

# Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo Estimation Report

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ARDN

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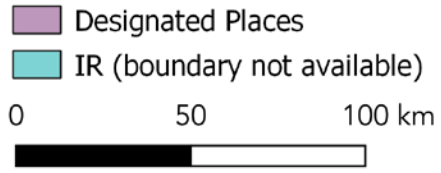
# Step-by-step Guide to Estimating Homelessness

- Lack of data for rural homelessness;
- Guide provides baseline strategy to estimate community homeless population;
- Continuous improvement.

# RMWB Estimation

- Uses the first version of the Estimation Guide;
- Conducted independently by the RMWB in late 2018 to early 2019.
- Covered four communities: Anzac, Fort Chipewyan, Fort McKay, and Janvier.

Note: a count was conducted already in Conklin in Fall 2018.



Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo

Fort Chipewyan

Fort Mackay

Anzac

Janvier South



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Alberta  
Rural  
Development  
Network

# RMWB Estimation

- Service agencies in communities surveyed service users;
- Questions on survey range from demographic information to shelter usage and income sources;
- Participation was voluntary, and respondents could choose whether or not to answer each question.

Total Respondents by Community		
Community	Survey Responses	Others Counted*
Anzac	4	8
Fort Chipewyan	15	73
Fort McKay	25	65
Janvier	13	54

*Source: ARDN data*

\*“Others Counted” refers to responses to number of adult family and children staying with respondent.

# Immediate Challenges

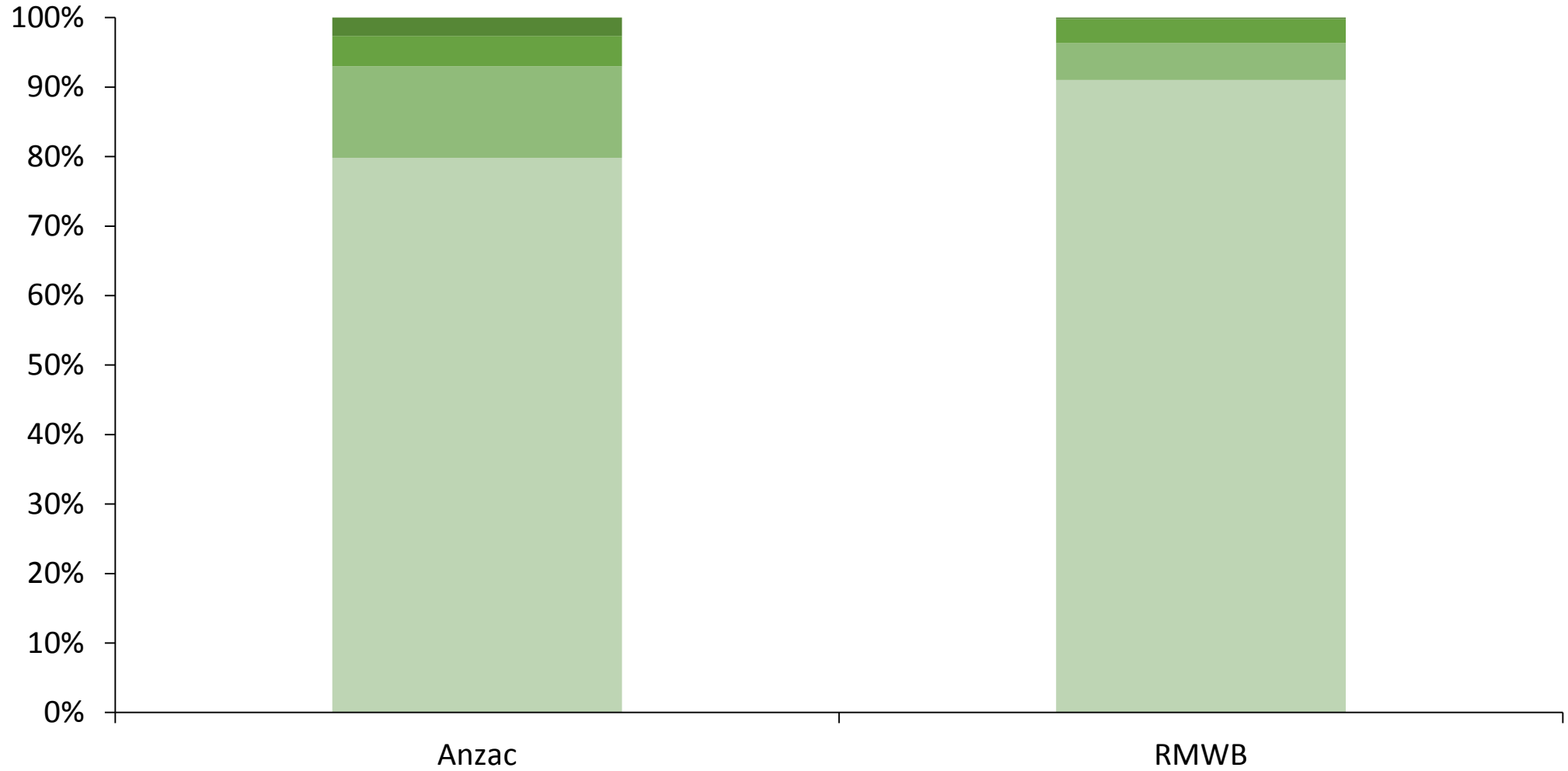
- Low response rates with many skipped questions;
- Within the Statistics Canada database, each community is either not listed (i.e. Fort McKay) or is a “designated place” – meaning little to no StatsCan data immediately available;
- Is there still meaningful data collected – i.e. can we draw any conclusions?

