

# Cochrane Society for Housing Options: HOMELESSNESS SURVEY DATA REPORT

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## 1 Introduction

In Fall-Winter 2019, Cochrane Society for Housing Options (CSHO) completed a process to estimate housing and service needs. The process involved the delivery of a survey through Survey Monkey, which contained 45 questions. The majority of the questions were taken from the Alberta Rural Development Network's Homelessness Estimation Guide (2019), with some modified slightly to fit the Town's context. The survey was made available to the public at a variety of locations including service agencies, public institutions, and online.

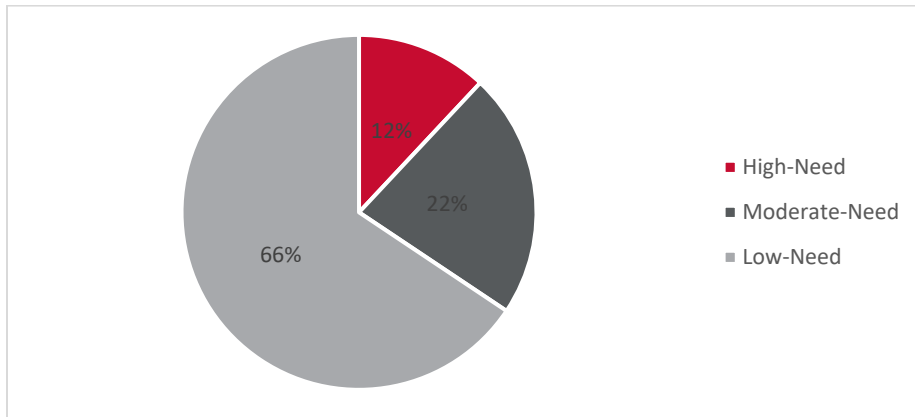
In total, 224 people responded to the survey. **Please note** that this report summarizes the results of the survey but does not provide an in-depth analysis of the findings. Caution should be exercised when drawing conclusions from the statements contained within the report, as in many cases the response rate did not generate significant respondent group sizes. This may skew results and not be consistent with realistic circumstances in the broader general population. The findings from this report are intended to be read as part of a larger effort to identify and understand housing needs in Cochrane, as discussed below in Section 11.

## 2 Identification of Housing Need

- To facilitate an analysis and some crosstabulation of survey responses, answers to the question, "Thinking about your living situation this past month, which of these statements apply to you?" were grouped, based on level of need as indicated by the responses. Duplicates were removed through a simple filtering process.
  
- The categories are defined as:
  - Low-Need
    - "I own the house I'm currently in"
    - "I rent the apartment I'm currently in"
    - "I live in accommodations provided by my employer"
    - "I live in a house that is owned by/renter out by the Band"
    - "I share a house/apartment with roommates"
    - "I live in a house/apartment that I share with family/dependents"
  - Moderate-Need
    - "I find it difficult to pay rent and I feel like I spend more than a third of my monthly income on my housing"
    - "I live in housing that needs major repairs (heating or plumbing problems, mold, leaky roof, etc.)"
    - "There are not enough rooms for the number of people in the house I'm in"
  - High-Need
    - "I lived in supported housing (e.g. Housing First) in the past month"
    - "I stayed in a medical/detox/rehabilitation facility in the past month"
    - "I slept in a friend's/family's house because I had no other place to stay in the last month"
    - "I stayed in a jail/prison/remand centre in the past month"

- “I stayed at a women’s/domestic violence shelter in the past month”
  - “I stayed with someone I didn’t know because I had no other place to stay in the past month”
  - “I slept in a shelter in the past month”
  - “I slept in a makeshift shelter, vehicle, tent, or shack in the past month”
  - “I slept in a public space (sidewalks, park benches, bus shelter etc.) in the past month”
- Of the 224 survey respondents, 192 answered this question.
    - 126 are identified to be in ‘Low-Need’
    - 43 are identified to be in ‘Moderate-Need’
    - 23 are identified to be in ‘High-Need’

