

While we prepare to start...

How to ask a question:

- Click the raise your hand button of the GoToWebinar toolbar. This will allow us to call on you and unmute your line to ask your question.
- Submit your question on the Questions tab of the GoToWebinar toolbar.
- Email sue.hite-kirk@state.mn.us

A recording of the webinar and a copy of the slides will be posted online after the webinar concludes: <https://mich.mn.gov/weekly-webinar>

Unfortunately, we will not be able to troubleshoot any audio issues you are having.



MINNESOTA
INTERAGENCY COUNCIL
ON HOMELESSNESS

Weekly Webinar:
Statewide Updates on COVID-19 and Homelessness

August 31, 2022

Agenda

Time	Topic
1:00 – 1:05	Welcome and opening remarks
1:05 – 1:30	Updates from State agencies
1:30 – 1:55	General questions and answers
1:55 - 2:00	Closing remarks and adjourn

Check out the MICH website

mich.mn.gov

Share your Ideas & Get Involved

Stay connected and watch this page for ways to provide your thoughts and feedback. The MICH team welcomes your comments and appreciates your participation!

Working to achieve housing, racial, and health justice for people experiencing homelessness.

Learn More About MICH

Get Involved in the Justice Planning Process



Home Council Overview Justice Strategic Plan Get Involved Resources COVID-19 Task Force On Shelter

COVID-19 Response and Resources for Homeless Service Providers

This website links to COVID-19 resources and information for supporting people experiencing homelessness and the staff who support them.



Vaccine Information

This page provides information on how to access COVID-19 vaccines for people



State and Federal Funding Resources

This page has information on the funding



Public Health Resources

This page links to specific public health guidance from the Centers for Disease



ig phase of developing a statewide on achieving housing, racial, and health riencing homelessness. You may be p we mean when we say justice? We our planning process that is focused ership with the community and able definition of housing, racial, and is contracted with Rainbow Research to work.

Justice Planning Process



Webinar Information

Every Wednesday from 1:00 - 2:00 pm

Learn More



Speakers Bureau

First Wednesday of the month

Speakers Bureau

We need your help spreading the word

- For announcements about these calls, sign up for Minnesota Housing's eNews
- <http://www.mnhousing.gov/sites/np/enews>
- Select “Topics and Issues for Providers Serving People Experiencing Homelessness”
- **Please encourage your colleagues to do so!**

Newsletter Opportunity for People with Lived Experience

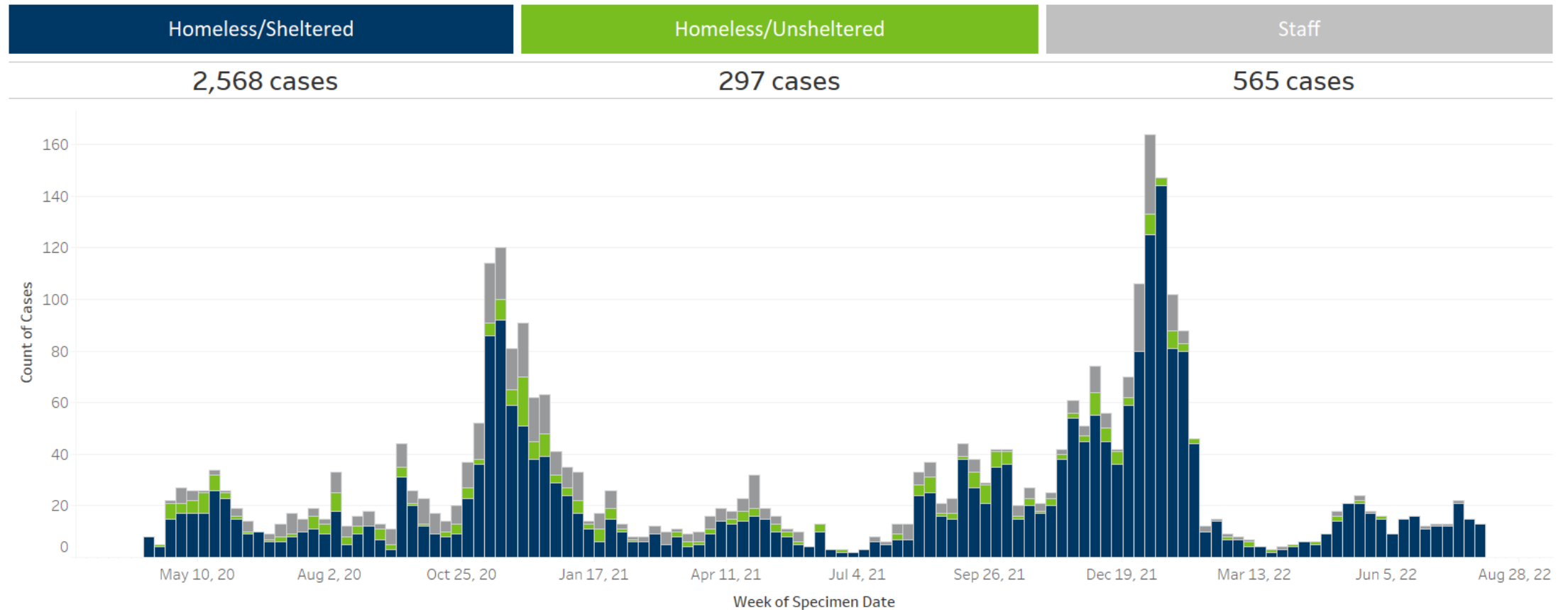
- Are you interested in learning about opportunities to share your expertise and ideas on the work to prevent and end homelessness?
- Individuals who have or are currently facing homelessness can sign up for a new newsletter list to receive updates about opportunities to share their ideas and expertise.
- The newsletters will be sent as new opportunities are available to share.
- [Sign up for the newsletter here](#)

