



At Home with Children: Learning from Lockdown



Arts and
Humanities
Research Council



Research Team

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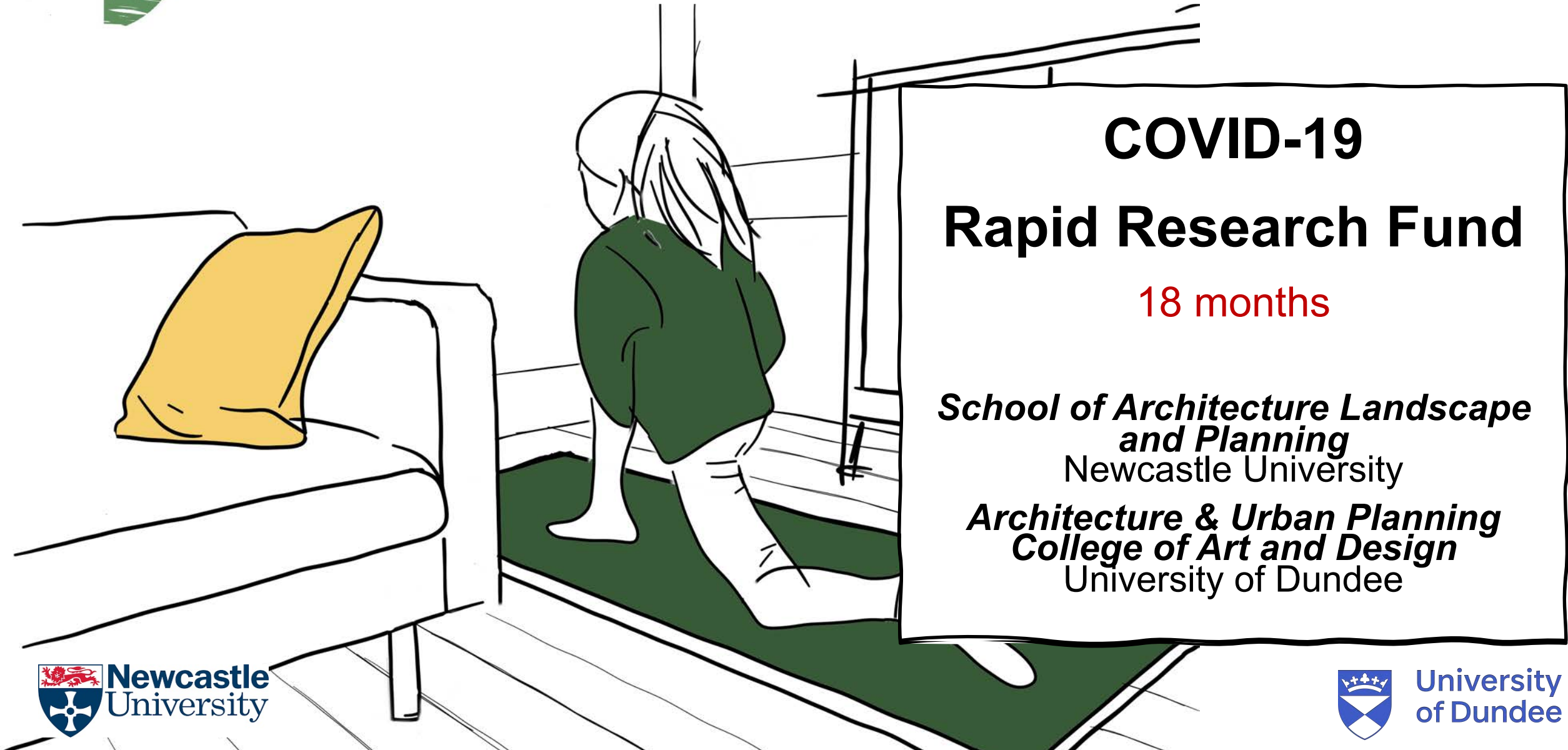
Univ of Dundee: Sandra Costa Santos (Co-I), Heba Sarhan (RA)



At Home with Children: Learning from Lockdown



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COVID-19

Rapid Research Fund

18 months

*School of Architecture Landscape
and Planning*

Newcastle University

*Architecture & Urban Planning
College of Art and Design*

University of Dundee

Stage 1 - Surveys

Photo Survey

Exploratory analysis of photographs in the public domain showing spatial micro-interventions made in homes during the pandemic

Representing areas such as play, messiness, left over spaces, alone spaces and homeschooling/homeworking space.

Online Questionnaire

1246 families completed an online questionnaire about their satisfaction with their home, along with any challenges and changes they made

Stage 2 –

Family Interviews

45 Interviews with families exploring the way they used their home during lockdown and how it impacted their wellbeing

Stage 3 – Focus Groups

6 Focus groups to engage householders in co-developing and refining a set of design ideas and tools that improve the liveability of our domestic spaces according to challenge scenarios and dwelling typology



Survey

Satisfaction levels

Challenges

Changes to the home

← Tweet

Back



At Home with Children: Learning from Lockdown

@homewchildren

How well did your home meet your family's lockdown needs? How did you adapt?

Please tell us in our survey 🖱️

newcastle.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/at_home_with_c...

and share your pics 🖱️

athomewithchildren.ac.uk/takepart/phase...

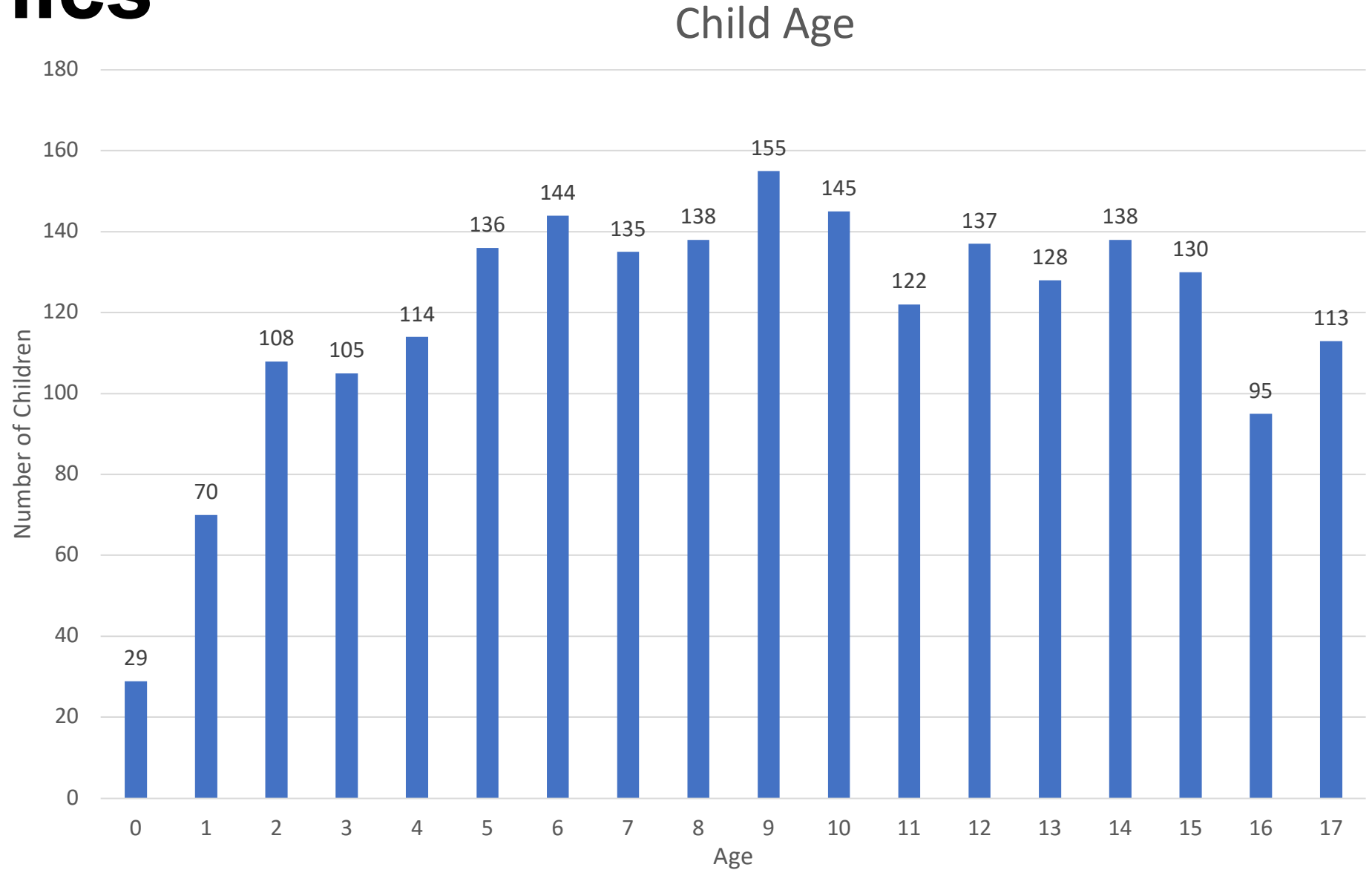
so we can show policymakers what liveable space means for families. athomewithchildren.ac.uk'