# Overview: Anzac

- Affordability;
- Female labour issues (participation rate ~40% versus male ~80%);
- Three out of four respondents are Métis

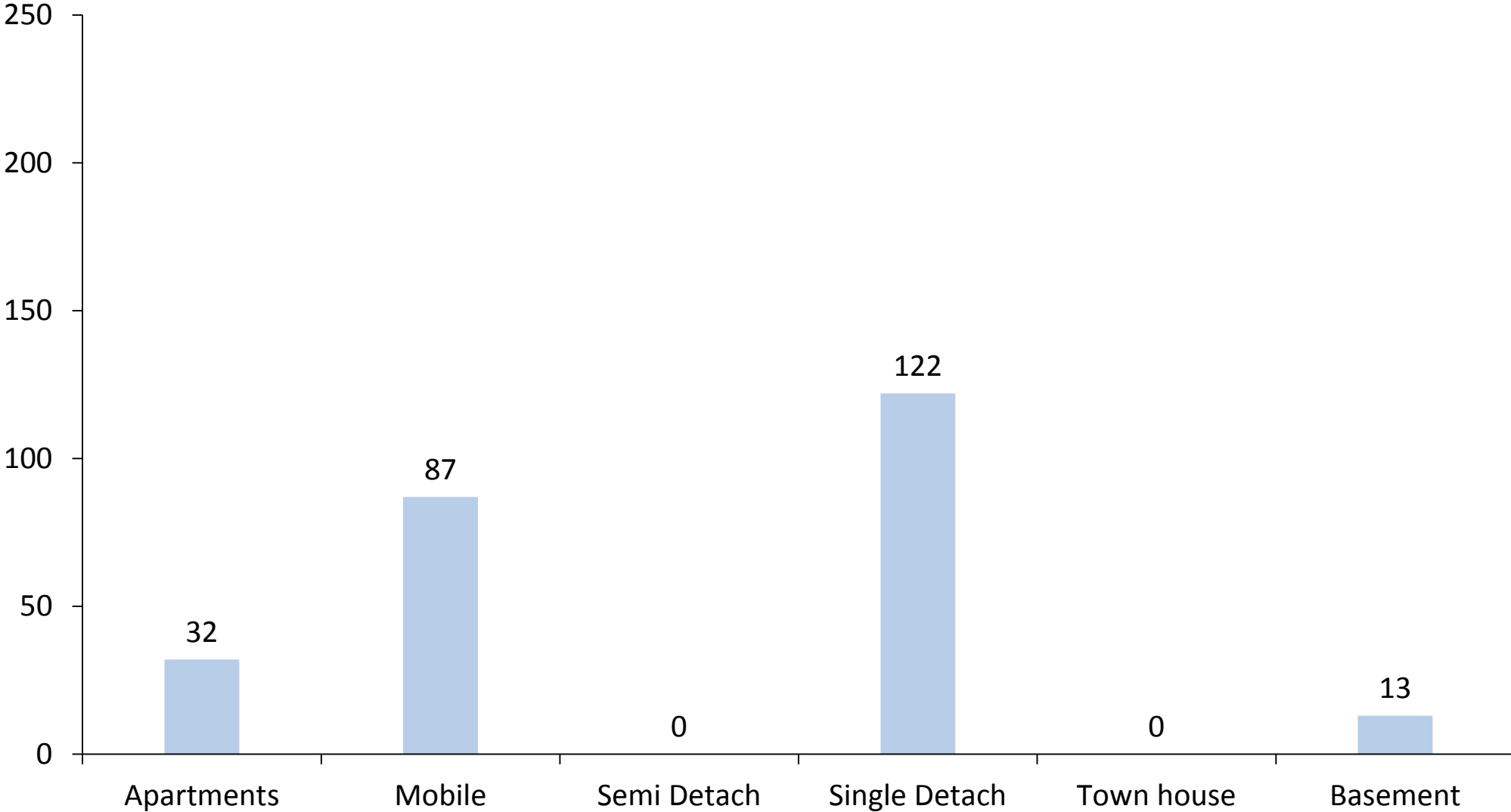


# Indigenous Population, Anzac vs. RMWB, 2016



Source: Statistics Canada Census 2016

