



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

2020

Prepared by  
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## Introduction

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### *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 the Ozarks Alliance to End Homelessness, which serves as the Continuum of Care for Springfield/Greene, Christian, and Webster Counties.

This report examines responses to the 2020 Unsheltered Point-in Time Survey conducted in Springfield and Greene County Missouri, and provides information for 247 individuals who were experiencing homelessness. This count reflects 238 individuals who either completed the survey instrument or who were observed, and 9 additional household members for whom survey takers provided information.

The data was collected primarily via electronic surveys created by the Institute for Community Alliances, and was administered by trained volunteers at magnet events held at the Shrine Mosque on January 30, 2020. Two separate events were held on that date: one event targeted for adults, and a separate event targeted towards youth (aged 13-24). Outreach surveys were also collected in a paper format and entered into the electronic form by Community Partnership staff. Data were organized in an excel file before being imported into SPSS 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 by three Crisis Cold Weather Shelters in Springfield from November 2019 through February 2020.

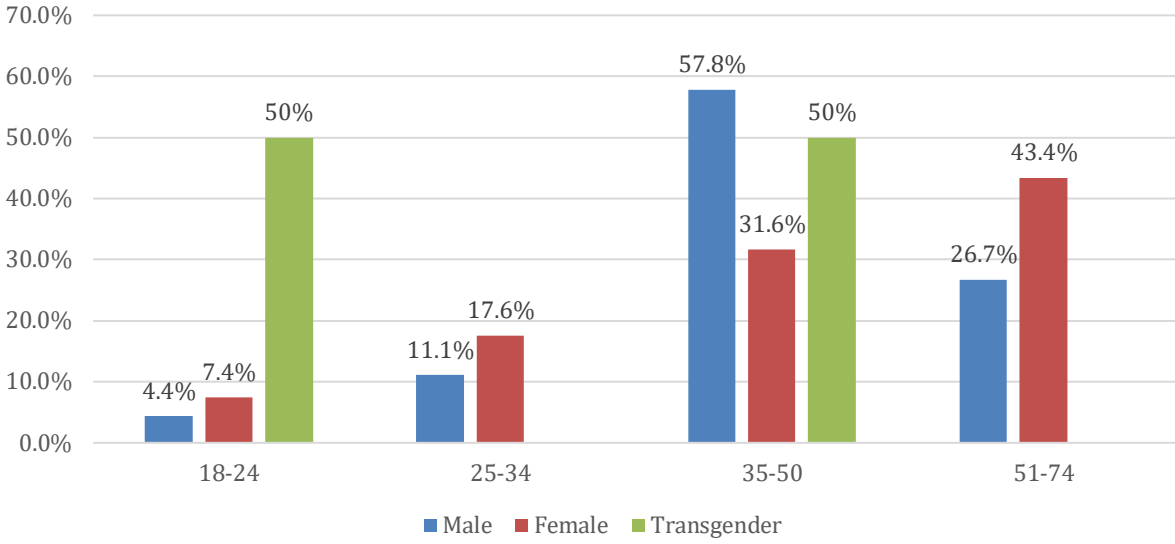
## Demographic Profile of Participants

The majority of participants (76.6%) reported that they or their household members were aged thirty-five or older (Table 1). Men comprised 75.5% of the sample while women and transgender individuals comprised 23.5% and 1.0% respectively (Table 1). Most participants (77.0%) self-identified as being white and (92.9%; Table 1) self-identified as non-Hispanic/Latino. Nearly twenty-three percent (22.6%) of participants reported being in the State’s care (Table 2). A number of participants (10.8%) reported having served in the military (Table 3). Of those who had served in the military, 23.5% served in the National Guard (Table 4), while only 29.4% of participants reported having received healthcare or benefits from a Veterans Affairs medical center (Table 5).

