

An illustration of a person in a yellow shirt and pink pants climbing a tall, grey, cylindrical tower. The tower is surrounded by a black metal scaffolding structure. At the top of the tower, a yellow key is being placed, with yellow lines radiating from it, suggesting a successful outcome or achievement. The background is a blue sky with a green ground line at the bottom.

**Kathrina Mazurik**  
University of  
Saskatchewan

**Linzi Williamson**  
University of  
Saskatchewan

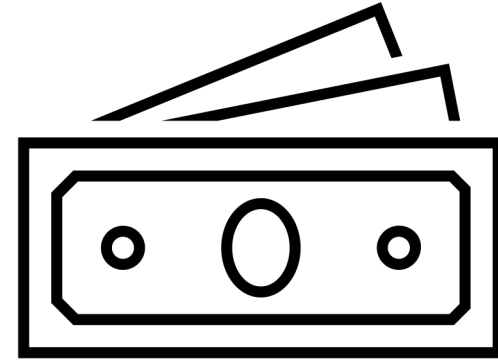
**Sarah Knudson**  
University of  
Saskatchewan

# Scaffolding Undergraduates' Transitions to Adulthood: Benefits of Parental Financial and Housing Support

# Research Context

---

- Financial pressures on Canadian young adults and their families
- Help with housing often provided > age 18
- 35% of Canadians 20-34 living with parents in 2016
- 65% of Canadian parents report helping a child with living expenses > age 18 in 2019




# Literature Review & Objective

- Debt / financial strain typically predicts entries into parents' homes
- Wealth accumulation also a motivation for living with parents
- Drawbacks to receiving financial support
- Paucity of research in Canadian settings
- **Objective:** To explore parental housing support and its connections to the financial lives of undergraduate students in a Canadian context

