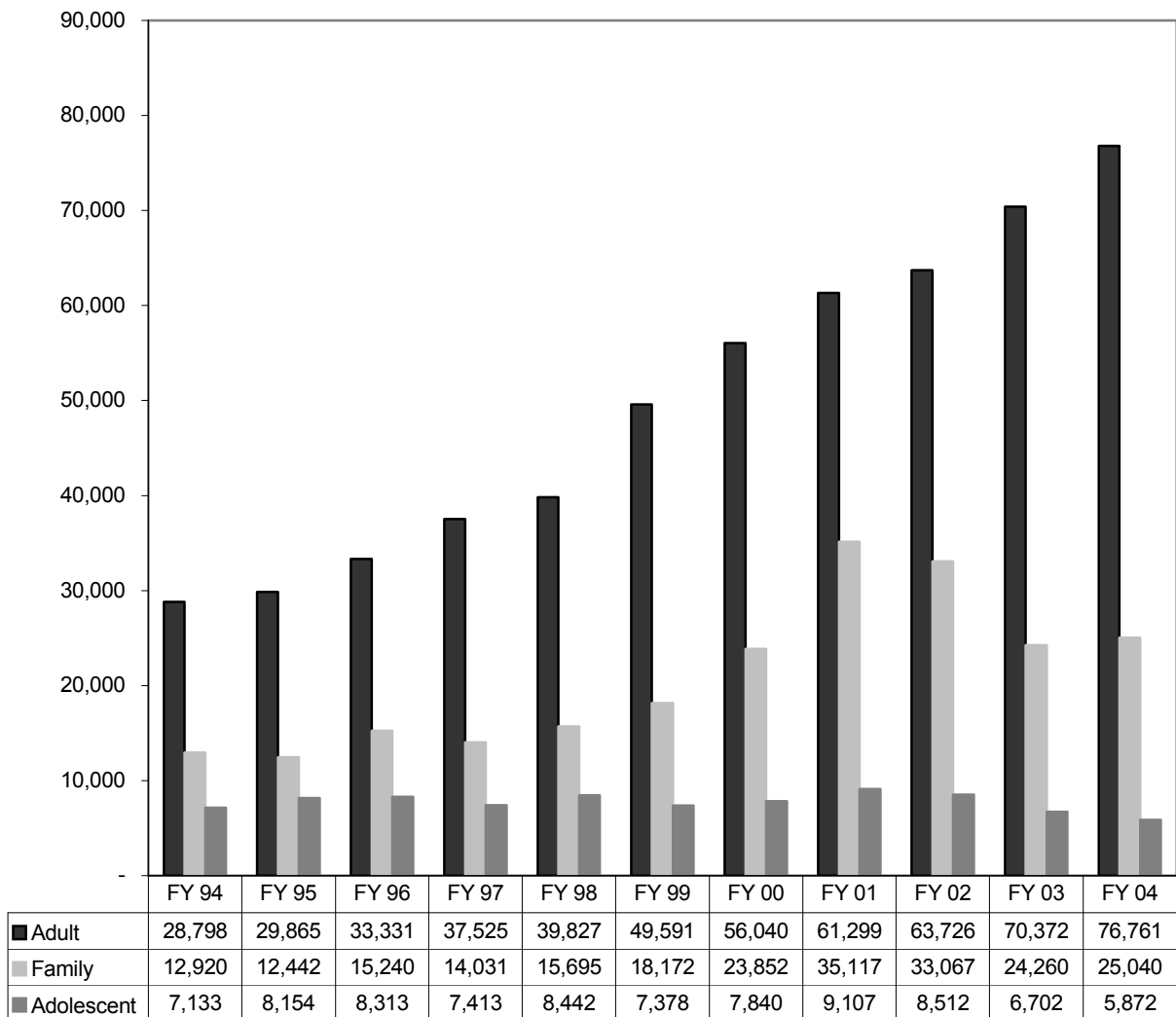


Point-in-Time Survey of Homelessness in the City of Portland, Maine

2004

Annual Shelter Bed Usage in the City of Portland, Maine: 1994 - 2004



Health and Human Services Department

City of Portland

www.PortlandHHS.com

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Executive Summary and Key Findings

This year's Point-in-Time Survey of Homelessness in the City of Portland, Maine, was conducted on April 26, 2004. The number of shelter occupants on the survey night was 337; survey conductors did not locate any unsheltered individuals.

Participating shelter providers demonstrated exceptional commitment to the survey process. Of 294 individuals who were eligible for the survey, 267 participated, resulting in a 91% response rate. This high rate gives us great confidence in the representativeness of results.

Key Findings

- Nearly 1 in 5 survey participants were "chronically homeless".
- Not only did the number of females nearly double from last year's 53 to this year's 111; but also the proportion of females increased from last year's 25% to this year's 42%.
- Nearly 90% of individuals in the shelter system were experiencing mental health and substance abuse disorders. This fact is consistent with the national trend that started with de-institutionalization of the mentally-ill in the 1980s.
- Increased integration of the Veteran's Administration (VA) services with community homeless services were evident in the survey results. This year, 31 (12%) of survey participants were veterans of the armed forces, a decrease from last year's 39 (18%). This year, only 4 (13%) of the veterans found in the shelters said that they were currently enrolled in veteran's services, also a decrease from last year's 14 (36%).
- Over a quarter of the survey participants did not have health care coverage. Seventy percent (70%) were enrolled in MaineCare, demonstrating successful enrollment outreach efforts. A third of those surveyed reported using the emergency room for medical care.
- About 4 out of 5 survey respondents had not been to the dentist in the past year, and 69% of respondents claimed their reason for not visiting a dentist was cost.
- Fifty three percent (53%) of the survey population reported having had a tuberculosis (TB) skin test within the past year.
- Ninety-two percent (92%) of survey respondents reported that their last permanent residence was not in the City of Portland. Portland shelters are increasingly regionalizing service provision.
- The emergency shelter system continues to fill the gaps in services for individuals needing: affordable housing, supportive housing, transitional housing, and residential treatment. One in 5 respondents had been in the current shelter for over a year.
- Just over half (52%) of the respondents who reported domestic violence DV experience, left their residence because of it and were receiving DV services.

Executive Summary

- ✓ Of 267 survey respondents, 58% were male and 42% were female.
- ✓ Most of the people in the shelters were non-Hispanic, white individuals who did not indicate "mixed" racial identification. The majority (73%) of Hispanic respondents did not identify with standard federal racial categories.
- ✓ Nearly 2 out of three survey participants had a high school education or less. This is true for only half of Maine state and US national populations.
- ✓ Four out of five (80%) of all respondents indicated having some type of disability. Four out of 5 (80%) respondents with disabilities indicated having a mental health disorder, and half of the respondents with disabilities indicated having a substance abuse disorder. Most (80%) of these individuals with substance abuse disorders also indicated having a mental health disorder.
- ✓ One in 4 respondents, who indicated a disability, reported receiving disability benefits. Approximately one in 7 (14%) reported receiving SSI; and one in eight (12%) reported receiving SSDI.
- ✓ Thirty-one survey participants were veterans of the armed forces.
- ✓ Seventy percent (70%) of the respondents were enrolled in MaineCare. Over a quarter did not have health care coverage. Nearly 2 out of 3 survey participants used the Health Care for the Homeless Clinic, administered by the City of Portland's Health and Human Service Department, for care. A third of those surveyed indicated using the emergency room for medical care.
- ✓ About 1 in 5 survey respondents had been to the dentist in the past year, compared to 3 out of 4 adults in Maine's general population.
- ✓ Just over half (53%) of the respondents reported having had a tuberculosis TB skin test within the past year.
- ✓ Portland shelters are increasingly serving all of Maine, the New England region and beyond. Eight percent (8%) of survey respondents reported that their last permanent residence was in the City of Portland (not in a shelter). Two out of 5 (41%) of the respondents stated that their last permanent residence was in another state. A third of the respondents reported that their last permanent residence was in another town in Maine. Seventeen percent (17%) of survey participants reported that their last permanent residence was in the City of Portland, in a homeless shelter.
- ✓ One in 5 respondents had been in the current shelter for over a year. 1 in 3 had been in the current shelter for between 3 months and a year.
- ✓ Respondents reported having 30 days of poor mental health in the past month, three times as frequently as the state and national populations.
- ✓ The most frequently indicated health condition experienced by survey participants was depression, followed by back and dental problems.
- ✓ Three out of four respondents did not report receiving public assistance. Of those who reported receiving public assistance, most identified SSI, SSI supplement and SSDI. Just over half of the respondents reported receiving food stamps.

- ✓ Approximately a quarter of respondents (23%) reported being unable to work; 2 in 5 (42%) were unemployed; and another quarter were earning some income. Approximately half of those who reported being unable to work also reported receiving public assistance.
- ✓ More than half (53%) of the survey respondents reported no income. Two out of 5 (40%) respondents reported monthly income. Of those reporting income, 37% reported income below the Federal Poverty Guideline.
- ✓ Services most frequently accessed by respondents were: shelter, showers, food, health care and housing location assistance. There were few reports of difficulties accessing services. Interestingly, substance abuse, mental health and job location services were most frequently reported to be "not applicable".
- ✓ In the family shelter system, 1 out of 5 (20%) respondents who had partners were separated from them; and this was true for nearly half (47%) of the respondents, who had partners, in the adult shelters.
- ✓ A total of 196 children were identified as being directly impacted by homelessness on the night of the survey. Forty-eight children were in the family shelter system (23 of these were under 5 years old). Twenty-two children had a custodial parent in an adult homeless shelter and 116 children had a non-custodial parent in one.
- ✓ Two out of three respondents experiencing DV were adult females. One in four was a child; and about one in six was an adult (or adolescent) male.
- ✓ Nearly three quarters (74%) of survey participants reported needing either a one-bedroom apartment or a single-room occupancy.

Acknowledgements

On behalf of the City of Portland, Maine, I wish to recognize our community partners and the individuals residing in shelters for making this year's Point-In-Time Survey of Homelessness a success. This data will move us forward in developing approaches that will reduce homelessness, create innovative new housing options and further facilitate purposeful consumer engagement. Thank you all for your participation in this important endeavor.



Gerald R. Cayer, Director

Health and Human Services Department, City of Portland

Point in Time Survey Committee

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Data Collection

Bridge - Ingraham

Family Crisis Shelter - Family Crisis Services

Family Shelter - Social Services Division, Health & Human Services Department,
City of Portland

Lighthouse Shelter - Salvation Army

Milestone Shelter - Milestone Foundation, Inc.

My Choice, Inc. - Maine Adoption and Placement Services

Oxford Street Shelter - Social Services Division, Health & Human Services Department,
City of Portland

Women's Shelter - YWCA

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Introduction

Point in-Time Methodology, Survey Design and Data Collection

The Survey Committee selected Point-in-Time (PIT) methodology because it is currently the best-known method to depict the composition of the homeless population on a given night. Performing a Continuum of Care-wide census, versus a sampling of the homeless population, provides an accurate picture of the number of people who were homeless, and the issues contributing to their homelessness, at a specific point in time. Portland is a relatively small city, in which the community of care providers is well defined and accustomed to working collaboratively. As a result, members were confident that they could plan and implement a PIT survey that would provide a highly accurate "snapshot" of homeless youth, adults, and families, both sheltered and on the streets.

Administered on April 26, 2004, this year marked the second year that the PIT was implemented statewide, producing an unduplicated count of homeless people. The City of Portland's Director of Social Services facilitated the process. The Health and Human Services Planner, who has expertise in survey research, provided technical support. The committee coordinated and implemented data collection. The entire survey process benefited from the commitment and active participation of service providers across the state.

The Committee began by modifying the HUD Best Practice survey instrument* in order to produce data comparable to national samples. First we retooled the demographic section employing questions used on national surveys. Then we added a section on health conditions and access to health care, based on the Center for Disease Control's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). Finally, we added some test questions to explore issues specific to the State of Maine and the City of Portland, including a special look at tuberculosis (TB) screening status and awareness. Drafts were shared with state and Bangor continuums, so they could have input.

The survey was designed to be user-friendly, concise, respectful, and easy to understand. Survey questions were pre-tested on shelter guests to ensure the wording elicited the information desired. The PIT Committee held trainings to educate groups of "surveyors" regarding the use of the survey instrument and interviewing protocols. Shelter staff, and staff from other service providers, administered the surveys.

The survey was conducted between 4 PM and 5 AM on April 26. Shelter residents were alerted to the upcoming survey weeks in advance, and on the afternoon of the survey, a committee representative visited each shelter to deliver the questionnaires and answer any final questions. Clients at the "wet" shelter were surveyed beginning at 4 AM as they approached maximum sobriety. Every individual homeless person over the age of 18 (or younger if in a youth shelter) was approached to be interviewed. The response rate (eligible individuals who agreed to be interviewed) was 91%.

* from Alameda County in California

Organizational Context

ESAC -- In 1987, the United Way and the City of Portland formed the Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee (ESAC) in response to community concerns regarding the lack of shelter services for Portland's homeless population. ESAC's mission is to monitor the usage of shelter beds and support services to ensure that the community is responding to homelessness with adequate services. In 1996, Portland's City Council designated ESAC to serve as the governing board for Portland's Continuum of Care for the Homeless Program, granted by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). ESAC is comprised of: City of Portland and State of Maine officials, shelter providers, community advocates, consumers, and community leaders.