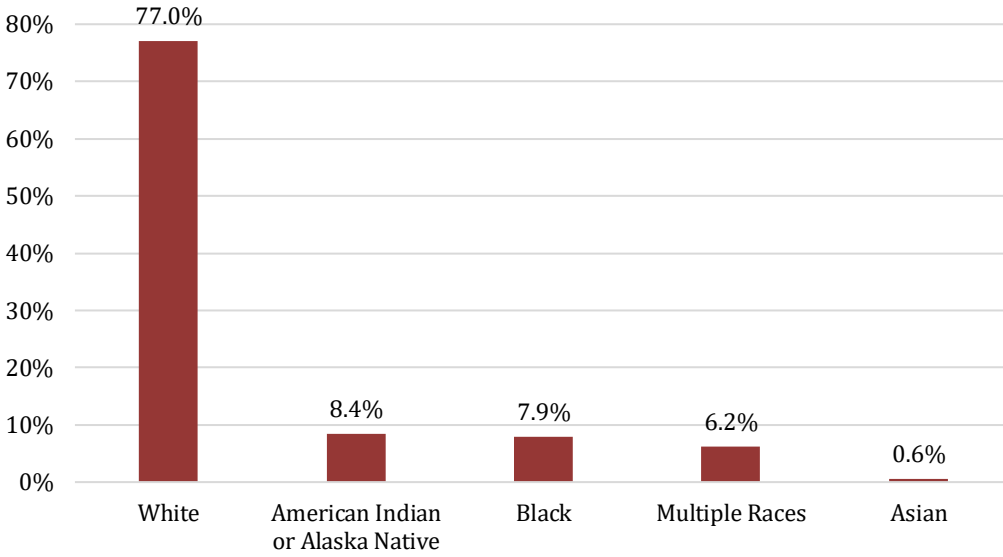
**Table 1. Demographics**

	<b>Demographic Information</b>	<b>Percent of Participants</b>	<b>Percent for Greene County<sup>1</sup></b>
Age	18-24 years	7.1%	--
	25-34 years	15.8%	--
	35-50	38.3%	--
	51-74	38.3%	--
	N	183	--
Gender	Male	75.5%	48.7%
	Female	23.5%	51.3%
	Transgender	1.0%	--
	N	200	--
Race	White	77.0%	90.2%
	Black or African American	7.9%	3.3%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	8.4%	0.5%
	Asian	0.6%	1.9%
	Multiple Races	6.2%	3.0%
	N	178	--
Ethnicity	Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	92.9%	--
	Hispanic/Latino	7.1%	3.6%
	N	168	--

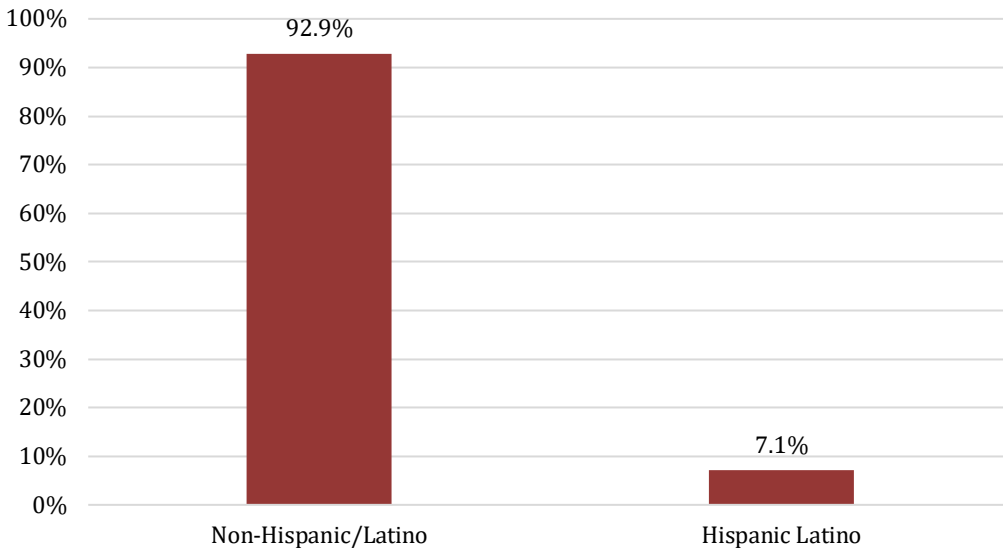
<sup>1</sup> County-level data comes from the [2018 American Community Study](#). Data were collected in such a way that direct comparisons between the participants and county-level data is not possible for age and for the ethnicity category non-Hispanic. Additionally, no county-level data exists for the gender category transgender.



