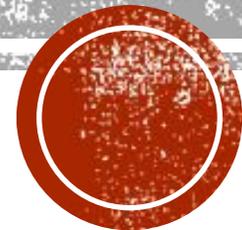


LEARNINGS FROM LONGITUDINAL RESEARCH FOR ADVOCACY

The Butterfly Longitudinal Re/integration Research Project
Chab Dai Coalition, Cambodia



ORIGINS & HOPES

- The Chab Dai Butterfly Longitudinal Research project was developed as a result of a felt need among NGOs to follow up on survivors of sex trafficking after they had been through one of their Aftercare programs.
- Were they positively impacted by the programs they had been in or did they return to work in the same places they had worked before?
- Had the aftercare programs helped them to go back into the real world, have income generating skills, challenge unhelpful negative cultural values, be more resilient against stigma and discrimination?
- What can we learn from following them over ten years in developing new programs?



ABOUT THE PROJECT

- Beginning in 2010
- 128 Survivors Recruited from 15 NGOs
 - 2010:
 - 13 Shelters
 - 2 Community Based Programmes
 - 2019
 - high level of programmatic diversification
 - 7 Shelters Programmes
 - 8 Community Based Programmes
 - 3 Vocational Training Programmes
- 13 Publications so far



PROJECT'S CORE OBJECTIVES

1. Actively engage a single cohort of survivors of exploitation and trafficking over a 10 year project about their life experiences, challenges, and perceptions towards service providers
2. Facilitate roundtable discussion, forums, and workshops with anti-trafficking partners and stakeholders on findings, themes, and recommendations
3. Disseminate the findings of publications to global, regional, and local audiences of practitioners, programmes, policy makers, government bodies and academics



ETHICAL PROTOCOLS

- Ministry of Health's National Research Ethics Committee Annual Review
- Referral-Based Services
 - Active Listening to Participants leading to advice on services from NGO partners
- Voluntary Participation
 - No monetary incentives
 - Participants willing to answer or not answer any contact or questions of the Project
- Confidentiality
 - No pictures and media



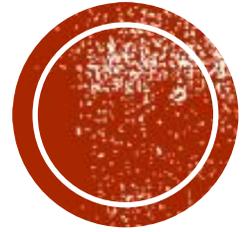
SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Experienced sex trafficking defined in the UN's 2000 Palermo Protocol.
2. From and re/integrating back to one of five main provinces throughout Cambodia; Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, Battambang, Kampong Som, Kampong Cham.*
3. From NGOs who agreed to sign MoUs with the Butterfly Project that work in Aftercare for human trafficking survivors.

*Participants ended up moving across the country, requiring the team to travel extensively to conduct interviews



Year	Active participants	Lost from study (running total)	Inactive participants	# of participants provided interview	M	F	<h2>ATTRITION</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 71% of Original 128 Remain Active in Study <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 70% of the Boys 68% of the Girls <p>Stopped Participating because...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stigma of Anti-trafficking NGOs Jailed Fleeing Debt Move out of Country <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Court Case in the West Repatriation to Vietnam Illegal Work in Thailand Married Foreigner Chronic Illness Drug Addiction Suicide 
2012	128	0	12	116	20	96	
2013	128	0	20	108	17	91	
2014	128	0	40	88	15	73	
2015	106	22	16	90	16	74	
2016	94	34	1	93	18	75	
2017	93	35	8	85	16	69	
2018	91	37	12	79	14	65	



52 QUANTITATIVE LONGITUDINAL PARTICIPANTS

Responded to all quantitative longitudinal survey questions in years 2012, 2013, 2017, and 2018.

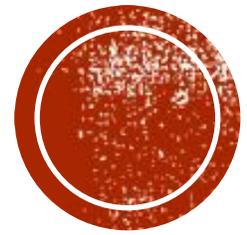
This is the base cohort for this morning's presentation

ABOUT THIS PRESENTATION

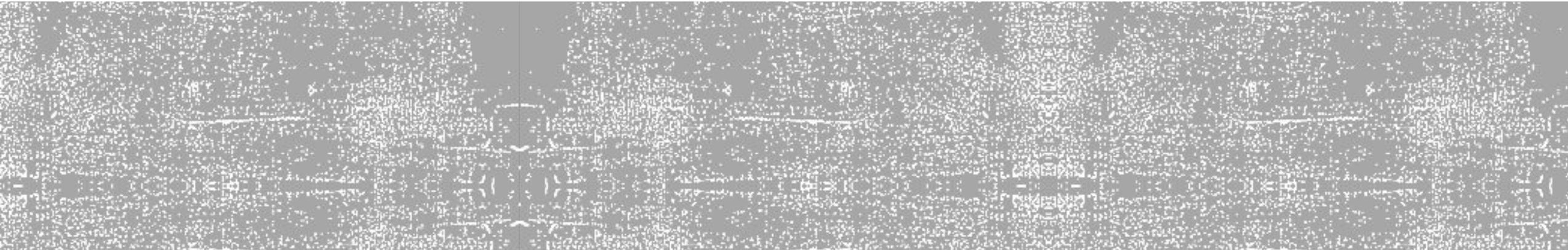
- This is a **quantitative summary** of data has been collected from 52 Butterfly participants from 2012-2018
 - This presentation cannot represent:
 - All sexually exploited individuals in Cambodia nor the original 128 participants
 - All of the experiences recorded throughout the 10 year Butterfly Project
 - It can show patterns that help us to consider how we can improve policy and programming

To benefit the most from this research, it is necessary for all stakeholders to read through our publications.

