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Internship Academy 2026, Cohort 4
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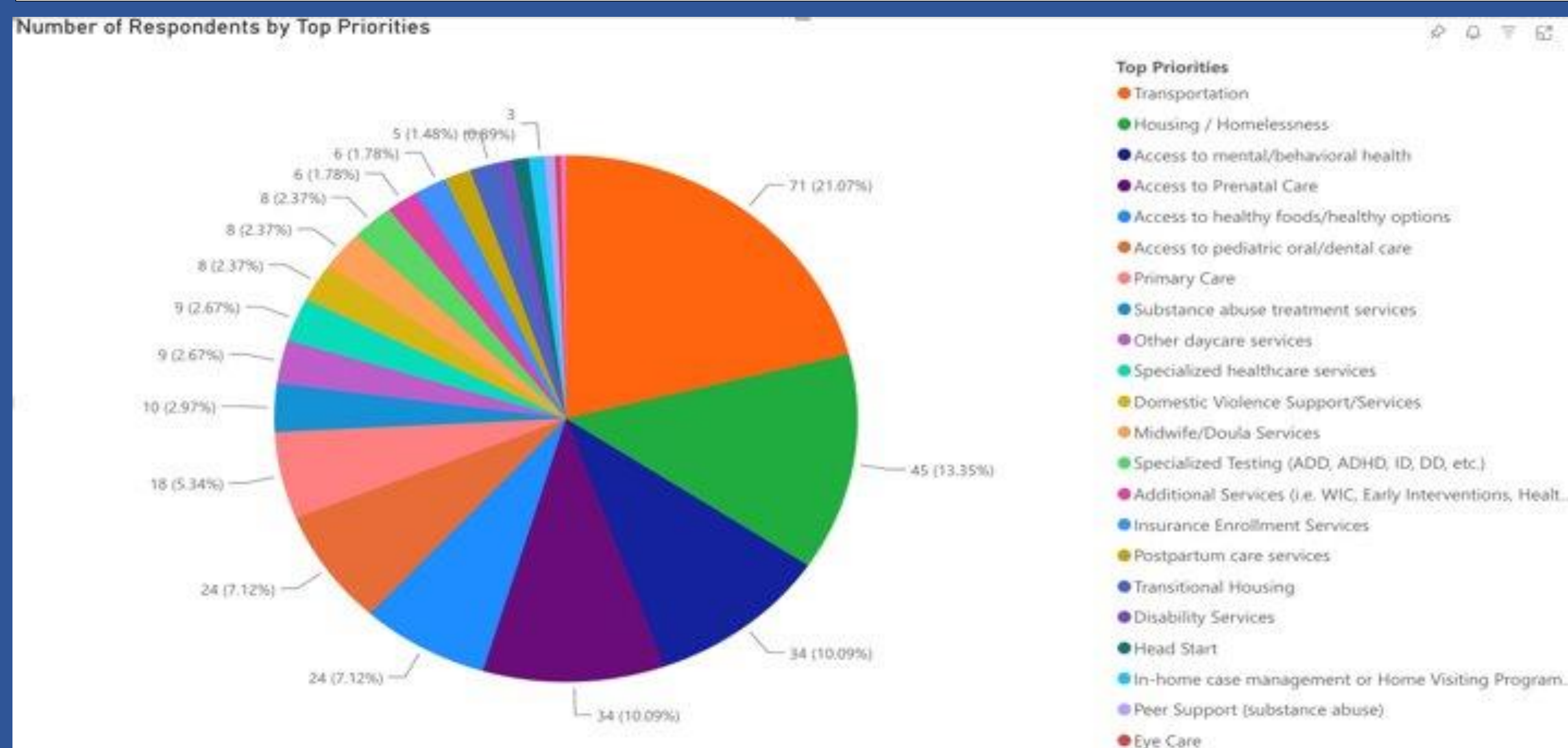
Issue Identified:

Concerns about maternal and child health access in Southwest Virginia assessed through digital and paper surveys done by community members and community support providers.



