

**Community Partnership's
Ozarks Alliance to End Homelessness
January 2017 Adult Point in Time Report**



This report was created by Dr. Tim Knapp of the Missouri State University Sociology Department and Leah Woods and Kirstin Terris of Community Partnership of the Ozarks.



Administration of the Survey

Each January, communities across the country document the number of people experiencing homelessness on a given night. This effort meets federal mandates set forth by the Department of Housing and Urban Development and provides a snapshot view of our homeless population. On January 26, 2017, Community Partnership's Ozarks Alliance to End Homelessness (OAEH) surveyed one hundred and seventy-four individuals over the age of 24 who reported sleeping somewhere not meant for human habitation (vehicle, bus station, outdoors, etc.) the previous night. Surveys were conducted at thirteen locations in Greene County. One of these locations was a magnet event at the Shrine Mosque, which had been publicly promoted for several weeks at homeless service locations. Approximately 15 direct service agencies were on-site to connect people with Veterans benefits, food stamps, housing assistance, and other basic needs, including a hot breakfast, sleeping bags, tents, and personal care kits. Ninety-three individuals (53% of the sample) completed surveys there. Sixty-three surveys (36% of the total) were completed at four service locations, (Grace United Methodist Church, Veterans Coming Home (a local day drop in center), Springfield Affordable Housing Center, and Harbor House). Thirteen individuals (8% of participants) were surveyed at outdoor locations, including street intersections, the downtown square, and under a bridge. Five surveys (3% of the sample) were conducted at other organizations and businesses, including the public library, bus station, and a local restaurant. A separate magnet event was held for homeless and high-risk youth. The report from this study can be found at www.cpozarks.org/endhomelessness.

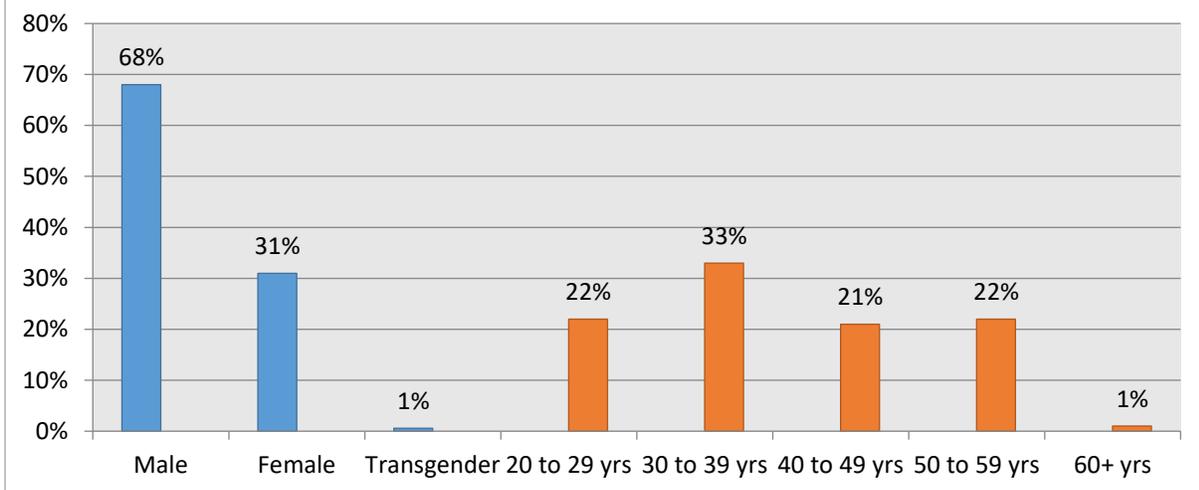
The combination of a magnet event, outreach teams, and the support of key homeless service agencies allowed the OAEH to conduct a representative as possible count of the local unsheltered homeless population. However, because the 174 individuals who provided information were not randomly selected from a population, the information presented below cannot be generalized to the overall population of homeless adults in the Springfield area.

The Adult Homeless Sample

One hundred sixty-seven people identified their gender. Of those individuals, 114 (68%) were males, 51 (31%) were females, 1 person was transgender, and another individual did not identify by gender.

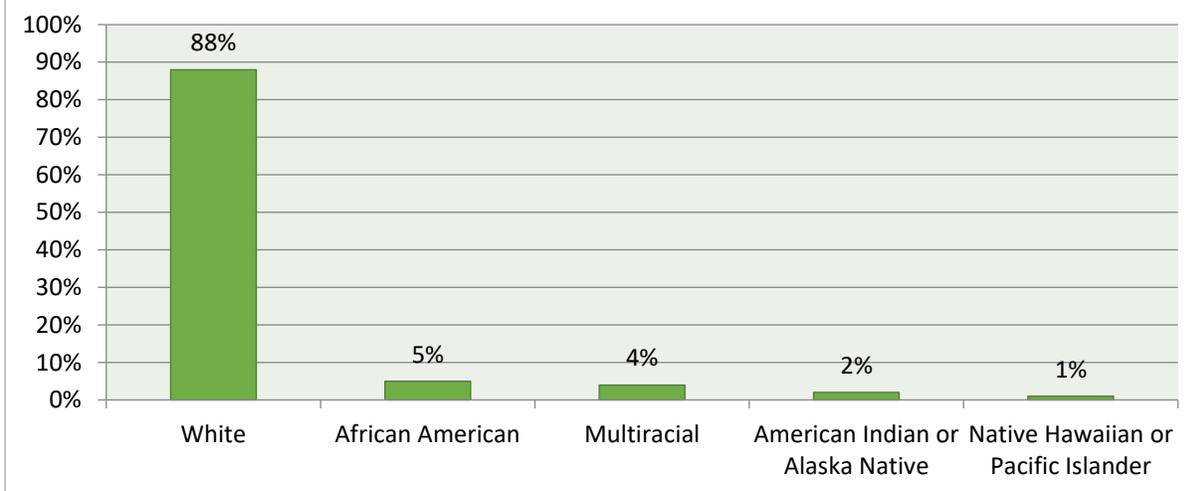
Ninety people provided their age. Twenty individuals (22%) were in their twenties. Thirty people (33%) were between 30 and 39 years of age. Nineteen participants (21%) were in their forties. Twenty people (22%) were 50 to 59 years old, and one person (1%) was over 60 years of age.

Gender and Age Category - Adult Sample



Of those who identified their racial group, 147 people (88%) were white. Eight individuals (5%) were black or African-American. Seven participants (4%) were multiracial. Four subjects (2%) were American Indian or Alaska Native, and one person (1%) was Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander. Three individuals (2%) said that they were ethnically Hispanic, and 158 people (98%) said that they were not Hispanic.

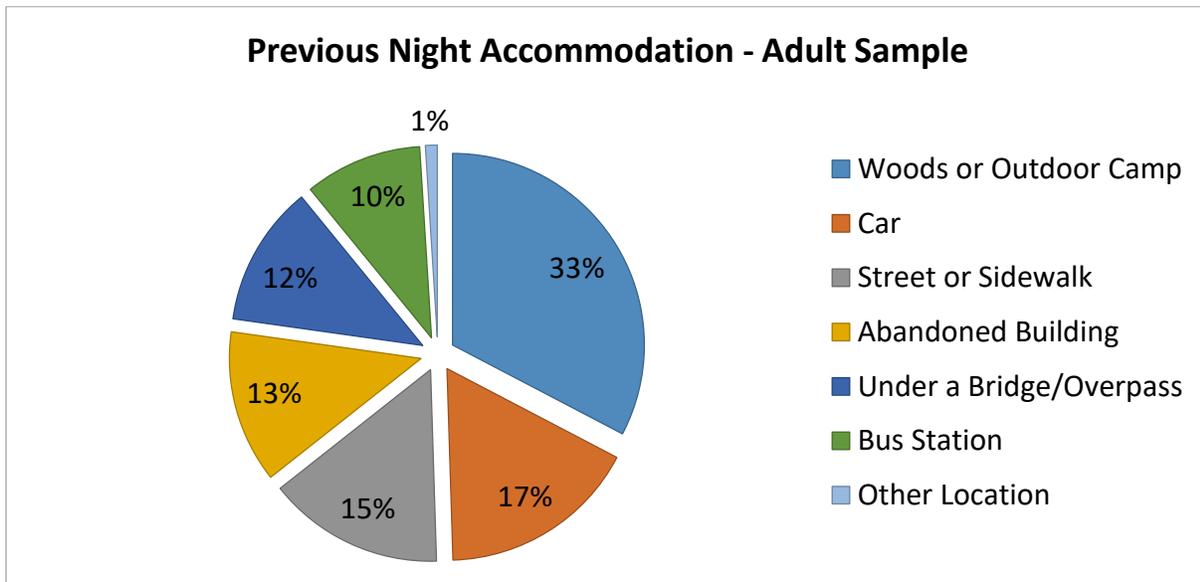
Racial Group - Adult Sample



Information on household status was provided by all 174 unsheltered homeless survey respondents. Ninety-eight individuals (56%) were alone the night before the homeless count was held. Fifty-one people (30%) were with one other person the previous night. Twenty-two respondents (13%) were in a three-person household the night before, and three individuals (2%) were in a household of four or more persons the previous evening.

