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GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
Burnes Center on Poverty and Homelessness

Assessment of Homelessness in Trinidad, Colorado

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Assessment of Homelessness in City of Trinidad, Colorado

Executive Summary

Many communities where individuals and families are experiencing homelessness, data regarding history and personal circumstances which led to their homelessness often informs community and shapes service system responses.

The City of Trinidad Colorado hired the Burnes Center on Poverty and Homelessness to conduct in-depth interviews with individuals experiencing homelessness and develop a report presenting collected data. The interviews were conducted by Burnes Center staff and local volunteers over a two-day period (June 13-14, 2018) and reached 63 individuals.

This report presents the data collected from surveys over the two-day time period in June. The report also provides analysis of potentially interesting relationships between data points and an infographic is included to highlight key findings.

Information in this report will help stakeholders better understand the background and circumstances that has led to an individual's experience of homelessness in Trinidad, Colorado. Then, this data can be used to guide strategy development to prevent and end homelessness.

Often, data indicates that those experiencing chronic homelessness – while typically a minority of the overall population experiencing homelessness – can be the highest utilizers of public systems (i.e., emergency rooms, in-patient hospitalizations, detox center, jail, courts, etc.). Local data that support this trend can be used to establish and bolster housing and service resources to end chronic homelessness. Research indicates that the resulting costs of high system utilization is more than the average cost of housing with services for our most vulnerable households.

Key findings:

- *Almost 20% (**19.4%**) of the interviewees have been homeless for more than six years. (Figure 7, page 21)*
- *One-third (**33.9%**) reported they have a permanent physical disability that limits their mobility. (Figure 31, page 40)*
- *Almost one quarter (**23.8%**) have had a serious brain injury or head trauma that required medical attention. (Figure 32, page 41)*
- *Over two-thirds (**66.1%**) reported they have abused alcohol and/or drugs. (Figure 25, page 37)*
- *The report indicates that there is high utilization of emergency room visits – 100 visits in past 3 months. (Figure 22, page 34) Over 40% (**40.3%**) reported 1-36 hospitalizations in the past year. (Figure 23, page 35)*
- *A majority of interviewees (**56.5%**) reported they have received treatment for mental health issues. (Figure 29, page 39)*
- *Three quarters (**77.8%**) reported they have been in jail. (Figure 34, page 43)*
- *Over 30% (**31%**) of those surveyed reported living in Las Animas County for more than 10 years while **8.6%** reported living in the County between 6 – 10 years. Almost 40% (**39.6%**) of interviewees have lived in the County for more than 6 years. (Figure 6, page 21)*
- *Over 40% (**44.4%**) reported income from work. (Figure 16, page 29)*

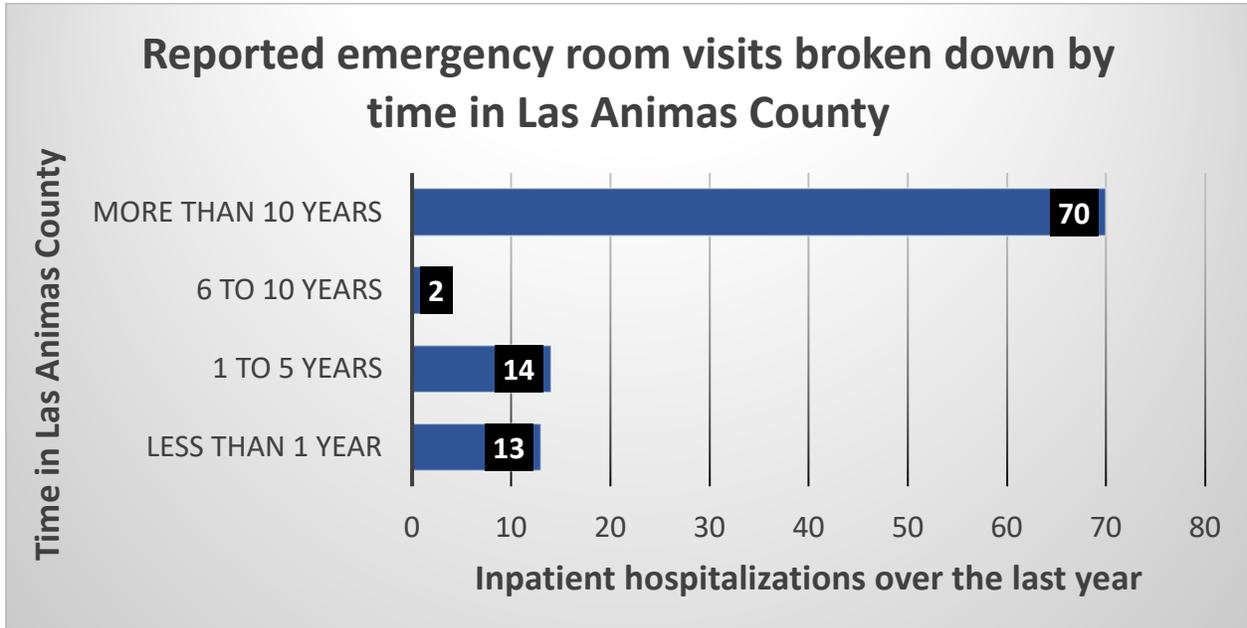
The report also includes a section with additional analysis. The additional analysis section goes beyond descriptive statistics to describing relationships that the Burnes Center team uncovered through the course of data analysis. (page 45) Following are some examples:

Hospitalizations (Q19) broken down by time in Las Animas County (Q7)

Of individuals reporting having lived in Las Animas County for less than 1 year, these individuals reported **13 (13%)** hospitalizations over the last year. For individuals

reporting having lived in Las Animas County for 1 to 5 years, these individuals reported **14 (14%)** hospitalizations over the last year. For individuals reporting having lived in Las Animas County for 6 to 10 years, these individuals reported **2 (2%)** hospitalizations over the last year. For individuals reporting they lived in Las Animas for more than 10 years, these individuals reported **70 (70%)** of total hospitalizations over the last year.

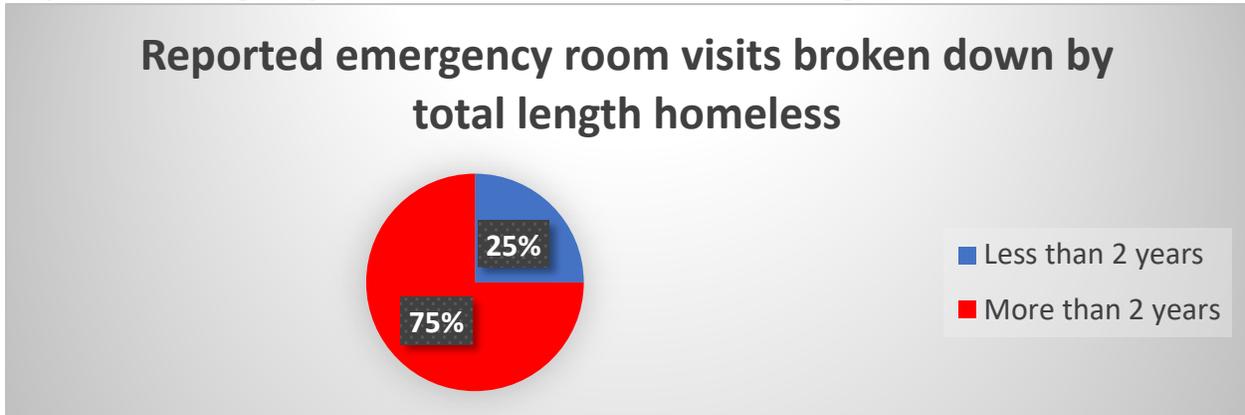
Reported emergency room visits broken down by time in Las Animas County



Length homeless (Q8) broken down by emergency room visits (Q18)

Of the 100 reported emergency room visits within the last three months, **75 (75%)** of those visits came from individuals who reported having been homeless for a total of more than 2 years. The other **25 (25%)** visits came from individuals who reported having been homeless for less than 2 years.

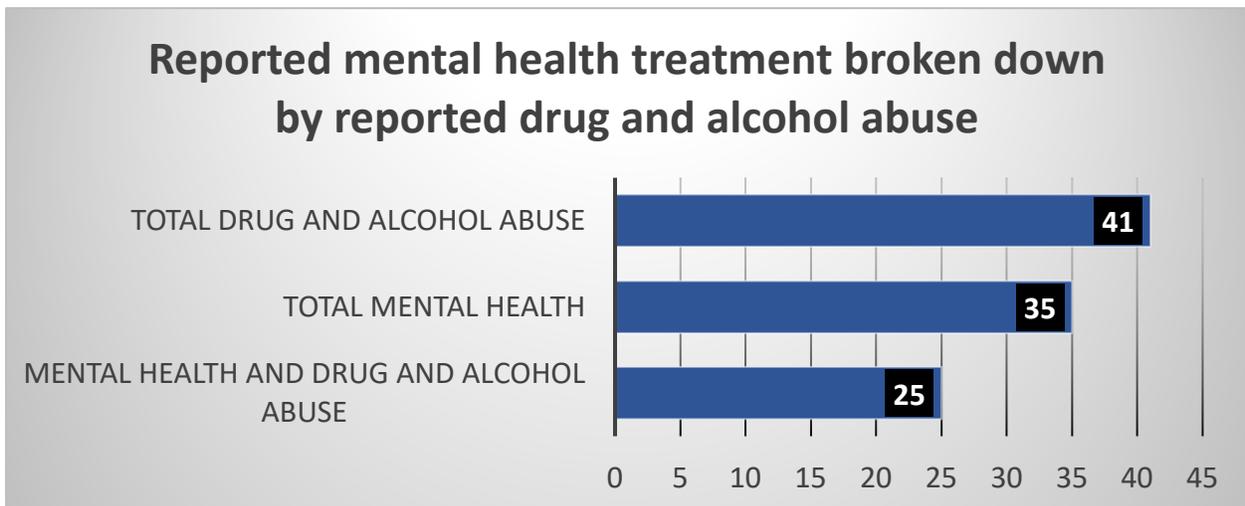
Reported emergency room visits broken down total length homeless



Mental health (Q20q) broken down by drug and alcohol abuse (Q20m)

When considering the individuals who reported having a history of drug or alcohol abuse, we decided to analyze whether or not these same individuals reported a history of mental health treatment. Of the 41 individuals who reported having a history of drug or alcohol abuse, **25 (60.9%)** of those individuals are reported having a history of mental health treatment.

Reported mental health treatment broken down by reported drug and alcohol abuse



Acknowledgements

Thank you to the following persons and locations who made this assessment possible:

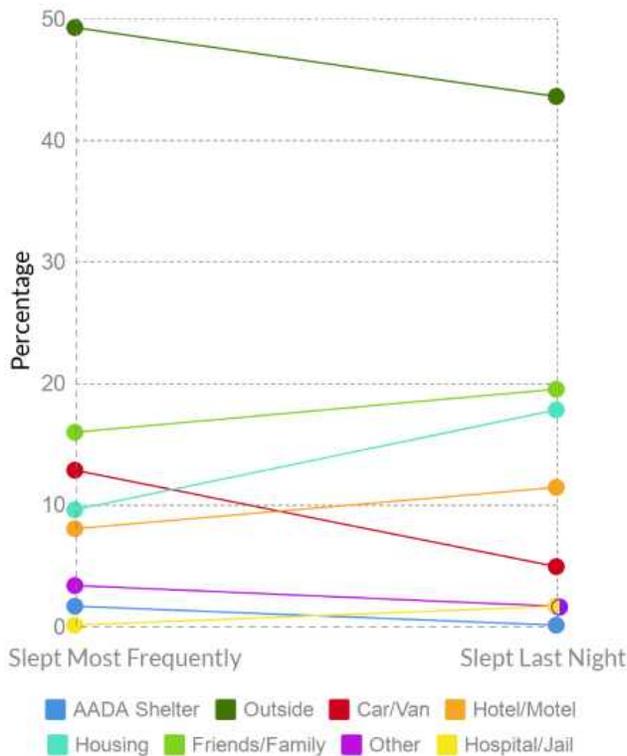
- Burnes Center team: Kat Hughey, Abby Magnus, Amanda Seibel, Cullen Dilldine, Daniel Brisson
- City of Trinidad employees and elected officials: Mallory Pillard, Carlos Lopez, Greg Sund
- Volunteers: Elaine Barr, Kimberly Cavitt, Kevin Fitzgerald, Doug Holdread, Sue Nesbitt, Walter Parsons
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- Fisher Soup Kitchen staff and volunteers
- Trinidad Community Center
- Prospect Plaza Laundromat
- Trinidad Library staff
- Brenn Anderson-Gregson for developing a report infographic (pages 11-12)

Homelessness in Trinidad, Colorado

Sixty-three individuals experiencing homelessness in Trinidad, Colorado, were interviewed during June 13-14, 2018. The interviews were conducted by staff with the Burnes Center on Poverty and Homelessness from the University of Denver in partnership with local volunteers. Interviews were conducted at the Trinidad library, Fisher Soup Kitchen, Trinidad Community Center, a local laundromat, as well as in public spaces. Not everyone encountered during these two days agreed to be interviewed. Data reflected below is self-reported by the interviewees.

History of Housing and Homelessness

Where Slept Most Frequently v. Last Night



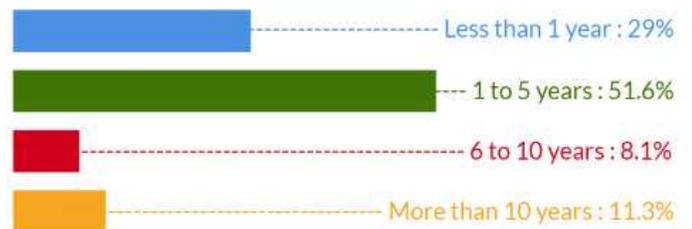
Method of Income



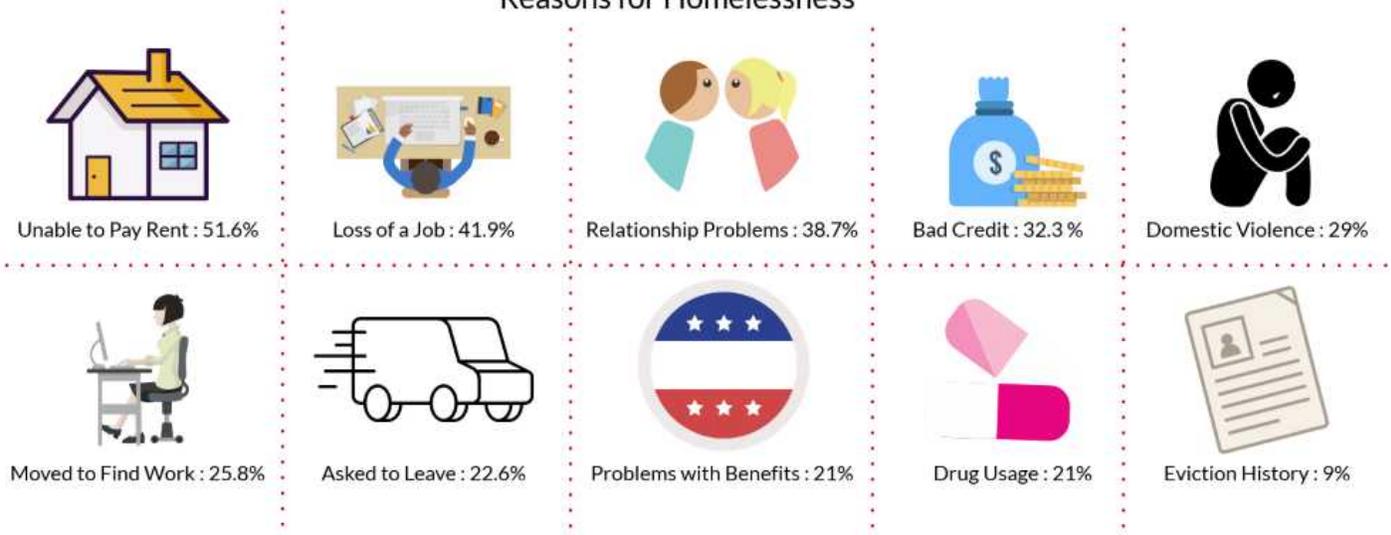
How Long in Las Animas County



Total Time Spent in Homelessness

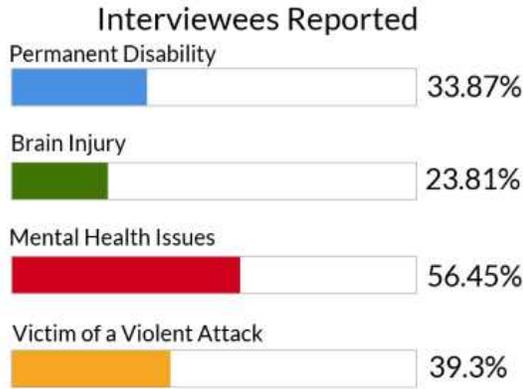


Reasons for Homelessness



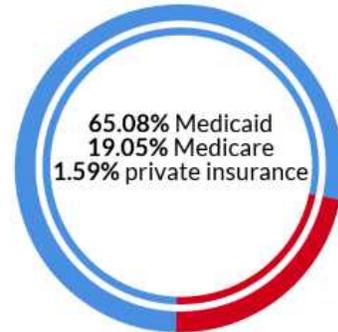
Infographic developed by Brenn Anderson-Gregson
 The infographic provides key data points from a report about persons experiencing homelessness in Trinidad. See full report for additional information and details.

History of Health and Trauma



Health Insurance

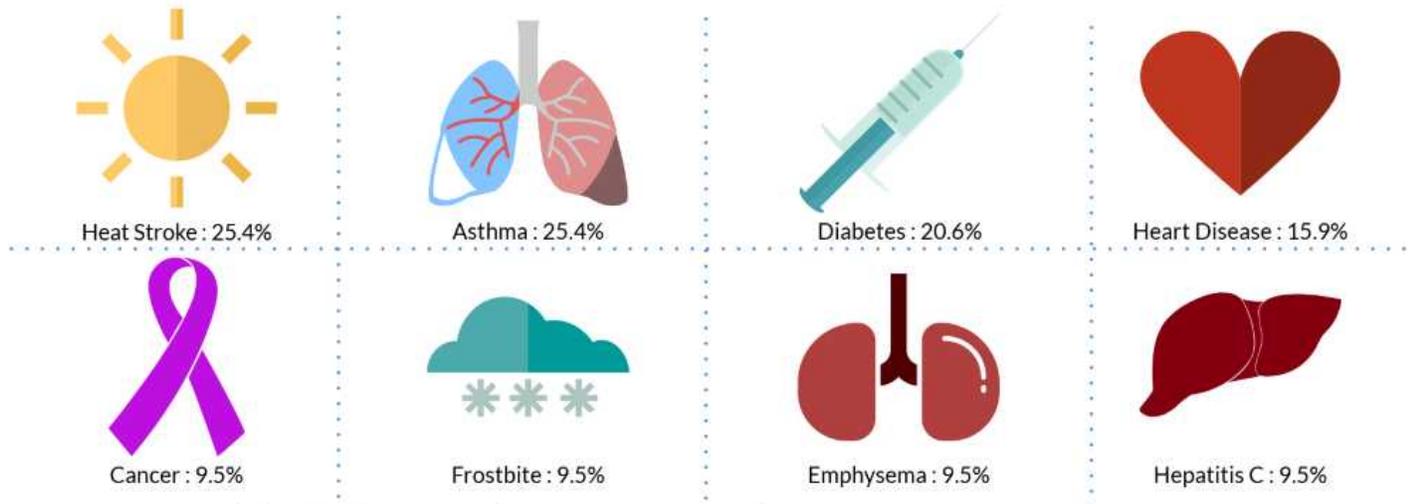
■ Have Health Insurance (77.78%) ■ No Health Insurance (22.22%)



100 Hospitalizations in the last year

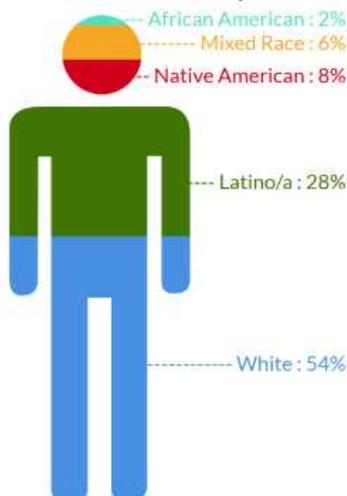
100 ER Visits in the last 3 months

Most Common Medical Conditions

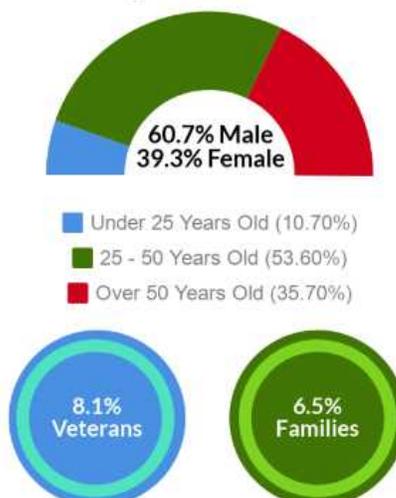


Demographic Information of Interviewees

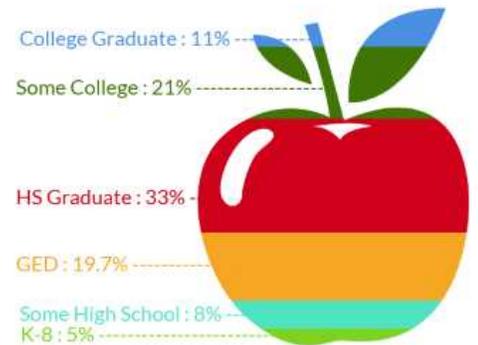
Ethnicity



Age and Gender



Education



Methodology

Volunteers and Burnes Center staff were trained to administer a survey (see appendix A for survey) with people experiencing homelessness over the two-day period.

Outreach efforts were conducted several weeks prior to the interviews (see appendix B for outreach flyer) informing those experiencing homelessness to come to one of four sites during the two day survey effort. Outreach sites included the Fisher Soup Kitchen, Trinidad Library, Trinidad Recreation Center and Prospect Plaza laundromat. Volunteers also worked in teams conducting surveys in public areas including encampments.

All individuals voluntarily participated in the survey. Those who successfully completed the survey with a volunteer were provided a Safeway gift card as a thank you.

The survey instrument used was the Vulnerability Index (VI) survey which captures information such as history of homelessness and housing; issues with mental health, substance use, physical health; veteran and family status; as well as basic demographic information (gender, race, ethnicity, education, etc.).

Information collected through the survey is self-reported. It is widely accepted that data gathered from the VI tool and other survey instruments under-reports assessed health and well-being information. Individuals experiencing homelessness may not recall all of their past experiences during the time of the interview or are hesitant to fully disclose for fear of stigmatization, concerns with personal information being shared with others, and/or consequences for sharing personal information in areas of survival crimes, substance use, and involvement with justice systems.

The VI is a tool for prioritizing the homeless population for housing according to the fragility of their health. It is a practical application of research into the causes of death of homeless individuals living on the street conducted by Boston's Healthcare for the Homeless organization, led by Dr. Jim O'Connell. The Boston research identified the specific health conditions that cause homeless individuals to be most at risk for dying on the street. For individuals who have been homeless for at least

six months, one or more of the following markers place them at heightened risk of mortality:

- more than three hospitalizations or emergency room visits in a year
- more than three emergency room visits in the previous three months
- aged 60 or older
- cirrhosis of the liver
- end-stage renal disease
- history of frostbite, immersion foot, or hypothermia
- HIV+/AIDS
- tri-morbidity: co-occurring psychiatric, substance abuse, and chronic medical condition

In Boston, 40% of those with these conditions died prematurely, underscoring the need for housing and appropriate support for this group.

The VI captures a homeless individual's health and social status. It identifies the most vulnerable through a ranking system which incorporates risk factors and the duration of homelessness. This ranking allows those with the most severe health risks to be identified and prioritized for housing and other support.

(Above information from <http://www.jedc.org/forms/Vulnerability%20Index.pdf>)

Research indicates that targeted outreach to identify the most vulnerable, who over time may become high system utilizers (emergency room, emergency response teams, law enforcement, detox programs, jails, court), is not only a human focused approach but is also cost efficient. Housing the most vulnerable persons reduces impact on local systems and resources.

The current version called the Vulnerability Index and Services Prioritization and Decision-making and Assessment Tool (VI-SPDAT) is used in cases where services and housing resources are available. Since services and housing are largely unavailable in Trinidad, it was determined the original VI tool was most appropriate for gathering data to understand population needs and issues.

The survey results should not be used to draw conclusions about the larger homeless population in Trinidad. There were a number of refusals as well as individuals experiencing homelessness that we couldn't reach who are not included in this count.

Note: While sixty-three individuals participated in the survey, some individuals may not have answered certain questions. The **valid percent** for each question involves only those who responded to the specific question which might be less than 63 individual responses.

