



2021 COMMON OUTCOMES INITIATIVE

SNEAK PEEK





ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Common Outcomes Initiative embraces our connection to each other, here on Treaty 6 Territory and Métis Nation of Alberta Region #4. We honour and thank the diverse Indigenous peoples including the Cree, Blackfoot, Métis, Nakota Sioux, Iroquois, Dene, and Saulteaux whose ancestors' footsteps have marked this territory for centuries and whose histories, languages, and cultures continue to influence our vibrant community. As treaty people we recognize the harms caused by colonialism and systemic racism, honour the knowledge and wisdom that has been shared with us, and endeavor to work in this spirit of community and relationship.

INTRODUCTION

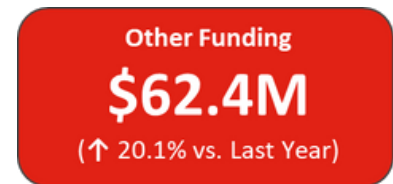
Edmonton Family and Community Support Services (FCSS), United Way of the Alberta Capital Region and numerous funded community agencies work together to provide a continuum of programs and services to meet the needs of vulnerable community members.

In order to provide a summary of the social impacts and outcomes these partners are achieving, funders and funded agencies continue to work together to implement a common outcomes reporting form aimed at simplifying data collection and highlighting the positive difference programs are making in the community.

This Sneak Peek report highlights some of the quantitative data submitted by agencies in the 2021 Common Outcomes reporting process. The full report will be released in the fall and will contain analysis co-created with funded agencies at our June Social Services Sector Meeting.

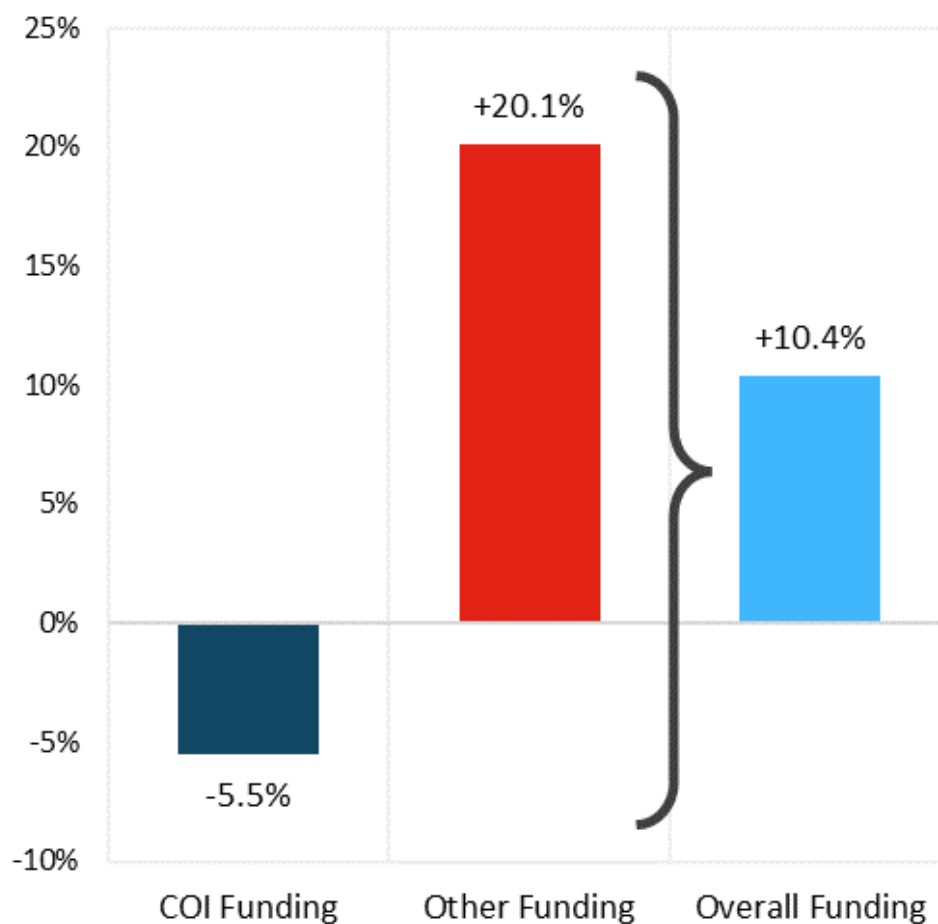
FUNDING OVERVIEW

Overall funding for COI programs increased 10.4% in 2021, for a total of \$92.6 Million in funding. This included \$30.2 Million in COI funding, and \$62.4 Million in funding from other sources.