September Speakers Bureau

- Opportunity each month for individuals with lived experience of homelessness to share their ideas with this community.
- Help us spread the word about this opportunity. Check out [this flyer](#) for more details.
- Email elizabeth.dressel@state.mn.us and sue.hite-kirk@state.mn.us or call 651-248-5548 with any questions or to sign up for the Speakers Bureau.
- August Speakers Bureau will be Wednesday, September 7 at 1:00 p.m. and the prep session will be on Tuesday, September 6 at 3:00 p.m.

- 124 confirmed cases in Minnesota as of 8/30
 - 79 in Hennepin
 - 12 in Ramsey
 - No other county with more than 4
- MDH working on sharing demographic info. on cases
- Upcoming guidance for congregate settings and homeless service providers

MDH COVID-19 Update





COVID-19 Therapeutics Survey Results and Next Steps

Tia Bastian | Epidemiologist | COVID-19 Highly Impacted Settings Unit

Background and Purpose

In July 2022, the MDH Highly Impacted Settings (HIS) Unit sent a survey to 680 people at ~114 correctional facilities and ~245 shelters to:

- Understand COVID-19 therapeutics use in these settings
- Identify barriers and facilitators to helping residents access therapeutics

The purpose of the survey was to identify opportunities to increase access to and use of COVID-19 therapeutics in these settings

THANK YOU to those of you who completed the survey!

Who did we hear from?

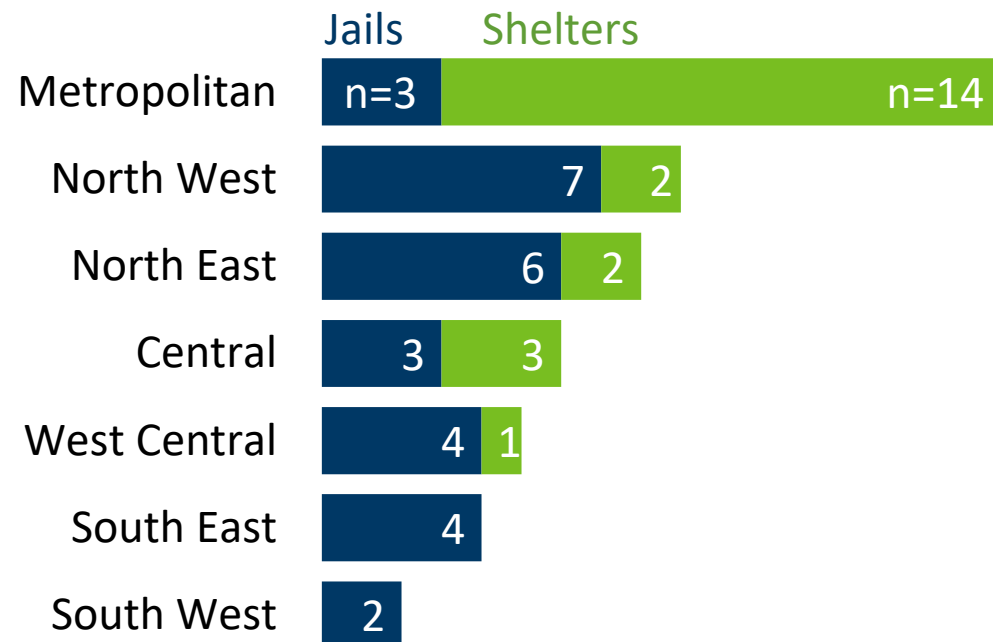
51 people responded to the survey from jails and shelters of all sizes.