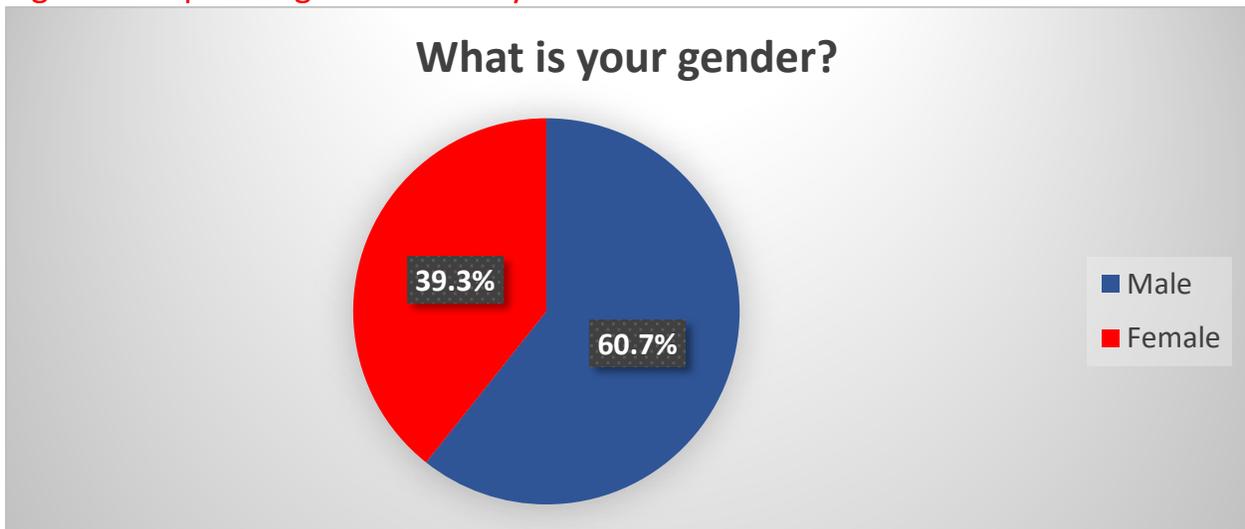
Demographics of persons surveyed

Sixty-three individuals participated in the VI and provided information about their history with healthcare, income, housing and homelessness.

The majority of interviewees were single individuals with **6.5%** reported being part of a family that is experiencing homelessness. **8.1%** reported being a veteran and **10.7%** reported being under 25 years of age.

60.7% of survey participants were male with **39.3%** identified as female. There were no individuals who identified as transgender. According to the 2010 census, the population of the City of Trinidad was 48.8% male and 51.2% female.

Figure 1: Reported gender identity



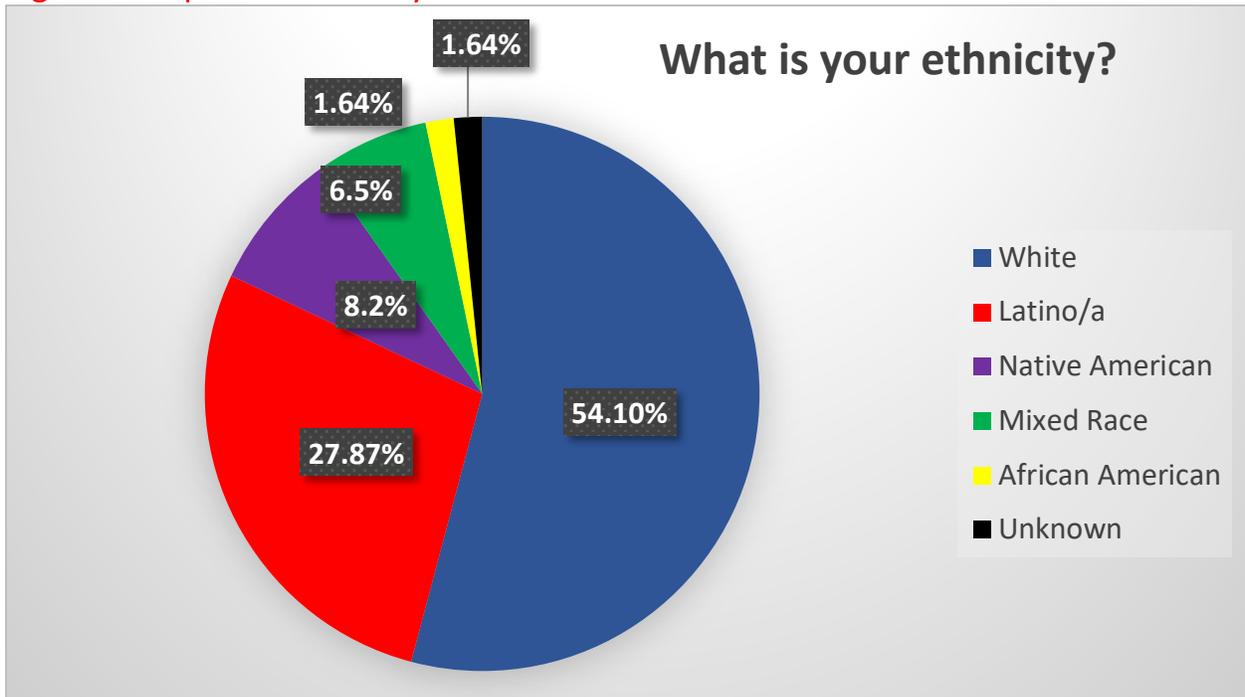
Following is a breakdown of reported interviewee ethnicity:

- 54.1% White
- 27.8% Latino or Hispanic
- 8.2% Native American
- 6.5% Mixed race
- 1.6% African American
- 1.6% unknown

According to the 2010 Census for the City of Trinidad, following is a breakdown of ethnicity reported by residents:

- 46.2% White
- 50% Latino or Hispanic
- 1% Native American
- 1.3% Mixed race
- .8% African American
- .7% Other

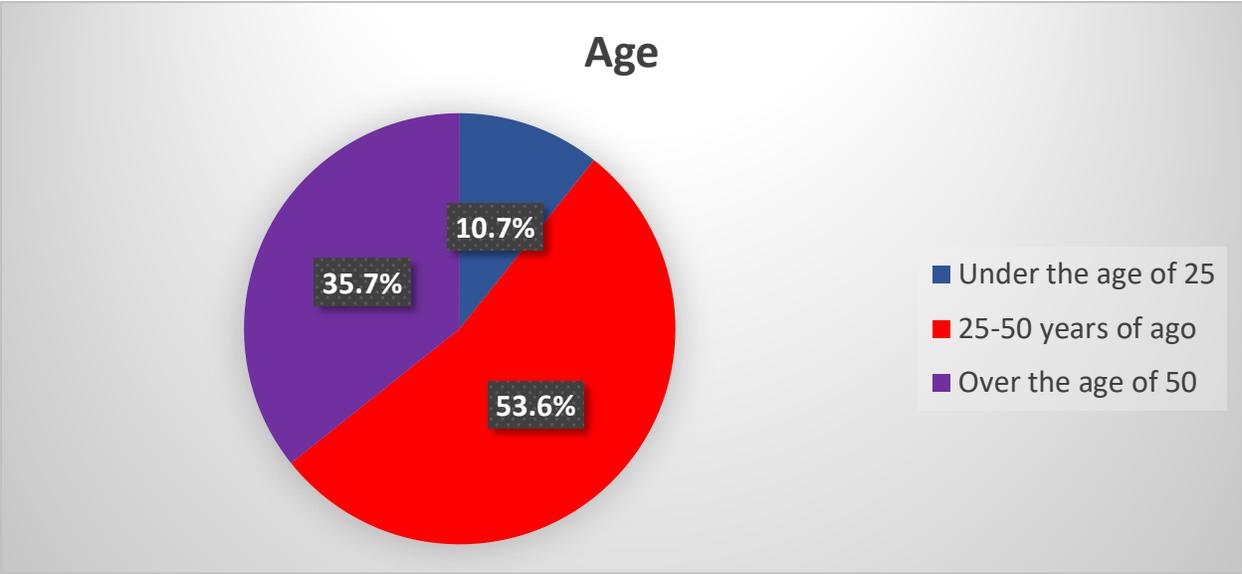
Figure 2: Reported ethnicity



Average age of interviewees is 43.3 years old. **53.6%** reported being between 25 – 50 years of age. **35.7%** reported being 50 years of age or older and the remaining **10.7%** reported being under 25 years of age.

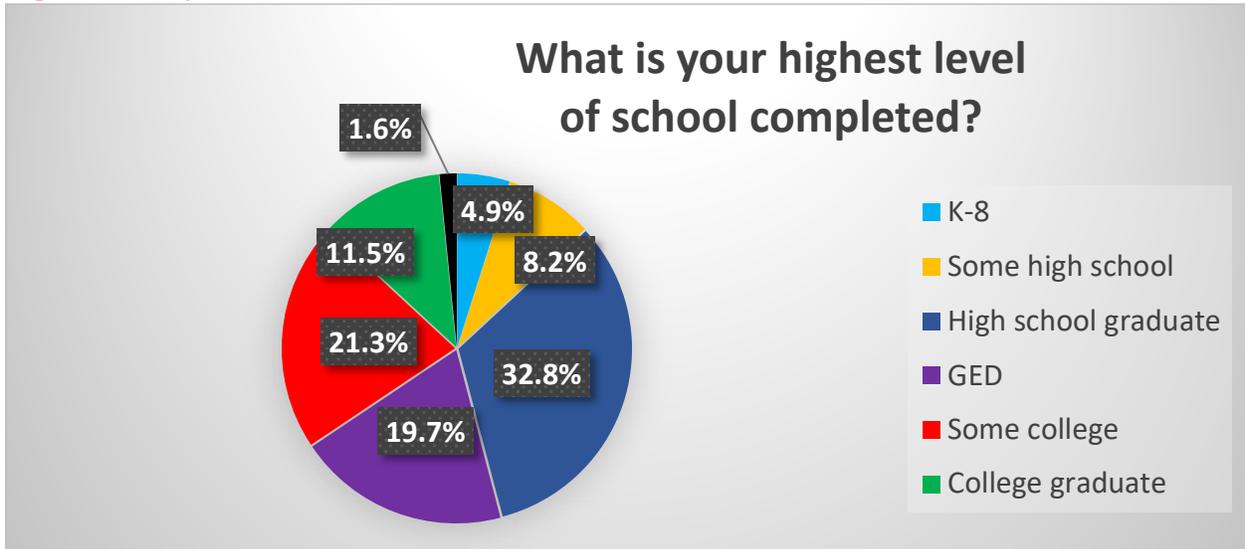
According to the 2010 census in the City of Trinidad, **34.1%** of residents were under 25 years of age, **28.8%** between 25-50 years of age, and **37.1%** older than 50 years of age.

Figure 3: Reported age



32.8% of interviewees reported receiving a high school diploma while **19.7%** received a GED. **21.3%** reported attending some college with **11.5%** reporting that they received a college degree. **13.1%** reported highest level of education as K-8 and/or some high school.

Figure 4: Reported education level

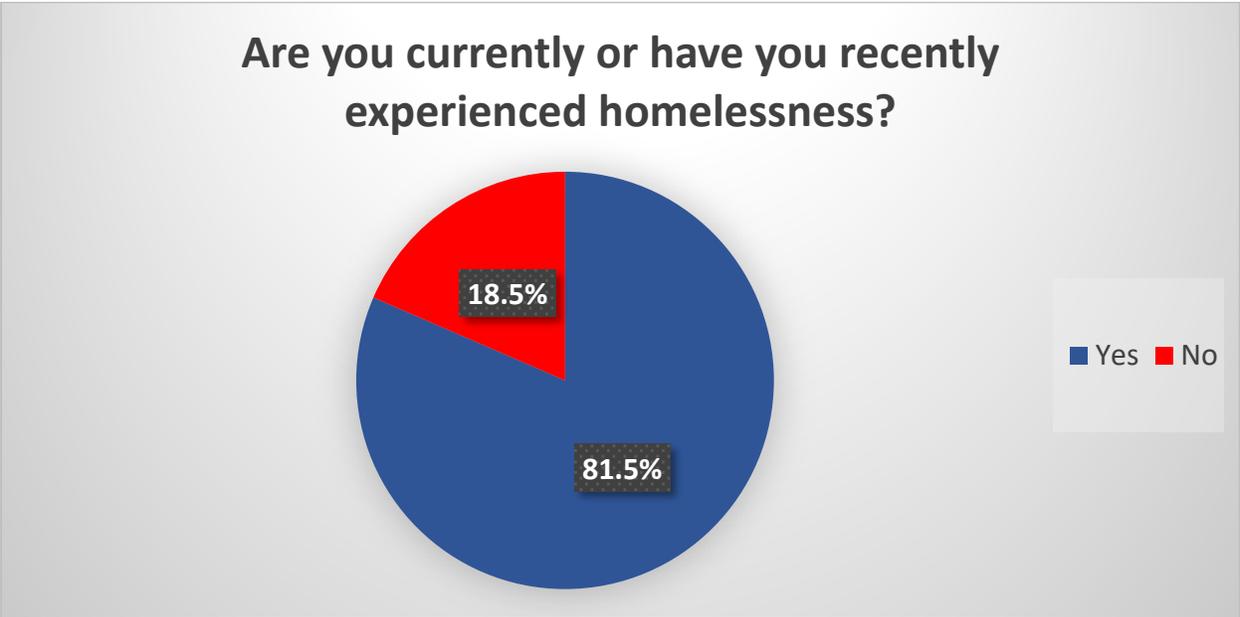


Housing and Homelessness Histories

Interviewees were asked a series of questions to determine their history with housing and homelessness.

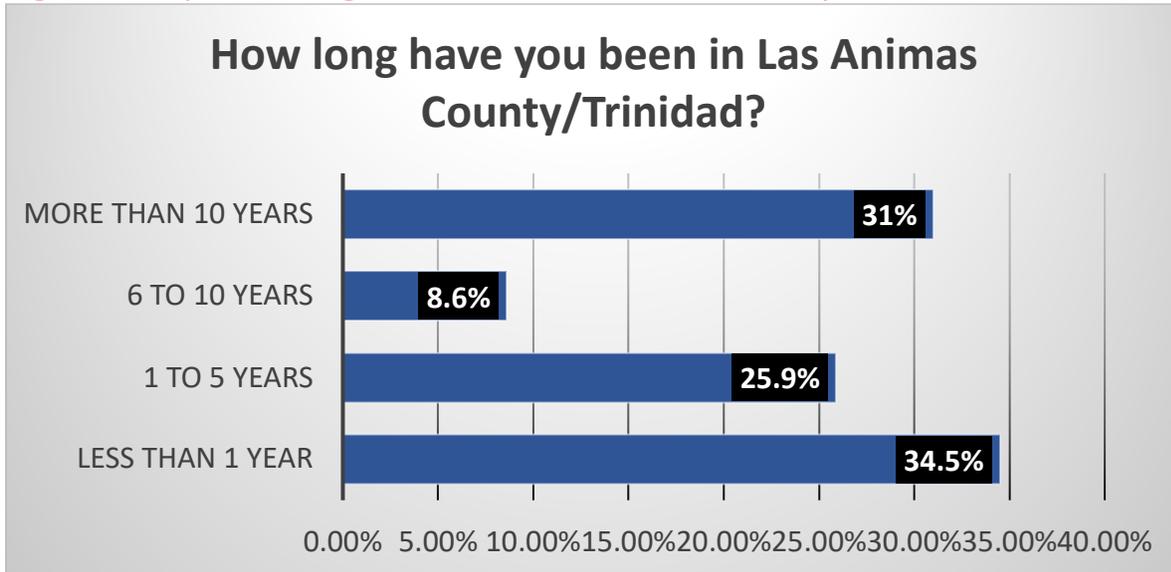
81.5% of those interviewed stated they are currently experiencing homelessness. The remaining **18.5%** reported either living with a relative or friend or other type of housing. In similar assessments in other communities, interviewees sometimes don't perceive that they are homeless if they are living in a temporary situation (family, friend) or living in a tenuous situation (motel, car, campsite).

Figure 5: Reported homelessness status



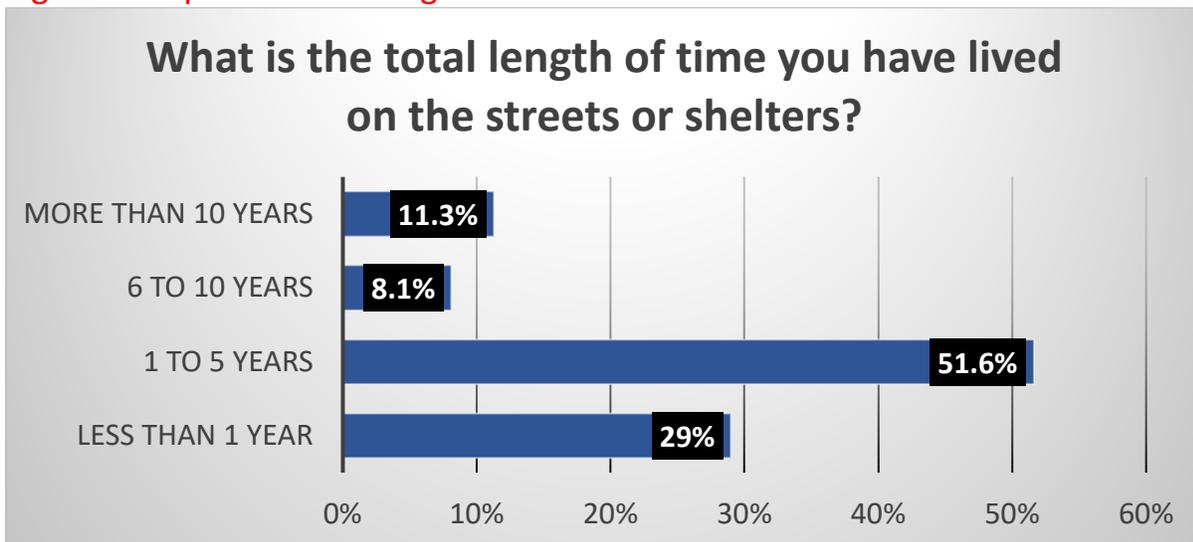
31% reported they have lived in Las Animas County for more than 10 years. **34.5%** have lived in Las Animas County less than a year, while **25.9%** reported living in the county between 1 – 5 years and **8.6%** reported living in the County between 6 – 10 years.

Figure 6: Reported length of time in Las Animas County



More than **11.3%** of the interviewees reported having been homeless for more than 10 years while **51.6%** of interviewees reported having been homeless for 1-5 years. **8.1%** reported they have been homeless for 6 to 10 years while **29%** reported they had been homeless less than one year.

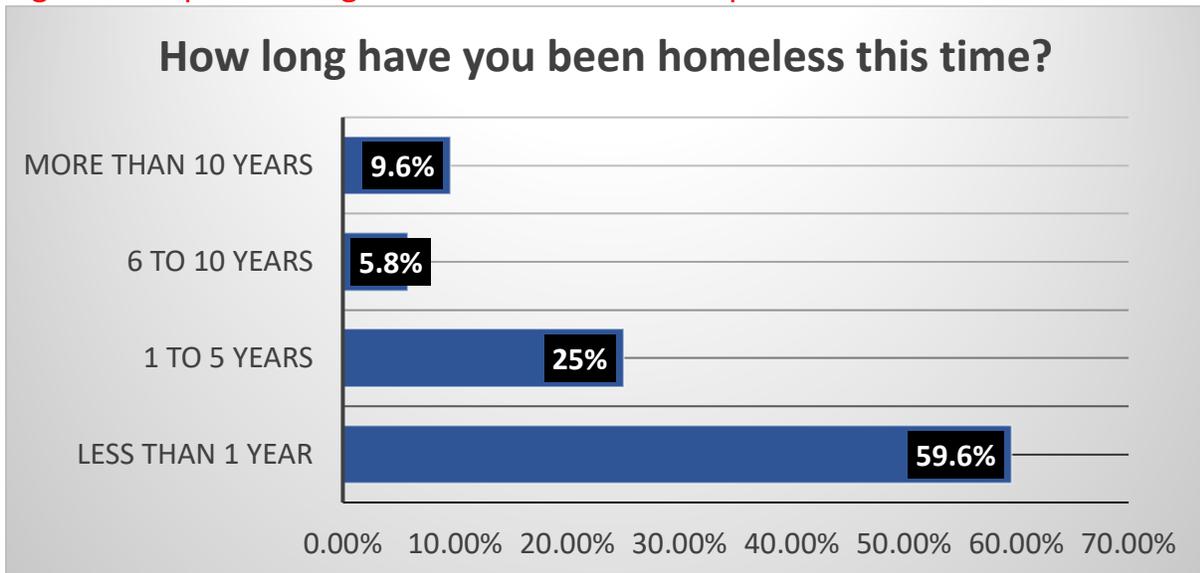
Figure 7: Reported total length of time homeless



Some individuals fall in and out of homeless over a period of time. Interviewees were asked about the length of time of their current homeless episode. Data below represents interviewees current homeless episode.

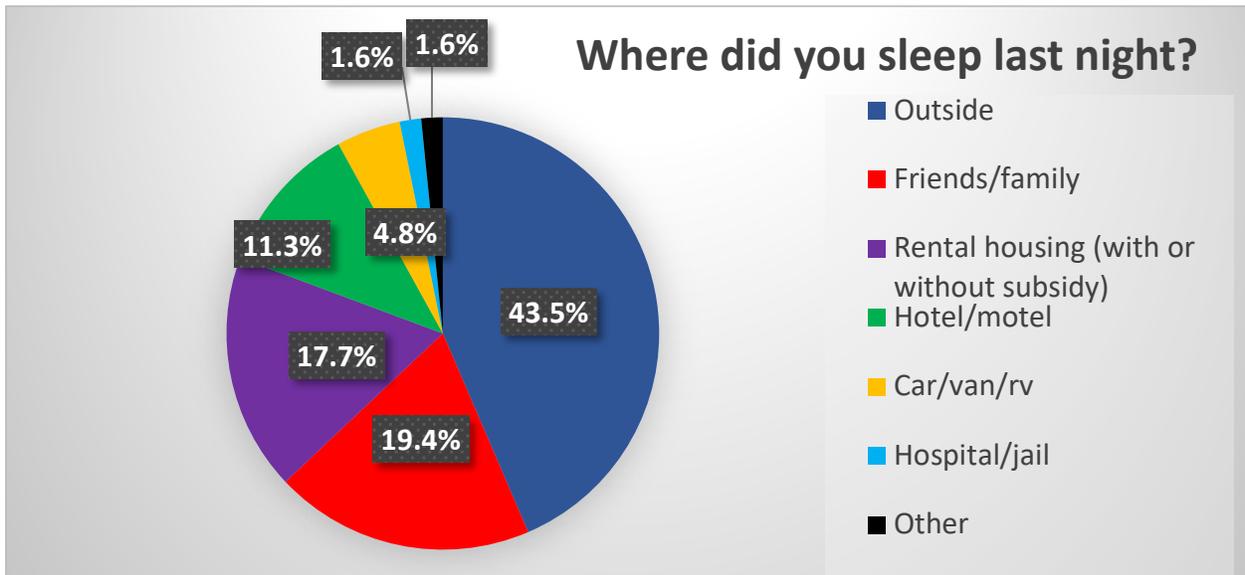
59.6% reported that their current episode of homelessness is less than 12 months, **25%** have been homeless between 1 to 5 years, **5.8%** reported current homeless episode between 6 to 10 years and **9.6%** reported being homeless more than 10 years.

Figure 8: Reported length of current homeless episode



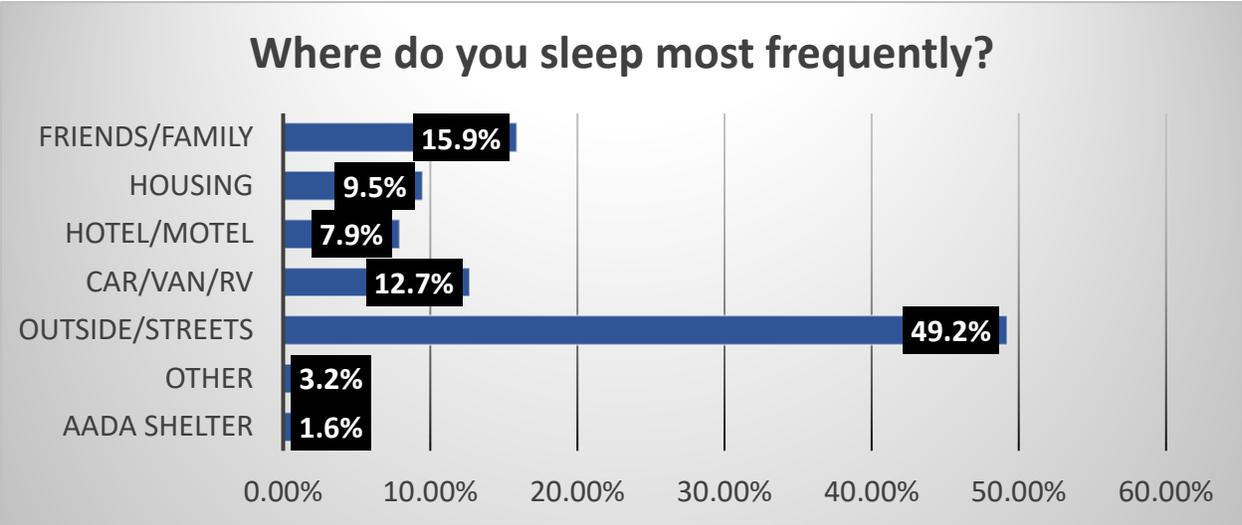
Without a local emergency shelter for households experiencing homelessness, persons are forced to find safe places to sleep which often includes the outdoors as well as other temporary arrangements. When asked where the interviewee slept last night **43.5%** reported sleeping outside while **19.4%** reported staying with friends or family and **17.7%** reported they slept in rental housing. **4.8%** reported sleeping in a vehicle, while **1.6%** reported they were in jail/hospital and **1.6%** said other settings.

