



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Working Together to Build Strong Communities

OZARKS ALLIANCE TO *End* HOMELESSNESS



SPRINGFIELD/GREENE, CHRISTIAN, AND WEBSTER COUNTIES
CONTINUUM OF CARE

CPOZARKS.ORG/ENDHOMELESSNESS

Year in Review

This report outlines the accomplishments of the Ozarks Alliance to End Homelessness over the last year, including snapshots of our annual Point in Time Count and High Risk and Homeless Youth Report, sub-committee activities, system-level outcomes, and a summary of our annual Every Action Counts campaign for Homeless Awareness Month.

November 22, 2019

OZARKS ALLIANCE TO *End* HOMELESSNESS

OUR *community's* CONTINUUM OF CARE



Community Partnership's Ozarks Alliance to End Homelessness (OAEH) is the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) designated Continuum of Care for Springfield/Greene, Christian, and Webster counties. Through innovation and collaboration with partner agencies, we are able to implement a community-wide approach to ensure that episodes of homelessness are rare, brief, and non-recurring.

We'd like to give a special thank you to current OAEH Executive Board members, who represent different systems of care and are true community champions for those experiencing homelessness.

Sabrina Aronson, Burrell Behavioral Health
Jody Austin, Springfield Greene County Health Department
Bob Atchley, City of Springfield
Jennifer Cannon, Gathering Friends for the Homeless
Elisa Coonrod, MSU Care
Liz Hagar-Mace, Department of Mental Health *
Kelly Harris, Council of Churches
Holly Hunt, Great Circle
Wyatt Jenkins, BKD
Tim Knapp, Missouri State University - Sociology Department
Dallas Knight, Webster County Sheriff's Department
Mandi Loe, Christian County Homeless Alliance
Jim O'Neal, Community Member **
Maura Taylor, Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri
Missey Hayward, BankcorpSouth
Lt. Jennifer Charleston, Springfield Police Department
Lee Wiley, Community Member
Katrena Wolfram, Housing Authority of Springfield

*Chair

**Vice-Chair

Point IN TIME COUNT

EVERY JANUARY, COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY DOCUMENT THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS. THIS PROVIDES A SNAPSHOT PICTURE OF WHO WE SERVE.

On one night in January...



492 Individuals were homeless



157 Individuals were **chronically** homeless



51 Families were homeless



46 Youth were homeless



32 Veterans were homeless



95 Children were homeless

17% of those counted were **unsheltered**

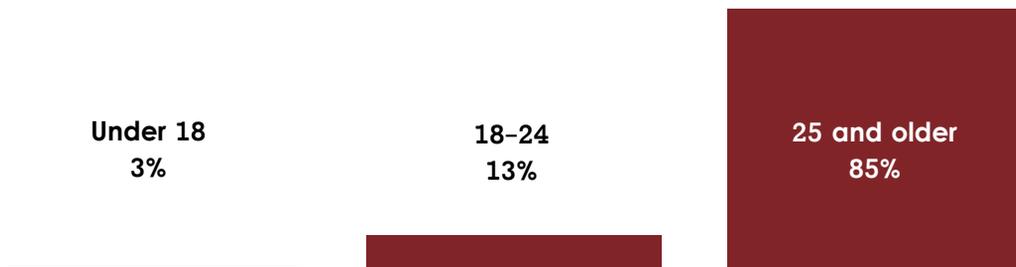


100 of those sheltered were in Crisis Cold Weather Shelters, which open when the overnight temperature is at or below 32 degrees.

