EARLY LEARNING ALLIANCE

Help Me Grow North Texas

LANGUAGE LANDSCAPE SURVEY

Early Learning Alliance (ELA) & Help Me Grow North Texas (HMGNTX)

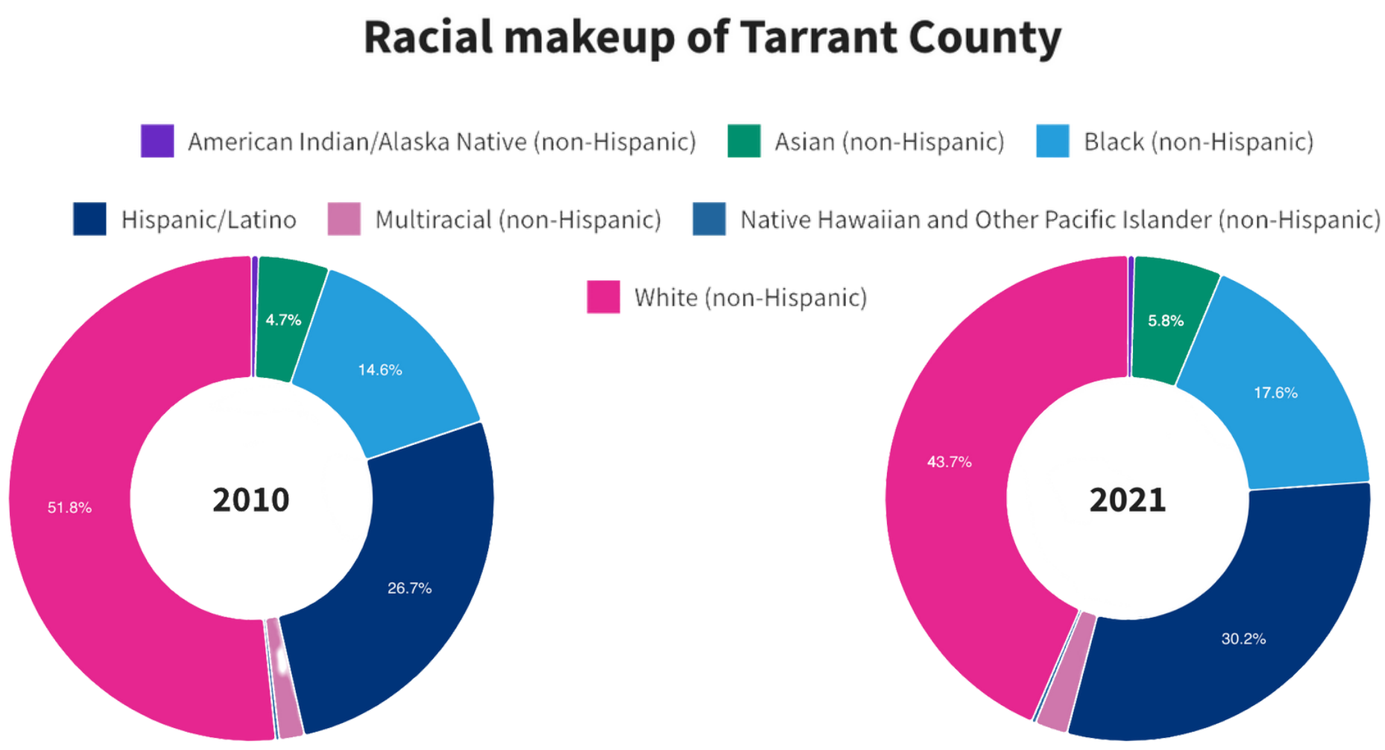
December 2022

CONTEXT

In the eleven years between 2010 and 2021, Texas had the largest growth of any state in the United States, with 4.3 million new residents. The state's 17% population growth far surpasses the national growth percentage of 7.3 percent. The population of Tarrant County also grew by 17%, with 2.1 million residents in 2021 compared to the 1.8 million who lived there in 2010.

The racial and ethnic demographics of Tarrant County also shifted during these eleven years. In 2021, the largest racial or ethnic group in Tarrant County was the white (non-Hispanic) group, which had a population of 928,782. Between 2010 and 2021, the Hispanic/Latino population had the most growth, increasing from 486,057 in 2010 to 642,801 in 2021.

Tarrant County is becoming a more diverse place to live. In 2021, the white (non-Hispanic) group made up 43.7% of the population, compared with 51.8% in 2010.



Additionally, more than a quarter of Tarrant County residents 5 years and older speak a language other than English at home. By far the most common non-English language spoken is Spanish. In 2021, more than 20% of the people who live in Tarrant County were native Spanish speakers.

Race/ethnicity and language data were presented by the U.S. Census Bureau. Learn more about the changing demographics of Texas and Tarrant County at: https://usafacts.org/data/topics/people-society/population-and-demographics/our-changing-population/state/texas/county/tarrant-county?endDate=2021-01-01&startDate=2010-01-01

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

During the fall of 2022, the Early Learning Alliance (ELA) and Help Me Grow North Texas (HMGNTX) developed an online survey to determine how their partner organizations serve children and families who do not speak English. The survey asked questions regarding:

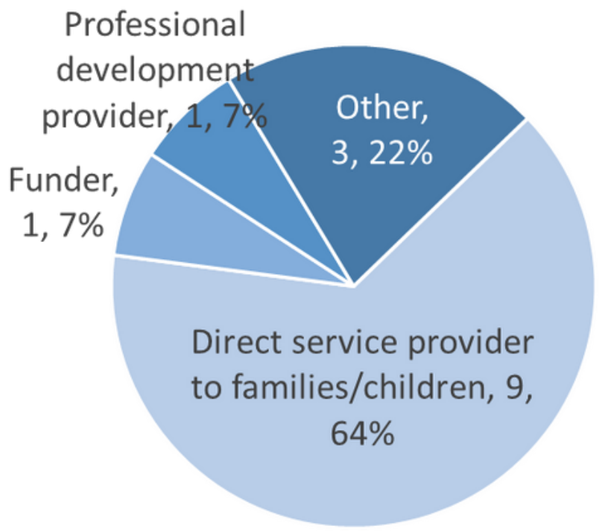
- the languages spoken by the populations each organization serves,
- the extent to which and how each organization provides translation and interpretation in different languages, and,
- the challenges faced by each organization with accessing and delivering translation and interpretation of their materials and services.

The survey was emailed to 46 organizations (6 members of ELA, 20 members of HMGNTX, and 20 members of both ELA and HMGNTX) with a 39% response rate overall.

