



	REPORT No.: 2020-56
MEETING DATE: NOVEMBER 18, 2020	DATE PREPARED: OCTOBER 26, 2020
SUBJECT: SOCIAL SERVICES RELIEF FUND AND CHILD CARE UPDATE	

RECOMMENDATION

For information only.

REPORT SUMMARY

To provide The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB or the Board) with updated information regarding the Ontario Social Services Relief Fund and the status of child care centres and EarlyON programs in the District of Thunder Bay during the COVID-19 pandemic.

BACKGROUND

At the April 16, 2020 meeting, the Board was provided with initial information and plans for the Social Services Relief Fund (SSRF), Emergency Discretionary Benefits and the Emergency Child Care (ECC) program. Updated information was provided at each subsequent Board meeting and this report provides the most current information.

COMMENTS

Through the SSRF, TBDSSAB established an Emergency Pandemic Fund to assist organizations by offering housing and related supports to individuals and households experiencing financial pressures related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The following table outlines the Emergency Pandemic Fund grants awarded up to October 31, 2020:

Organization	Proposal	Communities Served	Amount
Boys and Girls Club	Food security for vulnerable community	Thunder Bay	\$ 5,000
Geraldton Composite High School	Backpack nutrition program	Greenstone	3,200
Grace Ministries	Provide isolation shelter staffing 24/7 (3 approved applications, net of \$819 returned)	Thunder Bay	81,736
Greenstone Harvest Centre	Food security for vulnerable community	Greenstone	3,000
Marathon Community Collective	Food/clothing/supplies; accommodation; transportation; support services	Marathon	4,500
Marjorie House	Food security for vulnerable community (3 approved applications)	Marathon	52,100
Nipigon Red Rock District High School	Food security for vulnerable community	Nipigon/Red Rock	1,800
North of Superior Healthcare Group	Offer programming and supports to tenants	Marathon	1,344
Salvation Army	Social distancing measures, enhanced screening, maintaining good nutrition and hygiene (2 approved applications)	Thunder Bay	9,781
Shkoday Abinojiiwak Obimiwedoan	Food security for vulnerable community	Thunder Bay	4,500
Urban Abbey	Provide illness isolation space and support to homeless (2 approved applications)	Thunder Bay	40,960
		Total:	\$207,921

Administration has also been working with partners to facilitate an isolation shelter for homeless individuals who require separation from the general population due to possible exposure to the virus or while awaiting test results. As of October 11, 2020, funding for the isolation shelter has been provided by the Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre.

Periodically there have been isolation hotel stays required in Greenstone and Manitowadge and facilities have been established in other communities to be accessed as required. Meals, laundry and other supports are provided to those staying in isolation.

To address the needs of those requiring shelter where the existing emergency shelters are full or where individuals are unable to access the existing shelters, TBDSSAB expanded the overflow shelter program through arrangements with several hotels.

The following table outlines the actual and committed SSRF expenditures up to October 31, 2020:

Organization	March – October 2020 Actuals	November 2020 - March 2021 Committed/ Projected	Total
Community Support Applications (total from Table 1)	\$207,921		\$ 207,921
Isolation Hotel	428,040		428,040
Motel Stays	86,768		86,768
Transportation	1,205	-	1,205
Community Housing Cleaning (Non- Profits)	25,558	-	25,558
Phone Services	8,146	13,717	21,863
Rent Supports	21,474	-	21,474
Internal Resources:			
Communications & Technology	9,260	-	9,260
Personal Protective Equipment	31,074	-	31,074
Security	113,505	101,500	215,005
Additional Cleaning	36,061	21,500	57,561
Other	-	-	-
Administration	62,571	-	62,571
Total:	1,051,583	161,926	\$1,168,300

The projected total of the SSRF expenditures utilize the full allocation provided. The Administration expense was allocated at 5.4%. TBDSSAB was eligible to utilize up to 10%, but used less due to pressures in the other funded areas.

On August 12, 2020, the province announced that a second phase of SSRF funding was being made available. TBDSSAB received notification that it is eligible to receive an initial planning allocation of \$1,840,459, though actual funding is based on a business case submission. Administration prepared and submitted a business case for the full eligible amount and received confirmation on October 26, 2020 that the full amount of the business case was approved. Details of the Phase 2 funding are provided under a separate report.

With the full re-opening of child care centres, there are currently 44 locations operational. Additionally, EarlyON centres throughout the District continue to offer a blend of virtual, outdoor and in-person programming. All participants must pre-register for in-person programs. Updated guidance documents regarding the re-opening of child care centres and EarlyON Child and Family Centres were received from the province and policies and

procedures have been developed and provided to each EarlyON program. The Thunder Bay District Health Unit continues to support each EarlyON location to ensure safe operations.

On August 14, 2020, TBDSSAB received information from the Ministry of Education announcing the Federal Safe Restart Funding (SRF) initiative. Funding will be provided through CMSMs and DSSABs to operators which can be used for additional personal protective equipment (PPE), enhanced cleaning, additional staff to meet health and safety requirements, support for short term vacancies as operators transition to return to full capacity, and minor capital required in accordance with the Ministry’s reopening operational guidance or local public health requirements. TBDSSAB has been provided an allocation of \$1,800,039. The Ministry of Education has given TBDSSAB the ability to carry over funding to March 31,2021.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Social Services Relief Fund is a 100% provincially funded program. TBDSSAB was eligible to receive up to \$1,168,300 and received confirmation from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing on August 12, 2020 that it would receive the full allocation. TBDSSAB is projecting to spend the entire allocation by March 31, 2021.

