

# 2019 Housing Needs and Vulnerability Survey Results HARRISONBURG, Virginia

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A SURVEY FROM HOMELESS ADULTS IN  
HARRISONBURG ON JANUARY 23, 2019

# 2019 Harrisonburg Housing Needs & Vulnerability Survey

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This presentation explores survey responses from seventy-five homeless adults in Harrisonburg Virginia (sheltered and unsheltered) willing to talk about their experiences in our community.

This survey was voluntarily completed by a sample of persons counted during the Point in Time homeless census, as tasked to the Western Virginia Continuum of Care by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) each January.

The information is used to identify needs and problems within the homeless community. The health questions are used to support agencies that provide healthcare and outreach to vulnerable populations within our communities.

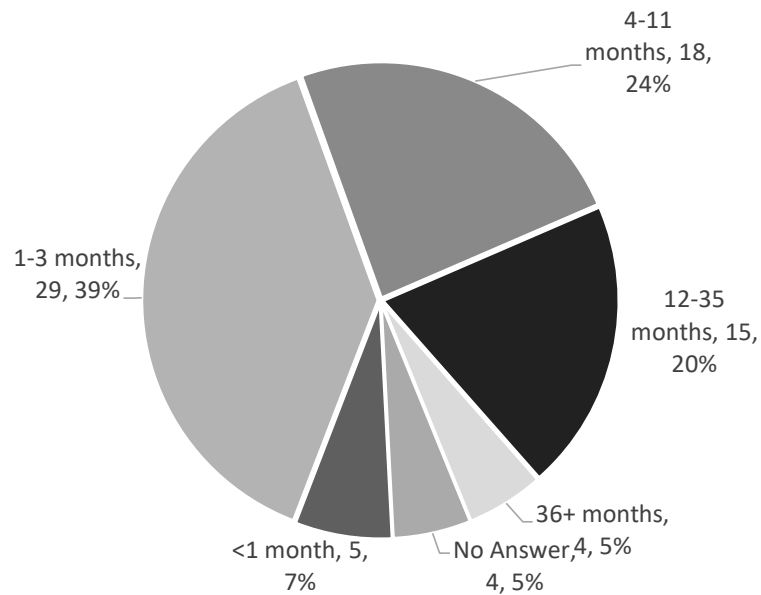
The survey answers were codified by JMU's Research Methods class under the direction of Professor Rita Poteyeva, PhD, Assistant Professor in the Department of Justice Studies.

# Duration of Homelessness & Barriers to Stable Housing

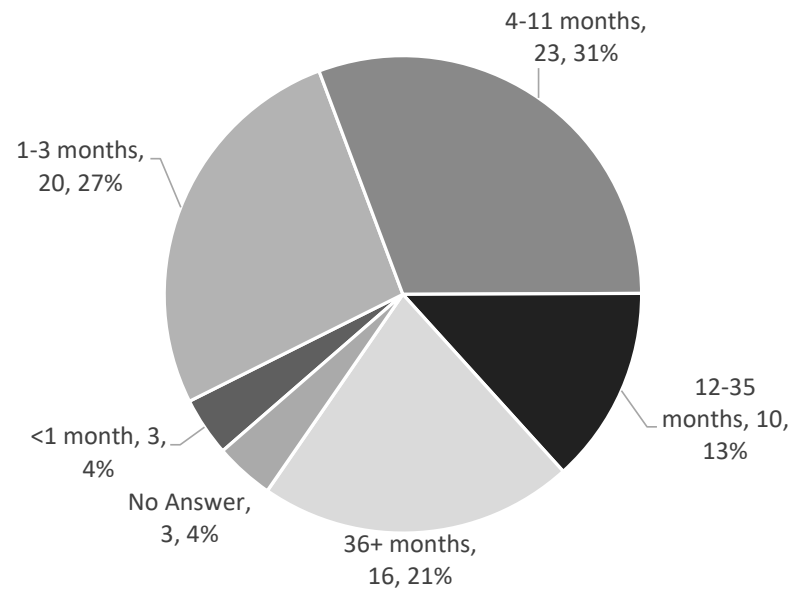
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# Reported Duration of Homelessness in Harrisonburg (75 persons)

TOTAL DURATION IN LAST 3 YEARS



LIFETIME DURATION



# Chronic Homelessness

Defined by  
having a disability and either:

- 4+ times homeless in the past 3 years (duration 1+ year)
- or 1 episode of 12+ months duration in the past 3 years