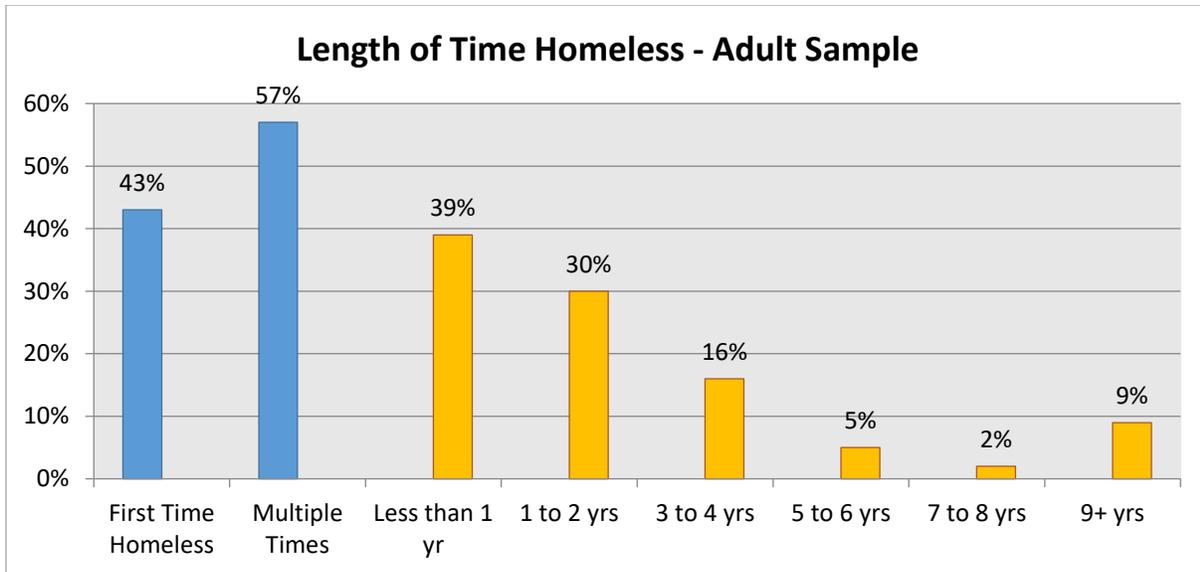
Six people (3%) reported that a youth age 18 to 24 was with them the night before the count, and 168 individuals (97%) were not in a household with a youth the previous evening. Similarly, five adults (3%) had a child age 17 or younger in their household the night before the count, and 169 people (97%) did not have a child with them on the previous evening.

Fifty-seven people (33%) had spent the prior evening in the woods or in a camp. Twenty-nine participants (17%) had slept in a car. Twenty-six people (15%) had spent the previous night on a street or sidewalk. Twenty-two persons (13%) had spent the night before the survey in an abandoned building. Twenty adults (12%) had slept under a bridge or overpass. Eighteen people (10%) had spent the previous evening at some other location, and one individual (1%) had slept in the bus station.



Ninety-two people (57%) had been homeless at least once before their current spell without housing. Sixty-nine individuals (43%) reported that this was the first time that they had ever been homeless.

The length of time that individuals had been homeless during their current spell without stable housing ranged from five days to over 40 years. Both the median and modal length of homelessness was one year. Sixty-two people (39%) had been homeless less than year. Forty-eight individuals (30%) had been homeless for between one and two years. Twenty-four adults (16%) had been homeless for three to four years. Eight people (5%) had been without stable housing for five to six years. Three individuals (2%) had been homeless for between seven and eight years, and fourteen others (9%) had been without a stable home for nine or more years.



One hundred seventeen people (73%) had been homeless three or fewer separate times during the past three years. Thirty-two individuals had been homeless four or more separate times in the previous three years.

Using information on the length of the current spell of homelessness, the frequency of homeless over the past three years, and disabling conditions (discussed below), 104 individuals (60%) met the formal definition for chronic homelessness. Sixty-nine people (40%) were not chronically homeless.

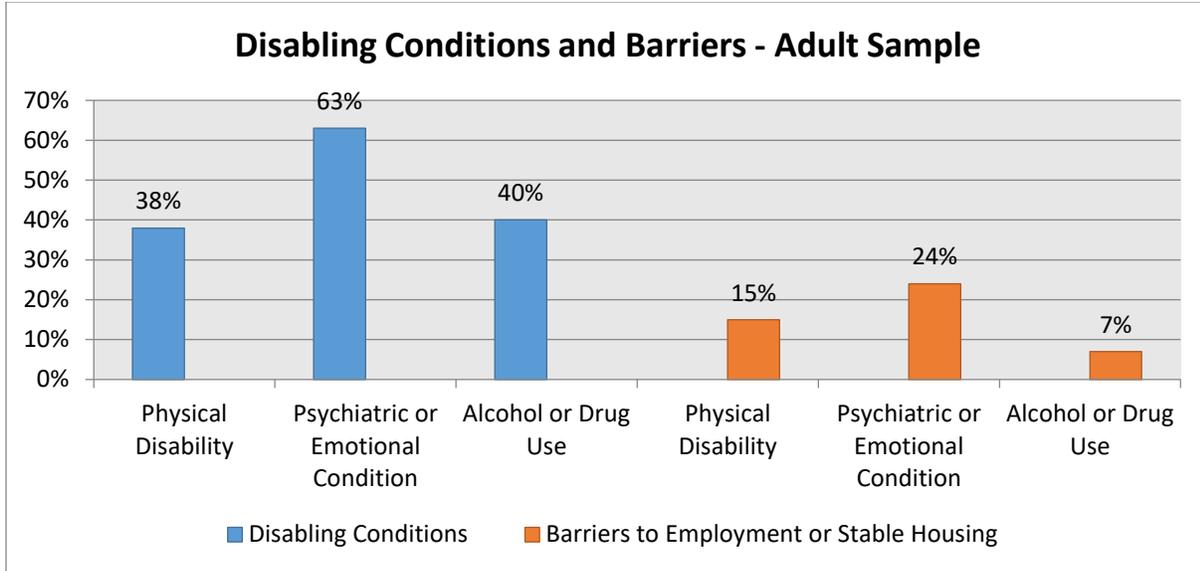
One hundred three individuals (62%) self-reported that they did not have a physical disability, while 62 people (38%) said that they did have a physical disability. One hundred four persons (63%) said that they had a psychiatric or emotional condition, and 60 others (37%) reported that they did not suffer such a mental problem. One hundred one participants (60%) reported that they did not drink alcohol or use drugs, while 67 individuals (40%) self-reported alcohol or drug use. While between 37% and 63% of people reported that they had a disabling condition, only 32 individuals (19%) reported that they were receiving some form of disability benefit, such as Social Security Income, Social Security Disability Income, or Veteran’s Disability Benefits.

Forty-six people (30%) had received special education service for an extended time, while 114 individuals (60%) had not received special education.

One hundred six respondents (65%) had never been physically, emotionally, or sexually harmed by someone they had stayed with while homeless. However, 55 people (35%) reported that they had been harmed by someone they were staying with while they were homeless.

