

Do Rent Supplements Help?

The experiences of residents with the City of Peterborough's Rent Supplement Programs Part 2

Background/Purpose

The City of Peterborough offers four different programs to increase the affordability of rental units for individuals with low or moderate income. Each program serves different people in different situations. Some programs are portable, meaning the supplement is not fixed to a unit, while other's are non-portable, and therefore fixed to a unit.

This project is evaluating the impact supplements have on the quality of life of participants as well as their experience with the programs.

Project Continuation

Part 1 Looked at supplements that depend on the monthly income of the tenant, geared-to-income, provided by Peterborough Housing Corporation. These supplements are non-portable. Part 1 also researched similar programs in other municipalities

Part 2 Looking at flat-rate, portable rent supplements provided by the Housing Resource Centre. Also researching experiences of individuals using supplements from other municipalities

Impact

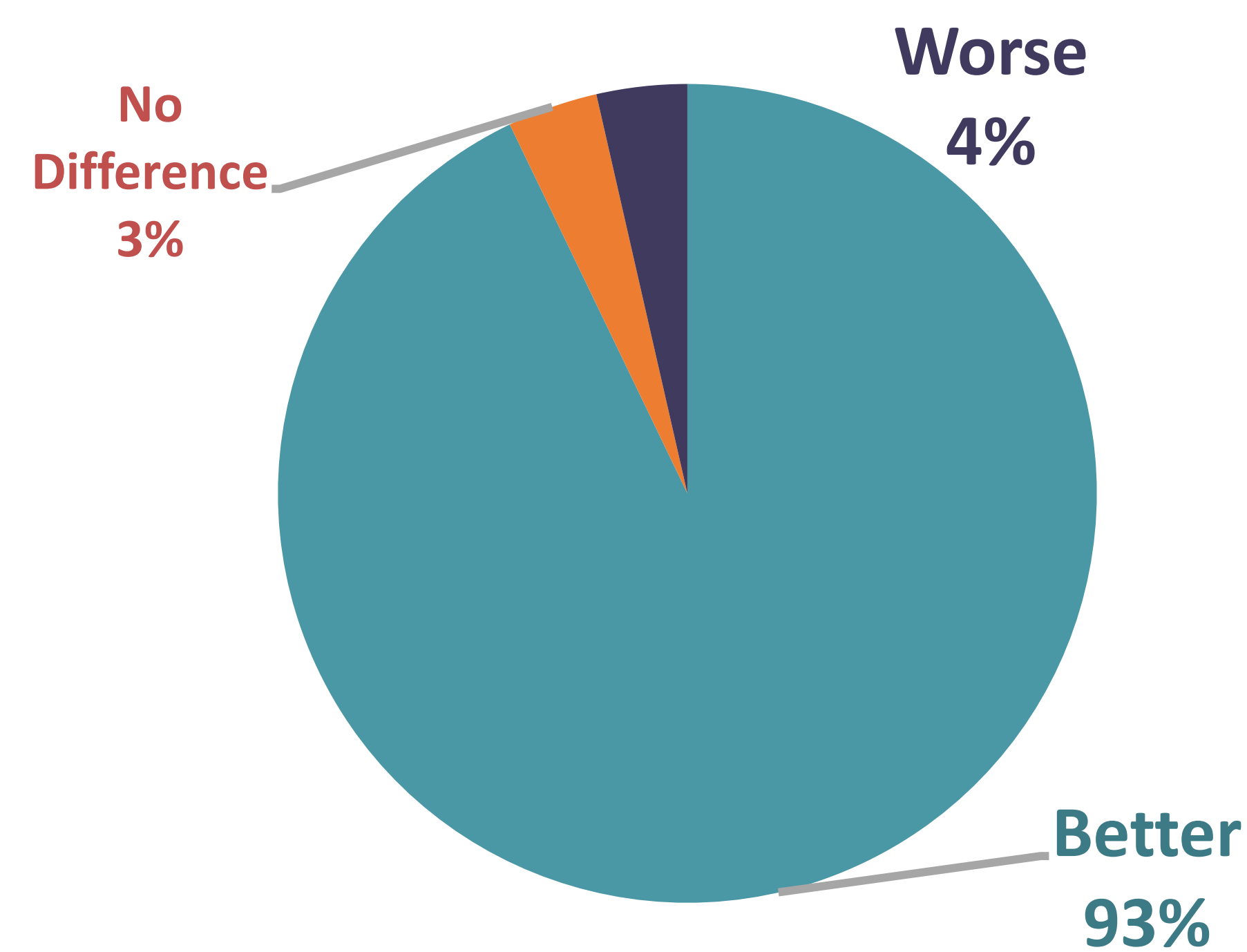
- Help better serve residents in the future
- Share the success and trials of running these programs
- May be used for future funding decisions
- May result in program policy changes

