

Health and Wellbeing of First Nations Children in Foster Homes

Chart Pack: Preliminary findings from a CanFos-2011 Study.

January 2025

Scientific Team

Ashley Quinn, PhD (co-Principal Investigator), Andrea Evans MDCM (co-Principal Investigator), Nicole Racine, PhD (Co-Investigator), Nico Trocmé PhD (Co-Investigator), Cindy Blackstock, PhD (Co-Investigator), Kofi Antwi-Boasiako, PhD (Co-Investigator)

Funding

The CanFos-2011 was funded by a Research Growth Award from the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, and the dissemination of these data to First Nations peoples and agencies is funded by a Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Planning and Disseminations Grant 526063 awarded to Drs. Quinn and Evans. The data and views expressed in this document do not necessarily reflect those of these funding institutions.

An Invitation

COME to a sharing circle



National Centre for
Truth *and* Reconciliation

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

Thurs. March 27th, 2025 2:30pm

Food will be served. Limited space and travel/accommodations available.

*Note the International Meeting on Indigenous Child Health (IMICH) is in Winnipeg March 28-30th 2025.

cps.ca/en/imich/program



CONNECT with us

aevans2@uottawa.ca

for more information.

Ashley Quinn & Andrea Evans

List of Tables, Figures, and Charts

Part 1: Data Overview

Figure 1: Overview of Numbers (Cohort Flow Chart)

Figure 2: Distribution of First Nations children in Foster Homes and Not in Foster Homes, by Province and Territory.

Table 1: Relative Rate of First Nations children in Foster Homes Compared to White Children

Figure 3: Percentage of First Nations children in Foster Homes

Part 2: Percentage Charts of Child Characteristics

First Nations Children in Foster Home vs Not In Foster Home

Chart 1: Status Indian

Chart 2: Living on Reserve

Chart 3: Not Employed, Not in Education, and Not in Training

Chart 4: Personal Income Quintile

Chart 5: History of Relocation 1 year ago

Chart 6: History of Relocation 5 years ago

Chart 7: Participation in Labour Market

Part 3: Percentage Charts: of Household Characteristics

Chart 8: Household Income Quintile

Chart 9: Major Repairs Needed

Chart 10: Unsuitable Housing

Chart 11: More than 1 Person per Room

Part 4: Hospitalizations

Table 2: Rates and Reasons for Hospitalizations

Appendix

A1: Data Sources Information

A2: National Household Survey 'foster child' question

A3: National Household Survey questions

A4: Cohort Study Timeline

Executive Summary

We present preliminary results of a first study on the health of children in foster homes across Canada (CanFos) which uses existing data from the Canadian Census files and hospital databases. This study was conceptualized and carried out by researchers at the University of Ottawa, University of Toronto, and McGill University. The data at this time has not been published or publicly disseminated. The data in this chart pack is for sharing with First Nations communities. – January 21 2025.

Please note these are preliminary results and are subject to change.

Guiding Principles:

We remember **every number is a child**
with people who care about them.

We aim to capture a child's health and wellbeing.

We will not forget those that are not represented in this data.

We will work to make a difference.

Methodology

Children under the age of 18 were identified on the 2011 Canadian Census file called the National Household Survey. If a child was identified as being a 'foster child' and identified as having First Nations identity by the person answering the survey, they shown in this document as First Nations children in foster homes. All provinces and territories in Canada are included, as well as most First Nations Reserves, with the exception of Quebec. 25 First Nations Reserves are not included due to national disasters or due to access not granted at the time of the survey. We follow the children identified for about 6 ½ years from May 2011 to December 2017 to capture any hospitalization events.

Considerations

The following should be taken into account when understanding this data:

- As there is no category for Kinship or Customary Care placement on the National Household Survey, our data may include some children in these placements.
- The data does not include children in group home settings or institutional care.
- A child or youth who is hospitalized after they were identified on the National Household Survey may or may not have been in a foster home at that time, therefore they are referred to as children or youth “with foster home experience”.
- The survey respondent identified a child’s Indigeneity.
- The household characteristics for children in foster homes represents that of the foster home.
- Survey weights are applied (raw numbers of survey responses are multiplied) to reflect the Canadian population.

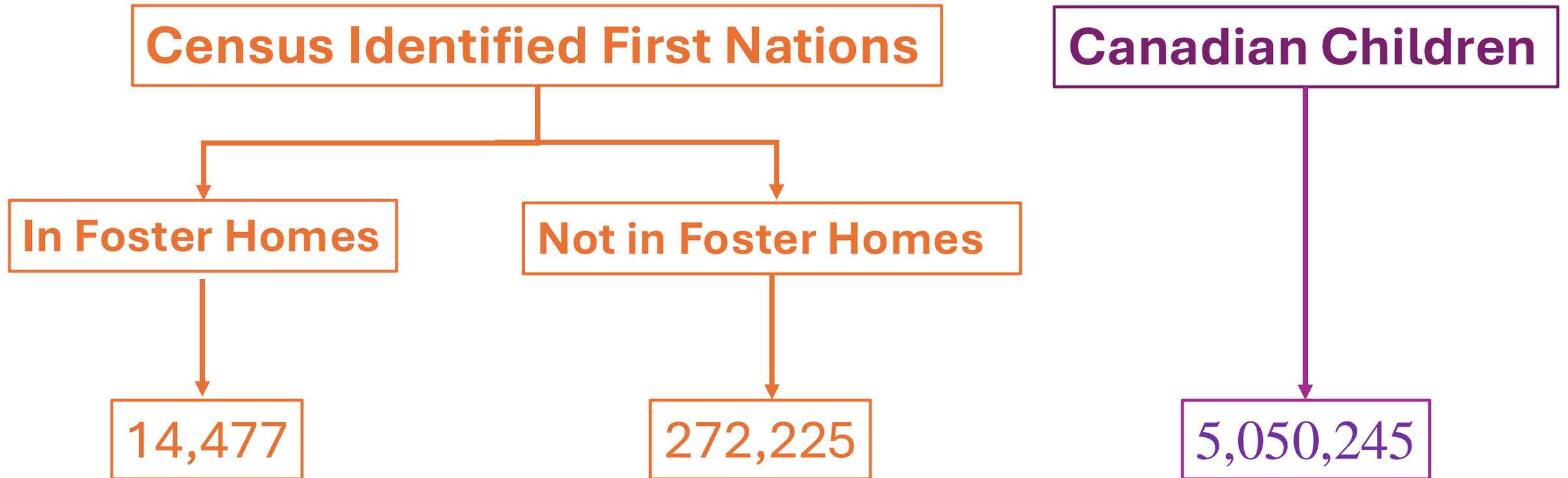
Data Sources

- 2011 National Household Survey conducted May 20, 2011
- Canadian Institute for Health Information Discharge Abstract Database May 2011 to December 2017
- Data is linked (connected) through the Canadian Census Health and Environment Cohorts at Statistics Canada through probabilistic linkage

Please see the Appendix for further information.