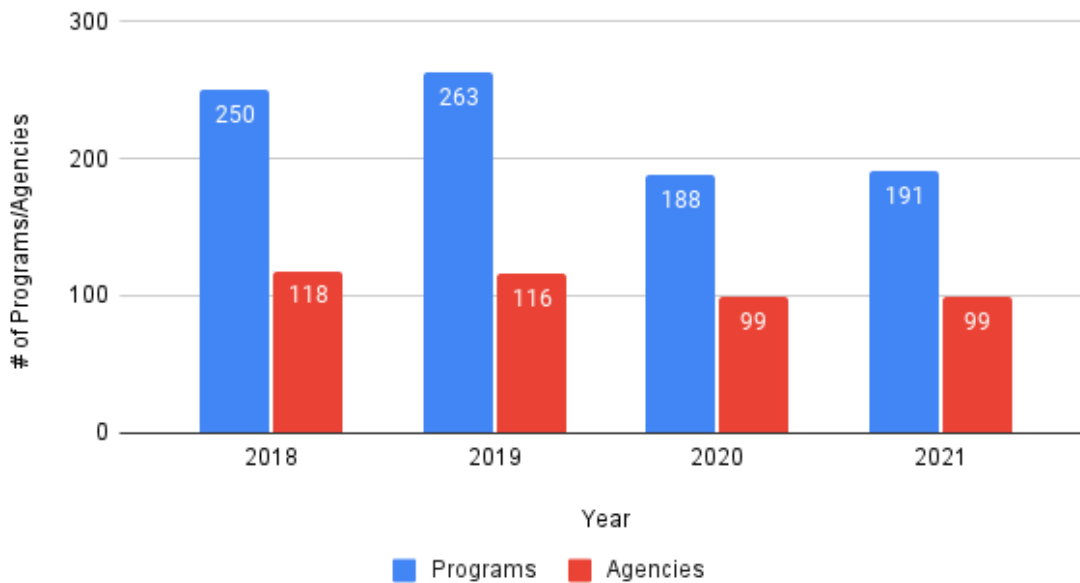
YEAR-OVER-YEAR CHANGES IN PROGRAM FUNDING

In total, funding from COI sources decreased slightly in 2021 (-5.5%), while funding from other sources increased by a total of +20.1%, for an overall increase in program funding of +10.4% as compared to the previous year.



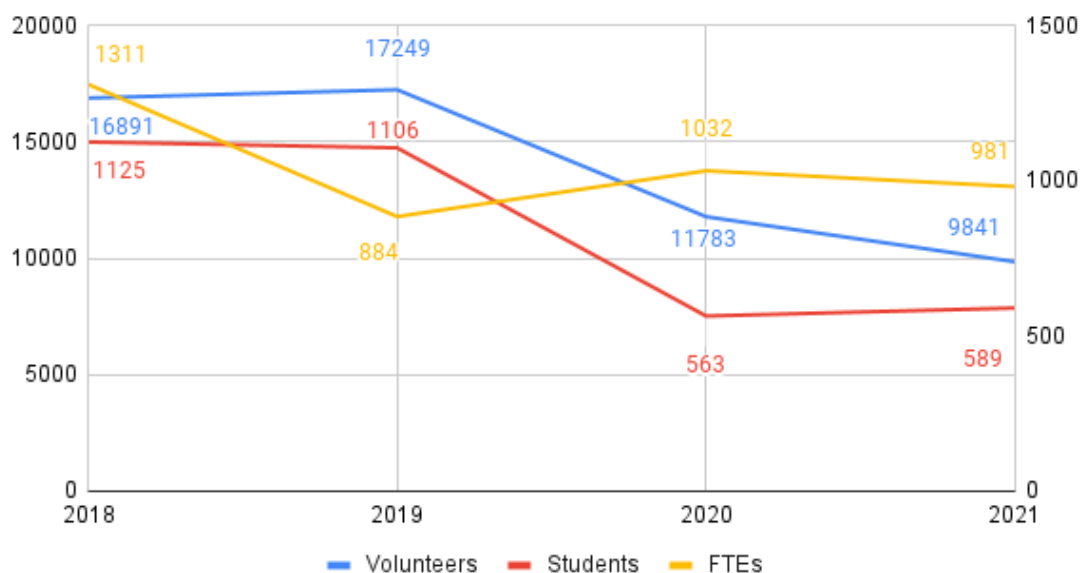
NUMBER OF PROGRAMS & AGENCIES

In 2021, 191 programs from a total of 99 agencies reported to the Common Outcomes Initiative.



PEOPLE POWER

Since an initial drop between 2019 and 2020 reporting, the number of students and full time equivalents has remained relatively stable, while the number of volunteers continues to decrease. Despite the 16.5% decrease in the number of volunteers, the number of volunteer hours increased by 4%. Similarly, the number of students remained relatively stable; however the number of student hours increased 15%.



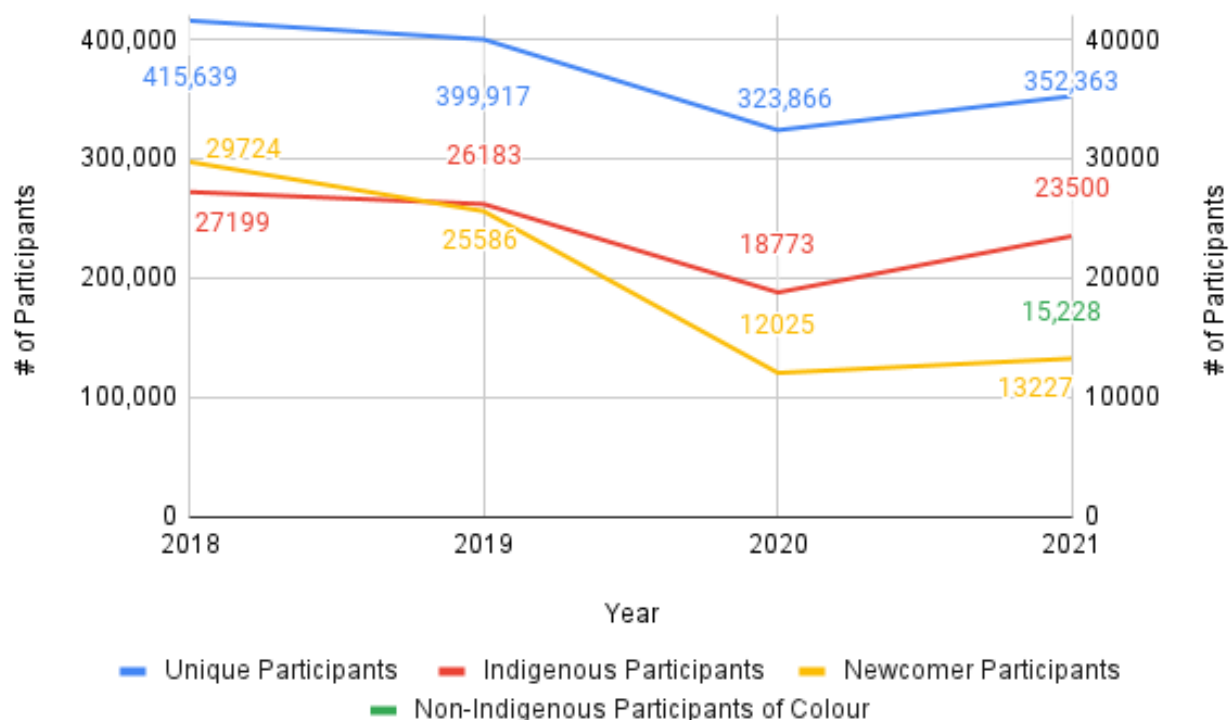
PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

