



WINDSOR-ESSEX
COMMUNITY
**OPIOID &
SUBSTANCE**
STRATEGY

WECOSS Treatment and Recovery Working Group Meeting

**Monday, September 22nd from
1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

2025 Project Update

Opioid Agonist Therapies (OATs) Needs Assessment Survey Results

Presentation Agenda



GOALS

The GOAL of the survey:

*“What are the training needs of **community service providers*** in order to provide more eligible **clients**** with access to Opioid Agonist Therapies (OATs)?”*

**Community service providers include all those who work with people who use drugs (PWUD).*

***Clients are defined as people who use opioids, specifically.*

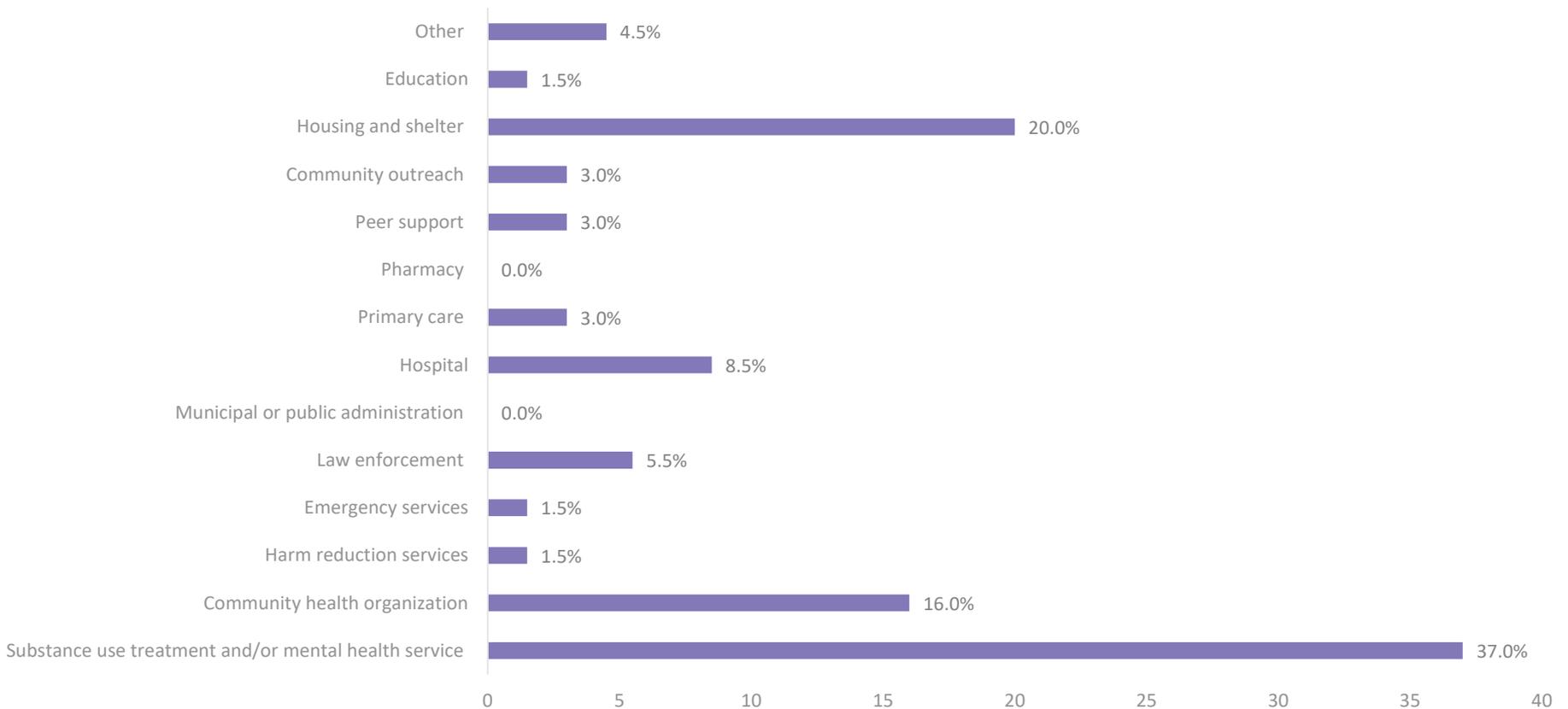
SURVEY COMPLETION

	Description	Responses
Total Number of “Complete” Surveys	Total whom answered “Yes” to being a frontline service provider and filled out the Likert scales to determine learning needs.	70
Total Semi-Complete Surveys	Total of those who said “no” to being a frontline service provider; but were also able to give pertinent information to the survey goal in open-ended questions	14
Total Eligible Surveys	Total surveys with information pertinent to the survey goal.	84

SURVEY RESPONDENTS

Q: What type of organization or sector do you represent?

(n=70, total complete surveys)



SURVEY RESULTS (N=70)

Questions on the Survey (Likert) Scales	% Disagree or Neutral
Q1: 'I have a clear understanding of what OAT is and how it works'	33%
Q2: 'I am confident in my ability to have conversations with my clients/patients about OAT'	39%
Q3: 'I am aware of inclusive and respectful language to use when talking about OAT or those assessing OAT'	19%
Q4: 'I know when it's appropriate to connect a client/patient to OAT'	41%
Q5: 'I am aware of the various OAT options available in the community and how they differ'	49%