**Figure 1.** Age of participants, by Gender



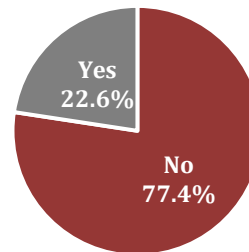
**Figure 2.** Race of participants



**Figure 3.** *Ethnicity of participants*

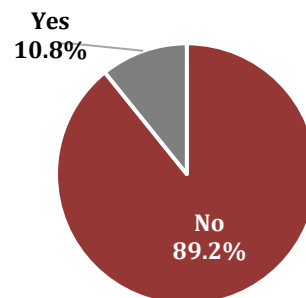
**Table 2.** *Are you in the care of the State (e.g. foster care, involvement with juvenile justice system)?*

In State's Care	N	Percent
No	127	77.4%
Yes	37	22.6%
Total	164	100%



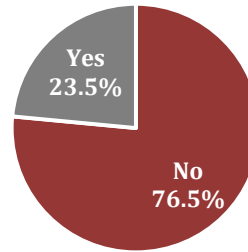
**Table 3.** *Have you served in the military?*

Veteran	N	Percent
No	148	89.2%
Yes	18	10.8%
Total	166	100%



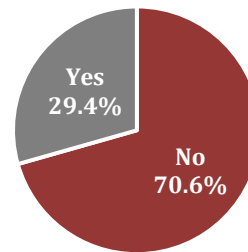
**Table 4.** *Have you served in the National Guard?*

National Guard	N	Percent
No	13	76.5%
Yes	4	23.5%
Total	17	100%



**Table 5.** *Have you ever received healthcare or benefits from a VA medical center?*

VA Benefits	N	Percent
No	12	70.6%
Yes	5	29.4%
Total	17	100%



## Homelessness Status

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On the night of January 29, 2020, 68.0% of participants reported having slept on the streets or in a homeless camp. The second most cited location was a “local shelter” (14.5%), followed by a “vehicle or car” (5.0%; Table 6). Most participants (95.4%) reported that they were by themselves (Table 7). When asked to add up all the times they had been homeless or unsafely housed over the last 3 years, most participants (67.6%) reported a duration of “a year or more” (Figure 5). Forty-one percent of participants reported having lived on the streets or in emergency shelters four or more times in the past three years, while 20.0% reported having lived on the streets or in emergency shelters two to three times in the same time period (Figure 6). For 38.8% of participants, this was their first experience living on the streets or in emergency shelters (Figure 6). A little over half of participants (52.7%) reported being chronically homeless (Table 8).

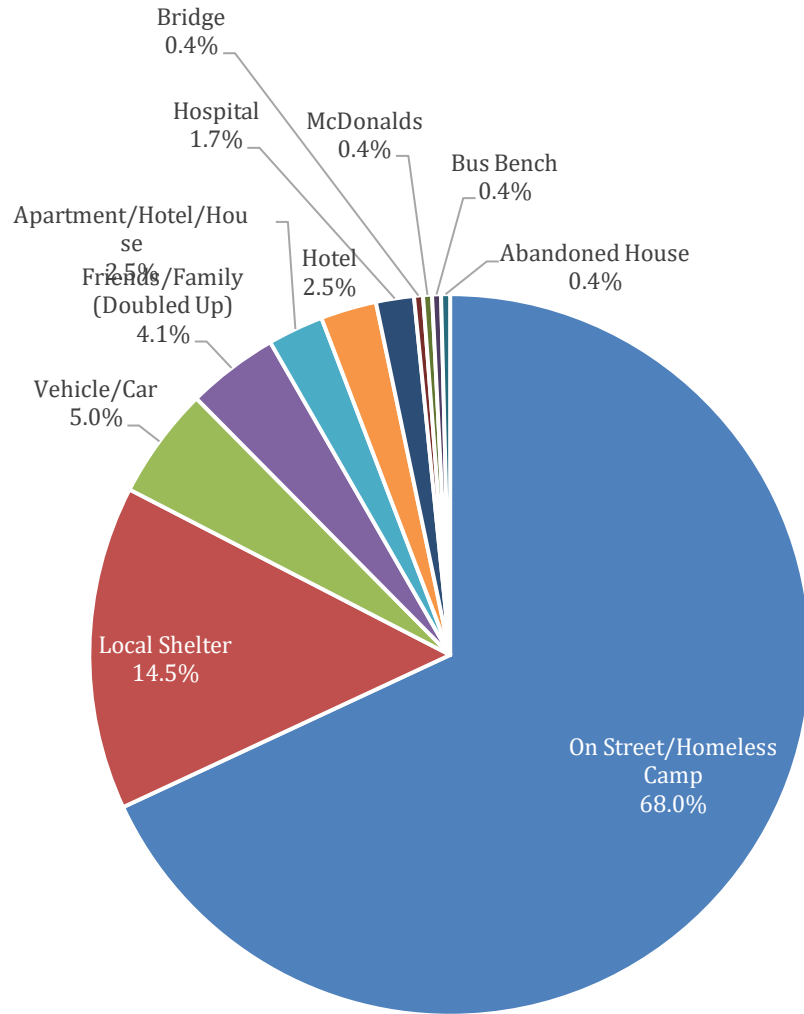
**Table 6.** *Where did you sleep on the night of Wednesday, January 29, 2020?*

