Tackling homelessness with Housing First Programs and Personalized Social Support: the HF Italy Experience

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From pilot projects to consolidated Programmes

Since 2014, the Housing First (HF) approach has expanded significantly in Italy, transitioning from an experimental model to a key element of social services system

From pilot projects to consolidated Programmes

The data provided in this report only concern HF programmes carried out by organisations belonging to fio.PSD and, in particular, to the coordination group known as "Community HFI" (now overcome).

***Currently, the NPRR (2023-2026) by Ministry of Social Affair estimates that it will launch 265 housing first/housing led projects for a total of 3,000 people accommodated over three years (today just 15% of the programmes have been started)**

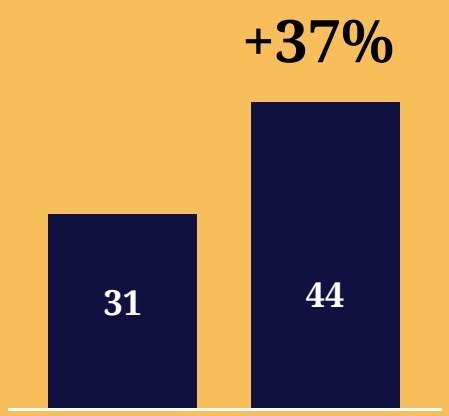
How we were and how we are today

From Netwotk HFI to HFI Community, fio.PSD has been a national coordinator of the HF model in Italy

Housing First: a decade of development

HF in 14 regions and 39 cities

North East, medium-sized cities, social enterprises, teamwork and public-private co-design are the elements of HF Italia



75 HF Programmes

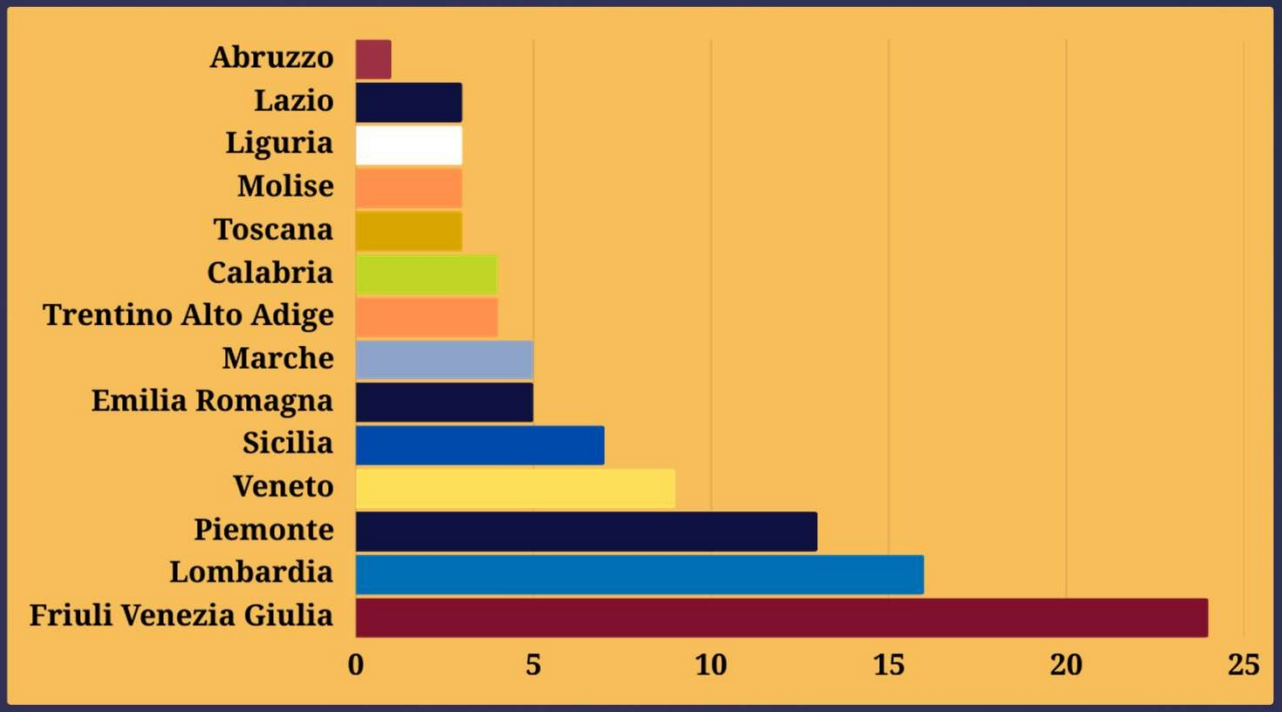
From the 31 programs originally launched in the HFI Network, the HFI Community has seen an increase of 44 new projects from 2019 to 2024

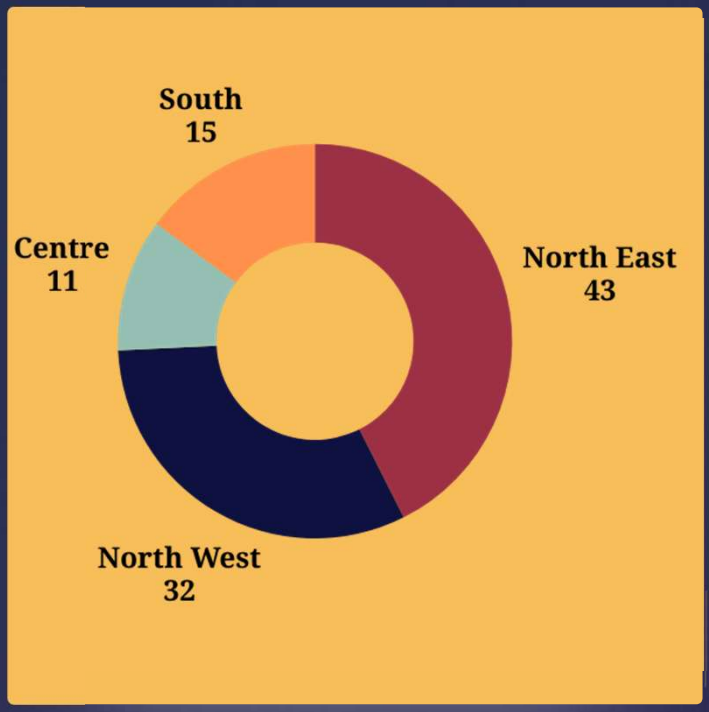
1.763 HF users and 795 apartments

People with complex needs and long-term experience of homelessness are placed in private market housing through HFprogrammes

