

Referrals to children's services in England

No further actions after initial consideration, and assessments that conclude the child is not in need, 2013-14 and 2014-15



14 December 2017



In a nutshell

This report is based on information from the Department for Education's National Pupil Database. It has three levels of analysis:

- 1. Referrals: police, schools and health services are the larger referral sources**
- 2. Individuals, who can have more than one referral each year: the majority of individual histories include assessments that result in need episodes**
- 3. Individual characteristics: among those individual children assessed as not in need, there are**
 - **greater proportions of non-white individuals living in deprived areas, and**
 - **disabled males**

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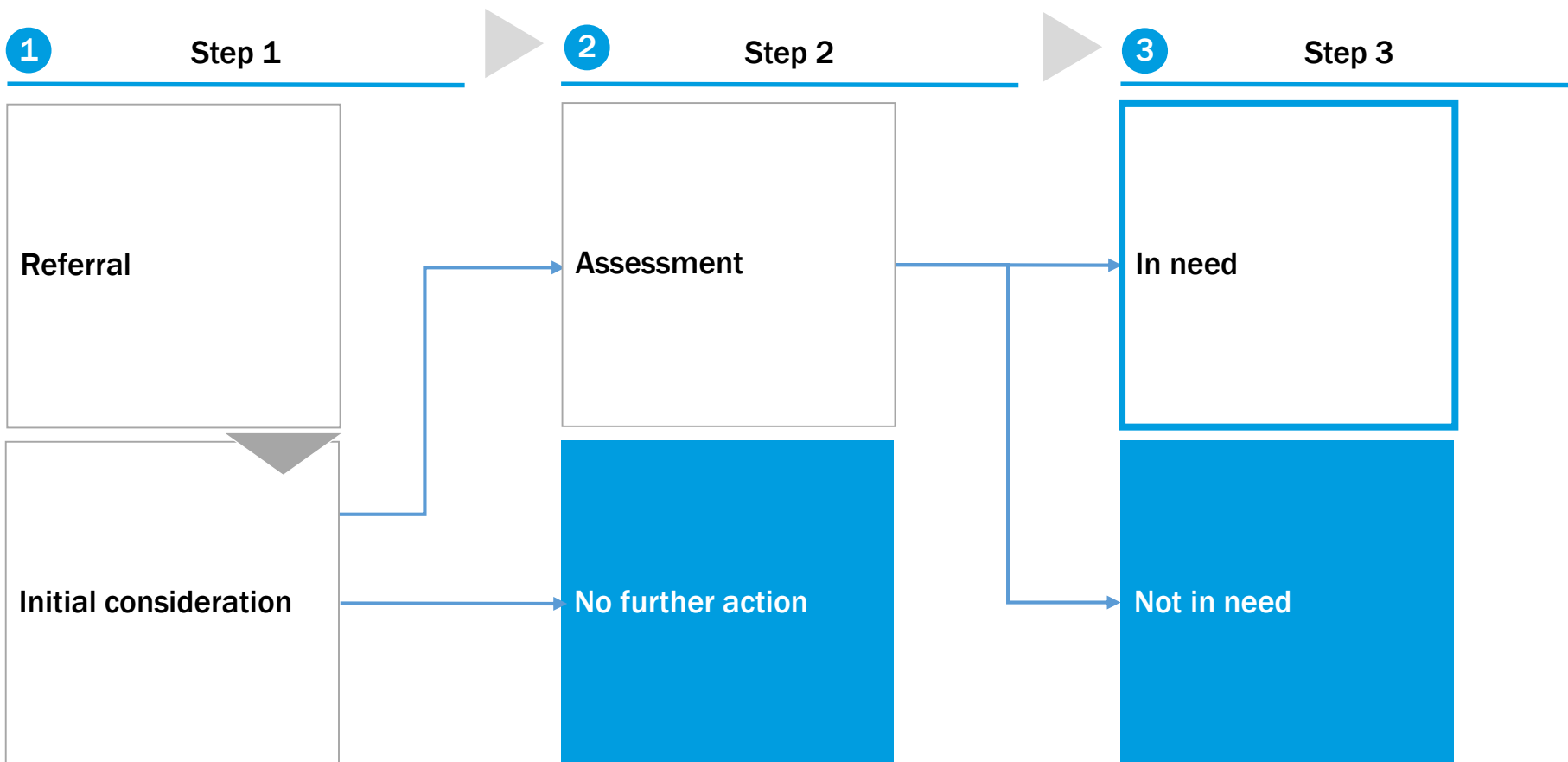
New analysis: individual characteristics

Limitations

About Aldaba

The aim of this report is to understand referrals to children's services better

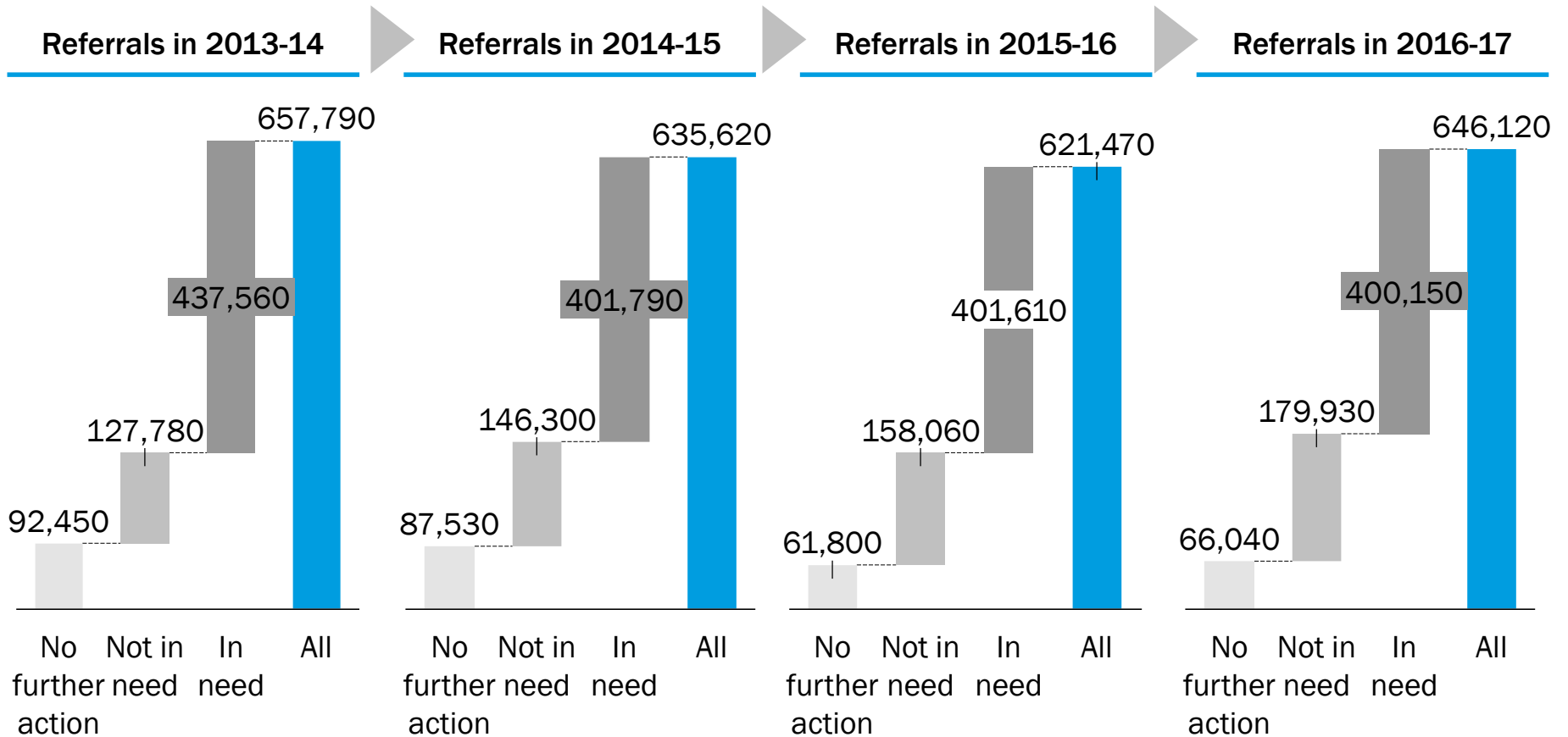
Our focus is on: 1. referrals that result in no further action after initial consideration, and 2. those that result in an assessment and the assessment concludes that the child is not in need, in 2013-14 and 2014-15



Some published information helps understand the numbers of different types of referral results

Referrals resulting in no further action, and not in need, have increased

This was by 11 per cent, from 220,230 in 2013-14, to 245,970 in 2016-17



The same individual child may have more than one referral in the same year

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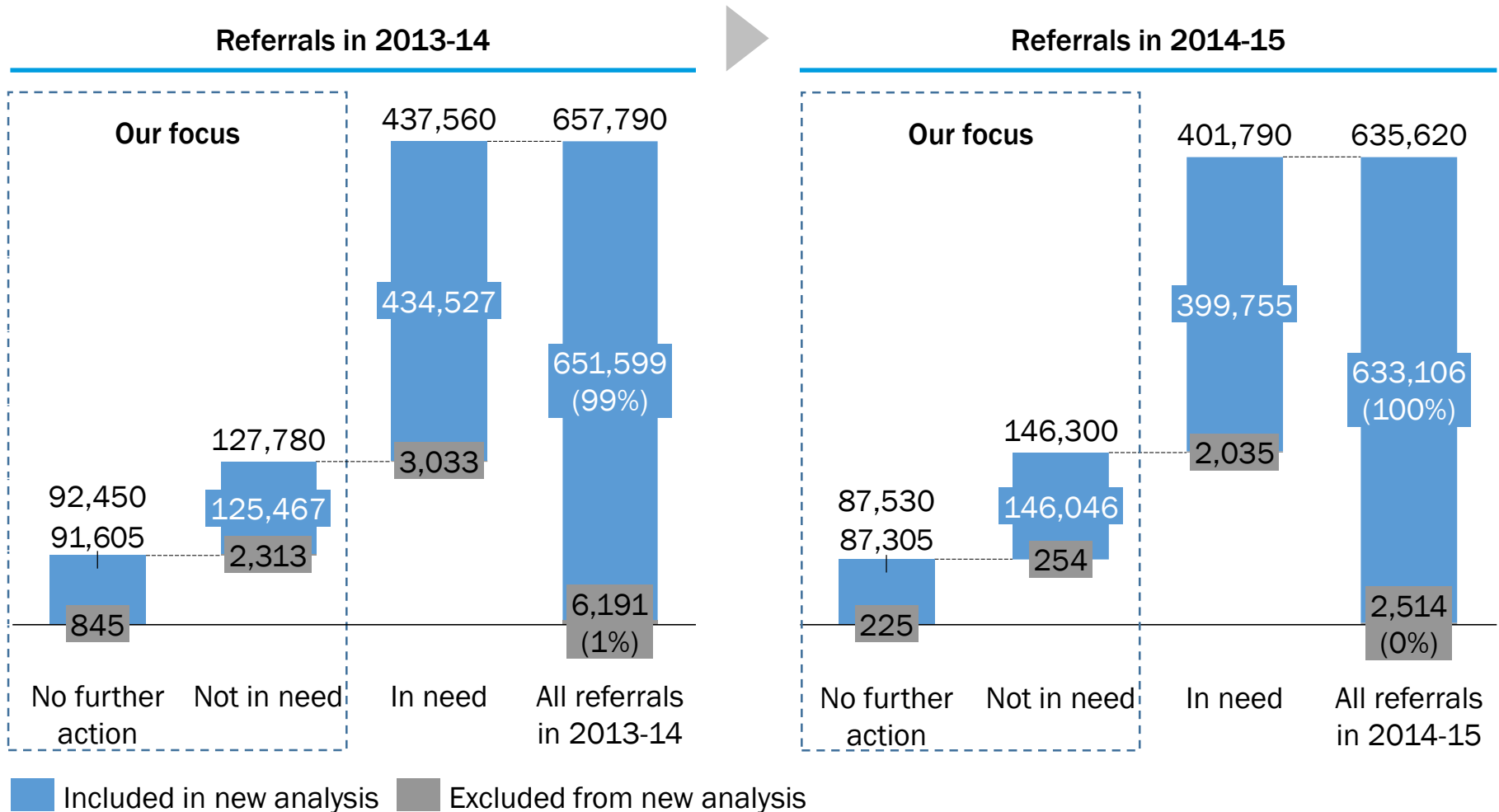
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New analysis of over 99 per cent of all referrals in 2013-14 and 2014-15

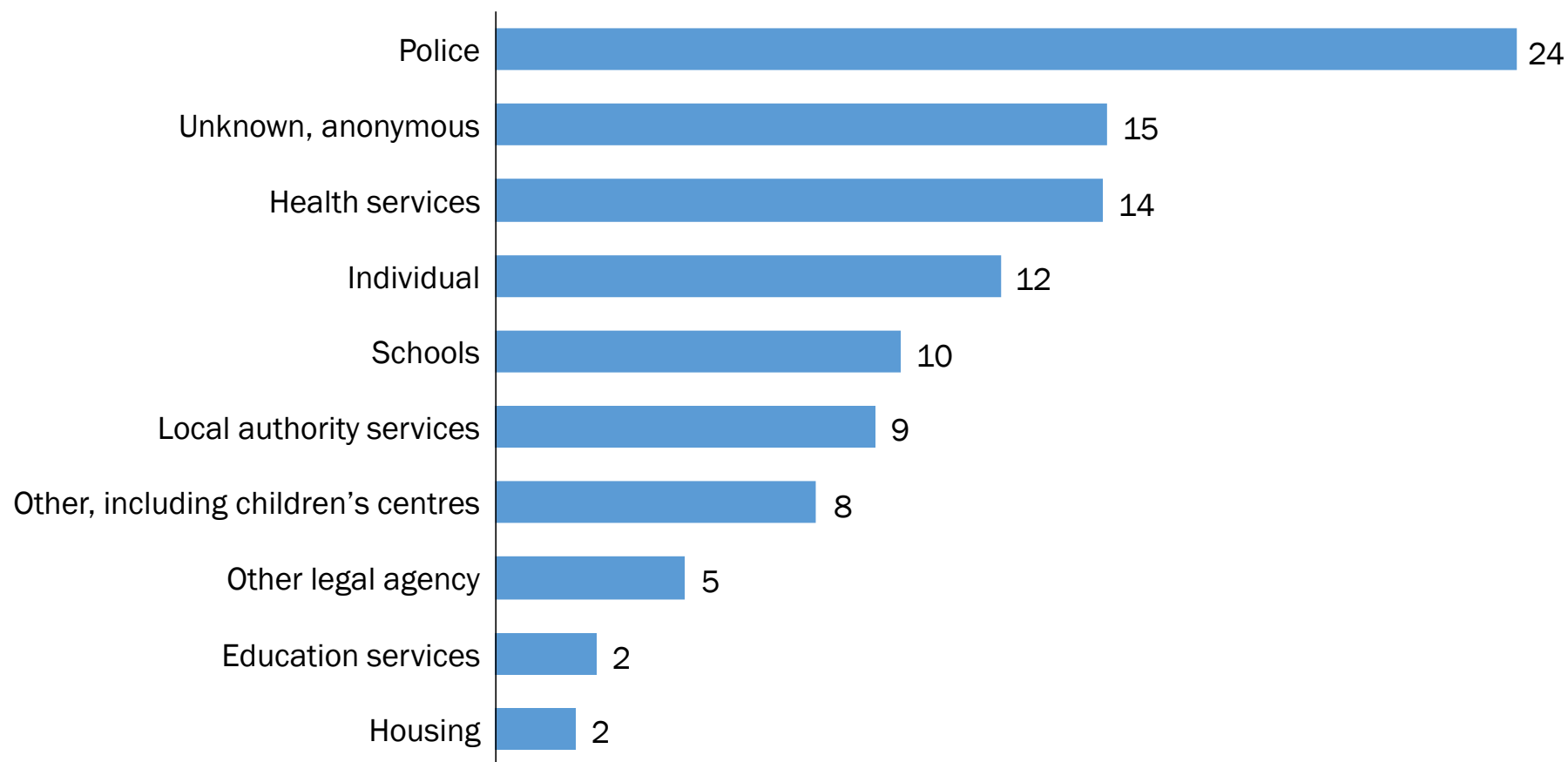
These were the two most recent years made available by the Department for Education; less than 1 per cent of the referrals were not available due to technical issues



2013-14: referral sources for no further actions

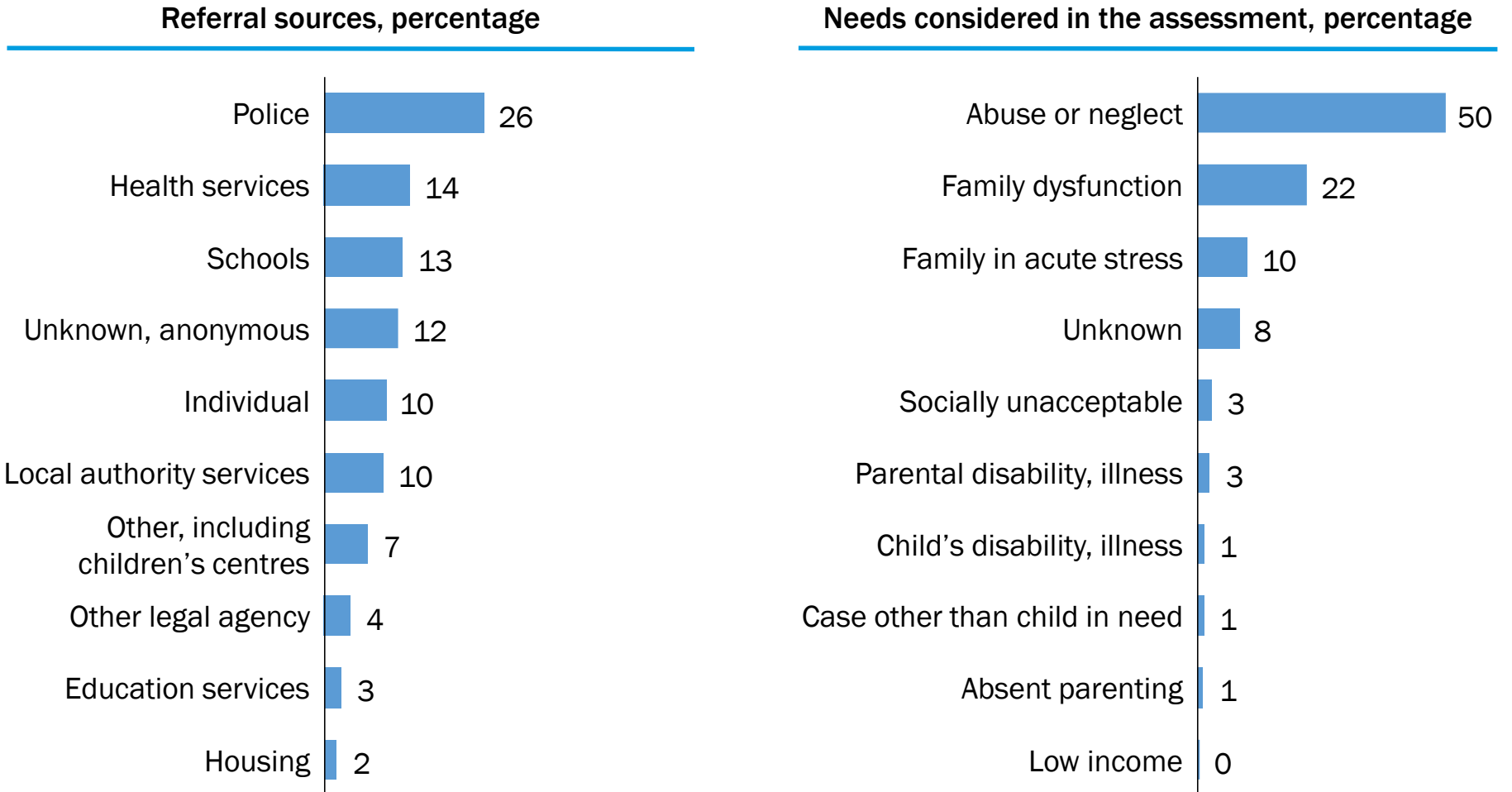
Approximately a quarter, or 24 per cent, of the referrals resulting in no further action after initial consideration come from the police