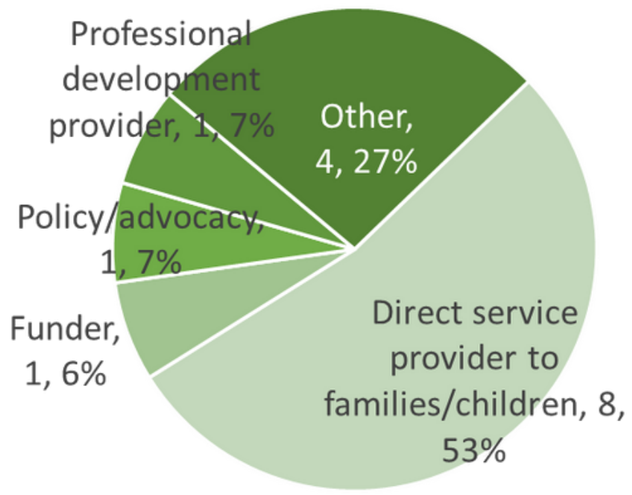
The vast majority (94%) of survey respondents reported that they serve clients who do not speak English. The most common language, other than English, spoken by organizations' clients was Spanish, followed by Vietnamese and Arabic. Although most organizations do provide services and materials in a language other than English, these are primarily only in Spanish. Almost half (44%) of respondents indicated that their organizations face barriers in addressing their interpretation and translation needs, including insufficient funding, insufficient translation and/or interpretation services in the community, and lack of knowledge on how to connect with those services.

ORGANIZATIONAL INFO.

- **What is the *primary* role of your organization?**

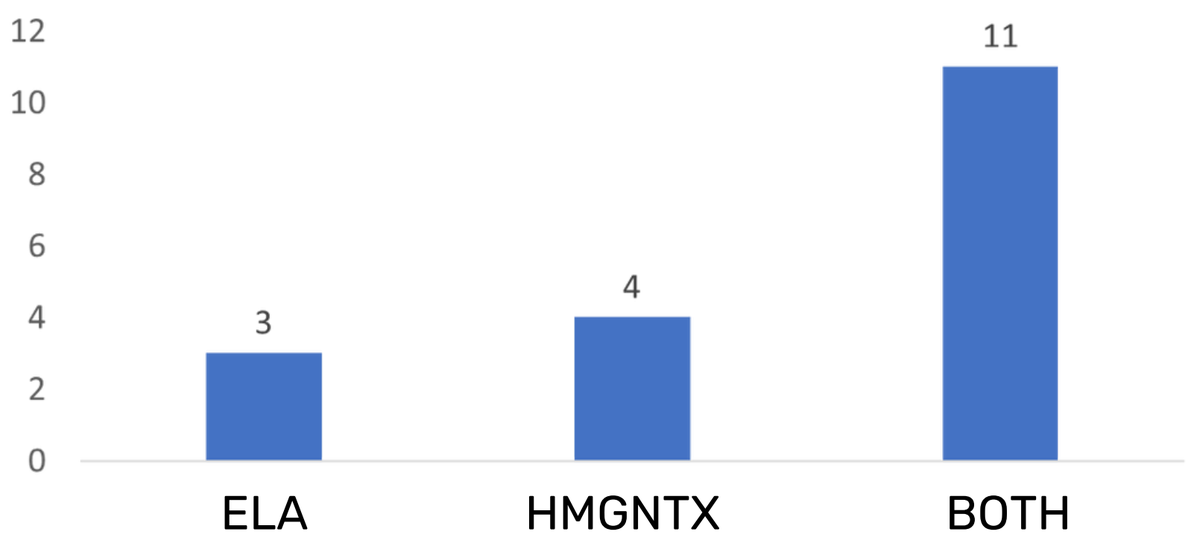


ELA

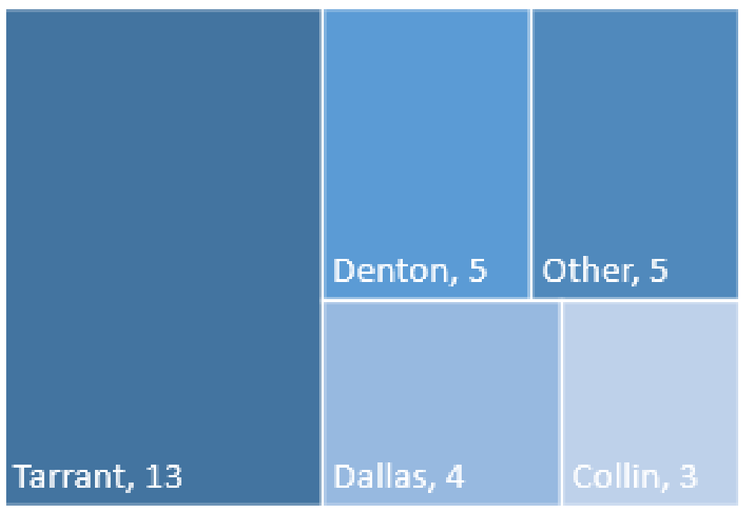


HMGNTX

- **Is your organization a member of the Early Learning Alliance (ELA) or Help Me Grow North Texas (HMGNTX)?**

