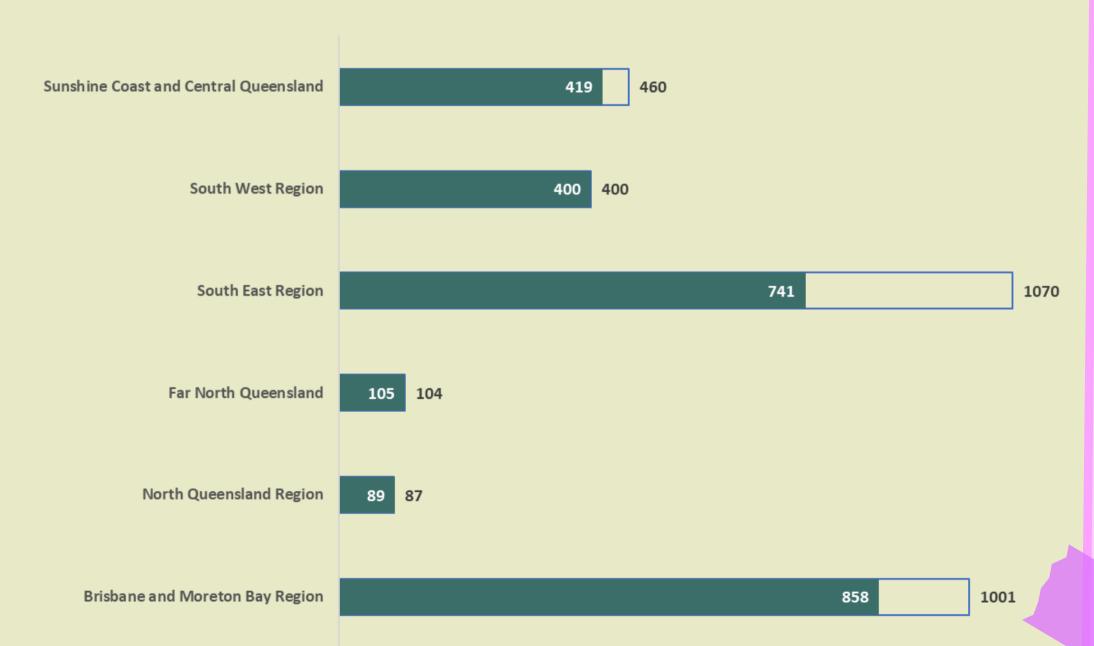
Children in Care Census 2024

Sample and completion rates

Page 2 of 51

Completion rates per region



*Population: QLD children (<18 years of age), living away from home (>3 months) that were subject to custody/guardianship by the Chief Executive

A representative sample is conducted to enable the department to build profiles of children in care to inform policy and practice.

It involves Child Safety Officers completing a survey about children on their caseload.

A sample of 3122* children was generated based on agreed participation rates by Child Safety Officers in each Child Safety Service Centre (in recognition of workload impost).

Returns for 84% (2612) of the sample were completed. As the profile of children is based on a sample conducted over a two month period, some figures may vary slightly from corporate data counts. The sample size is representative of the in-care population at the statewide level.

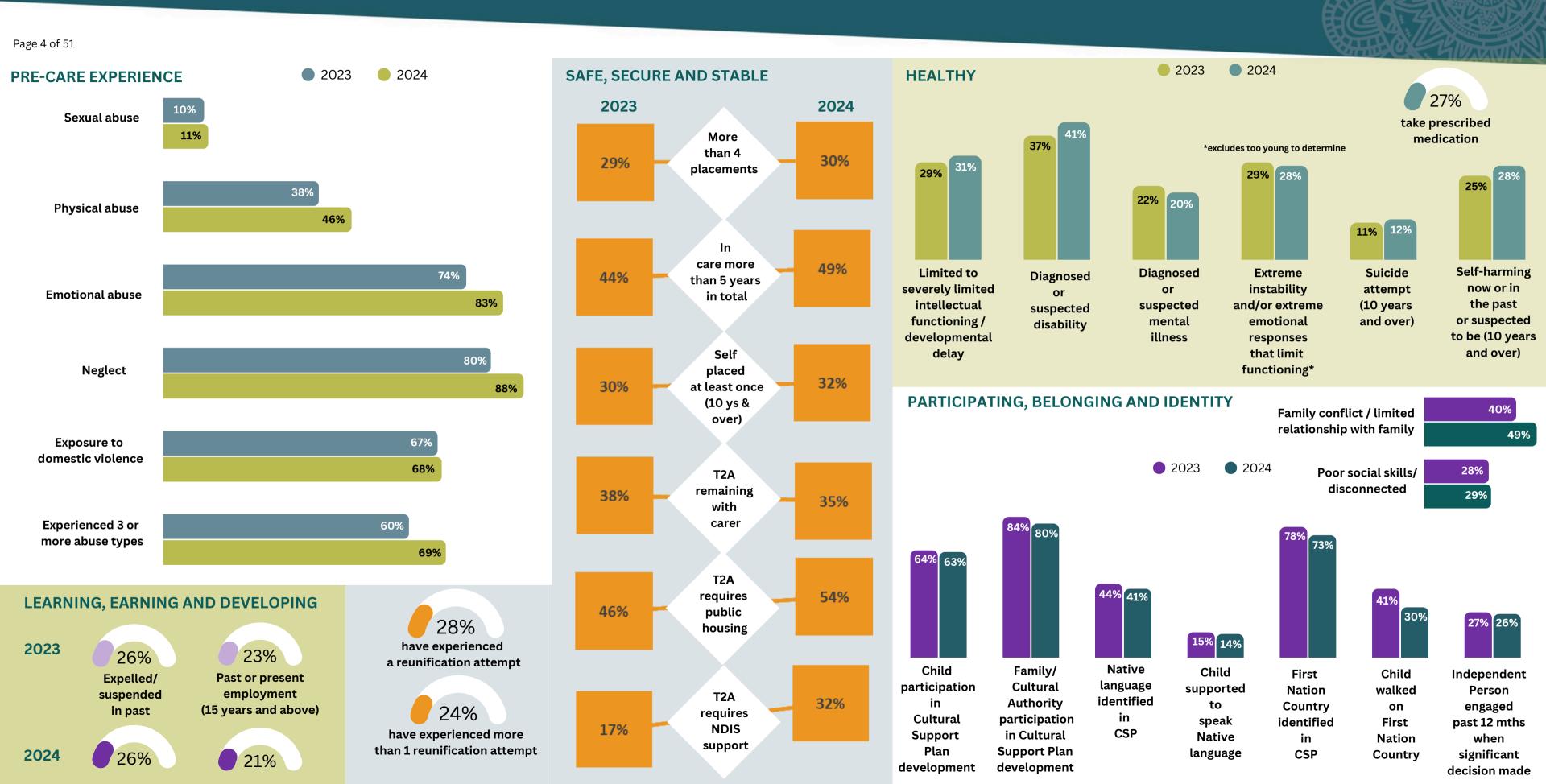
Non-Indigenous children in residential care were over-represented in responses received and the unit record file has been reduced to 2413 to make it representative of the in-care population.

NB: All regional disaggregates within the report exclude Far North Queensland and North Queensland regions due to small sample size. Regional disaggregates by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander status exclude South West and Sunshine Coast Regions due to small sample size.

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Overview

Quick Facts / Year comparison



Key Findings

Page 5 of 51

Children and young people are more likely to experience chronic and recurring rates of emotional abuse, neglect and exposure to domestic violence prior to entering care than sexual and/or physical violence which is more likely to be isolated.

Children who have experienced sexual and/or physical abuse prior to entering care will have higher rates of complexity than children who have not experienced those abuse types.

See Pages 7 & 8



Girls in care are more likely to have been sexually abused prior to entering care and will be self harming at higher rates than boys.



Boys in care will have higher levels of disability and intellectual impairment than girls.

See Page 11



1 in 3 children in care have limited to severely limited intellectual functioning / developmental delay.

The majority (81%) of these children also have a disability such as an intellectual disability, autism, and/or ADHD.

See Page 27

Children who enter care for the first time at an older age have higher levels of complexity.

However, children who enter care at an older age are less likely to be diagnosed with an intellectual impairment or disability with these conditions being much more evident in children who entered care for the first time at a younger age.

See Page 9 and Appendix A



Children
in residential
care have significantly
higher levels of
complexity compared
to children in kinship
and foster care.

See Page 16

41% of children in care have a disability



1 in 5 children in care with a diagnosed or suspected disability have FASD



1 in 5 children with a diagnosed or suspected disability have unmet support needs in relation their disability

See Pages 20-25



1 in 5 children in care have a diagnosed or suspected mental illness

For almost one third of these children their mental illness is undiagnosed despite having similar rates of complexity to children with a diagnosed mental illness.



1 in 3 children with a diagnosed or suspected mental illness have unmet support needs in relation to their mental illness

See Pages 20-25



Some self harming behaviour appears to decrease the longer the child is in care.

Transition to Adulthood
(T2A)



1 in 3 (32%) will require NDIS support in adulthood



Half (54%) will require public housing and 71% of these will be on a waitlist for public housing.



1 in 3 (35%) will remain with their carer



Almost half of young people 15 years and over display extreme emotional responses that limit their participation in school and the workforce.

See Page 29

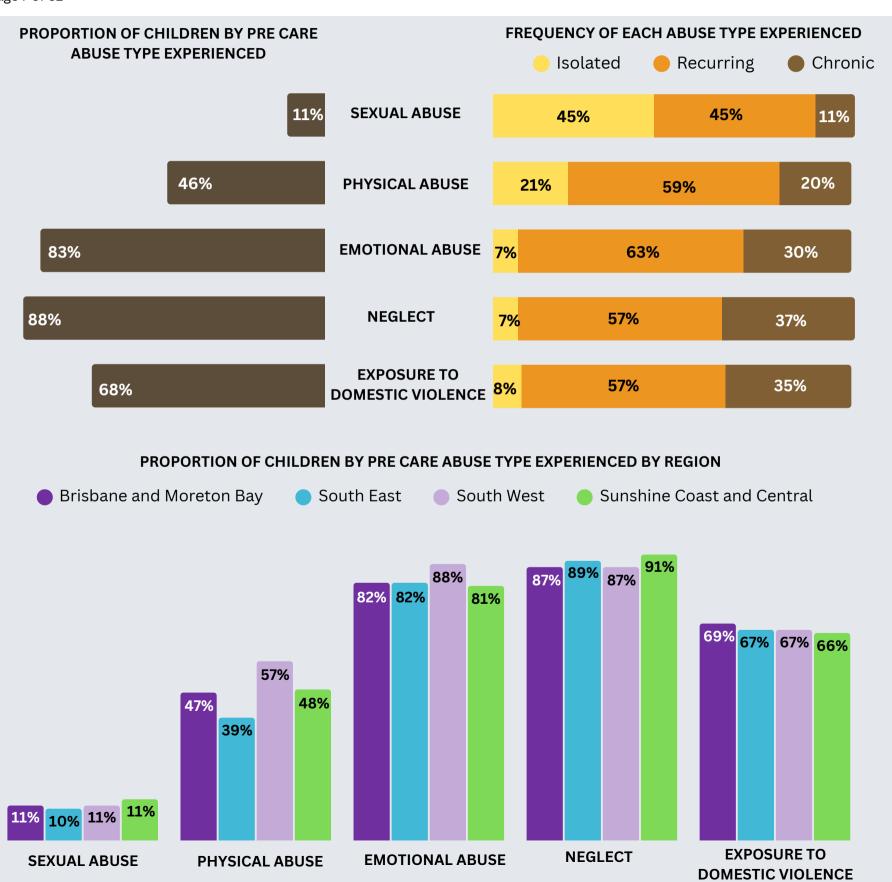
36

See Page 16

Pre care experience

Pre Care Experience

Page 7 of 51



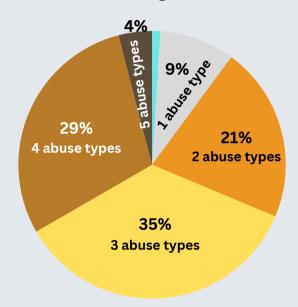
Emotional abuse, neglect and exposure to domestic violence are more likely to be recurring or chronic prior to entering care, compared to physical and sexual abuse.

PROPORTION OF CHILDREN WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED ABUSE THAT WAS CHRONIC

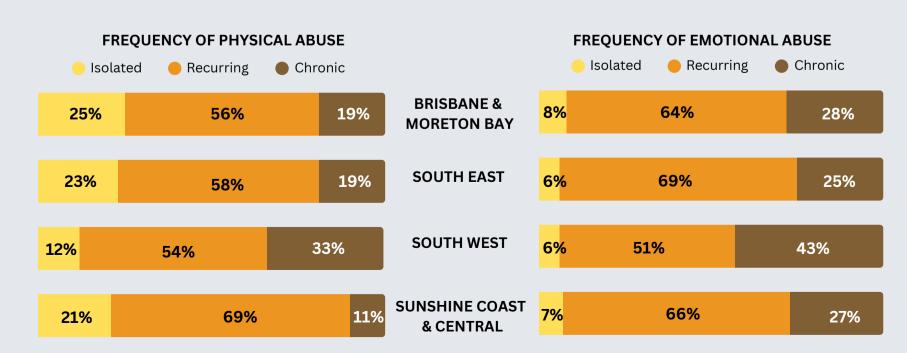




of children have experienced or were at risk of experiencing 3 or more abuse types prior to entering care

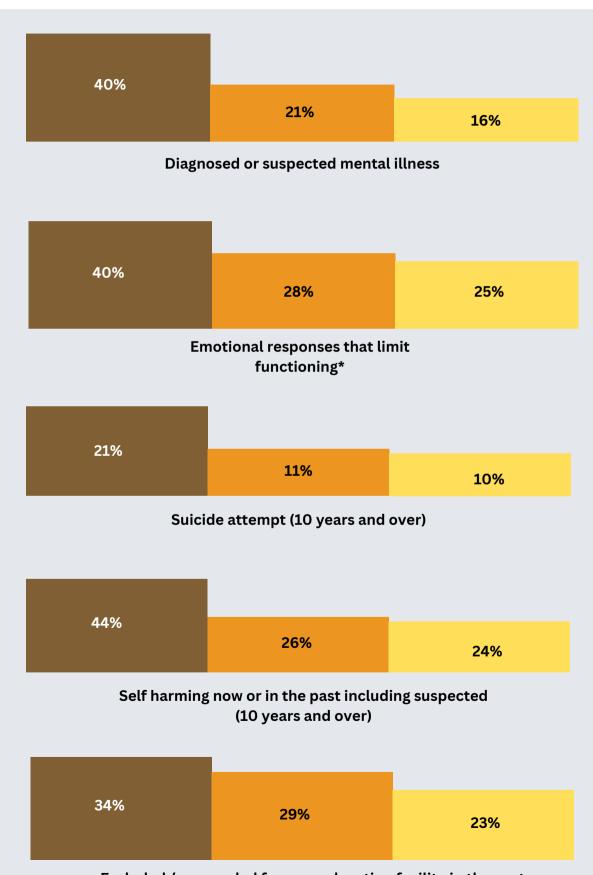


PROPORTION OF CHILDREN BY NUMBER OF ABUSE TYPES THEY HAVE EXPERIENCED



Pre Care Experience

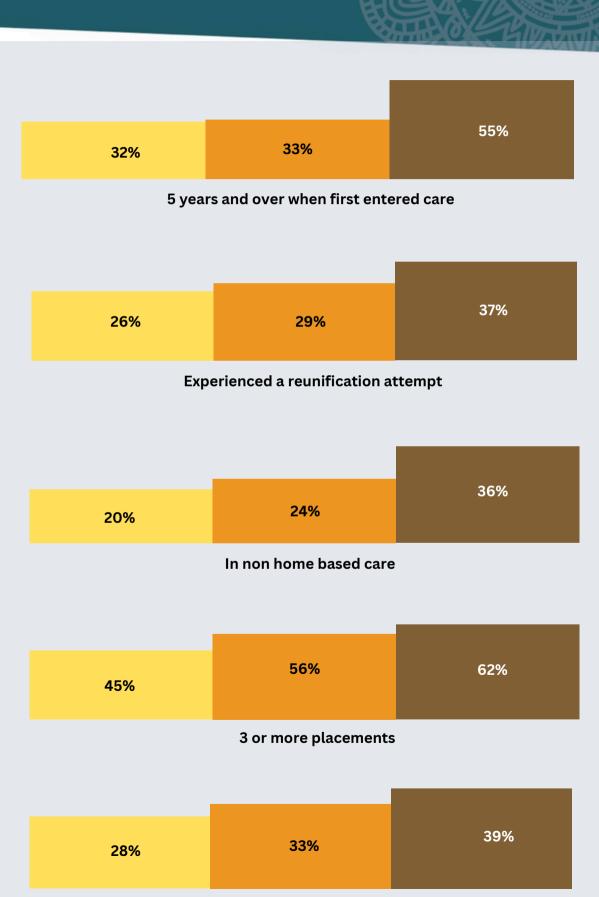
Page 8 of 51





Children who have experienced sexual or physical abuse have higher levels of complexity compared to children who have experienced emotional abuse and/or neglect and/or exposure to domestic violence.