Referral sources, percentage



2013-14: referral sources and types of need for not-in-need assessments

Half of the referrals assessed as not in need are for abuse or neglect, followed by about a quarter, or 22 per cent, for family dysfunction

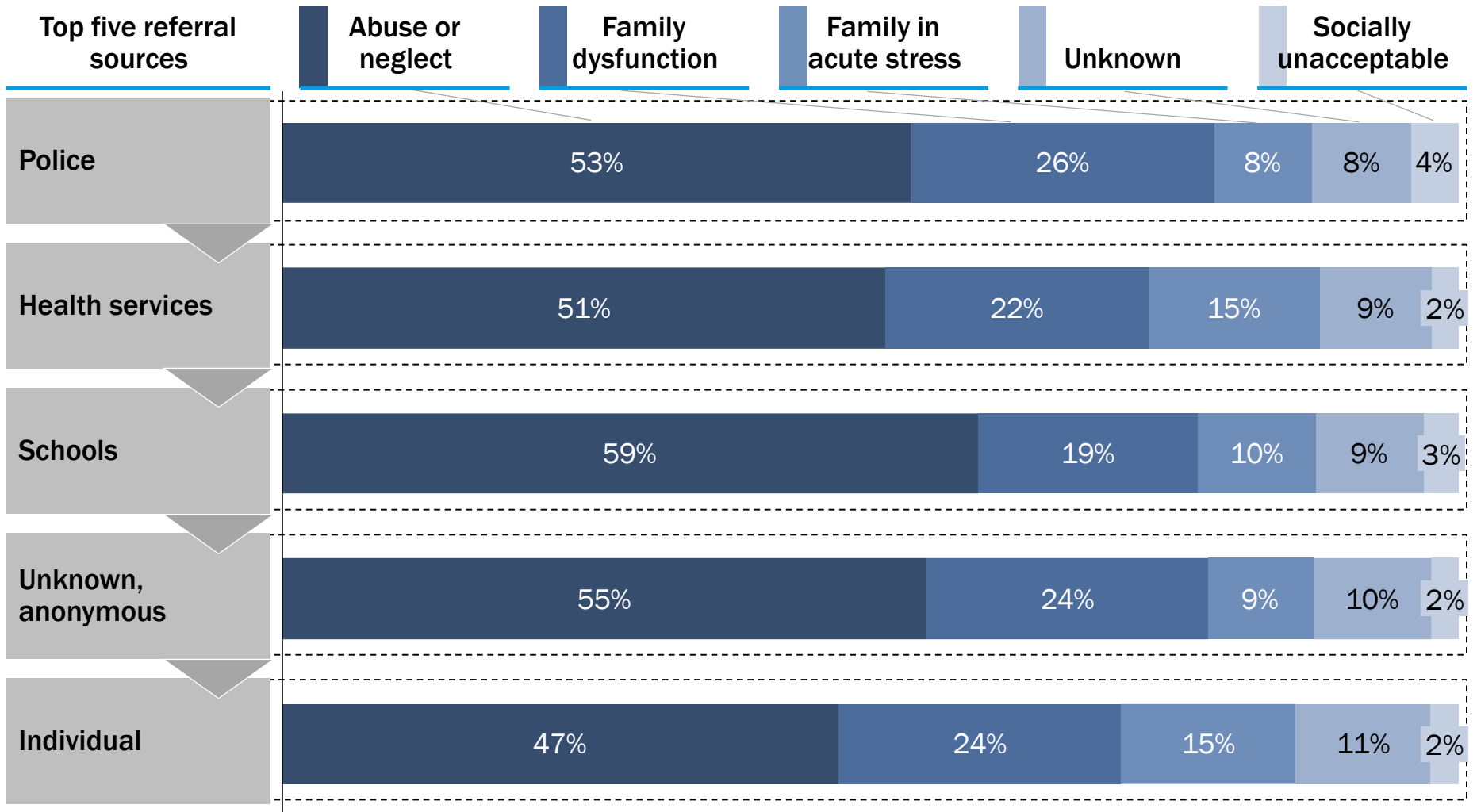


Source: Department for Education, National Pupil Database

Note: 1. n = 125,467 referrals resulted in an assessment, and the assessment concluded that the child was not in need in 2013-14

2013-14: referral sources by types of need for not-in-need assessments

The largest proportions of referrals assessed as not in need come from police, health services, and schools, and are for abuse or neglect



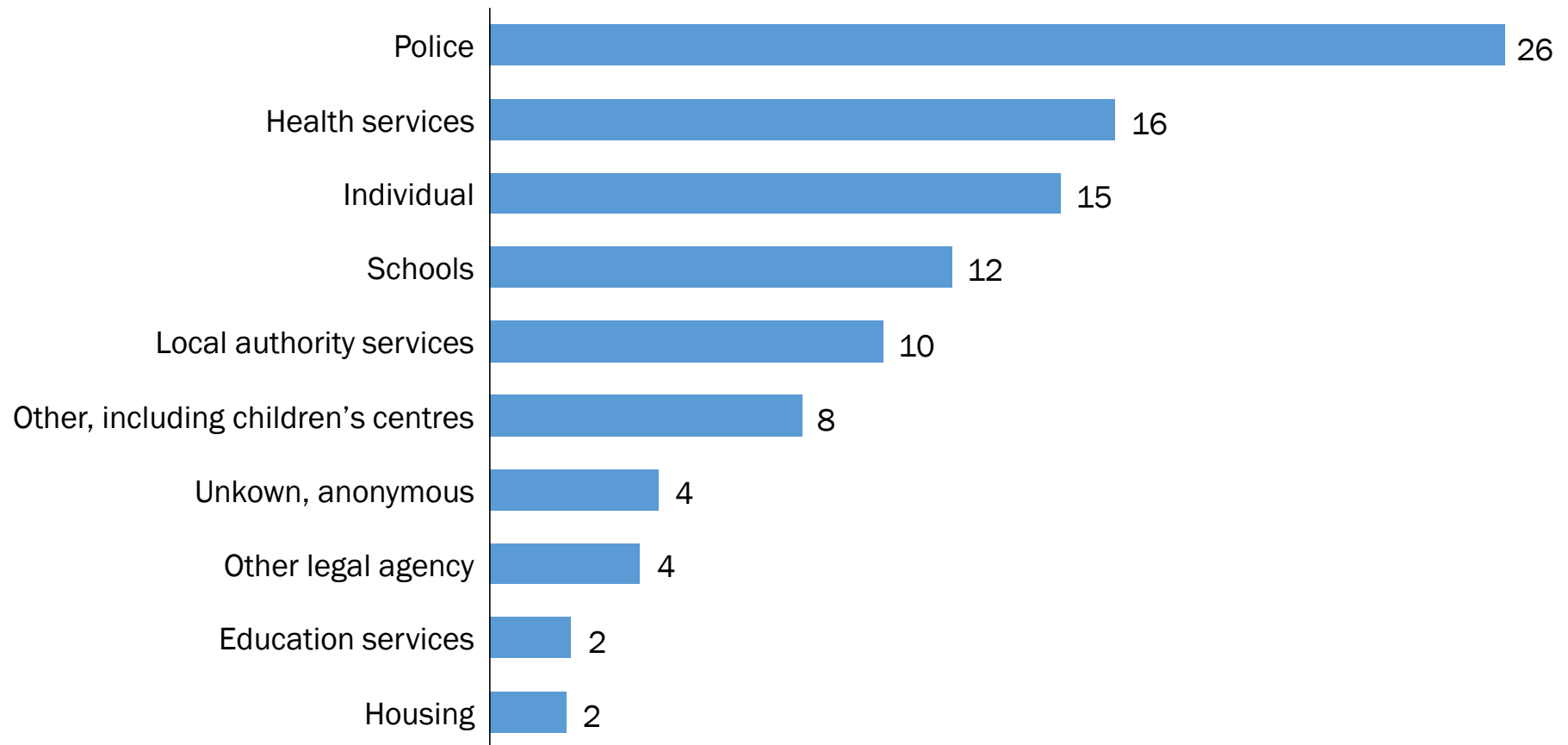
Source: Department for Education, National Pupil Database

Note: 1. n = 125,467 referrals resulted in an assessment, and the assessment concluded that the child was not in need in 2013-14

2014-15: referral sources for no further actions

Approximately a quarter, or 26 per cent, of the referrals resulting in no further action after initial consideration come from the police

Top five referral sources, percentage



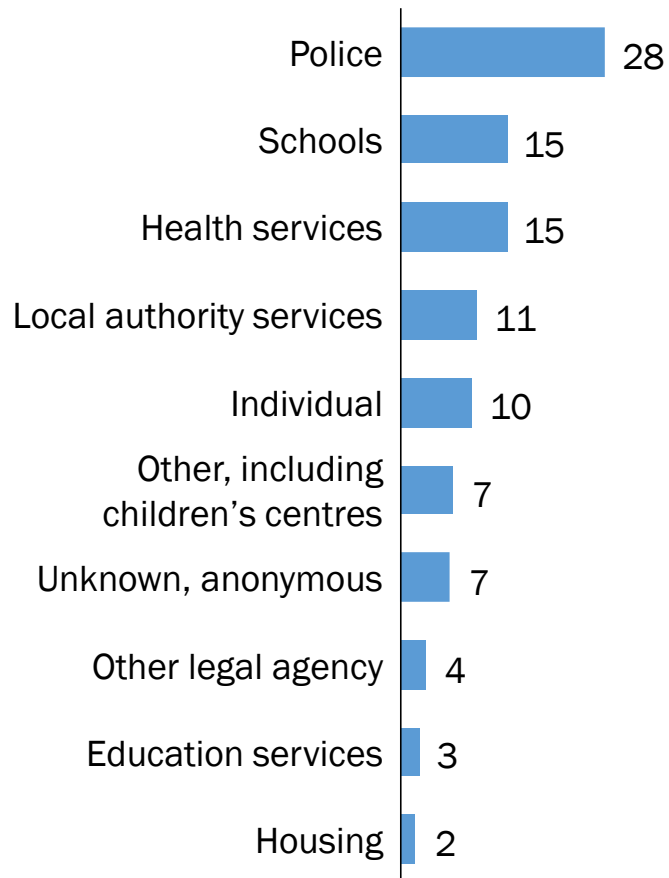
Source: Department for Education, National Pupil Database.

Note: 1. n = 87,305 referrals which resulted in no further action after initial consideration in 2014-15

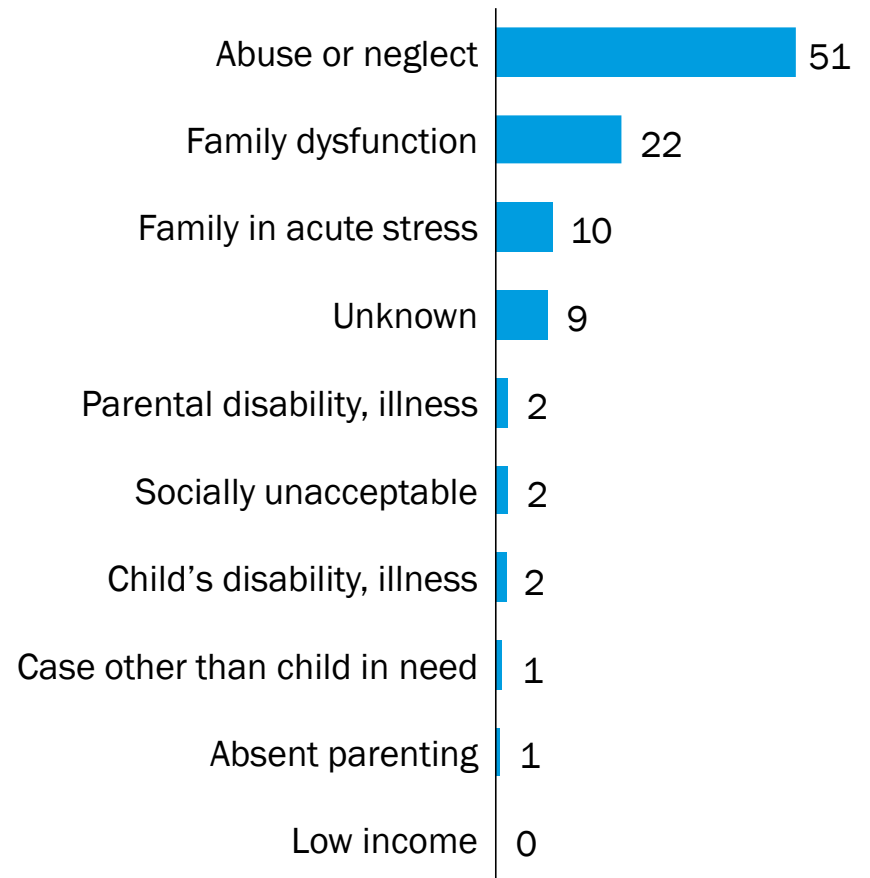
2014-15: referral sources and types of need for not-in-need assessments

Half of the referrals assessed as not in need are for abuse or neglect, followed by about a quarter, or 22 per cent, for family dysfunction

Top five referral sources, percentage



Top five needs considered in the assessment, percentage

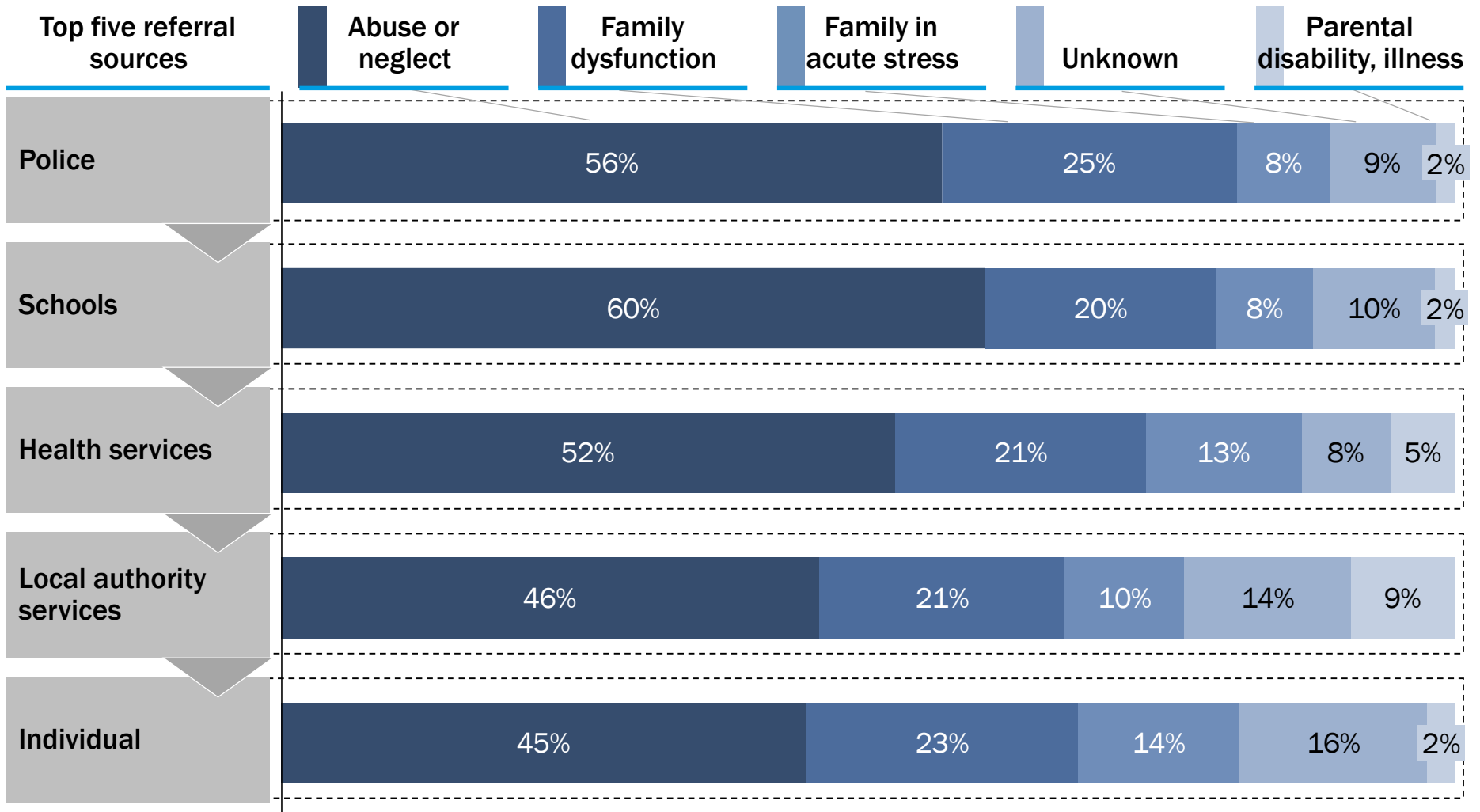


Source: Department for Education, National Pupil Database

Note: 1. n = 146,046 referrals which resulted in an assessment, and the assessment concluded that the child was not in need in 2014-15

2014-15: referral sources by types of need for not-in-need assessments

The largest proportions of referrals assessed as not in need come from police and schools, and are for abuse or neglect



Source: Department for Education, National Pupil Database

Note: 1. n = 146,046 referrals which resulted in an assessment, and the assessment concluded that the child was not in need in 2014-15

