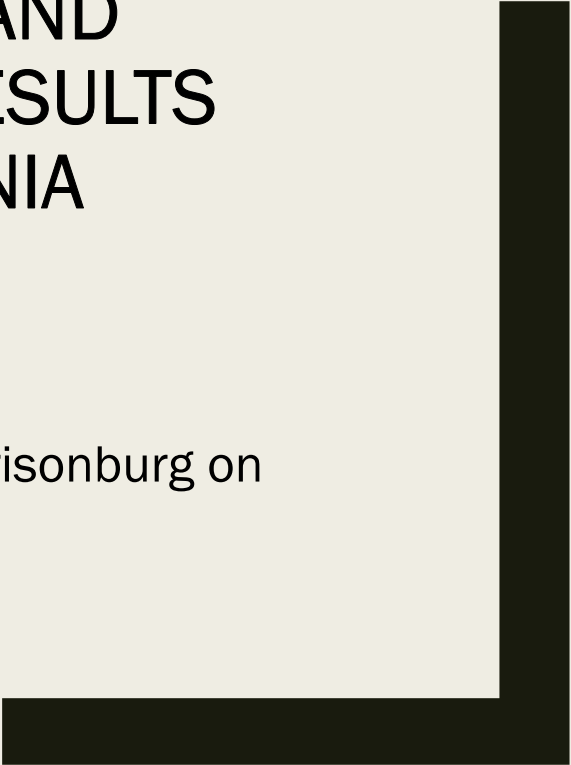


2018 HOUSING NEEDS AND VULNERABILITY SURVEY RESULTS HARRISONBURG VIRGINIA

A survey from homeless adults in Harrisonburg on
January 24th, 2018



2018 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. Guests were interviewed at Open Doors Thermal Shelter, The Harrisonburg Salvation Army, First Step Domestic Violence Shelter and Mercy House Family Shelter. We also interviewed persons on the street staying in places not for habitation.

Sixty-four persons volunteered to share their personal information to help our community better understand local homeless population's experiences, barriers to housing, physical and emotional health, and other demographic information.

The health questions are used to support agencies that provide healthcare and outreach to vulnerable populations within our communities.

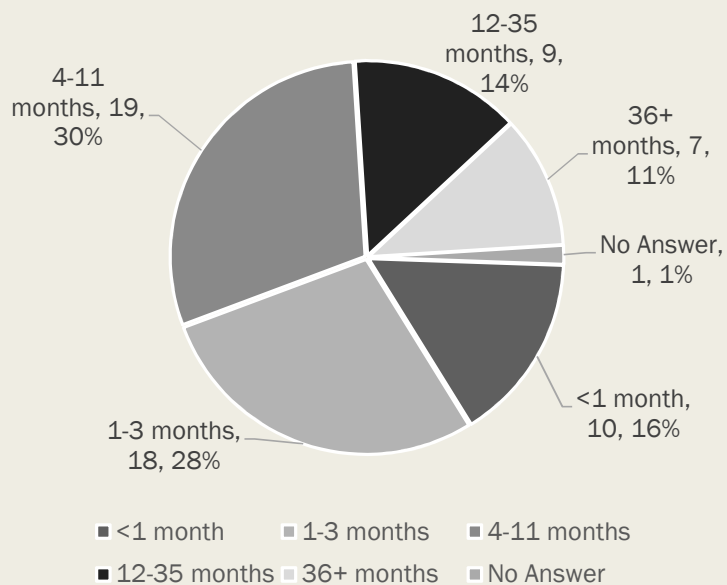
The survey answers are codified by JMU's Research Methods class under the direction of Professor Rita Poteyeva, PhD, Assistant Professor in the Department of Justice Studies.