# Dwelling Types, Anzac, 2015

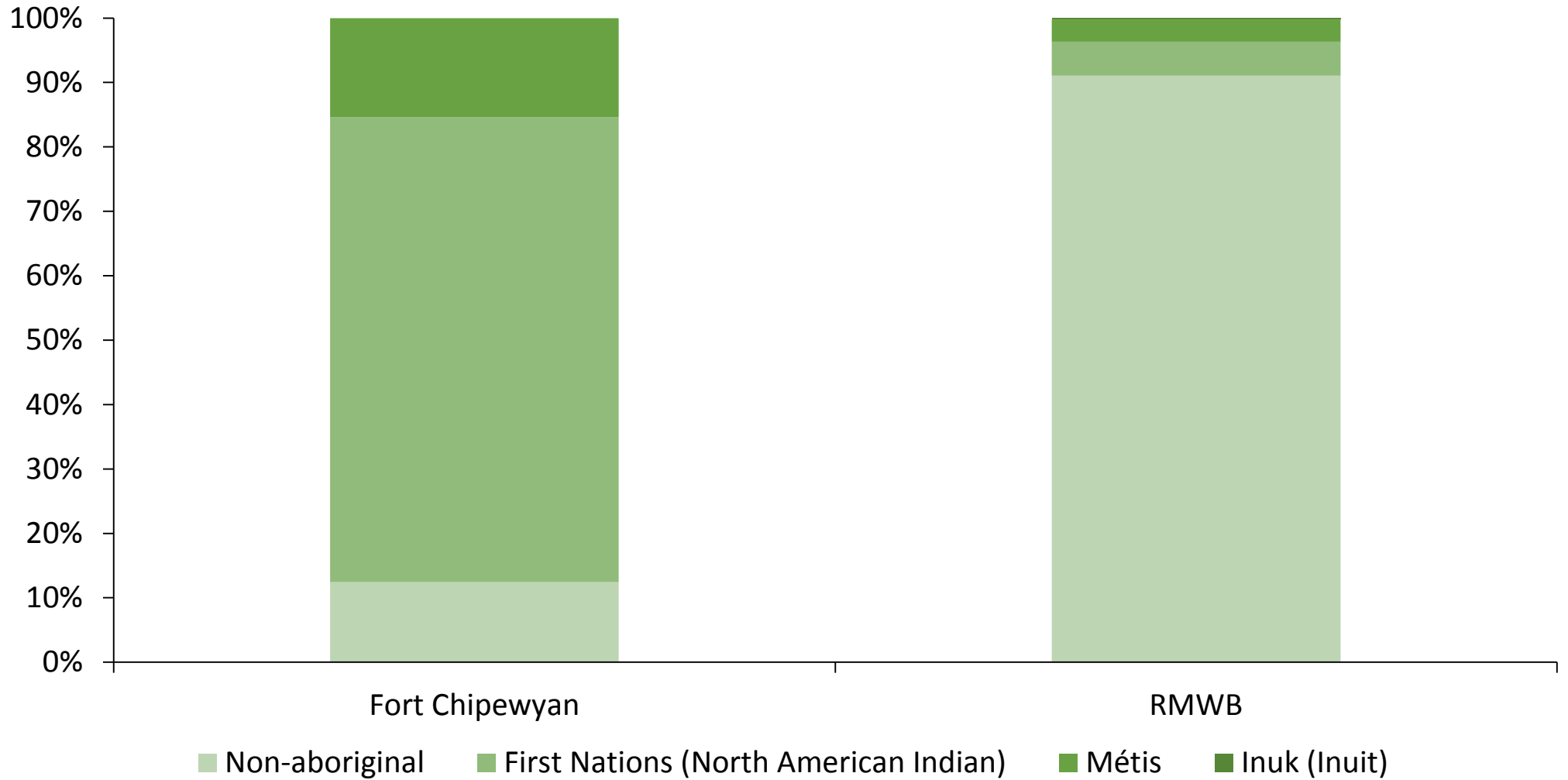


Source: RMWB Census 2015

# Overview: Fort Chipewyan

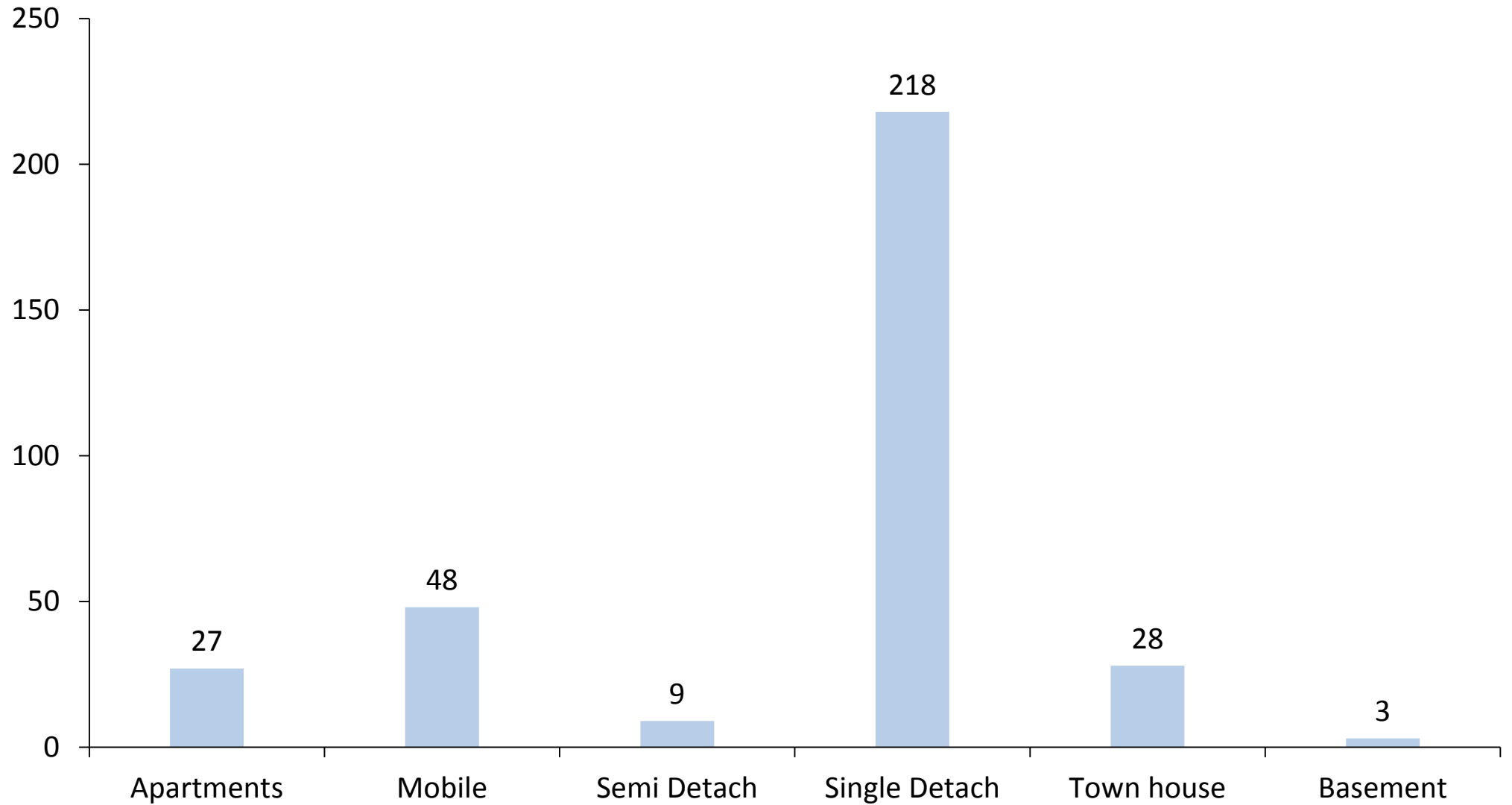
- Over-representation of Métis in estimation data (relative to Statistics Canada data);
- 8 Métis and 4 First Nations respondents;
- Increasing senior population;