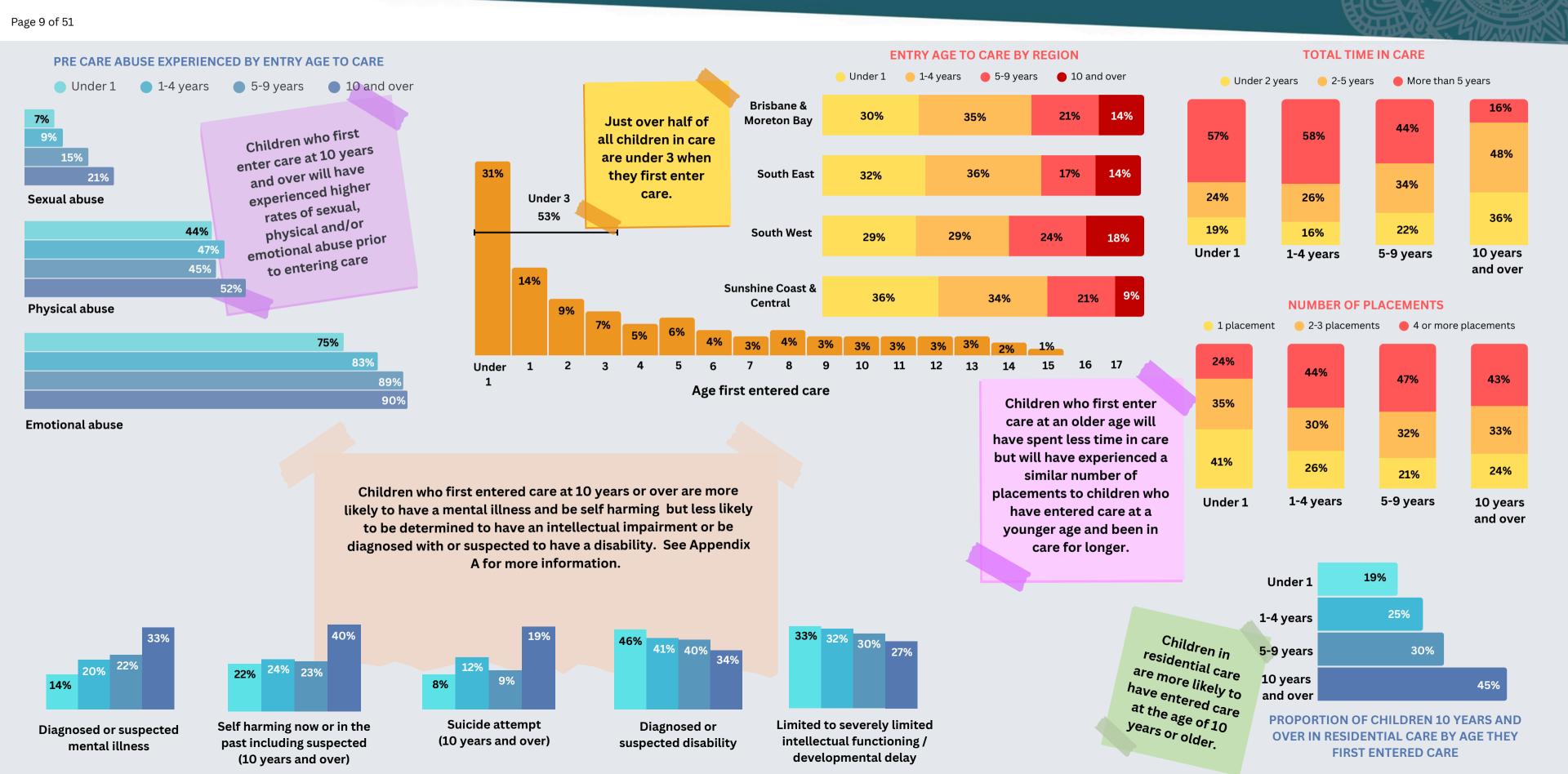
Children who have experienced sexual abuse are much more likely to have a mental illness, be self-harming and be in non-home-based care. They are also more likely to be aged 5 and over when they first entered care.



Self placed at least once (10 years and over)

Profile by entry age to care

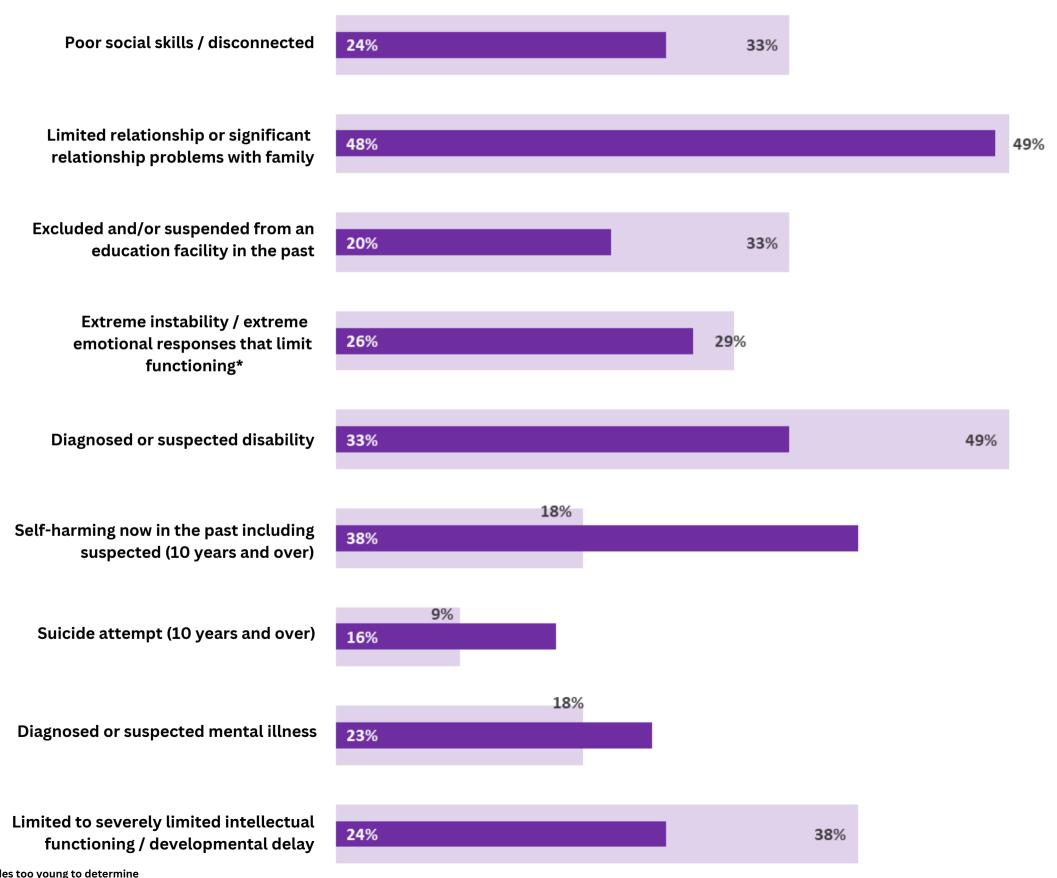




Demographic profiles

Gender Profile

Page 11 of 51



Girls in care have experienced higher rates of sexual abuse prior to entering care and are more likely to be self harming than boys in care.

Boys in care are more likely to have an intellectual impairment and have a diagnosed or suspected disability than girls in care. They are also more likely to have been excluded and/or suspended from an education facility in the past.

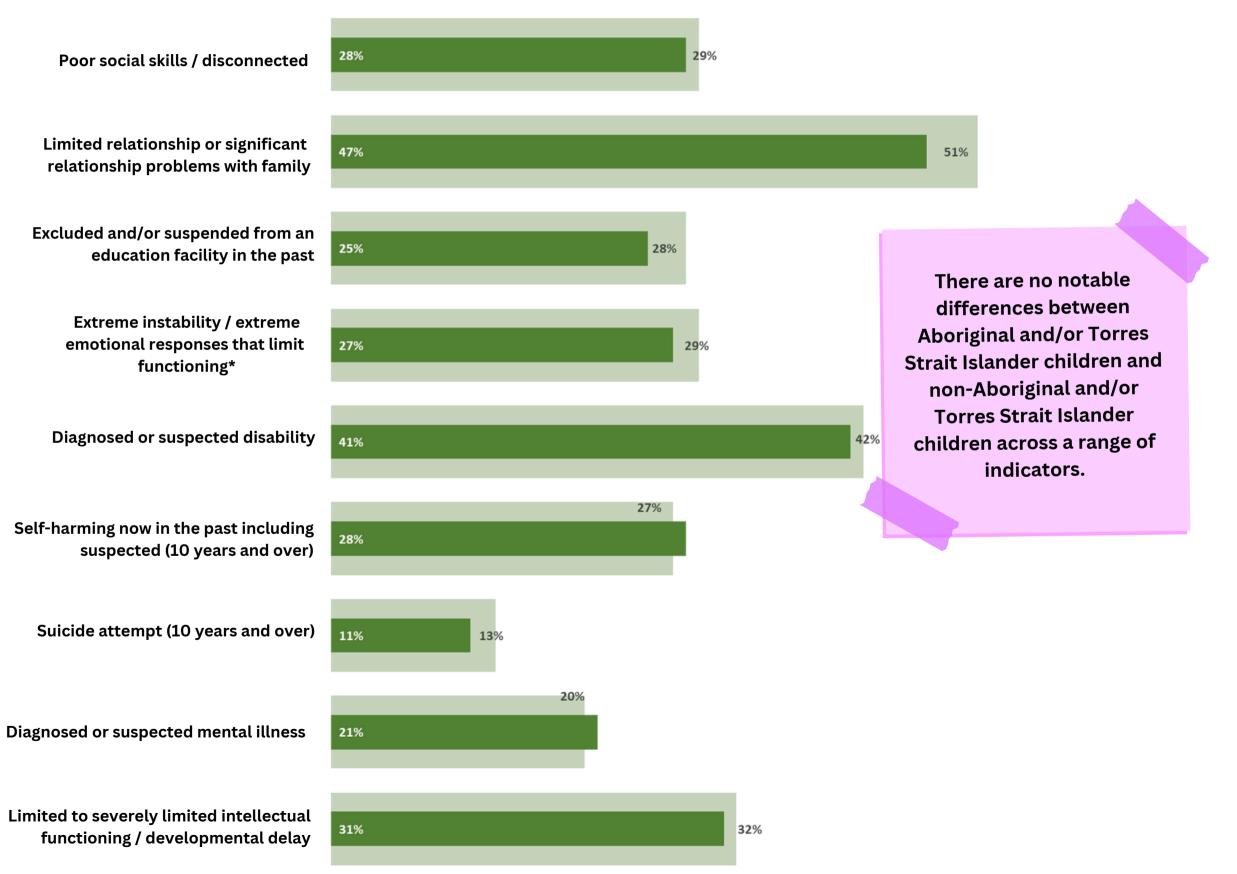


FEMALE

MALE

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Profile

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ABORIGINAL AND/OR
TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER

NON-ABORIGINAL AND/OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER

See Appendices P and Q for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander profile status by region



Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children are slightly more likely to have:

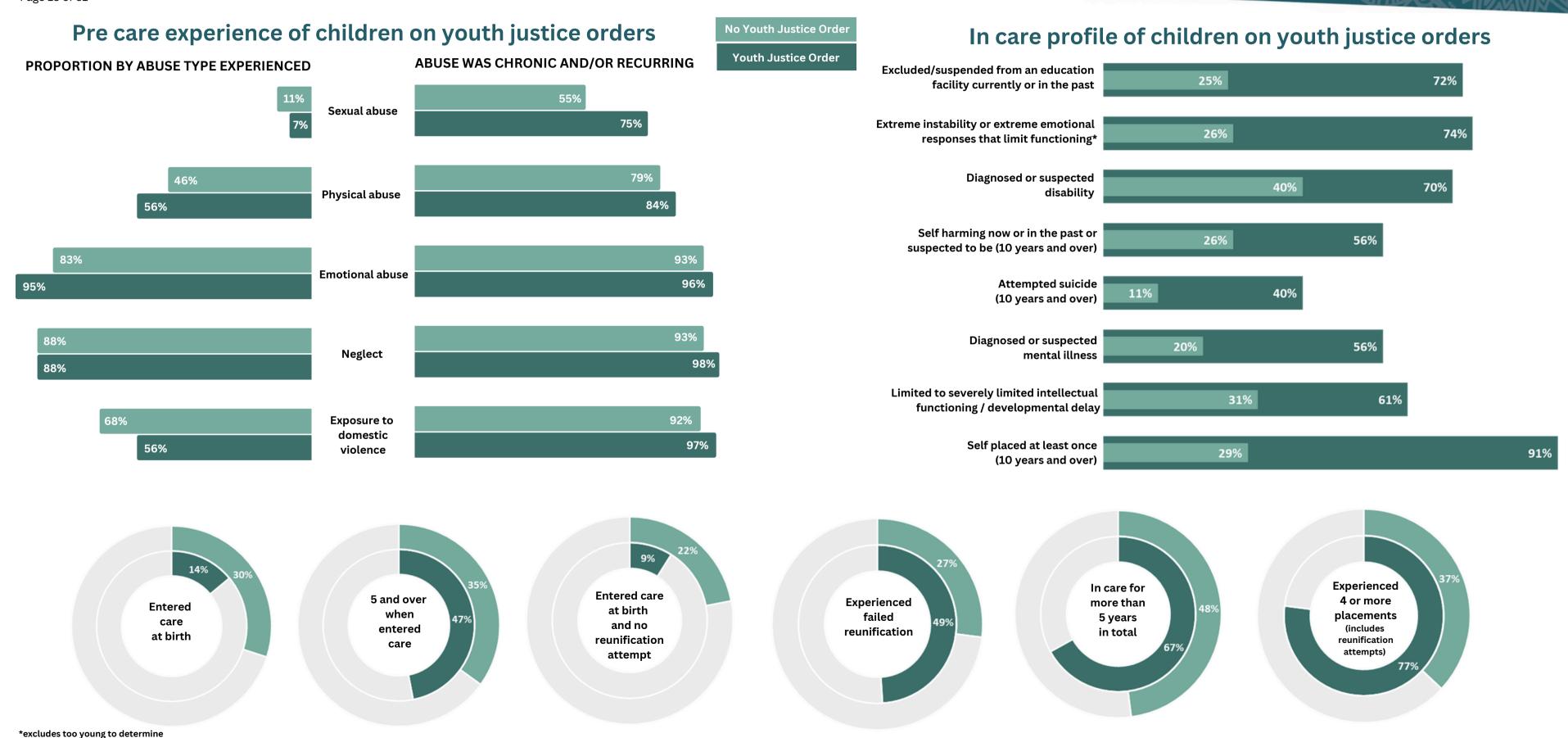


been in care for more than 5 years in total

Youth justice profile

Findings subject to variability due to small sample size of youth justice order cohort

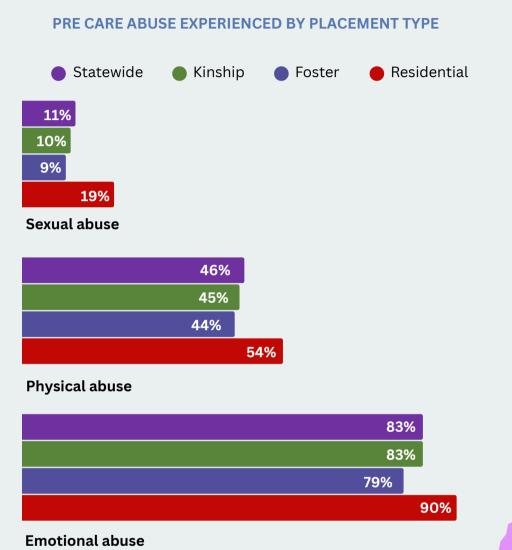
Page 13 of 51

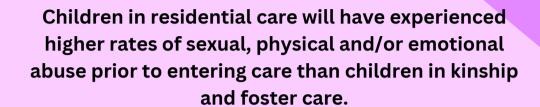


Safe, Secure and Stable

Placement Profile

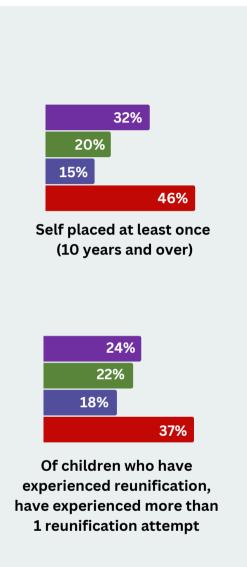
Safe. Secure and Stable Page 15 of 51

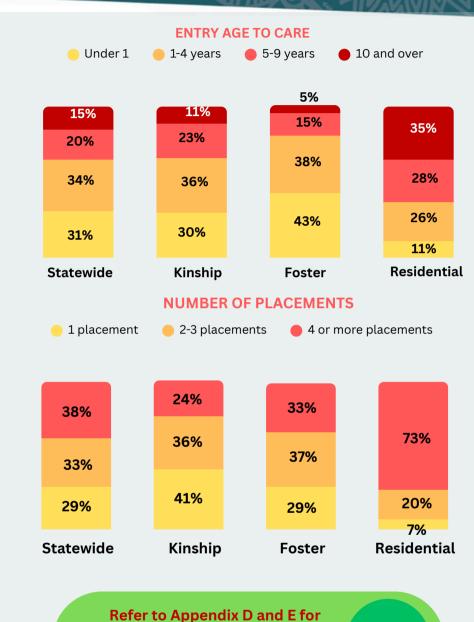




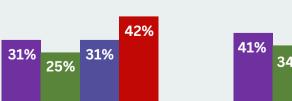
They will be more likely to have first entered care at an older age, will have experienced more placements, including reunification attempts and, are much more likely to have self placed at least once, than children in kinship and foster care

Compared to children in kinship and foster care, children in residential care are more likely to have a diagnosed or suspected mental illness and be self harming and be much more likely to have been excluded / suspended from an education facility in the past. This complexity will still apply even when controlling for age (refer to Appendix B).