HUD Continuum of Care -- The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under the Clinton Administration, defined a series of best practice goals for service provision to the nation's homeless population, with the ultimate goal of "alleviating homelessness". In 1994, these goals resulted in HUD's Continuum of Care service delivery system, which, by design, fosters community-based processes that respond comprehensively to the variable needs of homeless individuals and families. Through its consolidated funding mechanism, HUD's Continuum of Care encourages communities to coordinate emergency, transitional, and permanent housing with social services and homelessness prevention activities. Community-based Continuums of Care participate in regular capacity-building efforts that focus on planning and evaluating services.

The lead entity for the Portland Continuum of Care is the City of Portland's Health & Human Services Department, Social Services Division. The organizations involved in the Portland Continuum of Care include the City of Portland Health & Human Services Department, Social Services and Public Health Divisions; Prebble Street, YWCA of Greater Portland, My Choice, Portland West, Ingraham Inc, Shalom House Inc., and Maine's Department of Health & Human Services.

In January of 2004, the City of Portland was awarded \$2,536,506 in HUD funding for homeless services in Portland. This is the largest Homeless Assistance Grant award to Portland since the inception of Homeless Continuum of Care Grants in 1994. Grant awards provide funding for: permanent housing for homeless adults, employment counseling and training, transitional housing, counseling and case management services for parenting teens, transitional housing and services to homeless youth and young adults, transitional housing for homeless families and for individuals with severe mental illness and substance abuse issues, and a community homeless Management Information System. The Point-in-Time Survey, a HUD recommended assessment technique, is the primary planning tool employed by Portland's Continuum of Care to monitor population needs and evaluate the performance of our community's response to homelessness.

Homelessness

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Definitions and Categories of Homelessness

Homelessness is defined in 42 U.S.C. 11302 as follows:

IN GENERAL. - For purposes of this Act, the term "homeless" or "homeless individual or homeless person" includes-- (1) an individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and (2) an individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is: A) supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill); B) a institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or C) a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, regular sleeping accommodations for human beings.

<http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/homeless/library/esg/esgdeskguide/glossary.cfm>

Survey Eligible Homeless

On the night of April 26, 2004, we identified 294 individuals as eligible for participation in the point-in-time survey of homelessness. An individual was eligible for participation if s/he was age 18 or older (or under age 18, without a parent/guardian present), and sleeping in a shelter for the homeless, or found spending the night on the streets or other places not meant for human habitation (unsheltered).

Chronic Homelessness is defined by the Interagency Council on Homelessness as follows:

"... an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more OR has had at least four (4) episodes of homelessness in the past three (3) years. A disabling condition is defined as a diagnosable substance use disorder, serious mental illness, developmental disability, or chronic physical illness or disability, including the co-occurrence of two or more of these conditions. A disabling condition limits an individual's ability to work or perform one or more activities of daily living." <http://www.ich.gov/>

**Number of Homeless Individuals on the Night of the Survey, by Category; and
Number of Survey Participants with Percentage Chronically Homeless**

categories of homelessness	#
# of homeless people found in the shelters (none were found unsheltered)	337
# of survey eligible homeless people (as defined by HUD)	294
# survey participants	267
# chronically homeless survey participants (as defined by HUD and the Interagency Council on Homelessness)	98
% of survey participants (267) who are chronically homeless (98)	37%

- The HUD definition of homelessness disqualifies many people without residences from homeless entitlements because many homeless individuals rotate between shelters and the homes of friends and relatives. Strictly applying the HUD definition does not capture the magnitude of homelessness.

Shelter Capacity, Occupancy, and Survey Participation, by Shelter and Shelter Type

shelters	response rate	survey participation	survey eligible	shelter occupancy	shelter capacity
adult					
Portland's Oxford Street Shelter	99%	181	183	183	154
Milestone Foundation	69%	22	32	32	29
Ingraham Bridge	100%	11	11	11	12
YWCA	75%	15	20	20	20
total adults	93%	229	246	246	215
family					
Portland's Family Shelter	95%	20	21	60	77
Family Crisis Services	100%	3	3	7	14
My Choice (Maine Adoption & Placement Services)	56%	5	9	9	10
total family members	85%	28	33	76	101
adolescent					
Salvation Army Lighthouse	44%	4	9	9	16
Youth Alternatives	100%	6	6	6	6
total adolescents	67%	10	15	15	22
total	91%	267	294	337	338

Of 294 individuals who were eligible for the survey, 267 participated, resulting in a 91% response rate.

- Individual questions have different response rates because participants may have refused to answer some questions.

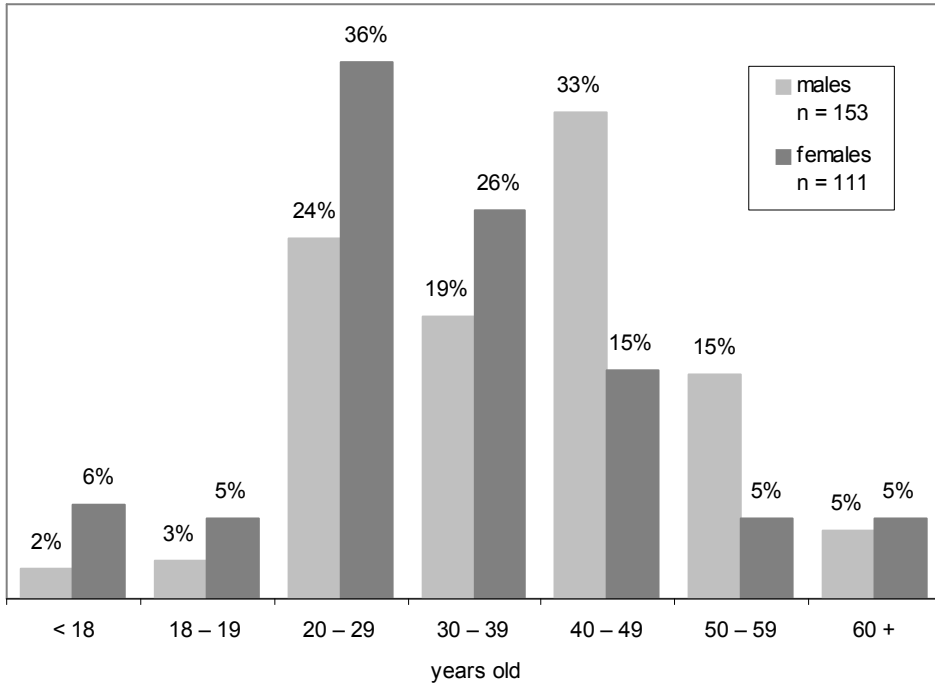
Demographics

Survey Participants by Shelter Type, Age and Sex, with Counts of Special Populations

Respondents by Shelter Type, Age and Sex	Total	M	F
family			
# of families	20		
< 1 year	4	2	2
1 – 4 years	16	9	7
5 – 11 years	16	6	10
12 – 14 years	7	3	4
15 – 17 years	5	4	1
Subtotal < 18 years (<i>not</i> survey respondents)	48	24	24
18 – 19 years	1	0	1
20 – 29 years	12	3	9
30 – 39 years	9	1	8
40 – 49 years	5	3	2
50 – 59 years	1	1	0
60 + years	0	0	0
Subtotal 18 + years (survey respondents)	28	8	20
Total in Family Shelters	76	32	44
youth			
Total in Youth Shelters (survey respondents < 18 years)	10	3	7
adult			
18 – 19 years	9	4	5
20 – 29 years	65	34	31
30 – 39 years	49	28	21
40 – 49 years	62	47	15
50 – 59 years	28	22	6
60 + years	13	7	6
DK	3	3	0
Total in Adult Shelters (survey respondents)	229	145	84
Total Completing Survey (Family 18+ / Youth / Adult)	267	156	111
special populations (as self-reported)			
chronically homeless	98	69	29
total chronic substance abuse (SA)	161	103	58
total seriously mentally ill (MH)	154	75	79
MH & SA	80	42	38
<i>seriously mentally ill only -</i>	74	33	41
<i>chronic substance abuse only -</i>	81	61	20
veterans	31	29	2
persons with HIV/AIDS	DK*	DK	DK
victims of domestic violence	54	15	39

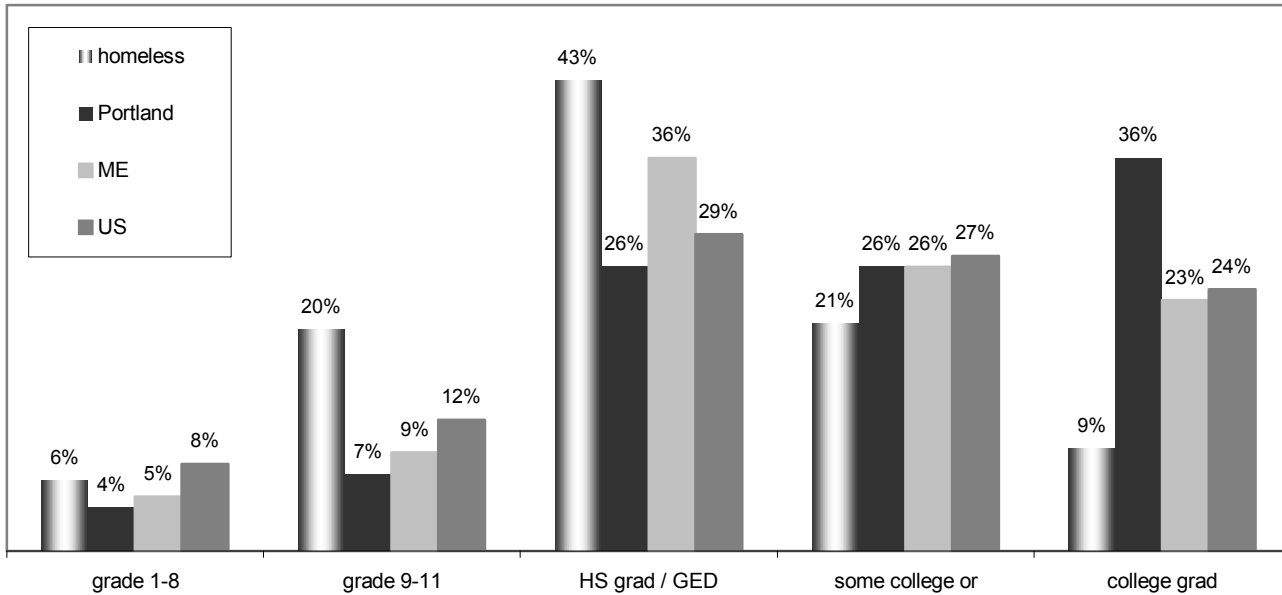
* Throughout this report, "DK" denotes "don't know".

Percentages of Respondents by Age and Sex



- Fifty-eight percent (58%) of survey participants were males and 42% were females.
- Not only has the number of females nearly doubled from last year's 53 to this year's 111; but also the proportion of females has increased from last year's 25% to this year's 42%.
- Peak ages for homeless males were between 40 and 49 years old. Peak ages for homeless females were between 20 and 29 years old.

Educational Attainment of Survey Participants Ages 25 Years and Over



U.S. Census 2000; PIT: n = 202

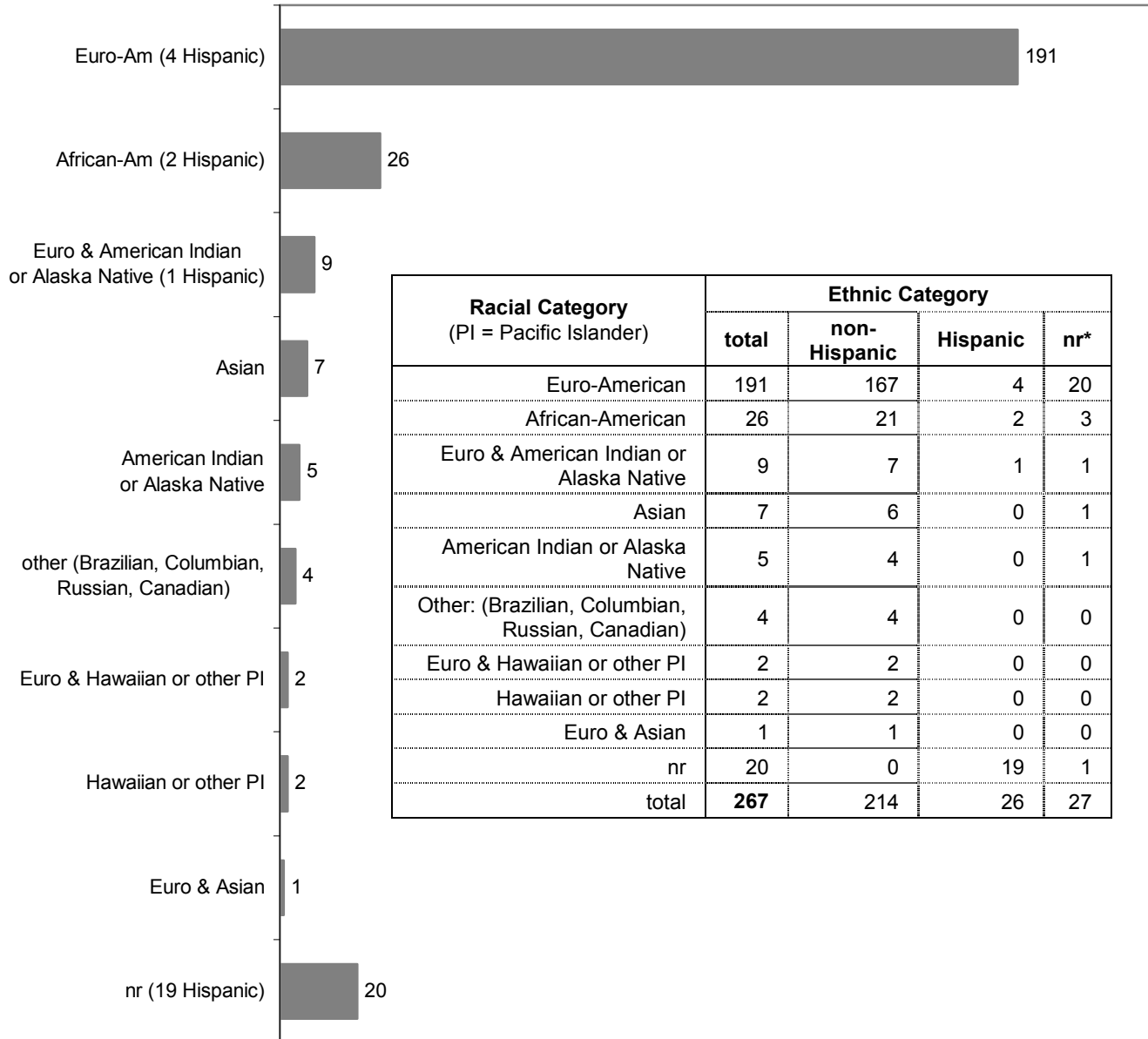
	homeless
grade 1-8	13
grade 9-11	41
HS grad / GED	87
some college or technical school	42
college grad	19
total respondents	202

- Nearly 2 out of three survey participants had a high school education or less. This is true for only half of Maine and the U.S. populations.

