

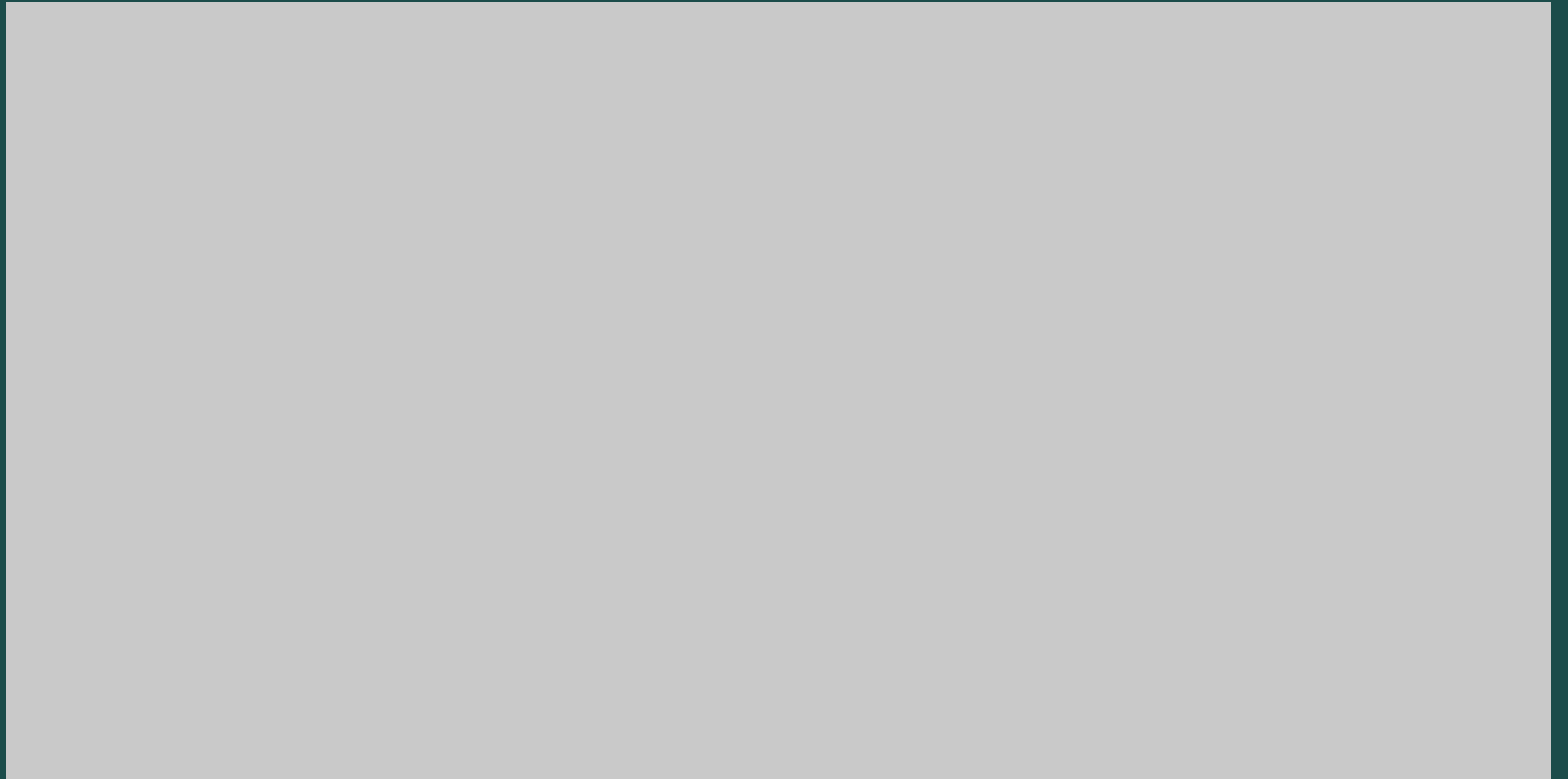


# DENVER BASIC INCOME PROJECT

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NAEH Conference  
July 10 2024

# Project Overview



OR copy and paste in browser: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HD59bV3YSd4&t=4s>

# About



- The Denver Basic Income Project (DBIP) is a guaranteed income project for people experiencing homelessness in Denver, CO. **To date, we have deployed over \$9.4M to 800+ individuals and families experiencing homelessness.**
- The Denver Basic Income Project is the first and largest project of its kind studying the impact of guaranteed income on homelessness, and its **randomized control trial is run independently by the University of Denver's Center for Housing and Homelessness Research.**
- The Year One Report presents findings from a comprehensive evaluation of the first 12 months of DBIP, focusing on participant outcomes related to housing stability and financial well-being.



**Center for Housing &  
Homelessness Research**  
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER



**Graduate School  
of Social Work**  
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

# Project Design & Findings

# Project Design



Participants were randomly assigned to one of the following groups:

Group A	Group B	Group C
\$1,000 a month	\$6,500 the first month + \$500 a month for the following months	\$50 a month



DBIP partnered with **19 community-based organizations** to recruit participants.



Ultimately, **807 participants enrolled** in DBIP.