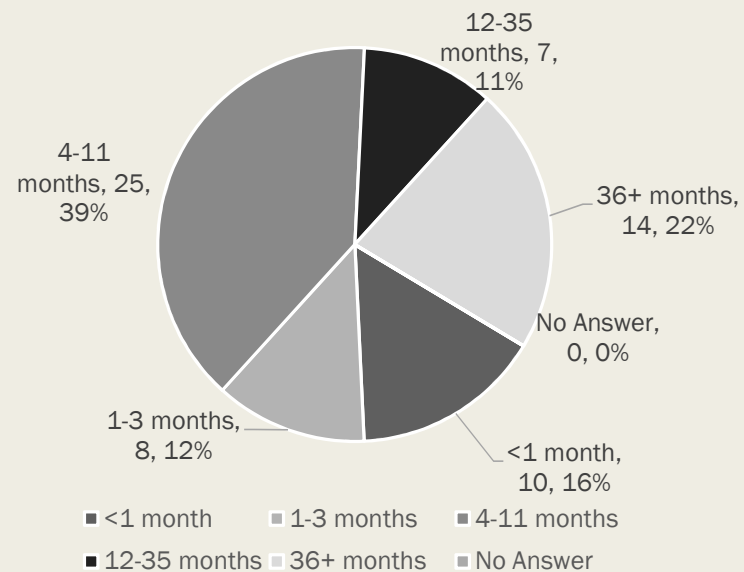
DURATION & BARRIERS OF HOMELESSNESS

Reported duration of homelessness in Harrisonburg 64 homeless adults

Total Duration in Last 3 Years



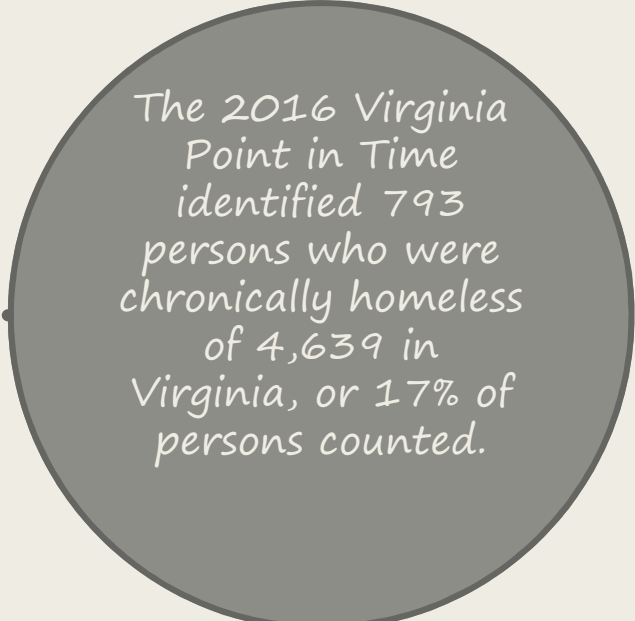
Lifetime Duration



HUD Chronic Homelessness

Chronically homeless defined by having a disability and either:

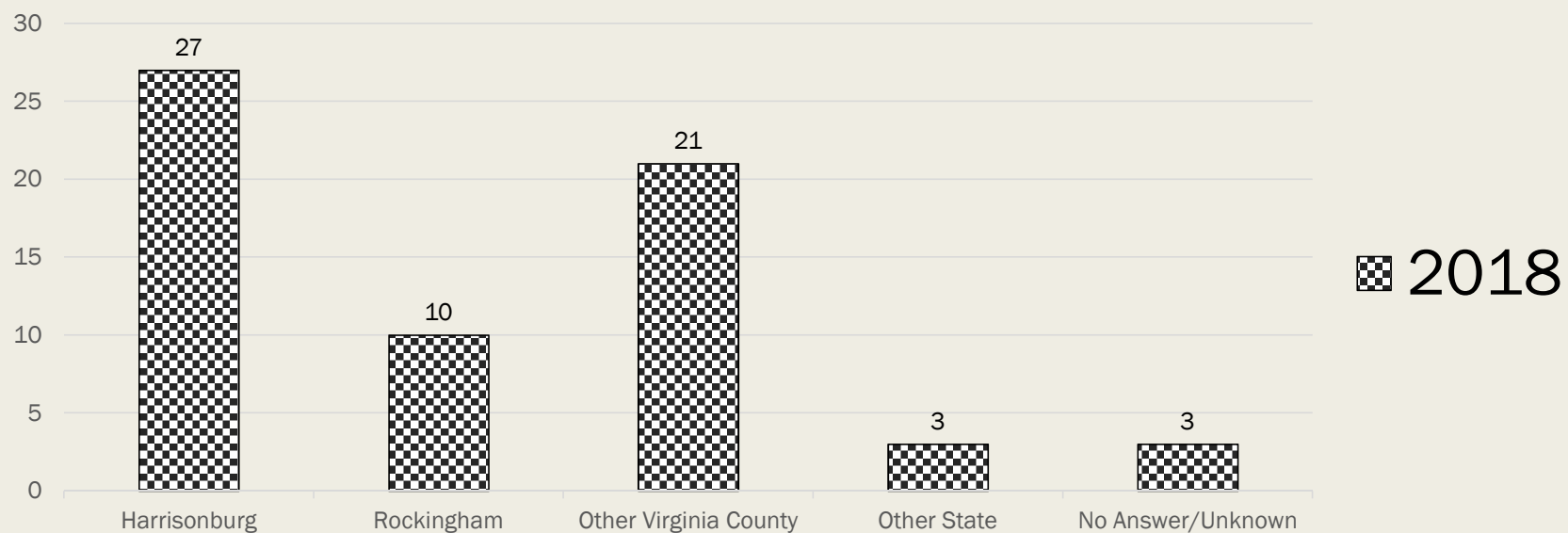
- 4+ times homeless in the past 3 years (duration 1+ year)
- or one episode of 12+ months duration in the past 3 years