Demographics

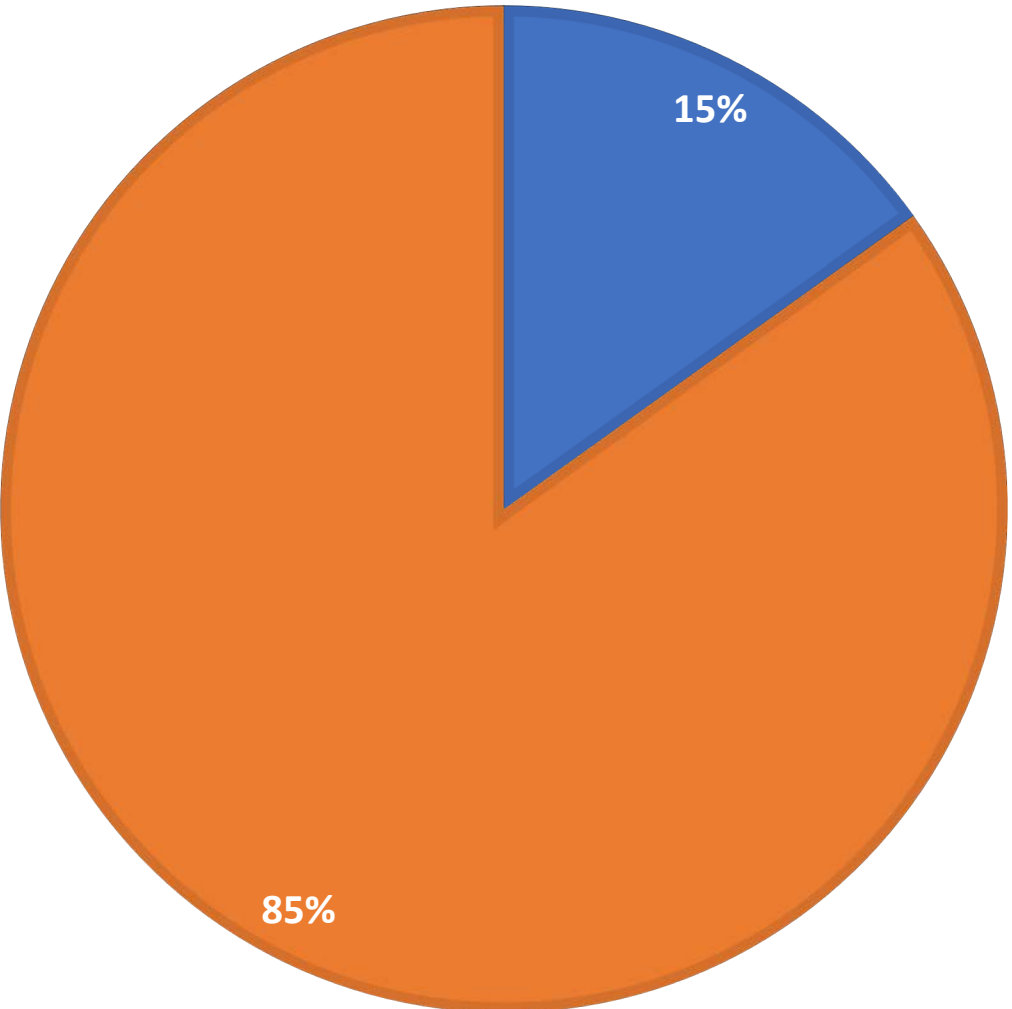
1246 families

- 2521 adults
- 2158 children
- Average family –
2 adults +
1 or 2 children

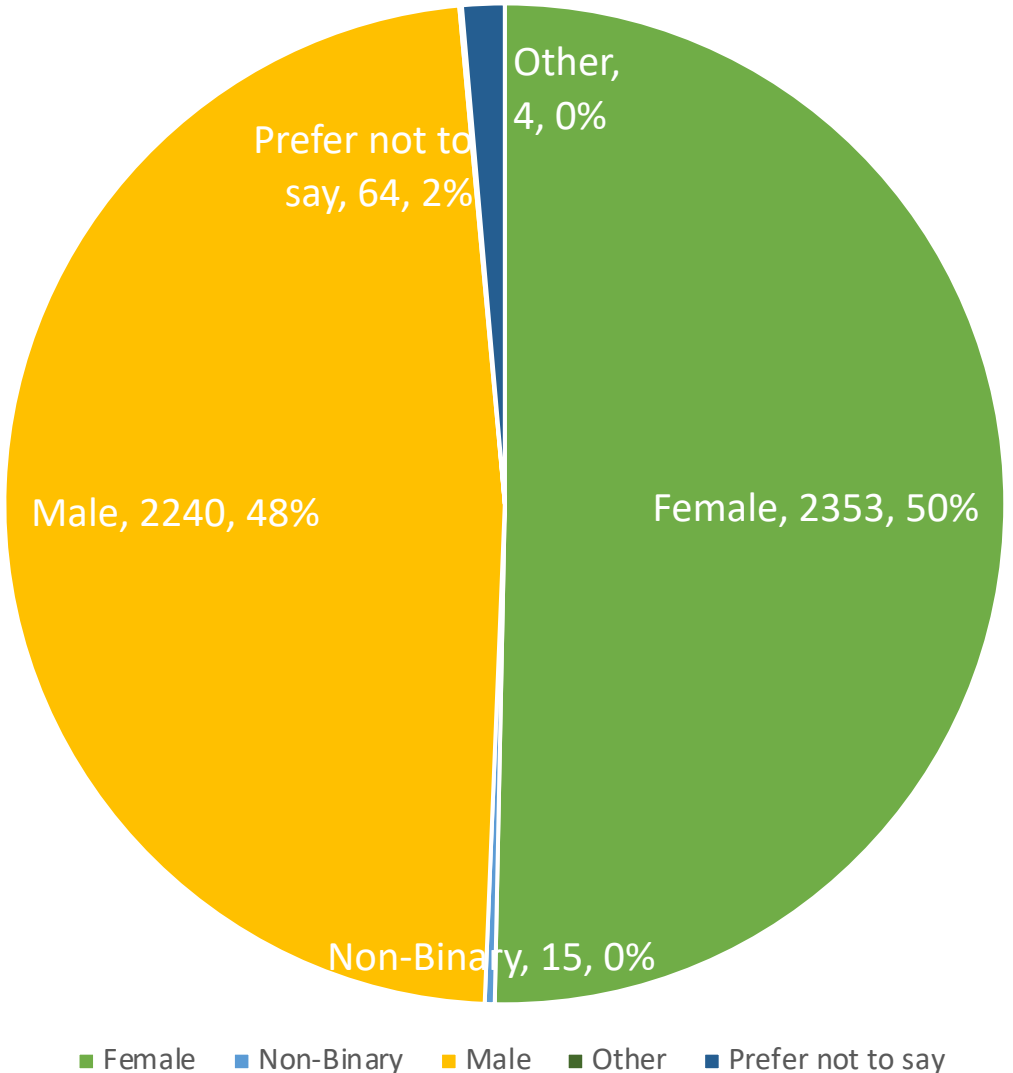


SAMPLE BY CHILD SEN NEEDS

■ Yes ■ No

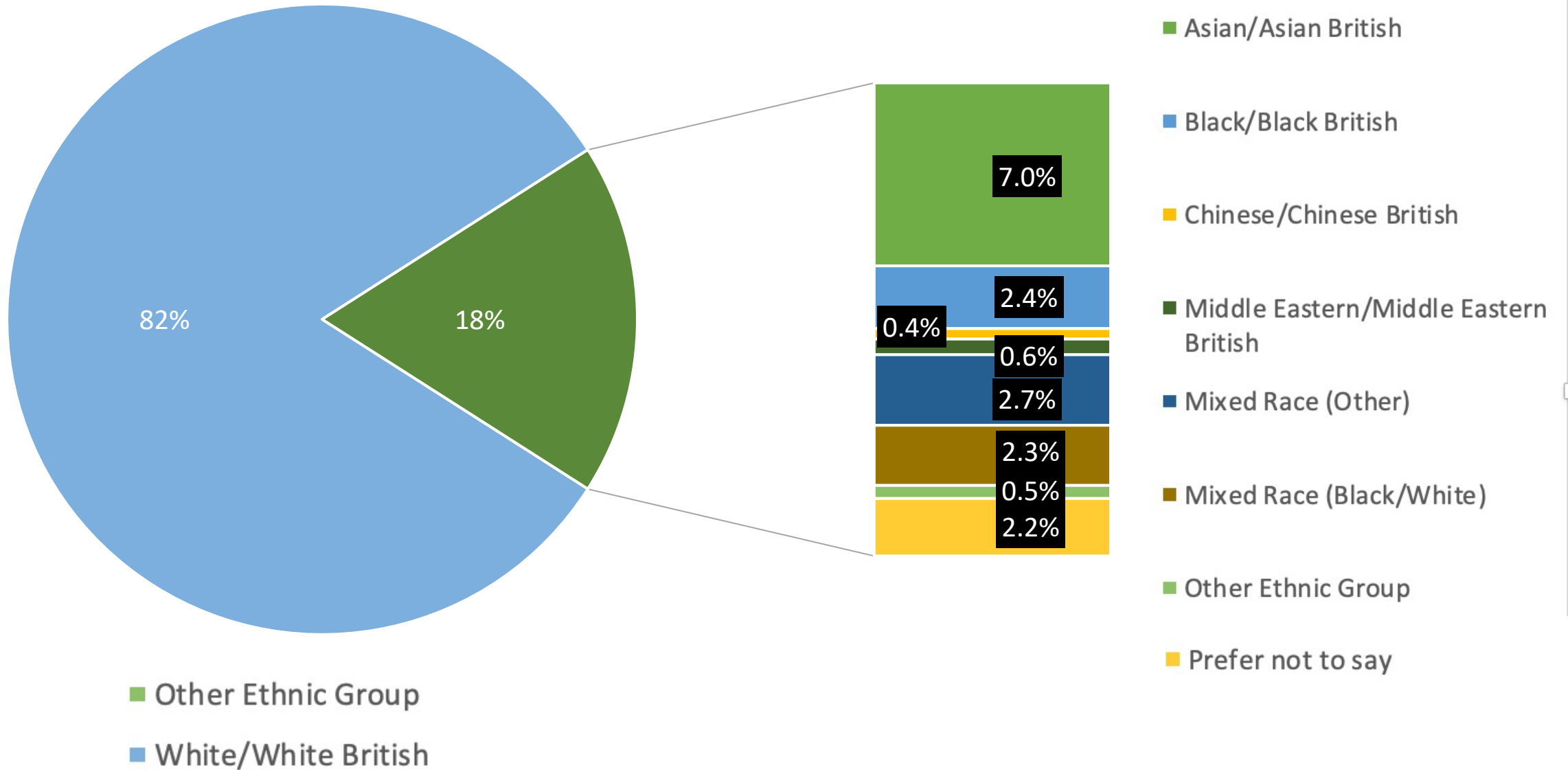