Estimated response rates:

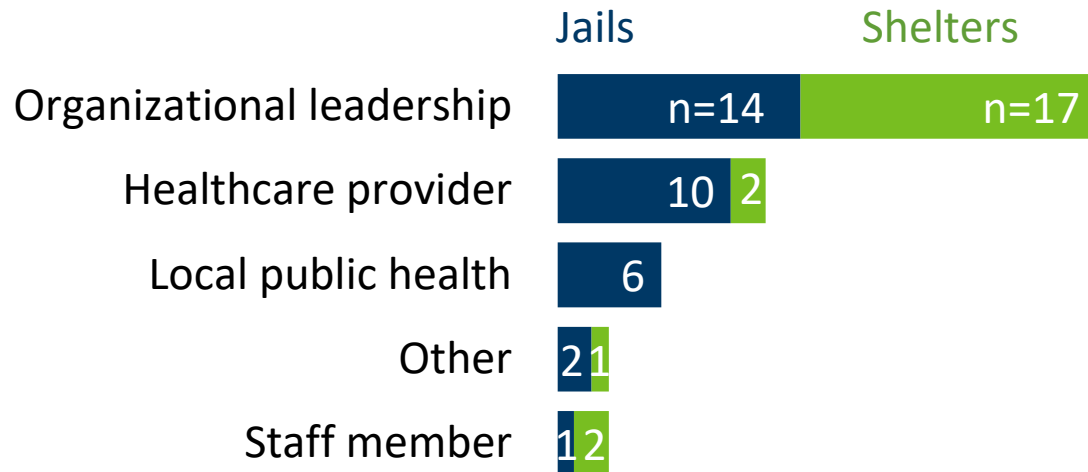
- Overall = 14%
- Jails = **25%**
- Shelters = **9%**

At least one jail from every **District Epi Region** responded to the survey, while most shelters were in the metro area.



Who did we hear from?

Most respondents were in positions of leadership.

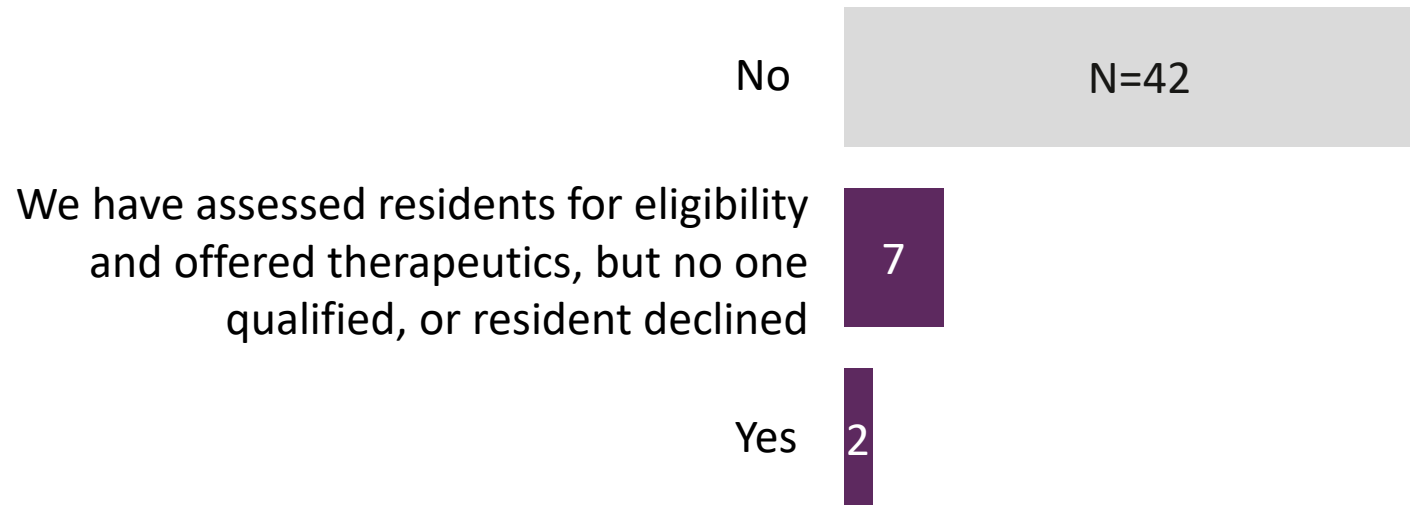


Whose perspectives are missing?

