



## Objective

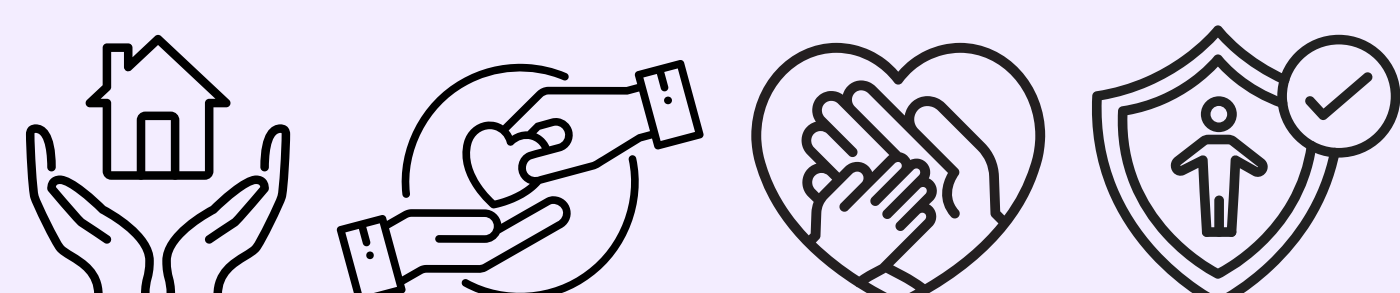
- To evaluate San Diego's Unsafe Camping Ordinance (UCO) and the policy's perceived impacts on homeless populations

## Background

- UCO passed in July 2023, heavily inspired by Los Angeles County's "Inside Safe" policy<sup>1</sup>
  - UCO bans camping within a two-block radius of schools, homeless shelters, transportation hubs, public parks, canyons, and riverbeds, regardless of available shelter space<sup>2</sup>
  - "Inside Safe" suffered high operational costs, limited long-term results, and heightened homeless-police tensions
- Similarly, the UCO expanded police power over San Diego homeless encampments allowing:
  - Seizure of property<sup>2</sup>
  - Ticketing
  - Arresting<sup>3</sup>
- According to outside literature, the Department of Justice acknowledges increased homeless discomfort and mistrust towards law enforcement due to many intersectional factors that are less applicable to social workers<sup>4</sup>
- No current quantitative analysis of bill despite parallels to LA's high risk policy