A unique participant is a participant in a program who receives direct services. If they choose to gather this information, programs may also report certain self-reported demographic information relating to their unique participants.

Programs aimed to count each participant once during the time period covered regardless of the number of program related services that the participant received. In certain program models such as drop-in, information & referral, and public education programs, tracking this number can be particularly difficult. Despite these limitations, the number of total unique participants does represent the significant volume of work occurring in the social services sector.

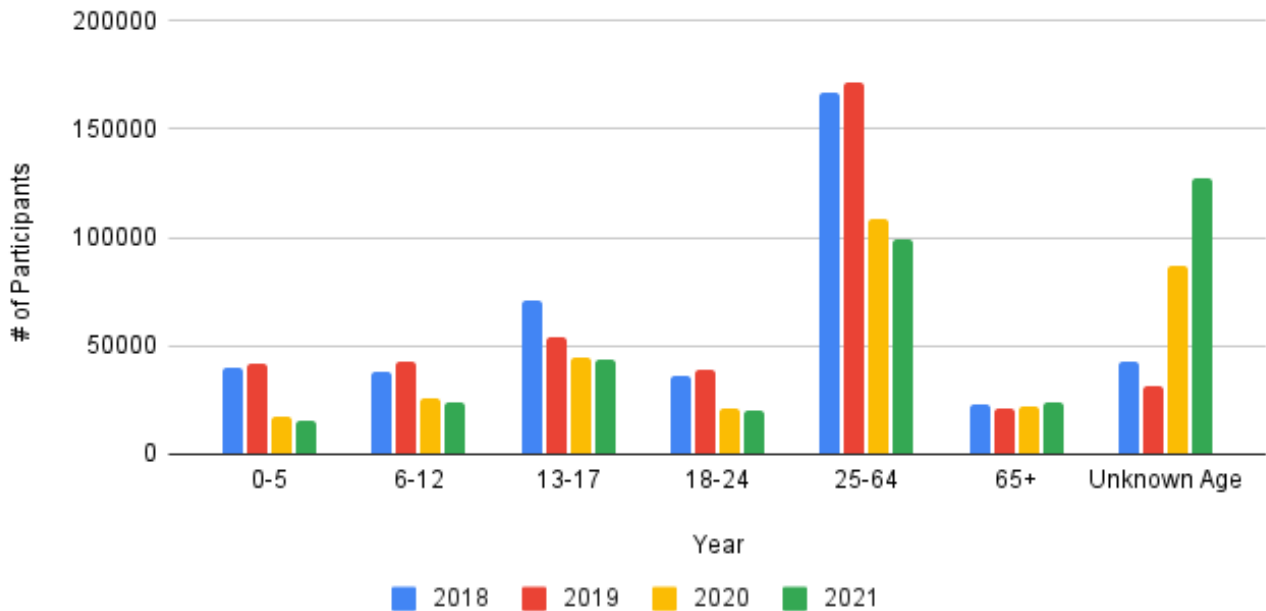
YEAR OVER YEAR UNIQUE PARTICIPANTS

After reporting a decrease in the number of unique participants in 2020, there was a nine percent increase for 2021. Correspondingly, programs also reported an increase in the number of Newcomer and Indigenous participants. In 2021, programs were able to report on the number of non-Indigenous Persons of Colour for the first time to better illustrate the reach of their programming.



