

2019 Western Virginia Housing Needs and Vulnerability Survey Results

Clarke, Warren, Shenandoah, Page, Rockingham, Frederick Counties and the Cities of Harrisonburg and Winchester Virginia

A SURVEY FROM HOMELESS ADULTS IN
ON JANUARY 23, 2019

2019 Harrisonburg Housing Needs & Vulnerability Survey

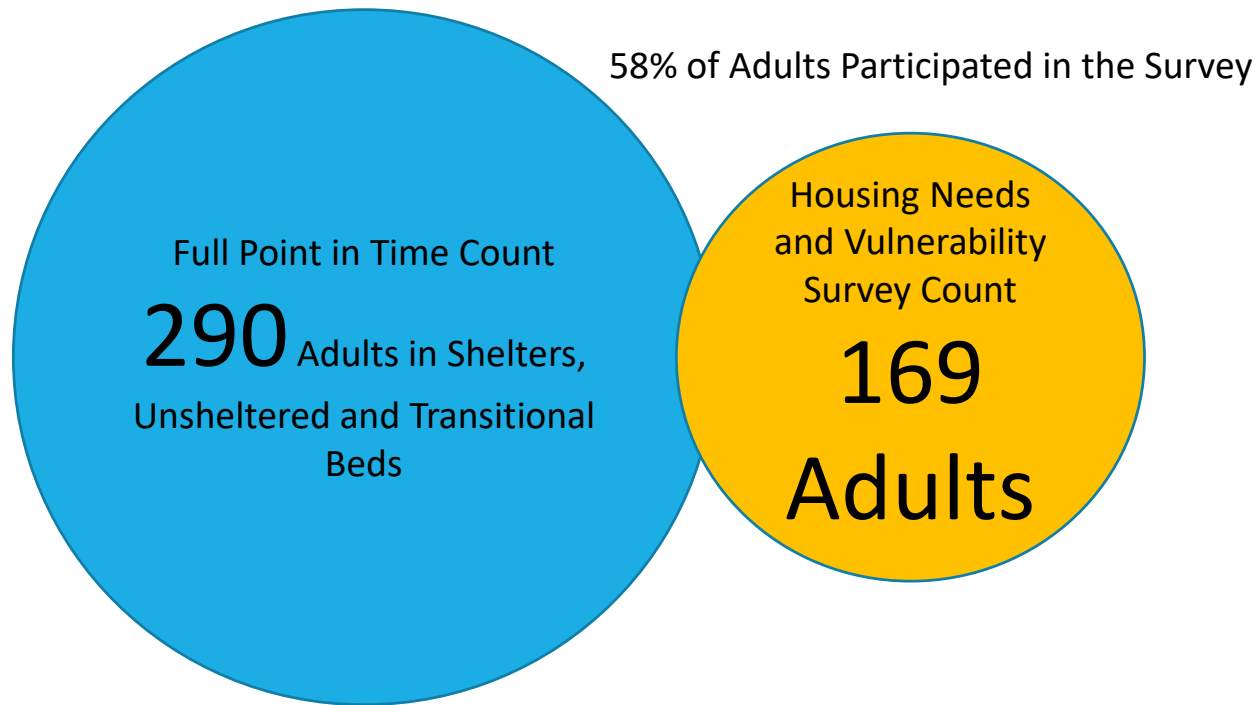
This presentation explores survey responses from seventy-five homeless adults in Harrisonburg Virginia (sheltered and unsheltered) willing to talk about their experiences in our community.

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.