Figure 9: Reported place where interviewee slept last night



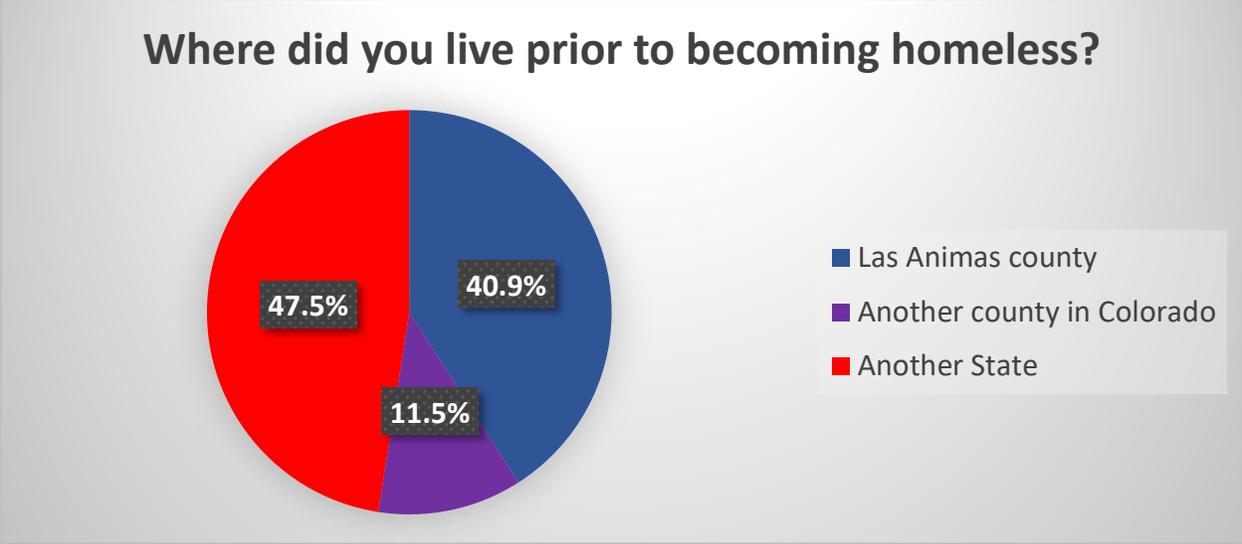
49.2% of the interviewees reported that they most frequently sleep outside – street, riverfront, campsite, parks, while **15.9%** reported staying with family or friends, **12.7%** sleep in a vehicle, and **9.5%** reported sleeping in some type of housing. **7.9%** reported sleeping most of the time in a motel/hotel and **1.6%** report staying at the local domestic violence shelter and **3.2%** reported other.

Figure 10: Reported locations of where interviewee sleeps most often



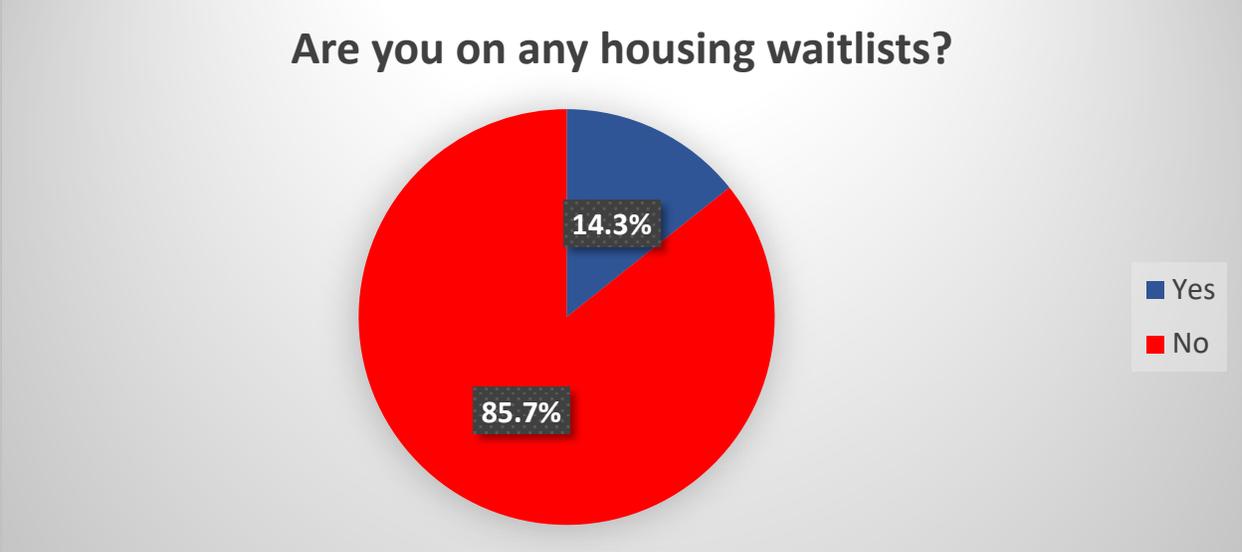
Interviewees were asked where they lived before becoming homeless. **40.9%** reported they lived in Las Animas county before becoming homeless while **47.5%** were in another state when they became homeless and **11.5%** reported they became homeless while in another county in Colorado.

Figure 11: Reported location of where interviewee lived prior to homelessness



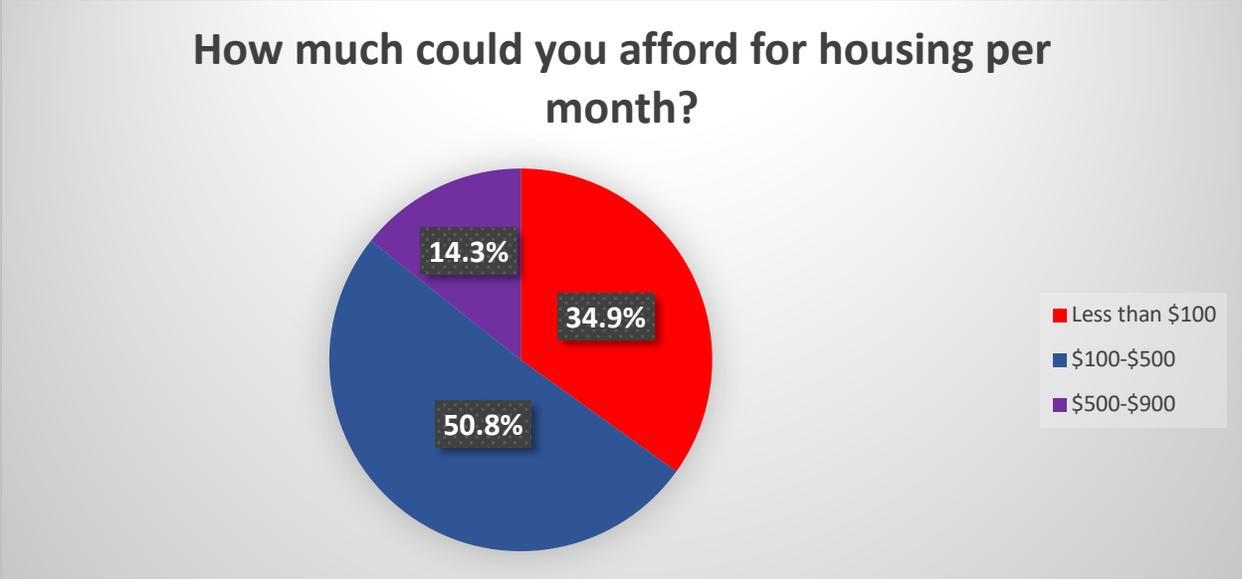
85.7% of the interviewees are not currently on any housing waitlist. Housing waitlists are common for subsidized or low-income housing. Many waitlists have an extended period of time before persons on the list are selected for housing.

Figure 12: Reported housing waitlist status



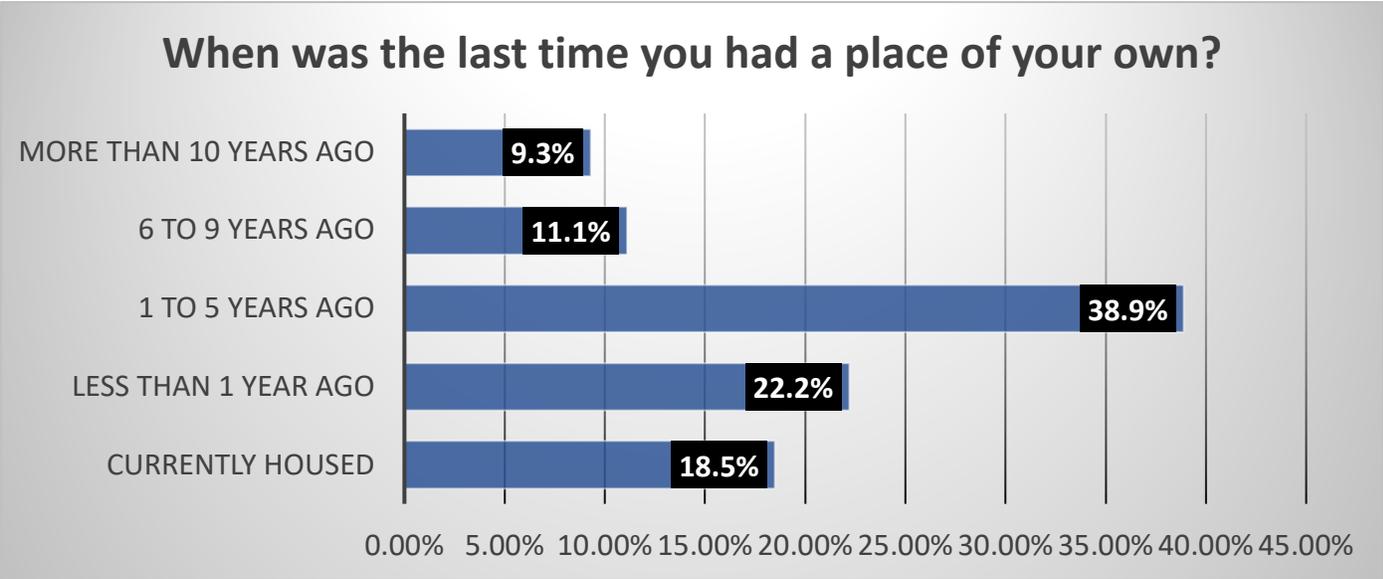
Interviewees were asked how much they can afford for housing. **50.8%** reported they could afford between \$100 - \$500 per month, while **14.3%** reported they could afford between \$500 - \$900 per month and **34.9%** reported they could afford less than \$100.

Figure 13: Reported monthly rent interviewee can afford



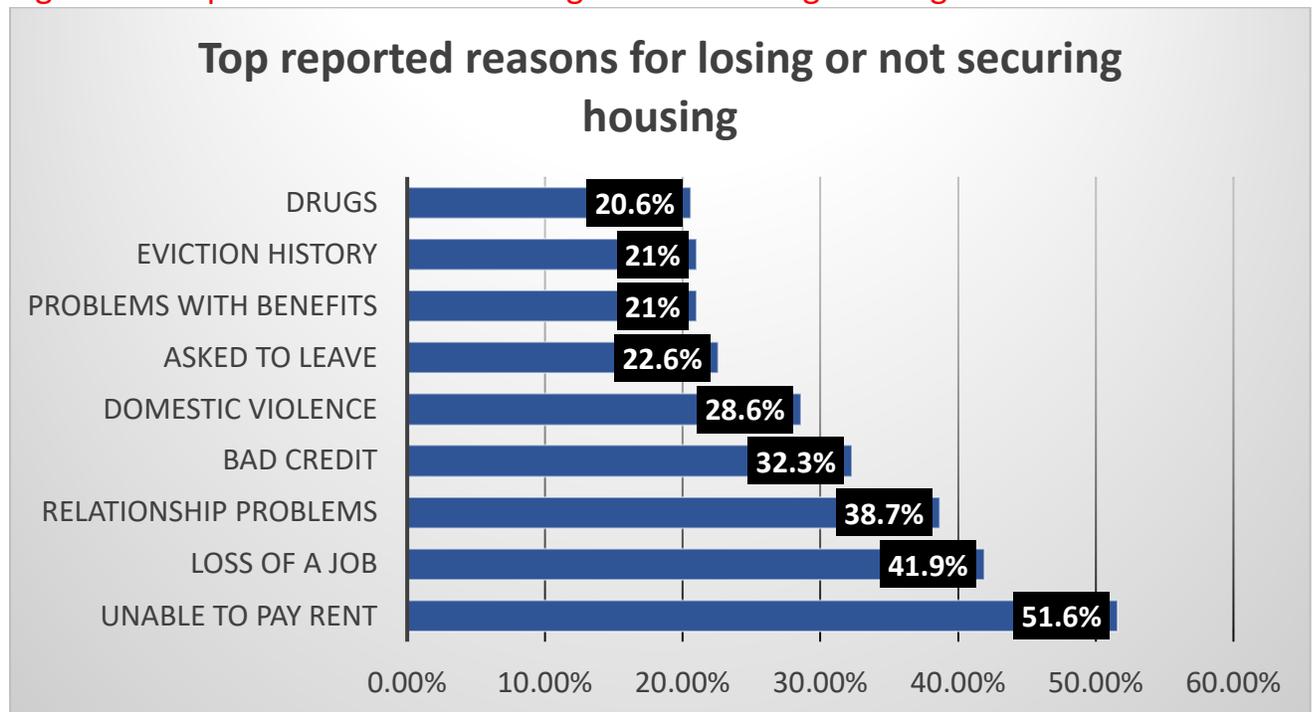
Interviewees were asked when was the last time they were housed. **22.2%** were last housed less than one year ago, **38.9%** reported they were last housed between 1-5 years ago, **11.1%** were last housed 6 – 9 years ago, and over **9.3%** reported being last housed more than 10 years ago. **18.5%** reported they are currently housed.

Figure 14: Reported last time interviewee had a place of their own



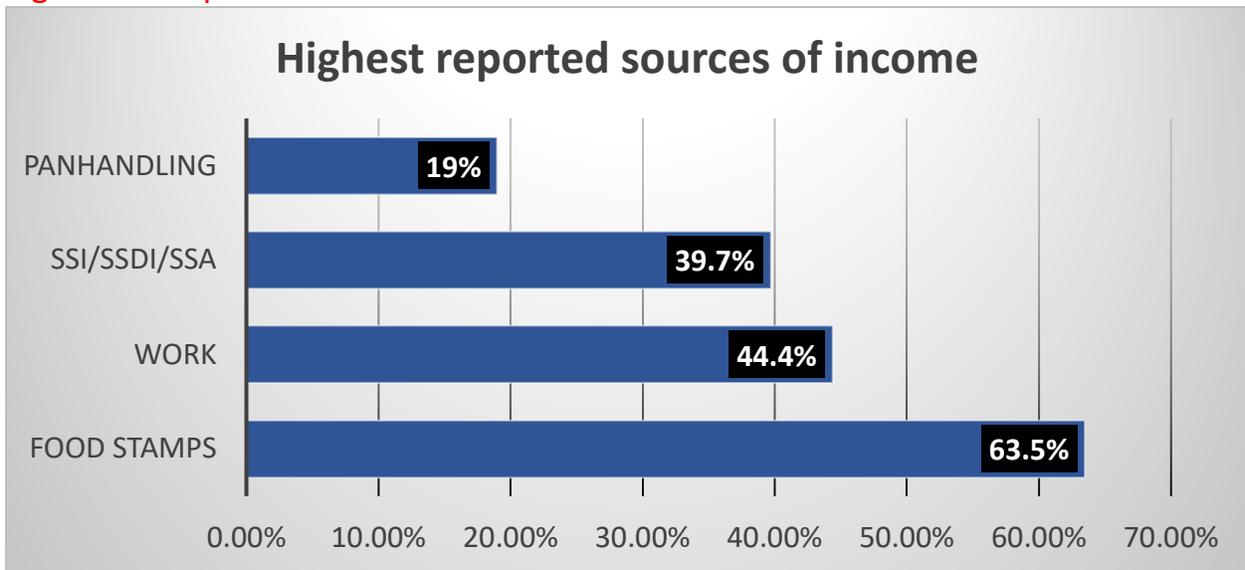
Interviewees reported the following reasons for losing or not being able to secure permanent housing. Interviewees were allowed to select more than one reason. **51.6%** reported they were unable to pay rent, **41.9%** reported a loss of a job, **38.7%** said relationship problems have caused housing issues, and **32.3%** reported bad credit keeps them from securing housing. **28.6%** reported domestic violence as the reason they left their housing, **22.6%** were asked to leave their housing, and **21%** reported problems with benefits, **21%** reported eviction history and **20.6%** identified drug usage as a reason.

Figure 15: Reported reasons for losing or not securing housing



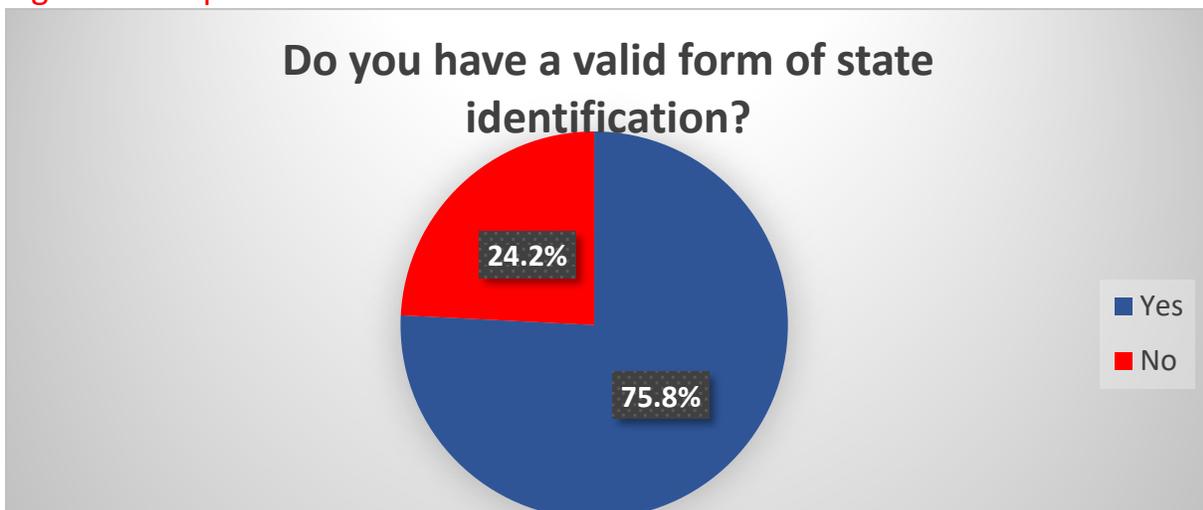
Interviewees were asked about their sources of income. Interviewees were allowed more than one response. **63.5%** reported they receive food stamps while **44.4%** reported they receive income from work. **39.7%** reported they receive SSI/SSDI (disability insurance) and SSA (retirement) while **19%** receive income from panhandling.

Figure 16: Reported sources of income



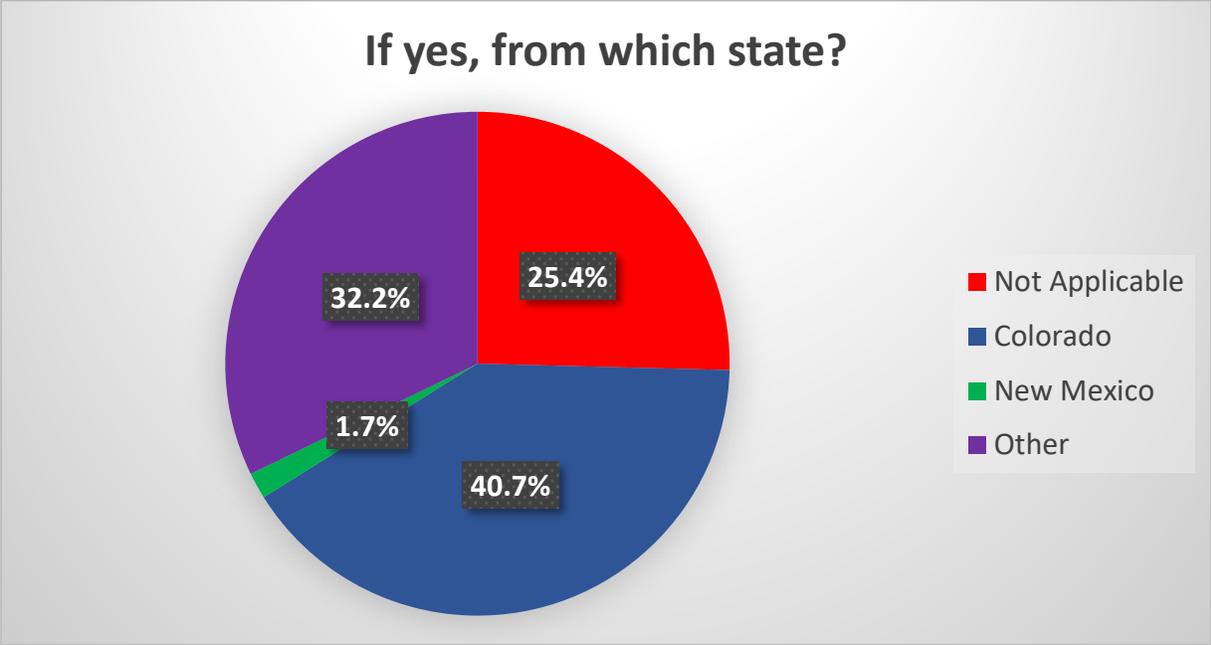
Some individuals experiencing homelessness don't have either a valid state ID or their birth certificate or social security card. Without these documents, individuals are unable to access housing and resources. **75.8%** of interviewees reported having a valid state ID.

Figure 17: Reported interviewees with valid state identification card



40.7% of the interviewees reported that they have a Colorado state ID. **25.4%** reported that they don't currently have a valid ID and **33.9%** reported they have a state ID from a state other than Colorado.

Figure 18: Reported origination of state identification card



Health and Trauma Histories

Individuals and households experiencing homelessness or housing instability may go through a range of experiences which may compromise their health as well as being at risk of exposure to significant trauma (i.e., violence, survival crimes, exploitation, discrimination).

Professionals working with individuals experiencing long-term homelessness report high incidence of health issues particularly among those who are chronically homeless with a history of mental illness and/or substance use, and over the age of 50.

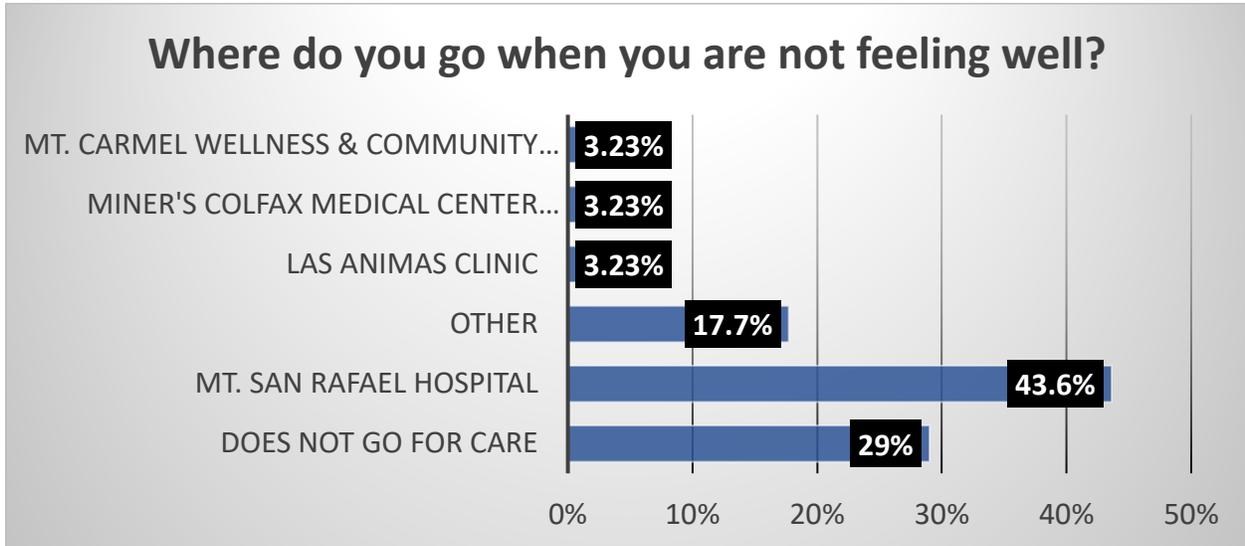
The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) adopted the Federal definition which defines a chronically homeless person as “either (1) an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition who has been continuously homeless for a year or more, OR (2) an unaccompanied individual with a disabling condition who has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years.” This definition was adopted by HUD from a federal standard that was arrived upon through collective decision making by a team of federal agencies including HUD, the U.S. Department of Labor, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness. (See link below for additional information regarding HUD definitions of homelessness)

<https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/DefiningChronicHomeless.pdf>

It is important for communities to assess the extent of health and trauma issues experienced by homeless households to understand the impact upon local systems of services (emergency services, health care, law enforcement) and associated costs. Often communities learn that it costs more to allow individuals to languish in homelessness compared to providing housing for the most vulnerable.

