

**Community Partnership of the Ozarks' 2016 January
Continuum of Care Homeless Count**



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Administration of the Survey

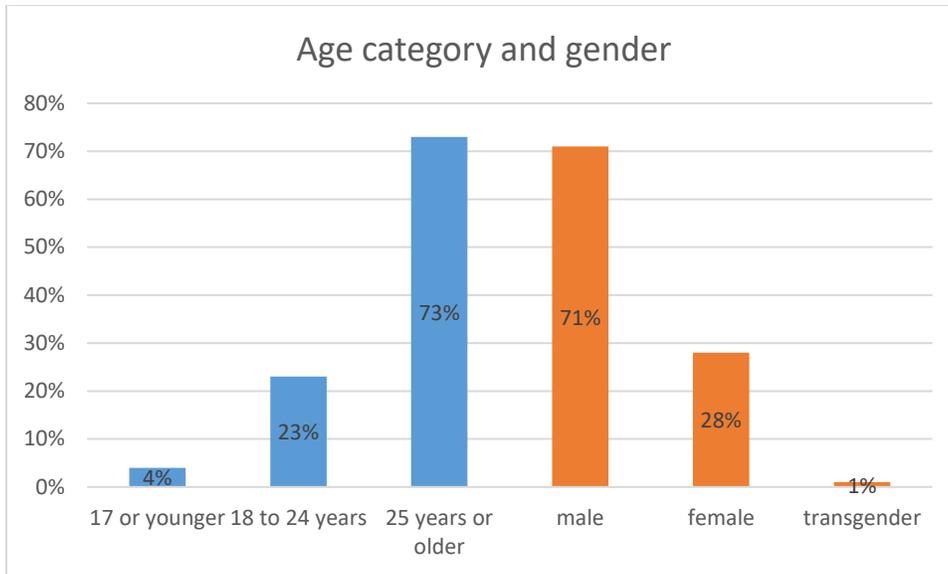
As part of the Community Partnership of the Ozarks Continuum of Care program's effort to document the unsheltered homeless population, survey information was collected for two-hundred and twenty-three individuals on January 28, 2016 at seventeen locations in Greene County. Of these seventeen locations, information about 83 people, or 37% of the sample was collected at The Shrine Mosque. The next most common location where surveys were completed was Grace United Methodist Church. Data on 65 individuals was collected there, which constituted 29% of the sample. The Rare Breed collected surveys on 28 subjects, which made up 13% of the sample, and Bill's Place contributed information for 15 people, or 7% of the sample. Other survey sites contributed data for the remaining 32 participants (14% of the sample).

Demographics of the Non-Probability Sample of Respondents

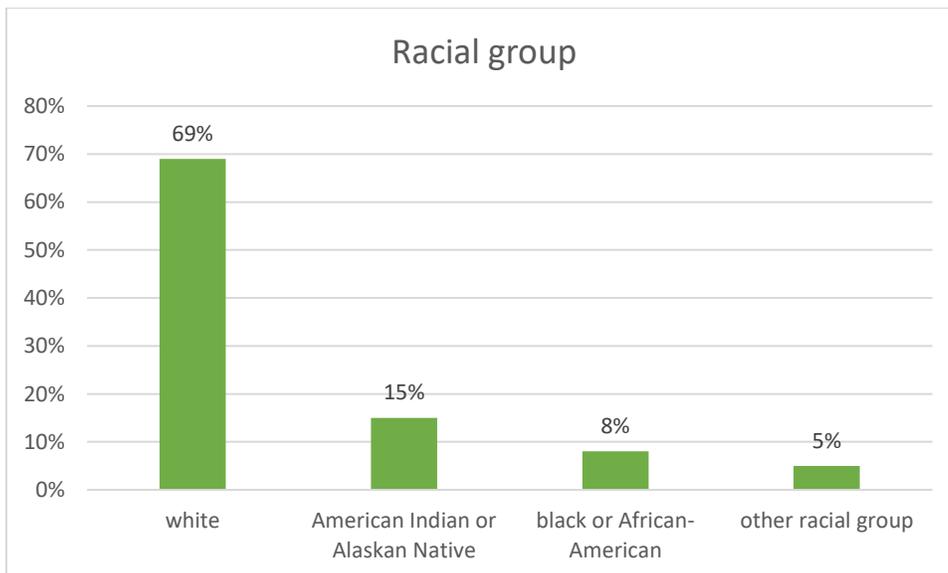
Age Respondents were asked to give their age and the age of others in their household in one of two ways. First, they were asked to provide their age in years. If they were hesitant, then they were asked to provide their age in one of three categories. Two hundred four respondents gave their and their household member's age. The categories used were under 18 years old, 18-24 years of age, and 25 years old or older. Nine individuals, 4% of those who provided their age, stated that they were seventeen years old or younger. Forty-six people, 23%, stated that they were between the ages of eighteen and twenty-four. One hundred forty-nine individuals were 25 years of age and older, which made up 73% of the sample.

Among only those who gave their age in years, the ages of participants ranged from 17 to 86 years old. The mean of those who reported their age in years was 44 years old, and the median age was 49.

Gender Of the 219 individuals who identified their gender, 156 respondents, 71% of the sample, were male. Sixty-one subjects, 28%, were female. Two individuals, 1% of the sample, reported being transgender. One was male to female transgender, and the other person was transgender female to male. The mean age of men is 45 years old and the mean age of women is 47. The median age for men is 49 years old, and for women it is 44. Possible differences across age groups and gender in terms of stable housing, holding jobs, chronic homelessness and disabling conditions are explored below.



Racial group Two questions addressed the ethnic group and racial group of participants. The first item asked whether subjects were Hispanic or Latino. Sixteen people, 8% of the 201 respondents who provided information, identified as Hispanic or Latino. The next question asked people to identify their racial group, and 216 individuals provided information. One hundred forty-nine people, 69%, said that they were white. Thirty-three individuals, 15% of the sample, reported being American Indian or Alaskan Native. Eighteen people, 8%, were black or African American. Eleven individuals, 5%, identified as having an “other” racial background. Three Asian-Americans and one Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander rounded out the sample.

