

FY 2024 Continuum of Care Program Competition Debrief

HUD's Office of Special Needs
Assistance Programs

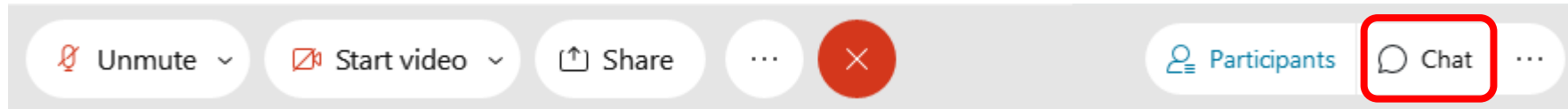


Housekeeping

- We will post materials from today's session on the HUD Exchange.
- You can post questions during this webinar on the Chat panel.
- We will answer questions from the chat panel after the presentation part of the webinar.

Chat Feature

Select the Chat icon to make a comment or ask a question. Select “Everyone” in the “To:” box.



Follow the prompts to connect audio by computer or telephone.

Competition Overview

Purpose of This Debriefing

The purpose of this debriefing session is to:

- Outline common issues we observed from analyzing the competition results, and
- Share tips on how you might improve the next round.

Debriefing Document

You should have received a debriefing document from your SNAPS Desk Officer.

If you have not received it, email CoCNOFO@hud.gov

Funding Overview

HUD Awarded more than \$3.6 billion

\$130 million awarded to **new** projects through reallocation, DV Bonus, and CoC Bonus including:

\$56.2 million in PSH

\$52.5 million in RRH

\$17.4 million in Joint TH-RRH

\$3.5 million in SSO-Coordinated Entry

\$0.2 million in HMIS

Note: HUD provided a cost-of-living adjustment for the first time in the FY24 competition for supportive services and HMIS budget line items.

Tiering – FY2024/25 Competition

Tier 1

- **90%** of CoC's Annual Renewal Demand (ARD)
- Projects are awarded **if** they pass eligibility and quality threshold review.

Tier 2

- Tier 2 = (Total CoC Application Amount) - Tier 1
- Total CoC Application Amount includes the sum of:
 - CoC Renewal (including DV Renewal)
 - CoC Reallocation
 - DV Bonus (included if not awarded as DV Bonus)
 - DV Reallocation
 - CoC Bonus

Not included in a Tier (Non-Competitive)

- CoC Planning
- UFA Costs
- YHDP grants

Tiering – Why does HUD do it?

- Statutory: HUD is required by law to run a competition for the CoC Program
- Limited Resources: HUD does not have enough funds to award all projects that apply
- CoC Voice: CoCs tell HUD their local priorities for funding
- Performance Incentive: Creates an incentive to continuously analyze their projects' performance

Tiering – How does it work?

- CoC Action: run a local competition where it decides what projects it will apply for and how to prioritize those projects
- HUD Action: base our funding decisions on how projects were ranked by CoCs and any other project-level scoring factor in the NOFO

Calculating Tier 2

Tier 2 = Total CoC Application Amount - Tier 1

$$T2 = \text{Total CoC Application Amount} - T1$$

$$T2 = 100k - 90k$$

$$T2 = 10k$$

Calculating Tier 2 Scores

We awarded points to each New and Renewal project application in Tier 2 using a 100-point scale:

- **CoC Application Score**—Up to 50 pts
- **CoC Project Ranking**—Up to 40 points
- **Other**—Up to 10 points

Your community's CoC application score is a **huge** factor in your project's competitiveness.

Tier 2 Project Ranking Formula

$$\text{Project Ranking Score} = 40 * (1 - x)$$


$$x = \frac{((\text{Cumulative funding of higher ranked projects}) + .5(\text{this project's application amount}))}{(\text{Total tier 2 amount})}$$

- *Cumulative funding of higher ranked projects* – Total funding of all Tier 2 projects that ranked **above** the project being scored. So, if it's the first ranked project in Tier 2 this will be zero.
- *Project's application amount* – The amount **this** project is seeking.
- *Total Tier 2 amount* – the Tier 2 total (T2 in the last slide)

Tier 2 Project Ranking Formula Example

$$x = \frac{((\text{Cumulative funding of higher ranked projects}) + .5(\text{this project's application amount}))}{(\text{Total tier 2 amount})}$$

$$x = \frac{(C + .5P)}{T}$$

$$x = \frac{(3,000 + .5(5,000))}{10,000}$$



$$x = \frac{(3,000 + 2,500)}{10,000}$$



$$x = \frac{5,500}{10,000}$$

$$x = 0.55$$

Tier 2 Project Ranking Formula Example (cont.)

$$\textit{Project Ranking Points} = 40 * (1 - x)$$

$$\textit{Project Ranking Points} = 40 * (1 - 0.55)$$

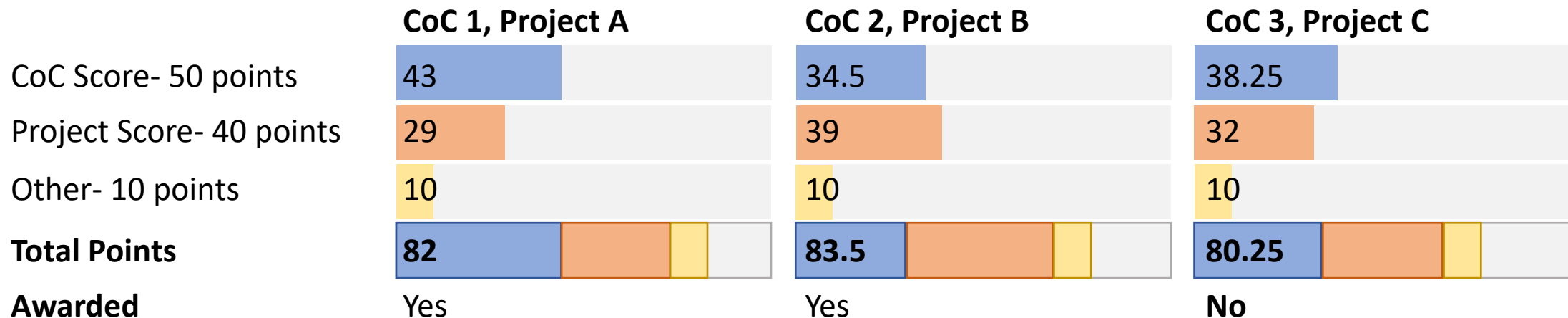
$$\textit{Project Ranking Points} = 40 * (0.45)$$

$$\textit{Project Ranking Points} = 18$$

Tier 2 – Projects Compete Across the Country

Projects are ranked within their own CoC and **Tier 2 projects compete nationally.**

So, a **lower-ranked project from a high-scoring CoC** might be funded, while a **higher-ranked project from a lower-scoring CoC** might not.



How DV Bonus Funding Works with the Tiers

DV Bonus is special funding to help survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

If a project is awarded DV Bonus funding, it is not counted in Tier 1 or Tier 2. All other projects ranked below it on the Project Listing move up one spot in the ranking.

If a project is not awarded DV Bonus funding, it is treated as a regular new project and stays in the ranked priority list.

How Projects Get Awarded as DV Bonus

CoCs could apply for up to **15 percent** of their **Preliminary Pro Rata Need (PPRN)**, with a minimum of \$50,000 and maximum of \$5 million.

HUD used a 100-point scale:

Rapid Rehousing/Joint TH and PH-RRH:

- CoC Score— Up to 50 points

- CoC Collaboration with Victim Service Providers— Up to 10 points

- Need for Project— Up to 10 points

- Quality of Project Applicant Experience— Up to 15 points

- Demonstration of inclusion of victim-centered practices— Up to 8 points

- Demonstration of plan to include survivors with lived expertise— Up to 7 points

SSO-Coordinated Entry:

- CoC Score— Up to 50 points

- CoC Collaboration with Victim Service Providers— Up to 10 points

- Need for Project— Up to 25 points

- Demonstration of plan to include survivors with lived expertise— Up to 15 points

DV Bonus – What HUD Awarded

HUD awarded New DV Bonus projects in 49 CoCs in 28 states—
including rural, suburban, and urban CoCs

\$2.7 million – SSO-Coordinated Entry Projects

\$5.7 million – Joint TH-RRH Projects

\$38.6 million – RRH Projects

CoC Application Overview

Local Competition

- CoCs should rank projects based on performance and need
- CoCs should review project applications
- We check to determine if all local deadlines are met; it is important that attachments are clear and address all required elements

Why CoCs Received Increased Funding

CoCs with higher CoC Application scores:

- Reduced homelessness in their communities
- Used performance criteria to rank projects
- Increased RRH units
- Reallocated lower performing projects

When Scores are Below Average

A few main reasons CoCs score lower for any given question:

- Responses are incomplete
- Responses did not meet the criteria to receive full points
- Questions are unclear

Below Average—Answers are Incomplete

We identify questions where a significant number of CoCs did not answer the full question.