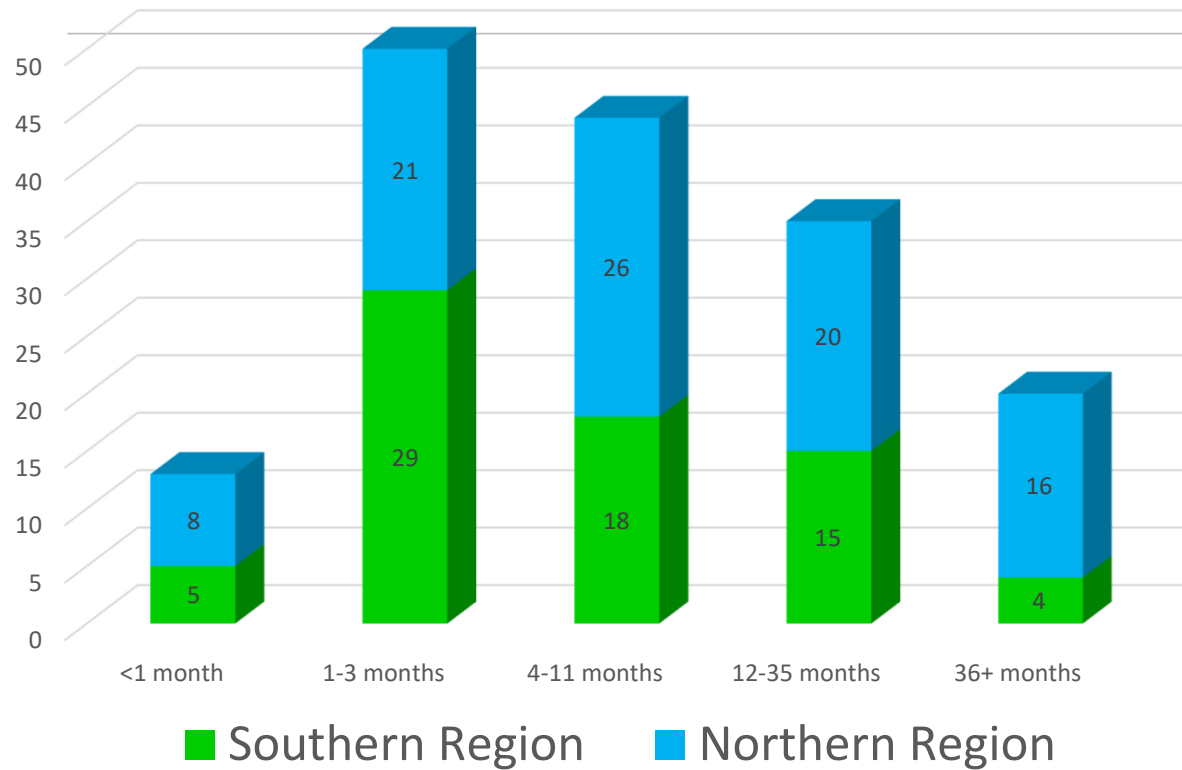
The survey answers were codified by JMU's Research Methods class under the direction of Professor Rita Poteyeva, PhD, Assistant Professor in the Department of Justice Studies.

The Survey Results were Collected from a Portion of the Homeless Population During the Point in Time Count



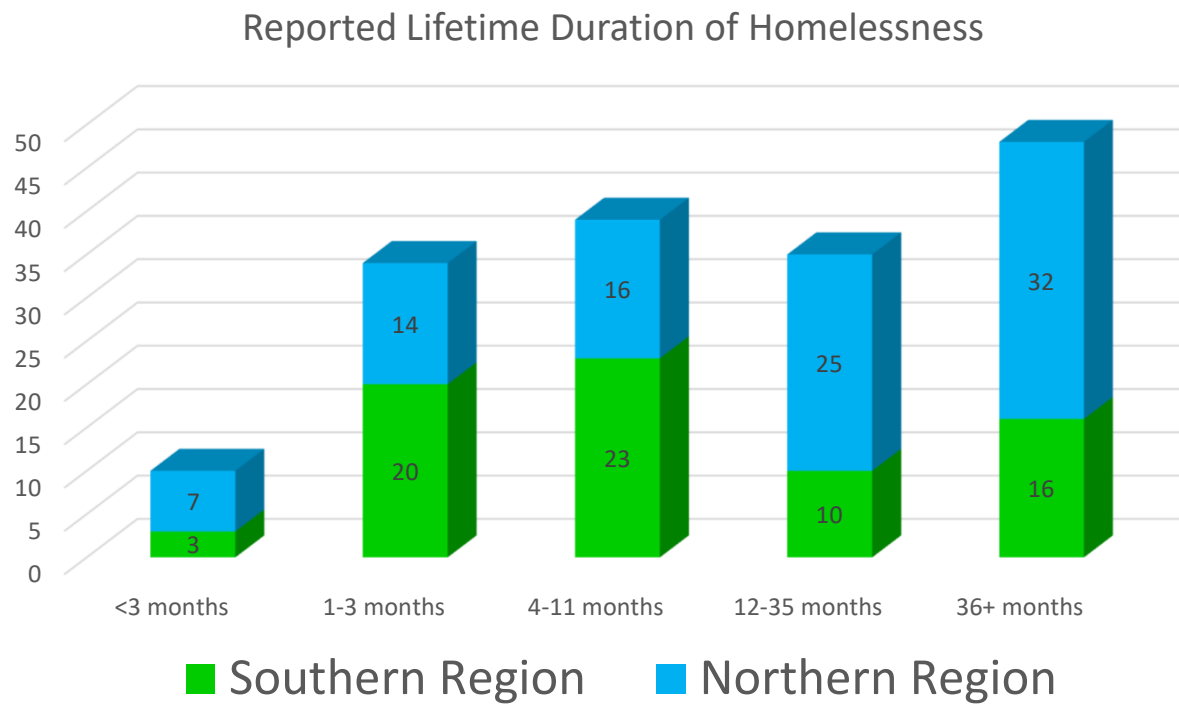
Duration of Homelessness & Barriers to Stable Housing