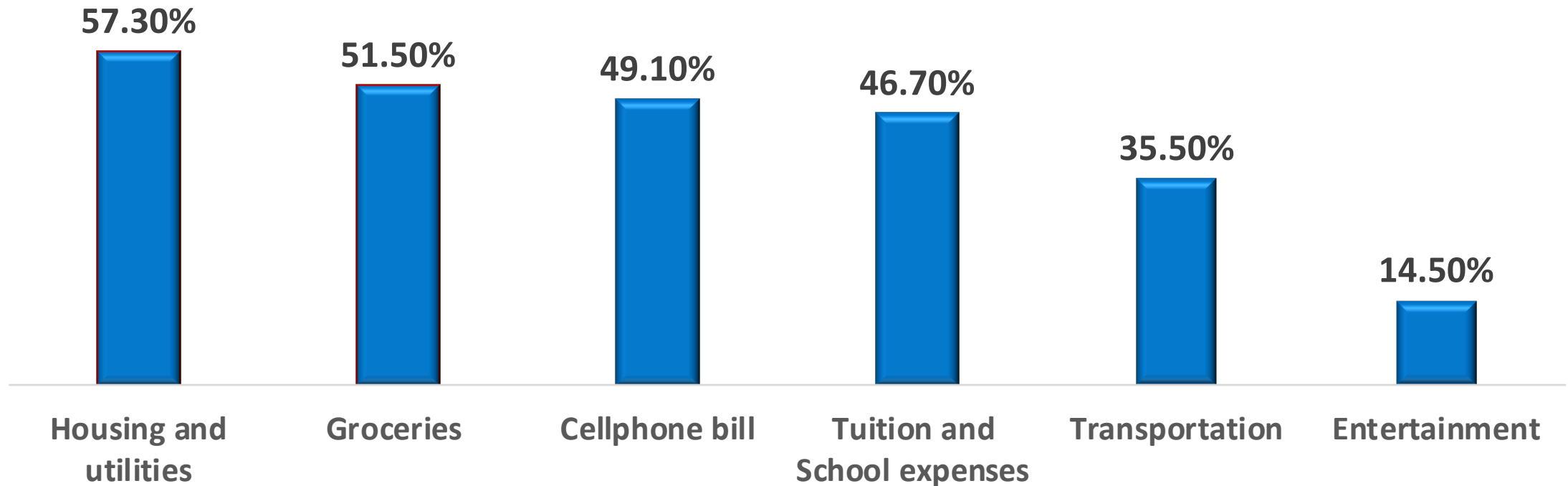
# Methods



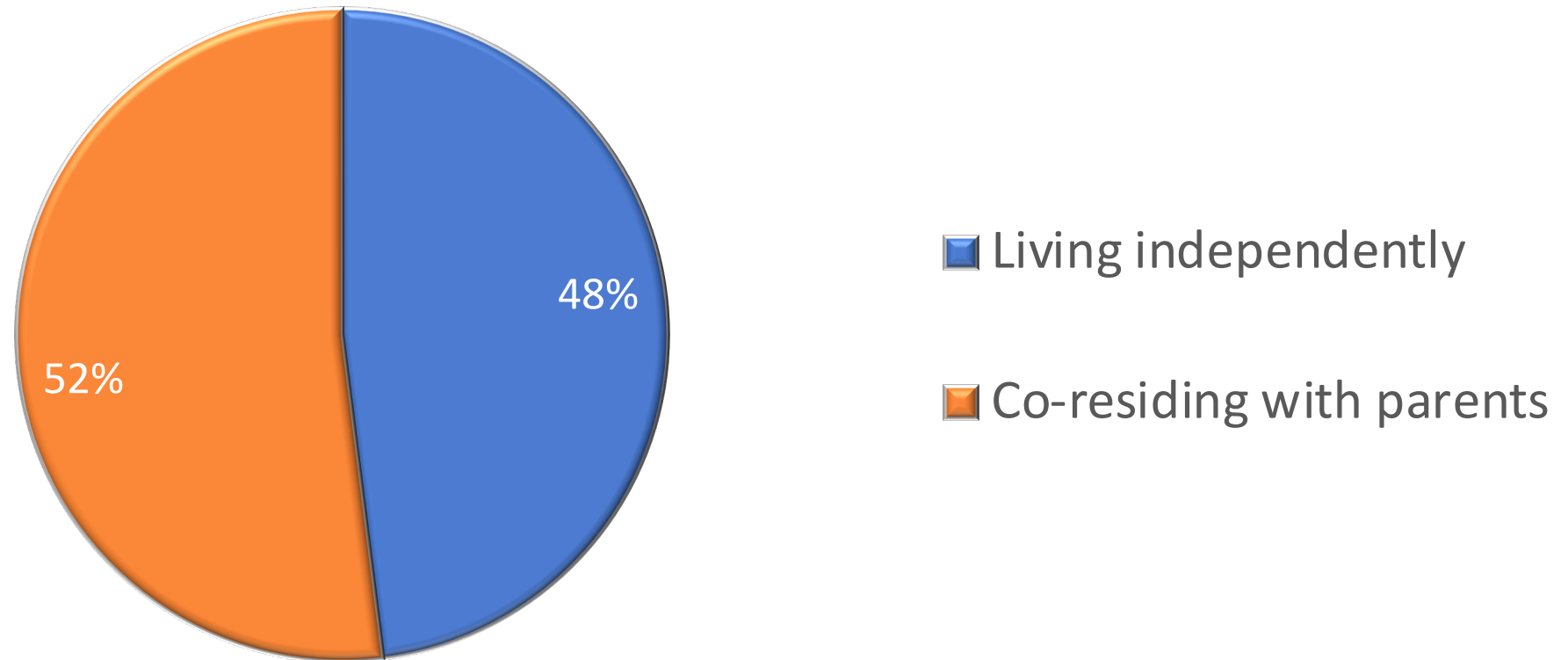
- Online questionnaire conducted in 2018-2019
  - Mid-sized Prairie City in Canada
  - 596 undergraduate students
  - Descriptive (Chi-square) and inferential (ANOVAs) statistics examining three unique housing support scenarios
- 

What forms and amounts of housing support are being received?

