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Ozarks Alliance to End Homelessness Unsheltered Point-in-Time Report

2019

Prepared by
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INTRODUCTION

UNSHELTERED POINT-IN-TIME SURVEY

Every January, communities across the country complete an annual "Point-in-Time" Count of people experiencing homelessness on a given night. These counts are federally mandated, and they provide important insight into each community's homeless population. Locally, this effort is led by Community Partnership's Ozarks Alliance to End Homelessness, which serves as the Continuum of Care for Springfield/Greene, Christian, and Webster counties. Previous Unsheltered Reports are available at http://www.cpozarks.org/endhomelessness

This report examines responses to the 2019 Unsheltered Point-in Time Survey conducted in Springfield, Missouri, and provides information for 82 individuals who were unsheltered on the night of January 30, 2019. This count reflects seventy-six individuals who completed the survey instrument, and six additional household members for whom the survey takers provided information.

The total number of unsheltered surveys collected was significantly lower than in 2018, when the "Point-in-Time" Count counted 235 individuals. This does not reflect a drop in the number of individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the community, but rather the fact that Crisis Cold Weather Shelters were open on the night of January 30, 2019, providing approximately 100 beds to individuals who might have otherwise slept on the streets. In addition, magnet events were relatively poorly attended due to extreme cold weather.

Data was collected at a magnet event held at the Shrine Mosque on January 31, 2019. Additional surveys were collected at the Ward YMCA for a magnet youth event and at the Rare Breed. Surveys were collected via an electronic form, with a volunteer administering the survey verbally. Surveys at the Rare Breed were collected on paper and entered by a staff member at Community Partnership of the Ozarks. Data was organized in Excel before being imported into SPSS Statistics software for statistical analysis.

This report presents findings from four major sections of the survey instrument: 1) Demographic Profile of Participants 2) Homelessness Status, 3) Disabling Conditions, and 4) Victimization. It also includes a summary of the number of homeless individuals served from three Crisis Cold Weather Shelters in Springfield from November 2018 through March 2019.

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

The majority of participants (84.8%) reported they or their household members were aged twenty-five or older. Men comprised of 72.8% of individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness and women comprised on 27.2% of the sample. Most participants (81.3%) self-identified as being white, and non-Hispanic/Latino (89.7%; Table 1). Thirteen percent of participants reported being in the State's care or foster care (Table 2). Almost one-fifth (18.8%) of participants reported having served in the military, and 16.7% of Veterans reported having served in the National Guard (Tables 3 & 4), with 46.2% of participants who had served receiving benefits from the Veterans Administration (Table 5).

Table 1. Demographics

Information	Demographic		Percent
Age	Under 18		2.5%
	18-24 years		12.7%
	25 and over		84.8%
		N	79
Gender	Male		72.8%
	Female		27.2%
		N	81
Race	White		81.3%
	Black or African American		7.5%
	American Indian or Alaska Native		5.0%
	Multiple Races		6.3%
		N	80
Ethnicity	Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino		89.7%
	Hispanic/Latino		10.3%
		N	68