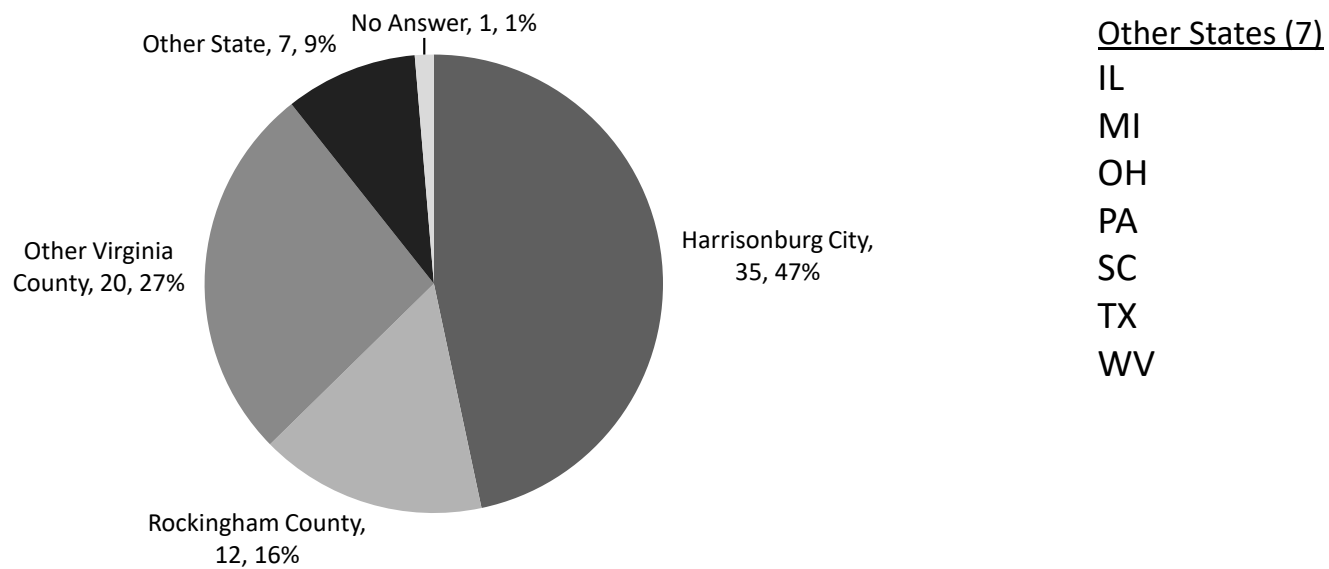
*The 2018 Virginia Point in Time identified 897 persons who were chronically homeless out of 5,975 homeless persons in Virginia, or 15%.*

9% of surveyed adults (7 persons out of 75 with full data) were identified as chronically homeless by HUD's definition.

