

**PROJECT HAVEN EVALUATION**

**HIGHLIGHTS**

Program Evaluation Division,  
CMHC,  
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## BACKGROUND

### **A. PROCESS**

- CMHC EVALUATION OF PROJECT HAVEN undertaken 1992-1994 in parallel with overall evaluation of federal Family Violence Initiative.
- CMHC circulates its evaluation reports to outside groups for review and comments.
- Evaluation Report has been circulated to provincial/territorial governments, Aboriginal organisations, transition house associations, non-governmental organisations and other special interest groups.
- Comments will be used to revise the Report.
- Final Report will be sent to Health Canada and all organisations consulted.

### **B. SCOPE OF THE EVALUATION**

The Evaluation considered a full range of evaluation issues as required for evaluation of federal government programs, including:

- Rationale for the program
- Achievement of program objectives
- Impacts and effects of the program
- Program design and delivery

### **C. HIGHLIGHTS FOR DISCUSSION**

5 main sections:

1. Need for the program and achievement of Project Haven
2. Who is served by Project Haven shelters
3. Shelter Services and use of Shelters
4. Impacts of Project Haven
5. Key highlights

## 1. NEED FOR PROGRAM & ACHIEVEMENTS OF PROJECT HAVEN

- WIFE ASSAULT IS A SERIOUS PROBLEM & EXISTING SHELTERS ABLE TO MEET ONLY PART OF THE NEED

Statistics Canada Violence Against Women Survey in 1993 provided first national estimates of scale of spousal assault problem in Canada (using Criminal Code definitions of assault).

- 1 in 4 women assaulted by spouses at some time in their lives, 44% with weapons and half suffered personal injury.
- 312,000 women assaulted by spouses in one year (1992/93).
- 40% of women leave their abusive spouses and most (77%) stay with friends or family.
- In 1993 there were over 370 shelters for abused women in Canada: 80% of these are emergency or first-stage shelters.
- In 1992/93, about 12% (40,000) of women assaulted by spouses want to stay in shelters (based on Statistics Canada 1992/93 Transition Home Survey). About three times as many women contacted shelters for non-residential services. Only 25% of women assaulted by their spouses used social services.

- PROJECT HAVEN HAS MADE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO PROVIDING ADDITIONAL SERVICES
  - Project Haven delivered by CMHC in close collaboration and partnership with provincial/territorial governments, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and community agencies.
  - 458 shelter units/bedrooms in 78 shelters received capital funding adding about 20% to the capacity of shelters in Canada.
  - In 1992/93, over 6,000 individual women and 8,000 children stayed in Project Haven shelters, and more than 20,000 women used non-residential services.
  - Project Haven was successfully targeted to areas that did not have shelters before, and priority was given to key groups such as Aboriginal women, rural women, immigrant women and women with disabilities.

One-third of Haven shelters were for Aboriginal communities and 32% of clients served were Aboriginal women.

Roughly one-third of clients were women from rural areas.

7% of clients were immigrant women or women of multi-cultural backgrounds.

7% of clients were women with some form of disability and 51% of Haven shelters were accessible for people with physical disabilities.
- SUBSTANTIAL NEED FOR MORE SHELTER SERVICES STILL EXISTS
  - shelter capacity would have to be doubled to meet estimated potential demand from women not currently served.
  - many communities have no services : 16% of abused women do not know of any services they can go to and 14% say there are none available where they live.

## 2. WHO USES PROJECT HAVEN SHELTERS

With co-operation of shelters, a Client Information System compiled on the women using Project Haven shelters over a 12-month period (1992/93). (See Appendix A: Project Haven Client Profiles)

- Nearly half were under 30 years old and average age was 32 years.
- Most have children, 56% of women brought their children with them to the shelters.
- 85% of women gave abuse reasons for coming to shelters.
- 40% of women came to shelters on their own, 26% were referred by community agencies, 11% by police.
- on average, women stayed 15 days.
- most have limited financial resources :  
33% work in home without pay  
40% received social assistance  
20% were employed for pay  
2/3 had not completed high school
- half of the women travelled from another community to go to the shelter.
- 60% had left the abusive situation before, and 45% had stayed at a shelter before.  
1/3 had been abused for more than 5 years  
1/4 were not living with spouse before came to shelter
- women have difficulties finding suitable, affordable housing when they leave the shelters :  
2% went to second-stage housing  
4% went to subsidised housing  
44% returned home (27% to an unchanged situation)
- at least 5% of clients have other, specialised services needs that are difficult for shelters to meet.

### 3. SERVICES AND USE OF SHELTERS

- Shelters provide a very wide range of services for both residential and non-residential clients.

Shelters in smaller communities provide outreach and satellite services in large catchment areas.

- Shelters are developing a variety of service models to meet community needs and situations:
  - some shelters have comprehensive services integrated with services of other community agencies, some include programs for men who batter, and some have services for children;
  - some shelters adopt an 'holistic' approach to address violence in the community, have treatment for the family as a unit (including the male partners), as well as the women;
  - many shelters serving Aboriginal communities include cultural ceremonies, education on Aboriginal culture and involve community leaders and elders;
  - shelters serving multi-cultural clients have special language and cultural services.
- Demands on shelters fluctuate and many shelters operate above capacity: (see Appendix B, Patterns of Shelter Use)
  - shelters have seasonal peak demands in summer months;
  - more women come to shelters at the beginning of months;
  - more women come to shelters on weekdays;
  - on average, Project Haven shelters operate at about 80% of capacity, but a third are at full capacity all the time.
- Many shelters appear to be under financial pressures:
  - 40% of Project Haven shelters report financial difficulties;
  - on average, 20% of budgets already come from fund-raising or other charitable sources;
  - inadequate reserves for future capital replacements pose risks to viability of shelters.

