



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

2024

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in collaboration with Community Partnership
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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 the Ozarks Alliance to End Homelessness, which serves as the Continuum of Care for Greene, Christian, and Webster Counties.

The first part of this report examines responses to the 2024 Unsheltered Point-in-Time Survey conducted in Greene, Christian, and Webster Counties, Missouri, and provides information for 173 individuals who were unsheltered. This count reflects 138 individuals who either completed the survey instrument or who were observed, and 35 additional household members for whom survey takers provided information.

The data for the unsheltered population was collected primarily via electronic surveys created by the Institute for Community Alliances and was administered by trained outreach volunteers on January 24 - 26, 2024. 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.

Demographic Profile of Participants

Most participants (77.4%) reported that they or their household members were aged thirty-five or older (Table 1). Men comprised 66.7% of the sample while women comprised 32.7% and non-binary individuals comprised 0.6% (Table 1). Most participants (84.6%) self-identified as white and non-Hispanic/Latinx (94.1%; Table 1). Fourteen participants (8.6%) reported having served in the military, and two participants reported having served in the National Guard (Table 2 & 3). However, most of those veterans had never received healthcare or benefits from a Veterans Affairs medical center (Table 4). Over one-quarter of participants (26.8%) reported having been employed part-time or full-time within the last six months (Table 5).

Table 1. Demographics

	Demographic Information	Percent of Participants	Percent for Greene County ¹
Age	18-24 years	4.0%	20.5%
	25-34 years	18.5%	--
	35-44	27.7%	--
	45-54	24.3%	--
	55-64	22.5%	17.3% (65 years and over)
	65+ and older	2.9%	16.4%
	N	173	304,611
Gender	Male	66.7%	49.0%
	Female	32.7%	51.0%
	Non-binary	0.6%	
	N	171	304,611
Race	White	84.6%	89.9%
	American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous	6.2%	0.8%
	Black, African American, or African	3.7%	3.5%
	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.1%
	Asian or Asian American	0.6%	2.4%
	Multiple Races	4.9%	3.3%
	N	162	304,611
Ethnicity	Non-Hispanic/Non-Latinx	94.1%	95.5%
	Hispanic/Latinx	5.9%	4.5%
	N	169	304,611

¹ County-level data comes from the [2023 American Community Study \(ACS\)](#). Some differences exist in racial categorizations on the ACS: ACS does not include the specification of “African” or “Indigenous.”