SAMPLE BY GENDER IDENTITY

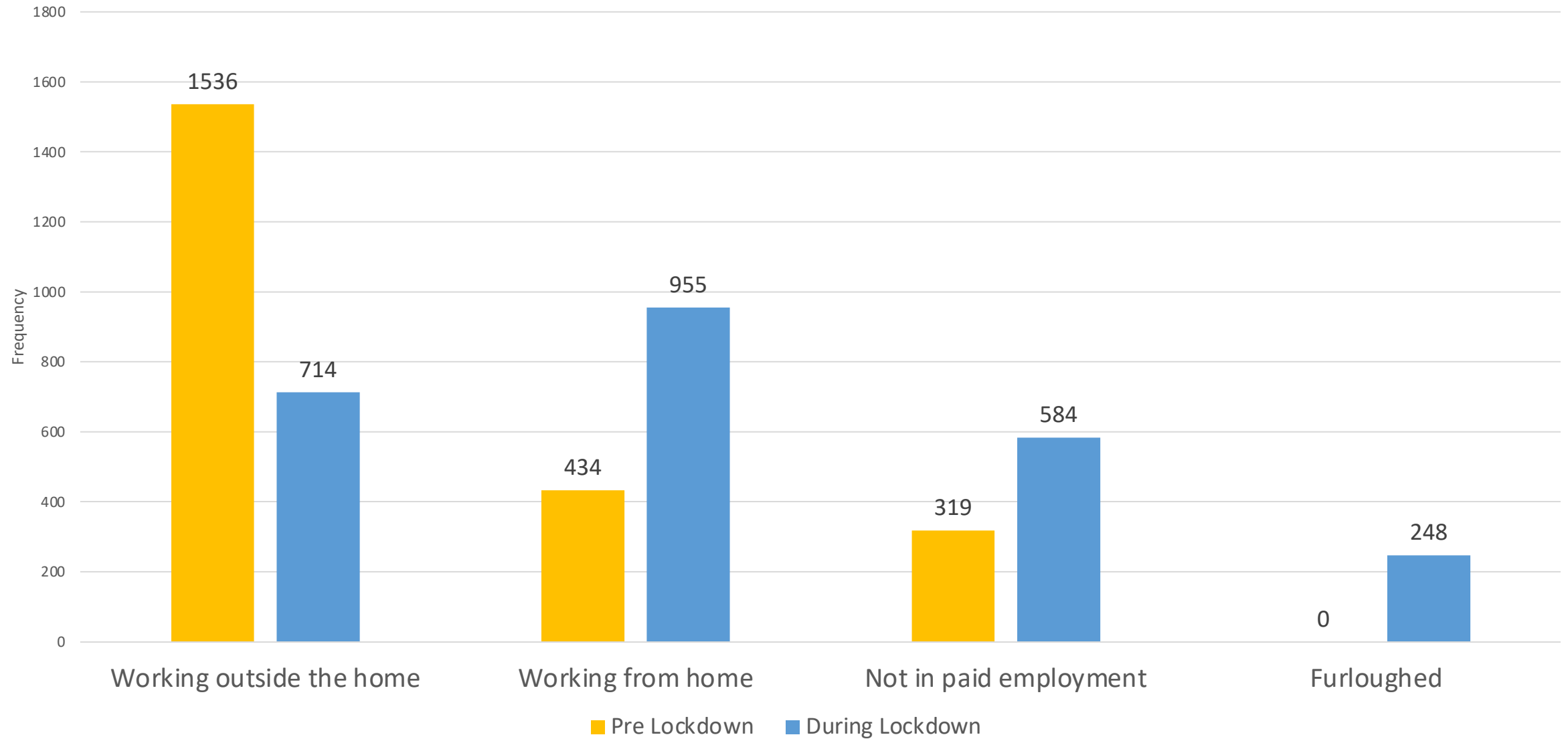


■ Female ■ Non-Binary ■ Male ■ Other ■ Prefer not to say

ETHNICITY



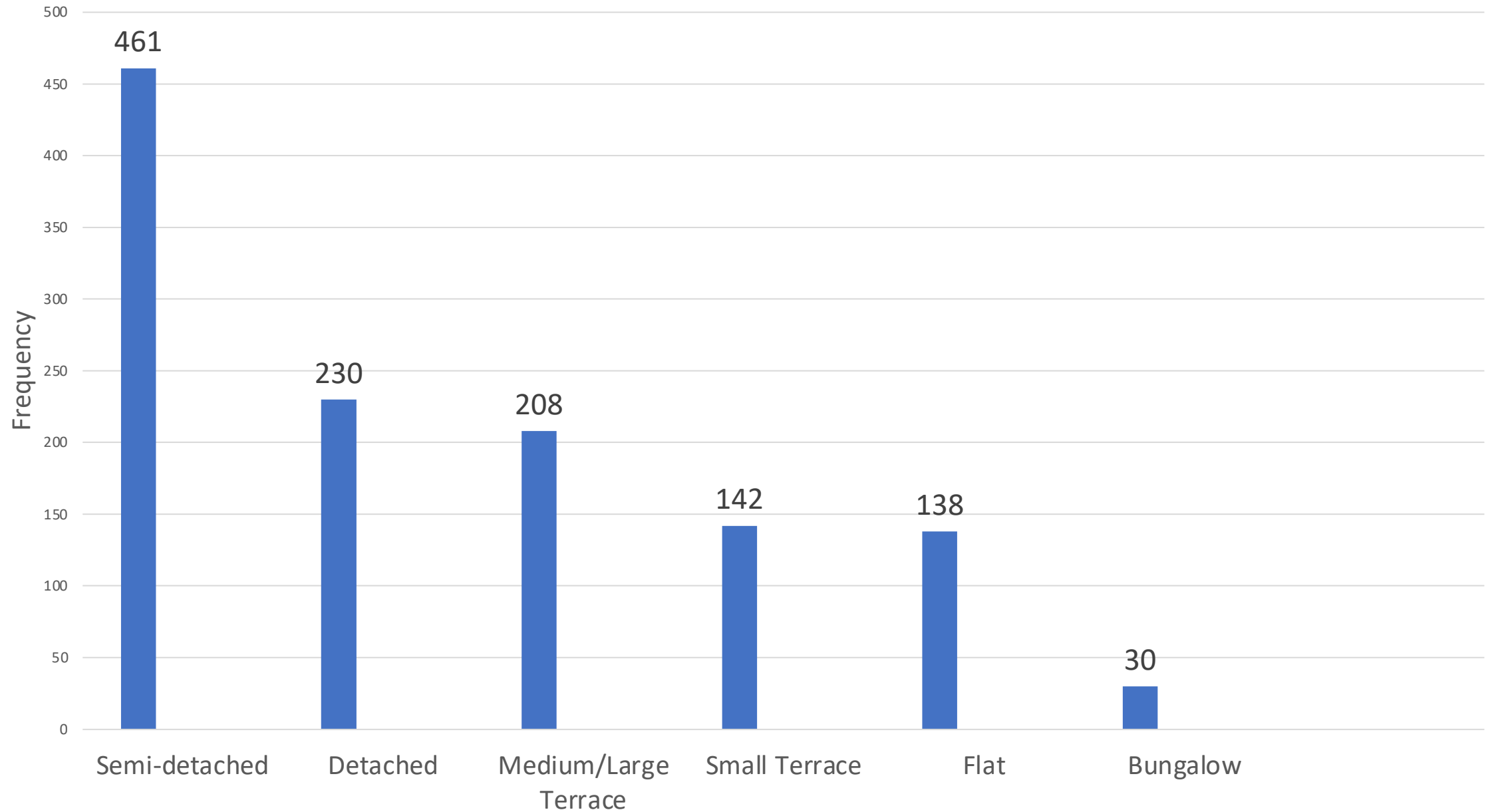
Adult (18yrs+) Sample by Employment Status