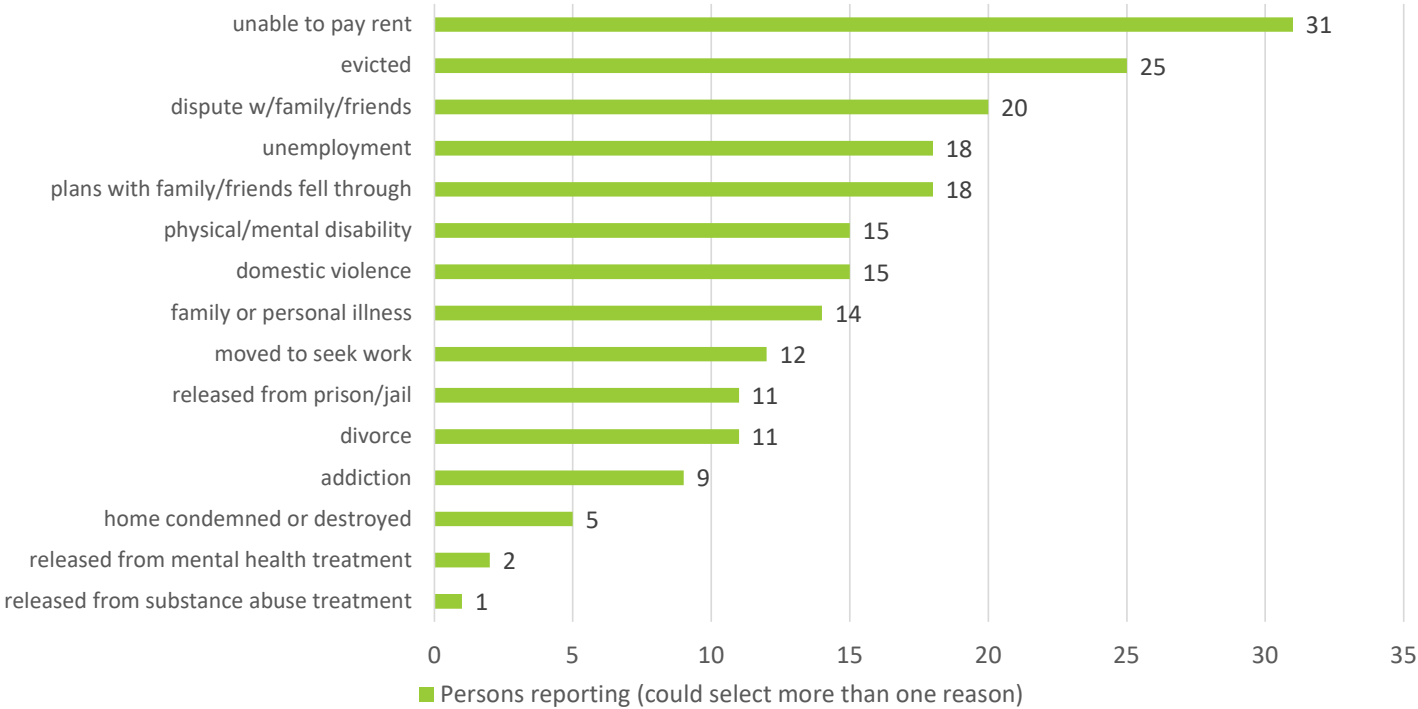
However, the overall Point in Time identified 54 out of 342 homeless people as chronically homeless (about 17%) throughout the entire CoC.

# Last Permanent Housing Location (stayed 90 days)

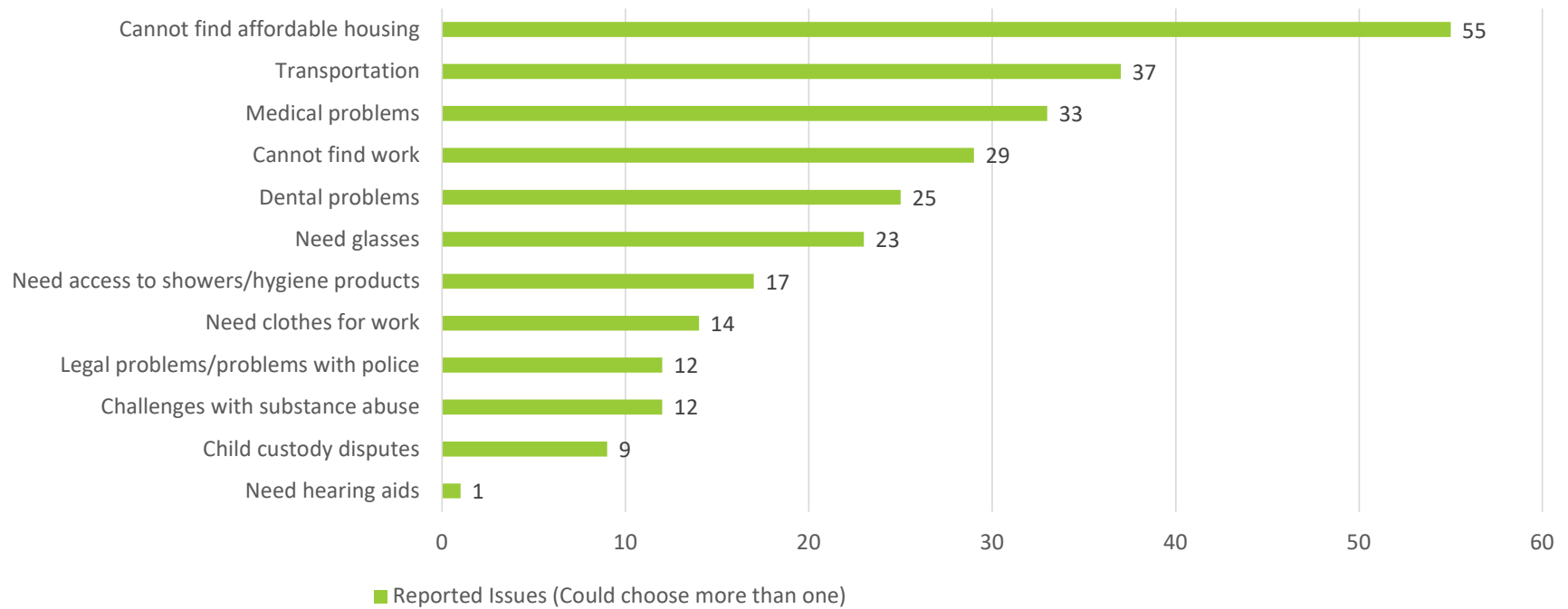
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## 2019 Harrisonburg Self-Reported Reasons for Homelessness (of 75 Interviewed )



