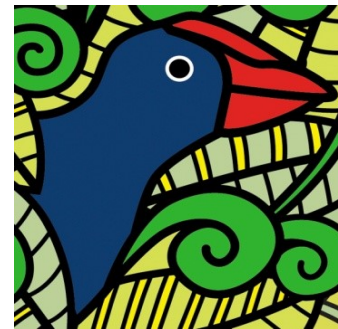


# Hear our voices!

Grandparent whanau caregivers have their say

Report on the GRG (NZ) Trust research 2016



# Who are the grandparent carers – 2013 census

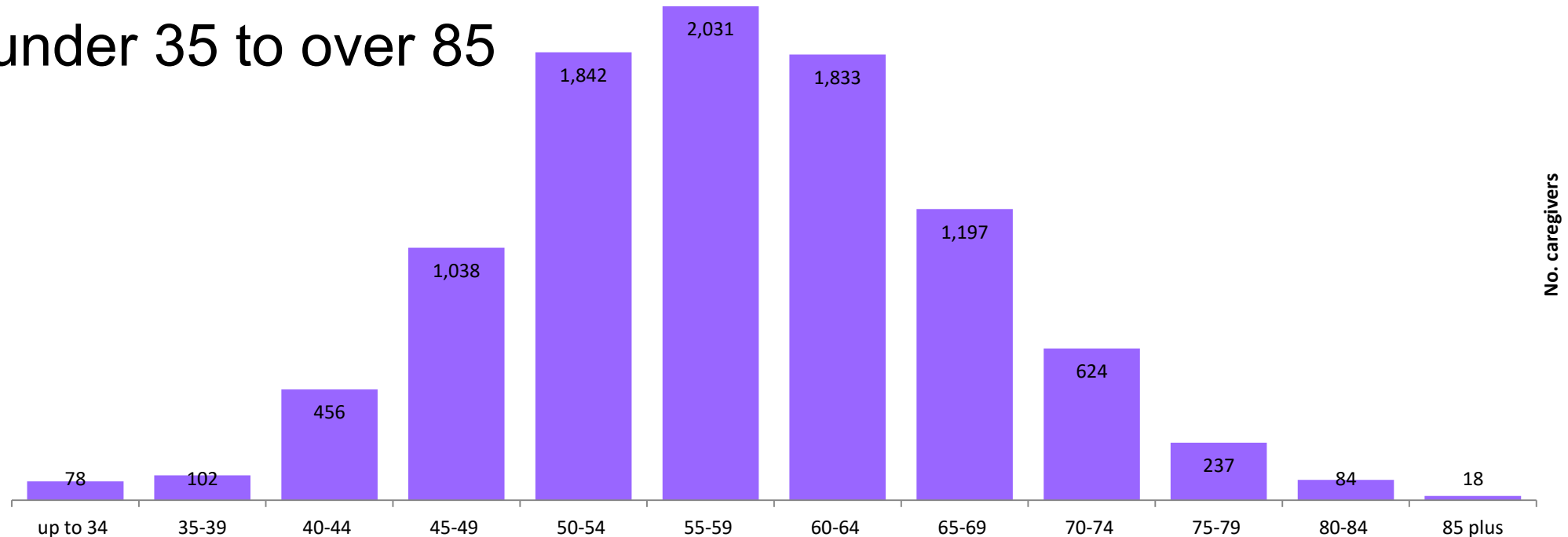
9543 grandparent families as parents

6432 couples and 3111 single grandparent families

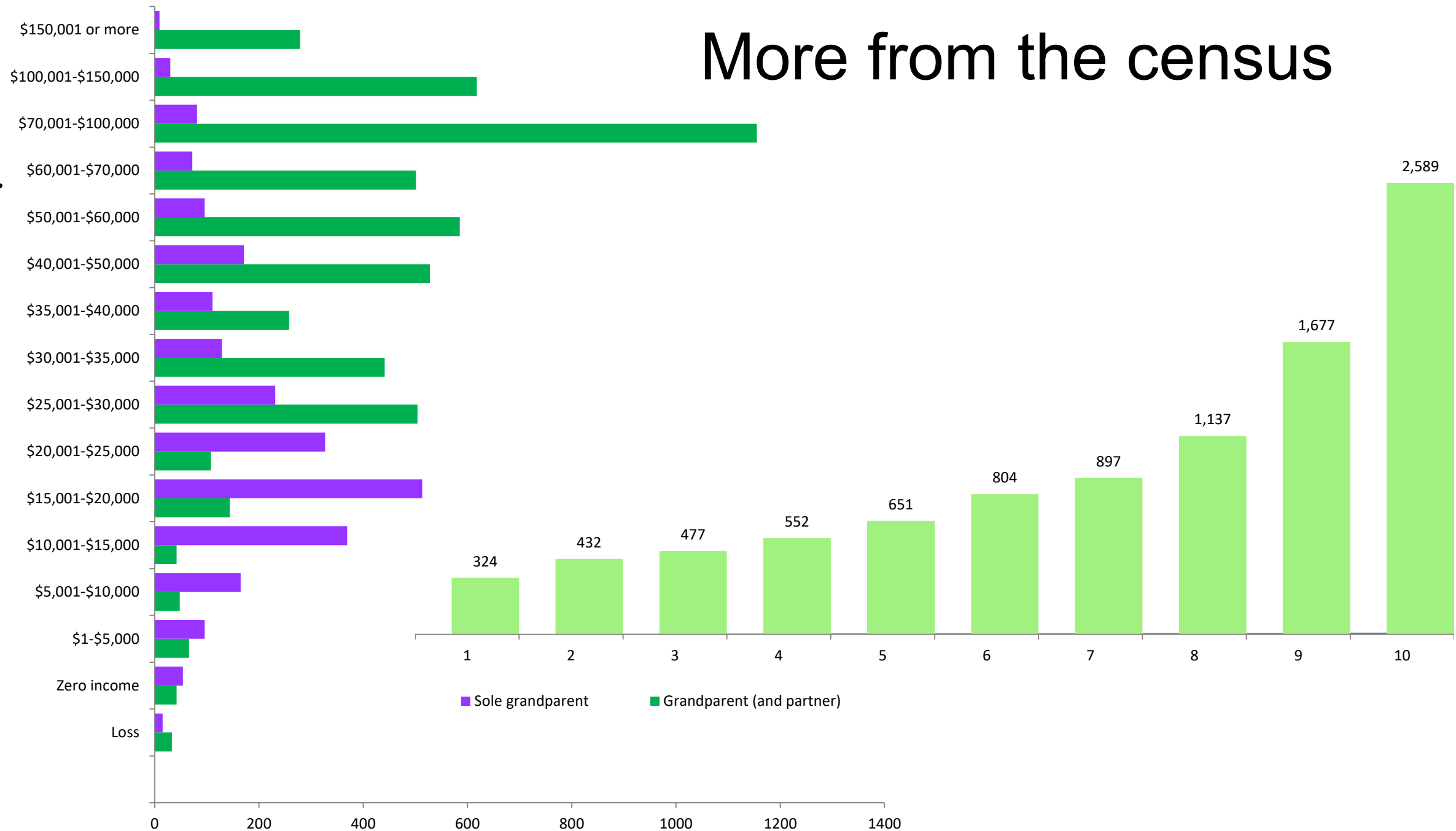
Most live in Northland, Auckland, Waikato, the Bay of Plenty and the remainder of the North Island