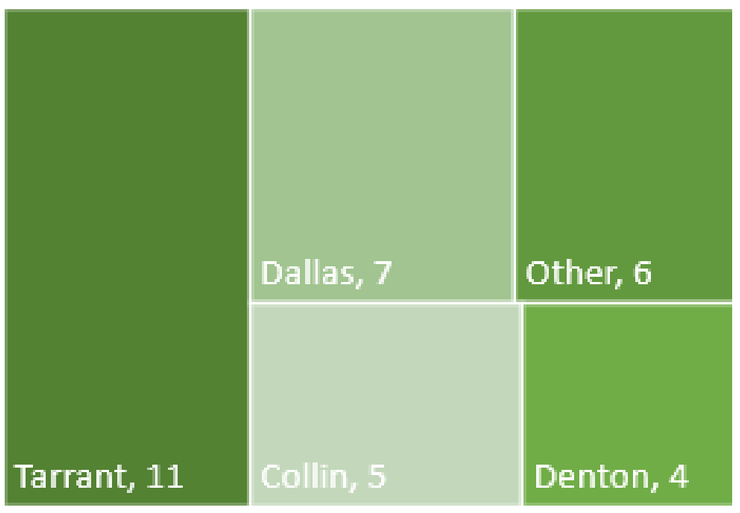


- **Which counties does your organization serve?**



14 respondents; multiple selections possible

ELA

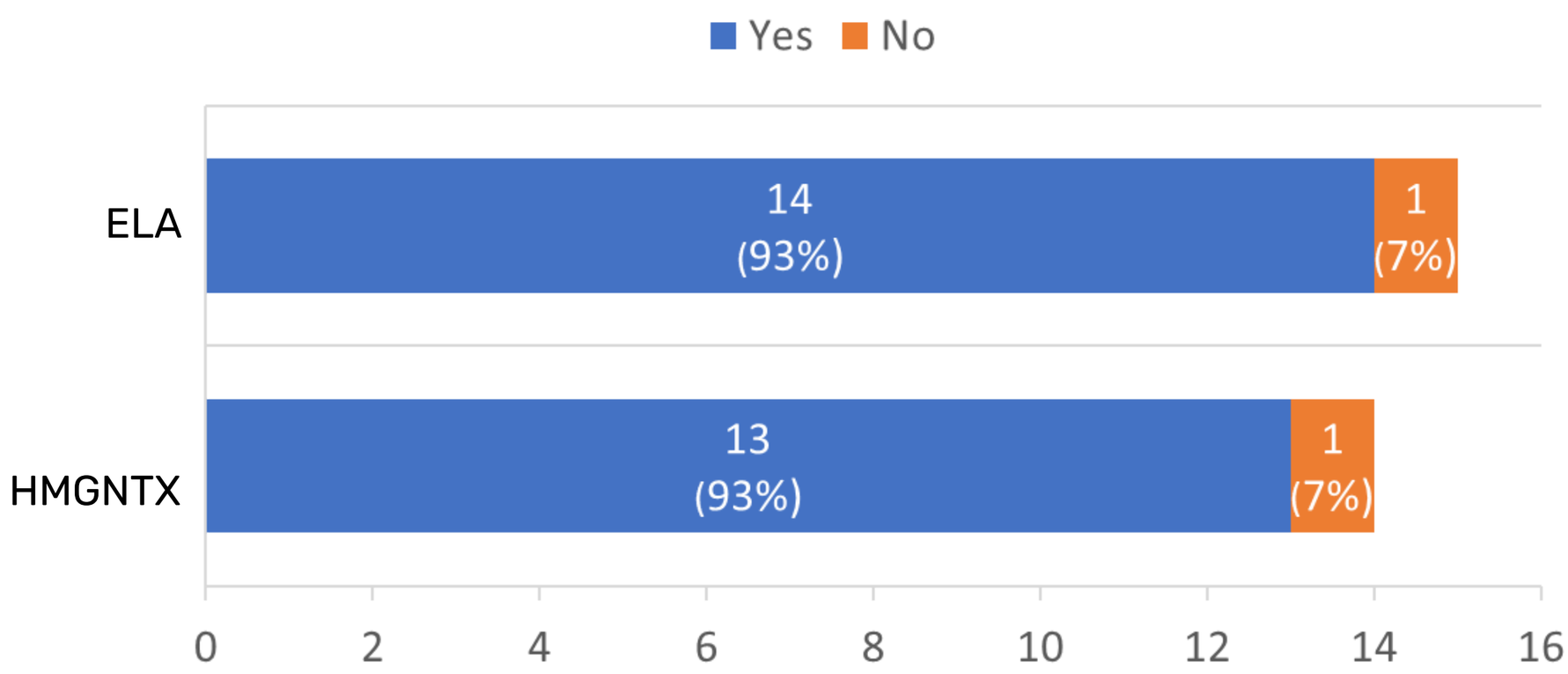


15 respondents; multiple selections possible