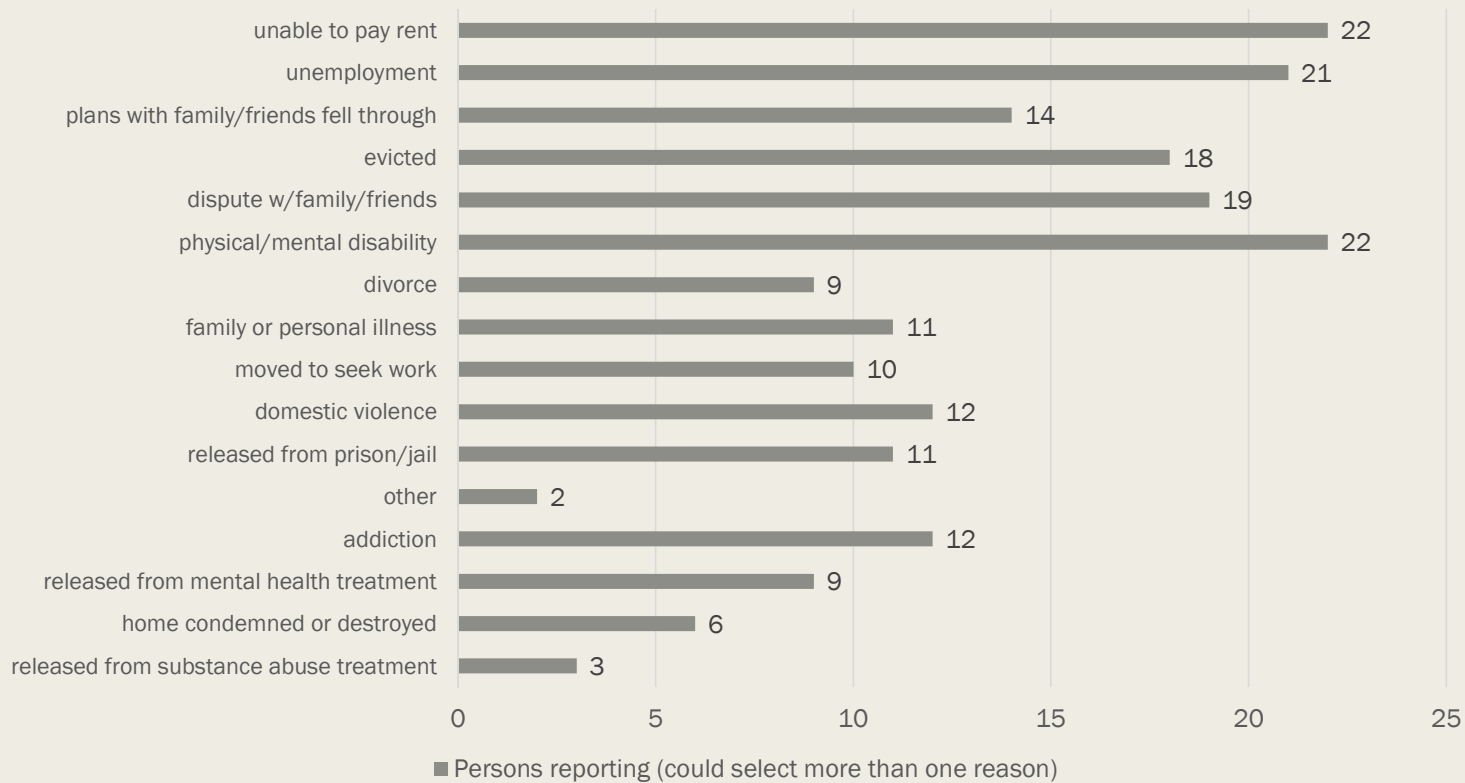
The 2016 Virginia Point in Time identified 793 persons who were chronically homeless of 4,639 in Virginia, or 17% of persons counted.

13% of surveyed adults (8 persons of 62 with all data points gathered) were identified as chronically homeless by HUD's definition.

