



# Ozarks Alliance to End Homelessness Crisis Cold Weather Shelters Report

2024

Prepared by

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in collaboration with Community Partnership of the  
Ozarks

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## Introduction

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### *Crisis Cold Weather Shelters Survey*

This report includes responses to a survey administered to individuals who sought shelter at one of Springfield's Crisis Cold Weather Shelters (CCWS) on the night of January 24, 2024. These emergency shelters are open October 1st through March 31st when temperatures are 32 degrees Fahrenheit or below. The Department of Housing and Urban Development specifies that individuals at these shelters count as sheltered rather than unsheltered for the federally mandated Point-in-Time (PIT) Count. Locally, however, the OAEH knows that for the rest of the year and on nights where temperatures are above 32 degrees, these individuals are typically unsheltered.

The first part of this report examines responses to the 2024 Crisis Cold Weather Shelters Survey conducted in Springfield and Greene County, Missouri, and provides information for 141 individuals who took shelter. This count reflects 112 individuals who either completed the survey instrument or who were observed, and 29 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 administered by trained volunteers on January 24, 2024. Outreach surveys were also collected in a paper format and entered into the electronic form by Community Partnership staff. Data was 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

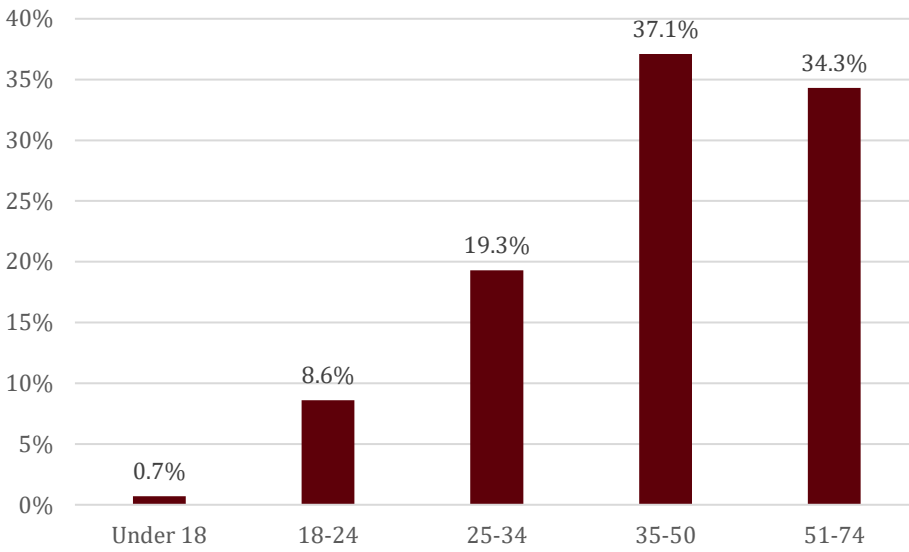
Most participants (71.4%) reported that they or their household members were aged thirty-five or older (Table 1). Men comprised 65.2% of the sample while women comprised 36.4% (Table 1). Most participants self-identified as being white (78.0%) and non-Hispanic/Latinx (93.4%; Table 1). A small percentage of participants (13.7%) reported having served in the military (Figure 5). Of those who had served in the military, 9.4% served in the National Guard (Figure 6). However, most of these Veterans (82.4%) reported having never received healthcare or benefits from a Veterans Affairs medical center (Figure 7). About one-quarter of participants (27.2%) reported having been employed part- or full-time within the last six months (Figure 8).