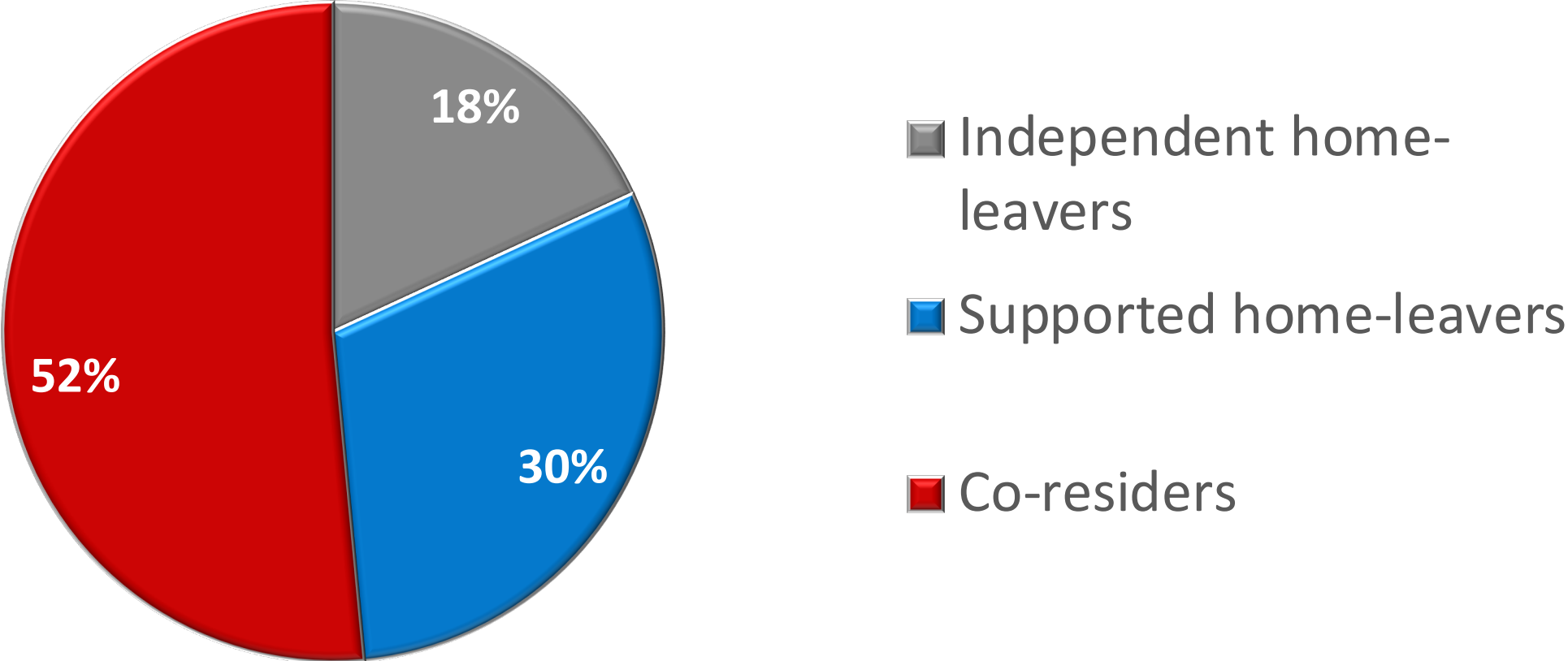
# Which Expenses are Parents Paying Most or All (70-100%) of?