## Indigenous Population, Fort Chipewyan vs. RMWB, 2016



*Source: Statistics Canada Census 2016*

# Dwelling Types, Fort Chipewyan, 2015

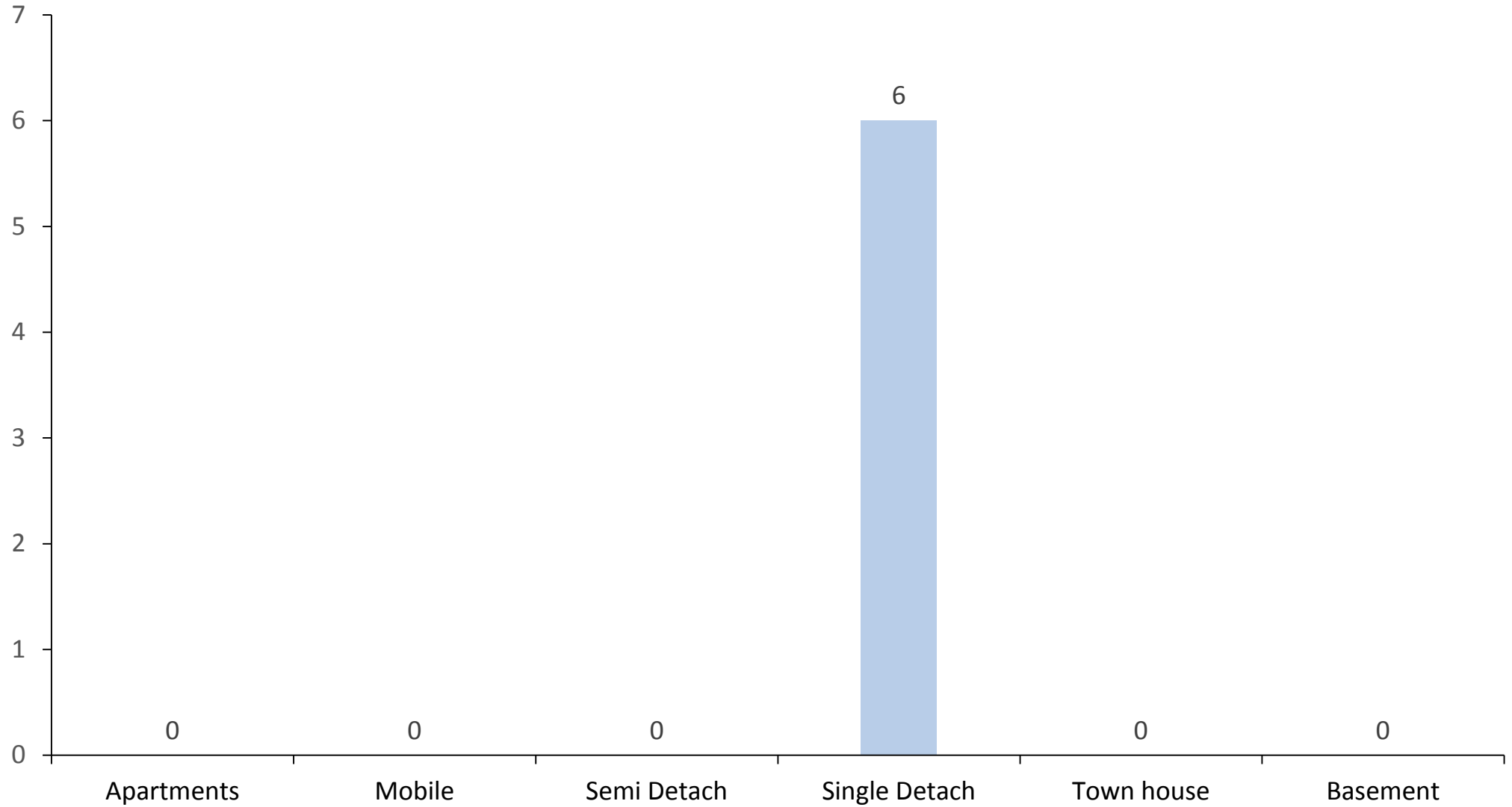


Source: RMWB Census 2015

# Overview: Fort McKay

- Out of 25 surveys used, 23 were Métis; 2 were First Nations;
- Of the 25 surveyed, 11 respondents indicated that substance use was the primary reason for their unstable housing.