**Table 1.** Demographics

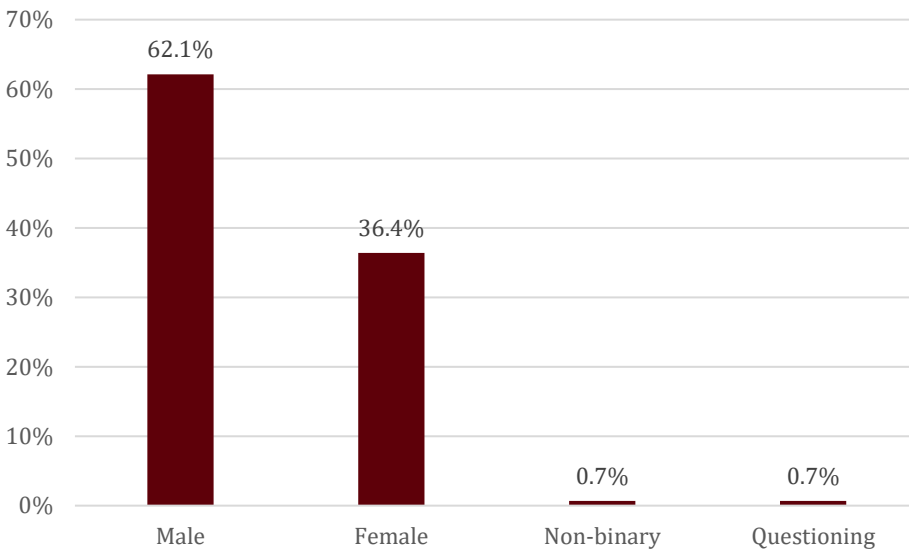
Demographic Information		Percent of Participants	Percent for Greene County <sup>1</sup>
Age	0-18 years	0.7%	20.5%
	18-24 years	8.6%	--
	25-34	19.3%	--
	35-50	37.1%	--
	51-74	34.3%	17.3% (65 years and over)
	N	141	304,611
Gender	Male	65.2%	49.0%
	Female	36.4%	51.0%
	Non-Binary	0.7%	--
	Questioning	0.7%	--
	N	140	304,611
Race	White	78.0%	89.9%
	Black, African, or African American	6.8%	3.5%
	American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous	5.3%	0.8%
	Asian	0.0%	2.4%
	Multiple Races	9.8%	3.3%
	N	132	304,611
Ethnicity	Non-Hispanic/Non-Latinx	93.4%	95.5%
	Hispanic/Latinx	6.6%	4.5%
	N	137	304,611

