

It takes a village to raise a child: Adoption UK survey on adoption support



Why survey members?

New research continues to demonstrate the impact of trauma and abuse on brain development



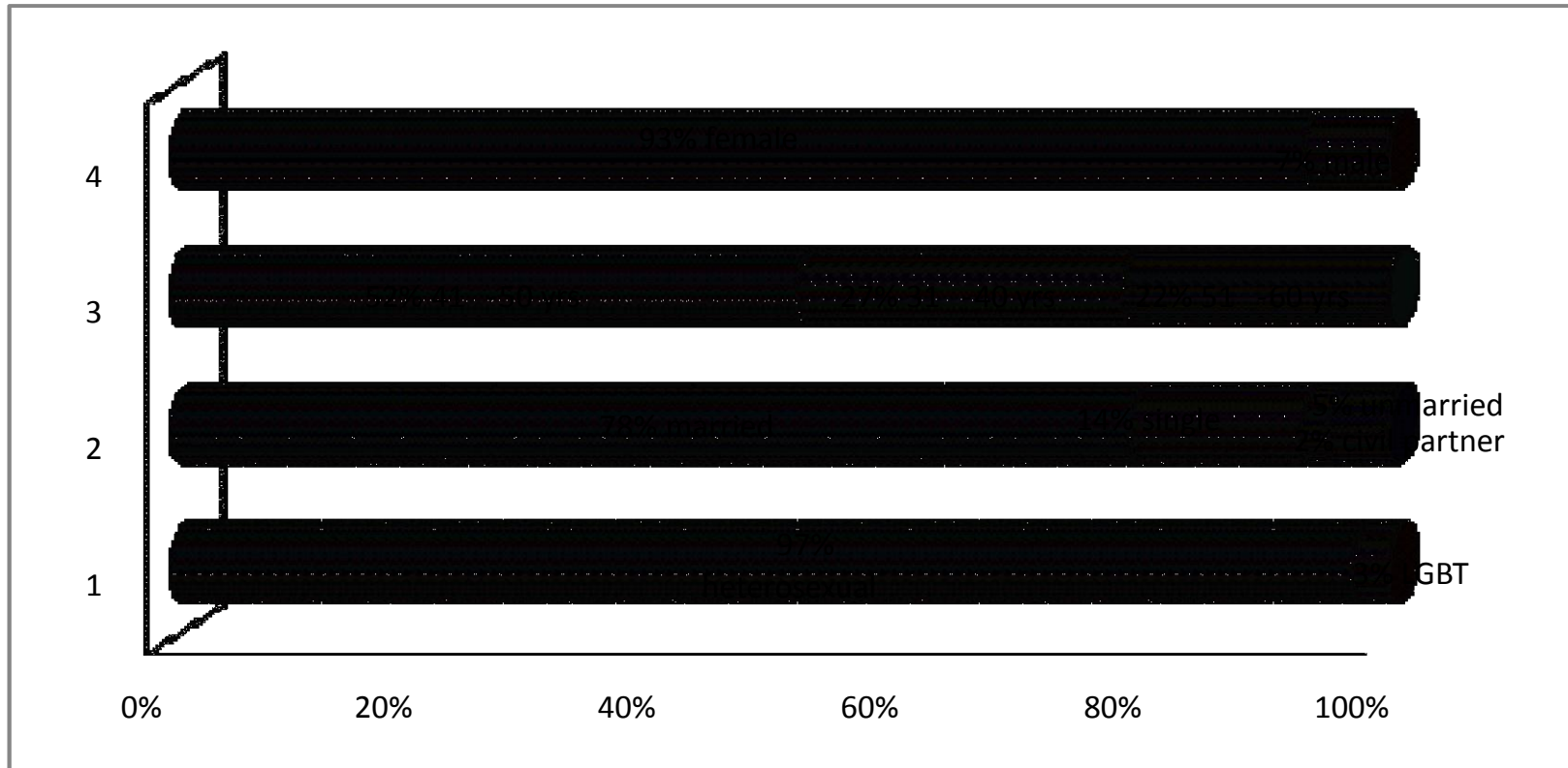
Romanian orphan



Healthy child

Many adopters are raising children who need additional support as a direct result of their past lives