## 2019 Harrisonburg Self-Reported Barriers to Stable Housing (75 persons)





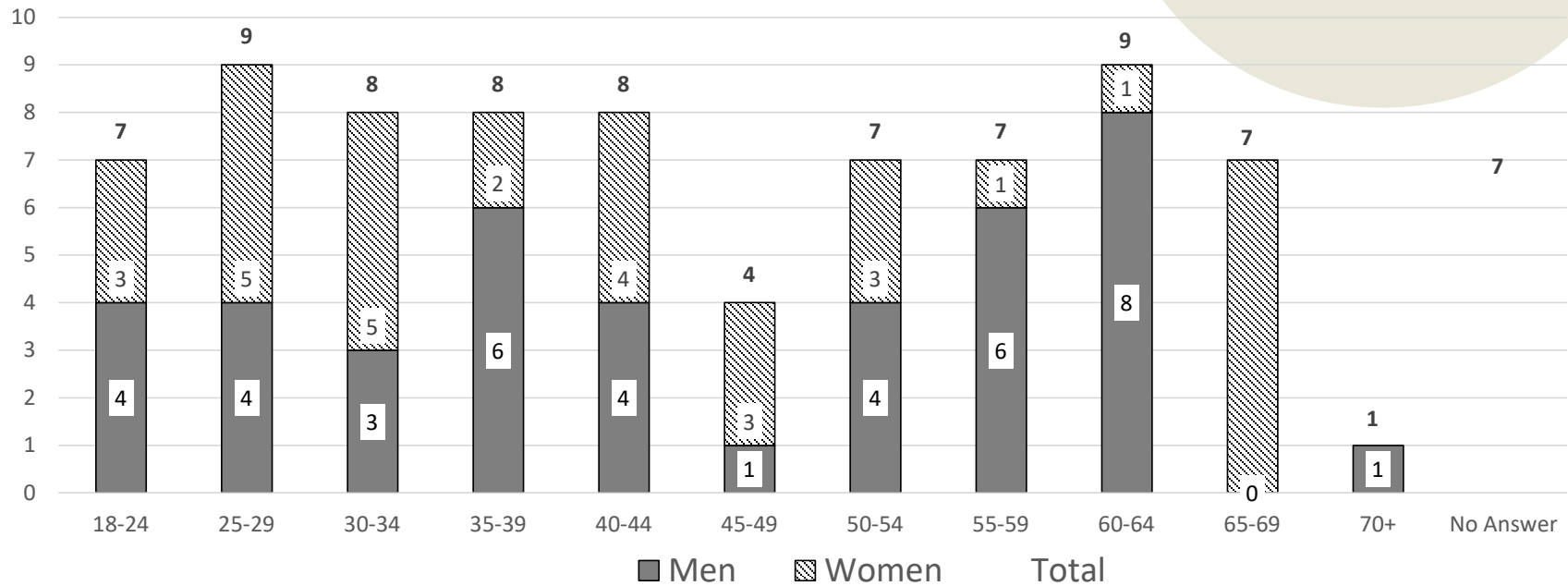
# Demographics

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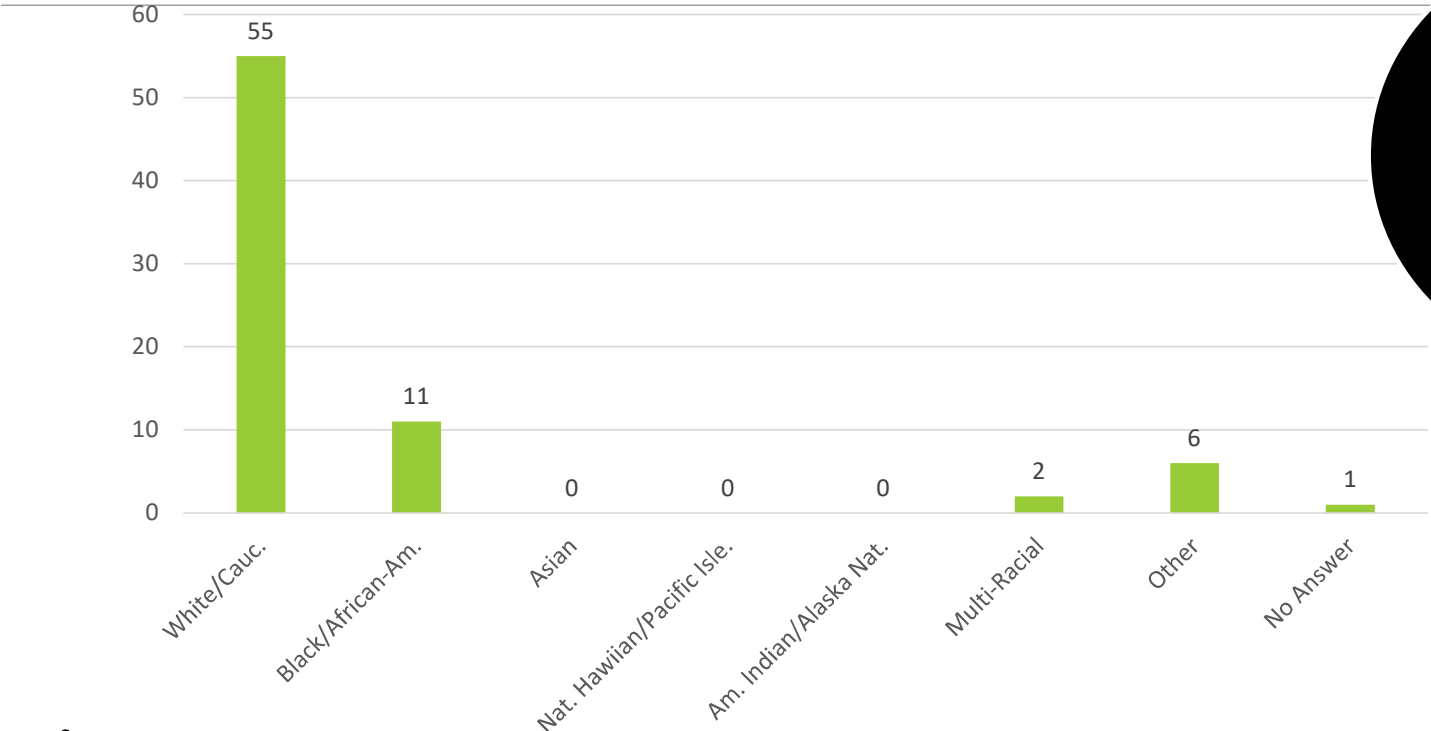


# Age and Gender of Surveyed

Average age: 42  
 Median male age: 44  
 Median female age: 35



# 2019 Survey Respondents by Race and Ethnicity



13% (9 persons of 70) Identified as Latino/Hispanic