#### 4. IMPACTS OF PROJECT HAVEN

- Project Haven has increased the availability of services and created services in communities where none existed before. Other communities have needs not addressed within Haven budget.
- For clients, those who use shelters' services and services in the community after leaving the shelters are less likely to return to abusive or risk situations.
- Awareness of family violence problems increased in Haven communities.  
More women disclosing abuse, and more demands for services. Initiatives to increase awareness need to be coupled with measures to address service impacts.
- Need for more housing opportunities for women leaving shelters.  
'Second-stage' housing options required in most Haven communities.  
Priority-placement policies for subsidised housing exist but limited supply and turnover in small communities.  
Shortages of all housing in some communities (especially some First Nations communities).
- Women with other special needs such as those related to mental health problems, or alcohol and substance abuse are difficult for shelters to serve. Co-ordination of community services required.



## 5. SUMMARY : KEY HIGHLIGHTS

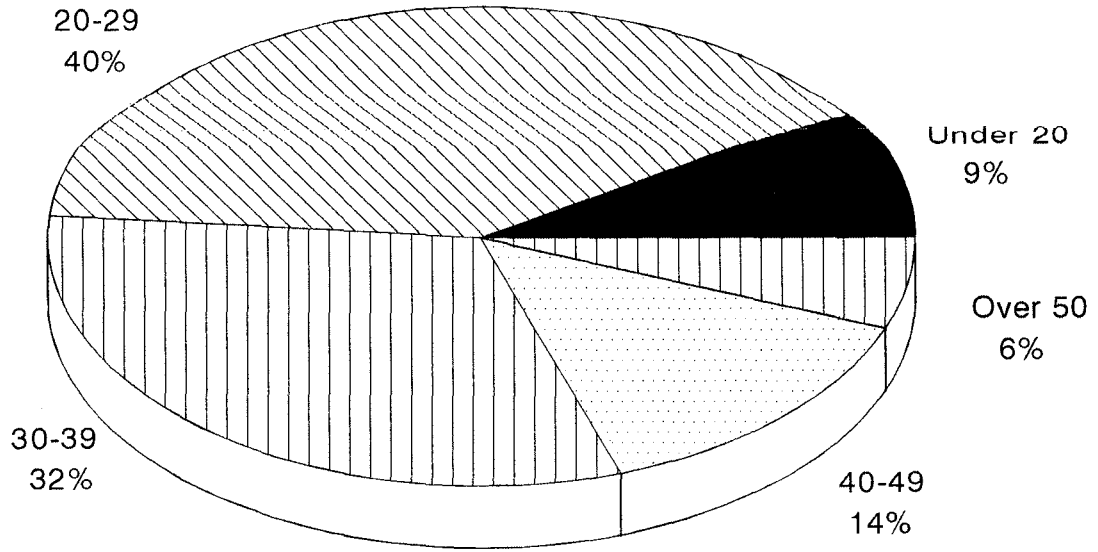
- Collaboration and partnership among governments and communities required to address the problem
- Large unmet need still exists requiring policy development
- Comprehensive approach to housing alternatives required to meet interim and longer term housing needs (including second-stage and affordable housing)
- Need for information sharing on different service models and approaches used
- Longer-term viability of existing shelters requires consideration
- Strategies to address special needs required