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

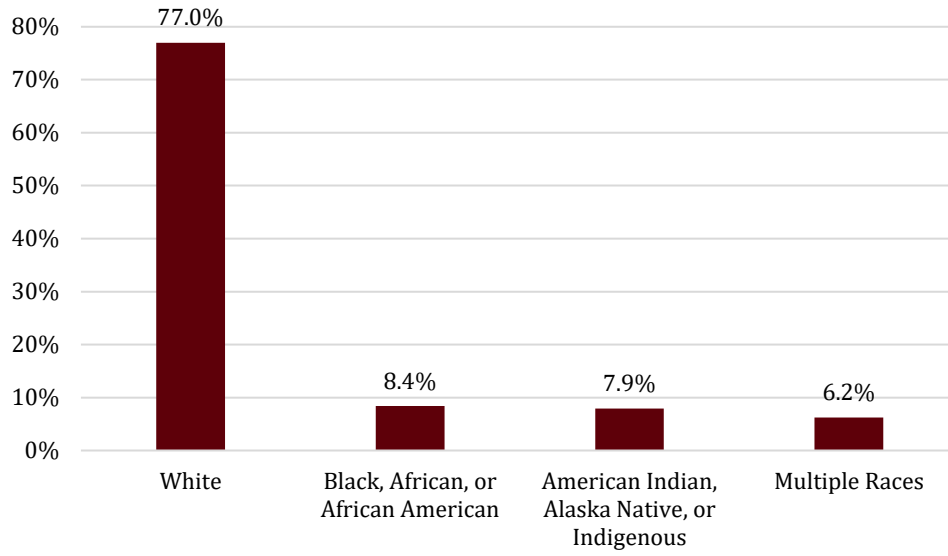
**Figure 1. Age of participants**



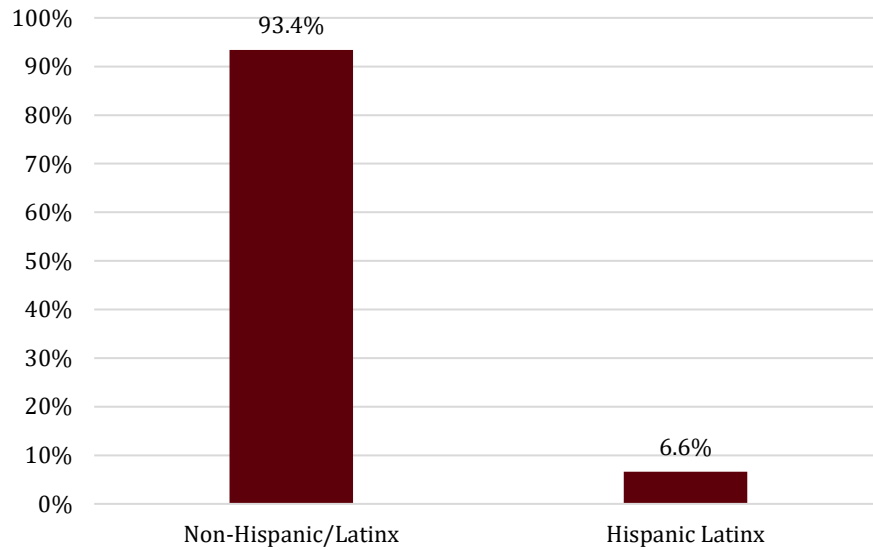
**Figure 2. Gender of participants**



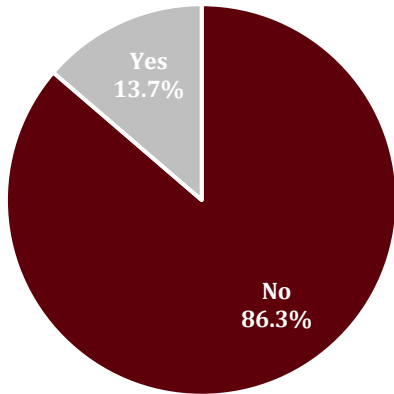
**Figure 3. Race of participants**



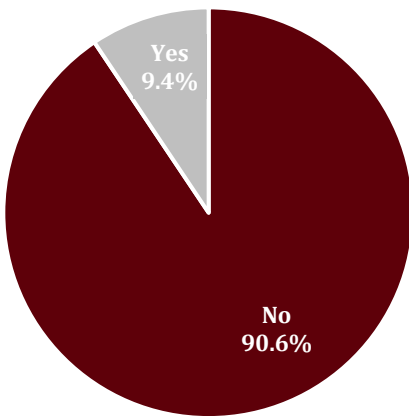
**Figure 4. Ethnicity of participants**



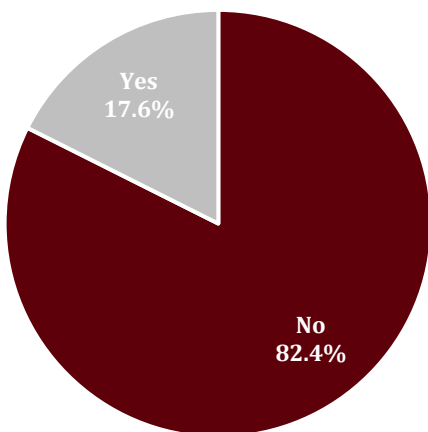
**Figure 5.** *Have you served in the military?*



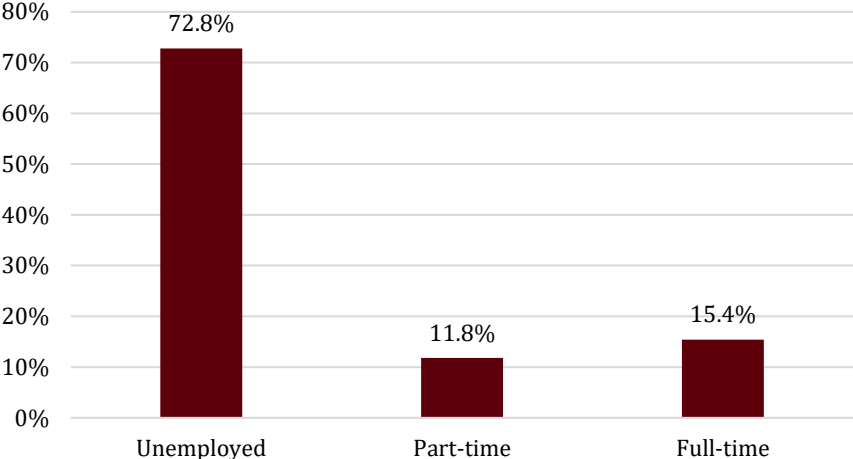
**Figure 6.** *Have you served in the National Guard?*



**Figure 7.** *Have you ever received healthcare benefits from a VA medical center?*



**Figure 8.** *Have you been employed recently, either part-time or full-time?*





## Homelessness Status

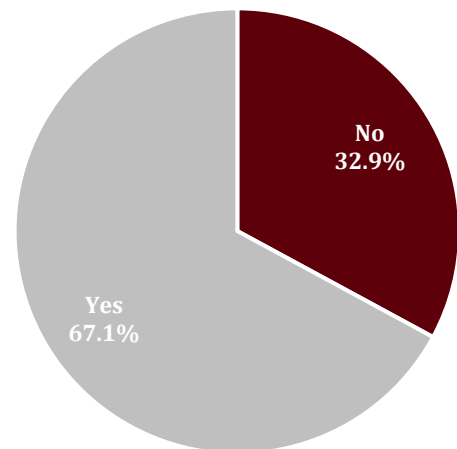
On the night of the Point-in-Time Count (January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024), participants took shelter at one of six CCWS locations (Table 2). Sixty-seven percent of individuals reported having been homeless continuously for a year or more at the time the survey was conducted (Table 3). Over half of participants (60.1%) met the HUD criteria for being considered “chronically homeless”<sup>2</sup> (Table 4).