# Dwelling Types, Fort McKay, 2015



Source: RMWB Census 2015



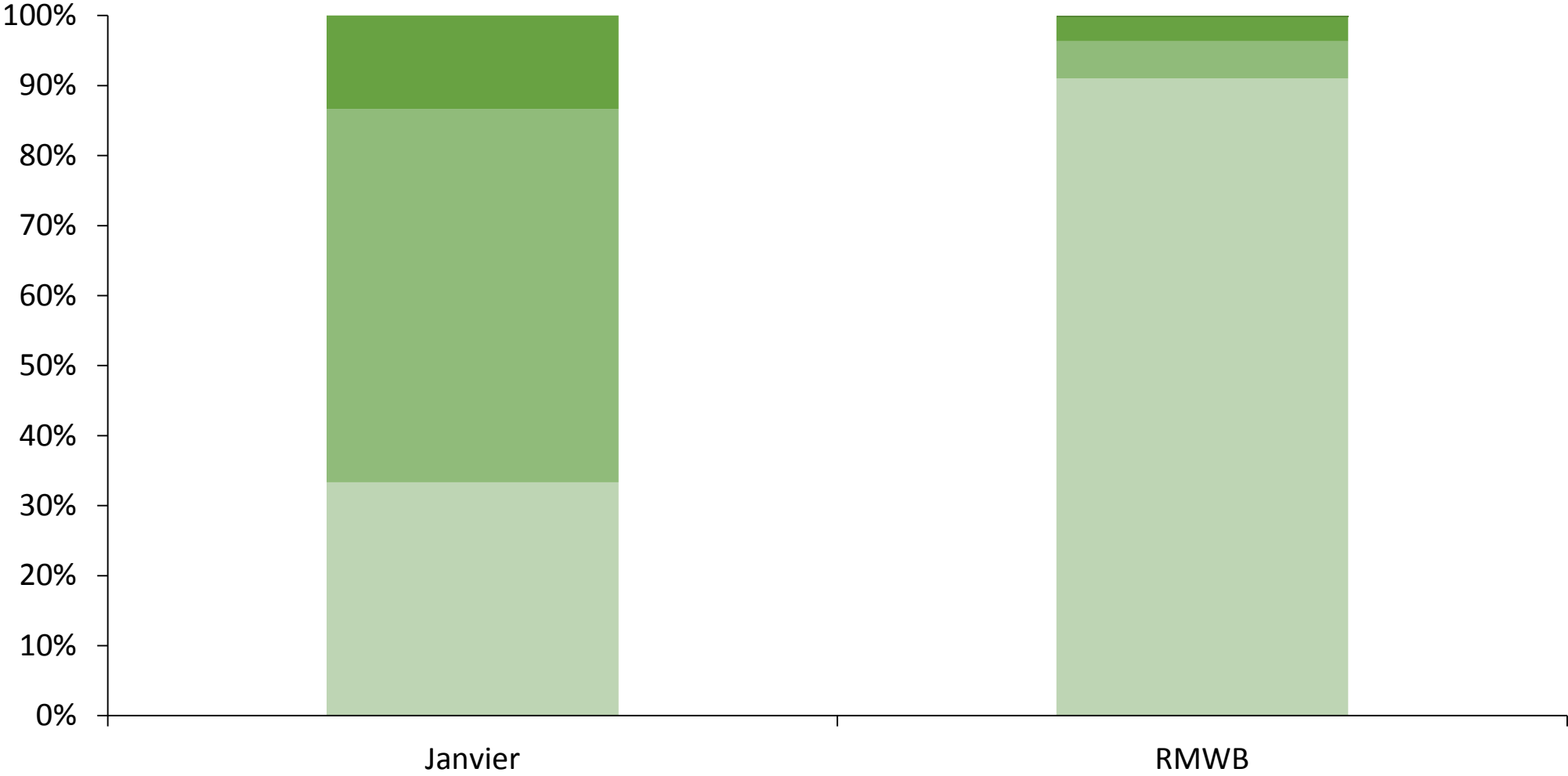
Note: RMWB counted 21 dwellings in 2015, but response rates create a discrepancy between dwelling counts and counts by dwelling type.

# Overview: Janvier

- Low response rates with many skipped questions;
- Potential over-representation of Indigenous population who are homeless.