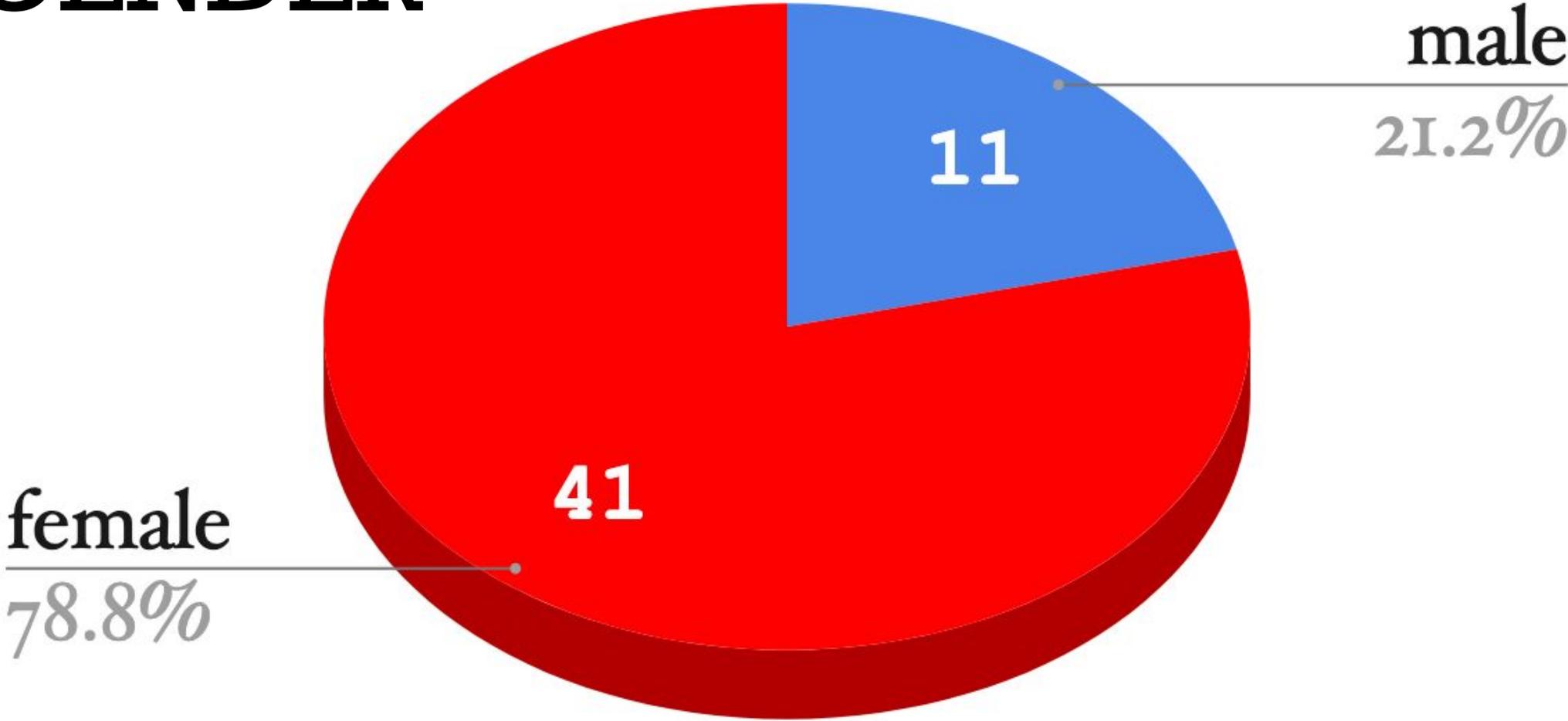




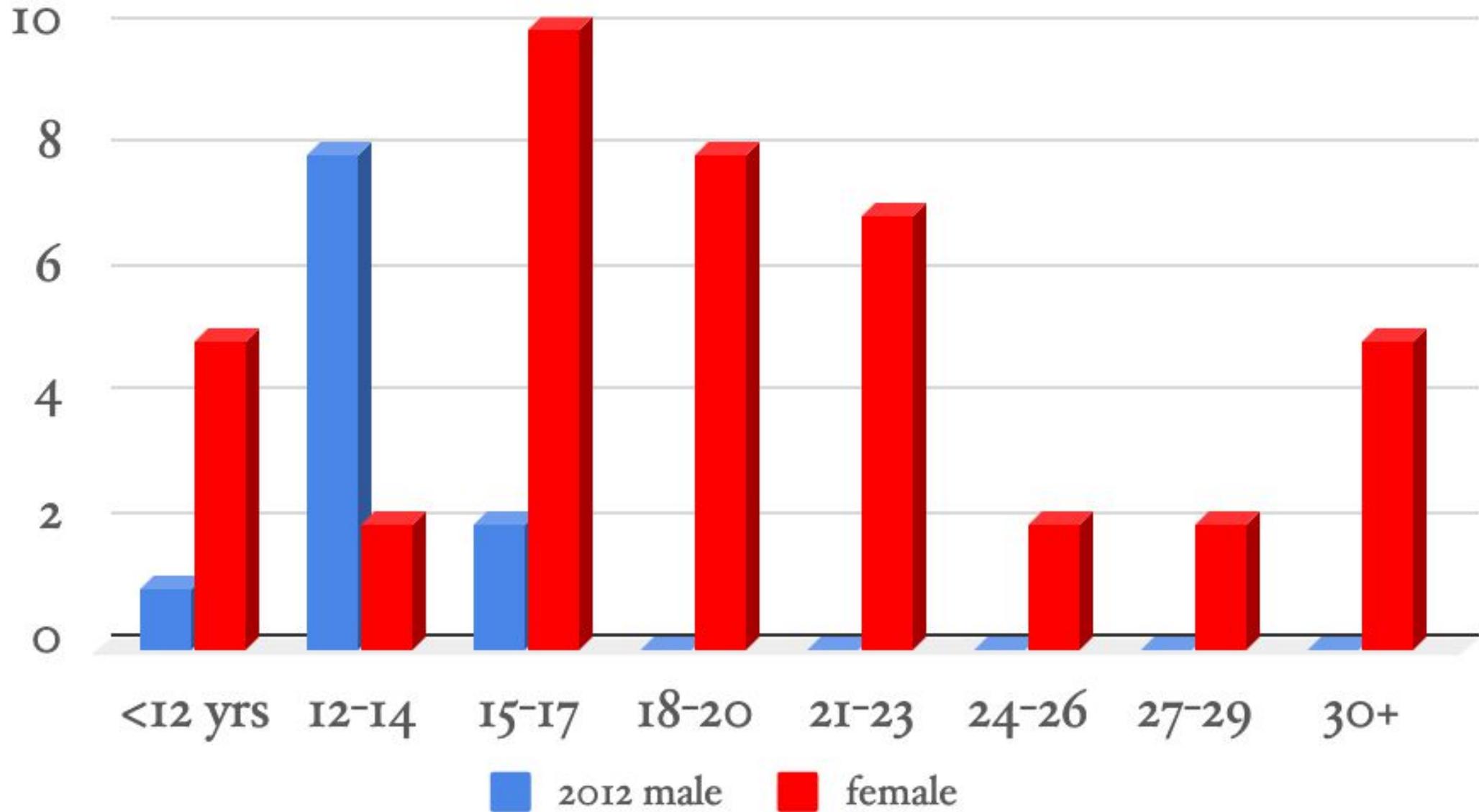
DEMOGRAPHICS



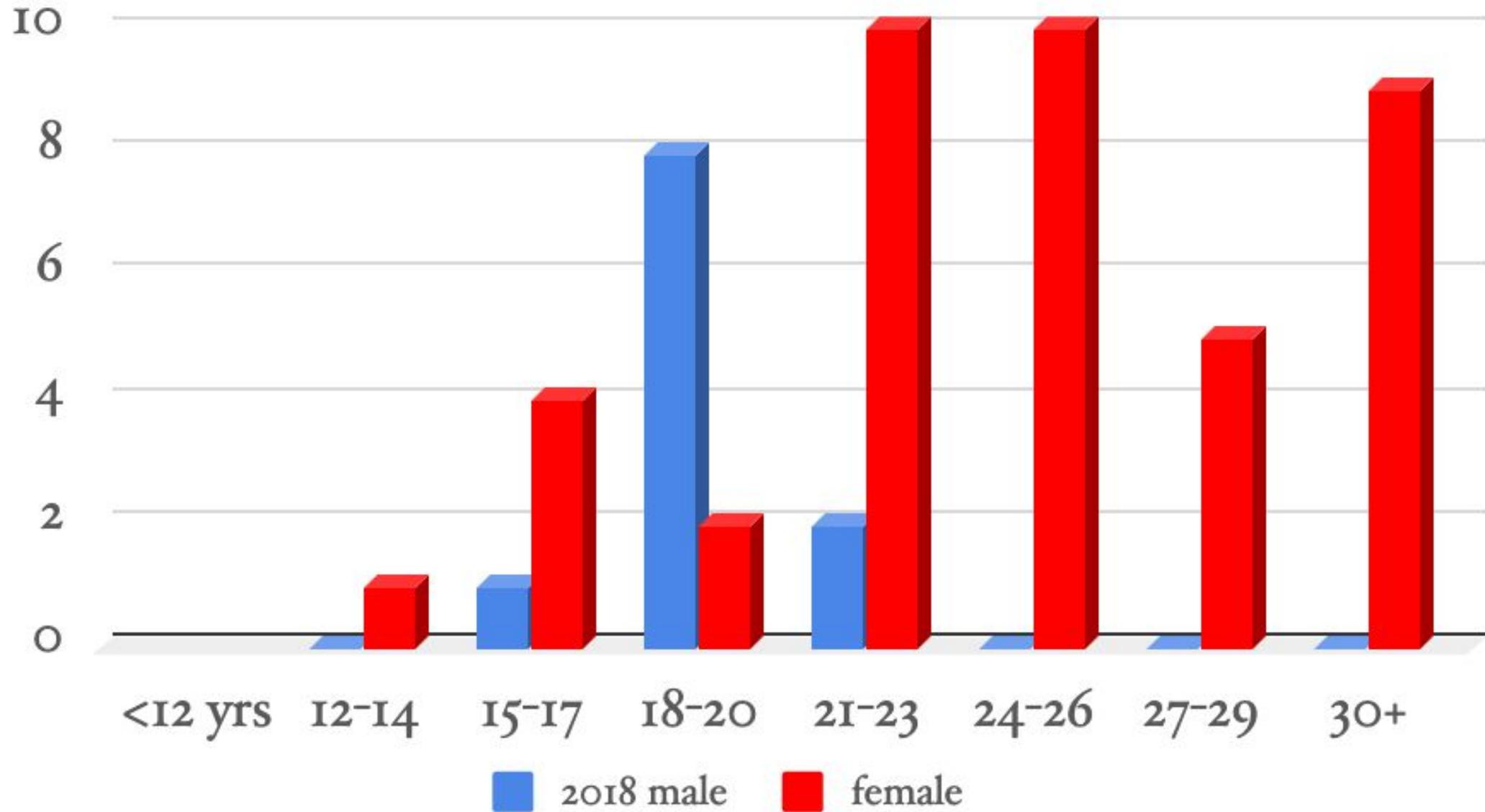
GENDER



Age 2012



Age 2018



Aftercare Program Services at Time of Interviews	Year of Data Collection	
	2012	2018
Shelter	33	2
Declined Assistance	1	4
Non-Residential Vocational Training	2	0
Shelter Reintegration Assistance	2	4
Community-Based Program	10	8
Family Group Home	3	0
Reintegration Completed	1	32
Church Assistance	0	2
Total	52	52

- **2012:** 33 Participants in Shelters located in PP, BTB, & SR

- **2018:** Two of the Respondents in Community-Based Programming ended up Declining Assistance specifically because of their experience with the NGO

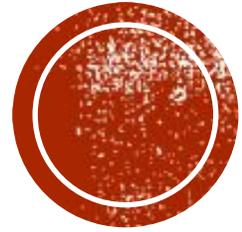


Location of Residence	Year of Data Collection	
	2012	2018
Banteay Meanchey	0	1
Battambang	3	4
Kandal	0	1
Koh Kong	0	3
Phnom Penh	41	24
Siem Reap	8	9
Kompong Som	0	5
Svay Rieng	0	3
Takeo	0	1
Oddar Meanchey	0	1
Total	52	52

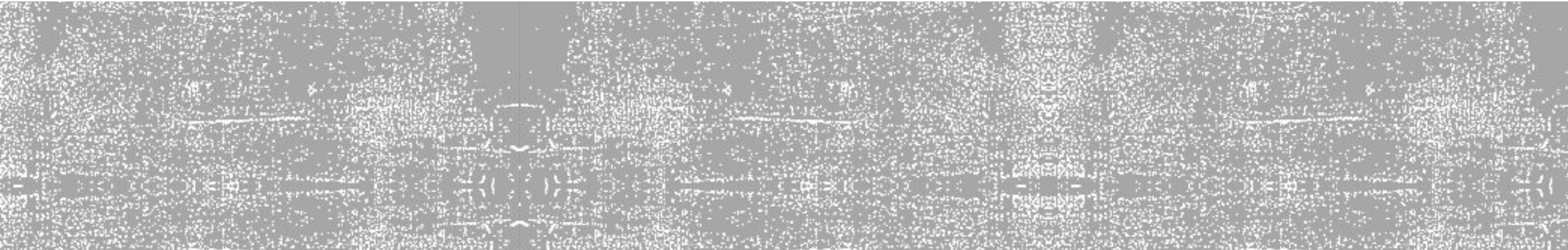
MOBILE COHORT

- 41 Participants were in Phnom Penh in 2012
- This number is almost halved by 2018 with most of the participants now living in 9 provinces other than Phnom Penh





RESULTS & LESSONS LEARNED



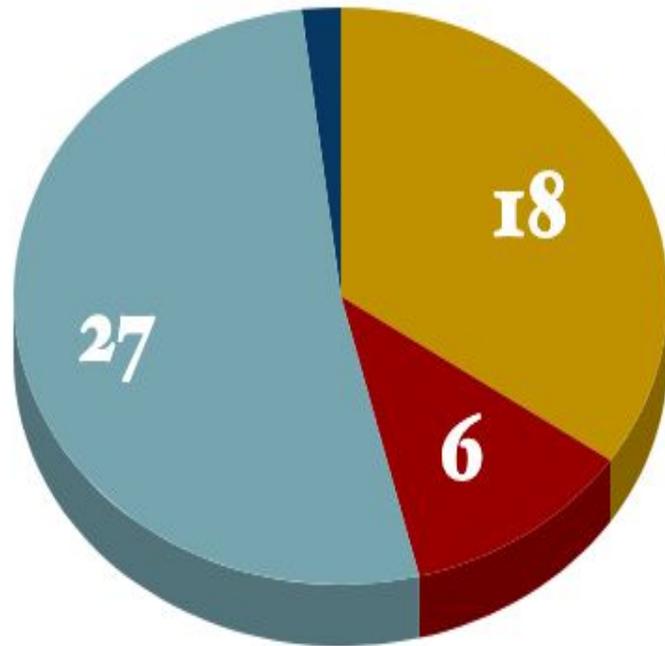
Self-Reported Ethnic Group	2012	2013	2017	2018
Ethnic Cambodian	40	40	47	45
Kampuchea Krom	2	3	0	0
Vietnamese	4	4	4	5
Khmer and Vietnamese	3	3	1	0
Khmer and Chinese	1	1	0	1
Khmer and Cham	2	1	0	0
Other	0	0	0	1
Totals	52	52	52	52

ETHNICITY

- Changing self-reported ethnicity after re/integration back into communities
- Reasons for change
 - To obtain documents to legally work or attend school in Cambodia
 - To fit better into social structures as personal business grew
 - To become the same ethnicity as their partner



Original Type of Exploitation Self-Reported in 2016-2018



● High Risk ● Rape ● Sexual Exploitation
● Labor Trafficking

N=52

Initially all potential participants in the study were vetted to have had an experience of sexual exploitation.

However, as relationships between the researchers and participants grew, better clarity about their exploitation histories were given.



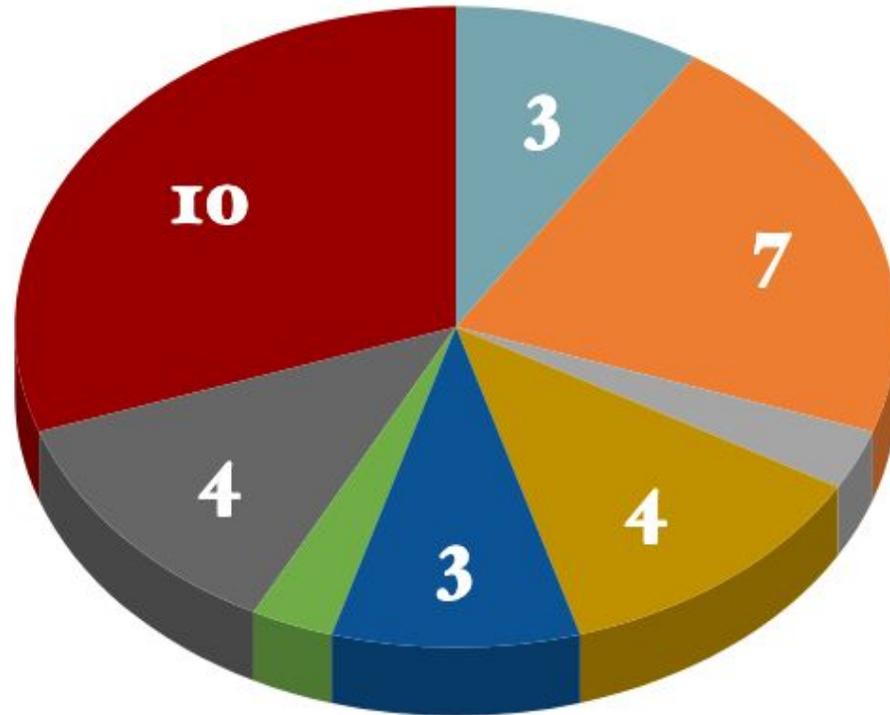


LESSON LEARNED

1. “Truth” is dependent on context and relationship
 - Longitudinal research & evaluative projects, are more likely to provide accurate information in the long term
 - However, this means earlier results very well may change as relationships and trust deepens, so certain questions and topics should be understood with caution in the early stages.
 - NGOs need to be aware that trust between staff and clients may take a while to develop,
 - This trust is also a value to be continually nurtured



Sexual Exploitation and Rape (How?)