**APPENDIX A**

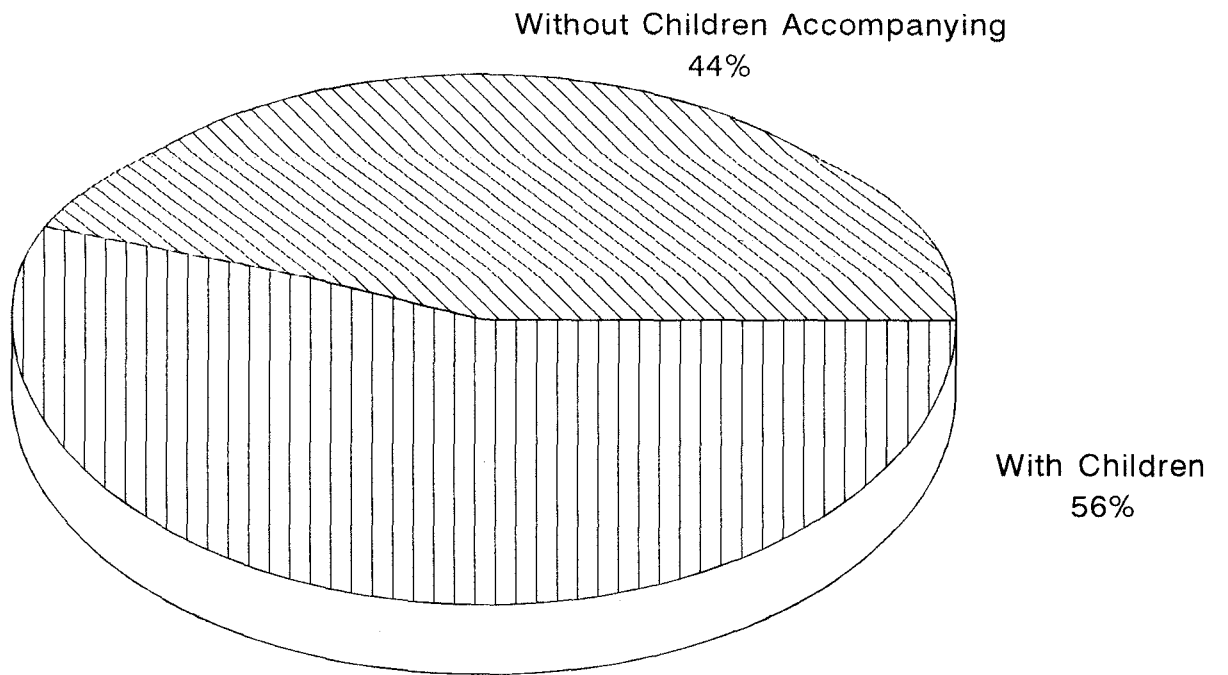
**PROJECT HAVEN CLIENT PROFILES**

Source: CMHC Project Haven Client Information System, 1993

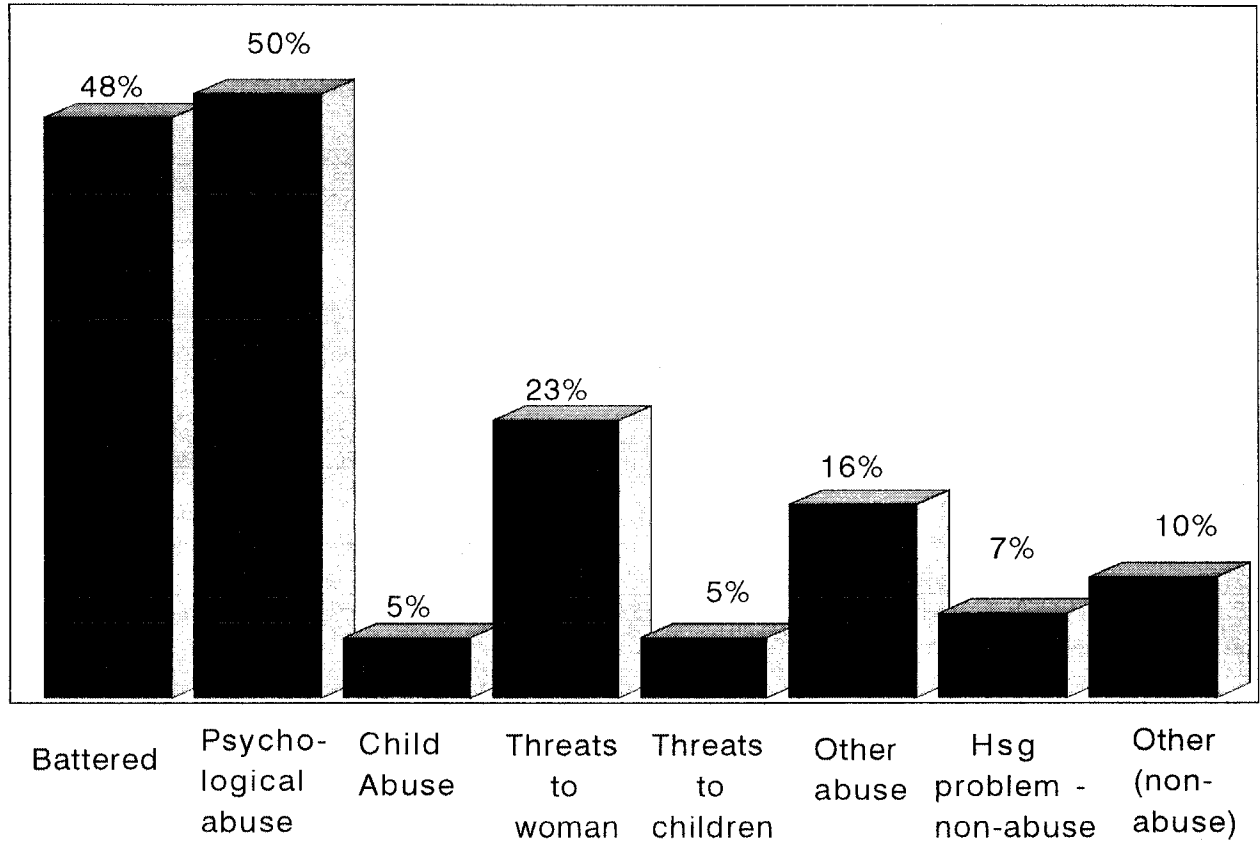
# AGE OF SHELTER CLIENTS



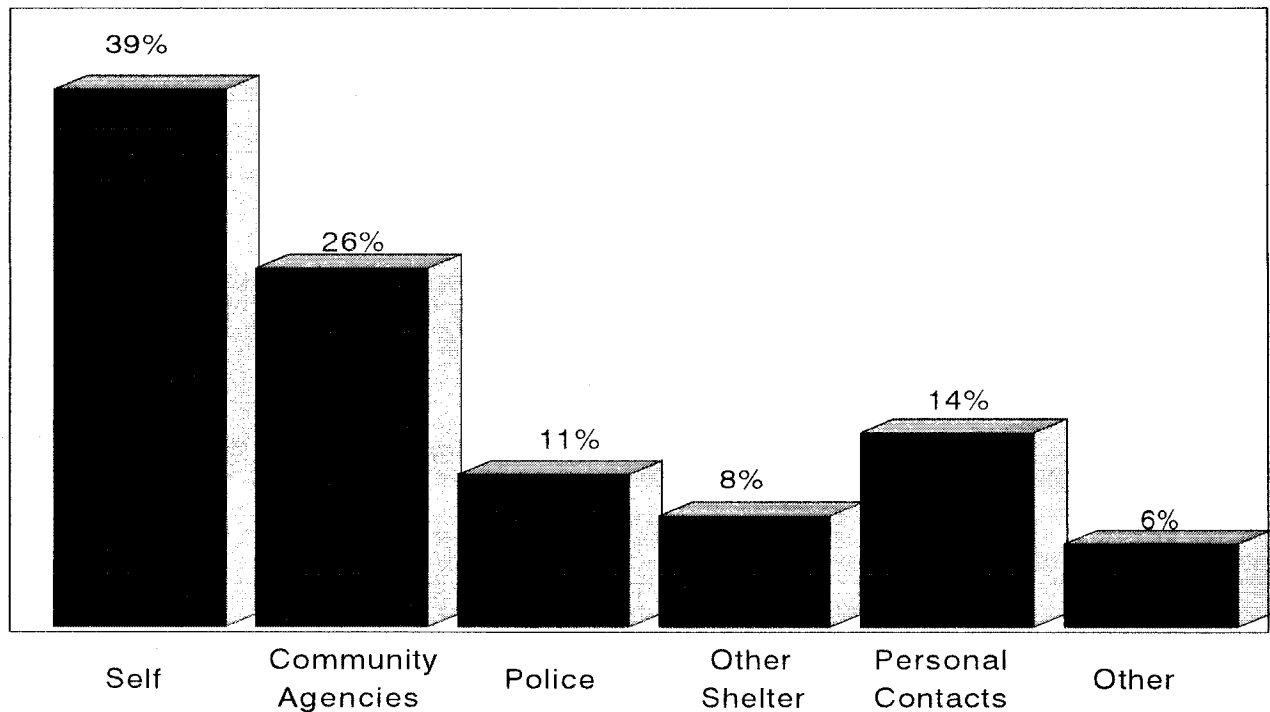