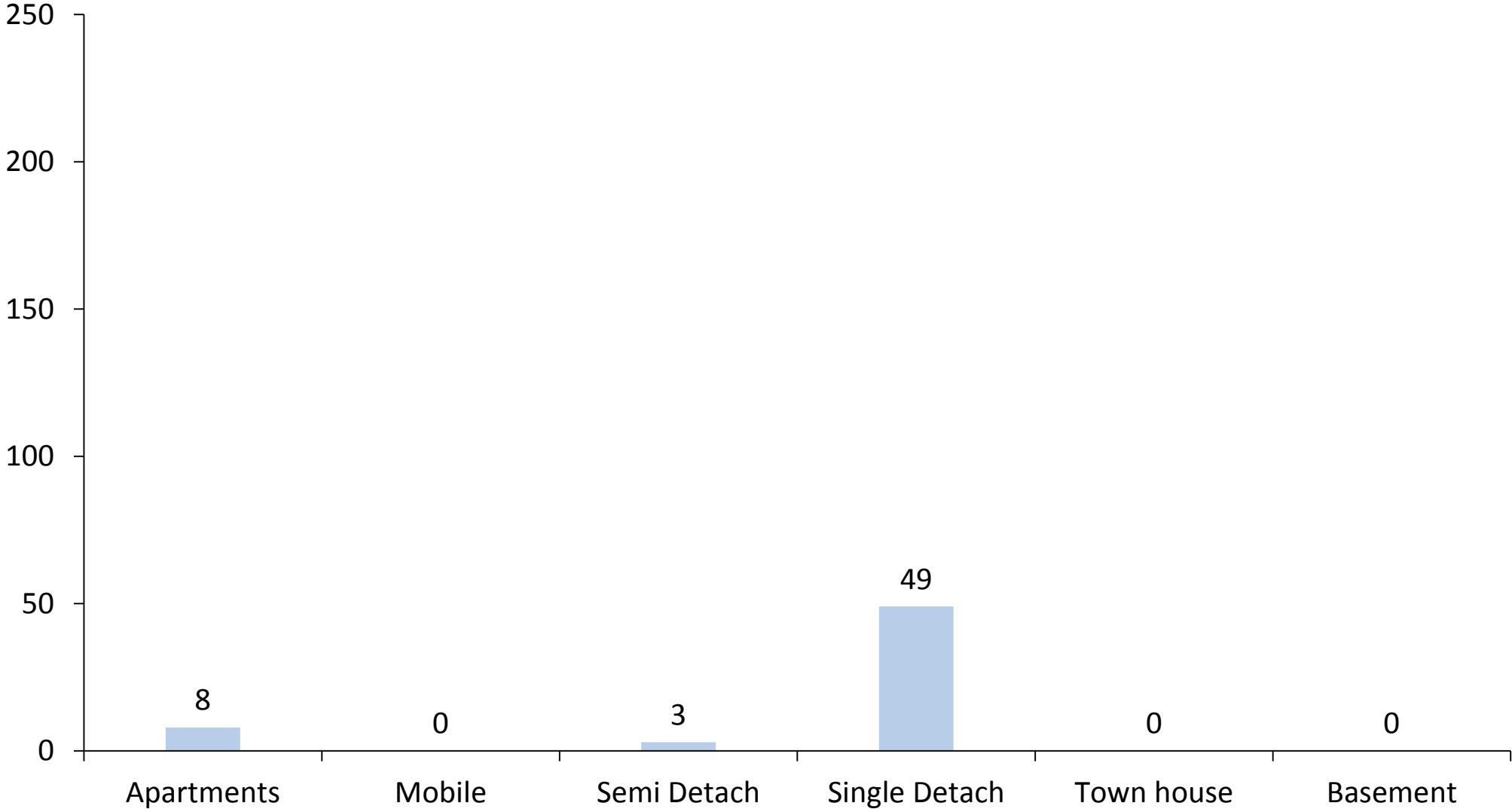


### Indigenous Population, Janvier vs. RMWB, 2016



Source: Statistics Canada Census 2016

# Dwelling Types, Janvier, 2015

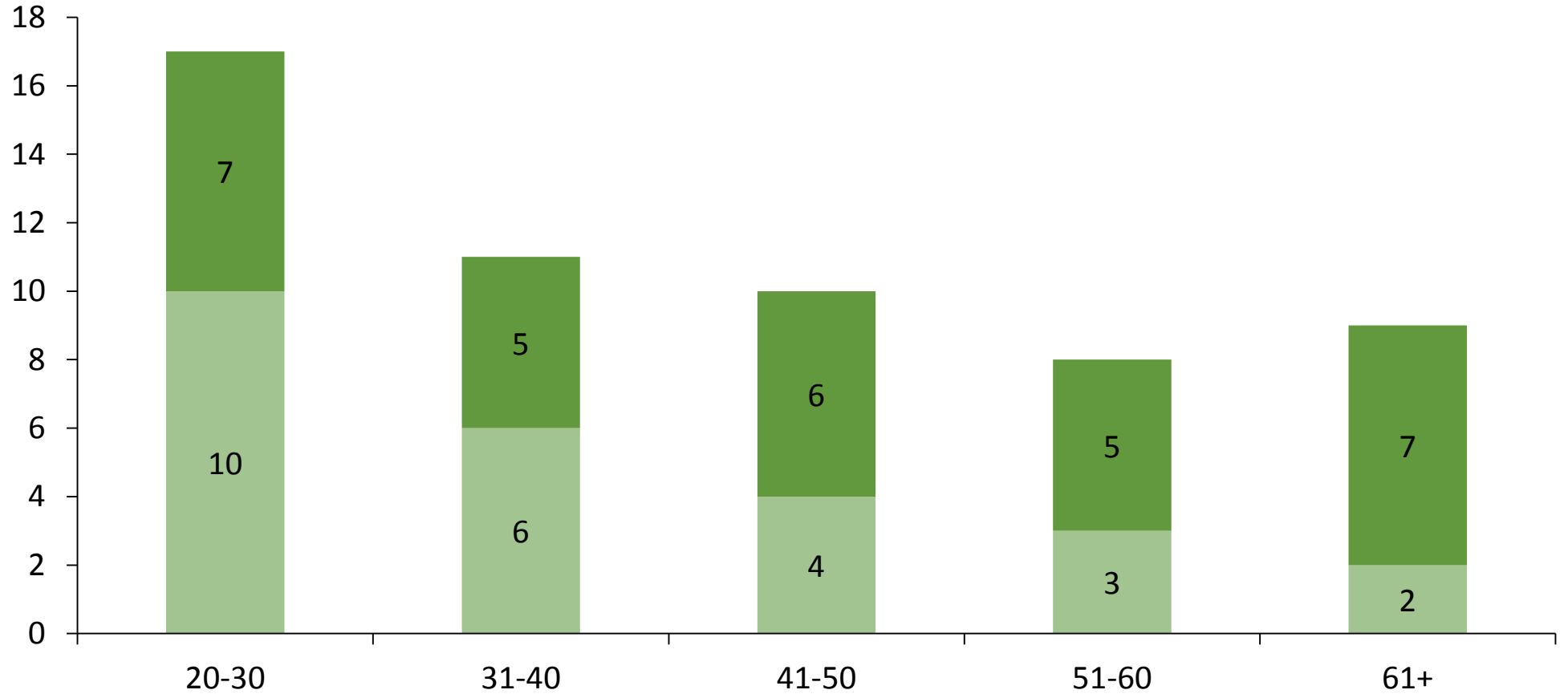


Source: RMWB Census 2015

# Overview: Aggregate

- Combined data over 4 communities;
- Conclusions should be considered with the caveat that communities are *not* easily comparable;
- 56 responses; 30 females and 26 males;
- All respondents identified as either Indigenous (49) or provided no response. Of those who were Indigenous, 40 were Métis.