Part 1: Data Overview

Figure 1: Overview of Numbers (Cohort Flow Chart)

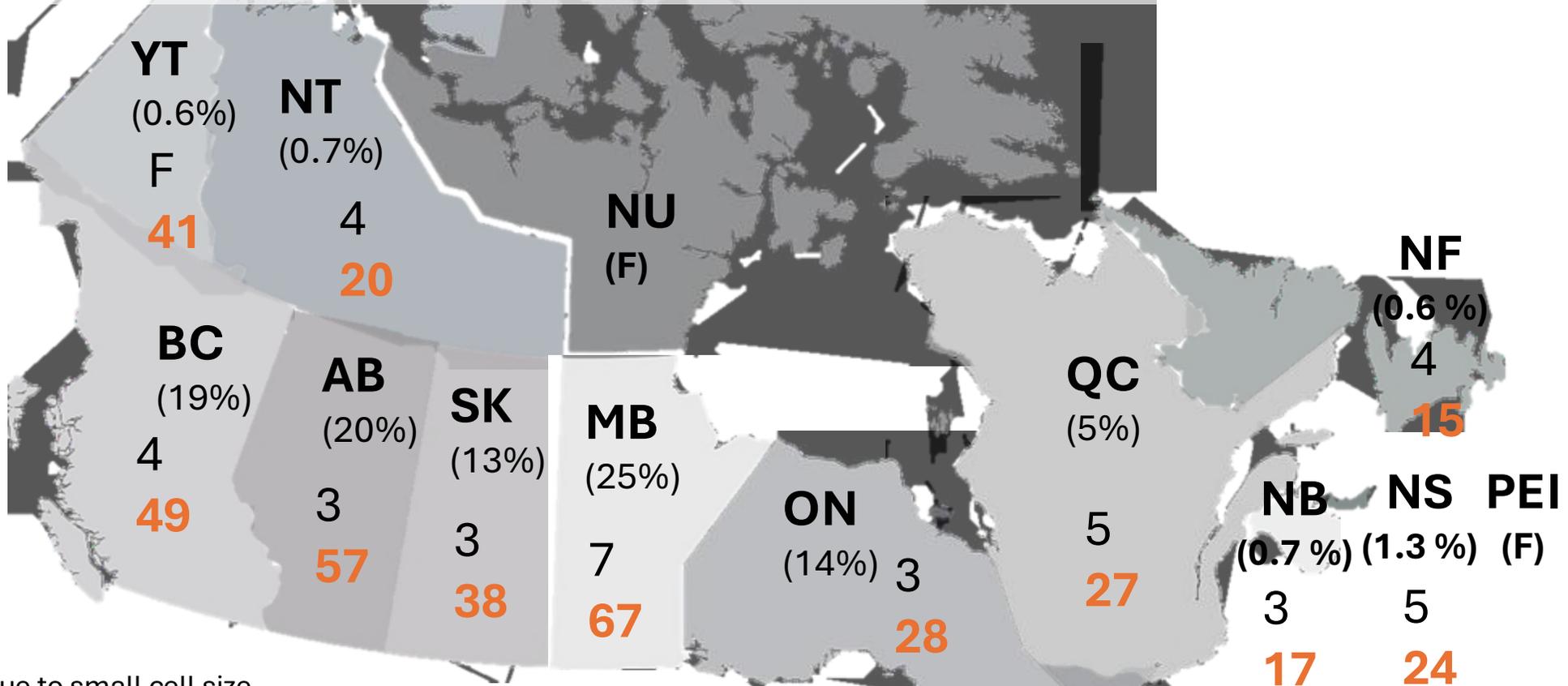


*Survey weights are applied

Preliminary Data, CanFos-2011. DRAFT. Do not distribute.

Figure 2: Distribution of First Nations Children in foster homes and not in foster homes, by province and territory.

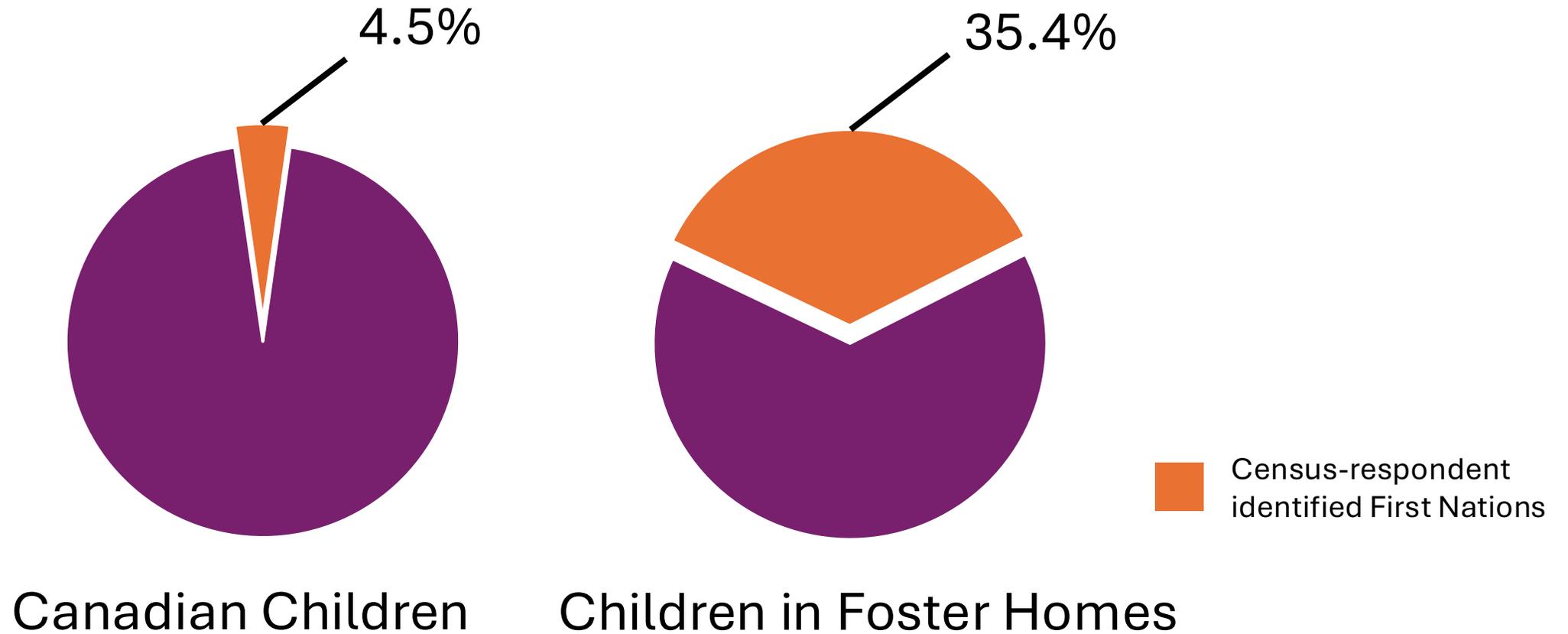
Legend: Numbers are rates per 1000 of living in a foster home. Non-First Nation Children are in black vs **First Nations Children in orange**. (%) is the proportion of all First Nation children in foster homes living in that province/territory)



F: suppressed due to small cell size
Only this slide contains Quebec data.

*Preliminary Data, CanFos-2011. DRAFT. Do not distribute.

Figure 3: Percentage of First Nations Children in Foster Homes



*Preliminary Data, CanFos-2011. DRAFT. Do not distribute.

