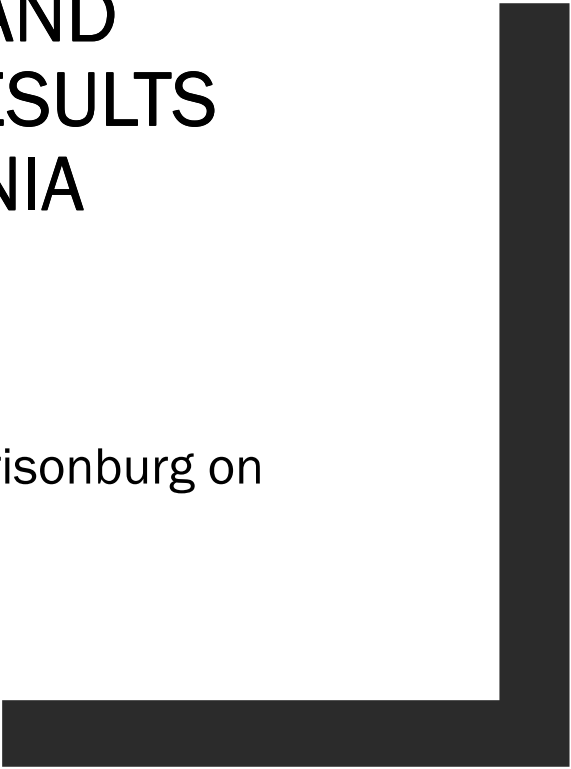




# 2017 HOUSING NEEDS AND VULNERABILITY SURVEY RESULTS HARRISONBURG VIRGINIA

A survey from homeless adults in Harrisonburg on  
January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017



# 2017 Harrisonburg Housing Needs & Vulnerability Survey

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

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.

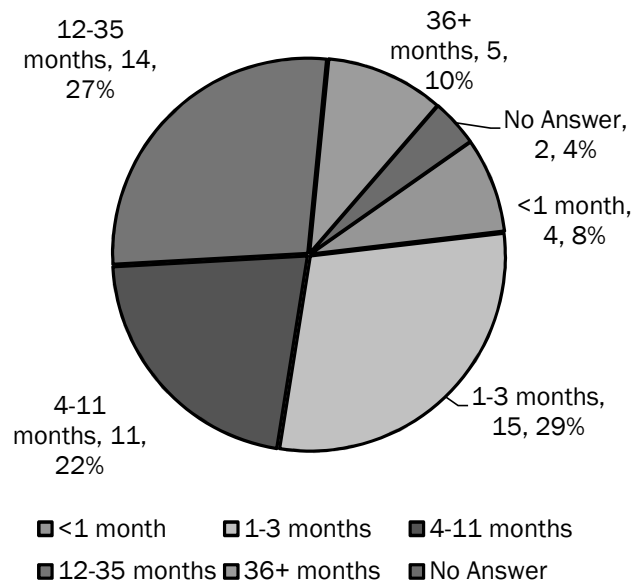
The survey answers are compiled and codified by JMU's Research Methods class under the direction of Professor Rita Poteyeva, PhD, Assistant Professor in the Department of Justice Studies.