2019 3-Year Reported Duration of Homelessness - 161 Answered



Duration of Homelessness Last 3 Years

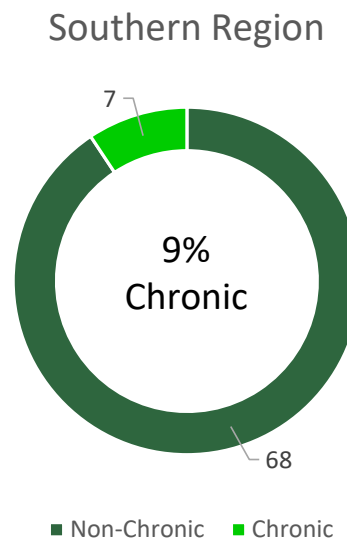
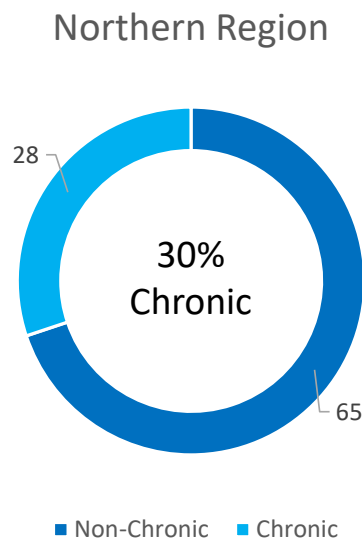
Lifetime Duration of Homelessness



Chronic Homelessness within this Population

Defined by
having a disability and either:

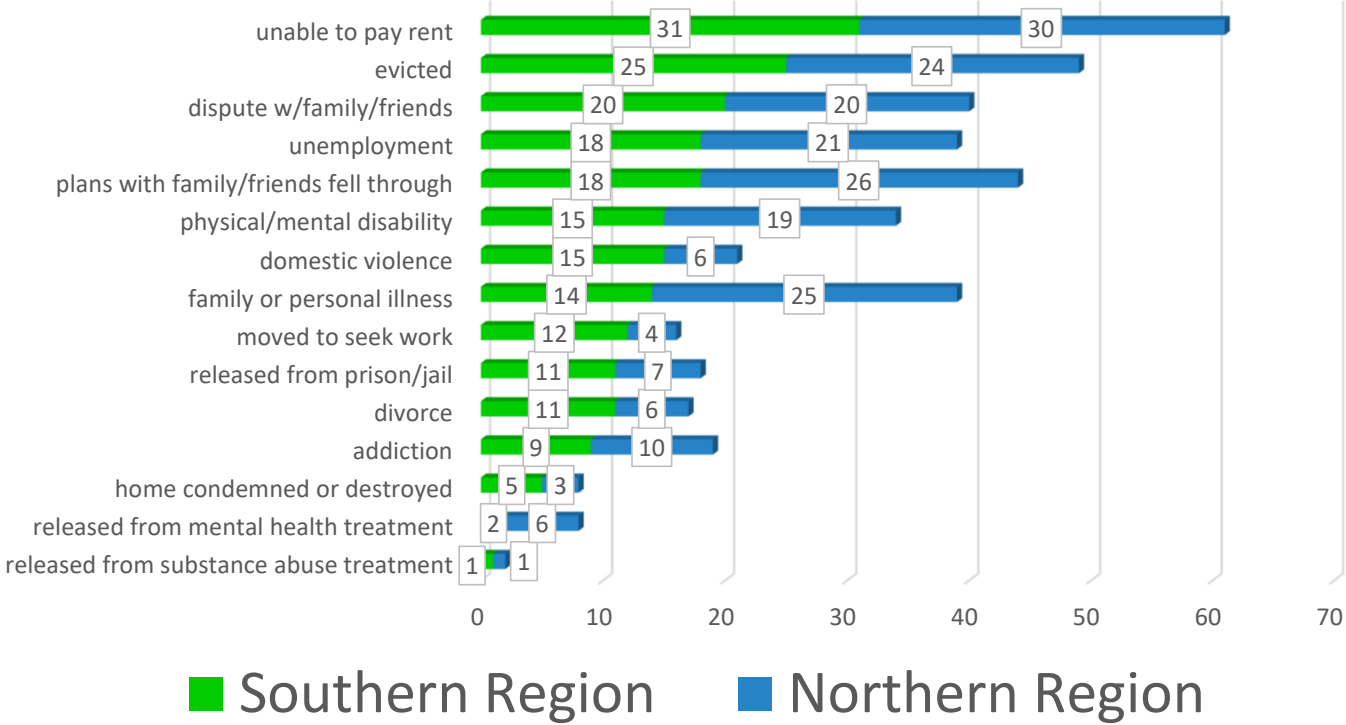
- 4+ times homeless in the past 3 years (duration 1+ year)
- or 1 episode of 12+ months duration in the past 3 years