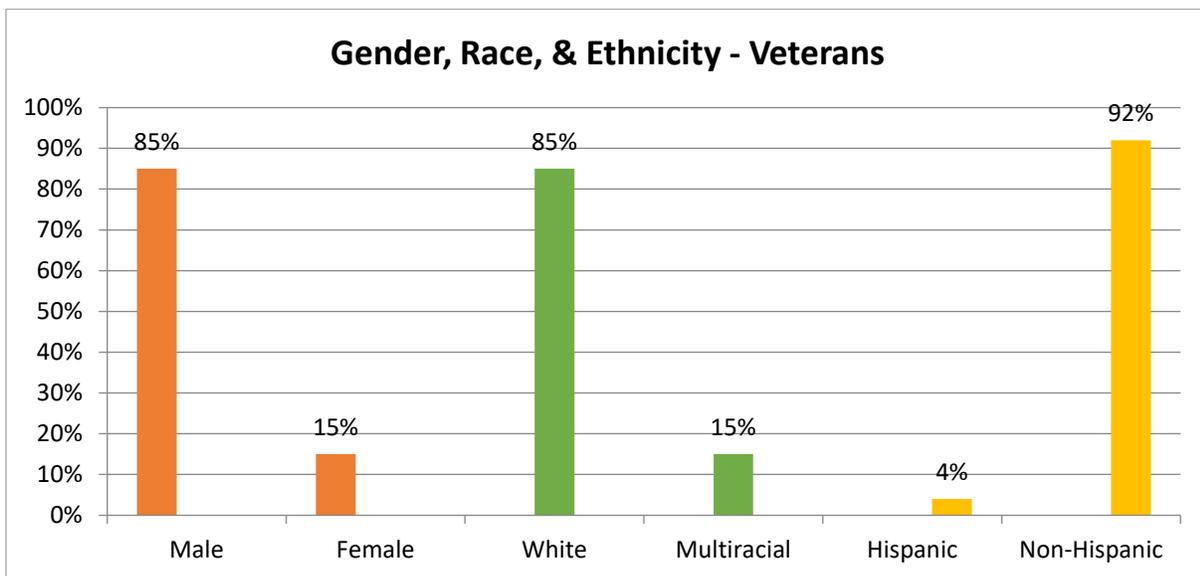
Twenty-five adults (15%) said that their physical disability kept them from holding a job or living in stable housing. Thirty-nine people (24%) reported that their psychiatric or emotional condition kept them from steady employment and stable housing. Twelve individuals (7%) said

that their use of alcohol or drugs prevented them from holding a job or living in stable housing. Several people had more than one disabling condition, because on a separate question, sixty-five participants (43%) reported that they had a least one of the disabling conditions that kept them from steady employment and stable housing.



Homeless Veterans

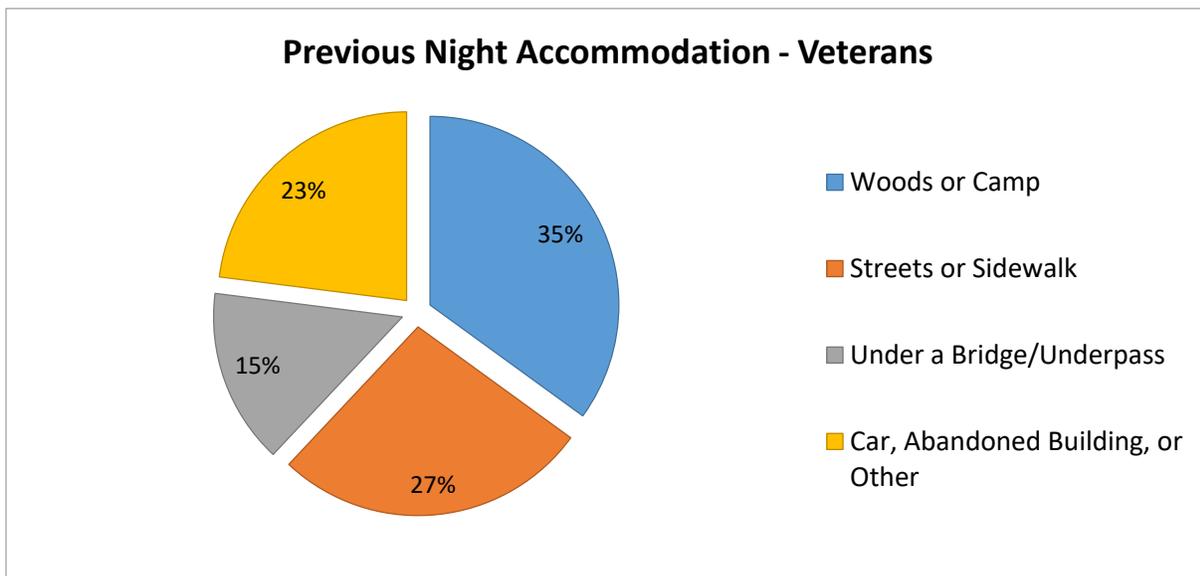
Twenty-six Veterans were among the 167 people who answered questions about their military service. Thus, 16% of homeless adults were Veterans. Four Veterans (15%) were females, and 85% of homeless Veterans were male. Similarly, 85% of homeless Veterans described themselves as white, and 15% were multiracial. One person was Hispanic, and 24 others were non-Hispanic (one Veteran did not answer the question about Hispanic background).



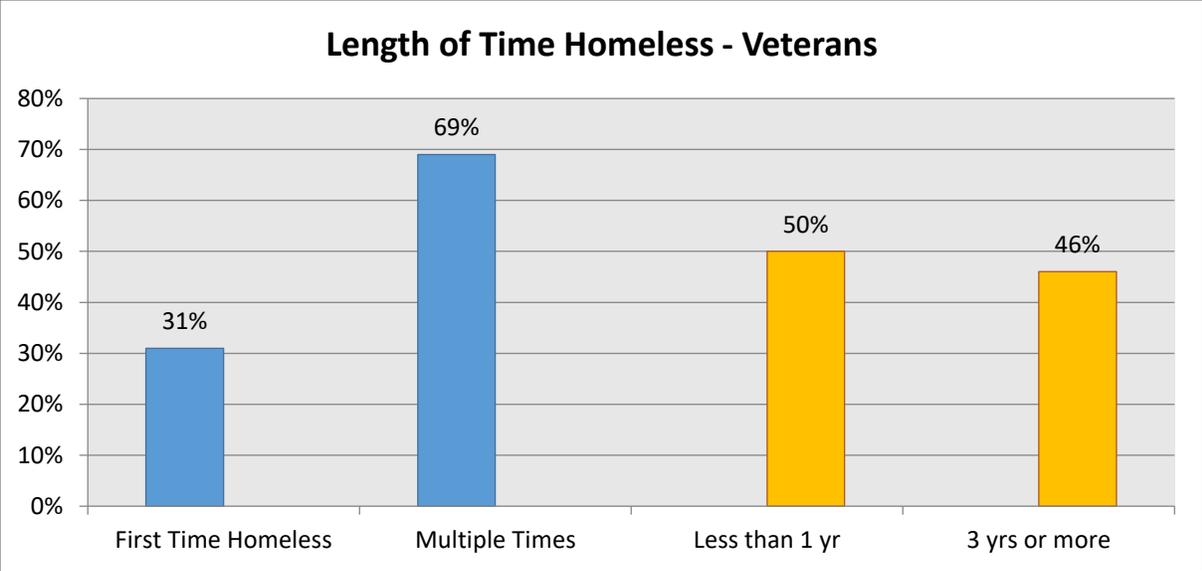
Age information was obtained on only 14 Veterans. They ranged in age from 28 to 66 years old. The median and mean age was 45. Two homeless Veterans were in their twenties, four were in their thirties, four were between 50 and 59 years old, and one person was in his sixties.

Twenty homeless Veterans (77%) were by themselves on the night prior to the survey, three people (12%) were with another person, and three other homeless Veterans (12%) were in a three-person family the night before the homeless count. None had children with them on that night.

Nine homeless Veterans, 35%, had spent the previous night in a camp or in the woods. Seven people, 27%, had slept on the streets or on a sidewalk. Four others, 15%, had slept under a bridge or overpass. Thus, 77% of Veterans experiencing homelessness had slept outside the night before the January count. The other six Veterans, 23%, had slept in a car, in an abandoned building, or at some other location.