2014-2024

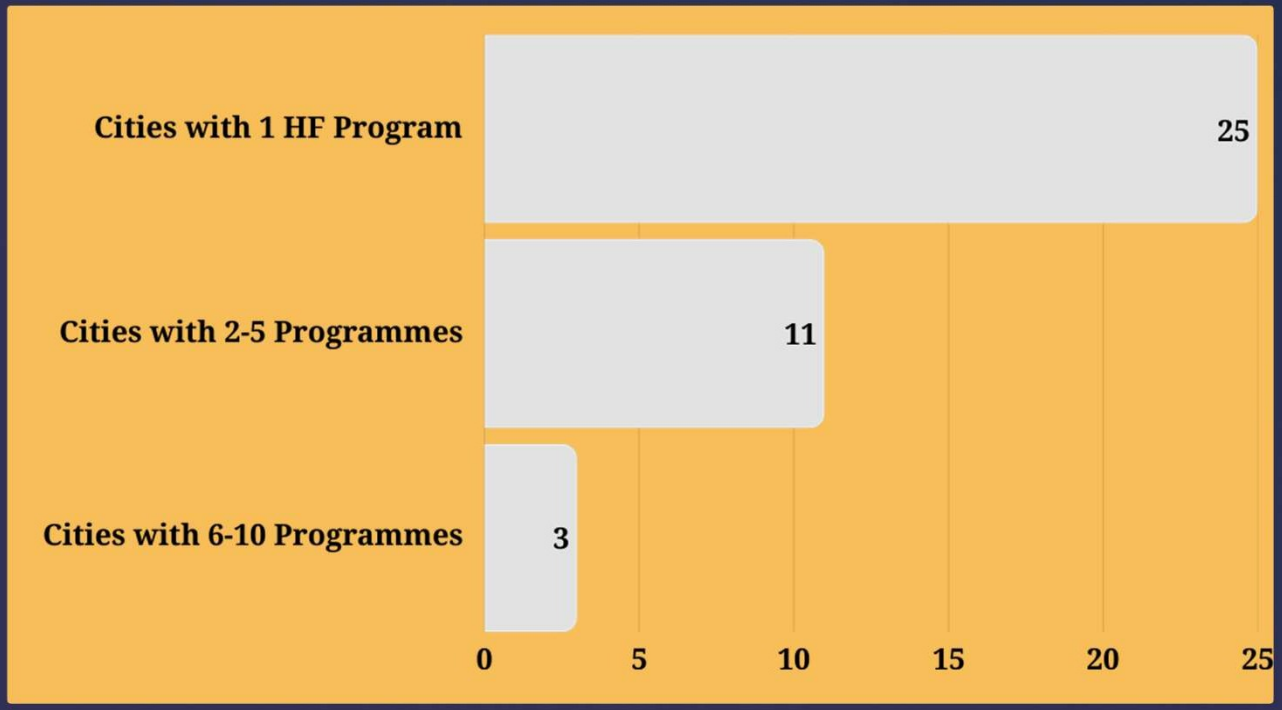
HF programmes per Regions

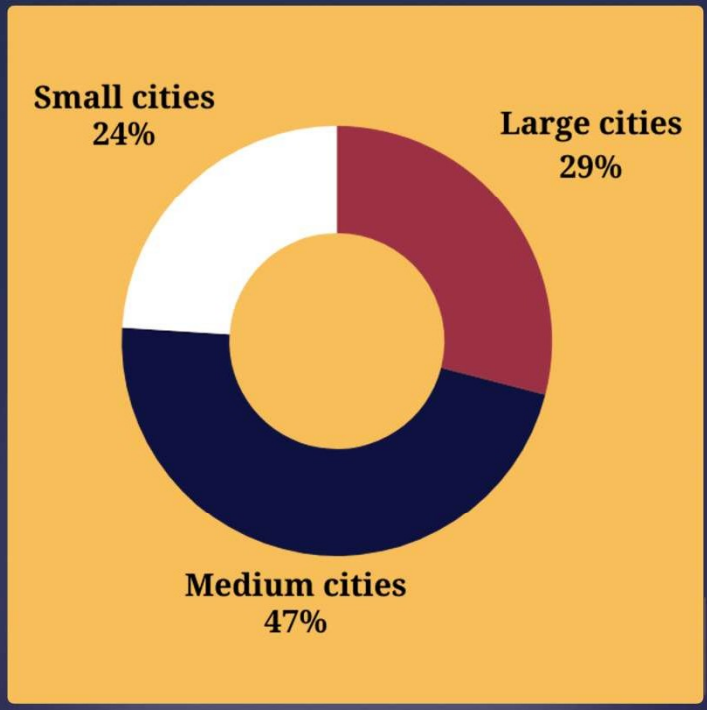




Val. % (N=75)

HF Programmes per Cities





Val. % (N=75)

HF: a growing approach

+74%

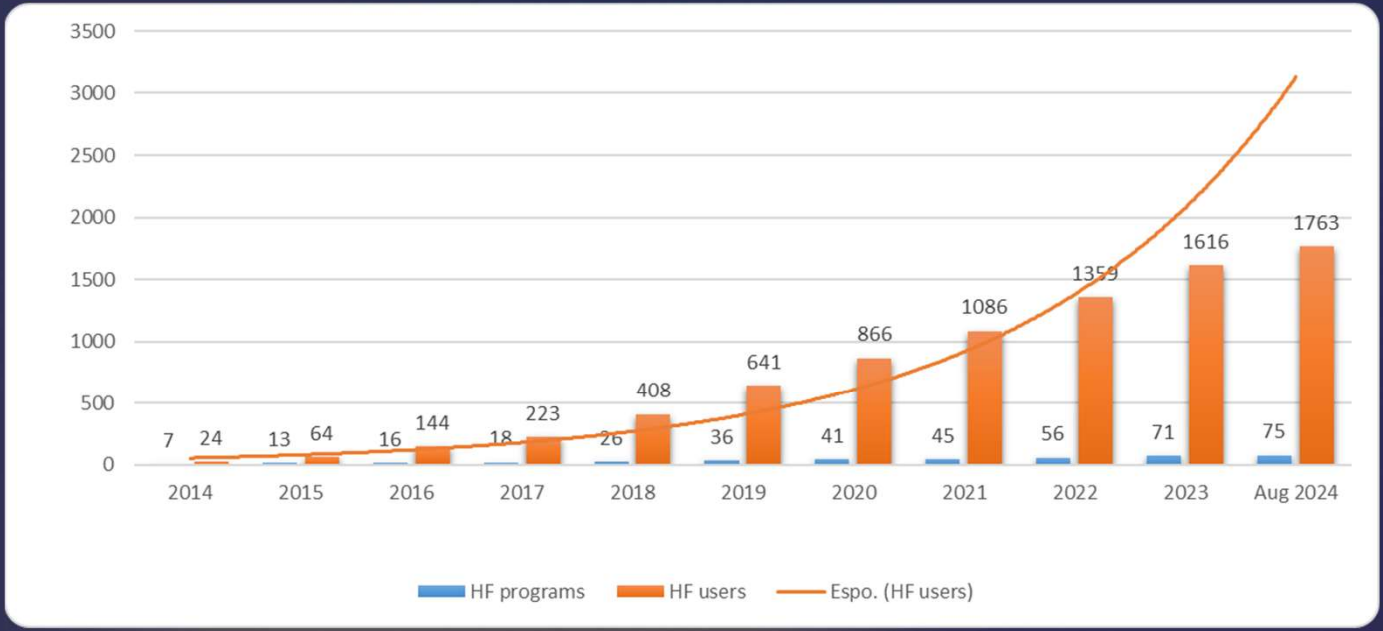
increase in programmes over the past decade

On average, 7 new HF programmes were initiated each year

+146%

increase of users over the past decade

An average of 160 individuals were welcomed each year



Who are the target groups for the HF programmes in Italy?

69%
Homeless people with complex needs and a long history of sever marginalization

43%
Homeless groups with complex needs (woman,youth, family, migrants)

31%
Care leavers (psychiatric center, prisons, therapeutic center, minor center)

Val. % (N=75) - Multiple choices

HF users

65.1%

0.3% LGBTQI+ person and 34.6% women

Man

47

Average age

20% is 18 -34 years old; 44% is between 35-54 years old; 27% is between 55-64 years old; 9% is over 65

Italian

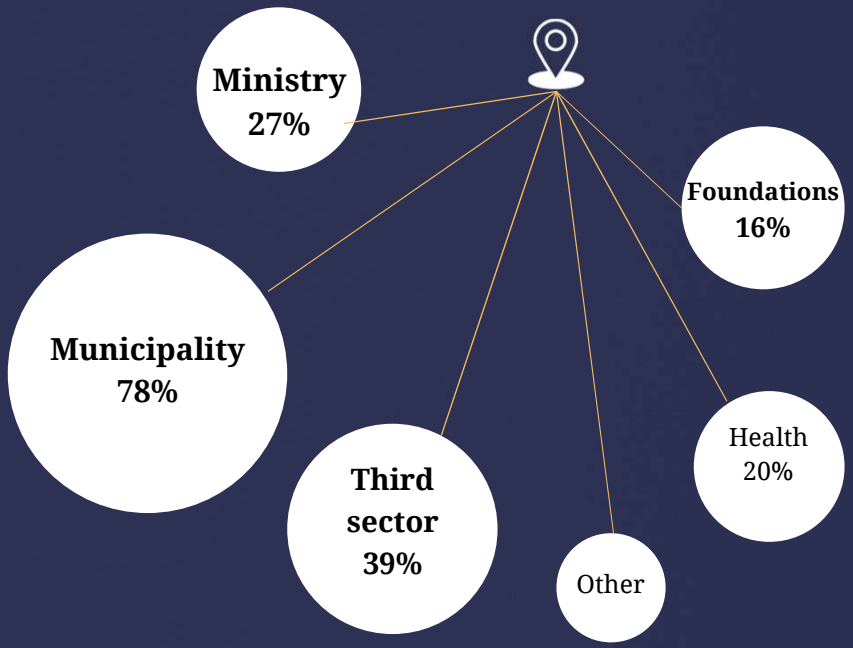
61.2%

Extra UE persons (33.8%) and UE persons (5%)