**In the rest of the report, we will refer to these three groups in relation to the other questions.**

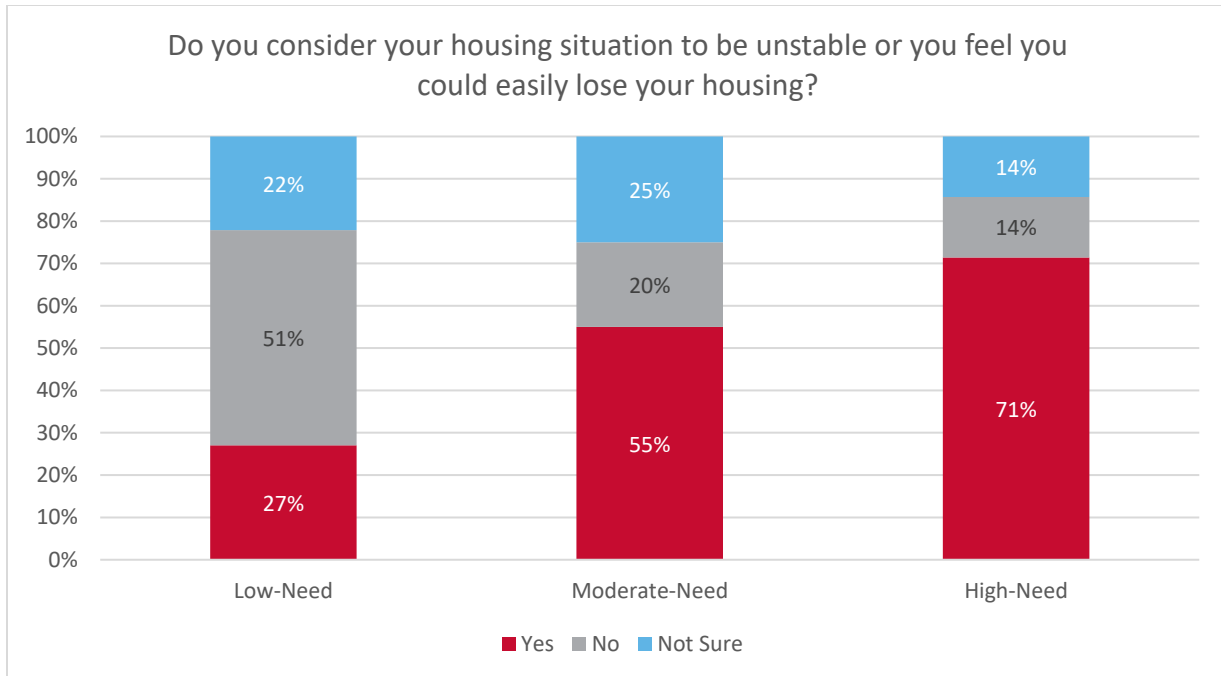


**Figure 1: Housing Need Categories**

### 3 Housing Situation

- Of the respondents, almost equal numbers felt that their housing situation is unstable or that they could easily lose their housing (70 respondents answered yes, 73 respondents answered no). There were 40 respondents who were not sure, and 9 who did not answer the question.

“Do you consider your housing situation to be unstable or you feel you could easily lose your housing?”	Total
Yes	38%
No	40%
Not Sure	22%
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>100%</b>



**Figure 2: Housing Stability**

- Among all respondents, the top reasons for feeling that their housing is unstable or could be easily lost were:
  - “Does not apply to me” (39%, 74 people)
  - “I don’t make enough money” (27%, 51 people)
  - “I can’t afford my rent or mortgage payments” (20%, 38 people)
  
- Among Low-Need respondents the top reasons were the same as the total group, but with different percentages:
  - “Does not apply to me” (52%, 66 people)
  - “I don’t make enough money” (15%, 19 people)
  - “I can’t afford my rent or mortgage payments” (12%, 15 people)
  
- Among Moderate-Need respondents the top reasons were:
  - “I don’t make enough money” (58%, 25 people)
  - “I can’t afford my rent or mortgage payments” (44%, 19 people)
  - “I lost my job/ spouse lost their job” (16%, 7 people)
  
- Among High Need respondents the top reasons were:
  - “Mental health issues” (35%, 8 people)
  - “I don’t make enough money” (30%, 7 people)
  - “Disability, mental or physical” (22%, 5 people)
  - “Conflict with: landlord, parent/guardian, roommate, spouse/partner” (22%, 5 people)

## 4 Gender Identity & Sexual Orientation

### 4.1 Gender Identity

Gender Identification	Low-Need	Moderate-Need	High-Need	Total
Male/Man	44	9	9	62
Female/Woman	70	33	11	114
Non-binary (including gender-queer & gender-fluid)	3	1	0	4
Trans Male/ Trans Man	1	0	0	1
Trans Female / Trans Woman	0	0	2	2
Two-Spirit	2	0	0	2
Identity not listed	0	0	1	1
Don't Know	1	0	0	1
Prefer not to answer	5	0	0	5
<b>Total Number of Respondents</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>192</b>