Q6: 'I have the knowledge and resources to make appropriate referrals to OAT'	29%
Q7: 'I feel confident supporting clients/patients using OAT in their recovery journey'	19%

SUMMARY OF LIKERT SCALE RESULTS

Strengths:

- Person-centered care, inclusive language and honoring lived experiences of clients on OATs.
- Are able to support clients or patients using OAT in their recovery journey.

Learning needs:

- Baseline knowledge of OATs;
- OATs options available in the community and how they differ.
- Initiating conversations with clients/patients about OAT.
- When and how to connect clients to OAT treatment.

Identified Barriers

Are there any barriers that prevent you from offering this support to clients/patients? If so, please describe.

**Only 8/10 respondents who answered “yes” to this question provided a description of barriers*

- Lack of knowledge of/about OATs **(3)**
- Lack of training in counselling clients in OATs **(3)**
- Lack of knowledge on OATs community resources or referral processes **(1)**
- Staffing and funding shortages to complete staff training on OATs **(1)**
- Waitlists for Withdrawal Management facilities and subsequently, OATs **(1)**
- Not my role **(2)**

Topics of Interest from Open-Ended Responses

- **What are Opiate Agonist Therapies (OATs)? (19)**
- **How can I have better conversations with clients concerning OATs? (18)**
- **How can I make a referral for a client to access OATs? (15)**
 - Includes**
 - **Self-referral (no Dr. Rx)**
 - **Rural clients**
 - **Arranging treatment & appointments**

Topics of Interest from Open-Ended Responses

- **Anti-stigma education (13)**, including knowledge of the *Treatment/Abstinence & Harm Reduction Paradox*.
- **Navigation of Systems/Supports for OATs patients (12)**
- **How to provide appropriate service(s) to OAT clients (11)**
- **Barriers to treatment adherence (7)**