<b>Locations Where Slept</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Percent</b>
On Street/Homeless Camp	164	68.0%
Local Shelter <sup>2</sup>	35	14.5%
Vehicle/Car	12	5.0%
Friends/Family (Doubled Up)	10	4.1%
Apartment/Hotel/House	6	2.5%
Hotel	6	2.5%
Hospital	4	1.7%
Abandoned House	1	0.4%
Bridge	1	0.4%
McDonalds	1	0.4%
Bus Bench	1	0.4%
Total	241	100%

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<sup>2</sup> These numbers do not reflect all individuals served by emergency shelters on 1/29/2020. On that date, 452 individuals were staying in emergency shelters, including Crisis Cold Weather Shelters.

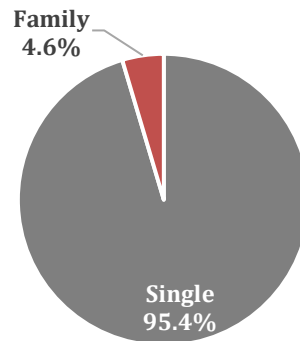


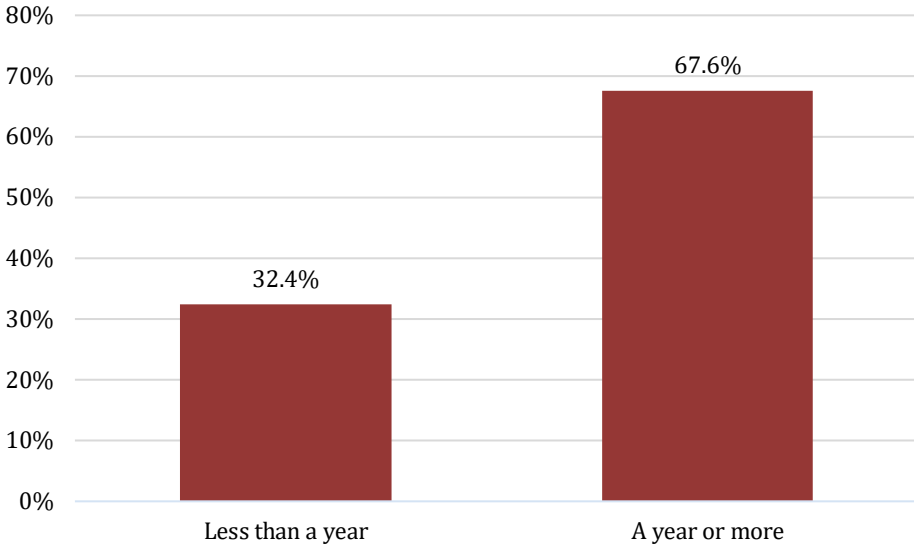


**Figure 4.** *Locations Where Slept*

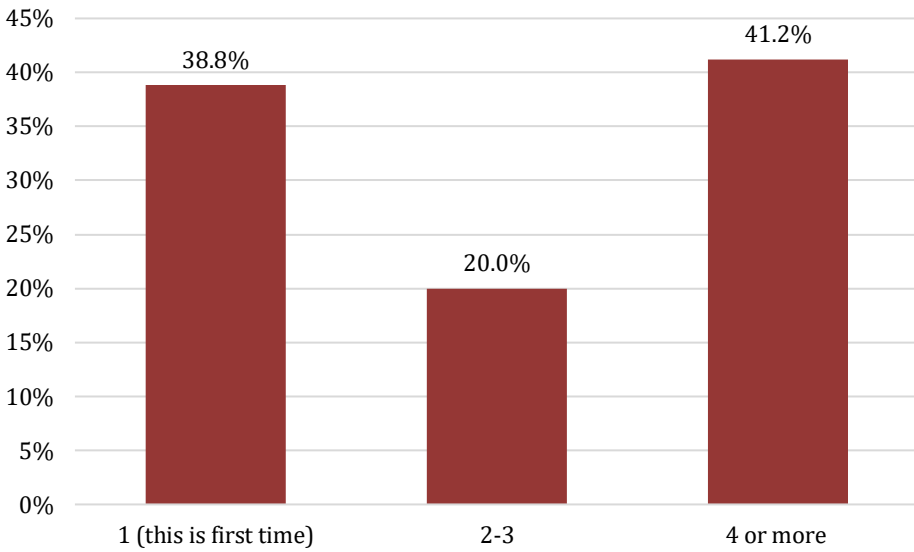
**Table 7.** *Were you by yourself or with a family/household?*

Single or Family	N	Percent
By Myself (Single)	186	95.4%
With Household (Family)	9	4.6%
Total	195	100%





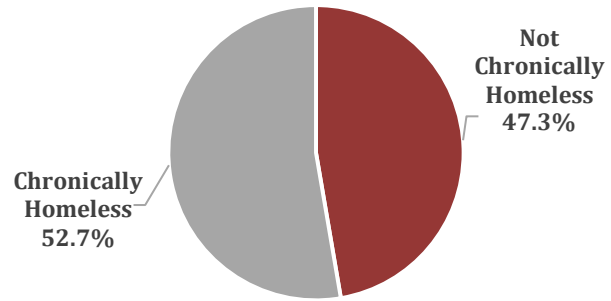
**Figure 5.** *If you add up all the times you have been homeless or unsafely housed in the last 3 years, about how many days, weeks, months, or years have you been homeless?*



**Figure 6.** *What is the number of times you have been homeless on the streets or in emergency shelters in the past 3 years?*

**Table 8. Chronicity<sup>3</sup>**

Chronicity	N	Percent