45% pākehā, 43% Māori and 13% Pasifika

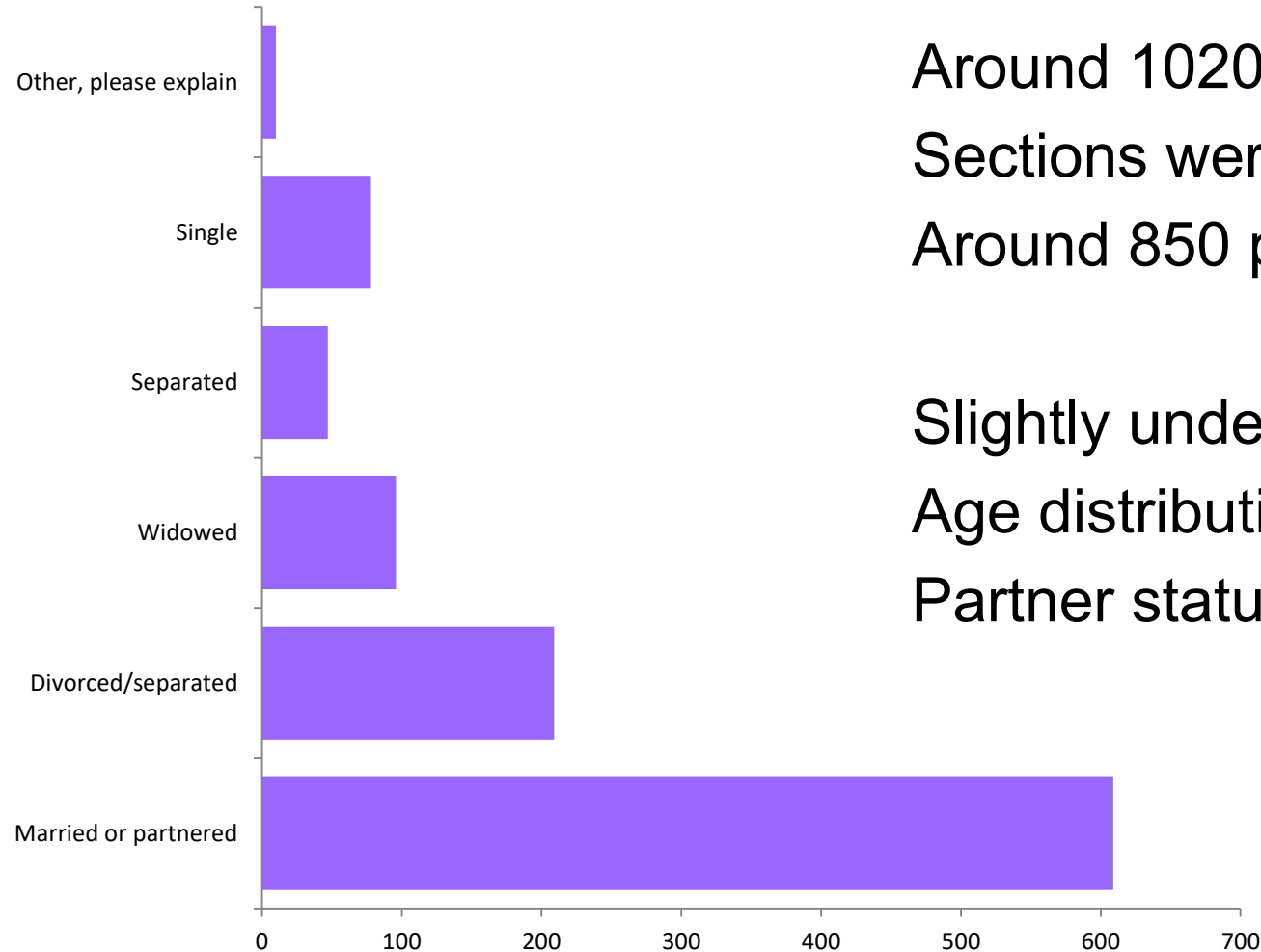
Aged from under 35 to over 85



# More from the census



# A marathon study



1123 started the survey

Around 1020 completed the first part

Sections were completed for 1324 children

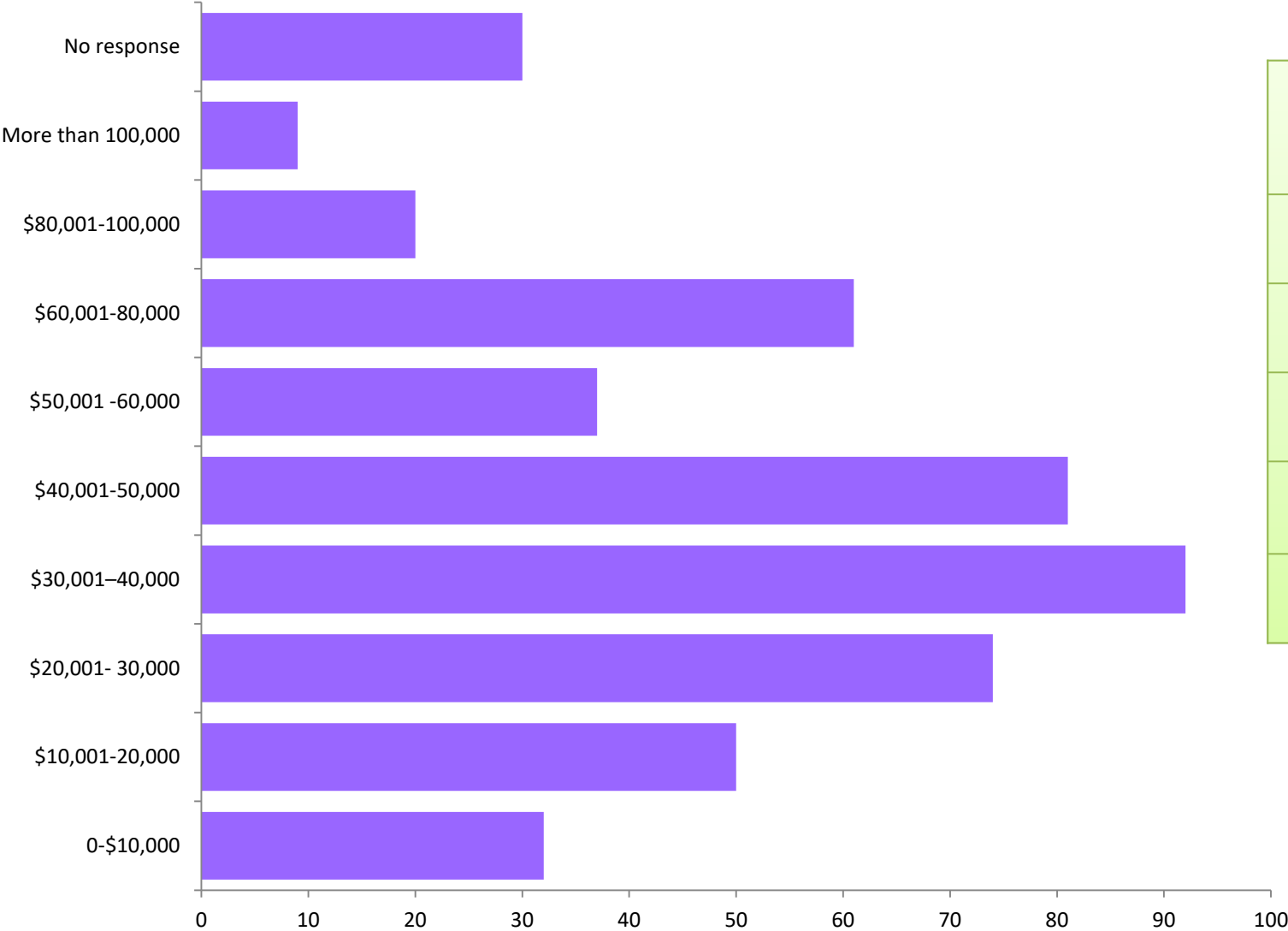
Around 850 people completed the final part