Sources:  
\*Hispanics may be of any race, so also are included in applicable race categories



## Surveyed Veterans

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Six of 75 (8%) identified as veteran.

No veterans receive VA Benefits.

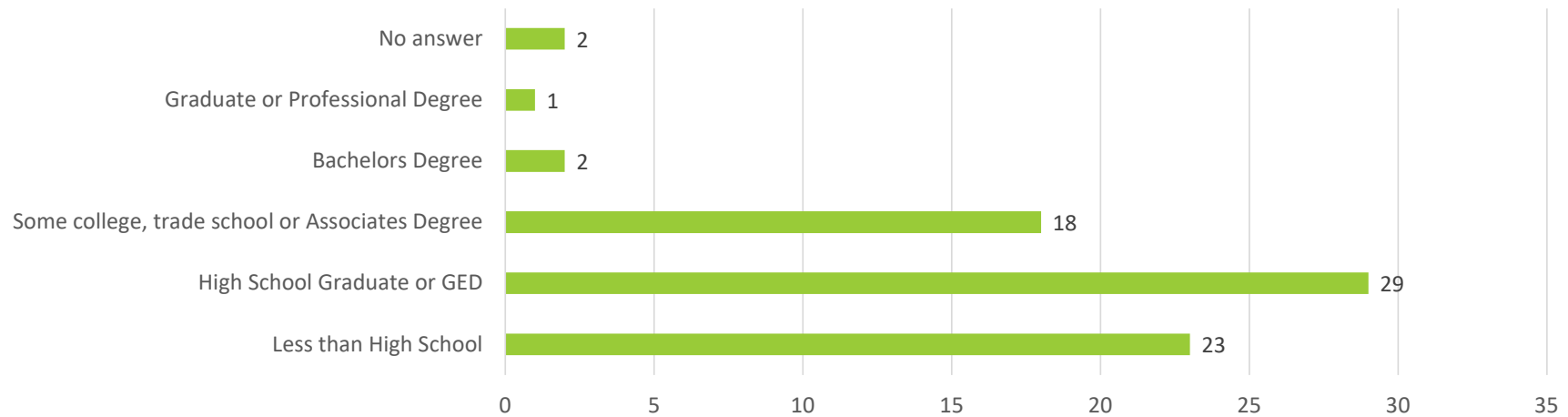
One was former Army, two Navy, two Air Force, and one Marine.