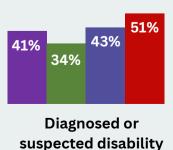


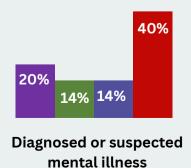


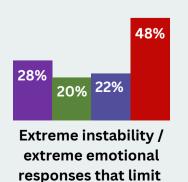
profiles of children in care placed with their grandparents and their sibling/s.



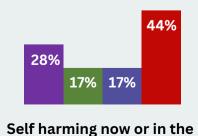
Limited to severely limited intellectual functioning / developmental delay





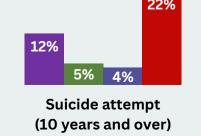


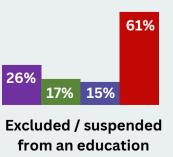
functioning*

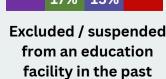


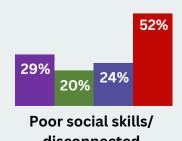
past including suspected

(10 years and over)







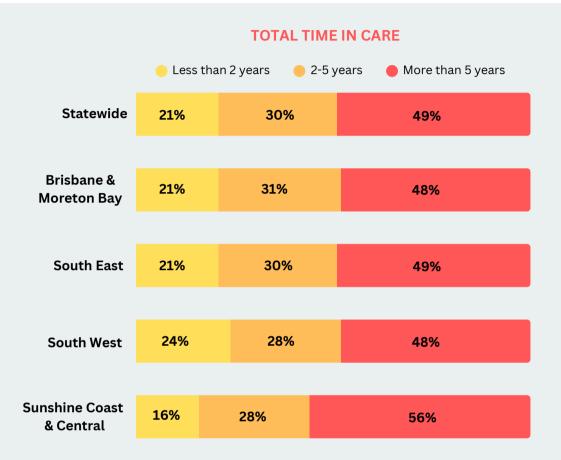


disconnected

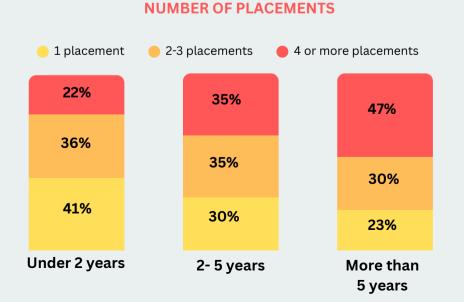
*excludes too young to determine

Profile by length of time in care in total

Safe, Secure and Stable Page 16 of 51



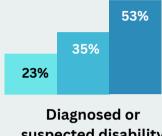
NUMBER OF PLACEMENTS BY LENGTH OF TIME IN CARE



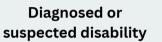
Children who have been in care for longer periods of time in total have experienced more placements, including reunification attempts. They are more likely to have a diagnosed or suspected mental illness or disability.

Children who have been in care for more than 5 years are less likely to self-harm or attempt suicide compared to children who have been in care for less than 5 years.

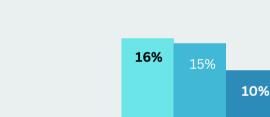
NB This trend is most evident in kinship care and to a lesser extent foster care (see Appendix C)



36%



24%



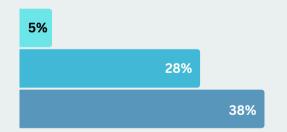
15%

Diagnosed or suspected

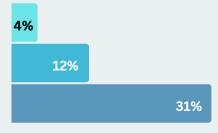
mental illness

12%

Self-harming now or in the Suicide attempt past including suspected (10 years and over) (10 years and over)



Experienced a reunification attempt



Experienced more than 1 reunification attempt



Profile by number of placements

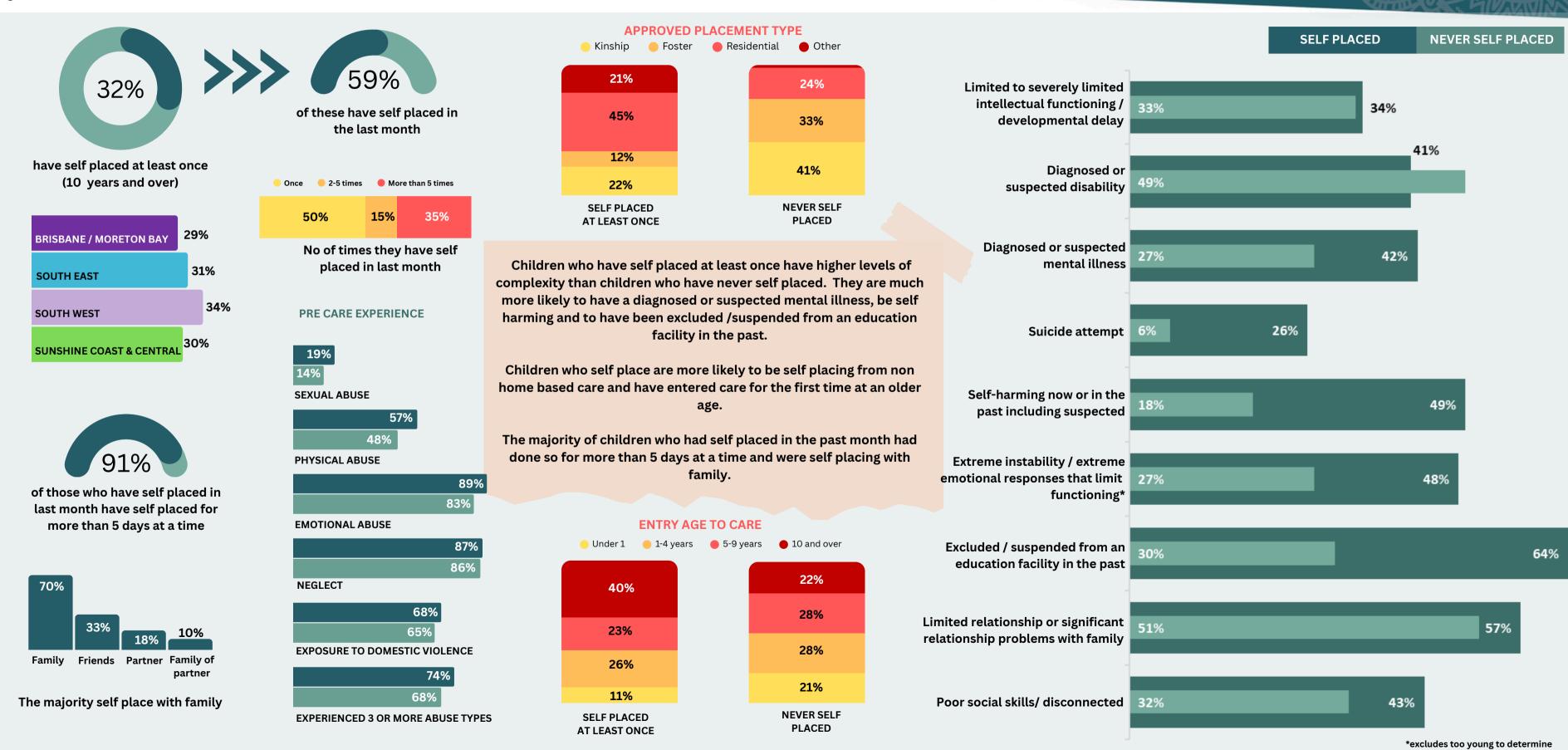
Safe, Secure and Stable Page 17 of 51



*excludes too young to determine

Profile of children and young people who have self placed (10 years and over)

Safe, Secure and Stable Page 18 of 51

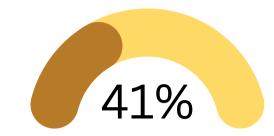


Healthy

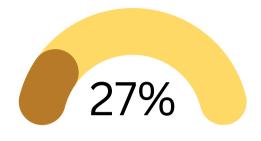
Healthy Summary

Healthy Page 20 of 51









take prescribed medication

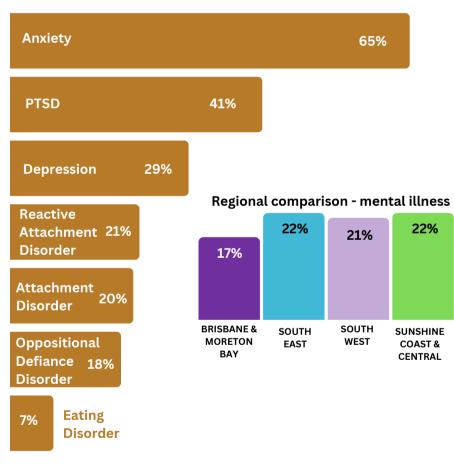
MOST PRESCRIBED REASON

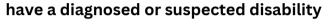




have a diagnosed or suspected mental illness

MOST PREVALENT MENTAL ILLNESSES





MOST PREVALENT DISABILITIES

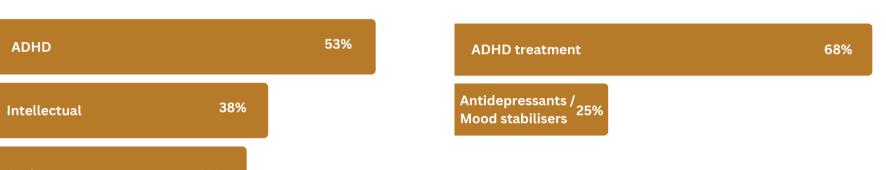
Deficit 13%

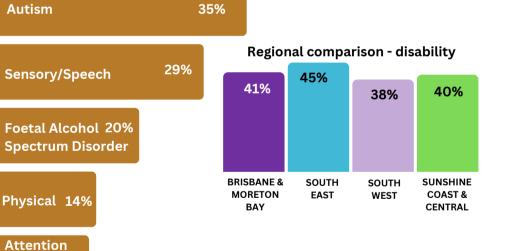
receive NDIS support for their disability

have unmet support needs in relation to their

disability

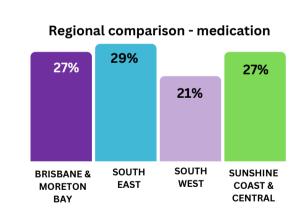
Disorder





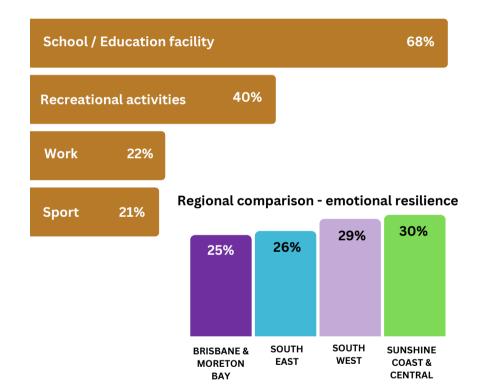
54%

22%



display extreme instability / emotional responses that limit functioning*

RESPONSES LIMIT PARTICIPATION IN

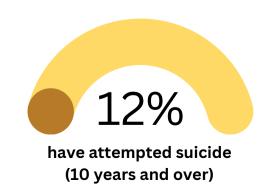


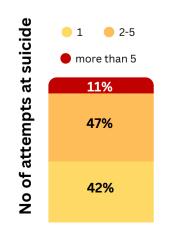




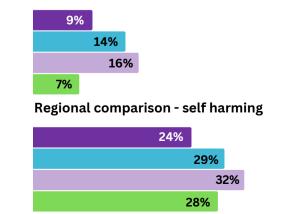


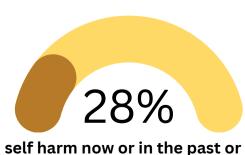
have unmet support needs in relation to their mental illness





Regional comparison - suicide attempt



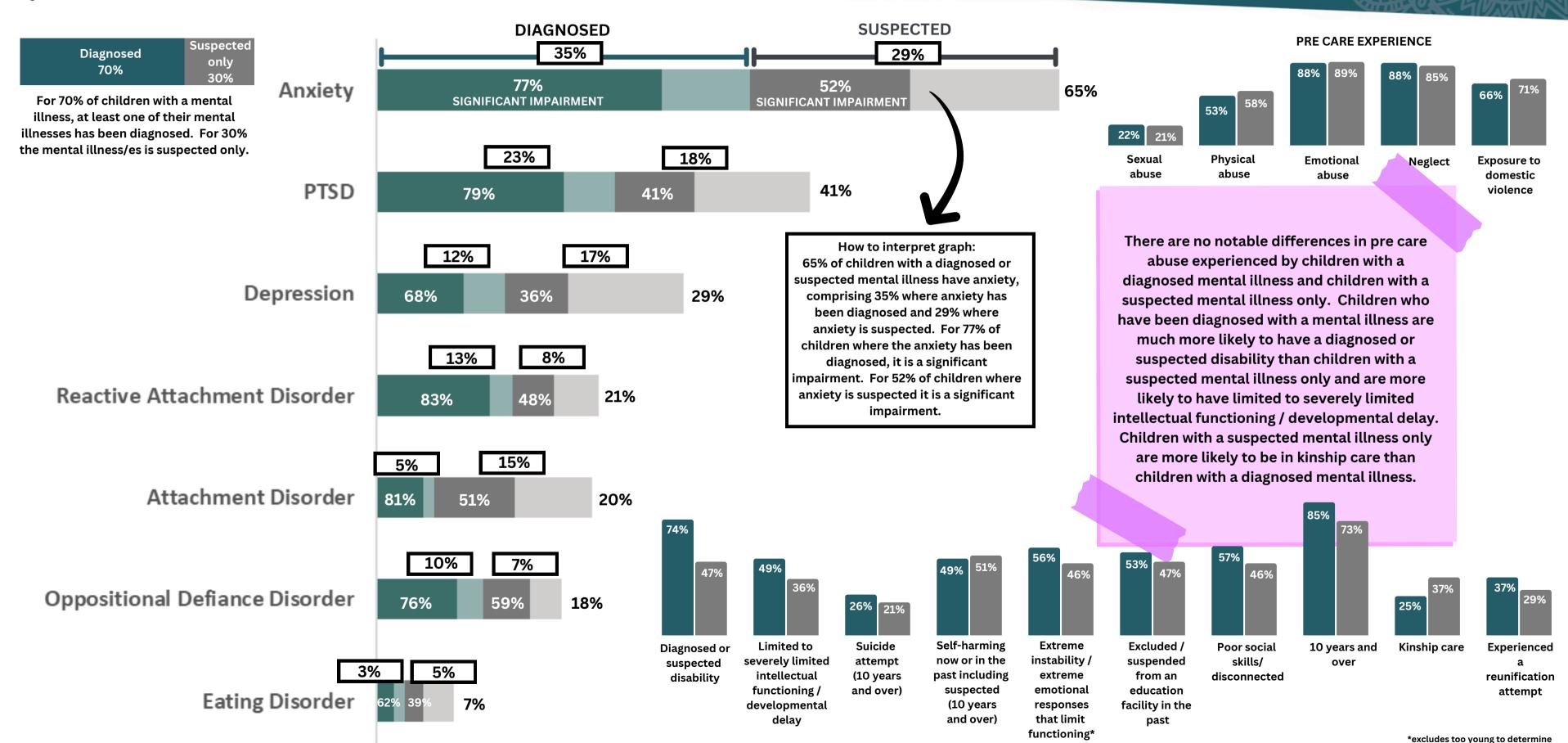


self harm now or in the past o are suspected to be (10 years and over)