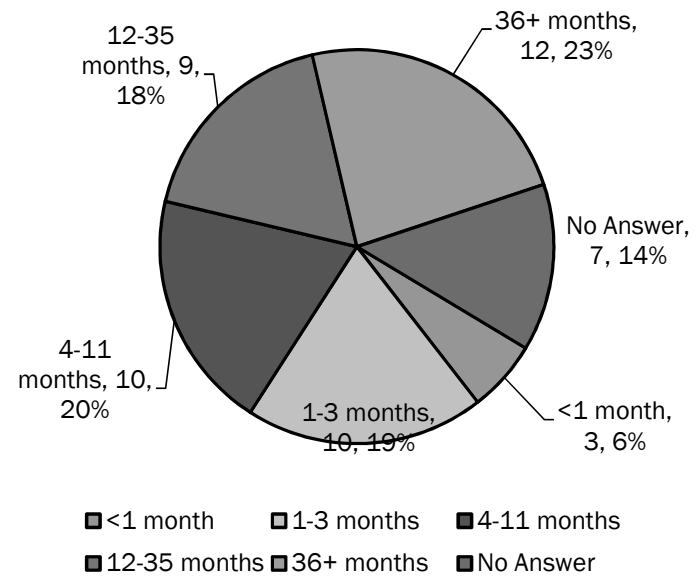
# DURATION & BARRIERS OF HOMELESSNESS

# Reported duration of homelessness in Harrisonburg homeless adults

Total Duration in Last 3 Years



Lifetime Duration



# Chronic Homelessness

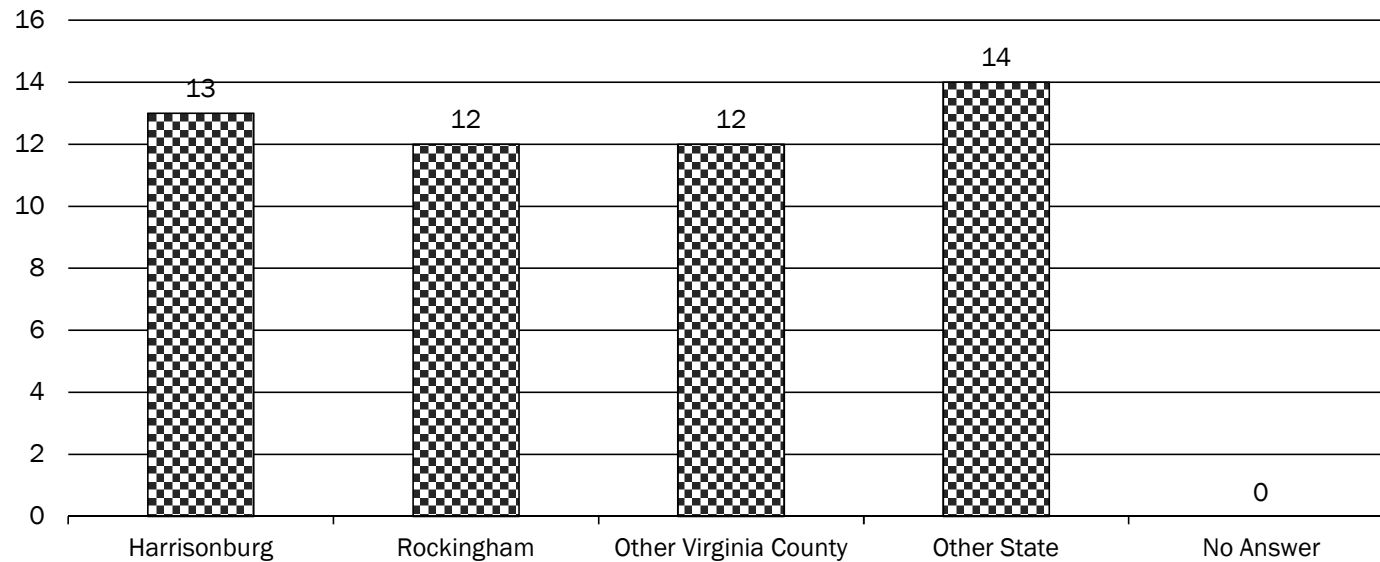
Defined by  
having a disability and either:

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

*The 2016 Virginia Point in Time identified 793 persons who were chronically homeless of 4,639 in Virginia, or 17% of persons counted.*

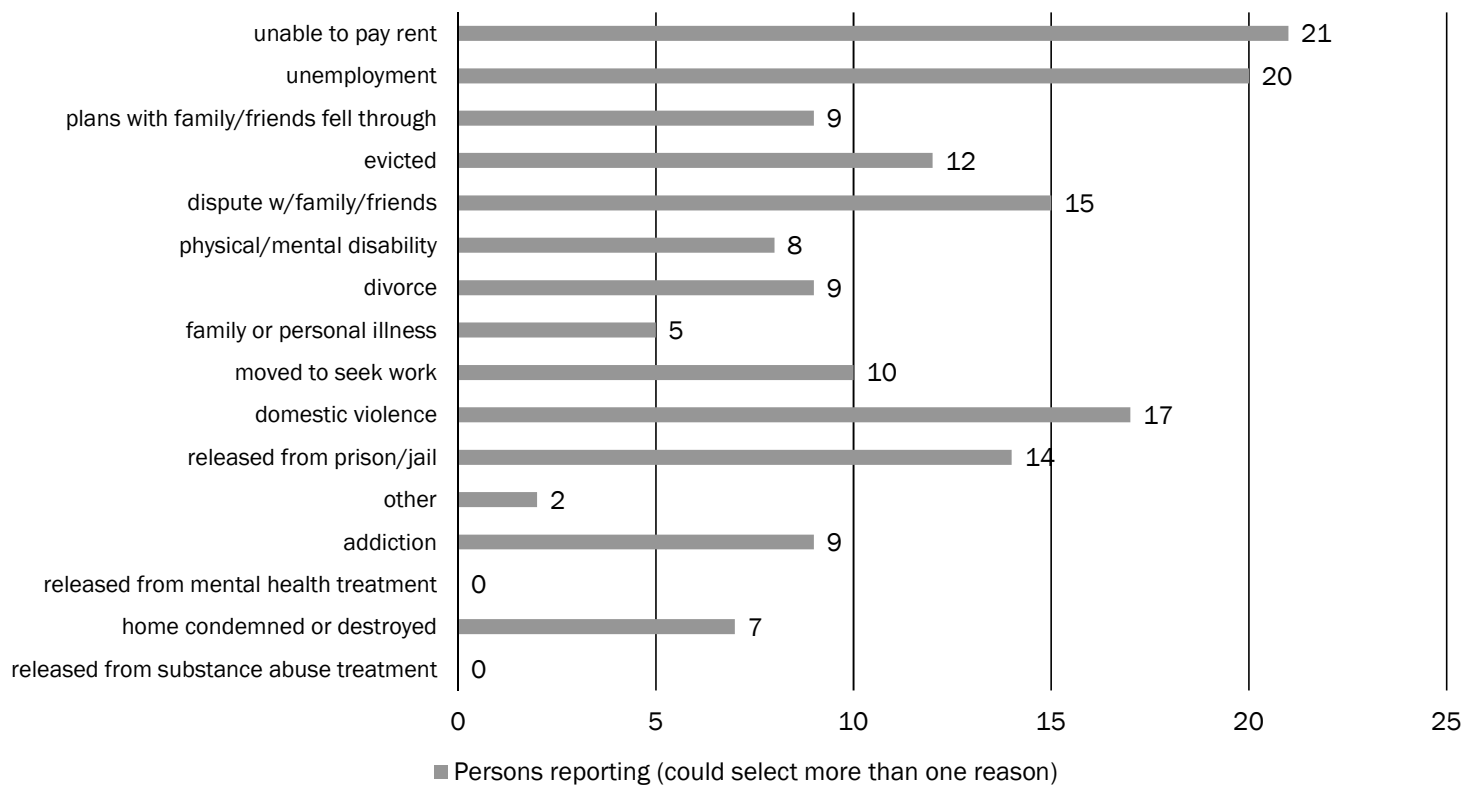
17% of surveyed adults (9 persons of 51) were identified as chronically homeless by HUD's definition.