Figure 1. *Age of participants, by Gender*
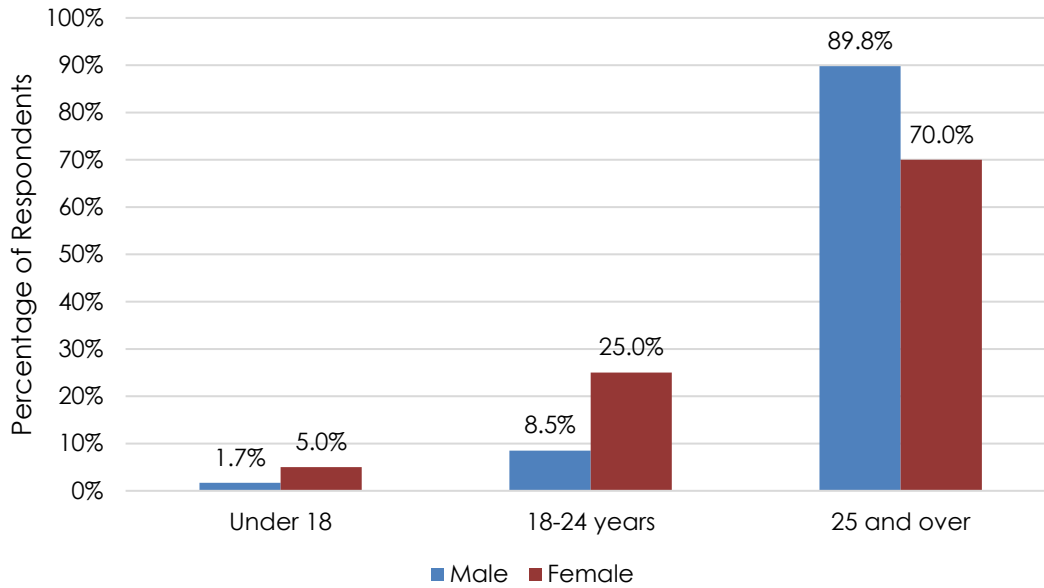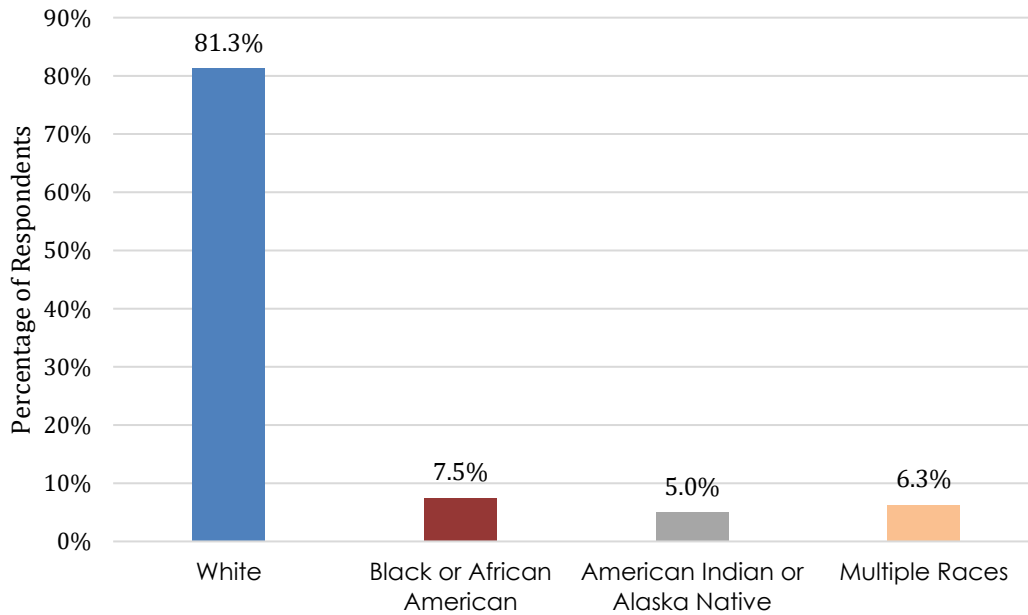

Figure 2. *Race of participants*
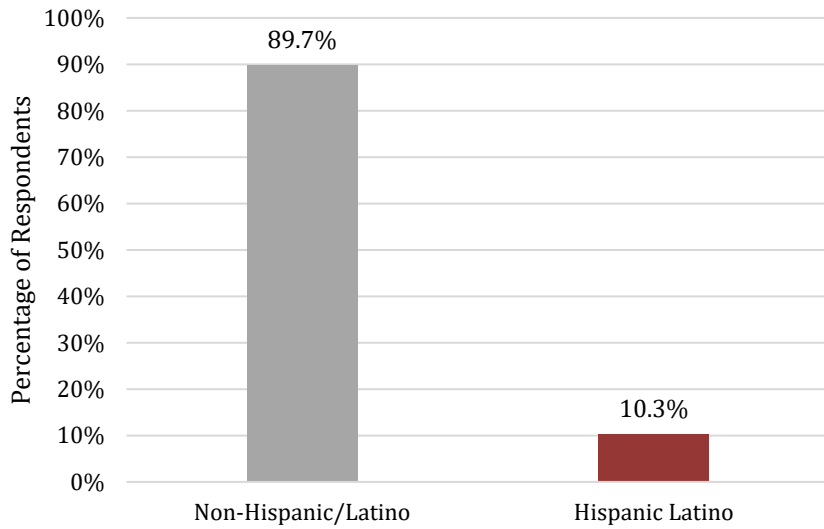
Figure 3. *Ethnicity of participants*

