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# Victimization and Contacts with Law Enforcement in a Sample of Homeless People with Mental Illness: Results from 5 Canadian Cities

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# Outline for today

- 1. Overview of the Project**
- 2. Methods**
- 3. Contacts with Law Enforcement**
- 4. Victimization**
- 5. Conclusion**

# At Home/Chez Soi Demonstration Project

- Largest study of its kind in the world
- 2008 federal budget allocated \$110 million over 5 years to the Mental Health Commission of Canada
- Action research on how to support people with severe mental illness to exit homelessness

- Pragmatic, multi-site, randomized, mixed methods field trial in five sites across Canada (Vancouver, Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal, & Moncton)
- Today: descriptive study of baseline characteristics related to victimization and contacts with law enforcement

# Who is in At Home/Chez Soi?

- 2298 participants
- Primarily middle-aged
- 32% of participants are women
- 22% of participants identified as being an Aboriginal person
- 25% of participants identified as being from other ethnic groups
- Typical total time homeless in participants' lifetimes is nearly 5 years
- All have one or more serious mental health issue
- Majority have a concurrent disorder
- More than 90% had at least one chronic physical health problem

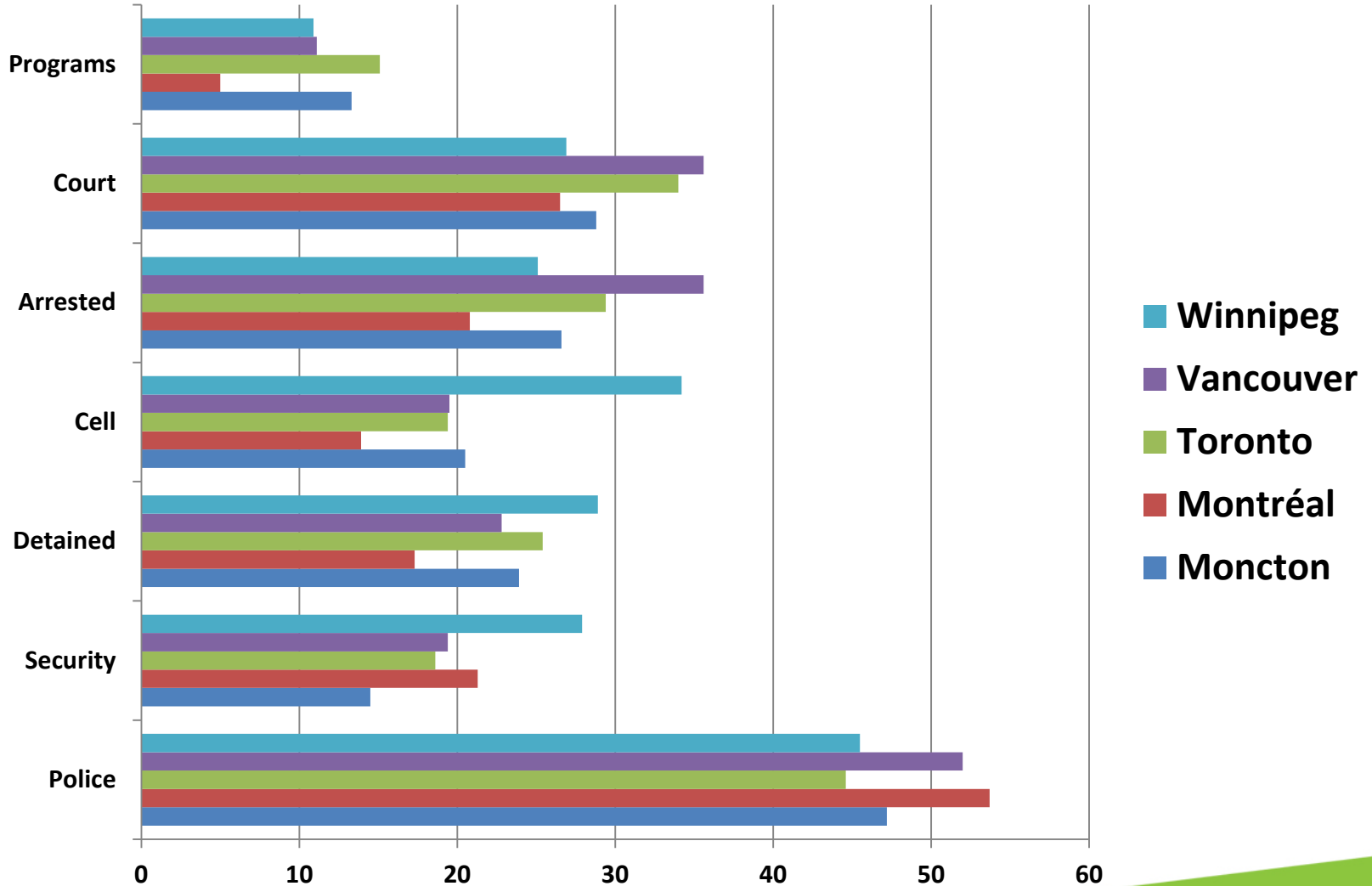


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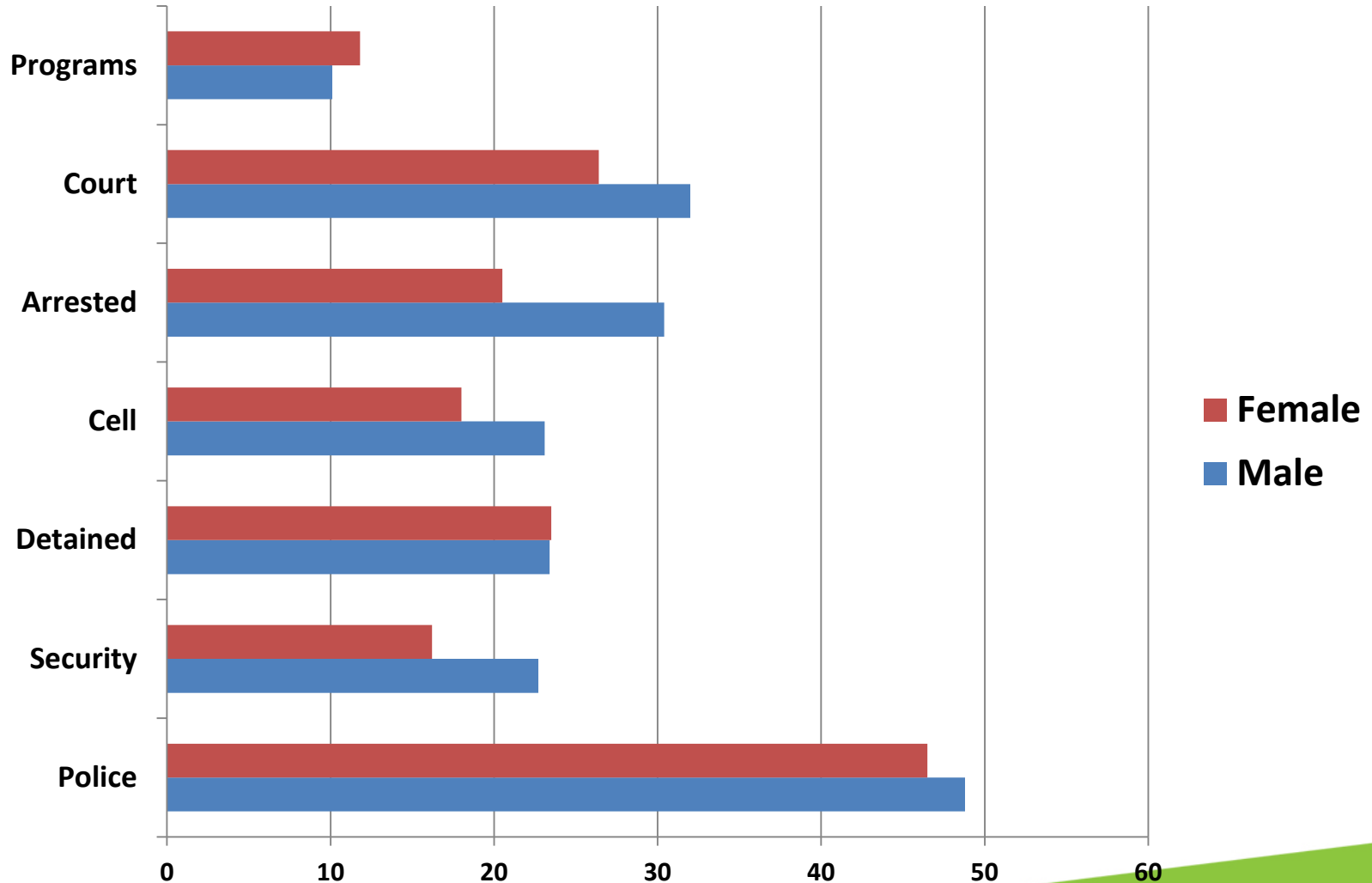
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# Law Enforcement Contacts