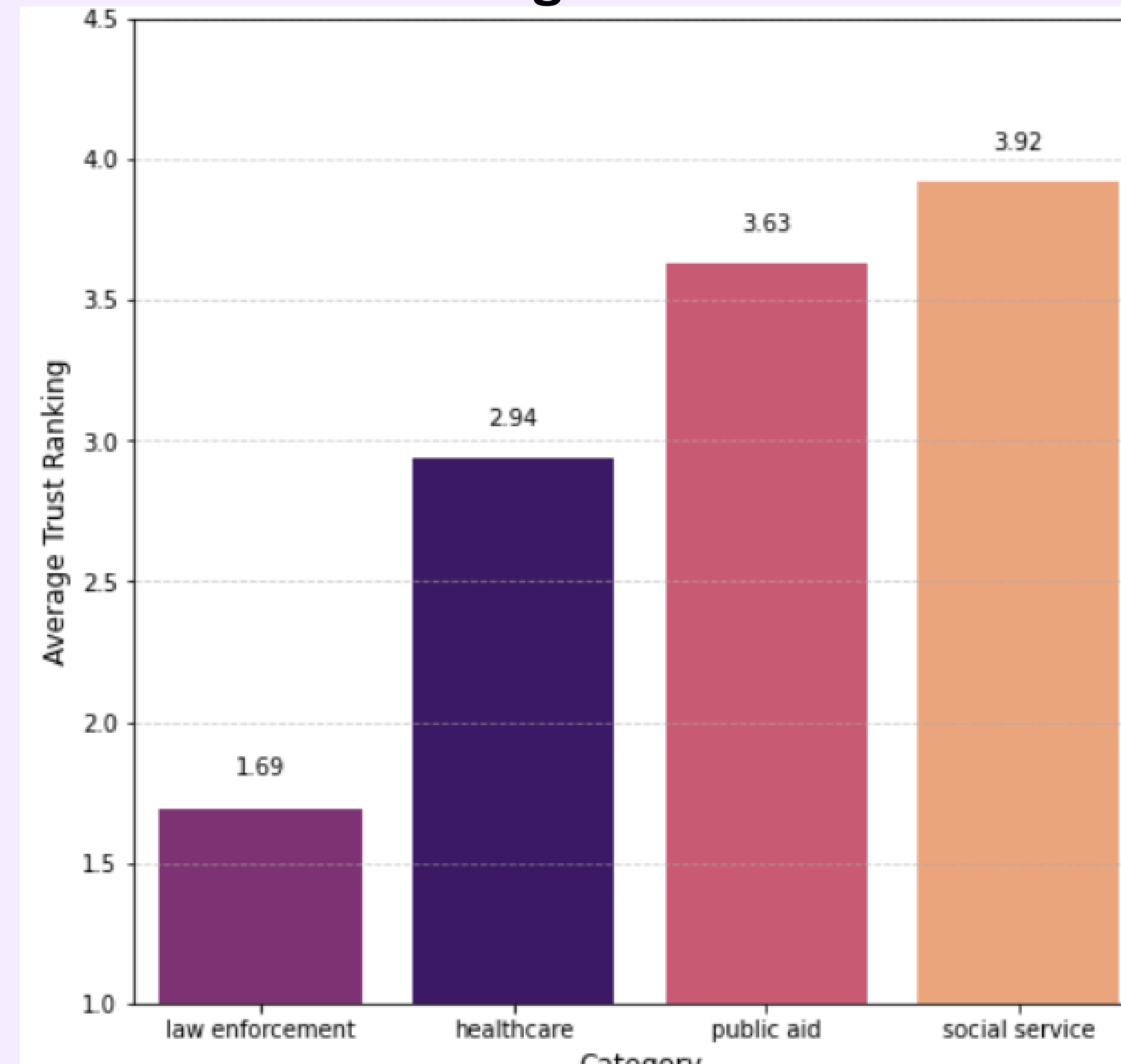
## Methods

- Recruitment was done via Instagram, Reddit, and direct emailing to UCSD homeless-affiliated organizations, purposive sampling from homeless support organizations.
- Surveyed UCSD students working with the homeless as proxies for gauging homeless sentiment
- The 5-10 minute Google Form asked short answer questions and Likert scales (rating perceptions on a 1-5 scale, with 1 seeing a great decrease and 5 a great increase in trust in government agencies)
- Collected quantitative and qualitative data: quantitative wrangled using Excel, to then perform exploratory analyses through Python. Seaborn and Numpy data packages used for data analysis, scipy.stats on biostatistics. Qualitative data collected with free-responses for responder perceptions on the policy's observed impacts
- A Chi-Square test for independence is performed to evaluate the overall association between changes in trust following UCO implementation