- Shelter residents
- People who are incarcerated
- Shelters outside of Metropolitan area
- Local clinics / healthcare providers
- Staff members

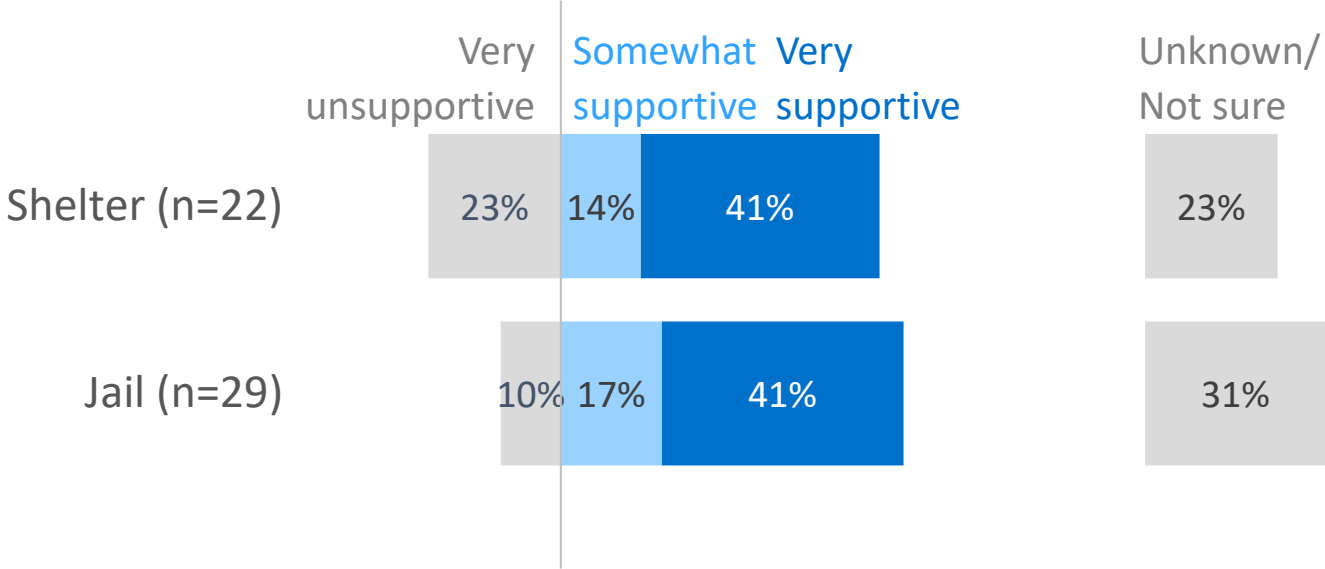
Facilities reported little experience helping residents access COVID-19 therapeutics in the past

“Has your facility helped residents access COVID-19 therapeutics in the past?”



Opportunity: Facilities see it as their role to help residents access therapeutics

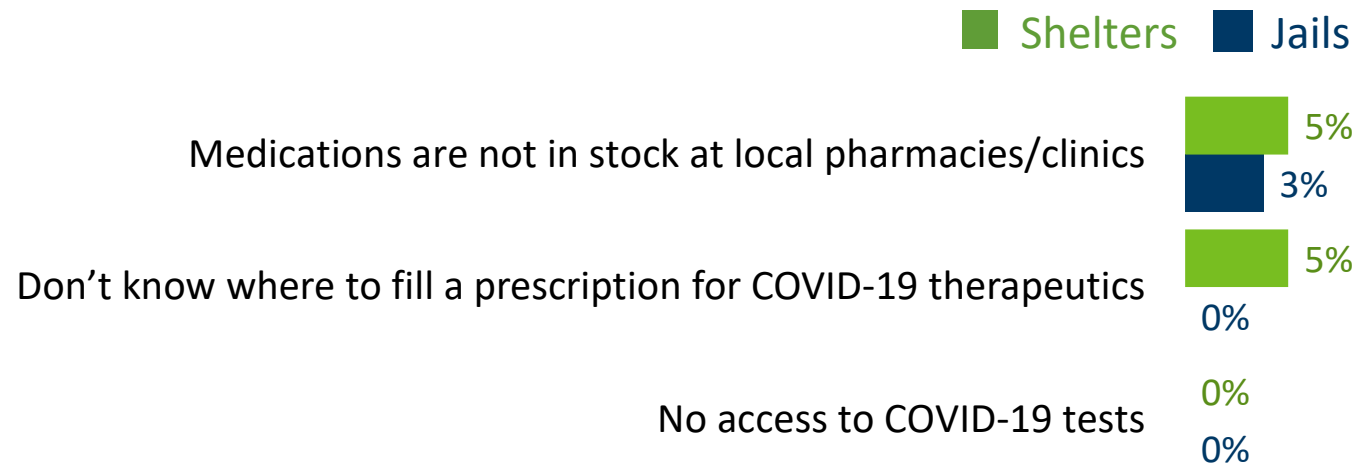
Over half of respondents reported that **leadership is supportive** of including therapeutics in the facility's long-term COVID-19 management plan.