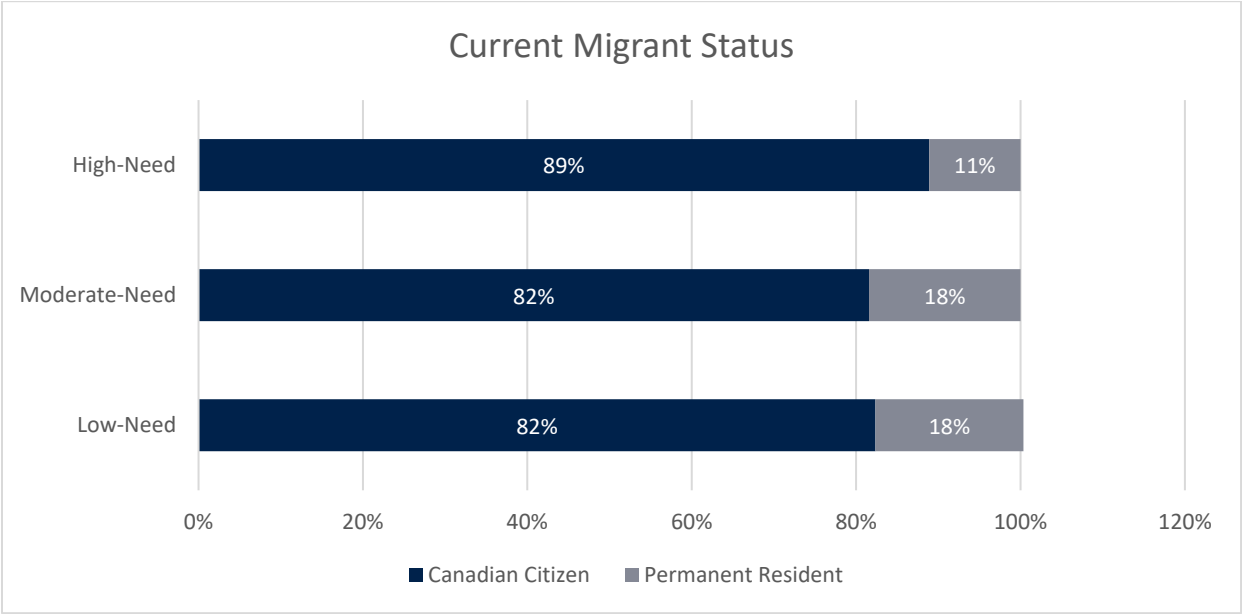
- The highest number of respondents identified as “female/woman” (61% in total)
- 94% of respondents identified as either “male/man” or “female/woman”
- All respondents that “preferred not to answer” were in the Low-Need housing category

### 4.2 Sexual Orientation

Sexual Orientation	Low-Need	Moderate-Need	High-Need	Total
Straight	99	39	14	152
Gay	4	0	0	4
Lesbian	3	1	3	7
Bisexual	6	1	3	10
Queer	1	0	0	1
Two-Spirit	1	0	1	2
Asexual	1	0	0	1
Identity not listed	4	1	1	6
Prefer not to answer	6	0	1	7
No Answer/Error/Other	1	1	0	2
<b>Total Number of Respondents</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>192</b>

- In total, just over 16% of respondents that answered the survey question identified with a non-straight sexual orientation
- Almost 80% of respondents identified as “straight”, with 4% choosing not to answer
- Across the housing needs categories, the proportion of respondents identifying as “straight” varied:
  - Low-Need: 83%
  - Moderate-Need: 93%
  - High-Need: 64%

## 5 Citizenship & Immigration Status



**Figure 3: Current Migrant Status**

	Low-Need	Moderate-Need	High-Need	Total
Canadian Citizen	84	31	16	131
Permanent Resident	18	7	2	27

- The High-Need category had a slightly higher proportion of respondents that were Canadian citizens, and the lowest proportion of permanent residents/ landed immigrants
- Note: although Landed Immigrants and Permanent Residents were both offered as selections in this question, they are interchangeable terms and have been combined (the Low-Need category was the only category in which a single (1) respondent identified as “Landed Immigrant”)
- 33 total respondents (all housing need categories) had an error in their answer; 1 respondent preferred not to answer the question