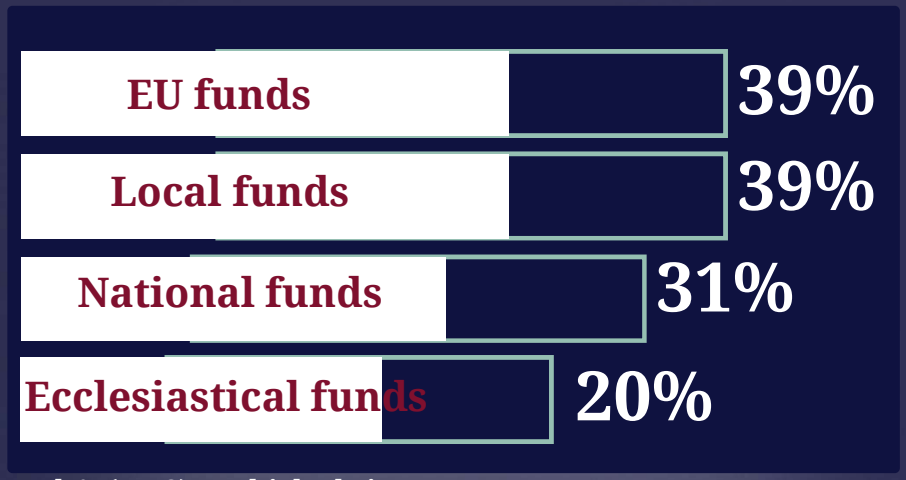
Val. % (N=1.763)

Funds and partners

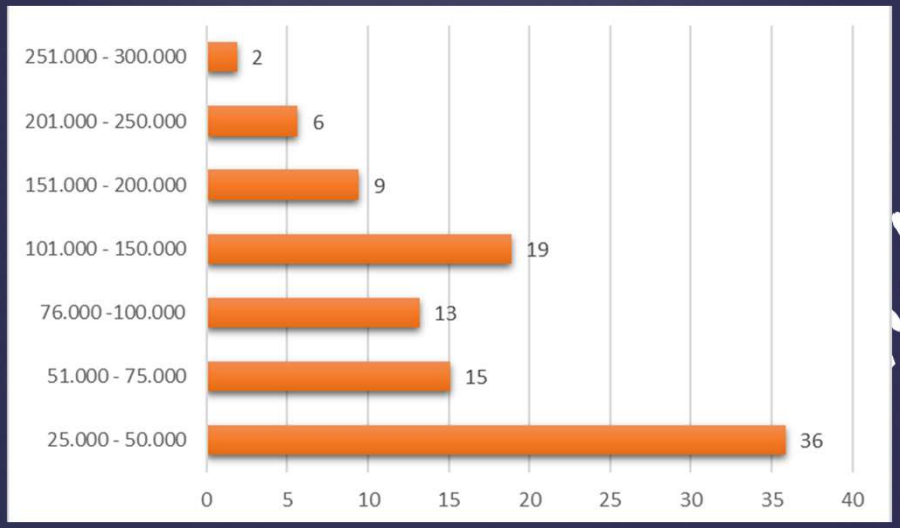
On average, 3 organizations manage HF programmes



Val. % (N=53) - Multiple choices

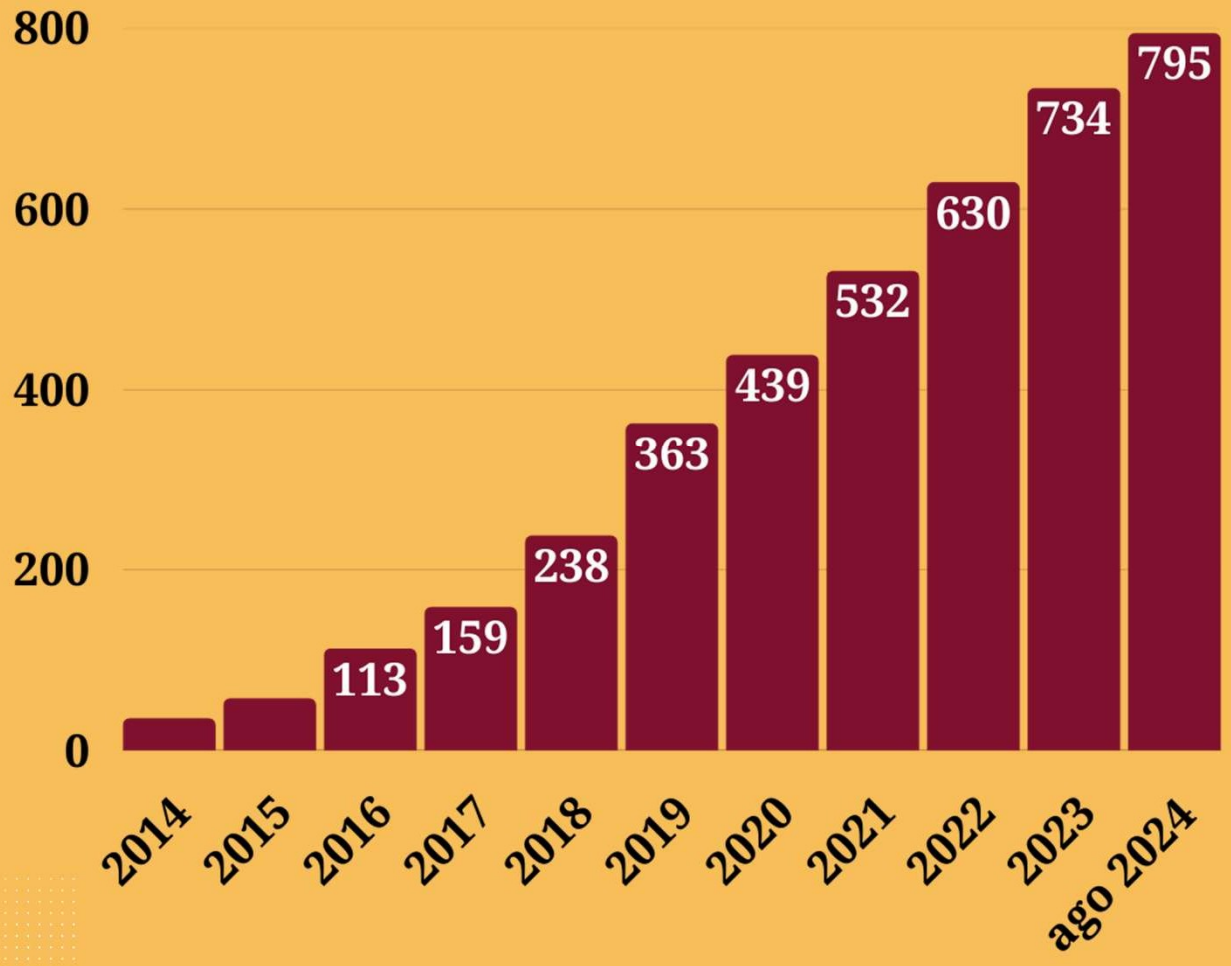


Val. % (N=53) - Multiple choices



Average annual funding used by programs for personnel, housing, and routine project management (%) (N=53)