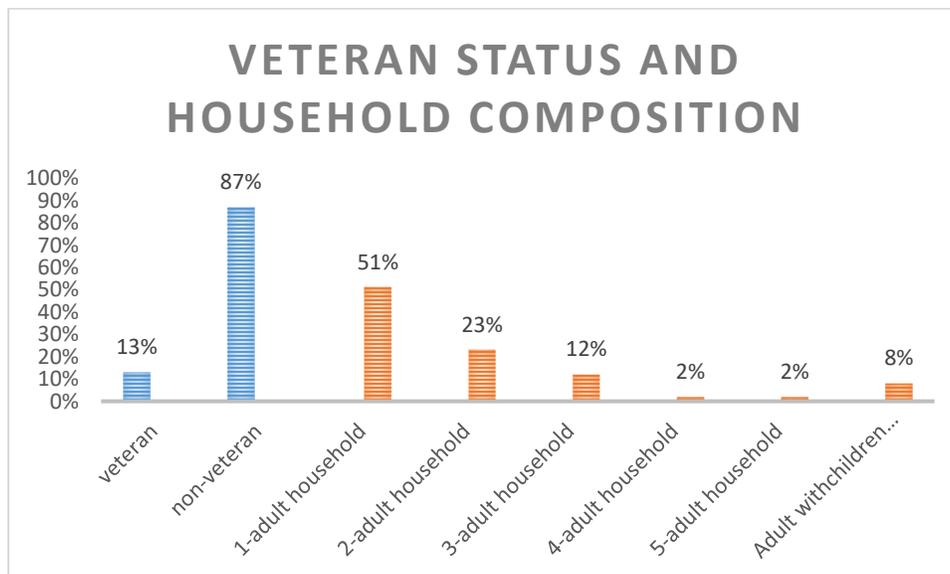


Veteran status Respondents were asked two questions about their military service. The first item asked whether they had served in the United States Armed Forces, and the second question asked if they had been called into active duty as a member of the National Guard or as a Reservist. One hundred ninety-nine people provided information. One hundred seventy-three individuals, (87%) had not served in the Armed Forces, National Guard or Reserves. Twenty-five people had served in the Armed Forces, and one person had been called into active duty as a National Guard or Reservist. Those 26 individuals constituted 13% of the sample. Twenty-four veterans were males, and two were females.

Household size and composition Of the 233 people who participated in the study, 114 persons were by themselves the night before the survey, which constituted 51% of the population. Fifty-two persons, 23% of the sample, were in two-adult households the previous evening. Twenty-seven people, 12%, were in three-adult households the night before being survey. Four people, 2% of the sample, were grouped in a 4-adult household. In addition, there was one, five-adult household (2%). Overall, 202 people, 91% of the sample, were in adult-only households.

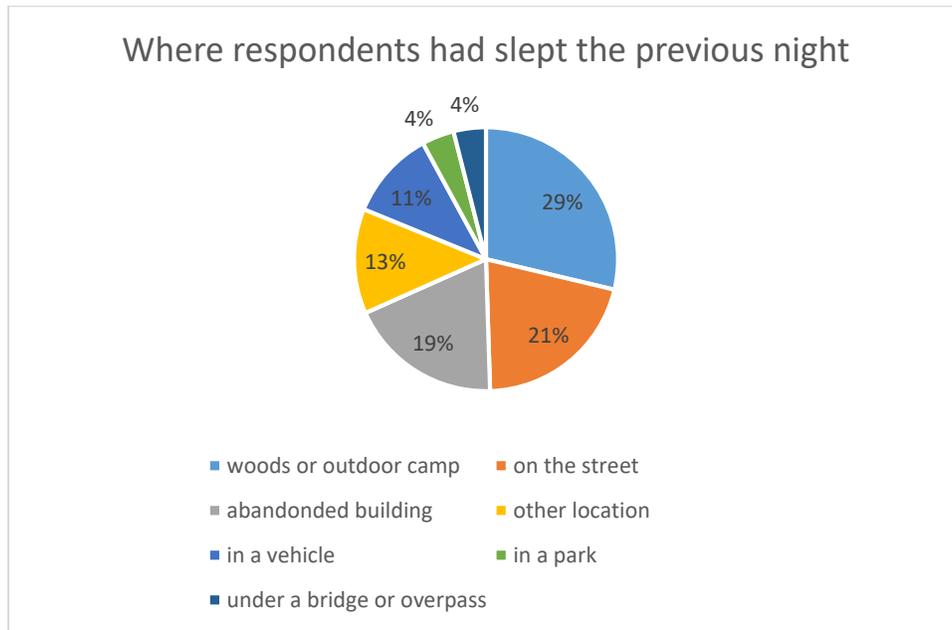
Nineteen people (9% of the sample) were in five households that consisted of adults and children. There was one, one-adult and three children household, and another one-adult household had four children. Two households each had two adults and one child, and the final household consisted of three adults and one child.

Another question asked how other people in the household were related to the respondent who answered the survey? Fifty-four persons responded to this question. Nineteen individuals, 35% of the sample, reported having a non-family member with them. Eleven individuals, 20%, stated that they were with another family member. Ten persons, 19%, were with a non-married partner. Seven people, 13%, had a child with them, and the same number were with a spouse.



