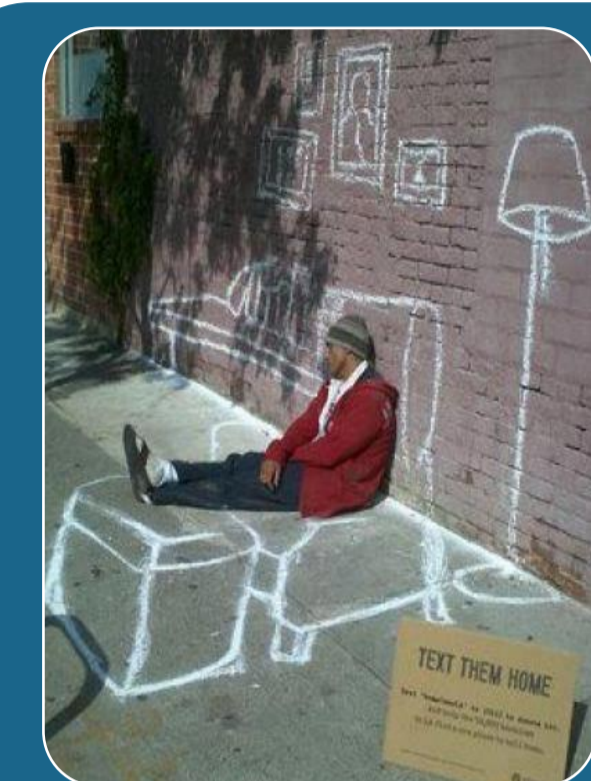


# Are Two Heads Better Than One? A Housing Network Evaluation

## Background



### Mass Homelessness in Canada

- Budget restraints in 1980 led to the occurrence of mass homelessness in Canada.
- Organizations like the Community Development Council Durham (CDCD) became even more important in helping the homeless.



### CDCD

- Developed in 1970, over 45 years ago.
- Organization behind the development of projects like LGBT Services, Diverse Voices and Poverty in Durham
- Created **Durham At-Risk Housing Network (DARHN)** through an Ontario Trillium Grant.



### DARHN

- Established in 2014 as a coalition of frontline workers within the homelessness and housing sector including tenant advocacy, health care, and housing.
- Meets every other month to inform their members about events and services available to members clients.

## Purpose

The purposes of this research is to establish the usefulness of the Ontario Trillium Grant and to demonstrate the importance of DARHN and encourage inter-organization cooperation to facilitate similar programs in other regions.

## Research Questions

1. What other models of housing professionals networks exist, and have they been subject to research?
2. From the perspective of members, how successful has DARHN been?
3. In what ways has the network supported or improved the lives of member's clients?
4. What roles would members like the network to perform?

**"I am a DARHN Member because it allows me to work together with different agencies to help members of the community who are in need!"**