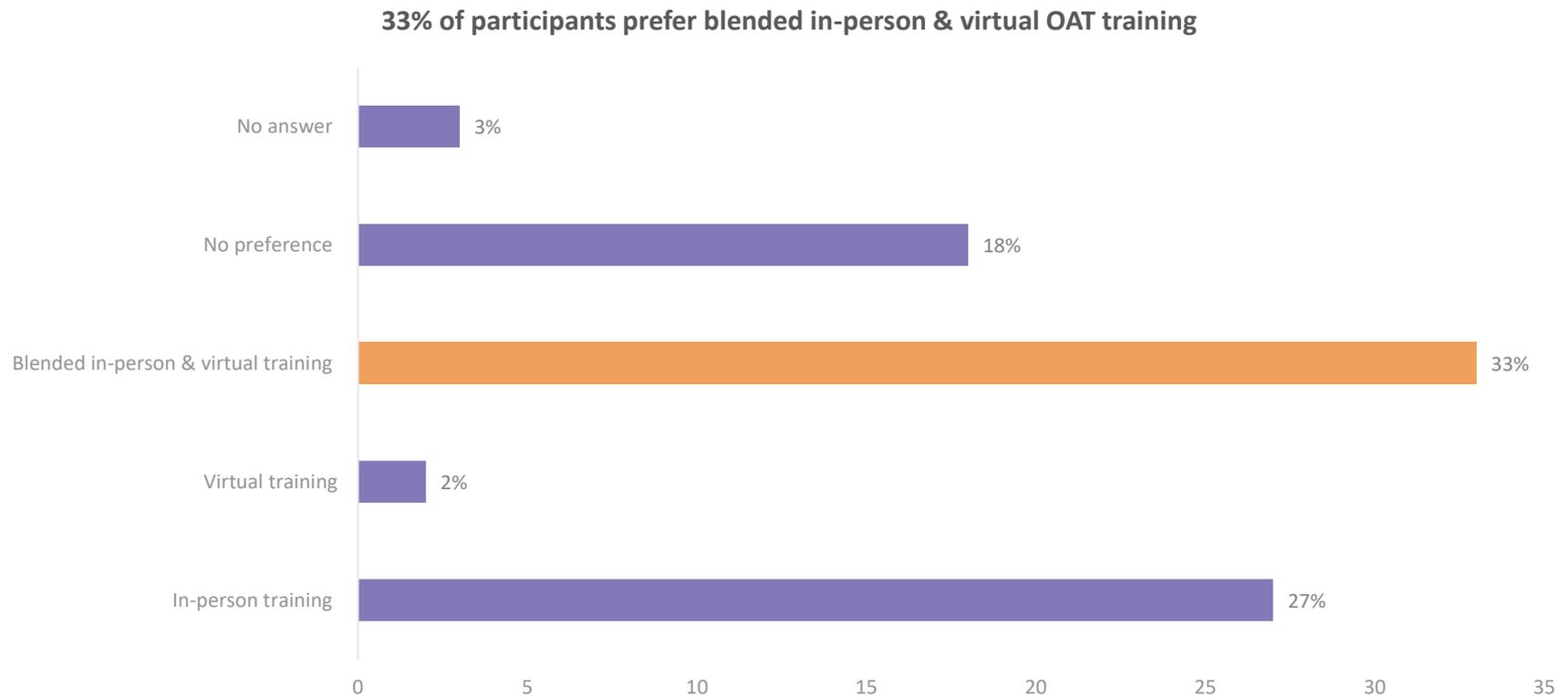
SUMMARY OF OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES

Learning needs:

- What are OATs, including the different options, and how do they work?
- Having conversations with clients/ patients about OAT;
- When and how to make referrals to OAT treatment;
- Anti-stigma education;
- Service Navigation (using a systems lens of SDOH);
- Person-centered, trauma-informed care and ongoing support; and
- Barriers to treatment success.