*excludes too young to determine

Mental illness / Behavioural disorder Assessment status and Significant impairment

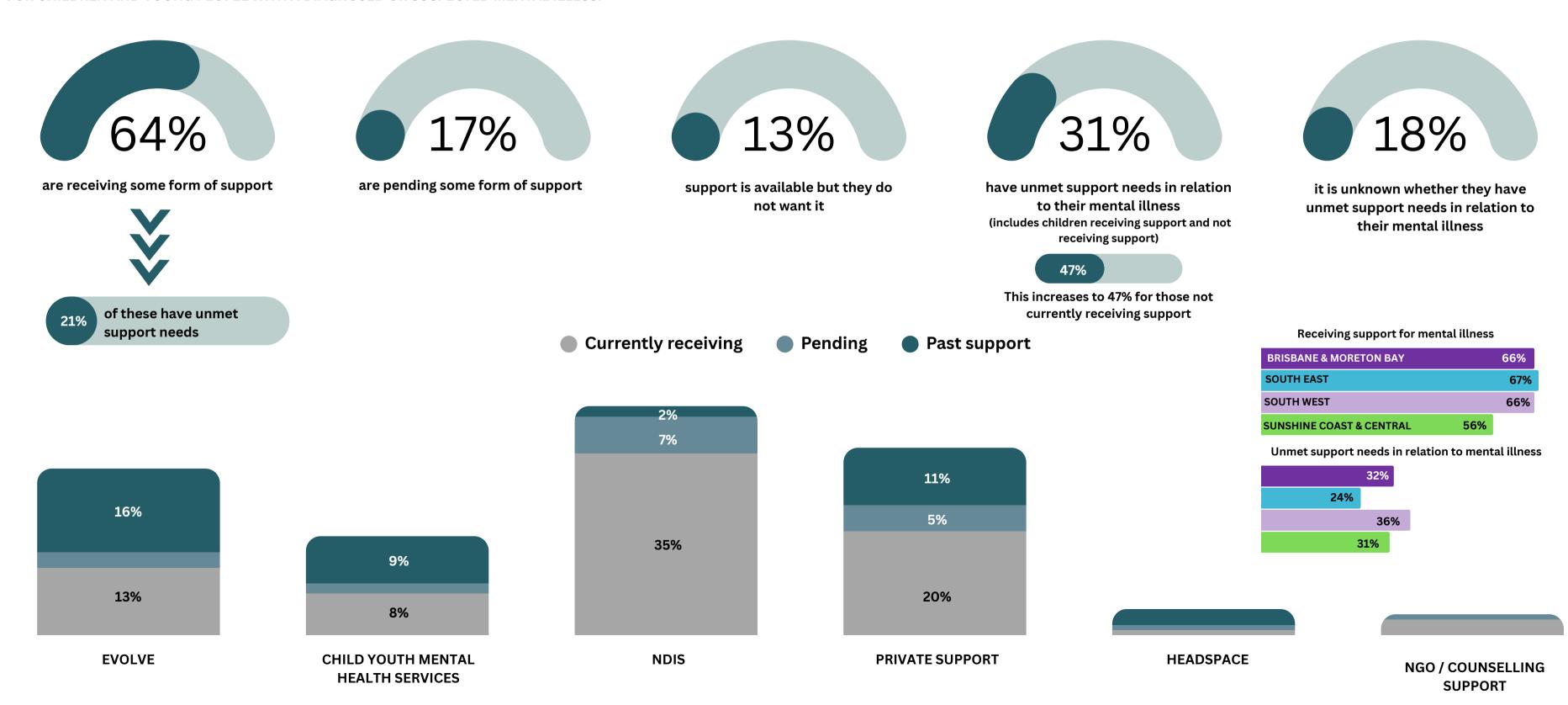
Healthy Page 21 of 51



Support services for children with mental illness / behavioural disorders

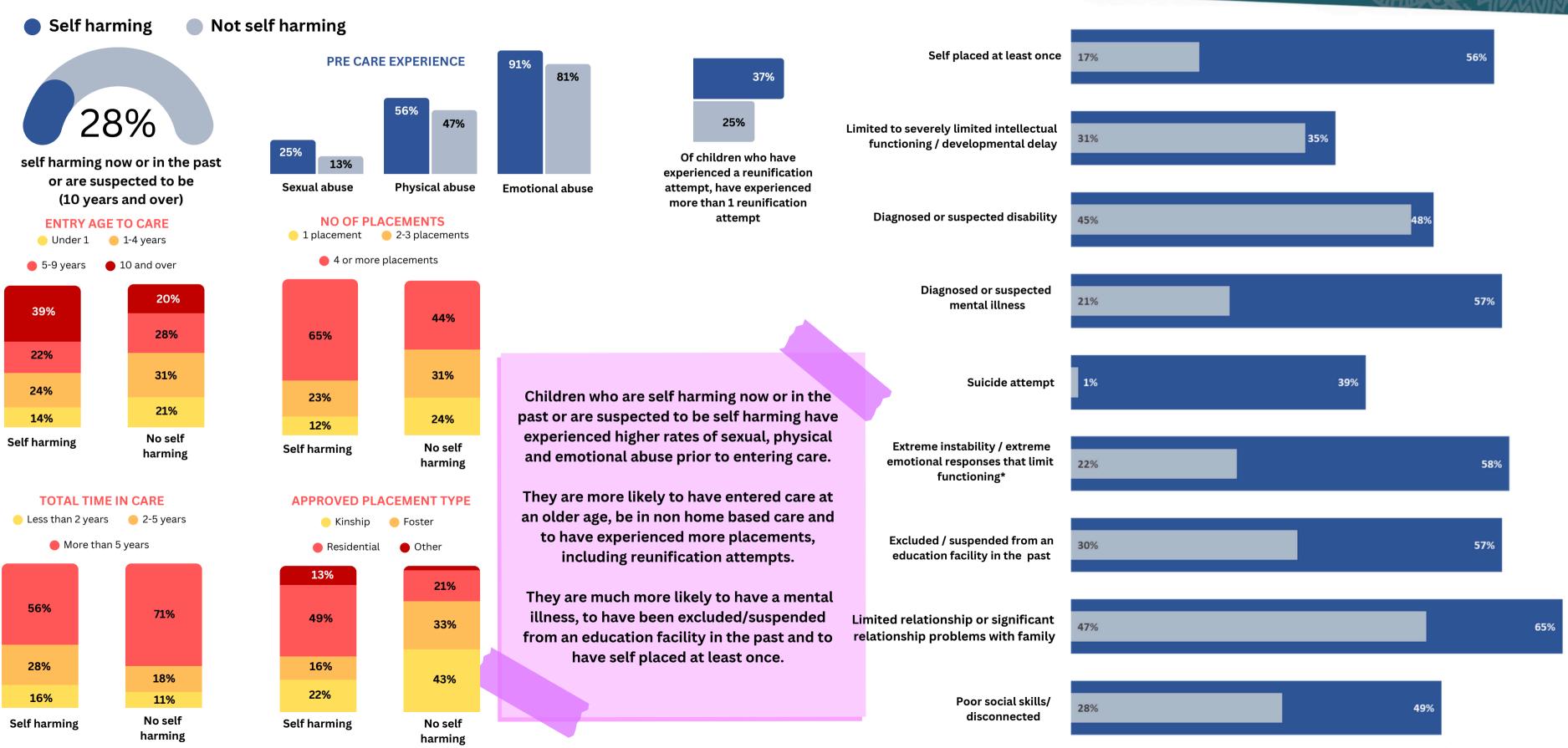
Healthy Page 22 of 51

FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH A DIAGNOSED OR SUSPECTED MENTAL ILLESS:



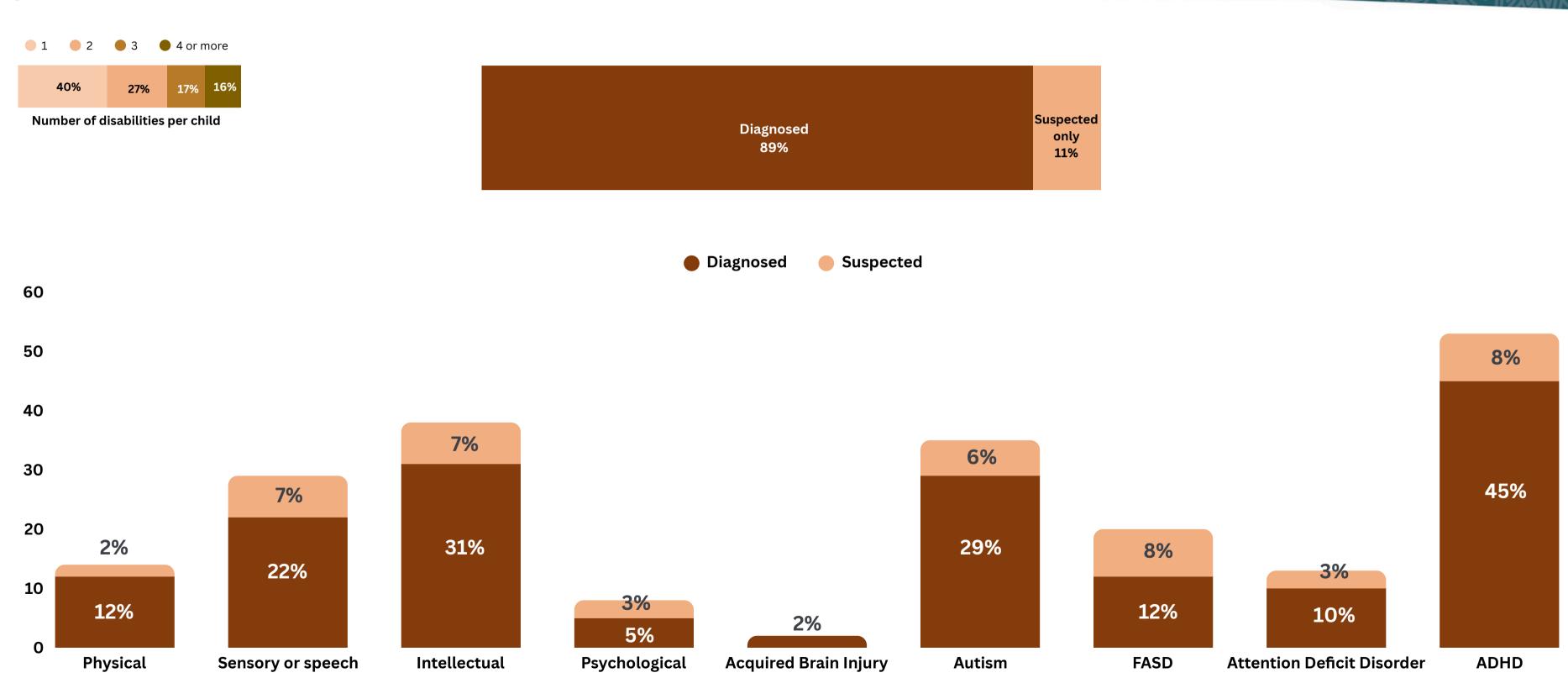
Profile of children who are self harming now or in the past or suspected to be self harming (10 years and over)

Healthy Page 23 of 51



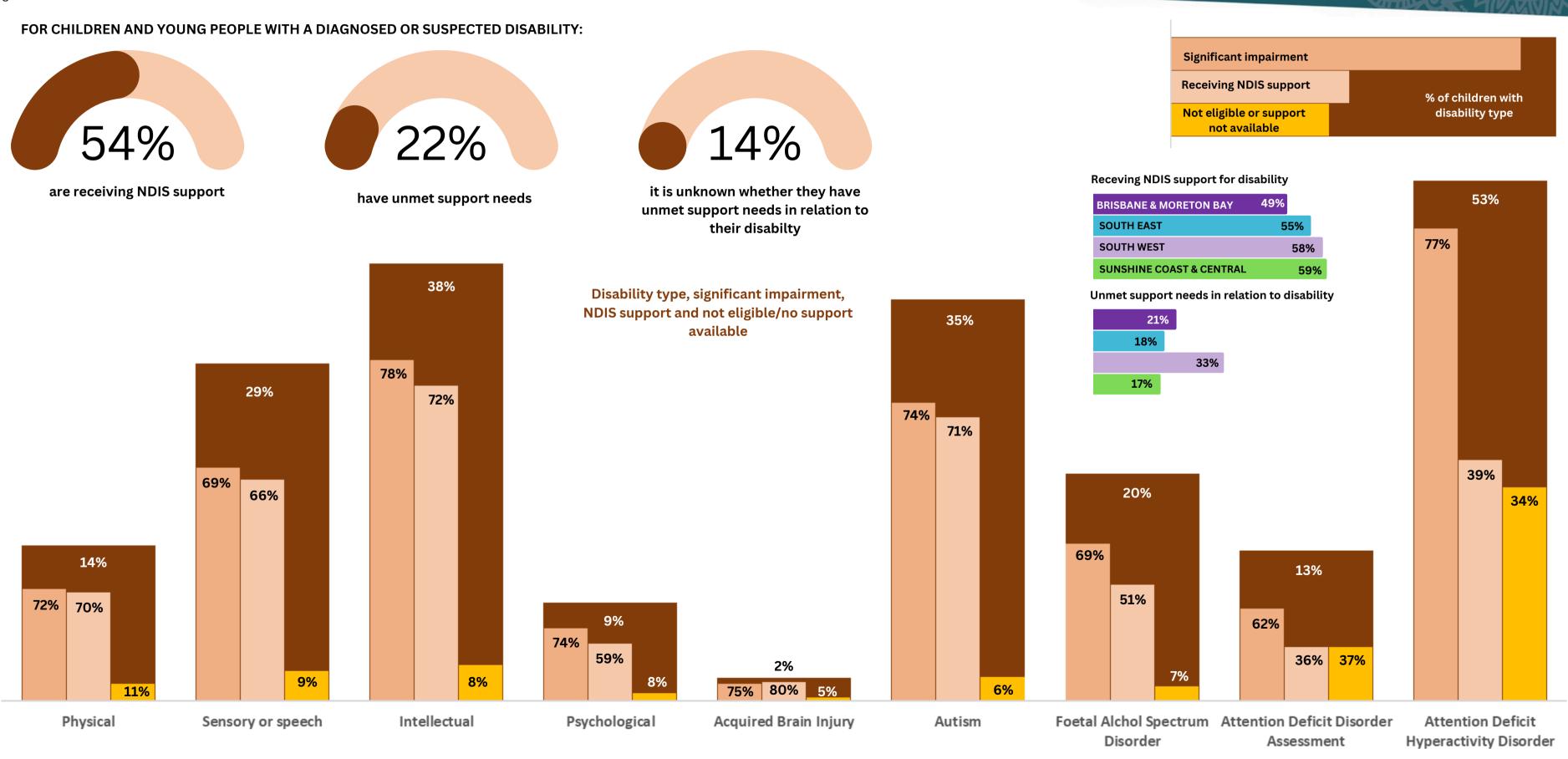
Disability - Assessment status





Support services for children with a disability

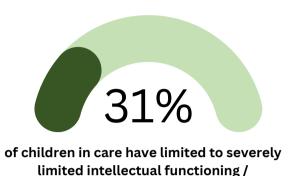
Healthy Page 25 of 51



Learning, Earning and Developing

Intellectual impairment / Developmental delay

Learning, Earning and Developing Page 27 of 51

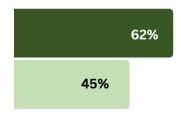


developmental delay

Regional comparison - Limited to severely limited intellectual functioning / developmental delay

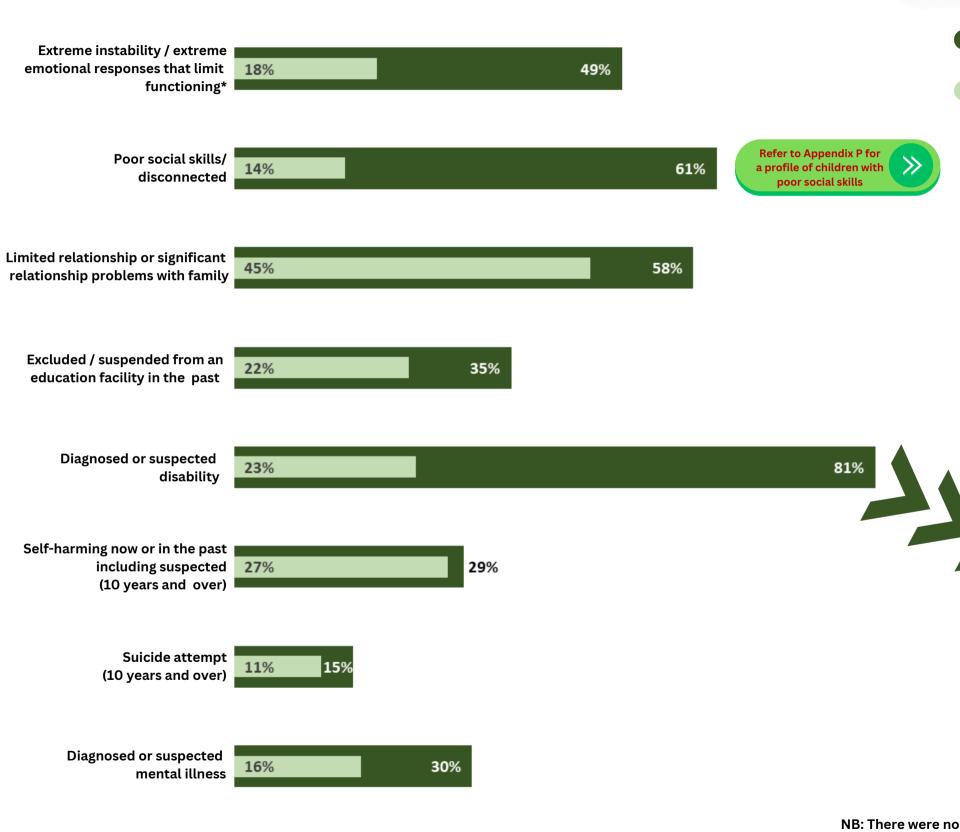


GENDER IS MALE



Self placed at least once 31%

(10 years and over)



32%

Limited to severely limited intellectual functioning

Average to above average intellectual functioning

The majority of children with limited to severely limited intellectual functioning / developmental delay have a diagnosed or suspected disability (81%). For half of these children, they have an intellectual disability.