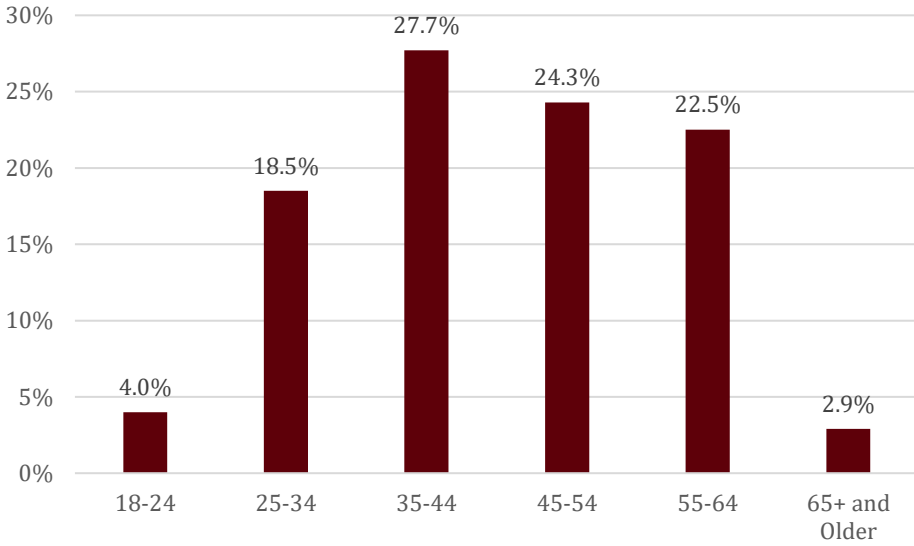


Figure 1. *Age of participants*

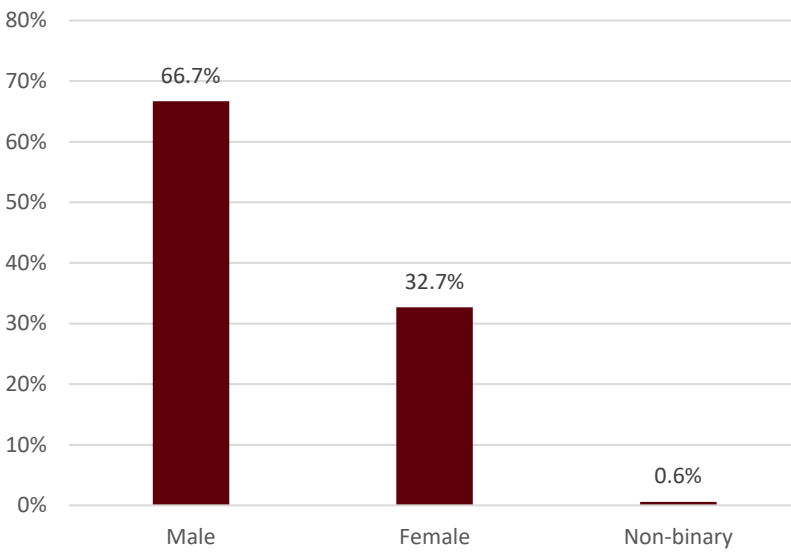


Figure 2. *Gender of participants**

*"Female" and "Male" are used in place of the HUD categories "Women (or girl, if child)"/ "Man (or boy, if child)" in the tables and graphs throughout the report.

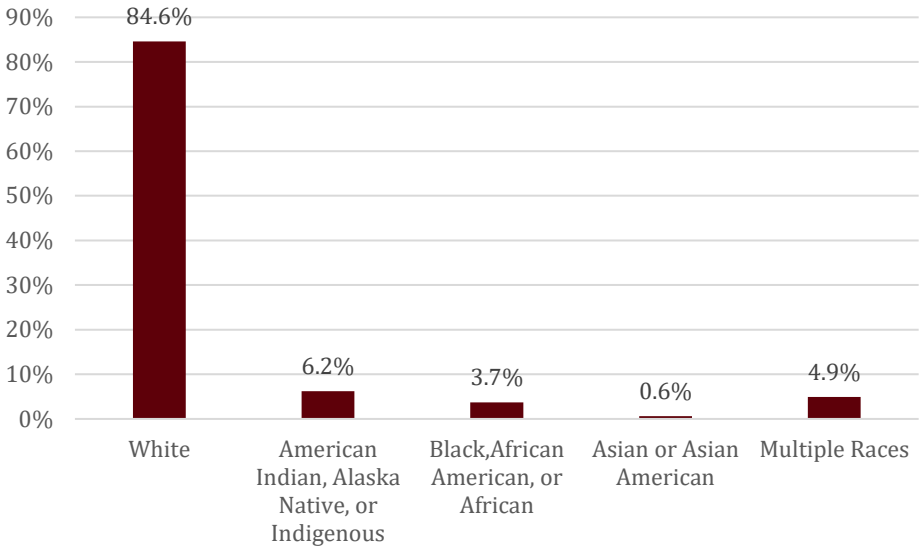


Figure 3. Race of participants

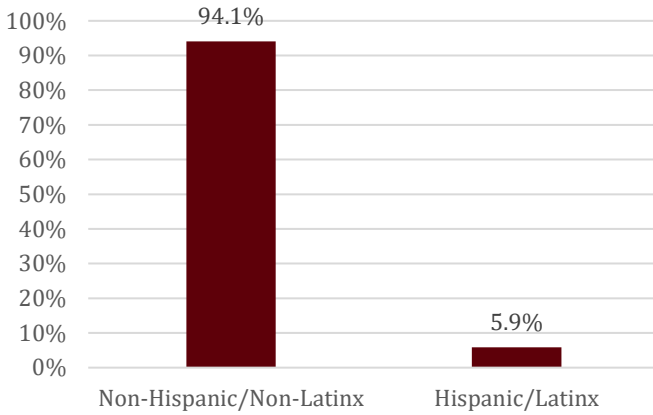


Figure 4. Ethnicity of participants

Table 2. Have you ever served in the military?