Racial and Ethnic Identification

Note: an overview of the concept of "race" as applied in the U.S. census 2000 can be found at <http://www.census.gov/prod/2001pubs/c2kbr01-1.pdf>

Survey Participants by Race and Ethnicity

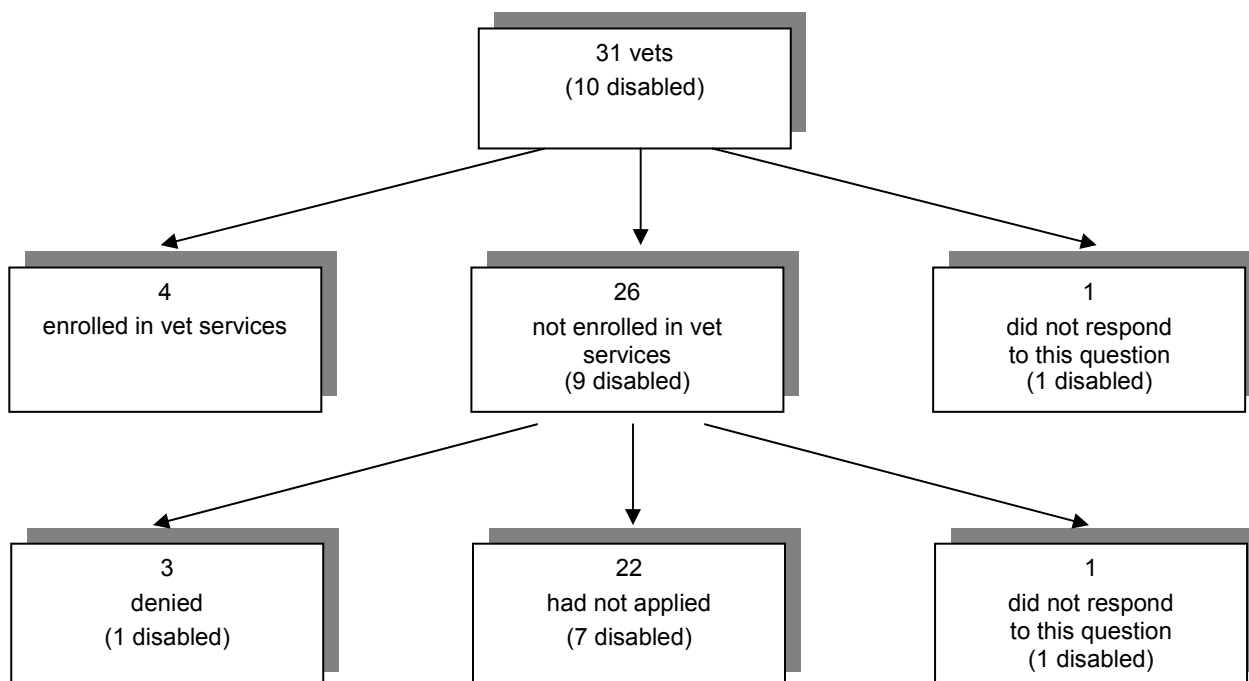


- Most of the people in the shelters were non-Hispanic, white individuals who did not indicate "mixed" racial identification.
- The majority (73%) of Hispanic respondents did not identify with standard Federal racial categories.

* Throughout this report, "nr" denotes "not reported".

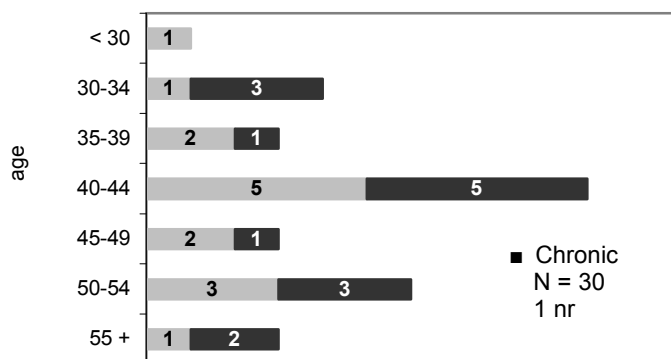
Veteran Status

"Veteran" means a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable. There are numerous discharge statuses that are neither "honorable" nor "dishonorable". Many services are available to veterans who were discharged with a status other than "honorable".



- Increased integration of the Veteran's Administration (VA) services with community homeless services were evident in the survey results. This year, 31 (12%) of survey participants were veterans of the armed forces, a decrease from last year's 39 (18%). This year, only 4 (13%) of the veterans found in the shelters said that they were currently enrolled in veteran's services, also a decrease from last year's 14 (36%).

Veterans by Age and whether or not Chronically Homeless



Number of Homeless Veterans by Shelter and Number who are Chronically Homeless

	total	chronic
Oxford Street Shelter	23	9
Milestone Foundation	6	5
Ingraham's Bridge	2	1
total	31	15

- Half (15 of 31) of the homeless veterans are chronically homeless.
- Most (22 of 31) homeless veterans are over 40 years old.
- Most (23 of 31) homeless veterans are at the City of Portland's Oxford Street Shelter.

Disability

The term "disabled" has multiple definitions. Individuals may not identify with the label "disabled" while still qualifying for entitlements. Substance abuse disorders are highly disabling but have not qualified a person for SSI/SSDI disability benefits since 1996.* On the other hand, substance abuse disorder is considered a disabling condition when identifying the chronically homeless. Therefore, many people with disabling substance use disorders no longer refer to themselves as disabled, though many do. To address this complication, and because disability is known to be under-reported, we provided survey participants with a variety of opportunities to relate their disability status.

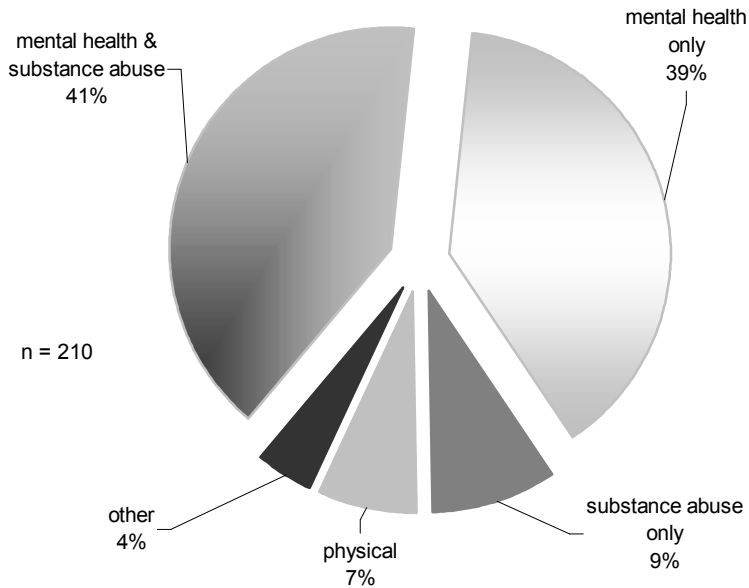
Ten Questions that Allowed Survey Participants to Self-Identify as Disabled, and the Cumulative Total of Disabled Individuals

Survey Question	"No" to previous questions but "yes" to this question	Cumulative Total
Do you have a disabling condition?	--	160
Are you using MH and/or SA services?	21	181
Is the shelter you are using specifically for MH/SA disorders?	8	189
Do you have depression?	7	196
Do you receive SSI and/or SSDI?	5	201
Are you still at the shelter because of a disabling condition?	4	205
Are you unable to work?	2	207
Are you disabled?	1	208
Has your MH been poor for more than 2 weeks this past month?	1	209
Did you leave your last residence because of a SA disorder?	1	210
total with disabilities		210
total without disabilities		51
n		261
% of respondents with disabilities		80%
nr		6
total		267

* P.L. 104-121 eliminates SSI, SSDI, Medicaid and Medicare eligibility for individuals whose DAA is a contributing factor to their eligibility. This denial applies immediately to any new or pending claim for benefits. Individuals currently receiving these benefits based on DAA will have their benefits terminated on Jan. 1, 1997. Individuals receiving benefits that will terminate will be notified and may reapply to determine if they have another disabling impairment(s). Or they may appeal the determination that DAA is a contributing factor to their disability. Any individual with DAA who has another disabling impairment must receive their cash (under SSI and SSDI) benefits through a representative payee if he or she applied after July 1, 1996. (<http://www.ncsl.org/programs/fiscal/tf196n3f.htm>)

** This definition of "disabled" is currently being employed as part of the criteria for determining who is "chronically homeless".

Disabling Conditions by Percentage of Participants Self-Reporting



- Four out of five (80%) of all respondents indicated having some type of disability.
- Half of the respondents with disabilities indicated a substance abuse disorder. Most of these individuals (80%) also indicated having a mental health disorder.
- Four out of 5 (80%) respondents with disabilities indicated having a mental health disorder. About half of these also indicated having a substance abuse disorder.

disabilities	# reporting
mental health & substance abuse	52
mental health, substance abuse & physical	30
mental health, substance abuse, physical & developmental	2
mental health, substance abuse, physical & other	1
subtotal with mental health and substance abuse	85
mental health	47
mental health & physical	31
mental health, physical & developmental	1
mental health & developmental	3
subtotal with mental health & no substance abuse	82
subtotal with mental health (85 + 82)	167
substance abuse	11
substance abuse & physical	7
substance abuse & developmental	1
subtotal with substance abuse & no mental health	19
subtotal with substance abuse (85 + 19)	104
physical only	15
receiving SSI / SSDI, no condition reported	4
unable to work, no condition reported	2
"yes" response to "Are you disabled?" but no condition reported	2
other	1
subtotal with disabilities but without mental health or substance abuse	24
total indicating disabilities (85 + 82 + 19 + 24)	210
total not indicating disabilities	51
nr to any disability indicator	6
Grand Total	267

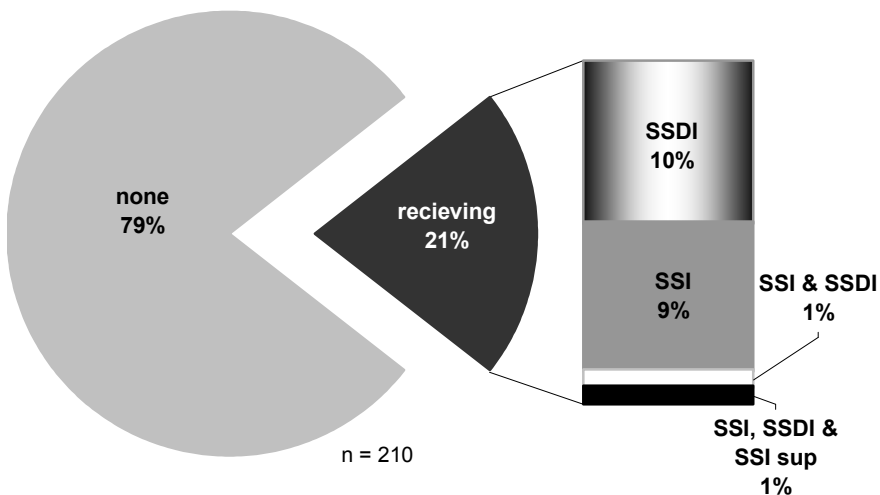
The Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Programs*

The Social Security Administration pays disability benefits under two programs: the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) program and the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program. They are the largest of several Federal programs that provide assistance to people with disabilities. For most people, the medical requirements for disability payments are the same under both programs, and disability is determined by the same process.*

- **SSDI** pays benefits to individuals and certain members of their families if they are "insured" meaning that they worked long enough and paid Social Security taxes. Individuals can get SSDI benefits until age 65. When they reach age 65, their disability benefits automatically convert to retirement benefits, but the amount remains the same.
- **SSI** is a Federal income supplement program funded by general tax revenues (not Social Security taxes) and pays benefits based on financial need. It is designed to help aged, blind, and disabled people, who have little or no income; and it provides cash to meet basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter. The SSI program also pays benefits to needy and disabled children under age 18.
- Effective January 2004, the SSI payment for an eligible individual was \$564 per month and \$846 per month for an eligible couple. Maine, like many other states, provides **state supplements** to Federal SSI benefit payments for residents in one of the living arrangements specified in the table below.