HF apartments



N= 795 Apartments

Housing quality
Satisfaction by HF users

91.9%

Habitability

91.3%

Services availability

86%

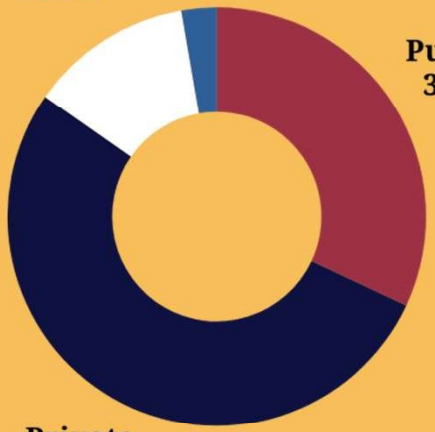
Legal securuty

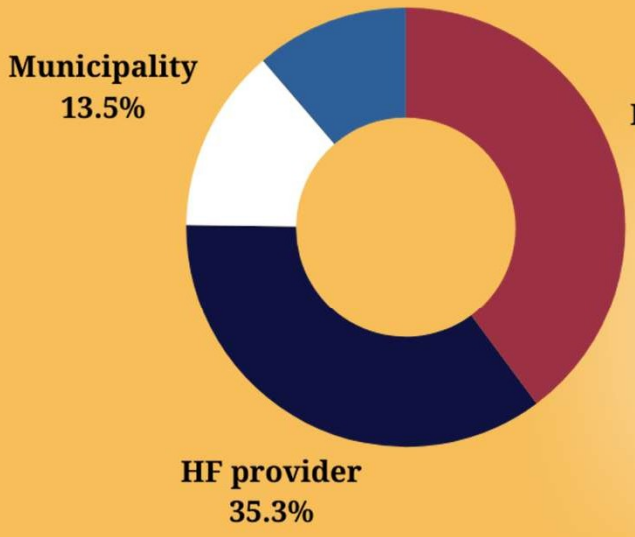
75,7%

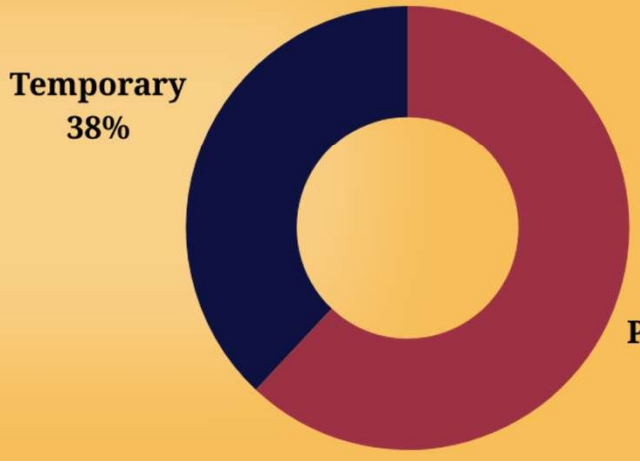
Privacy

Val. % (N=170) - Multiple choices

HF apartments





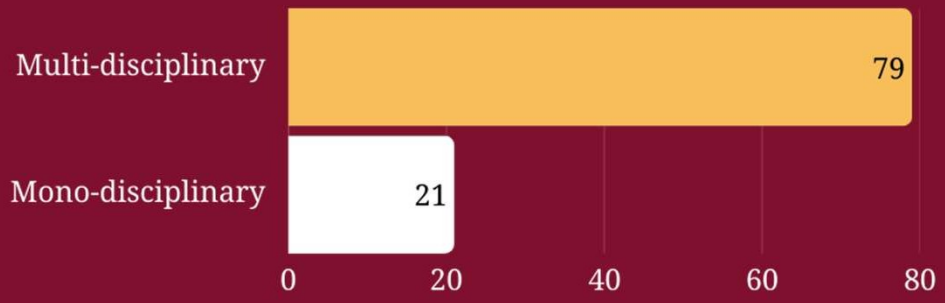


N=189 apartments

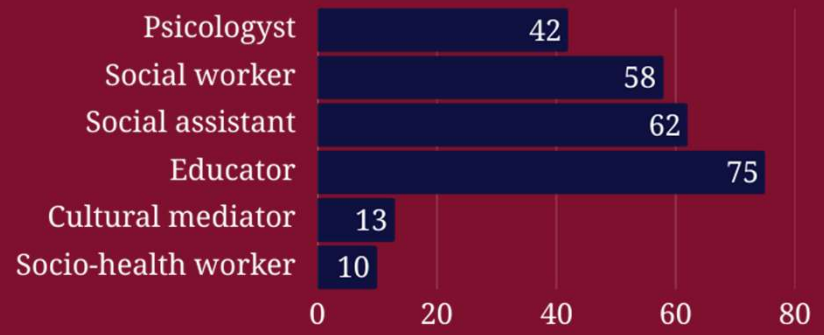
HF: a alliance between public and private organizations

Approximately 46% of HF programs are managed through co-design, 30% are contracted, and 20% follow other modalities such agreements

All programs receive funding from multiple sources, including public and private social sectors, with an average of 3 different sources per program



Val. % (N=52)



Val. % (N=53) - Multiple choices

HF teams and social support

91% HF users get case management

Val. % (N=276)

Personalized plan, housing support, health and wellness support; recovery are the main supports offered by the HF Team

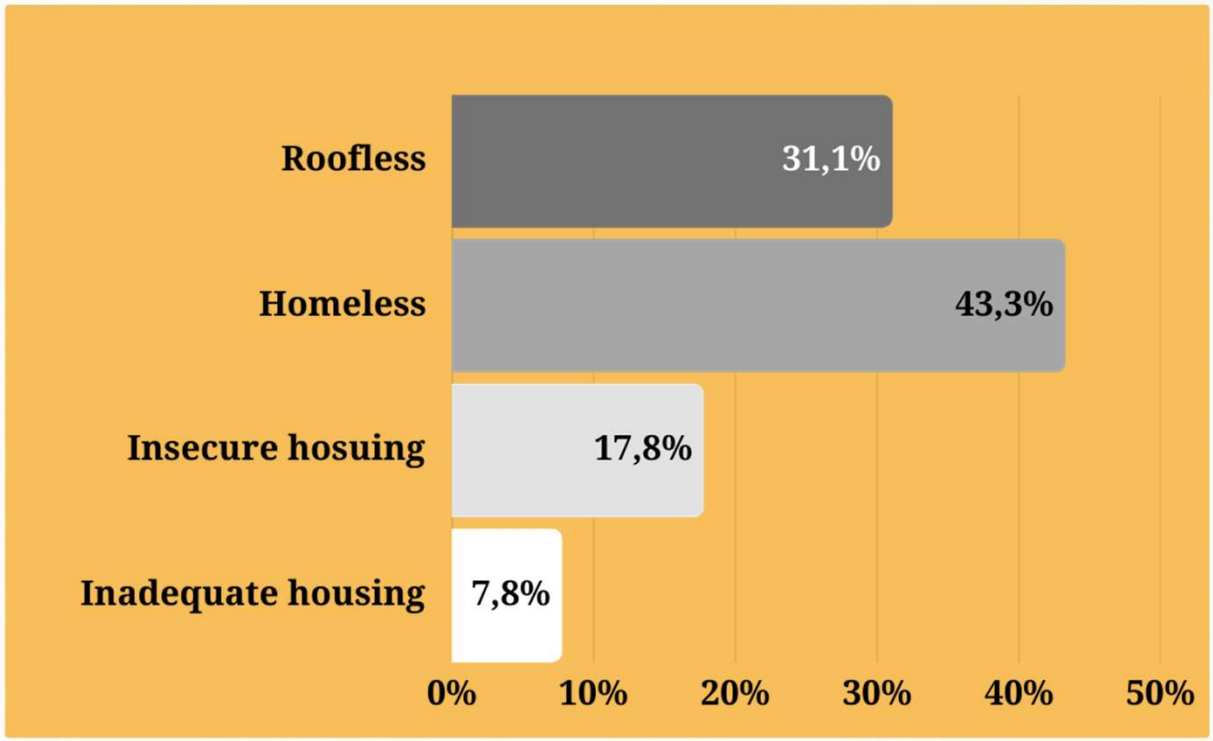
Val. % (N=284)