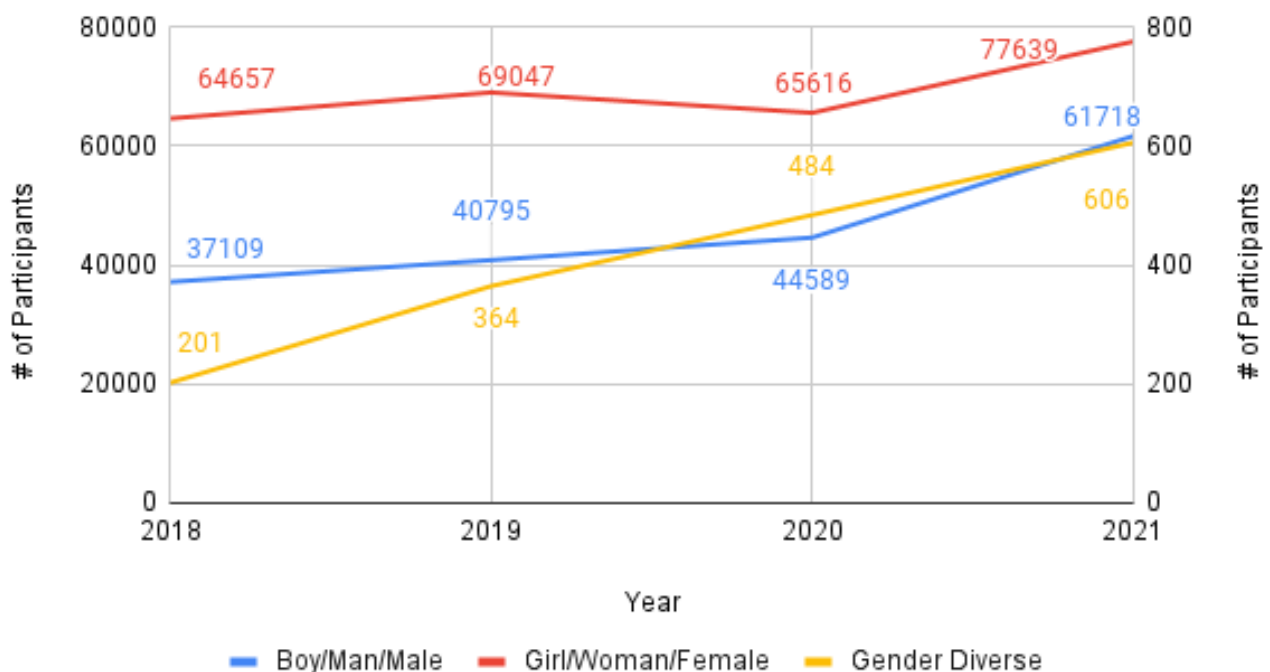
YEAR OVER YEAR PARTICIPANTS BY AGE

As in previous years, the number of participants aged 25-64 was among the highest of the age categories. However, the number of participants for whom age was unknown dramatically increased.



YEAR OVER YEAR PARTICIPANTS BY GENDER IDENTITY

In general, participants were most likely to identify as girl/woman/female. While the relative proportion of participants identifying as 'boy/man/male' and 'girl/woman/female' remains relatively consistent over time, the number and proportion of participants identifying as gender diverse has been steadily increasing over time.