The Federal Safe Restart Funding initiative is a 100% federal/provincially funded program. TBDSSAB was notified that it is eligible to receive \$1,800,039 to assist child care and EarlyON operators return to full operation. All funds are to be fully expended by March 31, 2021.

CONCLUSION

It is concluded that this report provides the Board with information relative to the Social Services Relief Fund and the re-opening of child care centres and EarlyON programs in the District of Thunder Bay during the COVID-19 pandemic.

REFERENCE MATERIALS ATTACHED

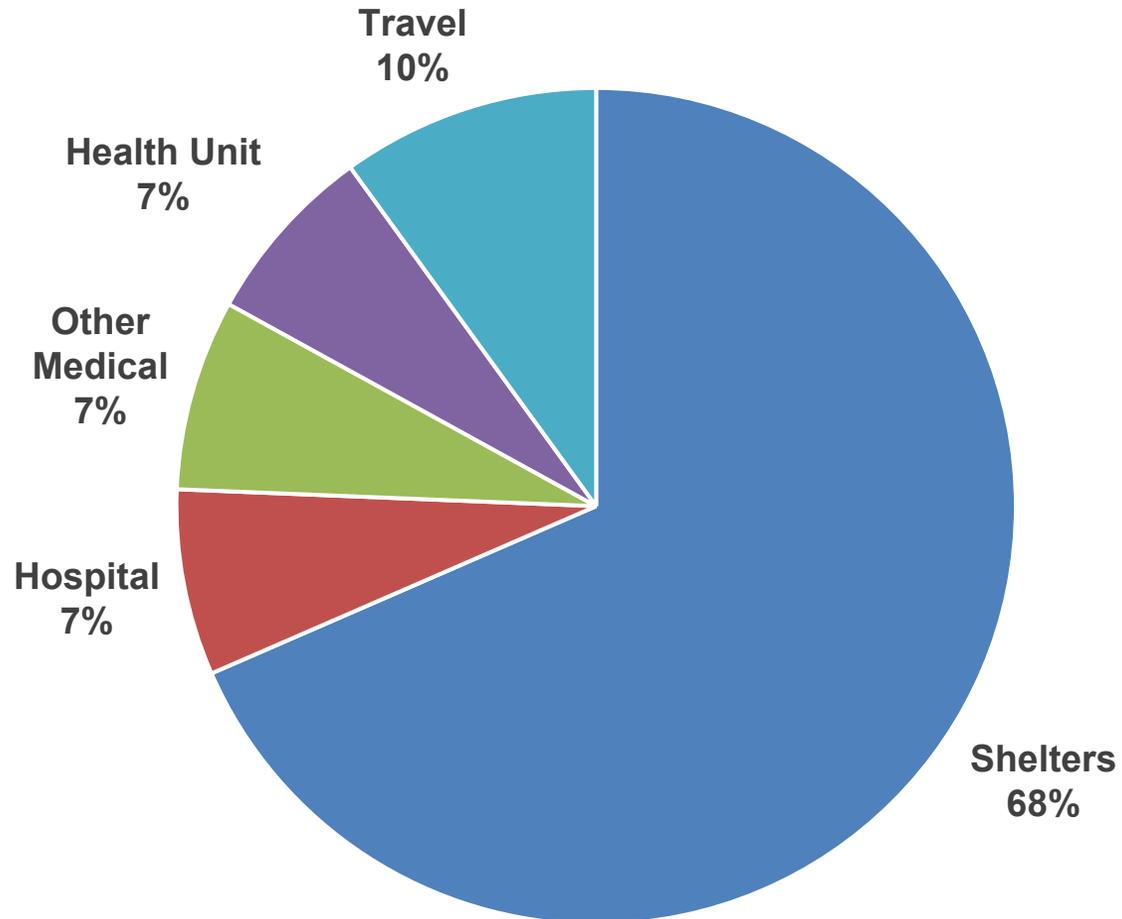
Attachment #1 [Statistics Compilation](#)

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SUBMITTED / SIGNATURE:	 William (Bill) Bradica, Chief Administrative Officer The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board

