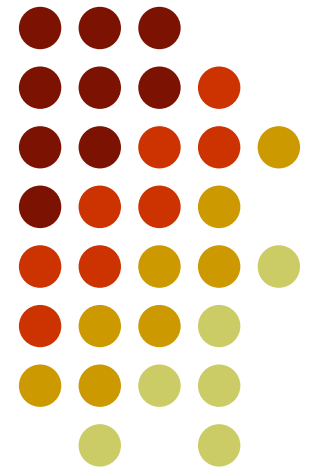


OVERVIEW of the TORONTO STUDY

The Youth in Transition [YIT] Study
Background, Sample and Methods

Patricia G. Erickson, CAMH



YIT Team



- **PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR**

- Patricia Erickson, CAMH

- **CO-INVESTIGATORS**

- Edward Adlaf (CAMH)
- Jennifer Butters (CUHI)
- Deborah Goodman (CAST)
- Andy Hathaway (CAR-BC)
- Paul Links (St. Michael's)
- Lori Ross (Women's College)
- Carol Strike (CAMH)
- Chris Wekerle (U West. On.)

- **COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

- Bruce Leslie (CCAS)
- Sharon Cirone (SHOUT)
- Christine O'Rourke (SHOUT)

- **RESEARCH STAFF**

- Katharine King (Coordinator)
- Maritt Kirst
- Tyler Frederick
- Tara Fidler
- Eman Leung

- **FUNDING**

- **Girls: SSHRC; Boys: CIHR**

PURPOSE



- To examine and compare pathways or transitions to independent living among high-risk young women and men over time
- To understand patterns, predictors and consequences of housing status in relation to **drug use, drug selling** and other factors
 - Key Concepts: diversity; housing instability
- Sample: 150 street-involved youth (75 women; 75 men) and 35 CAS youth (30 women; 5 men)

APPROACH – to explore:



- Sources of Vulnerability in High-Risk Youth
 - Age, sex, ethnicity, language, immigration status
 - Sexual orientation
 - Income sources
 - Housing instability
 - Physical and mental health
 - History of maltreatment
 - Drug use and dependency
 - Access to health and social services
 - Criminal activities and police arrests
 - Violence and victimization

DEFINITION OF HOMELESS STREET-INVOLVED YOUTH



- “Young people up to age 24 who are absolutely, periodically, or temporarily without shelter...or at substantial risk of being on the street in the near future”(Daly)
- Key aspect: instability of housing
- Toronto estimate: 1200-1700 nightly

DEFINITION: CHILD WELFARE YOUTH



- Background: Under supervision of Children's Aid Society at time of study
- Had been Crown Wards and/or were in Extended Care and Maintenance