# Last Permanent Housing Location (stayed 90 days)

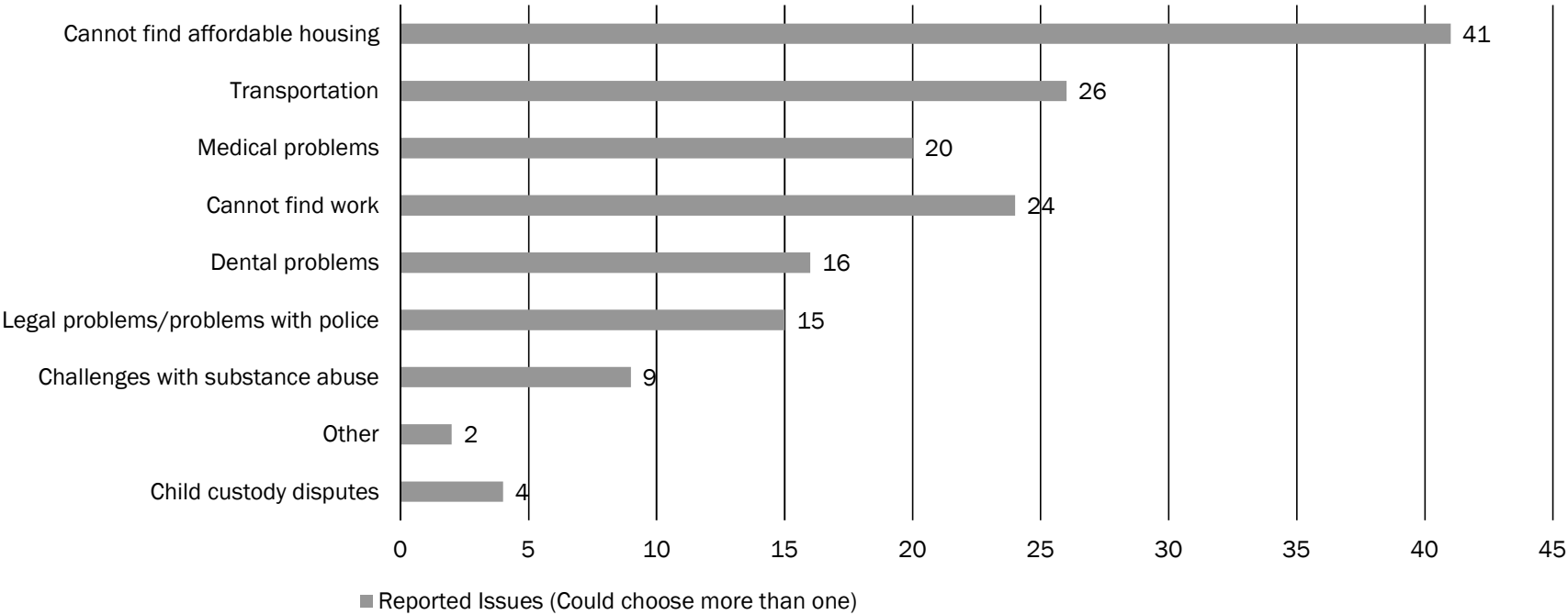


2017

# Self-Reported Reasons for Homelessness



# Self-Reported Barriers to Stable Housing



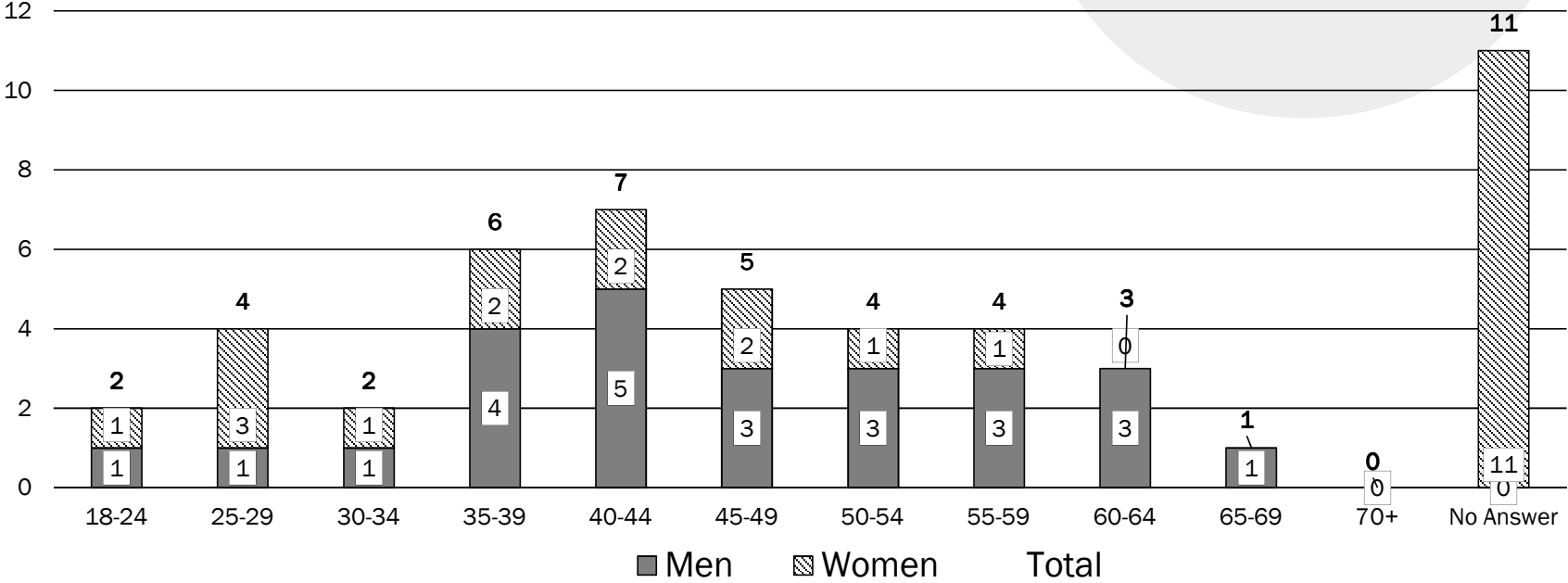




