



SOOKE-WEST SHORE FOOD ASSISTANCE SERVICES SURVEY RESULTS

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TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Western Communities includes the traditional lands of the Songhees, MÁLEXEŁ, Paačiinaʔath, T'Sou-ke, and Sc'ianew First Nations, which have a long-standing relationship with the land and waters from time immemorial that continues to this day.

With humility, we commit to work together to uphold the determination and wellbeing of the Indigenous peoples and communities we serve.



AGENDA

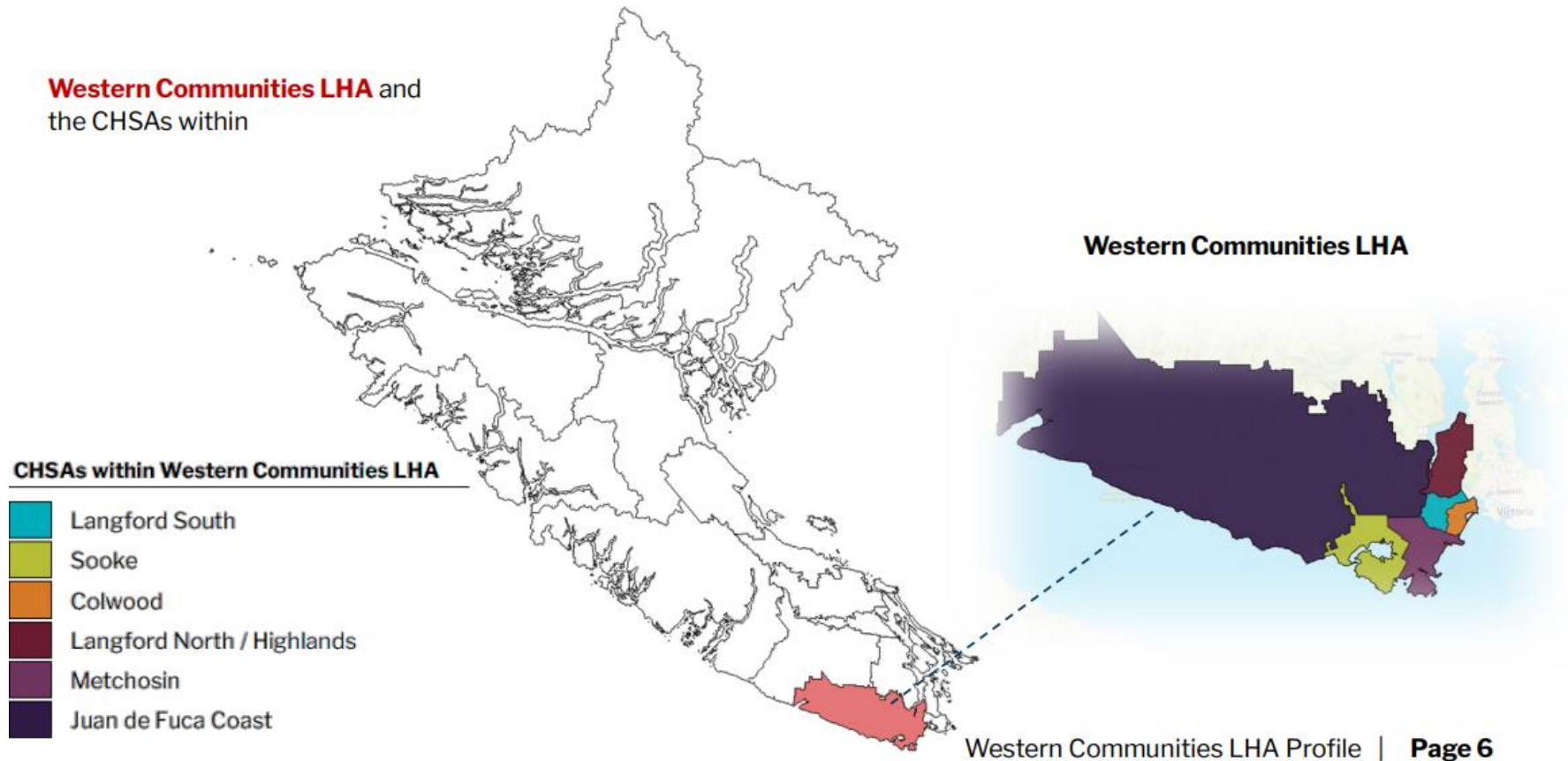
- Background & Context
- Survey Aims
- Survey Findings
- Key Challenges
- Opportunities

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT



WESTERN COMMUNITIES

Western Communities LHA and
the CHSAs within



Western Communities LHA Profile | **Page 6**



WESTERN COMMUNITIES

- Approximate population: 107,217
- 6.1% identify as Indigenous, 11.8% as visible minority
- Average age of 40.4 years (lower than Island Health region and BC)
- 14.4% of families are one-parent families
- Rising population