“Our role is to help residents with things that would make finding and keeping safe housing. That includes their health.”

Opportunity: Facilities know how to access COVID-19 tests and where to fill prescriptions

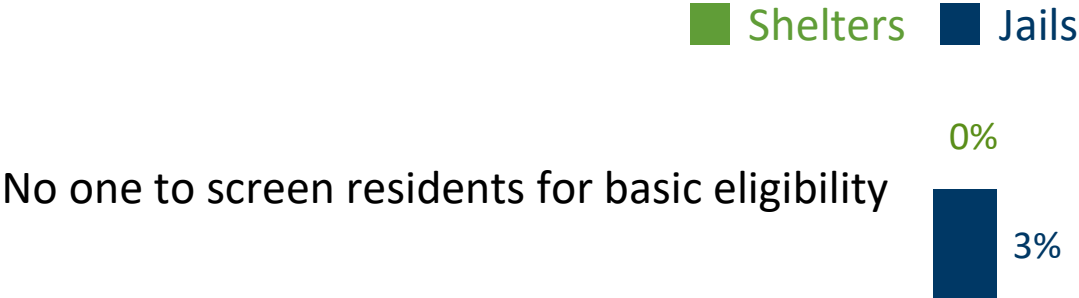
Few respondents reported challenges accessing tests or knowing where to fill prescriptions.



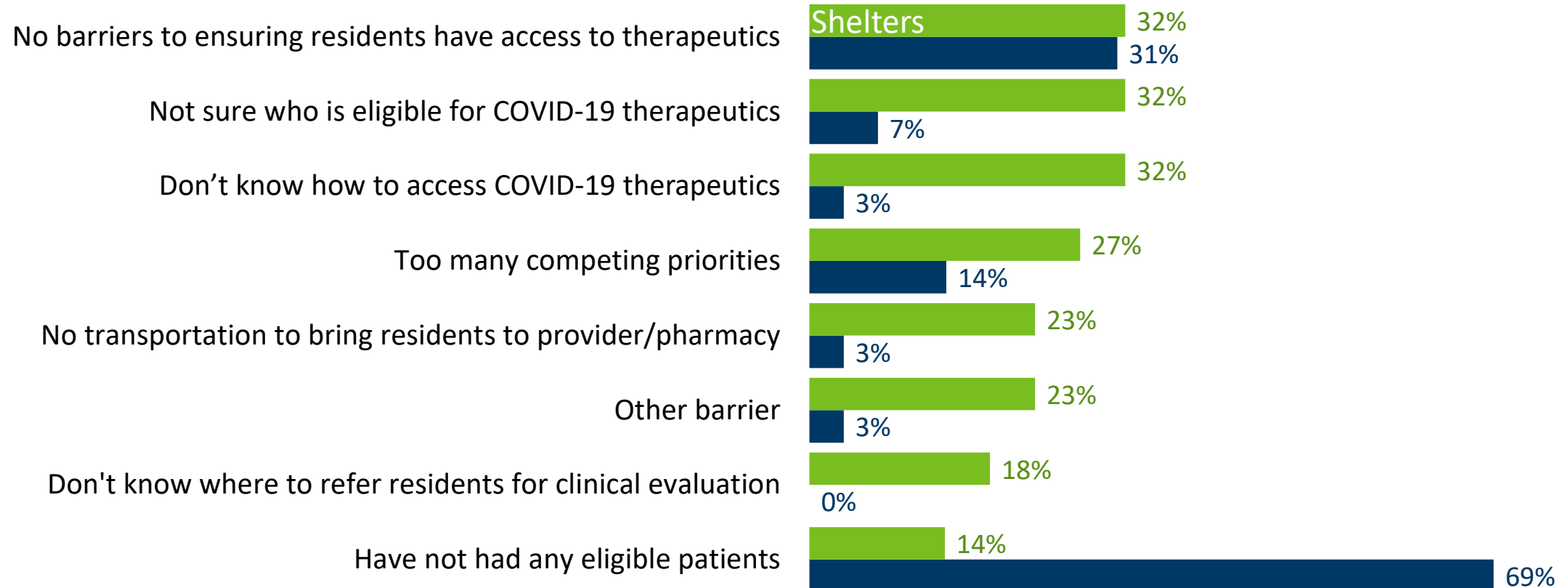
“Local Public Health plays a big part in accessing therapeutics. Our agency uses Public Health to test and treat if needed.”