Table 2. *Are you in the care of the State (e.g. foster care, involvement with juvenile justice system)?*

In State's Care	N	Percent
No	59	86.8%
Yes	9	13.2%
Total	68	100%
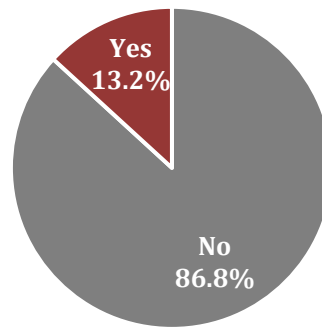
Table 3. *Have you served in the military?*

Veteran	N	Percent
No	56	81.2%
Yes	13	18.8%
Total	69	100%
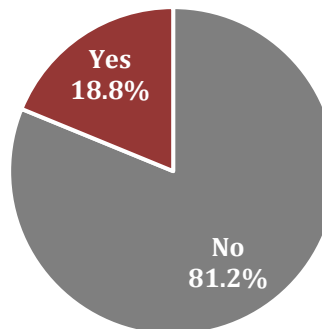
Table 4. *Have you served in the National Guard?*

National Guard	N	Percent
No	10	83.3%
Yes	2	16.7%
Total	12	100%
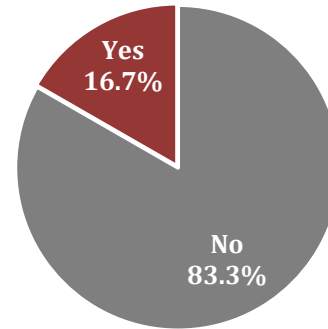
Table 5. *Do you receive benefits from the VA?*

VA Benefits	N	Percent
No	7	53.8%
Yes	6	46.2%
Total	13	100%
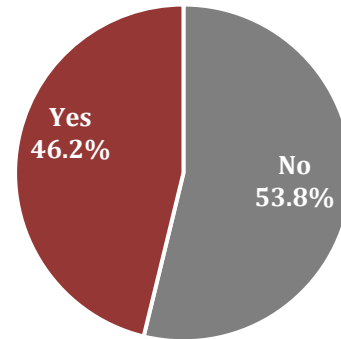
HOMELESSNESS STATUS

Individuals who are chronically homeless are those who have a disabling condition and have been homeless for more than one year or have experienced four or more periods of homelessness totaling 12 months over the past three years.

On the night of January 30, 2019, 65.8% of participants reported having slept on the streets or in a homeless camp. The second most cited location was a "vehicle or car" (13.9%), followed by an "abandoned building or house" (6.3%; Table 6). Most participants (92%) reported they were by themselves (Table 7).

When asked how long they had been living on the streets or in emergency shelters, most participants (64.2%) reported a duration of "a year or more" (Figure 5). Forty-two percent of participants reported having lived on the streets or in emergency shelters four or more times in the past three years (Figure 6). About 22% of participants reported having lived on the streets or in emergency shelters two to three times in the past three years (Figure 6). For 36.2% of participants, this was their first experience living on the streets or in emergency shelters (Figure 6). The majority of participants (77.8%) had been homeless twelve or more months in the last three years (Figure 7).