Veteran	N	Percent
No	148	91.4%
Yes	14	8.6%
Total	162	100%

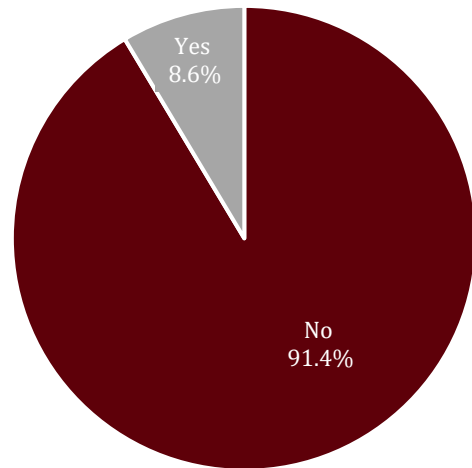


Table 3. *Have you served in the National Guard?*

National Guard	N	Percent
No	12	85.7%
Yes	2	14.3%
Total	14	100%

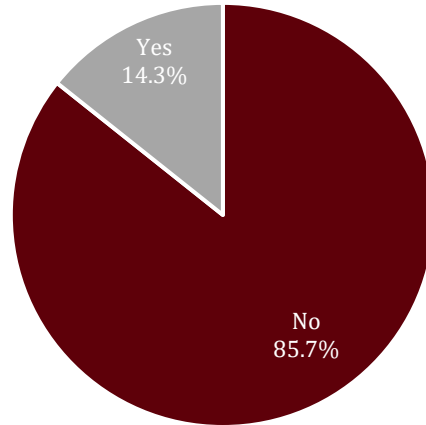


Table 4. *Have you ever received healthcare or benefits from a VA medical center?*

VA Benefits	N	Percent
No	12	85.7%
Yes	2	14.3%
Total	14	100%

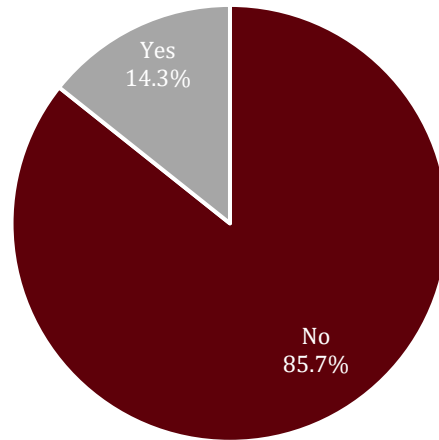
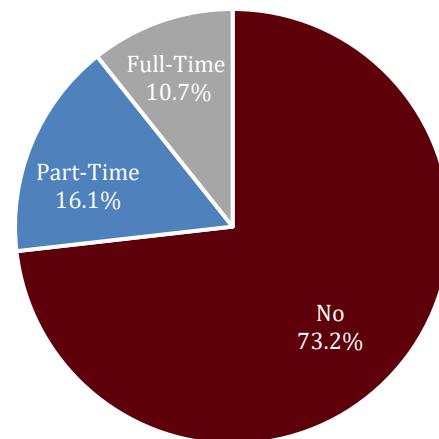


Table 5. *Have you been employed within the last six months, either part-time or full-time?*

Employment Status	N	Percent
No	123	73.2%
Part-Time	27	16.1%
Full-Time	18	10.7%
Total	168	100%