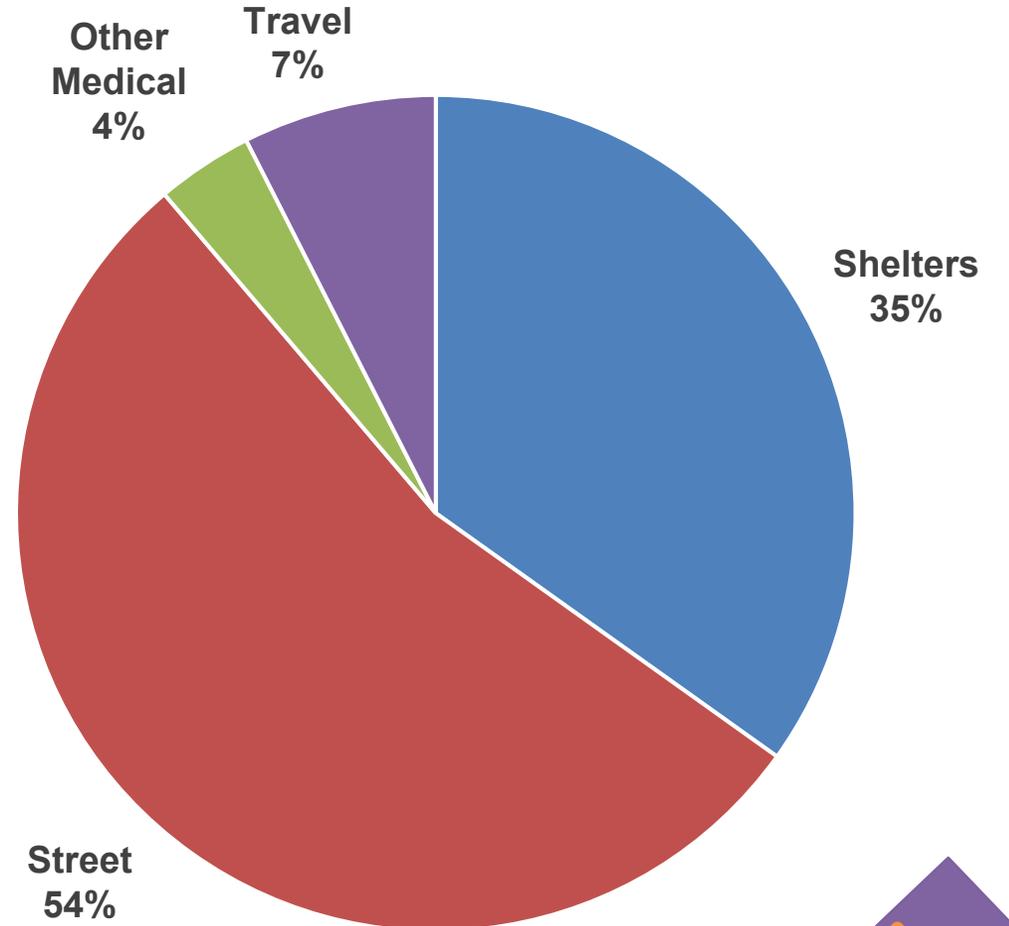
Isolation Clients Information

April 2 – October 10

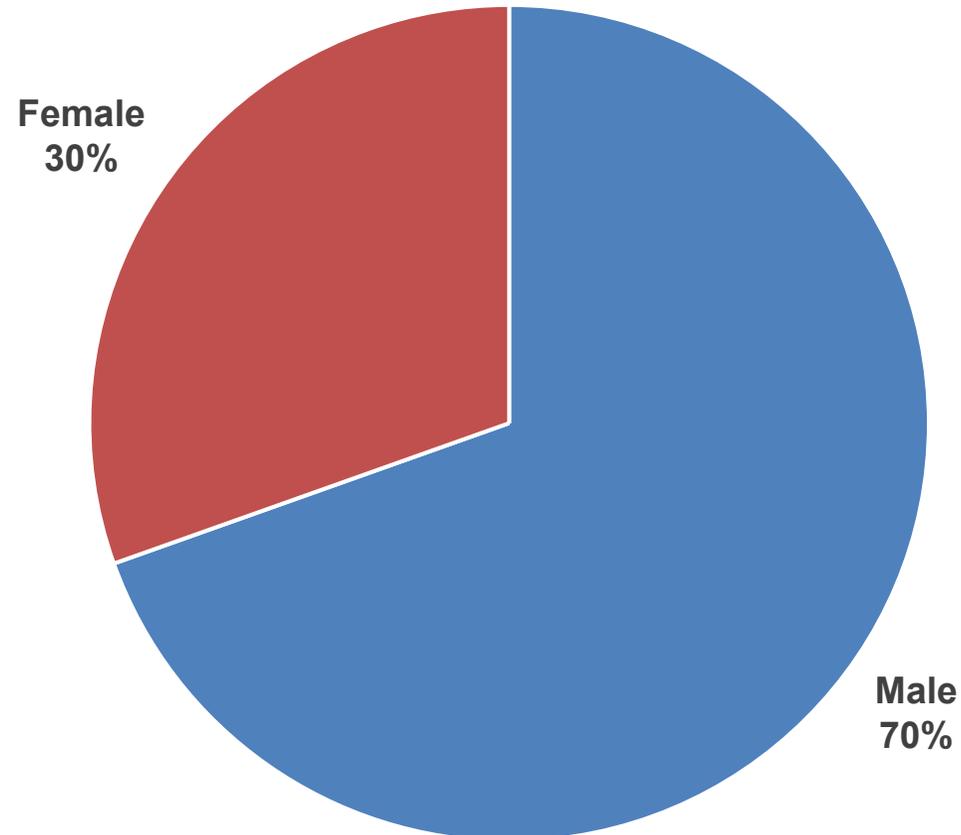