Table 1: Relative Rate of First Nations Children in Foster Homes compared to White Children

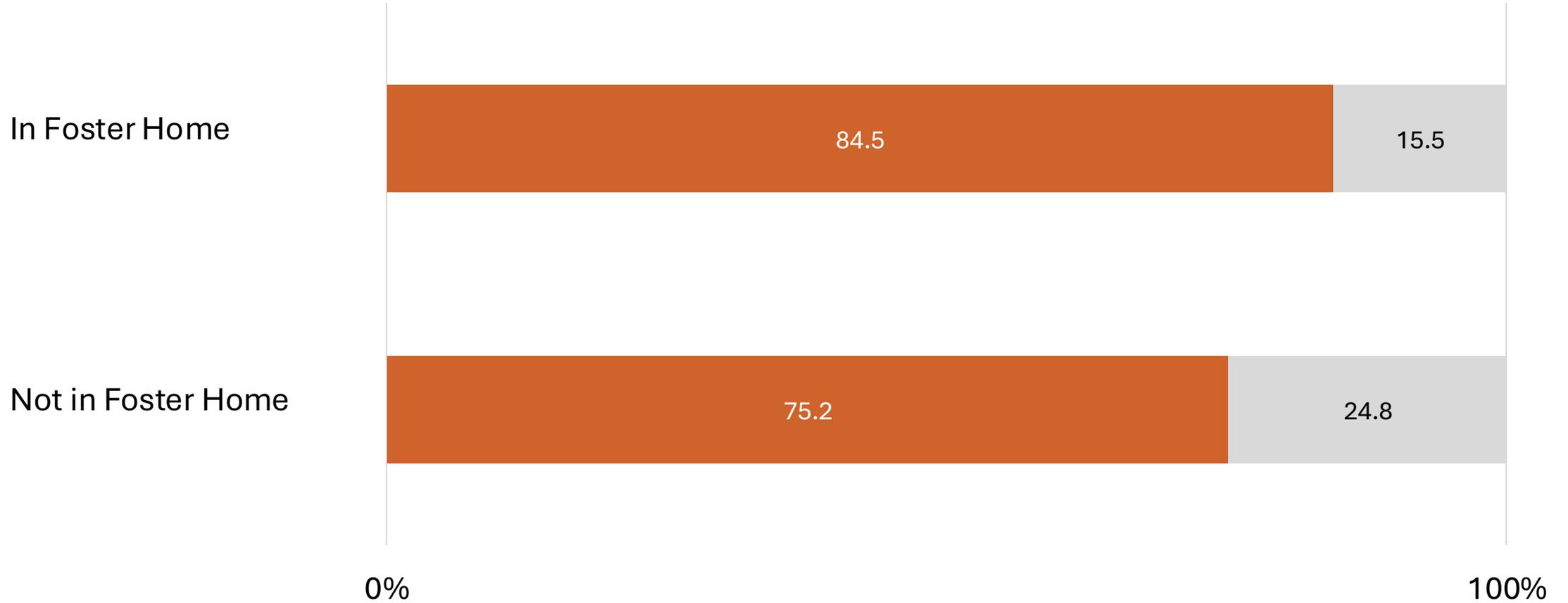
	Number In Foster Homes	Number Not In Foster Homes	Foster Home Rate per 1,000	Relative Rate (RR)	95% Confidence Interval
White	11,595	3,514,803	3.3	REFERENT	REFERENT
First Nations	14,477	272,225	50.5	15.4	9.3-25.4

→ Across Canada, First Nations children are **15.4 times** (95% CI 9.27-25.43) more likely to be in a private dwelling foster home compared to White children.

*Preliminary Data, CanFos-2011. DRAFT. Do not distribute.

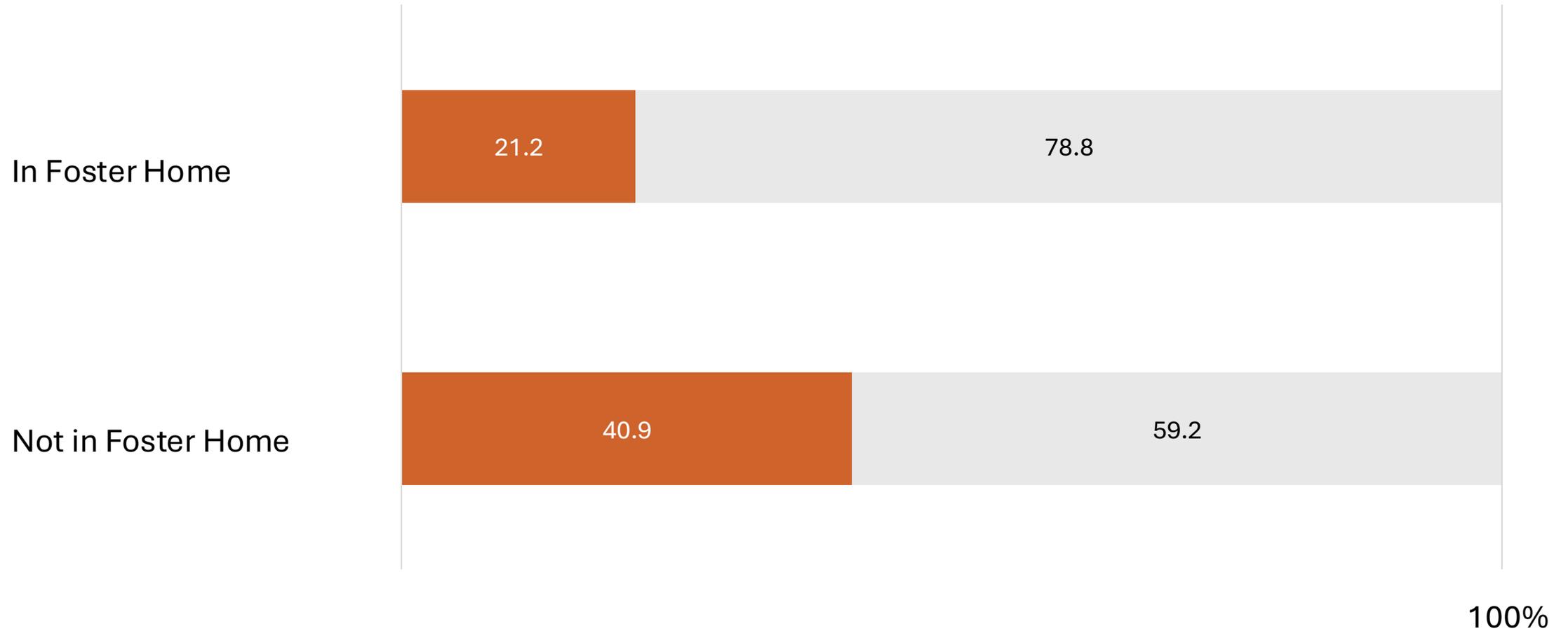
Part 2: Percentage Charts of Child Characteristics

Chart 1: Status Indian (percentage)



*Preliminary Data, CanFos-2011. DRAFT. Do not distribute.