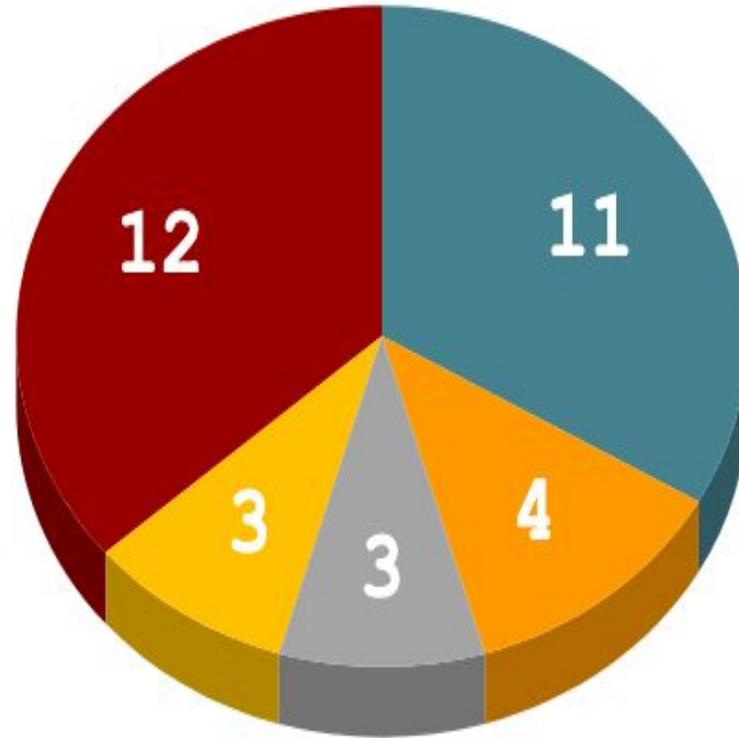
- Virgin Trade
- Sold by family
- Sold by peer
- Exploitation by Foreigner
- Rape by Monk
- Early Marriage
- Sex Work*
- No description

N=33: Participants who have experienced sexual exploitation and/or rape.

*Some participants who were a part of sex work did not consider themselves to have been sexually exploited



Sexual Exploitation and Rape (Where?)



● KTV ● Foreigner's house ● Virgin brothel ● Wat
● Unknown

N=33: Participants who have experienced sexual exploitation and/or rape.



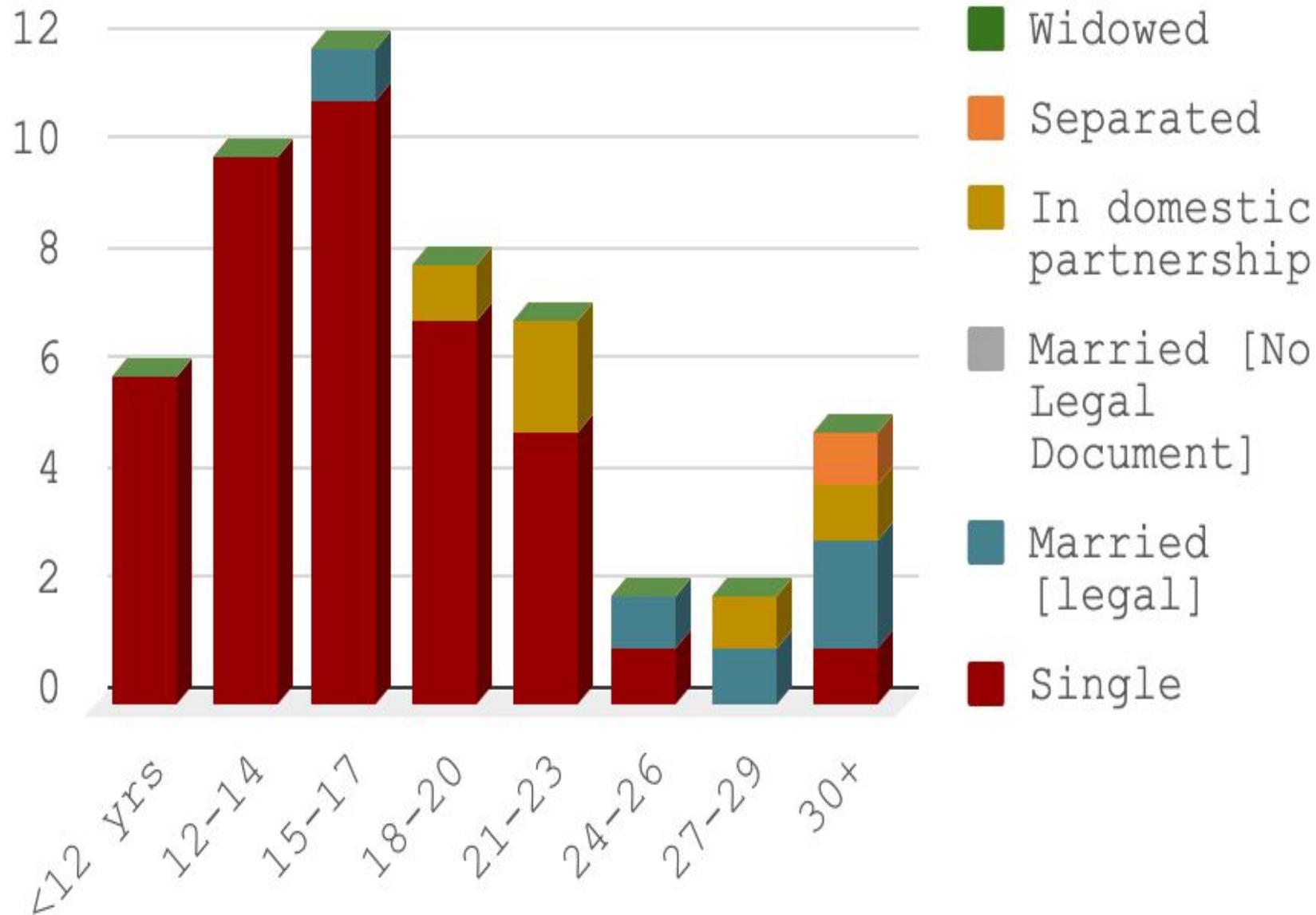


LESSON LEARNED

2. Due to the research's ethical protocols and scope of study, these questions and topics were not approached until 2016, years after the incidents happened
 - The context of where & how sexual exploitation occurs in Cambodia has changed since the original experiences of this cohort
 - Prevention efforts need to stay up-to-date with current trends to remain relevant in their programming



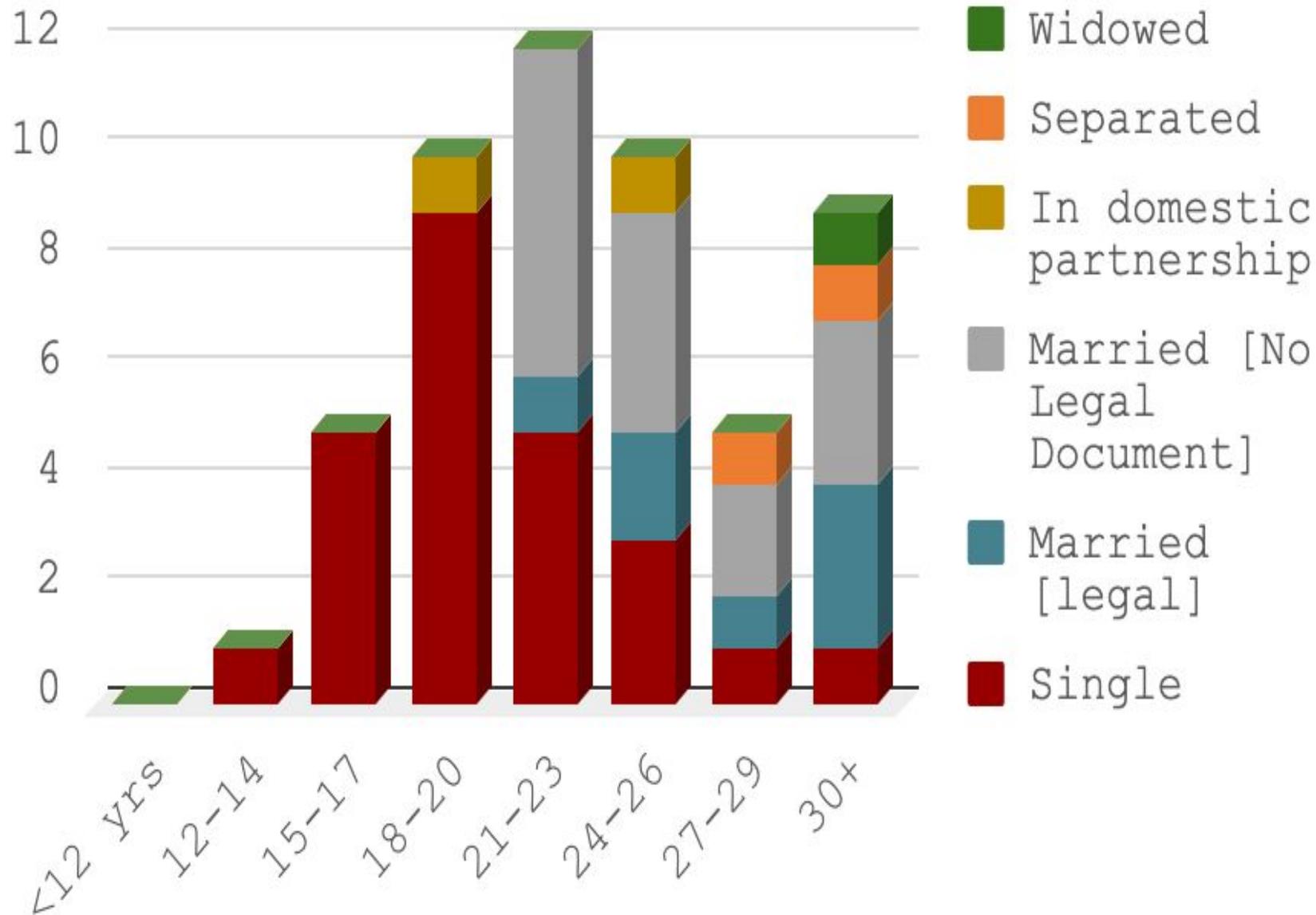
Relationship Status 2012



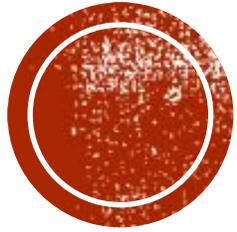
- 28/52 were under the age of 18
- 41/52 were single
- 1 participant under the age of 18 was legally married