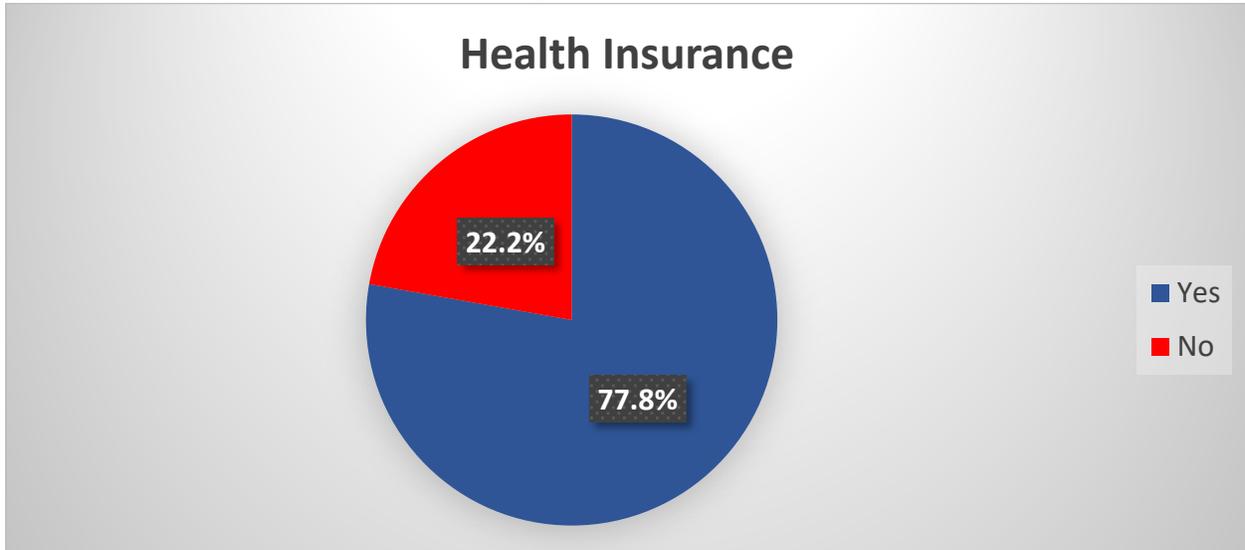
When interviewees were asked where they usually go for healthcare in Las Animas county, **43.6%** reported accessing services as Mt. San Rafael Hospital while **29%** reported they don't access healthcare services. Other interviewees reported accessing Las Animas Clinic (**3.2%**), Mt. Carmel Wellness and Community Center (**3.2%**), Miners Colfax Medical Center in Raton, NM (**3.2%**), and **17.7%** seek health care in other settings.

Figure 19: Reported use of area health care providers



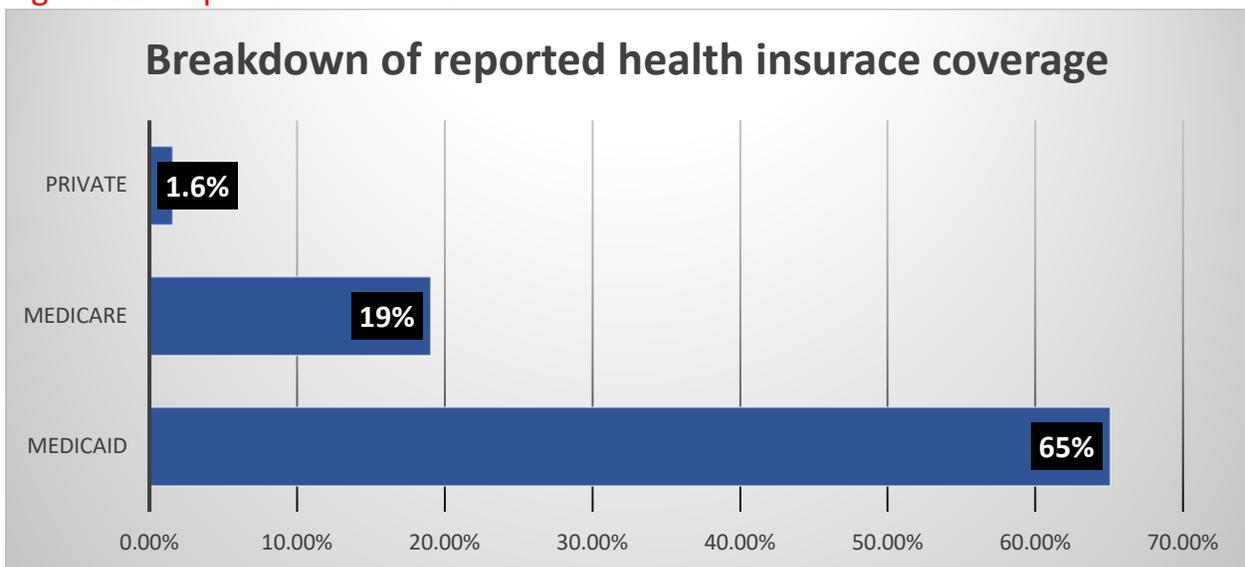
77.8% of interviewees reported they have some type of health insurance.

Figure 20: Health insurance coverage



65% of the interviewees reported they have Medicaid insurance, while 19% have Medicare (5 individuals reported having both Medicaid and Medicare), and the remaining 1.6% have private health insurance. Figure doesn't add up to 100% due to five individuals reporting both Medicaid and Medicare.

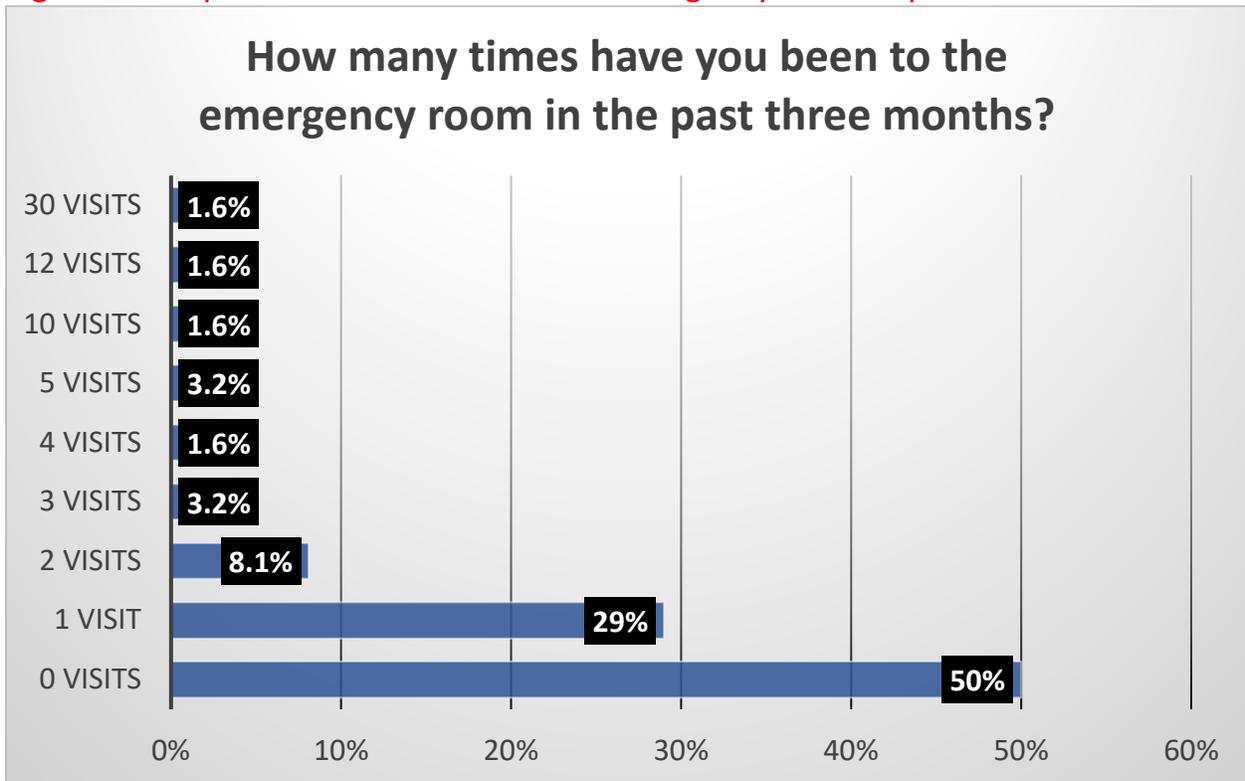
Figure 21: Reported health insurance



In order to assess frequency of health care over past year, interviewees were asked how many times they have been to an emergency room in the past 3 months. **50%** reported they have not been to the ER while **29%** reported one visit. **20.9%** of the interviewees reported anywhere from 2 visits up to 30 visits over the past three months to the emergency room.

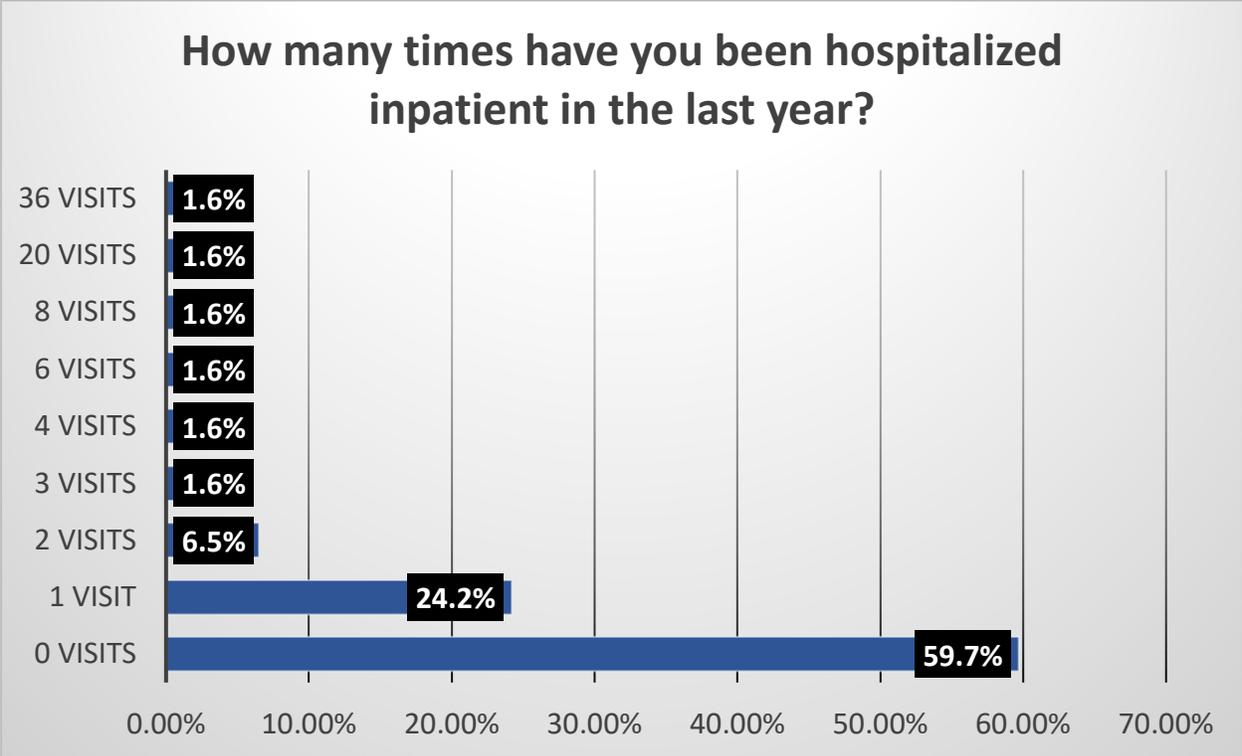
Three individuals reported 10, 12 and 30 ER visits in the past three months. The visits (**52 total**) by these three individuals made up over half of all reported visits.

Figure 22: Reported number of visits to emergency room in past three months



59.7% reported they have not been hospitalized in the past year. **24.2%** reported one hospitalization while **16.1%** reported a range from 2 – 36 hospitalizations over the past year.

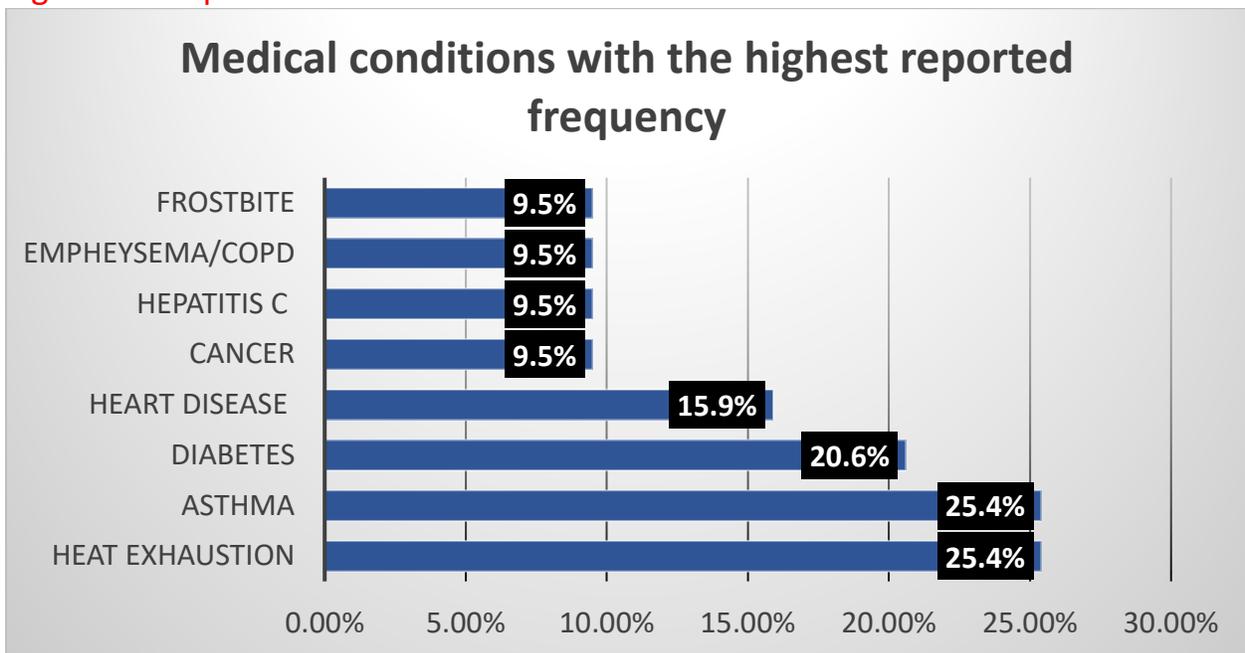
Figure 23: Reported hospitalizations in past year



Following are the top medical conditions reported by interviewees:

- Heat exhaustion (**25.4%**)
- Asthma (**25.4%**)
- Diabetes (**20.6%**)
- Heart disease, arrhythmia and/or irregular heartbeat (**15.9%**)
- Cancer (**9.5%**)
- Hepatitis C (**9.5%**)
- Emphysema (**9.5%**)
- Frostbite (**9.5%**)

Figure 24: Reported medical conditions



66.1% of the interviewees reported they have abused alcohol and/or drugs while **7.9%** reported consuming alcohol every day over the past month and **22.2%** reported that they have used injection drugs in the past. **41.3%** reported receiving drug and/or alcohol abuse treatment.

Figure 25: Reported abuse of drugs/alcohol

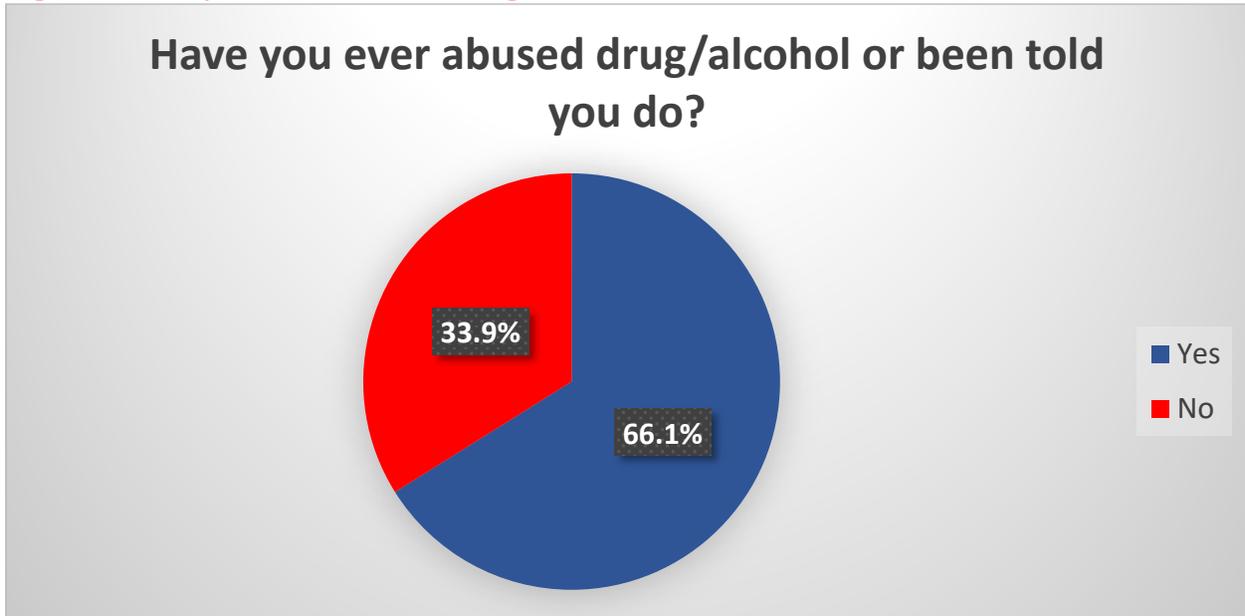


Figure 26: Reported daily consumption of alcohol



Figure 27: Reported use of injection drugs

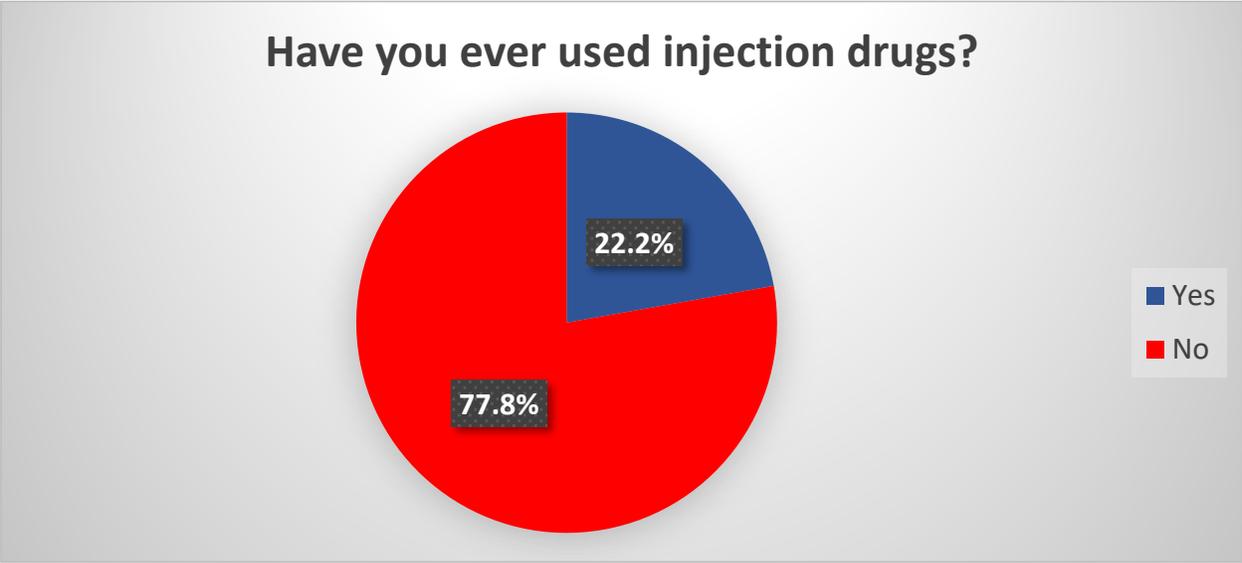
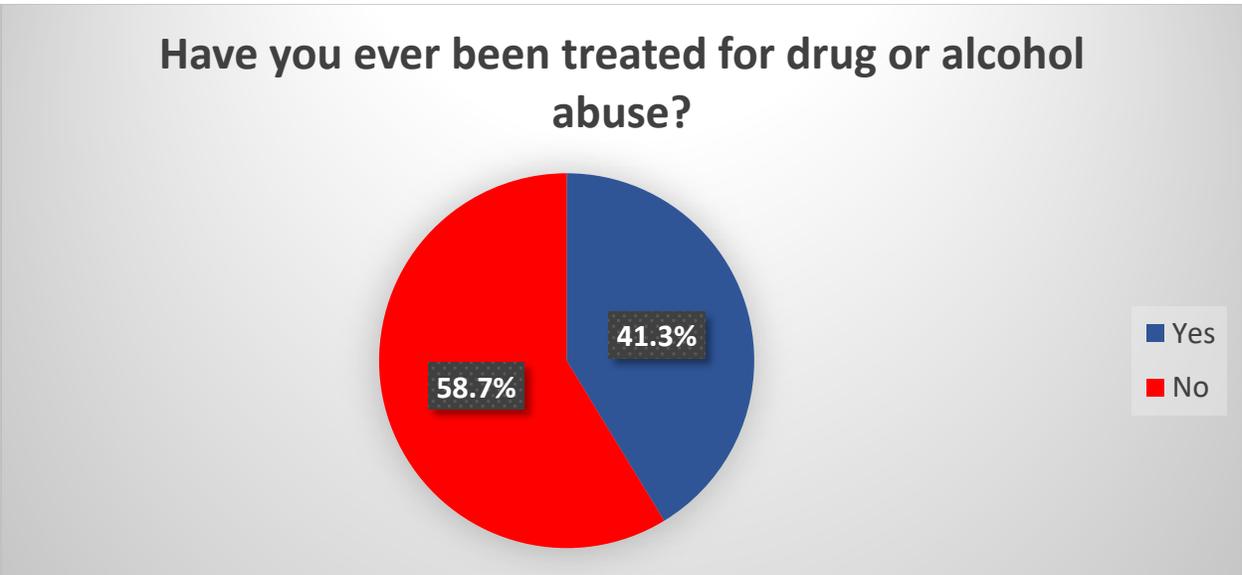


Figure 28: Reported treatment for drug or alcohol abuse



56.5% reported treatment for mental health issues while 26.6% reported they have been hospitalized against their will for mental health reasons.

Figure 29: Reported treatment of mental health issues

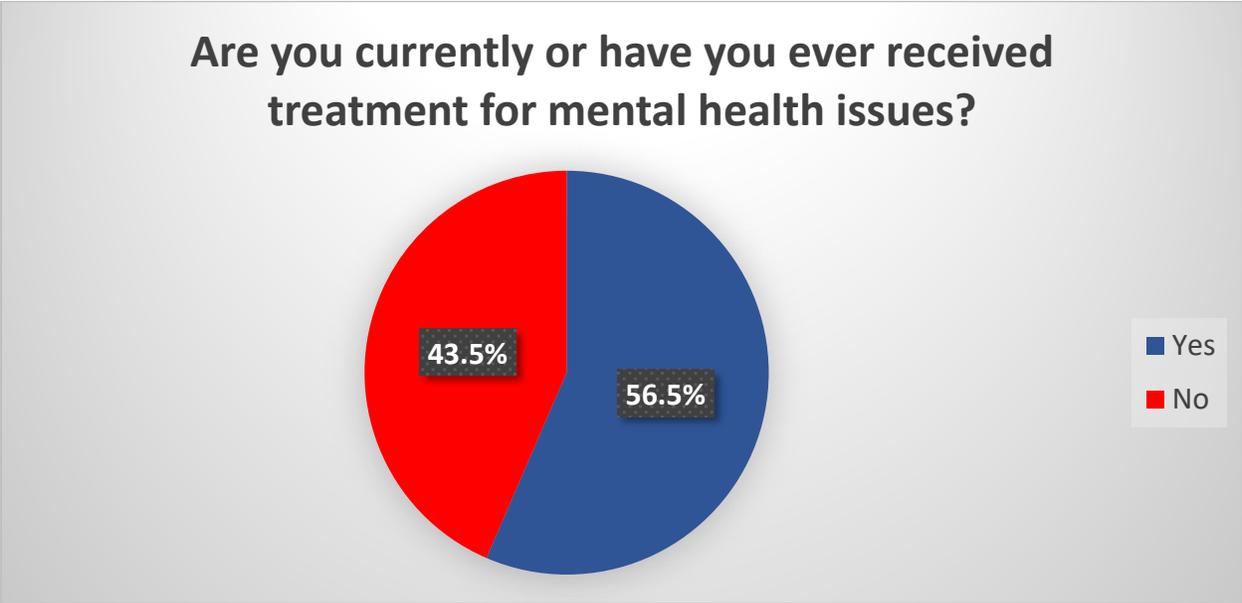
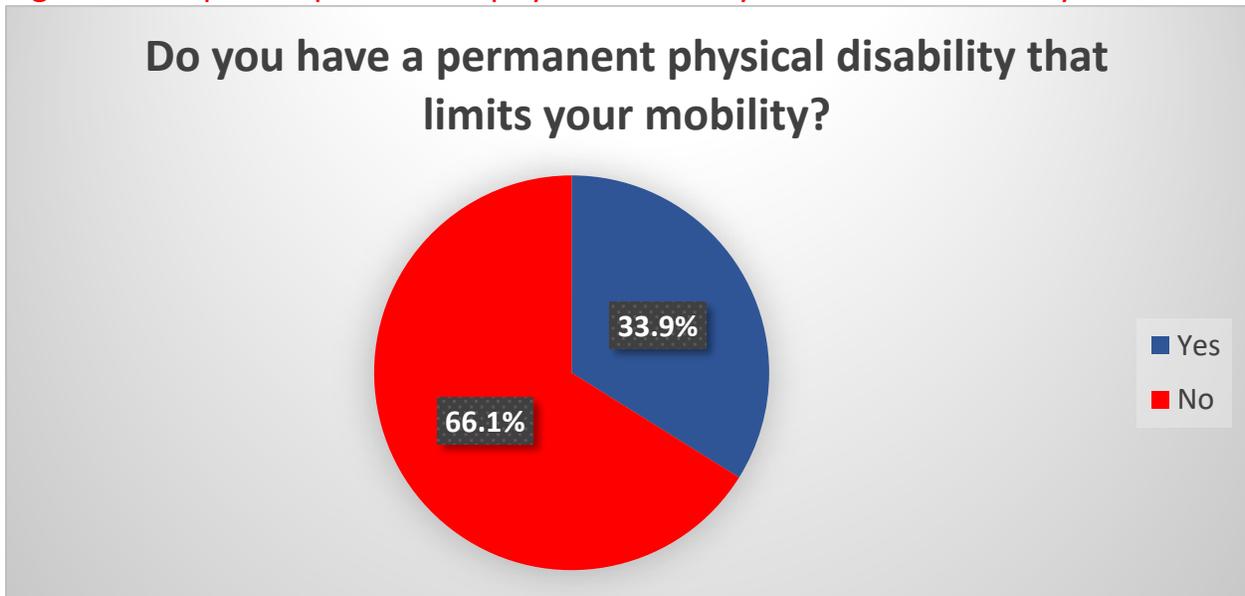


Figure 30: Reported involuntary hospitalizations due to mental health reasons



33.9% reported a permanent physical disability that limits their mobility.