Unsheltered HOMELESSNESS SNAPSHOT

FULL REPORT IS AVAILABLE AT WWW.CPOZARKS.ORG/ENDHOMELESSNESS

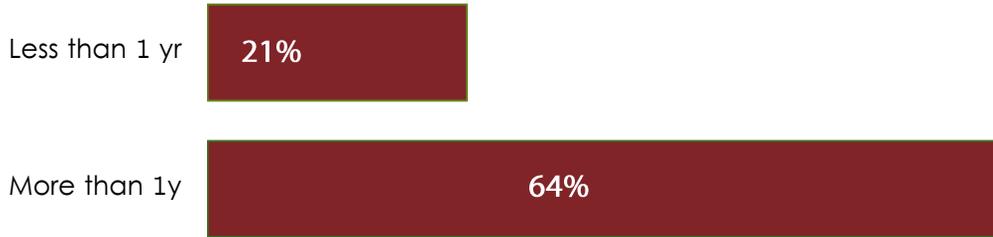
Age of Unsheltered Homeless



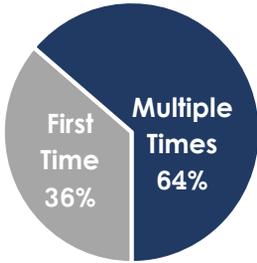
UNSHeltered HOMELESSNESS SNAPSHOT

Continued

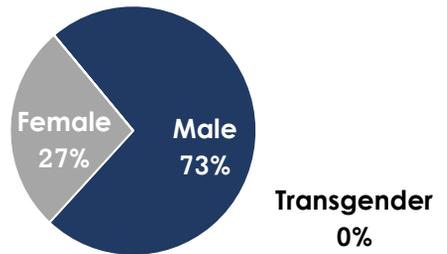
Most unsheltered homeless have been on the streets for **more than a year** (this time)



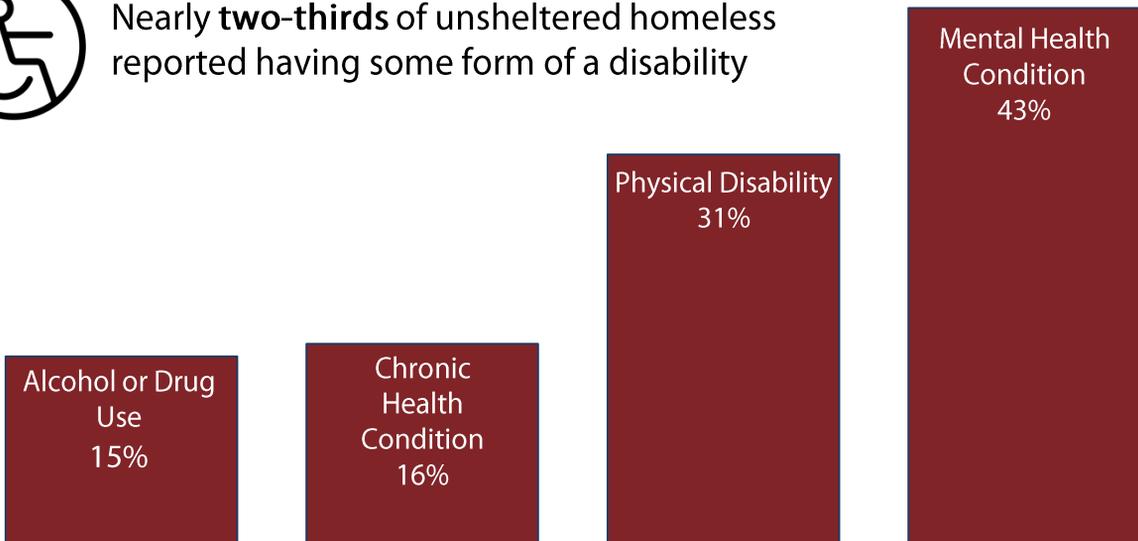
Majority of unsheltered homeless have been homeless before



Majority of unsheltered individuals are male



Nearly **two-thirds** of unsheltered homeless reported having some form of a disability



HIGH RISK AND HOMELESS *Youth* SNAPSHOT

Each year, the Homeless Youth Task Force conducts a survey of youth in our community to better understand the specific challenges youth experiencing homelessness face. The full report is available at www.cpozarks.org/endhomelessness.

72 youth answered questions about where they'd slept in the last week...