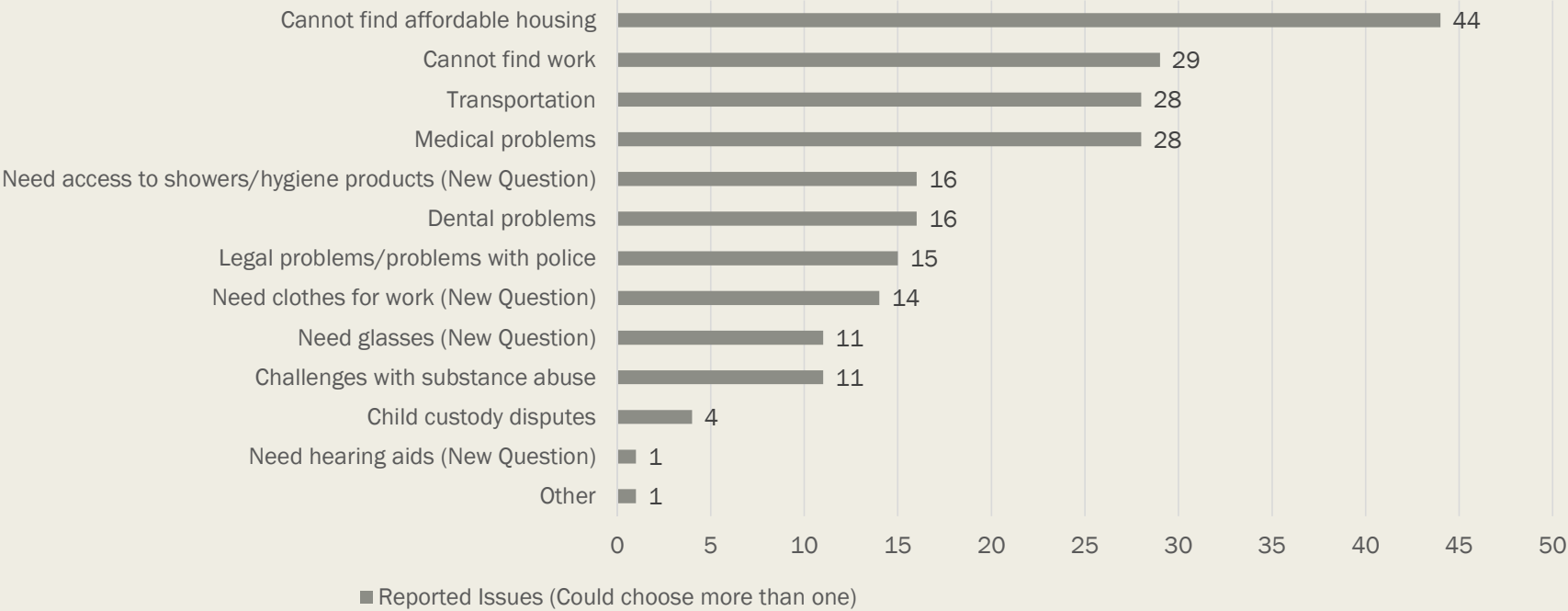
Last Permanent Housing Location (stayed 90 days) of 64 persons