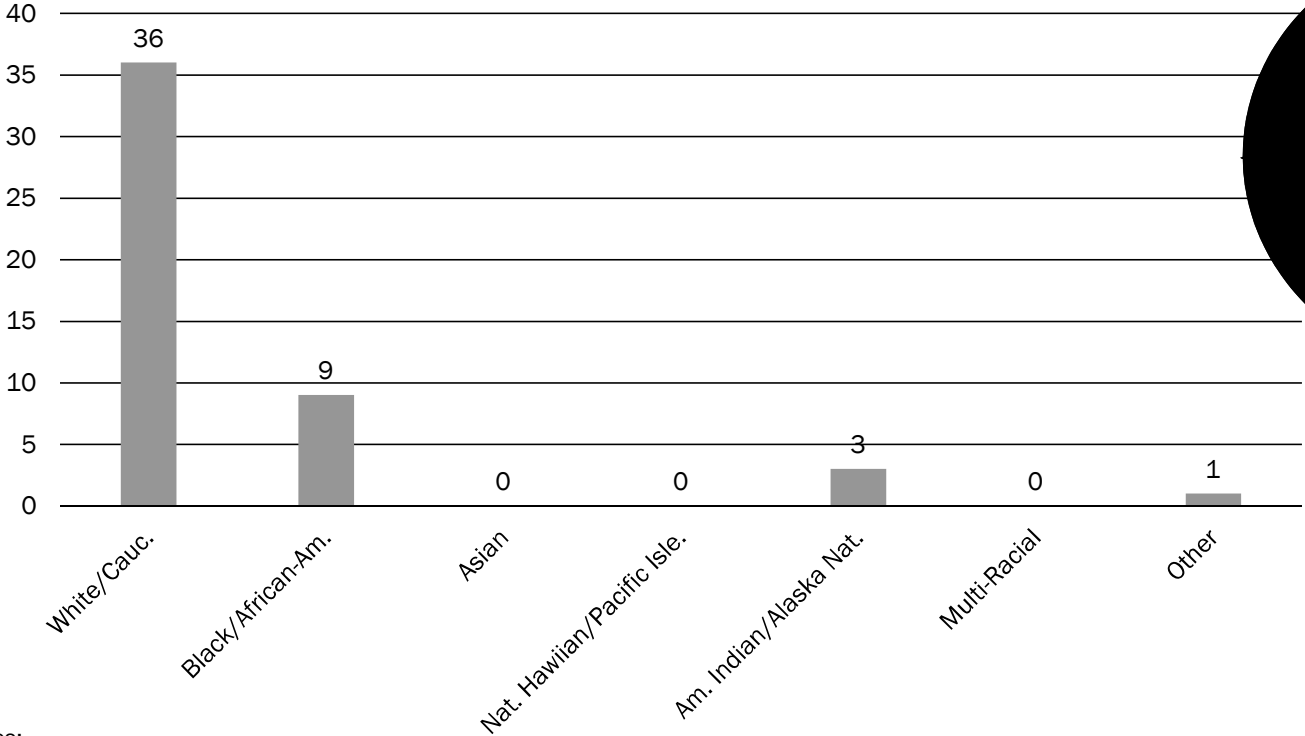
DEMOGRAPHICS

# Age and Gender

Average age: 43  
 Median male age 44  
 Median female age 35

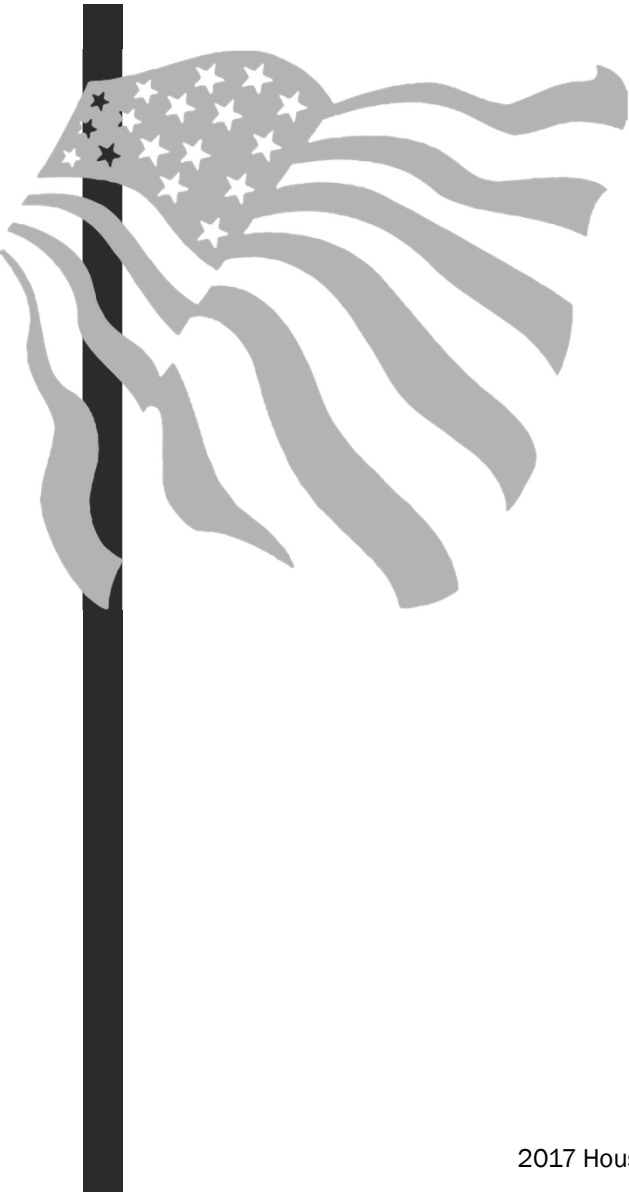