SURVEY RESULTS: Training Format

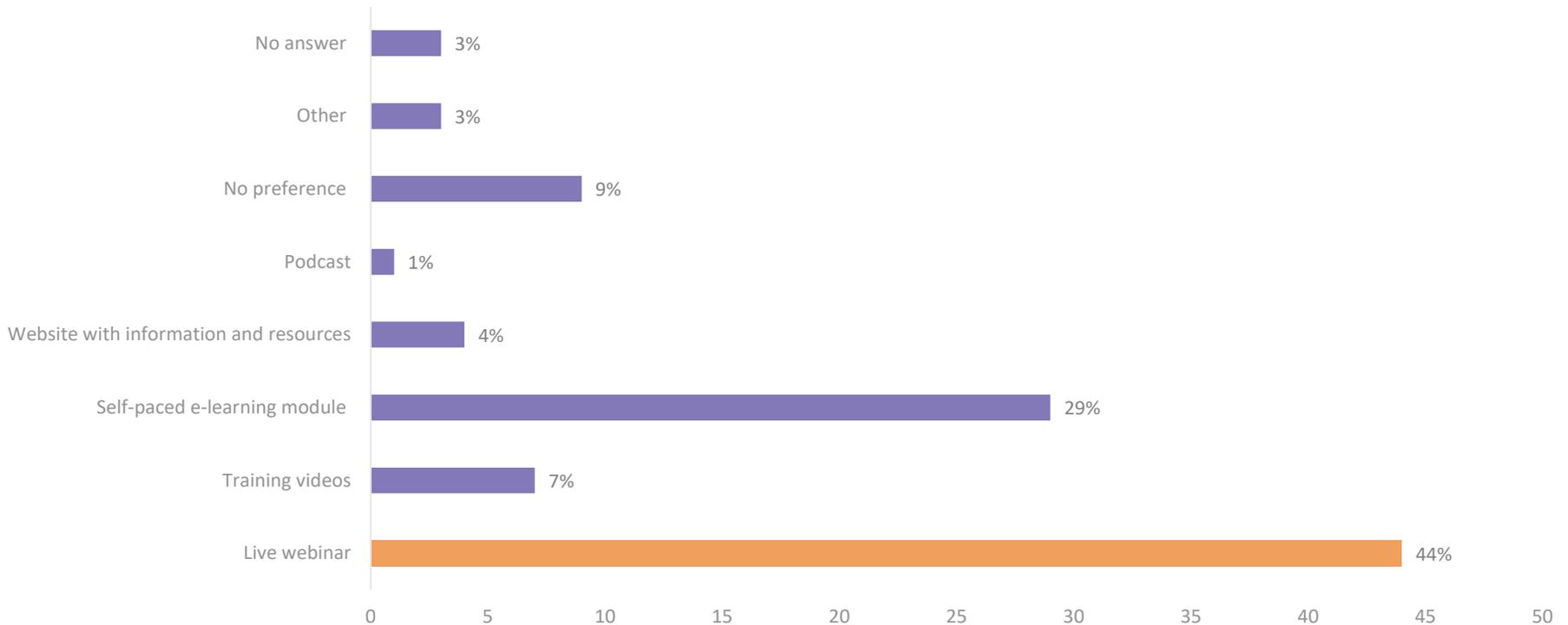
Q: What delivery method do you feel would be most effective for future OATs trainings:



SURVEY RESULTS: Training Format

Q: If you were to attend a virtual OAT training session, what format would interest you the most?

