

Survivors of Hurricane Katrina: Losses, Hopes & Dreams of Displaced Older Adults

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Purpose

- To conceptualize the losses of older adults displaced by Hurricane Katrina.
- To understand their resilience as described in their hopes and dreams.



Marty Bahamonde FEMA Photo

Methods

- **Purposive Sample**
- **Open-Ended Questions**
- **Grounded Theory Methods**



Patricia Brach
FEMA Photo

Open Coding

- Defined categories & constructs.
- Required consensus at all coding levels.
- Assigned each member a set of transcriptions
- Verified data in pairs.
- Maintained a detailed “Research Methods Journal: with all new codes & descriptions.

Open Coding

- Identified Emergent Constructs :
 - Loss of lives and pets
 - Damages
 - Loss of services
 - Hopes and Dreams



Robert Kaufmann FEMA Photo

Axial Coding

- Compared the original transcripts to data from the Opened Coding.
- Posed research questions to the data.
- Some of the **emergent constructs** were:
 - Losses - Everything, Lives, Pets, & more
 - Personal Autonomy
 - Recovery of Personal Items
 - Home Repairs

Selective Coding

- Used Constant Comparison with these data:
 - Original Transcripts
 - Open Coding data
 - Axial Coding data

Selective Coding

Emergent Constructs

- **Losses**
 - Tangible Losses
 - Intangible Losses
 - Family and Social Disruption
- **Hopes and Dreams**
 - Going Home
 - Resting on Hopes and Dreams
 - Lost Hopes and Dreams



Andrea Booher FEMA Photo

Sample

Displaced Older Adults

- 72 years old
- African Americans
- Protestant
- Women
- Homeowners
- Retired Workers
- \$16,600 or less
- Widowed
- Completed high school
- Live in New Orleans area
- Resided in home 30+ years

Losses

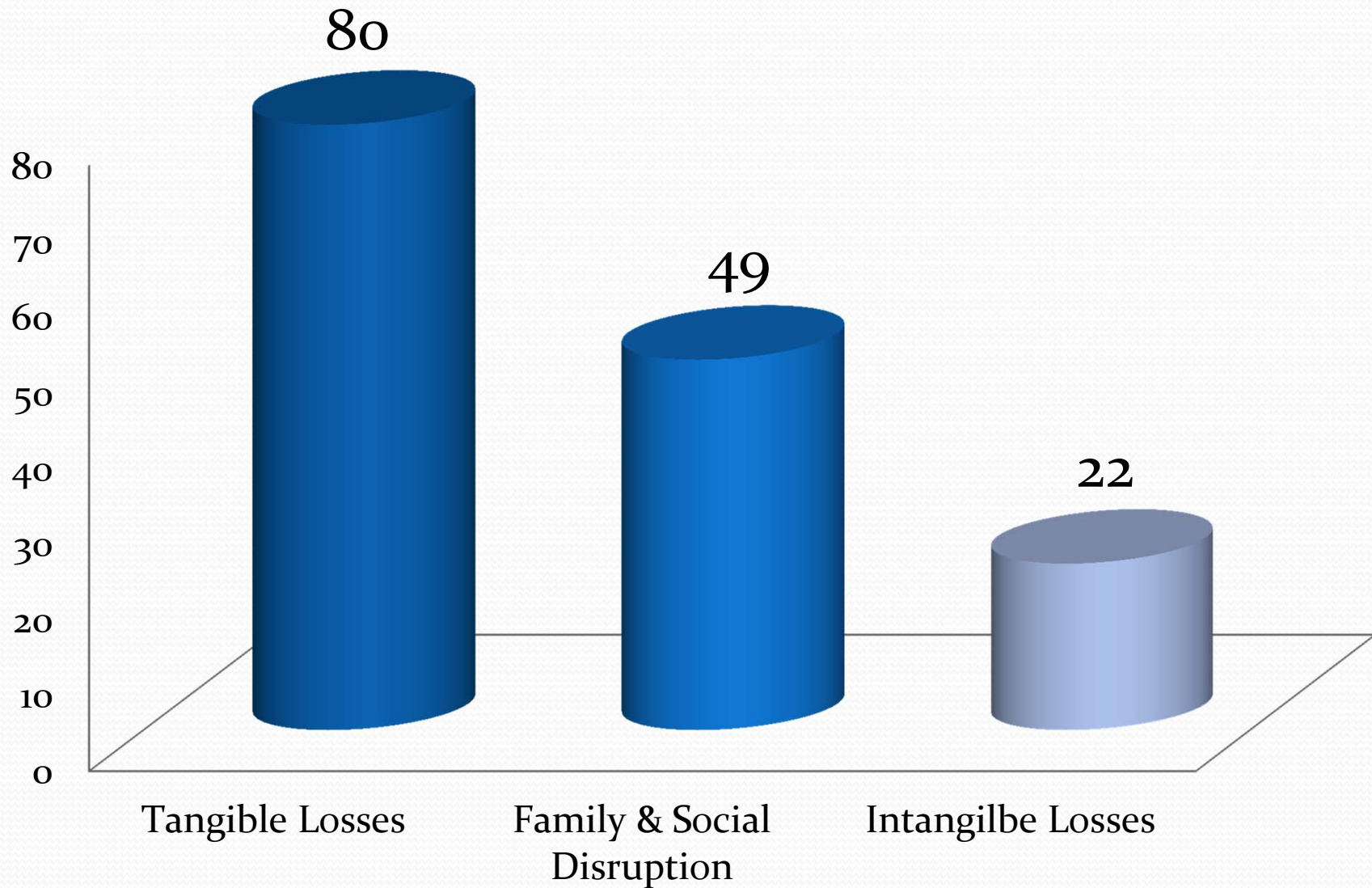
- Tangible Losses (80/87)
- Intangible Losses (22/87)
- Family & Social Disruption (49/87)