Where They Were Referred From



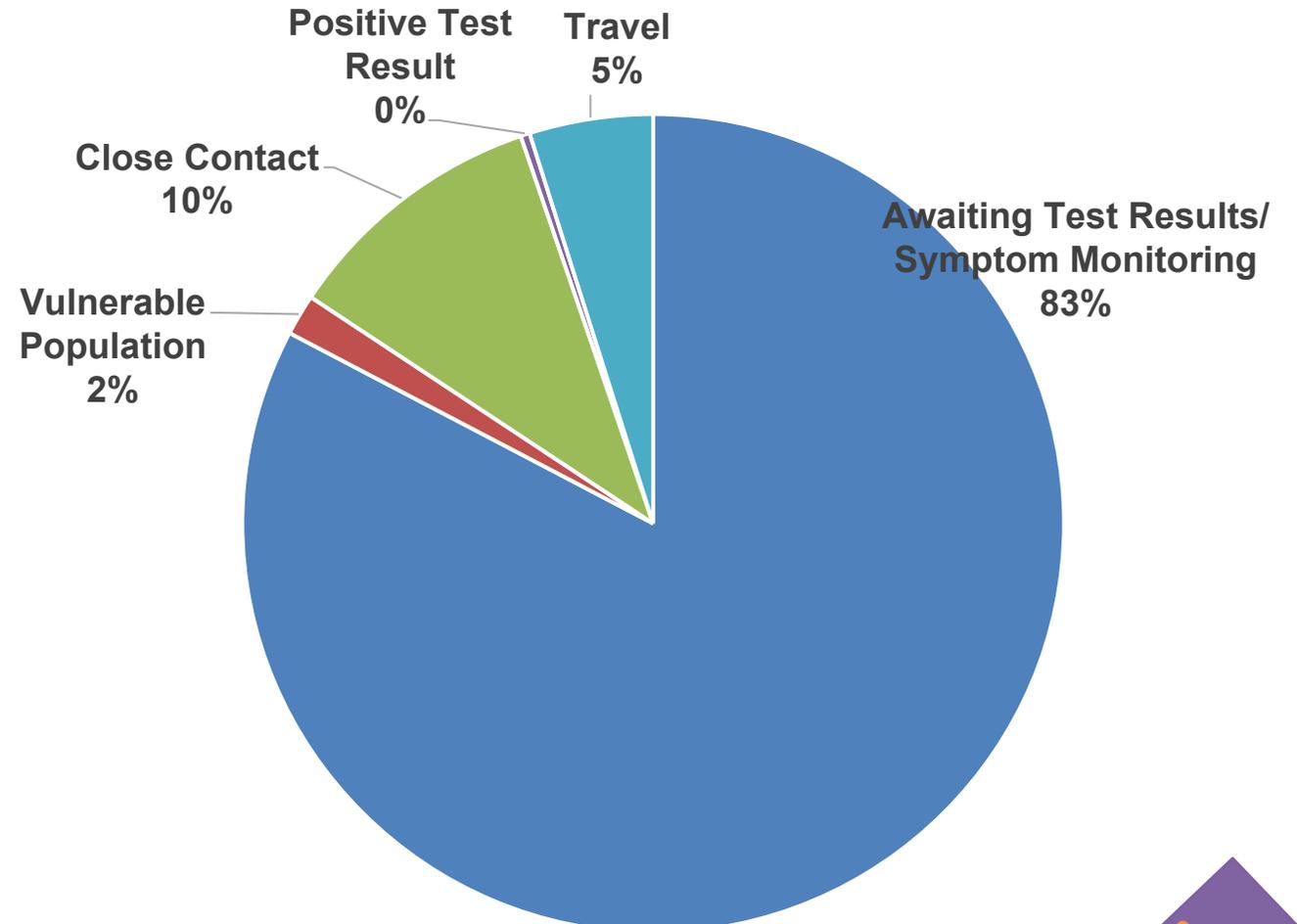
Where They Were Staying Prior to Admission