For the 81% of children with limited to severely limited intellectual functioning/developmental delay who also have a disability:

56% Intellectual disability
46% ADHD
41% Autism
26% FASD
39% Sensory / Speech disability
74% More than 1 disability
92% At least one disability is diagnosed

NB: There were no notable differences in pre care abuse experienced by children with limited to severely limited intellectual functioning/developmental delay compared to children with average to above average intellectual functioning.

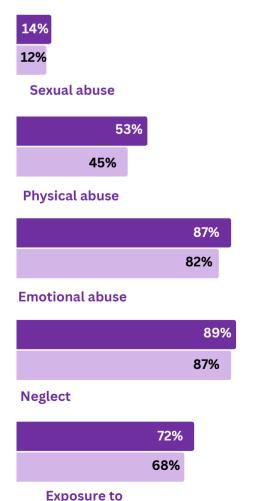
Exclusions / suspensions

Learning, Earning and Developing Page 28 of 51

Proportion of sample cohort who have been excluded / suspended from an education facility in the past

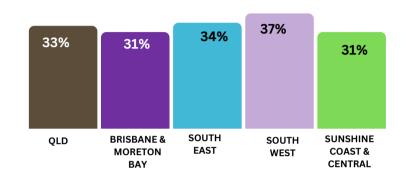


PRE CARE EXPERIENCE OF SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN 6-16 YEARS WHO HAVE BEEN EXCLUDED/SUSPENDED FROM AN EDUCATION **FACILITY IN THE PAST**



domestic violence

Proportion of school age children aged 6 to 16 years who have been excluded / suspended from an education facility in the past



Children (aged 6-16 years) who have been excluded/suspended from an education facility will have experienced higher rates of physical abuse prior to entering care, and are more likely to have a mental illness and/or disability, be self harming and have an intellectual impairment.

See Appendix M for further

information.

Children aged 6-16 years who have had no exclusions or suspensions



*excludes too young to determine

Transition to Adulthood

Learning, Earning and Developing Page 29 of 51





89%

SOUTH

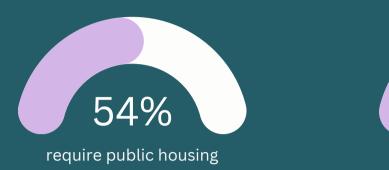
87%

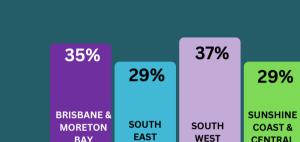
MORETON

88%

SOUTH









REGIONAL COMPARISON

- REMAINING WITH CARER

22%

are currently in paid

employment

REGIONAL COMPARISON - REQUIRES PUBIC HOUSING

46%

SOUTH

WEST

COAST &

60%

EAST

48%

BRISBANE &

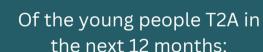
MORETON



32%

require NDIS support

REGIONAL COMPARISON - REQUIRES NDIS SUPPORT





REGIONAL COMPARISON

- HAVE A T2A PLAN

89%

SUNSHINE

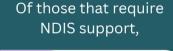
COAST &

CENTRAL

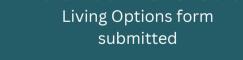




are on a waitlist for public housing



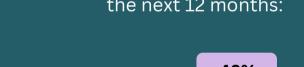




42%



- NDIS HOME AND LIVING **OPTIONS FORM SUBMITTED**

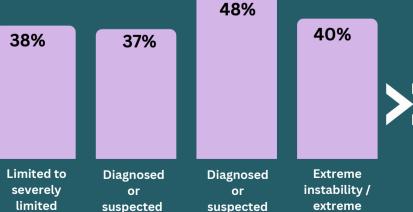


intellectual

functioning /

developmental

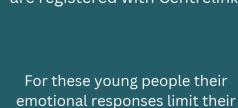
delay





responses that limit functioning*





participation in:





REGIONAL COMPARISON - IN SOME FORM OF EMPLOYMENT



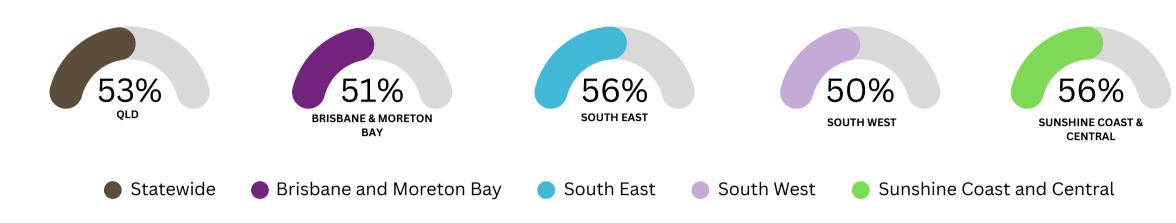
REGIONAL COMPARISON - WAITLIST FOR PUBIC HOUSING

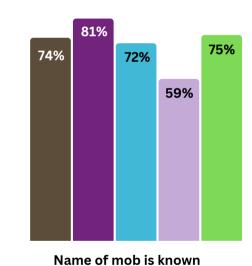
Participating, Belonging and Identity

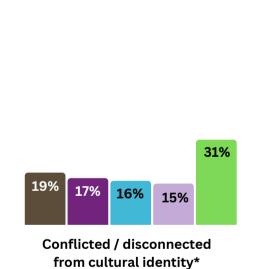
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander **Child Placement Profile**

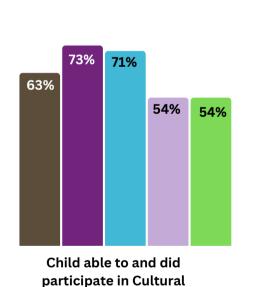
Participating, Belonging & Identity Page 31 of 51

Have a Cultural Support Plan

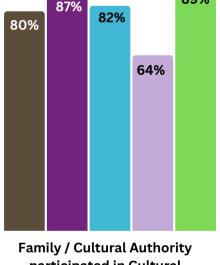


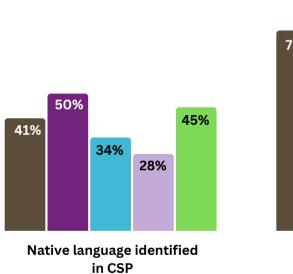


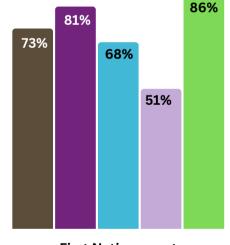


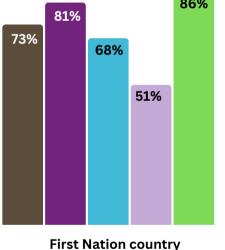


Support Plan development

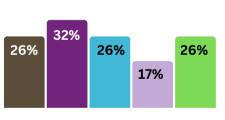






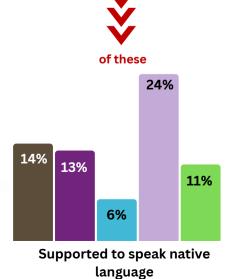


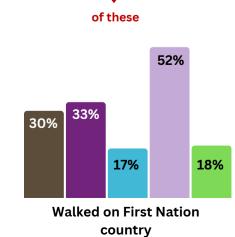
identified in CSP



Independent Person engaged in past 12 months when significant decision made

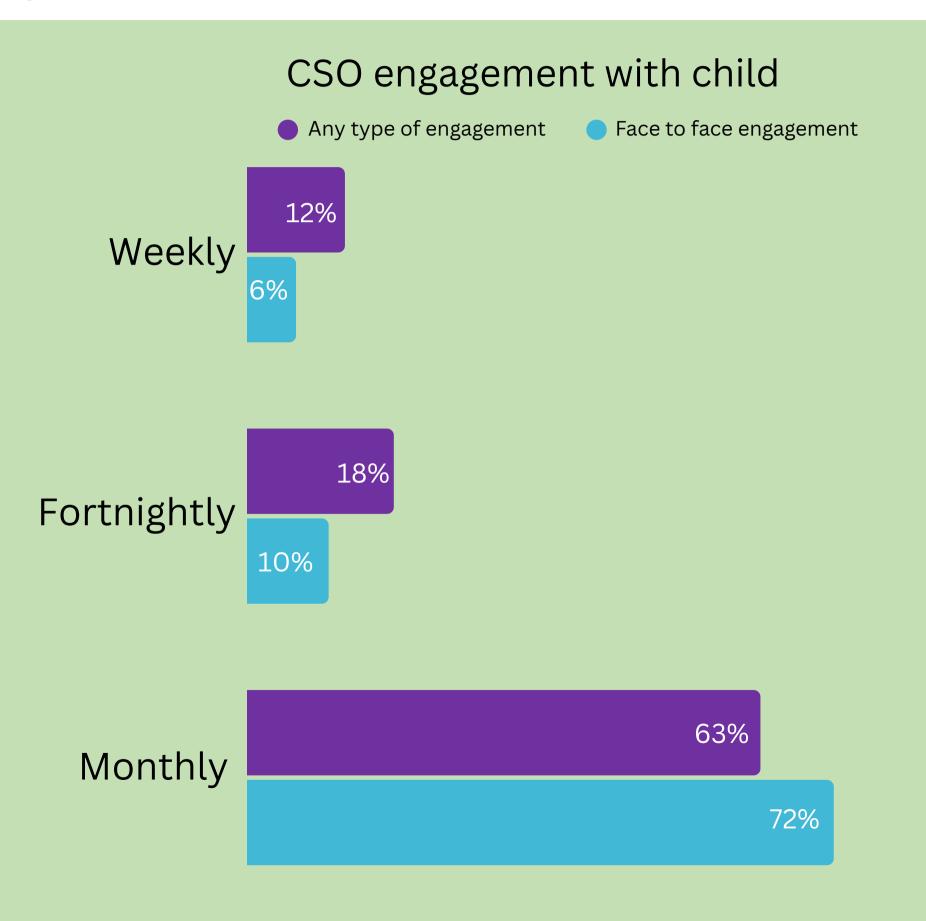
participated in Cultural Support Plan development





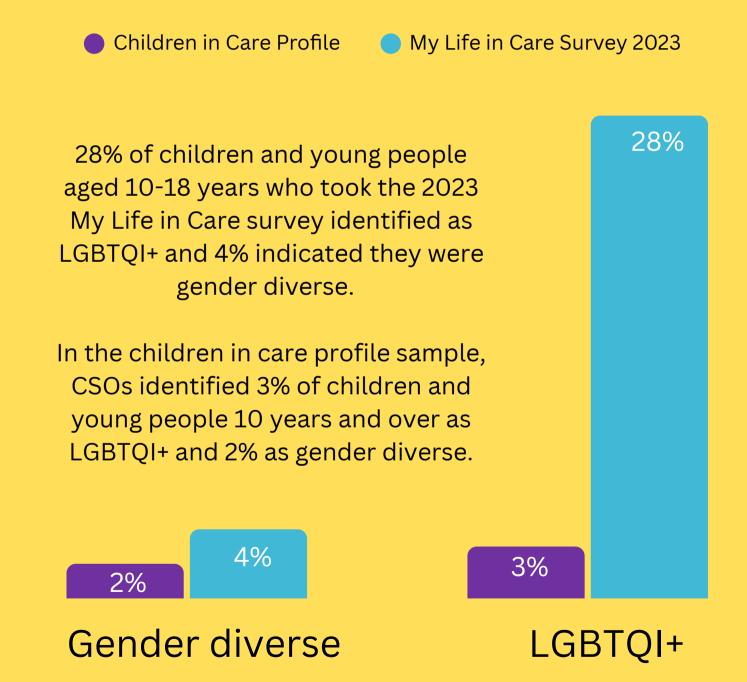
Diversity / Engagement with Child Safety

Participating, Belonging & Identity Page 32 of 51



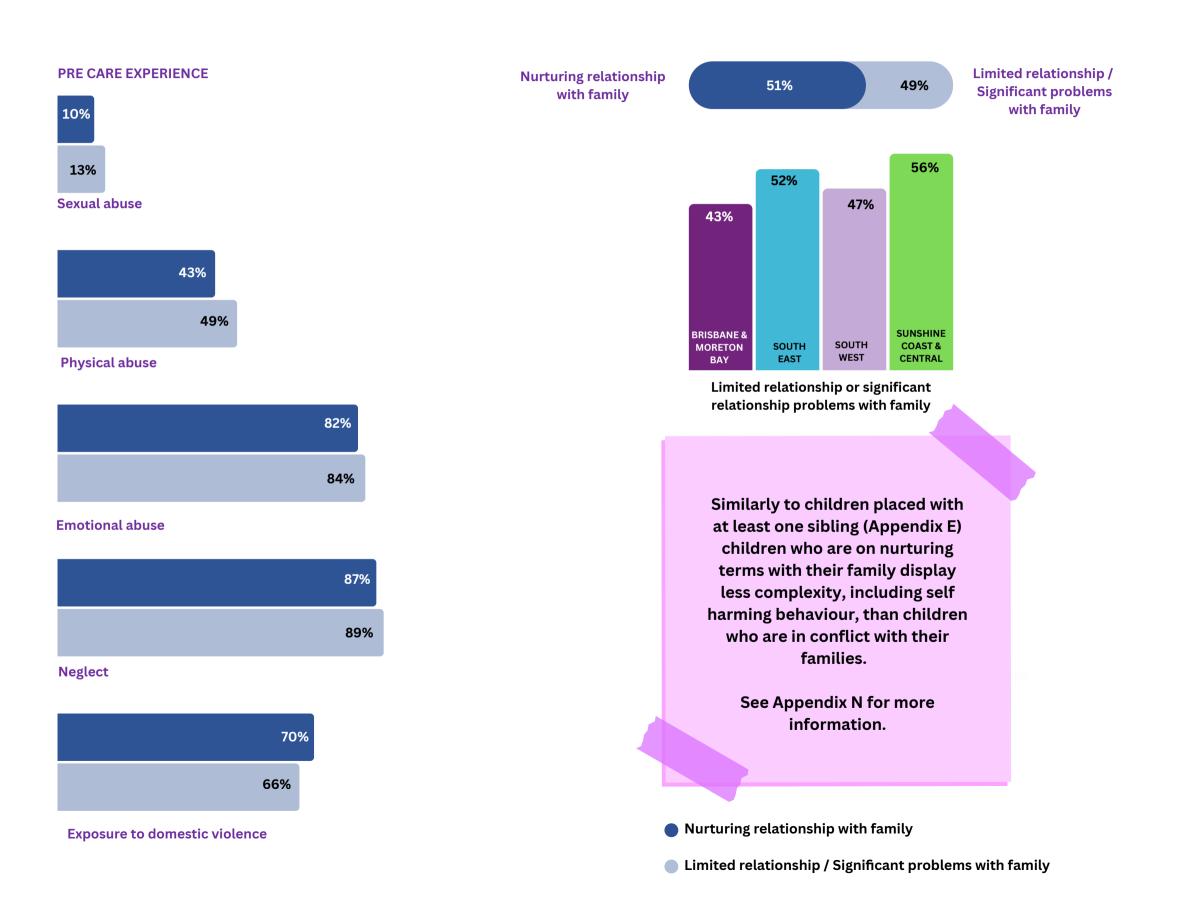
Diversity

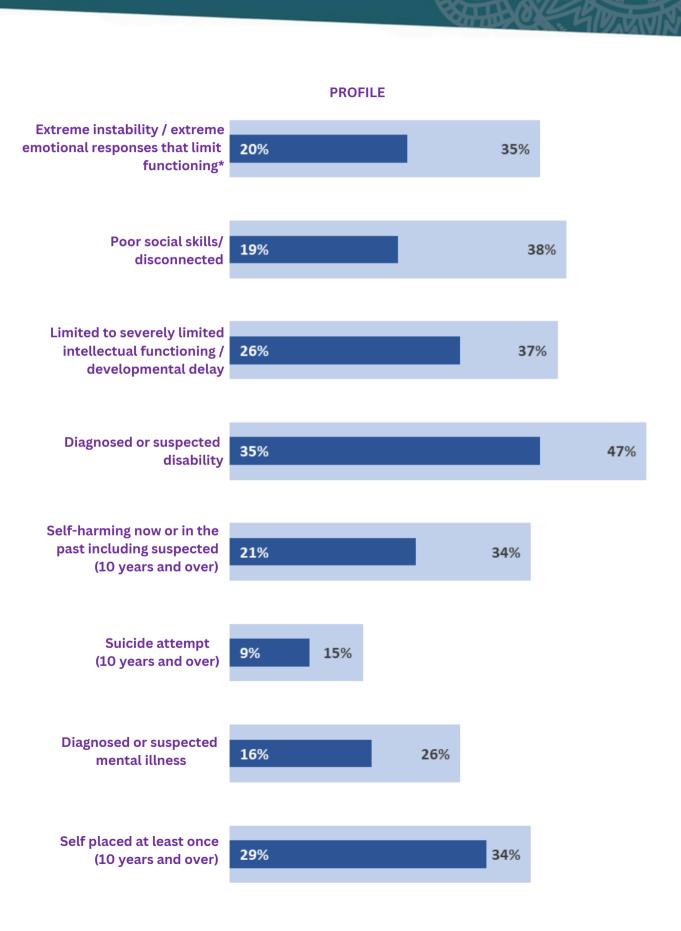
Children and young people aged 10 years and over



Relationship with Biological family

Participating, Belonging & Identity Page 33 of 51





Appendices

trauma.