- Applicants do not respond to all elements identified in the question (an example of a question with multiple elements where applicants had to respond to ALL elements include 1B-2)
- Some responses have long answers, but the answer is convoluted and does not clearly address the elements of the question (e.g., 3A-1)

Below Average—Answers are Incomplete (Example)

Examples (from 1B-2) of numbered responses verses block of text

Example 1 has numbered responses in the text (preferred):

Example 2 does not have numbered responses in the text:

1B-2. Open Invitation for New Members.
NOFO Section V.B.1.a.(2)

Describe in the field below how your CoC:

- communicated a transparent invitation process annually (e.g., communicated to the public on the CoC's website) to solicit new members to join the CoC;
- ensured effective communication and access for persons with disabilities, including the availability of accessible electronic formats; and
- invited organizations serving culturally specific communities experiencing homelessness in your CoC's geographic area to address equity (e.g., Black, Latino, Indigenous, LGBTQ+, and persons with disabilities).

*** (limit 2,500 characters)**

1. CoC solicited new members actively. The link to register as a CoC Member is permanently on [redacted] CoC page of the website & is promoted throughout the year. In 2024, 27 new organizations registered as CoC members. CoC Board & [redacted] Staff conduct regular review to assess need for new representation. Interested partner [redacted] contact CoC at any time & CoC targets invites to specialized groups for broader representation in alignment w/ CoC charter. New members solicited through social media, email, CoC website, word of mouth by sitting members, & by CoC staff w/ strong emphasis on lived experience & historically marginalized & [redacted]

[redacted]

accessible on an ongoing basis to ensure that inroads to CoC membership are continuously available

2. The CoC is committed to ensuring accessibility & effective communication for persons with disabilities. The CoC Coordinator is also the ADA Coordinator in accordance with Section 504. In notices & posted material, the CoC provides a clear statement respecting request for

1B-2. Open Invitation for New Members.
NOFO Section V.B.1.a.(2)

Describe in the field below how your CoC:

- communicated a transparent invitation process annually (e.g., communicated to the public on the CoC's website) to solicit new members to join the CoC;
- ensured effective communication and access for persons with disabilities, including the availability of accessible electronic formats; and
- invited organizations serving culturally specific communities experiencing homelessness in your CoC's geographic area to address equity (e.g., Black, Latino, Indigenous, LGBTQ+, and persons with disabilities).

*** (limit 2,500 characters)**

[redacted] solicits new members by identifying a gap in representation and approaches agencies or individuals who are willing to fill the need. [redacted] is still a relatively new continuum of care, and meetings are posted on the Homeless [redacted] website, as well as through the CoC email list. Meeting packets are emailed five (5) days before the scheduled meeting, and all minutes are posted on the [redacted] website. The meeting is always open to the public, and a special community-focused meeting is held on a quarterly basis. [redacted]'s outreach team, comprised of staff from the local emergency shelter and the Behavioral Health Department, encourages homeless individuals to participate in the CoC. The CoC acknowledges that additional outreach is needed to invite organizations serving culturally specific communities experiencing homelessness.

Below Average—Answers are Incomplete (Example)

Example (from 3A) of letter with all the elements. This is a complete answer.

October 28, 2024

Re: Housing Leveraging Commitment
[REDACTED] Project

To the HUD SNAPS Office:

The City of [REDACTED] is pleased to make a commitment of HOME ARP funds to be used as housing leverage for the [REDACTED] Project, CoC Project Number [REDACTED].

The City will provide funding for a minimum of 20 rapid rehousing units, which will be available as of July 1, 2025. The City's commitment is for \$562,500 annually and will extend until at least June 30, 2027. The City's funding will pay toward both rent and supportive services for the units, which will be used to house unsheltered individuals.

Sincerely,

Below Average – CoCs Do Not Meet the Criteria

There are some questions in the CoC Application where the responses do not demonstrate that the CoC is meeting HUD's requirements for full points.

- Carefully read whether a question is asking about what you have done or are currently doing or if it refers to what you will do in the future (e.g. 4A-3e vs 4A-3h)
- We must ask some questions where we know the overall score will be lower due to realities on the ground
 - This is most common with questions on performance and data

Below Average – CoCs Do Not Meet the Criteria (Example)

4A-3e.

Applicant's Experience in Placing and Stabilizing Survivors in Permanent Housing Using Trauma-Informed, Survivor-Centered Approaches.

NOFO Section I.B.3.j.(1)(d)

Describe in the field below the project applicant's experience in:

1. prioritizing placement and stabilization of survivors;
2. placing survivors in permanent housing;

Question that uses
present tense



Question that uses
future tense



4A-3h.

Applicant's Plan for Placing and Stabilizing Survivors in Permanent Housing Using Trauma-Informed, Survivor-Centered Approaches in the New DV Bonus Housing Project(s).

NOFO Section I.B.3.j.(1)(e)

Describe in the field below how the project(s) will:

1. prioritize placement and stabilization of program participants;
2. place program participants in permanent housing;

Where Collaborative Applicants Could Improve

We noticed a significant difference in how Collaborative Applicants responded to questions. Thank you for applying the comments from previous webinars. While we have seen significant improvement, we recommend that to improve your CoC Application score:

- Use the **Detailed Instructions** when responding to questions—the detailed instructions explain how to successfully respond to questions.
- Respond to all elements of multipart questions—do not refer to other question responses, attachments, websites, or other resources in your response.
- If you are bringing forward or copying a response from the past be sure that it is responsive to any changes made in the NOFO or application.
- Ensure each response addresses the specific elements of the question—If you don't understand the question, submit a question to COCNOFO@HUD.gov.

Where Collaborative Applicants Could Improve (Cont.)

Attach all required documents and ensure they contain the requested content.

Example 1: For evidence your CoC meets public posting requirements; be sure the attachment includes a system-generated date—examples include screenshot with date at the bottom corner, or popup calendar.

Example 2: For Question 1E-2 you are required to upload:

- ✓ your CoC's local competition scoring tool—showing points; and
- ✓ one scored renewal project application.

Project Application Overview

Update *e-snaps* Applicant Profiles Now

To save time later and avoid potential deficiencies in your application:

- Ensure your *e-snaps* profiles are up to date—especially if there are changes to your CoC's Collaborative Applicant or project recipients.
- Your Unique Entity Identification (UEI) **must be correct in *e-snaps*** *(if it is wrong or expired, your grant is likely to be severely delayed!)*

Reallocation

- Reallocation is the process that allows CoCs to shift funds from eligible CoC-funded renewal projects to create new projects.
 - Limited to:
 - ✓ New Expansion projects
 - ✓ Transition projects
 - ✓ New CoC projects
 - ✓ YHDP Reallocation
- Makes the CoC Program more competitive and ensures that lower performing projects are not automatically renewed.
- Ensures that housing and services strategies are more cost effective to achieve the same or better outcomes.
- CoCs should strive to match their inventory of projects to the needs of people experiencing homelessness.

Reallocation – Common Errors

- Reallocating first-year Renewal projects
- Reducing project budgets with no corresponding New project, resulting in lost ARD
- Not having project applicants reduce their project budgets after local competition results.
- Not documenting reallocations on the Priority Listing
- Mixing up Reallocations, Expansions, Consolidations, and Transitions

Reallocation – Solutions

Consolidations, Expansions, Transitions, and Reallocations all have different requirements/rules.

- **CoC Program NOFO**—Carefully read the sections on Consolidations, Expansions, Transitions, and Reallocations to understand the differences.
- **Priority Listing**—Carefully review prior to submission to ensure accuracy.
- **Guidance**—Carefully follow Detailed Instructions and Navigation Guides posted on [HUD.gov](https://www.hud.gov). If you are confused, please submit a question to the CoCNOFO@HUD.gov help desk.

Project Start Dates

- We recommend that you start operating **New Projects**— drawing grant funds—after March in any calendar year. This could help your organization avoid undue financial hardship if we make funds available in e-LOCCS later in the year.
- Starting your New Projects after July in any calendar year will most likely allow time for HUD to resolve any funding availability issues.
- Additionally, requesting the extended new grant term of up to 18 months can give your project more time to set up and be ready to operate.

Unfunded Renewal Projects

What can you do if we did not select your Renewal project for funding?

