

CONTRA COSTA
HEALTH



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Micro- Enterprise Home Kitchen Operations

Pilot Program Update

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Director of Environmental Health

May 12, 2026

Overview



Microenterprise Home
Kitchen Operations

Pilot Program Data

Recommendation

Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operation (MEHKO)



Small-scale restaurant operated by a resident in a private home



Limited to 30 meals per day and 90 meals per week



Up to \$100,000 gross annual sales

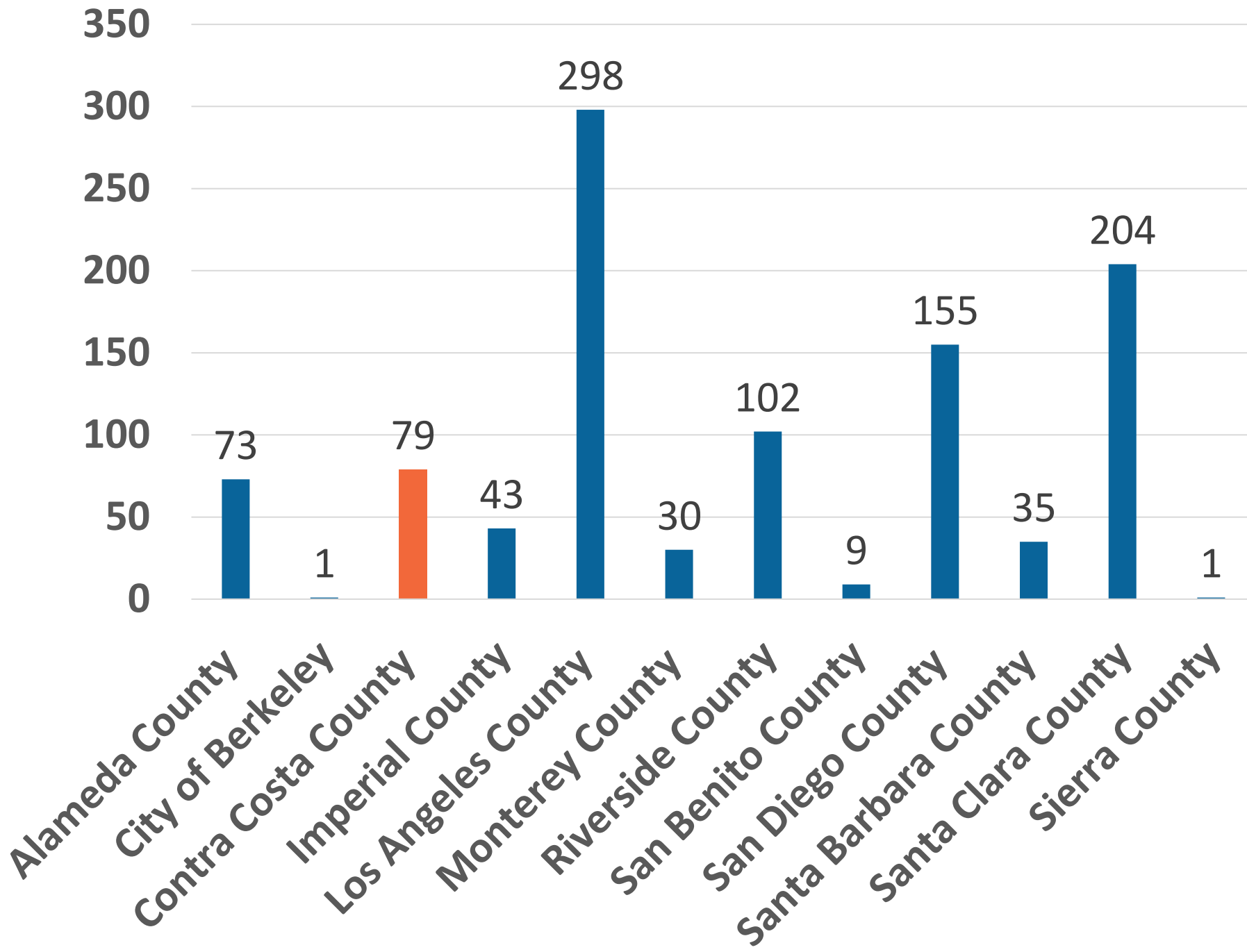


Dine-in, take-out, delivery

Jurisdictions with MEHKO Programs