Andrea Booher FEMA Photo

NOTE: Responses were not mutually exclusive.

Losses



Tangible Losses

Personal
Items

Loss of Lives

Damages &
Home Repairs

Loss of
Property

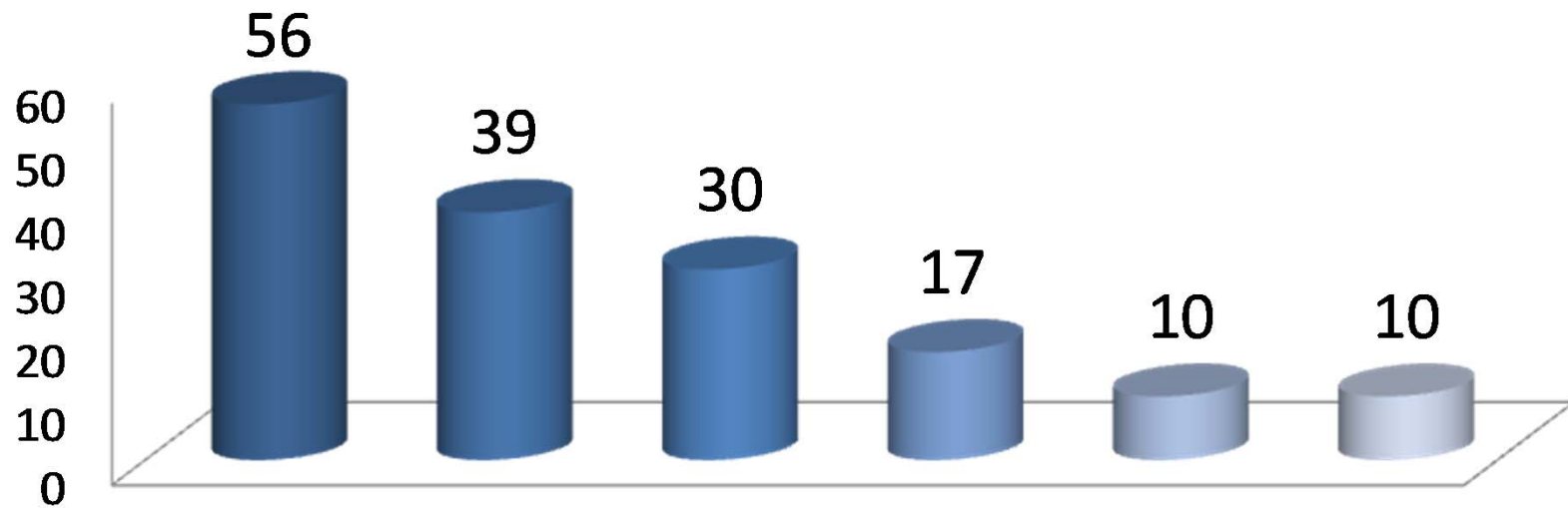
People & Pets

Destruction
of City

Loss of
Utilities

"Everything I had was in that purse. My driver's license, Social Security and one or two credit cards was in that purse."