# 2017 Survey Respondents by Race and Ethnicity



14% (7 persons)  
Identified as  
Latino/Hispanic

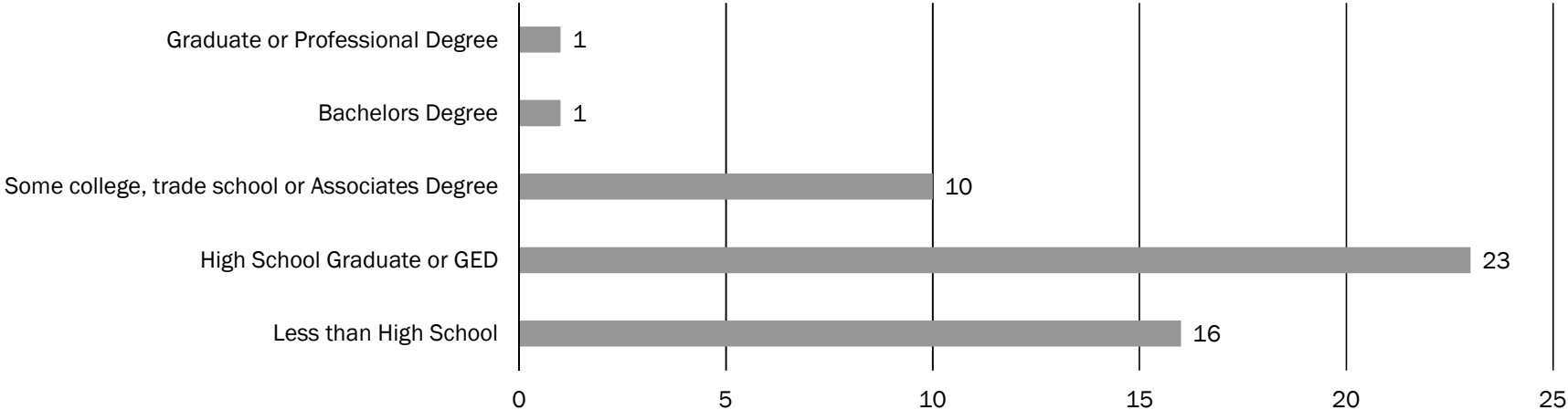
Sources:  
\*Hispanics may be of any race, so also are included in applicable race categories