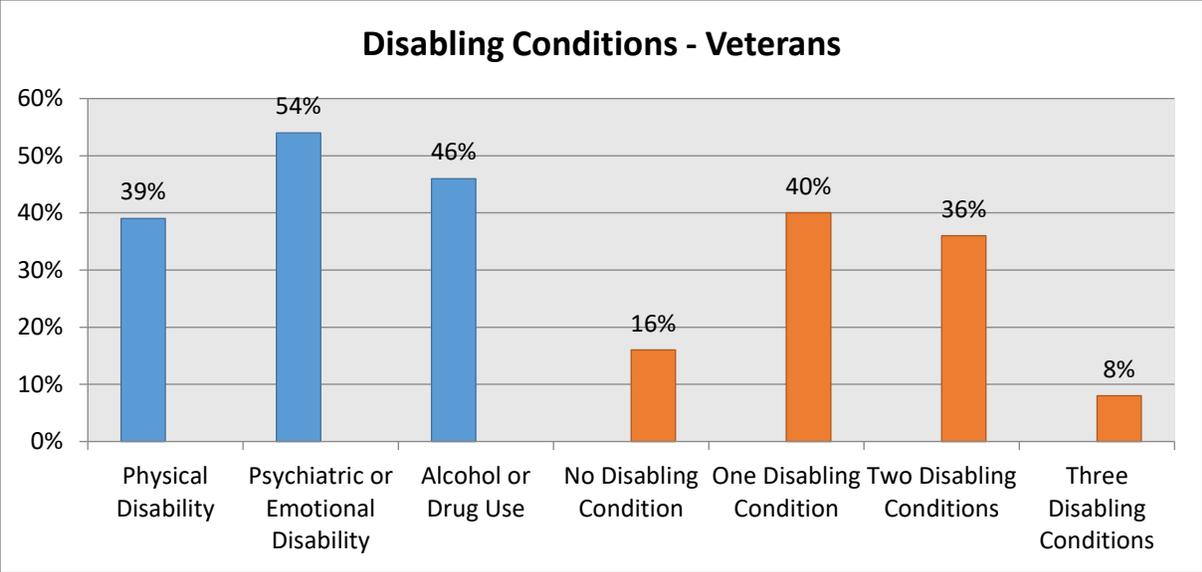
This was the first time being homeless for eight people, 31% of homeless Veterans. The other 18 Veterans, 69%, had been homeless before. Two-thirds of Veterans experiencing homelessness, 68%, had experienced three or fewer spells of homelessness in the past three years, while 32% had four or more spells of homelessness during that time. The average length of homelessness this time was 78 weeks, or a year and a half. However, the average length of time homeless masked a bifurcated pattern. Twelve Veterans, 50%, had been homeless less than one year this time, while 11 other people, 46%, had been continuously homeless for three years or more.



Combining information on number of times homeless, length of time homeless, and disabling conditions (discussed below), 18 Veterans, 69%, met the definition of chronic homelessness, while eight Veterans, 31%, were not chronically homeless.

Three Veterans experiencing homelessness, 13%, had received special education services for an extended period of time, while 21 people, 87%, had not received special education services.

Ten Veterans, 39%, reported that they had a physical disability. Fourteen of them, 54%, self-reported having a psychiatric or emotional disability. And, 12 Veterans, 46%, drank alcohol or used drugs. Overall, four Veterans (16%) reported having none of the three disabling conditions, while 21 veterans, 84% of them, had at least one disability. Ten persons (40%) had one disability. Nine Veterans (36%) reported having two disabilities, and two other Veterans (8%) had all three disabling conditions.



Ten Veterans, 39%, said that they had received health care from the Veterans Administration. Sixteen veterans, 61%, had not received such health care services. Seven Veterans (27%) had received disability benefits, such as Social Security Income or Social Security Disability Income. Nineteen Veterans (73%) had not received a disability income.

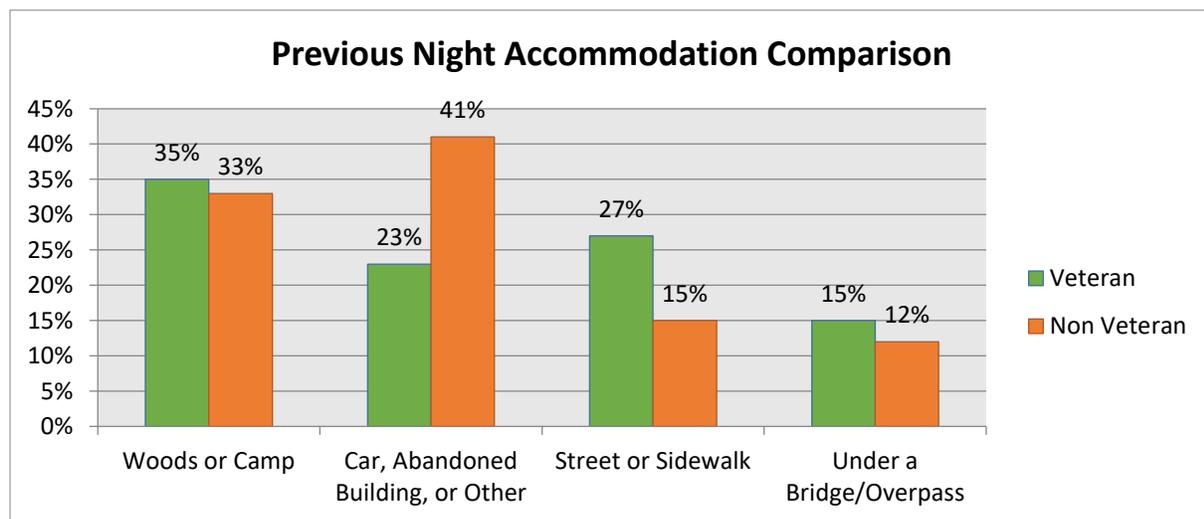
The results above show that while 84% of Veterans experiencing homelessness reported having one or more disabilities, fewer than 40% receive health care or income support benefits from the government. **Thus, one local service that could possibly be improved is making Veterans aware of their eligibility for health care and income support programs and helping them apply for those benefits.**

Sixteen of the Veterans with at least one disability, 76%, said that their condition did not keep them from having steady work or stable housing. Five Veterans with a disability, 24%, reported that one or more of their conditions kept them from holding a job or living in stable housing. Three Veterans, 12%, said that a physical disability kept them from steady work or stable housing. Four persons, 16%, reported that a psychiatric or emotional disability prevented them from having a steady job or secure housing. Two Veterans, 8%, said that their alcohol or drug use got in the way of working steadily or living in stable housing.

Comparing Veterans experiencing homelessness with non-Veterans experiencing homelessness

The subpopulation of Veterans differed in several ways from persons who were not Veterans. For example, women made up one-third of the non-Veteran homeless sample, while only 15% of Veterans experiencing homelessness were female.

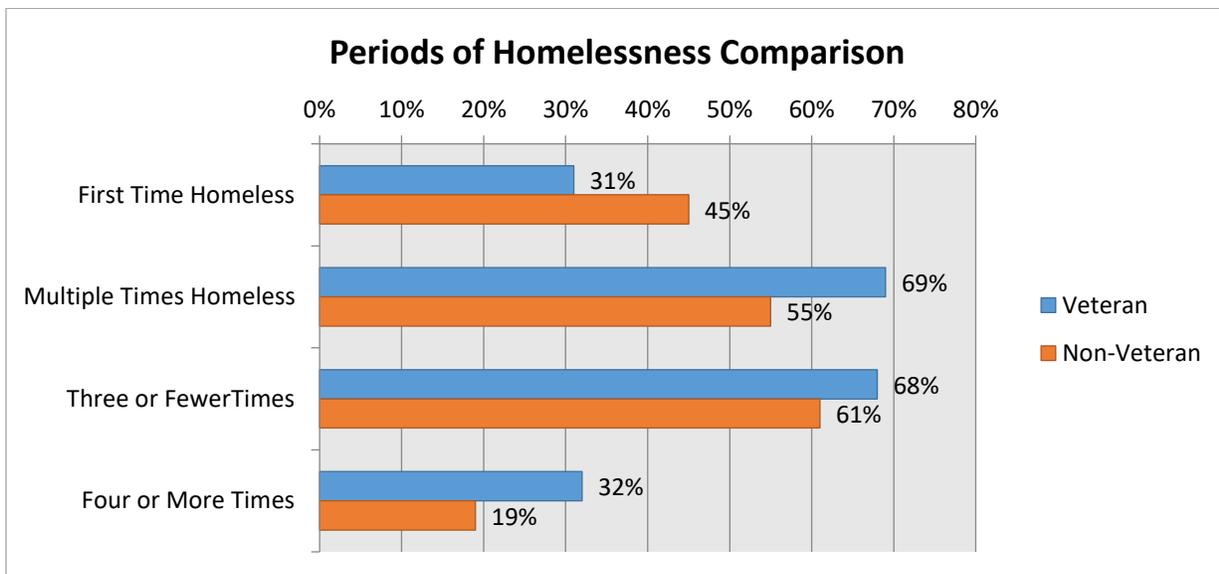
Over three quarters of Veterans, 77%, had slept outdoors the night before the January homeless count, but only 54% of non-Veteran individuals had. While 27% of Veterans had slept on the street or sidewalk, only 14% of non-Veterans had done so. Conversely, only 12% of Veterans had slept in a vehicle or abandoned building, while 33% of non-Veterans had done so.



More Veterans, 77%, had been alone on the previous night compared with non-Veteran persons, 62%.