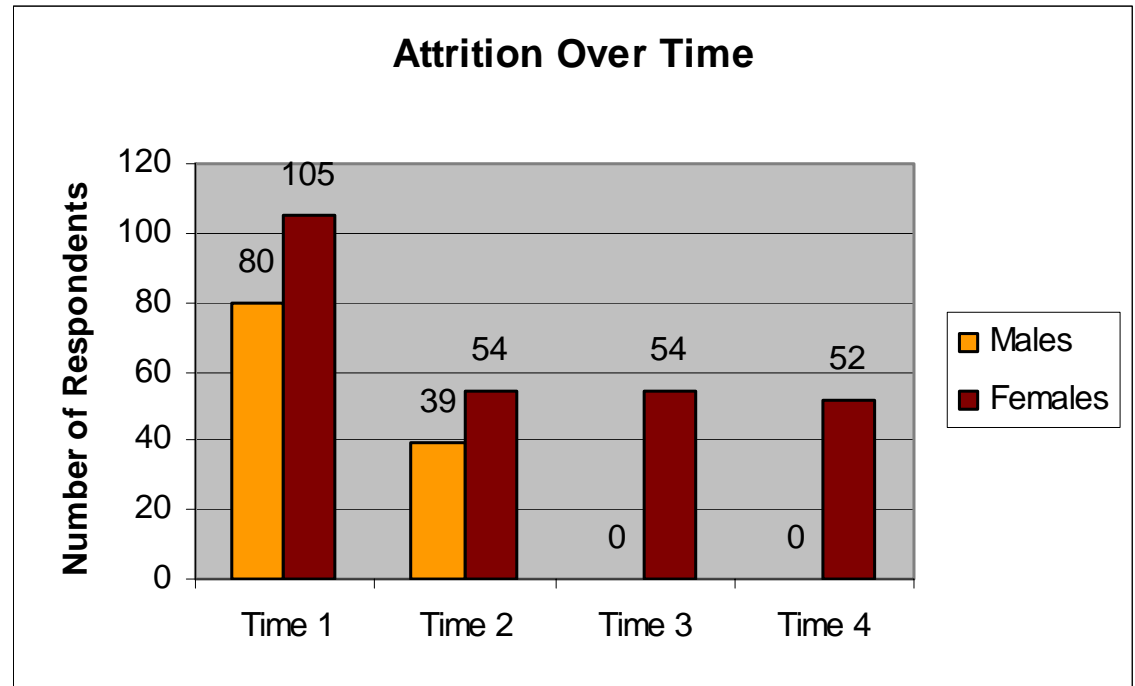
METHODS of YIT

- Design: longitudinal – short follow-up of 1 yr
- Data collection: baseline, 4,8,12 mos. (women) ; baseline, 4 mos. only (men)
- Recruitment:
 - Young women and men aged 16 to 20 at first contact
 - Group 1 - Agencies serving street-involved youth
 - Group 2 - Children's Aid Society involvement
- Data collection: survey and open-ended
- Follow-up – abbreviated survey/qualitative interview

Attrition:



- Difficult to retain
- For Female and Male, Street Youth, similar loss between t1 and t2
- CAS more difficult to locate, but easier to retain (but small n for males)
- For the girls, retention was quite stable at t3 and t4



Sample Characteristics: SY



		Men % (N=75)	Women% (N=75)
Age	16-17 Years	10.7	17.3
	18-20 Years	89.3	82.7
Sexual Orientation: Diversity	Heterosexual	73.3	64
	Bisexual	14.7	29.3
	Gay/Lesbian	10.7	2.7
	Other	1.3	4



Diversity- SY continued...

		Men % (N=75)	Women % (N=75)
Country of Birth	Canada	85.3	82.7
	Other	14.7	17.3
Citizenship	Canadian	92	89.3
	Other	8	10.7
Language Spoken at Home	English	69.3	78.7
	French	4	2.7
	Other	26.7	18.7

Sample Characteristics: CAS



		Men (N=5)	Women (N=30)
Age	16-17 Years	0	4
	18-20 Years	5	26
Sexual Orientation: Diversity	Heterosexual	5	28
	Bisexual	0	2
	Gay/Lesbian	0	0
	Other	0	0



Diversity—CAS continued...

		Men (N=5)	Women (N=30)
Country of Birth	Canada	2	21
	Other	3	9
Citizenship	Canadian	2	23
	Other	3	7
Language Spoken at Home	English	2	22
	French	0	0
	Other	3	8