Current age by age entered care

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(current age) (current age)

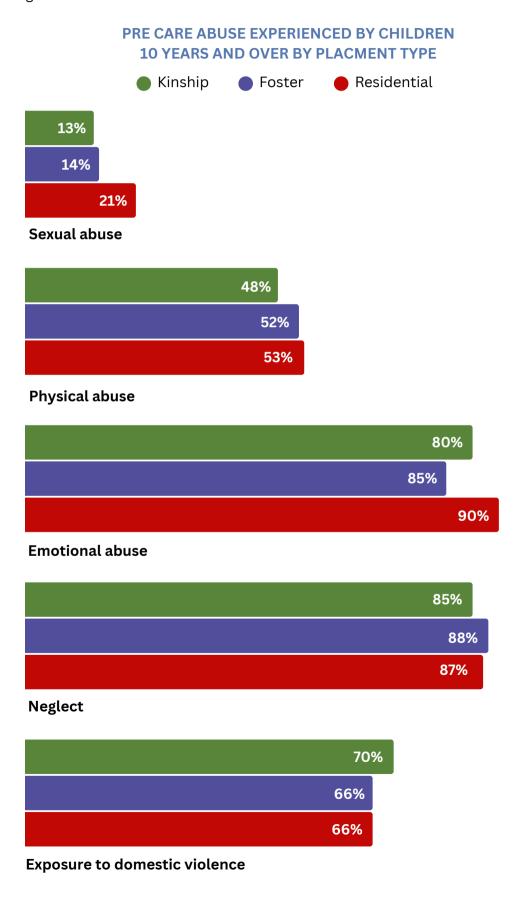
(current age) (current age)

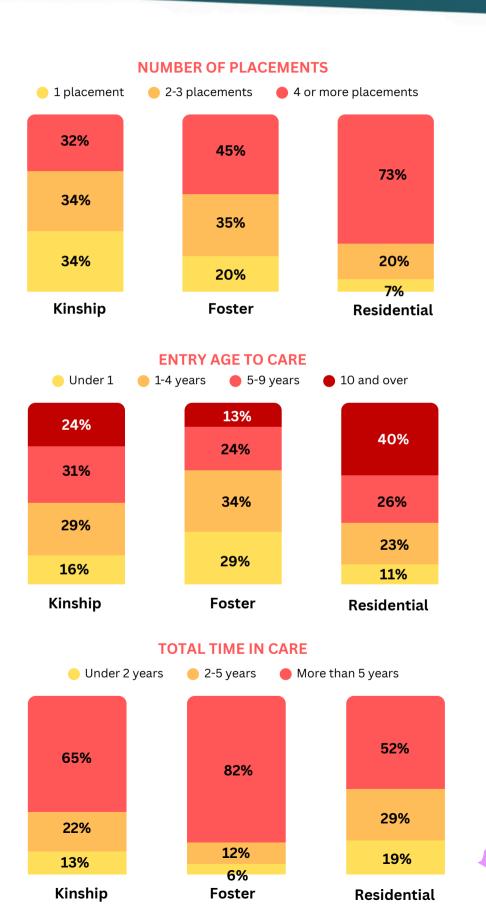
(current age) (current age)

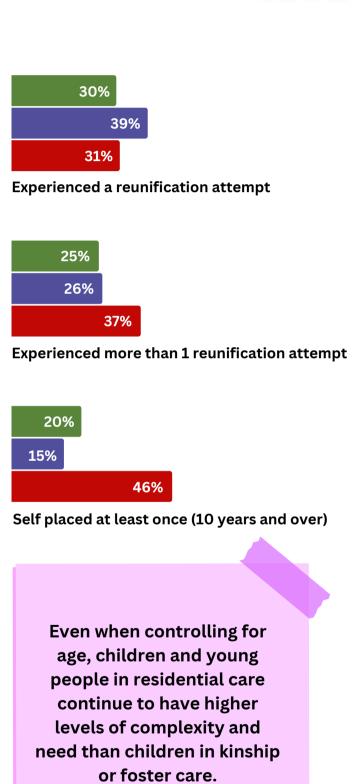
(current age)

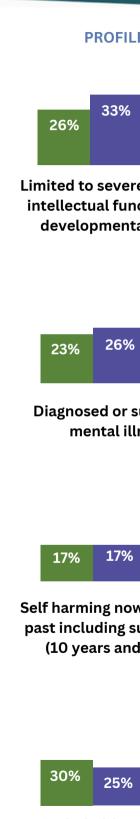
In care - Children aged 10 years and over by placement type

Page 36 of 51

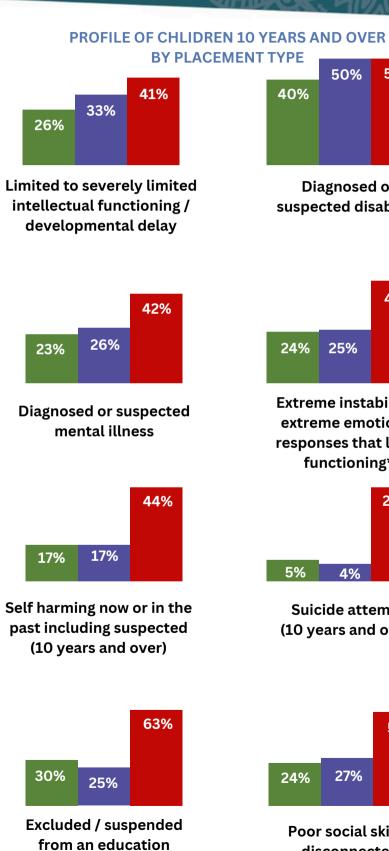


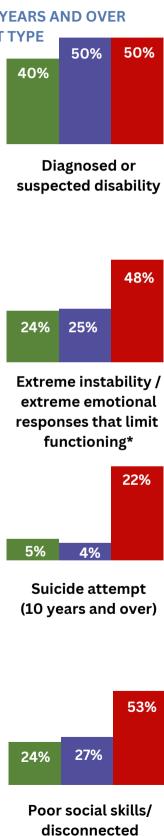






facility in the past





Appendix C

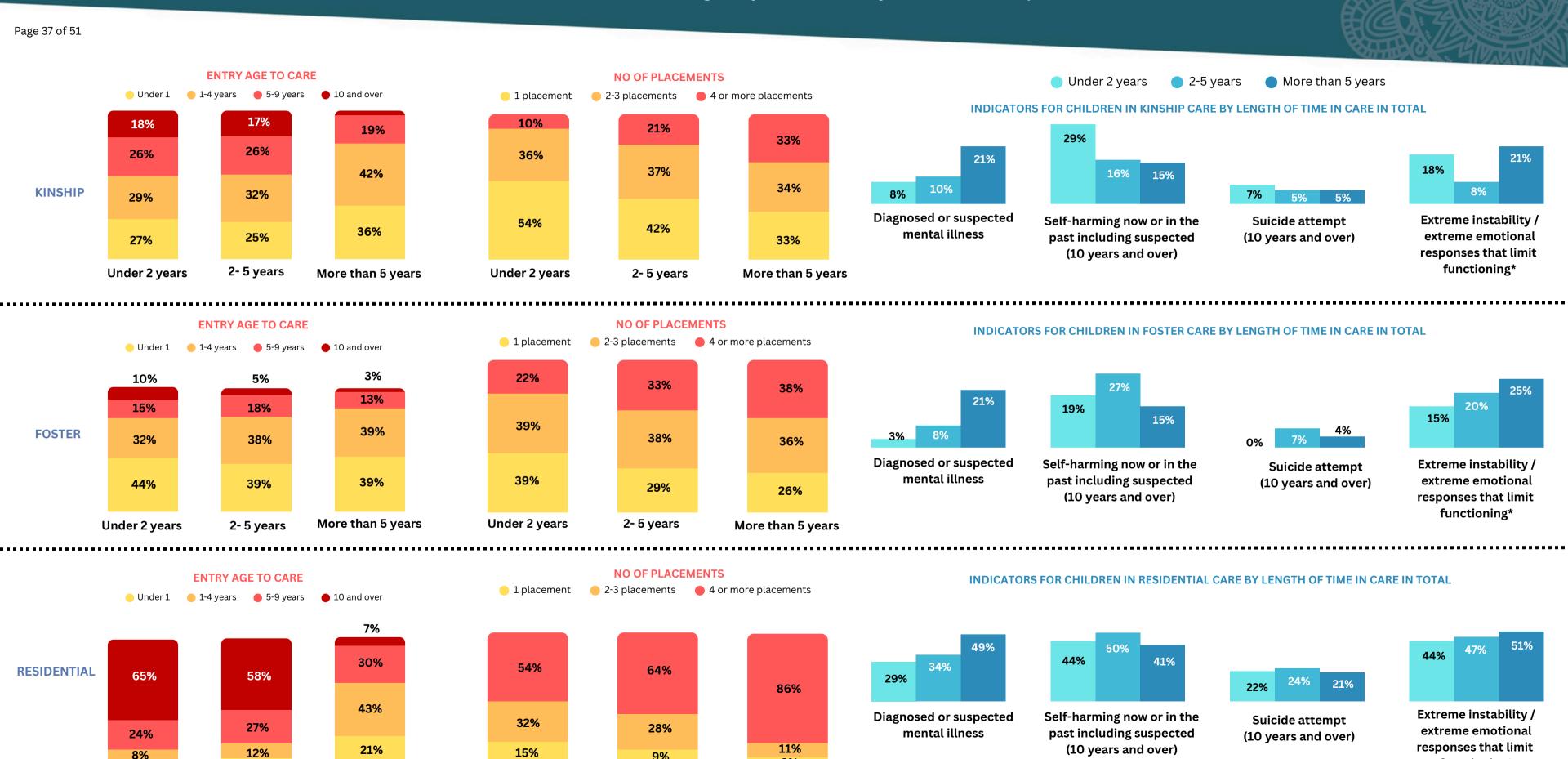
Under 2 years

3% 2- 5 years

More than 5 years

Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety Length of time in care in total by placement type

Findings subject to variability due to small sample sizes



3%

More than 5 years

Under 2 years

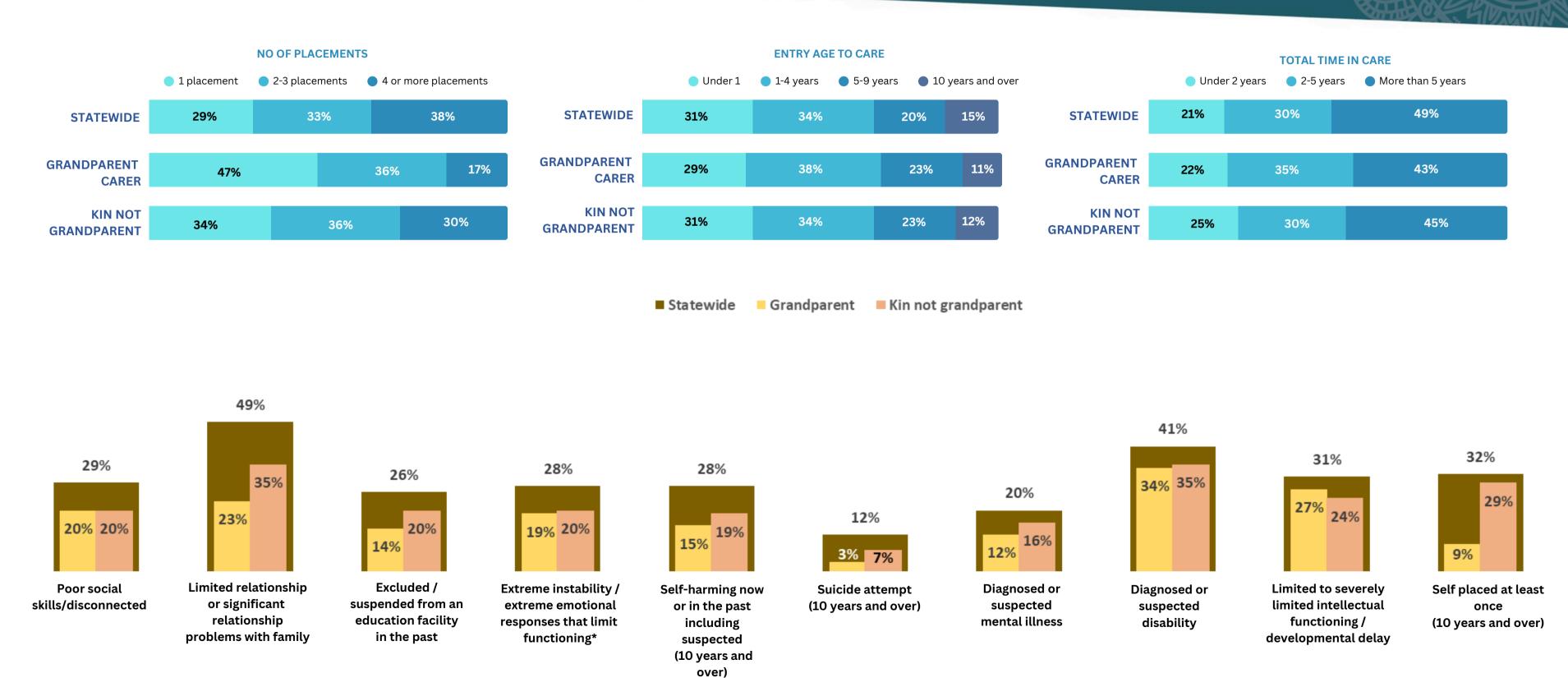
2-5 years

functioning*

*excludes too young to determine

Profile of children placed with grandparent/s

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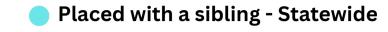


Appendix E

Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety

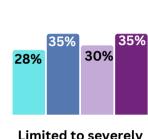
Profile of children placed with sibling/s



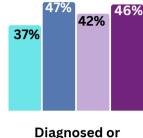


- Not placed with a sibling Statewide
- Placed with a sibling Foster care

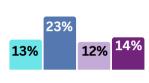
Not placed with a sibling - Foster care



Limited to severely limited intellectual functioning / developmental delay

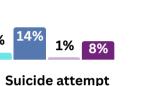


suspected disability



Diagnosed or suspected mental illness

NUMBER OF PLACEMENTS

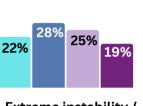


(10 years and over)

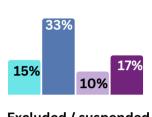
Self-harming now or in the past including suspected (10 years and over)