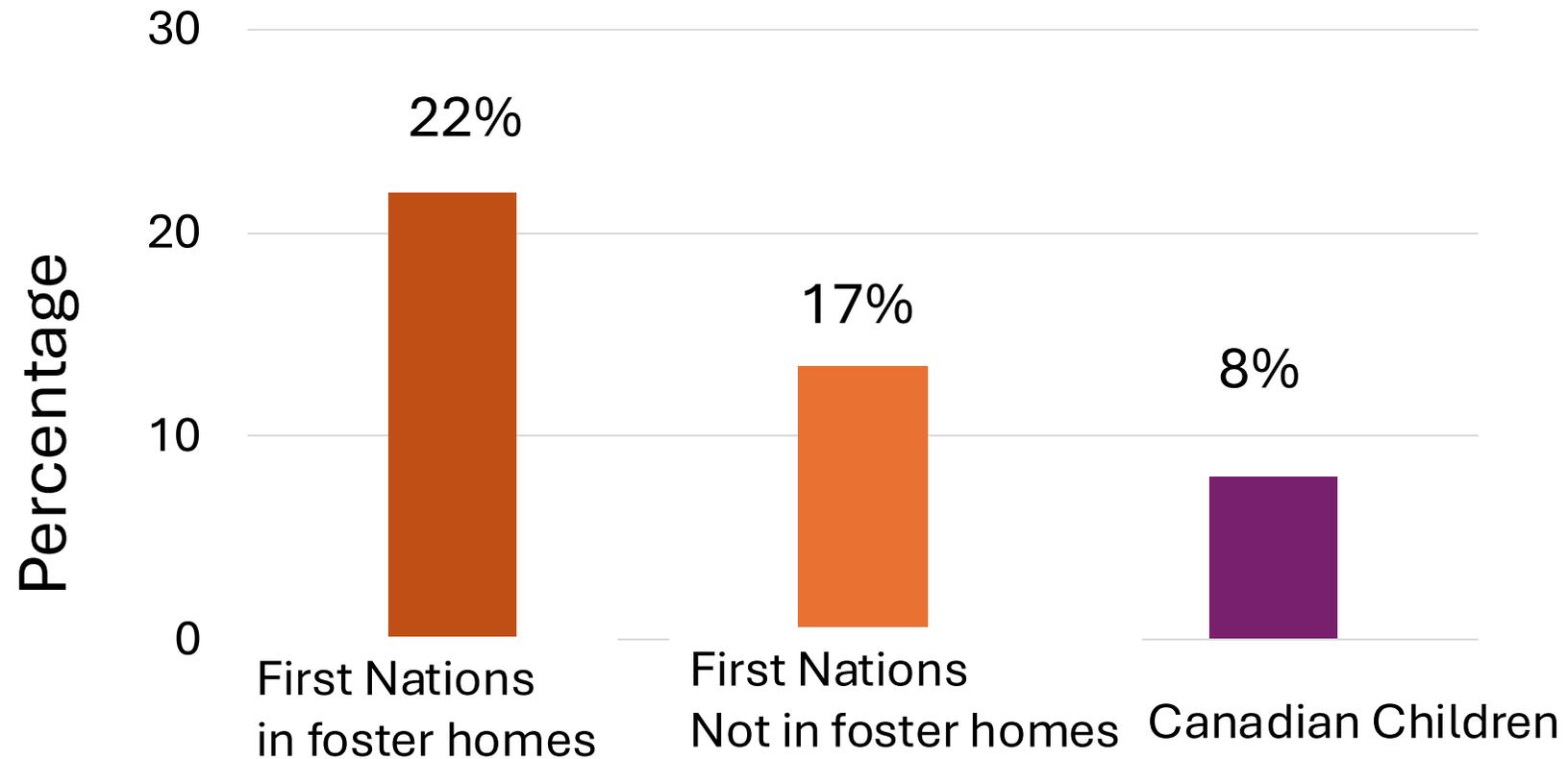
Chart 2: Living on-reserve (percentage)



*Preliminary Data, CanFos-2011. DRAFT. Do not distribute.

Chart 3: Not employed, not in education, and not in training

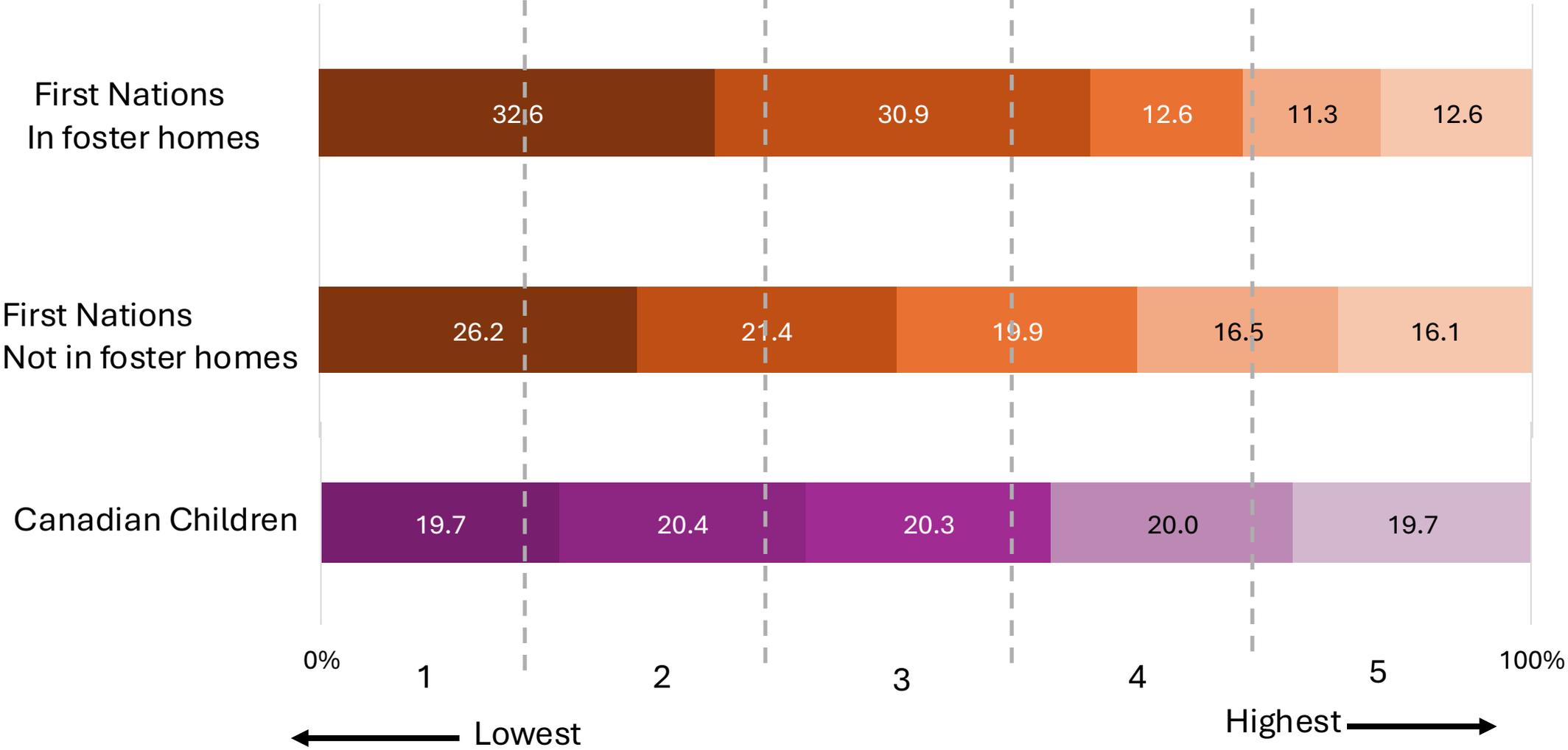
Youth 15 -18 years of age



*Preliminary Data, CanFos-2011. DRAFT. Do not distribute.