# ACCOMPANIMENT BY CHILDREN



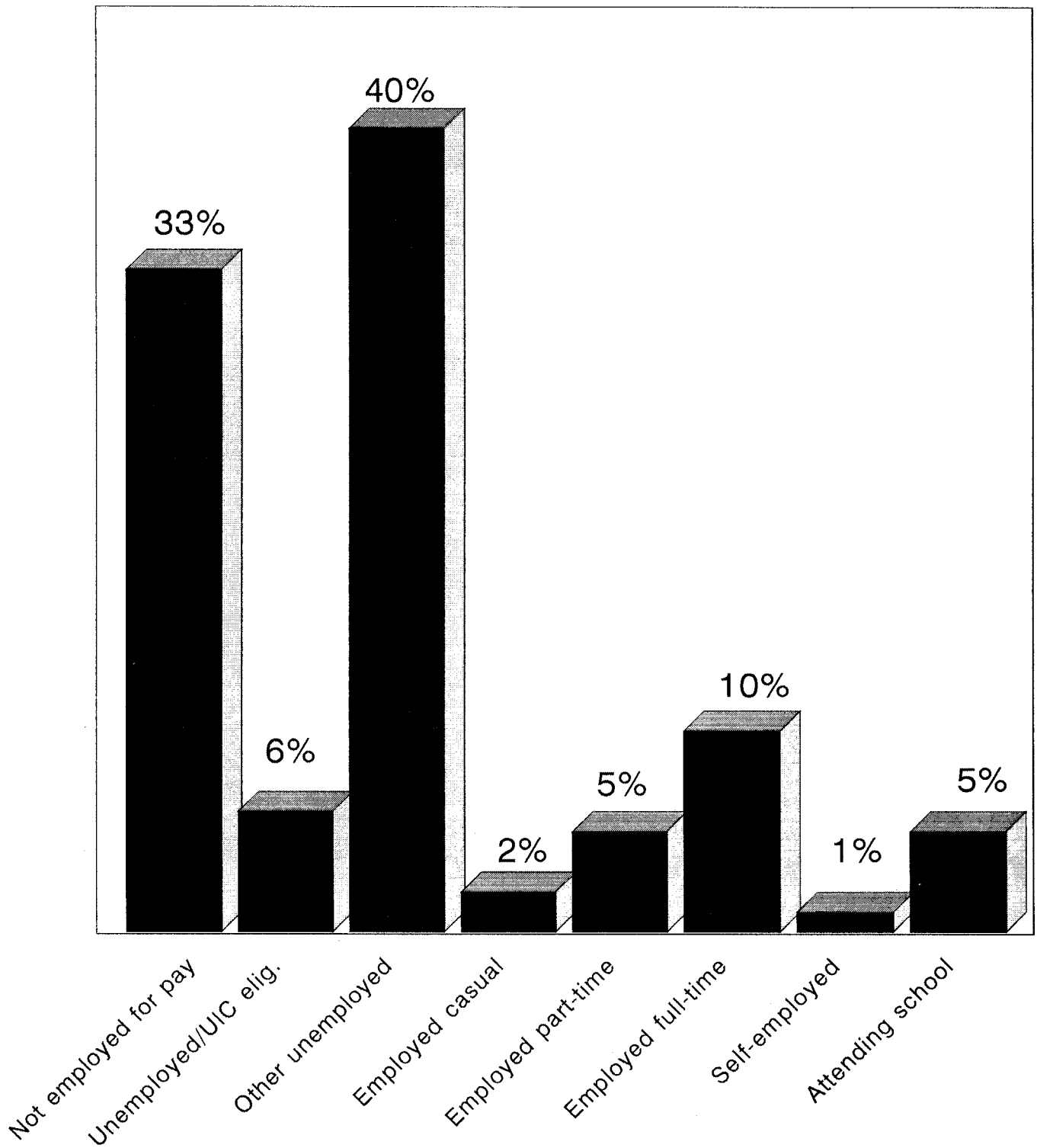
# REASONS FOR COMING TO THE SHELTER



# REFERRAL SOURCE IN COMING TO THE SHELTER



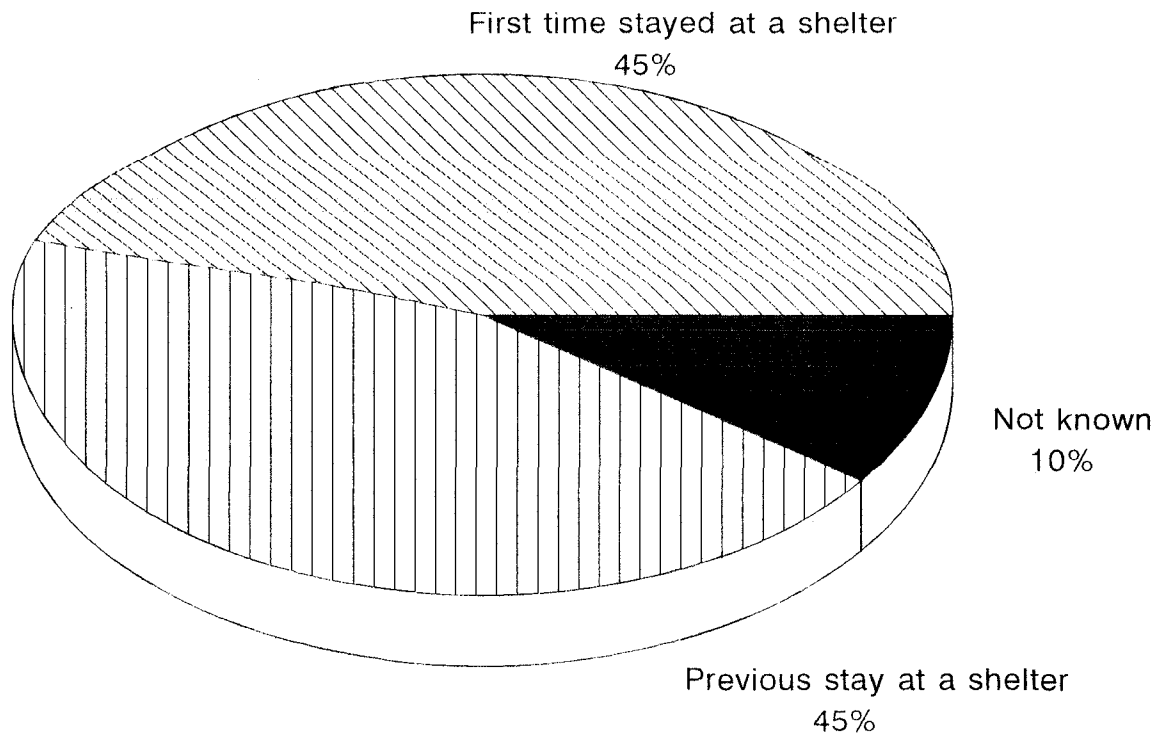
# EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF SHELTER CLIENTS