Health Assessment questions included demographic data such as:

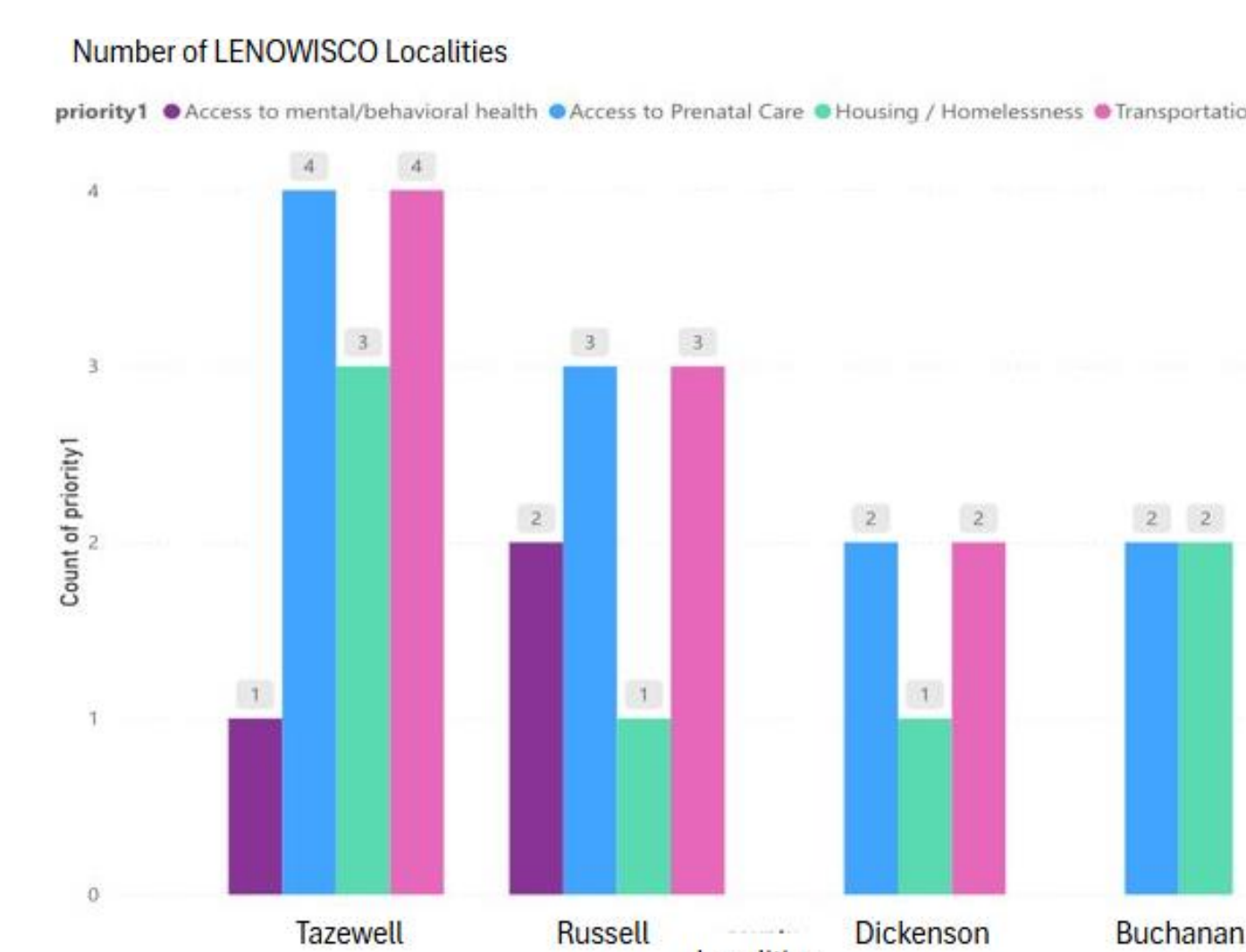
- Defined roles and personal experiences or perspectives
- What is working well and what needs improvement
- If a Doula Program and Postpartum Home Visiting Program is necessary in the region.