Housing of respondents on night before survey

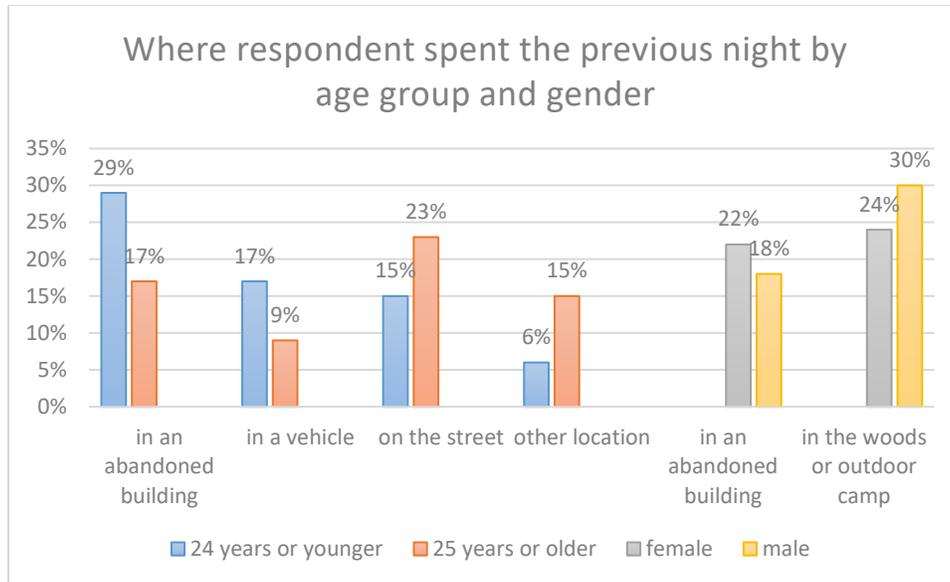
Survey takers asked subjects where they and others in their household had stayed the previous evening, and one-hundred and ninety-two respondents provided information. Fifty-five individuals, 29% of the sample, had slept the night before in the woods or outdoor camp. The second most common response was sleeping on the street with 21% of the sample consisting of 41 individuals. Thirty-seven persons (19%) had slept in an abandoned building. Twenty-four persons (13%) slept in some other location. Almost as many people, 21 individuals or 11% of the sample, slept in a car. Seven persons (4%) slept in a park, and seven others (4%) spent the night under a bridge or overpass.



Statistical analyses were conducted to determine whether the places where respondents had stayed the previous night varied across five demographic categories: age group, gender, racial group, household size, and veteran status.

Age and gender differences in where respondents stayed To facilitate age group comparisons, the 10 people under age 17 were combined with the 46 individuals who were ages 18 to 24. This groups of young adults was compared with people ages 25 and older. Several differences were noticeable. A larger proportion of young people than older adults had slept in abandoned buildings (29% to 17%), and in vehicles (17% to 9%). Larger percentages of older adults than young people had spent the previous night on the street (23% to 15%) and in some “other location” (15% to 6%).

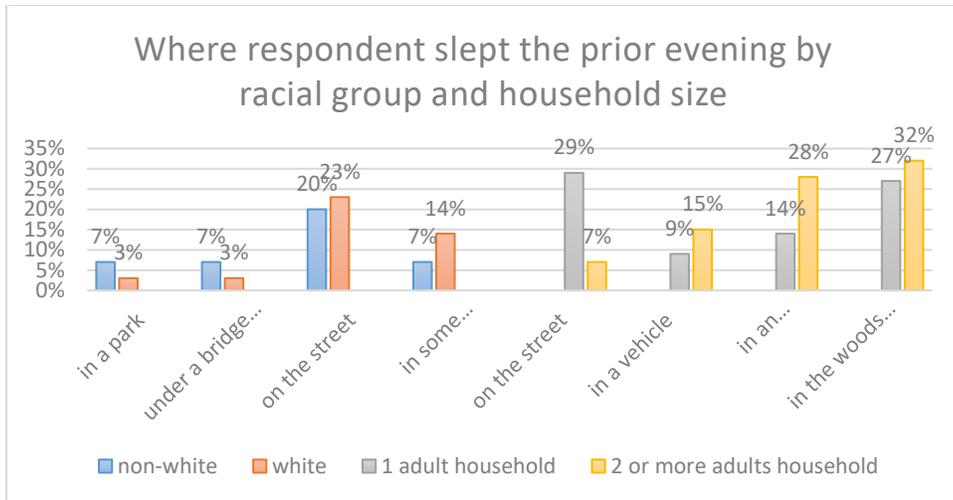
Where people had spent the previous night varied less between women and men than between age groups. More women than men had slept in an abandoned building (22% to 18%), while more men than women had spent the previous night in the woods or outdoor camp (30% to 24%).



Racial group and household size differences in where respondents stayed To facilitate cross-group analyses all minority racial group members were combined into a non-white category, and then compared with whites. There were several difference in where people had stayed the night before they were surveyed. A higher proportion of non-whites than whites had stayed in a park (7% to 3%) and under a bridge or overpass (7% to 3%). A larger percentage of whites than non-whites had spent the previous night on the street (23% to 20%) and in some “other location” (14% to 7%).

Only seven households in the sample had adults and children. Of the seven multi-generational households, two household groups spent the night before the assessment on the street. One household had slept in an abandoned building, another household spent the night under a bride or overpass. One household with children had spent the night in a vehicle, another had spent the night in a park, and the final household stayed at another location. In contrast to single adults, no multi-generational household groups had stayed in the woods or outdoor camp.

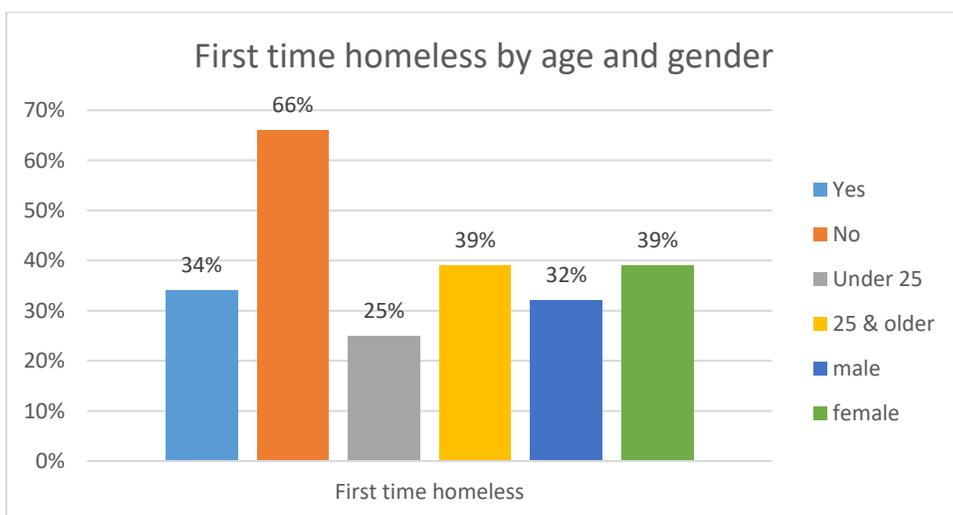
Given the small number of households consisting of adults and children, the household size of respondents was divided into two categories: adults who were by themselves the previous night and adults who were with at least one other adult, but no children were present. There were four noticeable differences. A larger share of single adults than people in multi-adult households had spent the prior evening on the street, 29% to 7%. Adults with one of more others were more likely than single persons to have slept the night before in a vehicle (15% to 9%), in an abandoned building (28% to 14%), and in the woods or an outdoor camp (32% to 27%).