Table 6. *Where did you sleep on the night of Wednesday, January 30, 2019?*

Locations Where Slept	N	Percent
On Street/Homeless Camp	52	65.8%
Vehicle/Car	11	13.9%
Abandoned Building or House	5	6.3%
Garage	3	3.8%
Church Parking Lot	2	2.5%
Laundry room	2	2.5%
At Work	1	1.3%
Porch	1	1.3%
Shed	1	1.3%
In Front of Shelter	1	1.3%
Total	79	100%

Figure 4. *Locations Where Slept*
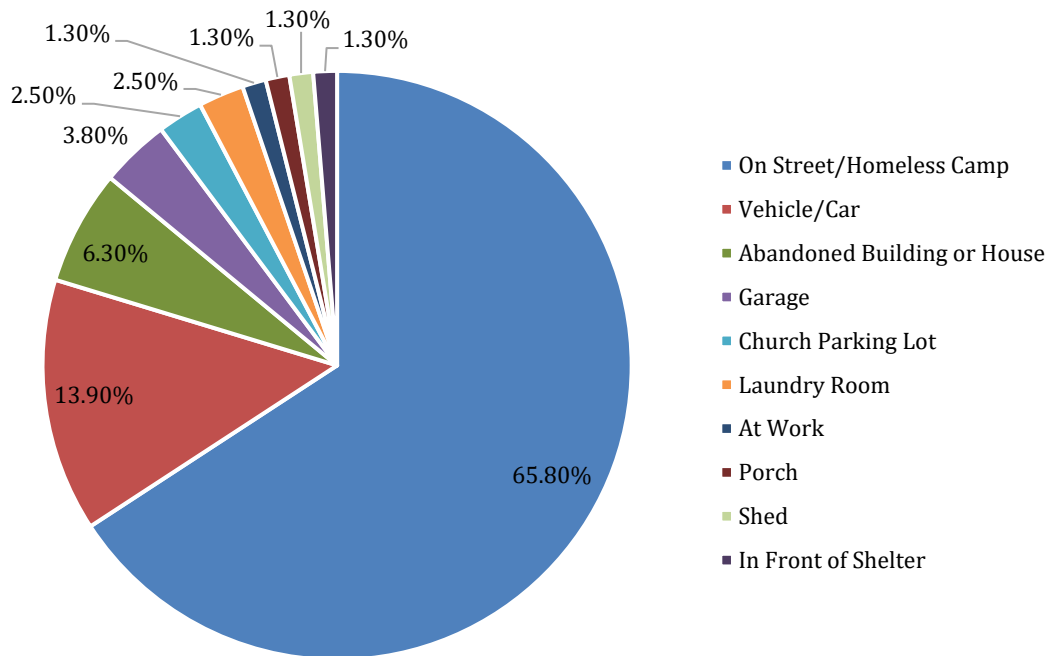
Table 7. *Were you by yourself or with a family/household?*

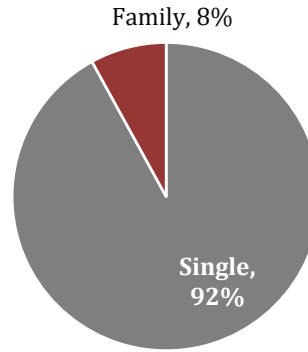| Single or Family	N	Percent
By Myself (Single)	69	8.0%
With Household (Family)	6	92.0%
Total	75	100%