Work with your local Field Office and Technical Assistance to:

- Extend grants with remaining funds
- Closeout the grant
- Help program participants move out of projects or transfer to another option if necessary
- Determine if restrictive covenants are present

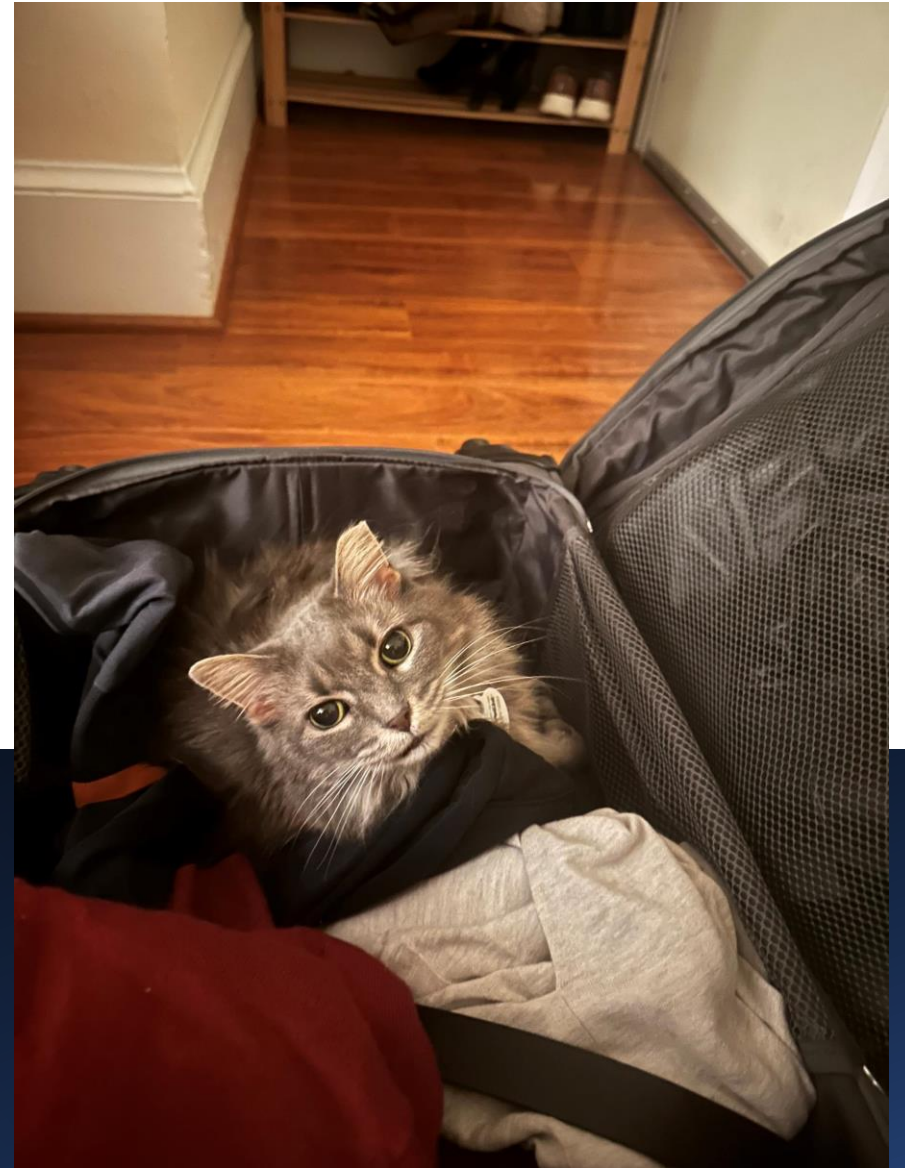
Fair Market Rent (FMR) Adjustments

We base FMR adjustments on the HUD-FMRs in effect the date the competition closes during the fiscal year—for example:

- Since the FY 2024 competition closed in FY2025, awards reflect FY2025 FMR updates.
- All housing BLIs receive an update reflecting the change in FMR, even if they are “Actual Rents”

Questions?

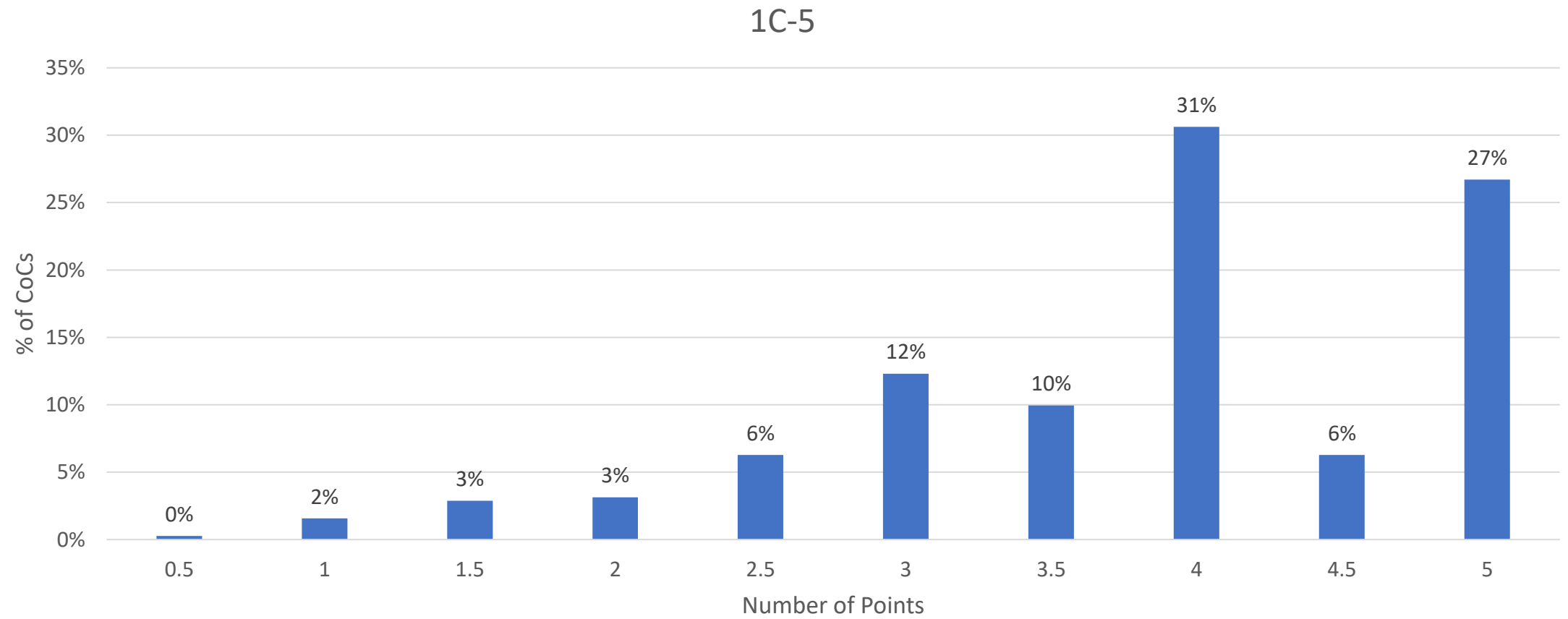
HUD's Office of Special Needs
Assistance Programs
CoCNOFO@hud.gov



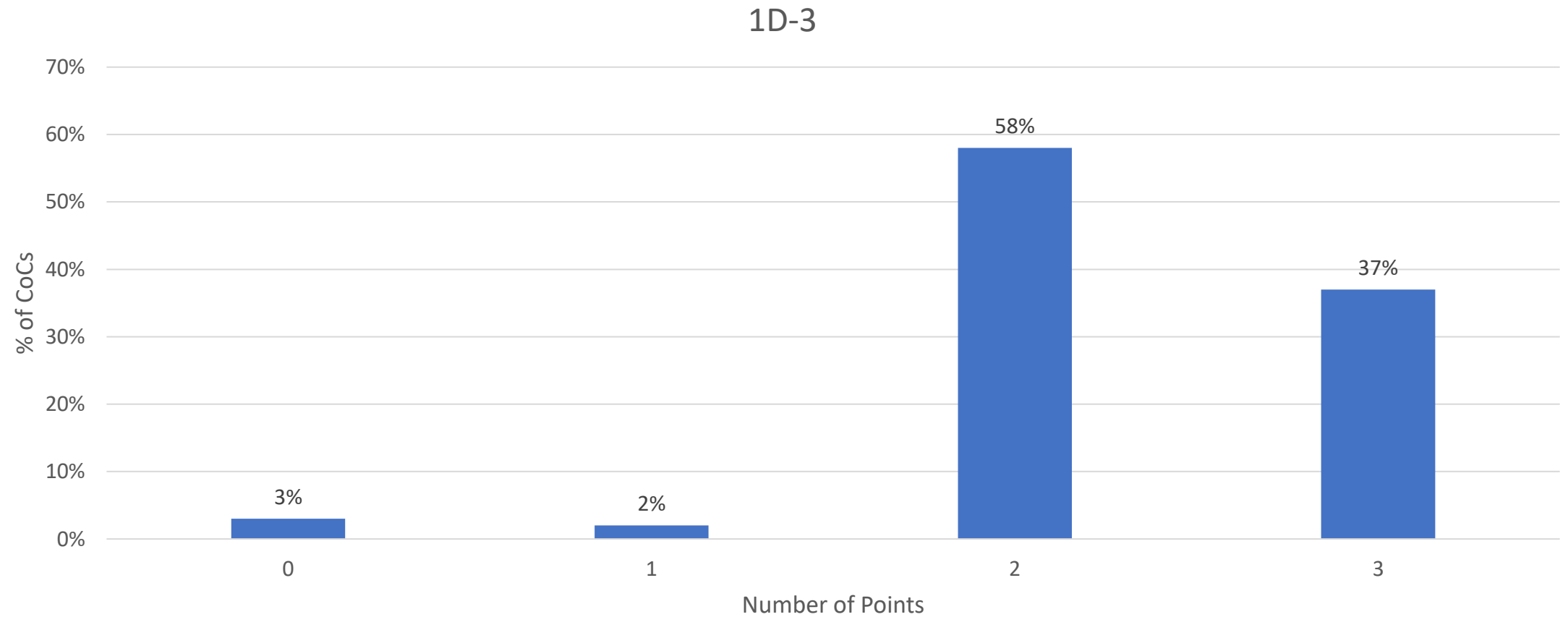
Appendix: Distribution of Points

- We added a reference point to the end of this slide deck for CoCs to use regarding the questions included in the debriefing document.
- For all questions (except for 1E-2 and 2A-5) HUD is providing the distribution of scores across all CoCs for you to reference if you are interested in knowing how you scored relative to other CoCs.

