

A decorative background featuring a network diagram with nodes and connecting lines. Some nodes are highlighted with blue circles or dots, while others are grey. The lines are thin and grey, creating a web-like structure.

Faith and Settlement Partnerships

What Makes Them Work? (Key Findings)

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Methods

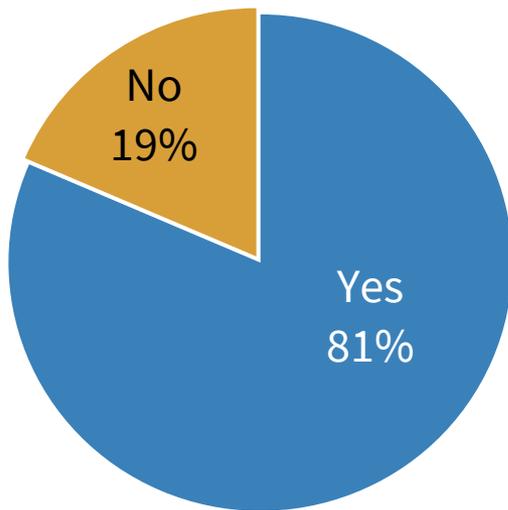
1. Literature review
2. Six case studies
3. Organizational survey

Theme: They Exist

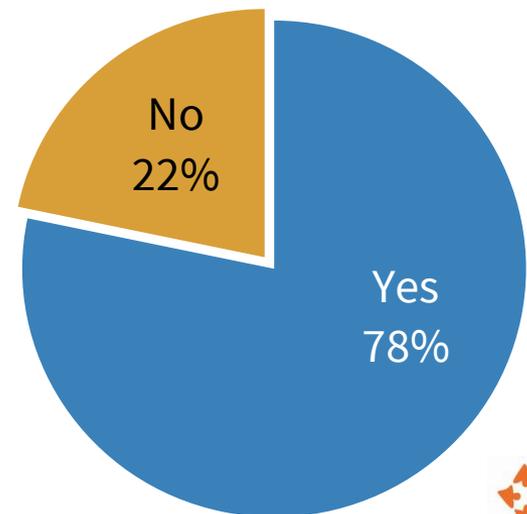
Faith and settlement partnerships are more **common** than previously thought.

Survey findings

Settlement groups: Has your organization worked with a faith-based group on programs related to newcomers within the last five years? (n=27)