# Law Enforcement Contacts by Site

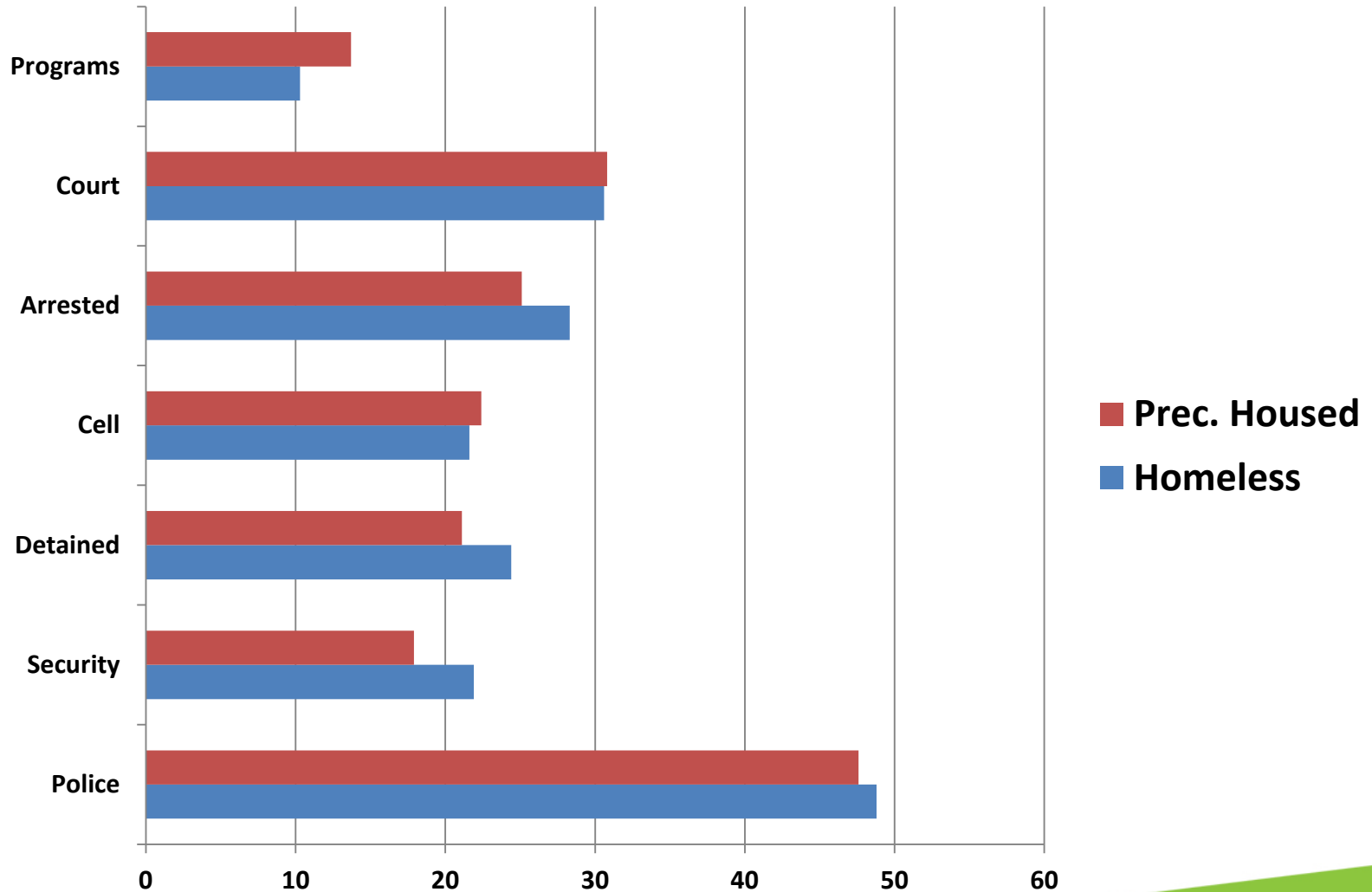


# Law Enforcement Contacts by Gender