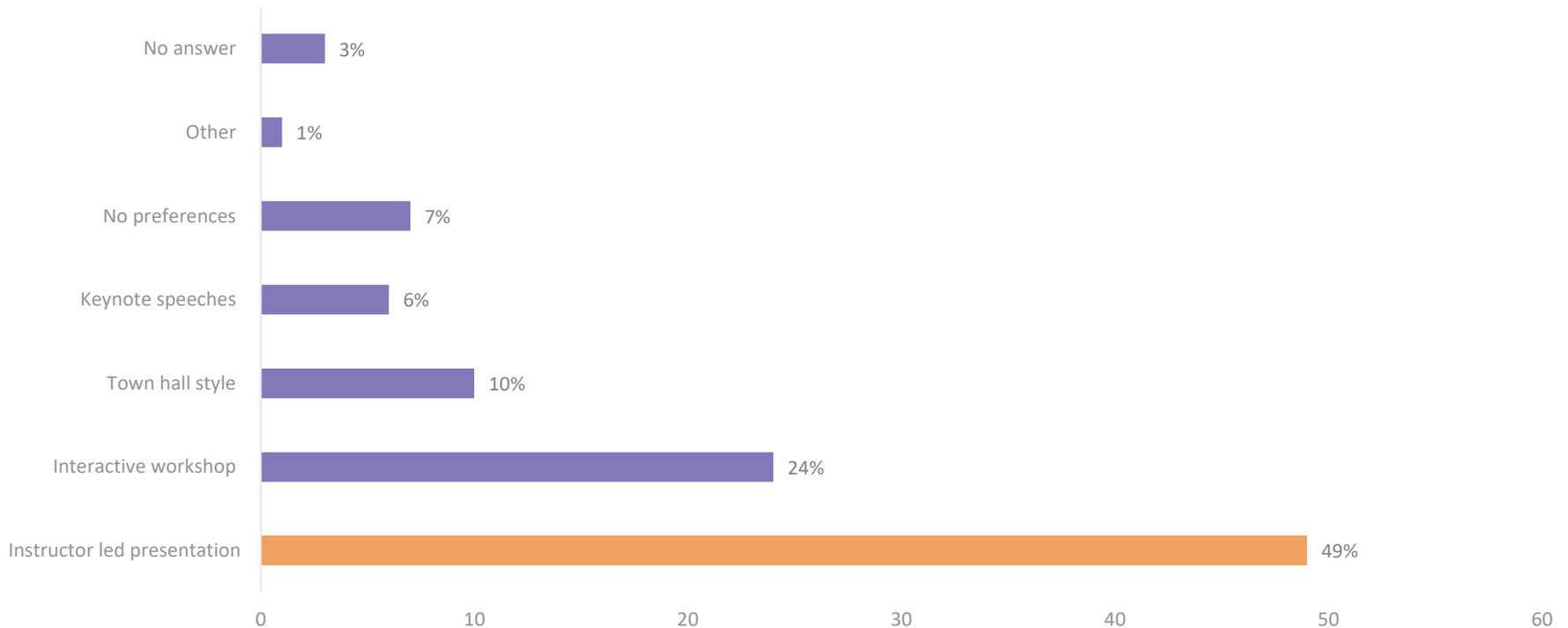
44% of participants prefer a live webinar if they were to attend a virtual OAT training session



SURVEY RESULTS: Training Format

Q: If you were to attend an in-person OAT training session, what format would interest you the most?