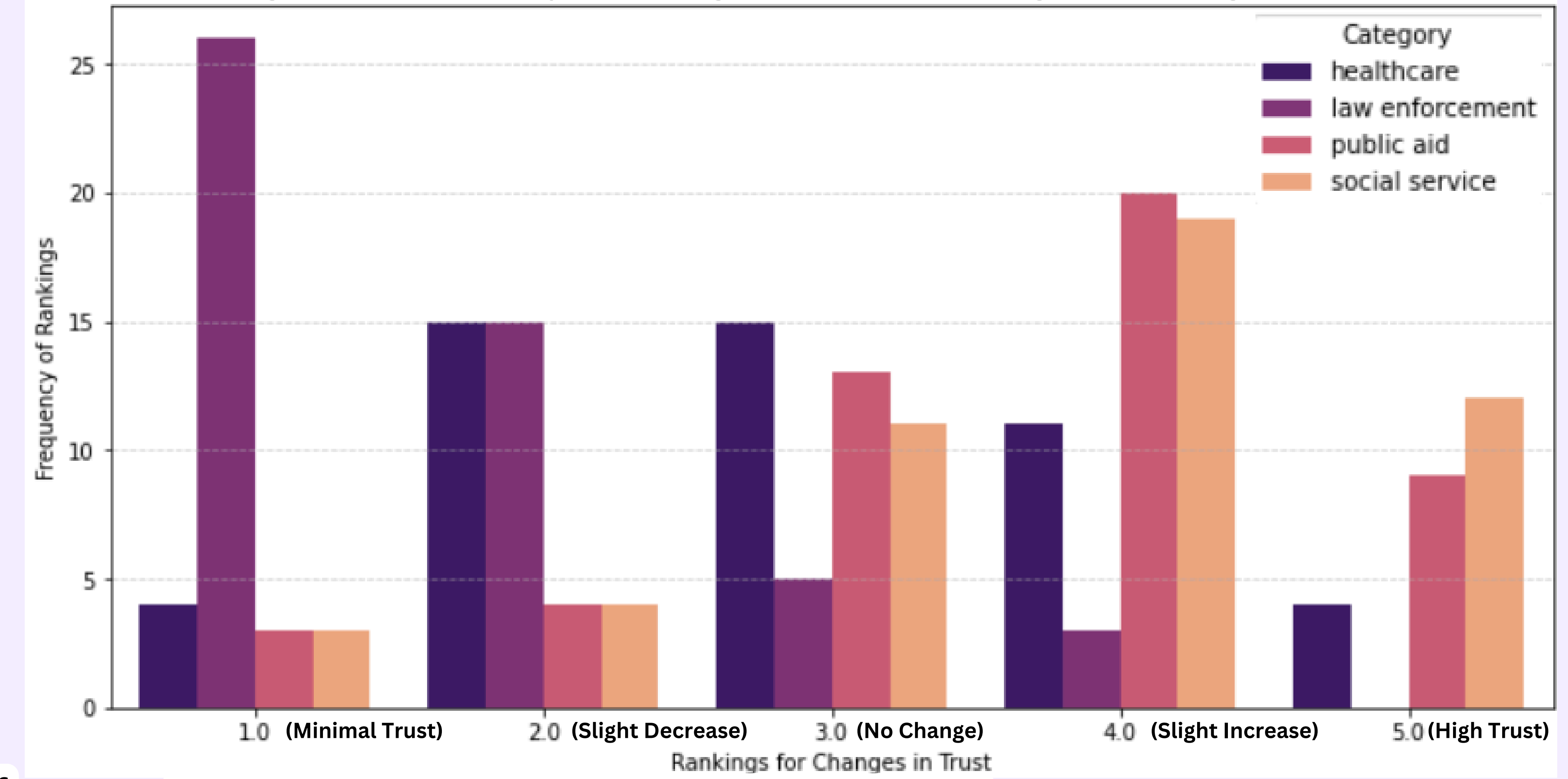
## Results

**Figure 1: Average Trust Ranking Across Agencies Following UCO Enactment**



- Based on series of Likert scales measuring trust of 4 types of government agencies, social services were perceived with the greatest level of trust while law enforcement the least

**Figure 2: Frequency of Changes in Trust Rankings Across Agencies**



- Decline in all government agencies, except for social services
  - Most critical in law enforcement and healthcare
  - Growing concerns over public aid credibility
  - Social services scored highest and most frequently in gained trust, supported by quantitative data

**Table 1: Sociodemographics**

N = 63	
Familiarity with UCO	
n (%)	
Familiar	15 (23.8%)
Somewhat Familiar	29 (46%)
Unfamiliar	19 (30.2%)
Organization Affiliation of Most Responders	
UCSD Homelessness Services Org.	16 (25.4%)
UCSD's Circle K	8 (13.7%)
UCSD's Alpha Phi Omega	7 (11.1%)
Street Corner Care	5 (8%)
Other Various UCSD Organizations	6 (9.5%)
Other Various non- UCSD Organizations	21 (32.3%)

**Figure 3: Perceived Trust Comments by Agency**

"Any organizations that could be considered governmental have lost great trust." - Public Aid

"Our [homeless] see police as adversaries seeking to harm and arrest them and dispose of their possessions. They avoid them at all cost." - Law Enforcement

"Volunteers are sometimes the most genuine when dealing with sensitive stigmatized populations" - Social Services

"Even doctors lost trust due to fears of collateral and denouncing." - Healthcare

## Conclusions

- Drawing similar influences on "Inside Safe" trust aftereffects, the policy risks major social backlash and counter-activism<sup>1</sup>
- Qualitatively, responders expressed doubt toward all San Diego government agencies as a whole due to the policy's expansion of police power and perceived affect on the homeless trust in homeless support agencies<sup>4</sup>
- Results support phenomenon of increasing tensions between law enforcement and homeless workers, while government-unaffiliated social service providers are making major steps in improving correspondence and cooperation with homeless populations.

## Implications

- Decreased homeless trust may negatively impact use of supportive services and worsen health outcomes, such as reduction in herd immunity
- Respondents calling for continued support:
  - Increasing eligibility for housing opportunities, and decriminalization of camping
  - Sustainable, accessible, inclusive temporary housing
  - Predicted to be more efficient incentive than current policing