Disabled Participants' SSDI & SSI Disability Benefit Status

Living Arrangement	State Supplementation (2004)	
	individual	couple
alone or with others	\$ 10.00	\$ 15.00
in another's household	8.00	12.00
foster home	49.00	273.00
flate rate boarding home	217.00	590.00
cost reimbursement boarding home	219.00	621.00
Medicaid facility	10.00	20.00



- One in 4 respondents, who indicated a disability, was receiving disability benefits.
- Approximately one in 7 (14%) respondents indicating a disability was receiving SSI; and one in eight (12%) was receiving SSDI.

* For more information visit: www.socialsecurity.gov

* **The definition of disability under Social Security** is different than other programs. Social Security pays only for total disability. No benefits are payable for partial disability or for short-term disability. Disability under Social Security is based on the inability to work. Individuals are considered disabled under Social Security rules if they cannot do work that they did before and cannot adjust to other work because of their medical condition(s). A person's disability must also last or be expected to last for at least one year or to result in death.

Health

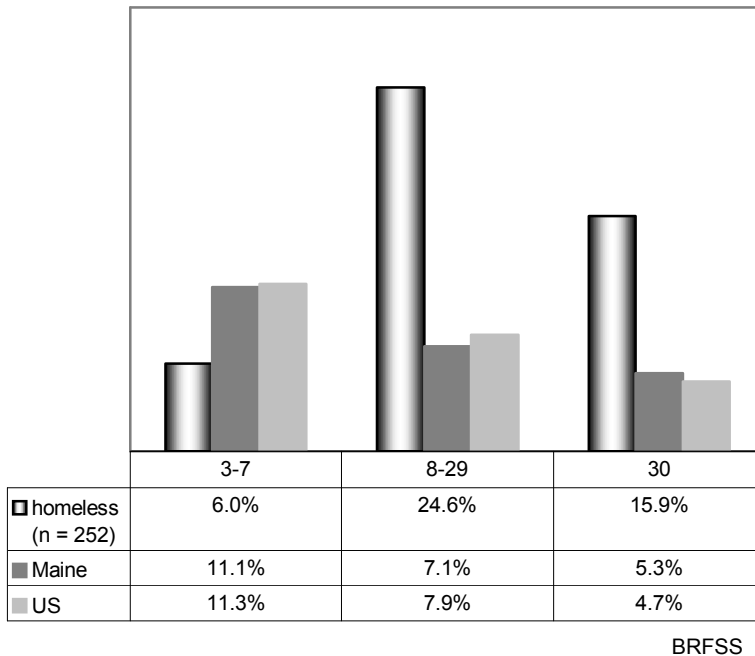
“The BRFSS, the world’s largest telephone survey, tracks health risks in the United States. Information from the survey is used to improve the health of the American people.”

<http://www.cdc.gov/brfss/index.htm>*

This year's Point-in-Time Survey tested questions that are found on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). We will use national and state BRFSS information alongside PIT survey information to consider some of the health issues found in the homeless population.

- Differences between the BRFSS and the PIT Survey render the data comparable only with caution. Important factors to keep in mind are:
 - The BRFSS is a telephone survey while the PIT is a face-to-face interview.
 - The BRFSS is a sample survey while the PIT is a census.
 - The BRFSS is executed continuously while the PIT is implemented on one day.
 - The BRFSS data collection procedure benefits from intensive interviewer training. The PIT data collectors received minimal training.
 - The BRFSS uses sample sizes large enough to analyze for statistically significant variation. The PIT is a small survey that yields results with wide (and unreported) confidence intervals.

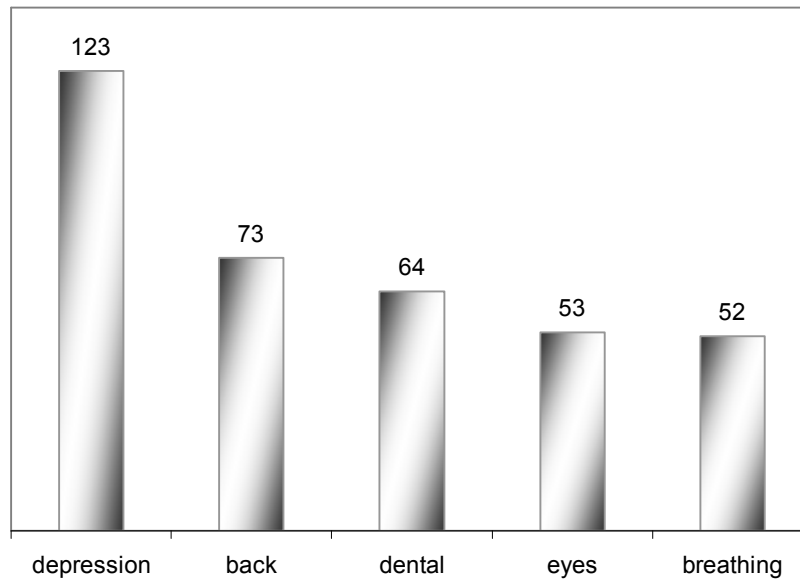
For how many days during the past 30 days was your mental health not good?



- Three times as many homeless people reported having 30 days of poor mental health in the past month than the general population.

* Please visit the BRFSS web site to learn more about the technical details.

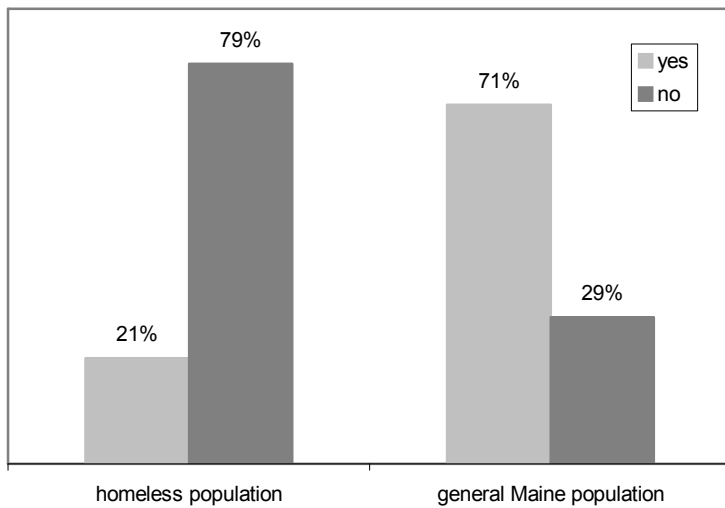
Top 5 Health Problems



- The most frequently indicated condition was depression, followed by back and dental problems.
- The table below shows the percentage of respondents who reported having specific health conditions. There were multiple responses per participant.

conditions	# of mentions	% of mentions
depression	123	20%
back	73	12%
dental	64	10%
eyes	53	9%
breathing	52	8%
walking	45	7%
arthritis	42	7%
bones	41	7%
hypertension	33	5%
hearing	20	3%
diabetes	20	3%
heart	15	2%
cancer	8	1%
stroke	7	1%
other	25	4%
sum of mentions	620	

Have you been to the dentists in the past 12 months?



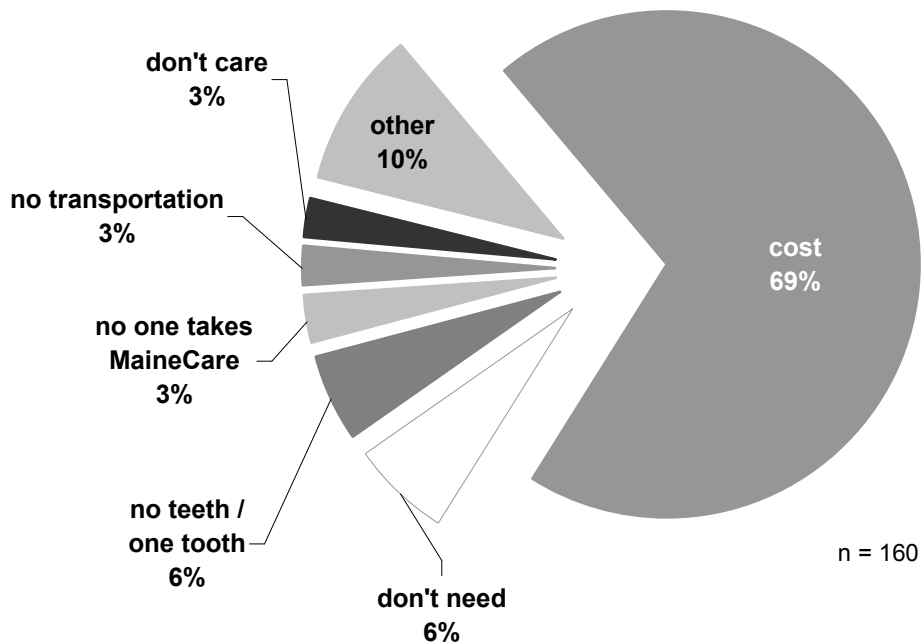
- About 1 of 5 survey respondents had been to the dentist in the past year.

N = 253

- Approximately 3 out of 4 adults in Maine's general population had been to the dentist in the past year.

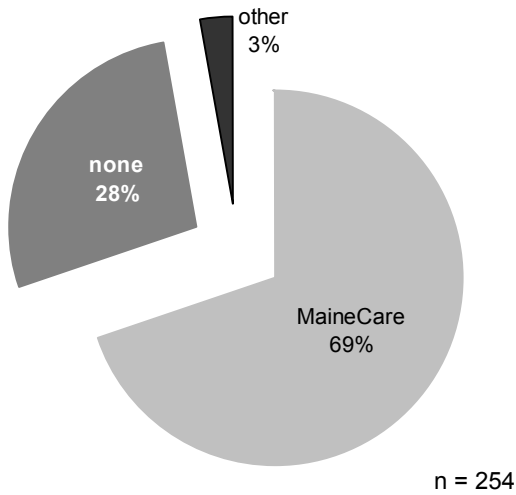
BRFSS 2002

What is the main reason you did not get dental care?



- Sixty-nine percent (69%) of respondents claimed their reason for not visiting a dentist was cost.

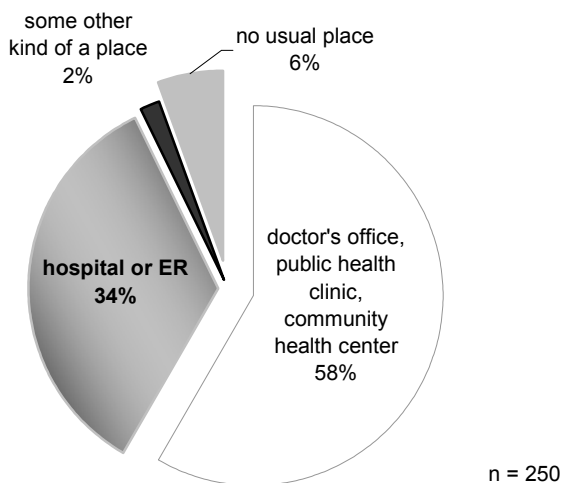
Do you have any kind of health care coverage?



type of insurance	# of respondents
MaineCare	177
none	70
other	7
Medicare	3
Blue Cross / Blue Shield	1
Cobra	1
Indian Health Services	1
VA	1
subtotal	254
nr	13