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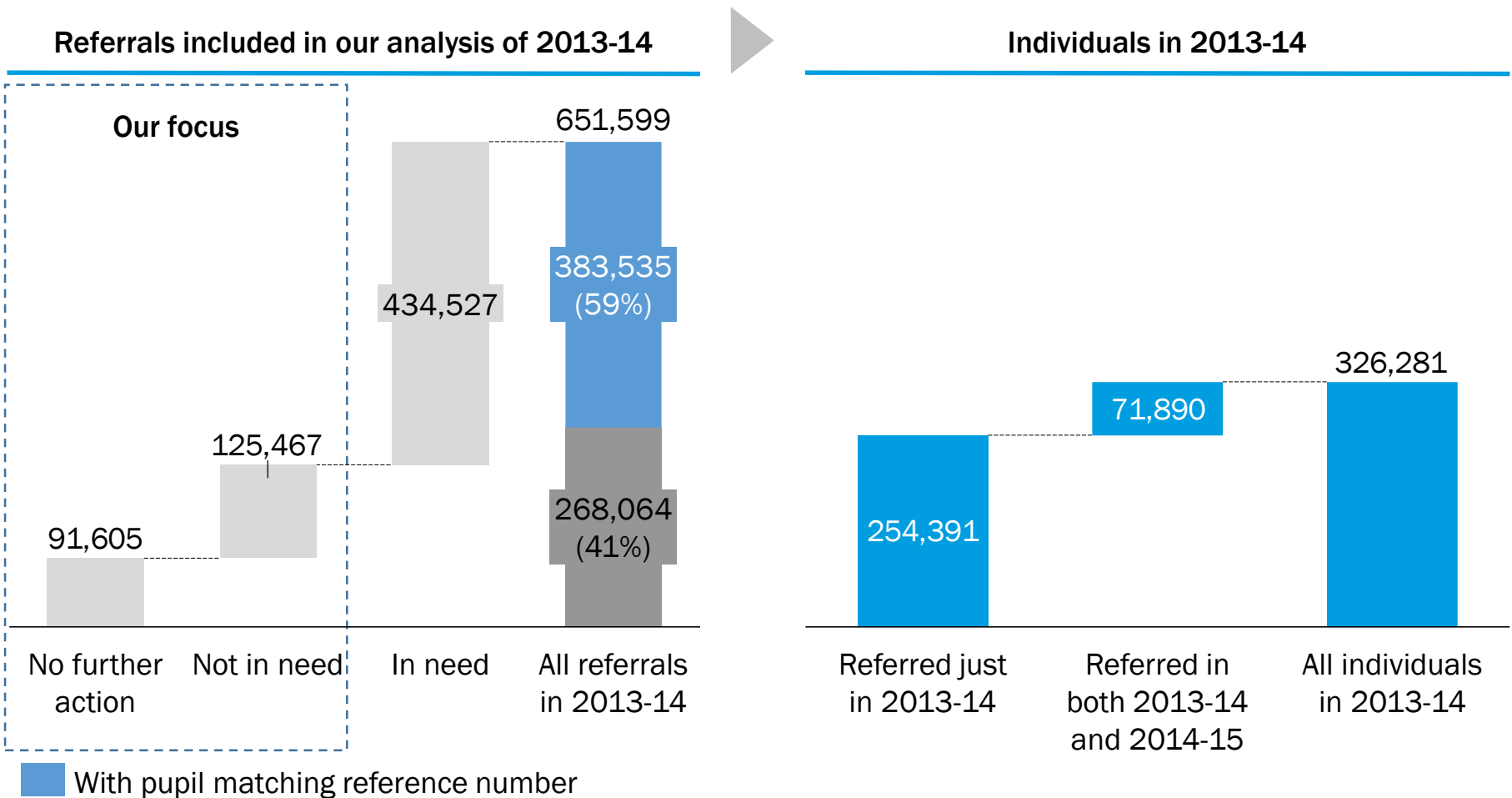
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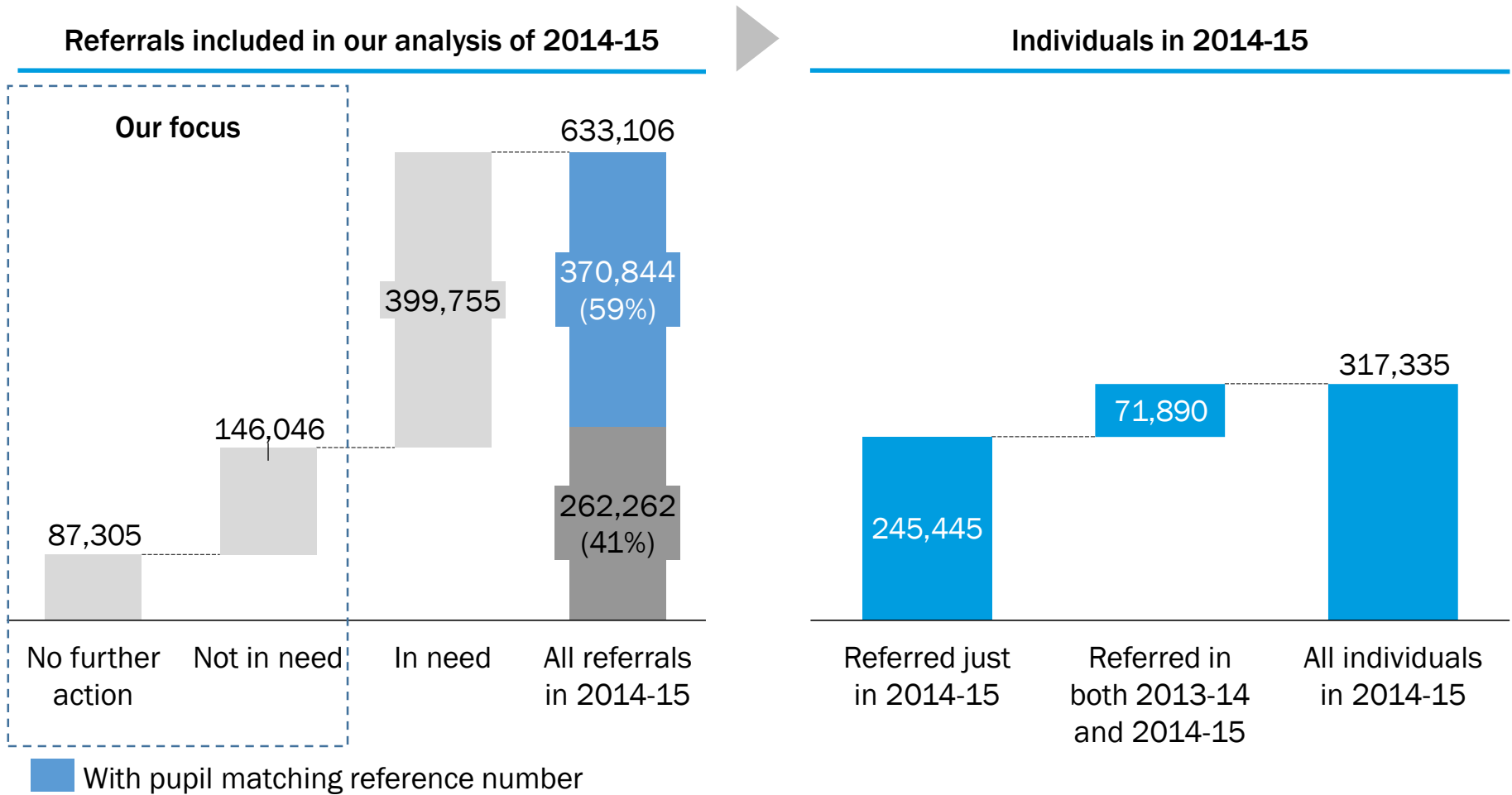
2013-14: From referrals to individual children

Out of the 651,599 referrals included in our analysis, 383,535 or almost 60 per cent, had pupil matching referral numbers, which corresponded to 326,281 individual children

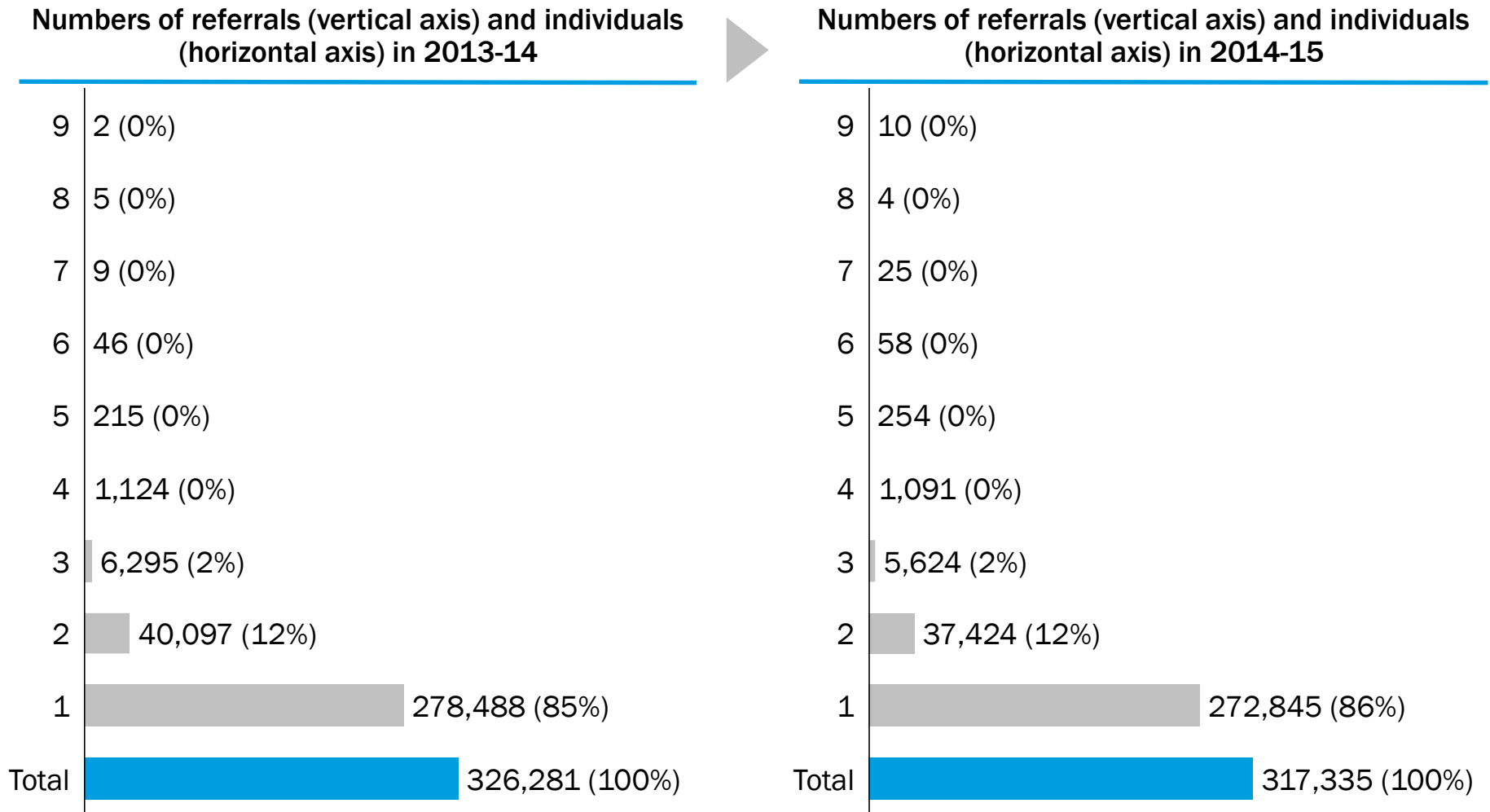


2014-15: From referrals to individual children

Out of the 633,106 referrals included in our analysis, 370,844 or almost 60 per cent, had pupil matching referral numbers, which corresponded to 317,335 children



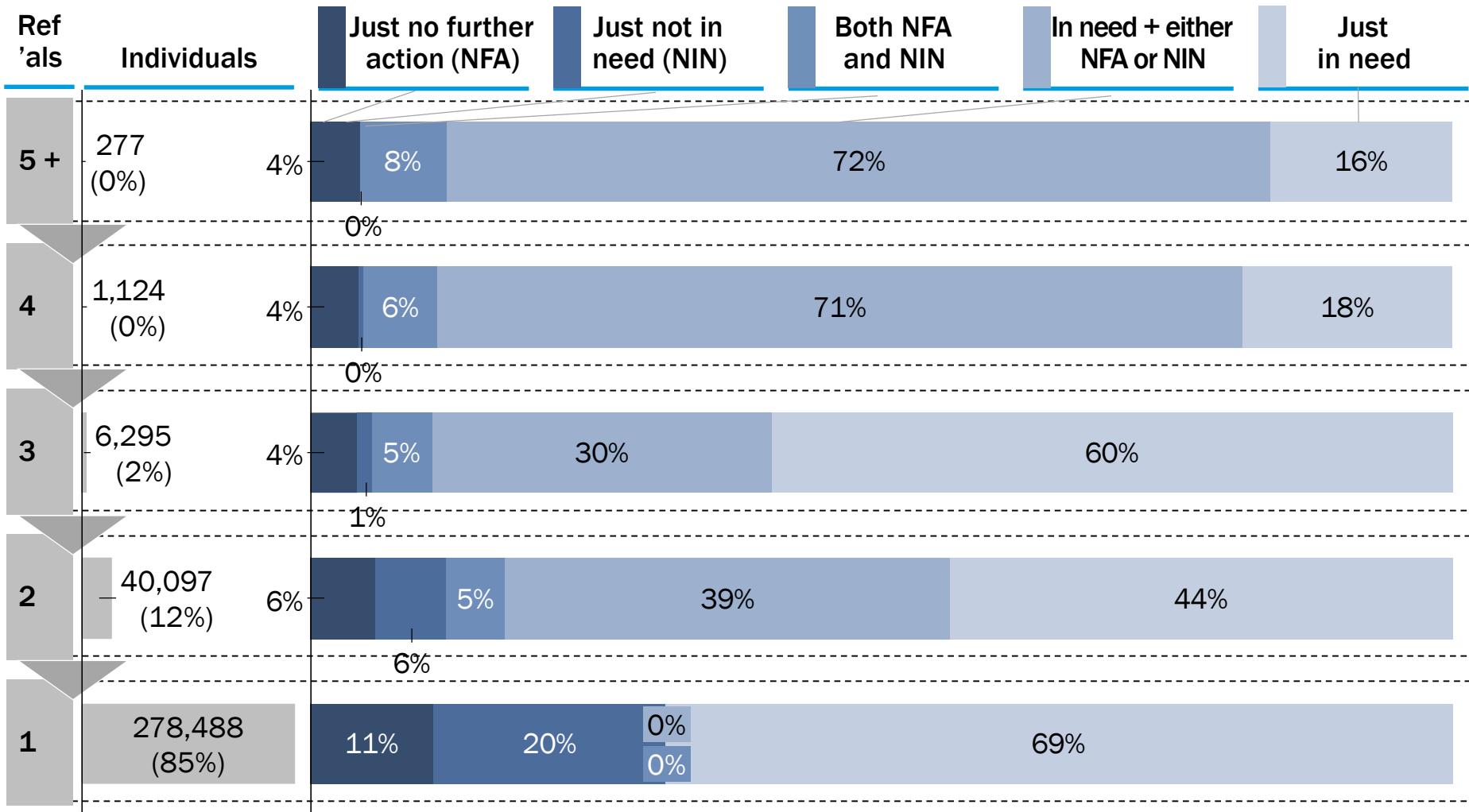
2013-14 and 2014-15: Number of individuals experiencing different numbers of referrals in each year separately



Source: Department for Education, National Pupil Database, Children in need census, bespoke extract

2013-14: Numbers of referrals by referral results experienced by individuals

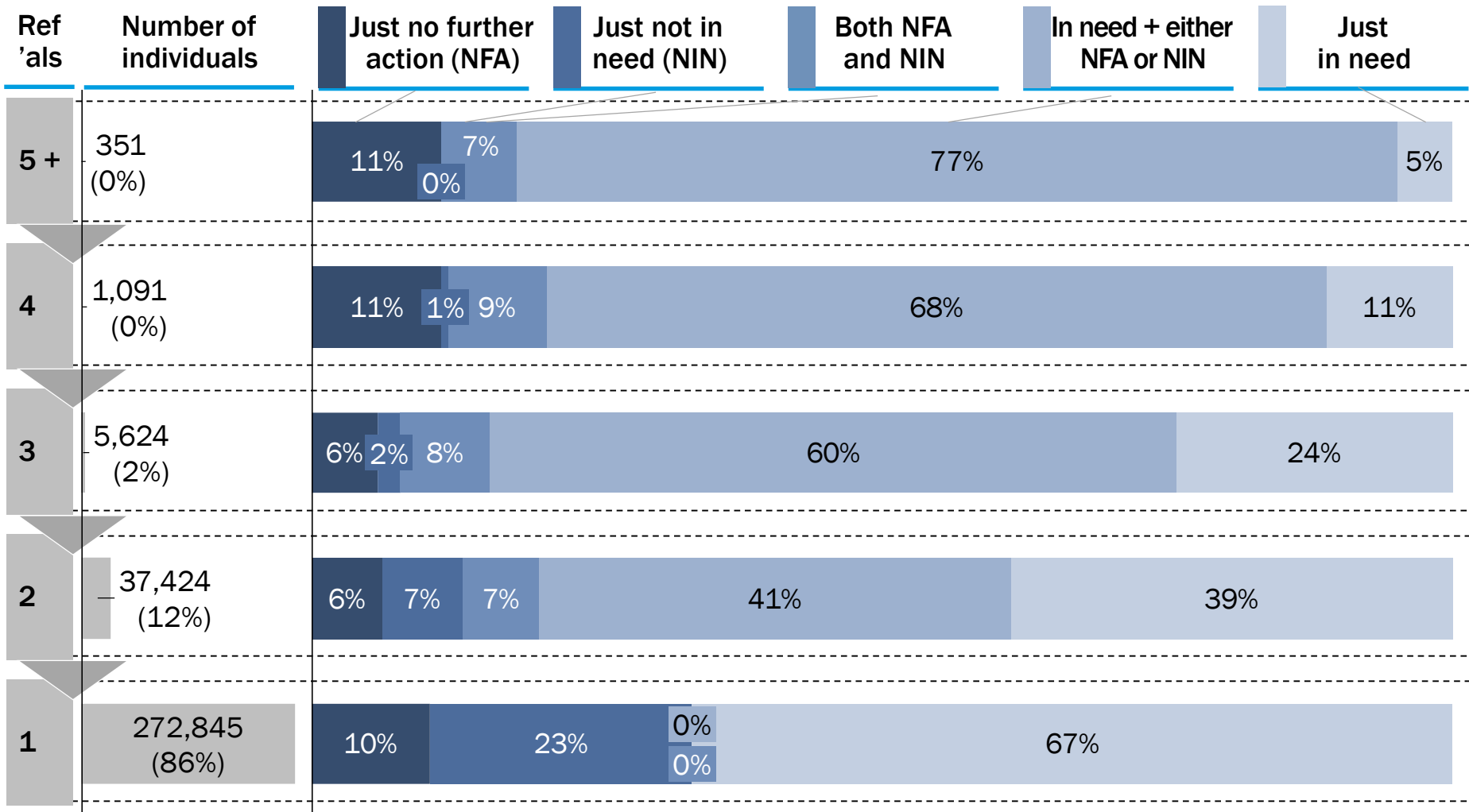
The majority experienced referrals assessed as in need; the more referrals, the greater the chance that an individual experiences this result



Source: Department for Education, National Pupil Database. Note: 1. n = 326,281 individuals included in our new analysis for 2013-14; 2. Both NFA and NIN = both no further action, and not-in-need referral results experienced, without experiencing any in-need result; 3. In need, + either NFA or NIN = at least one in-need referral result, and also at least one no further action, or not-in-need referral result; 4 just in need = only experienced in-need referral results