AFFORDABILITY CHALLENGES



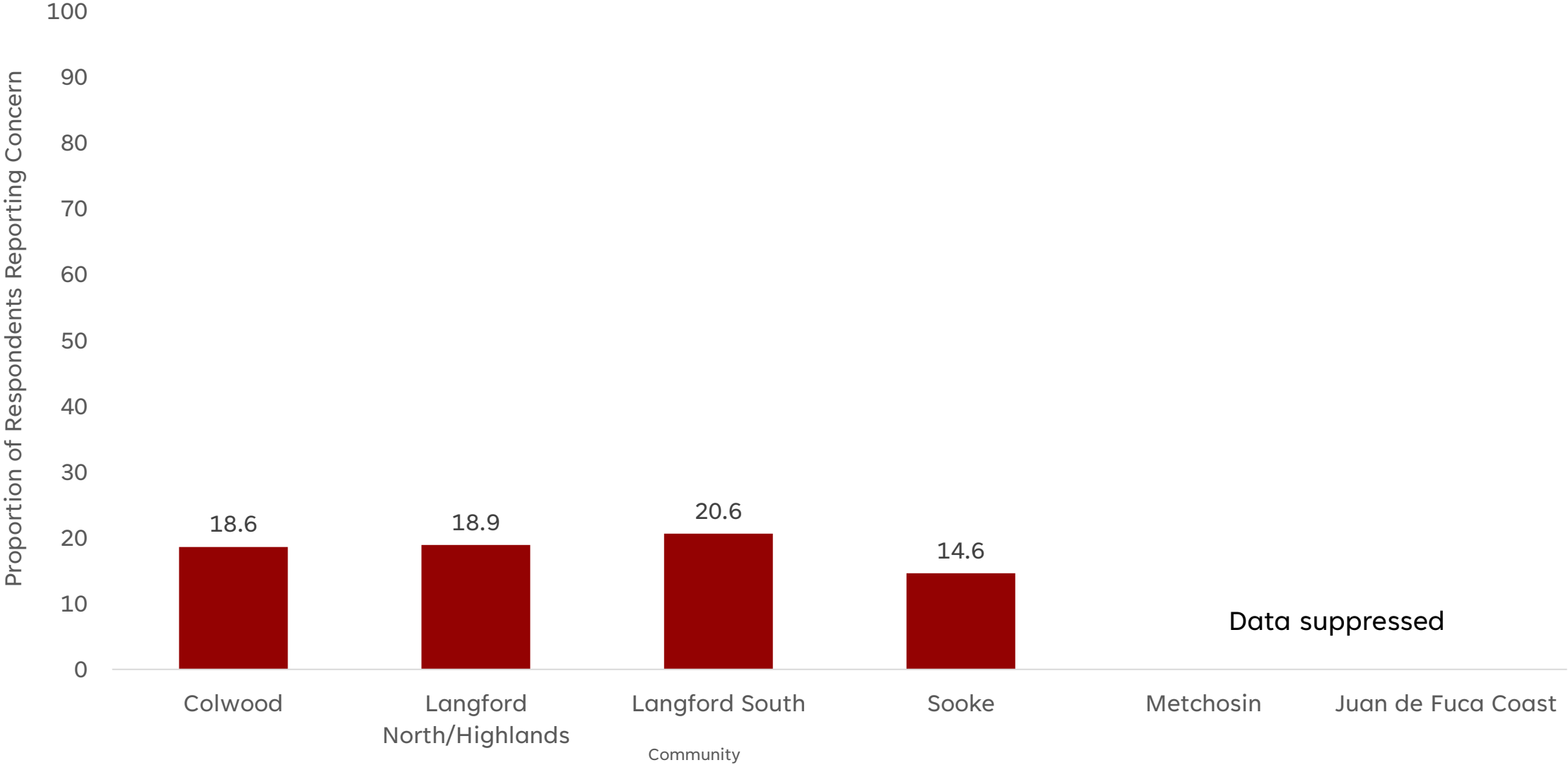
- Median income: \$95,000
- 7.2% of children and youth and 9.7% of seniors lived in low-income households
- 17.5% of homeowners and 37.2% of renters are experiencing housing unaffordability

FOOD INSECURITY



- 17.2% of the population of South Vancouver Island is experiencing food insecurity (2023)
- The proportion is much higher amongst Indigenous communities in South Vancouver Island (27.3%) (2023)
- Estimated cost of a nutritious food basket in 2022 in the South Island: **\$1386**
- 1 in 10 children in grades 7-12 are going to bed hungry in the Sooke School District

Concern for Food Security in Western Communities



SURVEY OF FOOD ASSISTANCE SERVICE PROVIDERS



DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS



- Survey developed by The Village Initiative, Community Social Planning Council, and Island Health Public Health Nutrition team
- Distributed by The Village Initiative to 17 local food assistance organizations
- Mix of multiple-choice and open text responses