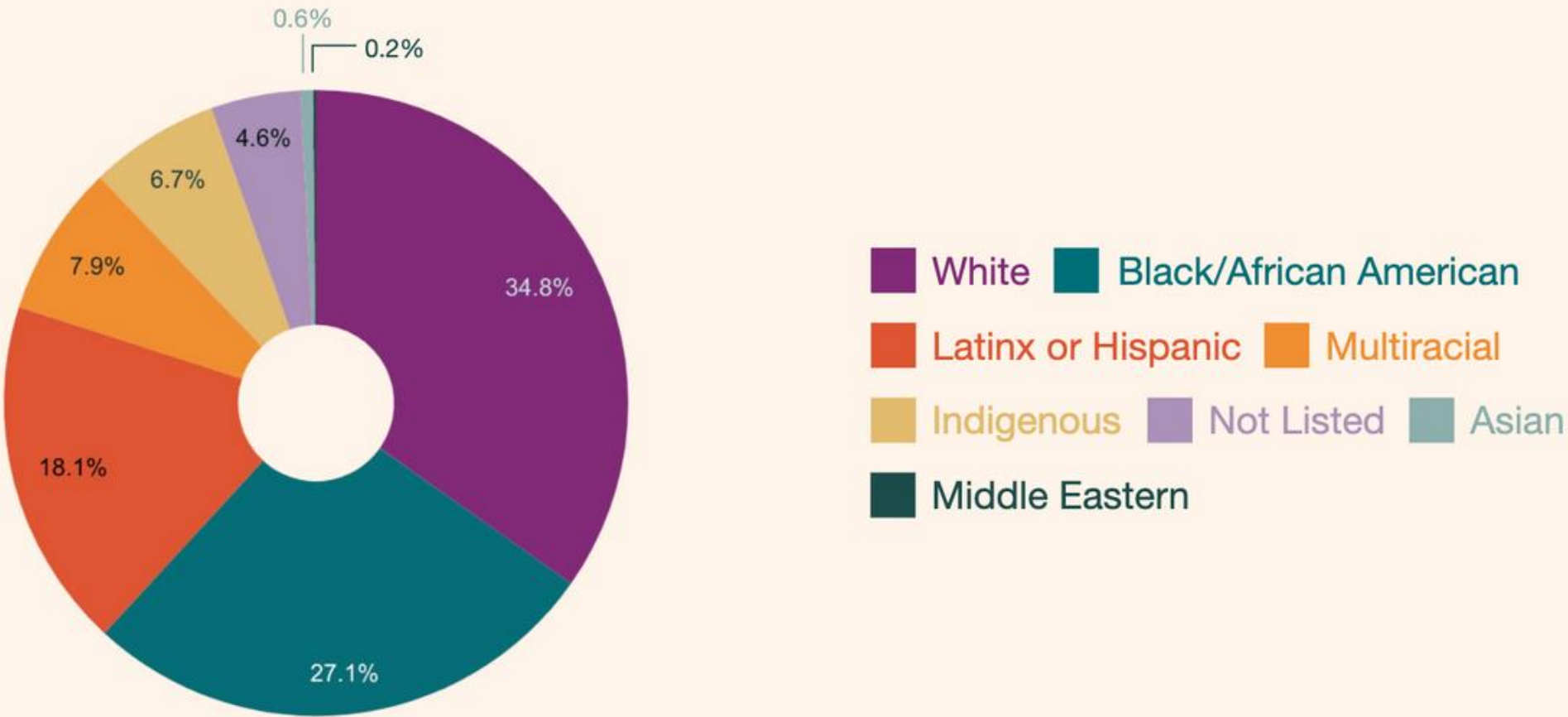


Figure 1 DBIP partnered with 19 organizations.