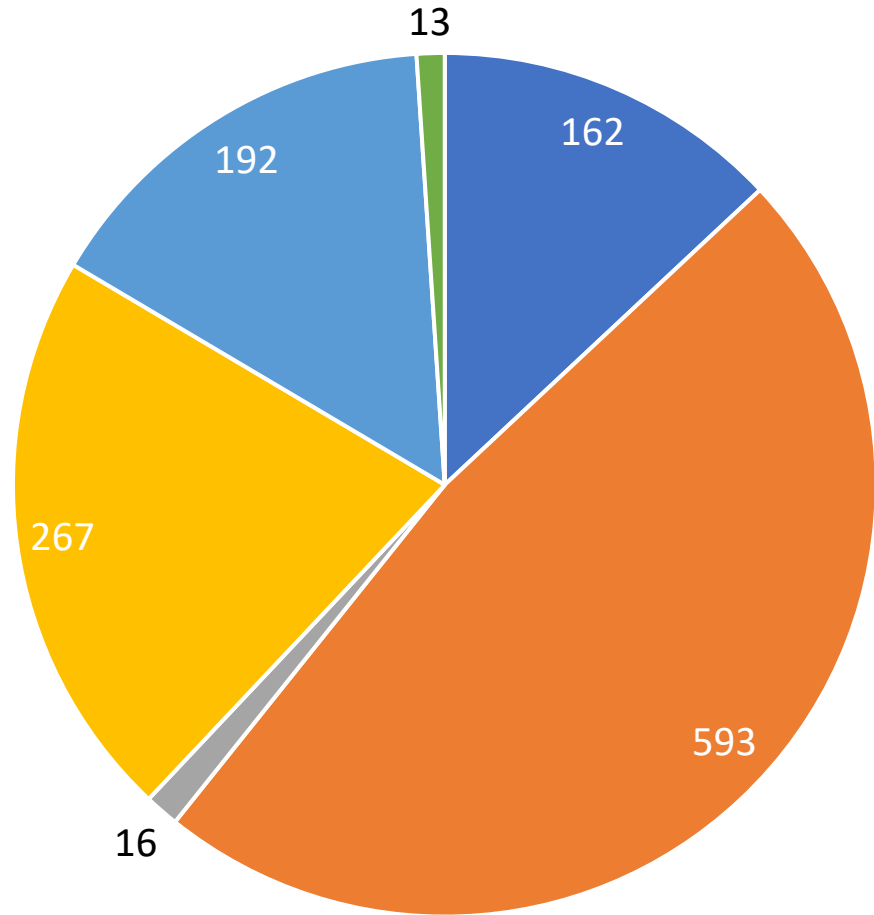
Sample by Household Income



Sample by House Typology

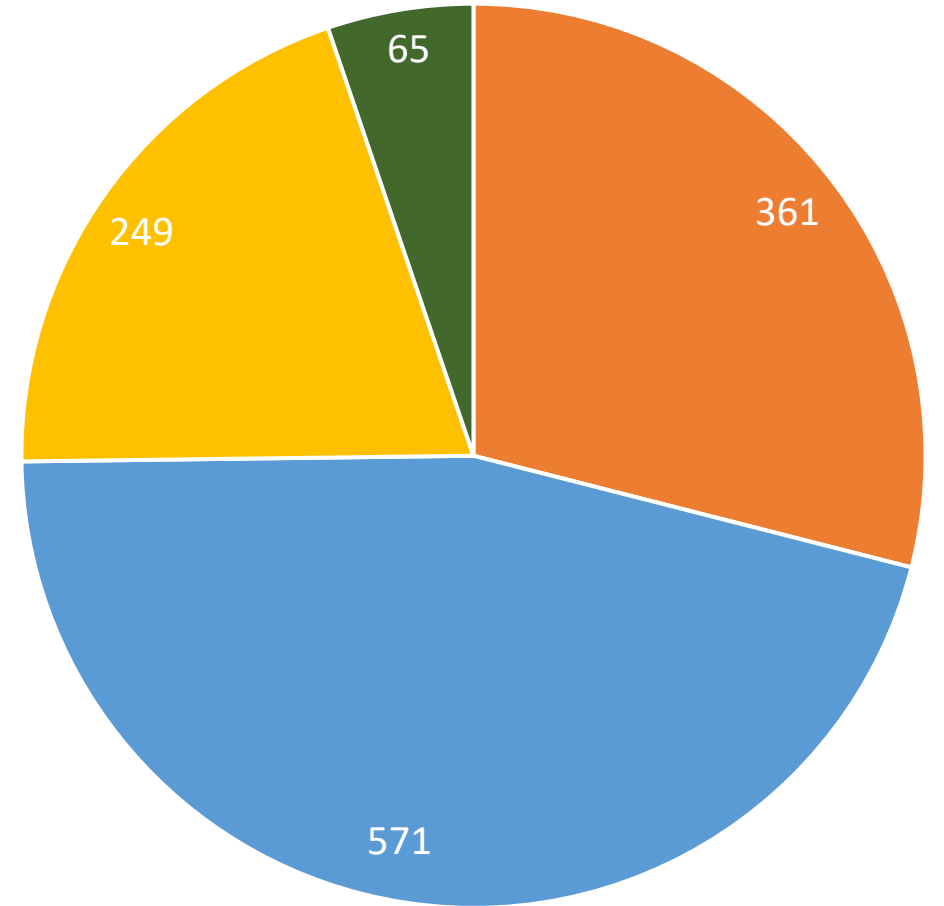


Sample by Ownership Status



- Own outright
- Mortgage/Loan
- PartOwn/PartRent
- Rent privately
- Social housing
- Rent free/Hosted

