

**Testimony**  
**House Bill 1012**  
**Senate Appropriations - Human Resources Division**  
**March 19, 2025**

Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Rebecca Quinn, and I serve as the associate director at the Center for Rural Health at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences. My testimony today is on behalf of all the individuals and families impacted by brain injury in North Dakota.

Brain injury impacts every facet of an individual's life and individuals with brain injury are represented across all service systems. Depending on the age of the injury, deficits the person may have, and resources available an individual may qualify for various service systems creating a vast array of available options. Throughout the development of North Dakota's brain injury services, there has been identified the need for a centralized brain injury hub to provide information, support, and training. The North Dakota Brain Injury Network meets these needs by providing a centralized, statewide source of information regarding brain injury and delivers resource facilitation services to individuals with brain injuries. The importance of NDBIN is to help individuals with brain injury, their families and the professionals working with them to navigate the complex system of care and resources that might be available.

During this biennium the budget for NDBIN was increased and with that was able to hire two new staff. We now have a total of five staff located throughout the state. This increase has allowed us to a more regional approach and provide many more in person services and opportunities.



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For the period of July 1, 2023 through Dec 31, 2023 the program has:

- Switched to a custom designed data tracking system that is currently in use by 11 other state brain injury programs. This has allowed us to be more effective, efficient, and accurate in tracking our data.
- 244 individuals with brain injury served with information and referral or resource facilitation services.
- Developed a Survivor Engagement Group that meets monthly to assist survivors in becoming more involved in advocacy
- 338 varied events provided to over 4,000 participants:
  - 112 support groups, Living Life Fully or Lunch and Learn sessions; this includes a session of Living Life Fully provide to the peer support specialist at the North Dakota State Penitentiary
  - 3 survivor focused book clubs
  - 3 Certified Brain Injury Specialist trainings and developed a new training course for Medicaid service providers
  - Annual Mind Matters Conference and virtual Concussion Symposium
- Continued to host and support our virtual brain injury screening platform and most recently developed a virtual brain injury in education platform to support educators working with students with brain injury
- Contracted for the completion of a Systems Study to help guide future efforts and gain feedback on current programing
- Applied for and received a Department of Justice Grant to partner with ND DOCR on integrating brain injury screening and training within DOCR.

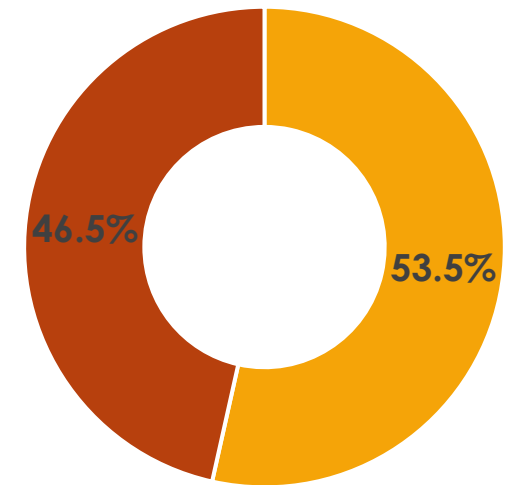
Thank you for your consideration,

Rebecca Quinn; LMSW, CBIST  
Center for Rural Health  
1301 N Columbia Road, Stop 9037  
Grand Forks, ND 58202-9037