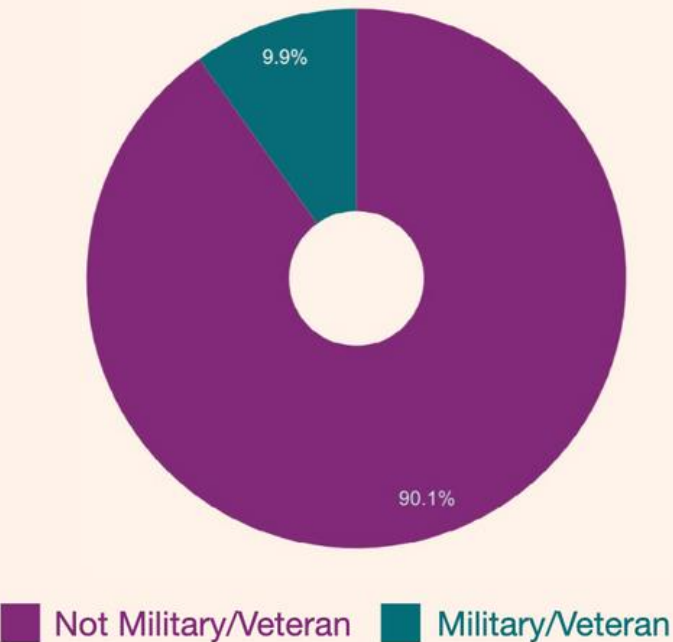
# Participant Demographics



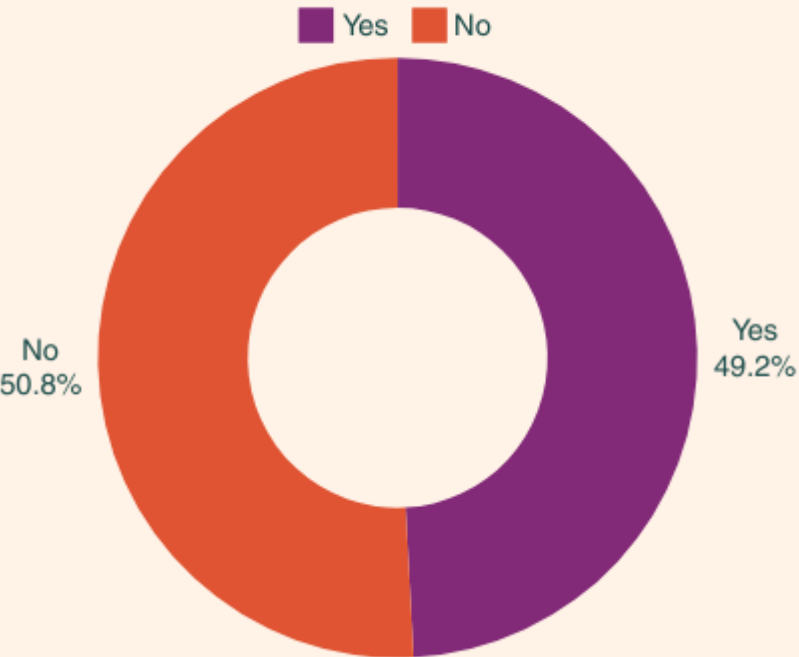
## Race/Ethnicity



## Military/Veteran



## Disability

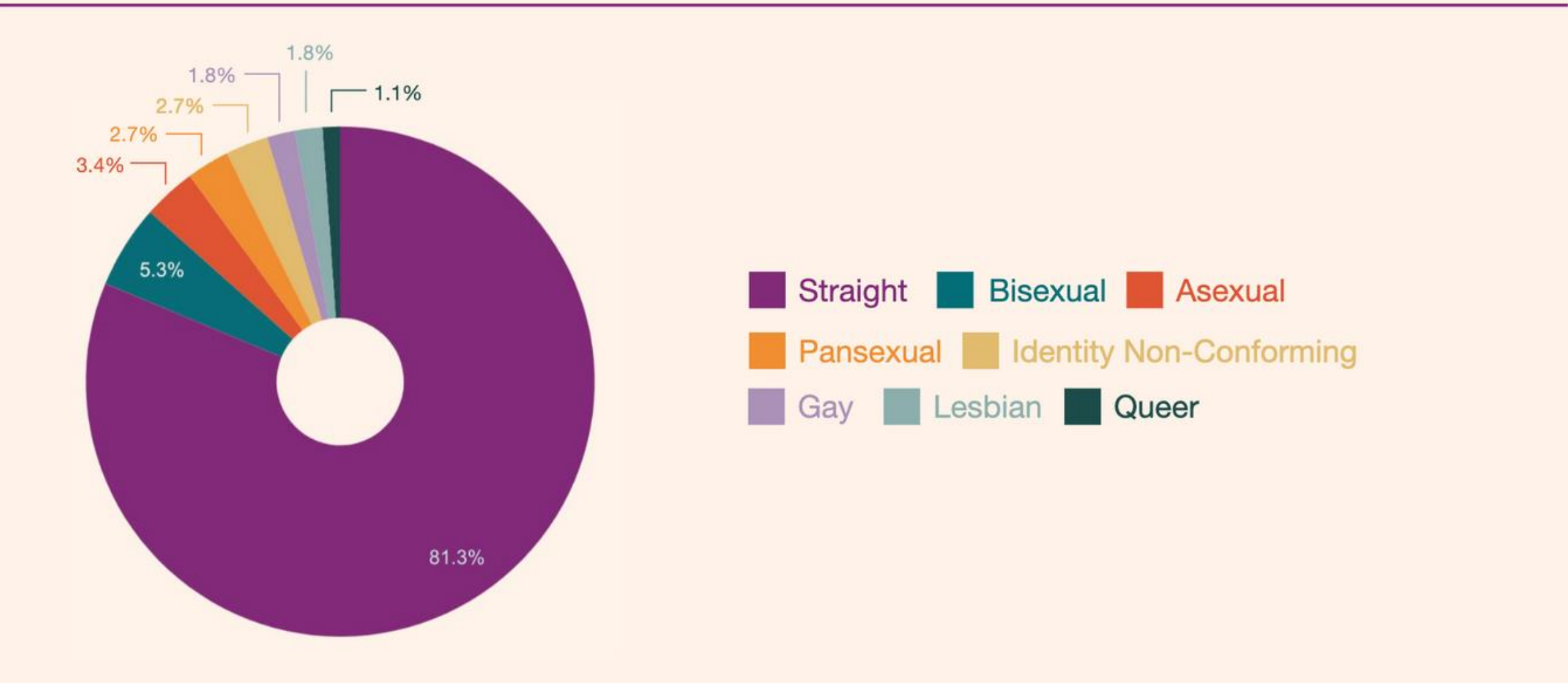




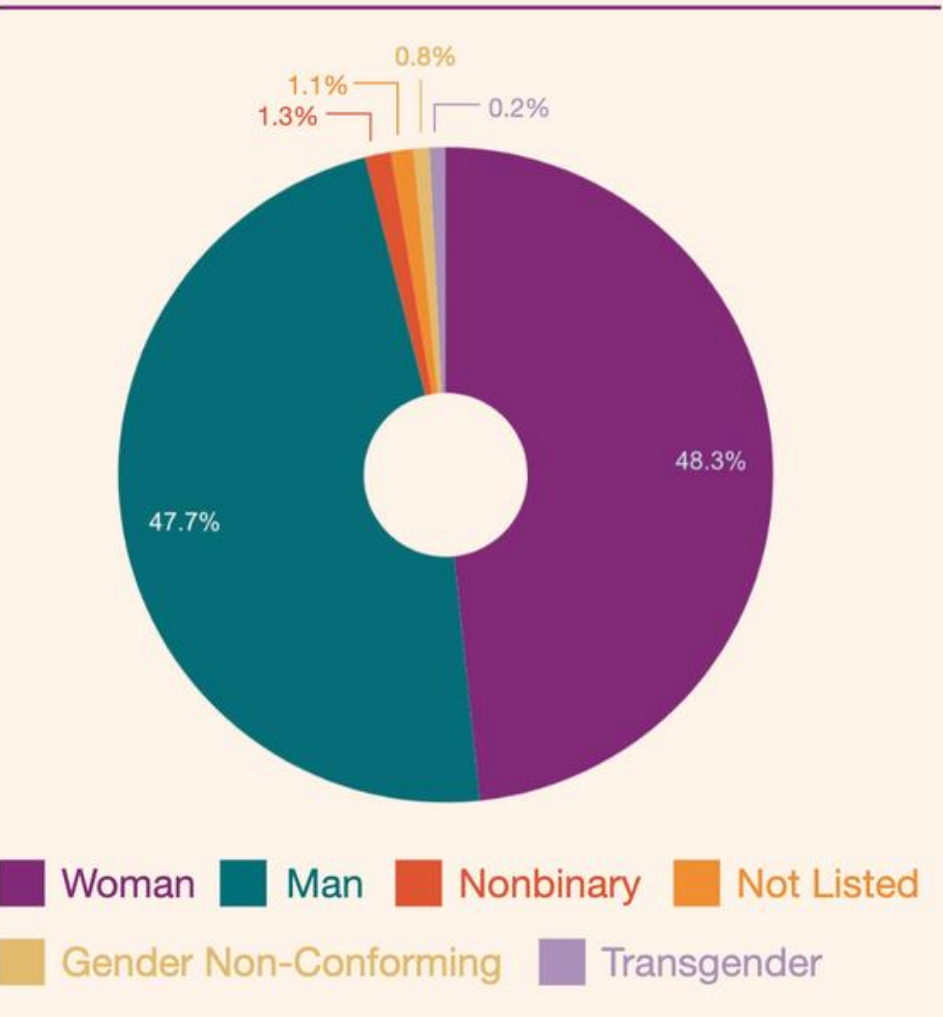
# Participant Demographics



## Sexual Orientation



## Gender Identity

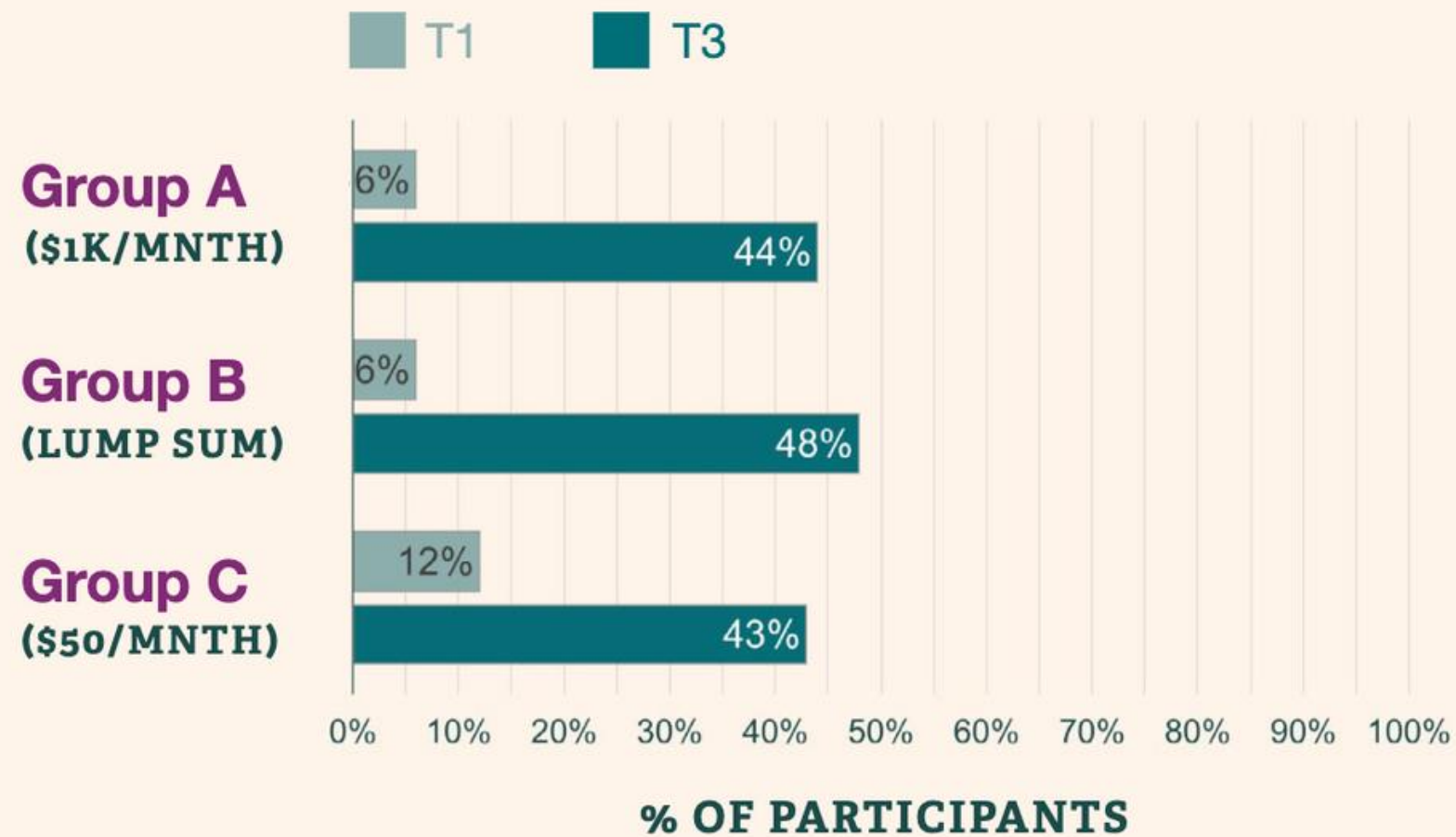




# Housing



## Percentage of Total Participants in a House or