Not Chronically Homeless	78	47.3%
Chronically Homeless	87	52.7%
Total	165	100%

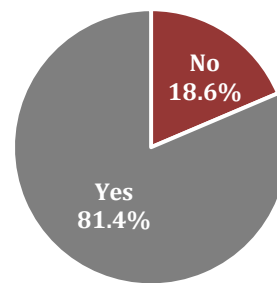


## Disabling Conditions

Most participants (81.4%) reported having at least one disabling condition (Table 9), although only 21.1% were receiving disability benefits of any kind (Table 11). A slightly smaller percentage of whites reported having a disability than other racial groups and a slightly smaller percentage of whites were receiving disability benefits compared to other racial groups (Table 10 and Table 12). Mental health was the most commonly cited disability (61.2%), followed by physical disability (52.1%), a chronic health condition (21.5%), drug abuse (19.0%), alcohol abuse (17.4%), a developmental disability (5.0%) and HIV/AIDs (0.8%; Table 13).

**Table 9. Do you have a disability?**

Disability	N	Percent
No	44	18.6%
Yes	192	81.4%
Total	236	100%



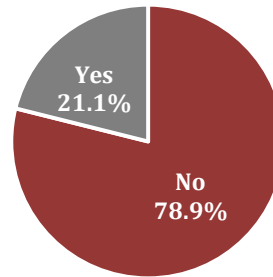
<sup>3</sup> Criteria for chronicity include having a disability and have been living in a place not meant for human habitation or emergency shelter for the last 12 months (continuously) OR on at least 4 separate occasions in the last 3 years where those occasions cumulatively total at least 12 months.