Figure 31: Reported permanent physical disability which limits mobility



Nearly one quarter (**23.8%**) reported a brain injury or head trauma which required medical attention.

In 2010, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimated that TBIs accounted for approximately 2.5 million emergency department (ED) visits, hospitalizations, and deaths in the United States, either as an isolated injury or in combination with other injuries. Of these persons, approximately 87% (2,213,826) were treated in and released from EDs, another 11% (283,630) were hospitalized and discharged, and approximately 2% (52,844) died.

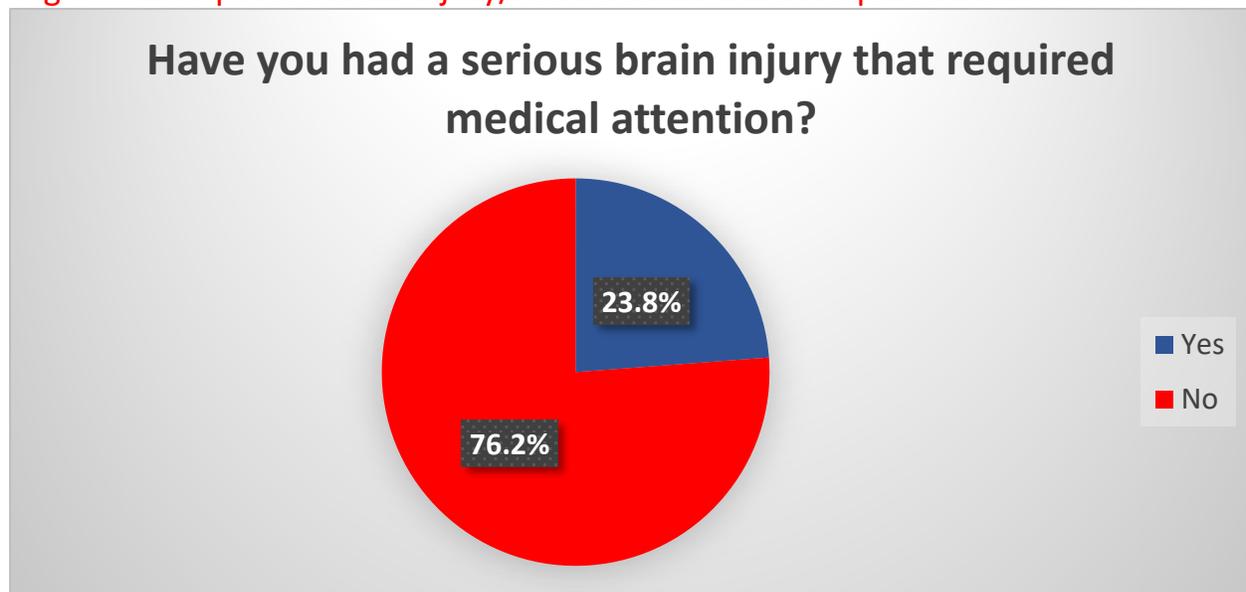
Although data are limited, estimates based on data from two states indicate that 3.2 million–5.3 million persons in the United States are living with a TBI-related disability. Additionally, adolescents and adults affected by moderate or severe TBI who were discharged from rehabilitation facilities were more than twice as likely to die 3.5 years after injury compared to persons in the general population of similar age, sex, and race (Harrison-Felix et al., 2012). (See link below)

https://www.cdc.gov/traumaticbraininjury/pdf/tbi_report_to_congress_epi_and_rehab-a.pdf)

The global incidence rate of TBI is estimated at 200 per 100,000 people per year, however, this rate is uncertain and a likely underestimate.

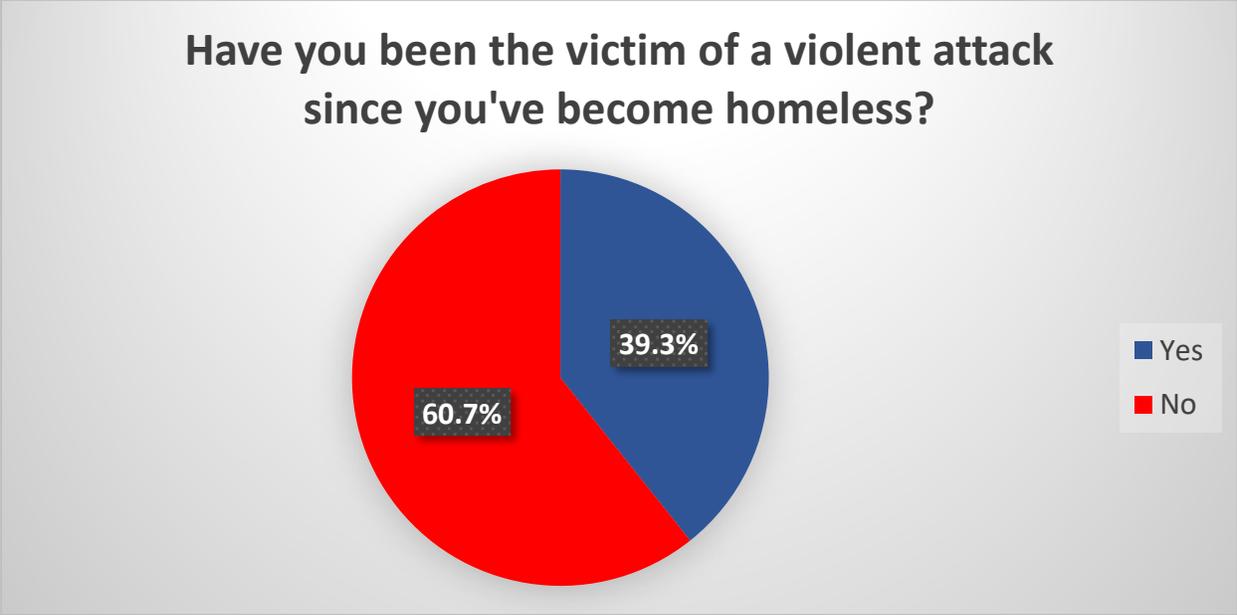
(See https://injuryprevention.bmj.com/content/16/Suppl_1/A17.2)

Figure 32: Reported brain injury/head trauma which required medical attention



39.3% reported they have been a victim of a violent attack while homeless.

Figure 33: Reported victim of violent attack since homelessness



System Involvement

Criminal justice involvement – particularly jail - for individuals experiencing homelessness often occurs during their episode of homelessness and typically found to be misdemeanor (i.e., trespassing, public intoxication, camping ban, etc.).

77.8% reported having been in jail while **20.6%** reported having served time in prison. **17.7%** reported they are currently on probation, and **3.2%** reported they are currently on parole. The survey did not capture information on types of crime convictions or charges.

Figure 34: Reported experience with jail

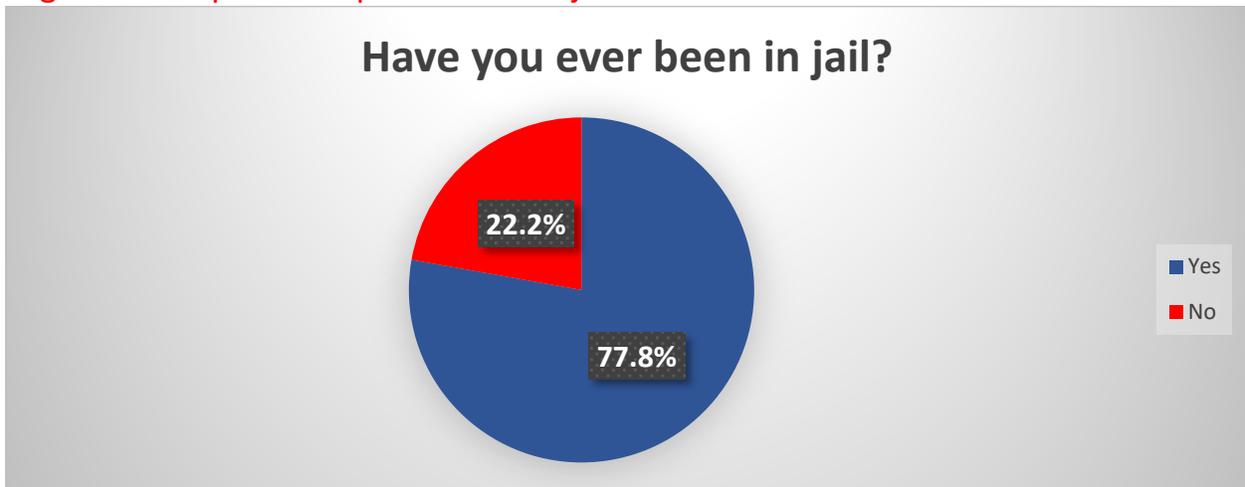


Figure 35: Reported experience with prison

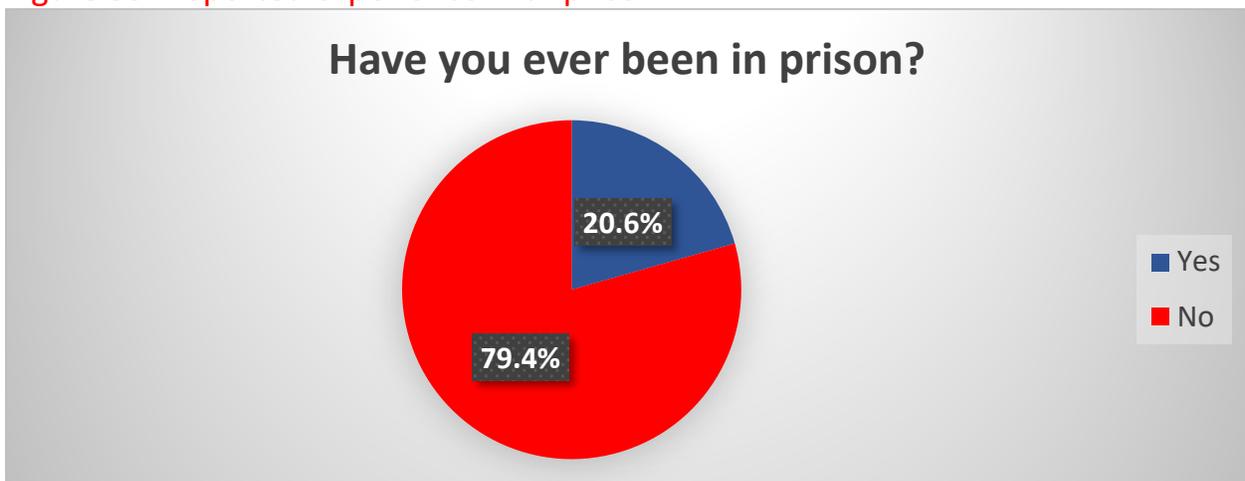


Figure 36: Reported currently on probation

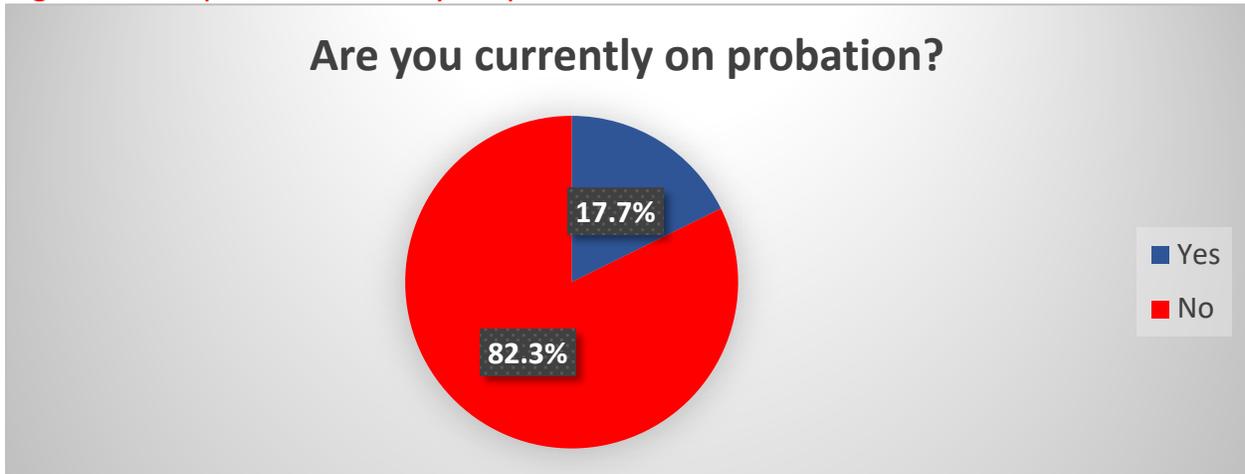
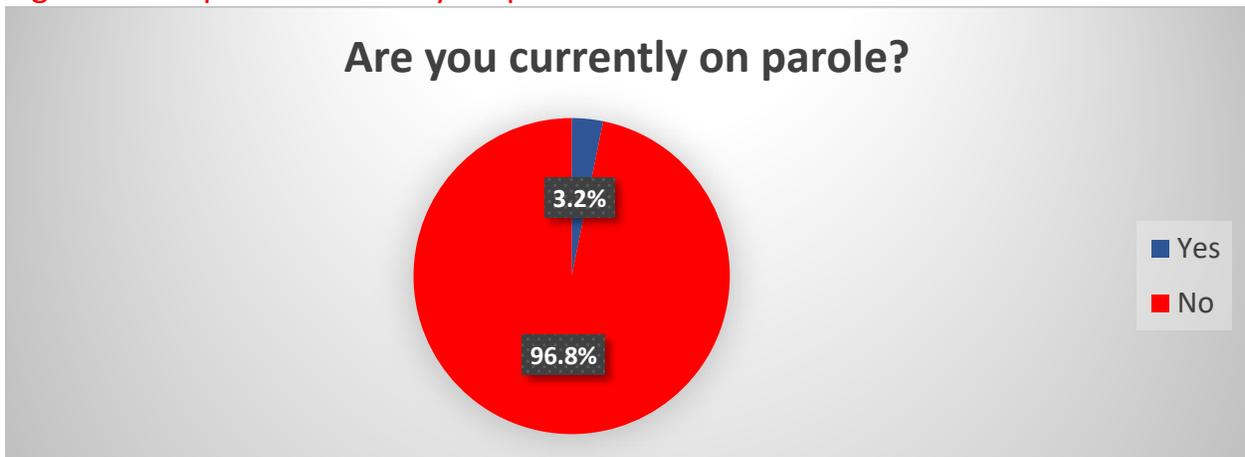
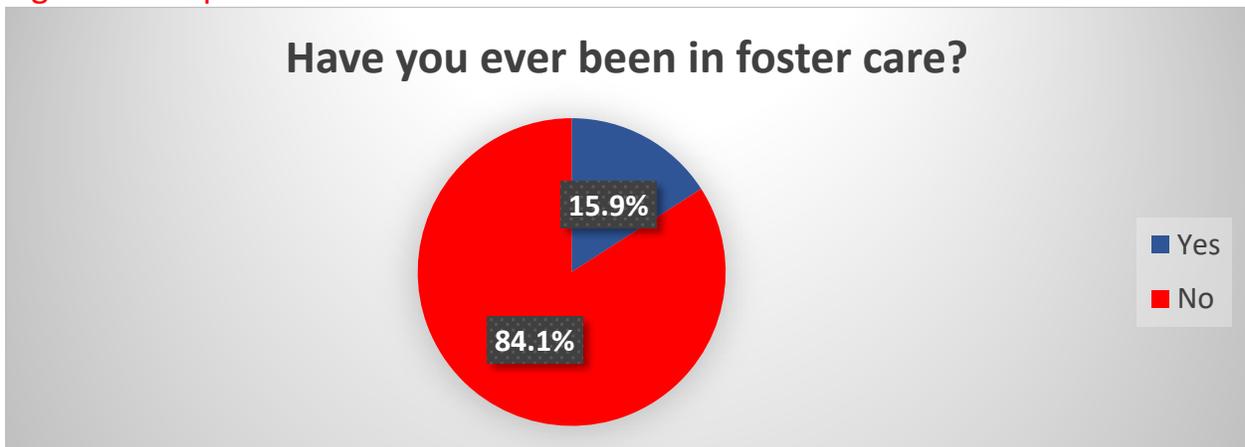


Figure 37: Reported currently on parole



15.9% reported they had been in the foster care system as a young person.

Figure 38: Reported foster care involvement



Additional Analysis

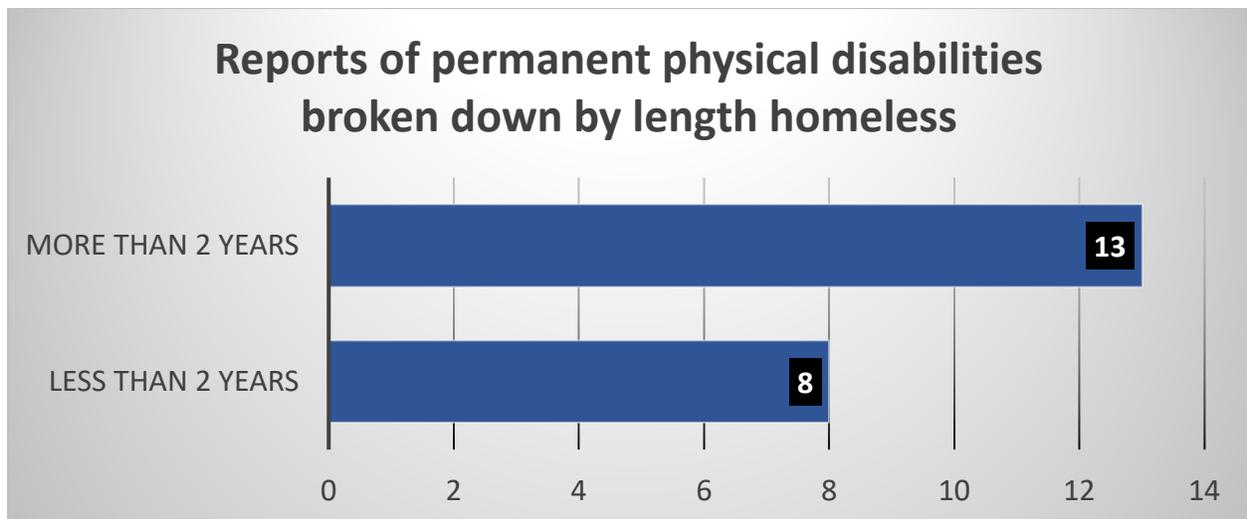
This section presents analysis of various data points which provide additional insight to the history and experiences of some of the interviewees.

To protect and maintain the confidentiality of the interviewees, data tables with less than 5 positive responses have been summarized to capture information provided by cross tabulation of two or more data points to provide additional aggregated insights.

1. Permanent physical disabilities (Q20t) broken down by length homeless (Q8)

For people who reported having experienced homelessness for 2 years or more in their lifetime, **13 (61.9%)** of these individuals also reported having a permanent physical disability. The other **8 (38.1%)** people who reported having a permanent physical disability reported having experiencing homelessness for less than 2 years total.

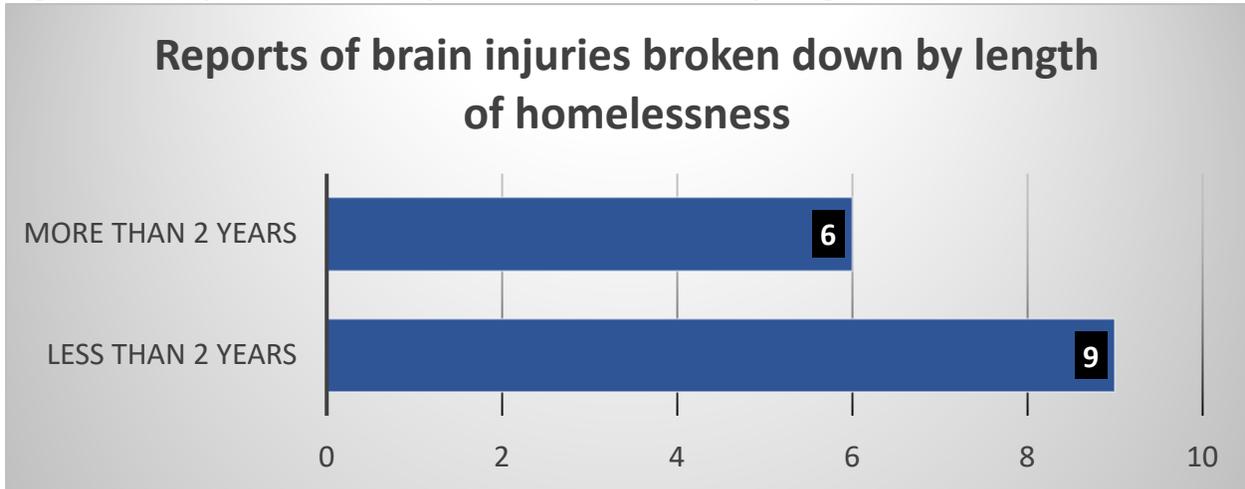
Figure 39: Reported permanent physical disabilities broken down by length homeless



2. Brain injuries (Q20u) broken down by length homeless (Q8)

Of the 15 individuals who reported having a significant or traumatic brain injury, **9 (60%)** of those also reported having been homeless for a total of less than 2 years. The other **6 (40%)** individuals who reported having a significant or traumatic brain injury reported having been homeless for a total of more than two years.

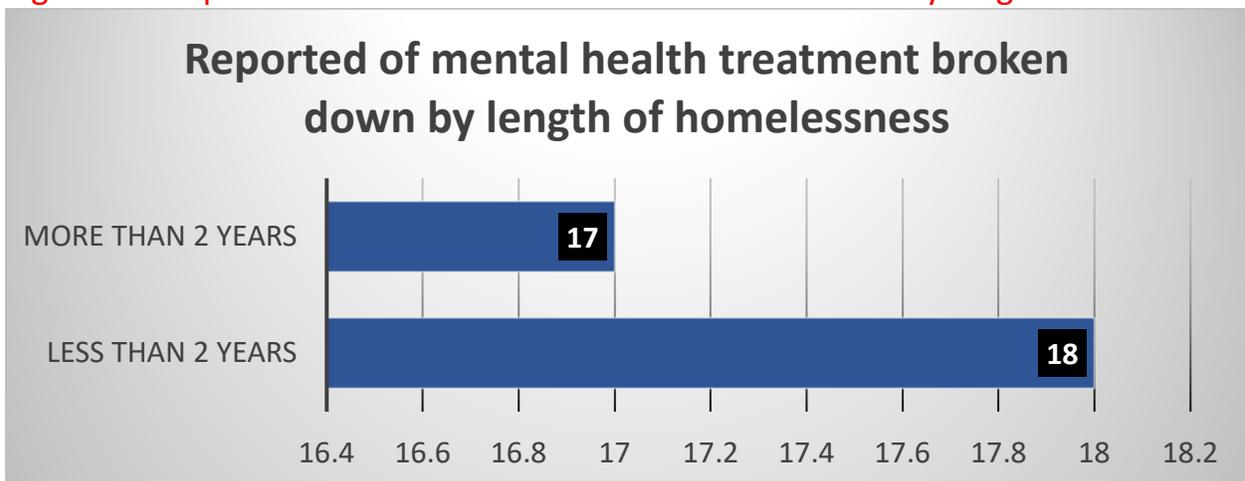
Figure 40: Reported brain injuries broken down by length homeless



3. Mental health (Q20g) broken down by length homeless (Q8)

In terms of mental health, individuals who reported having experienced homelessness for 2 years or more in their lifetime, **17 (48.6%)** of these respondents reported having received treatment for mental health issues. For people reporting experiencing homelessness for less than two years, **18 (51.4%)** of these respondents reported receiving treatment for mental health issues.