# Summary of Clients Served

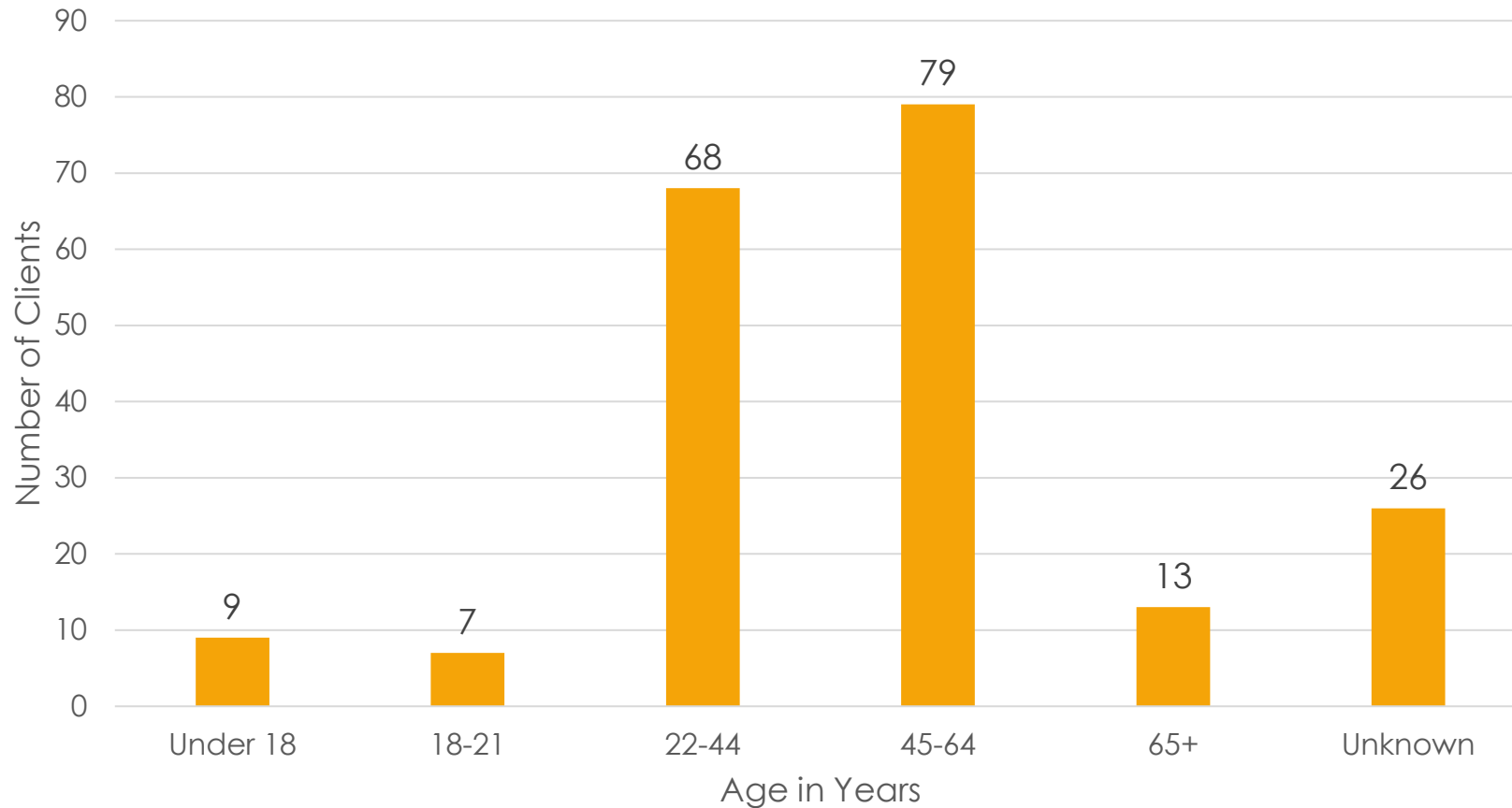
- ▶ **202** unduplicated clients served from July 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024
  - ▶ **108** Information & Referral clients
  - ▶ **94** Resource Facilitation clients