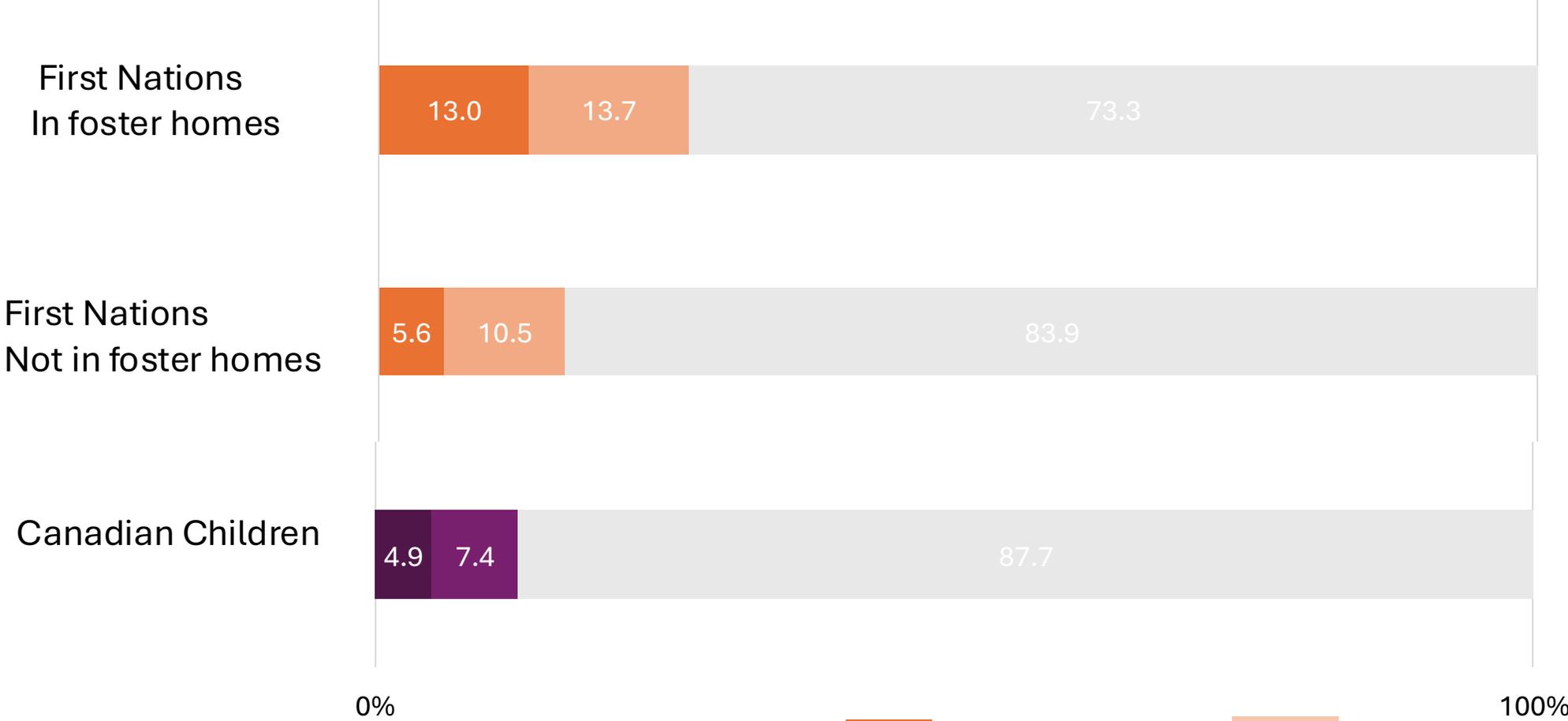
Chart 4: Personal Income Quintile

Youth 15-18 years of age



*Preliminary Data, CanFos-2011. DRAFT. Do not distribute.

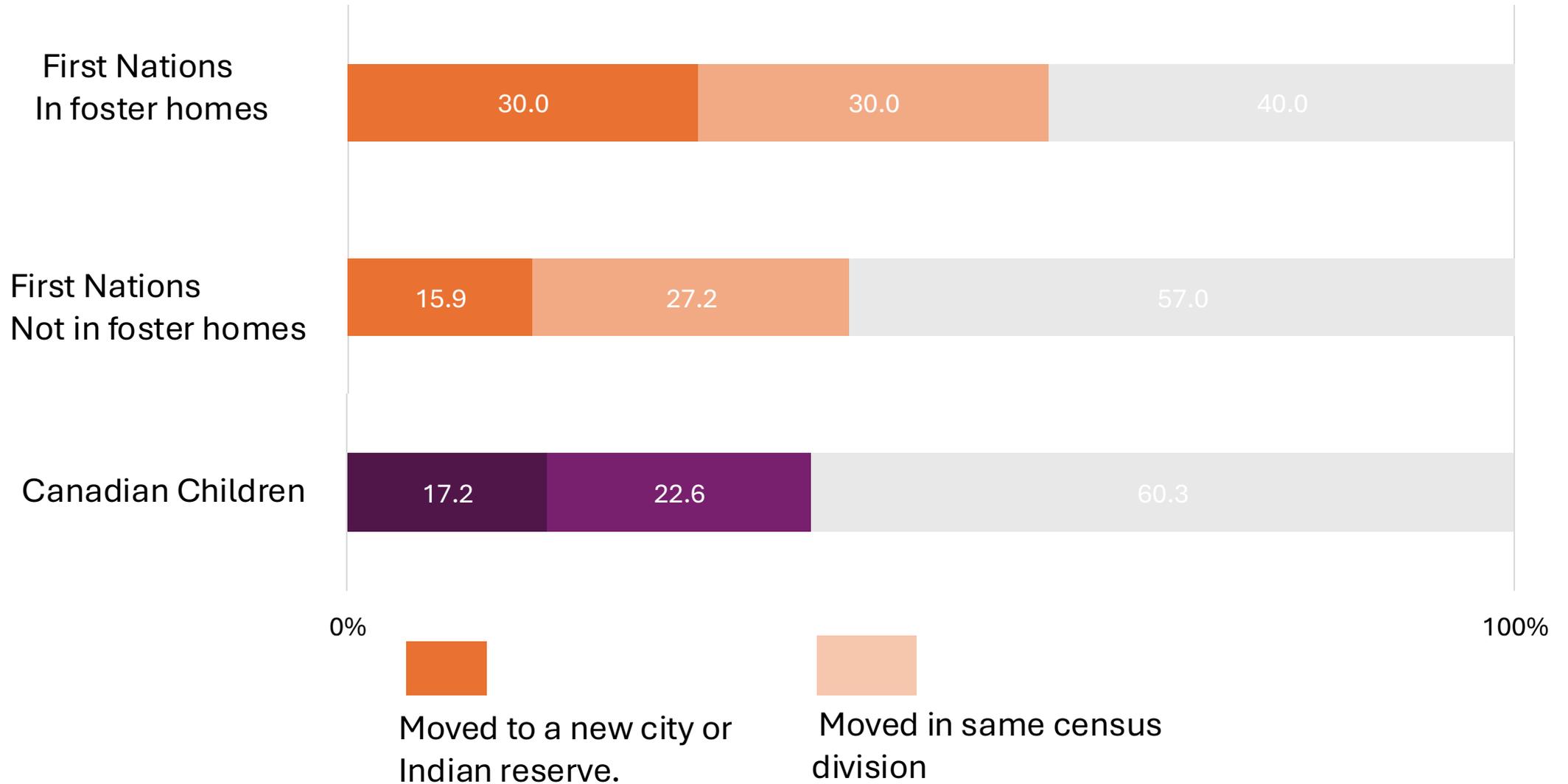
Chart 5: History of Relocation 1 year ago



*Preliminary Data, CanFos-2011. DRAFT. Do not distribute.