Apartment They Rent or Own at Timepoint 1 and Timepoint 3

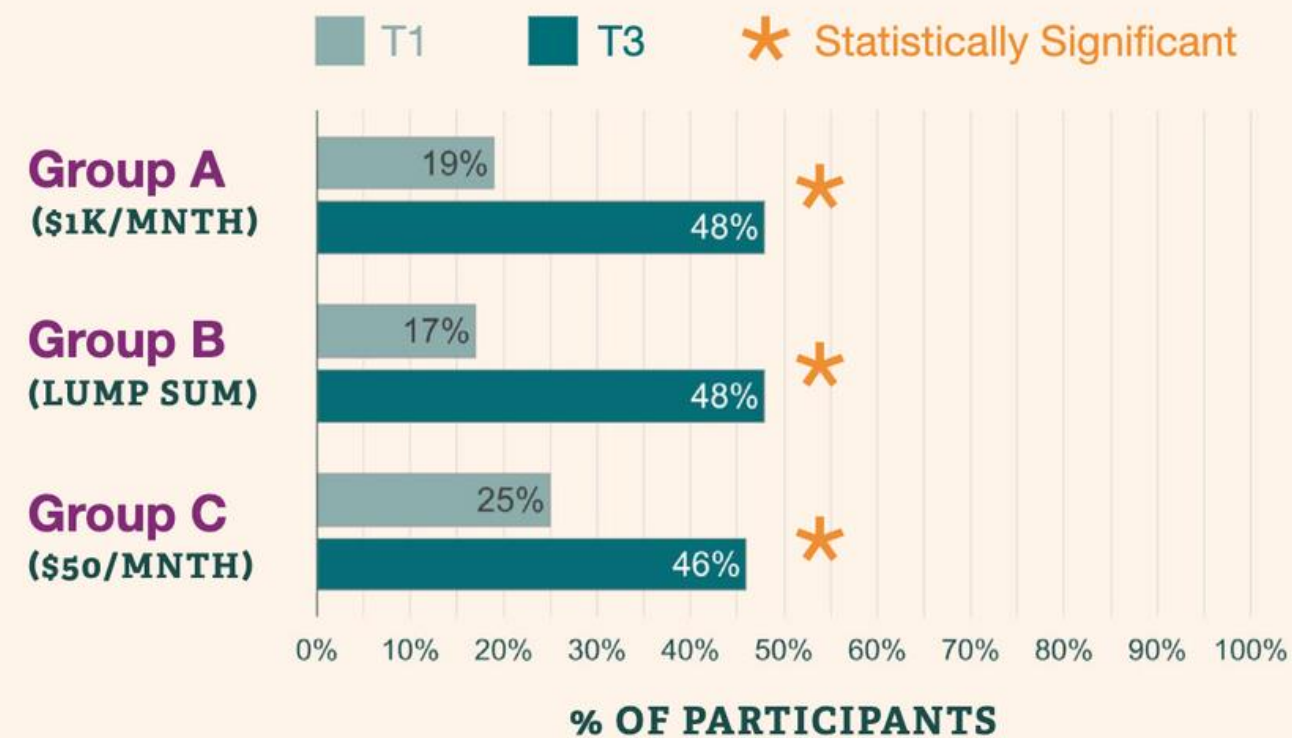


**Roughly 45% of each group reported having their own house or apartment at Timepoint 3.**

**KEY:**  
Timepoint 1: Enrollment  
Timepoint 3: 10 months

# Housing cont.

## Change in Perception of Stable Housing from Timepoint 1 to Timepoint 3



## Percentage of Unsheltered Participants in a House or Apartment They Rent or Own at Timepoint 1 and Timepoint 3

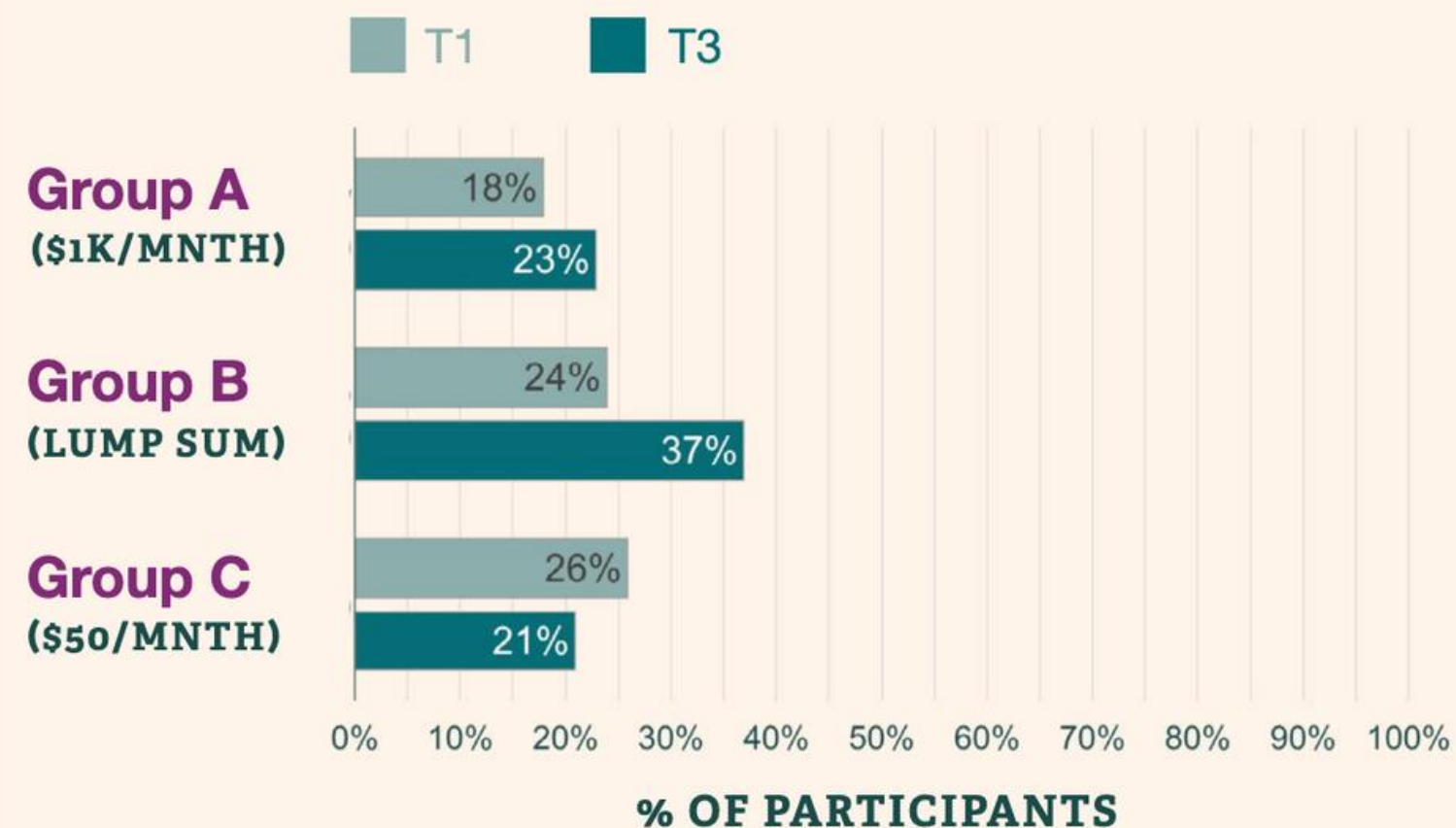