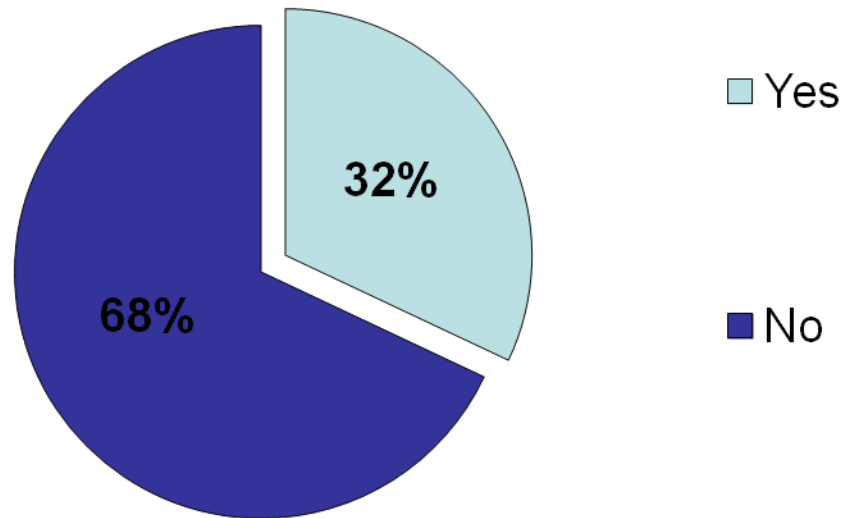
The respondents



91% white British

Understanding

During your time as a prospective adopter, do you feel you understood the importance of adoption support?



What adopters are saying...

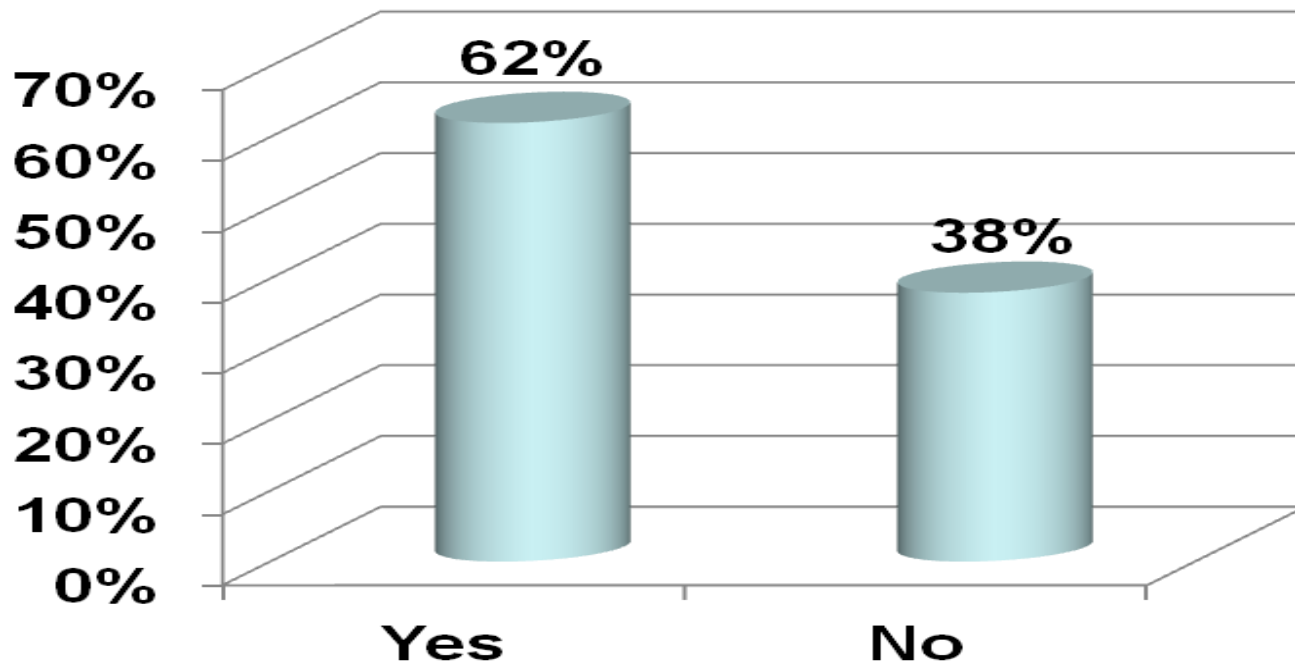
"All of our support as such has come from Adoption UK. Our local authority was very clear to say all their support comes from Adoption UK NOT the agency."