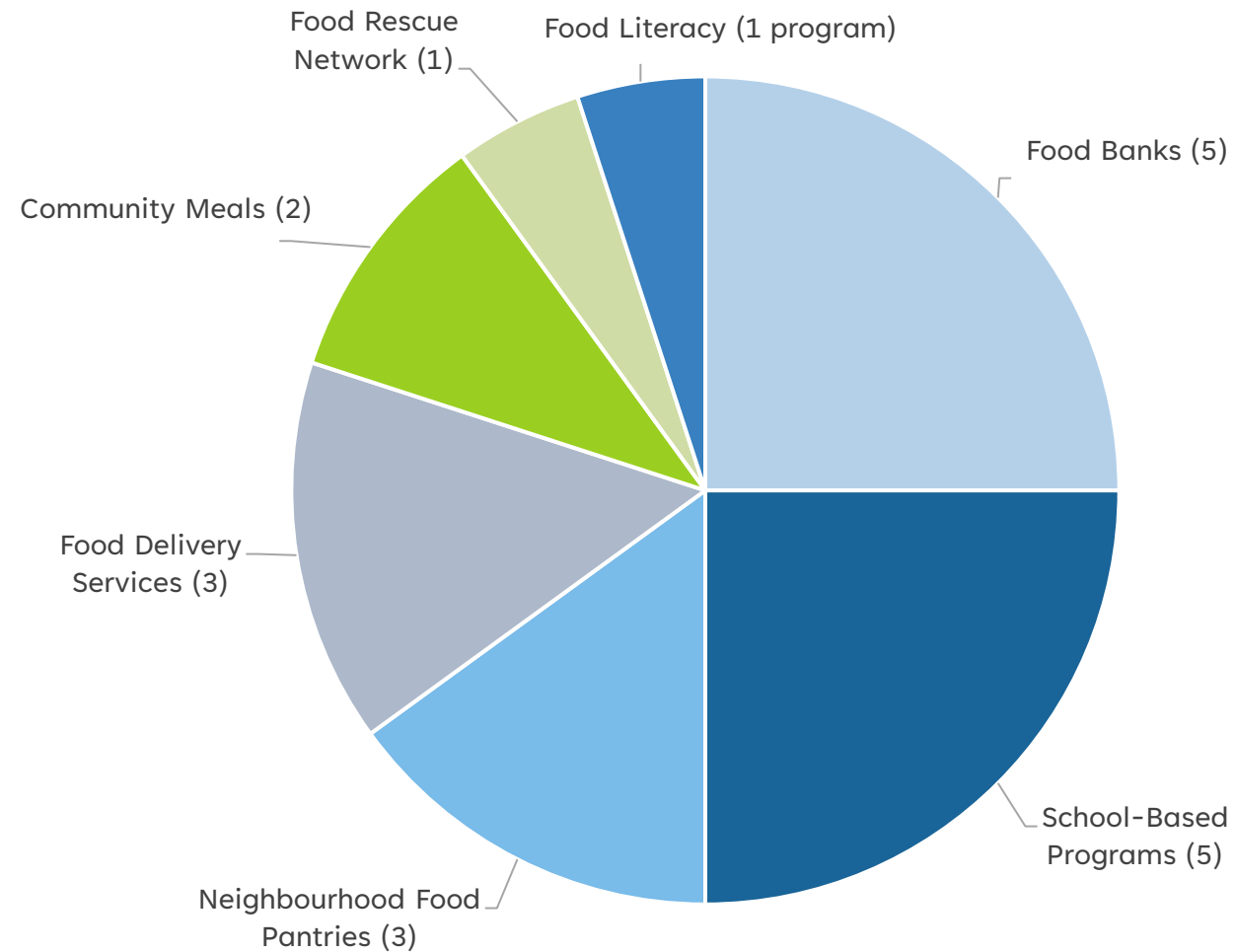
SURVEY RESULTS



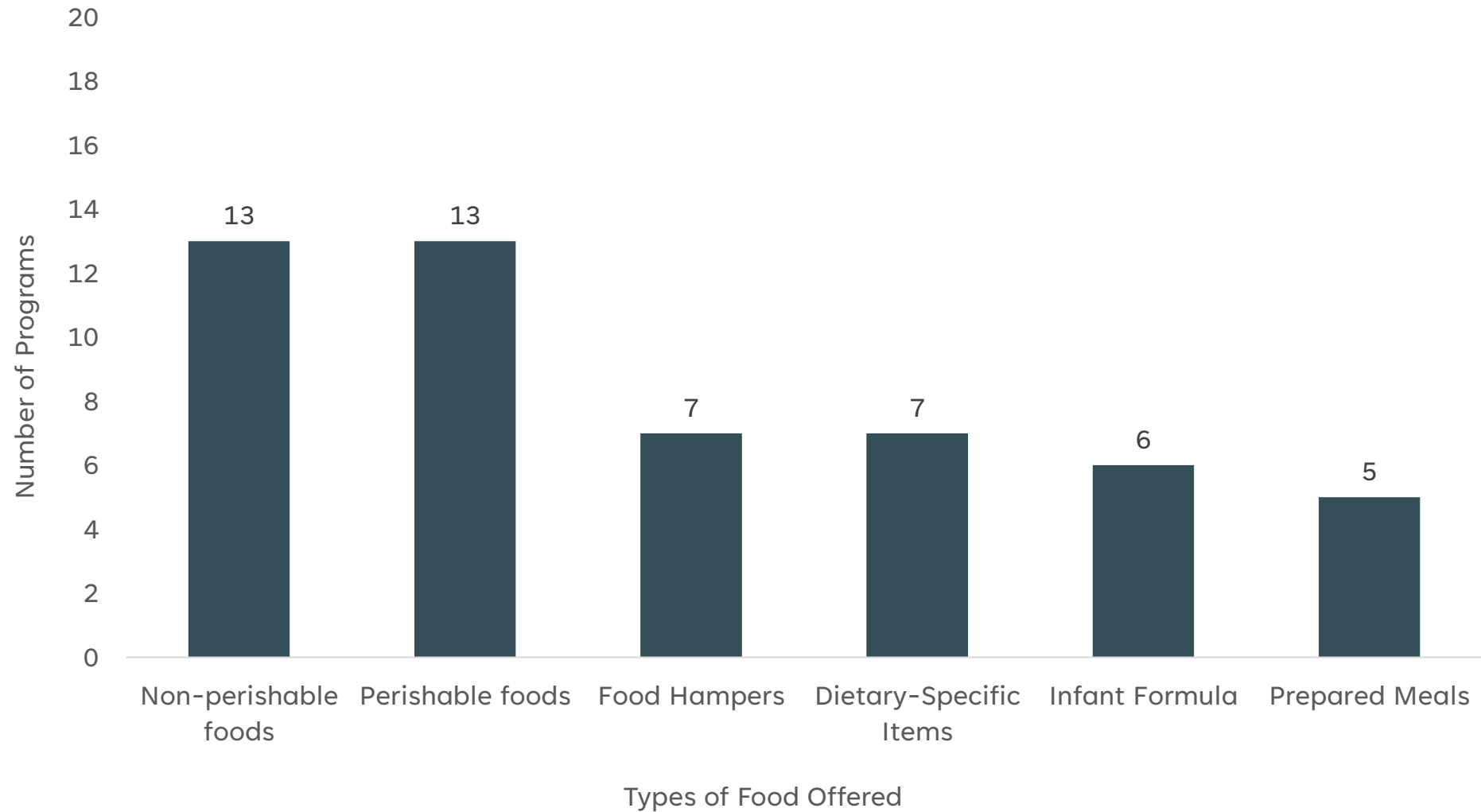
PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

17 organizations (20 programs)	
Anglican Church of the Advent	Sooke Meals on Wheels
Canadian Veterans Services Society	Supporting Humanity In Finding Togetherness Society
Community First Foundation	The Farm at Royal Roads
Flourish! School Food Society	The Mustard Seed
Goldstream Food Bank Society	The Salvation Army Connection Point Church and Resource Centre
Little Free Pantry Belmont Road	The Sooke Food Bank
Little Free Pantry Leigh Road	Vancouver Island Kids Klub Centre Society
Living Edge Community	West Shore Food Share
Soroptimist International Victoria Westshore	