# Housing support by living with parents

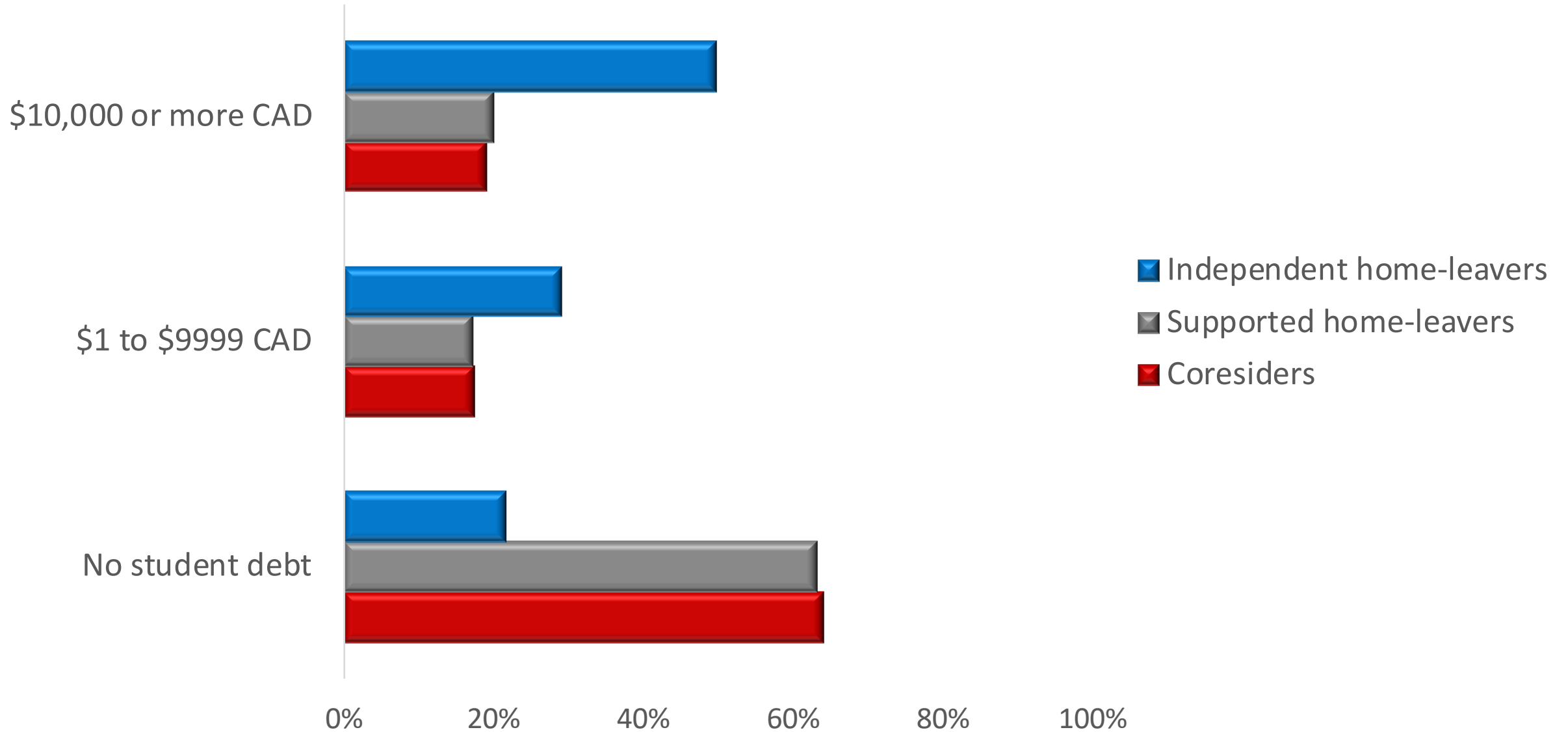


# Three housing support scenarios

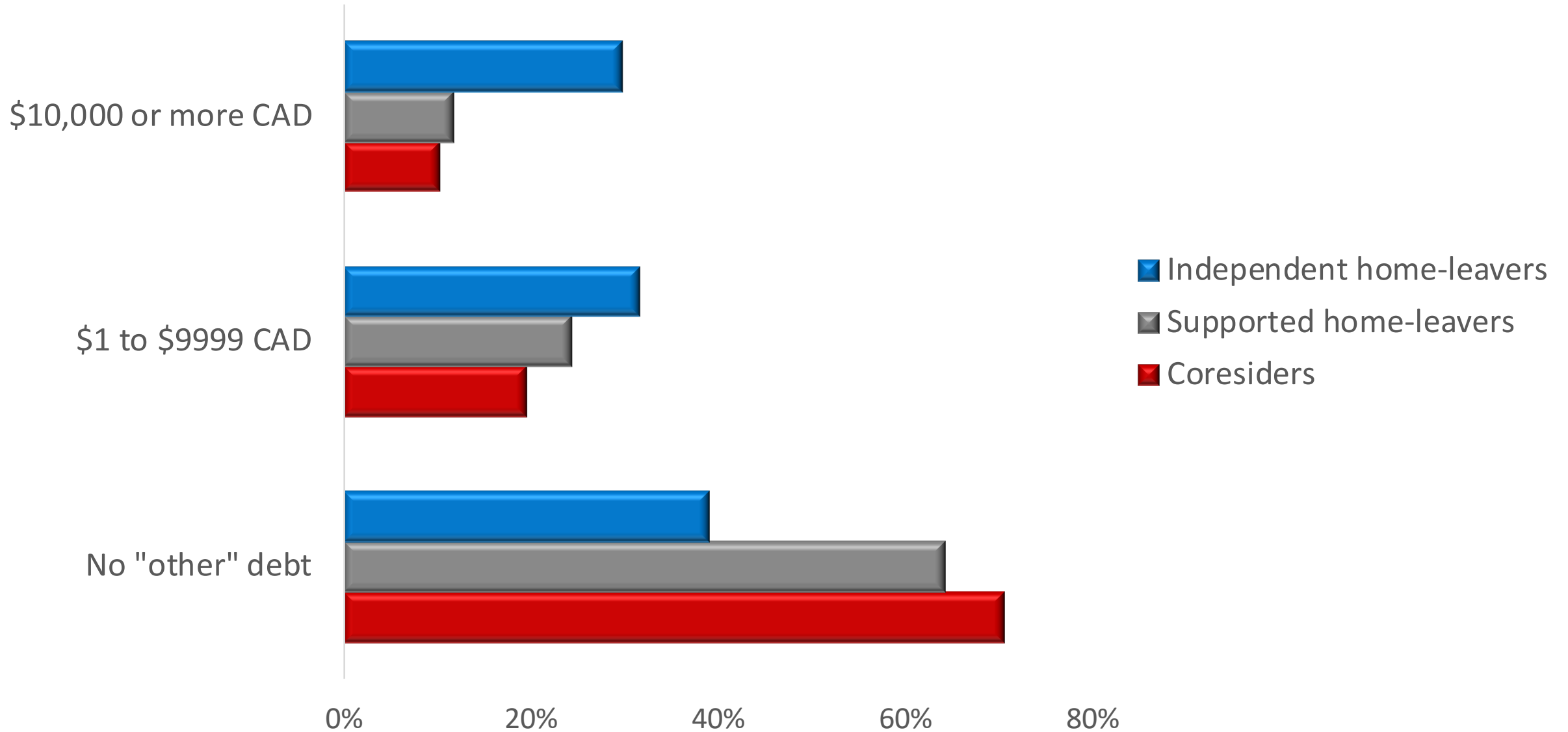




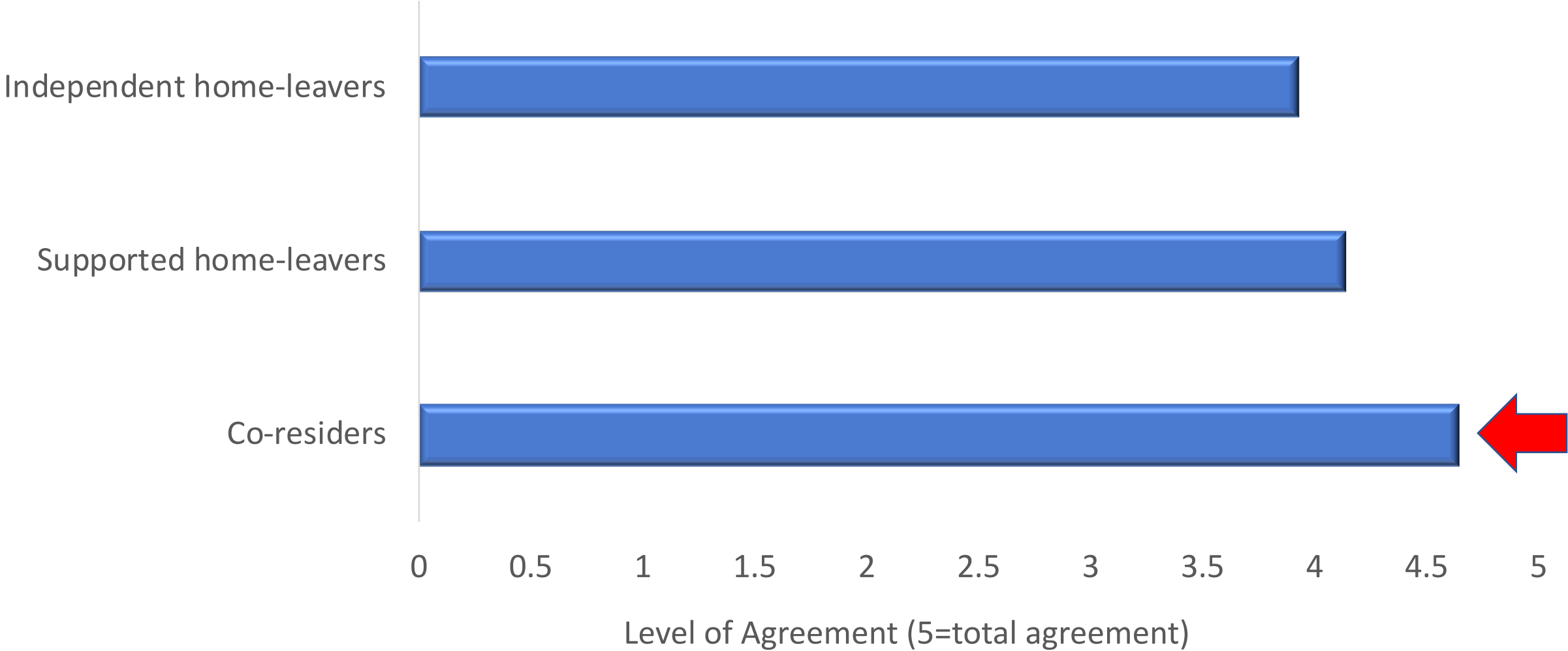
# Student Debt Across Support Scenarios



# Other (Non-Student) Debt Across Support Scenarios



# “I set aside savings every month”



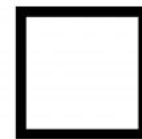
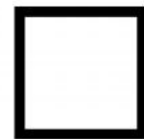
# Missed opportunities to gain \$\$\$ competence?

- Financial self-efficacy: belief in one's ability to manage finances effectively
  - No differences across 3 groups
- Financial knowledge: self-ratings of their level of knowledge
  - Independent home-leavers reported higher levels




# Positive evaluations of parents' housing support (rent-free accommodation or \$\$\$)

- **79%** say housing support helped them pursue **educational/career goals**
- **70%** say housing support allowed them to **save money**
- **21%** say housing support **kept them from learning financial skills**



# Synthesis

A thick yellow horizontal bar spans the width of the slide, with a vertical yellow bar extending downwards from its right end.

- High rates of material support being provided by parents
  - Associations between housing support and positive financial profiles
  - Mixed findings about relation to financial confidence
  - Positive perceptions of parental housing support for forwarding career, educational and financial goals