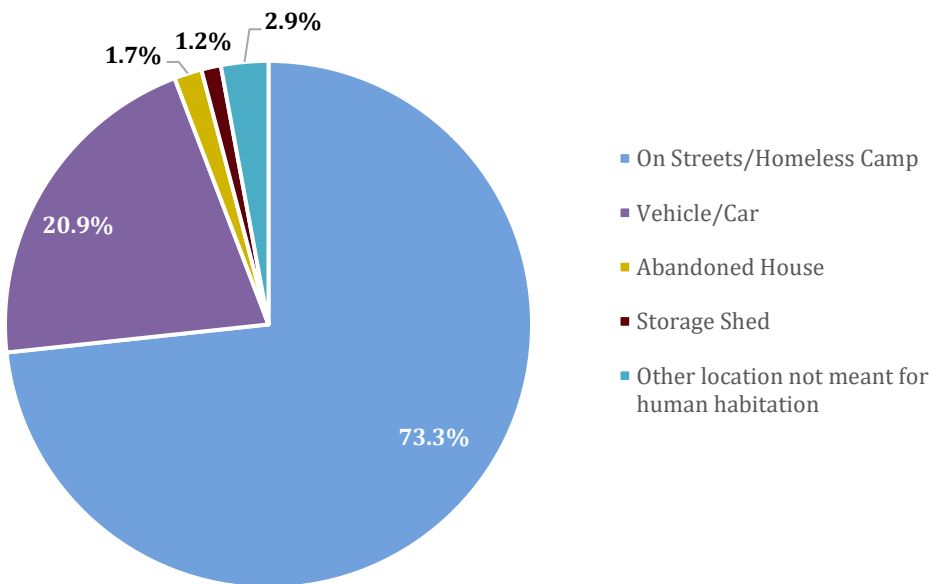


Homelessness Status

On the night of January 24th, 2024, 73.3% of participants reported having slept on the streets or in a homeless camp (Table 6). The next most cited unsheltered category was “vehicle or car” at 20.9%. About 3% of participants reported sleeping in either an abandoned house or storage shed, and an additional 3% reported sleeping in another location not meant for human habitation (Table 6). Responses in the “Other” category include statements such as “I walked instead of slept,” “storage unit,” and “cargo crate.” Most participants (79.8%) reported that they were by themselves (Table 7). The top five most common responses for not staying at one of the Crisis Cold Weather Shelters included the perception that the shelters were full or not open (32.4%), having dogs or property (10.8%), not liking shelters (9.4%), having social anxiety around others (7.9%), transportation barriers (7.9%), and concerns about safety, harassment, or theft (7.2%). A little over three-quarters of individuals (80.8%) reported having been homeless continuously for a year or more at the time the survey was conducted (Table 8). Over half of participants (63.9%) met the HUD criteria for being considered “chronically homeless”² (Table 9).

Table 6. *Where did you sleep on the night of January 24th, 2024?*

Location Where Slept	N	Percent
On Street/Homeless Camp	126	73.3%
Vehicle/Car	36	20.9%
Abandoned House	3	1.7%
Storage Shed	2	1.2%
Other location not meant for human habitation	5	2.9%
Total	172	100%



² Criteria for chronicity includes: Must have 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 7. Are you with a household or are you by yourself?

Family Status	N	Percent
By Myself	138	79.8%
With Household	53	20.2%
Total	173	100%

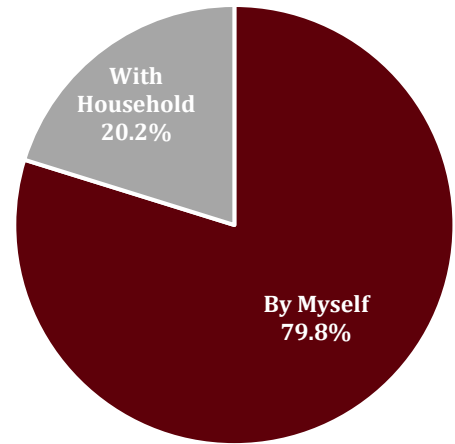


Table 8. Have you been homeless (on the streets or in a shelter) continuously for a year or more?

Prolonged Homelessness	N	Percent
No	32	19.2%
Yes	135	80.8%
Total	167	100%

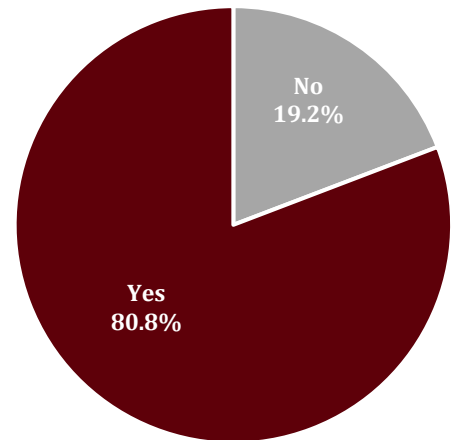
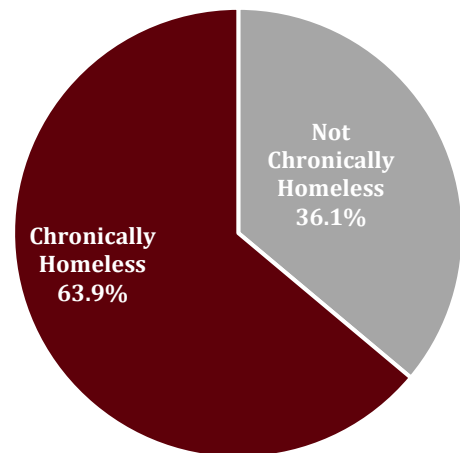