**KEY:**  
Timepoint 1: Enrollment  
Timepoint 3: 10 months

# Employment



## Change in Full-Time Employment from Timepoint 1 to Timepoint 3



Participants in **Groups A and B** reported an increase in full-time work and participants in **Group C** reported a decrease in full-time work.



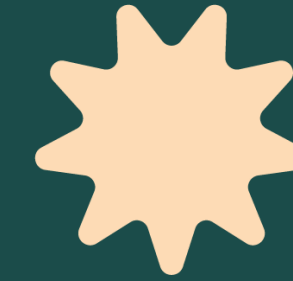
All groups reported improved financial wellbeing, but **Groups A and B** doubled their ability to pay all bills from Timepoint 1 to 3, while Group C noted a minor increase.

### KEY:

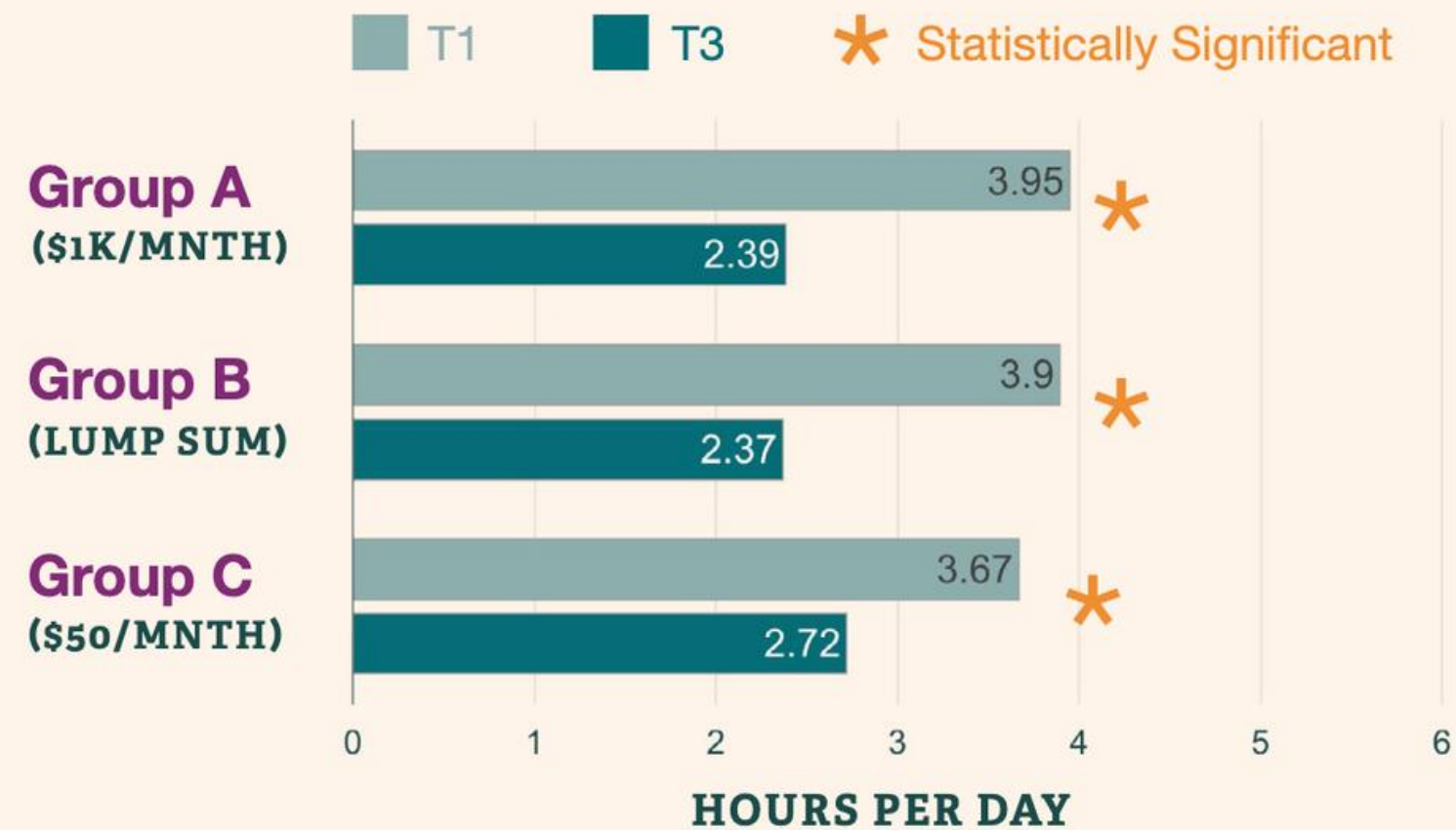
Timepoint 1: Enrollment  
Timepoint 3: 10 months



# Time Use



## Change in Hours Per Day Spent Accessing Resources from Timepoint 1 to Timepoint 3



Participants in **all three groups** reported a **decrease** in the number of hours spent accessing resources.