Two identified as a combat veterans.

Discharged status – five honorable, one dishonorable.

# Education and Homelessness

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*30% of surveyed (22 of 74 adults who answered) reported receiving special education services in high school.*

*31% did not graduate High School or receive their GED.*

## Other Life Experiences

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75% of surveyed adults have served time in jail (50/75)

23% of surveyed adults have served time in prison (17/75)

17% said they were placed in foster care as a child (13/75)

36% suffered childhood trauma, abuse or neglect (27/75)

12% reported a violent attack since they became homeless (9/75)

13% have suffered traumatic brain injury (10/75)

1% reported undocumented status (1/75)

20% report long term mobility issues (15/75)

39% have received treatment for mental health issues (29/75)

20% have been admitted to the hospital for mental health issues (7/36)

*Note: 29 persons declined to answer*

*Surveyed elected to skip some questions*

Health

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# Housing and Health

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“Living on the street or in homeless shelters exacerbates existing health problems and causes new ones. Chronic diseases, such as hypertension, asthma, diabetes, mental health problems and other ongoing conditions, are difficult to manage under stressful circumstances and may worsen. Acute problems such as infections, injuries, and pneumonia are difficult to heal when there is no place to rest and recuperate...

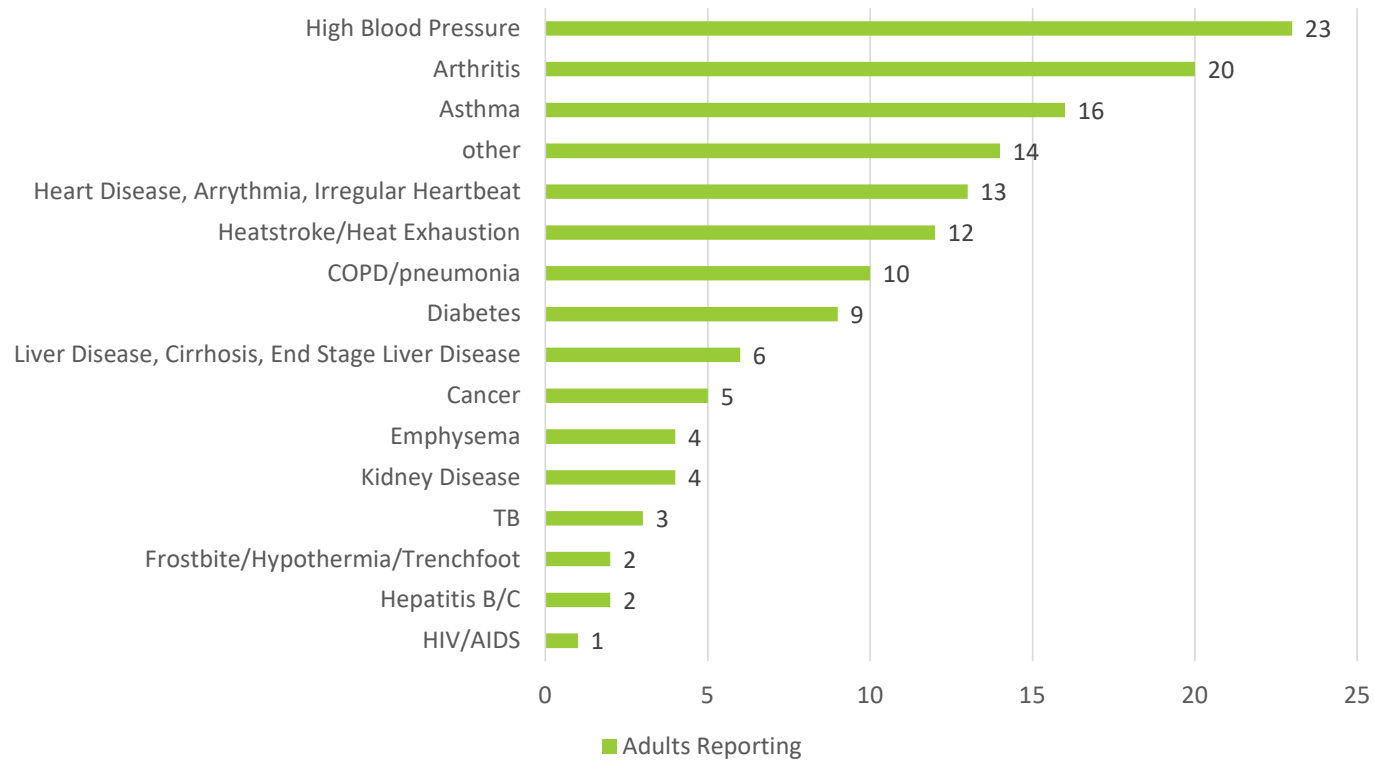
When people have stable housing, they no longer need to prioritize finding a place to sleep each night and can spend more time managing their health, making time for doctors’ appointments, and adhering to medical advice and directions. Housing also decreases the risk associated with further disease and violence. In many ways, housing itself can be considered a form of health care because it prevents new conditions from developing and existing conditions from worsening.”