While 31% of Veterans were homeless for the first time, 45% of non-Veterans were first-time homeless. The current homeless spell for Veterans was noticeably longer than for non-Veterans. Veterans had been homeless this time for an average of 18 months, compared with 12 months for non-Veteran individuals. While 32% of Veterans had experienced four or more spells of homelessness in the past three years, 19% of non-Veterans had been homeless four or more times over that period. Slightly more Veterans (69%) are chronically homeless than non-Veterans (61%).

To summarize, there were four general differences between Veterans and non-Veterans experiencing homelessness : First, Veterans were less likely to be homeless for the first time compared with non-Veterans. Next, Veterans had been continuously homeless this time longer than non-Veterans. Third, more Veterans had experienced repeated spells of homeless over the past three years compared with non-Veterans. Last, more Veterans than non-Veterans were chronically homeless.



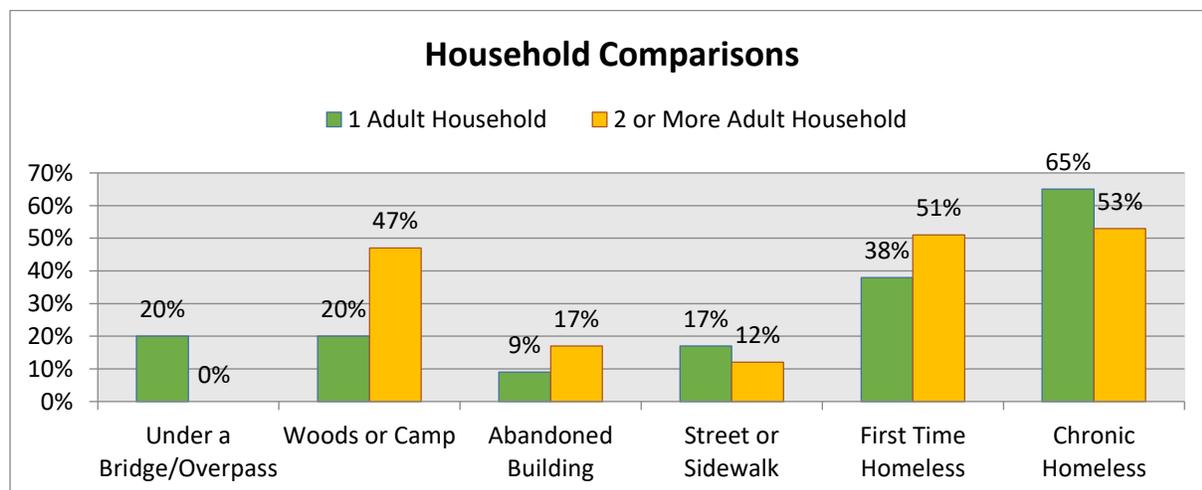
While 13% of Veterans had received special education services, 31% of non-Veteran homeless persons had. Identical proportions (84%) of both Veterans and non-Veteran homeless persons reported having at least one of the three disabling conditions measured in this survey. However, only 24% of Veterans said that a disability kept them from holding a job or living in stable housing, compared with 48% of non-Veterans. **Either Veterans are less likely than non-Veterans to blame their homelessness on a disability, or Veterans have less severe disabilities than non-Veterans have.**

Homeless Households

As was mentioned above, 56% of respondents had been by themselves the night before the survey, and 44% had been with at least one other person. There was a pronounced gender different in household status of unsheltered homeless adults. Sixty-eight percent of males had been by themselves the night before the count, while 65% of females had been with at least one other person. The median age of people who were on their own the previous evening was 44 years, which was 10 years older than the median age of homeless adults who were in multi-person households. There were no major differences in the racial group or ethnic background between those who were on their own, and those who were in a homeless household of two or more people.

There were two major differences in where people had slept the previous night. Twenty percent of single individuals had slept under a bridge or overpass, while no one who was with others that night had. Forty-seven percent of those in a multi-person household had bedded down in the woods or in a camp, compared with 20% of individuals who were by themselves. Two smaller difference also existed. While 17% of homeless adults in multi-person households slept in an abandoned building, only 9% of people who were by themselves did. And, 12% of those who were with others had slept on a street or sidewalk, compared with 17% of those who were on their own the night before the count.

A slight majority (51%) of people who were in multi-person households reported that this was their first time being homeless, compared with 38% of those who were on their own the prior evening. While only 10% of individuals who were in multi-person households had experienced homelessness this time for five or more years, 20% percent of people who were by themselves had experienced homelessness continuously for five years or more. There was no difference in the number of separate times people had been homeless in the past three years across the household groups. However, 53% of those who were in multi-person households met the definition of chronic homelessness, compared with the 65% of individuals who had been on their own the night prior to the survey.



There were no major differences in the proportion of people who had a physical disability, a psychiatric or emotional condition, or an alcohol or drug problem between single persons and those in multi-person households. However, slightly more people (21%) who were homeless on their own reported that they received some form of disability income than individuals (16%) who were in multi-person households the night before the survey.

Fifty-eight percent of people in multi-person households said that one or more disabling conditions kept them from holding a job or living in stable housing, compared with 49% of individuals who were homeless on their own the night before the count. One quarter of participants who had stayed with others said that a psychiatric or emotional condition kept them from steady employment and stable housing, compared with 22% of adults who were by themselves. And, 10% of individuals in multi-person households reported that alcohol or drug use kept them from having a steady job and stable housing, compared with 5% of single homeless individuals.

Slightly more people in multi-person households (33%) had received special education services for an extended period of time, compared with the 26% of people who were homeless on their own. And, more individuals (42%) in multi-person households had been physically, emotionally, or sexually harmed by someone they were staying with while homeless than people who had spent the previous night by themselves (29%).

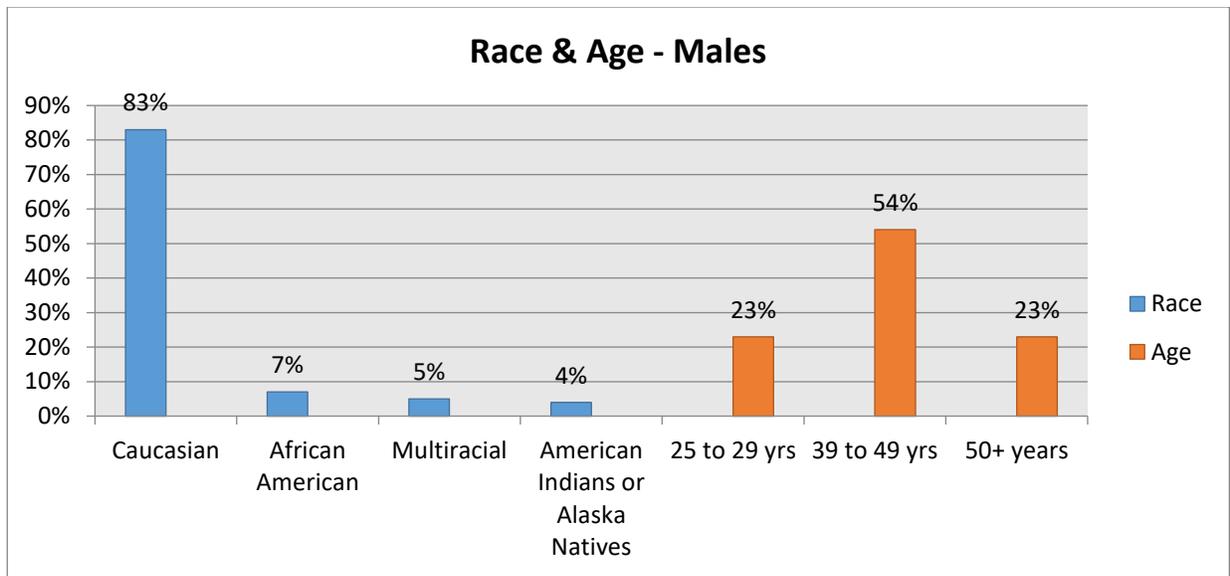
Gender and Homelessness

As was noted previously, 167 individuals identified their gender. One hundred fourteen males made up 68% of the sample, and 51 females constituted 31% of participants. One individual was transgender, and one person does not identify by gender.

Homeless Males

Eighty-three percent of homeless males identified their race as white, 7% were African-American, 5% were multiracial, and 4% were American Indians or Alaska Natives. Three percent of males identified their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino.

The age of homeless males ranged from 25 to 69 years, the average (median) age was 38. Twenty-three percent of males were under age 30, 54% were between 30 and 49 years old, and 23% were 50 years old or older.