Relationship Status 2018

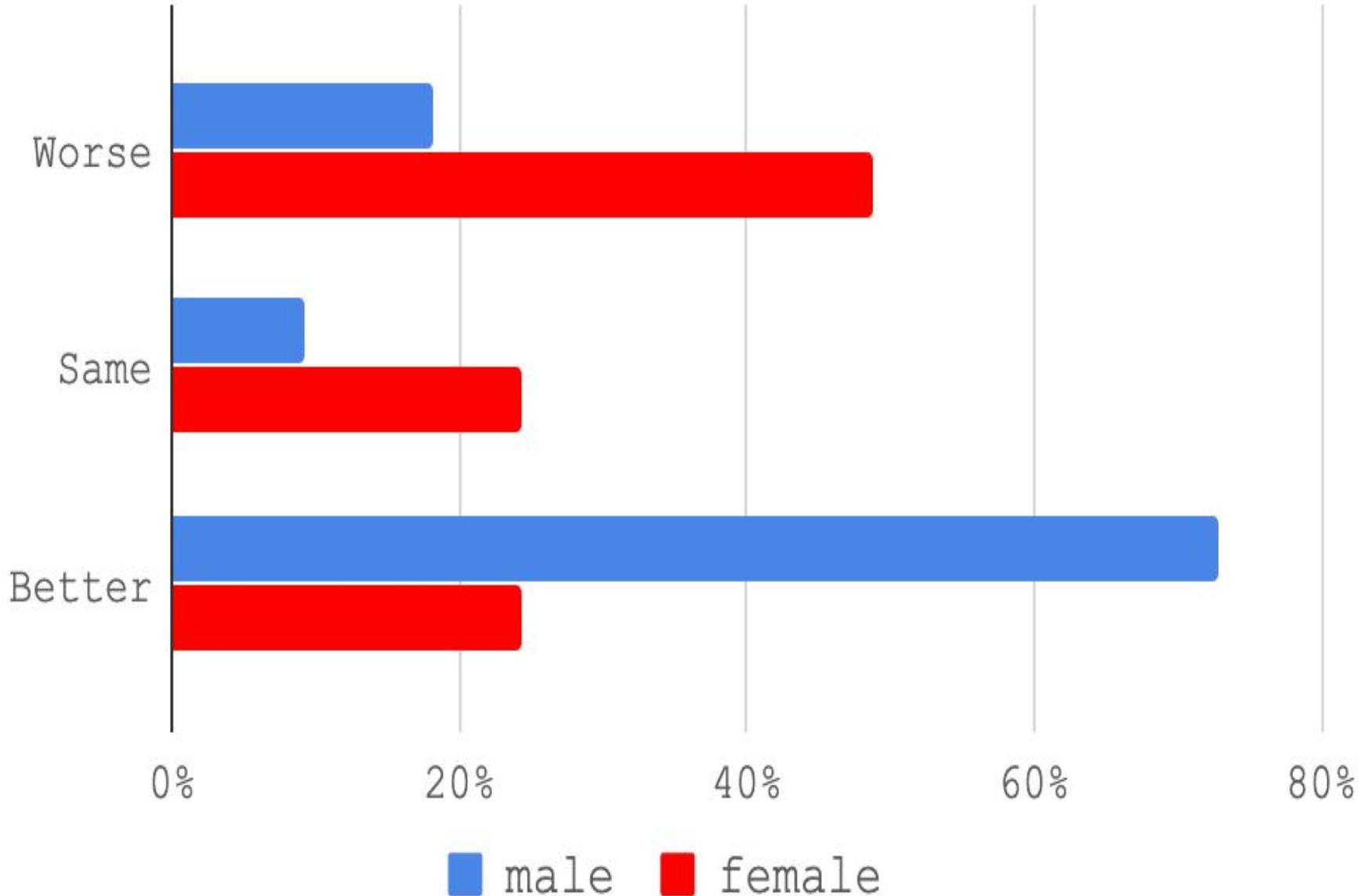


- 25 participants remain single
- 15/52 of participants married with no legal documents, reasons given:
 - Legal Marriage costs money
 - Separation is more complicated.
- However, individuals in a legal marriage have rights awarded to them in case of a



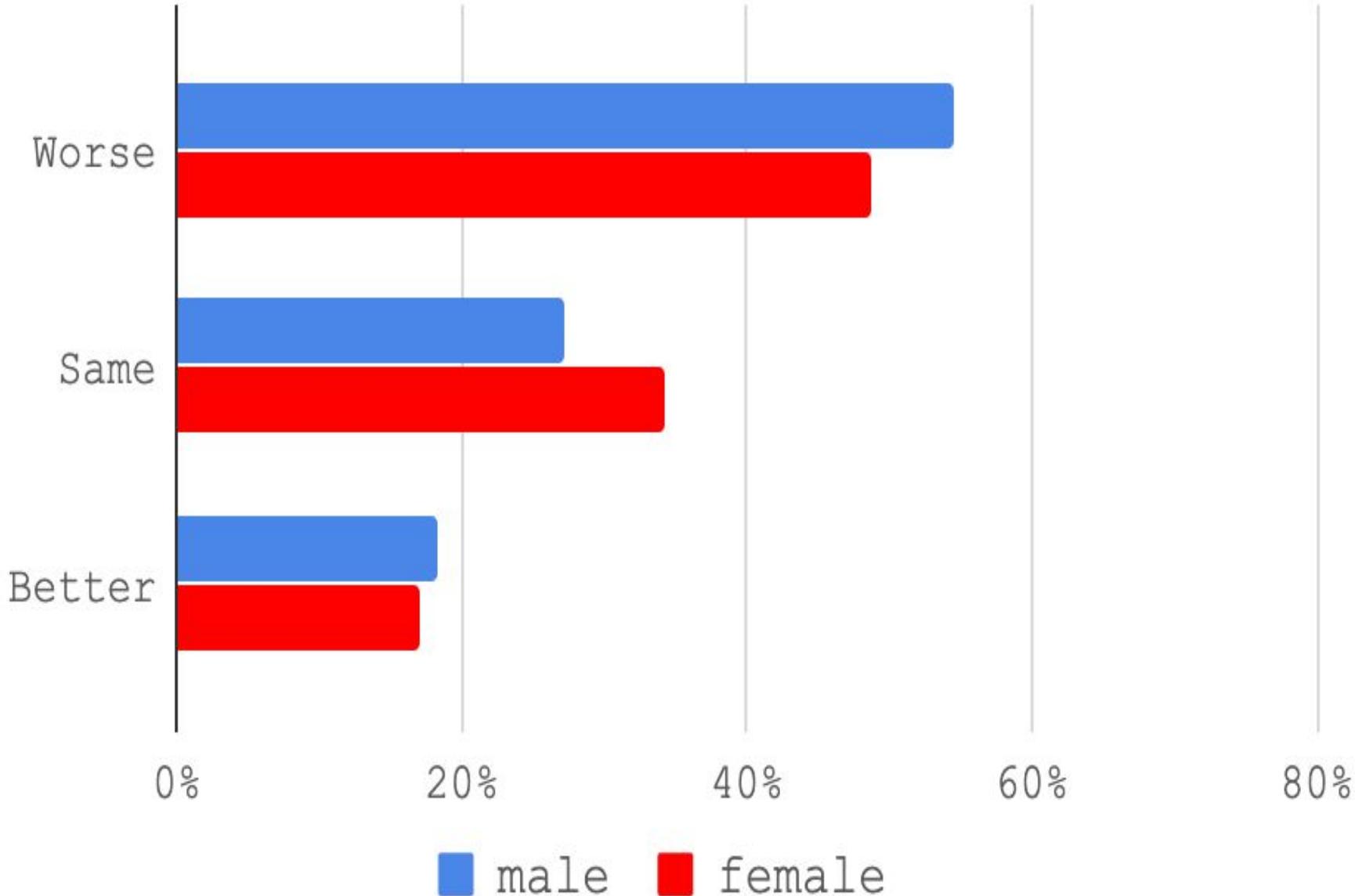
HEALTH

Physical Health 2012



- Self-Reported
- N=51
- One female respondent answered “I Don’t Know”
- Boys overwhelmingly responded feeling “Better”, this may have been because:
 - This cohort was younger
 - Have recently gone into the shelter from their impoverished homes

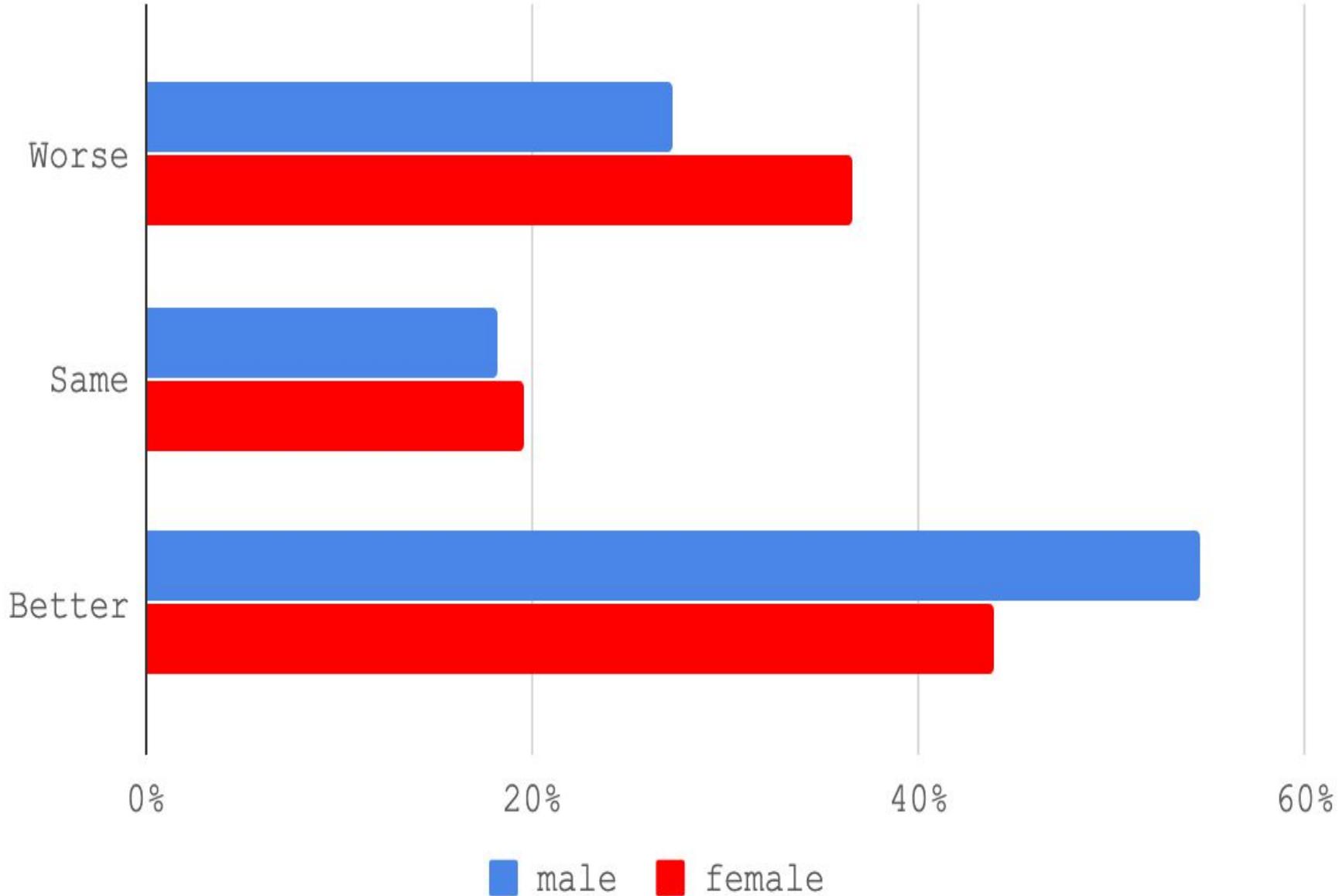
Physical Health 2018



- Self-reported
- N=52
- Consistently hard for both genders
 - No significant differences in the responses of the female cohort
 - Over half of the boys responded that their health was worse over the past year than in previous years