There were two differences between veterans and non-veterans in terms of where they had slept the night before the survey. More veterans than non-veterans had spent the night on the street (32% to 21%), and had slept in the woods or outdoor camp (32% to 16%).

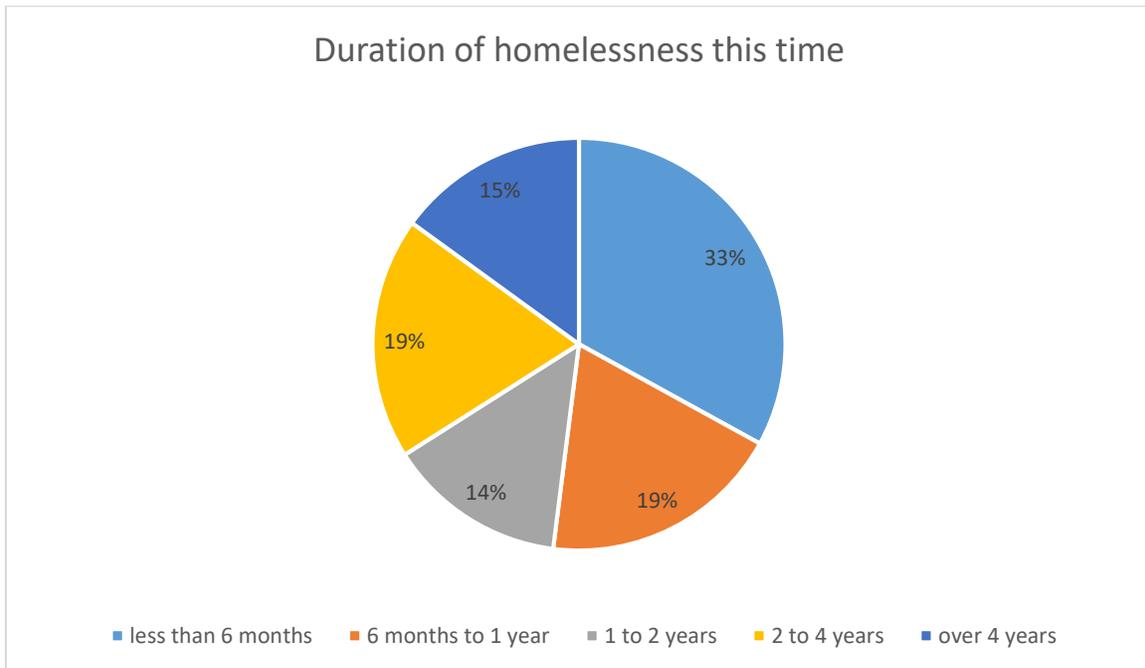
First time homeless

When asked if this was the first time that the respondent has been homeless, 131 people (66% of the 198 valid responses) answered no. Sixty-seven persons (34%) stated yes. There were no noticeable differences in the rate of first time homelessness across racial groups, veterans compared with non-veterans, and between one-adult and multi-adult households. Thirty-nine percent of those ages 25 and older were homeless for the first time, compared with one quarter of the younger age group. Slightly more females (39%) were homeless for the first time when surveyed than were males (32%).

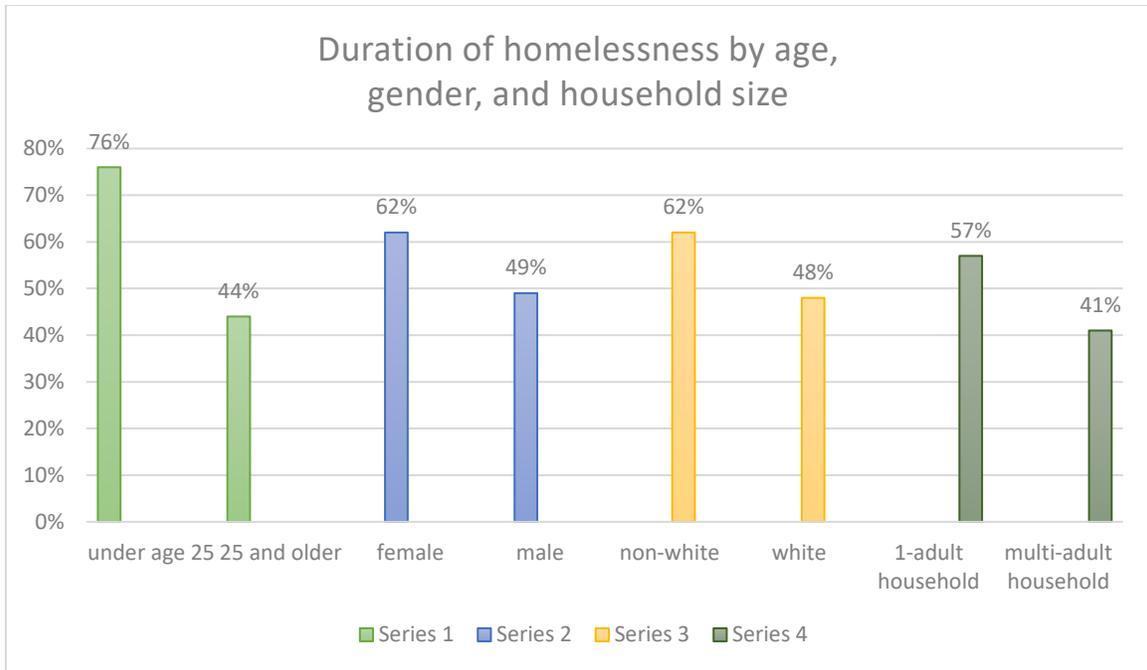


How long homeless this time

When asked the length of time the individual had been homeless this time, 192 persons answered this question. The range of responses varied from 3 days to 35 years. The median duration of homelessness was one year. Sixty-four individuals experienced homelessness this time for 6 months or less, which constituted 33% of the sample. Thirty-seven individuals had been homeless this time for 6 months to a year, which made up 19% of the total sample. Twenty-six people reported being homeless for a duration of one to two years, and they made up 14% of the total sample. Three dozen people, 19%, had been homeless for between two and four years, and 15% of the sample (29 people) had been homeless for over four years.