Slightly under-represented Maori –36%

Age distribution almost identical to census

Partner status similar to census

# Income and employment status



Employment status	No. (%)
Yes, I am employed	415 (40%)
Yes, I am self-employed	80 (8%)
No, I am not in paid work	380 (37%)
No, I am retired	165 (16%)
Total	1040

# Changing work to meet child needs

Many increased or reduced hours of work to meet challenges of children

Changing hours – 141 reduced, 19 increased hours

Giving up work – 26 retired

Taking on different positions – 67 changed type of work. 2 took on an extra job.

Barriers

941 grandparent families in study cared for 1763 children, 83 families have no children in their care.

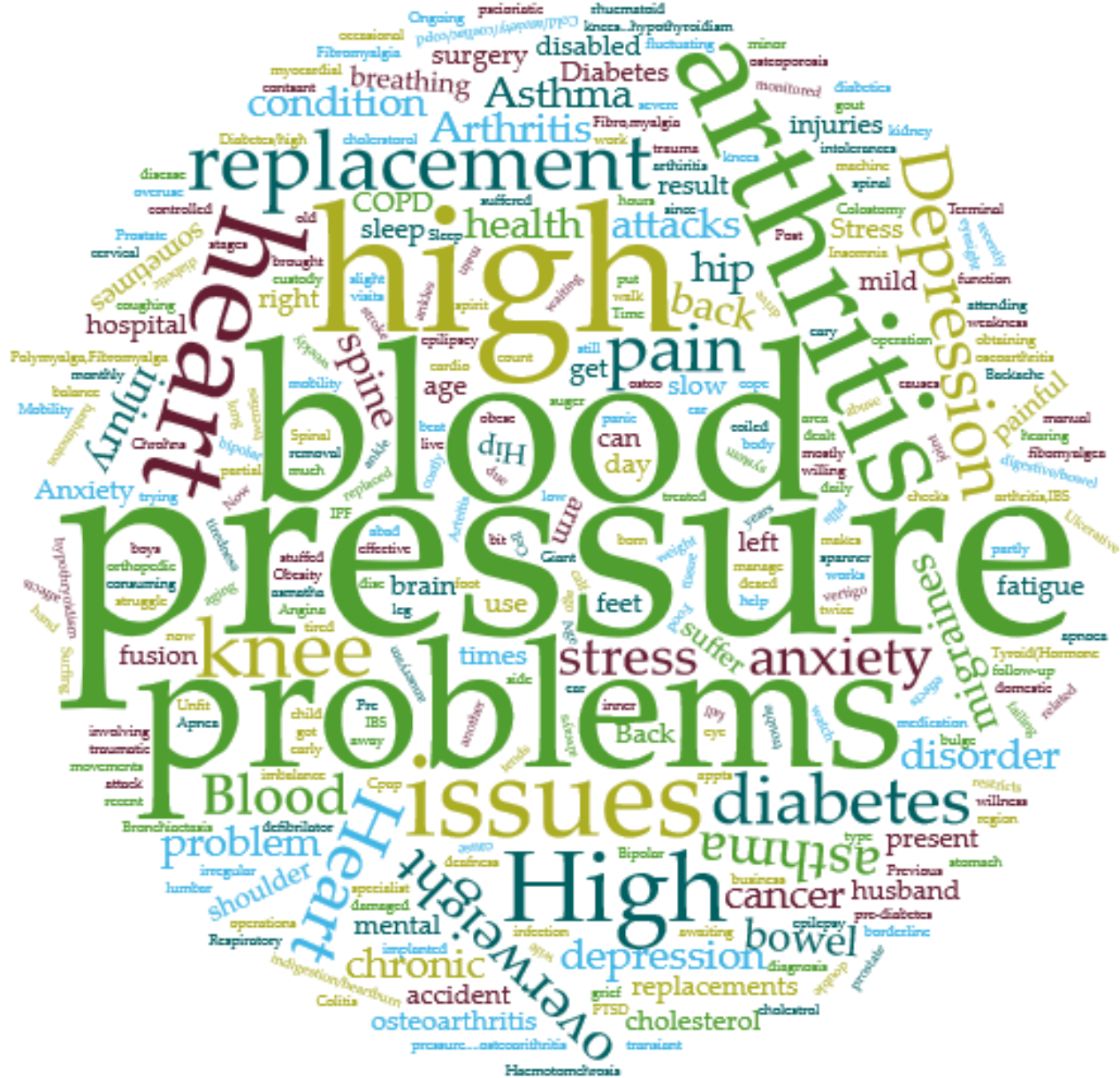
Number of children	No. families	% families
1	485	51.54
2	260	27.63
3	115	12.22
4	43	4.57
5	22	2.34
6	4	0.43
7	4	0.43
8	3	0.32
9	3	0.32
10	0	0.00
11	0	0.00
12	0	0.00
13	1	0.11
14	0	0.00
15 or more	1	0.11