Emotional Health 2012



- Self-Reported

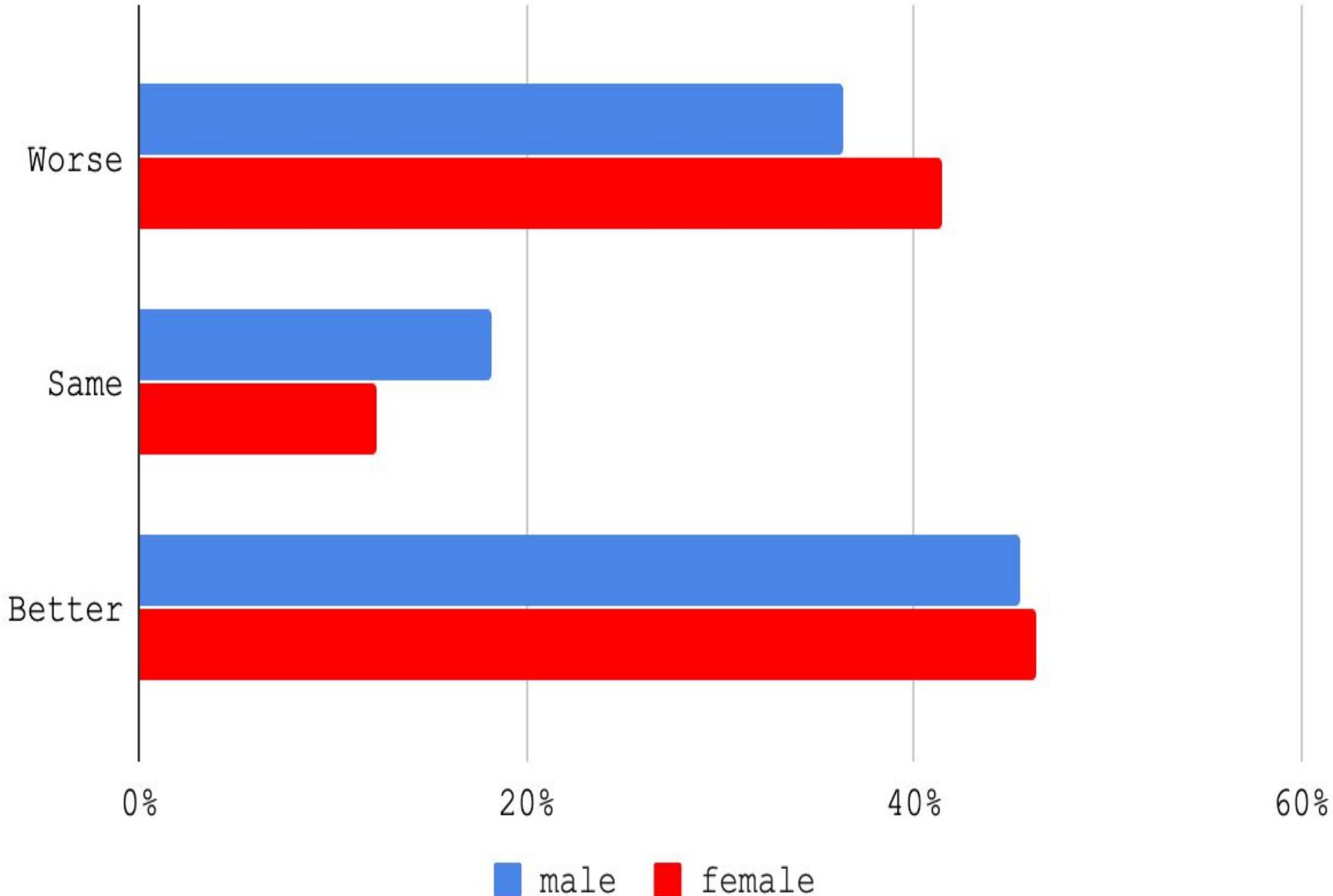
- N=52

- Again, Boys overwhelmingly responded feeling “Better”, this may have been because:

- This cohort was younger
- Have recently gone into the shelter from their impoverished homes



Emotional Health 2018



- Self-reported
- N=52
- Consistently hard for over a third of participants among both genders
- 5 participants have disclosed suicidal ideations over the years
 - 1 of these participants did commit suicide





LESSON LEARNED

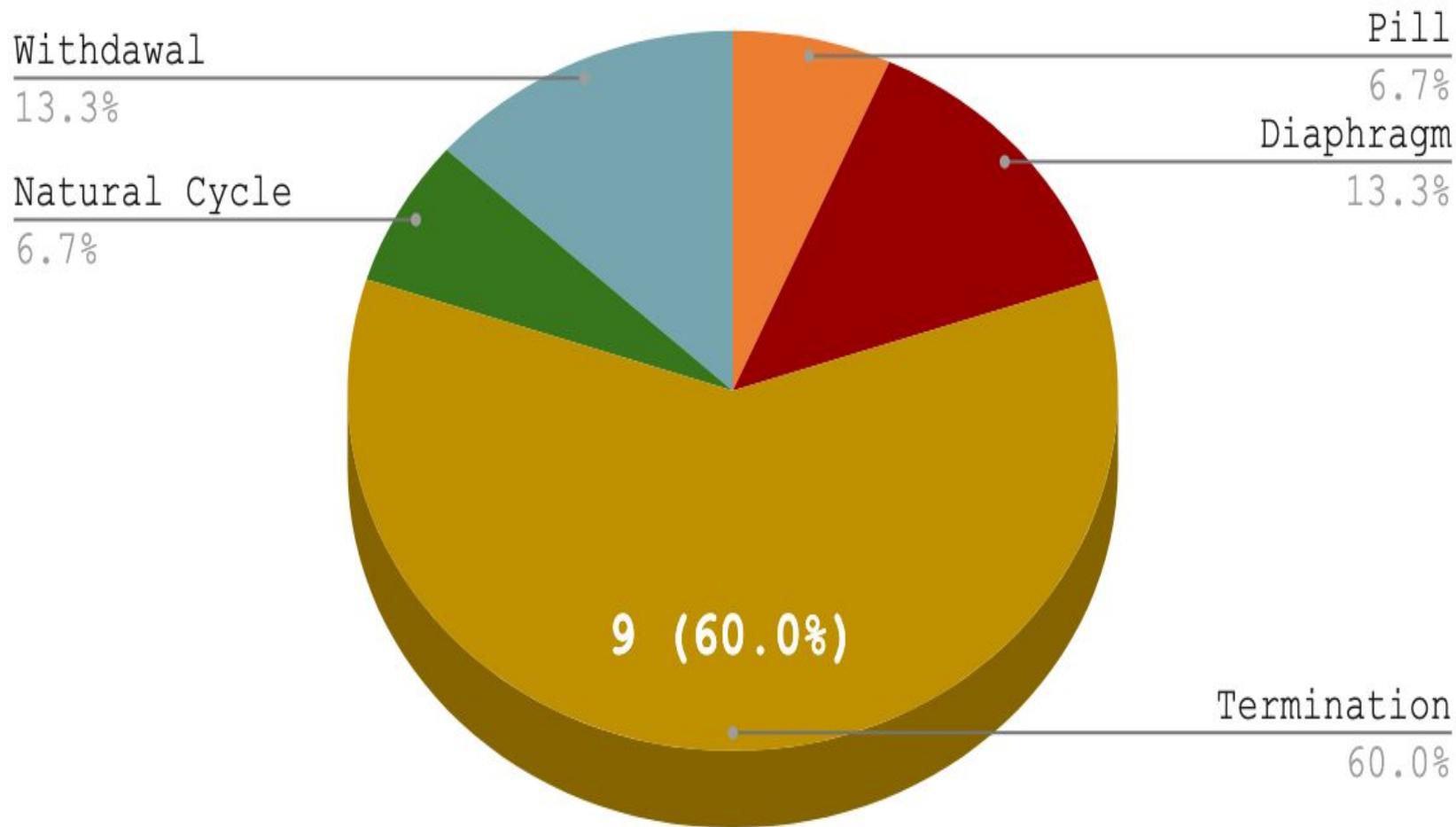
3. Poverty and sexual violence have long-term impacts on both physical and emotional health vulnerabilities

- Programming should anticipate physical & emotional needs over the long-term to ensure *sustained* health
- More qualitative analysis is to be done on:

- Physical and Emotional Health Factors



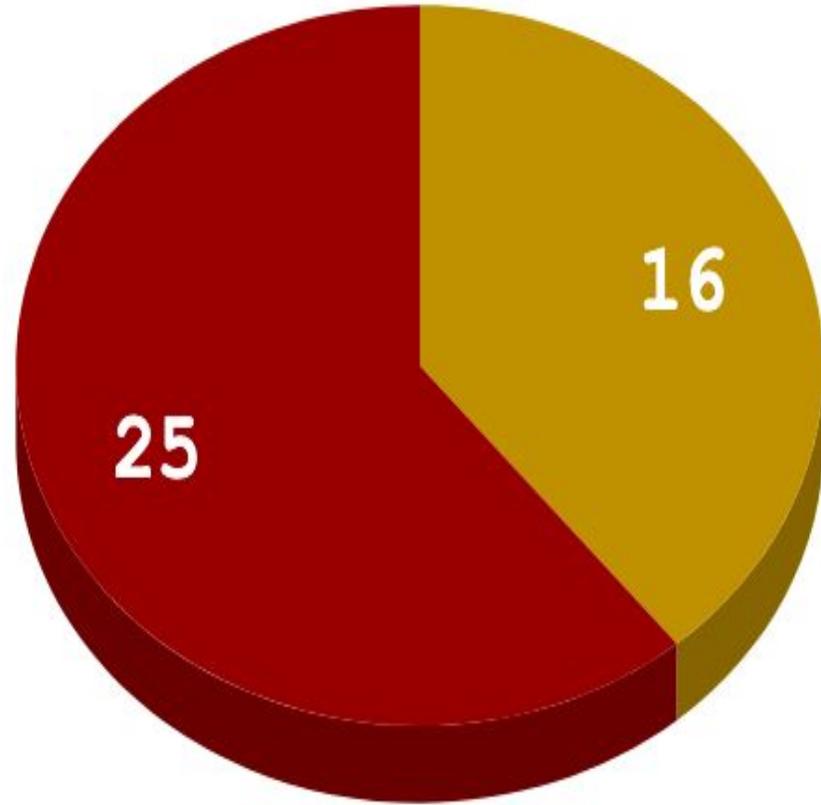
2012 Methods of Contraception



- Self-reported
- N=15 out of 25 females who were over 18 at the time of the interview in 2012
- All boys were underage
- Natural Cycle and Withdrawal are high-risk to unwanted pregnancy



Cumulative Abortion Rate at 2018



● Had Abortion ● Did not have abortion

- Self-reported
- N=All 41 females
- $16/41=39\%$
- Some participants have reported multiple abortions throughout the years.
- Increase of 7 participants over the six years of quantitative data



LESSON LEARNED

4. Contraception education should be a vital part of aftercare programming
- Women should be informed about programs that offer care to expectant mothers e.g. *Mother's Heart*
 - Women should be informed about the legal situation that abortions can be performed up to 12 weeks (and after 12 weeks in cases of rape and/or when the woman's life is at risk). This is to avoid women seeking dangerous and illegal abortions outside of professional care