TYPES OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES OFFERED



TYPES OF FOOD OFFERED

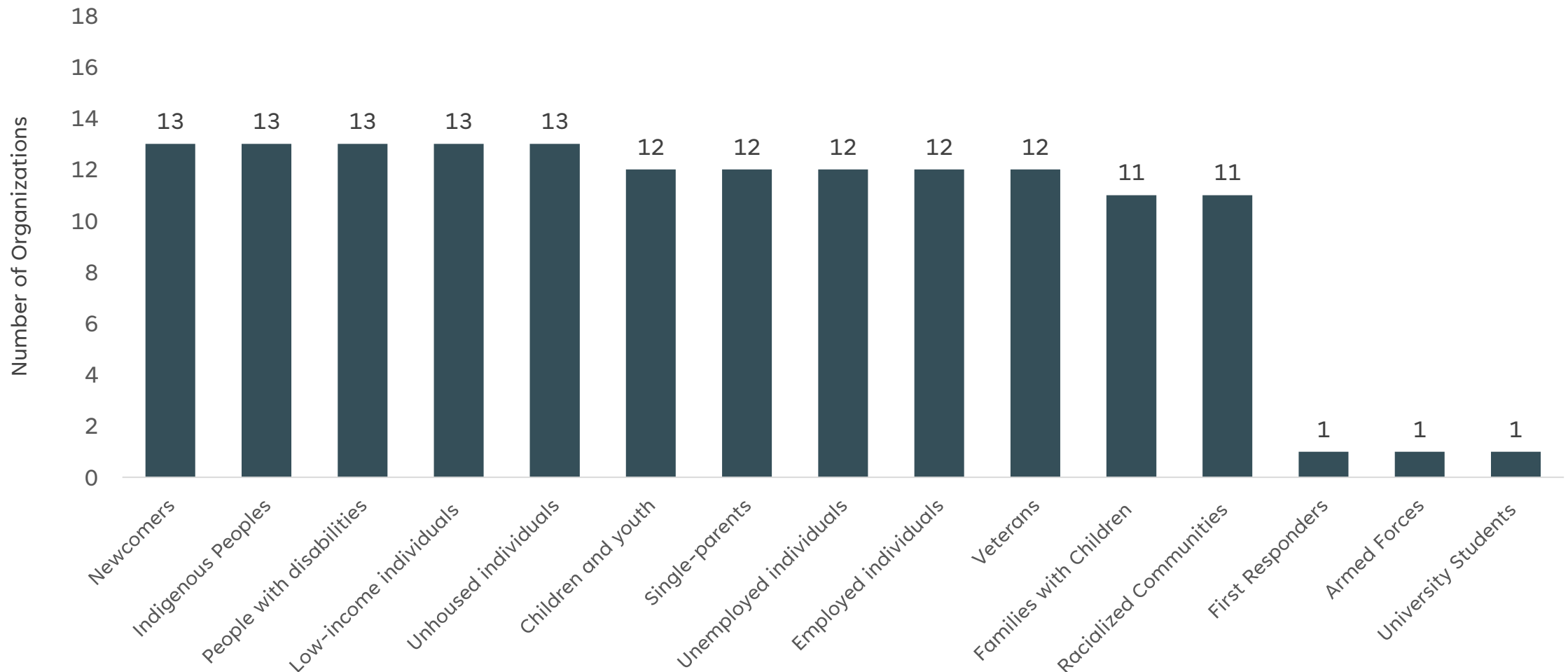


FOOD SOURCING

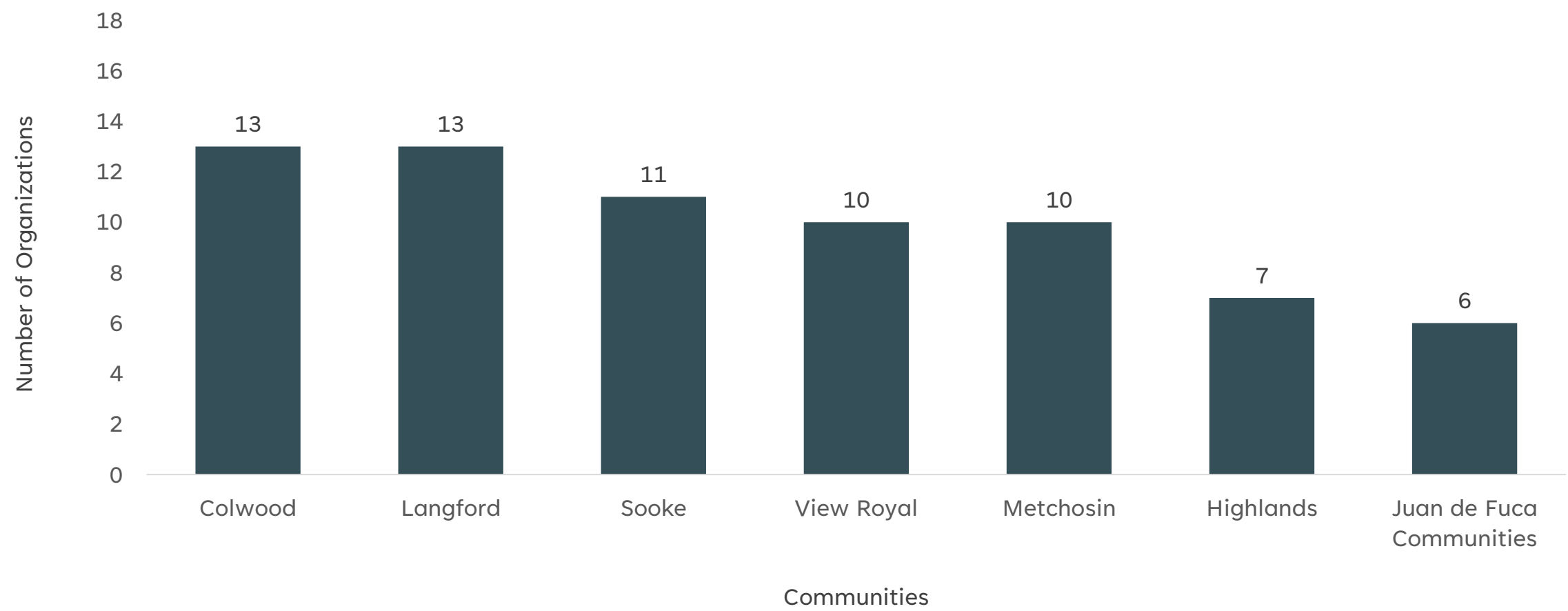


- A variety of sources, including:
 - Personal donations
 - Retailer donations
 - Purchases from retailers
 - Food rescue network
 - Growing food