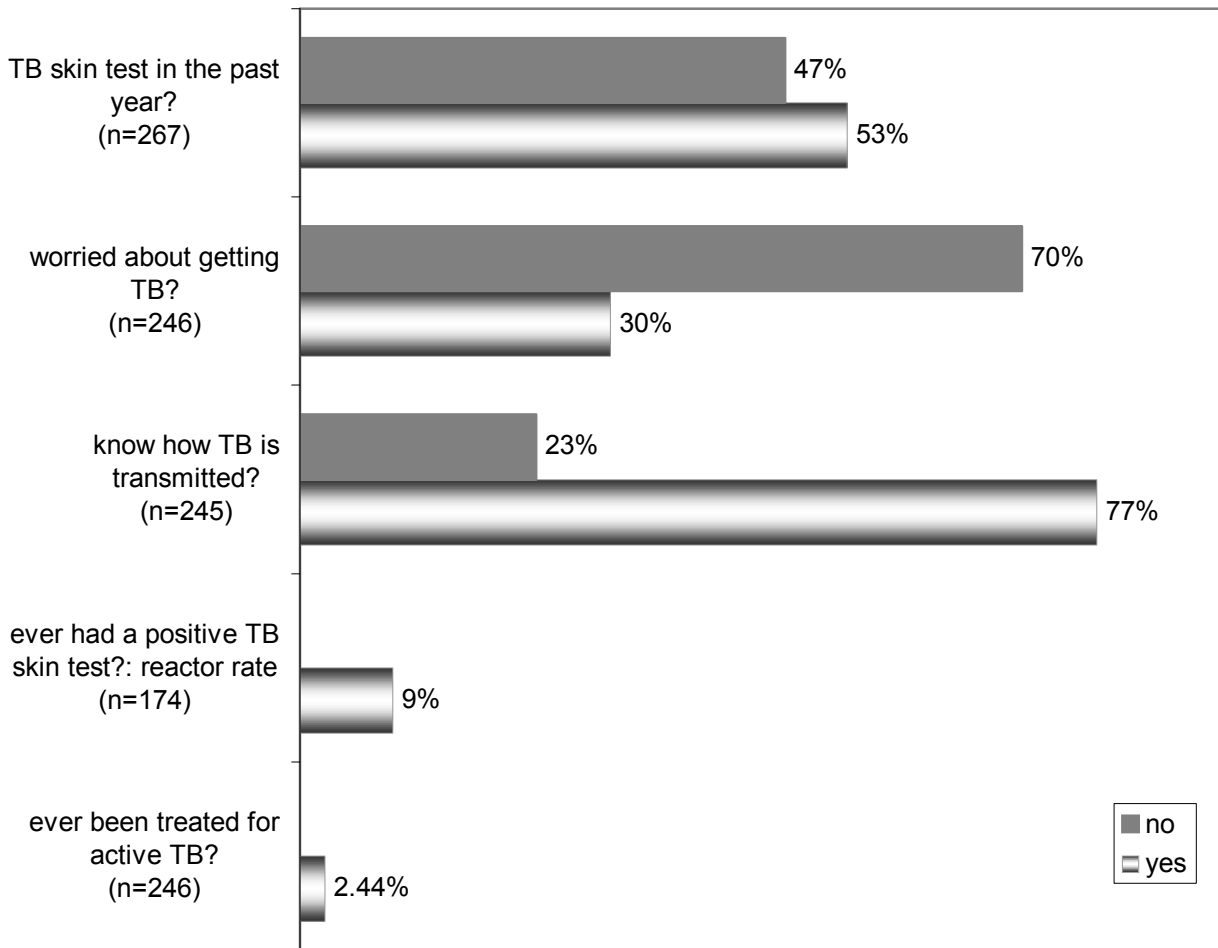
- Sixty-nine percent of respondents reported being enrolled in MaineCare.
- Over a quarter of the survey participants did not have health care coverage.

Where do you usually go for health care?



- Nearly 2 out of 3 survey participants reported using the Health Care for the Homeless Clinic, administered by the City of Portland's Health and Human Service Department.
- A third of those surveyed reported going to the emergency room for medical care.

Tuberculosis (TB) Screening and TB Awareness



- Just over half (53%) of the respondents reported having had a TB skin test within the past year.
- Six out of 246 (2.4%) respondents reported that they had been treated for an active TB infection.
- Nearly 1 in 11 (9%) respondents reported having had a positive TB skin test.
- More than 3 out of four respondents reported knowing how TB is transmitted.
- Just under a third (30%) of the respondents claimed to be worried about contracting TB.

The Safety Net, Public Assistance, and Employment

Federal, state and local taxes all contribute to the social safety net. Services administered through governmental programs are complemented by services offered by nonprofit organizations, which are in part supported by philanthropic giving and also by government grants.

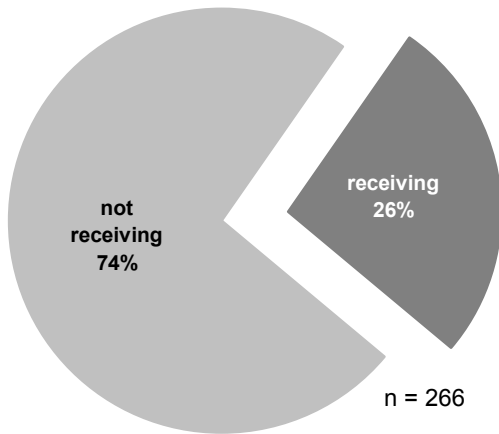
Some of Portland's Health and Human Services Department (HHS)-Administered Safety Net Services Specifically for Homeless People *

Program	Provides	2004 \$
Federal Contribution		
Emergency Shelters and Social Support Services	HUD Continuum of Care Grant 17 permanent housing subsidies for homeless individuals with disabilities; transitional housing; support services: case management, employment counseling, life skills training, drop-in center, outreach, crisis intervention; Homeless Management Information System	\$2,536,506
	Emergency Shelter Grant: HCH clinic operating costs	\$35,200
Homeless Health Care	HRSA Health Care for the Homeless (HCH) Grant: free medical care	\$541,105
	MaineCare / Medicare: HCH services	\$381,003
Federal Subtotal		\$3,493,814
State Contribution		
Emergency Shelters and Social Support Services	General Assistance Program Basic Needs: basic necessities such as food, clothing, shelter, and utilities	\$1,392,664
	General Assistance Program to Shelters: City of Portland and other community shelter operating costs	\$890,827
Homeless Health Care	Office of Substance Abuse: HCH clinic operating costs	\$43,000
State of Maine Subtotal		\$2,326,491
City of Portland Contribution		
Emergency Shelters and Social Support Services	Oxford Street and Family Shelter Operating Costs (not reimbursable by state or federal funds)	\$228,828
	General Assistance Program Basic Needs: basic necessities such as food, clothing, shelter, and utilities	\$596,856
	General Assistance Program to Shelters: City of Portland and other community shelter operating costs	\$381,783
Homeless Health Care	Housing & Community Development (HCD) Grant: HCH clinic operating costs	\$102,738
	HCH Clinic operating costs	\$342,735
	Homeless youth clinic & respite services, dental cleanings	\$22,756
City of Portland Subtotal		\$1,675,696
TOTAL		\$7,496,001

- Other safety net services that are often available to the homeless are not administered by the City of Portland nor by local nonprofit organizations, for example: MaineCare, Food Stamps, and TANF.

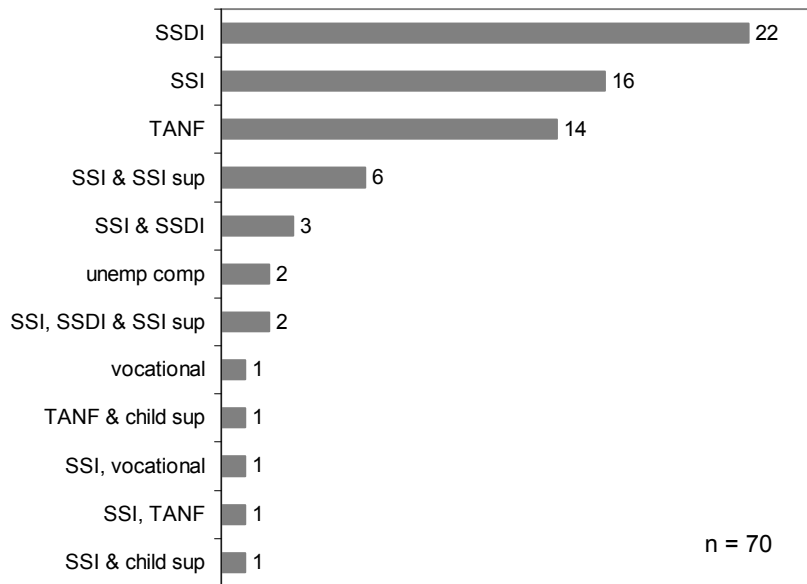
* Portland's Health and Human Services Department operates many other programs that serve the homeless. These are major, homeless-specific programs only.

Public Assistance



- Three out of four respondents did not report receiving public assistance

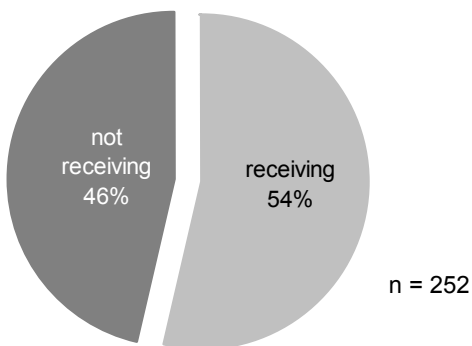
Types of Public Assistance Reported



What is General Assistance (GA)?

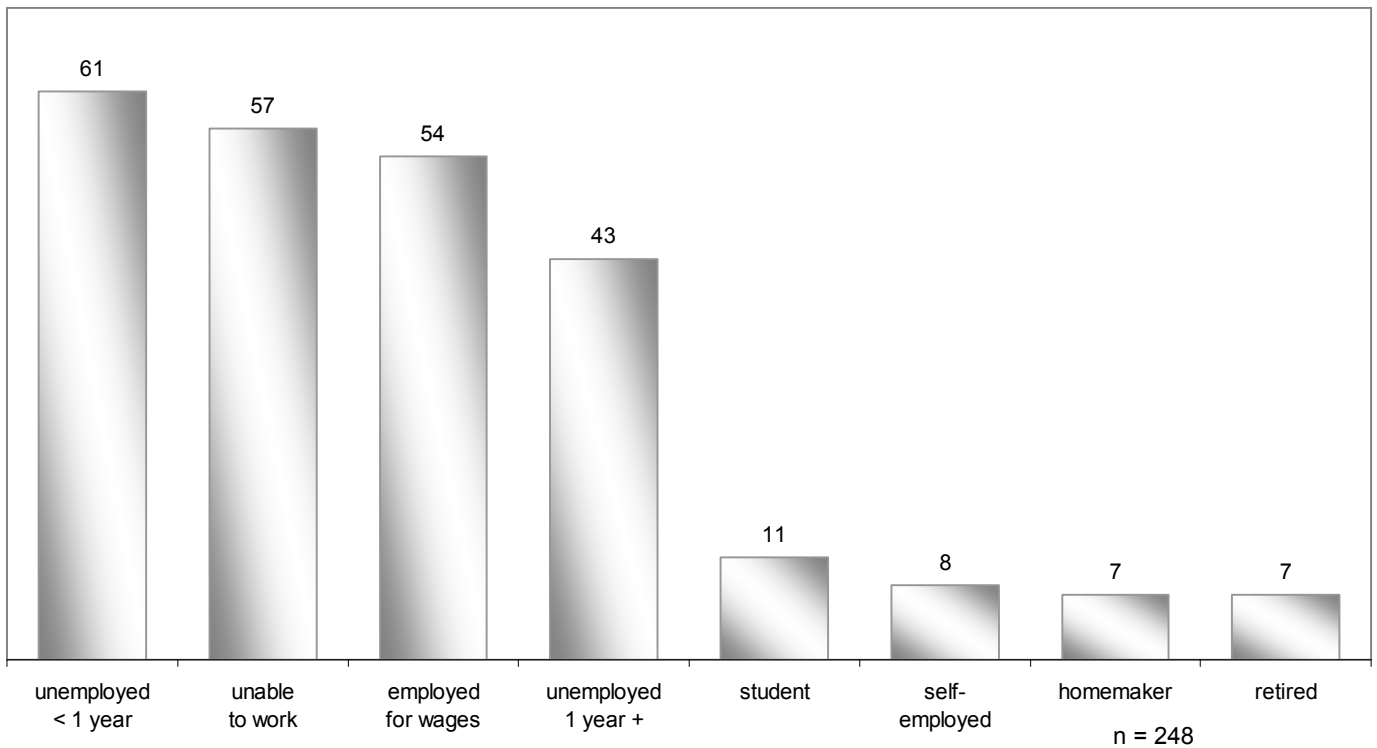
According to Maine law, each municipality shall operate a GA Program to help with basic necessities such as shelter, food, clothing, and utilities. The emergency provision of the statute provides municipalities flexibility in situations 'if not alleviated immediately, could reasonably be expected to pose a threat to the health or safety of a person'. Homelessness is such a situation and may be addressed through GA.

Food Stamps



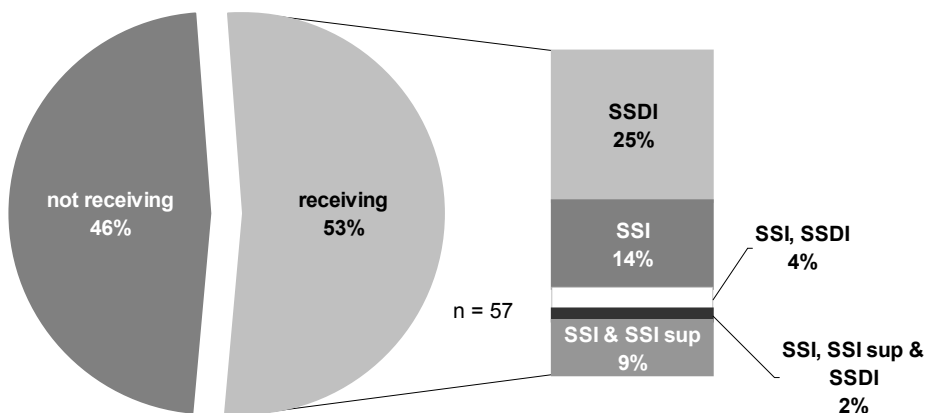
- The majority of public assistance reported was SSI, SSI supplement and SSDI.
- Just over half of the respondents reported receiving food stamps.