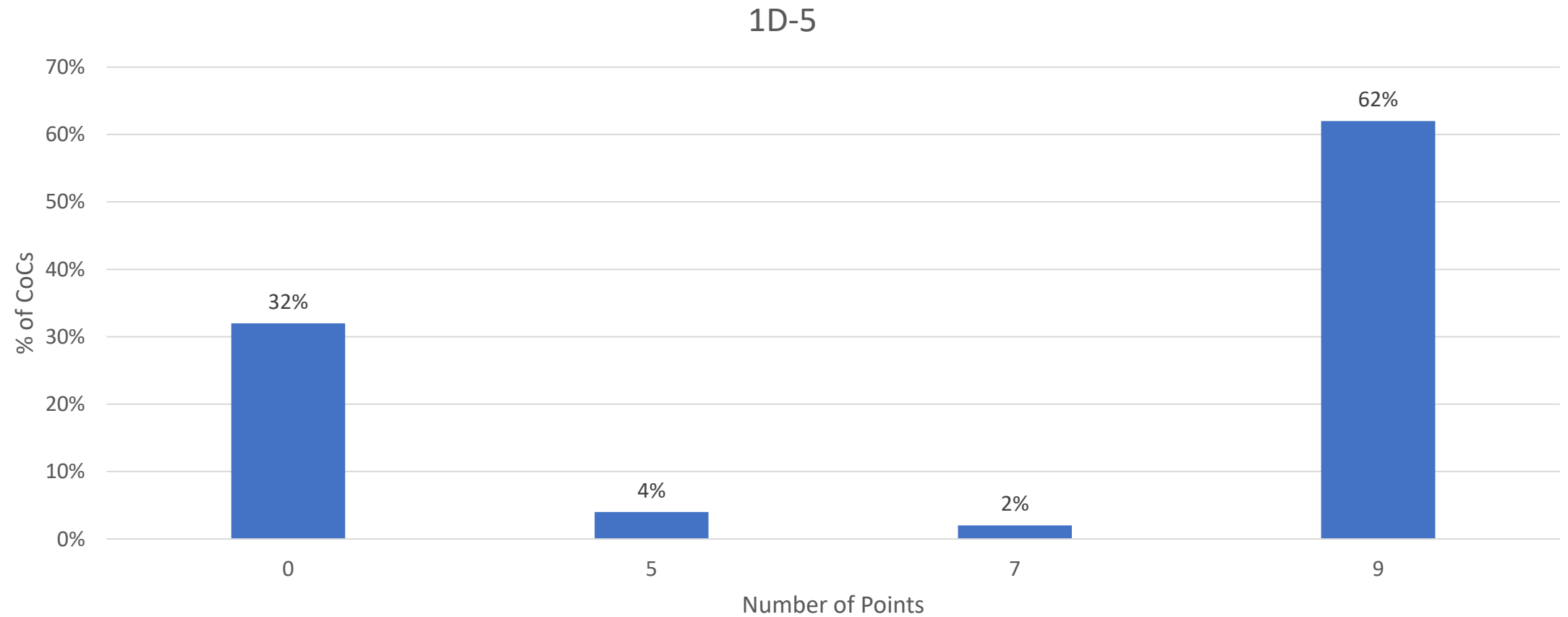
1C-5



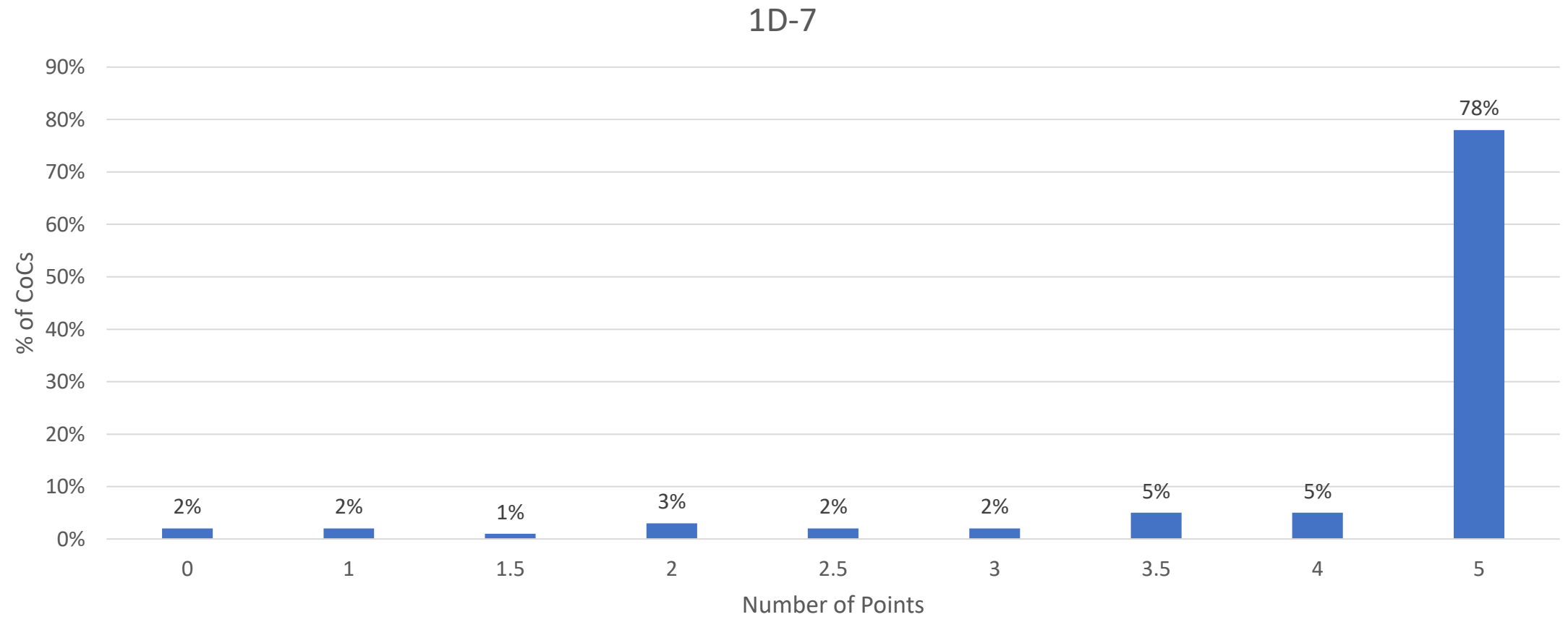
1D-3 Street Outreach



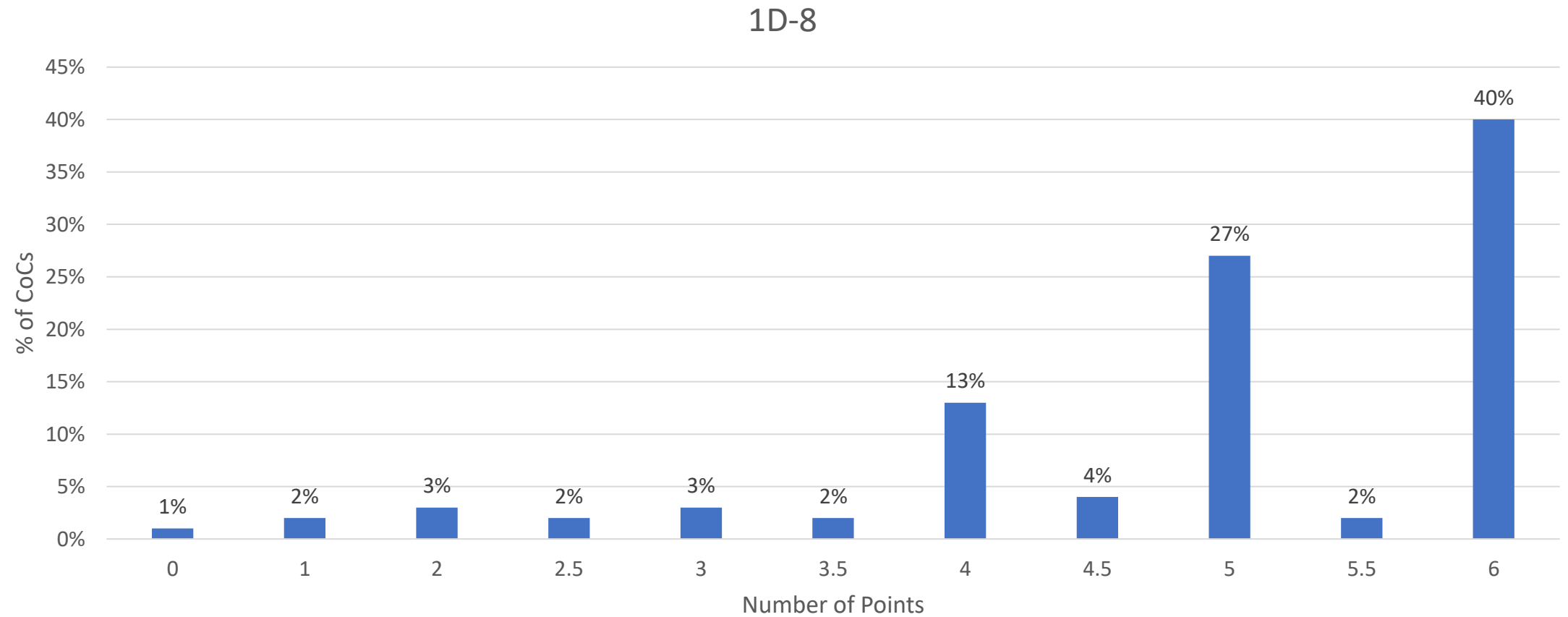
1D-5 RRH Beds in HIC



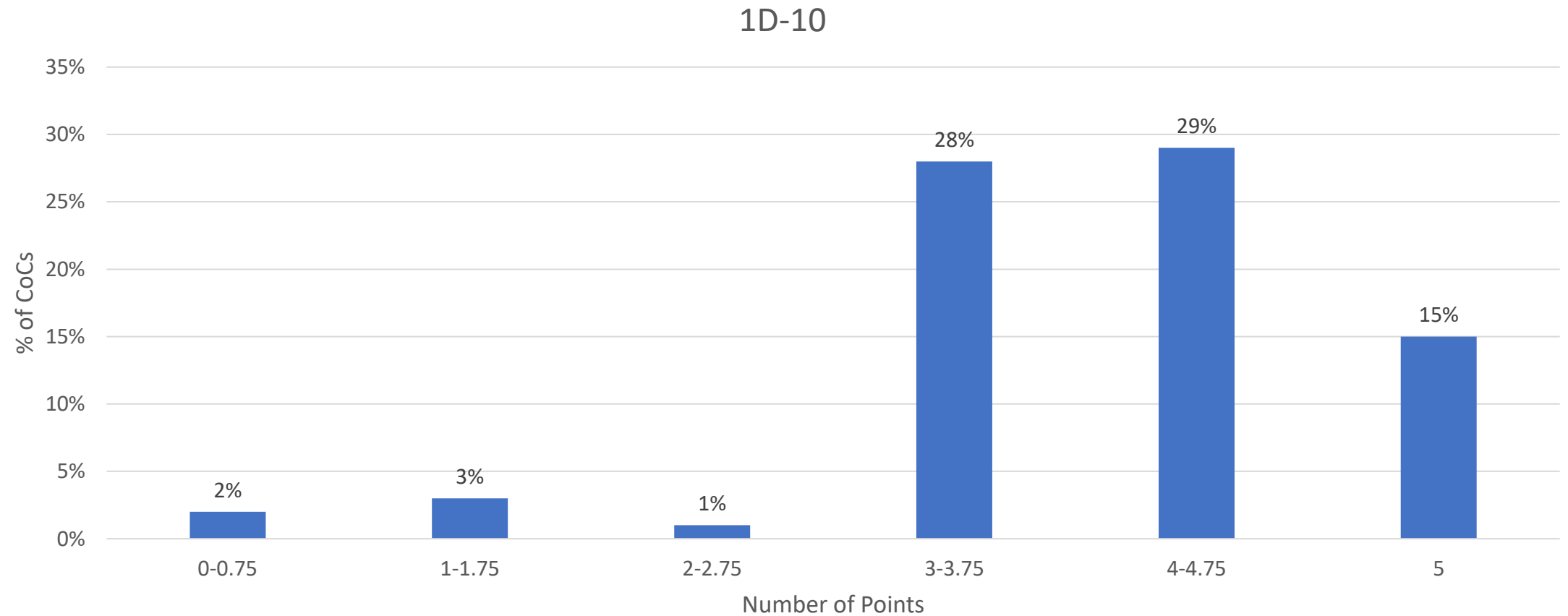
1D-7 Public Health