Moved to a new city or Indian reserve. Moved in same census division

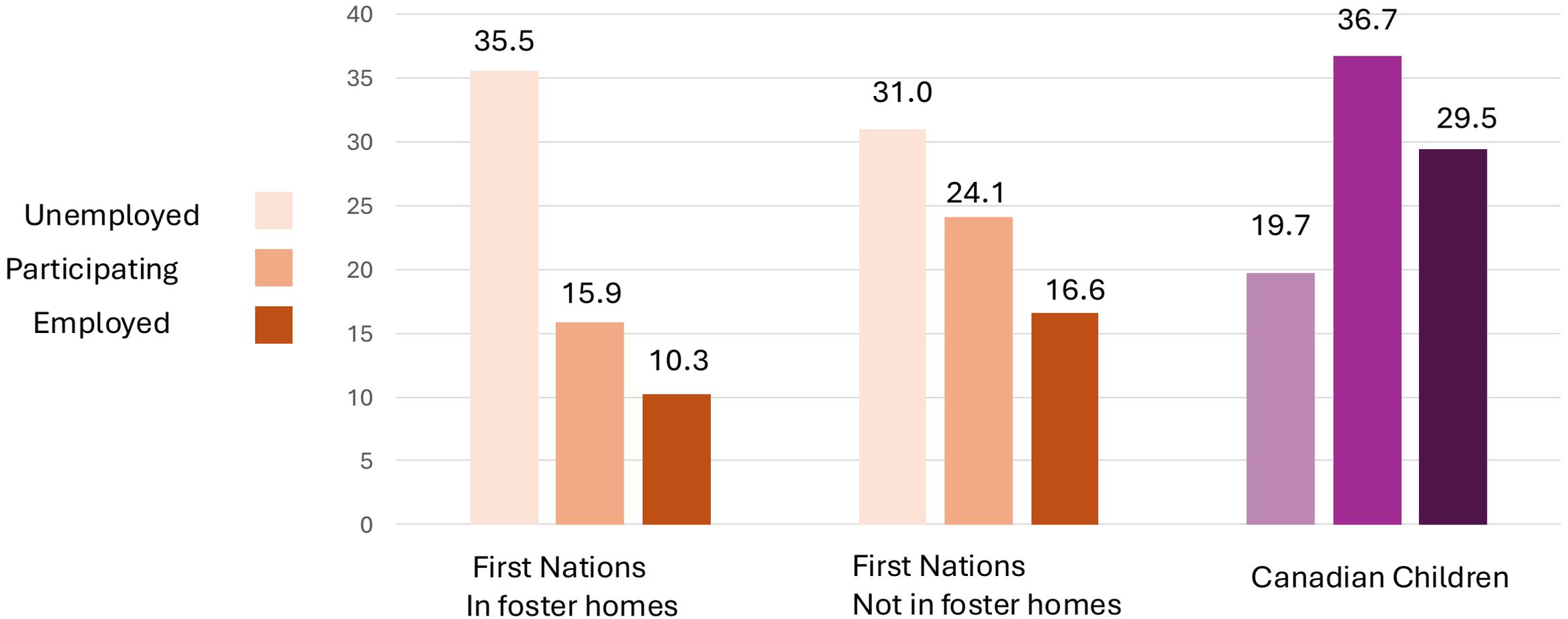
Chart 6: History of Relocation 5 years ago



*Preliminary Data, CanFos-2011. DRAFT. Do not distribute.

Chart 7: Participation in Labour Market

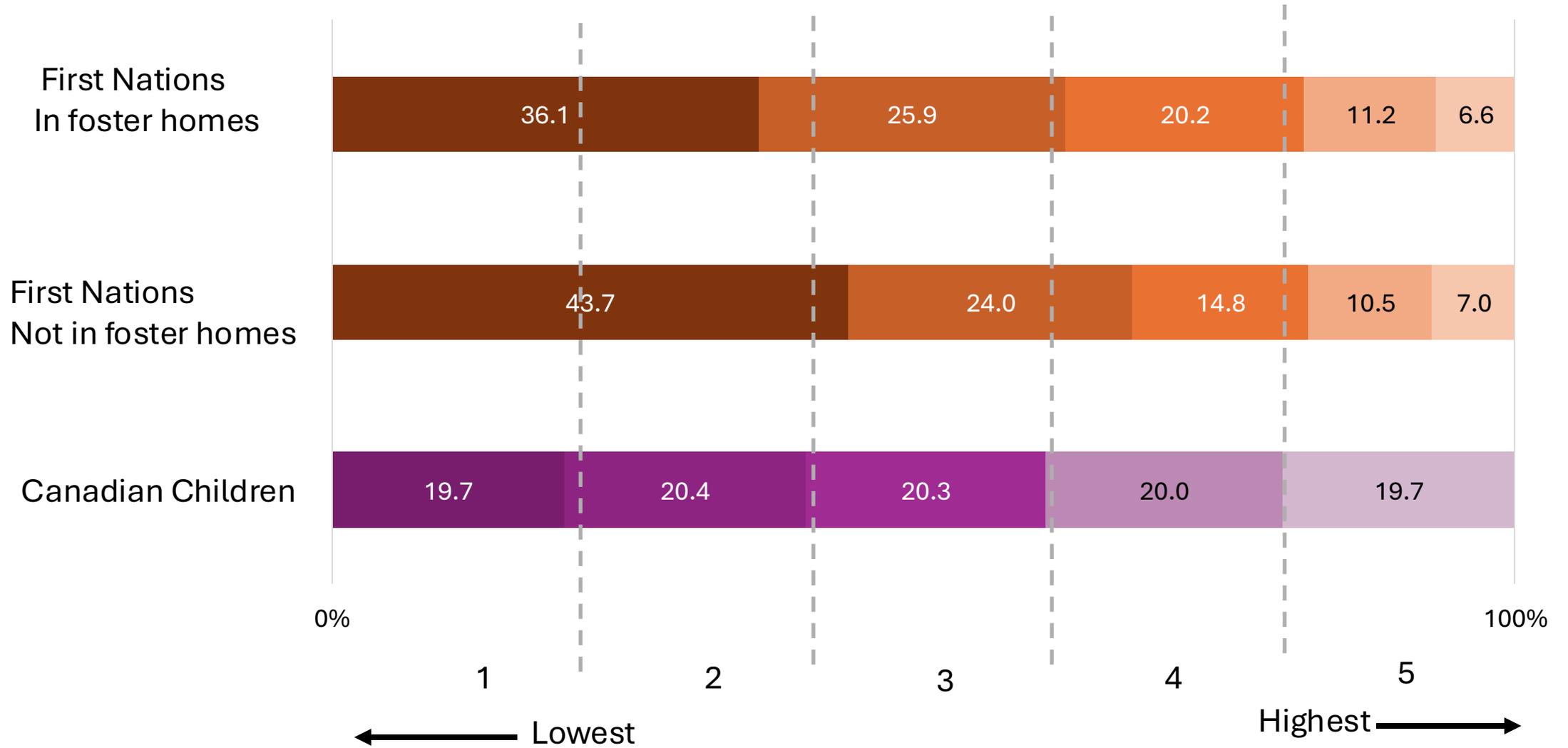
Youth 15-18 years old



*Preliminary Data, CanFos-2011. DRAFT. Do not distribute.