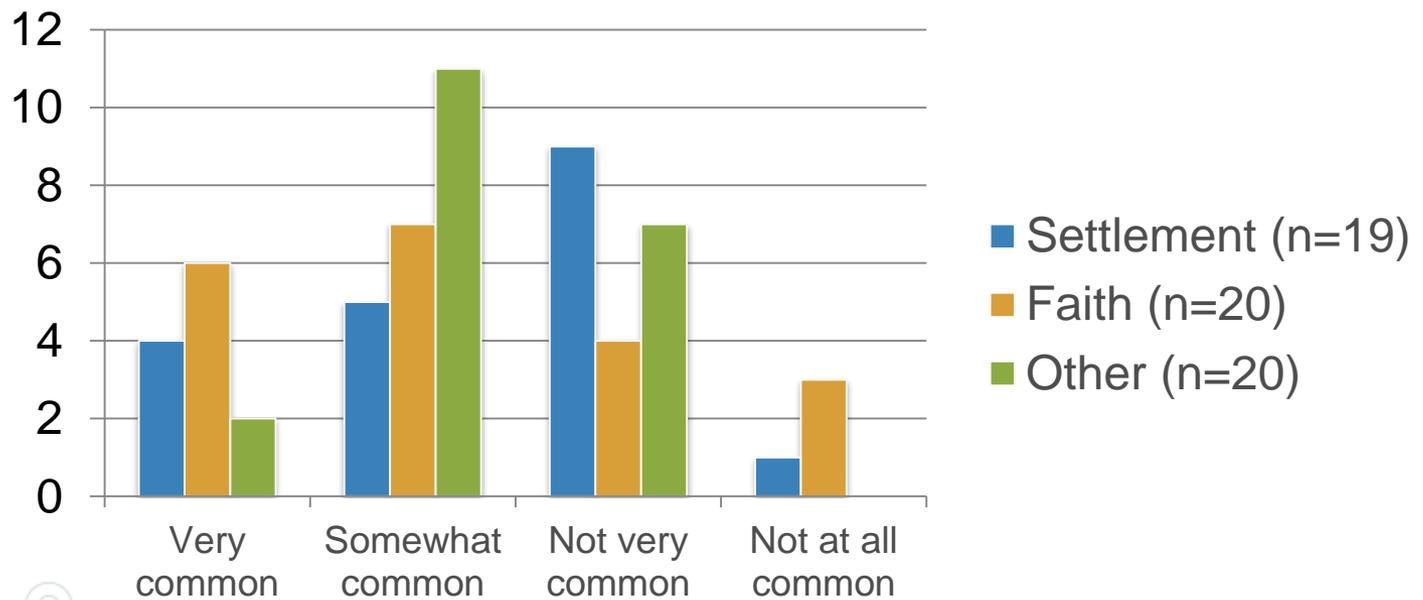


Faith groups: Has your organization worked with a government-funded settlement organization on programs related to newcomers within the last five years? (n=23)



Survey findings

Relative to other types of cross-sectoral settlement partnerships, **how common** do you see faith & settlement partnerships as being in your community? (n=59)



A decorative network diagram in the top right corner, consisting of various sized circles (nodes) connected by thin lines (edges). Some nodes are solid grey, while others are hollow white with a grey outline. The connections form a complex, interconnected web.

Theme: Valued Partnerships

Faith and settlement partnerships are more **valued** than previously thought.