*<https://www.nhchc.org/faq/relationship-health-housing-homelessness/>*



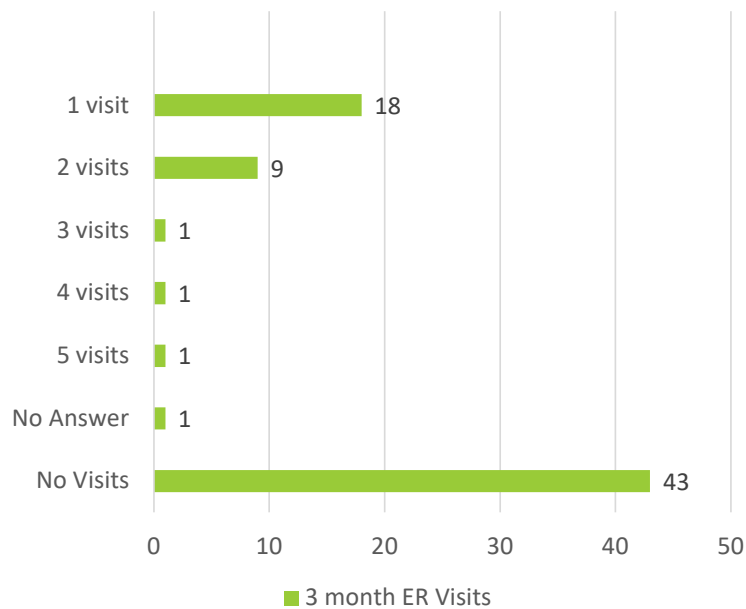
# Health Conditions

(74 persons surveyed, 1 declined to answer)