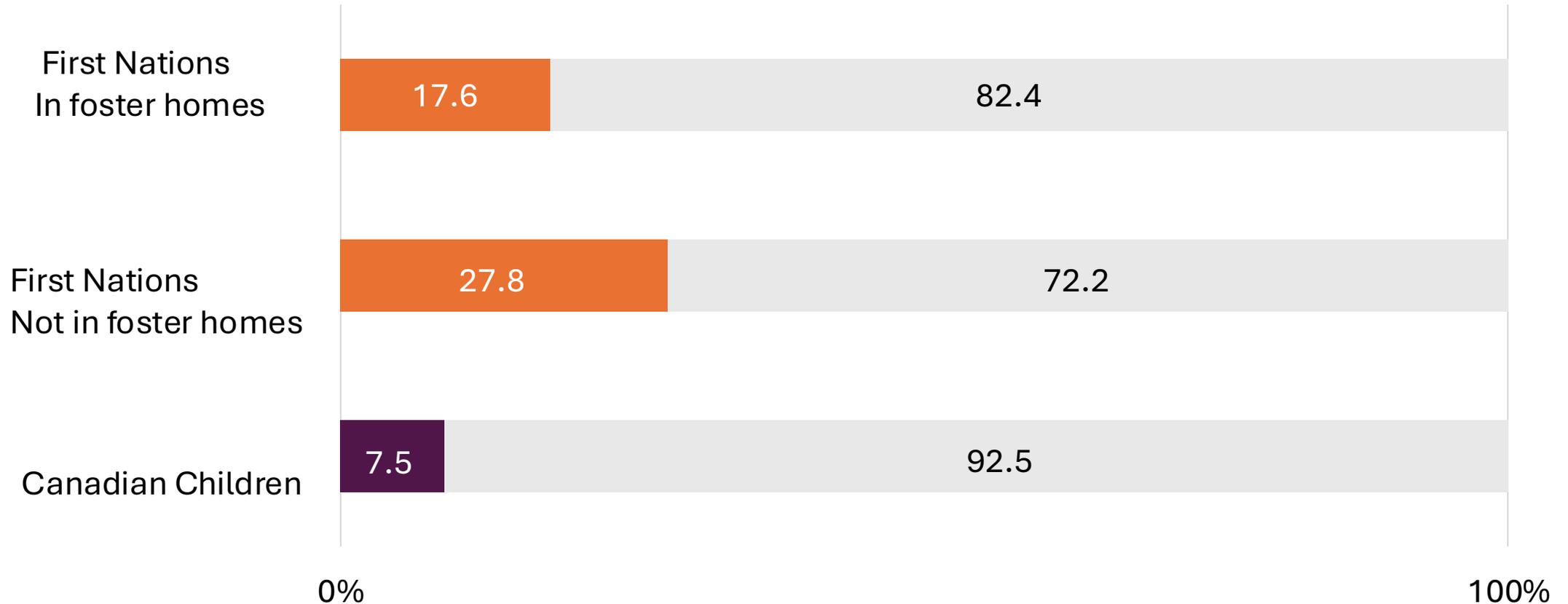
Part 2: Percentage Charts of Household Characteristics

Chart 8: Household Income Quintile



*Preliminary Data, CanFos-2011. DRAFT. Do not distribute.

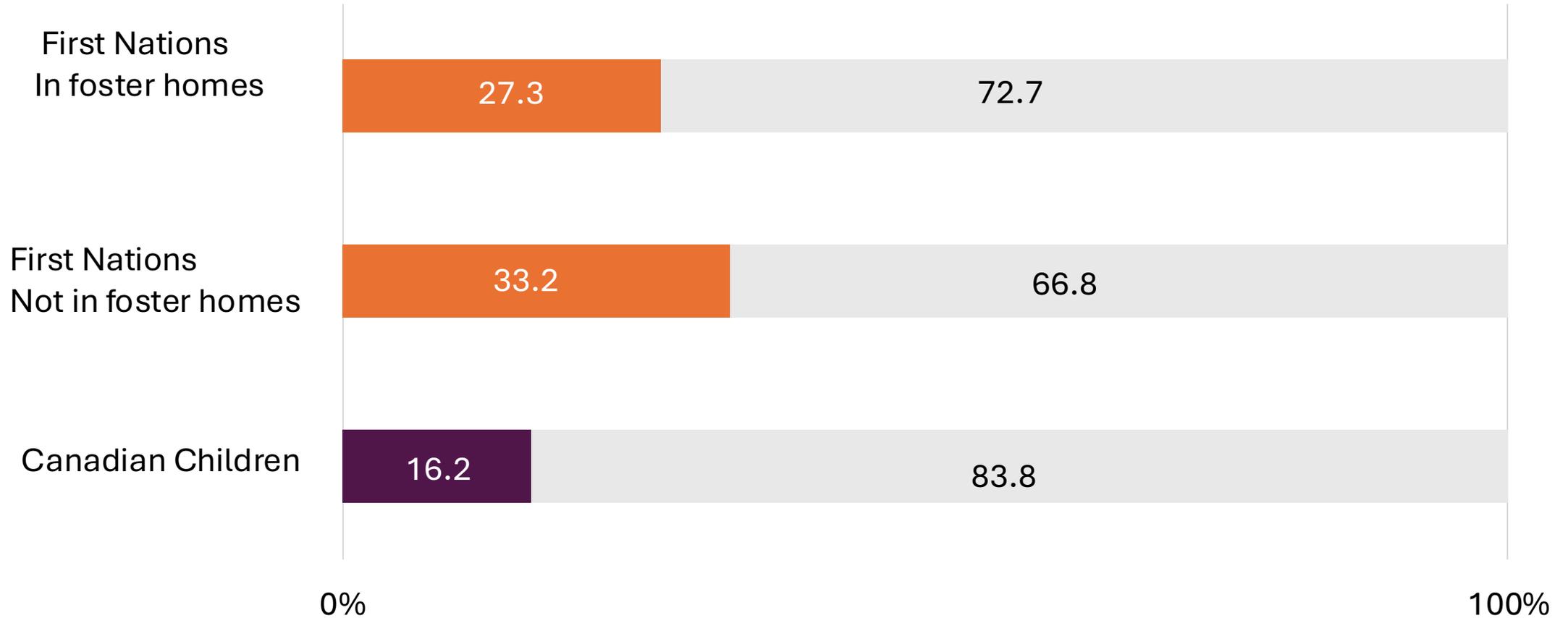
Chart 9: Major Repairs Needed to Home



Major repairs needed as defined by the survey respondent, including repairs such as defective plumbing, electrical wiring, and structural repairs to walls, floors, or ceilings.

*Preliminary Data, CanFos-2011. DRAFT. Do not distribute.