Family, 8%

Single, 92%

Figure 5. *How long have you been living on the streets or in emergency shelters?*
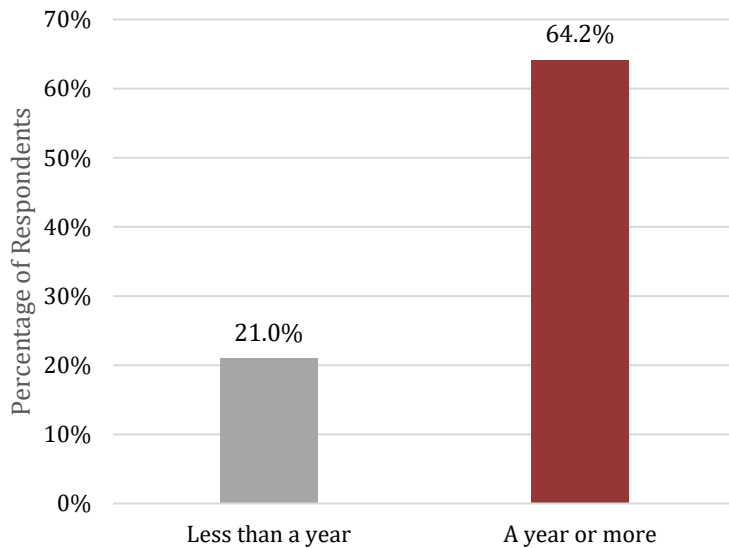
Figure 6. *What is the number of times you have been homeless on the streets or in emergency shelters <u>in the past 3 years</u>?*
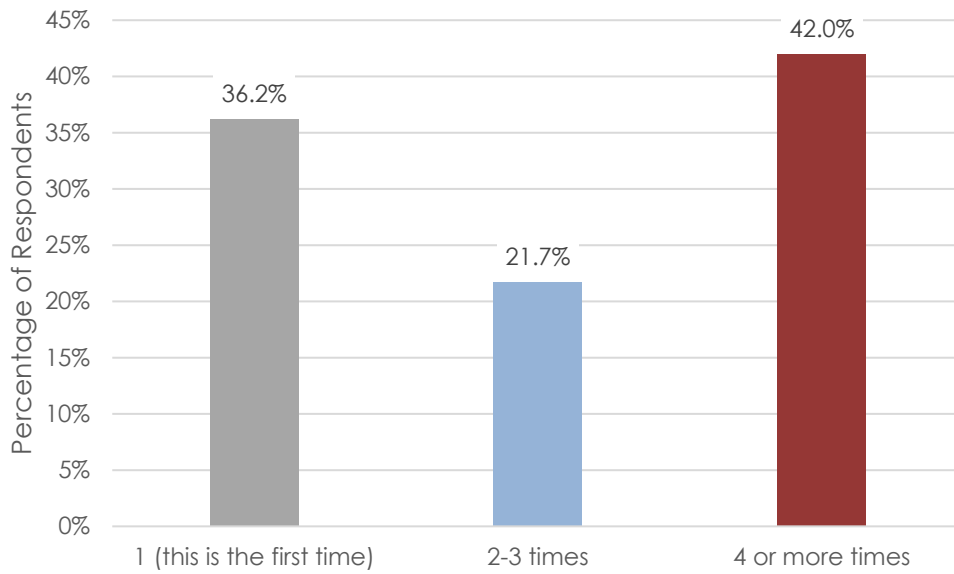

Figure 7. *Add together all the months in the last 3 years where you spent at least one day on the streets or in emergency shelters.*
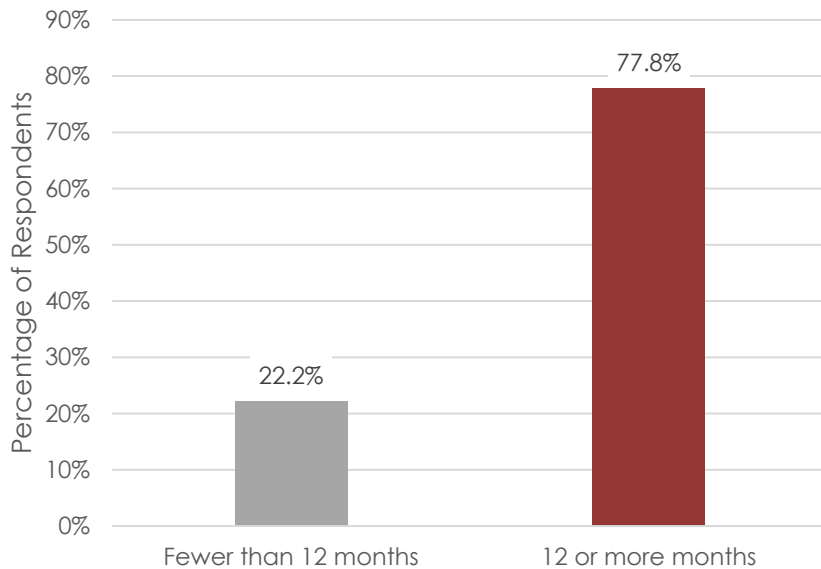
Table 8: *Overall Chronicity*