**Table 2.** *Where did this individual/household stay on the night of the Point in Time Count?*

Location Where Slept	N	Percentage
Revive 66 Campground	36	25.5%
Fairbanks	34	24.1%
East Sunshine Church of Christ	25	17.7%
Unity of Springfield	21	14.9%
Grace United Methodist Church	16	11.3%
Harbor House	9	6.4%
Total	141	100%

**Table 3.** *Have you been homeless (on the streets or in a shelter) continuously for a year or more?*

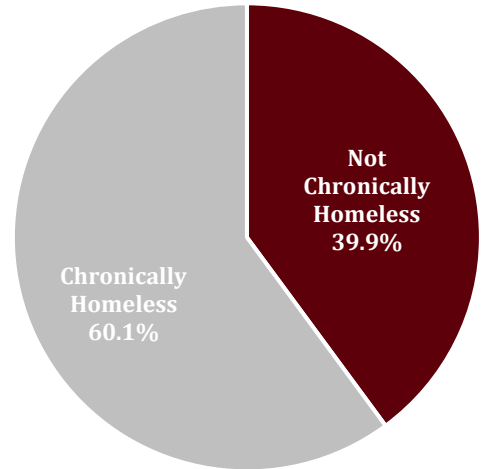
Homeless for a year or more	N	Percent
No	46	32.9%
Yes	94	67.1%
Total	140	100.0%



<sup>2</sup> In order to meet the criteria for chronicity, participants 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 4.** Percentage of participants who meet HUD’s criteria for being chronically homeless.

Chronically Homeless	N	Percent
Not Chronically Homeless	55	39.9%
Chronically Homeless	83	60.1%
Total	138	100%

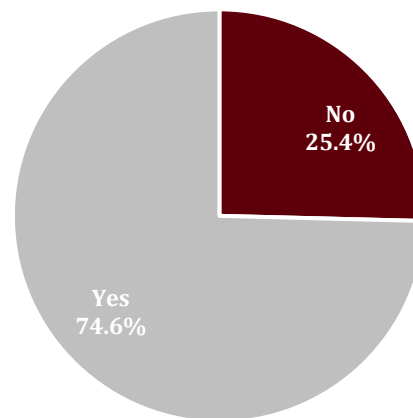


## Disabling Conditions

Three-quarters of participants (74.6%) reported having at least one disabling condition (Table 5), while only 23.8% were receiving disability benefits of any kind (Table 8). Women were significantly more likely to report having a disability compared with men (Table 6). Although sample sizes were smaller relative to other racial categories, 84.6% of people in the Multiple Races group had a disability, with those in the Black, African American, or African category having the second highest percentage of people with a disability (Table 7). Mental health was the most cited disability (69.9%), followed by physical disability (49.5%), a chronic health condition (29.1%), drug abuse (14.6%), alcohol abuse (9.7%), a developmental disability (6.8%) and HIV/AIDs (1.0%; Table 10).

**Table 5.** Do you have a disability?

Disability	N	Percent
No	35	25.4%
Yes	103	74.6%
Total	138	100%



**Table 6. Disability Status by Gender**

	Female	Male	Non-binary	Questioning
No	14.3%	32.2%	0.0%	0.0%
Yes	85.7%	67.8%	100%	100%
	N=49	N=87	N=1	N=1

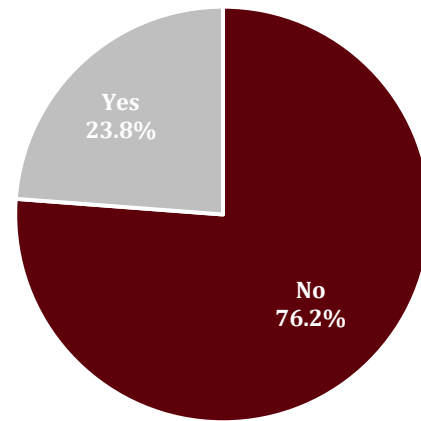
\*p <.01; significant differences found between men and women regarding the proportion who reported having a disability.