Gender

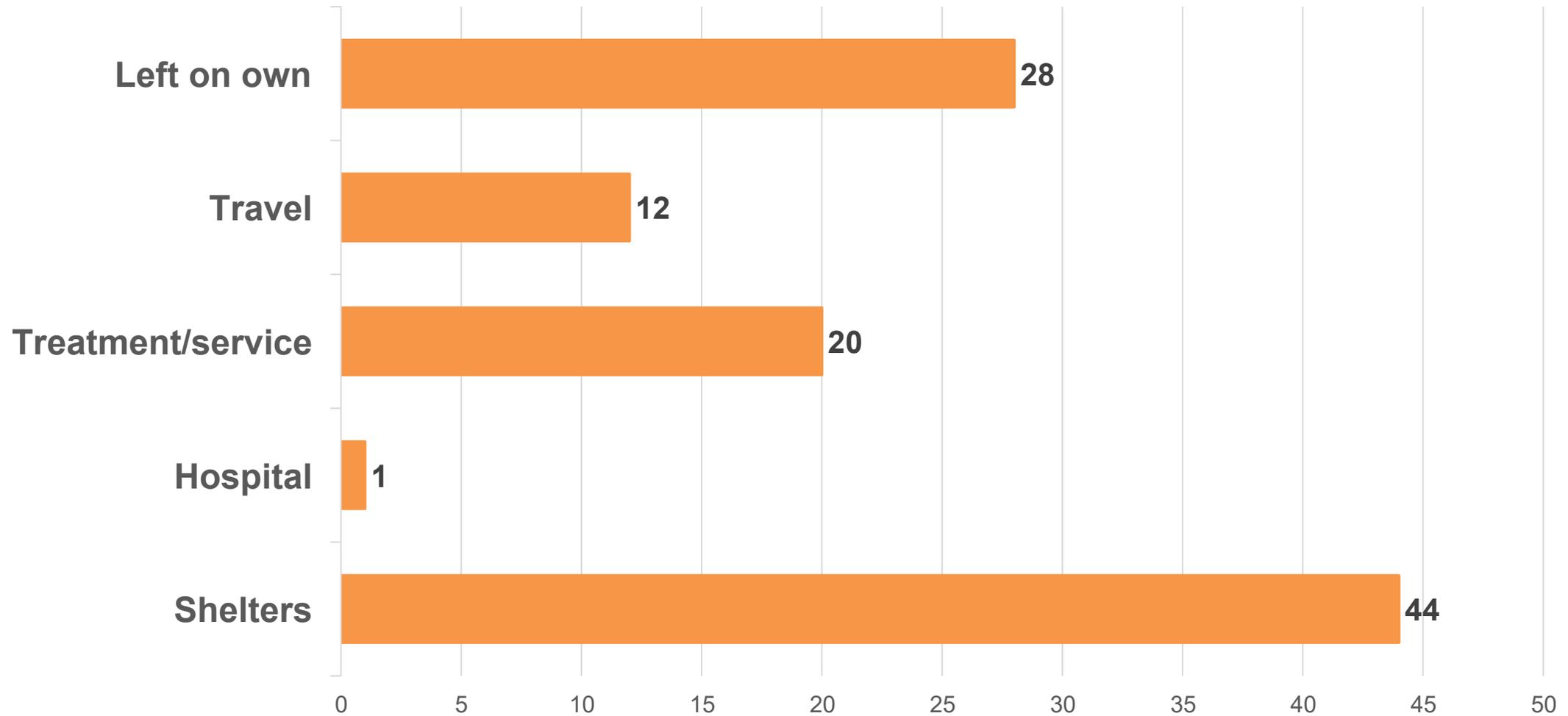


Reason for Seeking a Shelter Stay



Isolation Clients Information September 1 – October 10

Discharged To



Isolation Clients Information

April 2 – October 10

	Apr 2 – Jun 19	Jun 19 – Aug 31	Sep 1 – Oct 10
Total # of bookings/admissions	212	238	105
# of unique individuals	166	162	88
# of days on average for each stay	4.07	5.39	4.21
# of individuals who have stayed multiple times (repeat users)	35	48	16
# of individuals who have left prior to their prescribed time	68	72	16
# of individuals who have moved into a treatment program/service	72	87	20
# of individuals swabbed at the hotel	166	198	102



Isolation Clients Information

April – September

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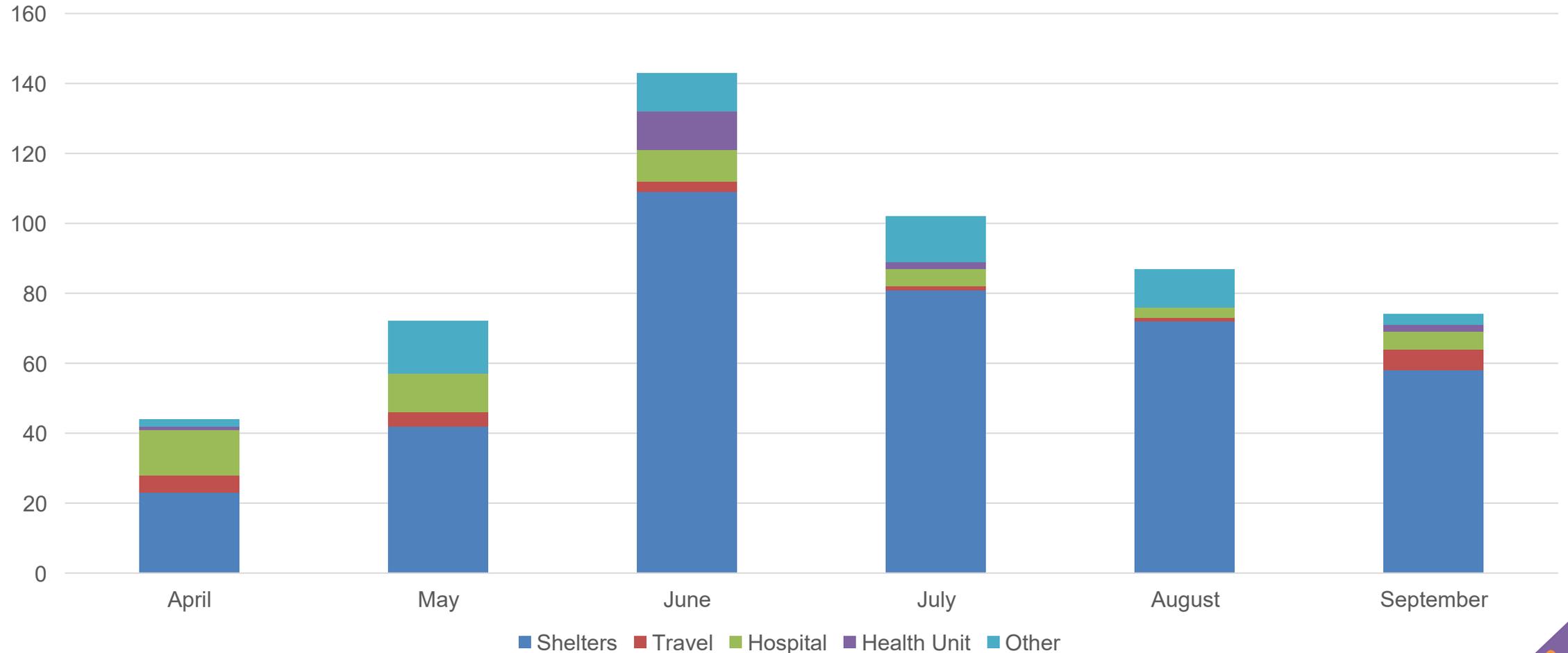
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	April	May	June	July	August	September
Average Age	39.5	41.7	38.7	41.4	41.5	37.7
Age Range	20-73	19-82	19-73	17-82	18-71	19-71
Average Days/Stay	4.9	4.5	3.9	6.3	5	5
# Admissions	44	72	143	102	87	74
# Unique Individuals	39	63	97	80	71	65