Outcome of HF

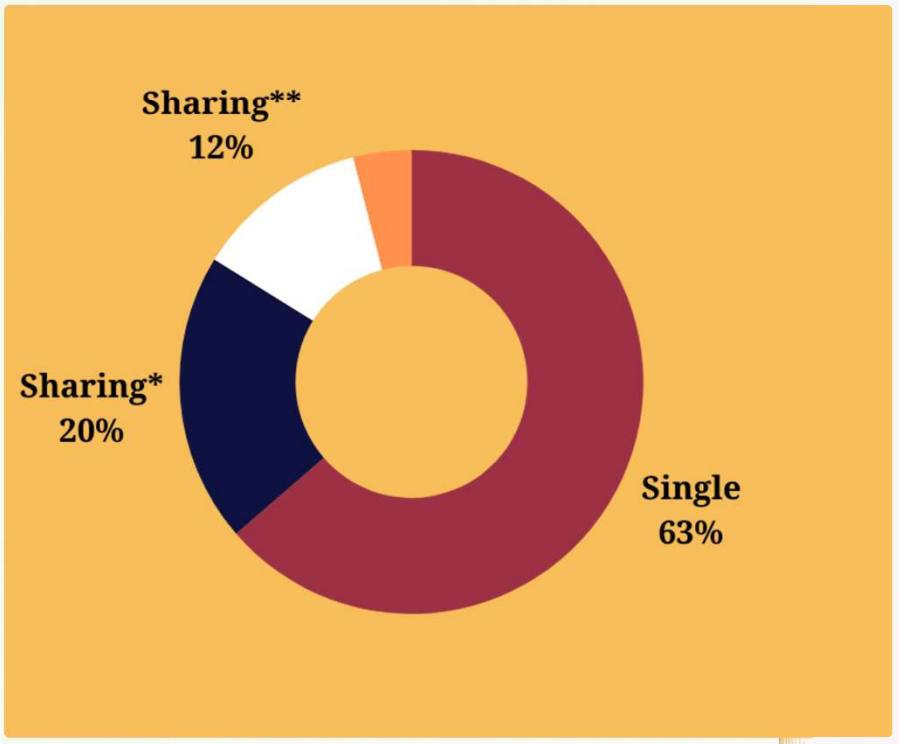
The main outcome of HF is to end homelessness for people with complex needs who have lived on the streets for years through housing placement and social accompaniment

National Fio.PSD monitoring has shown that providing safe housing and supporting individual pathways significantly improves the quality of life of beneficiaries, integrating them into society and promoting the well-being of the whole community

From the street to the house



Living condition before

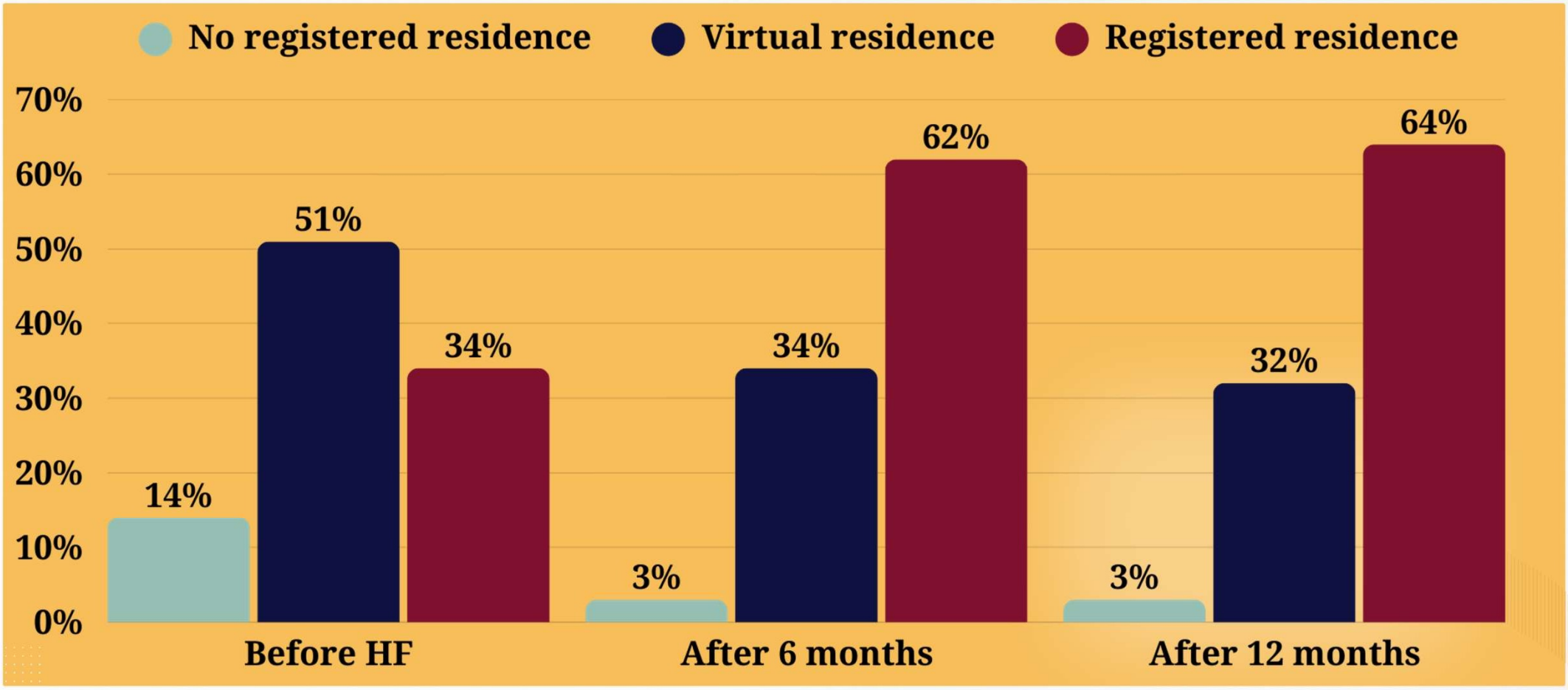


After 12 months

Val % (N=90 HF users)

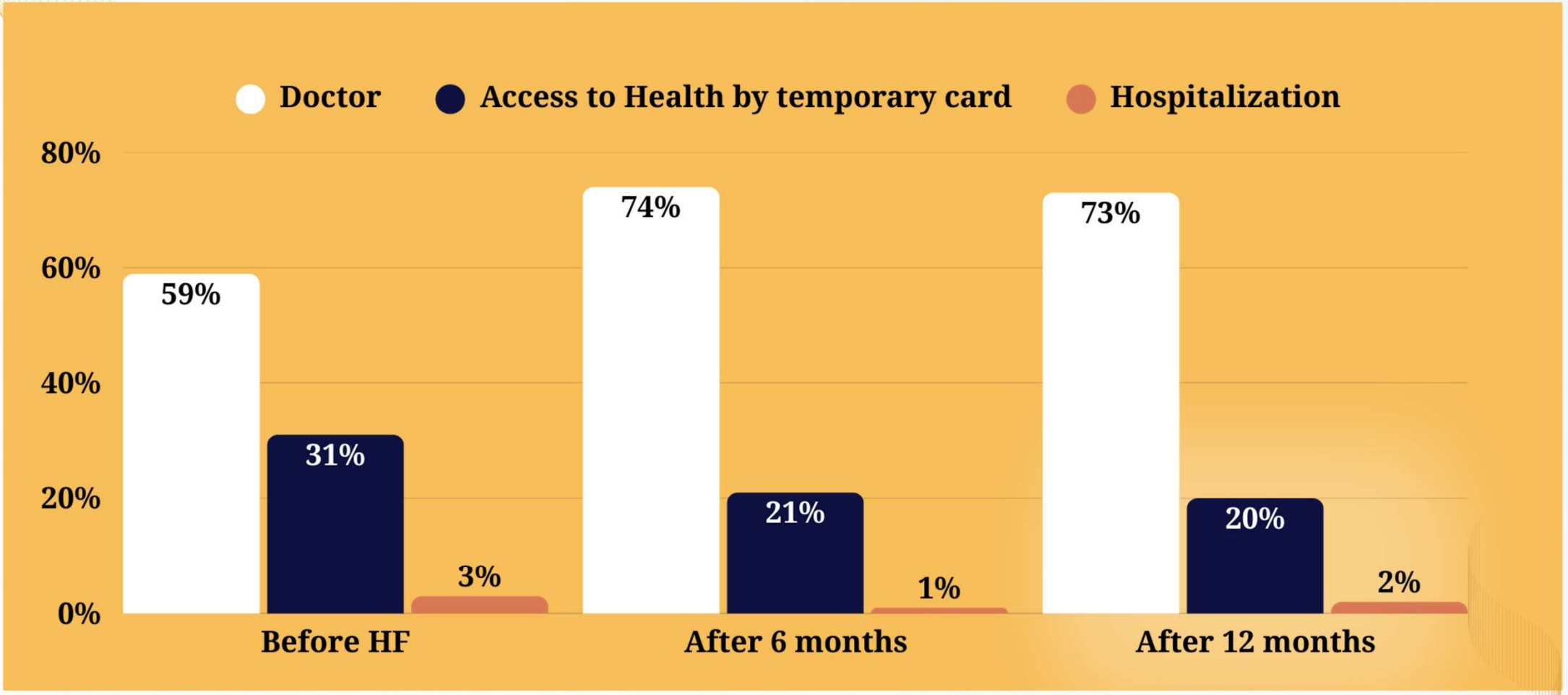
**Shared accommodation with private space (single room); **Shared accommodation with common space (double room)*