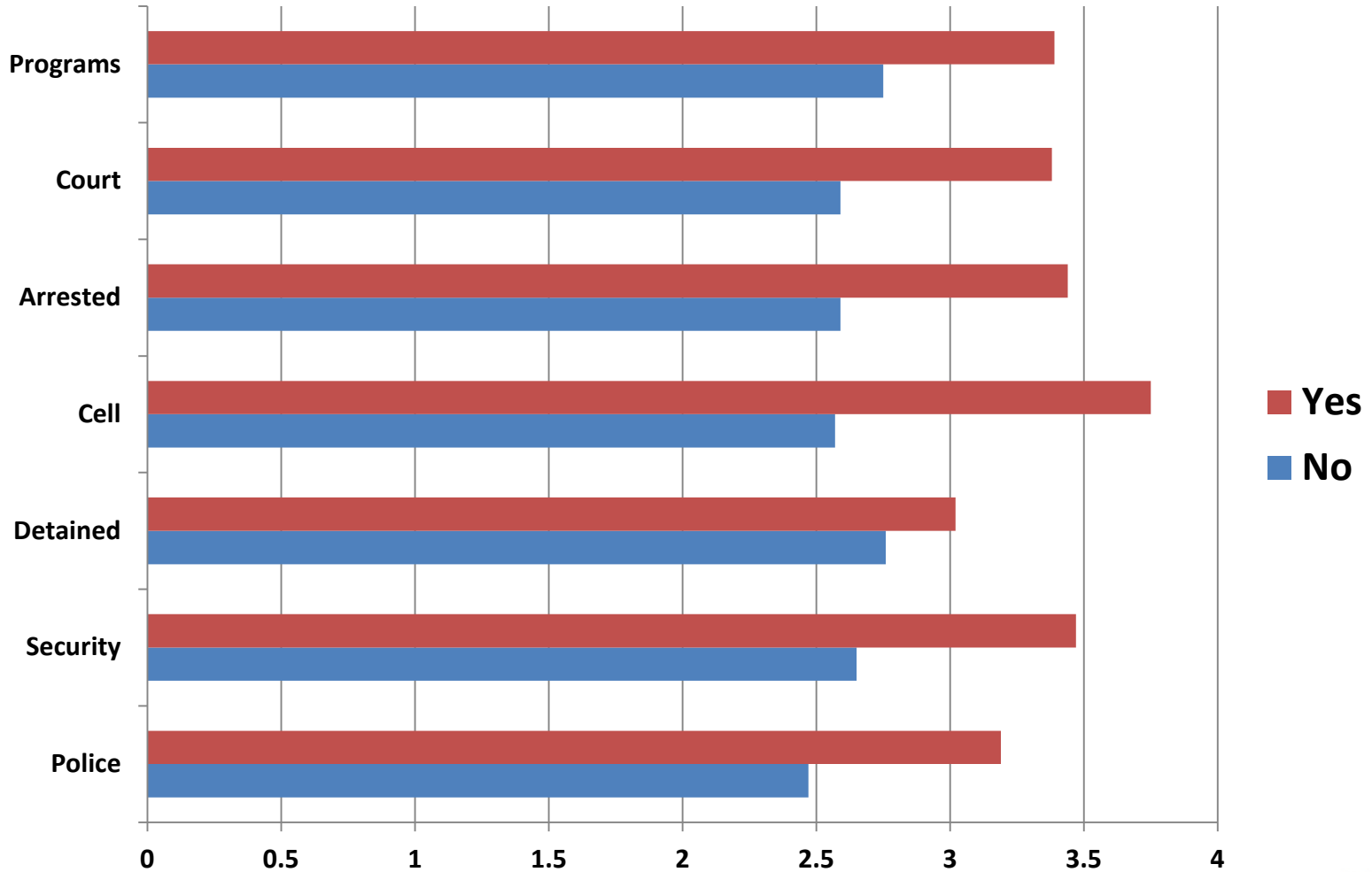




# Law Enforcement Contacts by Housing Situation



# Average GAIN Score by Law Enforcement