Sample by Number of Bedrooms



- 0-2 bedroom
- 3 bedroom
- 4 bedroom
- 5+ bedroom

Sample by Geographic Region



Reduced satisfaction with the home

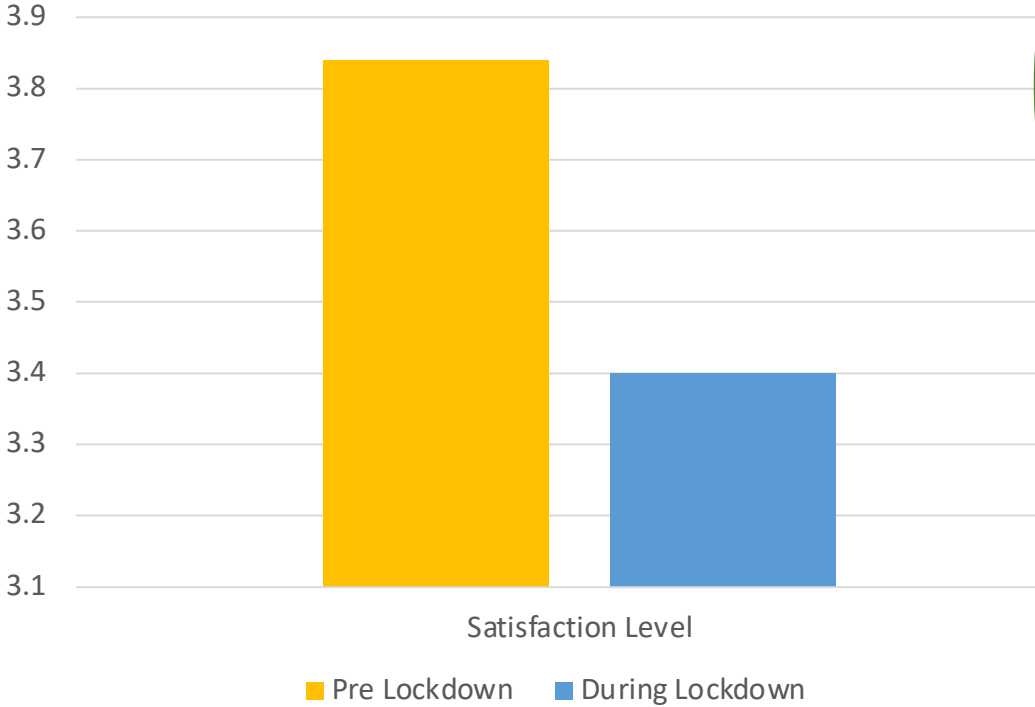
People were significantly less **satisfied with their homes' ability to meet the needs** of their household during lockdown

“If I came up to the loft it used to make me feel a little bit uneasy that there might have been something I've forgotten to do or something I'd missed. There were the remnants of my notepad, notes and I would start to feel a bit, anxious about ‘have I done everything’ and I just I couldn't step away from it”

Family of 4 in 4 bedroom terrace house



24%
of people were dissatisfied with their home's ability to meet their household's needs



Least satisfied were people living in:

- Social housing
- Flats
- 0-2 bed homes
- Homes with little to no outdoor space

Homeworking

21%

of people were
dissatisfied with their
home as a space for
home working



“I would have worked all day and then at 5:00 o'clock I go downstairs. We'd go through the whole everything with the children, you know, food, bedtime into bed, they get to sleep and then it's 8:30 and then I have to go back to the computer and start working again ... I would go to bed at 11:30 and just be thinking. I'm letting so many people down ... I just couldn't go to sleep even though I was so tired”

Family of 4 in 3 bed terrace house



Home Schooling

50%

of people were dissatisfied with their home as a space for home schooling



“It was really hot in the summer, quite cold in the winter and when it rained it was just constant noise.

So, you can't really concentrate in it. When it was my mom's working days I had to work and do my schoolwork in there. It wasn't very peaceful, so it was a bit hard to sort of work in... It wasn't my favourite space to be in”

*Primary age child
Family of 3 in 2 bedroom
bungalow*



Child Play/Leisure

17%

of people were dissatisfied with their home as a space for children's play or leisure



“We had that space, the living room, because it's quite a big room, it was an absolute godsend, and it became a little bit of everything ... you could have a Lego table set up and then you could watch a film on the sofa and then we could put out a train track and then we could sit at the table”

Family of 4 in 3 bedroom semi-detached house



Adult Leisure and Alone Time

25%

of people were dissatisfied with their home as a space for adult leisure



33%

of people were dissatisfied with their home as a space for alone time

71%

of people agreed lockdown made it more difficult to have 'time and space to themselves'

"I think the bedroom - in my bedroom I was like on my own. I can shut my room and do my quiet time and I can focus on my work. But in lockdown I have to share my room with everyone. There's the telly going, they're on their phones going on their YouTube going on and everything. So it's like it's hard to focus"

Family of 3 in 3 bedroom large terrace house



Tension; Time and Space to Yourself

51%

of people agreed that there was more familial conflict or tension during lockdown

52%

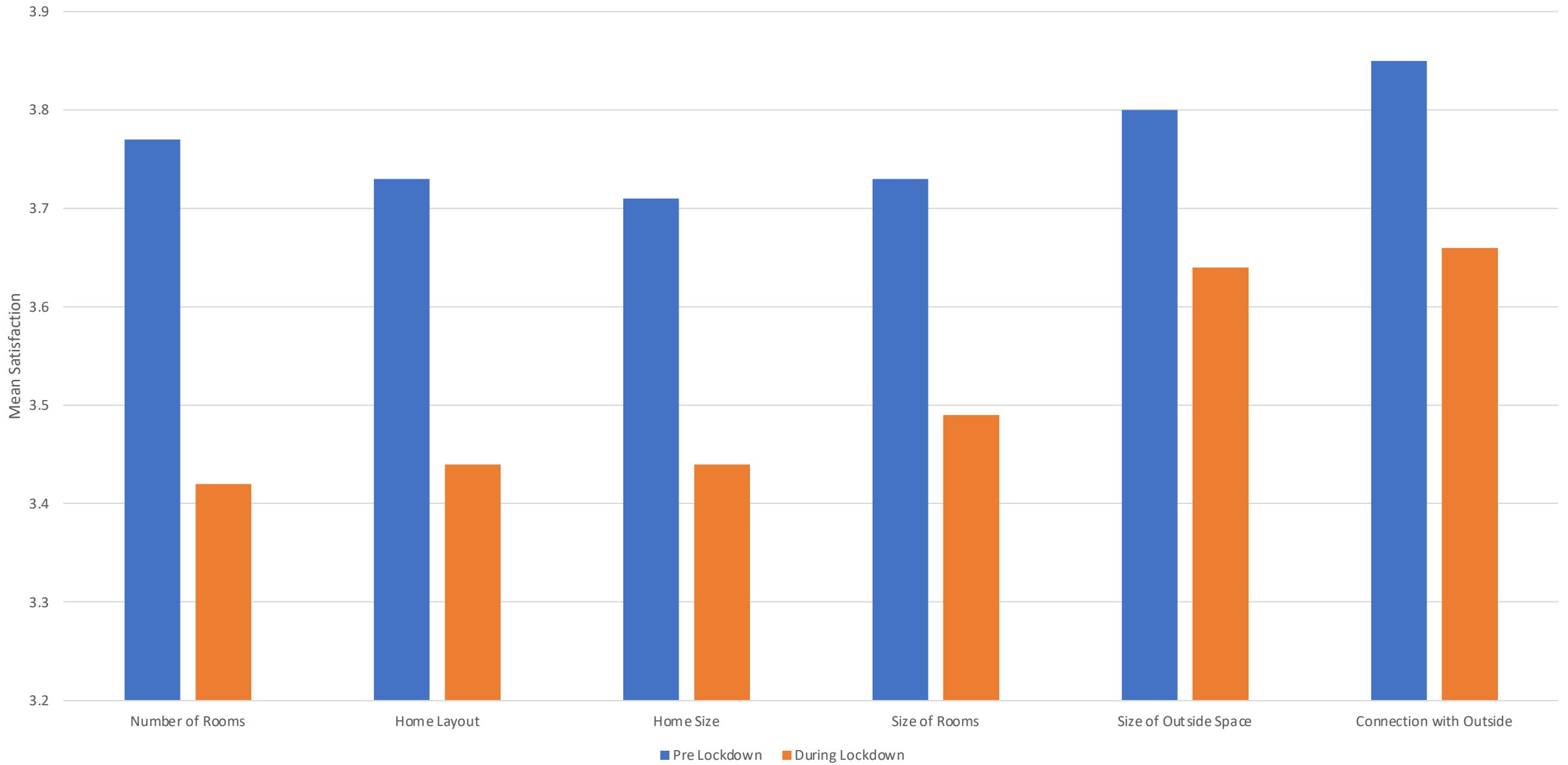
of people agreed that lack of time and space to themselves had a negative impact on their wellbeing