HF means Residence Right



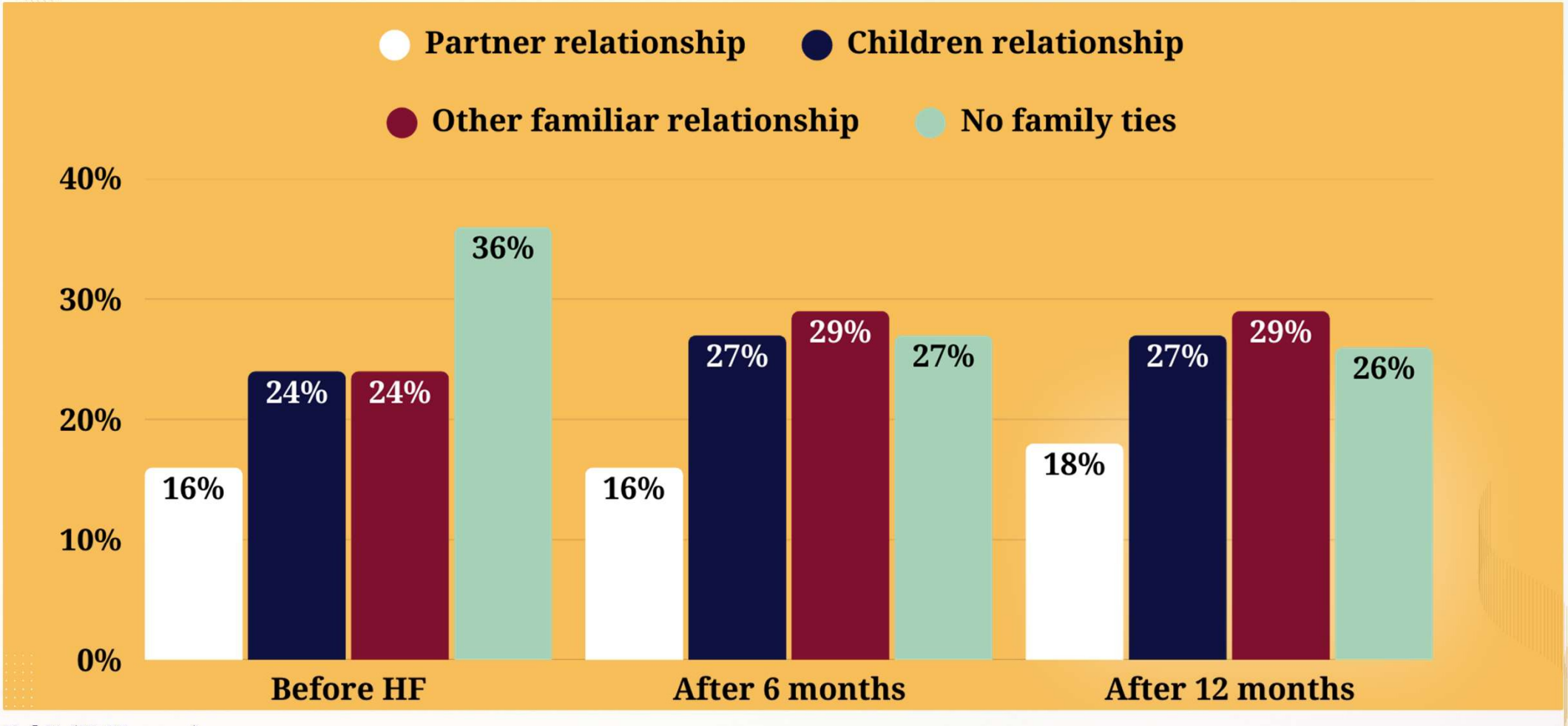
Val % (N=90 users)

HF and Health



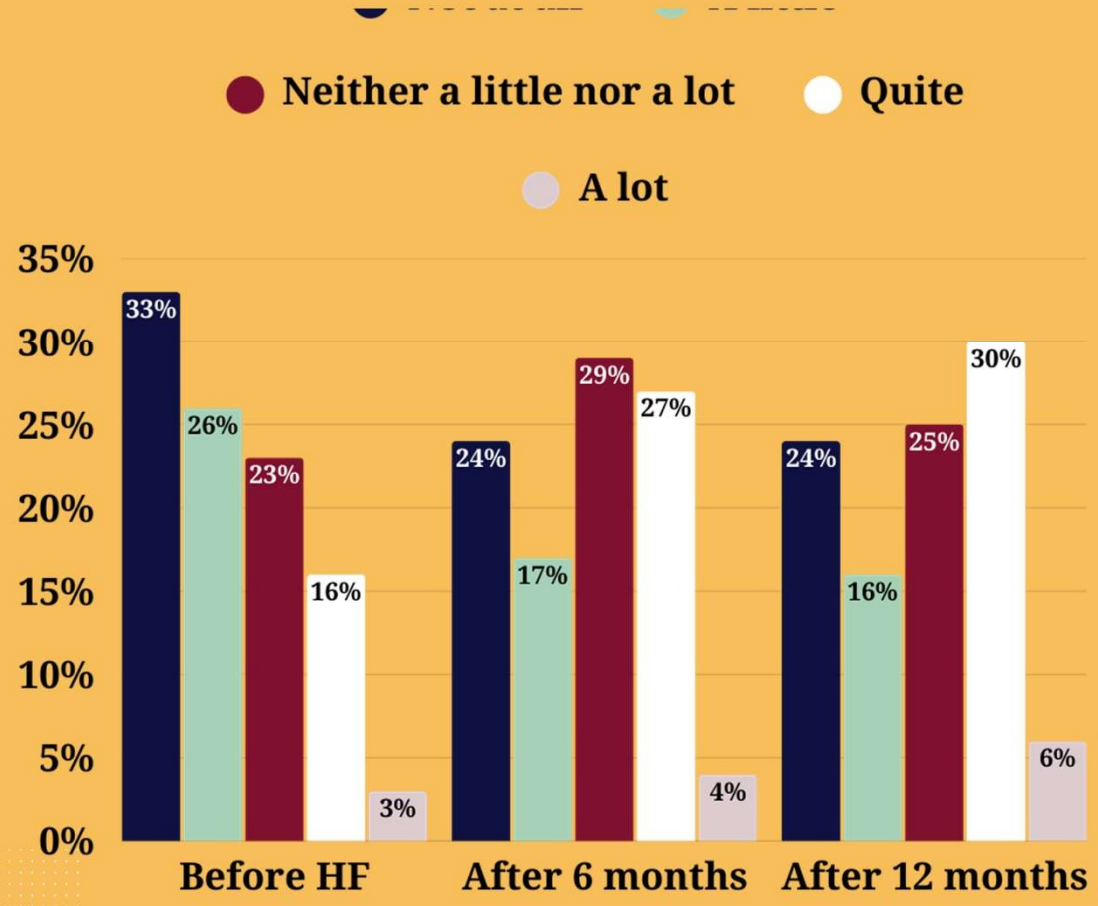
Val % (N=90 users)

HF and family ties



Val % (N=85 users)

HF and social integration



Val % (N=85 users)