Table 9. Percentage of participants who meet HUD's criteria for being chronically homeless.

Chronically Homeless	N	Percent
Not Chronically Homeless	56	36.1%
Chronically Homeless	99	63.9%
Total	155	100%



Disabling Conditions

Sixty-nine percent of participants reported having at least one disabling condition (Table 10), although less than a quarter (23.4%) of those disabled individuals were receiving disability benefits of any kind (Table 12). Although the samples were smaller, members of the Black, African American, or African group had the highest percentage of those who reported having at least one disability, and those identifying as being more than one race composed the second largest category of people with a disability (Table 11). Mental health was the most cited disability (60.9%), followed by physical disability (50.0%), a chronic health condition (31.8%), drug abuse (18.2%), alcohol abuse (8.2%) or a developmental disability (8.2%), and HIV/AIDs (0.9%; Table 13).

Table 10. *Do you have a disability?*

Disability	N	Percent
No	50	31.25%
Yes	110	68.75%
Total	160	100%

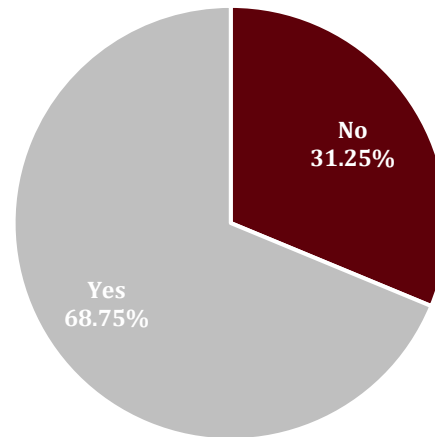


Table 11. *Disability Status by Race*

	American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous	Black, African American, or African	White	Multiple Races
No	33.3%	20.0%	31.3%	25.0%
Yes	66.7%	80.0%	68.8%	75.0%
	N=9	N=5	N=128	N=8

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	128	76.6%
Yes	39	23.4%
Total	167	100%

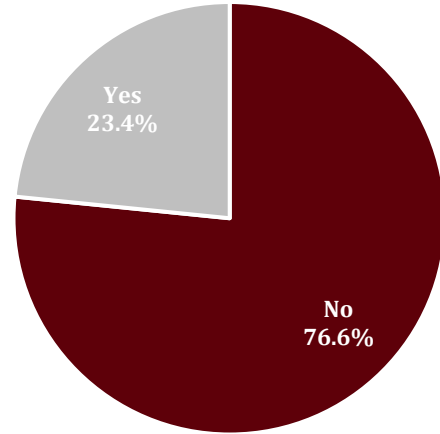


Table 13. Do you have a disability related to any of the following?

Disability Type	N	Percent
Mental health	67	60.9%
Physical	55	50.0%
Chronic Health Condition	35	31.8%
Drug Abuse	20	18.2%
Alcohol Abuse	9	8.2%
Developmental	9	8.2%
HIV/AIDS	1	0.9%
Total	196	--