**Table 10. Disability Status by Race.**

	White	Black	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Multiple Races
No	28.8%	16.7.0%	0.0%	0.0%	27.3%
Yes	71.2%	83.3.0%	100.0%	100.0%	72.7%
	N=132	N=12	N=14	N=1	N=11

**Table 11. Do you receive any disability benefits, such as Social Security Income, Social Security Disability Income, or Veterans Disability Benefits?**

Benefits	N	Percent
No	131	78.9%
Yes	35	21.1%
Total	166	100%



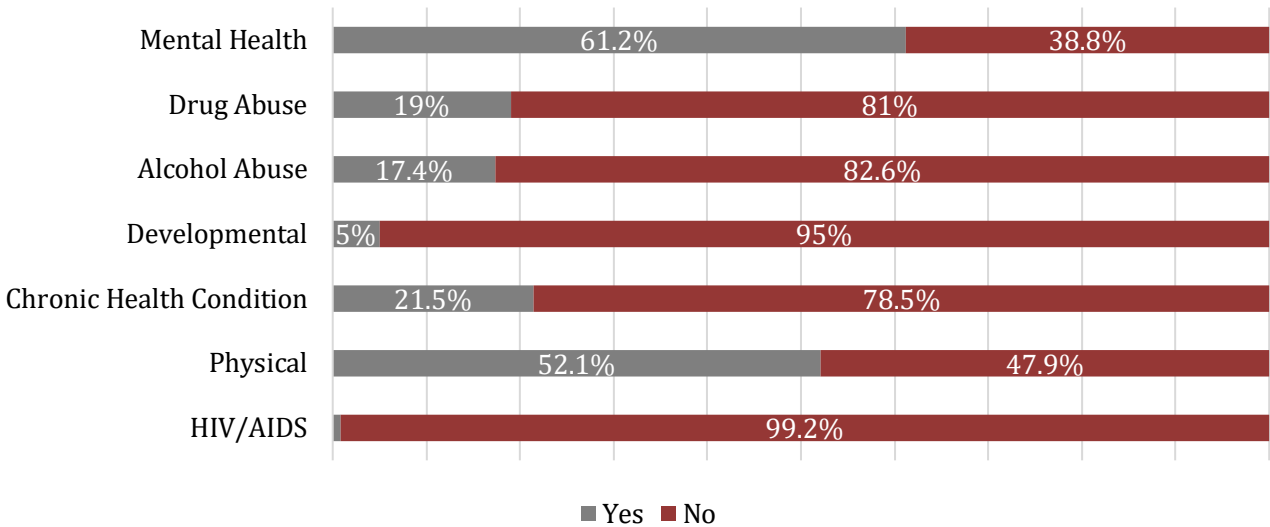
**Table 12. Receipt of Disability Benefits, by Race**

	White	Black	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Multiple Races
No	79.0%	75.0%	60.0%	100.0%	100%
Yes	21.0%	25.0%	40.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	N=124	N=12	N=15	N=1	N=4

**Table 13. Do you have a disability related to any of the following?**

Disability Type	N	Percent
Mental health	74	61.2%
Physical	63	52.1%
Chronic Health Condition	26	21.5%
Drug Abuse	23	19.0%
Alcohol Abuse	21	17.4%
Developmental	6	5.0%
HIV/AIDS	1	0.8%
Total	214	--

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



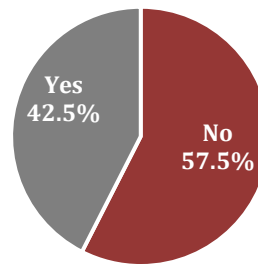
**Figure 7.** Disability by type

## Victimization

Forty-three percent of participants reported having been a victim of domestic violence (Table 14), and women and transgender individuals were more likely to have ever been a victim of domestic violence than men (Table 15). Of participants who reported that they had been a victim of domestic violence, 15.4% indicated that they were currently fleeing (Table 17). Thirty-seven percent of participants reported that they had been harmed (physically, emotionally, or sexually) by a relative or another person they were staying with while they were homeless (Table 19), and women and transgender individuals were more likely to report having been harmed while homeless than men (Table 20).