Overall Chronicity

	N	Percent
Not Chronically Homeless	37	52.9%
Chronically Homeless	33	47.1%

Table 9: *Chronicity by Race*

Chronicity, by Race

	White	Black	American Indian or Alaska Native	Multiple Races
Not Chronically Homeless	48.2%	60.0%	75.0%	75.0%
Chronically Homeless	51.8%	40.0%	25.0%	25.0%
	N= 56	*N= 5*	*N= 4*	*N= 4*

DISABLING CONDITIONS

Most participants (69.1%) reported having at least one disabling condition (Table 8), although only 23.4% were receiving disability benefits of any kind (Table 9). Mental health was the most commonly cited disability (42.6%), followed by physical disability (30.9%), drug abuse (19.1%), a chronic health condition (16.2%), alcohol abuse (14.7%), and a developmental disability (5.9%; Table 14).

Table 10. *Do you have a disability?*

Disability	N	Percent
No	21	30.9%
Yes	47	69.1%
Total	68	100%
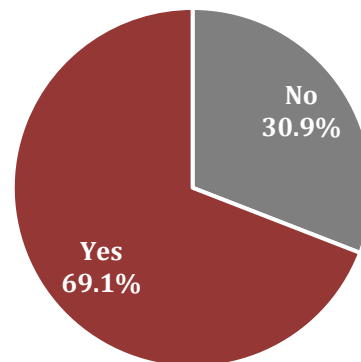
Table 11: *Disability Status by Race*

Disability Status by Race

	White	Black	American Indian or Alaska Native	Multiple Races
No	27.3%	50.0%	25.0%	60.0%
Yes	72.7%	50.0%	75.0%	40.0%
	N= 55	*N= 4*	*N= 4*	*N= 5*

Table 12. *Do you receive any disability benefits, such as Social Security Income, Social Security Disability Income, or Veterans Disability Benefits?*

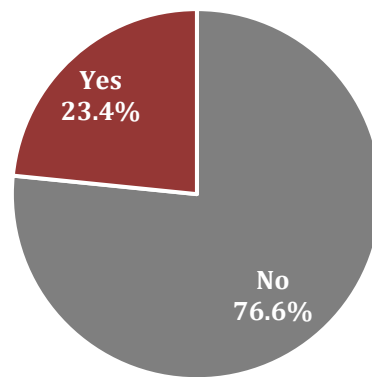| Benefits	N	Percent
No	49	76.6%
Yes	15	23.4%
Total	64	100%

Table 13: *Receipt of Disability Benefits by Race*

Receipt of Disability Benefits by Race

	White	Black	American Indian or Alaska Native	Multiple Races
No	74.5%	83.3%	66.7%	100%
Yes	25.5%	16.7%	33.3%	0.0%
	N= 51	*N= 6*	*N= 3*	*N= 4*

Table 14. *Do you have a disability related to any of the following?*

Disability Type	N	Percent of Cases
Mental health	29	42.6
Physical	21	30.9
Drug Abuse	13	19.1
Chronic Health Condition	11	16.2
Alcohol Abuse	10	14.7
Developmental	4	5.9
HIV/AIDS	--	--
Total	88	