Contacts





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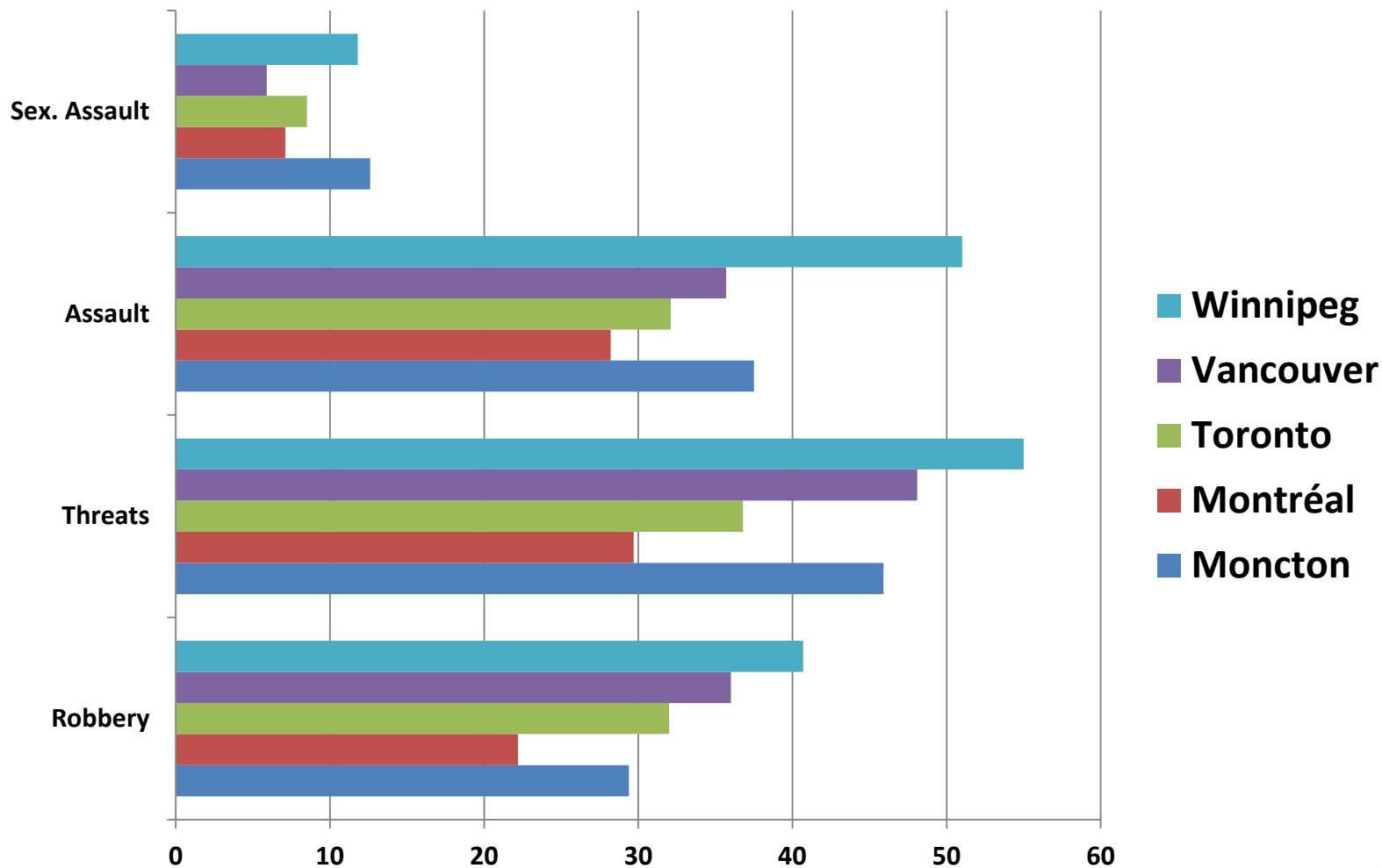
# Victimization