Moves in the past 4 months-SY



# of Moves	Men % (N=68)	Women % (N=68)
None	11.8	11.8
1-2	35.3	29.4
3-4	29.4	29.4
5 or more	23.5	29.4



Moves in Last 4 Months—CAS

# of Moves	Men (N=5)	Women (N=30)
None	3	21
1-2	2	7
3-4	0	2
5 or more	0	0

Place Stayed the Longest - CAS



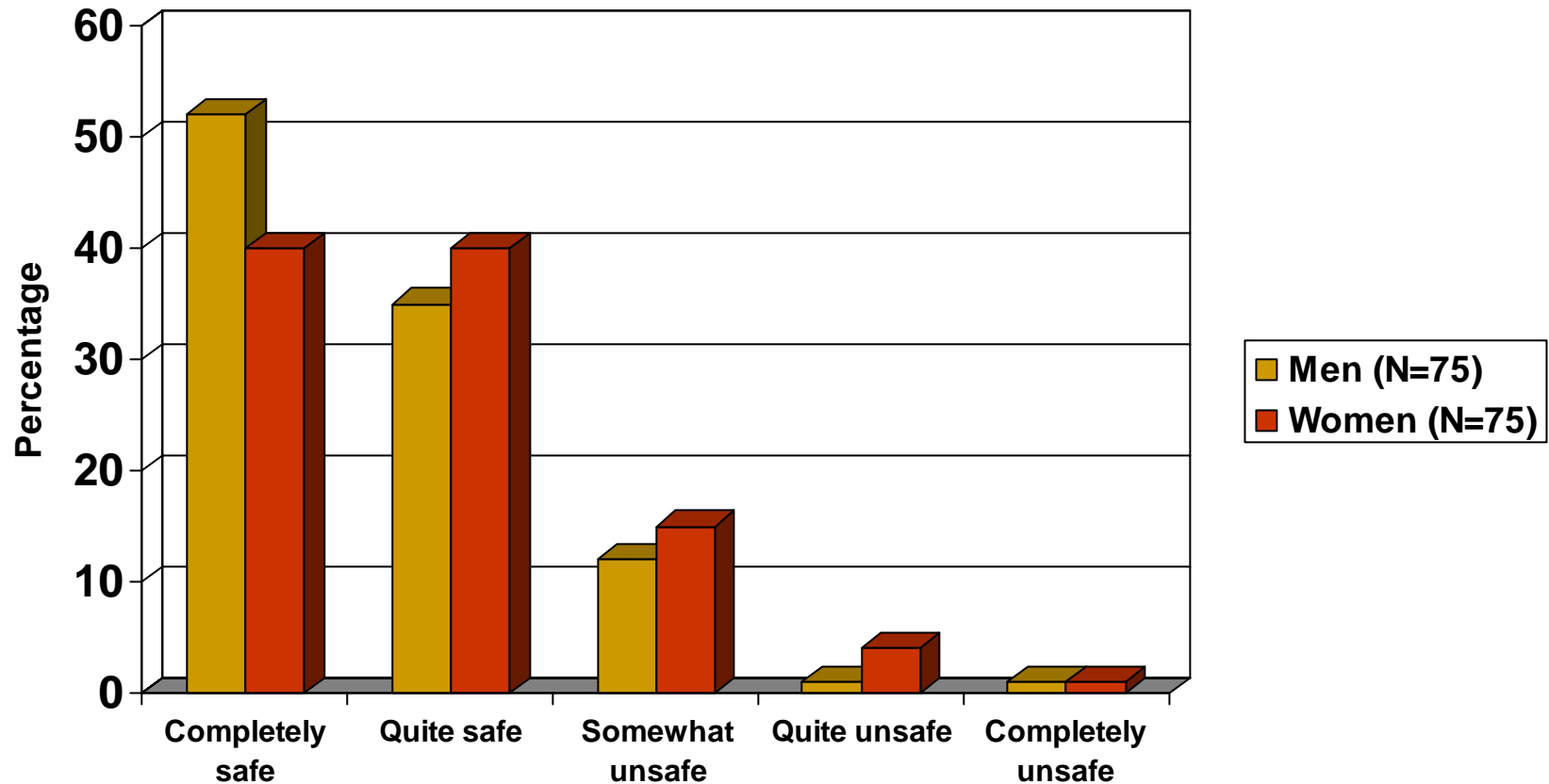
	Men (N=5)	Women (N=24)
Rented apartment or room	4	14
Mother, father or parents'	0	2
Girlfriend, boyfriend or friends'	0	3
Foster Family	1	1
Group Home	0	4