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

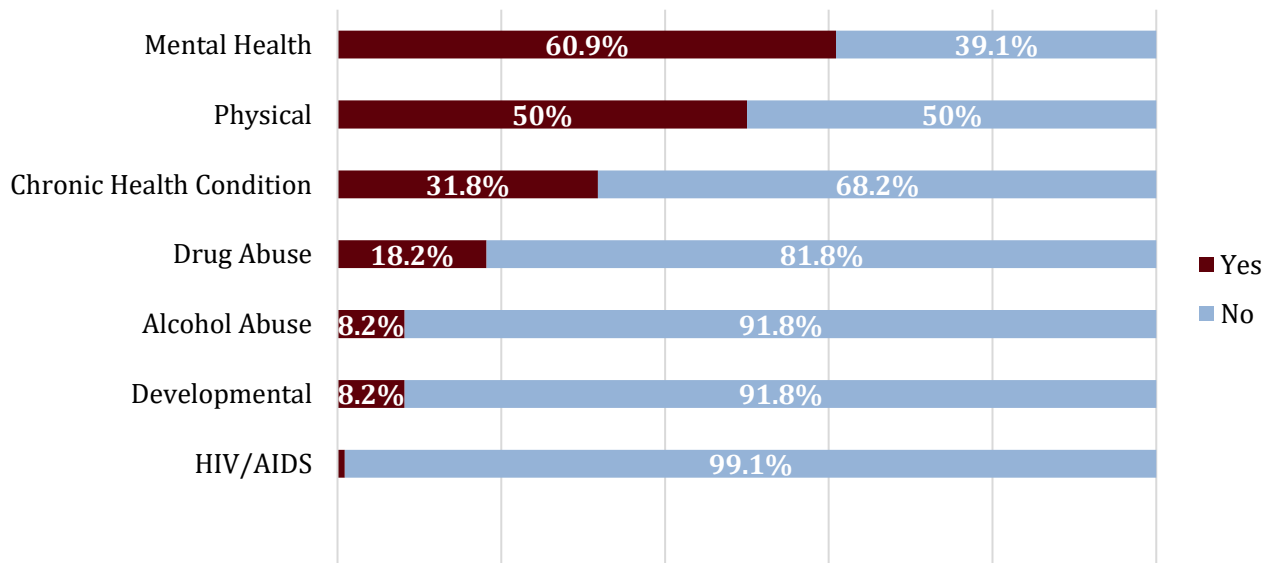


Figure 5. Disability by type

Victimization

Thirty-seven percent of participants reported having been a victim of domestic violence (Table 14). Women were significantly more likely to have ever been a victim of domestic violence than men (Table 15), and participants who reported having at least one disability were significantly more likely to report being domestic violence victims than non-disabled participants (Table 17). Of participants who reported that they had been a victim of domestic violence, 12.7% indicated they were currently fleeing (Table 18). Twenty-eight percent of participants reported 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 participants with disabilities were more likely to report having been harmed while homeless than men and participants without disabilities, respectively (Tables 20 and 22).

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

Victim	N	Percent
No	102	62.6%
Yes	61	37.4%
Total	163	100%

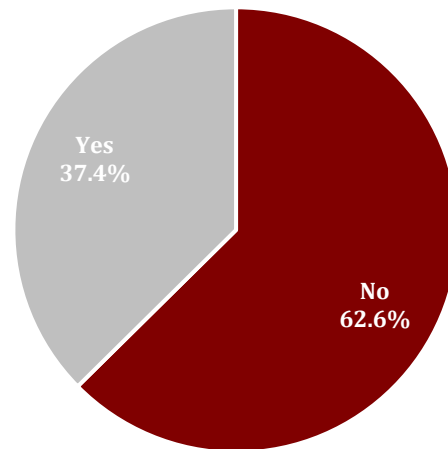


Table 15. *Domestic Violence Victimization, by Gender*

	Female	Male	Non-binary
No	40.4%	75.0%	0.0%
Yes	59.6%	25.0%	100%
	N=52	N=108	N=1

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

Table 16. Domestic Violence Victimization, by Race

	White	Black, African American, or African	Asian or Asian American	American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous	Multiple Races
No	62.8%	80.0%	0.0%	80.0%	37.5%
Yes	37.2%	20.0%	100%	20.0%	62.5%
	N=129	N=5	N=1	N=10	N=8

Table 17. Domestic Violence Victimization, by Disability Status

	At Least One Disability	No Disability
No	54.7%	76.0%
Yes	45.3%	24.0%
	N=106	N=50

* $p < .01$; significant differences found between those with and without a disability regarding the proportion who experienced domestic violence.

Table 18. Are you currently fleeing?