Statewide Comparison

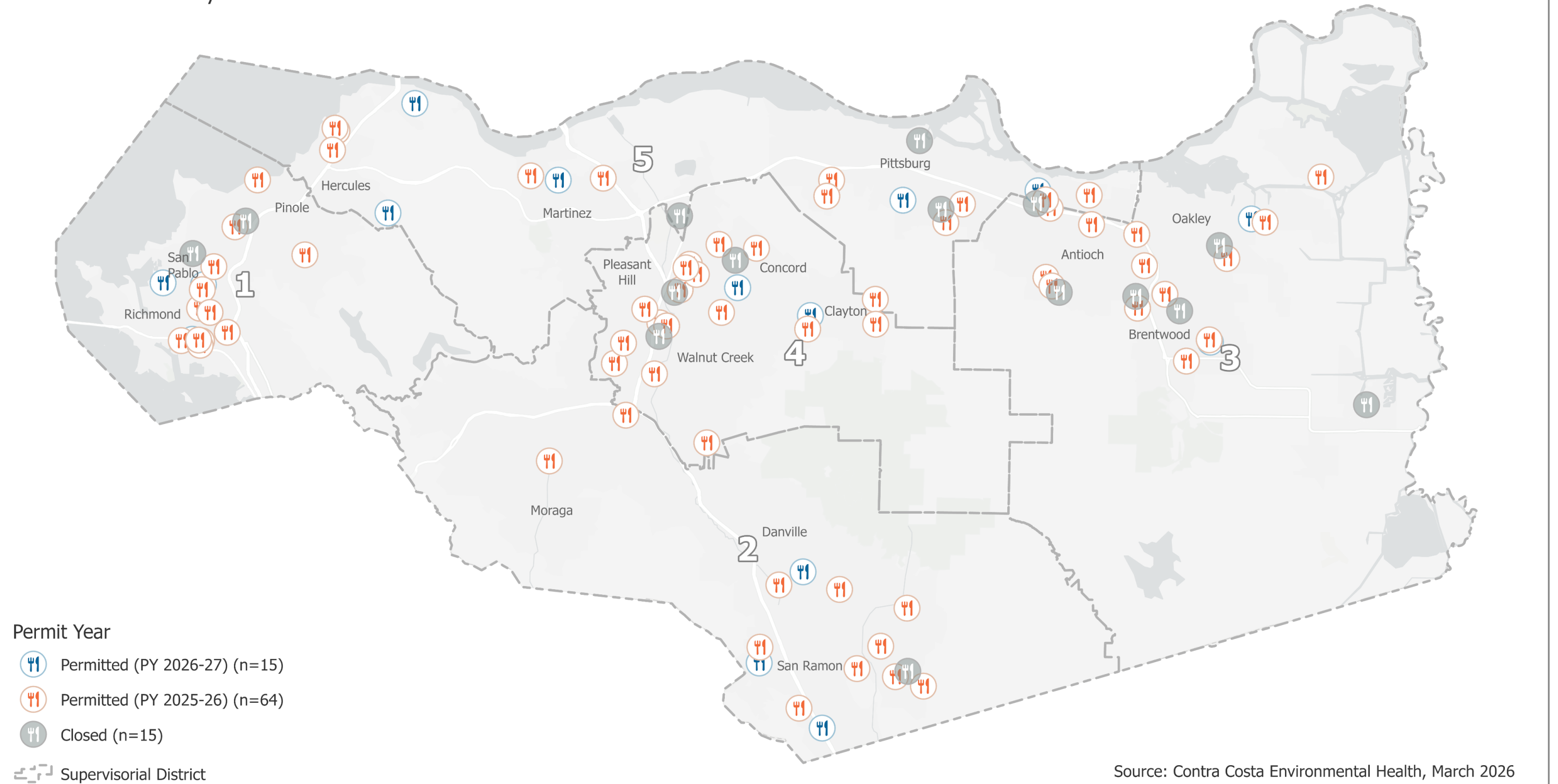


Contra Costa County MEHKO's

(94) Permitted
June 2024 -
February 2026

(34) Permitted
PY 2026-2027

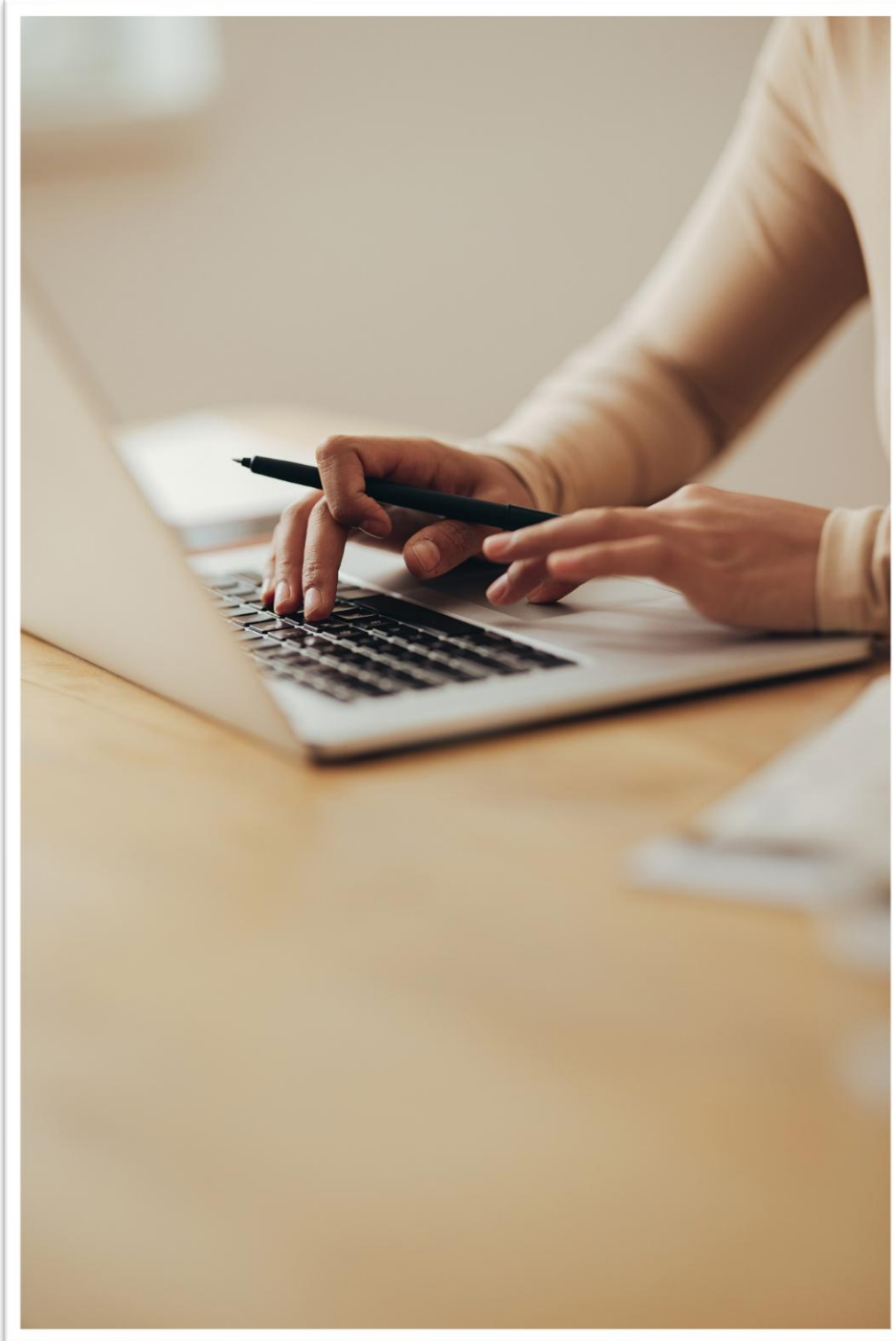
Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operation (MEHKO) by Permit Year
Contra Costa County