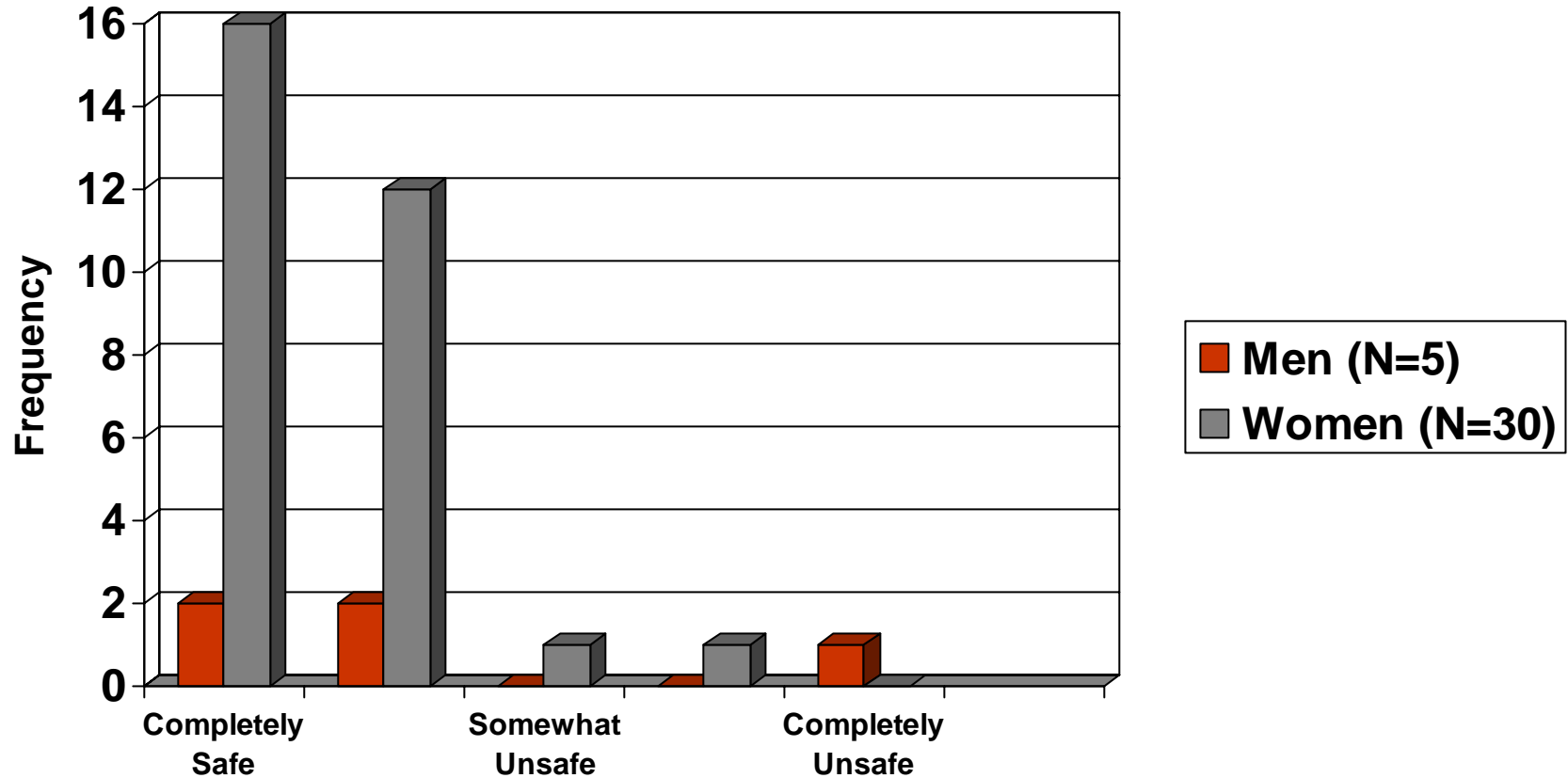
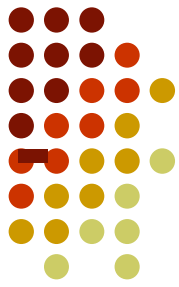
Place stayed the longest - SY

	Men % (N=75)	Women % (N=73)
Hostel or shelter	35	33
Rented apartment or room	17	25
Mother, father or parents'	15	10
Girlfriend, boyfriend or friends'	15	18
Street	5	4
Detention centre	7	1
Internet café	1	3