# Coping

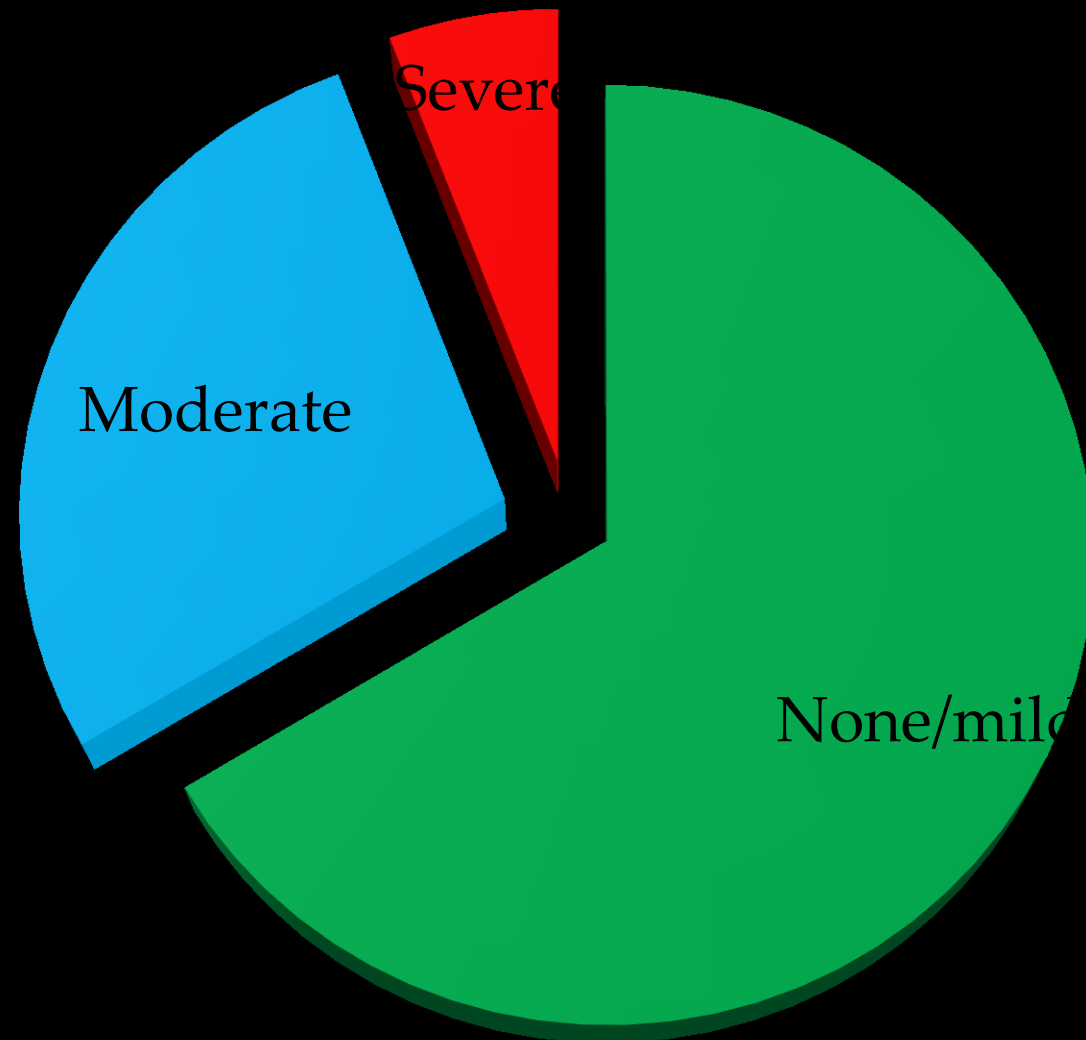




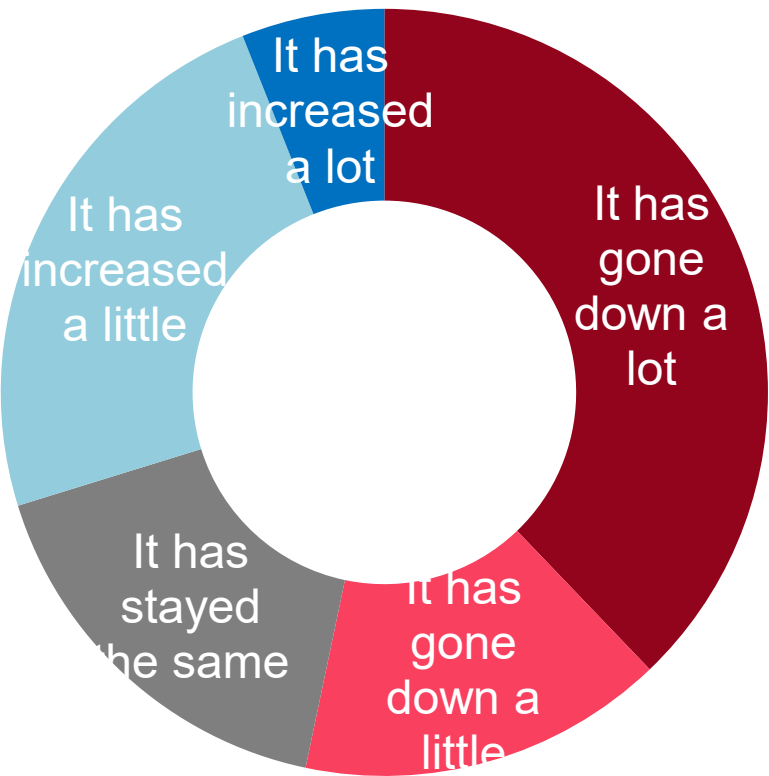
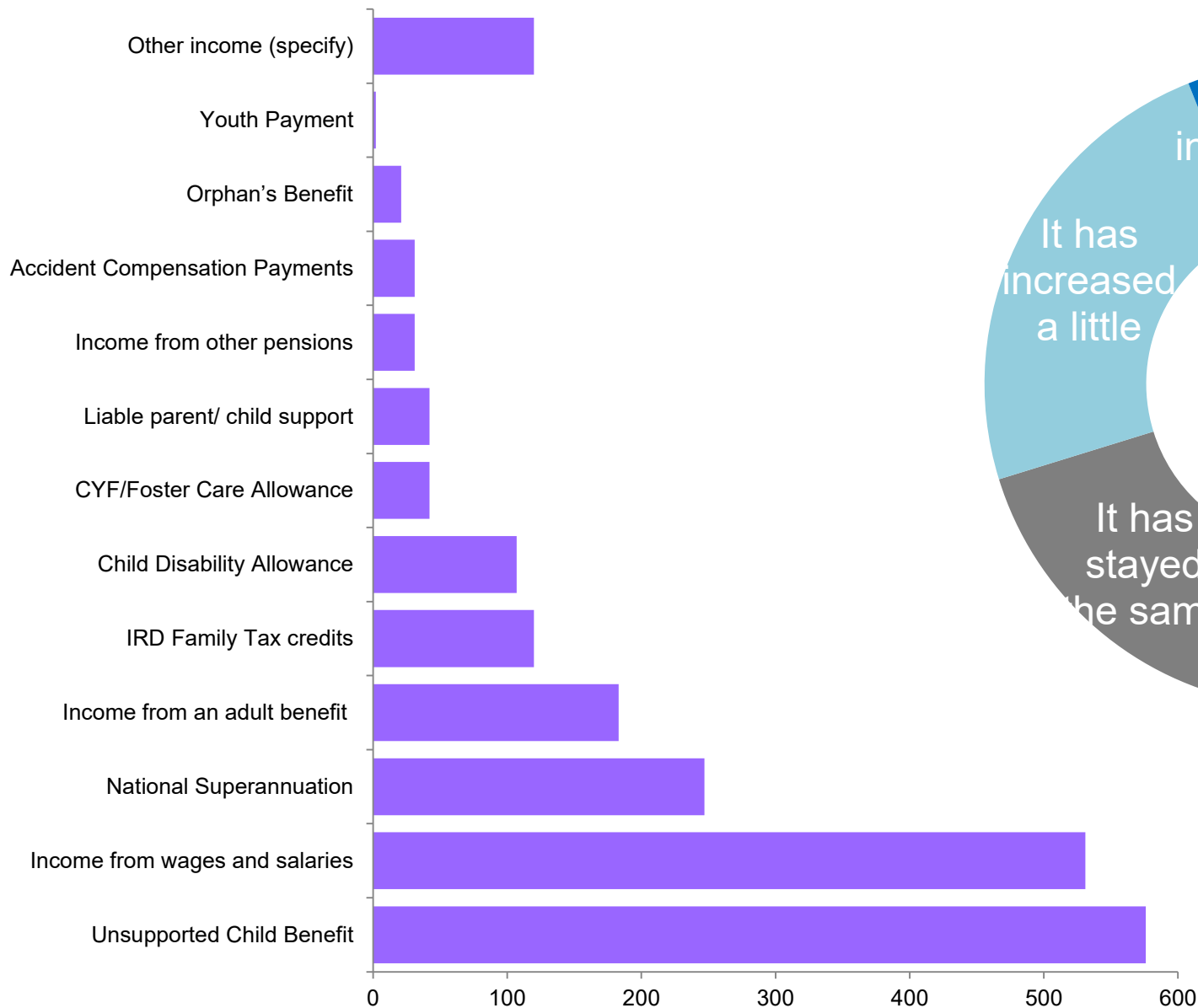
# Health of carers