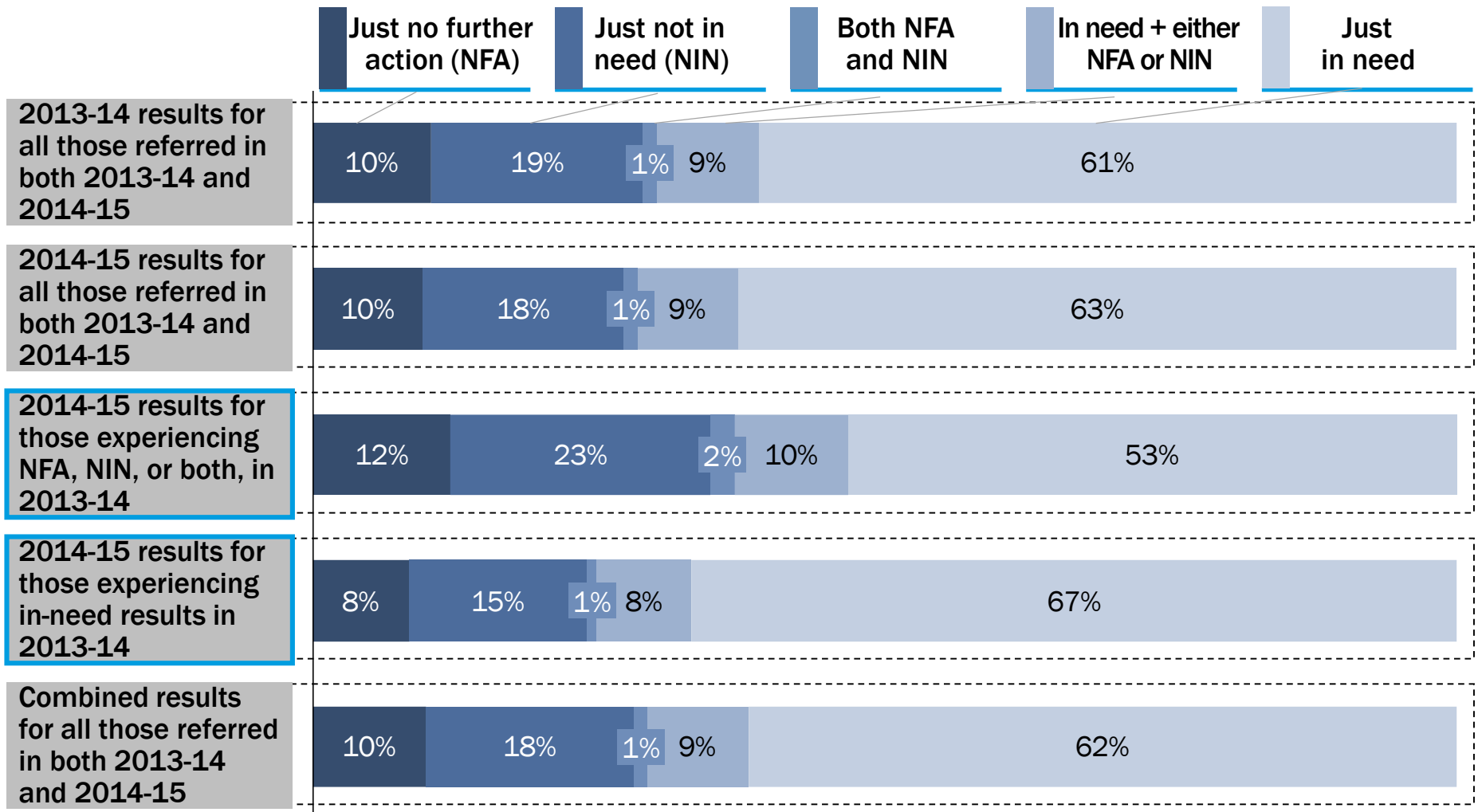
2014-15: Numbers of referrals by referral results experienced by individuals

The majority experienced referrals assessed as in need; the more referrals, the greater the chance that an individual experiences this result



Source: Department for Education, National Pupil Database. Note: 1. n = 317,335 individuals included in our new analysis for 2014-15; 2. Both NFA and NIN = both no further action, and not-in-need referral result experienced, without experiencing any in-need result; 3. In need, + either NFA or NIN = at least one in-need referral result, and also at least one no further action, or not-in-need referral result; 4 just in need = only experienced in-need referral results

2013-14 and 2014-15: Number of individuals experiencing different numbers of referrals in both years



Important

37 per cent

of those individual children who were referred in 2013-14 and the result was no further action, or assessed as not in need, had the same experience again in 2014-15, with the remaining 63 per cent being assessed as in need

24 per cent

of those individual children who were referred in 2013-14 and the result was assessed as in need, experienced no further actions and assessed as not in need in 2014-15, with the remaining 75 per cent being assessed as in need again

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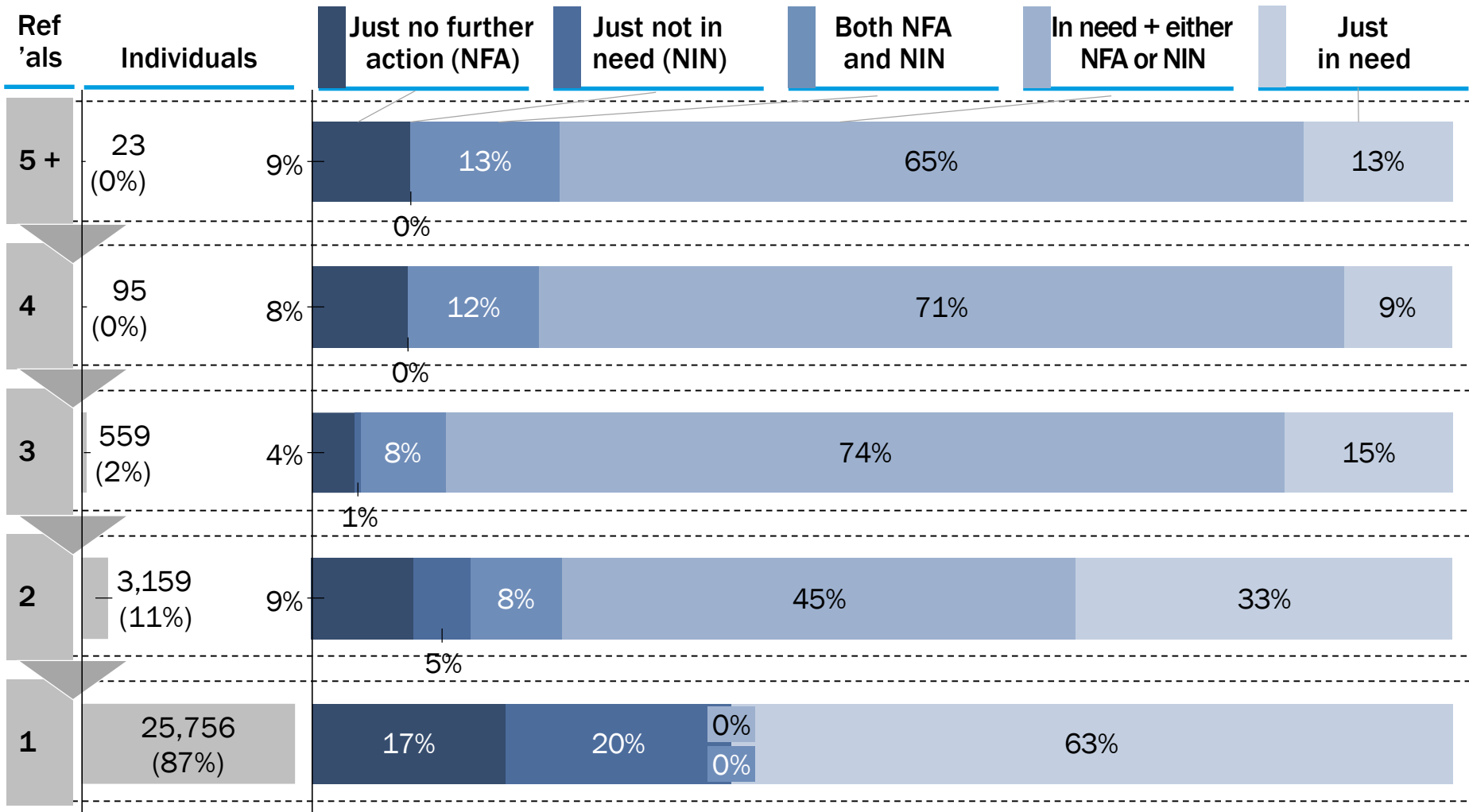
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East Midlands, 2013-14: Numbers of referrals by referral results

The majority experienced referrals that resulted in in-need status; the more referrals, the greater the chance that an individual experiences this result

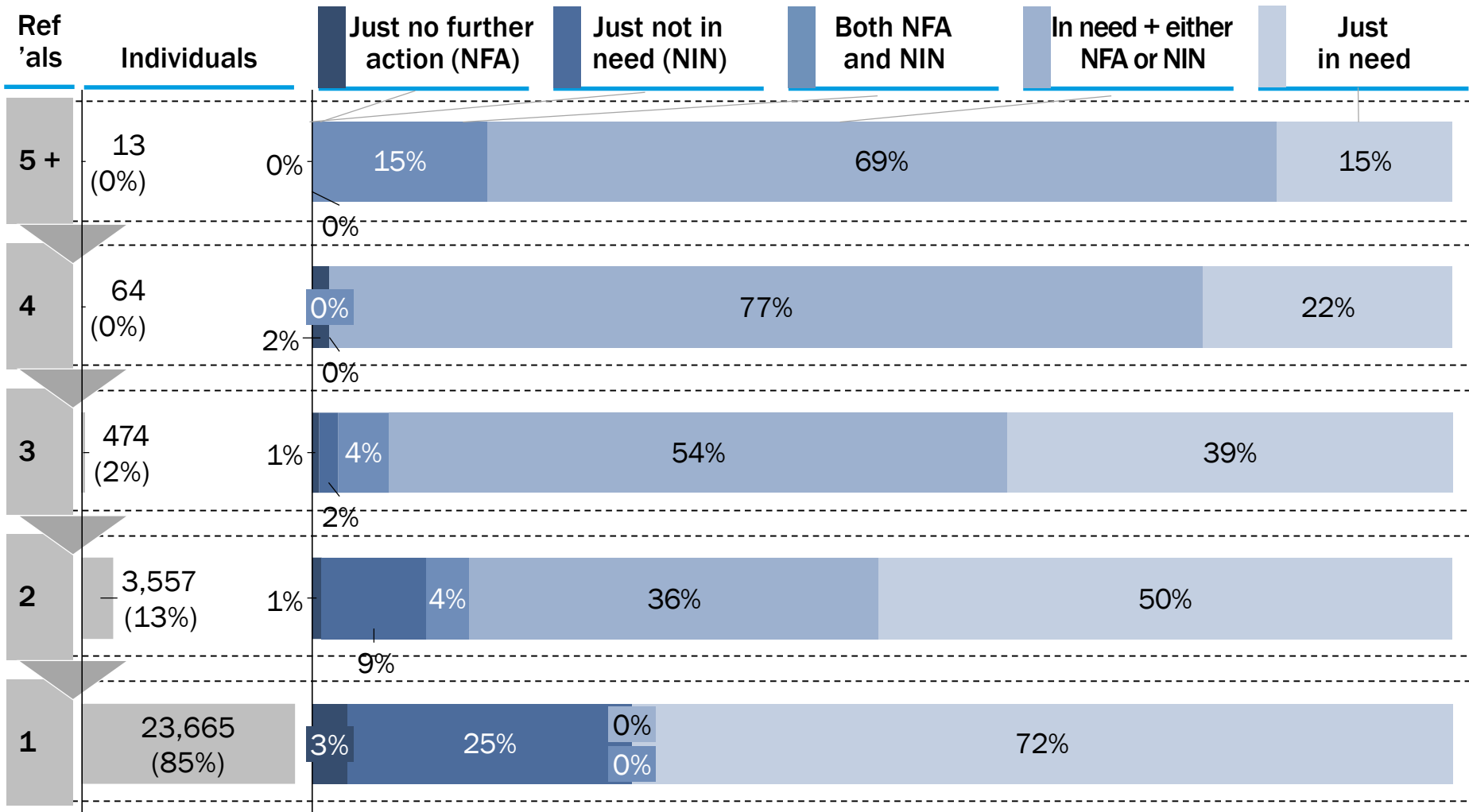


Source: Department for Education, National Pupil Database

Note: 1. n = 29,592 individuals included in our new analysis for 2013-14 who reside in the East Midlands

East of England, 2013-14: Numbers of referrals by referral results

The majority experienced referrals that resulted in in-need status; the more referrals, the greater the chance that an individual experiences this result

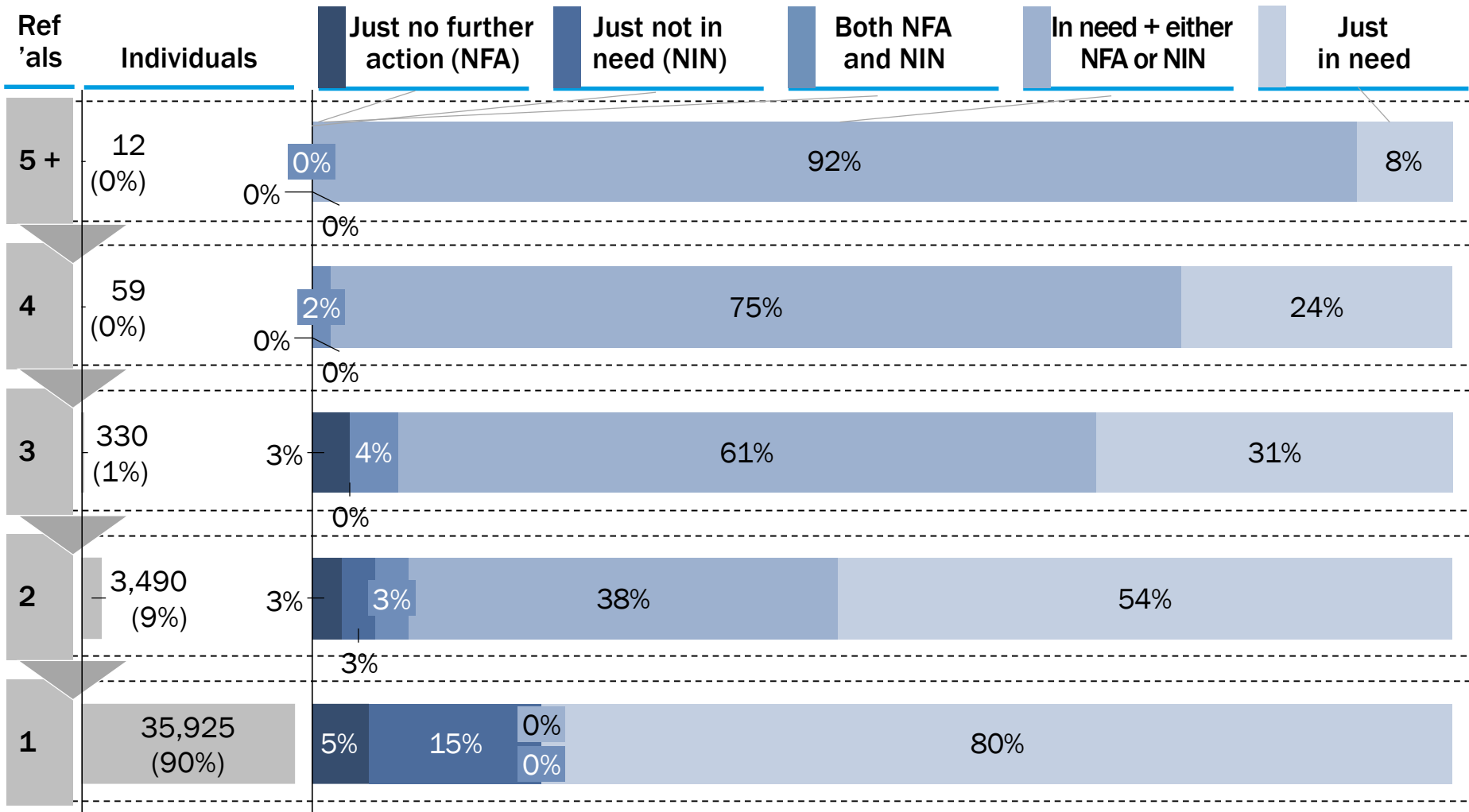


Source: Department for Education, National Pupil Database

Note: 1. n = 27,773 individuals included in our new analysis for 2013-14 who reside in the East of England

London, 2013-14: Numbers of referrals by referral results

The majority experienced referrals that resulted in in-need status; this was comparatively more common in London than in other regions

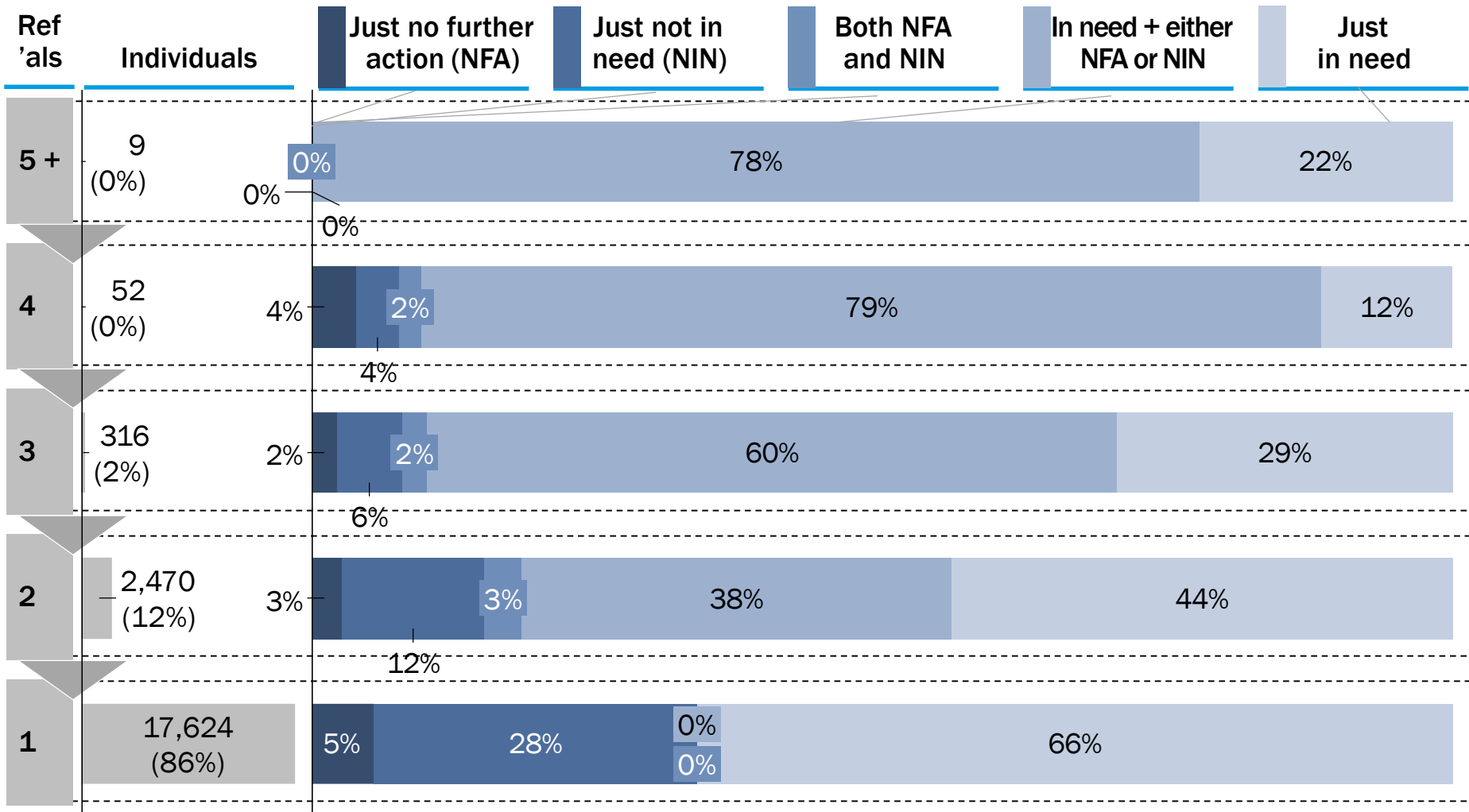


Source: Department for Education, National Pupil Database

Note: 1. n = 39,816 individuals included in our new analysis for 2013-14 who reside in London