Methodology

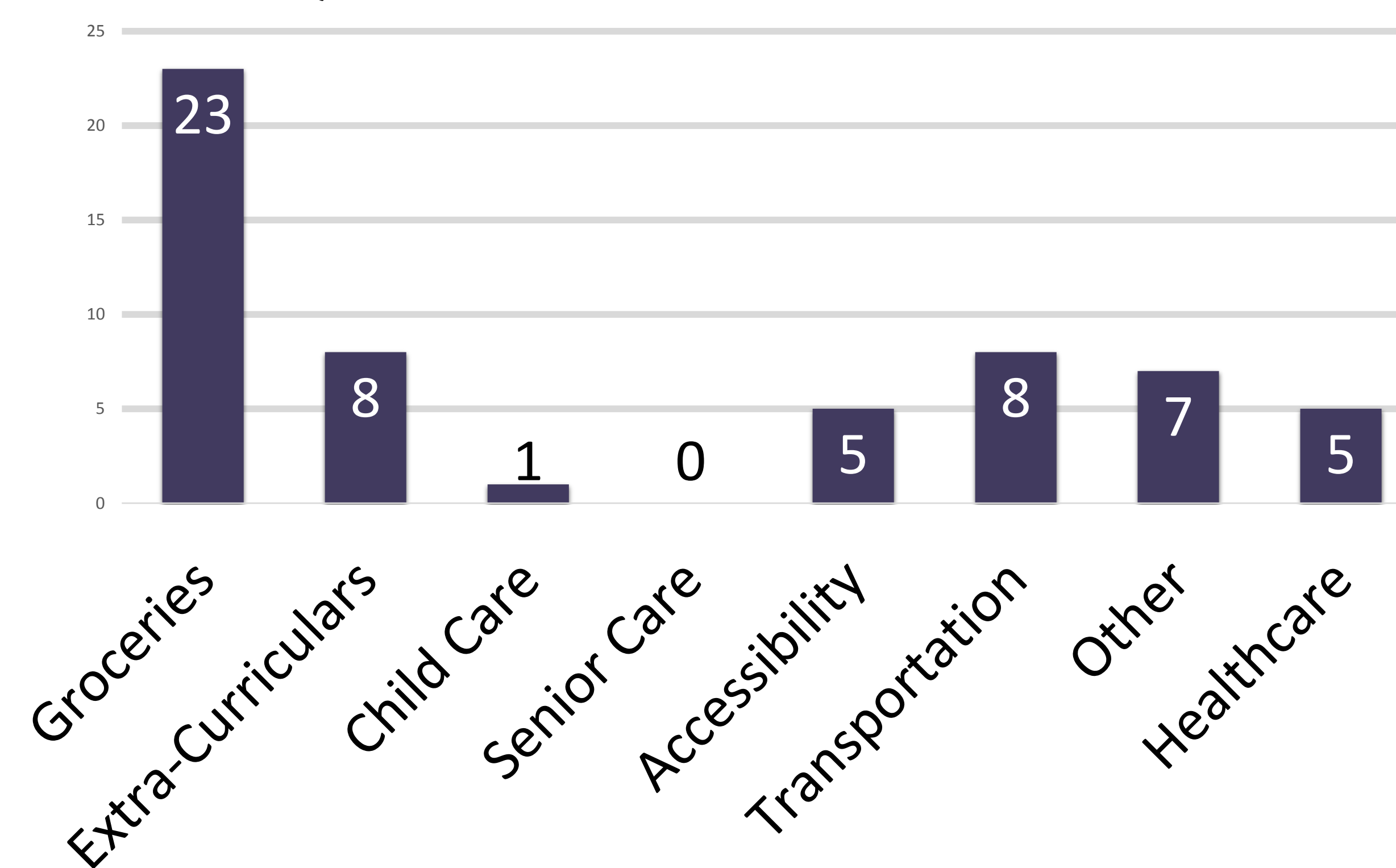
- Survey 115 Housing Choice participants
- Conduct a focus group
- Grey literature research