Self-Reported Reasons for Homelessness



Self-Reported Barriers to Stable Housing

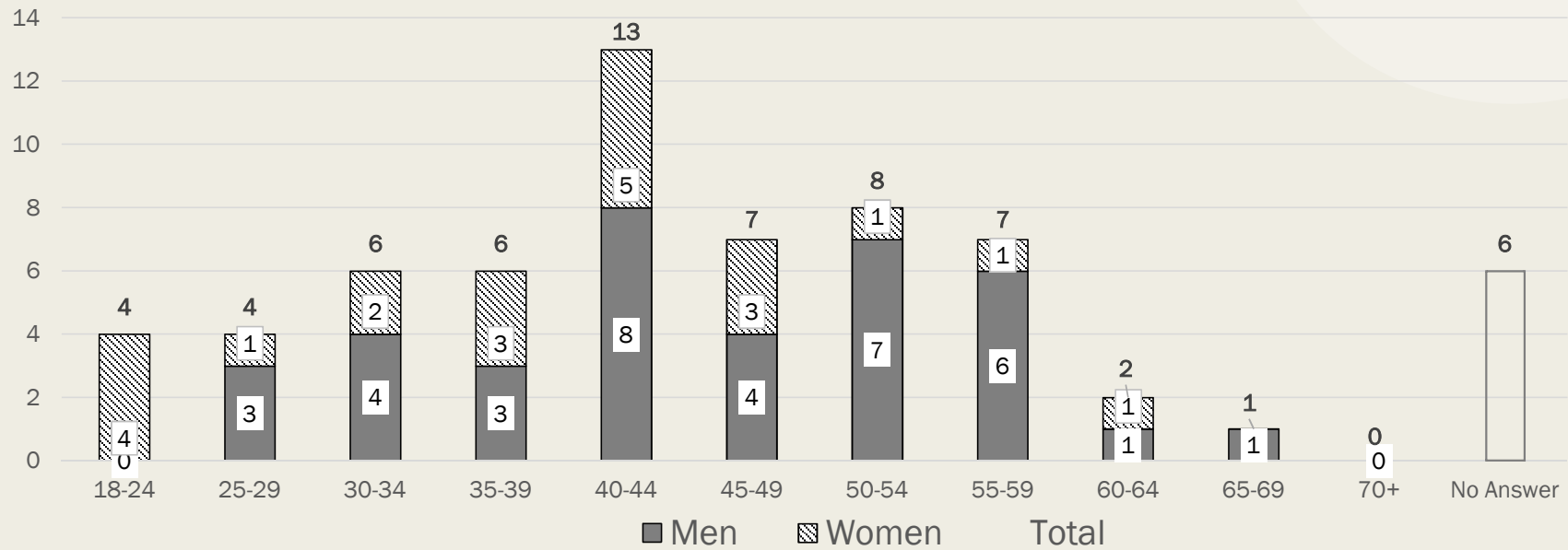




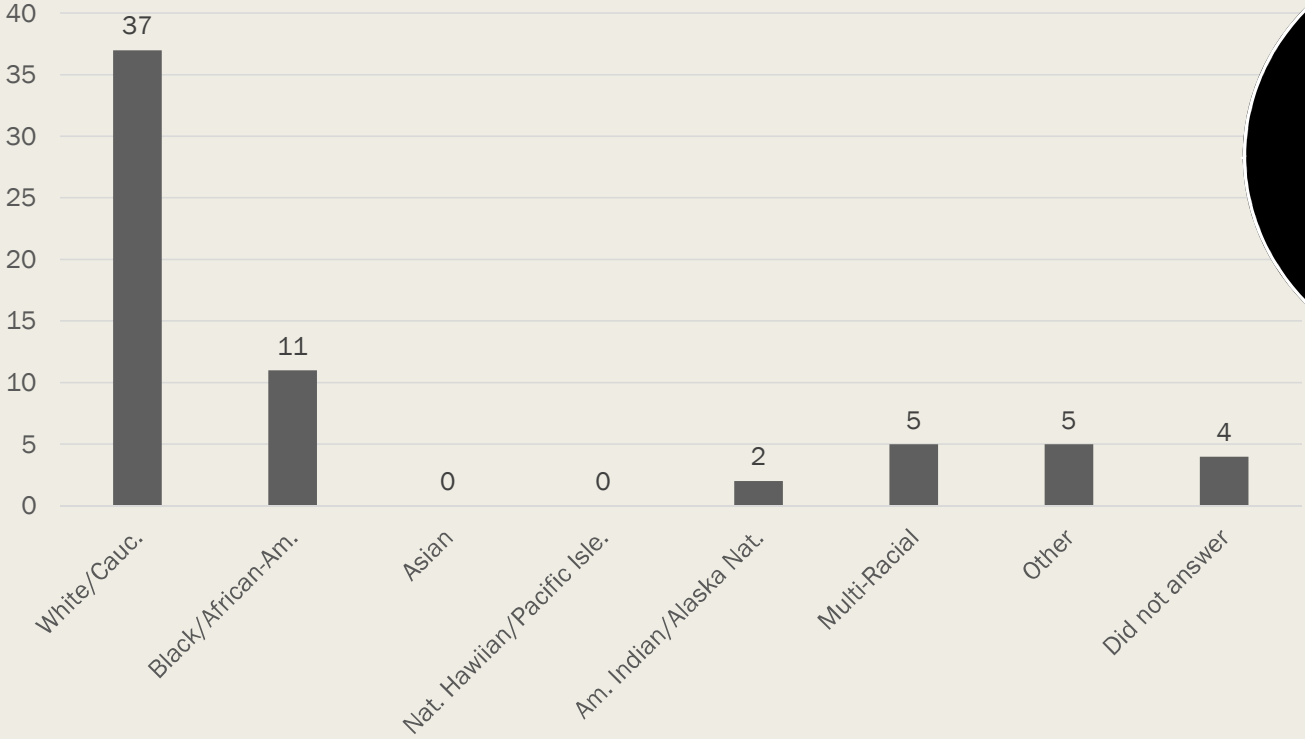
DEMOGRAPHICS

Age and Gender

Average : 43
 Median male age 47
 Median female age 39



2018 Survey Respondents by Race and Ethnicity



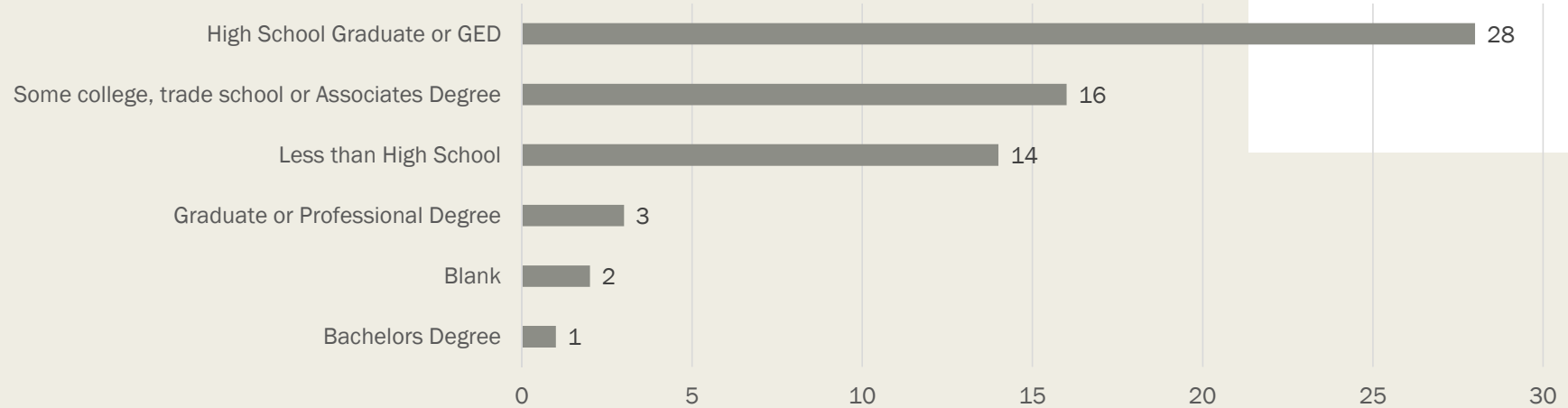
17% (11/63 persons)
Identified as
Latino/Hispanic



Surveyed Veterans

- Four of fifty-nine adults surveyed (seven percent) identified as veteran – five did not answer.
- One of four veterans reported they receive VA Benefits.
- Three identified as former Army, one former Air force.
- None identified as a combat veteran.
- Discharged status – All four honorable

Education and Homelessness



27% of surveyed (17 of 62 adults who answered) reported receiving special education services in high school.

23% did not graduate High School or receive their GED.

Other Life Experiences

- 66% of surveyed adults have served time in jail
- 31% of surveyed adults have served time in prison
- 11% said they were placed in foster care as a child
- 50% suffered childhood trauma, abuse or neglect
- 13% reported a violent attack since they became homeless
- 23% have suffered traumatic brain injury
- 8% reported undocumented status
- 56% have received treatment for mental health issues
- 42% have been admitted to the hospital for mental health issues (sixteen persons declined to answer this question)