Participants in **Groups A and C** reported an **increase** in the number of hours they spent on leisure activities.

### KEY:

Timepoint 1: Enrollment  
Timepoint 3: 10 months

# Cost Analysis



While cost savings varied across payment groups, all cohorts demonstrated **significant reductions in public service utilization**, indicating the potential economic benefits of the Denver Basic Income Project.

Analysis of cost savings associated with project participation revealed **substantial reductions in public service interactions**, including emergency room visits, hospital nights, and jail stays.

## Changes in Public Service Costs, T1 to T3

PUBLIC SERVICE	GROUP A		GROUP B		GROUP C	
	Per Capita Change	Total Cost Change	Per Capita Change	Total Cost Change	Per Capita Change	Total Cost Change
AMBULANCE TRIPS (\$69 PER TRIP)	-\$113	-\$14,248	-\$4	-\$414	-\$57	-\$7,452
DRUG OR ALCOHOL TREATMENT CENTER NIGHTS (\$86 PER NIGHT)	-\$79	-\$10,234	-\$348	-\$35,527	\$74	\$9,546
ER VISITS (\$325 PER VISIT)	-\$460	-\$58,825	-\$42	-\$4,225	-\$218	-\$28,275
HOSPITAL NIGHTS (\$199 PER NIGHT)	-\$465	-\$59,501	-\$148	-\$15,124	-\$182	-\$23,482
JAIL TIME (\$179 PER TIME)	-\$78	-\$9,920	-\$265	-\$27,040	-\$584	-\$75,336
JAIL NIGHTS (\$160 PER NIGHT)	\$1	\$179	\$60	\$6,086	-\$3	-\$358
SHELTER VISITS (\$40 PER NIGHT)	-\$566	-\$71,319	-\$753	-\$76,073	-\$674	-\$87,672
TOTAL COST CHANGE	(-\$223,868)		(-\$152,317)		(-\$213,029)	
TOTAL COST SAVINGS	-\$589,214					

# Health



## Featured Findings



Groups A and C reported a decrease in parental stress.



Group B reported a decrease in food insecurity.



Group C reported a decline in energy.



Group B reported a decline in general health.

## Change in Health between Timepoint 1 and Timepoint 3

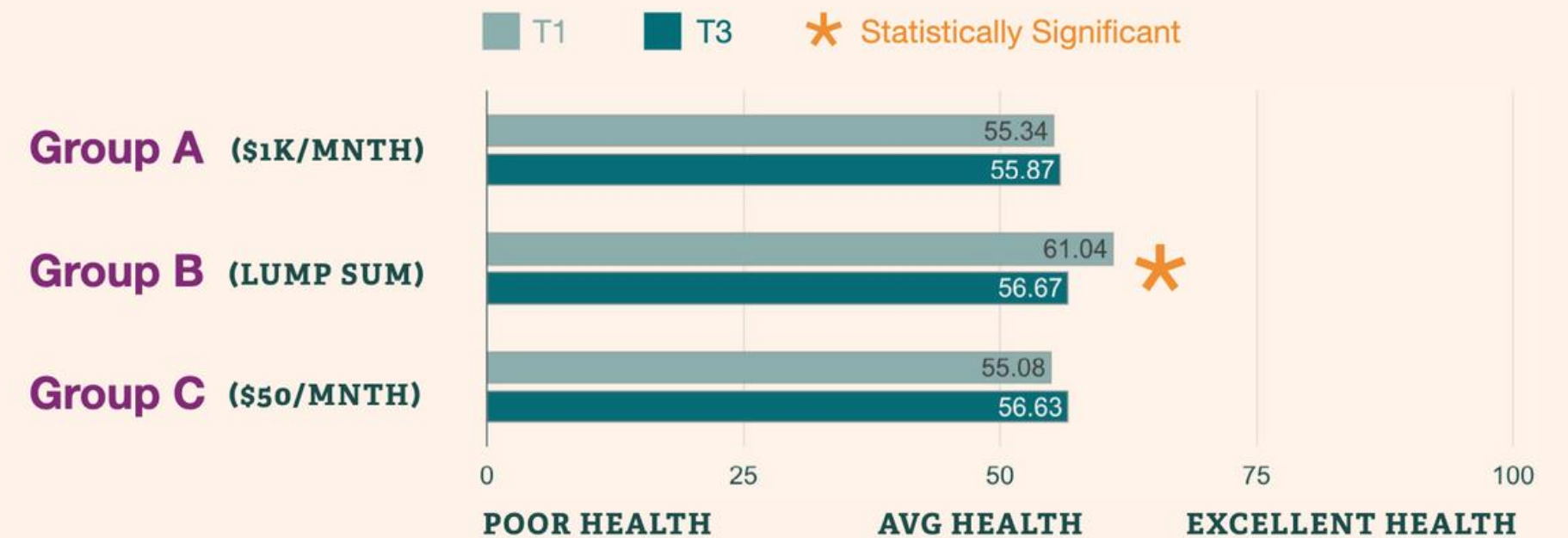
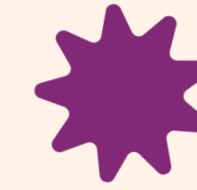


Figure 20 | Note. On a scale of 0 to 100, where 0 is poor health, 50 is average health, and 100 is excellent health. See Table 14 in the Appendix for raw data.