Tangible Losses



Personal Items
Loss of Property
Damages & Home Repairs
Losses of Lives
Destruction of City
Loss of Utilities

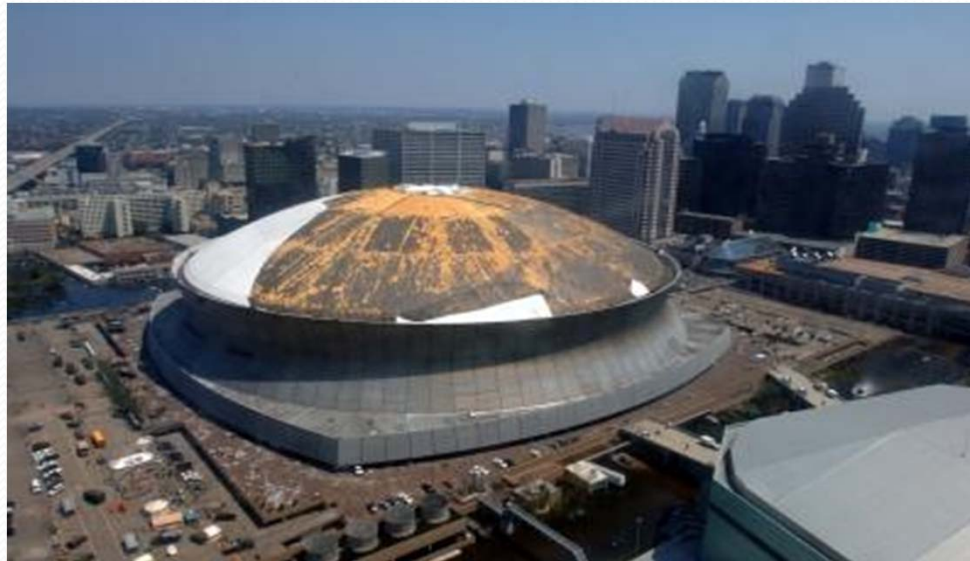
NOTE: Responses were not mutually exclusive.