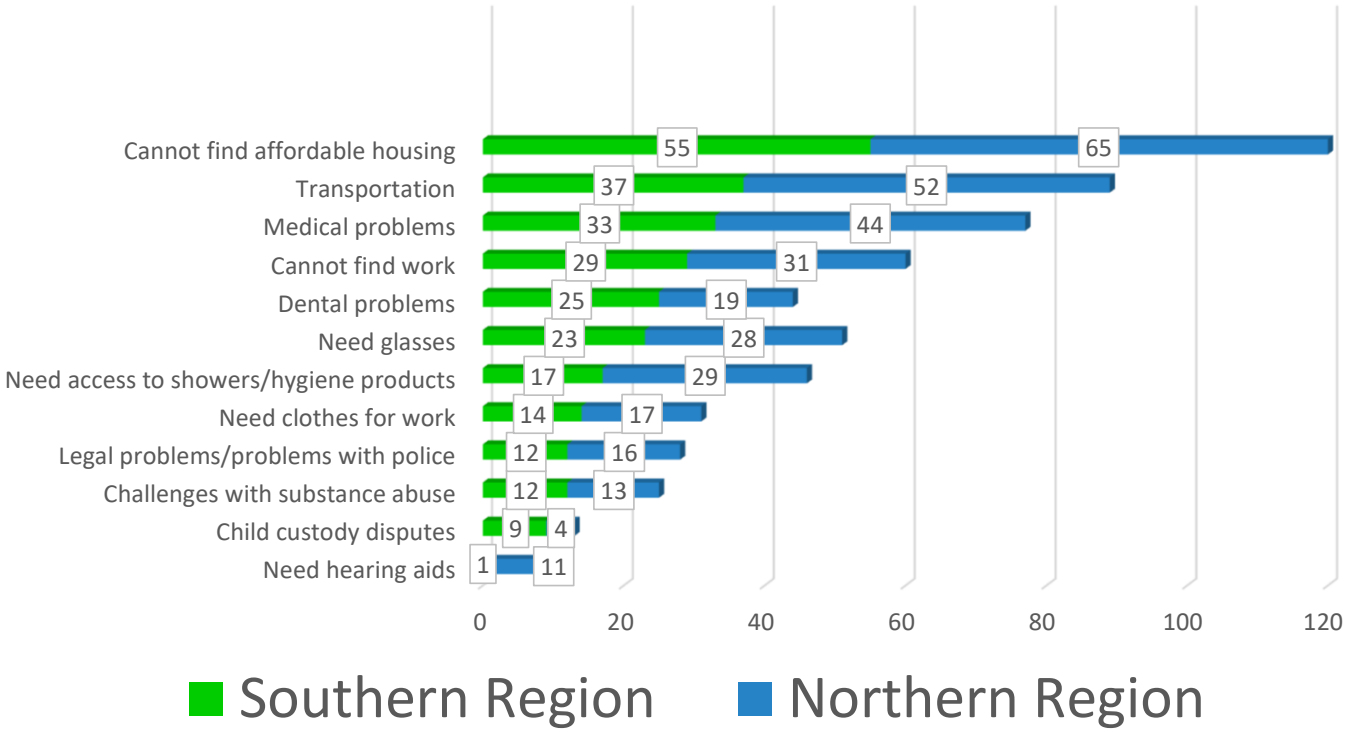
The 2018 Virginia Point in Time identified 897 persons who were chronically homeless out of 5,975 homeless persons in Virginia, or 15%.