Percent of Clients Served by Program



- Information & Referral
- Resource Facilitation

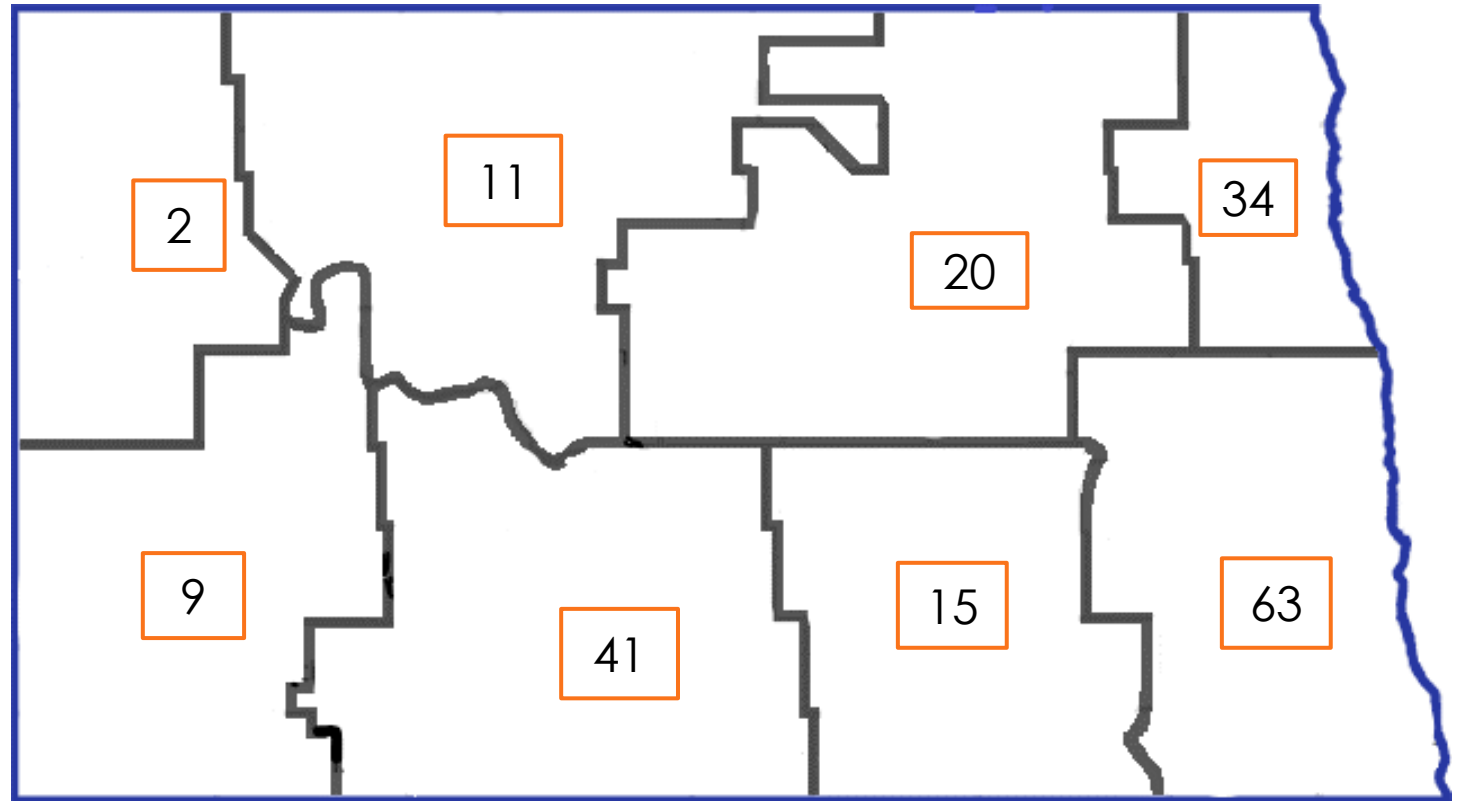
# Clients Served by Age



**39.1%** of clients