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## Background

- ◆ The successful resettlement of refugee youth as fully participating Australian citizens is desirable for the individuals concerned, their families, communities, and society at large.
- ◆ Although some refugee youth overcome substantial difficulties, to contribute to the enrichment of Australian society, evidence suggests that recently arrived refugee youth face a unique set of challenges not experienced by youth in the general population.

## Major Aims

- To investigate:**
- ➔ Education and employment outcomes among refugee youth aged 15-24 years
  - ➔ Enablers, facilitators and challenges encountered by refugee youth transitioning from school to further education, training and employment
  - ➔ Support systems available to youth facing difficulties **And**
  - ➔ **To influence:** education, training and employment policies and practices

## Method

- Phase 1: Survey**
- Participants**
- ◆ 630 youth aged 15-24 years
  - ◆ From Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia
  - ◆ Studying at Secondary School, TAFE or University
  - ◆ Between 12 months and 15 years in Australia

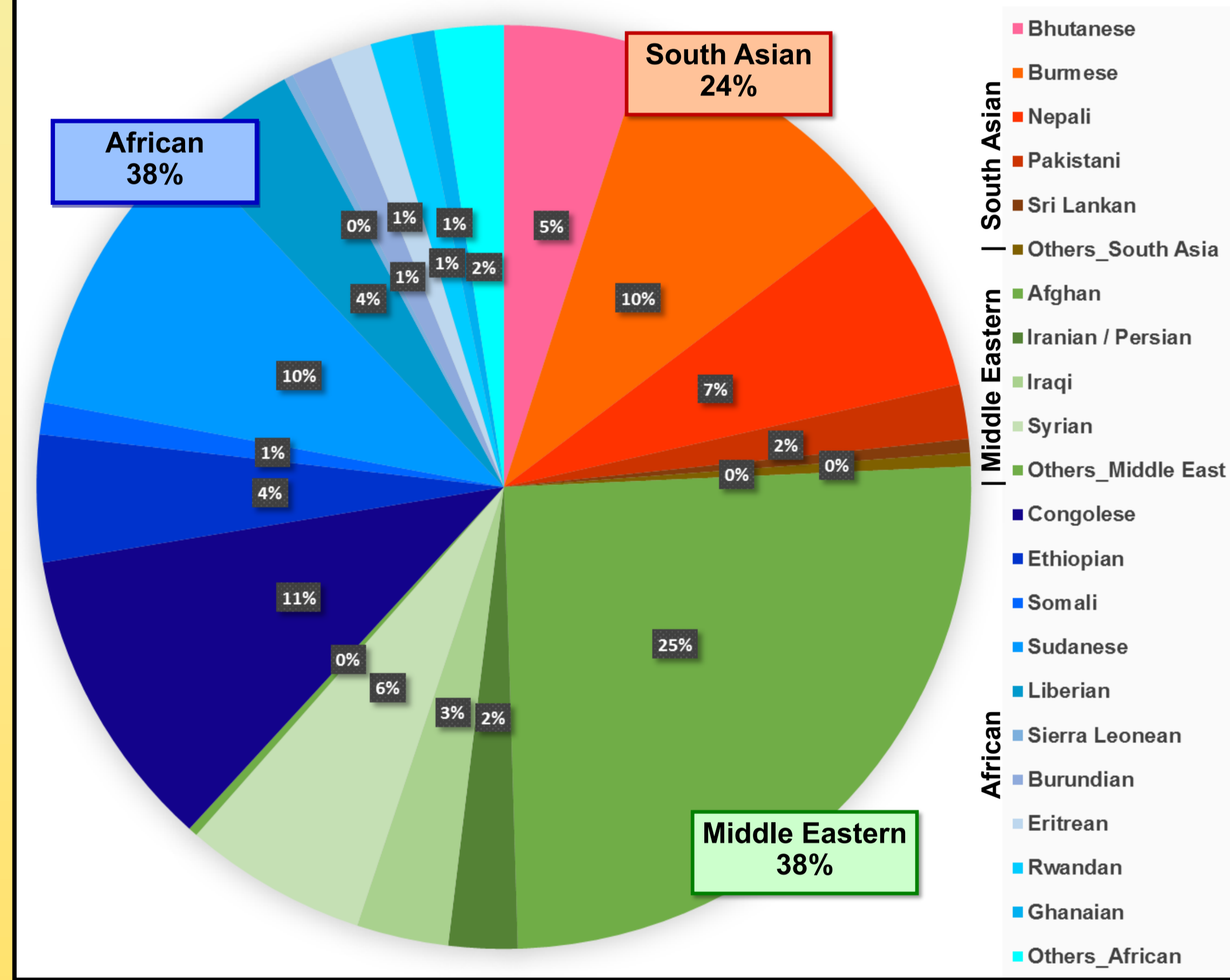
- Measures**
- Survey captured information relating to:
- ◆ (1) Sociodemographic details, (2) acculturation and adaptation, (3) emotional health and well-being, (4) family functioning, (5) educational experiences, (6) help seeking behaviours, & (7) employment and workplace experiences