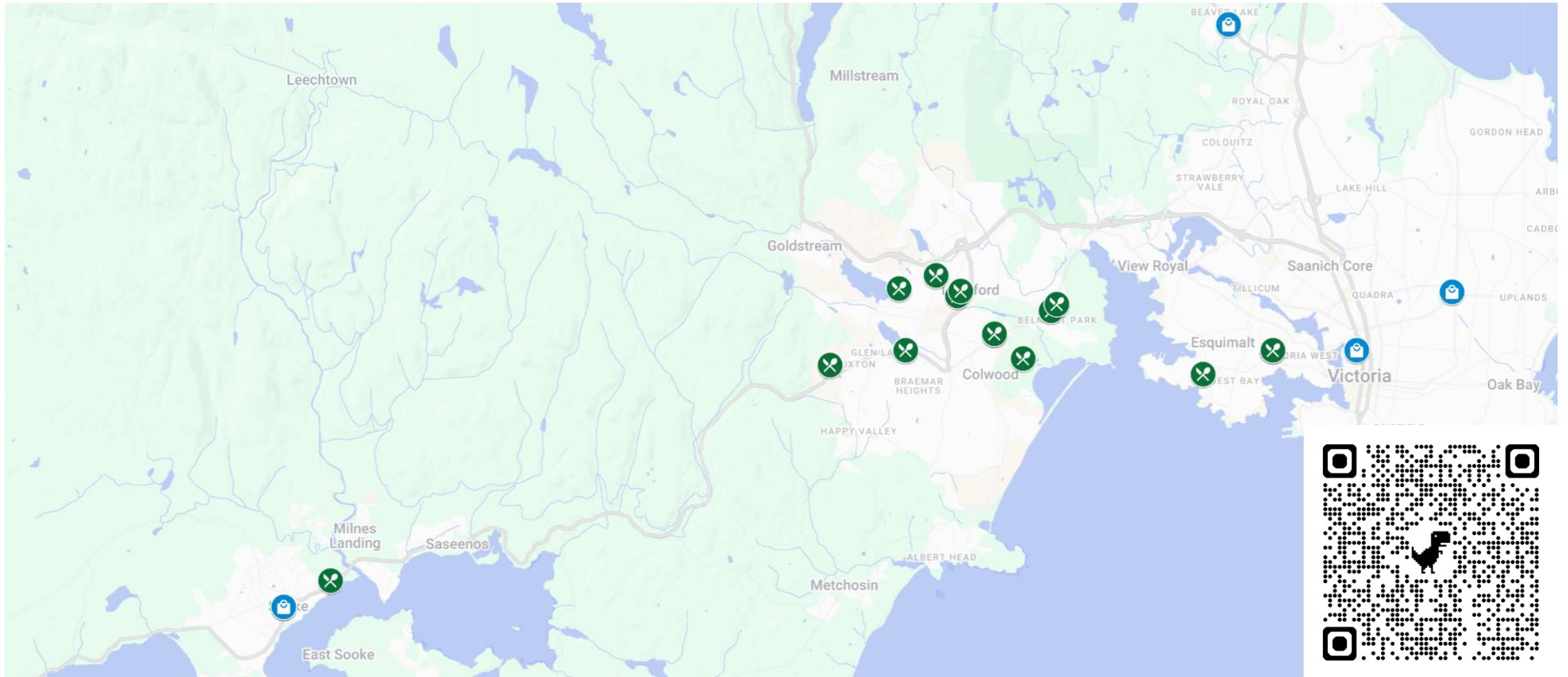
POPULATIONS SERVED



COMMUNITIES SERVED



LOCATIONS



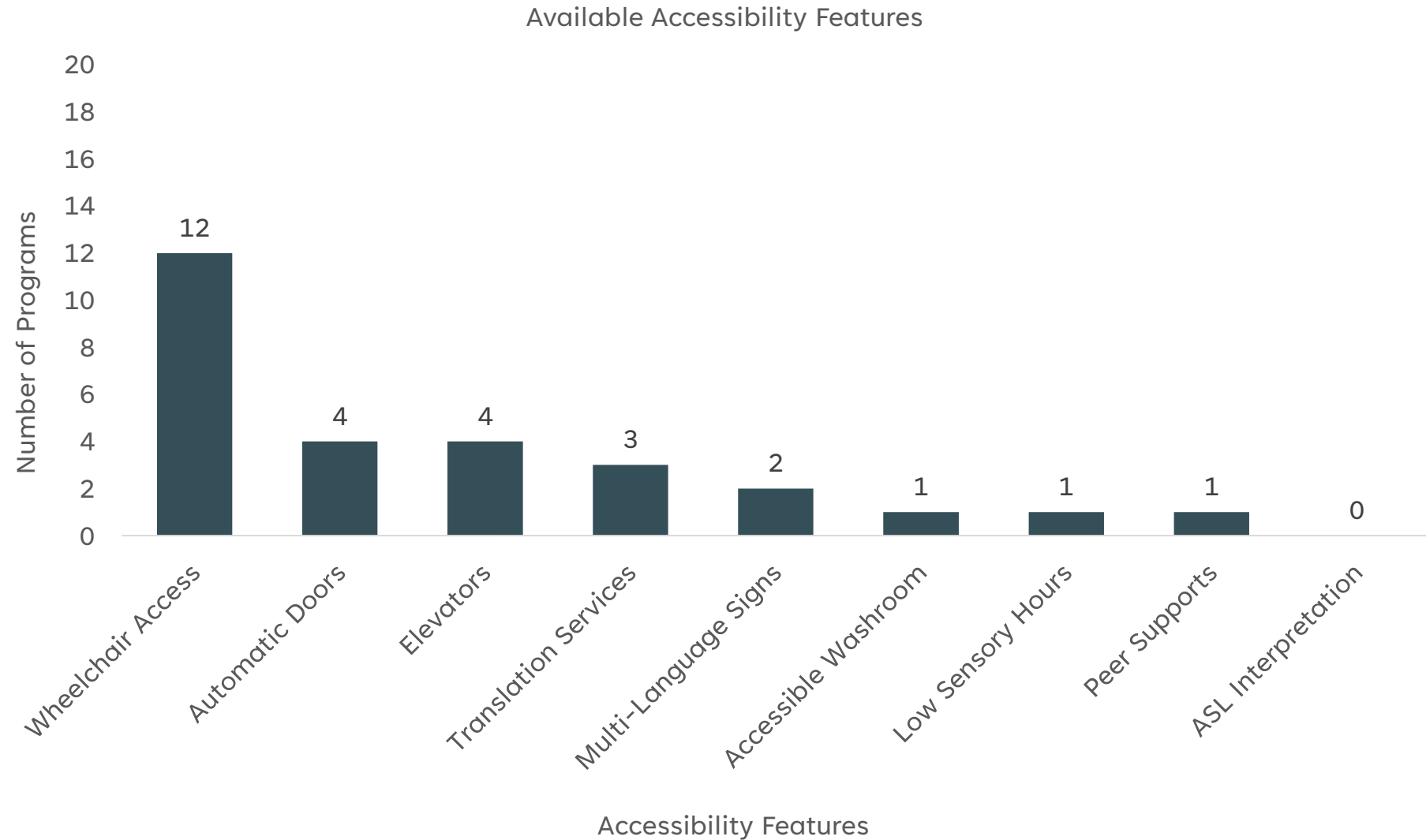
[Link to Map](#) 19

ACCESS PATHWAYS



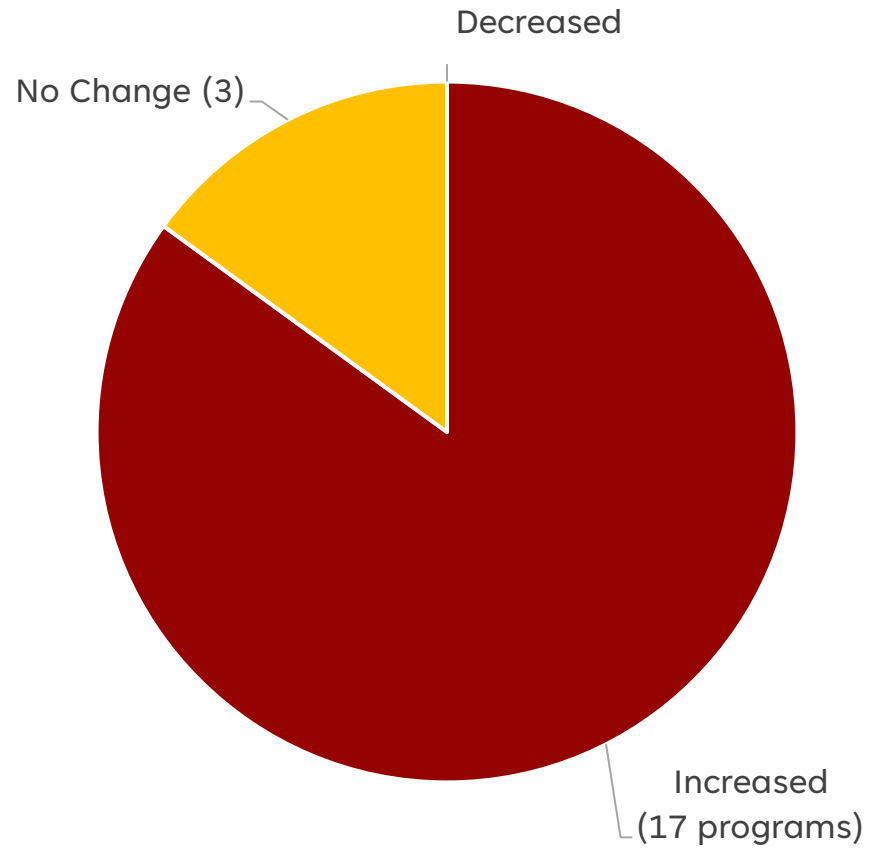
- 12/20 programs were accessed by the same clients at least once or multiple times per week
- Hours of access varied
- Many programs were low-barrier with limited eligibility criteria
- 7/20 programs had restrictions on the frequency with which they could be accessed