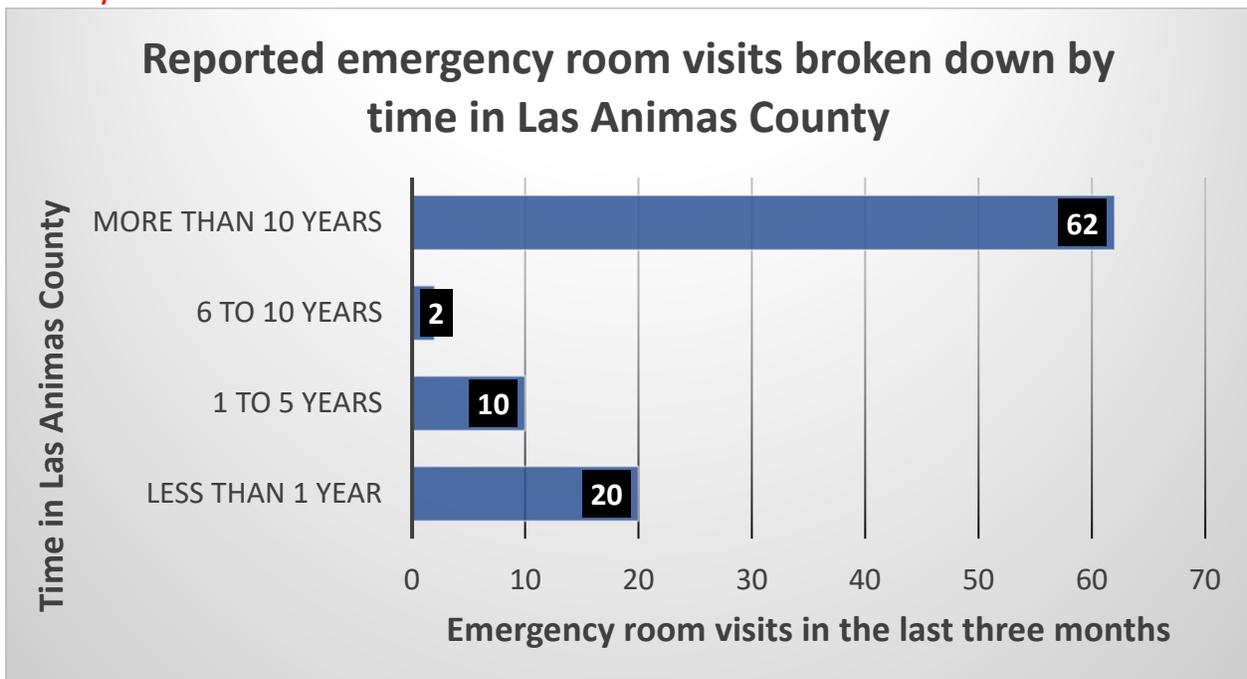
Figure 41: Reported mental health treatment broken down by length homeless



4. Emergency room visits (Q18) broken down by time in Las Animas county (Q7)

Of individuals reporting having lived in Las Animas County for less than 1 year, these individuals reported **20 (20%)** emergency room visits over the last three months. For individuals reporting having lived in Las Animas County for 1 to 5 years, these individuals reported **10 (10%)** emergency room visits over the last three months. For individuals reporting having lived in Las Animas County for 6 to 10 years, these individuals reported **2 (2%)** emergency room visits over the last three months. For individuals reporting having lived in Las Animas for more than 10 years, these individuals reported **62 (62%)** emergency room visits over the last three months. Remaining 6 visits were reported by non-Las Animas County residents.

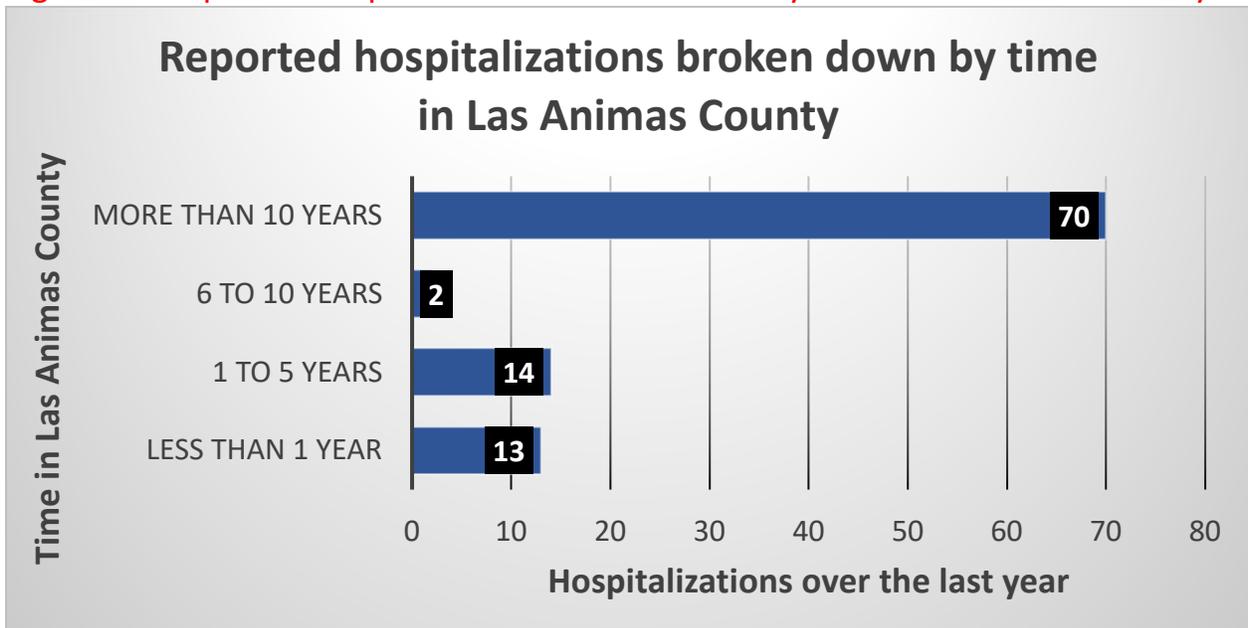
Figure 42: Reported emergency room visits broken down by time in Las Animas County



5. Hospitalizations (Q19) broken down by time in Las Animas County (Q7)

Of individuals reporting having lived in Las Animas County for less than 1 year, these individuals reported **13 (13%)** hospitalizations over the last year. For individuals reporting having lived in Las Animas County for 1 to 5 years, these individuals reported **14 (14%)** hospitalizations over the last year. For individuals reporting having lived in Las Animas County for 6 to 10 years, these individuals reported **2 (2%)** hospitalizations over the last year. For individuals reporting having lived in Las Animas County for more than 10 years, these individuals reported **70 (70%)** hospitalizations over the last year. One hospitalization was reported by a non-Las Animas County resident.

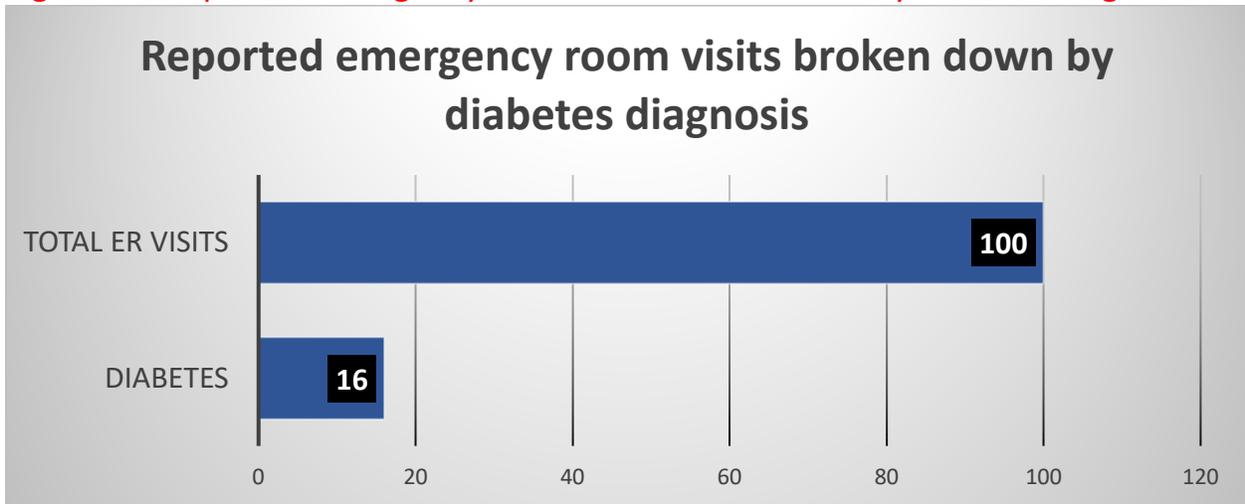
Figure 43: Reported hospitalizations broken down by time in Las Animas County



6. Diabetes (Q20h) broken down by emergency room visits (Q18)

For respondents who reported having diabetes, these individuals reported having utilized the emergency room 16 times over the past 3 months. Of the reported 100 emergency room visits in the last three months, **16%** of those visits were from people who reported having diabetes.

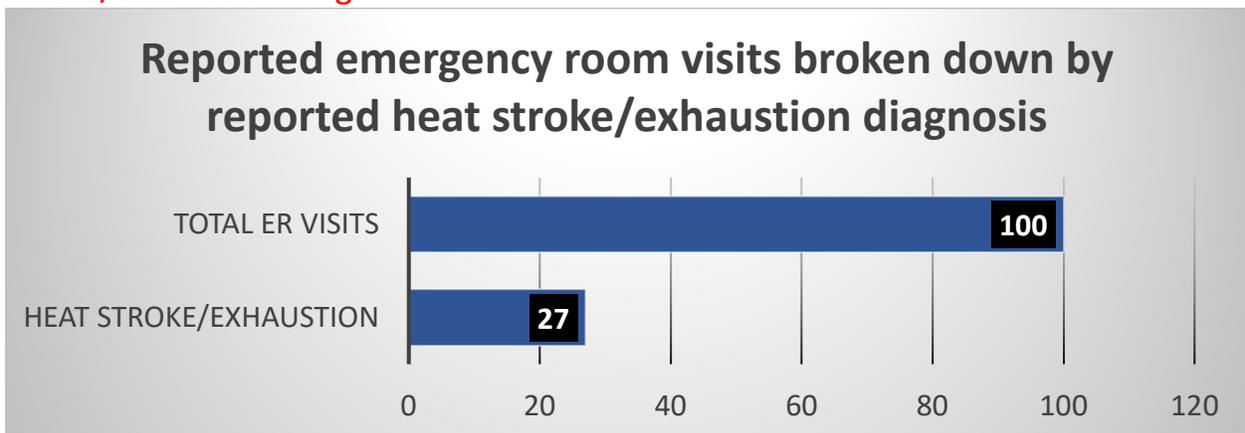
Figure 44: Reported emergency room visits broken down by diabetes diagnosis



7. Heat stroke and heat exhaustion (Q20c) broken down by emergency room visits (Q18)

Of the 100 reported emergency room visits over the last three months, **27 (27%)** of these visits came from people who reported having experienced heat stroke or heat exhaustion in the past.

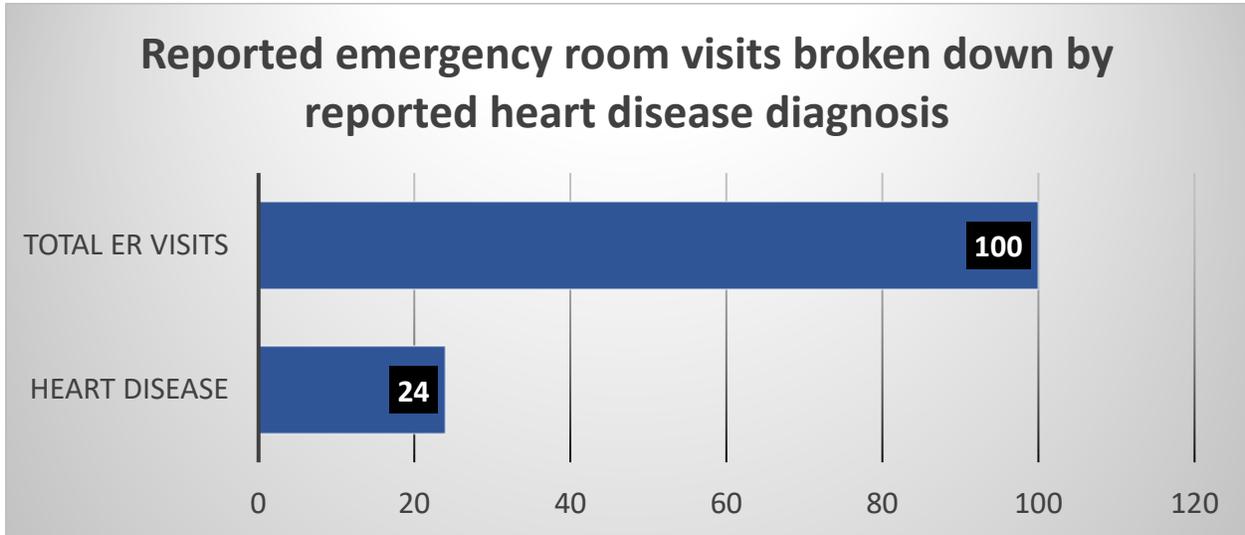
Figure 45: Reported emergency room visits broken down by reported heat stroke/exhaustion diagnosis



8. Heart disease, arrhythmia, or irregular heartbeat (Q20e) broken down by emergency room visits (Q18)

Of the 100 reported emergency room visits over the last three months, **24 (24%)** of these visits were from people who reported having heart disease, arrhythmia, or an irregular heartbeat.

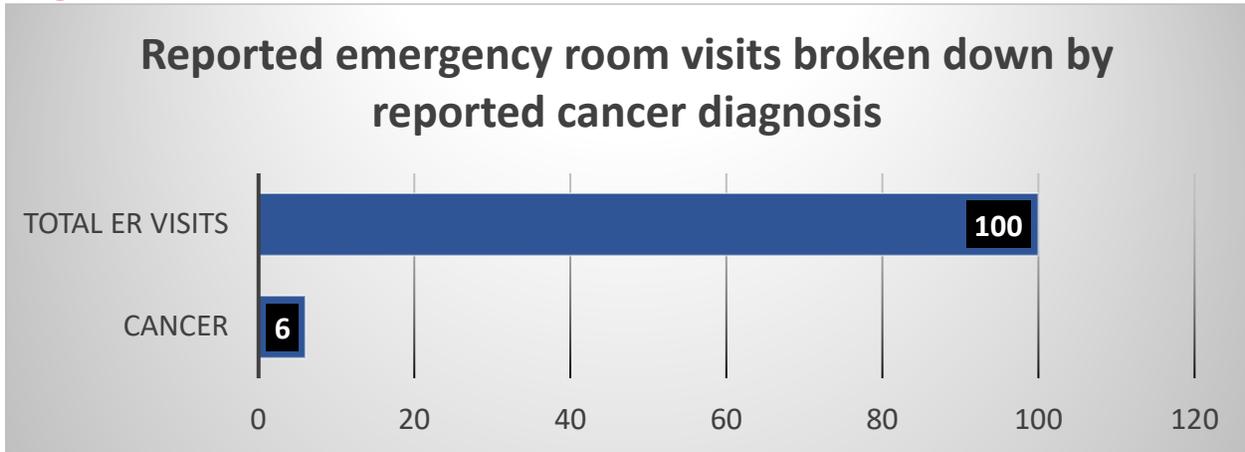
Figure 46: Reported emergency room visits broken down by reported heart disease diagnosis



9. Cancer (Q20j) broken down by emergency room visits (Q18)

Of the 100 reported emergency room visits over the past three months, **6 (6%)** of those visits were by people who reported having cancer.

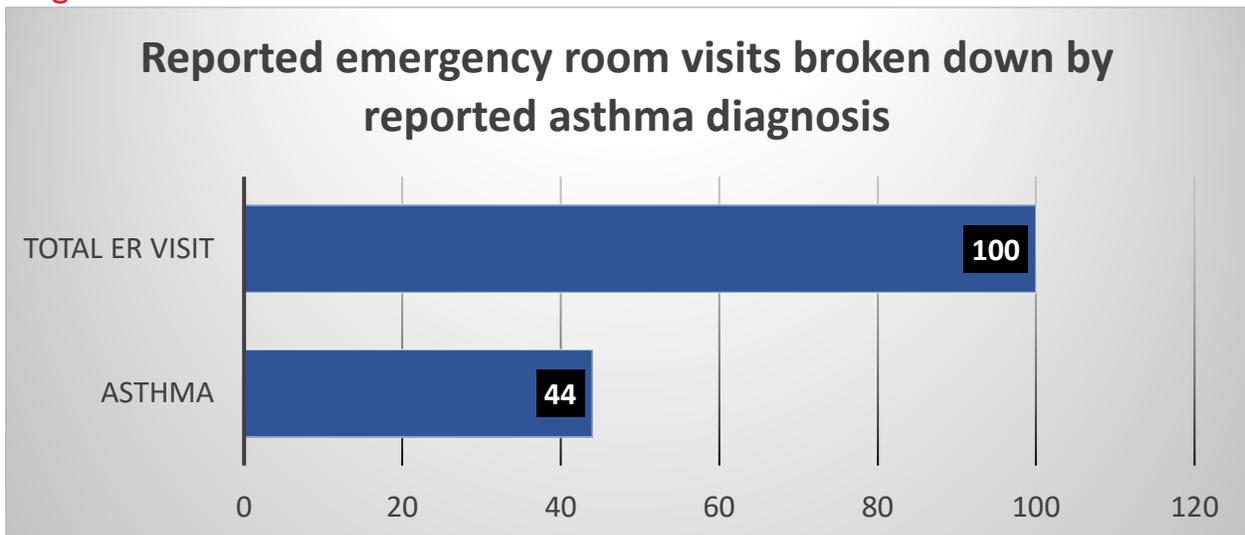
Figure 47: Reported emergency room visits broken down by reported cancer diagnosis



10. Asthma (Q20i) broken down by emergency room visits (Q18)

For individuals who reported having asthma, these individuals reported having utilized the emergency room **44** times over the last 3 months. Of the reported 100 emergency room visits in the last 3 months, **44%** of those visits were from people who reported having asthma.

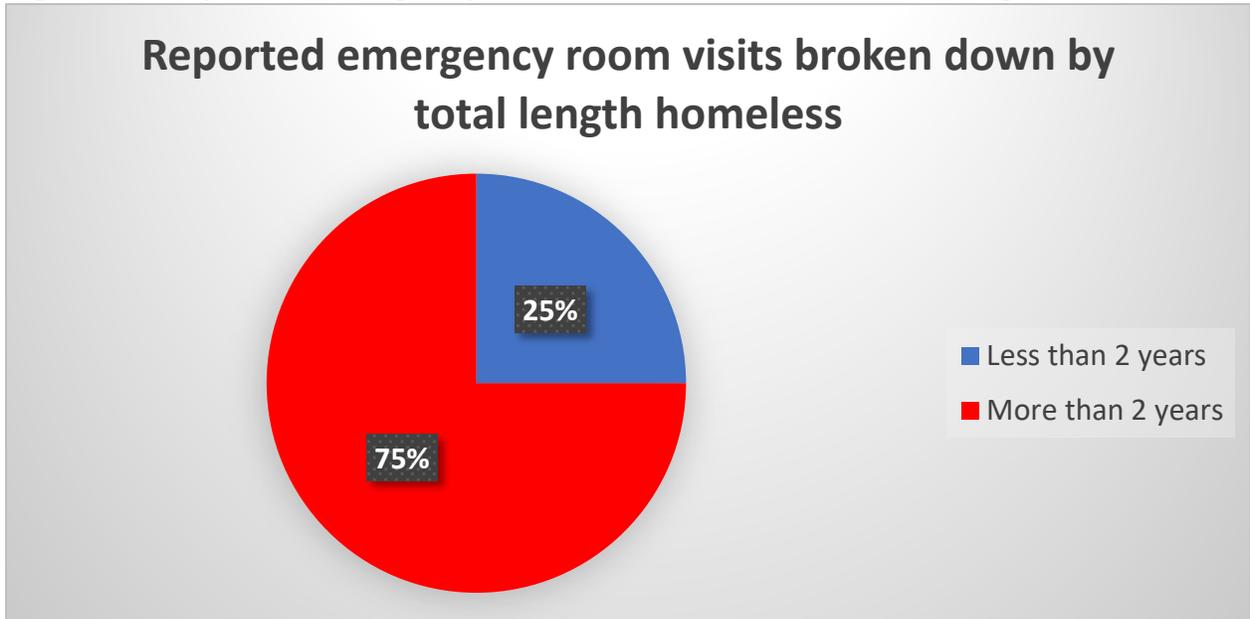
Figure 48: Reported emergency room visits broken down by reported asthma diagnosis



11. Length homeless (Q8) broken down by emergency room visits (Q18)

Of the 100 reported emergency room visits within the last three months, **75 (75%)** of those visits came from individuals who reported having been homeless for a total of more than 2 years. The other **25 (25%)** visits came from individuals who reported having been homeless for less than 2 years.

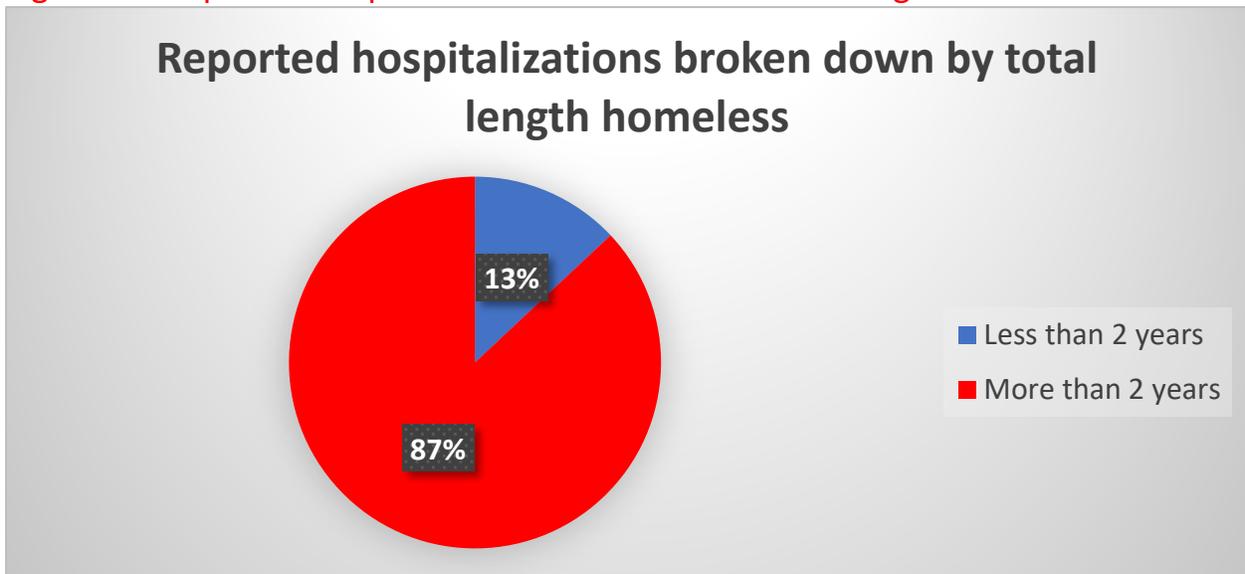
Figure 49: Reported emergency room visits broken down total length homeless



12. Length homeless (Q8) broken down by hospitalizations (Q19)

Of the 100 reported hospitalizations over the last year, **87 (87%)** of those reports came from people who also reported having been homeless for more than 2 years. The other **13 (13%)** hospitalizations came from individuals who reported having spent less than 2 years homeless.