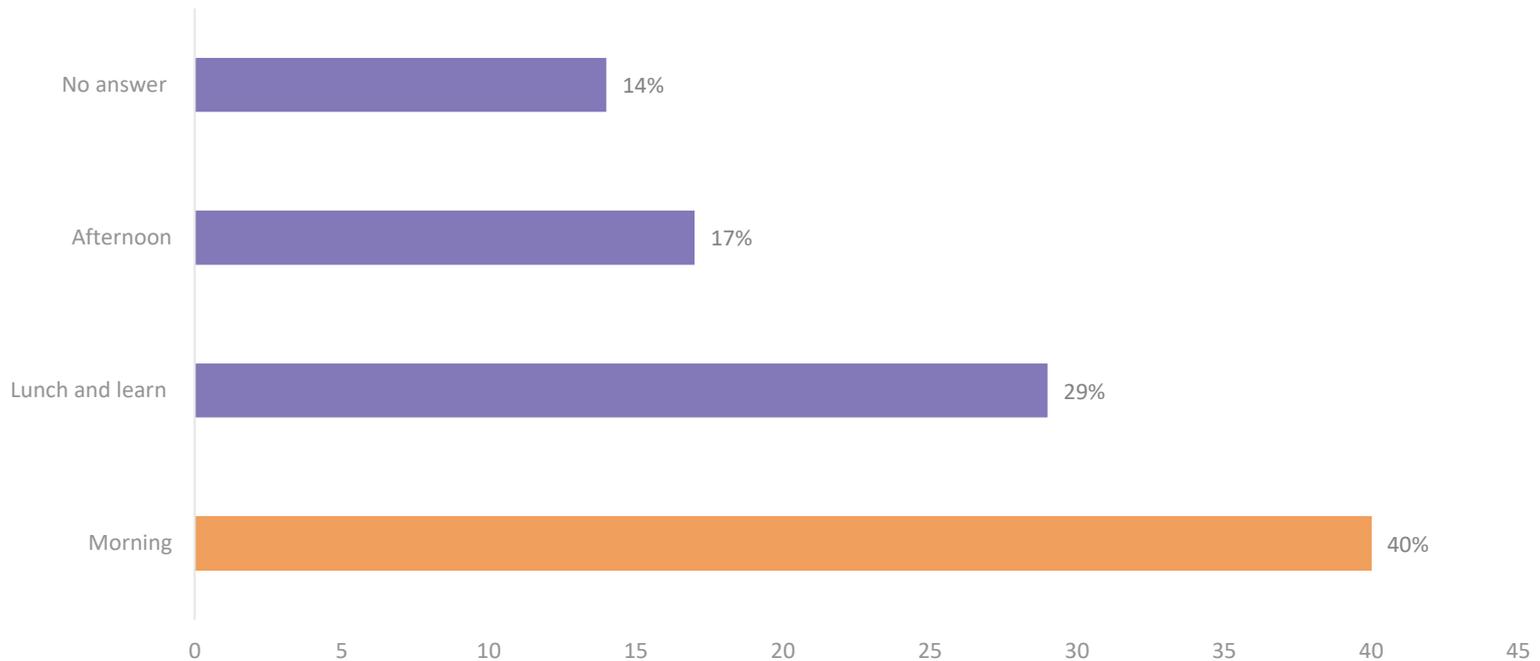
49% of participants prefer an instructor-led-in-person OAT training session



SURVEY RESULTS: Training Format

Q: What time of day would be suitable for OAT training?

40% of participants feel that morning is a suitable time of day for OAT training



SUMMARY OF FORMAT PREFERENCES

- **Offer both in-person and virtual training(s)**
- **Best method: Instructor-led presentations, via live webinars or Lunch & Learns**
- **Best time – Morning and/or lunch hour**

NEXT STEPS

THANK YOU

to all those who participated in the survey.

We will be **moving forward to develop the training** based on these results.

WECOSS Action Plan Consultation

Background

- ❖ For the past four years, the WECOSS has been guided by an action plan from 2021 (2021 Modernization Report).
- ❖ From 2021-2025, the partnership has implemented numerous strategies to address each of the Modernization recommendations and action areas, which have been summarized and shared with the community yearly through our Annual Reports.
- ❖ Now, in 2025, the WECOSS is ready to reposition itself to identify new priorities and areas of focus for the years ahead.
- ❖ A new action plan is being created for the WECOSS, which will include fresh goals and actions for the partnership to achieve over the years to come.
- ❖ The new plan will be informed by a comprehensive community consultation conducted with WECOSS partners and other key stakeholders.

WECOSS Action Plan Consultation

Purpose:

Gather input from the community that will inform the development of a renewed, community-informed action plan for the WECOSS.

Goals:

Identify the most pressing issues and concerns impacting the WEC community as it relates to various forms of substance use.