## Surveyed Veterans

- 2 of 50 identified as veterans – 1 did not answer.
- 1 of 2 veterans reported they receive VA Benefits.
- Both identified as former Army.
- 1 identified as a combat veteran from the Vietnam War era.
- Discharged status – both honorable

# Education and Homelessness



*30% of surveyed (15 of 49 adults who answered) reported receiving special education services in highschool.*

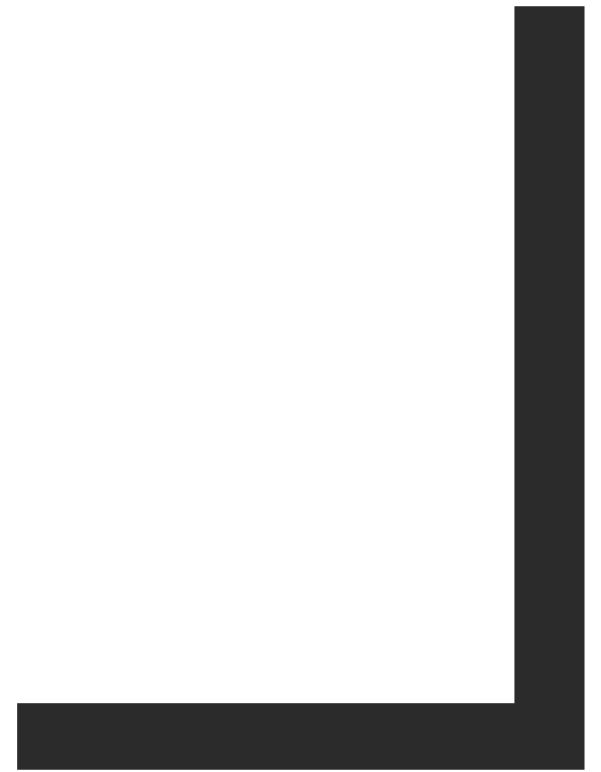
*33% did not graduate High School or receive their GED.*

## Other Life Experiences

- 72% of surveyed adults have served time in jail
- 35% of surveyed adults have served time in prison
- 24% said they were placed in foster care as a child
- 41% suffered childhood trauma, abuse or neglect
- 21% reported a violent attack since they became homeless
- 15% have suffered traumatic brain injury
- 4% reported undocumented status
- 54% have received treatment for mental health issues
- 21% have been admitted to the hospital for mental health issues