68%

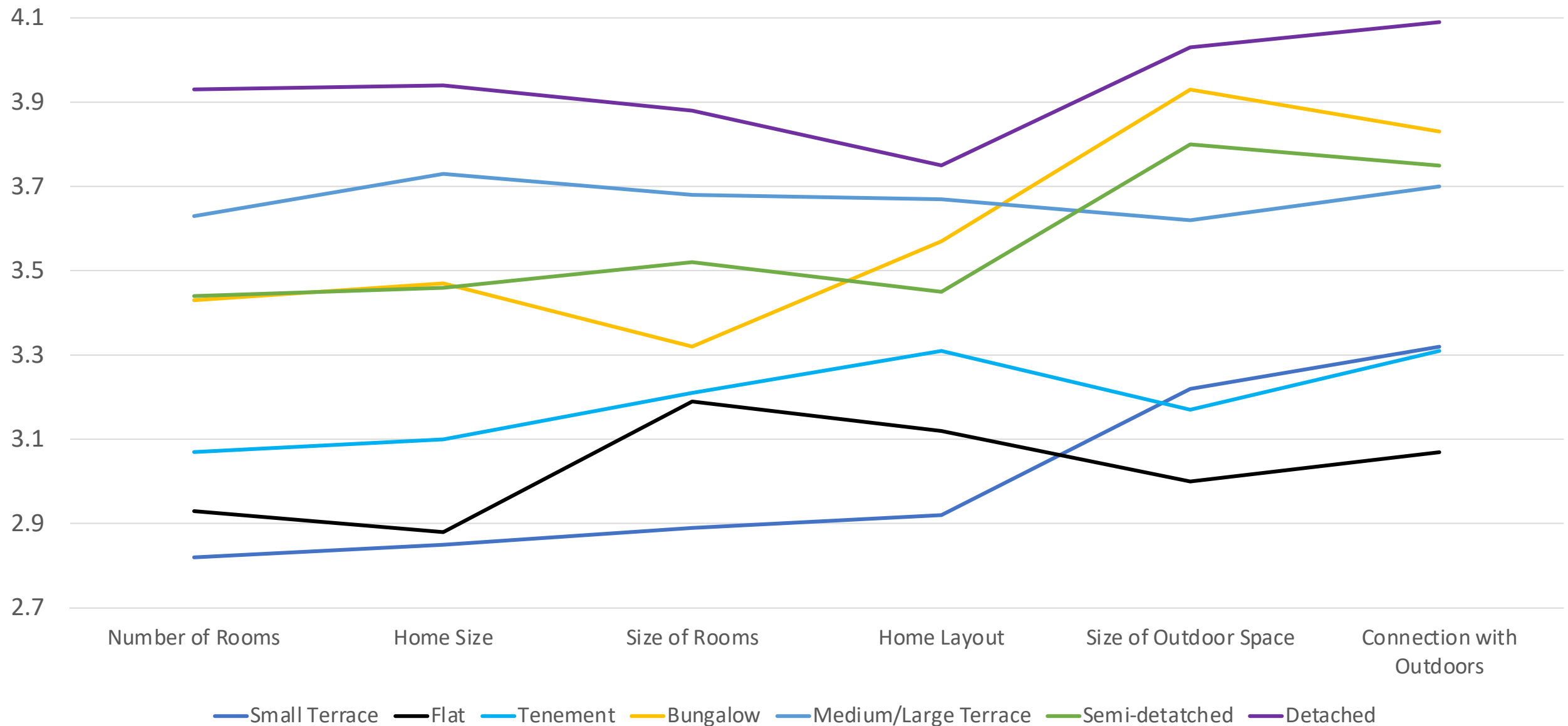
of people agreed that they would have liked more time and space to themselves



Spatial Satisfaction Levels



Satisfaction with Design Elements of Home





Questions?



Challenges

Sharing Spaces

Interruptions

"I had to be near enough to them that if anything did happen I could just like break my call and go out... despite the rule being if the door is shut don't come in unless it is a dire emergency, I'd still have people coming in and out and telling me things"

Family of 5 in 4 bedroom detached house

Teen Child: "We have bunk beds because we're living in my grandparents' house and then we also have really close proximity, so also stuck together."

Mother: "Having spent all day together and then having to go to bed. Always the standard 'she poked me', 'he hit me', 'She stole my teddy bear' 'She's breathed heavily in my direction', 'my sock's gone'. It was definitely worse."