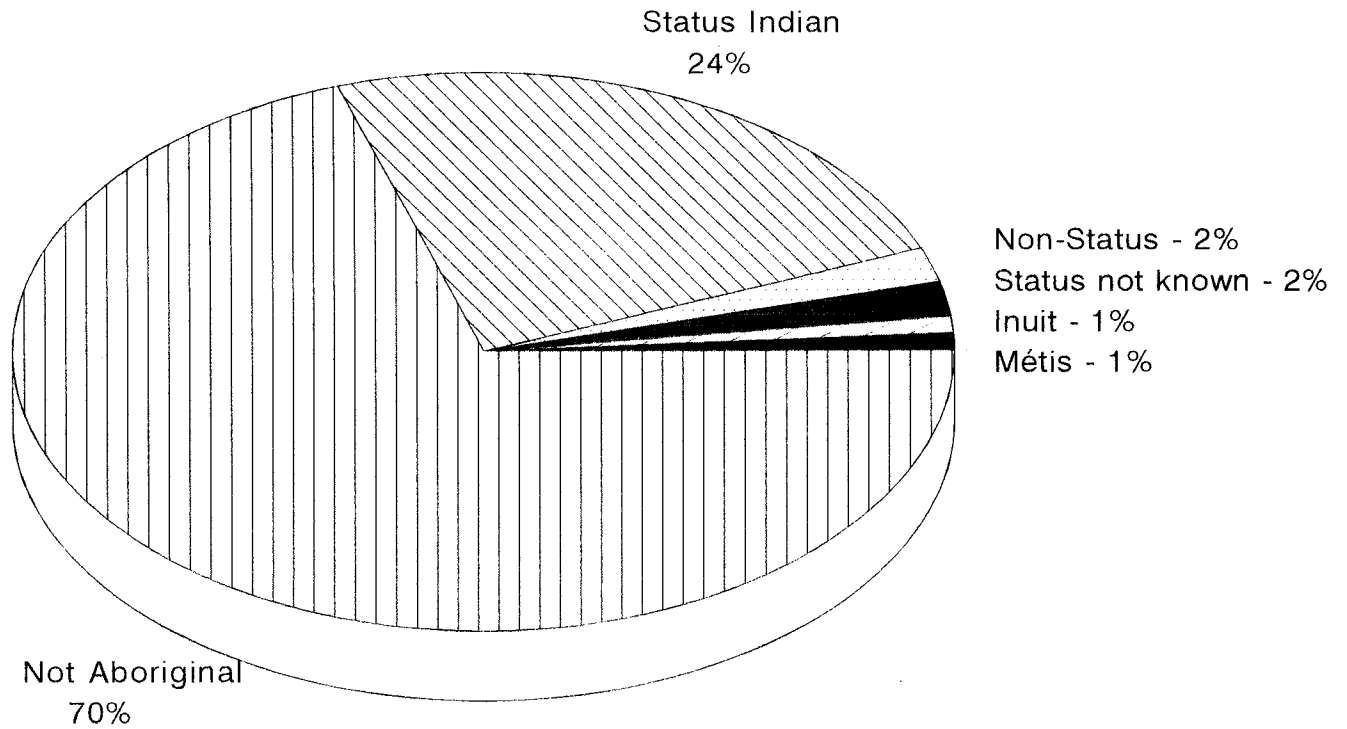
# PREVIOUS TIMES LEFT ABUSE SITUATION



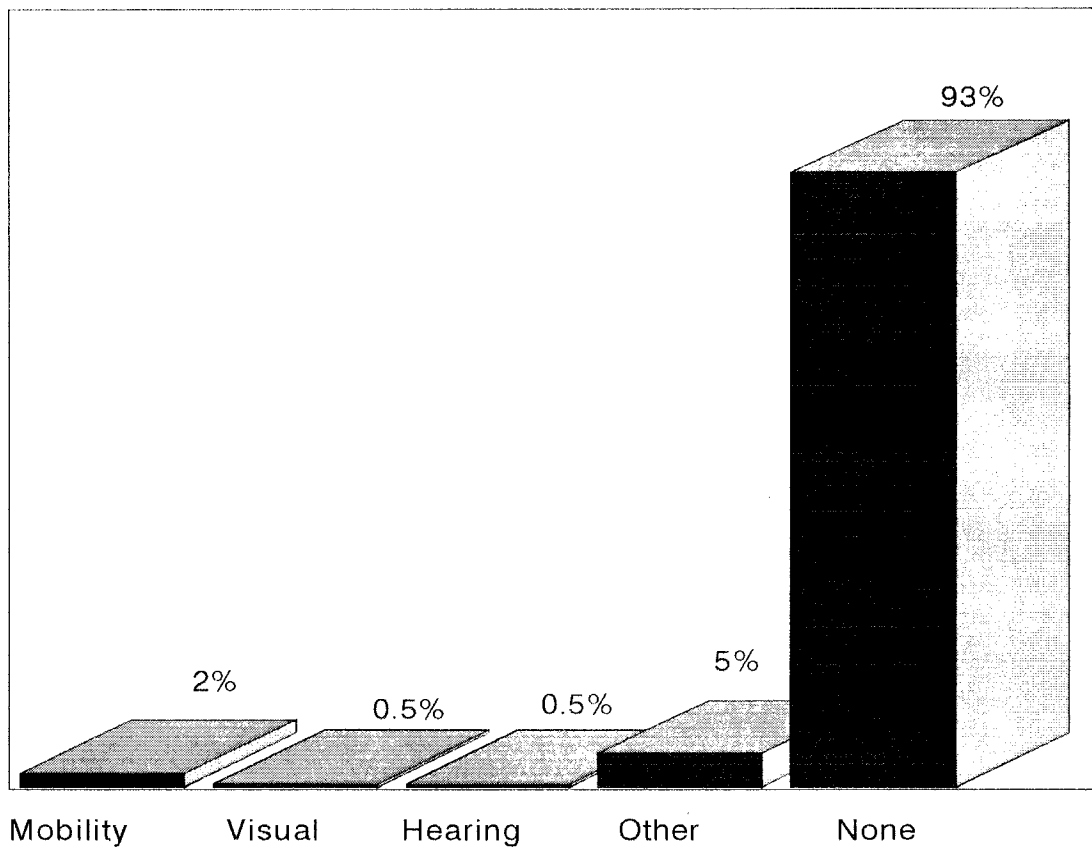
# PREVIOUS USE OF SHELTERS



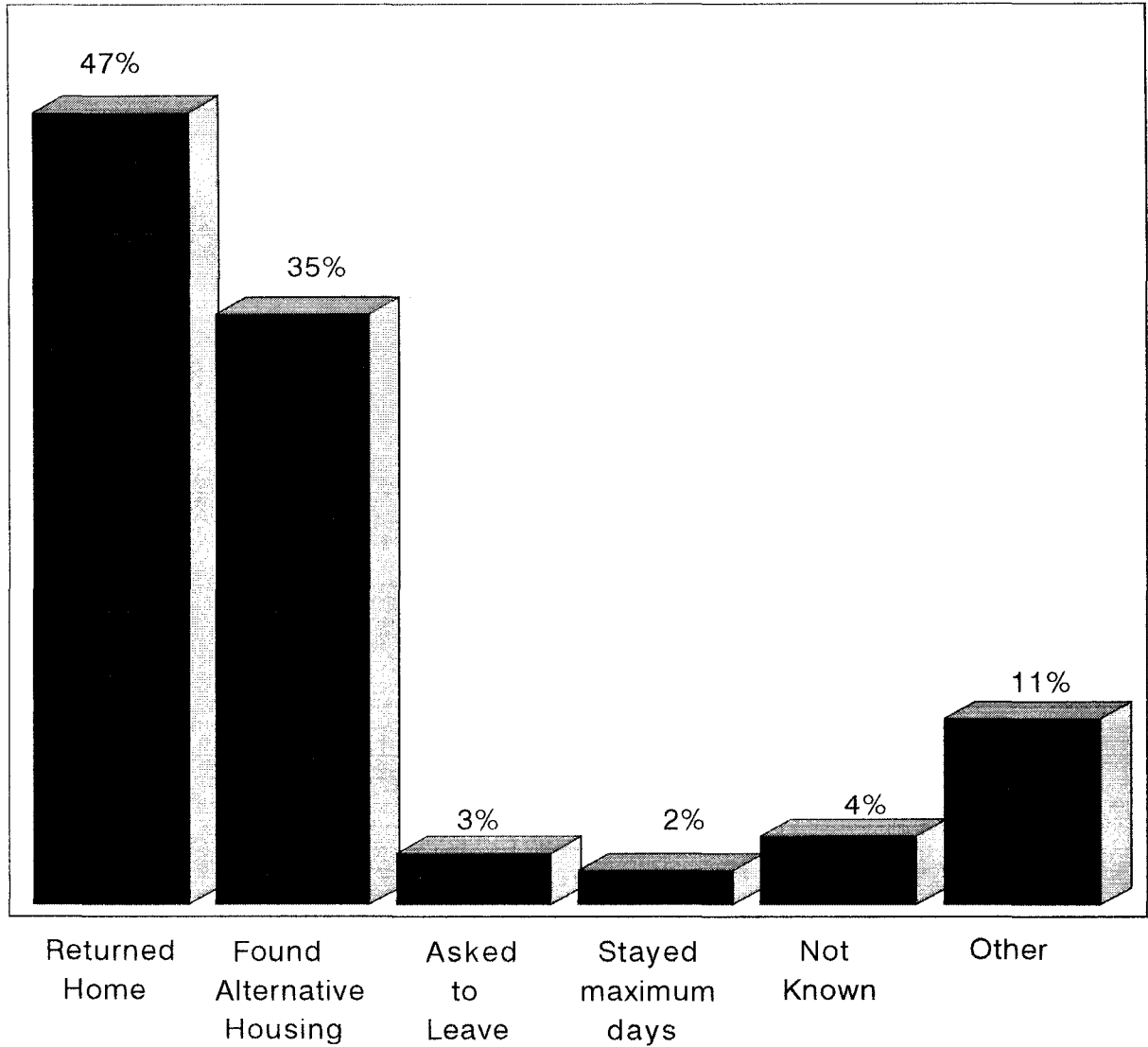