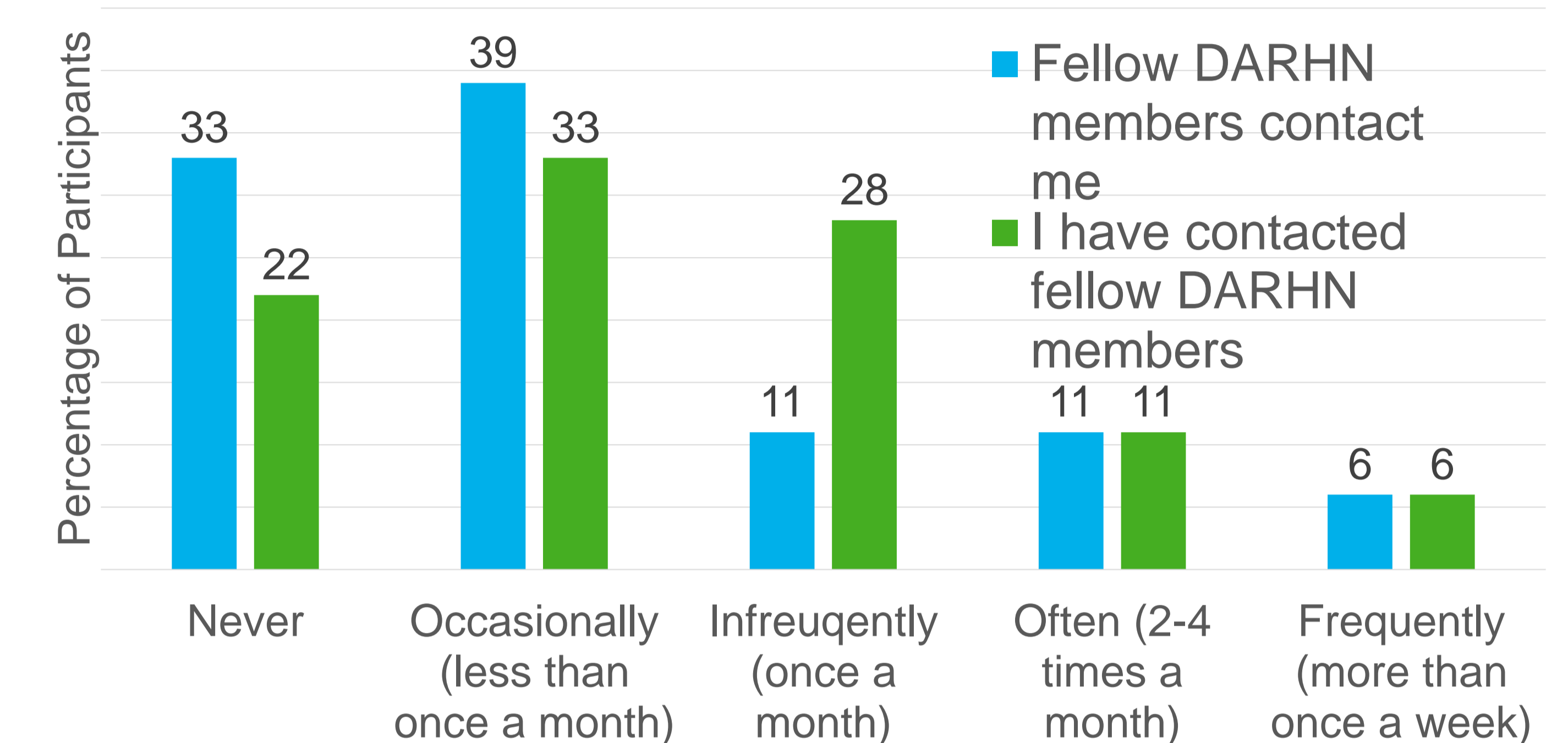
## Methodology

- Two-part Survey - 20 participants for the first survey and 11 for the second
- Open-ended and closed-ended questions
- Participated at regular scheduled meetings

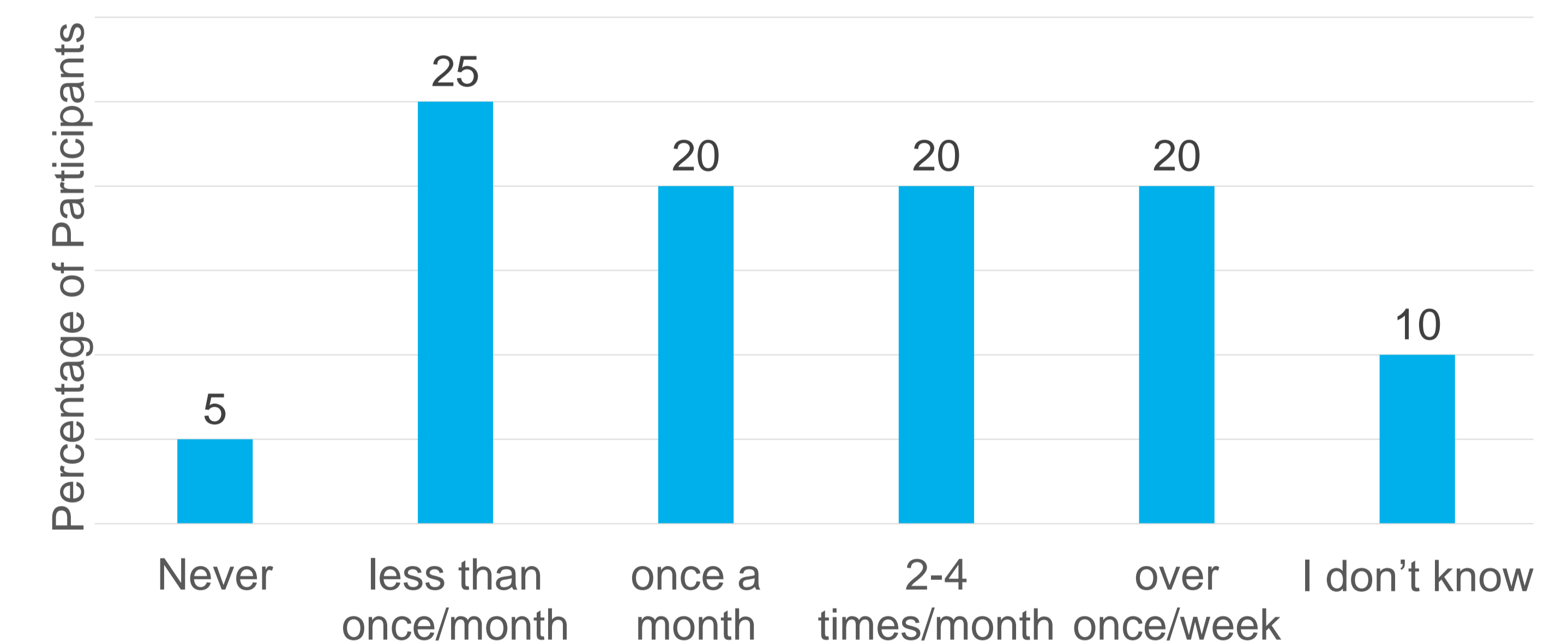
## Results

- 90% of participants agreed or strongly agreed that their work and their clients have benefitted from their participation in DARHN, with the remainder indicating that they were unsure.
- 7/8 participants (87.5%) indicated that they would partake in an online forum to communicate.

### How Often Do DARHN Members Contact One Another Outside of Meetings?



### How Often Do DARHN Members Use The Information Provided to Them?



## Conclusion

- It has been demonstrated that members of DARHN feel the network is successful as it not only benefits their work, but also their clients lives.
- To encourage agency communication, members of DARHN would partake in an online forum if it was made available to them in the future!

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