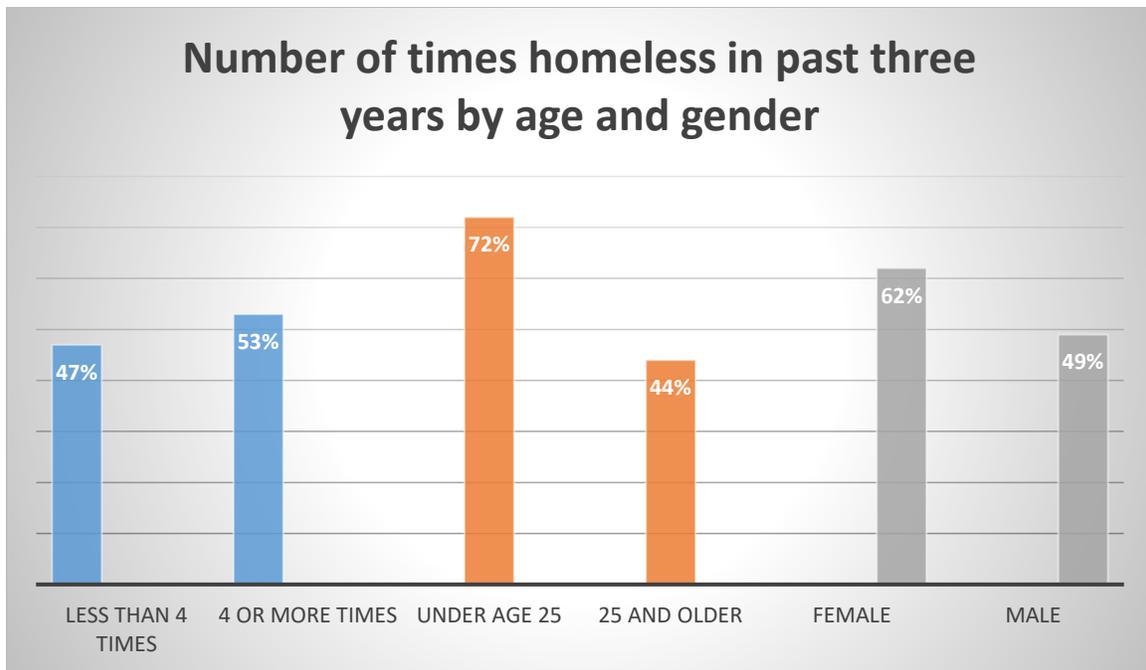


Analyzing length of time being homeless across the demographic categories showed that non-veterans were nearly twice as likely as veterans to have been homeless for over two years, 35% to 18%. Short-term homelessness of one year or less was more common among people under age 25 than 25 and older (76% to 44%), females than males (62% to 49%), non-whites than whites (62% to 48%), and single-adult households than multi-adult households (57% to 41%).



Number of times homeless in past three years

In terms of the one-hundred and forty-three persons who responded to the question of how many times they had been homeless in the past three years, 53% (76 persons) responded to being homeless four or more times, and 47% (67 persons) reported to being homeless less than four times in three years. There were no differences in the proportion of people who had been homeless four or more times by racial group, veteran status, or household size. More young people had been homeless four or more times than those ages 25 and older (72% to 44%). This may reflect the episodic nature of youth homelessness, and some homeless young people may have been homeless with their family when they were children. More females (62%) than males (44%) had been homeless four or more times in the past three years. Combining information from the last two sections shows that compared with males, females have a higher frequency of homelessness (four or more times in the past three years), but shorter durations of homeless spells (less than one year homeless this time).



Total duration of homelessness in the past three years

A follow-up question asked respondents “how long did you stay in shelters or on the street for those times.” The wording of the question may have confused people, as 20% of respondents reported total days in excess of three years. They likely were thinking of the question about duration of homelessness this time. Thus, the data for this item have low face validity.

Chronic homelessness

The Federal Government’s definition of chronic homelessness requires that individuals have experienced either continuous homelessness of one year or persistent spells of homelessness (four or more times homeless in the past three years). A medical professional must also have told the individual that she or he has one or more of four disabling conditions: A physical disability, drug or alcohol addiction, a mental illness, or HIV/AIDS. No one during this assessment reported having AIDS/HIV.

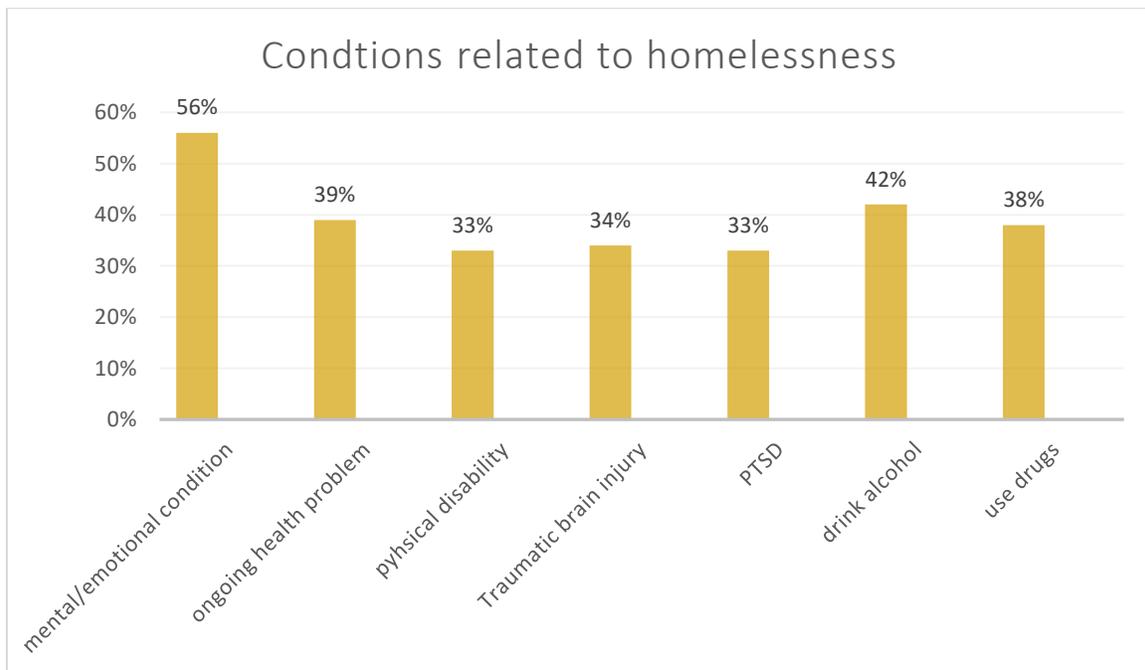
Seventy-six respondents said that they had been homeless four or more separate times during the past three years, and 91 people reported that they had been homeless for one year or longer this time. Computing a composite variable showed that 101 people had been homeless four or more times in the past three years, or they had been homeless for at least one year this time.