Employment Status



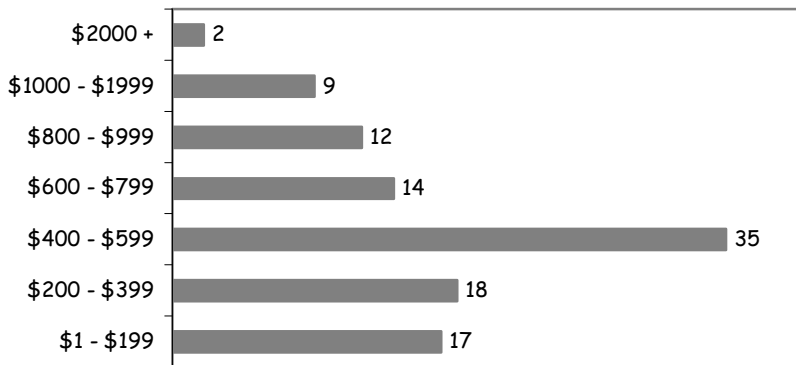
- Approximately a quarter of respondents (23%) reported being unable to work; 2 in 5 (42%) were unemployed; and another quarter were earning some income.

Public Assistance Received by those Identifying as Unable to Work



- Approximately half of those who reported being unable to work also reported receiving public assistance.

Monthly Income of those Reporting Income



- Two out of 5 (40%) respondents reported monthly income.
- Of those reporting income, the median was \$400-599 per month.

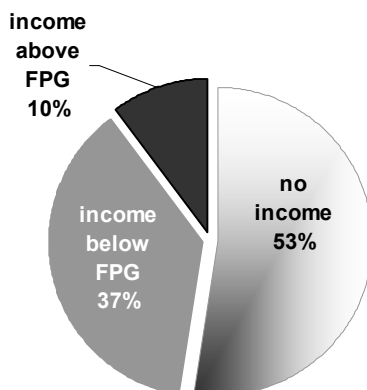
n = 107

\$564 is the monthly amount of SSI received by individuals

2004 HHS Poverty Guidelines 48 Contiguous States and D.C.

Size of Family Unit	annual	monthly
1	\$9,310	\$776
2	\$12,490	\$1,041
3	\$15,670	\$1,306
4	\$18,850	\$1,571
5	\$22,030	\$1,836
6	\$25,210	\$2,101
7	\$28,390	\$2,366
8	\$31,570	\$2,631
For each additional person, add	\$3,180	\$265

SOURCE: *Federal Register*, Vol. 69, No. 30, February 13, 2004, pp. 7336-7338.



Poverty Status

- More than half (53%) of the survey respondents reported no income, and another 37% reported income below the Federal Poverty Guideline (\$776./mo).

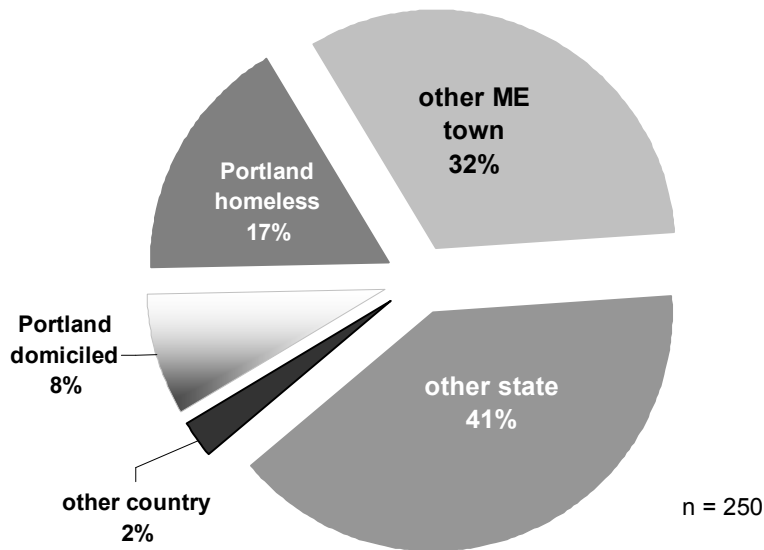
Service Utilization

	used	can't access	not applicable	nr	total
basic needs					
shelter	259	0	2	5	266
showers	231	0	22	13	266
food	229	0	29	8	266
drop in	124	2	73	67	266
health needs					
medical care	153	3	62	48	266
mental health services	74	2	121	69	266
substance use services	62	1	126	77	266
domestic violence services	38	0	139	89	266
transition needs					
storage	97	14	100	55	266
transitional housing	19	10	144	93	266
child care services	5	4	166	91	266
INS assistance	18	0	6	5	29
ESL class	11	6	6	6	29
cultural orientation	11	2	9	7	29
stabilizing needs					
housing location	107	11	85	63	266
job location assistance	88	8	105	65	266
housing subsidy	64	14	117	71	266
parenting services	8	0	168	90	266

- Services most frequently accessed by respondents were: shelter, showers, food, health care and housing location assistance.
- There were few reports of difficulties accessing services.
- Interestingly, substance abuse, mental health and job location services were most frequently reported to be "not applicable".

Regionalization of Homeless Services

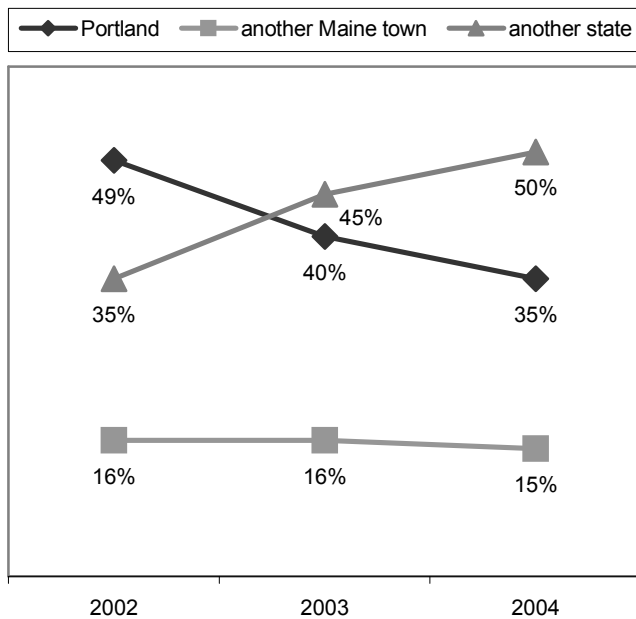
Respondents by Last Residence



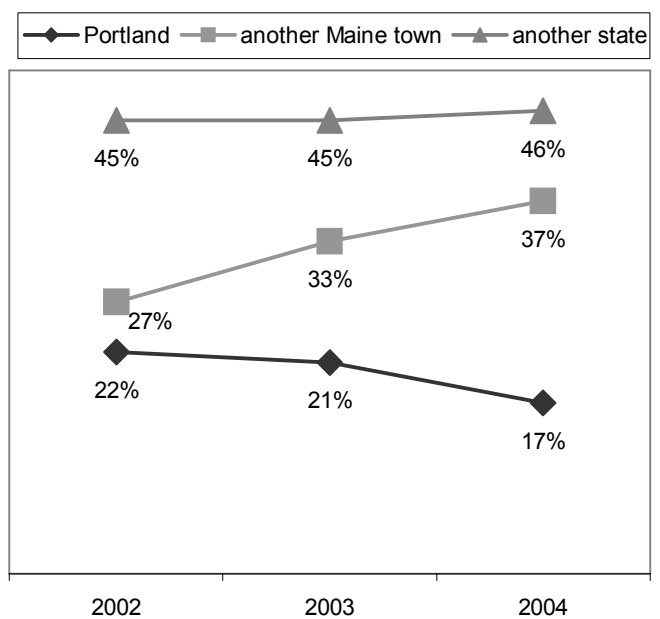
- Eight percent (8%) of respondents reported that their last permanent residence was in the City of Portland and not in a shelter.
- Seventeen percent (17%) of participants reported that their last permanent residence was in an emergency shelter in Portland.
- A third of the respondents reported that their last permanent residence as in another Maine town.
- Two out of 5 (41%) respondents stated that their last permanent residence was in another state.

Self-Reported Point-of-Origin for City of Portland Shelters 2002-2004

Family Shelter

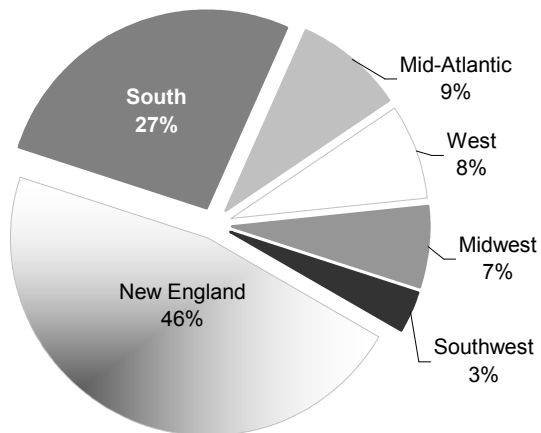


Oxford Street Shelter



- Portland shelters are increasingly serving all of Maine, the New England region and beyond.

Respondents with Last Residence in Another State by Region of Last Residence



n = 100

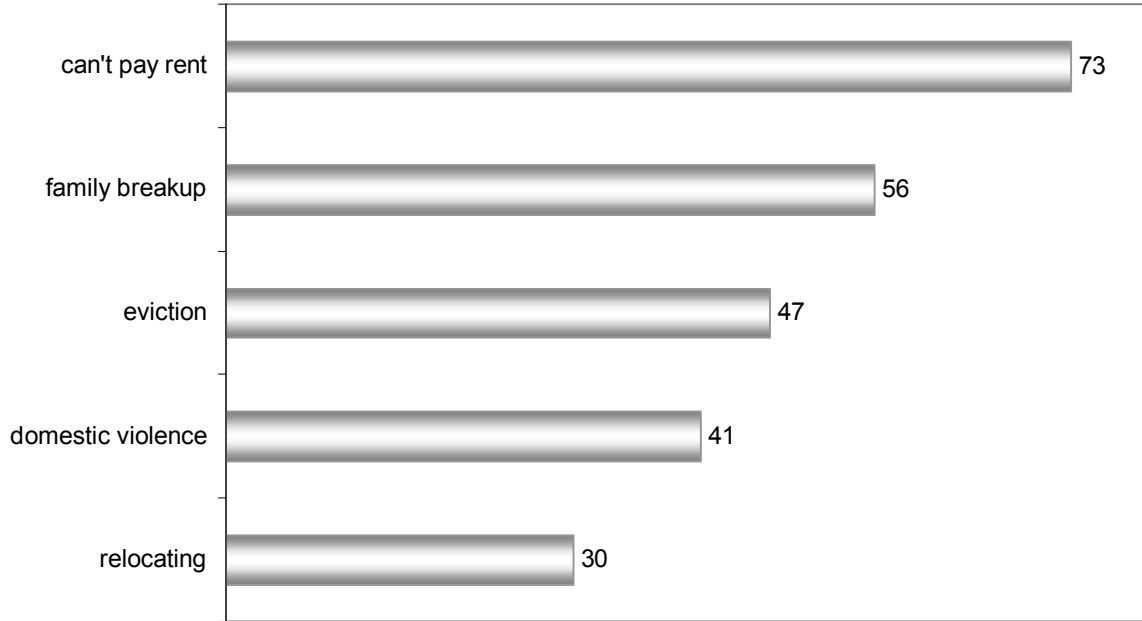
- Nearly half of the survey participants, who reported another state as their last permanent residence, previously resided in New England.
- Approximately a third of the survey participants who reported another state as their last permanent residence, previously resided in the south.

Residents from the following Maine towns were in Portland Shelters on the night of the survey:

Town	# last resident
Westbrook	8
South Portland	7
Bangor	4
Lewiston	4
Saco	4
Waterville	4
Augusta	3
Biddeford	3
Ellsworth	3
Bath	2
Brunswick	2
Gorham	2
Limington	2
Old Orchard Beach	2
Presque Isle	2
Scarborough	2
Auburn	1
Bar Harbor	1
Bryant Pond	1
Bucksport	1

Town	# last resident
Cornish	1
Dover-Foxcroft	1
Fairfield	1
Farmington	1
Gray	1
Houlton	1
Liberty	1
Madison	1
New Gloucester	1
Old Town	1
Portsmouth	1
Richmond	1
Rockland	1
Springvale	1
Standish	1
Westfield	1
Windham	1
Wiscasset	1
nr	5
total	81

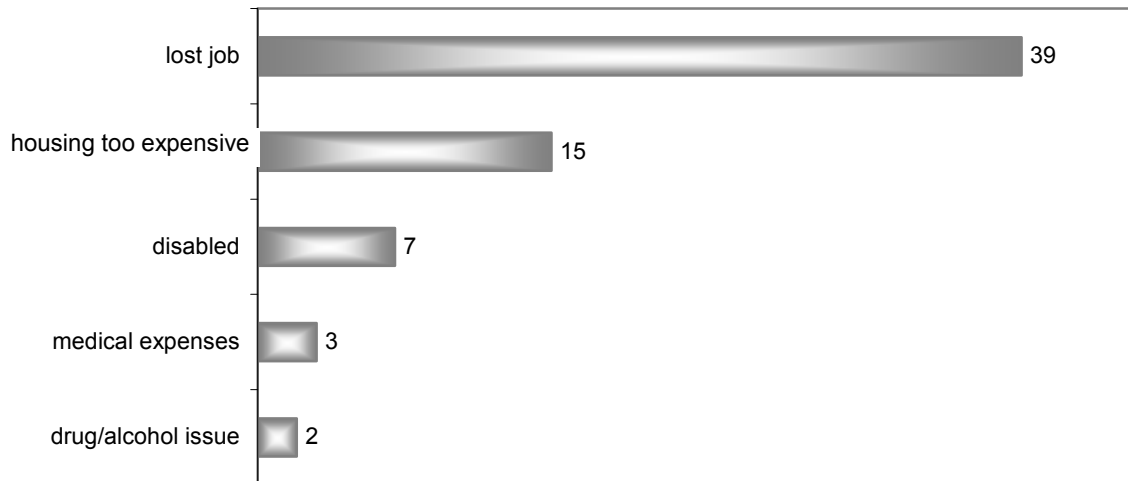
Top Five Reasons for Leaving Last Residence



n = 247

- Loss of work and loss of primary social connections triggered homelessness for many survey participants. Taken together, "family break-up" and "domestic violence" account for 97 (40%) mentioned reasons for leaving last permanent residence.