# Qualitative Findings



Over the course of the program year, participants reported using the payments to:

- meet their immediate basic needs, including transportation, hygiene, groceries, and clothes
- cover or catch up on regular bills and expenses, including rent, debt, healthcare, and car repair
- and make bigger life changes, like changing housing or purchasing a car.

Group A and B participants shared that they were able to make the most “**bigger changes,**” while Group C participants reported using the money as an **emergency fund**, or as **leisure money** if they had other benefits to lean on, but did not count on the money for future needs.



*“I am able to buy the food I need to have lunch at my job every day...I don’t have to struggle to find the funds for gas or food, and I have new clothes so I don’t have to look like someone who just crawled out of the gutter. I’m able to buy good things like a good razor to shave my face.”*

—DBIP Participant

# What's next?



- The **first year established a sense of stability** for program participants but we believe the **second year is when individuals can experience an even more profound transformation.**
- By running the project longitudinally we are maximizing the impact from the critical infrastructure that has been built while empowering **even more individuals to break free from the vicious cycle of poverty.**
- Continued funding will allow the Denver community to witness the **long-term effects of this program and create a compelling case for its widespread adoption across the country.**

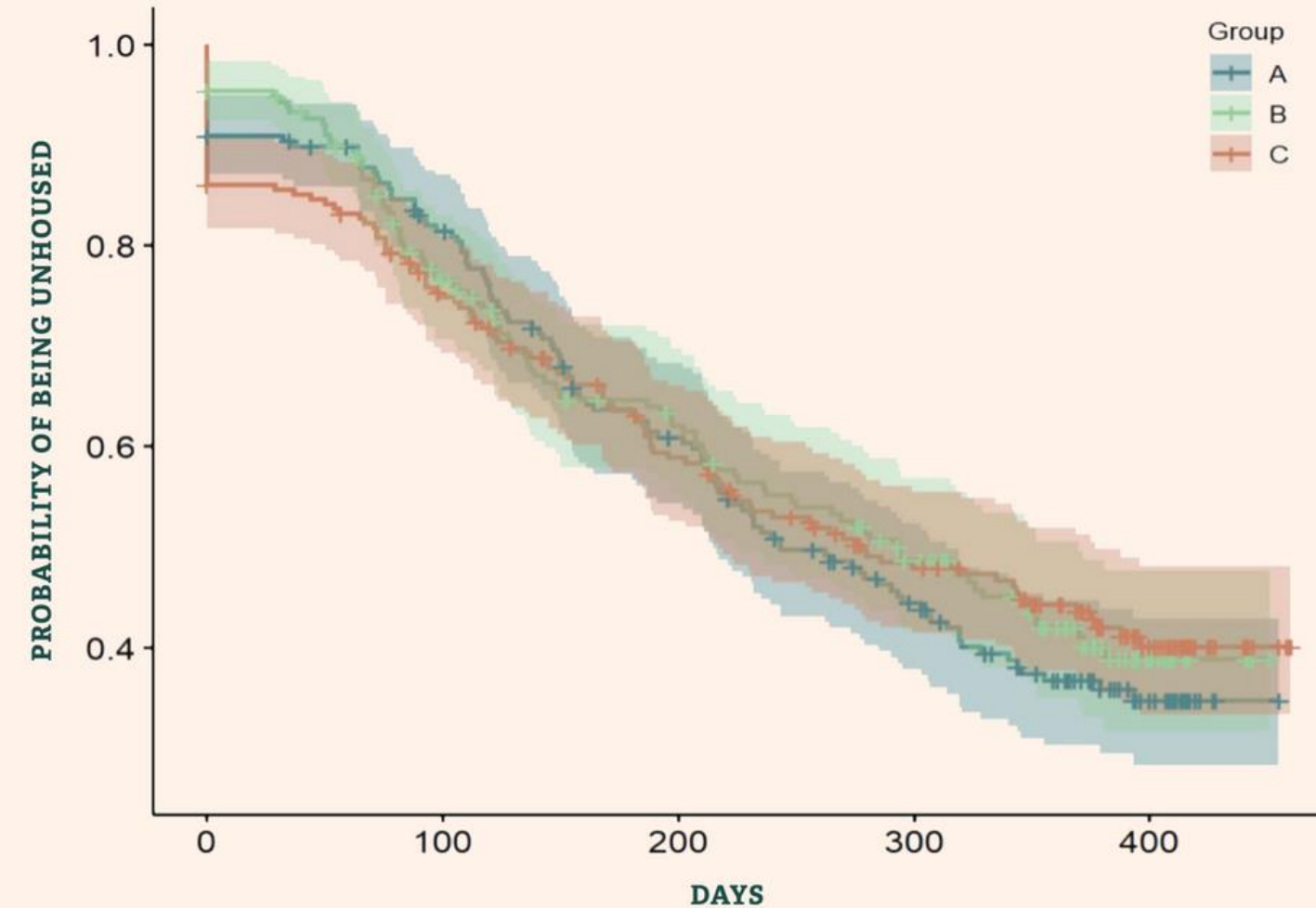


# The Path to Policy

As demonstrated in the Year One report, the program not only significantly increases housing stability for participants, but also reduces utilization of public services. Our project **delivers significant housing outcomes at a fraction of the usual cost.**

Given that cities like Denver **annually spend over \$40,000 on shelter and medical costs per person experiencing homelessness** and are also dealing with the humanitarian and fiscal crisis of people arriving from the borders, cost-effective programs like this are extremely valuable.

**Probability of Being Unhoused Over the Course of the First 12 Months of DBIP**





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# Thank you!

Learn more:  
[denverbasicincomeproject.org](https://denverbasicincomeproject.org)



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