"We had no clue, despite all the information coming at us, just how difficult this was going to be. Hence, no appreciation of how vital support is. Nor how bad the provision is!"

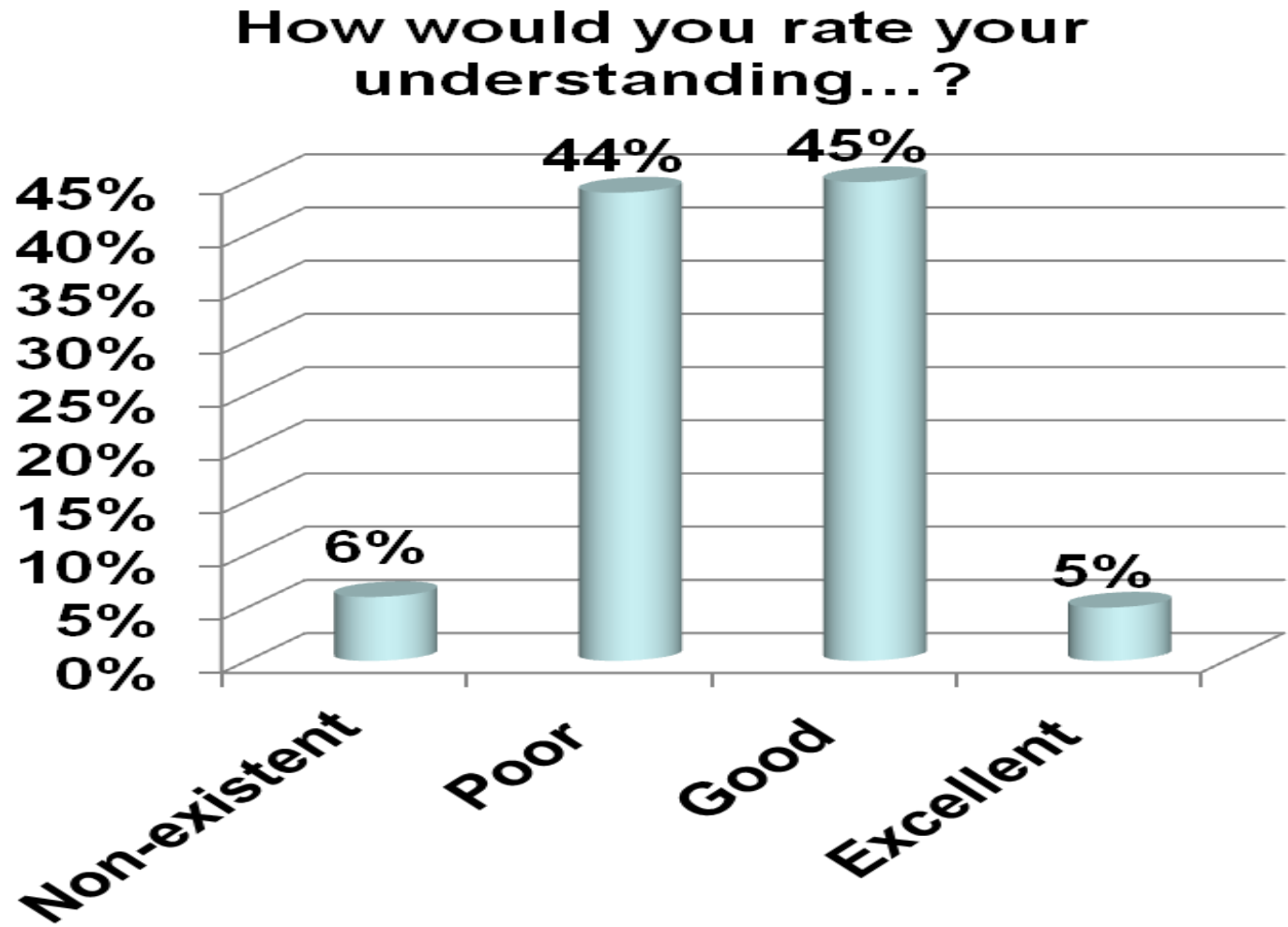
"We did not understand that we would need it ten years later."