# ABORIGINAL STATUS OF CLIENTS



# DISABILITY CHARACTERISTICS OF CLIENTS

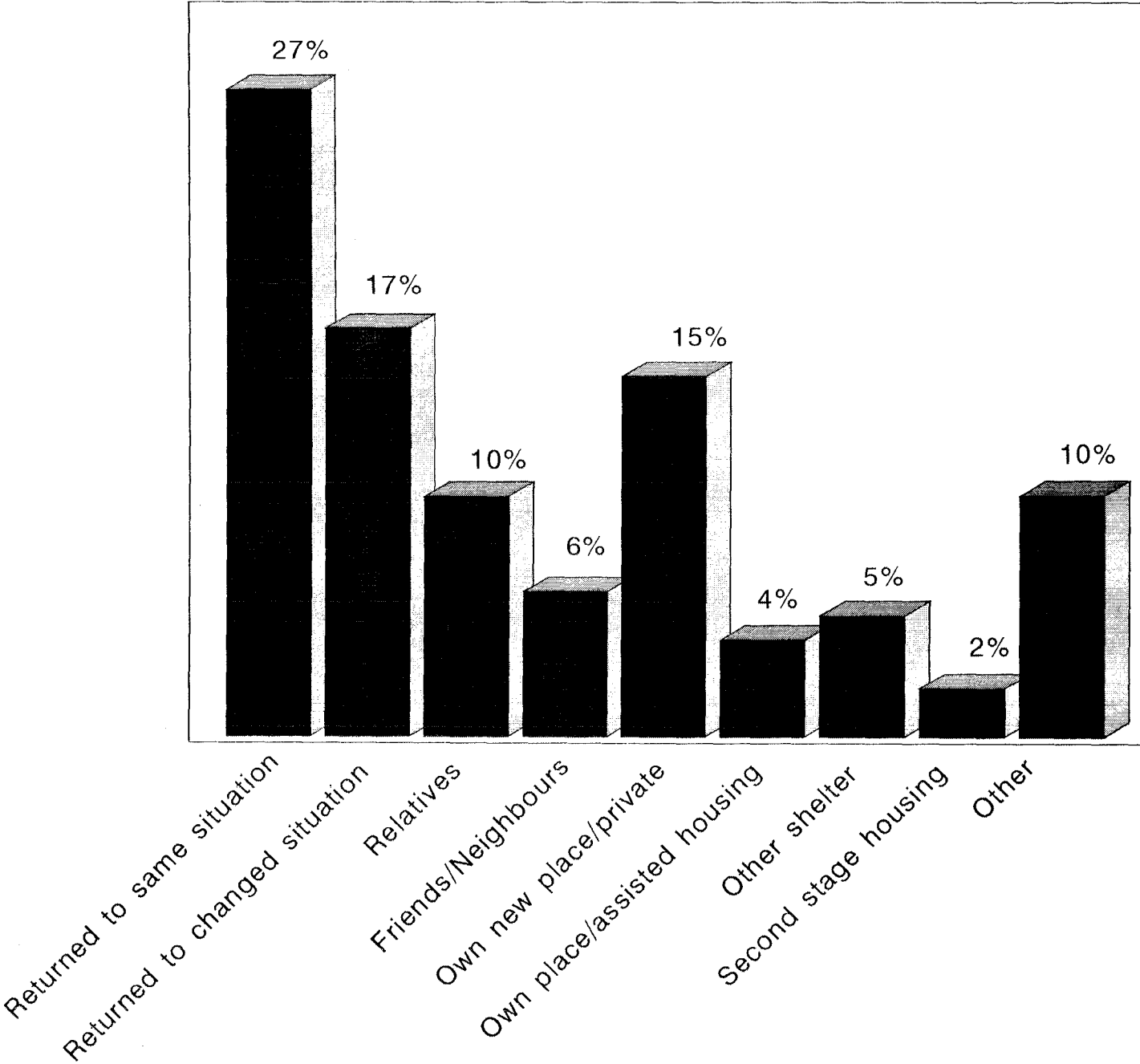


# REASONS FOR LEAVING THE SHELTER





# DESTINATION SITUATION