served were between the ages of 45 and 64 years old

# Clients Served by Region

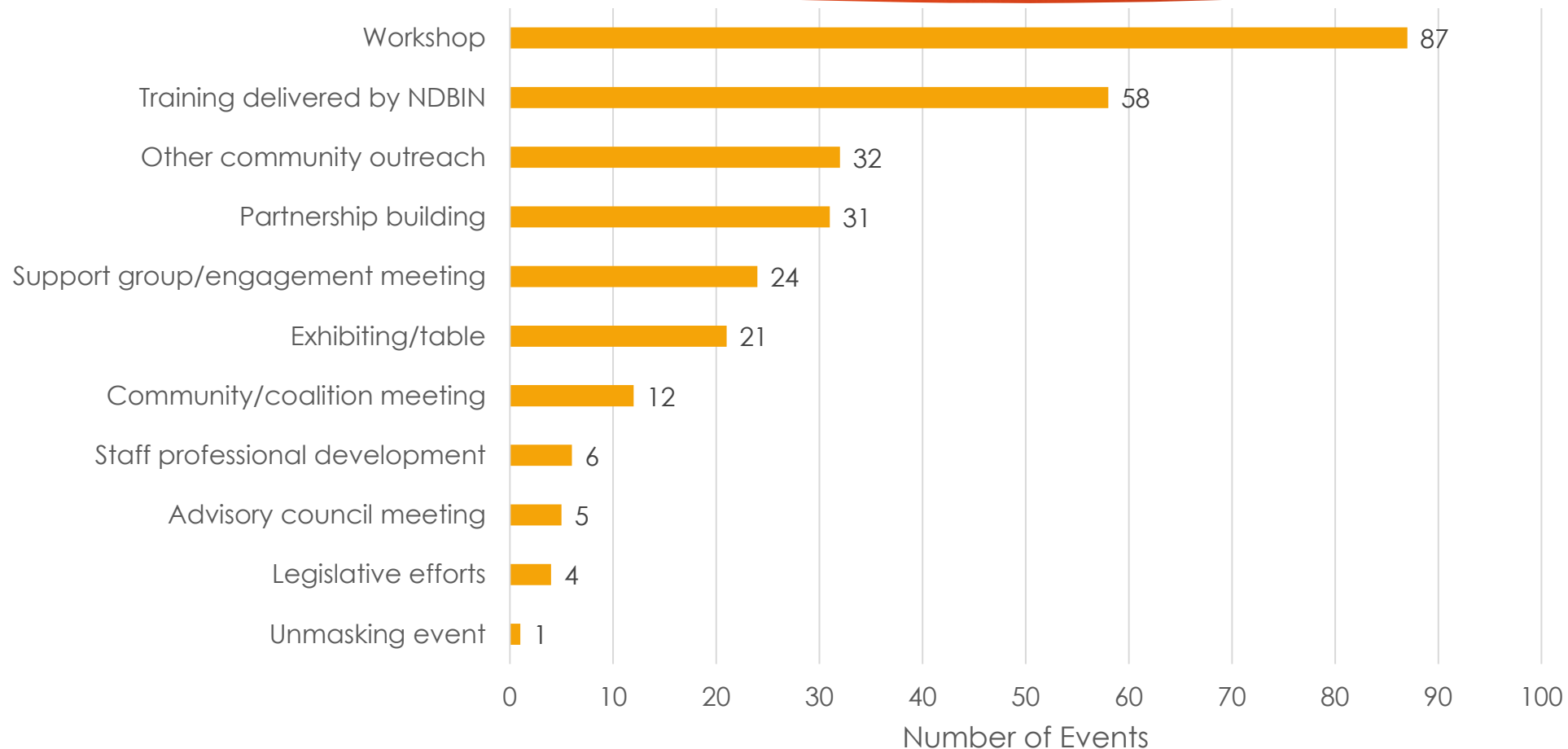
31.2% of clients served were located in Region 5 (Fargo)