A strong majority of homeless males, 72%, were by themselves on the night before the January homeless count, 20% were with one other adult, and 8% were with three or more other adults. Only 3% of males had a youth ages 18 to 24 with them the previous night, and another 3% were in a homeless household that included a child aged 17 or younger.

Homeless males had slept in a variety of locales the previous evening. The largest group, 28%, had spent the night in the woods or a camp, 18% had slept on a street or sidewalk, 15% spent the night under a bridge or overpass, 13% were in an abandoned building, 12% were in another location, and 11% spent the night in a vehicle.

For 42% of males, this was their first time being homeless, while 58% had been homeless at least once before. Over three quarters of males, 78% had been homeless three or fewer separate times in the past three years, while 22% had four or more separate episodes of homelessness. When asked how long they have been homeless in the last three years, 6% of males said less than one month, 8% had been homeless for 1 to 5 months, and 22% had been without housing for 6 months to one year. Thus, 36% of males had been homeless for no more than one year out of the past three years. Eighteen percent had been homeless for 1 to 2 years out the past three years, and 46% had been without stable housing for 2 to 3 years. Almost two-thirds of males, 66%, met the definition of chronic homelessness, while 34% were not chronically homeless.

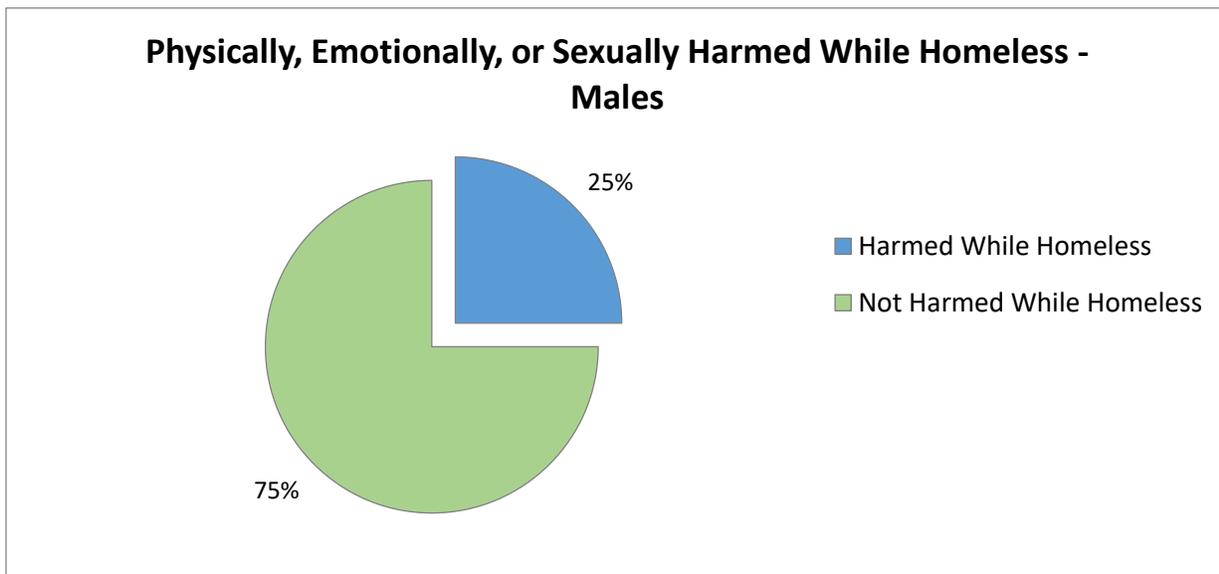
Subjects also were asked about how long they had been continuously homeless this time (not just over the past three years). The length of the current spell of homelessness ranged from one week to over 40 years. The median duration the men had been homeless this time was one year and three months.

About one-third, 34%, of homeless males reported that they had a physical disability that “substantially limits” their ability to walk, climb stairs, reach, lift, and carry items. Nearly six in

ten, 59%, had a psychiatric or emotional condition, and 43% reported that they use alcohol or drugs. Considering all three potentially disabling conditions, 9% of homeless males had all three conditions, 37% had two of the conditions, and 35% had one of the three disabilities. Fewer than one in five, 18%, had no disability. Thus, 82% of homeless males reported having at least one disabling condition. While a strong majority have a disability, only 19% of males reported that they had received disability benefits, such as Social Security Disability Income, or Veteran’s Disability Benefits. Twenty-seven percent of males had received special education services for an extended period of time.

Forty-one percent of males said that a disability prevented them from holding a steady job or living in stable housing, 40% reported that their disability did not prevent them from steady employment and stable housing, and 18% said that the question did not apply to them (presumably because they did not have a disability). Twenty-two percent of males said that a psychiatric or emotional condition prevents them from steady work and stable housing, 14% said that their physical disability was a barrier to work and housing, and 9% said that alcohol or drug use prevented them from holding a steady job and having stable housing.

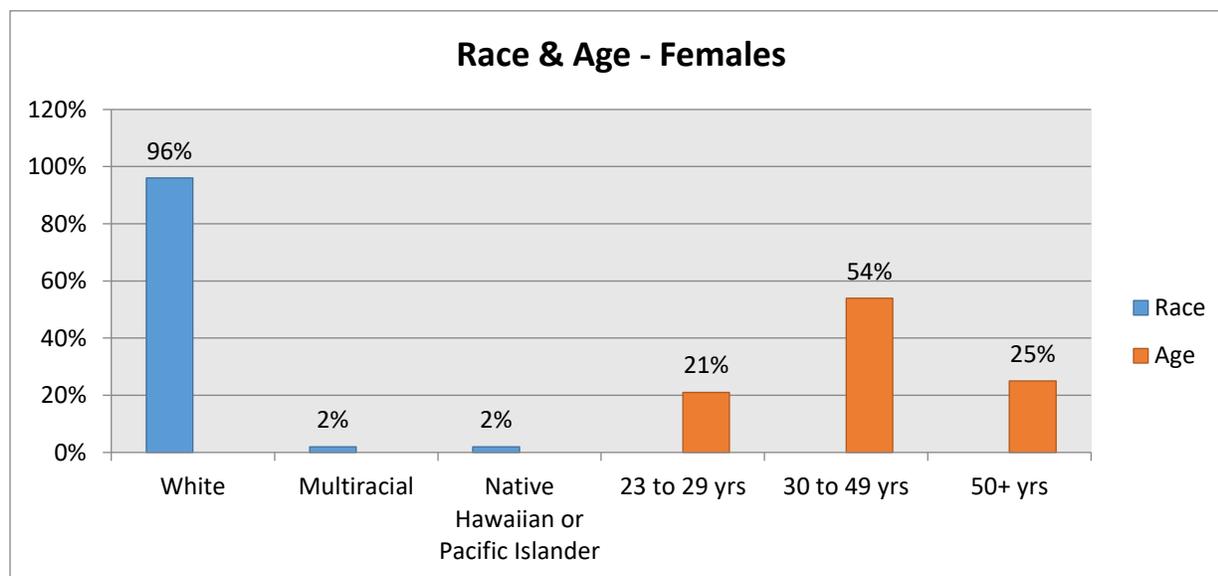
One quarter of homeless men said that they had been physically, emotionally, or sexually harmed by someone they stayed with while they were homeless, while three-quarters of males had never been harmed by someone they were with while they were homeless.



Homeless Females

There was very little racial and ethnic group diversity among the 51 homeless adult females in the sample. Ninety-six percent identified as being white, 2% were multiracial, and 2% were Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander. No African-American, American-Indian, or Latina women completed a survey.

The age of homeless women ranged from 23 to 56 years old. Their average (median age) was 38. Twenty-one percent of homeless females were under age 30, 54% of women were between ages 30 and 49, and one quarter of women were 50 or older.



Forty-one percent of adult homeless females slept by themselves the night before being surveyed, 43% were with one other adult, and 16% spent the previous night with two or more other adults. Four percent of women had a youth (ages 18 to 24) in their household the previous night, and another 4% of homeless women were with a child under age 18 on that night.

Thirty-seven percent of homeless women had spent the prior evening in the woods or an outdoor camp, 29% had slept in a vehicle, 12% stayed in an abandoned building, 10% were on the street or sidewalk, 6% slept under a bridge or overpass, and another 6% stayed in some other location.

Forty-seven percent of women reported that this was their first time being homeless, while 53% had been homeless at least once prior to the current episode without housing. Nearly 4 of 5 women had been homeless three or fewer separate times in the past three years, 21% had experienced four or more separate episodes of homelessness. Nine percent of women said that they had been homeless for less than one month during the past three years, 13% had been homeless 1 to 6 months in the past three years, and 27% had been homeless 6 months to one year. Thus, 49% of adult females had been homeless no more than one out of the past three years. Eighteen percent had been homeless between one and two years, and 33% had been homeless between two and three years over that time. Fifty-one percent of women met the definition of chronic homelessness, and 49% were not chronically homeless.