The wording of the survey asks people whether they or anyone in their household has a physical disability, mental or emotional condition, or if they drink alcohol. We used self-reporting of the disabling conditions rather than asking whether a medical professional has told the individual

that she or he has one of those conditions, and drinking alcohol does not necessarily mean that people have an addiction to alcohol. Therefore, the following information on disabling conditions does not meet the Government’s definition of chronic homelessness. Sixty-six respondents said that they have a physical disability, 121 reported that they have a mental or emotional condition, and 91 individuals drink alcohol. Computing a composite variable showed that 136 respondents self-reported as having at least one of the three disabling conditions (no one had HIV/AIDS).

Conditions associated with homelessness

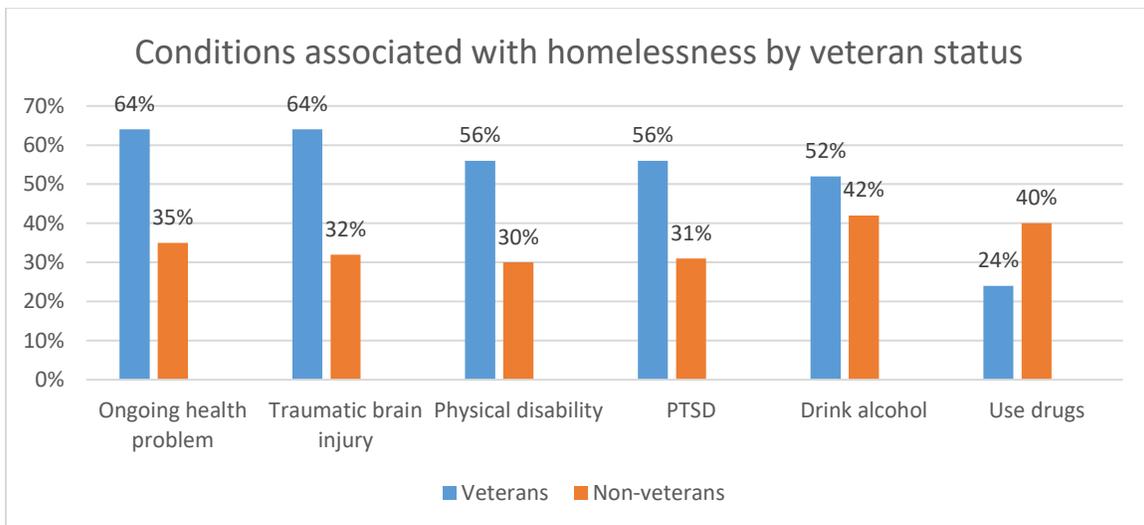
Participants were asked whether they or someone with them had any of seven conditions that may contribute to or result from homelessness. Fifty-six percent of individuals said that they or someone with them has a mental or emotional problem, 39% have an ongoing health problem or medical condition, and 33% had a physical disability. Thirty-four percent of people reported that they or someone with them has had a traumatic brain injury, and one third suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Forty-two percent reported drinking alcohol, and 38% reported that they used street drugs or prescription medications that had not been prescribed to them.



The proportion of people with these conditions did not vary significantly between those in one-adult households and people in multi-adult households. There was only one gender difference, as more males (38%) reported having had a serious brain injury compared with females (25%). Compared with non-whites, higher proportions of whites had mental or emotional issues (59% to 49%), Post-traumatic Stress Disorder or PTSD (37% to 26%), and more whites than non-whites use drugs (42% to 31%).

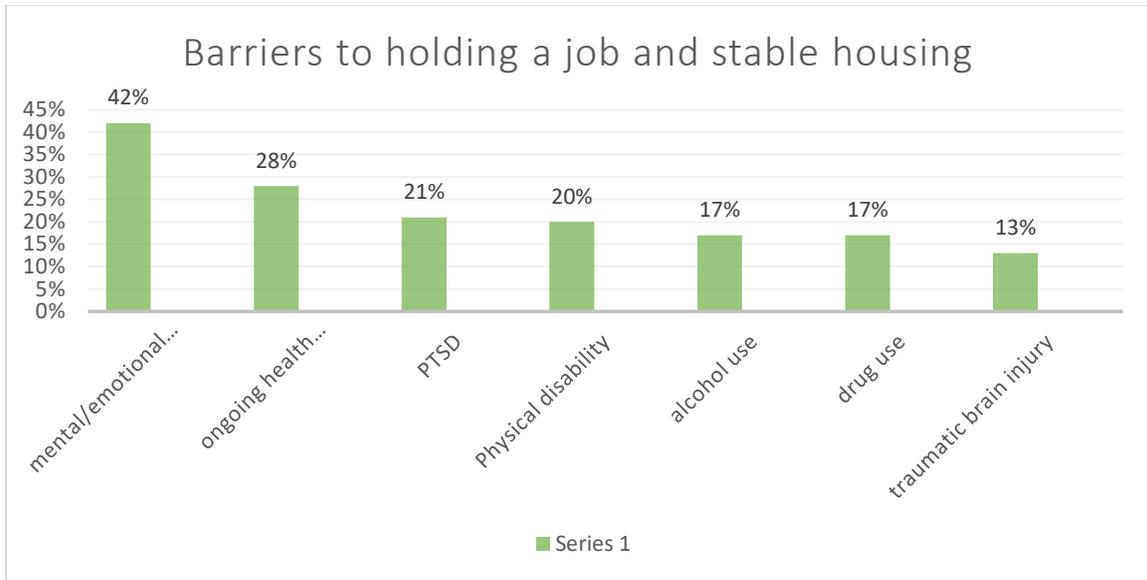
The demographic categories that had the largest differences in rates of the seven conditions were age groups and veterans compared with non-veterans. Compared with people in the younger age group, those ages 25 and older had higher rates of ongoing health problems (41% to 30%), traumatic brain injuries (38% to 26%), physical disabilities (40% to 15%), and PTSD (37% to 27%). However, a smaller proportion of people in the older age category used drugs (33% to 53%).