Top Reasons for Inability to Pay Rent

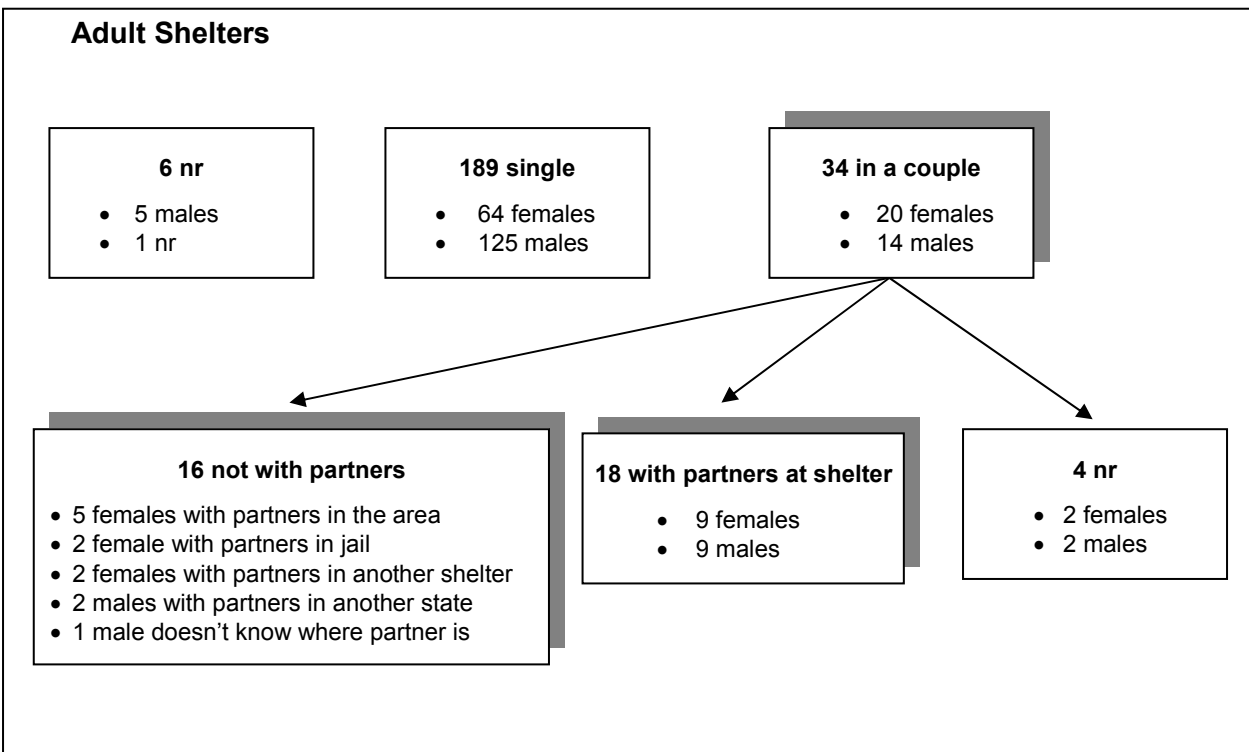
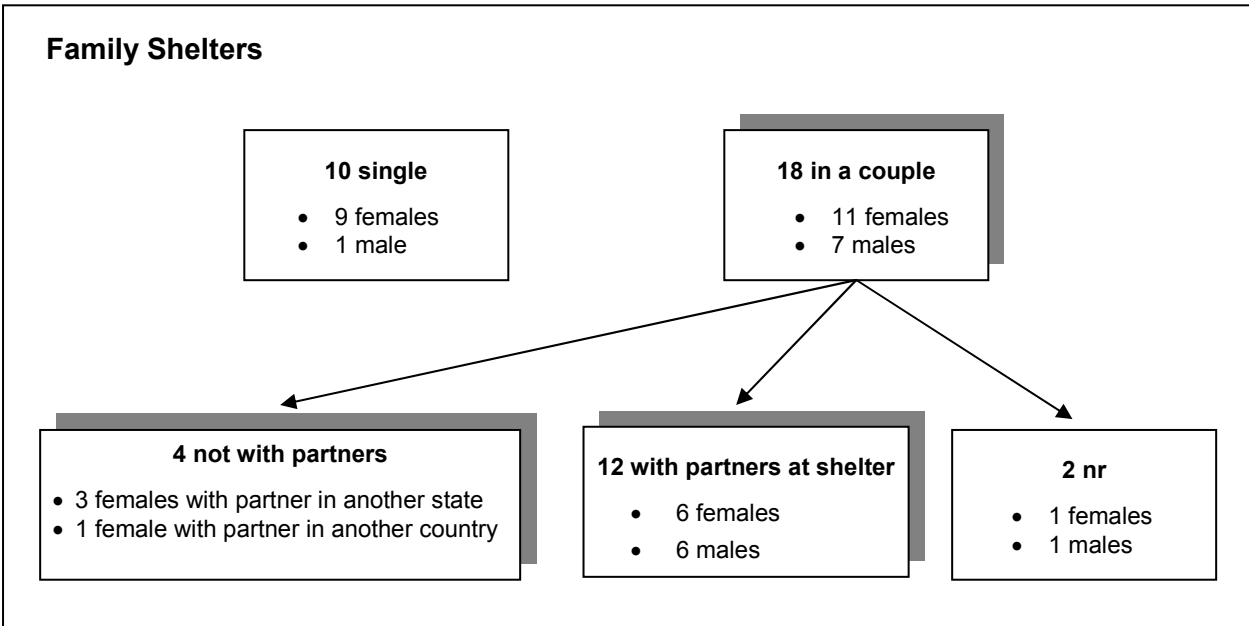


n = 66

- Inability to pay rent was the leading reason for leaving last permanent residence (73 mentions). And, job loss led the list for reasons why respondents could not pay rent.

Social Connectedness

- In the family shelter system, 1 out of 5 (20%) respondents who had partners were separated from them; and this was true for nearly half (47%) of the respondents in the adult shelters.



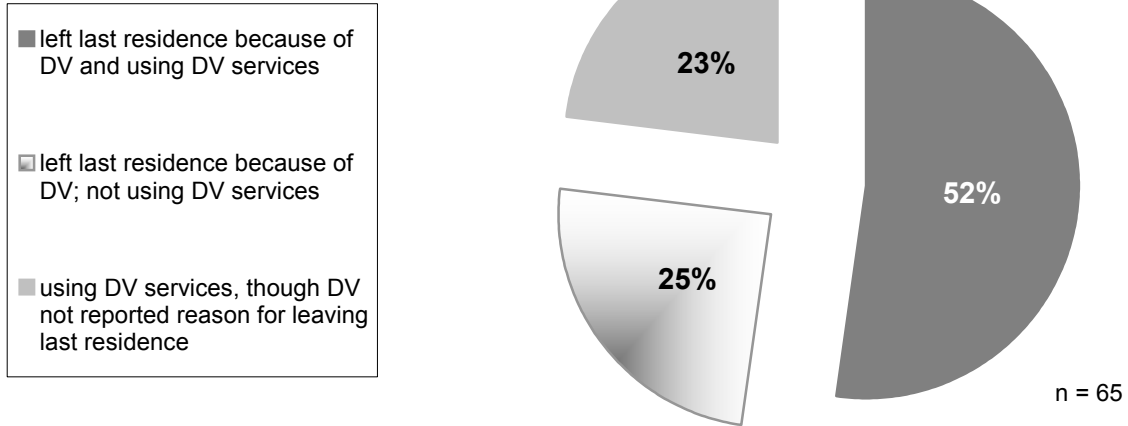
Children

A total of 196 children were identified as directly impacted by homelessness on the night of the survey.

children accompanied by adults in family shelters	#
< 1 year	4
1 - 5 years	19
6 - 11 years	13
12 - 14 years	7
15 - 17 years	5
total # children in family shelters	48
children in youth shelters	
14 - 17 years	10
total # children in youth shelters	10
children > 18 years who have a parent in an adult shelter	
children of custodial parents in DHS custody / foster care	4
children of custodial parents living with other family members	18
total # of who have a custodial parent in an adult shelter	22
children of non-custodial parents living with other family members	73
children of non-custodial parents in DHS custody / foster care	28
children of non-custodial parents who have been adopted by another family	13
children of non-custodial parents living with friends	1
nr	1
total # of children who have a non-custodial parent in an adult shelter	116
total # of children directly impacted by homelessness (48+10+22+116)	196

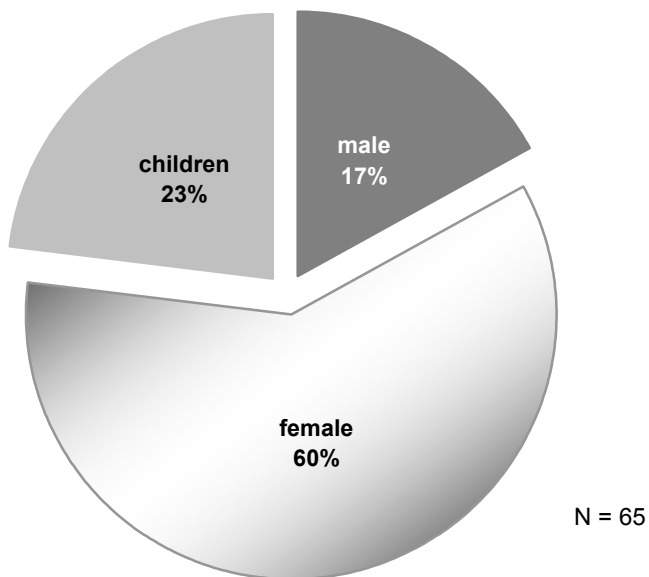
- Ten children were found in youth shelters.
- A total of 48 children were in the family shelter system; 23 of these were under 5 years old.
- In the adult shelter system ...
 - Twenty-two children had a custodial parent in the homeless shelter.
 - One hundred and sixteen children had a non-custodial parent in a homeless shelter.

Domestic Violence (DV) Experience



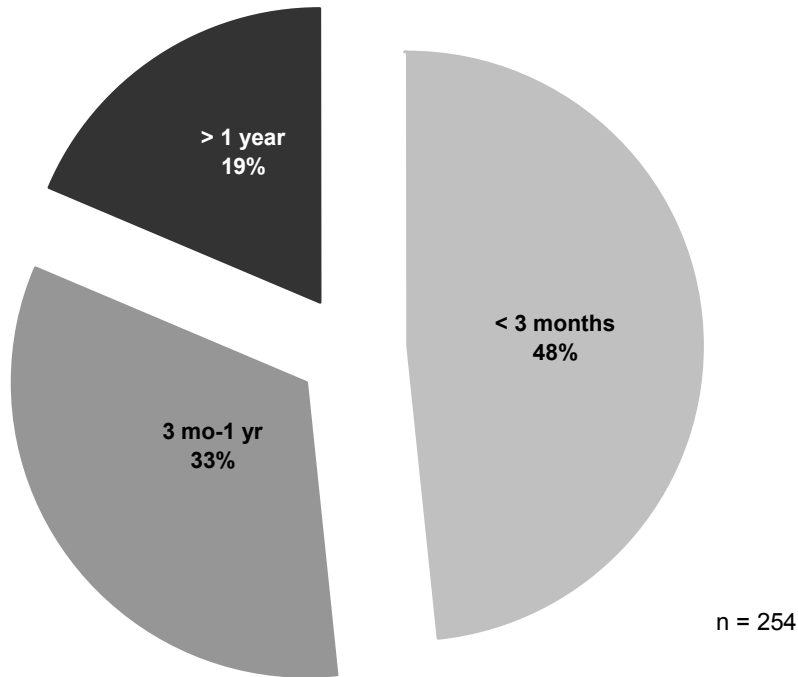
- Just over half (52%) of the respondents who had DV experience, left their residence because of it and were receiving DV services.
- Nearly a quarter (23%) of those experiencing DV left their last residence because of it, but they were not yet receiving DV services.