CoC Wide 16% Chronically Homeless Point in Time Count

2019 Harrisonburg Self-Reported Reasons for Homelessness (of 166 persons who answered)

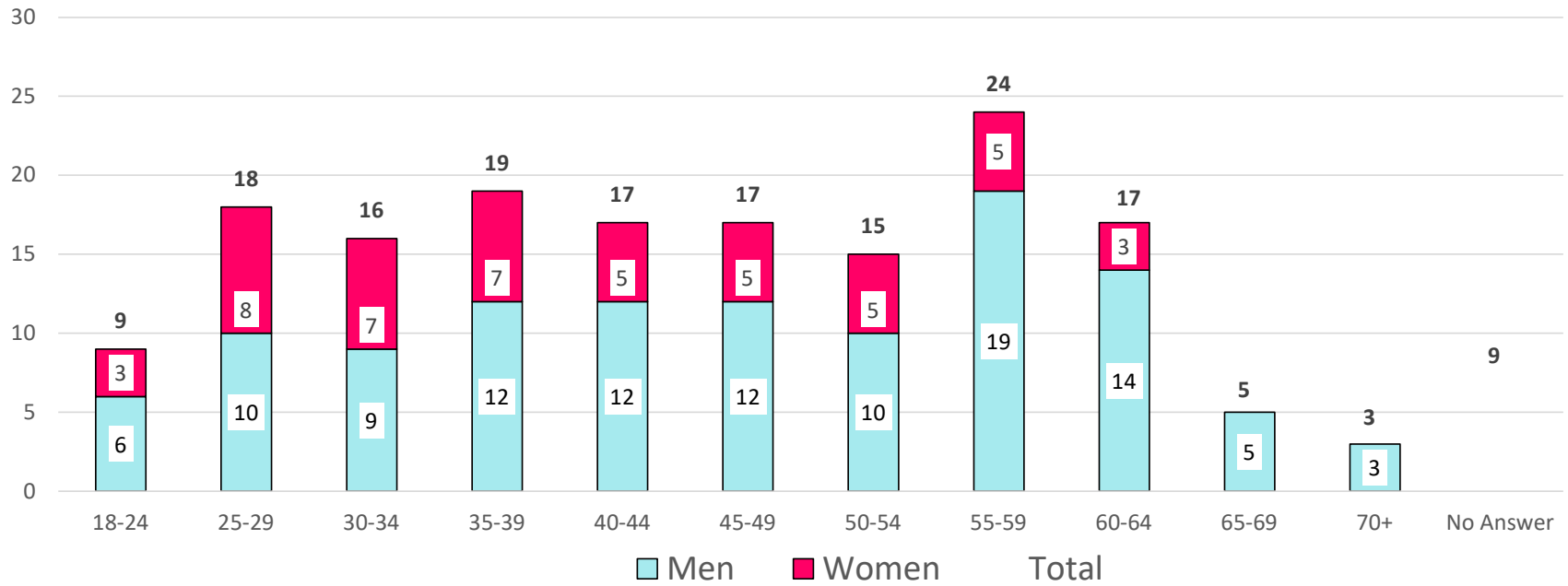


2019 Harrisonburg Self-Reported Reasons for Homelessness (of 166 persons who answered)