North East, 2013-14: Numbers of referrals by referral results

The majority experienced referrals that resulted in in-need status; the more referrals, the greater the chance that an individual experiences this result

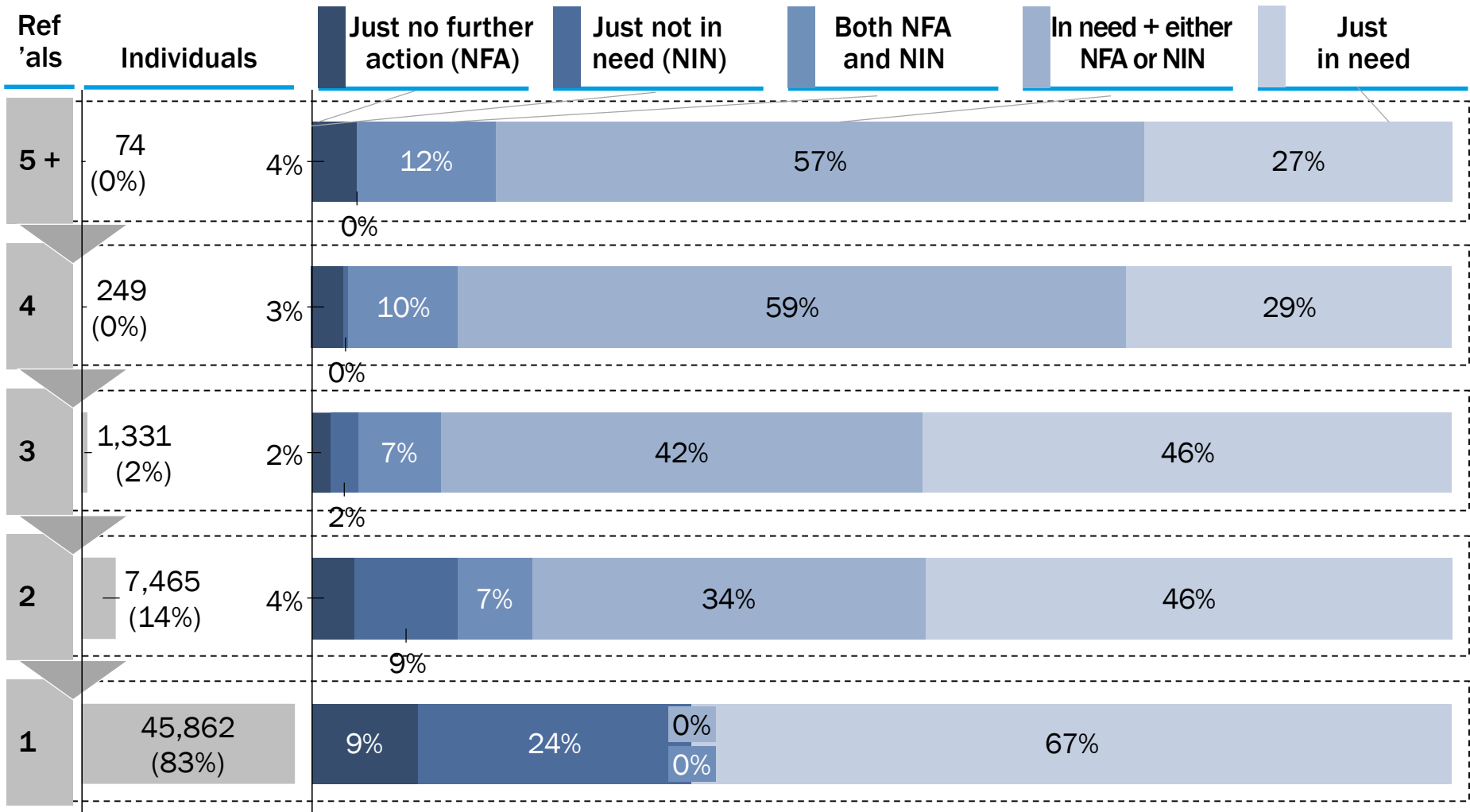


Source: Department for Education, National Pupil Database

Note: 1. n = 20,471 individuals included in our new analysis for 2013-14 who reside in the North East

North West, 2013-14: Numbers of referrals by referral results

The majority experienced referrals that resulted in in-need status; the more referrals, the greater the chance that an individual experiences this result

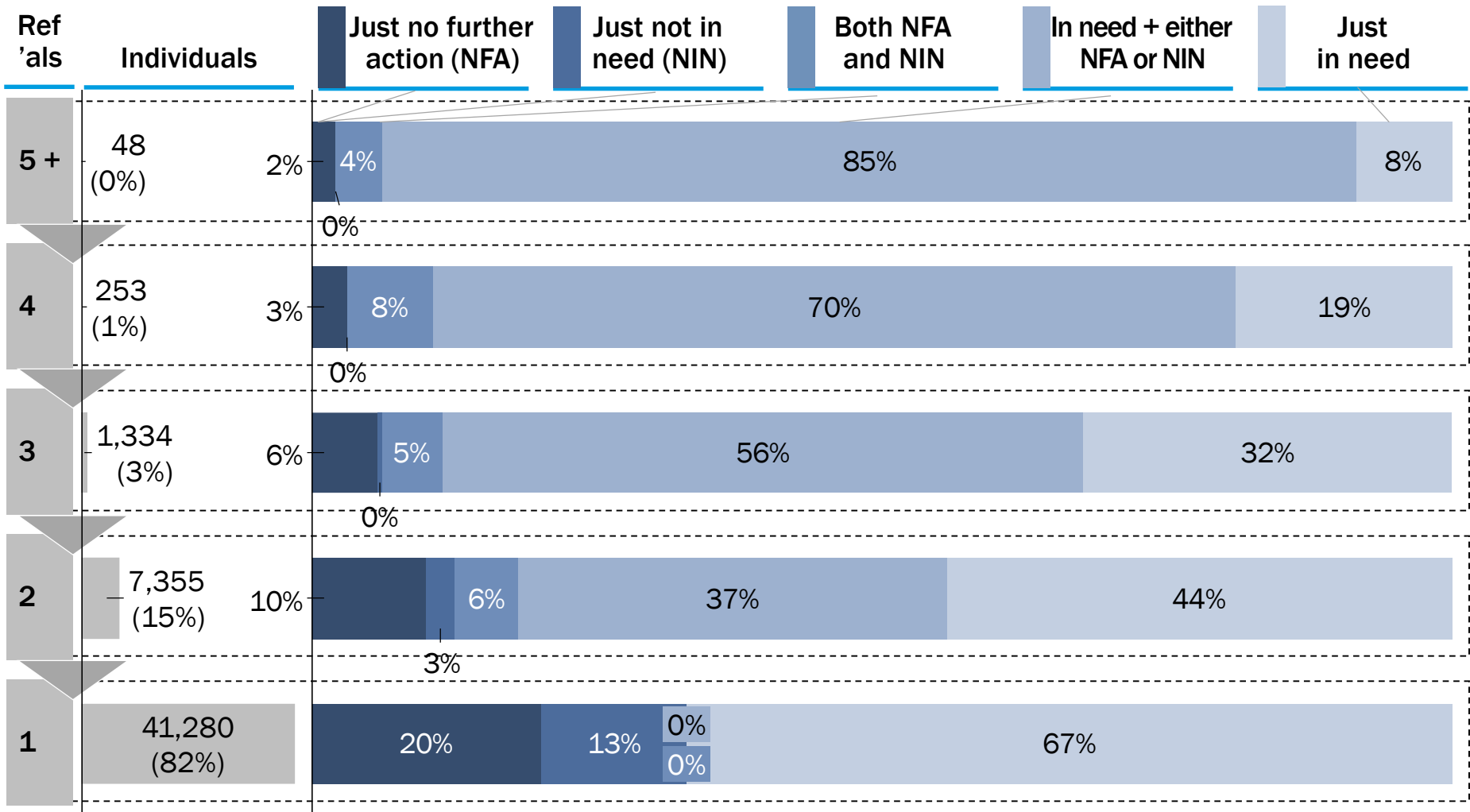


Source: Department for Education, National Pupil Database

Note: 1. n = 54,981 individuals included in our new analysis for 2013-14 who reside in the North West

South East, 2013-14: Numbers of referrals by referral results

The majority experienced referrals that resulted in in-need status; the more referrals, the greater the chance that an individual experiences this result

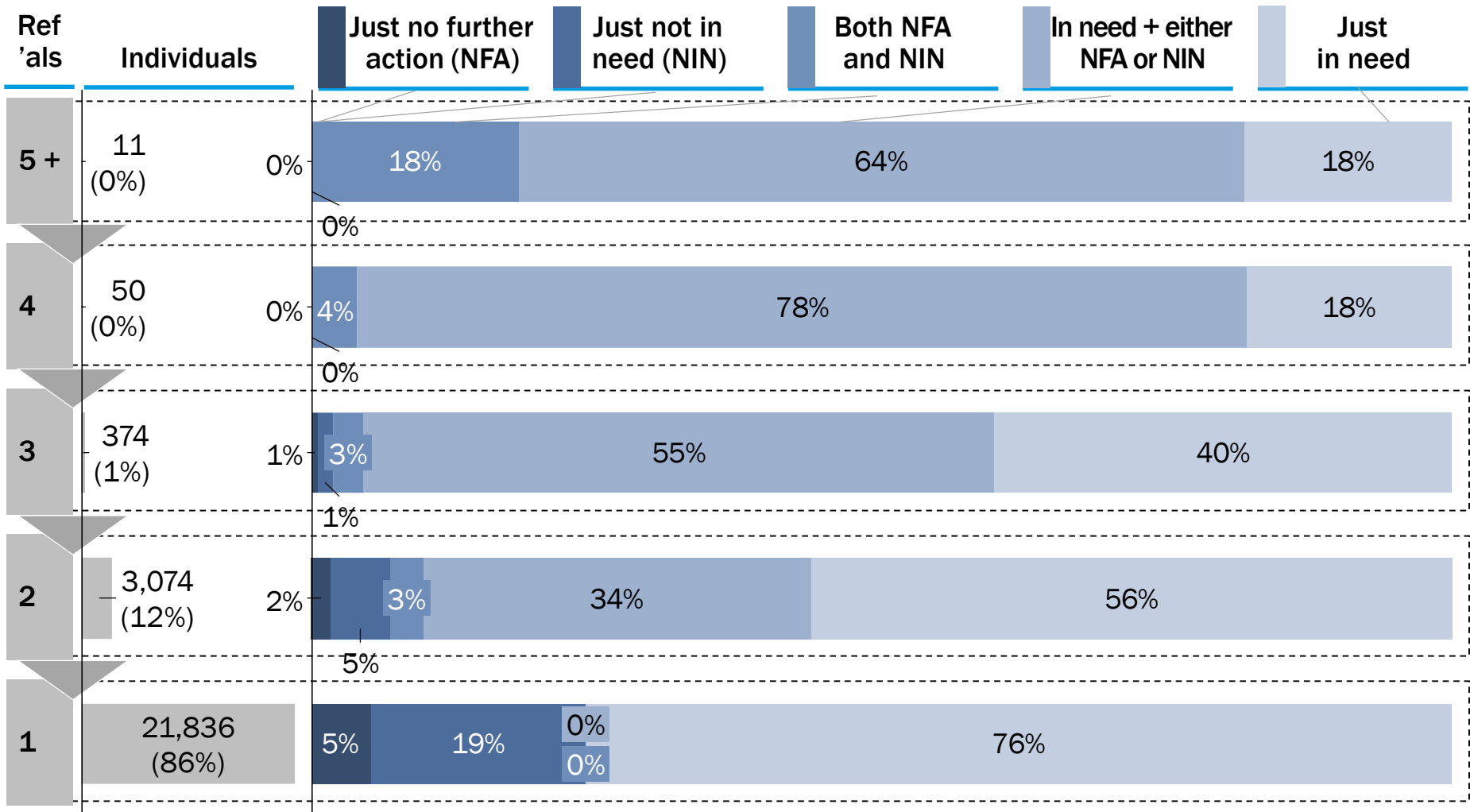


Source: Department for Education, National Pupil Database

Note: 1. n = 50,270 individuals included in our new analysis for 2013-14 who reside in the North West

South West, 2013-14: Numbers of referrals by referral results

The majority experienced referrals that resulted in in-need status; the more referrals, the greater the chance that an individual experiences this result

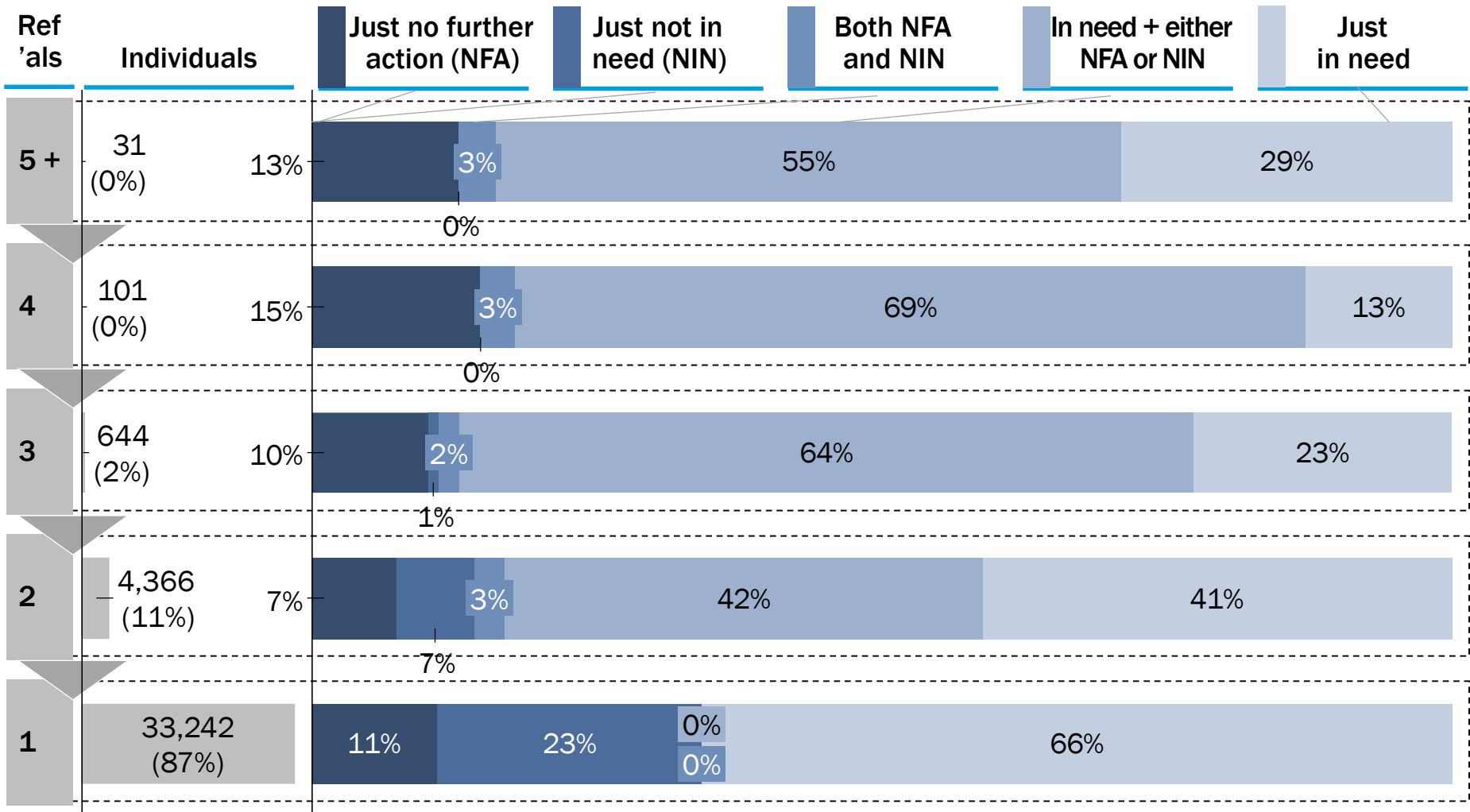


Source: Department for Education, National Pupil Database

Note: 1. n = 25,345 individuals included in our new analysis for 2013-14 who reside in the South West

West Midlands, 2013-14: Numbers of referrals by referral results

The majority experienced referrals that resulted in in-need status; the more referrals, the greater the chance that an individual experiences this result

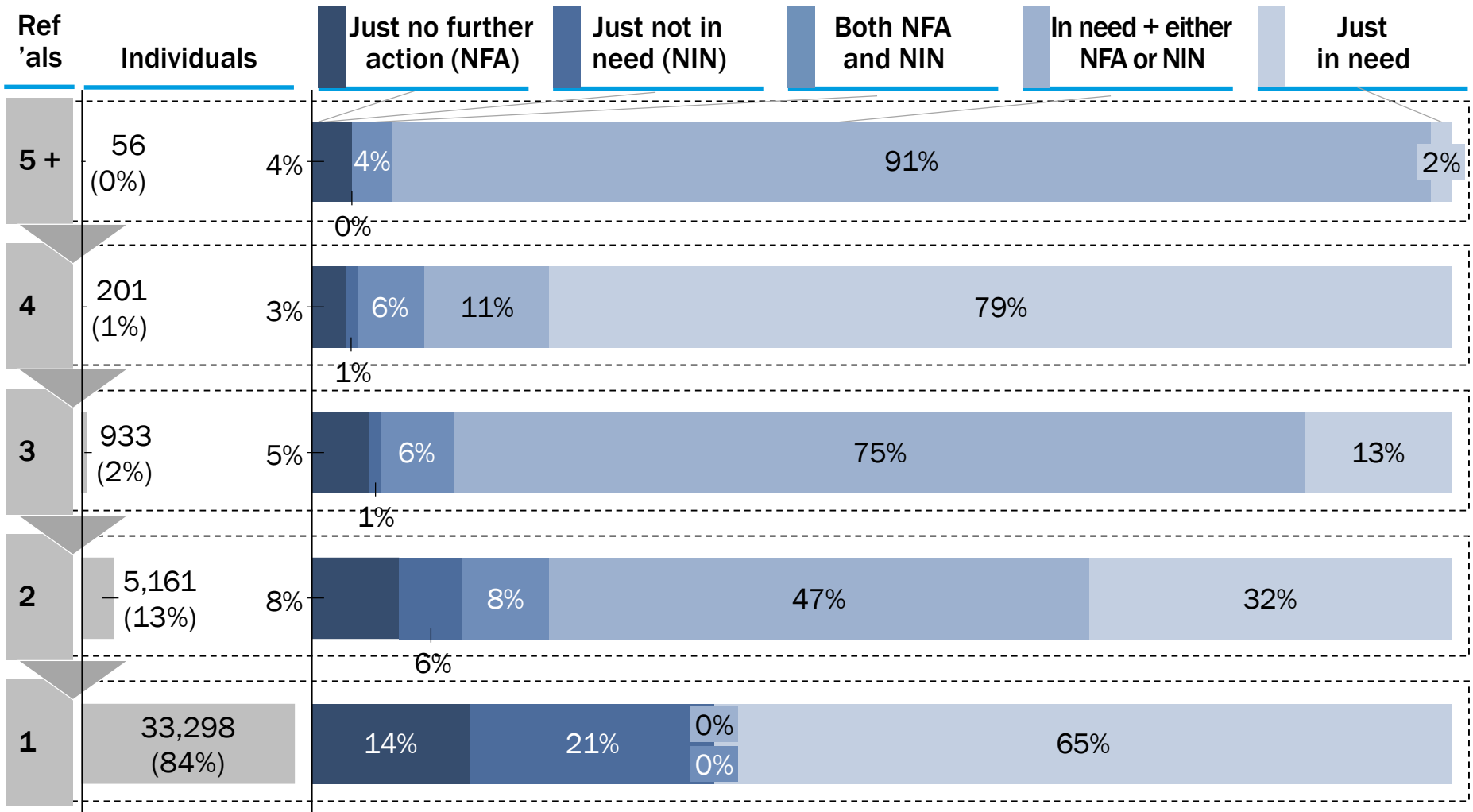


Source: Department for Education, National Pupil Database

Note: 1. n = 38,384 individuals included in our new analysis for 2013-14 who reside in the West Midlands