13%

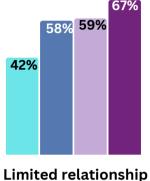
14%



Extreme instability / extreme emotional responses that limit functioning*

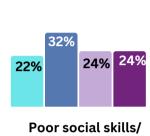


Excluded / suspended from an education facility in the past

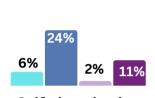


or significant relationship problems with family

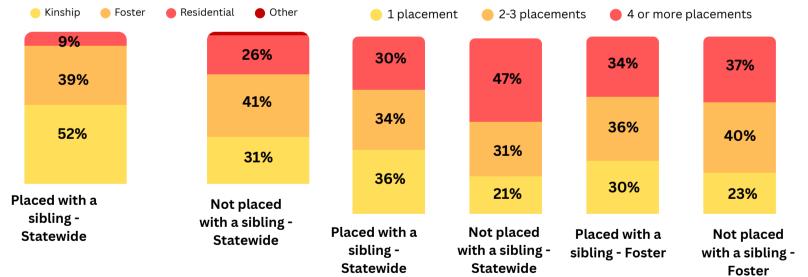
Under 1



disconnected



Self placed at least once (10 years and over)



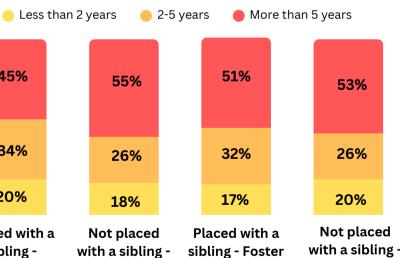
APPROVED PLACEMENT TYPE

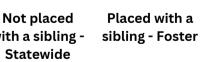


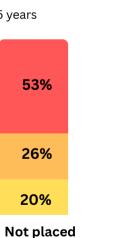


45%

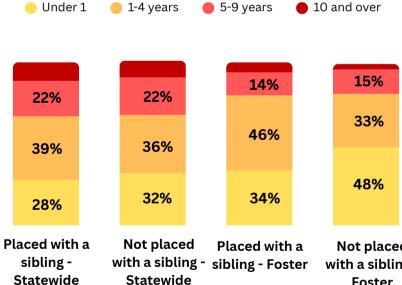
34%











Not placed with a sibling -Foster

TOTAL TIME IN CARE

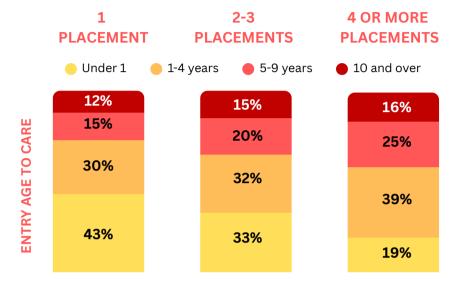
ENTRY AGE TO CARE

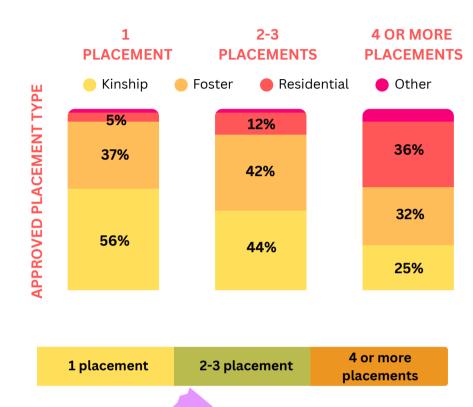
Appendix F

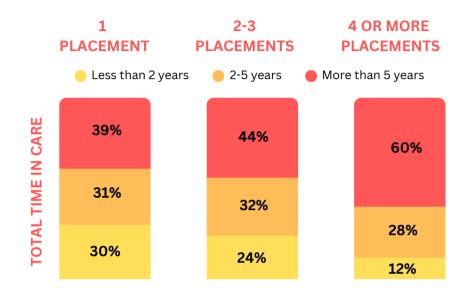
Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety

Additional information - Number of placements

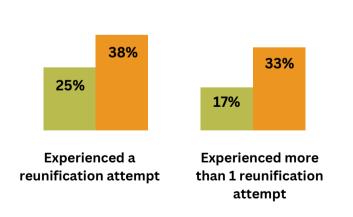
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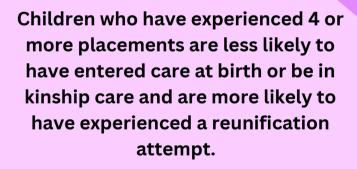


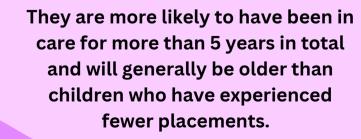




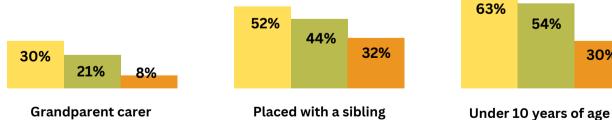
30%







See also Page 17.



Appendix G

Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety

No

reunification

1 reunification

attempt

More than 1

reunification

attempt

Profile of children who have experienced a reunification attempt/s

1 reunification

attempt

More than 1

reunification

attempt

No

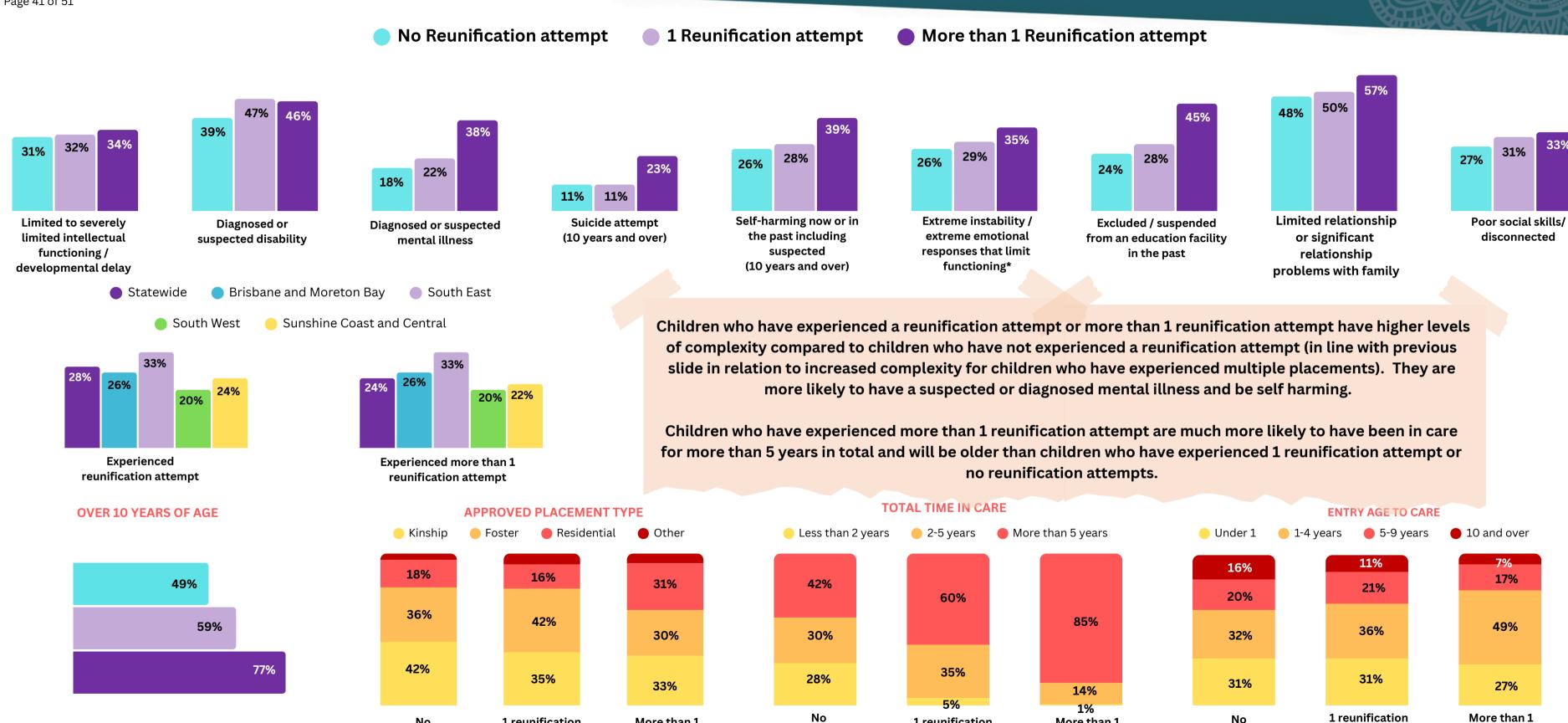
reunification

attempt

reunification

attempt





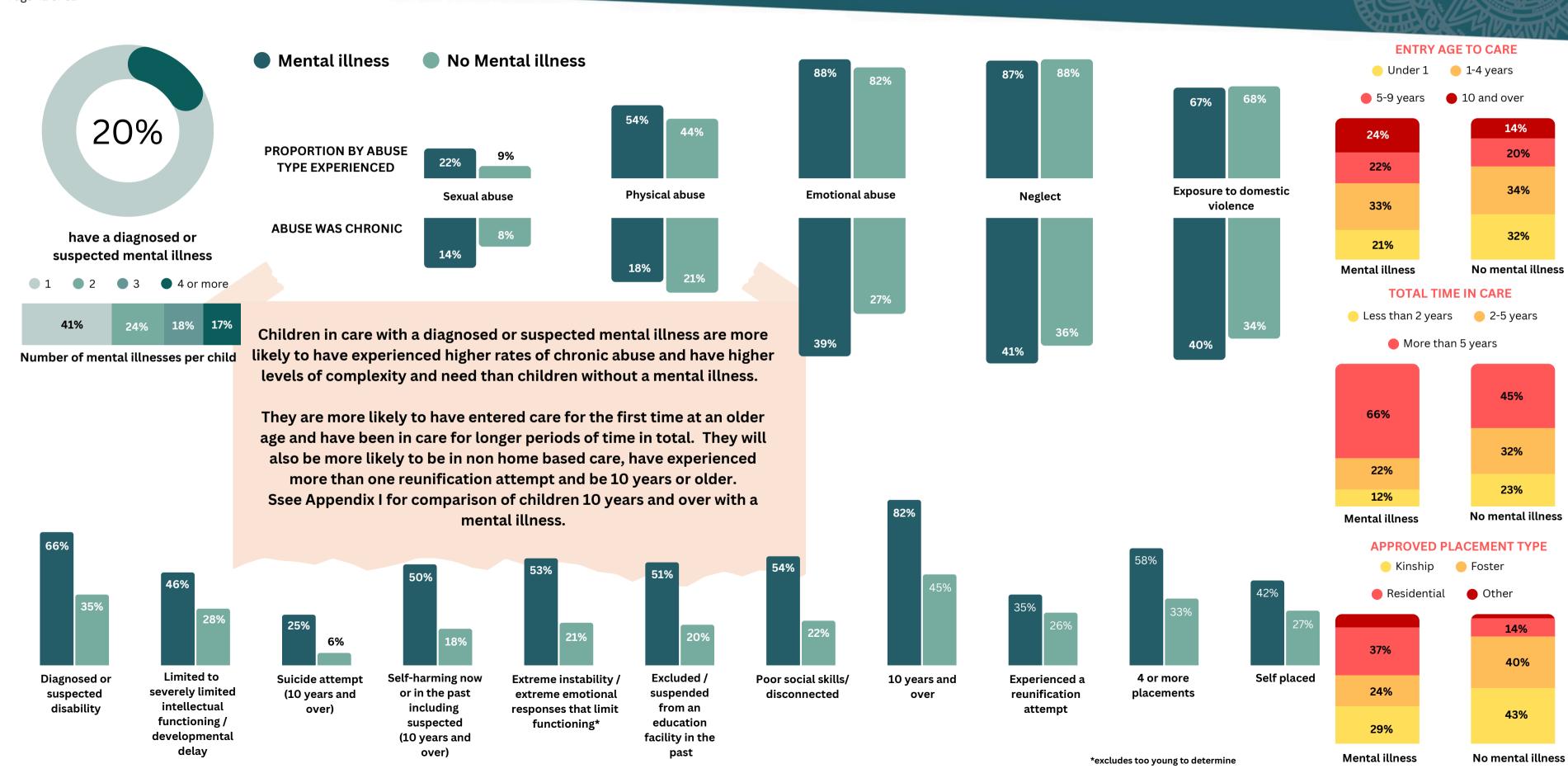
reunification

Appendix H

Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety

Profile of children with a mental illness / behavioural disorder

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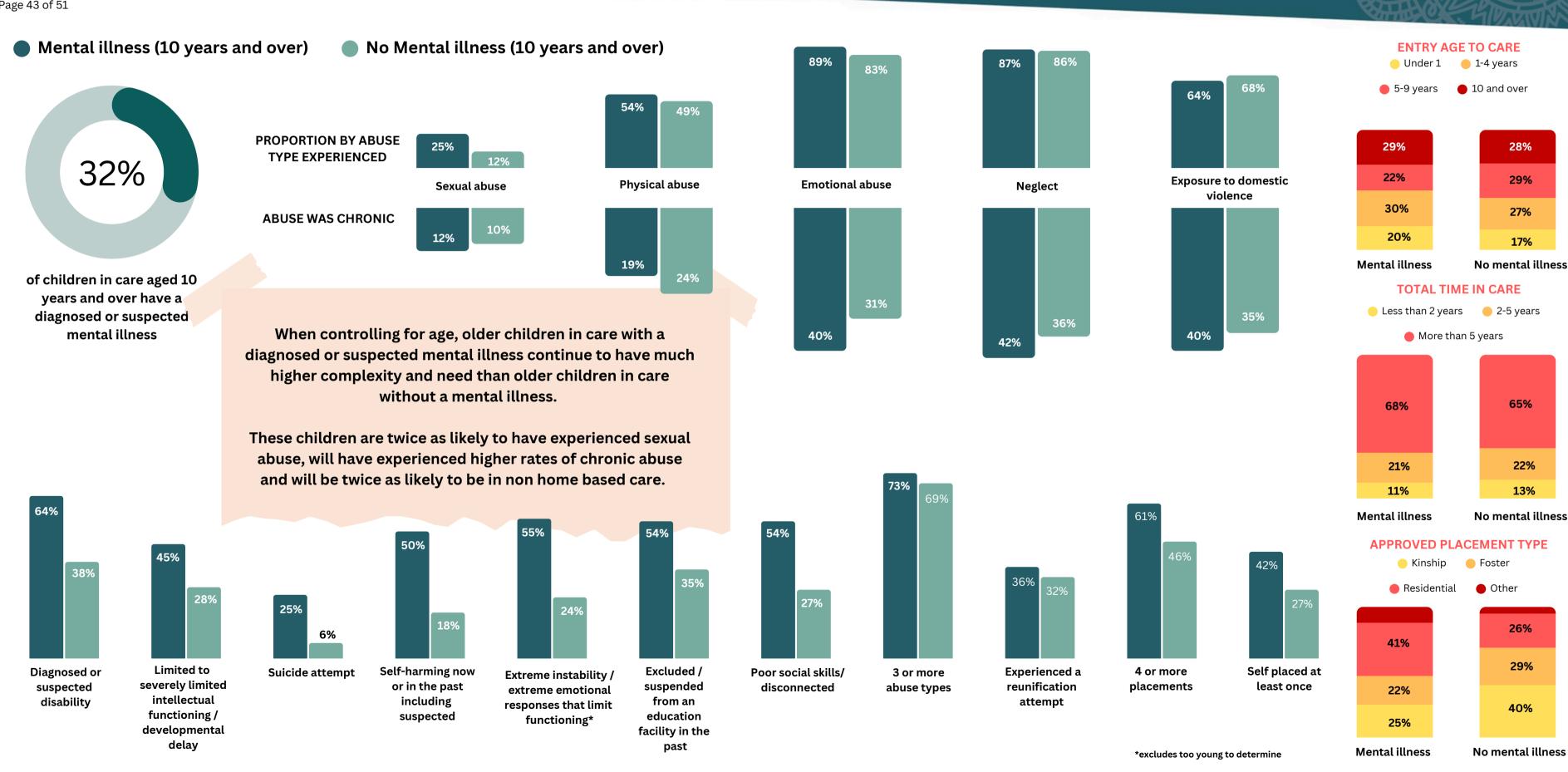


Appendix I

Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety

Profile of children with a mental illness / behavioural disorder 10 years and over