"I know about most of the support services now, but it took me a good couple of years to find them out"

Do you understand or know about your entitlements to adoption support services?

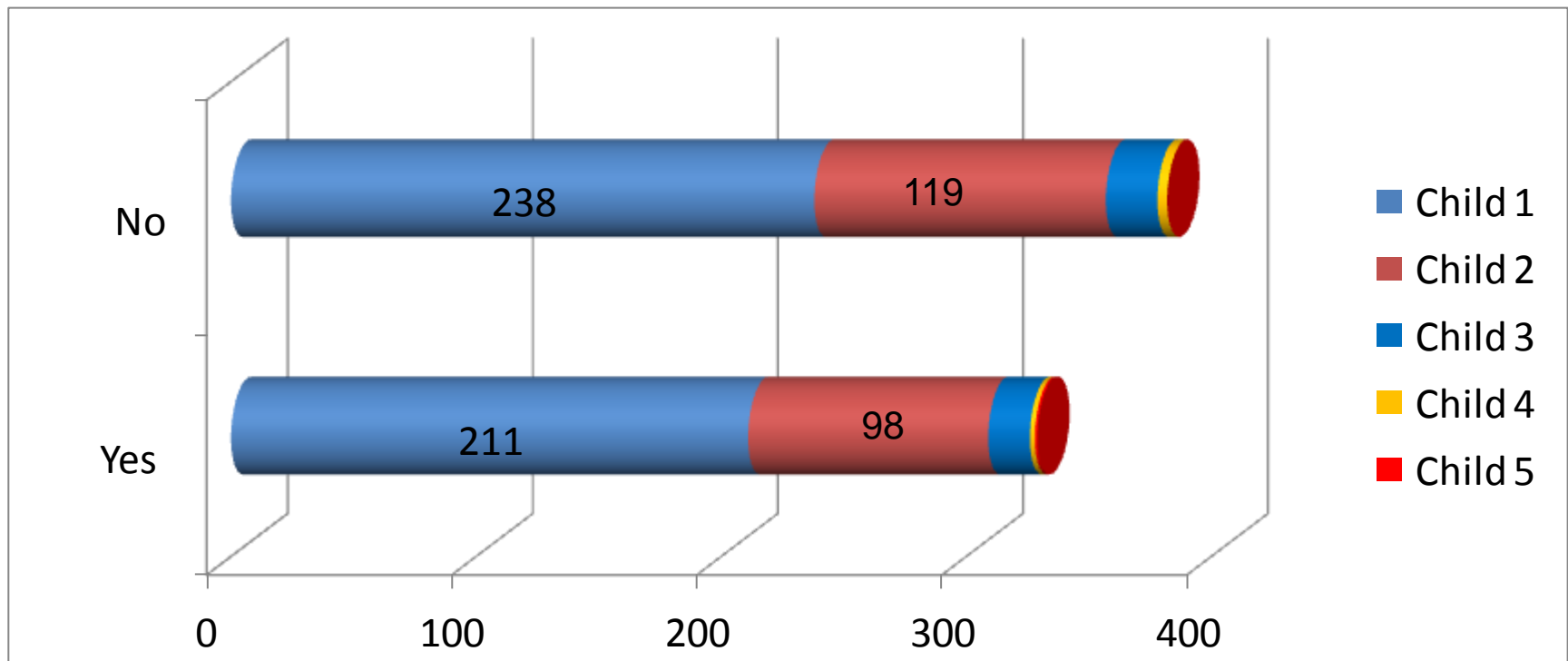


Understanding support services