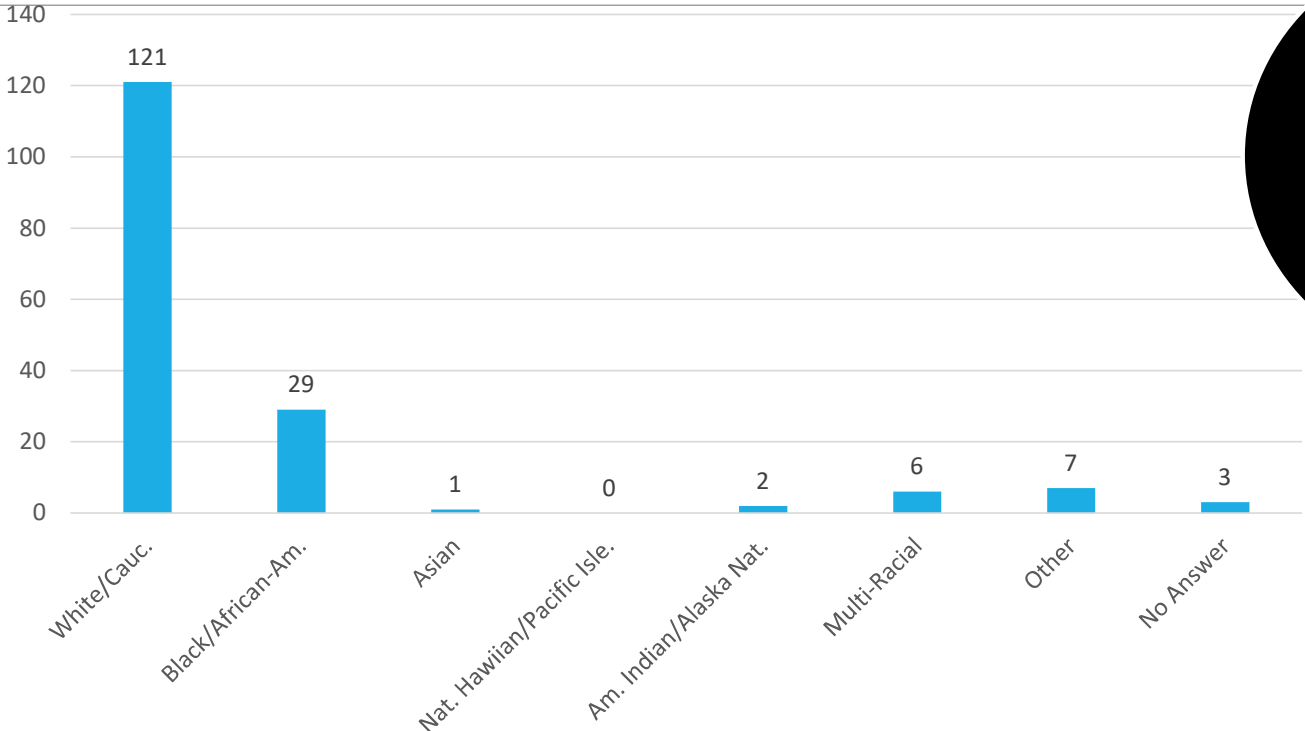


Demographics

Age and Gender of Surveyed



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

14 of 169 (8%) identified as veteran.

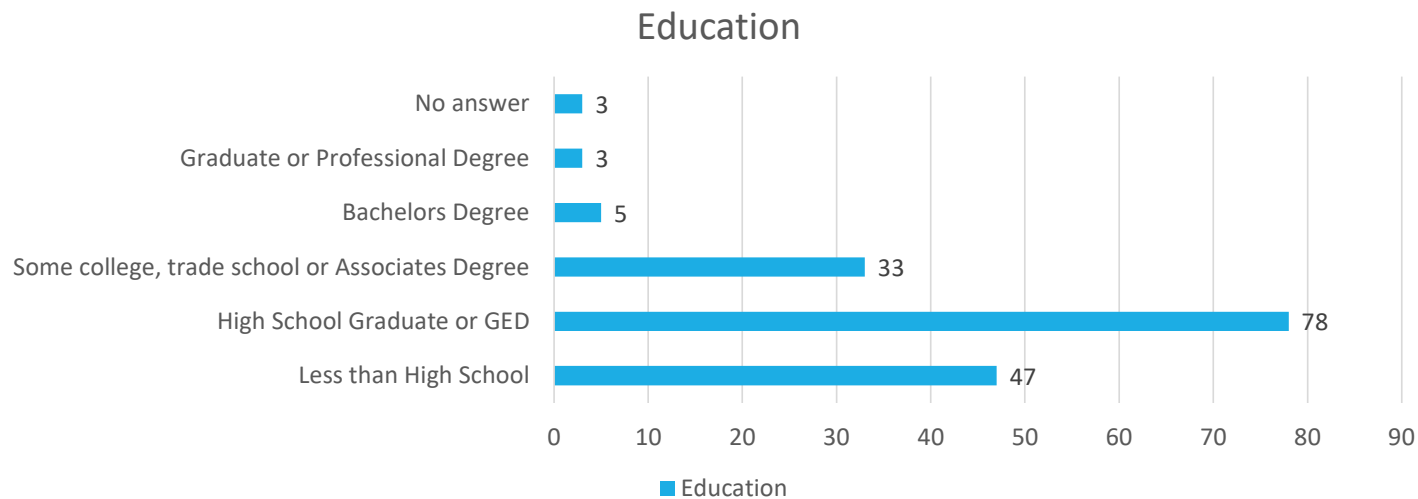
Four veterans receive VA Benefits.