Nearly equal proportions of veterans and non-veterans reported that they or someone with them had a mental or emotional condition, 56% and 58%. However, there were noticeable differences between veterans and non-veterans in the other six conditions associated with homelessness. A larger proportion of veterans than non-veterans had ongoing health problems (64% to 35%), traumatic brain injury (64% to 32%), a physical disability (56% to 30%), PTSD (56% to 31%), and drink alcohol (52% to 42%). However, a lower percentage of veterans use drugs compared with non-veterans, 24% to 40%.

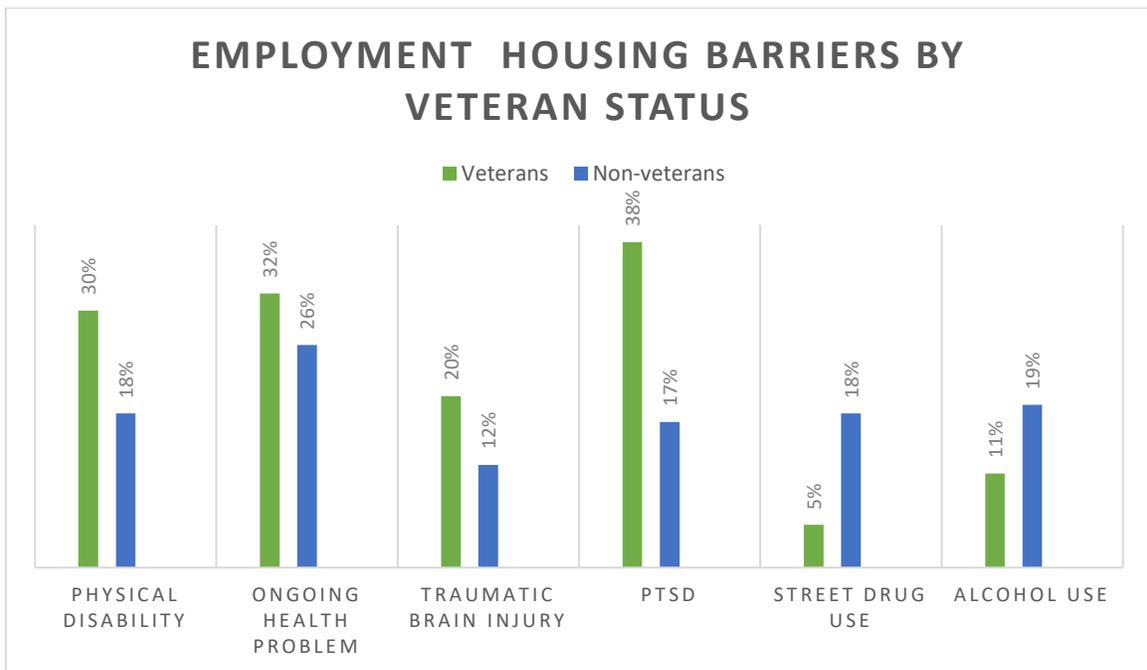


Conditions preventing steady job and stable housing

All respondents who had a least one of the seven conditions associated with homelessness then were asked if any of the conditions (on-going health issues, brain injuries, physical disability, mental/emotional conditions, PTSD, street drug use and alcohol use) prevents them from holding a job or living in stable housing. Eighty-nine persons (53%) answered yes to that question, and seventy-nine persons (47%) stated no. Subjects then were asked to identify which of the seven conditions prevented them from holding a job or living in stable housing. A little over two-fifths, 42%, reported an emotional/mental condition that created a barrier for them. Twenty-eight percent of respondents said an ongoing health issue was a reason. PTSD was reported as a barrier by 21% of subjects. One fifth or people sited a physical disability as an impediment to stable employment and housing. Street drug usage and alcohol consumption was noted as an employment and housing barrier by 17% of the sample. Thirteen percent reported a brain injury as a barrier.