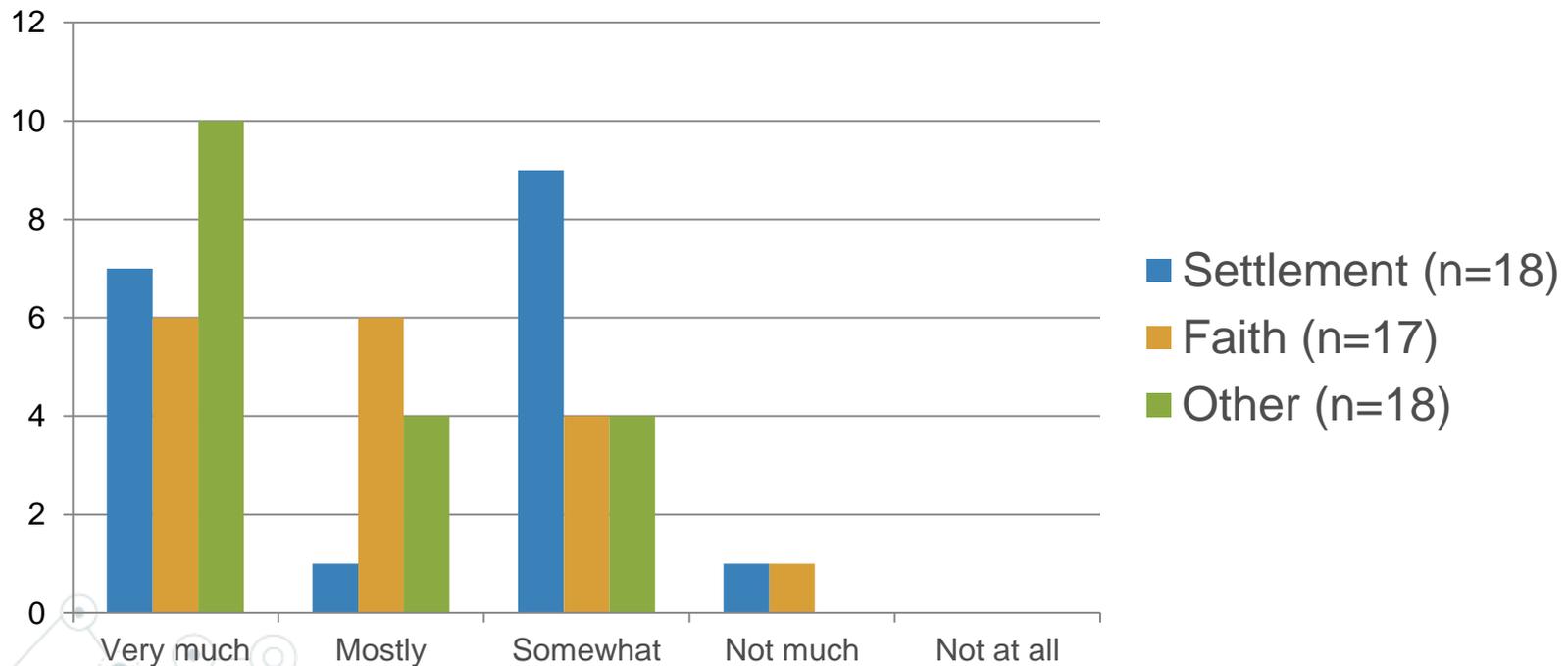
Survey findings

What **benefits to newcomers** have you observed as a result of faith and settlement partnerships? (n=44)

1. They gained awareness of community resources to deal with settlement issues (89%)
2. They received appropriate information and services to address their settlement needs (80%)
3. They made connections to the community and to public institutions (75%)
4. They acquired more supportive relationships with others in their community (68%)
5. They gained knowledge of life in Canada, including laws, rights, and responsibilities (66%)

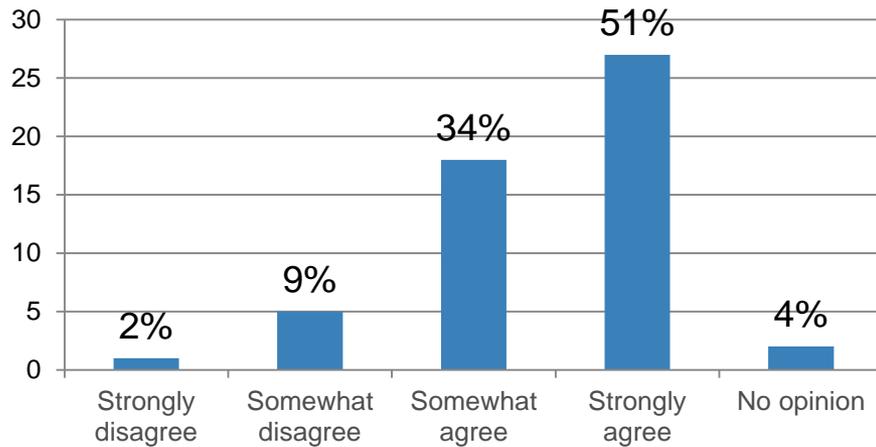
Survey findings

To what extent do members of your **Local Immigration Partnership** value the participation of faith groups in your community's settlement planning and coordination? (n=53)