Results

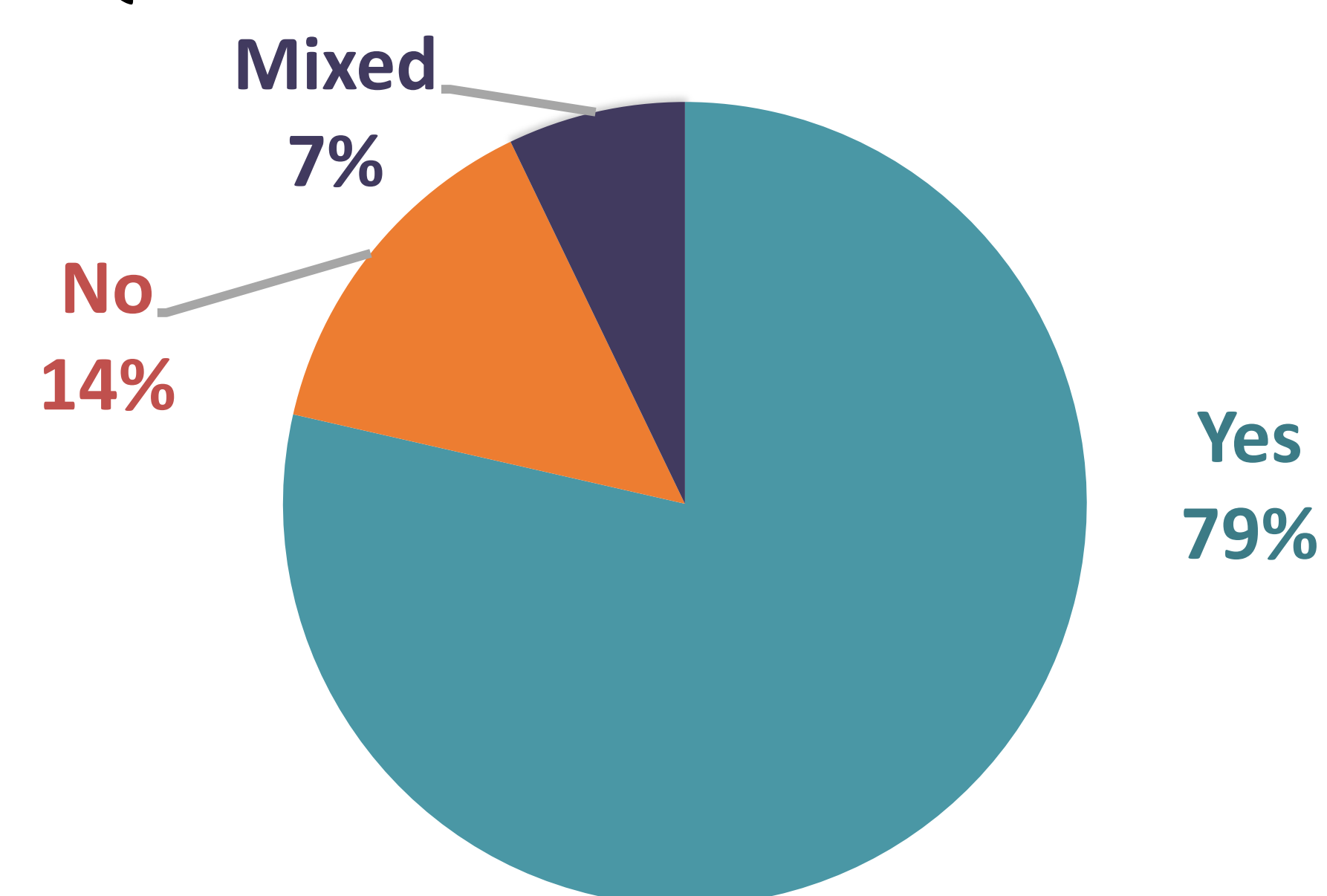
Q14- HAS THE SUPPLEMENT MADE YOUR LIFE BETTER OR WORSE?



Q8- WHAT CAN YOU AFFORD NOW?



Q15- DO YOU LIKE WHERE YOU LIVE?



Experiences

Q 15 –DO YOU LIKE WHERE YOU LIVE? WHY OR WHY NOT?

“ **Easy access** to my apartment along with **great neighbours**. I can walk to everything I need and much more. Wonderful **feel of community**”

“The old building **needs upgrades**, but the **rent keeps increasing** with no benefit to us”

Q16- ANY COMMENTS ABOUT THE PROGRAM?

“Changed my life for the **better**. I am now living in **proper living conditions** and able to provide **food** for myself”

“ I wish it could be **extended**”

Recommendations

- Urge other municipalities to gage experiences
- Implement annual survey
- Design survey structure to compare longitudinal data
- Develop resources to emphasize portability