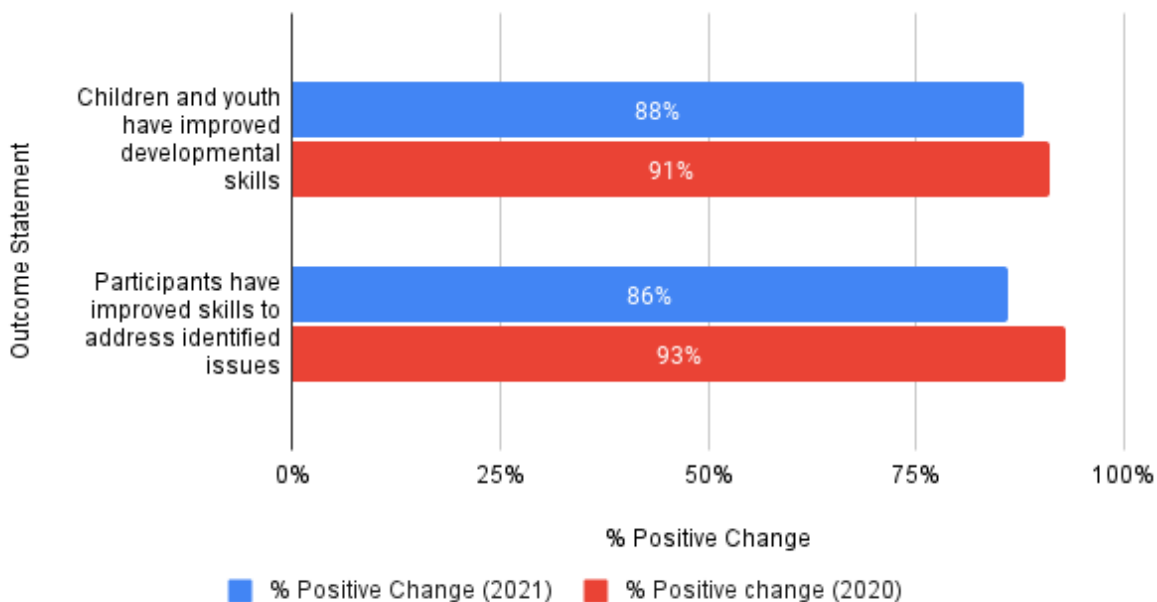


OUTCOMES SUMMARY

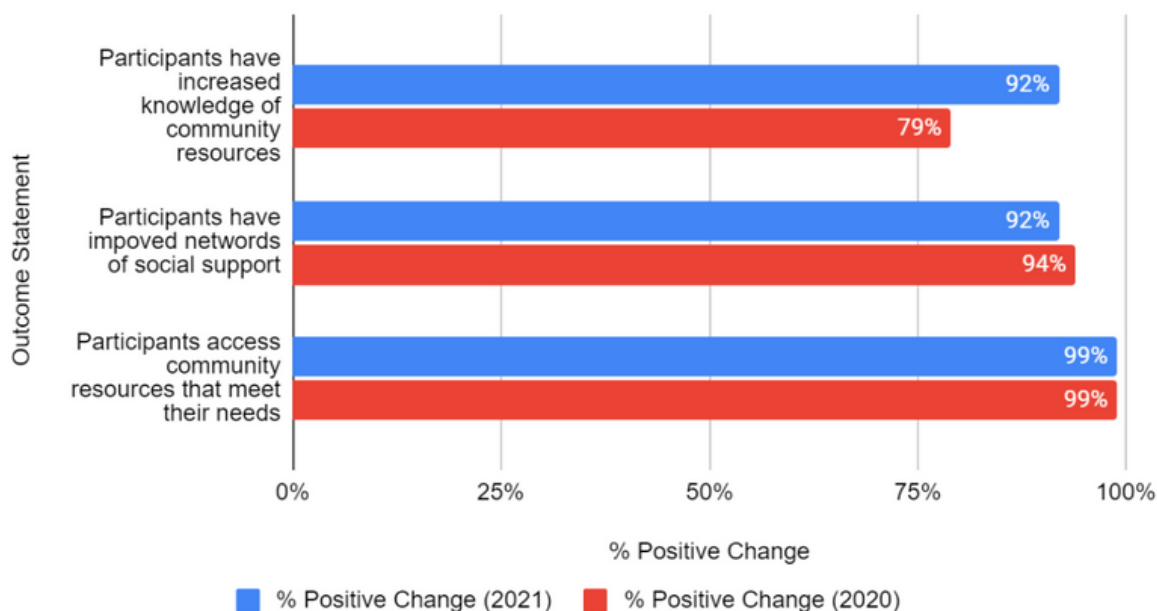
In general, participants in COI programs were likely to report positive change across all 14 identified outcomes, with the positive change ranging from 86% (Participants have improved skills to address identified issues) to 100% (Strengthened individual skills within organizations & enhanced collaborative efforts).

In 2021, programs in most impact areas reported decreases in positive change when compared to 2020. Those reporting to Strong Relationships and Connections were the exception.