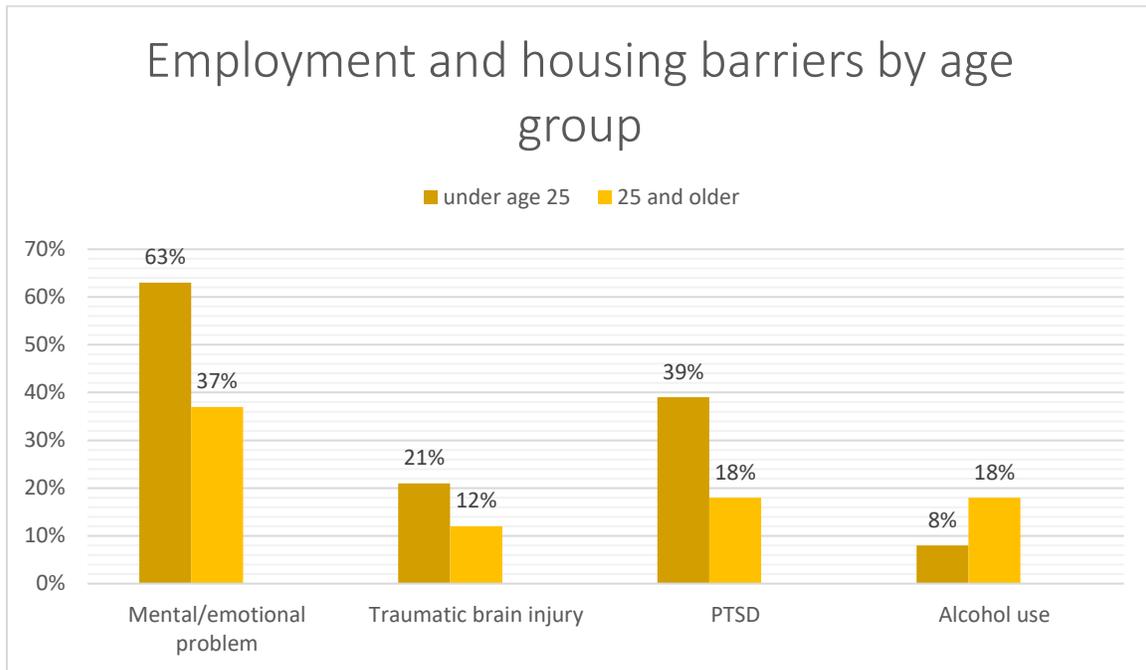


The barriers to holding a steady job and to securing stable housing varied somewhat across the demographic groups. The demographic factors that were most associated with varying rates of the barrier conditions were veteran status and age group. Higher proportions of veterans than non-veterans said that a physical disability (30% to 18%), ongoing health problem (32% to 26%), traumatic brain injury (20% to 12%), and PTSD (38% to 17%) kept them from holding a steady job or living in stable housing. However, lower percentages of veterans than non-veterans faced the employment and housing barriers of drug use (5% to 18%) and alcohol consumption (11% to 19%).



Larger percentages of people ages 24 and younger than ages 25 and older said that mental and emotional problems (63% to 37%), traumatic brain injury (21% to 12%), and PTSD (39% to

18%) kept them from steady employment and stable housing. However, fewer younger people than those 25 and older stated that alcohol use was a barrier (8% to 18%).



Received special education

Respondents were asked whether they or someone in their household had ever received special education services for more than six months. One hundred eighty-six people responded, and 32% stated yes, and 68% answered no. Variations in special education rates showed up in two demographic categories. A larger proportion of young people under age 25 than those 25 years or older (47% to 26%) had received special education services. In addition, more whites than non-whites (39% to 29%) had received special education services.

Has HIV/AIDS

Subjects were asked whether they or someone in their household has HIV or AIDS. Two hundred and nine people provided information. Eighty-nine percent said no, and 11%, 24 individuals, said that they do not know, or they refused to answer that particular question.

Receives disability benefits

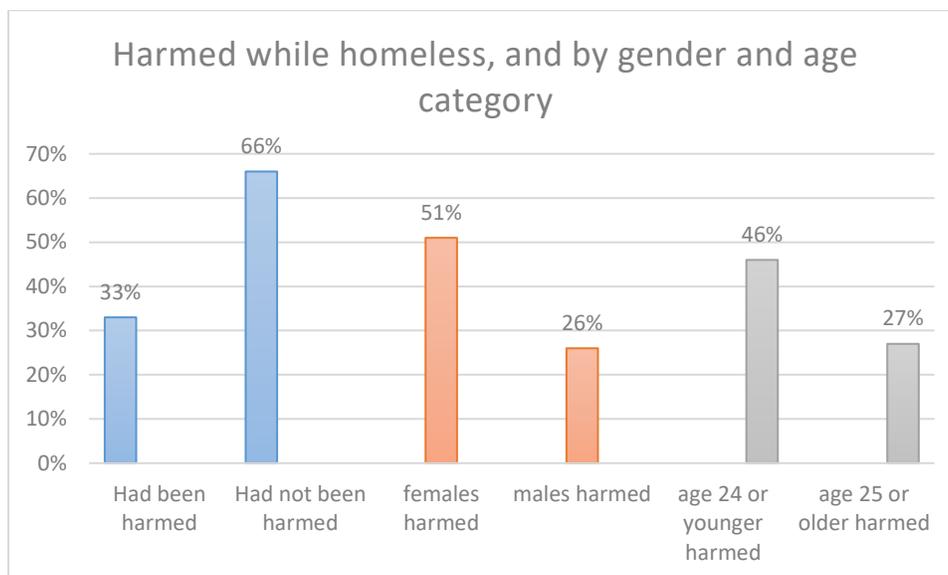
The next question asked people whether they or someone in their household had received disability benefits, such as Social Security Income, Social Security Disability Income, or Veteran’s Disability Benefits. One-hundred and ninety-three individuals responded to this question. One-hundred and forty-nine persons (77%) had not received disability benefits, and forty-four individuals (23%) had.

Variable rates of receipt of disability benefits showed up across two demographic categories. A larger share of people ages 25 and older received disability benefits than those aged 24 and younger, 25% to 9%. In addition, more veterans than non-veterans had received disability benefits, 32% to 21%.

Has been harmed while homeless

Sixty-one persons, 33% of the one hundred eighty-three who provided information, said that they had been physical, emotionally, or sexually harmed by someone that they had stayed with while they were homeless. One-hundred and twenty-two persons (67%) had not been harmed while they were homeless.

Harmed while homeless by demographic groups Rates of being harmed by a person whom respondents were staying with while they were homeless varied considerably across the demographic groups. Over half of females (51%) had been harmed while they were homeless, which is nearly double the rate for males (26%). Younger people had a higher rate of victimization compared with older homeless people, as 46% of respondents ages 24 and younger had been harmed while they were homeless, compared with 27% of people ages 25 and older.



Thirty-eight percent of whites reported that they had been harmed while they were homeless, compared with 23% of non-whites. Veterans were much less likely to have been victimized while they were homeless than non-veterans, 14% to 35%. (This likely is because over 90% of veterans are male.) And, finally, those who were by themselves the night before the survey were less likely to have experienced harm while they were homeless compared with people who had been with other adults the prior evening, 28% to 43%.

Harmed while homeless by racial group, veteran status, and household size

