

Barriers to Obtaining a State Issued ID While Houseless in Portland, OR.

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Background:

- In Oregon there are 3.4 houseless individuals per 1,000 people; while in Multnomah county the rate is much higher with 5.2 per houseless individuals per 1,000 (Oregon Health Authority, 2017).
- State issued identification is essential to accessing the social services that help individuals overcome houselessness (Darrah-Okike, Soakai, Nakaoka, Dunson-Strane, Tai, and Umemoto, 2018).

Impetus:

- Having an ID allows one to access the following services (Wiltz, 2017):
 - Housing/shelters - Unemployment
 - SNAP - Jobs
 - Medicaid - Medicare
 - Social Security - Disability benefits
- Individuals earning less than \$35,000 annually are more than twice as likely to lack current government-issued photo identification (Citizens Without Proof, 2006).

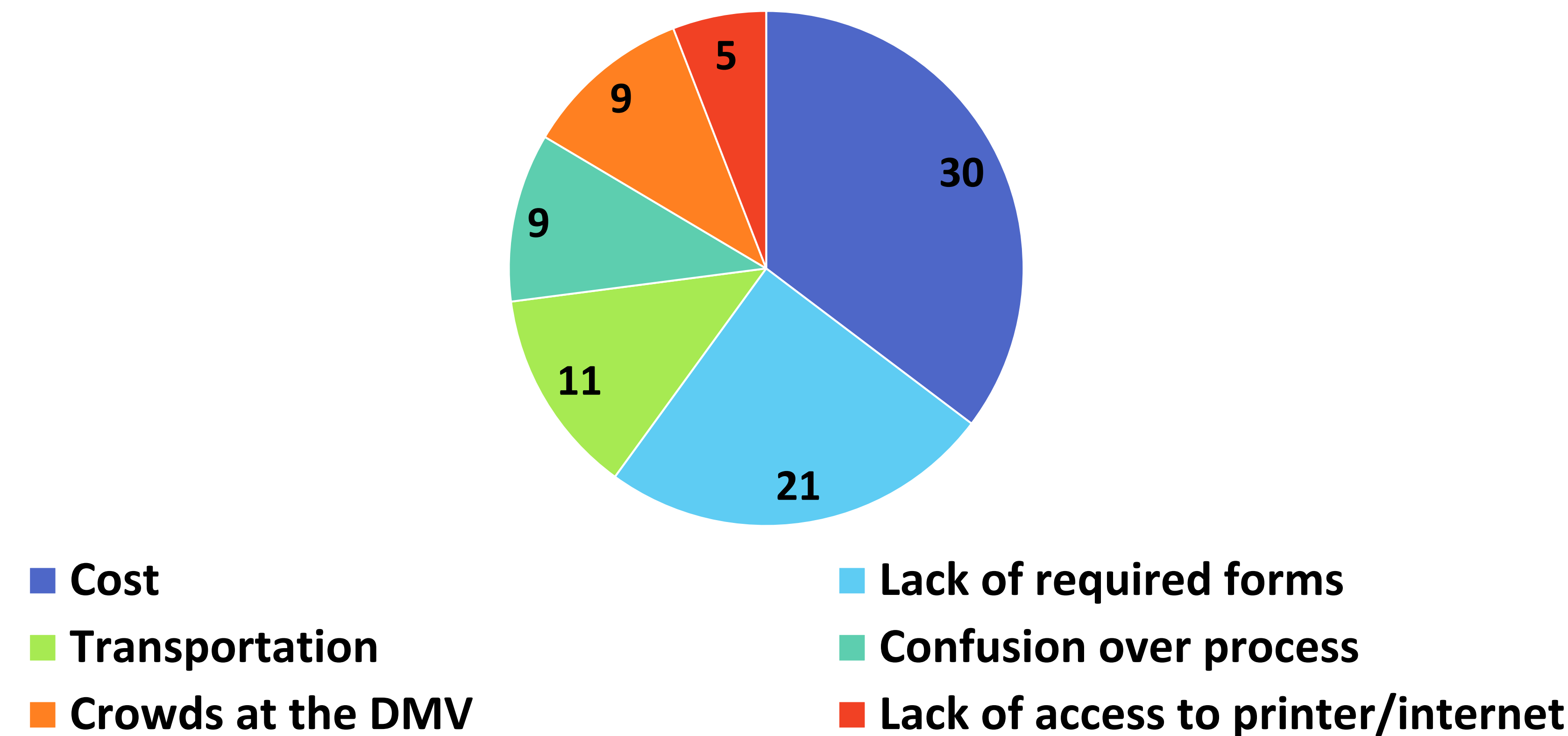
Aim:

- Survey the houseless population in the Oldtown and downtown Portland neighborhoods to gain an understanding of the barriers faced to obtaining and keeping government ID.
- Increase awareness of the barriers among key stakeholders with the aim of identifying areas for improvement.
- Identify realistic next steps and solutions to reduce barriers and improve access to ID's.

“As a homeless person it’s easier to get a fake ID than a real one”-
Anonymous homeless man in Portland, OR May 2019

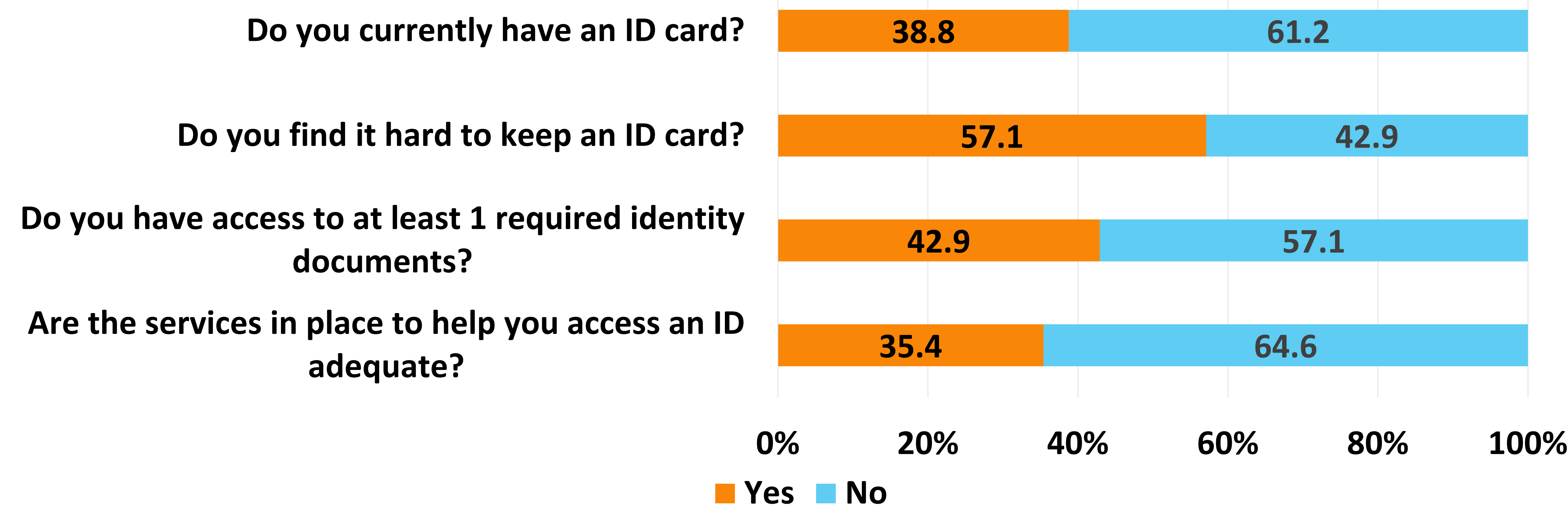
Results:

Participant Reported Barriers to Getting an ID



“Just because someone doesn’t have an ID doesn’t mean they aren’t a person worthy of respect and help.”-
Anonymous homeless woman Portland, OR May 2019