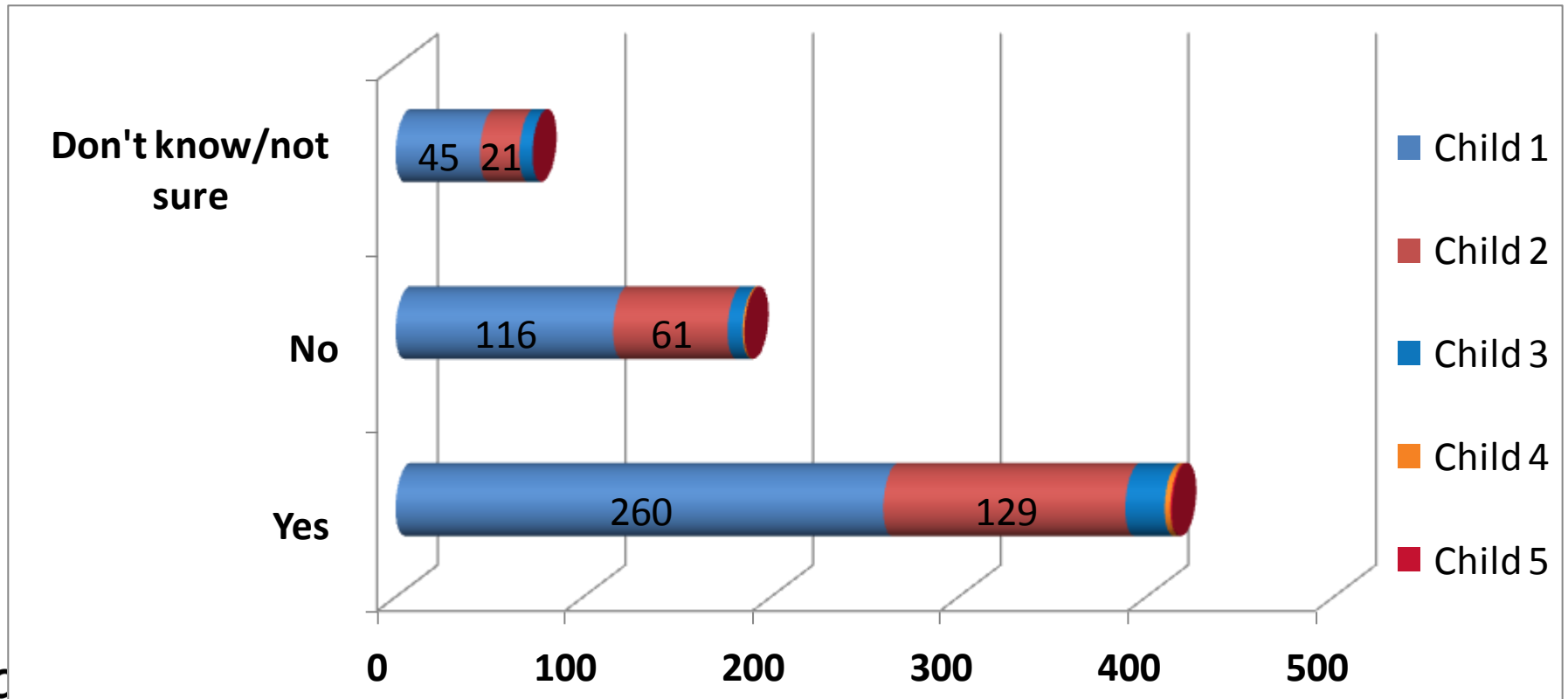
Needs: receiving support services

Respondents currently receiving adoption support services



Needs: special needs

Does your child(ren) have special needs that require greater support services?