Resilient Individuals Outcome Summary

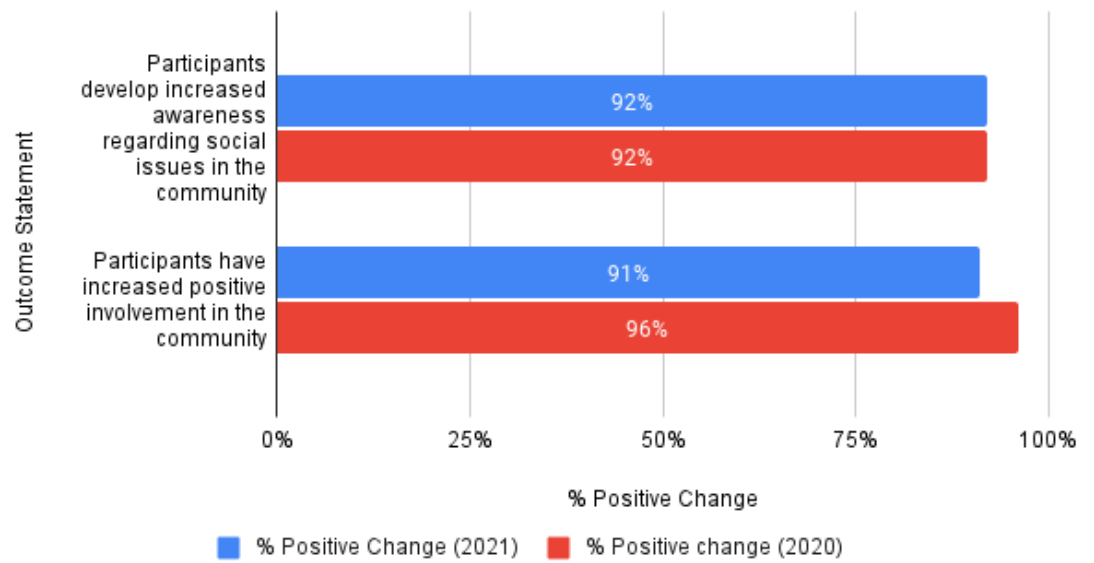


Strong Relationships and Connections Outcome Summary

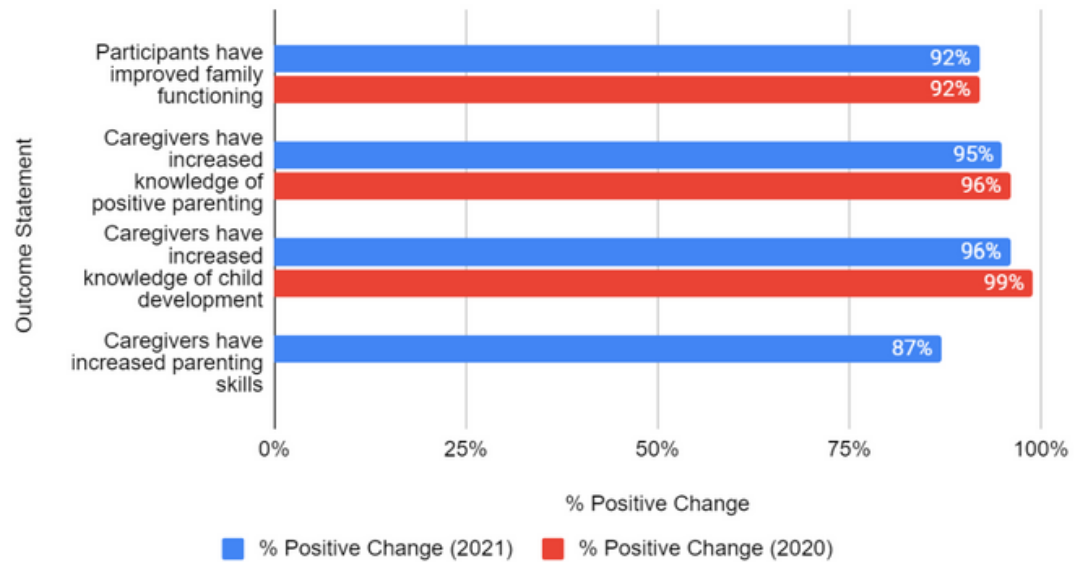




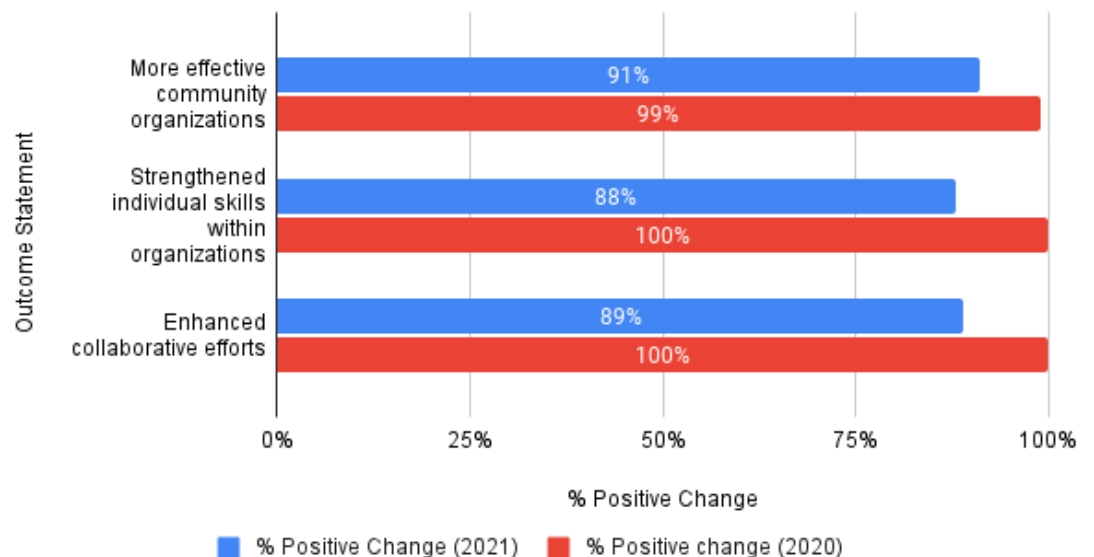
Welcoming & Engaged Community Outcome Summary