SEXUAL HEALTH SYMPTOMS

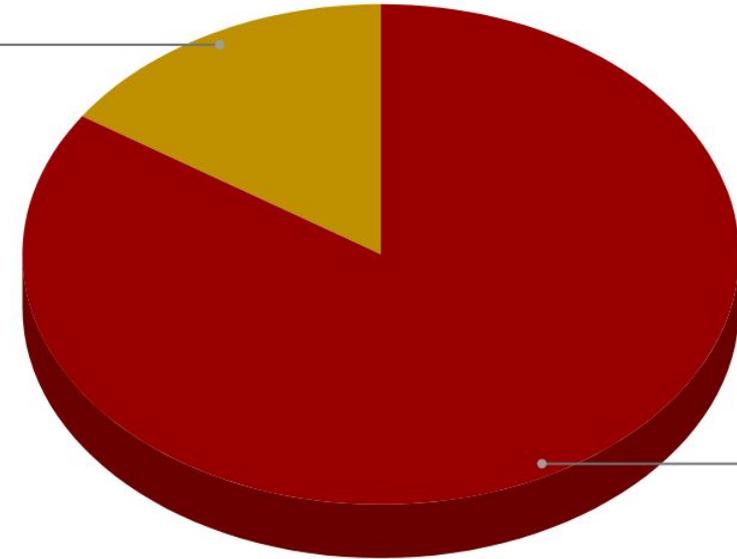
Penile or Vaginal Discharge

- Self-reported in 2018

- N=52

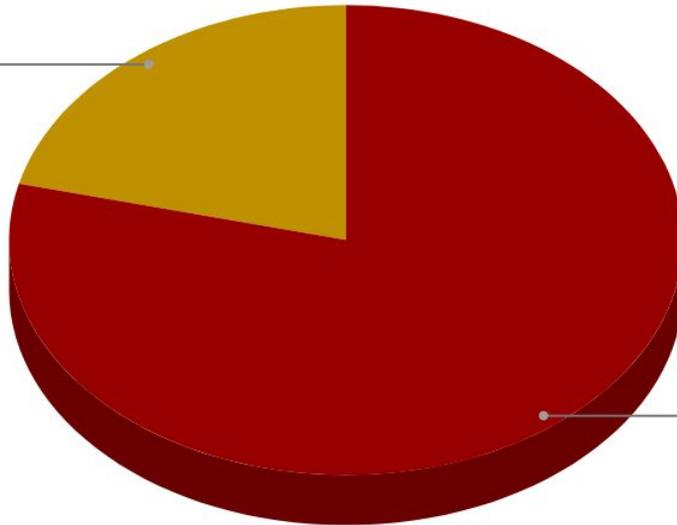
Difficulty and/or Painful Urination in the past 6 months

Reported
15.7%



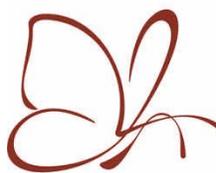
Never
84.3%

Reported
21.2%



Never
78.8%





LESSON LEARNED

- 5.** Sexual Health Education should be a vital part of Aftercare programming equally for boys & men, women & girls
- While it is understood that women cannot control the sexual activity of their partners they need to be aware of how to use condoms to protect themselves where possible (this includes long term partnerships)
 - When symptoms occur, clients should understand the importance of seeking medical help for early treatment, so that the risk of complications are minimized



BASIC FOUNDATIONAL NEEDS

Self-Reported in 2018:

3: do not live in stable housing

4: stated difficulty getting regular meals

10: participants report difficulty

accessing clean water (most live in urban areas)

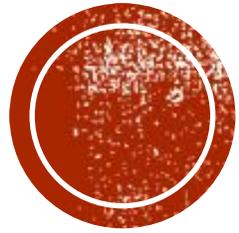




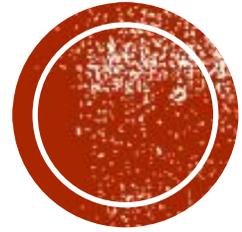
LESSON LEARNED

6. It is necessary for organizations to advocate and support local community initiatives that address foundational needs among both *rural & urban* communities e.g. shelter, water, and food security.





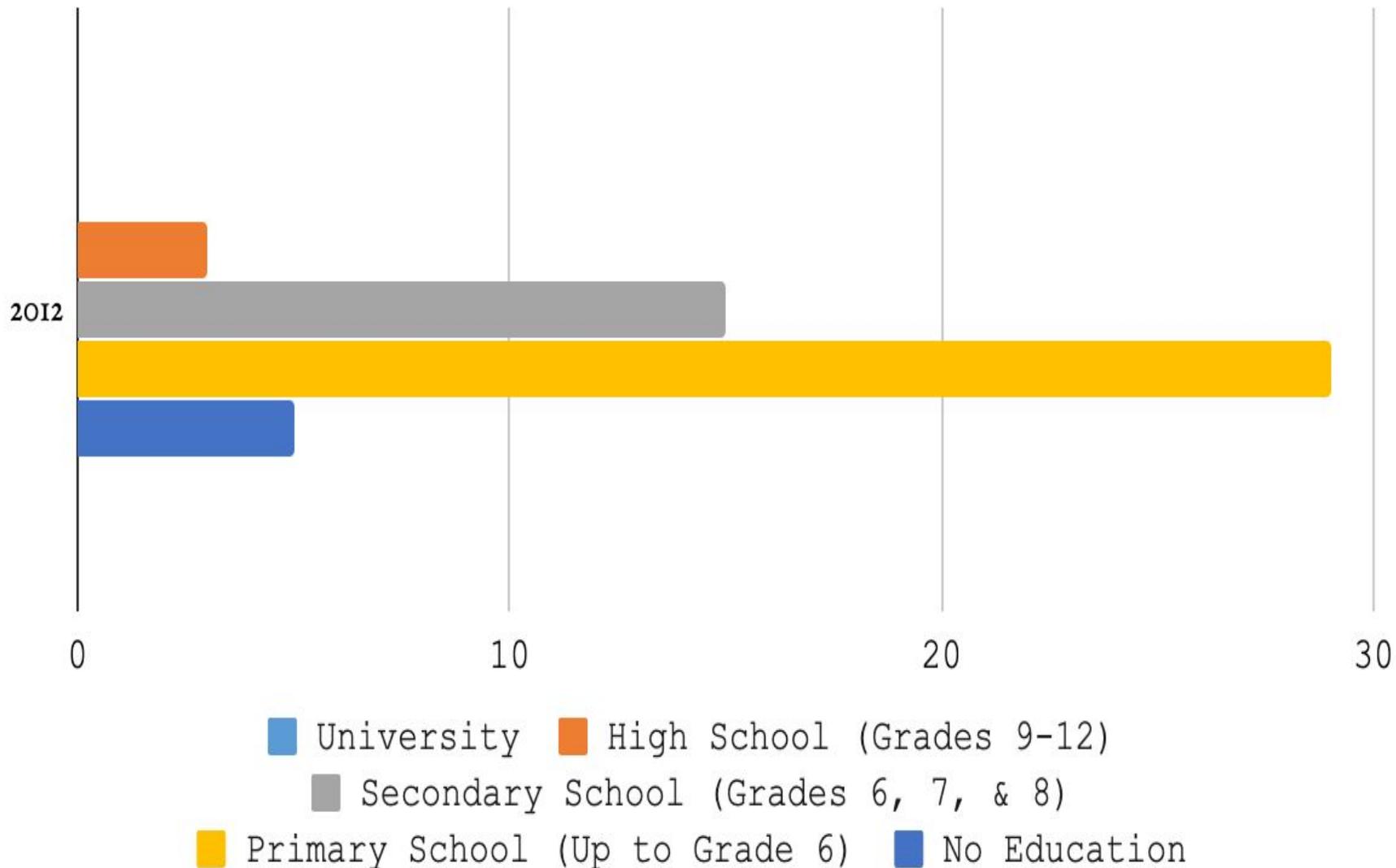
SOCIO-ECONOMI CS



FORMAL EDUCATION & VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Highest Education Levels 2012

n=52

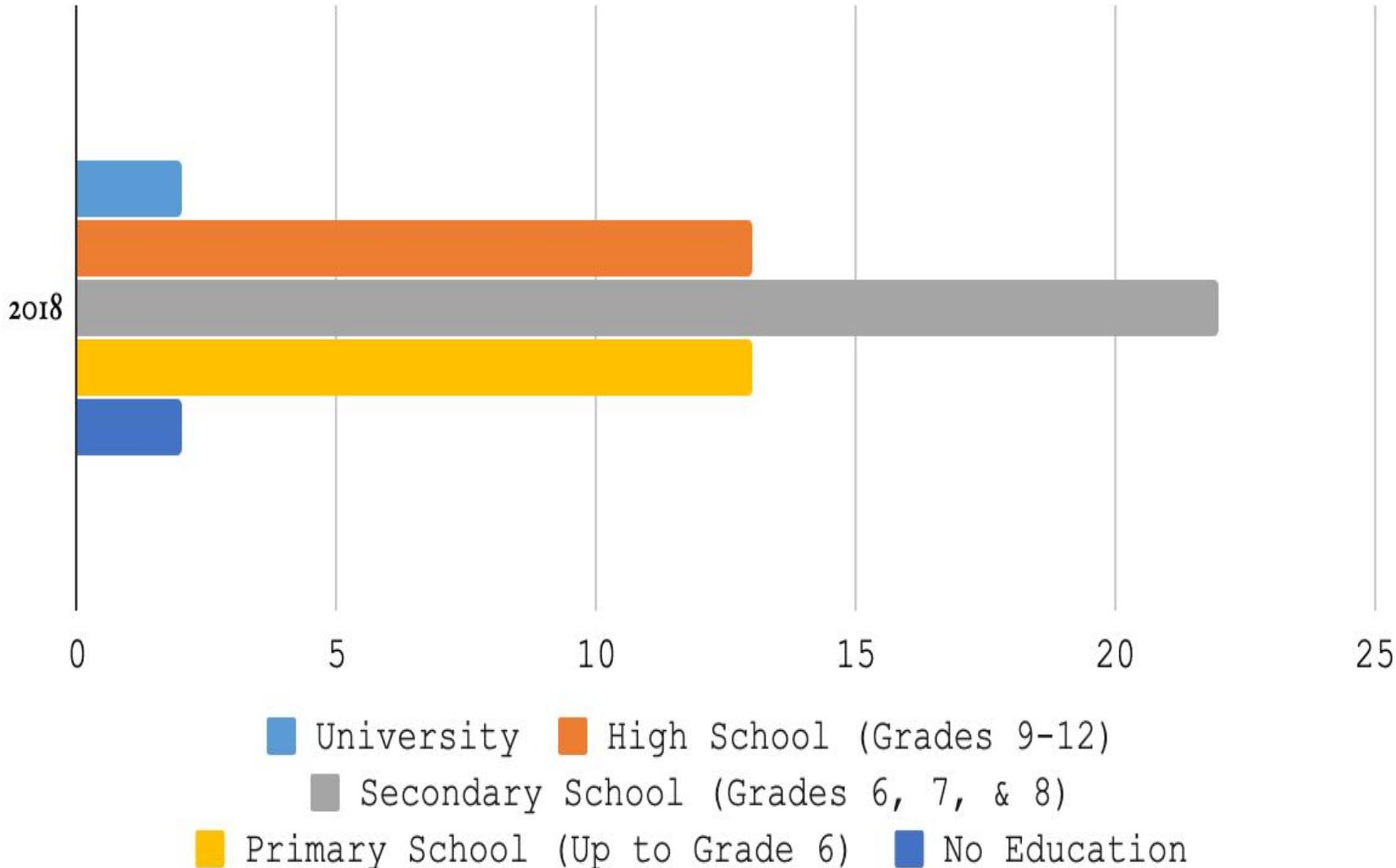


- Self-reported
- 5 participants with no education
- 29 up to grade 6
 - 14 of these participants under the age of 14
- The 3 participants who received a high school education did not go on to university