Four veterans were former Army, four Navy, two Air Force, and three Marine.

Four identified as a combat veterans.

Discharged status – ten honorable, two other than honorable, one dishonorable.

Education and Homelessness



24% of surveyed (40 of 167 adults who answered) reported receiving special education services in high school.

28% did not graduate High School or receive their GED.

Other Life Experiences

66% of surveyed adults have served time in jail (112/166)

21% of surveyed adults have served time in prison (35/166)

15% said they were placed in foster care as a child (13/75)

34% suffered childhood trauma, abuse or neglect (57/169)

12% reported a violent attack since they became homeless (25/169)

20% have suffered traumatic brain injury (33/169)

1% reported undocumented status (2/169)

24% report long term mobility issues (40/169)

42% have received treatment for mental health issues (71/169)

18% have been admitted to the hospital for mental health issues (19/106)

Note: 63 persons declined to answer

Surveyed elected to skip some questions

Health



Housing and Health

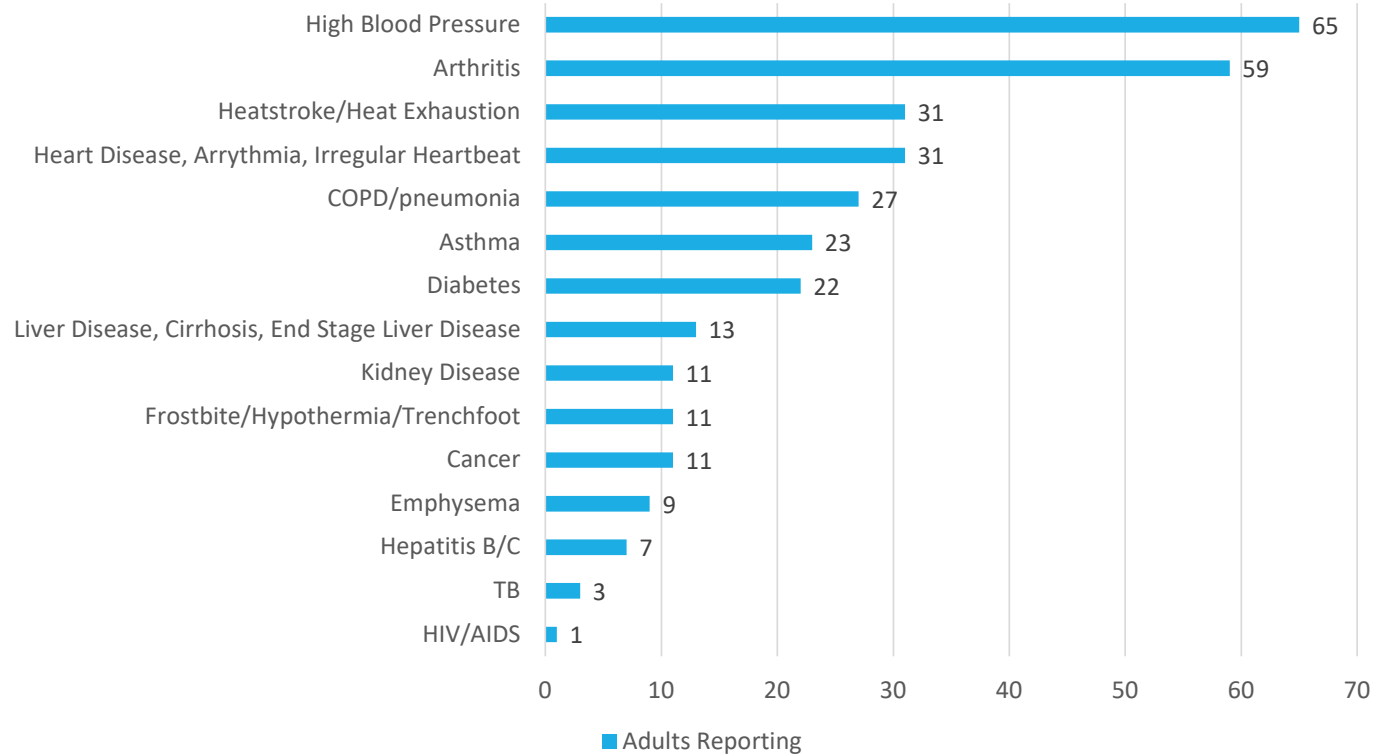
“Living on the street or in homeless shelters exacerbates existing health problems and causes new ones. Chronic diseases, such as hypertension, asthma, diabetes, mental health problems and other ongoing conditions, are difficult to manage under stressful circumstances and may worsen. Acute problems such 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