Thriving Families Outcome Summary



Strong Sector Outcome Summary

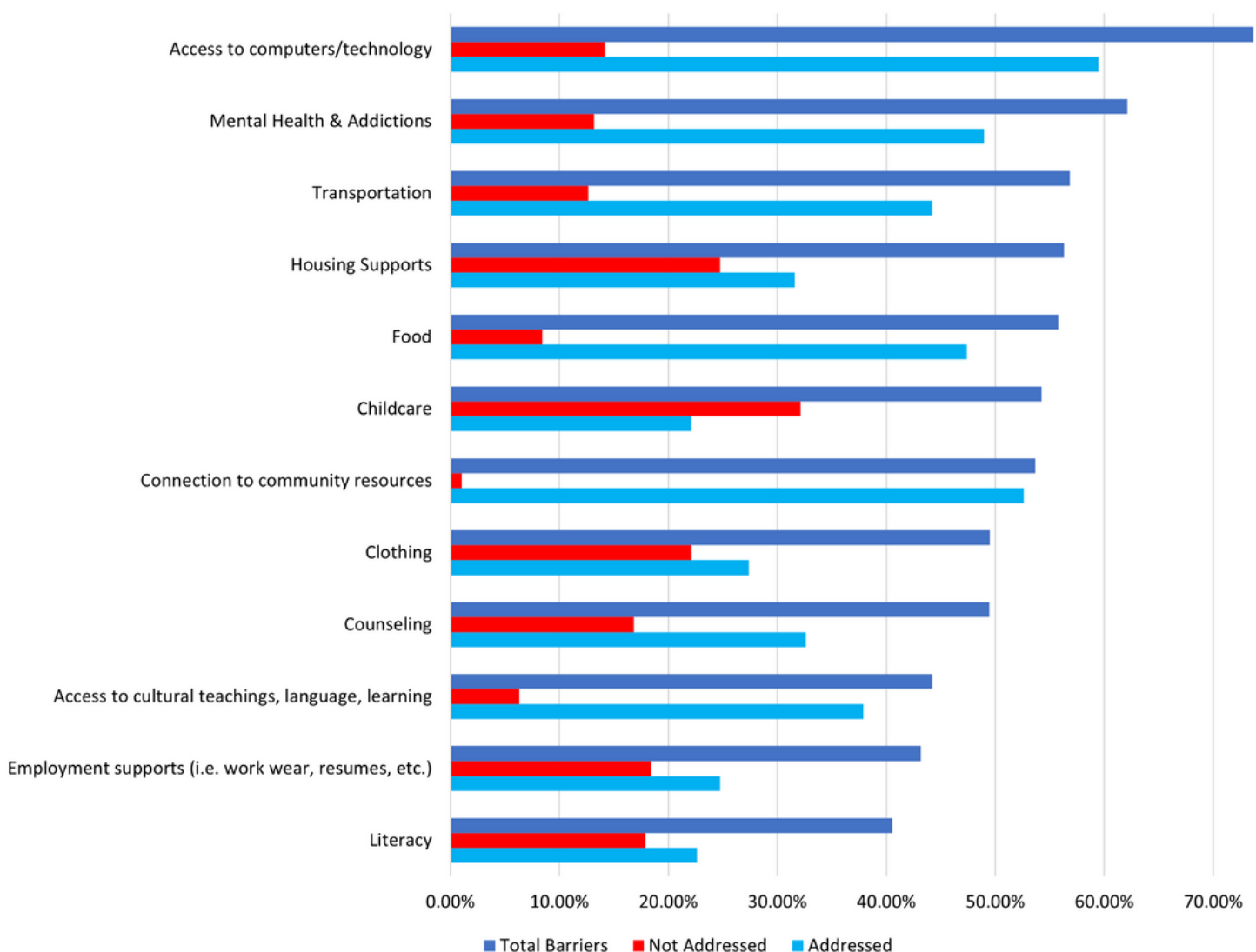


PARTICIPANT BARRIERS

Programs were asked to identify barriers that their participants faced that were outside of core programming (e.g., a program intended to deliver financial literacy training may consider providing bus tickets and childcare to enable participation). Of these barriers, programs identified which they were able to address through additional program planning, activities and/or budgets, and which barriers remained unaddressed.

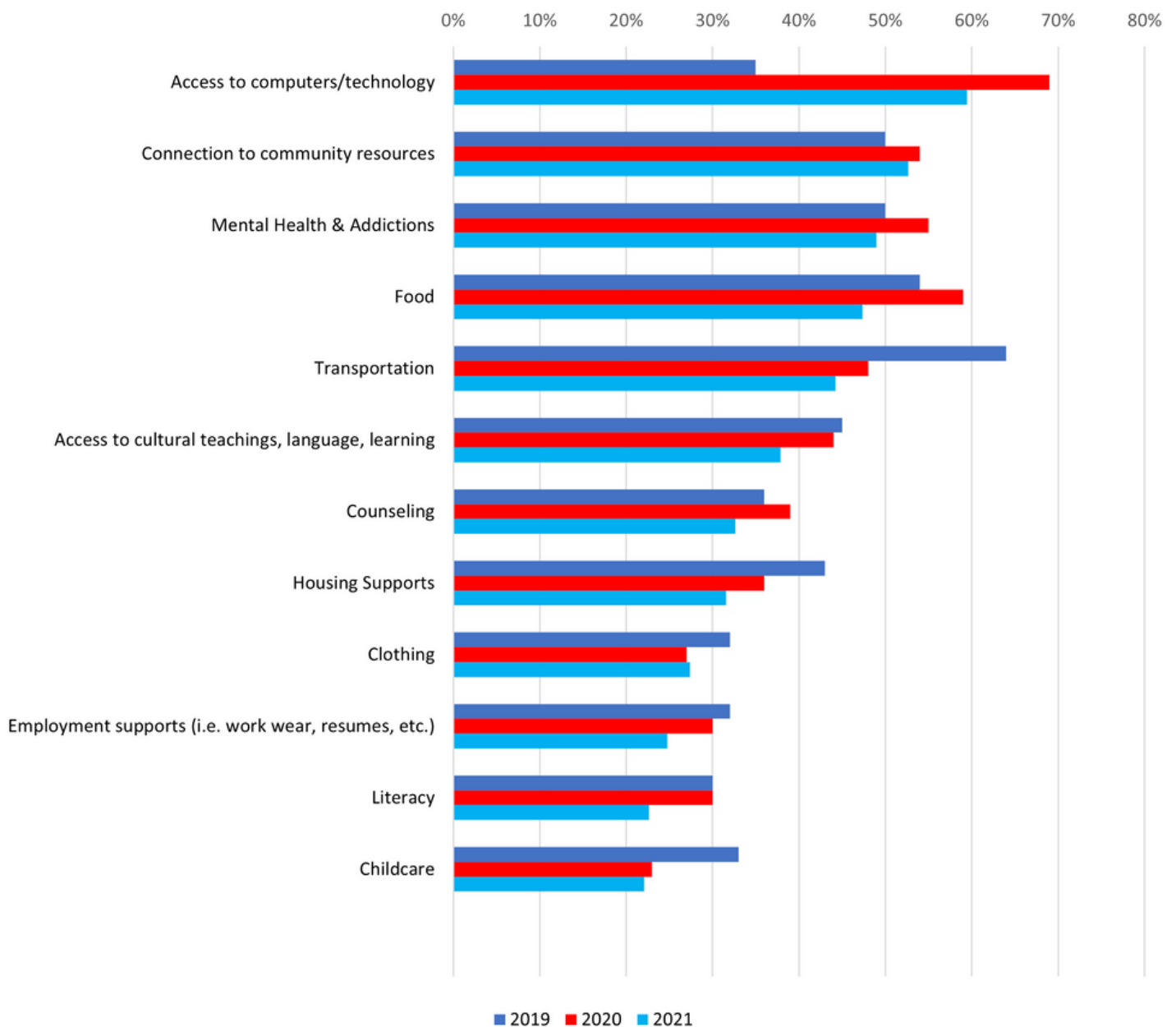
The chart below shows the percentage of programs which identified each barrier as applicable to their participants. Programs most often encountered and were able to address barriers related to Access to Computers/Technology, Connection to Community Resources, and Mental Health & Addictions. Childcare, Housing Supports, and Clothing were most often unaddressed. When addressed and unaddressed barriers are considered together, Transportation also emerges as significant factor for many participants.