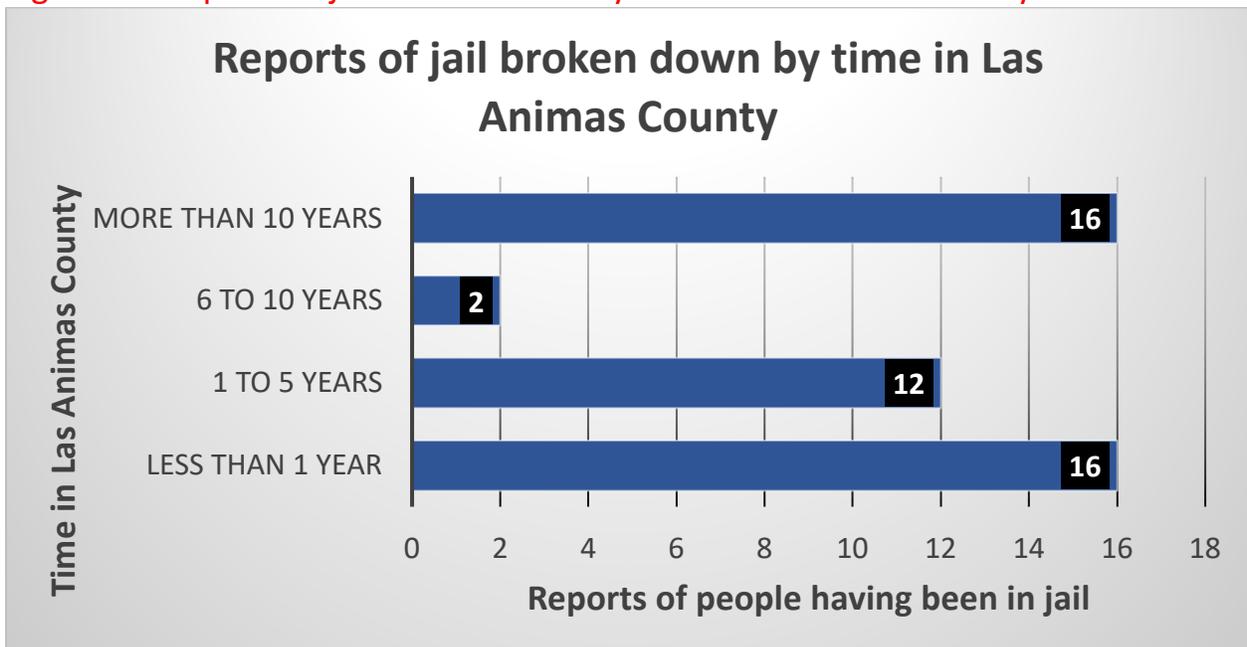
Figure 50: Reported hospitalizations broken down total length homeless



13. Jail (Q22) broken down by time in Las Animas county (Q7)

Of the 49 individuals who reported having been in jail during their lifetime, **16 (32.7%)** individuals reported having lived in Las Animas County for less than one year. **12 (24.5%)** individuals who reported having been in jail reported having lived in Las Animas County between 1 and 5 years. Only **2 (4.1%)** individuals who reported having been in jail have lived in Las Animas between 6 to 10 years. Finally, **16 (32.7%)** individuals who reported having been in jail before reported having lived in Las Animas County for 10 years or longer. The remaining three reported residency outside of Las Animas County.

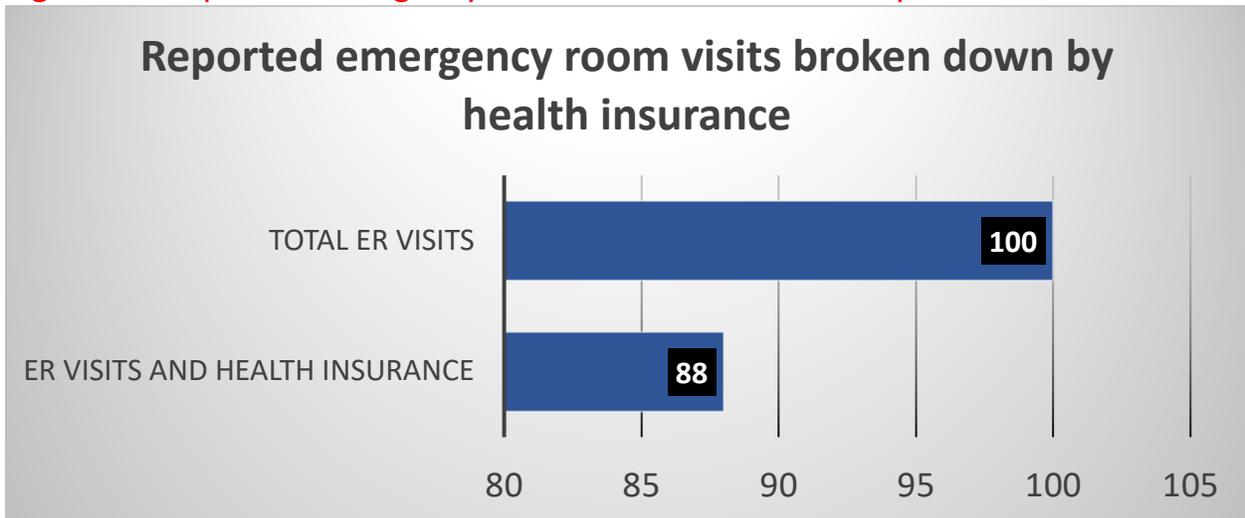
Figure 51: Reports of jail broken down by time in Las Animas County



14. Emergency room visits (Q18) broken down by health insurance (Q21)

Of the 100 reported emergency room visits over the last 3 months, **88 (88%)** were made by people who also reported having health insurance. This means **12 (12%)** of the emergency room visits over the last three months were made by people who did not have any form of insurance.

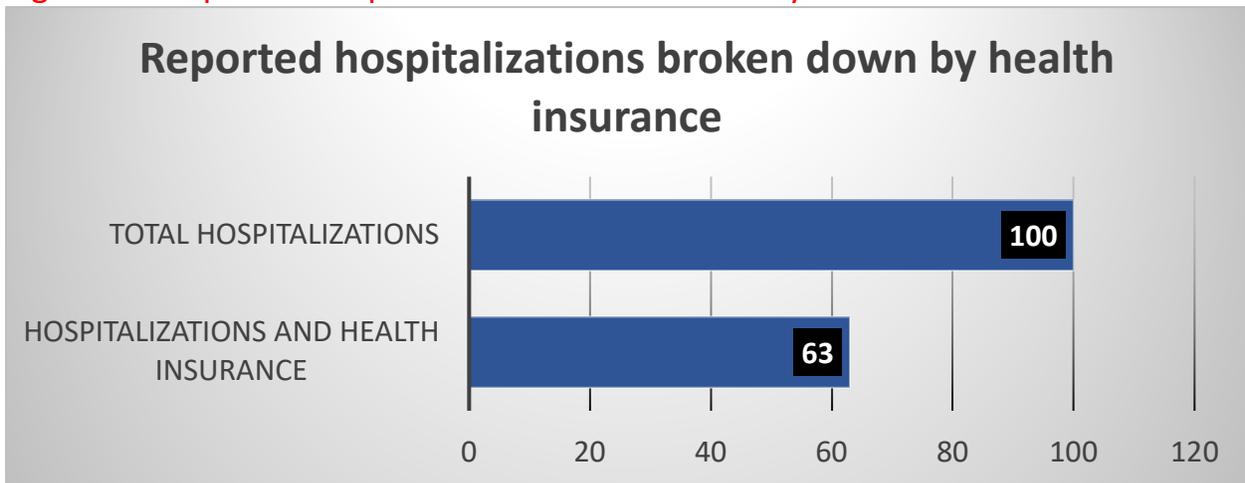
Figure 52: Reported emergency room visits broken down by health insurance



15. Hospitalizations (Q19) broken down by health insurance (Q21)

Of the 100 reported hospitalizations over the last year, **63 (63%)** of those visits were made by individuals who reported having health insurance. **37 (37%)** of the reported hospitalizations over the last year were made by people who reported having no health insurance.

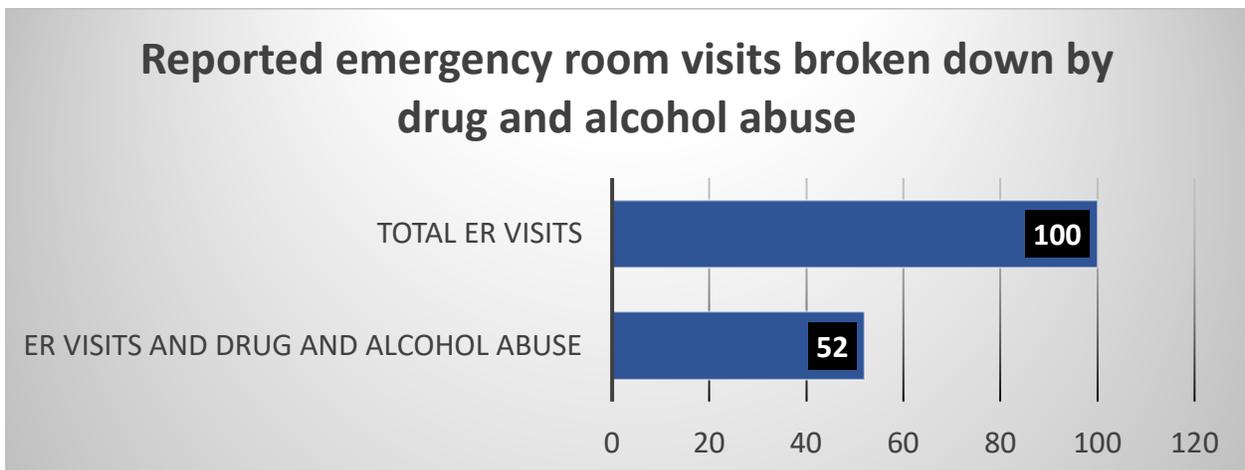
Figure 53: Reported hospitalizations broken down by health insurance



16. Drug and alcohol abuse (Q20m) broken down by emergency room visits (Q18)

Of the reported 100 emergency room visits over the last three months, **52 (52%)** of those visits were made by people who reported also having a history of drug or alcohol abuse.

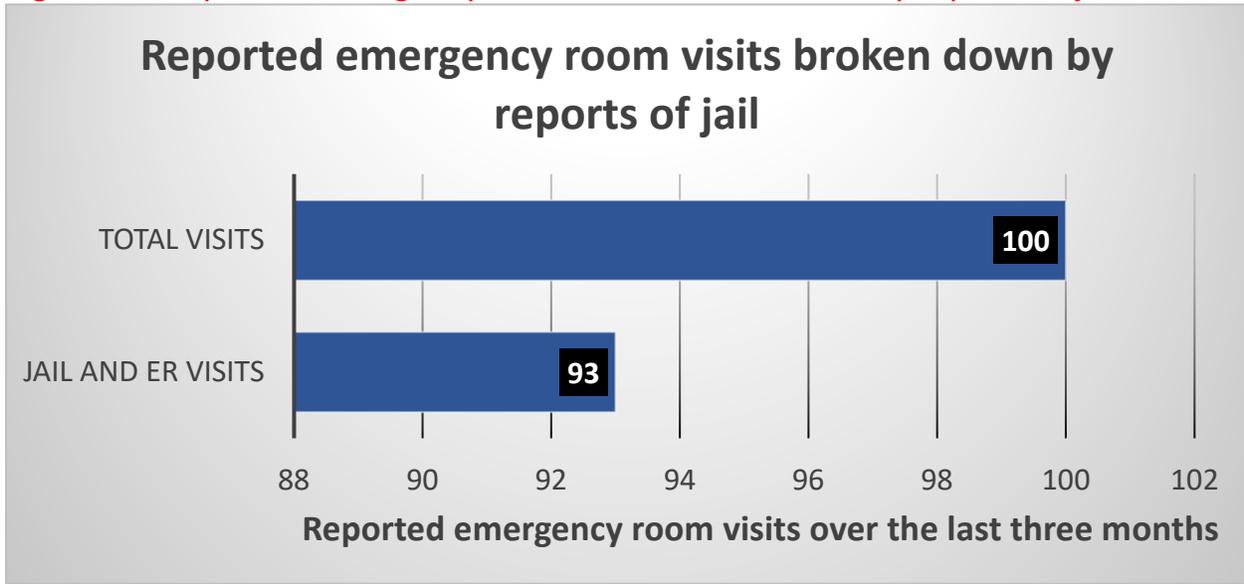
Figure 54: Reported emergency room visits broken down by drug and alcohol abuse



17. Jail (Q22) broken down by emergency room visits in the last 3 months (Q18)

Of the 49 people who reported having been in jail at some point in their life, those people also reported have utilized the emergency room **93 (93%)** times over the last year.

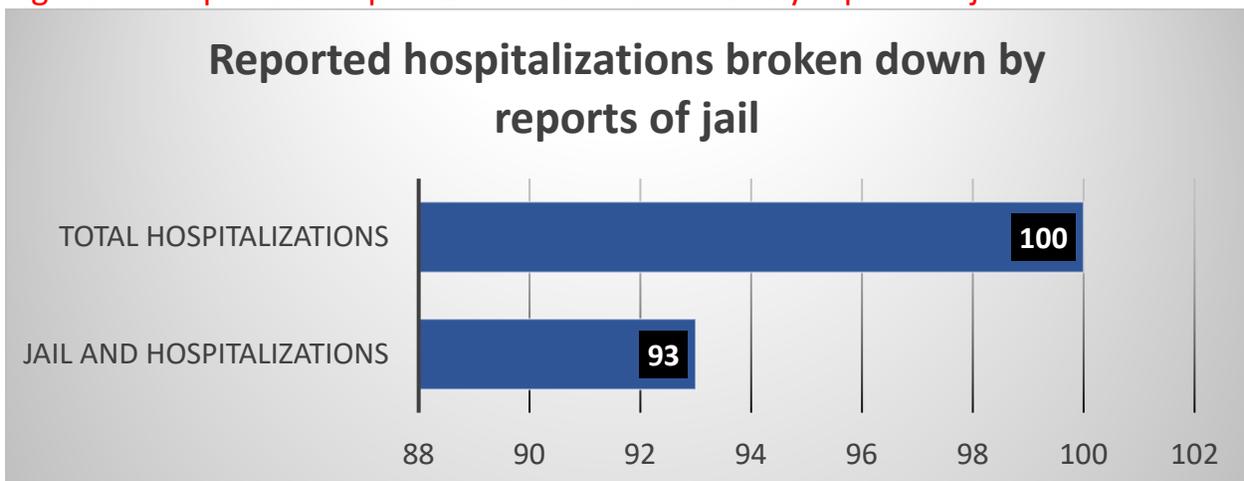
Figure 55: Reported emergency room visits broken down by reports of jail



18. Jail (Q22) broken down by hospitalizations within the last year (Q19)

Of the 49 people who reported having been in jail at some point in their life, those people also reported having been hospitalized **93 (93%)** times over the last year.

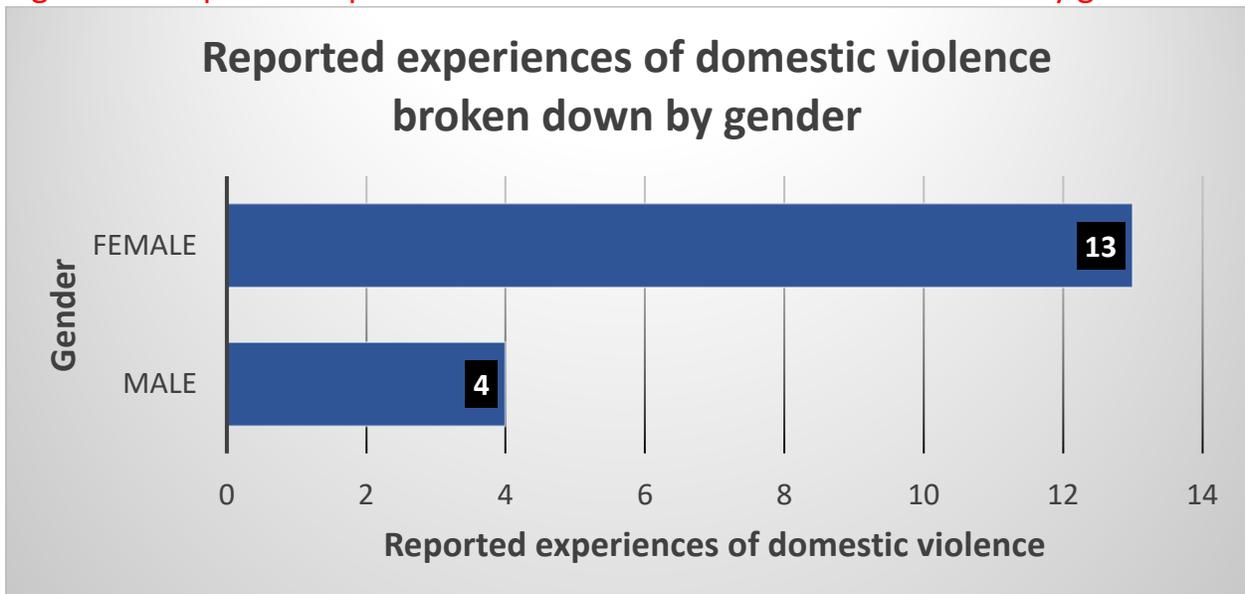
Figure 56: Reported hospitalizations broken down by reports of jail



19. Domestic violence (Q30i) broken down by gender (Q31)

Of the 17 individuals who reported domestic violence as a barrier to securing housing or a reason or not securing housing, an overwhelming **13 (76.5%)** identified as women, while the other **4 (23.5%)** identified as men.

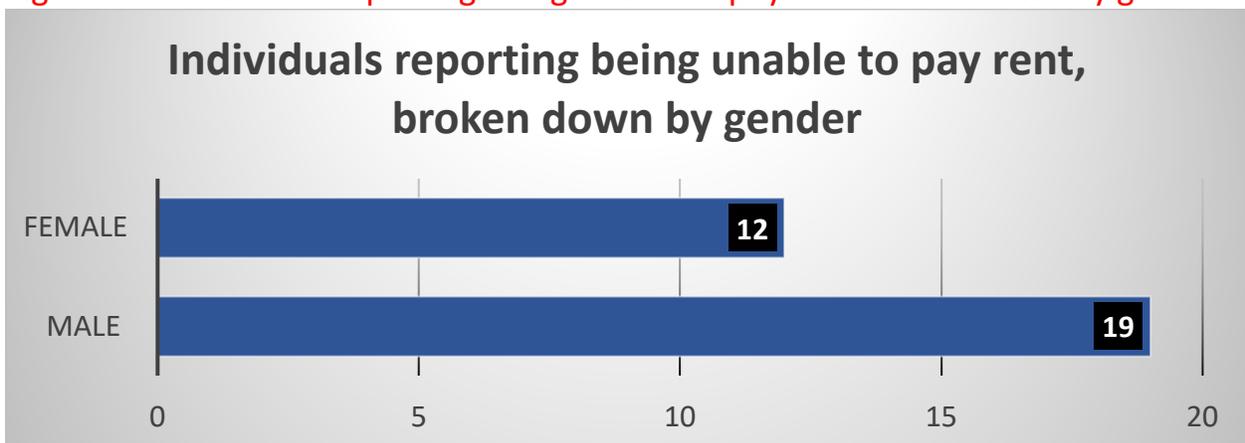
Figure 57: Reported experiences of domestic violence broken down by gender



20. Unable to pay rent (Q30c) broken down by Gender (Q31)

Of the 31 individuals who reported an inability to pay rent as a barrier towards securing housing **19 (61.3%)** of those individuals identified as men, while the other **12 (38.7%)** identified as women.

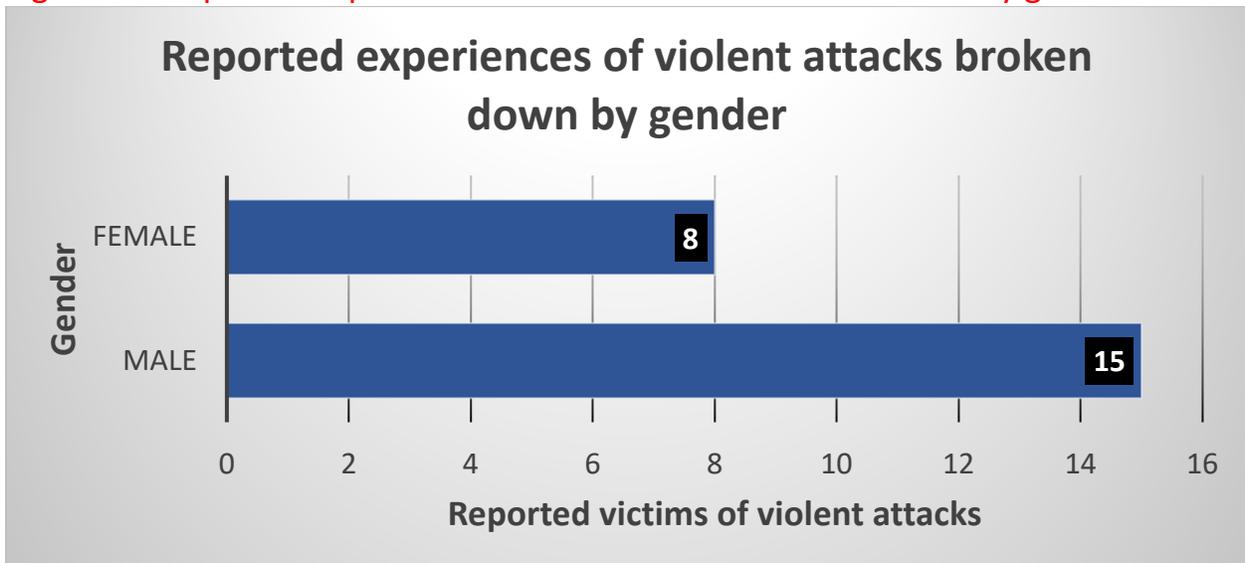
Figure 58: Individuals reporting being unable to pay rent broken down by gender



21. Violent attack (Q20s) broken down by gender (Q31)

When analyzing which individuals reported violent attacks with the most frequency, we decided to look at gender. Out of the 23 individuals who reported having been violently attacked since becoming homeless, **15 (65.2%)** of those individuals identified as men, while **8 (34.8%)** identified as women.

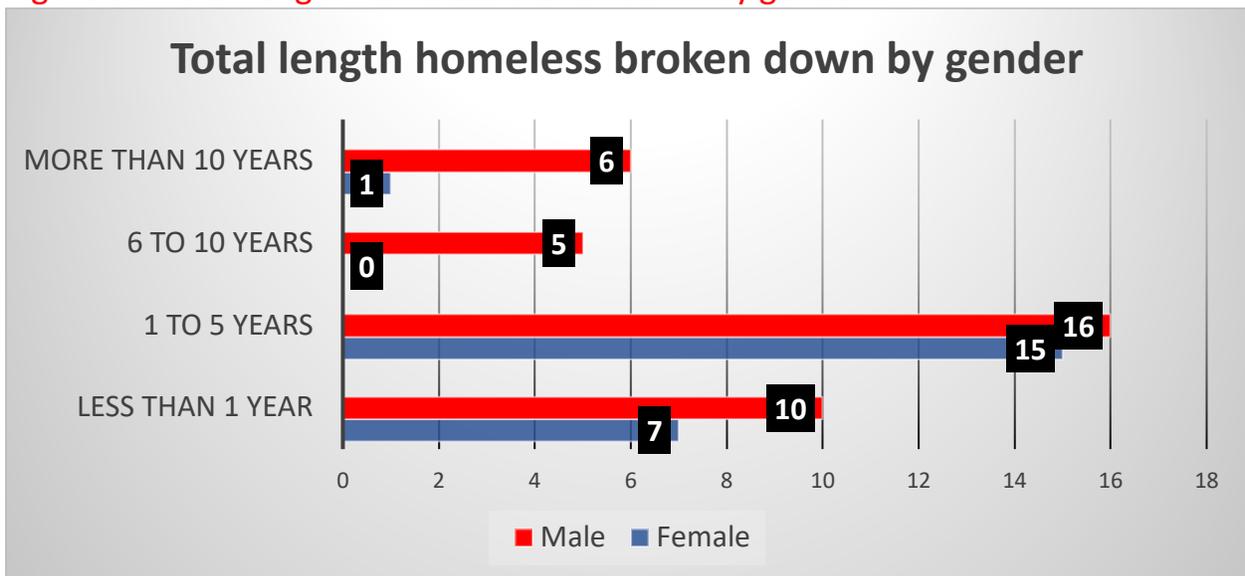
Figure 59: Reported experiences of violent attacks broken down by gender



22. Gender (Q31) broken down by total length homeless (Q8)

When analyzing the demographics of the individuals who reported the longest cumulative experience of homelessness, we decided to look at gender. Of those reporting experiencing homelessness for longer than 5 years, **11 (91.7%)** of the total 12 individuals identified as men. Of the 48 individuals who reported having experienced homelessness for less than 5 years, **26 (54.2%)** identified as men, while the other **22 (45.8%)** identified as women.