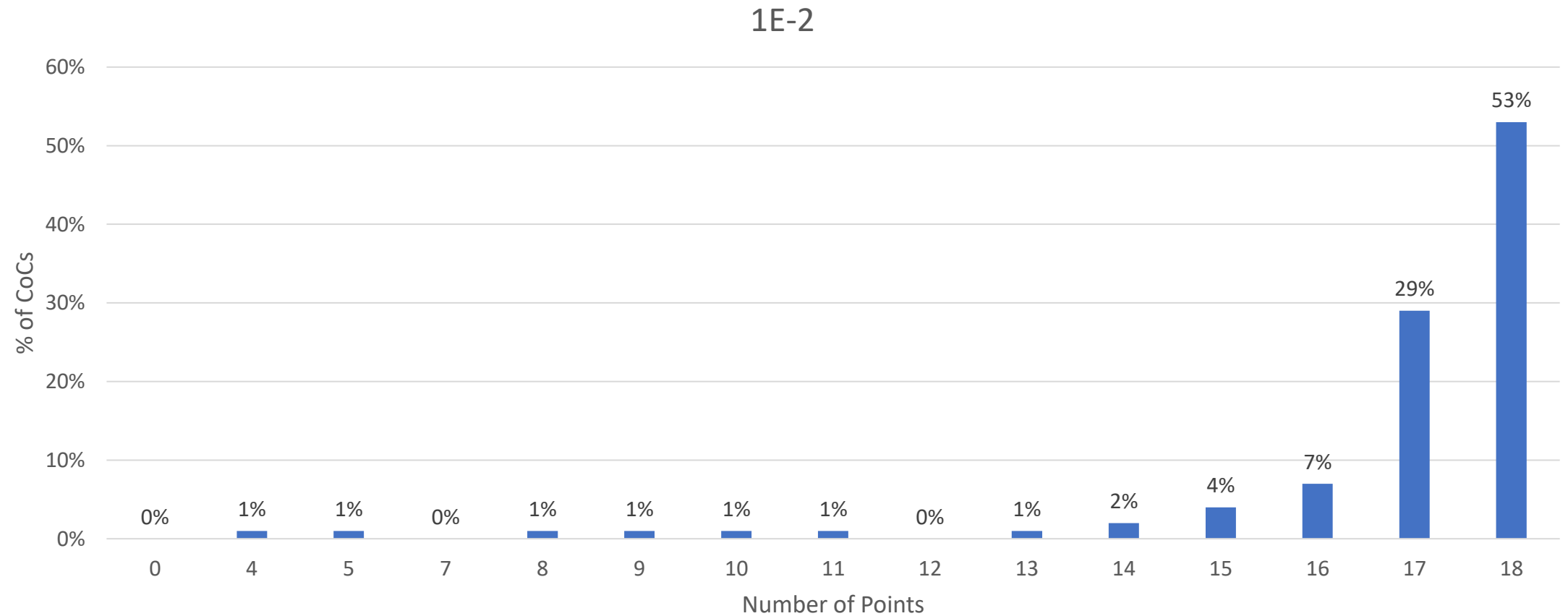
1D-8 Coordinated Entry



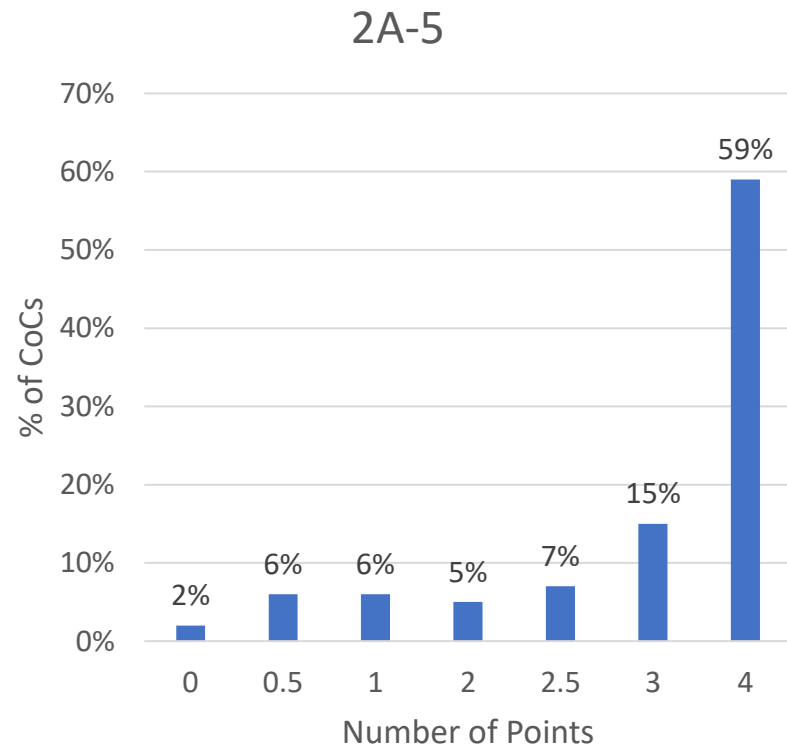
1D-10 Involving Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness



1E-2 Project Review, Ranking, and Selection