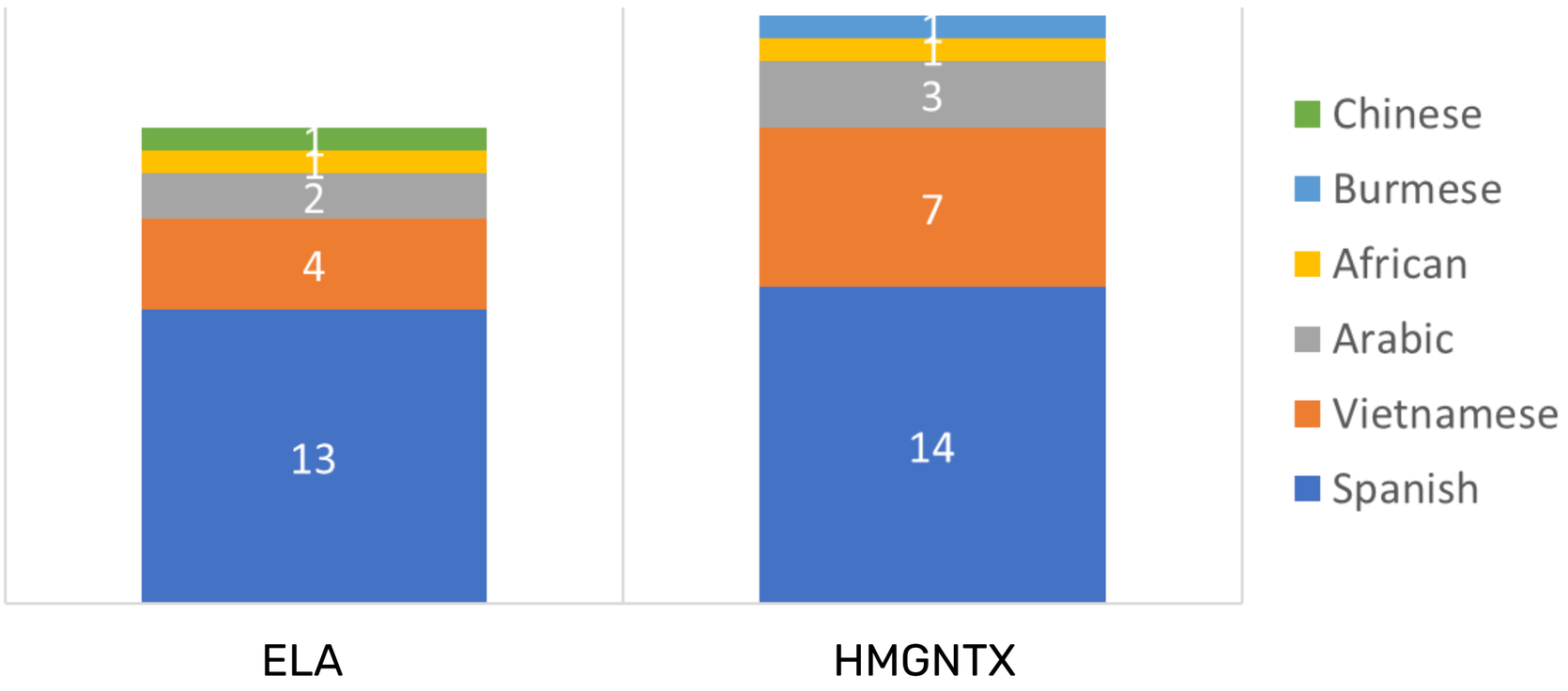
HMGNTX

CLIENTS

- **Does your organization serve clients who do not speak English?**

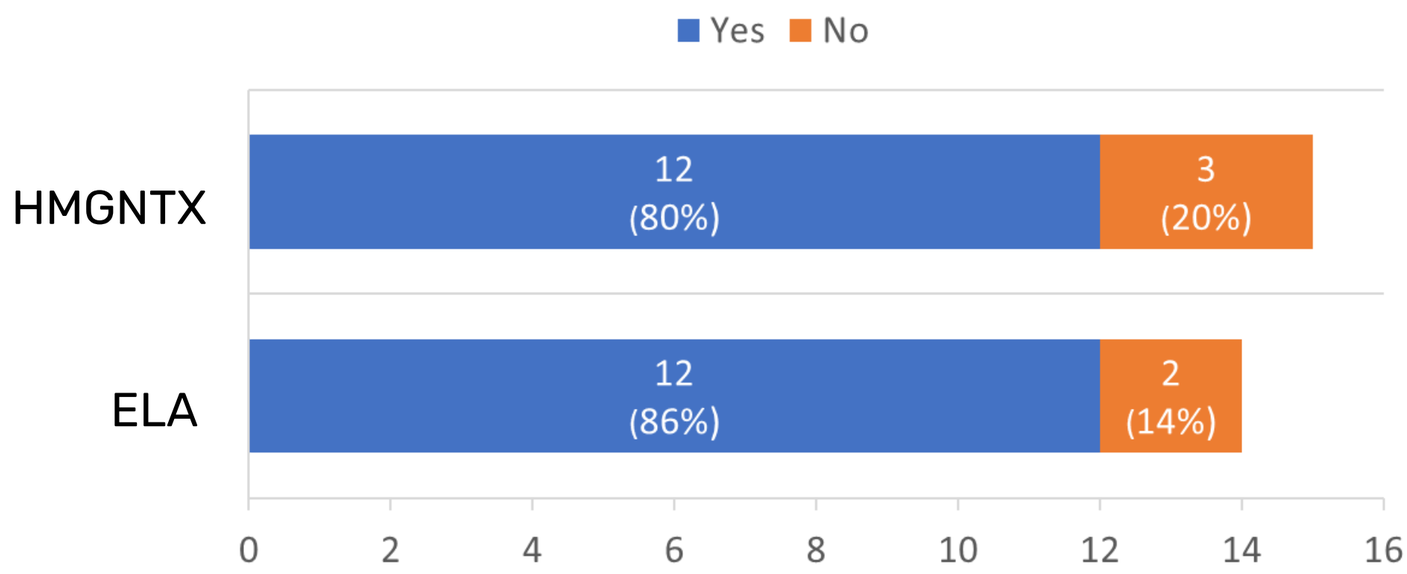


- **What are the three most common languages, other than English, spoken by your clients?**