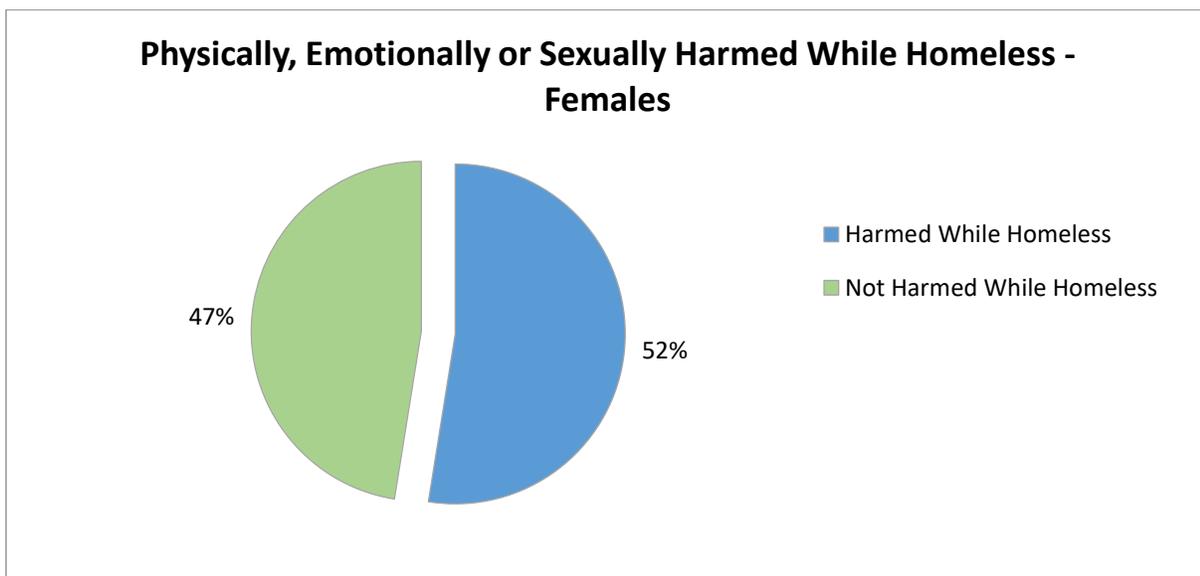
When asked the duration of their current spell of homeless (not just over the past three years), 16% of women said that they had been homeless less than one month this time, another 16% had been without stable housing for 1 to 6 months, and 31% had been homeless for 6 months

to one year this time. Thus, 63% of women had been homeless this time for no more than one year. Nine percent had been homeless this time for 1 to 2 years, 26% said that their current spell of homelessness was between 2 and 5 years, 2% of women had been homeless this time for over 5 years. The median duration the women had been homeless this time was one year.

Forty-seven percent of homeless females reported that they had a physical disability that “substantially limits” their ability to walk, climb stairs, reach, lift, and carry items. Seven in ten women had a psychiatric or emotional condition, and 29% reported that they use alcohol or drugs. Considering all three potentially disabling conditions, 9% of homeless females had all three conditions, 40% had two of the conditions, and 40% had one of the three disabilities. Fewer than one in ten, 9%, had no disability; thus, 91% of homeless females reported having at least one disabling condition. While a strong majority have a disability, only 20% of females reported that they had received disability benefits, such as Social Security Disability Income, or Veteran’s Disability Benefits. One-third of females had received special education services for an extended period of time, while two-thirds had not.

Half of homeless women reported that a disability prevented them from holding a job or living in stable housing, 31% said that their disability did not prevent them from working steadily or having stable housing, and 19% did not know or said that the question did not apply to them (presumably because they did not have a disability). One quarter of women said that their psychiatric or emotional condition prevented them from holding a job or living in stable housing, 19% reported that their physical disability prevented them from working regularly or getting stable housing, and 5% said that their use of alcohol or drugs was a barrier to steady work and stable housing.

Over half, 52%, of adult homeless women said that they had been physically, emotionally, or sexually harmed by someone they were staying with while they were homeless. Forty-eight percent of homeless women had not been harmed by someone while they were homeless.

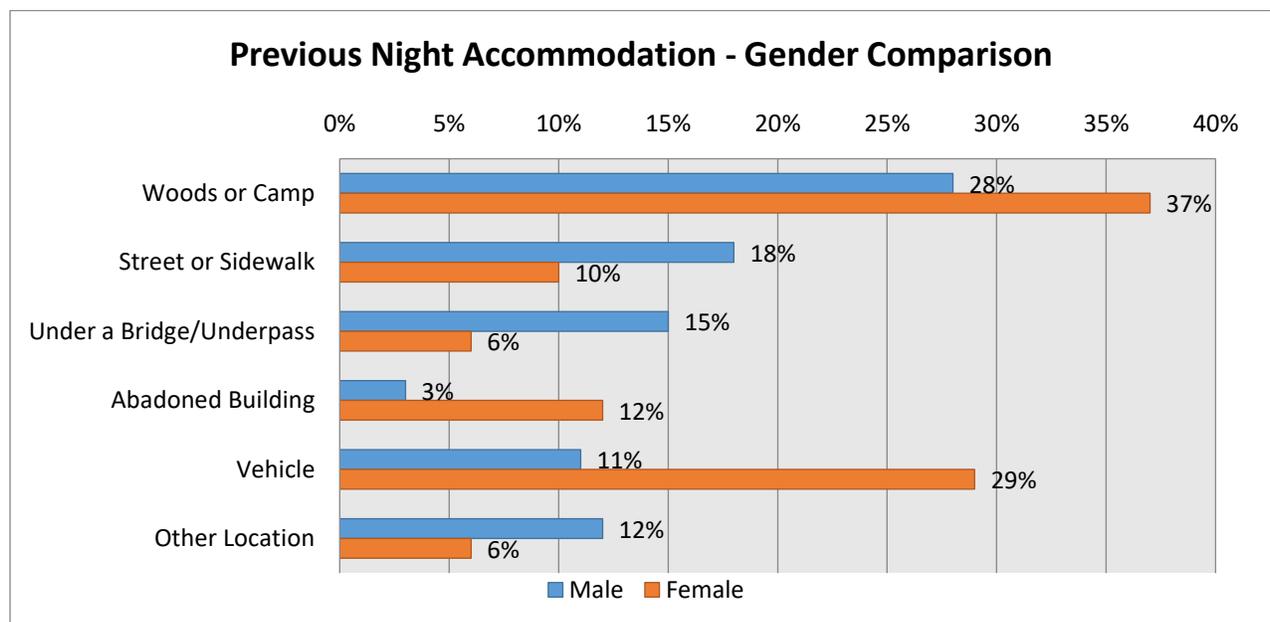


Gender differences among homeless adults

There were several observed differences between homeless females and males who were surveyed. (Recall that the sample is not randomly drawn; therefore, the difference reported below may or may not represent the population of homeless adults in Springfield). Homeless males were more racially diverse than were females, as 96% of homeless women were white, compared with 83% of males.

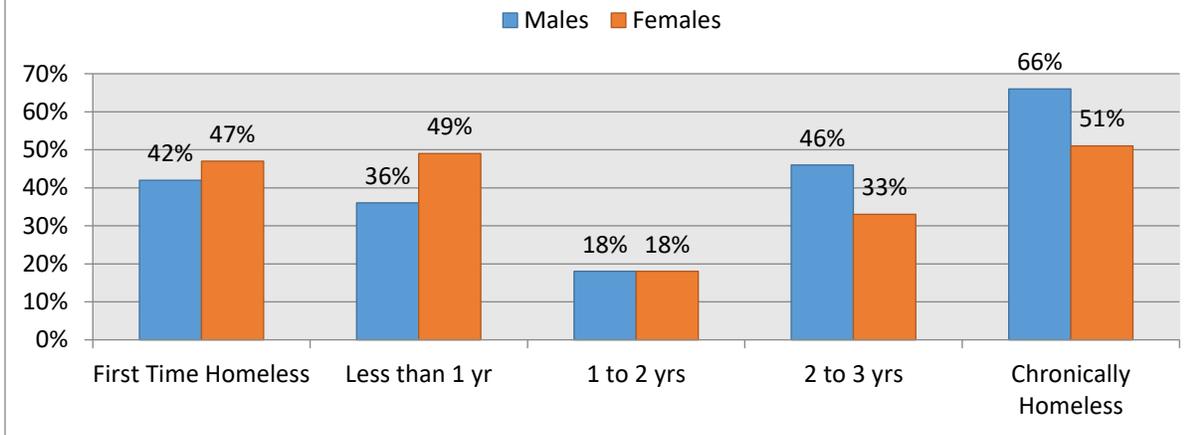
More males (72%) than females (41%) were by themselves the night before the January homeless count, and slightly more women (8%) than men (6%) had youth or children with them the previous evening.