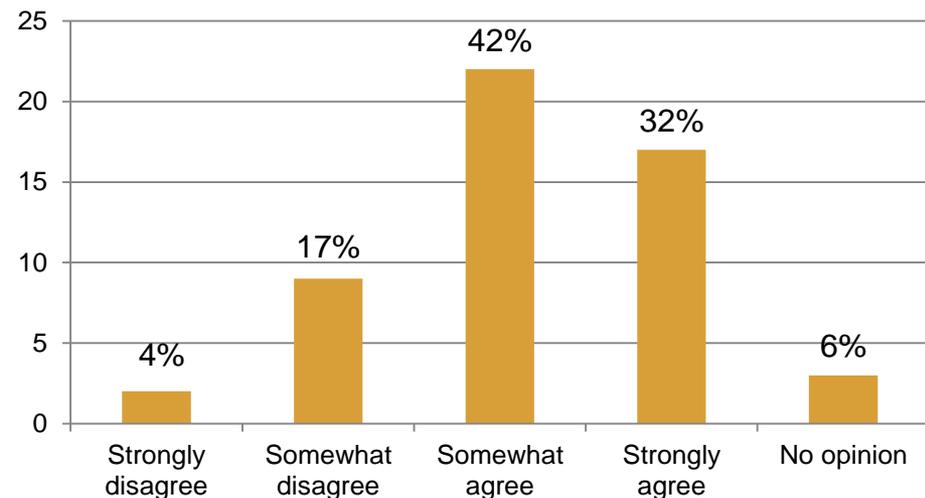


Survey findings

Faith groups contribute something unique to the settlement sector that no other group can bring. (n=53)



The challenges of faith & settlement partnerships are no greater than any other cross-sectoral partnership in the settlement field. (n=53)



Theme: Exploring Differences

Faith Groups and settlement organizations have different motivations, needs, and questions about partnership that need to be received appropriately by the other side.

Theme: Exploring Differences

Settlement organizations

- want to feel the partnerships address a service gap.
- need to see how partnerships support newcomers
- understand the potential benefits and challenges of partnerships,
- possess a clearer understanding of motivations of faith groups in supporting newcomers.

Theme: Exploring Differences

Faith Groups

- want to see stronger evidence of the benefits of faith and settlement partnerships
- Want to hear more stories about other partnerships in action.

Survey findings

What would **make it more likely** for your organization to **form a new partnership** with a faith or settlement group?

	Settlement (n=17)	Faith (n=17)
Being able to address a service gap otherwise not possible due to funding/client eligibility constraints	76%	53%
More opportunity to meet and converse with faith/settlement leaders in my community	47%	35%
Greater awareness of how they are presently supporting newcomers (immigrants/refugees)	53%	59%
Greater understanding of the potential benefits and challenges of partnership	53%	53%
Clearer understanding of their motivations for supporting newcomers (immigrants/refugees)	53%	29%
Stronger evidence of the benefits of faith and settlement partnerships	35%	71%
Encouragement from our constituents/funders	29%	41%
An internal champion who cares about it	35%	35%
Hearing stories about other partnerships in action	24%	65%

Theme: Sharing Stories

- More documentation and sharing of stories about faith and settlement partnerships that are already happening is needed.
- We still have not heard all the ways in which faith and settlement partnerships have been utilized in Canada. More sharing is required to get an accurate picture.
- The more stories are shared the more opportunities for shared learning and knowledge to create stronger partnerships in the future.

Theme: Advocacy

- Need for advocacy around policy-makers in both settlement organizations and government to create more openings for collaboration with faith groups.
- At present a concern exists among many settlement agencies that if they partner with faith groups they might lose their government funding.
- More faith group representation at Local Immigration Partnerships and within existing settlement networks is essential for creating stronger partnerships.

Survey findings

What do you see as being the **major limitations** to faith and settlement partnerships? (main themes)