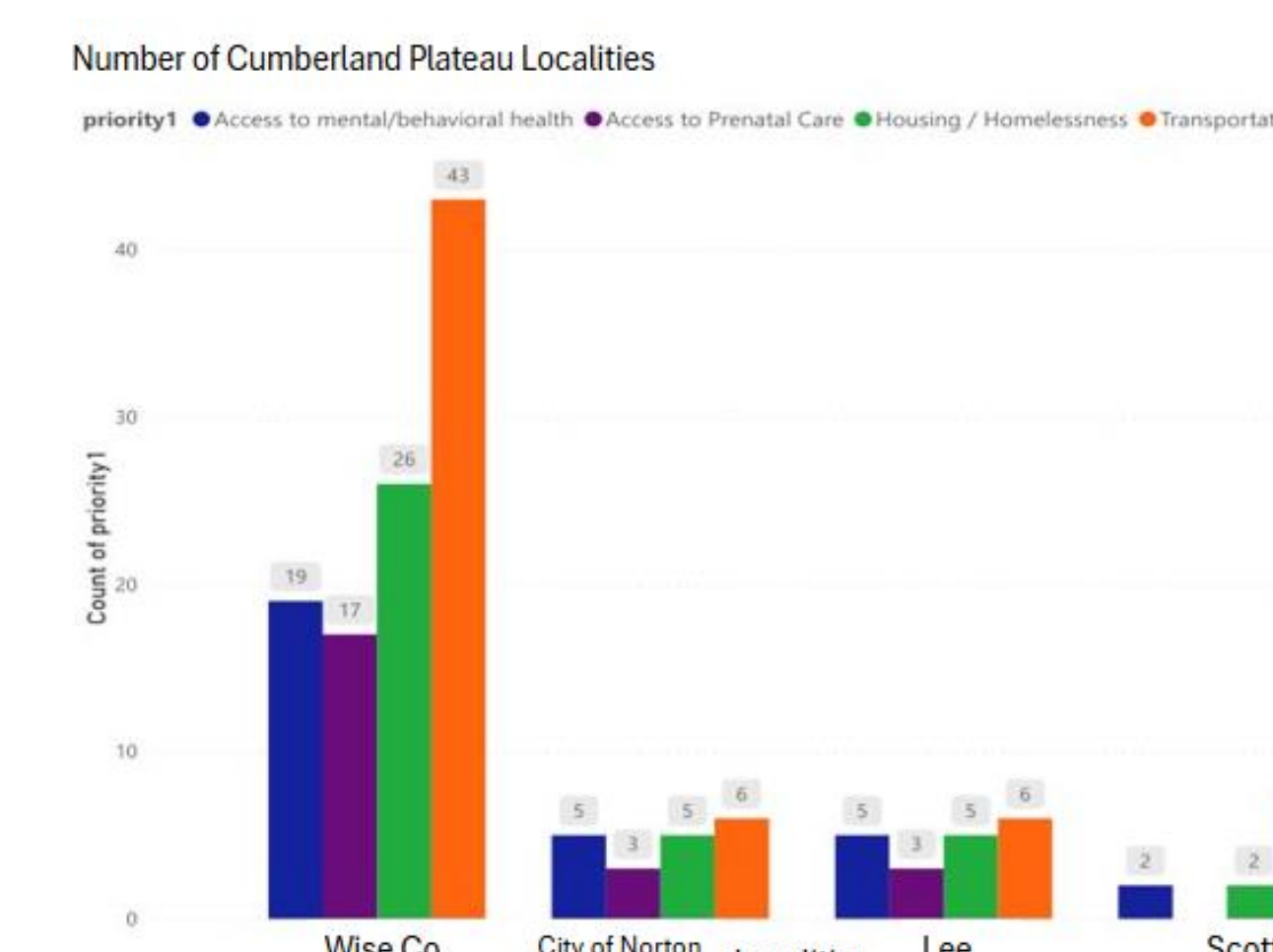
The 337 respondents identified Transportation, Housing / Homelessness, Mental health services, Access to Prenatal Care as top priorities.

Data Limitations and Challenges:

- Limited understanding of Doulas
- Incomplete surveys or duplicate respondents
- Lack of trust between perceived government agencies and communities



Again, the localities are represented in different colors. In Cumberland Plateau, the top two priorities were Access to prenatal care and Transportation, closely followed by Housing / Homelessness.



Here, each locality is represented by a different color. Wise Co., Scott Co., and the City of Norton have listed Transportation as their top priority. The second and third priorities are Housing / Homelessness and Access to mental/behavioral health services.

Between the 8 localities within the two health districts, community members consistently identified Transportation and Housing as top priorities. These findings suggest a need reliability in the region.

LENOWISCO & Cumberland Plateau Survey Responses:

Would use doula services if available:

73% yes

Doula services beneficial for the community:

95% yes

Postpartum home visits:

88.5% yes

Thank you to my preceptor Dan Hunsucker, the CHW and MCH teams, my faculty at ETSU, and VDH for having me this summer!