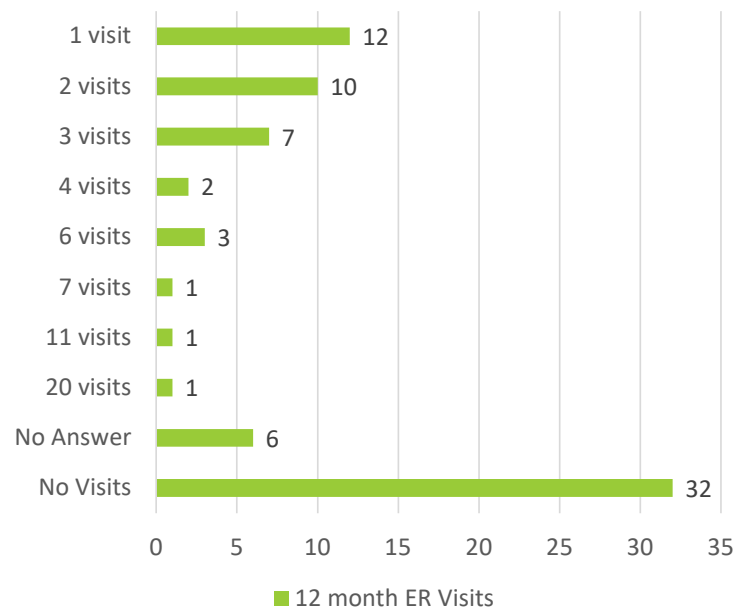


# Emergency Room Visits

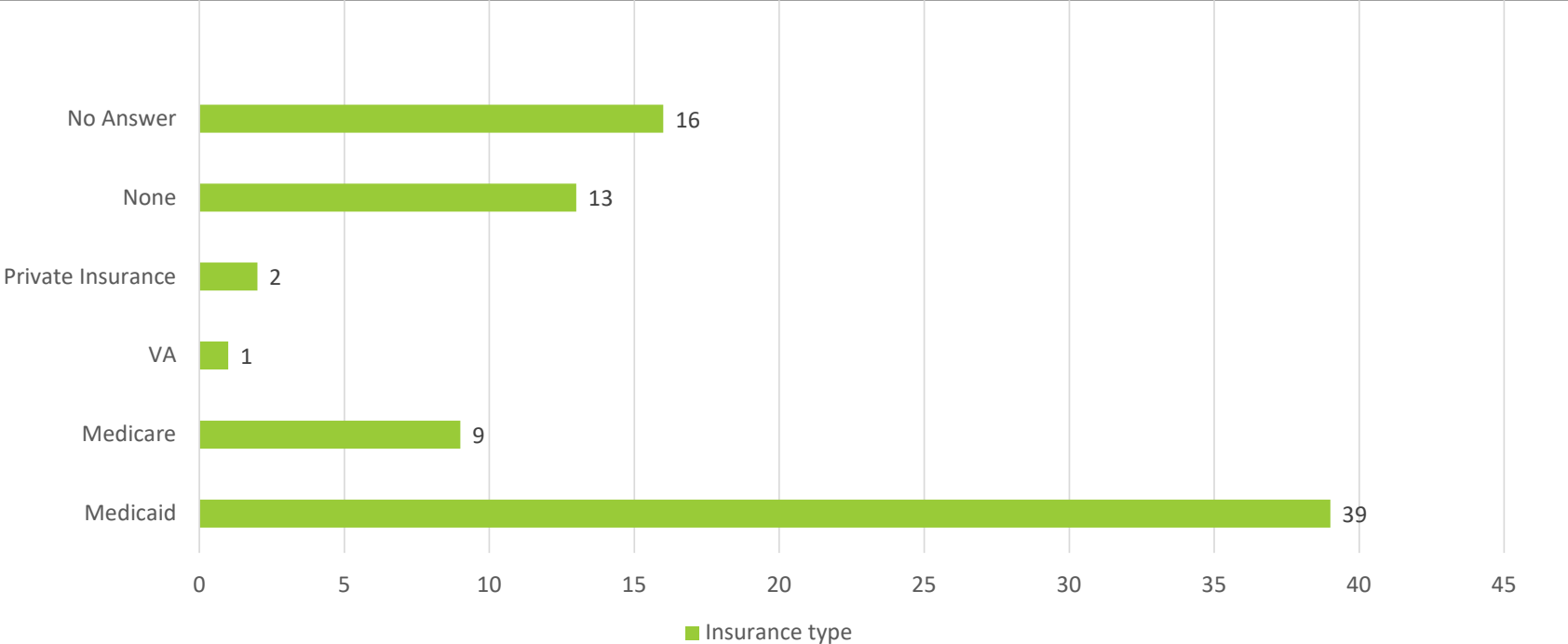
48 Emergency Room Visits Reported in Last 3 Months



117 Emergency Room Visits Reported in Last 12 Months



# Medical Insurance



# Estimated Cost of Hospital Admissions

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159 days of in-patient hospitalization within the last year were reported.

Virginia average cost per day of hospitalization in Virginia; \$1,953.00\*

Estimated cost of all admissions (159 days x \$1,953) = \$310,527

27 of 73 persons who answered the insurance coverage question indicated they did not have insurance (37%)

2 days admission were reported from persons without insurance. Estimated cost of admissions for uninsured (2 x \$1,953.00 = \$3,906). 144 admission days were covered by persons who receive Medicare.

\*2017 statistics

<https://www.kff.org/health-costs/state-indicator/expenses-per-inpatient-day/>

For More Information on Homelessness in the  
Shenandoah valley

<https://continuumofcare513.com/>

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