HEALTH



# Housing and Health

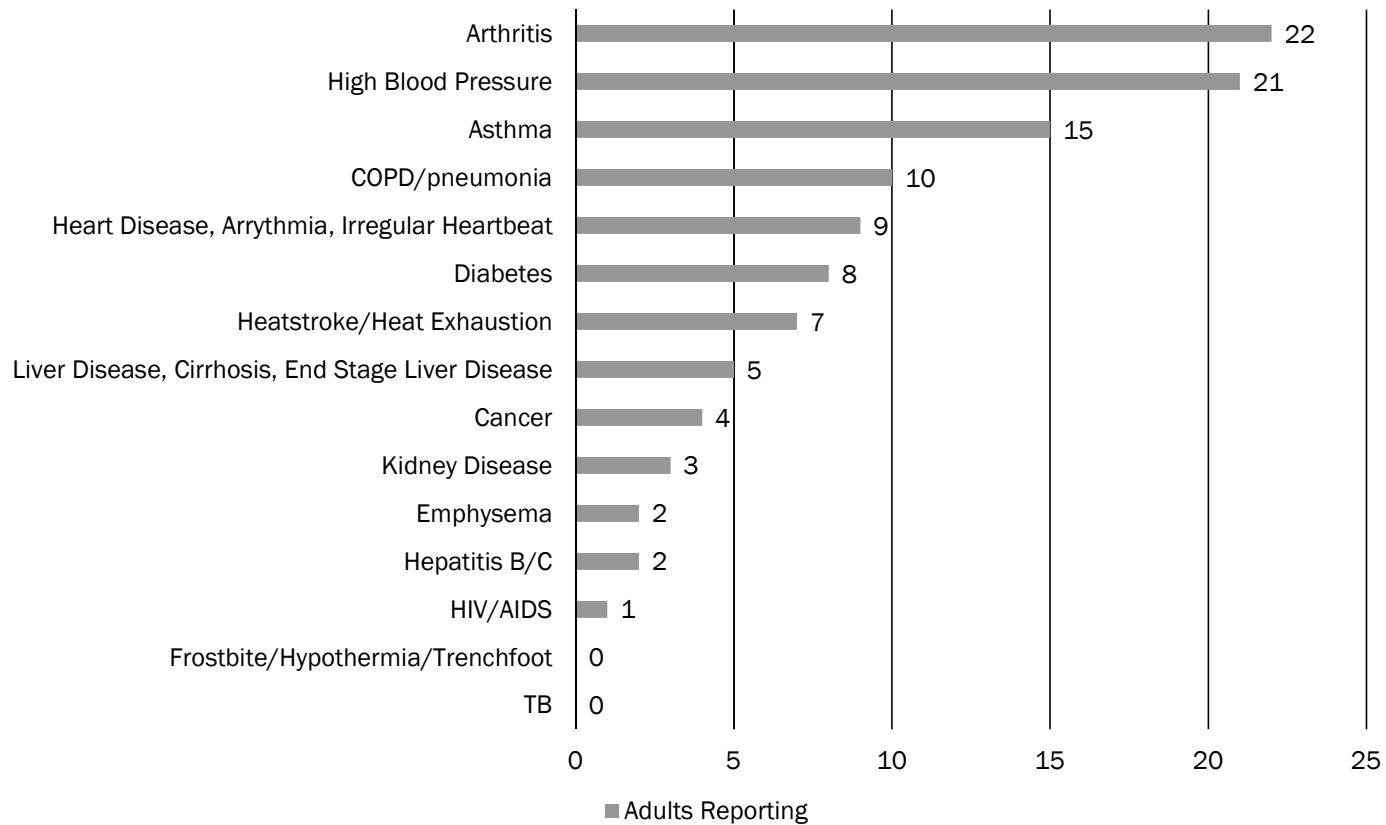
“Living on the street or in homeless shelters exacerbates existing health problems and causes new ones. Chronic diseases, such as hypertension, asthma, diabetes, mental health problems and other ongoing conditions, are difficult to manage under stressful circumstances and may worsen. Acute problems such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