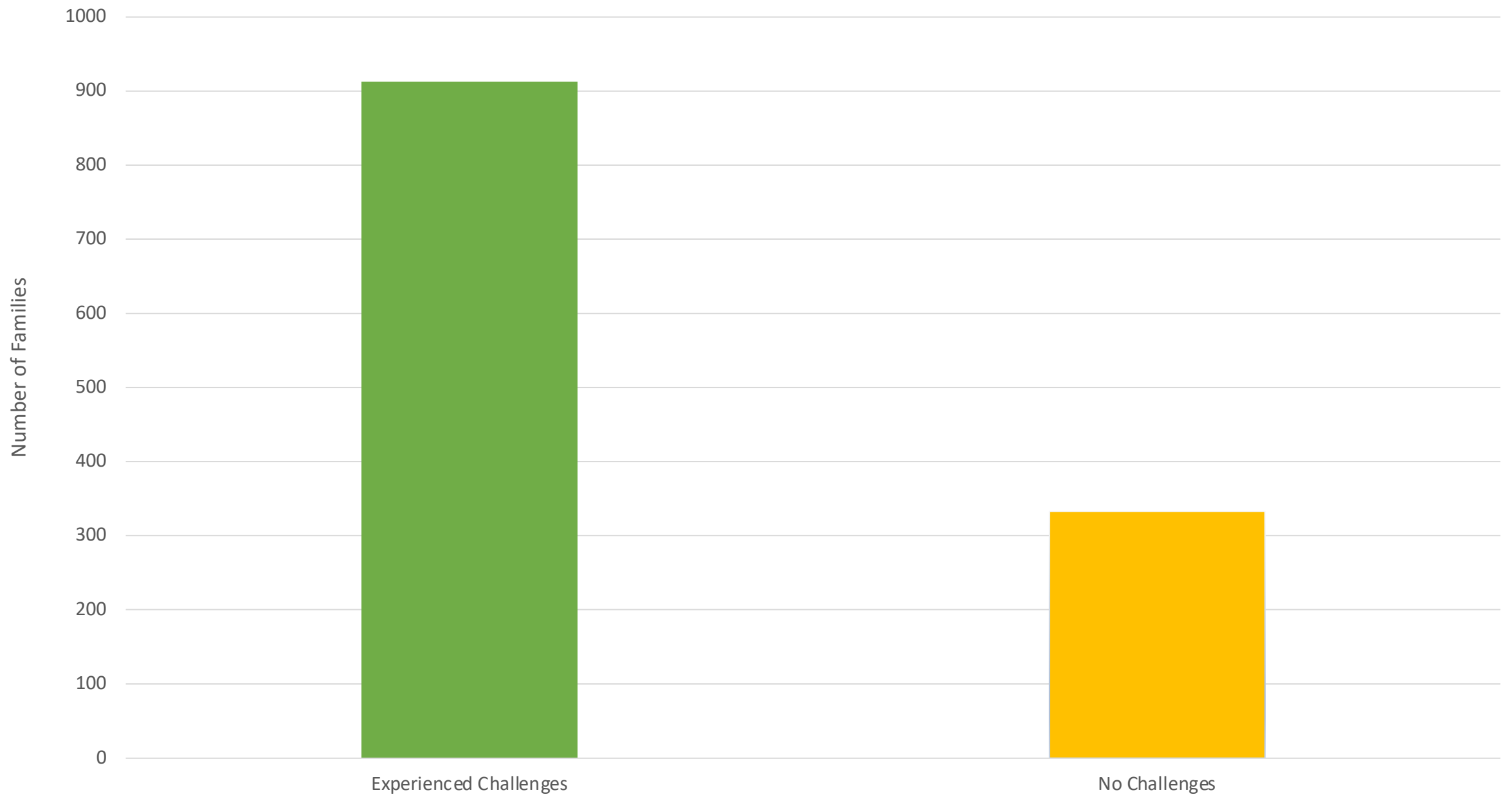
Family of 6 in 3 bedroom bungalow

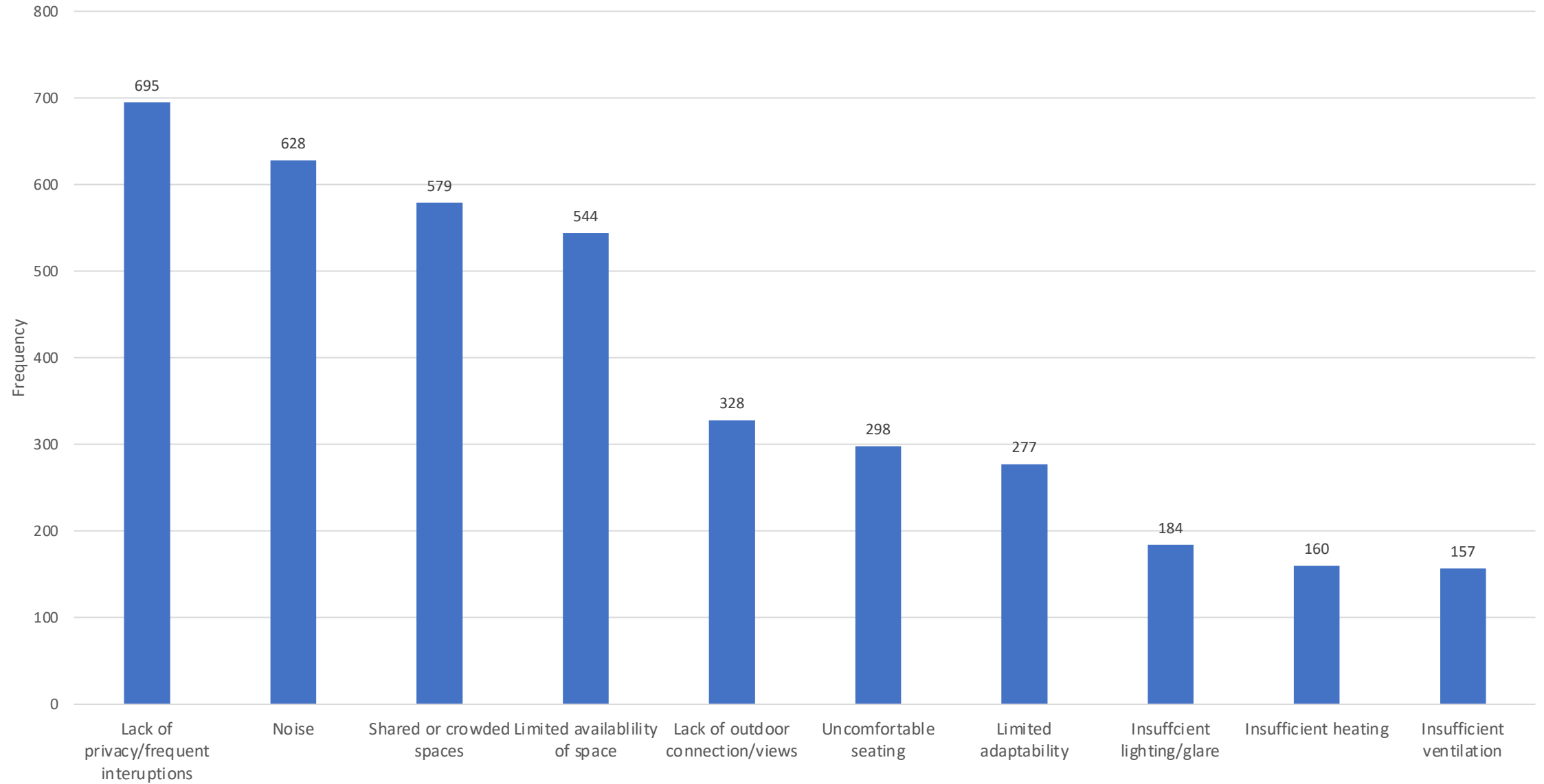
Noise

"I had [13yr old] going on in her call and so when she was doing PE she was jumping about and everything. So, I couldn't really hear what they were saying ... and then [6yr old] was playing with dollies in her room."

Family of 5 in 4 bedroom terrace house









Changes

Changing use of existing space

“The playhouse ... before it was a mess space like loads of toys thrown around in it and now it's more of a space where we just sit and it's just nice to sit and like do the crafts with them”

Family of 3 in 2 bedroom semi-detached council house

Temporary change to pretend to be somewhere else

“I did it initially to try to distract them from what was going on... to say right guys, this is going to be so exciting we're going to eat our dinner at the Conservatory and we're going to pretend it's a restaurant”