# Community Outreach Summary

- ▶ **334** community outreach events from July 1, 2023 – December 31, 2024
- ▶ **4,100** individuals attended community outreach events

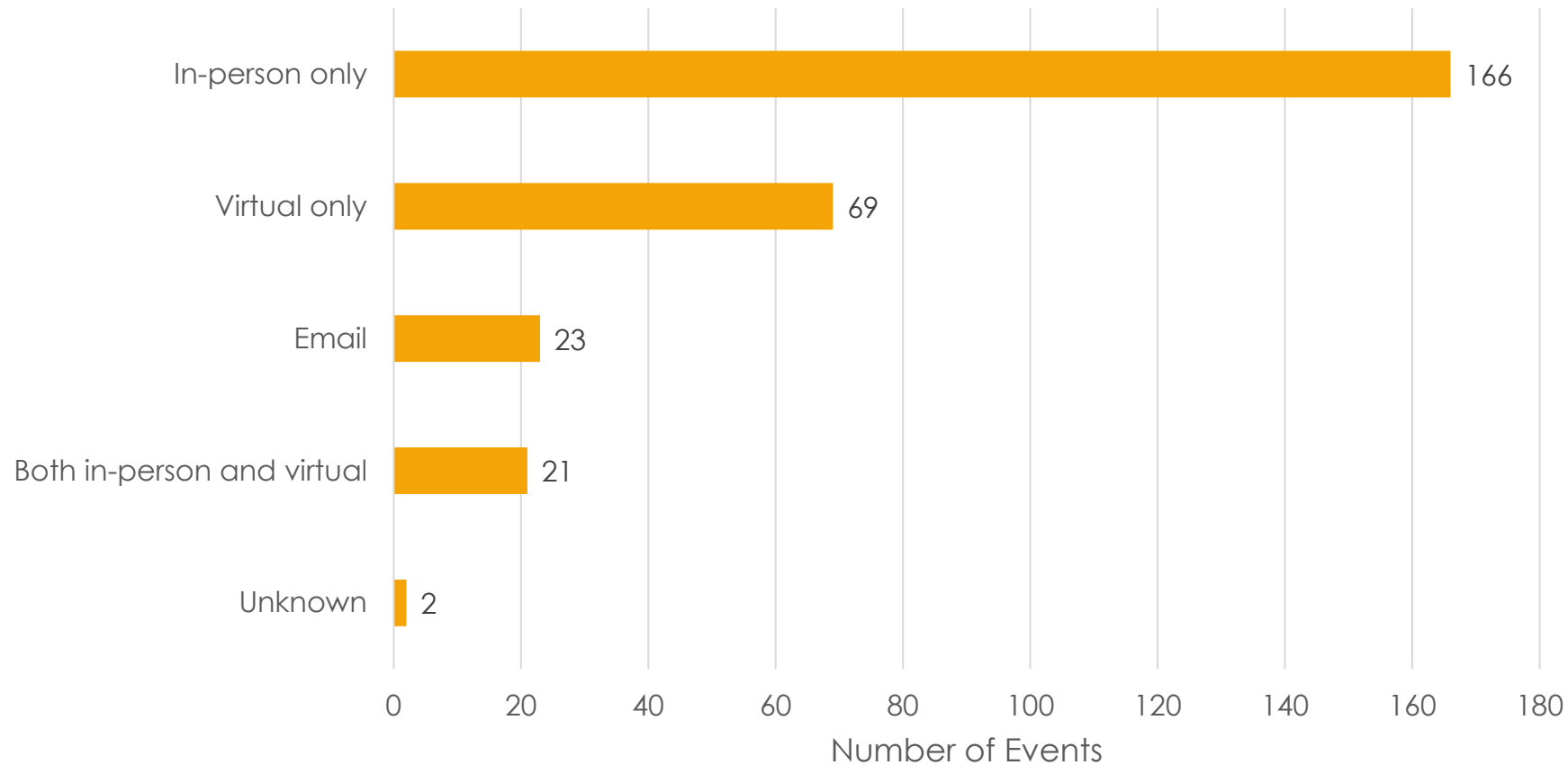