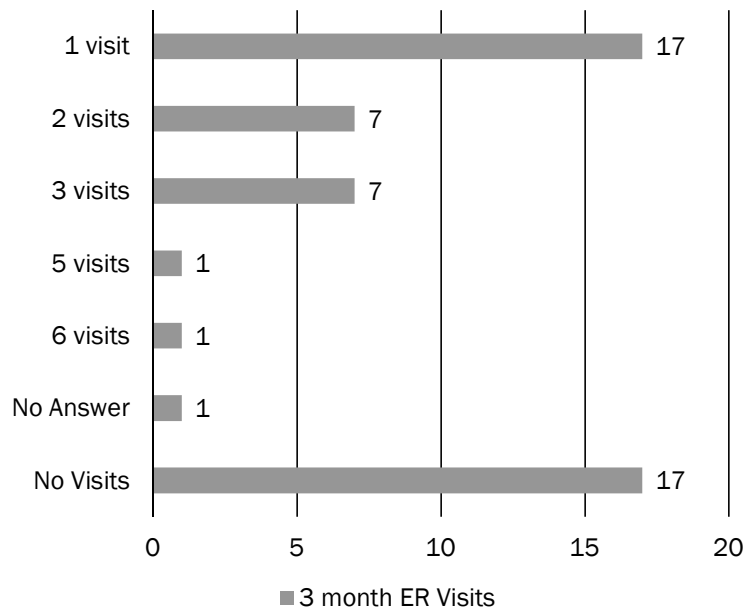


# Health Conditions (50 persons surveyed)

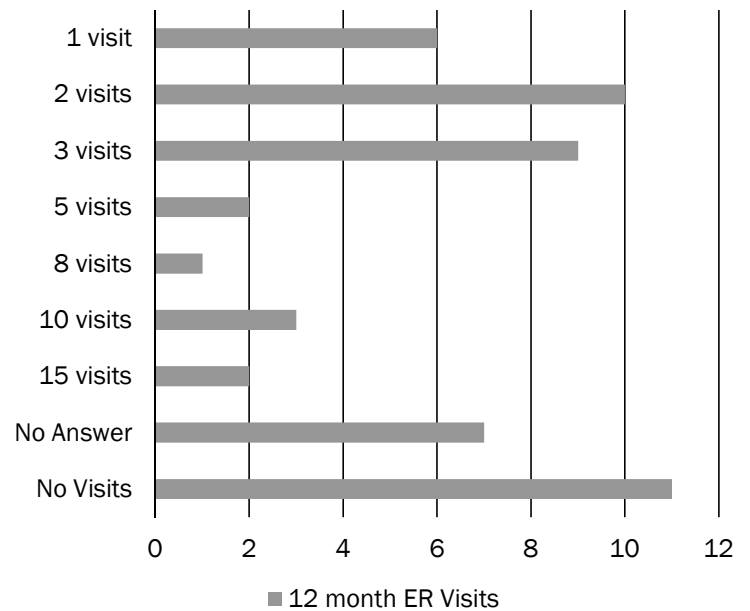


# Emergency Room Visits

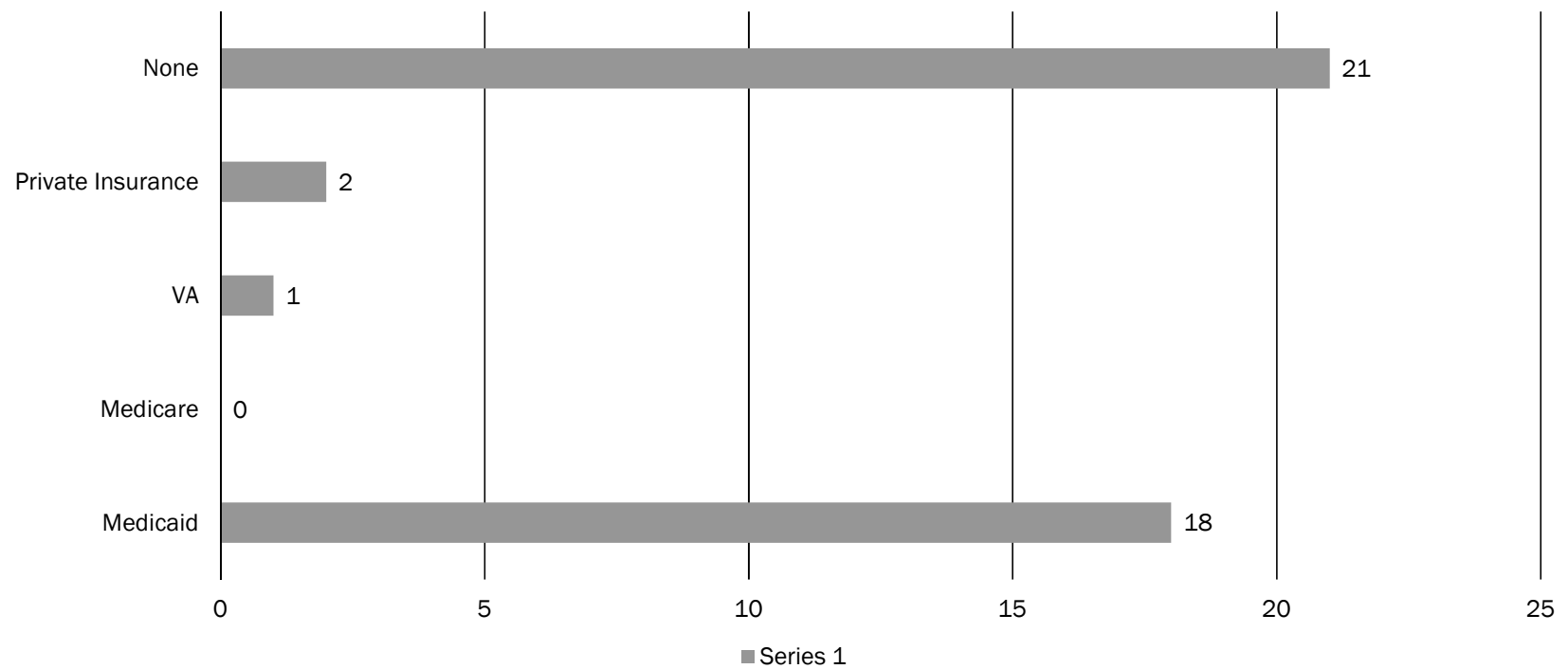
56 Emergency Room Visits Reported in Last 3 Months



131 Emergency Room Visits Reported in Last 12 Months



# Medical Insurance



# Estimated Cost of Hospital Admissions

- 203 days of in-patient hospitalization were reported, including one person reporting 56 days.
- Virginia average cost\* per day of hospitalization at a non-profit hospital; \$1,753.00\*
- Estimated cost of all admissions (203 days x \$1,753.00) = \$355,859
- 28 of 51 persons indicated they did not have insurance (55%)
- 40 days admission were reported from persons without insurance.  
Estimated cost of admissions for uninsured (40 x \$1,753.00 = \$70,120).

\*2014 statistics

<http://www.beckershospitalreview.com/finance/average-cost-per-inpatient-day-across-50-states-2016.html>



**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON  
HOMELESSNESS IN THE SHENANDOAH  
VALLEY**

**[DATA513.COM](http://DATA513.COM)**