- 
- A thin grey horizontal bar spans the width of the slide at the bottom.

# Implications

- High rates of parental support → not just in large urban centres in Canada
- Connections between receiving housing support and positive financial situations (but cannot claim causal role)
- Housing support reflects parents' scaffolding more than hand-holding?
- A need to recognize socioeconomic disparities in access to support
- How should governments, individuals, and families share the responsibility of educating children for the knowledge economy?

# References

Royal Bank of Canada (2019, February 28). Parental Paradox: Trying to save for retirement while supporting adult children – RBC Poll.

<http://www.rbc.com/newsroom/news/2019/20190228-parental-paradox.html>

Statistics Canada. (2017). Young adults living with their parents in Canada in 2016. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/as-sa/98-200-x/2016008/98-200-x2016008-eng.cfm>

Dettling, L. J., & Hsu, J. W. (2018). Returning to the nest: Debt and parental co-residence among young adults. *Labour Economics*, 54, 225–236.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.labeco.2017.12.006>

Houle, J. N., & Warner, C. (2017). Into the red and back to the nest? Student debt, college completion, and returning to the parental home among young adults.

*Sociology of Education*, 90(1), 89–108. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0038040716685873>

Copp, J. E., Giordano, P. C., Longmore, M. A., & Manning, W. D. (2017). Living with parents and emerging adults' depressive symptoms. *Journal of Family Issues*, 38(16),

2254–2276. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0192513X15617797>

Worth, N. (2021). Going back to get ahead? Privilege and generational housing wealth. *Geoforum*, 120, 30–37. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2021.01.021>

Hamilton, L. T. (2013). More is more or more is less? Parental financial investments during college. *American Sociological Review*, 78(1), 70–95.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/0003122412472680>

Mortimer, J. T., Kim, M., Staff, J., & Vuolo, M. (2016). Unemployment, parental help, and self-efficacy during the transition to adulthood. *Work and Occupations*, 43(4),

434–465. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0730888416656904>



# Image Sources

- <https://www.familyhorizons.com/10-money-saving-tips-for-college-students>
- <https://mint.intuit.com/blog/financial-literacy/financial-statistics/>
- <https://www.opploans.com/oppu/articles/how-to-build-women-and-girls-financial-confidence/>
- <https://voice360.co.za/blog/can-work-be-your-happy-place-2.html>
- <https://fnvmooi.nl/zzp/wet-kwaliteit-klachten-en-geschillen-zorg-wkkgz/>