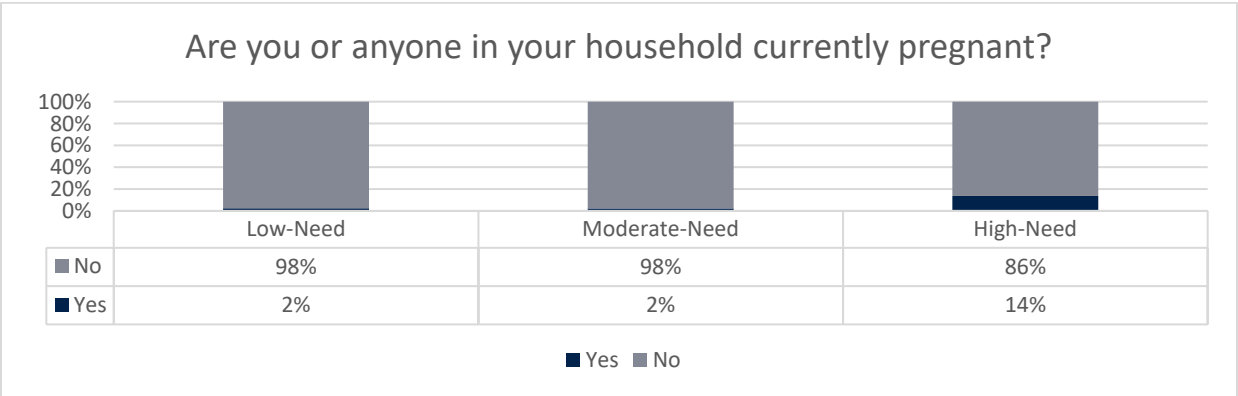
## 6 Ethnicity

- Across all categories of housing need, the majority of respondents identified as Caucasian (72%)
- The High-Need category had the lowest proportion of respondents that identified as Caucasian (68%), and the highest proportions of respondents that identified as “First Nations” and “Multi” (5% and 9% respectively)
- The Moderate-Need category had the highest number that identified as Caucasian (79%)

	Low-Need	Moderate-Need	High-Need	Total
Caucasian	70%	79%	68%	72%
African	2%	0%	0%	1%
Latino/ Hispanic	2%	5%	5%	3%
Asian	11%	9%	9%	11%
First Nations	2%	2%	5%	3%
Inuit	1%	0%	0%	1%
Metis	5%	0%	0%	3%
Middle Eastern	0%	0%	0%	0%
Multi	2%	2%	9%	3%
Not Listed	6%	2%	5%	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Number of Respondents</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>187</b>

## 7 Pregnancy & Dependents

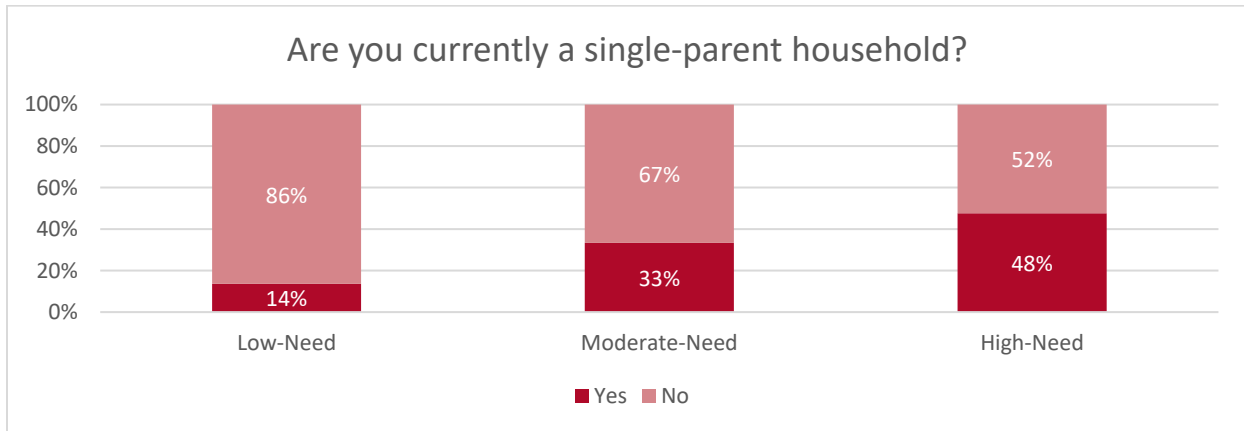
### 7.1 Pregnancy



**Figure 4: Pregnancy in Household**

- In total, seven (7) respondents answered “yes” that someone in their household was pregnant
- 14% of respondents in the High-Need category (3 respondents) answered “yes”, versus 2% in the Low- and Moderate-Need categories (3 and 4 respondents, respectively)
- One (1) respondent in each of the High- and Low-Need categories answered “prefer not to answer”