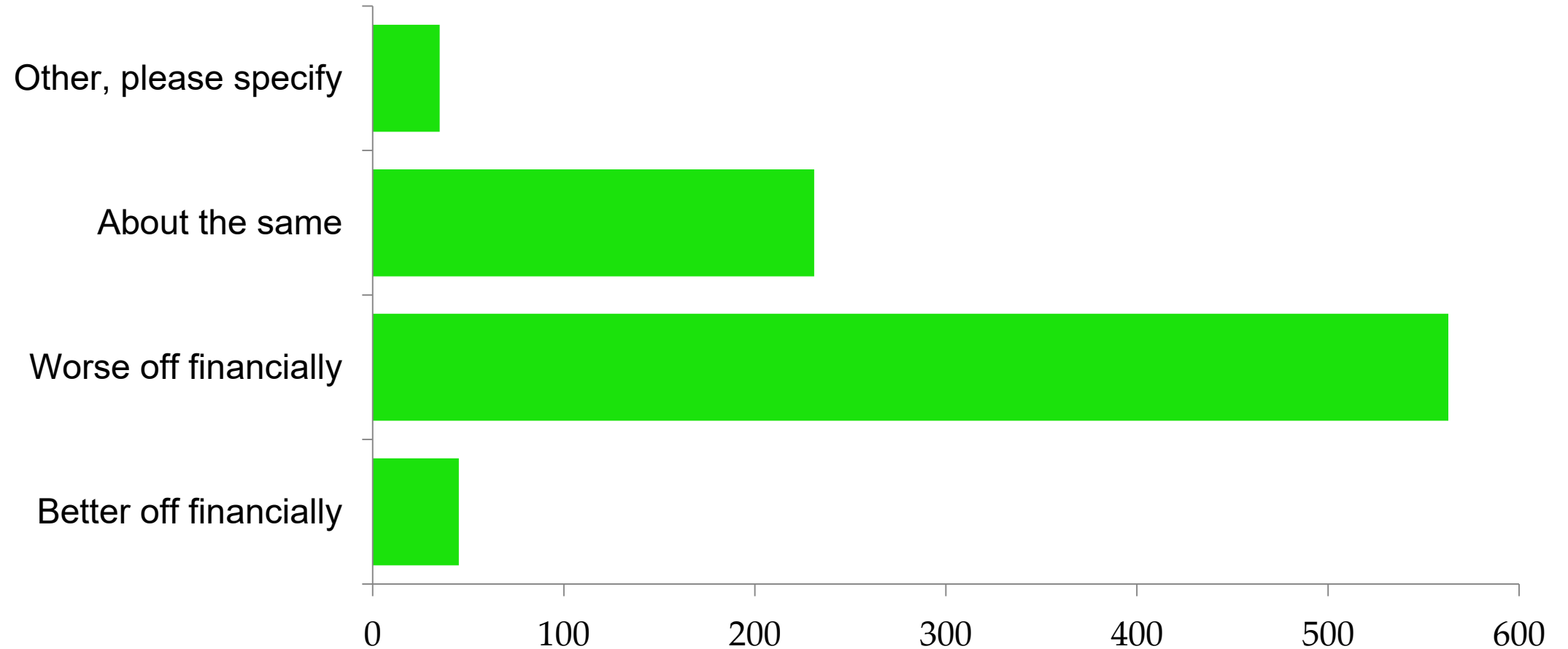
# Mental wellbeing of carers – Kessler scale



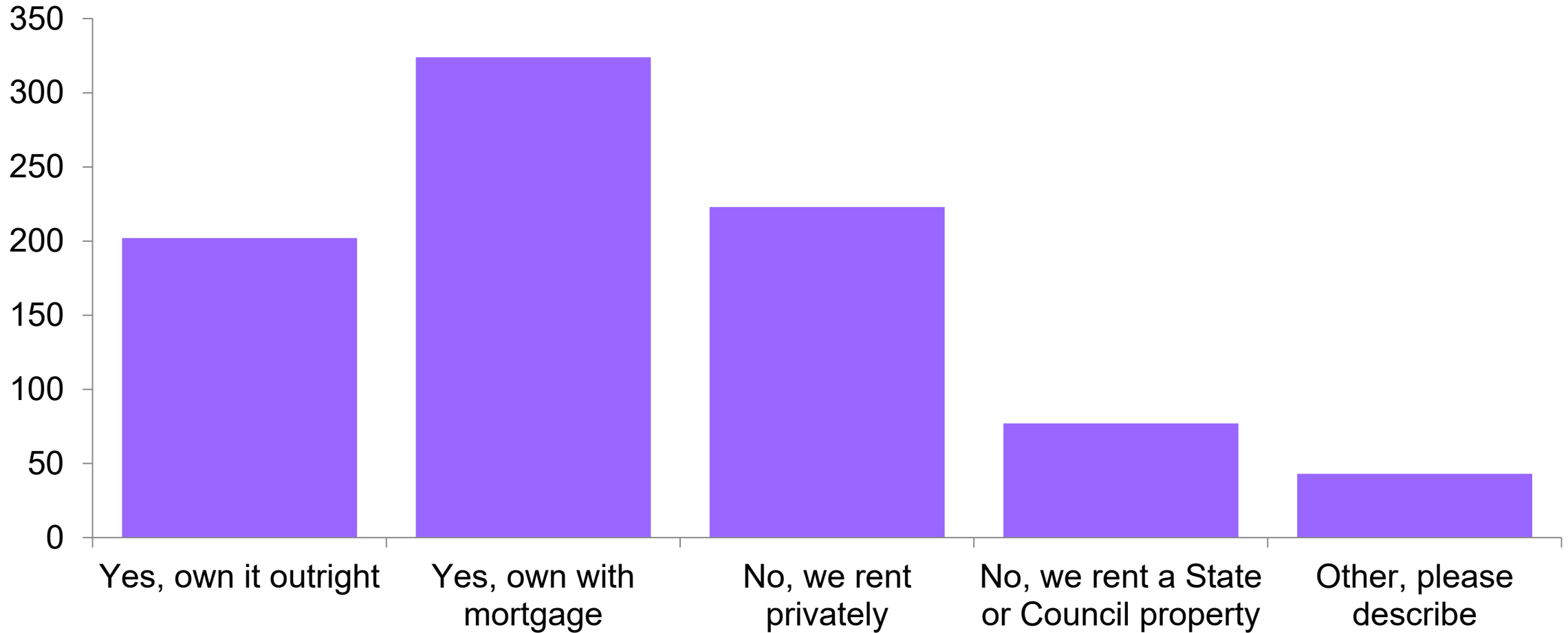
# Income sources



# It costs a lot to bring up grandchildren



# Housing ownership



# Dealing with Work and Income

A range of views from positive to extremely negative.