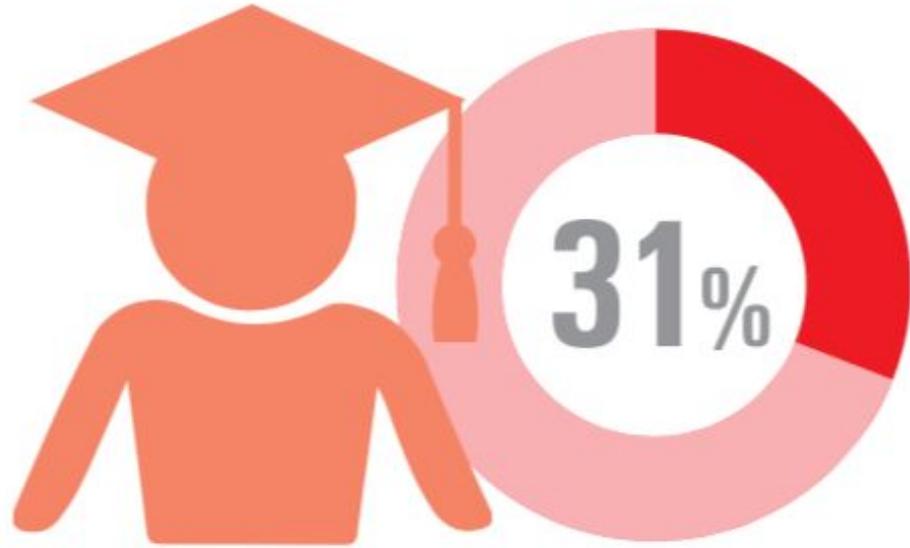


Highest Education Level 2018

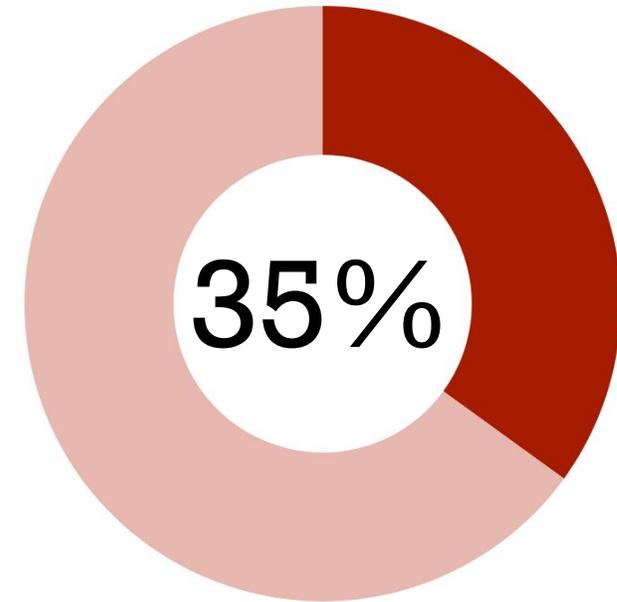
n=52



- Self-reported
- N=52
- 2 still reporting no formal education at all
- 30 eligible participants have not received a grade 9 education
 - Half (15) of these participants have a Secondary level education
 - 10 of these went on to do Vocational Training
- Many participants  stated that they felt too



A child who started Grade 1 in school-year 2014/15 has only a 31 percent **chance of reaching the end of lower secondary school** (Grade 9).



Compared to 35% of Butterfly Participants who **have completed lower secondary school** (Grade 9)

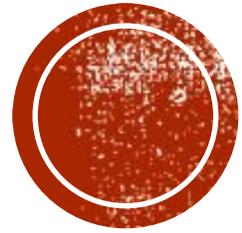




LESSON LEARNED

- 7.** Completing Grade 9 education through standard schooling or catch-up tutoring, should be a baseline priority for all aftercare programs.
- Grade 9 education is a right given to all Cambodians under The Constitution's Article 36.
 - A recent trend among vocational training programs throughout Cambodia requires Grade 9 [equivalency] completion
 - Aftercare programs should consider the long term requirements of a client achieving higher level education up through university, where possible.
 - Market-driven & Accredited Vocational Training resulting in employment should be available as an alternative to Formal

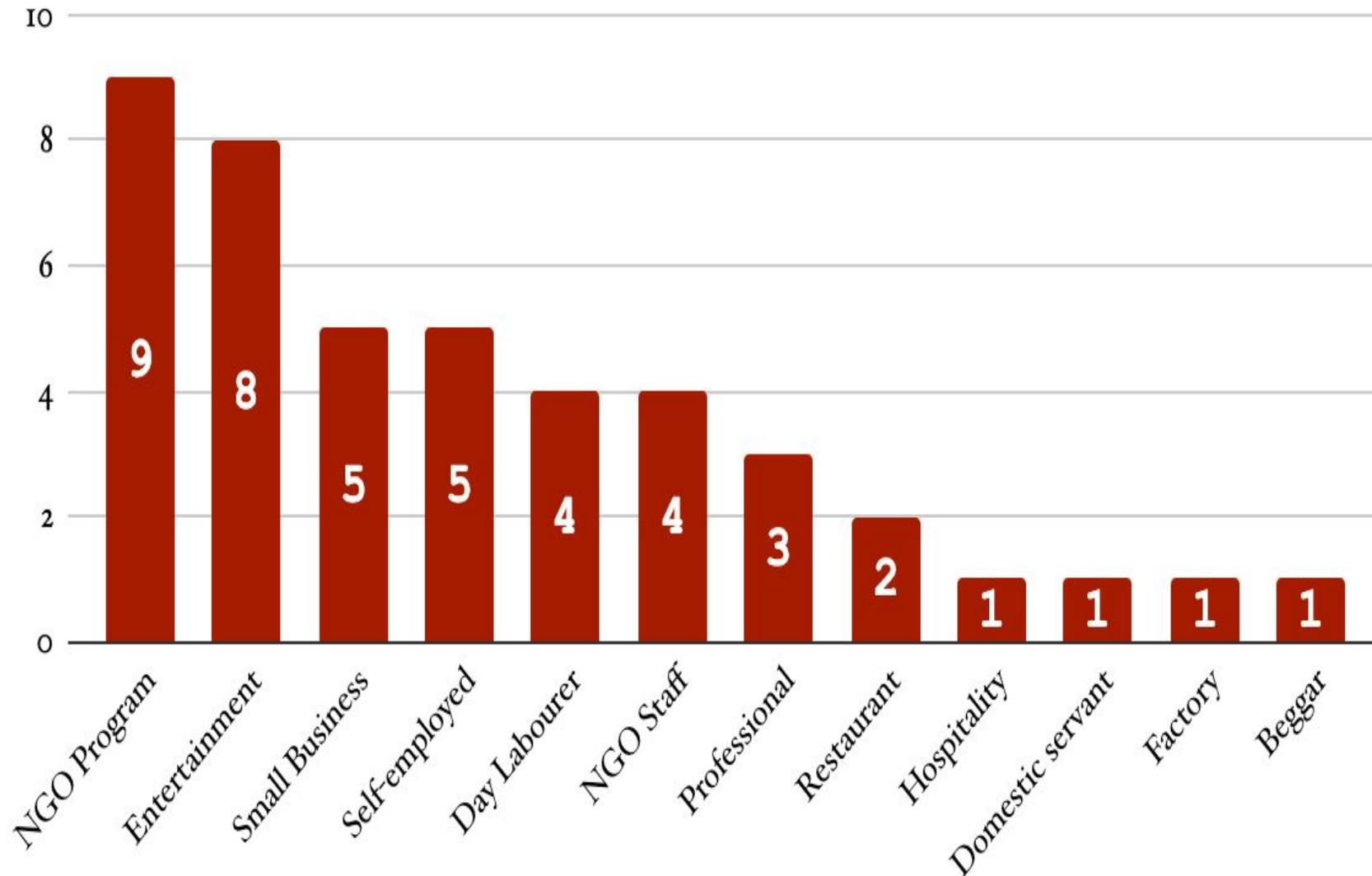




CURRENT EMPLOYMENT & FINANCIAL SECURITY

Main Employment in 2018

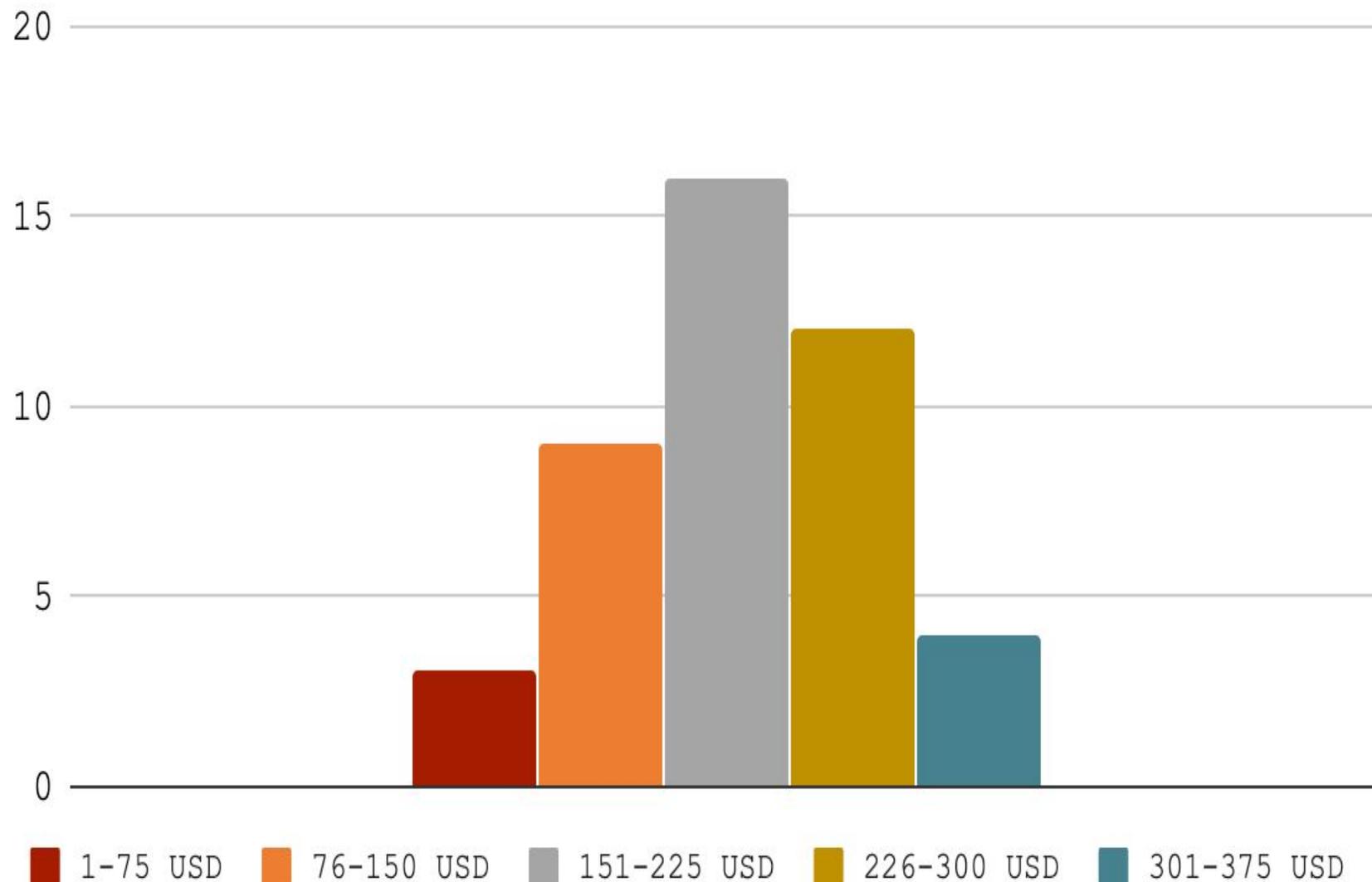
n=44



- Self-reported
- 9 continued to still work in an NGO training program
- 4 have become full-time staff in NGOs
- Although 8 are working in the Entertainment Industry, two continue to sell sex
- Those who are not working to earn income:
 - 6 are students and too young to work
 - 1 is a homemaker