- Procedure**
- ◆ Questionnaires administered face-to-face to youth participants by trained Bilingual Youth Workers of same or similar cultural backgrounds as participants
- Phase 2: Individual Interviews**
- ◆ 180 semi-structured interviews with youth (60), their parents/ caregivers (60), and their teachers (60) — *currently being conducted*

*This is a 3-year Project, funded by the Australian Research Council (ARC) and conducted in partnership between University of South Australia, University of Adelaide, and industry partners, MYSA & AMRC.*

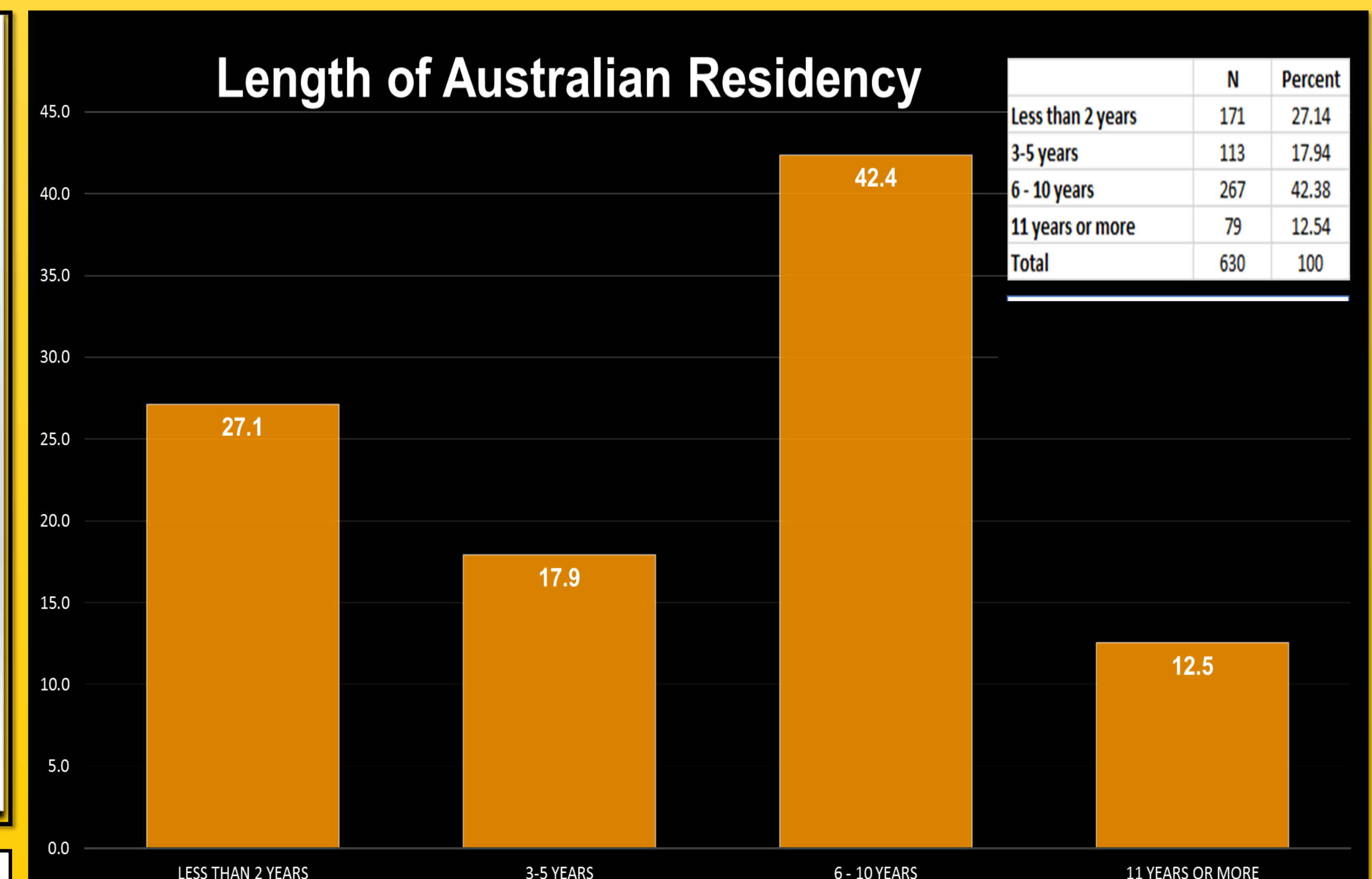
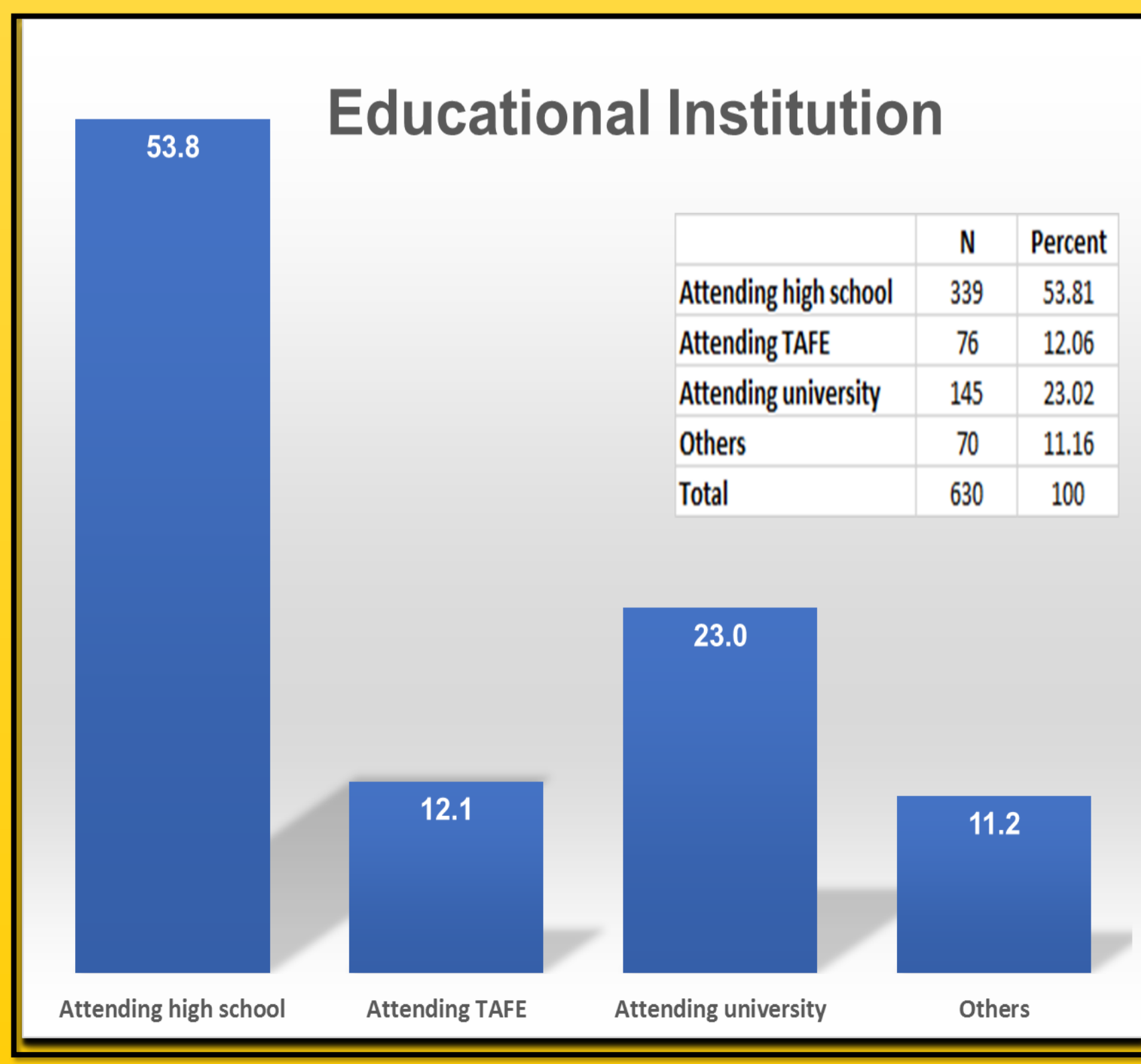