Yorkshire, 2013-14: Numbers of referrals by referral results

The majority experienced referrals that resulted in in-need status; the more referrals, the greater the chance that an individual experiences this result

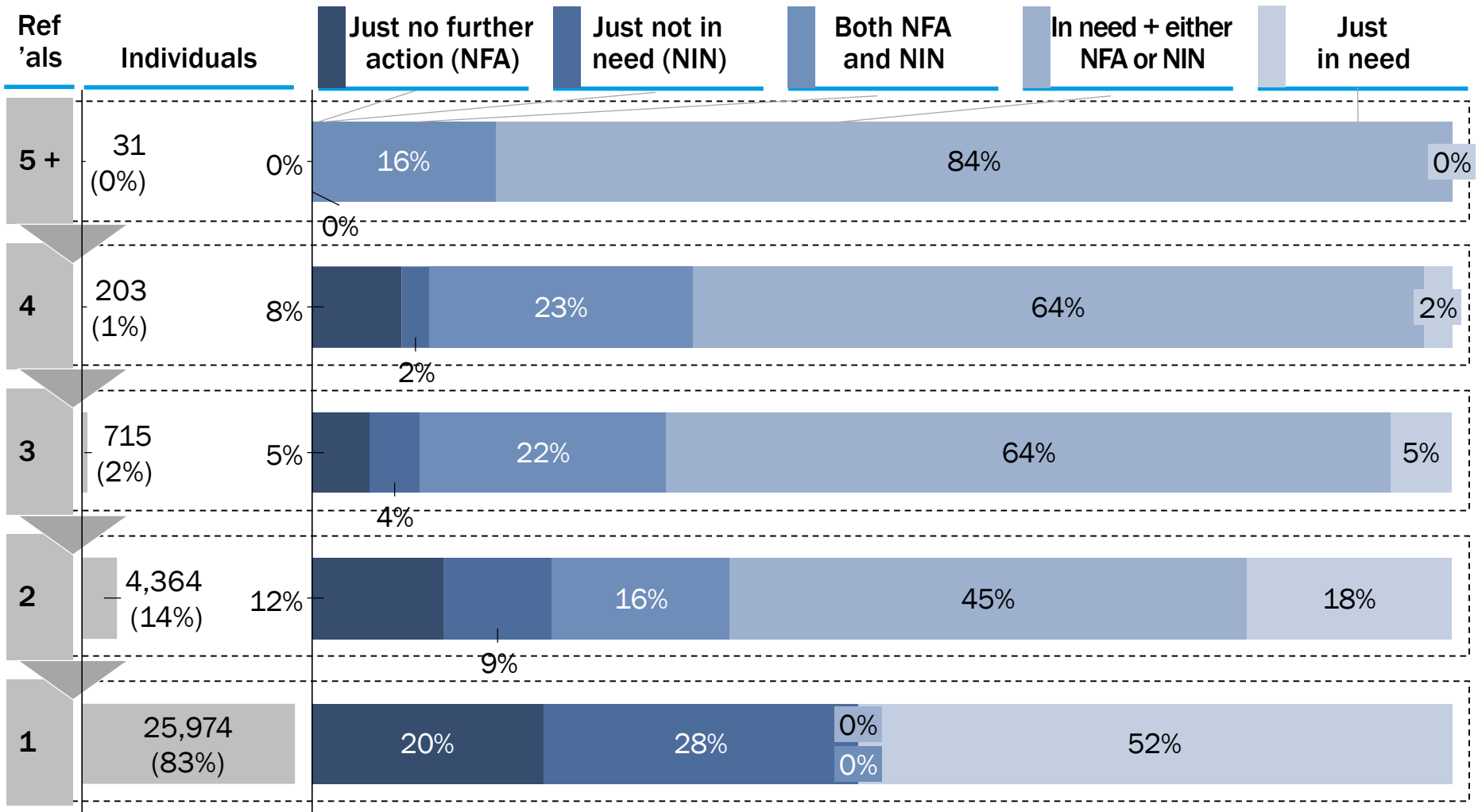


Source: Department for Education, National Pupil Database

Note: 1. n = 39,649 individuals included in our new analysis for 2013-14 who reside in the Yorkshire and The Humber

East Midlands, 2014-15: Numbers of referrals by referral results

The majority experienced referrals that resulted in in-need status; the more referrals, the greater the chance that an individual experiences this result

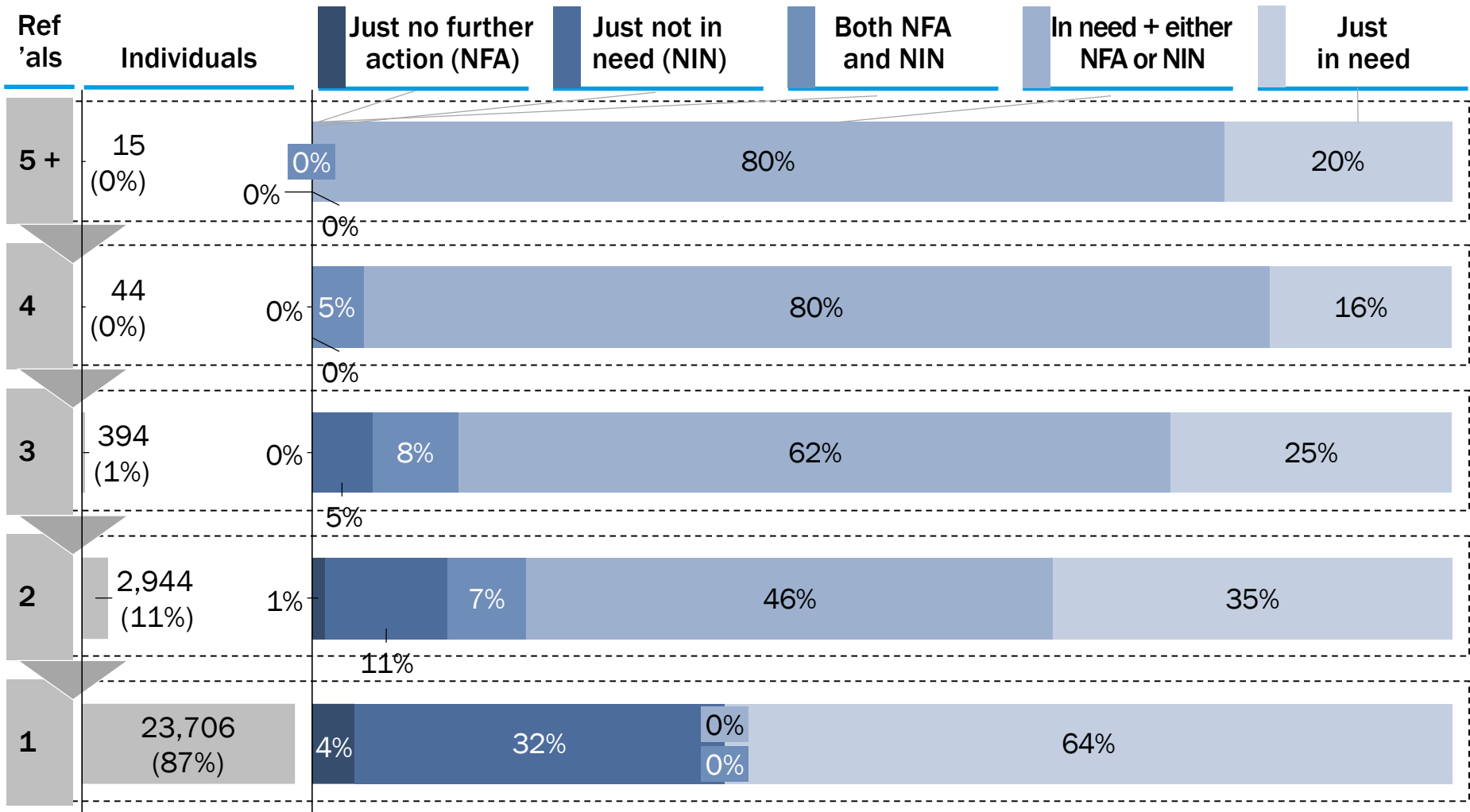


Source: Department for Education, National Pupil Database

Note: 1. n = 31,287 individuals included in our new analysis for 2014-15 who reside in the East Midlands

East of England, 2014-15: Numbers of referrals by referral results

The majority experienced referrals that resulted in in-need status; the more referrals, the greater the chance that an individual experiences this result

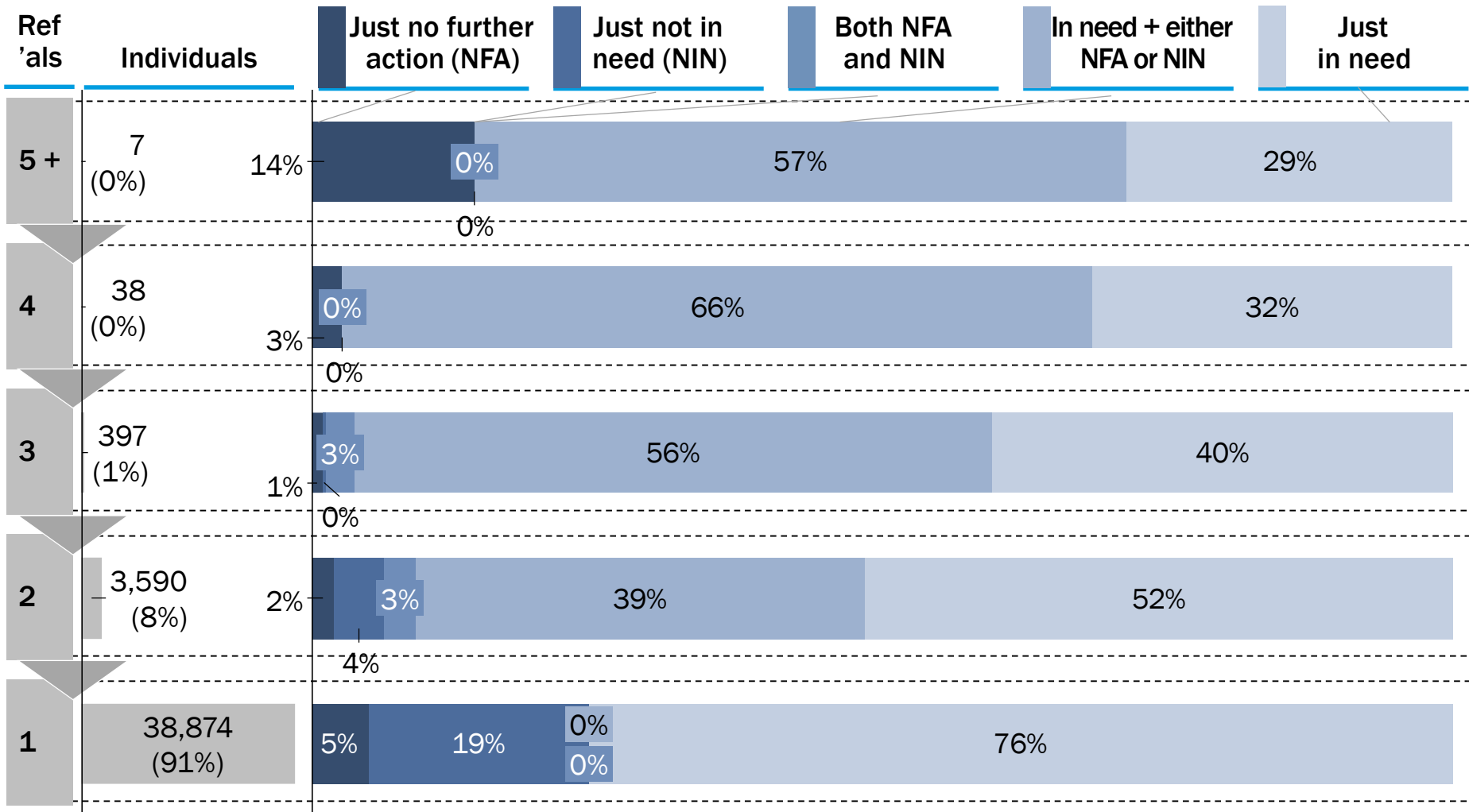


Source: Department for Education, National Pupil Database

Note: 1. n = 27,103 individuals included in our new analysis for 2014-15 who reside in the East of England

London, 2014-15: Numbers of referrals by referral results

The majority experienced referrals that resulted in in-need status; this was comparatively more common in London than in other regions

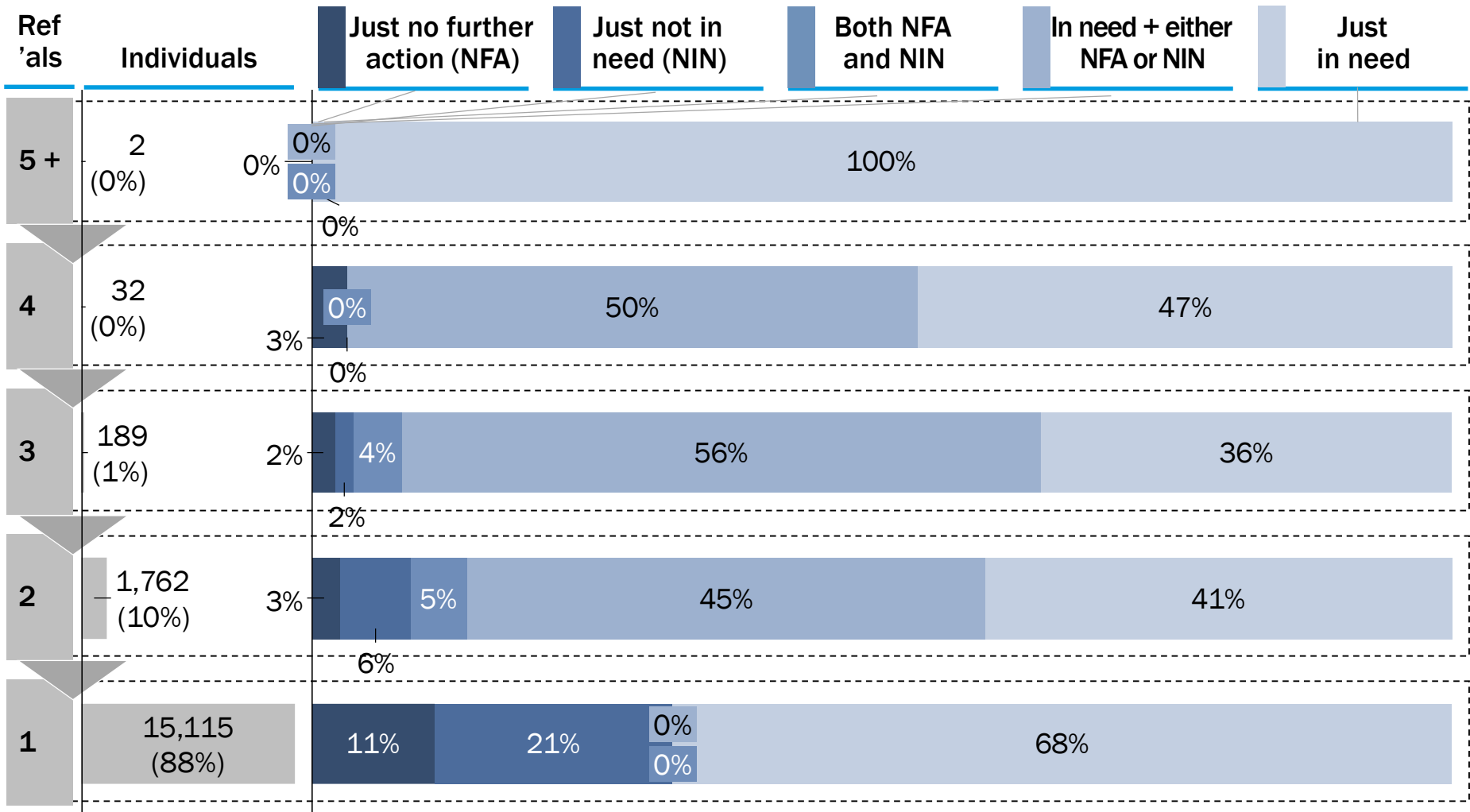


Source: Department for Education, National Pupil Database

Note: 1. n = 42,906 individuals included in our new analysis for 2014-15 who reside in London

North East, 2014-15: Numbers of referrals by referral results

The majority experienced referrals that resulted in in-need status; the more referrals, the greater the chance that an individual experiences this result

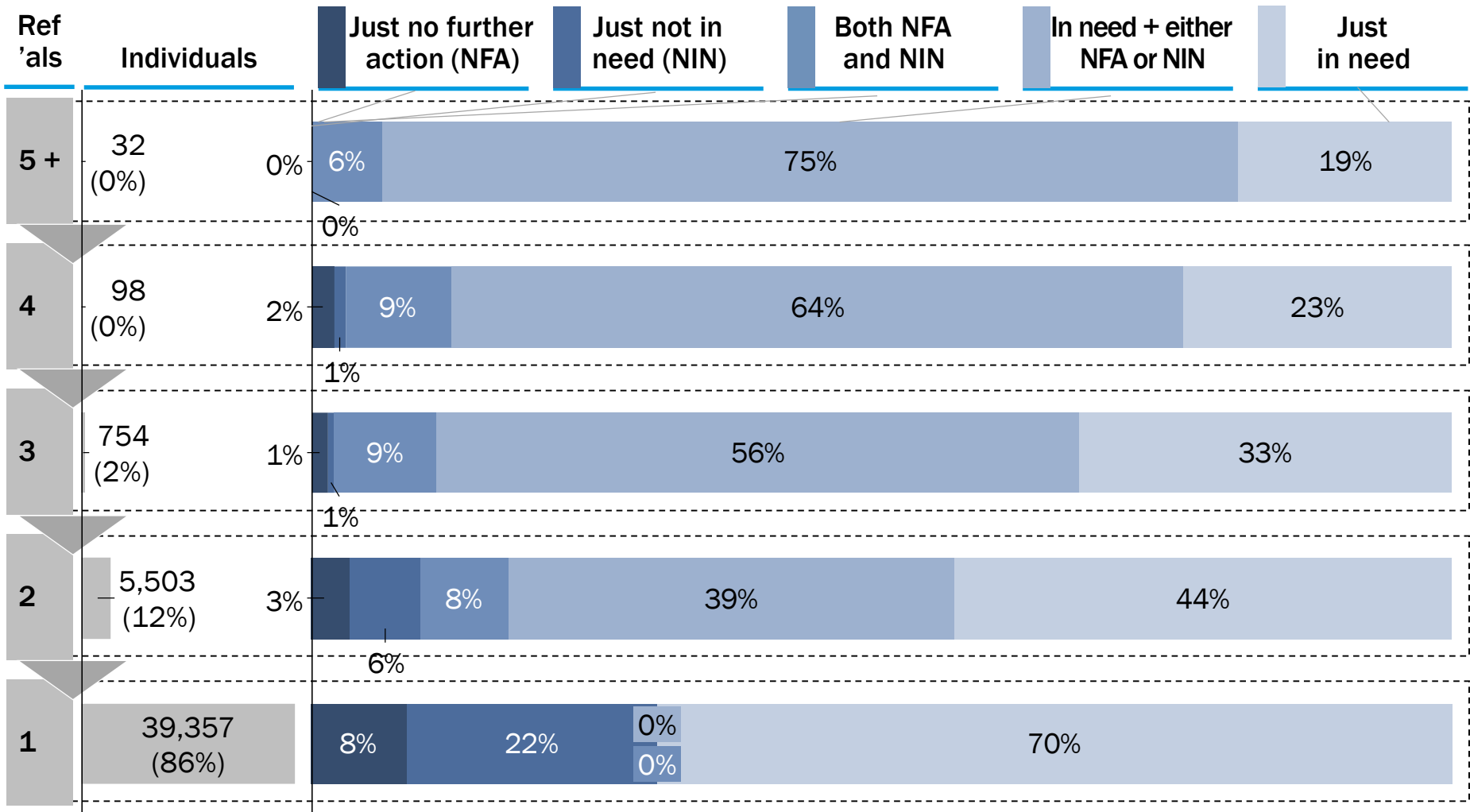


Source: Department for Education, National Pupil Database

Note: 1. n = 17,100 individuals included in our new analysis for 2014-15 who reside in the North East

