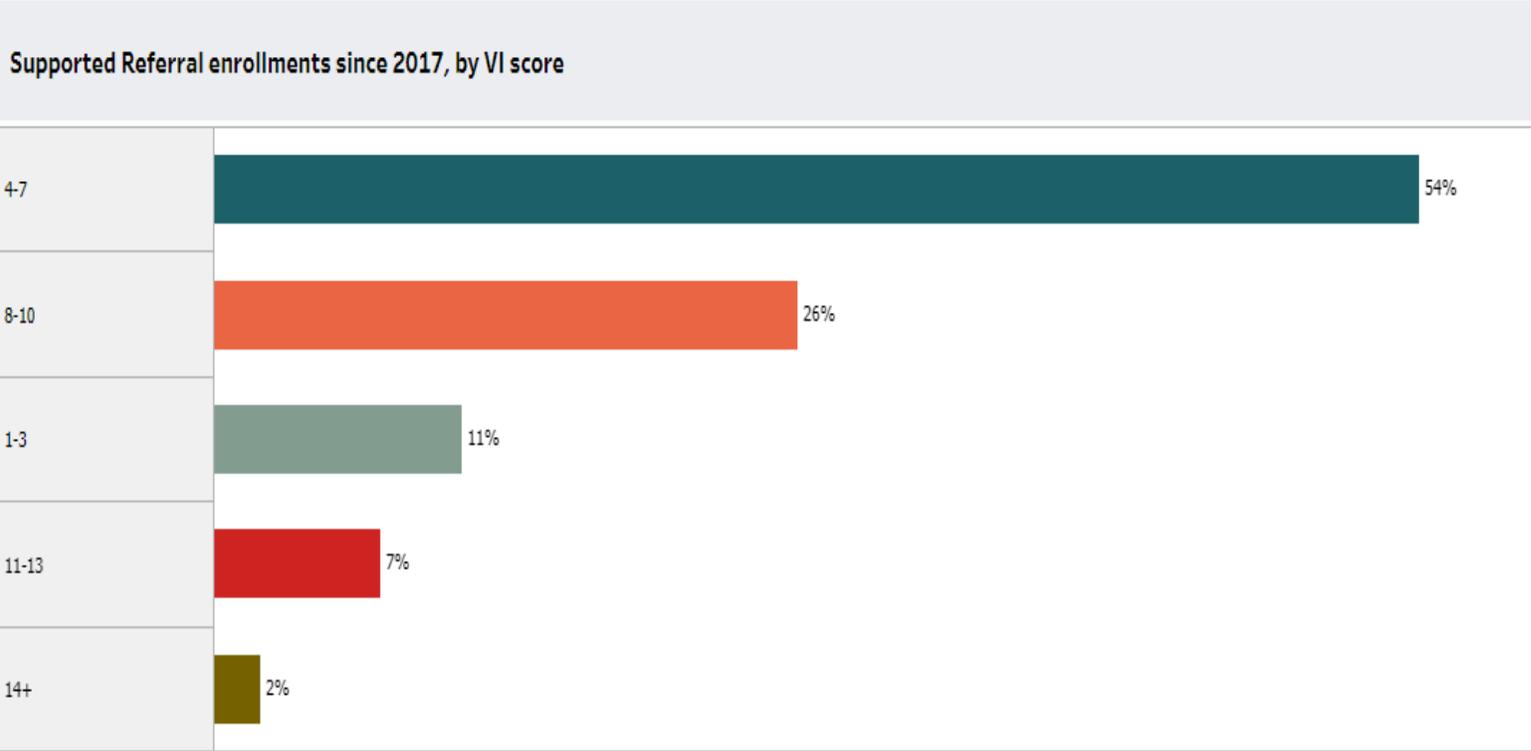
All household types benefit from having access to upstream interventions

Demographics



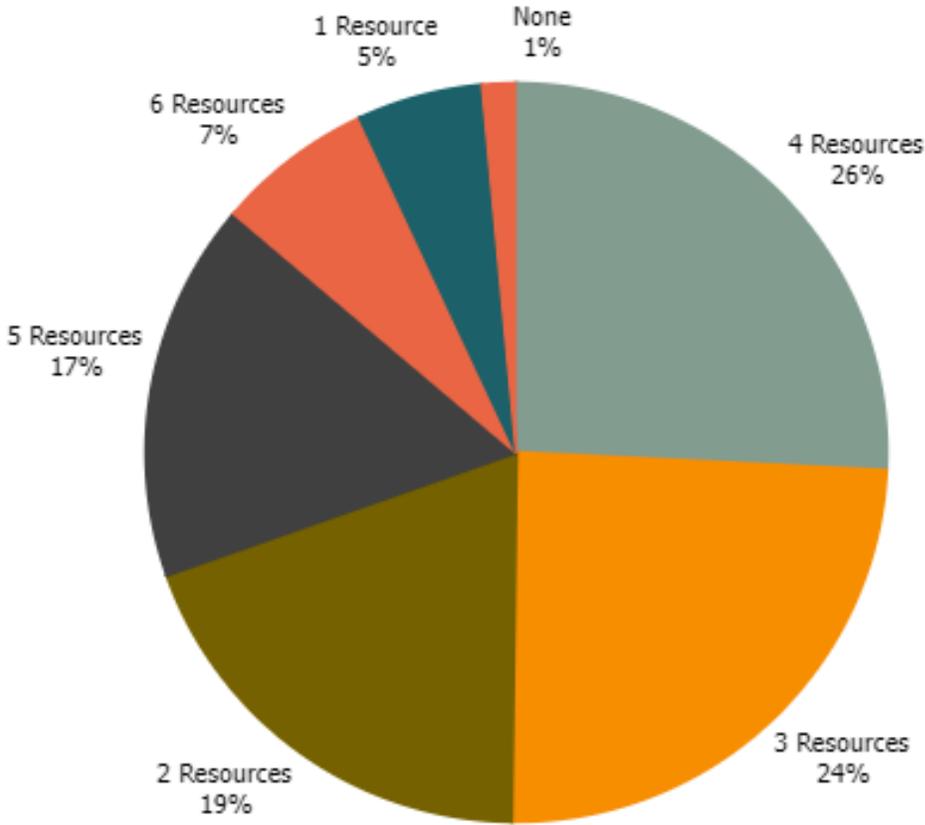
All people benefit from having access to upstream interventions

Household Acuity



Upstream interventions may be successful with all levels of need

Resources Provided



People benefit from having a variety of housing start-up resources available to them

Learnings

- Communication across the system is needed to decrease duplication of efforts and increase information
- Essential to have standardized method of tracking efforts, to learn from data
- System-wide accountability to supporting people in housing crisis
- Importance of identifying opportunities to broaden housing work across the community

Future State

- Formalized diversion approach
- Expansion to prevention space
- Increase use across outreach and shelter spaces
- Scaling up

Thank You!

— Andrea Ness

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