Opportunity: Facilities have someone to screen for basic eligibility

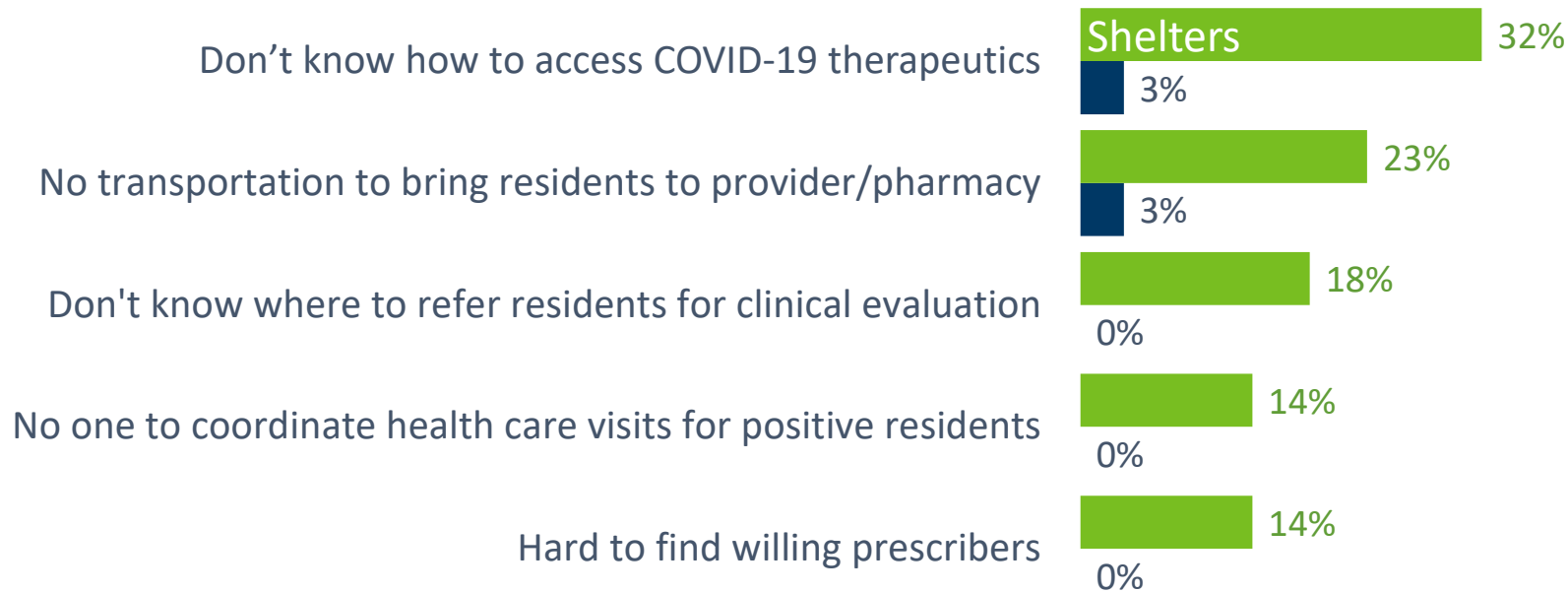
No shelters reported having no one to screen residents for basic eligibility.



Barriers: Shelters reported more barriers than jails.



Barrier: Accessing healthcare providers



“Our volunteer doctor told us to send people to ER to access therapeutics but the ER said no. You must see your personal doctor. Many of our folks don't have a personal doctor.”

“To get therapeutics [residents] had to travel all over while ill.”