HEALTH

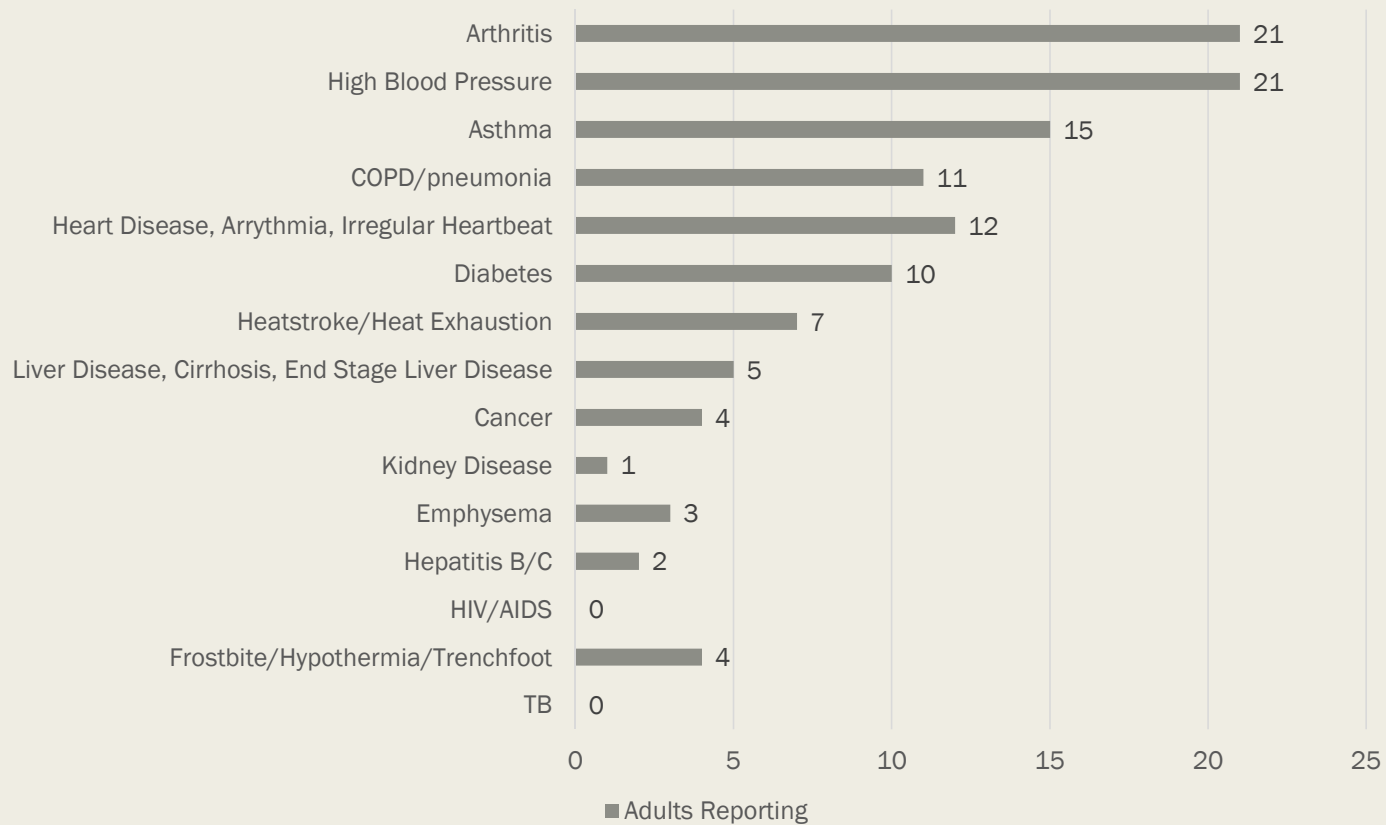
Housing and Health

“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.”

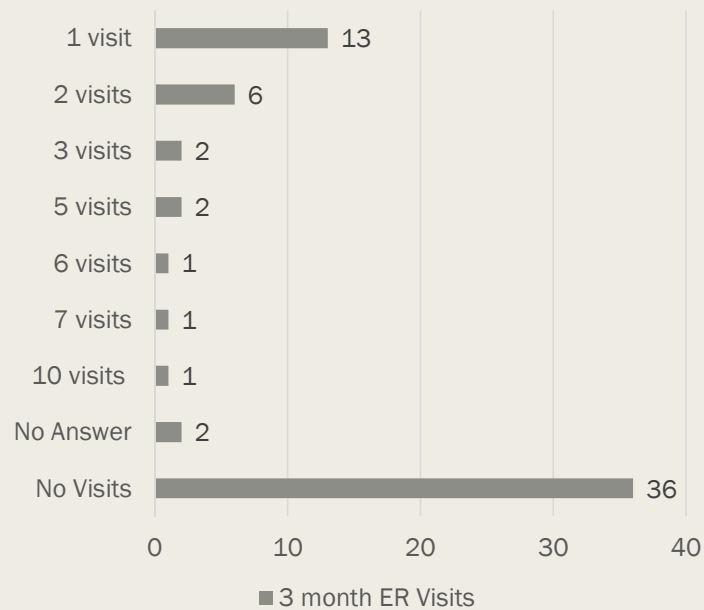
<https://www.nhchc.org/faq/relationship-health-housing-homelessness/>

Health Conditions (63 persons answered)