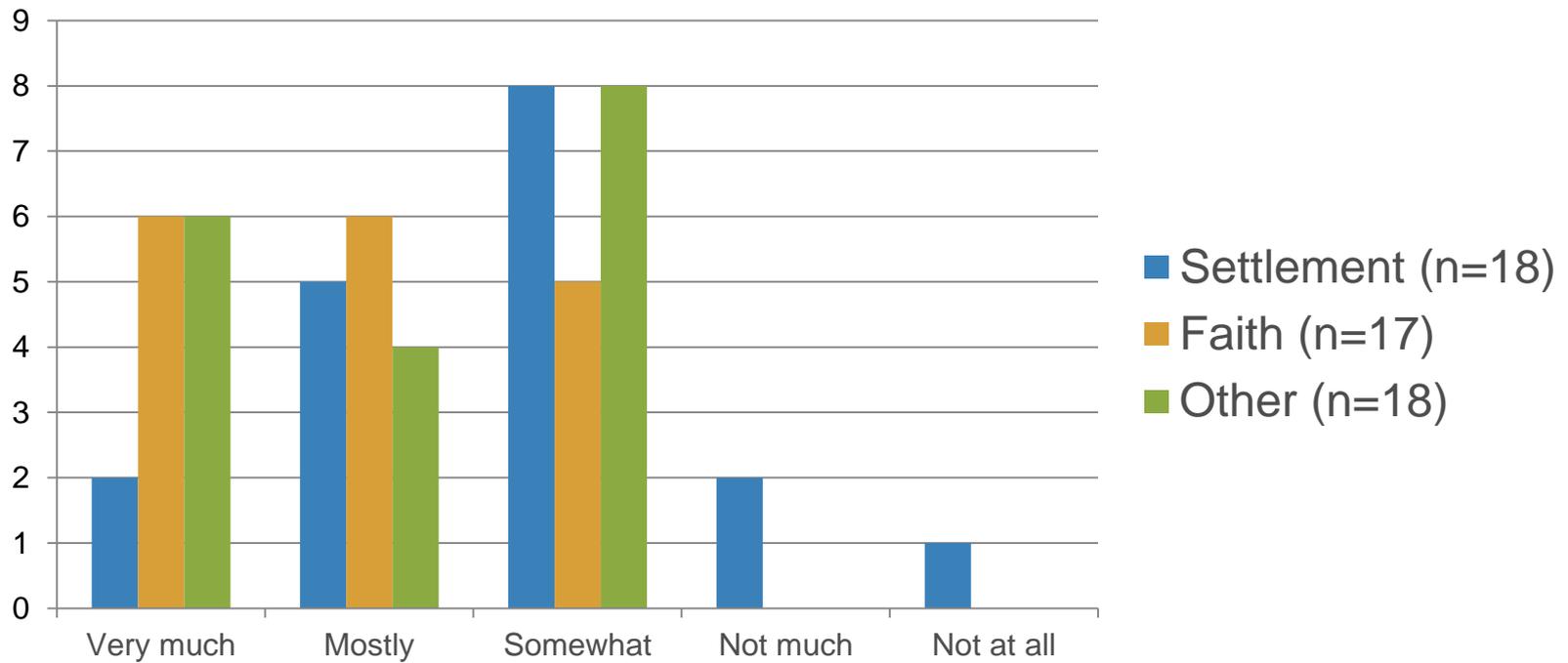
- Lack of resources/funding on government side, lack of knowledge/training/time on faith end
- Overcoming assumptions about working with faith groups
- Hard to coordinate between groups with very different cultures

Theme: Culture Shift

- Culture shift is required on the local level which enables trusting relationships between settlement agencies and faith groups.
- Settlement workers need to understand assumptions and stigmas that they hold against working with faith groups, and not let those be a barrier for partnership.
- Faith groups need to put newcomer well-being at the forefront and allow service agencies to teach them information regarding the settlement process and available services.

Survey findings

To what extent do you think faith and settlement partnerships are **viewed positively in your community**? (n=53)



Theme: Formalizing Partnerships

- Formal structures are also essential for providing longevity and sustainability to these partnerships. Informal partnerships work well to solve a crisis, but if these partnerships do not formalize than they will have to be re-created the next time a crisis happens.
- Formal partnerships also benefit from pre-established understandings of role and how to communicate with each other. Creating memoranda of understanding from the outset are very important, particularly for service agencies, to establish correct practices in the partnership

In conclusion

Faith and settlement partnerships are more **common and valued** than previously thought, even if sometimes challenging.

Case studies provide **in-depth illustration** of the challenges and possibilities of faith and settlement partnerships

A partnership research approach is useful in facilitating broad-based **knowledge mobilization** in year 2, leading to **stronger faith/settlement partnerships**.