Intangible Losses

Loss of
Personal
Autonomy

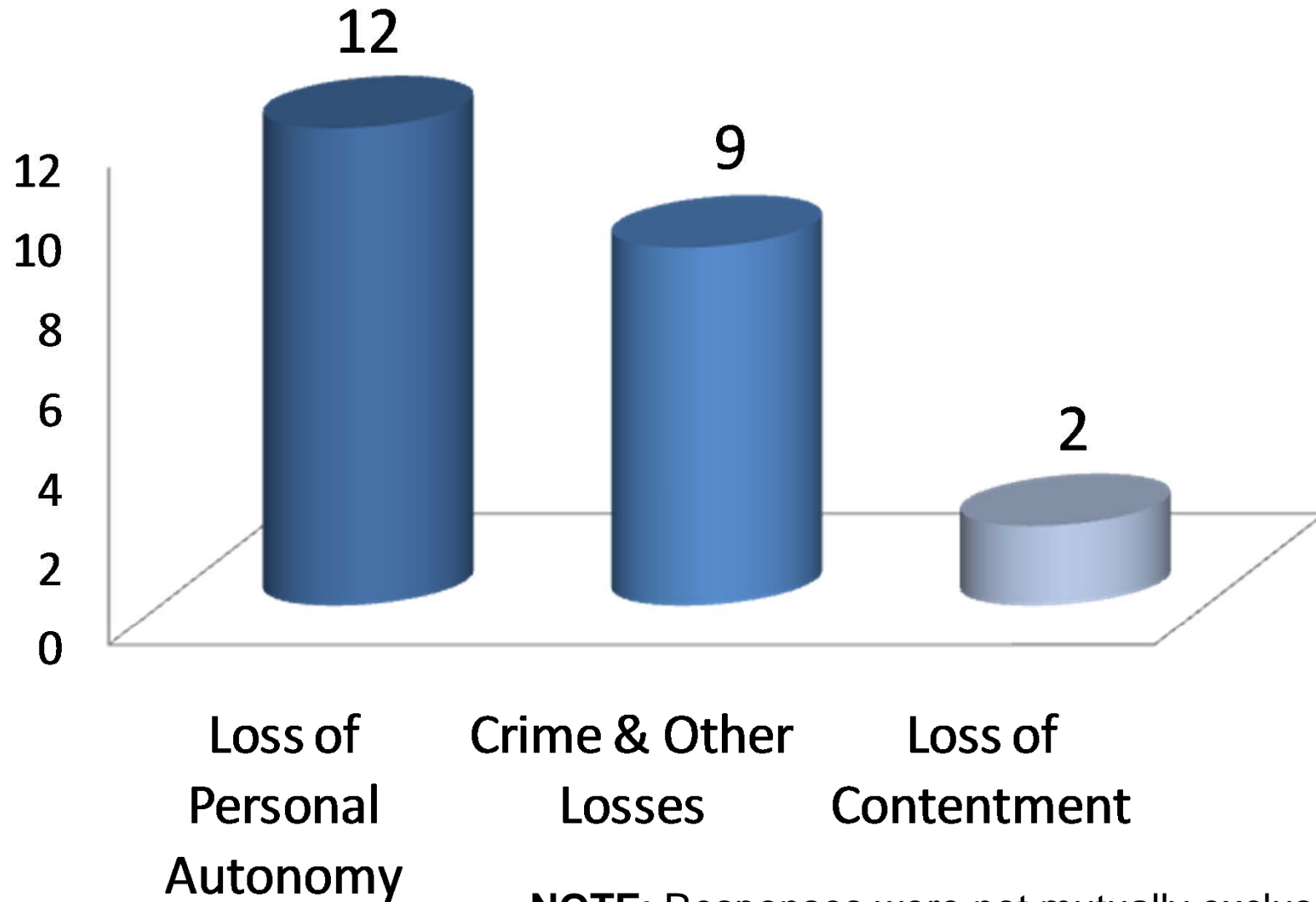
Crime

Loss of
Contentment



Jocelyn Augustino FEMA Photo

Intangible Losses



NOTE: Responses were not mutually exclusive.