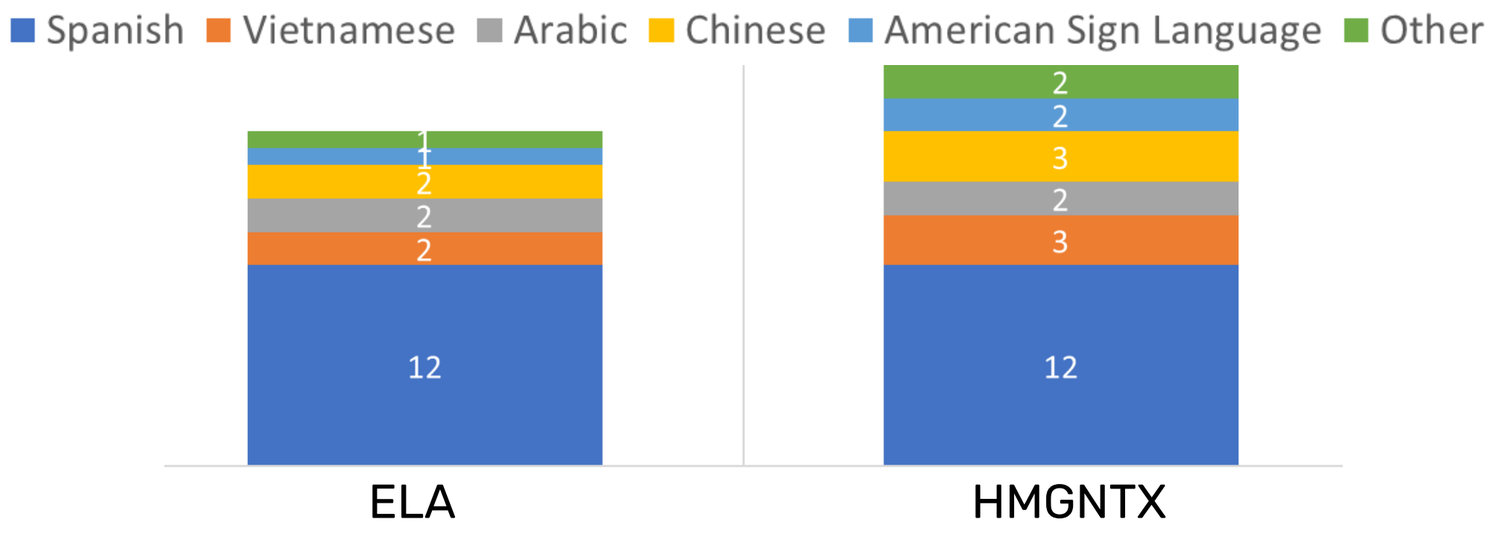


SERVICES

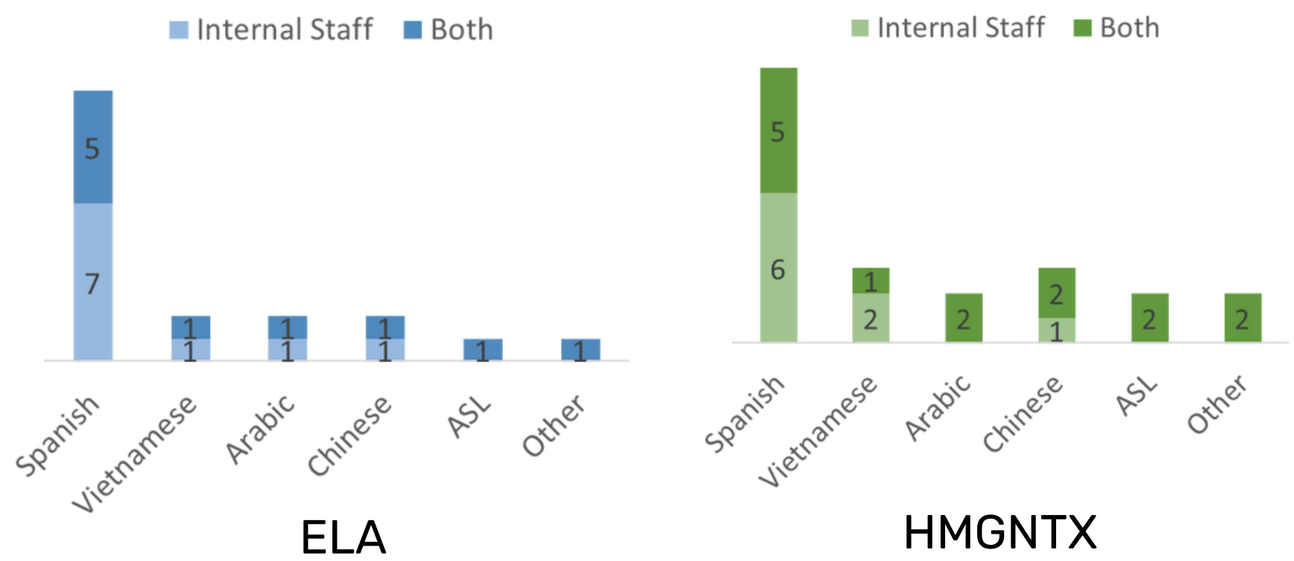
- **Does your organization provide services (events, meetings, counseling, classes, referrals, training, etc.) in languages other than English?**



- **In which languages, other than English, does your organization provide services?**

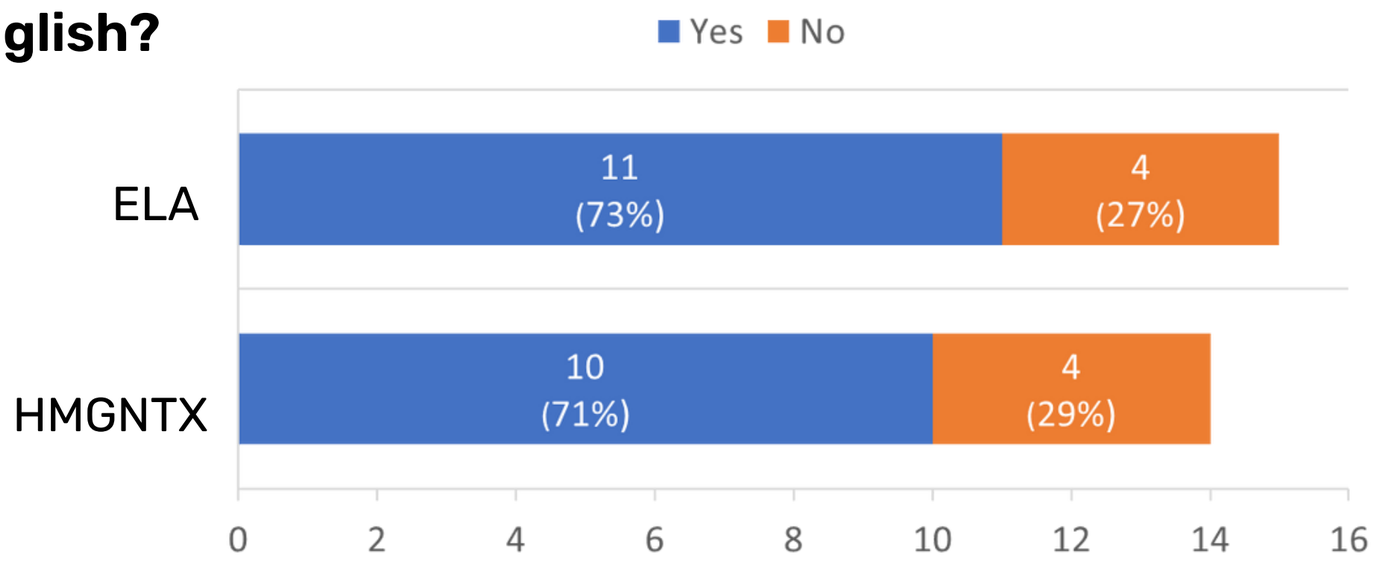


- **For each language in which your organization provides services, are the services provided by internal staff, external individuals/ organizations, or both?**