Solutions: Accessing healthcare providers

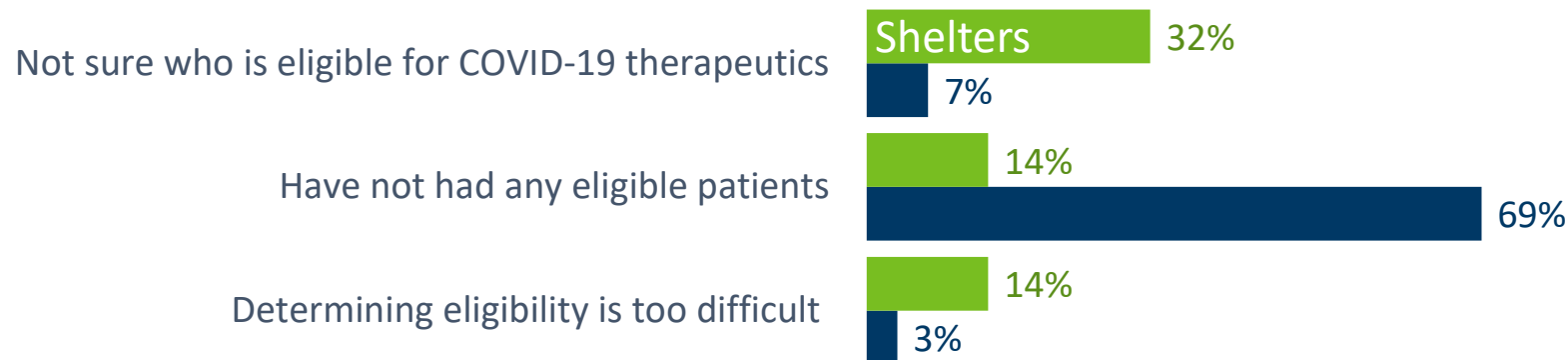
- Make **telehealth** options available to residents (RFP for telehealth provider has been posted!)
- Provide shelters with a **list of referral options** (in progress)
- [OEO funds](#) are available to **reimburse for transportation**

It would be helpful to have
“Prescribing onsite
and delivering to
shelter.”

Barrier: Uncertainty about eligibility criteria

A common **misperception** among survey participants was that that COVID-19 therapeutics are only for residents who are **really sick** (i.e., have more than mild symptoms).

“It's not a barrier so much as we just haven't needed them as the last two cases were very mild symptoms”



“Don't know level of eligibility of our residents.”

Solutions: Clarifying eligibility

- Create a basic eligibility **screening tool** for facilities (in progress)
 - Tests positive for COVID-19
 - Within 5-7 days of symptom onset
 - Has at least one symptom consistent with [mild to moderate](#) COVID-19
 - At [risk of severe illness](#) from COVID-19

Patients with mild illness are eligible!

Solutions: Clarifying eligibility

- **Patient education** for residents
 - Eligibility criteria
 - Risks and benefits of therapeutics

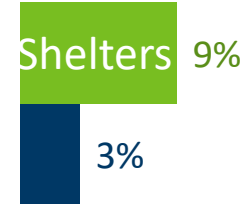
It would be helpful to have:

“Simple list of education that would let a resident know if they would qualify and the urgency of moving quickly.”

“very simple flyer to post about the benefits.”

Barrier: Perceived cost barriers

Expect that therapeutics are too costly for residents



“We are interested in therapeutics not sure if we can afford them”

“Identifying and removing barriers that complicate access to the therapeutic including transportation assistance, sliding scale for purchasing therapeutics”

“Offer reduced cost”

Solutions to perceived cost barriers

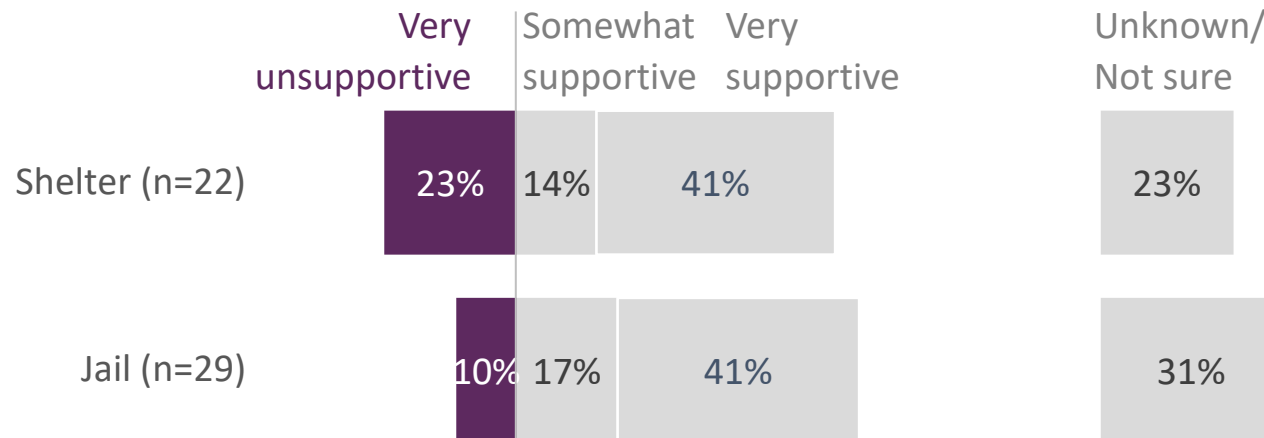
- Provide **education** on cost of therapeutics
 - Most COVID-19 medications are free, but there could be other costs or fees. If patient has insurance, they should provide that information when you get the medication. If they do not have insurance, they should ask the health care provider or pharmacist about any costs.
- There is **no cost** for testing, assessment or dispensing medication at the 5 [community testing sites with Test to Treat](#) capability.