## 7.2 Single-Parent Households



**Figure 5: Single-Parent Households**

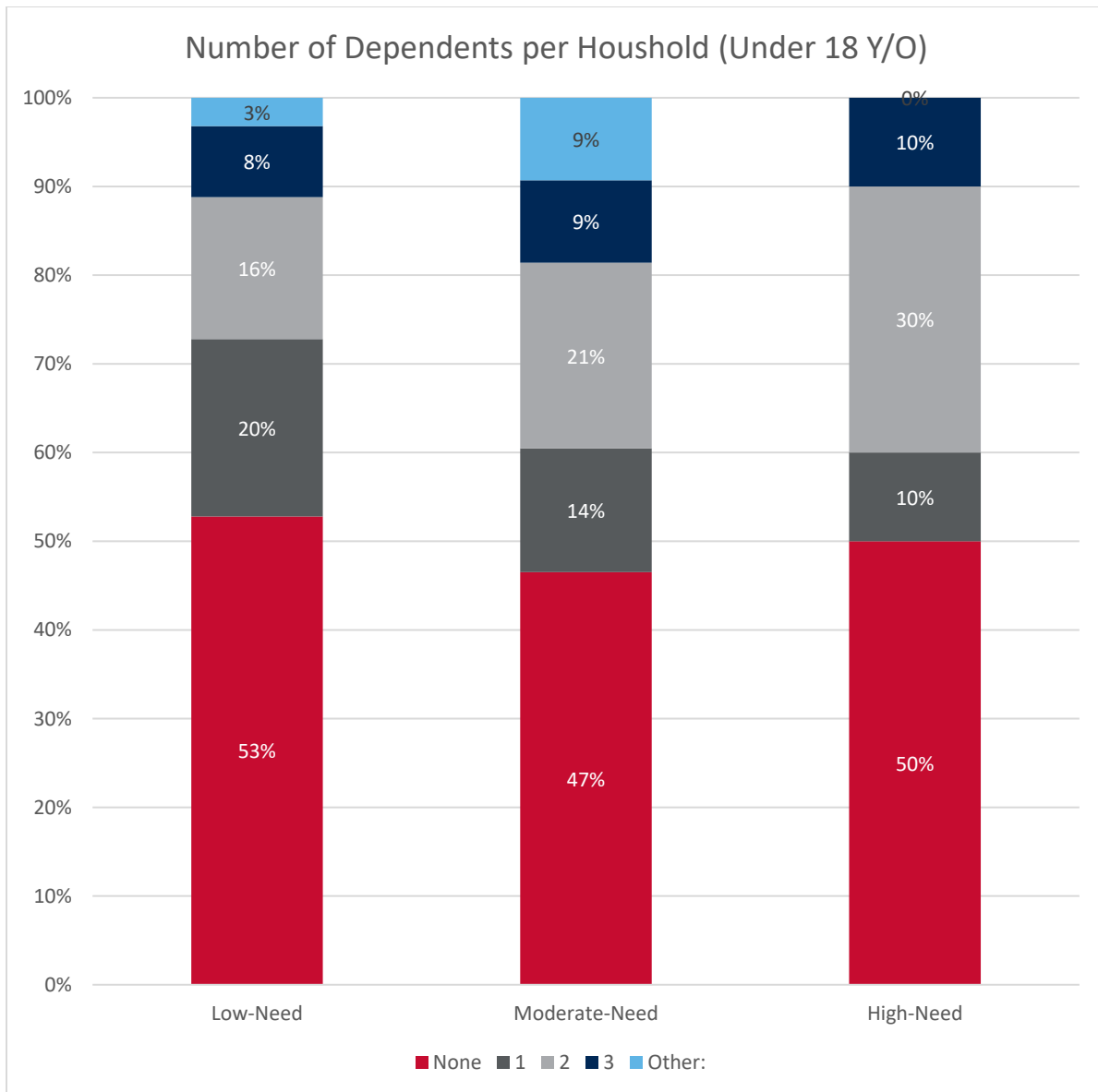
	Low-Need	Moderate-Need	High-Need	Total
Yes	17	14	10	41
No	108	28	11	147
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>188</b>

- The number of respondents who were in a single-parent household increased with the housing need category- fewer Low-Need respondents answered that they were in a single-parent household, and almost half of High-Need respondents answered they were in the same situation
- In total, 41 respondents answered that they were in a single-parent household
- 10 of those respondents were in the High-Need category (17 in the Low-Need and 14 in the Moderate-Need categories)
- 2 respondents in the High-Need category answered “prefer not to answer” (1 respondent in each of the Moderate- and Low-Need categories responded the same)

## 7.3 Household Dependents

- Across the housing need categories, the proportion of respondents with no dependents is relatively similar
- In comparison with the other housing need categories:
  - A larger proportion of Low-Need respondents had one dependent
  - A larger proportion of Moderate-Need respondents had “Other”, potentially indicating more than three dependents per household
  - A larger proportion of High-Need respondents has two dependents