2021 Participant Barriers Overview



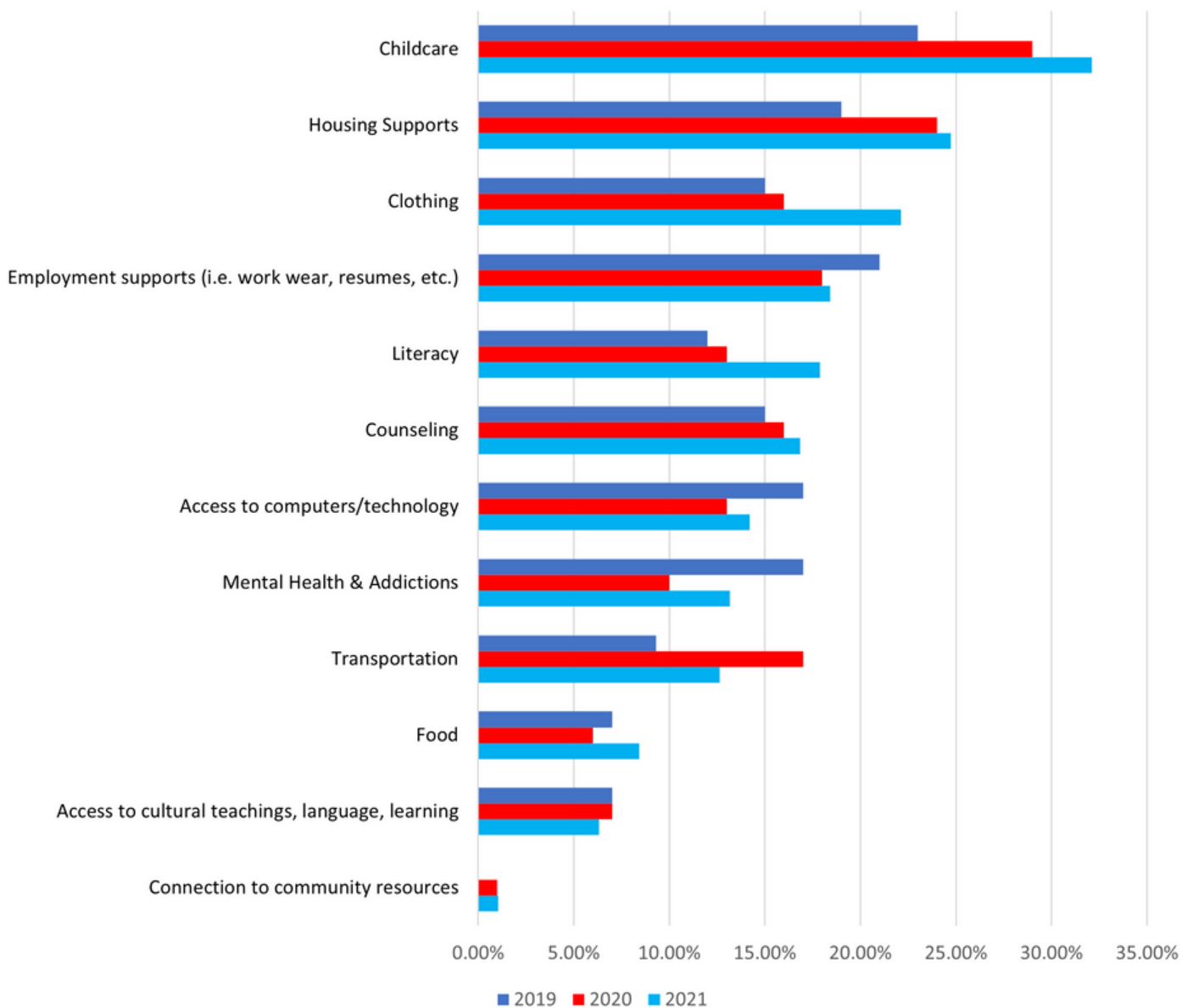
Year Over Year Addressed Barriers

Over the past three years, Mental Health & Addictions, Connection to Community Resources, and Food have consistently been top-reported participant barriers that programs have been able to address through additional program planning, activities and/or budgets. Prior to the pandemic, Transportation was the addressed barrier most often reported. This was replaced by Access to Computers/Technology as the highest-reported addressed barrier in 2021 and 2022.



Year Over Year Unaddressed Barriers

Over the past three years, Childcare and Housing Supports have been top-reported barriers that programs were unable to address. Clothing emerged in 2021 as a significant barrier for participants while Employment Supports has consistently been a barrier that programs have often been unable to address.



CONCLUSION

This report is a snapshot of the 2021 Common Outcomes Report. The full report including both quantitative and qualitative data will be released this fall.

The Common Outcomes Initiative Funders Group continues to be thankful to all of the funded agencies and community partners that contribute to our goals each year. We look forward to another year of data collection, story telling, and evaluation with the Alberta Capital Region!

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