Participant Survey Responses



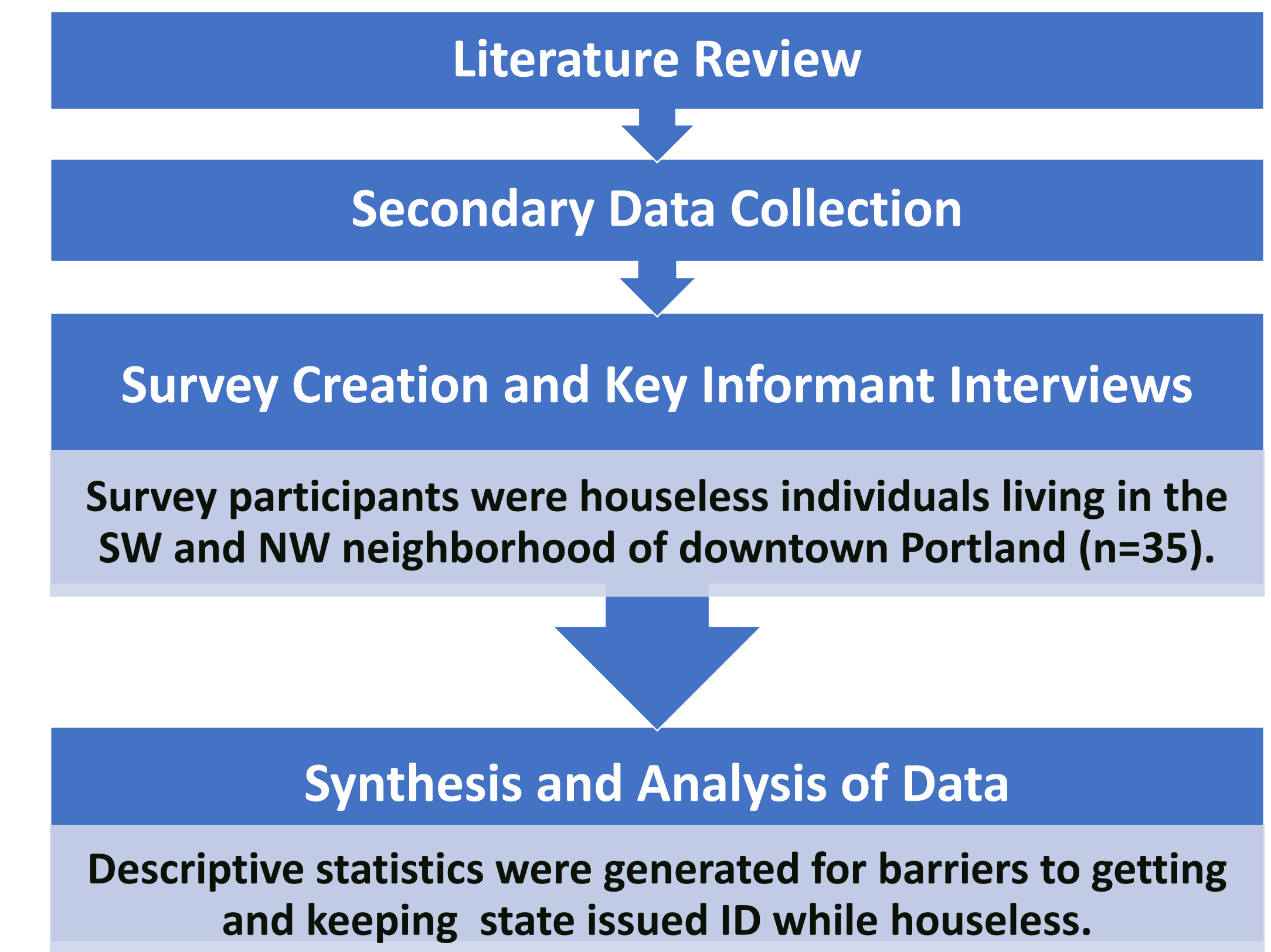
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Methods:



Conclusions:

- Survey participants report having state ID is highly important for getting basic needs met.
- Consensus among participants is that the current resources are not adequate or easily accessible.
- Multnomah county could benefit from reducing barriers for houseless individuals to obtain state ID.
- Effective interventions must address the social factors exacerbate houselessness (Galea, & Vlahov, 2002).

Next Steps:

- Advocate for increasing the services available in Multnomah county.
- Improve outreach efforts by creating a handout with a list of resources available.
- Implement a sliding fee scale at the DMV to reduce the financial barrier.
- Create a donation fund at the DMV
- Digitize state ID cards.
- Train DMV staff on working with individuals with mental health needs.