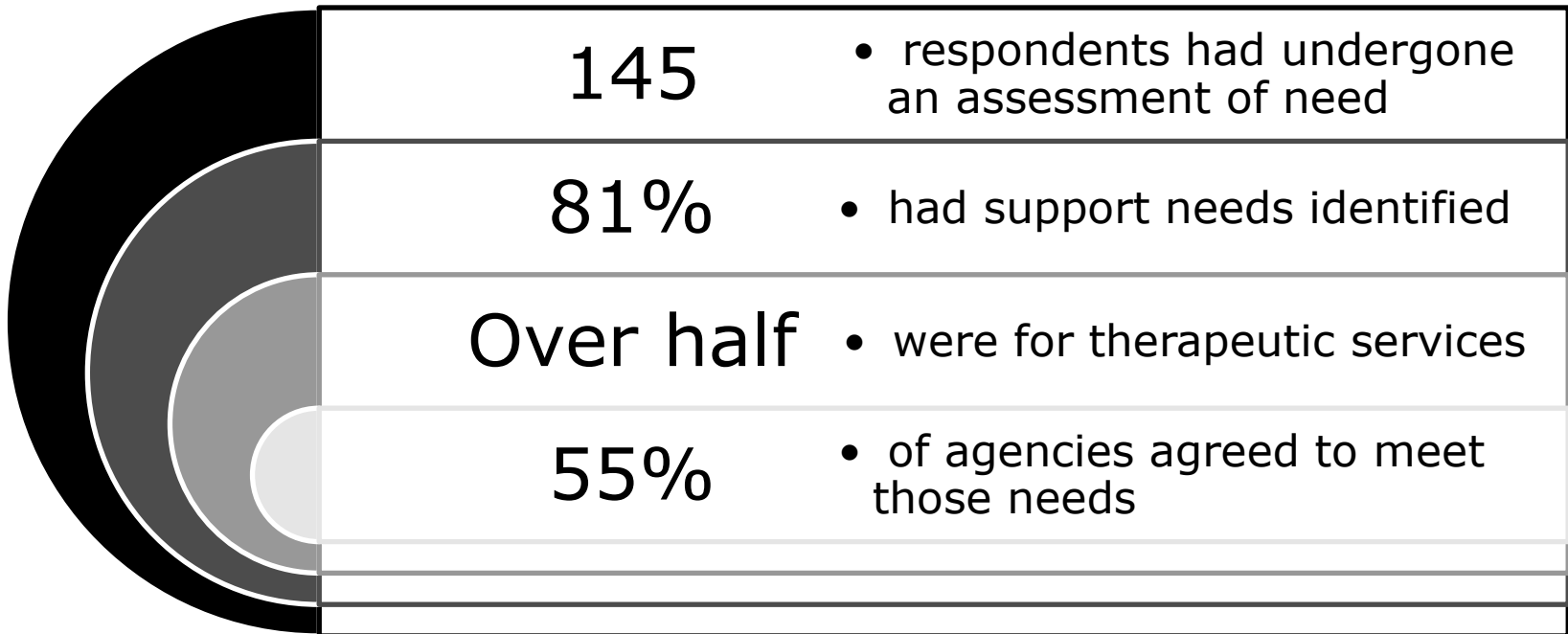


What adopters are saying...

"...we don't know what impact the children's history will have on them as they grow and come to terms with their past."

"I cannot believe that counselling for children and their new families is not automatically in place upon placement. Families are left to cope 24/7 with traumatised children who professionals have struggled with."