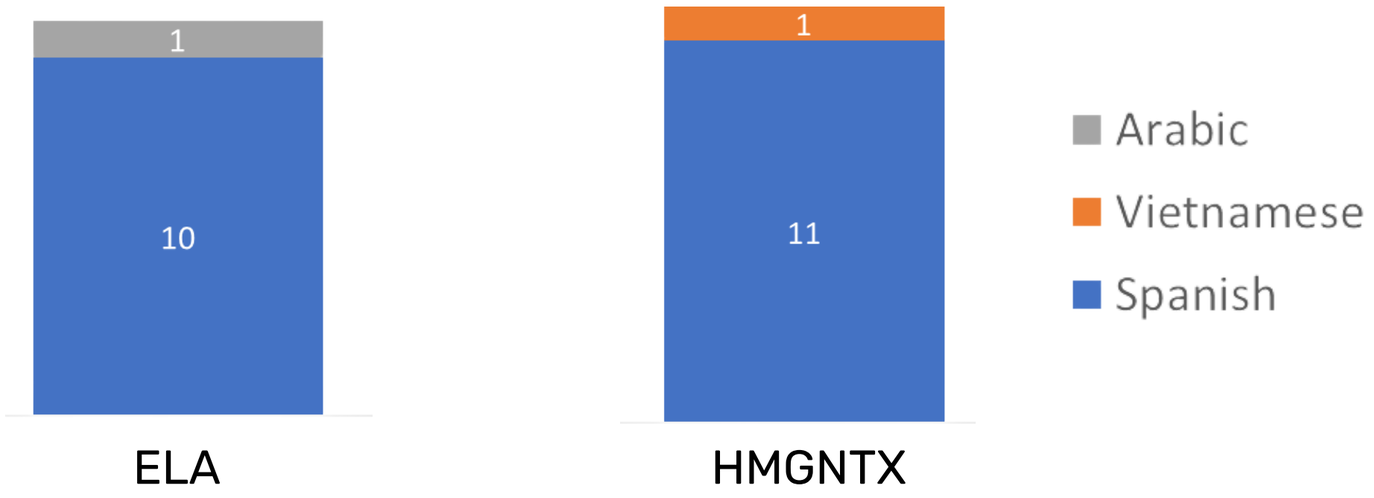


MATERIALS

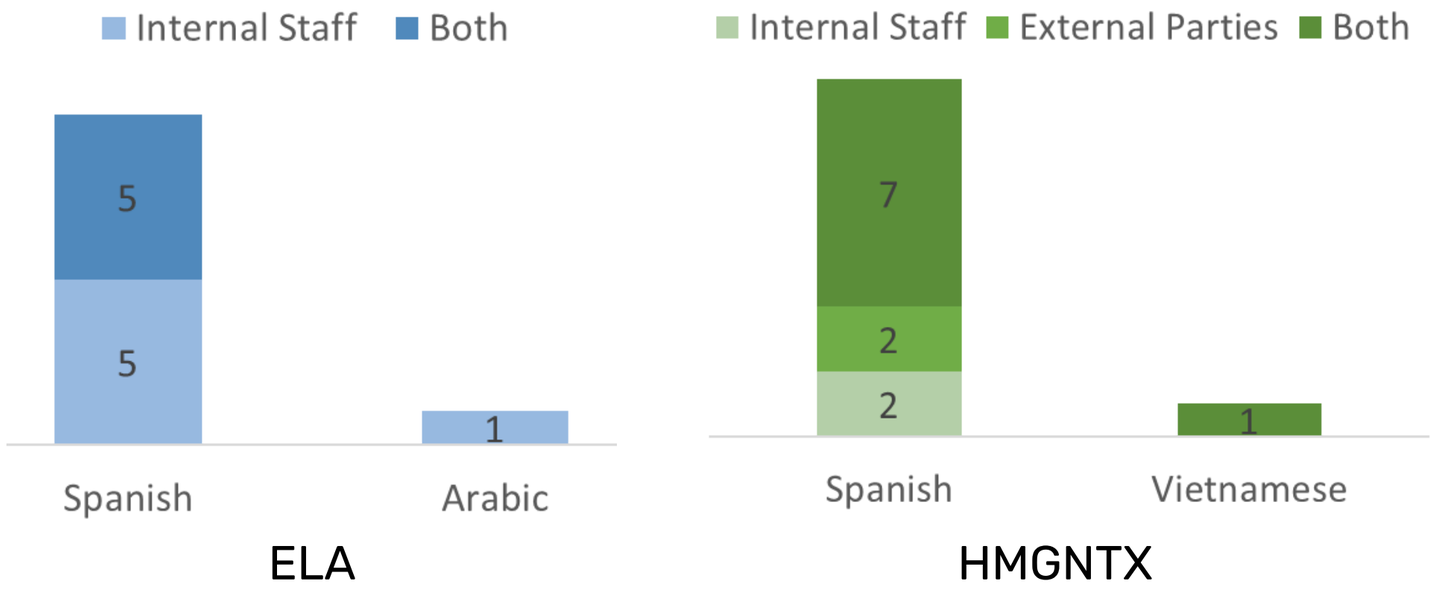
- **Does your organization provide materials (brochures, flyers, information guides, websites, etc.) in languages other than English?**



- **In which languages, other than English, does your organization provide materials?**