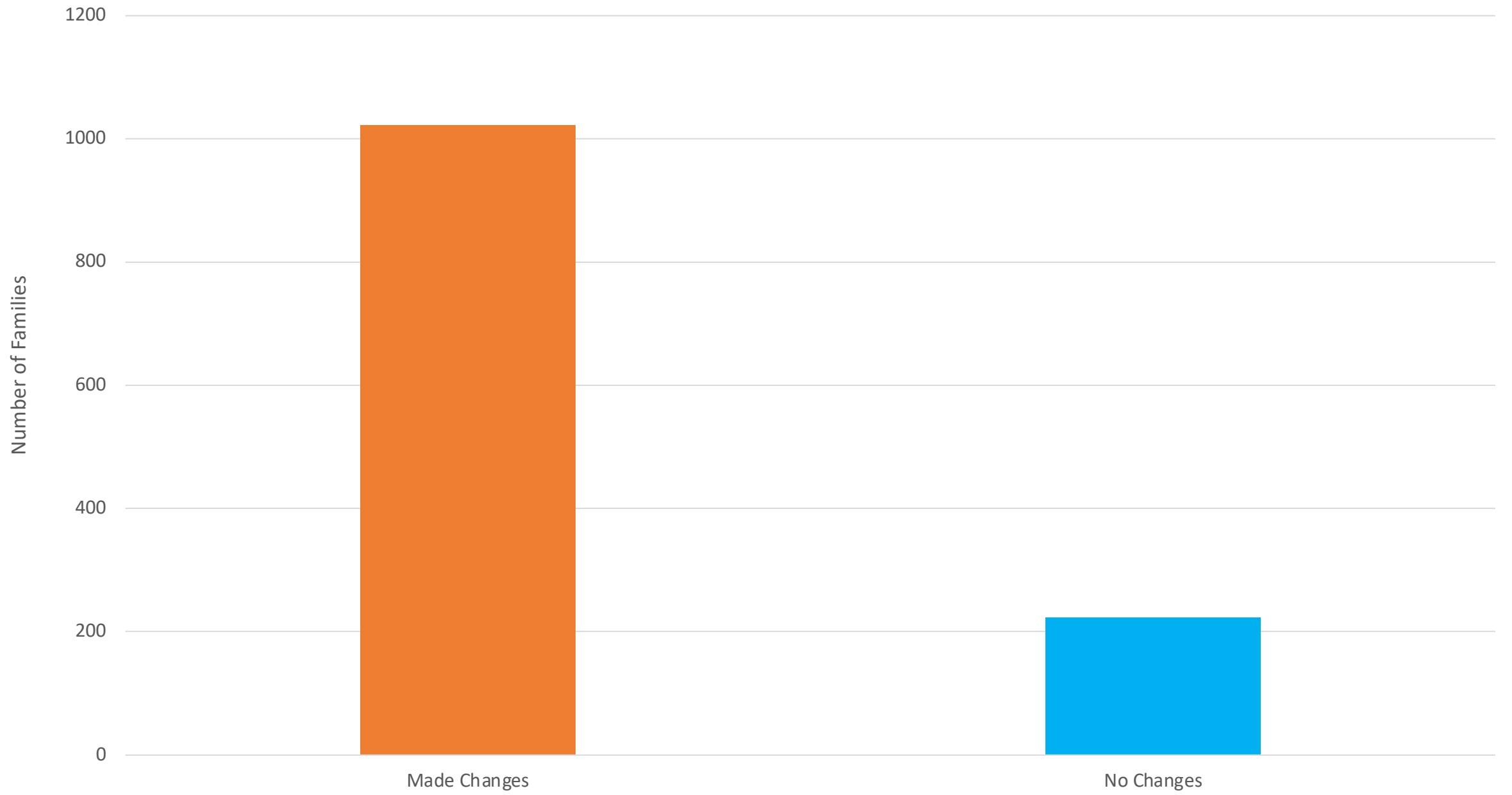
Family of 5 in 4 bed detached house

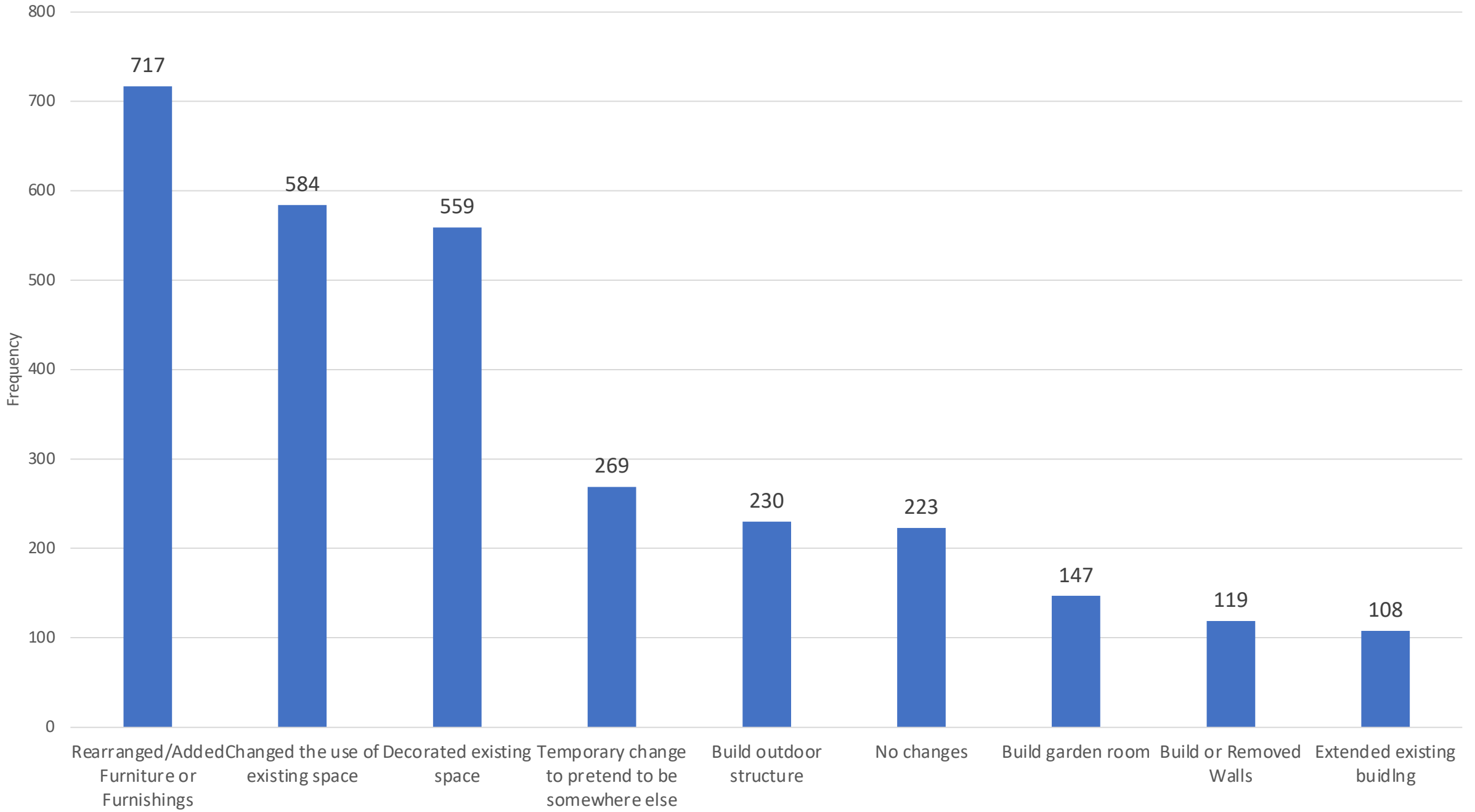
Re-arranged/added furniture or furnishings

“I've used a couple of blankets, nailed them to the wall and there's quite a quite a big space there. It was quite like an extra room. You know, even though you were in the same room - you could hear everyone - it felt like a bit of a privacy.”

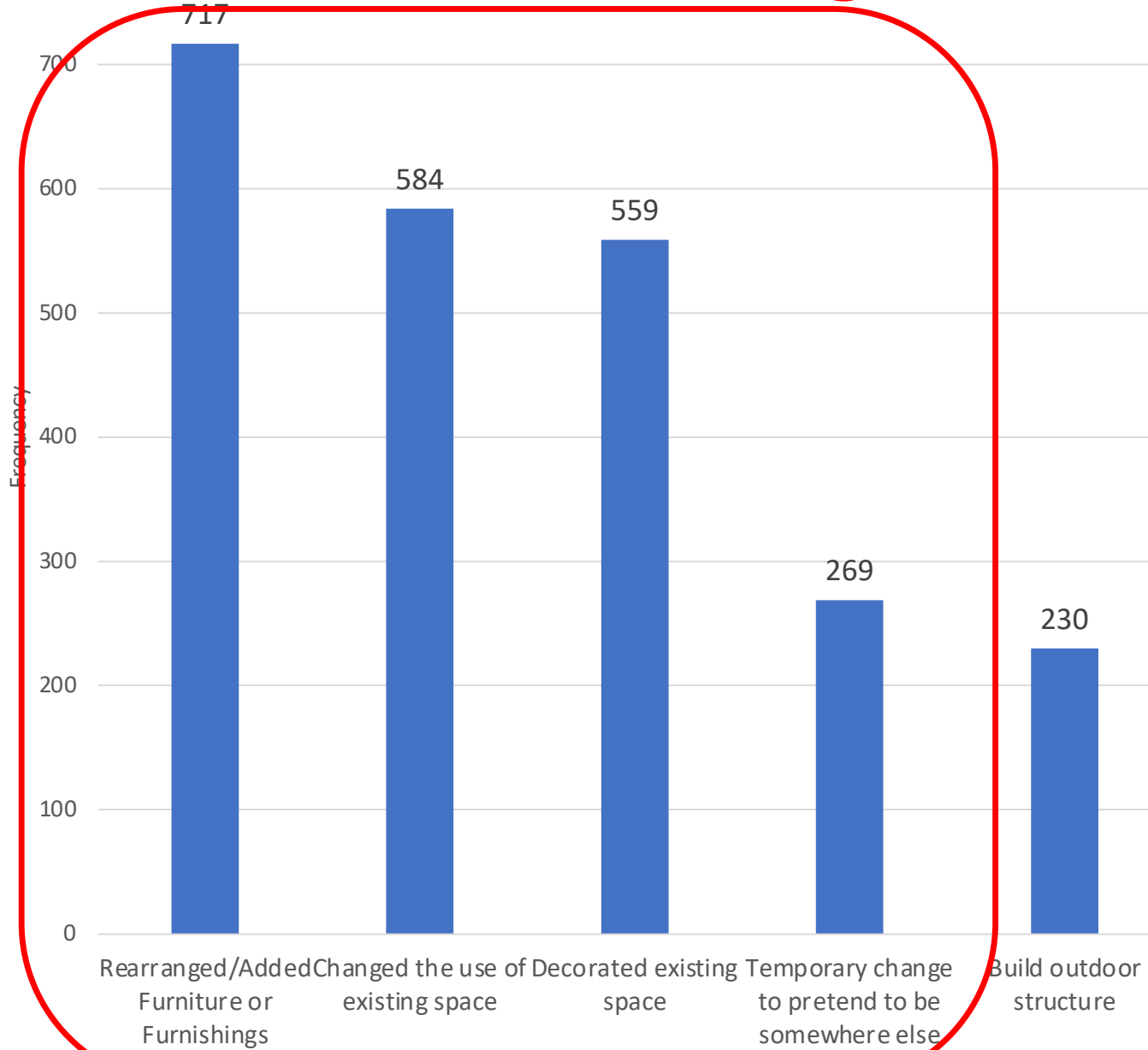
Family of 5 in 2 bed rented tenement







No-/Low- Cost Changes



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dng

High Cost Changes





Limitations

Home Hack Tool-kit

This is intended to be a guide for householders around how to adapt their home to increase their satisfaction and wellbeing

Design/Policy Guidance

This is a document designed to provide key design guidance and support to architects, planners and people responsible for housing policy



Questions?

Break Out Discussions



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