Currently Fleeing	N	Percent
No	48	87.3%
Yes	7	12.7%
Total	55	100%

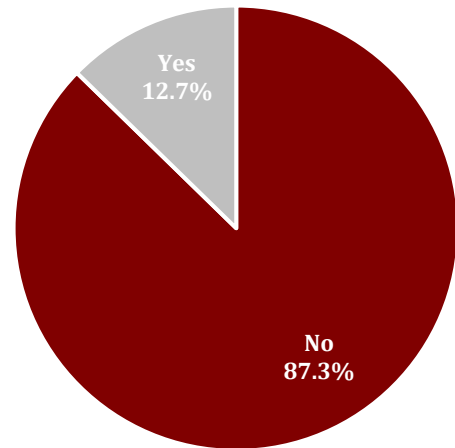


Table 19. *Have you ever been harmed (physically, emotionally, or sexually) by a relative or another person you were staying with while you were homeless?*

Harmed While Homeless	N	Percent
No	116	72.0%
Yes	45	28.0%
Total	161	100%

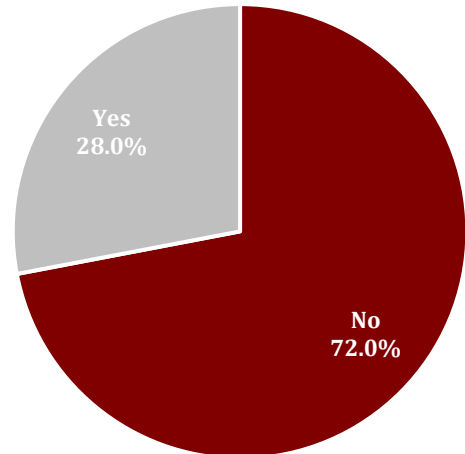


Table 20. *Have you ever been harmed while homeless, by Gender*

	Female	Male	Non-binary
No	85.2%	96.0%	0.0%
Yes	14.8%	4.0%	100.0%
	N=27	N=25	N=1

* $p < .01$; significant differences found between men and women regarding the proportion who reported having been harmed while homeless.

Table 21. *Have you ever been harmed while homeless, by Race*

	White	Black, African American, or African	Asian or Asian American	American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous	Multiple Races
No	88.4%	100%	100%	50%	100%
Yes	11.6%	0.0%	0%	50%	0%
	N=43	N=1	N=1	N=2	N=5

Table 22. *Have you ever been harmed while homeless, by Disability Status*

	At Least One Disability	No Disability
Never Harmed while Homeless	85.1%	100%
Harmed While Homeless	14.9%	0%
	N=47	N=8

* $p < .01$; significant differences found between those with and without a disability with regard to the proportion who reported having been harmed while homeless.

Appendix A: Codebook CoC Unsheltered Point-in-Time Survey 2024

Q1. Where did the encounter occur? [LOC]

- (0) Meal Site–Springfield
- (1) Street Outreach–Springfield
- (2) Greene County
- (3) Christian County
- (4) Webster County

Q2. Does the individual wish to participate in the unsheltered count? [CONSENT]

- (0) No
- (1) Yes

Q3. What is your name? [NAME]

_____ (First) _____ (Last)

Q4. What is your date of birth? [DOB]

_____ (Month) _____ (Day) _____ (Year)
(9999) Refused/Don't Know

Q5. Calculated Age [AGE]

Q6. Which category best describes your age? [AGEGRP] Q6 displayed If Q4=9999 ("Refused/Don't Know")

- (0) Under 18
- (1) 18-24
- (2) 25-34
- (3) 35-44
- (4) 45-54
- (5) 55-64
- (6) 65 and over

Q7. What is your contact information (such as a phone number or email)? [INFO]

(9999) Refused/Don't Know

Q8. Where did you sleep on the night of January 24, 2024? [SLEEP]

- (0) On Streets/Homeless Camp
- (1) Vehicle/Car
- (2) Local Shelter
- (3) Friends/Family (Doubled Up)
- (4) Apartment/Hotel/House
- (5) Other: _____

Q8a. Additional Notes (if any) [NOTES2] Q8a displayed If Q8=2 ("Local Shelter") or 3 ("Friends/Family") or 4 ("Apartment/Hotel/House")

If Q8=2 (“Local Shelter”) or 3 (“Friends/Family”) or 4 (“Apartment/Hotel/House”), the survey ends here.