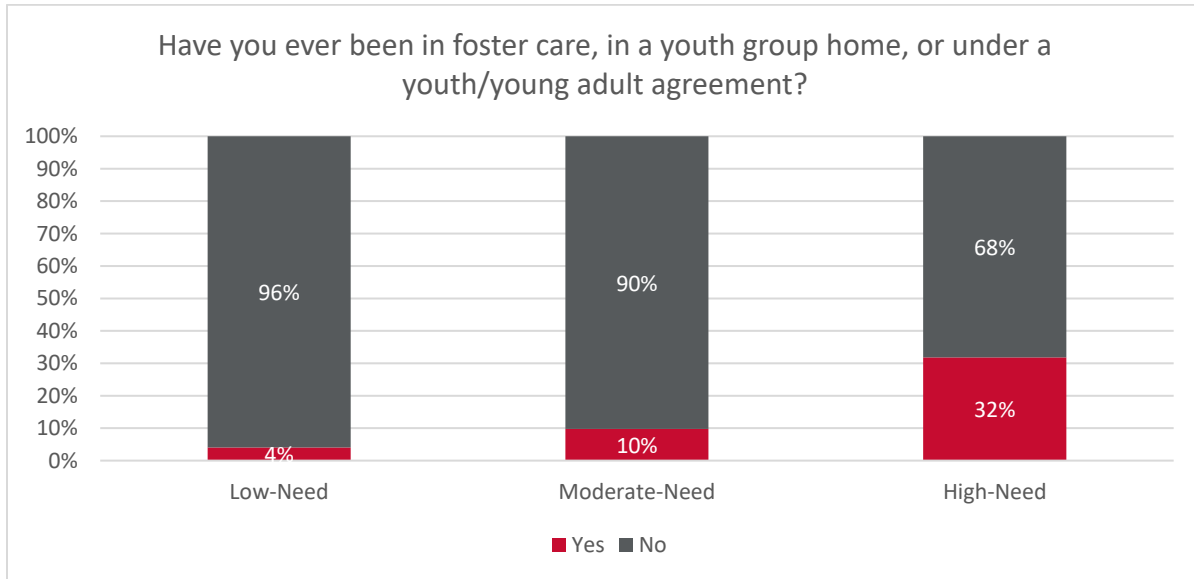


**Figure 6: Dependents Under 18 Y/O in Household**

<b>Number of Dependents Under 18</b>	<b>Low-Need</b>	<b>Moderate-Need</b>	<b>High-Need</b>	<b>Total</b>
None	66	20	10	96
1	25	6	2	33
2	20	9	6	35
3	10	4	2	16
Other	4	4	0	8
Prefer not to answer/ no answer	1	0	3	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>192</b>

## 8 Other Associations

### 8.1 Youth Care

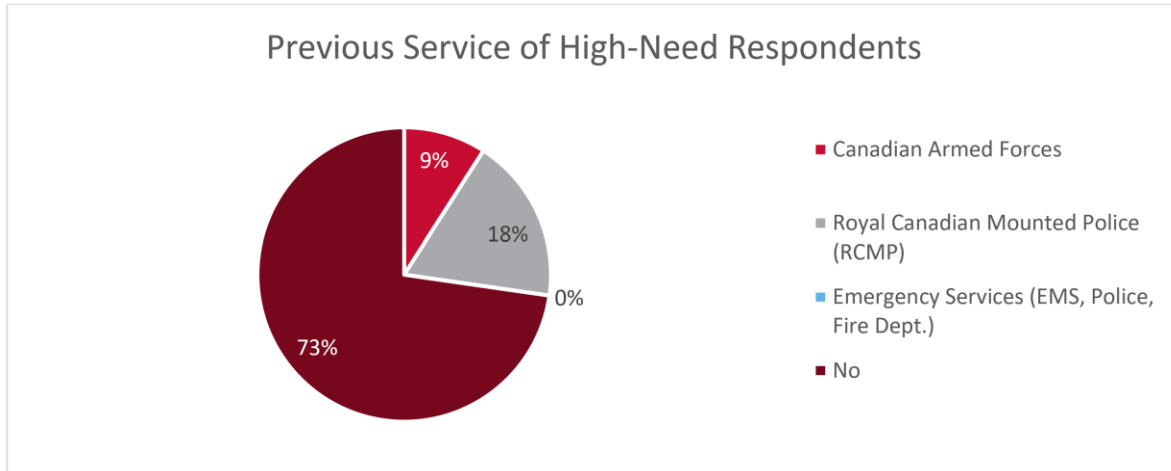


**Figure 7: Youth Care**

- In total, just over 8% of all respondents had been in foster care, a youth group home, or under a youth/ young adult agreement
- The proportion of respondents who had been in foster care increased with the housing need level of respondents; Low-Need respondents had the lowest instance of being in youth care previously (4%), with an increased rate for both Moderate-Need and High-Need respondents (10% and 32% respectively)