Domestic Violence Victims by Adult/Child and Sex



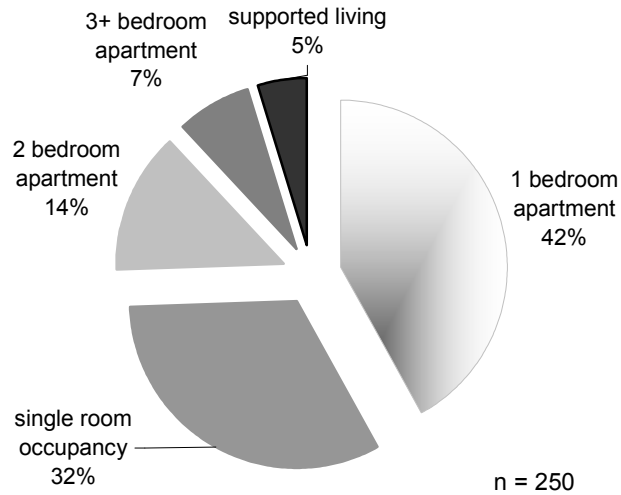
- Two out of three respondents reporting DV were adult females. One in four was a child; and about one in six was an adult (or adolescent) male.

Length of Residence at Current Shelter



- The emergency shelter system continues to fill the gaps in services for individuals needing: affordable housing, supportive housing, transitional housing, and residential treatment. One in 5 respondents had been in the current shelter for over a year.
- Through the HUD Continuum of Care Grant, Portland received \$752,340 to fund permanent housing for homeless individuals with disabilities, through Maine's Health and Human Services Department, as follows:
 - 3 efficiencies
 - 4 one-bedroom apartments
 - 5 two-bedroom apartments
 - 3 two-bedroom apartments

Desired Housing



- Nearly three quarters (74%) of survey participants reported needing either a one-bedroom apartment or a single-room occupancy.

Portland Housing Market August 2004

type of unit	# for rent	average rent
studio apartment	10	\$ 634
one-bedroom apartment	60	\$ 814
two-bedroom apartment	76	\$ 934
three-bedroom apartment	31	\$ 1,093
four-bedroom apartment	5	\$ 1,385

The median income, for the 40% of survey participants with some income, is \$400-599 per month. Affordable rent for this income range is \$120 - \$180 (using one third of total income as the standard)

Survey Tool: Point-in-Time Survey of Homelessness in the City of Portland, ME 2004

SAY: Hello, I'm (name). I'm gathering information on the status of Maine residents. I'd like to ask some questions about your housing and health situation. I won't ask for your name, address, or other personal information that can identify you. You don't have to answer any question you don't want to, and you can end the interview at any time. The interview takes a short time and any information you give me will be confidential.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Let's start with some basic information that doesn't identify you but describes you.

1. (Indicate gender of respondent; ask only if necessary.) Male Female

2. Are you Hispanic or Latino?

Yes No don't know/refused to answer

3. Which one or more of the following would you say is your race?

(Read answers and check all that apply)

White or Euro-American

American Indian, Alaska Native

Black or African American

Any other? Please specify. _____

Asian

don't know/refused to answer

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

(If more than one response continue; otherwise go to 6.)

3.1. Now I want to read the things you picked and I'd like you to tell me: if you had to name one that best represents your race, which one would it be?

(Read the items selected by the respondent and circle the one choice.)

4. What is your age? _____ years don't know/refused to answer

5. What is the highest grade or year of school you completed?

(Read only if necessary.)

Never attended school or only attended kindergarten

Grades 1 through 8 (Elementary)

Grades 9 through 11 (Some high school)

Grade 12 or GED (High school graduate)

College 1 year to 3 years (Some college or technical school)

College 4 years or more (College graduate)

don't know/refused to answer

6. Are you limited in your ability to work or carry out any activities of daily living because of a chronic physical illness or disability, substance use disorder, mental illness, or developmental disability?

Yes No don't know/refused to answer

7. Are you a veteran of the armed forces?

yes (continue) no (go to 8) don't know/refused to answer

7.1. Are you currently enrolled in veterans services?

yes (go to 8) no (continue) don't know/refused to answer

7.2. Have you applied and been denied?

yes. Why? _____
 no
 don't know/refused to answer

8. Are you a member of a couple? (Do you have a partner? Are you married?)

member of a couple -- Where is your partner now? _____
 single
 don't know/refused to answer

(Family Interview -- skip 9 and go to 10)

9. How many children under 18 years old are in your custody?

_____ don't know/refused to answer

9.1 (If any) Where are they now?

(Read only if necessary.)

with family with friends DHS custody / foster care
other (specify) _____ don't know/refused to answer

10 How many children under 18 years old do you have that are not in your custody?

_____ don't know/refused to answer

10.1 (If any) Where are they now?

(Read only if necessary.)

with family with friends DHS custody / foster care
other (specify) _____ don't know/refused to answer

HOUSING / HOMELESSNESS

SAY: *This next part is about your housing situation.*

11. How long have you been homeless? (This time only) _____
___ don't know/refused to answer
12. In the past three years, how many times have you been homeless? _____
___ don't know/refused to answer

SAY: *The next few questions are about your last regular residence.*

13. Where was your last regular residence? (before becoming homeless)
Town _____ State _____ Country _____ ___ don't know/refused to answer

(If last residence was in Maine continue; otherwise go to 15)

14. Before you left that residence, did you seek financial assistance from your town to help you stay there? That means: welfare, GA (general assistance), public assistance, or town hall.
___ Yes What town? _____ What happened? _____

- ___ No Why not? _____
___ don't know/refused to answer

15. How long had you lived there?

(Read only if necessary.)

- ___ less than 3 mo
___ 3 mo - 1 year
___ over 1 year, how long? _____
___ don't know/refused to answer

16. When did you leave there

(Read only if necessary.)

- ___ less than 3 mo
___ 3 mo - 1 year
___ over 1 year, how long? _____
___ don't know/refused to answer

17. Please listen to this list and tell me which ones are your reasons for leaving your last regular residence. If your reasons are not on the list please tell me what they are.

(Read and check all that apply)

- fire / other disaster destroyed home
- family break-up
- domestic violence
- eviction
- couldn't pay rent (go to 17.1)
- other, please specify _____
- don't know/refused to answer

17.1 Why couldn't you pay rent?

(Read only if necessary.)

- job lost and couldn't pay rent
- rent increased and couldn't afford rent anymore
- medical problems and medical costs so unable to afford rent
- became disabled (mental health or other) and couldn't work and pay rent
- other, please specify _____
- don't know/refused to answer

(If more than one response continue; otherwise go to 18)

17.2. I want to read the things you picked and I'd like you to tell me: if you had to name one as the most important, which would it be?

(Read the items selected by the respondent and circle the one choice.)

18. How long have you been spending the night here (at this shelter or this camp)?

(Read only if necessary.)

- less than 3 mo 3 mo - 1 year over 1 year, how long? _____
- don't know/refused to answer

(If not at a shelter ask 19; otherwise go to 20.)

19. Why are you here instead of at a shelter? _____

_____ don't know/refused to answer

20. Please listen to this list and tell me which ones are your reasons for spending the night here (at this shelter or camp). If your reasons are not on the list please tell me what they are.

(Read and check all that apply.)

- unable to find work and pay rent
- poor rental history / no references
- can afford rent (or have subsidy) but can't locate housing
- money management problems
- social network at the shelter
- disabled and waiting for disability (SSI / SSDI) benefits
- migrant worker between jobs

- mental health issues
- alcohol or other drug use problems
- discharged from a hospital or other medical or mental health institution without another place to go.
- Which hospital? _____
- What condition? _____
- discharged from jail, prison, or other correctional facility without another place to go
- Any other reason? Please specify: _____
- don't know/refused to answer

(If more than one answer read 20.1; otherwise go to 21)

21.1. I want to read the things you picked and I'd like you to tell me: if you had to name one as the most important, which would it be?

(Read the items selected by the respondent and circle the one choice.)

21. What kind of housing do you need?

(Read)

- SRO
- 1 bedroom
- 2 bedroom
- 3 + bedroom
- supportive living (assisted living, rehab house, etc...)
- other (specify) _____
- don't know/refused to answer

INCOME / EMPLOYMENT / SUPPORT SERVICES

SAY: Now I'm going to ask some questions about how you are taking care of yourself. Please be assured that answering these questions will not affect your ability to receive assistance in any way.

22. I'm going to read you a list of employment statuses. Please let me know which one applies to you:

(Read)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employed for wages | <input type="checkbox"/> A Student |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Self-employed | <input type="checkbox"/> Retired |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Out of work for more than 1 year | or <input type="checkbox"/> Unable to work |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Out of work for less than 1 year | <input type="checkbox"/> don't know/refused to answer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A Homemaker | |

23. Do you receive income from any of the following sources? I'll read a list.

(Read and check all that apply.)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> TANF | <input type="checkbox"/> unemployment compensation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SSI <input type="checkbox"/> state supplemental check | <input type="checkbox"/> worker's compensation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SSDI | <input type="checkbox"/> vocational/job training program stipend |
| <input type="checkbox"/> VA | <input type="checkbox"/> none of these |
| <input type="checkbox"/> child support or alimony | <input type="checkbox"/> don't know/refused to answer |

24. What was your last month's income from all sources?

\$ _____ don't know/refused to answer

25. What assistance from the following list, if any, do you currently receive?

(Read and check all that apply.)

- General Assistance (GA, town welfare); from which town? _____
- housing subsidy (Section 8, Shelter + Care, BRAP)
- food stamps
- don't know/refused to answer

26. I'm going to read you a list of services. For each one I'd like you to tell me if you have used the service. If you have not used the service because it is difficult to access, please let me know. You can add others to this list.

(Read each service. Check "used", "Can't access" or "N/A" for "not applicable" or "don't need it".

	Used	Can't access	N/A
shelter			
food/hot meals			
job location help			
showers			
housing location help			
transitional housing			
Section 8, BRAP, RAC+, Shelter Plus Care			
health care / medication(s)			
mental health services			
alcohol / substance abuse services			

	Used	Can't access	N/A
domestic violence services			
childcare services			
parenting services			
drop-in center			
storage			
<p><i>Is English your first language?</i> ___ yes ___ no</p> <p>Ask the following only if first language is not English</p>			
English as second language (ESL) classes			
cultural orientation			
immigrant documentation/ INS assistance			

Other (specify): _____

___ don't know/refused to answer

HEALTH

SAY: This is the last part. I want to ask about your health and your use of health services.

27. Do you have any kind of health care coverage, including health insurance, prepaid plans such as HMOs, or government plans such as MaineCare, Medicaid or Medicare?

yes (continue) no (go to 28) don't know/refused to answer

27.1 What is your health care coverage? _____

28 Please indicate if you have any disabilities on the list I'm going to read.

(Read answers and check all that apply)

physical or medical HIV/AIDS
 mental health substance abuse
 developmental any others? Please specify. _____
 don't know/refused to answer

29. Now thinking about your mental health, which includes stress, depression, and problems with emotions, for how many days during the past 30 days was your mental health not good?

Number of days None don't know/refused to answer

30. I'm going to read you a list of health conditions. Please let me know if you have any of them.

(Read and check all that apply)

Arthritis/rheumatism Hypertension/high blood pressure
 Back or neck problem Diabetes ("sugar")
 Fractures, bone/joint injury Cancer
 Walking problem Dental problem
 Lung/breathing problem Depression/anxiety/emotional problem
 Hearing problem Other impairment/problem, please specify
 Eye/vision problem _____
 Heart problem don't know/refused to answer
 Stroke problem

31. When you are sick or need advice about your health, to which one of the following places do you usually go?

(Please read)

A doctor's office, public health clinic or community health center Some other kind of place
 A hospital emergency room No usual place

32. Have you been to the dentist in the past 12 months?

yes (Go to 34) no (Go to 33) don't know/refused to answer

33. What is the main reason you did not get dental care? (If more than one instance ask about the most recent.)

(Read)

Cost (Includes no insurance) No transportation
 Distance No access for people with disabilities
 Office wasn't open when I could get there. The medical provider didn't speak my language.
 Too long a wait for an appointment Other, please specify _____
 Too long a wait in waiting room don't know/refused to answer
 No child care

34. Have you ever had active TB (tuberculosis) and taken medicine to treat it?
 yes no don't know/refused to answer
35. Are you worried about getting TB?
 yes no don't know/refused to answer
36. Do you know how TB is spread from one person to another?
 yes no don't know/refused to answer
37. Have you ever had a TB skin test in your arm?
 yes (go to 38) no (go to end) don't know/refused to answer (go to end)
38. If yes, when was your last TB skin test? (next go to 39)
 Within the past year Can't remember
 More than a year ago don't know/refused to answer
39. If you had a TB skin test, did you have a raised, red, itching welt on your arm after 2 days (positive read)?
 yes (go to 40) no (go to end) don't know/refused to answer (go to end)
40. If the test was positive (red mark on arm), did you have a chest X-ray? (next go to 41)
 yes no (go to end) don't know/refused to answer (go to end)
41. If the test was positive (red mark on arm), did the doctor tell you to take medicine ('big white pill') to keep you from getting sick?
 yes (go to 42) no (go to end) don't know/refused to answer (go to end)
42. If yes, did you take the pills?
 yes (go to 43) no (go to 44) don't know/refused to answer (go to end)
43. If yes, how long did you take the pills?
 months don't know/refused to answer (go to end)
44. If you didn't take the pills, or stopped taking them, was it because ...
 upset stomach moved around and lost prescription'
 doctor told you to stop didn't think it was important
 couldn't afford the pills don't know/refused to answer

SAY: The survey is finished. Thanks so much for your help.

45. Do you have anything you would like to add that you feel is important?