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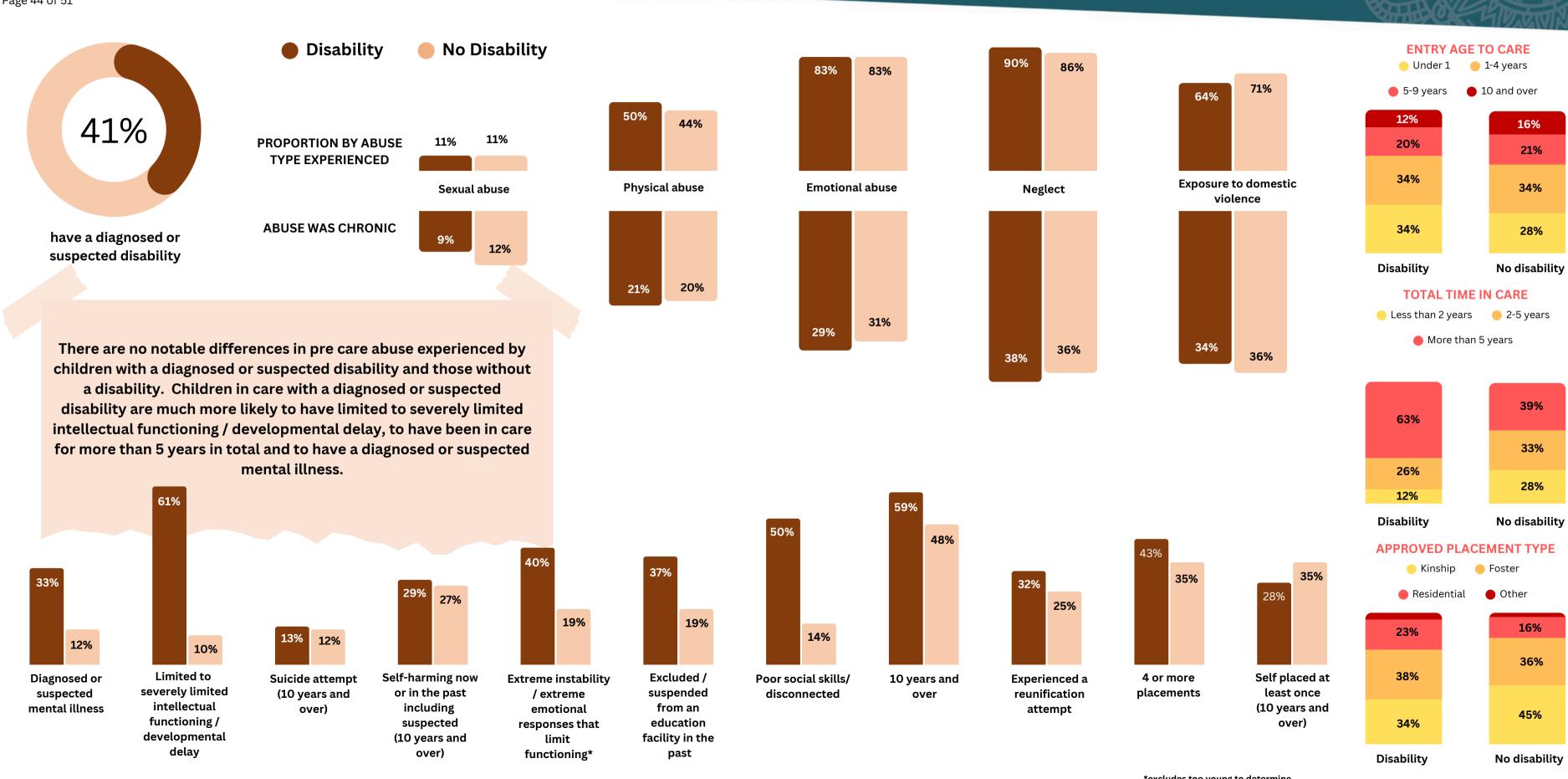


Appendix J

Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety

Profile of children with a disability / neurodevelopmental disability

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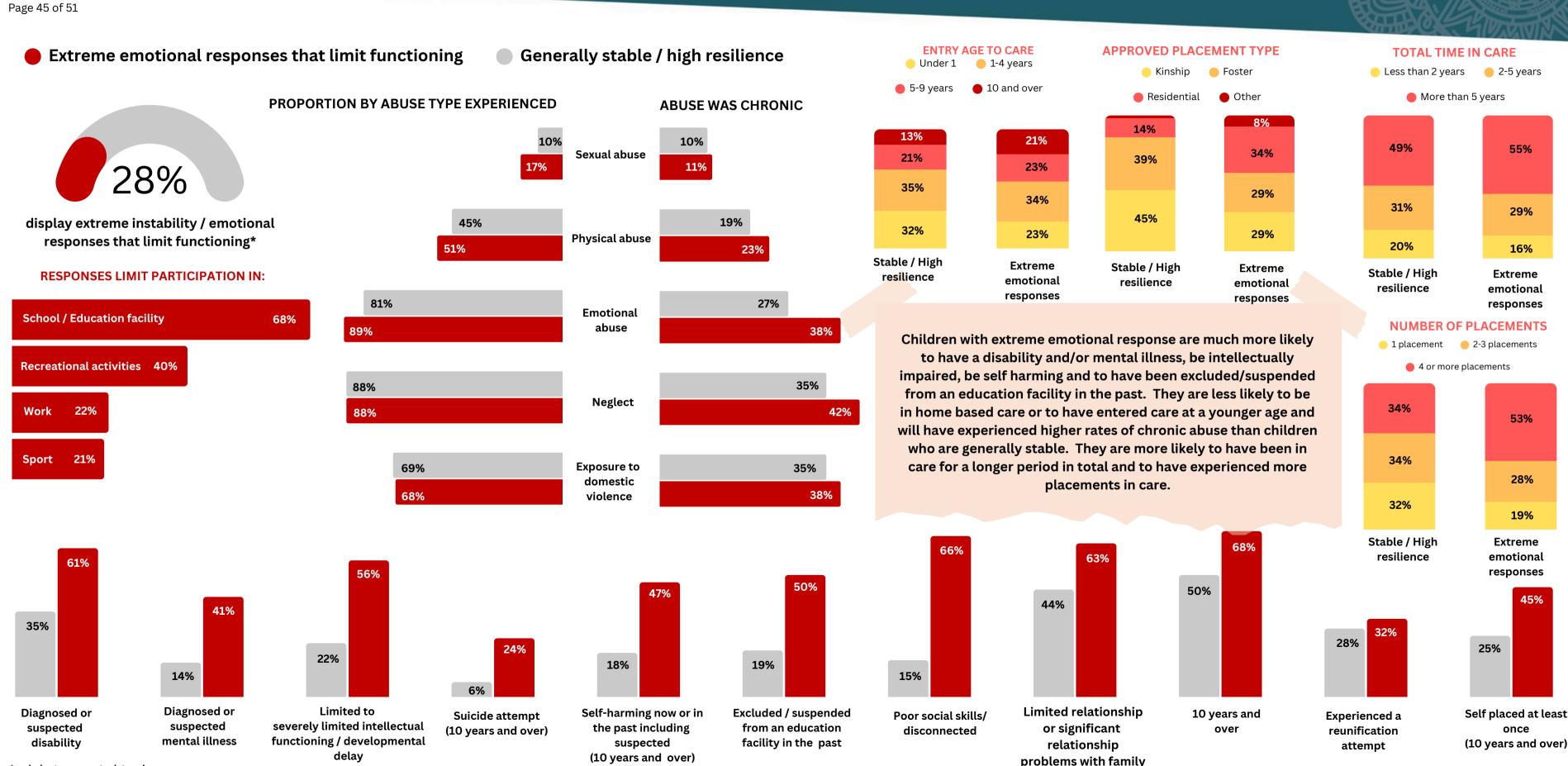


Appendix K

Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety

Emotional resilience

*excludes too young to determine

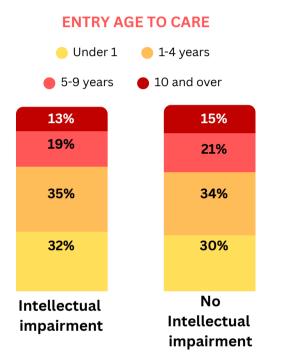


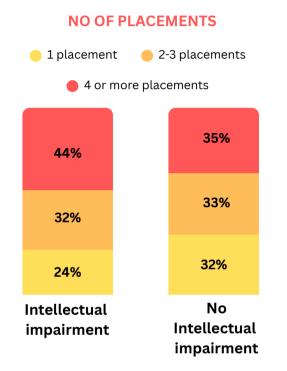
Appendix L

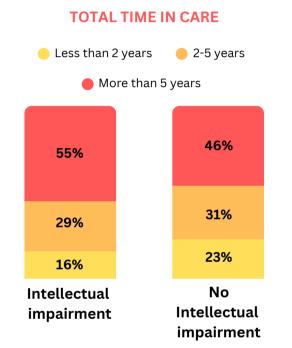
Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety

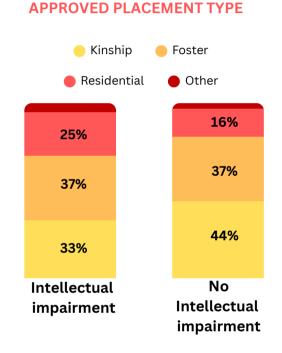
Additional information Intellectual impairment / Developmental delay

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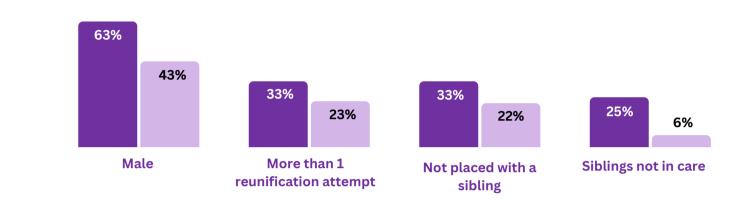
Appendix M

Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety

Additional information

School age children and young people aged 6-16 years who have been excluded/suspended in the past

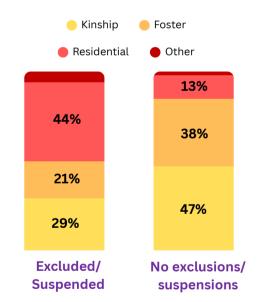
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TOTAL TIME IN CARE



APPROVED PLACEMENT TYPE



NO OF PLACEMENTS



ENTRY AGE TO CARE



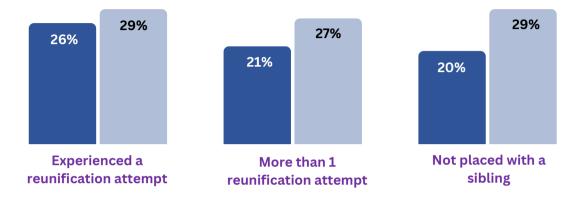
Children (aged 6-16 years) are less likely to be in home based care and more likely to have experienced multiple placements, including reunification attempts. They are also more likely to have entered care for the first time at an older age, be male and have siblings that are not in care; and if their sibling/s are in care to not be placed with them.

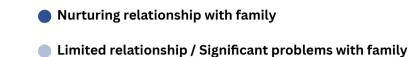
Appendix N

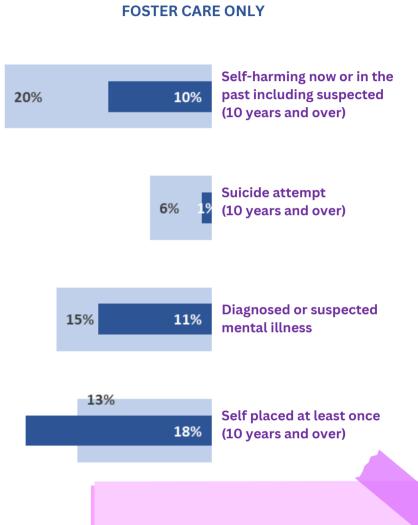
Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety

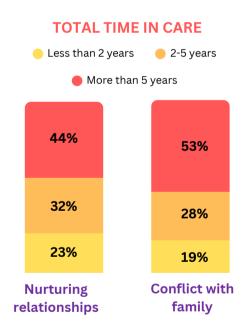
Additional information Relationship with family

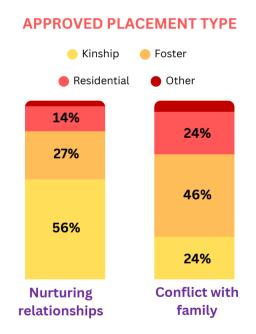
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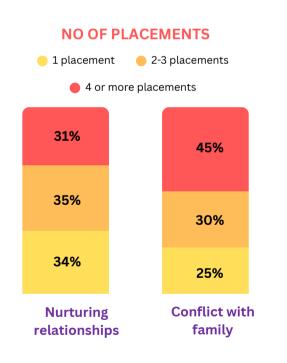


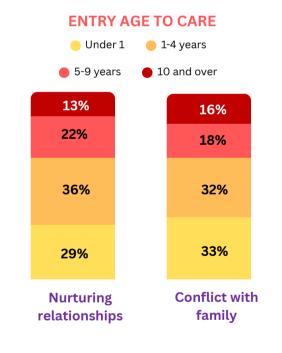












Children who have nurturing relationships with their family are much more likely to be in kinship care compared to children in conflict with their family; when controlling for this and comparing children in foster care only, the same trend of children with nurturing relationship with their family having less complexity (see Page 36) is evident, although that trend is not as pronounced.

Social skills

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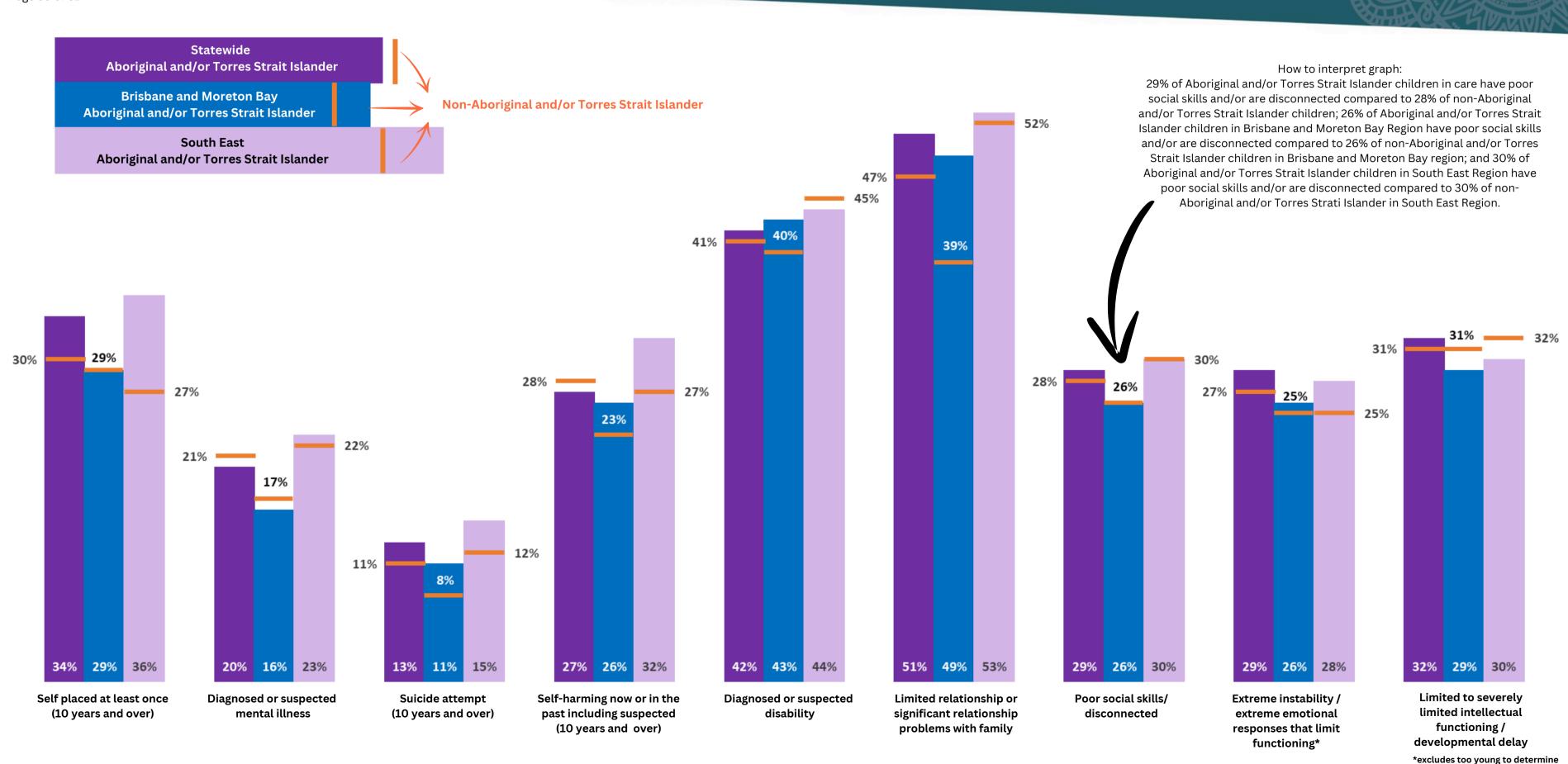
Appendix P

Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander profile by region Response rates do n

Response rates do not allow for Indigenous profiles for South West, Sunshine Coast, North Queensland regions

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Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander profile by region Response rate

Response rates do not allow for Indigenous profiles for South West, Sunshine Coast, North Queensland regions

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