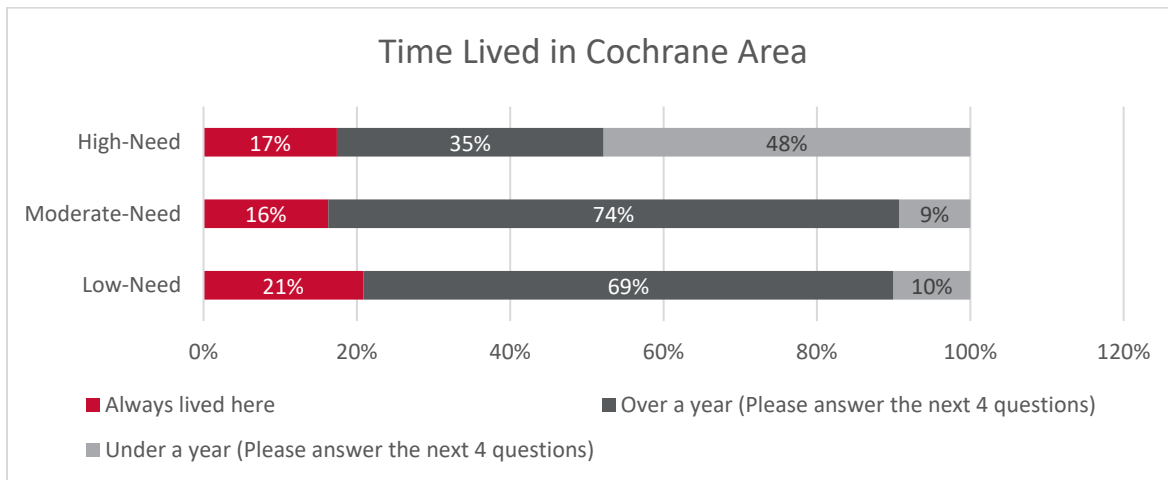
### 8.2 Public Safety & Military Service

- While some respondents in all housing need categories had served in public safety (Emergency Services or RCMP) or military services, the highest proportions were in High-Need respondents (27% had served, as opposed to 6% of Low-Need and 2% of Moderate-Need respondents)
- Of the High-Need respondents that had served, the majority had been with the RCMP (18% of High-Need respondents). Approximately 9% had served in the Canadian Armed Forces. None had served in Emergency Services.



**Figure 8: Previous Service of High-Need Respondents**

## 9 Time in the Community



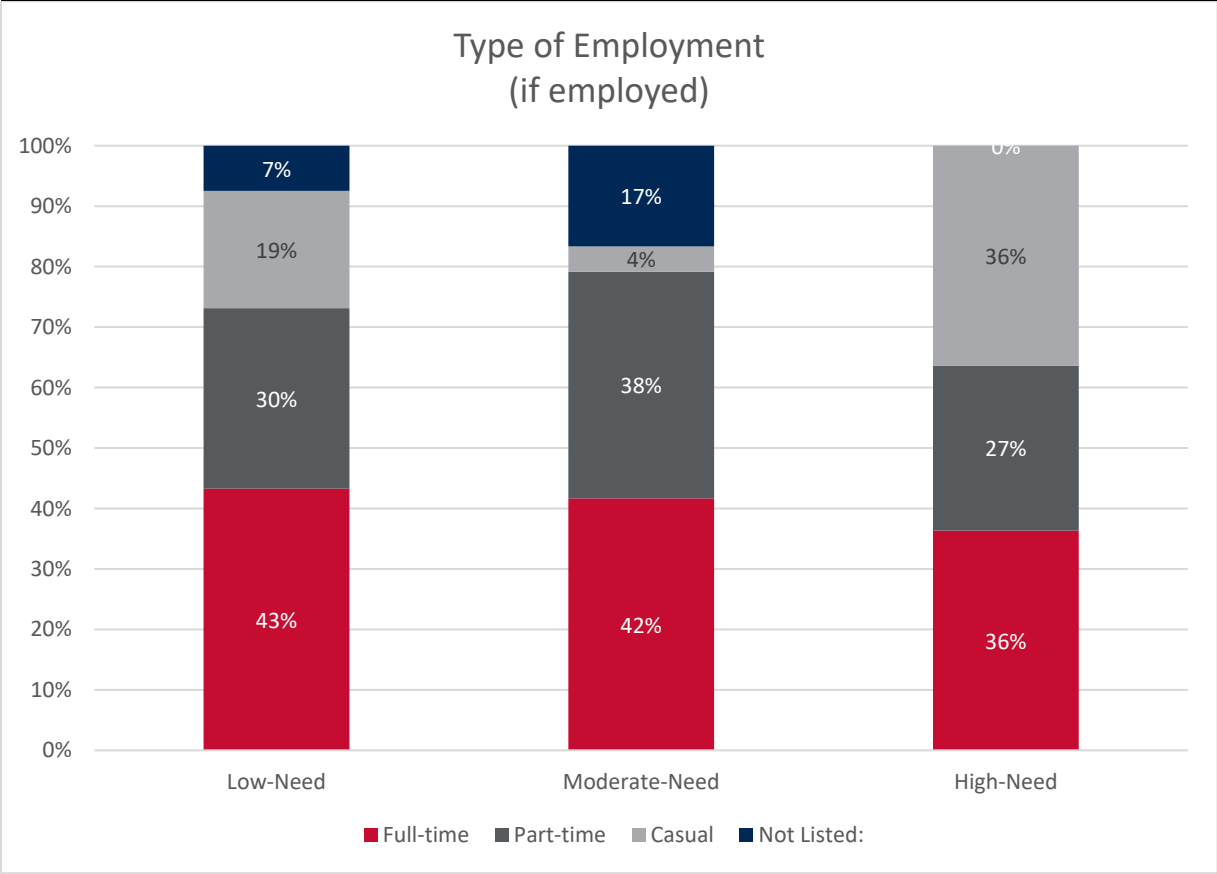
**Figure 9: Time Lived in Cochrane Area**