Cultural / Ethnic Background



Correlations	M	SD	N	1	2	3	4	5
1. Integration	4.28	.77	620	-				
2. Self Esteem	3.91	.65	582	.38**	-			
3. Life Satisfaction	3.52	.80	605	.33**	.46**	-		
4. Resilience (CD_RISC)	7.31	1.44	591	.31**	.52**	.38**	-	
5. Perceived Discrimination	2.15	.83	594	-.25**	-.24**	-.16**	-.12**	-
6. Psychological distress (K10)	19.88	7.80	562	-.16**	-.40**	-.28**	-.30**	.32**

Note: \*\* Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).



## Preliminary Findings

- ◆ **'Integration':**  
Youth 'integration' was positively related to 'Self Esteem' (.38\*\*), 'Life Satisfaction' (.33\*\*) and 'Resilience' (.31\*\*); and negatively related to 'Perceived Discrimination' (-.25\*\*), and 'Psychological Distress' (-.16\*\*).
  - Note: *'Broadly, according to Berry (2006), 'integration' is the preference for biculturalism.*
  - ◆ **'Length of Australian Residency':**  
Youth who had resided longer in Australia reported perceiving more discrimination (.19\*\*) but experiencing less psychological distress (-.09\*) than others.
  - ◆ **'Resilience' (CD-RISC):**  
Youth reporting higher levels of resilience were integrating more into Australian society (.31\*\*) and perceiving less discrimination (-.12\*\*) than others.
  - ◆ **'Psychological Distress' (K10):**  
Youth experiencing greater psychological distress were also perceiving greater discrimination (.32\*\*) and integrating less into Australian society (-.16\*\*) than others.
- Note: \*\* Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed). \* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

**References**

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