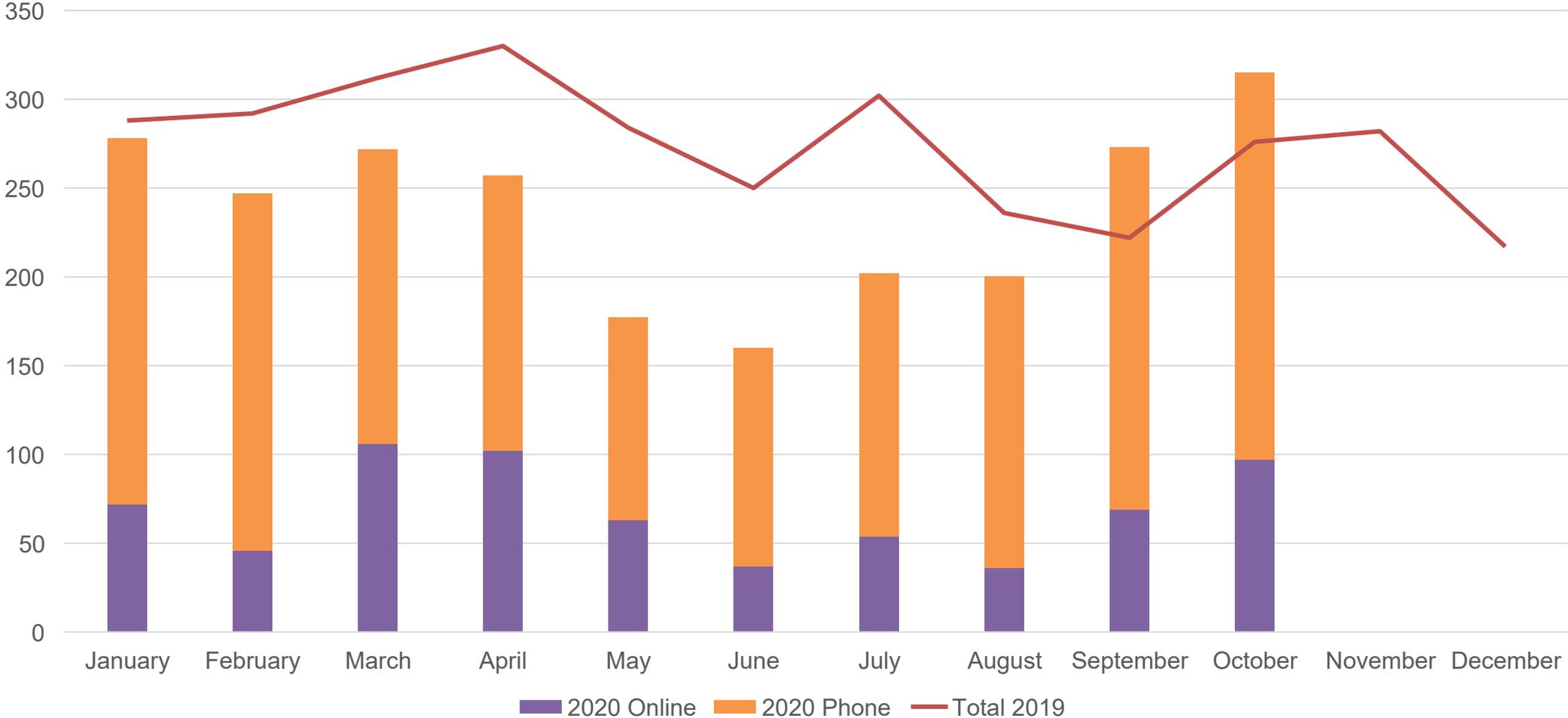


Isolation Clients Information April – September

Where They Were Referred From Each Month



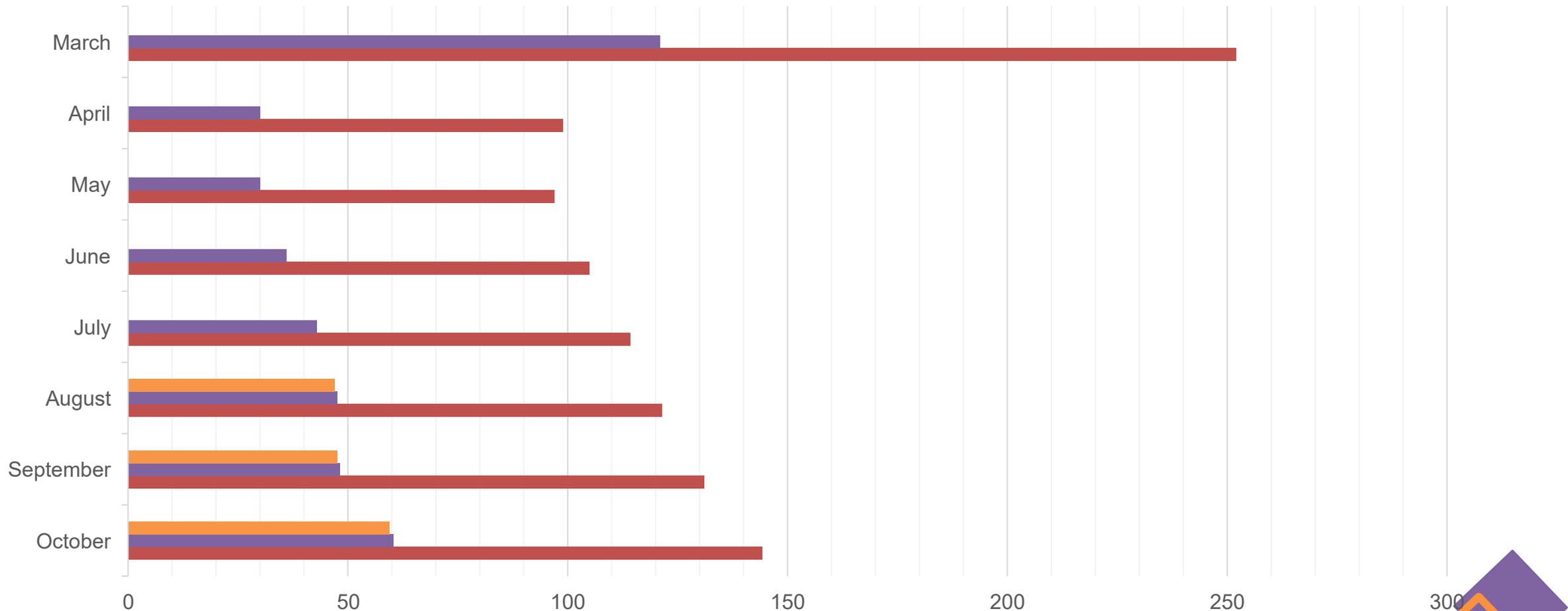