- The proportions of respondents in each housing need category who have ‘always lived here’ is relatively similar
- The greatest differences are between Moderate-Need and Low-Need respondents versus High-Need Respondents; compared to Moderate- and Low-Need respondents, roughly half as many High-Need respondents had lived in the Cochrane area for over a year, with almost five times as many having lived in the area for under a year
- Of all High-Need respondents, almost half had lived in the Cochrane area for under a year

# 10 Employment

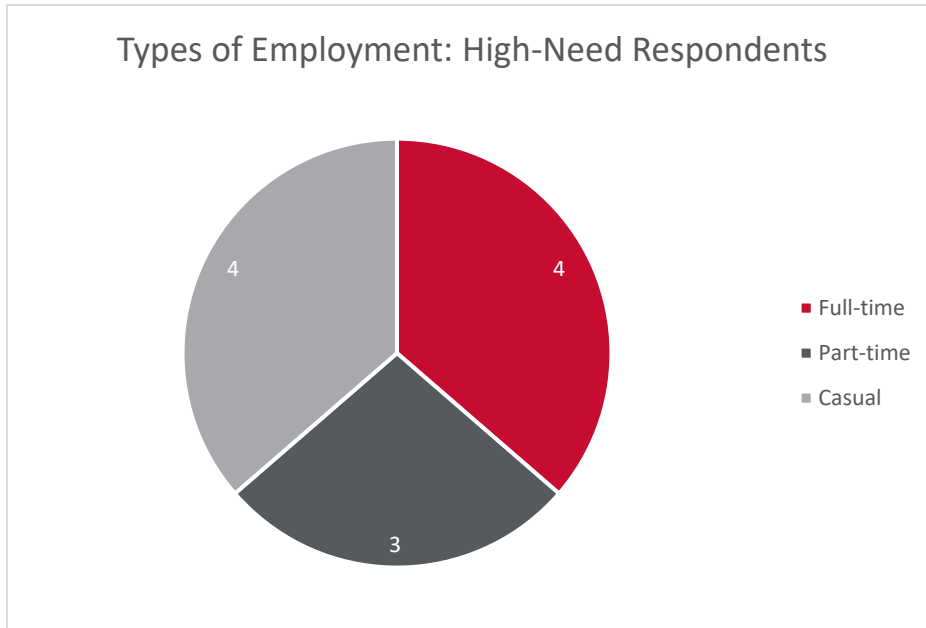
- Across the three housing need categories, the proportion of respondents who are employed and not employed were relatively similar
  - Low-Need: 54% employed, 40% not employed
  - Moderate-Need: 56% employed, 44% not employed
  - High-Need: 48% employed, 48% not employed
- High-Need respondents had the highest instance of not being employed and the lowest instance of being employed, although by small percentage points compared to the other categories
- The greatest number of respondents who preferred not to answer were in the Low-Need category

ARE YOU EMPLOYED?	Low-Need		Moderate-Need		High-Need	
<b>Yes</b>	68	54%	24	56%	11	48%
<b>No</b>	51	40%	19	44%	11	48%
<b>Prefer not to answer</b>	7	6%	0	0%	1	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>100%</b>



**Figure 10: Type of Employment (if employed)**

- The types of employment vary for respondents who are employed across the three housing need categories
- The proportions of full-time or part-time did not vary greatly across the three housing need categories, but the proportion that are employed casually was significantly higher for respondents in the High-Need category (36% versus 19% for Low-Need respondents and 4% for Moderate-Need respondents). A total of four (4) out of 11 respondents worked casually in the High-Need category.



**Figure 11: Types of Employment- High-Need Respondents**

- Respondents in the Moderate-Need category had the highest proportion of answering that their type of employment was “not listed” (17%, or 4 out of the 9 total respondents who answered the same in all categories)
- The highest proportion of respondents working in part-time employment was in the Moderate-Need category (9 out of the 24 total respondents)

## 11 Next Steps

As noted, the findings from this survey are part of a larger effort to assess Cochrane’s housing needs. As that process continues, the findings contained in this report will be analyzed with other data collected through the Housing Needs Assessment and related public or stakeholder engagements. Collectively, the analysis and data will help guide the direction of future housing programs and services in the Town.