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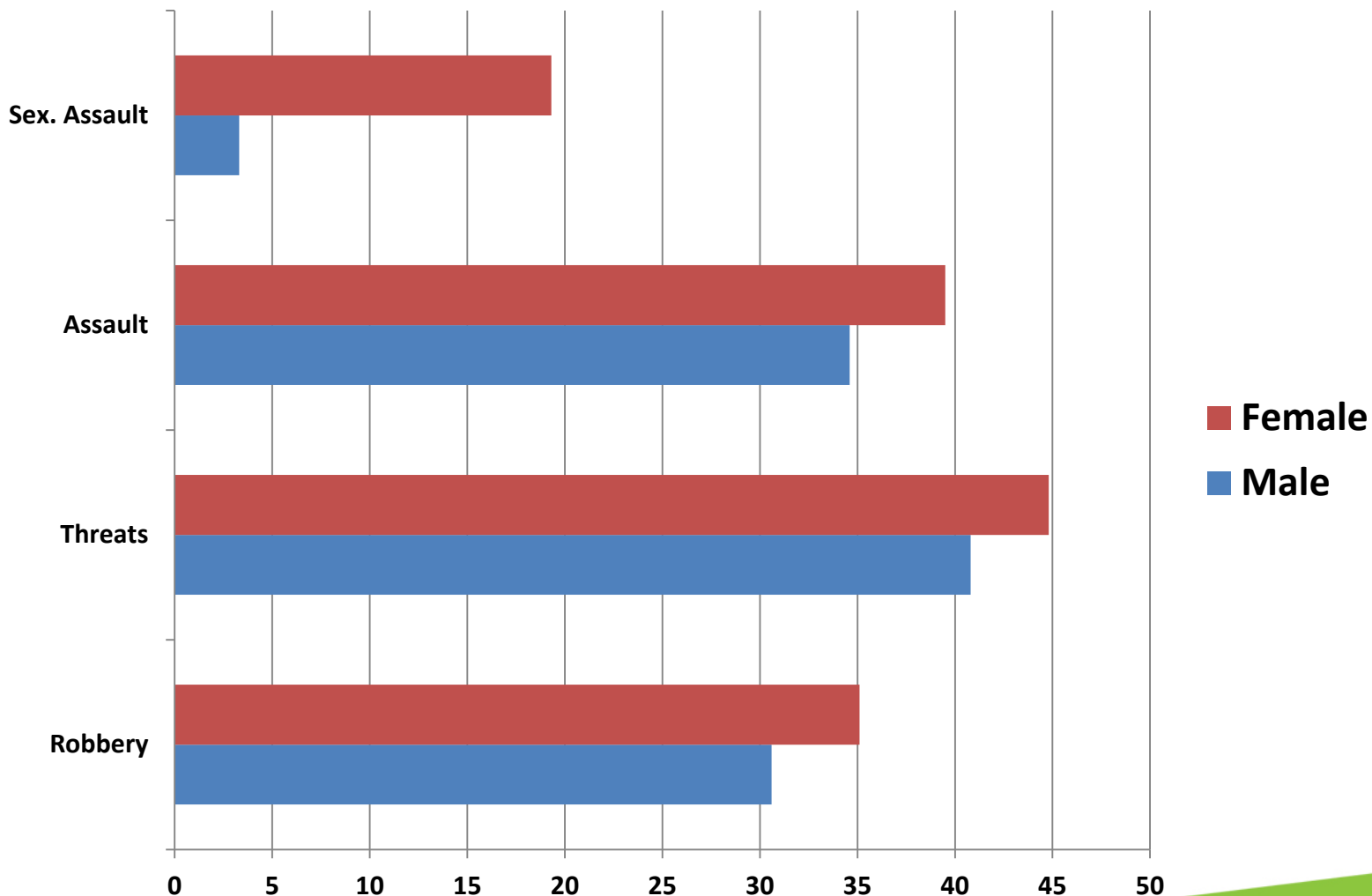
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# Victimization by Site