North West, 2014-15: Numbers of referrals by referral results

The majority experienced referrals that resulted in in-need status; the more referrals, the greater the chance that an individual experiences this result

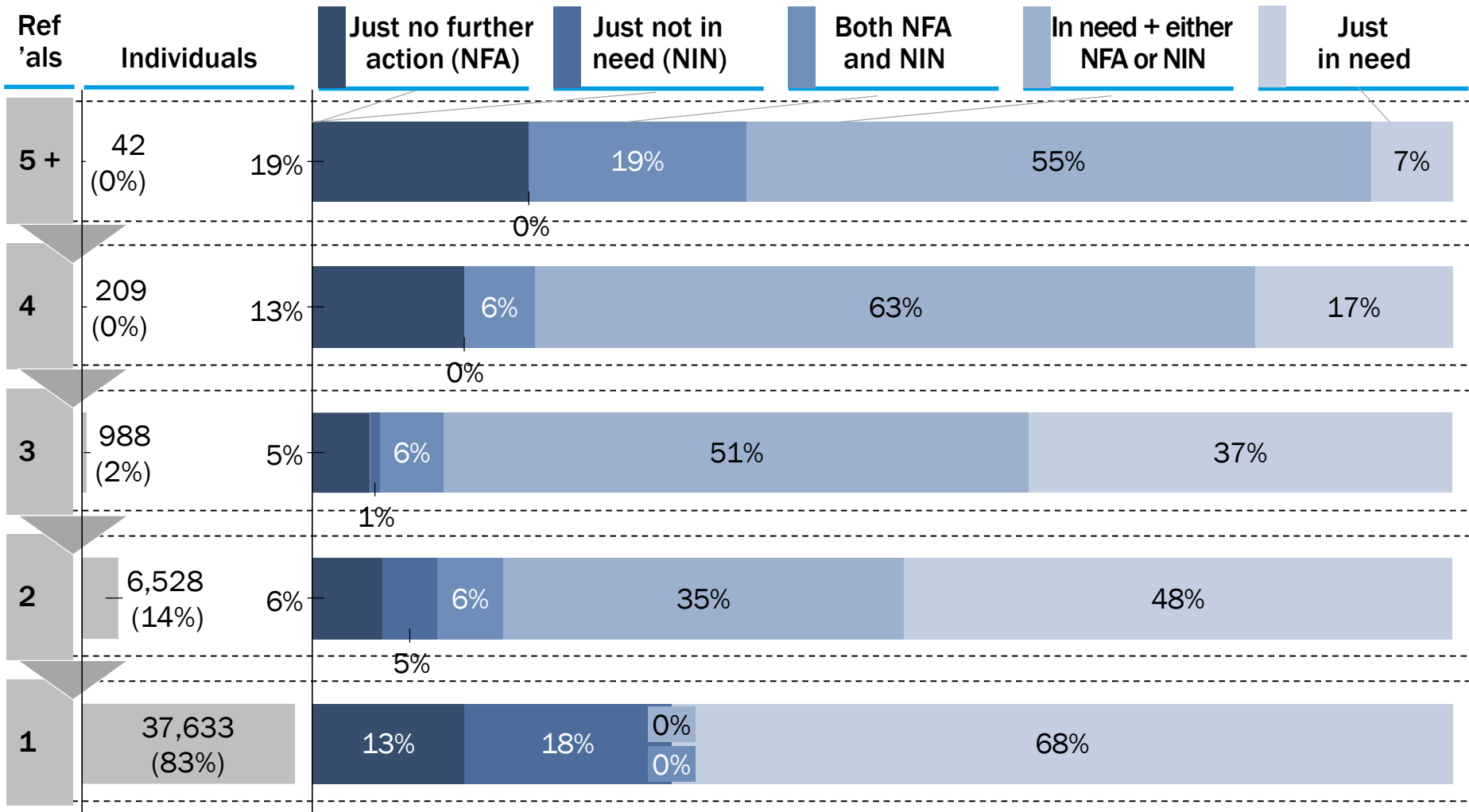


Source: Department for Education, National Pupil Database

Note: 1. n = 45,744 individuals included in our new analysis for 2014-15 who reside in the North West

South East, 2014-15: Numbers of referrals by referral results

The majority experienced referrals that resulted in in-need status; the more referrals, the greater the chance that an individual experiences this result

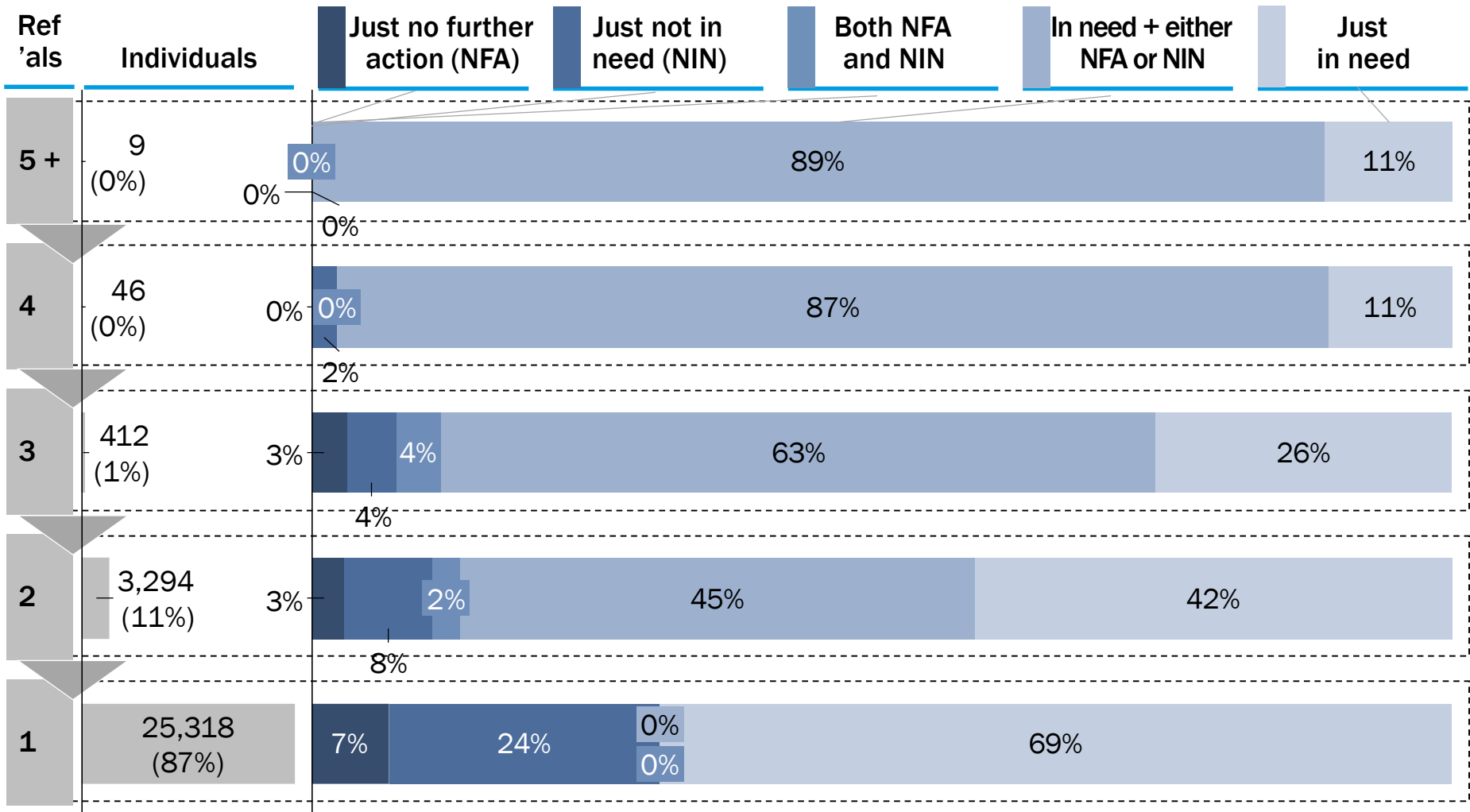


Source: Department for Education, National Pupil Database

Note: 1. n = 45,400 individuals included in our new analysis for 2014-15 who reside in the North West

South West, 2014-15: Numbers of referrals by referral results

The majority experienced referrals that resulted in in-need status; the more referrals, the greater the chance that an individual experiences this result

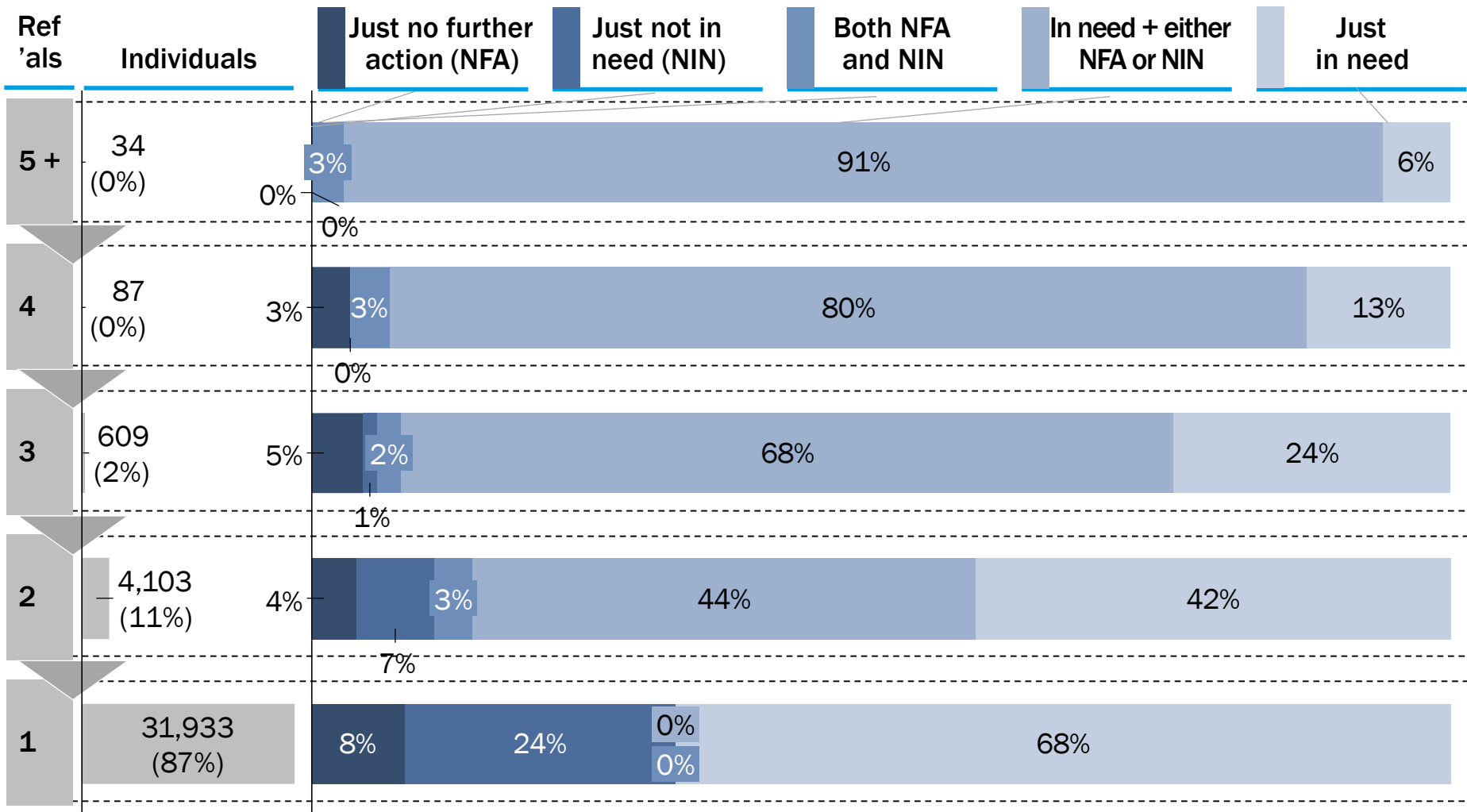


Source: Department for Education, National Pupil Database

Note: 1. n = 29,079 individuals included in our new analysis for 2014-15 who reside in the South West

West Midlands, 2014-15: Numbers of referrals by referral results

The majority experienced referrals that resulted in in-need status; the more referrals, the greater the chance that an individual experiences this result

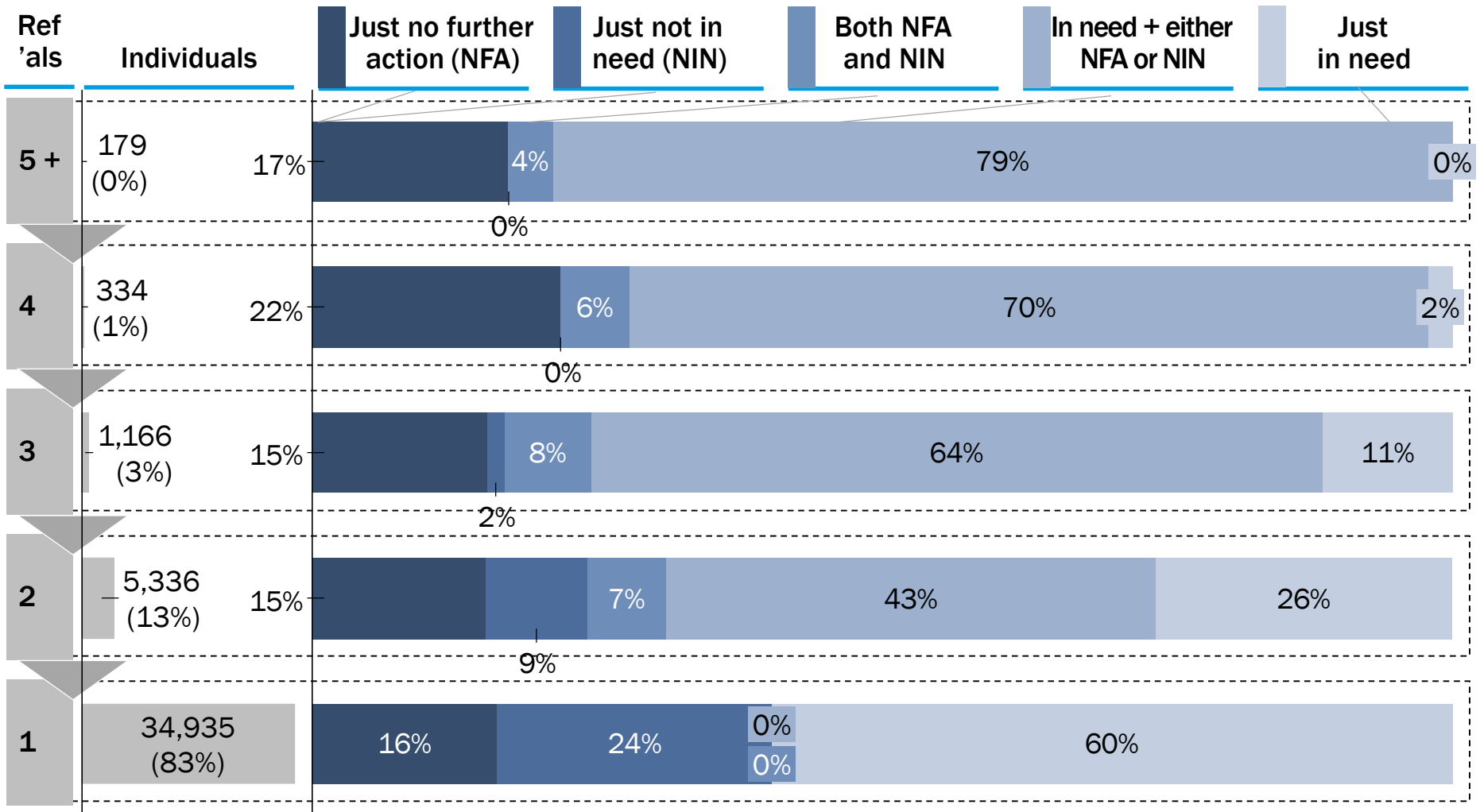


Source: Department for Education, National Pupil Database

Note: 1. n = 36,766 individuals included in our new analysis for 2014-15 who reside in the West Midlands

Yorkshire, 2014-15: Numbers of referrals by referral results

The majority experienced referrals that resulted in in-need status; the proportions experiencing no further actions was greater in Yorkshire and The Humber than in other regions



Source: Department for Education, National Pupil Database

Note: 1. n = 41,950 individuals included in our new analysis for 2014-15 who reside in the Yorkshire and The Humber