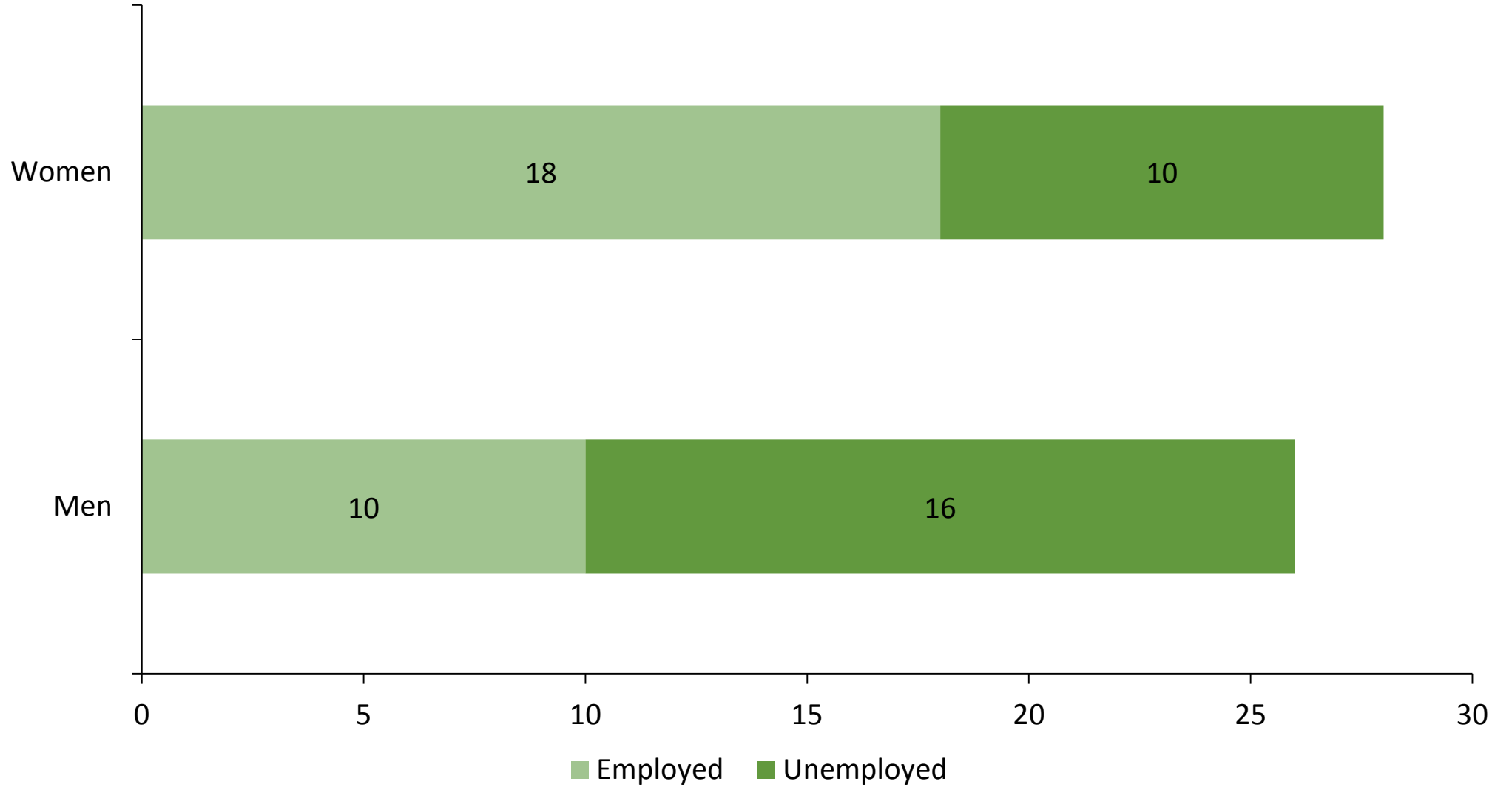
# Age Groups, N=55



Men Women

Source: ARDN data

Employed, N=54

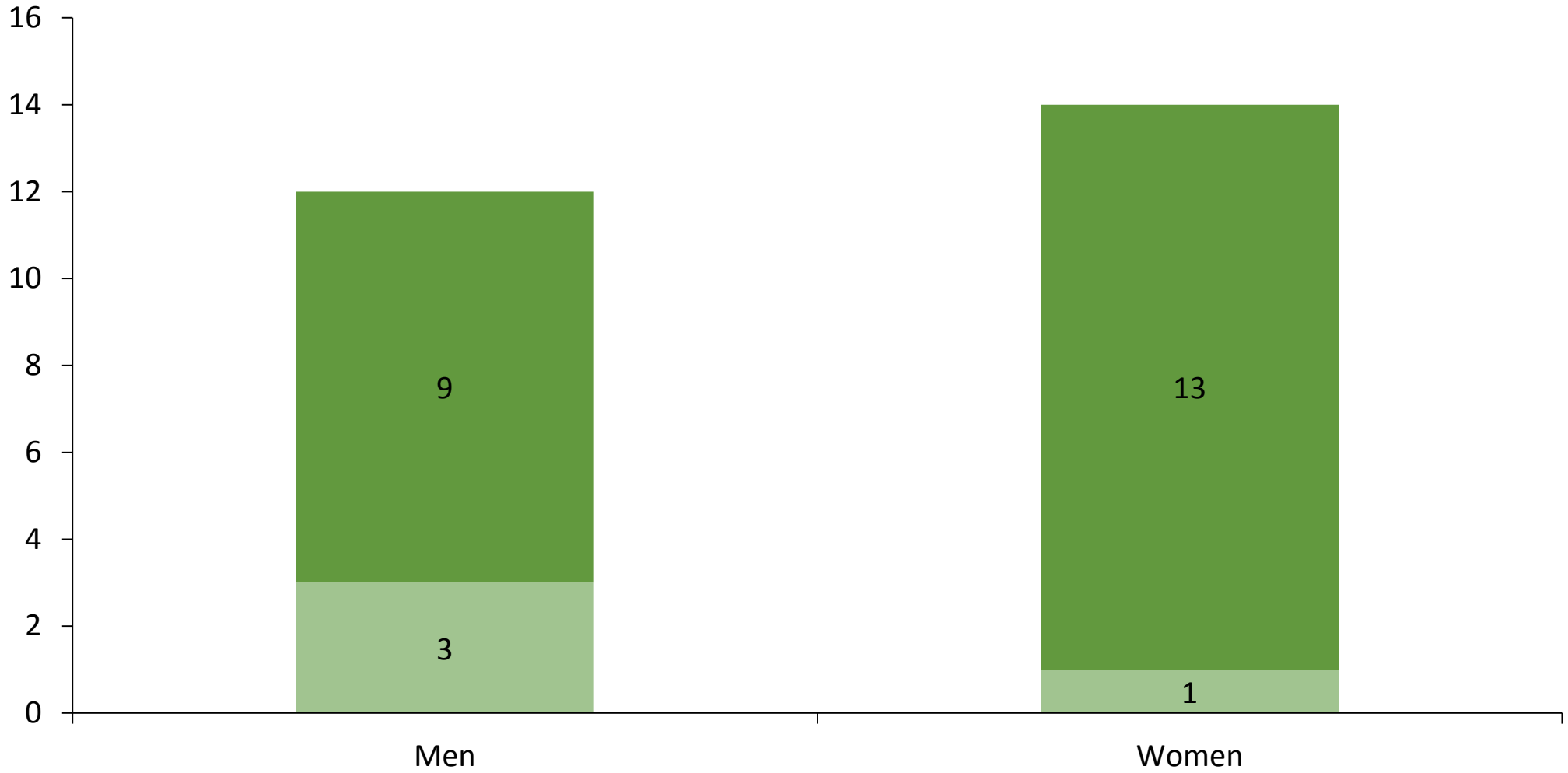


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Source: ARDN data

# Unstable Housing by Indigenous Identity, N=26



■ First Nation ■ Métis

Source: ARDN data

# Challenge 1: Survey Methodology

- Standardized estimation survey not suitable for remote communities with either few agencies or very low populations;
- Need to use customized strategy with different questions and survey methodology to address unique characteristics of more northern communities.

# Challenge 2: Non-response Rates

- Based on survey responses, respondents did not feel comfortable disclosing personal information to surveyor;
- Many blanks, prefer not to answers, or skipped questions in each community (except Anzac).



# Challenge 3: Data

- Due to low-response rates and few surveys, count data was difficult to tabulate;
- Further questions regarding primary residence – assumed all survey respondents are from *hamlet*, and not from neighbouring reserve;
- Many non-standard responses in survey results.

# Conclusions

- Results indicate potential unstable housing populations and homelessness issues – but cannot say conclusively;
- ARDN recommends performing further estimations in communities using expanded resources to create strategies which optimize capture rates and non-responses.

# Thank You