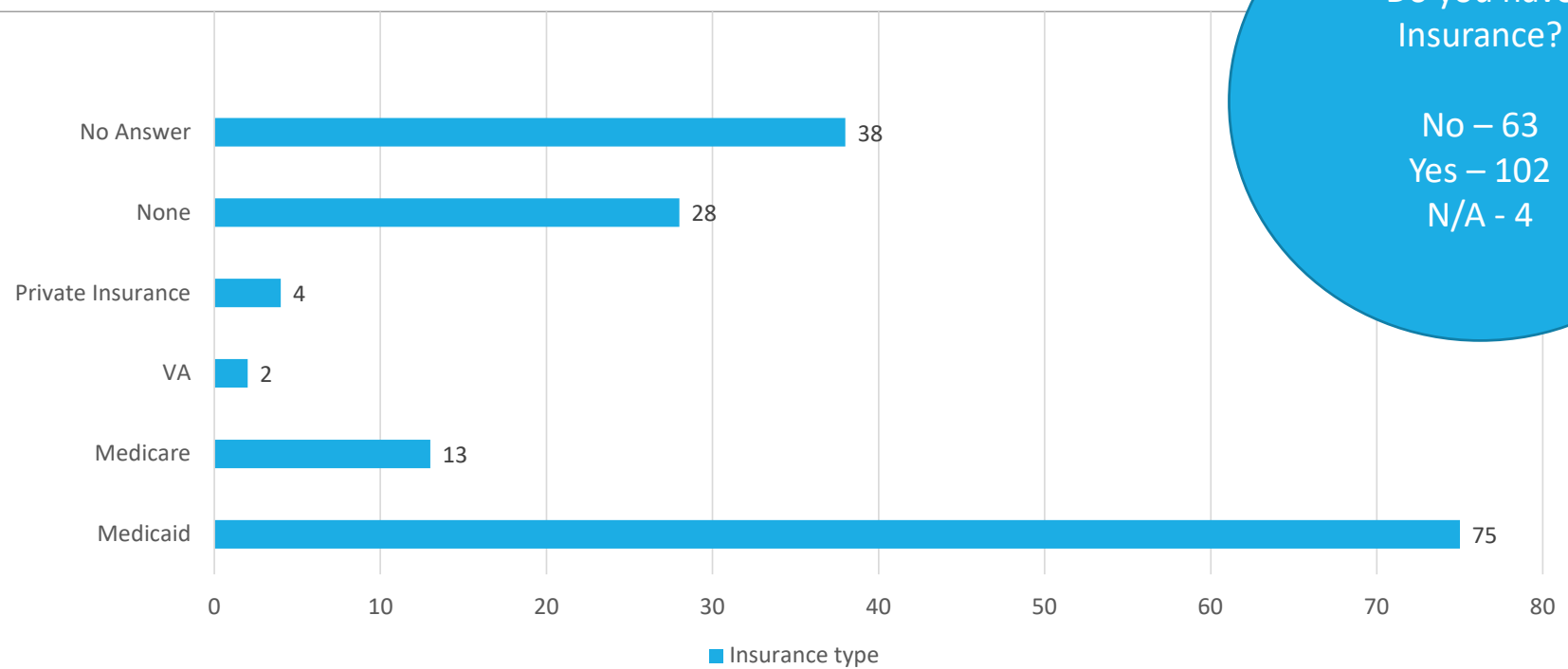


149 Emergency Room Visits Reported in Last 3 Months (73 persons who went to ER in the last 3 months)

313 Emergency Room Visits Reported in Last 12 Months (90 persons who went to the ER in last 12 months)



Medical Insurance Types



Estimated Cost of Hospital Admissions

761 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 (761 x \$1,953) = \$1,483,233

63 of 165 persons who answered the insurance coverage question indicated they did not have insurance (37%)

67 days admission were reported from persons without insurance. Estimated cost of admissions for uninsured (67 x \$1,953.00 = \$130,851).

*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/>