Family & Social Disruption

Loss of Contact
W/Family

Separation of
Families

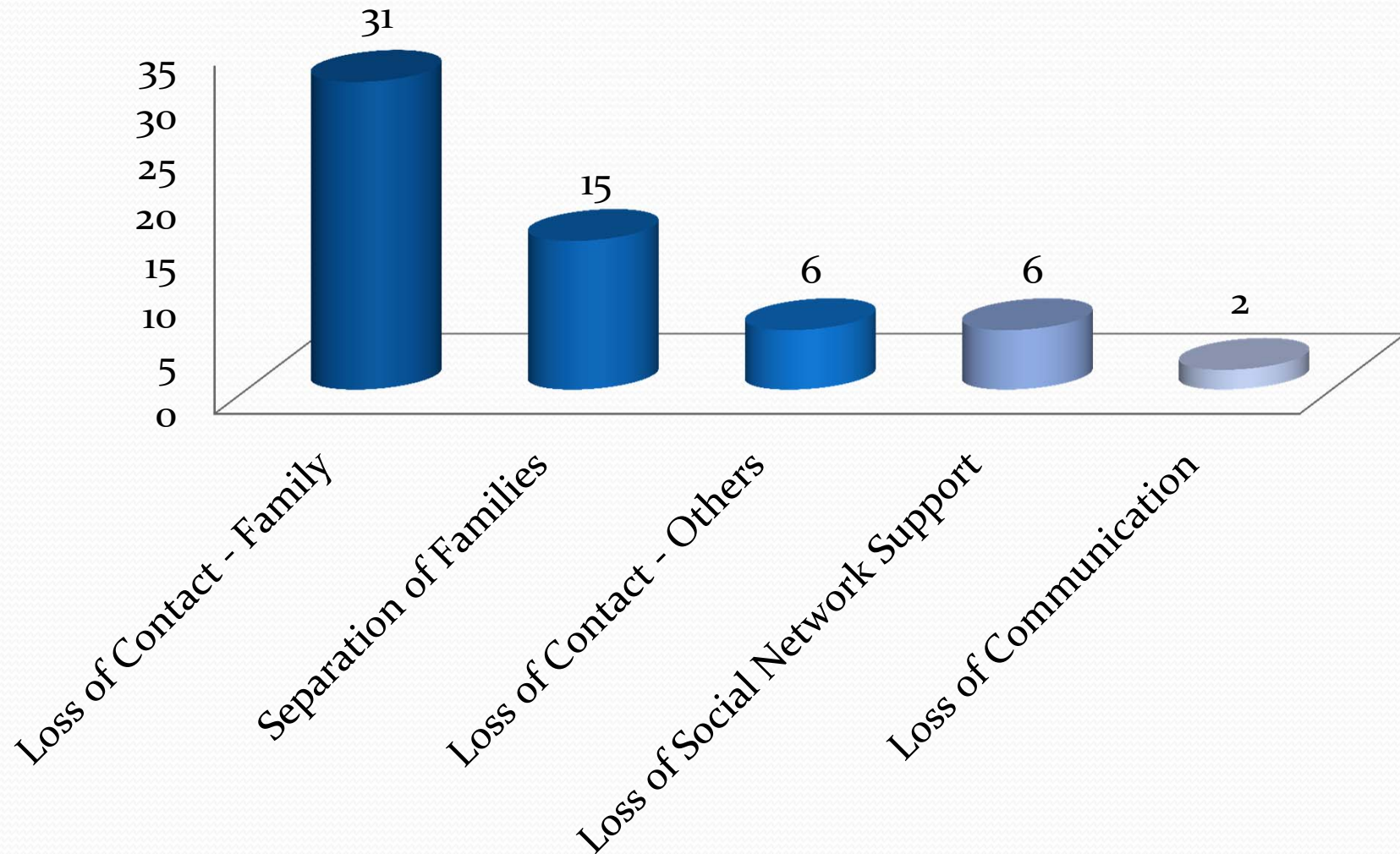
Loss of Contact
W/Others

Loss of Social
Network

Loss of
Communication

"I have four sons; two of them have been displaced as well as my husband and I."

Family & Social Disruption



NOTE: Responses were not mutually exclusive.

Hopes & Dreams

- Going Home (52/117)
- Resting Hopes & Dreams (51/117)
- The Lost of Hopes & Dreams (4/117)

NOTE: KAR4 Responses were not mutually exclusive.

Slide 18

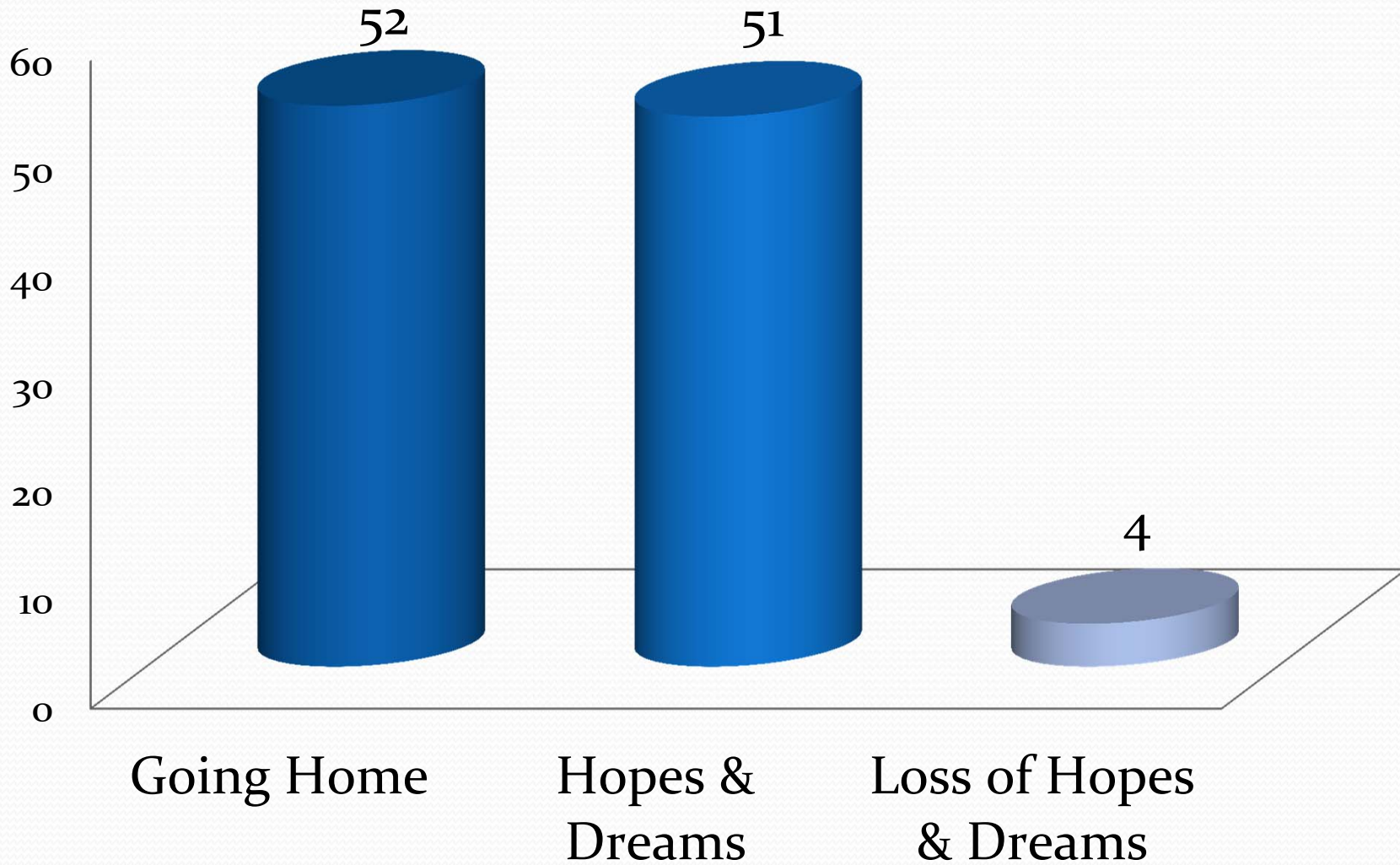
KAR4

Would make font this note and others like it smaller

Karen A. Roberto, 11/15/2010

Hopes & Dreams

KAR



NOTE: Responses were not mutually exclusive.