**Table 7. Disability Status by Race**

	White	Black, African American, or African	American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous	Multiple Races
No	24.8%	22.2%	28.6%	15.4%
Yes	75.2%	77.8%	71.4%	84.6%
	N=101	N=9	N=7	N=13

**Table 8. Do you receive any disability benefits, such as Social Security Income, Social Security Disability Income, or Veterans Disability Benefits?**

Benefits	N	Percent
No	99	76.2%
Yes	31	23.8%
Total	130	100%



**Table 9. Which disability benefits do you receive?**

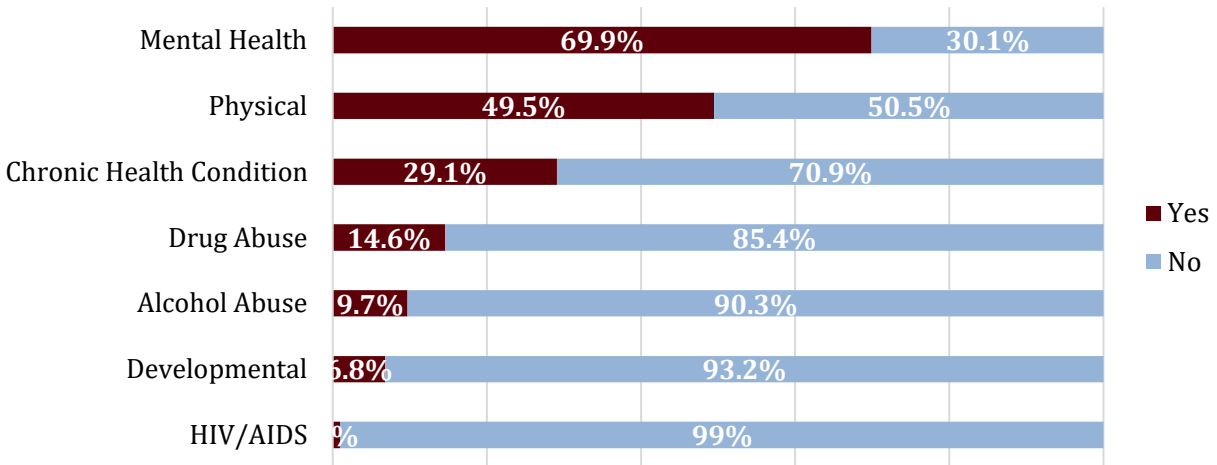
Benefits	N	Percent
Social Security Disability Income (SSDI)	21	65.6%
Social Security Income (SSI)	14	43.8%
Veterans Disability Benefits	2	6.3%
Total	37	--

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

**Table 10.** *Do you have a disability related to any of the following?*

Disability Type	N	Percent
Mental health	72	69.9%
Physical	51	49.5%
Chronic Health Condition	30	29.1%
Drug Abuse	15	14.6%
Alcohol Abuse	10	9.7%
Developmental	7	6.8%
HIV/AIDS	1	1.0%
Total	186	--

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



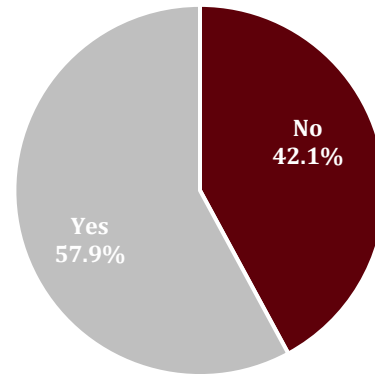
**Figure 9.** *Disability by type*

## Victimization

Fifty-eight percent of participants reported having been a victim of domestic violence (Table 11). Women were significantly more likely to have ever been a victim of domestic violence than men (Table 12), and participants who reported having at least one disability were significantly more likely to report being domestic violence victims than non-disabled participants (Table 14). Of participants who reported that they had been a victim of domestic violence, 21.1% indicated they were currently fleeing (Table 15).