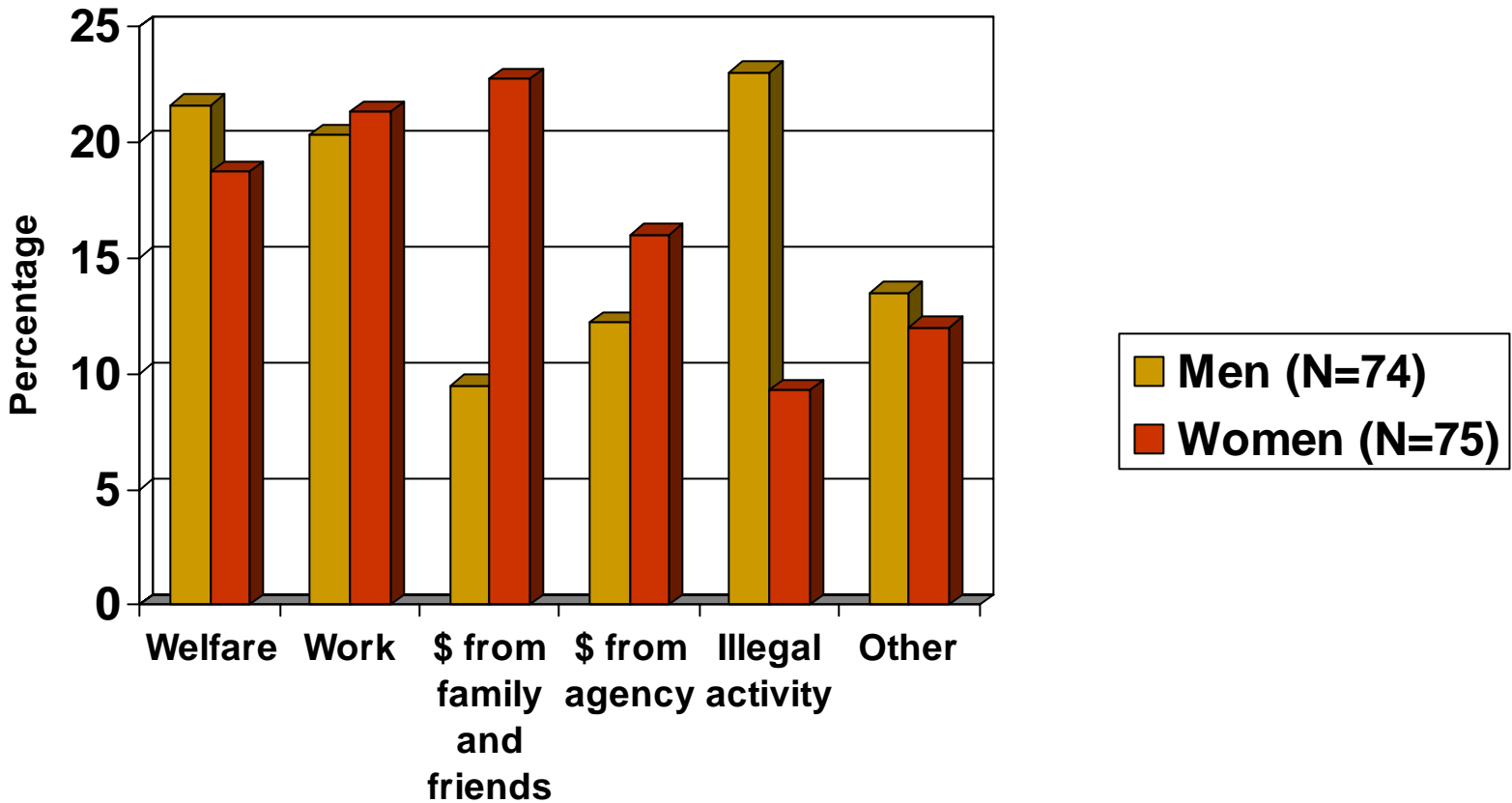
Safety-place currently staying-SY



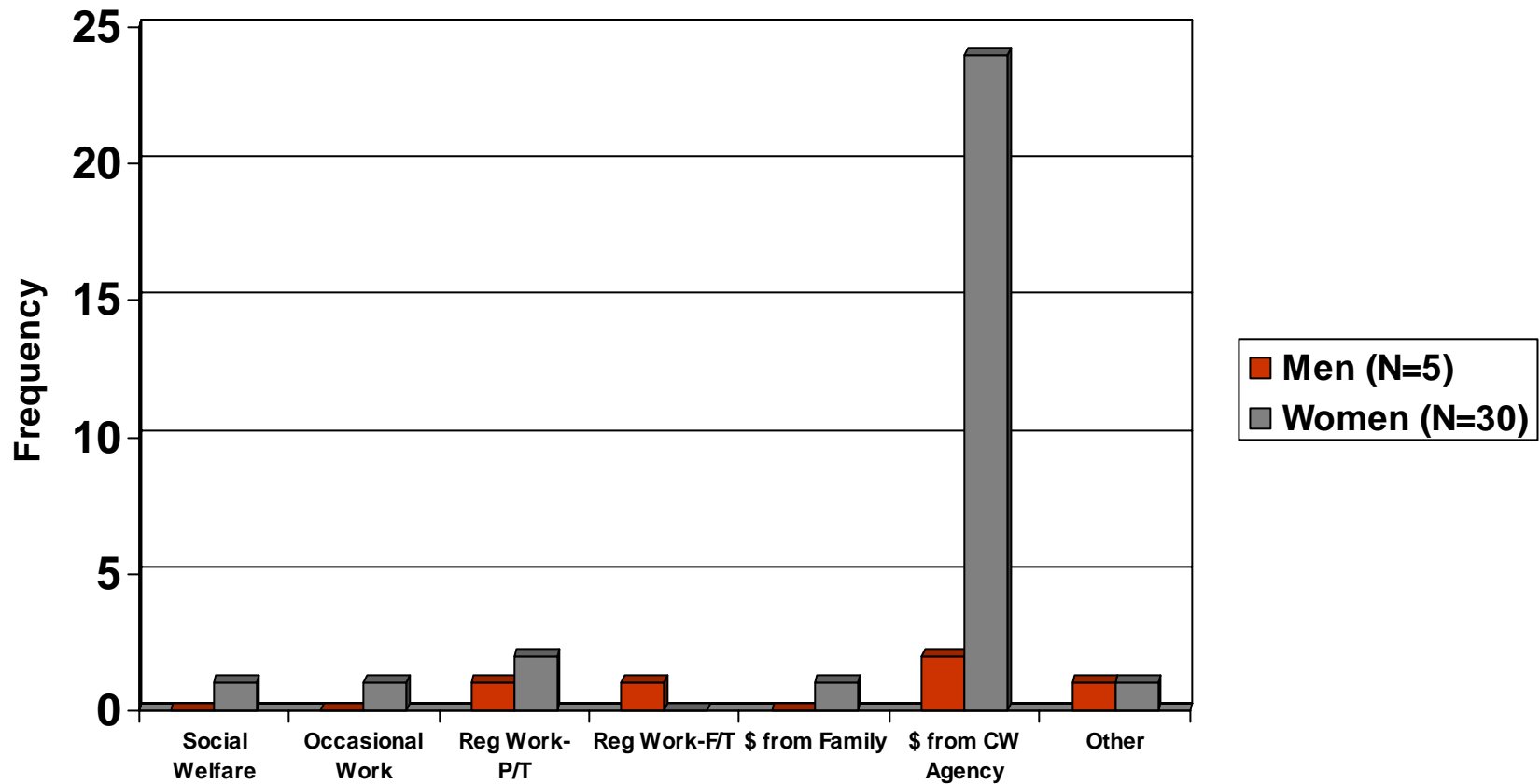
Safety - Place Currently Staying CAS



Sources of income -SY- past 4 mos.



Sources of Income-CAS-last 4 mos.



SUMMARY



- Street youth similar to CAS youth on most measures of diversity, except sexual orientation; also F more diverse than males
- Street youth experience less housing stability
- CAS youth more likely to live in a apt/home
- Majority of both groups express feeling safe
- CAS youth more likely to have agency as source of income; SY multiple sources of \$

LIMITATIONS



- Smaller sample of CAS youth
- Very few boys from CAS
- Follow up of male SY more limited
- Attrition over one year more than half of female SY

DIRECTIONS



- What interventions or services would improve the situation of high-risk youth?
- Should the focus be on main sources of vulnerability, e.g. housing instability, income
- What sorts of harm reduction initiatives would meet the needs of high-risk youth?