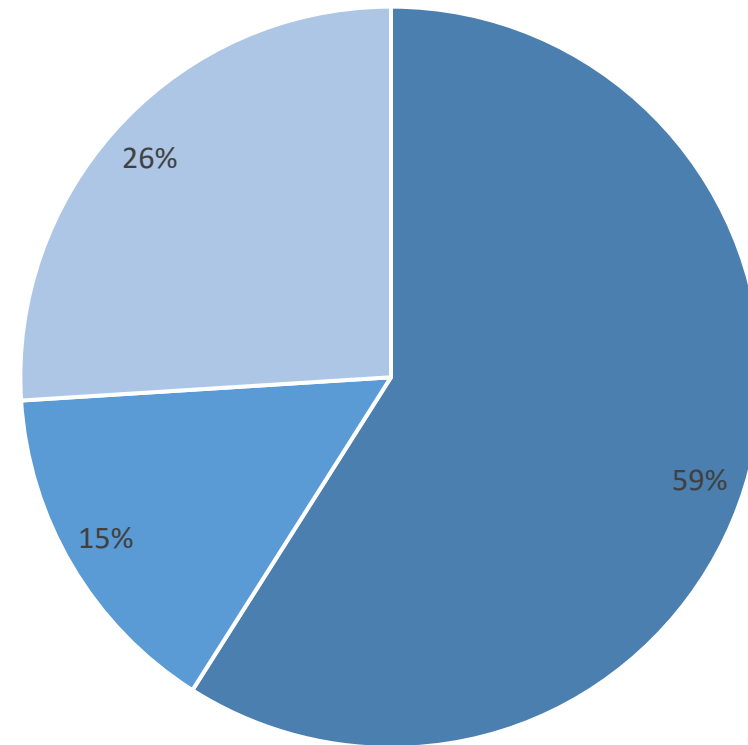


2A-5 Bed Coverage Rate

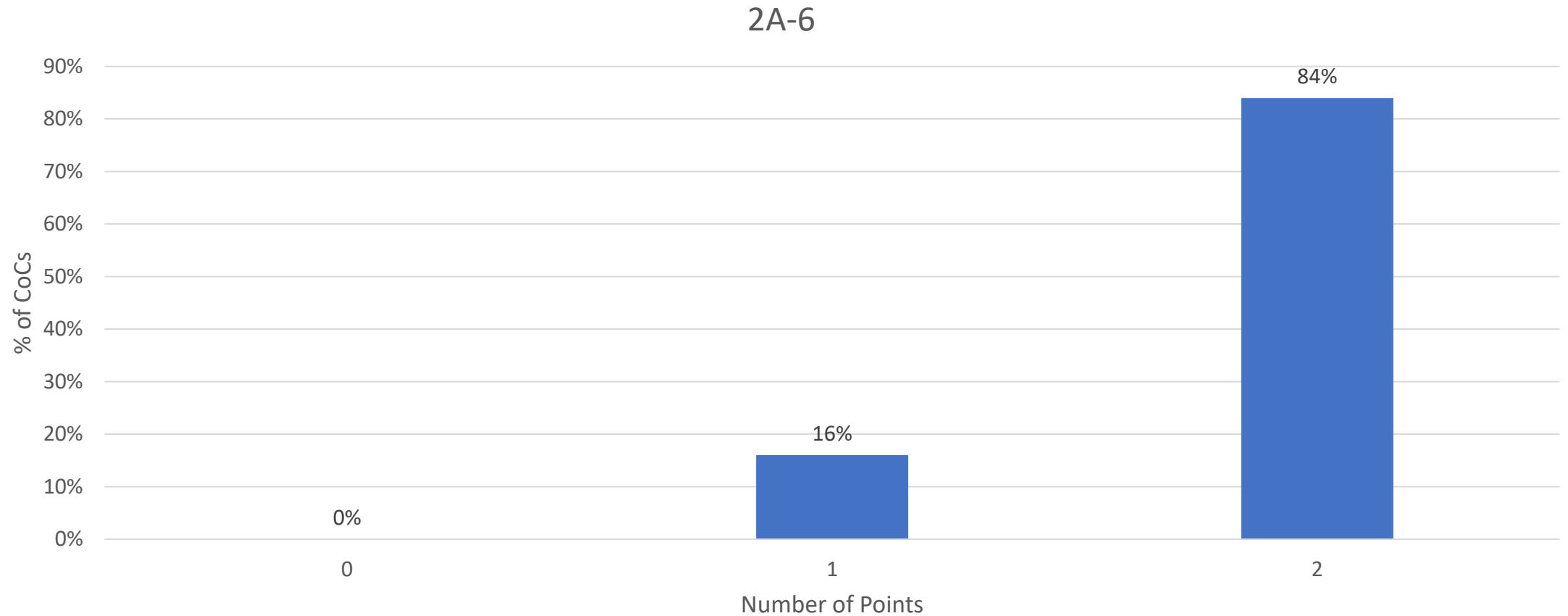


2A-5 Bed Coverage Rate

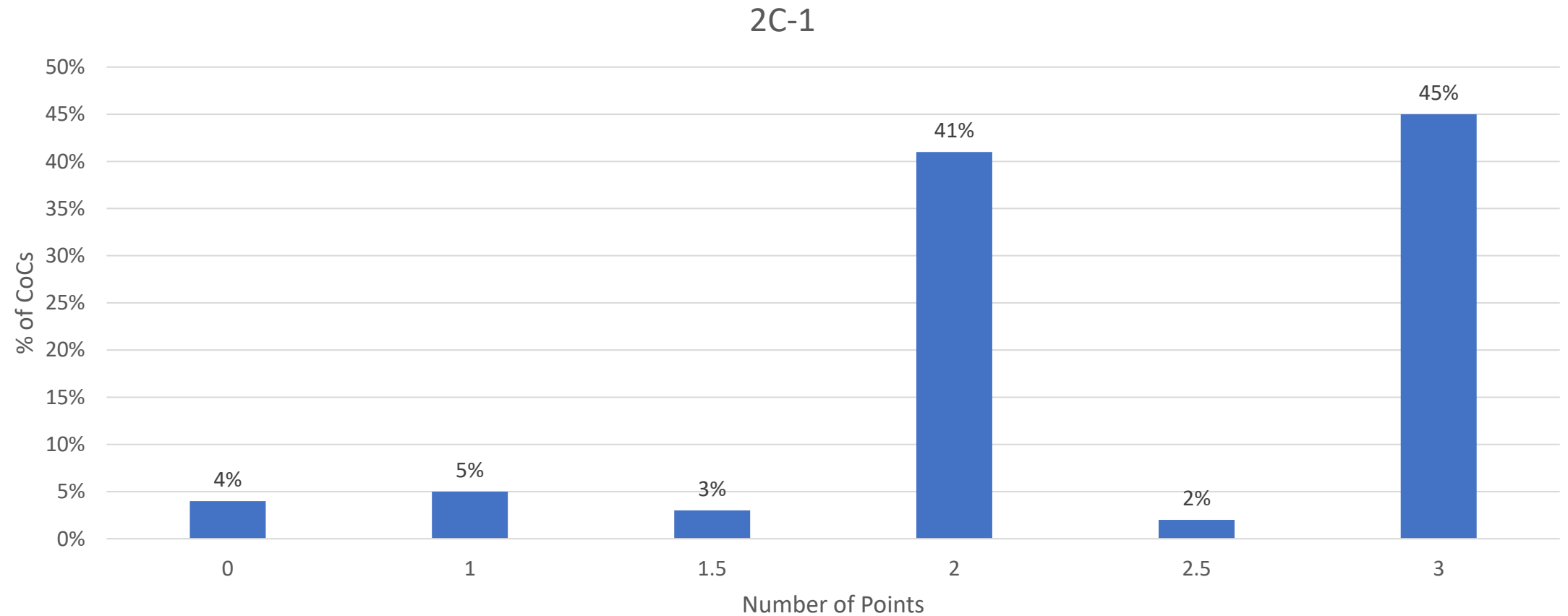
■ 4 Points (Full Score) ■ 3 Points ■ Less than 3 Points