Note: Each respondent may have indicated more than one activity, so percentages add to more than 100%.
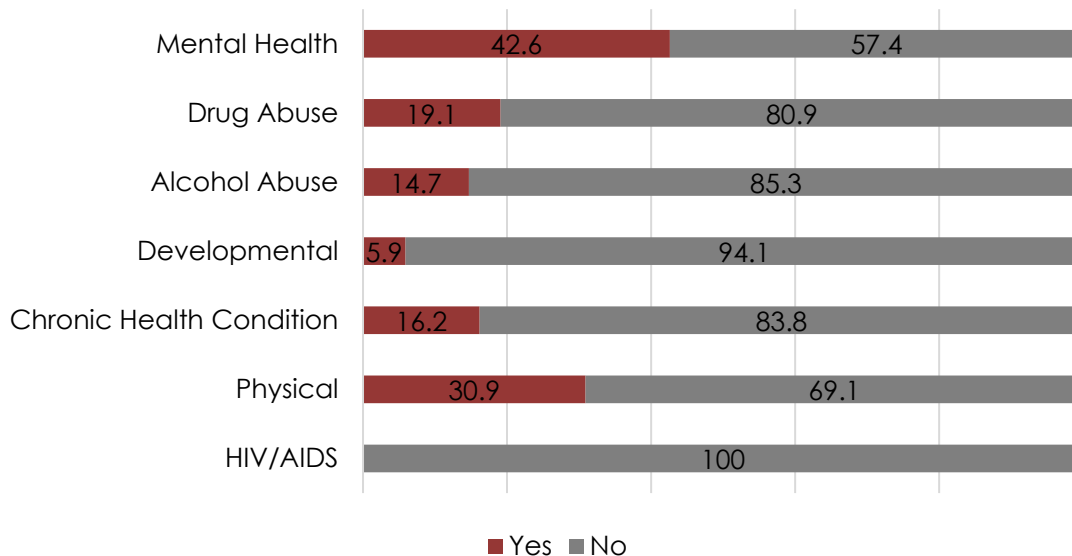
VICTIMIZATION

Thirty-seven percent of participants reported having been a victim of domestic violence (Table 15), and women were significantly more likely to have ever been a victim of domestic violence compared with men (Table 17). Of participants who reported that they had been a victim of domestic violence, 14.8% indicated that they were currently fleeing (Table 18).

Participants were also asked if they had ever been harmed (physically, emotionally, or sexually) by a relative or another person they were staying with while they were homeless. Thirty-two percent reported that they had been harmed by a relative or another person they were staying with (Table 20), and women were significantly more likely to report having been harmed than men (Table 17).

Table 15. *Have you ever been a victim of domestic violence?*

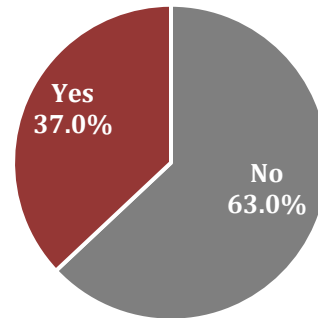| Victim	N	Percent
No	46	63.0%
Yes	27	37.0%
Total	68	100%

Table 16: *Domestic Violence Victimization, by Race*

Domestic Violence Victimization, by Race

	White	Black	American Indian or Alaska Native	Multiple Races
No	63.2%	50.0%	75.0%	60.0%
Yes	36.8%	50.0%	25.0%	40.0%
	N= 57	*N= 6*	*N= 4*	*N= 5*

Table 17. *Have you ever been a victim of domestic violence, by gender*

Domestic Violence Victimization, by gender

	Male	Female
No	79.2%	63.0%
Yes	20.8%	37.0%
	N= 53	*N= 20*

*$p <.001$; significant differences found between men and women with regard to the proportion who experienced domestic violence.