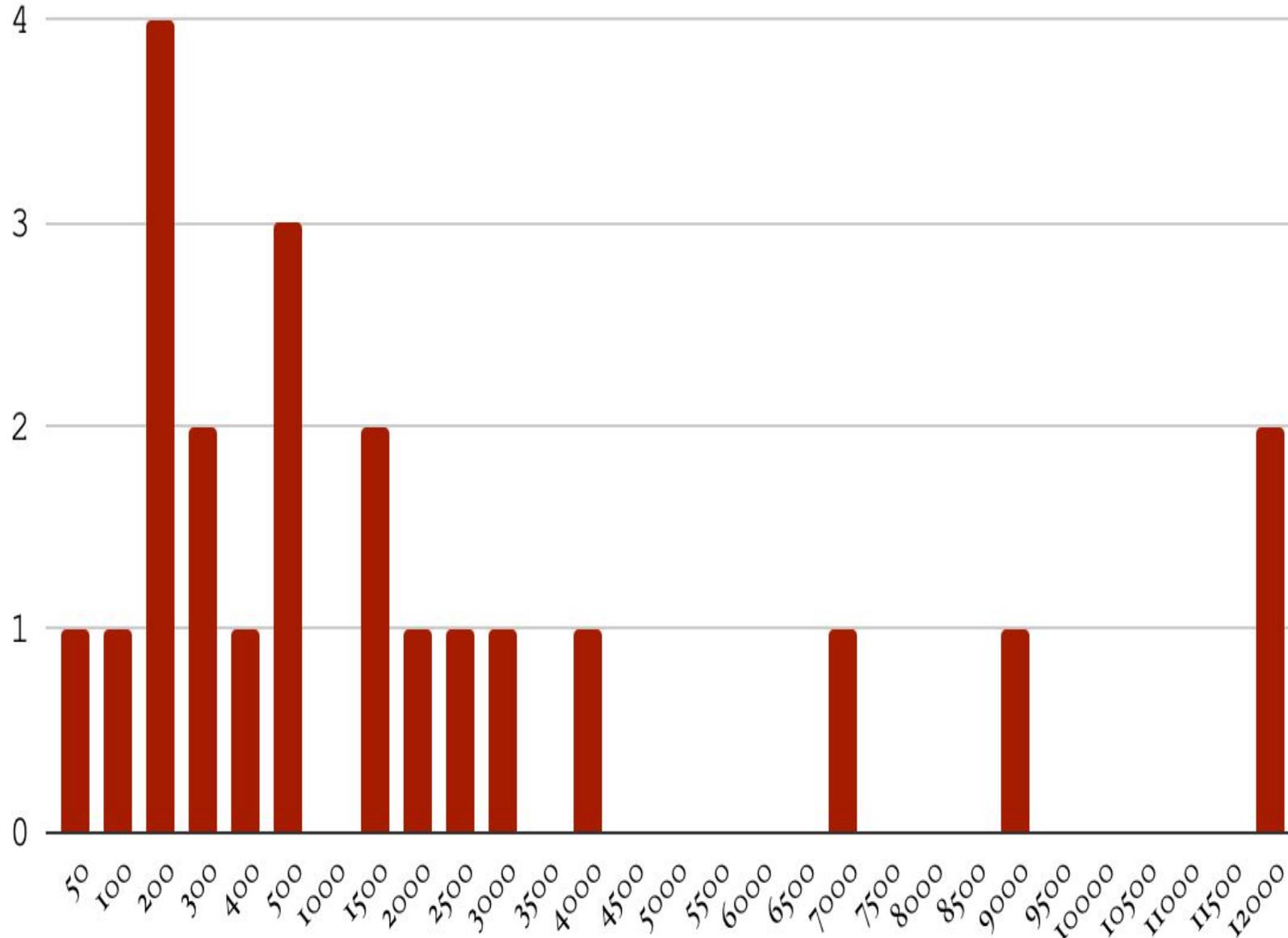
2018 Monthly Income Levels

n=44



- Self-reported
- Average (Mean) Income: \$204/month
- \$182.00 per month is the current salary for garment factory workers recommended by the government of Cambodia
 - 16/44 participants did not make this amount
 - The lowest income in 2018 was \$18.50 per month by a person who sold their labour.

Amount of Debt in 2018

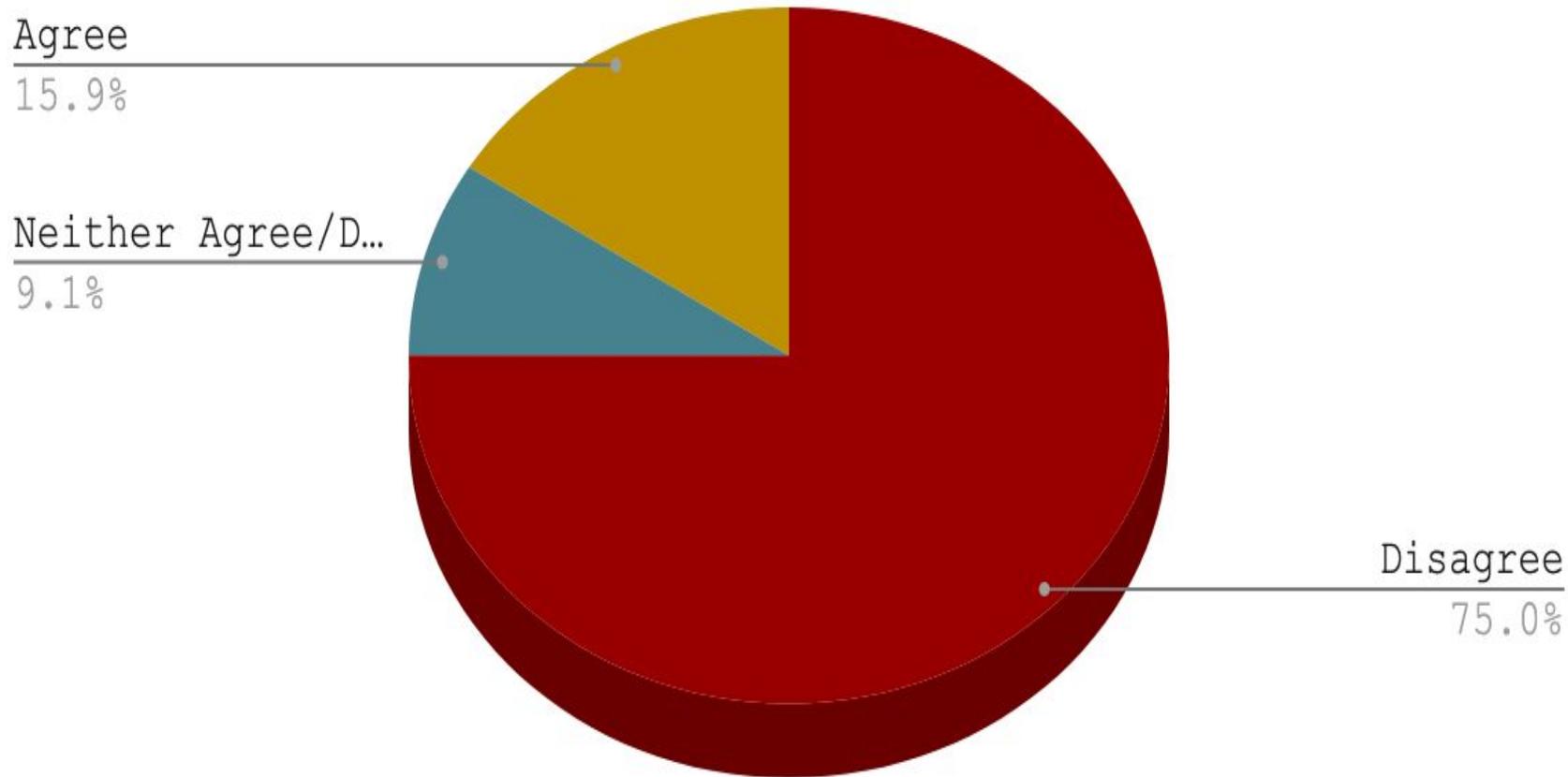


- Self-reported
- N=22 out of 52
- Highest amount of \$12,000 reported by two participants
- 45% of participants who reported has debt amounting over \$1500



Feelings of Being Exploited by Main Job

2018 N=44



- **Self-reported**
- **Over the years, a total of 6 participants have stated feelings of being exploited while working in NGO programs**
- **However, 28/52 (54%) Participants stated in 2018 that they *enjoyed* their main job**

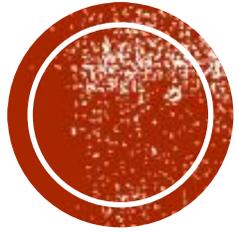




LESSON LEARNED

8. Aftercare programs should continue to provide career and financial literacy advice to clients.
 - Especially alternative employment opportunities that are away from industries that are high risk of exploitation.
 - This employment opportunity resource should remain open to former clients over years after formal intervention services complete.
 - Vocational Trainings and Apprenticeships should ideally lead to employment outside of the NGO community.
 - Household budgeting and Debt Management should be foundational in a client's life-skills education within aftercare programming.





ADVOCACY



LESSONS LEARNED

A. Outputs should ideally **involve practitioners**

Round Table discussions on research **before** it was published to ensure questions answered that are of **relevance** to practitioners.

B. Based in Context with NGOs gave **credibility**, a level of trust and support which may not have been possible with a University abroad. However, a **link** to an international credible university early on may have been useful.





LESSONS LEARNED

- C.** A range of outputs are necessary for different audiences
Government, UN, NGO and academics;
- i. Conference presentations – **national, regional, international**
 - ii. Papers – **thematic** papers as research conducted based on issues for practitioners e.g. resilience, gender, economic security, spirituality www.chabdai.org/butterfly
 - iii. **Peer review** papers – for international learning and impact



Peer Review Papers

Cordisco Tsai, L., Lim, V., & Nhanh, C. (2020). Experiences of trafficked and sexually exploited boys transitioning from shelter programmes into the community: Findings from a longitudinal study. *Children & Society*. Advance online publication. doi:10.1111/chso.12376

Cordisco Tsai, L., Lim, V., & Nhanh, C. (2020). "I feel like we are people who have never known each other before": The experiences of survivors of human trafficking and sexual exploitation transitioning from shelters to life in the community. *Forum Qualitative Sozialforschung / Forum: Qualitative Social Research*, 21(1), Art. 16, doi:10.17169/fqs-21.1.3259.

Cordisco Tsai, L., Lim, V., & Nhanh, C. (2019). Perspectives of survivors of human trafficking and sexual exploitation on their relationships with shelter staff: Findings from a longitudinal study in Cambodia. *The British Journal of Social Work*. Advance online publication. doi:10.1093/bjsw/bcz128/5610324.

There are others in process, but they are not published yet.



LESSONS LEARNED

D. The relationship between researchers and participants became intense, they were able to be honest and say things that they sometimes said they were unable to do with anyone else. The **positive** was that the researchers felt confident they were being truthful, the **negative** was it was painful to tell and be told that the ten year process was ending.