Ontario Works Monthly Application Requests



Clients Seeking In Person Service Trends

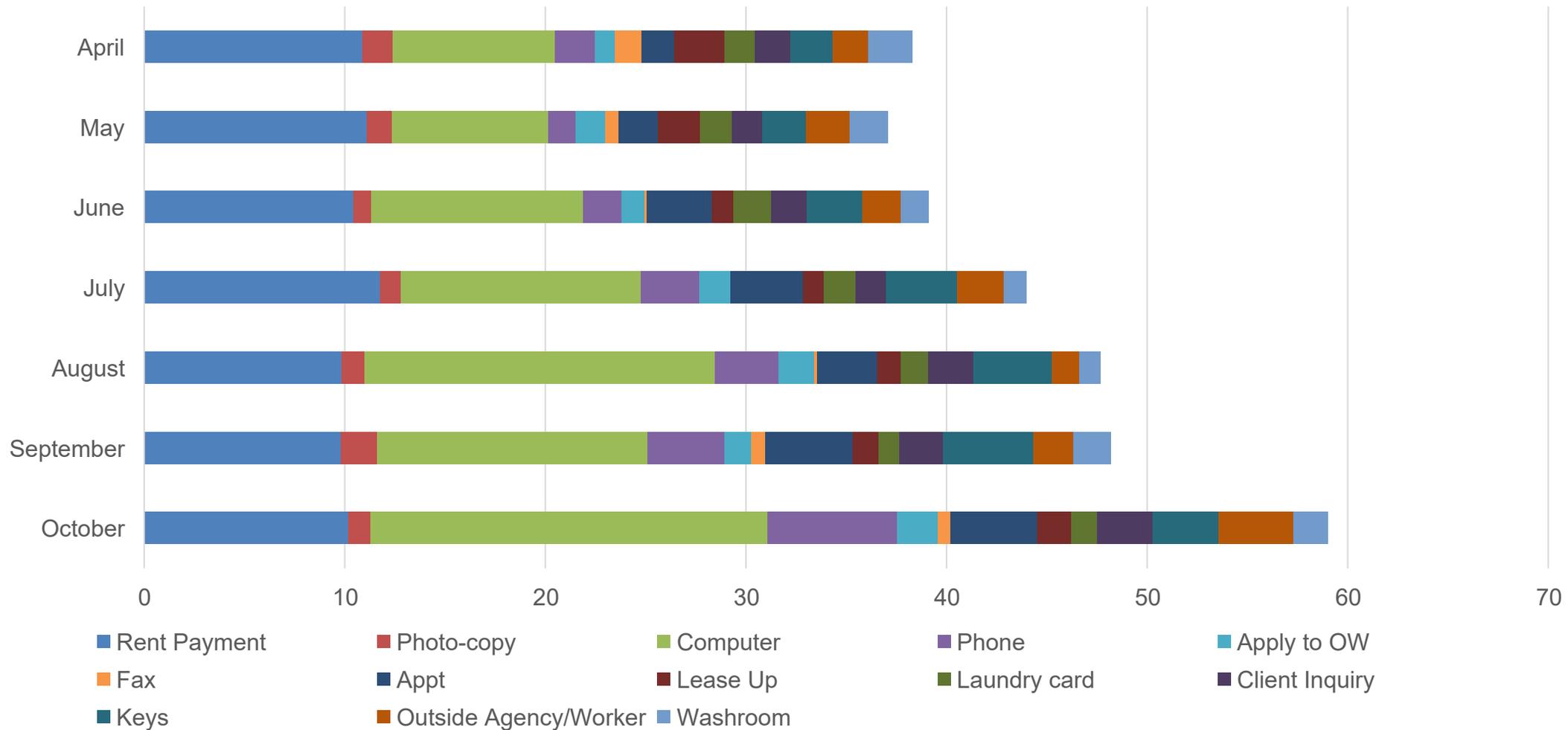
Average Daily # of Clients Seeking Service per Month