Needs: the stats



60% who had received support services, said they had helped their family

Needs: Education

"this was our biggest battle"

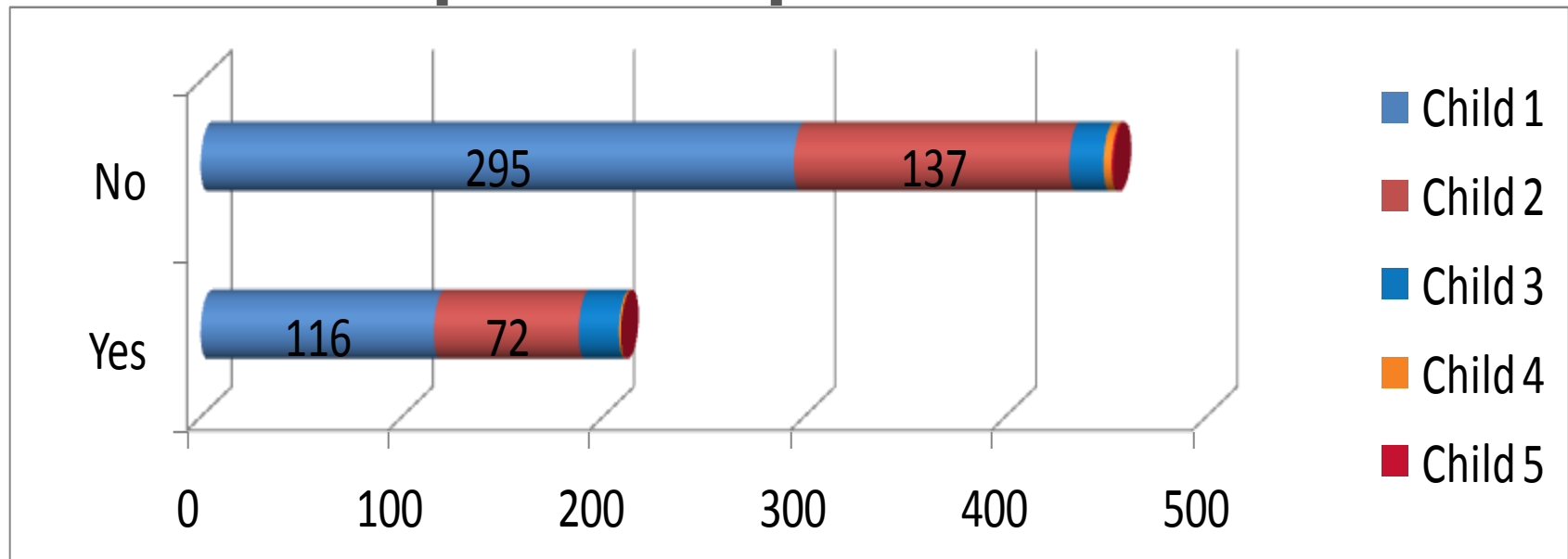
Around two-thirds of our respondents believe their child requires support in school.

"He had been traumatised. How was he supposed to cope with a classroom of 30 children"

"Both children were so damaged by their early experiences that it affected their ability to learn"

“This has been absolutely crucial to us being able to continue to parent our children”

In receipt of adoption allowance?