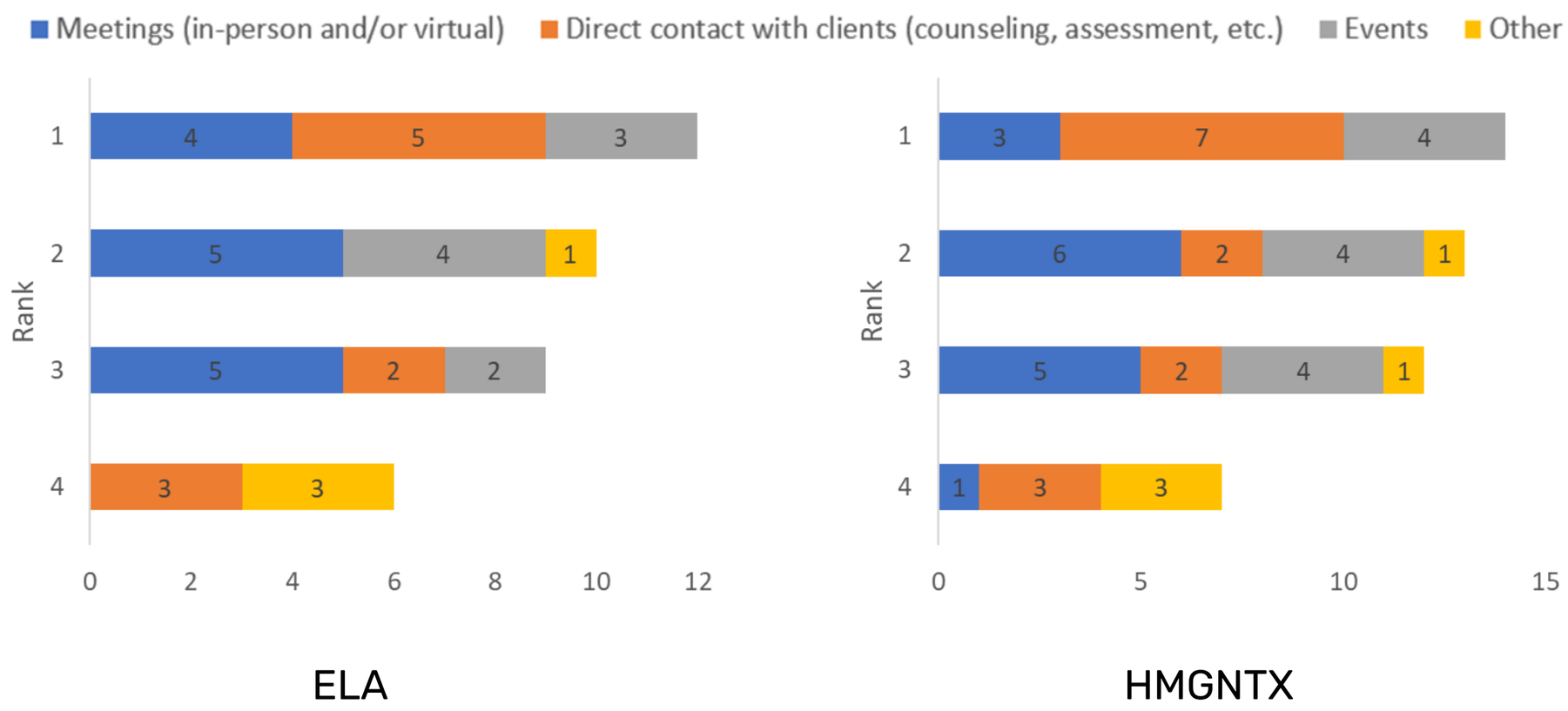


- **For each language in which your organization provides materials, are the materials translated by internal staff, external individuals/organizations, or both?**

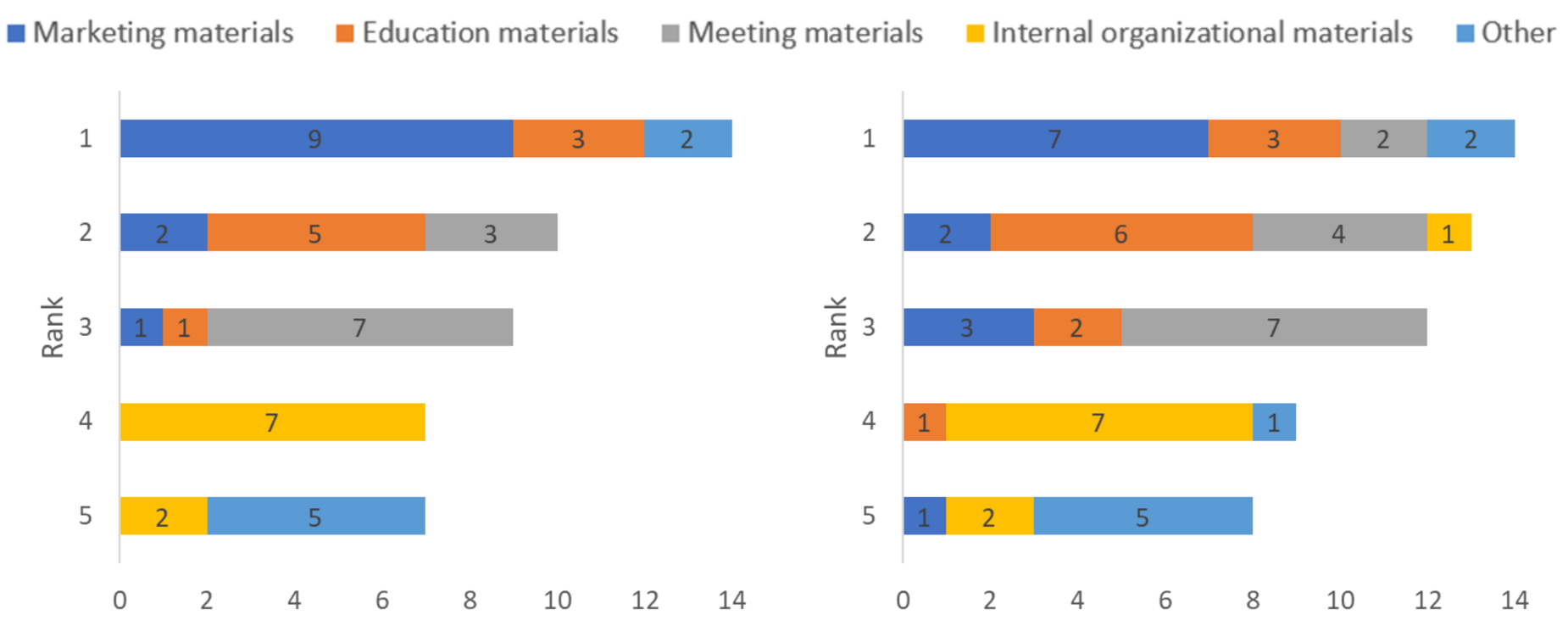


NEEDS

- **What are your primary interpretation (oral) needs? Please rank your selections, with 1 being the greatest need.**