■ Average Daily # of clients in Masks ■ Average Daily # of Clients Passed Screening ■ Average Daily # of Clients at Vestibule

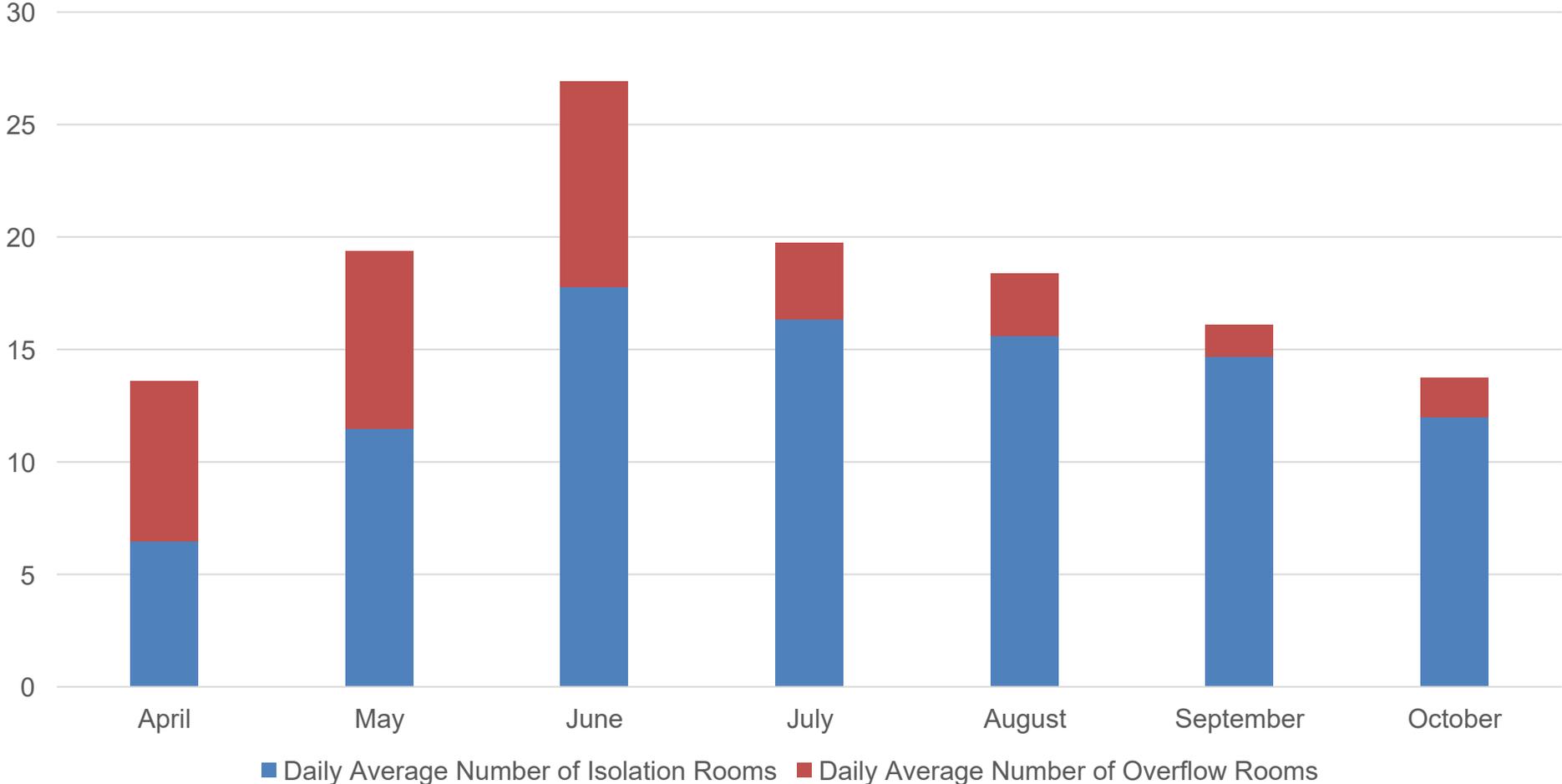


Clients Served in Office – Passed Screening

Average Daily Reasons for Service per Month



Daily Average of Hotel Isolation and Overflow Rooms per Month



Average Daily Shelter Occupancy* per Month