# Community Outreach Events by Type



**31.0%** of outreach events were workshops

**20.6%** of outreach events were trainings delivered by NDBIN

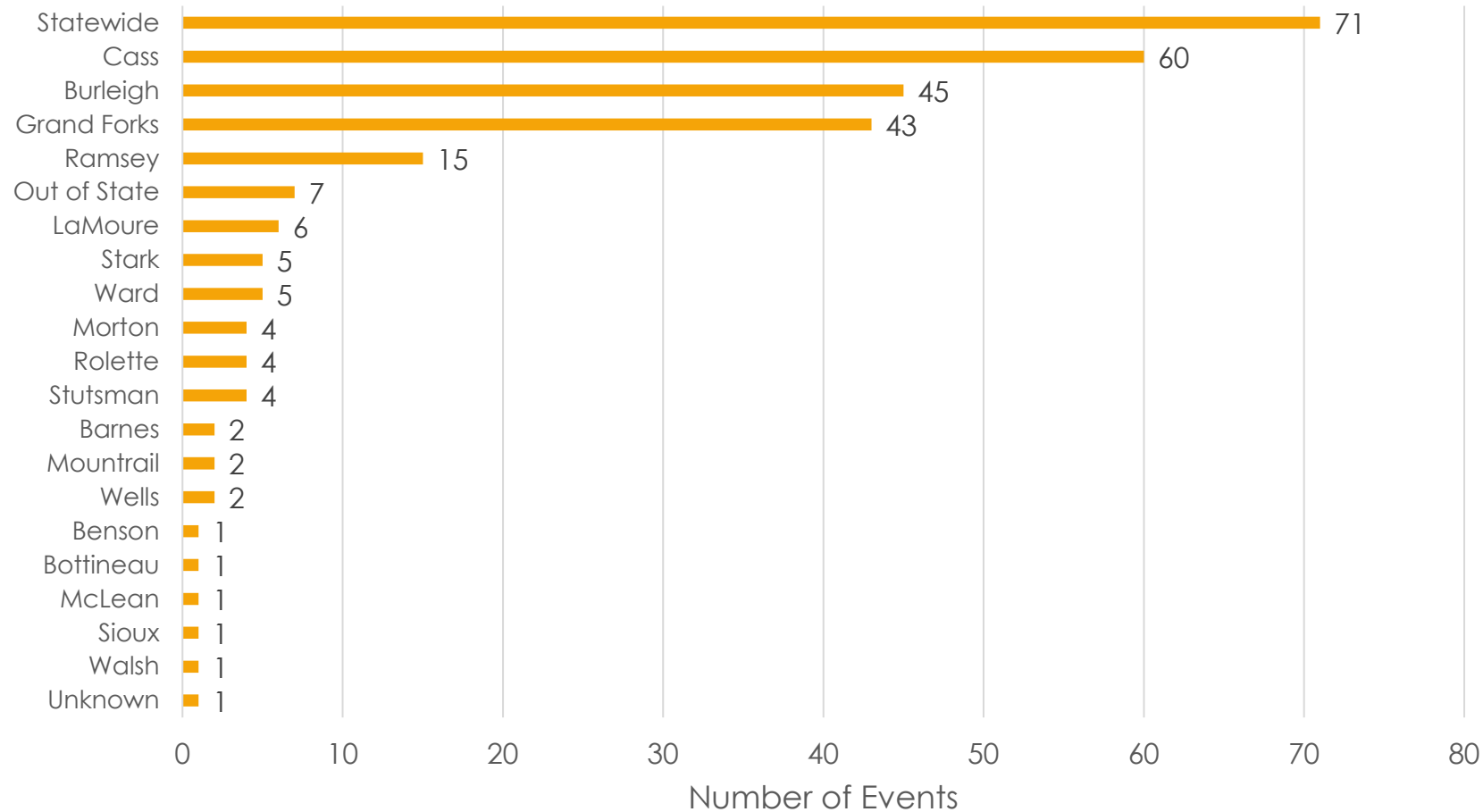
# Community Outreach Events by Format



**59.1%** of