Slide 19

KAR5

The line graph suggests a drop or change over time, but really the responses are all at one time -- I would use a bar graph as in previous slides

Karen A. Roberto, 11/15/2010

Going Home

Desire to go Home

"My dream is to get my house fixed and get back there and try to live the rest of this life out because you know at my age you can't start all over again. You got to pick up where you left off you know."

Obstacles in Going Home

Repair home

Rent

Job/Income

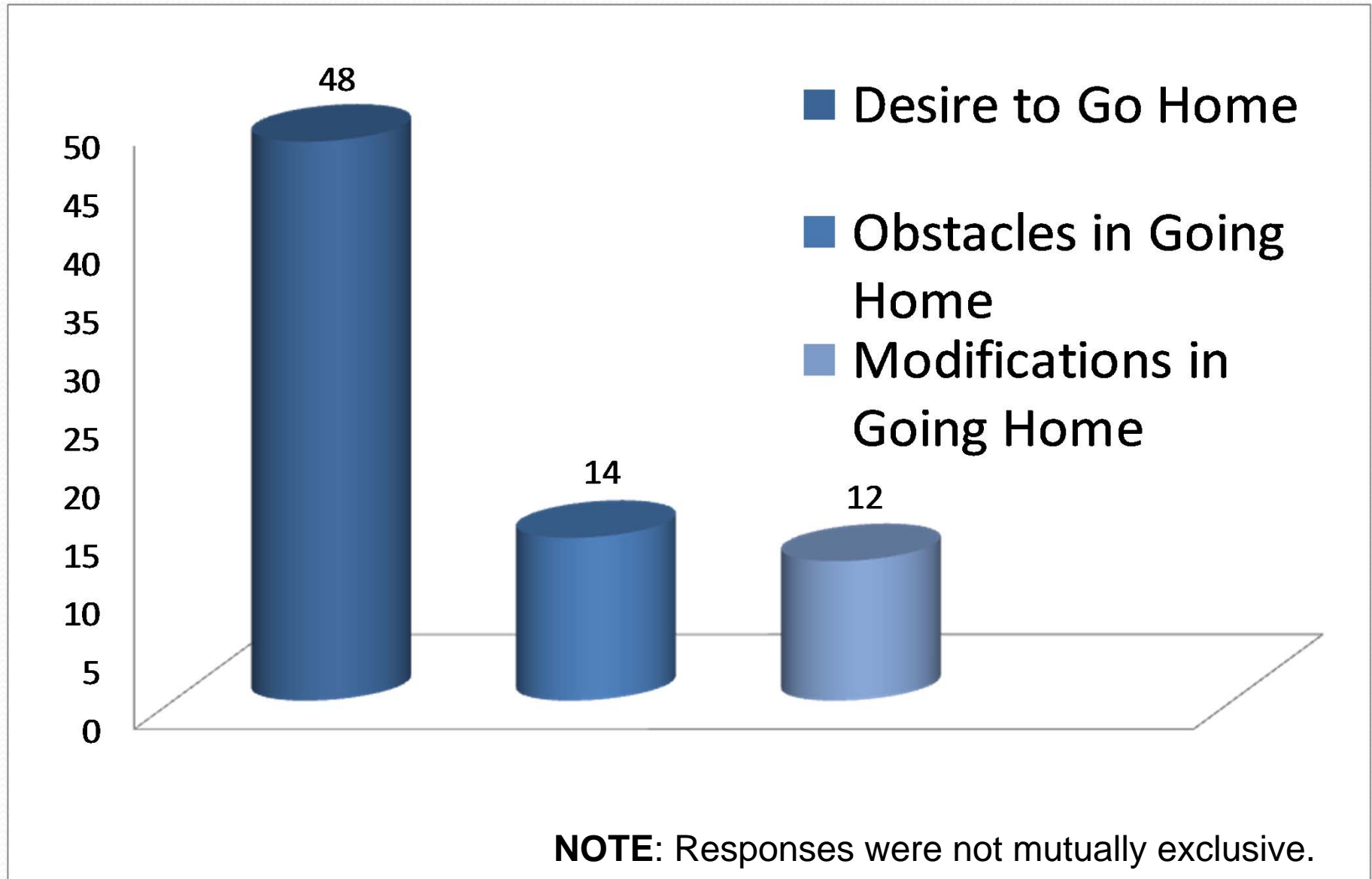