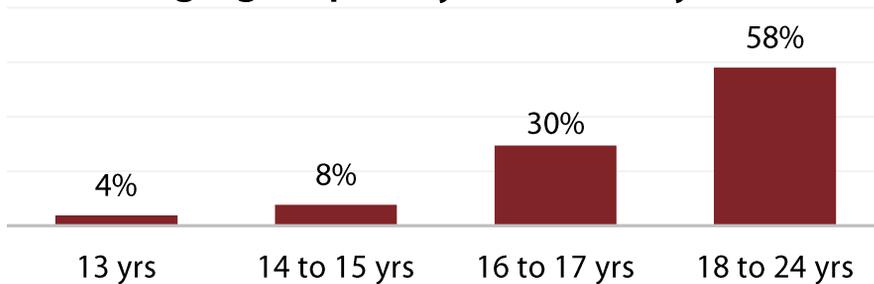


38.5% had couch surfed or stayed in a shelter



11.5% had slept outdoors

Age groups of youth surveyed



42%

of youth had been in state care at some point in their life

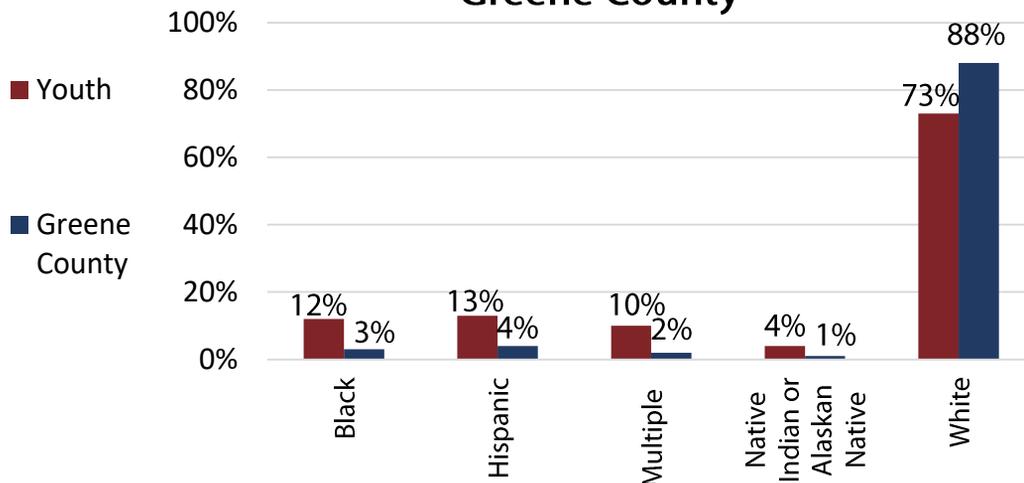
56%

of youth were abused by a relative or another person they stayed with

42%

of youth had experienced homelessness on their own (without a parent or caregiver) at some point in their life

Race and ethnicity of youth surveyed compared to Greene County



OAEH SUB-COMMITTEE *Outcomes*

Community engagement is at the heart of what the OAEH does. The OAEH has several standing sub-committees, which address specific pieces of our system of care. Without the support of partner agencies, other systems of care, and passionate community volunteers, we would not be able to ensure that homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring.

CHRISTIAN COUNTY HOMELESS ALLIANCE

The CCHA continues to help families with children with emergency shelter through their hotel fund. This fund is supported by their annual Hot Soup, Cold Night fundraiser, which will take place again on Friday, February 7, 2020. For more info, visit www.facebook.com/christiancountyhomelessmatters/.

FUNDED AGENCY COMMITTEE

The Funded Agency Committee provides a dedicated space for agencies to collaborate and communicate current issues to our Executive Board. It is comprised of representatives from each of the 7 agencies that receive HUD funding through the OAEH: Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri, Council of Churches, Department of Mental Health, Isabel's House, Great Circle, Harmony House, The Kitchen, Inc., and Victory Mission.

HOMELESS YOUTH TASK FORCE (HYTF)

The HYTF released its annual High Risk and Homeless Youth report in June, in partnership with Missouri State University. This report provides invaluable information on challenges youth are facing in our community. They also hosted the annual Homeless Liaison training, which served 85 Homeless Liaisons from school districts across southern Missouri, and updated the biennial gaps analysis.