outreach events took place in-person only

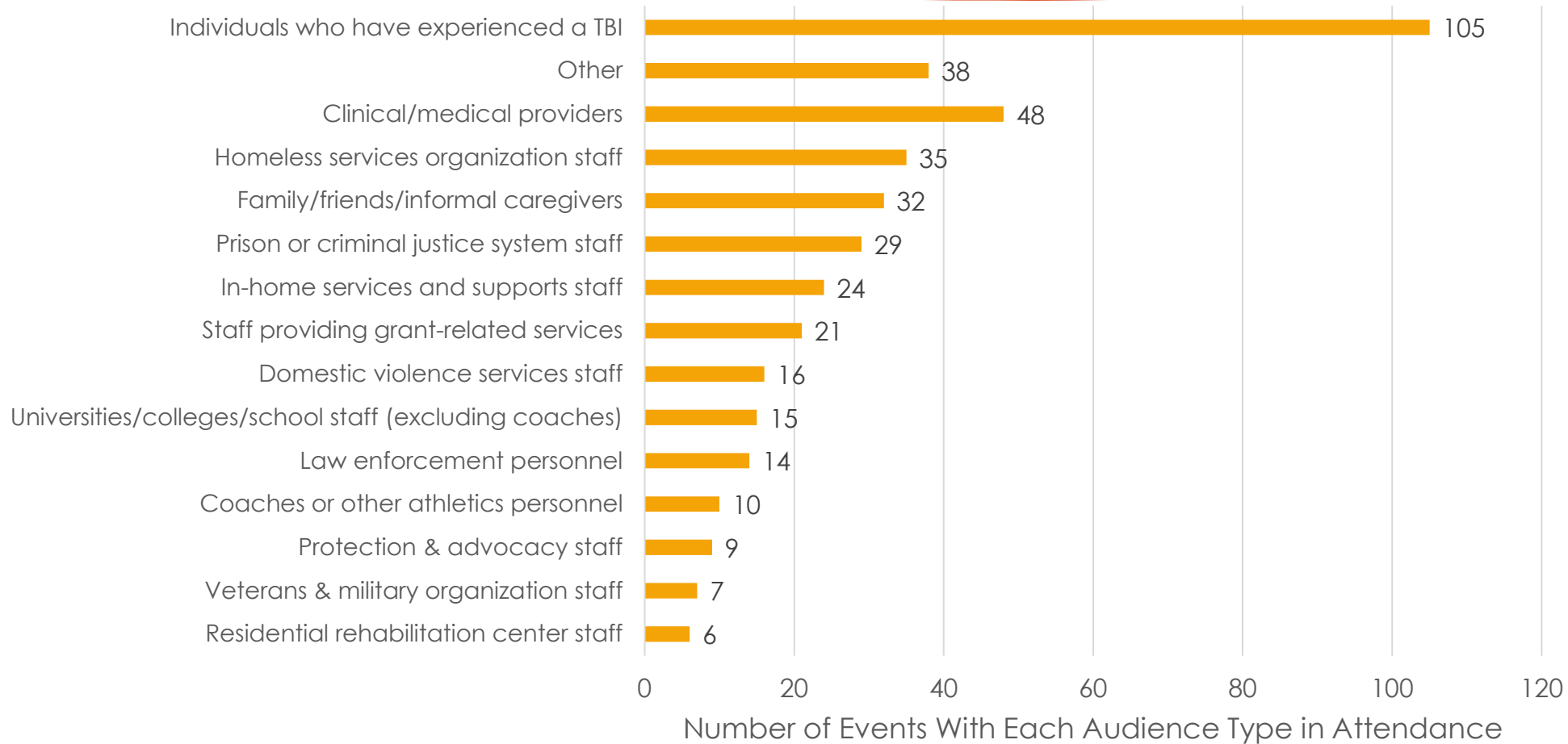


# Community Outreach Events by Location



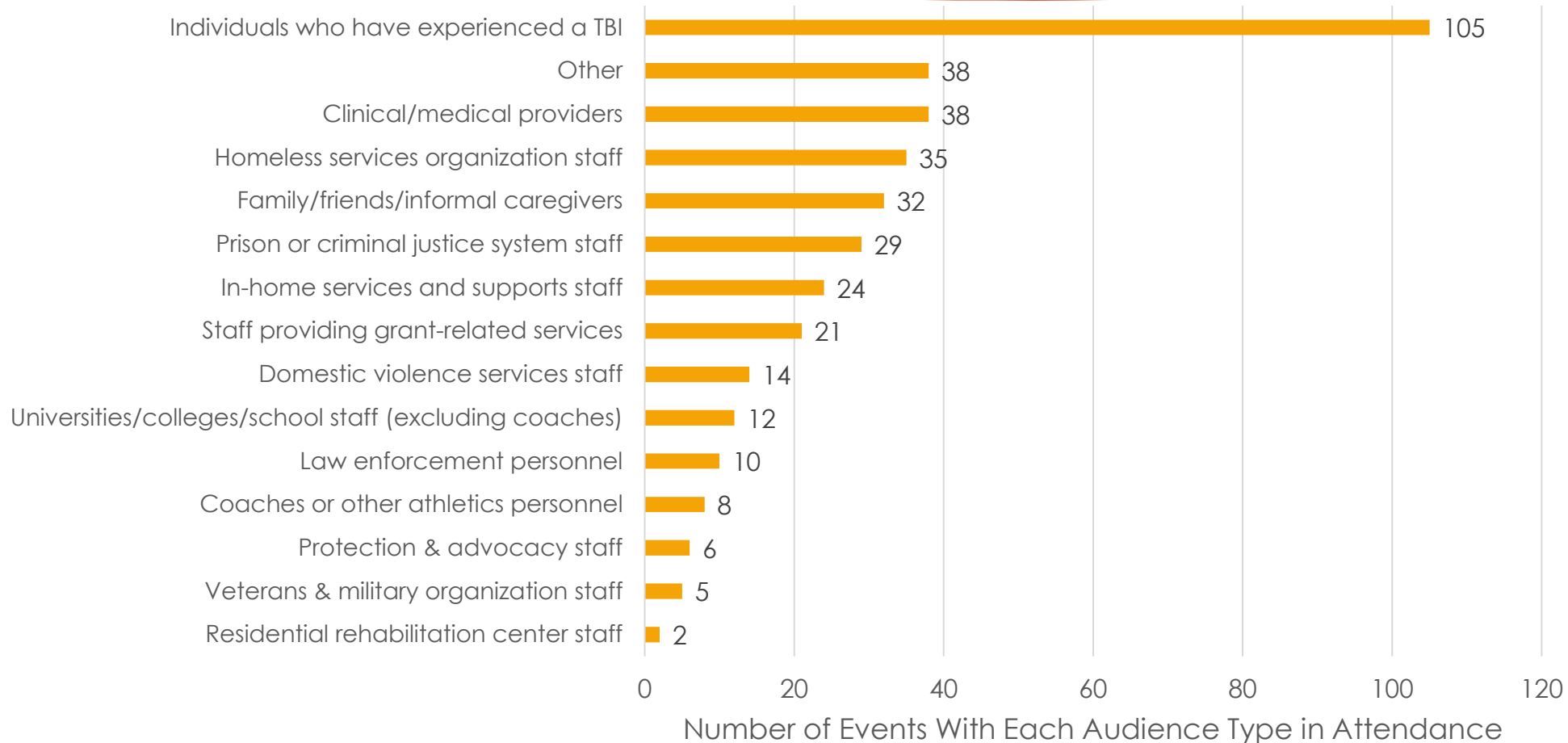
**25.3%** of community outreach events were statewide