Barrier: Competing priorities and staffing challenges



It would be helpful to:
 "...avoid extra burden and cost to [facilities] already understaffed."

Some shelter leadership are **very unsupportive** of including therapeutics in their facility's long-term COVID-19 management plan.



Solutions to competing priorities and staffing challenges

- HHSI pop up testing – includes staff to collect specimens
- Emergency staffing pool
- OEO [Outbreak Funds](#) (flexible funding)
- Referring residents to Test to Treat sites
- Organizational leadership can do more to communicate their support for therapeutics

It would be helpful to have:

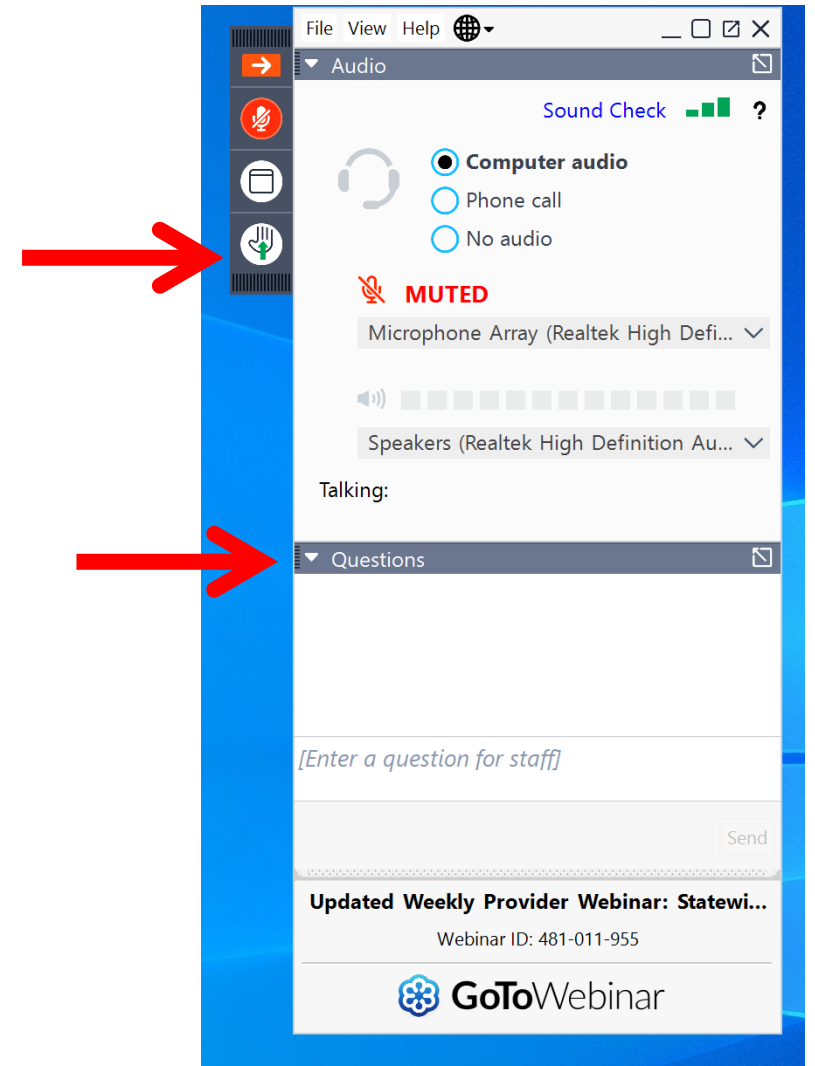
“Funding for staffing to allow for on-going testing, assessments and promoting educational material.”

Questions for you!

- What stands out to you from these results?
- What, if anything is missing that you think we should know about?
- What other solutions would be helpful to you?

Questions and answers

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Thank you!