Friendship

56% - Quite/A lot

Neighborhood

50% - Quite/A lot

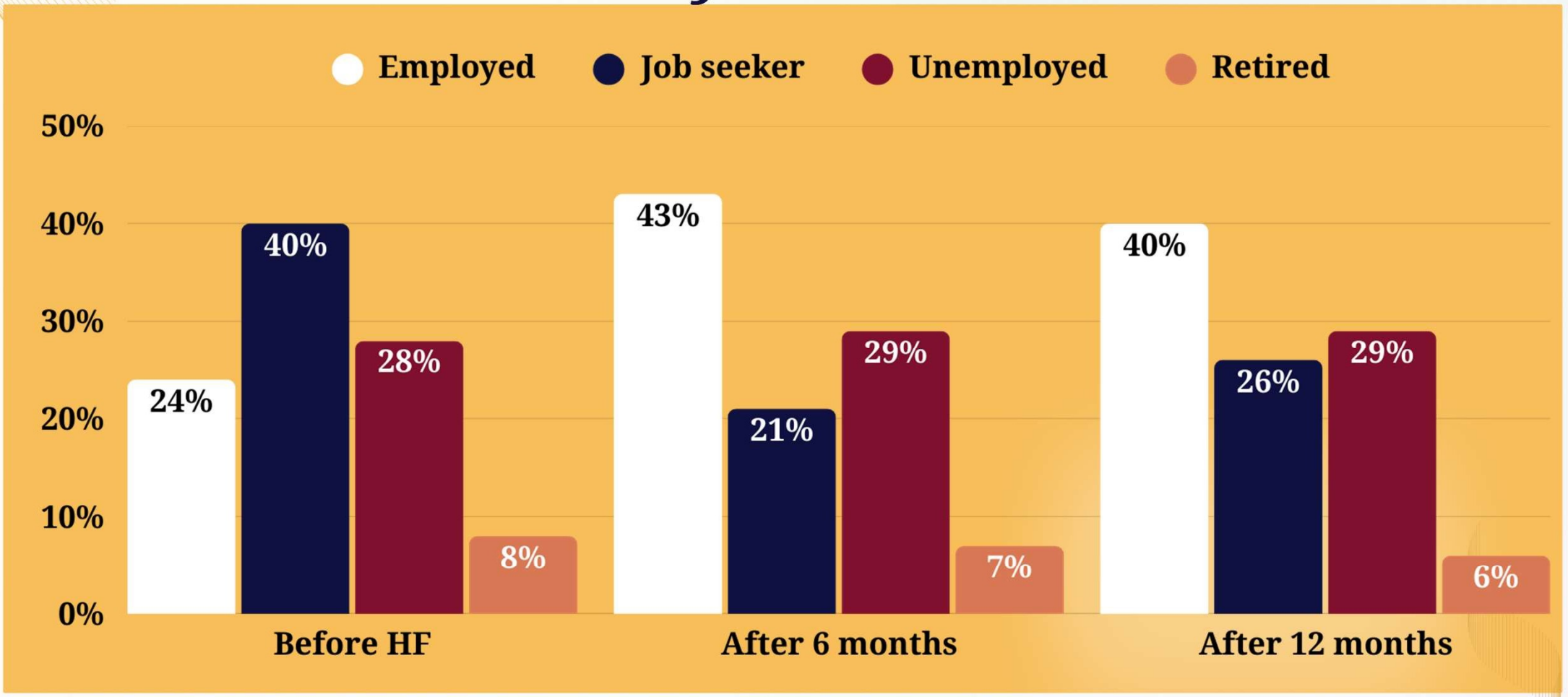
Sociality

42% - Quite/A lot

Ending or new begining?

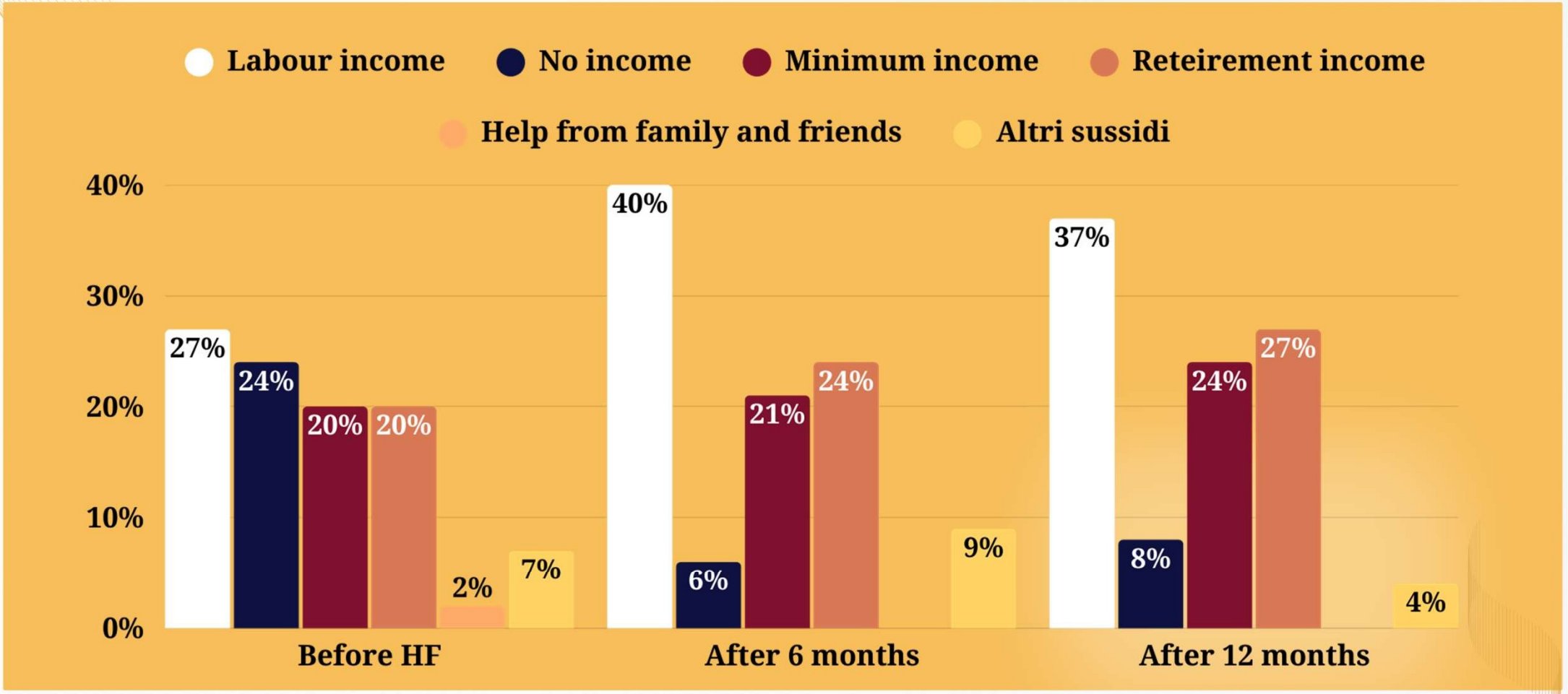
On 85 Hf users interviewed, 60% reside independently, owing to community-integrated support services, and enjoy the same freedoms, lifestyles, and cultural opportunities as their neighborhoods