ACCESSIBILITY FEATURES

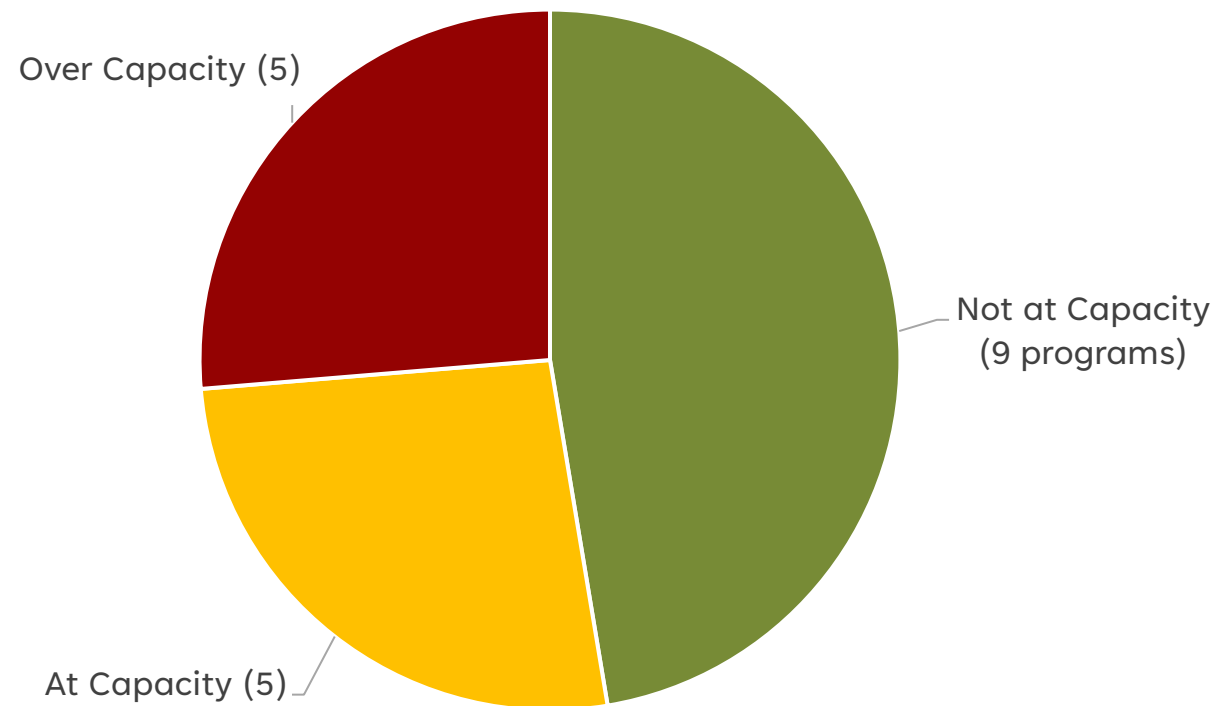


DEMAND AND CAPACITY

Change in Demand Over the Past Year

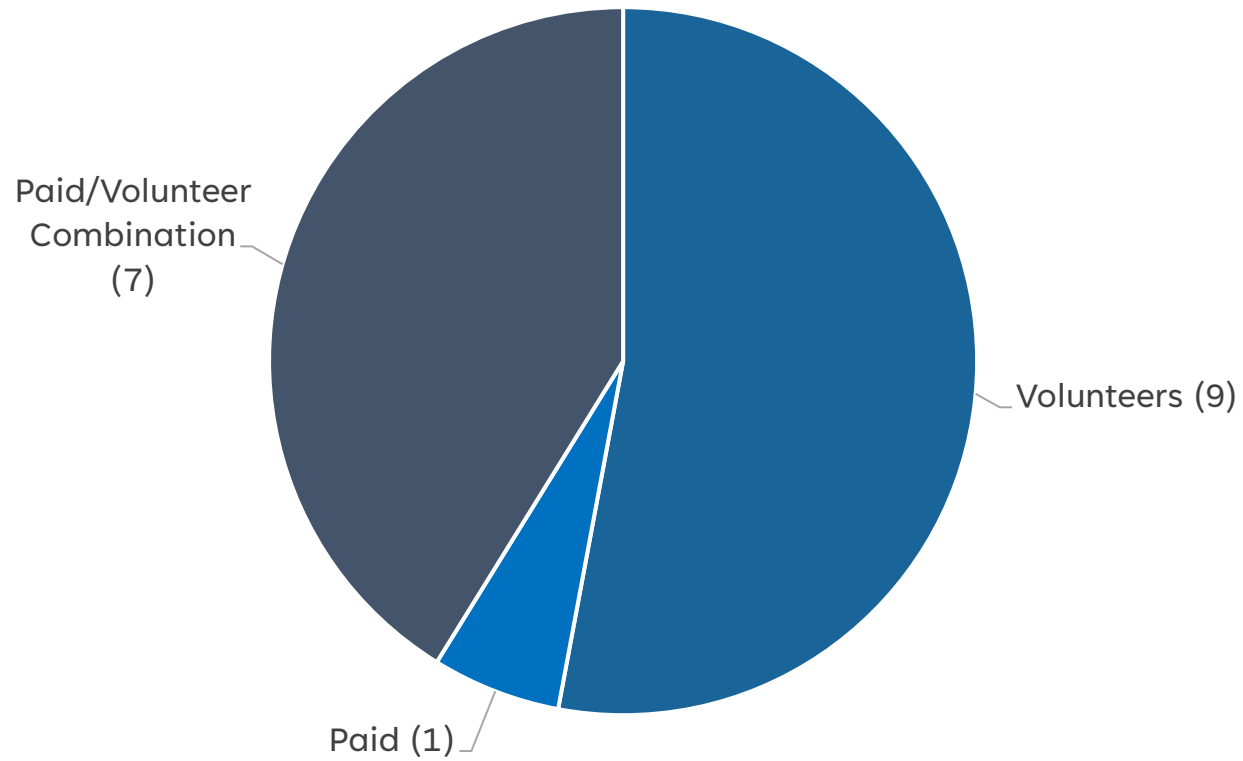


Current Capacity of Food Service Programs

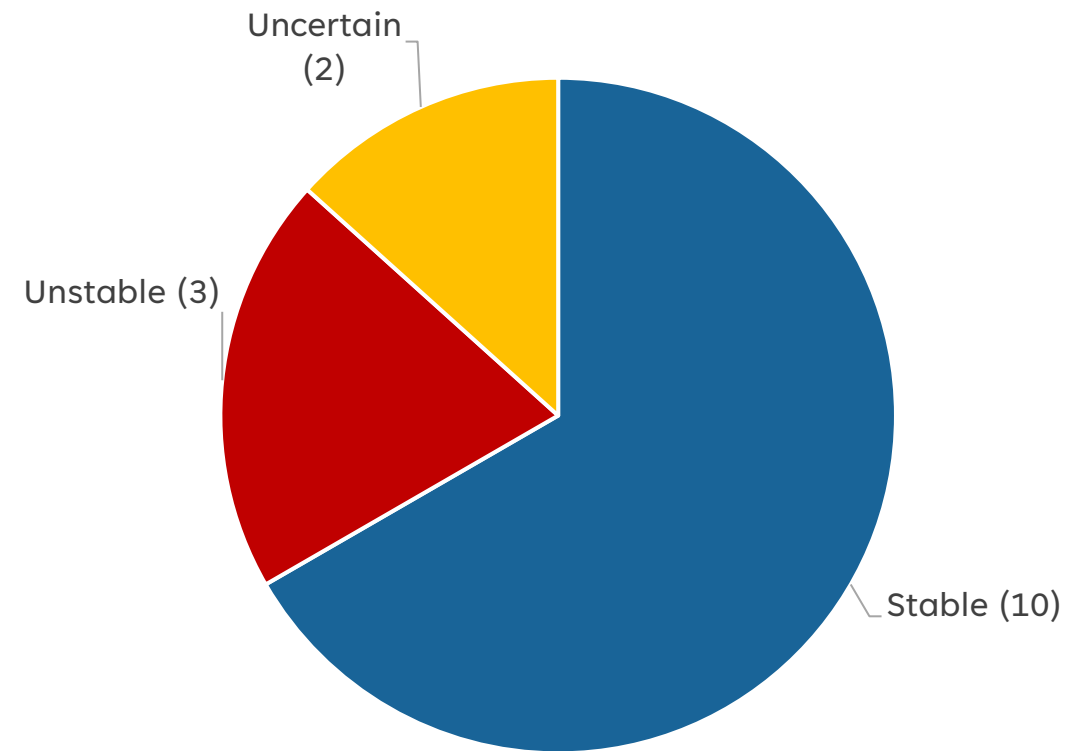


STAFFING

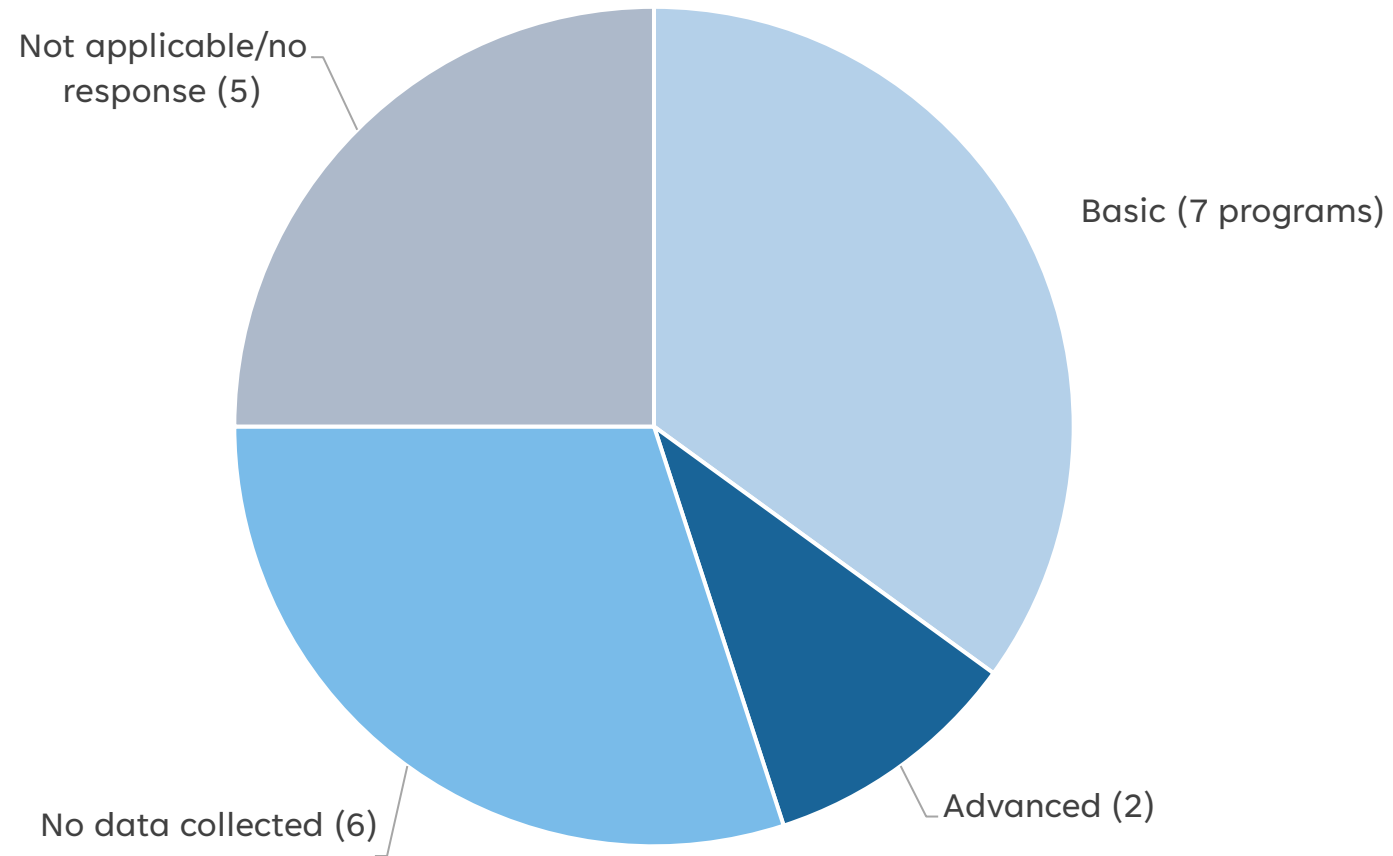
Staffing Model



Staffing Stability



DATA COLLECTION METHODS



KEY CHALLENGES



Food Supply:

- Insufficient food supply (5 organizations)
- Insufficient diversity in the food supply (3)

KEY CHALLENGES



Demand and Capacity:

- Need for infrastructure (8 organizations)
- Inadequate funding (6)
- Need for human capacity (6)
- High demand (5)
- Rising costs (3)
- Emotional labour (1)

OPPORTUNITIES



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS



Enhancing Collaboration:

- **Maintain the Collective:** Continue advancing the West Shore & Sooke Food Security Collective and explore resourcing.
- **Strengthen Coordination:** Align services (e.g., hours/coverage) and build connections with other regional food networks to reduce gaps and duplication.
- **Strengthen Relationships with Local Nations:** Develop and strengthen existing relationships with local Nations to identify ways to better meet the needs of Indigenous families and individuals.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS



Enhancing Collaboration:

- **Maintain Resources:** Maintain a shared food services calendar and map, with clear responsibility assigned to one organization
- **Recruit Volunteers Collaboratively:** Partner across organizations and with groups such as Volunteer Victoria, neighbourhood houses, retirement communities, and faith-based organizations to recruit and share volunteers

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS



Expanding Support:

- **Expanding reach in underserved areas:** If possible, consider expanding services to Highlands and the Juan de Fuca Coast.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS



Use Data to Inform Service Delivery:

- **Collect data to identify client needs:** Consider collecting qualitative and quantitative information from clients to better understand needs and gaps in service coverage.
- **Regularly Survey Service Providers:** Repeat this survey on a regular basis to identify trends in demand, key challenges, and opportunities.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUNDERS, MUNICIPALITIES, AND PARTNERS



Build Capacity:

- **Provide Consistent Funding to Service Providers:** multi-year, renewable funding that covers operational costs and capacity building.
- **Invest in Infrastructure:** fund essential infrastructure (e.g., transportation vans).
- **Provide Space:** provide access to public facilities or offer leases below commercial rates.
- **Create a West Shore-Sooke Food Policy Council:** establish a collaborative body of community organizations, municipalities, Indigenous partners, Island Health, and other stakeholders to inform and advance local food policy.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUNDERS, MUNICIPALITIES, AND PARTNERS



Address Root Causes of Food Insecurity:

- **Strengthen the Local Food Economy:** protect agricultural land, support local food producers, increase opportunities for community food growing, harvesting, processing, and distribution.
- **Lower the Cost of Living:** Increase the supply of affordable housing, improve transportation networks, expand access to childcare, and support job creation. Advocate for income-based solutions from provincial and national governments.



CONCLUSIONS

- Deeply committed food assistance service system
- Under strain and facing challenges
- Clear opportunities to strengthen and sustain food assistance service provision in the Sooke-West Shore region

THANK YOU

Questions?

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