HOMELESS VETERANS TASK FORCE (HVTF)

The HVTF launched its Bridge Housing Fund in February of 2019 and has provided 5 Veterans with short term shelter as they got connected with stable housing. Additionally, the HVTF played a critical role in planning and supporting the Veterans Stand Down at HOPE Connection, which serve approximately 70 Veterans this year. Veterans were able to visit with 20 service providers, including several Veterans Affairs representatives.

YOUTH ACTION BOARD (DBA THE PHOENIX)

The Phoenix re-launched in the spring of 2019 and has developed new by-laws, sent one youth to a national conference in New York, and provided invaluable youth voice to OAEH and HYTF initiatives.

For meeting times and contact information, please visit www.cpozarks.org/endhomelessness.

Housing PROGRAMS AVAILABLE IN OUR COMMUNITY

Individuals experiencing homelessness in Springfield/Greene, Christian and Webster counties are served by a number of housing services provided by OAEH member agencies. These housing programs are each designed to serve the individual needs of clients, and many are designated to serve specific sub-populations of those who are homeless in our region. Below is a brief description of some of the services available.

Emergency Shelter	14 Programs 368 Beds	Emergency Shelters provide short term shelter for those who are homeless as they prepare to move into more stable housing. These numbers include programs for victims of Domestic Violence, Crisis Cold Weather Shelters, and programs that serve children.
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Transitional Housing	3 Programs 42 Beds	Transitional Housing programs serve individuals and families for up to 24 months and include supportive services that enable participants to live more independently. The goal of Transitional Housing is to help households transition to permanent, affordable housing.
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Rapid Re-housing	10 Programs	Rapid Re-housing programs rapidly connect families and individuals experiencing homelessness to permanent housing to reduce the length of time they are homeless. Programs may include the use of time-limited financial assistance, case management, and targeted supportive services.
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Permanent Supportive Housing	6 Programs	Permanent supportive housing combines housing assistance with voluntary support services to address the needs of those who are homeless. The services are designed to address barriers to housing, as well as connect people with community-based health care, treatment and employment services.
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System LEVEL SNAPSHOT: SYSTEM PERFORMANCE MEASURES

HUD uses a set of 7 measures to determine our community's progress in meeting the needs of people experiencing homelessness – not only in obtaining housing, but in supporting them in sustaining it. The numbers below are based on Federal Fiscal Year 2018; the arrows indicate if the measure should be moving up or down.

 It's important that we reduce the length of time people experience homelessness. Over the last 4 years, the average number of days people experienced homelessness before entering a program has been decreasing – from 54 days in FY17 to 52 days in FY 18.

 Once we have gotten individuals and families into housing, we want to ensure they can sustain it. Over the last 4 years, the total returns to homelessness over a 2-year period have been trending down, from 16% in FY15 to 11% in FY17. However, last year we saw an increase from 11% to 14% - partially because we started capturing data on street outreach programs.

 We work to ensure that the overall number of people experiencing homelessness in our community is decreasing. Our annual sheltered count shows that over the last 4 years, the number of people experiencing homelessness over the entire year has been on a downward trend. In FY15 there were 975 sheltered individuals; in FY17 there were 820. Last year, this number increased from 820 individuals to 884 individuals.

 We work to increase individuals' income levels. Over the last 4 years, the income (defined as earned income and non-employment cash benefits) of individuals who stayed in a housing program has been increasing – last year the total earned income increased by 24% (compared to 18% in FY2017).

 We work to decrease the number of people who are experiencing homelessness for the first time. This number has fluctuated over the last 4 years. Across all programming types over the last 2 years, the percentage of people served who were experiencing homelessness for the first time decreased slightly from 78% to 76%.

 We work to support individuals as they leave a housing program to ensure they are exiting to a permanent housing solution. Over the last 4 years, the number of exits to permanent housing has increased overall. Exits from shelter and rapid re-housing programs to permanent housing increased over the last 2 years from 38% to 41%. Exits from permanent supportive housing programs increased from 91% to 92%.

For more information, visit www.icalliances.org/missouri-data-and-reports .