HF and job inclusion



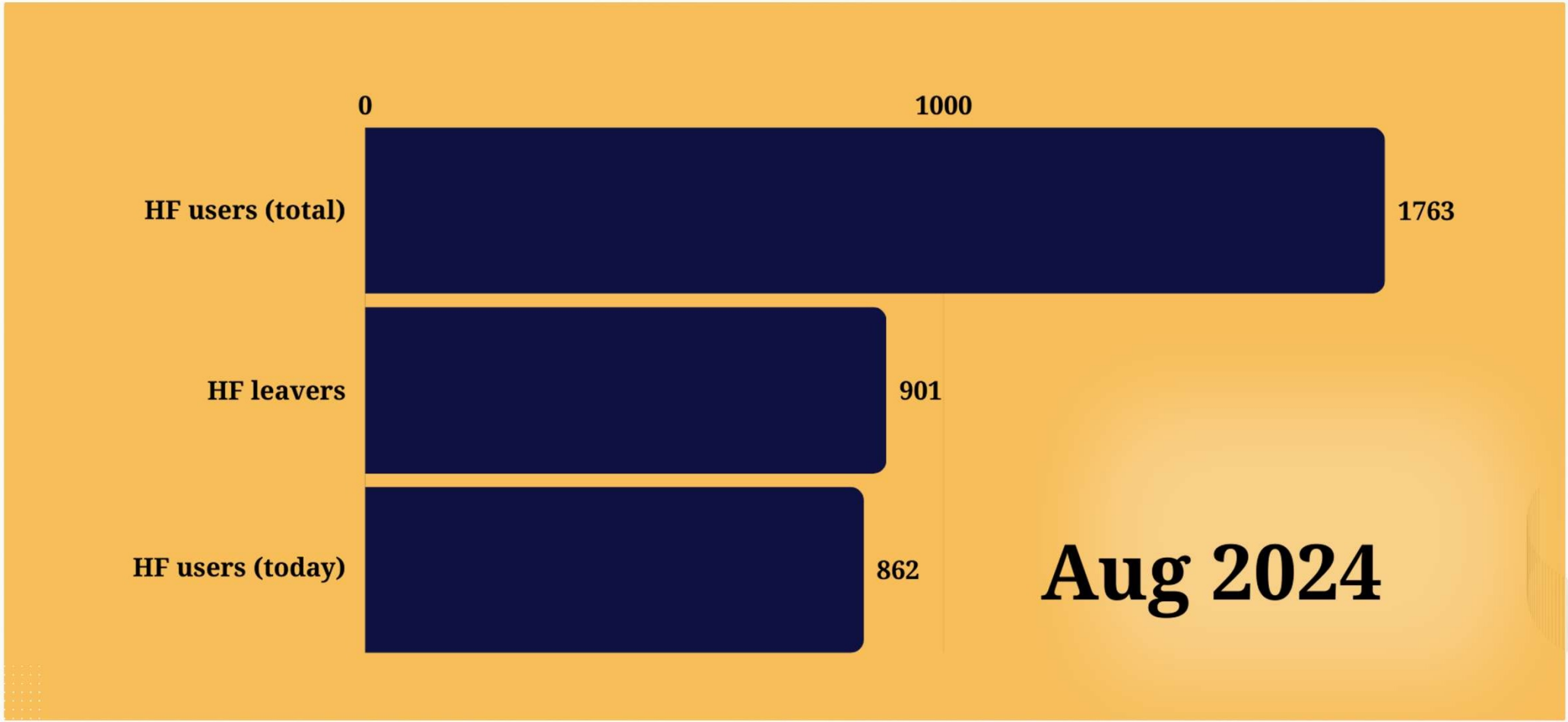
Val % (N=90 users)

HF and economic condition

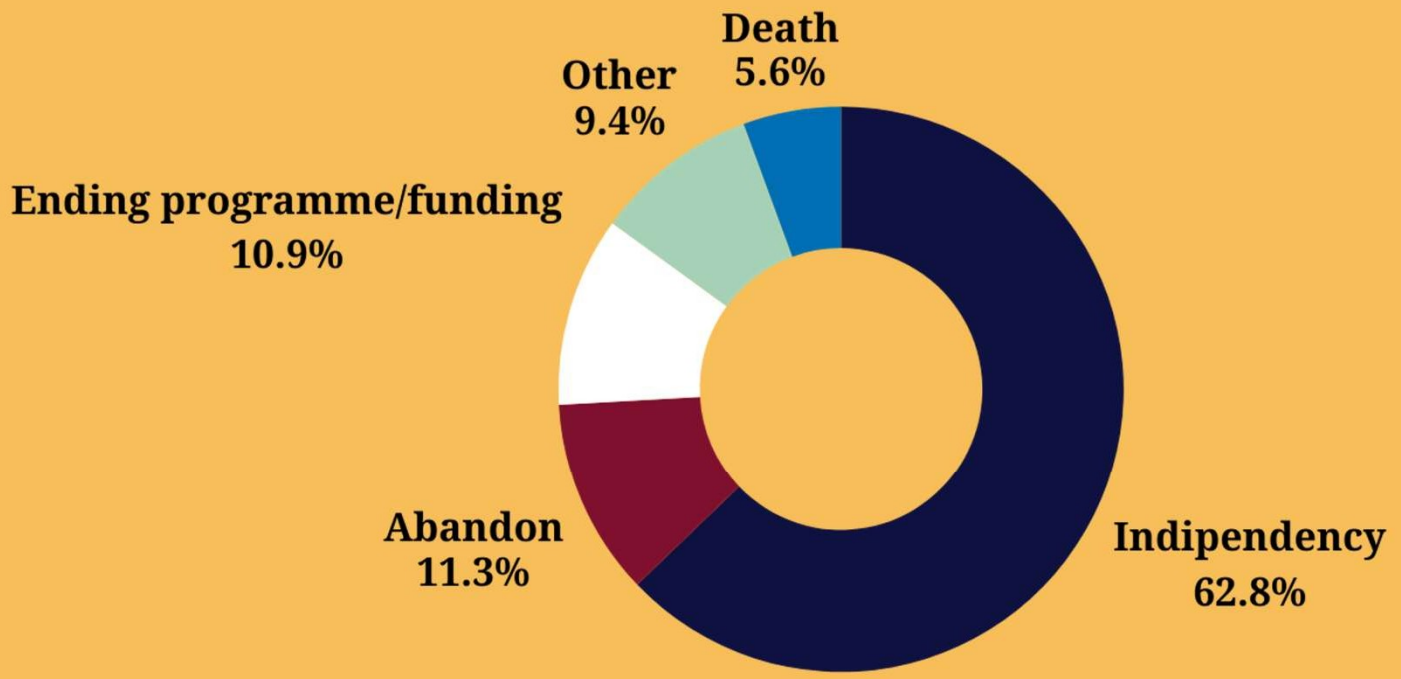


Val % (N=90 users)

The home: point of arrival and departure



Outcomes



Val % (N=893 HF leavers)

Data collection “first”

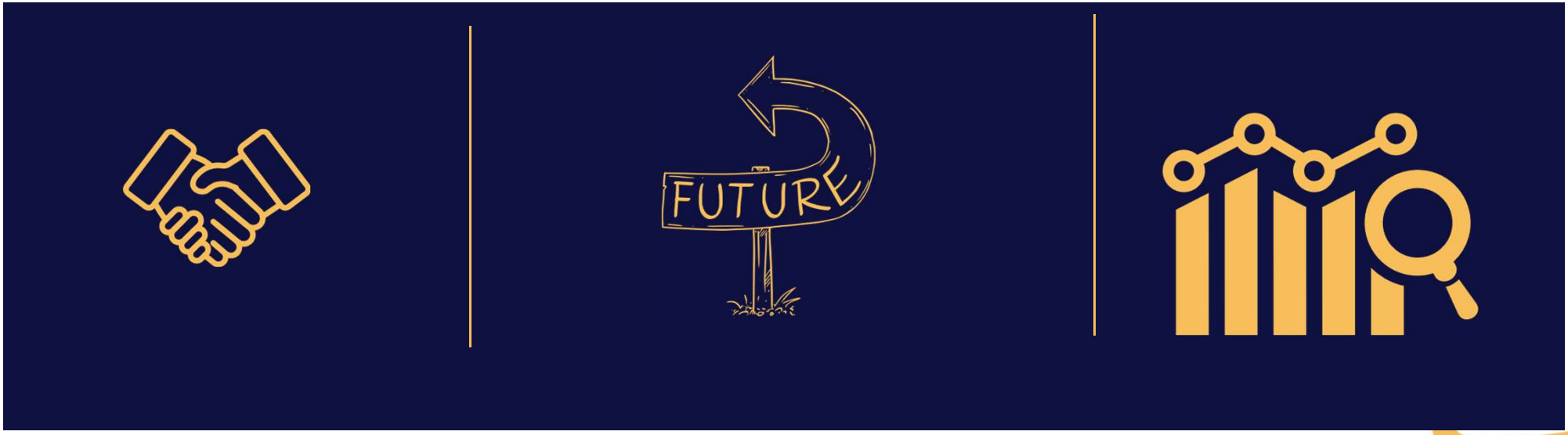
National monitoring fio.PSD shows the efficacy of HF

HF advocates for a sustainable pathway to tackle homelessness and foster social inclusion by providing secure housing, personalised plan, safeguarding rights, enhancing the quality of life for beneficiaries, and facilitating community integration

HF Italy: arrival and restart

fio.PSD engagement remains a benchmark of innovation and collaboration within the social services sector, addressing significant adult marginalization

To be continued...



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