Q9. Why didn’t you stay at one of the Crisis Cold Weather Shelters? [REASON]

(9999) Refused/Don’t Know

Q10. Are you with a household tonight or are you by yourself? [FAMILY] Q8b displayed If Q8=0 (“On Streets/Homeless Camp”) or 1 (“Vehicle/Car”) or 5 (“Other”)

(0) By Myself (Single)

(1) With Household (Family)

Q10a. Are you Head of the Household? [HEAD] Q10a displayed If Q10=1 (“With Household (Family)”)

(0) No

(1) Yes

Q10b. What is the total number of persons in your household? [SIZE] Q10b displayed If Q10=1 (“With Household (Family)”)

Q11. What is your gender? [GEN]

Female

Male

Refused/Don’t Know

Q12. What is your race? [RACE]

American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous

Asian or Asian American

Black, African American, or African

Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

White

Refused/Don’t Know

Q13. What is your ethnicity? [ETHN]

(0) Non-Hispanic/Non-Latinx

(1) Hispanic/Latinx

(9999) Refused/Don’t Know

Q14. Have you been homeless (on the streets or in shelter) continuously for a year or more? [YEAR]

(0) No

(1) Yes

(9999) Refused/Don’t Know

Q14a. Have you experienced four or more episodes of homelessness in the past three years?

[EPISODE] Q14a displayed If Q14=0 (“No”) or 9999 (“Refused/Don’t Know”)

(0) No

(1) Yes

(9999) Refused/Don’t Know

Q14b. Please enter the total number of months you have spent at least one day homeless (on the streets or in emergency shelter) in the past three years [MONTH] Q14b displayed If Q14a=1 ("Yes")

Q15. Do you have a disability? [DIS]

- NONE
- Drug Use Disorder
- Alcohol Use Disorder
- Mental Health Disorder
- Physical
- Developmental
- Chronic Health Condition
- HIV/AIDS
- Refused/Don't Know

Q16. Do you receive any disability benefits such as Social Security Income, Social Security Disability Income, or Veterans Disability Benefits? [DBEN1]

- (0) No
- (1) Yes
- (9999) Refused/Don't Know

Q16a. Which disability benefits do you receive? [DBEN2] Q16a displayed If Q16=1 ("Yes")

- Social Security Income (SSI)
- Social Security Disability Income (SSDI)
- Veterans Disability Benefits
- Refused/Don't Know

Q17. Have you ever been a victim of domestic violence? [DVIO]

- (0) No
- (1) Yes
- (9999) Refused/Don't Know

Q17a. Are you currently fleeing? [DVIO2] Q17a displayed If Q17=1 ("Yes")

- (0) No
- (1) Yes
- (9999) Refused/Don't Know

Q18. Have you ever been harmed (physically, emotionally, or sexually) by a relative or another person you have stayed with while you were homeless? [HARM]

- (0) No
- (1) Yes
- (9999) Refused/Don't Know

Q19. Have you ever served in the military? [MIL]

- (0) No
- (1) Yes
- (9999) Refused/Don't Know

Q19a. Did you serve in the National Guard/Reserve? [GUARD] Q19a displayed If Q19=1 ("Yes")
(0) No
(1) Yes
(9999) Refused/Don't Know

Q19b. Have you ever received healthcare or benefits from a Veterans Administration medical center? [VA] Q19b displayed If Q19=1 ("Yes")
(0) No
(1) Yes
(9999) Refused/Don't Know

Q20. Have you been employed in the last 6 months? [EMP]
(0) No
(1) Part-time
(2) Full-time
(9999) Refused/Don't Know

Q21. Additional Notes (if any): [NOTES3]

Appendix B: Report Metadata

Report Title:	2024 Unsheltered Point-in-Time Report
Project Sponsor:	Ozarks Alliance to End Homelessness
Survey Administrators:	Emily Fessler and staff at Community Partnership of the Ozarks
Report Authors:	Anthony Lam and Dr. Laura Hart, Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Gerontology, Missouri State University
Software Used:	SPSS v. 24 and Excel
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