

CULTURAL ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AND THE WELL-BEING OF REFUGEE COMMUNITIES

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Source: ThinkStock



Source: New Farms for New Americans



Methods

- What non-material benefits do refugees receive from ecosystems?
- How do interactions with ecosystems affect resettlement?



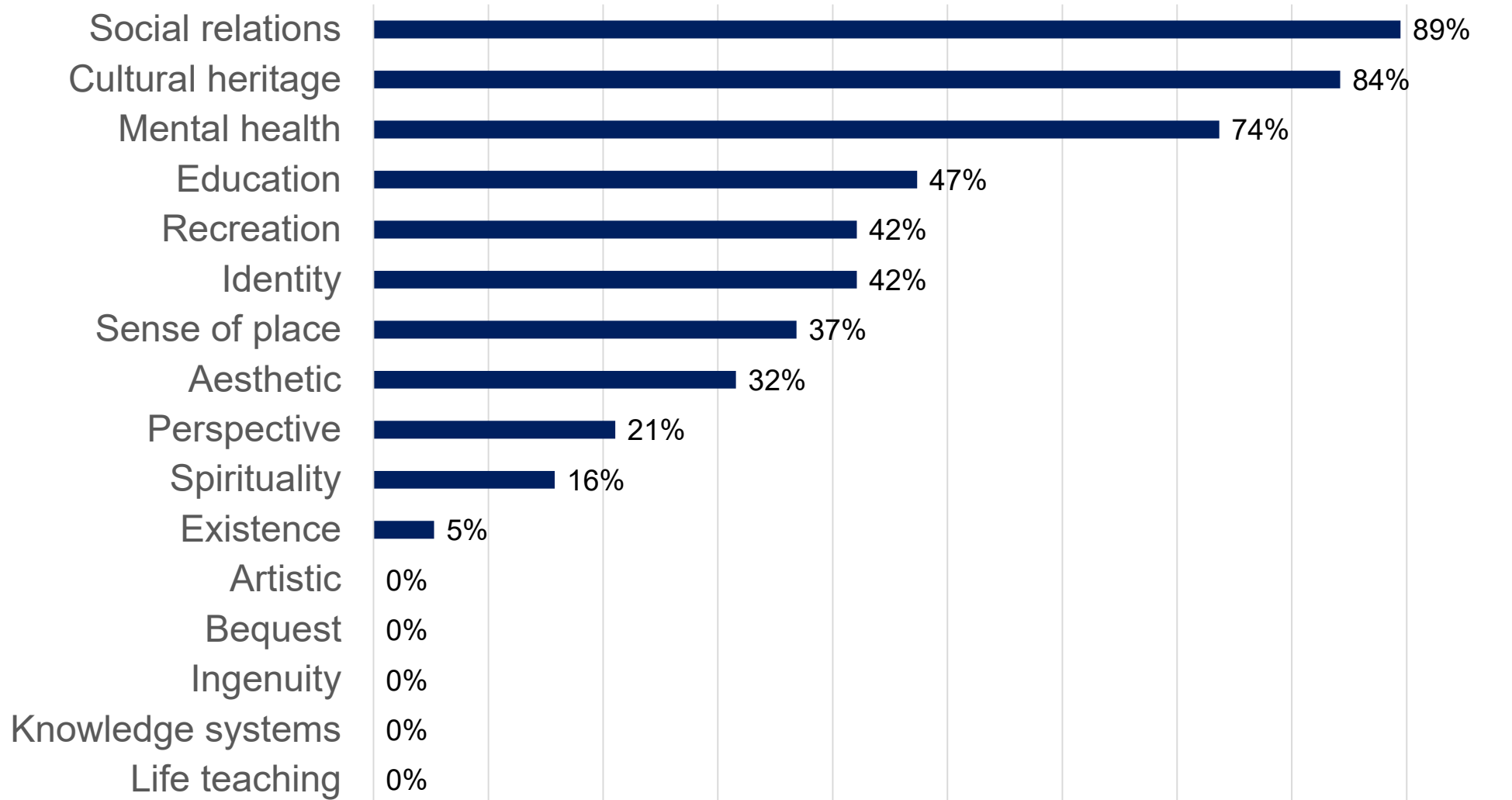
Analysis

- ✓ Aesthetic
- ✓ Artistic
- ✓ Bequest
- ✓ Cultural heritage
- ✓ Education
- ✓ Existence
- ✓ Identity
- ✓ Ingenuity
- ✓ Knowledge systems
- ✓ Life teaching
- ✓ Mental health
- ✓ Perspective
- ✓ Recreation
- ✓ Sense of place
- ✓ Social relations
- ✓ Spiritual

Sources: Gould & Lincoln, 2017; MEA, 2005; Raymond, 2009



Results: % of papers that addressed each CES theme



Social relations

“

[The garden] brings not only satisfaction but relief, sense of belonging and you feel people understand you, you feel people... You're part of that community that you're in.

”

Harris et al., 2014. Queensland, Australia.

Cultural heritage

“

*Gardening helps us remember
where we are from.*

”

Jean, 2014. Salt Lake City, USA.

Mental health

“

Especially if you are homesick or depressed, go to the ocean, waves are helping you, look like they giving you advice. Calming your nerves. Fishing—fishing is good when depressed.

”

El-Bialy & Mulay, 2015. St. John's, Canada

Perspective

“

With the different seasons, we can see that everything has its place... There is a time to do something in life, there is a time to rest.

”

Hordyk et al., 2015. Montreal, Canada

Implications for CES scholarship

- Research gap in CES field on refugee communities
- People receive a wide range of CES from ecosystems
- Importance of non-recreation CES



Practical implications

- Nature helps ease the stress of resettlement
- Resettlement agencies should keep using nature-based activities
- Include non-agricultural ecosystems as well



Conclusions

“When I find this I am reminded of my own country.”



Questions?



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