**Table 11.** *Have you ever been a victim of domestic violence?*

Victim	N	Percent
No	59	42.1%
Yes	81	57.9%
Total	140	100%



**Table 12.** *Domestic Violence Victimization, by Gender*

	Female	Male	Non-binary	Questioning
No	9.8%	62.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Yes	90.2%	37.9%	100%	100%
	N= 51	N= 87	N= 1	N= 1

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

**Table 13.** *Domestic Violence Victimization, by Race*

	White	Black, African American, or African	American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous	Multiple Races
No	42.7%	55.6%	28.6%	46.2%
Yes	57.3%	44.4%	71.4%	53.8%
	N=103	N=9	N=7	N=13

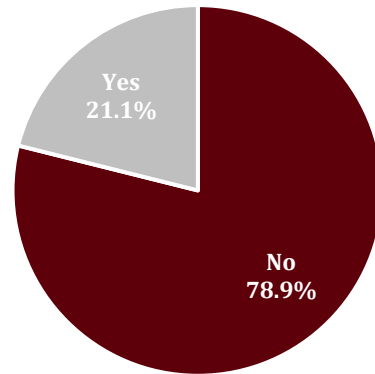
**Table 14. Domestic Violence Victimization, by Disability Status**

	<b>At Least One Disability</b>	<b>No Disability</b>
No	35.9%	62.9%
Yes	64.1%	37.1%
	<i>N=103</i>	<i>N=35</i>

\*p <.05; significant differences found between those with and without a disability regarding the proportion who experienced domestic violence.

**Table 15. Are you currently fleeing?**

<b>Currently Fleeing</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Percent</b>
No	60	78.9%
Yes	16	21.1%
Total	76	100%



## Appendix A: Codebook Crisis Cold Weather Shelter Survey 2024

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Q1. What county did this survey take place in? [COUNTY]

Q2. Where did this individual/household stay on the night of the Point in Time Count? [LOC]

Q3. Are you Head of the Household? [HEAD]

- (0) No
- (1) Yes

Q4. What is your name? [NAME]

\_\_\_\_\_(First) \_\_\_\_\_(Last)

Q5. What is your date of birth? [DOB]

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

Q6. Which category best describes your age? [AGEGRP] Q4a displayed If Q4=9999

- (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 gender? [GEN]

- Female
- Male
- A gender other than singularly female or male (e.g., non-binary, genderfluid, agender, culturally specific gender)
- Transgender
- Questioning
- Refused/Don't Know

Q8. 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

Q9. What is your ethnicity? [ETHN]  
(0) Non-Hispanic/Non-Latin(a)(o)(x)  
(1) Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x)  
(9999) Refused/Don't Know

Q10. 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

Q10a. Have you experienced four or more episodes of homelessness in the past three years?  
[EPISODE] Q10a displayed If Q10=0 ("No") or If Q10=9999 ("Refused/Don't Know")  
(0) No  
(1) Yes  
(9999) Refused/Don't Know

Q10b. 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] Q10b displayed If Q10a=1 ("Yes")

\_\_\_\_\_

Q11. 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

Q12. 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

Q12a. Which disability benefits do you receive? [DBEN2] Q12a displayed If Q12=1 ("Yes")  
 Social Security Income (SSI)  
 Social Security Disability Income (SSDI)  
 Veterans Disability Benefits  
 Refused/Don't Know

Q13. Have you ever been a victim of domestic violence? [DVIO]  
(0) No  
(1) Yes  
(9999) Refused/Don't Know



Q13a. Are you currently fleeing? [DVI02] Q13a displayed If Q13=1 ("Yes")  
(0) No  
(1) Yes  
(9999) Refused/Don't Know

Q14. Have you ever served in the military? [MIL]  
(0) No  
(1) Yes  
(9999) Refused/Don't Know

Q14a. Did you serve in the National Guard/Reserve? [GUARD] Q15a displayed If Q15=1 ("Yes")  
(0) No  
(1) Yes  
(9999) Refused/Don't Know

Q14b. Have you ever received healthcare or benefits from a Veterans Administration medical center? [VA] Q15b displayed If Q15=1 ("Yes")  
(0) No  
(1) Yes  
(9999) Refused/Don't Know

Q15. Have you been employed in the last 6 months? [EMP]  
(0) No  
(1) Part-time  
(2) Full-time  
(9999) Refused/Don't Know

Q16. Additional Notes (if any): [NOTE]  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix B: Report Metadata

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<b>Report Title:</b>	2024 Crisis Cold Weather Shelters Report
<b>Project Sponsor:</b>	Ozarks Alliance to End Homelessness
<b>Survey Administrators:</b>	Emily Fessler and staff at Community Partnership of the Ozarks
<b>Report Authors:</b>	Laura Hart, Daniel Price, and Laurel Schartner, Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Gerontology, Missouri State University
<b>Software Used:</b>	SPSS v. 24 and Excel
<b>Contact:</b>	If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Laura Hart at LHart@MissouriState.edu