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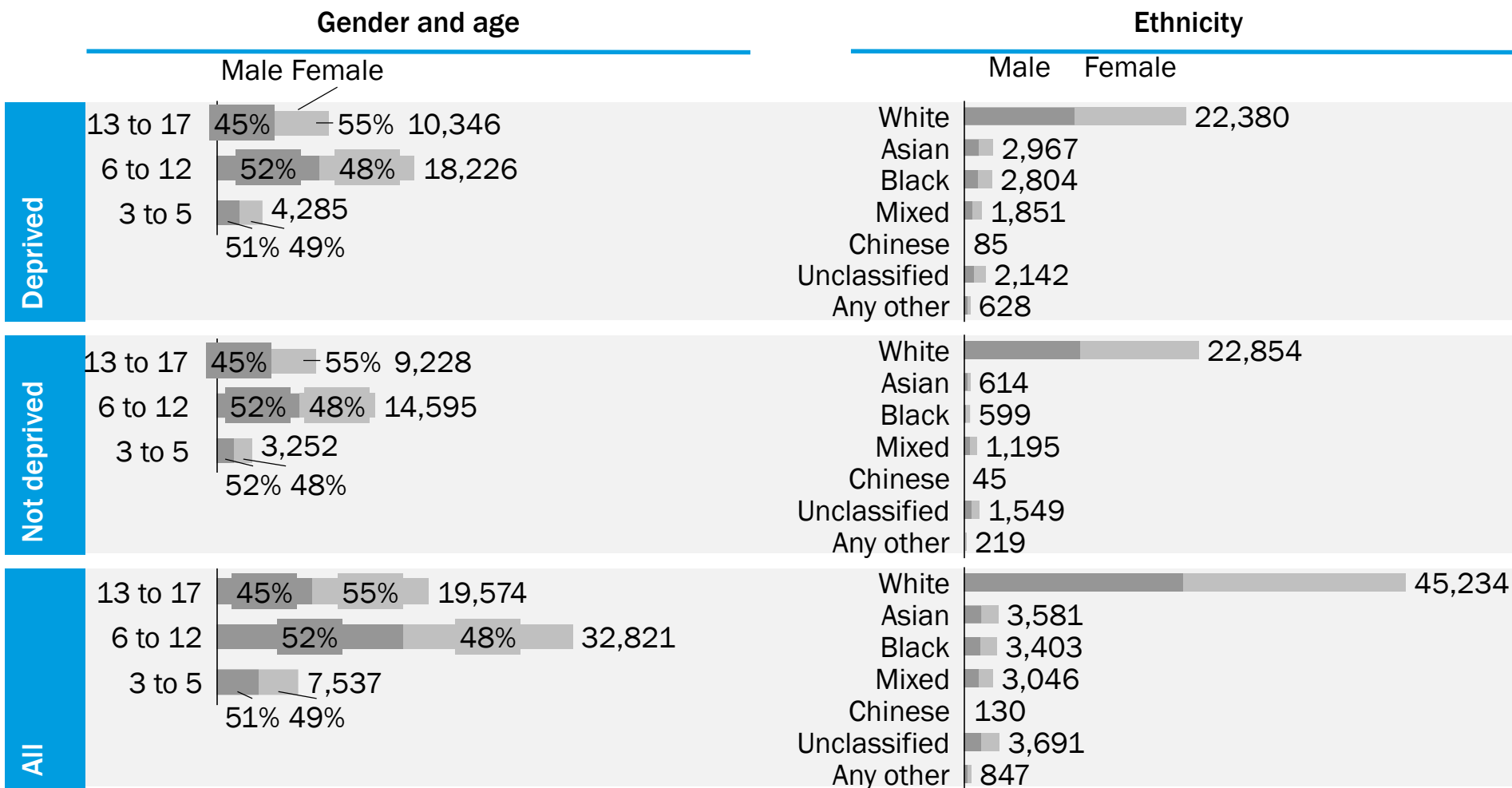
New analysis: individual characteristics

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2013-14: Gender, age, and ethnicity by deprivation levels

Among those assessed as not in need, and this plus experiencing no further actions, greater proportions of non-white individuals live in deprived areas



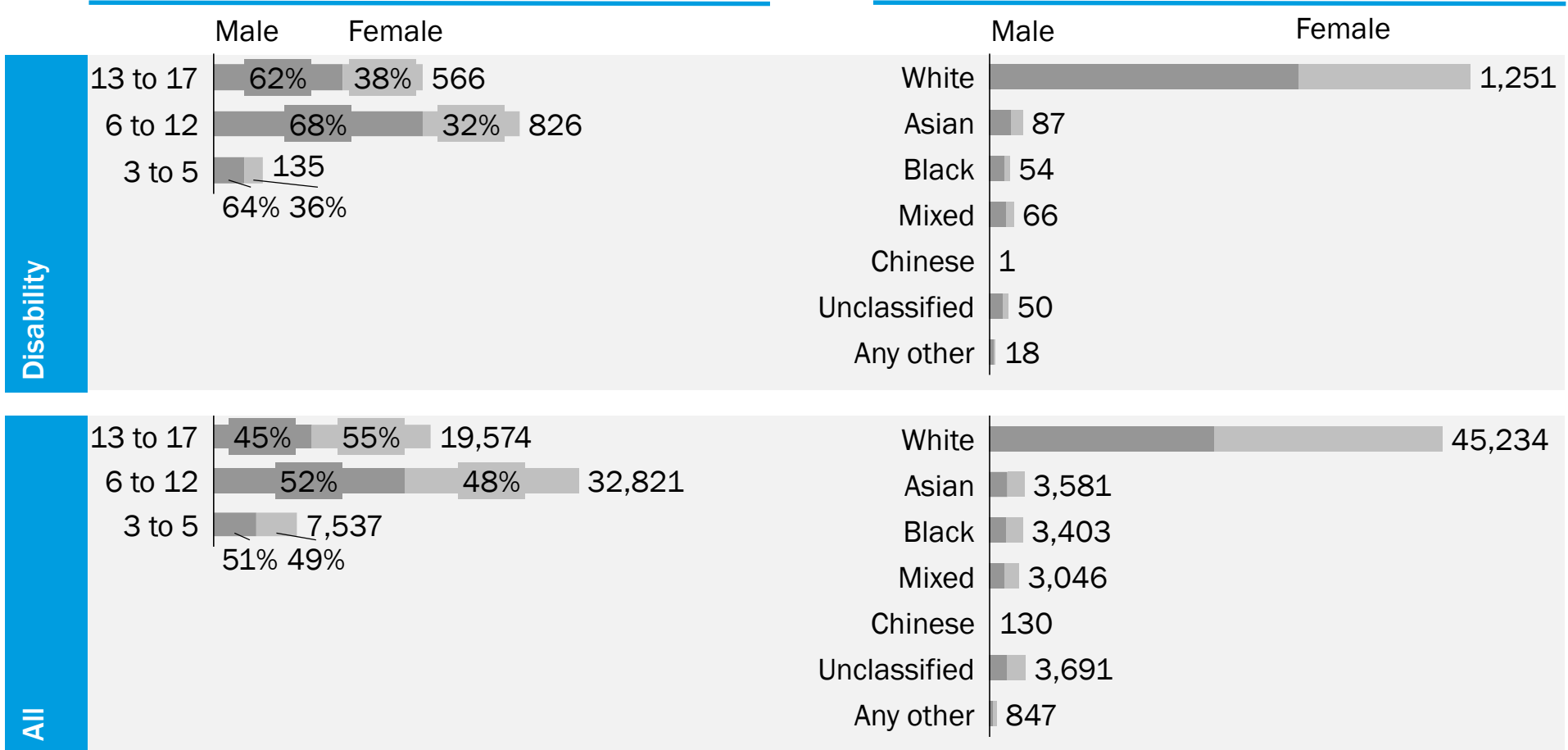
Source: Department for Education, National Pupil Database. Note: 1. n = 61,725 individuals assessed as not in need, and experiencing both no further action, and assessed as not in need in 2013-14; 2. Analysis includes 59,932 of them whose age is between 3 and 17, and have demographic information; 3. Deprived = individual living in a local authority below 60 per cent of the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (rank of average ranks for the local authority). 42

2013-14: Gender, age, and ethnicity by disability

Among those assessed as not in need, and this plus experiencing no further actions, greater proportions of males are disabled

Gender and age

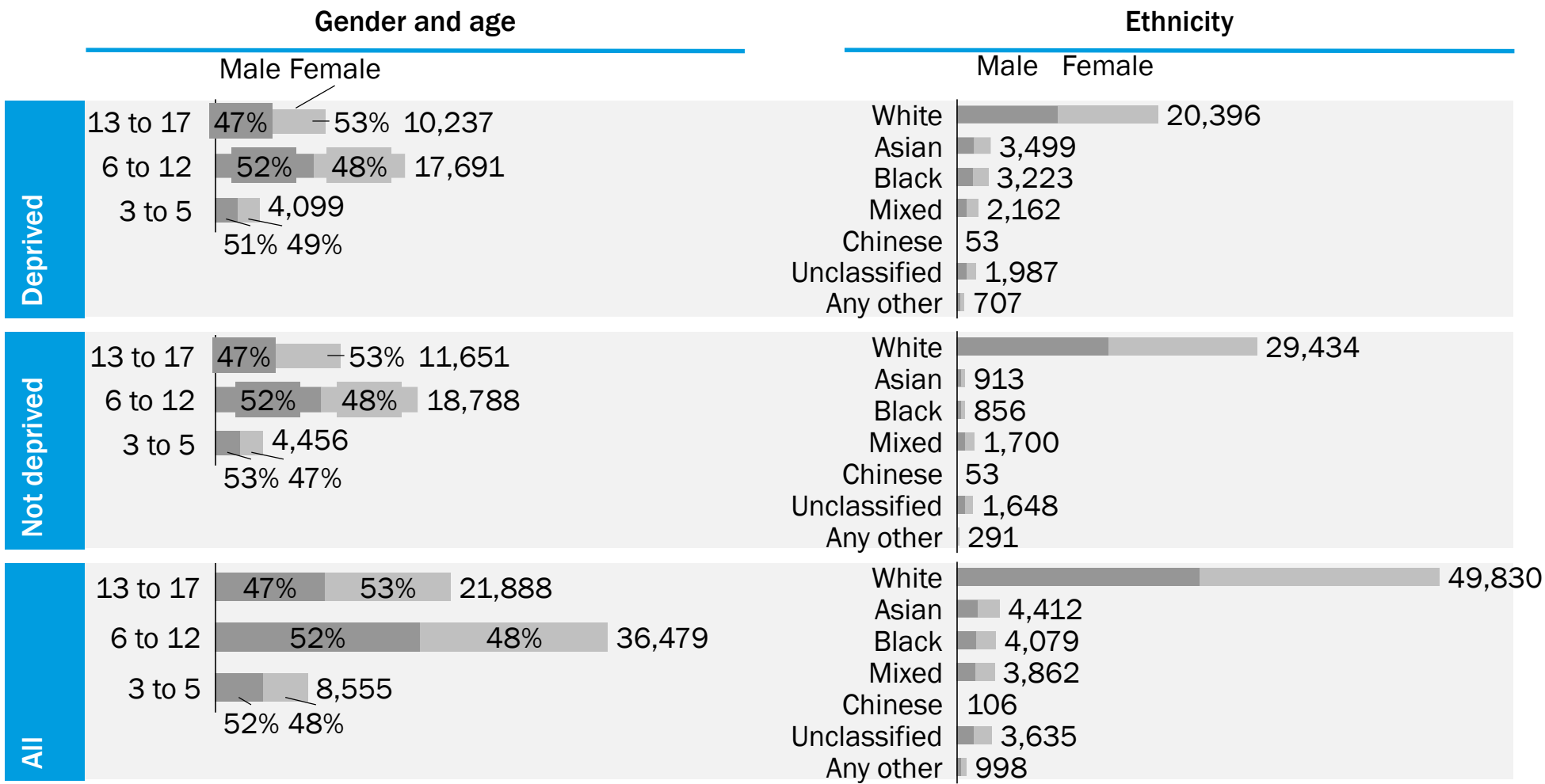
Ethnicity



Source: Department for Education, National Pupil Database. Note: 1. n = 61,725 individuals assessed as not in need, and experiencing both no further action, and assessed as not in need in 2013-14; 2. Analysis includes 1,527 of them whose age is between 3 and 17, have demographic information, and a disability; 343 Scales of top and bottom panel different to aid clarity

2014-15: Gender, age, and ethnicity by deprivation levels

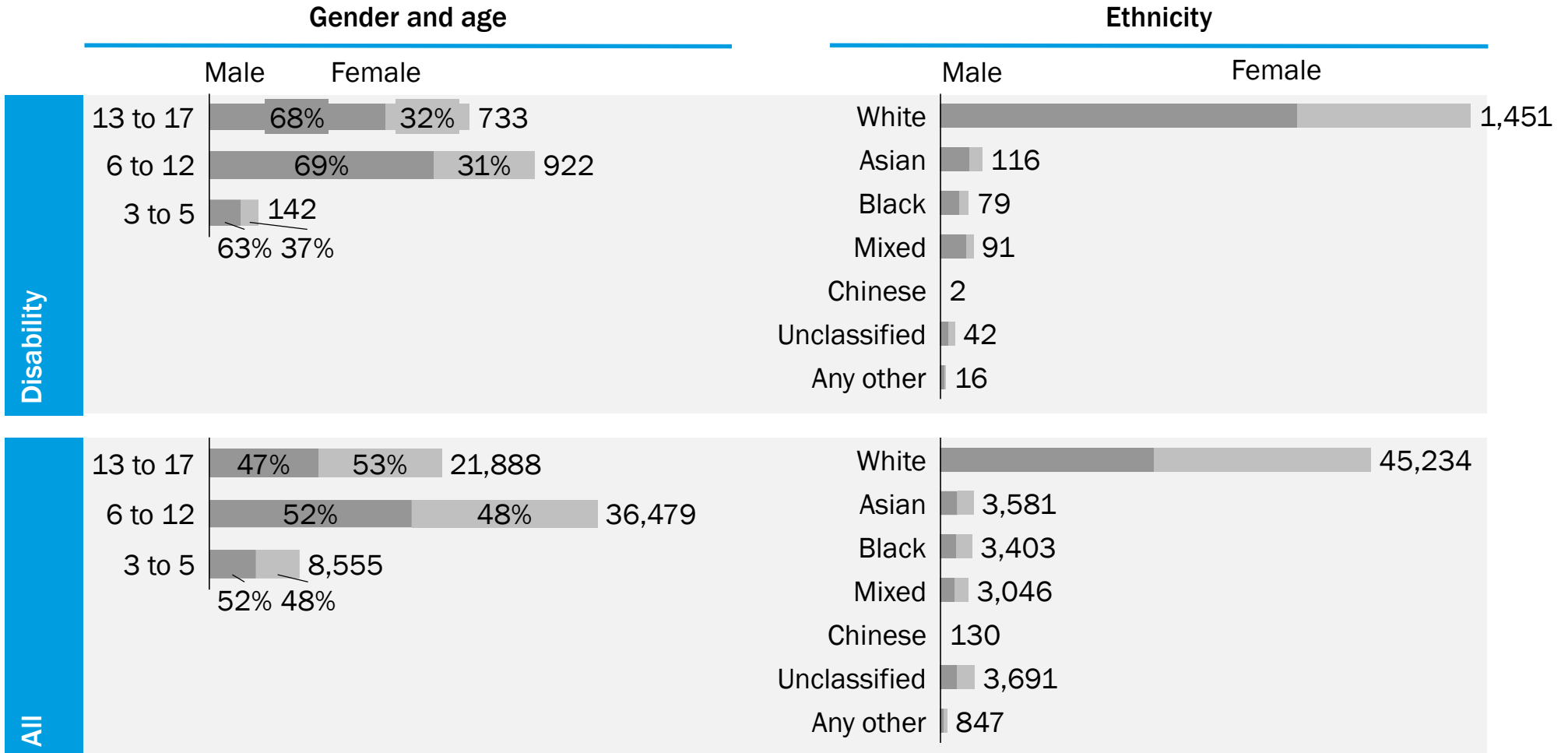
Among those assessed as not in need, and this plus experiencing no further actions, greater proportions of non-white individuals live in deprived areas



Source: Department for Education, National Pupil Database. Note: 1. n = 68,718 individuals assessed as not in need, and both experiencing no further action, and assessed as not in need in 2014-15; 2. Analysis includes 66,922 of them whose age is between 3 and 17, and have demographic information; 3. Deprived 44 = individual living in a local authority below 60 per cent of the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (rank of average ranks for the local authority)

2014-15: Gender, age, and ethnicity by disability

Among those assessed as not in need, and this plus experiencing no further actions, greater proportions of males are disabled



Source: Department for Education, National Pupil Database. Note: 1. n = 68,718 individuals assessed as not in need, and experiencing both no further action, and assessed as not in need in 2014-15; 2. Analysis includes 1,797 of them whose age is between 3 and 17, have demographic information, and a disability; 3. Scales of top and bottom panel different to aid clarity

Local authorities classified as deprived

Those below 60 per cent ('the bottom 60 per cent') of the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index as measured by the rank of average ranks for all the areas within the local authority

Deprived local authorities

-
- | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| • Barking and Dagenham | • Cornwall | and Fulham | • Leeds | • North Tyneside | • Sheffield | • Thurrock |
| • Barnsley | • County Durham | • Haringey | • Leicester | • Nottingham | • Slough | • Torbay |
| • Bedford | • Coventry | • Harrow | • Lewisham | • Oldham | • South Tyneside | • Tower Hamlets |
| • Bexley | • Croydon | • Hartlepool | • Liverpool | • Peterborough | • Southampton | • Wakefield |
| • Birmingham | • Darlington | • Havering | • Luton | • Plymouth | • Southend-on-Sea | • Walsall |
| • Blackburn with Darwen | • Derby | • Hillingdon | • Manchester | • Portsmouth | • Southwark | • Waltham Forest |
| • Blackpool | • Doncaster | • Hounslow | • Medway | • Reading | • St. Helens | • Wandsworth |
| • Bolton | • Dudley | • Isle of Wight | • Middlesbrough | • Redbridge | • Stockton-on-Tees | • Westminster |
| • Bournemouth | • Ealing | • Islington | • Milton Keynes | • Redcar and Cleveland | • Stoke-on-Trent | • Wigan |
| • Bradford | • Enfield | • Kingston upon Hull, City of | • Newcastle upon Tyne | • Rochdale | • Sunderland | • Wirral |
| • Brent | • Gateshead | • Kirklees | • Newham | • Rotherham | • Tameside | • Wolverhampton |
| • Bristol, City | • Greenwich | • Knowsley | • North East Lincolnshire | • Salford | • Telford and Wrekin | |
| • Calderdale | • Hackney | • Lambeth | • North Lincolnshire | • Sandwell | | |
| • Camden | • Halton | | | • Sefton | | |
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Limitations

About Aldaba

New analysis of re-referral patterns experienced by individual children

The main limitation is that individual histories prior to 2013-14 and 2014-15 are not included in the analysis

The nature of the information

Our analysis for 2013-14 and 2014-15 is for referrals newly made in those years, and does not consider

- when those referrals were closed, or
- whether the individual had had referrals in previous years, resulting in different types of referral results

The individuals included in our analysis are part of the children's services system alongside others who were referred in previous years

Some information seemed erroneously available

- Some referrals for individuals who were not of school age actually had pupil matching reference numbers

Age bands may be wrong by one year

- For example, an individual counted within the 3 to 5 group in 2013-14 might actually be 6

Interpretation of the results

Repeat referrals for the same individual are not necessarily chronologically sequential

- For example, one individual may have referrals opened at various points during the year, with the oldest ones actually being closed last
- For example, an old referral may be assessed as in need, whereas a newer one may result in no further action after initial consideration

As a result, our analysis cannot be used to verify hypotheses such as

- 'x' number of prior referrals resulting in no further action, or assessed as not in need, is associated with a subsequent first in-need assessment

A referral resulting in no further action, or assessed as not in need may still receive support

- For example, certain family services for those referrals that do not meet the social care threshold

Repeat referrals for the same individual are not necessarily chronologically sequential

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[About Aldaba](#)

We specialise in children's services

In addition to this project for Action for Children, we have recently delivered related research for the Department for Education, Rotherham and Nottinghamshire children's services, and the Family Nurse Partnerships National Unit

Aldaba is a company that helps organisations when the best way forward is not clear

From the chief executive to the newest intern, we work with the people who do the tasks every organisation needs to keep improving

- Strategies: Where you want to be and how to get there
- Operations: How you work on the day to day
- Evaluations: What you learn from your experience

The organisations we work with have chosen to make people's lives better based on information

- Economic analysis: Whether you get back more than you put in
- Statistics: What is really happening to most people, not just a few
- Qualitative techniques: The human side of things

The Aldaba team has done a lot of work on public services

- Education and children's services
- Health and social care
- Criminal justice
- Jobs

Our job is to put the information through a series of checks so that we can find out what it is telling us

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