Issues:

It depends on who you deal with

Staff often seem uninterested and uninformed

Many people initially turned down for help they were entitled to

Some people were really badly treated

Requirement to look for work

Organisational effectiveness

# The Unsupported Child Benefit

Entitlements denied – sometimes for 15 years

Other people/ organisations / GRG told me about UCB

Incorrect information – several people told the survey they were not eligible for the UCB because they earned too much (it is not a means-tested benefit)

343 had to receive advice from other agencies before they were able to get entitlements

A number had to take advocates with them.

# Violence

118 grandparents had been physically assaulted by a child in their care, most twice or more.

Some able to deal with it themselves

Some took further action

One was in fear for her life and eventually acted:

*He was removed by the Police under 42 of the CYPF Act because of mental health concerns. I resisted calling the police for a very long time. Rang the police and they notified CYF and eventually they took him away and broke my heart.*



# Child, Youth and Family

Most of the participants were negative about CYF. Themes:

CYF pushed the need for custody through the court then they disappeared

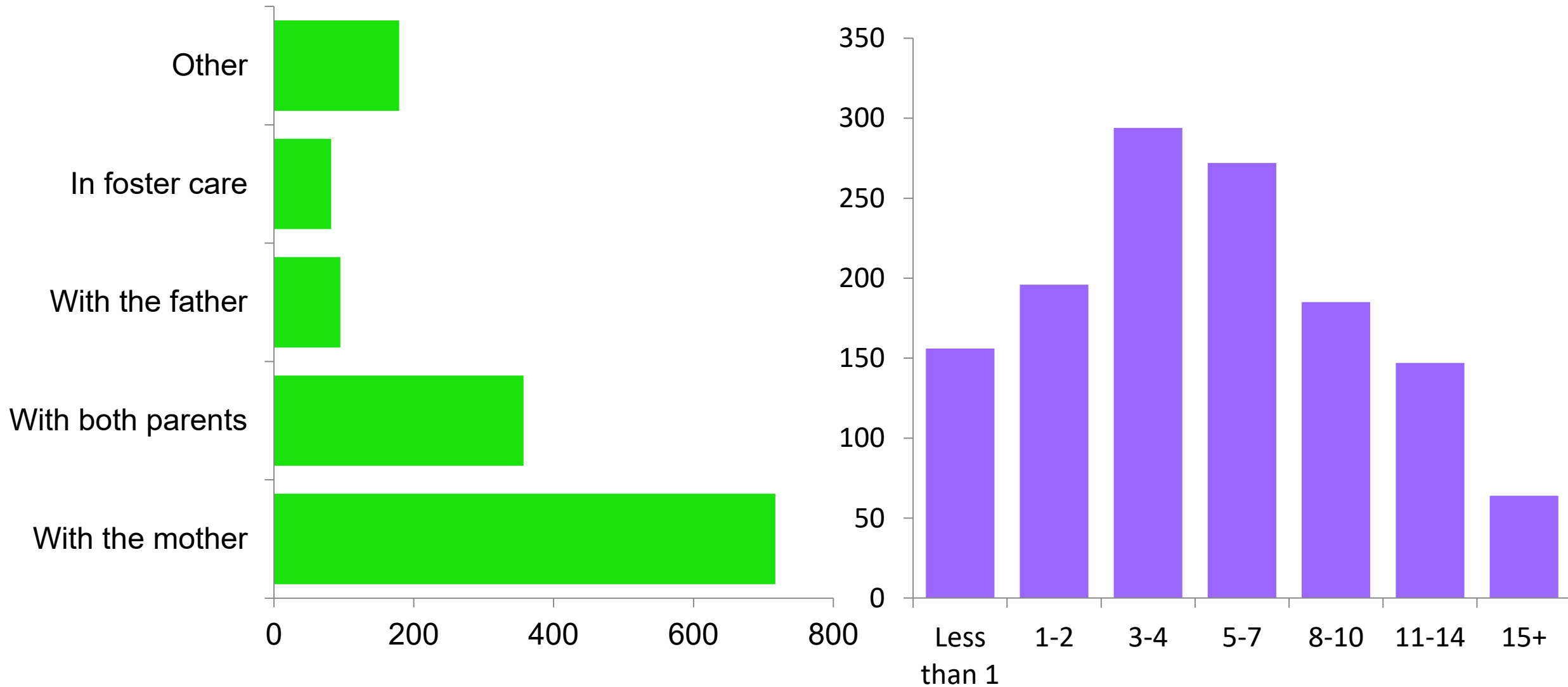
Meetings, hui, family group conferences...