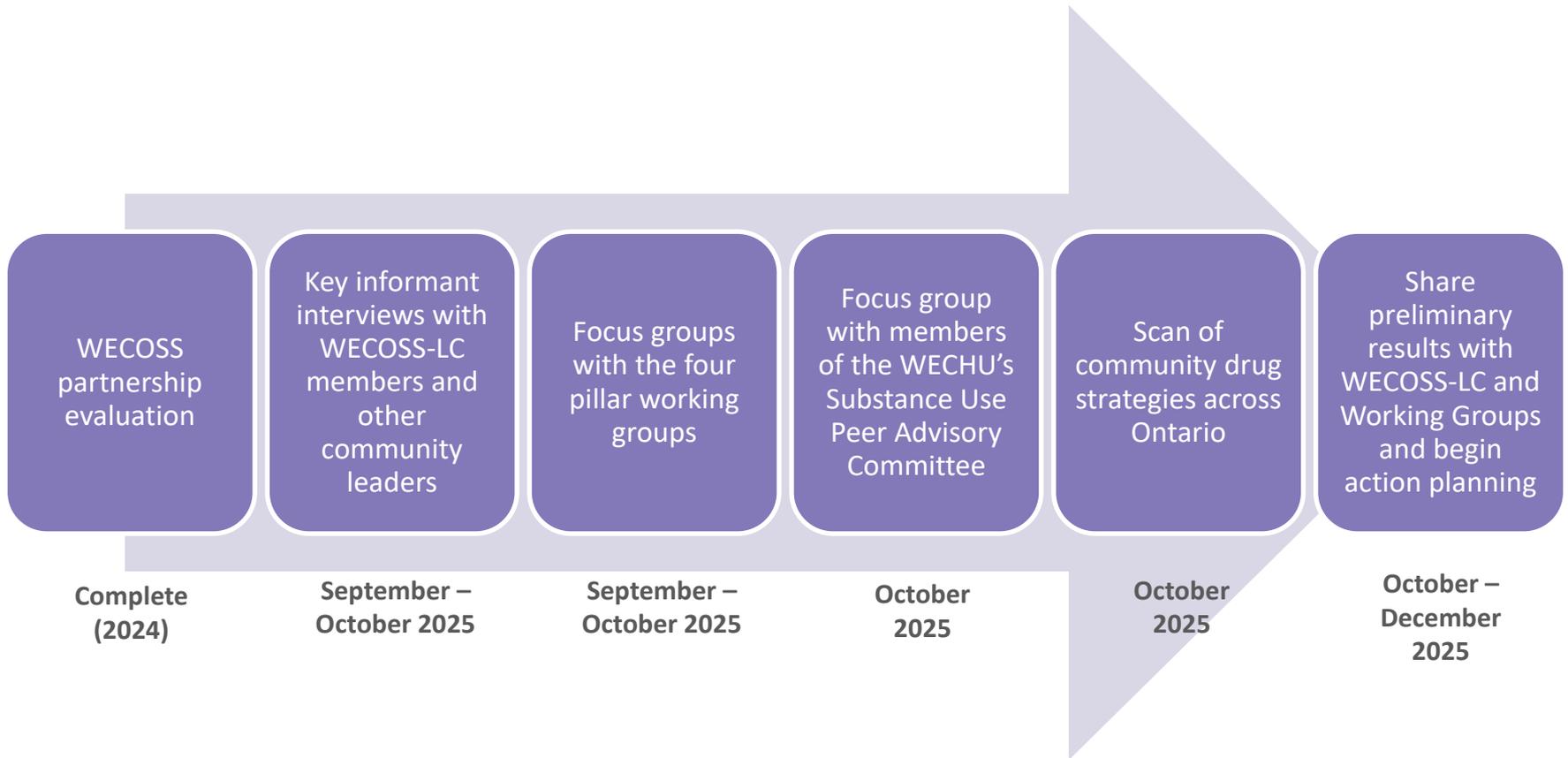
Confirm existing strengths, capacities, and resources currently available to address these concerns at the community level.

Solidify community needs, gaps, and priorities for the WECOSS to address in its future work with community partners.

Define the WECOSS' role in the community by identifying strategies to improve coordination and reduce duplication between the WECOSS and other emerging community initiatives.

Use results from the consultation to generate recommendations guiding the strategic direction for the WECOSS in 2026 and beyond.

Key Activities & Timelines



Treatment and Recovery Working Group

Focus Group

- ❖ During today's meeting, a focus group will be held with TRWG members as part of the action plan consultation.
- ❖ The focus group will allow us to explore the future direction and potential areas of focus for this specific pillar over the years to come.
- ❖ Your feedback is important to us and will help to shape the goals, actions, and recommendations proposed within the new action plan.