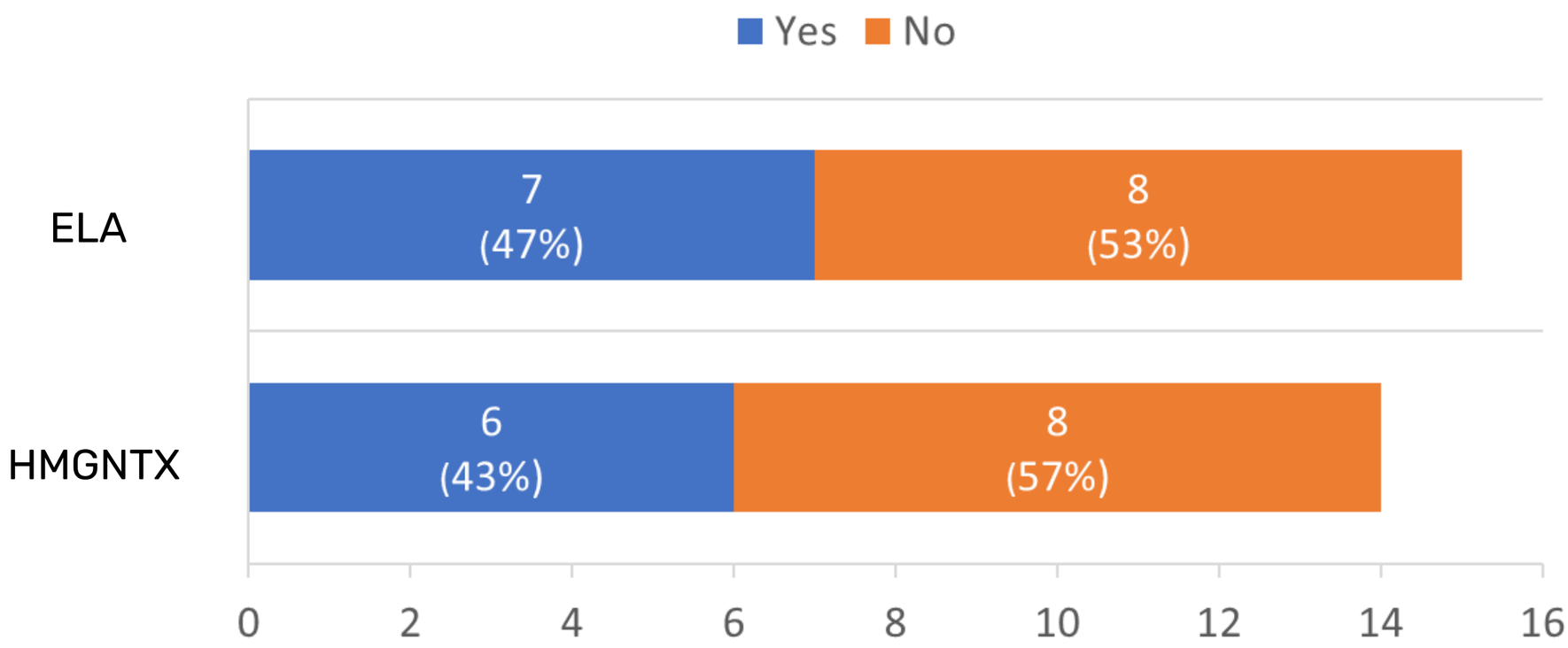


- **What are your primary translation (written) needs? Please rank your selections, with 1 being the greatest need.**

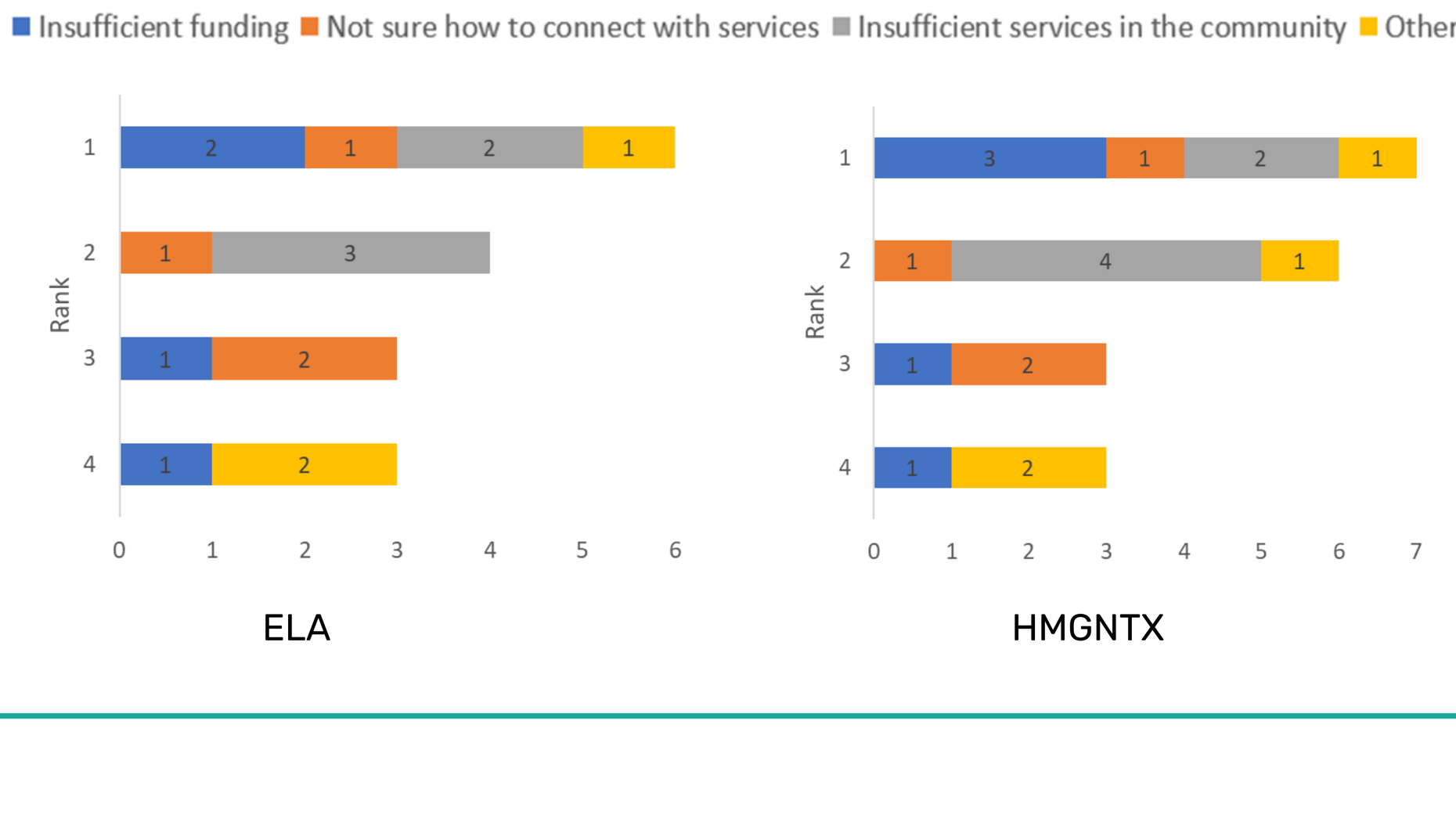


BARRIERS

- **Does your organization face barriers addressing your interpretation and translation needs?**



- **What are the primary barriers you face when addressing your interpretation and translation needs? Please rank your selections, with 1 being the biggest barrier.**



CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

- **Is there anything else you would like to add or elaborate on regarding your language needs?**

Language translation other than Spanish is incredibly expensive and cost prohibitive.

My work involves data collection, analyses and reporting…I could also use translation services for reports of data trends, survey results etc.

Our greatest need is Spanish testing kits. We have a Spanish speaking diagnostician to perform all testing.

Our language needs are completely contingent on staff abilities which changes with turnover.

This report would not have been possible without the contributions of:

Pablo Calderon

Bethany Edwards, Early Learning Alliance

Rebecca Rueda, Early Learning Alliance

Dr. Anne Ware, Aware Research Solutions LLC

Dr. Yvette Wingate, Tarrant County Public Health

Faith Rivera, Help Me Grow North Texas

Tiffini Smith, Help Me Grow North Texas

Shamika Williams, University of Texas at Dallas

For questions regarding the Language Landscape Survey, email:

ela@earlylearningntx.org.