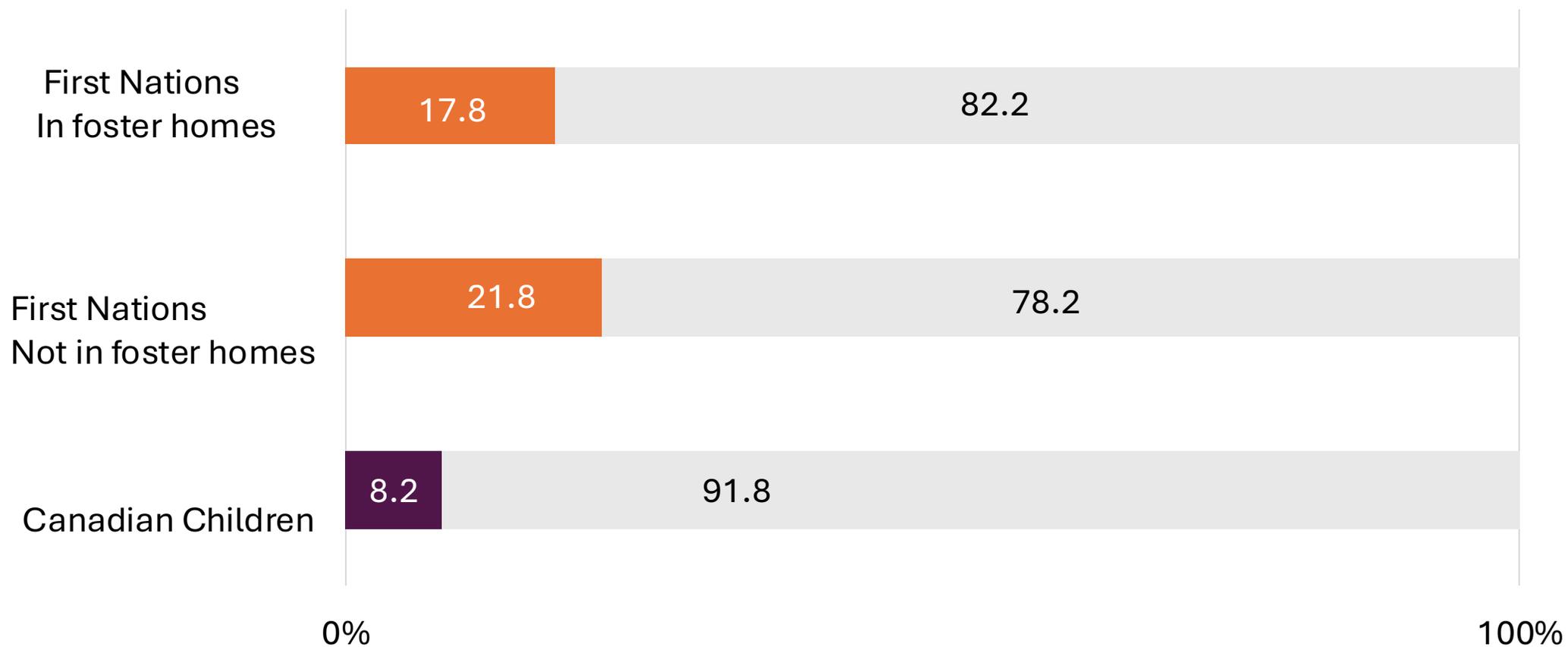
Chart 10: Unsuitable Housing



Housing was deemed unsuitable by Statistics Canada if the house had over one bedroom shortfall due to bedroom criteria: including a maximum of two persons per bedroom, children over 5 years of age of opposite sex not sharing a bedroom, and adults > 18 years of age have a separate bedroom unless they are spouse or common-law.

*Preliminary Data, CanFos-2011. DRAFT. Do not distribute.

Chart 11: More than 1 person per room



*Preliminary Data, CanFos-2011. DRAFT. Do not distribute.

Table 2: Reasons for Hospitalization.

Children and young adults up to 24 years of age with foster home experience in 2011, from 2011-2017, across Canada, including First Nations reserves, except for Quebec.

	First Nations				Canadian Children	
	With foster home experience		No foster home experience		No foster home experience	
Hospitalization rate age standardized / 100 person years	5.8		4.9		2.4	
Reasons for Hospitalization	Rank	%	Rank	%	Rank	%
Pregnancy, childbirth, reproductive health	1	20.6	1	25.2	1	12.7
Major depressive disorder	2	3.4	2	2.8	3	3.2
Pneumonia	3	3.3	3	2.8	4	2.6
Adjustment disorder	4	2.6	5	2.3	9	1.7
Mental and behavioural disorders due to alcohol	5	2.6	6	1.2	20	0.3

*Preliminary Data, CanFos-2011, do not distribute.

Appendix

A1: Data Sources Information

National Household Survey

<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/2011/dp-pd/dt-td/Index-eng.cfm>

Canadian Institute for Health Information Discharge Abstract Database

<https://www.cihi.ca/en/discharge-abstract-database-dad-metadata>

Canadian Census Health and Environments Cohorts (CanCHECs)

<https://www.statcan.gc.ca/en/microdata/data-centres/data/cancheec>

A3: National Household Survey questions

Variable	Survey Question	Survey Answers
Indigeneity	Is this person an Aboriginal person, that is, First Nations (North American Indian), Métis or Inuk (Inuit)? Mark x the circle that best describe(s) this person now.	No, not an Aboriginal person First Nations (North American Indian) Métis Inuk
Mobility	Where did this person live 1 year ago, that is on May 10, 2020 Where did this person live 5 years ago, that is on May 10, 2006.	Born after May 10, 2020 Lived at the same address as now Lived at a different address in the same city, town, village, township, municipality or Indian reserve Lived in a different city, town, village, township municipality or Indian reserve in Canada Lived outside of Canada
Education or Training	At any time since September 2010, has this person attended a school, college, CEGEP or university?	Yes attended elementary, junior high school or high school Yes attended trade school, business school, community college, technical Institute, CEGEP or other non-university institution Yes attended university No, did not attend school at any time since September 2010
Employment	Did this person look for paid work during the four weeks from April 10 th to May 7 th , 2011?	No Yes, looked for full-time work Yes, looked for part-time work (less than 30 hours per week)
	Could this person have started a job during the week of May 1 st to May 7 th 2011 had one been available?	No Yes

A3: National Household Survey questions

Variable	Survey Question	Survey Answers
Dwelling Suitability	<p>Combination of number of people in the household and number of rooms.</p> <p>How many rooms are there in this dwelling? Include kitchen, bedrooms, finished rooms in attic or basement etc. Do not count bathrooms, vestibule and rooms used solely for business purposes. How many of these rooms are bedrooms? Include all rooms design as a bedroom even if they are now used for something else. Also include basement bedrooms.</p>	<p>Number of rooms entered.</p> <p>*Not suitable housing for all Canadians is defined by Statistics Canada as the house having over one bedroom shortfall due to bedroom criteria: including a maximum of two persons per bedroom, children over 5 years of age of opposite sex not sharing a bedroom, and adults > 18 years of age have a separate bedroom unless they are spouse or common-law.</p>
Dwelling in need of repairs	Is this dwelling in need of any repairs?	<p>No, only regular maintenance is needed (Painting, furnace cleaning, etc.)</p> <p>Yes, minor repairs are needed (missing or loose floor tiles, bricks or shingles, defective steps, railing or siding, etc.)</p> <p>Yes, major repairs are needed (defective plumbing or electrical wiring, structural repairs to walls, floors or ceilings, etc)</p>
Language discordance between the child in the foster home	Not on NHS (derived variable).	Discordance was defined if the mother tongue of the child in the foster home was different than the languages spoken by any member of that household (therefore, there would be no discordance if there was at least one member of the home that spoke the child's mother tongue).
Indigeneity discordance between the child in the foster home	Not on NHS (derived variable).	Discordance was defined if the child's survey-respondent identified Indigeneity was not the same as any member of the household, where Indigeneity was measured at the level of Indigeneity subcategories (i.e., First Nations, Métis, Inuit, Other)

A4: Cohort Study Timeline