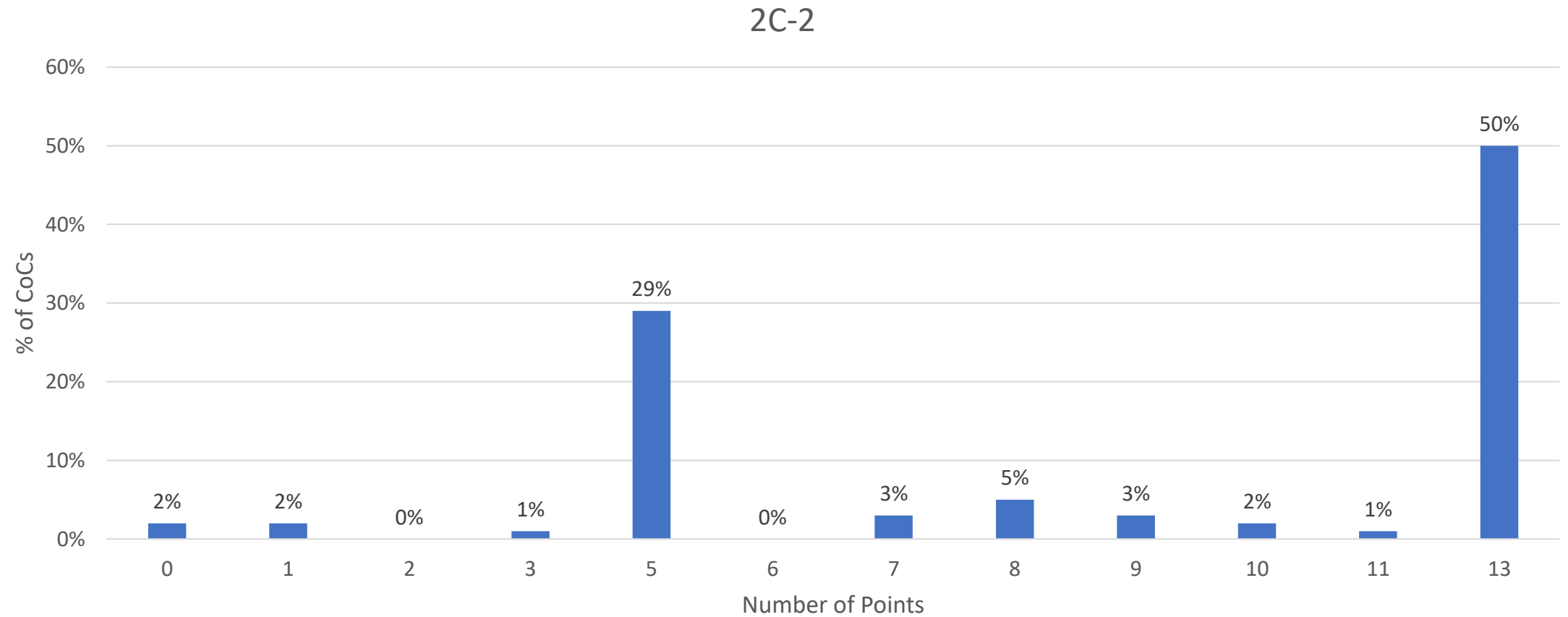
2A-6 Longitudinal System Analysis (LSA) Submission in HDX



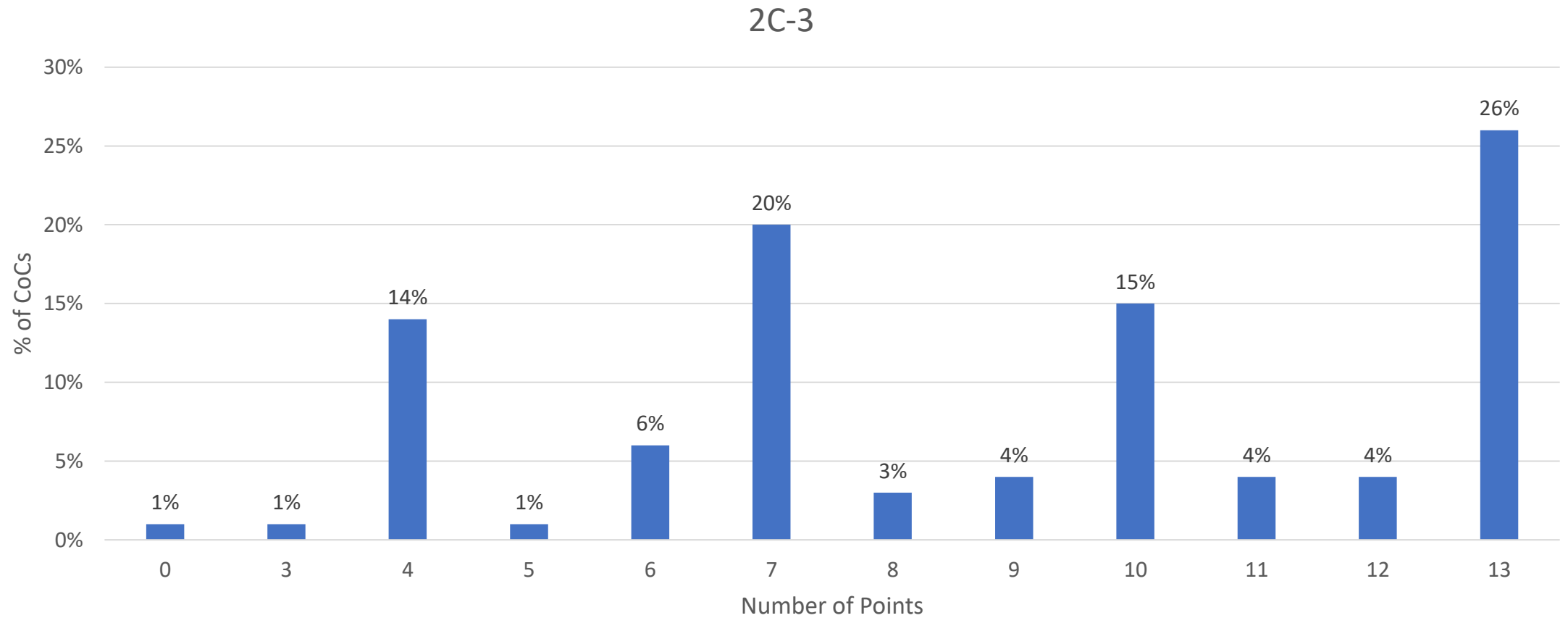
2C-1 Reduction in the Number of First Time Homeless