How CYF deals with vexatious complaints from parents

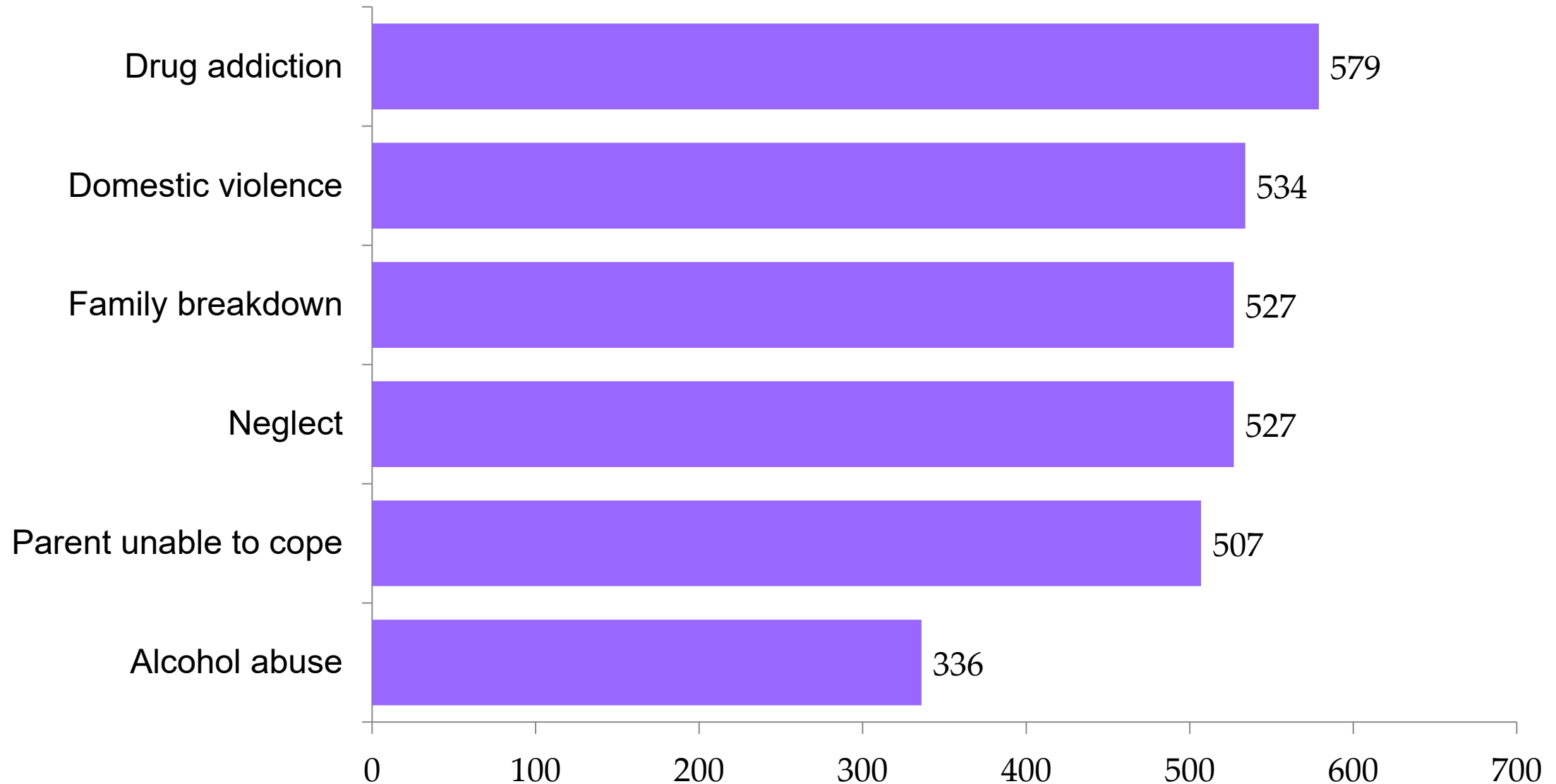
Financial controls on CYF carers

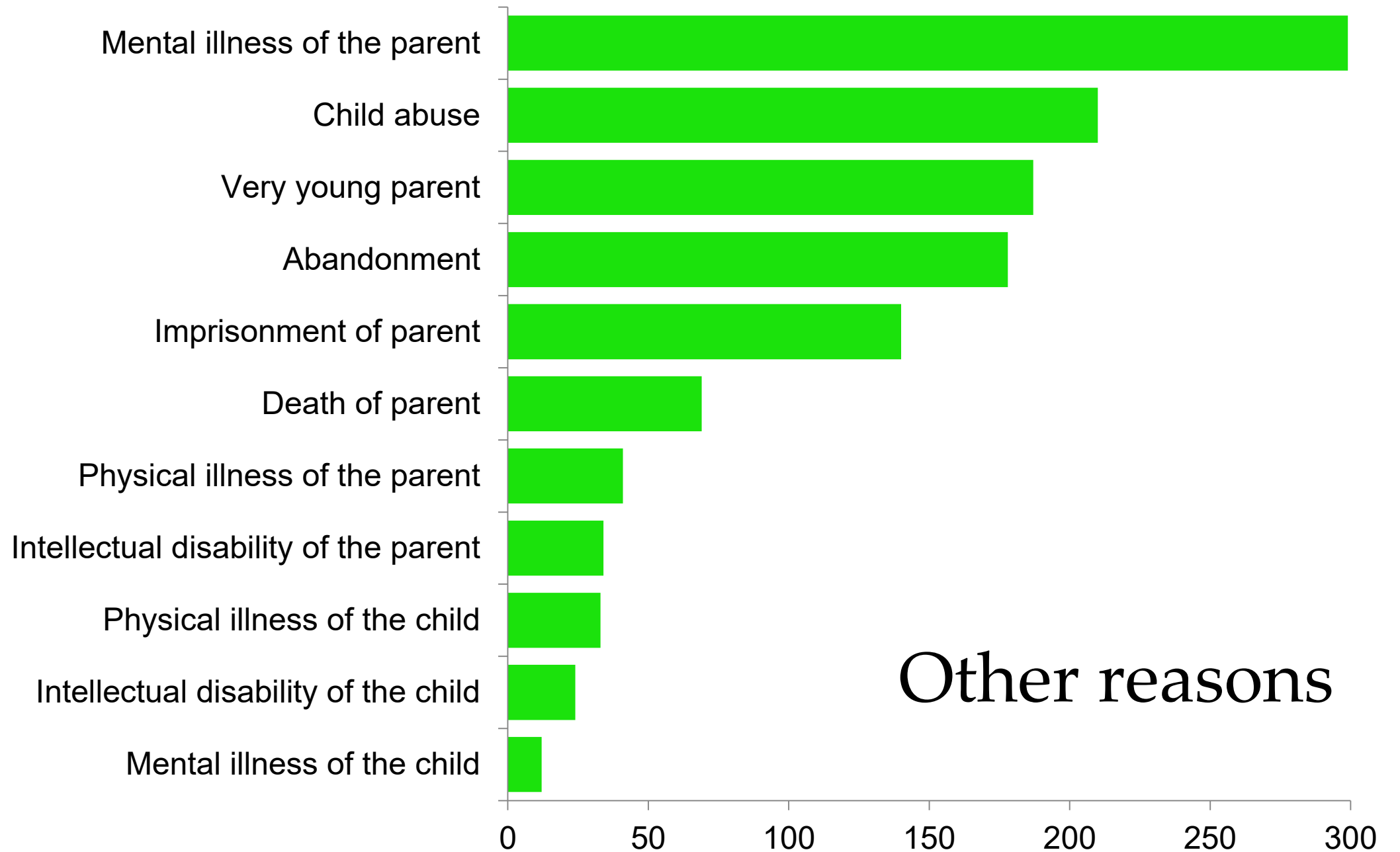
Give the money to GRG!