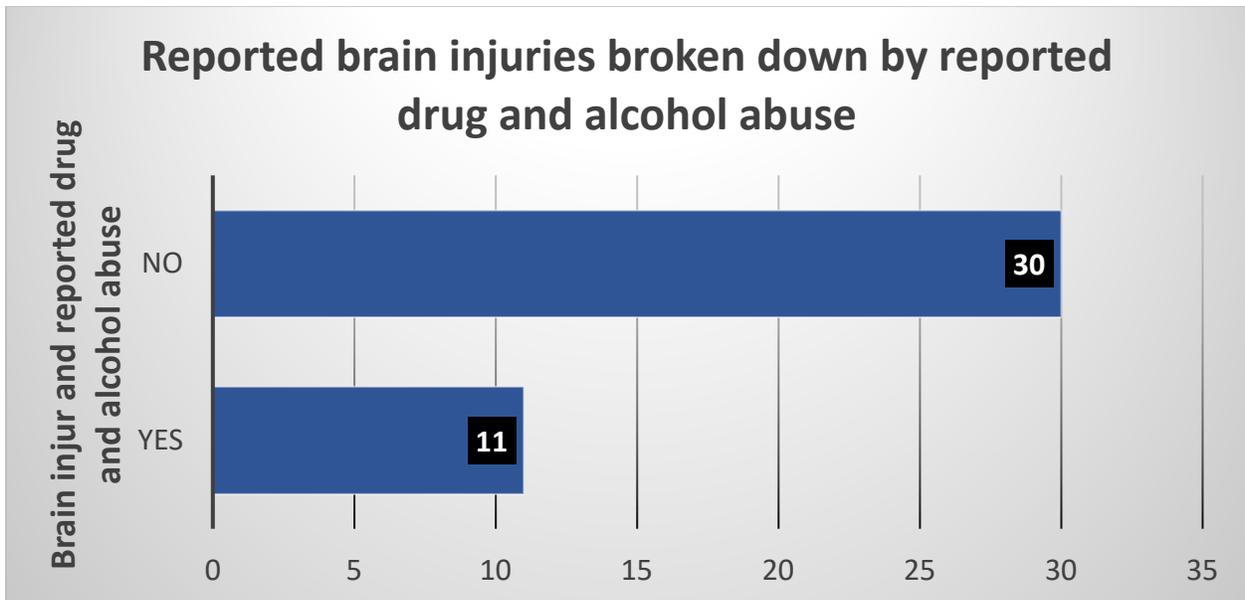
Figure 60: Total length homeless broken down by gender



23. Brain Injury (Q20u) broken down by drug and alcohol abuse (Q20m)

In terms of the individuals who reported having had a history of drug or alcohol abuse, **11 (26.8%)** of those individuals reported having a significant brain injury at some point in their life.

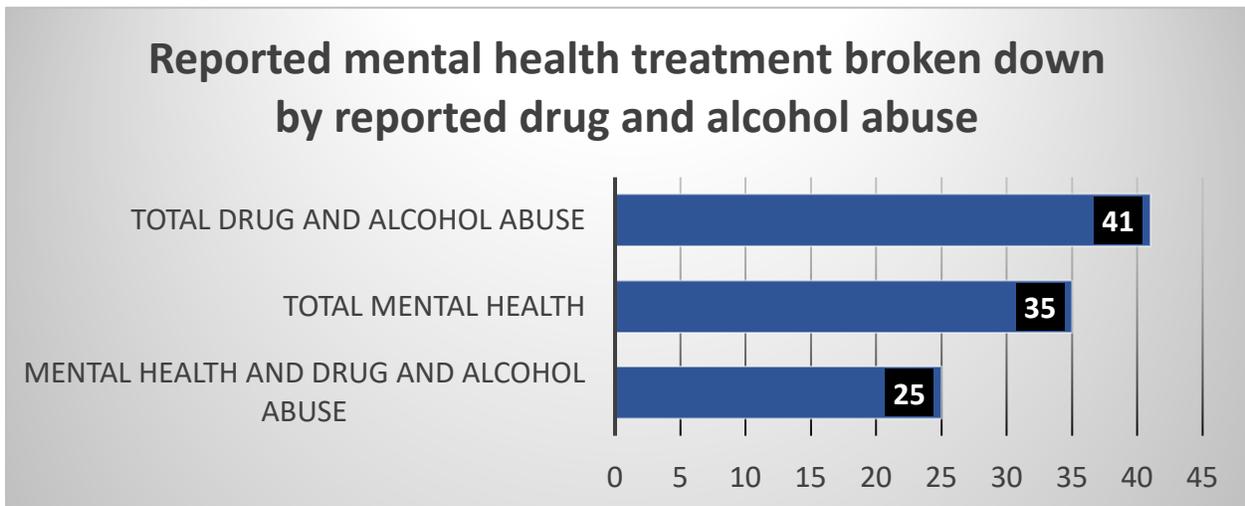
Figure 61: Reported brain injuries broken down by reported drug and alcohol abuse



24. Mental health (Q20q) broken down by drug and alcohol abuse (Q20m)

When considering the individuals who reported having a history of drug or alcohol abuse, we decided to analyze whether or not these same individuals reported a history of mental health treatment. Of the 41 individuals who reported having a history of drug or alcohol abuse, **25 (60.9%)** of those individuals are reported having a history of mental health treatment.

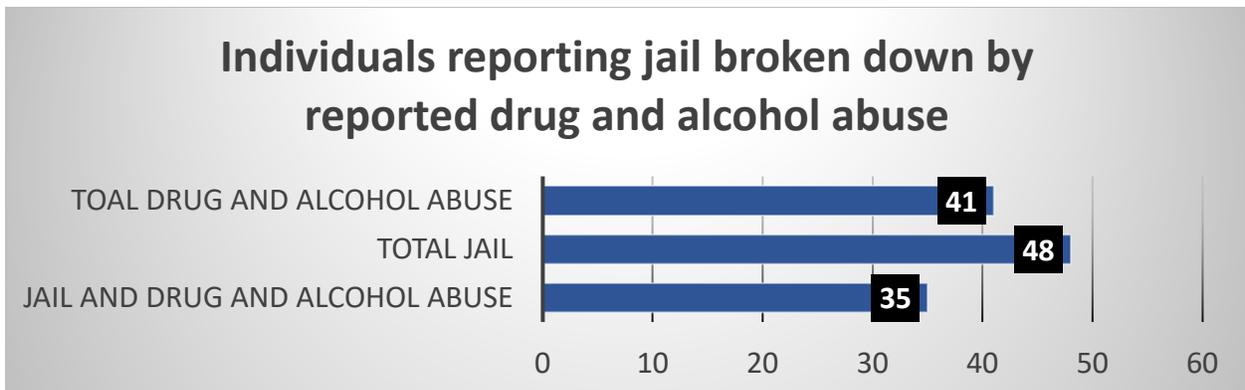
Figure 62: Reported mental health treatment broken down by reported drug and alcohol abuse



25. Jail (Q22) broken down by drug and alcohol abuse (Q20m)

Of the 48 individuals who reported having ever been in jail, **35 (71.4%)** also identified having a history of drug or alcohol abuse.

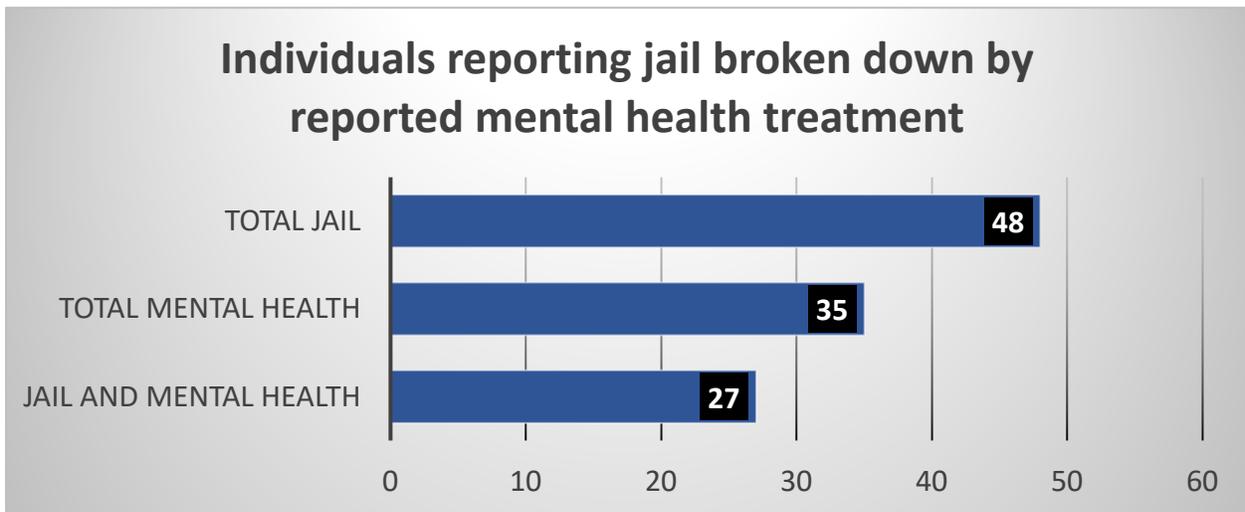
Figure 63: Individuals reporting jail broken down by reported drug and alcohol abuse



26. Jail (Q22) broken down by mental health (Q20g)

When analyzing the individuals who reported having ever been in jail, we cross analyzed their responses against those of the individuals who reported having received treatment for mental health issues, either currently in the past. Of the 48 individuals who reported having been in jail before, **27 (56.3%)** reported also having received treatment for mental health in their lifetime.

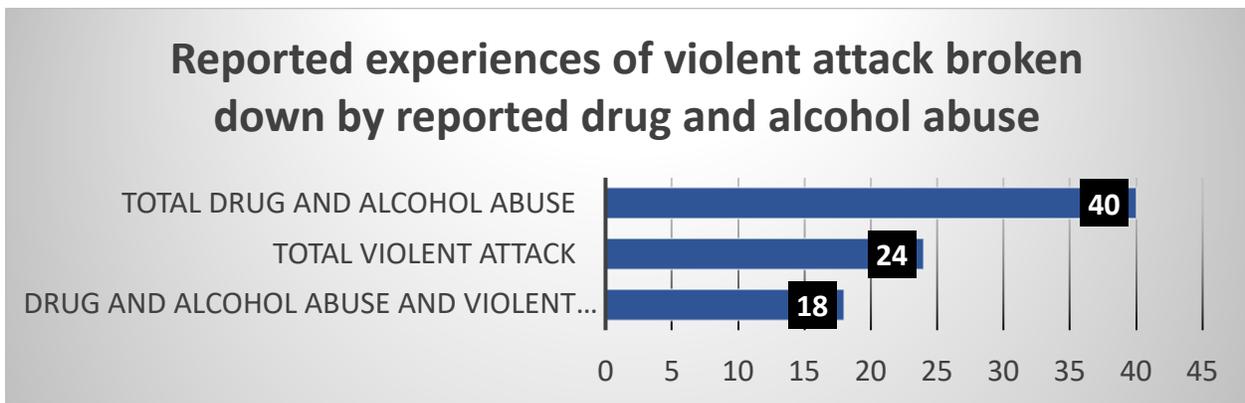
Figure 64: Individuals reporting jail broken down by reported mental health treatment



27. Violent attack (Q20s) broken down by drug and alcohol abuse (Q20m)

Of the 24 individuals who reported having been violently attacked since becoming homeless, **18 (75%)** also reported having a history of drug or alcohol abuse.

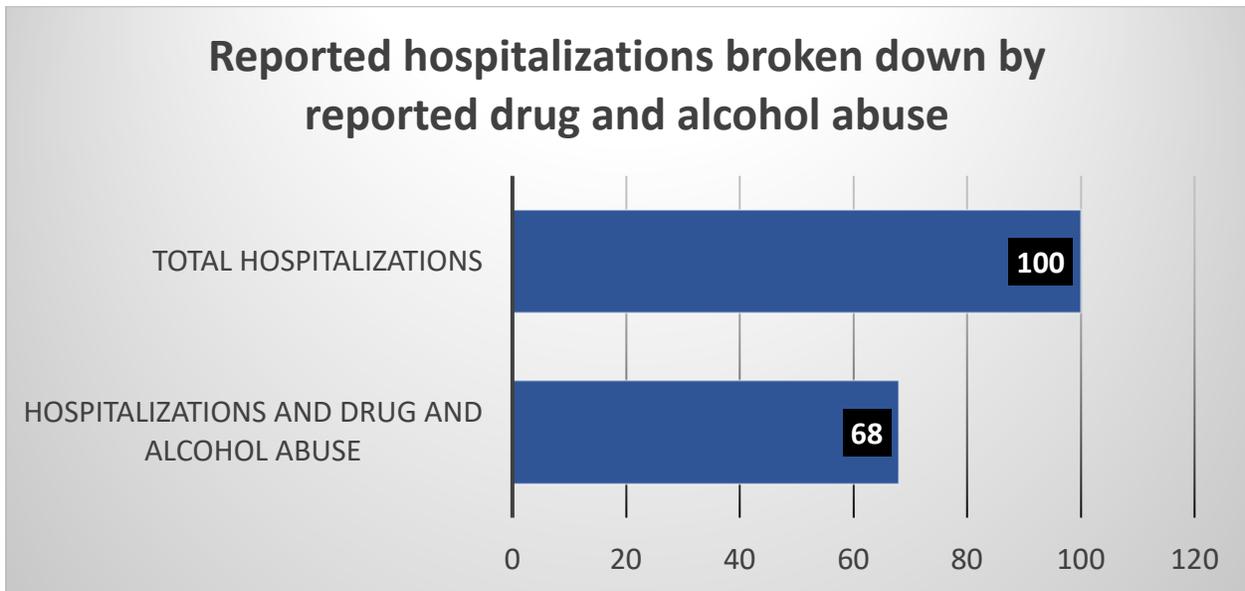
Figure 65: Reported experiences of violent attack broken down by reported drug and alcohol abuse



28. Hospitalizations (Q19) broken down by drug and alcohol abuse (Q20m)

Of the reported 100 inpatient hospitalizations over the last year, **68 (68%)** of those visits were made by people who reported having a history of drug or alcohol abuse.

Figure 66: Reported hospitalizations broken down by reported drug and alcohol abuse



Appendix

Appendix A: Survey instrument

Appendix B: Outreach flyer

Appendix A: Survey instrument

Trinidad Survey on housing and homelessness

Introduction

- My name is _____
- We are here today to talk to you about your housing and service needs.
- By participating in the interview, you will assist the community in determining housing and service needs.
- All of the information you share will be confidential and not shared without your permission. We will aggregate all survey data but need date of birth and initials to avoid survey duplication.
- Interview may take about 15-20 minutes.
- You can pass on any questions you don't want to answer. Some of the questions we ask might make you feel uncomfortable or be upsetting. If you feel uncomfortable or upset during the interview, you may ask the interviewer to take a break or to skip any of the questions. No one will be upset if you decide not to participate.

Are you currently or have you recently experienced homelessness? Yes No
 Are you currently facing eviction or loss of your current living situation?
 Yes No

If yes to either question, continue with the interview. If no, thank them for their time.

1. INTERVIEWER'S NAME		
2. DATE	3. TIME	4. LOCATION
5. Initials		6. Date of Birth
7. In which county do you currently reside? <input type="checkbox"/> Las Animas <input type="checkbox"/> Northern New Mexico <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify city and state): _____		
<u>If they answer "Las Animas" please ask: How long have you been in Las Animas County/Trinidad?</u> <input type="checkbox"/> 0 months <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 1 month <input type="checkbox"/> 1 to 3 months <input type="checkbox"/> 4 to 6 months <input type="checkbox"/> 7 to 11 months <input type="checkbox"/> 12 months to 2 years <input type="checkbox"/> 3 to 5 years <input type="checkbox"/> 6 to 10 years <input type="checkbox"/> More than 10 years		

OK, first I'm going to ask you a few questions about your housing history...

8. What is the total length of time you have lived on the streets or shelters?	# of years:
	# of months:
9. In the past three years, how many times have you been homeless and then housed again? _____	
10. How long have you been homeless this time? <input type="checkbox"/> 0 months <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 1 month <input type="checkbox"/> 1 to 3 months <input type="checkbox"/> 4 to 6 months <input type="checkbox"/> 7 to 11 months <input type="checkbox"/> 12 months to 2 years <input type="checkbox"/> 3 to 5 years <input type="checkbox"/> 6 to 10 years <input type="checkbox"/> More than 10 years	
11. Where did you sleep last night? (Please choose one) <input type="checkbox"/> AADA Shelter <input type="checkbox"/> Hospital <input type="checkbox"/> With Family <input type="checkbox"/> With Friends <input type="checkbox"/> Hotel/Motel <input type="checkbox"/> Jail <input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> Outside <input type="checkbox"/> Rental House/Apt <input type="checkbox"/> Rental with VASH Housing Subsidy <input type="checkbox"/> Rental with Other Housing Subsidy (specify): _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____	
12. When was the last time you had your own place? _____ And where was it? <input type="checkbox"/> Las Animas County <input type="checkbox"/> Pueblo County <input type="checkbox"/> El Paso County <input type="checkbox"/> Fremont County <input type="checkbox"/> Huerfano County <input type="checkbox"/> Otero County <input type="checkbox"/> Another County in Colorado <input type="checkbox"/> Another State <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhere else (specify City and State): _____ And for what reason(s) did you leave your housing?: _____	
13. Do you have a valid form of state identification? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, from which state?: _____	
14. Where do you sleep most frequently? (check one) <input type="checkbox"/> AADA Shelter <input type="checkbox"/> Streets <input type="checkbox"/> Car/Van/RV <input type="checkbox"/> River/Lake Front <input type="checkbox"/> Campsites/Parks <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____	
15. Are you currently receiving any services/assistance from providers in the area? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, what service(s)?: _____	
16. Where did you live prior to becoming homeless? (check one) <input type="checkbox"/> Las Animas County <input type="checkbox"/> Pueblo County <input type="checkbox"/> El Paso County <input type="checkbox"/> Fremont County <input type="checkbox"/> Huerfano County <input type="checkbox"/> Otero County <input type="checkbox"/> Another county in Colorado <input type="checkbox"/> Another state <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhere else (specify): _____	



17. Where do you usually go for healthcare or when you're not feeling well?

- Mt. San Rafael Hospital Mt. Carmel Wellness & Community Center Las Animas Clinic
 Miner's Colfax Medical Center (Raton, NM) Walsenburg VA Clinic Urgent Care Centers
 Other (specify): _____ Does not go for care

18. How many times have you been to the emergency room in the past three months? _____

19. How many times have you been hospitalized as an inpatient in the past year? _____

20. Do you have now, have you ever had, or has a healthcare provider ever told you that you have any of the following medical conditions?

- a. Kidney disease/ End Stage Renal Disease or Dialysis..... Yes No Refused
b. History of frostbite, Hypothermia, or Immersion Foot..... Yes No Refused
c. History of Heat Stroke/Heat Exhaustion..... Yes No Refused
d. Liver disease, Cirrhosis, or End-Stage Liver Disease..... Yes No Refused
e. Heart disease, Arrhythmia, or Irregular Heartbeat..... Yes No Refused
f. HIV+/AIDS..... Yes No Refused
g. Emphysema..... Yes No Refused
h. Diabetes..... Yes No Refused
i. Asthma..... Yes No Refused
j. Cancer..... Yes No Refused
k. Hepatitis C..... Yes No Refused
l. Tuberculosis..... Yes No Refused

- m. Have you ever abused drug/alcohol, or been told you do?..... Yes No Refused
n. Have you consumed alcohol every day for the past month?..... Yes No Refused
o. Have you ever used injection drugs?..... Yes No Refused
p. Have you ever been treated for drug or alcohol abuse?..... Yes No Refused

q. Are you currently or have you ever received treatment for mental health issues?

- Yes No Refused

r. Have you ever been taken to the hospital against your will for mental health reasons?

- Yes No Refused

s. Have you been the victim of a violent attack since you've become homeless?

- Yes No Refused

t. Do you have a permanent physical disability that limits your mobility? [i.e., wheelchair, amputation, unable to climb stairs]?

- Yes No Refused

u. Have you had a serious brain injury or head trauma that required medical attention?

- Yes No Refused

21. What kind of health insurance do you have, if any? (check all that apply)

- Medicaid Medicare VA Private Insurance None
 Other (specify): _____

Alright, now I've just got a few more questions... you can pass on any question.

22. Have you ever been in jail? Yes No Refused

If so, when? _____

23. Have you ever been in prison?..... Yes No Refused

If so, when? _____

24. Are you currently on probation? Yes No Refused

If so, what city/state? _____

25. Are you currently on parole? Yes No Refused

If so, what city/state? _____

26. Have you ever been in foster care?..... Yes No Refused

27. How do you make money? (choose as many as apply)

- a. Work, on-the-books..... Yes No Refused
b. Work, off-the-books..... Yes No Refused
c. Panhandling..... Yes No Refused
d. SSI..... Yes No Refused
e. VA benefits..... Yes No Refused
f. SSDI/SSA..... Yes No Refused
g. Public Assistance..... Yes No Refused
h. Recycling..... Yes No Refused
i. Food Stamps..... Yes No Refused
j. Drug Trade..... Yes No Refused
k. Sex Trade..... Yes No Refused
l. Pension/Retirement..... Yes No Refused
m. Other.....Specify _____
n. No Income..... Yes No Refused

28. Are you currently on any housing wait lists?..... Yes No Refused

If yes, where? _____

29. How much do you think you could afford per month for housing? _____

30. What factors have contributed to you losing and/or not securing permanent housing? (Mark all that apply):

- a. Alcohol..... Yes No Refused
- b. Drugs..... Yes No Refused
- c. Unable to pay rent..... Yes No Refused
- d. Mental illness..... Yes No Refused
- e. Illness..... Yes No Refused
- f. Medical Expenses..... Yes No Refused
- g. Loss of a job..... Yes No Refused
- h. Moved to find work..... Yes No Refused
- i. Relationship problems..... Yes No Refused
- j. Discharged from jail..... Yes No Refused
- k. Legal problems..... Yes No Refused
- l. Domestic violence..... Yes No Refused
- m. Asked to leave..... Yes No Refused
- n. Bad credit..... Yes No Refused
- o. Problems with benefits..... Yes No Refused
- p. Eviction history..... Yes No Refused
- q. Forced to foreclose on home..... Yes No Refused
- r. Pets not allowed..... Yes No Refused
- s. Disability..... Yes No Refused
- t. Loss of friend/relative..... Yes No Refused
- u. Other (specify): _____

31. What is your gender?

- Male Female Transgender Other Refused

32. What is your ethnicity? (choose one)

- African American/ Black Asian White Latino/a or Hispanic
 Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander Native American (specify): _____
 Unknown Mixed Race Other Refused

33. What is the highest grade in school you completed?

- K-8 Some high school High School Graduate GED Some College
 College Graduate Post Graduate Refused Other

OK, here are some final questions...

34. Have you ever served in the U.S. Armed Services?..... Yes No Refused

If respondent answered yes, please proceed to Part B (Veteran Status)- If they answered NO, ask the following:

35. Are you under the age of 25? Yes No Refused

If respondent answered yes, please proceed to Part C (Youth-Focused Questions) - If they answered NO, ask the following:

36. Are children under 18 currently *living with you*?..... Yes No Refused

If respondent answered yes, please proceed to Part D (Family-Focused Questions)

If respondent answered NO to questions 32, 33, and 34, thank them for their time and provide gift card as a thank you.

Part B: Veteran Status

1. Which branch(s) of the service were you a part of? _____	
2. Are you currently on active duty?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Refused
3. Are you a Reservist?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Refused
4. Are you National Guard?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Refused
5. Were you ever deployed to a combat zone?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Refused
6. What date did you enter the service? (Month and year) _____	
7. What was your date of release from the service? (Month and year). _____	
8. Which war did you serve in? <input type="checkbox"/> Korean War <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnam Era <input type="checkbox"/> Post Vietnam <input type="checkbox"/> Persian Gulf Era <input type="checkbox"/> Afghanistan <input type="checkbox"/> Iraq. <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify): _____	
9. What kind of military discharge did you receive? <input type="checkbox"/> Honorable <input type="checkbox"/> General Honorable Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Other than Honorable <input type="checkbox"/> Bad Conduct <input type="checkbox"/> Dishonorable <input type="checkbox"/> Refused	
10. Do you have any service connected disabilities?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Refused
11. Do you have a non-service connected pension?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Refused
12. Were you wounded in a combat zone?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Refused
13. Are you registered at a VA hospital? If so, please identify: <input type="checkbox"/> VA Community Clinic, Raton, NM <input type="checkbox"/> Walsenberg VA Clinic <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify: _____	
14. Do you have a VA identification card?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Refused
15. Have you ever received medical care, services, or resources from a VA Hospital or Clinic? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Refused	
16. What type of services have you received (or are currently receiving) from the VA? <input type="checkbox"/> Medical <input type="checkbox"/> Dental <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health <input type="checkbox"/> Substance Abuse <input type="checkbox"/> Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____	
17. Since returning from service, have you been employed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Refused

SIGN BELOW IF AGREE TO HAVE INFORMATION SHARED WITH VETERAN SERVICE PROVIDER

Your signature (or mark) below indicates that you have read (or been read) the information provided above, have gotten answers to your questions, and have freely chosen to be interviewed. Your signature indicates that you agree to allow us to share your information with a veteran service provider who may be able to assist with housing and services.

Date

Signature (or Mark) of Participant

Printed Name of Participant

Date

Printed Name & Signature Interviewer

Do you have an email address or phone number where you can be reached?

Appendix B: Outreach flyer

Are you or have you been lately:

Homeless? • Staying in unsafe or run-down housing? • Couch-surfing or staying with friends? • On a waitlist for Section 8 housing? • Unable to pay utilities? • Part of an out- door or traveling community? • Panhandling to get by?

We want to hear from you! You'll receive a gift for 15 minutes of your time.

Interviews on June 13th-

10:30am -Fisher's Peak Soup Kitchen (308 Church St.)

2:00pm- Trinidad Community Center (1309 Beshoar Ave)

3:00pm- Carnegie Public Library (202 N. Animas St.)

Interviews on June 14th-

9:00am– Prospect Plaza Laundromat (416 State St.)

9:00am– The Riverwalk and Safeway (457 W. Main St.)





ARE YOU OR HAVE YOU BEEN LATELY:

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