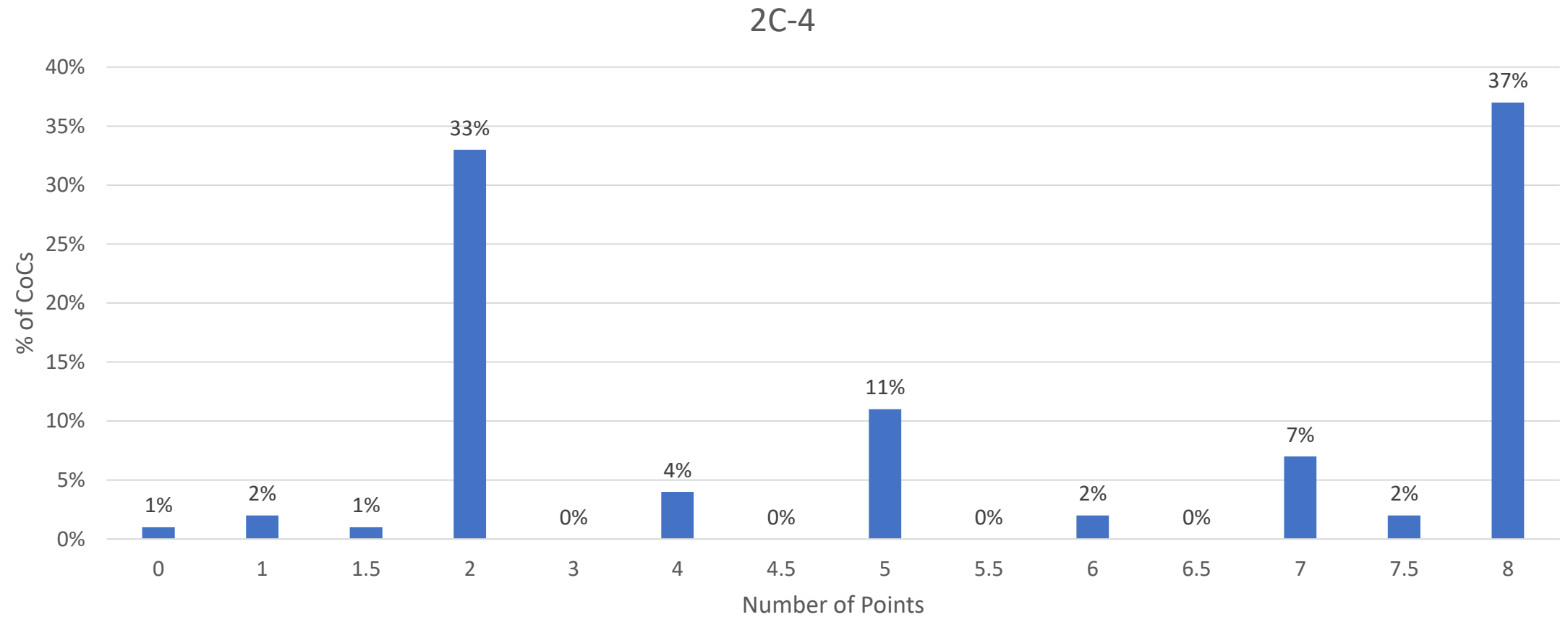
2C-2 Length of Time Homeless



2C-3 Exits to Permanent Housing

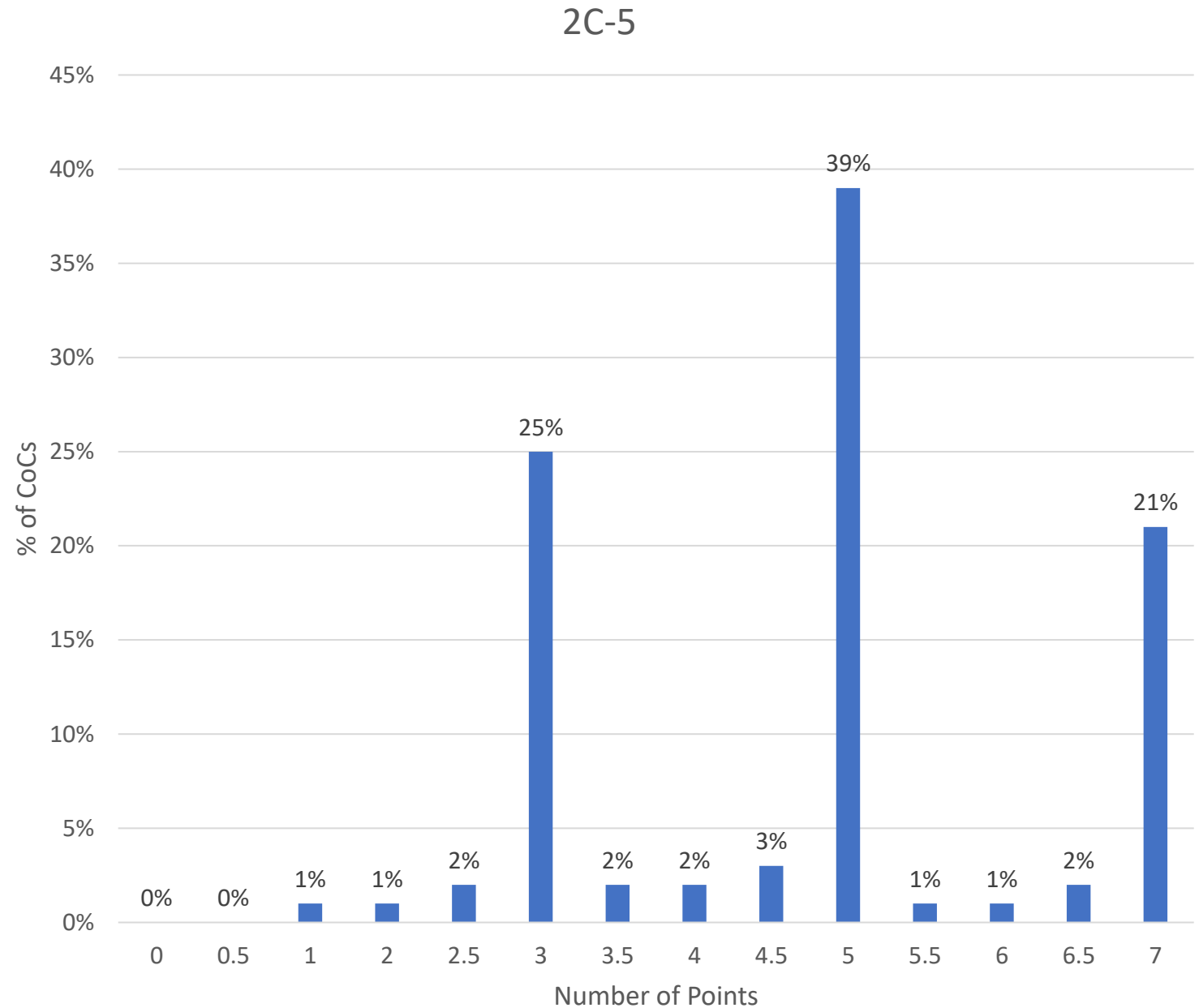


2C-4 Returns to Homelessness

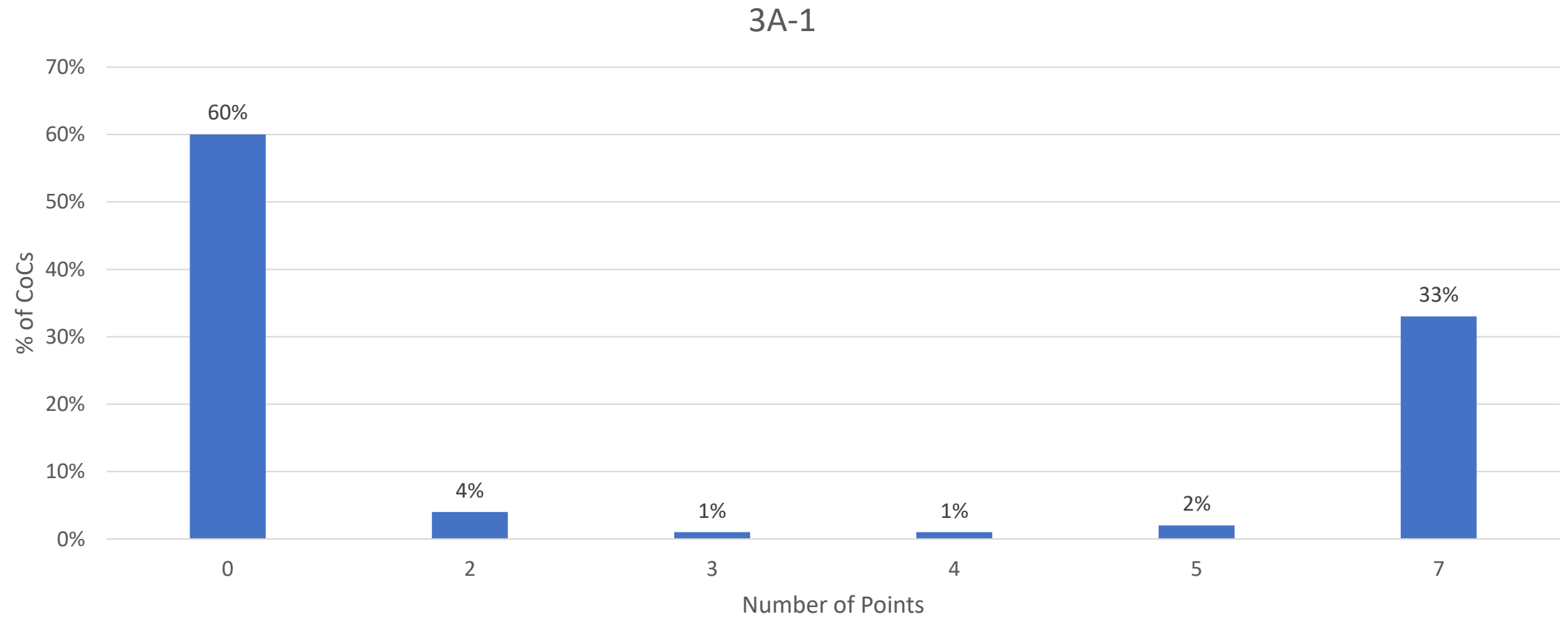


2C-5 Income

- 88% had full points for narratives for 2C-5 increasing employment cash income
- 90% had full points for narratives for increasing non-employment cash income



3A-1 Leveraging Housing Resources



3A-2 Leveraging Healthcare Resources