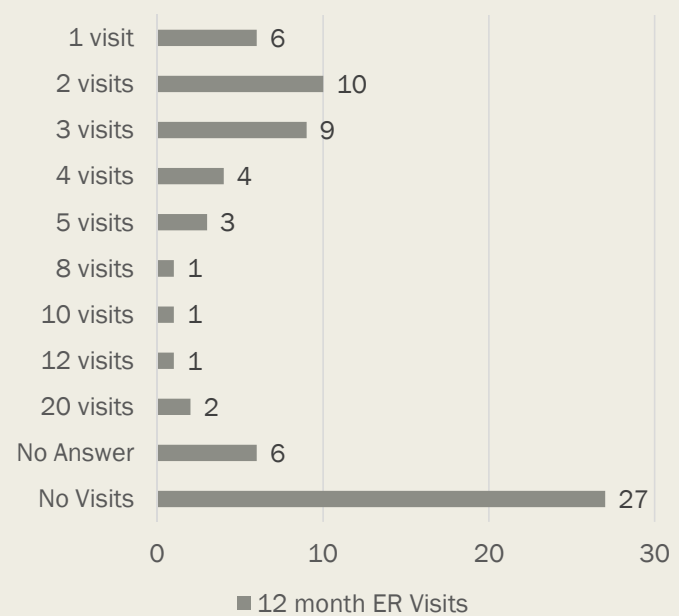


Emergency Room Visits

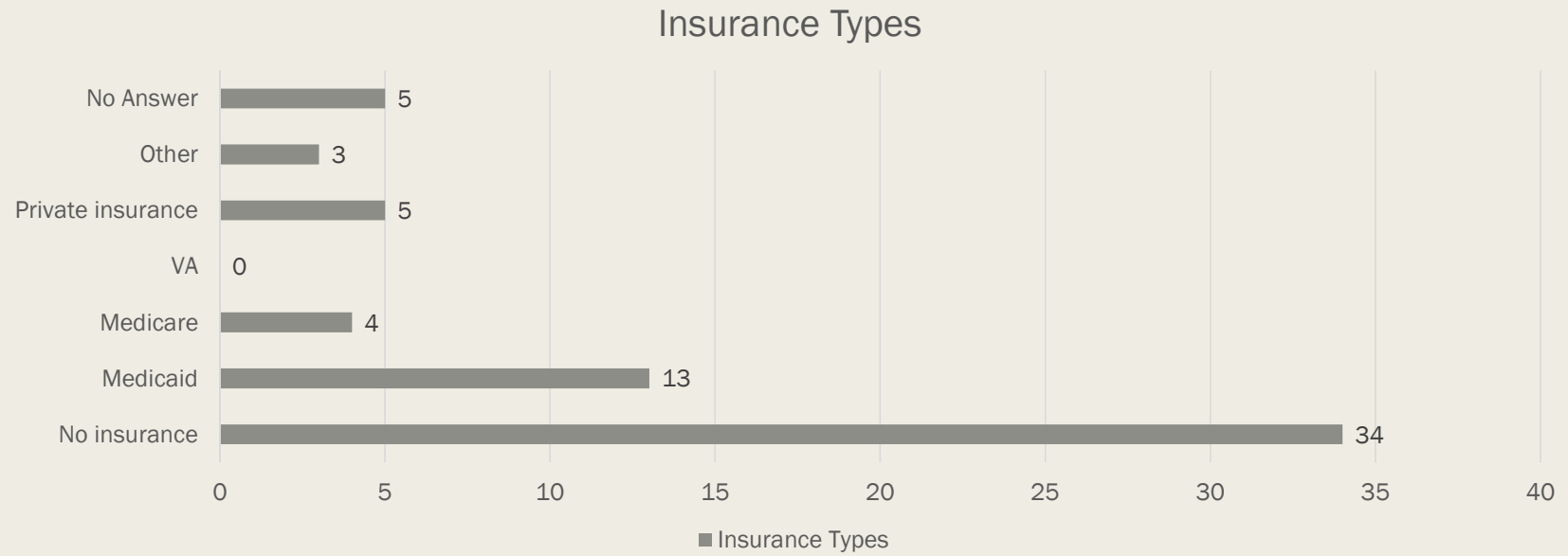
64 Emergency Room Visits Reported in Last 3 Months



124 Emergency Room Visits Reported in Last 12 Months



Medical Insurance



Estimated Cost of Hospital Admissions

- 224 days of in-patient hospitalization were reported, including one person reporting 80 days.
- Virginia average cost* per day of hospitalization at a for-profit hospital; \$1,878*
- Estimated cost of all admissions (224 days x \$1,879) = \$420,896
- 34 of 59 persons indicated they did not have insurance (58%)
- 161 days of hospital admission were reported from persons without insurance. Estimated cost of admissions for uninsured (161 x \$1,879.00 = \$302,519).

*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