Source: Contra Costa Environmental Health, March 2026

Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Public Health Complaint Data



EHD received (2) complaints for permitted MEHKOs over the two-year pilot program



EHD informed of (3) local code enforcement complaints

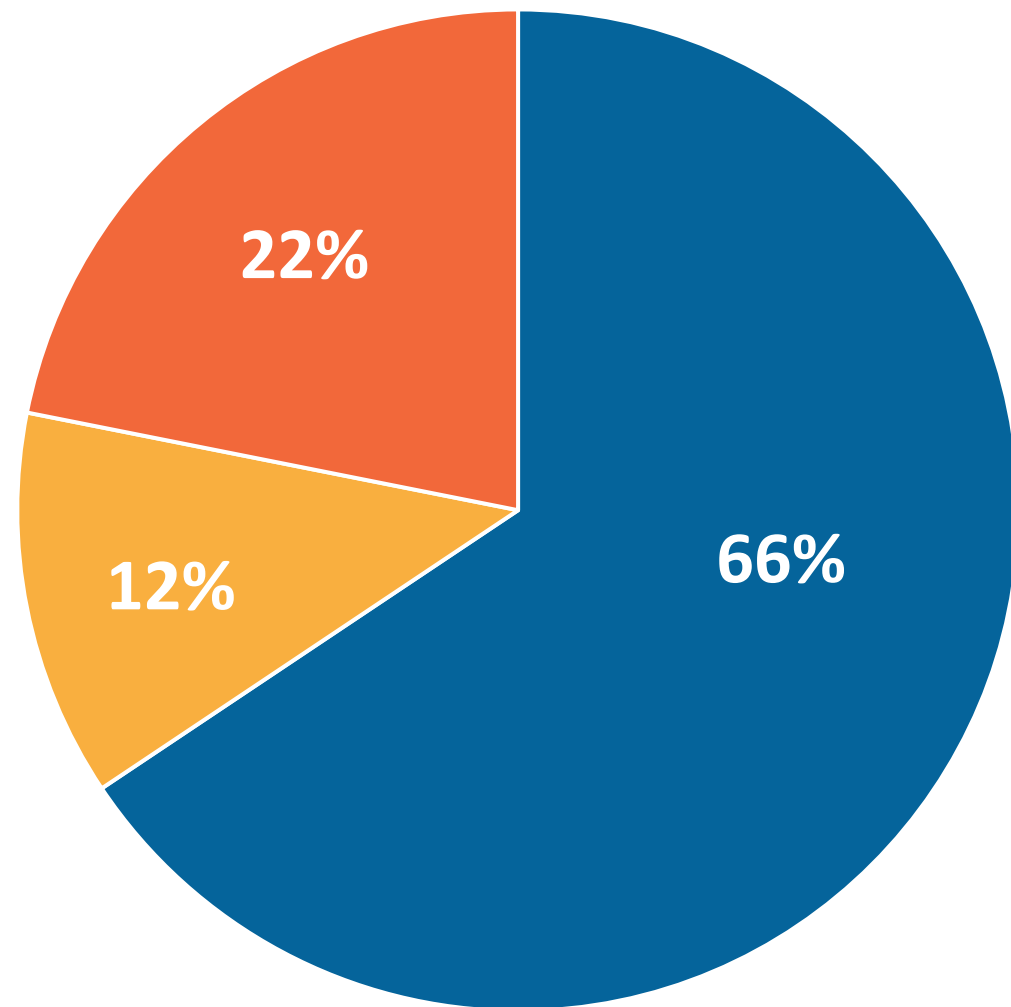
- Only (4) agencies responded to our survey
- Walnut Creek and El Cerrito reported no MEHKO complaints



(6) Unpermitted food operations obtained MEHKO permits after investigation by EHD