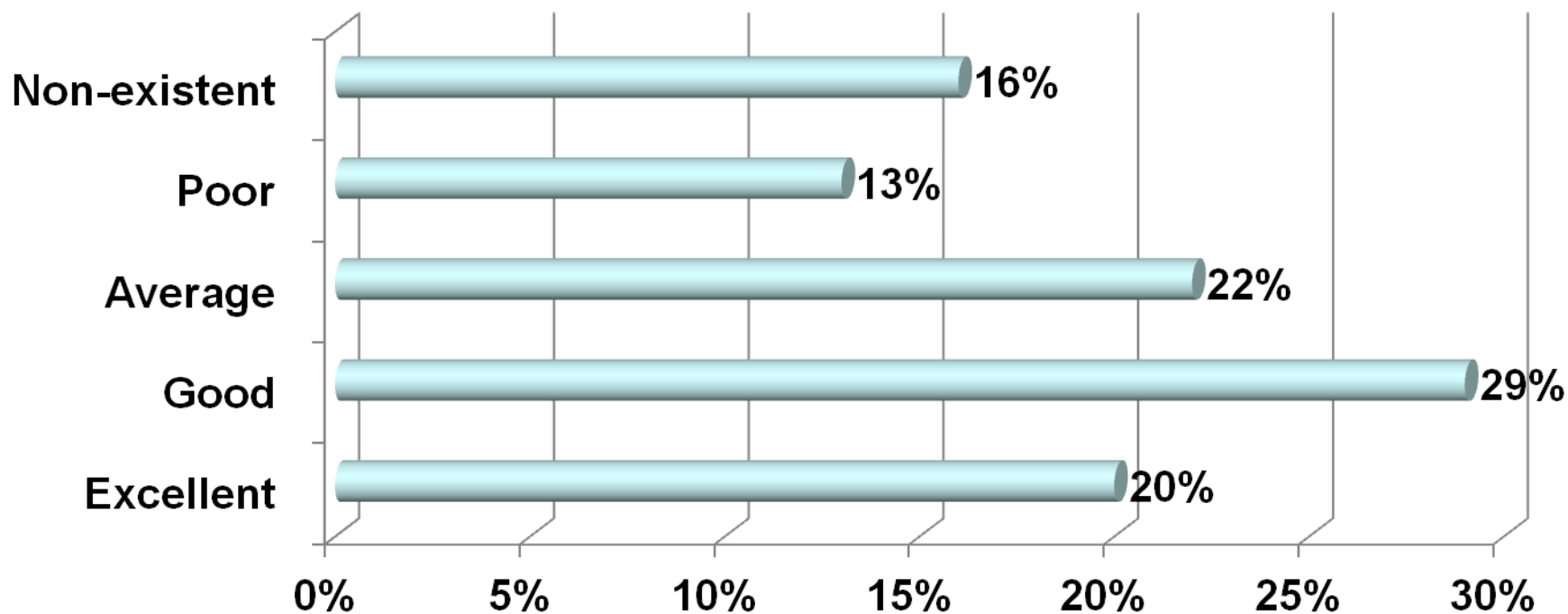


Yet most respondents do not receive an adoption allowance

"This has been hugely important to us. It allowed me to be at home full-time when the children were small. I think is probably why things have gone so well so far."

Access

How would you describe your relationship with your current adoption agency?



Lack of Consistency...

"The agency that I was approved with was fantastic. The placing agency has been very poor..."

"My agency has been excellent but the poor performance of the placing authority had made their job almost impossible."

Biggest barrier to support



=

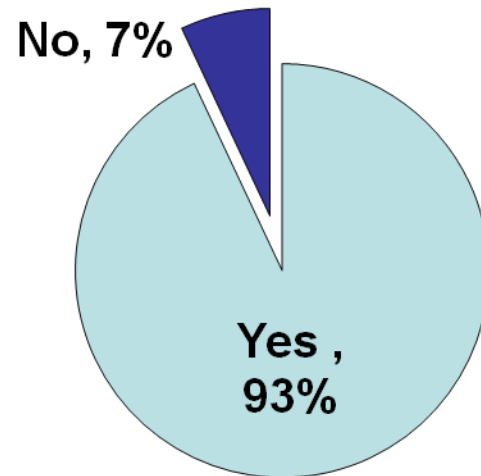
The level of understanding and experience of adoption among professionals and staff involved

Professional knowledge

"Working with a range of professionals who did not always 'get' adoption and attachment... we were having to educate as we went along and often got labelled as neurotic parents."

The future

In your view, does the current adoption system need improving?



The future

"[There] needs to be a system in place which doesn't just let adopters drift out into the big world on their own."

"It is daft that adopters have a right to have their needs assessed, but then no right to have their needs fulfilled."