AFTER LEAVING THE SHELTER

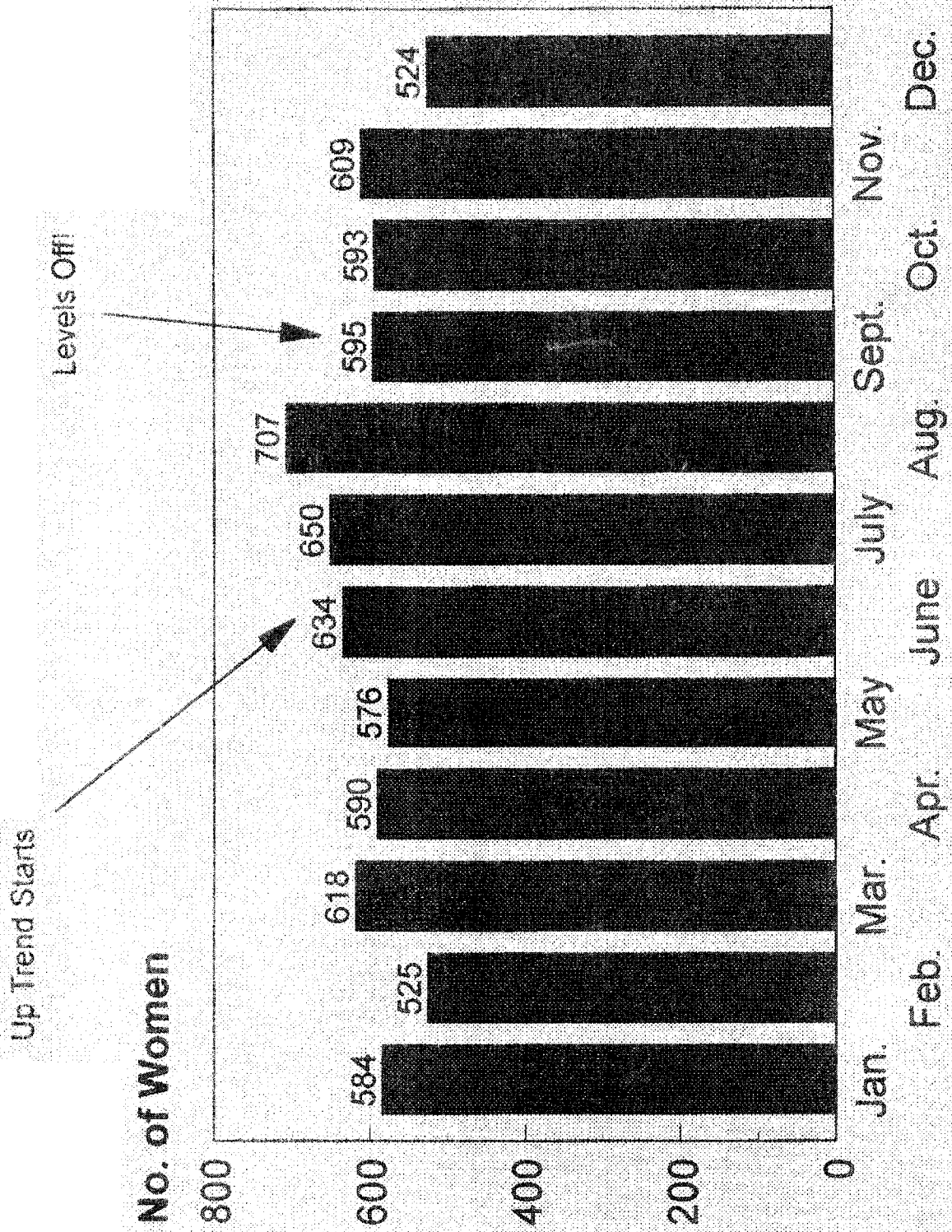


**APPENDIX B**

**PROJECT HAVEN PATTERNS OF SHELTER USE**

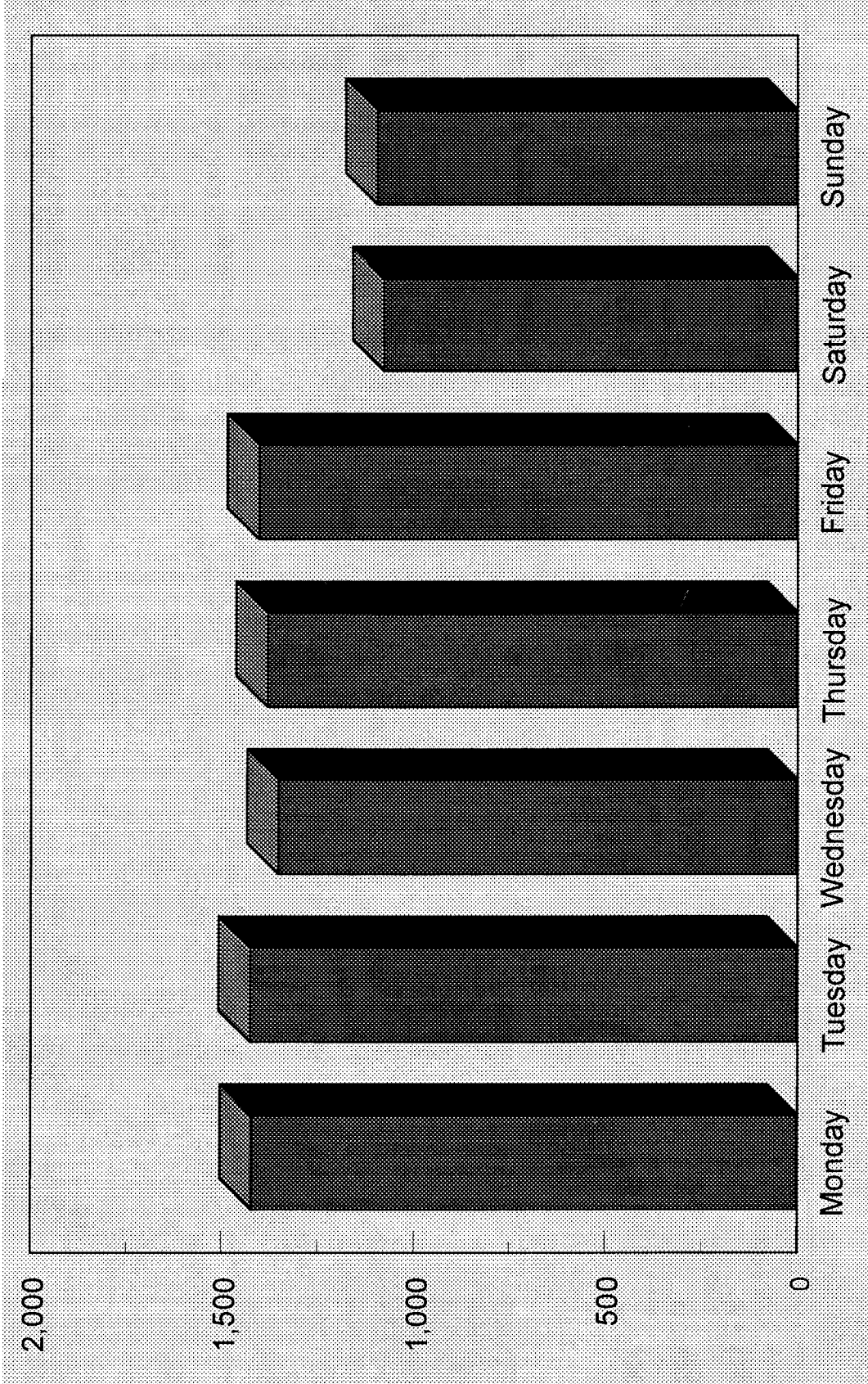
Source: CMHC Project Haven Client Information System, 1993

# Display B Entries by Month



# Display C

## Entries by Day of Week



## Display D

### Entries by Days in Month (average entries)