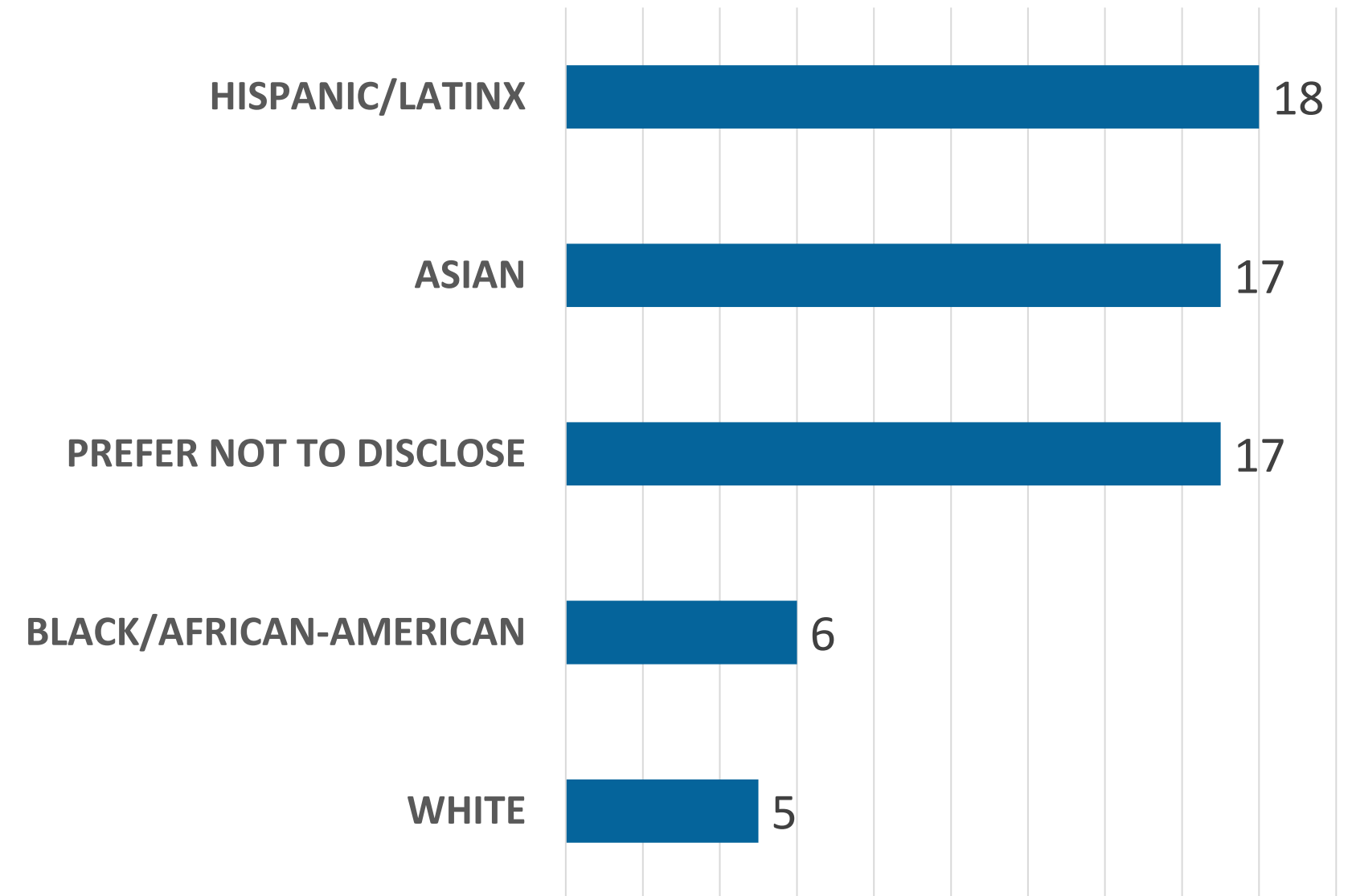
Demographic Data

Gender



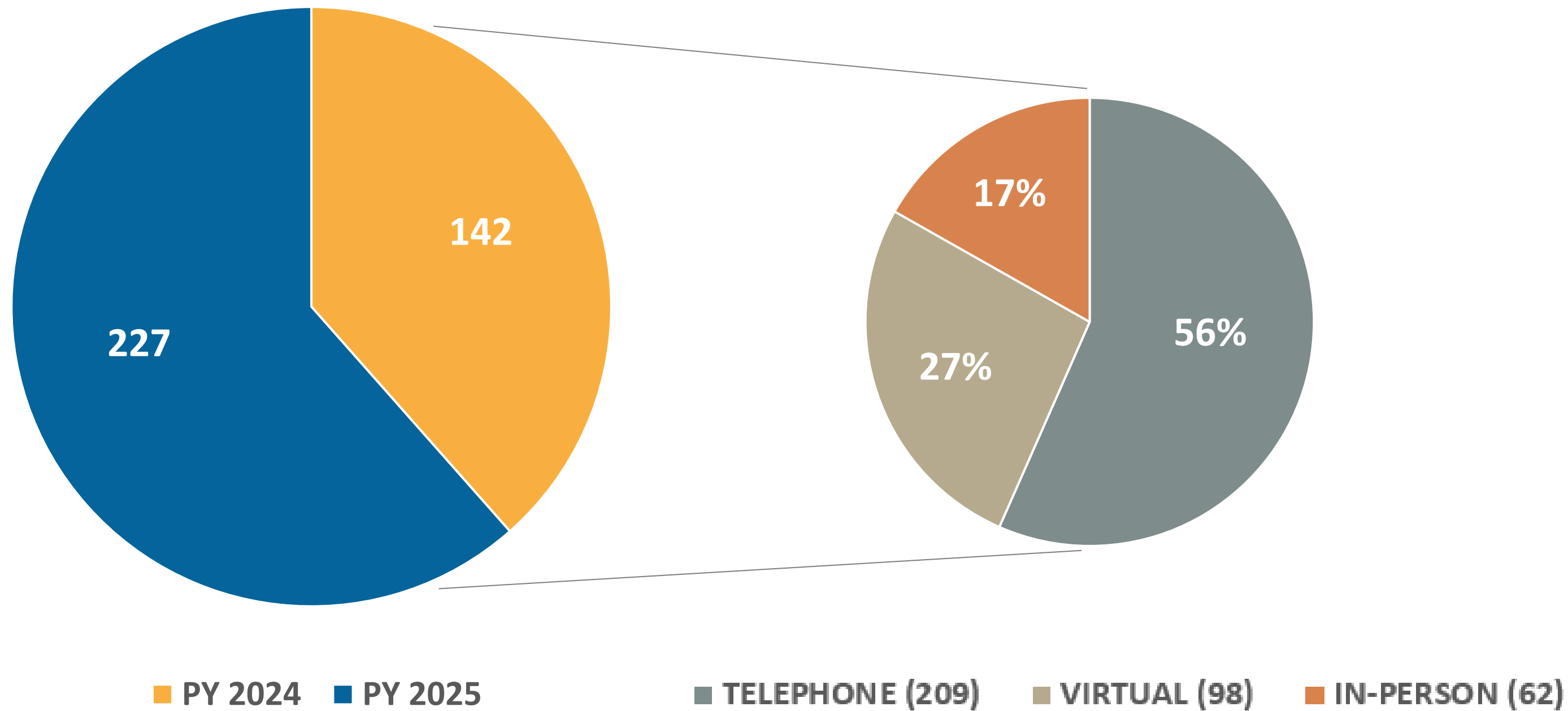
■ WOMAN (42) ■ MAN (8) ■ PREFER NOT TO DISCLOSE (14)

Ethnicity



Program Engagement & Outreach

Technical Assistance Consultations



EHD conducted (16) workshops

- 374 total participants
- (6) locations throughout the County

Staff Recommendation



Adopt Ordinance 2026-10 repealing Section 413-3.2012 of the County Ordinance Code

- Allowing EHD to establish MEHKO as a permanent regulatory program

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Thank You

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