**Table 14.** Have you ever been a victim of domestic violence?

Victim	N	Percent
No	96	57.5%
Yes	71	42.5%
Total	167	100%



**Table 15. Domestic Violence Victimization, by Gender**

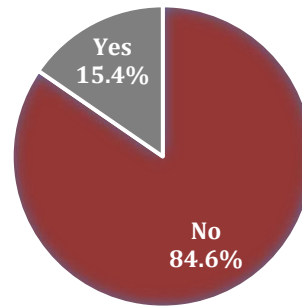
	Female	Transgender	Male
No	19.0%	0.0%	71.5%
Yes	81.0%	100.0%	28.5%
	N= 42	N=2	N= 123

**Table 16. Domestic Violence Victimization, by Race**

	White	Black	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Multiple Races
No	52.8%	83.3%	66.7%	0.0%	63.6%
Yes	47.2%	16.7%	33.3%	100.0%	36.4%
	N=125	N=12	N=15	N=1	N=11

**Table 17. Are you currently fleeing?**

Currently Fleeing	N	Percent
No	55	84.6%
Yes	10	15.4%
Total	65	100%

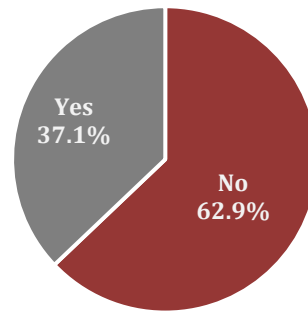


**Table 18. Currently Fleeing, by Race**

	White	Black	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Multiple Races
No	86.8%	100%	60.0%	100.0%	75.0%
Yes	13.2%	0.0%	40.0%	0.0%	25.0%
	N=53	N=2	N= 5	N=1	N=4

**Table 19.** *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	105	62.9%
Yes	62	37.1%
Total	167	100%



**Table 20.** *Have you ever been harmed, by gender*

	Female	Transgender	Male
No	38.1%	50.0%	71.5%
Yes	61.9%	50.0%	28.5%
	N= 42	N= 2	N=123

## Crisis Cold Weather Shelter Summary

### November 2019 through February 2020

Crisis Cold Weather Shelters in our community open on nights when the overnight forecast is at or below 32 degrees between November 1<sup>st</sup> and March 31. On each of these evenings, The Connecting Grounds was open as a warming center until the shelters opened. Need for emergency shelter was highest in January and February, with shelters closed in March due to COVID 19.

### East Sunshine Church of Christ Men’s Shelter

On average, the men’s shelter housed 58 men per night. In total, 4,927 men were served (including duplicated individuals throughout the course of the season).

Month	Number of Nights	Men served (includes duplicates)
November	7	394 served
December	15	1206 served
January	20	1794 served
February	16	1533 served
March	--	Closed due to COVID 19

### **Grace United Methodist Women’s Shelter**

The women’s shelter was open a total of 65 nights and provided emergency shelter for 104 different women (unduplicated) over the course of the winter season. There was a total of 856 bed nights. On average, 13 women took shelter at Grace United Methodist on cold weather nights.

### **Harbor House/Salvation Army**

The Salvation Army opened emergency cold weather shelters for men, women, and families on 31 nights this winter. 105 different (unduplicated) single men took shelter at the Harbor House over the course of the winter. No women or families were served.

## **Appendix A: Report Metadata**

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<b>Report Title:</b>	2020 Unsheltered Point-in-Time Report
<b>Project Sponsor:</b>	Community Partnership’s Ozarks Alliance to End Homelessness
<b>Survey Administrators:</b>	Michelle Hethcoat and staff at Community Partnership of the Ozarks
<b>Report Authors:</b>	Dr. Abby Templer Rodrigues, Dr. Laura Hart, and Tehya Berger, Department of Sociology & Anthropology, Missouri State University
<b>Software Used:</b>	SPSS v. 24 and Excel
<b>Contact:</b>	If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Abby Templer Rodrigues at ATemplerRodrigues@missouristate.edu