# The children



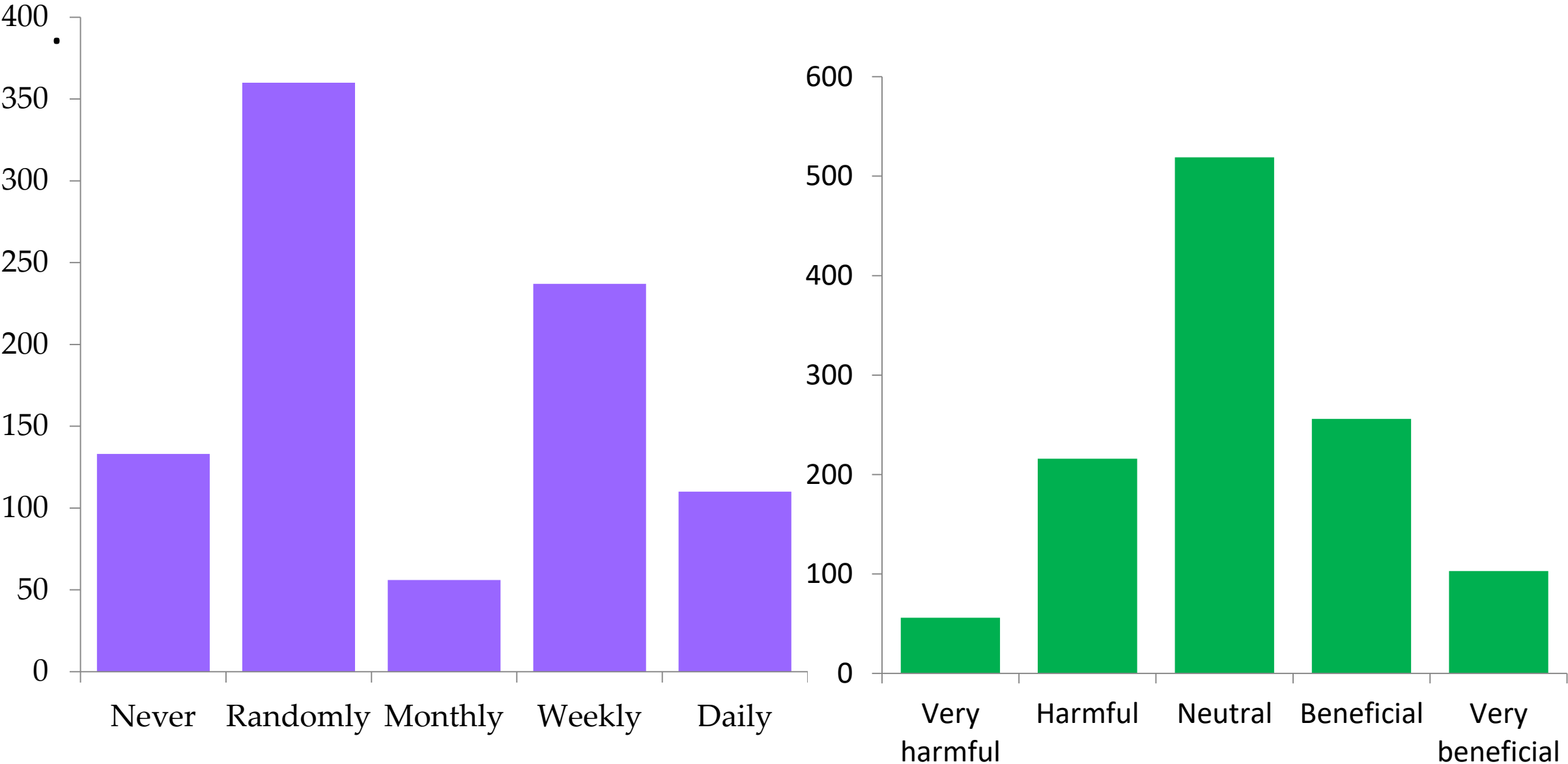
# Top six reasons for children coming to grandparents





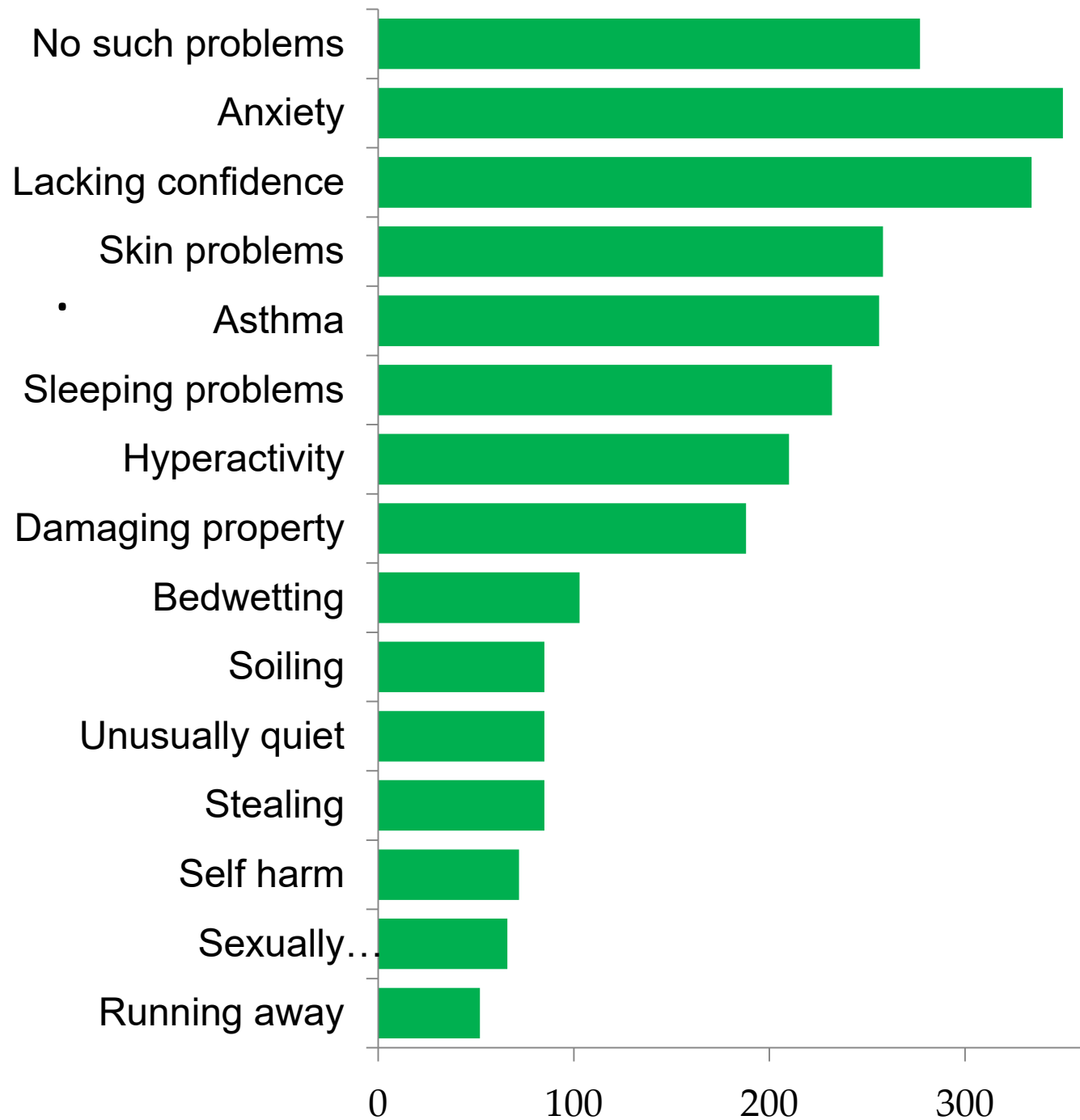
Other reasons

# Parental access to the children (mothers)



# Health of the children

	Physical	Mental	Emotional	Behavioural
<b>Never</b>	445	944	376	417
<b>Sometimes</b>	729	203	588	540
<b>About half the time</b>	53	52	166	150
<b>Most of the time</b>	26	37	90	102
<b>All of the time</b>	17	34	50	61
<b>Total</b>	1270	1270	1270	1270



The most common psychological diagnoses were Anxiety Disorder (104), Attachment Disorder (104), ADHD (96), violent or aggressive behaviour (81) and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) (74).

Others were Destructive Behaviour (67), Dyslexia (38), Autism (36), Asperger's Syndrome (32), Dyspraxia (20) and misuse of drugs or alcohol (16).

A number did not have a diagnosis: "None diagnosed but she sure ticks a lot of boxes for symptoms of some of these", "no diagnosis yet", "We have had three court ordered Psych reports and each time they arrived at different conclusions and all three have been wrong. Not just my opinion" and "She displays behaviour that fits under several conditions but she has not had a formal diagnosis".

# Education

	Support to learn and achieve	Support for healthy development	Support for grandparent carers	Protects child
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	53	47	42	30
<b>Disagree</b>	82	80	55	23
<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	159	191	163	327
<b>Agree</b>	510	542	502	469
<b>Strongly agree</b>	449	393	491	404
<b>Total</b>	1253	1253	1253	1253