# Community Outreach Events by Audience Type



**Individuals who have experienced a TBI** were the most common audience type at community outreach events

# Community Outreach Events by Audience Type

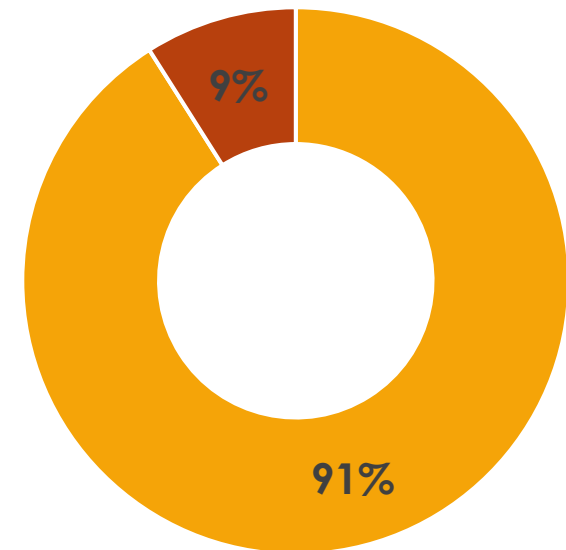


**Individuals who have experienced a TBI** were the most common audience type at community outreach events

# Brain Injury Screening

- ▶ Short OSU TBI-ID/ABI used to screen individuals for brain injury
- ▶ **133** individuals screened from July 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024
  - ▶ **121** screened positive/likely to have a brain injury
  - ▶ **12** screened negative/unlikely to have a brain injury

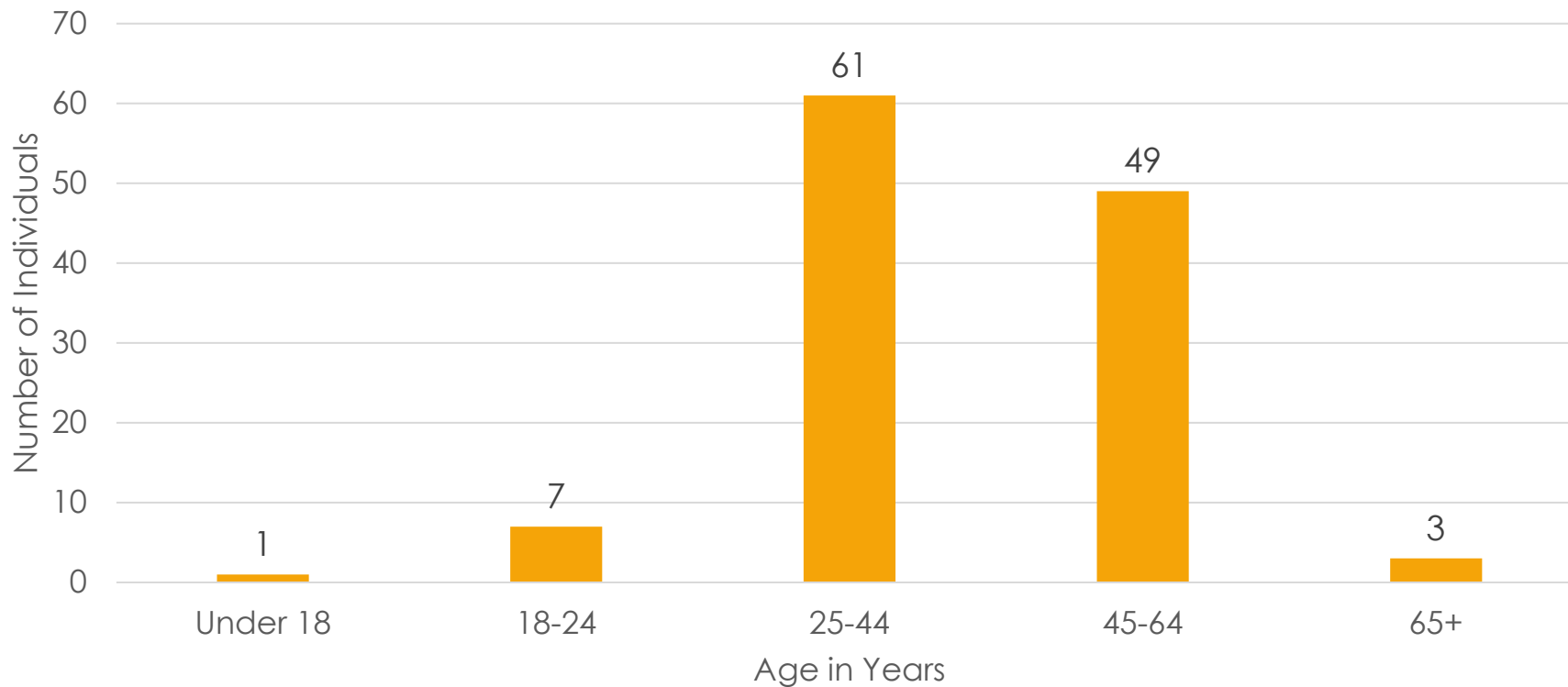
Percent of positive and negative screens



■ Positive ■ Negative

# Brain Injury Screening

Age Breakdown of Individuals who Screened Positive on the Short OSU TBI-ID/ABI



**50.4%** of individuals who screened positive for TBI were between the ages of 25 and 44 years old



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