Table 18. *Are you currently fleeing?*

Currently Fleeing	N	Percent
No	23	85.2%
Yes	4	14.8%
Total	27	100%
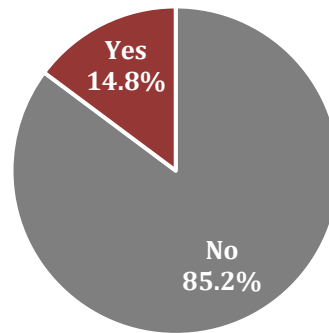
Table 19: *Currently Fleeing, by Race*

Currently Fleeing, by Race

	White	Black	American Indian or Alaska Native	Multiple Races
No	81.0%	100%	100%	100%
Yes	19.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	N= 21	*N= 3*	*N= 1*	*N= 2*

Table 20. *Have you ever been harmed (physically, emotionally, or sexually) by a relative or another person you were staying with while you were homeless?*

Harmed While Homeless	N	Percent
No	49	68.1%
Yes	23	31.9%
Total	72	100%
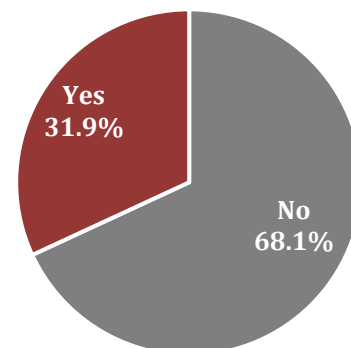
Table 21. *Have you ever been harmed, by gender*

	Male	**Female**
No	84.6%	25.0%
Yes	15.4%	75.0%
	N= 52	*N= 20*

*p <.001; significant differences found between men and women with regard to the proportion who reported having been harmed while homeless.

TRENDS IN RECENT UNSHELTERED POINT-IN-TIME COUNTS

It is critical to note that multiple factors impact the number of people counted each year as literally homeless, including temperature patterns in the days prior to the survey, and weather on the day of the survey. Surveys prior to 2016 did not separate sheltered and unsheltered populations, so numbers noted here reflect 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019.

The total number of unsheltered individuals was 223, 174, 235 and 82. Males constituted a strong majority in all survey years: 71%, 68%, 71%, and 72.8%. The percentage who identified as Veterans was slightly higher in 2019: 13%, 16%, 12%, and 18.8%.

In 2018, 77% had slept on the streets or in a homeless camp. In 2019, 65.8% had slept on the streets or in a homeless camp. The percentage of adults experiencing homelessness for the first time had dropped somewhat: 34%, 43%, 47%, and 36.2%.

The most common disabling condition has been mental health problems consistently from year-to-year: 56%, 63%, 40% and 42.6%. While 69.1% of those surveyed report having a disability, only 23.4% receive disability benefits of any type; this is consistent with past years: 23%, 19%, and 22%.

Women consistently report a much greater likelihood of having been harmed physically, emotionally, or sexually while homeless: 51%, 52%, 55% and 75%. Men are much less likely to have been harmed while homeless: 26%, 25 %, 29%, and 15.4%.

CRISIS COLD WEATHER SHELTER SUMMARY

November 2018 through March 2019
In total, the Crisis Cold Weather Shelters at East Sunshine Church of Christ and Grace United Methodist were open 66 nights throughout the winter months. Need for Crisis Cold Weather Shelter was highest in December and January.

East Sunshine Church of Christ Men's Shelter
On average, the men's shelter housed 68 men per night. In total, 4,459 men were served (including duplicated individuals throughout the course of the season).

Month	Number of Nights	Men served (includes duplicates)
November	9	575 served
December	17	1039 served
January	17	1301 served
February	14	1016 served
March	9	528 served

Grace United Methodist Women's Shelter
The women's shelter provided shelter for 47 different women over the course of the winter season. In total 289 women were served by the women's CrisisCold Weather Shelter. On average, five women took shelter at Grace United Methodist on cold weather nights.

Month	Number of Nights	Women served (includes duplicates)
November	9	19 served
December	17	66 served
January	17	73 served
February	14	87 served
March	9	44 served

Salvation Army
The Salvation Army opened a Crisis Cold Weather Shelter for both men and women on four nights this winter at Harbor House

Date	Total number served	Men	Women
1/29/2019	33*	23	11
1/30/2019	42	12	30
2/8/2019	19	12	7
2/15/2019	22	16	6

*Discrepancy due to exiting for behavioral reasons.

Report Title:	2019 Unsheltered Point-in-Time Report
Project Sponsor:	Community Partnership - Ozarks Alliance to End Homelessness
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