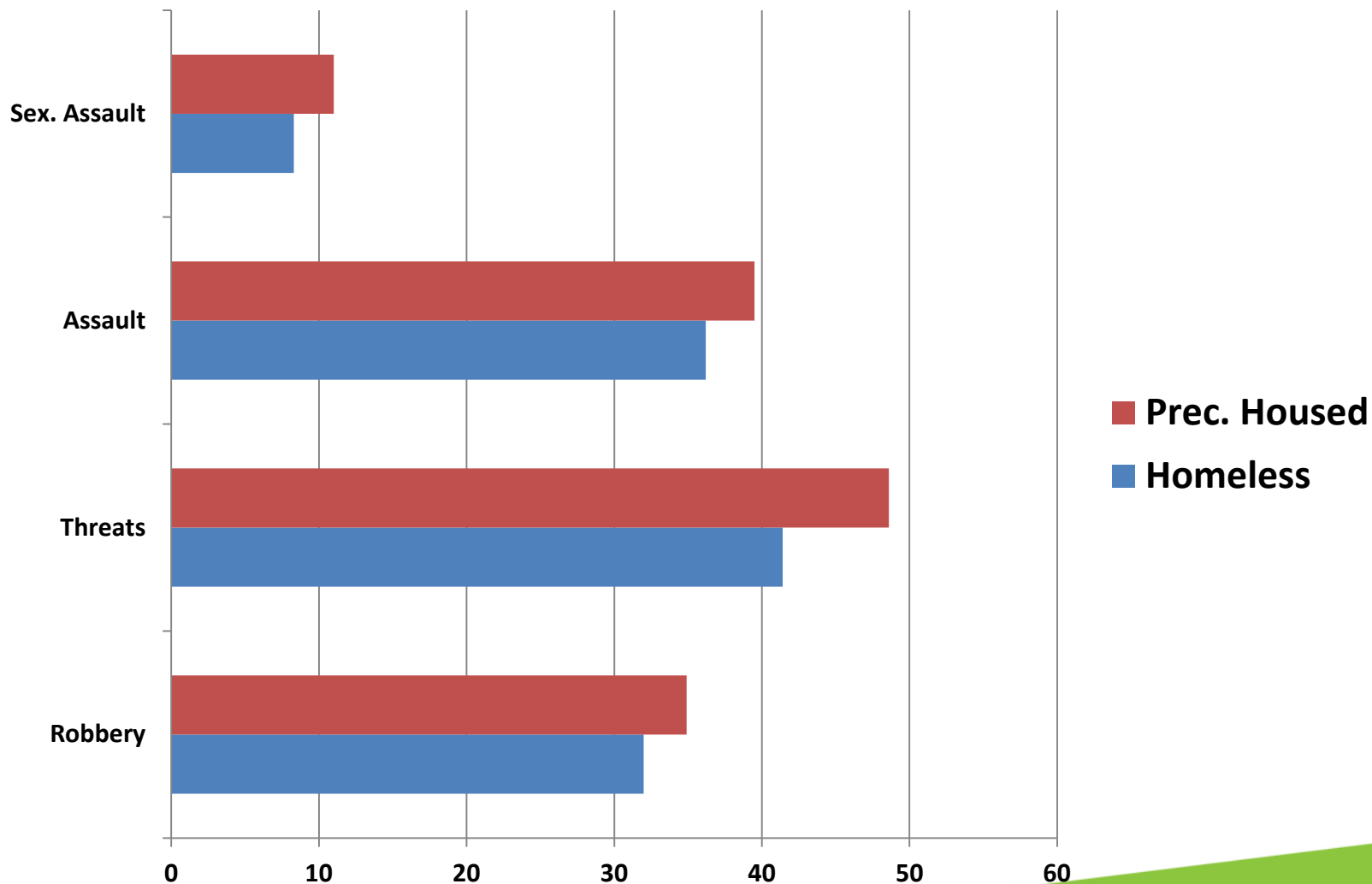


# Victimization by Gender

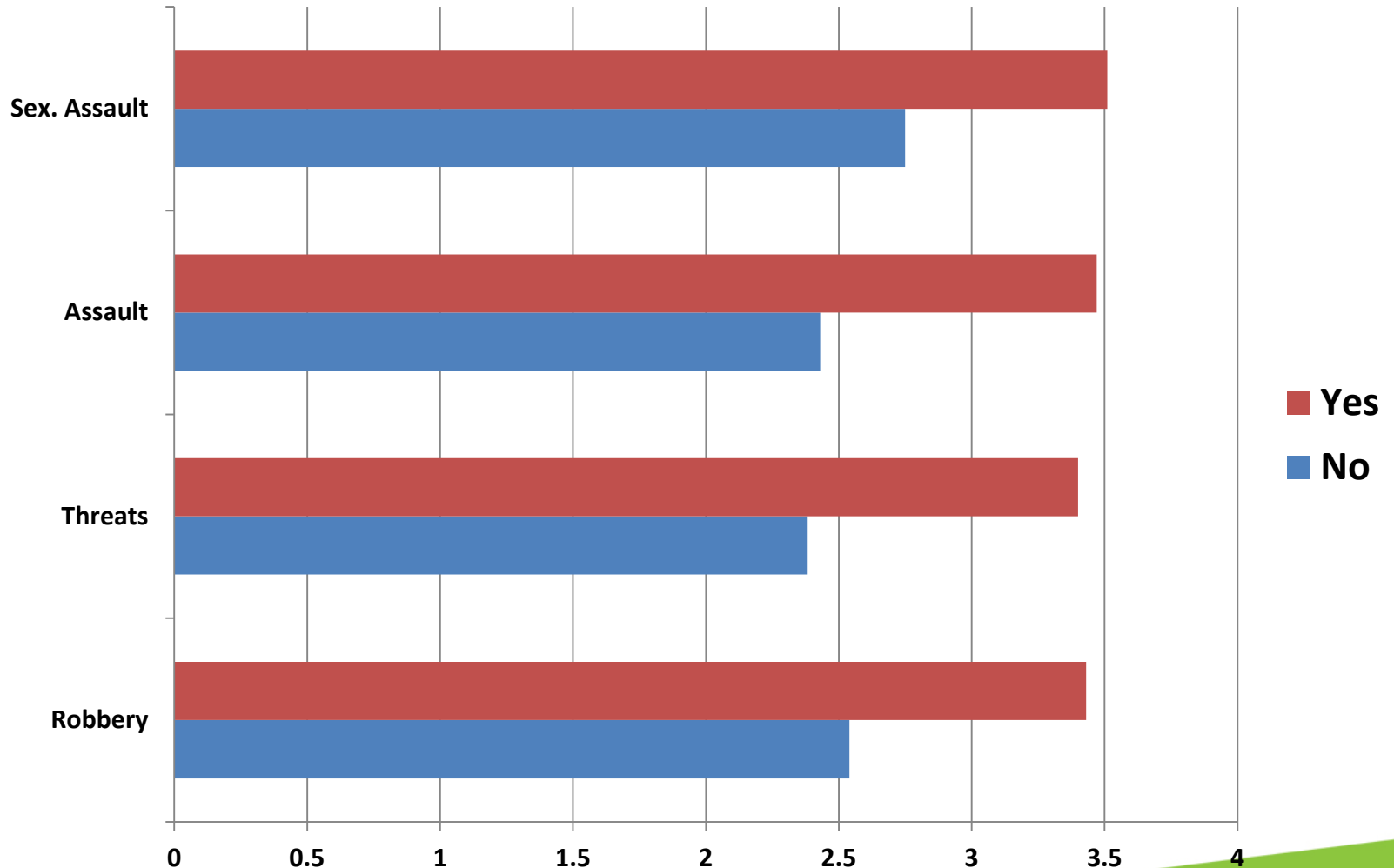




# Victimization by Housing Situation



# Average GAIN Score by Victimization



# Summary of Key Findings: Contacts

1. The most frequent contact with law enforcement is contact with police, without arrest or detention.
2. Contacts with law enforcement are most frequent in Vancouver.
3. Males and people who are absolutely homeless are more likely to have contacts with law enforcement.
4. Alcohol and substance use is related to more contacts.





## Summary of Key Findings: Victimization

1. Participants are most often victimized through threats and assaults.
2. Victimization is most frequent in Winnipeg.
3. Females and people who are precariously housed are more likely to be victimized.
4. Alcohol and substance use is related to victimization.

# What's Next?

- Final report released Spring 2014
- Ongoing dissemination of findings through MHCC's Knowledge Exchange Center and ongoing publications and local KE activities
- Papers in preparation on the effects of a Housing First intervention on contacts with law enforcement and victimization.
- Partnership with Provincial and National Housing and Homelessness Organizations (think tanks)
- Follow up research
- Consultations to jurisdictions interested in implementing or scaling-up Housing First approaches



# Acknowledgements

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# Thank you!

# Merci!

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