Women and men had several differences in where they had spent the previous evening. Somewhat surprisingly, more women (37%) than men (28%) had slept in the woods or a camp. Also, more women (29%) than men (11%) had spent the previous evening in a vehicle. Overall, homeless men had stayed the previous night in a wider range of places than women, as 66% of women had stayed in camps or vehicles, compared with 39% of homeless males.



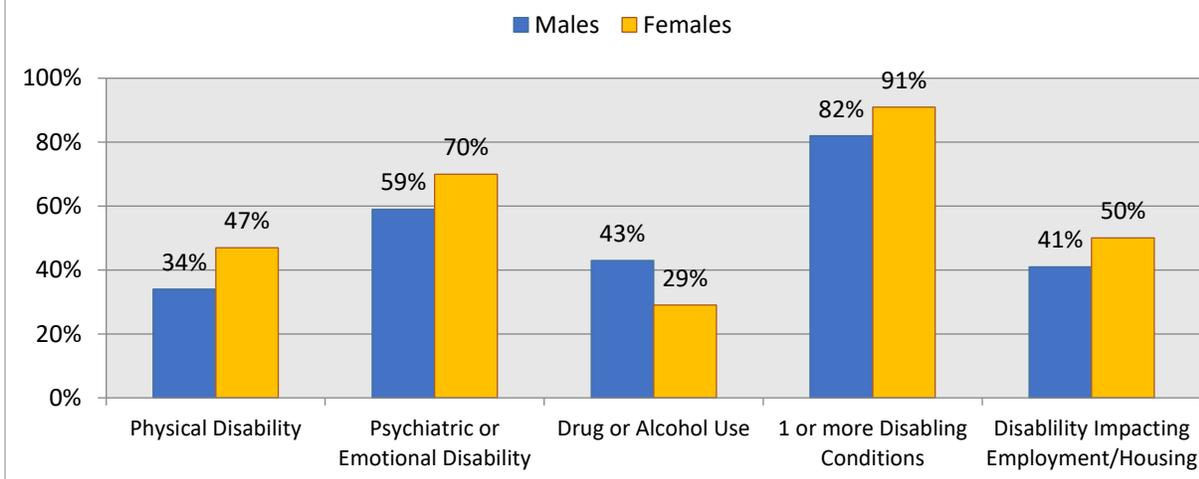
The length of time homeless differed somewhat by gender. Forty-nine percent of women had been homeless for no more than one year during the past three years, and 36% of men had been homeless for just one of the past three years. Similarly, the median duration that women had been homeless this time was one year, compared with one year and three months for men. Close to two-thirds (66%) of males were chronically homeless, compared with a little over half (51%) of females.

Length of Homelessness in the Last 3 Years - Gender Comparison



Homeless women were more likely than men to have a physical or mental disability. Forty-seven percent of females reported that they have a physical disability, compared with 34% of males. Seven in ten women said that they have a psychiatric or emotional disability, while 59% of males did. Conversely, more men (43%) than women (29%) drink alcohol or use drugs. Overall, 9% of homeless women reported having none of the three disabling conditions, compared with 18% of males with no disability. Consistent with the information above, more women (50%) than men (41%) said that having a disability kept them from holding a steady job or living in stable housing.

Disabling Condition - Gender Comparison



A final gender difference was that women were twice as likely as men to have been physically, emotionally, or sexually harmed by another person they had stayed with while they were

homeless. Fifty-one percent of females had been harmed by another person they stayed with while homeless, and one quarter of males had been harmed.

Comparing the Chronically Homeless with First-Time Homeless Individuals

As was reported above, 104 individuals met the definition of chronic homelessness, while 69 people said that this was the first time that they've been homeless. There were slight gender and racial differences between first-time and chronically homeless persons. Males made up 74% of those in the chronically homeless population and 68% of first-time homeless individuals. Whites made up 87% of the chronically homeless population and 68% of people who were first-time homeless.

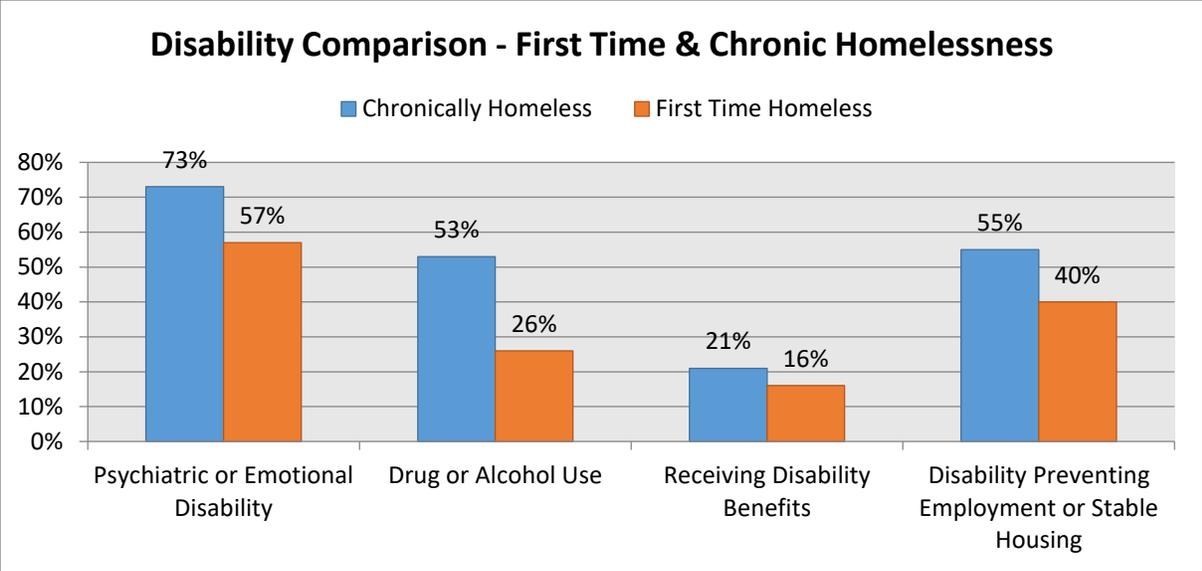
The average or median age of first-time homeless persons was 39 years. Somewhat surprisingly, this was two years older than the average age of chronically homeless individuals (37 years). This difference was largely due to the fact that a higher proportion of chronically homeless people (26%) were in their twenties, compared with 15% of the first-time homeless that were twenty somethings.

Six percent of chronically homeless people and first-time homeless individuals reported that they had a youth or child with them the night prior to the survey. However, more first-time homeless individuals (46%) spent the previous night in a multi-person household, compared with chronically homeless individuals (38%).

Twenty-six percent of the first-time homeless spent the night prior to the survey in a vehicle, while 14% of the chronically homeless had done so. The chronically homeless were more likely than first-time homeless people to have slept in the woods or a camp (35% to 25%), and under a bridge or overpass (14% to 9%).

The median duration of homelessness for first-time homeless persons was 10 months, which, not surprisingly, was much lower than the two year median duration of the current spell of homeless for the chronically homeless.

There was no difference in the proportion of first-time homeless persons and the chronically homeless who reported a physical disability. However, significantly more chronically homeless persons than first-time homeless individuals reported having a psychiatric or emotional problem (73% to 57%), and having a problem with alcohol or drugs (53% to 26%). Despite rather large differences in two of the three disabling conditions, only slightly more chronically homeless persons (21%) said that they receive disability benefits than first-time homeless individuals (16%).



More chronically homeless people (55%) than first-time homeless individuals (40%) reported that one or more of the disabling conditions prevented them from holding a job or living in stable housing. The major difference was that 31% of the chronically homeless said that a psychiatric or emotional condition prevented them from working regularly or having stable housing, while 16% of the first-time homeless said that.

More chronically homeless people (33%) had received special education services for an extended period of time than first-time homeless individuals (23%). And, more chronically homeless people (39%) had been physically, emotionally, or sexually harmed by someone they stayed with while they were homeless than the first-time homeless (28%).