Inoperable Businesses

Modifications in Going Home

Relocation

Not returning to previous home

Going Home



Hopes & Dreams

Better life

Return to
pre-HK life

Better
Health

Better
State/City

To retire

Not see
another
hurricane/
storm

Start over

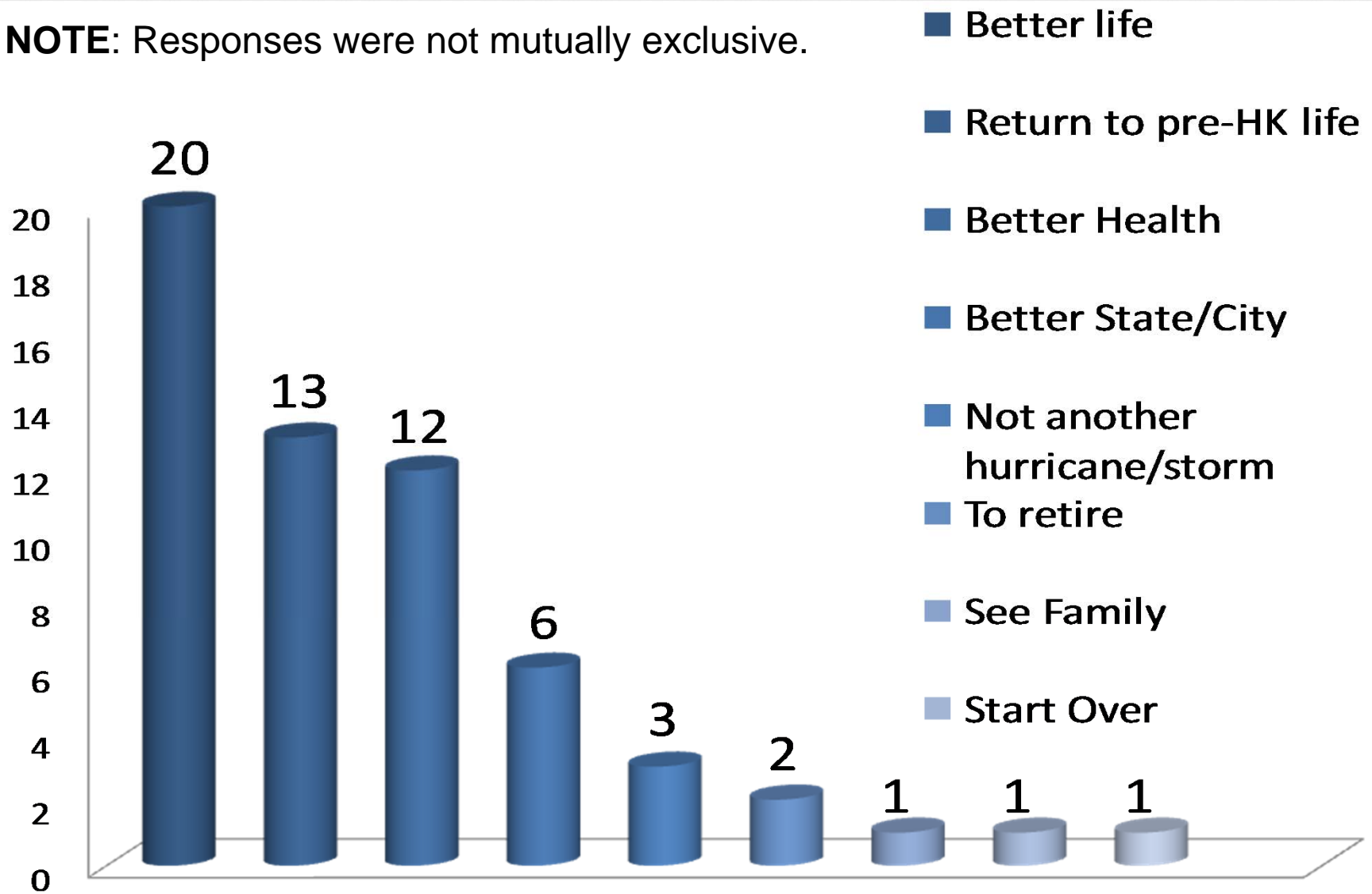
Get out of
the
Situation

See family
again

"Well, I hope I can move back to New Orleans and get my house repaired and start living in it. Start living my life, a real good life."

Hopes & Dreams

NOTE: Responses were not mutually exclusive.