System LEVEL SNAPSHOT CONTINUED: FUNDING, COORDINATED ENTRY, TRAININGS

INVESTMENTS IN HOMELESS SERVICES

Our community relies on funding from several federal, state, and local grants to sustain homeless services throughout the OAEH service area. Below is a summary of major funding sources.

- City of Springfield: Approximately \$33,500 to support diversion efforts, that keep families out of the shelter system.
 - Continuum of Care Grant: Approximately \$1,045,000 from HUD is used to support local permanent housing and rapid re-housing projects.
 - Emergency Solution Grant: Approximately \$198,000 from Missouri Housing Development Commission (MHDC) to support local emergency shelters and rapid re-housing projects.
 - HUD - Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing: Approximately \$496,000 to fund rental assistance for Veterans experiencing homelessness, paired with case management support from Department of Veterans Affairs.
 - Missouri Housing Trust Fund: Approximately \$321,000 from MHDC to support homeless prevention, rental assistance, and home repair projects.
 - Missouri Housing Innovation Project: Approximately \$51,000 from MHDC to support housing assistance and services for individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness.
 - Supportive Services for Veteran Families: Approximately \$496,000 from the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide housing and supportive services to Veterans.
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COORDINATED ENTRY

Community Partnership's One Door program serves as the primary intake, assessment, and referral entry point for the system of homeless services throughout Springfield/Greene, Christian, and Webster counties. In FY 18-19, more than 14,500 guests were referred to One Door through the Springfield Affordable Housing Center. One Door staff completed over 2,225 client assessments, connecting individuals and families facing a housing crisis to available resources throughout our community.

Over the last year, One Door has been able to expand access to services in Christian County, thanks to dollars from Missouri Housing Development Commission.

EDUCATION/ENGAGEMENT

The OAEH offers several trainings and community engagement opportunities each year. All trainings are free and open to the public.

- Partnering with Head Start
- 2020 Census
- Best Practices for serving survivors of domestic violence/Violence Against Women Act
- Fair Housing
- Homeless Liaison Training

EVERY ACTION *Counts* RECAP

The OAEH promotes the Every Action Counts campaign every November as part of national Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week and the local Homeless Awareness Month.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

There are several dedicated agencies and advocacy groups working in our community to address homelessness. Each November we create a community calendar that shares steps people can take to get engaged with the homeless service system. This year our calendar featured volunteer opportunities and educational events from 11 different agencies.

11TH ANNUAL HOPE CONNECTION AND VETERANS STAND DOWN

This year's event served 656 adults thanks to the support of approximately 60 agencies that were represented on-site, offering direct services ranging from hair cuts and housing assessments to foot care and voter registration. Of course, this event would not be possible without the compassion and dedication of our 600 community and student volunteers who served as Guides or our generous sponsors, including our Premier Sponsor, Mercy Hospital.

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION: DISPELLING MYTHS AROUND HOMELESSNESS

Community feedback and engagement is critical to the work of the OAEH. Each November, we host a community conversation to provide a safe place to have conversations about our homeless service system. 45 people attended this year's conversation, which featured panelists from Burrell Behavioral Health, Connecting Grounds, MSU Care, and Springfield Public Schools. Panelists discussed (and dispelled) common myths and misconceptions about people experiencing homelessness.

AWARD FOR HOMELESS ADVOCACY

The OAEH hosted its third annual Award for Homeless Advocacy, which recognizes the behind-the-scenes work that individuals and organizations in our community do to serve those who are experiencing homelessness. This year's award recognized:

- Grace United Methodist for their commitment to ensuring women have a warm place to sleep during cold weather.
- Mercy Hospital for their continued support of Hope Connection and Veterans Stand Down.
- Jack and Carolyn Hembree for their long-time dedication to underserved populations in our community and their involvement with the OAEH's Homeless Veterans Task Force.



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Working Together to Build Strong Communities

The Ozarks Alliance to End Homelessness is an initiative of
Community Partnership of the Ozarks,
supported by funding from the City of Springfield.

Community Partnership works to build resilient children,
healthy families, and strong neighborhoods & communities
through collaboration, programming, and resource
development.

For more information:
www.cpozarks.org
(417) 888-2020