Loss of Hopes & Dreams

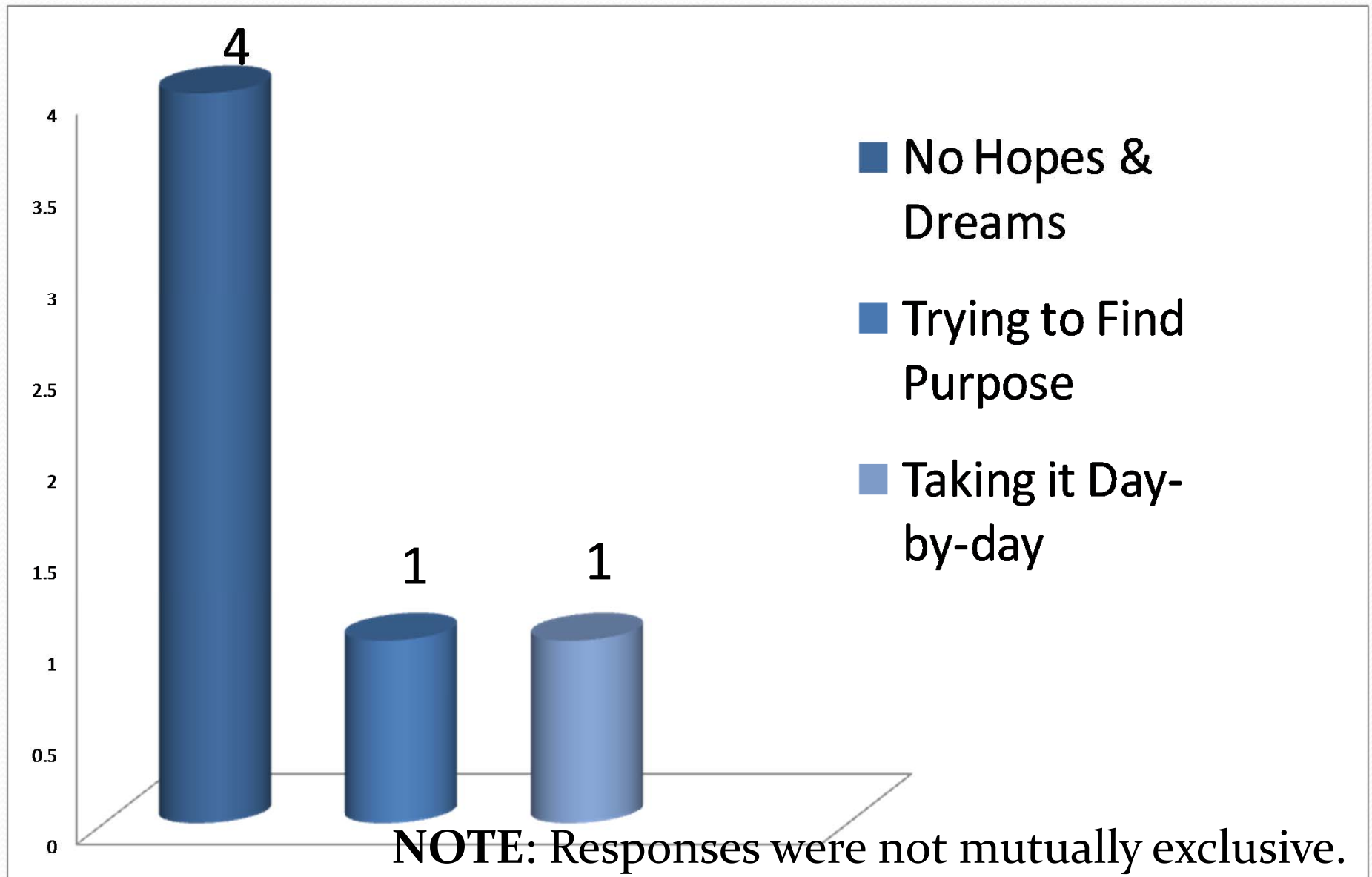
No hopes
& dreams

Trying to
find a
purpose

Taking it
day-by-day

"I have none. I have no purpose. I am trying to find a purpose."

Loss of Hopes & Dreams



Summary

- **Losses**

- Tangible & Intangible Losses
- Family and Social Disruption.

- **Hopes & Dreams**

- Going Home,
- Resting on Hopes and Dreams
- The Loss of Hopes and Dreams.

Summary

- **Personal Items**
- **Personal Autonomy**
- **Going Home**
- **Resting on Hopes and Dreams**

Discussion



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Slide 29

KAR6

insert "and"

Karen A. Roberto, 11/15/2010